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St Marys Project—C9975482-09 Upper Maumee Project C9975482-11 Upper St. Joseph—C9975482-12

ISSUE XXI
November 2014

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Allen County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Tom Crowe - Vice Chairman
Tom Miller - Treasurer
Matt Schlatter - Secretary
Jon Bickel - Supervisor

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Don Rekeweg
Ellis McFadden
Brian Roemke
Dan Wire
Paul Felger
John Felger

County Council Liaison

Roy Buskirk

SWCD Employees

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District Director

Krista Voors
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Sharon Partridge-Domer
Watershed Project Manager

Jill Krause
Watershed Project Manager

Matthew Jones
Water Resource Education Specialist

NRCS

Tim Bomba
District Conservationist

Katie Fry
Soil Conservationist

ISDA

Jennifer Thum
District Support Specialist

Nick Alles
WLEB Resource Specialist

This Issue: Allen County SWCD Equipment P.1 Grant Updates P.2 Upcoming Events P.3 Meet the Staff P.4



New Equipment Purchased—Available to Rent!

The Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District, purchased a Salford 522 30ft air drill that has two mounted tanks, which was the first of its kind available in the area. Funding for this purchase was provided by the Great Lakes Commission through two grants: Promoting Sediment Reduction in the Upper Maumee Watershed (WS02-11-02, and A unique approach to sediment reduction in the blue creek and St. Marys River Watershed, WS01-10-01.



A rental program is being developed and will be available to producers to rent. This equipment allows the producer to seed cover crops and inject dry fertilizer in the same pass, with minimum soil disturbance therefore reducing potential soil erosion and injecting the fertilizer will get the phosphorus containing fertilizers under the soil surface instead of being applied to the surface and in close proximity to the cover crop that would be able to take the fertilizer up to hold it until it is released back to the commercial crop when the cover crop is terminated.



Events were held to showcase and demo this new purchase on September 4, 2014 on a producer's farm in the Upper Maumee River Watershed and on September 5, 2014 on a producer's farm in the St Marys River Watershed. Both of these events were well attended and a high level of interest was perceived from area producers. If you have any questions or would like to be added to a list of interested producers please contact Greg Lake at the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District (260) 484.5848 x 3.

Available For Rent:


Truax Drill

The Brillion Seeder ($6.00/acre) and Truax Drill ($8.00/acre) are available for rent through the District (minimum charge of $100). A $1.00/ac discount applies for payments received within 10 days of invoice.


Brillion Seeder

Also available for rent at $6.00/acre are two Phillips Harrows.

For more information regarding any of the rental equipment, contact Greg Lake at the Allen SWCD office at: (260) 484-5848 x 3.

Need Rental Equipment?

The District needs to hear from you! In the past we have maintained equipment for use by producers, at a nominal fee, to promote conservation tillage, nutrient management, enhance crop production, and conserve the soil and water resources in the county. Equipment such as Case IH 330 Twin-Turbo, Great Plains Turbo-Till, and the Salford RTS. The SWCD Board would like to hear from landowners and producers that are interested in renting such equipment through our office. Please call or e-mail our office at 484.5848 x 3 or krista.voors@IN.nacdnet.net.





Upcoming Events

Jan 13-15
Fort Wayne Farm Show

Date to be determined
River Summit
At the Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne,

March 24
2015 Tri –State Conservation Farming Expo

March 31
Allen County SWCD Annual Meeting

Allen County SWCD Office Holiday Closures:

27-28 Nov , 2014
Thanksgiving

25-26 Dec, 2014
Christmas

01 Jan , 2015
New Years Day

19 Jan, 2015
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Status update ***Watershed Plans*** & ***Cost-Share*** opportunities



The St. Joseph River Watershed is continuing to work on the Upper St. Joseph River sub-watershed project area is continuing to implement a Sec. 319 Clean Water Act grant that began in Feb. 2012. The Watershed Management Plan is complete. We are waiting on final approval on the plan then we'll soon be moving into the cost-share phase of this project. Numerous educational workshops are in the planning stages. Watch the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative's website for more information (www.sjrwi.org)

The St. Marys River Watershed has just completed a Great Lakes Commission (GLC) Grant, A Unique Approach to Sediment Reduction in the Blue Creek and St. Marys River Watersheds, that supports implementation of BMPs to reduce soil erosion and sediment runoff in the St. Mary's River and its tributaries and ultimately the Western Lake Erie Basin. It was the goal of this project to save an estimated total amount of sediment over the lifetime of the best management practices installed 22,469 tons, throughout this project we were able to save over 24,000 tons. To help make this project a success we had to make some changes to the best management practices we offered with this program. By adding a new practice, like Gypsum, it allowed us to get more producers at our educational events and gave more exposure to the program. We also purchased large pieces of equipment to help implement multiple best management practices and offered them to producers to rent. This equipment included an Esch No-till Drill (Amish No-Till Drill) and Remlinger Strip-till unit were purchased fairly early in this programs timeframe and were well used. A Salford 522 dual tank air drill was purchased, using funding from this grant and the Upper Maumee River Watershed GLC grant, though weather has prevented us from using it this fall as much as we would have liked, interest still appears high for next season. A rental program is being developed and will be available to producers to rent in both the St. Marys River Watershed and the Upper Maumee River Watershed. This equipment allows the producer to seed cover crops and inject dry fertilizer in the same pass, with minimum soil disturbance therefore reducing potential soil erosion and injecting the fertilizer will get the phosphorus containing fertilizers under the soil surface instead of being applied to the surface.

The Upper Maumee River Watershed also has two active grants. A Sec. 319 for the development of a Watershed Management Plan and small cost-share program and a Great Lakes Commission grant for the implementation of BMPs to reduce soil erosion and sediment runoff in the Upper Maumee River Watershed. Much of the efforts for the Upper Maumee 319 grant have been focused on the Watershed Management Plan, which was completed early 2014 and was submitted for approval to both the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency/Ohio Department of Natural Resources and to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, we are still awaiting final approval. In 2015, the stakeholders in the Upper Maumee watershed will have an approved plan to guide the restoration efforts of the watershed. In the Upper Maumee River Watershed we are currently working an active GLC grant, producers in the Upper Maumee River Watershed have been offered the opportunity to implement BMPs to promote sediment reduction. Since the program began, there have been over 10,000 acres were best management practices have be used, saving an estimated 9,500 tons of sediment over the lifetime of these practices. A Salford 522 dual tank air drill was purchased, using funding from this grant as well as the St. Marys watershed GLC grant, though weather has prevented us from using it this fall as much as we would have liked, interest still appears high for next season. A rental program is being developed and will be available to producers to rent in both the St. Marys River Watershed and the Upper Maumee River Watershed.

SAVE THE DATE!



Major Farm Manufacturing and Distributor Trade Show

At the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

January 13 9 AM - 5 PM
January 14 9 AM - 8 PM
January 15 9 AM - 4 PM

2015 Rivers Summit

Tri-State Watershed Alliance

Planning for a 2015 Rivers Summit is currently underway. It will be held at the Grand Wayne Center, this venue will be geared towards providing a better understanding of the issues surrounding our rivers that impact our lives. From flooding and pollution to agriculture and solutions, join us for discussions and expert advice to help inform our communities on the challenges and successes of our water-resource strategies.



Mark your calendars and please join us for the 2015 Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo!

This year's Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo will be held on March 24, 2015 and will hold a series of topics facing agriculture. In our 14th year of this event, we will be holding it at the **Potawatomi Inn (***6 Lane 100A Lake James Angola, IN 46703***)** in Pokagon State Park. The Expo will bring together farmers, soil scientists and Ag industry experts to discuss such issues as:

- The Economic of Conservation
- Nutrient loss through tile
- Irrigation
- Market Outlook
- Many additional topics

This event is sponsored by the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative.



Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District 70th Annual Meeting!

The Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting will be held on the farm of Tim and Deanna Rorick at 4710 S. Webster Rd., New Haven, IN on March 31, 2015.

The USDA Spring Planting Intentions Report will be released just before the 70th Annual Allen County SWCD's Meeting, and as a part of this event, market analysts David Kohli and James Cavanaugh and Midwest Farm Matters program host, Rob Winters will be on hand to highlight the report.

Additional information for these events will be provided on the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation Districts website (http://www.allenswcd.org/events) **as it becomes available. If you have any question or would like to request additional information please contact the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District at: (260) 484– 5848 ext. 3.**

All programs and services of the Allen County SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age or disability.