



**Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-7186  
Phone: 812-346-3411 Extension 3  
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## 1st Quarter Edition Newsletter March 2013

### 62nd Annual Meeting

**Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 6 pm**

**Rolling Hills Shrine Club**

**Catered by Rolling Pin Catering, Versailles**

**Tickets are available at the office**

**for \$10 per person**

**RSVP by Tuesday, February 26, 2013**

After dinner a program of the district's 2012 accomplishments and annual business meeting will be held. We will also honor our Conservationist of the Year. Our entertainment for the evening will be Mark Booth of "Take Flight". See what it's like to be hawk eyed or falcon fast by meeting these magnificent predators up close and hearing the stories of our shared history. Please join us on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at the Rolling Hills Shrine Club at 6pm.

### FSA News

**SURE sign up ends June 3rd**

**DCP/ACRE sign up started and ends**

**June 3rd for ACRE**

**August 2nd for DCP**

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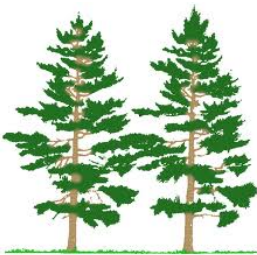
# Shop Meetings

The SWCD shop meetings have been popular with farmers and this year's programs should be no exception. The program this year will be highlighted by a presentation by Cameron Mills, a Cass County farmer who will speak on "Profitability of Cover Crops". He has tried many cover crop mixes and methods of applying them and has gotten to the point where it is part of his normal farming operation and is adding to bottom line each year.

The shop meetings are scheduled for March 18 and 19 and will start around 9:30 AM. The meeting on the 18th will be held at the Eddie Maschino farm near Hayden. The meeting on the 19th will be held at the Nelson Ponsler farm in Columbia Township.

Representatives of local, state, and federal agencies will provide updates on their programs and allow plenty of time for interaction and questions. A member of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Health Team will lead a discussion on efforts to help farmers improve soil health by utilizing a conservation cropping system. This will include discussions on no-till farming, nutrient management, and cover crops.

A lunch will be provided and then the meeting will wrap up with the presentation by Cameron Mills. The SWCD asks that those attending please call to make reservations so we can get an accurate count for the lunch. You may also call the office at 812-346-3411 X3 to get directions to either of the meetings.



## Spring Tree Sale

The local SWCD is holding their Semi-Annual Tree Sale from now until Wednesday, April 3, 2013. There are many tree varieties available for purchase. Please call the office for all the tree options or visit the SWCD website to view the flyer and order form. Along with selling trees the district is offering Rain Barrels, Composters, Shrubs, Perennials and Fruit plants. Most of the trees offered are 5-6' tall and come in 3 gallon containers. Evergreen trees will be about 18-36" tall. The trees, shrubs, and perennials come from Forrest Keeling Nursery. The fruit plants come from Indiana Berry.

## **Grant Promotes Soil Testing, No-Till, Cover Crops in Muscatatuck Watershed**

The Clark, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings and Scott County SWCD's have joined together and were awarded another Clean Water Indiana Grant. This grant is for \$70,000 over a three year period beginning in 2013. This five-county project proposes to reduce sediment and nutrients from non-point sources in an effort to improve water quality by encouraging producers to utilize soil testing, no-till, cover crops and buffer practices.

Participants will be required to conduct a soil test and listen to recommendations based on the soil test from an industry professional. A soil test completed within the past three years may also be acceptable. No-till planting will be required for row crops. Participants will also be required to seed cover crops and install buffer practices if needed. Cover crops may be seeded utilizing no-till, aerial or broadcast seeding methods.

Once all three of these practices have been completed in the same field according to Natural Resources Conservation Service specifications, participants will be eligible for an incentive payment of \$25 per acre for one cover crop species, \$30 per acre for two or more species and \$35 per acre if the cover crop mix includes a legume. Participants can receive payments for up to 100 acres upon completion and verification of the practice. This would be a one-time payment upon completion and verification of the practice.

Producers interested in applying for this incentive program should visit your local conservation district and speak with staff about the practices and fill out a short application. Applications will be taken continually, but evaluated quarterly on April 1, July 1, October 1 and January 1 through 2015 or until all grant funds are allocated. The five-county partnership has developed a ranking system for the applications. Landowners will then be notified if their application was selected.

There is a similar grant available in the Sand Creek Watershed also. This is the second year for this grant and funds are going quickly.

## **Grant Available for Long Term Practices in Muscatatuck Watershed**

The Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings and Scott County SWCDs joined together and were awarded a Clean Water Indiana Grant that focuses on the Muscatatuck Watershed. This grant is for \$60,000 over a three year period which began in 2012 for the four county area. The incentive program is similar to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in respect to the conservation practices included for incentives but with an emphasis on those producers that are not qualified for the Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) due to cropping history or other prerequisites that might deem the land ineligible.

Incentive payments are available for the following conservation practices: hardwood tree planting, riparian buffers, bottomland timber planting, native grass planting, wildlife habitat plantings, filter strips, and establishment of grasses/legumes. These practices have been selected for their ability to alleviate high nonpoint source sediment, nutrient, pesticide, and herbicide losses from land by restoring buffers and wetlands to improve water quality.

Landowners can receive up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year under this incentive program. This would be a one-time payment upon completion and verification of the practice. Practices must remain on the ground for at least five years. Landowners interested in applying for this incentive program should visit their local conservation district and speak with staff about the practices and fill out a short, one-page application. The four county partnership has developed a ranking system for the applications. Landowners will then be notified if their application was selected. If a landowner's application was not selected in the first round it will be resubmitted for the second round.

For more information, contact Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District.

# **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**

**March 5, 2013 SWCD Annual Meeting  
6pm @ Rolling Hills Shrine Club**

**March 18, 2013 Shop Meeting 9:30 am  
@ Eddie Maschino Farm**

**March 19, 2013 Shop Meeting 9:30 am  
@ Nelson Ponsler Farm**

**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  
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