

## **SOWAP newsletter no.2, August 2005**

Finding and Demonstrating Ways of Better Managing the Land



### Water

First results from catchment studies comparing the effects of conservation tillage and conventional plough-based cultivation on stream water quality show:

- In winter, streams in conservation-tilled catchments had lower sediment loads than streams in conventionally-tilled catchments.
- In winter, total phosphorus concentrations were lower in 'conventional' streams and slightly elevated in 'conservation tilled' streams; however, phosphorus levels in all of the study streams were quite low and at levels where only minor biological damage would be expected.
- There was no difference in nitrogen concentration between 'conservation tilled' and 'conventional' streams; both were significantly higher than the natural woodland background level.

### Biodiversity

- In Hungary, greater numbers and weights of earthworms were found in conservation-tilled fields than in conventionally ploughed fields under two different crop rotations in Autumn 2004.

*Please pass this on to interested colleagues. They can register for future editions either by emailing [admin@sowap.org](mailto:admin@sowap.org) or subscribing at [www.sowap.org](http://www.sowap.org).  
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