

2025 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK-MERCER SWCD

Mission: To protect and improve the soil, water resources and natural habitats in Mercer County; and, to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

Vision: To be the primary source of information and technical assistance related to soil and water conservation in Mercer County, Ohio.

Item 1: Water Management and wildlife

Goal: Provide technical assistance concerning flooding and water management while improving wildlife habitat.

| Action | Timeframe | Staff Involved | Measurable Goal |
|--|-----------|---|--|
| 1. Help cooperators develop water detention/retention plans. | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Develop 2 plans to alleviate flooding problems. |
| 2. Assist with flood mitigation | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Assist 5 individuals with options. |
| 3. Saturated Buffers | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Assists 1 individual with a plan. |
| 4. Wetlands | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Assists in the implementation of 2 wetland projects. |
| 5. Two-Stage Ditch | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Assist 1 group with a plan. |

Item 2: Nutrient Management

Goal: Provide technical assistance concerning the management of nutrients from agriculture facilities.

| Action | Timeframe | Staff Involved | Measurable Goal |
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| 1. Provide technical assistance for installation of animal waste management systems. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Assist with the installation of 2 animal waste structures. |
| 2. Assist local units of government and cooperators in dealing with manure complaints and allegations of improper manure application. | Ongoing | District Technicians, and Watershed Technicians | Investigate all reported complaints, enter the information into Beehive and review at board meetings. |
| 3. Develop CNMP's or NMP's that guide and evaluate producer's goals and identify BMP's for all cooperators. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Develop and/or update 30-40 plans. |
| 4. Assist with implementation of the distressed watershed rules. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Monitor all 120 producers in the GLSM watershed to ensure they are following the rules. |

Item 3: Water Quality and Erosion

Goal: Reduce soil erosion and sediment pollution and reduce nutrient loading into streams.

| Action | Timeframe | Staff Involved | Measurable Goal |
|---|-----------------|---|--|
| 1. Oversee the construction of grass waterways. | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Design and install 5 grass waterways. |
| 2. Oversee the construction of wetlands. | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Design and install 2 wetlands. |
| 3. Conduct tillage transects. | Spring & Winter | SWCD Staff | Complete winter & spring tillage transects for all of Mercer County. |
| 4. Two-Stage Ditch | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Design and install 1 two-stage ditch. |
| 5. Cascading Waterways/Wascobs | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Develop 2 plans. |
| 6. Cover Crops | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Provide information to 3 landowners as requested. |

Item 4: Drainage

Goal: Provide technical assistance to cooperators and contractors to improve drainage on properties.

| Action | Timeframe | Staff Involved | Measurable Goal |
|--|-----------|---|--|
| 1. Assist both voluntary and Petition groups on drainage projects. | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Complete 2 group tile projects per year. |
| 2. Provide technical assistance to individuals and the Engineer's office on drainage issues. | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Provide guidance on 5 projects as requested. |
| 3. Develop watershed maps. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Develop 50 maps as requested |
| 4. Two-Stage Ditch | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Complete instillation of 1 two-stage ditch project per year. |

Item 5: Outreach and Education

Goal: Provide education and information to students, the general public and partnering agencies to promote the conservation of our natural resources.

| Action | Timeframe | Staff Involved | Measurable Goal |
|---|-------------|---|--|
| 1. Organize AG Education Series on a variety of topics throughout the year. | Ongoing | District Administrator - Education Specialist | Hold 4 AG Education Series events. Work with a committee to develop a list of speakers and topics. |
| 2. Participate in Ag Solutions & LRC Meetings. | Ongoing | District Administrator - Education Specialist | Attend 4 Ag Solutions and/or LRC events and meetings. |
| 3. Provide reports for monthly LIA Meetings. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Attend 5 LIA meetings per year and provide an office update. |
| 4. Participate in WCSM's Spectrum program. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Be a guest on the program 4 times during the year. |
| 5. Assist landowners with maintenance of woodlots and contact with the area forester. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Provide information to 3 landowners if requested. |
| 6. Provide technical support and information for individuals building homes and/or businesses in rural areas. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Provide information to 6 homeowners if requested. |
| 7. Promote the District through social and traditional media outlets. | Ongoing | District Administrator - Education Specialist | Make 36 posts to the District Facebook page and submit 5 press releases/WCSM Memo. |
| 8. Provide Mercer County residents an opportunity to purchase tree seedlings and fish through our annual sales. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Submit press releases/WCSM Memo and post to Facebook. Send information to all county employees and tree email list. Mail to those requested. |
| 9. Develop an educational display for the Mercer County Fair. | Summer/Fall | SWCD Staff | Staff booth 5 hours per day during the fair. |
| 10. Organize and host All AG Banquet. | Fall | SWCD Staff | Host 100 guests at the 2025 celebration of conservation and agriculture. |
| 11. Present information and lessons on agriculture and conservation to school aged children as requested. | Ongoing | District Administrator - Education Specialist | Give a minimum of 12 presentations throughout the year. |
| 12. Provide assistance to local schools that participate in the Envirothon. | Ongoing | District Administrator - Education Specialist | Encourage 2 area school teams to attend the area IV event. |

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| 13. Assist in Area 4 Envirothon Event | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Send staff to Area 4 Envirothon Event to help with scoring, guiding, etc. |
| 14. Sponsor poster contest to coincide with Stewardship Week. | Ongoing | District Administrator - Education Specialist | Have the winners of the poster contest on a billboard sponsored by Mercer SWCD and sponsored Affiliate Members. |
| 15. Provide education and tree seedlings to all 3 rd graders through the T.R.E.E. program. | Spring | SWCD Staff | Visit all 7 elementary schools in the county, give lessons, booklet and seedling to the 3 rd graders. |
| 16. Offer two college scholarship to Mercer County students. | Winter/Spring | District Administrator - Education Specialist | Send scholarship information to 6 county schools, WSU-Lake Campus and media. |
| 17. Provide education programs at county 4-H Cloverbud Camp. | Ongoing | District Administrator - Education Specialist | Present 1 lesson to all campers at Mercer County 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp. |
| 18. Host county soils judging contest. | Fall | SWCD Staff | Offer event to all 6 Ag teachers and their students. |
| 19. Promote the installation of filter strips and cover crops. | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Send 2 press release/WCSM Memo and post to Facebook information on the impact of filter strips and cover crops. |
| 20. Promotion of the EQIP Program | Ongoing | SWCD Staff | Provide 6 post on Facebook about practices involved in the EQIP Program. |
| 21. Work with the Area Pheasants Forever Biologist | Ongoing | District Technicians, Watershed Technicians and District Engineer | Work along side the Pheasants Forever Biologist to recommend the instillation of Conservation Practices. |
| 22. Expand outreach of the H2Ohio Program | Ongoing | District Administrator - Education Specialist, District Technicians & H2Ohio Technician | Send 1 press release/WCSM Memo and provide information on the district Facebook page. |