News & Conservation

Newsletter Vol. II 2006 October ALLEN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Say Hello to our New Employee and Good-Bye to an Old Friend



Bridget Witte has accepted the position of Administrative Secretary which has been open for several months. Bridget comes to us from a part-time position with Raymond James and Associates here in Fort Wayne, She and her husband, Chuck, reside in Hicksville, Ohio They have two grown children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Jeremy Palmer has accepted a position with the Albion NRCS and will begin his new position on October 31st. Jeremy has become a familiar and trusted face around here during the last six years and he will be sorely missed by all of us here in the SWCD office. Please take the time to congratulate him and wish him well in his new position.

Tillage Day Draws 125 Participants

The Allen County SWCD and the SJRWI presented a field day complete with a hog roast and homemade ice cream on July 27th at Dave Melcher's Advanced Grain Farms in New Haven, Indiana. Over 125 producers who were interested in opportunities in zone-tillage attended. Producers were also informed of federal and state programs that are available by Dave Hines, Area Program Specialist, NRCS. Ray Rawson and Rich Recker of Rawson Farms presented the benefits of a zone till system versus conventional tillage.

Field and equipment demonstration of strip-till units, planting on the strip with a planter, corn and soybeam plot tours, and advantages of zone-tillage systems were available to those interested. Several seed company representatives were on hand to talk about their products that used in the variety plots. Equipment and auto-guidance dealers were also on hand to demonstrate their products and to answer questions from the participants.

USDA Service Center

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News from the Farm Service Agency

Electronic LDP Service Available

If you are connected to the Internet, you can apply from home for an Electronic Loan Deficiency Payment, or eLDP, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in the service, you must meet all eligibility requirements for marketing assistance loans and LDPs for the commodity.

The voluntary eLDP service has stringent security measures to protect your private information.

You must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

Power of Attorney for DCP/eLDP

FSA now has the ability to establish a representative role for an individual to submit electronic eLDP and DCP applications on behalf of an owner or producer. The individual entitled to act for the owner or producer must have an unlimited power of attorney on file with the Farm Service Agency. Producers or individuals having unlimited power of attorney can request eLDP/DCP access at their local FSA office.

DCP Contract Reminder

Are you planning to participate in the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program? If so, contact the nearest FSA count office to sign a 2007 DCP contract (CCC-509) before June 1, 2007. (You can sign your contract after June 1 and before Sept. 30, but you will be assessed a late-signing fee of $100.)

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres (Exceptions: Double-cropping covered commodities or peanuts with wild rice, fruits, or vegetables shall be permitted in any region in which there is a history of this type of double-cropping.);
- file acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

The DCP contracts are not like the old seven-year Production Flexibility Contracts. You must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year.

Three Cost - Shared Program Opportunities for Installation of Best Management Practices.

Program 1

Conservaton Tillage Practices

Goal: Reduce sediment in the St Joseph River watershed through an increase in conservation tillag acreage

> Required Commitment: 100 acres changed from conventional tillage or no-till or modified no-till (minimum 40% residue) for five years (2 years corn)

> 75% cost-share on attachments for planters, zone tillers, in-line rippers, conservation tillage harrows, chaff spreaders; GPS receivers, GPS guidance systems and yield monitors.

> Maximum payment of $3000

Program 2

Nutrient & Pest Management Practices

Goal: Reduce pesticide and nutrient runoff in the St Josepn watershed through an increase in precision application techniques and practices

> Required Commitment: 100 acres changed to or maintained in no-till or modified no-till (minimum 40% residue) for five years (2 years corn)

> 75% cost-share on variable rate controlers for sprayers, liquied / dry nutrient precision applicator attachments , GPS receivers, and yield monitors.

> Maximum payment of $3000

Program 3

Crop Consulting Services

Goal: Develop management plans for effcient and effective tillage, planting and pesticide / nutrient application under the guidance of a certified crop advisor or certified agronomic consultant

> Required Commitment: 100 acres changed to or maintained in no-till or modified no-till (minimum 40% residue) for five years (2 years corn)

> 75% cost-share annually on services including soil testing, evaluation and fertility recommendations; production assessment; crop scouting for pest management and stand evaluation; yield assessment PSNT and fertility recommendations for manure applicators,

> Maximum payment of $3000

> Producers must follow management recommendations of consultants and document soil fertility, inouts and yeields annually

General Guidelines

All farmland under these contracts must be located within the St Jospeh (Maumee) watershed.

Limit of two cost share contracts awarded to applicant under the St Joseph River Sediment. Nutirent and Pesticide Reduction Project Phase I (completed) and Phase II (current); limit of one contract under any one program area.

All required documents must be completed by the applicant prior to receiving cost share monies. Among these are IDEM For 319-A, Nutrient Management Program (NMP) checklist, and geo-referenced tract maps. Applicatnt must submit reciepts for all work done under these contracts.

The listings of eligible equipment is not exhaustive. Situations not meeting the specified rquirements may be submitted to the SJRWI cost-share committee for review and consideration.

Allen County SWCD

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Fort Wayne IN 46845

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Mark Your Calendars For the Camp Scott Open House

If you are looking for something to do outdoors this fall, consider the Camp Scott Open House. There will be snacks, handouts and activities for the kids, not to mention the beautiful foliage! With activity stations such as water testing, wetland and plant identification, who knows, you might even learn something new.

What is Camp Scott, you ask? It is the newest wave in managing storm water. Fort Wayne Utilities/Storm Water Operations and Water Resources Department has taken an older form of management and updated it into a functional wetland large enough to accommodate the run off from several neighorhoods. This directs the runoff from sudden torrential rains into this "holding" center where it can be held and cleaned while the river level drops to a manageable level. Using this tool instead of directing the water through the Combined Sewer Overflow helps return cleaner water to the rivers.

If you are interested in more than a nice jaunt in the woods, there are also points of historical and technological interest. Camp Scott can also be scheduled as an outdoor classroom for schools or service groups.

For more information on this event, or to schedule an event, you can contact Matt Jones at (260) 484-5848 x-111 or e-mail him at matt-jones@iaswcd.org.