Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Fall, 2019

The Conservation Conversation

Soil Judging Contests

This year's Dubois County Soil Judging Contest was held southeast of Huntingburg on the Brad and Andrea Welp farm on Tuesday, September 17th, 2019. The event was held in the late afternoon and temperatures were a bit warm. The soil conditions this year were very dry. Several trains also inconvenienced some traveling to the event. Eight-four students attended from a total of twelve different schools and from nine counties.

The top three teams were: 1st) North Harrison FFA Team #1, 2nd) Orleans High School, and 3rd) North Harrison FFA Team #2. The top 5 individuals were: 1st) Ariel Camm, North Harrison with 420 points; 2nd) Devin Johnson, North Harrison with 417 points; 3rd) Jackson Metz, North Harrison with 412 points; 4th) Kevin Johnson, Orleans High School with 388 points; and 5th) Joseph Loehr, Gibson County 4-H with 380 points. The top Dubois County Soil Judging team was Jasper Gold.

These events are designed to teach skills necessary in soil science and land use. The soil's property is evaluated to make land recommendations for agriculture production and homesite development. State contest participants must quality at their area event.

The Indiana Area 3 Soil Judging CDE (Career Development Events) Contest was held on September 27th, 2019. The top ten teams will be advancing to the state competition. The following is the list of winners and their rankings: 1st) Gibson County 4-H Green with 1168 points; 2nd) Jasper FFA Gold with 1099 points; 3rd) North Posey FFA 1 with 1057 points; 4th) North Posey FFA 2 with 1057; 5th) Gibson County 4 -H White with 1053 points; 6th) North Posey FFA 3 with 961 points; 7th) North Posey FFA 4 954 points; 8th) Forest Park FFA Blue with 937 points; 9th) South Knox FFA 1; and 10th) Jasper FFA Blue with 908 points.

The 2020 Census: An Important Way to Support Your Community

Every 10 years, the US Census Bureau is responsible for conducting the nationwide census. While the next census itself will be taken in 2020, the Census Bureau is already recruiting to fill important positions. We plan to recruit and employ thousands of American as Census Takers throughout the country. Since most communities are best known by the people who live and work there, you can help us—and your community—by getting the word out about 2020 Census job in your community.

Join the 2020 Census Team. Be a Census Taker.

Apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs

2020 Census jobs provide:

Great pay-$15/hour, flexible hours, weekly pay, paid training and $.58/mile.

Contents

Invasive Plants

The two biggest challenges to invasive plant control are knowing what you have and how best to control it. That is where the SWCD's Invasive Species Specialist comes in. With funding from a Clean Water Indiana grant, Emily Finch is available to meet with any landowner in Dubois, Daviess, or Martin counties. There is no cost or obligation for the site visits, which can be as simple as identifying a single unknown plant to surveying the entire property. Landowners can also receive written management plans, with detailed control information such as herbicide rates, timing, and how to prioritize invasive control efforts. Even landowners already managing invasive plants on their property can benefit from a site visit. Aside from the more common invasive plants like Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose, Finch's site visits have also discovered other invasives that landowners were unaware of, including: pioneer populations of Japanese Stiltgrass on forest roads; wintercreeper spreading into a forest from the adjoining road; and Chinese Yam vines along a field edge. Identifying and controlling these new invasives early prevents their spread and saves landowners time and money. Not interested in a full site visit? You can also contact Finch with questions with specific invasive plant questions, or for help in plant ID at Emily.Finch@in.nacdnet.net or 812-482-1171 ext.3. Next ISAC (Invasive Species Awareness Coalition of Dubois county meeting is November 5th, at 6pm in the USDA Conference Room.

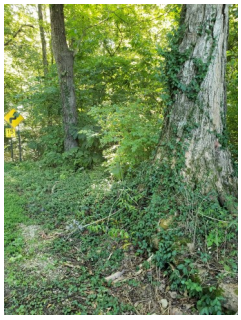


Photo 1: **Invasive Wintercreeper** vines spreading onto a landowner's property from an adjoining road north of Jasper.

Photo2: Finch helped a landowner near Ireland identify invasive **Japanese Stiltgrass** after he emailed her this picture.

Photo3: **Chinese Yam** is not common in Dubois County, but during a site visit near Huntingburg Finch found a cluster of vines climbing trees along the landowner's property line.

Fall is a Great Time to Control Invasives

This fall, you may notice that some plants stay green longer than others. Many of these are actually invasive plants like Bush Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Japanese (Vine) Honeysuckle, and Winter-creeper. Luckily, this also makes it a great time of year to find and control these woody invasives!

Non-chemical: Small populations and young invasive plants can be pulled. Some plants are easier than others, such as Bush Honeysuckle which has very shallow roots.

Foliar Herbicide: Foliar herbicides need to contact green leaves to be taken up by the plant. By spraying green invasive plants after most of the native plants around them have dropped their leaves, you can avoid a lot of off-target damage. This can be used on smaller shrubs and is particularly good for Japanese Honeysuckle vines climbing over shrubs or trees that you don't want to kill.

Cut-Stump Herbicide: If you have invasive shrubs, trees, or vines that are too tall to spray, consider a cut-stump herbicide treatment, which can be done even after the plants lose their leaves. Simply cut the plant and apply a concentrated herbicide to the cut surface. Products with the active ingredients glyphosate or triclopyr are typically used, just check the label for mixing/rate directions (usually about a 1:4 ratio of herbicide concentrate to water or oil, unless sold as ready-to-use). Make sure to cut and treat every stem, and on large stems only apply herbicide to the outer inch of the stump. Many invasives will resprout vigorously from the stumps without the use of herbicide.

Basal Bark Herbicide: This application is similar to cut-stump, but without the need to cut the shrub or tree. Instead, a concentrated herbicide mixed in an oil carrier is applied to the bark at the base of the plant in a band from the ground level to 12-18" up the trunk, around the entire stem/trunk. Each stem must be treated, and this can be done through fall into winter as long as the bark is clear and dry. This application is most common on small diameter trees/shrubs, those with thin bark, and trees noted for root suckering such as Tree-of-Heaven. Basal bark uses an ester-based triclopyr herbicide (such as Garlon 4 or Remedy Ultra) mixed in an oil carrier, with some pre-mixed ready to use formulas available as well (such as Pathfinder II).

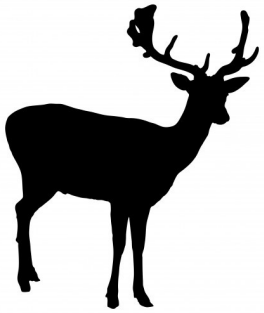
**The SWCD does not endorse any particular herbicide product or vendor. Always read and follow the label instructions of any herbicide product before use, including instructions on mixing and applying the product.*

Cut-Stump: Example of a cut-stump treatment applied to the outer inch of cut surface. Photo by James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.

Basal Bark: Example of a basal bark herbicide application. Photo by Steve Manning, Invasive Plant Control, Bugwood.org.

Hunting Guide and Forestry Notes

With the beginning of early hunting season, hunters should be aware of several deer diseases.



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): is a disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk, reindeer, and moose. It causes brain lesions and is fatal in these species. There is no vaccine or treatment and no chance for infected animals to recover. CWD has been confirmed in approximately half of the states in the United States; as well as, in Canada, Europe, and Asia. It is spreading into new places, and high prevalence in some areas is slowing deer population growth. The disease is caused by a misfolded protein called a prion. Prions are shed from infected deer through their bodily secretions' such as, salvia, feces, and urine. CWD prions are highly resistant to disinfectants, freezing or heat. Cooking or burning will not inactivate them. Prions remain infectious to deer in the environment for many years and can there remain capable of infecting deer for may years. CWD infected deer may appear normal and look healthy, but still may be capable of spreading the disease. About 18 months to 24 months after they have been infected, deer will begin to show symptoms; such as, weight loss, drooping ears and head, tremors, staggering, excessive drooling, and changes in behavior; such as, confusion or loss of fear of humans. In areas where CWD is known to be present, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that hunter strongly consider having deer and elk tested before eating the meat. The CDC also recommends not to consume meat from an animal that tests positive for CWD. To find out more information on CWD and obtain updated details on surveillance in Indiana, see **http://deer.dnr.IN.gov**.

Bovine Tuberculosis: is quite rare accounting for less than 2% of total tuberculosis or TB. It is mostly been eliminated from commercial cattle but it is still present in wild bison and deer, the CDC stated. The symptoms look pretty similar to typical tuberculosis: severe cough, fever, low weight. Bovine Tuberculosis resists antibiotics used to treat TB according to CDC. The average person's risk of bovine TB is low. Indiana DNR monitors Indiana's deer heard for bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) due to detection of the disease in southeast Indiana. Bovine Tuberculosis was detected in wild white-tailed deer in Franklin County (2016-2019) With support from hunters and landowners, more than 5,00 deer have been tested by bTB from within the surveillance zone since 2009. The disease was not detected in any of these samples suggesting the prevalence of bTB in wild deer is very low. While field-dressing a deer, be aware of the presence of white or tan lesions on the internal organs or inner call of the chest cavity. Lesions may be found on the lungs, inside the rib cage on the liver, on lymph nodes, or occasionally other internal organs. While field dressing or handling any carcass or other raw meat, you should consider wearing disposable gloves and wash hands with soap and water afterward. Wash and disinfect all tools used during processing. More information about Indiana's bTB testing in deer is available at **http://deer.dnr.IN.gov**.

Forestry Notes

Nearly 85% of wildland fires in the United States
are caused by humans.
Human-caused fires result from
campfires left unattended,
the burning of debris,
equipment use and malfunctions,
negligently discarded cigarettes,
and intentional acts of arson.
Source: 2000-2017 data based on
Wildland Fire Management information WFM
and US Forest Service Research Date Archive

Mark your Property: Purple Paint Law

Starting July 1st, 2018, the purple paint law went into effect and is used the same as a "No Trespassing" sign. The law allows landowners in Indiana to mark their property with purple paint to prevent trespassing and minimize liability if someone illegally enters the property and gets hurt. The signs are typically used near land reserved for hunting so a landowner doesn't have to keep replacing a sign that may have been vandalized or destroyed by the weather. Because the paint can not be easily removed, it can be effective for several years.

According to the law, the purple paint marks must be: a) on a tree as a vertical line of at least eight inches in length and with the bottom of the mark at least three feet and not more than five feet from the ground, b) on a post with the mark covering the top two inches of the post and the bottom of the mark at least 3 feet and not more than five feet six inches from the ground and not more than thirty-six feet from the nearest other marked post.

Attention Women Land Owners!

Do you have questions about preserving your land for yourself and future generations?

Join the **Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District** & the **Land Stewardship Initiative** for a day of fellowship, soil health information, and a tour of conservation practices on Vincennes University Jasper Campus.

Lunch provided courtesy of the ***Dubois County Community Foundation***.

Tuesday, November 12 from 9 AM—3 PM EDT

At VUJC Center for Technology and Information
961 College Ave, Jasper IN 47546

Estimates indicate that women now own or co-own nearly half the farmland in the Midwestern Corn Belt and are increasingly managing farmland on their own as they inherit it from their spouses or parents. Many women wonder whether they are doing all they can to improve soil and water quality, while maintaining high agricultural productivity. During this program, we'll discuss individual land stewardship goals, basic principles of healthy soil, and share information with one another. Women conservationists will help facilitate the discussion and share resources that can help you establish and/or reach your conservation goals, including USDA cost-share programs and other tools.

Space is limited for this unique opportunity,
so please **RSVP by November 5th to**
melissa.ruschau@in.nacdnet.net or 812-482-1171 ext. 3
For more information visit: www.women4theland.org

Women 4 the Land

Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District

VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative
soil health...the root of everything

DUBOIS COUNTY Community Foundation

Grazing Bites by Victor Shelton, October, 2019

Stockpile forages now to provide needed rest and forage for later this winter.

Fall is here even if it doesn't feel like autumn weather. I like warm weather and am always sad to have to see it go. Several people have commented to me about dry conditions. For me, after almost a year with no completely dry periods, it has been nice for a change; especially to not have to get the baler out after mowing the lawn.

But the dryness is a concern and has caused a lot of stress on plants. After continuous wet conditions all spring and into summer, plants got lazy. They didn't have to grow deep roots to find water earlier in the year and when the rains stopped after prolonged wet periods, shallow-rooted pants were not prepared for it.

Soils that were compacted by use under wet conditions further reduced the ability for those plants to grow downward. Overgrazing forages and not maintaining good stop grazing heights dies not support good root systems, so live roots are reduced, and the plant's reserves hampered. Overgrazing increases evaporation, especially when there isn't enough decomposing residue. Increased soil temperature then makes it even harder to maintain moisture. You just can't afford to not maintain cover, especially going from wet to dry weather.

Fall-planted annuals have also been challenging due to the lack of sufficient moisture. I was glad to finally get some small amount of rain late in the month to help get early September planted annuals up and growing. I knew with rain they would eventually sprout and start growing, but I also knew the later that happened, the less forage it would potentially grow. That late start will require some prolonged and unseasonal warm weather along with sufficient moisture to make up some of the difference. Annuals that were no-tilled earlier in the season when there was more moisture are doing better. The annuals will, or should, still make some decent grazing. The ability to graze these annuals or corn residue will allow needed rest for pastures and potentially more growth for later grazing.

Forage rest ad regrowth is important in the fall. First of all, the rested forage can certainly be very useful for early winter grazing or as stockpile for winter. Remember the plant is also trying to build up reserves in its roots for winter. Continuing to graze these forages throughout the fall pulls from those reserves and will reduce and slow spring growth. Of course, grazing can be a useful tool if you are wanting to frost seed clover into the stand later this winter, but otherwise, it will only reduce spring growth, reduce the forage's competition with weeds and the soil be a lot more susceptible to pugging under wet conditions, which will only increase weed issues even more. It is always better to try and wait until the plants are completely dormant before grazing them.

The time frame to allow for some forage R & R is certainly dependent on the weather. Prolonged warm weather will support fall growth of cool season forages for quite a while, especially if we have enough moisture. Ideally, stands that are already struggling or weak should be rested starting in early October and not grazed until dormant. Dormancy often requires several nights in a row at 25 degrees or lower. Once dormant, the forage can be grazed with less harm to the plant's energy reserves. Again, the goal is to maximize as much growth as possible for as long as possible prior to grazing reserves. Again, the goal is to maximize as much growth as possible for as long as possible prior to grazing the forage. Grazing annuals, corn stalk, or even feeding a little hay will provide that needed R & R and provide payback later.

So, if you haven't stated stockpiling any forage yet, start today! Tall fescue stockpiles better than any other forage and holds its quality longer than almost any other perennial forage, which is one of its best attributes. Droughty conditions and reduced forage availability this time of year increases potential issues with poisonous plants. The first one that comes to mind is white snakeroot, which has numerous heads of small white flowers and is common along woodland edges, woods and streams at this time of year. Livestock normally will avoid consuming white snakeroot under typical growing conditions, but as ample desirable forages decline or disappear, poisonous weeds will begin to look good. Whether these weeds are eaten in large amounts at one time or in small mounts over a period of time, both can be fatal. Nursing animals are often affected from the milk and commonly fatal with no signs of ailment from the adult. If your

Grazing Bites by Victor Shelton, *continued*

Grazing livestock have access to potential problems areas, it would be best to scout the area ahead of grazing. Small patches of plants can be removed; if there are too many, keep the livestock out! The leaves of the white snakeroot are opposites, have toothed edges and taper to a point. Flower are small clusters of small white flowers. If you have problems identify this plant, contact your local extension office for assistance.

With frosts in the near future, remember that sundangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids and johnsongrass produce a cyanide compound when frosted causing the production of the prussic acid. Livestock should be removed from these forages for at least two weeks to allow the forages to dry down" and the prussic acid to dissipate before grazing again to be the safest. Frosted areas could start with only "pockets" in a field. Any regrowth from the base of the plant after a frost can also be very high in prussic acid. If in doubt about nitrates or prussic acid—test before feeding or grazing.

The rain we received earlier this year was good for forage growth, but it also hindered quality hay production. Most hay was cut at a full bloom or later stages of development. Forage quality is measured by crude protein, energy and digestibility and all decline as the plant matures. Hay yields were very good in some areas this year, but quality, especially that first cutting hay, tended to be low. Spring calving cows will have a fairly low nutritional need right now, especially if they are in good body condition. It might be more advantageous to feed some of the lower quality hay now while needs are low, allow those pastures to grow all fall and then graze that forage later in the winter as nutritional needs start increasing.

It is recommended to have your hay tested so you know exactly what quality you have so you can plan ahead on any supplementing needed. If too much supplementation is needed, then animal number should be revisited considering the cost of those inputs needed for the rest of the winter. Winter feeding costs have to be considered and are usually primary inputs into an operation. Consult your local extension office if you need help assessing hay quality and supplemental requirements.

Remember early fall is the time to assess your winter feeding needs and supply. Consider how much livestock will be overwintering, how much they will be consuming and what they will be eating. Fall pasture, stockpiled forages, crop resides and annuals and stored feed; such as hay, silage, or balage should all be accounted for. For each math, figure at least 3% dry matter requirements per live body weight. A 1,200-pound cow will consume then about 36 pound of dry matter per day. A quick inventory of total live animal weights times that 3% will give you a ballpark idea on what they will be consuming daily. Then assess your hay and other feed. Once you stop grazing for the year, will you have enough feed available until spring? Don't forget to consider potential waste in your calculations. There is usually increased waste with lower quality hay. Always better to know now than to find out in the middle of the winter or early spring when supplies are low.

For more information about grazing or harvesting forage on EQIP funded cover crops, mixes and seeding rates for prevented planning options, contact you local NRCS office. Keep a positive attitude and keep on grazing! Reminders & Opportunities

- Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative 2019 compiled information: http://ccsin.iaswcd.org/conservation-practices/prevented-planting-tools/
- More pasture Information and past issues of Grazing Bites are available at: https://www.nrcs.usde.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/in/technical/landuse/pasture

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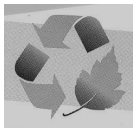
For address corrections or to be taken off the list, please contact the office by email at patti.schroeder@in.nacdnet.net or call 812-817-3447



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Rental Equipment Available at Dubois County SWCD

- **No-Till Drill**

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. *Rental fee is $8/acre* or minimum of $50.

- **Stapler/Staples**

Installing erosion control blankets? This stapler makes completing the job easy! The plunger simply pushes the staples into the ground. *Rental fee is $10/use and box of 1,000 staples is $50 per box.*

- **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 Fees.*

- **Tile Flags**

Flags on 36" wire staff can be used to mark underground power lines or surveying jobs. *Cost is $7.00/bundle of 100.*