



St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



## Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

May/June 2016  
Volume 18, Issue 3

2903 Gary Drive, Ste 1, Plymouth, IN 46563  
Website: [stjosephswcd.org](http://stjosephswcd.org)

Telephone (574) 936-2024  
e-mail: [info@stjosephswcd.org](mailto:info@stjosephswcd.org)

### What's Going On...

Events hosted by the St. Joseph  
County SWCD & Our Partners in  
Conservation

#### May

- 3rd - Primary Election  
Day - County Holiday
- 17th - St. Joseph County  
SWCD Board Meeting  
(7:00 pm @ Centre  
Township Library)
- 30th - Memorial Day -  
Office Closed

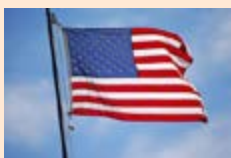


#### June

- 21st - St. Joseph County  
SWCD Board Meeting  
(7:00 pm @ Centre  
Township Library)

#### July

- 4th - Independence Day -  
Office Closed



- 19th - St. Joseph County  
SWCD Board Meeting  
(7:00 pm @ Centre  
Township Library)

## Best Management Practices to Prevent Environmental Pollution



When you're fertilizing the lawn, remember you're not just fertilizing the lawn.

When we think of environmental pollution, we most often conjure up images of smoking factories, toxic waste dumps and oil spills. What we don't realize, however, is that the leading cause of water quality problems is from pollutants that don't originate from a single source or enter waterways at a particular site.

This type of widespread pollution, called nonpoint source pollution, occurs when rainfall, snowmelt or irrigation runs over land, picks up pollutants and deposits them into streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater. In urban areas, this most often happens when runoff from hard surfaces, such as streets, parking lots and buildings, washes pollutants into storm drains. Unlike wastewater, which is treated before it is released, stormwater flows untreated into local waterways.

#### Did you know...

Currently stormwater runoff is not treated before entering our rivers and streams. We must do our part to prevent pollution from entering our waterways and protect aquatic life. Simple activities that can be done to prevent stormwater runoff pollution are:

- **Practice Conservation in Landscaping and Lawn Care**  
Altering the natural contours of your yard during landscaping, and planting nonnative plants that need fertilizer and extra water can increase the potential for runoff and soil erosion. Grasses and natural groundcover can be attractive and practical substitutes for nonporous surfaces. Incorporating natural grasses, trees, wooden decks, crushed stone or brick paths, rain gardens and mulch into landscaping reduces runoff and prevents erosion by allowing rainwater to slowly seep into the ground. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces. Additionally, don't rake leaves, grass clippings or litter into streets where they can enter storm drains or be washed into waterways. Instead compost your yard waste for use as mulch later.
- **Properly Dispose of Pet Waste**  
Pet waste is a significant source of bacteria and nutrients that lead to harmful algae and plant growth in waterways. Clean up pet waste in your yard or when walking your pet. The best way to dispose of pet waste is to bag it and place it in the trash
- **Prevent Automobile Fluid Leakage**  
Have your vehicle serviced regularly to prevent problems that lead to leakage. Clean up any spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze from garages, driveways and streets. Do not hose these fluids or any cleanup residue into the street. If you change your own oil, be careful to avoid spills and collect waste oil for recycling. Take your vehicle to a car wash to prevent soaps and waxes from being washed into the storm drain. Car washes send dirty water to the wastewater treatment plant. If you wash your vehicle at home, wash it on the lawn, not the driveway.
- **Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste**  
The City of Mishawaka, in conjunction with St. Joseph County, operates a household hazardous waste disposal center facility located at 1105 E. Fifth St. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and is open to all St. Joseph County residents. For more information, contact the Mishawaka Street Department at 574.258.1660 or e-mail [street@mishawakacity.com](mailto:street@mishawakacity.com). **Never dump anything down storm drains!**
- **Limit Use of Pesticides and Lawn Fertilizers**  
Follow manufacturer's direction when using chemicals and apply only the recommended amount. Don't spread chemicals on your lawn if a storm or heavy rain is in the forecast. Landscaping with disease and pest-resistant plants can reduce the need for pesticides and fertilizers.

#### Practice Conservation in Landscaping and Lawn Care

Altering the natural contours of your yard during landscaping, and planting nonnative plants that need fertilizer and extra water can increase the potential for runoff and soil erosion. Grasses and natural groundcover can be attractive and practical substitutes for nonporous surfaces. Incorporating natural grasses, trees, wooden decks, crushed stone or brick paths, rain gardens and mulch into landscaping reduces runoff and prevents erosion by allowing rainwater to slowly seep into the ground. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces. Additionally, don't rake leaves, grass clippings or litter into streets where they can enter storm drains or be washed into waterways. Instead compost your yard waste for use as mulch later.

#### Properly Dispose of Pet Waste

Pet waste is a significant source of bacteria and nutrients that lead to harmful algae and plant growth in waterways. Clean up pet waste in your yard or when walking your pet. The best way to dispose of pet waste is to bag it and place it in the trash

#### Prevent Automobile Fluid Leakage

Have your vehicle serviced regularly to prevent problems that lead to leakage. Clean up any spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze from garages, driveways and streets. Do not hose these fluids or any cleanup residue into the street. If you change your own oil, be careful to avoid spills and collect waste oil for recycling. Take your vehicle to a car wash to prevent soaps and waxes from being washed into the storm drain. Car washes send dirty water to the wastewater treatment plant. If you wash your vehicle at home, wash it on the lawn, not the driveway.



When you're washing your car in the driveway, remember you're not just washing your car in the driveway.

To learn more visit our website and search: Backyard Conservation. You can also visit our partnership website at: [www.michianastormwaterpartnership.org](http://www.michianastormwaterpartnership.org).

# 2016 Conservation Cropping Systems to Improve Soil Health Applications Now Available

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District is working to improve water quality by promoting and providing cost share for practices in the conservation cropping system (no-till, cover crops, nutrient management, and filter strips). The goal of this program is to encourage producers to utilize all aspects of the cropping system which will increase soil health and improve water quality. The SWCD will cost share practice acres as follows:

- ◆ No-till - \$15.00/ acre (max 100 acres per producer/1 year practice lifespan)
- ◆ Cover crops - \$20.00/ acre (max 100 acres per producer/1 year practice lifespan)
- ◆ Nutrient management - \$20.00/ acre (max 100 acres per producer/1 year practice lifespan)
- ◆ Filter strips - \$350.00/ acre (5 year practice lifespan)

## Requirements and Limitations

- The Tract#/Farm# must be physically located within St. Joseph County, IN
- We will accept applications at any time however, the deadline to be considered for funding in 2016 is April 30, 2016.
- Instructions in the form of a “Job Sheet” will be issued and the producer will be required to follow the Job Sheet. The producer will also be required to sign a Practice Completion Certification Form, attesting to having followed the Job Sheet. The Job Sheet will be based upon the NRCS FOTG (Field Office Technical Guide).
- Cost share is subject to funding availability and based upon a competitive point system. Funding will be awarded based upon point rankings. Bills for expenses must be turned in to the St. Joseph County SWCD by December 1, 2016.
- Funding on wheat and permanent hay cover crops are not eligible.

- There is no cost share for existing practices.
- Application must be approved by the St. Joseph County SWCD Board of Supervisors.
- Practice must be inspected by St. Joseph County SWCD or Designated Representative.
- It is the applicant’s responsibility to be aware of adverse effects to cropping history requirements for future Farm Bill Program enrollment.

## Implementation checklist

- ◇ Read and complete the application, which includes providing the Tract # / Farm # for the location.
- ◇ Return the application and attachments to the St. Joseph County SWCD, 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563 (by April 30, 2016 if you would like to be eligible for funding in 2016).
- ◇ The St. Joseph County SWCD Board of Supervisors will act on/rank your application.
- ◇ Following approval by the St. Joseph County SWCD Board of Supervisors, you may implement the practice per the Job Sheet provided to you.
- ◇ Report completion to St. Joseph County SWCD per Practice Completion Certification Form by returning the form to the St. Joseph County SWCD by December 1, 2016.
- ◇ Payment will be made after bills/expenses have been turned in to the St. Joseph County SWCD, and after the practice has been inspected in accordance with this agreement. Bills must be provided by December 1, 2016. Payment will be made by December 31, 2016.

To receive an application or further information please contact Sarah Longenecker at 574-936-2024 Ext. 4, or e-mail the office at [info@stjosephswcd.org](mailto:info@stjosephswcd.org).

**Funding for the applications is made possible from a Clean Water Indiana Grant that was awarded to St. Joseph, Marshall & Starke County SWCD’s.**



# Farming for the Future

## Combining Productivity, Profitability, and Conservation

On Tuesday March 22, we joined with the Marshall & Starke County SWCD's to host a producers workshop at Swan Lake Conference Center. Dan Towery opened the day with "Understanding the Journey for Soil Health." Several sessions covered cover crops, from a 101 session to termination. Other breakout sessions included; Nutrient & Manure Management and several other soil health topics. Otto Doering ended our day discussing the complexities of "Conservation & Economics – No Simple Answers." Thank you to all who attended and helped make our workshop a success.



### Thank you to our Sponsors:

- ◆ Farmers' Drainage
- ◆ Gypsoil
- ◆ Goechenour Ag Services Inc.
- ◆ Helena Chemical
- ◆ First Farmers Bank & Trust
- ◆ Farm Bureau Insurance
- ◆ Norris Equipment, LLC
- ◆ Irrigation Solutions
- ◆ Farm Fertilizers and Seeds Inc.
- ◆ Schrader Real Estate and Auction Co. Inc.
- ◆ Starke County Farm Bureau Inc.
- ◆ St. Joseph County Farm Bureau Inc.
- ◆ Northern Electric
- ◆ Lake City Bank
- ◆ Arrowhead Country RC&D

### Thank you to our Speakers:

- ♣ Dan Towery
- ♣ Ron Chamberlain
- ♣ Jamie Scott
- ♣ Gene Matzat
- ♣ Bob Yoder
- ♣ Phil Sutton
- ♣ Travis Legleiter
- ♣ Jim Boak
- ♣ Otto Doering



## Our Website Has a New Look

Have you been to our website lately? We have updated our website which now has a more streamlined modern look and feel to it! We hope it is easier to navigate to find all the information you need for all your soil and water conservation needs. Check out our new resources page which has links to contractors, rain barrels & composters, agricultural resources, foresters and many more. If you feel your information should be listed please contact our office.

What else is new? Our new staff & SWCD board pages allows you to put a face to a name as well

as contact information. We have a new blog page packed with articles from NRCS, ISDA, IASWCD and several more of our partners. We have a page where you can purchase wildflower seed packets. We have a new education page which not only lists all the youth/school programs our Education Coordinator Rick Glassman can do, but links to other educational materials and resources.

We will continue to update and make our site even better. If you haven't seen it yet, check it out today: [www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org).



ST JOSEPH COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
2903 GARY DRIVE  
PLYMOUTH IN 46563

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SOUTH BEND IN  
PERMIT NO. 225



Visit us on  
Facebook

## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

### Calling all Legislators!!



We are  
planning a  
*Conservation  
Field Tour* just  
for you in  
June! Please  
see your

e-mail for more details or contact  
our office at 574-936-2024 Ext. 4.

Soil & Water Conservation  
District (SWCD) Supervisors:  
John Doods, Chair  
Jeremy Cooper, Vice Chair  
Mike Burkholder  
Stacey Silvers  
Dave Vandewalle

SWCD Honorary Members:  
Bernard Byrd  
Jerry Knepp  
Keith Lineback  
William Millar

SWCD Associate Supervisors:  
Dave Craft  
Jan Ivkovich  
Jim LaFree  
Charles Lehman  
Joe Long  
Randy Matthys  
Carole Riewe  
Richard Schmidt  
Arlene Schuchman  
Dale Stoner  
Dru Wrasse

St. Joseph County  
Soil & Water Conservation  
Partnership Staff:  
Rick Glassman, SWCD  
Sarah Longenecker, SWCD  
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD  
Debbie Knepp, NRCS  
James Rodriguez, NRCS

Farm Service Agency Staff:  
Gideon Nobbe, CED  
Linda Bentele  
Aldona Martin  
Cindy Slonaker  
Abby Ciesielski  
Lorrin Awald

Are you ready to "GO GREEN" and help us save money and natural resources?  
We can deliver your "Conservation Kaleidoscope" newsletter by email ... Give us  
a call or send us an email and tell us you'd like to "GO GREEN" THANK YOU!!!!



Scan me to  
go Green!

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-22600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.