



Conservation in the Neighborhood

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AUTUMN, 2017

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Organic Nutrients and Soil Building on Small Farms November 30, 2017 in Indianapolis

The Marion County SWCD invites you to join fellow growers for nutrient management training and discussion led by Nathan Boone of Boone Family Farms and Dan Perkins of Perkins' Good Earth Farm.

Learning objectives include soil and crop suitability, soil testing, nutrient budgeting, fertility, crop rotation and cover crops, compost, manure, soil amendments and fertilizers, all backed by years of on-farm practical experience with considerations for sourcing, time management, costs and benefits.

Location	John Boner Neighborhood Center 2236 East 10th Street Indianapolis, IN 46201
Parking	Free parking located behind the center and on nearby streets.
9:00 - 9:20	Coffee and Registration
9:20 - 12:00	Nutrient Management Training
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Provided
1:00—2:00	Nutrient Management Training



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Advanced registration is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/organic-nutrients-and-soil-building-on-small-farms-tickets-38290925188>

Registration Fee is \$8. Includes light refreshments and lunch. Registration closes **November 15** and is limited to the first 45 registrants. Please limit 3 per organization.

Contact the Marion County SWCD for questions or assistance: kevin-allison@iaswcd.org / 317.786.1776
The Marion County SWCD and USDA are equal opportunity providers and employers.

The venue is wheelchair accessible.



Join us Tuesday,
February 20th for our
47th Annual Meeting

“Be proactive by identifying areas that will be subject to concentrated flow during snow melt or winter rains.”



Save the Date!

Marion SWCD Annual Meeting: February 20, 2018

Please plan to join us on Tuesday, February 20th as we celebrate 48 years of conservation in Marion County!

Come meet our new Resource Conservationist Cheyenne Hoffa; hear

about the great strides that have been made by our Soil Health Program staff and learn something new from our informative guest speakers. Plans are underway!

We will be in a new location so be sure to check back with us soon! Updates will be posted on our website and a formal invitation will be sent to your email. Please contact us with any questions.

Erosion Control for Winter Construction

By Cheyenne Hoffa, Resource Conservationist

Controlling erosion and sediment on construction sites is a year-round battle. With winter right around the corner, the snow and ice that is to come will give the soil on site a break from active construction and rainfall. Once spring rolls around, you will be sure to see many of the erosion control practices in place failing due to snow and ice melt, which can produce high volumes of runoff.

What can contractors do to prevent practices from failing and falling out of compliance with Rule 5?

Erosion control blankets and mulching:

Stabilization is the most important erosion control measure. Keeping soil in its place prevents sediment control failure down the line. The more soil that is stabilized on the ground, means less that piles up behind a silt fence, rock check dam or other sediment control devices that are subject to maintenance and failure. While stabilizing the ground before the cold winter weather hits is preferred, seeding with a winter mix and applying mulch can help reduce erosion after most seeding dates have passed. The optimum time to conduct frost seeding is in late winter to early spring after the snow is

gone but while the ground is still frozen. In Indiana, frost seeding should occur from **February 1st to March 15th**. Using erosion control blankets, straw mulch or hydromulching are all great options to stabilize your job site and protect the soil before construction slows down in the winter season.

Identify problem areas: Be proactive by identifying areas that will be subject to concentrated flow during snow melt or winter rains. Performing the required self-inspections can help to identify those problem areas and can guide you to make positive changes to your erosion control plan. By identifying areas that may fail, you can take steps to prevent noncompliance issues.

Ask for help: If you are concerned that your site isn't prepped for winter, give us a call at (317)-786-1776 and we can provide assistance and information about how to comply with Rule 5.

What can citizens of Marion County do to protect water resources from construction site runoff?

If you see sediment or sediment laden water coming from a construction site in your area, give us a call at (317)-786-1776 to help us [Stop that Dirt](#).



[Online Registration Now Open](#)

Prefer to register by mail? [Download the registration form.](#)

Please join us December 7-8, 2017, for the second National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health in Indianapolis. This meeting will be a great opportunity to learn recent developments in how cover crops are being used by innovative farmers across the country and gain important insights on improving soil health from producers, conservation leaders, and scientists. Whether you are contemplating cover crops for the first time, or you have years of experience and want to interact with soil health and cover crops innovators, this program will provide you with valuable information, networking, and learning opportunities.

The conference is intended for anyone interested in the practical use of cover crops and soil health improvement, including farmers; conservation agents; certified crop advisers (CCAs) and agribusiness staff; and university, nongovernmental organization (NGO), and agency representatives.

Headliners for the conference include: * Keith Berns, a nationally known Nebraska farmer on the topic of carbonomics

- David Montgomery, a geologist and popular author on soils and erosion, whose latest book is titled *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life*
- Dan DeSutter, a grain farmer from the central Corn Belt and a long-time no-tiller and cover crop user
- Trey Hill, a grain farmer from the eastern Corn Belt and also a long-time no-tiller and cover crop user
- Jimmy Emmons, a rancher and grain farmer from the Southern Plains, who grazes cover crops

Over 40 presenters, nearly half of them farmers with years of cover cropping experience, will be speaking in a variety of informative breakout sessions including: introduction to cover crops; advanced practices such as planting green and interseeding, grazing cover crops, managing herbicide resistant weeds with cover crops, use of cover crops in horticulture and organic operations; and latest approaches on measuring soil health, building soil organic matter, and understanding soil biology. There will be six breakout tracks available for participants to choose from including:

- Basics of Cover Cropping
- Advanced Cover Cropping Insights from Farmer Experts
- Diving into Soil Health
- Cover Crop Role in the Cropping System
- Impacts of Cover Crops on Economics/Environment
- Special Topics with Cover Crops and Soil Health

Providing an opportunity for networking with speakers and service providers is a priority for the conference, and the exhibit hall will be designed to allow participant interaction with equipment, seed, and service providers important to practical cover crop and soil health implementation. Optional farm tours near Indianapolis will also be available on the second afternoon following the conclusion of the main conference program.

Support the
Marion County
SWCD by
becoming an
Affiliate Member.
For information
check our website:
www.marionswcd.org
or email juliefarr@iaswcd.org

Contact District
Conservationist
[Jerod Chew](#) for
more information
on EQIP incentives



Indiana NRCS Announces EQIP Application Deadline

Indiana’s agricultural producers who want to improve natural resources and address concerns on their land are encouraged to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist, announced that December 15, 2017 will be the EQIP application deadline in Indiana.

“While we take EQIP applications throughout the year, applications received after December 15th will be considered in future announced application rounds. I encourage producers with resource concerns on their land to submit an application by the deadline,” Hardisty explains.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program available for agricultural producers. Through EQIP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve soil health, improve water and air quality, and create wildlife habitat.

Many applicants are interested in using funds to address soil erosion and water quality issues on their land; however, funds are also available for pasture and grazing land, confined livestock operations, organic producers, drainage water management, invasive plant control, and wildlife habitat improvement. Also included in this sign up are several

state and national initiatives including:

- National Organic Initiative: NRCS provides financial payments and technical assistance

to help producers implement conservation measures in keeping with organic production. Beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged producers may obtain additional assistance.

- National On-Farm Energy Initiative: NRCS provides agricultural producers with technical and financial assistance that quantifies how energy can be used more efficiently to reduce input costs, increase productivity and reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative only offers assistance for 128 Conservation Activity Plans-Ag Energy Management Plans (AgEMPs) and certain energy conservation practices.

- Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Initiative (EQIP): The Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project is a multi-state effort focused on increasing monarch habitat on private lands through plantings of milkweed and nectaring forms as well as managing pesticide use in proximity to monarch habitat.

Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative (EQIP): The goal of this initiative is to convert tall fescue and other non-native forages to native grasses and forbs and develop prescribed grazing plans to address the habitat needs of bobwhite quail and associated grassland/shrub land species. This category is available statewide on land which overlaps one of the Indiana DNR C.O.R.R.I.D.O.R.S. priority areas.

In addition, EQIP offers financial assistance for payment of practices and conservation activities involving the development of plans appropriate for the eligible land. The conservation practice associated with plan development is known as a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). EQIP applications for CAP are not required to be submitted by December 15th;

they may be submitted, accepted and considered for funding at any time. Funding is based on dollars available and meeting eligibility requirements.

Producers interested in EQIP should submit a signed application through our local NRCS District Conservationist, Jerod Chew, [317-745-2555](tel:317-745-2555) or jerod.chew@in.usda.gov. Applications submitted by the December 15th deadline will be evaluated for the funding period submitted. Participants in EQIP

must meet eligibility requirements. NRCS staff will work with producers to determine eligibility and complete necessary worksheets and rankings in order for the applicant to compete for funding.

For more information about EQIP and other technical and financial assistance available through Indiana NRCS conservation programs, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/programs/financial/eqip/> or contact Marion County's District Conservationist Jerod Chew.

Deadline approaching to apply for CORRIDORS habitat program

Landowners interested in establishing wildlife and pollinator habitat may want to consider participating in DNR's CORRIDORS initiative. Applications must be received by Dec. 15. CORRIDORS is an acronym for Conservation on Rivers & Roadways Intended to Develop Opportunities for Resources and Species. Songbirds, gamebirds, cottontail rabbits, butterflies and bees are among the species that will benefit from the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) program to improve wildlife and pollinator habitat.

CORRIDORS focuses on four priority areas in the state:

Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Areas; rights-of-way on interstates and state and federal highways; 100-year floodplains of rivers; and areas next to a body of water.

Qualifying landowners are eligible for technical and financial assistance. To get started, contact your DNR landscape or district wildlife biologist. A map with contact information is at www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2716.htm.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources

Conservation Service, a CORRIDORS partner, will provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners through its Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Dec. 15 is the application deadline for landowners to be considered for EQIP funding for CORRIDORS projects in the next round of funding.

If you aren't a landowner but want to support the program, you can do so by spreading the word about the initiative and supporting DFW by purchasing licenses and a Gamebird Habitat Stamp. For more information, visit www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/9405.htm



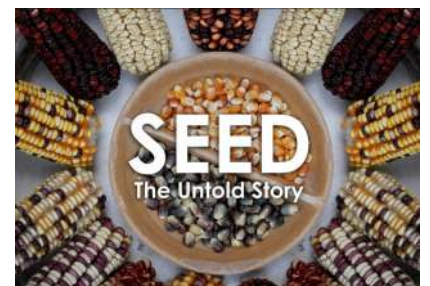
SEED, the Untold Story

Friday, November 17th, 7:00 p.m.
Downey Avenue Christian Church
111 S. Downey Ave.
Indianapolis, IN

Few things on Earth are as miraculous and vital as seeds. Worshiped and treasured since the dawn of humankind. SEED: The Untold Story follows passionate seed keepers protecting our 12,000 year-old food legacy. In the

last century, In a harrowing and heartening story, these reluctant heroes rekindle a lost connection to our most treasured resource and revive a culture connected to seeds.

This showing of SEED is sponsored by the [Eastside Creation Care Network](#).



FSA Reporting Deadlines



Stephen Kirkpatrick, NRCS

For more information contact our FSA office at 317-736-6822

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit your local county FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed below or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Indiana:

January 2 - Honey

January 15 - Apples

July 15 - Cucumbers (Planted 5/10-6/15 in all counties), all other crops

September 30 - Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crop (for the coming program year)

November 15 - Perennial Grazing and Forage Crops (alfalfa, grass, mixed forages, clover, etc.)

December 15 - Fall-Seeded Wheat and Small Grains

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires

additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th. Cucumbers and crops for NAP coverage may have dates not included on the chart above. Visit your local county office for details. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact our FSA office. (317)736-6822.

Invasive Highlight: Black Alder

Typical Seed Cone



Photos from IllinoisWildflowers.info

The Black Alder, native to Europe, Asia and North Africa, is a most picturesque of water-loving trees, with its dark green, round or oblong leaves glutinous when they unfold in the spring. The trees are tall and erect, with dark trunks. **However it is very invasive along Indiana streams and should not be planted. It spreads rapidly by**

seed as well as by shoots from the roots. Readily colonizes and eliminates native trees which have much greater value for wood products. Control by basal bark treatment for larger trees or foliar spray for young shoots. Follow label directions. For more information on

invasive species check out our website pages: <http://marionswcd.org/invasive-species/>



Dept. of Ag Launches “One Stop” Story Map



Improving water quality and soil health continues to be a priority for farmers statewide, and while data has always been available to support this claim, it hasn't been accessible in one, easily navigable location. To address this issue, the [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA), using information compiled by the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP), launched today an online [story map](#), a one-stop shop for Indiana's conservation efforts.

"All across the state, farmers, organizations and agencies are stepping up their efforts to conserve our soil and water resources, and it's important that we not only tell that story, but also highlight where it's working in Indiana," said Melissa Rekeweg, ISDA interim director. "This new resource will allow us to do that more effectively."

Located on the ISDA website, the interactive conservation story map organizes information by Indiana's 10 main river and lake basins, which are then broken down by watershed. Each basin includes sections on water quality and soil health that encompass everything from total acres of cover crops planted to sediments prevented from entering Indiana's waterways.

For example, according to the story map, more than 300 million pounds of sediment was reduced last year in the West Fork White River Basin. That's enough sediment to fill 1,518 freight cars, which if placed end to end would stretch 14 miles. This information and much more can be found by exploring the story map's various tabs.

"These new story maps are an important tool in helping us tell the story of conservation efforts here in Indiana," said Jane Hardisty, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist. "They showcase the remarkable job that our partnership staff and farmers are accomplishing together to improve agricultural operations while helping the environment."

In addition to historical and geographical information, the story map also showcases some of the voluntary conservation efforts currently taking place by the basin's rural, urban and suburban residents, as well as organizations and initiatives operating locally. This might include landowners planting a filter strip, farmers building a two-stage ditch or a soil water conservation district hosting a field day, just to name a few.

Information on where the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) conducts water quality monitoring throughout the state is also available, and farmers and conservationists can find basin-

specific resources, tools and programs listed under the education tab.

"IDEM is proud to be a partner of the ICP and to share water quality data. By coming together with other like-minded organizations, IDEM is at the table to strengthen its stewardship goals," said IDEM Commissioner, Bruno Pigott.

For more information, or to access the conservation story map, visit www.isda.in.gov/2991.htm.

Learn more
about water
quality,
conservation
efforts, soil
health & more
at the [Story](#)
[Map website](#)



Bob Nichols, NRCS



MARION COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
— CONSERVATION DISTRICT —

1200 S. Madison, Suite 200
 Indianapolis, IN 46225

Phone: 317-786-1776
Find us on the web:
www.marionswcd.org

The Mission of the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District is to assist Marion County land users in conserving soil, water, and related natural resources by providing technical, financial and educational services.

THANK YOU Supporting Affiliate Members!

Paul Wright Hayes and Ruth Rosser Hayes in honor of:

- **George Harley**
- **Glenn Lange**
- **Marilyn Hughes**
- **Eli Bloom Memorial**

George Haerle and Marion Haerle
Stephanie Schuck
Dennis Slaughter

District Provides a Variety of Services

The Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District provides a wide array of services to the residents of our county. Our primary goal is to provide high quality technical resource management and conservation assistance to help landowners make wise land use decisions. The following is a sample list of the types of assistance we provide:

Erosion and Sediment Control

Construction Site Inspections
 Private Land Assistance

Green Space Management

Soil Health Consulting & Programs
 Backyard Habitat
 Conservation Planning

Watershed Management/Drainage

Drainage Assistance for Private Landowners
 Planning Improvements
 Rain Barrel, Bioswale & Rain Garden Promotion
 ISDA & USDA Farm & Watershed Program Assistance

Education

Workshops
 Newsletters
 Factsheets
 Website

For more information please contact our office staff at (317)786-1776 or email us from our website:

<http://marionswcd.org/contact-us/>

Follow us on our new Facebook page!



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