

CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
MARSHALL COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2903 GARY DRIVE PLYMOUTH IN 46563
574-936-2024 X 3



Sept/Oct 2017

www.marshallcountyswcd.org

Fall

Some Things Never Change

I recently received a very interesting email article from the Director of North Central Region Water Network and thought it was worth sharing.

Director Rebecca Power wrote that her sister shared a newspaper article with her. It was from October 14, 1893.

Saving Manures. *“It is not necessary for Experiment Stations to tell us that manures, kept continually exposed to rain and sun, must lose their essential elements, and that, too, very rapidly. We see very often streams of dark, black liquid issuing from fertilizer heaps, and perhaps running down some slope into pond or brook, where the crops are not liable to receive much benefit from them. Why are these leaks permitted and how remedied, are the questions. The first is hard to answer, but the second is no very difficult solution. Mix manure liberally with absorbents, and keep under cover.”*

“The matter of saving manure can not be looked in-to too closely. It is folly to depend on commercial fertilizers when much of our own manure goes to waste.”

Rebecca concludes “A lot has changed since 1893 however, we cannot lose hard-fought lessons that are still valid today. We know that composting, saving, and properly distributing manure nutrients makes sense for agriculture.

And while the article said we didn't need the Experiment Stations to tell us that, we do need someone to keep speaking up. Perhaps the Experiment Stations, the Extension system founded nearly 20 years later, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, conservation NGOs, local conservation districts, and insightful farmer and ag industry organizations, all working together, can help us keep ideas that have anchored agriculture and rural communities for hundreds and probably thousands of years front and center.”



Interesting that we are still struggling with the same problems as they did in 1893.



Cover Crop Field Day Oct. 25 9:00 am—Noon EST

1400 Miami Trail ~ Bremen. Come hear Dr. Jennifer Tank in the morning and harvest beans in the afternoon! Also learn about equipment modifications and tour demonstration cover crop fields. For more information, call the office or visit our website www.marshallcountyswcd.org.

Farming for the Future Nov. 9 9:00—4:00 CST

A full day in Jasper County of mini-sessions, talks from Ray Archuleta~Soil Health Guru, and Dr. Armstrong ~Purdue University, 28 strips of cover crops, farmer to farmer discussions and cover crop equipment of all types.

For more information visit www.jaspercountyswcd.org/upcoming-events/

RSVP REQUIRED!



GO GREEN!

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River Rafting



Arrow Head Country RC&D Education Committee completed another successful year of river rafting. For 6 days in September the Education Committee, made up of District employees from 10 counties, takes to the Tippecanoe River to teach high school students about water quality. Different schools attend each day bringing between 80 and 100 students. This is a huge task that requires about 30 adult volunteers each day and the cooperation of multiple agencies. Marshall County SWCD is proud to serve on this committee.

Financial Assistance Opportunities



We are completing the second year of a three year grant from Clean Water Indiana (CWI) for financial assistance to Marshall County producers for new practices of cover crops, nutrient management programs, no-till, filter strips or pollinator habitats.

A second CWI grant is available for the installation of rain gardens. A demonstration garden was recently installed along the Greenways Trail in Centennial Park. Both grants target water quality issues in Marshall County.

For more information on CWI funds please call Debbie at 574-936-2024 x 3.

NRCS will begin accepting applications for fiscal year 2018 for EQIP, CSP and WRE beginning October 1, 2017. These are competitive programs and will be ranked against other applications from across the state. If you would like more information about any NRCS programs please call Troy at 574-936-2024 x 3.

USDA and the Marshall County SWCD prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

Conservation: the careful maintaining and protection of something valuable especially in its natural or original state

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