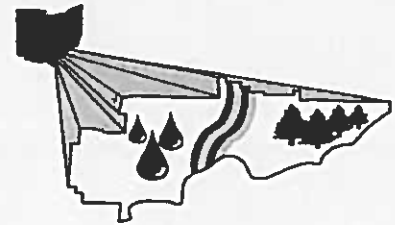


# Washington Soil & Water Conservation District



Staff & Supervisors

Phone 740-373-4857

SUMMER 2023

Kathy Davis—Stormwater

Hannah Swope—Wildlife/  
Forestry

Kendrick Schwendeman -  
Ag Specialist

Sandy Lahmers—  
Administrator

Chuck Hicks—Chairman

John Hartline—Vice  
Chairman

Michelle Schwendeman -  
Secretary

Randy Fisher—Treasurer

Charlie Harris—Public  
Relations

NRCS Staff

District Conservationist—  
David Bauerbach

Soil Conservation Techni-  
cian— Tim Holbert

Soil Conservationist —  
Mark Reynolds

Natural Resource Spe-  
cialist—Josh Zwick

## Cover Crop Program Sign-up Announced

Again this year the Washington SWCD is offering the cover crop program through funds provided by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) and the Washington Soil & Water District. Applications will be accepted now through July 7th. We would like to remind you of a major component of the program: ***ALL ACRES SIGNED UP MUST HAVE CURRENT SOIL TEST WITHIN THE LAST 4 YRS AND COPIES GIVEN TO SWCD AT SIGNUP TIME.*** Also, if bin-run seed is to be planted, don't forget that it must be tested at a certified lab and the test report submitted to the SWCD office. The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture does free testing June 1 thru Dec. 1 for up to three samples per producer. Applications must go through the ranking process to determine eligibility as in the past, with MWCD making the determination of cutoff points. Payments will be made on planted fields at the rate of \$12 per acre. Local producers are beginning to notice the benefits of planting cover crops to decrease weed pressure in the spring, reduce erosion of topsoil, as well as improve organic matter numbers on soil tests, all of which are increasingly important, given the current small profit margins in grain cropping. So why not add \$12/acre into your rotation and reap all the other benefits as well? Stop by the office and get signed up!

## Farm Pesticide Collection Day

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is sponsoring a collection day for farmers on August 9, 9 a.m.—3 p.m. The collection will be held at the Morgan County Fairgrounds, 2760 S Riverside Dr., McConnelsville, OH.

The pesticide collection and disposal services are free of charge, but only farm chemicals will be accepted. NO—paint, antifreeze, solvents and household or non-farm chemicals.

To pre-register, or for more information, contact ODA at 614-728-6987.

## **Board of Supervisor Candidates Needed**

The Soil & Water District is governed by a board of 5 supervisors, serving for a 3-yr term. Each year, one or two of these board positions are up for election. This year we have one member whose term will be complete on December 31st. An election will be held at the annual meeting, October 25th to fill that spot. In order to have a ballot ready for the election, the process starts now.

Duties of a supervisor include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Attending 12 monthly meetings
- ◆ Attending special/emergency meetings
- ◆ Attending field days, events, etc. sponsored by the District, if available
- ◆ Attending state meetings/trainings, if available
- ◆ Governing the technical, educational and financial operations of the District
- ◆ Hiring/Overseeing the employees of the District

If you are interested in finding out more information and/or becoming a candidate for supervisor, please contact Sandy at the office at 740-885-3313.

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## **Fish Sale Coming This Summer**

Be thinking about fish for your farm pond this summer. This year we will be offering largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, hybrid bluegill, red ear shellcracker, fathead minnows, Japanese Koi, white amur, and yellow perch. Look for details and an order form in our next newsletter.

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## **OLHAP**

Enrollment for landowners interested in the Ohio Landowner-Hunter Access Partnership (OLHAP) program is now open until July 15. Contracts are 2 years, with the possibility of re-enrollment. Enrolled landowners can receive payments annually, ranging from \$2/acre for crop ground and \$30/acre for permanent wildlife habitat like forest and grasslands. Aside from deer gun hunting, this program allows all hunting and wildlife watching opportunities to take place on enrolled private land by the public permit holder. Landowners interested in enrolling should contact John Morton 614-403-6353.

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I know this may not be conservation related but I think for everyone's safety it is something that needs to be talked about. Slow down while driving! Especially this time of the year when farm equipment is being moved. Pay attention to the person in the lead vehicle that is flashing their lights at you and has their four-ways on. They are trying to warn you that there is an oversized piece of equipment being moved and that they may not be able to get completely off the road so you need to slow down and move over yourself. Farmers and the individual flagging ahead of them are doing everything they can to prevent an accident while still trying to be able to get their work done. Moving equipment is not an easy task for anyone so please slow down, take your time, and pay attention to the flagger vehicle.

## *In Memoriam:*

**David William Brandt**

**(Nov. 16, 1946 – May 21, 2023)**

Dave Brandt of Carroll, OH, recognized by conservationists nationwide as “The Godfather of Soil Health,” died last month at the age of 76 following an automobile accident near Urbana, Illinois. Brandt was on his way home on I-74 after picking up seed corn in the nearby town of Champaign when he lost control of his truck, overturning it. He was rushed to Carle Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries.



Brandt was born and raised in Fairfield County, son of the late William and Eleanor Brandt. He was immersed in agriculture from an early age. In his youth, Dave worked on his grandfather’s farm, and by his teen years had become the manager of a farrow-to-finish hog operation. In 1966, Dave married Kendra Woltz. Two weeks later, he was drafted into the United States Marine Corps to serve his country in Vietnam. While in-country, he worked as a munitions expert and was wounded several times in the line of duty, earning him three Purple Hearts.

Upon his return to civilian life in 1969, Brandt took up farming again, but the same year, his father was killed in a tractor accident at the age of 48. As a result, Dave was forced to sell the family farm, retaining only a small portion of land for himself. It was on this farm, though, that he began to make a name for himself as a pioneer of conservation.

Having sold off much of his equipment following his father’s untimely death, in 1971, Brandt began using a no-till planter to put in his row crops. In that way, he eliminated the need for a chisel plow and disc without compromising his ability to put in a crop. In time, he decided to forego livestock production to focus strictly on raising crops in this manner, incorporating cover crops into his repertoire in 1978. In 1981, with the skills he had acquired over a lifetime of agriculture, including the real-world implementation of modern, conservationally minded farming practices, Dave joined the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service) where he worked until 1984.

After leaving SCS, he was able to purchase his grandmother’s property and put it into production, as well. Here, he began to plant legumes in his no-till fields to reduce the need for nitrate fertilizer. Over the years, he tested a multitude of cover species for their effectiveness in increasing crop yield and minimizing the need for other soil amendments and pesticides. Mold, blight, and insect pressures decreased on his farm with the mixes he assembled. Applying the knowledge Dave gained through his experimentation, the Brandt Family began their own seed company, specializing in creating and distributing seasonal cover crop mixes.

In recent years, Brandt’s farm has been an educational center for agronomists and soil scientists. The USDA started a soil education program there in 2012, with Brandt serving as the primary speaker. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his work in conservation and continued his efforts into his later years as president of both the Ohio No-Till Council and the Soil Health Academy. As recently as April of this year, Dave was still teaching the benefits of no-till agriculture and cover crop seeding to curious agriculturists.

With the sad news of his passing, comes the joyful hope of reunion with his wife, Kendra, whom he lost in 2020 to cancer. Even as Ohio’s farming community must say goodbye to one of its own, Dave Brandt’s legacy of conservation and education lives on in the practices of tens of thousands of American farmers.

## Ohio's Noxious Weed Laws

"Noxious weeds" are plants that can injure agricultural crops and livestock due to their invasiveness, toxicity and other harmful characteristics. Ohio's legislature gave authority to the director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to designate "prohibited noxious weeds." ODA's list of noxious weeds includes the following:

- Shatter cane (*Sorghum bicolor*)
- Russian thistle (*Salsola Kali* var. *tenuifolia*)
- Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense* L. (Pers.))
- Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)
- Grapevines: when growing in groups of one hundred or more and not pruned, sprayed, cultivated, or otherwise maintained for two consecutive years.
- Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense* L. (Scop.))
- Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
- Cressleaf groundsel (*Senecio glabellus*)
- Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
- Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- Mile-A-Minute Weed (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
- Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- Apple of Peru (*Nicandra physalodes*)
- Marehail (*Conyza Canadensis*)
- Kochia (*Bassia scoparia*)
- Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*)
- Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*)
- Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
- Yellow Groove Bamboo (*Phyllostachys aureasculata*), when the plant has spread from its original premise of planting and is not being maintained.
- Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
- Heart-podded hoary cress (*Lepidium draba* sub. *draba*)
- Hairy whitetop or ballcress (*Lepidium appelianum*)
- Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)
- Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*)
- Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- Hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*)
- Serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)
- Columbus grass (*Sorghum x alnum*)
- Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
- Forage Kochia (*Bassia prostrata*)
- Water Hemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*)

**Noxious weeds along public roadways** Ohio law requires counties, townships and municipalities to cut or destroy all noxious weeds, brush, briars, burrs, and vines growing along roads and streets within their jurisdictions. Cutting of the vegetation must occur every year between June 1 and 20, August 1 and 20, and if necessary, September 1 and 20, or whenever it's necessary to destroy the vegetation to prevent or eliminate a safety hazard.

**Noxious weeds along toll roads and railroads** Responsibility for noxious weeds growing within a toll road, railroad or railway right-of-way rests with the company's superintendent or manager. Ohio law requires the superintendent or manager to destroy noxious vegetation according to the same schedule described above for the cutting of noxious weeds along roadways, even if the toll road, railroad or railway is not in operation. If destruction of the noxious weeds does not occur, the township trustees may cause the removal of the weeds and may bring a civil action against the company for recovery of the costs.

**Noxious weeds in line fence rows** The "line fence law" in Ohio requires landowners in unincorporated areas to cut all noxious weeds, brush, briars and thistles within four feet and in the corners of a line fence. If a landowner fails to keep his or her fence row clear of noxious weeds and other vegetation, Ohio law creates options for adjacent landowners concerned about the weeds. First, an adjacent landowner must request that the other landowner clear the fence row of weeds and must allow the owner ten days to do so. If the weeds still remain after ten days, the complaining landowner may notify the township trustees of the situation. If notified, the township trustees must view the property and determine whether there is sufficient reason to remove weeds and vegetation from the fence row. If so, the township trustees may hire someone to clear the fence row and the county auditor will assess the costs on the neglectful landowner's property taxes.

**Noxious weeds on private land beyond the fence row** Ohio's township trustees must also become involved when a landowner fails to destroy noxious weeds on private land beyond the fence row. The procedure begins when the township trustees receive written information that noxious weeds exist on a parcel in the township. The township trustees must then notify the owner or other party responsible for the land about the existence of noxious weeds. The owner must either destroy the weeds or show the township trustees why there is no need for doing so. If the owner does not take one of these actions within five days of the trustee's notice, the township trustees must cause the weeds to be cut or destroyed. The county auditor assesses the costs for destroying the weeds against the owner's real property taxes.