



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

2600 N State Highway 7 · North Vernon, Indiana 47265-9109
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4th Quarter Edition Newsletter December 2017

67th Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting

We're getting the information out early so you can mark your calendar. This year's SWCD meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at the Rolling Hills Shrine Club**. The event will begin with a catered meal by the Rolling Pin from Versailles. This year in review will touch upon some of the various conservation activities going on throughout Jennings County, the election and appointment of two positions on the SWCD board, awards and the entertainment for the evening.

This year's Annual Meeting will be different than we have had in the past. The board decided to do something more locally informative that the general public may enjoy and ask questions.

We have invited three different speakers to discuss current plans as well as future plans of MUTC, Crosley Fish and Wildlife Area and the new Tripton Park. Tickets will be available starting in January at a cost of \$12 per person.

*****Important Message*****

We have decided to go with an electronic newsletter. We continue to get hard copy returns from several people who have moved without forwarding addresses from the U.S. Post Office.

Since so many people now have emails, we will send you our newsletter as a blind carbon copy (Bcc:) and that will keep your email address private while you get the newsletter.

To receive the newsletter electronically, please email us at:

jenningscoswcd@outlook.com

If you do not have an email account and are still interested in receiving the newsletter, please call us at 812-346-3411 ext. 3.

Thank you for assisting us with this change.



New Quail Forever Chapter in the Making!

Would you like to see the quail population grow in Jennings County? If so, you are not alone. Zach Voyles, (Farm Bill Biologist) is going to work closely with eleven individuals from the county on discussing a new Quail Forever chapter, and the very first meeting is going to talk about what it takes to start a chapter. The population of quail have been declining since 1978 because of many factors such as the harsh winter of '78 and lost habitat over the years. The goal is to establish a strategy that will eventually build back the quail populations. Once the group meets more information will be available on when and where the monthly meetings will be held.



District Sponsor's Ag and Forestry Outlook Meeting

Figuring out where you can save money is the name of the game in today's farming. If you farm and have some forest land that has not be logged in a while, it may provide you with a future savings account.



With commodity crops of wheat, corn and soybeans, "it's all about margins," says Dr. Chris Hurt, Purdue Professor of Ag. Economics. Margins are what is left from expenses and inputs and how much the end product is worth per bushel. It looks like the trend has more farmers planting soybeans over the past few years and in the future. Dr. Hurt also discussed supply and demand, with China leading the world.

Jeff Settle, IDNR Division of Forestry, presented the current forestry economics of today's world markets, Indiana's ranks high in the US for growing the best hardwood timber and the value per board foot. China is the number one buyer of hardwoods. The industry continues to change, but the demand remains strong. If you have some forest land that has not been logged for a while, chances are you have some money growing in reserve for when you need it.

After the very informative meeting the district provided lunch for the participants.

From FSA, Lacie Deputy, CED

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) latest update

The simplest way to say it is that there are almost 24 million acres enrolled into the program which makes it full. The only exception is the potential of enrolling a few acres in CREP or CRP Grasslands which we have had very little interest. However, you can come in and get your name on the CRP list incase things open up in the near future.

From NRCS, Jenny Vogel, DC

Environmental Quality Incentive Program Available to all Landowners

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program, EQIP, is a very popular program available to all landowners to assist with their resource concerns. Folks have installed livestock watering systems, planted cover crops, improved nutrient and pest management, controlled invasive species and improved forest stands through this program.

Landowners can sign up at any time. Since it is a continuous sign up, there are application cut-off dates that serve as a means to rank and prioritize applications for funding. This year the application cut-off date is December 15, 2017. Any applications that are in the system by the 15th will be considered for the first round of funding.

If there are things that you want to do through EQIP, it is highly encouraged to contact the office to have an onsite planning visit and develop a conservation plan. Applications are available online or at the office. Contact Jenny Vogel at 812-346-3411 ext. 3 for more information.

Upcoming Sessions for Women

The people who participated in the Women's Learning Circle received a lot of information about conservation. There were many other topics that they requested information on that we couldn't cover that day. In response to these requests, we will be having Ladies Nights where we will discuss an ag topic. These will be held on a week night, once every other month. Some of the topics we will address are: Invasive species, cover crops, ways to pass on the land, woodland management, getting started in organic farming or specialty farming, starting a pollinator plot, protecting water from run off, and many more.

Our first Ladies Night will be Wednesday January 17 at 6 pm at the Jennings County Community Foundation. The topic for the first Ladies Night meeting will be Heavy Use Area Protection ideas and will conclude at 8 pm. We will have a pitch in meal with the meat and drinks provided. All ladies in ag are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to share. RSVP's would be appreciated in order to plan for the meal. Please respond to the SWCD Office at 812-346-3411 ext. 3 We hope to see you there!

Thanks to our Newsletter Sponsor



HABITAT SOLUTIONS
WILDLIFE & FOREST MANAGEMENT

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

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YOUR JENNINGS COUNTY CONSERVATION TEAM

SWCD Staff

Andy Ertel, Executive Director
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SWCD Supervisors

Brad Ponsler, Chairman
Dan Megel, Vice-Chairman
Jerry St. John
Matt Branham
Tom Schneider

Associate Supervisor

Don Biehle
Rob McGriff
Bob Steiner

NRCS STAFF

Jenny Vogel, District Conservationist

Calendar of Events

**Nov. 28, 2017 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Jan. 23, 2018 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Feb. 27, 2018 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @
USDA Service Center**

**The SWCD Office will be CLOSED for
the following dates: Nov. 23 & 24, Dec.
22, 25, 29 and Jan. 1**

**Check out our website for added events
www.jenningswcd.org**

***Jennings County Soil and Water
Conservation District***

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8:00 am until 4:00 pm

Phone (812) 346-3411 ext. 3

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