

Winter 2015/16

BROWN COUNTY

Conservation Newsletter



Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District
802 Memorial Drive • PO Box 308 • Nashville, IN 47448 • 812-988-2211

District Manager Notes

First off, I hope you all had a happy holiday season! Although I wasn't here for most of 2015, I can assure you it was a successful year for the Brown County SWCD. We participated in many educational programs and community events. We said goodbye to Cathy Paradise after 32 wonderful years as District Manager. 2016 will be a year of trying and learning but I am excited for the challenges ahead of me.

Many blessings to you in 2016,

Allison Rubeck

63rd Annual Meeting

Please join us March 15th at 6:00 pm for the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place at the Brown County Historical Society Building which is located in Nashville on Locust Lane, across from the County Annex Building. Commissioner and local historian, Diana Biddle, will be giving a presentation about Brown County History. We will have an election of a supervisor. Soup and desserts will be served. Tickets are \$5.00 presale or \$8.00 at the door and children under 5 are free. To make reservations, call or stop by the SWCD office.

*Attention: The 2016 NRCS EQIP application
deadline has been extended to January 22nd!*

District Staff:

Allison Rubeck, District Manager

Supervisors:

Laura Young, Chair

Bonnie Closey, Vice Chair

Al Weber

Keith Kirk

Charles Shaw

Associates:

Jeannie Shaw

Alice Lorenz

NRCS District Conservationist:

Cara Bergschneider

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We love to see those worms working in the dirt

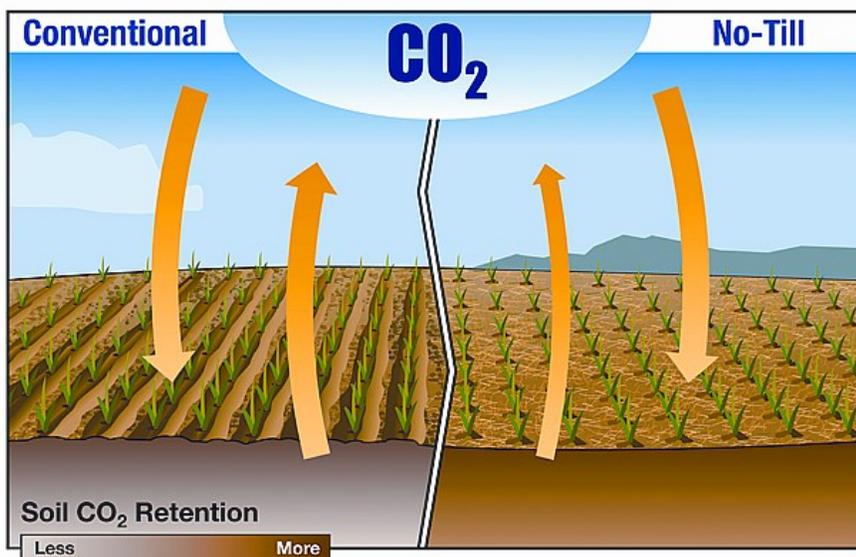
Indiana no-tiller will do what it takes to promote worm activity in his soils.

By Tom Bechman

Published on: Indiana Prairie Farmer, Dec 29, 2015

If there is a tougher place to make a living farming in Indiana than Brown County, let this farmer know. He's making it happen, adapting conservation tillage and cover crops to his farm to help him get the most out of the hand that he was dealt. Doug Payne, Nashville, actually doesn't farm that much rolling land. Instead, he farms a lot of creek bottom land that lies in the valleys between hills, many of which are wooded in Brown County. He and his dad began no-tilling about 20 years ago. They still try different tillage systems, and they're committed to reaping benefits from cover crops, even though they already know firsthand that they don't work every year. "What we want to see are worms in the dirt," Payne emphasizes. "Cover crops can help encourage that to continue, so we're going to make them work."

Many no-tillers have praised the value of earthworms and red-worms. Some call them their tillage tools. What Payne knows, he says, is that they tend to improve soil health, and produce soil more conducive to growing crops. All that happens in soil which he knows from the start is far short of being the best in the world, or even the best in Indiana. In one of the early years Payne tried cover crops, they were aerially seeded. "It didn't go all that well with stands," he says. But that didn't stop him. Since then he has found out ways to be successful in getting stands more often, and in getting the growth he wants to produce biomass. It's the biomass that helps feed various types of worms in the soil and build up soil health. Different things they have tried for some tillage as they have learned more heavily on no-till includes running a Great Plains Turbo-till, a vertical tillage tool. Payne says he's committed to making cover crops work.



The Mission of the District

is to provide information about soil, water and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; and connect land users to sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

Get Connected

Find us on the web at:

browncountyswcd.com

Like us on [Facebook](#)

(search 'Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District')

Sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter [here](#) or call the office to be added to our mailing list!

On Sale Now!

Stop by the SWCD office to pick up a Brown County Plat Book for only \$15.00, a soil survey book for FREE, also water and soil testing kits (prices vary).

Invasive Species Spotlight: Trees

Winter is a great time to treat invasive trees like Tree of Heaven and Princess Tree. Although it might be hard to identify these species without their leaves, you can look for distinctive bark and twig shape. Follow these simple tips for identifying and treating these invasive species:

- ◆ Tree-of-heaven has smooth stems with pale gray bark and large chestnut brown twigs.
- ◆ Princess tree bark is rough, gray-brown, and interlaced with shiny, smooth areas. Its stems are olive-brown to dark brown, hairy, and flattened at the nodes.
- ◆ Basal bark treatment will be most effective in late winter or early spring. This helps reduce sprouting. Do not treat when snow is on the ground.
- ◆ Use a basal bark treatment with 13-20% triclopyr mixed with 80-87% horticulture oil or basal oil
- ◆ and as always, USE PESTICIDES WISELY



Pictured left to right: Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) twig and bark.



Pictured left to right: Princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) twig and bark.

Photos from Brown County Native Woodlands Project and Virginia Tech Dept. of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation websites.

Upcoming Events



Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday February 3rd 5:00 pm

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday March 2nd 5:00 pm

63rd Annual Meeting
Tuesday April 15th 6:00 pm
Brown County Historical Society

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday April 6th 6:30 pm

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday May 4th 6:30 pm

All Monthly Board Meetings take place in the Community Room at our office unless noted otherwise


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802 Memorial Drive
PO Box 308
Nashville, IN 47448

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