

Ripley County Agri-News



NRCS/ SWCD

Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Phone: (812)689-6410 ext. 3

Farm Service Agency

Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Phone: (812)689-6410 ext. 2

Issue 2008 – 4
December 2008

SWCD Annual Meeting

The Ripley County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold their 59th Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 29th beginning at 6:00 pm at the South Ripley Elementary School. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and include dinner. Breakout sessions will be offered again this year. Topics will include Fertilizer Inputs and Cost, Forestry, and Grazing. Jane Hardisty, Indiana NRCS State Conservationist will be the main speaker of the evening. For tickets, please contact any Board Supervisor or the SWCD Office at (812)689-6410, ext. 3 by January 18th.

16th Annual No-till Breakfast

The 16th Annual No-till Breakfast will be on Thursday February 26th beginning at 8:00_{AM} at the Hopewell Baptist Church in Holton. Come and enjoy a breakfast meal for a cost of only \$3.00 per person. This event is sponsored by the Ripley County SWCD, Purdue Extension Service, and the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D No-till Committee. For reservations please call SWCD Office at (812)689-6410, x. 3

Watch for Cover Crop Field Day

In the fall of 2008 the Ripley County SWCD planted a cover crop plot on the Brewington Farm in Milan. March 13, 2009 we will be hosting a Cover Crop Field day showing the importance of cover crops on your property. More information will be available at the beginning of 2009. Please contact the Ripley County SWCD at (812)689-6410 ext. 3 with questions.

District Cost Shares Available

Four different cost share programs are being offered through the Ripley County Soil and Water District.

- Nutrient Management – district will provide \$10 cost share per soil sample tests performed by a certified lab. Each applicant may receive a max on \$200.00 cost share on this program
- Cover Crop – district will pay applicants \$20 per acre to plant cover crops. They must meet NRCS Field Office Tech Guide Standard and Spec. Cover Crop must be followed by no-till. All cover crops must be planted within their seeding window by the end of 2009.
- Pasture and Hayland Planting – district will provide 65% cost-share to seed hay/pasture ground. Must again follow NRCS Field Office Tech Guide Standard and Spec. Plantings must be completed within their seeding window by the end of 2009.
- Critical Area Planting – district will pay \$50 per acre to stabilize critical areas that have eroded. They must meet NRCS Field Office Tech Guide Standard and Spec. Grading, seeding, mulching and rock are some of the approved methods of stabilizing. The practice must be completed by December 15, 2009.

These cost share programs are made possible by Clean Water Indiana and you Ripley County SWCD funds.

**For more information and questions please
contact the Ripley County SWCD at
(812)689-6410 ext. 3.**

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

DCP Sign-Up

Currently we do not have the sign-up dates so watch your local paper for the upcoming Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) sign-up.

SAFE Conservation Projects

Enrollment in Indiana State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) continues. SAFE is a component of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), tailored to specific watershed areas.

SAFE practices serve to restore wildlife habitat by establishing small blocks of grassland (10-40 acres) and enhancing existing habitats. Certain wildlife species are in decline, SAFE is designed to help revitalize these species.

Under CRP, farmers and ranchers enroll eligible land in 10 to 15-year contracts. These plantings help prevent soil and nutrients from running into regional waterways and affecting water quality. The long-term vegetative cover also improves wildlife habitat and soil quality.

In addition to the annual rental payment and cost-share, SAFE may offer participants an up front one-time CRP Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$100 per each SIP-eligible acre and a Practice Incentive Payment when cost share is made.

For more information about potential SAFE projects in your area, contact the Ripley County FSA office.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Annual Tree Sale

Bareroot Seedlings		Price\	5 Trees	Qty	Total
Colorado Blue Spruce	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Norway Spruce	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
White Pine	(18-24")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Austrian Pine	(18-24")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Fraser Fir	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Black Walnut	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Dawn Redwood	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
American Elderberry	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Red Oak	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
White Oak	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Hybrid Poplar	(2-3')	\$5.00	\bundle		
Hackberry	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Red Maple	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Redbud	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Chinese Dogwood	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
River Birch	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Washington Hawthorn	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Forsythia	(6-12")	\$7.50	\bundle		
Lilac	(12-18")	\$5.00	\bundle		
Fruit Trees & Berries - All Guaranteed					
Strawberries		\$3.00	\5 plants		
Red Raspberries		\$5.00	\plant		
Thornless Blackberries		\$5.00	\plant		
Rhubarb		\$10.00	\plant		
Blueberries	(12-18")	\$13.00	\plant		
Seedless Grapes		\$13.00	\vine		
Peach Tree	(2-4')	\$25.00	\tree		
Pear Tree	(2-4')	\$25.00	\tree		
Cherry Tree	(2-4')	\$25.00	\tree		
Red Luscious Apple Tree	(2-4')	\$25.00	\tree		
Gala Apple Tree	(2-4')	\$25.00	\tree		
Container Trees (3 gal.)					
Red Maple	3-4'	\$20.00	\tree		
River Birch	4-6'	\$20.00	\tree		
Hackberry	3-4'	\$20.00	\tree		
Redbud	3-5'	\$20.00	\tree		
Chinese Dogwood	3-5'	\$20.00	\tree		
Washington Hawthorn	2-3'	\$20.00	\tree		
Black Walnut	3-	\$20.00	\tree		
Dawn Redwood	3-5'	\$20.00	\tree		
White Oak	3-5'	\$20.00	\tree		
Red Oak	3-5'	\$20.00	\tree		
Norway Spruce	2-3'	\$20.00	\tree		
White Pine	2-3'	\$20.00	\tree		
American Elderberry	18-36"	\$15.00	\tree		
Forsythia	18-24"	\$15.00	\tree		
Lilac	18-24"	\$15.00	\tree		
			Sub - Total		
			7% tax		
			Grand Total		

Address:	Name:
City/State/Zip	Phone #
Call Phone #	Phone #
FEBRUARY 20, 2009	ALL ORDERS ARE DUE BY

Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password. Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

Volunteer Opportunities with the HCWP

Want to help out your community and the environment but don't know where to start? Join the Hogan Creek Watershed Project for one of their volunteer opportunities. Whether you spend just a couple hours for a single event or several hours throughout the year, your contribution to the watershed project will be greatly appreciated. If you would like more information about any of the service opportunities for you, your club, or your classroom, please contact Kris Vance at: 926-2406 ext 3 or kris.vance@in.nacdn.net

- Storm Drain Marking
- River Sweep
- Macroinvertebrate Testing

Submit Name, Address, and Phone Number with check payable to (include 7% Sales Tax)
 Ripley County SWCD, 1981 S Industrial Park Road, Suite 2
 Versailles, IN 47042
by February 20, 2009

RIPLEY COUNTY
USDA SERVICE CENTER
1981 S Industrial Park Rd
Versailles, IN 47042



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VERSAILLES, IN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- December 1 – Application deadline for 2009 NAP coverage for Fall Crops
- December 1 – Final Date to return County Committee Election Ballots
- December 24 – Limited Staff available – Christmas Eve
- December 25 – OFFICE CLOSED – Christmas
- December 26 – Limited Staff available
- January 1 – New Years Day – OFFICE CLOSED
- January 12 – 13 – Annual Conference SWCD OFFICE CLOSED
- January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – OFFICE CLOSED
- January 29 – SWCD Annual Meeting
- February 2 – SWCD Board Meeting
- February 16 – President’s Day – OFFICE CLOSED
- February 20 – Deadline for Tree Sale
- February 26 – No-Till Breakfast

“The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, **Office of Adjudication and Compliance**, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

Conservation Team

Office Staff:

SWCD:

District Administrator: Kim Jolly

District Technician/Educator: Heather Wirth

NRCS:

District Conservationist: Tim Schwipps

SWCD Supervisors:

Jeff Meinders, Chairman

Clay Nuhring, Vice Chairman

Ryan Busch, Member

Brian Evans, Member

Danny Geisler, Member

Chuck Folz, Associate

Bob Mulford, Associate

Sam Copeland, Associate

Farm Service Agency

County Executive Director: Steve Thurnall

Program Technicians: Melody Arney, Angie Stuehrenberg, Barb Lucas, Lindsey Hostetler

Field Reporter: Brian Evans

County Committee: Mark Back, Joyce Kessens, Chris Linville

Farm Loan Program Officer: Doug Kirby

FSA Committee Meetings

The Ripley County FSA Committee holds regular scheduled meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the each month at 8:30 am at the Ripley County USDA Service Center.