

Make Your Soil Great Again **FIELD DAY**

**A meeting and field demonstration on
decision making in cover crop management**

Thursday, September 7, 2017

8:30 AM—3:30 PM

On Farm

21476 County Road 46 • New Paris, IN

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Jim Hoorman

(The Ohio State University)

Dean Baas

(Michigan State University Extension)

Zach Bolla

(Cover Crop Services)

Hans Kok

(Soil Health Partnership)

Demonstration fields include no-till corn and beans planted into 14-way cover crop mix, test strips of cover crop mixes varying in kind and application, and soil pits to inspect root activity and soil health under no-till/cover crop management practices. Sessions will aim to answer your questions on cover crop management decisions, including grazing cover crops.

— THIS IS A FREE EVENT —

Lunch will be provided.

To register contact the SWCD office
at 574-533-4383 ext. 3 or
register online at www.elkcoswcd.org

Upcoming Events!

July 21-29 Elkhart County 4-H Fair Begins...

July 28 **Green Earth Education Day:** Come see our booth and this year's theme is: **Sandbox & Watersheds.**

August 19 **Build-A-Barrel Workshop:** Sheep/Swine Arena 10 AM-12 Noon - Limited availability – Register early! First come, first serve until the class is full for **Elkhart county residents only.** Learn about rain barrels then construct your own! Painting instructions available. To register, or for more information, please call (574) 533-4383 ext 3, or email debra.jimison@in.nacdn.net.

August 21 **SWCD Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM, SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen

August 26 **Middlebury Riverfest:** 9:30 am – 2:00 pm ~ Middlebury Riverfest is a family fun and educational event that celebrates the importance of fresh water and the value of the Little Elkhart River. Family fun events such as games, crafts, a live animal show, kayaking, and nature education can be found at Riverfest.

Sept. 7 **Make Your Soil Great Again Field Day:** 8:30 am – 3:30 pm ~ The Elkhart County SWCD will be hosting a meeting and demonstration on decision making in cover crop management. On Farm 21476 County Road 46, New Paris, IN. ***This is a free event, lunch is provided... To register contact the SWCD office at (574) 533-4383 ext 3 or register online at www.elkcoswcd.org

Sept. 18 **SWCD Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM, SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen

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 www.stormwaterelkco.org

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SWCD Staff:

James Hess, Program Manager Jordan Beehler, Conservationist
Lora Callahan, Secretary/Treasurer Deb Jimison, Conservationist

NRCS Staff:

Amanda Kautz, District Conservationist

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



JULY 21-29, 2017



FREE Parking
FREE Grandstand
Gate Admission \$8
9yrs & Under FREE

Fair Admission &
Reserved Concert Seats
available online at 4HFair.org

Discount Gate Admission

On sale through July 20 at area outlets
Advance Admission \$6
Advance Ride Vouchers \$20
CloverCash \$2



4HFair.org

Get The Fun Fair! Mobile App

17746-D County Road 34 Goshen, Indiana 46528
P: 574-533-FAIR (3247) F: 574-534-3743

Join us for Green Earth Education Day at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair

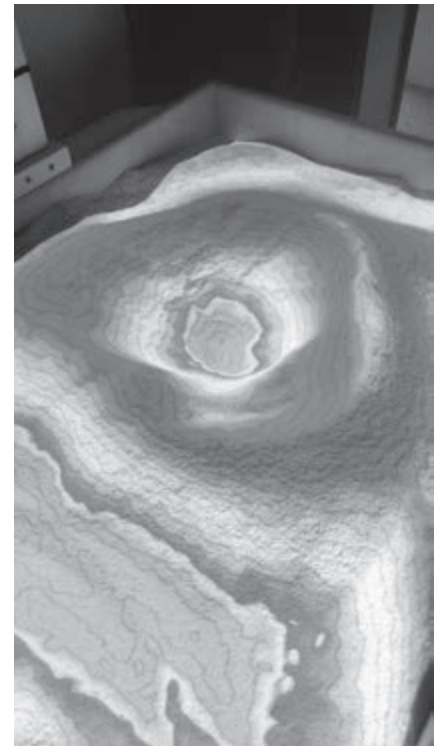
Friday, July 28, 2017

at Heritage Park

“Sandbox and Watersheds!”

Elkhart County SWCD Staff will be on hand to talk about the Augmented Reality Sandbox and watersheds.

**Stop by and see us
at Heritage Park!!!**



Conducting Ag Service Center Business during the Fair

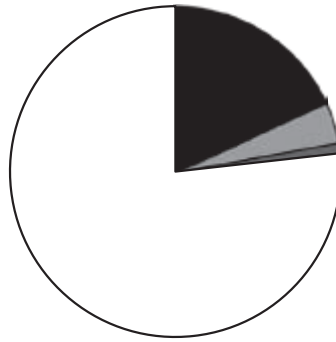
The 2017 Elkhart County 4-H Fair will be held July 21-29. When doing business with our office during the fair, you should enter the fairgrounds the same as you do during non-fair time. This gate is Gate 2, and it will be marked as the handicap parking entrance. You will only need to drive to the entrance, identify yourself, and inform those at the gate that you are here to conduct business with the Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil and Water Conservation District (NRCS/SWCD) or the Farm Services Agency (FSA) Office. Let them know that you have been instructed to use Gate 2.

For your convenience, our regular parking spaces will be available for your use, they are located on the south side of our building. These spaces should be clearly marked. All other asphalt parking is for handicap parking. Violators will be towed. Our office will maintain normal office hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. We would appreciate knowing any problems you encounter when doing business with us during the fair.

Check out other front page articles to see how we are involved at the fair this year.

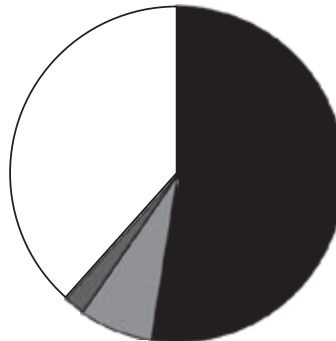
Transect Assesses Elkhart County Tillage Practices

Every other year in the spring, the Indiana Conservation Partnership, including the local NRCS, SWCD, and Purdue Extension, partner to look at agriculture trends in the state of Indiana through tillage transects. The tillage transect is a predetermined route through each county on which certain fields are evaluated. The same fields are observed on each run of the transect, and the current crop, tillage, and amount of residue left from the previous crop are recorded for each. The data for the county gives our local office a good idea of the agricultural trends for the area. For 2017, our tillage transect found that 22% of corn and 59% of soybeans were planted using conservation tillage systems, meaning that the fields were no-tilled, mulch tilled, or strip tilled. These practices leave more residue on the surface of the soil, protecting it from erosion, helping water to infiltrate, and improving soil health. Approximately 1.5 tons/acre/year of soil was saved by these tillage practices as opposed to conventionally tilling all of the crops. Soil also isn't the only thing being saved by conservation practices. Switching to conservation tillage or permanent cover in a field can be more en-



2017 Corn Tillage

- No-Till * (18%) = 12100 ac
- Mulch Till (4%) = 2700 ac
- Reduced Till (1%) = 700 ac
- Conventional (76%) = 51000 ac



2017 Soybean Tillage

- No-Till * (52%) = 23300 ac
- Mulch Till (7%) = 3100 ac
- Reduced Till (2%) = 900 ac
- Conventional (38%) = 17000 ac

ergy efficient as well. It is estimated that 101,900 gallons of diesel fuel were saved this year due to reducing trips across the field with conservation practices.

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)

Build-A-Barrel

Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, August 19th • 10 am—12 pm

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds | Sheep/Swine Building

Learn about rain barrels then construct your own!

Fixtures and tools provided by the
Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership

Painting Instructions Available

Limited Availability! Register Early!

First come, first serve until the class is full for Elkhart County residents.



To register, or for more
information, please call
(574) 533-4383 ext. 3
or email

debra.jimison@in.nacdn.net

Time to Consider Renewal or Notice of Termination for Construction Sites

For all construction plans submitted in 2016, the Stormwater Clearance will expire on December 31st, 2017. A renewal, if construction on the site is not completed, will be due on January 31st, 2018 and every year after until construction is completed and the site is closed. To renew the site, submit a Stormwater Clearance Renewal form and a \$100 filing fee to the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation office.

For adequate construction site surface stabilization, grass seeding and mulching are most common, and recommended for preventing erosion. It's important to get seed in the ground during that timeframe so it can grow enough to provide stabilization over the winter months. This is an effective tool against both water and wind erosion.

The disturbed areas will need to be prepared for planting. After final grade has been established, smooth and loosen the top 3" inches and apply topsoil. Then pick an appropriate species or mix that meets your site's needs and apply at the recommended rate. At this time seed can be drilled, broadcast or hydroseeded. Mulch can be applied afterwards or at the same time in a hydro-mulch application.

Northern Indiana's optimum seeding dates for permanent cool-season grasses are August 10 to September 30, although it might be possible to seed later, depending on weather conditions. If your site is at final grade, make sure to seed it soon or you will have to use a temporary measure over the winter. For temporary seeding, use annual ryegrass anytime from August 1 to September 1 and wheat or rye between September 15 and October 30.

To overwinter bare ground, frost or dormant seeding rates are used. Erosion control blankets or other structural armors are effective in stabilizing side slopes and swales that receive more concentrated storm water flow. Maintenance and monitoring of all of these practices are also necessary over the winter.

If construction will be completed this year, vegetation



An area at finished grade that has been seeded and mulched.

needs to be established to a uniform coverage of at least 70 percent. Avoid large bare spots or any potential areas of erosion. That will make the site eligible for a Notice of Termination (NOT) submittal and closing out the project. Get the NOT to the Elkhart County SWCD as soon as good vegetative cover is obtained. We can't confirm stabilization if there's a foot of snow on the ground! If you can't get the 70% grass coverage by then, you will need to submit the renewal application and fee.

For more details on seed, mulch, and fertilizer specifications, refer to Chapter 7 of the Indiana Stormwater Quality Manual (<http://www.in.gov/idem/stormwater/2363.htm>). Or contact Deb Jimison at the Elkhart County SWCD, 574-533-4383, ext. 3.