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Conservation Quarterly

Summer 2019

CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



The annual Clark County 4-H Fair will be held July 12-20, and the Clark County SWCD supervisors and staff have been busy making preparations. We would like to invite you to stop by our Natural Resources Conservation Facility (located at the rear of the Fairgrounds), and experience our “Pathway to Water Quality”.

Our Pathway features: a landscaped pond, complete with waterfall and native fish; cover crop plot illustrating common varieties of cover crops; educational area with “nature” boxes, and other activities; native perennial plantings that provide food and habitat for butterflies, bees and hummingbirds; a home for bats; a bluebird trail; and, constructed just last year—a walk-in butterfly house. Come stroll through!

In addition to our Pathway, we will also have the following guests and events for you to enjoy:

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“**Lewis and Clark Night**”, **Monday, July 15**, 6-9 p.m.— Information and displays on the historic journey of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark across the North American frontier, and the recent inclusion of their “Eastern Legacy” as part of the trail. And, there is a very good chance that a member of the expedition (or Lewis and Clark themselves) will make an appearance! 7 p.m.—**Charlestown State Park Naturalist**, Lydia Robertson, will present “**Turtles and Snakes.**”

“**Recycle, Reuse, Rediscover! Night**”, **Tuesday, July 16**, 6-9 p.m.—**Clark County Recycling District**, will have info on services they offer, 6-8 p.m. Displays and activities so you can discover how to repurpose old items into new. **Silly Safaris** will present their live animal show and meet & greet at 7 p.m.



“**Camping Night**”, **Wednesday, July 17**, 6-9 p.m.— Information on all things camping available. Eat a piece of **Smoky Bear’s 75th birthday cake** while you’re here! 7 p.m.—**Charlestown State Park Naturalist**, Lydia Robertson, will present “**Coyotes & Bobcats.**”

“**Trees, Plants and More! Night**”, **Thursday, July 18**, 6-9 p.m.—Take Flight! Wildlife Education, **Raptor program**, 7 p.m. SWCD Fall tree sale info available. Learn about all things plants and trees, and what’s up with the invasive Callery Pear, and Sudden Oak Death disease. **Kaila Knies**, Regional Specialist Southeastern Indiana for **SICIM** (Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management) will be on hand with information on controlling invasives in Clark County.



Giveaways each evening!

County Committee Nomination Period is June 14-August 1, 2019

June 14, 2019 begins the annual nomination period to submit nominations to the county committee. The county is divided into 3 sections or Local Administrative Areas (LAA's). The LAA conducting the election this year is LAA-2, consisting of Utica, Charlestown, and Monroe townships. Eligible candidates are any landowner or farm operator that annually participates in USDA programs, is at least 18 years of age and that resides in or their primary farming activity is in the listed townships. The Farm Service Agency actively seeks candidates from underrepresented groups including but not limited to females and young or beginning farmers.



Nomination forms FSA-669A may be requested in person at the Clark County FSA Office at 9608 Hwy 62 Suite 3, Charlestown, or online at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/county-committee-elections/index>. August 1, 2019 is the dead-line to submit a nomination. From the list of nominees submitted by the deadline, election ballots are mailed to all eligible voters in the 3 listed townships in November and completed ballots must be returned to the Clark Co. FSA Office by December 3, 2019. The candidate that is elected from the list of nominees will serve a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2020.

Producers Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres

Producers who wish to receive history credit for either prevented planting or failed acreage must file a Notice of Loss with the Farm Service Agency. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA). The final planting date for corn in Indiana is June 5th and the final planting date for soybeans is June 20th (for both initial and double crop).

Additionally, producers with failed acres should file form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, to report acreage destroyed or damaged by disaster. This must be filed prior to destruction of the crop to provide FSA with an opportunity to inspect the acreage.



For losses on crops covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, producers must file a *Notice of Loss* within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Additionally, many crops covered by NAP require an initial notification of loss be made to the FSA administrative office within 72 hours of loss occurrence or loss becoming apparent. Producers must timely file a *Notice of Loss* for failed acres on all crops including grasses to ensure the opportunity to receive acreage reporting history credit for the crop as well as potential program benefits.

The annual deadline to certify all Spring planted crops is July 15, 2019. For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local county FSA office. Appointments work best!

Farm Service Agency Important Dates to Remember

June 14: Nominations open for 2019 County Committee Nominations

June 20: Final date to submit a prevented planting claim for corn.

July 4: Office Closed for Independence Day.

July 5: Final date to submit a prevented planted claim on soybeans.

July 15: Reporting deadline for all spring planted and forage crops.

August 1: Deadline to submit nomination forms to the county committee election.

August 1: Deadline to request farm reconstitutions and transfer request for 2019.



Incentive Funds Available for Conservation Practices

The Clark and Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are still taking applications for their 2018 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant project, which promotes soil health on pasture/hay land, and improving water quality.



Producers can implement practices such as heavy use area protection (HUAP), access road, pipeline, watering tanks, forage and biomass planting, cover crop, permanent interior fence, and more. Cost-share rate on practices installed is 60% of actual cost; caps on individual practices have been set. Practices must be completed according to NRCS specs, and must be completed in the year that the participant's application is approved for funding. Applications are evaluated and ranked on a timely basis or until all grant monies are expended. Producers in Clark County, should contact the Clark County SWCD office at 812-256-2330, ext. 3; in Jefferson County, the Jefferson County SWCD office at 812-265-7609.

Sudden Oak Death in Indiana

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed more than 70 Walmart stores and 18 Rural King stores in the state have received rhododendron plants infected with sudden oak death (SOD), a fungal pathogen that kills oak trees. The Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology has made this its top priority and staff have been visiting stores to destroy any stock that has been found infested and quarantine any stock that is symptomatic.



The DNR has destroyed approximately 1,500 infested rhododendron so far and pulled another 1,500 from stores. They have ordered these stores to stop selling rhododendron until further notice. Any quarantined material not infected will be released following testing by Purdue University. The DNR is also following up with homeowners that have called in a report.

SOD has killed large tracts of oaks on the West Coast, but has not been established in the Midwest, to date. SOD can kill standing oak trees, which could happen if SOD-positive rhododendron were planted within about 6 feet of a standing oak. SOD travels in more than a hundred species of host plant material. It causes some browning of the leaves in the host but does not kill it.

If you have purchased rhododendrons in the last four weeks from Walmart or Rural King, destroy them, or call 1-866-NO-EXOTIC (663-9684) or the local extension office at 1-888-EXT-INFO (1-888-398-4636).

Watershed Improvement Project Offers Cost-share Dollars

The Clark County SWCD is moving forward with the implementation of its' Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek-OH River Watersheds Improvement Project. Cost-share funds are now available for projects in identified critical areas of the watersheds for selected BMPs needed to address resource concerns identified in the Watershed Management Plan. Educational activities are being planned to provide information to citizens so they can make better environmental decisions, and help improve water quality within the watersheds.

The cost-share program has been developed, and details of the program and applications are now available for producers. 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 information, 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.



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
Dan Cristiani Excavating
Farm Credit Mid-America
Jim O'Neal Ford*

*Indiana Land Company
New Washington State Bank
Wright Brothers Implement Sales, Hardware & General Store
Sanders Farm Service LLC*

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas

In late 2017, Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) entered into a contribution agreement for the purpose of developing local **Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs)** throughout Indiana.

Both SICIM and the NRCS have been working for many years to combat invasive plants and raise public awareness of the devastation being caused by these non-native pests, and both have come to the realization that we will not begin to make much headway until the problem is addressed at the local level by local people using local resources.

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 landownership



boundaries. Partners can include county, state, and federal governmental agencies, non-profits, citizen groups, and others. By working together at the local level, CWMA/CISMA partners are able to pool resources and knowledge to address mutual invasive species problems. Through this project SICIM will be providing new CISMA resources and guidance.

The Clark County SWCD is working with Cisma Regional Specialist, Kaila Knies, to form a Cisma in Clark County. 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! Let us know by contacting our office at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3. We'll notify you as soon as meeting dates, and other details are available. In the meantime, to learn more about CISMAs go to <https://www.mipn.org/cwma-resources/>.

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