

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Fall 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
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.

Oct 15 Nov 19 Dec 17

Need to test your well water?

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



Groundwater

On September 9th “Protect Your Groundwater Day” was observed across the nation. While I am sure most people didn’t celebrate the event, it is still a matter of importance to us all. So what is groundwater and why should you care about it? Over 70% of the Earth’s surface is covered with water but most of it (97%) is in the oceans. The remaining 3% is freshwater, much of which is locked in the icecaps and glaciers. Thus, the freshwater we depend on is limited to the surface water (lakes & rivers) and the water beneath the ground. Even though you may only notice water on the surface, there is much more freshwater stored in the ground than there is in liquid form on the surface. In fact, some of the water you see flowing in rivers comes from seepage of groundwater into river beds. Water from precipitation continually seeps into the ground to recharge the aquifers, while at the same time water in the ground continually recharges rivers through seepage. However, groundwater is out of sight and out of mind for most people. Yet groundwater is the main source of water supply for 13 million households on private water wells in America. It also supplies water for much of the

country's more than 40,000 community water systems. Not only that, it also supplies more than 53.5 billion gallons of water a day for agriculture. In fact, over 10 million acres of corn and 6 million acres of soybeans are irrigated using ground water. Extended drought in the West and Southwestern US has put the spotlight on this critical resource that we all depend on in one form or another. You can do your part in protecting this hidden resource with several simple steps. Store all hazardous household substances in a secure location. When necessary recycle or dispose of hazardous materials properly. Keep all possible contaminants a safe distance away from wellheads. Modify your water use and/or install water-saving devices. Have your well water tested annually or whenever you notice a change in water quality. If you have any questions call the SWCD office.

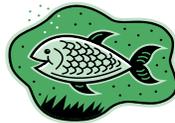
Forestry Field Day



Join us on October 15th from 9am-12pm for a forestry field day at Michaela farm in Oldenburg. Topics to be discussed will be timber stand improvement, invasive plant control and wildlife habitat. To register for the event call the SWCD office.



Fall Fish Sale



Deadline for ordering is **Friday, October 24, 2014 at 4:00pm**. Delivery will take place on **Thursday, October 30, 2014 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"	\$0.60	\$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 but 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.



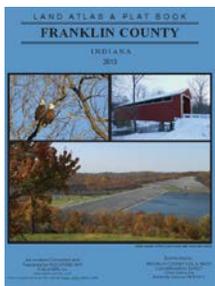
Funding for Cover Crops:

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 the cost of cover crop seed. Funding is limited and will be on a first come basis. For more information or to sign-up contact the SWCD office.

Great Plains No-till Drill Rental



Need to plant a cover crop? 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. (765) 647-2651 ext. 3



NEW

PLAT

BOOK

The 2013 Franklin County plat book is full color and includes aerial photos of each township. The books sell for \$25 each, cash or check only.

Did you know?

Indiana is ranked #5 in the nation for corn production but is #2 in the US for popcorn. Indiana grows 269 million pounds annually with only Nebraska producing more.

Fall migration!



As the temperatures begin to cool and the days get shorter we will be greeted with the sight and sounds of the fall migration...one of nature's truly remarkable feats. One of my favorite sights and sounds are the flocks of the Sandhill Cranes on their long voyage south. If you are lucky you might even spot one of the rare, but gaining in population, whooping cranes. Their recovery is an incredible story and a positive example of how conservation can make a difference. Unfortunately, this September also marks the 100 year anniversary of the passing of the last Passenger Pigeon, Martha. She was the lone surviving member of her species at the Cincinnati zoo and died in September 1914. The extinction of this species is hard to imagine considering the size of the population prior to the 1800's. Records show that flocks often numbered in the millions and that the migrating flocks would block the sun as though it were a solar eclipse. We've come a long way with conservation over the past 100 years. However, many birds still face many threats but with diligence we can be sure no other species faces the same fate as Martha. So this fall as you look to the sky to the sights and sounds of the fall migration take a moment to remember Martha and the last passenger pigeon and be thankful for those species we have saved.

Dates to Remember

October 15: *Forestry field day at Michaela farm (See front page) & SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm*

October 24: Deadline for *Fall Fish Sale* (Delivery on Oct. 30)



October 30: Fish delivery 10am

November 4: Election Day. Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

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

November 19: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

November 27: Thanksgiving! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**



November 28: Limited staff available.

December 17: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm. **Location TBD**

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



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

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

January 12-13: IASWCD annual conference in Indianapolis. *Limited staff available.*



Franklin County Soil &
Water Conservation District
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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