the conservation chALLENge

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Ray Melcher

Tom Crowe

Dave Voors

Matt Schlatter

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Brian Roemke

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Paul Felger

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District Director

Bridget Witte—
Administrative Secretary

Matthew Jones—
Water Resources Education Specialist

Clint Nester—
St Marys Watershed Program Manager

NRCS

Sherman Liechty—
District Conservationist

Tony Tate—
Soil Conservationist

ISDA

Cassandra Vondran —
Resource Specialist
Team Leader



Pasture Walk

Date: September 28th

Location: David L. Graber's

8604 Graber Rd

Grabill, IN 46741

Time: 6 pm

The Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District's next pasture walk is scheduled for September 28th at 6:00 pm. at David L. Graber's on Graber Rd in Grabill, IN. Discussion will focus on Fall pasture management. More specific topics planned for the evening include stockpiling forage, bale grazing, fencing and watering basics for all types of livestock and managed grazing. Jerry Perkins, grazing specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will be attending the evening to guide discussion and to answer questions. Beginning and experienced graziers are encouraged to attend. Contact Cassandra Vondran at 260-484-5848 ext 3 for more information.

Allen SWCD offers Cost-Share for Cover Crops

Thanks to support from the Clean Water Indiana Program, the Allen SWCD will be offering cost-share to producers interested in establishing cover crops this fall. Producers are eligible for 75% cost-share (maximum $20 per acre). Eligible costs include seed and application (seeding) cost. The District will begin taking applications for cost-share assistance on September 10th. Producers interested in the cost-share are encouraged to join us at one of the two Cover Crop Field Days scheduled for September 10th (see enclosed Field Day brochure) or can stop by the Allen SWCD office.

Cost-share recipients will be required to use approved cover crop varieties and seed according to recommended seeding rates and application (seeding) methods. Producers will be allowed to harvest forage or graze approved cover crops.



Funding for this program is limited therefore producers are encouraged to sign up for the cost-share at their earliest convenience. For more information please call Greg Lake at (260) 484-5848, ext. 3 or by emailing at greg.lake@in.nacdnet.net.

St. Marys River Watershed Management Plan Receives Approval from IDEM



The St. Marys River Watershed Project recently received approval from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for the final St. Marys River Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The plan identifies pollutants and their sources, selects, prioritizes, and maps the significant non-point source pollutants, and identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce these pollutants. "We have put together a comprehensive, living document that we can use as a tool to reduce pollution in the watershed" stated Clint Nester, Project Manager.

St. Marys River Watershed Project

IDEM had strong words of encouragement to the stakeholders and staff involved in the project, "We applaud the efforts of the Allen, Adams and Wells County SWCDs and the many citizens and groups such as yours (St. Marys River Watershed Project) that facilitates watershed restoration and protection and improves water quality in our watersheds."

The next phase of the St. Marys River Watershed Project will be to move to implementation of BMPs in the "critical areas" defined in the WMP. We will also continue to seek funding for further BMP implementation. The following locations will be targeted for BMPs.

1. Conventionally tilled fields located adjacent to any stream or ditch.
2. Classical gullies creating significant downstream sedimentation.
3. Stream reaches with an existing buffer of 20 feet or less, south of US 224.
4. Animal Feeding Operations (AFO's) and Confined Feeding Operations (CFO's) in the St. Marys River Watershed if they meet any of the following circumstances.
   - Livestock have direct access to a stream or ditch
   - Operation has inadequate on site waste storage
   - Operation has inadequate land to apply waste
   - Improper land application techniques are being utilized, allowing for direct runoff of waste to a stream or ditch
5. Regulatory Flood Hazard Area
6. Failing septic systems in the following 14 digit HUC's:
   - St. Marys River-Buhlman Ditch (HUC 04100004050040)
   - Nickelson Creek – Lambert Ditch (HUC 04100004050050)
   - St. Marys River – Gerke/Weber Ditches (HUC 04100004050030)
   - St. Marys River – Decatur (HUC 04100004040090)
   - St. Marys River – Pleasant Mills (HUC 04100004040060)
   - Yellow Creek – Martz Ditch (HUC 04100004040070)
   - Fairfield Ditch – Harber/Deptmer Ditches (HUC 04100004060040)
   - St. Marys River – Simmerman Ditch (HUC 04100004060010)
7. All permitted industrial facilities in the watershed

For more information regarding the St. Marys River Watershed Project or the Watershed Management Plan, contact Clint Nester at 260.484.5848 x3 or via email at clint.nester@in.nacdnet.net .

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Stewardship Program Signup Begins

The new **Conservation Stewardship Program** (CSP) authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill will be rolled out when the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field staff has received instruction on when to begin accepting applications. The first signup period began August 13.

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:

- Undertaking additional conservation activities; and
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land in all 50 States and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. The NRCS will make CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis.

Applications will be evaluated relative to other applications addressing similar priority resource concerns to facilitate a competitive ranking process among applicants within a State who face similar resource challenges.

For further information about the new CSP program, call Sherman Liechty, District Conservationist for Allen County, Indiana, at 260-484-5848, extension 3.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Two opportunities to attend a Cover Crop Field Day on September 10th

Morning Cover Crop Field Day

The Adams, Allen & Wells County Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the St Marys River Watershed Project will be hosting two Cover Crop Field Days on September 10th.

The location for the morning Field Day is north of US 30 on the Indiana-Ohio State line and will begin at 9:00 AM. A light continental breakfast will be provided before the session begins. Barry Fisher, NRCS State Agronomist will present the benefits of using cover crops in your operation, explore and discuss last year's annual ryegrass root development and explain the pros and cons of the different cover crop varieties. Ken Hoffman of ATA Solutions will provide a crop consultant's insight on how cover crops can be used. Barry Fisher and CISCO Company Representatives will guide the Cover Crop Plot Tour, explaining the pro and cons of each variety. Area NRCS District Conservationists and SWCD representatives will have information on available cost share opportunities for those interested in trying cover crops. Applications for the Cover Crop Cost Share grant will also be available at the field day.

Evening Cover Crop Field Day

The evening Cover Crop Field Day will be held at 5:00 PM at the northwest corner of Hoagland Road and US 27 and will follow the same agenda as the morning program.

These field days are an excellent opportunity for local interested producers to learn about cover crops and the cost-share opportunities available for cover crops.



St. Marys River Watershed Project

The CISCO Companies

ATA Solutions, Inc.
Ag • Turf • Aquatic
Consulting Solutions

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 Minnows	1lb/$8.50		
Triploid Grass Carp	17.50 ea *		
Jumbo Tadpoles (Northern Jumbo Bullfrogs) X-large	100/$30.00		
Koi	$5.50 each		
		Sub-Total	
		Tax	
		Total Due	

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

The 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 Ext 3 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.

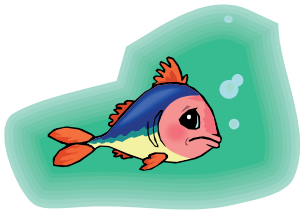
All orders and payments must be received in the Allen Co SWCD office by 4:00 pm Thursday, October 15th. Orders will be available for pick-up between **9:00 AM and 12:00 noon** on Tuesday, October **20th** at the Allen County SWCD office, 3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46845.

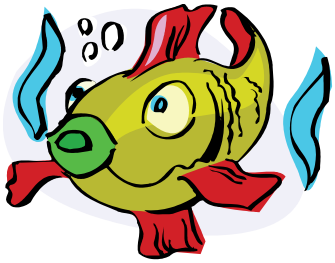
To find us:

Take Dupont Road East from I-69 (Exit 116), turn north on Parkview Plaza drive (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.

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 3 with any questions.





All programs and services of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts and their partners are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Allen County soil and Water Conservation District
3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845
Address Service Requested

Phone: (260) 484-5848 X-3
Fax: (260) 484-5080
E-mail: bridget.witte@IN.nacdnet.net

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Strip Till Field Day
August 31, 2009



The Allen County Soil & Water Conservation District and The St Marys River Watershed Project will host a Strip Till Field Day on August 31 at 5:00 PM. The location for the field day is the NW Corner of Minnich Road and US 27. The evening will begin with dinner provided by the St Marys River Watershed Project and the Adams, Allen and Wells Co SWCDs.

St. Marys River Watershed Project



Barry Fisher, NRCS State Agronomist will present the benefits of using strip till in your farming operation. Ray Rawson will follow with how to develop and manage a zone-till system. A number of companies will be demonstrating their products and allowing participants to make some strips of their own. Following the demonstrations, a Farmer panel will share their knowledge of what works and what has failed in their strip till systems.

Wrapping up the evening, Area NRCS and SWCD representatives will outline available cost share and rental opportunities.

1st Source Bank