



# DUBOIS COUNTY CONSERVATION NEWS

Dubois County  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
January 2007

## Tom Turpin Guest Speaker at SWCD Annual Meeting

The 61st Annual Meeting of the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at the St. Anthony Community Center. Join the SWCD Supervisors for food, fellowship, timely information about local agriculture programs, and an update on SWCD activities.



Dr. Tom Turpin  
*Photo by Tom Campbell*

Dinner will begin at 6:30 PM, followed by highlights of the SWCD's 2006 programming. Joining the SWCD as guest speaker is Dr. Tom Turpin, a Purdue University Professor of Entomology and Cooperative Extension Service Entomologist. Dr. Turpin created "Bug Bowl" in 1990 to demonstrate insect mobility to his students. This annual event, now part of Purdue Spring Fest, attracts more than 25,000 people as well as worldwide media attention. A popular speaker, Dr. Turpin gives presentations on a variety of agricultural-related topics to audiences of all ages and has been featured in national magazines, on network television shows, and talk and call-in radio programs.

Items on the agenda also include the announcement of the 2006 Otto J. Bauer Conservation Farmer of the Year award recipient, and presentation of the Kimball Forest Stewardship award and the Ken McWilliams Memorial Award for Soil Judging Excellence. The winner of the SWCD's public speaking competition for high school students will present their first place speech.

Interested in serving as a public official on the SWCD Board of Supervisors, and setting conservation policy for Dubois County? An election will be held to fill two SWCD Supervisor positions. Jack Welp and Alan Weyer are listed on the ballot for re-election. Further nominations will be taken from the floor.

Tickets for the meal are \$7.50, and can be purchased from any SWCD Supervisor or at the SWCD office at 1486 Executive Blvd., Jasper. There is no charge to attend the annual meeting. In case of inclement weather on the 30<sup>th</sup>, the meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31.

The SWCD will have a short business meeting immediately following the annual meeting.

## Southwest Indiana Crop Clinic Scheduled on Feb. 20

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Indiana Crop Clinic will be held on Tuesday, February 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. C.S.T. at the Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds Clover Pavilion.

The program includes a discussion of current and future economic trends with Purdue Extension Economist Chris Hurt, soybean management practices in the face of Asian soybean rust, and the plant health affects of fungicide application. After a lunch break, Dr. Bob Nielsen, Purdue Agronomist will talk about "Corn after Corn, What Are the Perils and Pitfalls." The program will conclude with a presentation by Jim Peter on "Protecting Groundwater Quality on the Farm."

Farmers attending this meeting for PARP credit will be charged the \$10 PARP fee. Bring your pesticide card to ease registration. Commercial Pesticide Applicator "CCH's" and Certified Crop Advisor credits, "CCA's" have been requested.

Reservations are a must because lunch is provided. Contact the Dubois County Extension Office at 812-482-1782, or <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/Dubois/ag/ANRLinks.htm> for more information or a schedule for this event. The Purdue Cooperative Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

# Watering Facility Installation Incentive Payments Available

The Supervisors of the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District announce that incentive payments are available for installing gravel and gravel/concrete watering pads for livestock. The funding is currently available and will continue through April of 2007, or until the funding is all allocated.

Operators that install pads that are all gravel will receive a \$200.00 incentive payment, while pads have a 10' x 10' concrete center surrounded by gravel will receive \$600.00.

The funds for this project are available through a \$12,000.00 Clean Water Indiana grant awarded by the State Soil Conservation Board and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation. The SWCD applied for grant funds with the goal of stabilizing the areas frequently used by cattle. Surfacing the areas intensively used by animals will limit soil erosion and improve the water quality in Dubois County.



All watering pads that receive funding must conform to USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service standards and specifications. To do so the ground must be protected a minimum of 8 feet beyond the edge of the watering trough with either gravel or concrete and geotextile fabric.

Livestock Specialist Colt VanNatta is assisting landowners with the design of the watering pads. For further information or to schedule a site visit, contact VanNatta at (812) 482-1171 Extension 135.

## THE SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- Jack Welp, Chair
- Glenn Menke, Vice Chair
- Alan Weyer, Member
- Jason Small, Member
- Sam Oxley, Member
- Duane Hopf, Stan Leinenbach  
Bob Brunsman, Lee Schnell  
Jim Hochgesang, Mike Steckler  
Associate Members

Contact one of these county officials with your conservation questions, comments, and concerns!

- Service Center Staff:**
- Judi Brown,**  
SWCD Executive Director
  - Amanda Bough**  
SWCD Technical Specialist
  - Radius Weisman**  
SWCD Technical Specialist
  - Colt VanNatta**  
Livestock Management Specialist
  - Bart Pitstick,**  
NRCS, District Conservationist

### SWCD BOARD MEETINGS

The Dubois County SWCD Board of Supervisors meets on the first Thursday of each month. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM Nov. through March, and 7:30 PM April through October, and are located in the in the USDA Service Center in Jasper IN. Anyone interested in local soil and water conservation issues is encouraged to attend.

**The Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District promotes to all citizens - both agricultural and non-agricultural - the vital benefits of protecting and preserving natural resources, especially soil and water.**

All programs and services of the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, relation, sex, age, marital status, or

# Some Plants Poisonous to Livestock

by Colt VanNatta, Livestock Specialist

Each year brings new challenges and situations for all livestock owners, whether it be a drought that causes a grass shortage or the use of a new herd bull that has a high birth weight that leads to a strenuous calving season. Being the Livestock Specialist for the area has given me a unique opportunity to meet with producers and hear about these problems first hand.

This past fall, I ran across one of those challenges that is often overlooked but is very costly when it strikes, and that is poisonous plants. For the rest of this article I hope to bring attention to a few of the more common poisonous plants such as White Snakeroot, Poison-Hemlock, and Wild Black Cherry along with an overall view of things to look for and avoid.

Early spring is a great time to get out and inspect your pastures and fields for poisonous plants. At this time many of the weeds and less nutritious plants emerge and start growing before the more common forages appear. Because of this most of the livestock poisonings in the state also occur in early spring.



*Poison-Hemlock*

Poison-Hemlock can be identified by its small white flowers and purple spotted stem. The whole

plant is considered poisonous to cattle, dogs, goats, swine, horses, sheep, and poultry. Signs of poisoning can be visible within one hour after animals have digested the plant and could include bloating, un-coordination, intestinal irritation, dilation of pupils, rapid and weak pulse, loss of appetite, salivation, and blue coloration of the mouth. The worst case scenario of eating poison-hemlock is the shut down of the respiratory tract within mere hours, leading to death.



*White Snakeroot*

White Snakeroot, another common poisonous plant is found in woods and shaded pasture areas and generally ranges from one to three feet in height. It is noted for having small white flowers in the late summer and can be further identified by its large, toothed edged leaves. Only the leaf and stems are poisonous and most often affect cattle, horses, goats, and sheep. Once poisoned, cattle will stand with feet wide and start to tremble. Their breath also smells of acetone, while their joints stiffen up, and they breathe rapidly and labor about. Poisoned cows can also pass the poison along in

their milk to calves or humans.



*Wild Black Cherry*

Wild Black Cherry is different from most other plants in that it is more poisonous when damaged. It is recognized by having flashy white flowers that form dark-red to black cherries. Again it also affects cattle, horses, dogs, goats, swine, cats, and caged birds. Although death can occur within minutes of eating a wilted cherry branch some other symptoms include moaning, drooling, staggering, convulsions, and breathing problems. Wild Cherry is the most dangerous when it has started to wilt because of the conversion of prunasin acid to prussic acid, or cyanide.

There are very few treatments for most poisonings and prevention is the best method. Be sure to inspect your pastures, keep your animals well fed, and don't overgraze. Overgrazing often leaves animals with very few choices of forage except for the poisonous ones that they have avoided.

If you would like more information, most of the information in this article was referenced from the book *Indiana Plants Poisonous to Livestock and Plants*.

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## Scheduled Events

### Women in Agriculture Conference

This conference, scheduled for Feb. 7 and 8 at Connor Prairie in Fishers, IN, features speakers, educational sessions, and networking opportunities. Call 1-888-398-4636 for information.

### Oak Ecology Workshop

Learn about mixed oak forests at this workshop at Brown County on February 21 and 22. Call (317) 290-3250 for more information.

### Pasture Walk

Livestock Specialist Colt VanNatta is planning a pasture walk in Dubois County in late spring, to feature different pasture management practices. More information to come soon!

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## **SWCD Provides Conservation Items**

- **No-Till Drill**

Great Plains No-Till drill has a seeding width of 10 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 \$7/acre.

- **Stapler**

Installing erosion control blankets? This stapler makes completing the job easy! The plunger simply pushes the staples into the ground. Cost is \$10/use.

- **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 charge.

- **Geotextile Fabric**

Black fabric can be used to keep rock from being pushed into the ground by cattle, or on driveways. Cost is \$.70/running foot.

- **Tile Flags**

Flags on 36" wire staff can be used to mark underground power lines, or surveying jobs. \$6.00/bundle of 100.

## **SWCD Annual Meeting To Be January 30 at St. Anthony Community Center**

The Annual Meeting of the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at the St. Anthony Community Center beginning at 6:30 PM. Join the SWCD Supervisors for food, fellowship, timely information about local agriculture programs, and an update on SWCD activities.

Meal tickets cost \$7.50, and can be purchased from the SWCD Supervisors, or call the SWCD office at 482-1171 Ext. 3 by Tuesday, Jan. 23 to make a reservation.

### **ATTENTION!**

## **Free Water Quality Presentation Scheduled**

Do you know the difference between a floodway and a floodplain?  
How about a 401 or 404 permit?

If you have been, are now, or are planning on excavating in or around streams or wetlands do you know what type of permits you may need?  
Do you know who to get permits from?

To prevent people from mistakenly violating the law, a free presentation is being offered by the Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission.

The presentation will be Saturday morning, January 20, 2007 at the St. Meinrad Community Center. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and others will discuss these issues from 8:00 until noon.

Contact Tom Mosley at 367-8455 or by e-mail at [tom@ind15rpc.org](mailto:tom@ind15rpc.org) for further information.







