

The DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District provides the public with information, education and technical assistance on soil, water, and related natural resource conservation; identifies and prioritizes local soil and water resource concerns; and connects land users to sources of education, technical, and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

## DeKalb Soil & Water Conservation District

"Leadership in Soil & Water Conservation"

942 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Auburn, IN 46706  
(260)925-5620 ext. 3



# Conservation Newsletter

Spring 2015

### CWI 2015 - Incentive Program

Bill Ward - SWCD Conservation Technician

Last year the District successfully wrapped up a Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant that helped DeKalb county farmers plant more than 1,800 acres of soil building, erosion resisting cover crops and install several nutrient filtering blind inlets. We have been awarded another CWI grant for 2015. Under this program, producers can receive financial assistance for planting cover crops at a flat rate of \$20/acre. Because DeKalb County soils are so clayey, good water infiltration can be a challenge. Using gypsum as a soil amendment to flocculate clay particles helps to facilitate the microbial, chemical, and physical processes responsible for building healthy soil structure. The grant promotes the use of gypsum by providing a flat rate \$20/acre for application. Variable Rate Nutrient Managements helps put your P, K, and lime where needed at the rate needed. This CWI grant provides financial assistance for this practice, again, at \$20/acre. No tilling is among the best practices for combating erosion and maintaining the systemic integrity and overall health of your soils. If you're a "rotational" no-tiller who has been considering conversion to a total no-till system, we can help you make that change by providing up to \$2,000 to convert your corn planter to a no-till planter or towards trading up from a conventional to a no-till planter. Call Bill Ward to learn more about the 2015 CWI program at: 260-925-5620 ext. 3

### Hague Nature Day

Allen Haynes - SWCD Natural Resource Coordinator



In 1999 Ms Terri Hague donated approximately 10 acres of land to the DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District. Located on the east side of Eckhart Park, this area is strongly influenced by Cedar Creek, which borders the property to the north. This is a great area to experience a variety of native plant species and see a natural wetland area. As a result, the SWCD named the property the Terri Hague Nature Area. Each year the SWCD staff and Boy Scout Troop #169 join together to mulch the walking trail through the area. Funding for maintenance for the area is provided in part by the Walmart Community Grants Program. For more information on the Hague Nature Area or our conservation education programs contact us at: 260-925-5620 ext.3

### SWCD News

#### 67<sup>th</sup> SWCD Annual Meeting Banquet

Julie Knudson - District Coordinator



The 67<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held at Bridge-water Golf Club on March 17, 2015 with a dinner funded by sponsors. A total of 90 people attended the meeting and dinner. An election of supervisors for one open position was held. This year there were three names on the ballot. Sarah Delbecq received the most votes and won the election. Appointed Supervisor and Chairman Jeff Conrad's term was up and agreed to be re-appointed to another three year term. DeKalb County Commissioner Randy Deetz performed the swearing-in ceremony for both Sarah and Jeff. An award ceremony was next on the agenda. The award winners for 2014 were: Master Farm Conservationist - Moughler Brothers, Conservation Farmer of the Year - Rory Young, and CTJ Wildlife, LLC. was awarded our DeKalb Environmental Award. All in all it was a very successful, informative and enjoyable evening. The next annual meeting will be held in March of 2016. If you are receiving this newsletter by mail you will be receiving an invitation to the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting next year. We hope you will plan on attending and learn more about what the DeKalb Soil & Water Conservation District is all about!

### SWCD Board of Supervisors



The Board of Supervisors and staff would like to welcome Sarah Delbecq to the board. We would also like to thank Greg Weller for his commitment and dedication to the DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors over the last three years.

### SWCD Plat Books Available Soon!

Bill Ward - SWCD Conservation Technician

You may not have heard that Athentic Inc., the company that has been the provider of the DeKalb and Steuben County plat books, is no longer in business. In order to ensure the availability of these valuable community publications, the DeKalb SWCD Board of Supervisors has approved the commissioning of Rockford Map Publishers to produce new plat books for DeKalb County. The Rockford Map plat books are quite different than what you are used to seeing. The new books will contain full color maps with color aerial imagery on adjoining pages. Production will begin soon and we expect arrival near the beginning of July. For questions regarding the new DeKalb SWCD plat book, please see our office.

2015

### Agronomy Field Day

Hosted by:



Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>

8:30-3:00

Waterloo Farm Center

4745 CR 28

Waterloo, IN 46795

#### Guest Speakers

Scott Haley, Resource Soil Scientist, ARS

John Obermyer, Integrated Pest Management Specialist, Purdue University

Stephanie Smith, Agronomist 360 Yield Center

Mike Muck, The Andersons

Dr. Fred Whitford, Purdue University

Please RSVP to The Andersons:

260-837-8162 by July 24<sup>th</sup>

Credits applied for: CCE, CEUs, PARS, approved credits TBA the day of the event

## Save The Dates

### SWCD Supervisor Board Meeting

Open to the public

June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

July 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.

August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.

September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

260-925-5620 ext. 3

### SWCD Youth Conservation Camps

Dallas Lake in LaGrange County

June 30, 2015

Pokagon in Steuben County

July 14, 2015

Camp Whitley in Whitley County

August 4, 2015

Contact Julie Knudson for more information @ 260-925-5620 or email at: jknudson@co.dekalb.in.us

### Farm Service Agency

Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline

July 15, 2015

ARC-PLC Enrollment

Summer of 2015

If you have any questions or would like to schedule your appointment, please call the DeKalb County FSA office at: 260-925-3710 ext. 2

### Eckhart Park 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

July 25, 2015

11:00 - 4:00

### SWCD Pasture Walk

Steve Provinces Property

September 2, 2015

Evening event - Details TBD

# DeKalb SWCD

Soil & Water Conservation District  
942 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Auburn, IN 46706

[www.dekalbswcd.org](http://www.dekalbswcd.org)

## Spring Newsletter

### WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT SEED AVAILABLE

DeKalb County SWCD has FREE wildlife food plot seed available. Sunflower, sorghum, and corn are available thanks to our district, Pheasants Forever, and Hoham Feed & Seed. If you would like to be on next years food plot mailing list, please contact our office or email Julie Knudson at: [jkudson@co.dekalb.in.us](mailto:jkudson@co.dekalb.in.us)

**DON'T FORGET TO INQUIRE ABOUT OUR MANY CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAMS!**

**ASH TREE REPLACEMENT  
RAIN GARDEN  
RAIN BARREL  
SEPTIC REPLACEMENT**



DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation Fund Established in August 2009 to promote the conservation of soil, water and other natural resources in DeKalb County.

### RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS



DeKalb County SWCD held four rain barrel workshops around the County. The participants learned how to build a barrel and then actually constructed their own rain barrel. There was also information on how to decorate the barrels too! At the end of the workshops a total of 36 fully functional rain barrels were constructed. The workshops were held in cooperation with the City of Auburn Stormwater Pollution Control, Auburn Parks and Recreation, NE Indiana Solid Waste Management and DeKalb SWCD. They were free but limited to ten participants

at each location in Ashley, Garrett, Auburn, and Butler. Each workshop filled up fast so we are looking at holding another series of workshops either this fall and next spring. In the meantime, DeKalb SWCD has a cost share program for rain barrels. For more information on the program contact our office at 260-925-5620 ext. 3 or visit our website at: [www.dekalbswcd.org](http://www.dekalbswcd.org).



### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS!

Front row: Judy Strock, Chairman - Jeff Conrad, Greg Weller. Back row: Vice Chairman - Steve Provines, Sarah Delbecq, and Steve Watson.

## 2015 Annual Meeting & Banquet Sponsors We appreciate your support!

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