



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Winter Edition Newsletter
January 2010

59th Annual Meeting
Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
Tuesday, March 2, 2010 @ 6:00pm
Rolling Hills Shrine Club

This year's Annual Meeting will feature guest speaker, Donya Lester, Executive Secretary, Purdue Ag Alumni Association. The agenda for the evening will include the presentation of the Educator of the Year award to Ms. Connie Anderson, teacher at Scipio Elementary; Friend of Conservation award to Muscatatuck Quail Unlimited Chapter. An election of a member to the board of supervisors will be held. This years nominee is Brian Belding, local attorney, who has held the position of supervisor for the previous 3 years. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at this meeting.

The meal will be catered by the Rolling Pin Catering from Versailles and door prizes will be awarded.

Ticket Cost: \$10 per person
RSVP by Tuesday, February 23 for meal count
812-346-3411 ext 3

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@jenningsswcd.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.

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SWCD To Hold Shop Meetings You're Invited

Meetings will be held at the following locations:

- February 3rd at 8:30 AM
at Marion Township Community Center
- February 4th at 10:30 AM
at Eddie Maschino farm shop
- February 8th at 8:30 AM
at Walter Low farm shop
- February 9th at 8:30 AM
at George Corya farm shop

A series of informal meetings is being held to bring farmers up to date on local, state and federal programs and answer farmers' questions relating to these programs. The SWCD will provide light refreshments for the meetings.

Presentors will be:

Bob Steiner

Jennings County SWCD

Jenny Vogel

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Tom Martin

Farm Service Agency

Doug Kirby

Farm Service Agency

Jerry Hay

Rural Development

Rob McGriff

Indiana Division of Forestry

Steve Franklin

Central Muscatatuck Watershed

Ken Salkeld

Purdue Extension, Ag & Natural Resources Educator

Nate Yazel

Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife

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.

It is expected that the meetings will not last more than 2 hours but we will make sure everybody gets time to ask questions and get answers.



SWCD Cost-Share for Soil Sampling, Grid Sampling

The SWCD Board of Supervisors has decided to continue its cost share program for assisting farmers with soil sampling on crop and pasture land with an emphasis on grid sampling cropland. Those who are doing grid sampling for the first time are eligible to receive \$5.00 per acre, up to a maximum of \$750.00 per producer. For those who have done grid sampling in the past, cost-share of \$4.00 per acre is available with a maximum payment of \$500.00.

Grid sampling provides landowners with more detail regarding specific locations in crop fields which may be deficient in nutrients. Using variable rate spreading, the field can be fertilized with higher rates where more fertilizer is needed and less can be used in areas where it is not needed. In most cases, this can result in saving money on the total fertilizer bill.

Farmers may bring in bills from fertilizer retailers and collect the cost-share. The SWCD has set aside \$10,000.00 for this cost-share program which began on May 1st.

Conventional soil samples for crop or pasture land will continue to be cost-shared at \$4.00 per sample. Bills from fertilizer vendors may be submitted or samples can be brought to the SWCD office for submission to A&L Great Lakes Lab.

For more information, call the SWCD office at 812-346-3411 X3.

Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project Approved

Farmers in the southwest part of Jennings County may be eligible for cost-share assistance for several conservation practices as part of the recently approved Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project. This watershed covers parts of five counties that drain into the main fork of the Muscatatuck River. In Jennings County this includes parts of Marion Township, (most of the area south of the Commiskey Pike) parts of Montgomery Township, as well as the Coffee Creek watershed in Lovett Township.

The objectives of the project focus primarily on the improvement of water quality. It is funded by Section 319 funds provided by EPA through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. In the local area, the grant is administered by the Historic Hoosier Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council (HHH) at Versailles. Information on the project can be had by contacting Casie Auxier or Steve Franklin at the HHH office at 812-689-641 X5. Information can also be obtained at the local Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Most eligible practices will be cost-shared at a 60% cost-share rate. Many of the practices are aimed at livestock management and include water facilities such as ponds, spring developments and pipelines. Fences and pasture seeding, fertilizing and management of pastures will also be high priority. Heavy use areas for livestock feeding or stream crossing will also be eligible for assistance.

Other practices available include establishing cover along streams or in severely eroded areas. Grassed waterways in non-crop areas may be cost-shared where they are not eligible for some of the federal cost-share programs.

Individual farmers participating in this project may apply for up to \$25,000 in cost-share funds. Contact your SWCD office to learn more or to get assistance for determining what practices may be needed on your farm.

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

Calendar of Events

**February 23, 2010 Board Meeting 6pm @ USDA
Service Center**

**March 2, 2010 Annual Meeting 6:30 pm
@ Rolling Hills Shrine Club**

**March 30, 2010 Board Meeting 6pm @ USDA
Service Center**

**April 27, 2010 Board Meeting 7pm @ USDA
Service Center**

**May 25, 2010 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

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