

Cover crop forum slated for July 26

By HP STAFF | Posted: Wednesday, July 5, 2017 6:00 am

NILES — Crop nutrition expert John Kempf will be featured speaker for the July 25 “Working with Cover Crops Field Day” in Niles Township, the Berrien Conservation District announced.

The event will be 4-9 p.m. at 11025 M-140 – Carl Wagner III’s farm.

Kempf, of Orwell, Ohio, is the founder of Advancing Eco Agriculture (AEA), a leading crop nutrition consulting company, the conservation district reported.

Also on tap will be Marcy Hamilton of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. She will present on opportunities for farm renters and owners in the Ox Creek and St. Joseph River watersheds to improve water quality with USDA cost share assistance.

Presenter Josh Appleby will provide information on the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.

Attendees can view a cover crop demonstration plot, showing various species used.

The district reported that Kempf is a top expert in the field of biological and regenerative farming. He founded AEA in 2006 to help fellow farmers by providing the education, tools and strategies that will have a global effect on the food supply and those who are growing that supply.

Through intense study and the knowledge gleaned from many industry leaders, Kempf is building a comprehensive systems-based approach to plant nutrition – a system based on the sciences of plant physiology, mineral nutrition and soil microbiology.

He has a unique ability to simplify and explain very complex concepts in the areas of soil and plant health. He discusses the larger social and environmental impacts of food, agriculture and ecology. Kempf’s mission is to provide support to the world’s farmers that globally impact our food supply, the district reported.

As a farmer who grew up in and remains a part of the Amish community, Kempf has a very special understanding of plants’ functional immunity. He sought alternative approaches to prevent damage to his crops once they stopped responding to conventional pesticide treatments.

Dinner is included. This event is pending for Restricted Use Pesticide Credits and MAEAP Phase I.

The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. RSVP before Thursday, July 20, by calling the Berrien Conservation District at 471-9111, Ext. 3 or email nancy.carpenter@macd.org. Early reservations are encouraged.

Sponsors include the Berrien County Farm Bureau, Wilbur Ellis, and Scott’s Cover Crops.

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