



# WHITEWATER RIVER WATERSHED NEWSLETTER

## Water Quality Issues and How to Help

**Nonpoint source pollution** occurs when rainfall or snowmelt runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, wetlands, and coastal waters or introduces them into groundwater. Some of the primary activities that generate nonpoint source pollution include farming and grazing activities, timber harvesting, new development, construction, and recreational boating. Manure, pesticides, fertilizers, dirt, oil, and gas produced by these activities are examples of nonpoint source pollutants. Even individual households contribute to nonpoint source pollution through improper chemical and pesticide use, landscaping, and other household practices.

Non-point source pollution and runoff are one of the biggest problems facing our streams, creeks and rivers today; fortunately there are many things YOU can do to improve water quality. Everyone can play a key role in cleaning up our polluted waterways through changes in behavior. If everyone would make small changes to improve water quality, the impact could be tremendous.

### Tips for Improving Water Quality

Landscape with **native plants** to increase water infiltration and decrease lawn maintenance.

Never discard trash or yard waste down **storm drains** or along roadways. Yard waste could be composted and made into useful soil enhancers and fertilizer. People should utilize local recycling services to minimize the amount of trash going to the landfills.



Dispose of **pet waste** properly. Due to your dog's carnivorous diet, their waste is not a good source of fertilizer and can contain a load of pathogens.

Use **lawn chemicals** and **lawn fertilizers** safely. Always follow label instructions and never apply before rain or watering the lawn, unless directed. Obtain soil tests of your lawn and apply fertilizer accordingly to avoid applying excess nutrients and wasting money.



**Redirect downspouts** to drain rain water onto lawns and gardens instead of the storm sewers.

**Wash your car** at a professional car wash that filters the wastewater or wash your car in a grassy area. Do not wash cars on driveways or in the street.



Use **rain barrels** or **rain gardens** to conserve rain water on your property. By using rain barrels, you're capturing chlorine-free water for use in your yard that would otherwise go down storm sewers or into areas of your property where it's not needed. A rain garden is a planted depression or a hole that allows rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas, like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots, and compacted lawn areas, the opportunity to be absorbed.



**Fence Livestock out or limit access** to water bodies and other sensitive areas like wetlands and woodlands.

Plant **Cover crops** to improve soil health, reduce erosion over the winter months, and hold nutrients in the soil profile for the next year's crop.



Utilize **No-till planting methods** to reduce erosion and improve soil health.



Establish and maintain **buffers** along streams and drainageways to reduce erosion and capture sediment and nutrients before entering the water bodies.





# Whitewater River Watershed Project

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Phone: 812-926-2406 Ext. 107

<http://www.dearborncountywatersheds.org>

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Lawrenceburg, Indiana 47025

Permit No. 139



## PASTURE FIELD DAY

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

10:00am - 2:30pm

Located at: - Kreuzman Farms

27039 Wissel Rd. Batesville, IN 47006

### Field Day Agenda

10:00 am—Registration and Welcome

10:30 am—Rotation 1

11:30 am—Rotation 2

12:30 pm—Lunch/Networking

1:00 pm— Rotation 3

2:00 pm—Wrap Up & Evaluations

### Topics Discussed & Speakers

Cattle nutrition requirements & Feed rations

Cover crops for grazing & harvesting

Pasture renovation

Soil testing and forage testing

Ron Lemenager—Purdue University  
Beef Extension Specialist

Robert Zupancic—NRCS Grazing Land Specialist

Mary Rodenhuis—Purdue Extension  
—Franklin County

Lunch will be provided by the Purdue Extension Office. Please **RSVP** by **April 15th** and let Mary know if you have any food allergies! **(765) 647-3511**

Sponsored By:



Extension

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