

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Spring 2014



Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
10165 Oxford Pike
Brookville, IN 47012
(765) 647-2651, ext. 3

www.franklincountyswcd.org

**Due to the nature of our work there will be times the office must be closed. Please call ahead before visiting.*

District Supervisors:

Michael Schwab – Chairman
David Hartman – Vice-Chairman
Louis Schwegman – Secretary
Darin Hodapp – Supervisor

Associate Supervisors:

Roger Bommer
Lee Giesting
Clinton McNally
Eugene Meyer
John Selm

Conservation Staff:

Evan Divine – NRCS
Chris Fox – SWCD

The SWCD Board of Supervisors meets on the third Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

April 16 May 21 June 18

Need to test your well water?

The SWCD has bottles for collecting water samples to test for various pollutants. The cost for testing starts at \$30. For more information contact the SWCD office.



Web Soil Survey

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced the availability of updated soil data for each of the 3,265 soil survey areas mapped across the nation. According to Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist in Indiana, nearly 200,000 users access the Web Soil Survey (WSS) each month, making it the most frequently used USDA web site. The survey is available to the public for free at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/> and visitors may be surprised at all that's available and how easy it is to use. Once you locate your site on a map and outline the area of interest, you can click on the soil map tab and get information about the slope, drainage, limitations, inherent qualities, etc. This can be very important if, for instance, you are building a new house. With over 533 soil types in Indiana, not all of them are the best for a home with a basement. Not only do builders and developers use this tool, but also teachers, foresters, public officials, engineers, realtors, and many others.

--Evan Divine,
District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

FARM BILL UPDATE

The 2014 Farm Bill extended four disaster programs indefinitely. The programs, in brief summary, are:

Livestock Forage Disaster

Program (LFP): Provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland.

Livestock Indemnity Program

(LIP): Provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attack by animals introduced into the wild by the federal government.

Emergency Assistance for

Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP):

Provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions not covered by LIP or LFP.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP):

Provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes & vines damaged by natural disasters.

Contact Franklin Co FSA office for more details at (765) 647-2651.



Spring Fish Sale



Deadline for ordering is **Monday, April 14, 2014 at 4:00pm**. Delivery will take place on **Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 10:00am** at the SWCD office.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone# (____)-____-_____

Species	Size	Price each	Price per 100	Quantity	Total
Bluegill	2-3"	\$0.60	\$50.00		
Hybrid bluegill	2-3"	\$0.65	\$55.00		
Redear Sunfish	2-3"	\$0.70	\$65.00		
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$0.60	\$50.00		
Albino Catfish	4-6"	\$0.85	\$80.00		
Fathead Minnows	\$9.50 per pound---minimum of 2 pounds				
Triploid Grass Carp	8-12"	\$18.00/each---minimum of 6 per order			
			Sub-total		
			7% sales tax		
		\$35 Delivery fee for Triploid Grass Carp			
			TOTAL		

Payment is due *with order*.

Make check payable to **Franklin County SWCD**
10165 Oxford Pike
Brookville, IN 47012

For additional pond management information and stocking recommendations visit the DNR link: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3356.htm>



Fish Stocking

Stocking strategies differ for each pond based on the size of the pond, as well as, the desired fishing goals. The best all-around stocking combination for Indiana ponds has proven to be largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. There are other species of fish available but many are not suitable for pond environments and some may actually cause problems. Choosing the correct stocking ratio is also important because too many fish leads to poor fish growth and too few fish can increase the risk of overharvest and an unbalanced fish population.

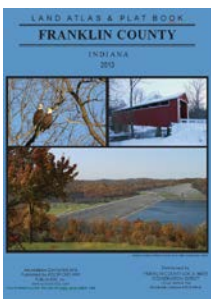
The initial stocking ratio widely used in Indiana consists of 5 bluegill fingerlings to one largemouth bass fingerling, not to exceed 1,000 bluegill and 200 bass per acre. Stocking 100 (2-4 inch) bass fingerlings and 500 (1-3 inch) bluegill fingerlings per acre is recommended for new ponds. Redear are often stocked in combination with bluegill because they seldom overpopulate with 250 fingerlings of each species. If fish harvesting is managed properly supplemental stocking should not be needed. Initial stocking of 100 (2-4 inch) catfish fingerlings per acre is recommended. Channel catfish grow well in ponds and do not cause problems unless overstocked and will rarely reproduce. Supplemental stocking will be needed if the catfish population becomes depleted. The use of hybrid bluegill in combination with largemouth bass is a popular choice. Hybrids are fast growing and rarely overpopulate. In fact, regular restocking will be needed because so few reproduce. However, hybrids will crossbreed with other sunfish (i.e. bluegill and redear) thus losing the hybrid traits and vigor.



ARBOR DAY

Franklin County SWCD will be holding a tree giveaway & food drive on Thursday, April 24th beginning at 9am. Over, 600 tree seedlings will be available on a 1st come basis at the office. There will be a limit of 5 trees per person. A variety of tree species will be available, including: flowering dogwood, redbud, white oak, pecan, white pine and Norway spruce. Trees provide many vital services to our community by producing oxygen, creating shade, reducing run off, preventing erosion and creating habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Again this year, we are asking for canned food donations, which will be given to the SIEOC food pantry in Brookville. While donations are not required to receive trees, they are greatly appreciated.

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago...the second best time is now.”



**New
Plat
Book
Now
On
Sale**

A new updated version of the Franklin County Plat Book is now available at the SWCD office. The book is full color and includes aerial photos of each township. The new books sell for \$25 each, cash or check only.

“Rare Winter Birds”



Though most of us are glad to see this winter behind us for many area birders it was a banner year. The excitement among birders started back in November with an invasion of Snowy Owls. In fact, it was the greatest number of Snowy Owls in the lower 48 states in nearly half a century. A Snowy Owl was even spotted near Greensburg (one of the first seen in the county in decades). Every four years or so there's a modest irruption, timed to four-year lemming cycles. However, this year saw superabundant food this past summer, a high concentration of nesting owls and early and deep snows in the north leading to a huge invasion. The great winter birding continued as many searched for open water as the Great Lakes froze. White-winged Scoters that usually spend the winter along the coast or in the eastern Great Lakes were seen frequently throughout Indiana including several at Brookville Lake in the small pockets of open water. So with the spring migration underway, birders anxiously anticipate what might show up unexpectedly.



No-till Drill Rental

The 7' and 10' Great Plains No-till drills rent for \$10/acre with a \$50 minimum. For more information or to rent a drill call the office at (765) 647-2651 ext. 3

Dates to Remember

April 8: *Ag-Day* for Franklin County 3rd and 4th grade students.

April 14: Deadline to order fish.

April 16: **SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.**

April 17: *Fish sale* pick up, delivery to SWCD at 10:00am.

April 17: Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee meeting at Harrison library 6pm.

April 22: *Earth Day.*



April 24: *Arbor Day.* SWCD tree give-away & food drive.

May 21: **SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.**

May 26: **Memorial Day.** Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

June 18: **SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.**

June 21: Grazing workshop at Michaela Farm, Oldenburg.

June 27-28: *Canoe Fest.*

July 4: **Independence Day.** Observed holiday. **Office closed.**



**2014
Poster
Contest**

- | | |
|-----|--|
| K-1 | 1 st Stacy Angelo
2 nd Haley Wiesemann
3 rd Victoria Wuestefeld |
| 2-3 | 1 st Madison Merritt
2 nd Christian Stortz
3 rd McKenna Chinn |
| 4-6 | 1 st Grace Roth
2 nd Kayla Ertel
3 rd Laura Hildebrand |
| 7-9 | 1 st Hannah Adams
2 nd Maggie Marshall
3 rd Alex Hodapp |

Congratulations to our contest winners!



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10165 Oxford Pike
Brookville, IN 47012-9414



Wenning Farms, Inc
Roger Wenning
Cover Crop Specialist
812-593-1148
rwenning@etczone.com

Bounty Ryegrass - Crimson Clover
Oilseed Radish - Cereal Rye
Other Cover Crop Seed

Call Roger to order your cover crop seed!



Greensburg, IN

Grassed Waterways (NRCS Certified) - Septic
Farm Drainage - Grass Seeding - Ponds

Roger: 812-593-1148

Kevin: 812-528-6512

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