



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
 2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-9109
 Phone: 812-346-3411 Extension 3
 info@jenningswcd.org

Fall Edition Newsletter September 2010

Backyard Conservation Workshop
Features Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens, Composting

Rain barrels, rain gardens and composting will be topics of discussion at a Backyard Conservation Workshop sponsored by the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on **October 1st at Stream Cliff Herb Farm near Commiskey. The program will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude with a lunch.** This will be an opportunity to learn how to manage and conserve rain water, beautify your yard, and make high quality soil out of common waste materials.

Speakers for the workshop include Bob Steiner of the SWCD, Ralph and Barb Cooley of the Jennings County Master Gardeners, and Brian Ingmire of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. They will present information on water conservation, principles of drainage and erosion control, use of rain barrels and rain gardens, and composting of household, yard and garden waste materials.

The SWCD is now selling rain barrels and composters and will have samples of these products at the workshop. Those attending will be given a \$10 discount on any of these products purchased at the workshop.

RSVP required by September 24th by calling or visiting the SWCD office. The cost for those attending the workshop will be \$10 and should be paid in advance in order to ensure reservations. Attendance is limited to the first 50 people making reservations.

Save the Date
Save the Date

Tuesday, December 7th
Economic Outlook Meeting
Jennings Co. Public Library
PARP Credits will be available.
More details will be forthcoming.

In an effort to save money and natural resources the SWCD would like to update our newsletter database and move to sending out correspondence via email. So if you would like to receive information via email please send your email address to info@jenningswcd.org. Or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletters or other information please notify our office and we will remove your information from our database.

Thank You for your help.

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.

SWCD Calendar of Events

September 24, 2010
RSVP deadline for Backyard Conservation Workshop

September 28, 2010
Board Meeting—7 pm
USDA Service Center

October 1, 2010
Backyard Conservation Workshop—Stream Cliff Herb Farm \$10 per person
9:30am-12:30pm
RSVP due by Sept. 24th

October 8, 2010
Tree Sale Order Deadline

October 15, 2010
Tree Order Pick-Up

October 26, 2010
Board Meeting—7 pm
USDA Service Center

November 23, 2010
Board Meeting—7pm
USDA Service Center

December 7, 2010
Economic Outlook Meeting
9:30am—12:30pm
Jennings Co. Public Library
PARP Credits Offered
RSVP due by Nov. 30th

December 28, 2010
Board Meeting—7pm
USDA Service Center

Want to know what is going on at your local SWCD?

**Check out our website.
www.jenningswcd.org**

What does your Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District offer?

Geo-Textile Fabric

Feeding Pad Areas Barn Lots Driveways
Rip Rap Landscaping—Weed Barrier

This can also be used under pools, playground areas, and many other uses.

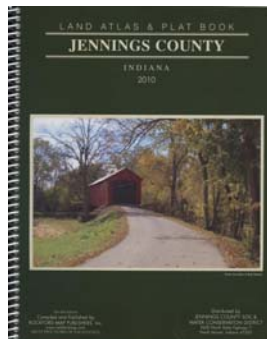


Geo-Textile Fabric comes in 15'X300' rolls and can be sold by the roll or linear foot.

Geo-Textile Fabric is \$ 1.90 per linear foot.

Marking Flags

\$3 for 25 flags



2010 Plat Books

\$ 25 each

Get yours today, before they are gone.
This year's plat book includes aerial photos.

Brillion Seeder

This seeder is great for seeding pasture, filter strips, or waterways.

Rent is \$8/acre with a minimum of \$25.



Frontier Plotmaster

This is the machine for those wanting to feed the wildlife. This machine is great for all of your food plot plantings. This is available for \$50/day. Find a buddy that wants to plant at the same time and split the cost.

Great Plains No-Till Drill

This drill has the warm season grass attachment to handle your many conservation practices. It is available to rent for \$8/acre with a minimum of \$75.



Strawblower

Great for covering your freshly sewn grass plantings. Contact Clancy Tool Rental to reserve this for \$100/4hours or \$175 for the day.

Call 346-5544

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Available for Sand Creek Watershed

CREP is a federal-state natural resource conservation program that will address water quality and wildlife issues by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and enhancing wildlife habitats. CREP is designed to help alleviate some of the concerns of high nonpoint source sediment, nutrient, pesticide and herbicide losses from agricultural lands by restoring buffers and wetlands to improve water quality. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA and the State of Indiana to voluntarily enroll in the program for 14 to 15 years.

The overall goals of the Indiana CREP are to provide producers in the State an opportunity to voluntarily restore riparian buffers and wetland areas through financial aid and technical assistance. These practices will assist in erosion control, sediment reduction, water retention, and nutrient uptake.

Specific goals include:

- protect a minimum of 3,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of buffer practices
- reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and agricultural chemicals entering watercourses within the targeted watersheds by 8%
- enroll 15 % of eligible watersheds' cropland subject to normal CRP acreage limits by county
- enroll 10 % of the CREP enrolled acres in voluntary, permanent easements in the Tippecanoe Watershed and Upper White River Watershed; and
- enroll 26,250 acres of eligible cropland including frequently flooded agricultural lands and restorable wetlands

Specific conservation practices have been identified to meet the program goals. For enrollment, the following practices are offered:

- CP-2 Permanent Native Grasses
- CP-3 Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP-4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-easement
- CP-21 Filter Strips
- CP-22 Riparian Buffer
- CP-23 Wetland Restoration
- CP-23A Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
- CP-31 Bottomland Timber Establishment

Cropland must meet CRP land eligibility criteria to be eligible for enrollment.

Cost share will be at 50% of eligible reimbursable practice establishment costs once the practice is installed. A Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) will be provided. This is a one-time payment equal to 40% of the eligible installation costs for CP-21, CP-22, CP23, CP23A and CP-31. A Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) is also included. SIP is a one-time payment of \$100/acre for CP-21, CP-22, CP23, CP23A and CP-31.

The Annual Rental Payment consists of three parts:

- Payment for normal maximum CRP weighted average soil rental rate for the three predominant soil types using the current posted applicable local soil rental rates for cropland offers. Marginal pastureland rates are calculated using applicable local marginal pasture land rental rates in accordance with FSA national CRP directives.
- Incentive payment of 40% of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments ("infeasible to farm" acres are not eligible for incentive payments).
- A maintenance fee equal to the terms of FSA national CRP directives, if applicable.

In addition, Indiana will offer the following payments:

- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for CP-3A, CP-22, and CP-31.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$950/acre for CP-23 and CP-23A.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$100/acre for CP-2, CP-4D, and CP-21.
- A one-time payment of \$500/acre to participants enrolled in State Permanent Easement in the Upper White River and Tippecanoe watersheds.

Producers enrolled in the Indiana CREP may also enroll in general and continuous CRP. CREP is another option the producers may select to enhance their land. CREP provides additional benefits not available through the general and/or continuous sign-up.

Contact the office at 346-3411 ext. 3 for more details.

My Farm Doesn't Impact the Mississippi River, or Does It????

To improve the health of the Mississippi River Basin, including water quality and wildlife habitat, the Natural Resources Conservation Service is developing the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Through this new Initiative, NRCS and the Jennings County SWCD will help producers in the Sand Creek Watershed in the Mississippi River Basin voluntarily implement conservation practices that avoid, control, and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity.

These improvements will be accomplished through a conservation systems approach to manage and optimize nitrogen and phosphorous within fields to minimize runoff and reduce downstream nutrient loading. NRCS will provide producers assistance with a system of practices that will control soil erosion, improve soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat while managing runoff and drainage water for improved water quality.

The Initiative will build on the past efforts of producers, NRCS, partners, and other State and Federal agencies in the 12-State Initiative area to address nutrient loading in the Mississippi River Basin. Nutrient loading contributes to both local water quality problems and the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. The 12 participating States are Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. MRBI will be implemented by NRCS through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in the Sand Creek Watershed in Jennings County.

Producers in the Sand Creek Watershed may apply through the MRBI EQIP program to install cover crops on their crop fields. Cover crops not only provide protection for the soil through the winter months, they trap and store nutrients, making them available to the next crop. The root systems of the cover crops assist with breaking up compaction and create channels for the corn and soybean roots to grow deeper to reach water in drought years.

Nutrient management is another practice available to producers through the MRBI EQIP program. This practice gives producers the opportunity to look at the nutrient levels in the soil, nutrient credits from crops or manure, the crop removal rates and the amount of fertilizer needed for the crop versus the amount of fertilizer actually applied.

For more information about the MRBI program, contact the office at 346-3411 ext. 3.

Fall is Soil Test Time

With dry fall weather, it is the ideal time to sample your soil to check on nutrient levels. The SWCD can submit your samples for you at our cost. On crop and pasture fields, we will provide an incentive payment of \$4 per sample, making your final cost only \$5.25 per sample. We also can submit samples for lawns and gardens.

Another test that we are promoting is the Crop Nutrient Removal Test. By submitting a sample of grain, you can get a test that shows total nutrients remove by the crop so you can compare this with the amount of fertilizer actually applied to the field. All we need is about 2 cups of grain along with information about the actual yield of the crop. This test costs \$20 per sample. For more information, contact the SWCD office at 346-3411 X3.

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

SEMI-ANNUAL TREE SALE

TREE VARIETIES AVAILABLE



Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District &
 Jennings County 4-H Extension Office
 Fall 2010 Tree & Plant Sale
ORDER FORM (Pre Pay Order)



Order deadline is October 8, 2010

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Autumn Blaze Maple	4-5' \$25		
Autumn Blaze Maple	1.5"X8' \$110		
English Oak	4' \$20		
Bur Oak	5-6' \$25		
River Birch 3-4 stem	3-4' \$30		
River Birch	4-5' \$20		
River Birch	1.25"X6-7' \$90		
Red Sunset Maple	4-5' \$25		
Red Sunset Maple	1.5"X8' \$110		
Swamp White Oak	4' \$20		
Red Oak	6' \$25		
Redbud	2' \$20		
Bald Cypress	2-3' \$20		
White Pine	2-3' \$20		
Norway Spruce	2-3' \$20		
Pagoda Dogwood	2-3' \$20		
Nannyberry Virburnum	2-3' \$20		
Common Ninebark	3-4' \$20		
		Total	



Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ (H) _____ (C)
Email: _____

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

Rain Barrels



The Importance of Rainwater Harvesting and Its Impact on the Environment

Water is a scarce resource that is essential for our existence and our supplies are increasingly coming under pressure. Only 3% of the world's water is fresh and less than a third or 1% of this is available to humans. A typical household uses over 170 gallons of water every day. This equates to around 63,000 gallons (or 5 average sized swimming pools) each year! Up to half the water supplied to household ends up as waste water.

The average homeowner will also see a decrease in their monthly water bill (reportedly 30% to 70%) by harvesting rainwater. With many municipalities in the process of raising water rates, the financial savings are another important advantage of rainwater harvesting. The average homeowner is not the only one to realize savings from rainwater harvesting, many large corporations and agricultural companies are incorporating rain harvesting in new projects.

Fact: 1 inch of rain on a 1,000 square feet roof yields 623 gallons of water

Composters



Garden Benefits

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. Compost will improve the texture of both clay and sandy soil; indeed, compost is the best additive to make either clay or sandy soil into rich, moisture holding, loamy soil. And, as an added benefit, compost improves plant vigor and provides for improved immunology from diseases.

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

**YOUR JENNINGS COUNTY
CONSERVATION TEAM**

NRCS STAFF

Jenny Vogel, District Conservationist

SWCD Staff

Robert Steiner, Executive Director

Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Denise Dailey, Rule 5 Consultant

SWCD Supervisors

Brad Ponsler, Chairman

Dan Megel, Vice-Chairman

Jerry St. John

Brian Belding

Nathan Burbrink

Associate Supervisor

Don Biehle

Rob McGriff

Roger Simmons

Semi-Annual Tree Sale

11 Varieties of Trees

3 Varieties of Shrubs

Prices range from \$20—\$110
depending on sizes.

Order and pay by Friday, October 8

Trees/Shrubs will be available for pickup on
Friday, October 15th

Order forms are available online at:
www.jenningsswcd.org

*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