



**Bidding Threshold Increase** – Beginning January 1, 2025, the competitive bidding threshold for SWCDs has been increased from \$75,000 to \$77,250. Each calendar year thereafter, the amount for the previous calendar year increases by three percent as determined and published by the director of commerce.

**ADP Registration** – Online registration is now available for ADP in 2025. To complete registration for upcoming sessions please click [here](#). The registration link will also be accessible on the DSWC website under the Administrative Development Program Tab within the Resources for SWCD section.

**Local Appropriations, Form 11 & Appendix A** – Attached is the 2025 Form 11 and Appendix A. Funds eligible to match in SFY 2026 must be received by the district between May 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025 and placed in the special fund according to OSWCC State Match Policy. Districts will be asked to complete and share the Appendix A with program specialists in March following the completion of their annual cash basis reports. Appendix A helps ensure alignment with the SWCD Financial Status portion of OSWCC State Match Policy.

Each year program specialists collect estimated matchable appropriation amounts from each district in February. These estimates are used to help anticipate the state match percentage for the upcoming state fiscal year. Please plan to share your district's estimated matchable appropriation amounts with your program specialist this month.

**Supervisor Survey Summary** – Thank you to all of the SWCD Supervisors who participated in the survey last fall. Please see the attached summary of responses and continue to share ideas for supervisor professional development with your Program Specialist.

**SFY25 Q2 APAP Statistics** - Complaints are consistent with the previous year, while violations from those complaints have reduced by almost half. The Western portion of the state and particularly the Northwest portion of the state encompasses the majority of the complaints and violations this quarter, with the leading source of discharges to waters of the state being from residual farm products. Attachment with additional details included.

**State Drought Assistance Program**- ODA has been working on program details and preparing for the state drought assistance program rollout. 28 counties in southern and eastern Ohio will receive funding for producers impacted by the 2024 drought and participating in USDA's Livestock Forage Disaster Program. An informational webinar and training will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> 1 pm for the 28 SWCDs involved in the program.

**Technician Development Program (TDP)** - We've experienced a much larger than expected interest in our Beginner Level TDP classes this year and we reached our initial capacity within the first two weeks of opening registration. Presently, we are arranging alternate class locations that will allow us to accept more registrations. All class dates will remain the same. Once we have the details finalized, we'll announce through the Federation and open more slots for registration.

For our SWCDs hiring a new technician under the Ag Assistance Grant, we have spaces reserved for those technicians in the Beginner Level courses. Even, if the TDP registration website shows full, just reach out to myself ([timothy.fulks@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:timothy.fulks@agri.ohio.gov)) or Steve Johnson ([Stephen.johnson@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:Stephen.johnson@agri.ohio.gov)) and we'll take care of it.

**Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference (CTTC)** - CTTC will be March 11-12, 2025, (Tuesday-Wednesday) at Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio. This year's theme is "**Getting More from Less.**" Come connect with other agency professionals, farmers and ag retailers as you listen to the great line-up of

presenters. Registration will be a flat rate of \$100. Click [HERE](#) to register online or print a mail-in registration form as attached with payment. (Registration after February 25, or on-site, will be \$150.)

**Ohio Educator's Conference** – Save the Date - the 2025 Ohio Educator's Conference is scheduled for October 22-23, 2025, at Mohican Lodge and Conference Center in Perrysville, Ohio. A soils workshop will also be held in the same area on the afternoon of October 21<sup>st</sup>. More details to come this summer.

**2025 Ohio Conservation Farm Family Awards** - Please share the attached application with as many farmers as you see fit for this award. We are hoping to have a huge number of applications to process. Please let the farmers know the 5 finalists will receive a check for \$400, will be featured in the September issue of Ohio Farmer magazine and will be guests, along with their families, to a special awards luncheon at this year's Farm Science Review where an engraved brick with their name will be added to the Farm Science landscape. Please contact Darcy Griffin-Kamerer [Darcy.Griffin-Kamerer@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:Darcy.Griffin-Kamerer@agri.ohio.gov) with any questions. Thank you in advance for getting this application out to the farmers.

**OSWCC:** The next OSWCC meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2025. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner [emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov)

**OFSWCD**– Over 500 SWCD staff, supervisors, and conservation partners attended the OFSWCD Annual Partnership Meeting this year. One of the highlights of the partnership meeting is the OFSWCD Awards Luncheon. During the luncheon, several staff and supervisors were recognized for their years of service and special recognition awards were given to some outstanding individuals for their hard work and dedication to conservation. Below are a few of the award highlights:

A special presentation remembering Bill Richards.

**Teacher of the Year**- Chris Brown (Putnam) and Becci Hartline (Washington)

**Supervisor Hall of Fame**- Joe Bolin (Meigs), Jim Leedy (Preble), Gary Reiterman (Fayette)

**Urban Program Award**- Summit SWCD

**District of the Year**- Crawford SWCD

**President's Award**- Chad Stang (Huron)

**30 - year Service Award**- Robert Hutchinson, Kevin Hancock, & Gary Reiterman

**H2Ohio Awards** - Greene SWCD, Joe Nester-Nester Ag, and Jason Sisco, Chief Deputy Engineer- Lucas County Engineer's Office

**New Officers** were elected with Samantha Steiner (Warren) serving as President, Jason Clutter (Monroe) serving as 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Mike Terry (Champaign) as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Bill Goodman (Licking) as Secretary/Treasurer and Jeff Duling moves into the role of Past President. We sincerely appreciate all of Jeff Duling's work as President the last two years, and wish Sam all the best.

**Royal Flush** – you should have received several communications from Janelle and through the program specialists regarding our legislative outreach materials. Materials that were not picked up for the legislators from the Partnership Meeting will be mailed out this week. Please keep an eye out for those materials and if you have questions reach out to Janelle. It is really important that these connections get made this year since we are in a budget year.

**OASWCDE:**

- At the OFSWCD Partnership meeting in January, the Employees Association presented our Outstanding Employee Award to Tawn Seimer, Pickaway SWCD and the Outstanding Board Member Award to Diane Yingst, Miami SWCD. Congratulations Tawn and Diane!
- If you missed us at the Partnership Meeting and would like to renew your membership or become a member, the 2025 Employees Association Membership forms can be found on the website, <https://www.oaswcde.org>

The Employee's Association is still looking for great "Conservation Contacts" to add to our list in all area's. This project is being organized to assist the entire state in being able to locate knowledgeable resources for questions, job shadowing, or any other way assistance can be delivered. Emma is making a user-friendly interactive map that will benefit us all. Please contact Emma Farahay ([EFarahay@eriecounty.oh.gov](mailto:EFarahay@eriecounty.oh.gov)) if you are interested.