



**Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-9109  
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## **Winter Edition Newsletter** **November 2011**

### **Economic Outlook, Crop Nutrient Meeting on December 8th**

The Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service will be sponsoring their annual Economic Outlook meeting for farmers on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Jennings County Public Library. The meeting will start at 9:30 AM with Dr. Chris Hurt, Purdue Economist, discussing the economic situation for Indiana agriculture.

Some of the topics of Dr. Hurt's presentation will include demand for crops, future price speculation, and his thoughts on the economy, future growth, inflation and interest rates.

A technical session will follow which will include three presentations. Bob Nielsen, Purdue Agronomist, will discuss management of corn nutrients. Nielsen is well known for his expertise on various topics related to corn production. His work can be viewed on [www.kingcorn.org](http://www.kingcorn.org) and the Chat 'n Chew café web sites.

Ken Salkeld, Ag and Natural Resources Educator for Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, will discuss new state regulations regarding transportation and application of fertilizers, including manure products. Commonly known as Category 14, these new rules were enacted by the state legislature and go into effect January 1, 2012.

Frank Helt of Rose Acres Farms will discuss the use of chicken manure as a crop nutrient and best methods for managing this popular source of fertilizer.

Pesticide Applicators Recertification Program (PARP) credits have been applied for. Also CCH credit and CEU credits have been applied for which can be used by Certified Crop Advisors or commercial pesticide applicators.

Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the program which is expected to end around 12:30 pm. ***Reservations for the lunch are requested by December 2*** and can be made by calling the Jennings County SWCD at 812-346-3411 X3. For more information, email to [info@jenningsswcd.org](mailto:info@jenningsswcd.org).

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**Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
61st Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 6, 2011 @ 6pm**

**Rolling Hills Shrine Club**

**Catered by Rolling Pin Catering, Versailles**

**Tickets are available at the office for \$10 per person**

**RSVP by February 28, 2012**

**Need a Unique Christmas Gift?**

**Rain Barrels and Composters  
are on sale at 10% off the  
prices listed below.**

Special Expires 12-22-11



**Rain Barrels and Composters are still available for  
purchase at the SWCD office.**

Rainwater stored in rain barrels helps reduce the amount of storm water runoff and the amount of pollutants that are picked up and carried to storm sewers, creeks and rivers. Rainwater stored in rain barrels is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to rainwater. After all, it's what plants in the wild thrive on!

Compost is great for the garden because it improves the soil, which in turn supports healthier and more productive plants. Compost provides virtually all of the essential nutrients for healthy plant growth, and it almost always releases those nutrients over time to give plants a slow, steady, consistent intake of the elements essential for growth. Compost also improves the soil's structure, making it easier for soil to hold and use the right amount of moisture and air.



Item	Color	Qty	Total
Prices are each			
<b>Rain Barrel (55 Gallon)</b> (Available in Black, Grey, Terra-Cotta, and Blue.) <b>(\$75 each)</b>			
<b>Oak Rain Barrel</b> <b>Refinished (\$165 each)</b> <b>Unfinished (\$150 each)</b>			
<b>Diverter (2X3 inch or 3X4 inch)</b> <b>(\$25 each)</b>	White		
<b>5 Gallon Composter</b> <b>(\$50)</b>	Terra Cotta		
<b>55 Gallon Composter</b> <b>(\$140)</b>	Black		
<b>Wooden Pedestal Riser</b> <b>(\$20)</b>	Wood		
<b>Linking Hose</b> <b>(\$10)</b>			

## Jennings County SWCD Successful On Two Grant Applications

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), through the State Soil Conservation Board, has announced that the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), in cooperation with nearby counties, has received approval for two grants to promote soil and water conservation practices with local landowners. ISDA administers the Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grants which are available to SWCDs and emphasize practices that contribute to improving water quality in Indiana's lakes and rivers.

For 2012, the ISDA had about \$830,000 available for the CWI grants and there were over \$1.5 million requested by SWCDs around the state. Proposed project applications had to be watershed-based with emphasis given to multi-county projects. Each of the grants received by Jennings County SWCD and partnering counties is for \$60,000 to be allocated for a three year period.

Jennings County SWCD cooperated to submit two applications, both of which were successful. One grant was submitted with Decatur and Bartholomew Counties and includes the Sand Creek Watershed in Jennings and part of Decatur County and parts of Flat Rock and Haw Creek in Bartholomew County. This is an area that was previously approved for special federal funding through the Mississippi River Basin Initiative. In this area, farmers are eligible to be paid \$20 per acre for applying a combination of nutrient management, no-till, cover crops, and buffers, if needed, on the same field.

The other grant is for the Muscatatuck Watershed and covers that part of Jennings County outside of Sand Creek Watershed, as well as parts of Jackson, Scott, and Jefferson County. This grant is set up to promote buffer practices. Incentive payments will be made for the following conservation practices: \$400 per acre for hardwood tree planting, riparian buffers and bottomland timber planting; \$100 per acre for native grass planting, wildlife habitat planting (warm season grasses and shrubs) and filter strip. The incentive program will be similar to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which is available in Sand Creek Watershed. These incentives will be available to landowners applying these practices through the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as well as those applying the practices without program assistance.

Anyone interested in these grants should contact the SWCD office to get more information and begin the planning process for the practices involved. For more information, call the office at 812-346-3411 X3.



## Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District 2011 Natural Resource Concern Survey

Please Read Back of Form on how to submit survey to the SWCD

- 1. How serious a problem do you think each one of the following is in Jennings County?  
On a scale of 4-1; with 4 being extremely serious and 1 being not serious, please check:**  
(Note: Some of these concerns we can directly assist land users with, others we can only help educate the public)

Resource Concerns for Consideration	Extremely Serious (4)	Very Serious (3)	Somewhat Serious (2)	Not Serious (1)	N/A
Better natural resource awareness & education needs					
Construction site erosion & sediment control					
Drinking water quality					
Farm land & "Working Farms" loss					
Fish & wildlife habitat loss					
Soil quality (soil compaction, poor tilth, water holding capacity)					
Haphazard growth & urban sprawl development					
Increased energy conservation & recycling support					
Invasive non-native (exotic) plants & animals					
Landowners/users need for more conservation assistance					
Mismanaged lawns (fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, etc.)					
Natural area, open (green) space, & historic site loss					
Need for more basic soil and water conservation education					
Parks, trail corridors & recreational open space needs					
Polluted stormwater runoff					
Poor drainage & flooding problems					
River, lake and stream pollution					
Farm field erosion (soil loss) & sediment problems					
Steep slope & streambank erosion					
Trees & woodlands loss					
Wellhead (groundwater) protection needs					
Wetlands (natural) loss & wetland mitigation					
Other _____					
Other _____					

- 2. What do you believe are Jennings County's most valuable natural resources or related amenities?**

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Do you support or oppose increases in funding to expand natural resource programs in Jennings County? please circle one**

a. Strongly support    b. Somewhat support    c. Somewhat oppose    d. Strongly oppose    e. Don't know

- 4. Would you support stronger natural resource ordinances & regulations with better enforcement?**

Yes                  No                  Do not know? Other comment- \_\_\_\_\_

- 5. Who should provide funds for any increase in conservation work efforts?**

a. Federal    b. State    c. County    d. Combination of (show letters) \_\_\_\_\_    e. other \_\_\_\_\_

## THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY!

Please complete as many of the following items you feel comfortable in doing!

Provide your township \_\_\_\_\_ to help indicate county location

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e. private landowner, government agency, commercial company, non-profit organization, etc.)

*Following is optional:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed survey to the Jennings County SWCD by January 1, 2012. The completed form can be sent by mail to the SWCD office at 2600 N State Highway 7, North Vernon, Indiana 47265. Completed forms can also be faxed to 812-346-4237. If you have any questions or comments please call the office at 812-346-3411 X3. You may also scan and send the survey to us by email at [info@jenningswcd.org](mailto:info@jenningswcd.org) .**

### **Background**

The purpose of the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is to promote the wise use and care of soil, water and other related natural resources of the county. This work is done through a variety of communication, cooperation, and coordination of technical, educational, and financial assistance efforts with a host of local private landowners, organizations, and local, state, & federal government agencies. The SWCD has no regulatory authority in carrying out its mission, all efforts are voluntary. At the SWCD's October 2011 meeting it was decided to begin focusing on updating the District's Long Range Plan (five year) and next year's (2012) Business Plan. To complete these tasks, the SWCD feels it is important to request and encourage local residents and community organizations to provide their input and guidance. For that reason, the District developed this survey to seek input into what conservation programs and projects are needed for Jennings County.

The District encourages those interested, to provide input on what priority conservation issues the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) needs to be focusing on in the future. At minimum identify three or more natural resource concerns you think our SWCD should be working on. Consider all soil, water, air, plant, animal, & other land management quality and quantity natural resource needs. List any specific locations, as appropriate.

**Note- If you would like to know more about SWCD projects & activities visit our web site at [www.jenningswcd.org](http://www.jenningswcd.org). If interested in helping us with our work, we would welcome you as a volunteer or an Associate Supervisor. Please contact Bob Steiner, Executive Director, Jennings County SWCD by phone at 812-346-3411 X3, or via email to [bob.steiner@in.usda.gov](mailto:bob.steiner@in.usda.gov) with any comments or questions. Thanks for your consideration and interest in this survey request.**

## Conservation Plans Solve Problems on the Farm

While USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers financial assistance through conservation programs, the most valuable thing the agency offers may be free. The agency's Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program allows conservation planners to work directly with farmers to develop customized conservation plans on their farms.

According to NRCS District Conservationist Jenny Vogel, "We offer financial assistance to farmers to apply conservation practices, but we also offer the technical assistance needed to develop farm conservation plans for free. As a federal agency, NRCS utilizes its CTA budget to offer conservation planning at no cost to the landowner. It's a big part of how we meet our mission, which is *helping people help the land*," says Vogel. "And, by developing conservation plans now, farmers can move to the front of the line when conservation program funds become available."

"Farmers today are top notch managers and know production agriculture. At NRCS, it's our job to know natural resources and what it takes to apply conservation measures to farm land to solve natural resources issues," says Vogel. "We have broad experience in knowing which conservation practices can work to help farmers reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, provide a place for wildlife, and continue raising good crops."

"When I meet with a producer on a farm visit, I am there to look at the whole picture or the whole system that is in place, not just a single facet. I am there to provide the best alternative not only for the farm and the resources, but also for that producer," Vogel said. "The field planning visits consist of critical dialog between the planner and the producer. That conversation allows the planner to understand what you are doing, what the issues are and where that producer wants to be in the long run. Without that information, we can only prescribe band aids," says Vogel.

In Jennings County, you can start the planning process by visiting NRCS at the local USDA Service Center in North Vernon, or by calling 346-3411 ext. 3. "A conservation plan is the key to addressing natural resource issues with solutions that fit your farm operation," says Jenny Vogel, NRCS District Conservationist. "And now, after harvest, is a good time to get started."



# Farm Service Agency News

## ***SURE Sign-Up to Begin November 14, 2011 for 2010 Crop Losses***

Enrollment for 2010 crop losses under the SURE program will begin November 14, 2011 and end June 1, 2012.

The SURE Program provides benefits for crop losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the 2010 crop year. This program is revenue based which accounts for losses in production quantity and quality, as well as price.

A producer's SURE operation includes all acres of all crops in all counties (and states). To be eligible for payment, a producer must have suffered at least a 10% loss of production on at least one crop of economic significance in a declared or contiguous county. Jennings County was declared for crop year 2010. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and a producer's total revenue. The producer's guarantee fluctuates depending on the amount and level of crop insurance and NAP coverage a producer carries. For additional information about the SURE guarantee and revenue calculations, see the web link: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and click on "Disaster Assistance Programs."

Jennings County producers who feel their farm operation suffered at least a 10% loss in at least one crop should contact the Jennings County FSA Office at 812-346-3411 Ext 2, to initiate application.

## ***2012 DCP and ACRE Enrollment Begins January 23, 2012***

As required in the 2008 Farm Bill, there are no 2012 advance direct payments for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE). Enrollment for 2012 DCP and ACRE will begin on January 23, 2012. The beginning enrollment date has been moved back to January 23, 2012 for 2012 DCP and ACRE in order to allow County Office employees time to begin sign-up of 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) and allow County Office employees time to finalize supplemental revenue assistance programs. The enrollment deadline for 2012 DCP and ACRE elections is June 1, 2012.



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

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**YOUR JENNINGS COUNTY  
CONSERVATION TEAM**

**SWCD Staff**

*Robert Steiner, Executive Director*  
*Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant*  
*Denise Dailey, Rule 5 Consultant*

**NRCS STAFF**

*Jenny Vogel, District Conservationist*

**SWCD Supervisors**

*Brad Ponsler, Chairman*  
*Dan Megel, Vice-Chairman*

*Jerry St. John*

*Brian Belding*

*Nathan Burbrink*

**Associate Supervisor**

*Don Biehle*

*Rob McGriff*

**SWCD  
Calendar of Events**

December 8, 2011

Economic Outlook Meeting—  
930am—1230pm @ Jenn. Co. Public Library

January 24, 2012

Board Meeting—7pm @ USDA Service Center

February 28, 2012

Board Meeting—7pm @ USDA Service Center

March 6, 2012

Annual Meeting—6pm @ Rolling Hills Shrine  
Club—RSVP by February 28, 2012

March 27, 2012

Board Meeting—7pm @ USDA Service Center

April 24, 2012

Board Meeting—7pm @ USDA Service Center

*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](http://www.jenningsswcd.org)*

*Email [info@jenningsswcd.org](mailto:info@jenningsswcd.org)*