



The Allen Soil and Water Conservation District is again selling 50 gallon plastic rain barrels in terracotta, granite and black colors. The goal of this sale is to offer an attractive, affordable rain barrel. The barrels come complete with a diverter kit and hardware to quickly connect the units to downspouts.

2025 Rain Barrel Sale

There are two ways to order: Online at www.allenswcd.com or by mailing the form below. Rain barrels will need to be picked up by the customer at our district office. For more information, call 419-222-0846 x1004.

Features Of This Rain Barrel:

- 50 gallon barrel with snap on lid
- Lid can be inverted for use as a planter
- Made in the USA from durable food grade HDPE resin
- 30% recycled content
- Sealed system resists mosquitoes, insects, and algae growth
- Includes diverter and all parts needed for installation
- Diverter is easy to install and winterize
- No special tools needed – hole saw included
- Spigot and drain have standard garden hose connection
- Illustrated step-by-step instructions
- Works with standard rectangular downspouts



Rain Barrel Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Number of rain barrels _____ x \$110.00 each = \$ _____ total payment submitted _____ color _____

Send your payment to: Allen SWCD, 1870 Slabtown Road Lima, OH 45801.

We will contact you about rain barrel pickup once we receive your order. Contact Lydia Archambo with questions at lydia@allenswcd.com or 419-222-0846 x1004. You may order online at AllenSWCD.com/rain-barrels.



1870 Slabtown Road
Lima, OH 45801
AllenSWCD.com

All Allen SWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lima, Ohio
Permit No. 117

The Conservationist

Summer Edition
August 2025

ALLEN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Farmers Market

For the best fresh produce, baked goods, candy and more, be sure to attend the Lima Farmers Market. It takes place every Saturday from 9:00am to 12:00pm at 1309 N. Cable Road next to Racers Station through September 27.

The produce is local, and fresh-picked...some of it just picked that morning! There are also special events each week. See the schedule at AllenSWCD.com/farmers-market.

Super delicious and nutritious, you don't want to miss it!



2025 Open House

The Allen Soil and Water Conservation District will host its Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 5, at the Allen SWCD office. Meet staff and ask questions about the ongoing projects and programs at the Allen SWCD. A meal, grilled by district staff, will be provided, and voting for the election for the Board of Supervisors will take place from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. All who attend are welcome to enter a drawing to win a prize. Residents of Allen County who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote. For more information, call 419-228-0846 or visit allenswcd.com.

2025 Election Notice

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Residents of landowners, firms, and corporations that own land or occupy land in Allen County and are 18 years of age and older may vote for Supervisors. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- (1) at the Allen SWCD Office from July 7, 2025 until August 5, 2025 during normal business hours;
- (2) at the Allen SWCD Open House, voting will take place Tuesday August 5, 2025 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the Allen SWCD Office- Located at: 1870 Slabtown Road, Lima, Ohio;
- (3) voting absentee from July 7, 2025 until 12:00 PM, August 5, 2025, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from SWCD office at the following address: Allen SWCD, 1870 Slabtown Road, Lima, Ohio 45801, or by calling 419-222-0846, or by emailing casey@allenswcd.com. Absentee ballots must be received by the Allen SWCD office no later than August 5th, 2025, 12:00 PM.

Allen Soil & Water Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2029. Two Supervisors will be elected. The nominees are Ronald Parr, Jr. and Jim E. Miller.

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ASWCD Programs
and Assistance

The mission of the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the wise use, improvement and maintenance of the soil, water and other natural resources in Allen County. Some of the ways we meet this mission are by providing the following programs and assistance.

- Pond design, soil analysis and planning
- Preconstruction site development evaluation and report for potential new homes built in unincorporated areas
- Nutrient management plans for livestock producers

Possible cost share funding practices:

- 2-stage ditches
- Wetlands
- Grassed waterways
- Streambank stabilization
- Drainage control structures
- Drainage water management
- Filter and buffer strips
- Nutrient management and cover crops

Please contact Allen SWCD via email at casey@allenswcd.com or phone at 419-222-0846 for more information on any of the above programs or assistance.

Additional information may be available on our website: AllenSWCD.com.

2025 Board of Supervisor Candidates and Election

We are pleased to present two candidates for Supervisor. Elections will be held at the Allen SWCD Office during normal business hours Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, starting July 7, 2025 through August 5, 2025 or you can vote by absentee ballot. Supervisors are elected to a three-year term. Below are brief biographies for the candidates:



James E. Miller is a resident of Marion Township. He has been married to Martha for 46 years. They have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. They have a 400 acre farming operation that consists of grain and beef enterprise. Jim is a member of the Delphos Young Farmers, Ohio Young Farmers, Landeck Catholic Knights of Ohio, Marion Township Zoning Board, and the Ohio Cattleman’s Association. Jim has installed numerous conservation practices since he first became a cooperator with the Allen SWCD in 1978. Jim has been a member of the Allen SWCD Board of Supervisors for the past 12 years.



Ronald (Ron) Parr Jr. is an avid outdoorsman and a life long resident of Allen County. He retired from the Allen County Engineer’s Office after 35 years of service. He soon came out of retirement and has been working as a construction inspector for various infrastructure projects for the City of Lima, County Engineer, and Allen Soil and Water District. Ron has been involved as a youth hunter education instructor and enjoys spending his spare time out in nature. Ron lives in American Township with his wife Joan.

2025 Intern Wrap Up

The Allen Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) summer interns had an exciting and productive summer, contributing to vital stormwater efforts across Allen County and the City of Lima. Their work focused on dry weather outfall monitoring and storm drain data collection.

In addition to fieldwork, the interns shadowed SWCD’s Lydia Archambo on various educational outreach events, helping to spread the message of conservation and environmental responsibility to the public.

We’re grateful for their hard work and commitment throughout the summer! Allen SWCD typically releases information about internship opportunities in December. If you’re a college student—or know someone who is—be sure to keep an eye on our website for the 2026 internship announcement. It’s a great way to gain experience, make a difference, and be part of local conservation efforts.

UAS Program

Allen Soil and Water is proud to announce the creation of a UAS program.

This past winter, the Allen SWCD board of supervisors approved the purchase of two drones to be used by district staff. The plan is to offer services to both local government agencies and the public.

The drones purchased were a DJI Matrice 350 and a DJI Mavic 3 Multispectral. The Matrice 350 comes with a LIDAR scanning camera and an Inspection camera. The LIDAR system is for topographic surveying and stockpile estimation. The Mavic 3 Multispectral will be used to assess crop health and nutrient status.

Currently, the only service offered to the public is multispectral scanning of crop fields. At the time, the use of the LIDAR system is limited to Governmental agencies. Videography is also limited to local and county government agencies. Videography services are restricted to basic video and photography.

If you would like to learn more about the drone program, please don’t hesitate to contact Josh Zwez at 419-222-0846, ext. 1003. Josh, the district’s federally licensed drone pilot, looks forward to answering any questions about the program.



We’re Involved to Help Serve YOU!

At the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), our mission extends beyond the office and fieldwork—we are deeply rooted in the communities we serve. Our dedicated staff and board members are not only committed to promoting responsible stewardship of natural resources but are also actively involved in a wide range of local organizations and initiatives. These connections help us stay informed, responsive, and engaged in community needs while building strong partnerships that support both environmental sustainability and local development.

We believe in leading by example, and our involvement in community groups demonstrates our ongoing commitment to education, collaboration, and continuous improvement. Here are just a few of the organizations in which Allen SWCD staff and board members play an active role:

- Ottawa River Coalition
- Agri-Business Committee
- LACNIP Garden Club
- Farm Bureau
- Noon Optimist Club
- Allen County Conservation Club
- Allen County Safety Council
- Lima Emergency Planning Committee
- Cenovus Citizen Advisory Panel
- Conservation Tillage and Technology
- Area 1 Envirothon Committee

If you think your club can teach us a thing or two about how to better help the environment and/or you are interested in learning what programs Allen SWCD has to offer YOU, reach out and invite us via phone (419-222-0846 X1004) or email (Lydia@allenswcd.com).

