

Conservation COMMENTS

VOLUME 32, ISSUE II

OCTOBER 2017

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Tree & Shrub Orders

Pickup: October 18th

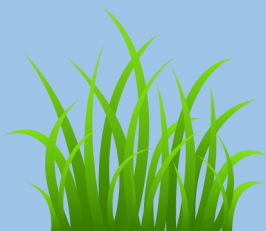
Conservation Cropping Seminar

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Cover Crop Cost Share

Funds Available!

Details on pg. 3



RC HOURS

M	7:30am-4:30pm
T	11am-4:30pm
W	8:30am-2:30pm
F	11am-3pm

(815) 937-8940 ext. 3

www.kankakeecountyswcd.org



2017 TRANSECT SURVEY RESULTS REVEAL FARMING TRENDS

Every other year, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with Illinois' Soil and Water Conservation Districts, completes a Soil Erosion and Cropland Tillage Transect Survey. In May, the Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District (K3SWCD) helped carry out the 2017 Transect Survey for Kankakee County. Tillage data was gathered for corn and soybeans, and information about soil loss and erosion was recorded.

The 2017 Transect Survey results for Kankakee show a decrease in no-till soybeans and an increase in conventional tillage compared to 2015 data. K3SWCD hopes to see this trend reversed. Not only does conventional tillage lead to high levels of erosion, it degrades soil health over time. By using sustainable practices in the present, we can invest in the future.

On a positive note, it is evident that more producers are starting to use cover crops, reducing erosion and nutrient runoff and providing a long list of benefits to the farmer!

If you're interested in trying cover crops for the first time, read more about the Cover Crop Cost Share Program on page 3!

Visit <http://www.kankakeecountyswcd.org/transect-surveys> to view full Transect Survey reports for 2015 and 2017!

Outreach & EDUCATION

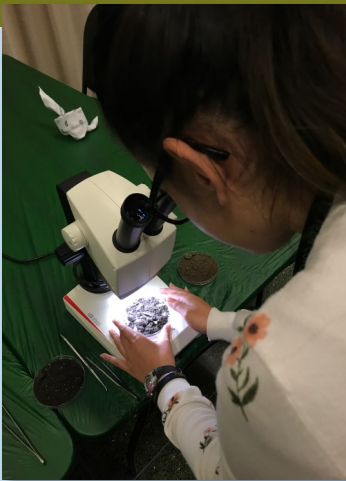
Visit our new website at www.kankakeecountyswcd.org!

CULTIVATING FUTURE EDUCATORS



In March, a valuable connection was made between local farmers and future educators. Dr. Randy Johnson (Olivet Nazarene University) and Jeff O'Connor (K3SWCD director) worked together to bring a group of Olivet students to Jeff's farm in Kankakee. Students that visited OC Farms were taking Dr. Johnson's environmental science course, a class that equips future elementary educators with the knowledge and skill to teach important concepts in science. Johnson's goal was to expose his students to the working agricultural community, and allow them an opportunity to witness the application of environmentally conscious farming practices. For most of the students, this was their first visit to a farm! The trip was a great success, and Dr. Johnson recently brought another group of students to Jeff's farm in September.

2017 TEEN CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



K3SWCD was invited to conduct a soil health workshop at the 2017 Teen Conservation Leadership Conference (TCLC). The TCLC is an event open for teens from all over the Chicagoland area, created by teens, for teens. Jeff (director), Emilie (resource conservationist), Gina and Evan (Jeff's wife and son) had a great time teaching young adults about the importance of soil health and sustainable agriculture. The workshop was a lot of fun! With the help of dissection microscopes provided by Olivet Nazarene University (pictured), students got up close and personal with soil and its creepy crawly inhabitants. The participants walked away with a greater appreciation for our irreplaceable soils!

Did you know?

It takes 500 years to create 1 inch of topsoil!

Protect our soil—every inch!

KNOW YOUR NATIVES—BEES & WASPS

Not all insects are "pests"! Kankakee County is home to many great pollinators, including bees and wasps—yes, wasps are important pollinators, too! Here are a few you may spot buzzing around Kankakee.

Great Black Wasp



Photo by Alex Wild

Size: 1" - 1.5"

European Honey Bee



3/8" to 3/4"

Metallic Green Sweat Bee



7—14 mm

CONSERVATION

Visit our new website at www.kankakeecountyswcd.org!

COVER CROP COST SHARE AVAILABLE

Are you interested in using cover crops for the first time?

Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District has limited funds available to help first-time users offset the cost of planting cover crops. K3SWCD is offering a cost share rate of **\$20 per acre – up to 60 acres** for producers interested in implementing the practice on their farms. Not only does K3SWCD care about helping get cover planted, we want to provide data to show producers their success with using cover crops for the first time. For those involved in the cost share program, K3SWCD will collect samples and carry out a nutrient analysis in the spring, showing how much nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium was sequestered by the cover crop.

Stop in or give us a call at the office at 815.937.8940 ext. 3 to find out more about the Cover Crop Cost Share program. Funds are limited – call soon!

Fill out an application by visiting www.kankakeecountyswcd.org!

2018 CONSERVATION CROPPING SEMINAR COMES TO KANKAKEE



Save The Dates!

Kankakee – Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Olney – Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Peoria – Thursday, January 25, 2018

Visit www.ccsxcd.com for updates & details as plans come together.

Save the Date!

Kankakee County will be hosting one of three Conservation Cropping Seminars. The seminars offer a great way to connect with local producers and learn about best management practices for healthy soils.

The 2018 Cover Cropping Seminar will be held on Tuesday, January 23rd.

More details about event registration, speakers and agenda are coming soon!

SALES

Visit our new website at www.kankakeecountyswcd.org!

2017 FALL FISH SALE A SUCCESS



The 2017 Fall Fish Sale went swimmingly! Twice a year, in the spring and fall, the K3SWCD sells a variety of fish—channel cats, sunfish, largemouth bass, grass carp, and more—to stock the pond.

Keep an eye on our website for our 2018 spring sale!

Thank you Logan Hollow Fish Farm!

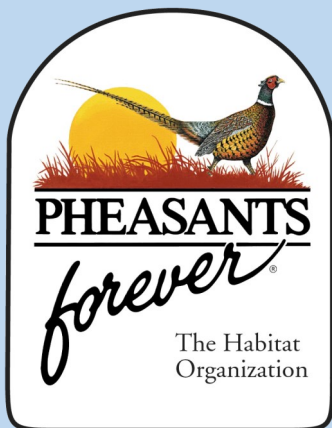
2017 FALL TREE & SHRUB SALE



If you ordered trees from K3SWCD's Fall Tree & Shrub Sale, make sure to pick them up on **October 18th, between 7:30am and 2:30pm**. Pickup is at the SWCD office on Larry Power Road.

K3SWCD offers a variety of trees and shrubs—from oaks to evergreens! If you're interested in purchasing trees and shrubs, keep an eye on our website for our 2018 Spring Tree & Shrub Sale!

POLLINATOR SEED



Do you need to purchase pollinator habitat seed for acreage enrolled in CRP? Are you interested in planting habitat to attract native wildlife? K3SWCD partners with Pheasants Forever to provide diverse, high-quality, long-lasting habitat that meets state and federal conservation standards.

A large variety of seed mixes are available to order through K3SWCD—from basic pollinator mixes to upland game brood habitat.

Give us a call at the office or stop by to place your order!

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