



2008 Spring Tree Sale

The Jennings County SWCD and Jennings County 4-H are offering 14 varieties of trees at \$25 each and 3 varieties of shrubs at \$20 each. The order deadline is Friday, April 25th with trees available for pick up on Monday, May 5th. Enclosed is the tree flyer with all the details. If you have any questions please call the office at 346-3411ext3.

5th Annual Antique Ag Show and Parade

The Jennings County SWCD will again sponsor the Antique Ag Show and Parade at the Jennings County 4-H Fair. Tractors can be brought to the fair for the show on Sunday June 22 from 1 to 4pm. We will be in the same location as the past three years.

All tractors are encouraged to participate in the Parade of Tractors. The tractor parade will be held on Wednesday evening June 25, 2008 in the grandstand. At the conclusion of the baby pageant, a Pedal Tractor Race will be held for the kids. Participants can sign up at the grandstand stage for the race. The Tractor Parade will follow the Pedal Tractor Race. The evening will conclude with the entertaining Blind Folded Tractor Driving contest. This is one event that you won't want to miss! The Pedal Tractor Race, Tractor Parade and Blind Fold Race are all free events in the grand stand. The SWCD would like to thank the Jennings County Fair Board for their assistance and support of the Antique Ag Show and Parade.

Check out our website at www.jenningsswcd.org

Earth Team Volunteers

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary Federal agency that works with private land-owners to help them conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. We at the NRCS need people who are willing to commit their time and talent to conserving and protecting soil, water, and wildlife for their community and everyone in it.

The Earth Team has been around since 1981, when Congress passed legislation allowing NRCS to use volunteers in all programs. Volunteers become involved for a variety of reasons. The basic motivations include: helping others, interest in the work or activity, wanting to learn and gain experience, devoted to the cause, and know someone who was involved.

The North Vernon Field Office has several job needs for volunteers. Some of these needs are: newsletters, web page design, computer entries, filing, photography, media relations, workshops, displays, status reviews and many more. If you are at least 14 years of age and have an interest in any of these tasks, please contact our office at 346-3411 extension 3 to become an Earth Team Volunteer.

CSP Information Meetings Scheduled

INDIANAPOLIS, March 26, 2008—Sign-up for the 2008 Conservation Security Program (CSP) is fast approaching, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service wants farmers in southeast Indiana to be ready. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer announced that the CSP sign-up will be from April 18 to May 16 for farmers in the Upper East Fork White River Watershed. NRCS has scheduled a series of six informational meetings to help farmers in the watershed determine their eligibility and work through the application process.

“The watershed is mostly in Decatur, Bartholomew, Jackson and northern Jennings counties, but also touches small parts of Rush, Shelby and Brown counties,” according to Jane Hardisty, state conservationist for NRCS in Indiana. “We are mailing information directly to owners and operators of farm land in the watershed so they know about the sign-up and can begin to evaluate their eligibility.”

This is the fourth CSP sign-up for Indiana farmers. Because of the limited funding available for the conservation program, the sign-ups are offered to farmers in specific watersheds on a rotational basis. To be eligible for CSP, most of a producer's agricultural operation must fall within the boundaries of a selected watershed.

“The Conservation Security Program is intended to ‘Reward the Best’ conservation stewards for the conservation they have already applied on their farms,” says Hardisty.

Listed below are public information meetings within the Upper East Fork White River Watershed.

- April 7, 6pm-9pm North Decatur Elem. School, 3172 N State Road 3, Greensburg
- April 8, 1pm-4pm Brownstown Central HS Auditorium, 500 N Elm Street, Brownstown
- April 8, 6pm-9pm Jackson County Education Center 1000 S Poplar Street, Seymour
- April 9, 6pm-9pm Bartholomew County Extension Office, 1971 State Street, Columbus
- April 10, 1pm-4pm Jennings County Public Library, 2375 N State Hwy 3, North Vernon
- April 11, 9am-12pm Waynesburg Christian Church, 10230 W County Road 850 S, Westport

Producers begin the application process by filling out a self-assessment to determine if they meet the basic qualifications for CSP. Self-assessment workbooks will be available in hard copy at the public meetings listed above, and are available electronically at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>. After completing the self-assessment, producers should schedule an appointment to discuss their application with the NRCS local staff to determine if they meet specific CSP eligibility requirements.

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. CSP will be available any year on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows.

Soil Testing Assistance Available at SWCD

Farmers interested in soil testing for crop or pasture fields can get assistance from the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The SWCD recently received a grant to promote soil testing of farm lands in the county in an effort to reduce runoff of nutrients into our streams. Some of the grant funds will be available to cost-share with farmers for soil testing.

The soil testing will be for cropland and pastureland only. The SWCD will offer \$4 cost share on a standard field test sample. If you choose to have grid sampling the SWCD will offer a cost share of \$1/acre with a maximum of \$250 per producer.

We have negotiated special soil sample rates with Kova, Jackson-Jennings Co-Op, and Crop Production Services if you participate in this program through the SWCD.

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 with the SWCD covering the sample shipping cost. 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. For more information, contact the SWCD office at 812-346-3411 X3.

Items for Sale or Rent at Your Local SWCD

The Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District has the following available for sale:

**2006 Plat Books \$20.00 Plat Wall Maps \$195.00 Electronic Plats \$50.00
Geo-Textile Fabric \$1.90 per linear foot Marking Flags \$3.00 (per 25)**

We also have available for rent the following equipment: (reserve early)

**No-Till Drill \$8.00 per acre (minimum \$75)
Warm-Season Grass Drill \$8.00 per acre (minimum \$75)
Brillion Seeder \$8.00 per acre (minimum \$25)**

Got Kudzu? Let Us Know

Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is cooperating with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to help locate and eradicate known areas of kudzu. More prevalent in the southeastern United States, kudzu can completely cover trees and buildings and is a host plant for soybean rust. Since Jennings County is on the northernmost fringe of the range of kudzu, IDNR wants to stop it here. At present, there are five known areas of kudzu in Jennings County.

The IDNR presently has funds to pay for spraying the kudzu. Specialized herbicides are used and are very expensive. Anyone who suspects they have some of the invasive vines can contact the SWCD office at 812-346-3411 X 3 for more information or help on identifying the plants.

CONSERVATION TEAM

NRCS Staff

Jenny Vogel, District Conservationist

SWCD Staff

Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Bob Steiner, Watershed Coordinator

Denise Dailey, Rule 5 Consultant

SWCD Supervisors

Brad Ponsler, Chairman

Dan Megel, Vice Chairman

Roger Simmons, Secretary

Jerry St. John

Brian Belding

Associate Supervisors

Don Biehle

Tom Flora

Trent Low

Brad Armand

Calendar of Events

April 22—Board Meeting 7pm @USDA Service Center

May 6 & 7—Third Grade Great Outdoor Days

May 27—Board Meeting 7pm @USDA Service Center

June 17—Board Meeting 7pm@USDA Service Center

June 22—Antique Tractor Check-In—Fairgrounds

June 23—28 Jennings County 4-H Fair

June 25—Antique Tractor Show & Parade—Fairgrounds

Jennings County Soil and Water

Conservation District

Office Hours

Monday– Friday

8:00 am until 4:00 pm

Phone (812) 346-3411 ext 3

Recycle Here

Batteries, Mercury Thermometers & Thermostats