

# 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 2010 – 03

September 2010

## Cover Crop Plot Planted

### *Thanks to Cisco Seeds and Laughery Valley Ag Coop*

The Ripley County Soil & Water planted a cover crop plot at the North Branch of Laughery Valley Ag Coop this fall. The plot has thirteen different varieties of cover crops. The first side of the plot was planted in the middle of September and the second side will be planted in October. This will show the importance of the seeding dates. A Cover Crop Field Day is being planned for November 18<sup>th</sup>. This field day will be FREE to the public and will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 12:00 with lunch being provided. Each person in attendance will receive a Cover Crop Booklet and information. Speakers for the day will include Barry Fisher and Hans Kok along with a representative from Cisco Seeds, Greg Downing. This field day is made possible because of the Ripley County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Central Muscatatuck Watershed, the South Laughery Creek Watershed, Laughery Valley Ag Coop and Cisco Seeds. For more information or to register please call (812)689-6410 ext. 3 or email [kim.jolly@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:kim.jolly@in.nacdnet.net).

## Ripley County 4-H Fair

The Ripley County 4H fair was successful again thanks to everyone who came and visited the staff and supervisors. Each year this booth is constructed to provide outreach and education to the landowners and kids of Ripley County. Without their continued support our program would not be able to continue.

### **Congratulations to the Reserve and Grand Champions:**

Emily Gunter – *Soil & Water Grand Champion*  
Rachel Laker – *Soil & Water Reserve Grand Champion*  
Cole Nuhring – *Forestry Grand Champion*  
Terri Gascon – *Forestry Reserve Grand Champion*

### **Congratulations all our door prize winners**



**Prize Winner Abby Arney for winning the Cast  
Iron John Deere Pedal Tractor and Brittney  
Jeffries for winning the Fishing Pole**

## Ripley County designated as a Quail Habitat Priority Area

To help improve quail population numbers, the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife has designated priority areas throughout southern Indiana to focus on quail habitat management. In our southeastern area of the state, Ripley County is the Quail Habitat Priority Area. The intent for having the quail priority areas is to assist landowners, both financially and instructionally, with the development, implementation and maintenance of productive quail habitat.

The selection of Ripley County is based upon several factors including: the high rankings in both the Quail Habitat Suitability Index and the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative assessed to Ripley, the county's large percent of farmland (quail are regarded as a farmland specie), the county has among the highest number of CRP contracts and number of acres contracted, it has one of the highest total number of CRP warm season grasses acres in the state, the county ranks highest in the number of CRP quail habitat buffers in Indiana and the county's diversity of landscape types and uses.

Quail populations are, more or less, a by-product of agriculture – or farming practices. In a nutshell, the essence of productive quail management is to, in many ways, re-employ the practices of early farming. Also, quail are referred to as an indicator specie"; they indicate the overall health of the land that they inhabit.

Quality quail habitat comprises a buffet of different land uses and types of vegetations: various grain crops, pasture and hay lands, hardwood lots, brushy areas, idle fields and waste areas along with bare tilled areas. The closer these different components are interspersed, the more dynamic the quail habitat. Each component provides for one or more of the bobwhite's needs: food, shelter and cover (escape, nesting, brood rearing and roosting covers) – available open water is not necessary though. A quail home range can be as small as twenty acres with the most dynamic habitat though in more marginal habitats it may be upwards of fifty or more acres.

Perhaps your land is not totally capable of providing all the components necessary for quail to sustain themselves; but, in conjunction with a neighboring landowner you can partner to develop your area into a suitable quail headquarters. If you have an interest in developing or enhancing your property for the benefit of bobwhite quail, simply contact your District Wildlife Biologist, Chris Grauel, at (812) 352-8486 or [CGrauel@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:CGrauel@dnr.IN.gov).

## Hogan creek watershed 2nd implementation grant received

Dearborn County SWCD received another implementation grant for the Hogan Creek watershed. This grant will continue education efforts and cost-share on best management practices that address water quality concerns. Some examples of potential practices include: pasture/hayland plantings, cover crops, heavy use area protection, alternative watering systems, permanent fencing, tree establishment, riparian buffers, and filter strips. All bmps installed must meet Natural Resource Conservation Service standards and specifications.

The continuation of the current education program will focus on non-point source pollution awareness, importance of best management practices, and encouraging people to do their part to improve water quality in the Hogan Creek Watershed. These efforts will be delivered through workshops, field days, newsletters, and presentations. There are other educational programs available to teachers and students if interested like enviroscape watershed demonstration and macro invertebrate testing.

The Hogan Creek Steering Committee would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in the watershed project to join the committee. The committee meets quarterly to discuss the watershed issues and concerns. They help determine what educational topics are top priorities for the watershed to cover at workshops, field days, and in newsletters. If you or anyone you know is interested and want to learn more about the Hogan Creek Watershed Project and its programs, feel free to call Heather Wirth at the Dearborn County SWCD office at 812-926-2406 ext 3 or email [heather.wirth@in.nacdn.net](mailto:heather.wirth@in.nacdn.net)

### Equipment for Rent

Equipment Rental Rates:

Brillion, Truax No-Till Drill, and Great Plains No-till drill: \$8.00/acre

Outback S – Litebar System \$25.00/ day rain or shine  
B-40 Strawblower: \$25.00/ hour

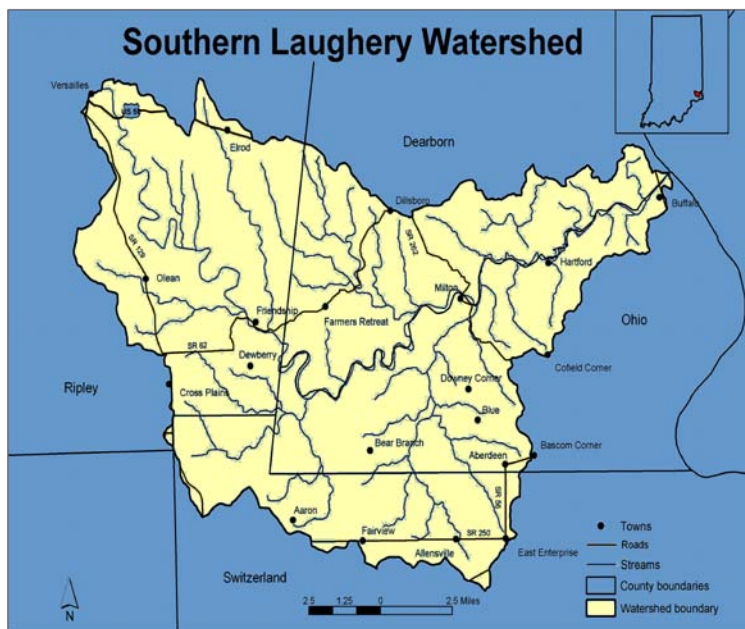
\$50.00 minimum applies to all equipment

Please call (812)689-6410 ext. 3 to rent equipment.

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

## South Laughery Creek Watershed Funding Still Available

The SLC Watershed is currently in the second phase of the cost share program. A total of \$419,440 was awarded from the Indiana Dept of Environmental Management through a 319 grant for nonpoint source pollution funded by Environmental Protection Agency. Of this money \$250,000 goes directly to landowners as cost share for best management practices throughout the SLC watershed. This money is allocated through a ranking system and on a first come first serve basis. Money is still available! If you own property in the South Laughery Creek Watershed which includes southeastern Ripley County, northwest Switzerland County, southern Dearborn County or Ohio County and are interested please contact Duane Drockelman, SLC Coordinator at (812)689-6410 ext. 5. This funding will end on January 31, 2013.



### FREE Brochures Available

The SLC Watershed and the Ripley County SWCD has teamed up to create a series of four brochures free of charge to the public. Brochure topics include:

- Rain Gardens – Conservation for the Home Owner
- Composting – Conservation for the Home Owner
- Conservation for the Livestock Farmer
- Conservation for the Grain Farmer

Please call the Ripley County SWCD at 812-689-6410 ext 3 for you copy of these brochures or pick them up at the office.

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

### Woodland Field Day Scheduled

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Woodland Committee will be holding a Woodland Field Day on Saturday, October 16, 2010, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The field day will be held at Sheets Tree Farm, located at 5679 North CR 200 E, Osgood, IN. There will be a portable sawmill demonstration along with discussions on oak regeneration and forest management. A free lunch will be provided by committee. If interested in attending please make reservations by Wednesday, October 13 by calling 812-689-6410 extension 5 or email [h hills@seidata.com](mailto:h hills@seidata.com).

*Hope to see you at the Woodland Field Day  
Saturday, October 16, 2010  
Sheets Tree Farm ~ Osgood, IN*

### Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project

Hanover College Rivers Institute was very generous this summer by furnishing two summer interns for the Central Muscatatuck Watershed. Erin VanDenEng and Christina Adkins both Hanover College students worked very diligently on various projects from June to August. Some of the activities the interns helped out on were:

- developing activities for the Jefferson & Ripley County SWCD 4-H Fair booths,
- updating and maintaining the CMW website: [www.hhhwatershed.org](http://www.hhhwatershed.org),
- talking with various landowners about the cost-share program, and
- attending meeting and giving public presentations.

*Thanks Erin & Christina for All Your Hard  
Work This Summer!!!*

*Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project still has cost-share dollars for anyone who is interested in applying for funds. Contact Steve Franklin at 812-689-6410 or [steve.franklin@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:steve.franklin@in.nacdnet.net) for more information.*

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

**PRESORTED STANDARD**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
**VERSAILLES, IN**  
**PERMIT # 6**

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- September 6<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED - Labor day
- September 21<sup>st</sup> – SWCD Fish Sale
- October 5<sup>th</sup> – Local Work Group Meeting 9:00
- October 6<sup>th</sup> – Ripley County Ag Day at Fairgrounds
- October 11<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED - Columbus Day
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED - Veterans Day
- November 25<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED - Thanksgiving
- November 26<sup>th</sup> – Limited Staff Available
- December 24<sup>th</sup> – Limited Staff Available – Christmas Eve
- December 25<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas

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#### **Conservation Team**

Office Staff:

#### **SWCD:**

**District Coordinator:** Kim Jolly

**Environmental Conservationist:** Steve Franklin

#### **NRCS:**

**District Conservationist:** Tim Schwipps

#### **SWCD Supervisors:**

Brian Evans, Chairman

Danny Geisler, Vice Chairman

Jeff Meinders, Member

Brad Hicks, Member

Ryan Busch, Member

Bob Mulford, Associate

Clay Nuhring, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the each month at 8:30 am at the Ripley County USDA Service Center.