

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Fall 2016



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 19 Nov 16 Dec 21

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.



Bovine TB update

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB), a bacterial disease that can affect mammals, was detected in a northern Franklin County beef herd in May 2016. After intense testing of cattle and wildlife within a 3 mile radius of the original farm, a 2 year old, female, whitetail deer was found to have the disease in August. Since this detection the Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) has expanded the testing area from a 3 mile radius to a 10 mile radius, and have also included a 2 mile buffer area around the Whitewater River south of Brookville. Testing cattle for TB is similar to going to the doctor and getting a TB test for yourself. Veterinarians will give the cattle a skin injection, wait 72 hours then check the animal again to see if the area has reacted to the injection. If there is no reaction to the injection then they are cleared and designated TB free (testing will only occur on cattle over 2 years old). Most of the cattle owners in the testing area have been informed and testing is underway. However, BOAH and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are enlisting the help of local hunters to help with testing the deer population. While all deer can acquire TB and all can be tested, sampling bucks older than 2 years of age is more likely to detect the disease. Therefore, DNR's

objective is to sample as many hunter-harvested bucks that are older than 2 years as possible and obtain the remaining samples with hunter-harvested does and younger bucks. For those who harvest a buck in the surveillance area, a second buck tag may be provided if certain requirements are met. One visible indicator of TB in deer will be tan or yellow lesions (or lumps) on the lungs or the lymph nodes throughout the body, although TB is not always obvious. To find out more about the requirements for a second buck tag, check-in stations and dates, visit www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/9329.htm. For more information about livestock testing and important TB updates, visit www.in.gov/boah/.

Funding for Cover Crops:

Research continues to show that cover crops not only reduce erosion and runoff of water and nutrients but also contribute to better soil health and thus improved yields. However, the cost of the seed can be a financial burden. Therefore, the Franklin County SWCD promotes the use of cover crops and will again be offering a cost-share program. The cost-share will cover 50% of the cost of seed up to a maximum of \$300 per farm. Funding is limited and will be on a first come basis. Applications will be accepted up to December 1, 2016. For more information or to sign-up contact the SWCD office.



Fall Fish Sale



Deadline for ordering is **Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 4:00pm**. Delivery will take place on **Tuesday, October 18, 2016 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.

Birds Epic Journeys

By: *Chris Fox*

Birds are capable of many remarkable feats when it comes to flight and migration. The Gray-headed Albatross can circle the globe in only 46 days. The Alpine Swift holds the record for the longest recorded uninterrupted flight with more than 200 days in the air as it hunted flying insects on its wintering range in the skies over West Africa. The small Artic Tern, weighing a mere 4 ounces, will migrate between Greenland and Antarctica each year racking up over 42,000 miles. Considering these birds can live up to 30 years or more, researchers estimate that it may travel over 1.5 million miles in its lifetime—equal to three trips to the moon and back. These legendary flights raise many questions about how the birds pull off such epic journeys. Among the many questions is when and how they sleep. For many years, scientists conjectured that long-ranging birds could sleep while aloft, despite having no real evidence to support this claim. Until now, that is. A new study about the Great Frigatebird, supports the conventional wisdom—but in a surprising way. On their wandering flights, frigatebirds can stay aloft for up to two months without touching down on land or water. More importantly, while out at sea, they couldn't even take a break even if they wanted to; unlike most other seabirds, frigatebirds can't swim, becoming waterlogged and eventually drowning if they do encounter water. It's this inability to stop and get some rest while floating that has caused scientists to suspect the bird might sleep while flying, and it's why Niels Rattenborg chose to study their sleep patterns. The researcher

found that while frigatebirds do sleep while flying, they sleep very little—about 45 minutes each day in short ten-second bursts, usually after dark. And you thought a cat nap was short? By contrast, on land, the birds sleep one minute at a time throughout the day and night for a total of roughly 12 hours each day. While sleeping mid-flight, frigatebirds don't go completely on autopilot; the birds often sleep with only one side of their brain, leaving the other side awake. Most animals that sleep half-brained do so to stay alert for predators, but frigatebirds have no natural predators in the sky. Rattenborg suspects that they remain half-awake to prevent mid-air collisions, though none were observed during the study. This data not only reveals how incredible these birds are but also how important it is to protect their stop over habitat on their migration routes. So the next time you are feeling a little jet lag from your travels think of some of our feathered friends and how they must feel after a long flight.

Monarch tagging

Tagging monarchs has been going on since the 1930's. In fact, it was 7th graders in Chaska, Minnesota that tagged the first butterfly to ever be recovered in Mexico which eventually lead to the discovery of the monarch wintering sites. After a recent monarch tag & release program at Batesville Elementary we learned that one of the 2nd grade students grandfather had found a tagged monarch in 1964 as a 10 year old boy. He still had the newspaper clipping to show his granddaughter. And so the tradition continues and we are excited to see what further discoveries will be made with the help of our young citizen scientists.

Reduce Erosion

Harvest is finally here, whether folks are ready for it or not, and this is a great time to evaluate troublesome areas in crop fields that experience soil erosion regularly. Rather than plowing those ephemeral gullies over in the spring and filling them with precious topsoil that will inevitably be lost next year, maybe it is time to think about installing some erosion control practices in your fields to take care of those problems. Some of these practices include grassed waterways, filter strips and cover crops. The NRCS and FSA have potential funding avenues for you to receive financial assistance to install these practices. The NRCS also has funding to help manage your pastures more efficiently and help protect the water and soil resources on your farm. Practices include interior fencing to increase the number of paddocks, watering systems and heavy use area protection (HUAP) for high livestock concentration areas. For more information, contact Evan Divine at the USDA Service Center.

Dates to Remember

October 10: Columbus Day. Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

October 13: Deadline to order for *Fall Fish Sale*

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

November 8: Election Day. Observed holiday. **Office closed**

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

November 16: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

November 24: Thanksgiving! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

November 25: Limited staff available.



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10165 Oxford Pike
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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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