

Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Serving Union County's Conservation needs for 80 years

2025 Annual Report

Our Mission is to promote, preserve, and enhance the wise use of our natural resources for the people of Union County by providing technical, financial and educational assistance.

The Union SWCD was formed in 1945, the 47th District in Ohio, for the purpose of planning and carrying out natural resources conservation programs. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and is governed by a board of five supervisors, elected by the landowners of Union County, who serve staggered three-year terms. The supervisors donate their time to serve Union County landowners.

Monthly board meetings of the Union SWCD Board of Supervisors are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month to conduct business. All meetings are open to the public and held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

2025 Board of Supervisors

Rick Weigand, Chair

Andy Clarridge, Vice-Chairman

Cheryl Trivisonno, Fiscal Agent/Treasurer

Larry Morris, Secretary

Randy Trapp, Member

2025 Union SWCD Operating Funds

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District operates on funding provided by the Union County Commissioners, the Union County Township Trustees and matching funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil & Water Resources.

Local Funds:

Union County Commissioners	\$400,000.00
Township Trustees	\$ 1,200.00

Other Sources:

State Matching Funds	\$301,660.00
ODNR Wildlife Specialist Grant	\$ 22,000.00

Annual Meeting & Election

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District held its 80th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at the Der Dutchman Restaurant at 445 South Jefferson Avenue, Plain City, Ohio. There were 66 people in attendance.

The election for two Supervisors was held, and the candidates, Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno, were elected for a three-year term to begin January 1, 2026

Entertainment: Amanda Badger of Wild Hearts African Farm brought several animals to share with the group. Animals included Box Turtle, Blue-tongued Skink, Hedgehog, Millipede, Lionhead rabbit, and a Barn Owl.

Associate Supervisors

Bill Conklin	Jay Rausch	Jim Mitchell	Joe Wiley
Matt Furer	Matt Staley	Steve Drumm	Suzi Clarridge

District Staff

Brent Nickel, District Administrator/Wildlife Specialist
Sherry Maisenbacher, Administrative Assistant
Mark Watkins, District Technician
Ross Carter, District Technician
Matt Williams, District Technician
Emma Scott, Urban Technician
Joe Eads, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor
Matt Archer, Drainage maintenance Technician
Cody Beery, Drainage maintenance Technician

USDA, NRCS Staff

Ron Neiman, District Conservationist
LaRae Baker, Resource Conservationist
Adam Slappy, Soil Conservationist
Mariah Lashley, Soil Conservationist
Sierah Geldbaugh, Soil Conservationist
Brent Smith, ACES

Pheasants Forever

Riley Porter, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Conservation Products

- Rentals: No-till drill was rented out (11) times for a total of 515.5 acres
Straw blower was rented out (3) times.
Tree Planter was rented out (1) time.
Tree Puller was rented out (0) time.
- Tree Sale: Union SWCD 2025 Tree Sale was held as a drive-thru on April 26, 2025, with 4,495 seedlings available to 135 customers.
- Fish Sale: Union SWCD 2025 Fish Sale was held on October 8, 2025, and we sold 10,971 fingerlings to 20 customers.

Education

- School Presentations: Presented the Groundwater Simulator and the Enviroscope modules to Fairbanks Middle School, North Union Middle School, North Union High School, Trinity Lutheran and at an event held at Dutch Mill Green House. Read The Lorax to the first graders at North Union on Earth Day.
- The Enviroscope modules, Groundwater Simulator, and the AR Sand table were made available to Union County teachers upon request to use in their classrooms.
- National Hunting & Fishing Day:
Assisted with 100+ participants
- Hunting & Fishing Education:
Assisted with - 5 classes for over 250+ participants
- Pheasants Forever Archery Trailer:
3 Events and 600+ participants
- Pheasants Forever Youth & Ladies Shoot and Hunt:
2 Events and 75+ participants
- Conservation Tillage Club Breakfasts:
(4) Conservation Tillage Club breakfasts were held in 2025 at the Mid-Ohio Energy, 1210 W. Lima St., Kenton, OH with (162) people attending.

Outreach

- Don Cook Memorial Scholarship Fund: Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance, and USWCD District sponsored Alexa Brinson, Gabe Davis, Nevaeh Phillips, and Sadie Clevenger to attend 4-H Camp at Camp Clifton.
- Provide a subscription to Fairbanks, Marysville, and North Union High Schools of the Ohio Woodland Journal.
- Participated in the Richwood Independent Fair and provided educational displays.
- Union SWCD Website: Provided announcements, events, quarterly newsletters, and conservation and drainage information to the public. <https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/USWCD>
- District Facebook Page: Provided announcements, events, conservation, and drainage information to the public

Drainage Maintenance

- Ditches: (39) Maintained with 62.59 miles of ditches by spraying (southern ditches) and mowing (northern ditches)
- Subdivisions: (40) maintained with 16.58 miles of subsurface drainpipe along agriculture drainage systems, (126) urban subdivision retention basins, and (199) concrete drainage structures, which included headwalls, manholes, and catch basins, and (40) projects are pending, awaiting the final punch-outs.
- Petition Project
 - Mill Creek Logjam project has resulted in the removal of 1,650 log jams and 3,000 trees.
 - Mackan Ditch (pending) preparing preliminary plans
- Subdivision Plat Reviews: Reviewed (42) subdivision plats.
- Assessment Spreadsheets: Maintained (80) spreadsheets.

Technical Assistance

The following are some of our technical accomplishments of the past year:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): Completed (4) Inspections
- Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP): Investigated (6) Complaints
- CRP-MCM Assessment/Review: (37) Field Visits and Landowner Meetings
- Grassed Waterways: Assisted (39) landowners designing/planning
- Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP): Assisted (5) landowners
- Pond Management: Provided assistance to (9) pond owners.
- Pond Site Evaluations and Planning: Assisted (4) residents
- Drainage Assistance: Assisted (44) landowners with erosion, sediment, stormwater control and management
- Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative (OACI): Assisted (13) landowners
- H2Ohio Clean Water Initiative: Assisted (19) with VNMP and P2
- Agricultural Subsurface Drainage: Designed for (3) landowners
- Drainage Maintenance Projects:
 - Maintained Ditches (repairs): Blues Creek; Duns Run; Elliott Run; Prairie Run; Leo Rausch Sugar Run; Rocky Fork; Sugar Run; Tobey Run; Lower Green Joint; and Clark Yoder
 - Maintained subdivisions (repairs): Darby Braeside; Mitchell Highlands; New Cali. H/W ex. 6,7,10; JV - ERN01, ERN02, ERN06, GPN08, and GPN12; Pioneer Crossing Phase 1
 - Pending Projects:
Ditches – Mackan, Farrington, Lincoln, and Wenrick
Subdivisions - Avondale, Jerome Professional Park, Jerome Village Market, and Memorial Jerome Medical Center
- Solar Projects: Acciona/Union; Invenergy/Cadence, and Samsung/Richwood

Urban Conservation

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) Townships: We have agreements to provide technical assistance on soils and drainage for all new home sites. In addition to home site inspections, the following townships require a zoning permit for ponds as well:

Darby Township Trustees
Dover Township Trustees
Leesburg Township Trustees
Liberty Township Trustees
Millcreek Township Trustees
Paris Township Trustees
Union Township Trustees
York Township Trustees

Home Site Reviews: (57) Home site visits to determine proper lot drainage for new homes were performed, and (2) construction site for sediment and erosion control BMPs.

Be the Change for Clean Water Partner: The Be the Change initiative exists to keep you informed about programs and services in Central Ohio & how they can benefit you! When it comes to protecting our water resources, we all need to be part of the solution. Be The Change for Clean Water is bringing together ten counties and a multitude of partners to provide education, resources, and opportunities, making it easier for all Central Ohio residents to Be the Change for Clean Water.

<http://www.bethechangeforcleanwater.org>

Drainage Complaints/Investigations/Information: (44) incidents were addressed

Wildlife Assistance

Wildlife Conflict/Damage Investigations (15):

Bagworms, Bats, Beaver, Bees, Caterpillars, Coyote, Fox, Feral Cats, Geese, Hawks, Muskrats, Raccoons, Groundhogs, Woodpeckers, Blackbirds/ Starlings, Squirrels/ chipmunks, Rabbits, Swans, and Turtles.

Wildlife Assistance (40):

Provided assistance to a variety of individuals concerning pheasant rearing, wildlife rescue information, “orphaned wildlife”, wildlife exclusion methods, habitat, muskrat/dike damage, wildlife conflict/nuisance investigations, Nuisance Trapper Lists, plant ID, etc.

Wildlife Habitat Assistance (43):

Landowner discussions for field management/contract requirements. Assist landowners with Native Plant IDs.

***Union SWCD Board of Supervisors would like to thank all
the Partners, Funders, Sponsors and Supporters***

2025 Supporters

Union County Commissioners

Union County Engineer

Union County Auditor

Union County Treasurer

Union County Health Department.

City of Marysville

UC Chapter of Pheasants Forever Chapter #535

Union County Farm Bureau

OSU Extension

USDA Farm Service Agency

Union County Ag Association

Darby Township Trustees

National Association of Conservation Districts

ODNR Division of Forestry

ODNR Division of Wildlife

ODA Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

2025 Affiliate Members

Cook Real Estate (Gold Member)	61 years
Ag-Pro Richwood (formerly Parrott Implement Co.)	57 years
Ohigro Inc. (Silver Member)	52 years
MJS Oil, Inc., dba Smith Distributing (Silver Member)	38 years
Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance (Gold Member)	33 years
Union County Farm Bureau (Gold Member)	28 years
Smart Oil, LLC (Gold Member)	12 years
Millcreek Gardens LLC (Silver Member)	6 years
Vititoe Construction, Inc. (Platinum Member)	6 years
Connolly Construction Co. (Silver Member)	5 years
MitchellAgri (Gold Member)	5 years
The Seed Center (Gold Member)	5 years
Benny's Pizza (Gold Member)	4 years
Bokes Creek Orchard (Gold Member)	4 years
Richwood Tire Center (Silver Member)	4 years
Steve Stolte (Gold Member)	4 years
Heart of Ohio Fish & Game Association (Gold Member)	3 years
Bahan Excavating LLC	2 years
Gravatt Family Farm	2 years
Burrey Aquatic Restoration LLC	1 year
Sheely Ag Services, LLC	1 year