



Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

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SWCD Supervisors:

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Conservationist:

Ben Zuercher

Points of Interest:

- ◆ Dealing with Ice
- ◆ CWI Grant Money Available
- ◆ Wind Turbines
- ◆ Bumblebee Rediscovered
- ◆ Annual Meeting

Cover Crop Workshops

February 28-29, 2012

Midwest Cover Crops
Council Annual Meeting

March 1, 2012

Wabash River RC&D
Workshop on Soil
Productivity

www.mccc.msu.edu

Grazing Conference

February 1, 2012
Odon, Indiana

Call for more information about
registering for this informative
event!

Environmentally-Friendly Ways to Deal with Ice this Winter

Traction Agents – help prevent slipping on ice, but don't melt it.

BAD: Sand, kitty litter, and ashes can hurt vegetation, clog sewers, and degrade aquatic habitats.

GOOD: Cracked corn has been suggested as an alternative because animals can eat it before it gets washed into the storm sewers in the spring.

Deicers – lower the melting point of ice to help remove ice and snow from pavement.

BAD: Sodium chloride (rock salt) is the most common product because it's effective & cheap. On the other hand, it is highly corrosive and ecologically damaging.

GOOD: Calcium chloride is very effective (even at very low temperatures), but more expensive than rock salt. Because it is so effective, much less chemical can be applied making it more environmentally friendly than rock salt.

GOOD: Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) is less problematic for soils, vegetation, water supplies, and concrete. It is non-corrosive, made from corn or petroleum and converts ice into an oatmeal-like mush. Compared to rock salt it is expensive, but a 50# bag of Landscaper's Choice™ is advertised for only \$10.00.

GOOD: Potassium acetate is a reliable choice for smaller areas. It is a biodegradable liquid deicer with good ice melting capacity.

GOOD: Corn-based liquid concentrates are emerging, primarily for roadway use and are applied as a spray.

Deicers become “**Anti-icers**” when they are applied as soon as the snowy or icy conditions appear; they help prevent the bond from forming between the pavement and the ice. This will make it easier to shovel (if it's done soon after the storm) and reduce your need to use chemicals.

Here are some other things to keep in mind:

- ◆ Some deicers (and even some sands) are significant sources of phosphorous pollution.
- ◆ Excess phosphorous is the nutrient that boosts unwanted plant growth in lakes. Look for products that contain 50 parts per million or less of phosphorous.
- ◆ Always apply deicing products according to manufacturer's instructions. Deicers are not meant to provide complete evaporation of ice and snow. Rather, they are meant to break the ice/pavement bond to make shoveling easier. Over application of the chemical doesn't eliminate the need to shovel...it only means more destructive chemicals get into our waterways.
- ◆ Pellets are generally more effective at penetrating ice than flakes.
- ◆ Using the old fashioned approach of a shovel and a flat hoe means eliminating ice and snow without harmful chemicals and with the added benefit of physical exercise.

From Rochester, MN Stormwater



Rarest Bumblebee in U.S. Rediscovered



The most rare U.S. species of bumblebee, last seen in 1956, has turned up once again in the White Mountains of south-central New Mexico. Called "Cockerell's Bumblebee," this prized pollinator is known from an area of less than 300 square miles, giving it the most limited range of any bumblebee species in the world.

Any story about bees surviving in the wild is uplifting news in light of the well-documented decline of bees worldwide. Recently the U.N. reported bee losses of up to 85 percent in some areas of the industrialized northern hemisphere, where pesticides, pollution, and parasites may all be to blame.

Indeed, entomologists rediscover "lost" insect species and discover entirely new ones on a regular basis. Yanega and his colleagues at the Entomology Research Museum in Riverside alone turn up several dozen species every year, primarily in groups such as bees, wasps, beetles, and plant bugs.

Two weeks ago, scientists announced the discovery of 11 new bee species, four of which have been anonymously pollinating gardens in New York City. Analysis by Sarah Simpson of Discovery News.com

Clean Water Indiana Funds Available

The 2012 Clean Water Indiana Grant funds are going out to help farmers promote soil health. If you are a farmer who is involved with cover crops, nutrient management, and no-till, you may apply to receive \$20 per acre for up to 100 acres. We will need to get a nutrient management plan from you and help you set up a conservation plan. Top priority will go to those in the MRBI watershed. The cut-off date to apply is: **February 1st, 2012**, and applications can be e-mailed or picked up at the office.



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2012 Annual Meeting

Who?: All land owners and other interested parties may attend
What?: The Bartholomew Co. SWCD will make a report of their activities for the year 2011, and elect a supervisor for the SWCD board.
When?: *February 2, 2012 at 6:30PM*
Where?: 4-H Fairgrounds—Community Building
Dinner will be provided and door prizes will be given.
Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from the SWCD or Purdue Extension Office.



Wind Turbines May Help Crops

From Article By: Mason Inman For National Geographic News Published December 16, 2011

In traditional agriculture in many places, farmers grow trees along the edges of fields, a technique that slows the wind and stirs up the air, benefiting the crops in the field.

Now researchers are studying whether wind turbines can have a similar effect—actually helping crops to grow.

One of the more obvious ways that wind turbines could help agriculture is by mixing up the air, getting more carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the crops, since "the job of corn is to take up as much CO₂ as it can," said Eugene Takle, an agricultural meteorologist at Iowa State University.

[Also] by causing the air to move, wind turbines could reduce the amount of dew on leaves at night. This would help reduce crop diseases, such as those caused by fungi, Takle said.

Another potential beneficial impact: Because turbines mix up the air and slow wind speeds, they could also affect the temperature around them, making nights warmer and days cooler. The turbines' influence on temperatures could also have a downside for crops. A nighttime rise in temperature could increase the amount the plants respire—a kind of exhalation at nighttime, when plants release some of the carbon they took up from the air during the day. That could be a negative because the plants would take up less carbon, losing some of the benefits of their daytime growth.

The possibility underscores the importance of the research for the agricultural community. Farmers for years have leased portions of their fields for wind turbines as a way to boost income, but they have wondered what effect it might have on crops, Lundquist said. Roy agreed that the effects on crops will be complex, and "one good thing could offset another bad thing."

"I think the frost protection effect for crops is going to be a really good thing," Roy said, adding that it might outweigh other effects.

Because of the varied effects of turbines and the needs of different plants, Lundquist cautions that what may help Iowa corn might not help other crops in other places.

"Wind energy offers us great potential for renewable energy," she said, "we just have to be clever and sensitive about how we deploy it."



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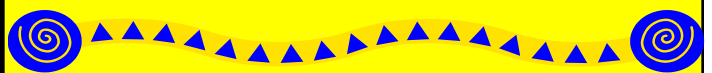
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
 PURDUE/BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY EXTENSION
 &
 BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY SOIL AND WATER

2012 ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2012 at 6:30 PM

BARTHOLOMEW CO. FAIRGROUNDS





Check us Out!

We are committed to providing our customers with quality service through effective communication, professional

The district holds its monthly meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 5pm at the district office located at 1040 2nd Street in Columbus, Indiana. The meeting is open to the public.

Website

Scan this code to be taken to our website!

www.bartholomewswcd.org

Think Before You Print

If you would like to receive our newsletter by email (**and in color!**) please send us an email at: heather.shireman@in.nacdnet.net and we will gladly add you to our email list. Also, if you have changed addresses, moved, or wish to stop receiving the newsletter please let us know.

P.S. Our newsletter is also available on our website.

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CONTACT US
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- ◆ 2009 plat books: **SALE: \$15.00 each**
- ◆ Marking Flags: 20¢ per flag (Pink, Green, Orange)
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