



Perry Soil and Water Conservation District  
 212 S. Main Street  
 New Lexington, OH  
 43764  
 Phone: 740-743-1325  
 www.perryswcdohio.org

Non-Profit Organization  
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 43764  
 Permit No. 16

Mission: To increase public awareness and provide technical assistance in conserving our soil, water, and other natural resources.

All SWCD & NRCS programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or handicap

**MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
 &  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
 FROM  
 PERRY SWCD  
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 AND  
 STAFF

December 2024

# PERRY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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<b>District Staff:</b>	<b>NRCS Staff:</b>	<b>ODA Staff:</b>
David Snider	Joe Koehler	Amy Boyer
Penny Cox	Dave Grum	Bethani Chambers
Theresa Wyer	Timira Lockheart	

## UPDATES FROM NRCS

Timira Lockheart, Resource Conservationist

Howdy to all of Perry County!

There are a few updates that I'd like to give regarding our programs and the Emergency Conservation Program from the Farm Service Agency.

First, I'll touch on the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). The sign up for the program is now open until December 24, 2024. The program focuses on-building water systems that have failed due to the current extreme drought conditions; the practices offered include wells, spring development, pipeline, etc. To be considered eligible for the program, you must have a failed water source on your ground and have an established customer profile over at the Farm Service Agency. The NRCS will assist with the program in completing field visits and providing the engineering plans for the practices that have been deemed feasible after the initial visit. To sign-up or receive more information, please contact the Fairfield-Perry County Farm Service Agency at (740) 653-1500 or visit them at 831 College Avenue STE A, Lancaster, OH 43130.

A new Adjusted Gross Income form has also been released by the Farm Service Agency! Please complete the form and return it to you local office to keep your eligibility up to date; if not, it may effect with payments and modifications!

Next, I'll give a couple of updates regarding NRCS programs. Currently, we are accepting applications to be run in the 2025 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); the sign-up cutoff date is on January 31, 2025. We do have a lot of opportunities for funding with the inclusion of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds, so please come in to see your options within our programs. To all the folks that have a current EQIP or CSP contract, it is now time to get your documentation together for the past year and submit to the office to start processing payments. If you have any issues with your contract, please reach out the office and we can initiate modifications to better accommodate your needs. This is our time to clean up and catch up on the status of all our contracts, so if you need any assistance, please contact the office.

There is an upcoming event, the Ohio No-Till Conference on December 4, 20224 at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH. Presale tickets are available on Eventbrite for \$50. The full address is as follows: 445 South Jefferson (US Route 42), Plain City, Ohio.

Thank you all and I hope everyone enjoys the Christmas Season!

Timira

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me:  
 740-743-4045 (office)  
 740-684-8793 (cell)  
 timira.lockheart@usda.gov

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## BUSY FALL!

It has been a busy fall for this ole' Educator. I wouldn't have it any other way.

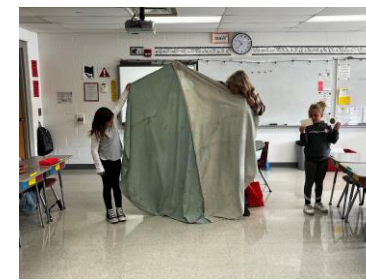
Here are some photos of the activities that took place this fall.



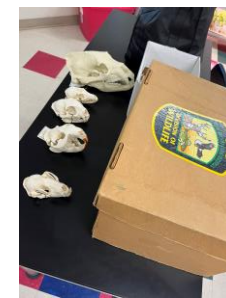
New Lexington's Mrs. Hopple's 7<sup>th</sup> grade students visited several sites around Perry County to do water testing. This group is doing a project about microplastics in our water.



Crookville's Mrs. Fox class participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Weathering and Erosion program. Here they are doing weathering and erosion activities.



Thornville's Mrs. Fodor's 4<sup>th</sup> graders learned about weathering/erosion and soil through a presentation and hands on activities.



Crookville's Mrs. Davis' 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Wonders of Wildlife program where they learned about food webs, predator/prey relationships and adaptations.

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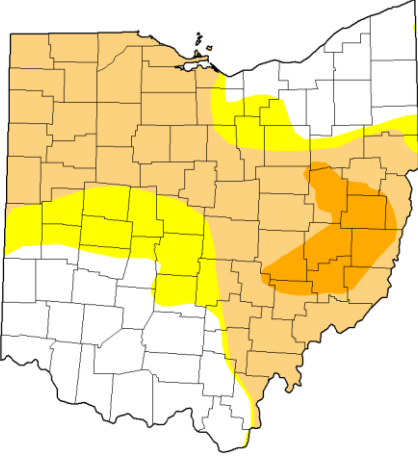


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Map released: Thurs. December 5, 2024  
Data valid: December 3, 2024 at 7 a.m. EST


**Intensity**

- None**
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
- D1 (Moderate Drought)**
- D2 (Severe Drought)**
- D3 (Extreme Drought)**
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
- No Data**

**Authors**  
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):  
• [David Simeral](#), Western Regional Climate Center  
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):  
• [Denise Gutzmer](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

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## CONSERVATIONISTS' CORNER

One of the most important books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century would be "A Sand County Almanac" written by conservationist Aldo Leopold. It is a collection of essays about the beauty and ecological importance of the natural world and emphasizing the importance of conservation and environmental ethics.

Who is Aldo Leopold and how did he come up with this valuable piece of work.

Aldo Leopold was called the "Father of Wildlife and the U.S. wilderness system." He was a conservationist, forester, philosopher, educator, writer, and outdoor enthusiast. Leopold graduated from the Yale Forest School in 1909 and spent much of his youth observing, journaling, and sketching nature. He enthusiastically pursued a career within the newly established United States Forest Service. Aldo worked in Arizona and New Mexico's National Forests and then was promoted to supervisor of the Carson National Forest in New Mexico. In 1924, he served an important role in turning the Gila National Forest into the nation's first wilderness area. That same year, he was transferred to Madison, Wisconsin where in 1933 published his first wildlife management textbook. In 1935, Leopold and his family began experimenting in ecological restoration at an exhausted farm along the Wisconsin River. They planted thousands of pine trees and restoring prairies there.

He wrote a great deal about what he learned and saw at "the Shack". He died of a heart attack on April 21, 1948, just one week after learning that his book, "A Sand County Almanac," would be published. With over 2 million copies in print, it remains one of the most respected and influential books about the environment.



***"Conservation is a state of Harmony between men and land."***

***"The oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land, without spoiling it."***

***"Land is not merely soil, it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants, and animals."***

***"The first law of intelligent tinkering, is to save all the parts."***

