

Hendricks Communicator



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"A Quarterly Newsletter Devoted to Conservation"

Winter 2005

Mark your calendars for the
54th Annual Meeting

Jan. 31, 2006

Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District's 54th Annual Meeting, will be Tuesday, **JANUARY 31ST**, 6:30 P.M. at the Hendricks 4-H Community Building, Danville.

Duane Huge, Danville High School Voc. Agriculture teacher and the soil judging team will be the annual meeting speakers. They will be speaking on the Voc. Ag. program, FFA, and their activities. A snow date has been set, Tuesday, February 2, 2006.

The meeting will begin with dinner. 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 the Donald H. Lawson Award for Conservation Education will be given and Conservation Farmer will be named. In addition, one supervisor will be elected to direct the District's activities for the next three years.

Everyone is invited to attend. Cost of tickets for the meeting is \$3.00 per person. Call the SWCD office at 745-2555 and reserve your ticket(s) or you may pick them up too. Also, each SWCD Supervisor has tickets.

Congratulations

The Hendricks County Soil Judging team participated at the area soil judging contest in October. They came in 12th out of 28 teams in the contest. Contest was held in Boone County. The team consisted of 1 - freshman, 3 - sophomores, and a senior. A.J. Ford, had the highest score for the team and will be recognized at the SWCD Annual Meeting. Pictured (l to r) are: Jeremy Gregory, A.J. Ford, Ty Haight, Joanna Turpen, and Jordan Pritchett..



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FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE PRIVATE WOODLAND OWNER

The Private Woodland Owner workshop is a short course program about personal techniques for managing your woodland. The workshop will run eight (8) weeks starting on January 16 through March 13, 2006, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. This course is being offered at the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library in Plainfield.

Instructors for the course are:

John Seifert, IDNR State Forester - is active in the continuing education of private woodland owners and professional foresters.

Dr. Doug Jacobs, Regeneration Specialist in the Dept. of Forestry at Purdue University

Nathan King, Research Associate, Dept. of Forestry at Purdue University

Advance registration is requested by January 9th. Cost for the course is \$85.00 for each applicant. Fee covers the cost of instruction, class handouts, course notebook, a tree measuring stick and a copy of Trees of Indiana. Late registration will be accepted, if space is available.

Course is sponsored by: Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council Forestry Committee, Purdue University-Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hendricks County Soil & Water Conservation District, Hendricks County Extension Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the IDNR-Division of Forestry.

For further information contact the Hoosier Heartland RC&D office at (317) 290-3250.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Jan. 11-14 | National No-till Conference
St. Louis, Missouri |
| Jan. 16 | Forest Management for the
Private Woodland Owner
Plainfield, IN |
| Jan. 17-19 | Indiana Association of SWCD's
Annual Conference
Indianapolis, IN |
| Jan. 25-26 | Heart of America Grazing
Conference
Cave City, Kentucky |
| Jan. 31 | Hendricks County Soil & Water
Conservation District Annual
Meeting
Hendricks Co Fairgrounds |

Heart of America Grazing Conference

The Heart of America Grazing Conference is being held January 25-26, 2006, at the Cave City Convention Center in Cave City, KY. The conference rotates between Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri.

See the Kentucky Forage Extension website for additional information: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage>. A brochure/pamphlet is available at the SWCD office.

Plant-A-Million



Trees are one of Central Indiana homeowner's most valuable assets. They provide shade to reduce home air conditioning costs. Back yards are cooler and more enjoyable on hot and humid summer days. As they manufacture food, trees take carbon dioxide from the air and replace it with healthier oxygen. Trees enhance a community by attracting-business and increase property values.

The Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) have kicked off a campaign to "Plant a Million" or more native trees in Central Indiana. Come to the Avon-Washington Township Library meeting room from 7 to 8 PM on January 11th to learn more about the campaign, the benefits of trees, tree selection, planting, mulching, pruning and other maintenance tips.

You will also receive your personal copy of "Your Yard, Your Trees – A Homeowners Guide". This book (a \$5.00 value) is compliments of the Hendricks County SWCD and the RC&D Council. This 75 page full color book covers almost everything you ever wanted to know about yard and neighborhood trees.

Learn more about the importance of trees in our daily life by visiting <http://www.plantamillion.org>.

Conservation Farm Programs

Applications for Cost Share Now Being Accepted

EQIP - Applications for the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are currently being accepted at the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The EQIP program is available to anyone qualifying as a farm. A wide variety of practices are available for cost sharing through the EQIP program. Applications must address environmental concerns determined at the local, state and national levels.

Cost share rates are typically 50% of the actual costs or are set as a flat rate incentive for those practices such as no-till, nutrient management and pest management. Practices must be applied on a planned schedule developed at the time of application. Once an application is accepted and a contract is signed, there is a penalty for not completing all of the planned practices or withdrawing from the contract.

All applications will be ranked on the environmental benefits derived from the contract. The more benefits are derived from the contract and the longer lasting the effects on the environment, the better an application will rank and the better chance for funding. In Indiana, all applications received by the initial cut off date will be ranked together.

Examples of eligible projects might include manure management, filter strips, tree planting, streambank erosion control, and wildlife habitat development.

WHIP - Applications for the 2006 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) are being accepted at the Natural Resources Conservation Service. WHIP offers technical and financial assistance through long-term agreements to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitat for upland wildlife, wetland wildlife, threatened, endangered or at-risk species and fisheries as well as other types of wildlife.

For further information or to make application for the above programs, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 195 Meadow Dr, Danville, or phone (317) 745-2555 Ext. 3.

CREP - Applications are also being accepted for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which can provide cost share, incentive, and annual rental payments to apply conservation practices on eligible cropland in the eastern part of Hendricks County (White Lick Creek watershed). These practices include: Warm Season Grass Establishment, Hardwood Tree Planting, Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Grass Filter Strips, Riparian Buffers, Wetland Restoration, Bottomland Timber Establishment.

CCRP - Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) provides cost share, incentive, and annual rental payments to apply conservation practices on eligible cropland. CCRP encourages farmers to voluntarily establish conservation practices to protect environmentally sensitive land, provide food and habitat for wildlife and protect ground and surface water from runoff and sedimentation.

Examples of eligible practices include: grass waterways, filter strips, and riparian buffers.

Contact the local Farm Service Agency for more details or to enroll in the CREP and CCRP. The Indiana CREP went into effect August 1, 2005 and will continue until enrollment goals are attained or through December 31, 2007, whichever comes first.

National No-Till Conference

St. Louis, Missouri

January 11 - 14, 2006

The 14th Annual National No-tillage Conference will be held at the St. Louis Pavilion in St. Louis, MO on the 11-14th of January 2006. This conference is unparalleled in the U.S. in terms of no-till information and technology conference. You will take home plenty of cutting-edge no-till idea for trimming costs, increasing yields, and boosting your income while picking the brains of 45 outstanding no-tillers ... develop dozens of new no-till profit-building strategies ... network "one-on-one" with the country's best no-till presenters ... and discover solid answers to your pressing no-till concerns for 2006. For further information or brochure on the conference, contact the SWCD office (317) 745-2555 or <http://www.notillfarmer.com>

HENDRICKS COUNTY



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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