News & Conservation

Allen County Soil & Water Conservation District
3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46845
260-484-5848

Cost-Share still available for the St. Mary's, Maumee and St. Joseph River Watersheds

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative and the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District have a limited amount of cost-share funds still available to promote Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as no-till, that reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients and pesticides from getting into nearby rivers and streams. The cost-share is targeted for producers interested in evaluating no-till or qualifying forms of vertical tillage on a portion of their operation.

The funding can be used by producers to modify their equipment or management program in order to adopt the new tillage system. The cost-share can be used to purchase planter or drill attachments, yield monitors, lightbars, spray controllers, or other similar devices. Cost-share can be as much as $3000. per producer at a 75% cost-share rate. To qualify the producer must agree to a minimum of 100 acres of no-till or a qualifying vertical tillage system for 5 years.

The project also has several types of conservation tillage equipment for rent such as the Phillips or Phoenix harrows, Great Plains Turbo-till, To The Max rotary chopper, Kale Blu-Jet In-line rippers and a DMI Strip-till unit.

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity or have questions, please contact Jeremy Palmer at the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District at (260) 484-5848 ext. 112.

These grants are funded by IDEM and the EPA to help promote conservation tillage, pest and nutrient management practices in the watersheds.

Maumee River Watershed CSP Sign-Up

Remember that the Conservation Security Program (CSP) sign-up will take place sometime in the Winter of 2005. If interested in learning more, contact Sherman Liechty at 260-484-5848 ext.110, watch for news of upcoming informational meetings.

Students, SWCD Employee Receive Governor's Award

Students of the Anthis Career Center and Allison Van Zandt, Water Resources Education Specialist for the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (a program of the Allen SWCD, City of Fort Wayne and City of New Haven) accepted the 2004 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in the category of Education and Outreach. In a ceremony on November 15th at the Indiana Conference on the Environment, Allison, the students and their instructor Karen Gillie were acknowledged for the creation of the Storm Water Activity Book, a 12-page kid's book designed to teach K-3 students about storm water pollution.

The Storm Water Activity Book is now being used by over 20 communities around the United States to teach young kids about storm water pollution. It was created as part of a project undertaken by the ACPWQ and Anthis Career Center in early 2003. The group also received Third Runner-Up for the President's Environmental Youth Award for their efforts in developing the activity book.

The Allen County Partnership for Water Quality was created in 2002 by the Allen County SWCD, City of Fort Wayne and City of New Haven to educate the public about water resource issues. You can learn more about the ACPWQ by watching *Bringing You the Basics* on Comcast channel 58 throughout January and February. Those wanting copies of the Storm Water Activity Book can receive those by calling the ACPWQ at 484-5848 ext.111.



Award recipients from left to right are Andrea Light, Tommy Curry, Karen Gillie, Allison Van Zandt, Hilary Doenges.



Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Informational Programs Provided By:

Northeast Indiana Soil & Water Conservation Districts

&

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

Major Farm Manufacturing & Distributor Trade Show

January 18, 9am-5pm

January 19, 9am-8pm **January 20, 9am-4pm**

January 18, 2005 Appleseed Room (A)

Moderator: **Gonzalee Martin**, *Ag & Natural Resources Extension Educator,* Purdue

10:00am Grain Market Outlook
David Kohli, *Market Analyst,* Ford & Young Futures
Jon Cavanaugh, *Marketing Director*, Central States Enterprises, Inc.

11:00am Tax Cutting Opportunities for Farmers
Ron Felger, Steve Williams, Nathan Williams, *Attorneys at Law*
Shambaugh, Kast, Beck & Williams, LLP

1:00pm Impact of Property Tax Reassessment
Lawrence DeBoer, *Public Policy Extension Specialist,*
Agricultural Economics, Purdue University



2:00pm Soybean Rust, Aphids- They're Here!
Shawn Conley, *Soybean Extension Specialist*
Department of Agronomy, Purdue University
Brian Mitchem, *Field Sales Agronomist*, Pioneer



3:00pm The Future of Your Fertilizer Dollar
Mark Workman, *District Fertilizer Manager,* Agriliance

Stop by the Soil & Water Conservation District's booth at the Farm Show to learn about available cost share programs. You could win one of 200 Conservation Calculators!!!

January 19, 2005 Appleseed Room (A)

Moderators: **Steve Engleking, Val Slack**, *Ag & Natural Resources Ext. Educators,* Purdue, **Sherm Liechty**, *District Conservationist*, NRCS

10:00am Grain Market Outlook
Mike Swanson *Ph. D., Economics Department,* Wells Fargo & Co.

11:00am The New NRCS Conservation Security Program (CSP) -How It Can Work for You!
Carol Jett, *Associate Deputy Chief for Programs,*
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service



1:00pm A New Vision for Agriculture in Indiana
Randy Woodson, *Dean of the College of Agriculture,* Purdue University

2:00pm The Latest on Mad Cow Disease, West Nile Virus and the National Animal ID Program
Shelly Chavis, *DVM, Field Veterinarian*
Indiana State Board of Animal Health

3:00pm Grain and Livestock Market Outlook
Chris Hurt, *Farm Marketing Extension Specialist*,
Agriculture Economics, Purdue University



5:00pm The Impact of the Emerald Ash Borer
Larry Axlen, *Urban Forest Health Specialist*,
IDNR, Division of Forestry

5:30pm Maximizing Your Timber Dollars
Tom Crowe, *Consulting Forester*, Wakeland forestry Consultants
Jack Siefert, *Extension Forester*, Purdue University

6:00pm Pond Construction and Management
Cory Wolfe, *Engineer,* USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Bill Horan, *Area Aquaculture Educator*, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

January 19, 2005 Appleseed Room (B)

Concurrent Programs

2:00pm 2005 Conservation Securities Program (CSP)
Sherman Liechty, David Hines, *District Conservationists,*
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

3:00pm The Latest in Indiana DOT Requirements
Mike Templeton, *Sargent,* Indiana State Police, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

6:00pm Today's Opportunities in Direct Marketing
Steve Engleking, *New Ventures Educator*
Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

January 20, 2005 Appleseed Room (A)

Moderator: **Richard Kyler**, *Contract District Technician*,
Whitley County Soil & Water Conservation District

10:00am Grain Market Outlook
Martin Rossol, *Origination Manager,* The Andersons, Maumee, OH

11:00am How to Make the Most of Government Cost-Share Dollars
Jane Loomis, *Executive Director*, St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative
Jeremy Palmer, *Agronomy Technician*, Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District

1:00pm The Changing Roles of Women in Agriculture
Val Slack, *Ag & Natural Resources Extension Educator,*
Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

Assistance and programs of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Purdue Cooperative Extension Office are available without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, or disability.

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

Project Updates

Work proceeds on several grant-funded projects in the St. Joseph River watershed, including our Conservation Tillage Project, the Bacteria Source Tracking Project, the Cedar Creek Watershed Management Plan, St. Joseph River Soil Erosion Reduction Project and the Source Water Protection Initiative.

A grant from Clean Water Act Section 319 funds from IDEM supports the Conservation Tillage Project. We have completed sign-ups for cost-share contracts for eight landowners in the watershed who contracted over 830 acres into a conservation tillage program and will receive more than $22,000 in payments. The project ends September 30, 2005. If you are interested, please contact Jeremy Palmer 484-5848, extension 112 at your earliest convenience. Both time and money is running out.

The Soil Erosion Reduction Project is supported by a grant from the Great Lakes Commission and makes dollars available through SWCD offices for selected sediment reduction practices within the St. Joseph River watershed. Contact your SWCD office for details.

The final draft of the Cedar Creek Watershed Management Plan is nearly completed. An earlier version, Draft B, is currently available on the SJRWI website, as is the final report of the Bacteria Source Tracking project. Both of these efforts are supported by a Section 319 grant from IDEM. You can access these reports, as well as more information on the other projects listed above at www.sjrwi.org or call the Initiative Office, 260-484-5848 x 120.

IDEM Seeking Pubic Involvement in Maumee and St. Mary's TMDL Program

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is seeking public involvement in the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan for the Maumee and the St. Mary's rivers. IDEM recently held meetings in Allen and Adams counties to update the public on the efforts. The TMDL process determines acceptable contaminant load allocations by source for a given stream or stream segment.

If you have information related to the water quality of either river or would like to get more information about the project or how to get involved, please call Greg Lake at the Allen SWCD office at (260) 484-5848 extension 3.

Allen County SWCD
3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne IN 46845

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Happy New Year from the partners at the Allen CountyUSDA Service Center