



Fall 2014

Conservation Quarterly

CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dates to Note

- 10/2/14—Monthly Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 11/4/14—Election Day, SWCD office closed
- 11/6/14—Monthly Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 11/11/14—Veterans Day, SWCD office closed
- 11/27 & 28—Thanksgiving Holiday, SWCD office closed
- 12/4/14—Monthly Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 12/24 & 25—Christmas Holiday, SWCD office closed

Inside this issue:

Hunting on Wetlands and Easements	2
Fall Army Worm Outbreaks Reported	2
Have an interest in Conservation District activities?	3
Tree Seedling Order Forms Now Available	3
Team Up for Invasives Control!	4



Can you hear us now?

A new phone system was installed in the offices of Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Clark County SWCD. You may have noticed a change in the greeting when you called in, and the availability to leave someone a voice message. We are adapting to these changes just as you are, and some of us are slow learners. Please bear with us as we strive to improve our service to you.

Our phone number and office extensions have not changed. Continue to dial 812.256.2330, and either ext. 2 for FSA, or ext. 3 for NRCS/SWCD.

Radishes vs. Turnips—for grazing

Radishes and Turnips are both in the Brassica family (you probably already knew that). Typically turnips are more palatable than radish, but there are some radish varieties that were developed for grazing (oilseed, daikon, and tillage radishes were not developed for grazing, but cattle will eat them).

Turnips: There are two distinct types: Bulb producers (Purple Top is a generic name for this type and is typically what is planted in gardens), which have a big globe type bulb and decent foliage., and forage types, which typically have a smaller bulb (similar to daikon radish), more foliage, and can be grazed multiple times. Turnip seed is very small; 2-3 lbs./ac. of seed produces a lot of turnips. Typically, forage type turnip seed costs only about 25% more than the Purple Top. Cattle will eat the bulbs of the Purple Top turnips if left out in the field to graze long enough. As stated below, typically it will less per acre to plant Turnips vs. Radish.



Radish: There are multiple types, but oilseed and daikon are commonly used for cover crops. These are not as palatable as turnips, but cattle will eat them. Radishes have a taproot type of bulb, so they are better at breaking through compaction layers than turnips; they generally have less foliage than either of the turnips. Their seed size is bigger than turnip, therefore takes 6-8 lbs./ac. to produce the same amount of tonnage.

Rape: In the Brassica family also, with several types of rapes and kales that are bred for grazing. Typically these need to be planted in August, but they normally will not winter kill, and therefore, can be grazed again in the spring.

Both radish and turnip need to be seeded by Sept. 10th to produce enough foliage for grazing purposes. Also, brassicas should be seeded with a grass to help lower the protein level of forage that the livestock will be grazing. Brassicas can be successfully seeded with Oats, Cereal Rye, Barley, and/or Annual Ryegrass.

Suggestions for the best fall grazing: seed Oats (1.5-2 bu./ac.) and turnips (1-3 lbs./ac.) into standing corn no later than Sept. 10 (likely aerially seeding into standing corn). Annual ryegrass or cereal rye could be added to this mix if the goal was a cover crop that didn't winter kill, or cereal rye could be seeded into the field after the oats and turnips are grazed out. Oats provide a lot more tonnage in the fall than either cereal rye, barley, or annual ryegrass.

For maximum growth, fertilize the oats and turnips with 30-45 lbs. of actual Nitrogen as soon as the crop harvest takes place. Additional Nitrogen will almost double tonnage when oats and turnips are seeded into corn.

Article by Robert Zupancic, NRCS Southeast Area Grazing Specialist

Hunting on Wetlands and Easements



Hunting remains one of the more popular activities on Wetlands Reserve Program and Floodplain Easement properties. Through the Warranty Easement Deed for these programs, the landowner retains the right to undeveloped recreational use of the easement, including activities such as hiking, bird watching, and hunting. All hunting on the easement is subject to Indiana and federal game and fish regulations and seasons.

Hunting Blinds and Structures

Undeveloped recreational use may include the use of hunting equipment such as tree stands and hunting blinds that are rustic and customary for the locale. In Indiana, hunting blinds permissible on Wetlands Reserve Program and Floodplain Easements will be rustic and customary, and therefore be temporary in nature and result in minimal surface disturbance.

Permissible tree stands and hunting blinds:

- Will not require the use of heavy machinery to install.
- Can be removed immediately from the site upon request without special equipment or power tools. Nothing larger than a pick-up truck or tractor should be necessary to pull a moveable blind on skids.
- Will not use concrete or asphalt to construct footings, foundations, or other supporting structures.
- Will not disturb the surface of the ground through excavation or vegetation removal.
- Will be braced with T-posts or other similar support that can be both installed and removed by hand, when necessary for safety purposes.
- Do not include houses, trailers, mobile homes, hunting and fishing lodges, cabins, fishing huts, or other similar structures.



The requirements listed above apply to all easements enrolled from October 1, 2012 and thereafter. For all easements enrolled prior to Fiscal Year 2012, blinds currently existing on the easement may be utilized “as is.” Any additional blinds must meet the above criteria. Once the existing blinds degrade and are no longer useable, they may not be replaced, except with a blind that meets the above specifications.

Access

The Warranty Easement Deed grants the landowners of the easement property the right to control access to the land. This means the easement is not open to the public without landowner permission. NRCS retains the right to access the site to ensure easement terms and conditions are being met, but it is up to the landowner’s discretion what type of access is granted to others. It is the right and responsibility of the landowner to control access and limit trespassing.

Captive Raised Game and Hunting Dog Training

The Warranty Easement specifically prohibits the use of the easement to raise, stock, and/or release captive bred game. Also prohibited is the disturbance of nesting and brood-rearing of wildlife, including migratory birds. Dogs should not be trained on site during the nesting season (April 1- August 15). Dogs can disturb or destroy nests of many ground-nesting birds and other wildlife.



Food Plots and Trails

Food plots and trails require approval through a Compatible Use Authorization. The **total** area of trails and food plots combined will not exceed 5% of the easement acreage. Food plots may be annual or perennial in nature, but may not be harvested. Only 1/3 of the total acreage allotted to annual food plots may be planted in any given year, and rotated through the designated area. Trails may only be mowed once per year, at designated times, and not exceed 10-foot in width.

*Article courtesy of USDA—Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity*

Fall Armyworm Outbreaks Reported

University of Kentucky Extension recently reported in large populations of fall armyworm (FAW) moth captures and now caterpillar infestations. Calls have been received from west central and north western Indiana of “worms” devouring forage crops. From the descriptions of the caterpillars and damage to the various crops, it is likely FAW. Just like a very similar species, the armyworm, they behave in much the same manner in that they can consume large amounts of foliage as they move enmasse.

Late season crops should be inspecting for feeding damage.

This is very important for newly seeded forages. Below is listing of high-risk situations in order of damage potential:

- Newly seeded grasses of any kind, including but not limited to, the following: grass (wheat & rye) cover crops, grass and mixed grass/alfalfa hay fields, and early planted wheat.
- Established mixed grass and alfalfa hay, grass forages, lawns, parks and playing fields, etc. FAW

really likes Bermuda grass, but fescue can also be hammered, and it has a difficult time recovering in hot dry weather.

- Possibly very late double crops beans. Soybean is not a preferred food, but FAW will feed on them.



FAW caterpillars feeding on alfalfa.

The most likely places and the first to be noticed are field edges and waterways of grass, as well as interior of soybean fields that have a significant grass weed population. If the caterpillars are already feeding on grass weeds within a field and the weeds are killed, the caterpillars will move to the beans. Palatable or not, these insects will try to eat anything to stay alive!

- Full season corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans are probably too mature to be damaged much.

Have an Interest in Conservation District Activities?

Perhaps you should consider applying to become a part of our Board of Supervisors. We have an elected position term expiring next year. We also continually seek associate members, who may serve on subcommittees in areas of interest and attend meetings at their leisure. The five person Board of Supervisors are responsible for setting and maintaining overall district policies and programs regarding the conservation of natural resources within the district. For more information, contact the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3.

Tree Seedling Order Forms Now Available

Tree seedlings will once more be available to Indiana landowners this year through the IDNR Division of Forestry nursery in Vallonia, IN. These trees may be used for reforestation, erosion control, wildlife habitat development, watershed improvement, wetlands enhancement, windbreak, or other conservation purposes. Plant materials cannot be redistributed or resold for profit.

Order forms are now available in the Clark County SWCD office for the 2014-2015 season. Orders will be accepted October 1, 2014-May 1, 2015 (depending on inventory) for standard spring pickup. There is a \$10 non-refundable processing fee for each order.

Forms and more information on the sale may also be obtained on the internet by visiting www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3606.htm.

For assistance in deciding which species to plant, contact Clark County's District Forester, Allie Cline. She may be reached at the Clark State Forest office, (812) 294-4306, or by email at ACline1@dnr.IN.gov.

SWCD Annual Meeting

The 71st Annual Meeting of the Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, 2015, in the Community Building on the Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Following a catered meal there will be a brief presentation and an election of one member on the Board of Supervisors. Candidates for this year's election include Dana Coots.

Contact the SWCD office to purchase tickets or for more information.

9608 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
812-256-2330, ext. 3
Fax: 812-256-0362



**CLARK COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage PAID
Charlestown, IN
Permit No. 6**

SWCD Supporters....we thank you!

*Clark County Farm Bureau
Dan Cristiani Excavating
Farm Credit Services
Huber Orchard & Winery
Koetter Woodworking
Kruer Grading-Seeding, Inc.*

*Jim O'Neal Ford
Memphis Meat Processing
New Washington State Bank
Ottis Wright—dba Wright Brothers
Sanders Farm Service—Pioneer Seed*

Eco Logic and Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) Team Up for Invasives Control!

SICIM is auctioning off one day of invasive control work performed by Eco Logic (Bloomington, IN) to a winning landowner within our service area in exchange for a donation to SICIM. The highest bidder wins and will help support SICIM's mission! SICIM is a regional cooperative weed management area and a not for profit 501c3. ***Your donation is tax exempt!***

The selected project will receive:

- 2 Eco Logic technicians for a day of control work (up to 10 hours, inc. travel);
- Herbicide appropriate to species controlled; and
- ATV with sprayer or backpack sprayers.
-



Interested landowners should provide a brief description of their project. Please include the following information:

- Invasive species to be controlled
- Number of acres and % cover (please estimate heavy, medium, light)
- Habitat type (forest, wetland, grassland, etc.)
- Project location
- Contact information
- Your bid



Project proposals should be sent to SICIM via email edrr@sicim.info by October 10, 2014. Project selection will be announced on October 15, 2014; work to be completed by May 31, 2015. Please contact Beth Mizell at emizell@tnc.org for any questions.

District activities and programs will be made available to all citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, marital status or disability.