



# Decatur County Soil & Water Conservation District Update

Summer 2011

"A Quarterly Newsletter Devoted to Conservation"

Volume 4, Issue 2

## Soil Health Workshop : July 14

A Soil Health Workshop will be held at the Wenning Farm in Decatur County with registration beginning at 8:30am. Speakers will begin at 8:50am and conclude around 3:15pm.

Topics include:

**Understanding Soil Function**, *Ray Archuleta, NRCS*

**Why Soil Quality is Important to Farmers**, *Roger Wenning, Farmer & Alex Case, Decatur County Co-op*

**Managing Carbon to Nitrogen Ratios**, *Barry Fisher, NRCS & Hans Kok, ICCI*

**Soil Compaction**, *Hans Kok, ICCI*

**Using Cover Crops to Improve Economics**, *Jim Hoorman, OSU Extension*

**Practical Cover Crop Integration**, *Barry Fisher, NRCS*

**Economic Impact**, *Barry Fisher, NRCS*

**Local Conservation Partnership Assistance**, *Mike Hughes, NRCS*

Lunch will be provided by the Indiana Soybean Alliance and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council. Please RSVP to the Decatur County SWCD at 812-663-8685 x3 by July 11th.

### SWCD Board of Supervisors

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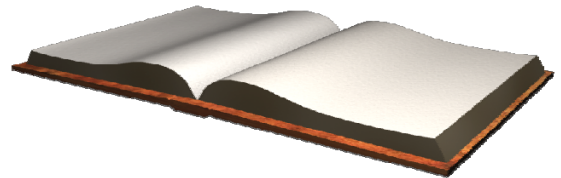
## Plat Books

We are currently getting new plat books created for 2011.

The plat books should be in sometime this fall. If you

would like to be notified when the plat books are available please let us know by calling the office at 812-663-8685 x3.

If you would like to advertise your business please contact our office by July 30th for more information.



## Forestry/Wildlife Field Day

Planning is in the works for a Wildlife/Forestry Field Day at Raver Farms in September.

Tentative speakers are Chris Grauel, Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist; Rob McGriff, Department of Natural Resources District Forester; and Mike Hughes, NRCS District Conservationist.

Look for more information in the Fall newsletter.



## Earth Team Volunteer



Corbin Robbins is back for a second summer as an Earth Team Volunteer for the Decatur County NRCS and SWCD office. He graduated from South Decatur High School in 2009 and has attended IUPUC for the past two years. Corbin will attend Purdue University this fall for his junior year where he plans to study for a degree in Agricultural Economics. This summer he will be helping around the office and assisting the technical staff with field work.

A big thank you to Corbin for volunteering with us for the summer!

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## Grant Funds Available for Cover Crops in Sand Creek Watershed

The SWCDs of Bartholomew, Decatur, and Jennings Counties have recently begun promoting a cost-share project which is part on the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI), an effort to reduce the amount of pollutants going downstream to the Gulf of Mexico. The area involved includes the Sand Creek Watershed portion of Jennings County and parts of southwestern Decatur and southeastern Bartholomew Counties.

As a result of the three SWCDs' efforts, special cost share funds are available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Eligible practices include cover crops, nutrient management, and guided stalk sampling. Response to this program has been so great that the demand for funds in 2011 has exceeded the available EQIP money. As a result, the SWCDs have decided to provide cost-share funds for cover crops from a Clean Water Indiana grant they will be receiving from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. Farmers who apply cover crops on cropland will be eligible to receive an incentive payment of \$10.00 per acre.

Interested farmers in the Sand Creek Watershed should apply early so that the SWCDs will be able to allocate funds. Because of expected demand for the funds, applications will be ranked using similar criteria as is used for EQIP ranking. Priority will be given to those who applied for EQIP funds but were not approved due to lack of funds. For more information, contact the Decatur County SWCD at 812-663-8685 x3.

**Have household batteries or printer cartridges that need recycled?  
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## Upcoming Events

July 4: Independence Day (OFFICE CLOSED)  
July 5: Board Mtg @ 7pm at USDA Service Center  
August 1: Board Mtg @ 7pm at USDA Service Center  
September 5: Labor Day (OFFICE CLOSED)  
September TBA: Board Mtg @ 7pm at USDA Service Center  
October 3: Board Mtg @ 7pm at USDA Service Center  
October 10: Columbus Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

## Rental/Sales Information

- \* Decatur County Soil Survey data is available in several different formats—FREE
- \* Straw blower rental: \$55 for half day, \$25 additional half day
- \* No-till drill rental: 10' wide model—\$10/acre

## *Wetland/HEL Determinations*

If you are needing a wetland or highly erodible land determination on your farm, please remember that it is imperative to allow adequate time for the determination to be completed before you are ready to begin working. Determinations should be requested **at least three months** before you are ready to begin. Please see FSA to fill out the proper paperwork.

### **Decatur County SWCD Mission**

To promote the wise use of our soil, water, and related natural resources. Each county in Indiana has a soil and water conservation district (SWCD). SWCDs are subdivisions of state government led by a 5 member board of supervisors. SWCDs determine and address natural resource needs in their counties. SWCDs address issues such as agricultural conservation, urban conservation, forestry, wildlife, water management, and natural resource education.

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