

GET A REBATE!

Residents of American Township, Bath Township, Shawnee Township, Perry Township, Village of Elida, and City of Lima are eligible for a rebate after proper installation!
Use this contact for more information. →

2026 Rain Barrel Sale

Two ways to order: Online at www.allenswcd.com or by mailing the form below with payment. Rain barrels will need to be picked up by the customer at our district office, 1870 Slabtown Road, Lima, Ohio. 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
- 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_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone_____Email_____

Number of rain barrels_____x $120.00 each = $_____total payment submitted
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.

ALLEN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1870 Slabtown Road
Lima, OH 45801

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.

The Conservationist

Winter Edition
March 2026

ALLEN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



In This Issue

Fish Sale P. 1
Educational Programs P. 2
Manure Application P. 2
H2Ohio Annual Review P. 3
Rain Barrels P. 4

Volunteers Needed For 2026 Tree Seedling Giveaway

For more than four decades, the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District and the Lima Kiwanis Club have joined forces to give away more than 3,000 tree seedlings each year to local 1st- and 3rd grade students to help them learn why trees are so important.

If you are interested in making a difference, please consider volunteering your time to help with this year's tree packaging. We will begin at 8 am in the Rabbit Barn at the Allen County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, April 22nd, with coffee and doughnuts being offered to all who volunteer.

If you are interested, contact Casey Heilman at casey@allenswcd.com or at 419-222-0846. Volunteers are not required to stay the entire time, as we are grateful for any time you are willing to give.

44th Annual Fish Sale Is Underway

Since 1982, the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District has been offering pond and lake owners the opportunity to stock their water conveniently and cheaply.

Stocking your pond is a great way to ensure a healthy food chain between plants, fish, and other life. A healthy pond requires healthy fish to help keep a more balanced ecosystem. Not only do these fish help control the insect population, but they also consume excess nutrients released by aquatic plants, helping keep the water clear and balanced.

For the first time in years, tilapia will be available for purchase during our spring sale. Many pond owners choose to add tilapia to their ponds to control algae and vegetation. Also being offered this spring are jumbo yellow perch, largemouth bass, redear shellcrackers, bluegill, channel catfish, black crappie, Japanese koi, hybrid bluegill, fathead minnows, and white amur. In addition to fish, there are also pond sludge remover and bacteria packs available for purchase. The ordering deadline is Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Fish can be ordered online via PayPal or by traditional order form. The fish order form is included in this newsletter. Links to PayPal and the form are also available at www.allenswcd.com or by contacting the Allen SWCD office at 419-222-0846. Please note that additional service fees apply to all online orders.

The fish will be delivered to the Allen Soil and Water District office on Wednesday, April 29th in water-filled packages, eliminating the need to bring your water or buckets. Pickup begins at 3:00 pm and ends at 4:30 pm. All fish are alive and must be picked up in person. Customers should be prepared to transport fish directly to their ponds without delay.

Fish must be picked up on the day of delivery; otherwise, your order will be canceled. There are no refunds for unclaimed fish.

For more information, please contact Casey at 419-222-0846 X 1002 or emai casey@allenswcd.com.

ASWCD NL 2-26.indd 1
2/19/2026 1:42:08 PM

Receive Your Newsletter Via Email

We're making it easy for you to receive and read The Conservationist. If you prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please let us know and we will be glad to add you to our email list. Just contact Casey at 419-222-0846 x1002 or casey@allenswcd.com.

The Conservationist is published each spring and fall and contains local, up-to-date news you need to know as a farmer or landowner in Allen County.

Stay current with the programs and services offered by the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District. Put your address on our email list for The Conservationist today.

ALLEN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Resources for Life Resources for Growth

Educational Programs For Adults And Youth

Allen SWCD offers FREE environmental lessons to "scientists" of all ages. Whether you are a kindergarten teacher or the president of your retirement club, our educator, Lydia Archambo, would love to talk to you!



The programs are fun and informative like...

- Watershed Madness
- Rain Barrel Rush
- Parts of the River
- Ottawa River Game
- Pathogen Pathways
- Survival in the Stream
- Field Journaling
- Permeability WHAT?
- Bugs in the Stream and What They Mean
- Enviroscape
- Pee ew Dog Poo

If any of these lessons interest you, contact Lydia Archambo at 419-222-0846 X1004 or lydia@allenswcd.com. Don't see something you are interested in? ASK! Lydia is always coming up with new activities to bring to the community.

Snow Melt Is Not Time To Spread Manure

Just because the weather is warming up and snow has melted doesn't mean it's safe to spread manure. When the ground is still frozen or saturated, nutrients can't soak into the soil. Instead, melting snow and runoff can carry manure straight into ditches, streams and rivers.

This runoff can lead to water pollution, harmful algal blooms, and elevated bacteria levels like E. coli in our waterways.

Waiting until the ground has properly thawed and conditions are right helps protect both your nutrients and our local water quality. Let's keep it on the fields and out of our streams.

It's also important to remember that land application of manure on frozen or snow-covered ground is regulated in Ohio and, in many situations, is illegal. Applying manure under these conditions can result in violations and potential penalties. Regulations are in place to protect both farmers and our shared water resources.

If you have questions or concerns about winter manure application rules, please contat Danny Boroff at Allen SWCD at 419-222-0846 x1008 or 419-979-8025, or email him at daniel@allenswcd.com.

H2Ohio Annual Review

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Division of Soil & Water Conservation

ANNUAL OVERVIEW | DECEMBER 2025

H2Ohio ANNUAL REVIEW

2.5 Million acres of cropland enrolled in VNMPs

3,200 Agreements signed to implement practices on farms

50% Farmland enrolled in West Lake Erie Basin

22,300 Acres of watershed improved through conservation ditch projects

CONSERVATION DITCH PROGRAM

26 Approved projects

- 9 two-stage ditches
- 17 self-forming ditches
- 11 generated through county engineers
- 25 generated through SWCDs
- 24 in Lake Erie Watershed
- 2 in Ohio Watershed

40.3 Sq. Miles Watershed | **$11.4M** Total Requests | **22** Miles Long

AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE GRANTS

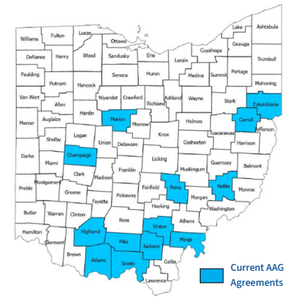
50/50 Funding from NRCS and OSWCC to 13 SWCDs to increase staffing

582 Producers reached for technical assistance

82 Conservation Plans

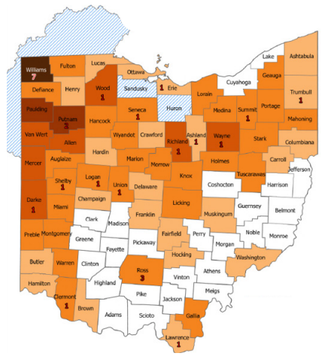
71 SWCD outreach events impacting more than 2,200 people

** Figures through Oct. 1, 2025*



STATE AGRICULTURE POLLUTION COMPLAINTS

FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)



- Violations
- Western Lake Erie Basin
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5-10

Stay Connected!

Visit the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District on our social media accounts.

For the latest news on conservation issues, farming, gardening, lawn care and much more, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

AllenSWCD

AllenSoil

AllenSoilWater

AllenSWCD

Also, the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District website is a wealth of information about the programs and services we offer. Check it out at AllenSWCD.com.

ASWCD NL 2-26.indd 2 2/19/2026 1:42:09 PM