

## 2018 Indiana Envirothon State Contest Presentation Topic Oral Presentation and Written Plan Information and Guidelines

This year's state problem involves pasture management and balancing agriculture, conservation, and wildlife. You will be starting up or improving a pasture operation that manages livestock. Depending on the herd numbers and selection of the species of livestock you plan to manage, your pasture could have a large operation on a few hundred acres, or you may select to have a hobby farm on a smaller property or properties.

Identify a suitable tract of land that might work to pasture the type of grazer(s) you are interested in establishing. It could be land already in pasture that needs renovation to improve its capabilities. You may also want to consider land that is currently in another use which could be renovated such as former mine land, an active or closed landfill site, commercial/industrial area, or municipal property. Think about the effect of the development on all natural resources on the selected property site including the soil type(s). Think about how the land will be used, taking into consideration the best management practices (BMPs) needed for your operation. Be sure to include how woodland areas would be used or protected, how drainage areas/bodies of water would be used or protected from the grazers, and how you will ensure your management is compatible with wildlife use. **Include the four resource areas in your presentation.**

Also, consider agri-tourism. In some cases your development may impact local tourism and you may benefit from visiting tourists dollars as well as other considerations such as hunting rights, birding trails, native plantings, bee keepers, or developing fishing ponds. Note if there are scenic byways in your area or other attractions. You might consider the possibility of developing alternative energy sources on your site as well.

Your project must have a strategic plan, be practical, economically feasible, and be an actual location in your community. Your strategic plan needs to take into consideration the wet conditions experienced state-wide during the fall of 2017 through the spring of 2018 and how it affects land use and management.

## Things to consider/food for thought:

- How livestock, soils present on property, wildlife, water quality, and woodlands can be compatible on this tract of land.
- You may want to score the current condition of the pasture on the property before you begin the project
- In an urban area you might consider undeveloped tracts, not currently being used, that are open land and zoned appropriately for animals, such as industrial parks.
- How will you address/manage invasive plant species on the property?
- What type of grazing practices will you recommend?
- Will you consider agri-tourism as part of your project to increase educational outreach opportunities, or economic returns in your community?

You should create a 3-year strategic plan at a minimum. It must be practical and must include an actual location in your community, have a planned follow up on some regular time basis (quarterly, seasonally, annually), to update progress. Maps and/or photos of the landscape are highly encouraged to include with your project as well as speaking personally with natural resources professionals.

Some suggestions for contacting natural resource professionals:

- US Dept of Agriculture (USDA)/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) - *every county has one*
- Purdue Cooperative Extension Office - *every county has one*
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
- Parks Department
- City/County Planner/Commission
- Local College Agriculture Professor
- A Landowner that you know
- Various livestock associations – local, state, national, worldwide
- County Tourism or Chamber of Commerce
- County or Regional Economic Development Offices
- Watershed groups – 319 based
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
  - District Forester, District Biologist, Fisheries
- City or County GIS/Planning and Zoning/Engineering Departments
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Local pay lakes
- Local rails to trails

Helpful tools:

- Web Soil Survey link
  - <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>
- Ideas for organizing committees, promotion, and fundraising –
  - <http://tinyurl.com/OutdoorClassroomGuidelines>

**Your team is to focus on the strategic plan to be presented – team should not give a long “lesson” on history of conservation stewardship, you are presenting to professionals in the natural resource field familiar with conservation. You should have a strong understanding of the components of the property you have selected as the judges may ask you questions concerning specific natural resources present/available (soil/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and pasture management).**

**Your Strategic Plan should include** these 10+ key items

1. History of location
2. Vision of the plan on the location
3. Prioritization of plan
4. Goals and Objectives of the plan
5. Monitoring of plan
6. Activities of the plan (who, what, where, when, why)
7. Education/Outreach/Awareness
8. Time line to revisit the Strategic Plan
9. Things to consider
  - i. Practicality
  - ii. Expenses/Funding
  - iii. Social/Cultural impacts
10. Resource page
  - i. Listing of natural resources professionals contacted and comments (highly recommended)
  - ii. Additional resources used in plan preparation
  - iii. Listing of the team members

## 2018 Indiana Envirothon State Contest Presentation Guidelines

Submit three copies of Strategic Plan (including support materials) on 8.5 x 11 white paper in black ink typed in an easily read font style and size. Be sure to include maps, bibliography, cover page, and team member page. *(One copy of the strategic plan may/will be kept by the Indiana Envirothon and the other copies may be picked up at the registration table after the contest concludes)*

Make sure the presentation includes how the Strategic Plan will affect soils and land use, wildlife, forestry, aquatic ecology, and address the 2018 current issue **“Pasture Management: Balancing Agriculture, Conservation, and Wildlife.”**

All materials related to the presentation (note cards, poster, reports, etc.) need to be turned in when you register. They will be returned prior to your presentation.

If you will be using a power point presentation of some type with your oral presentation, it must be submitted via e-mail to Jeri Ziliak as a PDF file only. E-mail your PDF presentation to both [jeri.ziliak@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:jeri.ziliak@in.nacdnet.net) and [poseyswcd@gmail.com](mailto:poseyswcd@gmail.com) by **Monday, April 23, 2018 at 12PM (Noon) Central time.**

**All PowerPoint presentations MUST be submitted in PDF format ONLY – no other presentations, pre-recorded verbal or internet accessed presentations are permitted. PDF presentations will be pre-loaded onto a computer prior to the contest by the Indiana Envirothon representative. Please be sure your presentation is in a PDF format before sending it in. Posters, flipcharts, etc. are encouraged. No additional equipment or tripods will be provided.**

It is highly encouraged to have a back-up plan for your presentation in the event that weather, technical, or other issues beyond the control of Indiana Envirothon should occur during the state contest.

Your presentation must be no longer than 12 minutes long. There will be a 2 point penalty for going over 12 minutes and the team will be stopped at that point.

A score sheet has been included for your reference. The score sheet was updated in 2016 but is still similar to the North American Envirothon competition.