



Conserving the Natural
Resources of Steuben County
for Future Generations!

The Conservator

Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District
1220 N 200 W, Suite L ~ Angola, IN 46703 ~ Phone: (260) 665-3211, ext. 3

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SUMMER 2019

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September 16 - 20, 2019
is Septic Smart Week
<https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-smart-homeowners>

Septic Smart Week is an annual U.S. EPA event which focuses on educating homeowners and communities on the importance of proper care & maintenance of septic systems.

Steuben County SWCD Awarded Two Education Grants

We are happy to announce that the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District was recently awarded two grants to help give youth and adults a better understanding and appreciation of our natural resources and the need for conservation.

The Steuben SWCD was awarded a grant from the **Ralph E. Taylor Conservation Fund**, through the Steuben County Community Foundation, to assist with educational expenses associated with conducting our Youth Conservation Field Day, scheduled Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at Pokagon State Park. Since 1985, the Steuben SWCD has teamed with multiple community partners who have a vested interest in natural resources, to host a conservation education program targeting 4th grade elementary students from the Fremont and MSD School Districts. Each year, approximately 300 students & teachers spend a day at

Pokagon State Park learning about the importance of healthy ecosystems and conserving our precious natural resources. The goal is to teach students using a hands-on approach, and begin to establish a conservation-foundation within each student that could last their lifetime. The Conservation Field Day format includes students rotating between six stations which focus on earth and space science, fisheries, forestry, soils, water quality and wildlife. Students also learn about solid waste management from a presentation by the Dumpster Drummers, an educational performance group from Fort Wayne that use the arts to teach recycling and environmental conservation. Students and teachers all receive educational materials at the end of the field day to compliment what they learned. The **Ralph E. Taylor Conservation Fund** grant will be used to offset costs associated with the educational
(continued on page 2)

2020 Tree Sale

The Indiana Division of Forestry announced the ordering process for the upcoming 2020 planting season will be open October 1, 2019 to May 1, 2020. The State Nurseries offer more than 40 species of native tree and shrub seedlings to be planted in Indiana for conservation purposes (timber, windbreaks, wildlife food and habitat, watershed and soil protection, reclamation). You have the option to order tree seedlings using the order form or online ordering platform. To order online, visit: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3620.htm>. Scroll to the bottom of the page for the link to order trees. Order forms can also be downloaded from the website.

The Steuben SWCD will again offer tree pick-up for county landowners. Trees are picked up at the nursery in the Spring & delivered to the SWCD Angola office. We ask for a small donation for

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Steuben County SWCD Awarded Two Education Grants *(continued from page 1)*

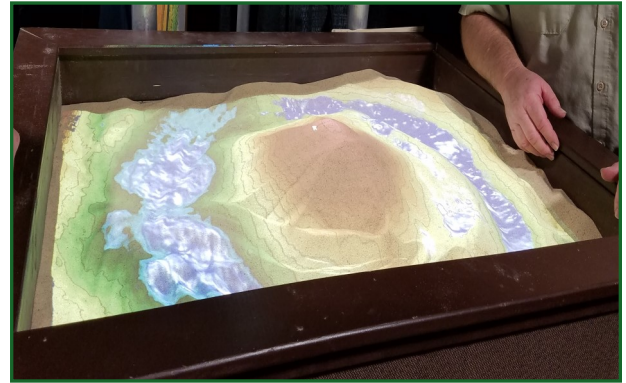
materials and educational performance.

A grant was also received from **The Steuben County Community Center's Spirit of Community Fund** to help the district create a 3D Interactive Augmented Reality Sandbox (ARS) unit, an important water quality and soil educational tool.

This tool combines 3D visualization applications with a hands-on sandbox exhibit to teach earth science concepts such as geography, geology, topography, soils, watersheds, and water movement across the landscape. The AR Sandbox allows users to create topographic models by shaping real sand, which is then augmented in real time by an elevation color map, topographic contour lines, and simulated, flowing water. To see an ARS in action, visit:

<https://arsandbox.ucdavis.edu>

The Steuben SWCD staff and Board of Supervisors thank the **Ralph E. Taylor Conservation Fund** and **The Steuben County Community Foundation** for supporting both of these important education programs.



Augmented Reality Sandbox (photo courtesy of Tara Lee)



2018 Youth Conservation Field Day at Pokagon State Park - Wildlife Station (photo courtesy of Tara Lee)



The Steuben County SWCD Website is currently under construction.
We apologize for this inconvenience.

2020 Tree Sale *(continued from page 1)*

this service (overall, this method of pick-up is the least expensive option). If you are interested in having us pick up your trees in the Spring, complete the **3rd party pickup section** online or on the order form when placing your order (see below).

“ **Check** the Jasper-Pulaski box

“ Write **Extension** next to **Name**

“ Write **Steuben** next to **County**

“ Enter **260-668-1000 x 1400** for the **telephone number**

2019 Affiliate Members

Angola American Legion
Angola Seed & Supply, LLC
Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc.
Carper Farm Supply, Inc.
City of Angola/Trine University MS4
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
Bill & Diana Clingan
Daft Erosion Control LLC
Tom & Marilyn DeWeese
Edon Farmers Co-Op
Farm Credit Mid-America
Franklin Paul Group LLC
Hoham Feed & Seed
Kevin Northup Excavating

Lake George Conservancy Inc.
Lake James Association Inc.
Peter Mountz
Sue A. Myers
Sheets LP Gas, L.P.
Steuben County Lakes Council
Stroh Farm Supply
John Williamson



Farm Service Agency Updates *Please call the office, (260-665-3211, ext. 2) for more details.*

1. **Small Grains Certification Deadlines:** Producers who have fall-seeded **wheat, rye, or other small grains** for harvest or cover crops need to certify this acreage in our office by **December 15, 2019**. Michigan has a November 15, 2019 deadline, so please keep this in mind if you farm any Michigan ground.
2. **2019 Market Facilitation Program (A section of the Trade Mitigation Package)** - The sign-up period for MFP is now open and runs through **December 6, 2019**, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. The MFP is established under the statutory authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation CCC Charter Act and is under the administration of USDA's FSA. **Payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty crops, some specialty crops, and dairy and hog producers.**
 - Assistance for covered non-specialty crops is based on a single county payment rate (\$58/acre in Steuben) multiplied by a farm's total acreage in 2019. A producer's eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. These calculations will consider any newly farmed acreage, etc.
 - Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019 will receive a .20 per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive an \$11/head payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day between April 1 and May 15, 2019. This date is selected by the producer.
 - For specialty crops, producers will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut-bearing plants. For a list of payment rates, please see the website mentioned above. This site also lists all the eligible non-specialty and specialty crops.
 - Cover crops planted on 2019 prevented plant acreage are eligible for a \$15/acre payment. The cover crops had to have been planted by August 1st and certified within 15 days after planting.
 - Payments will be made in three parts: The first 50% is expected to be made by late August. The next two payments will be evaluated and given if market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, these payments will be made in November and early January.
3. If you would like to enroll in the **2019 Organic Cost-Share Program**, please have your information in before October 31st. Payments of up to \$750 per scope can be issued on your certification and inspection fees, from October 1, 2018 — September 30, 2019.
4. If you are a dairy producer and are interested in the 2019 **Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program**, please give us a call. This program began with the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill and replaces the old Margin Protection Program (MPP) for Dairy, offering many new and exciting benefits. It is a voluntary risk management coverage that will pay producers when the difference (Margin) between the national price of milk and the average cost of feed falls below a certain level selected by program participants. Call our office for more information if you are interested, or visit fsa.usda.gov, and look under the DMC section. This site offers a tool to help you decide which premium level to purchase.
5. **2019 Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC)** will begin sometime this fall. Stay tuned for details.

USDA Report: Farmers Prevented from Planting Crops on more than 19 Million Acres

According to a new report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), agricultural producers reported they were not able to plant crops on more than 19.4 million acres this year. This marks the most prevented plant acres reported since USDA's FSA began releasing the report in 2007 and 17.49 million acres more than reported this time last year. Of those prevented

plant acres, more than 73% were in 12 Midwestern states where heavy rainfall and flooding prevented many producers from planting corn, soybeans and wheat. Indiana was one of those states; producers were unable to plant on approximately 944,000 acres of farmland.

USDA supported planting of cover crops on fields where farmers were not able to plant because of their benefits in preventing soil erosion, protecting water quality and boosting soil health. The report showed producers planted 2.71 million acres of cover crops thus far in 2019, compared with 2.14 million acres this time in 2018.



Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

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www.steubenswcd.org



facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD

Conserving the Natural Resources of
Steuben County for Future Generations!

Please 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 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

September 2 nd	County Offices Closed Labor Day Holiday
September 4 th	Soil Health Field Day 8-3:00 PM @ Roemke Farms (Harlan, IN)
September 7 th	Steuben County Lakes Council Meeting 8:30 AM at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola, IN
September 11 th	Steuben Co. Local Working Group Meeting 5:00 PM @ Angola USDA Service Center
September 11 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 5:30 PM @ Angola USDA Service Center
September 17 th - October 22 nd	Steuben County Life Program Tuesdays, 6-8:30 PM (various locations)
September 23 rd	Garden Club 5:30-6:30 PM @ Cameron Memorial Hospital in Angola—Conference Room 1
October 5 th	Steuben County Lakes Council Meeting 8:30 AM (location listed above)
October 9 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 5:00 PM @ Angola USDA Service Center
October 14 th	County Offices Closed Columbus Day Holiday

***For more events and updates please check our Facebook Page**
Times and places of meetings subject to change.*

SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

Board of Supervisors:

Craig Holman, Chairman Chuck Howard, Vice Chairman

Gene Diehl Kayleen Hart David Perkins

Associate Supervisors:

Timothy Groosbeck Daniel Oberst

SWCD Staff:

Janel Meyer Tara Lee
Administrative Coordinator Resource Conservationist

NRCS Staff:

Arthur Franke, District Conservationist