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.

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address1»
«Town/City», «County/State» «PostalCode»

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845
Phone: (260) 484-5848 x 3
E-mail: info@allenswcd.org

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In This Issue:

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Truck for Sale

March 18th is the deadline to sign up for RCPP. Call Tim Bomba 260-484-5848 x 110

Healthy Soil Healthy Water

Connecting our Land to our Downstream Neighbors



March 15, 2016, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Zehr's Repair & Manufacturing
14735 Cuba Rd., Grabill, In
Learn How Our Farms Affect Lake Erie

Lake Erie Algae, Nutrient Loading
Dr. Christopher Winslow, Director
Stone Lab, Ohio State University



and

Back to Your Roots
Conservation and Conventional Farming
Mike Werling, Adams County Farmer, Soil Health Advocate

For more information, contact the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District 260-484-5848 Ext. 3
or
Elmer Zehr, 260-657-5408

Free Public Meeting, Light Refreshments

ISSUE
XXIII
March 2016

the conservation chALLENge

Allen County Soil & Water Conservation District

SWCD Board Members

Dave Voors - Chairman
Tom Crowe - Vice Chairman
Tom Miller - Treasurer
Jeff Stieglitz - Secretary
Jon Bickel - Supervisor

Associate Supervisors

Dick Crowl
Don Rekeweg
Ellis McFadden
Dan Wire

County Council Liaison

Roy Buskirk

SWCD Employees

Greg Lake
District Director

Krista Voors
Office Manager

Sharon Partridge
Watershed Project Manager

Matthew Jones
Water Resource Education Specialist

NRCS

Tim Bomba
District Conservationist

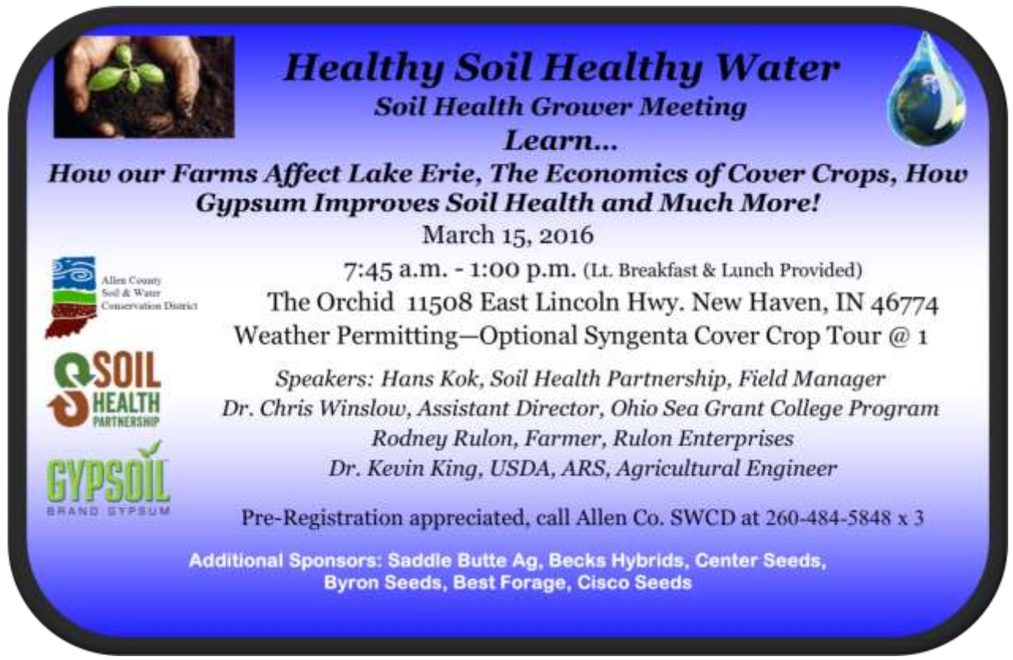
Katie Fry
Soil Conservationist

ISDA

Jennifer Thum
District Support Specialist

Jill Krause
WLEB Resource Specialist

Nick Alles
WLEB Resource Specialist



Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District 71st Annual Meeting!

The Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting will be held at the Allen County Fairgrounds at 2726 Carroll Road, Fort Wayne, IN on **March 31, 2016 at 6pm**.

The USDA Spring Planting Intentions Report will be released just before the 71st Annual Allen County SWCD's Meeting, and as a part of this event, market analysts David Kohli and Jon Cavanaugh and WOWO's Midwest Ag Matters program host, Rob Winters will be on hand to highlight the report.



Come enjoy a hot meal while the SWCD shares their accomplishments from the past year and presents awards.



Upcoming Events

March 18
RCPP sign-up deadline

March 23
Allen County SWCD Board Mtg. @ 8 am

March 31
Allen County SWCD Annual Mtg. @ 6 pm

April 22
Deadline for sealed bids for Ford F250

April 27
Allen County SWCD Board Mtg. @ 8 am

SWCD Brd. Mtg. Schedule:
5/25
6/22
7/27
8/24
9/28
10/26
11/23
12/21
All Meetings start at 8 a.m.

Equipment for Rent

Interested in applying nutrients while seeding your soybeans or other spring planted crops? Looking for an opportunity to try the latest in equipment technology to get your fertilizer application incorporated into the soil with minimal surface disturbance, then give this unit a try!



The Allen & Adams County SWCD's are offering the Salford 522 Air Seeder at a reduced rental rate of $15/acre this Spring. That includes the unit, tractor and a driver. You are responsible for fuel and seed.

Are you looking for an opportunity to try vertical tillage this spring? Whether your reason is to try to warm up and dry out soils, incorporate fertilizer, or improve your seedbed, the District's Great Plains Turbo Max should suit your needs. The District has a 24' unit available for rent for $11.00/acre. If horsepower to pull the unit is your limitation, the District also has a tractor available for rent for $50.00/tach hour. Some limitations and restrictions may apply. Contract the District office for further details.



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 SWCD (260) 484-5848 x 3.

New Project to Assess the Economic Benefits and Costs of Soil Health Practices

Purdue University has announced that they are looking for ag producers in Central or Northeastern Indiana, including the western side of Allen County in the Little River and Eel River watersheds, to participate in a new study. Here are the details…

As the importance of soil health and erosion control in conservation policy are becoming more recognized, studies on the economic benefits of conservation practices are becoming more important. Farmers cite one of the biggest reasons why they don't adopt practices is the lack of credible information about the economics of these practices.

In this study, information will be gathered on the economics of the long term effects of cover cropping systems. Only farms with corn-corn or corn-soybeans rotations will be accepted and they need data on fields where cover crops have and have not been used. This is a three-year study and farmers must provide five years of historical data resulting in eight years of total data.
Farmers will be compensated for participating in the study at a rate of about $1,000.00/year, and soil health test results will be provided. All supplied and collected data will remain confidential.
If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Sharon or Greg at the SWCD office by the end of March.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

2016 Spring Sales

Now Taking Orders for the Spring Tree Sale!

Tree Sales Orders due by 4/22/16 Pick up day 4/27/16

Now Taking Orders for the Spring Fish Sale!

Fish Sales Orders due by 5/4/16 Fish pick 5/11/16 from Noon to 5



Now Taking Orders for the Spring Rain Barrel Sale!

Orders due by 5/18/16 Barrel Pick-up 5/__/16 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NEW

Phosphorus Risk Reduction Project

Targeted watersheds:

Black Creek, Marsh Ditch, Six-Mile Creek, Trier Ditch, Bottern Ditch

If you have farm ground in the targeted watersheds, you can participate in this project. Learn what you can do, field-by-field, to reduce phosphorus loss through surface water and field tiles.

Receive incentive payments for applied conservation practices.

*Would you like to be on the Advisory Committee for this project?
Contact Sharon Partridge or Greg Lake at the SWCD, 260-484-5848 ext. 3

INFIELD ADVANTAGE
your farm, your future.

INfield Advantage is one of the largest adaptive nutrient management farmer networks in the country. The program uses aerial imagery and the Corn Stalk Nitrate Test to determine nitrogen use efficiency in each field enrolled. Participants are not restricted on tillage, rotation, nitrogen form, timing or rate and may enroll multiple fields.

The basic level of the program is called Guided Stalk Sampling. The application for these fields consists of a single page and a field map. Growers may also conduct on-farm research using Replicated Strip Trials. Anyone interested in testing different management practices using Replicated Strip Trials should contact the SWCD prior to planting to ensure compliance with the program. Producers may determine which management practices they wish to test. These fields require a slightly longer application. For Replicated Strip Trials to be valid, planting, fertilizer application and harvesting must follow INfield protocols. At the end of the year, each grower will receive imagery and the Corn Stalk Nitrate Test results from each field. Any fields with a Replicated Strip Trial will also have a report. A regional report, with each field assigned an anonymous ID number, will also be available to each grower.

INfield Advantage is a state-wide program coordinated by the Allen County SWCD and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. More information about the program and previous years' results can be found at: http://www.infieldadvantage.org/

Any producer interested in joining the Allen County/Western Lake Erie Basin INfield group should contact Sharon or Greg.