



Conservation Quarterly

Summer 2016

CLARK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

It's Fair Time!

The annual Clark County 4-H Fair will be held July 9-16, and the Clark County SWCD staff has been busy making preparations. The SWCD would like to invite you to stop by their Natural Resources Conservation Facility (located at the rear of the Fairgrounds), and enjoy the activities, view the demonstrations and displays, and visit with the guests scheduled to appear. The Natural Resources area will be open Monday through Friday evenings, July 11-15, from 6-9 p.m.

Monday, July 11—*BI-CENTennial Night*



Come help us celebrate our state's Bicentennial and our National Parks' CENTennial!

The Lincolns, **Mary Todd and Abraham**, will be touring our area throughout the evening. Come visit with them and take pictures. You may even get to hear Lincoln give the Gettysburg Address! Clark County Historian, **Jeanne Burke**, will also be on hand to answer your questions about Clark County's early history and its' ties to the Lincolns. Information on our nation's parks, and displays on the three located in Indiana will be available. Sample a piece of BI-CENTennial **cake** starting at 7 p.m. (while quantities last)!

Tuesday, July 12—*Farm to Table Night*

The Farm to Table movement has moved into our area! Check out information on local restaurants that use fresh ingredients in their recipes, and find Farm Markets where you can get fresh ingredients to prepare your own. A local chef will be preparing recipes on the grill using farm fresh ingredients. A local beekeeper will be with us to answer your beekeeping questions or introduce you to keeping bees.



Wednesday, July 13—*Chainsaw Carving Demo*

Bear Paws Chainsaw Carving, Brandenburg, KY, will be joining us again to demonstrate the delicate skills of carving wood with a chainsaw. Carved items will be available for purchase or can be ordered.

Thursday, July 14—*Forestry and Wildlife Night*

A very popular guest at previous fairs, **Mark Booth of Take Flight! Wildlife Education**, will be back with his raptor presentation. Our **District Wildlife Biologist**, and **District Forester**, will be on hand to answer your forestry and wildlife questions. Learn how to create your own **Blue Bird Trail** or **Monarch Waystation!**

Friday, July 15

No activities, SWCD exhibit building open



Welcome to New District Supporter

We would like to welcome Indiana Land Company, and owner Steve Aulbach, to our list of District Supporters this year! Indiana Land buys and sells land within a eight county area in southern Indiana: Harrison, Crawford, Floyd, Orange, Washington, Clark, Scott, and Jefferson.

Indiana Land Company is located at 1046 W. Knable Rd., Georgetown, IN. Visit them there, or on their website at www.indianalandco.com.

Indiana Land Company

Conservation Client Gateway Now Available

Conservation Client Gateway is a new secure online web application that gives landowners, and land managers operating as individuals, the ability to track their payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents anytime, anywhere. The Gateway provides users the flexibility to determine when they want to engage with NRCS online and when they prefer in-person conservation planning assistance.



Conservation Client Gateway is entirely voluntary. Learn more at www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway.

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

Dates to Note

- 7/4/16—*Independence Day Holiday, SWCD office closed*
- 7/9-7/16/16—*Clark County 4H Fair*
- 8/4/16—*Monthly Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.*
- 9/1/16—*Monthly Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.*
- 9/5/16—*Labor Day Holiday, SWCD office closed.*

Soil Testing Offered

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; a more extensive test is \$32. Both tests provide suggested fertilizer recommendations for up to three crops (i.e. lawn, flowers, trees). Results are normally returned within 4-5 working days. Please call the SWCD office for more info 812-256-2330, ext. 3.

Develop Monarch Butterfly Habitat with EQIP

The monarch butterfly has suffered from significant population declines over the past two decades, and now NRCS has established an initiative to work with clients to increase monarch habitat on private agriculture lands. This initiative is focused on planting milkweed and other nectar-rich forbs and reducing pesticide use in proximity to monarch habitat through the EQIP program. All counties in Indiana are eligible for this project. Applications must be received by June 17, 2016, to be considered for current funding.

Waiting List Available for Clean Water Indiana Funds

Funds awarded through the 2015 Clean Water Indiana grant program to the Clark, Jackson, Jefferson, and Scott County SWCD's, have all been allocated to date.

Participants of this incentive project, complete a soil test, consult with an industry professional on the soil test recommendations, utilize a no-till cropping system, and plant cover crops. Buffer practices may be installed as needed. Participants receive an incentive payment of \$20/acre on the applied acres (up to 100 acres per calendar year) upon completion and verification of the practices.

The Clark County SWCD is establishing a waiting list for producers who would like to participate in the program should any of the current applicants not be able to fulfill the obligations of the program. Please contact our office at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3, if you would like your name put on the waiting list.

Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Project

Indiana received \$1.5 million to restore forests, reduce wildfire threats, protect water supplies, improve wildlife habitat and support rural economies through a Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and NRCS. Clark County landowners are eligible to receive funding through EQIP for practices such as: Brush Management, Forest Stand Improvement, Prescribed Burning, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Firebreak Construction, Forest Trail & Landings, Riparian Forest Buffer, Structures for Wildlife, and Tree and Shrub Pruning. Applications for current funding must be received by June 17, 2016. To apply, or for more information, contact Jennifer Kipper, District Conservationist, at 812-256-2330, ext. 3.

Farm Service Agency Notes

County Committee Election Important Dates

The annual process to elect a member to the FSA County Committee (COC) is underway. The county is divided into 3 Local Administrative Areas, with the election occurring in one LAA of the county each year. In Clark County, LAA 2, consisting of Charlestown, Utica, and Monroe townships, is conducting the election. The farmer elected from the area then serves a 3 year term on the committee beginning January 1, 2017.

To be eligible to serve on a FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an FSA administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where they are nominated.

Farmers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. Nomination forms for the 2015 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016.

County Executive Director Bob Backus is available to meet with farm organization in the county to explain the role of the county committee and the eligibility requirements for candidates. Please contact the Clark County FSA Office at 812-256-2330, ext. 2, or email bob.backus@in.usda.gov if you are a member of any farm related organization that is interested in additional information for the FSA County Committee Election.

Enrollment Period for 2016 USDA Safety Net Coverage Ends Aug. 1

Producers who chose coverage from the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, should visit the Clark Co. FSA county offices through Aug. 1, 2016, to sign contracts to enroll in coverage for 2016. Producers must still enroll their farm by signing a contract each year to receive coverage.

Producers are encouraged to contact the Clark County FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll as soon as possible. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2016 enrollment period, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

The two programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, corn, oats, soybeans, and wheat. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Please contact the Clark Co. FSA Office at 812-256-2330, ext. 2, or visit the office at 9608 Hwy 62 Suite 3, Charlestown, IN 47111 (Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds).

2016 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit your local county FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed below or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Clark County:

- January 2—Honey
- January 15—Apples
- July 15—Cucumbers (planted 5/10-6/15 in all counties), and all other Spring Planted Crops and Perennial Crops
- September 30—Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crop (for the coming program year)
- December 15—Fall Mint, Fall-Seeded Small Grains

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

*If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage **must be reported no later than 15 calendar days** after planting is completed.*

*If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported **no later than 30 calendar days** after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.*

*If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage **must be reported by July 15th**.*

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Clark County FSA office.

9608 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
812-256-2330, ext. 3
Fax: 855-391-1921 (toll free)

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



**CLARK COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

SWCD Supporters....we thank you!

*Clark County Farm Bureau
Dan Cristiani Excavating
Farm Credit Mid-America
Jim O'Neal Ford
Indiana Land Company*

*Memphis Meat Processing
New Washington State Bank
Sanders Farm Service LLC
Wright Brothers Implement Sales*

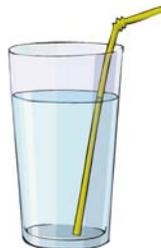
Managing Farm Water Could be a Key to Preserving Water Quality

Over several weeks in midsummer 2014, the waters of Lake Erie off Toledo, Ohio, turned an unnaturally vivid shade of green, the result of one of the largest algae blooms ever recorded in the Great Lakes. Within days, toxins were detected at a Toledo water treatment facility and the 500,000 residents of Ohio's fourth-largest city were told to turn off their taps; the water was judged unsafe for drinking, cooking or even bathing.

Ben Reinhart thinks better farm water management could help minimize the risk of a similar disaster in the future. Purdue University researchers Ben Reinhart and Jane Frankenberger are part of a team evaluating water retention practices as a way of protecting water quality and increasing agricultural productivity. "We need to look at water as a valuable resource and manage it like we manage other inputs," says Reinhart. "We are evaluating water retention practices as an approach not only to increase agricultural productivity but also protect water quality."

Three Practices

Harmful algal blooms thrive on phosphorus and nitrogen washed into rivers and streams. Agricultural runoff is the primary source of those elements, which can also come from leaky septic systems,



residential lawn and garden fertilizers and industrial waste. Improving farm water management would help reduce the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen entering the water system, says Frankenberger. Instead of draining water when there is too much, think about saving it for when there is not enough. Researchers are investigating three practices for keeping more farm water in farm fields:

- **Controlled drainage:** Water is saved in the soil and released more slowly.
- **Drainage water recycling:** Storing water in on-farm ponds or reservoirs. The water can then be recirculated onto a field through irrigation.
- **Saturated buffers:** Diverting drainage water from fields into subsurface laterals that slow the outflow.

Practical Considerations

All of these methods appear promising, Reinhart says, but to implement them more study is needed. Researchers are investigating ways to make them practical. The key will be to show how productivity can be maintained or increased while preserving the quality of the water we drink. To learn more visit <https://transformingdrainage.org>.

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