

CLARK COUNTY SWCD ANNOUNCES COVER CROP PROGRAM

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is pleased to announce the start of its Cover Crop Cost Share Program. Funded through a Clean Water Indiana grant, the program's purpose is to improve the water quality of our county by reducing the amount of nutrients, pesticides, and sediment entering our county's waterbodies. Cover crops are a logical way to do this as they help prevent loss of soil and nutrients on crop ground between planting seasons.

Under this program, landowners will receive a \$15 per acre incentive payment, on a maximum of 40 acres, for utilizing cover crops as part of their production management. The following are guidelines of the Cover Crop program:

- Applications are due to the SWCD office by close of business September 24, 2010. An aerial photo of the land must accompany the application with farm and tract # identified. Approved applicants will be notified no later than October 1, 2010.
- Incentives will be offered on a first come-first serve basis.
- In the event that more dollars are available after all applications have been considered, landowners will be given the opportunity to receive payment for additional acres.
- Land must be located in Clark County, but may be owned/farmed by someone residing outside of the county. If a farmer is renting the ground, he must have the landowner sign the application so that the landowner is aware of the agreement and conditions.
- Producers will be allowed the opportunity to utilize one of the SWCD's GPS units in their crop production if they so desire. There will be no charge for the first use.
- Acceptable fall-seeded cover crops are: Annual ryegrass, cereal rye, winter wheat, winter triticale, and field peas/winter peas. Fly Free Date is October 6.
- Priority will be given to land located within Silver Creek or Fourteen-Mile Creek watersheds.
- Priority will also be given to land not currently enrolled in a NRCS program.
- Harvesting or grazing will not be allowed on the acres cost-shared by this program.
- Cover crops must be in the field, and receipts for seed purchased must be submitted to the SWCD office, by close of business October 30th to receive the incentive payment. Crops will be field verified.

For more information, or to sign up for the Cover Crop Program, please contact the Clark County SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, or visit us at 9608 Highway 62, Charlestown.