



Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District
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www.duboisswcd.org

The Conservation Conversation

Fall 2023

Newsletter Update

We are working on updating our mailing list for our quarterly newsletter.

If you need to make a change such as:

- Change of Address
- Change of Contact Person
- Wish to no longer receive the quarterly newsletter
- Would like to switch to the Email Version

If you need to make a change contact us one of three ways:

- By Phone: 812-482-1171 Ext. 3 (ask for Veronica)
- By Email: duboisswcd@gmail.com
- If you follow us on Facebook, contact us through Messenger



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Soil Health Workshop

Save the Date: Tuesday, November 14th



Come learn about “Data Driven Decisions”- a workshop being held on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 in the Theater room of the CTIM building on Vincennes University Jasper Campus (961 College Ave). Doors will open at 9:30. The event will begin at 10:00 am and end at 1:30. Lunch will be provided. To register, please contact Veronica Helming at 812-482-1171 ext. 3 or email duboisswcd@gmail.com.

Farmers have an overwhelming amount of information at their fingertips. How can they spot the red flags in their data? What changes should they make with information at hand? As technology advances what opportunities are available to farmers? How can they adapt their farm management practices with the information they gather?

Joel Reddick is from Bardwell, Kentucky. He has been farming with cover crops and other regenerative management practices for 6 years. Reddick Farms operates on 1600 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat as well as broiler chicken houses and beef cows on pasture. Reddick Farms received the 2022 Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award for their efforts in agricultural conservation. Joel spoke at the 2022 National No Tillage Conference. He will be sharing his journey as a farmer and how information he has gathered has changed his farming practices over time.

Adam Shank, Purdue Extension Educator, believes that UAV technology is ever changing, and more uses in agriculture are being discovered almost every day. We will investigate some of the newer technology and how it can benefit livestock producers in their daily production and help guide management decision. He will help you understand basic soil science, interpret soil tests, plant science, plant tissue tests, and fertilizer recommendations. You will come away with ideas on how to use UAVs for remote sensing and imagery interpretation.

SOIL SAMPLING FOR INDIANA PRODUCERS

Program Background

Soil sampling is an integral part of soil fertility management. Soil sampling provides information on the fertility status of soils within a field that can be used for making nutrient application recommendations, and monitoring soil fertility over time. Effective soil sampling can improve on-farm nutrient use efficiency, leading to increased return on investment for nutrient application and reducing the risk of nutrient runoff.

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and partners throughout the state have worked with the Gulf Hypoxia Program to develop a soil sampling program. This program focuses on increasing the knowledge and use of soil sampling as a nutrient management practice to benefit on-farm operations.

Benefits of Soil Sampling

A few of the many benefits to soil sampling are:

- Determines nutrient levels in a field
- Helps determine the amount and type of fertilizer needed for optimized use resulting in reduced nutrient loss
- May promote higher yielding and better quality crops
- Measures changes in soil fertility over time
- May help decrease input costs, increasing profits
- Improves soil health



Figure 1. Eligible program area (green).

Program Eligibility


This program includes row crop fields, pastures, and specialty crops located within the Mississippi River Basin (Figure 1). This program is not meant for personal or hobby gardens and private lawns.

Participating growers will be prioritized by:

- Fields that have never been sampled, or
- Fields that haven't been sampled regularly (i.e., not sampled within last 3-4 years), and
- New program enrollments.

Soil Sampling

Producers will work with ISDA staff to coordinate soil sampling and provide information for customized nutrient recommendations based on testing results and yield goals.



ISDA staff will implement a management zone sampling methodology based on soil survey maps and a field's dominant soil types. A minimum of 2 samples per field will be collected with 4 samples being the maximum collected per field. However, this program has the flexibility to collect additional samples if appropriate. Samples will be collected prior to fertilizer application.

If a producer is interested in grid sampling, more robust soil testing, or enrolls more than 200 acres, a trusted crop advisor may be involved.

This program does not include personal or hobby gardens, private lawns, and manure sampling. ISDA reserves the right not to collect soil samples.

Sample Analysis

Soil samples will be sent to A&L Great Lakes Labs in Ft. Wayne, IN or Waters Agricultural Labs in Owensboro, KY. Soil samples will be analyzed for organic matter, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, soil pH, buffer pH, cation exchange capacity, and % base saturation of cation elements.

Producers may inquire about other tests. However, ISDA cannot guarantee funds to cover these additional tests.

Getting Results

A results packet will be mailed and/or sent via email including lab results, recommendations, educational materials, and other soil health information.

ISDA, our partners, or trusted crop advisors may be able to help you determine next steps after receiving your results.

How to enroll?

Interested individuals can [sign-up online](http://www.in.gov/isda) (www.in.gov/isda), scan the QR code below, or reach out to ISDA.

ISDA will be accepting sign-ups from September 22, 2023 to April 17, 2024.

For more information contact:

Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Division of Soil Conservation
Phone: 317-605-0701
Email: soilsampling@isda.in.gov



Last updated on 09/1/2023

Urban Soil Health

FREE SOIL SAMPLING!!!

Dubois County is forming a Soil Health Working group with the aim to help residents better understand the importance of nutrient balance in their soil and assist landowners to improve their soil health. Members of the group will set up a time with you to come to your garden / farm and pull soil samples and talk. When the results come in, they will return to help you understand what your soil test results mean for your garden / farm and discuss practices that will improve your soil's health. There is no cost to the landowner for either of these visits.

With the help from an USHer (Urban Soil Health) grant, Dubois County residents can now request free soil samples from their back yard gardens or small acre specialty crop farms. Larger acreage farms can have soil samples taken through a program from ISDA- see the requirements on pages 3 and 4 for more details on that program. To request your soil health visit, or join the team, please contact Melissa Ruschau at melissa.ruschau@in.nacdn.net or call 812-482-1171 ext. 3.

Dubois County Soil Judging Invitational

The Annual County Soils Judging invitational was held on Tuesday, September 19th at Mill Creek Farms on Portersville Rd. There was a great turn out with close to 80 students participating.



Photos by Annette Applegate Forest Park FFA



Photos by Brianna Lammers
Jasper FFA



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Jasper FFA



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Jasper FFA



Photos by Annette Applegate Forest Park FFA

Results -Top 5 Teams:

- 1.) Orleans FFA -1115
- 2.) Jasper FFA Gold -996
- 3.) Clay City Gold - 964
- 4.) North Harrison Team 1 - 947
- 5.) Sullivan Owls - 928

Results -Top 5 Individuals

- 1.) Aiden Keller - Orleans FFA-413
- 2.) Julia Isam - Orleans FFA - 382
- 3.) Jackson Beier- Jasper FFA Gold - 353
- 4.) Grady Springer- Orleans FFA - 347
- 5.) Sophie Hollsway - North Harrison Team 2 - 337

Recent Events

Parkland Prairie Walk July 26th



Photos by Emily Finch Invasive Species Specialist

Prescribed Grazing for Invasive Species August 2nd



On August 2nd the SWCD partnered with the Invasive Species Awareness Coalition (ISAC) of Dubois County, and Purdue Extension for a Prescribed Grazing Workshop. This workshop was different than previous Prescribed Grazing events, as it focused on the use of goats to control invasive plants as part of an integrated management program. Purdue Extension Forester Ron Rathfon shared his research done at Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center (SIPAC), where the goat herd has been used to target forest invasives including multiflora rose, amur honeysuckle, and autumn olive.



Attendees also talked with SIPAC Farm Manager Jason Tower, and ANR Educator Sara Dzimianski (Purdue Extension Perry County) about goat herd selection, management, and fencing requirements. Workshop handouts included the results of Rathfon's research studies, details on fencing requirements, and a list of for hire businesses providing goat herd rentals for vegetation management. For copies of workshop handouts, contact our office at duboisswcd@gmail.com.



*Photos by Emily Finch
Invasive Species Specialist*



Recent Events



Invasive Landowner Training September 9



*Photos by Emily Finch
Invasive Species
Specialist*



Women 4 the Land August 2nd



*Photos by Veronica Helming Administrative Assistant
4H Fair July 17th-21st*



Photo by Ella Goeppner SWCD Intern



harvest BLESSINGS

Everyone at Dubois County
SWCD would like to wish everyone
a safe harvest and upcoming
holiday season!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 11, 2023, Old Town Lake Weed Wrangle

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, LSI Field Day

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Annual Meeting

For More Information Visit our Website: duboisSWCD.org



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Andrea Gogel, ISDA DOSC



Rental Equipment Available

Dubois County SWCD

No-Till Drill- \$12 Per Acre, \$100 Minimum

Great Plains No-Till drill has a seeding width of 7 feet, and can be used to plant soybeans, wheat, legumes, grasses, etc. It can also be used to plant native or warm season grasses.

No-Till Seeder- \$12 Per Acre, \$100 Minimum

Great Plains 9' No-Till Seeder

Stapler/Staples- \$10/Rental Fee, \$50/box of 1,000 staples

This stapler is for erosion control blankets. The plunger simply pushes the staples into the ground. Buy staples and the stapler rental fee is waived.

Spinning Jenny- No Rental Fee

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.

Tile Flags- \$12.00/bundle of 100

Flags on 36" wire staff can be used to mark underground power lines or surveying jobs.