

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

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## **YOUR JENNINGS COUNTY CONSERVATION TEAM**

### SWCD Staff

*Andy Ertel, 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*  
*Matt Branham*  
*Tom Schneider*  
Associate Supervisor  
*Don Biehle*  
*Rob McGriff*  
*Bob Steiner*

### Calendar of Events

**June 30, 2015 Board Meeting 7pm @**  
USDA Service Center  
**Fair Week July 6—July 10, 2015**  
**July 28, 2015 Board Meeting 7pm @**  
USDA Service Center  
**Aug. 25, 2015 Board Meeting 7pm @**  
USDA Service Center  
**Sept. 22, 2015 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](http://www.jenningsswcd.org)*  
*Email [info@jenningsswcd.org](mailto:info@jenningsswcd.org)*

# FSA Information

### Producers Must Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to complete annual acreage reports as planting wraps up. This includes reporting prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility.

Producers must report crop acreage they intended to plant, but were unable to plant due to natural disaster. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form *FSA-576, Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The final planting date for corn in Indiana was June 5th and the final planting date for soybeans is June 20th. Producers should contact their local FSA office or crop insurance agent for final planting dates for other crops.

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form *FSA-576, Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres. This must be filed prior to destruction of the crop to provide FSA an opportunity to inspect the acreage.

For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, producers must file a *Notice of Loss* within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Additionally, many crops covered by NAP require an initial notification of loss be made to the FSA administrative office within 72 hours of loss occurrence or loss becoming apparent. Producers must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses to ensure the opportunity to receive acreage reporting history credit for the crop as well as potential program benefits.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local county FSA office.

### **Best Wishes to Bob Steiner**

As many of you know, Robert “Bob” Steiner has retired from the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District as of May 1, 2015. The district was very fortunate to have such an asset as Bob for so many years. He was previously retired from NRCS and had worked for our district since 2003 as a 319 Watershed Coordinator and then as the Executive Director. When asking Bob what he was going to do after he re-retires his responses was “whatever I feel like when I want”. Bob will be missed at the office each day but has decided to stay somewhat active with the Jennings County SWCD as an Associate Supervisor on the board.







# Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-9109  
Phone: 812-346-3411 Extension 3  
www.jenningsswcd.org Email: info@jenningsswcd.org

## 2nd Quarter Edition Newsletter June 2015

### The Great Outdoor Education Days

Once again, *your SWCD* sponsored the educational field day for all the Third Graders from every elementary school in Jennings County. Several teachers commented that the kids really enjoy the event. It was held at the Muscatuck Wildlife Refuge, with the kids rotating to five different learning stations. They learned about soils, wetlands, water, wildlife and forestry. Many thanks to Bob and Beth Steiner, Josey Huffmeyer, Byron Nagel, John Bowen, Ralph Cooley, Rob McGriff, and Donna Stanley who were our volunteer speakers at those stations.



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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.

From the desk of Jenny Vogel, NRCS District Conservationist

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities and undertaking additional conservation activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers this program and provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers. CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) on a continuous application basis.

CSP offers financial assistance to eligible participants through two possible types of payments. Annual payments are for installing and adopting additional activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities. Supplemental payments are for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations.

Payments will be made for conservation performance payments points estimated for each agricultural operation by the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). Conservation performance points are unique for each agricultural operation and will be based on existing and proposed conservation activities.

Contracts cover the eligible land in the entire agricultural operation and are for five years. For all contracts entered into, CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any fiscal year, and \$200,000 during any five-year period. Each CSP contract will be limited to \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period.

"Enhancement" means a type of conservation activity used to treat natural resources and improve conservation performance. Enhancements are installed at a level of management intensity that exceeds the sustainable level for a given resource concern. Those directly related to a practice standard are applied in a manner that exceeds the minimum treatment requirements of the standard. Click on the topics below for national enhancement activity job sheets with Indiana supplements when applicable.

The first step in applying for the Conservation Stewardship Program is to complete the Conservation Stewardship Self-Screening Checklist. This checklist addresses the three aspects of eligibility, including land eligibility, applicant eligibility, and the stewardship threshold requirement.



Field Enhanced with Cover Crops

Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) questions for Indiana and a Conservation Activity List are available to help producers document their existing resource conditions and conservation activities. An applicant should complete these questions prior to meeting with NRCS personnel to complete the CMT.

Ranking of applications and payment level depend on the numerical value received after the applicant completes the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). When the applicant has prepared answers to the questions, he/she needs to schedule an appointment with the local NRCS district conservationist at the nearest USDA Service Center to continue processing the application.

During the CMT interview, the applicant will decide which new conservation activities to undertake as part of his/her CSP contract. These conservation activities will factor into the CMT value received.

After the CMT is completed by the applicant and NRCS, a ranking score and conservation payment points will be evaluated for contract pre-approval. If the contract is pre-approved, an NRCS representative will conduct an on-site verification of the conservation activities reported by the applicant.

When all conservation activities have been field verified, a Conservation Stewardship Plan will be developed for the implementation of the additional conservation activities. At this point, the contract will be submitted for funding. If the contract is approved for funding, the Conservation Stewardship Plan is carried out according to schedule.

Contract payments will be made as soon as practical after October 1 of each year for contract activities applied.

For questions about this program contact the office at 346-3411 ext. 3