



## ODA Updates for SWCD Board Meetings November 2024

**Board Supervisor Survey** - A survey has been created to poll SWCD Board Supervisors to evaluate their training and on-boarding experience. The 10 question survey was recently emailed to each Board Supervisor, and can also be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D578JS6> . It is requested that surveys be completed by Friday, November 22, 2024.

**ADP – Administrative Development Program** - The next ADP session is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> and will focus on risk management and coverage as well as annual plan of work development relating to state match policy. Attendees are requested to bring laptops, annual plans of work and strategic plans. These will all be utilized during the training.

- \*2025 ADP – January 7 - Resources and Reminders Virtual Training
- \* Future 2025 training dates will be provided in December update.

**1099's – Have you ordered your forms** - It's nearly the end of the year and time to start preparing to complete the necessary 1099 forms for those that you issued payment to over \$600 in calendar year 2024. If you do not utilize the service of an accountant, and you have not yet ordered forms, please make sure to visit <https://apps.irs.gov/app/taxmat/information-employer-returns/>. Designate the proper form and number of forms needed. Make sure you order extra in case you happen to make a mistake. Do not forget to also order form 1096 which is required for submission of the 1099 forms to the IRS.

There are three primary types that you may need:

- 1). 1099-G These will need to be provided to all landowners that received payments for MWCD, H2Ohio, 299, or any other conservation related type of government payment issued by the Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 2). 1099-NEC Issued for non-employee compensation. This would be for services provided to your district by someone that is not an employee. For example: subcontractor, potentially a no till drill contract employee, caterer, and attorney fees.
- 3). 1099-Misc This should be used for payments such as rent and prizes/awards.

If you have additional questions reference the instruction publications found on the IRS website for each of these forms.

**New Staff** – We are excited to welcome **Alison Manning** to the division beginning November 4<sup>th</sup> in the role of Area 4 South Program Specialist. Her office will be located in Montgomery County, and she will be covering Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Preble, and Warren counties. Alison comes to the division after previously serving as a Natural Resource Coordinator for the City of Middletown. DSWC also welcomes **Darcy Griffin-Kamerer** to our team. Darcy will help with central office support, managing day to day tasks of the Division, helping with tracking and record keeping and assisting with administrative duties.

**APAP** - The Division made some internal changes to the Agriculture Pollution Abatement Program. Jason Tyrell will be transferring to a field-based position located in Perry County. He is available for pollution complaint investigations, trainings, and Beehive help in areas 2, 3, and 5. Frances Springer will continue to provide similar APAP assistance in areas 1 and 4. Please continue to work with Program Specialists on APAP complaints but know that additional APAP assistance is available from Frances and Jason.

**Ohio Educator Workshop** - Fifty-four people attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Ohio SWCD Educator's workshop on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Sauder Village in Fulton County. Educators participated in a variety of workshops including fair booths, classroom education demonstrations, library programs and roundtable sharing of local programs. The 2025 Educator's Workshop will be moving to Area 2. Watch for the save the date next spring.

**Watershed Update** - The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is pleased to announce it has been selected to receive more than \$9 million in grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for ODA's H2Ohio Pasture-Hayland Regional Conservation Partnership Program project application. Funding will provide producers the opportunity to improve water quality through implementation of pasture and hayland conservation practices as a companion to statewide H2Ohio incentives. Project areas will include counties in southern and eastern Ohio. ODA looks forward to sharing more details as they become finalized in the coming months.

**Ag Assistance Grant** - In November we hope to move forward with the Agriculture Assistance Grant and send agreements to eligible SWCDs. The Ag Assistance Grant was developed to support smaller SWCDs and enable them to hire additional staff to increase technical assistance. This opportunity is jointly funded through NRCS and the OSWCC. OFSWCD and ODA will provide in-kind support, training, and assist with grant administration.

**Cover Crop Seed Testing** - NRCS practice standards require seed testing for any uncertified seed sources (bin run, producer harvest, or uncertified bulk seed sources). Seed must be tested by a reputable lab for germination, % noxious weed seeds, and purity. ODA Plant Health does not physically test cover crop seed. Samples submitted to ODA are sent to a private lab for testing. ODA Plant Health has provided this service free of charge. Because of demand, ODA will begin charging \$30 per test beginning in early 2025. For more information, visit: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/grain-warehouse-feed-and-seed/seed>. An informational flyer on cover crop seed testing is attached.

**Ohio Hay Directory** - Hay shortages and availability have been a common problem in many of Ohio's Drought impacted counties. The Ohio Department of Agriculture created a Hay Directory to help connect farmers that have hay available with those that need hay to feed livestock. To view the directory or place a listing please go to: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/administration/resources/ohio-hay-directory>.

**Grazing Management:** ODA is hosting a Grazing Management lunch and learn series throughout the year. The series will provide some timely topics on grazing management. We will hear from producers and industry professionals that will take us through their operations and talk about opportunities for grazers. All the webinars will be live from 12:15 – 1:00 pm on Microsoft Teams. Contact [jarrod.hittle@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:jarrod.hittle@agri.ohio.gov) for more information on these webinars.

**November 20:** Dual Use Solar: Grazing for Success

Camren Maierle – Sustainability Dir. for the American Lamb Bd./Flock & Forage Dir. with New Slate Land Mgmt. [Link to November 20 webinar](#).

**Drought Resources** - ODA now has an interactive map on the [ODA Drought Resources webpage](#) assisting farmers in finding publicly available water sources that can be used in times of drought. The map can be found under the Water Fill Stations drop down or this [link](#).

If your district knows of any resources in your county, please send details to Lindsey Douglas at [Lindsey.Douglas@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Douglas@agri.ohio.gov) and she can add these resources to the map.

**Lunch and Learn Mental Health Training Opportunity-** The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has invited SWCDs to join their lunch and learn training on [Mental Health- Recovery Conversation Starters with Farmers](#). This training is virtual and is planned for November 13<sup>th</sup> 12-1PM. Everyone experiences stress and this year for many farmers has been even more stressful because of drought, lower prices, and uncertainty. This training provides an opportunity to learn about the signs to look for and how to start a conversation with farmers on mental health. Look for a Teams meeting invite to be coming out soon.

**OFSWCD - Annual Meeting** - Annual meeting 2025 will be held at the Hilton in downtown Columbus. The dates for the Partnership Meeting are January 21-23, 2025. Hope to see you all there.

- Reminder award applications are due December 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The OFSWCD will honor supervisors and staff for years of service in 10-year increments – 10, 20, 30 etc. Please contact Janelle with names of those that qualify by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Area Winter Meeting Schedule:**

- Area 1 – Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Old Mill Stream Centre-Hancock County Fairgrounds – 1017 E. Sandusky St. Findlay, OH 45840
- Area 2 - Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 am - 2:30 pm - Williams on the Lake - 787 Lafayette Rd. Medina, OH 44256
- Area 3 - Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center - 7033 Glenn Hwy. Cambridge, OH 43725
- Area 4 - Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9:00 am - 2:30 pm - Der Dutchman - 445 South Jefferson Ave. Plain City, OH 43064
- Area 5 - Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Emmett Chapel UM Church - 318 Tarlton Rd. Circleville, OH 43113

**OSWCC** - The next OSWCC meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2024, at 10:00 am at ODA Reynoldsburg. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner [emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov)