

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Spring 2015



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
Tim Hofer – 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 15 May 20 June 17

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 \$25. For more information contact the SWCD office.



Survey finds yield boost & soil health benefits of cover crops

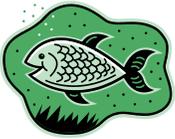
A national survey of farmers conducted in the winter of 2013-2014 for the second year in a row has documented a yield boost from the use of cover crops in corn and soybeans. The 1,924 respondents included both users and non-users of cover crops. Of the total, 639 provided data comparing corn yields on similar fields with and without covers. They reported an average yield increase of **5 bushels per acre** or 3.1 percent on fields that had been planted to cover crops before corn. In soybeans, 583 farmers reported an average boost of **2 bushels per acre** or 4.3 percent following cover crops. Cover crop acres have increased dramatically over the past five years by farmers responding to the survey. Survey participants indicated they planted 143,798 acres in 2009 then increased to 377,536 in 2013. The many benefits are reflected in the rapid increase in farmers adopting cover crops in their rotations. The full report can be found at the CTIC Cover Crops webpage. Additional cover crop information can be found at the Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC) website.

Energy Expo



Join us for the 2015 **Energy Expo** on **Saturday, April 18th** from **9am-3pm** at the Batesville Middle School Commons (201 N. Mulberry St.). Chad Martin will give an overview of wind, solar and energy efficiency. Jerry Hay will discuss rural energy funding programs. Greg Dewitt will explain home energy audits. Josh Cisney will highlight Hoosier Energy's renewable energy projects. Timothy Gray will discuss the straw bale eco center built at Ball State. Darrell Boggess and Woodie Bessler with Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network will explain the why's and how's of residential solar. The event will conclude with a panel discussion by homeowners that have installed various energy saving technologies. The event is free and the first 100 in attendance will receive a free energy prize pack worth \$20. Door prizes will be given throughout the day. Don't miss this informative event. For more details contact the SWCD office.





Spring Fish Sale



Deadline for ordering is **Monday, April 13, 2015 at 4:00pm**. Delivery will take place on **Thursday, April 16, 2015 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"	\$0.55	\$50.00		
Hybrid bluegill	2-3"	\$0.60	\$55.00		
Redear Sunfish	2-3"	\$0.65	\$60.00		
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$0.55	\$50.00		
Albino Catfish	4-6"	\$0.95	\$90.00		
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>



Winter Fish Kills

There are many factors that can lead to a fish kill but if you noticed one after the pond thawed this spring it was likely caused by the ice & snow cover. Shallow, weedy ponds are especially susceptible to winter kills. The most common cause of fish kills in Indiana ponds is suffocation due to the lack of oxygen. Aquatic plants can produce oxygen only when sunlight is available. While some sunlight can penetrate clear ice, snow and thick ice can often block sunlight, resulting in dangerously low oxygen levels. Then, as aquatic plants naturally die during winter, plant decomposition consumes oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need. If you had a winter kill and need to restock, we can help. See the stocking info below or call the office for more details, as well as, information on how to prevent future fish kills.

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 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 a 5:1 bluegill to bass fingerlings ratio, 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.



ARBOR DAY

Franklin County SWCD will be holding the 4th annual tree giveaway & food drive on **Earth Day, April 22nd** beginning at 9am. Over 700 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, bur oak, tulip tree, white pine and bald cypress. 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 and Works of Mercy Center 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.”

“Signs of Spring”

By: Chris Fox

Often the start of the spring season is said to begin upon the arrival of a certain species of bird depending on the local folklore. American robins have often been considered the harbingers of spring. However, many robins do not migrate during the winter months but rather move into the woodlands searching for food & shelter and are thus less visible. In Hinckley Ohio, they celebrate the “Return of the Buzzard” (also

known as the turkey vulture) on the first Sunday following March 15th as a sure sign that spring is on the way. While it is true that most “buzzards” do migrate it is still not uncommon to find a few throughout the winter in this part of the state. Even bluebirds, once considered to be synonymous with spring, can be seen in the middle of winter in southeastern Indiana. For me, like those individuals that “flock” to San Juan Capistrano, the sight of the first swallow is a sure sign spring is here. Indiana is home to six different species of swallows depending on habitat and time of year. The first swallow (a tree swallow) appeared at my farm on March 15th this year. Tree Swallows winter farther north than any other American swallows and return to their nesting grounds long before other swallows come back. They can eat plant foods, as well as insects, which helps them survive the cold snaps of early spring. Probably the most common and iconic swallow is the Barn Swallow. In fact, the Barn Swallow is the most abundant and widely distributed swallow species in the world. It breeds throughout the Northern Hemisphere and winters in much of the Southern Hemisphere. Not only do swallows catch their food in midair but they also drink and even bathe on the wing, dipping down to take a mouthful of water or touch their belly to the surface for a quick rinse. So with spring upon us we can look forward to watching these incredible birds once again.



Dates to Remember

April 9: *Ag-Day* for Franklin County 3rd and 4th grade students.

April 13: Deadline to order fish.

April 15: **SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.**

April 16: *Fish sale* pick up, delivery to SWCD at 10:00am.

April 18: **Energy Expo** at Batesville Middle School from 9am-3pm.



April 22: Celebrate *Earth Day* at the SWCD 4th Annual tree give-away & food drive.

May 20: **SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.**

May 25: **Memorial Day.** Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

June 17: **SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.**

2015 Poster Contest Winners

- | | |
|-----|--|
| K-1 | 1 st Ethan Short
2 nd Brady Foster
3 rd Callie Bentley |
| 2-3 | 1 st Haley Wiesemann
2 nd Tori Wuestefeld
3 rd Nicole Mears |
| 4-6 | 1 st Helen Grimm
2 nd Brittany Halcomb
3 rd Kloe Bolos |
| 7-9 | 1 st Eva Grimm
2 nd Brianne Moizuk
3 rd Ashlan Hill |

Congratulations to our contest winners!



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



Franklin County Soil &
Water Conservation District
10165 Oxford Pike
Brookville, IN 47012-9414

2015 Energy Expo: April 18th 9am-3pm at Batesville Middle School (see inside for details).



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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