



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-7186
Phone: 812-346-3411 Extension 3
www.jenningsswcd.org Email: info@jenningsswcd.org

4th Quarter Edition Newsletter October 2013

Economic Outlook Meeting

Friday, November 22, 2013

Jennings County Public Library

Conference Rooms

9:30 am—12:30 pm

Reservations are requested by Nov. 14th

Lunch will be served.

RSVP to 346-3411 x 3

PARP Credits will be available for a cost of \$10 per person.

Dr. Chris Hurt, Purdue Ag Economist

Dr. Hurt will present “Ag Economic Outlook for Indiana Agriculture”

Dave Osborne, Ripley County Ag & Natural Resources Educator

“Controlling Voles and Slugs in Cover Crops and No-till”

“Don’t Track it Back—Protecting Others from Chemical Contamination”

Larry Huffmeyer, Sales Representative, Syngenta Corporation

Controlling Problematic and Herbicide Resistant Weeds

Lisa Holscher, Soil Health Program Manager, IASWCD

“Understanding Soil Health, Soil Fertility”

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SWCD Would Like Your Help

Are you concerned about the care of our natural resources? Are you willing to get involved and spend some time helping with natural resource conservation programs in Jennings County? If you answered yes to these questions, the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has an opportunity for you. We are currently looking for folks that would like to assist the district, serving as Associate Supervisors of the SWCD Board.

Associates attend board meetings and help with special events and projects as their time and interests allow. They help determine priorities, assist with program development, help promote and assist with field days and educational activities, and provide a more diverse background for carrying out the SWCD's mandate to develop a program to conserve natural resources in the county, without having voting rights. There are no rules about how often associates have to attend meetings; you can be as involved as you want to be based on your time and interests.

For more information, please contact any of the SWCD Board members or call the office at 346-3411 X3.

SAVE THE DATE

Jennings County SWCD 63rd Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 @ 6pm

Rolling Hills Shrine Club

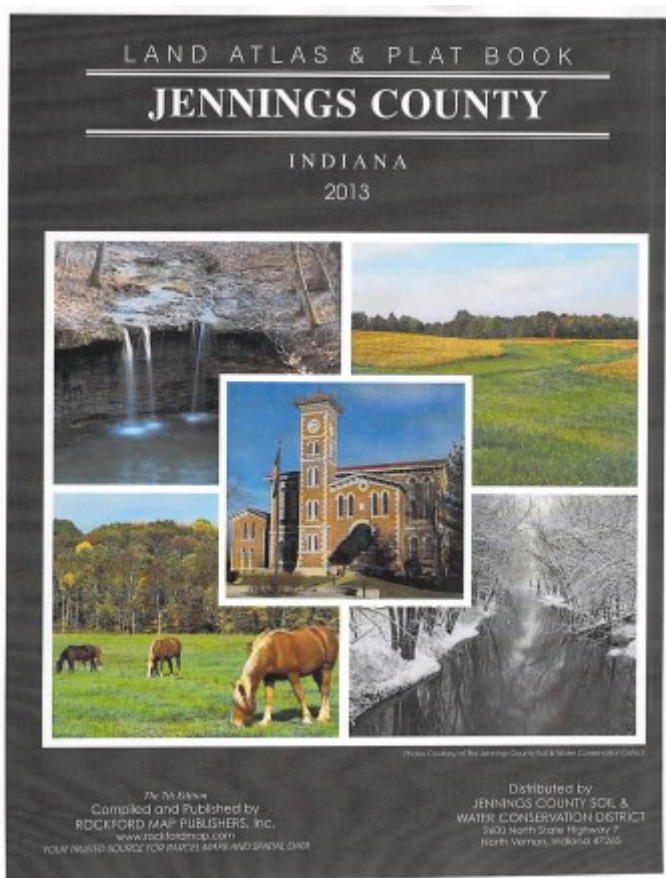
Catered by Rolling Pin

Cost is \$12 per adult and \$6 per child 10 & under

Charlie Adams, Motivational Speaker

Mark your calendars now to attend this great upcoming event!

2013 Plat Books



★
★
★ Includes
★ Standard Layout &
★ Aerial Photo Layout
★
★ ★



**These make great gifts for Dad, Grandpa,
Hunters, Neighbor, Farm Hands, Etc.
Get Yours Today and mark it off your list!**

New Toll Free Fax Numbers

All Indiana USDA Service Centers will be implementing the “EasyLink Fax2Mail Service” as part of USDA’s ongoing cost reduction efforts. The “EasyLink Fax2Mail Service” allows USDA employees to send and receive faxes via e-mail. As a result, all Indiana FSA County Offices were assigned new toll free fax numbers under the new system and are operational.

**The new FAX numbers are:
NRCS/SWCD: 855-496-7857
FSA: 855-381-5881**

2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

The election ballots for the Jennings County Committee will be mailed to eligible voters in Spencer and Geneva Townships on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

The Jennings County loan rates for 2013 crops are \$1.99 for corn and \$5.11 for beans.

A sequester reduction of 5.1 percent will apply to FSA’s 2013 crop commodity loan programs for disbursements on or after October 1, 2013 (FY 2014). Also FSA will not begin disbursing MAL’s until Nov. 1, 2013.

Producer’s interested in applying for a loan should contact the FSA at 812-346-3411 Ext 2

Farmers Harness Benefits from Cover Crops

A growing number of farmers in Jennings County have “discovered the cover”—and for some very good reasons. By “cover,” I’m talking about cover crops, which are plants established when cash crops are not being grown.

Cover crops are planted because of their excellent benefits, including improving the health and function of soil. This leads to better nutrient cycling, improved water infiltration and more consistent yields over time. Cover crops also suppress weeds, prevent erosion, control diseases and pests as well as help pollinators.

Farmers not familiar with how mixtures of cover crops work together might ask, “Why would I want to plant a cover crop that uses up all my water?” But using diverse annual cropping rotations and cover crop combinations increases soil organic matter. And for each 1 percent in organic matter, there is a 25 percent increase in water holding capacity and up to 30 pounds an acre more of available nitrogen.

While cover crops use some water in the soil profile to grow, they simultaneously improve the soil structure by building soil aggregates, providing armor for the soil surface, and recharging the water in the soil profile through increased infiltration.

About 600 farmers surveyed in 2012 on the impact of drought reported an average increase of 14 bushels of corn per acre and five bushels more of soybeans per acre where they had a cover crop as compared with fields without cover crops.

Common cover crops in Jennings County include Cereal Rye, Crimson Clover, Oats, Radishes and Turnips.

Planting cover crops is one of several key steps that farmers can take to improve soil health. The other two are rotating crops, including cover crops that are planted, and not tilling.

When a variety of cover crops are planted, especially when 10-12 plant species are planted, they increase the soil biology and speed soil health improvements. The more diversity you have, the more plant balance you have above ground, the better soil biology balance you have below ground. Plus, cover crops can help reduce compaction without deep tillage.

When only one cover crop species is planted, the single crop – or monoculture – will struggle in a drought or when facing pests. Many farmers are working with USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service to choose the right mix of cover crop seeds – or “cocktail” – for their farm.

If you farm or are interested in farming, visit us for help on choosing the right conservation efforts for your land.



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

Nathan Burbrink

Matt Branham

Associate Supervisor

Don Biehle

Rob McGriff

Brian Belding

Calendar of Events

**November 20, 2013 SWCD Board Meeting
7 PM - USDA Service Center**

**Nov. 22, 2013 Economic Outlook Meeting
9:30 AM -Jennings County Public Library**

**Jan. 28, 2014 SWCD Board Meeting
7 PM - USDA Service Center**

Check out our website for additional 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 (855) 496-7857

Website www.jenningsswcd.org

Email info@jenningsswcd.org