

# Hendricks Communicator



Soil and Water  
Conservation  
District

VOL. XLIX No. I

*"A Quarterly Newsletter Devoted to Conservation"*

**Annual Report 2003**

## Annual Report Edition 2003 MILESTONES

You are accustomed to seeing District staff surveying grass waterways or making field visits on construction sites, but we also engage in many other conservation activities during the year. Here are some highlights:

- Our conservation education efforts touched an estimated 2500 students during the year – youth and adults. Youth events included Hendricks County Ag. Day, and our distribution of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful tree seedlings to elementary school classrooms. In addition we helped Youth Leadership Hendricks County stage a Mock Plan Commission Meeting. For adults this year, we continued our presence at the Hendricks County Lawn and Garden show and held a Contractors Meeting for grass waterway contractors. We were also very pleased to bring in NRCS Grazing Lands Specialist Vic Shelton to visit in the field with producers who have grazing issues.
- Another important conservation education effort this year involved no-till systems. We were very fortunate to host NRCS Statewide Tillage Coordinator Barry Fisher in our seminar No-Till 101 at the Mayberry Café. We had approximately 15 producers attend this event. In addition, we were invited by Putnam County to help host the Conservation Expo in September. Approximately 30 producers from Hendricks County attended and heard a variety of expert presentations on no-till topics at this field day event.
- Indiana has expanded its stormwater quality requirements for growing communities. The urbanizing areas of the County as well as the towns of Brownsburg, Avon, Plainfield, Danville and Pittsboro are subject to the new rule 13 stormwater requirements. District staff have been contacting each of the affected communities to determine how we can best assist them to comply with the new regulations. We also have been contemplating how we will be a part of an increased emphasis on controlling erosion on construction sites, and increased public participation and education as part of this new program.
- Did you know that your District Conservationist Henry Wallis attends virtually every meeting of the Hendricks County Area Plan Commission to advise on erosion control and other conservation matters? He also assists the towns of Avon, Danville and Plainfield regularly and fields inquiries from other communities as well. In addition the District is pleased to be a part of Planning with Power, a program to link natural resource concerns with community planning decisions.
- District staff have been involved in the policy area of USDA programs. We worked with Roger Bailey and the Farm Service Agency County Committee to influence the issue of Practice Cost "Hold-Downs" for CRP grass waterway construction. In addition, we sponsored two meetings to devise Local Ranking Criteria for evaluation of Hendricks County EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) applicants.
- The Clean Water Indiana grant program brought a few additional cost-share dollars to the County this year. The staff has been busy identifying prospective customers for its Field Border / Filter Strip initiative and producers have been installing these practices in the field.
- We have been assisting the Hendricks County Park Board with their projects at McCloud Park. The District's designee Paul Miner sits on the Park Board. We provided technical assistance on erosion control issues and on the planting of native, warm season grass in the old fields on the property.

### **Mission Statement**

*To help the citizens of Hendricks County manage, conserve and enhance natural resources today for the benefit of tomorrow's generations through education, public information, leadership, technical assistance and development of innovative programs.*

## 2003

### DISTRICT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Nineteenth year for publishing the District Newsletter.
2. Fifteenth year for completing the Tillage Transect.
3. Sponsored the 4-H Soil & Water Conservation Project.
4. Clean Water Indiana grant for Field Borders & Filter Strips
5. Promoted the Hoosier Heartland R.C. & D. Activities.  
Forestry Committee - Backyard Tree Farm.  
Urban Committee - Retention Pond workshop  
Education Committee - Camp Gallahue Conservation Teachers Camp
6. Home Page on the Information Superhighway  
<http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/~hcsxcd>
7. Technical Assistance to individuals/groups ..... 2,187
8. Resource Management Systems installed which include:  
Conservation Tillage ..... 68,093 acres (transect data)  
CRP - Conservation Buffers:  
    Grass Waterways \* ..... 56,363 feet  
    Buffer strips ..... 18,728 feet  
    Riparian (Tree Planting) ..... 7.7 acres  
    Filter Strips ..... 1.3 acres  
    HHRC&D Riparian Tree Planting ..... 30 acres
9. Urban Conservation - Info/Education and on-site assistance.  
Reviewed 141 erosion control plans for development sites; 190 development site visits.

\* Currently have request for survey/design and installation of an additional 128 grass waterways to be constructed in the next 9 months.

## Upcoming Events

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Jan. 20     | Hendricks Co. SWCD Annual Meeting @ Hendricks Co. Community Center - 6:30 pm  |
| Jan. 21     | Heartland of America Grazing Conference @ Holiday Inn Conference Center at the Airport in Evansville, IN  |
| Jan. 29     | Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association Workshop @ Tippecanoe Co. Extension Office   |
| Jan. 30     | Bradford Woods Outdoor Networking Day @ Bradford Woods Manor House  |
| Feb. 10     | Implementation of Pollution Prevention on Construction Sites Workshop for Contractors-Developers-Engineers-Home Builders @ Farm Bureau Bldg. - Indiana State Fair Grounds |
| Feb. 12     | Hendricks Co. Cattleman's Association @ Hendricks Co. Community Center - 6:30 pm  |
| Feb. 23     | Legislative Breakfast @ Hendricks Co. Community Center - 7:30 am  |
| Mar. 13     | Legislative Breakfast @ Hendricks Co. Community Center - 7:30 am  |
| Mar. 22     | Hendricks Co. Farm Bureau, Inc. Annual Meeting @ Hendricks Co. Community Center - 6:30 pm   |
| April 7     | Hendricks County Ag Day   |
| April 16-17 | Hendricks Co. Lawn & Garden Show  |
| April 21-22 | Camp Gallahue Environmental Workshop for Educators  |

## CLEAN WATER INDIANA PROGRAMS

### NEARING A CLOSE

There is still time to sign up for filter strips or field borders under the Clean Water Indiana Program managed by the SWCD. If you have areas that are not enrolled in CRP for these practices but still need the protection in the field, this is the program for you. We still have \$1,449.50 uncommitted at this time. This translates to 2.23 acres or 4,857 feet of vegetative filter strip or field border at a 20 foot width (width can be variable). The District offers a \$650 per acre incentive payment for participation in this program. The remaining funds must be committed by March 31, 2004.

Four projects have been completed under this program since funds were awarded by the State Soil Conservation Board in 2002. Cooperating farmers have installed 3,651 feet (2.86 ac.) of filter strips along streams and 5,813 feet (3.37 ac.) of field borders to protect against erosion and preserve water quality. This is a great little program to "fill in" or compliment existing CRP filter strip projects for additional protection.

For assistance with these programs contact Jeff Kingdon at the District office at 745-2555 ext. 3 or email [jeff-kingdon@iaswcd.org](mailto:jeff-kingdon@iaswcd.org)



**Clean Water Indiana**

Conserving and Enhancing Our Land, Lakes, and Rivers