

# Hendricks Communicator

  
Soil and Water  
Conservation  
District

VOL. XX No. II

*"A Quarterly Newsletter Devoted to Conservation"*

Spring 2005

## Private Well Testing Program

Five years have passed since the last private well-water testing was done in Hendricks County. The Private Well-Water testing program is being planned for Hendricks County on **June 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Do you know the quality of your water? Water is the most important element in life! Some organisms can live without air, but no form of life has ever been found that can survive without water.

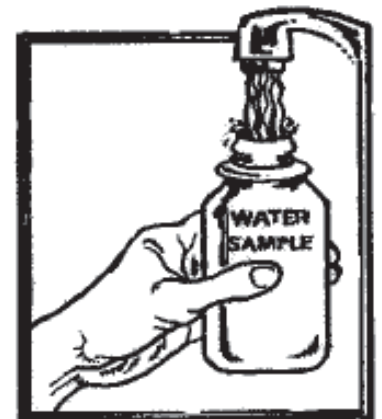
The Hendricks County Private Well Testing Program will give those who use private wells a chance to find out the quality of your drinking water. More importantly, you will be assured that your water is safe and has levels below the Safe Drinking Water Standards. Hendricks County SWCD has previously organized a private well testing program in 1992 and 2000. The SWCD wants to continue to educate, document, and analyze the water quality of private wells in Hendricks County.

This program will test your drinking water for nitrates, triazines, andalachlors. This test is voluntary, confidential and a proactive approach to ground water quality issues. Although this test will cost \$70.00 for the complete private water-testing program, it would normally cost around \$150 to \$200.00. The only charge will be for the testing done by Hiedelburg College Water Quality Lab in Ohio, a nationally recognized laboratory.

If you are interested in this program, contact the Hendricks County Soil & Water Conservation District at 195 Meadow Dr, Danville or by calling 745-2555, ext. 3 to register, by **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**. You will be able to pick up your water test sampling kits on Saturday June 18, 2005 at township sites throughout Hendricks County and return them that day. You will be notified by mail of the results.

Sponsored by: Hendricks County Soil & Water Conservation District, Hendricks County Farm Bureau, Inc., Hendricks County Cooperative Extension Service, Hendricks County Health Department, and Danville Community High School - Future Farmers of America (FFA).

See Registration Form on preceeding page.



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### 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.*

## STATUS REVIEWS: Farm Program Compliance

Status reviews will be conducted again this year on tracts participating in the farm program. Those tracts to be reviewed have recently been selected by the Farm Service Agency. Producers will soon be notified by letter, informing them they farm a tract that has been selected for review. The status review checks for compliance with the provisions of the farm bill which includes: highly erodible land, sodbuster, and swampbuster provisions.

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## District Picked Up 3,600 Trees for Hendricks County Landowners

In early April, the Hendricks County SWCD & Extension picked up 3,600 trees at the Jasper-Pulaski State Tree Nursery for residents of Hendricks County.

The state nursery sells many different seedlings in packs of 50.

This fall is the time to order trees for next spring delivery.

If you would like a tree order form, we can place your name on a list and then the form will be mailed to you this fall. Or it will be available on the IDNR - Div. of Forestry web site.

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## AG DAY IN HENDRICKS COUNTY

Hendricks County celebrated its Agriculture heritage on April 6th by inviting all 4th graders in the county to participate in an agricultural fair. SWCD and Hendricks County Partnership for Water Quality staff presented information about soil erosion, conservation, & water quality. 1513 student and 138 teachers and aides attended.

Ag Day is a joint venture with Hendricks County: Farm Bureau, Extension Service, Soil & Water Conservation District, and commodity groups to provide an educational but entertaining experience which they will be able to keep for the rest of their lives.

## HOOSIER RIVERWATCH TRAINING

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring - Adopt-A-River Program

Are you interested in learning how to monitor your local stream to determine water quality? You don't need a lot of free time or be an expert – the only qualification you need is to care about Indiana's water quality! The methods are easy to learn and can be performed by volunteers of all ages.

The Hendricks County Partnership for Water Quality is sponsoring a free **Hoosier Riverwatch training workshop** on **Saturday, June 11, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** The training location will be the Quail Creek Golf Course near Pittsboro. The participants will receive classroom and field training on stream habitat and flow characteristics, water chemistry and biological monitoring. Any interested adult is welcome to attend. **To register contact Christine Curtis at the Hendricks County Surveyor's Office, Clean Water Department at (317) 718-6103 or [ccurtis@co.hendricks.in.us](mailto:ccurtis@co.hendricks.in.us)**

Upon completing the training, you have the freedom to monitor wherever and whenever you want, but you will need water monitoring equipment. If you belong to a school, governmental agency or nonprofit organization, you may be eligible for the Riverwatch Equipment application Program. You will also be certified to borrow testing supplies from a Hoosier Riverwatch loaner site.

## PROJECT WET

Water Education for Teachers

Are you a teacher (K through 12) or informal educator interested in environmental content for your students? Do you want to find new and interesting ways to meet required curriculum objectives and educational standards? Project WET is a program for you sponsored by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The Hendricks County Partnership for Water Quality is presenting a one-day Project WET workshop on **Friday, July 15, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The workshop will be held in the dining room of the Community Building at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds in Danville. The cost to participants is \$15.00. **To register contact Christine Curtis at the Hendricks County Surveyor's Office, Clean Water Department at (317) 718-6103 or [ccurtis@co.hendricks.in.us](mailto:ccurtis@co.hendricks.in.us)** Participants will receive a Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide that is designed to meet Indiana's statewide educational standards. The workshop will explore a range of activities that can be infused into science, math, language arts and music curricula. Information will be supplied about Indiana's water resources and water quality management issues. This is a very good way to link educators with water resource agencies and conservation programs.



# Calling All Hendricks County 4-H Friends and Alumni

In celebration of the past 50 years of 4-H at our current fairgrounds, a 4-H Fair Reunion is being planned for the 2005 Hendricks County Fair. This is the last year to hold the fair at the current facility. The 2006 fair will be held at the new fairgrounds currently under construction.

To commemorate this historic event a week-long celebration is in the works. **A 4-H Friends and Alumni reunion is planned for Sunday July 24th from Noon-2:00pm.** Events will be held all week-long until we turn out the lights on our current fairgrounds on Friday evening July 29th.

To register as a friend or alumni of Hendricks County 4-H please visit our website at [www.iacdf.com/members/hendricks/index.html](http://www.iacdf.com/members/hendricks/index.html)

You can also register by calling 317-745-4212.

Registered alumni and friends will receive additional information.

Questions can be answered by contacting Tim Whicker at 317-745-1417.

Please plan to join us to help celebrate a truly bittersweet moment in the history of Hendricks County 4-H.

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## Help Us Plant-A-Million

**Help us plant a million trees** – Not that long ago, central Indiana was largely farms, forests, and prairies. Today, 80% of us live in urban and suburban areas. Through the years millions of trees have been removed from the area due to development, ice, storms, fire, pests, and disease. As our population continues to grow and sprawl into the surrounding environment, our neighborhood of trees and forests is being lost. Central Indiana includes two of the fastest growing counties in the nation (Hendricks and Hamilton). We have less parks, green space, and tree canopy cover than most major metropolitan areas. According to American Forests most communities in the U.S. should strive for an overall tree canopy coverage of an average of 40% in order to have livable, sustainable communities – we are far below that average.

**A healthier and more beautiful – Central Indiana is on the way!** Our environment will be friendlier to wildlife and people. Our heating and air conditioning costs will be reduced. Why? Because of the efforts to PLANT A MILLION trees in the yards, parks, school grounds, farms, and byways of Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, and Shelby counties. The ten Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are working in partnership with Hoosier Heartland to make it happen.



### What can you do?

- *Residents* can plant trees in their yards.
- *Businesses* can green up property with shrubs and trees.
- *Corporations* can fund tree plantings and provide volunteers to plant and/or organize a local event.
- *Communities* can plant trees in public spaces, and help measure benefits by conducting inventories and surveys.
- *Civic clubs* can conduct fundraisers and tree plantings.
- *Personal* donations can be made to purchase and plant trees.

You can help make good things happen in your community! Many dedicated volunteers, businesses, and organizations are working to obtain success. To join our highly successful organization, or to donate to our cause, please contact us at (317) 290-3250 or contact your county's local Soil and Water Conservation District to get involved!

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## Registration Form

### Hendricks County Private Water Testing

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF TEST KITS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: HENDRICKS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - 195 MEADOW DR. - DANVILLE, IN 46122 OR CALL (317) 745-2555 EXT. 3 OR FAX TO: (317) 745-5468**

# HENDRICKS COUNTY



## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

195 Meadow Drive, Suite 2, Danville, Indiana 46122 - Phone 745-2555  
<http://www.hendricks-swcd.org>



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 Jim Woody, IDNR Resource Specialist  
 Henry Wallis, District Conservationist



Printed on recycled paper using inks containing soy oil.

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