

WINTER 2024 • JANUARY

# CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

SHELBY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME TO THE NEW E-NEWSLETTER

We are excited to start this e-newsletter to engage with people in Shelby County and beyond. We hope to provide helpful information about conservation practices, program updates, district events, etc. with this newsletter. We plan to distribute the e-newsletter quarterly (January, April, July and October).

If you have suggestions of what you would like to see in the e-newsletter or if someone you know would like to be added to the distribution list - please call or email Amanda Hurley (937-419-2597, [amanda.hurley@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.hurley@usda.gov)).



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# Annual Banquet & Board Supervisor Election

BY AMANDA HURLEY

Shelby SWCD held its annual banquet on December 7, 2023. About eighty people attended. A lovely meal was provided. Kip Studer, Ohio Department of Agriculture, gave the keynote presentation about H2Ohio.

Maxson Farms was awarded 2023 Cooperator of the Year. Bill Maxson and family have been dedicated to promoting conservation for years. He spent over 20 years as a committed board supervisor for the District. We thank Bill, Janice and his family for all of their contributions over the years!

**"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."**  
ALDO LEOPOLD



Bill Maxson being awarded Cooperator of the Year from Supervisor Steve Berning and District Administrator Jason Bruns.

Shelby County Libraries (SCL) were awarded the 2023 Partnership Award. SCL has collaborated with Shelby SWCD for many events through the past year and has aided in getting environmental and conservation education in all corners of Shelby County. Thank you SCL for being wonderful partners this year and we look forward to many years of collaboration in the future.

Shelby Jones (Sophomore, Anna High School), Camp Canopy Scholarship Recipient; Houston Team 1 (Houston High School) Shelby County Top finishing team at Area IV Envirothon; and Koenig Equipment (Botkins) Shelby County Big Tree Contest Winner were recognized.

A review of Shelby SWCD work and activities over 2023 was presented in a short video. If you would like to see this video please contact Amanda Hurley, Education and Outreach Coordinator, at [amanda.hurley@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.hurley@usda.gov).

Voting for open board supervisor position was concluded on 12/31/23. Brent Clinhens was re-elected for a 3 years term. His new term started January 1, 2024. Other board members serving in 2024 will include Lenny Albers, Steve Berning, Mack Knupp and Michael Watercutter.



Educator Amanda Hurley presenting Partnership Award to Rikki Unterbrink, April Osborn, Jenny Piatt, and Cassandra Monnin from Shelby County Libraries.



## Winter Application of Manure in Ohio

ADAPTED FROM CROP OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION NETWORK ARTICLE

Most producers have had the needed dry weather this fall to get livestock manure applied to fields. However, a wetter than normal corn crop and full elevators, did delay corn harvest longer than normal in some areas. For livestock producers waiting on frozen ground to apply manure, here are some things to keep in mind. Frozen ground would be soil that you cannot inject the manure into or cannot conduct tillage within 24 hours to incorporate the manure.

Permitted farms are not allowed to apply manure in the winter unless it is an extreme emergency, and then movement to other suitable storage is usually the selected alternative. Several commercial manure applicators have established manure storage ponds in recent years to help address this issue.

In the Grand Lake St Marys (GLSM) watershed, the winter manure application ban from December 15th to March 1st is still in effect. Thus, no manure application would normally be allowed in that time period. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Code 590 was revised in 2020 and now applies statewide in Ohio (except to GLSM). It states the surface application of manure on frozen and snow-covered soil is not acceptable. An emergency exists as a temporary situation due to unforeseen causes and after all other options have been exhausted. In this situation only limited quantities of liquid manure shall be applied to address manure storage limitations until non frozen soils are available for manure application. All applications of liquid manure to frozen and snow-covered soils must be documented in the producers' records and must follow certain criteria ([see original article for criteria](#)). For farmers with solid manure, stockpiling could be an option. There are two different types of stockpiles: Short term and long term.

The short term stockpile information can be found in NRCS FOTG 318 Short Term Storage of Animal Waste and Byproducts Standard ("NRCS 318"). Essentially, short term stockpile is a pile of solid manure that is being kept temporarily in one or more locations. It is considered a temporary stockpile as long as the pile is kept at the location for no more than 180 days and stockpiled in the field where the manure shall be applied. Setback distances listed in NRCS 318 should be followed to prevent discharge to waters of the state. There are multiple recommendations listed in NRCS 318 that speaks to location, timing, and preventative measures that should be taken while stockpiling the manure short term.

The long term stockpile information can be found in NRCS FOTG 313 Waste Storage Facility Standard ("NRCS 313"). Long term stockpile is directly related to solid manure being piled and kept at a facility for longer than 180 days at a permanent location. It is recommended that all permanent long term storage stockpiles should be following the guidelines in NRCS 313 with the utilization of a stacking facility and the structural designs of fabricated structures. A stacking facility can be open, covered or roofed, but specific parameters should be in place to prevent manure runoff from the site. These recommendations are listed in the NRCS 313.

Before considering winter manure application, contact Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District (937-492-6520 or visit 822 Fair Road Sidney, OH 45365). The rules have changed, and you should become aware of those that affect your operation.



# Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District *2024 Tree Seedling Sale*

**Tree Seedling, Rain Barrel and Fruit Plant Sale**

**New this year - more tree species and small fruit plants!**

Trees are limited in supply again this year. Please submit your order early for the best selection!

Visit [shelby.swcd.org](http://shelby.swcd.org), scan QR Code or visit Shelby SWCD office (822 Fair Rd, Sidney) for order form. Payment by cash or check required with order.

Pick-up is tentatively scheduled for Thursday April 11th 7:30am-5:30pm at Shelby County Fairgrounds; 655 Highland Avenue, Sidney.

**Order deadline is Friday, March 29th**

Call 937-492-6520 or email [ryan.evers@usda.gov](mailto:ryan.evers@usda.gov) for more information.



Due to the delayed harvest this past fall, the Ohio Department of Agriculture extend the 2023 cover crop seeding deadline to November 15, 2023. This allowed producers an extra two weeks to plant overwintering cover crops and still be eligible for H2Ohio payments. In Shelby County, H2Ohio producers reported 6,391.9 acres of completed overwintering cover crops. Out of those acres, 1,228.4 acres were planted by September 30, 2023, making them eligible for a \$10.00 early seeded cover crop bonus.

If you have not reported your 2023 cover crops to Shelby SWCD, please do so as soon as possible. H2Ohio requires producers to turn in a seed tag and bill for cover crops. Bin run cover crops require a seed analysis to be completed and turned in. Producers must also report how many acres were completed and be able to provide a seeding date(s). Cover crops must remain undisturbed until Friday, March 15, 2024. They also cannot receive any nutrient applications until after the March 15th deadline to be eligible for H2Ohio payments. Shelby SWCD will be doing field checks to verify that cover crops are still in place.

Questions? Contact Cassie Lefeld, H2Ohio Coordinator, (Cassandra.Lefeld@usda.gov or 937-419-2589)



## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES UPDATES

### Popular NRCS Conservation Program Expediting Rankings, Funding Contracts

Ohio producers interested in the popular Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Inflation Reduction Act – Environmental Quality Incentives Program – (IRA-EQIP) funding can take advantage of the ACT NOW process, which immediately approves and obligates applications when the application meets or exceeds a state-determined minimum ranking score. Applicants will experience a targeted, rapid streamlined application and contract approval process.

“This process allows us to fund promising projects immediately, rather than waiting for all applications to come in for the fiscal year,” said Ohio State Conservationist John Wilson. “I urge producers and landowners to take advantage of this flexibility.”

EQIP and IRA-EQIP provide financial and technical resources to producers and landowners to improve their operations, commodity production and environmental benefits. Conservation opportunities exist in cropland, forestry, pasture operations, seasonal high tunnels, socially disadvantaged producers, conservation activity plans, on-farm energy, and organic/those transitioning to organic. Producers transitioning to organic self-certify that they agree to develop and work toward implementing an Organic Systems Plan (OSP), as required by the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). Special projects are also available to address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations and wildlife habitat, pasture improvements, and more.

Historically underserved producers are eligible for advance payments for all EQIP practices. This option provides historically underserved producers with funding up-front, for at least 50% of the payment rate for each practice. Historically underserved producers include producers who are beginning, socially disadvantaged, veteran, or limited resource.

[See full article.](#) Contact Justin Wagner, NRCS District Conservationist, with any questions about this or other NRCS programs (justin.wagner@usda.gov or 937-419-2590).



## Staff Spotlight

JASON RETHMAN - TECHNICIAN

Role: **District Technician**

Employee Since: **July, 2021**

What I do: **Survey and design grassed waterways. Create watersheds for landowners.**

What conservation practice resonates most with you? **Grassed waterways are what I have done the most of so I would have to say that practice resonates the most to me.**

About Jason: **Married with three kids. Works on the family farm and volunteers on the local fire department in his free time.**



See [www.shelbyswcd.org](http://www.shelbyswcd.org)  
for full staff directory.

## Supervisor Spotlight

LEONARD ALBERS

Years as a Supervisor: **32 years**

What made you want to be a Supervisor? **Always interested in farming, was in multiple conservation programs and wanted to keep those programs going.**

What conservation practice resonates most with you? **Grassed waterways - they stop a lot of erosion.**

Best place you visited for a conservation related conference or training? **Has enjoyed a lot of places trainings have taken him. But to pick one, New Orleans due to how much more severe the erosion problems are there compared to Ohio.**

Favorite part of being a Supervisor: **Meeting people at conferences that are volunteering their time to learn about and promote conservation. Has made very good, lifelong friends through attending conferences and trainings as a board supervisor.**

About Lenny: **Married to LouAnn; 3 children and 9 grandchildren with one on the way. Still farming; practices 100% no till. Lenny received an American FFA Degree, the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, in 1973.**



May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make.



## Events & Announcements

Date	Event
1/12/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Beak Buffet” - Jackson Center Community Library</u>
1/15/2024	Federal Holiday - Shelby SWCD Office Closed
1/16/2024 @ 5:00-9:00pm	<u>OSU Extension Pesticide &amp; Fertilizer Recertification</u> Shelby County Fairgrounds - Clopay Bldg <u>Register required</u>
1/19/2024 @ 6:30am	Board Supervisor Meeting
1/19/2024 @ 10:15am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Beak Buffet” - Russia Community Library</u>
1/20/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Mommy &amp; Me Conservation Creations - Amos Memorial Public Library</u>
1/22/2024 - 1/24/2024	Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting - Columbus, Ohio
1/26/2024 @ 12:30pm	<u>Conservation Storytime “Beak Buffet” - Fort Loramie Community Library</u>
1/31/2024 @ 10:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Beak Buffet” - Amos Memorial Public Library</u>

Date	Event
2/2/2024 @ 12:30pm	<u>Conservation Storytime “Edible Earth” - Fort Loramie Community Library</u>
2/10/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Mommy &amp; Me Conservation Creations - Amos Memorial Public Library</u>
2/16/2024 @ 6:30am	Board Supervisor Meeting
2/19/2024	Federal Holiday - Shelby SWCD Office Closed
2/23/2024 @ 10:15 am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Edible Earth” - Russia Community Library</u>
2/28/2024 @ 10:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Edible Earth” - Amos Memorial Public Library</u>

Date	Event
3/8/2024 @ 11:15am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Spring Seeds” - Anna Community Library</u>
3/15/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Spring Seeds” - Jackson Center Community Library</u>
3/15/2024	H2Ohio Overwintering Cover must be maintained until 3/15 of contracted year
3/15/2024 @ 6:30am	Board Supervisor Meeting
3/16/2024 @ 11:00am	<u>Mommy &amp; Me Conservation Creations - Amos Memorial Public Library</u>
3/22/2024 @ 10:15am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Spring Seeds” - Russia Community Library</u>
3/27/2024 @ 10:00am	<u>Conservation Storytime “Spring Seeds” - Amos Memorial Public Library</u>
3/29/2024 @ 4:30pm	<u>Shelby SWCD Tree Seedling Orders Due</u>

**ORDER TREE SEEDLINGS NOW!**  
**SEE PAGE 04 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**2024 Plat Books will be available mid-late January for purchase!**  
**\$20 cash or check at SWCD office.**

If you have questions about events or announcements, please contact Amanda Hurley (937-419-2597 or amanda.hurley@usda.gov)