



# Holmes Soil & Water Conservation District

*...your conservation connection!*

Holmes SWCD is dedicated to the goal of conserving the natural resources of our county by working with farmers and landowners to install practices to keep soil healthy and improve water quality.

## Time to Order Tree Seedlings!

The first week of January marks the beginning of Holmes SWCD's 2024 tree sale. This year's sale will run through **March 8, 2024**. A variety of coniferous, deciduous, and ornamental tree seedlings are available at reasonable prices. Whether you are looking to replenish your forest, create wildlife habitats or beautify your landscaping, a diverse seedling selection is available to help you meet your goals.

Last year, Holmes SWCD had a record breaking year, having sold, delivered, or planted **14,925 trees**. Let's make 2024 another banner year for planting trees in Holmes County! Mail in your order form to 62 West Clinton St, Millersburg, 44654 or call in your order (or any questions) to 330-674-2811, ext. 3. Tree seedling pick up will be **Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 8AM – 5:30 PM in the Dairy Wing of Harvest Ridge** (Holmes Co. Fairgrounds).

Can't make the pickup date? Don't forget that we offer delivery to Holmes County addresses for only \$15. If you are a teacher or school, delivery is FREE.

Order your seedlings **NOW**, as quantities are limited, and we often sell out of in-demand species.

## What is Local Work Group?

Local Work Group (LWG) is a cooperative annual meeting initiated by Holmes SWCD and NRCS. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit recommendations regarding local natural resource priorities. This includes the identification of pressing resource concerns that can be tackled by NRCS programs and how your local agencies can help with outreach and education regarding resource concerns. LWG is open to the public and this year it will be held in conjunction with Holmes Co. Farm Bureau's Policy Development Meeting at the Love Center in Millersburg in mid-March. This is YOUR opportunity to offer feedback to Holmes SWCD and NRCS; watch for more details.

## Women Owning Woodlands

Women Owning Woodlands (NCO WOW) programming will continue in 2024! We are organizing events throughout Northcentral Ohio, including "Woodworking 101", tree planting opportunities, Chainsaw Safety classes, and more! We will also share other opportunities to learn about woodlots, wildlife, and forestry skills-building that are developed by other organizations – Keep an eye out for our newsletter and on our social media channels!

Thanks to our Affiliate members, who support our education and outreach programs with their contributions!

### Platinum Contributors

Alpine Dairy  
Anonymous  
Helser Woodland Management  
Sweet Breeze Farms & Excavating

### Partners

Bobby Hershberger  
The Commercial & Savings Bank  
Holmes County Farm Bureau  
Loudonville Equity  
Spring Valley Road, LLC

### Annual Meeting Centerpieces

Troyer's Manufacturing  
Harvey's Market  
Richardson's Greenhouse  
Holmes County Farm Bureau  
Velvet View Ice Cream

### Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember:

**1st Week of Jan:** 2024 Tree Sale Order Forms available

**Jan. 13th:** Deadline for Christmas Tree Recycling—Drop Trees @ Holmes SWCD

**Feb. 6th, 20th & 27th:** Conservation & Coffee, See Back for More Info

**Jan. 25th-26th:** Ohio Grazing Conference @ Mt .Hope Event Center—Visit Our Booth!

**Jan. 25th:** Ag-Pro Expo @ Harvest Ridge—Visit Our Booth & Join Us for FREE Breakfast

**Mid-March** Holmes Co. Farm Bureau Policy Development & Local Work Group Mtg. @ The Love Center, Millersburg

**March 16th:** Pollinator Event @ Harvest Ridge, watch out for more details!

**April 4th:** Tree Sale Pick up @ Harvest Ridge

**May 16th:** Fish Orders Due

**May 23rd:** Fish Order Pick Up @ Holmes SWCD's Office, Millersburg, 10-11AM



## New Year, No Mud

Dealing with mud in the winter months can be a significant challenge for livestock managers. Mud can make even a simple task such as feeding, a time-consuming and miserable endeavor. There are several effective ways to beat the mud and mitigate its impact on livestock. These include:

- 1) Identifying Drainage Patterns: Identifying drainage patterns and where water is naturally traveling and ponding.
- 2) Maximizing Location: Directing water away from high-traffic areas (animal feed feeding and watering area, etc.) and away from bodies of water or other drainage areas.
- 3) Designing Infrastructure: A heavy use pad can range from a roofed, concrete pad to an unroofed, gravel pad. A gravel access road minimizes soil erosion and compaction and allows for ease of feeding. Geotextile fabric underneath good quality limestone is imperative to have a long-lasting and durable road for years to come.

Developing and designing this new system can seem overwhelming and insurmountable, but Holmes SWCD and NRCS are able to help with ideas, standards, and designs.

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is always accepting new applications, but the current funding batching date was recently announced as **February 16th**. This will be the deadline for your project to be considered for this year's funding. This program is a great opportunity to receive cost share funding to help make these practices possible for your operation. Josh Britton is the District Conservationist with NRCS and is available to answer questions or receive applications at 330-600-3103 or at [joshua.britton@usda.gov](mailto:joshua.britton@usda.gov).

## Interested in Conservation Education?

Are you interested in engaging and hands-on educational programming for students of all ages? If you are a teacher, we will come to your classroom and lead standards-based, conservation activities in your classroom. We offer activities regarding a variety of topics, including wildlife, water cycles, soil health and much more! Don't hesitate to reach out by calling 330-674-2811, ext. 3 or by emailing [holmes.swcd@gmail.com](mailto:holmes.swcd@gmail.com).

## Join Us For Conservation & Coffee!

Holmes SWCD is partnering with local farmers to host several on-farm meetings, throughout Holmes County. Our goal is to provide information about topics like nutrient management, water quality, conservation practices, along with resources for landowners and farmers in a small group conversational setting.

Three separate events are scheduled at the local farms below, all starting at 9am, with coffee and donuts provided by Holmes SWCD.

- **Tuesday Feb 6, Willis Miller Farm, 8457 CR 77 Fredericksburg 44627**
- **Tuesday Feb 20, Ivan J. & Duane Yoder Farm, 6121 CR 19 Millersburg 44654**
- **Tuesday Feb 27, Mose N Mast Farm, 2973 TR 182 Baltic 43804**

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call at 330-674-2811 extension 3.



## Cover Crop Wrap-Up

Holmes County is one of the 18 counties that participates in Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's cover-crop cost-share program. Local farmers - in partnership with Holmes SWCD - had another outstanding year, seeding over 2,000 acres of cover crop, aerially, while submitting another 4,500 acres for drilled cost share funding. This year's program once again highlighted how farmers in Holmes County prioritize soil health by investing in cover crops. Although work for the 2023 program just finished, Holmes SWCD staff are already looking forward to what we can achieve together through the cost-share program in 2024!

### Staff

Trevor Berger, Program Administrator  
Karen Gotter, Watershed Coordinator  
Darby Sherman, Conservation Specialist  
Joe Christner, Program Assistant  
Rebekah Schonauer, Administrative Coordinator  
Josh Britton, NRCS District Conservationist

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