

Ripley County Agri-News



NRCS/ SWCD

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

Farm Service Agency

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

Issue 2010 – 2

March 2010

SWCD Annual Meeting

The 60th Ripley County SWCD Annual Meeting was held on January 29th at the South Ripley Elementary School in Versailles, IN. There were approximately 80 people in attendance. Awards were presented to Jack Schuerman for the 2009 Conservation Farmer of the Year and Paul Luke for 2009 Ripley County Master Farmer Award. Bob Brewington was honored for receiving one of five awards given for the 2009 Indiana Conservation Farmer of the Year. Bob and his wife Jeanette were honored at the 2010 IASWCD Annual Conference for outstanding conservation practices and promotion.

To conclude the meeting election results were read with the Board of Supervisors being Brian Evans – Chairman, Danny Geisler – Vice Chairman, Jeff Meinders, Ryan Busch and newly elected Brad Hicks. Finally we would like to extend a huge thank you to all the businesses and organizations that donated door prizes for the event and encourage you to do business with these companies as they support the farmers of Ripley County.



From Left: Jeff Meinders, 2009 SWCD Board Chairman; Jack Schuerman, 2009 Ripley County Conservation Farmer of the Year, Paul Luke, 2009 Master Farmer; Bob Brewington, 2009 Indiana Conservation Farmer of the Year



Commissioner Gary Stutler gives the Oath of Office to Brad Hicks, newly elected to the SWCD Board of Supervisors



The Annual Meeting was a success with over 80 people in attendance

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

Poster Contest

There were 270 posters submitted to the annual poster contest "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats." All schools in Ripley County were invited to participate.

THE OVERALL WINNER WAS CLARISSA CAIRNS, A 6TH GRADER,
FROM SOUTH RIPLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.



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

K-1st Grade

- 1st – Bryceton Franklin, South Ripley 1st Grade
- 2nd – Jordan Webster, Milan Kindergarten
- 3rd – Riley Clark, Milan Kindergarten

2nd -3rd Grade

- 1st – Ryan Laloge, St. Louis School 3rd Grade
- 2nd – Sam Giesting, St. Louis School 3rd Grade
- 3rd – Lydia Gigrich, St. Louis School 3rd Grade

4th - 6th Grade

- 1st – Clarissa Cairns, South Ripley Elementary 6th Grade
- 2nd – Brian McCombs, South Ripley Elementary 6th Grade
- 3rd – Ana White, St. Louis School 3rd Grade

7th - 9th Grade

- 1st – Alex Schoettmer, JacCenDel 8th Grade
- 2nd – Jessilyn Tunny, JacCenDel 8th Grade
- 3rd – Brooklyn Ronsheim, JacCenDel 8th Grade

10th -12th Grade

- 1st – Tatijana Marsee, Milan High School
- 2nd – Elizabeth Koedel, Milan High School
- 3rd – Aaron McConnell, Milan High School



Pictured to the left are South Ripley Elementary School Winners: Clarrisa Cairns, Overall Winner, Brian McCombs, and Bryceton Franklin



Pictured to the left are Milan High School Winners, Elizabeth Koedel and Tatijana Marsee



Pictured to the left are JacCenDel 8th Grade Winners, Jessilyn Tunny, Alex Schoettmer, and Brooklyn Ronsheim

Pictured above and to the left is Milan Elementary Winner: Riley Clark. Above and to the right are the St. Louis School Winners: Ryan Laloge, Sam Giesting, Lydia Gigrich, and Ana White

Spring Fish Sale

The SWCD Fish Sale will be held on Thursday, April 29th, 2010. Orders must be placed by April 22nd to guarantee delivery. Species Available are:

| | | |
|---------------------|------|---------------|
| Channel Catfish | 4-6" | 35 cents each |
| Hybrid Bluegill | 2-3" | 45 cents each |
| Regular Bluegill | 2-3" | 40 cents each |
| Redear Sunfish | 2-3" | 50 cents each |
| Fathead Minnows | | \$7.00/ 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.

(A MINIMUM OF 6 GRASS CARP ARE REQUIRED PER ORDER)

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.

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.

Free Wildlife Seed Available

The Ripley County SWCD will be offering free wildlife seed. We will have sunflower seeds available this spring. However, only a small amount is available and will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. Please contact the office at 689-6410 ext. 3 with an estimated desired amount in lbs. to get your name on the list.

GRAIN FOOD PLOTS

Most wildlife species find adequate food in their daily movements; however, many areas do benefit by the landowner providing additional food through the development of grain food plots. During the winter, especially in late winter and early spring, wildlife can benefit from reliable food sources provided by landowners. Species of wildlife ranging from small mammals and songbirds to deer and turkey may benefit from grain food plot establishment.

Food Plot Size and Placement

It is important to position the plots near cover to ensure species using them will not be overly exposed to predators. The plots should receive at least 6 - 8 hours of sunlight per day. One-half to one acre of food plot per 40 acres should be sufficient to provide valuable food to wildlife. Several smaller food plots established in key locations are more desirable than 1 or 2 large plots.

Food Plot Establishment

Food plots should be rotated so that the same location is planted only once every two or three years. Residual grain and valuable cover may be available the second year after planting and annual weeds such as ragweed, smartweed, pigweed, and foxtail will germinate in older food plots providing valuable food for wildlife. These common weeds rank at the top of the list on the bobwhite quail's buffet. As with any crop, proper applications of lime and fertilizer will improve food plot success. If possible, a soil test should be conducted. In lieu of a soil test, a general guideline would be to use 200 lbs/ac of 12-12-12 fertilizer for grain food plots. Herbicides and pesticides should **NOT** be used. To minimize excessive weed competition planting should be delayed until late May or early June. Planting may be performed using a conventional drill or by broadcast seeding. The broadcast method involves preparing a good seedbed by discing, spreading the seed, then lightly discing or harrowing the seeded plot. Generally, seed depth should be four to five times the size of the seed.

Types of Food Plots

Corn: Corn ranks at the top of wildlife food types. It is attractive to deer, turkeys, small mammals, and songbirds, and upland game birds. Several special varieties are available which provide low ear height, multiple small ears and varying term lengths. Break down the stalks in fall so that the hanging corn is readily available to ground feeding birds (especially quail) during the winter. Plant at an 8-10 lbs./acre rate; or, broadcast seeded at 15-20 lbs./acre rate.

Sunflowers: The Aoil@ variety of sunflowers make excellent food for mourning doves, upland game birds and songbirds and small mammals. Sunflowers should be planted with conventional tillage equipment at 3 -5 lbs/ac or broadcast at 5 - 10 lbs/acre in May. If broadcast, the seed bed should be disced to lightly cover the seed. Sunflowers mature early in the fall, and by winter the seed has either been eaten or has dropped to the ground. Since this will not benefit wildlife during the harsh winter months, additional food plots of corn or sorghum should be provided near the sunflowers.

Sorghum, Millet and Milo: These grains are in the sorghum family and produce BB sized seeds which are used by a variety of birds including doves, quail, waterfowl, turkeys, songbirds and small mammals. Seeding rates: 10 lbs./ac drilled; or, 15-20 lbs./acre broadcasted.

Wheat, barley, oats, rye: These grains rank near corn in number of wildlife users and value to wildlife. Waterfowl, deer, upland game birds, songbirds, rabbits and other small mammals relish these as a food source. These grains can be drilled at ½ bu./acre or broadcast at 1 bu./acre. in the late-summer or fall.

Soybeans: Although nutritious, soybeans offer little to nothing in terms of structure and overhead wintertime cover from predators. They may be inter-seeded with other more protective grains. Seeding rates: 30 lbs./acre drilled; or, 45 lbs./acre broadcasted.

Mixtures: If a mixture of seed varieties is used, remember to reduce the seeding rates proportionately.

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

- March 11 – No-Till Breakfast
- March 8 – SWCD Board Meeting
- March 11 – Cover Crop Field Day
- March 25 – Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Annual Meeting
- April 1 – OFFICE CLOSED for Good Friday
- April 12 – SWCD Board Meeting
- April 22 - Fish Sale Deadline
- April 29 - Spring Fish Sale
- May 4 – SWCD CLOSED Election Day
- May 10 - SWCD Board Meeting
- May – OFFICE CLOSED for Memorial Day

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Conservation Team

Office Staff:

SWCD:

District Coordinator: Kim Jolly

Environmental Conservator: Steve Franklin

NRCS:

District Conservator: Tim Schwipps

SWCD Supervisors:

Brian Evans, Chairman

Danny Geisler, Vice Chairman

Jeff Meinders, Member

Ryan Busch, Member

Brad Hicks, 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 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the each month at 8:30 am at the Ripley County USDA Service Center.