

Piatt County Soil & Water Conservation District NEWSLETTER

2018 Edition

The mission of the Piatt County Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide education, leadership, and assistance to people in order to protect and promote the wise use of our soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources

Piatt Agronomic Research and Testing (PART)

Welcome to a new section of our annual newsletter. Each year we will provide farmers with field research studies completed right here in Piatt County. Topics will be analyzed on their ability to both provide an economic return and achieve conservation goals. They can co-exist. But we'll let you be the judge. Our definition of conservation is generally any practice that limits soil erosion, minimizes unused fertilizer from leaving fields, and promotes soil health and structure.

This section was also created because society has placed more scrutiny on the environmental impact of food production. The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy calls for an initial 15% reduction of nitrogen and 25% reduction of phosphorus leaving Illinois waterways by 2025. Events like the dust storm from last May, visible to all, are also troubling.

Most will agree the top priority in the county is a reduction of nitrates in our water. Financially this is money down the drain. Environmentally it is how we are being graded.

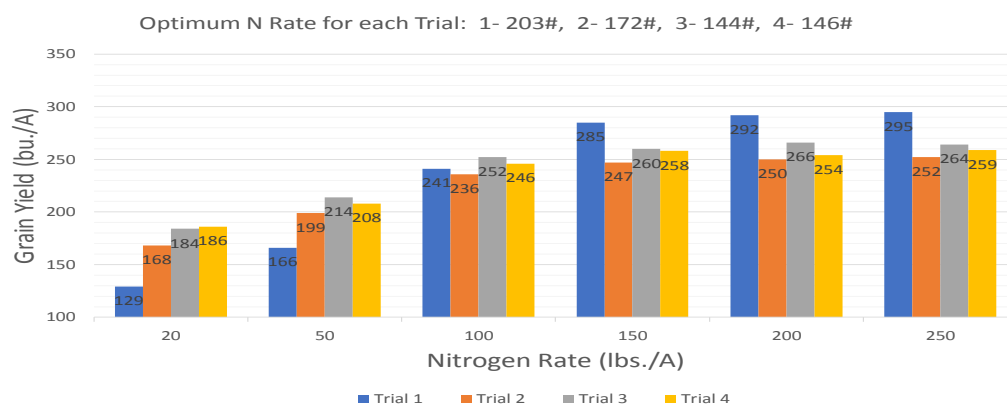
“How much applied nitrogen does a corn crop require?” The table below shows four Piatt County Nitrogen-Rate trials performed over the last three years. Each received 20 units of N at planting (32% UAN) in a 2” x 2” placement away from the seed. The remaining balance was then side-dressed (32% UAN) by coultter injection when corn was between the V3-V6 growth stage.

Each trial had three randomized block replications, totaled six acres in size, and were located within a larger corn field. No isolated, garden sized plot. A weigh wagon was used to verify yield. The previous crop was either soybean or wheat. Tillage was either strip-till or conventional. The predominant soil type was Drummer silty clay loam. Note: Other area trials that include significant portions of N applied in the fall and/or preplant have shown similar results.

End of season stalk nitrate tests performed annually after maturity confirm 200 pound rates often produce elevated nitrate concentrations within the plant. Or put another way, nitrogen was certainly not a yield limiting factor. The 250 pound rates are almost exclusively excessive. This research will continue in 2018.

Article Continued on Pg. 3

Piatt N-Rate Trials 2015-17



The PCSWCD Celebrates 75 Years of Conservation



On May 12 , 2017, our local SWCD celebrated 75 years of service to conservation in Piatt County! We are pleased with the conservation advancements we have contributed to throughout the years. We will continue to provide even more education and cost share programs to our local producers in order to protect and sustain our natural resources. The board members were presented a certificate from our State Senator: Chapin Rose, who helped recognize this momentous occasion. Pictured left to right, Vice-Chairman: Jerry Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer: Eric Miller, State Senator: Chapin Rose, Chairman: John Beckhart, Director: Wyatt Muse, Associate Director: Loyd Wax, Associate Director: John Adcock.

2018 NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

To All Owners And Occupiers Of Lands Lying Within The Boundaries Of The Piatt County Soil And Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held on the 6th day of February, 2018 (7 A.M.-5:30 P.M.) at 1209 Bear Lane, Monticello, IL 61856. Three directors will be elected to serve the Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms, or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise. Only such persons, firms or corporations are eligible to vote.

Please vote for three (3) candidates for a two-year term as Director of the Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District

Eric Miller **Jerry Edwards** **John Beckhart**

Piatt Agronomic Research and Testing (PART) Continued

Takeaways-

The practices described in the trials achieve three important goals:

- Nitrogen is placed and available when our corn crop is about to enter the rapid uptake phase;
- We realize our 3%-4% organic matter soils contribute nitrogen through mineralization at the rate of 20-30 pounds for each 1% OM
- A very efficient nitrogen-to-bushels ratio is achievable.

To build on point three, the numbers taken from the Piatt trials show the following. **When averaged, the most profitable N rate of these trials, or the Maximum Return To Nitrogen (MRTN), was 166 total units. The average yield at that rate was 268 bushels. Each bushel produced required only .62 pounds of applied nitrogen. Even with very favorable growing conditions, this is surprising!**

Your Next Step?

Nothing drastic. We strongly encourage you to work with your local agricultural professionals and discuss your nitrogen program. They are here to help and have already invested time and resources into understanding efficient fertilizer management practices. **Strategies reviewed with them should be:**

- Spring and side-dress nitrogen applications
- The use of nitrogen stabilizers
- Tissue testing programs (a few times in season) and a stalk nitrate test (end of season) for informative and cheap confirmation of plant needs.
- **On farm trials that compare your typical N program, versus a slightly reduced amount.** Don't rush into any farm-wide changes. A minimum of three replications are needed, and the trial should preferably be performed over 2-3 growing seasons.

Attention to detail is necessary with any trial- Proper preparation yields reliable results.

Fortunately, application and planting equipment can quickly switch between rates and provide documentation. Weigh wagons, grain carts with scales, or combine yield monitors can easily offer yield results.

Given the heightened social responsibility we face as land stewards, the concept of "throwing on an extra 20-40 pounds of nitrogen just in case" should be evaluated. The resulting per acre monetary savings from avoiding that temptation may seem somewhat minor. But that capital can be reallocated to inputs that offer a much higher probability of positive returns. Lime applications, more frequent soil sampling, and multiple modes-of-action herbicide programs are just some ideas that come to mind.

If we all do our PART, resources can be used more profitably and conservation goals realized throughout the county. Call, email, or stop by the office with comments or feedback.

May 17, 2017 Piatt County Dust Storm





Managing your inputs for healthy soils...

- ✓ Soil Health
- ✓ Cover Crops
- ✓ 1-Day Seminars

It is our fifth year talking to & learning from innovative farmers who successfully use stewardship as part of a sustainable operation. In addition to becoming local innovators & leaders, these growers will tell you how to do it right and how to make a profit as well.

The time is now to add conservation to the conversation with your landowner or tenant. What can you do to improve soil health, restore water quality? Join us to learn more! Discussion topics include:

REGISTER ONLINE and reserve your seat at one of these events. Visit www.ccsxcd.com and pay a \$20 registration fee by check or credit card.

Lunch Included!

ONLY
\$20

**January 23, 2018
Kankakee, IL**

**January 24, 2018
Olney, IL**

**January 25, 2018
Peoria, IL**

*Conservation Cropping Seminars
Coordinated by:*

Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Illinois Department of Agriculture
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
American Farmland Trust
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

- SCRAPER
 - \$75 for 1 Working Day
 - \$125 for 2 Working Days
- 7' WIDE PHEASANTS FOREVER GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL
 - \$50 per use
- 15' JOHN DEERE 1590 NO-TILL DRILL
 - \$12 per acre (\$120 Minimum)



ALSO ALAVAILABLE

2015 Plat Books	\$ 30.00
Bundle of Contractor Flags (100)	\$ 10.00
Roadsides For Wildlife Signs	\$ Donation Accepted
Wild Flower Seed Packets	\$ 2.75 each
Piatt County Soil CD's and Books	FREE
Conservation Technical Assistance	FREE




PLAT BOOK COVER PHOTO CONTEST

2018 is the year that the SWCD will be producing a new Piatt County Plat Book. We are once again asking that you submit your photo that best captures scenery of Piatt County or conservation projects.

Please send all your entries to Patricia.Webb@il.nacdnet.net before May 1, 2018!

The WINNER will receive their photo displayed on the new Plat Book for the next 3 years, a \$50.00 gift card to County Market, and your very own copy of the 2018 Piatt County Plat Book.



Are you conscious of CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE?

Compliance with Highly Erodible Land Compliance (HEL) and Wetland Compliance (WC) Provisions:

To comply with the HELC and WC provisions, producers must fill out and sign form AD-1026 certifying they will not:

- Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without following an NRCS approved conservation plan or system
- Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland; or
- Convert a wetland which makes the production of an agricultural commodity possible.

In addition, producers planning to conduct activities that may affect their HEL or WC compliance, for example:

- removing fence rows
- conducting drainage activities
- bringing land into production

must notify FSA by filing form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS, and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical evaluations and issue determinations if needed.

Questions?

Contact your local USDA Service Center and speak to FSA or NRCS for more information.

Form AD-1026: Highly Erodible Land Compliance and Wetland Compliance Certification. The form includes sections for:

- Section 1: General information (Name, Address, Phone, etc.)
- Section 2: Certification of compliance (Yes/No checkboxes for various activities)
- Section 3: Signature and date of producer
- Section 4: Signature and date of certifier (FSA/NRCS)

Form AD-1026: Highly Erodible Land Compliance and Wetland Compliance Certification. This is a smaller view of the same form, showing the certification section with checkboxes for compliance with HEL and WC provisions.

Form AD-1026: Highly Erodible Land Compliance and Wetland Compliance Certification. This is another smaller view of the form, focusing on the signature and date fields.





Have a problem? We may be able to help fix it!

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

General EQIP

addresses soil erosion and water quality resource concerns on cropland and adjacent incidental areas

Forest Management Implementation (FMI) for producers with non-industrial private forestland, addresses resource issues where forest-related products are produced

Grazing Land Operations

available to applicants statewide that graze livestock, addresses natural resource concerns on operations involving the production, growing, raising, or reproducing of livestock

Confined Livestock & Manure Management

addresses resource concerns related to the storage, treatment, and management of animal waste

Drainage Water Management Implementation

offers drainage water management practices to improve water quality

Wildlife Habitat Conservation

available to Illinois producers who will restore, develop, or enhance wildlife habitat.

Organic Certified and Organic Transition provides financial assistance to help implement conservation practices for organic producers or those transitioning to organic, addresses natural resource concerns and also helps producers meet requirements related to National Organic Program (NOP) requirements

Specialty Crop

assists specialty crop producers to address soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource concerns for non-commodity crops such as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops. *The High Tunnel System practice is available in this funding pool.*

On-Farm Energy

provides financial and technical assistance to help the producer implement energy conserving measures and practices, this program offers Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) which is a site-specific energy analysis of eligible farmsteads

Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)

A CAP can be developed for producers to identify conservation practices needed to address a specific natural resource need. Typically, these plans are specific to certain types of land use such as transitioning to organic operations, grazing land, forest land, or can also address a specific resource need such as a plan for management of nutrients.



Already taking steps to improve your land, but would like to increase productivity and protect the value of your land?

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

CSP is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the United States with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. Thousands of people that have made the choice to voluntarily enroll in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve their business operation.

Through CSP, we can help you build your business while implementing conservation practices that help ensure the sustainability of your entire operation.

Good land stewardship not only conserves the natural resources on your farm or forest; it also provides multiple benefits to local communities, including better water and air quality and wildlife habitat, as well as food and fiber.

Visit your local NRCS office for more information!

2018 ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DATES:

- February 28, 2018-1209 Bear Lane, Monticello, IL
 - May 30, 2018-1209 Bear Lane, Monticello, IL
- August 18, 2018-Farm Bureau will provide location
- November 28, 2018-1209 Bear Lane, Monticello, IL

TIME: 9:00 A.M. - UNTIL TRUCK IS FULL

The E-recycling Day in August will be hosted by the Farm Bureau at the location they choose. For more information on that event please contact them at 217-762-2128

RULES:

- **PIATT COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**
- **LIMIT 10 ITEMS PER CUSTOMER**
 - **NO BATTERIES**

PLEASE UNDERSTAND: THE PIATT COUNTY SWCD FUNDRAISES & WORKS VERY HARD TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY . THEREFORE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE NOR IS OUR PRECIOUS EARTH FOR YOUR ITEMS IF THE TRUCK FILLS UP!!

THANK YOU!



PRIVATE WELL WATER TESTING EVENT

- Well test kits can be picked up at the PCSWCD office June 4-June 14
 - Tests will be sent to the lab June 14, 2018!
 - It takes 4-6 weeks for test results to be mailed to you
 - All Results are CONFIDENTIAL.

If your drinking water comes from a private well, you are responsible for your water's safety. The U.S. EPA does not oversee private wells, which is why we offer a low-cost option to county residents who wish to monitor their water quality or establish baseline data for their private well.

Costs will depend on the particular sets of tests participants choose:

Nitrate/Inorganic Suite - \$25.00

Pesticide Immunoassay screens - \$60.00

Metals - \$75.00

Shipping & Handling - \$5.00

ALL TEST RESULTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES.



FREE SERVICE



MEASURE AND ASSESS NITROGEN NEEDS IN-SEASON

Before you make midseason N application decisions, it's important to have a clear picture of how much N is in your field. Understanding in-season N availability can be a real guessing game, but now you can know exactly how much N is left through real-time measurement. The **Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD)** is now offering a new service called the **360 SOILSCAN™**. The **360 SOILSCAN™** is a portable soil lab system that gives us the ability to test N availability and soil pH, right in the field, in about 5 minutes, with the accuracy of a traditional soil lab. Contact the **Piatt County Soil & Water Conservation District** today and find out how much N you have available in your field! **(217) 762-2146 EXT. 3**



SoilScan 360 ALSO HAS THE ABILITY TO TEST WATER SAMPLES!

Knowing how much N is left and how much N you need are two different things. With the Corn Nitrogen Need Calculator in 360SOILSCAN, we can build customized N application plans instantly after measuring your soil, simply by inputting your:

- + Yield goal
- + Crop growth stage
- + Soil organic matter

Contact the **Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District** today to request our new SOILSCAN service.

Piatt County SWCD
1209 Bear Lane
Monticello, IL 61856
217-762-2146 EXT 3
Piatt SWCD@gmail.com

Piatt SWCD Fish Sale

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____

ORDER DEADLINE:
GRASS CARP—March 8th, 2018
ALL OTHER FISH—March 15th, 2018
DELIVERY DATE: Friday, March 23rd, 2018
PICKUP TIME: 1:00 P.M.
DELIVERY LOCATION: Piatt SWCD OFFICE

	SIZE	PRICE	QTY	COST
Channel Catfish - Excellent for food and sport fishing. Can grow up to 1 pound per year. Compatible with all species and work especially well with Hybrid Sunfish & Largemouth Bass. May need to restock periodically. Please bring pond water for transporting 8-10" Catfish.	4-6"	.80 ea.		
	6-8"	.95 ea.		
	8-10"	1.10 ea.		
	4-6"	1.20 ea.		
Albino ——— ONLY 4-6" ———>				
Largemouth Bass - Popular game fish; a predator that helps control bluegill and crappie populations. Can grow up to 1/2 to 3/4 pound per year. Do not mix with smallmouth bass.	2-3"	.95 ea.		
	5-8"	\$2.50 ea.		
Fathead Minnows - Stock in new ponds prior to Largemouth Bass so they are able to spawn and provide food for young Bass.		\$11.00 lb. (100-150)		
Black Crappie - Excellent for food and sport fishing. Very prolific and not recommended for ponds under 5 acres. Schooling fish that like lots of structures and hiding places; excellent at controlling insects. Can grow up to 1/4 pound per year. Do not mix with Hybrid Crappie.	2-3"	\$60 .00bag (100)		
	1-2"	\$73.50 bag (250)		
		3-5"	.90 ea.	
Hybrid Sunfish (or Hybrid Bluegill) - Fast growing, excellent small pond fish that will not overpopulate. Produced by crossing a male Bluegill with a female Green Sunfish. This hybrid cross produces 90% males/10% female. They can reproduce with Bluegills if they are present in the pond. Can grow up to 1/4 to 1/2 pound per year.	5-7"	1.20 ea.		
	1-2"	\$73.50 bag (250)		
Standard Bluegill - An excellent, prolific sport fish that should be stocked with Largemouth Bass. Similar to but grows a little slower than the Hybrid Sunfish. Grows up to 1/2 pound per year.		3-5"	.90 ea.	
	Standard Redear - Rapid growth rate, low reproductive rate, excellent addition to a Bass-Bluegill combination. Recommended for deeper ponds feeding on snails/clams, and are usually harder to catch except during spawning season when they are in the shallows. Can grow up to 1/3 pound per year.	1-2"	\$73.50 bag (250)	
Triploid Grass Carp - Will not reproduce. They eat root aquatic vegetation, but not algae, most aggressively in the hot, summer months, and good results are usually seen after the second season. They will eat up to 2-3 times their weight each day. They should be stocked at 3-5 per surface acre (pond length x width divide by 43,560 feet per acre). Restocking will need to take place every 3-5 years. Ponds must have an area that is 7-10' deep for fish to overwinter. Requires IDNR permit. - Please fill out bottom section!!		8-11"	\$ 11.00 ea.	
	**REQUIRED FOR CARP PERMIT —POND LOCATION: County _____ Township _____ Section _____ Pond Acreage _____			
PCSWCD offers all programs/services without regard to race, color, nationality, religion, age, disabilities, sex, marital status, political beliefs.				
The sale proceeds support the local conservation efforts of the Piatt SWCD.				ORDER TOTAL



Piatt County Soil & Water Conservation District

Please Mail Checks to: 1209 Bear Lane, Monticello, IL 61856

Annual Tree Sale

Last day to order Trees is March 28th 2017-Pick up is on April 5th & April 6th 2017



Tree Species	Description	Size	Pricing	Quantity	Subtotal
Deciduous	Trees will be bareroot unless **4 inch pots** is noted under the tree species.				
Black Walnut	This tree may reach up to 80-120 feet tall and over 8 feet in diameter. Mature trees have a deeply furrowed gray-brown to nearly black bark. Black walnut produces nut that is edible and can provide food to wildlife.	15"-18"	\$4.00		
Pin Oak	Pin Oak is a moderately large tree with normal heights ranging from 70-90 feet tall with diameters between 2-3 feet at maturity. The bark is smooth and reddish to grayish brown during the juvenile period and becoming darker as the tree grows with age. The Pin oak does produce an acorn which is a source of food for the wildlife.	18"-20"	\$2.50		
Swamp White Oak *4 inch Pots	Swamp white oak is a striking tree with attractive peeling bark, especially on young trees. Fall color is an orange-gold to yellow in mid-autumn. Plant maturity height ranges from 45-60 feet. This tree is well adapted to wet areas and does produce an acorn for wildlife to feed on.	8"-10"	\$5.00		
Silver Maple	Silver is definitely the right word to describe this maple. With even a light wind, the tree produces a lovely shimmery effect thanks to the silvery undersides of its leaves. The bark, too, is silver in color, particularly when the tree is young. This tree is a relatively fast growing tree and the mature height ranges from 50-80 feet. Silver maples do produce seed that wildlife will feed on when food is scarce.	1-3 FT	\$3.50		
Red Maple	Red Maple is one of the most common and widespread deciduous trees of eastern and central North America. It can be found growing in swamps, on poor dry soils, and most anywhere in between. The red maple derives its name from the beautiful red foliage it produces in autumn. The tree ranges in mature height from 40-60' and produces an edible seed that is a food source for wildlife.	18"-20"	\$3.50		
Evergreens					
Austrian Pine	The Austrian Pine 66-180 ft high at maturity and spreading to 20 to 40 feet wide. The bark is grey to yellow-brown. The needles are thinner and more flexible in western populations. This tree does produce a large pine cone from May-June which also does provide a source of food to the wildlife.	8"-12"	\$4.00		
Eastern White Pine	The eastern white pine, is the largest conifer of the eastern and upper Midwest forests, reaching 150 feet in height and up to 40 inches in diameter. Its evergreen needles are in clusters of 5, soft, flexible, 2 1/2 to 5 inches long, and bluish-green in appearance. This tree does create a pine cone and seeds for wildlife to feed on.	4"-9"	\$3.50		
Colorado Blue Spruce	Colorado Blue Spruce are often used for Christmas trees or ornamentals for landscape. Mature height ranges from 70-90 feet tall. This tree has blueish tint and sharp pine needles. This spruce does create a pine cone and provides seed for wildlife to feed on.	4"-8"	\$3.50		
Norway Spruce	Norway spruce is a large, fast-growing, evergreen coniferous tree growing up to 115-180 ft tall and with a trunk diameter of 39 to 59 in. It can grow fast when young, up to 3 ft per year for the first 25 years under good conditions, but becomes slower once over 65 ft tall. ²³ The leaves are needle-like with blunt tips. This tree is often used as an ornamental tree or for forest regeneration. The Norway spruce does create a pine cone with seeds for wildlife.	6"-12"	\$3.50		
Gallon Potted	These 3 trees below are in gallon sized pots				
Blue Spruce	Please See Description above for Colorado blue spruce	6"-12"	\$9.00		
White Pine	Please see description above for eastern white pine	6"-12"	\$9.00		
Norway Spruce	Please see description above for Norway spruce	6"-12"	\$9.00		
Shrubs	Shrubs are in 4inch pots unless BAREROOT* appears under tree species				
White Flowering Chinese Dogwood 4 inch pots**	The white flowering Chinese dogwood is a small deciduous tree ranging from 26-39 ft tall, This tree produces showy white flowers about 3 weeks after the leaves bloom. The dogwood does also produce a very small berry for wildlife to feed on.	2-4 Ft	\$3.25		
Service Berry	It is a large shrub or small tree. This tree/bush can grow from 9-25' ft tall. This tree produces small white flowers in the early spring months and then produces red berries (or junberries) as the growing season progresses.	4"-8"	\$3.50		
Old Fashion Lilac 4 inch pots**	The old fashion lilac is a large deciduous shrub or small tree growing up to 20-23 ft high, producing secondary shoots ("suckers") from the base or roots, with stem diameters up to 8 in. This shrub produces a large purple cluster of flowers with attractive aromas in the spring.	8"-10"	\$4.00		
TOTAL COST \$					\$

