

Information, Education and Outreach

- Presented 246 educational programs to 5,073 students and adults.
- Sponsored Waterfest for 3rd grade students in Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 548 students participated.
- Conducted a 1st grade coloring contest for Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 181 students participated.
- Conducted a 5th grade poster/essay contest for Athens City/County Elementary Schools. 84 students participated.
- Co-sponsored the Area 5 Envirothon at Liberty Park in Highland County, 50 teams totaling 250 students participated.
- Co-sponsored a Multi County Soil Judging contest for Athens and Meigs County FFA students. The contest was held at the Meigs County Conservation Area. 65 students participated.
- Presented at Farm Bureau's 4th grade Ag Awareness Day at Athens County Fairgrounds. Presented to 460 students.
- Sponsored 6th Annual "Backyard Conservation Workshop Series" 36 participated. 14 rain barrels constructed.
- Presented to Hocking College Environmental Assessment class. 10 students participated.
- Sponsored a "Conservation Educator of the Year" award.
- Facilitated 6 pre-service educator workshops. 184 educators attended.
- Conducted 4 library programs. 47 individuals attended.
- Developed educational displays for the Athens County Fair.
- Sponsored plaques for the Athens County and Albany Independent Fair Hay Shows.
- Sponsored 10th Annual All Athens County Photo Contest. 44 photos entered.
- Awarded two \$500 District scholarships.
- Published 4 District Newsletters.
- Maintained Athens SWCD's Website.
- Provided soil stewardship materials to local schools in observance of "Soil and Water Stewardship Week".
- Co-sponsored Athens County Grazing Council Meetings. 32 attended.
- Sponsored a Hay Management Workshop. 22 landowners attended.
- Received ODNR DOW grant funds to present "Books, Birds and Bees" program to 512 students in Athens City/County schools.
- Presented Raingarden for Water Quality at PAWPAW festival. 35 attended.
- Received AEP grant funds to present "Knowing and Building Better Soils" as a pilot project to Morrison Gordon Elementary.
- Received Buckeye Hills RC&D Endowment Funds to promote Rain Barrels for Water Conservation to 30 landowners. 30 rain barrels constructed.
- Conducted Annual Fish Sale.
- Conducted Annual Tree Packet Program for residents in Athens County. The District also sells seedlings to Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pickaway, Scioto, Vinton and Washington SWCDs.
- Presented Pollinator Habitat development to 70 individuals and assisted in 16.5 acres of Pollinator Habitat establishment. Rearing and release of 46 monarch butterflies.



The Athens Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was organized in 1946, the 47th District in Ohio, for the purpose of planning and carrying out natural resources conservation programs. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and is governed by a board of five supervisors, elected by the landowners of Athens County, who serve staggered three-year terms.

Cooperation with the District is on a voluntary basis and anyone needing assistance in solving natural resource problems may apply for help by contacting our office. Technical aid in planning and applying needed conservation practices will be furnished by District staff and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel assigned to the District. The District also sponsors various educational programs and is available to assist students and educators with projects. All services provided by the District are at no charge to the public.

Funding for the District's work is provided by the Athens County Commissioners, the City of Athens, the Athens County Auditor and ODNR Division of Wildlife. Additional financial assistance is provided by the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Monthly board meetings of the Athens SWCD Board of Supervisors are held to conduct business. All meetings are open to the public. Contact the office for date and time of meetings.

L- Mark Lane
Cooperator of the Year

R- Mary Ann Hopple
Conservation Educator of the Year

Conservation Accomplishments

• Forest Stand Improvement	152.5 acres
• Brush Management	395.3 acres
• Watering Facilities	6 structures installed
• Forest Management Plans Written	18 plans for 2,821 acres
• Fencing	35,810 feet installed
• Pipeline	1,204 feet
• Cover Crops	8 acres
• Integrated Pest Management for Vegetables	2 acres
• Livestock Heavy Use Area	6 structures/3,421 sq ft
• Tree/Shrub Planting	5 acres
• Access Road	225 feet
• Critical Area Planting	30 acres
• Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	1 plan / 225 acres
• Conservation Systems Planned	5,725 acres
• Conservation Systems Applied	2,453 acres
• EQIP Contracts Obligated in 2018	38 contracts/4,625 acres/ \$299,538.00
• Conservation Reserve Program	90 contracts/1259.07 acres
• 169 tons of lime spread using the District's lime spreader.	
• 121 acres planted using the District's Truax No-till Drill.	
• 69 acres planted using the District's Lilliston No-till Drill.	
• 3 acres planted using the District's Brillion Seeder.	
• 14 Technical Assistance / Homesite visits for the City of Athens completed.	
• 34 Technical Assistance visits / mapping services outside the city completed.	
• 6 Timber Harvest Management Plans / Site reviewed totaling 493 acres.	
• 3 Silvicultural Pollution Abatement sites reviewed.	
• 3 Woodland / Wildlife Stewardship plans developed totaling 279 acres.	
• Conducted 4 tree farm inspection totaling 1,788 acres.	
• Conducted over 2,800 CAUV site reviews for Athens County Auditor's office.	
• Conducted ODOT Rt 33 Bypass Invasive Species survey on over 600 acres.	

Stormwater Management

Over the last year the Athens Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has performed the following services for the City of Athens under the 2017 Mutual Agreement for technical assistance.

• Storm sewer manholes & catch basins surveyed, photographed, and inspected	398
• Storm sewers sampled and analyzed	4
• Stormwater Pollution Prevention Team meetings	10
• Stormwater plans reviewed for new development	32
• Stormwater construction site inspections	338
• Stormwater training provided for the public	6

(right) - Finished the first year under Ohio EPA's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. We submitted our first annual report to Ohio EPA.

(left) This summer 33 volunteers gathered to clean-up 6 miles of the Hocking River in the Athens area as part of the Ohio River Sanitation Commission's annual River Sweep project. Partners were Athens SWCD, City of Athens, Ohio University, Athens City-County Health Dept, Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District, Hocking Conservancy District, Hocking College, Walmart, and Kroger.

(above right) Athens SWCD, City of Athens, and Ohio University teamed up to celebrate Pollution Prevention (P2) Week! Several events were scheduled on and off campus to educate the public on ways to prevent pollution. Visit ohio.edu/sustainability.

(left) During P2 week, storm drains on The Ridges South Park Drive were stenciled by a group from Ohio University Office of Sustainability.

(below right) Gearing up the city's construction project inspection program to meet the Ohio EPA permit requirements.

(above left) Athens SWCD worked with Hocking Conservancy District to create a map of their storm sewer system along the Hocking River.

(right) This year we focused storm sewer mapping efforts on surveying the 100 year old North Congress-Fern Alley storm sewer.

Funding Sources for Conservation Programs (2018):

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Rental/Incentive/Cost Share = \$ 75,355.00
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) = \$ 9,381.00
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) = \$ 151,330.00
- Conservation Security Program (CSP) = \$ 40,015.00
- Estimated Landowner Input = \$ 211,611.00
- Total Dollars Spent On Conservation = \$ 487,692.00

Athens SWCD Operating Funds (2018):

The Athens Soil and Water Conservation District operates on funding provided by the Athens County Commissioners, the City of Athens, the Athens County Auditor, and matchable funds by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Local Funds for 2018

- Athens County Commissioners \$ 113,437.00
- City of Athens \$ 25,000.00
- Athens County Auditor \$ 25,000.00

Other Sources:

- ODNR Division of Wildlife \$ 25,250.00
 - State Match Funds \$ 103,992.00
- \$ 292,679.00

2018 Board of Supervisors:

Brenda Dahse, Chair
Kelly Abfall, Vice-Chair
Glenn Lackey, Secretary
Harold Dodd, Treasurer
Scott Sanders, Member

District Staff:

Cathy Bobo, District Manager
Rich Blazier, Equipment Manager
Teresa Caldwell, Education Coordinator
Eric Hayes Jr, Wildlife Specialist/Forestry Tech
Jill Montle, District Technician
Abbot Stevenson, Urban Conservation Tech

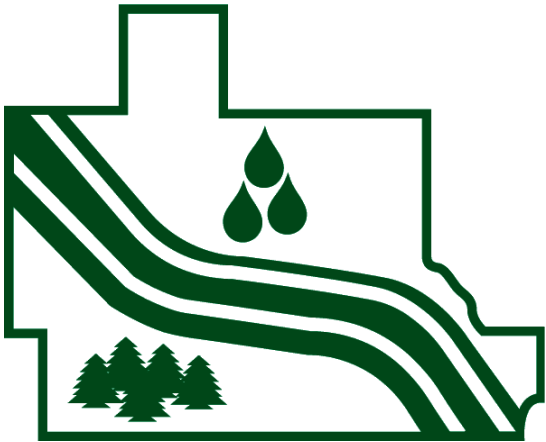
USDA NRCS Staff:

Joe Weber, District Conservationist
Kevin Lewis, Civil Engineering Tech
Bill Serbonich, Conservation Specialist
Kylie Seese, Soil Conservationist

ATHENS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

72nd Anniversary

2018 Annual Report



Mission Statement:

Provide leadership by promoting the wise use and enhancement of Athens County's natural resources for current and future generations.

Athens Soil and Water Conservation District
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