



# Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

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## 4th Quarter Edition Newsletter December 2016

### County Pollinator Project Receives State Award

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The Share Some Space pollinator project will be recognized at this year's Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) Annual Conference as one of four district showcase activities throughout the state of Indiana. Chairman Brad Ponsler and other board members presented a project overview with all the accomplishments to the IASWCD Executive Director, NRCS State Conservationist, Indiana State Soil Board Chairman, along with several others state agencies. The visiting group was extremely impressed with all the local involvement of volunteers, city and county government, farmers, the Jennings County School Corporation and local businesses.



### Special SWCD Office Closures

Friday, December 23—Closed County Holiday—Christmas Eve Observed

Monday, December 26—Closed County Holiday—Christmas Observed

Friday, December 30—Closed County Holiday—New Year's Eve Observed

Monday, January 2—Closed County Holiday New Year's Day Observed

Monday, January 23 & Tuesday, January 24—Closed for staff to attend

Indiana Association Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Conference

## Assistance for Invasive Species

Invasive species brings to mind different things for people based on the land that they have. For example, if you mention invasive species to a pasture landowner, they may think of multiflora rose, to a crop landowner, it may be palmer amaranth, and to a woods landowner, it could be bush honeysuckle. All of these are invasive species with the difference being where they are found and how they are controlled. What they all have in common is that invasive plants displace native vegetation, degrade the natural ecosystem and decrease biodiversity. Invasive plants hurt wildlife by eliminating native plants that animals use for food and cover.



Japanese Honeysuckle

In forests in Jennings County plants like Asian bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, autumn olive, garlic mustard, multiflora rose and Japanese stilt grass are common. These plants are a problem because in large concentrations, invasive plants can reduce tree growth and hinder or eliminate tree seedling regeneration.



Palmer Amaranth

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is a source of cost-share to control invasive plants that is available to landowners. This funding provides cost share on invasive control projects over a 3 year period. It takes multiple herbicide applications to control invasive plants. Even with cost-share funds, landowners must continue to monitor and control invasive plants. These plants are not something we can eliminate from our landscape, but we can get them under control.

## New Opportunity for Conservation Online!

Do you ever get in the house on a Sunday afternoon after checking a field and think “I need to remember to contact the Conservation Office about that problem I have in the 20 acre field by the barn”, and then forget to do it on Monday? Well now when you have those thoughts, you can go online and request that assistance right away before you forget on Client Gateway!

Conservation Client Gateway enables farmers and private landowners to securely:

Request NRCS technical and financial assistance;

Review and sign conservation plans and practice schedules;

Complete and sign an application for a conservation program;

Review, sign and submit contracts and appendices for conservation programs;

Document completed practices and request certification of completed practices;

Request and track payments for conservation programs; and

Store and retrieve technical and financial files, including documents and photographs.

Customers can log in 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

But if you don't want to use a computer, NRCS field staff will still be available in the local field office for face-to-face assistance just as always.

Producers who want to know more about Conservation Client Gateway may visit their local NRCS office

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/contact/local/> or visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway).



**Map to the left—Updated Pollinator Habitat in the County continues to grow!**



The latest happenings with the Pollinator Project...

The committee outlined their 2017 plan of work

The Jennings County School Corporation will plant 10.5 acres of native grasses and forbs at the Sand Creek Elementary School and 1 acre at the old football field at the early learning center

City Council will plant 6 acres at Old Ford's Crossing Golf Course

Private Landowner will plant 3 acres

**Thanks to our Newsletter Sponsor**



Dan McGuckin, CF, CWB  
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Columbus, IN 47201

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Timber Sales/Appraisals  
Timber Stand Improvement  
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Forest & Wildlife Management Plans  
Invasive Plant Management  
Prescribed Burning

Would you like to have your business card featured here? Contact the SWCD office for more info.

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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.

## No Farm Outlook Meeting this year.

Due to scheduling conflicts we were unable to bring Dr. Chris Hurt, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University, for our Farm Outlook meeting this year. We are trying to get him scheduled for next year. If you are needing PARP credits you can contact your local Extension Office or visit <https://ppp.purdue.edu/private-applicators/recertification-parp/parp-events/> to find out the nearest locations.

# Save the Date

## 66th Annual Meeting of the Jennings County

### Soil & Water Conservation District

### Tuesday, March 7, 2017 @ 6pm

Rolling Hill Shrine Club

Rolling Pin Catering

Featured Speaker: Dr. John Scott Foster, Executive Director; Wesselman Nature Society

More info to come—watch the N.V. Plain Dealer & Sun, Facebook and [www.jenningswcd.org](http://www.jenningswcd.org)

## Pollinator Plant Sale



Share Some Space Project

\$3 per plant or  
Combo A: \$25  
Combo B: \$25  
Combo C: \$50

See Combo deals  
in the brochure.

Order Forms Available  
online at  
[www.jenningswcd.org](http://www.jenningswcd.org)

Order Deadline  
Friday, March 17th

#### Plant Sale Details:

- 16 Species of Plants
- 1 Species of Shrubs
- 2 Species of Grasses

## Back by Popular Demand!

Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the Pollinator Committee will be providing another Pollinator Plant Sale for the upcoming spring season. Last year, 3000 plants were purchased creating at least 113 new pollinator habitats. There will be a Plant Sale Booklet available with various plants, pictures and plant information. More information will be provided in January.

Sponsored by the Jennings County Soil & Water  
Conservation District and the Pollinator Committee

2100 N. State 17th St., North Warsaw, IN 46785 | Email: [info@jenningswcd.org](mailto:info@jenningswcd.org) | Phone: 812-395-3422 ext

## USDA Invests \$1.7 Billion to Protect Sensitive Agricultural Lands through Conservation Reserve Program

*More than Half a Million Americans Involved with Protecting nearly 24 Million Acres*

CRP is one on of the oldest running programs offered through the Farm Service Agency. Just recently celebrating a 30 year Anniversary.

USDA is issuing nearly \$1.7 billion in payments to more than half of a million Americans who have contracts with the government to protect sensitive agricultural lands. The investment, part of the voluntary USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), will allow producers to protect almost 24 million acres of wetlands, grasslands and wildlife habitat in 2016.

CRP provides financial assistance to farmers who remove environmentally sensitive land from production to be planted with certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and increase wildlife habitat. In return for enrolling in CRP, USDA, through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Landowners enter into contracts that last between 10 and 15 years.

CRP has sequestered an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking nine million cars off the road, and prevented nine billion tons of soil from erosion, enough to fill 600 million dump trucks.

Nationally there are 23.88 million acres enrolled in CRP. Because of the 24 million acre national limit on CRP acres mandated by the farm bill, USDA is proceeding with caution in approving contracts. If you have a conservation concern and are interested in enrolling, please contact our office to discuss the various options available to you.

For more information about CRP, contact your local FSA office or online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp). Visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/crpis30](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crpis30) or follow Twitter at #CRPis30 for program anniversary background and success stories. To locate your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

## **SWCD & New Factory Working Together**

Future Motor Parts factory continues to move forward with the ground work almost completed. The SWCD works with IDEM in administering the Rule 5 Construction Activity guidelines under the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The dis-



trict reviews the proposed construction plans, does site visits and provides technical assistance to construction site greater than one acre of disturbance. This site has an embankment pond and a detention basin to hold back storm runoff and release it slowly.

**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*

**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**

**Jan. 31, 2017 Board Meeting 6pm @**

**USDA Service Center**

**Feb. 28, 2017 Board Meeting 6pm @**

**USDA Service Center**

**Mar. 28, 2017 Board Meeting 6pm @**

**USDA Service Center**

**Check out our website for added events**

**[www.jenningswcd.org](http://www.jenningswcd.org)**

*Jennings County Soil and Water  
Conservation District*

*Office Hours*

*Monday—Friday*

*8:00 am until 4:00 pm*

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