

Soil Scoop

Spencer/Perry County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

September, October, November 2007
Volume 1, Issue 3



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 8th—Columbus Day—Office Closed
November 3—AgWorks Work Shop
November 6—Primary Election Day—Office Closed
November 12—Veteran’s Day—Office Closed
November 22 & 23—Thanksgiving—Office Closed
November 26—SWCD No-Till Field Day
December (mid) - EQIP Signup
December 24th—Christmas Eve—Office Closed
December 25th—Christmas Day—Office Closed
December 31st—New Year’s Eve—Office Closed
January 1st—New Year’s Day—Office Closed



Spencer County No-Till Workshop

Spencer County SWCD’s No-Till Workshop will be held Monday, November 26th at the Spencer County 4-H Center, starting at 5:30pm. The District is offering this workshop with points for Chemical Applicator’s license. During this workshop participants will gain knowledge on how to measure residue, how to stay in compliance with NRCS programs, how to manage no-till applications, and how to certify for a Chemical Applicator’s license. More information will be available at a later date. Contact the Spencer County SWCD office at 812-649-9136; Ext 3 and ask for Trish Dugas.



Perry County SWCD
125 S 8th Street, Room 6
Cannelton, IN 47520
812-547-4686

Board of Supervisors
Randall Rennie, Chairman
Ronald James, Vice Chairman
James Fiedler, Secretary
Donald Champion, Member
Brad Harth, Member

Associate Supervisors
Jane James
Gilbert Kleaving
Earl "Mac" McCleerey

SWCD Staff
Darlene Fischer, Coordinator
Email: darlene-fischer@iaswcd.org

Spencer County SWCD
996 N State Road 66, Suite 102
Rockport, IN 47635
812-649-9136; Ext 3

Board of Supervisors
Mark Lubbehusen, Chairman
David Ayer, Vice Chairman
Burke Sibrel, Secretary
Alan Waninger, Member
Mike Roos, Member

Associate Supervisors
Paul Giles
Brian Rahman
Arnold Braun
Steve Trinkel
Ray Kern
Roy Raider

SWCD Staff
Trish Dugas, District Director
Email: trish.dugas@in.nacdnet.net

Stephanie Litherland, Program Administrator
Email: stephanie.litherland@in.nacdnet.net

Upcoming Board Meetings

October 9th—Perry County
October 22nd—Spencer County
November 13th—Perry County
November 26th—Spencer
December 11th—Perry
December 17th—Spencer (tentative)

NRCS Field Office Staff—Perry/Spencer
Rita Schaus, District Conservationist
(Located in Rockport)
Email: rita.schaus@in.usda.gov



PLEASE NOTE THAT PERRY COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH & SPENCER COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

4-H Fair Winners Announced

Spencer County's SWCD 4-H winners are: Aleks Kuchenbrod, Grand Champion; Megan Boehm, Reserve Grand Champion, Ashley Schaus, Blue, and Morgan Taylor, Blue. Congratulations to all our winners on a job well done.



Earth Team Volunteers Needed

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service are searching for people who are willing to commit their time and talent to conserving and protecting soil, water, and wildlife for your community and everyone in it.

Everyone who serves on the Earth Team plays an important role in keeping NRCS's long-standing commitment to working with people to protect and conserve natural resources.

You must be 14 years of age or older and you can work part or full time. You can work in the office or outdoors.

The SWCD office is working with NRCS to recruit volunteers. If you are interested in becoming an Earth Team Volunteer, please call the SWCD office and ask to speak with Stephanie Litherland.

Congratulations to Raymond Kern, Spencer County's River Friendly Farmer! Raymond was recognized at the Indiana State Fair in August. Raymond will receive a River Friendly Farmer sign at the Spencer County SWCD Annual Meeting to be held in January 2008.

Left to right: Tammy Lawson, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Raymond Kern, and Don Vilwock, Indiana Farm Bureau President.



Web Soil Surveys

The public is now able to view Perry and Spencer County's soil surveys on line at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>. The Spencer County SWCD also has FREE cds available if you are interested—limited supply. Stop in and get your copy—cds cannot be mailed.

EQIP Sign-Up

(Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

Please be aware that 1st round EQIP sign-up deadline is usually mid-December. Contact the NRCS office before December.



HOOSIER RIVERWATCH

The Spencer and Perry County Soil & Water Conservation Districts along with the Lincoln Hills RC&D Education Committee recently hosted a Hoosier Riverwatch workshop with Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training in Troy, Indiana.

Hoosier Riverwatch, jointly sponsored by Purdue University and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, through its division of fish & wildlife, is a statewide education program that focuses on local river and stream stewardship.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training introduces citizens and educators to water quality monitoring utilizing physical, chemical and biological assessment methods. The session was about 7 hours in length and provided hands-on experience in volunteer stream monitoring methods. After completion of this training, participants become “Certified Volunteer Monitors.” Riverwatch volunteers are able to perform stream testing, submit data to the statewide volunteer stream monitoring database, and teach students how to monitor.

The training was held on August 2nd at the Fire Department building in Troy. Those attending were Jan Frey, Phil McCarty, Trish Dugas, Stephanie Litherland, John Hurley, Monica Richard, Jay Johnson, Mark Kleeman, Darlene Fischer, Charmaine Oxford, Betsy Wilkinson and instructor Sylvia Hottel.



Change of Address????

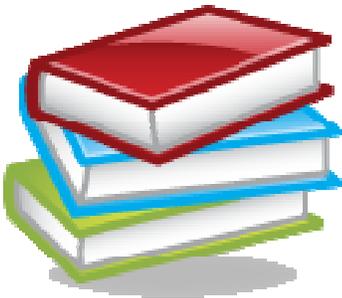
Has your address changed recently, do you wish to receive Soil Scoop by email, or do you just simply wish to have your name removed from our mailing list? If so, please contact the SWCD office.



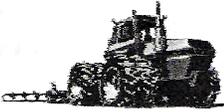
Rental Equipment

The Perry County SWCD has the following items available for rent: spreader, no-till drill, grass drill, Aer-Way caddy, straw crimper, staple gun, measuring wheel, water tank forms, and tree planting bars. The following items are for sale: Plat books, topographic maps, survey flags, erosion control netting (includes staples), and shirts. For price list, please contact Darlene Fischer at 812-547-4686.

LENDING LIBRARY



The Spencer County SWCD is pleased to announce that we now have a small Lending Library available. The Library consists mainly of books pertaining to conservation, wildlife, entomology, and rain gardens. If you are an educator or belong to a conservation, environmental or garden club, Boy or Girl Scouts, or Churches and would be interested in borrowing these items, please call Stephanie Litherland at the SWCD office at 812-649-9136, Ext 3 or email stephanie.litherland@in.nacdnet.net for further information. There is a nominal fee, but it will be fully refunded upon return of the item(s).



Spencer/Perry County News

Spencer/Perry County FSA

996 N State Road 66, Suite 101
Rockport, IN 47635
812-649-9136, Ext 2 (phone)
812-649-4796 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:

Marty Williams, Chair
Jeff Vogel, V-Chair
Danny Kleaving, Member
Luke Lubbehusen, Member
Judy Sigler, Member

County Committee meets 4th
Thursday of each month

Staff:

Julie Spencer, CED
Liz Franz, PT
Kim Hensley, PT
Pam Lindauer, PT
Mary Anne Schriefer, PT
Dona Stevenson, PT
Vince Lueke, Reporter



FSA Updates on Marketing Assistance Loans & Loan Deficiency Payments

As harvest is beginning, the Spencer/Perry County Farm Service Agency wants to remind producers of provisions for the Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP).

To be eligible for loans and LDP's, 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, retains beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding; and ensure 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.

Marketing Assistance Loans can provide producers with interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell the commodities when market prices are typically at harvest time lows. 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 quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

If loan grain is disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without county office approval, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period.

LDP's are only available when the market price of a crop falls below a specific threshold for one of the following commodities: wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, other oil seeds, rice, upland cotton, peanuts, honey, wool, mohair, dried peas, lentils, and small chickpeas. The final date to obtain loans or LDP's on 2007 harvested commodities is March 31, 2008 for small grains, and May 31, 2008 for feed grains.

USDA's FSA administers MAL and LDP programs on behalf of the CCC. FSA strives to assist farmers so the agricultural sector can help drive the US economy. With affordable food in abundance, the future is brighter for all Americans.

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without county office approval, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties 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 loan grain is fed or sold.

FSA Continued

REMINDER to ALL CRP Participants: In order to hay or graze your CRP acres, you MUST have an approved managed haying and grazing conservation plan from NRCS and approval from the County Committee in writing AND you will take a 25% payment cut.

MAJOR Change for CRP Participants: In the past we have let the operators on the farm certify your CRP acres for you. We are no longer able to do this. If your name is on the CRP contract, it is up to YOU to report the acres each year before July 15th. There will be a penalty if you report after this date.

Mid-Management Practices: If you are in the 4th through the 8th year of your CRP contract, you may be eligible for additional cost share to improve the cover on your CRP acres. You MUST have an approved conservation plan on file **BEFORE** you begin!! Please contact the County office if you have any questions.

NAP Deadline Approaching

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for fall seeded crops is approaching. NAP is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

November 20, 2007 is the final date for producers to apply for NAP coverage in Indiana on strawberries.

Producers who had NAP coverage may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for next year, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crops.

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

Producers with NAP coverage are required to 1) file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent; 2) timely file acreage reports; and 3) keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

SIGN-UP DATES FOR NEW LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS

Sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program have been announced. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) starting September 10, 2007. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning October 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses or and LIP for livestock losses occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration will also be eligible.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP. Contact the FSA County office for more details.

Continuous CRP Sign-Up

With Highly Erodible Land in Spencer & Perry Counties, and long slopes that may drain the water runoff of hundreds of acres, you should consider options that allow the local conservation offices to assist. The assistance will be in the form of technical expertise and federal cost-share dollars. In the long run, the time and energy will prove a good investment and help retain the natural resources of your land and of these counties.

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under certain continuous sign-up provisions. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Continuous CRP enrollments are not subject to competitive bidding.

To be eligible for Continuous CRP, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer. Exceptions to the rule include:

- *If the new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- *The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right or redemption in accordance with state law;
- *Or, the circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing in CRP.
- *To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be either cropland that has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years from 1996 to 2001, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or certain marginal pastureland.

The following conservation practices are eligible for Continuous CRP sign-up: riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, filter strips, wetland restoration, grass waterways, shelterbelts, living snow fences, contour grass strips, salt tolerant vegetation, and shallow water areas for wildlife.

All eligible owners and operators, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status, shall have an opportunity to submit requests to place land in CRP. For more information contact the county office staff.

Final DCP Payments for 2007

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (September 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85% of the farm's base acreage *times* (x) the farm's direct payment yield *times* (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned advance counter-cyclical payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

Important Dates to Remember

September 30—Last day to late file 2007 DCP

September 30—Final date to apply for NAP

October 8—Columbus Day—FSA Office Closed

October 15—Crop Disaster Sign-up begins for 2004, 2005, & 2006 crop year

November 12—Veteran's Day—FSA Office Closed

November 22—Thanksgiving—FSA Office Closed



Is Your Land in a Trust, Corporation, LLC, or Other Entity Type?

Many landowners are transferring their farmland into trusts or similar entities for estate planning purposes. This is a viable option for many people, however, please be aware that you need to notify the FSA office when you deed your land over to the entity. We will need you to provide us with a copy of the deed as well as a copy of your entity papers. A copy of the deed is required in order to change the land into the proper name. A copy of the entity papers is required in order to determine who has signature authority for the entity, as well as your Federal ID Number (if applicable).

We realize that some revocable trusts are set up using your Social Security Number, which is acceptable, but the trust information must be updated for program purposes.

The same requirements apply if you have changed your farm operation into a corporation, limited liability company (LLC), or other type of entity. You went through the required paperwork to establish the entity in order to better protect your land and farming interests. To protect your farm program benefits, you must also provide the FSA office with this information.

If you have any questions about what documentation is required please contact the county office.

Spencer County Soil & Water Wetland Field Day

The Spencer County SWCD held a Wetland Field Day, hosted by Paul & Cindy Giles on August 7th. Even though the temperatures were in the upper 90's, there were 54 people in attendance to tour the wetlands, and enjoy a meal catered by The Chateau.

Guest speakers were David Drew with Rose Hill Earth Tech in Reo, Indiana, who spoke on wetland determinations; Dr. Laura Bowling, Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy with Purdue University, who spoke on the benefits of water quality; Dr. Phillip Owens, Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy with Purdue University, who spoke on the different type of soils needed to construct or restore a wetland, and Bob Dodd, USDI Wildlife Biologist, who spoke on the benefits offered from wetland restorations. A wide variety of wild life can benefit from the different types of grasses, trees, varying depths of water and food plots that are a big part of restoring wetlands. Bob Dodd informed everyone that the Department of Interior has programs to help restore wetlands.

While touring the wetland four individual green herons, frogs and tadpoles, lesser yellow-leg shore birds, sandpipers, killdeer, green back and sand hill cranes, belted kingfishers, brown bats, and plenty of dragonflies could be seen, but not one mosquito. Wetlands are a magnet for other wildlife such as great blue herons, wood ducks, and minks.

Special thanks to Paul and Cindy Giles, Carl & Brenda Johnson, and Karl & Jeannie Shourds for the use of their land for the tour and meal site. Thanks to the SWCD Board of Supervisors & Spencer County Commissioners for coming out to support this event, neighbors for the use of their tractors, trailers and straw, and to our speakers. Special thanks to the following sponsors: Grandview Aluminum Products, Miles Farm Supply, Southern Indiana REC, One-Way Tree & Land Service, Spencer County Bank, Farm Credit Services, and Holiday World & Splashin Safari. Without all of you, we would not have been able to have our field day.



AgWO.R.K.S.–Women Realizing Knowledge & Success



Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation & Development Education Committee, along with the Perry County Purdue Extension is offering the AgWO.R.K.S. workshop again for farm women. This year it will be held Saturday, November 3rd at the Spencer County Youth & Community Center near Chrisney at 8:30am to 1:30pm (Central time). The purpose of this workshop is to provide farm women information on a variety of agricultural topics. The program is designed to be helpful for those that have been involved in farming for a short period of time or for several years. The topics for the workshop include: Herbs, Alternative Farming (Agritourism), Commodity Marketing, and Real Colors, Personality Traits. These topics are being presented by a variety of professionals that are familiar with the agriculture industry. The keynote speaker for this workshop is Erna Lloyd. Erna is the Indiana Farm Bureau District 9 Director and lives on a farm in Spencer County. Registration begins at 8:00am and the fee is \$15.00, which includes lunch and all handout materials. Pre-registration is required and due by October 26, 2007. Please call in your reservations to the Lincoln Hills RC&D at 812-649-9136, Ext 5, or you may email betsy.wilkinson@in.usda.gov.

Perry County SWCD Accepting Supervisor Applications

If conservation of our soil and water related natural resources is an important priority with you, the Perry County SWCD is accepting applications for an elected supervisor position.

The individual would serve as an elected district supervisor for a three-year term, beginning in January 2008.

Candidates for election must be of voting age, reside in the county, and own or rent more than 10 acres within the county. Anyone interested in becoming a nominee for the supervisor election may contact the SWCD office or may be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting.

Established by Indiana law, a SWCD is a legal sub-division of state government responsible for the protection, conservation and the wise use of soil, water and related natural resources within the county boundaries.

To register as a candidate, contact the district office at 125 South Eighth Street, Cannelton, Indiana 47520; phone: 812-547-4686; or email to darlene-fischer@iaswcd.org.

Understanding Rule 5 and Keeping in Compliance

1 acre or more of disturbed land requires submission of construction plans to the reviewing agency for approval. Construction plans include the traditional erosion control plan in addition to several other elements required by the new rule (see 327 IAC 15-5-6.5).

Rule 5 requires that any construction that will disturb 1 acre or more, has an erosion control plan designed by a licensed engineer. This must include complete details of what type of activities will take place on the site, information on what the site will be used for, and if commercial, what will be produced. There is a complete packet of what is required in the plan and what is required during construction on the site at your local SWCD. Once the plan has been reviewed you must send in a Notice of Intent (NOI) to IDEM.

During the construction phase an IDEM representative and/or a SWCD representative will come out to make inspections of the site for proper implementation of erosion control measures. Each site manager or site owner will need to make a weekly inspection of the site and forward the reports to IDEM.

Examples of sites that will need to have a Rule 5: A company comes into the county to build a plant for furniture; they would be required to have a complete plan of the site done to let the contractor know what measures will need to be put on the site to control erosion. Another example would be: A landowner decides to build a lake on their property; they would need to have plan also. This plan may not be as detailed as a plan for a plant is, due to limited items being built.

A contractor must be qualified to implement these practices. Please make sure that your contractor understands the rule and must do these practices during construction. If a site is found to be out of compliance, a review letter with all items needing to be corrected will be sent out. The site owner will be given a time period to correct the infractions. If these corrections are not corrected the review may be sent to the department that oversees enforcement. At this point, IDEM will determine if fines are needed to correct the problems. These fines will be placed against the site owner. This is why it is very important that the site owner be involved in inspections.

Spencer County has two ordinances that coincide with Rule 5. Ordinance for Erosion Control on Sites with Land Disturbing Activities (County Commissioner's Ordinance No. 1999-09) and Spencer County Ordinance Indiana Storm-Water Management Policy (County Commissioner's Ordinance No. 2007-13). Copies of the Ordinances may be picked up at the Auditor's Office located at the Spencer County Courthouse. Before doing any land disturbing that is greater than an acre, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information regarding the rules.



Perry County No-Till Field Day was Successful!

On a warm summer evening, the Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its Annual No-Till Field Day and Picnic on July 31st. It was hosted by Brian and Marty Williams on the Nolan, Joyce, and Anna Williams property. Nearly 150 people attended the event.

Beginning at 5:30pm participants went on walking tours. Speakers and topics were: Colt VanNatta—Dubois County Livestock Management Specialist, keeping livestock from streams with various techniques; Jeff Thompson— IDNR Wildlife Biologist, and Rita Schaus—NRCS District Conservationist, increasing wildlife and small game by installation of buffer/filter strips and waterways.

After the presentations the Perry County Cattle Association prepared a delicious rib eye sandwich meal.

The Perry County SWCD board would like to give a special thank you to the following: the hosts, Brian and Marty Williams; speakers, Colt VanNatta— Dubois County Livestock Management Specialist, Jeff Thompson—IDNR Wildlife Biologist, and Rita Schaus—NRCS District Conservationist; program sponsors who helped to defray the cost of the meal: Hancock County Farm Supply, Perry-Spencer Communications, Southern Indiana REC, John's Tractor Service, Howell's Garage, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, Owensboro Grain Company, Ebert Farms, Jim Gogel Crop Insurance; and the Perry County Cattle Association for preparing the meal.

It would not have been a success without the help from everyone and those who helped support the SWCD by attending.



Brian and Marty Williams were this year's Perry County No-Till Field Day hosts, located near Mt. Pleasant.



Colt VanNatta, Dubois County Livestock Management Specialist, gives a presentation about livestock watering at the Perry County No-Till Field Day.

Perry County River Friendly Farmer Awards

Congratulations to Fred and JB Etienne (Etienne Farms) and Bruce Miller (Hidden Valley Farm) for being selected as this year's recipients of the River Friendly Farmer Award for Perry County. They were recognized on Farmer's Day at the Indiana State Fair and will receive a sign to display on their farm at the SWCD Annual Meeting in January 2008.

NATIONAL RC&D WEEK

Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council joined 375 RC&D Councils across the country in celebrating "RC&D Week" September 23 - 29. RC&D Week was declared in recognition of the anniversary of the designation of the first 10 RC&D areas. Lincoln Hills RC&D not only was among the first group of RC&Ds established in the nation, it was in fact the **FIRST** RC&D authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture. In the past 43 years the RC&D program has grown from 10 designated areas to 375 designated areas that cover over 85% of the United States and its territories.

This unique program was established by Congress within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that empowered rural people to help themselves. The USDA focus was to assist local people by providing tools and technical support to stabilize and grow their own communities while protecting and developing natural resources. To carry out the RC&D concept, diverse groups of local volunteers (The RC&D Council) are brought together in a unique partnership to find solutions to their problems. Serving the needs and opportunities within the four-county area of Crawford, Harrison, Perry and Spencer, Lincoln Hills RC&D has a historic and unique role in addressing issues involving land conservation, land management, water management and rural community development.

A true grassroots organization, Lincoln Hills RC&D hosts 4 active committees; Forestry, Fish & Wildlife, Education and Tourism. Other organizations utilize the non-profit status of Lincoln Hills RC&D to accept donations for specific projects such as the renovation of The Rickenbaugh House and the Gleeson School in Perry County and the assistance with lighting at the Huffman Mill Covered Bridge.

The Lincoln Hills RC&D Council held an Open House on Tuesday September 25 at their new location in the USDA office located at 996 N. State Road 66 northeast of Rockport, Indiana and on Wednesday, September 26 at the USDA office at 1855 Gardner Lane NW in Corydon, Indiana. State and County Officials as well as the general public were invited to stop by to receive more information about this program and to learn about projects currently being developed.





Important News and Information

GET 'R DONE!

Spencer and Perry Counties together are the USDA-NRCS Princeton Tech Team's heaviest workload. Dubois and Gibson follow very closely behind. We have a lot of work that needs to get done!

For Spencer and Perry Counties, 108 practices still need to be surveyed. 88 of these practices (just over 80%) were under contract this year and were given to the very busy Tech Team this spring. These 88 practices will be surveyed after the crops come off this fall and winter when it is easier and quicker to survey. 66 additional practices are surveyed and ready to be designed as soon as the Tech Team gets a break from the field.

We have had a lot of construction this year from April through September, which takes the technicians away from the design table and into the field. 39 practices have been installed as of 8/31/07 in Spencer and Perry Counties.

The number of practices that have been surveyed and designed and are waiting on some of you, our program participants in Spencer and Perry Counties, to get them constructed is 203. This number is huge! Do you have one of these conservation projects waiting to be installed? Maybe a project from a few years back has slipped through the cracks or put on a back burner.....

In addition to the folks in Cannelton and Rockport who assist you, there are several people on the Tech Team who are also assisting you on a regular basis. We'd like to thank the following Tech Team members for their hard work for conservation in our counties: Mary Lee Smith, Cheryl DeHaven, Chuck Froehle, Amy Steeples, Vic Shelton, Joel Lindley, Harold Wallis, Trevor Shepard, Dave King, and Andrea Gogel (volunteer). Go team, go!

Conservation Programs are for Everyone

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Spencer/Perry County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) offer programs to everyone who can benefit from them. We offer our programs on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard for race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap. Cost share on erosion control, livestock feeding operations and nutrient/pest management plans are a great help to crop and livestock farmers. Our funding programs are available to all who apply and qualify. The demographics of farming have changed and we realize that there are more women and ethnic groups in the business of farming today than in the past. We appreciate the diversity of our farmers in Spencer and Perry Counties. It is important to all the agencies in the conservation partnership that these valued producers are served well by conservation practices.



Spencer/Perry County Soil & Water
Conservation Districts
&
Spencer/Perry County FSA
996 N State Road 66, Suite 102
Rockport, IN 47635

Pre-Sorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Not for Profit Organization
Cannelton, IN 47520
Permit No.18

Ad Space Available

Looking for ways to get your business more exposure in the county and help the environment at the same time? Advertising space is available on this district newsletter, which is sent to all program participants and affiliate members of the Spencer/Perry County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. 1/8 page is \$25.00 each edition, or \$60.00 for year; 1/4 page is \$50.00 each edition, or \$120.00 for year. Other packages are available to fit your need. Stop by and see Stephanie Litherland, District Program Administrator, or email at stephanie.litherland@in.nacdnet.net, or (812) 649-9136; Ext 3 for details.

