



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

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3rd Quarter Edition Newsletter September 2016

*****Mark Your Calendars!*****

Your SWCD is planning to host another Field Day.

This one will be about Wildlife Food Plot combinations, what species like what, how to control nuisance wildlife, funding opportunities through programs, and more.



The Field Day will be held on September 22, at Tom and Karen Schneider's Farm. Tom has planted several different combinations of food plots that will be discussed.



We will have a Wildlife Biologist from the Indiana DNR, will be the main presenter and will answer your questions.

The field day will start at 6:00 pm and will conclude around 7:30 pm. The SWCD will provide some snacks and drinks for the evening.

REMEMBER, it is normal for your recently planted warm season grasses and forbs to be very weedy. The amount of pre-existing seeds within the soil profile is always going to germinate and compete with our desired planted grasses and forbs.





Pollinator Field Day attracts 124 people

The field day held at the Jennings County Fair Grounds was a complete success with the highest attendance of any SWCD event. Brad Ponsler, Board Chairman, welcomed everyone to the event. Then the crowd enjoyed listening to Dr. Fred Whitford, Purdue University, as he spoke about bees and butterflies. He made a point that “all of us are in the learning stages about how to protect pollinators and create protected habitats.” 75% of those fruits and vegetables we eat need cross pollination and that comes from our little pollinator friends, like bees and butterflies.



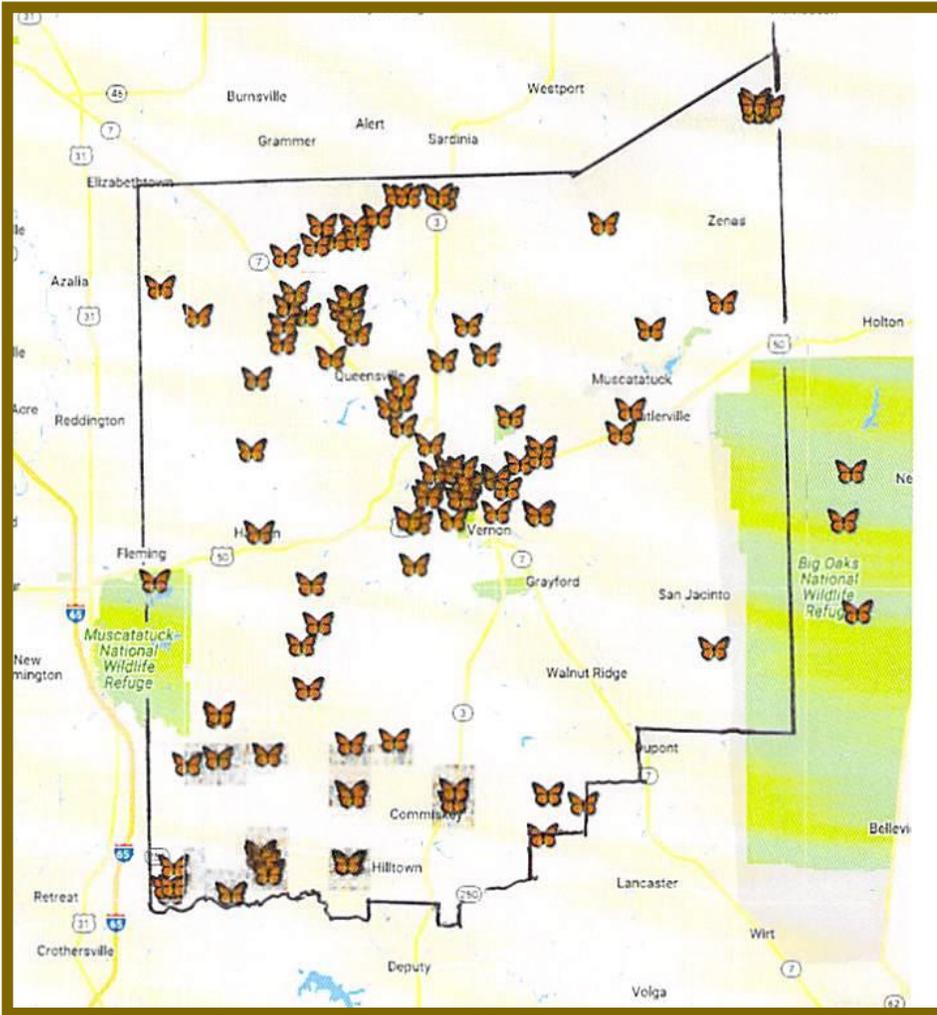
The SWCD sponsored a wonderful meal provided by the 4 H Junior Leaders, under the direction of Kelly Kent, SWCD Administrator.

Then the crowd broke out into several small learning sessions. Purdue Bee Specialist, Krispn Given, provided answers from many of our local bee keepers in attendance. Joe Robb and Kristen Carlson, lead groups through the Pollinator Pathway explaining the value of native plants around the home and in the yard. Nate Yazel covered managing native plants in their CRP fields. Mr. & Mrs. Stark from Seymour, covered the life cycle of Monarch Butterflies and their Great Migration. The children got their faces painted from a few Jennings County Art Students, then went onto some pollinator kid activities led by Donna Stanley, Beth Steiner and Pam Winegarden.



Remember, any size pollinator patch is better than no patch at all!





This is a map of known pollinator sites that were planted over the last 16 months that will provide food and habitat for pollinators. Some areas are small, while others are several acres large

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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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Crops look good this year! And Fall is Soil Testing time! What nutrients will my next crop need? It is easy to find out!

Fall is a good time to plant cool season grasses and legumes. One key element to a successful grass planting is knowing your soil's nutrient levels and adding what the crop needs to get your realistic yield. One of our district services is sending in soil samples to A&L Great Lakes Lab and within a week or so, results are back. The cost is \$12 which is shipping and testing, we don't make a profit. This soil sampling program through the district has assisted a diverse range of customers of those testing their yards, food plots, gardens,

EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

Our Equipment Program has assisted several operators, contractors, and landowners in getting conservation practices on the ground at an affordable rate.

Straw Blower: \$ 100 Per Day
(plus refuel tank after use)



Great Plains Drill:



\$8 / Acre
(\$75 minimum)

Brillion Seeder: \$8 / Acre
(\$25 minimum)



Soil Testing - \$12 per sample

Erosion Control Blanket - \$2 / linear foot. (15 feet wide)

AGENCY PARTNERS PAGE

NRCS - Jenny Vogel, District Conservationist

Indiana Farmers Are Stewards of a Healthy Planet!

Consider this: agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. While we know that food doesn't just magically appear on our dinner table and clothes in our closet, too few people truly understand the contribution agriculture plays in their everyday lives.

From beef and pork to cotton and corn, agriculture is working harder than ever to meet the needs of our developing population. It's estimated that each American farmer feeds more than 144 people, almost six times higher than what was being produced in the 1960s. As the world population continues to rise, the demand for the food and fiber produced in the United States continues to grow.

Indiana farmers are dedicated to feeding this growing world population. This dedication is equaled only by their commitment to protecting the land that makes it possible. As stewards of a healthy planet, they care for the soil that provides us food, fuel and clothes.

NRCS believes that keeping our soil healthy and productive is of utmost importance to addressing the rise in production demands. So much so that we believe improving the health of our Nation's soil is one of the most important endeavors of our time.

Though each farmer's conservation plan is unique, managing for soil health is one of the most effective ways to improve the environment while increasing crop productivity and profitability. Implementing this approach not only results in healthy soil that reduces erosion, requires less nutrient inputs, manages the effects of extreme weather, and reduces nutrient and sediment loading to streams and rivers but it also optimizes the farmer's inputs, sustains outputs and increases resiliency. Likewise, farmers who work towards healthy soil on their farm will ultimately have a positive impact on climate change when incorporating cover crops and no-till into their conservation plan.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/>

FSA - Lacie Deputy, CED

USDA Offers New Loans for Portable Farm Storage and Handling Equipment

Portable Equipment Can Help Producers, including Small-Scale and Local Farmers, Get Products to Market Quickly

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. The loans, which now include a smaller microloan option with lower down payments, are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets.

The program also offers a new "microloan" option, which allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history. Farms and ranches of all sizes are eligible. The microloan option is expected to be of particular benefit to smaller farms and ranches, and specialty crop producers who may not have access to commercial storage or on-farm storage after harvest. These producers can invest in equipment like conveyers, scales or refrigeration units and trucks that can store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

**Jennings County SWCD
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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

**Sep. 26, 2016 Board Meeting 7pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Oct. 25, 2016 Board Meeting 7pm @
USDA Service Center**

**Nov. 22, 2016 Board Meeting 7pm @
USDA Service Center**

**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

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