



Conservation Quarterly

Spring 2019

CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dates to Note

- 3/27/19—Spring tree sale order deadline
- 4/4/19—SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
- 4/12 & 4/15/19—Tree order pickup
- 4/19/19—Good Friday, SWCD office closed
- 4/22/19—Earth Day
- 4/26/19—Arbor Day
- 4/28-5/5/19—Stewardship Week
- 5/2/19—SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
- 5/27/19—Memorial Day, SWCD office closed

Rent our Equipment

No-Till Drill - \$8 per acre

Outback S2 Guidance Systems -
\$10 per day

Call 812-256-2330, ext. 3 for
scheduling

Stop by our office and sign an
Equipment Rental Agreement

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Incentive Funds Available for Conservation Practices



The Clark and Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are promoting soil health on pasture/hay land, and improving water quality with their 2018 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant project.

Through this project, producers can implement practices such as heavy use area protection (HUAP), access road, pipeline, watering tanks, forage and biomass planting, cover crop, permanent interior fence, and more. Cost-share rate on practices installed is 60% of actual cost; caps on individual practices have been set. Practices must be completed according to NRCS specs, and must be completed in the year that the participant's application is approved for funding.

Applications will be taken continually, and evaluated and ranked on a timely basis throughout the project life or until all grant monies are expended. Producers in Clark County, should contact the Clark County SWCD office at 812-256-2330, ext. 3; in Jefferson County, the Jefferson County SWCD office at 812-265-7609.

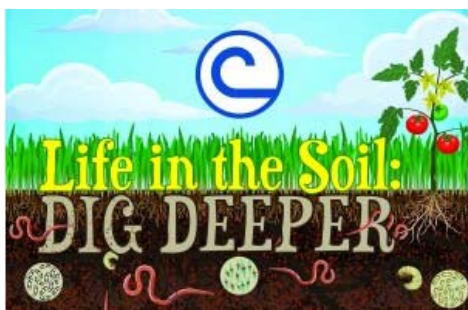
Watershed Improvement Project Begins

The Clark County SWCD is moving forward with the implementation of its' Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek-OH River Watersheds Improvement Project, which has been made possible by the receipt of an EPA Section 319 grant. With this implementation, cost-share funds will be available for projects in identified critical areas of the watersheds for selected BMPs needed to address resource concerns identified in the Watershed Management Plan. Many educational activities will also be available to provide information to citizens so they can make better environmental decisions, and help improve water quality within the watersheds.



Work will begin soon to develop the cost-share program; details of the program and applications will be available early this spring to producers. Best management practices such as cover crops, forage and biomass planting, critical area planting, grassed waterways, filter strips, fencing, and others that address water quality concerns, will be eligible for cost-share. Landowners will be provided technical assistance to facilitate BMP implementation through activities such as conducting farm visits, assisting with conservation planning and BMP selection, and inspecting installed BMPs to ensure that they meet design specifications. If you would like to receive an application for cost-share funds when they are available, or would like more information, please contact the SWCD office at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3.

Stewardship Week Celebrated



The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Stewardship Week is one of the largest conservation-related observances. Since 1955, NACD has sponsored the national Stewardship Week program by selecting a theme and developing materials for schools, communities and churches of all denominations. Stewardship Week, celebrated annually between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May (April 28 - May 5, 2019), reminds us of our personal responsibility to care for the natural resources which we all depend upon.

This year's theme is "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper." Soil is an amazing substance. A complex mix of minerals, air, and water, soil also teems with countless micro-organisms, and the decaying remains of once-living things. Soil is made of life and soil makes life. To the farmer, soil is where crops grow. To the engineer, soil is a foundation upon which to build. To the ecologist, soil supports communities of living things. To the archaeologist, soil holds clues to past cultures. To the city dweller, soil nurtures grass and gardens. To the soil scientist, soil is all of these things. Soil has been called "the skin of the earth" because it is the thin outermost layer of the Earth's crust. Like our own skin, we can't live without soil.

For more information about Stewardship Week, and the "Dig Deeper" theme, visit the NACD website at <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-program>.

Soil Testing Service Offered

The Clark County SWCD is now offering soil testing services for homeowners seeking fertilizer recommendations for their lawn and gardens.

Soil samples may be brought to the SWCD office at 9608 Highway 62, Charlestown. Soil sample bags are available at no charge from the SWCD.

Cost of a basic test is \$22; a more extensive test is \$32. Both tests provide suggested fertilizer recommendations for up to three crops (i.e. lawn, flowers, trees). It normally takes 4-5 working days for samples to be analyzed and recommendations returned.

Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship

Marvin Wright was a longtime farmer and implement dealer in the Borden, IN area. He served on the Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors from 1963-1988. Marvin was dedicated to farming, the farm community and the protection of our natural resources.

An endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana was established through the generous donations of the Marvin Wright, Harold Armstrong, and John Woehrl families to provide an annual scholarship to a student pursuing a natural resources conservation course of study in honor of Mr. Wright.

Applications will soon be available for the Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship. The \$1000 scholarship is awarded each year to a current high school senior or current college student from Clark County, pursuing a career in a natural resources related field.

Forms will be sent to all area high schools, but may also be obtained by contacting Tami Kruer, SWCD Education Coordinator, at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3462.



Since 1999, key conservation and agricultural organizations have sponsored the River Friendly Farmer (RFF) Program. The statewide initiative recognizes farmers, who through good production management practices helps keep Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams clean.

River Friendly Farmer nominations are being accepted through June 14, 2019. Farmers chosen will receive special recognition in August during Farmers Day at the 2019 Indiana State Fair.

They will also receive a River Friendly Farmer sign for display on their farmstead and recognition through news articles highlighting them for their stewardship efforts.

Contact the SWCD office for nomination forms.



Older Clark/Floyd County Plat Books are available from the SWCD office:

2009 edition—\$15

1998 edition—\$5

Visit us Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-4 p.m. to purchase

Wet Weather and Cover Crops

We're only two months into 2019, and already we've experienced record setting rainfall, putting thoughts of late spring planting to the forefront. If you are a producer who has planted cover crops, you may have an advantage over those that haven't. Fields utilizing cover crops often tolerate planting under slightly higher moisture conditions. Those winter investments in planter setup are key to maximum flexibility.

Understandably, some producers have chosen the route of tillage to dry out the soil. Just remember, the soil did not dry out, you dried it out! Tillage on wet ground is also the perfect scenario for increasing the tillage pan (soil compaction) at the tillage pass depth, creating a one-to-two inch dense layer which limits roots seeking moisture later in the season. The loss of valuable surface material and soil organic matter may also make it more challenging later this year if it turns dry again without that protective cover on the soil. Cover crops such as annual ryegrass and cereal rye may be harder to kill once it starts maturing. Increase spray volume and pressure to maximize coverage and penetrate the canopy to get lower growing plants.

Cover crops may have added to the management in a difficult year, but they did not increase the wetness; the record rainfall did that! Fields with cover crops have retained much more topsoil and nutrients than those without. Once killed, cover crops will help protect the soil from potential drought conditions. *Adapted from NRCS Agronomy "Crib" Notes.*



Mid-Southern Small Farm Ag. Summit

"Promoting agriculture, small farm operations, and family farms across Southern Indiana"

**April
12 & 13, 2019**

Cornucopia Farm, LLC
Scottsburg, IN

Southern Hills Church
Salem, IN

Registration:

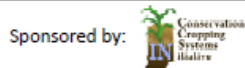
RSVP by April 5

\$20 for one day or \$30 for two day

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this event should contact SWCD at least 21 days beforehand at (812) 883-3006 ext. 3.

This inaugural event features:

- Keynote Speaker Topics:
 - 'Ag Advocacy'
 - 'Ag Policy Update & Outlook Impacting the Small Farm' by *Kent Yeager, former State Ag Liaison for Senator Donnelly*
- Farm Tour: Cornucopia Farm, LLC
- Indiana Farm-to-Fork Dinner
- Break Out Sessions:
 - * Small Ruminants-Keeping them Alive
 - * Equipment Needs for Small Operations
 - * Multi-generational Farming
 - * Grain Marketing for Small Operators
 - * Optimizing Woodlands on the Small Farm
 - * Agri-tourism
 - * Healthy Soils for Livestock/Crop Producers
 - * Indiana Grown Label
 - * Getting Started at a Farmer's Market
 - * Grapes and Wineries
 - * High Tunnels
 - * Rotational Grazing on Small Acres
 - * Popcorn-A Regional Opportunity
 - * Value Added Products
 - * Ag Advocacy-How Do I Get Started
 - * Know Your Local Government
 - * Food Safety Considerations for the Small Farm
 - * Bees: 2 different sessions
 - * Farmer Panels: 2 different sessions
- For questions or a registration packet, contact the Washington County SWCD office at 812-883-3006 ext. 3 or jill.roll@in.nacdn.net.



PURDUE EXTENSION



"This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (C9-97548217) to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use."

"Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"

9608 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
812-256-2330, ext. 3
Fax: 855-391-1921 (toll free)

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage PAID
Charlestown, IN
Permit No. 6



**CLARK COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Return Service Requested

SWCD Supporters....we thank you!

*Clark County Farm Bureau
Dan Cristiani Excavating
Farm Credit Mid-America
Jim O'Neal Ford*

*Indiana Land Company
New Washington State Bank
Wright Brothers Implement Sales, Hardware & General Store
Sanders Farm Service LLC*

Did you know...

The District has two Outback S2 GPS guidance systems available to rent?

It takes only a few minutes to vacuum cup these units to the cab window, connect power and antenna cables, place the antenna on the cab, set swath width, and select guidance mode and be ready to go. The S2 can be used for everything from spraying to tillage, and can be moved easily from tractor to combine or to sprayer.



The District encourages adoption of the GPS technology, which provides accurate application of fertilizer and pesticides, thus avoiding over-application and excess nutrient/pesticide runoff. The systems are leased to landusers for \$10/day, and require an equipment rental agreement to be filled out before leaving our premises. For more information on the S2 rental program, contact the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3.

SWCD Spring Tree Sale Underway



The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) annual Spring Tree Sale is now in progress. Trees offered in this sale are supplied by Woody Warehouse, Lizton, IN. These trees are 3-gallon, Grade 1 (nursery stock) container trees. Trees can be easily removed from their containers and directly planted.

Some of the species offered are: Silver Maple, Speckled Alder, Allegheny Serviceberry, Paw Paw, Yellow Birch, Northern Pecan, Flowering Dogwood, Redbud, Swamp Chestnut Oak, Nuttall Oak, and River Birch. Trees are \$28.00 each plus tax. Eastern Bluebird nestboxes are also available for \$25.00 each plus tax.

Deadline for orders is 4 p.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2019. Trees will be ready for pick-up on Friday, April 12, and Monday, April 15, between the hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed Friday only 12-1 for lunch), at the SWCD office. For order forms or more information, contact the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, or visit us at www.clarkswcd.org.