

# 2017 NACD Poster Contest

The Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in conjunction with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is excited to sponsor the 2017 Poster Contest themed:



The Elkhart County SWCD will be awarding prizes for each of the five age categories. SWCD Staff are available to visit classrooms to help students investigate questions about soil health as they complete their posters or to assist teachers in soil health lesson planning.

Call us with any questions at 574-533-4383 ext. 3!

## Who Can Participate?

All public, private and home-schooled students and classes in grades K-12 in Elkhart County

## Poster Categories

K - 1st grade  
2nd - 3rd grade  
4th - 6th grade  
7th - 9th grade  
10th -12th grade

## How to Enter:

Submit your poster (with label) to the Elkhart County SWCD office by 4:30 pm on **May 5, 2017**

## Upcoming Events!

- April 22 **2017 Tree Sale & Order Pick Up:** 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at the Sheep/Swine Bldg at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds. Make sure you bring your Confirmation sheet with you when you come to pick up your order.
- May 4 **Rain Garden/Rain Barrel Workshop:** Ox Bow Haus 6:00-7:30 pm, to register call (574) 533-4383 ext 3, or email Deb at [debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net)
- May 5 **Poster Contest Deadline:** The Elkhart County SWCD in conjunction with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is excited to sponsor our 2017 Poster Contest theme "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life". Submit your poster in our office no later than **May 5th**.
- May 9 **Rain Garden/Rain Barrel Workshop:** McNaughton Park - 702 Arcade Ave., Elkhart, 6:30-8:00 pm, to register call (574) 533-4383 ext 3, or email Deb at [debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net)
- May 11 **LaGrange County SWCD Grazing Meeting:** Hosted farm in Elkhart county, more info coming.
- June 2017 **Elkhart County SWCD Cover Crop Forage Meeting:** Grazing cover crops, using cover crops as nutrient/manure management.
- July 18-19 **Worm's Eye View Summer Conference:** Schlipf's Precision Ag, Milford, IN
- September 7 **Cover Crop Field Day:** Elkhart County SWCD, Goshen, IN

## SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

17746-B County Road 34, Goshen, IN 46528-9261  
Ph. 574-533-4383, ext. 3 • Fax: 855-408-4690  
[www.elkcoswcd.org](http://www.elkcoswcd.org) [www.stormwaterelkco.org](http://www.stormwaterelkco.org)

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All programs and services of the Conservation Partnership and 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.



# Grass Roots for Conservation



www.stormwaterelkco.org

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## Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

17746-B County Rd. 34 ~ Goshen, IN 46528 ~ Phone: 574-533-4383 ext. 3 [james.hess@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:james.hess@in.nacdnet.net)

# RAIN GARDEN AND RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

If you live in Elkhart, Goshen, Bristol, or unincorporated areas of Elkhart County you may be eligible for reimbursement from the Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership up to \$250 for native rain garden plants and/or up to \$50 per rain barrel (maximum of two rain barrels per residence). Applications are available at [stormwaterelkco.org](http://stormwaterelkco.org)

### WHEN

**May 4th, 2017**

**6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

### WHERE

**Ox Bow Haus**

**Oxbow County Park  
23427 CR 45  
Goshen, IN 46528**



**Contact us  
for details!**



### TO REGISTER

**Or for more information**

Please call 574-533-4383 ext 3  
or email Deb at [debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net)



## Elkhart County Waters Calendar 2018-19

*Coming  
Soon!*

.....  
**Submit Your Photos  
by May 22, 2017**  
.....

(JPG digital format, 300 dpi, 11" x 8 1/2"  
Limit: 12 photos per photographer)

*It is that time again!*

If you would enjoy seeing your favorite photo on the Stormwater Partnership's bi-annual calendar, please send a copy to us.

We are looking for photos that show recreation along Elkhart County's waterways; local wildlife; stormwater control practices like rain barrels and rain gardens; all four seasons; agricultural conservation practices; and scenic shots of our local rivers, streams, and lakes.

We also include some shots of pollution, so send those too if you have a "good" bad example.

**For more complete details and forms,  
contact us at the SWCD office:  
[jordan.beehler@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:jordan.beehler@in.nacdnet.net) or  
574-533-4383, ext 3**

# CLEAN WATER INDIANA PRACTICES

## LIVESTOCK PRACTICES

- **EXCLUSION FENCING: \$1.19/SQ FT**
  - MUST HAVE ADJACENT WATER BODY THAT YOU ARE RESTRICTING LIVESTOCK ACCESS TO
  - LANDOWNER PAYS ALTERNATIVE WATERING COSTS
- **HEAVY USE AREAS: \$1.00/SQ FT**
  - LANE, AROUND WATERER OR FEEDING AREA, ETC.
- **PRESCRIBED (ROTATIONAL) GRAZING: \$20.00/AC**
  - MUST DEVELOP GRAZING PLAN WITH THE SWCD/NRCS OFFICE
- **HAY/PASTURE RENOVATION**
  - INCLUDING 25% NATIVES: **\$216.25/AC**
  - COOL SEASON: **\$162.00/AC**

## GENERAL CROP GROUND PRACTICES

- **FILTER STRIPS: \$553.00/AC (MINIMUM 20 FT WIDE)**
  - NO HAYING OR GRAZING ALLOWED
  - MINIMUM 5 YEAR COMMITMENT
- **COVER CROPS: \$20/AC (MAXIMUM OF 100 AC)**
  - CAN BE GRAZED/HAYED BUT IF THIS IS DONE WILL REQUIRE NO-TILL OR STRIP TILL FOR PLANTING OF FOLLOWING CASH CROP
  - SWCD WILL HELP PAY \$5/AC FOR DRILL RENTAL ON 3 YEAR CONTRACTS IF NEEDED TO ADOPT CONSERVATION TILLAGE TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT

***(These cost share prices cannot exceed 75% of total project costs)***

# April is Awareness Month for Invasive Plant Pests

Each year, harmful invasive plant pests and diseases cost the United States about \$40 billion in crop losses, damage to forests and vulnerable ecosystems, and expensive eradication and control efforts. It only takes one person who moves one piece of infested firewood, one infected plant, or one piece of infested fruit to spread these invasive pests to a new area.

The good news is that individuals can stop the spread of invasive pests by looking for and reporting suspicious insects or signs of damage. For example, USDA detected the Asian Longhorned Beetle in Boston in 2010, when a single groundskeeper with a keen eye noticed and reported an unusual dime-sized hole in a tree. That one call provided early warning to jumpstart an eradication effort that quickly eliminated this destructive pest from that city.

Indiana currently has two plant pests that have become widespread in the state: Emerald Ash Borer and European Gypsy Moth. Both species pose a significant threat to species of trees and shrubs common to the native forests of the state. The gypsy moth is native to Europe and the ash borer is native to Asia. Both started with only a few individual insects and quickly spread to cover large areas of the US.

***Here's what you can do to help keep invasive pests from spreading as spring gets underway and all year round:***

- Spring is a busy time for buying plants. Buy yours from reputable nurseries or online businesses. Ask if they comply with federal and state quarantine restrictions to ensure their plants are pest-free.
- Planning to travel? Whether it's between states or to another country, check with your USDA APHIS office before you bring back fruits, vegetables or plants, so you know what's allowed. And when returning from abroad, always declare all agricultural items to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, so they can make sure items are free of harmful pests or diseases.
- When enjoying the great outdoors, don't move untreated firewood. Instead, buy or responsibly gather firewood near the place you'll burn it. Or, take certified, heat-treated firewood on your trip with you.
- If you live in an area under state or federal quarantine for an invasive pest, don't move produce or plants off your property. Also, allow authorized agricultural workers access to your property for pest or disease surveys.
- Make sure to clean outdoor items before moving them. Wash dirt from outdoor gear and tires, before traveling long distances to or from fishing, hunting or camping trips. If relocating to a new home, clean lawn furniture and other outdoor items before placing them in a moving van or storage pod.
- Finally, report any signs of invasive pests by going to [www.HungryPests.com](http://www.HungryPests.com).

To learn more, visit [www.HungryPests.com](http://www.HungryPests.com). The website includes photos and descriptions of 19 invasive pests that can be moved easily by people, an online federal quarantine tracker by state, and phone numbers for reporting signs of invasive pests.

# What's Your Lawn's Resource Value?

When we hear about chemical inputs into the ground, we would automatically assume we're talking about agriculture. Everybody knows farming takes a lot of chemicals to produce the best crops. But if we combine all residential, commercial, golf courses, athletic fields and cemeteries estimated from satellite imagery, lawns occupy at least 3 times the acreage of farmland. It's also estimated that lawn management uses 10 times the chemicals and fertilizers than their Ag counterparts use per acre. And those are usually done by untrained, unregulated applicators.

Homeowner's spend a lot of money and labor to have the "perfect" green lawn and plantings around their home. This can be a great asset. By reducing water runoff, which may contain chemicals, sediment and other pollutants, grass lawns improve surface water quality. But there can be costs to the environment as well.

The way you conduct your lawn care does have an impact. A properly watered and fertilized natural grass lawn is a carbon sink, meaning it keeps carbon from being released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, a common greenhouse gas. Instead this carbon is deposited into the soil as organic matter, which improves the soil.

Recycling the grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn surface increased growth, a fertilizer equivalent of 37 billion pounds of carbon and nitrogen per year. This offsets the amount of carbon dioxide being emitted by growing grass. Especially if compared to clippings that are bagged and put in a landfill. This results in an increase of methane gas, also a greenhouse gas, with no offsetting of carbon or improved soils.

Also having an impact is the species of grass and how it's mowed. Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass comprise most of the lawns. Fescue holds more carbon than bluegrass, but it also needs to be mowed more frequently. Most mowers are gas powered, two-cycle engines, which emits per hour the same amount of pollution of a car being driven 350 miles. You have to choose which species will work best given your soils, water availability and climate.

Your lawn care management regimen can do more than make your landscape look good. The ideal situation would be to reduce the amount of grass you mow by installing native plantings of trees, shrubs and flowers. They require less chemical inputs and water, and mow with a non-polluting rotary mower. This method reduces your waistline and your carbon footprint.





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## PLANT NATIVES

Get Back To  
Your Roots

*MAKE A DIFFERENCE!*



Take a Plant Pledge at  
[Indiana.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org](http://Indiana.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org)