



# Grass Roots for Conservation



www.stormwaterelkco.org

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www.elkcoswcd.org

## Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

17746-B County Rd. 34 ~ Goshen, IN 46528 ~ Phone: 574-533-4383 ext. 3 james.hess@in.nacdn.net

### THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2017 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Aquatic Weed Control  
(Jim Donahoe)

Bernstein, Jo Ellen

Blough, Michelle

Bontrager, David & Mary Ellen

Brookview Farms

(Richard Brookins)

Brown, Joe & Nancy

Campbell, Brian & Renee

Casey's Erosion & Seed Solutions, LLC (Doug Beasy) \*

Crop Tech, Inc. (Gary Kauffman)

D2 Land & Water Resource

(Al McAuliffe)

Farmer's Exchange (Matt Yeater)\*

Garber, James & Peggy

Groff, Nancy

Hess, Jim & Tereasa

Hibschman, Joe & Donna

Hinds, Mike

Kercher's Sunrise Orchards, Inc.

(Thomas & Maureen Kercher)\*

Kuert Concrete, Inc.

(Steve Fidler)\*

Lar-Lee Farms (Rick Yontz)

Leer, Dale & Ruby

Lo-Ke Dairy (Keith E. Miller)

Loucks, Lynn & Carol  
Marbach, Brady, Weaver, Inc.

(Chris F. Marbach)\*

Meersman, Matt

Neff, David & Luann

Neff, Mike & Annette

Pine Crest Farms, Inc.

(Stan Miller)

Reed Farms

(Brent & George Reed)

Richland Farm

(Richard & Sue Snider)

Rink, Dean & Kate

Stroup, Martin & Penny

Sweet Corn Charlie Produce, LLC

(Chuck & Tami Mohler)\*

Teall Tax Service

(James Teall)

Trinity Development Group, LLC

Wait, Jack & Nancy

Wakarusa Sawmill, Inc.

(Steve & Annette Brown)\*

Wenger, Tina

Weybright, Garry & Linda

Yoder, Ainlay, Ulmer & Buckingham, LLP (John Ulmer)\*

Zell, Bob & Laura

#### \* Second Tier/Business Membership

There is still time to renew your membership for 2017, or to become a new supporter of conservation in Elkhart County. The Elkhart County SWCD is again offering two tiers of Affiliate Membership. The first tier or individual membership is an annual donation of \$25 or more. Your membership will be recognized at least twice a year in our monthly newsletter *Grass Roots*. The second tier or business membership guarantees at least two business card sized ads in our monthly newsletter *Grass Roots* and recognition at our Annual Meeting by way of a slide show. Second tier membership has an annual donation of \$125 or more.

If you wish to become an Affiliate Member, you can mail a check or money order to: Elkhart County SWCD, 17746-B County Rd. 34, Goshen, IN 46528. Be sure to include your name as you would like it to appear in the upcoming editions of *Grass Roots*, and your full mailing address. For further information, contact the SWCD office at (574) 533-4383, extension 3.



# 76<sup>th</sup>

## Annual Meeting

### Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

Martin Room, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds,  
17746 County Road 34, Goshen, Indiana.

You may know someone receiving an award on this list  
and may not know they are winning an award.

Conservation Farmer

Conservation Educator of the Year

Friend of the SWCD

River Friendly Farmer

Urban Conservationist of the Year

Annual Report Cover Artist

4-H Award - Forestry

4-H Award - Recycling

4-H Award - Soil & Water Science

4-H Award - Wildlife

FFA Senior Team

Traveling Award

Prairie Dairy Farms

Danae Wirth

Chuck Harvout

Marvin & Judy Roush

Kibby Excavating, Inc.

Charlotte Myers

Dylan Springer

Morgan Solliday

Taylor McKinley

Jonathan Wesco

Gaven Erb

Halee Fisher

Garrett Roth

Greta Yoder

Fairfield HS -

Brandon Brunt, Coach

Make your reservation by calling (574) 533-4383 ext 3, or stopping in our office. There is no ticket fee, but please consider supporting the Elkhart County SWCD with a donation or an Affiliate Membership!

**Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District  
2018 Roller Coaster Conservation Series**

**BANK ON YOUR ROOTS**

***A meeting and trade show on  
options in cover crop management***

**Sponsored By: Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District,  
Purdue Extension Elkhart County, and USDA-NRCS**

**Friday, March 9, 2018  
8:00 AM—3:30 PM**

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

**Featured Sessions:**

***“Preparing Your Farm for Cover Crops”***

Know what resources and resource concerns you have on your farm and decide what your main objectives are (yield, lower inputs, conservation, etc) for your operation. What is your “why” for doing cover crops? Make sure to do your homework, research, and talk to others so that you have multiple backup plans.

***“Measuring Cover Crop Success”***

Have long-term practical and measurable goals for your cover crop operation. Soil health tests (organic matter, nutrient retention, water capacity) and productivity (\$, yield, input reduction) can help measure your goals. Observe your fields, so you can get to the “root” of any problems.

***“Creative Management Options: Forage and Manure”***

What are crop rotation options to manage manure applications? How can I use cover crops for feed and forage?

***“Creative Management Options: Order of Operations”***

What steps do I take to successfully integrate cover crops into an existing crop rotation? What equipment, herbicide, and nutrients should I consider?

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**—THIS IS A FREE EVENT—**

CEU Credits for CCA's , CCH's credits will be available. Lunch will be provided.

**To register contact the SWCD office at 574-533-4383 ext. 3 or online at [www.elkcoswcd.org](http://www.elkcoswcd.org)**

**Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership**



# **BUILD-A-BARREL**

## **BUILD-YOUR-OWN RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP**

**Learn about rain barrels  
then build your own!**

**Tools, barrels, and fittings  
provided by the  
Greater Elkhart County  
Stormwater Partnership.**

**YOU'LL LEAVE THE  
WORKSHOP WITH YOUR  
VERY OWN RAIN BARREL!**



**Saturday, February 3, 2018**

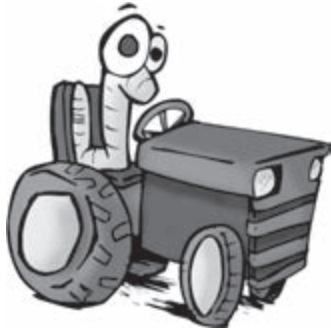
**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds Sheep/Swine Building**

First come, first serve for residents of Elkhart County

To register or for more information, please call

**(574) 533-4383 ext 3** or email **debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net**



# Send your questions to Walden the Worm

## The "Dear Abby" of Conservation

**Does tillage really dry your field out faster?**

**What cover crops will break a plow layer?**

**Why should you care about worms when all you want is a higher yield?**

**Will a cover crop grow if you interseed it into standing corn or beans?**

**Is carbon in your soil releasing nutrients?**

Starting next month, Walden the Worm will be answering all your burning questions about conservation farming - anonymously and without judgement.

Send your questions to [elkhartcountyswcd@gmail.com](mailto:elkhartcountyswcd@gmail.com) or drop them off at the office and have your question answered by Walden the Worm in upcoming *Grass Roots* publications!

**KUERT**  
SUPPLY CENTER

QUALITY  
SERVICE  
SINCE 1977

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Business Development Director

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Toll Free: (800) 572-1340

[www.marbach.us](http://www.marbach.us)

## Upcoming Events!

- January 22 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen.
- February 3 Build-A-Barrel Workshop:** You can build your own rain barrel, Learn about rain barrels then build your own! Tools, barrels, and fittings provided by the Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Sheep/Swine Barn at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds. First come, first serve for residents of Elkhart County, to register call (574) 533-4383 ext 3 or email: Deb at [debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:debra.jimison@in.nacdnet.net).
- February 19 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen.
- February 27 2017 SWCD Annual Meeting:** *Save the Date* ~ 6:30 PM in the ECC Building/ Martin Room at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen. To register call the office (574) 533-4383 ext 3, or email: Lora at [lora.callahan@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:lora.callahan@in.nacdnet.net)
- March 9 Bank on Your Roots:** A meeting and trade show on options in cover crop management. 8:00 am - 3:30 pm, ECC Bldg at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, this is a FREE event but you need to register, lunch is provided. Call (574) 533-4383 ext 3 or online at: [www.elkcoswcd.org](http://www.elkcoswcd.org).
- March 19 SWCD Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM, SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen.

## SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

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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, 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.