

**8:30a.m.** Registration and Safety Training

**9:00 a.m.** Welcome and Introductions - Bruce Stevens

**9:15 a.m.** Brief Discussion of the Permitting Process - Discuss soil survey maps, target yields, land uses, and bond release standards.

**9:30 a.m.** The first stop will be at the Francisco Underground Mining Portal. A Black Beauty representative will give a brief overview of the facility and its operation.

**10:15 a.m.** Tour of the Active Pit- At these stops the group will observe the coal extraction process. Observe and discuss the truck/shovel method of topsoil and subsoil (rooting media) removal.

**11:00 a.m.** Reclaimed Area behind the Active Pit – At this stop, the group will observe the replacement of topsoil and subsoil (rooting medium). This stop will include land leveling and mulching and crimping demonstrations by Loudermilk Contracting. Cornelius Farms will conduct a deep ripping demonstration (weather permitting).

**11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. LUNCH (Included in Your Registration Fee)** Lunch catered by Sander’s Catering.

**12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.** Herbicide use for Cover Crop Management on Reclaimed Lands. Purdue Extension.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.** At this stop, Bob Dunker, University of Illinois agronomist, will discuss current research relating to Prime Farmland Restoration. Soil pits will be observed at this site. Also, at this stop Ramona Briggeman, a Wildlife Biologist from the

IDNR, will discuss the implementation of the Fish and Wildlife land use on mined lands.

**OR (for those using session for private pesticide applicator training)**

**1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.** Atrazine Use and Surface Water Concerns.

**1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.** Where are we with Soybean Rust?

**2:45 p.m.** Wrap up and Summary - Bruce Stevens

**3:00 p.m.** Departure

### Francisco Mine Statistics

5,717.4 acres permitted  
4,808.7 acres cropland post mining (84.1 %)  
101.1 acres pasture post mining (1.8 %)  
135.9 acres water post mining (2.4 %)  
566.4 acres forest and wildlife post mining (9.9 %)  
105.3 acres residential, industrial and roads (1.8 %)  
3,532.6 acres of post mining Prime Farmland (61.8 %)

Predominant Pre-Mining Prime Farmland Soil Types are Alford, Birds, Muren, Petrolia, and Wakeland.

Predominant Pre-Mining Non-Prime Soil Types are Alford (eroded), Hosmer (eroded) and Petrolia (flooded).

Target Yields for the Francisco Mine are:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Prime</u>	<u>Non-Prime</u>
Corn	130.6 bu/ac	88.6 bu/ac
Soybeans	45.5 bu/ac	31.1 bu/ac
Wheat	52.3 bu/ac	36.1 bu/ac
Hay	4.4 T/ac	3.0 T/ac

### What is Prime Farmland?

Prime farmlands are those lands determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed and forage. For SMCRA purposes, these soils must have been historically used for cropland production to be considered prime farmland. State and federal law requires a minimum of 48 inches of soil (topsoil and subsoil) must be removed, stored, and replaced on all non-exempted prime farmland areas. The operator must restore prime farmland to 100% of its pre-mining level of productivity as determined by the NRCS.

### What is Non-prime Farmland?

Non-prime farmlands are all of those lands that do not meet the requirements of prime farmland. The law requires that for these lands the land must be reconstructed by replacing sufficient soil to restore the land to its premining capability. Presently in Indiana, a minimum of 12 inches of soil on non-cropland areas and a minimum of 18 inches of soil for non-prime cropland and exempted PFL cropland is required. The term “soil” may include substitute soil materials. Non-prime farmland must be restored to 90% of original productivity.

Black Beauty Coal Company (at this mine) is replacing a total of 5 to 6 feet of soil on both the prime farmland and the non-prime farmland portions of the permit.

**Indiana Soil/Prime Farmland Team Members**

**Black Beauty Coal Company**  
Bryce West

**Daviess County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
John McCall

**Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Division  
of Reclamation**  
Steve Wade

**Indiana Farm Bureau**  
Mike Baise

**Indiana State Department of Agriculture**  
Ken Eck

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
Ray Sinclair, Travis Neely and Rick Neilson

**Office of Surface Mining**  
Larry Emmons and Russ Miller

**Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service**  
Gary Steinhardt, Debra Foye and Mark Evans

**Sierra Club**  
Bill Hayden

**Soil Tech, Inc.**  
Dave Ralston

**Vigo Coal Company**  
Don Rhodes

**University of Illinois**  
Robert Dunker

**Indiana Soils/ Prime Farmland  
Team Purpose**

**To develop and provide recommendations that ensure the protection, restoration and management of soil resources affected by coal mining in Indiana.**

**Indiana Soils/ Prime Farmland  
Team Goal**

**To promote coordination among the various government agencies, and other entities concerned with the maintenance of prime farmland and cropland capable land resources.**

**Surface Mine Reclamation Field Day  
Black Beauty Coal Company  
Francisco Mine  
Francisco, IN  
Thursday, June 30, 2005  
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**



The Indiana Soils/Prime Farmland Team would like to thank all of the sponsors of today's field day. A special thank you to Black Beauty Coal Company, Indiana Farm Bureau, Loudermilk Contracting, Cornelius Farms, and the Gibson County Co-op.

The team would like to dedicate today's field day in memory of our dear friend Ken McWilliams who served many years on this team. Ken lost his battle with cancer this spring. He is sorely missed.