Volume III 2008, October

ALLEN CO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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USDA Service Center

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Greg Lake—Director

Bridget Witte—Administrative Assistant

Tina Puitz—Administrative Assistant

Matthew Jones—Water Resources Education Specialist

Clint Nester—St Mary's Watershed Program Manager

Jason Buuck—Agronomy Technician

NRCS

Sherman Liechty—District Conservationist

Tony Tate—Soil Conservationist

Fall Equipment Rental

Harvest time is here and it's the perfect time to take advantage of the Remlinger Strip-Till unit powered by a Case IH MX-285 available for



rental this fall. The 2008 rental rates for the MX-285 and Remlinger Strip-Till is $17.00 per acre with the producer providing the fuel. An additional cash discount of $1.00 per acre is available if payment is received within 10 days of invoicing.

The Case IH MX-285 with RTK

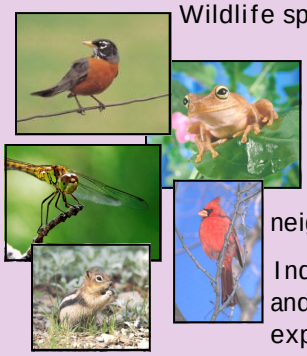


auto guidance unit can also be rented separately for use in your conservation tillage at a rate of $60.00 per hour.

A Brillion Zone Commander pulled by a John Deere 9520 with RTK Auto Steer is also available thru Allen Co SWCD if you need a tool with more depth. Rental rates for the John Deere & Brillion is $20.00 per acre with producer providing fuel. A cash discount of $1.00 per acre is available if payment is received within 10 days of invoicing.



Wildlife habitat workshop October 18 at ACRES Dustin Preserve



Wildlife species and the natural areas they need to survive are important to people, too. Imagine life without songbirds, clear streams and lakes, and cool green woodlands.

Do you no longer see the animals and fish that you used to see around northwest Indiana? Are you wondering how to attract more birds and other wildlife to your property? Learn more about creating a wildlife-friendly neighborhood at a free public wildlife habitat workshop on October 18.

Indiana Wildlife Federation education and habitat coordinator Jerry Wheeler, and local certified backyard conservationist Ellen Ley will be sharing their vast experiences in conservation at the ACRES Land Trust office and activity center on the beautiful 28-acre Dustin Preserve, 1802 Chapman Road, Fort Wayne. Located in the unique canyon area of the Cedar Creek, the Dustin Preserve is worth the drive, particularly in mid-October as the trees are dressed in their finest autumn colors.

The workshop, sponsored by the SJRWI as part of the Cedar Creek watershed management plan implementation, will focus on the needs of wildlife to co-exist with growing human population, and will highlight backyard conservation – those things everyone can do in their own back yards to attract and sustain wildlife. "The sustainable environment is about the whole system," advises Jane Loomis, coordinator of the workshop. "The impact of our conservation efforts in our neighborhoods helps to sustain wildlife, conserve and protect water resources, and clean the air. It takes everyone in the community doing a little bit to make a positive impact on our watershed and our environment."

The workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. and end around noon with a cookout lunch. There is no charge for this event, but donations to the SJRWI and/or ACRES Land Trust are welcomed.

RSVP appreciated (260) 484-5848 ext. 117

Fall

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Fall Fingerling Fish Sale

Item	Price	Number Ordered	Total Cost
Channel Catfish			
4-6 inch	100/45.00		
Large Mouth Bass			
2-4 inch	100/105.00		
Redear Sunfish			
2-3 inch	100/55.00		
Bluegill			
2-3 inch	100/45.00		
Hybrid Bluegill			
2-3 inch	100/$50.00		
Fathead Min-nows	1lb/$8.50		
Triploid Grass Carp	17.50 ea *		
Jumbo Tadpoles (Northern Jumbo Bull-frogs) X-large	100/$30.00		
Koi	$5.50 each		
		Sub-Total	
		Tax	
		Total Due	

Minimum order of 6 Grass carp plus an additional **$30.00 Delivery fee ($135.00) Triploid Grass Carp will be delivered directly to you home along with any other fish you may order. **Someone must be at your delivery address to take delivery of the fish.**

Allen County SWCD, in conjunction with Clear Creek Fisheries, is conducting a Fall Fish Fingerling Sale. Orders can be placed by phone at (260) 484-5848 x-101 or by returning the order form at left along with your payment to Allen County SWCD, 3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46845. Please include your address, phone number and e-mail address with your order.

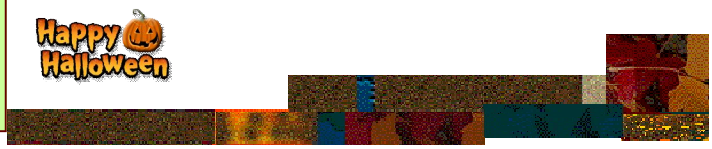
All orders and payments must be received in the Allen Co SWCD office by 4:00 pm Thursday, October 21st. Orders will be available for pick-up between **9:00 AM and 12:00 noon** on **October 28** at the Allen County SWCD office, 3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46845.

To find us:

Take Dupont Road East over I-69 (I-69 Exit 116), turn left on Parkview Plaza (1st stoplight east of I-69). Continue to the stop sign, turn right on New Vision Drive. Turn right at the 2nd entrance, go to the end of the building on the right (Building #3). Our office is located in the USDA Service Center, come thru the entry door and turn right to enter the SWCD office.

Allen County SWCD will only be responsible for the condition of the fish until noon on the day of delivery.

Please call the office at (260) 484-5848, ext 101 with any questions.



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St. Joseph River / St. Marys River Watershed Livestock Inventory

During the summer of 2008 the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (SJRWI), the St. Marys River Watershed Project, and staff from the nine SWCD's located in the two watersheds worked together to complete an extensive survey of livestock operations found in the St Joseph & St Marys watersheds. The survey was compiled to quantify livestock numbers within the two watersheds.

"We really did not have a clear picture of what was out there" stated Jason Buuck, Agronomy Technician for the SJRWI. "The USDA National Ag Statistics Service gives us a rough estimate, but the survey is much more comprehensive, mainly due to the fact that it includes anything from a farm with 2000 dairy cows down to a house with a couple 4-H pigs."

The survey was completed by physically driving every road in both the St. Joseph and St. Marys watersheds. As livestock operations were identified, locations were marked with a GPS and the livestock type, approximate number and approximate age of the facility were noted. Additional information gathered included whether animals were confined or pastured, if there was potential for direct discharge to a nearby stream, and also if the animals had direct access to a nearby stream. In total, approximately 3500 locations were marked in the two watersheds. "We feel that the numbers we collected are fairly accurate, although it's impossible to get the exact number of livestock by simply driving past a farm. We were probably a little conservative when making our estimates" said Clint Nester, Project Manager for the St. Marys River Watershed. "Even though these are estimates, we still know what livestock is there, and approximately how many. Having the assistance from the local SWCD's who are familiar with the area helped the process to go much smoother."

The livestock survey has also provided a contact list for the local Conservation Districts to contact livestock owners about conservation programs available to them. "With the power of today's GIS programs, we can easily put a name and address with the livestock operations" said Greg Lake, Director of the Allen County SWCD. "This will allow us to reach out to a whole new audience to promote our programs."

The following table summarizes the inventory totals for each watershed. For more information contact Jason Buuck or Clint Nester at the Allen County SWCD office.

	Watershed					
	St. Marys		St. Joseph		Totals	
Livestock Type	No. Operations	No. Animals	No. Operations	No. Animals	No. Operations	No. Animals
Alpaca	1	12	3	39	4	51
Beef	257	3033	699	12216	956	15249
Buffalo	1	10	3	36	4	46
Camel	1	2			1	2
Chickens	28	35300	11	430	39	35730
Dairy	21	3565	71	4588	92	8153
Deer			7	101	7	101
Donkey			1	3	1	3
Ducks	13	30406	1	20	14	30426
Elk			2	20	2	20
Goats	17	189	54	1305	71	1494
Horses	710	3105	1298	7475	2008	10580
Llama			18	118	18	118
Pheasants			2	200	2	200
Pigs	98	78265	76	22948	174	101213
Pigeons			1	200	1	200
Rabbits	1	200			1	200
Reindeer			1	3	1	3
Sheep	17	517	83	1922	100	2439
Turkeys			2	16	2	16
Zebra			1	1	1	1

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St. Marys River Watershed Project Develops WMP

The St. Marys River Watershed Project has been steadily progressing on the development of a Watershed Management Plan for the St. Marys River Watershed.

The St. Marys River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) intends to provide a comprehensive, useful, flexible tool to address resource concerns in the watershed and to protect and enhance natural resources within the boundaries of the watershed. Once completed, the WMP will provide improved living conditions, recreational opportunities, and environmental health benefits to residents who live and work within the watershed. Consequently, it will also provide benefits to residents and communities throughout the Western Lake Erie drainage basin. This management plan is being developed through a collaborative effort between the Adams, Allen, and Wells County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, with the assistance of local government entities and stakeholders in the watershed. A steering committee of landowners, public officials and local producers was developed following a series of public meetings. Further, the involvement of stakeholders within the Ohio portion of the St. Marys River Watershed has been essential for the development of a successful management plan. The input obtained from a wide variety of constituencies and citizens is an invaluable resource. The watershed management plan has been developed following the requirements set forth by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The need for the development of a WMP for the Indiana portion of the St. Marys River Watershed was brought to light upon the completion of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports completed for the St. Marys River Watershed, as well as the Blue Creek/Habegger Ditch and Yellow Creek Watersheds. Completed by IDEM in 2005, the reports identified impaired water bodies and the necessary load reductions to meet IDEM water quality standards. TMDL reports were completed for E.coli in the St. Marys River Watershed, and for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and Impaired Biotic Communities (IBC) in the Blue Creek/Habegger Ditch and Yellow Creek Watershed.

To address the impairments addressed in the TMDL reports, as well as concerns identified by St. Marys River Watershed stakeholders and Steering Committee members, the following list of goals has been developed:

1. **Goal: Reduce sediment in all monitored streams to meet a level of 30 mg/l by 2028**
2. **Goal: Reduce amount of trash/debris in the watershed.**
3. **Goal: Reduce levels of toxic residues: Pesticides, Industrial Wastes & Household Toxic Waste**
4. **Goal: Reduce levels of bacteria to meet IDEM water quality standards (125/235 cfu/100ml)**
5. **Goal: Reduce levels of nutrients to meet levels set forth by the TMDL:Nitrogen (10 mg/l), Phosphorus (0.30 mg/l)**
6. **Goal: Reduce severity and impacts of flooding**
7. **Goal: Increase Public Awareness and Participation.**

The St. Marys WMP identifies management measures, short and long term milestones, approximate cost estimates, and necessary contributing partners necessary to meet these goals. Specific implementation plans will be written to secure funding for implementation projects and management measures.

If you would be interested in participating in the St. Marys River Watershed Project or obtaining more information, please contact Clint Nester at 260.484.5848 x 115 or via email at clint.nester@in.nacdnet.net.

St. Marys River Watershed Project

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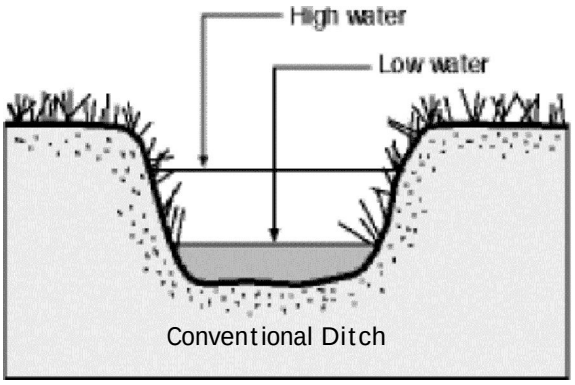
Most drainage ditches are trapezoidal in shape (see diagram below), allowing for quick drainage for conveying large quantities of water, but often oversized for low flows and providing no floodplain for high flows. Such channels are inherently unstable and ultimately result in sediment filling in the channel and needing to be dredged periodically at a high cost to the landowner.



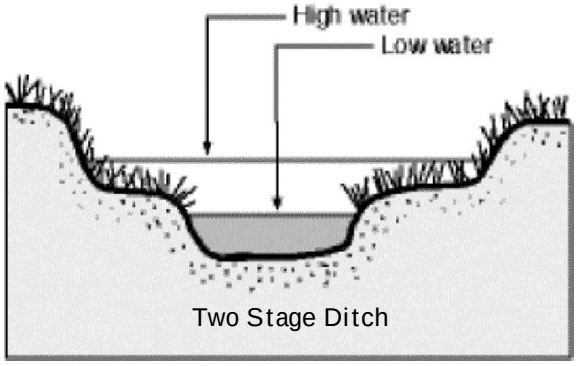
Vegetation in the second "stage" of the ditch helps stabilize the channel, reducing erosion and helping to filter any incoming and excess water. By imitating the floodplain and main channel of a natural stream, the design will be more stable in the long-term, reducing the need for further dredging or other related maintenance costs. This approach, coupled with conservation tillage, shows that conservation and crops can compatibly co-exist. Other approaches include encouraging reforestation of the river's floodplain, advancing the use of vegetative buffers along streams, controlling invasive species, and of course, traditional tactics such as acquisitions and easements.



While farmers try to farm as much land as possible, maximizing their production for this year while improving their property for future crops, the drain commissions manage waterways, including working to control erosion and improve water quality. Meanwhile, conservationists seek compatible solutions that help stop the flow of sediment and nutrients into rivers, degrading the water quality and causing habitat loss for aquatic life. Interest in this new design is high because it accomplishes all of these goals while keeping costs low.



Conventional Ditch



Two Stage Ditch

ALLEN CO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

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Fax: (260) 484-5080
E-mail: bridget.witte@IN.nacdnet.net

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Allen County Partnership for Water Quality,

PBS39, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality & City of Fort Wayne win Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for A WATERSHED MENTALITY

Matt Jones, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality Education Specialist, Ray Steup, WFWA PBS39, along with the City of Fort Wayne were awarded the Governor's award for achievements in Education and Outreach during the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence ceremony. The award was received for their documentary production of A WATERSHED MENTALITY, which appeared on PBS39 and has been released nationally.

This award singles out Indiana leaders who have implemented outstanding environmental strategies into their operations and decision-making processes. A WATERSHED MENTALITY brought to light the problems of sedimentation and erosion in the Maumee River Basin, the largest single tributary in the Great Lakes region. While focusing on one specific watershed, the documentary emphasizes a chronic problem for many waterways in the Great Lakes and throughout the United States.

This award is the latest for this film, which also received a regional EMMY nomination. A WATERSHED MENTALITY was funded through a grant from the City of Fort Wayne's Board of Public Works, was produced in cooperation with the USDA, The Great Lakes Commission, The Great Lakes Basin Program for Erosion and Sediment Control and the Allen County (Indiana) Partnership for Water Quality.



Shown receiving the award from IDEM official is WFWA PBS39 representative, Ray Steup and Matt Jones, ACPWQ.

Coming Events

October 31·····Halloween

November 11·····Veteran's Day—Office Closed

November 27 & 28··Thanksgiving—Office Closed

December 25·····Christmas

Allen County SWCD meets the 4th Tuesday of each month. Public is welcome.