

Coming Together

S.W.C.D.

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VANDEBURGH COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
921 NORTH PARK DRIVE ❖ EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47710

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CELEBRATING 84 YEARS

SUMMER 2024

Proactive Agronomy Field Day was a Success!

On June 6, 2024, local farmers and staff from local SWCD's, CCSI, Purdue University, Resilient Indiana, and NRCS gathered at Joseph Kern's Farm for a field day. It was sponsored and hosted by the local SWCD's (Warrick, Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh)



Host-Joseph Kern

and additional sponsors included The Nature Conservancy, Clean Water Indiana, Alcoa and CCSI

(Conservation Cropping System Initiatives. Vendors tables included: Superior Ag, Duck's Unlimited and ADM.

We began the day with Travis Gogel, NRCS and a demonstration at the Soil Health Trailer. It has a rainfall simulator that shows how soil is affected by rain and how healthy soil absorbs, controls, and uses water more efficiently.

Joseph started off with his presentation titled "**Starting Out with No-Till Cover Crops Sucks -101**". We learned about how Joe got started, mistakes he made, and what he would do differently. He went over the short and long-term costs and benefits of cover cropping, how cover crops help ring stability during wetter winters and drier summers, and how cover crops lower input costs and raise crop yields.

Afterwards we broke up in two groups, one took a wagon ride with Joe while he pointed out how things changed for the better on his farm with cover crops. While some stayed at the tent and learned about Climate Change with Hans Schmidt, CCSI, Climate Smart Ag Specialist. Hans discussed the best way to find out about accurate weather forecasts and how the changes in weather pose problems for farmers. Rainstorms have increased in severity and frequency, while rising temperatures cause more evaporation, turning water into vapor leading to more droughts. Therefore, our soil needs to be healthy to absorb as much rain as possible and hold on to it as long as possible. Then the groups switched.

It was a beautiful day to be outside and everyone enjoyed being together and learning new things about our living soil and keeping it healthy.

We also met Tyler Luecke from Luecke Farm & Fab located in Evanston IN. Tyler builds useful tools for regenerative farmers like himself in his welding shop. Two examples include the crimper pictures below. The advantage of crimpers are they kill cover crops mechanically, suppress weeds by forming a mulch, decrease hot summer soil temperatures, conserve soil moisture, decrease soil erosion, and add organic matter. Tyler also fabricated a hay bale unroller. It

allows you to transport your bale to the pasture and unroll it with one piece of equipment. Allowing more animals to get to the food as well as possible bedding in bad weather. If you have any questions for Tyler, call or text him at 812-686-3483.



Photo above - This crimper is a 15.5' CAT II 3 point hitch crimper with chevron blades. It weighs in at 3200 pounds and is also water fillable. It requires a 50 HP tractor to pull it. Photo below- Hay bale unroller also made by Tyler Luecke.



MISSION STATEMENT :

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE
QUALITY CONSERVATION SERVICES
RESULTING IN A HARMONIOUS BALANCE
BETWEEN NATURAL RESOURCES,
SOCIAL CHANGE
AND ECONOMIC HEALTH WITHIN
VANDEBURGH COUNTY



7th Annual
Midwest
Mechanical
Weed Control

FIELD DAY

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024
Meigs Horticulture Research Farm
Lafayette, Indiana

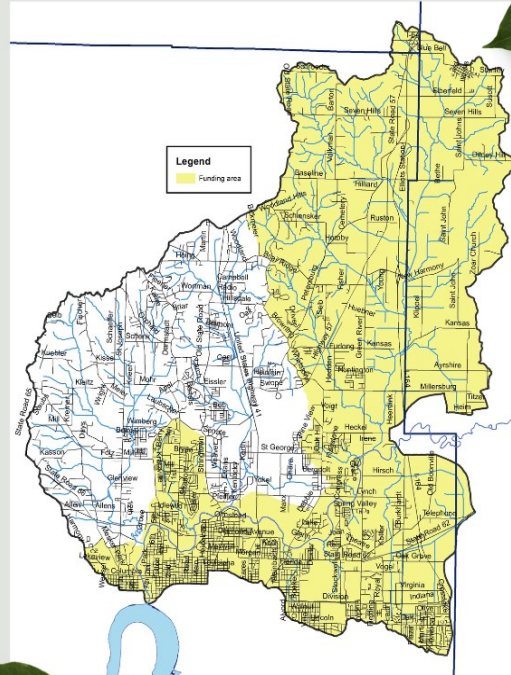
Weeding Machines for Vegetables & Row Crops

- Hear from national experts on weeding tools and techniques
- Meet farmers from all over the country
- See weeding tools of all scales: From two-wheel tractors up to 12-row camera-guided cultivators.
- Watch field demos of weeding machines and hear from company reps
- Connect with companies and suppliers at the trade show

For questions, or to collaborate, please contact Sam Oschwald Tilton at (414) 213-5337.
Scan the QR code to register or visit <https://www.thelandconnection.org/event/2024-mmwcf/>



COST-SHARE IN THE LOWER PIGEON CREEK WATERSHED



Map of the Lower Pigeon Creek Watershed

Potential BMPs (Best Management Practices):

- (340) Cover Crop
- (590) Nutrient Management
- (472) Access Control
- (620) Blind Inlet
- (412) Grassed Waterway
- (410) Grade Stabilization Structure
- (327) Conservation Cover
- (468) Lined Waterway or Outlet
- (512) Forage/Biomass Planting
- (528) Prescribed Grazing
- (578) Stream Crossing
- (612) Tree Establishment
- (391) Riparian Forest Buffer
- (582) Two Stage Ditch
- (390) Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- (342) Critical Area Planting
- (386) Field Border
- (316) Animal Mortality Facility
- (317) Composting Facility
- (554) Drainage Water Management
- (747) Denitrifying Bioreactor
- (558) Roof Runoff Structure
- (313) Waste Storage Facility
- (332) Contour Buffer Strip
- (362) Diversion Structures
- (367) Waste Facility Cover
- (393) Filter Strip
- (395) Stream Habitat Improvement
- (484) Mulching
- (561) Heavy Use Protection Area
- (570) Stormwater Runoff Control
- (575) Animal Trails & Walkways
- (580) Streambank Protection
- (585) Strip Cropping
- (587) Structure for Water Control
- (633) Waste Utilization
- (635) Vegetated Treatment Area
- (638) Water/Sed. Control Basin
- (657) Wetland Restoration
- (658) Wetland Creation

To learn more or apply, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District office or the Project Manager:

Vanderburgh County SWCD
 Evansville
 (812) 423-4426 ext 3

Warrick County SWCD
 Boonville
 (812) 897-2840 ext 3

Gibson County SWCD
 Princeton
 (812) 385-5033 ext 3

Sara Peel, Arion Consultants
 speel@arionconsultants.com
 (765) 337-9100

To see if you fall in the qualifying area, visit our interactive map at bit.ly/LowPigeonDrainageMap



ALL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ARE OFFERED ON A NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS, WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS OR HANDICAP.

Have you used an EQIP or CSP contract for cover crop cost share? If so, we want to hear from you!

- Scan the QR code or email/call us to schedule a 45-60 minute interview about your cover crop cost share program experience.
- Receive \$100 Visa gift card for your time.
- Interviews will be recorded for data analysis.
- Responses will be kept confidential.



We are especially interested in talking with farmers who have discontinued using cover crops after your cost share contract ended.

Questions, contact:
 Elsie Assan, Ph.D; 765-496-2221
 eassan@purdue.edu
 IRB-2019-546



Photo credit: Sara Peel

WEED WRANGLE NEWS

It was an awesome, warm, sunshiny day, March 16, 2024! 44 volunteers removed Privet, Wintercreeper, and Multiflora Rose from North Woods at Igleheart Park. After 3 hours of work there were piles of pulled invasives dotting the hillside. Vanderburgh CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) thanks all Master Gardeners who helped make the 11th Weed Wrangle a huge success! A new patch of trilliums was discovered and also some Crane's Fly orchids. Friends of North Woods, who work there weekly, have noticed these native plants and others sprouting due to more sunlight available after the invasives are gone. Anyone interested in joining Friends can contact Steve at:





PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2024

REGIONAL AG FORUM

August 22nd | Toyota Events Center
709 N Embree St, Princeton, IN 47670, USA

Join us for a day full of good information and a great opportunity for networking with other producers in the region. The day will start at 7:30 am CST with registration, doughnuts, coffee and networking. From there, we will start the forum at 8am and should wrap up around 3 pm CST.

Topics Include:

Reading soil tests beyond P & K
Humic Acid for Nitrogen Retention
Crop Insurance for soil health
Irrigation & PARP



To Register for this event, scan the
QR Code or use the link below

Sponsored By:

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, ADM Ag Services,
The Nature Conservancy, Purdue Extension, Clean Water Indiana, &
Daviess, Gibson, Knox, Pike, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick SWCD's

Attention women landowners – this FREE event is for YOU!
 Hosted by the Posey, Vanderburgh & Warrick County Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Women's Conservation Learning Circle- Pollinators



Thursday, September 17, 2024

Friedman Park, Events Center- Classroom

2700 Park Blvd., Newburgh, IN 47630

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., workshop 9-3:00 p.m.

Interested in maintaining productive land, while conserving your natural resources? Then join us for an event developed specifically for female landowners and farmers interested in learning more about conservation!



This Women's Conservation Learning Circle is a women-only, peer-to-peer, informal discussion about conservation and individual land stewardship goals and information sharing. Female conservationists will be available to facilitate discussions and share resources.

This event is FREE to attend however space is limited to the first 25 RSVP's. Topics for this event will focus on Pollinators. The afternoon will include a walking tour at Friedman. Lunch and handouts are provided!

Sponsored by

The Nature Conservancy 

For more information or to register for this event, call the Vanderburgh County SWCD at 812-423-4426 x3, or email erin.shoup@in.nacdnet.net

VANDEBURGH COUNTY SWCD

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Ron Adler, Chairman, Farmer/Operates a Peach Orchard
 Kevin Rexing, Vice-Chair, Farmer
 Megan Ritterskamp, Treasurer, Invasive Species Specialist
 Joe Schalasky, Member, Farm Manager at Seton Harvest
 Pat Bittner, Member, Farmer

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 Linda Freeman, County Surveyor
 Heath Hamilton, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Biologist
 Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Business Owner
 Steve Helfrich, Retired USI Facilities Director
 Eldon Maasberg, Retired Farmer

Board Meetings are held on the fourth Monday at 4 p.m. of each month Unless otherwise advertised. The public is invited to attend all meetings

OFFICE STAFF:

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

Megan Klenck, Water Quality Specialist
 Erin Shoup, Administrative Assistant

NATURAL RESOURCE, CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Kellyam ValleCancel, District Conservationist

INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (ISDA)

Linda Voglund, Resource Specialist

OFFICE LOCATION

VANDEBURGH COUNTY SWCD
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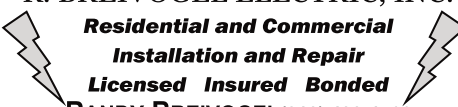
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 PROACTIVE AGRONOMY FIELD DAY WAS A SUCCESS!
 MIDWEST MECHANICAL CONTROL FIELD DAY
 COST SHARE IN THE LOWER PIGEON WATERSHED
 WEED WRANGLE NEWS
 REGIONAL AG FORUM
 WOMEN'S CONSERVATION LEARNING CIRCLE

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