Allen SWCD Encourages Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste



The Allen Soil and Water Conservation District encourages residents to properly dispose of household hazardous waste to help protect local rivers, streams, and groundwater from pollution. Items such as paint, automotive fluids, pesticides, batteries, cleaning chemicals, and other hazardous materials should never be dumped down storm drains, on the ground, or thrown away improperly.

While Allen SWCD does not accept household hazardous waste materials, the North Central Ohio Solid Waste District does offer disposal resources and can help residents schedule drop-off appointments or answer questions regarding proper disposal methods. Proper disposal helps prevent harmful chemicals from entering waterways and protects both wildlife and drinking water resources. Contact NCSWD at (419) 228-8278. Industries and businesses are also required to follow strict stormwater and wastewater regulations through permits issued by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. These permits require runoff and discharge from industrial sites to be monitored, tested, and regulated to help reduce pollution entering Ohio's waterways. Residents can support these same water quality goals at home by properly disposing of hazardous materials and keeping pollutants out of storm drains.

For more information about conservation and water quality efforts, visit www.allenswcd.com.

ALLEN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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.

The Conservationist

Summer Edition
July 2026

ALLEN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



In This Issue

Open House P. 1
Election Notice P. 1
Supervisor Election P. 2
H2Ohio P. 3
Helping YOU! P. 3
Hazardous Waste P. 4

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 26.

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!

2026 Open House

The Allen Soil and Water Conservation District will host its Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 6, at the Allen SWCD office. Meet staff and ask questions about the ongoing projects and programs at the Allen SWCD. A meal, prepared by district staff, will be provided, and voting for the Board of Supervisors election will take place from 4:00 PM to 7:00 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.

2026 Election Notice

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.
There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

1.) At the SWCD office, 1870 Slabtown Road, Lima, Ohio 45801, from 7/8/2026 until 8/6/2026 during normal business hours; or
2.) At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place at the Allen SWCD Office on 8/6/2026 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, or
3.) Voting absentee from 7/8/2026 until 8/6/2026, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address: 1870 Slabtown Road, Lima, Ohio 45801, by calling 419-222-0846, or by emailing casey@allenswcd.com. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 8/6/2026 by 12:00 pm.

The Allen SWCD Supervisors will be elected to a three year term commencing January 1, 2027, and ending December 31, 2030.
Nominees are:
1. Jeff Austin
2. Brandon Fischer

ASWCD Newsletter 7-26.indd 1
6/25/2026 3:56:25 PM

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.

- Preconstruction site development evaluation and report for potential new homes built in unincorporated areas
- Nutrient management plans for livestock producers
- Drainage consultations

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
- H2Ohio

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.

2026 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 8, 2026 through August 6, 2026 or you can vote by absentee ballot. Supervisors are elected to a three-year term. Below are brief biographies for the candidates:



Jeff Austin is a lifelong resident of Allen County. He grew up farming with his father and son Cole and still lives on the Austin family farm today. A 1992 graduate of Allen East High School, Jeff attend the Ohio State University ATI where he studied AG Business and Swine Management. Upon graduating, Jeff came back to Allen County where he and his wife Kristi raised their four children; Caleb, Mallory, Cole, and Marah. In addition, he is a grandfather to Cade and Emma. The Austin's are active member of the Harrod Methodist Church and all actively volunteer in the community.

For over 30 years, Jeff has been a 4-H advisor with the Harrod Lively 4-H club, as well as served as swine department superintendent at the Allen County Fair. In addition to his work with area youth, Jeff also works closely with the Ohio Age Ability and has served as a peer counselor to help farmers with disabilities continue to farm.



Brandon Fischer is a lifelong resident of Allen County and a graduate of Delphos St. John's High School. He graduated from the University of Dayton with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and graduated from Ball State University with a Master of Arts in Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Brandon has been Health Commissioner at Allen County Public Health since 2021. He and his wife, Leeannda, live in the City of Delphos with their two children.

H2Ohio

Ohio Department of Agriculture

2024 H2Ohio County Summary

H2Ohio continues to gain unprecedented commitment from farmers, recording the highest level of participation in program history with more than 3,200 producers who have enrolled 2.2 million acres of cropland in the program.



Allen County



51% of Allen County's Cropland Acres Enrolled

Total 2024 Dollars for Completed Practices

$3,742,480

Estimated Phosphorous Source Reduction

26,756 lbs

2024 Completed Practices	Total Acres Installed in Allen County
Total Acres (VNMP)	83,344
Phosphorous Placement	46,393
Manure Incorporation	7,847
Overwintering Cover	27,250

ABOUT H2OHIO

H2Ohio is Governor Mike DeWine's statewide water quality initiative designed to address complex issues impacting Ohio's waters.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) works closely with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide technical, financial and educational resources to farmers.

ODA is leading efforts to reduce phosphorus runoff. Producers can receive incentives for implementing proven, cost-effective best management practices on their land.

VOLUNTARY NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) is required for all H2Ohio participants. The VNMP shows the exact amount of nutrients in the soil and helps farmers determine which Best Management Practice (BMP) will be most effective.

*For more information, visit **h2.ohio.gov.***