



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-9109
Phone: 812-346-3411 Extension 3
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Winter Edition Newsletter
January 2009

SWCD To Hold Shop Meetings **You're Invited**

The SWCD is sponsoring a series of informal meetings to bring farmers up to date on SWCD and USDA programs and answer farmers' questions relating to these programs. These meetings will be held at five locations scattered around the county and farmers can choose to attend their choice of meetings. The SWCD will provide light refreshments for the meetings.

Meetings will be held at the following locations:

- February 4th at 8:30 AM at Scipio Fire Station**
- February 5th at 10:30 AM at Eddie Maschino farm shop**
- February 6th at 8:30 AM at Walter Low farm shop**
- February 9th at 8:30 AM at George Corya farm shop**
- February 10th at 8:30 AM at Richard Schepman farm shop**

The meetings will be conducted by SWCD Executive Director Bob Steiner, NRCS District Conservationist Jenny Vogel and FSA County Executive Director Tom Martin. It is expected that the meetings will not last more than 90 minutes but we will make sure everybody gets time to ask questions and get answers.

The SWCD's cost share program for soil testing will be discussed and any farmers who have bills for soil testing dated since May 1, 2008 may bring the bills with them and get a reimbursement check at the meeting. If assistance is needed to interpret soil test results, that can also be discussed.

Federal and state cost-share programs such as CRP, EQIP, LARE and others will be discussed. Also, any updated information on the 2008 Farm Bill and the ACRE program will be provided.

For further information or directions to any of the locations, call the SWCD office at 346-3411 Extension 3.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Deadline
April 30, 2009

SWCD Provides Cost-Share for Soil Testing

Farmers interested in soil testing for crop or pasture fields can get assistance from the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). In May of 2008, the SWCD received a grant to promote soil testing of farm lands in the county in an effort to reduce runoff of nutrients into our streams and assist farmers with making the most of their fertilizer inputs.

Some of the grant funds will be available to cost-share with farmers for soil testing. Grid sampling is encouraged so farmers can get a total picture of the nutrient levels of their crop fields. Grid sampling makes it possible to apply fertilizer and lime at varying rates over the fields and in many cases leads to less total cost of nutrients. The SWCD will reimburse at a rate of \$3.00 per acre up to a total of \$500.00 per producer. For those doing whole field single samples, the SWCD will reimburse \$4.00 per sample.

In order to get reimbursed, farmers can provide a bill or receipt for soil sampling from their fertilizer dealer or soil testing lab dated since May 1, 2008. Also, reimbursement will be provided for bills dated by April 30, 2009. The reimbursement is a simple process, with checks usually being written when the bills are submitted.

In addition, the SWCD is cooperating with A & L Great Lakes lab at Fort Wayne to provide soil test results. Farmers may bring samples to the SWCD office to be sent on to the lab. Results will come back to the SWCD, which will provide assistance for interpreting results and making recommendations for fertilizer and lime. The SWCD has bags for soil samples, soil probes to lend out for taking samples, and will provide assistance for those needing it for proper methods to collect soil samples. Samples may be submitted for non-ag use, such as for lawns and gardens. For more information, contact the SWCD office at 812-346-3411 X3.

Schneider Feed & Seed Dinner Meeting

*Tom Schneider is hosting an informational meeting and dinner on **February 9th** at St. Mary's Parish Hall. The meeting will begin at **6pm** with dinner catered by Mark Biehle. An agronomist with Cisco Seeds will discuss pasture management and reseeding. The meeting will conclude around 8:30pm.*

Please RSVP to Tom at 346-3760 by Friday, February 6th.

58th Annual Meeting

Rolling Hill Shrine Club
Thursday, February 26, 2009

The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a meal catered by Broad Acres Restaurant. The agenda for the evening will include supervisor elections, recognition of the Conservationist of the Year, & Educator of the Year.

Our entertainment/speaker is Brett Eastburn. Brett was born with a congenital birth defect known as Quad-membral Limbs Deficiency. He has no arms and no legs. While in school Brett played baseball, football, and basketball. He also became an accomplished swimmer. In junior high he became a member of the wrestling team. In high school he wrestled on the varsity team. In the 1988 wrestling competition under the AAU Brett placed 4th in the nation. During Brett's senior year he was made one of the team captains. After graduating he became a green belt in the martial arts.

Brett is also an accomplished artist with national recognition. During Brett's senior year he began speaking professionally on subjects such as Self-improvement. Brett has travelled throughout the world giving his speeches. Brett has NO ARMS and NO LEGS. But most importantly, NO HANDICAPS.



Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the SWCD office or from any board member.

Please RSVP by Thursday, February 19th.



Jennings County SWCD
2600 N. State Hwy 7
North Vernon, IN 47265

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Return Service Requested

YOUR JENNINGS COUNTY CONSERVATION TEAM

NRCS STAFF

Jenny Vogel, District Conservationist

SWCD Staff

Robert Steiner, Executive Director

Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Zach Hicks, Student Intern

Denise Dailey, Rule 5 Consultant

SWCD Supervisors

Brad Ponsler, Chairman

Dan Megel, Vice-Chairman

Roger Simmons

Jerry St. John

Brian Belding

Associate Supervisor

Don Biehle

Rob McGriff

Calendar of Events

January 27, 2009 Board Meeting 6pm @ USDA

Service Center

February 4, 5, 6, 9, & 10 Shop Meetings

Details inside

February 26, 2009 Annual Meeting 6pm

Rolling Hills Shrine Club

March 24, 2009 Board Meeting 6pm @ USDA

Service Center

April 28, 2009 Board Meeting 7pm @ USDA

Service Center

Check out our website for added events

Jennings County Soil and Water

Conservation District

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8:00 am until 4:00 pm

Phone (812) 346-3411 ext 3

Fax (812) 346-4237

Website www.jenningsswcd.org

Email info@jenningsswcd.org