

Soil Scoop

Spencer/Perry County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

June, July, August 2007
Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome to Our Summer Interns

Perry County



Chris Newton is our summer intern. He is a senior at the University of Southern Indiana. As a geology major he plans to specialize in paleontology and geomorphology. His plans after college are to work as a field geologist for the United

States Geological Survey or private firm. From his position with the SWCD he plans to gain an understanding of hydrology and soil science. He enjoys doing survey work for the NRCS. Fishing, camping, rock climbing, and fossil hunting are among many of his hobbies. He is a 2004 graduate of Tell City High School. He is the son of Terry and Darlene Newton of Tell City.

Spencer County



John Hurley is our summer intern. He is 19 years old and has just completed his freshman year at Western Kentucky University, where he is majoring in agriculture education and chemistry. He lives on a small farm in Richland.

His father manages the farm and his mother teaches in Warrick County. He is a 2006 graduate of South Spencer High School. He is the son of Bill and Kaddy Hurley of Richland .

DATES TO REMEMEBER

July 4—Independence Day—office closed
July 9-14—Perry County 4-H Fair
July 13-17—Spencer County 4-H Fair
July 26—Perry County Bus Tour
July 31—Perry County Field Day
August 2—Hoosier River Watch
August 7—Spencer County Field Day

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Board Meetings

July 10th—Perry County
July 23rd—Spencer
August 14th—Perry
August 27th—Spencer
September 11th—Perry
September 24th—Spencer

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



**PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH THE PERRY
AND SPENCER BOARD MEETINGS ARE
HELD AT THE SWCD OFFICES.**



PLAN TO ATTEND YOUR COUNTY'S 4-H FAIR



Spencer County's 4-H Fair will be held July 13-17
at the Spencer County Youth and Community

Center located in Chrisney, Indiana. Our summer intern, John Hurley, will have an exhibit. The primary feature will be a three dimensional display of a working wetland with detailed information pertaining to the agronomic and environmental benefits of such regions. An inter-active model will also be available in order to better demonstrate the effectiveness of wetlands and other vegetated areas as methods of water retention and erosion control.

Perry County's 4-H Fair will be held July 9-14 at the fairgrounds. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Perry County SWCD booth will be presenting a poster displaying livestock feeding pads. The information will include types of livestock feeding pads, their advantages, who is eligible to apply, and who to contact to acquire them.

Perry County SWCD Annual No-Till Field Day & Picnic

The Perry County SWCD will hold it's Annual No-Till Field Day and Picnic on Tuesday, July 31st. The field day wagon tours will start at 5:30pm (CST). The speakers and topics include: Rita Schaus, District Conservationist, Jeff Thompson, District Wildlife Biologist: buffer/filter strips and increasing small game, Victor Shelton, Grazing Land Specialist for Southwest Indiana, and Colt VanNatta, Dubois County Livestock Specialist. Two SWCD supervisors will lead a panel discussion to help answer questions on grazing, fencing, and livestock management. Following the tour, a rib eye sandwich meal and cold drinks will be served. The meal will be prepared by members of the Perry County Cattle Association. The cost of the meal is \$5.00 per plate. The field day will be held rain or shine. Reservations are needed by Monday, July 23rd and may be made by calling the office at 812-547-4686. For more information, contact the SWCD office. NOTE: Location of the field day is yet to be determined at the time of this printing. Some seating will be available, but you may want to bring your lawn chairs. There will be designated areas for handicap parking.

Field Day Summer Bus Tour

The Perry County SWCD is organizing a bus trip on Thursday, July 26 to the University of Kentucky Field Day in Princeton, KY, hosted by the UK College of Agriculture. Events are from 8:00am-3:00pm (CST), and include: touring agricultural plots, ornamental plants, and orchards, demonstrations on family and consumer science topics, and a number of youth activities. Transportation will be by charter bus, which will leave promptly at 6:00am from the Wal-Mart parking lot in Tell City, and will return by 5:00pm. Limited seating is available and a \$10.00 fee per person is needed in advance to help with travel expenses and light refreshments. To register, mail your payment to the Perry County SWCD, 125 South 8th Street, Cannelton, IN 47520. For more information call the SWCD office at 812-547-4686.

THANKS TO OUR 2007 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Basic

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If you would like to become an Affiliate Member of the Spencer County SWCD, please mail in your donation to the address listed on the back page of this newsletter.

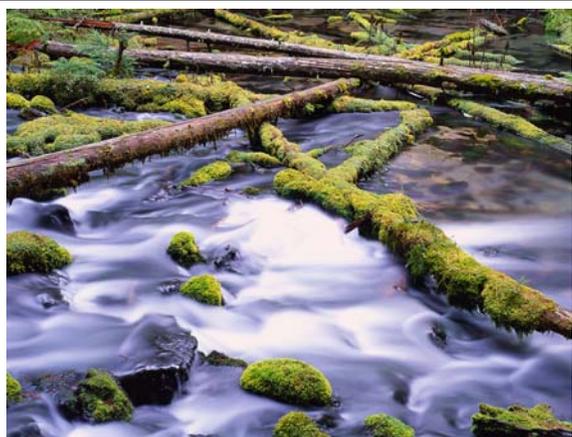
Periodical Cicada in Indiana

In Indiana most broods of the periodical cicada appear once every 17 years. However, two broods come out every 13 years. Periodical cicadas are usually referred to as “17-year or 13-year locusts”. They are about 1 1/2 to 2 inches long and have black bodies, reddish legs, wing margins, and eyes.

Cicadas have an interesting life cycle. They appear in the last part of May or June—maybe you heard the incessant cadence of high-pitched, shrill sounds, announcing their presence. Only the males make this noise. It is produced by vibrating membranes on the underside of the first abdominal segment. The females have no sound producing organs.

A female cicada has a knife-like organ she uses to slit or puncture twigs of woody plants in which she lays her eggs. In about 6 weeks, the eggs hatch, and the nymphs drop to the ground, dig into the soil, and feed by sucking sap from tree roots.

Females will only lay eggs in twigs between 3/16” and 7/16” in diameter. At the end of 13 or 17 years, depending upon the brood, the nymphs come out of the ground. They crawl up tree trunks, posts, or other objects, shed their last shell, and emerge as winged cicadas. These adults live about one month. During this time they mate, and each female lays 400-600 eggs. Cicadas are abundant only in areas where trees harbored the eggs of the previous generation. Cicadas can be very numerous in some areas and absent in woodlots nearby.



Hoosier River Watch

Spencer and Perry County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, along with the Lincoln Hills RC&D Education Committee are hosting a Hoosier River Watch workshop with Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training this August in Troy, Indiana. Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training introduces citizens and educators to water quality monitoring utilizing physical, chemical, and biological assessment methods.

Hoosier River Watch workshops are free and are open to any interested adult. The sessions are about 7 hours in length and provide hands-on experience in volunteer stream monitoring methods. After completion of this training, participants become “Certified Volunteer Monitors”. River Watch volunteers are able to perform stream testing, submit data to the statewide volunteer stream monitoring database, and teach students how to monitor. Teachers can earn 3 CRUs and possibly a free testing kit for their school. The training will be held Thursday, August 2nd, at Troy, Indiana from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Space is limited so if you are interested in attending, please contact Betsy Wilkinson at Lincoln Hills RC&D at 812-649-9136; Ext 5 or email betsy.wilkinson@in.usda.gov to receive more details and/or to register for this program.



The Spencer County Soil & Water Conservation District is having a Wetland Field Day to be held on August 7, 2007 at the Paul Giles Farms. Registration begins at 5:30pm, meal and tour begins at 6:00pm to conclude at 8:00pm. Meal will be provided free of charge. Locations will be on State Road 62 and County Roads 75 W and 100 W. Parking will be available on County Road 75 W. Meal will be provided free of charge at 6:00pm. Please turn in your reservations no later than July 16, 2007. Please be sure to wear appropriate field attire. For more information, contact Trish Dugas at 812-649-9136; Ext 3.

LINCOLN HILLS RC&D EDUCATES

This past Spring, the Lincoln Hills RC&D committees have been busy educating the public and plans to have more workshops through the Summer.

The Forestry Committee hosted a field day along with IDNR—Division of Forestry; Indiana State Department of Agriculture; and Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association. The unseasonable cold weather on April 14th kept the numbers of attendees down. However, for those who did attend, a tour was provided with 6 stops on Tom Ewbank's Certified Forest and 1 stop at The Nature Conservancy in Harrison County. Speakers addressed several forestry topics.

The Forestry Committee and The Fish and Wildlife Committee completed Timber Stand Improvement projects at The Hoosier National Forest.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee provided materials and assistance to young people at the Adventures With Nature program in June to make and take bluebird nesting boxes. The children enjoyed the instructions and using a hammer to build their own bird boxes.

The Lincoln Hills Patoka Lake Recreation Region has printed new Explore Southern Indiana brochures with information about tourist attractions in the Lincoln Hills and Patoka Lake regions.

The Education Committee, along with Purdue Extension—Perry County recently offered the 1st Indiana Master Naturalist program for this area. Fourteen adult students participated in the 8 week program. The program provided many hands-on opportunities to learn about our Hoosier natural resources.

The Education Committee, along with Perry and Spencer SWCDs are currently planning a Hoosier River Watch workshop in August.

To join or learn more about these committees, contact the office at 812-649-9136; Ext 5.



NEWS

Improved Web Soil Survey Now On-Line

NRCS recently launched an enhanced version of the Web Soil Survey, a web-based program that provides the public with soil maps, soil properties and soil usage needed for making good land use decisions. The latest update can be accessed at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>. Here are key improvements to the Soil Survey: 1. The homepage has been redesigned to make navigation easier and more intuitive for the visitor. 2. A shopping cart feature has been added, enabling the customer to accumulate content, then download and/or print one composite PDF file with selected thematic maps and soil reports, basic soil maps, map unit legends and descriptions. 3. Customers now have access to the Public Land Survey System Section data to ease navigating to specific areas of interest. 4. Federal land ownership boundaries for United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Department of Defense also have been added.

House Agriculture Subcommittee Reviews Farm Bill Livestock Provisions

Lawmakers continue to review sections of the proposed 2007 Farm Bill in an effort to pass a new bill before the current legislation expires in September. Congress is on track to continued intense action on the Farm Bill throughout the summer months. The House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry completed action on Title I provisions under the subcommittee's jurisdiction. The subcommittee, led by Chairman Leonard Boswell (D-IA), considered provisions to the dairy and miscellaneous subtitles and approved amendments. The dairy related provisions approved by the subcommittee included a dairy products price support program, permanent authorization of the dairy forward pricing program, an extension of the dairy export incentive program, new deadlines for the Federal milk marketing order process, and new USDA requirements for reporting requirements on non-fat dry milk. Miscellaneous provisions included a repeal of the prohibition on a mandatory animal identification system for country-of-origin labeling, recognition of the importance of swine pseudo rabies eradication, and prevention of State or locality prohibition of interstate shipment of USDA inspected meat. Approved amendments included voluntary arbitration for livestock or poultry contract disputes and \$12 million of assistance to the veal industry to mitigate recent trade impacts on the industry. For more information on House Agriculture Committee Farm Bill mark-ups, please visit <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html>.



Continued.....

Conservation Implementation Team (CIT)

During April and May, most of the technical people in ten counties of Southwestern Indiana moved into their new headquarters office in Princeton. This included many of the people you have been working with over the past few years. All NRCS Civil Engineering Technicians, Soil Conservationists and an Engineer have made this move. This move is part of Indiana's plan to better serve the needs of all customers in the state. With a centralized location and mobile flexible workforce, we can take on work quickly and efficiently where it is occurring during any particular period. Our team, the CIT, will be responsible for all surveying, designing, and construction checking of conservation projects.

Your local SWCD and District Conservationist will be your first line of contact and they will request our team's assistance when we are needed. There are local people that are a part of our team and will also be providing assistance. Many of these folks are employed by your county, state or through a grant program. You may notice faces that you are not familiar with conducting surveys or construction checks and if so, feel free to introduce yourself and ask them any questions you may have about your project or our new business process.

There are some things you can do to help us with helping you. Please consider planning in a way that gives us as much notice as possible before commencing construction of your project. Let your local office know at least three business days prior to construction to ensure that we are able to schedule your project for a layout or construction check. This will greatly increase the likelihood that your project will be constructed according to the plan and facilitate quick and easy reimbursement of any cost share payments. If a project is not constructed according to the design it will not be approved by our team. If a project is not approved it will make it unlikely that you will receive cost share reimbursement until it is constructed according to our specifications.

Please consider this when selecting a builder to construct your project. Ask the contractor if they are confident that they can construct your project according to the design plan. Your contractors are builders just like masons and carpenters and should be able to construct projects with specific grades, slopes, and elevations. All builders are expected to check themselves as they go. Masons would never build a wall without a level and will check their work frequently throughout the process. Carpenters utilize squares and levels to ensure all of the work is plum, level, and square. We should expect the same from builders of conservation practices. You do not have to settle for a contractor that is unwilling to check their work as they go and provide you with a great conservation project. It is your land and you deserve a project that will provide benefits for a long time.

Controlling Mud

Mud may not be a problem this time of year, but it certainly creates some challenges in the winter time. Mud is certainly worse around feeding, watering, and other concentrated areas. One of the best solutions for these concentrated areas is to install a “heavy use protection area”, i.e. feed and watering pads. These are fairly simple to construct and better yet, very economical.

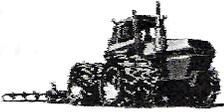
Start by leveling the area, removing excess organic matter and manure, and also top soil if necessary, to get a firm foundation to build on. Geo-textile fabric is laid down and then crushed limestone, usually #53's, is applied 6-8" deep depending on the site and conditions. Follow by topping with a couple inches of lime. The lime makes it easier to scrape and/or clean later and a little lime spread out on the field or pasture certainly won't hurt anything.

These pads supply a firm, well-drained area for feeding hay in rings, feeding silage in bunkers, and for areas around watering tanks. Similar designs can also be used for concentrated walking areas and lanes. If you happen to be on softer or wetter soils, then a layer of #2 lime stone could be laid underneath for a firmer base.

Why go to all this trouble? Mud increases stress for both us and the livestock. Mud increases energy requirements and at the same time can decrease intake. Mud will also tend to increase disease problems. Bottom line is mud can cost you big bucks!

Rock and geo-textile fabric is cheaper than concrete and require less maintenance than rock alone. These feed pads can also be placed right along the outside fence line, adjacent to a road or drive. In this way, the silage, grain, or hay can easily be fed without entering the field with the tractor. Heavy use protection areas are cost-sharable through several USDA programs. Contact your local SWCD office for more information.





Spencer/Perry County News

Spencer/Perry County FSA

996 N State Road 66, Suite 101
Rockport, IN 47635
Phone: 812-649-9136; Ext 2
Fax: 812-649-4796
www.fsa.usda.gov/

Hours:

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

County Committee:

Marty Williams, Chair
Jeff Vogel, Vice 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



Acreage Reporting

The timely filing of an accurate report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by July 15th. To be considered timely, acreage reports for: 1. prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop; 2. failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop. We will accept crop certifications from farm operators, farm owners, persons authorized by power of attorney and tenants and sharecroppers, for which they have a share. We will also accept from all producers crop acreage reports for any purpose.

Signing for Entities

In simpler times, when a producer visited the county office to sign a form there was no question about how to sign. The producer simply signed his or her name on the dotted line. In today's world of "entities" - trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships and corporations—signing Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation forms isn't so simple. First, you have to have a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney. Second, you have to know how you're supposed to sign. In almost all instances, when you're signing for an entity, your signature has to include "by" or "for", indicating you're signing in a representative capacity. For example, say you have a partnership, the John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, and you're authorized to sign for the partnership. Acceptable signatures include, "by George C. Smith"; "by George C. Smith, Partner", and "John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, by George C. Smith, Partner". Remember, if you've established an entity for your operation, you can no longer sign forms & contracts as yourself. When you have signing authority for an entity, you have to sign forms on behalf of the entity, not yourself. Contact the county office staff for more information.

Preventing Fraud, Waste

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Haying, Grazing CRP Acres

Haying or grazing Conservation Reserve Program acres may be permitted, but you need prior approval from the county committee, and you must have an approved plan. Acres may be hayed or grazed once every three years, and a 25% payment reduction is assessed for every approved acre hayed or grazed. Haying and grazing is not authorized under managed or emergency provisions during the primary nesting and brood-rearing season, which for Perry and Spencer Counties is March 1st to July 15th for contracts approved before 2/7/2007. For contracts approved after 2/7/2007 the primary nesting season is April 1st to August 1st.

CCC-633-EZ Reminder

Remember, we've switched to the CCC-633-EZ form. It's a one size fits all form you can use to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest. The same form is then used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. For the 2007 crop year, the CCC-633-EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs. Contact the office staff for details.

Calculating Producer History

If you intend to plant fruits, vegetables or wild rice (FAV/WR) on base acreage enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, you should contact the county office staff to calculate your producer history if the following FAV/WR double cropping or farm history exceptions do not apply. Double-cropping Regions: FAV/WR are planted in a double-cropping practice with a DCP eligible commodity. The farm must be in a county approved for double-cropping DCP eligible commodities with FAV/WR. In this exception, DCP payments are not reduced for such plantings. Perry and Spencer Counties have not been established as a double-cropping region by the state committee. Farm History: FAV/WR are planted on a farm with an established history of such planting. The WR/FAV history is based on the farm's planting for crop years 1991-1995 and 1998-2001. In this exception, although no contract violation results, the DCP payment acres will be reduced by an acre for each acre of base acreage planted to a FAV/WR. If neither of these exceptions applies to you and you plant FAV/WR on base acres, you will be considered in violation of your DCP contract and subject to losing benefits.

Dates to Remember

- July 4—Independence Day—Holiday—office closed
- July 15—Final certification date for all crops, except small grains
- August 1—Deadline to submit COC nomination forms
- August 3—Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal
- August 3—Final date to timely sign up for 2007 DCP Program



Spencer/Perry County Soil & Water
Conservation Districts
&
Spencer/Perry County FSA
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Rockport, IN 47635

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**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 & FSA. 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 stephanie.litherland@in.nacdnet.net, or (812) 649-9136; Ext 3 for more details.

Survey Flags for Sale

A reminder that the Spencer County SWCD has survey flags for sale. They come in a bundle of 100 for \$8.00, tax included. We currently have fluorescent orange.