

# Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



## Summer 2012



Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)  
10165 Oxford Pike  
Brookville, IN 47012  
(765) 647-2651, ext. 3  
[www.franklincountyswcd.org](http://www.franklincountyswcd.org)

*\*Due to the nature of our work there will be times the office must be closed due to field work and staff training. Please call ahead before visiting. Thank you.*

### **District Supervisors:**

Michael T. Schwab – Chair  
David R. Hartman – Vice-Chair  
Louis E. Schwegman – Secretary  
John J. Selm - Supervisor  
Darin R. Hodapp – Supervisor

### **Associate Supervisors:**

Roger Bommer  
Lance Cox  
Clinton McNally  
Eugene Meyer

### **Conservation Staff:**

Clint Harrison – NRCS  
Chris Fox – SWCD



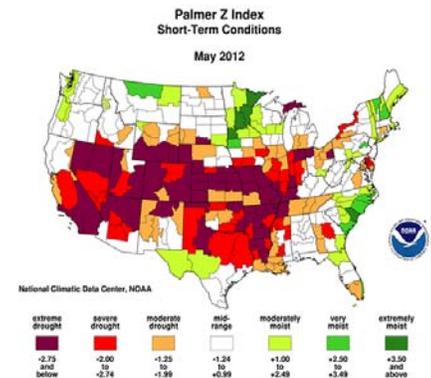
The Franklin County SWCD Board of Supervisors meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the office. The public is invited to attend these meetings.  
**July 25-August 15-September 19**

## Record Setting Weather

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) scientists, the U.S. experienced its second warmest May on record this year with an average temperature of 64.3°F, exceeding the long-term average by 3.3°F. May's high temperatures contributed to the warmest spring, year-to-date, and 12-month period the nation has experienced since recordkeeping began in 1895. Thirty-one states broke their spring warmth records, and 2 states have had record warm years-to-date (January-May). In fact the past 12 month period beginning May 2011 through April 2012, which includes the second hottest summer (2011), fourth warmest winter, and warmest March, was the warmest consecutive May-April year-long period for the contiguous United States. Twenty-two states were record warm for the 12-month period and an additional 19 states were top ten warm.

In addition to the record setting heat, approximately 40% of the nation is currently experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. Much of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, southern Michigan and southeastern Iowa received only 25-75% of the normal spring precipitation. Currently, most of

Indiana counties are faced with moderate to severe drought conditions with the northeastern and southwestern counties experiencing extreme droughts (some counties 7"-8" below normal).



For Indiana, the 3 month period from March-May 2012 ranks as the 8<sup>th</sup> driest and the 12<sup>th</sup> driest year-to-date since 1895. Compounding the problem was the insufficient soil moisture and reserves prior to the growing season due to the warm winter and lack of snowfall. With these temperatures and dry air the soil will continue to lose moisture due to evapotranspiration. However, the good news is with favorable rains and moderate temperatures, crop yield potential can recover.

*\*More information can be at the [NOAA Climate Portal](http://NOAA.ClimatePortal).*



## USDA 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Conservation Successes

On May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln established the Department of Agriculture known as the “Peoples Department”. The Act that created USDA in 1862 gave the Department the task “...to acquire and diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture...” The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a natural offshoot of this People’s Department by assisting the people of America with conservation programs to protect the soil and water while giving farmers and other stakeholders the tools necessary to succeed.

Since 1935, NRCS and its predecessor conservation agencies have fulfilled this mandate by researching, developing, and sharing with farmers soil and water conservation practices adapted to the needs of all types of land across the United States. NRCS helps farmers, ranchers and other private landowners balance their economic goals with conservation planning—ensuring sustainable, productive lands that feed our Nation, prevent soil erosion, clean our air and water, supply fiber and forest products, and develop energy resources. Nearly 80 percent of all fresh water crosses private land before reaching homes and businesses. NRCS conservation planning with private landowners helps improve the quality of the water that enters our rivers, streams and lakes, and ultimately flows through our faucets. It is because of successful conservation programs addressing highly erodible land and wetland conservation issues that wildlife habitat can be protected while still increasing our farming productivity. Conservation practices such as minimum tillage and terracing have assisted American farmers in becoming the most productive agricultural members of the world community.

Before 1933, there were no conservation programs for private lands. While conservationists had made great strides protecting public lands as national forests, national parks and wildlife refuges, there was no comparable mechanism for extending conservation to private lands. This changed after 1935 when the Soil Conservation Service pioneered the nation’s first conservation programs targeted at private lands.

## Ag-Day 2012



*Tuesday, April 10, 2012*

Ag-Day is an educational outreach program for 3rd and 4th grade students in Franklin County. Each year students get the opportunity to experience various activities related to agriculture, conservation and safety. This year, over 440 students took part in the program held at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. Third grade students were introduced to various farm animals and the roles they play in agriculture. They also learned about vegetables, grains and beekeeping.

The fourth grade students learned about natural resources and safety. Students visited stations on mower safety, ATV safety, grain bin safety, chemical safety, renewable energy, recycling, wildlife, forestry and conservation. Thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers that make this event possible!



## Wetland Word Search

**See if you can find:** beaver, flounder, wood duck, clam, crab, crayfish, mosquito, raccoon, heron, bear, frog, egret, dragonfly, sunfish, mink, turtle, shrimp, and salamander.

A	O	O	T	X	B	Z	T	D	A	Q	L	X	A	T	L	M
T	H	C	U	W	O	O	D	D	U	C	K	X	T	S	X	C
B	E	L	R	A	C	C	S	T	C	R	A	B	T	F	O	R
C	R	T	T	S	M	I	N	K	F	G	C	G	F	B	S	A
S	O	N	L	T	S	S	M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O	U	Y
B	N	T	E	O	Q	R	S	T	A	O	C	U	X	N	N	F
E	L	R	T	S	O	P	X	P	A	B	E	A	R	F	I	
A	C	C	X	T	S	H	R	I	M	P	L	L	N	A	I	S
V	D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	N	T	S	S	C	S	H
E	T	V	V	U	Q	Q	R	L	U	I	V	I	L	C	H	O
R	E	G	R	E	T	X	O	T	V	N	Z	A	T	O	X	O
V	X	S	G	N	A	Z	G	X	T	V	M	V	S	O	A	O
X	S	A	L	A	M	A	N	D	E	R	N	Q	X	N	N	L
N	L	T	F	L	O	U	N	D	E	R	L	I	T	T	O	L



### Funding for Cover Crops:

Franklin County SWCD will be offering 50% cost share on cover crop seed this year with a maximum of \$500 per farm. Cover crops protect the soil from erosion and build soil health. For more information or to sign-up contact the office. Funding is limited.

### CRP UPDATE

WASHINGTON, May 25, 2012– Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept 3.9 million acres offered under the 43rd Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. CRP is one of our nation’s most successful voluntary efforts to conserve and improve our soil, water, air and wildlife habitat resources. Currently, there are more than 29.6 million acres enrolled on 736,000 contracts.

### Farm Bill Passes the Senate

WASHINGTON, June 26, 2012- U.S. Senate passed the 2012 Farm Bill (S. 3240 – The Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act) with a bipartisan vote of 65-34. Of the 73 amendments that made it to the Senate Floor, amendments from Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) to repeal CRP, CSP, and the Forest Legacy Program were defeated. Bark beetle funding was increased through Senator Mark Udall’s (D-CO) amendment; this is particularly important with so many forest fires in the West. Now the bill will travel to the House for a vote.

## Is it raining under your Poplar trees?

Throughout Indiana people are reporting a substance raining down from their poplar trees covering cars, sidewalks and plants with a shiny and sticky coating. This substance is called “honey dew” and is excreted by the tulip tree scale, an insect that feeds on the sap of the tree. Tulip tree scale is native to Indiana and is present each year, usually on younger or stressed trees. This year the scale is epidemic on large trees, as well as, smaller trees in both the forest and urban environment. Philip Marshal, State Entomologist IDNR, said, “I’ve been around a number of years... this is the first time Tulip tree scale has been at epidemic levels in the forests over a large area of the state. I have never seen this happen before”.

Why is it so bad this year? With recent mild winters and the ‘lack of a winter’ this past season, the scale population was not killed by low temperatures. The early spring that started in March, “woke-up’ the trees and scale leading to a population explosion. Twig and limb die back could occur this year or next but healthy trees can survive the scale epidemic. However, the current hot and dry conditions could pose a problem since Tulip Poplar is a drought sensitive tree. The good news is beneficial insects, such as lady beetles and microscopic wasps which prey on the scale, are present and likely to increase in number.



## Dates to Remember



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

**July 14-21:** Franklin County 4-H Fair week. See you there.

**July 25:** SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm. *Change of date due to the 4-H fair.*

**August 3-19:** Indiana State Fair

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

**September 3:** Labor Day. Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

**September 19:** SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

**October 22:** Deadline for *Fall Fish Sale* (Delivery on Nov. 1)



### Upcoming Local County Fairs:

**Decatur Co. July 12-20<sup>th</sup>**

**Franklin Co. July 14-21<sup>st</sup>**

**Ripley Co. July 22-28<sup>th</sup>**

**Fayette Co. July 28-Aug 1<sup>st</sup>**

**State Fair Aug 3-19<sup>th</sup>** 

### Great Plains No-till drill Rental



Franklin County SWCD has both a 7’ and 10’ Great Plains No-till drill available for planting cover crops, warm season grasses, food plots, hay or soybeans. Each drill rents for \$8 per acre with a \$50 minimum.



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



Greensburg, IN

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

**Roger: 812-593-1148**

**Kevin: 812-528-6512**



Available at: **Batesville Tractor Supply (Morris); Pavey's Store (Metamora); Ruth Ann's Diner (Metamora); The Village Store (Oldenburg); Whitetail Acres and Wilson Feed (Brookville).**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited passes apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer