

NCR-SARE Youth Educator Grant Project

Final Report Form

Please use this form to write the final report on your project. Use as much space as necessary to answer the questions. You are not restricted to the space on this form. The report may be prepared on a computer or handwritten. Electronic reports are preferred. If you are turning in a handwritten report, please write or print clearly. Submit the report to the North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) Office (see address at the bottom of this form) by the due date listed in your contract. The final payment of your grant will be awarded when NCR-SARE receives and approves your final report and final budget summary.

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

- Name: Janel S. Meyer
- Address: 1220 N. 200 W., Peachtree Plaza 200
City: Angola State: IN Zip Code: 46703
- Phone: 260-665-3211, X3
- E-mail: janel.meyer@IN.nacdnet.net
- Website: steubenswcd.org
- Project Title: Youth Conservation Field Day
- Project Number: YENC14-071
- Project Duration: April 8, 2014 – October 15, 2015
- Date of Report: December 18, 2015

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

How did you educate youth about sustainable agriculture? What sustainable agriculture knowledge did they gain? Be specific and include the goals, audience, project activities, and results of your project as indicated on this form. Describe how you planned and conducted your project to meet your project goals. Consider what questions other educators would ask about your grant project and try to answer them.

How did you educate youth about sustainable agriculture?

The Steuben Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and partner organizations held the Youth Conservation Field Day (YCFD) on September 9th in 2014 and September 8th in 2015 at Pokagon State Park in Angola, IN. Our target audience was five local elementary school's fourth grade classes (Angola Metropolitan School District and Fremont Community Schools). Nearly 600 students participated in the YCFD between 2014 and 2015.

The objective of this workshop was to provide students with a base foundation to show them the importance of conserving our natural resources. During these field days, sustainable agriculture was featured and students were taught the importance of conserving our topsoil through a soil health session promoting crop rotation, utilizing no-till, and planting cover crops. The students participated in a hands-on water quality project demonstrating what happens when sediment and nutrient runoff occurs in their watershed (soil erosion boxes). The demonstration and associated discussion educated students on how the stewardship of our land and water benefits society by allowing populations to flourish with respect to food production, profitability, and environmental protection.

Our field day also featured other demonstrations, which included: a) a wildlife session, where the children learned what occurs when ecosystem-balances change; (b) a forestry session that explained the importance of trees as a natural resource (i.e. habitat, building soil health, etc.); (c) a session to educate children about fish management, complete with sampling gear, that illustrated how biologists collect fish and associated fish samples (i.e. scales); (d) a 4-H session where students were taught about natural resource projects they can perform through the 4-H program, such as soil conservation and entomology and (e) a recycling presentation that utilized the “Dumpster Drummers”, an educational group who use the arts and to educate children and adults about recycling and environmental conservation in a fun and memorable way.

What sustainable agriculture knowledge did they gain?

The sustainable agriculture knowledge gained was directly related to environmental health and potential economic profitability. Students were taught that agricultural sustainability relies on meeting the needs of present populations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This was demonstrated by showing the students that only a small portion of land is capable of producing food (a.k.a. “the Apple Demonstration”). With wind and water being serious causes of soil loss and degradation, there are practices that can be implemented to utilize natural resources in ways that can regenerate agricultural land’s productive capacity and also minimize harmful impacts on ecosystems beyond the field.

Results

In addition to hands-on activities, educational materials were provided that complimented what students were taught. These activity books could be used throughout the school year and promoted sustainable agriculture teaching soil health, water quality, and urban storm water conservation. Each year, pre and post-tests were administered to gauge what students learned. On average, students improved 1-2 points between the pre and post-tests. The soil health session featured soil erosion boxes to demonstrate the benefits of covered versus bare soil; an item students are assessed on through Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP) testing.

Describe how you planned and conducted your project to meet your project goals

The YFCD was planned to provide small group interaction and education to students on their day field trip. Since nearly 300-325 children attended each year, they were split into groups and rotated between the six stations. Breaking into smaller groups allowed students the ability to interact with presenters, and each other, while learning in a fun atmosphere. By keeping groups small and presentations in 20-minute segments, we held the children’s attention to help them absorb the concept of natural resource conservation.

A.BACKGROUND. *Before receiving this grant, were you involved in teaching youth about sustainable agriculture? If so, briefly describe what type of sustainable agriculture training you did and the students you worked with.*

The Steuben SWCD has been involved with teaching youth about sustainable agriculture through our summer Conservation Camps and participating in Duck Days.

The summer Conservation Camps are offered in conjunction with the Northeast Indiana Conservation Districts as a way children can experience our natural resources. This 1-day program (offered 3 different days during the summer) is geared toward ages 9 to 13. Sustainable

agriculture is mainly taught by teaching children to conserve all resources. These Conservation Camps have been offered in this format since 2011.

Duck Days is a program that was started nearly 20 years ago where 7th grade students from area schools joined members of Ducks Unlimited to learn about wildlife and habitat. Since that time, Duck Days has grown, geared towards teaching students more about natural resource conservation. The Steuben SWCD has participated in Duck Days since 2012. At this educational event, we focus primarily on water quality and soil health. This past September, we were able to utilize a Watershed/Nonpoint Source 3D EnviroScape® model to provide hands-on, interactive demonstration of the sources and effects of water pollution. This model allowed us the ability to demonstrate how storm water runoff carries pollutants through the watershed to bodies of water, and best management practices that can be used to prevent this from occurring. Students could place filter strips or WASCOS (water and sediment control basins) on the 3D model to illustrate minimizing soil loss and lost field productivity. Annually, an average of 400 students attend this event.

Lastly, we have been offering the YCFD education event since 1985 to give students a better understanding and appreciation of our natural resources and the need for conservation. Receiving his North Central Region – Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant has helped us enhance the experience and education for one of our most important resources, our youth.

B.GOALS. *List your project goal(s) as identified in your grant application.*

The goal was to provide students with a base knowledge/foundation to show them the importance of conserving our natural resources. All of our sessions touched on the importance of a healthy ecosystem, but our soil health session focused primarily on the importance of topsoil and its importance to the future of sustainable farming.

C.PROCESS. *Describe the steps involved in conducting the project and the logic behind the choices you made. Why did you use this approach? Please be specific so that other educators can consider what would apply to their efforts and gain from your experiences.*

Steps involved in conducting the project include:

Early in the year (February/March): We hold a meeting with Purdue Extension to review the previous YCFD and make suggested changes/improvements for the current year.

May: Schools are contacted to gauge interest in participating on the selected date of YCFD for the fall. They are also asked for input on any suggested changes they would like to see implemented.

July: Speakers are contacted to lead sessions. The agenda and quiz materials are developed.

August: Educational materials and ordered/sorted. Agenda is finalized and forwarded to our speakers by the end of the month. We solicit our partners and Steuben County community for assistants to help with conducting the YCFD. Agendas are forwarded to those day helpers. All schools are re-contacted and sent an agenda and the rules for the YCFD. Prior to the field day, materials and quizzes are provided to the schools to compliment the educational sessions.

September/fall: Post-tests are analyzed and all speakers, helpers, and facility partners are sent thank you letters. Potawatomi Inn sales coordinator is contacted to set-up dates for the Youth Conservation Field Day at least 2-years prior to the event.

A standard planning approach is utilized to set up this educational event.

D.PEOPLE. *List people who assisted with the project and explain how they were involved. Please include educators, farmers and ranchers, parents or others who may have helped you. Also, list any personnel from a public agency, such as the Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Services or Soil and Water Conservation Districts who may have assisted with this project.*

The following individuals assisted with this project:

Janet Bohney, Steuben County Lakes Council

Role: Water Monitoring Presenter (2014 volunteer)

Jake Carlisle, Indiana Conservation Officer - Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Role: Water/Water Safety Presenter (2014/2015 volunteer)

Gene Diehl, Steuben SWCD Board Member/Local Farmer

Role: Group Leader and Bus Loading/Unloading (2014/2015 volunteer)

Kayleen Hart, Administrative Coordinator, Steuben Soil and Water Conservation District

Role: Primary Planner/Preparer of YCFD (2014/2015).

Marjorie Hershman, Interpreter, Pokagon State Park - Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Role: Wildlife Presenter (2014 volunteer)

Jacob Hougham, Crowe Forest Management, LLC

Role: Forestry Presenter (2015 volunteer)

Alexander Ingersoll, Fawn River State Fish Hatchery Laborer - Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Role: Group Leader (2015 volunteer)

Debra Jimison, Conservationist - Elkhart Soil and Water Conservation District

Role: Group Leader (2015 volunteer)

Jeff Klink, Steuben SWCD Associate Supervisor/Local Farmer

Role: Bus Unloader (2014/2015 volunteer)

Larry Koza, Fisheries Biologist - Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Role: Fisheries Management Presenter (2014/2015 volunteer)

Jennifer Krause, Allen County Resident

Role: Group Leader (2015 volunteer)

Jill Krause, Resource Specialist - Division of Soil Conservation, Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Role: Group Leader (2015 volunteer)

Marie Laudemann, Interpreter, Pokagon State Park - Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Role: Wildlife presenter (2015 volunteer)

Janel Meyer, Resource Conservationist/Administrative Coordinator - Steuben Soil and Water Conservation District

Role: Secondary Planner/Preparer for YCFD (2015).

Tami Mosier, Extension Educator 4-H/Youth Development – Steuben County Cooperative Extension Service

Role: 4-H Natural Resource Projects/Entomology presenter (2014/2015 volunteer)

Brian Musser, District Conservationist – Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture

Role: Soils presenter (2015 volunteer)

Sue Myers, Steuben County Lakes Council/Steuben County Resident

Role: Group Leader (2014/2015 volunteer)

Hilary Price, Events Coordinator, Potawatomi Inn Banquet & Conference Center

Role: Contract Coordinator (Potawatomi Inn provides the facility free of charge)

Jennifer Thum, District Support Specialist – Division of Soil Conservation, Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Role: Group Leader (2015 volunteer)

Zac Martin, Resource Conservationist – Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District

Role: Soils presenter (2014)

Fred Wooley, Interpreter - Pokagon State Park, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Role: Wildlife Presenter (2014)

The following Schools, Principals and Teachers assisted with this project:

Carlin Park Elementary School: Mrs. Tomlin, Mr. John Curtis, Ms. Amanda Jolin, and Mrs. Dawn Rowe

Pleasant Lake Elementary School: Ms. Ann Antos and Ms. Angie Bussard

Hendry Park Elementary School: Ms. Deana Baird, Mr. Matt Newhard, and Ms. Erin Strieler

Fremont Elementary School: T. Floto, Mrs. Sattison, Ms. Gayle Camp, Ms. Cindy Callahan, and Ms. Candee Arnold

Ryan Park Elementary School: Ms. Michele Davis, Ms. Marianne Wade, and Ms. Laurie Gentry

The following Sponsors Assisted with Educational Materials/Supplies, Facilities, etc.:

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality and

City of Angola/Trine University Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Committee

Role: “Storm Water” Educational/Activity Booklet

Northeast Indiana Solid Waste District

Role: Education Material (pencils/bracelets) and \$300.00 donation/year for Dumpster Drummers (2014/2015)

Potawatomi Inn

Role: provides venue free of charge

Steuben County Lakes Council

Role: "Learn about Water Conservation" Educational/Activity Booklet

Steuben County Purdue Extension Agency (4H)

Role: Educational Materials (2014/2015)

Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District

Role: "Search for Soil" Educational/Activity Booklet and T-Shirts

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Role: Grant provider for Educational Materials (2014/2015)

E.RESULTS. *What results did you achieve and how were they measured? Sustainable agriculture is farming and ranching that is ecologically sound, profitable, and socially responsible. Which of these aspects of sustainable agriculture did the youth you were teaching learn about? Describe the youth audience you were trying to reach. Include outcomes you achieved and how you measured them through surveys, attendance, or other methods (if appropriate).*

Since we know how many students we would impact through enrollment rosters from the fourth grade teachers, we utilized a pre and post-test survey for the attendees. The pre-test was administered approximately two weeks prior to the event; the post-test was given within a week after. The result we anticipated was an increase in the correct number of questions answered related to ecologically sound sustainable agriculture and natural resources.

Students improved 41.6% and 33.2% between the pre and post-tests in 2014 and 2015, respectively (i.e. total number of questions answered correctly). For the questions related to reducing soil erosion, in 2014, there was a 29.2% increase in the percentage of students answering the question correctly in the post-test. In 2015, that number increased to 82.5%.

We received positive feedback from all of the teachers involved, especially with the soils session and the use of the soil erosion boxes. The SWCD tried to incorporate as many demonstration/hands-on projects as possible to effectively impact student's learning. Demonstrating principles and ideas creates a greater understanding and knowledge of any subject, which is evident in the improved scores noted between the pre and post-testing scores.

F. DISCUSSION. *What did you learn from this project? How has this affected you and the young people you are working with? Were the results what you expected? If not, why? Are there changes you would make if trying this project again or recommending it to others?*

The mission of the Steuben SWCD is to be the lead facilitator who ensures that the natural resources of Steuben County area used wisely and are there for future generations. Education has always been a priority at the SWCD, and this project assisted in helping us remain at the forefront of achieving this goal. Our educational events provide youth the opportunity to learn more about our natural resources. We want to impart a love/respect for these resources early, and teach the importance of why conserving them is important.

The SWCD learned that field days such as the YCFD emphasizes the value of teaching children about conservation and sustainable farming. These children seem to really understand the importance of conserving our natural resources and grasped the concepts from the day (i.e. shown by the survey results), and will hopefully grow up to pass on what they have learned. Many times the children actually teach the parents, as they take what they have learned home to discuss it.

3. OUTREACH

How did you share information from your project with others? Who were you trying to reach? What methods did you use for telling others about: a. Your project, b. Project activities or events, c. Project results? Be sure to include the names and dates of outreach activities and events and the number of people who attended. Was there media coverage of your project? What plans do you have for future outreach?

Please enclose any press releases, news clippings, flyers, brochures, or publications developed during this project. Also send any photos that might be helpful in telling your story to others. Please be sure to get permission to use the photos if they include other people. For photos with children, you will need a parent's permission. Please fill out and turn in a NCR-SARE Image Consent form along with your photos.

The Steuben SWCD shared this project through press releases with the local newspaper and radio stations, and also promoted the field day in our newsletter, on our website, and Facebook accounts.

The field day was also highlighted in formal and informal office presentations to the community throughout the year. We frequently present to area groups about what projects our office is involved in, and our agencies mission.

Please see attached documentation.

The following presentations/outreach activities featured this project:

Green Expo Display: What is an SWCD (2/15/2014); attendance = 10
SWCD Annual Report; listed under our "educational activities" section
SWCD Annual Meeting (3/5/2014); attendance = 60
Pigeon Creek Steering Committee Meeting (7/8/2014); attendance = 8
SWCD Summer 2014 Newsletter (attached – page 3)
Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Conservation Update (9/10/2014; attached – pages 5 and 6)
SWCD Board Meeting (9/10/2014); attendance = 8
YCFD Press Release (9/16/2014; attached – page 7)
Steuben County Lakes Council Monthly Meeting (10/4/2014); attendance = 30
Pigeon Creek Steering Committee Meeting (10/15/2014); attendance = 9
Steuben County Lakes Council (Soundings - Fall Newsletter 2014; attached – pages 8-9)
Green Expo: What is an SWCD (2/21/2015); attendance = 10
SWCD Annual Meeting (3/4/2015); attendance = 60
Pigeon Creek Steering Committee Meeting (8/20/2015); attendance = 8
YCFD Press Release (9/11/2015); (note, submitted to KPC News but was not published, attached – pages 10-11)
Steuben County Lakes Council Monthly Meeting (10/4/2015); attendance = 30
SWCD Board Meeting (10/8/2014); attendance = 8
SWCD Fall 2015 Newsletter (attached – pages 12 – 15)
SWCD Board Meeting (11/10/2015); attendance = 6
Pigeon Creek Steering Committee Meeting (11/18/2015); attendance = 10
Annie's Project (12/1/2015); attendance = 6

4. PROGRAM EVALUATION

The NCR-SARE Youth Educator Grant program started in 2008. As a participant, do you have any recommendations for the regional Administrative Council about this program? Is there anything you would like to see changed?

5. BUDGET SUMMARY

Complete the Final Budget Summary form and return it with your Final Report. The final budget form is similar to the budget form you turned in with your grant proposal. It has one additional column titled, Grant Funds Spent, so you can show what project items cost compared to your proposed costs. Only show grant funds spent even if you spent more than that amount.

You can only use grant funds for expenses incurred and items purchased for conducting your project. If the amounts for items listed have changed significantly from the amounts listed in the proposal, please include an explanation with the final budget summary.

Please submit your final report and final budget summary by the due date to: Joan Benjamin at: BenjaminJ@lincolnu.edu or:

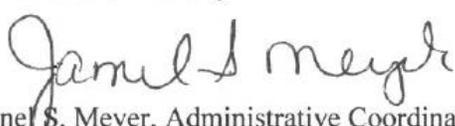
Joan Benjamin
NCR-SARE Associate Regional Coordinator
Lincoln University
South Campus Building
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone: 573-681-5545
E-mail: BenjaminJ@lincolnu.edu

If you have questions, contact Joan Benjamin, NCR-SARE Associate Regional Coordinator.

NCR-SARE Youth Educator Sustainable Agriculture Grant Final Budget Summary

Please complete this form to show how you spent the funds awarded for your grant project. Show the original costs listed in your proposal and the amount you paid. **Only show grant funds spent even if there were additional costs over that amount. The Grant Funds Spent and Total Cost cannot exceed the amount of the grant.** If there were major changes in the amounts of items, please include an explanation.

Description of Equipment or Supplies and/or Labor	Price Each or Hourly Rate	# Needed/Hours	Original Cost from Proposal	Grant Funds Spent
Personnel – Educational Presentation	\$28.57/person	3/3.5 hrs. each year <i>*travel costs included</i>	\$300.00/year = \$600.00 total	\$600.00
Other Direct Costs – Activity Book Assistance	\$0.94/book <i>*includes shipping</i>	750 books/year = 1500 books total	\$700.00/year = \$140 total	\$1,400.00
Total Cost (this cannot exceed the amount of your grant)				\$2,000.00


 Janel S. Meyer, Administrative Coordinator/Treasurer

*Youth Educator Signature _____ Date 12/21/2015

*Please scan or type in your signature to submit by email.



Conserving the Natural
Resources of Steuben County
for Future Generations!

The Conservator

Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 3

SUMMER, 2014

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Exciting Up- 3
coming Events.

Check them 3
out - You don't
want to Miss

2014 Affiliate 3
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A planning re- 4
minder from
NRCS

NE Conservation Day Camp Fun...

Katie and Cera Stroh, Fremont, build bird feeders with assistance from DeKalb Co SWCD's Julie Knudson and Steuben Co. SWCD's Zachary Martin at the LaGrange County Conservation Day Camp at Dallas Lake. The girls also attended the Steuben County Day Camp at the Trine Recreational Facility. For more pics and field day news see page 4.



Start Planning for Conservation Projects...

With summer hastily passing us by, we would love to meet with you to discuss any resource concerns you are having on your farm or property. Whether you are interested in adding cover crops to your rotation or planting trees to reforest your property, we can be of assistance.

Over the past year and a half, the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) worked with several partners and Northwater Consulting of Springfield, Illinois, to complete a Revision of the 2006 Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan (PCWMP). Northwater completed a final draft version in March, but since the project is being funded through an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Section 319 Grant, the Plan also needed approved by IDEM. Recently, we have received final approval of the 2014 PCWMP, and we are excited to not only offer the plan to the

public, but also begin Phase Three Project Implementation in the watershed.

We felt an update to the PCWMP plan was necessary because so many changes had taken place in the watershed since 2006. There have been land use changes, several years of water monitoring by the Steuben County Lakes Council, updates to wastewater treatment, and the implementation of numerous conservation practices and other projects. We felt it was time to take inventory of these changes and take another in-depth look at the watershed; to build upon the successes in the watershed and continue to seek funding resources for further improvement.

To complete the 33 elements in IDEM's required management plan checklist, Northwater completed a detailed watershed assessment using a data-driven approach.

(Continued on page 2 - See Pigeon Creek funds available)

Scan this symbol with your
smartphone to link to our website.



Pigeon Creek implementation funds available

(Continued from page 1)

They worked with our Board of Supervisors and office staff, as well as several other individuals, groups, and departments, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Steuben County District Conservationist, Brian Musser, the Steuben County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator, Chad Hoover; The City of Angola/Trine University's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Coordinator, Eric Henion; The Steuben County Lakes Council; Aquatic Enhancement and Survey, Inc. Aquatic Biologist, Scott Banfield; The Pigeon Creek Watershed Steering Committee; Steuben County Surveyor Larry Gilbert; Steuben County Government; City of Angola; and The Nature Conservancy to gather data and information about the watershed.

Methods comprised the latest technology such as GIS and computer modeling to evaluate pollution causes and sources, along with conventional techniques such as direct observations of the watershed through a windshield survey and meetings with landowners. Northwater consultant Jeff Boeckler drove the entire watershed, and independent assessments were made of water quality data, local soils, hydrology, landuse, precipitation, geology, and biology. A land-based pollution load model was developed to estimate annual and storm-event bacteria, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads.

After this data was compiled, areas of the watershed were prioritized as critical areas, and conservation practices were recommended that would improve their condition. Several site-specific practices were also recommended in the watershed after the one-on-one landowner meetings, Pigeon Creek Watershed Steering Committee, and public meetings.

If you are interested in viewing the 2014 PCWMP, please give us a call at (260) 665-3211, ext. 3, or stop in the office at 1220 North 200 West, Angola. You can look at a hard copy or take home and keep a copy of the plan on CD. The plans are also available for review at the Carnegie Public Library in Angola and the Fremont Public Library in Fremont.

The Steuben SWCD is excited to begin our next step of implementing the recommendations from the plan. We have already started this process, and would love to work with you on improving your property in the Pigeon Creek Watershed. Through the IDEM grant, we also have project implementation funds to assist landowners in the watershed with improving the overall quality of their property, and the watershed as a whole. If you stop in or give us a call, we can work with you to see if there are any natural resource concerns on your property, and what practices may help to alleviate these concerns. We can then use the grant funds to provide cost-share in helping you with installation of these practices. Conservation practices, such as planting cover crops, installing a grassed waterway or grassed buffer strip, and tree plantings, among others are eligible for assistance. These practices all help improve the quality of our soil and water.

Please stop by the office sometime so we can share some of the exciting projects we are working on and their benefits. At the Steuben County SWCD, we are fortunate to be able to use public resources for a better, healthier tomorrow.

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FSA Updates: Quick updates, call the office (260-665-3211, X2) for more details:

- ◆ **CERTIFICATION:** If you haven't completed your annual crop certification for CRP or planted crops, please do so now.
- ◆ **LETTERS BEING SENT TO PRODUCERS:** In preparation for signup for new farm bill programs, farm owners and operators were recently sent letters that discuss specifics about your farm(s). These letters are a bit confusing, so if you have any questions, please call our office to make an appointment.
- ◆ **2012 PASTURE LOSSES:** We are currently taking applications for the LFP program. This program covers losses incurred on pastures in 2012 due to the drought.
- ◆ **CRP EARLY OUT OPPORTUNITY:** It was recently announced that there are some provisions to allow producers to cancel out of CRP contracts early without penalty. There are numerous eligibility criteria that must be met before an "early out" will be approved.

Upcoming Workshops - Exciting Fall Events:

Septic Workshops:

Flushing into the Future:

The Steuben County Health Department, Steuben County SWCD, and the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (SJRWI) are pleased to be able to host septic workshops in Steuben County this summer through a Nonpoint Source Pollution grant awarded to the SJRWI from IDEM. At the workshop, participants will learn how septic systems work, the limitations of our soils to process waste and how to maintain septic systems for optimum performance. The first workshop will be held on August 21st from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Hamilton Fish and Game Club (110 W Railroad Street), and the second workshop will be on October 23rd from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Steuben County Community Center. Please call our office for more information or to register.

Cover Crop Field Day:

Details are just starting to come together, but DeKalb and Steuben County SWCD's are planning a Cover Crop Field Day on the evening of Thursday, September 11th, from 6 to 8 pm at the Andersons' Inc. Waterloo Facility, located at 4743 County Road 28, Waterloo, IN 46793. If you are interested in this field day, please give us a call and we will make sure you receive an agenda.



4th Grade Youth Conservation Field Day:

On Tuesday, September 9th, we will host our annual 4th grade Youth Conservation Field Day at Pokagon State Park. The fun-filled day includes presentations on wildlife, soil health, entomology, fish management, conservation officers and what they do, and water quality. In an encore presentation, the Dumpster Drummers will be back to entertain the children. If you are interested in assisting or just observing for the day, give us a call.



Lake Life Class:

Now entering its third year, the Lake Life Series is back. Beginning Tuesday, September 23rd, the class meets once a week, from 6 to 8:30 pm, for six weeks. New this year will be class field trips. We are planning to hold one class at the Trine Recreational Facility, another at Lake James, a third in Orland, and our final class at Caruso's Restaurant on October 28th. Two sessions will still be held at the Angola Community Center in the Auditorium. Don't miss this awesome opportunity to learn all about the wonderful Natural Resources we have in Steuben County. Cost of the class is \$15 for returning students, and \$50 for new students. This class is sponsored by the SWCD, The Steuben County Lakes Council, and Purdue Extension. Please call our office to register, or for more information.

Affiliate Members

The District Board gratefully acknowledges its current 2014 Affiliate Members. The donations received from these individuals and businesses help support the Information and Education programs of the District. If you or your business would like to become an Affiliate Member, please contact our office.

Platinum (\$100 and above)

- Angola Seed & Supply
Angola, IN
- City of Angola/Trine University MS4
Angola, IN
- Farm Credit Services Mid America
LaGrange, IN
- North Central Co-Op
Wabash, IN
- The Nature Conservancy
Angola, IN
- CM Holman Farms
Angola, IN

Gold (\$75 - \$99)

- Aquatic Enhancement Survey, Inc.
Angola, IN
- Tom Green Engineering
Angola, IN

Silver (\$50 - \$74)

- Edon Farmer's Co-Op
Edon, OH
- Kevin Northup Excavating
LaGrange, IN
- Noll Bros. Oil, Inc.
Hudson, IN

Bronze (\$25 - \$49)

- Carper Farm Supply, Inc.
Ashley, IN
- Caruso's Restaurant
Angola, IN
- Daft Erosion Control, LLC
Ada, OH
- Stroh Farm Supply
Stroh, IN



Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

Peachtree Plaza 200

1220 N 200 W

Angola, IN 46703

260-665-3211 x3

www.steubenswcd.org



facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD

**Conserving the Natural Resources of
Steuben County for Future Generations!**

You can help us go green by subscribing to the newsletter via e-mail. Visit our website and click on the Newsletter tab or call the office to change your subscription at any time. You may change your subscription to *The Conservator* at any time.

All programs and activities of the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and its Partnership Agencies are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Upcoming Events...

Aug. 21 st	Septic Workshop 6:30 PM @ Hamilton Fish and Game Club
Sept. 1 st	Labor Day - (Office closed)
Sept. 6 th	Steuben County Lakes Council Meeting 8:30 am at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola
Sept. 9 th	Youth Conservation Field Day 9:00 am at Pokagon State Park
Sept. 10 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 7:15 PM @ USDA Service Center
Sept. 11 th	Cover Crop Field Day 6pm at The Andersons' Waterloo facility
Sept. 23 rd	Lake Life Classes begin 6:00 pm @ Steuben Co. Community Center
Sept. 30 th	Lake Life Class 6:00 pm @ Trine Recreational Facility
Oct. 4 th	Steuben County Lakes Council Meeting 8:30 am at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola
Oct. 7 th	Lake Life Class 6:00 pm @ Steuben Co. Community Center
Oct. 8 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 7:15 pm @ USDA Service Center

***For more events and updates please check the website.**
Times and places of meetings are subject to change due to unforeseen issues.*

REMINDER:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would like to remind landowners and operators who may be thinking about signing up for the USDA Farm Bill programs in the spring to please contact our office now to schedule a site visit and begin planning.

Phone numbers : NRCS - (260) 665-3211, X3
FSA - (260) 665-3211, X2

Steuben County Conservation Camp at the Trine Recreational Facility on July 8th. Thanks Fred Wooley and Majorie Hershman from Pokagon State Park!



From: Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts <emily-neitzel@iaswcd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 4:19 PM
To: Hart, Kayleen - NRCS-CD, Angola, IN
Subject: Conservation Update: \$328 Million for Conservation, ACEP Informational Meeting, and more!

Youth Cons. Field Day article on Back

Conservation Update

August 28 - September 10, 2014



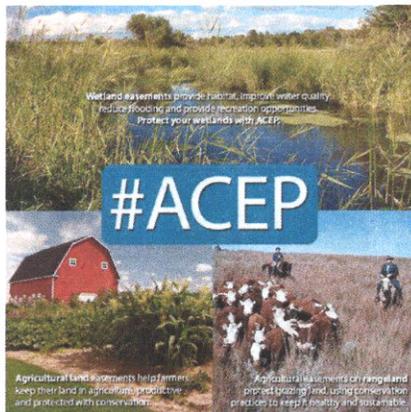
INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
soil and water conservation
DISTRICTS

Top News

NRCS Announces \$328 Million for Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said yesterday that the Department of Agriculture is investing \$328 million to help private landowners protect and restore key farmlands, grasslands and wetlands. \$3.4 million of this will be available in Indiana. The 2014 Farm Bill created the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to protect critical wetlands and keep lands in farming for the future.

"Conservation easements help Hoosier farmers protect valuable agricultural lands from



Contact Us

info@iaswcd.org
317-692-7325
www.iaswcd.org
www.ccsin.org

Find your [Region Director](#)



Upcoming Deadlines

September 19:
-Proposed Resolutions due (scroll to the bottom of page at link for past resolutions and forms)

District Spotlight

Once a month, we'll be featuring recent successful activities and projects put on by different districts from around the state. If you'd like to share a success story from your county, please write us at info@iaswcd.org to be included in a future District Spotlight!

Steuben County Youth Conservation Field Day

On September 9, the Steuben County SWCD hosted a successful Youth Conservation Field Day for 306 local fourth grade students at Pokagon State Park.

The children took part in many activities throughout the day, including talks on wildlife, water safety, job duties of conservation officers, entomology, fish management, soils, water quality, and more! The purpose of the day was to provide a foundation of knowledge about natural resource conservation.

One of the big hits of the day for the students was a performance by the Dumpster Drummers of Fort Wayne. The Drummers are a musical group who teach about recycling by using recycled materials and dumpsters to create music.

Kayleen Hart, the SWCD administrative coordinator, said, "The children love it. They think they are 'awesome.' The first year, The Northeast Solid Waste District (NESWD) sponsored them for the field day performance, but this year our office received a SARE Youth Educator Grant which will assist with half the cost for the next two years. The NESWD still picks up the other half."



*The Dumpster Drummers entertain while teaching about recycling.
Photo: Kayleen Hart*

The teachers also see value in the conservation activities for their students. In particular, they enjoy the soils sessions because of the visual demonstrations about erosion and keeping the soil covered, as well as the tie-in with subjects included on the ISTEP test.

The Steuben County SWCD thanks their partner agencies for their help in putting on the event, donating time, and educational materials.



FRED WOOLEY

Fourth-graders play Oh Deer on the Potawatomi Inn lawn during a Youth

Conservation Field Day last Tuesday at Pokagon State Park.

4th graders get a day outside

BY AMY OBERLIN

aoberlin@kpcmedia.com

LAKE JAMES — The Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual field day for fourth-graders last Tuesday at Pokagon State Park.

The 29th Youth Conservation Field Day was hosted in cooperation with Purdue University Extension Service.

“We had a beautiful day,” said Kayleen Hart, SWCD administrative coordinator. “The rain held off until Wednesday, so the 306 children who attended from MSD and Fremont school corporations were able to spend most of the day outside at six different sessions focusing on our natural resources.”

The youths attend Fremont Elementary School and the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County’s four elementary schools.

Sessions included:

- Wildlife and its management with Pokagon interpretive naturalists Fred Wooley

“We had a beautiful day.”

Kayleen Hart

Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District

and Majorie Hershman;

- Water safety by Indiana Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Jake Carlile;
- Fish management by IDNR fisheries biologist Larry Koza;
- Water quality with the Steuben County Lakes Council’s Janet Bohney;
- Soil conservation by Zac Martin from the SWCD; and
- Entomology, presented by Tami Mosier, Purdue Extension Educator.

Just before lunch the students were treated to a performance by The Dumpster Drummers, a musical group

from Fort Wayne, promoting recycling and its benefits to the environment.

“We were able to bring this group back for the second year because of a generous donation by the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District and a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Youth Educator Grant the SWCD received,” said Hart.

Students also were given educational activity books donated by the SWCD, Steuben County Lakes Council and City of Angola/Trine University MS4 Department. The NISWMD donated pencils and bracelets for the children. Every participant received a T-shirt.

“I am so happy to be able to be a part of this event. It’s a fun, inspirational day watching the children grow in their environmental awareness,” said Hart. “It would not be possible without all the generosity of our partners and helpers for the day.”

SOUNDINGS

Steuben County Lakes Council, Inc.
317 South Wayne Street, Suite 2A
Angola, IN 46703 Phone (260) 665-1730

E-mail office@lakescouncil.org
Volume #41

Web www.lakescouncil.org
Fall 2014

S•C•L•C



**STEBEN
COUNTY
LAKES
COUNCIL**

*Steuben County Lakes Council
"Protecting Our Lakes Today, For Tomorrow"*

President's Live Box



WATER WATER EVERYWHERE OR NOWHERE TO BE SEEN

Narrated by Tom Hazelett, SCLC President
Written by Dr. Susan Mitchell



Many, maybe even all of us, like to be near water. We remember fondly our family vacations at the lake, or the seashore, or camping in the woods by a favorite river. We remember swimming and playing in the water.

Water can be very soothing whether we are sitting at the edge of a lovely lake in the woods as mist rises in the morning, or paddling quietly along. We can have a great deal of fun on the water when we go fishing in our favorite lake or stream, when we go sailing or boating, or when we jump waves in the ocean. The site of a waterfall, be it as magnificent as Niagara Falls, or as tall and narrow as a stream tumbling over rocks on the side of a mountain, can fill us with awe at its power and mesmerize us as we gaze at it.

We know that it is important for us to keep our water clean and free from bacterial contamination, harmful chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and microscopic plastic. We know that it is important that we keep invasive plants and other species from clogging our waterways. This requires our constant vigilance and care.

In this era of climate change we are beginning to see the devastating effects of too much water from storms and floods in some areas and too little water, even very serious and long-lasting droughts, in other areas. As a result of

(Continued on page 2)

YOUTH CONSERVATION DAY

Submitted by Janet Bohney, President Elect, SCLC

Steuben County has some great natural resources, and it also has some dedicated organizations that work diligently to preserve those natural resources. When you have four of those organizations with a lot of volunteers working together, you get exciting results. That's just what the fourth graders from two of the Steuben County school districts got on September 9th of this year.

It was the Youth Conservation Day sponsored by the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District with help from the Purdue Extension Office, the Steuben County Lakes Council, and Pokagon State Park. Fourth graders from Fremont and MSD of Steuben County, their teachers and some parent volunteers spent a day outside learning about our great natural resources along with how to protect and conserve them. They participated in hands-on experiments, heard expert speakers, saw interesting displays and got to eat lunch at Pokagon. As one of those volunteers, I got to experience first hand how much there is to learn about our environment.

The day was beautiful, the park was wonderful, the volunteers were enthusiastic, and the Dumpster Drummers with their recycling lesson were great. With activities like this, learning can certainly be fun! Congratulations to all involved, especially to Kayleen Hart of the Conservation District who organized the fun day. Be sure to read Kayleen's article, *ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 4TH GRADER!*

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 4TH GRADER?

Submitted by Kayleen Hart, Administrative Coordinator for the S&WCD

This year's fourth grade Youth Conservation Field Day on September 9th included some new items. As part of a grant requirement, the children took a pre-test and a post-test to gauge how much they had learned throughout the day. Our pre-test included seven multiple choice questions, one question about each of the sessions that the children rotated through. They were given the test immediately after getting off the bus at the Potawatomi Inn in Pokagon State Park, and then given the same test after the last session at the end of the day. So, are you smarter than a fourth grader?

- 1) How can we reduce soil erosion?
 - A) Keep soil covered with plants, B) Increase amount of water runoff, C) Remove vegetation to expose bare soil, D) All of the above.
- 2) What State Department do Conservation Officers work for?
 - A) Department of Conservation, B) Department of Natural Resources, C) Department of Interior, D) Department of Wildlife

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

- 3) Which of the following animals are considered Indiana wildlife?
 - A) White Tail Deer, B) Tree Frog, C) Red Tail Hawk, D) All of the above
- 4) What does an Entomologist do?
 - A) Study fish, B) Study plants, C) Study rocks, D) Study Insects
- 5) What are the responsibilities of State fishery biologists?
 - A) Enforce fishing regulations, B) Monitor and improve fish populations, C) Care for sick fish, D) All of the above
- 6) Why is water monitoring important?
 - A) Makes water clean, B) Helps keep pollution out of water, C) Allows people to know the condition/quality of the water, D) All of the above
- 7) Who should recycle?
 - A) Kids, B) Adults, C) Cities, D) All of above

(Answers: A, B, D, D, B, C, D)

A total of 306 students from the MSD and Fremont Community School Districts attended the field day and took the test. Here are their results:

Question 1: Before, 130 correct, after, 168
 Question 2: Before, 111 correct, after, 213
 Question 3: Before, 138 correct, after, 104
 Question 4: Before, 78 correct, after, 229
 Question 5: Before, 59 correct, after, 112
 Question 6: Before, 24 correct, after, 34
 Question 7: Before, 273 correct, after, 291

This year was the 29th Youth Conservation Field Day that the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and Purdue Extension have hosted and we had a beautiful day. The rain held off until the next day, so the children who attended were able to spend most of the day outside at seven different sessions focusing on our natural resources. The sessions included:

- Wildlife and its management with Fred Wooley and Majorie Hershman, Pokagon State Park Interpreters
- Water Safety and Conservation Officers presented by Jake Carlile
- Fish Management by IDNR Fisheries Biologist, Larry Koza
- Water Quality with Janet Bohney, Steuben County Lakes Council.
- Soil Conservation by Zac Martin from SCSWCD
- Entomology by Tami Mosier, Purdue Extension Educator
- The Dumpster Drummers, promoting recycling - drum style

Students also received educational activity books donated by SWCD, SCLC, and City of Angola MS4. They also received pencils & bracelets and all participants received a T-shirt promoting the day. It is a pleasure to watch the children grow in their environmental awareness, which would not be possible without the generosity of all our partners and volunteers.

Meyer, Janel - NRCS, Angola, IN

From: Meyer, Janel - NRCS, Angola, IN
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2015 8:02 AM
To: Jim Measel (jim@wki.com); Amy Oberlin
Subject: 30th annual Youth Conservation Field Day at Pokagon
Attachments: 2015 press release.docx; 2015 YCFD fisheries Larry Koza.jpg; 2015 Dumpster Drummers cropped.jpg

Please see attached press release regarding the Youth Conservation Field Day on September 8th.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

I apologize for the picture quality; you may or may not be able to utilize them.

Thanks, have a good weekend.

Janel S. Meyer

Administrative Coordinator

Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District

1220 N. 200 W., Suite L

Angola, IN 46703

(260) 665-3211, Ext. 3

Fax: (260) 665-2400

www.steubenswcd.org

2015 Youth Conservation Field Day

On Tuesday, September 8th, nearly 300 fourth graders from the Fremont and MSD School Districts spent the day at Pokagon State Park for the annual Youth Conservation Field Day hosted by The Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and The Steuben County Cooperative Extension Service. This event provides students with the opportunity to learn about several areas of conservation.

“The first fourth grade Youth Conservation Field Day was held in 1985, which makes this our 30th year,” said Tom Green, Chairman of the Board of the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District. “This educational event gives these students a better understanding and appreciation of our natural resources and the need for conservation.”

This year’s topics included a wildlife interactive session with Marie Laudeman from Pokagon State Park; a forestry presentation by Jacob Hougham with Crowe Forest Management LLC; a demonstration on fish management by Fisheries Biologist Larry Koza from Fawn River State Fish Hatchery; entomology and 4-H natural resource projects from Extension Educator, Tami Mosier; soil education from Brian Musser, District Conservationist with The Natural Resources Conservation Service; water safety with Indiana Conservation Officer Jacob Carlile; and a general session about Recycling right before lunch with the Dumpster Drummers, an environmental educational group from Fort Wayne who use recycled materials to create music.

The Northeast Indiana Solid Waste District (NESWD) and a SARE Youth Educator Grant sponsored the Recycling session with the Dumpster Drummers.

Educational materials and Activity Books were sent to the schools to use as a follow-up on this field day education. The Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Angola/Trine University Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Committee, Steuben County Lakes Council, Purdue Extension office, and the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste District sponsored these materials.

The Steuben County SWCD thanks their partner agencies for their help in putting on the event, donating time, and educational materials. We would also like to thank all of our volunteers and the Potawatomi Inn and staff for their continued support of the Youth Conservation Field Day.



Conserving the Natural
Resources of Steuben County
for Future Generations!

The Conservator

Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 4

FALL 2015

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Travis Fifer honored as River Friendly Farmer

Steuben County resident Travis Fifer was among 48 farmers from around the state, who received the River Friendly Farmer award on August 19th at the Indiana State Fair. This award recognizes individuals who utilize farm management practices that help to protect Indiana's rivers, lakes, and streams.

The Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District nominated Travis for the award based upon his management practices including conservation tillage, cover crops, and nutrient management which reduces sediment and nutrient runoff into area waterbodies.

Travis farms and raises cattle on land that has been owned by his family for generations. He feels it is his responsibility to care for everything, including the environment, in order to be a good steward of the land.

In 2014, Travis worked with the United States Agriculture Service's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the SWCD to install a waste storage facility where manure can be stored prior to field application. Waste storage facilities help in reducing/eliminating runoff.

The award is sponsored by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD), Indiana Farm Bureau Inc., the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Division of Soil Conservation, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Travis and the other farmers who received the River Friendly award at the ceremony were congratulated by Lieutenant Governor Sue



Don Villwock, President of Indiana Farm Bureau, left, and Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann, right, present Travis Fifer and his family—wife Cathrine, and sons, Matthew and Eric— with the River Friendly Farmer Award during the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis. Photo by Kris Vance, NRCS

Ellspermann, ISDA Director Ted McKinney, President of Indiana Farm Bureau Don Villwock, NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty, and IASWCD President Mike Starkey.

This year's group of award winners brings the total number of River Friendly Farmers in Indiana since the award's beginning in 2000 to 809. Annually, each county Soil and Water Conservation District may nominate up to two farmers who do an outstanding job of protecting their rivers, lakes and streams through their everyday conservation management practices on the farm. Watershed organizations also may nominate farmers for the award by submitting an application to a county SWCD.

Please feel free to stop in or call about our many programs available to assist you with putting conservation on the ground and helping improve your property.

Scan this symbol with your
smartphone to link to our website.



Staff Changes at the Steuben SWCD

At the end of August, the District lost an incredible asset that has been with the SWCD for 12 years. Kayleen Hart, Administrative Coordinator, accepted a new position as a Program Technician for the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Her new position offers her a career advancement, as well as many new and exciting challenges. Those of you who worked with Kayleen know that she is a dedicated employee who worked with many landowners in the county to implement both agricultural and urban best management practices (BMPs). She brought in over \$1.2 million dollars in grant funds, which offered financial incentives to assist Steuben County landowners with adopting BMPs. She will be greatly missed, but you are still likely to see Kayleen in the USDA Service Center since she only moved to the FSA office next door. We thank Kayleen for her public service, dedication, and passion to "Make a Healthy Watershed". Janel Meyer replaced Kayleen as the Administrative Coordinator. She started with the District

as the Resource Conservationist in April. Janel has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries & Aquatic Science from Purdue University and brings over twenty years of experience working in natural resources to her current role. Our new Resource Conservationist, Tara M. Lee, joined the team at the end of October. Tara has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Trine University and comes to us from FSA.

Janel and Tara are both passionate about resource conservation and education, and look forward to meeting and working with the many landowners of Steuben County. Remember, regardless of where we live, **everyone** can make a healthy watershed.

Former SWCD Administrative Assistant Kayleen Hart (right) is now a Program Technician for FSA.



Grant Updates...

Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan 319 grant

In August, the SWCD was granted an amendment to our Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan grant agreement. Our original end date of January 16, 2016 was extended to January 16, 2017. The extension was granted due to personnel changes, which created delays in completing the implementation task in the time allotted by the original grant term.

So what does this mean? This means we are still able to assist with funding Conservation Best Management Practices, such as tree plantings, buffer/filter strips, hay plantings, or cover crops, in priority sub-watersheds throughout the Pigeon Creek Watershed. If you live in this area and are interested in seeing if you are eligible to participate, please call the office. We would love to work with you to improve the quality of the soil and water on your property.

Now is a great time for planning those 2016 projects. If you are thinking about adding conservation practices, we can meet with you to complete conservation plans

and associated forms. Waiting until the last minute could result in funding not being available for your project.

Pigeon Creek



★ Conservation Workshop Success ★

The Steuben County SWCD held a successful Conservation Workshop with Moody Farms and Moody & Crew LLC on August 19, 2015 in a partnership with the LaGrange County SWCD, Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, USDA, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, and Purdue Extension with 90 farmers from the tristate region attending.

Keynote speaker Dr. Ray Weil, University of Maryland, shared Soil Health practices that Great Lakes farmers can use to voluntarily reduce effects of agriculture on the environment. Key conservation practices for Soil Health included repetitive use of No-Till called Never-Till, enhanced nutrient management to ensure the right source of nutrients are applied at the right rate in the right

place during the right part of crop production, and cover crops to build soil organic matter, structure, and cycle nutrients.

Indiana farmer Dan DeSutter of DeSutter Farms discussed the economics of using Soil Health practices as a systems-approach to farming. The payback of this approach can lower input expenses including fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide application, through the cycling of nutrients, weed suppression, and improving soil biology; all benefits that can be achieved through the use of a Soil Health system.

Farmers were able to see Soil Health practices in use by visiting Moody Farms fields planted with cereal rye and oilseed radishes. Tyson Franks of Moody & Crew LLC discussed the challenges and benefits their operation has faced using cover crops.

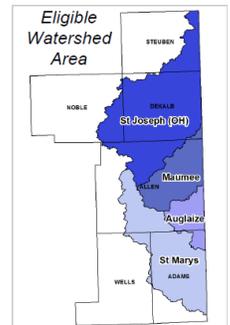


Approximately 300 area 4th graders spent the day at Pokagon State Park September 8th learning about conservation. Stations included sessions on wildlife, soil, forestry, fish management, 4H natural resource projects, and water/water safety. Above, a group of students learn about fish management from Fisheries Biologist Larry Koza.

Free Phosphorus Soil Sampling Program for Producers in Western Lake Erie Basin

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a new program available providing **FREE Soil Sampling** to producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Soil sampling for this program will only be done on agricultural fields, which includes pastures.

For more information, contact Jill Krause, Resource Specialist ISDA Division of Soil Conservation at (260) 417-1313 or jikrause@isda.in.gov.



Affiliate Members

The District Board gratefully acknowledges its current 2015 Affiliate Members. The donations received from these individuals and businesses help support the Information and Education programs of the District. If you or your business would like to become an Affiliate Member, please contact our office.

Platinum (\$100 and above)

Angola Seed & Supply
Angola, IN

Farm Credit Services Mid America
LaGrange, IN

The Nature Conservancy
Angola, IN

Gold (\$75 - \$99)

Aquatic Enhancement Survey, Inc.
Angola, IN

Silver (\$50 - \$74)

Edon Farmer's Co-Op
Edon, OH
Kevin Northup Excavating
LaGrange, IN
Noll Bros. Oil, Inc.
Hudson, IN

Bronze (\$25 - \$49)

Carper Farm Supply, Inc.
Ashley, IN
Caruso's Restaurant
Angola, IN
Daft Erosion Control, LLC
Ada, OH
Hoham Feed and Seed
Auburn, IN
Stroh Farm Supply
Stroh, IN
Sue A. Myers
Angola, IN



Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Angola, IN 46703

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facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD

**Conserving the Natural Resources of
Steuben County for Future Generations!**

You can help us go green by subscribing to the newsletter via e-mail. Visit our website and click on the Newsletter tab or call the office to change your subscription at any time. You may change your subscription to *The Conservator* at any time.

All programs and activities of the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and its Partnership Agencies are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Upcoming Events...

Nov. 26 & 27 th	County Offices Closed Happy Thanksgiving!!
Dec. 5 th	Steuben County Lakes Council Meeting 8:30 am at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola
Dec. 9 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 7:15 PM @ USDA Service Center
Dec. 24 & 25 th	County Offices Closed Merry Christmas!!
Jan. 1 st	County Offices Closed Happy New Year!!
Jan. 13 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 7:15 PM @ USDA Service Center
Jan. 14 - 15 th	IASWCD Annual Conference in Indianapolis Office Closed
March 2 nd	Steuben SWCD Annual Meeting Planning underway - Stay tuned for more details

For more events and updates please check the website.

Times and places of meetings are subject to change due to unforeseen issues.

FSA Updates - Quick updates,

call the office (260-665-3211, ext. 2) for additional details:

- ARC PLC payments:** Payments have recently come in, and should be released soon.
- CRP General signup:** The CRP is a long term (10-15 year) program which takes cropland out of production and devotes the acreage to conservation or wildlife uses. There has been a general CRP signup period announced that runs from **12-1-2015 through 2-26-2016**. The general signup includes practices such as grass/legume plantings and general tree planting practices, wildlife habitats, pollinator habitats, wildlife food plots and others. Feel free to contact us ahead of the signup if you have questions about the program.
- Grain Loans:** Price support loans will again be available this year for corn, soybeans, and wheat. Once your grain is harvested, you can apply for a 9 month loan using the grain as collateral for the loan. Interest rates are usually lower than what is available from commercial sources.
- 2016 wheat certification:** The deadline to report fall seeded 2016 wheat is **12-15-15**.

*By: Thomas R Saggars,
County Executive Director, Steuben County FSA Office*