

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Fall 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.

Oct 21 Nov 18 Dec 16

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.



Conservation Funding Available

The 2014 Farm Bill has more language promoting conservation than any other previous Farm Bill. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing technical and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help farmers and landowners treat resource concerns on their private lands. Funding opportunities exist for grazing practices such as interior fencing, watering facilities, pipeline, and pasture renovation to help farmers extend the grazing season by rotating their pastures more frequently. There are also funds available for cropland practices, which include cover crops, grassed waterways, converting to no-till and having nutrient and pest management plans written for your farm. Available forestland practices include tree establishment, timber stand improvement and brush management for invasive species control. Wildlife is also a priority, so there are opportunities to create wetlands, pollinator habitat, and warm season grass buffers along field edges. For more information contact the Franklin County District Conservationist, Evan Divine, at 765-647-2651 ext. 3 or evan.divine@in.usda.gov.

One Million Acres of Living Cover Crops Reported in Indiana

The results are in from the first-ever statewide fall tillage transect completed late last year as part of a collaborative effort between ISDA, NRCS, Indiana's 92 SWCDs and other members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP). The report shows significant increases in the use of conservation practices on farm fields by Hoosier farmers.

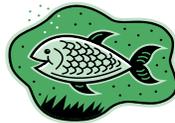
The fall transect estimated one million acres of living plant cover were planted on Indiana farms last year. The report also shows most Indiana farmers left their tillage equipment in the shed last fall to protect their fields with harvested crop residues. Results for residues and soil undisturbed on harvested acres during the winter months include:

- 77% of corn acres
- 79% of small grain acres
- 82% of soybean acres

Ted McKinney, Director of ISDA said, "Transects give conservation partners the opportunity to observe the current land use conditions and discuss the resource needs and accomplishments related to the soil and water resources in each county. Such efforts are particularly rewarding when the results show that Indiana is among the leaders in soil conservation and water quality."



Fall Fish Sale



Deadline for ordering is **Friday, October 23, 2015 at 4:00pm**. Delivery will take place on **Thursday, October 29, 2015 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"	\$1.15	\$110.00		
Bluegill	2-3"	\$0.60	\$50.00		
Hybrid bluegill	2-3"	\$0.60	\$55.00		
Redear Sunfish	2-3"	\$0.65	\$60.00		
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$0.60	\$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>



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.

BATS HELP PROTECT CORN

Research recently published by former graduate student Josiah Maine and his adviser at Southern Illinois University Carbondale shows that bats play a significant role in combating crop pests, saving up to \$1 billion a year in crop damages. “The main pest in my system was the corn earworm, a moth whose larvae can cause billions of dollars’ worth of damage to corn, cotton, tomatoes, and many other crops,” Maine said. “The larvae feed on corn ears, causing direct damage to yield, but they also can introduce an avenue for infection of the corn ear by fungi, which produce compounds that are toxic to humans and livestock...Bats are known to feed on this moth, but it has been unclear whether they consume enough of the moths to suppress larval populations and damage to crops,” Maine said. After analyzing the results, Maine said he found nearly 60 percent more earworm larvae inside the exclosures – areas of corn covered in netting to keep out the hungry bats – than in the “unprotected” control areas. He also found more than 50 percent more corn kernel damage per ear in the corn inside the exclosures. Further, he found the damaging fungal growth associated with pests was significantly higher on the corn inside the exclosures, and that the toxins produced by the fungus were much more concentrated in the corn inside the exclosures. “My study provides strong support for the idea that bats provide valuable services to society,” he said. By consuming crop pests, bats have tremendous ecological impacts in crop fields. So this Harvest (and Halloween) season let us be thankful for the many benefits bats provide.



By: Chris Fox

The Whitewater Valley is home to many endangered or rare species. The Bald Eagle, Osprey, Indiana bat and Variegated darter to just name a few. But you might be surprised to know the list includes a wildflower known as the American Columbo (*Frasera caroliniensis*). This herbaceous plant is a monocarpic perennial. If you are like me, I had not heard the term monocarpic. According to Webster, monocarpic is defined as producing fruit only once and then dying. For 5 to 15 years (or more) the American Columbo plant persists as a rosette of 3-30 basal leaves, finally bolting as a flowering plant that becomes 3' to 8' tall for a single season, and then dying. Think of Mr. Wilson's flower in the movie "Dennis the Menace". Several years ago Terry Duffy located a small patch of American Columbo on his Franklin County farm and has been anxiously awaiting for the plants to bloom. This summer conditions must have been just right as the plants began to send up the flower stalk. Terry kindly invited me to join him on a hike to witness this much anticipated event. Though the blooms were not extravagantly colored they were beautiful in an understated way. To see these magnificent plants in full bloom in the middle of the forest was quite memorable. Will the seed from these blooms create a new generation of plants? If so, when will they bloom? Only time will tell. Just one more reason why the Whitewater Valley area is such a beautiful and wonderful place.

Dates to Remember

October 12: Columbus Day. Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

October 21: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

October 23: Deadline to order for *Fall Fish Sale*

October 29: *Fish delivery 10am*

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

November 18: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

November 26: Thanksgiving! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

November 27: Limited staff available.

December 16: 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 14-15: IASWCD annual conference in Indianapolis.

Limited staff available.



Funding for Cover Crops:

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.



Franklin County Soil &
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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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