



**Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
 2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-9109  
 Phone: 812-346-3411 Extension 3  
 www.jenningsswcd.org Email: info@jenningsswcd.org

**3rd Quarter Edition Newsletter August 2014**

**Pond Clinic**



**Tuesday, August 26th**  
**5:30—7:30pm**  
**Location: Tom Schneider Farm**  
**510 W County Rd 580 N**  
**North Vernon, IN 47265**  
 For more info call Tom at 346-3760 or  
 Jennings Co. SWCD at 346-3411 ext.3

- \* Fish stocking & management
- \* Pond weed control
- \* Pond site selection
- \* Controlling nuisance wildlife
- \* Fish feeding demonstration
- \* Door Prizes
- \* Drinks provided
- \* Bring your own lawn chair



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## “As the Worm Turns – A Soil Health Saga” Field Day Brings Unique Soil Demonstrations to Indiana

On **August 25<sup>th</sup>**, Indiana farmers and others from the ag industry will have the opportunity to see the benefits of no-till and cover crop systems illustrated in a visual, interactive way. Roger Wenning, a farmer affiliated with the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) and chairman of the Decatur County Soil & Water Conservation District board, will host the “As the Worm Turns – A Soil Health Saga” field day at his farm near Greensburg.

Roger Wenning has been featured in the ag media for his efforts in soil health on his land. Through a no-till and cover crop system, he has increased his soil’s organic matter from 1-1.5% to 2.3%, increasing the water holding capacity of the soil, reducing the nutrients lost, and improving its resiliency during flood and drought.

Among other soil health advocates and conservationists, the field day will feature Frank Gibbs, a Certified Professional Soil Scientist and Certified Crop Advisor known for unique field demonstrations. One of his signature demonstrations is making soil “smoke” to show how earthworms improve soil quality and internal drainage.

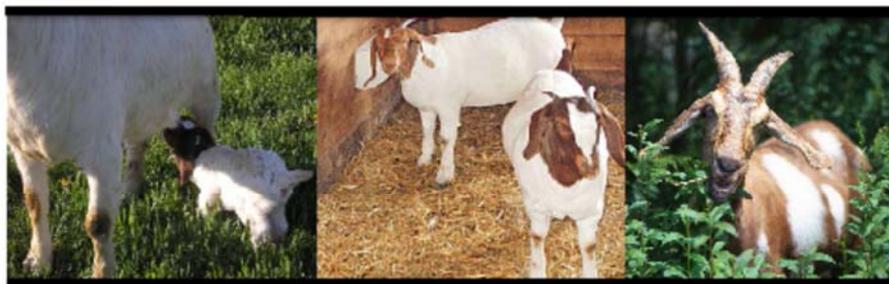
Gibbs’ smoke test is a powerful visual demonstration of the impacts of conservation cropping systems. Gibbs pumps smoke through the tile in long-term no-till soil and the smoke rises to the surface through earthworm channels and macropores. Dave Robison, creator of PlantCoverCrops.com provides a video for those unfamiliar with this concept.

Wenning said, “When I saw the video from one of Frank’s demonstrations, I thought it was very intriguing. We’ve been doing field days here for several years and thought we’d show something different, and Frank is different.”

In addition to the smoke demonstration, Hans Kok of Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative will also use a rain simulator. These presentations will help attendees to see the effects of a long-term no-till system on soil. Kok said, “In a long-term no-till system, especially one that incorporates cover crops, earthworms and old root paths form an intricate web of channels that help soil to act like a sponge for water and nutrients. With this kind of system, earthworms really are a tillage tool of choice.”

The “As the Worm Turns – A Soil Health Saga” field day will be held at Roger Wenning’s Farm near Greensburg from **9 am to 4:30 pm**. The event is free but **registration is required by August 20<sup>th</sup>**. A full agenda, directions, and registration is available at <http://www.WenningFieldDay14.eventbrite.com>.

# Goat Field Day



**Friday, August 22, 2014, 3PM – 8PM**  
Kinder-Smith Farm, 3615 W County Road 600 S, North Vernon, IN 47265

## Topics to be Discussed

- \*Registration begins at 3 PM
- Pasture Grazing and Nutrition
- FSA Livestock Program
- Parasite Management
- Prevention of Common Diseases
- Tour Brewer Livestock:
  - Meat Goat Processing
  - Meat Goat Quality

## For More Information

Contact Josey Huffmeyer  
Jennings County Extension  
(812) 352-3033  
[inhuffmeyer@purdue.edu](mailto:inhuffmeyer@purdue.edu)  
or  
Bob Steiner  
Jennings County SWCD  
(812) 346-3411 X3  
[Bob.steiner@in.usda.gov](mailto:Bob.steiner@in.usda.gov)

## Admission:

\$5 per person. A meal will be provided with the admission price. Please let us know if you have special dietary needs.

**RSVP by August 19 - Please call: (812) 352-3033**

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## Cover Crop Assistance Available from SWCD

Farmers interested in planting cover crops on their crop fields this fall may be able to get financial assistance through a program recently announced by the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Applications are being taken now with priority given to those who have never used cover crops in their farming operation. Cost-share rates range from \$15 to \$25 per acre. Several applications have already been received so approval will be based on funds availability.

There will be a limit of 100 acres approved per farm entity. The cover crops must be planted according to dates recommended by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, using approved seed and seeding rates.

Application forms can be obtained by visiting or calling the SWCD at 812-346-3411 X3. Cover crops, especially when combined with no-till planting, can be one of the best methods to control soil erosion and improve the quality of the soil. This is a chance to get started using the practice with some of the cost offset by the SWCD program. There is a limited amount of funding, so anyone interested is encouraged to apply soon.

**Jennings County SWCD  
2600 N. State Hwy 7  
North Vernon, IN 47265**

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## **YOUR JENNINGS COUNTY CONSERVATION TEAM**

### **SWCD Staff**

*Robert Steiner, Executive Director  
Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant  
Denise Dailey, Rule 5 Consultant*

### **NRCS STAFF**

*Jenny Vogel, District Conservationist*

### **SWCD Supervisors**

*Brad Ponsler, Chairman  
Dan Megel, Vice-Chairman  
Jerry St. John  
Matt Branham  
Nathan Burbrink  
Associate Supervisor  
Don Biehle  
Rob McGriff  
Tom Schneider*

### **Calendar of Events**

**Aug. 22, 2014 Goat Field Day at Kinder-Smith Farm**

**Aug. 25, 2014 Soil Health Field Day at Wenning Farms 9am—4:30pm**

**Aug. 26, 2014 Pond Clinic at Tom Schneider's Pond 5:30—7:30pm**

**Sept. 23, 2014 Board Meeting 7pm at USDA Service Center**

**Oct. 28, 2014 Board Meeting 7pm at USDA Service Center**

*Jennings County Soil and Water  
Conservation District*

*Office Hours*

*Monday—Friday*

*8:00 am until 4:00 pm*

*Phone (812) 346-3411 ext 3*

*Fax 855-496-7857*

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