

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

Volume 5, Issue 1

Fall 2005

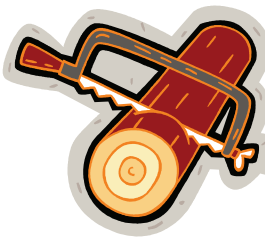
CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ISDA Unveils Strategic Plan

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), now in its infant stage, has unveiled Possibilities Unbound: The Plan for 2025, Indiana Agriculture's Strategic Plan. Rollout of the plan began in mid-May of this year, covering four days and ten tour stops.

The plan outlines the vision for Indiana to become a global center for food and agriculture innovation and commercialization. It lays out seven strategies to accomplish that vision:

* **Hardwoods**—Increase the cost-competitiveness of Indiana's high quality hardwood products.



* **Bio-energy**—Maximize Indiana's

competitive advantage in agriculturally derived energy.

* **Regulatory Coordination**—Ensure that agricultural regulatory standards are science-based and do not impede economic development.

* **Pork**—Double hog production by adopting breakthrough technologies in environmental and animal welfare management.

* **Diversity of Production**—Lead the nation in identifying diversification strategies that enhance the economic viability of producers of different sizes and areas of production.

* **Food Processing**—Incubate innovative food products that use Indiana agricultural commodities to support nutritious



and healthy diets.

* **Federal Farm and Trade Policy**—Establish a State leadership role in formulating U.S. agricultural and trade policy to promote sustainable economic competitiveness.

ISDA notes that the plan is a work in progress that will set the course of Indiana's agriculture over the next several years. It is also a flexible plan that will be reviewed with the newly created Agricultural Advisory Board to consider changing forces and emerging issues that may require a change in planning or operations. Look for announcements, updates, and more details on ISDA's website: www.in.gov/isda.

Inside this issue:

USDA Rolls Out New Soil Survey	2
Tree Seedling Order Forms Now Available	2
Soybean Rust On The Move	3
Make Those Winter Preparations	3
Now Is The Time to Seed Critical Areas	4

The *Conservation Quarterly* is distributed free of charge on a quarterly basis.

The Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. The five-member board of supervisors, representing local interests, hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month at our office. Please call for meeting start times. The public is encouraged to attend.

Supervisors: Sam Hagest, Chairman; Dana Coots, Vice-Chairman; Amil Kleinert, Joe Madison, and Peg Wright, members



You Know You're A Farmer If...

..you have animals living in buildings more expensive than your house

..your dog rides in the truck more than your wife

..you've never thrown away a five gallon bucket

..your family weddings and special events are planned around seeding, spraying and harvesting.



Tree seedlings will once more be available to Indiana landowners this year through the IDNR Division of Forestry nursery in Vallonia, IN. These trees may be used for reforesta-

USDA Rolls Out New Soil Survey

The USDA rolled out the new "digitized" version of the Soil Survey in August, allowing secure public access to the national soils information system, and making soils information more accessible to citizens.

Soil surveys began in 1899 as part of the nation's earliest efforts on behalf of cooperative conservation. Known as the National Cooperative Soil Survey, it has evolved into a partnership of state and federal agencies working together to collect, classify, interpret and provide soils information.

The website gives you to the option to

Define, View, or Explore the survey. Viewers can "Define" a geographic area of interest (AOI) by selecting a state and county or by highlighting an area. The resulting map and related information can then be printed, saved to disk, or downloaded for use in a GIS (geographic information system).

"Exploring" an AOI gives the viewer important information on soil suitability in relationship to usage. Customized reports can also be built to suit the viewer's needs.

Soil survey maps were traditionally printed and bound into soil survey

books that were free to the public at local USDA Service Centers and NRCS field offices. These familiar publications will now be phased out slowly as the federal government's initiative of electronic government information (eGov) replaces them.

At present, NRCS has soils maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. For Clark County, map sheets are available for viewing, but the manuscript is not. To view the website, go to <http://soils.usda.gov/survey>.

Tree Seedling Order Forms Now Available

tion, erosion control, wildlife habitat development, watershed improvement, wetlands enhancement, windbreak, or other conservation purposes.

Order forms are now available at the Clark County SWCD office for the Fall 2005 sea-

son. Forms may also be obtained on the internet by visiting www.IN.gov/dnr/forestry.

To be eligible for the lottery drawing, orders must be received by 4 p.m., October 21st. There is a \$10.00, non-refundable processing fee for each

order.

Help in deciding which species to plant may be obtained from Clark County's District Forester, Don Stump. He may be contacted at the Clark State Forest office, (812) 294-4306, or by email at disfor8@protegra.net.

Soybean Rust On The Move

Caused by the *Phakopsora pachyrhizi* fungus, Asian soybean rust was first discovered in Japan in 1902, and is now on the move in the continental United States. Nine Southeastern/Midwestern states have been affected thus far; Putnam County, Georgia, has been confirmed as the northern-most point of infection.

Although there have been no reports in Indiana as yet, growers should be cautious. The following are management tips to identify and control rust:

Scout frequently—at least once a week. Focus on early planted fields with early maturing varieties, low lying or protected fields with prolonged dew periods, and fields with early canopy closure.

Collect samples carefully—Keep leaves flat by placing them between paper towels or pieces of paper. Put each sample in a self-locking plastic bag and refrigerate. Submit them immediately to the state diagnostic lab: Plant & Pest Diagnostic Laboratory, Purdue University, 765-494-7071.

Consider preventative fungicide use—If soybean rust is confirmed in your area, contact the County Extension Agent immediately about a preventative fungicide application. Once rust is found in your fields, you will need to switch to a curative fungicide treatment.

Consider crop insurance—Soybean rust is insured under the Federal Crop Insurance

Program, but damage due to insufficient or improper fungicide applications is not covered. Consult your crop insurance agent for the terms of your policy.

Watch for resistant varieties—No commercial U. S. soybean cultivars are known to be resistant to soybean rust at this time, but may be in the future. Soybean check-off dollars have been invested in breeding for rust resistance since 2001.

Most importantly, **get familiar with rust**—the most effective means of rust treatment is early detection. Soybean rust is similar looking to several diseases: bacterial blight, bacterial



Dark brown lesions caused by Asian soybean rust.

postule, downy mildew, cercospora blight, frogeye leaf spot, and brown spot.

The USDA now maintains a web site to track rust movement at www.usda.gov/soybeanrust. You may also contact your County Extension Agent for information on the spread of rust.

Make Those Winter Preparations

Although it's hard to imagine with all the hot weather we've experienced this summer, but winter will soon be upon us. Whether you're winterizing your home, barns, or livestock, it's better to act now than when that foot of snow hits. Here are a few suggestions:

Tractors:

Inspect your tractor's hydraulic, fuel and electrical systems

Lube the engine with a lighter-weight winter oil

Check the antifreeze

In the barn:

Eliminate drafts, but don't close the barn up tight—ventilation is vital to prevent respiratory problems

Service heaters and well pumps, check well house insulation

Make repairs, give your barn a thor-

ough cleaning, and check fences

Livestock:

Livestock require additional energy during cold months; know your animal's needs and have an emergency supply on hand

Water is an essential nutrient; tank heaters and heated automatic waterers are good investments

Keep water tanks clean



**CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Now Is The Time to Seed Critical Areas

Critical area planting. What is it? Planting vegetation, such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes, on badly eroding or critically eroding areas.

How does it work? The vegetation provides surface cover to stop the raindrop splash and slow water flow.

Why do it? To reduce soil erosion, improve water quality by reducing amounts of sediment and runoff to downstream areas, protect areas such as gullies or terraces that are difficult to stabilize, and provide wildlife habitat.

Where do you start?

Have a soil test done on the critical area to determine the amounts of lime and/or fertilizer needed.

Prepare the site, shaping it to the final grade, including installation of any measures to provide drainage, and needed erosion control practices.

How, what, and when should you plant?

Work the seedbed to a depth of 2-3 inches and incorporate lime and fertilizer.

Seed the area at the recommended rates during the March 1st to May 10th or August 1st to September 30th seeding period*. Tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, creeping red fescue, orchardgrass, red or alsike clover, red top, and switchgrass can be used depending on the drainage conditions of the site.



After working the seedbed, pack it prior to seeding to firm the seedbed. Seed with a drill or packer/seeder (preferred) or broadcast the seed. Pack again after seeding if the seed is broadcast. Maximum seeding depth should be 1/4" to 1/2" deep.

An erosion control blanket or straw mulch is critical to the success of seeding. Blankets should be installed following manufacturer's directions; mulch should be cover with netting or crimped into the soil.

**Sites constructed at times other than the spring and fall seeding periods should be seeded with a temporary cover to provide protection until the next seeding period.*