



Conserving the Natural Resources of Steuben County for Future Generations!

The Conservator

Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Summer Conservation Camps 2
- Farm Service Agency (FSA) Updates 2
- Conservation Conversation continued 3
- Agronomy Field Day 3
- 2015 Affiliate Members 3
- Plan for tomorrow, today 4
- Upcoming Events 4

Let's Have a Conversation About Conservation:

Warmer weather is finally here, signaling to many that it's time to work outdoors. Whether you own a small lot or hundreds of acres, we can offer advice on how to conserve your soil and improve it's health, which will ultimately aid in improving the water quality of Steuben County and beyond.

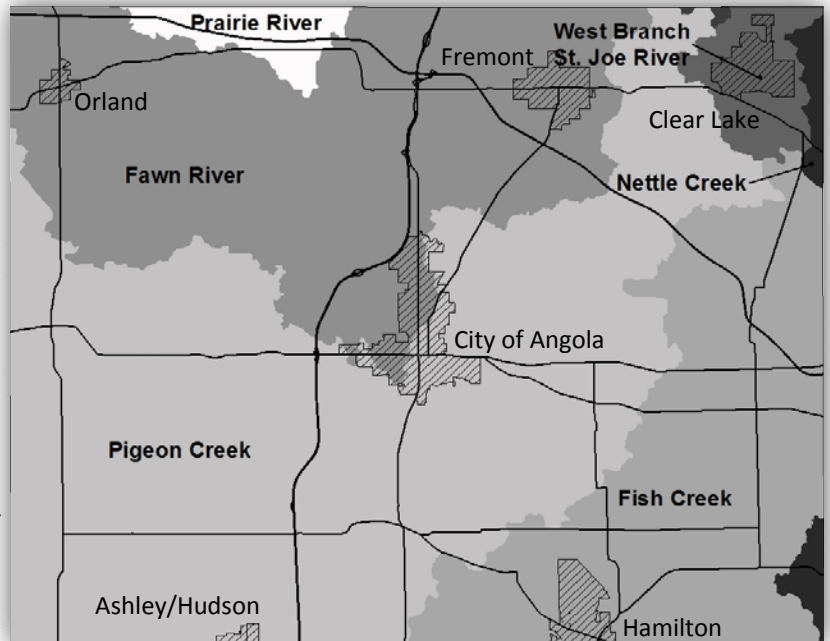
In addition to advice, we may be able to offer financial assistance to adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs). When you incorporate BMP's into your overall plan for your property, they can help protect and improve the resources you already have. There are several USDA Farm Bill programs offered for landowners throughout the entire County, and the SWCD offers watershed specific programs.

If you need advice or are interested in the USDA Farm Bill programs, the first step is to make an appointment with our Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, Brian Musser, to visit with you on your property to discuss your conservation needs, and assist you in developing a conservation plan for your property.

Our SWCD programs work the same way; please call to set up an appointment for us to talk to you about your property and what your goals are, and we will assist you in developing

a conservation plan to guide you in carrying out these goals.

There is currently funding available in the Pigeon and Turkey Creek Watersheds for several Best Management practices, including cover crops, hay and pasture plantings, filter strips, and tree plantings. We also offer assistance with rain gardens and rain barrels. There are many other practices available, so give us a call for more information.



New this year for the SWCD is a grant we share with DeKalb County that will benefit landowners in the Fish Creek and West Branch watersheds of Steuben County. Through this grant, we are able to assist farmers with an incentive payment for the application of gypsum and cover crops in their operation. We also offer assistance with variable rate application and conversion to No-till corn planting

(See Conservation Conversation on page 3)

Scan this symbol with your smartphone to link to our website.



Conservation Summer Camps

This summer, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Steuben, DeKalb, LaGrange, Elkhart, and Whitley Counties will be hosting three Conservation Day Camps in Northeast Indiana. Campers may attend one or all three sessions, which run from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Any child age 9-13 is eligible to attend for only \$10 per camp with lunch and supplies included.

June 30th - On Dallas Lake in LaGrange County, participants will learn about birds, wildlife habitat, and conserving our precious natural resources. All students will get a chance to build and take home their own birdhouse. **Registration is due for this camp by June 26th.**

July 14th - Beautiful Pokagon State Park in Steuben County is the setting for this camp, where campers will learn about wildlife, endangered species, and learn how to identify plants as they hike through the Park, and visit the Nature Center. They will also be able to ride horses, and go on a lake macro invertebrate hunt. Participants will get to cool off after a strenuous morning by swimming in Lake James in the afternoon. **Registration is due by July 10th.**

August 4th - participants will be introduced to shooting sports at Camp Whitley near Columbia City. Indiana Conservation Officers will be on hand to teach firearm safety, and campers will get to try their hand at clay pigeon target shooting. Camp Whitley staff will be on hand to instruct campers in archery. Troy-Cedar Lake will help cool everyone off with a refreshing swim in the afternoon. **Registration is due by July 31st.**

Visit our office at 1220 N 200 W Angola, IN, our website www.steubenswcd.org, or call (260)665-3211 x 3 with questions, or to register.



FSA Updates:

Quick updates, call the office (260-665-3211, X2) for more details:

- NEW FARM BILL SIGNUP:** ARC/PLC signup is a 3 step process. Step 1 (base and yield updates) and step 2 (electing ARC or PLC for each farm) have completed. Step 3 (enrolling in 2014 and 2015 programs) will happen later this spring or summer, dates have not been announced yet. Every farm that completed Steps 1 and 2 will have to complete Step 3 to finalize signup to actually participate.
- CROP CERTIFICATION:** The deadline to certify your planted crops is July 15. This includes corn, soybeans, hay, pasture, CRP. We anticipate that we will be working on step 3 of ARC/PLC signup at the same time. Therefore, we expect to be very busy. Appointments will likely take longer than past years due to the extra signup tasks.
- FAILED WHEAT:** If you make the decision that your wheat has failed and plan to switch it to corn or beans, you need to let us know prior to destroying the wheat. There are some limited exceptions to this for insured wheat, but we would still like you to let us know before you destroy the wheat.
- CRP REENROLLMENTS:** At this time we do not know if there will be a general signup this year. If you have current CRP contracts that will expire this year, let us know if you would like to continue in CRP. There may be some limited opportunities to enroll into a continuous signup practice.
- CRP MID MANAGEMENT:** Many CRP contracts will need to have mid management practices completed this year. Please call us if you are not sure what is required for your contracts. Once the mid management practice is complete, please bring in copies of the bills so we can process cost share payments.
- BANKING CHANGES:** Let us know if your banking information has changed. If your account number has changed, we need to update our records so that payments can process timely. It is also important to let us know that your bank has changed routing numbers, which generally happens when a bank is acquired by another bank.
- FARM OPERATION CHANGES:** Please let us know if you have changed your farming operation makeup, such as forming a corporation or LLC, or creating a revocable (living) or irrevocable trust. Also, let us know if you buy or sell any cropland acreage.

By: Thomas R Saggars, County Executive Director, Steuben County FSA Office

Agronomy Field Day - Agriculture: past, present, future working together

Mark your calendars now for Thursday, July 30th - Agronomy Field Day is back with an awesome line-up of educational speakers who will assist you in learning about the latest updates in Agriculture. The Field Day is hosted by The Andersons, Purdue Extension, and the DeKalb and Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Please join us at the Andersons' Waterloo Farm Center, 4743 County Road 28, Waterloo, IN 46793 for an informative day. Registration begins at 8:30 am with plot tours beginning at 9:00 am. Lunch is provided, and the day wraps up around 3:00 pm.

Tour Stops: rotating every hour

- Cover Crops – Greg Myers, the Andersons; Derek Thompson, NRCS; Scot Haley, Area Soil Scientist NRCS: Stop will include discussion of Cover Crops, a root pit showing corn planted into cover crops, and a demonstration of a Salford 522 Air Drill.
- Pest management – Featuring John Obermyer from Purdue University
- Field Demo of Technology – Stephanie Smith, 360 Yield Center: Stop will include demonstration of nitrogen management and agriculture applications for drone use.

Afternoon General Session: Markets with Mike Mock, Tech Bite with Stephanie Smith, 360 Yield Center, and the PARP program featuring Purdue's Fred Whitford.

Call us at (260) 665-3211, X 3 to make your reservation today!!

Conservation Conversation

(Continued from page 1)

through this grant. If you have been wanting to try any of these practices, please give us a call, and we can work with you.

If you haven't talked to us about our programs for awhile, let's have a Conversation about Conservation!!

Photo Courtesy of NRCS



Affiliate Members

The District Board gratefully acknowledges its current 2015 Affiliate Members. The donations received from these individuals and businesses help support the Information and Education programs of the District. If you or your business would like to become an Affiliate Member, please contact our office.

Platinum (\$100 and above)

Angola Seed & Supply
Angola, IN

Farm Credit Services Mid America
LaGrange, IN

The Nature Conservancy
Angola, IN

Gold (\$75 - \$99)

Aquatic Enhancement Survey, Inc.
Angola, IN

Silver (\$50 - \$74)

Edon Farmer's Co-Op
Edon, OH

Kevin Northup Excavating
LaGrange, IN

Noll Bros. Oil, Inc.
Hudson, IN

Bronze (\$25 - \$49)

Carper Farm Supply, Inc.
Ashley, IN

Caruso's Restaurant
Angola, IN

Daft Erosion Control, LLC
Ada, OH

Hoham Feed and Seed
Auburn, IN

Stroh Farm Supply
Stroh, IN

Sue A. Myers
Angola, IN



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facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD

**Conserving the Natural Resources of
Steuben County for Future Generations!**

You can help us go green by subscribing to the newsletter via e-mail. Visit our website and click on the Newsletter tab or call the office to change your subscription at any time. You may change your subscription to *The Conservator* at any time.

All programs and activities of the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and its Partnership Agencies are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Upcoming Events...

- May 14th Steuben SWCD Board Meeting
Note - This is on a Thursday this month
7:15 PM @ USDA Service Center
- May 25th MEMORIAL DAY
County offices closed
- June 6th Steuben Co Lakes Council Monthly Meeting
8:30 AM @ First Congregational Church of Christ, 314 West Maumee St., Angola
- June 10th Steuben SWCD Board Meeting
7:15 PM @ USDA Service Center
- June 30th Conservation Camp - LaGrange County
See article on Page 2
- July 4th HAPPY 4th of JULY
Steuben Co Lakes Council Monthly Meeting
8:30 AM @ First Congregational Church of Christ, 314 West Maumee St., Angola
- July 8th Steuben SWCD Board Meeting
7:15 PM @ USDA Service Center
- July 14th Conservation Camp - Steuben County
See article on Page 2
- July 17th Kickoff of Steuben County 4H Fair
For more information, please see extension.purdue.edu/steuben

***For more events and updates please check the website.**
Times and places of meetings are subject to change due to unforeseen issues.*

Today is the time to plan for tomorrow

Eighty Years ago, Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act in response to the devastating effects of the Dust Bowl. The USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and farmers are still working together to address the Natural Resource challenges of today and tomorrow - for generations to come.

Make an appointment NOW to plan for 2016!!

