

SCIOTO SWCD NEWSLETTER

SCIOTO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EST. 1946



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US TODAY!

740-259-9231

12167 STATE ROUTE 104
LUCASVILLE, OHIO 45648

SCIOTOSWCD.ORG

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



**CONSERVATION SCHOOL:
HOMESTEADING BASICS**

RAISE. GROW. PRESERVE. EAT

COME LEARN FROM LOCAL PRESENTERS AND CONNECT WITH OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH INTERESTS IN HOMESTEADING. THE EVENING WILL START WITH A SOUP AND SANDWICH DINNER.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Farmers Market

March 7, 2026

Week 3 of the Winter Farmers Market will feature container farming demonstrations and free seed packets.

Winter Farmers Market

March 21, 2026

Week 4 of the Winter Farmers Market will feature how to sow directly into soil and growing peppers.

Conservation School

March 26, 2026

Join us for this year's Conservation School at Northwest Middle School. This year's theme is homesteading. Check our facebook and website for more information.



Seeds of Connection

This winter, local businesses across Scioto County are coming together with a shared purpose: to create more opportunities for the community to connect, learn, and grow. The newly announced Scioto County Winter Farmers Market aims to carry the warmth and energy of the beloved summer markets into the colder months.

The market will feature a variety of vendors offering handmade and homegrown goods. It will also focus on education and community building. All are welcome to join in for a hands-on seed planting experience. Whether you've been gardening for years or are just starting to explore growing your own food, there's a place for you at the table.

They will have everything you need to get started — seed trays, soil, a wide variety of seeds, easy-to-follow care instructions, helpful recipes for your harvest, and even extra seeds to take home.

Hands-on classes include milk jug planting, cold weather veggies, kitchen herbs, container gardening, lettuce mixes, sowing into soil, peppers, tomatoes, square foot gardening, and annual and perennial flowers. Check out their Facebook page for more information or stop by the market the first and third Saturday of February, March, and April at the New Boston Community Center connected to the New Boston DMV.

Kim Baker and other Master Gardener Volunteers, will be at every market.



Feel free to stop by anytime between 11-3 to plant and learn alongside them.

Locals Pack in for Conservation

For the Friends of Scioto Brush Creek annual meeting, dozens of locals packed the house to hear Dr. Laura Kearns, wildlife biologist with the ODNR's Division of Wildlife speak about the Recovery of Ohio's Bald Eagle population. To learn more about the Friends group and local conservation efforts in the Scioto Brush Creek Watershed, visit their Facebook page.



The mission of FoSBC is to maintain and improve the water quality of Scioto Brush Creek through education, awareness and involvement of local residents.



A Bald Eagle Love Story

In the trees of Big Bear Lake, a love story unfolds each year, captivating hearts both near and far. It's the tale of Jackie and Shadow, two Bald Eagles whose devotion to each other and their eaglets has become a beloved tradition to watch all over the country. The Bald Eagle is well known not only as a symbol of the United States, but also for its strong pair bonds. Bald eagles typically mate for life, forming long-term partnerships that can last 20 years or more. Once a male and female choose each other, they return to the same nesting territory year after year. As we celebrate Valentines day in Mid-February, our Eagles are busy preparing their nest in anticipation of laying, hatching and the eventual fledging of their young. Jackie and Shadow stand as a beacon of enduring love in the wild. Their story reminds us that true partnership is about shared responsibilities, mutual support, and a deep, abiding love. Check out their live stream at FriendsOfBigBearValley.org.

Got Rain?



ONLY \$40

Our office has Rain barrels on sale!



Buzzing about Education

Danielle Taylor represented Scioto SWCD at a recent professional development opportunity for local educators. Scioto County Farm Bureau has collaborated with South Central Ohio ESC, OSU Extension-Scioto County, Scioto County Beekeepers Association, Fuhrmann's Orchard, Scioto County Soil & Water Conservation District, and KB Flower Farm to develop a comprehensive curriculum. "What's All The Buzz About" is a training program designed to educate teachers on the significance of bees and pollination, which they can then implement in their respective districts and classrooms. The primary objectives of this initiative are to integrate literacy, science standards, and local agriculture while fostering connections with local experts and exploring community resources. By collaborating with fellow educators, the goal is to create a shared curriculum resource for future use, with a focus on appreciating the importance of bees. All districts in Scioto County have received a resource kit, made possible by a grant from the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation. Also pictured is local bee guy and Scioto county apiary inspector, Carl Helton, of the Scioto County Bee Keeper's Association. This is a public group that meets the third thursday of each month at 6pm in the farm service building on 104. Check out the Scioto County Bee Keepers Association Facebook page for more information.



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



Wildlife Spotlight

The bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), an intriguing wild cat species historically native and common throughout Ohio, became extirpated from the state around 1850 due to habitat loss and over-hunting. They slowly began making a comeback in the mid- 1900's with the regrowth of forested areas in unglaciated parts of Ohio. Today they are common in the eastern and southern parts of Ohio.

Bobcats can utilize a wide range of habitat types with adequate prey and cover available. In general, they are strictly carnivores preying mainly on small mammals. They will also feed on white-tailed deer, insects, reptiles, birds and fish.

Bobcats up to 40 lbs. in weight are not unheard of, but generally adults are in the 20-30 lb. size with males being larger than females. Overall, they are solitary animals, with interactions limited to breeding season, which occurs December through May with the average litter size being 2-3 kittens.

Bobcats are a very elusive and primarily crepuscular species, so spotting one is not easy. Finding a good place to scout out along a forest or brushy area during the early dawn hours can be a successful way to catch a glimpse of this fascinating creature. Even though the bobcat population is becoming well-established, they are currently still a protected species with no established hunting or trapping season.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife stated that a multiyear study by researchers at Ohio University recently concluded that limited harvest regulations could be implemented in the state without negatively affecting the long-term viability of the bobcat population. This won't be part of the 2026-27 trapping season but it's possible that, as soon as next year, steps could be taken toward allowing legal bobcat trapping.

-Scott Lewis, Wildlife Technician