

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 2009 – 1

March 2009

SWCD Annual Meeting a Success

The Ripley County SWCD Annual Meeting was held on February 5th at the South Ripley Elementary School in Versailles, IN. Despite the postponement of the meeting and continued cold weather approximately 90 people attended. Awards were presented to Arthur Thomas for the 2008 Conservation Farmer of the Year and William Nuhring for 2008 Ripley County River Friendly Farmer. One award was presented for Special Recognition and Appreciation to Robert Zupancic for all his help with the district.

Breakout sessions will be offered again this year. Topics for the breakout sessions were Fertilizer Inputs and Cost, Forestry, and Grazing. Jane Hardisty, Indiana NRCS State Conservationist was the main speaker of the evening. Both received positive feedback from many of the attendees.

To conclude the meeting election results were read with the Board of Supervisors being Jeff Meinders – Chairman, Ryan Busch – Vice Chairman, Clay Nuhring, Brian Evans, and Danny Geisler. Finally we would like to extend a huge thank you to all the businesses and organizations that donated door prizes for the event.

Cover Crop Field Day

In the fall of 2008 the Ripley County SWCD planted a cover crop plot on the Brewington Farm in Milan. On March 13, 2009 the Regional No-till Committee along with the Ripley County SWCD will be holding a Cover Crop Field day showing the importance of cover crops on your property. Registration will begin at 9:30 AM with lunch being provided. Speakers for the day include Eileen Kladvko, a Purdue Agronomy Extension Specialist and Mike Plumber, an Extension Education from University of Illinois. Robert Zupancic, NRCS Grazing Specialist will also be present to talk about the districts cover crop plot that was planted in September of 2008. The day will commence around 2:00 PM. Please contact the Ripley County SWCD to register before March 10, 2009 in order to guarantee enough food for everyone at (812)689-6410 ext. 3.



Poster Contest

There were 220 posters submitted to the annual poster contest "Dig It, The Secrets of Soil." All schools in Ripley County were invited to participate. The overall winner was Jacob Christie, a 4th grader, from Batesville Intermediate School.

Congratulations to all of the other grade category winners for a job well done!!

K-1st Grade

- 1st place – Abigail McCarty, South Ripley 1st Grade
- 2nd – Paris Raab, St. Louis School Kindergarten
- 3rd – Connor McCarty, South Ripley 1st Grade

2nd -3rd Grade

- 1st – Chloe Johnson, South Ripley 2nd Grade
- 2nd – Luke Begley, South Ripley 2nd Grade
- 3rd – Marie Werner, St. Louis School 3rd Grade

4th - 6th Grade

- 1st – Jacob Christie, Batesville Intermediate School 4th Grade
- 2nd – Cassidy Molnar, Batesville Intermediate School 4th Grade
- 3rd – Lauren Kieffer, Batesville Intermediate School 4th Grade

7th - 9th Grade

- 1st – Sarah Billingsley, Batesville Middle School 7th Grade
- 2nd – Anna Meyer, Batesville Middle School 7th Grade
- 3rd – Whitney Lambert, Batesville Middle School 7th Grade

10th -12th Grade

- 1st – Joshua Whiteford, Milan High School 10th Grade
- 2nd – Kaitlyn Gress, Milan High School 10th Grade
- 3rd – Judy Groce, Milan High School 10th Grade

Spring Fish Sale

The SWCD Fish Sale will be held on Tuesday, April 28th, 2009. Orders must be placed by April 21st to guarantee delivery. Species Available are:

Channel Catfish	4-6"	35 cents each
Hybrid Bluegill	2-3"	40 cents each
Regular Bluegill	2-3"	35 cents each
Redear Sunfish	2-3"	45 cents each
Fathead Minnows		\$7.50/ pound
Triploid Grass Carp		\$14.00 each
Jumbo Tadpoles		30 cents each
Koi	3-4"	\$5.00 each

A \$30.00 delivery fee applies per pond.
7% sales tax will be applied to all orders

Send orders with payment to:

Ripley County SWCD

1981 S. Industrial Park Rd., Suite 2
Versailles, IN 47042

Call (812)689-6410 ext. 3 for more information.

Free Wildlife Seed Available

The Ripley County SWCD will be offering free wildlife seed. We will have grain sorghum and sunflower seed available this summer. Please contact the office at 689-6410 ext. 3 with an estimated desired amount in lbs. to get your name on the list.

Equipment For Rent

Equipment Rental Rates:

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

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.**

Emergency Conservation Assistance Program

The Indiana State Soil Conservation Board has awarded the Ripley County SWCD \$28,189.28 in Emergency Conservation Assistance program dollars that will be offered to landowners of Ripley County to help correct the problems associated with the 2008 natural disasters. The District will be offering a cost share program on Soil Sampling, Timber Stand Improvement, Pasture/ Hayland Seeding, and Critical Area Planting. The details of the program have yet to be determined, the staff and board are waiting for more information on the requirements of the grant. Please call the office at (812)689-6410 ext. 3 for more information and to place your name on a waiting list.

South Laughery Creek Streambank Stabilization Field Day

Spring time is right around the corner and with spring comes rain. In our area rain often brings flooding and last year in 2008 Indiana saw record flooding along our streams and rivers. When events like this happen people begin to realize the importance of Streambank Stabilization. Not only are our streams losing their streambanks but more and more sediment is being deposited into the water. Streambank erosion is a natural occurrence but many things that we do speed up the process. For example if a stream has little vegetation to hold onto the soil, the water can easily take that soil rather than leaving it put. By having banks with trees and shrubs you increase the time it takes to erode that soil. Sediment is the number one cause of water pollution and is the main reason this issue needs to be addressed. Most landowners are mistaken and feel that if the stream is on their land, they can do as they wish. However, there are many rules and regulations that apply to our streams. Many organizations enforce these rules and landowners could be fined if rules are broken. **The South Laughery Creek Watershed will be hosting a Streambank Stabilization Field Day on May 7th, 2009.** This field day will be located at the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association cafeteria building in Friendship, IN. This field day is designed for landowners, city officials, engineers, planners, landscape architects, conservationists and others interested in Streambank Stabilization and Habitat Restoration. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM. Speakers from different organizations such as IDEM and others will be present to answer any questions you may have and to provide useful information. The main objectives of the day will be permitting issues, what you can and can't do, and forms of streambank stabilization. For reservations please call the SLCWP at (812)689-6410 ext. 5. More information will be available in coming newsletters.

16th Annual No-till Breakfast

The 16th Annual No-till Breakfast was held on Thursday February 26th at the Hopewell Baptist Church in Holton. The event is a partnership effort between the Ripley County SWCD, Purdue Extension, and the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D No-till Committee. The committee would like to give a special thanks to the South Ripley FFA for their assistance in the day's events.

South Laughery Creek Cell Phone Drive

In today's society everywhere you look more and more people have cell phones. In many households these phones have become a means of life and as many as 158 million Americans now have their own cell phones. But what happens when you're ready for that upgrade? Where does your old phone go? Upwards of 100 million cell phones are replaced each year and more often than not they get disposed into a landfill. Cell phones contain many chemicals and toxins that affect our environment. They are made up of 40% metals, 40% plastics, and 20% ceramics and other trace materials. Toxins such as *cadmium* which is bioaccumulative, *lead* that accumulates in the soil and can cause damage to plants, animals and humans, *mercury* that turns into methylated mercury once in water and eventually ends up in our food, and *brominated flame retardants* that may increase the risk of cancer when consumed. When water leaches away from these landfills it carries these toxins with it. The overall message here is that landfills are not a great location for your old cell phone so we are offering another solution. Bring your old cell phones to the South Laughery Creek Watershed and help the project keep cell phones out of landfill while giving us an opportunity to raise money for the project. Collection boxes can be found at your local SWCD office or Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D. You can also mail your phones to the South Laughery Creek Watershed Project c/o Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, 1981 S. Industrial Park Rd. Versailles, IN 47042. For additional information please call (812)689-6410 ext. 5.

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



PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
Permit #225

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- February 26 – No-Till Breakfast
- March 2 – SWCD Board Meeting
- March 13 – Cover Crop Field Day
- March 17 – Envirothon
- March 23 – Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Annual Meeting
- April 6 – SWCD Board Meeting
- April 21 - Fish Sale Deadline
- April 28 - Spring Fish Sale
- April 10 – OFFICE CLOSED for Good Friday
- May 4 - SWCD Board Meeting
- May 25 – OFFICE CLOSED for Memorial Day

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Conservation Team

Office Staff:

SWCD:

District Coordinator: Kim Jolly

Environmental Conservationist: *Vacant*

NRCS:

District Conservationist: Tim Schwipps

SWCD Supervisors:

Jeff Meinders, Chairman

Ryan Busch, Vice Chairman

Clay Nuhring, 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.