



Conservation awards presented to top farmers

The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's (IASWCD) River Friendly Farmer (RFF) Award was recently presented to the state's outstanding agricultural conservationists. The venue was Farmers' Day, August 18th, at the Indiana State Fair. Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, and Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc. President Don Villwock, joined IASWCD President Paula Baldwin as 57 farmers received the 2010 honor in the 4-H Exhibit Hall auditorium before an audience of Indiana Conservation Partnership representatives, local Soil and Water Conservation District staff and supervisors, family and friends. Also congratulating award winners was Indiana State Conservationist Jane Hardisty, head of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



2010 River Friendly Farmer recipients stand on stage in the 4-H Exhibit Hall Auditorium after receiving their awards. Indiana Conservation Partnership leaders congratulated them.

The **River Friendly Farmer Award** was first presented to Indiana farmers in 2000. It was created to recognize producers who do an excellent job of incorporating conservation practices into their daily farm management toolbox. "These caretakers manage their farms in an environmentally sound way," says Baldwin, "that protects and improves Indiana's soil and water resources for future generations. Over the last 10 years, 544 Hoosiers have been recognized with the River Friendly Farmer award."

Dana Coots, Charlestown, is Clark County's River Friendly Farmer for 2010. Dana utilizes conservation practices in his farming operations, and has promoted conservation in his 24-year service on the Clark County SWCD board. He farms approximately 900 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat.

SWCD Awarded Funds to Implement Grant

The Clark County SWCD was recently awarded an EPA 319 grant to implement its Silver Creek Watershed Management Plan, which was completed in 2009. Through this grant, residents of the watershed community will be provided cost-share and educational opportunities in order to promote awareness of the benefits of conservation. A healthy watershed is the ultimate goal.

Watch future newsletters and local newspapers for announcements of events and cost-share programs associated with this grant.

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Dates to Note

- 9/6/10—*Labor Day Holiday, SWCD office closed*
- 9/15/10—*Tree Order deadline*
- 9/27-10/1/10—*Tree Order pickup, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.*
- 10/7/10—*SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.*
- 11/04/10—*SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.*

Clark County SWCD Announces Cover Crop Program

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is pleased to announce the start of its Cover Crop Cost Share Program. Funded through a Clean Water Indiana grant, the program's purpose is to improve the water quality of our county by reducing the amount of nutrients, pesticides, and sediment entering our county's waterbodies. Cover crops are a logical way to do this as they help prevent loss of soil and nutrients on crop ground between planting seasons.

****Under this program, landowners will receive a \$15 per acre incentive payment, on a maximum of 40 acres, for utilizing cover crops as part of their production management. The following are guidelines of the Cover Crop program:**

- Applications are due to the SWCD office by close of business September 24, 2010. An aerial photo of the land must accompany the application with farm and tract # identi-

fied. Approved applicants will be notified no later than October 1, 2010.

- Incentives will be offered on a first come-first serve basis.
- In the event that more dollars are available after all applications have been considered, landowners will be given the opportunity to receive payment for additional acres.
- Land must be located in Clark County, but may be owned/farmed by someone residing outside of the county. If a farmer is renting the ground, he must have the landowner sign the application so that the landowner is aware of the agreement and conditions.
- Producers will be allowed the opportunity to utilize one of the SWCD's GPS units in their crop production if they so desire. There will be no charge for the first use.
- Acceptable fall-seeded cover crops are: annual ryegrass, cereal rye, winter wheat, winter triticale, and field peas/winter peas. (Fly

Free Date: October 6).

- Priority will be given to land located within Silver Creek or Fourteen-Mile Creek watersheds.
- Priority will also be given to land not currently enrolled in a NRCS program.
- Harvesting or grazing will not be allowed on the acres cost-shared by this program.
- Cover crops must be in the field, and receipts for seed purchased must be submitted to the SWCD office, by close of business October 30th to receive the incentive payment. Crops will be field verified.**

For more information, or to sign up for the Cover Crop Program, please contact the Clark County SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, or visit us at 9608 Highway 62, Charlestown.

Due to printing deadlines, we are publishing these guidelines in preliminary format. Please call us after September 2nd to confirm the final approved guidelines if you are interested in the program.

2010 Youth Deer Hunt at Big Walnut Nature Preserve

A special youth deer hunt will take place at Big Walnut Nature Preserve, near Bainbridge, during the Youth Deer Season, which is Sept. 25 and 26, 2010.

Youth hunters may apply through the online reserved hunt system (www.hunting.IN.gov) beginning Aug. 23. Deadline to apply for this hunt is Sept. 3. Youth hunters must have a valid license to hunt deer to apply.

Successfully drawn hunters will be able to scout the property on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010 from 8 a.m. to noon, and will be able to hunt on Saturday, Sept. 25 and Sunday, Sept. 26, from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

The youth hunter must comply with all deer hunting regulations, and be accompanied by an adult; both must wear hunter orange.

The youth hunter may use a legal firearm,

bow and arrow, or crossbow to take the deer, but may possess only one type of equipment to take a deer while in the field. The accompanying adult cannot take a deer and may not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, etc., while in the field with the youth hunter.

Youth age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt, can take one deer of either sex during this special youth deer season. If the youth hunter takes an antlerless deer during this season, it is in addition to any antlerless deer taken during any other season. If the youth hunter takes an antlered deer during this season, he or she may not take another antlered deer during the regular archery, firearm, or muzzleloader seasons.

More information regarding the hunt will be supplied to successfully drawn youth hunters.

More information: Kevin Hoffman, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, khoffman@dnr.IN.gov, (317) 234-5904.

Have an Interest in Conservation District Activities?

Perhaps you should consider applying to become a part of our Board of Supervisors. We have an elected position term expiring next year. We also continually seek associate members, who may serve on subcommittees in areas of interest and attend meetings at their leisure. The five person Board of Supervisors are responsible for setting and maintaining overall district policies and programs regarding the conservation of natural resources within the district. For more information, contact the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3.

Tree Seedling Order Forms Now Available

Tree seedlings will once more be available to Indiana landowners this year through the IDNR Division of Forestry nursery in Valtonia, IN. These trees may be used for reforestation, erosion control, wildlife habitat development, watershed improvement, wetlands enhancement, wind-break, or other conservation purposes.

Order forms are now available in the Clark County SWCD office for the 2010-2011 season. Forms may also be obtained on the internet by visiting <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3606.htm>.

To be eligible for the lottery drawing, orders must be received by 4 p.m., October 15th. There is a \$10 non-refundable processing fee for each order.

Help in deciding which species to plant may be obtained from Clark County's District Forester, Don Stump. He may be contacted at the Clark State Forest office, (812) 294-4306, or by email at dstump@dnr.IN.gov.



When Disaster Strikes, FSA Can Help

If you are a farmer that has experienced losses from a disaster event, Farm Service Agency (FSA) may be able to provide you some financial assistance. Programs offered by FSA are:

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by drought, flood, hurricane, or other natural disasters. NAP covers noninsurable crop losses and planting prevented by disasters. Landowners, tenants, or sharecroppers who share in the risk of producing an eligible crop are eligible. Eligible commodities include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food, including livestock feed or fiber for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is unavailable. Certain controlled-environment crops are also eligible.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment (SURE) - SURE was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill and covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies. Only those counties and contiguous counties declared disaster areas by the Agriculture Secretary or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50 percent.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) - TAP provides partial reimbursement to orchardists and nursery tree growers for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation if losses due to natural disaster exceed 15 percent.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) - LFP provides assistance to livestock producers for forage losses due to drought and losses due to wild-fire on public lands.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) - LIP provides assistance to livestock

producers for livestock deaths from disaster events, in excess of normal mortality.

Emergency Loan Program (EM) - FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Emergency loans may be made to farmers and ranchers who own or operate land located in a county declared by the President as a disaster area or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a disaster area or quarantine area (for physical losses only, the FSA Administrator may authorize emergency loan assistance). Emergency loan funds may be used to: restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts.

Emergency Conservation Program—ECP provides funding for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. The natural disaster must create new conservation problems, which, if not treated, would: impair or endanger the land; materially affect the productive capacity of the land; represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

To find out more about these programs, including how to participate, contact the Clark County Farm Service Agency office at 256-2330, ext. 2, or go online to: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Get Your Rain Barrel Now!

Rain barrel kits are now available! Kits include one 55 gallon plastic barrel, 2—3/4 inch faucets, and instructions for assembly. (Additional materials are required to complete the barrel.)

Contact the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, to place your order. Kits are \$40 each and are available for pickup Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Order forms are also available on the District home page, www.clarkswcd.org.

9608 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
812-256-2330, ext. 3
Fax: 812-256-0362

Return Service Requested



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SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
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Koetter Woodworking
Sanders Farm Service—Pioneer Seed
Clark County Farm Bureau*

F frequently asked questions

A The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a variety of programs to producers and landowners interested in conservation. Some programs offer annual conservation payments; others offer payments for long-term contracts and conservation easements. Whether through an agreement or easement purchase, all programs include Federal funds to assist with or offset costs of conservation practices and activities.

Here are some frequently asked questions regarding programs:

How do I improve the chances of my conservation program application being accepted? Most program applications are selected according to ranking processes specific to your area. Working with your local NRCS representative, you can develop a conservation plan for your land that provides alternatives for various levels of resource treatment relevant to application ranking considerations in your area. You can select the level of treatment that best meets your individual needs while improving your chances of being accepted for funding.

If I enroll my land in a conservation program, do I maintain ownership? Am I required to allow public access to my land?

If you enroll land in any of our conservation programs, you retain ownership of the land. Although participation in conservation easement programs limits certain uses of the land during the term of the agreement or easement, you still maintain control of public access.

Will I be responsible for maintaining practices that I install under a conservation program?

All programs require practice operation and maintenance as stated in the agreement.

What types of wildlife will I attract if I enroll in conservation programs?

The practices you implement and the plants you establish will affect the types of wildlife you attract to your land. Practices can be designed and managed to attract particular species, such as turkey, quail, deer, song-

District activities and programs will be made available to all citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, marital status or disability.