



Grass Roots for Conservation



Vol. 45

No. 1

January 2020

www.elkcoswcd.org

Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

17746 County Rd. 34, Ste. B ~ Goshen, IN 46528 ~ Phone: (574) 533-4383 ext. 3 – jhess@elkhartcounty.com



COVER YOUR FUTURE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020
9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Elkhart County Community Center, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds • Goshen, IN

FEATURED SESSIONS:

"Respect Your Soil"

Hans Kok, Ph.D., CCA
(Conservation Consultant)

**"Future Weather Trends
and Patterns"**

Jeffrey S. Dukes Ph.D.
(Professor, Director of Purdue Climate
Change Research Center)

**"Building Resilience
with Cover Crops "**

Eileen J. Kladviko,
(Agronomy Dept., Purdue University)

"Ask the Experts"

Panel Discussion, All Speakers

*A meeting and tradeshow on options in
conservation management Sponsored By:*

**Elkhart County Soil and
Water Conservation District**

**Purdue Extension
Elkhart County**

USDA-NRCS

—THIS IS A FREE EVENT—

Lunch will be provided.

To register contact the SWCD office at
(574) 533-4383, ext. 3
or email latkins@elkhartcounty.com

KCW 2020

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL: IMPACTS AND FACTS

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

7:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

7:40 OPENING REMARKS

RYAN WORKMAN MS4 Coordinator, City of Warsaw Stormwater Utility

ANDREA BAKER Conservation Program Technician, Kosciusko County Soil and Water Conservation District

MATT SANDY Assistant Planner and Floodplain Administrator, Kosciusko County Area Planning

7:50 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KOSCIUSKO CONTRACTOR ADVISORY GROUP, VENDORS

8:00 KEYNOTE JOE SCHMEES

Executive Director, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

9:00 PRESENTATION LORI GATES

Senior Project Manager, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC

9:50 BREAK

10:10 PRESENTATION HEATHER WILLIAMS

Senior Project Manager, Wood PLC

11:00 VENDOR CONNECT

11:30 PRESENTATION TITLE CHAD MONTGOMERY

Promotions Manager, Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association

12:20 LUNCH AND CLOSING REMARKS RYAN WORKMAN

MS4 Coordinator, Stormwater Utility

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT RYAN WORKMAN AT RWORKMAN@WARSAW.IN.GOV



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COVER YOUR FUTURE MEETING AGENDA

A meeting and tradeshow on options in conservation management

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020
9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Elkhart County Community Center, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds • Goshen, IN

9:00 - 10:30

“RESPECT YOUR SOIL”

Soil structure plays an important role in crop health. Healthy soil structure can increase drainage and reduce soil erosion. What happens when soil structure is disturbed limiting these benefits? What are some practical ways we can improve soil structure while improving crop health?

Speaker: Hans Kok

10:30 - 10:45

BREAK

10:45 - 12:00

“FUTURE WEATHER TRENDS AND PATTERNS”

Have you noticed a change in the weather lately? Rain, snow, or sunshine, agriculture revolves around weather. Learn how to become more proactive in your operations future. Seeding date, maturing dates, types of herbicides and fertilizers all revolve around our weather.

Speaker: Jeffrey Dukes

12:00 - 1:00

LUNCH

1:00 - 1:45

“BUILDING RESILIENCE WITH COVER CROPS”

How can we build the strongest insurance policy for our soil. Using cover crops and creating stability in your soil will help build resilience in an unpredictable future.

Speaker: Eileen J. Kladvko

1:45 - 2:00

BREAK

2:00 - 2:45

“LET’S ASK THE EXPERTS”

Panel discussion group that will give you a chance to ask the why do we do this? How will the future change and what can I do to prepare for it? Where will I receive the best potential to help increase my investments?

Speaker: Hans Kok, Jeffrey Dukes, Eileen J. Kladvko

Q. I have no-tilled and cover cropped for a couple years now. My field seems firmer and I can get across it and move more easily, then my conventional acres. Why is that? Should I be worried?



Send your questions to **Walden the Worm**

The "Dear Abby" of conservation farming!

- A. Walden here. There are several reasons you have noticed this positive change from a short time of no-till cropping. I will explain one likely scenario. Also keep in mind one must use caution when describing soil simply by firm, hard, soft. An examination of soil structure is needed to give true soil condition.

As I eat my way through fields, I notice in tilled fields rain washed muddy water downward to the depth of tillage. The muddy water then over time plugs the worm and root channels sealing the soil at plow depth. As you well know rain fall has been plentiful for two seasons. This will impede drainage resulting in top 4" to 8" of soil being wet longer. This then becomes a problem for you the farmer while making life miserable for me. Some call this vertical erosion.

Two years of no-till after years of heavy tillage is not likely long enough to result in a mellow fully functioning no-till soil. Two years of no-till and cover cropping will allow worm and root channels to remain open. The larger amount of surface residue (habitat and food for worms) and cover will support more night crawlers and hence more worm channels. Result is a more uniform drainage throughout a 3' to 4' soil depth. Also two years of no-till and cover crops should be enough time to allow soil aggregates to be stable in water, not turn to pore plugging, mud mush and turbid water.

Mr. Farmer prove me right or wrong, do a slake test of your no-till and conventional field. Take a shovel to your no-till field dig, check for worms, pore space. Check roots do they grow deep and straight? Is the soil structure good? Is soil structure improved? Last, may I suggest you worry about your conventional acres.

Until next month,
– *Walden*

Upcoming Events!

- Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday:** The SWCD & NRCS Offices will be closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- Jan. 27 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 p.m., SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen
- Feb. 24 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 p.m., SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen
- Mar. 4 Cover Your Future:** A meeting and tradeshow on options in conservation management, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Elkhart County Fairgrounds, see the above flyer for more information.
- Mar. 5 78th SWCD Annual Meeting:** *Save the Date* ~ 6:30 p.m. in the ECCC Building/Martin Room at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen. To register call the office (574) 533-4383 ext. 3, or you can email Lora at: latkins@elkhartcounty.com
- Mar. 13 2020 Tree Sale DEADLINE:** Don't forget *today* is the last day to place an order, you better hurry before it is too late!!!
- Mar. 16 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 p.m., SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen
- Apr. 10 Good Friday Holiday:** : The SWCD Office will be closed for the Good Friday Holiday
- Apr. 18 2020 Tree Sale & Order Pick Up:** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 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, we will have extra trees in case you didn't order everything you wanted when you sent in your order.
- Apr. 20 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 p.m., SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen

SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

17746 County Road 34, Ste. B, Goshen, IN 46528-9261 • Ph. (574) 533-4383, ext. 3 • www.elkcoswcd.org

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Board of Supervisors:	Tom Kercher, Chairman	Alex Wait, Vice Chairman	Dale Leer	Dean Rink	Darrell Shover
Associate Supervisors:	David Bontrager	Joe Brown	Brian Campbell	Gary Kauffman	Keith E. Miller
SWCD Staff:	James Hess, District Manager	Jenna Wait, Conservationist	Lora L. Atkins, Secretary/Treasurer		
NRCS Staff:	Amanda Kautz, District Conservationist				

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