



Annual Report 2025

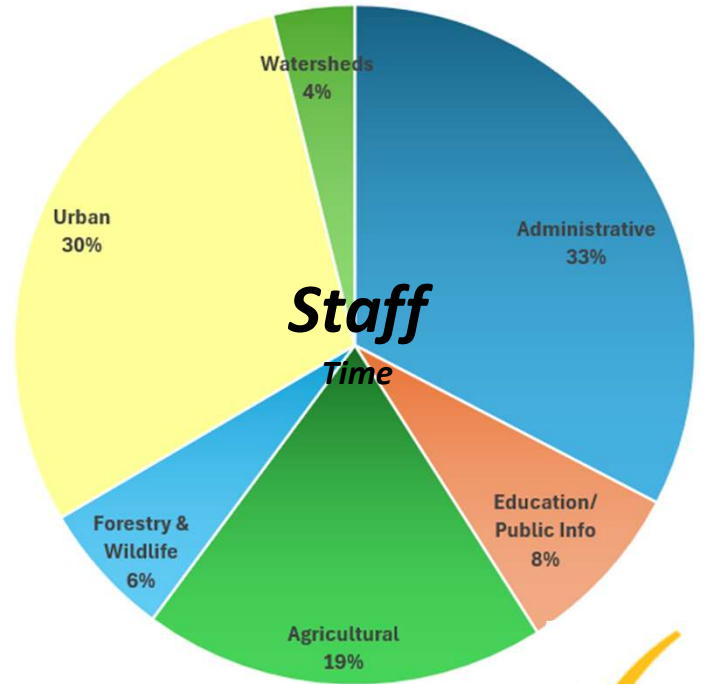


Staff

- Brent Dennis** - Engineering Technician
- Nikki Drake** - District Manager/Engineering Technician
- Jonathan Ferbrache** - Sr. Resource Specialist
- Christina Holt** - Fiscal Coordinator
- Chad Lucht** - Urban Manager
- Margaret Roberts** - Urban/Geomatic Technician
- Charlotte Solomon** - Urban Stormwater Technician
- Lauren Vires** - Wildlife/Education Specialist

Board of Supervisors

- Doug Tenney** - Chair (2022-current)
- Gregg Pontius** - Vice-Chair (2021-current)
- Cheyenne Jepsen** - Secretary (2024-current)
- Linda Claypool** - Treasurer (2019-current)
- Amber Hoisington** - Member (2023-2025)



Thank You!



Our AUP audit of 2023-2024 financial records performed by the Ohio Auditor of State had no exceptions, all testing of balances agreed.

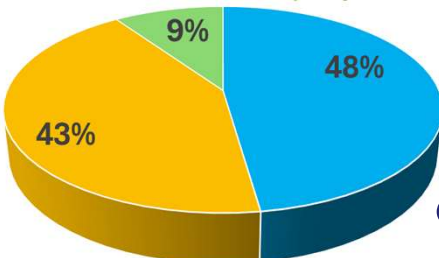


Budget

Commissioner Funds = \$346,800

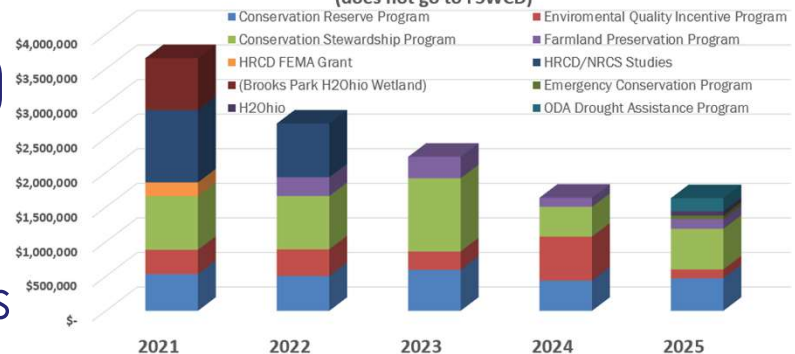
State Funds = \$309,815

Other Local Funds = \$70,000



479%
ROI
of 2025
county funds

Money brought into Fairfield Co Economy through Programs (does not go to FSWCD)

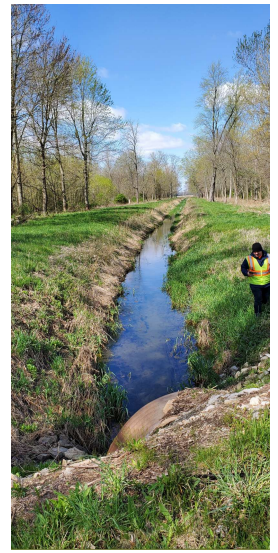


AGRICULTURE

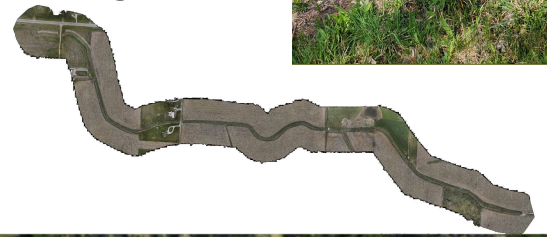


16 Emergency Conservation water installs

petition ditches **2** inspected w/ Co. Engineer



 **184** drainage calls/visits



Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District staff & board along with our farmers

THANK YOU

132 for drought assistance. checks dispersed



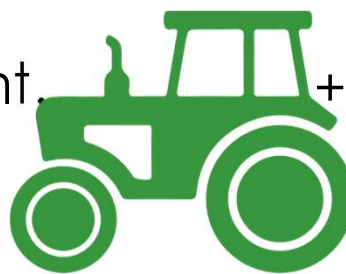
189 acres of tile installed

H2Ohio acres verified for nutrient mgmt. compliance
8,000

279 acres planted w/ drills & trees + grapevines w/ tree planter



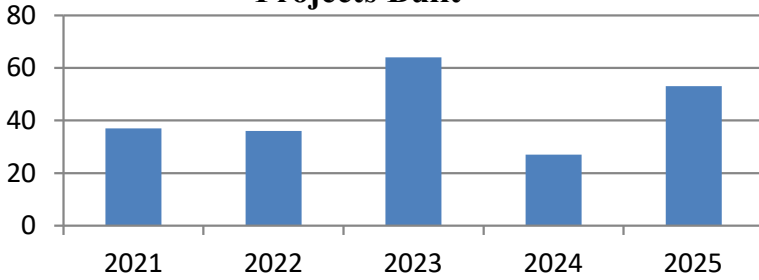
6 farmland preservation applications
1 selected



protected farm monitoring inspections
34

2025 Engineering Review

Projects Built



Above: Graph shows 5 years of construction trends. CRP waterway cost-share from 50% to 100% in 2021, staff changes (Carrie 3/19-7/21, Josh 9/21-7/24, Brent started 9/24), and the 2024-2025 drought & Emergency Conservation Program have affected numbers. Design requests remain strong, although the rising cost of materials is an issue.

Projects constructed = 53

- 10 tile systems
- 33 watering facilities
- 2 wells
- 1 waterway
- 5 heavy use pads
- 2 WASCObS

Projects designed = 90

- 24 waterways
- 16 tile systems
- 42 watering facilities
- 3 grade stabilization structures
- 1 stream crossing
- 2 heavy use pads
- 2 roof runoff

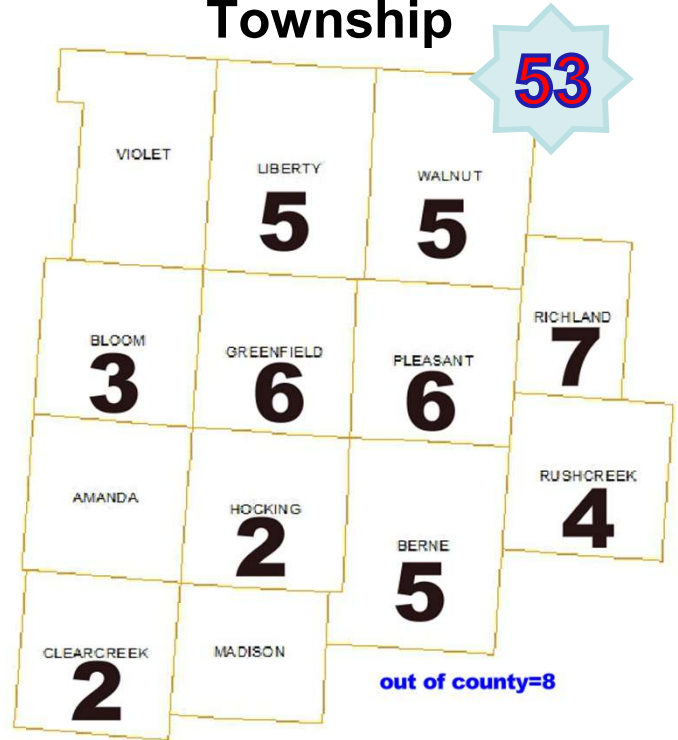
Projects surveyed = 70

- 25 watering facilities
- 29 waterways
- 12 tile systems
- 2 roof runoff
- 1 stream crossings
- 1 stream profile

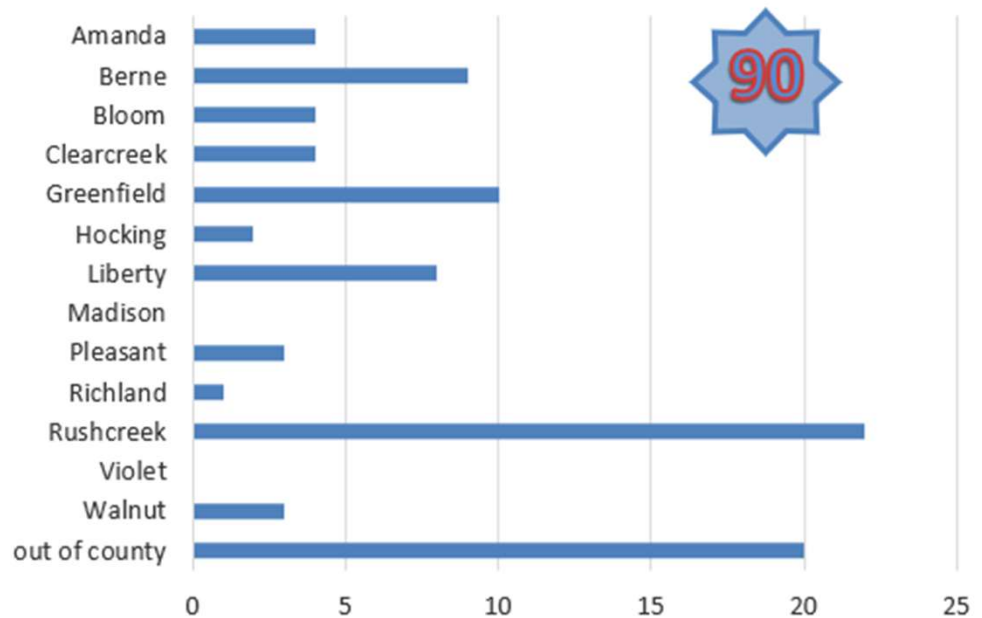
CRP waterway renewal inspections:
68 at 25 sites
(every 10 years for re-enrollment)

2-year incentive inspections:
29 at 13 sites

Projects Constructed by Township



Projects Designed by Township



NRCS Contribution agreement funding received for engineering projects completed:
\$12,777.81 CRP
\$10,816.06 EQIP

Ag. pollution complaints – 2 (both non-violations)
Timber harvest pollution complaint – 0

2 drug collection events

78 cars
3 boxes drugs
2.1 tons electronics



OUTREACH



108,381

adults & kids reached through articles, events, etc.



3 college scholarships

college scholarships



142

students participated in the District 7 Soil Judging Competition

1,000

tree seedlings donated to 5th graders at 6 schools



98

tree sale customers

4,102 trees sold



91

students evaluated for Science Fairs, 4-H, FFA & Global Scholars



Annual Meeting at Millersport Lions Clubhouse



Fair Booth

50

students at Earth Camp at Smeck Park



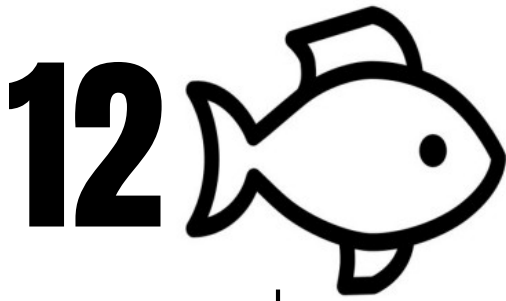
48

school programs, workshops & other events reached:

2,311 kids

4,999 adults

WILDLIFE



12 pond visits/inquiries

40

landowners issued a deer damage permit due to crop damage



since 2015



5 individuals provided habitat assistance

10



site visits conducted for landowners interested in WHI



4 Fairfield Co. Farm Page interviews

20

individuals assisted with wildlife questions & concerns



1 newspaper article published on wildlife related topics



surveys conducted w/ Division of Wildlife

river otter roadkill



Project Wild Teacher Workshop

18

wildlife related programs



URBAN

708

landowner
calls/visits across
all townships



272

dry weather
inspections
across **2** MS4
communities



296/146

construction site
inspections/reports
across **12** sites



5

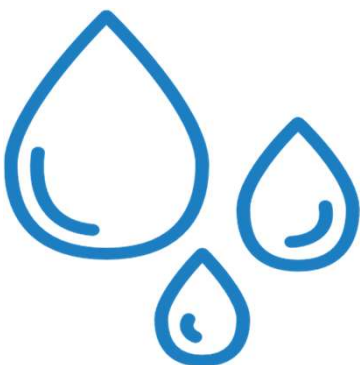
 MS4
communities
assisted

90

(RPC) plans
reviewed

5,000+

residential lot inspections
& **213** new DESC+ **17** pool
permits issued



District Manager Nikki Drake and local farmers help promote the H2Ohio program with ODA:

- Nikki and Mike Wolfe were interviewed for the *Growing Ohio* 2025 magazine. See pages 14-15 at <https://farmflavor.com/ohio/ohio-magazine/growing-ohio-2025/>

| Water Quality |

Watershed MOMENT

H2Ohio expands to include farmers across the state

Healthy soil and clean water are cornerstones of farming. Now that Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative has expanded to farmers across the state, more Ohio farmers than ever are participating in the program focused on improving Ohio's water quality.

Brian Baldrige, Ohio Department of Agriculture director, highlighted

H2Ohio's recent success, noting over 3,200 farmers are now enrolled in the program, covering more than 2.2 million acres across the state.

"The overall vision is to expand best management practices farmers use to protect water quality in Northwest Ohio across the state," he explains. "These practices are beneficial no matter where they're implemented, and we're proud of

the strength and collaboration between agencies, farmers, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts as our impact grows."

The Ohio Department of Agriculture initially focused on the 24 Western Lake Erie Basin counties. The voluntary water quality best management practices allow farmers to implement those practices on their cropland, which

have been proven to reduce phosphorous runoff. In 2024, the program expanded to include all counties in the state.

Protecting Ohio's Waterways

In Fairfield County, Ohio, the expansion of H2Ohio is creating new opportunities for conservation efforts.

Nikki Drake, district manager/engineering technician for the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District, is leading the implementation of the program locally. The expansion introduces voluntary nutrient management plans to the agency and the farmers it serves.

"The plans involve evaluating what fertilizer needs are from year to year based on soil test results and the crop type," Drake says. "Most farmers are already smart about managing nutrients because it's a significant cost for them. What H2Ohio offers is the ability to enhance those practices even further."

So far, 13 farmers in Fairfield County have enrolled in the expanded program, covering about 8,000 acres. The goal is to reduce phosphorous and nitrogen runoff, critical contributors to water pollution and algal blooms.

"In Fairfield County, we are in several Ohio River watersheds, including the Scioto River, the Muskingum River, and the Hocking River, which starts here," Drake says. "We also share Buckeye Lake with Licking and Perry counties, so water quality is essential."

As the program continues to roll out, Drake expects more farmers in the county to get involved, especially as they see the benefits.

A New Tool in the Toolbox

Mike Wolfe of Wolfe Family Farms LLC is one of the first farmers in Fairfield County to enroll in H2Ohio. As a third



Wolfe Family Farms LLC in Fairfield County participates in H2Ohio.



generation farmer, Wolfe has long been involved in conservation efforts, practicing no till and cover cropping on his farm. Although Wolfe is early in his involvement with H2Ohio, he is optimistic about the program's potential. "Part of our farm is in the Buckeye Lake watershed, and we've always been committed to ensuring that the water going into the lake is as clean as possible," Wolfe shares. "H2Ohio gives us more tools to fine tune our management practices, which will help us protect our water resources and maintain the productivity of our farm for future generations." Wolfe's approach mirrors that of many Ohio farmers who see

the value in balancing agricultural productivity with environmental stewardship.

"Farmers live in communities and want our water to be safe like everyone else," Wolfe says. "My grandpa taught me if I take care of the farm, it will take care of me."

The expansion into counties like Fairfield marks a significant shift, bringing a focus on water quality to more areas critical to the health of Ohio's rivers and lakes.

"Water quality and soil health are part of our foundational business model in the agricultural community, and we care about them tremendously," Baldrige says.

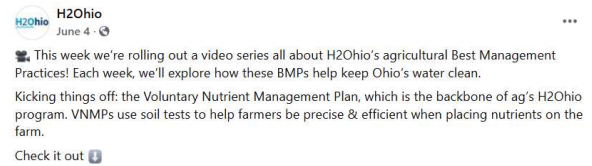
To learn more, visit [H2Ohio.gov](https://www.h2ohio.gov).
- Brianna Gwartz



Between 2024 and 2025, H2Ohio will invest **\$270M** to improve water quality.

Buckeye Lake

- Nikki and Mark Peters were interviewed for ODA's use in advertising, including printed materials and video series. One video shared is at <https://www.facebook.com/H2Ohio.Initiative/videos/24603252979276497>



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Engineering Technician Brent Dennis – 25 yrs
Urban Manager Chad Lucht – 35 yrs

