

CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
MARSHALL COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2903 GARY DRIVE PLYMOUTH IN 46563
574-936-2024 X 3



March 2018

www.marshallcountyswcd.org

Spring

Dicamba RUP—*Restricted Use Pesticide*

As farmers across Indiana prepare for a new season, they will face new requirements to use a familiar weed killer: dicamba.

Dicamba is not new. What is new is the recent development of crop varieties with resistance to the herbicide, which has led to a dramatic increase in the number of complaints of damage to neighboring crops that are not dicamba resistant.

In 2017, The Office of Indiana State Chemist received 257 total drift complaints, 129 were dicamba related (none in Marshall County). Arkansas, which leads the nation in dicamba complaints, had 596. These numbers represent an alarming increase over previous years and individual states have taken different approaches to

solving the problem. Arkansas and Missouri have passed bans on the use of the chemical. Indiana has designated dicamba a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP).



Last month, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph Soil and Water Conservation Districts hosted a workshop to provide dicamba training, as well as present information on improving soil health. I was encouraged by the large turnout and am hopeful that dicamba drift damage will continue to be a non-issue in Marshall County.

To paraphrase the presenter at the workshop, if the number of complaints don't decrease significantly, dicamba will be federally banned and there isn't anything else being developed. It's not easy to follow all

the label requirements, but it is necessary.

RAIN GARDENS— Plant One and *Slow the Flow*

Cost Share Available!



New development continues to replace green space with impervious surfaces like rooftops, paved streets, driveways, sidewalks and parking lots. This increases the amount and velocity of storm water flowing into our local water bodies, carrying pollutants with it.

Rain gardens are an attractive, landscaped area slightly lower than ground level, designed to capture and filter rain water run off from impervious surfaces.

Rain Garden Workshop: April 28th Moon Tree Studios
For more information www.moontreestudios.org



GO GREEN!

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Food Plot Seed Give-Away

A food plot offers wildlife a place to forage for food in late fall, winter and early spring after field crops are harvested. Food plots are an excellent choice to encourage wildlife survival. Deer, quail, turkey, rabbits and songbirds benefit from these food plots. Seed should be planted in the spring and left standing over winter.

As in the past, Marshall County SWCD will have sorghum, sunflower and soybean seeds to give away. Please call 574-936-2024 x 3 to inquire about availability. Seed is distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

Upcoming Events

Shoreline Health—Stabilization Techniques & Permitting—April 19th—Wild Rose Moon, 7-8:30 pm

Celebrate Agriculture in Marshall County—Marshall County Museum Open House—April 20th, 4-6 pm

Earth Day— April 22nd. Look for events at River Park Square

Rain Garden Workshop—Moon Tree Studios, Donaldson—April 28, 9:00 am—noon

More information about each of these events can be found at www.marshallcountyswcd.org

The County Highway Department is asking for your cooperation when planting corn. Please allow an adequate area for visibility at intersections. Thank you—your cooperation is appreciated.

USDA and the Marshall County SWCD prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

Conservation: the careful maintaining and protection of something valuable especially in its natural or original state

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