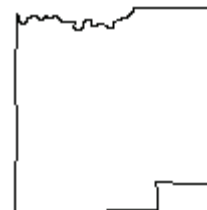




Dubois County Conservation News



Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District

March 2010

Dubois County SWCD Holds 64th Annual Meeting

One hundred fifty five people came out to the VFW in Jasper on January 26 as the Dubois County SWCD held its 64th Annual Meeting. A catered meal began at 6:30pm and was followed by highlights of the SWCD's 2009 programming. Joining the SWCD as guest speaker for the evening was Natalie Fowler. Natalie serves as the Southeast District Director for Purdue Extension and is responsible for eighteen counties in the Southeast District.

At the meeting, Greg Hoffman was elected to a Supervisor position for a three year term. Hoffman replaces Jack Welp on the Board of Supervisors. Welp was recognized with an award for fifteen years of faithful service as a Supervisor. Welp plans to stay on as an Associate Supervisor for 2010. Glenn Menke was appointed to another three year term as well.

Also noteworthy from the Annual Meeting are the many local farmers who were recognized for their outstanding conservation efforts. Norman Schue was presented the 2009 Otto J. Bauer Conservation Farmer of the Year award. Clarence Durcholz was presented the OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award for his conservation efforts in his forest lands. Dale and Kelly Knies were presented the River Friendly Farmer award. Steve Rauscher was also recognized as receiving the River Friendly Farmer award, but was unable to attend. Look for their success stories throughout this issue of the Dubois County Conservation News.

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 #1 received the award. Congratulations to Coach Abby Smith and her team!



Above: SWCD Chair Alan Weyer presents Jack Welp with an award for fifteen faithful years of service as a Supervisor.

Bottom: Sam Oxley presents the Ken McWilliams Memorial Award for Soil Judging Excellence to the Forest Park FFA Team #1.



SWCD Staff Named District Employees of the Year

Amanda Bough and Judi Brown were recently named District Employees of the Year at the annual meeting of the Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts on January 12 in Indianapolis. Amanda and Judi were selected from several nominations from around the state because of their outstanding service to landowners, the public at large, and the conservation community.

Amanda received the Technical Employee of the Year award and Judi received the Administrative Employee of the Year Award. The award is sponsored by the Indiana District Employees Association (IDEA) and selection was based on service to the public, willingness to participate "above and beyond the call of duty," professional ethics, attitude towards responsibility, dedication to the principles of natural resource conservation, and measurable accomplishments.

The Dubois County SWCD congratulates Amanda and Judi for this outstanding achievement!

SWCD Board of Supervisors:

Alan Weyer, Chair

Brenda Sermersheim, Vice Chair

Greg Hoffman, Member

Glenn Menke, Member

Sam Oxley, Member

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

Associate Members:

Jim Hochgesang, Duane Hopf

Lee Schnell, Jack Welp

Service Center Staff:

Amanda Bough

SWCD Resource Specialist

Judi Brown,

SWCD Executive Director

Michael Wilhite,

SWCD Program Assistant

Radius Weisman

SWCD Technical 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 7:10 PM Nov. through March, and 7:40 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 handicap.

Steve Rauscher and D&K Farms Named River Friendly Farmers

Steve Rauscher of Rauscher Farms and Dale and Kelly Knies of D&K Farms were recently selected as River Friendly Farmers for 2009 for their outstanding conservation achievements.

Rauscher Farms is a fourth generation dairy farm started back in the 1920s. Their operation currently consists of approximately two hundred and fifty Holsteins in the milking herd. They also raise their own replacement heifers and for the past twelve years have grown and sold around forty breeding bulls. In addition to the dairy and bull operations, Rauscher Farms also farms six hundred acres consisting of corn, hay pasture and wheat. In addition to all of this, Rauscher Farms also currently uses several conservation practices for erosion control, including gassed waterways, filter strips and no-till planting.

D&K Farms is a grain and livestock operation. D&K Farms has used several conservation practices, including grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, filter strips and no-till planting. Due to their manure usage from their turkey operations, D&K Farms does not need to add commercial phosphorus.

The Indiana River Friendly Farmer program was initiated in 2000 as a statewide initiative to publicly recognize and reward farmers who do an excellent job of managing their farms in an economically and environmentally sound way that protects and improves Indiana's soil and water resources for future generations. Since 2000, 487 farmers across Indiana have been publicly honored at the Indiana State Fair for their stewardship. Ten of those have been from Dubois County, including our 2009 awardees.

The Dubois County SWCD congratulates our awardees for outstanding conservation achievements. D&K Farms was presented their awards on January 26 at the Dubois County SWCD's Annual Meeting. Because Rauscher Farms was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, their award will be presented at their farm.



Above: Duane Gress (right) presents the River Friendly Farmer award to Dale and Kelly Knies of Knies Farms.

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, grasses, etc. It can also be used to plant native, or warm season, grasses. Rental fee is \$7 per acre.

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.

We also have a Spinning Jenny for high-tensile fencing and an Erosion Control Blanket Stapler for free use by Dubois County landowners. Contact us for more details about any of these!

Norman Schue Named Conservation Farmer of Year for 2009

Norman Schue has been named the 2009 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 are pleased to acknowledge land owners who use good soil and water conservation practices", said Alan Weyer, SWCD Chair. "Norman has worked hard to address the resource concerns on his farm."



Above: Prestone Weisheit presents the Conservation Farmer Award to Norman Schue at the SWCD Annual Meeting.

Norman's farm is in rural Ferdinand. He raises corn and soybeans, and also raises some beef cattle, has pasture and hay ground, and woodland. Over the years he has excluded the livestock from the woods and ponds, and has utilized nutrient and pest management practices. His list of conservation practices include tile, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, filter strips, pasture/hay planting, critical area planting, a pond, and a diversion. His future plans include doing timber stand improvement in his woods to improve the health and vigor of the trees.

Despite health issues that have slowed him down a little, Norman still works full time on the farm, which was established in 1852 by his wife, Leona Schue's, family. They reside in the family home that was built in 1856. Norman began farming the land in 1964 while working for Jasper Transmission Exchange. When he purchased the farm in 1972, he continued working part time at various jobs, including working as a drag line operator for local coal mines until 2006. No stranger to hard work, Norman grew up on a farm located between Mariah Hill and Santa Claus in Spencer County. After his father's death when he was a child, Norman, his mother, and his six brothers and sisters worked together to keep that farm operating.

Norman is matter-of-fact about his approach to managing their land. He says, "I just do what needs to be done. I couldn't stand to see the ditches, so I try to do what looks right and try to save the ground. It doesn't do any good to let the ground go down the creek!" Norman said the farm was in good shape when he purchased it. Some of the buildings were old and needed to be renovated, and the gullies got worse over time. He constructed a pond because he needed water for some open range turkeys, and built two water and sediment control basins with his own equipment. Most of the farm was in pasture to support 150 head of cattle. Since then, the turkeys and most of the cattle are gone. Some of the land is kept in pasture and the rest was converted back to crop ground. Norman started by tiling fields to make them more productive. Over the years he has eliminated series of ditches and now is able to get big equipment in.

Amanda Bough, Resource Specialist for the SWCD, recommended Norman for the award. She said, "My recommendation was based upon the projects he has completed working with us at the USDA Service Center, plus things he has done on his own. His health makes it hard for him to operate, but he still makes the effort to save soil and make a difference on the farm before he passes it on to his family. He is a good example on how people shouldn't give up."

Bart Pitstick, District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, agreed. He said "With the installation of the filter strips and other conservation practices, Norman has addressed a gamut of resource concerns on his farm." Over the years, Norman has participated in USDA Farm Bill programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Norman recently hosted two conservation tours for the USDA Service Center.

Norman is also involved with the community. He received a 50 year membership certificate from the Mariah Hill YMI two years ago. He is a member of the Huntingburg Conservation Club, and is a former 4-H leader. Norman's goals for the farm include passing it on to one of his eight children, 14 grand children, or 8 great grandchildren. He says with a smile, "It will not leave the family!" Norman is a firm believer in preserving the ground. He said, "It had ditches before that you couldn't cross with a combine, now they are all gone. He encourages other farmers, saying "conserve ground, because the ditches don't make you any money. When it's gone, it's gone forever. You can't buy your soil back."

2008 FARM BILL: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Conservation practices and programs



Bart Pitstick
NRCS District
Conservationist

**To call for an
appointment:
812-482-1171
extension 3**

The 2008 Farm Bill offers America's agricultural producers more assistance than ever before! Consider the following programs to see which might be right for you!

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP helps promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP activities are carried out according to a plan of operations developed in conjunction with the producer that identifies the appropriate conservation practices to address the concerns.

CRP: Conservation Reserve Program

CRP provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers CRP, and NRCS provides technical assistance, land eligibility determinations and conservation planning. CRP encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as grassed waterways and filter strips. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the contract.

WHIP: Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

WHIP helps develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. WHIP provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities and undertaking additional conservation activities. CSP offers financial assistance to eligible participants through two possible types of payments: 1) Annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities, as well as and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities or 2) through supplemental payment for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations. Contracts cover the eligible land in the entire agricultural operation and are for five years.



***Contact us today for the
latest cost share information!***

for your land

What Resource Needs Do You Have?



Wildlife

To enhance, restore, manage and protect fish and wildlife habitat, consider these or similar practices:

- Upland/Wetland habitat management
- Wetland restoration
- Stream habitat improvement
- Prescribed burning
- Tree/shrub establishment

Begin with a look at these programs:
WHIP, EQIP, CSP

Water Erosion

To reduce soil movement and nutrient runoff, consider these or similar practices:

- Grassed waterways
- Residue management
- Filter strips
- Grade stabilization structures
- Water and Sediment Control Basins

Begin with a look at these programs:
EQIP, WHIP, CSP



Manure

To prevent nutrient loss and protect air, soil, water, fish and wildlife resources, consider these or similar practices:

- Waste storage structures and lagoons
- Nutrient management
- Waste utilization

Begin with a look at these programs:
EQIP

Forest Lands

To restore and protect forest resources and improve fish and wildlife habitat, consider these or similar practices:

- Tree planting
- Forest stand improvement and thinning
- Controlling invasive plants

Begin with a look at these programs:
WHIP, EQIP, CSP

Livestock

To improve animal health and management, consider these or similar practices:

- Heavy Use Area
- Spring development
- Fencing
- Watering Facilities
- Mortality Composting

Begin with a look at these programs:
EQIP

Soil

To improve soil and water quality, consider these or similar practices:

- Nutrient management
- Crop rotation
- Filter strips
- Riparian buffers
- Pest management

Begin with a look at these programs:
EQIP, WHIP, CSP



Sign-up is currently underway!



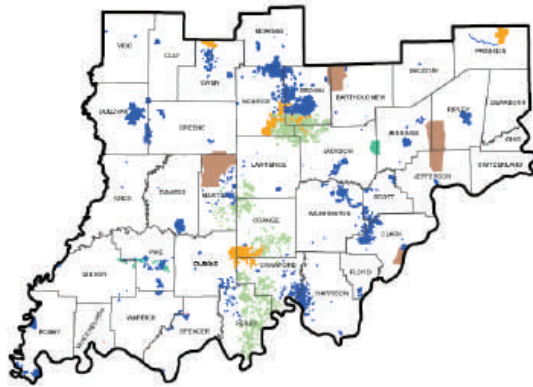
Are You Concerned About Invasive Species on Your Land? Join the Southern Indiana CWMA!

What is the Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)?

The CWMA is a grassroots organization to coordinate efforts and programs by numerous land owning agencies, non-profit organizations and private landowners to address the threat of invasive plants.

Where is the CWMA?

The 36 counties in the southern 1/3 of the state of Indiana are within the CWMA area. This region includes the Interior Low Plateau Ecoregion and is unique for its karst, extensive forests, hills, rivers and lakes. Southern Indiana's economy relies heavily on forest products, agriculture and natural resource-based tourism and is well known for its natural resources, recreational resources, and beauty. Invasive plants are a serious threat to all of these.



Aren't invasive plants already being managed? Why is the CWMA important?

Yes, many agencies and organizations in southern Indiana are actively managing invasive plants, however the CWMA can coordinate these efforts. It allows us to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of management activities, manage across boundaries, pool available resources, and prioritize issues.

What can I do to help?

Join the CWMA! Join as an individual, or encourage your agency or grassroots organization to join as a partner. As a member/partner you can participate in committee work, educational efforts or invasive species mapping and control projects. It's also important to be more aware and not plant or spread invasive species. Learn to identify the invasive plants in your area. Be sure to clean your shoes, brush off your clothes, and remove any dirt from equipment after being in an area with invasive plants. Start a control program on your land.

Where can I find more information on invasive plants in Indiana?

Check out these websites for helpful information on invasive plants in Indiana:

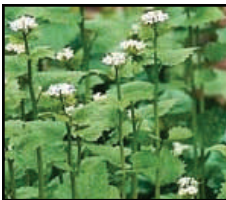
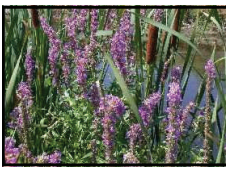
- **Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey**
<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/CAPS>
- **DNR Invasive Species Task Force**
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/3123.htm>
- **Invasive Species Information Center**
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov>
- **Midwest Invasive Plant Network**
<http://www.mipn.org>

Why are invasive plants a problem?

An invasive plant is one that is not native to the area, but has been introduced, is starting to spread, and is causing damage to the natural environment. Since these plants are in a new environment, free of natural predators, parasites, or competitors, they often spread quickly. These large populations can out-compete and displace native species, or can reduce wildlife food and habitat. Some species can also disrupt vital ecosystem functions like nutrient cycling or soil decomposition. Other invasive plants cause economic damage to agriculture. They can harm or kill trees and other crops, clog equipment, and contaminate produce. Some invasive plants can even cause direct harm to humans or domestic animals.

More Information on the CWMA:

- Tom Tremain, CWMA President
ttinogil@bcremc.net
- Teena Ligman, CWMA Secretary
812-276-4757 tligman@fs.fed.us
- Or check out: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier/docs/plants/sicwma.htm>
- **You can also call the Dubois County SWCD office at 812-482-1171, ext. 3 for more information on how to get involved with the CWMA!**



Clarence Durchholz Receives Forest Stewardship Award

Clarence Durchholz of St. Henry was selected as the 2010 recipient of the OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award. The award is presented each year at the Dubois County SWCD's annual meeting. Clarence manages 42 acres of woodland in Dubois County, and 147 acres in Spencer and Perry Counties. Some of these acres are part of his family farm, and he has also acquired forested tracts over the years. Some of the tracts include mature forests, and he is planting trees to re-forest other areas. 91 of these acres are enrolled in the IDNR's Classified Forest Program.

Clarence said, "I am a very hands-on manager of my land; I like to keep control of what is going on. The forest is like a corn crop...you have to watch it and see what needs to be done. You have to manage it to keep it growing well." He added, "I like to watch the trees grow tall and straight".



Above: Clarence Durchholz receives the OFS Brands Forest Stewardship Award at the SWCD Annual Meeting.

Clarence became interested in forest management when he was a child. When he was 12 years old, he worked with his father to cut trees for a power line easement. He said "they were big trees! Since they were going to have to be cut, we harvested and sold them. With a chuckle, he added, "I cut my hand while we were working. I got the chain caught in it...but that happens!"

He continued to learn about forestry through 4-H when he was a child. Clarence took forestry so he could learn to identify trees by their leaves and bark. And he has not stopped learning since. Clarence is currently taking the Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner class offered through Purdue University with his son and daughter. He also took this same course in 1984, to learn more about management and harvesting. He suggests that anyone interested in forestry should take this class, especially forest owners who don't know what to do in their forests.

Clarence has owned the forest for more than 30 years. He bought the family farm in 1972 from his father when he got out of Marines. Clarence said his father had purchased the land in the 1930s, and the forest was already in existence. He said it has a lot of mature trees; he estimates that some are a couple of hundred years old. The farm also has 60.5 acres of land that he rotates from crops to hay and pasture and back.

Clarence follows a management plan written by Thom Kinney, formerly a District Forester with the DNR Division of Forestry. Clarence currently works with District Forester Steve Brandsasse in Dubois County, and Earl MacCleery in Spencer and Perry Counties. Clarence said his first timber sale, in 1985, was done with Thom Kinney's assistance. He said, "I got a lot of insight from Thom. He encouraged me to get bids for the sale, and that was a good way to go; I got 7 or 8 bids." According to Clarence's management plan, it is now time for another harvest. He said "I have big veneer white oaks, 3 feet across. I hate to cut them, but they are dying. They need to come out—I want to get some benefit from them...I don't want to leave them for the worms." Clarence said people don't like to cut trees, but you have to remove the older trees to let new ones grow.

Clarence's management objectives come quickly to mind. He manages mostly for timber, then for firewood. He said he heats his house entirely with wood, and that his water is also entirely heated by wood. When he is cutting the firewood, Clarence cuts only dead stuff to help keep the forest healthy. He also manages for wildlife; he and his children like to hunt. He said, "when I started managing my forests, I planted 30 acres with a shovel." Since then I've learned that you have to walk through the woods and see what needs to be done." Clarence is actively managing his tree plantings. He said "At first, I just let them grow up. And the rabbits chewed up 80% of young trees. I had to cut them at the ground so they would re-sprout. I mow around them and remove the habitat for rabbits. Now the trees are coming in like gangbusters."

Clarence summed it up by saying, "You have to manage it, or you won't have a forest. I had creeping vines in the bottoms and they took over. They just laid over the trees and stifled their growth. All you will have is junk unless you take care of it." He adds, "Why plant if you don't take care of it? If you take care of it, it's amazing! I just like looking at beautiful trees. I am doing something for the next generation. If you eliminate the competition, man, those young trees really come through!"

Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Jasper IN 47546
(812) 482-1171 Ext. 3
judi.brown@in.nacdn.net

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For address corrections or to be taken off the list, please contact the office at michael.wilhite@in.nacdn.net or call 812-482-1171, Ext. 3



Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District 2009 Annual Report

January 20, 2010

Lange Farms Receives Local and State Conservation Farmer of the Year Awards

Ronald Lange, owner and operator of Lange Farms, has been named the 2009 Dubois County Conservation Farmer of the Year. Lange Farms, located near Jasper, Indiana, is a 1,000-acre farm that has been in the Lange family for over 100 years. Lange has been a member of the National Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 1990 and has been a member of the Indiana Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 1995. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 1998 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2000. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2002 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2004. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2006 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2008. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2010 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2012. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2014 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2016. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2018 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2020.



Lange Farms is a family-owned and operated business that has been in the Lange family for over 100 years. Lange has been a member of the National Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 1990 and has been a member of the Indiana Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 1995. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 1998 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2000. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2002 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2004. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2006 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2008. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2010 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2012. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2014 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2016. Lange has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2018 and has been a member of the Dubois County Conservation Farmland Protection Council since 2020.

SWCD Runs Annual Report in Ferdinand News

Did you see the Ferdinand News on January 20, 2010? For the first time, the SWCD ran its Annual Report as an eight page insert into the Ferdinand News. With a readership of nearly 3,100 this allows for greater exposure into the community of the SWCD's programs and accomplishments.

If you didn't get the Ferdinand News and you missed seeing the Annual Report, stop by the SWCD office at 1486 Executive Blvd. in Jasper today to pick up a complimentary copy!

Southern Indiana Angus Sale

Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 12pm
United Producer's Sale Facility, Little York, IN



80 Lots
Spring Pairs, Fall Pairs, Bulls, Open Heifers
Bred Cows, Embryos, Semen
Top Cow Families and Top AI Bulls Will Be Represented



Catalog Available! Contact Andy Howell at 812-620-1121