

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Fall 2013



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
John Selm - Supervisor
Darin Hodapp – Supervisor

Associate Supervisors:

Roger Bommer
Clinton McNally
Eugene Meyer

Conservation Staff:

Clint Harrison – 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.

Oct 16 Nov 20 Dec 18

Hoosier Harvest Market: Food Hub

If you would like to sell produce or buy Indiana-grown food products online visit hoosierharvestmarket.com website or call Michael Morrow at (317) 800-0312 for more information.

Government Shutdown

During the recent government shutdown the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees were furloughed and USDA service centers were closed. Although soil and water districts are generally funded with local or state money they are often housed in federally owned or leased buildings and often work on NRCS computers and networks thus making it difficult to efficiently manage the District's business & projects. SWCD employees are trying to be flexible and fulfill their duties to the best of the abilities. We thank you for your patience during this difficult and frustrating time.



IDEM

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will be conducting two public meetings to discuss an IDEM water sampling project to be conducted in the Whitewater watershed over the next 12 months. The public is invited to attend to learn more about the project. The meetings will be **October 29th** at:

Brookville Government Center at 2pm
Batesville Middle School at 6pm

For more info call: (765)647-2651 Ext.3



2013 Franklin Co Pond Clinic

Thanks to Mick and Jenny Wilz for hosting the Fall Pond Clinic on Tuesday, October 8th. Over 30 people attended the clinic which featured several guest speakers discussing fish stocking, aquatic weed management & pond construction. Thanks also to Anna Morrow and Jennifer Kolb at Purdue Extension for making this event a big success.

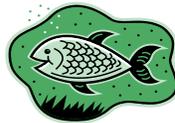
PURDUE EXTENSION | **LOCAL FACES**
COUNTLESS CONNECTIONS

A series of Forestry webinars concentrating on the invasive, Emerald Ash Borer, and its impact on our ash trees will be available for public viewing in the commissioner meeting room in the Government Center. Upcoming dates are: October 24, November 7 and December 5 at 11am. For more info contact Anna Morrow at 765-647-3511.





Fall Fish Sale



Deadline for ordering is **Friday, November 1, 2013 at 4:00pm**. Delivery will take place on **Friday, November 8, 2013 at 10:00am** at the **SWCD office**.

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

Species	Size	Price each	Price per 100	Quantity	Total
Largemouth Bass	2-4"	\$1.10	\$100.00		
Bluegill	2-3"	\$0.50	\$45.00		
Hybrid bluegill	2-3"	\$0.55	\$50.00		
Redear Sunfish	2-3"	\$0.60	\$55.00		
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$0.50	\$45.00		
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		

Order form and information available online at www.franklincountyswcd.org

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 but will rarely reproduce. Thus 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.



Funding for Cover Crops:

Cover crops are not only important for reducing erosion but also for improving soil health. The Franklin County SWCD promotes the use of cover crops and will again be offering a cost-share program for cover crop seed. Funding is limited and will be on a first come basis. For more information or to sign-up contact the office.

Great Plains No-till Drill Rental



Need to plant some cover crops? Consider renting a no-till drill to do the job. The District has both a 7' and 10' drill available to rent for \$10 per acre with a \$50 minimum. The drills are capable of planting a variety of crops including native grasses and wildflowers.

Call (765) 647-2651 ext. 3



Interesting Bat Facts:

- Only mammals capable of true flight
- There are over 1,200 bats species worldwide and 70% primarily eat insects.
- The bumblebee bat (world's smallest mammal) weighs less than a penny while the largest bat has a 6 foot wingspan.
- Bats use echolocation (a type of sonar) to navigate in the dark and find food.
- The little Brown Bat (found in Indiana) can eat over 1,000 mosquitos in an hour (along with a lot of other harmful pests) and can live up to 40 years making it one of the world's longest-lived mammals for its size.

"Bats Bring Benefits"



Like spiders and snakes, bats, have suffered from a bad reputation based mostly on myth and misinformation. The truth of the matter is that bats are extremely important to a healthy ecosystem. In fact, a recent study found that "pest-control services" provided by insect-eating bats in the United States saves the U.S. agricultural industry between \$3 billion and \$53 billion a year. Additionally, bats are major pollinators of many plants used by humans, including bananas, figs, mangoes, cashews and agave, which is used to make tequila. Unfortunately, many species of bats are experiencing severe population declines due to a host of factors including loss of habitat and a new fungal disease quickly spreading throughout the country. White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a poorly understood disease associated with the deaths of at least 5.7 million North American bats. With the mortality rate in some caves exceeding 90%, WNS has greatly decreased bat populations in the US and has the potential to cause the extinction of several species. Researchers are currently working to find a cure for WNS. To learn more about bats and how you can help visit: batcon.org/. So as Halloween approaches, let us remember all the important benefits bats provide.



Dates to Remember

October 29: IDEM meeting. Brookville 2pm & Batesville 6pm (See front page)

November 1: Deadline for *Fall Fish Sale* (Delivery on Nov. 8)



November 8: Fish delivery 10am

November 11: Veterans Day. Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

November 13: Low Tunnel field day. Michaela Farm, Oldenburg. Call 765-647-3511 for more info.

November 20: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

November 28: Thanksgiving! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**



November 29: Limited staff available.

December 18: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm. **Location TBD**

December 24: Christmas Eve! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**



December 25: Christmas Day! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

2 0 1 4

January 1: New Year's Day! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

January 6-8: IASWCD annual conference in Indianapolis. *Limited staff available.*



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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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