

Hendricks Communicator



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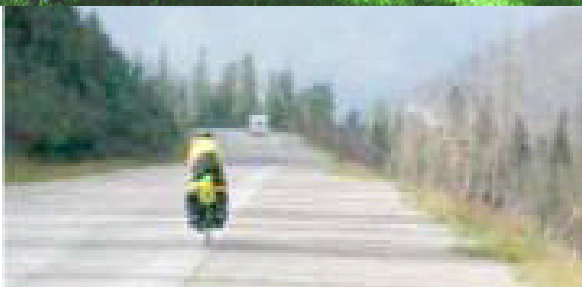
District Employee returns after a 3 month bicycle trip.

Jeff Kingdon left on May

12th heading west along "The Lewis and Clark Bicycle Trail" traveling 3,700 miles to Astoria, Oregon.

Traveling with Jeff were his two sons; Jesse, Jordan and a friend, Chris Wray.

Be sure to attend the District's Annual Meeting (see details right) for an interesting presentation on his trek.



Mark your calendars for the 52nd Annual Meeting

Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District's 52nd Annual Meeting, will be Tuesday, **JANUARY 20th**, 6:30 PM at the Hendricks 4-H Community Building, Danville.

Jeff Kingdon, Natural Resource Conservationist with the District, will be the annual meeting speaker. He will be speaking on his recent bicycle trip along the Lewis and Clark trail. A snow date has been set, Tuesday, February 4, 2004. The meeting will begin with a dinner served by Red Dog Catering.

The purpose of the meeting is to report to the citizens of Hendricks County the activities of the District for the past year. During the meeting, Conservation award winners will be honored. In addition, one supervisor will be elected to direct the District's activities for the next three years.

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.

2003-2004
Indiana DNR
Division of Forestry

TREE SEEDLING
ORDER FORM

Order forms are available by:

- Calling SWCD office at (317) 745-2555 ext. 3 or the Hendricks County Extension Office (317) 745-9260 to have an order form mailed to you or come by to pick one up.
- Website: <http://www.state.in.us/dnr/forestry>

District Picked up 8,400 Trees for Hendricks County Residents

In late March, the Hendricks County SWCD & Extension picked up 8,400 trees at the Jasper-Pulaski State Tree Nursery for residents of Hendricks County.

Trees can be ordered for next year's pick up by checking the box for third party-county agency pickup at Jasper-Pulaski.

The state nursery sells 2 & 3 year seedlings in packs of 100.

If you would like to order trees to plant next spring, the time is now!



Supervisors Wanted!

The Hendricks County SWCD is looking for individuals within the County who are interested in natural resource conservation and development in their community who would like to serve on the District Board. Two positions on the board expire at the Annual Meeting. One of these is an appointed position, the other an elected position.

The five supervisors who make up the SWCD Board have the unique responsibility to evaluate local soil and water conservation needs and opportunities, set priorities and to provide for the development of programs to meet those prioritized needs within the County. Supervisors are elected (or appointed) for three-year terms. Nominees for the elected position will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, Tuesday, January 20, 2004.

Supervisors meet once a month. To hold an elected supervisor position, an individual must (1) be an occupier of a tract of land (minimum) 10 acres in size located in Hendricks County, (2) maintain a permanent residence in Hendricks County and (3) be qualified to perform the duties of supervisor. Individuals interested in conservation may also serve as Associates. Associates are not required to be landowners or to attend all monthly meetings. They may serve on committees and help with projects and planning. Associates are an extremely important part of the District!

If you are interested in a Supervisor position or in an Associate position, please call the SWCD office at (317) 745-2555 or a member of the nominating committee. This year's nominating committee are: J.B. Edmondson, Keith Brock, and Gary Emsweller.

Farm Bill Compliance Reviews for 2003

Status reviews are still part of the 2002 Farm Bill. A status review makes sure producers comply with certain requirements of the Farm Bill, including highly erodible land, sodbuster & swampbuster provisions.

This past spring the Farm Service Agency selected several tracts for review from those farms participating in the farm programs.

Camp Gallahue Environmental Workshop

April 21 - 22, 2004
Brown County, Indiana

CONSERVATION EXPO 2003

The Conservation Expo event held Sept. 4th, was hosted by the Putnam and Hendricks County Soil & Water Conservation Districts at the Ames 4K farm and John Zeiner farm west of Fillmore. The expo gave area farmers the opportunity to see first-hand how no-till farming is helping to improve the environment and to conserve valuable cropland soils.

Nearly 200 participants had an opportunity to tour no-till corn and soybean fields, view soil profiles after several years of no-till, and test products new to the market.

Dan Towery of the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) explained how no-till farming increases the number of soil organisms found in the soil that benefit crop production. By not tilling and leaving the crop residue on top of the soil, it encourages organisms such as earthworms, to infiltrate and loosen the soil, making it more conducive to plant growth. Also by not tilling the soil it is less likely to erode away.



These farms demonstrated the state of the art look at long term No Till, Nitrogen Management, Soil Quality, Starter Innovations and Pest Management. Also a discussion took place on when and if Gypsum can improve your soil health.

Bill Richards, Chairman of Conservation Technology Information Center, Former Chief of Soil Conservation Service, and long term No-till Farmer was the keynote speaker after dinner.

Conservation Reserve Program - Continuous Sign Up Still Available

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers and landowners can still sign up cropland for Continuous CRP to establish:

- grass waterways
- grass filter strips
- riparian buffers

Cost-share is at 50% of the eligible costs to install the practice. Also a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) of an additional 40% of the eligible costs is currently being offered.

Participants will also receive an annual rental payment for ten to fifteen years on the land under contract depending on the practice enrolled.



Take note while harvesting this fall. If you have an erosion problem (similar to the above picture) caused by the recent rains this summer/fall, you probably should consider making application to the Continuous CRP for establishing/constructing a grass waterway or filter strip.