



# WHITEWATER RIVER WATERSHED NEWSLETTER

## 10 Keys to a Profitable Forage Program

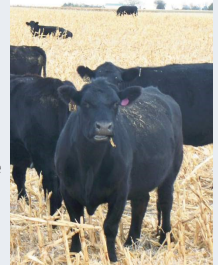
**Remember that you are a forage farmer.** Forage typically accounts for over half the cost of production of forage-consuming animals and provides most of their nutrition. Thus, it has a major influence on both expenses and income.

**Know forage options, animal nutritional needs, and establishment requirements.** Forages vary as to adaptation, growth distribution, forage quality, yield, and potential uses. Various types and classes of animals have different nutritional needs.

**Soil test, then lime and fertilize as needed.** This practice, more than any other, affects the level and economic efficiency of forage production. Fertilizing and liming as needed help ensure good yields, improve forage quality, lengthen stand life, and reduce weed problems.

**Use legumes whenever feasible.** Legumes offer important advantages including improved forage quality and biological nitrogen fixation, whether grown alone or with grasses.

**Emphasize forage quality.** High animal gains, milk production, and reproductive efficiency require adequate nutrition. Matching forage quality to animal nutritional needs greatly increases efficiency.



**Prevent or minimize pests and plant-related disorders.** Variety selection, cultural practices, scouting, pesticides, and other management techniques can minimize pest problems.

**Strive to improve pasture utilization.** The quantity and quality of pasture growth vary over time. Periodic adjustments in stocking rate or use of cross fencing to vary the type or amount of available forage can greatly affect animal performance and pasture species composition. Matching stocking rates with forage production is also extremely important.

**Minimize stored feed requirements.** Stored feed is one of the most expensive aspects of animal production, so lowering requirements reduces costs. Extending the grazing season with use of both cool-season and warm-season forages, stockpiling forage, and grazing crop residues are examples of ways stored feed needs can be reduced.

**Reduce storage and feeding losses.** Wasting hay, silage, or other stored feed is costly. Minimizing waste with good management, forage testing, and ration formulation enhances feeding efficiency, animal performance, and profits.

**It's up to you.** Rarely, if ever, do we get something for nothing. The best and most profitable forage programs have had the most thought put into them.





## Whitewater River Watershed Project

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# Save the Date:

## Conservation Tillage Breakfast

Saturday, March 12th, 2016 - 8:30 am to Noon

Zimmer Tractor - 405 E. 7th St. Brookville, IN

7:30-8:30am Breakfast - Provided by Zimmer Tractor

8:30-9:00am *Franklin County FSA, SWCD, NRCS, Purdue Extension, Whitewater River Watershed Project updates* "Programs and Services Available"

**PARP: 9:00-12:00pm** CCH for Category 1 and RT

9:00-10:00am John Obermeyer *Purdue University* "Insect Pest Management Update"

10:00-10:45am David Brandt, *Ohio Producer* "Cover Crop Mixes & Soil Health"

10:45-11:45am Joe Ikley and Doug Spaunhorst, *Purdue University* "Weed Management Update for 2016"

11:45-12:00pm Anna Morrow, *Ag and Natural Resources Extension Educator, Purdue Extension—*

*Franklin County* "Bee Aware"



*The Whitewater River Watershed Project  
would like to wish everyone a Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!*