

Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District 2015 Annual Report



The Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to promoting natural resource conservation through education, available technology, technical assistance and partnership with other entities, with an understanding of our past and an eye toward the future.

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Backyard & Urban
Assistance

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Soil Testing
Friends Of Conservation

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Education
Watershed Projects

SWCD Board Members



Teresa (Terry) Hall—Chair

Terry resides in Washington Township and served her 3rd year as a supervisor.

David Todd—Vice Chair

David resides in Manchester Township and served his 2nd year as a Supervisor.



John Kruse - Member

John resides in Jackson Township and has served as a supervisor since 2003.

Brad Dawson - Member

Brad resides in Miller Township and has served as a supervisor since 2001.



Marshall Alford - Member

Marshall resides in Sparta Township and has served as a supervisor since 1991.

Associate Members:

Randy Ickenroth, Eric Callahan & East Central FFA Members

SWCD & NRCS Staff



Mary Booker
District
Coordinator



Vickie Smith
Technician/
Educator



Jennifer Hughes
Stormwater
Coordinator



Heather Wirth
Hogan/Whitewater
Watershed
Tech/Educator



Matt Jarvis
NRCS District
Conservationist

Backyard Conservation

Cost Share

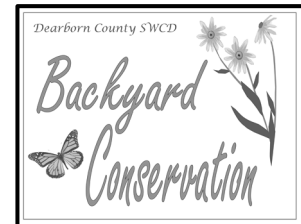
The Dearborn County SWCD will again offer a Backyard Conservation cost share program for 2016. Any Dearborn County homeowner is eligible to participate. Eligible practices will be Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels, Tumbling Composters and Native Plants plantings. To determine eligibility, a site visit must be scheduled with the Stormwater Coordinator and an application must be signed and submitted.

- Rain Gardens will be cost shared at 50% of the cost of the materials up to a maximum of \$500 per homeowner
- Native Plants will be cost shared at 50% up to a maximum of \$100 per homeowner
- Rain Barrels will be reimbursed at a maximum of \$25 for one per homeowner
- Tumbling Composters will be reimbursed at a maximum of \$50 for one per homeowner

All Cost Share is reimbursed after a field visit, conservation plan is implemented on the homeowner's property and receipts have been submitted. Projects must be installed within one year of a signed conservation plan. If you are interested in signing up for the cost share program or would like more information, call the office at (812) 926-2406 ext. 3.

Native Plants & Rain Barrels For Sale

The Soil and Water Conservation District will be selling Native Plants in May. Plants will be plugs at \$2.50 each plus tax. Rain Barrels are currently available for \$75 plus tax. Watch your mail and the news for information coming up on this year's sale. Pick up will be in May. Pre-order is required. Payment for plants is due at pickup.



Urban Assistance

Rule 13

Rule 5

Dearborn County currently has one area designated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Hidden Valley Lake, to complete a set of requirements to reduce storm water pollution. In 2015, the Natural Resource Task Force met the third Monday of month. This task force implemented the required elements of Rule 13 and

- Removed invasive plant species throughout HVL and increase the native plants in the understory of the forested areas,
- Installed a butterfly garden of native plants,
- Employee training was conducted for all employees on what to do in case of hazardous spill,
- Published monthly articles in Echoes on natural resources,
- Bi-annual report was submitted to IDEM,
- The deer cull was continued to reduce the amount of vegetation being eaten and erosion ,
- A test plot of salt resistant grass was seeded.

Sustainable Living through Backyard Conservation

The Dearborn County SWCD and Purdue Extension Master Gardeners held a series of workshops for attendees to learn about different ways they can maintain sustainable lives through backyard conservation.

Series topics included: Native Plants, Fruit & Nut Tree Production, Bee Keeping, Bokashi & Vermicomposting and Permaculture. At each meeting attendees received lots of information, from experts in the respective fields, and went home with a give away. Purdue Master Gardeners provided a final door prize of a book on Sustainable Living.

There will be five workshops again this year. The topics will be:

- Soil Health in the Garden - March 15
- Small Space & Garden Design - April 19
- Extending your growing Season - May 17
- Identifying Plants - August 16
- Preserving the Harvest - September 20

All workshops will be at the Lawrenceburg Library starting at 6:00 PM. Registration is through the Lawrenceburg Library at 812-537-2775.

We hope to see you there.

The major problem associated with erosion at construction sites is the movement of soil off the site and its impact on water quality. Construction site erosion is a source of sediments, toxicants, and nutrients which pollute the receiving water(s).

Clearing, grading, or otherwise altering previously undisturbed land at a construction site increases the erosion rate by as much as 1,000 times the preconstruction rate. The specific rate of erosion depends on soil type, slope of the land, intensity of rainfall and vegetative cover; but a construction site can reach between 100-200 tons per acre. To slow the erosion and sedimentation, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System or commonly referred to as Rule 5 in Indiana is implemented throughout the country.

2015 saw 12 new construction projects that consisted of road improvements, borrow areas, commercial development and utility improvements. By implementing Rule 5 in Dearborn County the potential of erosion and sedimentation is minimized by around 49,000 tons per year.



Drop inlet protected with coir log



Technical Assistance Programs Brought Dollars And Conservation Practices Into Dearborn County

In 2015 the Clean Water Indiana Grant was completed between Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties. Eleven landowners in Dearborn County received \$22,166.66 in cost share to install conservation practices and one rain garden. Seven new contracts were obligated in the 2015 Environmental Quality Incentives Program for a total of \$79,588.50 for installing conservation practices. Both programs combined installed:

ACCESS ROAD 65 FEET	BRUSH MANAGEMENT 100 ACRES	CONSERVATION COVER 36 ACRES	COVER CROPS 1,023 ACRES`	FENCE 11,943 FEET
FORAGE & BIOMASS PLANTING 77 ACRES	LIVESTOCK PIPELINE 2,571 FEET	NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT 257 ACRES	NO TILL 391 ACRES	REDUCED TILL 251 ACRES
HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION 8 UNITS	ROOF RUN OFF MGMT 1	PUMPING PLANT 2	WATERING FACILITY 11	WETLAND 0.2 ACRES

In 2015 Conservation Plans were written for a total of 624 acres and the SWCD office had 696 Technical Assist Requests, by walk-in, emails, and phone calls.

Equipment For Rent

Great Plains 7 ½' No-Till Drill has three seed boxes which can be used for hay/pasture land, warm season grasses, and small grains. The Brillion Seeder has two boxes, and works excellent for seeding new alfalfa stands and other legumes or grasses. A 50HP tractor with hydraulics is needed for use with either piece of equipment. Rental fee is \$8.00/Ac. (minimum \$50.00). Call the office two to three days ahead of time to reserve, or for more information at (812) 926-2406 ext. 3.



In 2015, there were 22 landowners who rented the No-Till Drill for seeding 362.8 acres and 21 rentals of the Brillion Seeder for seeding 213.2 acres.

Also available to Dearborn County land-owners are a soil probe used for taking soil samples and a hay probe used to take forage samples. Both tools are available for loan, at no charge to the landowner.

SWCD Offers Free Soil Testing

The Soil and Water Conservation District paid for soil tests for 18 Dearborn County landowners. Thirty seven samples were sent to the lab. Of these, 23 were for Hay and/or Pasture, Five (5) for Garden Tests, three (3) for Urban Seeding, one (1) for Haylage, three (3) for Forage Nutrients, two (2) for Wildlife food plot. A total of \$754.22 was spent on these activities this past year. The tests can assist in proper nutrient management of your land and feed value, which can save you money by applying/adding only what is needed. The SWCD has a soil probe and a hay probe for loan, free of charge to Dearborn County landowners. If you need a soil test/forage test, this year, contact the office at 812-926-2406 ext. 3.

Pollinator Habitat Established At the SWCD Office



Funded through a Clean Water Indiana Grant, the SWCD office established a pollinator plot and held an education workshop on September 2.

A mix of mostly native plants were planted on May 27th, choosing flowers and forbs that would be blooming different times of the year and different years.



Presenters at the meeting were Chuck Deputy, FSA; Matt Jarvis, NRCS; Michele Colopy, Pollinator Stewardship Council, Inc.; Jennifer Hughes and Vickie Smith with SWCD.

Eric Callahan, Linda Hartmann & Matt Jarvis Recipients

Friend Of Conservation Award

Each year the Dearborn County SWCD presents the “Friend Of Conservation Award” at their annual meeting to one or more candidates. Those recipients have shown outstanding interest in the SWCDs goals, programs, and the common factor of working together to preserve our natural resources by preventing erosion, improving soil, water, air, plant, and animal quality by incorporating best management practices into their operations.

In 2015, Eric Callahan from the northern part of Dearborn County, was one of the recipients of the “Friend of Conservation Award”.



Eric has grown up on his family’s farm and been actively involved with the daily farming operations his whole life. His mother and grandfather combined, does grain crops, beef cattle, chickens, hogs, sheep, and raises vegetables for their marketing business. Eric was also an FFA member at East Central High School. He joined the Dearborn County SWCD board in late 2015 as an associate member.

Linda Hartmann is the Natural Resource Leader for Hidden Valley Lake. Linda has lead Hidden Valley Lake in protecting and enhancing the environment. She has lead several community days of removing invasive plant species, found funding for chemicals needed through U.S. Fish and Wildlife, planted native species, worked to reduce erosion, and provide education to the employees and residents of Hidden Valley Lake.



Matt Jarvis, NRCS District Conservationist also was presented the “Friend of Conservation Award” at the annual meeting. Matt has been employed with NRCS for 24 years.



Matt, his wife Michelle, his children, Ethan, Jaden, Aaron, and Madison live in Aurora. Matt is the District Conservationist covering three counties in the area, Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland.

Conservation Education

Forestry Field Day

A beautiful day was enjoyed by 69 attendees on August 15th during the SWCD Forestry Field Day held at the Gladys Russell Wildlife Refuge in Dearborn County.

Presenters did an excellent job covering topics such as: tree identification, disease and insects, timber sales, stewardship planning, timber stand improvement, cost share programs, invasive ID and



treatment techniques, classified forest and wildlife program. Speakers were: Darrell Breedlove, District Forester with Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division; Rob Haubry, ACF, CF, Professional Forester & Habitat Manager with Haubry Forestry & Wildlife Consulting; Mike Hornbach, County Extension Director, Dearborn County Purdue Extension; Matt Jarvis, District Conservationist with Natural Resources Conservation Service for Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties; and Teena Ligman, U.S. Forest Service Public Affairs Specialist.



Lunch was made possible by the sponsorship from the local Dearborn County Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.



Cover Crop Plots Planted August 18th

Thanks to Duane Curlin and Matt Jarvis, NRCS, for their help assisting Vickie Smith, District Technician, in planting the seven different cover crop plots to be showcased at the Annual Tillage Breakfast.



Annual Conservation Tillage Meeting

On November 6th, 130 farmers, consultants, and conservationists gathered for the annual Conservation Tillage Breakfast at the Alford's Farm in Dearborn County. Rolling Pin Catering served the breakfast made possible by our sponsors: Consolidated Grain & Barge, Dearborn County Indiana Farm Bureau Inc., Hall Farms, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Miller Equipment and Zimmer Tractor. Vickie Smith, SWCD; Matt Jarvis, NRCS; and Chuck Deputy, FSA began the meeting with information on programs that are available through the Aurora Field Office and the farm bill program to assist landowners.



Greg Downing, Agronomist with CISCO Seed Company provided cover crop seeds to the district in early summer. Seven different plots were planted behind the barn, using the district's no till drill. Greg also spoke on the different cover crop mixes, benefits, and the termination options.



Steve Gauck, Agronomist, presented a slide show on the topic on "Carry over pesticides and considerations that would affect cover crops".

Paul Wolfe, Crop Specialist, had a variety of drones on display, and presented a slide show detailing the technology the drones can be used for to enhance and benefit the modern day farmer.



The program ended with Mike Hornbach, Dearborn County Purdue Extension Director/Educator, covering PARP and participants received their credits for attending.

Whitewater River Watershed Project

The Whitewater River Watershed Project had a very productive year in 2015. The group worked hard on developing a resourceful watershed management plan that everyone in the community would be able to use as a reference. The watershed group also held education events covering best management practices, non-point source pollution, and water quality for both adults and youth.

A tremendous amount of data and information was collected during the first year and a half of the grant. The management plan includes everything from the hydrology, geology, soils, to discharge facilities and endangered species and much more looking at the watershed as a whole. The windshield survey data and water monitoring data was analyzed at a sub-watershed level. The steering committee identified problems/concerns that need to be addressed and also prioritized the sub-watersheds on which ones need more focus on improving. The committee set improvement goals for the watershed for the next 15 years.

The group's education and outreach efforts included many workshops, presentations, newsletters, and displays. Project information was displayed and presented at the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meetings in Dearborn and Franklin Counties. Adult education opportunities included the following workshops: **Conservation Tillage Breakfast, Backyard Conservation Workshop, and Lawn & Garden Management Workshop.** Youth education presentations included Ag Days for both Franklin and Dearborn Counties and the area 4-H camp. Two student newsletters were given to all of the local elementary schools in the watershed. Watershed signs were also installed throughout the watershed to identify the streams and add to the public awareness.

The Whitewater River Watershed is planning on moving forward with a 319 Implementation Grant through IDEM to implement the watershed management plan. The grant, if awarded, would include funds for cost-share of best management practices and continuing education and outreach.

Hogan Creek Watershed Project

Hogan Creek Watershed received its 3rd implementation grant from IDEM to continue its efforts in education and improving the water quality of the watershed. Over 30 landowners/producers were interested in participating in the watershed's cost-share program. The project received \$200,000 to use to cost-share on best management practices focusing on full conservation systems. Hogan Creek Cost-share Program provided 70% cost-share to:

- ◆ Eight (8) landowners/producers
- ◆ Convert 28.5 acres of cropland to hay/pasture
- ◆ Planted 354 acres of cover crops
- ◆ Installed 9,785 feet of fence to exclude cattle out of the streams, two (2) ponds, and a woods.

These practices combined provided the following annual load reductions:

- ◆ 1,364 tons of sediment
- ◆ 1,906 lbs. of phosphorus
- ◆ 3,809 lbs. of nitrogen

Hogan Creek Watershed Project has also continued with its education and outreach efforts. It participated in the annual River Sweep and had a site where volunteers came and picked up trash. The project also had a station during the Dearborn County Ag Days and the 4-H Camp where youth were educated about watersheds, the water cycle, non-point source pollution, and best management practices. Newsletters are mailed out to landowners in the watershed 3-4 times a year with outreach and educational information.

The project also sponsored several field days and workshops to promote the use of best management practices.



Exclusion Fencing

Dearborn County SWCD
10729 Randall Avenue, Suite 2
Aurora, IN 47001

Phone: (812) 926-2406 ext. 3
Fax: (855) 391-1912
<http://www.dearbornswcd.org>

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Dearborn County SWCD Annual Report

Come Celebrate our Conservation Accomplishments *at the District's Annual Meeting and Banquet!*

You're invited to attend the 58th annual meeting and banquet of the Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District. It will be held **Thursday, March 17th at 6:30 P.M. at the Dearborn Adult Center**, 311 W. Tate Street in Lawrenceburg. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Supervisor election will be held and awards presented. This year's candidate for a three-year term as Supervisor is Terry Hall of Washington Township.

To be eligible to run for office an individual must be a resident of the county, be of legal voting age and own or rent land. Candidates can also be nominated from the floor.

Rolling Pin Catering will prepare the meal and tickets are \$6.00 per person in advance of the meeting. **Call the office at (812) 926-2406 ext. 3 today to *make your reservation before the March 11th deadline.*** We hope you will join us on **March 17th.**



SWCD Board, left to right: Terry Hall, Eric Callahan, Marshall Alford, John Kruse, Brad Dawson, and David Todd.