USDA Service Center

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Dates to Remember

Sept. 5	Labor Day Holiday. All FSA offices closed. SWCD & NRCS offices closed
Sept. 8	Ray Rawson's Field Day
Sept. 9	Sign-up deadline for 2003-2004 Crop Disaster Program.
Sept 19	Zone Tillage Field Day @ Dave Melchers
Sept. 27	SWCD Board Meeting 7:00 AM
Sept. 30	MILC program ends.
Oct. 1	Begin DCP Signup
Oct. 10	Columbus Day. All FSA offices closed.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day. USDA building closed
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day, USDA building closed
	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

To reach our offices by phone:

Farm Service Office: 260-484-5848 **ext. 2**

Soil & Water Office: 260-484-5848 **ext 3**

St Joseph River Watershed Initiative:
260-484-5848 **ext. 120**

Fax Number for all Allen County USDA Offices:
260-484-5080

Ray Rawson Field Day

Road Trip Road Trip

Mount Pleasant Michigan

September 8th, 2005

Leaving

6:00 am Allen County SWCD Office

The Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District and the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative, in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, are coordinating a trip to Mount Pleasant Michigan for the Ray Rawson's Field Day.

The day will begin early on September 8, 2005. We plan on leaving the Allen County SWCD Office at 6:00 am SHARP!!! The field day starts at 8:00 am (9:00 am Michigan time). This will be a one day trip, lunch will be provided and the field day should wrap up around 2:00 pm (3:00 pm Michigan time).

Ray Rawson and Rich Recker, were the speakers for the Crop Diagnostic Tour this past June at Dave Melcher's. Ray and Rich will be speaking about the crop management and fertility program, and why it is working for them. Other topics will include the importance of planting on slots and banding fertilizer.

If you are interested in attending or have any questions please call Jeremy Palmer at, Allen County SWCD at 260-484-5848 ext. 3 by September 6, 2005. We would like to take a van load, however, if there is enough interest we will get a bus.



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Mark Your Calendar

ZONE TILLAGE FIELD DAY

September 19, 2005

6:00 PM

Dave Melcher's farm on Harper Road

If you can not make the trip early in the month, come out to Dave's and learn about Zone Tillage from Rich Recker.

Fall Fingerling Fish Sale

Conducted by

The Allen County SWCD
in conjunction with Clear Creek Fisheries

<u>Send Order and Check</u> to the Allen County SWCD
3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne IN 46845
Phone # (260) 484-5848 ext. 3

***Deadline for ordering is* <u>September 14, 2005</u>**

2-3" Bluegill	100/$35.00 1000/$255.00
2-3" Hybrid Bluegill	100/$40.00 1000/$305.00
2-3" Redear Sunfish	100/$45.00 1000/$355.00
2-4" Lg Mouth Bass	100/$85.00 1000/$755.00
4-6" Channel Catfish	100/$35.00 1000/$255.00
8 - 12" Triploid Grass Carp	$13.00 Each

(**Minimum order of 6 with a $25.00 delivery charge**)
(Triploid Grass Carp will be delivered directly to your home along with any other fish you order. You must have someone there to take delivery of the fish.)

Fathead Minnows	$7.00 per pound
Jumbo Tadpoles	100/$30.00

Orders will be available for pick-up on
<u>September 21, 2005 from 9:00 AM until NOON</u>
at the
Allen County SWCD
3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne
260-484-5848 ext. 3

To find us: Go **East** of **I-69** on **Dupont Road**, (Exit 116), Turn **Left** (North) on **Parkview Plaza**, (first stop light east of I-69 there is also a Burger King/Citgo station there), Go to the Stop sign on Parkview Plaza and turn **Right** this is New Vision Drive. Go to the **2nd** drive on your **right**, we are in **Building #3** by the American Flag, **USDA Service Center**

LARE Group Waterway Project

A group waterway LARE project on Cuba Road should be completed by the end of this September. The earthwork, seeding and mulching were completed in August. The fencing component of this project should be installed in September. The tile for this project was installed last fall and earthwork began this summer. Samuel Eicher, John Graber and Mervin Graber are the landowners for this project. The grassed waterway is 60 feet wide and 3500 feet long and totals 4.8 acres.

The new funding has also come through for the St. Joseph/ Maumee LARE project. The Allen County SWCD has been approved to receive $20,000 for new practices in the watershed. If you are interested in learning more about the LARE project or specific practices eligible for cost share, please contact the Allen County SWCD office at 484-5848 ext 3.





Conservation Program in Action Tour - Garmen Farms

2005 NACD North Central Region Meeting

July 10 - 13, 2005, over 200 conservation district representatives from 8 states in the Midwest met in Fort Wayne for the 2005 National Association of Conservation Districts North Central Region Meeting. Fort Wayne was the main hub with the meetings and training sessions being held in the Hilton Downtown and the Grand Wayne Center.

On July 12th, 2005, 4 charter bus loads of conference attendees set out for a tour of Northeast Indiana conservation and water sampling sites. The tour passed the Fort Wayne Water Filtration Plant and then headed on up into the St. Joseph River Watershed. Many conservation sites were pointed out and talked about on the ride to the Terry Garman farm where the buses stopped and everyone was given a tour of the farm. The Garman farm was among the first to be accepted into the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in 2004.

In DeKalb County the tour passed by and stopped at the Source Water Protection Initiative (SWPI) sites and at the Ag Research Service (ARS) lab where the water samples are tested for chemicals and data is collected. This data helps track the amount of chemicals that are running off or leeching into the water supply.

After 2 days of meetings, speakers and exhibits and one long day on the tour, many of the participants were tired but felt the 2005 NACD North Central Region Meeting was a great success.

Allen County SWCD would like to thank everyone who had a hand in making this meeting a success. Many counties and agencies came together in Northeast Indiana to help get everything planned and to work during the meeting. We can be proud of the teamwork that all participants demonstrated for this large undertaking.



Jane Loomis with St. Joseph Watershed Initiative and Mary Jane Slaton with Fort Wayne City Utilitys

2005 NRCS Program Update

2005 was another successful year for program participation in Allen County. The following are some highlights of the different programs NRCS has available.

CSP

In 2005 we had an additional 68 CSP contracts awarded to Allen County farmers in the Maumee, Auglaize and St Joe Watersheds. These covered over 40,000 acres of cropland. The CSP program rewards farmers who do conservation tillage, have buffers on their open ditches and keep detailed records of their nutrient and pesticide applications. These contracts reward the farmer from $10.00-$30.00 per acre over a 10 year contract lifespan.
Between the 25 contracts from 2004 and these new contracts there is approximately 60,000 acres in Allen County under the new CSP program. As of this newsletter it has not been decided which watersheds will be selected for funding in 2006. Even if your watershed is not selected, you should start keeping good field records, put your filter strips in place, and make sure you have up to date soil tests so that when your watershed is selected you will be eligible to participate in this great program.

EQIP

In 2005 we had six new EQIP contracts rewarded. EQIP is the NRCS cost-share program that allows farmers to implement erosion control, animal waste storage and agronomic practices on their land. NRCS pays 50% of the cost of the practices and the farmer pays the other 50%. This year we had two Animal waste systems receive funding, a chemical containment system, and hundreds of acres of nutrient and pesticide management plans developed.

WRP

2005 has been a great year in Allen County for WRP. We completed the restoration of 150 acres of wetlands in Aboite Township on Aboite Road, and accepted three additional contracts into the program. One of these is a 680 acre site on the corner of US 24 and Highway 69. Restoration will begin in the spring/summer of 2006 on these projects. The 680 acre site is owned by Little River which is a not for profit group dedicated to the restoration of wetlands along the Little River in Aboite.

WHIP

This year we had two new WHIP contracts. WHIP is a wildlife habitat program which allows landowners to install wetlands and upland habitat on their land with NRCS paying 75% of the cost. This is especially a good program to use on those areas where crop production hasn't taken place in many years and CRP is not an option.

For 2006 we can look forward to more program money becoming available. NRCS normally get their program money soon after the first of the year. If you have an interest in any of these programs please contact me. I will schedule a farm visit and together we can decide which program best fits your needs. When the monies become available I will have you fill out an application and if successful we will start your project soon afterward.

Sherman Liechty
District Conservationist
Allen County

NEW FORM

CCC-633EZ

A new form has been introduced, the CCC-633 EZ, for requesting loan deficiency payments. The new form is designed to simplify the LDP process by combining the old CCC-633 and CCC-709. The new form will be effective for 2005 and subsequent crop years.

One thing that hasn't changed is the statutory requirement that producers request an LDP *before* beneficial interest in an eligible commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained.

With the new form, producers will be able to *indicate* their intentions to receive LDP benefits before losing beneficial interest. Once the form has been signed, producers can submit an LDP request at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest.

The CCC-633 EZ is a three-page form. Page 1 is completed once per crop year for all eligible crops and indicates the producer's intention to receive LDP benefits. To receive an LDP benefit, the producer must complete and submit page 2 to the county office staff. Page 3 is used for cotton LDPs.

For the 2005 crop year, county offices will honor CCC-709s and CCC-633 LDP requests that have been submitted and are currently on file. Beginning with the 2006 crop year, CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests will be the only methods available to request LDPs.

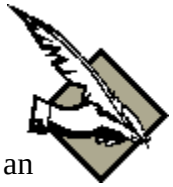
Every Year

DCP ENROLLMENT

Every Year

Producers may enroll for the 2006 immediately after October 1, 2005. Advance payments of 50% may be processed as soon as requested and all documentation has been filed.

SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION



To accept an individual's signature for another individual or an entity, appropriate documentation must be filed. Notify the office as soon as possible if there has been a change in authorized signatories.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots for the Allen County FSA Committee Local Administrative Area 2 (Aboite, Wayne, Adams, Lafayette, Pleasant, and Marion townships) will be mailed to all eligible voters in November. Steve Freiburger and DeWayne Doctor will be vying for the position on the COC. Remember to sign and return the ballot as soon as it is received to be sure your vote is counted!

INTERNET USAGE



Several processes may now be completed on your own computer at home – LDP applications, DCP contracts, financial inquiries. First you must enroll in the internet program at the local office. Stop in soon with your driver's license to complete this enrollment.



LAND OWNERSHIP CHANGES

Please remember to notify our office when land changes ownership. It Is the producer's responsibility to inform FSA of any changes to his/her farming operation, including, but not limited to: land ownership changes, adding or dropping a tract of land, entity type or ID number changes, marriage, divorce, deaths, or changes in your financial institution for direct deposit. A copy of the deed must be submitted for ownership changes.