

Septic Summit Recap

Over 100 Brown County residents attended the Septic Summit on September 3. Planned and coordinated by League member Clint Studabaker, the Summit provided an up-front look at various septic systems and an opportunity to discuss all things septic with installers, septic pumping companies, and various experts in public health, soils, and water.



The discussion panel consisted of the following experts in their respective fields:

- Angela Brown, Chief, Watershed Planning & Restoration Section, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Alice Quinn, Public Health and Environment Division, Indiana State Department of Health
- Kara Hammes, Purdue Extension Educator, Brown County
- Ernie Reed, Environmental Health Specialist, Brown County Health Department
- John Bowen, Soil Scientist



From left: Studabaker; Brown; Quinn; Reed; Hammes; Bowen

The panel, moderated by Studabaker, answered questions including: Is there evidence of septic water causing diseases? How long can a septic system last? Is there a “proper” type of soil for a septic system? Why can’t I drive over my septic system? What material should not go in a septic system? What are signs my septic is having problems?

Resources: Hand-outs providing Septic System information were available to attendees. Many of these can be found online, including Purdue Extension publication “**Operating and Maintaining an Onsite Sewage System**” - www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/HENV/HENV-107-w.pdf, and EPA publication “**A Homeowner’s Guide to Septic Systems**” - www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/septicmart_longhomeownerguide_english508_0.pdf.

Raffle Prizes Awarded: Twenty coupons for \$100 toward a septic clean-out were awarded via raffle, as were five prizes of compost pails filled with septic-friendly supplies.



The Love Bugs 4-H Club offered \$5 “Septic Special” meal combos, and we thank them for their hard work and participation.

The Summit was co-sponsored by the Brown County League of Women Voters, Purdue Extension Service, Brown County Soil & Water Conservation, Brown County Regional Sewer District, and Brown County Health Department.