



JEFFERSON COUNTY SWCD
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Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District

Newsletter

Spring 2018



No-Till Drills Available for Rent

The Jefferson County SWCD has a 10' & 6' Great Plains
 The drill rentals operate on a first come first serve basis.
 Rental Charges: \$10 per acre with a \$60 Minimum Charge.
 There will be a \$10 per day charge for use after 3 days in addition
 to acreage charge.

Call (812) 265-7609 for availability & more information

Soil Sampling Probe

We now have a hand soil
 sampling probe available to rent.
 If you would like take soil samples
 this probe will make it easier for
 you. We also have bags and
 instructions at the office to
 prepare your soil sample to send
 in to get your results. To rent the
 probe it will cost \$5.00 per day.
 You must leave a refundable \$100
 deposit when you take the probe.
 We will return your deposit when
 you return the probe. Rental will
 be on a first come first serve
 basis.



69th Annual Meeting

The Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District
 would like to thank all those who attended the Annual Meeting
 on February 6, 2018. We recognized Steve Riley as he retired
 from the board of supervisors after dedicating 18 years of
 service. We welcomed new board supervisor Ethan Owens.
 Our guest speaker was Mr. Andy Ertel. Andy is the executive
 director at the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation
 District. He spoke to us concerning the importance of
 pollinators and the work they have done to "Share Some
 Space" in Jennings County to promote the pollinators.



Cost-Share Programs Available

Clean Water Indiana 2018 Grant

This project will strive to promote soil health on
 pasture/hay land, and improve pasture and hay
 quality; reduce soil erosion and compaction; reduce
 excessive nutrients and sediments in surface and
 ground water; and improve inadequate feed, forage,
 and water. Cover crops are included as they reduce
 erosion and diminish sediment entering our waters,
 and they can be grazed as part of a pasture
 management plan. Eligible conservation practices
 are: HUAP, access road, pipeline, watering facility,
 cover crop, roof runoff structure, animal trails and
 walkways, permanent interior fence, underground
 outlet, pasture and hay seeding. If you are interested
 contact our office for an application and more
 information at (812) 265-7609.

Central Muscatatuck Watershed

Practices that will be available for cost-share include
 cover crops, fencing, heavy use area protection,
 stream crossing, pasture and hay land seeding. If you
 are interested in participating in the cost-share and
 have property within the watershed contact Steve
 Franklin for more information. He can be reached at
 812-689-6410 or you may contact our office at
 (812) 265-7609.

**OUR WEBSITE HAS CHANGED
 TO:**

www.jeffersoncounty.in.gov/swcd

vicki.wehner@jeffersoncounty.in.gov

SWCD Supervisors

Mark Darnold, Chairman
 Jeff Ferguson, Vice-Chairman
 Dale Sides
 Ethan Owens
 Casie Auxier

Office Hours
 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Monday – Friday
 (812) 265-7609

Board Meetings
 The Second Thursday of each
 month starting at 7:00 pm in the
 Lonnie Mason Agriculture Building

Office Staff

Vicki Wehner – District Coordinator

Our Website
www.jeffersoncounty.in.gov/swcd

Check out our Facebook
[@jeffersoncountySWCD](https://www.facebook.com/jeffersoncountySWCD)

Hardy Lake Sweep

Volunteers make the 17th Annual Hardy Lake Sweep a great success! On Saturday, April 28th, Jefferson and Scott County Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the IN Department of Natural Resources at Hardy Lake hosted the sweep. There were over 170 volunteers who donated their time picking up waste and debris in and around the watershed area of Hardy Lake State Reservoir.

Volunteers came ready to work while enjoying the beautiful weather. There were numerous scout troops, community and 4-H groups, as well as individuals and families from surrounding counties. They spent the morning picking up trash and put in over 680 hours of volunteer time worth about \$16,789.20! They cleaned up several miles of county roads surrounding Hardy Lake and filled the dumpster with 25 cubic yards of trash. This translates to 10 tons of trash! As a “thanks” for their services, each volunteer received a bandana, commemorative patch and lunch. A free night of camping was offered to volunteers by Hardy Lake DNR. In addition to the Sweep, several volunteers, and with Jason Larson, DNR, helped to eradicate the invasive Garlic Mustard plant on the Hardy Lake property during the afternoon.

You can volunteer next year to be part of the Hardy Lake Sweep. Mark your calendar for the last Saturday in April: April 27, 2019.



Pollinator Awareness

We have formed a pollinator group here in Jefferson County to inform and educate the citizens of Jefferson County about;

- The importance of pollination
- The declining numbers of pollinators
- Create new habitats throughout our community



We are having another meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2018 - from 6:30- 7:30pm in the Jefferson County 4-H Community Building. Mr. Zach Voyles will be our guest speaker. Zach is the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist for Southeast Indiana. He works with landowners throughout the area under an agreement with the US Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Pheasants Forever, Inc. - The Nation's leading upland conservation organization. Zach grew up on a farm in Morgan County, Indiana, before receiving a degree in wildlife and conservation biology from Montana and Wisconsin. He returned to his Indiana roots in 2016 to help improve wildlife habitat on privately owned farmlands. His work centers on improving native plant communities for upland game and pollinators.

This will be an educational meeting on pollinators. Hope to see everyone on the 24th!

Survey shows Indiana remains a top state for cover crops

INDIANAPOLIS (April 25, 2018) – Indiana farmers planted 970,000 acres of cover crops in 2017, according to a recent [survey](#). Cover crops are now the third-most planted crop in the state, next to corn and soybeans.

“With the late harvest and heavy rains farmers experienced last fall, seeing close to one million acres of cover crops growing is no small accomplishment and worth celebrating,” said Jill Reinhart, acting state conservationist for Indiana’s Natural Resources Conservation Service ([NRCS](#)). “This year’s data shows that Indiana once again sets the bar, nationally, when it comes to incorporating conservation on the farm.”

According to NRCS, cover cropping has many benefits including increased organic matter, improved soil biology, as well as better water infiltration and water-holding capacity. This practice also prevents nutrients and sediment from running off the farm, keeping them out of nearby waterbodies and streams.

As a result of the cover crops planted last fall, more than 2.9 million pounds of nitrogen, 1.4 million pounds of phosphorus and 1.2 million tons of sediment were prevented from entering Indiana’s waterways. That’s enough sediment to fill 12,000 train cars stretching 113 miles long, the survey claims.

“Farmers continue to recognize the importance and are finding value in planting cover crops,” said Bruce Kettler, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture ([ISDA](#)). “Keeping more nutrients on the land, not only improves soil health and water quality, but also a farmer’s bottom line.”

Dan Sutton, of Sutton Farms in Lowell, Ind., first planted cover crops in 2008 and started seeing results the following year.

“We found in 2009 a pretty good yield increase on those cover cropped acres,” Sutton said. “That turned a light bulb on, and we said, ‘Hey, let’s look into this more and see what we can do with it.’”

For the past several years, Sutton has tried to plant cover crops on 100 percent of his 1,300 acre farm. Although he’s encountered challenges along the way, he believes that the benefits to his soil and the environment outweigh the risks.

In addition to cover crops, the survey also measures trends related to crop residue, which is the organic material left in the field after harvest. Crop residue further reduces sediment and nutrient runoff by protecting the soil from fall, winter and spring rain events. A no-till system leaves the most residue.

The survey shows that Indiana farmers left their crop residues undisturbed on: 67 percent of soybean acres, 63 percent of corn acres, 46 percent of small grain acres and 20 percent of specialty crop acres.

The cover crop transect survey is a collaborative effort between NRCS, ISDA, Indiana’s 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Earth Team volunteers and other members of the [Indiana Conservation Partnership](#), who team up to conduct a visual assessment of cropland county by county. The goal of the survey is to help document a more complete story of Indiana’s conservation efforts.

To learn more about the survey, visit www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm, or to find transect data for your county, visit your local Soil and Water Conservation District office at www.in.gov/isda/2370.htm.

USDA Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2018

Farmers with base acres in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net program may enroll for the 2018 crop year. The enrollment period will end on Aug. 1, 2018.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

The producers on a farm that are not enrolled for the 2018 enrollment period will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2018 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in previous years must still enroll during the 2018 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include **barley**, canola, large and small chickpeas, **corn**, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, **soybeans**, sunflower seed and **wheat**. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit the Jefferson County FSA office. Producers are encouraged to call the FSA office to schedule an appointment which will save you time in the office. If you haven’t completed your 2018 farm ARC County contracts please call **812-273-2070 Ext. 2** and ask for an appointment.