

2018 annual report DUBOIS COUNTY SOLLWATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Celebrating our 2018 Soil & Water Conservation Accomplishments

The Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is celebrating the completion of another successful year in 2018, our 73rd year!

The Dubois County SWCD is a subdivision of Indiana state government and works to reduce soil erosion and promote clean water. The SWCD identifies natural resource

concerns, and provides technical, financial, and informational assistance to conserve our resources for future generations. To fulfill its role, the Dubois County SWCD partners with local government agencies, citizens' groups, and individuals.

SWCD leadership is provided by a board of five local residents called Supervisors. In 2018, the supervisors were Brenda Sermersheim, Glenn Menke, Glenn Goeppner, Pat Eckerle, and Alex Hohl. Brenda Sermersheim served as Chair of the SWCD Supervisors, and Glenn Goeppner as Vice Chair. Under the SWCD Supervisors' capable leadership, the SWCD continues to grow and flourish.

The financial support from Dubois County Government allows the SWCD to have a qualified and experienced staff. They are Judi Brown, Director, Patti Schroeder, Program Assistant, Justin Bary, Resource Specialist, Radius Weisman, Technical Specialist, and Melissa Ruschau, Project Manager of the VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative.

In 2018, two additional grant-funded staff positions were added. Megan Ritterskamp joined the staff as the Invasive Species Specialist. Megan's position is funded via a Clean Water Indiana grant, made available through the ISDA Division of Soil Conservation. Jennifer Knable-Thompson serves the people of Dubois County through a cooperative position funded by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Jennifer assists the NRCS District Conservationist with clients' projects funded through the Farm Bill. Patoka River Watershed Coordinator Julie Loehr, funded through an EPA 319 grant, rounds out the SWCD staff.

(Continued on page 2)

2018 Soil & Water Conservation Accomplishments

(Continued from page 1)

The SWCD receives funding through several sources. One source is an appropriation from Indiana State Government, in addition to supplemental funds from the State in the form of Clean Water Indiana grants. Dubois County Government also provides operating funds to the SWCD in addition to funding the five staff positions. Dubois County Councilwoman Charmian Klem serves as the SWCD's liaison to the County Council.

A significant partner to the SWCD is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The NRCS provides the SWCD office space and supplies, including computer equipment. The SWCD also receives operating funds through a Contribution Agreement between the USDA NRCS and the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. SWCD staff members assist the NRCS staff with Dubois County landowner Farm Bill practice implementation, and receive operating funds in exchange for this assistance. The combined funding from Dubois County, the State of Indiana, the US Government, as well as various grants allows the SWCD to continue its soil and water conservation work.

The landowners of Dubois County also serve as important partners to the SWCD. The conservation practices constructed on the land by the landowners will decrease soil erosion, improve water quality, and improve the soil health on the acres involved. Other benefits of these improvements are the addition of cash flow to the local economy through the hiring of contractors and the purchase of materials. At the end of the day,

these improvements will improve the farmland, help provide food and fiber for county residents, and through the taxes paid by the landowner, help the bottom line for Dubois County government.

SWCD staff and county landowners faced a significant challenge in 2018 when longtime USDA NRCS District Conservationist Bart Pitstick retired on January 3. His replacement, Nathan Lind, accepted a position in Kentucky, the SWCD staff worked with a rotating series of "acting" District Conservationists from neighboring counties. The NRCS also detailed a temporary District Conservationist, Arthur Franke, from northeast Indiana to fill the gap.

In November, SWCD Supervisors were pleased to announce that Taylor Gundlach had been named as the new USDA NRCS District Conservationist for Dubois County. Taylor is now working with SWCD staff members to serve the conservation needs of county landowners.

The SWCD Supervisors and staff greatly appreciate the many NRCS staff members who filled the gap in 2018! Jennifer Knable-Thompson worked with all of them to ensure that no landowner needs were lost in that staffing gap.

The SWCD continues to work across the county to help address natural resource needs. One of the exciting developments in 2018 was the addition of Megan Ritterskamp to the staff. Megan serves as the Invasive Species Specialist for Dubois, Daviess, and Martin Counties, funded through a three-year Clean Water Indiana grant. Megan's primary responsibility



Shawn Werner, Dubois County Health Department, shares information about septic tank maintenance at a Septic workshop, August 2018.

is to help county residents identify harmful invasive species on their property and remove them, so they do not cause permanent harm to the environment.

Plants such as Johnson grass and kudzu are well known noxious and invasive weeds. But new plant threats are moving in and taking over natural areas, such as burning

bush and Bradford (Callery) pear. Megan is working with landowners in the three counties to set up County Invasive Species Management Areas. "CISMAs" are actually groups of local residents working together to remove the threat of invasive species from the area.

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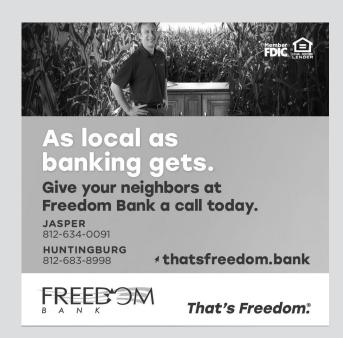
Attendees at fall pasture walk, November 10, 2018.



Greg Carpenter, with the US Army Corps of Engineers, leads a tour of the Patoka Lake Dam, April 2018.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS











2018 Soil & Water Conservation Accomplishments

(Continued from page 2)

The SWCD is visible within the community, planning, hosting, and participating in a variety of events to provide information and technical advice to county

In 2018, the SWCD supported the Patoka River Watershed project, funded through a 319 EPA grant. Julie Loehr, Patoka River Watershed Coordinator, participated in the planning and implementation of a successful Patoka Lake dam and Water Plant tour in April of 2018.

Julie also assisted with a very popular event in cooperation with the Dubois County Health Department, a Septic System Installation Workshop. Members of the public were invited to view an actual septic system being installed. Shawn Werner, Environmental Health Specialist for the Health Department discussed the care and maintenance of traditional septic systems with attendees.

The VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative is a five-year-old ongoing project of the SWCD. This partnership with Vincennes University, and many other partners, allows the SWCD to demonstrate techniques to improve soil health on the VUJC crop ground. In 2018, the SWCD continued to utilize many different conservation practices and methods to raise a successful soybean crop and hosted a summer workshop featuring innovative conservation practices currently used in Tennessee.

The SWCD's monthly meetings are on the first Thursday of each month in the USDA Service Center in Jasper. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact the office for the most up to date meeting time.

Types of Conservation Practices Surveyed, Designed, and Installed in Dubois **County:**

Brush Management (Invasive Species Control)

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans Cover Crops

Critical Area Planting

Diversion

Dubois County Tillage and Cover Crop Transects (spring and fall)

Fence

Grade Stabilization Structures

Grassed Waterways

Lined waterway, outlet

Heavy Use Protection Areas

Nutrient Management

Pest Management

Pasture Renovation

Prescribed Grazing

Reduced Tillage, No-till

Roof Runoff Structure

Timber Stand Improvement

Underground Outlets/Tile

Waste Storage Facility

Water and Sediment Control Basins (dry dams)

Watering Facility

Construction/Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan reviews, as presented

Site visits to monitor construction

Education Events

Presentations for school classes, scout troops and civic groups, as requested



Judi Brown staffs the SWCD booth at the Jasper Home Expo, March 2018.

Soil Judging Invitational

Patoka Lake Dam and Water Plant Tour Booth at Jasper Farmer's Market in cooperation with Patoka 2000

Invasive Species Awareness Coalition of Dubois County activities, including two Wildflower Walks, booth at the Ferdinand Folk Fest, and invasive species control work

Meetings/Training/Workshops hosted: Summer Field Day at VUJC

On Farm Network producer meeting

SWCD Annual Meeting

Events assisted with:

Dubois County Cattleman's Association Pasture Walks

Dubois County Food and Ag Day

Dubois County 4-H Fair/Project Judging

Envirothon; Southwest Indiana Regional

Four Rivers Forestry Committee Family Nature Fest

Jasper Chamber of Commerce Home Expo Legislative Town Halls/ Tours

Old Jasper Days Duck Race on the Patoka River

Patoka Lake Clean Up Day

Pathway to Water Quality, Indiana State Fairgrounds

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference Superior Ag Answer Plot Day **Grant Projects**

Clean Water Indiana

The SWCD partnered with Spencer and Perry Counties on a three-year project for livestock producers, funded for 2016-2018. The SWCD has provided cost share for the construction of Heavy Use Protection Areas, Watering Pads, and Pasture Renovation.

Dubois, Daviess, and Martin Counties partnered on a three-year Clean Water Indiana project to address invasive species in the three county area. The project, which runs from 2018 through 2020, included the hiring of an Invasive Species Specialist, setting up CISMAs in the project area, and provides a limited amount of cost share funding to landowners.

Other SWCD Projects and Programs

The SWCD provides a no-till drill, erosion control blanket staplers, hand seeder, tile flags, and spinning jenny, at minimal or no cost to landowners for conservation uses.

Staff and Supervisors maintain contact with national, state, and local elected officials by attending and hosting events, including legislative breakfasts.

SWCD Supervisors and Staff participate in training opportunities to allow them to operate at their full potential.

(Continued on page 5)



sociation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual conference, January 2018. From left: Justin Bary, Melissa Ruschau, Patti Schroeder, Shane Lindauer, Judi Brown, and NRCS District Conservationist Nathan

2018 Soil & Water Conservation Accomplishments

(Continued from page 4)

Training and meetings attended:

Active Shooter Training

Advanced Riverwatch Training

Annual conference of Indiana Soil and Water Conserva-

ion Districts CCSI Cover Crop Training

Field Scout Training

IASWCD Region Meetings

Indiana District Employee Association Fall Conference Indiana SWCD Leadership Institute

Invasive Species Identification and Control Training

Pollinator Habitat Training Soil Health Training, at West Lafayette, Vincennes, &

Soil Sampling Workshop

SW Crop Seminar, Purdue University

Word Press Website Training, through Ivy Tech

Organizations supported

Dubois County Communications Committee

Dubois County Weed Board

Four Rivers Forestry Committee

Friends of the Patoka Refuge

IASWCD Funding Taskforce

Indiana District Employee Association Indiana Forest and Woodland Owners Association Invasive Species Awareness Coalition of Dubois County Jasper Rotary Club



Invasive Species Awareness Coalition, Dubois County volunteers Justin Herbaugh and Philip Gramelspacher staff the booth at the Jasper Home Expo, March 2018.

Jasper Stormwater board Lincoln Hills Forestry Committee Middle Patoka Watershed Committee Patoka 2000, Jasper Chamber of Commerce

Patoka Lake Watershed Steering Committee Women Empowering Women, Jasper Chamber of Commerce

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Local Farmer Receives Statewide Award for Conservation Practices

Jasper, IN, September 11th, 2018 - In these days of water quality concerns, there are those that are utilizing conservation practices on their farms that are protecting waterways and water quality in Indiana and beyond. In Dubois County, Roger Sermersheim of Sermersheim Farm is one farmer among 49 farmers who received the statewide award of 'River-Friendly Farmer' at the Indiana State Fair on Farmers' Day August 15. This award, hosted by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD), recognizes landowners and farmers in the state of Indiana for the work they do on their own land to protect Indiana's natural resources.

The Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District nominated Sermersheim for the award based upon his farm management practices. Sermersheim and his wife, Brenda, utilize WASCOB's, grassed waterways and grassed buffers to keep nutrients and sediment from leaving their property. They have used continuous No-Till with a cover crop system started by Roger's father in 1968. Water is

clean and clear when leaving their fields with nutrients and sediment being filtered before it leaves the property. They share their conservation practices and successes in a variety of community groups including their local SWCD, their church, Dubois County FFA Advisory Board and local cemetery board.

Amie Sites from Brownfield Ag News read a short bio as the award recipients received their individual ribbon and certificate from Indiana Lieutenant Governor, Suzanne Crouch, and President of Indiana Farm Bureau, Randy Kron. Jerry Raynor, the new Indiana State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and IASWCD President, Jamie Scott made brief remarks congratulating the recipients.

The River-Friendly Farmer Award has been presented by the IASWCD and sponsored by the 92 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc. since 2000. This year's group of award winners brings the total number of River-Friendly Farmers in Indiana since the awards beginning to 961.



Roger Sermersheim, accepting the River Friendly Farmer award at the Indiana State Fair in August of 2018. Lt Governor Suzanne Crouch and Randy Kron, President Indiana Farm Bureau, presented the award.



Soil judging team at work, Dubois County soil judging invitational, September 2018.

2018 Soil and Water Annual Soil Judging competition

The 2018 Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Soil Judging competition went very well this year. Over 100 students from 10 different schools representing 8 different counties participated. The competition results are as follows:

1st Place Team Award—North Harrison, Senior Team #1: Ariel Camm, Isabelle Nordhoff, Jackson Metz, Sarah Norskov, and Coach Archie Sauerheber.

2nd Place Team Award - Gibson 4-H Senior Green Team: Caedmon Doyle, Josiah Georges, Joseph Loehr, Jacob Munro, and Coach Julie Loehr.

3rd Place Team Award - Gibson Southern: Kiersten Rexing, Josh Pohl, Hunter Tackett, Jacob Cullom, and Coach Jessie Schermerhorn.

1st Place Individual Award—Gibson 4-H Senior Green Team: Caedmon Doyle 2nd Place Individual Award-North Harrison Senior Team #1: Ariel Camm

3rdPlace Individual Award-North Harrison Senior Junior Team: Robbie

4th Place Individual Award-North Harrison Senior Team #1: Jackson Metz 5th Place Individual Award—Gibson

Southern: Kiersten Rexing



SWCD staff member receives award

Staff member Judi Brown (center) is presented a 20 year award by County Commissioners Chad Blessinger (left) and Elmer Brames.





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

The VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative is one of the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District's flagship projects. Created in 2012, the Land Stewardship Initiative (LSI) is a partnership between the Dubois County SWCD and Vincennes University Jasper Campus (VUJC). Many local landowners and agribusinesses help to create and implement annual management strategies. Alan Smock, SWCD Associate Supervisor and Melissa Ruschau, LSI Project Technician provide leadership to the Land Stewardship Steering Committees.

The SWCD's goal is to be a demonstration site for No-till farming and to share information about soil health practices. Fifty acres of land have been set aside at VUJC to be farmed using continuous no-till and cover cropping systems in a corn and bean rotation. Waterways, water and sediment control basins and filter strips are some of the many conservation practices that have been built on the crop fields to prevent soil erosion and nutrient loss. Water samples are taken monthly from field tiles to monitor environmental impact.

The improvements to the fields over the past six years of management are beginning to show visible changes to the land, including increased infiltration of rainwater and a reduction in sediment and nutrient losses. All the improvements will help armor the soil from increasingly erratic rainfalls and will keep the soil healthy, producing healthy crops.

2018 was a good crop year. The timing was good for all operations, and the rains were generally favorable which resulted in the best bean crop to date. This is the first year that

VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative Year in Review

fungicide was used. Cocklebur was an issue in areas with poor soybean stand and deer browse. Giant ragweed continued to show up but was manually removed before going to seed this year.

The fall cover crop was drilled before any rain. The cover crop has grown effectively and has put down a good root system so to date any erosion damage has been limited.

The management strategies of the LSI include grid soil sampling and an extensive tile system, including a stop log structure. The grid sampling results are used to optimally place field amendments, such as fertilizer, lime, and gypsum. The yield maps from multiple years were reviewed in December 2018, and overall yield improvements were noted. Also noted was a reduction in yield of a tilled strip versus an adjacent no-tilled area. Since its inception in 2012, the LSI management strategy has maintained an area of land that is conventionally tilled, while the remainder of the crop ground is no-tilled. After a heavy rain event in spring of 2017, it was noted that the no tilled ground had absorbed much of the rainfall, but the tilled area was "soupy" and a person walking across it sunk into the mud, as the tilled area had poorly established soil structure.

During the summer of 2018, the SWCD hosted Adam Daugherty, the District Conservationist from Coffee County Tennessee for a field day at VUJC. Adam shared results from a three-year study involving 18 producers, 58 fields, and over 2,200 acres in a corn diverse cover crop and soybean rotation. In his talk, "Moving from No-Till to a Higher Functioning Agro-Economical System", Adam reviewed strides the fields made physically and biologically, and the economic impacts that resulted from the field improvement. Adam discussed the management techniques that were used,

and how they evolved with the transition of no-till into enhanced no-till and eventually into higher functioning ecological systems.

Attendees enjoyed an open question/ answer discussion time with Adam. With an impressive 50% of the acres in Coffee County currently under No-Till Cover Crop management systems, Adam was a wealth of knowledge that was tapped by local conservationists. The attendees also learned how to measure their soil's health by evaluating indicators, such as compaction,

infiltration, etc. Based upon the evaluations completed after the workshop, many new techniques will be discussed and employed by local growers, both on their farms and in their backyard gardens.

For the LSI 2019 growing season, the overall corn bean rotation will be slightly amended. Efforts are being made to increase the organic matter, or crop residue, plant roots, etc., in the top layers of the soil. Wheat was planted in one of the fields, with the intent to follow with a wide variety cover crop mix planted in June 2019. The LSI management team will evaluate the impact of this summer cover crop. The remainder of the property will be planted in corn, with corn also planned for the 2020 crop year. This will be done to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of summer covers.



Adam Daugherty, NRCS District Conservationist, Coffee County, Tennessee, holding tillage radishes used in a cover crop mix.

The SWCD will host field events in summer 2019 to showcase the diverse summer crop, and other physical changes noted as the health of the soil improves. The SWCD has received Clean Water Indiana grant funds through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture that will be used to purchase a soil test kit. Using the kit, SWCD staff will be able to test the soil's physical characteristics such as water absorption and infiltration, aggregation, slake, compaction, etc. The test kit will be used on the VUJC crop land, as well as on farms across Dubois County.

2018 has been a good year for the Land Stewardship Initiative. With the continued thoughtful guidance and support of the many individuals and representatives from local agribusinesses, the SWCD looks forward to a productive 2019.

Grow Cover Crops for Soil Health

Why plant cover crops? It seems like a simple question; however, there is a laundry list of answers. The details really do make a difference when picking the species of cover crops to plant. Knowing how you want to improve your soil will help you determine what you plant. "Do you want to break up a compaction layer?" Then select a species with deep roots or large amounts of root biomass. Picture the deep tubers of radishes or the mass of roots of cereal rye. "Do you want to increase soil organic matter?" Then select cereal rye or annual ryegrass that will produce high volumes of organic material above - and below ground. They survive winter and grow quickly in the spring.

Cover crops need to be planted early and terminated as late as practical to maximize growth. Legumes, such as crimson clover, will add nitrogen. Brassicas, such as turnips, radishes and rapeseed, as well as many grasses, store excess nitrogen. When making your species selections, have a solid management plan that includes termination and contingency options in place.

A cover crop will provide you with excellent soil health benefits as you plan your next crop. Growing many plant species in the same field at the same time creates a more diverse polyculture. Each species is added to the cover crop to accomplish a specific job. Plants with

tap roots such as radish or turnips can break up compaction layers by boring down into the soil. Other plants can function as nutrient scavengers, pollinator attractors, nitrogen fixers, carbon providers, and some plants are just there to capture solar energy and help build soil.

What is above ground is a mirror image of what is below ground, so if there is lots of diversity above ground, there will be lots of diversity below ground as far as microbiology. Roots produce sugar during photosynthesis, which feed micro-organisms. Healthy microbial populations help keep plants healthy and increase their ability to resist diseases. These microbes create soil aggregates, providing structure to

soils. They turn our soil into a sponge that absorbs water and stores it instead of allowing it to run off and contribute to local flooding.

The Land Stewardship Initiative (discussed above) has chosen to increase soil organic matter and improved soil structure in one of its fields by growing diverse cover crops. Field 6 adjacent to College Avenue has been taken out of production for the 2019 crop year. Currently, a crop of wheat is growing in the field. This spring a diverse cover crop mix will be planted. Stay tuned to discover what species were chosen and plan on attending a Summer Field Day to witness multispecies cover crop in action and the changes that are found in the soil.

From the NRCS

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently appointed Matthew J. "Matt" Lohr to serve as Chief of the NRCS. According to Perdue, "Matt has committed his entire life to the betterment of agriculture," Perdue said. "The knowledge and experience he brings to the table will help ensure our locally-led, science-based approach continues to offer farmers the conservation solutions needed to enhance their environment and commercial viability.

Lohr is a 5th generation farmer in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. He and his wife Beth and their six children operate Valley Pike Farm, Inc. Prior to his appointment by the Trump Administration, Lohr held public office, serving in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2006-2010. In 2008, Lohr was awarded Legislator of the Year in honor of his work as an ambassador for economic and community development in Virginia. He then served as Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services from 2010 to 2013. More recently, Lohr worked as Knowledge Center Director for Farm Credit of the Virginias, a customer-owned financial cooperative that provides resources and education outreach to local farmers and the community. And since June 2017, he has been farming full time on the family operation, which includes poultry, beef cattle, row crops, and sweet corn.

OFS Brands

Forest

Stewardship

Award Recipients

* Award renamed in

2009. Formerly presented

as Kimball Forest

Stewardship Award.

"I am honored and humbled to serve America's agricultural industry in this new capacity," Lohr said. "As a 5th generation farmer, I care deeply about conserving and protecting our most valuable agricultural resources. I look forward to the chance to lead this valuable agency and assist our producers nationwide with their conservation practices." Lohr's family has installed many conservation practices on his property and two placed permanent conservation easements.

FARM BILL

The 2018 farm bill or Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is United States legislation that reauthorized many expenditures in the prior United States farm bill: the Agricultural Act of 2014. The \$867 billion reconciled farm bill was passed by the Senate on December 11, 2018, and by the House on December 12. On December 20, 2018 it received the President's signature and became law. It is currently under review at national headquarters for policy development.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

During a government shutdown, agencies that receive mandatory funding or have funds appropriated in prior years that are carried forward can continue to serve customers using that money. NRCS is in this category and will remain open for business.

2004 Gene Gramelspacher* 2012 David Altman 2005 Richard and Carroll 2013 Lee Schnell Harder* 2014 Kenny Beckman 2006 Aloysius Welp* 2015 Dr. Thomas J. Rusche 2007 Jack L. Nelson* 2016 Werner, Werner, 2008 Clarence and Tony Margarida Buechler* 2017 Hilary Blessinger 2009 Don Scherle 2018 Ron & Matt Lueken

2010 Clarence Durcholz

2011 Philip Gramelspacher





Grain and Livestock



Our local INfield Advantage (INFA) group held its Winter Meeting on February 13 2018. At the meeting attendees discussed the 2017 growing season and the new INfield Advantage Soy-

bean Project. Led by meeting facilitators Meg Leader, INFA State Coordinator, and Hans Kok, Consultant, the participants came away with some ideas about their crop management.

INfield Advantage works with small regional groups of farmers who are interested in improving their nutrient use efficiency on their corn fields by sharing their management decisions and the resulting impact those decisions had on their production with a goal of creating personalized local guidance for future management innovations. This year the program completed its eighth year and continues to be one of the largest adaptive nutrient management farmer networks in the country. In 2018, there were 33 active regional groups located across more than 60 Indiana counties. State-wide, nearly 1,100 fields, over 70,000 acres, were monitored using the INfield Advantage tools. Those fields included over 100 soybean fields. Based on a participant survey, the participants have a direct impact on the management of over half a million crop-

The INPT group continued working in 2018. Our group was formed by local growers in Dubois and Pike Counties to improve their nitrogen use efficiency in corn. This year, we had 17 local growers participate in INFA. Our local group is part of the state-wide program coordinated by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). More information about the program can be found at: www. INfieldAdvantage.org.

land acres across the state.

INfieldAdvantage.org.
In corn fields, INFA uses aerial imagery
and the Corn Stalk Nitrate Test (CSNT) to
study nitrogen use efficiency in each field
enrolled. Producers are not restricted on

tillage, rotation, nitrogen form, timing or

rate and may enroll multiple fields. The basic level of the program is called Guided Stalk Sampling (GSS). Growers may also use INFA to conduct onfarm research using Replicated Strip Trials (RST).

The new soybean study worked with Dr. Casteel, Purdue University, exploring the yield impact of applying sulfur on soybeans by using a check strip approach. The enrolled fields were included in the corn field aerial imagery collection and then tissue and soil (optional) samples were analyzed. Many of the participants submitted their yield information and a few followed the protocols of installing a full Replicated Strip Trial to test the application.

In addition, INFA continued a joint study with Indiana Pork focused on fields with hog manure. For all fields, no matter which study they were involved in, at the end of the year, INFA will supply each grower with the imagery and lab results of the group's fields. Any fields with a Replicated Strip Trial will also have an RST report. Each grower also receives a regional report, with each field assigned an anonymous ID number.

Our 2018 working group consisted of 50 GSS corn fields, six FSS soybean fields and one RST fields. INFA costs are funded through Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance (ICMC/ISA) checkoff funds and is offered free of charge to producers. The total value of the imagery and lab work to our producers in 2018 was \$10,903. Our program is possible due to the coordination and support of local Indiana Conservation Partnership staff. Our group also received additional support from state-wide coordination by ISDA, central office, and ICMC/ISA. This inkind support is roughly valued at \$6,500

For 2019, if you are interested in enrolling corn or soybean fields, please contact the INPT Dubois County group leader, Andrea Gogel at 812-480-1498.

SOIL HEALTH ...

the root of everything

Invasive Species Specialist Report

2018 brought the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) a Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant, in partnership with Daviess and Martin County SWCDs, to support an Invasive

Species Specialist for the 3 counties. The CWI Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. They support the implementation of conservation practices



The invasive species volunteers are, from left: Jeremy Uebelhor, Megan Ritterskamp, Invasive Species Specialist, Judi Brown, SWCD Director, Doug Brown, Ken Blessinger, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Philip Gramelspacher, Camille Rathfon, Dave Altmann, Ron Rathfon, Purdue Extension Forester, and Bob Gress, County Park Manager.

which will reduce nonpoint source water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs. In late July, Megan Ritterskamp joined the team as the Invasive Species Specialist. She hit the ground running and has been working hard to bring education and technical assistance to the community.

Since her hiring, Ritterskamp has made numerous educational presentations to area high schools, Master Gardeners trainings, PARP trainings, and club meetings. "Invasive species are an environmental threat that we rarely think about. Many of the plants that are threatening our Hoosier forests and prairies were brought to the US for environmental improvements or as ornamental plants for landscaping. These introduced species are now the 2nd leading cause of biodiversity loss," Ritterskamp said. Bringing awareness of this threat is a key component to fulfilling the goals of the CWI grant.

In addition to speaking engagements, Ritterskamp is also tasked with forming a Cooperative Invasive Management Area (CISMA) in Daviess and Martin Counties. The Invasive Species Awareness Coalition (ISAC) of Dubois County has been in operation since 2015. In December,

Daviess and Martin County held their first Invasive Plant Informational Meeting with the goal of gathering like-minded and skilled partners to form a CISMA. Many folks ranging from landowners, Conservation Club and County Tourism members, Master Gardeners, to representatives from Glendale FWA, Martin State Forest, and Hoosier National Forest all gathered at West Boggs Park to learn about invasive species in the area and how they can help join the fight against the 2nd leading cause of biodiversity loss.

If you are interested in controlling invasive species on your property, please contact the office to learn more about the programs offered through this CWI grant. Landowner site visits to identify invasive species on your property are available free of charge. We are also happy to announce the Local Clean Water Indiana Invasive Plant Cost-Share Program to help alleviate the financial burden of controlling invasive plants on plots less than 10 acres. You can also join the fight against invasive species by joining either ISAC of Dubois County or our newly forming CISMA in Daviess and Martin County by contacting Ritterskamp at megan.ritterskamp@in.nacdnet.net or 812-482-1171.

Otto J. Bauer Memorial Outstanding **Conservation Farmers of the Year**

1965 Edwin Small 1966 Allen Werne 1967 Amos & Carl Freyberger 1968 Buening Bros. 1969 Gilbert Whitsitt 1970 Cedar Crest Farms 1971 Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Fleck

1972 Mr. & Mrs. Leo F. Gehlhausen 1973 Gwen & Lucille Rudolph 1974 Niehaus & Katter Farming 1975 Mr. & Mrs. Norbert Begle 1976 Mr. & Mrs. James Seger 1977 Mr. & Mrs. William Hopf 1978 Kevin Haycox

1979 David Schnell 1980 Sam Feldmeyer & Family 1981 Leroy Loehr Family 1982 Melvin Sermersheim Family 1983 Joe Ketzner Family 1984 Mill Creek Farms 1985 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Lueken 1986 Rauscher Farms, Inc. 1987 Otto J. Bauer Family 1988 Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Begle 1989 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Voelkel 1990 Welp Homestead Farm 1991 Steve Weyer 1992 Vernon Meyer

1993 Don Eck 1994 Ralph Jochem 1995 Wehr Family 1996 Wanda Kalb Family Farm 1997 Lloyd Prusz Family Farm 1998 Ed Reckelhoff, Jr. 1999 Ponder-Yonder Farms 2000 Stan Leinenbach 2001 Norbert & Elfrieda Johanneman 2002 Alan and Ruth Small 2003 Clarence and Tony Buechler

2005 Brad Wehr

2006 Whitsitt Farms, Inc.

2007 Weisheit Bros. Farms 2008 Balsy Haven Dairy 2009 Lange Farms, Inc. 2010 Norman Schue 2011 Clarence & Sue Brames 2012 Oxley's Rolling Hills Farms 2013 Ring Farms 2014 Welp's Farm and Greenhouse 2015 Mill Creek Farms 2016 Alan Weyer 2017 Kurt Voelkel 2004 Roman & Sheila Wagner Family 2018 Kenny Beckman

Conservation Awards to be Presented at SWCD Annual Meeting and Dinner

The Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors invite you to its 73rd Annual Meeting at Venue 1408 in Huntingburg on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30 PM EST.

The conservation accomplishments of local landowners will be recognized through the presentation of the Otto J. Bauer Conservation Farmer of the Year Award and the OFS Forest Stewardship Award. Roger Sermersheim, Dubois County's 2018 River Friendly Farmer, will also be recognized. The all new Friend of Conservation Award will be presented as well. The Friend of Conservation Award will be presented annually to an individual or corporation that makes outstanding contributions to soil and water conservation in Dubois County. Finally, the Ken McWilliams Award for Soil Judging Excellence will be presented to the county team that scored the highest at the SWCD/Purdue Extension Soil Judging Invitational.

The annual meeting agenda includes the election of an SWCD supervisor. Incumbent Supervisor Glenn Goeppner is on the ballot. SWCD supervisors are part of a governmental organization responsible for the wise management of Indiana's soil and water resources and the environment in which we live. Serving on the SWCD Board is a great responsibility, but also is an opportunity for a person to make a difference in their county. The SWCD also takes nominations from the floor, so any qualified person interested in serving a 3-year term may place their name on the ballot that evening.

Glenn Menke's reappointment as a Supervisor has been approved by the State Soil Conservation Board. Three of the SWCD Supervisors are elected, and two appointed. Menke, who has completed his sixth term as Supervisor, will be sworn in to a new three-year term at the Annual Meeting.

The guest speaker for the evening is Bruce Kettler, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Kettler will provide an update on agriculture in Indiana. Kettler, an Ohio native, worked as the Director of Public Relations for Beck's Hybrids prior to joining ISDA. He

brings more than 30 years of agricultural leadership experience and knowledge to his position at the helm of the State Department of Agriculture.

The Soil and Water Conservation District's catered meal is partially sponsored by Beck's Hybrids, German American Bank, Freedom Bank, Old National Bank, and Springs Valley Bank & Trust Company. Meal tickets cost only \$5.00. Please contact the SWCD office at (812) 482-1171 Ext. 3 to make your reservation. All Dubois County residents are encouraged to attend. There is no charge to attend the SWCD business meeting, which will begin at 7:15 PM.

The SWCD will hold a short reorganization meeting immediately following the annual meeting.







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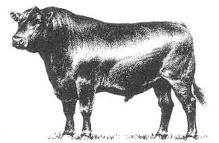
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Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District

2018 SWCD Board of Supervisors



Brenda Sermersheim Chair



Glenn Goeppner Vice Chair



Glenn Menke Member



Alex Hohl Member



Pat Eckerle Member



Attendees at the Patoka Lake Clean Up, August 2018.

- photo by Matt Crane

Dubois County SWCD Staff



Judi BrownExecutive Director



Justin Bary Resource Specialist



Melissa Ruschau Project Technician



Patti Schroeder Program Assistant



Jasper Girl Scouts volunteer at the Patoka Lake Clean Up, August 2018.



Radius Weisman Technical Specialist



Megan Ritterskamp Invasive Species Specialist



Jennifer Knable-ThompsonNACD Grant Staff



Attendees at the Patoka Lake Dam and Water Plant tour are divided into smaller grou for the tours. April 2018.

Partnership Staff



Tayler GundlachDistrict Conservationist,
USDA NRCS



Andrea Gogel ISDA Resource Specialist



Julie LoehrPatoka River
Watershed Coordinator

The SWCD's monthly meetings are on the first Thursday of each month in the USDA Service Center in Jasper. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact the office for the most up to date meeting time.

1486 Executive Blvd. Suite A, Jasper, IN 47546 (812) 482-1171 ext. 3 • Fax: (855) 458-8769 • www.duboisswcd.org



Above: Melissa Ruschau staffs the SWCD table at the 4-H Fair family fun night.

Right: SWCD staff member Melissa Ruschau presents information about Aquatics at the 2018 SW Indiana Envirothon Competition, March 2018.





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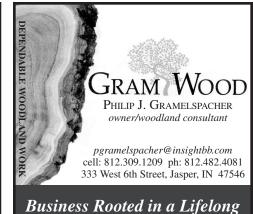
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Form approved by State Board of Accounts, 2002

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF COUNTY SWCD January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018

File with State Board of Accounts by March 1, 2019 (via Gateway) and with Leah Harmon (lharmon2@isda.in.gov) by March 31, 2019.

Harmon (Iharmon2@isda.in.gov) by Ma	arch 31, 2019.
Balance Brought Forward	\$46,945.34
RECEIPTS	
State for District Operations	10,000.00
Clean Water Indiana Grant	97,486.80
County for District Operations	4,100.00
Federal and State Funds (not CWI)	0.00
Non Government Grants	7,091.63
Other Grants (NACD, PSS)	26,070.38
Total Intergovernmental Receipts	144,748.81
Equipment Rental & Farm Income	432.87
Donations & Memberships	0.00
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	0.00
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	0.00
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	0.00
Total Charges for Services	432.87
Advertising	0.00
Annual Meeting Income	3,036.20
Interest from Checking, CDs, Savings, Etc.	352.49
Reimbursements & Refunds	390.90
Sale of Used Equipment	0.00
Sales Income	2,938.60
Workshop/Field Day Income	0.00
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (VUJC-LSI)	20,375.13
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Sales Tax Collected)	100.46
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Beginning Petty Cash)	45.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenue	27,238.78
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$172,420.46
Sale of Investments (CDs, saving accounts, transfers)	\$0.00
TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)	\$219,365.80



TRIVIOAL ICLI ORI TERDINAND INEWS)	AIVOART 50, 2017
DISBURSEMENTS	<u> </u>
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	0.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	4,020.83
	0.00
Audit Expense	
Bonding and Liability Insurance	195.00
Clean Water Indiana Projects, other State grant funded project	
Conservation Education Programs	1,874.12
Contractual Services	0.00
Cost-Share Projects/Federally-Funded	0.00
Cost-Share Projects/SWCD-Funded	6,770.10
CWI Payments to other SWCDs	28,125.00
Dues & Subscriptions	3,560.00
Employee Salaries Paid by District	0.00
Office Supplies	225.28
Other Services & Charges	2,457.40
Postage & Delivery Expenses	1,540.60
Printing/Copying Expense	3,456.08
Rent	0.00
Repair Expenses	3,796.68
Sales Tax Paid to IN Dept. of Revenue	615.78
Supervisor Per Diem	2,100.49
Supplies for Resale	177.39
Telephone or Other Utilities	0.00
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	5,984.85
Workshop/Field Day Expense	676.87
Other Disbursements (marketing, advertising, awards, sponsorships)	6,359.36
Other Disbursements (VUJC LSI)	14,360.03
Other Disbursements (FED WH Supervisors, IN WH)	1,427.85
Other Disbursements (Grants and ending Petty Cash)	13,969.15
Total General Government Disbursements	116,858.11
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$116,858.11
Purchase of Investments (CDs saving accounts, transfers)	\$0.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)	\$116,858.11
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY	\$102,507.69
Salaries	\$115 113 00
	\$115,113.00 \$19,215.00
Fringe Other	0.00
INVESTMENT INVENTORY	0.00
Beginning Investments	0.00
Ending Investments	0.00
Change (+/-)	0.00
CASH BOXES	0.00
Petty Cash	14.68
Cash Change	0.00
per durante and a separation (1.70 de)	0.00

Michael Crowder, Executive Vice President of the National Association of Conservation Districts visits with SWCD staff, October, 2018. From left: Judi Brown, Radius Weisman, Patti Schroeder, Michael Crowder, Jennifer Knable-Thompson, Justin Bary.



Steve & Judy

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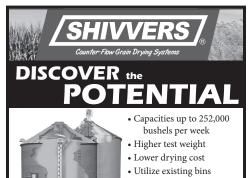
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You are invited to the Annual SWCD Meeting

Featured Key Note Speaker: Bruce Kettler

Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Tuesday, February 5th

Venue 1408, Huntingburg, IN

Doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m. eastern. Meal cost: \$5.00

Call 812-482-1171 Ext. 3 to make your reservation.

Bruce Kettler was appointed the director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and began this role on January 8, 2018. Kettler, previously served as director of public relations for Hamilton County-based Beck's Hybrids and brings more than 30 years of agricultural leadership experience and knowledge, ranging from production to sales to community and industrial relations.

"Bruce has proven over the last few decades that he is committed to the agriculture industry, and knows what innovations and strides we can make to keep ensuring Indiana is at the forefront of the field," Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch said in a news release. "His experience and dedication for agriculture development makes him an excellent choice as director of ISDA. I look forward to seeing what Bruce does in maintaining food and agriculture as a driving force in Indiana's economy.

Kettler grew up in western Ohio and developed a passion and appreciation for agriculture at an early age. He was a member of 4-H and FFA, worked on a dairy farm and served as the Ohio FFA President, as well as Vice President for National FFA. After his years of service, Kettler attended Ohio State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in



Agronomy with emphasis in Agricultural Business.

At ISDA, Kettler's main priorities include: advocating on behalf of Indiana agriculture at the local, state, and federal level; supporting existing agribusinesses while attracting new ones to the state; raising awareness about the importance of agricultural education and FFA; promoting the conservation of Indiana's land and water resources; and working with farmers, agencies and industrial partners to take Indiana agriculture to the next level.

Some SWCD Activities



Carla Striegel-Winner, Invasive Species Awareness Coalition member, leads a wildflower walk at Ferdinand State Forest, April 2018



Mark Booth, at Family Nature Fest, April 2018.

Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment

Everyone plays a role in conserving and preserving our natural resources. The Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District promotes the vital benefits of protecting and preserving all natural resources.

Soil and Water Conservation District works to reduce soil erosion and promote clean water while providing technical, financial, and informational assistance to conserve natural resources for future generations. By educating county landowners and farmers on proper soil and water management, Soil and Water Conservation District is ensuring our natural resources are preserved.

Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment was established to support the mission of this organization. The endowment helps fund the organization each year, assuring the work they do today can continue for generations to come.

Whether a small gift or an estate gift, all contributions made to the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment support the long term sustainability of this important mission.



Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment

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