



Conservation Quarterly

Cost-Share Dollars Still Available!

The Silver Creek Watershed Improvement project currently has agricultural and urban cost-share dollars available to implement best management practices (BMPs) on land within the watershed in order to improve water quality. BMPs are effective and practical methods which prevent or reduce the movement of sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants from the land to surface or ground water.

The cost-share program provides **60% match** of the allowed actual costs of implementing approved BMPs. Technical assistance is provided. If you are an agricultural producer, homeowner, organization or entity and are located in the Silver Creek Watershed district, you may be eligible to apply. Some of the practices that may be funded include; **live-stock exclusion from streams, cover crops, streambank stabilization, critical area planting, pasture/hayland seeding, and riparian buffers.**

Visit www.mysilvercreekwatershed.weebly.com for more for more information about the cost share program or contact David Trotter, Watershed Technician, at 812-256-2330, ext. 110, or david.trotter@in.nacdnet.net.

Do you have problems with:

- Cows standing and drinking in a dirty water source (stream, pond, seep)?
- Cows tearing up the banks of your pond or stream when they get a drink?
- Livestock need to walk a long way to get water?
- Cows only graze around your water tank and leave the rest of the pasture over grown?

A watering facility can help!

A watering facility can be a permanent or portable watering trough or a device like a nose pump that lets cows pump water from a stream or pond.



Watering facility installed in Silver Creek Watershed



Stream crossing installed in Silver Creek Watershed

Do you have problems with:

- Livestock knee deep in mud
- Crossing a stream with equipment
- Eroded stream banks
- Livestock loafing in streams and polluting the water
- Equipment damaged by crossing streams

A stream crossing can help!

A stream crossing provides a hard, stable area where livestock or equipment can cross a stream without damaging the streambed or banks.

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Dates to Note

- 3/29/13—Good Friday Holiday, SWCD office closed
- 4/4/13—Monthly Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 4/22/13—Earth Day
- 4/26/13—Arbor Day
- 4/28-5/4/13—Soil & Water Stewardship Week

Multi-County Project Offering Incentives to Producers

Better Soil. Cleaner Water. More profit.

Those are the goals of a five-county project that was recently awarded \$75,000 in Clean Water Indiana grant funds by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's State Soil Conservation Board. The Clark County SWCD is one of the partners in this project, along with Jackson, Jennings, Jefferson, and Scott County SWCDs.

This project is designed to reduce sediment and nutrients from non-point sources in an effort to improve water quality. Producers are encouraged to utilize soil testing, no-till, cover crops and buffer practices. The combination of these best management practices can have a significant impact on farming practices both in the present and future years.

Participants are required to: 1) complete a soil test, 2) consult with an industry professional on the soil test recommendations, 3) utilize no-till planting methods, 4) seed cover crops and install buffer practices as needed. (Cover crops may be seeded utilizing no-till, aerial or broadcast seeding practices.)

Once these tasks have been completed according to Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) specifications, participants are eligible for an incentive payment of \$25/acre for one cover crop species, \$30/acre for two or

more species and \$35 per acre if the mix includes a legume. Participants can receive payments for up to 100 acres upon completion and verification of the practice.

This incentive program gives preference to those producers that are not qualified for

Federal programs due to cropping history or other prerequisites that might deem the land ineligible.

Contact the Clark County SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, or visit the SWCD web site at www.clarkswcd.org, for an application and more information.



2013 Stewardship Week Announced

Each year, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) encourages citizens to think about their personal responsibility to be a good steward of our natural resources during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. NACD is celebrating the 58th year of Stewardship week April 28 – May 5, 2013. The 2013 Stewardship Week is themed, "Where Does Your Water Shed?"

Clean water is important to everyone, "says National Association of Conservation Districts President Earl Garber." "Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross county, state and national boundaries. Every inch of the land on planet Earth is part of a watershed. In the continental U.S., there are 2,100 watersheds; if we include Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico, the count rises to 2,267. No matter where you are right now, you are in a watershed."

To find out more about your local watershed, including an app for your computer and smart phone, visit: www.epa.gov/mywaterway. Additional information about the "Where does your watershed?" program, visit the NACD website at www.nacdnet.org/education.

Scholarship Applications Available

Applications are currently available for the Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship sponsored by the Clark County SWCD and funded through the Southern Indiana Community Foundation. This is a \$1,000 scholarship awarded each year to a current high school senior or current college student from Clark County, pursuing a career in a natural resources related field.

Forms are available by contacting Tami Kruer, SWCD Education Coordinator, at 256-2330, ext. 107.



Spring Tree Sale Underway

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) annual Spring Tree Sale is now in progress. Once again the SWCD will be offering quality stock from Forrest Keeling Nursery, Missouri. These trees are 3-gallon, Grade 1 (nursery stock) container trees grown using Forrest Keeling's RPM® (Root Production Method). This method produces fast-growing, uniform trees, which can be easily removed from their containers and directly planted.

A few of the twenty-two species available are: American Beech, Bald Cypress, Tulip Poplar, Scarlet Oak, Flowering Dogwood, Redbud, Norway Spruce, Dawn Redwood, Shrub Indigo, Yellowwood, and White Pine. These trees are \$25.00 each plus tax.

One-gallon, potted, perennial plants are also being offered. Species include: Fox Sedge, Prairie Dropseed, Cardinal Flower, Obedient Plant, Little Joe Pye Weed, Pale-Purple Coneflower, Wild Bergamot, plus many others. These sell for \$8.50 per plant.

Tree-Mate-O "Tree Success Kits" (tree support, guard, and stake), are also available through this sale.

Deadline for orders is April 3, 2013. Trees will be available for pick-up between the hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m., April 15-19, 2013, at the SWCD office. For tree order forms or more information, visit www.clarkswcd.org or contact the Clark County SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3.

Record the trees you plant at the Plant A Tree For You And Me website at



www.clarkswcd.org/PAT/openpage.htm

Help green Southern Indiana!

Rent our Equipment

No-Till Drill - \$8 per acre

**Outback S2 Guidance Systems -
\$10 per day**

**Call 256-2330, ext. 3 for
scheduling**

**Stop by our office and sign an
Equipment Rental Agreement**



Do you know a farmer who does an excellent job of managing their farm in an economically and environmentally sound way to help protect and improve Clark County's soil and water resources for future generations?

Consider nominating them as a River Friendly Farmer! If chosen, they will receive special recognition during Farmers Day at the 2013 Indiana State Fair. They will also receive a River Friendly Farmer sign for display on their farmstead and recognition through news articles highlighting them for their stewardship efforts.

Contact the SWCD for nomination forms.



Choose Your Conservation Program Now

Spring planting season is an excellent time to assess your fields for problem areas. While you're planting, make note of areas that are eroding, need to be renovated, or need to be taken out of production. Then, at your next opportunity, give our District Conservationist, Jennifer Kipper, a call. She can explain the farming and environmental assistance programs that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers that can help pay for installing conservation practices on your land.

Jennifer may be contacted at 256-2330, ext. 108.

Get Your Rain Barrel Now!

Rain barrel kits are now available! Kits include one 55 gallon plastic barrel, 2—3/4 inch faucets, and instructions for assembly.

(Additional materials are required to complete the barrel.)

Contact the SWCD office at 256-2330, ext. 3, to place your order. Kits are \$40 each and are available for pickup Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Order forms are also available on the District home page, www.clarkswcd.org.

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

Return Service Requested



**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*

Seasonal High Tunnel Assistance Available

NRCS provides assistance through the Seasonal High Tunnel initiative to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The initiative improves plant quality, improves soil quality, reduces nutrient and pesticide transport, improves air quality through reducing transportation inputs, and reduces energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce.

High tunnels (also known as hoop houses) are structures that modify the growing climate, allowing for tender, sensitive, and specialty crops like certain varieties of vegetables, herbs, berries, and others to grow where they otherwise may not. High tunnels are constructed of metal bow frames with wood framed ends, at least six feet in height and are covered with one or two layers of polyethylene.

To qualify for the Natural Resources Conservation Service High Tunnel Cost-share program, you must:

- Be an agricultural producer.
- Install the high tunnel on existing cultivated land.

Applications may be submitted anytime. All applications will be evaluated periodically in a competitive ranking process as funding becomes available. Ranking criteria for each program is available on the NRCS website. Please call Jennifer Kipper, NRCS District Conservationist, at 256-2330, ext. 108, or visit the Indiana NRCS web site www.in.nrcs.usda.gov, to learn more.



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