ISSUE
XXIX
December 2017

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Allen County Soil & Water Conservation District

SWCD Board Members

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Tom Miller - Vice Chairman
Jeff Stieglitz - Treasurer
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Chad Shaw - Member

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District Director

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Kate Sanders
Watershed Project Manager

NRCS

Tim Bomba
District Conservationist

Arthur Franke
Soil Conservationist

Joyce Thompson
Soil Conservationist

ISDA

Jennifer Thum
District Support Specialist

Please Join Us…
Annual Meeting
March 5, 2018 at 6 pm

The Orchid
11508 Lincoln Hwy. E. New Haven, IN 46774

Featuring: Dr. Chris Winslow
Speaking on the Challenges of Lake Erie, and how all of us in the Western Lake Erie Basin drainage can help

Nominees for Election:
Jeff Stieglitz
Jamie Bultemeier

Broasted Chicken Dinner
(free will offering)

RSVP by February 23
Call: 260-484-5848 x 3
Email: krista.voors@in.nacdnet.net

Did you know…

...the Allen County SWCD has a new website?



Visit www.allenswcd.org to see upcoming events, programs that are available, equipment for rent and much, much more!

In This Issue:

Allen Co SWCD Annual Meeting

Did you know…?

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Phosphorus Risk Special Recognition

Farm Show

What is happening on Bull Rapids Rd?

What are Those Things on Bull Rapids Road?

Have you ever been driving down Bull Rapids Road just north of SR 37 and passed two big silver boxes (shown open in the picture) and solar panels and wondered what is going on? You are not alone.

This site is part of a United States Geological Survey (USGS) edge of field study. The five year study looking at the difference in nutrient loss between different farming practices. The first two years (2016 & 2017) have been gathering baseline data from both fields, and practices on both fields have been the same. For the next three years (through 2020), conservation practices including cover crop, no till, and fertilizer incorporation will be implemented on just one field, while the other will remain the same as the first two years under conventional farming practices and without cover crop. At the end of the study, comparisons between fields will be made to determine if there is a difference in nutrient loss between fields.

The silver boxes contain automatic water samplers that are started after a rain event. One sampler is for the field runoff, and one for the tile water. The same setup is mirrored in the field to the west of the road. These two fields present a unique opportunity to collect all of the surface runoff and tile flow from each individual field. There is also a water sampler on Black Creek, downstream of the fields. Samples are collected after an event and shipped to a USGS laboratory in Wisconsin to be analyzed for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment.



USGS funds this study through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant. The USGS project chief for this study is Ed Dobrowolski out of the Indianapolis, IN office. USGS has partnered with the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District so that there is someone local to maintain the sites and collect samples when needed.

Special thanks to the land owner and the producer for their cooperation and time. We are grateful for their support in answering these important questions.

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Fort Wayne, IN 46845
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E-mail: krista.voors@in.nacdnet.net

As always the Allen County SWCD is grateful for the support received from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management through Section 319 grant programs and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture through Clean Water Indiana grant programs, as well as the Allen County Council & Commissioners for continued support of District activities.
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.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 20
SWCD Board Meeting @ 8 a.m.

Dec. 25
Merry Christmas

Jan. 1

Happy New Year

Jan. 16-18
Fort Wayne Farm Show

Mar. 5
SWCD Annual Meeting @ The Orchid @ 6 p.m.

The Phosphorus Reduction Reimbursement Program is now available in critical areas throughout Eastern Allen County within the Upper Maumee watershed. Grant funds provided to the SWCD from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management are available to participants in the project on a per acre basis.

If you have farm land in the Upper Maumee targeted watersheds Black Creek, Marsh Ditch, Six-Mile Creek, Trier Ditch, and Bottern Ditch, you may be eligible to participate in this project.

Reimbursement of up to 100% is available for implemented conservation practices, in conjunction with the risk score reaching the low risk level. Maximum reimbursement for moving from a medium score to a low score is $45 per acre, from a high score to a low score is $75 per acre, and from a very high score to a low score is $100 per acre.

This pilot program is designed to help farmers keep phosphorus on their fields. This program provides a great opportunity to find small changes that could result in big improvements both for the bottom line, and at the same time improve water quality.

Producers may be eligible for reimbursement payments for applied conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips, blind inlets, and more.

Please contact Kate Sanders or Greg Lake at the Allen County SWCD office at (260)484-5848 ext. 3, if you are interested in learning more about this program.

You can also visit the website to view an example of the risk calculator, and an interactive map to determine if you are in the critical watersheds:

http://allenswcd.org/programs

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement C997548217 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Phosphorus Risk Reduction SPECIAL RECOGNITION!

We would like to highlight two producers in the area, **Byer Farms** and **Roemke Farms**.

Both of these operations are already so conservation minded that they were not eligible for the program. They are already doing everything they can to keep nutrients on their fields and out of surface water.

Byer Farms and Roemke Farms already have implemented wide filter strips, cover crops, variable rate fertilizer application, they do not apply phosphorus above tri-state recommendations, and do not leave fertilizer on top of the soil during the winter.

A special thank you to **all** of the producers who have shown interest in this program and gone through the enrollment process. There are currently 3 producers who are enrolled and have put conservation practices on the ground.