



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Winter Edition Newsletter December 2012

Economic Outlook, Crop Nutrient Meeting on December 3rd

The Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service will be sponsoring their annual Economic Outlook meeting for farmers on December 3rd at the Jennings County Public Library. The meeting will start at 9:30 AM and will include three technical topics as well as a discussion of the economic outlook for local farmers.

Robert Zupancic, NRCS Grazing Specialist for southeastern Indiana will discuss pasture and forage management with a special emphasis on pasture and hayland nutrient management and managing weeds in pastures.

Dr. Chris Hurt, of the Purdue Ag Economics Department, will be on hand to give his thoughts on the economic outlook for farmers.

Some of the topics of Dr. Hurt's presentation will include demand for crops, future price speculation, and his thoughts on the economy, future growth, inflation and interest rates.

Dave Osborne, Ripley County Extension Director, will discuss new state and federal regulations regarding use of mini bulk tanks.

Don Biehle, Superintendent at Southeast Purdue Ag Center near Butlerville, will discuss Trailer and Towing Safety, which will include practical tips as well as compliance with state regulations regarding towing of trailers, fertilizers tanks, and other heavy loads commonly transported by farmers.

Pesticide Applicators Recertification Program (PARP) credits have been applied for. Also CCH credit and CEU credits have been applied for which can be used by Certified Crop Advisors or commercial pesticide applicators. There is a \$10 fee for the PARP credits payable at the meeting

Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the program which is expected to end around 12:00. **Reservations for the lunch are requested by November 29 and can be made by calling the Jennings County SWCD at 812-346-3411 X3. For more information, email to info@jenningsswcd.org.**

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Now is the Time.....

Many folks in the farming community are anxiously awaiting a new Farm Bill. The most recent Farm Bill expired September 30, 2012. Congress has been working on a new Farm Bill, however they have not reached an agreement. Some programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), are unable to initiate new contracts. Programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are accepting applications on a continuous basis.

The planning process is ongoing. We are constantly meeting with customers to discuss their needs and concerns, conducting field visits to inventory conditions and plan solutions. These plans are then ready when program funding becomes available. We can take these plans and match up the best program to solve the issue.

Now is the time to contact our office to discuss your concerns regarding the natural resources on your farm. Now is the time to do conservation planning on your fields. Now is the time for you to take the first steps to being ready for program dollars when they become available. Now is the time to pick up the phone and call our office or stop by and visit with us today.

62nd Annual Meeting

**Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation
District**

62nd Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 @ 6pm

Rolling Hills Shrine Club

Catered by Rolling Pin Catering, Versailles, IN

Tickets are available at the office

for \$10 per person

RSVP by Tuesday, February 26, 2012

Farm Service Agency Urges Farmers to Vote in County Committee Elections which Began Monday, Nov. 5

The 2012 FSA county committee elections will begin on Monday, Nov. 5, with the mailing of ballots to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is Dec. 3, 2012.

Eligible voters located in Sandcreek, Columbia, Center, Campbell and Bigger Townships will get the opportunity to vote for someone to represent their area when it comes to FSA programs. Eligible producers/owners who have not received a ballot can obtain ballots from their local USDA Service Center. Dec. 3, 2012, is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers. Ballots returned by mail must also be post-marked no later than Dec. 3. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2013.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. Agricultural producers in each county submitted candidate nominations during the nomination period, which ended Aug. 1.

While FSA county committees do not approve or deny farm operating loans, they make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are about 7,700 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees.

Wheat Certification Deadline

Producers are reminded that **December 15, 2012**, is the final date to report wheat and all other fall seeded crops. This deadline applies all cover-crop seeding that receives benefits through NRCS. Please contact the FSA Office to schedule a time to report any fall seeded crops.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) Sign-Up Period for 2011 Crop Losses Began October 22, 2012

Sign-up period for the 2011 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) will open October 22, 2012 and end June 7, 2013. The SURE Program authorizes assistance to farmers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm must have:

At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;

A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;

Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A "farm" for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

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

Brian Belding

Nathan Burbrink

Associate Supervisor

Don Biehle

Rob McGriff

Calendar of Events

**Nov. 27, 2012 Board Meeting 7pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Dec. 3, 2012 Ag Economic Outlook Mtg.
930am-12N @ Jenn. Co. Public Library**

**Jan. 22, 2013 Board Meeting 7pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Feb. 26, 2013 Board Meeting 7pm @
USDA Service Center**

*Jennings County Soil and Water
Conservation District*

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8:00 am until 4:00 pm

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