



Ross Soil & Water Conservation District

73rd Annual Meeting

2020 Annual Report • District Election

WELCOME

Our mission is to provide leadership and education to the public for the stewardship of natural resources. Our vision is to be recognized as a leader in Ross County, promoting innovative and responsible stewardship of natural resources to enhance the quality of life.

Featured Speaker

Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations Preview

Steve Culman

The Ohio State University Soil Fertility Lab

Cooperator of the Year Award

Curtis Cockrell • Cockrell Farms



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Cooperator of the Year

Curtis Cockrell • Cockrell Farms



Tom Cockrell, David Cockrell, Curtis Cockrell, John Phillips



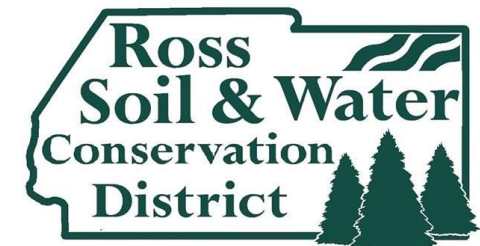
David Cockrell and Curtis Cockrell

Our goal is to once a year recognize a producer from the district that we work with and who can exemplify what conservation practices can mean for an operation. The Cockrells practice no-till for soybean fields and use minimal tillage on corn fields. The district started working with Cockrell Farms nearly ten years ago. Beginning with 5,800 feet of grassed waterways in 2011, Curtis then installed a significant amount of tile over the decade, reaching an impressive total of 138,655 feet.



2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

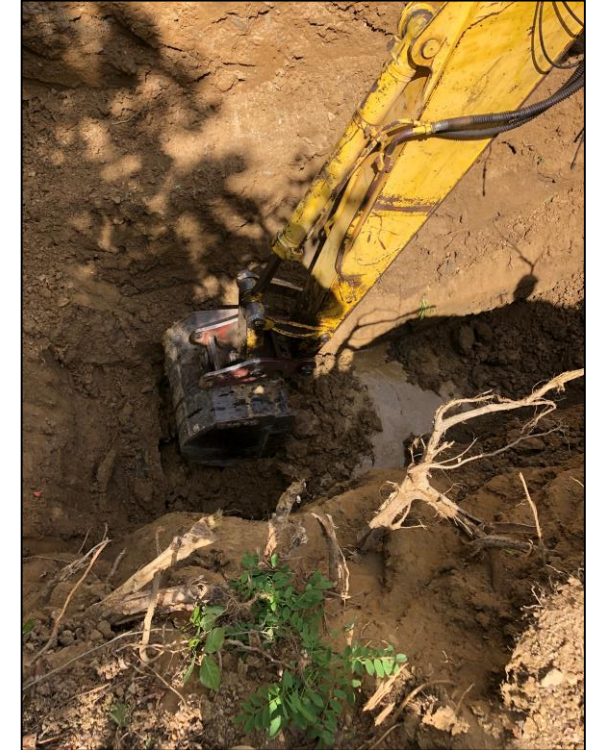
The 72nd annual meeting of the Ross Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Thursday August 22, 2019. The dinner speaker was Julie Reed from the NWS, who delivered an address about more frequent severe weather events. The business meeting was called to order at 7:52 p.m. by Board Chairman, Zach Zurmehly. Supervisor Mike Anderson introduced the district's Cooperator of the Year Jeff Cottrill of Pleasant View Farms. The district recognized retiring Chairman Zach Zurmehly with a certificate of appreciation for six years of service to conservation. Ohio Department of Agriculture Program Specialist Rob Hamilton supervised the election on behalf of the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Three candidates stood for election: Mike Anderson, Greg Ramsey, and Brian Brown. Anderson and Ramsey were announced as the winners. There were a total of 60 voters who cast 109 votes in the election. Mike Anderson received 50 votes, Greg Ramsey received 41 votes and Brian Brown received 18 votes. The annual meeting of the Ross SWCD was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.





Cooperator Projects & Resident Services

Resident Drainage & Erosion Requests	94
Pond Inspection / Evaluation Requests	52
Homesite Inspection/Evaluations	5
Scioto River Water Quality Test Samples	1,095
Subsurface Drainage Tile	75,722 Feet
Grassed Waterway	11,570 Feet
Stone Center Outlet	4
Spring Development	1
Pipeline	1,432 Feet
Heavy Use Area Protection	14,273 Feet
Fence	16,987 Feet
Access Road	168 Feet
Watering Facility	4
Forestry Pollution Complaint/Resolution	1
16 Timber Harvest Plan Reviews	665 Acres
Conservation Easement Inspections	620 Acres
26 No-Till Drill Rentals	~ 550 Acres
21 Geotextile Fabric Sales	3,420 Feet
125 Tree Sale Orders	5,842 Trees
32 Fish Sale Orders	13,810 Fish
23 Contract Management Plug Sale Orders	9,082 Plants





Wildlife Projects

Black Vulture Nuisance Workshop Attendance	34
Wildlife Farm Bill Assistance Projects	127
Wildlife Habitat Management Projects	36
Nuisance Animal Complaints	34
Wildlife Damage Deer Permits Issued	58
Wildlife Pop Survey - Grouse/Turkey/Pheasant	3
Wildlife Training Attended - Warm Season Grass	3
Wildlife Training - Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference	1
Wildlife Training Attended - Wetland Training	1
Wildlife Training Attended - Wildlife Diversity	1
Wildlife Training Attended - Specialist Training	1





Neighborhood Urban Projects

Urban Drainage/Erosion - Inspection/Evaluation 19

Urban Plan Reviews 4

Urban Plan Reviews - Site Inspections 2

Urban Detention Pond Maintenance Inspections:

• Arrow Wood (Climer Lane, Frankfort) 10

• Autumn Woods (Hanover Drive, Chillicothe) 10

• Clayton Mills (Upper Twin Road, Bourneville) 10

• Creek View (Patrician Court, Chillicothe) 10

• Cross Creek (Witter Drive, Chillicothe) 10

• Golf View (Golf View Drive, Chillicothe) 10

• Northview (Pin Oak Drive, Kingston) 10

• Teays Valley (Old Route 35, Chillicothe) 10

• Scenic Acres #1 (Rinkliff Lane, Chillicothe) 10

• Scenic Acres #2 (Quail Road, Chillicothe) 10

• Slate Creek Cove (Hanover Drive, Chillicothe) 10

• Willow Creek (Willow Creek Road, Chillicothe) 10

Urban Ditch Maintenance 18





GIS Department

Geographic Information Systems

GIS COORDINATOR SERVICES FOR ROSS COUNTY

- Ross County Auditor CAUV Data Analysis
- Ross County Engineer Map Room
- Ross County Board of Elections
- Township Trustees | EMS

GIS | UAV Services Provided to Producers & Residents

Tile-Mapper UAV Drone GPS Mapping

- Aerial Video Documentation of New Tile Installation
- Tile-Finder* UAV Drone Flights & Research
- Developing Thermal Imaging to find Underground Tile
- Aerial Maps | Specialty Maps | Parcel Data Sales

GIS Outreach | Program Assistance | Collaboration

Partners for a Healthier Ross County

- Mapping EMS Opioid Responses Project
- Ross Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
- CCI / RCI / VA Emergency Plans



PUBLIC EVENTS

2019 Ross County Fair Display	14,000
Pump House Earth Day Gathering 2019	2,000
Head Start Family Fun Day 2019	500
Pheasants Forever Banquet Sponsorship	200
Mile Tree Green House Kids Day	50
2019 District Election	60
2019 Annual Meeting	76
OPHI Milkweed Pod Collection	10 Gallons

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Unioto Butler Springs Conservation Camp	164
Unioto Elementary/Middle School Science	275
4-H Project Judging	45
Farm Bureau Careers in Ag Day	80

WILDLIFE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Chillicothe Schools Tar Hollow Food Web	200
Tar Hollow Wetland Habitat	75
Southeastern Tar Hollow Field Day	100

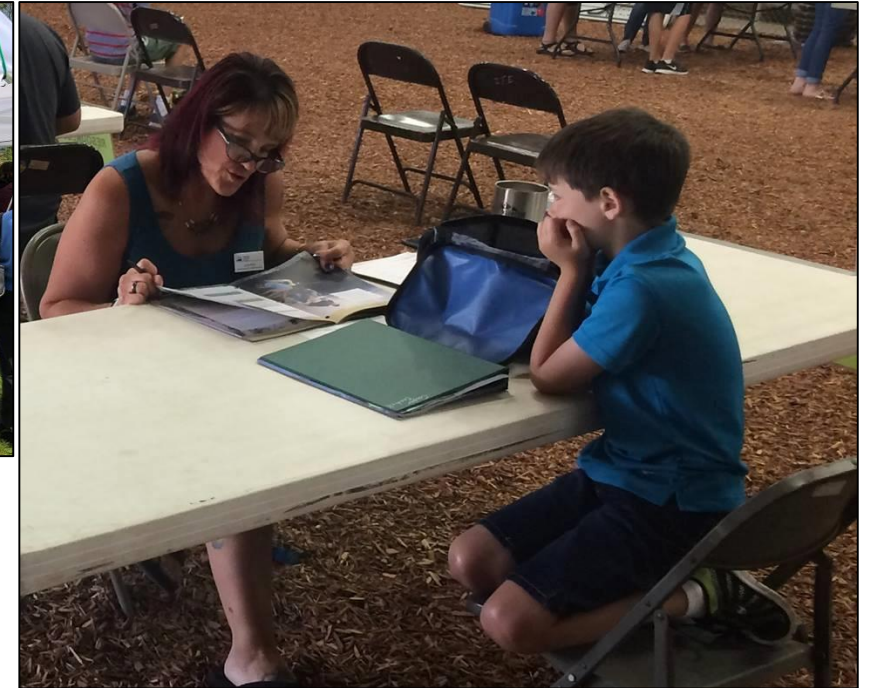
MEETINGS | WORKSHOPS | PRESENTATIONS

ODA Director Dorothy Pelanda Statewide Tour	30
Soil Testing Workshop	11
Rotary Rural Urban Day	40
Ohio Statehouse Legislative Reception	2
Ohio Federation SWCD Winter Partners Meeting	8
Ohio Federation SWCD Summer Meeting	2

Participation

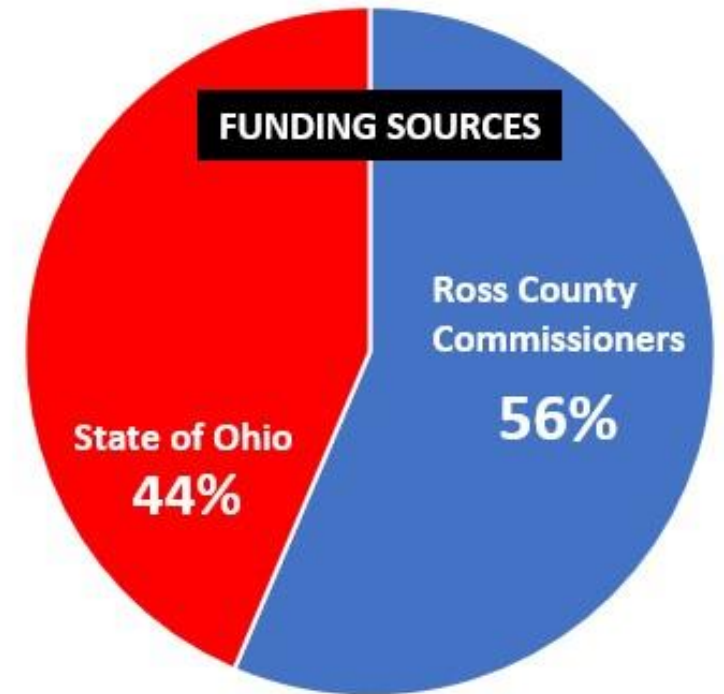


Education & Outreach Projects



DISTRICT FINANCES

	District Fund	Special Fund	Totals
Ross County Funding		\$250,000	\$250,000
State of Ohio Funding		\$175,727	\$175,727
State Wildlife Grant		\$17,300	\$17,300
Sales & Other Revenue	\$36,649	\$2,777	\$39,426
Total Cash Receipts	\$36,649	\$445,804	\$482,453
Personnel		\$361,355	\$361,355
Operations	\$4,169	\$80,825	\$84,994
Product/Material for Resale	\$26,283		\$26,283
Total Cash Disbursements	\$30,452	\$442,180	\$472,632
2019 Year End Reserve	\$6,197	\$3,624	\$9,821



Federal Payments BIG Local Impact!

Ross SWCD assists producers implementing CRP conservation practices that return federal tax dollars. In 2019, the district assisted practices on **26,765 acres** that returned **\$5,057,711**



District Overview

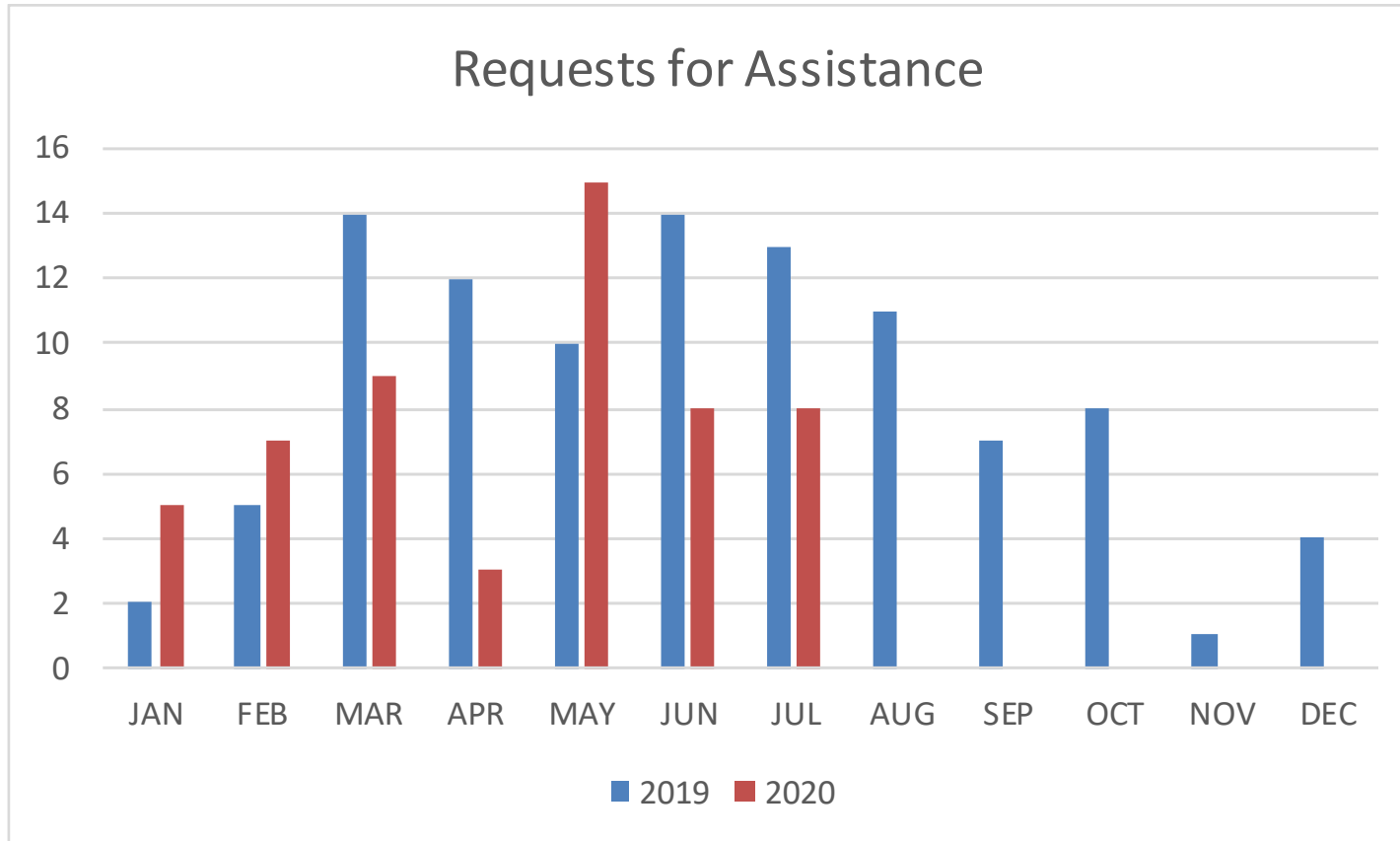
Providing Service Safely

Administrator's Remarks

I want to thank the staff for maintaining operations during the pandemic by working remotely and following safety protocols. I want to thank the supervisors for providing the flexibility to make that possible. An annual report is a look back and a look ahead. These days it's difficult to retrace steps from what seems like so long ago. Likewise, it's hard to look ahead when there is so much uncertainty now. Still, 2019 marked a year spent strengthening our foundation and developing new initiatives. And while 2020 is a challenge for the entire globe, 2021 remains promising for the "on the ground" conservation services the district has provided for over 73 years. With a weather station now in in northwest Ross county and aerial thermal photography upgrades in 2019, the district is undertaking revolutionary research related to management of subsurface drainage tile. The district completed major maintenance projects including repair of the Scenic Acres detention pond and replacing piping to the Scioto River Water Quality Testing station. The Augmented Reality Sandbox made several school visits in 2019 and the district for the first time ever expanded outreach to the Pump House Earth Day festival. The district implemented a new pollinator sale to assist (many non-farming) cooperators fulfill farm bill requirements. Last year the district achieved status as a local sponsor in the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, preserving farmland for the future. And the future is promising. The H2Ohio program is funded through the biennium and overall state funding for conservation remains stronger than it was just two years ago.



Maintaining Service During the Pandemic



About the District

The Ross Soil & Water Conservation District is governed by a publicly elected volunteer Board of Supervisors:

- **Brice Acton, Chairman**
- **Pam Petzel Snyder, Vice Chair**
- **Mike Anderson, Fiscal Agent**
- **Greg Ramsey, Secretary**
- **Rick Hurtt, Supervisor**

Soil & Water Conservation District staff assist Ross County residents with erosion, drainage and many conservation practices

- **JT Flowers, Wildlife Technician**
- **Ben Givens, Urban Technician**
- **Chris Pancake, Engineering Tech**
- **Greg Rouse, GIS Coordinator**
- **Bob Neal, District Administrator**

Soil & Water Conservation District staff cooperate with USDA NRCS personnel:

- **Landry Roe, District Conservationist**
- **Julie Kyle, Soil Technician**

Call **740-772-4110** (ext. 116)

email admin@rosscountyswcd.org

Visit the **Ross County Service Center Suite H**

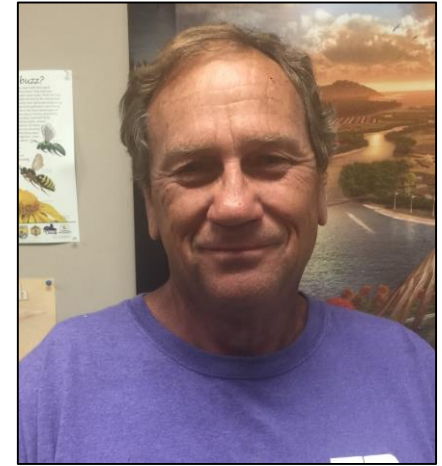
Ross Soil and Water Conservation District

475 Western Ave Ste H

Chillicothe OH 45601-2288

www.rosscountyswcd.org





Supervisors & Staff Members

