

WAYNE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025 EDITION

WAYNE COUNTY



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Introduction

Welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter. Here we will give you updates about past events and projects that our office is working on.

New Equipment Alert: 6 FT No-till Drill

The district has acquired a new 6 ft no-till drill that can be rented by the community much like our 10 ft drill. The new drill has the specs/features:

- Pull Style
- Working width of 6'
- Requires approximately a 40+ hp tractor to run it
- 12-bushel capacity main seed box
- 1.44-bushel small seeds box
- 6-bushel native grass box
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To reserve a drill, please reach out to Ian Priestley or Ron Thorn at our office at (315) 946-7200. Delivery and pickup options are available.

This issue:

Intro
PAGE 01

Seasonal Article & Past
Events
PAGE 02

Project Updates
PAGE 03



Seasonal Article -Tips for Responsible De-Icing This Winter

As winter weather brings ice and snow, many of us reach for de-icing salts to improve traction. While necessary, it's important to remember that most de-icing salts can harm plants and aquatic life due to varying concentrations.

Here are a few ways to minimize environmental impact and maximize safety:

- **Shovel First:** Before applying salt, always shovel or plow to remove as much snow and ice as possible.
- **Use Sparingly:** When you do apply salt, use only the amount necessary. Over-salting is wasteful and harmful.
- **Clean Up Later:** Once the snow or ice melts, sweep or scoop up any leftover deicer from the pavement to prevent it from washing into the environment.
- **Mind the Drains:** Never pile snow containing salt near storm drains.
- **Consider Pets:** If you are a pet owner, look for pet-safe salt formulations designed to be less harmful to your furry friends.
- **Check the Temperature:** Remember that salt's effectiveness significantly decreases once temperatures drop to 15 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.

Finally, always prioritize safety on icy roads and sidewalks. If you have questions or concerns about water quality, please contact us at 315-946-7200. Stay safe and warm!



Past Events

Electronics Recycling Event

On August 13th and 14th, the Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the annual summer/fall electronics recycling event. Community members from across the county dropped off electronics like televisions and computers. Overall, we collected nearly 12,344 pounds of electronics. Sunnking, an electronics recycling company, located in Brockport, NY picked up the electronics and properly processed the items at their facility. Our next recycling event will take place in late winter/early spring of 2026. To be notified about our next event sign up here:
<https://www.waynenyswcd.org/electronics-recycling-event>



Hazardous Household Waste Recycling Event

On September 6th, the Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the annual household hazardous waste recycling event. 153 community members dropped off items like paint, herbicides, and cleaning supplies. Clean Harbors, an environmental and industrial services company, ran the event and properly processed the items at their facility. Our next hazardous waste recycling event will take place in the late summer/early fall of 2026.



End of Year Project Updates

Over the past several months we have worked with several of our partner farms to wrap up substantial projects that will have positive impacts on water and soil conservation. Each of the following projects was made possible by grants or state funding. Interested in learning more about joining our agricultural and environmental management program and seeing if your farm could be eligible for funding? Please contact us at 315-946-7200 or wayneswcd1@gmail.com.

Project #1

To address a significantly degraded barnyard area, the farm installed a heavy use area (HUA). This involved adding a gravel and sand surface to mitigate erosion, promote better hoof health for the horses, and offer them a suitable space during poor weather.



Project #2

The farm collaborated with the District on extensive drainage improvements. This work was crucial for enhancing water quality, optimizing water flow, and improving drainage conditions across several farms. Additionally, the farm addressed a persistent problem with driveway erosion and soil loss by installing a stone driveway incorporating improved drainage techniques.



Project #3

In collaboration with the District, an extensive roof runoff structure was installed. This project aimed to minimize the risk of clean water contamination by implementing a drip trench system. This system effectively redirects roof runoff directly into a clean water management system.



End of Year Projects Continued

Project #4

Through an Agricultural Non-Point Source grant, the farm successfully implemented the first of two planned best management practices (BMPs): a new silage bunk. This project, which utilized a significant cost-share, provides a complete system for feed storage. Not only does this system ensure clean feed and efficient feeding, but it is also designed to contain all potential runoff from the bunk.



Project #5

The farm constructed an agrichemical mixing facility, in accordance with NRCS standards. This will provide for a safe and secure location to mix any pesticides needed for their orchard.



Project #6

A roof was installed over an existing heavy use area on the farm, creating a sheltered space for cows during poor weather. Covering the barnyard is important because it ensures that clean rainwater remains clean, and any dirty runoff that is generated can be properly treated or diverted.



Pollinator Projects

Throughout the season district staff kept an eye on various pollinator habitats that had been planted. An abundance of pollinators and flowers were found!

