

WINTER 2026

Hocking SWCD

148 N. Homer Ave. Logan, OH 43138
Phone: (740) 385-3016
Web site: www.hockingswcd.com

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday 8:00 am–4:30 pm

Board of Supervisors:

Fred Walter	Chairman
Bruce Sater	Vice Chairman
Valerie Scott	Secretary
Scott Mong	Treasurer/Fiscal Agent
Kevin Kerns	Public Relations

Staff:

Raven Rau
District Manager

Rebecca Miller
Education Specialist

Danielle Gill
Wildlife Specialist/Forester/Technician

Jenna Castells
Watershed Ed. & Outreach Coordinator

NRCS Staff:

Dave Libben
District Conservationist

ODA-Div. of Soil & Water Conservation

Cody Hacker
Area 5 Program/Grazing Specialist

All District programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

This will be the last hard-copy newsletter you receive unless you contact our office to request continued mail delivery at 740-385-3016. To be added to our email list or to update your contact information, please call or email raven.rau@hocking.oh.gov

Annual Meeting Election and Awards

Congratulation to Fred Walter – We are glad to have you for another 3 years!

Photos by Logan Daily News



Horwell Farms received the Cooperator of the Year Award.

Horwell Farms was founded ins 1884 with 200 acres in Starr Township and has grown to 370 acres of woodlands and fields. The farm has been passed down through four generations, with seven generations enjoying its recreational use. Bill, Cindy Hummel, Dave Higgs-Horwell, and their families actively manage the property alongside their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Since 2021, with support from USDA-NRCS EQIP, the family has implemented brush management and forest stand improvement to reduce invasive species. In 2022, 1,500 hardwood seedlings were planted to enhance wildlife habitat. Current efforts include ongoing invasive species removal, preparing to plant 2 more acres of seedlings, and creating habitat structures for small wildlife.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS (EQIP) OR OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS, CONTACT HOCKING SWCD

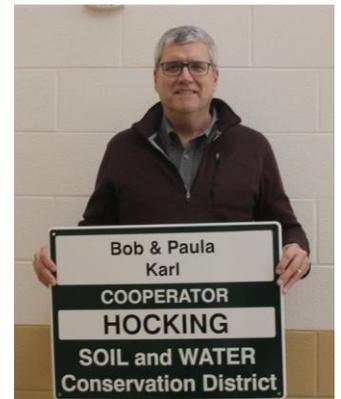


Sharb Family Farm, Bob & Paula Karl and Cherry Ridge Retreat received Cooperator Awards.

Jeff and Linda Sharb began their current cattle herd in 2021. Jeff is a second-generation cattle farmer; his parents purchased the 153-acre Green Township farm in 1957. With support from USDA-NRCS EQIP, they installed a 91-foot access road, a 1,024 sq. ft. heavy use pad, and planted 5.5 acres of forage. They use a low-intensity rotational grazing system for their cattle. They are currently updating and expanding 3,560 feet of fencing through EQIP.

Robert and Paula Karl purchased their 93-acre Falls Township property in 2011. The couple raises bees and produces award-winning honey, showcased at the Ohio State Fair and Lithopolis Honey Fest. Property management is a family effort involving their 4 children and 7 grandchildren. With support from USDA-NRCS EQIP, they have removed woody invasive species and grapevine as part of brush management. They also have a prescribed burn planned through EQIP to support oak regeneration.

Cherry Ridge Retreat consist of 140 acres in Washington Township and has been owned by the Mondal family for 28 years. Since 2020, Keith and his staff have implemented wildlife-focused practices through USDA-NRCS EQIP, including brush management, tree plantings, and Monarch habitat plantings. They are currently continuing brush management and installing wildlife habitat structures through EQIP. Keith prioritizes educating visitors about pollinators and their habitats, using habitat expansion, educational signage, and sharing his conservation efforts with garden clubs and tourists.



Chief Logan FFA received the Outstanding Education Award.

Chief Logan FFA has been a long-time partner of Hocking SWCD, consistently supporting conservation education. Students volunteer annually at the banquet and help bag TransCanada Arbor Day trees, including 1,700 trees this spring. The chapter makes a strong community impact. Kaylee Cox secured a grant to plant and maintain flowers in downtown Logan. Allison Delong serves on the City of Logan Tree Commission. Members helped replant 16 trees near the Logan High School parking lot. The advisors, Mr. Delong and Mr. Dicken, provide leadership that turns these activities into meaningful learning experiences.





Kelly Capuzzi received the Honorary Supervisor Award.

Kelly serves the community in many roles and has been a valuable partner to Hocking SWCD. For over a decade, Kelly – through her role with the Ohio EPA – has lead stations at the 6th grade Earth Day event, has done programs at Bishop Educational Gardens, and Women Owning Woodlands. Kelly is the manager of the Logan Community Garden, a leader for Hocking Hills Wild Ones, and volunteers her time to help with Logan in Bloom. Hocking SWCD is so lucky to have Kelly’s support, expertise and friendship!

Hocking SWCD Board of Supervisors



Left to Right: Bruce Sater, Kevin Kerns, Valerie Scott, Fred Walter and Scott Mong.



Our team hit it out of the field at the Logan Christmas Parade! This year our theme was “Yield of Dreams” educating everyone about cover crops. Come into the office to get a packet of garden cover crop seed while supplies last!

Rebecca Miller received the 2025 Area 5 Educator Award at the Area 5 Winter Meeting. Rebecca has been with our office for 18 years and we are so lucky to have her!





148 North Homer Ave.
Logan, OH. 43138

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January 26	Winter Wildlife Series (Pollinators) – HSWCD – (RSVP)	5:30pm
February 3	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
February 7	Galentine’s Program @ BEG (RSVP by Jan. 30 th)	9am-1pm
February 12	Winter Wildlife Series (Pollinators) – HSWCD – (RSVP)	5:30pm
February 13	Last Day to Order Trees	4:30pm
February 26	Winter Wildlife Series (Pollinators) – HSWCD – (RSVP)	5:30pm
March 3	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
March 12	Winter Wildlife Series (Pollinators) – HSWCD – (RSVP)	5:30pm
March 28	Art Workshop w/Amy Volqaurdsen – Bishop Ed. Gardens	TBD
April 7	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
May 5	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
May 16-17	Ag Days at the Fairgrounds	
June 2	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
July 7	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
July 10,11,12	Lilyfest-Bishop Educational Gardens Inc. Event	
August 4	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
September 1	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
September 14-19	Hocking County Fair Week	
October 6	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
November 3	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm
November 5	Hocking SWCD Annual Meeting & Banquet	7:00pm
December 1	Hocking SWCD Board Meeting	6:00pm

Please check our website www.hockingswcd.com or Facebook page for an updated list of events.