

The Flow



Used Oil Collection

The annual used oil collection event that we have traditionally held in conjunction with the Clark County Farm Bureau, Inc. has had to be sidelined for now due to restrictions, constraints and concerns related to COVID-19 and the pandemic. However, your concern for the environment and your need to meet the requirements of the EPA regarding used oil as a hazardous waste don't have to be put on hold. As a matter of fact, we strongly encourage you to remain vigilant in your efforts to prevent used oil from entering typical waste streams and further polluting our land and water resources.



Here's how you can still make used oil collection and recycling a reality. At this time you have a few options to recycle used oil in an environmentally sound way:

Take your used oil to an authorized service station. There are very few of these service stations that will accept used oil from a person that is not a regular customer.

Contact an oil and petroleum products recycling company to either schedule a pick-up or to drop-off your materials.

Take your used oil to your county's Solid Waste Management District or County Recycling Center.



Since 1993, Clark County Farm Bureau, Inc. and its partners have used Kentucky Petroleum Recycling to receive the used oil collected from their single day, annual event. This company has been great to work with and has a good "track record" of being environmentally sound in their practices. You can contact them direct to schedule an on-site pick-up of your used oil. This option will be particularly useful to the person or business with a large quantity of used oil that is stored in a large, non-mobile container. Please be aware that there maybe a service fee associated with on-site pick-up. Contact information for Kentucky Petroleum Recycling is: Location – 6911 Grade Lane, Louisville, KY 40213; Phone – 502-367-7766 or 800-851-2789; Email – Ky-pet@msn.com; Website – www.kypetroleumrecycling.com

Please note that this is just one of the many oil recyclers that are in business. We aren't endorsing one company over any of the others but rather just providing information on the one company we have worked with in the past.

Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District

Partners helping to make our project happen:

- > Clark/Jefferson/Scott County Health Departments
- > Jefferson and Scott County SWCDs
- > IDNR Division of Nature Preserves
- > Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- > Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Page 2 Nonpoint Source Pollution: Part 2

In the last issue of “The Flow” newsletter, we started a discussion about is meant by the term Nonpoint Source Pollution. In this issue we will follow-up with a discussion about control and prevention of this form of pollution. Just as a reminder, nonpoint source pollution cannot be attributed to any one source. This type of polluted runoff is caused by rainfall or snowmelt water moving over and through the ground. As it moves, it picks up and carries with it both natural and man-made pollutants. These pollutants are eventually deposited in lakes, rivers, wetlands, costal waters, and even in groundwater supplies.



When polluted runoff is in a toxic form it may kill the plants and animals that inhabit the streams, lakes, and rivers. In fact, pollutants can be directly toxic to plants and animals or can eliminate their food sources. Another impact of polluted runoff may be decreased oxygen levels in the water as the result of increased plant production. Reduced oxygen levels result in reduced animal life in the affected body of water.



The economic impact of polluted runoff is felt nationwide. When polluted runoff affects the quality of surface or groundwater, water treatment plants must work harder to process the water, especially drinking water. In order to do this, the treatment facilities must either be improved or expanded and the number of employees and use of power are increased. This all means that taxes and fees usually need to be increased or leveraged to pay for the added expenses to bring the water quality up to acceptable standards. Other impacts of polluted runoff include lowering of property values of land near polluted waters. Potential beach closures and fish kills also lead to less than favorable perception of the surrounding

area.

Science-based methods for controlling runoff and reducing the impact of development. These methods can be as simple as seeding and mulching bare ground on construction sites, or as complex as building engineered structures like sediment control basins. Collectively, the goal of these measures is to prevent the pollutants from reaching public waters. A relatively simple, three-tiered strategy can be used to reduce runoff and thus prevent pollutants from affecting water quality.

Use natural resource-based planning to minimize runoff, pollutants, and their impact on natural resources. This is accomplished by locating development in non-sensitive areas and by providing protection for critical natural resources.

Utilize improved site design and best management practices to reduce the amount of runoff and pollutants that result from development. Reducing the amount of impervious pavement in new developments and routing water to natural areas where filter strips are located to allow water to slowly percolate into the soil are just a couple of examples of effective ways to reduce the impact of new development.

Finally, remediation measures can be employed to mitigate the impact of development when proper siting and design aren't sufficient to control runoff and pollutants. Practices such as retention basins, constructed wetlands, and percolation areas are examples of practices that can mitigate the impacts of development on water quality and water resources.

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Since most nonpoint source pollution is caused by land-based activities, each of us may be contributing to the problem without even knowing it! Some of the ways individuals can make a difference include the following:

- Trash goes in receptacles, never down a storm drain.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides and fertilizers applied to plants and (always read and follow labelled directions).
- Inspect septic systems annually and pump the septic tank every 3 to 5 years.
- Pick-up after pets and dispose of their wastes in a responsible manner.
- Livestock owners should develop a sound manure management plan with consultation with local SWCD, Extension Service or NRCS professionals.
- Recycle all used motor oils by taking it to local solid waste management districts, authorized service stations, or local recycling centers.
- Keep exposed soil areas to a minimum; seeding and mulching disturbed areas as soon as possible.
- Recycle hazardous products at designated sites or on specific recycling days; never pour these materials down the drain.
- Boat owners should always use marine sanitation devices or pump-out facilities at marinas.



Here's a Flow Fact for You!

Did you know that beginning in October 1994, most landfills in Indiana quit accepting yard waste. Yard waste makes up about 20% of the Hoosier waste stream and this ban was estimated to reduce about 1 million tons annually from entering landfills. The intent of the ban was also to extend the "life" of the existing landfills around the state. However, the ban created another problem: what to do with the roughly 1,500 lbs. of leaves, grass clippings and green trimmings & brush that a typical Indiana household generates annually.

What can be done with these yard wastes? Leaving grass clippings on the lawn is a partial solution. So is backyard composting, which can turn yard waste into material that can be used to improve soil; this material is generally referred to as mulch or ground cover. Ground covers can be used on footpaths, playgrounds, in heavily shaded areas, and on erosive areas. Mulch is used to conserve soil moisture, maintain an even soil temperature, prevent erosion, control weeds, and even enrich the soil around trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables in your yard or garden. These materials can usually be applied to a depth of no more than 2 – 4 inches to get the best results. One precaution is to NOT use lawn clippings if a weed killer (herbicide) has been applied within the previous 8 weeks; it's best to leave those clippings on the lawn.



For more information on composting and mulches from yard wastes, contact the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Setting Realistic Yield Goals

Nearly 30 years ago, the EPA reported that over 206,000 miles of U.S. rivers and streams had been impaired in some way by nonpoint source pollution. The EPA also said that more than 20% of the nation's lake acreage was also affected by nonpoint source pollution. Those numbers have continued to grow over the past 3 decades and it has been agriculture that the public has pointed to as being the leading contributor to this nonpoint source pollution. Even with the adoption of erosion control methods like no-till farming, the movement of eroded soil into water (siltation) is still one of the main forms of nonpoint source pollution in U.S. streams and rivers. In lakes and other water bodies, nutrients and pest control products continue to be the leading forms for nonpoint source pollution. When surface water becomes contaminated, whether it is by nitrogen (or other plant nutrients), siltation, or pesticides, the consequences ripple throughout a region. For those communities that draw their drinking water from a lake or river, the consequences are especially serious. Some municipalities have been fighting high nitrate levels in their drinking water for nearly 50 years. But even where a lake or river is not a source of drinking water, problems can multiply: A community can lose recreational opportunities, fish and wildlife may be threatened, and the use of water for industry and agriculture can suffer.



One way farmers can protect surface water is to set realistic crop yield goals. It can be expensive to be overly optimistic, especially when it comes to nitrogen fertilizer applications. Because soil tests for nitrogen are not entirely reliable, N application recommendations are based on yield goals. If yield goals are unrealistically high, the recommended application rates for nitrogen will be high. The result: increased expense, increased levels of nitrogen in the soil, and increased risk to surface water and groundwater.

Here are a few guidelines for setting realistic yield goals:

Recognize that exceptionally good years are just that; Exceptions

Establish realistic yield estimates for each field based on soil type, your own 3- to 5- year yield records, county average yields, and yields on neighboring farms. When figuring the average yield on a field, don't count years of abnormally low yields that resulted from drought or other weather-related conditions.

Set your yield goal 5 to 10 percent above your average yield of the past five years. That way, if it's a good year, the crop will have enough nutrients to become a bumper crop. If it's an off year, the amount of excess nitrogen in the soil will be kept to a minimum.

Use new technologies to gain more precise information in setting yield goals. Combine yield monitors, global positioning systems (GPS) and resulting yield maps can provide accurate information in setting application rates for not only fertilizers and lime but also for pesticides.

Setting realistic yield goals is just part of the bigger picture of managing crop nutrients effectively, efficiently and in an environmentally sound way. Other ways to manage nutrients include: monitoring nutrient levels with soil testing and plant tissue tests, adjusting nutrient application rates based on credits for previous crops and the application of manure and other organic wastes, using the right form of nitrogen fertilizer material, applying nitrogen fertilizer closer to the time when growing crops will utilize it and not when it's convenient for the grower, and adjusting fertilizer application methods to increase and improve utilization by the growing crop.

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