

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District
9602 Coldwater Road, Suite 104
Fort Wayne, 48625
Phone: (260)-484-5848 ext 3



COVID-19 UPDATE

We are continuing to serve our customers at a safe distance. We are practicing social distancing while we complete essential tasks in the field and in the office. We are accepting customers by appointment only in our building, please call our office at 260-484-5848, extension 3, for any questions and we will contact you as soon as possible. Please be kind for our delayed responses since we are rotating between field and office work. We hope you stay healthy and safe. We look forward to meeting you in the office again soon.

As always the Allen County SWCD is grateful for the support received from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management through Section 319 grant programs and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture through Clean Water Indiana grant programs, as well as the Allen County Council and Commissioners for continued support of District activities. All programs and services of the Allen County SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or disability.



the conservation chALLENGE

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District

Issue XXXIX: December 2020

For the most up-to-date information:

Follow Us on Facebook: @AllenCountySoilAndWater, Instagram: @allen_swcd, and Twitter: @AllenSwcd

SWCD Board Members

Tom Crow - Chairman
Tom Miller - Vice Chairman
Jeff Steiglitz - Treasurer
Don Rekeweg - Secretary
Chad Shaw - Member

Associate Supervisors

Dick Crowl
Dave Voors
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Dan Wire

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SWCD Employees

Greg Lake
District Director

Courtney Taylor
Watershed Project Manager

Joelle Neff
Watershed Project Manager

Brooke Rudicel
Watershed Project Manager

Andrea Bearman
Office Manager

Scott Thompson
Consulting Agronomist

Mike Werling
Conservation Programs
Specialist

Sharon Partridge
Assistant Program
Coordinator

NRCS
Tim Bomba
District Conservationist

ISDA
Jennifer Thum
District Support Specialist

Lindsey Bluhm
Resource Specialist

Urban AGRICULTURE

The Allen Co. SWCD has started working full force on its Contribution Agreement with NRCS that focuses on urban and small farms in the Indiana portion of the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). A small farm is considered a farm that produces less than \$250,000 of gross revenue annually.

This contribution agreement allows the District to offer the community education through events and workshops and through educational materials. It will also provide technical assistance and guidance to small and urban farms in the WLEB and community support for existing small farms and/or community gardens

Be on the lookout for more news on the progression of this project. The SWCD is expecting great and exciting things to come from the Urban and Small Farms Contribution Agreement.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to be involved in the Steering Committee, please contact the Allen Co. SWCD office at 260-484-5848 ext. 3.

AUGLAIZE-FLATROCK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE:

In order to identify and substantiate resource concerns in the Flatrock Creek watershed, the project team collected, organized, and analyzed information on the following topics to determine relevance to the health of the watershed. Research that was conducted in the following areas will be included in the Watershed Management Plan: history of the area, geology and topography, soil types, hydrology, wetlands, and flooding.

The team also collected information on the following topics which will be reported on in the next project update: sewer and unsewered communities; combined sewer overflows; land use; leaking underground storage tanks; threatened and endangered species; bank erosion; filter strip usage; water quality; livestock operations; point source dischargers; and other planning efforts.

For more information, contact Sharon Partridge at the Allen County SWCD, 260-484-5848 ext. 8430

76TH ANNUAL MEETING

GOING GREEN FOR AG

This year Allen SWCD will be hosting the Annual Meeting and Going Green for Ag jointly on March 17, 2021. The joint event will be held at The Orchid (11508 Lincoln Highway E, New Haven, Indiana 46774).

Tentatively, the plan is to host the Annual Meeting first with a delicious breakfast for those who attend. The Annual Meeting will run from 8am to 9am. Then, we will move into the Going Green for Ag event which will hopefully include a lunch to the participants. Going Green for Ag will run from 10am to 3pm.

Of course, events are subject to change or cancellation. Stay up to date by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. More information will be available in the coming months.

STAY CONNECTED

PHOTO SHARE

The SWCD is expanding its social media reach and would like your input!

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram! Share your favorite pictures and posts about agriculture, farming, gardening and more! Participate in discussion questions! Learn more about local programs! Stay connected.



@AllenCountySoilAndWater



@AllenSwcd



@allen_swcd



Ryan Carmine

**I AM ABLE TO
PLANT EARLIER
FOR MORE
BENEFIT AND
GROWTH.**

**I'M
IMPRESSED
BY THE
GROWTH.**



Tom Miller

'T WAS THE SEASON TO BE INTERSEEDING

At the 2020 Fort Wayne Farm Show, the concept of interseeding cover crops into standing corn was promoted to improve soil health and water quality. The SWCD contacted producers to further promote the program. Over twelve test plots were studied throughout the year; Mike Werling led this program, funded by a Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant, with education, program promotion, and the use of the interseeder.

Overall, the farmers were impressed with the process mentioning that they wanted to own their own rig and start interseeding for themselves.

For more information and to see the results, check out our website where a short video is available for viewing:

<https://allenswcd.org/equipment-rental/>

Contact our office to participate: 260-484-5848 ext. 3

COFFEE AND INTERSEEDING VIRTUAL EVENT
LEARN ABOUT INTERSEEDING AND ITS FUTURE WITH ALLEN SWCD.
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 FROM 8AM TO 9:30AM
PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE TO PARTICIPATE.

FT. WAYNE FARM SHOW



PLAT BOOKS AND MAPS

2021 Plat Books and Maps will be available for sale soon. The Plat Books are spiral bound and standard size. The maps are about 43 inches square. They make great wall hangings. You can stop by the office, when they are available, or it is possible to order online: <https://www.mappingsolutionsgis.com/categories/indiana/allen/>

What is a Plat Map?

Plat maps show how tracts of land are divided into home lots, property sizes, streets, rights of way, flood zones, and boundaries.

SOIL SAMPLING

The Allen Co. SWCD is continuing to offer free soil sampling to small farms in the Indiana portion of the Western Lake Erie Basin. Soil samples tell producers their fields' nutrient levels. Once the nutrient levels are known, the SWCD is able to write a nutrient management plan which contains action steps along with what products need to be applied or need to stop being applied.

Why has the District decided to focus on small farms? Soil sampling is available commercially. Producers can pay for sampling per acre, but often small farms get passed up because they do not have enough acreage for commercial soil samplers to turn a profit.

Scott Thompson, the head of the soil sampling program with the SWCD, expressed the impacts of this program on small farms in both the English and Amish communities. "Soil sampling has helped bring the problems in Lake Erie (toxic algal blooms due to excess nutrient runoff from agricultural fields and other pollution sources) to their attention. They are now realizing how their farms, though small, make an impact whether good or bad." Thompson uses his time sampling and reporting on the samples to explain what practices lead to excess nutrients on fields and how the producers can make changes to improve their operations.

If you would like to inquire about getting your small farm sampled please contact the SWCD office at 260-484-5848 ext. 3.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SWCD

Board Meetings

December 16, 2020

January 20, 2021

at 8am

Tentative Events

Fort Wayne Farm Show
March 9-11

76th Annual
Meeting
March 17

Going Green for Ag
March 17

River Summit
April 6-7

75th Anniversary
Celebration:
Summer 2021

Soil Health Field Day
2021

Day at the Bay
2021



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