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Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District

Newsletter Winter 2018



IMPORTANT UPDATE

If you would like to receive the district newsletter electronically please email the address listed below, and include "Email Newsletter" in the subject line. In an effort to conserve our resources the SWCD would like to **UPDATE** our newsletter database and move towards **sending our correspondence via email!** If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please notify our office and we will remove you from our database. Thank you for your help!



Please join us for our 69th Annual Meeting & Dinner

Date:
February 6, 2018

Time:
6:00 pm
Doors open at 5:30 pm

Location:
4-H Community Bldg.

Cost:
\$12.00 per person

RSVP: By February 2nd



Our guest speaker will be Mr. Andy Ertel. Andy retired from the NRCS after 35 years as a technician, watershed coordinator, district conservationist, regional watershed planner, and technical team leader in several counties in Southern Indiana. He began working for the Jennings County SWCD in May 2015. Andy says, "Two years before retiring from the NRCS, I read some interesting news about pollinator populations and native flowering habitats and it became a personal goal to create a Community Pollinator Project if given the chance."

Come and enjoy the newest Love Story, "It takes a village to keep our Bees and Butterflies."

This presentation will be energetic and entertaining!



vicki.wehner@jeffersoncounty.in.gov

No-Till Drills Available for Rent
 The Jefferson County SWCD has a 10' & 6' Great Plains No-Till Drills available for rent.
The drill rentals operate on a first come first serve basis.
 Rental Charges: \$10 per acre with a \$60 Minimum Charge. There will be a \$10 per day charge for use after 3 days in addition to acreage charge.
 Call (812) 265-7609 for availability & more information

Soil Sampling Probe
 We now have a hand soil sampling probe available to rent. If you would like take soil samples this probe will make it easier for you. We also have bags and instructions at the office to prepare your soil sample to send in to get your results. To rent the probe it will cost \$5.00 per day. You must leave a refundable \$100 deposit when you take the probe. We will return your deposit when you return the probe. Rental will be on a first come first serve basis.



SWCD Supervisors
 Mark Darnold, Chairman
 Jeff Ferguson, Vice-Chairman
 Dale Sides
 Steve Riley
 Chancey May
Office Staff
 Vicki Wehner – District Coordinator

Office Hours
 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Monday – Friday
 (812) 265-7609

Board Meetings
 The Second Thursday of each month starting at 7:00 pm in the Lonnie Mason Agriculture Building

Our Website
 jeffersoncountyswcd.com

Check out our Facebook @jeffersoncountySWCD 

Clean Water Indiana 2018 Grant

The Jefferson and Clark County SWCD's have been awarded a 2018 Clean Water Indiana grant. This grant is for \$69,990 for up to a three year period for the two county area or until the money is allocated. This project will strive to promote soil health on pasture/hay land, and improve pasture and hay quality; reduce soil erosion and compaction; reduce excessive nutrients and sediments in surface and ground water; and improve inadequate feed, forage, and water. Cover crops are included as they reduce erosion and diminish sediment entering our waters, and they can be grazed as part of a pasture management plan. Eligible conservation practices are: HUAP, access road, pipeline, watering facility, cover crop, roof runoff structure, animal trails and walkways, permanent interior fence, underground outlet, pasture and hay seeding.

For more information contact the SWCD office at: (812) 265-7609.



Cost-Share Program - Central Muscatatuck Watershed

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project has been notified by Indiana Department of Environmental Management that the project has been awarded \$349,133 and of that amount \$177,737 will be used for cost-share. Practices that will be available for cost-share include cover crops, fencing, heavy use area protection, stream crossing, pasture and hay land seeding. If you are interested in participating in the cost-share and have property within the watershed contact Steve Franklin for more information. He can be reached at 812-689-6410 or you may contact our office at (812) 265-7609.



Tree and Plant Sale

Our tree and perennial plant sale has started. We are taking orders until Friday, March 23, 2018. If you would like a brochure give us a call, stop by the office, or check out our website and facebook.



Fish Sale

Our spring fish sale will be held in April. We have not finalized a date yet. A brochure with types of fish available and pricing will be available at the beginning of March. If you would like a brochure mailed to you please give the office a call at (812) 265-7609.

Indiana NRCS Delivers Healthier Natural Resources, Greater Public Safety, Better Customer Service in 2017

Indianapolis, IN, December 29, 2017 - In 2017, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continued its proud tradition of working in partnership with farmers and forest landowners in Indiana and across the country.

"I am pleased to share the results of our 2017 program data and science-based surveys that shows we and our conservation partners brought a healthier resource base to Indiana, used taxpayers' dollars wisely, made people safer, and provided a high level of customer-focused technical assistance to thousands of residents and communities," said Jane Hardisty, NRCS state conservationist.

Here are some highlights from Indiana:

Investments in Planning and Farm Bill Programs

In Indiana, NRCS completed more than 1,500 contracts helping land managers invest in their operations. This work resulted in conservation plans for 276,753 acres of working lands.

A \$23 million investment in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) helped put conservation practices on more than 182,380 acres in the state. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) enhancements to build on existing conservation efforts were placed on more than 57,902 acres. Nearly 3,428 acres of wetlands in Indiana were protected through new enrollments in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

Targeted Conservation

In 2017, NRCS targeted the conservation of some of the nation's most-valuable resources. Because of this assistance from NRCS and its partners:

- In addition to general funding opportunities, NRCS targets dollars to watersheds showing the greatest natural resource concerns. Focusing conservation in these priority watersheds can make a more positive impact on the health of our nation's streams and rivers. In Indiana, conservation practices were implemented in priority watersheds including more than 27,409 acres in the Western Lake Erie Basin, 4,522 acres in the Mississippi River Basin and 3,814 acres in the Big Pine watershed.
- More than \$640,000 was invested in Indiana's Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, an effort between NRCS and the U.S. Forest Service to reduce wildfire threats, protect water quality and supply, and improve habitat for at-risk species while working across public and private lands.
- The 2014 Farm Bill continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged farmers, as well as beginning and limited resource farmers and military veteran farmers. It provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing NRCS programs and services. Indiana NRCS worked on 92 contracts with historically underserved landowners, putting conservation on nearly 7,200 acres of their land.
- Over 1,600 acres of reclaimed mine land in southwest Indiana were restored by implementing soil health practices through the Soil Health on Reclaimed Mine Lands Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project.

Disaster Assistance

Much of Indiana was hit hard by storms in 2017, causing extensive flooding in local communities. Through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), NRCS provides assistance to communities by working with local government entities and Tribes in impacted areas to remove debris, stabilize stream banks and fix water control structures, among other practices. Indiana NRCS completed three EWP projects in 2017, investing over one million dollars in financial and technical assistance for stream bank and road stabilization projects. Local partners contributed an addition \$346,908 for these projects.

Customer Service

NRCS improved customer service by applying new ways to meet its customers' needs. In 2017, NRCS:

- Offered more than 200 customizable conservation activities through Farm Bill programs.
- Added customer-requested evaluation, ranking, and obligation processes to CSP.
- Through Indiana NRCS technical assistance, education and outreach efforts many of our customers applied conservation practices on their own. For example, our tillage transect shows that for every acre of cover crop applies through our programs, 5 acres of cover crop was applied on their own expense.

For more information about NRCS and other technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or contact your District Conservationist <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/contact/local/>.