SWCD Receives GLC Grant Funding

The **Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control** is all about making a difference - in water quality, land use, and agricultural productivity and is coordinated by the **Great Lakes Commission (GLC)** in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Allen SWCD has been awarded cost-share funds through this GLC grant which are available to provide financial assistance to producers within the **Black Creek, Marie-DeLarme and Gordon Creek Watersheds** who implement agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's). Cost-share rates of 75% per practice ($3,000 max with an overall cap of $10,000 per producer) will be provided to interested producers who implement BMP's. For more information regarding eligibility for these funds, please contact Greg Lake at the Allen SWCD at (260) 484-5848 x 3.

Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

COST-SHARE PRACTICES INCLUDE:

75% cost-share is available on the following items:

- Equipment modifications
- Equipment modifications (RTK)
- Hay / Pasture Planting
- Cover Crops
- Stream Buffer / Filter Strip
- Grassed Waterway
- Two Stage Ditch
- Livestock Exclusion Fencing
- Alternate Water Supply System
- Stream Crossing
- Rotational Grazing
- Controlled Drainage
- WASCOB Systems
- plus bundling options …

Allen County
Soil & Water Conservation District
3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845
Phone: (260) 484-5848 x 3
E-mail: info@allenswcd.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARLAN, IN
PERMIT NO 0030

In This Issue!

* 2012 FW Farm Show: Jan 17-19
* SWCD Receives Grant Funding to provide BMP Cost-share dollars

and more …

ISSUE XIV
December 2011

Allen County Soil & Water Conservation District

the conservation chALLENge



this issue

SWCD Positions Available P.1
Farewell to SWCD Staff P.2
FSA Updates P.2
Calendar of Events P.3
SWCD Receives Funding P.4

SWCD Board Members

Dave Voors - Chairman
Tom Crowe - Vice Chairman
Tom Miller - Treasurer
Matt Schlatter - Secretary
Dan Wire - Member

Associate Supervisors

Dick Crowl
Don Rekeweg
Ellis McFadden
Brian Roemke
Paul Felger
John Felger

County Council Liaison

Roy Buskirk

SWCD Employees

Greg Lake
District Director

Matthew Jones
Water Resource
Education Specialist

NRCS

Sherman Liechty
District Conservationist

Tony Tate
Soil Conservationist

ISDA

Cassandra Vondran
Resource Specialist

U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Scott Fetters
Biologist

SWCD Looking to Fill Vacant Positions

Watershed Program Manager - Watershed Program Manager-This position will do work for the watersheds with their specific shared duties. The main focus of this position is to foster greater adoption and implementation of agricultural conservation practices and increase public awareness of local, state and federal programs that support such practices. Duties include grant management, point-of-contact and focus-groups for stakeholders, determination and organization of priorities, managing everyday paperwork, phone calls and contracts necessary to the various watersheds. The ideal candidate must be comfortable communicating with a diverse audience that includes land owners, farmers, businesses, elected and agency officials in addition to the concerned citizenry. Preferred skills would be a people-oriented, computer savvy person comfortable with various forms of communication. This candidate should also have database, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) experience as well as familiarity with websites and their maintenance. A working knowledge of agriculture and recent advances in agricultural technologies would also be beneficial.

Administrative Secretary - The Allen SWCD is currently seeking an individual to fill the Administrative Secretary's position. The person serves as "gatekeeper" for the Allen County District and the various agencies and watershed projects located within the office. This person must be task-oriented, professional, a self-starter and have an amenable and pleasant, personality and be well organized. Skills must include typical office administration including word processing, database management, financial record keeping, website maintenance.

For more specific information regarding these positions, contact Greg Lake at the SWCD Office at 484-5848 x 3 or visit the Allen County website at:

http://agency.governmentjobs.com/allencountyin/default.cfm

FSA NEWS

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

In order to save on postage costs, FSA will no longer be mailing newsletters. By providing your email address to the FSA office, you will be able to receive newsletters along with periodic, pertinent and current information electronically. Please give the office a call at 484-5848 x 2 to provide your email address or send your request to them at Diana.miller@in.usda.gov.

2012 DCP & ACRE ENROLLMENT BEGINS

As required in the 2008 Farm Bill, there are no 2012 advance direct payments for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE). Enrollment for 2012 DCP and ACRE will begin on January 23, 2012. The beginning enrollment date has been moved back to January 23, 2012 for the 2012 DCP and ACRE in order to allow County Office employees time to begin signup for 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). The enrollment deadline for 2012 DCP and ACRE elections is June 1, 2012

Supervisors Bid Farewell to SWCD Staff Members

The SWCD Board of Supervisors bid farewell and good luck to SWCD staff members …

Sharon Hall - St. Joe River Watershed Program Manager

Audrey Wendling - St. Marys River Watershed Project Coordinator

Betsy Roberts - SWCD Administrative Assistant

Sharon Hall has taken a job with IDEM and has relocated to the Indianapolis area with Audrey Wendling starting a new position at the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health and Betsy Roberts taking the Secretary position at Woodlan Primary School. Each of these ladies has enjoyed their experience working at the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District and will miss the people they have met along the way. "It has been our great pleasure to work together with communities in the St. Marys, St. Joseph and Upper Maumee Watersheds to further conservation efforts. We hope that each of these projects remain strong and keep momentum for the future", Audrey stated, on behalf of all of the departing staff.



Sharon Hall



Audrey Wendling



Betsy Roberts

Winter Water Matters

- by Matt Jones
Water Resource Education Specialist

Winter is fast approaching and there are many things we all do in preparation of this season and the subsequent spring planting season.

As we head toward the coldest months of the year, we seem to forget about the water that falls onto and into our ground. Of course it's still there, it's just no longer in a liquid state. The solid form of H2O, water, tends to put us off guard because it no longer flows or shifts on its own - not typically, not here. Seeing the same precipitation in the form of snow or ice allows us to think that it isn't going anywhere. This is a false perception. When the thaws come, and we get several, not just the "big" spring thaw, anything and everything that is in that matrix of snow and ice will be transported into and off the land it's on.

Quite often, this means that the snow and ice is warming and melting back into its liquid state-water. The net effect of this warming is that the melt water spreads out and drains long before the ground beneath it is able to absorb it. Therefore, any fertilizer, especially topically applied manure, will drain off with the water into the nearest waterways long before it will soak into the ground.

So think twice about what you put on the frozen ground and the ice and snow upon it - it is only there temporarily and will likely go where you least expect it and/or can't use it.

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

January 17 9 AM - 5 PM
January 18 9 AM - 8 PM
January 19 9 AM - 4 PM

3 jammed packed days of Education and Information!

FORT WAYNE FARM SHOW 2012

Opening Day Special Event!
Complimentary Luncheon Sponsored by your local Indiana Farm Bureau

Luncheon Speakers:
Kent Yeager & Chuck Connor

Session Highlights Include:

- Cashing In on Cover Crops and the On-Farm Network
- "Land Lease Options"
- "Market Strategies in 2012"
- Property Tax / Farm Land Assessment
- Selecting a Livestock Enterprise for your Small Farm
- Estate Planning
- Alternative Energy Sources
- The Latest on Blue-Green Algae
  Sponsored by The Upper Maumee Watershed

Mark Your Calendars …

2012 SWCD Annual Meeting

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Saturday, March 10th @ 8:00 am

M & J Farms

4311 Girard Road, New Haven, IN

Guest Speaker: Bart Lomont

Bart will share his experiences while serving on special assignment with the Army National Guard and their "Agri-Business Development Team" in Afganistan!

Upcoming Events

December 21
SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
6:00 pm - SWCD Office

December 25
Christmas Day

January 1
New Years Day

January 17-19
2012 Ft. Wayne Farm Show
FW War Memorial Coliseum
Doors open daily at 9 am

January 25
SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
6:00 pm - SWCD Office

February 22
SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
6:00 pm - SWCD Office

March 10
SWCD Annual Meeting
8:00 am – M&J Farms / New Haven

March ????
2012 Home & Garden Show
FW War Memorial Coliseum
Doors open daily at ?????? am

March 28
SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
6:00 pm - SWCD Office

