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50th

Anniversary

1951 - 2001

SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Danville, Indiana



***Hendricks County
Soil & Water
Conservation District***

We Began With the Ideas of Conservation...

A Land Ethic

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise...

We abuse the land because we regard it as a community belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals. Food chains are the living channels which conduct energy upward; death and decay return it to the soil. The circuit is not closed; ...but it is a sustained circuit like a slowly augmented revolving fund of life...

Aldo Leopold
Pioneer of Conservation

Conservation is a cause that has no end. There is no point that we will say our work is finished.

Rachel Carson
Pioneer of Conservation

Productive land is much more limited than commonly has been supposed... It is not permanent. Once the fertile topsoil is washed or blown away, it cannot be restored or replaced in any practical way for generations... We cannot dig deeper into the earth and find new productive soil. We cannot pump it from wells, plant it with seeds, or dig it from mines. We must keep what we have or do without... Productive land is the only natural resource without which we cannot live.

Hugh Hammond Bennett
First Chief of the Soil Conservation Service

The soil resources of Hendricks County are in process of deterioration. Natural forces, aided and abetted by counter-natural farm practices, past and present, are credited with the responsibility for this disturbing situation. Natural laws have been in operation for too long to reasonably expect any great alterations in their routine; so the only logical approach to the problem is a concerted effort on the part of farmers to conform their methods to the constructive, rather than the destructive forces of Nature.

J. Benjamin Edmondson, Chairman
First Board of Supervisors
Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District
September 25, 1951

...and Helped People Work With the Land on Our Farms and in Our Developing Communities.



N.C. Brown (left) and Conservation Technician David Sowers look over a new animal waste holding pond. 1973.



District Supervisors tour Harold Hiser's new pond. From left: Harold Hiser (kneeling), Fred Worrell, Robert Edmondson, Dewey Elmore, George Ross, Don Lawson. 1973.



1980s no-till field day.



1990s urban conservation field day. Developer Chuck Foggatt (left foreground) and IDNR Stormwater Specialist Doug Wolf (right foreground).



Jerry Bishop no-till corn. 1981.



D. C. Bill Swern and Russ Krongenberger examine Fox soil profile. 1952.

District Created in 1951

In the Spring of 1935, in the midst of the Great Depression, a young soil scientist stood before a Senate committee to provide testimony about the need for conserving soil. In this time the midwest and great plains were enduring a prolonged drought while the southeast experienced damaging flooding. There was soil everywhere. Topsoil was in the wind and water, in the yards and streets, in the beds and breakfast dishes of communities everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains. And, all the while the erosion was impoverishing our farmers and their future generations of sons and daughters. The need for a national conservation program was great – but the Nation had other things on its mind too.

An amazing story is told about how the young soil scientist, Hugh Hammond Bennett, bided his time before the committee awaiting the proper moment. It is told that the wind kicked up, the skies darkened, the sun was blotted out and Senators and staff moved to the windows to witness a major dust storm closing in on Washington, DC. No need for further talk. The Congress speedily passed Public Law 46 in 1935 and began the progressive era of soil conservation. The effort has involved thousands of people from all walks of life and opened the door wide for participation of farmers and others in local communities. That's us – we're the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

By 1937, the work of the new Soil Conservation Service was mandated by Congress to be a cooperative venture with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. A standard state district act was provided as a model to states wishing to participate. The word spread and local districts began to be formed all over the nation. Indiana passed its state district law in 1938. The charter for our Hendricks County district was issued under this state law.

In 1951 problems with soil erosion here in Hendricks County demanded the attention of the local farming community and County Agricultural Agent, Harold Yarling. Petitions were circulated by J. Ben Edmondson, Don Lawson, Clifford Hadley, Max McClain and others conducting a referendum to establish a Soil Conservation District. On May 2, 1951, the Indiana Secretary of State issued our Certificate of Organization. J. Benjamin Edmondson of Danville and Robert Leak of Lizton were appointed as the first supervisors. On June 14, 1951, Clifford M. Hadley, Ray H. Hunt, and Lawrence W. Stanley were elected to fill out the first Board of Supervisors of the Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District.



From left: Floyd Wildman, J. Ben Edmondson, George Gladden, 1961. Edmondson was first Chairman of Board of Supervisors. Gladden served as Supervisor for 30 years – our longest serving Supervisor.



Ray Hunt. Elected member of first Board of Supervisors. Hands on hips – supervising! Forest and Ralph Hadley making silage.

A Plan for Action 1951

The newly formed Soil and Water Conservation District adopted its first program and work plan on September 25, 1951. Here are a few highlights from that document:

...(the) overall objective was to stimulate interest through organized effort among the citizens in conserving the soil, forest and water resources of the county.

...Basically, the problem involved is one of education. Most farmers readily accept any conservation plans that carry a reasonable promise of increased income; but far too many farmers are not yet convinced that there is a positive and favorable relationship between such practices and the income they realize from their farms. Herein lies the main field of educational effort.

The education program was focused on:

- (a) The Individual Farmer is the unit of activity. He is the one who must first be convinced of the importance, in dollars and cents, of scrutinizing his own farming methods for weak spots in his treatment of the soil.*
- (b) No Town or City can exist independent of the rural population surrounding it.. A persistent effort to bring both rural and urban people to the point of accepting the conservation of the soils as a common problem is an important phase of the educational program. It is hoped that this may be accomplished through the activities of such organizations as Commercial Clubs, Civic Clubs, Farm Bureau, Conservation Groups, etc.*
- (c) Farm Planning as a means of determining the capacity of each acre to produce is an effective approach to the problem.*

Issues to be addressed by the new District included: sheet and gully erosion, rotation studies, improvement of pastures, efficient land use, livestock balance, organic matter, field arrangement, drainage, woodland management and water conservation.

Cooperating groups and agencies to do the work included: County Extension Service, Purdue Extension Service, United States Soil Conservation Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Educational Institutions, Conservation Department, Farm Organizations, Civic and Commercial Organizations, and Newspapers and Radio.

Duties of the Board of Supervisors included clearing and prioritizing all requests for assistance by farmers in the District; keeping records of requests received and noting accomplishments; represent the District in all policy matters; conduct elections of supervisors; and hold regular monthly meetings and an annual meeting.

District Supervisors 1951 - Present Day

<i>J. Ben Edmondson</i>	<i>1951 – 1960</i>	<i>Bill Rawlings</i>	<i>1981 – 1992</i>
<i>Lawrence Stanley</i>	<i>1951 – 1962</i>	<i>Sam Himsel</i>	<i>1982 – 1985</i>
<i>Ray Hunt</i>	<i>1951 – 1954</i>	<i>Mike Whicker</i>	<i>1983 – 1986</i>
<i>Clifford Hadley</i>	<i>1951 – 1968</i>	<i>Hal Truax</i>	<i>1985 – 1994</i>
<i>Robert Leak</i>	<i>1951 – 1958</i>	<i>Doug Burnell</i>	<i>1986 – 1995</i>
<i>Donald Lawson</i>	<i>1962 – 1982</i>	<i>Mike Whicker</i>	<i>1987 – 1989</i>
<i>Glendon Alexander</i>	<i>1954 – 1959</i>	<i>Jim Loughmiller</i>	<i>1990 – Present</i>
<i>Max McClain</i>	<i>1956 – 1968</i>	<i>Charles Gladden</i>	<i>1992 – 1994</i>
<i>Harlan Truax</i>	<i>1959 – 1969</i>	<i>Keith Brock</i>	<i>1993 – 1995</i>
<i>George Gladden</i>	<i>1959 – 1991</i>	<i>Mike Warner</i>	<i>1994 – 1999</i>
<i>Dewey Elmore</i>	<i>1963 – 1976</i>	<i>Larry Pensinger</i>	<i>1995 – 2000</i>
<i>Keith Garner</i>	<i>1967 – 1977</i>	<i>Mike Quinn</i>	<i>1995 – 1997</i>
<i>Fred Worrell</i>	<i>1969 – 1976</i>	<i>David Wyeth</i>	<i>1996 – Present</i>
<i>Howard Conley</i>	<i>1972 – 1987</i>	<i>Greg Hardin</i>	<i>1998 – Present</i>
<i>Harry Norman</i>	<i>1975 – 1981</i>	<i>Paul Miner</i>	<i>2000 – Present</i>
<i>Ken Edmondson</i>	<i>1976 – 1982</i>	<i>Anthony Povinelli</i>	<i>2001 – Present</i>



Board meeting, 2001. Supervisors seated from left: Dave Wyeth, Paul Miner, Jim Loughmiller (Chairman), and Greg Hardin. (Anthony Povinelli not pictured.) Associate Supervisors standing from left: John Granath, Bill Rawlings, George Gladden, and Olin Rairdon.

Conservation Partnership Staff 1951 – Present Day

Soil Conservation Service / Natural Resources Conservation Service

Work Unit/District Conservationists

Herman Beck 1951 – 1952
William Swern 1952 – 1966
Joe Hays..... 1966 – 1976
Randy Patefield..... 1976 – 1978
Henry Wallis..... 1978 – Present

Soil Conservationists (list may not include all)

<i>Steve Hudkins</i>	<i>Jesse Wilcox</i>	<i>Robert Eddleman</i>
<i>Gary Maners</i>	<i>David Lamm</i>	<i>Susan McLoud</i>
<i>Steve Woll</i>	<i>Brook Pagac</i>	

Soil Conservation Technicians (list may not include all)

<i>James Pratt</i>	<i>Dave Sowers</i>	<i>Gerald Russell</i>
<i>John Wilson</i>	<i>Jeff Coats</i>	<i>Fred Glover</i>

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil Conservation

Bruce Hazelgrove, Erosion Control Technician 1987 – 1989
Jim Woody, Resource Specialist 1989 – Present

District Staff

Marjorie Fisher, Secretary 1966 – 1984
Marlene Raisor, District Administrator 1984 – Present
Joe Mapes, Clean Water Coordinator 1999 – 2000
Jeff Kingdon, Clean Water Coordinator 2000 – Present

319 Grant Staff - mid 1990's

Bill Howard
Erin Whitlock
Jessica Gibbs



Current Staff 2001. From left: Henry Wallis, Jeff Kingdon, Marlene Raisor, Steve Woll and Jim Woody.

50 Years of Conservation

1950's

- ❖ Farm fact: Average farm statewide was 216 acres and farmers made up 12.2 percent of the work force.
- ❖ Farm fact: The number of tractors on farms statewide exceeded the number of horses and mules for the first time.
- May 2, 1951. Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District was officially organized. J. Benjamin Edmondson and Clifford Hadley were the first appointed supervisors.
- The first office of the District was on the 3rd floor on the northwest corner of the courthouse. It was later moved to the 2nd floor of a bank west of the courthouse and then to the Farm Bureau building on Lincoln Street in Danville.
- The District sponsored a Sod-Waterway Demonstration on the farm of E.J. Roberts in August, 1951.
- The first Annual Report of the District at the end of 1952 recorded farm plans completed or in progress for 80 farms covering 11,971 acres. A total of 54 farms were mapped totaling 13,068 acres. Practices reported included 8 acres of contour farming, 50 acres of pasture improvement, 6 farm ponds, 0.9 miles of terraces, 70 acres of farm drainage, 27,690 lineal feet of closed drains and 1.7 miles of waterways.
- The annual meeting held January 8, 1953, was sponsored by implement dealers. Oyster stew was served. Dr. George Scarseth of the American Farm Bureau Research Institute talked about minimum tillage. He had a special planter made up by IH. Remember – no weed control other than cultivating at this time.
- For one meeting in 1953, the newspaper headline read, “Drainage Men And Supervisors Talk Shop (Quite Late) – Coffee and Doughnuts May Have Contributed to Prolonged Affair.”
- Reduced tillage equipment began to appear in the county. Chisel plows were seen. Harlan Truax and John Maloney experimented with chisel plow planters. Marvin Martin had a wheel-track planter.
- On February 27, 1956, the B&O trophy was presented to Fred McAninch. The railroad sponsored a conservation competition for farmers.
- During 1959, supervisors and cooperators went on bus tours of the Mill Creek Watershed and of the Mansfield and Cagles Mill flood control projects. Several preliminary meetings were held to get a Mill Creek Watershed Project underway.



First Land Judging Contest 1952 or '53.



Establishing contour line. Ray Hunt. 1953.



Barnett Ditch after record rainfall, June, 1957.



Barnett Ditch reconstruction 1958-'59.



Early minimum tillage – wheel-track planting. 1958.



IHC minimum tillage planter. 1958.

50 Years of Conservation

1960's

- ❖ Farm fact: Average farm statewide was 303 acres and farmers made up 8.3 percent of the work force.
- ❖ Farm fact: Soybean acreage expanded as farmers used soybeans as an alternative to other crops. Ninety-six percent of statewide corn acreage planted with hybrid seed.
- Office location could be found on Marion St. in Danville across from the Post Office. The office was moved later to its current location on Meadow Drive in Danville.
- On July 14, 1960, the Danville Gazette reported “Recent Rainstorms Cause Damage to Hendricks County Soils by Erosion.” District Conservationist Bill Swern noted that an erosion rill just three inches wide and two inches deep between each corn row amounts to 20 tons of soil loss per acre. Farm planning for conservation is the answer.
- In 1961 the District celebrated its 10th anniversary. The 10-year report noted 363 individual cooperators and 40 group projects. Completed soil and water conservation plans totaled 144. Group projects benefited 14,233 acres. Interest began to increase in the Mill Creek Watershed Project.
- On July 7, 1961, the Danville Gazette reported, “Almost 38,000 Acres in County surveyed for Maps by Scientist.” The article noted possible use of the Soil Survey information for community planning, noting that the county’s poorly drained Crosby and Brookston soils lack qualities for good building sites and particularly septic tank use.
- A 1963 newspaper article reported “North Salem Team Best Soil Judgers.” The team consisted of Willard Snyder, Mike Ross, Steve Hadley and Wayne Reynolds.
- In 1965 the Mill Creek Watershed Project was approved which was an extensive project of conservation practices on farms combined with 44 miles of stream channel improvement and 19 flood retarding structures. Much of the structural part of the project was never built but many farmers engaged in land treatment practices in the watershed.
- In July of 1966, the Hendricks County Council approved funding for the Soil Survey. The cost-share with the SCS was an amount of \$10,000 over a three-year period.
- In 1967 Hendricks County was noted to be the fastest growing county in the state.
- In May of 1969, the Danville Republican reported, “Soil – Water District Takes New Look, Expands Services.” New services included interpretation of soil survey maps for developers, engineers and planners. “Good conservation practices are important to all of us – both urban and rural.”
- A June, 1969 article in the Plainfield Messenger noted: “Urban Living Might Not Be ‘Laugh In.’ ‘Sock-it-to-me’ septic tank filter field problems might well be avoided by home builders by utilizing existing ‘soil survey’ information. For the new urban homeowner, life may start out like a ‘laugh-in,’ but end up as a ‘cry-out’ when the sewage system ceases to function properly.”



Adults from left: Norman Wildman, George Gladden, J. Ben Edmondson, and Floyd Wildman. 1961.



Tiny Groninger working on waterway. 1963.



Partially completed parallel tile outlet terraces on Melvin Buescher farm. 1961.



Bill Swern and Dan Pennington checking waterway. 1961.



Travis-Prichett Group Tile Project. Contractor Sam Dickerson purchased tile machine especially for this 20-inch tile project. Early '60s.



Early minimum tillage. Harlan Truax. 1964.

50 Years of Conservation

1970's

- ❖ Farm fact: Average farm statewide was 390 acres and farmers made up 4.6 percent of the work force.
- ❖ Farm fact: No-tillage agriculture popularized.
- The Brownsburg Guide reported on August 26, 1970 that the White Lick Creek Watershed Development Program included dams and recreational areas on White Lick Creek. The project was sought by SWCDs in Boone, Hendricks, Marion and Morgan counties. The project was never built.
- The Plainfield Messenger reported on November 18, 1970 that the last acre of the Hendricks County Soil Survey was mapped on the Byron Anderson farm in Center Township. The soil survey effort mapped 266,880 acres during a 3 1/2 year period.
- In November of 1971, an article appeared in the Plainfield Messenger that noted how livestock producers were beginning to evaluate waste storage areas. Pictures show new waste storage pits on Donald Good and Marvin Martin's farms. The structures, designed by the SCS staff, and cost-shared through the ASCS, are intended to protect local streams from pollution.
- In 1971, the District celebrated 20 years in operation. Former DNR Director John Mitchell noted that "Water Walking Won't Be a Miracle" if we don't stop polluting our waterways in his address at the 1972 Annual Meeting.
- The Garvey-Neal and the Pollard-Todd drainage ditches south of Brownsburg were renovated and upgraded during 1972 in a cooperative venture between the District, Soil Conservation Service, Hendricks County Drainage Board and cooperating landowners. This improved agricultural and urban drainage in the area and was a \$50,000 project.
- In August, 1974 a "Pay Me Now or Pay Me Later" tour was co-sponsored by the District and the Hendricks County Plan Commission. The tour for local officials stressed the need for urban design that provides for proper drainage and erosion control.
- In July, 1975, the District sponsored a public meeting unveiling the newly published Soil Survey of Hendricks County. Ralph Sturm, Soil Scientist with SCS presented information on how to use the soil survey maps and data.
- In 1976 the District celebrated its 25th anniversary.
- In 1978 all county high school juniors and seniors were invited to compete in a speech contest on conservation sponsored by the District and Hendricks County Farm Bureau. Cash prizes of \$15 for first place, \$10 for second, and \$5 for third were offered by the District. Winners were Doug Prather, Tri-West; Brenda Velasquez, Danville; and Debbie Higgins, Danville.
- In 1978, the District assisted seven Marion Township farmers to apply for funds and install over 40,000 feet of parallel tile outlet terraces. The terraces reduced sediment entering Mill Creek.
- The 1979 Annual Report showed that supervisors Bill Rawlings, Don Lawson, George Gladden, and Associate Supervisor John Hardin, Jr. had assisted the county in rewriting its Master Plan.



Board meeting, 1972. From left seated: George Gladden, Keith Garner, John Randall, Don Lawson, Marjorie Fisher, Fred Worrell, Dewey Elmore, Howard Conley. From left standing: Joe Hays, John Wilson, Joe Wright.



CETA Manpower Youth Ecology Project, 1975. Cleaning up a roadside trash dump.



Bill Rawlings doing final grading on a grade stabilization control structure, 1974. Part of Rawlings group project involving seven other landowners.



Last acre of Hendricks County Soil Survey mapped on November 18, 1970, on the Byron Anderson farm. From left: Joe Hays, Don Ruesch, John Robbins, Don Lawson.



Who are these young guys? From left: Gary Maners, now Asst. State Conservationist and Henry Wallis, D. C. for Hendricks County. 1978.

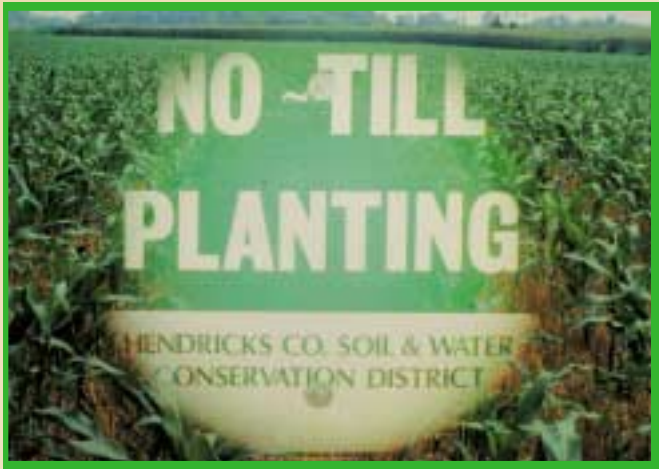


Harold Hiser's pond under construction.

50 Years of Conservation

1980's

- ❖ Farm fact: Average farm statewide was 426 acres and farmers made up 3.4 percent of the work force.
- ❖ Farm fact: One of the worst droughts in the nation's history hit midwestern farmers.
- The 1980s was the era of no-till promotion. Advances in herbicide made this soil conservation technique more practical and popular. Ortho / Chevron in cooperation with the SWCD, and Purdue Extension sponsored a series of no-till field days which toured local no-till fields in the early 80's.
- In 1981, the SWCD made a no-till planter available for lease for farmers who wanted to try the no-till system on their land. The ASCS began a cost-share program to subsidize the use of a no-till planter and providing a percentage of the cost of weed control chemicals.
- In October of 1981, the SWCD was taking orders for the John Deere Ripple-Type Heavy-Duty Tillage Coulters to retrofit the Max-Emerge planter for no-till use.
- Also in 1981, the Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Project was officially authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture. The RC&D functioned to promote and coordinate region-wide natural resource management projects. The first coordinator was Joe Hays. The first RC&D project in Hendricks County, a stream bank stabilization on Cosner Branch near Cartersburg, was completed in March, 1982.
- On July 19, 1982, a soil and water research team from the People's Republic of China visited the Bill Rawlings farm near Danville. One of the team members was Zhang Jinong, China's equivalent of an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Bill was chairman of the SWCD Board of Supervisors at the time. He was able to showcase conservation tillage and other conservation practices.
- On July 13, 1983, the SWCDs of Hendricks and Boone counties held a joint tour of no-till and ridge-till fields. Ninety residents participated in the tour. Farm Bureau Co-op and chemical manufacturers provided transportation and lunch.
- In November, 1984, The Plainfield Messenger reported that local 4-H and FFA youth got advice on soil types from SWCD experts. They learned that, "a dream house is no better than the soil on which it is built."
- In March, 1985, the SWCD made available a no-till drill for county landowners to use on a few acres on an experimental basis. The ASCS had a cost-share program paying 50% of the costs of planter rental and 50% of the costs of a burn down chemical. This service continued for several years.
- Beginning with the 1985 Farm Bill, under the Sodbuster and Swampbuster provisions, for the first time farmers' conservation activity is linked to eligibility to receive USDA farm program benefits.
- In January, 1987, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Hendricks County SWCD and Indiana Association of SWCDs, announced the "T by 2000" program designed to reduce soil erosion throughout the state to rates allowing for soil to be replaced by natural processes. This was a highly successful program of education, promotion of conservation practices and state cost share programs.
- In January of 1989, the Hendricks County Flyer announced a public meeting of a Citizen's Advisory Committee to examine the need for erosion control standards for subdivisions.



The 1980s was a time of no-till success!



A no-till promotion meeting no doubt. From left: Henry Wallis, John Randall and Mike Whicker explain it all.



A 1980 no-till tour.



Bill Rawlings talks no-till and other subjects to a soil and water research team from the People's Republic of China. 1982.



The Rost brothers show off their new terraces. 1980.



District Supervisors and staff. Seated from left: John Randall, Mike Whicker, Hal Truax, Dan Baugh. Standing from left: George Gladden, Henry Wallis, Bill Rawlings, Marlene Raisor, Olin Rairdon, Fred Glover, Bill Howard.

50 Years of Conservation

1990 - 2001

- ❖ Farm fact: Average farm statewide was 461 acres and farmers made up 2.6 percent of the work force.
- ❖ Farm fact: Beginning with the Flavr Savr tomato, the first genetically engineered whole food, use of biotechnology gains in agriculture. Monsanto's Roundup Ready soybeans and Yield Guard corn approved for sale.
- ❖ Community fact: In 1992, Hendricks County was the 5th fastest growing in Indiana based on new housing permits; in 1995, 2nd fastest; and remained in second place in 2000.
- At the January 30, 1990 annual meeting of the District, the "Michael R. Whicker Award for Outstanding Contributions in Conservation" was initiated. The first award was presented to the Mike Whicker family for his contributions as a District Supervisor and leader in conservation.
- In October of 1990, a field day sponsored by the District focused on controlling soil erosion and sedimentation in subdivision development. The tour took place at Stratford of Avon subdivision. Self-guided tours continued throughout October. Eighty-two builders, developers, engineers and county officials from Hendricks, Boone, Hamilton, Marion, Morgan and Putnam counties participated in the tour.
- In March of 1991, low cost well water tests were provided by cooperating partners including the SWCD. Water tests screened for bacteria, nitrates, and the triazine and alachlor herbicide groups; 751 wells were tested with only 1.2% showing contamination indicating that farm chemicals are not a major threat to drinking water supplies within the county. The program was repeated in 2001 with similar results.
- High School Youth Envirothon Teams competed in national scholastic competitions on environmental issues in 1994, and 1996 – 1998. The teams distinguished themselves by winning local, regional and statewide awards.
- Beginning in 1996, the SWCD began to employ an Urban Resource Conservationist to work on a grant project from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The project was geared toward the education of the construction community about best management practices to control urban runoff and sedimentation. With cooperation of Hendricks County government, the position continues to exist today as the Clean Water Coordinator providing technical service to the community and staff assistance to the SWCD Board of Supervisors.
- In 1999, the SWCD cooperated with other agencies in stabilizing the Shouse dump which was an old Plainfield landfill site. Leachate and trash were being discharged to White Lick Creek. The exposed face of the fill was regraded, the creek bank reinforced with rock gabions, and the slope covered with a combination of clay and geo-textile erosion control mat. The site was then revegetated.
- In July of 2000, the SWCD began participating in the CORE 4 project for the Clear Creek watershed tributary to Heritage Lake. This was a project of education and promotion along with cost-share assistance to install best management practices that improve farm profitability while protecting the environment. The CORE 4 elements include conservation tillage, nutrient management, herbicide and pesticide management, and buffer practices such as grass waterways.



Hendricks/Marion Work Team Legislative Tour. From left: Mark Kautz, Marvin Brethauer, State Representative Jeff Thompson, Rebecca Dolan, Marcia Matthieu, Leroy Murphy, State Senator Connie Lawson, Marlene Raisor, Bill Howard.



White Lick Creek stabilization at Timber Bend subdivision. 1997.



SWCD 319 Grant staffer Erin Whitlock talks it over with Steve Cox at a subdivision site. 1997.



No-till pro Hal Truax checks soybean residue.



Logging project on Hoge property. 1997.



New tree plantings and classified forest on Hoge property. 1997.

Conservation Education Awards

Our Teachers of the Year Set the Standard of Excellence

1998 VICKI DEITZ

Third grade teacher at Mill Creek East Elementary School in Clayton.

- Hendricks County Teacher of the Year Award.
- Indiana Elementary Conservation Teacher of the Year.

1999 PAT VANDIVIER

Second grade teacher at North Elementary School in Danville.

- Hendricks County Teacher of the Year Award.

2000 STACY DAVIS

Third grade teacher at Brentwood Elementary School in Plainfield.

- Hendricks County Teacher of the Year Award.
- Indiana Elementary Conservation Teacher of the Year.

2001 DONNA EDDLEMAN

Third grade teacher at Sycamore Elementary in Avon.

- Hendricks County Teacher of the Year Award.
- Indiana Elementary Conservation Teacher of the Year.
- Also received the IPALCO Golden Apple Award for teachers who utilize science, math and technology in their lessons.

Our Kids are Top Notch Too

Conservation Essay, Speech Contests and Envirothon Competitions

As with many districts, the Conservation Public Speaking Competition was an important part of our program for many years. It was co-sponsored by the SWCD and the Hendricks County Farm Bureau. In 1993 the contest was replaced by the Envirothon, a program for student teams which combines in-class learning and field experience in preparation for an academic "bowl" type competition. Hendricks County Envirothon Teams distinguished themselves by winning local, regional and statewide awards.



Vicki Deitz in class.



Stacy Davis and class in outdoor lab.



Donna Eddleman and class in outdoor lab.



1989 Speech Contest. From left: Jo Ann Truax, Travis Eggers, Jeremy Thomas, Brian Clem, Hal Truax.



Gerald Russell demonstrates use of soil auger to Cub Scouts Pack 305. 1975.



1998 Danville Envirothon Team. Seated from left: Doug Riggs, Eric Wallis. Standing from left: Greg Whicker, Bree Emsweller, Tom Evans.

Conservation Farmers and Master Farm Conservationists

Our Regional and Statewide Pros Make Us Proud

1990 DALE CARTER

- Area III Conservation Farmer

1991 BROCK FARMS

- Area III Conservation Farmer
- Indiana Conservation Farmer
- 1992 Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award

1992 JOHN D. HARDIN, JR.

- Area III Conservation Farmer

1994 GEORGE GLADDEN

- Indiana Master Farm Conservationist

1997 BILL RAWLINGS

- Indiana Master Farm Conservationist

1998 HAL TRUAX

- Indiana Conservation Farmer



Supervisors congratulate Keith Brock. From left: Bill Rawlings, Hal Truax, Keith Brock, Jim Loughmiller, and George Gladden. 1991.



Virgil Webster and Dale Carter. 1990.



Melissa Whicker presenting the Mike Whicker award to George Gladden. 1994.



Sign at Brock Farms. 1991.



Hal Truax 1998 Conservation Farmer of the Year.

A Long Range Plan for the Future

A Proud 50 Year Tradition Guides Our Mission for Today

During the past year the Board of Supervisors adopted a Mission Statement and updated the Long Range Plan for the District. These basic management documents will guide activities and Annual Plans of Work for the next three to five year period. These items are based on input from our Hendricks County community and reflect the challenges and opportunities for the future. If you are interested, complete documents are available for review at the SWCD office.

Mission Statement

To help the citizens of Hendricks County manage, conserve and enhance natural resources today for the benefit of tomorrow's generations through education, public information, leadership, technical assistance and development of innovative programs.

Highlights of the Long Range Plan

District Operations

The District Board has renewed its commitment to sound management of financial and personnel resources and to effectively plan and evaluate its activities. In addition it has committed to conduct its operations according to standards set by the State for SWCDs. It has resolved to improve public awareness of the SWCD and to further involve the public in its activities. Lastly, information and education will be a part of each of the Long Range Plan Goals.

Water Quality

The process of Watershed Planning will be started to help land users protect surface water resources or correct water quality problems in local streams and lakes. Watershed Planning involves and empowers landowners and water users to address local concerns. The District is committed to work with other groups or agencies dealing with water quality issues and to form partnerships to address them. Such issues might include farm nutrient and pest management or septic system waste disposal.

Soil Erosion / Siltation / Sedimentation

The District will continue its traditional role of implementing urban and agricultural programs to control soil erosion and prevent siltation and sedimentation of our streams and lakes. A new challenge will be to help the county and local towns with "Phase II" stormwater management requirements imposed by Congress. The District plans to refocus promotion and attention to no-till practices.

Land Use Planning

The District will continue its role of assisting county and local planning authorities and will promote the wise use and conservation of our natural resources. Goals of compiling natural resource information and highlighting new or innovative development practices will be ways of enhancing our role in land use planning. The District will continue to provide information and guidance to individual landowners in the development of their land.

Woodland Management

Loss of woodlands can be addressed by helping landowners recognize and develop the value of their forest resources through forestry Best Management Practices. The District will provide information and seek ways to provide incentives for woodland management. The District will also promote the maintenance and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

Wetlands Protection

The District will continue to implement the no-net-loss wetlands policy in cooperation with the Indiana Conservation Partnership. It will encourage the development of constructed wetlands for mitigation purposes, wildlife habitat and for innovative waste treatment purposes. It will promote the conservation of existing wetlands in areas of potential use as public lands or parks.



District no-till planter at work. 1983.

A photograph of a cornfield with a sign in the foreground. The sign is white with a dark green top section. The text on the sign is in white and black. The background shows rows of green corn plants stretching to the horizon under a clear sky.

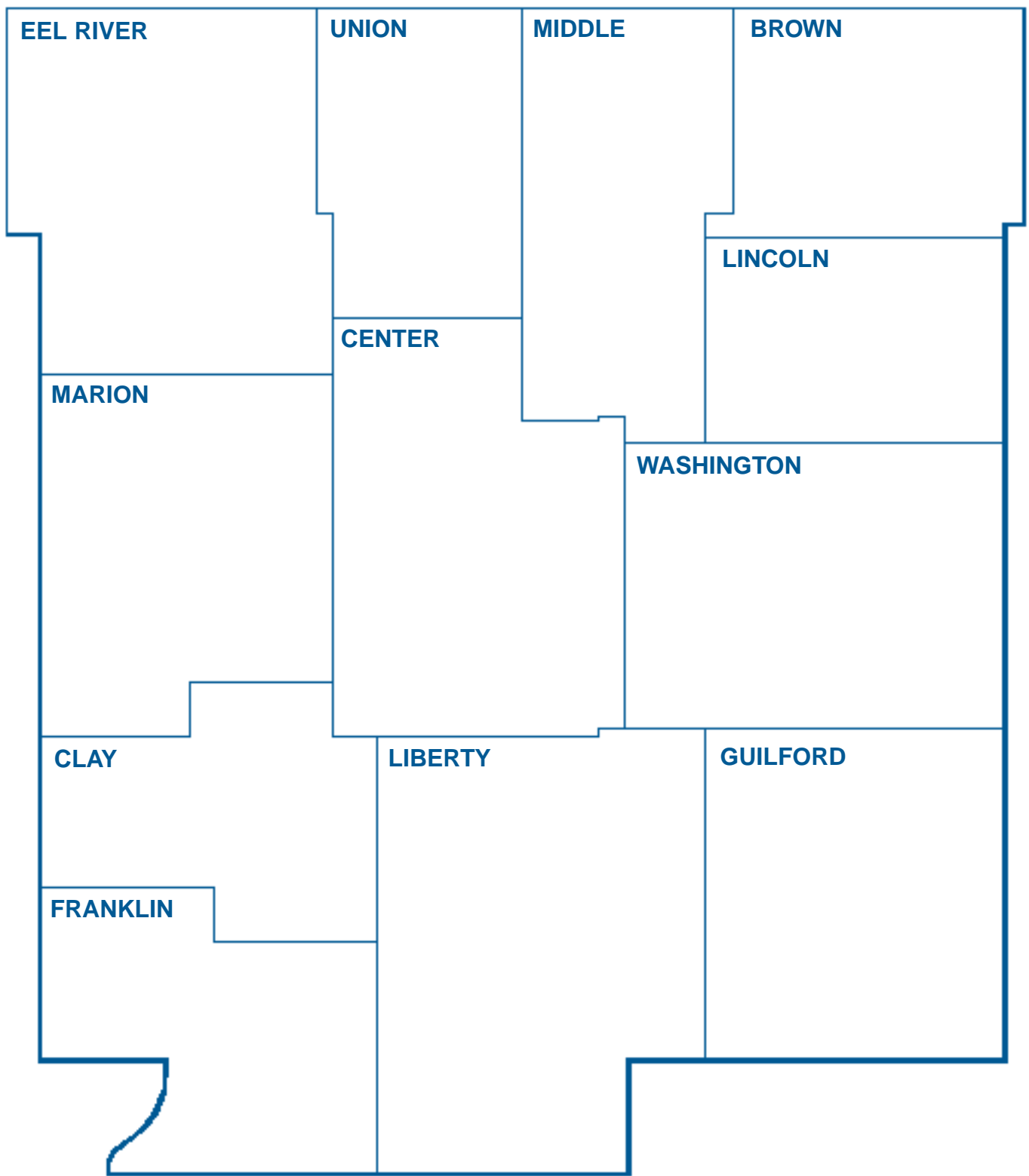
NO TILL PLANTING

HENDRICKS CO. SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P. BERG

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