

Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialists"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740)454-2027 FAX (740)454-1451

Newsletter Issue 1

muskingumswcd.org

Winter 2023, Published Quarterly

2022 Annual Celebration of Conservation Meeting and Banquet

The 78th Annual Celebration of Conservation Meeting and Banquet of the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District was held Thursday, November 3, 2022 at Lindsley's Banquet Barn in Dresden, Ohio. The theme for the event was "Growing With A



Purpose". Van Slack served as Master of Ceremonies. A total of 73 people attended the event. A buffet meal was catered by Chef Steve Meredith.

There were two Resource Conservation Award (RCA) Agricultural award winners. Lance Deal presented the first RCA Agricultural Cooperator of the Year award to Windy Ridge Jerseys. The award was accepted by J, Rachel, Elaina, and Braden Hodge. The Hodge family own and operate a dairy farm. Their farm was a stop on our 2022 ATV Tour.



Felumlee Family and Lance Deal

Hodge Family and Lance Deal

Lance Deal presented the second RCA Agricultural Cooperator - of the Year award to Mayapple Farms. The award was accepted

by Rick, Jan, Elijah, and Emma Felumlee. The Felumlee family own's a forest farming operation. The crops grown include perennial vegetables and herbs, fruit trees and berry bushes, and mushrooms.

Doug McConnell presented the RCA Non-agricultural award to the City of Zanesville Wastewater Treatment Plant for their many efforts to practice conservation at their facility by installing bat boxes and planting native pollinator plants. Scott Brown, Director, Department of Public Service, received the award on behalf of The City of Zanesville.



Becky Vansickle presented the Backyard Conservationist award to Jennifer

Way for her backyard conservation efforts at her home. Jennifer was in attendance to receive her award and a gift certificate for one flat of pollinator plants from the MSWCD native plant sale.

Mark Sterling presented our 2022 Educator of the Year Award to Jessica Stonecypher. Jessica



Jessica Stonecypher and Mark Sterling

is a teacher at Zanesville Middle School. She is involved in the Agricultural Education program, which is a partnership between the Zanesville City Schools and Mid-East Career and Technology Center, to bring Career-Tech Education to students in grades 7th—10th. Jessica was in attendance to receive her award and a \$25 Staples gift card.

Mark Weiser presented our 2022 Special Educational Outreach Award to Bethel Community Center for their conservation efforts and teaching our community. Amanda Hatfield, Director of Bethel Community Center, was present to accept the award.



Jennifer Way and Becky Vansickle



Amanda Hatfield and Mark Weiser

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS

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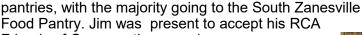
Melanie Imlay and Mark Sterling

Rhonda Talbott and Mark Sterling

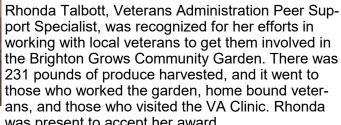
Becky Vansickle and Mark Sterling presented four Friends of Conservation Awards. The awards were presented to Melanie Imlay, Jim Marshall, Rhonda Talbott, and Lynn Wells.

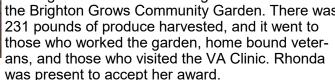
Melanie Imlay was recognized for giving us the opportunity to expand our Urban Greens program by allowing us to take on the management of the Maple-Harding Garden. This garden produced 371 pounds of produce, with it all going to local food pantries. Melanie was present to accept her RCA Friends of Conservation award.

Jim Marshall was recognized for allowing the District to place an Urban Greens community garden on half an acre of his property, which is now referred to as the Marshall Greens Community Garden. This garden produced 6000 pounds of fresh produce, which was donated to local food



Friends of Conservation award.







Jim Marshall and Becky Vansickle



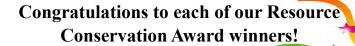
Becky Vansickle and Lynn Wells

Lynn Wells was recognized for all he has done for the District and all the other ag-related agencies throughout the years for his help to make an event great and to record that for history. Lynn has literally been taking photographs at events for decades. Lynn was present to accept his RCA Friends of Conservation award.



Delores Wolfe, Kay Wilson and Doug McConnell

Doug McConnell presented the 2022 Muskingum County Big Tree Contest Winner award to Stovertown Saint John's Lutheran Church. This year's winner was a White Oak measuring 85 feet high, with an average crown diameter of 100 feet and a trunk circumference of 160 inches or 13 feet 4 inches. Kay Wilson and Delores Wolfe were present to accept the award on behalf of Stovertown Saint John's Lutheran Church.



2022 Supervisor Election Results

Another great election is in the books for 2022. We are so thankful to have had two great candidates run this year. Each candidate brings a unique vision and set of skills to our county. We want to thank Dean Holtzclaw for his interest in serving on the MSWCD Board of Supervisors.

Congratulations to Lance Deal. Lance will begin his three year term January 2023. Lance will be sworn in at the January 10, 2023 Board Meeting.

2023 MUSKINGUM SWCD TREE ORDER FORM

Name:					
Address:					
City:	State	ZIP			
Daytime Phone #: Cell Phone #:					
F-mail: (undate you when the orders come in)					

Supply is limited. Deadline to order is **Friday, February 24th, 2023**. Projected pick-up date is mid-April 2023.

If you are tax exempt, please figure your total without the sales tax included and submit a Tax Exemption form with the order, regardless of the method of payment.

SPECIES	PACKET PRICE	PLUS TAX	TOTAL PRICE	# OF PACKETS	TOTAL COST	
	THESE ARE SO	OLD IN 25 T	REES PER PA	ACK		
AMERICAN PLUM	\$ 27.97	\$ 2.03	\$ 30.00			
BLACK WALNUT	\$ 23.31	\$ 1.69	\$ 25.00			
Norway Spruce	\$ 16.78	\$ 1.22	\$ 18.00			
COMMON PERSIMMON	\$ 26.11	\$ 1.89	\$ 28.00			
RED OAK	\$ 18.65	\$ 1.35	\$ 20.00			
SHAGBARK HICKORY	\$ 30.77	\$ 2.23	\$ 33.00			
SUGAR MAPLE	\$ 26.11	\$ 1.89	\$ 28.00			
WHITE OAK	\$ 18.65	\$ 1.35	\$ 20.00			
EASTERN WHITE PINE	\$21.45	\$ 1.55	\$ 23.00			
٦	HESE ARE SC	old in 10 ti	REES PER PA	ACK		
BLACK CHOKECHERRY	\$ 17.72	\$ 1.28	\$ 19.00			
GRAY DOGWOOD	\$8.39	\$0.61	\$9.00			
Paw paw	\$25.17	\$1.83	\$27.00			
EASTERN REDBUD	\$9.32	\$0.68	\$10.00			
SERVICEBERRY	\$12.12	\$0.88	\$13.00			
TREE PACKETS—FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE BACK OF PAGE						
TIMBER PACKET	\$23.31	\$1.69	\$25.00			
POLLINATOR PACKET	\$17.72	\$1.28	\$19.00			

Mail order form & payment to	TOTAL BULK AMOUNT DUE \$	
Muskingum SWCD	PACKET COST \$	
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$	

For more information contact the office at (740) 454-2027, or visit our website at muskingumswcd.org.

All sales are final, no refunds or exchanges. We reserve the right to make substitutions. No shipping. Please check your tree order well, upon receipt, and notify the office within 48 hours of any issues such as receiving the wrong trees, receiving the wrong amount of trees, trees are not healthy, etc. To order by credit card, please stop by the office or order on-line. Credit card orders will not be accepted through the mail . An additional 4% service fee will be charged to credit card orders.

2023 MUSKINGUM SWCD TREE SEEDLING SALE

	Edible Parts	Evergreen	•	Good For Birds	ار	Good For Deer	Ą	Good For	Pollinators	*	Good For Small Mammals		Nut Producing	€	Timber Tree	Γ
LIGHT		S,P	Д	S, P	S, P	S,P	S, P	S, SH	S,P	S		S, P	S, P	S, P	S, P	S, P
GROWTH RATE		М	Ы	M-S	H-M	J-W	S	S	M-S	Ы		S	S	M-F	M-F	M-F
SOIL MOISTURE		MD	ОММ-ОМ	MWD-SPD	ОМ-ОММ	MWD-SPD	MW-WD	MWD-SPD	ОМ-ОММ	QAS-QMM		SPD-WD	ОД-ОМ	MD-SWD	WD-SPD	WD-MWD
MATURE HEIGHT		20'-30'	.0809	.02-,09	30,-80,	60'-80'	60,-80,	.08-,09	50,-80,	50,-80,	10	5-10,	10'-15'	15'-30'	20'-30'	15'-25'
AGE	OF 25 TREES	2 YEARS	1 YEARS	3 YEARS	2 YEARS	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	2 YEARS	4 YEARS	SOF 10 TREES	3 YEARS	3 YEARS	2 Years	2 Years	3 YEARS
SIZE	THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN PACKS OF 25 TREES	18-30 INCHES	10-18 INCHES	10-15 INCHES	12-15 INCHES	5-10 INCHES	6-10 INCHES	12-24 INCHES	4-8 INCHES	12-24 INCHES	THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN PACKS OF 10 TREES	10-15 INCHES	8-10 INCHES	6-12 INCHES	4-8 INCHES	8-15 INCHES
COST W/TAX PER BUNDLE	THESE TREES	\$30/25 TREES	\$25/25 TREES	\$18/25 TREES	\$28/25 TREES	\$20/25 TREES	\$ 33/25 TREES	\$ 28/25 TREES	\$ 20/25 TREES	\$23/25 TREES	These Trees/	\$19/10 TREES	\$9/10 TREES	\$27/10 TREES	\$10/10 TREES	\$13/10 TREES
INFORMATION				*	101 01 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	***	******			₩ ¥ ₩				MA & 1011		
COMMON NAME		AMERICAN PLUM	BLACK WALNUT	NORWAY SPRUCE	COMMON PERSIMMON	RED OAK	SHAGBARK HICKORY	SUGAR MAPLE	WHITE OAK	EASTERN WHITE PINE		BLACK CHOKECHERRY	GRAY DOGWOOD	PAW PAW	EASTERN REDBUD	SERVICEBERRY

TIMBER PACKET - \$25	
5— WHITE ОАК	
5— RED OAK	
5— SUGAR MAPLE	
5- BLACK WALNUT	
5- Shagbark Hickory	

POLLINATOR PACKET - \$19
3— EASTERN REDBUD
3- AMERICAN PLUM
3- COMMON PERSIMMON
3— SERVICEBERRY
3— BLACK CHOKECHERRY

Growth Rate: MWD= Moderately Well Drained SPD= Somewhat Poorly Drained PD= Poorly Drained Soil Moisture: WD= Well Drained

Light: S= Sun P= Part Sun/

Shade SH= Shade F= Fast M= Medium S= Slow

Supply is limited, so order early. For more tree information, visit: http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/trees, or contact our office. All sales are final - no refunds or exchanges. Deadline to order is Friday, February, 24th 2023. Projected pickup date is mid-April 2023.

Tree Shelters - Are They Worth The Cost?

The Muskingum SWCD has been selling tree shelters for many years. To provide a good comparison of sheltered versus non-sheltered trees, we asked several past tree shelter customers why they continue to use shelters year after year.

One farmer that we visited has been planting trees since he purchased the property in 2015. As time has gone on he has increased the percentage of sheltered trees. He sees multiple benefits from using the shelters, including what is likely the most important-protection from the deer. Small twigs are high in nutrients throughout the year, which makes these desirable snacks for the deer, especially in late winter. The shelters also discourage the bucks from rubbing the trees. In addition to deer protection, the shelters also increase growth significantly.

In the spring of 2018, American Plum were planted in several areas of the farm, and in just one growing season those that were sheltered have outperformed the unsheltered ones by at least a four to one ratio. The faster the trees grow the quicker they will produce mast for wildlife feed. There has also been a significant reduction in damage caused by moles, voles, mice and rabbits. While these small animals typically won't eat the tree, they will strip the bark to eat, which in turn essentially strangles the trees.

This landowner in particular has seen, and continues to see, the value in tree shelters. In addition to increased growth rates, deer protection, and other animal protection, shelters have also greatly reduced the labor needed to control weeds around his trees. He is able to spray the weeds and reduce competition with much less concern of any herbicide getting on the trees due to the shelter. To decrease the time period to maturity you can either spend \$50 plus on a 3/4" caliper tree and then have to plant a large ball or you can buy a \$2 seedling and protect it with a \$15 shelter and have the same result in the next five years. If you have any questions regarding the benefits of tree shelters please contact the office at 740-454-2027.



Sheltered Tree

Bur Oaks planted within 50' of each other on a farm in northern Muskingum County. The tree on the left was placed in a shelter at that time, while the one on the right was not. The one on the left has grown out of the top of the 5' tall shelter and is well on its way to the 6' mark while the one on the right just barely reaches the 1' mark.



Unsheltered

Tree Shelter Order Form

Name: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: ____

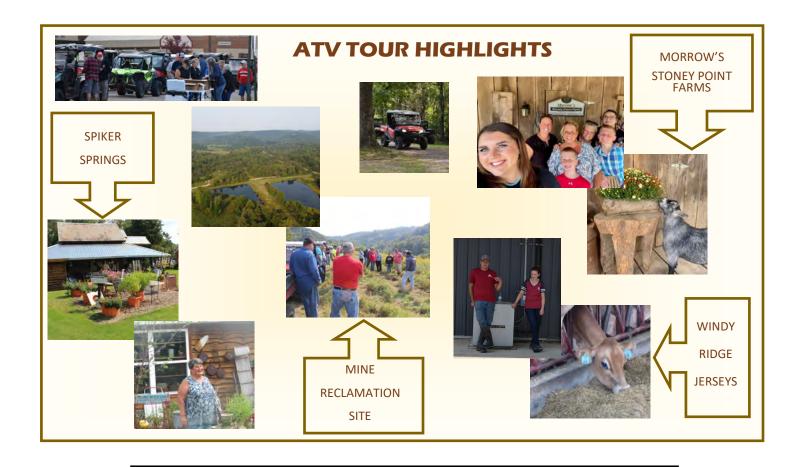
Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Tree Price Plus Price # of Total Shelter Each Tax w/Tax Shelters Price Three Foot \$8.39 \$9.00 \$0.15 Four Foot \$11.66 \$0.84 \$12.50 Five Foot \$12.98 \$14.00 \$1.02

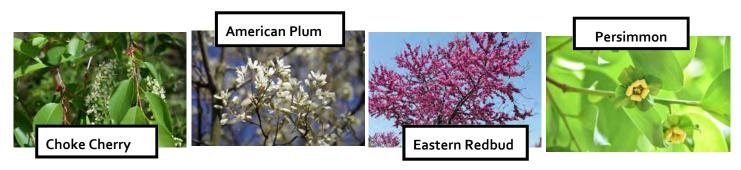
Total Amount Due \$

Please make checks payable to: MSWCD

To order by credit card, please stop by the office or order on-line. Credit card orders will not be accepted through the mail. An additional 4% service fee will be charged to credit card orders.



THERE IS MORE TO A TREE THAN ITS ROOTS



In this year's tree sale, we are adding something a little different. We've all heard of the plight of pollinators throughout the United States and the world. The poster children for this movement are the Monarch butterfly and the honey bee. Many times the rest of the native pollinators, numbering more than 600 here in Ohio, get left behind although they are just as important. This year we have introduced the Pollinator Packet to meet the demands of all these species. While not typically thought of, trees are a huge source of pollen especially early on in the year. The Pollinator Packet consists of Eastern Redbud, American Plum, Common Persim-

mon, Serviceberry and Black Chokecherry. Redbud, Plum and Serviceberry all have nice showy flowers that provide aesthetic value. All of these trees are small to medium size trees, typically maxing out about thirty feet tall. This means that just about any yard has space for at least a couple of them. If you're not sure what to do with this many trees, reach out to neighbors, family or friends, it's likely you have someone in your network that would love to make use of a few trees to promote pollinators. In addition to providing aesthetic and pollinator value, all of these species produce a fruit, some big and some small, that provide food for all types of wildlife, attracting even more species to your yard or property. If everyone does their part we can bring back the native pollinators while providing aesthetic value and a food source for wildlife.



ATTENTION ASPIRING FARMERS!

Learn to farm with Central State University Extension's Beginning Farmer series.

In 2022, the produce demonstration site was established at Brighton Grows with five raised beds. Our small group of aspiring farmers had success building soil with compost and cover crops, and growing nutritious, fresh produce. We learned a lot last year, like how well kale grows in the fall with season extension and how hard it is to start small seeds without consistent and convenient irrigation. We fed ourselves and nearby residents, and we fed some deer...but installed a surprisingly successful makeshift deer fence. The focus of the beginning farmer training was and continues to be to provide hands-on, practical skills for small-scale, intensive produce production. And we are ready to hit the ground running in 2023.

Four sessions of beginning farmer training are scheduled to cover growing skills from spring through fall, as well as farm business management. Each session includes six classes and the opportunity to practice skills at the Brighton Grows demonstration site. Each session allows beginning farmers to explore key produce farming topics by season. Spring session starts the week of April 3rd and kicks off with crop planning and recordkeeping. Other topics covered during spring session include seed starting, seedling care,

pest management, site and bed preparation, irrigation design and installation, transplanting, and trellising. Spring session wraps up the week of May 22^{nd} with an introduction to beekeeping program. Summer session launches the week of June 12^{th} and covers pest management and selling and marketing your produce. Fall session starts the week of August 14^{th} and explores soil health and season extension. After the main growing season is over, the winter session delves into farm business skills.

Aspiring farmers can sign up for one 6-week session or multiple 6-week sessions. There is no cost to participate in the Beginning Farmer sessions. For more information about the Central State University Extension Beginning Farmer program or to register for a session, contact Denise at dbrooks@centralstate.edu, (740) 801-0775.

Start a new **HABIT**AT®



Doug Tallamy, a professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, along with Michelle Alfandari, a business owner, have started a grassroot effort to regenerate biodiversity in everyone's "backyard". The idea is to plant native plants and remove invasive plants. The goal of the Homegrown National Park movement is to get 20 million acres of native plantings in the United States, which is about half of the green lawns of privately owned property. There is a map online with some of the native plantings that have already been planted in United States and Canada. If you have planted native plants in your yard, you too can add your "park" to the map. Go to https://map.homegrownnationalpark.org/, create an account and get your own firefly on the map. We need to see how many Homegrown National Parks we can get in Muskingum County and surrounding areas with our native pollinator plants.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION MEETING

Once again, the MSWCD will serve as a Local Sponsor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. The MSWCD has been allocated up to \$131,873 for the purchase, by ODA, of permanent agriculture easement(s) in 2023. For more information about the program, go to https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/programs/farmland-preservation-office

Our informational meeting about the program will be held Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Rural Services Building, 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville. Please register by January 11 by contacting the MSWCD office at 740-454-2027 or email at melissa.devore@muskingumswcd.org.



2023

January 18th 7:30PM February 15th 7:30PM **March 16th 7:30PM

**(This is a Thursday change of date because of Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference.)

Please visit our website at https://www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Farming-After-Dark/For up-to-date information and to register.

THE CLIFTON, MELISSA, AND VAN SHOW

PIZZA. POP & PROFIT

Come and discuss nutrients and crop management with Van, Clifton, and Melissa.



Rural Service Building Meeting Room 225 Underwood Street Zanesville, Ohio 43701

January 20th 12PM-2PM

Jenni Fridgen, Graduate Research Assistant with Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Kentucky, will be joining us by ZOOM. Jenni will be sharing about P nutrition on low P testing fields. The University of Kentucky has an ongoing 6-year study managing Phosphorus on low testing fields. Jenni will also be able to address guestions on grid soil sampling.

February 24th 12PM-2PM

Elizabeth Hawkins, Field Specialist, Agronomic Systems with Ohio State University Extension, will be joining us by ZOOM. Elizabeth will be sharing about the E-Fields program and On-Farm Research.

March 24th 12PM-2PM

Bob Hendershot will join us and will be speaking on the topic of grazing. Bob retired as the state Grassland Specialist with NRCS. He has a lifetime of grazing experience.

Stay up-to-date on what is happening in Muskingum County and at the Muskingum County Soil and Water Conservation District by creating an account on the Zanesville Community Calendar. Find our calendar then mark us as your favorite. If you any questions, please call the office at 740-454-2027.

Follow these steps to begin!





OPPORTUNITY AWAITS!

The MSWCD is looking for Volunteer Interns for the summer of 2023. To be eligible, students must be high school graduates and in college. Those interested are required to fill out an application and submit a resume and short essay. Students must be able to pass a criminal background check.

Three Interns are needed to assist MSWCD staff with a variety of projects and programs. Activities might include, but are not limited to, agriculture field visits, forestry management visits and plan creation, wildlife habitat establishment, water quality monitoring, soil sampling, pollinator plantings, youth camps, educational events, urban agriculture, and more. Students in agriculture, environmental, and/or natural resources management are encouraged to apply.

While these are all volunteer positions, there is a scholarship opportunity available. The MSWCD Board has approved granting up to three \$1,000 scholarships to Interns who successfully meet the requirements and standards for the position and complete the minimum required hours (100 hours within 10 weeks). If a student's school requires more than 100 hours for an internship, that can be obtained as well. A copy of the students' 2023 fall college class schedule will be required for college enrollment verification.

To be considered for the scholarship opportunity, the application, resume and essay must be submitted by March 17, 2023. Applicants will be contacted for phone interviews. For more details, contact the MSWCD office at 740-454-2027 or check our website at www.muskingumswcd.org. Applications are available on line.

Do you have Spotted Knapweed in Your Pasture and Hay Fields?





The Spotted Knapweed RCCP Grant has been approved and extended for five more years for Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, and Noble Counties. This grant provides financial assistance for chemical treatment of spotted knapweed in hay and pasture fields. More information will be coming in the Spring Newsletter.



Uncle Soil Needs You!

On our November episode of Farming After Dark, Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director for The Ohio Association of Foodbanks, shared with us that **one in three Ohioians are food insecure**. Urban Greens, a program of the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District, is looking for volunteers to help alleviate food insecurity in Muskingum County. The program began in 2016 through a grant and has grown to 5 sites with an interest in additional gardens.

Uncle Soil needs you, even if you just have a few hours to give. In 2022 we were able to donate more than 7,000 pounds of fresh local produce to local food pantries, the Senior Center, and the Zanesville City School summer lunch program. In 2023 we will be expanding the potential production through the help of a generous grant from the J.W. & M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation.

Are you part of a small group at your church that might be able to adopt a garden? Do you have a group of friends you hang out with that you could spend an evening helping in a garden? Maybe your place of employment does community service projects that Urban Greens could be part of? There has been a lot of research that has found spending time outside has a positive impact not only on your physical health but also on your mental health. I think we all would like to be healthier!

Healthy soil produces healthy plants that produce healthy food that leads to healthy people and healthy communities. We hope you will consider joining us in this effort. We need your help with this lofty goal. The ultimate goal is not to just give high quality local produce away but to teach people how to grow food themselves. So whether you are a seasoned gardener or someone with no experience at all, come join us in the great outdoors and get your hands dirty! It is not all fun and games, but to be able to put a plant or seed in the ground, watch it grow, and reap the harvest is well worth the toil and sweat!

Urban Greens is not intended to be a "handout" program, it is a "hand up" program through education and training. Jim Collins, in his book "Good to Great", said you need to have a BHAG. You might be wondering what is a BHAG? It is a **Big Hairy Audacious Goal!** Will you join us in reaching this BHAG of alleviating food insecurity in Muskingum County? Together we can build a stronger and healthier community in Muskingum County. For more information on how you can help Uncle Soil and be part of this BHAG call the office at 740-454-2027 or stop by our office at the Rural Services Building located at 225 Underwood St. Zanesville, Ohio. Have a blessed year in 2023!

Join us for "Don't Throw That Away" Conservation Craft Night

Dates, times, and registration information are on our website at https://www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Craft-Nights/ or call the office at 740-454-2027



Return Service Requested

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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NRCS PERSONNEL:

LORI RYAN-GRIFFIN JOE LEHMAN

Save the Date

Ag Breakfast	January 10
Live at Noon	January 10
Board Meeting	January 10
Farmland Preservation Informational Meeting	January 12
MSWCD Office Closed	January 16
Radio	January 17
Farming After Dark	January 18
Pizza, Pop, & Profit	January 20
Live at Noon	January 24
Conservation Craft Night	January 24
Live at Noon	January 30
Ag Breakfast	February 7
MSWCD Board Meeting	February 14
Live at Noon	February 14

Farming After Dark	February 15
MSWCD Office Closed	February 20
Radio	February 21
Pizza, Pop, and Profit	February 24
Tree Sale Ends	February 24
Live at Noon	February 28
OEPA 401 Info Session	March l
Ag Breakfast	March 7
MSWCD Board Meeting	March 14
Live at Noon	March 14
Farming After Dark	March 15
Radio	March 21
Pizza, Pop, & Profit	March 24
Live at Noon	March 28
Conservation Craft Night	March 28
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