



AGENDA

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners:
Steven A. Davis
Jeffrey M. Fix
David L. Levacy

County Administrator
Aundrea N. Cordle

Deputy County Administrator
Jeffrey D. Porter

Clerk
Rochelle Menningen

Roundtable - Elected Officials/Department Heads

February 25, 2025 ~ 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster

Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the roundtable discussion is to facilitate the review, discussion, and analysis of topics with relevance for Fairfield County elected officials and department heads. It is a time to provide information, network with peers, and plan.

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Welcome | County Commissioners
<i>Steven A. Davis</i>
<i>Jeffrey M. Fix</i>
<i>David L. Levacy</i> |
| 2. 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, Final Review | <i>Aundrea Cordle and Angela Krile</i> |
| 3. County Updates | |
| a. Contracting Routing, Competitive Bidding, & HB 497 | <i>Austin Lines</i> |
| b. County Website, Updated Bid Tab | <i>Bennett Niceswanger</i> |
| c. Leadership Conference | <i>Jeffrey Porter</i> |
| 4. Break | |
| 5. Departmental Updates | All Participants |

ADJOURN

Next Roundtable is July 15, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Center

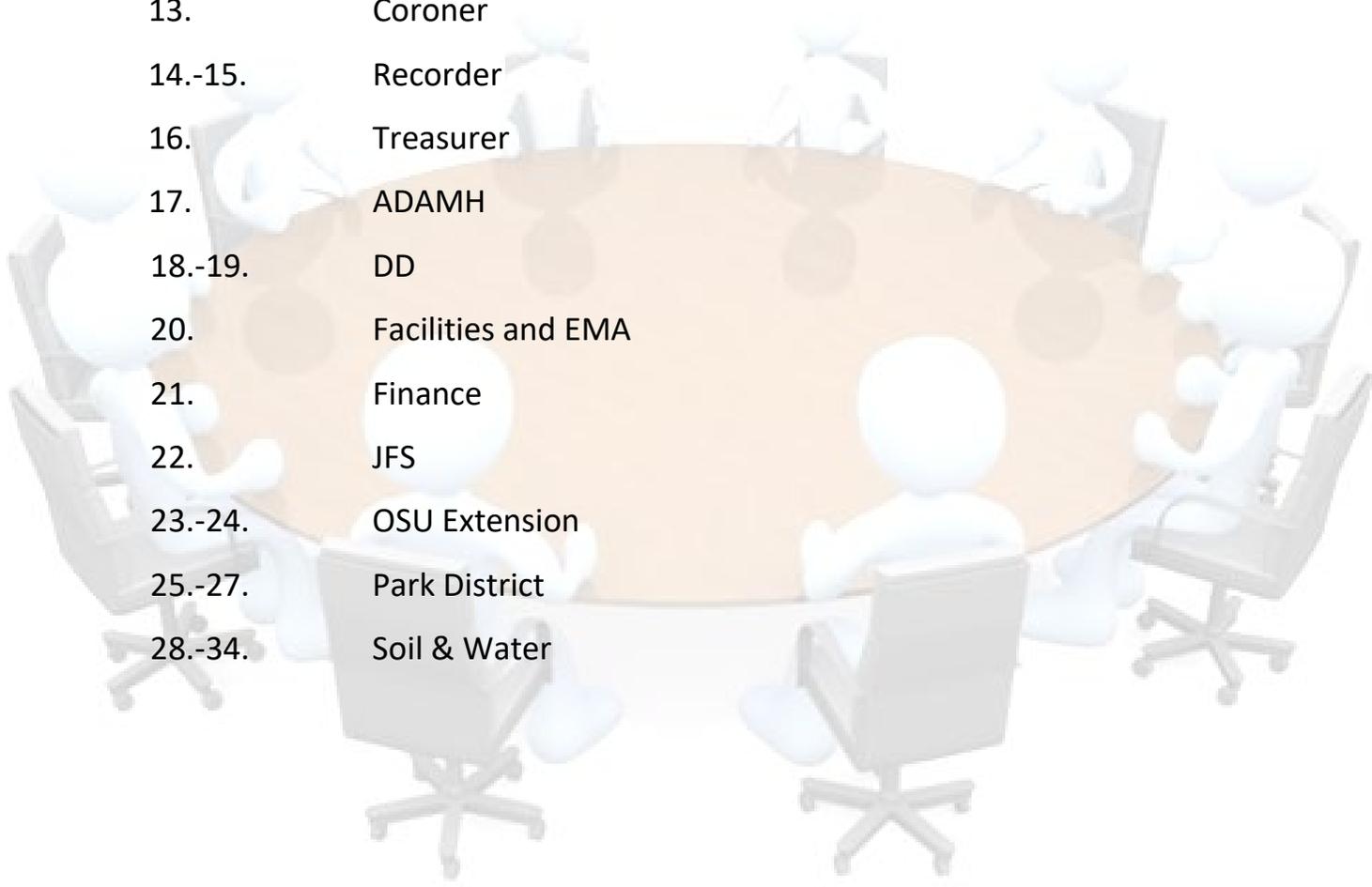
If you have suggestions for topics to address during the next Roundtable, please contact: Aunie Cordle, Aundrea.Cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

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Roundtable Index

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

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 - 20. Facilities and EMA
 - 21. Finance
 - 22. JFS
 - 23.-24. OSU Extension
 - 25.-27. Park District
 - 28.-34. Soil & Water

AUDITOR'S LEDGER:

News from the County Auditor's Office



From the Desk of County Auditor Carri Brown

Good things are ahead! Our team here at the Auditor's Office is invigorated and energized by the incredible community that surrounds us. Our appreciation for this inspiration has led to a few new initiatives, which you will read about in this newsletter. The first is a new spotlight, Causes We Care About, that highlights the causes our team is deeply passionate about and directly involved in. We believe in the importance of serving, connecting and protecting our community beyond working hours. We look forward to sharing these passions that bring us so much joy and fulfillment. We also will begin featuring community partnerships within our office as part of the Community Partnership Corner feature. We kick off this feature highlighting March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Please take a moment to read more in the article below.

In this edition, we are also pleased to share about a prestigious National Excellence in Government Leadership Award. We also highlight important information related to office communications, including the recent Homestead mailer, Board of Revision Complaint deadline, information about what constitutes a community authority and more. We're looking forward to Sunshine Week, which will be held March 16-22.

If you missed a previous issue of our newsletter, you will find all of them posted online. We encourage you to visit our websites for ongoing updates and important information:

- [General County Auditor Information](#)
- [Real Estate Assessment Information](#)

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carri L. Brown".

Carri Brown, PhD, MBA, CGFM
County Auditor

News From the Auditor's Office

Fairfield County Auditor, Dr. Carri L. Brown earns National "Excellence in Government Leadership" Award

Dr. Carri L. Brown, the County Auditor in Fairfield County, Ohio, has been awarded the 2025 Excellence in Government Leadership Award by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) for her visionary leadership and exceptional contributions to governmental accounting. She received this prestigious recognition at the national AGA conference held in Washington, D.C., on February 20.

Dr. Brown was nominated by Tiffany Ridenbaugh, Special Investigations Officer with Auditor of State Keith Faber's Office. The award honors individuals whose leadership, achievements, and service have advanced financial management in government, strengthened the association, and improved communities.



Expressing gratitude for the award, Dr. Brown highlighted her more than three-decade-long relationship with AGA, emphasizing the organization's role in providing education and networking opportunities. She credited her team at the Fairfield County Auditor's Office for their daily dedication and collaboration with citizens and stakeholders. Dr. Brown's commitment to fostering a culture of growth, education, and financial stewardship stands as an inspiration to others in the public sector.

For more information about Dr. Brown's work or the Fairfield County Auditor's Office, you can visit the official website (www.co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor/) or contact Rachel Elsea, Communications Officer, at rachel.elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

Homestead Mailer Distributed

Fairfield County residents who participate in the Homestead Program for property tax reductions in the state of Ohio will be receiving a letter in the mail from Dr. Carri L. Brown, County Auditor.

The letter will include a continuing application for Homestead exemption. **Residents need to complete the application ONLY if they have any changes to report that affect their Homestead exemption.** If no changes have occurred, there is no need to return this form.

“We are highlighting this mailing because of the relatively large number of residents who will receive the letter, and we want people to know they can call the office if they have any questions,” stated Kayla Speakman, Deputy Auditor and team lead for the Homestead Program.



Ohio's Homestead Program allows senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans that meet annual state set income requirements to reduce their property tax burden by shielding some of the market value of their home from taxation.

The income requirements in Ohio are that the total household income does not exceed \$40,000 per year if applying in 2025. The income for the program includes the Ohio adjusted gross income of the owner and the owner's spouse.

Specific questions about the Homestead Program can be addressed by calling the Auditor's Office at (740) 652-7020.

Board of Revision Complaint Deadline is March 31st

The deadline to file complaints against the valuation of real property is March 31, 2025.

For complaint forms and more information on filing, visit: [Authority of BOR: Introduction](#).



The Reappraisal Process
FACT SHEET

The Reappraisal Process

Because market values change over time as properties are bought and sold, Ohio law requires each home in the state go through a reappraisal process every six years. In addition, every three years, the appraisal is updated. There are six general steps in the reappraisal process:

- 1. Collection** - With reappraisals that happen every six years, the County Auditor contacts with a state registered appraisal firm to update property characteristics every approximately a two-year period. These reappraisals evaluate property characteristics, such as land size/ type, building size, age, condition, room counts, and other data.
- 2. Analysis** - The County Auditor's office takes care to ensure property information is correct and that each property is assessed in a fair and uniform manner. The office works to establish neighborhood boundaries then looks at historic trends and actual sales over the last three years within these boundaries to determine the estimated fair market value of properties.
- 3. Setting** - The estimated fair market value is used as the gauge when valuing property and setting the appraisal. Fair market value is defined as the most probable price each property would be estimated to sell for in an open market between a willing buyer and a willing seller, neither being under any pressure to buy or sell, and all parties having full knowledge of all relevant facts about the property.
- 4. Feedback** - When the County Auditor announces the completion of property valuations, notices are sent to homeowners and all records are made available for public inspection. Homeowners who have questions or concerns about their valuation may arrange a face-to-face meeting with a representative of the County Auditor to discuss their valuation. Homeowners are requested to submit documentation for any requested change.
- 5. Review** - Once the valuations go through the feedback process, they are sent to the assessor for review and validation. The assessor has the authority to request that each county modify their valuations if deemed necessary.
- 6. Finalization** - When the County Auditor completes the property valuations, records are made available for public inspection.

Setting a time to provide feedback about your property valuation

During a reappraisal process, some property values go up, some go down and some stay the same. Taxes are mostly determined by rates, applying for loans. With the reappraisal, it does not necessarily mean taxes will increase the way the valuation increased. When thinking about the valuation, some may want to provide feedback about their valuation.

When providing feedback about your property valuation, some questions to consider are:

- Do you feel an error has been made in your appraisal?
- Do you feel the appraised value is more than what the property would sell for?
- Do you feel the appraisal missed something that might lower the valuation?

Property owners can appeal valuations informally or formally. Informal meetings give homeowners opportunity to meet with an appraiser and correct any mistakes or raise any questions.

Property owners also have a formal appeal route. "Board of Revision" complaints must be filed by March 31, and there are specific rules surrounding this process.

To set up a time to provide feedback about your property valuation, contact the County Auditor's Office at (740) 652-7020. To learn more, go to <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor>

co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor • FairCoAuditor • FairfieldCountyAuditor • FairCoAuditor • fairfield-county-auditor

What is a New Community Authority?

A **new community authority** is a separate public body governed by a board of trustees that oversees, coordinates, constructs and finances public infrastructure improvements and community facilities.

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 349 provides the authority and procedures for forming and governing a new community authority.

These bodies are often thought of as a **public-private partnership** and can include plans for facilities for **industrial, commercial, residential,**



cultural, educational and/or recreational activities.

Generally, a new community authority is:

- **Designed to encourage the orderly development of an economically sound, new community (or an additional part of an existing community).**
- **Developer-driven.**
 - Acreage is owned or controlled by the developer.
 - If there are leases with the developer, they must be for 75 years or more.
 - The developer is represented on the board of trustees.
 - There is no minimum acreage if the new community authority is formed after March 22, 2019.
- **Created by a petition filed by the developer with an organizing board, which is a different board than the board of trustees for the new community authority. Such organizing board could be a board of county commissioners or another body.**
 - The petition must include a plan that sets forth a development program.
 - The organizing board holds a public hearing and evaluates how the new community authority's creation is favorable.
- **Revenue generating, through an assessment that provides a special benefit.**
 - The assessment can be based on acreage (such as what could be imagined with housing developments), millage (perhaps with recreational projects), income, or other variables - or combinations of variables. There is flexibility in how the assessment can be designed by the new community authority.
 - **The new community authority certifies to the county auditor its assessment by parcel and amount.** Assessments are placed on a property tax bill like other assessments are placed on property tax bills, and the new community authority is responsible for explaining its assessments to payors. Contact information for the new community authority should be provided to the county auditor and the county treasurer. The county treasurer will collect the assessments that are placed on property tax bills.
 - New community authorities may also issue bonds.

A new community authority, though, cannot offer traditional governmental services.

Sunshine Week

March 16-22 is Sunshine Week. Sunshine Week is a non-partisan collaboration to shine light on the importance of public records and open government. The Auditor's Office believes government transparency is of the utmost importance and is honored to participate in Sunshine Week.

Check our LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and website during the week of March 16th for daily posts related to local government services.



Community Connections

Map of the Month - Revenge, Ohio

Revenge, Ohio was a farming town in the late 1800's. Revenge was located in Madison Township, Fairfield County, at the southern end of Revenge Road (County Hwy 26) where it meets Clearcreek Road (Country Hwy 69).

The original general store still stands near the intersection and is now a private residence. As the story goes, the town was named for George C. Kocher (1856-1928) who was the general store owner at the time and later justice of the peace for a few years. He had a disagreement with another nearby store owner, probably about what the town should be named, and won some sort of contest to settle their differences along with the right to name the town. George served as the town's first postmaster and his grave can be found a few miles north of Hopewell Cemetery. Revenge had a post office from 1883-1905. (from <https://ohioghosttowns.org/Fairfield-county>)

Another take on the story...

Two business partners were co-owners of a store elsewhere in the County. A dispute occurred which resulted in the business partners splitting ties and going separate ways. One of the gentlemen opened a new store and named it Revenge, as it was his way of getting back at his former business partner.

Visit our website for a zoomable version of the [March Map of the Month](#).



Community Partnership Corner - March is DD Awareness Month

Did you know the first Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month was recognized in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan?

In his proclamation, dated February 27, 1987, President Reagan stated, “For many of these people with developmental disabilities there is now the prospect of a brighter future and greater opportunity. Americans are becoming increasingly aware that such disabilities need not keep individuals from realizing their full potential in school, at work or at home, as members of their families and of their communities.” His proclamation encouraged “appropriate observances and activities directed toward increasing public awareness of the needs and the potential of Americans with developmental disabilities.” He ended the proclamation with these words, “I urge all Americans to join me in affording to our fellow citizens with such disabilities both encouragement and the opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.”



For information regarding Fairfield County’s Board of Developmental Disabilities, including their annual Celebration of Possibilities event, visit the [Celebration of Possibilities webpage](#).

Getting to Know Our Team

Causes We Care About

Our office is highlighting causes close to the hearts of our team. Stacy Knight, Map Room Technician, is a member of TWIG 1. TWIG 1 runs the Cancer Care Run held the 2nd Saturday in October. Money raised from this event supports the Fairfield Medical Center Foundation's Cancer Care Fund. This fund helps provide patients with nutritional supplants; diagnostic and preventive treatments; wigs; and other necessary items that are not covered by insurance.

Stacy told the group, "As a cancer survivor, I'm always looking for ways to assist those recently diagnosed with cancer. I was thrilled to be invited to a TWIG 1 meeting and learn how much they support the Cancer Care Center at Fairfield Medical Center. This year's donation was \$11,000."

The 2025 Cancer Care Run will take place Saturday, October 11 at Marten's Park. TWIGs are auxiliary groups that raise money in support of Fairfield Medical Center. For more information on the FMC TWIGs, visit [their webpage](#).

TWIG 1 Makes Generous Donation to FMC Foundation

TWIG 1, the first community TWIG established in 1948, gathered last week to present the FMC Foundation and Foundation Board members with a generous donation of \$11,000. The money raised by the TWIG's annual Cancer Care Run, supports the FMC Foundation's Cancer Care Fund. This fund provides everything from basic nutritional supplements, diagnostic and preventative treatments, to wigs and other necessary items not covered by health insurance. FMC Foundation is truly grateful for the dedication and support of the members of TWIG 1 and all the FMC TWIGS that provide vital funding for programs and services in our region.



Pictured (L to R): Beth Bell, Holly Uhl, Sharon Scruggs, Beth Tatman, Amy Sampson-Swinehart, Diane Stuckey, Amanda Stuckey, Risha Wagner, Reese Campbell, Denise Bauer, Stacy Knight, Christa Moody, Phil Settecase, Craig Vandervoort

June 3, 2024

Volume N. 679

February Birthdays

Curt – 11
Jess – 18
Lori H. – 22
Michelle - 26



Resources



Follow Your Auditor's Office On
Social Media!

Did you know we have over 4,275 followers across our four social media platforms? If you're not one of those 4,275, you should join and follow!

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)

Public Records Requests



The mode response time for public records requests to the County Auditor's Office is within one day. If you have a request, please contact Rachel Elsea at rachel.elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

Frequently Used Forms

Most of the County Auditor forms can be found on our website.

[Search Forms](#)

March Dates of Interest

- 3: CAUV Renewal Applications Due
- 8: International Women's Day
- 16-22: Sunshine Week
- 31: Board of Revision Application Deadline

SAVE THE DATE

March 10-16 - Sunshine Week

Fairfield County Auditor's Office | [Website](#)



Fairfield County Auditor's Office | 108 North High Street | Lancaster, OH 43130 US

Trainings Coming Soon!

What is DocLink?

DocLink is a submission management system to simplify processes, automate workflows, and support organizational compliance, making it easier for you to work with the Auditor's Office.

How it Works

Connect with the Auditor's Office through a secured web-based solution, replacing email submissions for:

- Budget commission
- Tax settlement distributions
- Local government distributions

Get the documents you need, complete them and upload straight to our team.

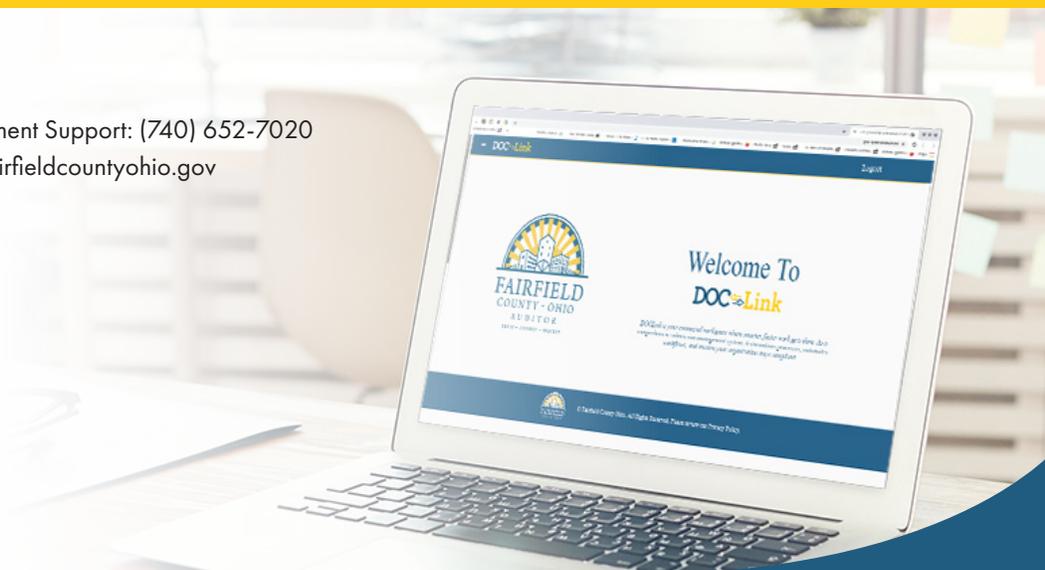
Solution Features

- Interactive dashboard
- Special announcements
- Interactive calendar with reminder notifications
- Resource/training links and documentation
- Role-based user access

Video tutorials are coming soon!

Questions?

Contact Local Government Support: (740) 652-7020
or localgovsupport@fairfieldcountyohio.gov





OFFICE OF THE CORONER

L. Brian Varney, M.D., Coroner

Commissioner's Roundtable

2/25/2025

Fairfield County Coroner's Office

- Kelly Frank, Administrator, attended Ohio Suicide Fatality Review Best Practices Summit on November 12, 2024.
- OVRS (Ohio Vital Records System) – “Go-live” of Ohio’s new vital records system to record births and deaths has been postponed from its original January 1, 2025. “Go-live” for the OVRS death certificate model has been rescheduled for July 1, 2025.
- Kelly Frank, Administrator and Mike Hardway, Chief Investigator attended and completed 16 hours in Death Investigation for the First Officer and/or Supervisor on the Scene Seminar February 19-20th.
- Congratulations and best wishes to Luann Davidson on her retirement!



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Fairfield County Recorder

Wednesday February 12th - Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Clerk of Court, Branden Meyer; and Judge Terre Vandervoort presented an overview of the Good Deeds Program to the Fairfield County Bar Association. The intention of the presentation was to gain feedback and participation in the program from local attorneys before taking the initiative to the public. There was a lot of discussion, and we look forward to the feedback and getting the program rolling.

Thursday February 13th -the Recorder's office hosted our recording vendor Fidlar and Recorders from southern Ohio for a user group meeting. We were pleased to offer guest speakers both in person and virtually and have valuable discussions on what we are doing now in our counties and future opportunities.



Lisa McKenzie • Fairfield County Recorder
210 E Main Street • Rm 205 • Lancaster, OH 43130
P: 740-652-7100 • F: 740-687-7104



Fairfield County Recorder

Property Fraud is REAL. There are several cases of property fraud in the state of Ohio right now. While there is no legislation to stop a document from being transferred or recorded, the Recorder's office does offer **FREE** Property Fraud Alert. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know that owns property in Fairfield County. (Note: most Recorder's offices



Property Fraud Alert

Property Fraud occurs when someone records a fraudulent document in the county land records office, making it look like they own your home or property.

Property Fraud Alert is a notification service that alerts subscribers against the possibilities of fraudulent activity being committed against their property.

Sign up for Free by visiting PropertyFraudAlert.com, by scanning the QR code or call Property Fraud Alert Hotline at 800-728-3858.



Fairfield County, Ohio

PROPERTY FRAUD ALERT



Lisa McKenzie
County Recorder
(740) 652-7100
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
210 East Main Street, Lancaster, OH
43130

If you require assistance to sign up please call us at 800-728-3858.

Property Fraud Alert is an online subscription service offered to the public that allows them to have their name monitored within the Recorder's office in order to track possible fraudulent recordings that affects their property.

The threat of mortgage fraud and identity theft crimes continue to rise, and all too often victims of these types of fraudulent activities are unaware their homes or identity have been stolen. While Property Fraud Alert does not prevent fraud from happening, it provides an early warning system for property owners to take appropriate actions should they determine possible fraudulent activity has taken place.

It's simple! Just enter your personal and/or business name and you will be notified when a document is recorded with your name match.

Continue

Learn more about the Property Fraud Alert service

Register in English or Spanish.
Choose how you want to be notified:
Text, Call or Email.



Lisa McKenzie • Fairfield County Recorder
210 E Main Street • Rm 205 • Lancaster, OH 43130
P: 740-652-7100 • F: 740-687-7104



OFFICE OF TREASURER

James N. Bahnsen, Treasurer

February 25, 2025 Roundtable Departmental Update

Treasurer's Office

1. We recently completed our 1st Half 2024 (due in 2025) tax collection period. This is always our busiest collection period of the year, and this year we noticed much higher use of the Chestnut Street Payment drive through. On Tuesday February 18 alone we processed 588 payments through the drive through location.
2. We would like to thank the Commissioners and County Administration for assisting with better security (a Sheriff's Deputy on duty in the Administrative Courthouse) and by allowing for "Tax Payment Only Parking" in the front of the building during the tax collection period. Both have been noted and commented upon by appreciative taxpayers and staff.
3. The Treasurer's Office is currently in the process of implementing a new cashing system, with testing ongoing during our collection. The system should allow for better customer service and increased efficiency with daily balancing. We expect to make the system available in the future, once testing is completed, to other departments that collect cash payments if they are interested.

Land Bank

1. The Land Bank has 19 demolitions pending throughout the County, all funded through a State demolition grant. Projects are being completed on behalf of several local partners, including the County Parks Department, the City of Pickerington and ADAMH. Our total demolition award was in excess of \$850,000, with work scheduled to be completed by the middle of this year.
2. Our Land Bank Mini-Grant program continues to fund projects throughout the county, with recent partners including the Lancaster Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, Pickerington Community Theater, Harcum House, the Fairfield Area Humane Society and Wagnalls Memorial in Lithopolis. Each project involves renovations of some sort to buildings owned by the partners, and range in amount from \$11,000 to \$15,000.

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We are very thankful for the community's support in passing our renewal levy.

STARLight is operating and has capacity. Anyone who needs their services, or wants to ask about eligibility can call the OhioGuidestone staff at 740-672-3855.

Venture Place should be able to start site work in the next month, the Homeless outreach team continues to do great work connecting with unhoused people in Fairfield County. We just applied and received a grant to be able to expand the team that Lutheran Social Services operates.

Our Board will be holding a retreat March 8 to examine the results of the Community Needs Assessment we completed with Ohio University Voinovich school and the financial forecasting our Finance and Operations Director has put together to plan for priorities for the next 4 years.

Our staff and board positions are all filled, we feel fortunate to have a very engaged and competent board and a skilled team of staff!!

Marcy

Marcy Fields, LISW-S

Executive Director

Fairfield County ADAMH Board

108 W. Main St., Suite A

Lancaster, Ohio 43130

740.654.0829 x304

www.fairfieldadamh.org



2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

Our mission is to bring about a vibrant community where people lead lives of greater independence and make meaningful contributions.

BY THE NUMBERS

Program Enrollment

Early Intervention	410
Forest Rose School 23-24 & 24-25 school years	66
Case Coordination	1270
Family Support Services	430
Summer Scholarship	255

Fairfield DD does not have a waiting list. When needs arise, we connect people with community resources.

2401

people supported during 2024

520

newly enrolled in services at Fairfield DD

68

Early Intervention children met outcomes and developmental milestones resulting in no longer needing services

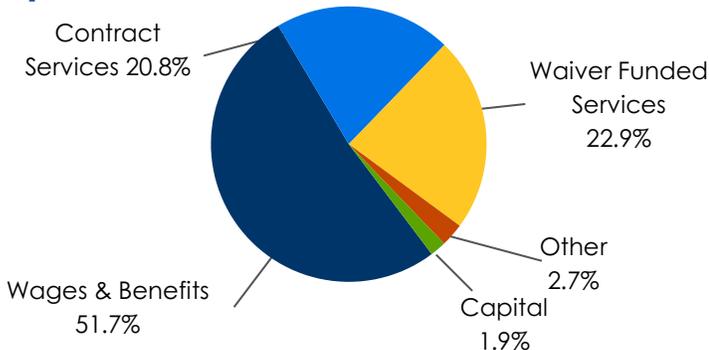
72

new provider connections established

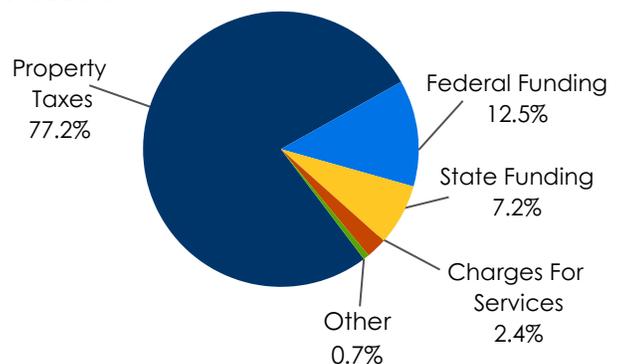
Fairfield DD secured nearly \$900,000 in grant funding to enhance community accessibility. This includes \$500,000 for a new all-accessible ball field, \$150,000 for a mobile changing vehicle, and \$100,000 for a new accessible van. Additional funds were invested in assistive and enabling technology, as well as language translation services.

2024 Financials

Expenditures



Revenue



018

INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

1



Independence

Fairfield DD used technology to support people to be more independent. The Enabling Technology Lending Library was created so people can try out different devices to see if they work for them before buying. Remote support is also helping 15 people have more freedom and enjoy time on their own without others in their space.

2



Inclusion

Staff at Fairfield DD collaborated with Starfire Council to connect five families with a grant for "Inclusion Seekers." It connected these people and their teams with additional resources to help expand social networks and pursue their passions in the community.

3



Inspired Workforce

Team members participated in training and discussions on belonging, with ongoing use of shared language in communication. The agency also introduced a new leadership model based on trust and inspiration, while continuing the mission ambassador program.

4



Collaboration

Fairfield DD collaborates with various agencies each month. Partnerships have strengthened with leaders from local school districts and the Educational Service Center to foster ongoing discussions about education. Collaboration with the Family Children First Council has expanded, focusing on Early Intervention and connecting individuals to the wide range of services.



Facilities and EMA Roundtable Update February 25th, 2025

Facilities

- Completion of Projects
 - Sheridan projects
 - Salt Barn
 - Elevator at Fairfield
- Ongoing and upcoming projects
 - Sheridan Construction
 - Economic Development and Med Lab at Workforce
 - Airport Hangars
 - Jail Security
 - 239 Roof and HVAC
- New staff members
 - Kaylee Burgess – Custodian
 - LaTera Campbell – Custodian
 - Jason Grubb – Deputy Director

Emergency Management

- EOP was updated and distributed in January
- Currently updating our Debris Management and Elected Official Guide
- Thank you to everyone who assisted in updating our department emergency contact list, as a reminder if you have an agency level COOP plan now is a great time to take a look and make sure it is up to date.
- Gearing up for a busy summer supporting all of the special events occurring throughout the county.



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Jeffrey D. Porter

Clerk
Rochelle Menningen

Commissioners Finance Department
Bart Hampson Budget Director

Department updates:

- 2026 Budget
 - Level 1 will be open in ERP on April 1st, 2025.
 - Level 3 budget entry access will end on August 27th, 2025. This is the final time for General Fund departments to make changes in Enterprise ERP Budget Entry.
 - Level 4 will end December 1st for all non-general fund departments.
 - No substantial changes in the process or parameters for 2026 at this time.
- We will begin scheduling the 2026 pre-hearing conferences in March.
- The October Commissioners budget hearings have already been scheduled for 2026.
- Drainage Maintenance District
 - We will start working with the Engineer's office to complete the Drainage Maintenance District Assessments in April.

Bart Hampson, MSM
Budget Director

 210 E. Main St.
Lancaster, OH
43130

 740-652-7089 (t)
740-503-5525 (c)
740-687-6048 (f)

 www.co.fairfield.oh.us



JFS Department Update

Presenter: Corey Clark, Director

- The Governor's Budget released earlier this month contained a few items that could potentially impact JFS. They are as follows:
 1. A \$30M (425M in first year and additional \$5M in second year) increase in the State Child Protective Allocation (SCPA).
 2. \$30M (\$20M in first year and \$10M in second year) for Children's Wellness Campuses (short-term crisis stabilization centers)
 3. Increase in publicly funded childcare eligibility to 160% FPL (currently 145%), with a continuation of the child care choice voucher program up to 200% of the FPL.
- HB 338, effective 3/20/25, modifies the ORC to allow child support orders to be issued, modified, or extended for the life of an individual (child of the parties) if that individual is disabled.
- We were recently selected by the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) to participate in a pilot program for tiered foster homes. We are the lead agency and are partnering with South Central JFS. The pilot program includes funding to be used primarily for the recruitment and training of foster parents. We recently met with Krile Communications to develop an outreach and marketing plan for this program.
- Ohio was approved for an OWF Pilot program. This would allow us to bypass the traditional [OWF] work participation rates. The model will emphasize holistic services and utilize resources from DCY's Family Success Network to meet families where they are. The goal is to offer a more individualized, person-centered support for families receiving TANF as they transition to self-sufficiency.
- Fact 95, the federal plan that allowed for the replacement of stolen SNAP benefits, expired on December 20th and has not been renewed. As a result, stolen benefits are no longer being replaced which is a source of significant frustration for impacted customers.
- Adult Protective Services is partnering with Fairfield Federal Bank to combat financial scamming of elderly in our community. We have established a hotline for bank officials to call when they suspect a scam. Our APS staff will then intervene with the customers and attempt to convince them they are being scammed.

THE EXTENSION CONNECTION

Highlights from OSU Extension in Fairfield County

FEBRUARY, 2025



FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Wellness programs were offered through a variety of family and consumer science topics including Winter Wellness, Beating the Winter Blues, Meal Planning, Cooking Under Pressure, Slow Cooking, Developing a Spending and Saving Plan, Transferring Cherished Possessions, Mindful Breathing, and Live Healthy Live Well reaching 684 people in Fairfield County. Community partners included Suicide Prevention Coalition of Fairfield County, Wagnalls Library, Fairfield District Library, Pickerington Library, Keller Market House and Fairfield Union High School.

COOKING BASICS

OSU Extension partnered with the Southeast Ohio Center for Independent Living to offer a 3-part cooking class series to 8 adults. Participants learned skills in using a kitchen knife, measuring

ingredients, and using appliances like the microwave, stovetop and oven. Participants also learned about the healthy food choices in MyPlate and how to access online libraries of healthy, low-cost recipes.



**A MATTER OF
BALANCE**
MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

**MATTER OF
BALANCE**

OSU Extension partnered with Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging and Fairfield County Senior Hub to teach an 8-week series to help older adults manage concerns about falling. Twenty-four adults completed at least 5 of 8 classes, and reported gaining confidence, strength and balance. Several adults reported an increase in activity level as well.



SNAP-ED UPDATES

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EDUCATION

SNAP-Ed Program Assistants are teaching Fairfield County youth at Tussing, Gorsuch West and Medill elementaries. Students are learning about the basics of nutrition and trying healthy foods. They also completed training to learn about new resources and plans for teaching adults about nutrition in the community. Planning is underway for 2026 lessons and events.

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

OHIO VIRTUAL BEEF SCHOOL SESSION 1

OSU Extension hosted UK Extension Economist Kenny Burdine during the first session of the 2025 Ohio Virtual Beef School. There were 23 in-person participants and 42 attended virtually. The presentation has been viewed more than 100 times on YouTube since.

FERTILIZER & PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION

On February 10th, 76 fertilizer and/or pesticide applicators joined us for recertification training. The next training is scheduled for Thursday, March 13th.

OWL PROWL

Over 35 participants joined Carrie Brown and OSU Extension Wildlife Specialist, Marne Titchenell, for a January Owl Prowl at Coyote Run. This family-friendly event featured a presentation, owl craft, raptor pellet dissection, and owl call hike.

Ohio Nature Education even brought three live owls to round out the experience.

FARM ACCOUNTING WORKSHOP

OSU Extension hosted Farm Management Field Specialist, Bruce Clevenger, for a 2-day farm accounting workshop. Computers and Quicken software were provided for participants as they explored options for keeping farm business financial records.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

In 2024, forty-five Master Gardener Volunteers gave back 2,927 hours at \$31.80 (Points of Light Volunteer organization, May, 2023) for a value of give back of over \$93,000 to a variety of Fairfield County non-profit groups. While recognizing the value of the give-back is important, the value of knowledge gained, friendships shared and making a difference in community is immeasurable.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

45 camp counselors (29 returning, 16 new) have been selected to help plan programs and lead campers for the upcoming 4-H camp season. Fairfield County offers 4 different camps to our members hosted at Alley Park in Lancaster as well as Tar Hollow State Park.

7 new Junior Fair Board members were selected to join a team of returning board members for a total of 30 board members and 3 junior advisors. As they begin their year, they are reviewing Junior Fair rule and award changes that workflow to the Senior Fair Board for the upcoming fair.

54 youth completed the Junior Achievement Form (ages 9-13) and 40 youth completed the Ohio 4-H Achievement Form (ages 14-18). These forms are representation of the 4-H member's cumulative 4-H experiences. Members will be recognized for their award accomplishments and trip scholarships at our 4-H Achievement Program in April. Additionally, 59 Ohio 4-H Achievement Forms from 27 teens were forwarded to the state level be reviewed and considered for the Ohio 4-H Achievement Award. State 4-H Achievement Award winners will be announced by April.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

fairfield.osu.edu

CFA ES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity



Fairfield County Park District

Winter '24-'25 Highlights

Fairfield County Leadership Roundtable February 25, 2025

Repairs to Rock Mill milling apparatus (forebay) were completed in September. We intend to return to our milling demonstrations in May.

Electrical service has been installed in the Fetter-Hood Barn at Smeck Park.

H2Ohio Projects continue at Two Glaciers Park and were completed at Wagner Preserve.

We were awarded a grant from the Martens Charitable Trust to develop educational exhibits at Mambourg Nature Center. The project planning is complete, and exhibit creation is in process.

We will be officially opening the Goldenrod Trail at Smeck Park this spring.

We are currently working to fill an Assistant Naturalist position and have received more applications than for any position in several years.

As we plan for the park district's future, we recognize that we have some properties that do not have the potential to be developed for park use. We have recently transferred ownership of two small parcels, near Rock Mill Lake Wildlife Area, to ODNR and Turkey Run Church and Cemetery to Amanda Township.

Our education department worked hard to expand educational programming in 2024.

- 2318 visitors attended public programs offered at 8 park district locations.
- Our outreach programs, with 10 community organizations, connected with 715 people.
- 559 students, from 7 schools, attended field trips at Wahkeena Nature Preserve.

Finance and Administration Coordinator, Ginger Caito, will be retiring in March. Join us to celebrate Ginger on March 24th 2:00-4:00 at the Record's Center.





FEBRUARY

CROSS MOUND PARK

6pm | February 22

Spring Awakening: Owl Prowl

MAMBOURG PARK

6pm | February 8

Spring Awakening: Owl Prowl

6:30pm | February 14

Valentine's Day Luminary Walk

10am | February 15

2nd Mambourg Winter Hike

9am | February 21

Breakfast & Birding

2pm | February 21

Winter Foraging

11am | February 28

Active Amphibians

SENSORY TRAIL PARK

11am | February 12

Tots on Trail

WAHKEENA NATURE PRESERVE

1pm | February 2

Spring Awakening: Ground Hog Day

Schedule subject to change. Confirm details before attending.

fairfieldcountyparks.org/events

MARCH

MAMBOURG PARK

6pm | March 7

Ohio Game Birds

11am | March 22

Leprechaun Hunt

8pm | March 29 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Flying Squirrels

SMECK PARK

6pm | March 8

**Spring Awakening:
Woodcock Walk**

3pm | March 15

**Spring Awakening:
First Flowers Hike**

1pm | March 16

Wellness Hike

Schedule subject to change. Confirm details before attending.

fairfieldcountyparks.org/events



OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Fairfield County District Library

“Rock Stars!”

March 5 | Baltimore Branch

March 6 | Main Library

What can you find in the dirt?
We’re talking about fossils in rocks!

After storytime you can
craft a ‘fossil’ to take home.



Annual Report 2024



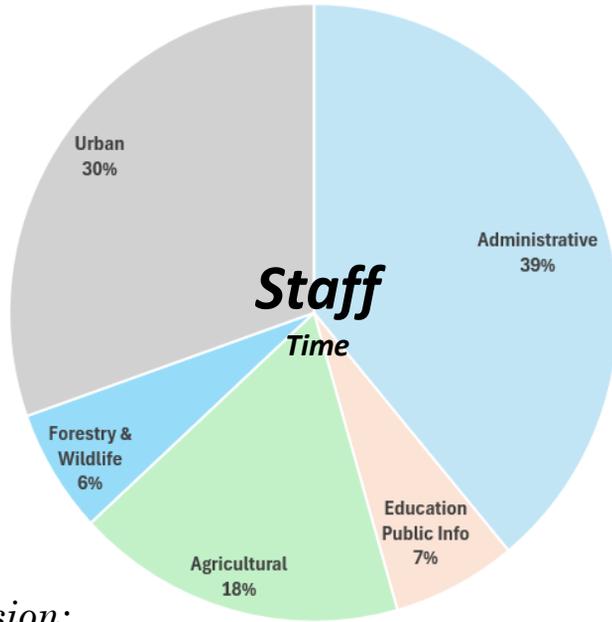
Staff

- *Josh Troyer/Brent Dennis - Engineering Technician
- Nikki Drake - District Manager/
Engineering Technician
- Jonathan Ferbrache - Sr. Resource Specialist
- *Molly Gilleland - Urban/Resource Technician
- Christina Holt - Fiscal Coordinator
- Chad Lucht - Urban Manager
- Margaret Roberts - Urban/Geomatic Technician
- Lauren Vires - Wildlife/Education Specialist
- *resigned



Board of Supervisors

- Doug Tenney - Chair (2022-current)
- Gregg Pontius - Vice-Chair (2021-current)
- Amber Hoisington - Secretary (2023-current)
- Linda Claypool - Treasurer (2019-current)
- Cheyenne Jepsen - Member (2024-current)



Thank You!



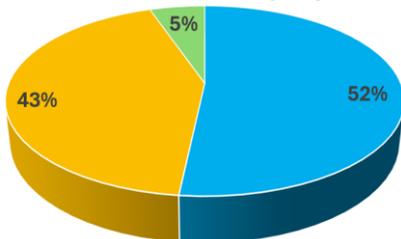
Our mission:

*to be progressive natural resource advocates
by assisting the public with conservation choices*

Budget

- Commissioner Funds = \$346,800
- State Funds = \$287,981
- Other Local Funds = \$35,728

\$ Into Fairfield County Economy Through Programs (does not go to FSWCD)	
Conservation Reserve Program	\$438,726
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$634,665
Conservation Stewardship Program	\$430,615
Farmland Preservation Program	\$131,200
\$1,635,206	



AGRICULTURE

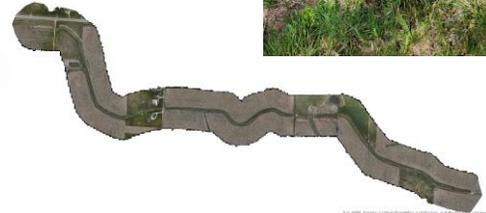


8 Emergency Conservation plans

petition ditches inspected w/ Co. Engineer **2**



 **160** drainage calls/visits



20 drone flights

451 acres of tile installed



H2Ohio **8,020** acres enrolled for nutrient mgmt. plans



182.5 acres + 325 trees & 17,000 grapevines planted w/ drills & tree planter



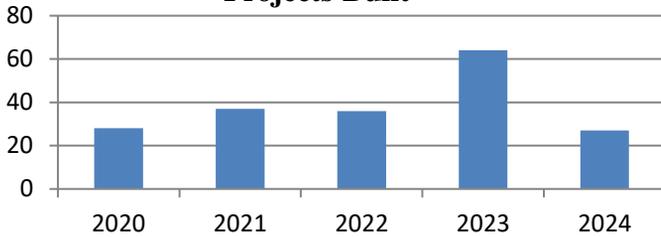
4 farmland preservation applications
1 selected + 1 closing



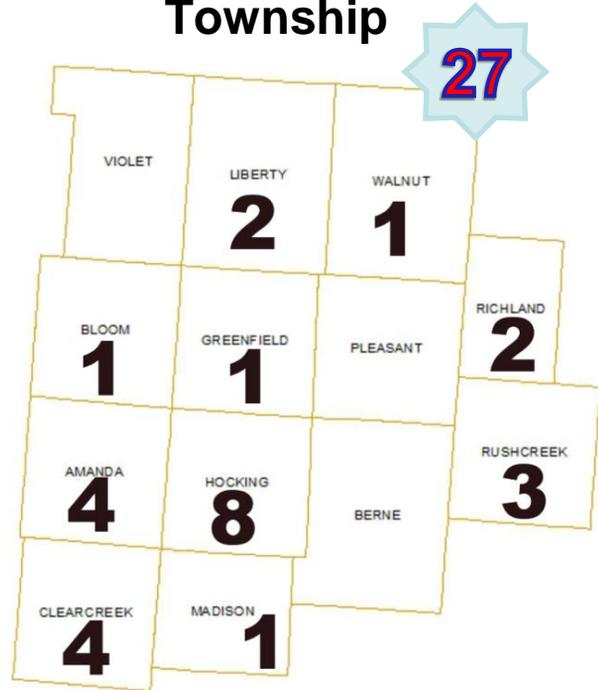
Protected farm monitoring inspections **33**

2024 Engineering Review

Projects Built



Projects Constructed by Township



Above: Graph shows 5 years of construction trends. CRP waterway cost-share from 50% to 100% in 2021, staff changes (Carrie 3/19-7/21, Josh 9/21-7/24, Brent started 9/24), and the 2024 drought have affected numbers. Design requests remain strong, although the rising cost of materials is an issue.

Projects constructed = 27

- 13 tile systems
- 6 watering facilities
- 5 waterways
- 1 grade stabilization structure–new insta-turf chute
- 1 heavy use pad
- 1 access road

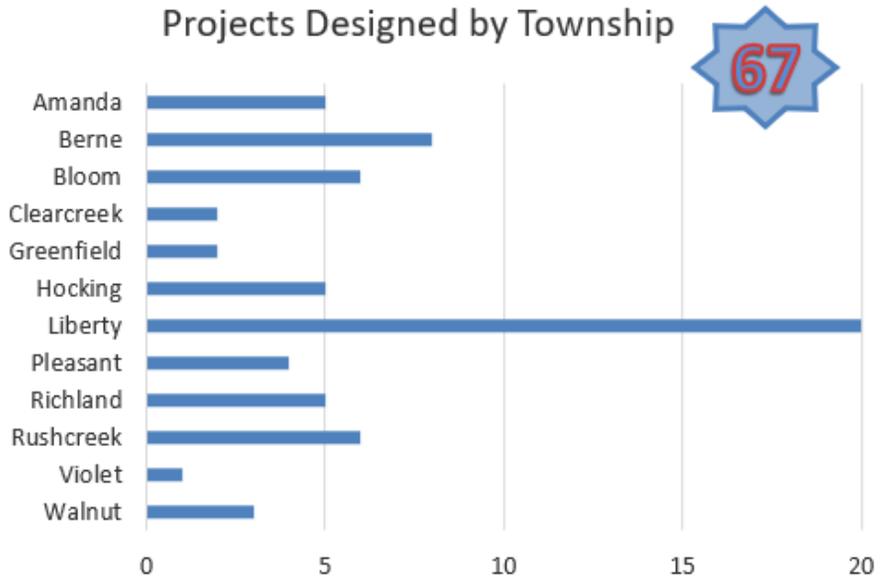
Projects designed = 67

- 24 waterways
- 16 tile systems
- 15 watering facilities
- 5 grade stabilization structures
- 2 spring developments
- 2 stream crossings
- 2 heavy use pads
- 1 access road

Projects surveyed = 73

- 31 watering facilities
- 21 waterways
- 14 tile systems
- 2 stream crossings
- 2 heavy use pads
- 1 animal waste
- 1 access road
- 1 emergency spillway

Projects Designed by Township



NRCS Contribution agreement funding received for engineering projects completed:

\$9,755.25 CRP

\$320.25 EQIP

CRP waterway renewal inspections = 31

(every 10 years for re-enrollment)

5 inspections for 2-yr incentives

Ag. pollution complaints – 3 (all non-violations)

Timber harvest pollution complaint – 1 (non-violation)

2



122 cars
2.9 tons electronics
107 lbs. drugs

drug
collection
events



OUTREACH

60,884

Readers reached through
published articles



3



college
scholarships

1

Camp Canopy
Sponsorship

950



tree seedlings
donated to
5th graders at
8 schools

3,967

Trees sold

109

Tree sale
customers



126

Students evaluated
for Science Fair, 4-H,
FFA Agriscience Fair

Annual Meeting
at Wagnalls
Memorail Library



Fair Booth

50

Students at Earth
Camp at Smeck Park



35

School Programs, Workshops &

Other Events Reached:

2,484

kids

1,301

adults

WILDLIFE

41



Pond

Landowners issued a deer damage permit due to crop damage

Visits/Inquiries



Landowners provided habitat assistance



since 2015

Field Assessments conducted for CRP mid-management

12

Individuals assisted with nuisance wildlife concerns



Newspaper Articles Published on wildlife related topics



Radio Interview

SURVEYS

conducted w/ Division of Wildlife



River otter



Roadkill



16

Wildlife Related Programs



URBAN

324 drainage calls/visits across all townships



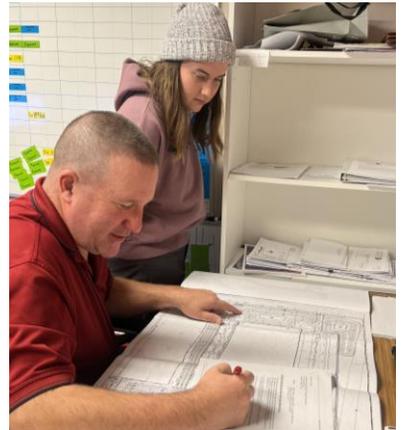
27

dry weather inspections across **2** MS4 communities



296

Construction Site inspections across **22** sites



5 MS4 communities assisted

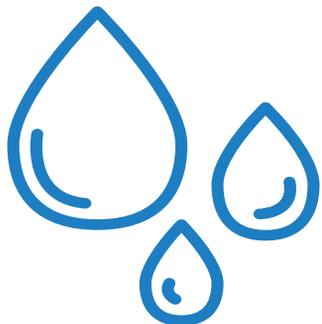


59

(RPC) Plans reviewed

3,400+

Residential lot inspections & **132** new DESC+**25** pool permits issued



Drought Relief Funding



Department of
Agriculture

Governor DeWine signed into law Senate Bill 54 which allocates state funding to provide relief to Ohio farmers in counties severely impacted by historic drought.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will work with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to administer \$10 million to 28 counties designated as primary natural disaster areas between August 19, 2024, and September 16, 2024.



Highlighted Ohio counties are eligible for drought funding

Application Process

- This program is available to any livestock producer with land enrolled in the USDA FSA Livestock Forage Disaster Program in a county designated as a primary natural disaster area by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture between August 19th and September 16th, 2024 due to drought.
- Farmers must fill out an application to apply.
- Sign-up period begins February 15, 2025 and closes April 1, 2025.
- Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.