



Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Spring 2011

The Conservation Conversation

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visit our website:*

www.duboisswcd.org

Dubois County SWCD Holds 65th Annual Meeting

One hundred forty seven people came out to St. Mary's Church Community Center on January 25 as the Dubois County SWCD held its 65th Annual Meeting. A catered meal began at 6:30pm and was followed by highlights of the SWCD's 2010 programming. Joining the SWCD as guest speaker for the evening was Tom Bechman. Tom serves as the editor for *Indiana Prairie Farmer Magazine*.

At the meeting, Brenda Sermerheim was elected to a Supervisor position for a three year term. John Jackle was appointed to fill the remainder of a term left by the resignation of long-time Supervisor Sam Oxley.

Also noteworthy from the Annual Meeting are the many local farmers who were recognized for their outstanding conservation efforts. Clarence Brames was presented the Otto J. Bauer Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year award. Phil Gramel-spacher was presented the OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award for his conservation efforts in his forest lands. Dave Schmett and Brad Wehr were



The Forest Park FFA Team of Andy Helming, Olivia Steckler, Tabitha Steckler and Braydon Schuetter were presented the Ken McWilliams Memorial Award for Soil Judging Excellence.

presented the River Friendly Farmer award.

Norman Schue, winner of last year's Bauer Conservation Farmer Award was also recognized for winning this year's Indiana Conservation Farmer of the Year Award. Schue won the award at the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in January, but was unable to attend that meeting. He was presented his award at the SWCD's Annual Meeting instead.

Look for success stories of our award winners throughout this issue of the Conservation Conversation.

Every year the SWCD also hosts a soil judging invitational in the county on a local farm. The Ken McWilliams Memorial Award for Soil Judging Excellence recognizes the top ranking team from Dubois County. This year the Forest Park FFA Team received the award. Congratulations to Coach Annette Applegate and her team!

Hummingbirds: Habitat Basics

Living in the Midwest, you may already have seen one of the most colorful visitors that can come to backyards and flower gardens. It's the ruby-throated hummingbird. Once you've heard their hovering hums or the high-pitched chirps of dueling birds, you'll not likely forget them.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds spend summers in a range from Minnesota to Texas to Florida to Maine, all across the eastern United States. They have the widest breeding range of any hummingbird in North America, and play an important role in flower pollination of many species.

What can you do to bring them to your backyard? Consider the following habitat needs and how you might be able to provide the necessary food and nesting cover needed.

Food Preferences

Ruby throated hummingbirds feed during the day on nectar from wildflower blossoms and flowers of shrubs and vines. Included are flowers of jewelweed, columbine, trumpet creeper, beebalm, honeysuckles, lilies phlox and others. They draw nectar while hovering for the most part,

but will feed while perched if possible. Insects, including mosquitoes, gnats, fruit flies and small bees, also make up a large percentage of the diet. They also eat birch tree sap, and spiders, caterpillars, aphids and insect eggs.

Nesting cover

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are primarily woodland birds. You'll find them in mixed woodlands, both deciduous and pine forests, and in woodland openings and at forest edges. They also visit gardens, orchards, yards, overgrown pastures, citrus groves, and fencerows.

While their nectar and insect diet give the birds the water they need, you'll still find more ruby-throated hummingbirds in habitats near marsh and stream edges because they support more insect life. Nests are made of thistles, dandelions, and milkweeds, and the down of young leaves and ferns; they're mounted on tree limbs with spider webs. Oaks, maples, beech, poplar, pine, spruce and hackberry are common nesting trees.

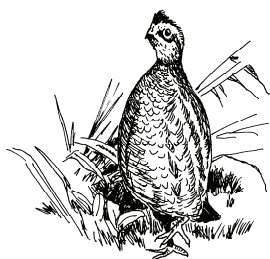


Making Hummingbird Nectar

1. *Boil 4 parts water.*
2. *Mix 1 part ordinary, white granulated sugar.*
3. *Stir and allow the mixture to cool.*
4. *When the nectar is room temperature, fill your clean hummingbird feeder.*

Tips for Feeding Hummingbirds

- ⇒ Never use red dyes or food coloring, as they are not healthy for hummingbirds.
- ⇒ Never use honey when making your nectar mix. Honey attracts bees and can grow black fungus that will cause a fatal liver and tongue disease in hummingbirds.
- ⇒ Replace the nectar once every three to four days and clean the feeder thoroughly.
- ⇒ Unused nectar can be refrigerated for up to two weeks.



Did You Know?

Hummingbirds, the smallest birds in North America, are the only birds that can fly backwards. Their wings are adapted to helicopter-like flight-- a circular whirl that allows them to hover, move ahead, sideways or backward.

Successful Disease Management Means Looking at Field History

Controlling crop diseases starts with keeping accurate field records even before the seeds are planted and continuing through harvest, a Purdue Extension specialist advises.

The majority of yield-limiting diseases can be managed most effectively through good selection of seed varieties, said crop specialist Kiersten Wise. Producers should work with seed dealers to choose varieties that have strong resistance to previously recorded diseases.

"Good disease management starts with knowing what diseases are already present in the field," Wise said. "For example, the fungus that causes sudden death syndrome in soybeans survives in the soil and can affect the next soybean crop if conditions are favorable for disease development."

Weather conditions, planting conditions, hybrid selection and field history factor into a disease's level of damage.



Gray leaf spot on corn. This disease results in a loss of sugar production, which translates into less grain. Potential yield losses range from 5 to 40 bushels/acre with this disease.

Farmers should check for diseases as soon as planting starts, looking at the conditions under which crops were planted and monitoring throughout harvest.

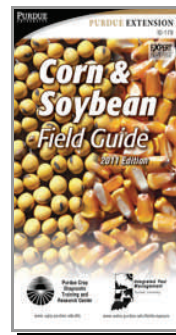
Wise recommended using the Corn and Soybean Field Guide for help in identifying diseases.

"If a producer is out in the field and sees a symptom, they can flip through the photographs in the guide to help narrow down what the issue might be," Wise said.

For a small fee, producers still uncertain of a disease can send a sample to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory for diagnosis within a few days.

Action plans should depend on the type and level of disease present and potential impact on yield. There is not always a simple solution to controlling a disease once it is in the field, Wise said.

"With diseases like gray leaf spot of corn, we can reduce the risk of disease development through good hybrid selection and crop production practices," Wise said. "But if throughout the season there are weather conditions that favor disease development and gray leaf spot could reach a damaging level,



Get your copy of the 2011 Corn & Soybean Field Guide at the Purdue Extension Office.

fungicides are available to help manage this disease."

Producers should check for disease presence before applying fungicide because of the inconsistent economic benefit of the application.

Wise said she cannot predict the major diseases for this season but we can monitor possible threats such as southern corn rust, a disease in corn that over-winters in the South and blows up on wind currents during the year.

"If it comes to Indiana at a time where we would need to manage it, we can let producers know how to best manage the disease at that time," Wise said. "Ultimately, what diseases will be problematic will depend entirely upon the weather, but keeping good records of field history and using preventative management practices based on past history will help minimize losses due to disease."

Story courtesy Purdue University

Conservation Partner Updates

Adam Dumond New DNR District Forester



Adam Dumond

“My message to landowners is that their forests are a very valuable resource...”

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Indiana has over 4.2 million acres of forestland that grow some of the finest hardwoods in the world. District Foresters, employed by the IDNR’s Division of Forestry, are professionally trained to manage forestland for the many resources it can provide. Privately owned forests offer forest products, wildlife habitat, watershed and water quality protection, natural beauty and even recreation opportunities. District foresters are able to administer both state and federal programs, providing technical assistance, property tax incentives, and cost-sharing incentives for applying practices that accomplish sustainable management.

Recently longtime District Forester, Steve Brandsasse, retired after many years of faithful service to forestland owners. The Dubois County SWCD would like to welcome Adam Dumond, the new District Forester for District 11. Adam is responsible for Knox, Daviess, Martin and Dubois counties.

Born and raised in Lawrence County, Adam graduated from Purdue University in 2007 with a degree in forestry. Serving as an Assistant District Forester since he started with IDNR in 2007, Adam has now worked in eight of the twenty forestry districts, totaling forty three of Indiana’s ninety two counties. As well as being a District Forester, he has also served as an emerald ash borer specialist, done some chainsaw and tree felling safety instruction and currently assists with the statewide forest inventory program. Adam has a wide variety of interests, including fishing, hunting, woodworking, firearms collecting, Indian artifact hunting and photography.

As a District Forester, Adam is available to help you as a Dubois County landowner start the management of your forested land by visiting your woods and helping plot the best course of action for meeting your ownership objectives. Many forest owners make management decisions based on limited knowledge. Adam has the necessary skills to inform you of your management options and the implications of each option. This will help you make an informed management decision to meet your land use objectives and keep your forest healthy and vigorous. Whether you need advice on harvesting timber, tree planting, timber stand improvement, invasive species control or just need help in creating a forest management plan,



Adam is always willing to assist you free of charge.

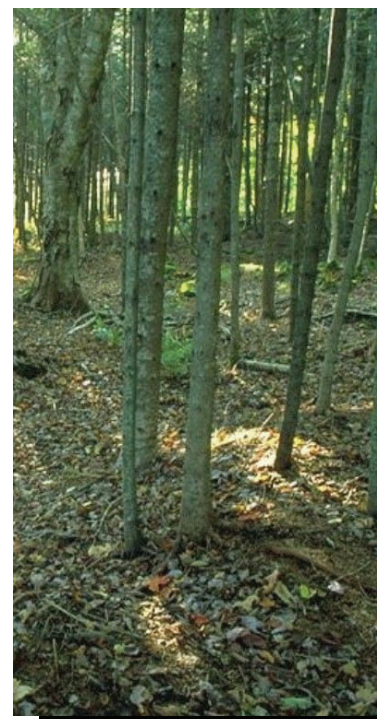
He is also very ambitious, having set a goal of adding 1,500 acres of new Classified Forests in 2011, as well as providing technical assistance on about 10,000 acres this year. In addition, Adam plans to do at least four public outreach events this year. It's easy to see why he was named Employee of the Year in his division recently! "My message to landowners is that their forests are a very valuable resource and can be an excellent investment if properly managed", Adam says.

To make the most of your investment, Adam says that he stresses three basic activities:

1. Control invasive species that may be on your property. Learn to identify the most harmful species so that you can recognize a problem before it gets out of hand. Bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle and tree of heaven are the biggest threats in this part of Indiana.

2. Perform periodic timber stand improvement to optimize the growth and quality of your timber.
3. Harvest timber when the time is right and get professional help if you need it. It can take one hundred years or more to grow a high quality white oak worth thousands of dollars. You owe it to yourself to be well informed about what you are selling and how it will affect the future growth of your forest.

If you are interested in having Adam assist you with a forest management plan, or for more information on enrolling in the Classified Forest Program and the one dollar per acre tax rate benefit it brings to your land, contact him today at 812-789-2789.



**Contacting
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**Cell:
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adumond@dnr.in.gov**



What Are the Benefits of the Classified Forest and Wildland Program?

- ⇒ Significant property tax reductions.
- ⇒ Periodic land inspections by a professional forester.
- ⇒ Access to IDNR forest and wildlife management advice and assistance.
- ⇒ Green certification for forest products.

***There are
currently 15,921
acres of Classified
Forest in Dubois
County.***

Volunteer Corn Reduces Yield in Corn and Soybean Crops

Volunteer corn has proven to be more than just a nuisance, with major yield reductions to both corn and soybean crops, said Purdue Extension weed scientist Bill Johnson.

Problems with the weed arise when corn kernels that dropped during harvest persist in the soil, overwinter and grow in the spring. With 70 percent of Indiana's annual corn crop resistant to glyphosate, or Roundup Ready, volunteer corn has become increasingly difficult to control.

"We're rotating Roundup Ready corn with our soybean crop, which is typically 95 percent Roundup Ready," Johnson said. "With glyphosate being the primary herbicide used on soybeans, we simply are spraying it on a weed that it was not designed to kill."

With heavy, untreated infestations, the weed can cause up to a 40 percent yield reduction in soybeans or up to 30 percent in corn.

"Volunteer corn is more frequently a problem in fields where farmers use fall tillage, because

it buries the corn seed and allows it to overwinter," Johnson said. "It is less of an issue in a strict no-till system because of rodents and weathering."

The weed also becomes more of a problem in fields where a lot of corn hit the ground during the previous harvest. If that's the case, Johnson said farmers need to scout before planting so they know what controls to employ and where.

Volunteer corn is fairly simple to control in soybeans because farmers can use post-grass herbicides. "We simply need to encourage growers to spray these a little bit earlier in the summer than we typically would," Johnson said.

The weed is much more difficult to control in cornfields - especially those planted in continuous corn. The best methods are spring tillage and using non-glyphosate, preplant herbicides.

"Producers need to control volunteer corn before they plant their corn crops," Johnson said. "Spring tillage is more reliable, but if it's a no-till operation farmers need to spray."

Volunteer corn also can lead to significant corn rootworm problems.

"In the past, farmers rotated corn and soybeans. Soybean fields have zero rootworms because when the insects hatch, they have nothing to eat," said Purdue Extension entomologist Christian Krupke. "With volunteer corn, those rootworms have something to feed on, so farmers need to kill this weed as early as possible."

With heavy, untreated infestations, the weed can cause up to a 40 percent yield reduction in soybeans or up to 30 percent in corn.



Volunteer corn grows in an Indiana soybean field. Left uncontrolled, the weed can cause up to 40 percent yield reduction in soybean crops and up to 30 percent in corn. (Purdue University photo)

To keep up with the latest agriculture news, visit the Ag Answers website:
www.agriculture.purdue.edu/aganswers

Program News

SWCD Receives Grant for Cover Crop Program

For the third year in a row, the SWCD has received a grant to cover the costs of a cost-share program for cover crops. With the success of last year's program, this year's program is expected to be even better. Cover crop choices last year included a variety of cover crops not as commonly used in Dubois County, including crimson clover, oilseed/tillage radishes and winter oats. These varieties were selected because of they can help provide enhanced Nitrogen production, build organic matter in the soil and reduce soil erosion and improve soil structure.

Last year's program also included the option to have the cover 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 special mix of cover crop seed designed to do well when aerially applied.



A small plane landed at the Huntingburg Airport to aerially apply more than 500 acres of the SWCD's Winter Cover Crop Program last year.

Nearly five hundred acres were sown last year by this plane.

Applications for the program will come out in late Summer. Be sure to look for further details about the program in the Summer newsletter to come out in July.

SWCD Obtains New 7ft No-till Drill

For several years the SWCD has had a ten foot Great Plains no-till drill available for use by Dubois County landowners. With hundreds of acres of usage each year, the current drill is nearing the end of its life expectancy. For this reason, the SWCD has purchased a brand new seven foot Great Plains no-till drill. The drill has been ordered and is expected to arrive in mid-April, but landowners can continue to use the old drill until the new one arrives. The current drill rents for \$7 per acre. To schedule your time to rent the drill or for more information, call the SWCD office at 812-482-1171 x3.



SWCD Hosts Soil Health Workshop

On Monday, July 11, 2011, the SWCD will co-sponsor a Soil Health Workshop in conjunction with Martin, Spencer and Perry County SWCDs. Featured speakers include Ray Archuleta, Barry Fisher and Hans Kok.

Topics include soil quality, soil compaction, soil function and cover crops. The event will be held at the Ferdinand Community Center in Dubois County. The program will start at 8:30am and should be over around 4:00pm.

The final details and agenda of the program are still being planned. For more information, contact any of the SWCD's sponsoring the event. Dubois County residents can call the Dubois County SWCD at 812-482-1171 x3.



Meet The 2011 SWCD Conservation Award Winners

Phil Gramelspacher, OFS Brands Forest Steward of the Year

Philip Gramelspacher, of Jasper, was selected as the 2011 recipient of the OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award. OFS Brands sponsors the award, which is presented each year at the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting.

Phil's woodland is in northeast Dubois County. He owns a farm with 70 acres in forestland and 70 acres in cropland. He and his brothers and sisters also have 1,400 forested acres in Crawford County, in a land trust which he helps to manage.

Phil credits his interest in forestry to something that was instilled through the generations. The Gramelspachers see the value in owning land, with the timber that grows on it adding extra value. His grandfather, Virgil Gramelspacher, and his father John Gramelspacher, purchased badly eroded farmland in Crawford County when the land was being sold. Virgil and his brothers Claude and Clarence all had ties to forestry, both through the land they owned, and also through local wood working companies they were involved in. Virgil and John utilized the services of district foresters to plant trees and reforest the played out crop fields in the 1960's. These became the forests of today...and also planted the seeds of forest stewardship in Phil. Phil became a part of this family land trust, but he wanted some land of his own. He purchased the 60 acre Dubois County

farm in 1987, and added to it in the late 1990's.

When Phil purchased the farm, close to 35 acres were enrolled in the IDNR Classified Forest Program. Since then Phil has also enrolled the 70 acres of woods in the National Tree Farm Program. Both of these programs require the use of a professionally written forest management plan, and both encourage good forest stewardship for sustainable forests now and for the future.

Phil works with the consulting foresters at Multi Resource management, Thom Kinney and Justin Herbaugh, and he also works with the IDNR District Foresters, Steve Brandsasse, and now Adam Dumond. Justin Herbaugh said "Phil's forest is a rather young forest that had been neglected when he purchased it. He has done some timber stand improvement over the years and now is in the process of hurrying up and waiting as it continues to slowly develop. He has done some small scale tree planting, and had two marshes constructed on his forest for the wildlife. They are quite nice and complete with control structures so he can manipulate the water level. He has also done various wildlife plantings or had his farmer leave some crops stand for the wildlife."



Scott Reckelhoff of OFS presents Phil Gramelspacher with the OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award at the SWCD's Annual Meeting in January.

Phil's goal for his forest is to grow high quality timber; the best timber he can, and produce income in the future. When he bought the farm the forests had been cut hard and ranged with turkeys, and were very rough. He is managing for timber growth, recreation, hunting, and relaxation; a place to get away to and enjoy. His goals have changed over the years: at first, Phil planted 1,000 Christmas trees. He planted an additional 1,000 to fill in the spaces where trees had been cut. After intensively managing the Christmas trees for 15 years, he decided to end that operation.

He has also planted red oaks and walnut in the open areas. Phil said "I keep filling in odd corners. I like the mix of crop fields and woods; the diversity of plants and cover creates good habitat for wildlife. I have a lot of turkey and deer, and I am hoping to increase the quail population."

Phil has a written management plan and is working towards completing it. He said “I take inventory yearly, in segments of woodlands. I rotate around and every five years the whole forest has been checked. As I recheck the tracts, I do what work needs to be done.” Forester Justin Herbaugh said, “I don't know that I've ever seen Phil in the woods without his trusty hand shears on his belt to cut sprouting grapevines and a roll of flagging in his pocket to flag anything that needs further attention. I tease him that he is a flagging salesman's best friend because of the amount of the stuff he goes through. He will find small oak seedlings in the understory and flag them so he can easily re-find them and monitor their progress, or come back later to release them.”

Philip utilizes management practices such as timber stand improvement, tree planting, harvests, and weed control. He says that he has management challenges with Multiflora rose, Ailanthus (tree of Heaven), and bush honeysuckle and other invasive species; “I am trying to stay on top of that.”

Philip networks with other forest owners through the Indiana Forest and Woodland Owners

Association, and attends field days to learn new ideas and talk to forest landowners. He encourages other landowners to seek professional forestry help with their timber sales and forest management. Phil said, “I feel the local people do not utilize a consultant forester because they do not feel it is a good value. I

know there is an investment when you hire someone, but you gain their fees back

in the long run. If you hire a professional forester, you pay for their services but you know that the timber is marked properly and managed, and the forester will represent you during the sale. In the end, you are money ahead, and you have a better managed woods and more income as well.”

Philip states, “I find it frustrating that some forest landowners see that their neighbor has hired a guy to do some timber cutting, and he asks the logger to come over and do his, too. He hasn't consulted a forester, and doesn't have a plan.” He said, “People are used to doing things on their own, and will sell their timber even though they may not know the impact of their actions. They could get taken advantage of, and their woods can be ruined for years and an income stream is lost.”

Thom Kinney, Consultant Forester, endorsed Philip for the OFS Forest Stewardship Award. He said, “I

have known Phil for over 20 years in both a professional and personal capacity. Phil is one of those rare individuals that is a true steward of the forest. He believes in practicing forest management to develop a healthy and vigorous ecosystem, and create a better forest environment for future generations.”

“I like the mix of crop fields and woods; the diversity of plants and cover creates good habitat for wildlife.”

Phil actively promotes forest stewardship by serving on various committees. He is a long time member of the Indiana Forest and Woodland Owners Association

tion, and has served as president of this group. Phil also assists with the Dubois County SWCD and Four Rivers RC&D forestry committees. Phil serves as Ohio Valley region director for the National Woodland Owners Association board. And he was recently appointed to the governors Invasive Species Council – the only forestry appointment.

The Board of Supervisors of the SWCD selected Philip as the OFS Forest Steward because they annually recognize a forestland owner who carries out a wise forest stewardship program on their land.

Phil says, “I enjoy owning my forests because of the sense of accomplishment. Forest land is a good investment, and it provides good returns if you manage it properly.” He adds “I take a little pride in knowing that I'm taking care of the land and keeping it in good shape.”

Previous OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award Winners

2004	Gene Gramelspacher*
2005	Richard & Carroll Harder*
2006	Aloysius Welp*
2007	Jack Nelson*
2008	Clarence & Tony Buechler*
2009	Don Scherle
2010	Clarence Durcholz

*Award renamed in 2009; formerly presented as the Kimball Forest Stewardship Award.



Meet The 2011 SWCD Conservation Award Winners

Clarence and Sue Brames, Conservation Farmer of the Year

Clarence and Sue Brames have been named the 2011 Otto J. Bauer Memorial Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year by the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District. Old National Bank is the sponsor of the award.

The SWCD presents the award annually to a Dubois County farmer. "We enjoy recognizing land owners who use good soil and water conservation practices", said Alan Weyer, SWCD Chair. "Clarence enjoys what he does and has worked hard to address the resource concerns on his farm."

Clarence's 80 acre cow/calf operation is in Jackson Township, north of Bretzville. He raises beef cattle and has woodland that he actively manages. Over the years he has excluded the livestock from the woods and streams, and has converted his rolling crop ground to pasture ground. His list of conservation practices include: 13,200 feet of fence, a grassed waterway and

mulching, pasture and hay planting, 2,080 feet pipeline, prescribed grazing, Heavy Use Protection Areas, watering facilities, stream crossings, and forest stand improvement.

Bart Pitstick, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's District Conservationist for Dubois County, rec-

ommended Clarence for the award. Clarence also works. Clarence said "Dad used to farm this land, so it feels like part of the family farm. We farmed it for 50 plus years, so it seemed natural to buy it when we were approached by the previous owners."

Clarence is quick to point out that the work done on the farm has been in partnership with Sue. Since they bought the land, they put the lake in, cleaned up ditches and brushy areas, and created a grassed waterway. All of the fields were sowed into pasture to stop the existing minor gully erosion. When the work was complete and the waterways replaced the ditches that crossed the fields, Clarence was able to combine the many smaller fields into larger fields.

Clarence works on his farm part time, in the evening. He enjoys the work, and stressed, "we do the work because we want to...not for any recognition!" He added, "What I am doing is not necessarily the right way...it's just my opinion. Other farmers have other methods. I don't feel that we do anything special. For every award given, 100 others deserve it."



Preston Weisheit of Old National Bank presents the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to Clarence Brames at the SWCD's Annual Meeting in January.

ommended Clarence for the award. Bart said, "Clarence runs the perfect small cattle farm with rolling grass and wooded hills. It's very well maintained. He has completed his Environmental Quality Incentive Program practices, and converted all of the crop fields to pasture. He puts a lot of thought into his system."

Clarence and his wife Sue bought the farm about 28 years ago. It is located near the

Sue added, "Clarence takes pride in growing a good, healthy product. He loves animals, and he feels it is important to have healthy animals." She finishes with a smile, "Clarence is a steward of animals!" She said the secret to his success is "research, research, research on the computer!"

Clarence responded by saying, "I just go with what feels right. I talk to other farmers about their management methods; I value their opinions."

To help meet his goals of addressing gully erosion, Clarence and Sue have participated in both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Clarence says with his practices installed, he sees less soil erosion. He likes to use rotational grazing and fencing because the cattle are not as hard

on the ground, and he has better managed forage; it keeps the weeds down. Clarence added, "Working with EQIP was a good thing! I really appreciate Bart Pitstick in the USDA Service Center. He made working with the Farm Bill Programs easy and he

"We do the work because we want to...not for any recognition!"

gave me some really good ideas."

Although working on the farm takes up his free time, Clarence and Sue remain active at St. Anthony church functions, and they enjoy spending time with their grandchildren.

The Otto J. Bauer Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year award is named in memory of Otto J. Bauer. Bauer was a champion of soil and

water conservation efforts in Dubois County, and was a member of the SWCD board of supervisors from 1969 until 1986. Preston Weisheit, of Old National Bank, made the presentation to Clarence

Brames at the Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting in January.

Clarence enjoys working on the farm. He feels it was good to raise his kids there; he thinks it taught them responsibility and that life is not all about them. He said, "I like that they grew up more practical minded, and better able to problem solve. Farming is a great job! We are close to nature; we get to be out in the park all day long!"

Right now, both of Clarence and Sue's kids have moved away. They say "we plan to enjoy the farm while we can. We don't know what the future holds!"

Conservation Items Available for Dubois County Landowners



The Dubois County SWCD has several conservation items available for use by Dubois County landowners. Contact us for more information about any of the following items:

Blanket 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.

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.

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.



Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District

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The Conservation Conversation

OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 8 AM TO 4 PM

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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

SWCD Supervisors:

Alan Weyer, Chair
Brenda Sermersheim, Vice Chair
Greg Hoffman, Member
John Jackle, Member
Glenn Menke, Member

SWCD Associate Supervisors:

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

*Our normal hours of operation
are 8am to 4pm, Monday
through Friday. 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.*

Soil Health Workshop

Monday, July 11, 2011

8:30am - 4:00pm

Ferdinand Community Center

Guest Speakers:

- ◆ Ray Archuleta, *NRCS Conservation Agronomist*
 - ◆ Barry Fisher, *NRCS State Agronomist*
 - ◆ Hans Kok, *Coordinator Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative*

For more information, contact
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*This workshop is a partnership between
Dubois, Martin, Perry and Spencer County SWCDs.*