

Michigan Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society ANR Seminar

SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF THE RURAL LANDSCAPE:

Protecting Soil Health, Water Quality and Farm Profitability

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Title: Engaging Local Knowledge: Farmers and Community Involvement in Watershed Management

Dr. Stephan Gasteyer, Associate Professor of Sociology
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

Agriculture is just one of the sources contributing to water quality impairment in the Great Lakes. Engaging farmers in the process of minimizing nutrient runoff is crucial. Farmer-based, participatory research and engagement of farmers and farm-community residents is essential to develop local and lasting solutions to nutrient runoff to surface waters. Based on work in the River Raisin watershed, Dr. Gasteyer will demonstrate the value of farm and community members' local knowledge and experience in creating incentives to protect water quality.

Title: Great Expectations: What Phosphorus Removal Structures can and cannot do

Dr. Chad J. Penn, Soil Scientist
USDA Agricultural Research Service
National Soil Erosion Research Lab
275 South Russell Street
West Lafayette, IN

Phosphorus (P) removal structures are landscape-scale filters for removing dissolved P before it reaches a water body. Attendees will learn the basics of P removal structures; how they are designed, where to best locate them, and what can be expected. Example structures and cost information will illuminate the discussion.

Title: P-Trap software for quick and easy design of phosphorus removal structures

Dr. Chad Penn Soil Scientist
USDA Agricultural Research Service
National Soil Erosion Research Lab
275 South Russell Street
West Lafayette, IN

P-Trap (Phosphorus Transport Reduction App) is free software from USDA-ARS that helps non-engineers evaluate and design site-specific P removal structures. The use of *P-Trap* will be demonstrated with examples of actual sites and systems.

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Title: Landscape benefits of silvopasture systems

Julie Crick, Leadership and educational programming expertise in natural resources
Roscommon County MSU Extension
Roscommon, MI

Kable Thurow, Beef & Grazing Educator
Gladwin County MSU Extension
Gladwin, MI

Monica Jean, Field Crops Educator
Clinton County Extension
St. Johns, MI

Grazing livestock in the woods for long periods without proper management may lead to a variety of issues for animals, trees, and the land as well as water resources. Join us to learn more about Silvopasturing, an intensely managed system where forest, forages, and livestock production take place on the same piece of land in a synergistic, sustainable approach. During this talk, Michigan State University Extension educators will discuss how silvopasture systems reduce runoff and improve water quality across the landscape.

Title: Strengthening Conservation in the Great Lakes Region

Rebecca Power, Director
North Central Region Water Network
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Madison, WI

People are the heart of conservation. Conservation professionals, farmers, and other conservation leaders need timely and effective access to information, training, peer-learning, and networking opportunities. This symposium will make a case for expanded investment in people as part of an overall theory of change for scaling in watershed management.

Title: Profitable and Sustainable Farm Woodlot Management

Jim Graham, Clinton County Farmer

Many farm woodlots are not actively managed with specific goals in mind. In southern Michigan, farm woodlots are dominated by hardwoods with high commercial value. Thoughtful and intentional management can maintain a diverse and healthy woodlot while providing an income source with minimal inputs. Patience is the primary requirement. This presentation will describe 50 years of one farmer's experience with his woodlots.