



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US TODAY!

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SCIOTOSWCD.ORG

**CONSERVING, MAINTAINING, AND IMPROVING
SCIOTO COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES FOR
80 YEARS**

SCIOTO SWCD NEWSLETTER

SCIOTO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EST. 1946

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watershed Hikes

April 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 2026

Join us every Wednesday in April for an educational hike in the Scioto Brush Creek Watershed. Each week will meet at a new location. Check our facebook page for more details.

Tree Sale

April 3, 2026

On Friday April 3rd we will be distributing trees purchased during our tree sale. We will also be having a pop-up sale of a variety of trees. More information will be posted on our facebook the day of. Trees will be sold on a first come first serve basis.

Winter Farmers Market

April 4, 2026

Week 5 of the Winter Farmers Market will feature an egg hunt and info corner on Monarch butterflies.

Winter Farmers Market

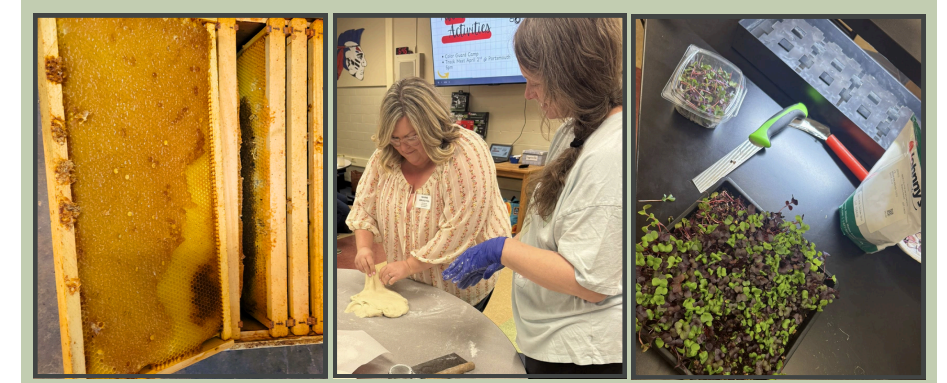
April 18, 2026

Week 6 of the Winter Farmers Market is agricultural themed, visit the soil and water table to be entered in a chance to win a free soil test.

Natural Portsmouth

April 18, 2026

Join us at the Scioto County Welcome center at 1pm to learn about the new Ohio River Birding Trail from ODNR.



2026 Conservation School

Last Thursday night, Northwest Middle School was transformed into a buzzing hub of self-sufficiency during our 2026 Conservation School.

This year's theme was homesteading basics. Attendees got to choose from classes on topics such as bread making, beekeeping, dehydrating, freeze-drying, jerky making, composting, microgreens, and raising chickens. The success of the night didn't only come from the information—you can find most of that on YouTube. It came from the connection. It turns out that in an increasingly digital world, people are starving for something tangible. They want to know that if the grocery store shelves were empty, they'd know exactly what to do with a bag of flour and a handful of seeds.

The energy was so infectious that we're already planning the next one. We're thinking of adding homestead carpentry and soap making to the roster.

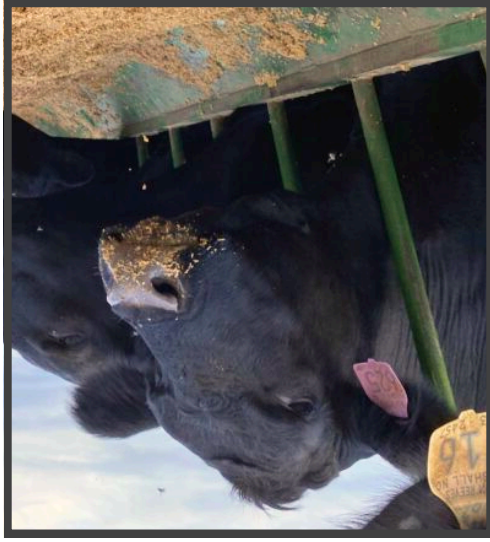
If this program proved anything, it's that the "homesteading" spirit isn't about moving to a 40-acre farm in the middle of nowhere. It's a mindset of independence and community that can start right in your own kitchen.

If you have class suggestions or are interested in leading a session please reach out to our education coordinator, Jess Dunn at Jessica.dunn.swcd@gmail.com or call 740-259-9231 ext. 4.



Thank you to this year's doorprize sponsors!

- Wrights Farm Center
- Portsmouth Feed & Supply
- Gerlachs Farm & Feed
- The Barnyard
- Horner Homestead
- Williams Feed & Supply
- Lowes of Wheelersburg



Feed Analysis Test Packages

Feed analysis test is a crucial laboratory analysis that determines the nutrient levels (protein, energy, fiber, minerals) in animal feed. We can help you balance livestock rations, identify nutrient gaps, prevent health issues, and calculate the economic value of your feed. Our tests analyze moisture, crude protein (CP), Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF), Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF), fat, ash, and minerals (Ca, P, Mg, K, S).

Basic packages start out at \$35. Call or stop by for more details

Soil Tests

The Conservation District offers a variety of soil tests for your crop, pasture, hay ground, gardens, lawn and more. A soil test can go a long way in determining the current pH and nutrient levels of your soil, helping you to apply the proper amounts of fertilizer.

BIG PROPERTY? NO PROBLEM.



LET US TAKE THE SAMPLE FOR YOU



Tick Talk:

Biting Back Against Bites

OSU South Centers 1864 Shyllie Rd., Piketon, OH 45661

We need to talk...

The days are getting longer, and warmer, and nature is inviting us back outside. Spring is here and so are the ticks. As a kid, I was told that harsh winters can reduce tick populations. I recently learned that this is not true.

We had a very cold winter this year and I have already removed 2 ticks from myself and several from my two dogs. Tick-borne diseases are becoming more prevalent in humans and animals in our area. Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Alpha-gal diagnoses are on the rise. Ohio has about 12 tick species identified throughout the state, and currently 5 of those tick species are of medical consequence.

Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District has partnered with OSU Extension and Pike County SWCD to share some very important information about ticks in Ohio. Dr. Tim McDermott from Ohio State University will be speaking about how ticks affect humans, pets, and livestock and what you can do to minimize their impact on you and more.

There is no cost to attend this program, but pre-registration is required and can be completed by going to:

go.osu.edu/2026ticktalk



Feeling Lucky?

Morel Mushroom Season in Ohio is just around the corner. These elusive and highly sought-after delicacies are about to make their appearance in Southern Ohio. With the right knowledge and a bit of luck, you can experience the thrill of finding your own stash of morels.

The morel mushroom (*Morchella* spp.) is a unique and distinctive fungus, instantly recognizable by its honeycomb-like cap. Morel season in Ohio typically begins in late March or early April, often coinciding with the first signs of spring. Their emergence is closely tied to soil temperature and moisture, with a series of warm, wet days followed by cool nights often triggering a "flush" of growth.

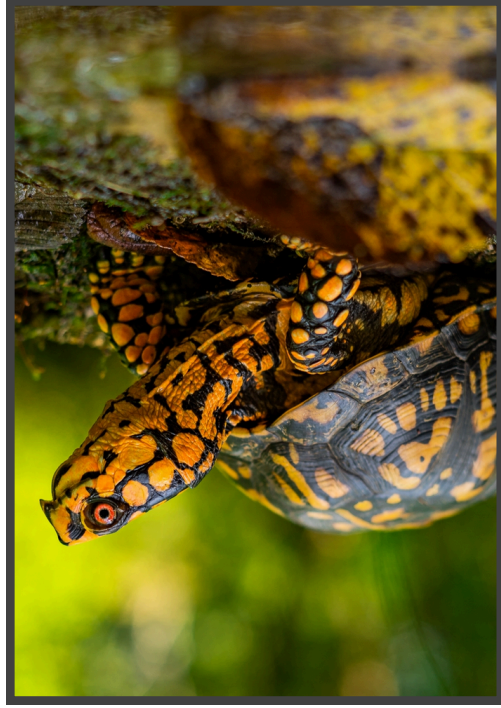
The key to a successful morel hunt lies in understanding their preferred habitat. Morels are often found in deciduous forests, particularly near certain tree species like ash, elm, and sycamore. They are also known to frequent old orchards and areas where the ground has been disturbed, such as recently logged or in previously burned-over patches.

While the thrill of the hunt is undeniable, it's crucial to practice ethical and sustainable foraging. Always respect any regulations in place for public parks or forests and avoid over-harvesting from a single area, and only take what you can realistically use. The reward of a successful morel hunt is, of course, the taste. Morels have a deep, earthy, and nutty flavor that is truly unique. They are incredibly versatile in the kitchen, and their honeycomb cap is perfect for catching sauces and glazes. Some popular ways to prepare morels include:

- Sautéed: Simply cook them in butter with garlic and herbs.
- In Pasta: Toss them with pasta and a light cream sauce.
- On Pizza: Use them as a topping for a gourmet pizza.
- In Risotto: Add them to a creamy risotto for an earthy flavor profile.

For those who want to learn more about morel mushrooms and celebrate the season, Ohio is home to several mushroom festivals, including the Mesick Mushroom Festival, which typically takes place in mid-May.

-Jess Dunn, Conservation Educator



Wildlife Spotlight Eastern Box Turtle

The box turtle gets its name from its hinged lower shell, which can be drawn tightly against the upper shell. This "boxes in" the turtle for protection. Their shells may carry a wide variety of markings. Usually it is dark brown or black, accented with some combination of yellow streaks. Males usually have red eyes and a longer tail than females.

The reproductive biology of turtles is fascinating. The sex of all Eastern Box turtles is dependent on the temperature at which the eggs develop. In the wild, warmer eggs at the top of a nest may all hatch out as females, while cooler eggs at the bottom hatch out as males. Incubation of the eggs usually lasts 3 months.

During the heat of summer, this extremely gentle animal spends the day hidden beneath rotting logs, decaying leaves, and other plant debris, venturing out only during early morning or evening.

Watch out for this threatened species as you drive through wooded areas this spring and summer. (OhioDnr.gov)