



THE CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

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@allen_swcd



@AllenSwcd

www.allenswcd.org

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2021 RECAP



We loved serving Allen County and the surrounding counties in 2021! Here are some of the events we had the privilege to be a part of.

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Chad Shaw - Member

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Specialist*

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*Assistant Program
Coordinator*

NRCS

Tim Bomba
District Conservationist

Brooke Rudicel
Soil Conservationist

ISDA

Lindsey Bluhm
Resource Specialist



"Coffee and" Webinar Series

In 2021, the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted ten "Coffee and" webinars addressing various agricultural topics. Just under 100 farmers, students, educators, and conservation partners participated in the webinar series throughout the year. A big thanks to all who joined us! The recordings of each webinar can be found at allenswcd.org and YouTube.



Partnerships

The District partnered with over 20 entities in 2021 to participate in 9 events including the City Nature Challenge, the Indiana Small Farms Conference, World Rivers Day, the Allen County Fair, Local Food Forum, Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom, Prescribed Burn Workshop, and Soil Education at Washington Elementary School.



Field Days and Workshops

The Allen County SWCD hosted 4 field days and workshops including Live from Avilla (virtual), Drainage Water Management Workshop, Fertilizer Workshop, and Soil Health Field Day. Over 200 attendees were reached through these events.



2021 RECAP CONT'D



Educational Displays

Two interactive, educational displays were designed and built in 2021. The Soil Health Display teaches about the roles of soil, practices to improve soil health, and ways that the soil's vitality impacts all of us. The Waste Management Display educates on proper ways to manage septic systems, and it explains the various types of sewer systems that can be found in Indiana.

Sponsorships

The Allen County SWCD has the opportunity to sponsor events and farmers financially through various grants and contribution agreements. In March of 2021, the District had the privilege of sponsoring the Indiana Small Farms Conference. They were also able to provide scholarships to 25 Burmese Farmers who attended a workshop at Claybottom Farms.



Trips to Lake Erie

The Allen SWCD hosted two trips to Lake Erie in August of 2021. Between these two trips, 70 participants were able to experience OSU's research on the lake through Stone Labs.

Rivers Summit

Over Rivers Summit III's two-day event in September, nearly 200 people were brought together to discuss the fluid economics of good water, local and regional impacts of water quality, creating partnerships that succeed, and turning challenges into opportunities.



River Tours

The District was able to host 5 river boat tours on the St. Joseph, St. Marys, and Maumee Rivers this fall. Nearly 30 participants from the Dekalb County SWCD, Putnam County, OH SWCD and Master Gardeners learned about the water quality efforts in the Western Lake Erie Basin and the impact each of us have on our waterways.



GLRI Cost Share Program Wrapped Up

The Allen County SWCD completed its 3-year GLRI cost share program in December 2021. This program provided a 75% cost share to 41 producers that applied Best Management Practices (BMPs) on 6,396 acres. The most common BMPs applied were cover crops, no-till, equipment modifications, and hay/pasture plantings.

2022 FORT WAYNE FARM SHOW

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum January 18-20, 2022

Educational Seminars Provided By: Northeastern Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts &
Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Major Farm Manufacturing and Distributor Trade Show

Schedule:

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

- **10:00 a.m.** Grain Market Outlook
- **11:30 a.m.** Cashing in on Carbon
- **2:00 p.m.** Pressures Challenging Crop Production (PARP, CCH, CEU Credits Available)

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

- **10:00 a.m.** State of Lake Erie
- **11:30 a.m.** Farm Bill or Climate Bill- Which Will It Be?
- **2:00 p.m.** Economics of Green Energy
- **3:30 p.m.** Impacts of Climate Change to Agriculture
- **5:00 p.m.** Resources for Urban and Small Farmers
- **6:00 p.m.** Understanding Urban Soils

Thursday, January 20, 2022

- **10:00 a.m.** Grain Market Outlook
- **12:30 p.m.** Commodity Marketing Workshop: To Sell or Not to Sell, That's the Question



AUGLAIZE-FLATROCK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN



Progress continues to be made on the development of the Flatrock/Auglaize Watershed Management Plan. As an example of the information that is being gathered and summarized, here is an excerpt from the Plan for the Bohnke Ditch subwatershed.

"The Bohnke Ditch subwatershed is approximately 14,694 acres in size and has 34 miles of streams. According to the 303(d) and 305(b) List of Impaired Waters, 4.48 miles of streams are classified as impaired for Impaired Biotic Communities. Approximately 20 miles of streams have inadequate filter strips and 11.4 miles of streams are experiencing bank erosion problems. The main land uses are 88% agriculture, 6% forest, 5% open space/park, 0.6% grassland, 0.4% residential, and 0.05% open water. Historically, nearly the entire subwatershed was covered in wetlands however only 0.1% of the original acres remain. There are 2 unsewered communities, Boston and Zulu in the subwatershed. Nearly 100% of the soil types in the subwatershed are classified as "very limited" for septic system usage. There are 2 livestock operations and 4 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System facilities. Sixty-eight percent of soils have a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet, and 30.98% of soils have a very slow infiltration rate. There are no Brownfield, Superfund or Wellhead Protection areas present. Substantial flooding occurs regularly along the mainstem of Bohnke Ditch where it is classified as floodplain. "