

# 2022 UPDATE

## Technician Development Program

The Technician Development Program was started in 2003 with the goal of increasing the technical capacity of SWCD Staff. Over the years the program has changed and evolved to better meet the needs of technical staff. The program was originally organized into a series of Levels (1-5) that started with basics and moved up to more advanced topics. The program is now arranged into four distinct categories:

**The Beginner Level:** This series of classes includes Conservation Engineering (online format), Engineering Resources & Math Refresher (online format), Hydrology, Surveying, APAP (online format), Soils Engineering and Inventory & Evaluations. It is intended to form a good foundation to get any technical staff off on the right foot. This series has replaced the classes that were previously covered in the Level 1 and Level 2 series and is typically offered on an annual basis.

**Advanced Level Courses:** These are generally practice specific classes that go into more in-depth discussions on theory, design, calculations and construction practices and includes topics such as grassed waterways, wetlands, nutrient management and grade stabilization structures. These courses are best suited for technicians that have completed the Beginner Level and have 1-2 years of conservation related experience under their belt.

**Grazing Series:** These courses are designed for technicians that assist grazing operations and covers everything from the basics to advanced topics. Past course offerings have included grazing management plans, fencing, stream crossings and watering facilities. Typically, several courses are offered each year in the Grazing Series.

**Urban Series:** This class series was started in 2021 with the goal of providing training for district staff that are involved with meeting the requirements of Ohio EPA's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. To date, the class series has included an Introduction to Urban Conservation, Stormwater Regulations and Urban Hydrology. Additional courses are currently being developed and will include topics such as basic erosion and sediment controls and stormwater pollution prevention plans. All the classes offered so far have been webinars and recordings of the webinars are available here: [Urban Conservation Webinars](#)

In addition to the classes, the program has offered several webinars over the years that cover a wide range of topics including AutoCAD, ArcMap, drainage law and water control structures. The recordings for all the webinars are available on our [TDP YouTube Page](#).

You can register for any currently available classes through this link:

<https://www.apps.agri.ohio.gov/SWCD/>. Payment options for classes include debit or credit card, electronic fund transfer, or select "Pay Later" to mail in a check.