



Conservation Quarterly

Fall 2019

CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SWCD Seeks Candidates for Supervisor Position

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for persons with an interest in natural resources management who would like to serve as a district official. Candidates are being sought for an elected seat on the district's five-member board of supervisors. Term of office runs from January 2020 through January 2023.

Clark County SWCD is a legal subdivision of state government responsible for the protection, conservation and wise use of the soil, water and related natural resources within the county. Working cooperatively with federal, state and local agencies and organizations, the district brings educational, technical and financial assistance to bear on the conservation problems of the county.

Activities of the district are directed by the five supervisors, three who are elected by the local landusers and two appointed by the State Soil Conservation Board. Meeting on the first Thursday of each month, the supervisors plan and oversee the efforts aimed at fulfilling the district's responsibilities, which include:

- Assessing natural resources management needs within the county;
- Developing and implementing policies and programs that address those assessed needs;
- Carrying out program initiative given to SWCDs by state and federal government (e.g., the review of farm conservation plans and construction site erosion/sediment control plans and the inspection of landfills for erosion control); and,
- Advising local government on natural resource management issues.



Candidates for Clark County SWCD's elected-supervisor position must be of voting age, must be an occupier of a tract of land located in Clark County, and must maintain permanent residence within the county. For more information about Clark County SWCD, its programs, supervisor duties and qualifications, or to register as a candidate, visit the district office at 9608 Highway 62, Charlestown, IN, or call 812-256-2330, ext.3. Deadline to register as a candidate is November 21, 2019.

SWCD Annual Meeting

The 76th Annual Meeting of the Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 30, 2020, 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.

Dates to Note

- 10/3/19—SWCD Monthly Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- 11/5/19—Election Day, SWCD office closed
- 11/7/19—SWCD Monthly Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- 11/11/19—Veterans Day, SWCD office closed
- 11/28-29/19—Thanksgiving Holiday, SWCD office closed
- 12/5/19—SWCD Monthly board meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- 12/24&25/19—Christmas Holiday, SWCD office closed

Older Clark/Floyd County Plat Books are available from the SWCD office:

2009 edition—\$15

1998 edition—\$5

Visit us Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-4 p.m. to purchase

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Cost-share Dollars Available for Watershed Projects



The Clark County SWCD is moving forward with the implementation of its' Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek-OH River Watersheds Improvement Project. We are well into the first year of the project, with several projects underway, however, cost-share funds are still available!

Best management practices such as cover crops, forage and biomass planting, critical area planting, grassed waterways, filter strips, fencing, and others that address water quality concerns, are eligible for cost-share. Landowners are provided technical assistance to facilitate BMP implementation on their land through activities such as conducting farm visits, assisting with conservation planning and BMP selection, and inspecting installed BMPs to ensure that they meet design specifications. If you would like to receive an application for cost-share funds, or would like more details, please contact David Trotter, Watershed Coordinator, (812) 256-2330, ext. 3465. Applications and information are also available on the project website at www.14milecreekwatershed.weebly.com.

SOIL HEALTH SNAPSHOT



Soil Health is an approach to managing soil to its optimum potential through a system of conservation practices. This approach results in healthy soil that:

- reduces erosion;
- requires less nutrient inputs;
- manages the effects of flood and drought; and
- reduces nutrient and sediment pollution to streams and rivers.

Soil health is a focus of NRCS and is being promoted in Indiana through the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI).

Food production relies on good soil health. The U.S. can meet the world's production demands by integrating today's residue management technology with soil health best management practices.



LISDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

ABOUT SOIL HEALTH



Soil Health Practices

- Functioning No-Till System
- Cover Crops
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Buffers

Soil Health Benefits

- Balances biological community
- High organic matter that retains and cycles nitrogen and sequesters carbon
- Stabilizes soil aggregates
- Resists the erosive forces of water and wind
- Improves water infiltration
- Manages the effects of flood or drought
- Reduces fertilizer and fuel costs
- Enhances wildlife habitat

<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>



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State Nurseries Offering Tree Seedlings

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)-Division of Forestry, operates two nurseries within the state that grow and distribute to landowners high quality plant materials for conservation plantings. Conservation plantings include plantings for timber, wildlife, windbreaks, soil and water protection, reclamation, carbon sequestering, and education. Individual tree species are available as packets of 100 seedlings; packet mixes of seedlings (10 each) are also available according to planned use (i.e., wildlife, bottomland, etc.).

Orders are accepted October 1, 2019—May 1, 2020 (depending on inventory) for standard spring pickup. Online orders may be placed beginning October 1, at www.INForestryX.com. More information on the nurseries and the seedling sale, as well as order forms, can be found at www.dnr.IN.gov/forestry.

Signup is underway for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6. MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

Non-Specialty Crops—MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat. MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer's total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.

Dairy and Hogs—Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

Specialty Crops—MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

More Information—Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January. MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on farmers.gov/mfp, including payment information and a program application.

Clearing Wooded Areas, Draining, or Bringing New Land Into Production

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits. Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

Dates to Remember

Continuing through December 6: Market Facilitation Program (MFP) Signup

September 20: Deadline to apply for the Dairy Margin Coverage Program

September 30: Reporting date for value loss and controlled environment crop (for the coming program year)

September 30: NAP application closing date for garlic, wheat, barley, rye and mint for the following year's crop

October 14: Offices closed in observance of Columbus Day

November 4: COC Ballots mailed to eligible voters

November 11: Offices closed in observance of Veteran's Day

November 15: NAP application closing date for perennial grazing and forage crops (alfalfa, grass, mixed forages, clover, etc.)

November 15: Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for 2020 fall wheat with 10/31 final plant date

November 20: NAP application closing date for apples, apricots, aronia (chokeberry), asparagus, blueberries, caneberrries, cherries, grapes, hops, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums strawberries, walnuts

November 28: Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day

December 1: NAP application closing date for honey and maple sap for the following year

December 2: Deadline to return COC election voted ballots - postmarked or delivered to the local FSA office

December 3: Final application for payment for 2019 ELAP for losses occurring 10/1/2018 to 9/30/2019

December 15: Reporting date for 2020 fall mint, fall-seeded small grains

December 25: Offices closed in observance of Christmas Day

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



**CLARK COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Return Service Requested

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

SWCD Supporters....we thank you!

*Clark County Farm Bureau
New Washington State Bank
Farm Credit Mid-America
Indiana Land Company*

*Dan Cristiani Excavating
Sanders Farm Service LLC
Jim O'Neal Ford
Wright Brothers Implement Sales*

CISMA Formation Moves Forward

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the Clark County SWCD is working with CISMA Regional Specialist, Kaila Knies, to form a CISMA in Clark County. A CISMA is a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, also sometimes called a CWMA or Cooperative Weed Management Area. CISMAs/CWMAs are partnership

organizations formed with the goal of managing invasive plants across jurisdictional and land-ownership boundaries.



We have moved forward in the process, and have developed a mailing list for our call-out meeting. If you are concerned about invasive species in our county, and would like to do more about controlling them, we'd love to have you on our team! Please notify us at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3. so that we may contact you as meeting dates, and other details are available. In the meantime, to learn more about CISMAs go to <https://www.mipn.org/cwma-resources/>.

Rent our Equipment

No-Till Drill - \$8 per acre

Outback S2 Guidance Systems - \$10 per day

Call 812-256-2330, ext. 3 for scheduling

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

Soil Testing Service Offered

The Clark County SWCD is now offering soil testing services for homeowners seeking fertilizer recommendations for their lawn and gardens. Soil samples may be brought to the SWCD office at 9608 Highway 62, Charlestown. Cost of a basic test is \$22; advanced is \$32. Both tests provide suggested fertilizer recommendations for up to three crops. It normally takes 4-5 working days for samples to be analyzed and recommendations returned.

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