



THE STEWARD

Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Special points of interest:

- CSP Sign up Announcement
- Division of Forestry Plan
- The Impact of Urbanization
- Farm Management Tour
- Resource Specialist
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Farm Management Tour by Mike Ferre

2008 Farm Management Tour Comes to Bartholomew and Jackson Counties

The 2008 Indiana Farm Management Tour will be June 24&25 in Bartholomew and Jackson counties. The tour starts at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 24 at the B & A Thompson grain farms near Cortland. Topics of discussion include; surface and subsurface drainage, organizing your business to facilitate succession planning, crop monitoring and scouting, and no-till fertility management.

The tour then moves on to Brandt Farms, an organic dairy farm operated by Justin Burbrink at 3:30 p.m. near Jonesville. Topics for discussion include; the Indiana Classified Forest Program, rotational grazing, and milk marketing by Organic Valley.

The first day of the tour concludes with a sponsored meal and educational program at the Bartholomew 4-H Community Building at 5:30 p.m. A panel discussion on Transferring Your Farm Business to the Next Generation with Attorney Jeff Washburn and Purdue Specialist Alan Miller answering your questions and two local farmers sharing lessons learned. A walking tour of Irwin Gardens will be available at 8:00 p.m.

The second day of the tour starts at 8:00 a.m. with Elsbury Greenhouses near Hope. Topics include; the garden center, outdoor mum production, and the environmental controlled computer system for the greenhouses.

The second stop will be 10:00 a.m. at Gelfius Farms near Hartsville. Topics include; precision planting to enhance yields and reduce seed costs, managing full-time and seasonal labor, and maintaining balance. A sponsored lunch will be provided and an agricultural outlook update.

The final stop of the tour will be 1:30 p.m. at Shane Meier Farms Inc. near Scipio. Topics include; tips on driving down per unit production costs by using cover crops and no-till to build up soils, machinery selection, and the computer-controlled grain drying system.

A flyer with a more detailed program and maps will be available in mid May. Reservations are requested by calling the Purdue Extension Office in Bartholomew County at 379-1665 by June 16.

Conservation Security Program Sign-Up Announcement

A sign-up for the Conservation Security Program is going on from April 18 – May 16 in the Upper East fork of the White River watershed. Applications for CSP may be submitted at one of the following USDA Service Centers: Brownstown, Columbus, and Greensburg.

If you missed one of the public meetings, but are interested in the program stop by one of the sign-up locations to get an application workbook and an instructional CD on the sign-up process. If you attended one of the initial meetings, remember that the NRCS will be answering questions about the application packets at one of the following workshops:

Tuesday, April 22:	8-11:30am Greensburg Field Office	1-4:30pm	Columbus, Field Office
Tuesday, April 29:	8-11:03am North Vernon Field Office	1-4:30pm	Brownstown Field Office
Thursday, May 1:	8-11:30am Columbus Field Office	1-4:30pm	Greensburg Field Office
Thursday, May 8:	8-11:30am Brownstown Field Office	1-4:30pm	North Vernon Field Office
Tuesday, May 13:	8-11:30am Greensburg Field Office	1-4:30pm	Columbus Field Office

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation. The program is available in all 50 States, the Caribbean Area and the Pacific Basin area. The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location.

EQIP and Cover Crops

Many farmers took advantage of the emergency provisions of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program offer for emergency cover crops to be planted in lieu of a shortage of forage and the detrimental effects of drought on our soil from the previous growing season.

Other farmers in this district have seen the advantage of adopting cover crops as a valuable conservation practice in a conservation tillage system.

While cover crops help protect soil from erosion, add organic matter to soil, scavenge nitrogen and other nutrients during the winter, and can be a source of winter forage for livestock, it may be a violation of your EQIP contract to harvest your cover crop for grain.

If you harvest your EQIP cover crop for grain, your contract will be terminated and may be subject to cost recovery of your entire contract amount received plus liquidated damages.

Please contact the Field Office if you have any questions about how to manage your cover crop at (812) 378-1280.

Spring Workshop

Approximately 625 2nd graders from Bartholomew County attended the spring workshop held at the outdoor lab. They were given a tour of the outdoor lab with time being spent identifying the trees. Heather Siesel, Clifty Creek Watershed coordinator, presented a session about water and why it is important to us. Christine Goldstein, Resource Specialist, presented identification of wildlife habitat and how to identify an animal by their tracks, along with the secret life of a tree. Lowell Miller and Rob McGriff presented education regarding forest and their importance to our everyday lives. Carroll Ritter from the Sycamore land trust also volunteered his time and efforts to give the children a look at wildlife and the world around them. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with this workshop and to the teachers who took time to attend with their classes.

Reminder that the Soil And Water Conservation District monthly meeting is held on the fourth Thursday of every month at the district office located at 1040 Second street in Columbus Indiana

New District Resource Specialist

Hello! My name is Christine Goldstein and I am the new Resource Specialist for the CCWP. I am very excited about working on this project. I appreciate the warm welcome I have received from everyone that I have met. If anyone has suggestions on new cost-share projects or overall improvements for the project feel free to call me. I look forward to meeting and working with all the CCWP steering committee members, SWCD board members, NRCS employees and the local landowners

Division of Forestry Releases Strategic Plan

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry has released its strategic plan after gathering public input. The plan is set to run through 2013 and includes an increased emphasis on wildlife habitat management and the employment of wildlife biologist. It also puts more focus on land acquisition and development and management of recreation areas. The plan also reduces the upper limit on the timber harvest level of 60 % of forest growth, or about 14 million board feet annually. The plan addresses hardwood economic development, a key focus for the state. Some of the proposed changes Hoosiers will see in the state forests section of the plan :

Increased focus on providing information to the public and involving public participation in decision making.

Development of a percentage of lands into “older forest” conditions, i.e., forests that will be managed for a longer than usual rotation producing a high number of large, old trees, working toward the appearance and wildlife habitat value of old, over-mature forests.

Development of a state forest environmental assessment mechanism.

Increased emphasis on control of exotic invasive species.



The Impacts of Urbanization

By Denise Dailey

The Storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) should be, or at least should be, well known in circle of developers. But, how does it impact us as the general public? What benefit do we have or do we get from the “Rule 5 plan”, (327 IAC 15-5)?

The Rule 5 regulation addresses the impact from urbanization in two different phases. The first phase or the construction phase, the second impact is the post construction phase.

During the construction phase there may be degraded water quality from sediment and/or other pollutants from the construction activities and increased runoff. We generally think of farming activities contributing to sediment in Indiana waterways but it does not have as concentrated of impact as do construction activities. The soil disturbance associated with construction results in greatly accelerated erosion. Erosion rates can often exceed 100+ times that of agricultural land. Streams can become choked with sediment. There is an increase in the turbidity causing cloudy water. This in turn can raise the water temperature and lower the dissolved oxygen levels. Increased turbidity results in sight-feeding fish being replaced by the bottom feeders such as the carp, and suckers. The deposit of the silt during fish egg incubation can cause fish egg mortalities.

Other impacts of construction without implementing a storm water pollution prevention plan includes sediment covered stream beds. Pollutants such as nutrients and pesticides attached to the soil particles can also enter the streams. Water quality can also be changed due to high pH or alkaline materials effecting wildlife diversity and health. Flooding due to plugged storm drains and even the good health of the community can be effected.

After construction has been completed the requirements for this regulation address pollutants associated with the inherent land use. This involves identifying pollutants such as suspended solids, runoff from the impervious surfaces, thermal pollution, material and fuel storage, fueling locations and vehicle maintenance. After identifying these pollutants they can be addressed by using many different practices and measures. This can include sand filters, riparian zones, bio-retention, subsurface detention, catch basin inserts, sediment forebay and other many other ideas.

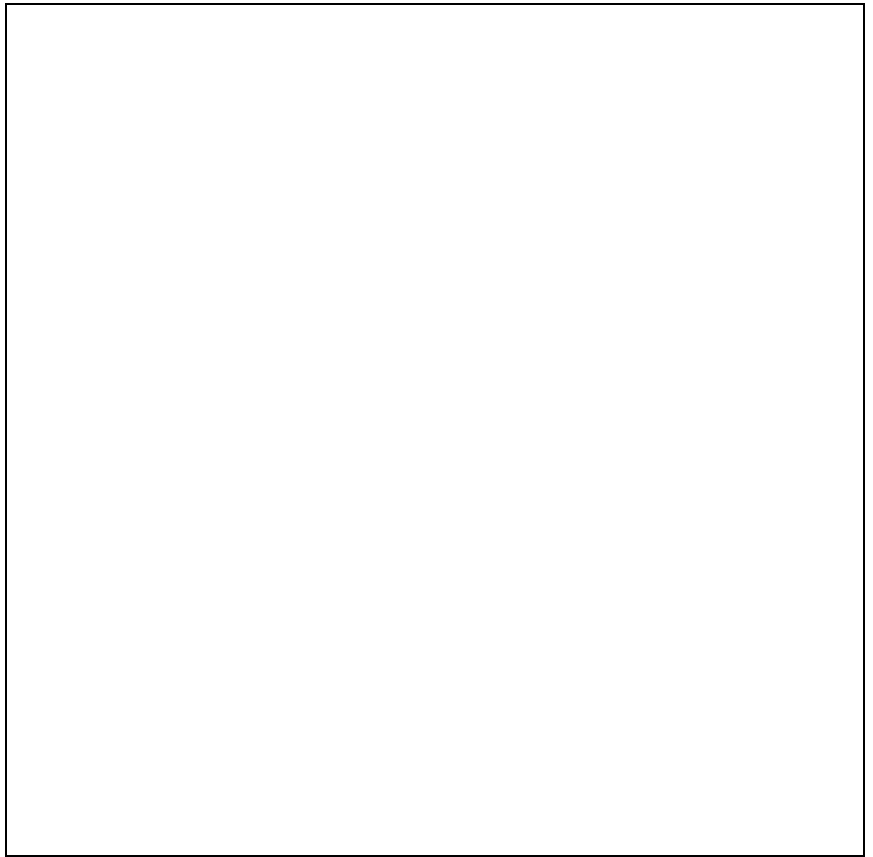
To learn more about this regulation and how it might effect your construction site please contact the Bartholomew County Soil and Water Conservation District.



**Bartholomew County
Soil & Water
Conservation District**

We are committed to providing our customers with quality service through effective communication, professional integrity, and mutual respect.

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