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*'Hancock County Residue Management Field Day'*



The Greater Bear Creek Area Watershed Planning Committee, in an effort to implement education towards natural resource conservation, held the *'Hancock County Residue Management Field Day'* for growers and interested citizens in Western Illinois in September. The goal of this field day was to promote public understanding and encourage public and private participation of tillage and residue management.

The Greater Bear Creek Area Watershed includes portions of Adams and Hancock Counties. Like other watersheds it has a management plan with a mission to foster cooperation from landowners and stakeholders within the watershed to improve and protect the natural resources of the watershed. Information learned during this field day will be used by all landowners and land stewards to improve and protect the natural resources of any watershed area.

Over 200 attended the *'Hancock County Residue Management Field Day'* and heard discussions and watched demonstrations of ten pieces of conservation tillage equipment. NRCS provided assistance measuring the remaining crop residue after tillage. Following the field demonstrations, participants listened to guest speakers, provide information and address relevant topics such as: residue management, tillage options, nutrient placement, and carbon credits. With a large part of Hancock County having highly erodible land this event showed participants alternatives that could be used in their own operation.

The event was sponsored by Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District, and co-sponsors Hancock County U of I Extension, Hancock County Farm Bureau, and Prairie Hills RC&D. A rib-eye sandwich meal was provided with assistance from the Beef Producers.

Plans are being made for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *'Hancock County Residue Management Field Day'* this fall.