

Head for Cover! Up Your Cover Crop Game in 2023

Cover crop use is on the rise in Ashland County, and it's little wonder why. From increasing soil health to reducing erosion and increasing organic matter to reducing input costs, cover crops offer a host of benefits to farmers especially in the rolling hills of Ashland County.

In fact, since Ashland SWCD first began offering cover crop cost share through the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, participation in the district's cover crop programs has more than quadrupled, in part because the district has focused on increasing cover crop opportunities for producers by adding new programs like a centrally coordinated aerial cover crop seeding as well as innovative cover crop equipment.

"Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has just really been an invaluable partner in the growth of cover crops in Ashland County," said Jane Houin, Ashland SWCD director. "Not only have they partnered with us to provide cover crop cost share for the last 10 years, but their Partners in Watershed Management grant program has allowed us to add both a cover crop interseeder and a crimper roller to our rental equipment lineup. Those tools allow farmers to experiment with new techniques to take their cover crop programs to the next level without having to take the plunge on buying new equipment themselves."

The crimper roller is a new addition this spring, and both will be highlighted at the district's Conservation Chat: Growing Money on June 6 at Twin Oaks Farm. For more information on equipment rental or cover crop cost share, contact Katie Eikleberry at 419-281-7645.



Our NEW cover crop crimper roller rental is FREE to farmers within the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District & \$50/day to farmers outside MWCD boundaries.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Ashland SWCD Office Closed: May 29: Memorial Day

June 19: Juneteenth July 4: Independence Day

Board Meetings (SWCD office at 9 a.m.)

April 12, May 10, and June 14

Conservation Chats:

April 22, 10 am: All About Arbor Day May 25, 6 pm: Plants Gone Wild June 6, 5 pm: Growing Money July 11: Future of the Family Farm

Spring Fish Stocking Sale:

Order deadline: March 31; Pickup April 11 **Tree Seedling Sale Pick Up:** April 21-22 **Nature Journaling** at Hazel Willis Woods June 15,22 & 29; July 6, 13, 20, & 27 **Rain Beat on Main Street:**

June 14-21 - Loudonville Central Park, June 22-25 -Ashland Balloonfest, June 26-July 5- Corner Park, Ashland Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Course: June 19, 21, 23, 26, 28 & 30 Join us for Kain Beat on Main Street! June 14-21: Central Park, Loudonville June 22-25: Ashland Balloonfest June 26-July 5: Corner Park, Ashland

Meet the Staff:



Pan Brown

Staff Member Since: January 2023

Pam is our fiscal specialist and has been hard at work so far this year completing our year-end financial reporting, paying our monthly bills, and writing checks for our cost share payments. She does an amazing job keeping the district finances organized!

A resident of Cinnamon Lake, Pam joined Ashland SWCD after retiring from the Wayne County Engineer's office last year. Her extensive experience managing finances and budgeting for local government is a huge asset to Ashland SWCD. JOIN ASHLAND SWCD & CARRIE ELVEY FROM DARWIN'S DREAM AT THE HAZEL WILLIS WOODS FOR OCVN TRAINING!

The OCVN program provides a balanced, practical, & hands-on course in natural history. Topics include ecological concepts, nature interpretation, stewardship, and the fundamental identification skills and natural history of Ohio's flora and fauna.

cost: \$225 JUNE 19-30 MON, WED. & FRI. FROM 9 AM-4 PM

Ashland SWCD Board:

Justin Ringler: Chair Roger Amos: Vice Chair Valerie Hall: Secretary Faren Welch: Fiscal Officer Steve Hughes: Equipment Mgr.

2023 Conservation Chats have played to full houses!





april 22: all about arbor da

- PICK UP YOUR TREES FROM ASHLAND SWCD'S ANNUAL
 TREE SALE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO GIVE THOSE
 TREES THEIR BEST START!
- DOLCES TREE SERVICE WILL SHARE TIPS FOR SELECTING THE PERFECT SITE FOR YOUR NEW SEEDLINGS & CARE
- ASHLAND HAS BEEN A TREE CITY USA SITE SINCE 1984 HEAR FROM THEIR TREE COMMISSION AND MAYOR MATT MILLER ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF TREES IN OUR COMMUNITY
- REGISTRATION IS \$10 & INCLUDES SNACKS & A FREE MIX-&-MATCH 5 PACK OF TREES FROM OUR TREE SALE EXTRAS!

conservation chats

FORBES FARMSTEAD MARKET, 6 P.M. 5614 MCCURDY ROAD, PERRYSVILLE may 25: plants gone wild

- LEARN ABOUT NATIVE & INVASIVE PLANTS FROM LOCAL BOTANISTS AND OHIO CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER NATURALISTS TIN & PAULA LAVEY WITH TIPS ON WHAT NATIVES ARE BENEFICIAL TO HAVE AROUND YOUR HOME
- FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LOCAL POLLINATORS, POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTS AND HOW TO INCLUDE THEM IN YOUR LANDSCAPE FROM OSUS DENISE ELLSWORTH
- DANNY JOHNSON FROM J&H LAWN CARE WILL SHARE H KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PLANT TYPES & MAINTENANCE
 \$10 REGISTRATION INCLUDES DINNER WITH OPTION TO
- PURCHASE RAIN BARREL OR RAIN BARREL KIT

Conservation Specialist Katie Eikleberry spoke to a full house about nutrient management at february's farm Bureau Pancake Breakfast!







- GAIN A HANDS-ON LOOK AT WAYS TO LEVERAGE AVAILABLE DOLLARS TO IMPROVE YOUR FARMS PROFITABILITY AND CONSERVATION FOOTPRINT.
- SEE ASHLAND SWCDS INTERSEEDER IN ACTION & LEARN ABOUT OUR COST-SHARE AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL OPTIONS
- TOUR NRCS PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND IN PROGRESS AT
 TWIN OAK FARMS
- SIGN UP FOR COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAMS ON SITE
- NAVIGATE THE ALPHABET SOUP OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS & COST SHARE TO FIND A FIT FOR YOUR FARM

don'i forgei iree sale jick up! APRIL 21 5-7 P.M. APRIL 22 9-11 A.M.

REMEMBER THAT TREE SALE PICK UP IS IN A NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR: ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL!

Join us for Nature Journaling at the Hazel Willis Woods!

Join naturalist Carrie Elvey for a fun-filled summer of nature journaling and exploration! Adults & children will work together to explore the Hazel Willis Woods, documenting their discoveries through nature journaling & art. Geared for ages 8-adult.

Fee: \$130/family Thursday nights June 15-July 17 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District

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