



## Clark County 4-H Fair July 21-23, 2001

The Clark County 4-H Fair opens July 21, for a week filled with activities and exhibits for all ages.

While you're at the fair, please stop by and visit the us in the Natural Resources Conservation Education Facility. Wildlife will be exhibited throughout the week. District supervisors and staff will be on hand Monday through Friday evenings from 6-10 p.m. In addition, the conservation specialists listed below will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding conservation education, erosion control, fish pond management, and soil and water conservation.

July 23

**Jerry Roach**, NRCS Wetland Reserve Program Coordinator (6:30-9 p.m.)

**Mike Johnson**, IDNR Resource Specialist

July 24

**Mark Bennett**, Indiana District Wildlife Biologist (6:30-9 p.m.)

July 25

**Pat Larr**, NRCS District Conservationist

July 26

**Walt Zak**, Property Manager, Clark State Forest (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

July 27

**Larry Lehman**, Fish Biologist (7-9 p.m.)

### *See you there!*

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# Mystery Picture



From time to time we will include in our newsletter a picture to identify, a question to answer, or a puzzle to solve. The first person to provide us with the correct answer/solution will receive a prize.

Please contact the Clark County SWCD office if you know what the picture at the left represents. The answer and winner of this issue's contest will be posted in the Fall edition of our newsletter.

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## Conservation Buffers and "Creek Bank Taters" featured on August Tour

What do conservation buffers and "creek-bank taters" have in common?? The answer to that question would be a twilight summer tour planned for August 9<sup>th</sup> and sponsored by the Clark Co. SWCD in cooperation with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and IDNR Division of Soil Conservation.

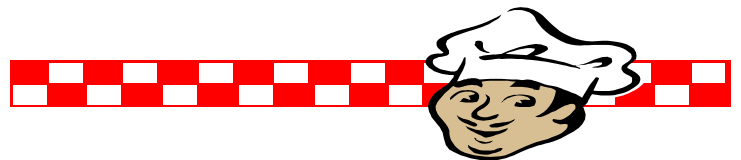
According to Sam Hagest, SWCD Chairman, "We think there's some great financial opportunities for folks to take advantage of to help install filter strips, grassed waterways and other buffers on their land... we're planning the tour to show some of these practices and talk about programs available to help. We'll also be cooking some of the famous "creek-bank taters" that we've served in past years at our field days. We'd like to see lots of Clark County landowners come out to the tour to learn more about how they can install conservation buffers on their land. "

The tour will begin promptly at 5:30 at the Clark County 4-H fairgrounds where participants will gather and board a bus. After visiting several sites, the bus will return to the fairgrounds where a meal of creek-bank taters and other delectables will be served. The event will be held free of charge, and reservations can be made by calling the Clark SWCD office at 256-2330, ext.3.

Conservation buffers are strips or small areas of land in permanent vegetation that help control potential pollutants from entering streams or other bodies of water. Filter strips, field borders, grassed waterways, and riparian(streamside) buffers are some examples of conservation buffers. These areas help protect and im-

prove water quality by slowing water runoff, trapping sediment and stopping erosion. They can also serve to trap fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria and heavy metals, thus minimizing chances of surface and groundwater contamination. Conservation buffers also can protect livestock from harsh weather as well as provide habitat for wildlife. Buffers add diversity to the landscape, adding to its beauty, recreational opportunities, and land value.

Conservation buffers can be used in both urban and rural settings, although they are more commonly thought of in association with agricultural land and production of food and fiber. They can be especially helpful in maintaining a productive, profitable, and environmentally responsible farming operation by helping to protect soil, air and water quality and by improving fish and wildlife habitat.



## EQIP sign-ups still accepted

EQIP is the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program that can provide up to 75% cost-share for installation of conservation practices.

Although the deadline for initial EQIP sign-ups has past, there is still time to apply for the Upper 14 Mile Creek Conservation Priority Area. Sign-ups for this area will be accepted until August 1, 2001, at the Clark County SWCD office.

## Clark County SWCD partners with Solid Waste Management on Household Hazardous Waste Grant

Most people have at least some household cleaners, fertilizers, pesticides, paints, or automotive fluids stored in their cupboards or garages. What many people don't realize, however, is that these products can be harmful to our health and to the environment if not used, stored, and disposed of properly. Therefore, these products are termed "household hazardous waste."

Presently, Clark County does not have a means for its residents to dispose of household hazardous waste. These products many times end up in the local landfill or are illegally dumped in the county.

To remedy this situation, the Clark County SWCD is partnering with the Clark County SWMD to apply for a Household Hazardous Waste Grant. Funding from this grant would allow the SWMD to establish a permanent household hazardous waste collection facility in Clark County as early as 2002.

Until this time, please dispose of hazardous products wisely—don't dump them down the drain or on the ground. Better yet, choose a safe alternative for the more toxic product.

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## Backyard Conservation Program Planned for August



Another in our series of Backyard Conservation Programs is coming in August. Tom Barnes will be the guest speaker. Mr. Barnes is an Associate Extension Professor with the Dept. of Forestry at the University of Kentucky. His book, "Gardening for the Birds," describes landscaping for wildlife and for wildflowers, butterfly gardens, and feeding and managing birds in the backyard.

Please contact the Clark County SWCD office @ 256-2330, ext. 3, for the workshop date and time.

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## Clark County SWCD seeks approval on two EPA 319 Grants

319 grants are federal funds administered through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) Watershed Management Section, and are aimed at reducing nonpoint source water pollution. The Clark County SWCD is among 61 other applicants seeking funding for projects statewide.

Our "Urban Nonpoint Source Pollution Education Program" application recently received preliminary approval from IDEM and has been forwarded to the EPA for consideration. Activities anticipated during the duration of this education program include: storm drain stenciling, field days, and development of a community guide for nonpoint source pollution prevention.

We have partnered with the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, and Scott and Jefferson County SWCDs on a second grant project for "Grazing Land Water Quality Improvement." Funding would allow hir-

ing an employee to provide technical assistance to forage and livestock producers on improved forage management and to demonstrate grazing land BMP's not normally used in this area. This application is still under IDEM's consideration.

The EPA will announce all approved grant applications in March 2002. Funds will be distributed shortly thereafter.

### Retirement reception planned for FSA employee

Sandy Hutsell will be retiring from her position with the Clark County FSA office on August 10, 2001. Sandy has been employed with FSA since 1962.

A reception in her honor will be held in the Agriculture Service Center Conference Room from 10 a.m.—3 p.m., Wednesday, August 8. The reception is open to the public; no reservations are needed.

CLARK COUNTY SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**The Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. The five-member board of supervisors, representing local interests, hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month at our office. Please call for meeting start times. The public is encouraged to attend**

#### **Supervisors**

**Chairman: Sam Hagest**  
**Vice-Chairman: Dana Coots**  
**Member: Joe Madison**  
**Member: Amil Kleinert**  
**Member: Judy Martin**

## **Clark County SWCD a sponsor of recent Southern Indiana Phase II (MS4) Workshop**

Polluted storm water runoff is often transported to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. In 1990, the EPA established Phase I of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water program. MS4s serving populations of 100,000 or greater were required to implement storm water management programs to control polluted discharge. Phase II of the program, with some exceptions, affects the remaining MS4s not regulated under Phase I. On June 27th, the Clark County SWCD along with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the Indiana

Association of Indiana Counties, DNR and IDEM, sponsored a Phase II (MS4) Workshop, at the Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville, IN. The objective of this workshop was to provide a forum for community representatives to learn about Phase II MS4 Storm Water Regulations and their potential impact on a community.

Participants attended a "mock" town council meeting, heard specific Indiana case studies, and received useful information on the implementation of this new regulation and approaches to solving water quality problems associated with storm water runoff.