

Ripley County Agri-News



NRCS/ SWCD

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

Farm Service Agency

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Issue 2008 – 3

September 2008

2007 District Cost Share Deadline

Just a reminder to those who received district cost share for Lime Application and Fencing in 2007 we need your bills turned in. If you had the lime application you will need to turn in any receipts including labor to the Ripley County Soil and Water as soon as possible. If you had received approval for fencing you need to complete those projects, make an appointment for them to be checked, and turn in your receipts. If you have questions on your cost share program please call us at (812)689-6410 ext. 3 and we will be able to assist you. Again the faster you complete these programs the sooner you get your money.

2008 District Cost Share Programs Available

This year the SWCD is going to offer a cost share program on Cover Crops and Nutrient Management by way of soil sampling. Call (812)689-6410 ext. 3 for more information.

Equipment Sale

The Ripley County SWCD is selling two pieces of equipment. The 2002 10' Great Plains No-Till Drill has approximately 2199.1 acres with a minimum bid of \$9,500. The 2001 7.5' Great Plains No-Till Drill has approximately 1898.7 with a minimum bid of \$9,000.

These are sold as is.



Sealed bids are due to the Soil and Water District by October 6th, 2008 at 6:00 PM. At this time bids will be opened and the SWCD Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. You will have the right to attend the meeting to discuss your bid. For more information call the SWCD office.

NEW EQUIPMENT FOR RENT: TRUAX

The Ripley County SWCD has recently purchased a new Truax FLEXII-812 Grain Drill. This drill specializes in planting grasses but is very versatile. The Truax comes to us highly recommended and we are very excited to be able to offer this new piece of equipment to you. Please call (812)689-6410 ext. 3 with questions.

Equipment Rental Rates:

Brillion, Truax, and No-Till drills; \$8.00/acre

B-40 Strawblower: \$25.00/ hour

\$50.00 minimum applies to all equipment

SOIL CONSERVATION
////////// Make It Your Growing Concern! //////////

Fish Sale

The Ripley County SWCD's Fall Fish Sale will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2008. Orders must be placed by October 8, 2008 to insure delivery.

Species available include:

Largemouth Bass	2"-4"	\$1.00 ea
Smallmouth Bass	2"-4"	\$2.50 ea
Redear Sunfish	2"-3"	\$0.50 ea
Bluegill	2"-3"	\$0.40 ea
Hybrid Bluegill	2"-3"	\$0.45 ea
Channel Catfish	4"-6"	\$0.35 ea
Albino Catfish	4"-6"	\$0.65 ea
Black Crappies	2"-3"	\$0.75 ea
Koi	3"-4"	\$5.00 ea
Fathead Minnows		\$7.00/ lb.
Jumbo Tadpoles		\$0.30 ea
Triploid Grass Carp		\$12.00 ea + \$30.00 delivery fee

Sales tax of 7% should be added to each order.

Send orders with payment to the Ripley County SWCD, 1981 S Industrial Park Road, Suite 2, Versailles, IN 47042. Call 812-689-6410 ext. 3 for more information.

Ripley County 4-H Fair July 19th – 26th

After rain, wind, and two tents later the week was a success for the Ripley County Soil and Water Conservation District. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth to talk with us and thanks to all the kids who stopped to play the "Pitch In to Conserve" game



Congratulations to the Reserve and Grand Champions:
Christ Hauser – Soil & Water Grand Champion
Emily Gunter – Soil & Water Reserve
Ben Westerman – Forestry Grand Champion
Aaron Harmeyer – Forestry Reserve

Prize Winners:

Brian Collins: Wind Mill
Roger Linville: John Deere Pedal Tractor
Jim Young: Bird Feeder and Seed



Congratulations Bill Nuhring

This years Ripley County River Friendly Farmer Award goes to Bill Nuhring.



Bill was honored on August 13, 2008 at the Indiana State Fair. This award is an honor to receive and we want to extend congratulations to him and we are very proud of his accomplishment. Each year this award is given to farmers who show tremendous amounts of work being done to help preserve and improve the soil and water quality in the area. Bill is a great inspiration for all farmers in Ripley County.

CRP Mid-Contract Management

Be sure to check your CRP contract to see when your mid-managements are due.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) policy requires newly enrolled participants, starting with Signup 26, to do some type of "disturbance" to certain CRP practices during the life of the contract to benefit wildlife. Normally, mid-contract management activities are conducted between the 4th and 7th year of the contract. However, on land with existing cover, disturbance activities can begin as soon as technically feasible.

These are some mid-management options:

Strip Disking:

The disking operations will result in strips having 40%-70% bare soil, equally distributed throughout the area of disturbance.

Disked strips will be a maximum of 50 feet wide. Alternate disked strips with undisturbed areas 2-4 times the width (100-200 feet) of disturbed strip.

Inter-Seeding Forbs & Legumes:

Forb and legume mixes will consist of a total of ½ to 1 lb. per acre, and will contain a minimum of five species in approximately equal proportions. Inter-seeded strips will be a maximum of 50 feet wide. Alternate inter-seeded strips with undisturbed areas 2-4 times the width (100-200 feet) of the seeded strip.

Strip Spraying:

Strips will not be sprayed more than once in a two-year period.

Sprayed strips will be a maximum of 50 feet wide. Alternate Spray strips with undisturbed areas 2-4 times the width (100-200 feet) of the disturbed strip. Strip spraying operations will be performed along field contours, or across the slope, when practical.

Prescribed Burning:

A written prescribed burn plan must be completed before any fires are started.

Rotate fields through a 3-year burning cycle. When prescribed burning is used it will result in a seedbed that consists of 40-70% bare soil.

For more information on these Options visit:

<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/crphomepage.html>

FSA County Committee Elections

The period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election **is closed**. Nominations were due in the county office on **Friday, Aug. 1**. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters **by Nov. 3**. Voted ballots must be returned to the county office **by Dec. 1** or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008.

County committee elections give farmers and producers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as; commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing County Executive Directors.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

- Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters **by Nov. 3**. The last day to return voted ballots to the county office is **Dec. 1**.
- Newly elected county committee members take office **Jan. 1, 2009**.

For detailed information about FSA county committees visit the county office or go on-line at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying the applicable administrative fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF), or Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA county office to get more information or pay applicable fees **by September 16, 2008**.

FSA Marketing Assistance Loans and LDPs

To be eligible for Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), you must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; report how you use cropland acreage on the farm; have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan or LDP is requested and, in the case of a loan, retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding; and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

Beneficial interest means you retain the ability to make decisions about the commodity; are responsible for loss or damage to the commodity; and have title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan or LDP – even if you regain beneficial interest.

For commodities to be eligible for loans or LDP's, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Loans mature 9 months after the month in which they are disbursed. Loans can be issued on commodities as soon as it is harvested. The final date to obtain a loan or LDP on 2007 harvested commodities is March 31, 2009 for small grains and May 29, 2009 for feed grains.

2008 DCP Sign-up Continues

Producers have **until September 30, 2008** to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." Producers choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access and also view and print submitted contract options. Producers who have not used their eAuth account for 180 days will have inactive accounts. If this happens, producers will need to contact the ITS helpdesk at the following telephone numbers: 1-800-457-3642, then Option 1, to reactivate their account.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate). To be eligible for DCP payments, owners, operators, landlords, tenants, or sharecroppers must:

- share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP, and be entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the base acres or would have shared had a crop been produced;
- annually report the use of the farm's cropland acres;
- comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land;
- comply with planting flexibility requirements;
- use the base acres for agricultural or related activities;
- **protect all base acres from erosion, including providing sufficient cover as determined necessary by the county FSA committee, and control weeds.**

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

NAP Coverage Closing Date Extended

Since the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was announced so late about the 2009 risk management purchase requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs. The National Farm Service Agency office (FSA) has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) activity for 2009. **As a result, the State Committee established NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008, for the 2009 application crop year.**

Please note that extending the 2009 NAP application deadlines to December 1, 2008, does not modify the definition of coverage period. NAP coverage will not begin until the later of the following dates:

- 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 is filed; and
- The date the crop is planted not to exceed the final planting date.

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 NAP coverage for apples, grapes, hay, honey, nectarines, peaches, strawberries, Christmas trees, & pasture is December 1, 2008. For 2009-2012, the NAP Service Fees have increased from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750 per county; \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your local Farm Service Agency office.



South Laughery Creek Watershed Update

New Cost Share to be available April 2009

Pond Clinic had successful turnout

On August 21, 2008 the Ripley County Soil and Water along with the South Laughery Creek Watershed held a successful pond clinic at the Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club with 48 people in attendance. The night was comprised of weeds, fish, and fun. Botany Professor Carole Lembi gave a presentation on weed identification and weed control. Later Larry Lehman, DNR Fisheries Biologist, demonstrated the pond shocking and talked about the different varieties of fish available for ponds in this area. Thank you to all that attended and thanks especially to the Laughery Valley Fish and Game Club for all their help.



Stream Cleanup Scheduled and Volunteers Needed

The South Laughery Creek Watershed has scheduled a cleanup along Cole Lane in Dearborn County. The cleanup is scheduled for September 20, 2008. Call to register for the cleanup and receive a FREE T-shirt when you come and help. Meet at the intersection of Cole Lane and Laughery Creek Rd. We will be working our way up Cole Lane picking up trash along the way. The cleanup starts at 9:00 AM and goes until 11:00 AM. Please call (812)689-6410 ext. 3 if you plan on attending.

New Recreational Opportunity Hits Aurora

Studies have shown that benefits are endless when it comes to outdoor recreation; people have better health and qualities of life, crime can be reduced because individuals can expel energy and emotion while performing outdoor activities, property values may increase because there are ample outdoor leisure opportunities, the economy benefits by providing an attraction for tourism, and awareness of the environment is heightened because people are spending more time in nature.

Whether you live, work, or play in Hogan Creeks' picturesque watershed, your enjoyment of its atmosphere, events and opportunities depends a great deal on behind-the-scenes effort. Like you, the Hogan Creek Watershed Project Committee places a high value on the environmental life of our unique, small watershed. That's why they have committed themselves to developing new strategies that will establish the Hogan Creek watershed as a place where people love to be. The newest community project being completed by the Hogan Creek Watershed Project is a non-motorized boat ramp located at Waterways Park in Aurora. In addition to the canoe ramp, a concrete wall was constructed to provide a safe place for shoreline fishing and picnicking.

With generous support from the Dearborn Community Foundation, Dearborn County Convention Visitor and Tourism Bureau, Aurora Casket Company and the Aurora Parks and Recreation Board, the Hogan Creek watershed can add one more recreational opportunity to its list.

This project's goal was to establish a canoe ramp for easy accessibility to Hogan Creek for non-motorized boats by 2008 for citizens living in Aurora and all of Dearborn County. The objectives of this project are to connect people with their watershed by providing safe launching area for canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized boats; increase awareness of environmental and local issues; and encourage residents to take part in community service projects such as beautification days and clean-ups.

The canoe ramp was completed by Howard Excavating, Greendale, on August 11, 2008. While signage, landscaping and a parking lot need to be added to the location, the canoe ramp and fishing wall are ready to be used by the public. If you would like more information about this project, please contact Kris Vance at: 812-926-2406 ext 3.

Forestry Field Day

Ripley County Forestry Field Day, **Wed. Sept. 24, 2008**, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Field day location is at Duane and Nancy Drockelman's Demonstration Forest. Emphasis will be on harvesting timber and timber stand improvement. Speakers include Dan Meisberger, Steve Doll, Jayson Waterman, and Darrell Breedlove. The timber in this forest was sold in 2000 and TSI was completed in 2003.

Directions: take State Rd. 129 south from Batesville, go east on County Rd. 1100N for 2 miles, go south on County Rd. 500E for 1/2 mile, and the woodland is on the right. The Forestry Field Day is sponsored by the Ripley County SWCD and Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Woodland Committee. For more information call (812)689-6410 ext. 3.

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



NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #6
VERSAILLES, IN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- September 1 – OFFICE CLOSED – Labor Day
- September 2 – SWCD Board Meeting
- September 16 – Final Date for the SURE, EALHF, LFP or TAP program buy-in
- October 13 – OFFICE CLOSED – Columbus Day
- October 14 – Fish Sale
- November 3 – County Committee Election Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters
- November 4 – SWCD CLOSED – Election Day
- November 11 – OFFICE CLOSED – Veteran’s Day
- November 27 – OFFICE CLOSED – Thanksgiving
- November 28 – Limited Staff available
- 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

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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 Hance

Field Reporter: Brian Evans

County Committee: Mark Back, Joyce Kessens, Chris Linville

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.