

La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is pleased to announce that they will be forming an On-Farm Network<sup>®</sup> (OFN) group in 2015. Any producer planting corn is eligible for the program. OFN is funded through the Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance with checkoff funds and is being offered free of charge to producers.

OFN uses aerial imagery and the Corn Stalk Nitrate Test (CSNT) to determine nitrogen use efficiency in each field enrolled. Producers are not restricted on tillage, rotation, nitrogen form, timing or rate and may enroll multiple fields. The basic level of the program is called Guided Stalk Sampling (GSS) and fields may be enrolled after planting.

At the end of the year, OFN will supply each grower with the imagery and CSNT results from each field. A regional report, with each field assigned an anonymous ID number, will also be available to each grower.

OFN is a state-wide program coordinated by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. More information about the program and previous years' results can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/isda/ofn> The CSNT results are calibrated based on Purdue University research - <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/soilfertility/news/cornstalknitrate.pdf>

Any producer interested in joining the La Porte County OFN group should contact Sheila Batchelor at 219-326-6808 Ext. 2116. The application for a GSS field consists of a single page and a field map.