



Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District

1486 Executive Blvd. Suite A • Jasper, IN 47546
812-482-1171 x3 • www.duboisswcd.org

Fall 2010

The Conservation Conversation

Dubois County SWCD Holds Winter Cover Crop Program

This year, the Dubois County SWCD received a grant to cover the costs of a cost-share program for cover crops. In August, applications were taken to plant winter cover crops on Dubois County land. This is the second year in a row that the SWCD has obtained a grant for cover crops.

Cover crops selected this year included crimson clover, oilseed radish and winter oats. These varieties were selected because of their outstanding benefits to the soil. Among other things, they can help provide enhanced Nitrogen production, which can dramatically reduce the amount of fertilizer application needed in the Spring. These varieties of cover crops have also been shown to build organic matter and reduce soil erosion. Improved soil structure is also an added benefit, especially with the oilseed radishes. The radishes dig down deep into the soil, which breaks up the soil below, allowing for stronger root structures in Spring crops.

This year the cover crop program also allowed for the option of having these crops aerially applied by a small plane. The SWCD brought in a plane to the Dubois County Airport in Huntingburg, where the plane was filled with a mixture of these cover crop seed. A grand total of 894.72 acres of cover crop were seeded through the program this year, with almost 500 of those acres being aerially applied!

A cover crop incentive program is also being planned for next year, along with a field day. Look for details in the Summer 2011



Pictured Above & Left: A special mix of cover crop seed was selected for aerial application. Mix included three types of crops: oilseed radishes, crimson clover and winter oats. Nearly 500 acres of cropland this year were sown by this plane.

New Fertilizer Applicator Certification Rule

On July 28, 2010, the Indiana rule requiring *Certification for Distributors and Users of Fertilizer Materials* (355 IAC 7-1-1) became effective. However, please **DON'T PANIC**. While the date for full compliance with the certification and licensing requirements of this rule will be January 1, 2012, the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and other cooperators will be out in the state during the coming year providing information and assistance on how to come into compliance.

Who will this rule impact?

1. Farmers who apply manure from a confined feeding operation CFO (300 cattle, 600 sheep or swine, 30,000 fowl).
2. CFO operators who sell or transport manure to fertilizer applicators/distributors.
3. Applicators who apply any fertilizer (manure or commercial fertilizer) for hire.

Details about the process for becoming certified & licensed will be made available through direct mailers to impacted parties & through www.isco.purdue.edu as soon as it becomes available in January 2011.

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference



February 3, 2011

7am - 4pm

Simon J. Graber Building
Montgomery, IN

Early Registration \$25 (by Jan 7)
Late Registration \$35 (by Feb 2)
Last Minute Registration \$40 (after Feb 2)

Topics Include:

- Moving from production to profit
 - Finish beef cattle on grass
- Grass based beef cattle finishing
 - Marketing grass fed beef

Featured Speakers:

Kit Pharo, Steve Wallace and
Seven Sons Cattle Company

For more information or to register, contact
the Daviess County SWCD at
812-254-4780 x3

New Erosion Control Blanket Staplers Available for Rent



The SWCD recently purchased two new Rifle M100 Cartridge Staplers to install erosion control blankets. The staplers are available for Dubois County landowner and contractors to rent for \$20 per day. The cartridge staples are also available for purchase at the SWCD office, with a cost of \$80 for a box of 1,000 staples.

The stapler is easy to use. Simply push down on the handle to plunge the staples into the ground. Reloading of staples is also easy.

For more information, contact the office at 812-482-1171 x3.

EQIP Program Signup Coming Soon

Now is the time to sign up for USDA Farm Bill Programs! If you are interested in installing conservation practices on your farm, now is your chance! Funding will soon be available for conservation practices like:

- Water And Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs)
- Manure Storage Buildings
- Animal Mortality Buildings
- And much more!

 Funding may also exist to help farmers with failing drainage tile in old WASCOBs.

To get started on an application, set up an appointment with Bart Pitstick by calling 812-482-1171 x3 today!

Dave Schmett & Brad Wehr Honored as River Friendly Farmers for 2010

Dave Schmett and Brad Wehr were recently selected as River Friendly Farmers for 2010 for their outstanding conservation achievements.

Dave Schmett operates a grain and livestock farm, raising turkeys and swine. Over the years, Dave has consistently applied erosion control practices to prevent soil loss. Dave has applied filter strips to prevent nutrient runoff from fields, installed grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins and other erosion control structures. Dave also no-tills his crops and sews cover crops on his highly erodible lands.

Brad Wehr also operates a grain and livestock farm, raising mostly swine. Brad has also applied erosion control practices to his farm, including grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins and filter strips. He also no-tills his land.

The Indiana River Friendly Farmer program was initiated in 2000 as a statewide initiative to publicly recognize and reward farmers who do an excellent job of managing their farms in an economically and environmentally sound way that protects and improves Indiana's soil and water resources for future generations. Since 2000, 544 farmers across Indiana have been publicly honored at the Indiana State Fair for their stewardship. Twelve of those have been from Dubois County, including our 2010 awardees.

The Dubois County SWCD congratulates our awardees for outstanding conservation achievements. Schmett was presented a ribbon and certificate at the Indiana State Fair in August. Wehr was unable to attend the ceremony. Both award recipients will be presented metal signs at the Dubois County SWCD Annual Meeting in January 2011.



Great Plains 10' No-till Drill Available For Rent



Need to rent a drill to plant your soybeans, wheat and native or warm season grasses this year?

If you've never no-tilled before, why not give it a try!?

Call the SWCD at 812-482-1171, extension 3 to schedule your time to rent the drill.

Cost is \$7 per acre.

Other Conservation Items Available

Tile Flags

Flags on 36" wire staff can be used to mark underground power lines or surveying jobs. \$7.00/ bundle of 100; various colors.

Stapler

Installing erosion control blankets? This stapler makes completing the job easy! The plunger simply pushes the cartridge staples into the ground. \$20/day. Boxes of 1,000 staples costs \$80.

Spinning Jenny

Use to install high-tensile wire fences. Load with wire and set on the ground. Walk away pulling the end of the wire and it will spin, preventing your wire from tangling. Slow down gradually before stopping to prevent over-spinning and tangling. Can also be used to rewind wire in the field. No rental fee.

Contact us for more details about any of these!



Above: Dave Schmett (middle) receives the River Friendly Farmer Award at the Indiana State Fair in August.



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The Conservation Conversation

OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 8 AM TO 4 PM

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS
NEWSLETTER**

SWCD Supervisors:

Alan Weyer, Chair
Brenda Sermersheim, Vice Chair
Greg Hoffman, Member
Glenn Menke, Member
Sam Oxley, Member

SWCD Associate Supervisors:

Jim Hochgesang, Duane Hopf
Lee Schnell, Jack Welp

Service Center Staff:

Judi Brown, Executive Director
Amanda Bough, Resource Specialist
RADIUS Weisman, Technical Specialist
Michael Wilhite, Program Assistant
Bart Pitstick, District Conservationist

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*Visit us on the web at:
[www.duboisswcd.org!](http://www.duboisswcd.org)*

For address corrections or to be taken off the list, please contact the office by email at michael.wilhite@in.nacdn.net or call 812-482-1171 x3

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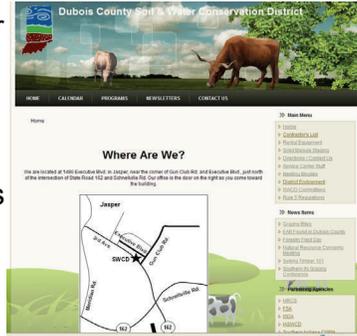
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Due to the nature of the work performed by the Service Center Staff, occasionally there are times when no one will be in the office. Please call before making a special trip to the office.

New Website for Dubois County SWCD

Be sure to check out our new website for all your soil conservation needs!

- Get an updated contractor's list
- Learn how to submit a Rule 5 Plan
- Read past editions of our newsletters
- Get Farm Bill Program information
- And much more!



www.duboisswcd.org

**Looking for Grazing Bites?
Check out our new website to
read the latest edition!**

**Please note the Dubois County SWCD
now has a new fax number:
812-482-9601**