



Conservation Close Up

Hancock Soil & Water Conservation

Fall 2023

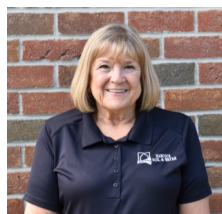
Supervisors Elected

Evan Jackson and Jeff Reese were re-elected to the Hancock SWCD Board of Supervisors during the 77th Annual Meeting, August 1, 2023 at The Agricultural Service Center. Evan and Jeff will be sworn into office in January and will serve 3-year terms on the board.

The Hancock SWCD current supervisors are: Linda Tuttle, Chairman, Evan Jackson, Vice-Chairman, Matthew Heitkamp, Fiscal Agent, Jason Bower, Member and Jeff Reese, Member.

Hancock SWCD supervisors hold board meetings on the first Monday of every month at 8:30 a.m. in the Agricultural Service Center meeting room or the district office meeting room.

2023 Board of Supervisors



Linda Tuttle—Chairman



Evan Jackson - Vice-Chairman



Matt Heitkamp -Fiscal Agent



Jason Bower -Member



Jeff Reese - Member



Landowners may now sign-up for the new H2Ohio FY 2024-2025 practices. You will need to contact the Hancock Soil & Water office and schedule an appointment to get started. You must have your ag retailer submit your field boundaries in shape file format to our office; before your appointment. You may contact our office at 419-422-6569 to schedule your appointment.

We would also remind any participating landowner that has not signed or turned in all paperwork for 2022-2023 practices; to complete all paperwork as soon as possible. Payment can not be made until all paperwork is signed and submitted.

Our office hours are 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. The telephone number is 419-422-6569 or email at swcd@hancockswcd.com.

Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District 2023 Outstanding Cooperator; Triple B Family Farms



(From left to right) Linda Tuttle, Hancock SWCD; Matt Boehm, Don Boehm, and Brad Boehm with Triple B Family Farms standing in one of the many waterways installed on their farm.

Triple B Family Farms is a fourth-generation farm owned and operated by Don Boehm and his wife Kathy, along with their 2 sons, Matt and Brad. They farm a total 1,200 acres in southwest Hancock County. Growing up in the era when everything was plowed and seeing the wind and soil erosion, it helped to instill the importance of conservation practices to improve our soils for future generations.

Among the many conservation practices in the H2Ohio program that they employ, overwintering cover crops were first used in 2009 through the EQIP Program and by 2012 all of the soybeans were planted in a rye cover crop. They began including the Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan with Variable Rate Fertilizer Applications by strip tilling with subsurface fertilizer placement in 2018 ahead of corn and 2020 ahead of wheat.

Since 2015, with the guidance of Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District, they have tiled 3 farms and incorporated numerous waterways to minimize soil erosion.

2023 Photo Contest Winners


Hancock SWCD had many great photo entries in the 2023 Photo Contest! The winners for each category were: Agriculture - "Chasing Combines" by Braden Stoner; Natural Places - "Frog Returns" by Brian Stout; People's Choice - "Baby Liberty" by Alexia Corron. We appreciate all individuals who entered photos. The photos will appear on the 2024 Hancock SWCD calendar.



Drainage Maintenance Update

Starting around mid to late October we will begin the yearly ditch inspections. We will be looking at the conditions of the ditch, whether it needs chopping of brush, dip-out of silt from the bottom, or any bank repairs.

Current work that is planned to be done this year after harvest include chopping part of the following ditches: Cusac, H.B. Thomas, H.J. McMurray, Isiac Insley, J.H. Myers, Neiderhiser, Overholt, and Stephen-Otto ditches. Ditches that are planned to be dipped out include: Nimrod Bright from Twp. Rd. 196 east, J.H. Shafer, Sand Run, Zimmerman Jt. Also, the following ditches will either be sprayed or finished being sprayed: Buck Run, F.B. Inbody, Harman-Shull, J.L. Elsea, Tiderishi.

A photograph showing a yellow excavator with its arm extended, working on a ditch. The background shows a clear blue sky and some trees.

If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to Jason Althaus by calling 419-422-6569, email jalthaus@hancockswcd.com, or by stopping by the office at 7868 County Rd 140, Suite E, Findlay,



2023 Fair Contest Winner!

The winners of the Hancock SWCD Seed ID Fair Contest “Bag of Goodies” were Kyle & Angela Richards of Findlay!

Congratulations!





Milkweed Pod Collection

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) is seeking public involvement to collect and drop off common milkweed seed pods from established plants, September 1 through November 12, 2023 at collection stations around Ohio. Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District will be a collection station in Hancock County. The seeds will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch butterfly in Ohio.

Seed pods from common milkweed should be collected when the pods are dry and gray or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks. Avoid using plastic bags because they can attract moisture and allow mold to develop. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver to the closest pod collection area. It is recommended to wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods. Harvesting seed pods from milkweed plants will not have any effect on the population of milkweed in established areas.

For more information on OPHI or the seed pod collection contact OPHI at (614) 416-8993 or Hancock SWCD, 7868 C.R. 140, Suite E, Findlay, Ohio at 419-422-6569.



Why Plant a Windbreak?

The purpose of the Northwest Ohio Field Windbreak program is to establish windbreaks on or adjacent to crop fields. Field windbreaks reduce wind erosion, protect crops and provide for wildlife habitat.

The program is not intended for farmstead, pasture, or home site plantings and orders will not be accepted solely for these purposes.

Incidental plantings adjacent to buildings may be accepted if they meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) The planting is bordered on one side by a crop field and each row adjacent to the building area is a continuation of field windbreak row that is planted at the same time.
- 2) The planting is part of a larger field windbreak system and the area adjacent to the buildings constitutes no more than ten percent (10%) of the total row feet planted.
- 3) The total order constitutes a minimum of 3,500 row feet.
- 4) The section can be efficiently planted by the crew as part of the total job.

As a result of the increased interest for multiple row shrub plantings through the CRP & CREP, windbreaks having only wildlife shrubs as the species being planted are eligible to be planted through the NW Ohio Field Windbreak Program. These windbreaks will be considered as hedgerow plantings.

Applications must be received by December 1, 2023. Contact Tyler Koenig at 419-422-6569 or <http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/landownerassistance> for more information.

Hancock SWCD - 2024 Tree Packet Program

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____



ORDER DEADLINE: March 15, 2024

CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER



Make checks payable to: Hancock SWCD, 7868 C.R. 140, Suite E, Findlay, OH 45840

ORDER FORM

(Download an Order Form at: hancockswcd.com)

<u>PACKET</u>	<u># PKTS. ORDERED</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>TRANSPLANTS - 10"-16"</u>			
Colorado Blue Spruce - 2-2 (10)		\$18.74+ \$1.26 tax= <u>\$20.00 ea.</u>	
Norway Spruce - 2-2 (10)		\$18.74+ \$1.26 tax= <u>\$20.00 ea.</u>	
Southwestern White Pine—2-2 (10)		\$18.74+ \$1.26 tax= <u>\$20.00 ea.</u>	
American Arborvitae—2-2 (10)		\$18.74+ \$1.26 tax= <u>\$20.00 ea.</u>	
<u>HARDWOODS</u>			
Swamp White Oak—18"-24" (5)		\$14.05+ \$0.95 tax= <u>\$15.00 ea.</u>	
Bur Oak—18"-24" (5)		\$14.05+ \$0.95 tax= <u>\$15.00 ea.</u>	
Black Walnut —18"-24" (5)		\$14.05+ \$0.95 tax= <u>\$15.00 ea.</u>	
Tulip Popular—18"-24" (5)		\$14.05+ \$0.95 tax= <u>\$15.00 ea.</u>	
Marking Flags (100 per bundle)		\$11.24+ \$0.76 tax= <u>\$12.00 ea.</u>	
	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		

****** Seedlings may arrive the first or second week of April; however, we do not have a definite delivery date. You will receive a letter telling you when to pick-up your order.

Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District

7868 Co. Rd. 140, Suite E
Findlay, Ohio 45840

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Findlay, OH 45840

Phone: 419-422-6569

Fax: 419-422-2080

Website: www.hancockswcd.com

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Jason Bower, Member
Jeff Reese, Member

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Tyler Koenig, District Technician
Sarah Wayman, District Technician
Jason Althaus, District Technician

NRCS Staff

Cristhian Carrasquillo,
District Conservationist
Celeste LeFleur,
Pheasant's Forever Farm Bill Biologist
Jonathan Irizarry-Soto,
Soil Conservationist

All services of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and Hancock SWCD are available to persons regardless of Race, Sex, Color, National Origin, Religion, Marital Status, Age, or Handicap.



1/4 Mile West of I-75 on US 224
Findlay, 419-422-8973

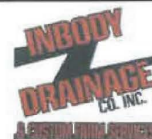
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