



68th Annual Meeting to be Held December 5

The 68th Annual Meeting of the SWCD will be held on Tuesday, December 5 at Vantage Career Center, 818 N. Franklin Street, Van Wert in the Cup and Saucer.

Elegant Beginnings Catering will be providing the meal this year. Dinner will be served at 6:00 and will include swiss steak w/gravy and chicken breast, red potatoes, green beans, rolls/butter, dessert, coffee and iced tea. An election will take place to elect one supervisors to the five member SWCD board. The election will be open from 5:30—6:00 p.m. Voter registration tables will be set up, and candidate information will be available prior to voting.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 with our speaker for the evening, Aaron Heilers, Project Manager for the Blanchard River Watershed Demonstration Farms Network. He will present an overview of the water quality and nutrient management goals of their three farms in Hardin and Hancock County. Aaron will share with us what agriculture is doing to be a part

of the solution in our water quality issues by testing new and standard conservation systems in reducing phosphorus and sediment and to create opportunities for others to test their research, provide technical assistance and develop program implementation.

Also during the meeting the Conservation of the Year Award will be presented, scholarship winner recognized, election results announced, and a drawing will be held for door prizes.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 2-12 years and are available from the Board of Supervisors, staff and at the SWCD office.

Deadline to purchase tickets is November 27.

Mark your calendar and plan to help us celebrate 68 years of service to Van Wert County .



Notice of Election

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of supervisors of the Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code at the Vantage Career Center, 818 N. Franklin Street, Van Wert, OH on

Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 5:30-6 p.m.

Nominees are:

- ✧ *David Kemler*
- ✧ *Jordan D. Miller*

One (1) supervisors will be elected.

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Special points of interest:

- ✧ *Help the Monarch Butterfly's by saving the milkweed plants*
- ✧ *Special Field Windbreak Program available*
- ✧ *Check the weather before applying manure to your field*

Ways to Cast Your Ballot ... 1 Supervisor to be Elected

The Van Wert SWCD will hold a special election for District Board of Supervisors at the 68th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 5 at Vantage Career Center, Van Wert, OH.

One member will be elected for a three year term of office.

County residents and landowners have three options for casting a ballot.

1. Contact the office in writing 21 days prior to the election requesting an absentee ballot.
2. Cast a ballot at the District office by 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 4
3. Cast a ballot at the Annual Meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To be eligible to vote, you must be of legal voting age (18 years) and reside or own land within the District.

Van Wert SWCD is a legal subdivision of state government that provides natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government.

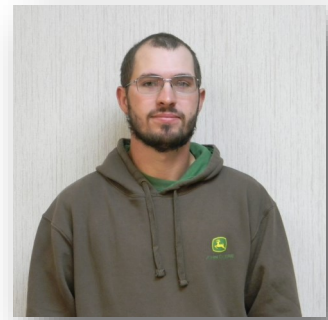
The District is funded by the Van Wert County Commissioners, and county funds are supplemented by funding from the ODNR. The District is governed by a five-member board of county residents. Each supervisor term is for a period of three years.

On the ballot are.....



David Kemler

Kemler and wife, Marla reside in Hoaglin Township. They have two sons, Ethan and Zavier. The Kemler's attend Harvest Field Church in Scott. He farms with his father. He is a member of Farm Bureau, has served on the SWCD Board for 4 years and is seeking re-election.



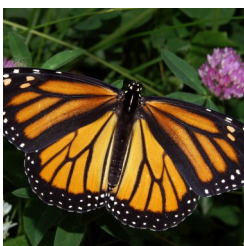
Jordan D. Miller

Miller and wife Ashley reside in Union township. He cash grain farms. The Miller's attend Calvary Evangelical Church. He is a member of the Farm Bureau.



Help Save the Monarch Butterfly by Protecting Native Milkweed

The iconic monarch butterfly, which has long been a welcome sight in backyard gardens across Ohio, faces many threats. In Ohio, one way we can ensure future generations of monarch butterflies continue to visit flower gardens throughout our state is by protecting native milkweed plants.



terflies head back north, and delight us with their presence once again. However, this amazing journey would not be possible without milkweed, a group of plants critical to the survival of the monarch butterfly. As butterflies, monarchs can feed on the nectar of a number of different flowering plants, but as caterpillars, monarchs are entirely dependent on the availability of milkweed.

Every year in the fall, monarch butterflies across the eastern U.S. and Canada begin a 3,000 mile-long journey down to wintering grounds in Mexico. In the spring, these same but-

terflies head back north, and delight us with their presence once again. However, this amazing journey would not be possible without milkweed, a group of plants critical to the survival of the monarch butterfly. As butterflies, monarchs can feed on the nectar of a number of different flowering plants, but as caterpillars, monarchs are entirely dependent on the availability of milkweed.

Monarch caterpillars hatch from eggs laid on milkweed plants and feed on the leaves of the plant as they grow. If these plants are mowed, removed, or sprayed with pesticides or herbicides, the caterpillars will not survive. Protecting these plants, especially during

the egg-laying period from July through September, helps both monarch butterflies and caterpillars continue their life cycle and ultimately results in more monarch butterflies that can complete their journey to Mexico and back.

In the past, milkweed was viewed as a toxic weed. Today, we know that milkweed is a very important group of native plants that helps support many species of wildlife, including monarch butterflies. Learn more about ways you can help ensure these beautiful butterflies are around for generations to come by visiting Monarch Joint Venture at :

www.monarchjointventure.org

2018 Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program

Are you thinking about planting a windbreak in 2018? Now is the time to begin planning and design with our office. The Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak Program is available to establish windbreaks that provide protection against wind erosion and wind damage to crops. The windbreaks may also provide food and cover for wildlife. Plantings where the purpose is the protection of home sites or farmsteads, landscaping, ornamental use are not eligible for this program.

A qualifying windbreak must be :

- planted in or adjacent to agricultural land.
The field on which the windbreak is planted must be at least 10 acres in size.
- One to six rows of trees and shrubs may be planted in the windbreak having a minimum total length of 1,000 row feet. The minimum length for each row is 250 feet.
- Species available are: arborvitae, Norway spruce, blue spruce,

eastern white pine, baldcypress, austrian pine, silky dogwood, black chokeberry, American plum, sargent crabapple, pin oak, bur oak and swamp white oak.

- Design and planning of the windbreak will be done by the NRCS, SWCD or the ODNR, Division of Wildlife. The agencies will determine the location and number of row feet.
- Windbreaks must be located a minimum of 8 feet from property lines. Windbreaks must be planted outside of power line right-of-ways and other utility easements.
- After the windbreak has been planted in the spring, an invoice will be sent to the landowner. The cost is \$0.35 per row foot. For that cost the ODNR Division of Forestry will plant the windbreak and apply herbicide at the time of planting.

- The following growing season they come back and apply a dormant herbicide. A survival count in the fall following planting will be performed.
- Replacement seedlings will be provided during the first growing season on a one-time basis for the landowner to replant at no cost.

Order forms are available in the office. The deadline to place an order for trees through the Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program is December 8.



Weather Check

Did you know that checking the weather before applying manure or fertilizer is a must here in the Western Lake Erie Basin? If you do, what site(s) do you use that you have found to be most reliable? The Ohio Department of Agriculture has instructed each SWCD located in the WLEB to use the National Weather Service's weather forecast when determining if manure or fertilizer application can be applied.

Ohio Revised Code 939.08, formerly known as Senate Bill 1, states that if there is greater than a 50% chance of more than a 1/2 inch of rain within 24 hours, manure cannot be land applied. Similar rules apply for fertilizer application as well. Fertilizer cannot be land applied when the weather forecast states that there is greater

than a 50% chance of more than 1 inch of rain in a 12 hour time period.

A weather report can be obtained from NOAA's website at: <http://weather.gov>. This is the weather forecast that ODA and SWCD's use to reference whether a complaint could be a violation of the law. ODA recommends that every applicator consult this weather forecast and print a copy for their records before applying fertilizer or manure. Every week day a weather report is saved at the SWCD office and will use for reference in the future if needed.

When printing out the weather report, or checking the daily weather, you should look at two different reports that the website provides. The first report will be the page that gives an

overview of the current day and the days to come. The second report breaks down the forecast by each hour and shows the percentages of precipitation in different graphs. To find this report you will want to scroll the page down and on the right side you will see a box labeled "hourly weather forecast". When you click on the box the full report will be displayed.

All in all, keep an eye on the weather forecast when you are planning to land apply any manure or fertilizer. A good habit to form is a day before you plan on applying either product be sure to print off a copy of the weather forecast (both pages) and keep a copy for your records. Contact the office with any questions.

Van Wert S.W.C.D.
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Van Wert, OH 45891

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Van Wert, OH

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NRCS Staff

Ken Kottenbrock , District Conservationist
Tinina Hale—Civil Engineer
Noel Morris—Soil Conservation Tech
Steve Brown—PF Farm Bill Biologist

Upcoming Dates and Events

<i>October 9</i>	<i>Columbus Day—Office Closed</i>
<i>October 11</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am</i>
<i>October 18</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>November 5</i>	<i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i>
<i>November 8</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am</i>
<i>November 10</i>	<i>Veteran’s Day—Office Closed</i>
<i>November 15</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>November 23/24</i>	<i>Thanksgiving—Office Closed</i>
<i>December 5</i>	<i>SWCD 68th Annual Meeting</i>
<i>December 13</i>	<i>SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 am</i>
<i>December 20</i>	<i>Park District Meeting @ 2:00 pm</i>
<i>December 25</i>	<i>Christmas—Office Closed</i>
<i>January 1</i>	<i>New Year’s—Office Closed</i>

The Board and Staff would like to thank the Van Wert County Commissioner’s, Thad Lichtensteiger, Stan Owens, Todd Wolfrum, for their support over the years !