



THE CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

ISSUE 41
QUARTER 2



@allen_swcd



@AllenSwcd

www.allenswcd.org

260.484.5848 ext. 3

Urban AGRICULTURE

The Allen Co. SWCD and its committed partners are working extensively under a Contribution Agreement with USDA-NRCS that focuses on urban and small farms in the Indiana portion of the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB).

What's Available?

- Free soil sampling
- Guidance for obtaining and implementing nutrient management recommendations
- Technical assistance like site visits, identification of resource concerns
- Mentorship
- Educational experiences like workshops, field days, bus tours of local facilities, pontoon boat tours of local waterways, and scholarships for attending educational events.

Who's Eligible?

Urban farms, small farms, and community gardens within the Indiana side of the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) are eligible for the Urban and Small Farms Program. A small farm is considered a farm that produces less than \$250,000 of gross revenue annually. Use this website to determine if your property is in the WLEB: <https://bit.ly/3aCqCSQ>.

So far, we've collected soil samples from over 15 farms and gardens, and we've provided technical assistance to several operations. We've had several educational events including the "Coffee and" webinar series and Live from Avilla, a demonstration of converting planting equipment to a no-till system. All the recordings can be found on our website under the Urban Agriculture tab or the Coffee And tab.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to participate, please contact the Allen Co. SWCD office at 260-484-5848 ext. 3. A survey for small and urban farmers, Steering Committee meeting minutes, and all information about the "Coffee and..." Series can be found here: <https://allenswcd.org/urban-agriculture/>



SCAN ME

SWCD Board Members

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Don Rekoweg - Secretary
Chad Shaw - Member

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SWCD Employees

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District Director

Courtney Taylor
Watershed Project Manager

Joelle Neff
Watershed Project Manager

Ben Taylor
Watershed Project Manager

Scott Thompson
Consulting Agronomist

Mike Werling
Conservation Programs Specialist

Sharon Partridge
Assistant Program Coordinator

NRCS
Tim Bomba
District Conservationist

Brooke Rudicel
Soil Conservationist

ISDA
Jennifer Thum
District Support Specialist

Lindsey Bluhm
Resource Specialist

COFFEE AND...

Bring your morning beverage and join us virtually on the third Tuesday of every month from 8:30am-10:30am to learn from experts on various agricultural topics. Scan the QR code in the bottom right corner to access to the Coffee and... page on the District's website. The page has information on future events such as each workshop's topic, speakers, and registration links. If you miss one of the webinars, don't worry, we're recording each one and posting it to the Coffee and... page.

Upcoming webinars include Coffee and Water Quality on May 18th & Coffee and Compost on June 15th.

If you have any questions call the the Allen SWCD office at 260.484.5848 ext. 3 or visit the district webpage at allenswcd.org/coffee-and/



AUGLAIZE-FLATROCK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Allen County SWCD has hired Consultant Bruce Cleland with Tetra Tech to assist with the development of the Watershed Management plan. Bruce will summarize water quality monitoring data from sites in the Flatrock watershed, focusing on the spatial and temporal differences of nutrients, sediment, and bacteria. He will also develop flow estimates for each of the District's monitoring sites. Patterns will be examined relative to available stream flow and precipitation data, as well as relevant USGS gage information.

Bruce will also prepare a supplemental assessment report that summarizes water quality data. This technical analysis will also consider streambank condition, windshield survey results, tillage transect data, and available stream cross-section / flow measurements.

We're excited to have Bruce on the project and look forward to incorporating his assessment document into appropriate sections of the Flatrock - Auglaize WMP.



EQUIPMENT RENTAL



**Contact our office to rent equipment:
260.484.5848 extension 3**

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Phillips Harrow: \$6/acre
Salford 522 Air Seeder: \$16/acre
Cover Crop Interseeder: \$6/acre + \$55/tach hr.
Great Plains Turbo Max with Valmar Seeder:
Implement only: \$11/acre; *With tractor:*
\$16/acre

**\$1/acre discount if invoice is paid within 10 days*

Summer Riverboat Tours

Throughout the summer months, the Allen County SWCD will be hosting pontoon tours of Fort Wayne's three main rivers: the St. Joseph, the St. Mary's, and the Maumee River. These educational tours will provide a brief history of Fort Wayne's Rivers along with discussion of nutrient management and other ways to keep our rivers clean. The tours are typically 1.5 hours and can accommodate up to 10 people. Call our office at 260-484-5848, ext. 3 to schedule your tour or if you have any questions.



Soil Health Field Day

The annual Soil Health Field Day will once again be held at Roemke's Farm on September 8, 2021. Keep an eye out for information about the upcoming event!

FARM SERVICE AGENCY UPDATE

Crop acreage season is upon us and as a reminder all spring planted crops must be reported to FSA by Thursday, July 15, 2021 to avoid a late fee. Contact FSA at 260-484-5848 ext. 2 if you would like to pick up your certification maps or have them sent out.



LOOK WHO'S NEW



Ben Taylor - Watershed Project Manager



I am a native Hoosier, as I grew up in Pulaski County on the Northwest side of the state. I attended Butler University where I received my bachelor's in environmental studies while minoring in biology. I then went to Purdue University where I obtained my master's degree in Forestry and Natural Resources focusing my studies on ecology. After graduation I took a position as a

consulting utility forester with Asplundh Tree Experts coordinating tree work for Indiana-Michigan Power for almost three years.

I recently became engaged, and my fiancé and I have become "official" Allen County residents as we just bought a home in the area. I spend most of my free time outdoors. I love to fish, road cycling, mountain biking, gardening, backpacking and have a life goal to visit all the US and Canada's National Parks. I am very passionate about conservation and stewardship of natural resources. I am excited to be a part of the SWCD team here in Allen County and am eager to learn how I can help the district. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

UPPER MAUMEE GLRI COST SHARE PROGRAM: MORE OPPORTUNITIES!

The Upper Maumee Implementation GLRI grant is now available for cost share! Cost share may be available to those with farm land in the following Upper Maumee targeted watersheds: Black Creek, Marsh Ditch, Six-Mile Creek, Trier Ditch, and now the grant includes Bottern Ditch! This grant is focused on implementing best management practices within the critical watersheds. This program provides a great opportunity to find small changes that could result in big improvements.

For More Information:

Contact us at: 260.484.5848 ext. 3

Upcoming Events

SWCD Board Meetings:

May 26; 8am
June 23; 8am
July 28; 8am

Coffee and Composting
June 15; 8:30-10:30am

Draft Horse 101
Salomon Farm Park
June 12; 1-3pm

NWTF Women in the
Outdoors
June 12; 7:30am-5:30pm

July "Coffee and" Webinar
July 20; 8:30-10:30am

Riverboat Tours
Summer 2021

Allen County Fair
July 27-August 1

Soil Health Field Day
September 8

Local Food Week
September 17-26

Rivers Summit
September 15&16

**All events pending the
current regulations related
to COVID-19. Contact our
office for updates.**