

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 85 YEARS

WINTER 2025

Spencer County Soil Health Event

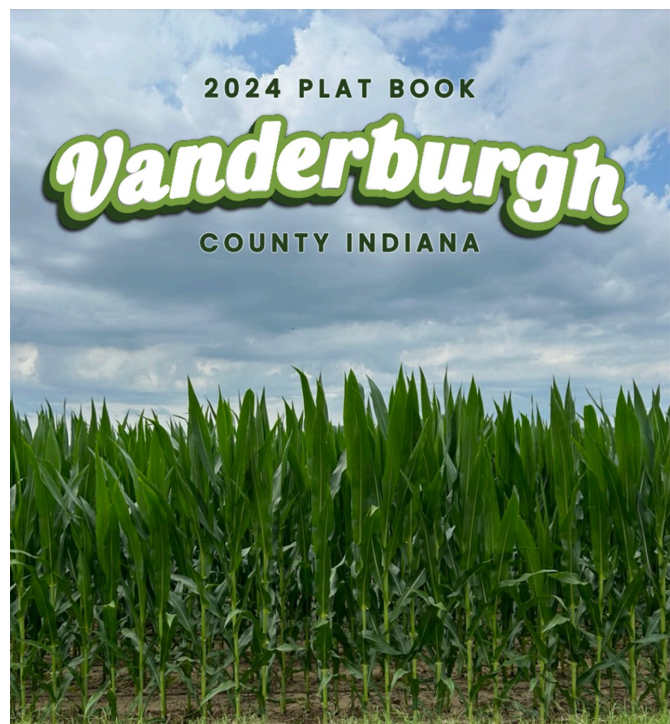
Spencer County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Warrick County SWCD, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked collaboratively to host a Soil Health Event on November 20th. Farmers, landowners, and producers from the area were invited to Chrisney, IN to learn more about soil health in general, more specifically cover crops and no-till practices, the economics behind improving soil health on farms, species selection, and equipment modification(s) to make conservation practices more convenient and effective. Attendees heard from Ray McCormick, who spoke about cover crops, Gandy seed mix, and equipment modification. Phil Needham educated producers about residue management, a very important aspect of cover crop and no-till operations. Rodney Rulon touched on return on investment and budgeting for profit on your farm. Participants also heard from Barry Fisher about getting started on cover crops, managing potential problems, and choosing the right equipment for your goals. Travis Gogel of NRCS brought the Soil Health Trailer to demonstrate the benefits of cover crops and no-till when compared to more conventional farming methods. The event was well attended with over 60 attendees and feedback has been wonderful thus far!



New 2024 Plat Books are here!

The new 2024 Vanderburgh County Plat Books are at the SWCD office and ready for purchase.

The price of the new books are \$25 and can be paid with cash or check only. Please be sure to call the office at 812-423-4426 x3 before you stop by, as we are frequently out of the office.



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
BY FOSTERING INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Mississippi River Basin Cover Crop Premium Discount Program



Program Background

Crop insurance is an integral part of the farm safety net that provides protection for farmers after bad weather impacts their crops. Cover crops can help prevent erosion and improve water quality and soil health, among other benefits. The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and partners throughout the state have worked with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to establish a program in Indiana. The focus for this program is to target first time cover crop users in an effort to expand the adoption of cover crops. Being a first time cover crop user is not required. Nearly all farms use crop insurance, and offering a premium discount will encourage landowners to adopt cover crop practices on their operations. This will provide an additional mechanism beyond traditional state and federal cost share programs.



Program Details

\$5 per acre on verified acres

Entire field must be located within the watershed

Enrollment done on first come, first serve basis; 750 acre cap per producer

Only fields not enrolled in another cost share program are eligible

Sign Up

Through an agreement with RMA, ISDA will take applications from cover crop users through March 15th, 2026, via an online sign-up form located at:

www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/cover-crop-premium-discount-program/

Program Workflow

- 1 Enrollment**
Farmers/Landowners can pre-enroll in the program beginning December 15, 2025. Program opens January 5, 2026.

Program application and information can be found at: <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/cover-crop-premium-discount-program/>
- 2 Verification**
ISDA verifies eligibility of landowners'/farmers' acres enrolled
- 3 Notification**
ISDA will notify applicants after verification of their enrollment in the program
- 4 Data Transfer**
ISDA will send RMA a list of eligible applicants
- 5 Insurance Providers**
RMA works with AIPs to apply incentive to an eligible applicants crop insurance invoice
- 6 Discount**
Participants receive crop insurance premium invoice with discount applied

SAVE THE DATE



SOUTHERN INDIANA GRAZING CONFERENCE

FRIDAY MARCH 13TH, 2026

SHILOH COMMUNITY CENTER

ODON, INDIANA

Keynote speaker: Peter Byck

"Roots So Deep: Stories of Forage, Fertility, and Farmer Ingenuity"

Greg Halich *"Bale Grazing Done Right: Soil Gains with Less Mud Pains"*

"Outgrowing Fertilizer: Strategies for Improving Soil Health and Profit"

Dr. Peter Ballerstedt *"Where's the Meat? The Global Diet is Falling Short"*

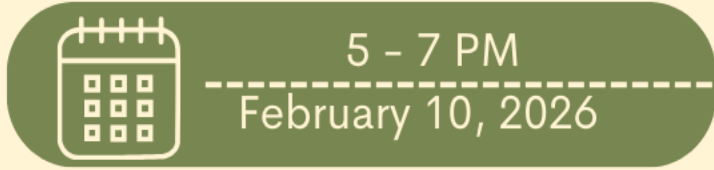
"The Other Side of the Plate: Why Animal-Source Foods Matter"

Barry Fisher *"Grazing with the Soil in Mind: From Pastures to Cover Crops"*



-OPEN HOUSE-

JOIN US FOR OUR 85TH ANNUAL MEETING



Join us at Nellies North for an Open House Style Annual Meeting! A buffet dinner will be provided free of charge (with reservation).

To reserve your seats please call 812-423-4426 x3 or email erin.shoup@in.nacdnet.net

 **Nellies North**
6600 N First Ave, Evansville, IN 47710





Volunteers Needed

Saturday, March 14, 2026 - 9am to 12pm

(Rain Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026)

North Woods at Igleheart Park

Vanderburgh County



CISMA

Please join the Vanderburgh Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) and fellow community volunteers to continue removing harmful, invasive species from the park.

- No experience necessary!
- Volunteer shifts range from 1 to 3 hours to fit your schedule
- Learn about invasive species and best management practices
- Location: Igleheart Park, 6101 N First Ave, Evansville, IN 47710
- Dress for the weather, sturdy shoes/boots and work gloves recommended
- Bring loppers if you have them (some tools will be available for use)
- Snacks and refreshments provided for all volunteers

**PLEASE HELP PRESERVE THE PARK'S
NATIVE TREES AND PLANTS!**

Event is coordinated by the Vanderburgh CISMA in partnership with the Vanderburgh County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Department of Parks & Recreation

RSVP to Vanderburgh.CISMA@gmail.com



North Woods is owned by Evansville Parks and Recreation.



Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ATTENTION

DEAR NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS,

We now have an electronic version of our newsletter!

To reduce wasteful printing we are offering a more environmentally friendly, e-newsletter option.

How would you like to receive the newsletter?

Please call the office or email Megan Klenck and let us know how you would like to stay informed about SWCD activities: paper mailings or e-newsletter. We will reduce our paper mailing list in 2026, so please respond by December 31, 2025.

812-423-4426 x 3

megan.klenck@in.nacdnet.net

VANDEBURGH COUNTY SWCD

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Ron Adler, Chairman, Farmer
 Kevin Rexing, Vice-Chair, Farmer
 Joe Schalasky, Treasurer, farm manager at Seton Harvest
 Pat Bittner, Member, Farmer
 Misty Minar- Botanical Curator, Mesker Park Zoo

ASSOCIATES:

Kay Hoffherr, Retired Teacher, Central High School
 Linda Freeman, County Surveyor
 Heath Hamilton, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Biologist
 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)

Christian Jimenez, District Conservationist

INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (ISDA)

Megan Ritterskamp, Resource Specialist

OFFICE LOCATION

VANDEBURGH COUNTY SWCD
 921 North Park Dr.
 Evansville, IN 47710-3629
 http://www.vandswcd.org
 TELEPHONE: (812) 423-4426 X 3
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IN THIS ISSUE:
 SPENCER COUNTY SOIL HEALTH EVENT
 2024 PLAT BOOKS
 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN COVER CROP DISCOUNT PROGRAM
 GRAZING CONFERENCE
 85TH ANNUAL MEETING
 WEED WRANGLE
 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

THIS NEWSLETTER IS COMPLIMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS AND ALL OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAKE OUR PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL DURING THE YEAR.

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