

THE OBSERVER

For Shelby County Residents
interested in agricultural and
natural resource issues.

Shelby County
Soil and Water Conservation District
www.shelbycountyswcd.org Phone: 765.544.2051 Ext 3

Issue 162
Spring 2016

Spring Tree Sale

Order forms due May 2, 2016 by 4:00 p.m.
Pricing: 1 gal \$25.00, 3 gal \$32.00, 5 gal \$50.00

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
Red Maple	1, 3		
Sugar Maple	3		
Yellow Buckeye	1		
Shadblow Serviceberry	3		
Indigo Bush	3		
Red Chokeberry	1, 3		
Paw Paw	1, 3		
Northern Pecan	3		
Shagbark Hickory	1, 3		
Hybrid Chestnut	3		
Sugar Hackberry	3		
Buttonbush	1, 3		
Redbud	1, 3		
Silky Dogwood	1		
Flowering Dogwood	1, 3		
Grey Dogwood	1, 3		
Red Osier Dogwood	1, 3		
Persimmon	1, 3		
American Beech	3		
Kentucky Coffeetree	3		
American Witchhazel	3		
Winterberry	3		
Bald Cypress	3		
Swamp Rose	1, 3		
Arrowwood Viburnum	1, 3		
Blackhaw Viburnum	1, 3		

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
Black Walnut	1, 3		
Spicebush	1, 3		
Sweetgum	3		
Tulip Poplar	3		
Black Gum	3		
Hop Hornbeam	3		
Norway Spruce	3		
White Spruce	1		
Black Cherry	3		
Chokecherry	3		
White Oak	1, 3		
Swamp White Oak	3		
Scarlet Oak	1		
Shingle Oak	3		
Bur Oak	1, 3		
Swamp Chestnut Oak	3		
Chinquapin Oak	3		
Pin Oak	1, 3		
Willow Oak	3		
Chestnut Oak	1, 3		
Red Oak	1, 3		
Shumard Oak	3		
Black Locust	3		
Total			
Sales tax 7%			
Grand Total			

Name _____

Phone # _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

FSA UPDATE

Have you completed your contracts for the 2016 ARC/PLC program?

If you have not stopped by our office to complete your 2016 contracts for the ARC/PLC program, please give us a call. Remember that the third and final step for the 2014 Farm Bill program ARC/PLC is a yearly enrollment. Deadline for enrollment is August 1, 2016. If possible, please try to swing by to complete your contracts now. This will make certification time go smoother and quicker for all of us. Call us at 765.544.2051 ext. 2!

Required Management on CRP Acres

Participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are responsible for completing required management on their CRP acreage. These management activities are separate from routine maintenance requirements and are outlined in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO).

Landowners must complete the necessary management activities outside of the Primary Nesting Season. In Indiana, the Primary Nesting Season for a contract that was approved for enrollment prior to February 8, 2007 has a primary nesting season of March 1 through July 15th. A contract that was approved for enrollment on or after February 8, 2007 has a primary nesting season of April 1 through August 1st.

Required management activities for grass practices include: prescribed burning, strip disking, strip spraying, inter-seeding forbs/legumes/pollinator habitat. Management practices for tree practices include: inner seedling planting, inter-seeding forbs/legumes/pollinator habitat, Invasive plant control, follow-up weed control, pruning/thinning.

When prescribed burning is identified as a management option, producers must be proactive in preventing the spread of wildfire. Fire management includes installing firebreaks, which should be included in the contract support document and installed according to NRCS firebreak standards.

The purpose of these required or Mid-Contract Management (MCM) activities is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres for species such as Northern Bobwhite, pollinators, and others. In grass fields, the perennial grasses tend to crowd out desirable broadleaf plants and litter accumulates. So, a purpose of MCM is to set the perennial grasses back to enable these broadleaf plants to germinate and thrive. In tree plantings, undesirable vegetation may compete with young trees, or in older plantings, the trees may start to compete with each other and limit growth and wildlife habitat value. So a purpose of MCM is to help improve tree growth and maintain diversity.

USDA Removes Farm Program Payments to Managers Not Actively Engaged in Farming

USDA finalized a rule to ensure that farm safety-net payments are issued only to active managers of farms that operate as joint ventures or general partnerships, consistent with the direction and authority provide by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill. The action, which exempts family farm operations, closes a loophole where individuals who were not actively part of farm management still received payments.

Since 1987, the broad definition of “actively engaged” resulted in some general partnerships and joint ventures adding managers to the farming operation, qualifying for more payments, that did not substantially contribute to management. The rule applies to operations seeking more than one farm manager, and requires measureable, documented hours and key management activities each year. Some operations of certain sizes and complexity may be allowed up to three qualifying managers under limited conditions. The changes apply to payments for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As required by Congress, the new rule does not apply to family farms, or change regulations related to contributions of land, capital, equipment, or labor. The changes go into effect for the 2016 crop year for most farms. Farms that have already planted fall crops for 2016 have until the 2017 crop year to comply. For more details, producers are encouraged to consult their local Farm Service Agency office.

River Clean-up

Good news! Big Blue River Stream Team will be hosting a cleanup of the Little Blue River in Shelbyville on Saturday, May 21, 2016. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Kennedy Park shelter house. We hope you are able to join us. If you have any questions, please contact the Shelby County SWCD at 765.544.2051 x 3.

Shelby County Master Gardeners Garden Clinic

You are invited to the free Shelby County Master Gardeners Clinic being held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 9:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m at the Shelby County Fairgrounds. There will be approximately 40 vendors, speakers, food and door prizes available. Stop by the Shelby County SWCD booth for a free seedling. Cant' wait to see you at the Shelby County Fairground on April 30th!

Tree Giveaway

We will be holding the 6th Annual Tree Giveaway on April 16, 2016 at the Shelby County Fairgrounds from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A variety of species will be available including White Pine, Red Pine, Virginia Pine, Silky Dogwood, Flowering Dogwood, Tulip, Redbud, Norway Spruce, Silver Maple, Red Oak, Black Cherry and Ohio Buckeye. If you have any questions contact the Shelby County SWCD at 765.544.2051 x 3

NRCS Seeding Dates

All seeding shall be completed within the seeding dates listed here:

Species/Mix	IN Seeding Dates	Dormant Seeding Dates*
Cool Season Grasses	3/1-5/15 or 8/1-9/15	12/1-3/1
Legumes	3/1-5/15 or 8/1-9/15	12/1-3/1
Warm Season Grasses	4/1-6/15	12/1-4/1
Forbs	4/1-6/15	12/1-4/1

SWCD Office Notice

Due to the nature of our work, there will be times when staff is in the field and not available. Please call the SWCD/NRCS office at 765.544.2051, ext 3 to make an appointment.

<p>Ramsey Farms Ag. Ent. Farm Drainage Excavating, Waterways 4"-24" installation GPS mapping and design Shelbyville, Indiana 317-498-7288</p>	<p>Dave Mohr & Sons Drainage & Excavating Septic Installation & Repair Fence Row Removal Farm Drainage 6899 N. 200 W. Fairland, IN 46126 Phone: 317-835-7755</p>	<p><i>When you're ready to</i> PUT DOWN ROOTS.</p> <p> farmCREDIT MID-AMERICA</p> <p>Get the loan you need to achieve your goals.</p> <p>100 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131 (800) 237-5099 Farm Credit is an equal opportunity provider  Farm Credit Mid-America, ACA</p>
<p>Shelby County Co-op</p> <p> Farm Store 317-398-9729</p> <p></p> <p> Crops 317-392-4472</p> <p> Petroleum 317-398-6655</p> <p>2350 E. State Road 44 Shelbyville, Indiana 46176</p> <p> L.P. Gas 317-392-5677</p> <p><i>Serving Shelby County Over 70 Years</i></p>	<p>Ron L. Dixon Natural Resource Consultant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland Assessments • Septic Field Soil Evaluation • General Environmental Consulting <p>Ph:(317)862-7446 www.natural-resource-consulting.com</p>	

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 12 - SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
- April 16 - Tree Giveaway
- April 27 - Arbor Day Celebration
- April 30 - Garden Clinic
- May 2 - Tree Order Forms Due
- May 21 - River Clean up

www.shelbycountyswcd.org

Shelby County SWCD Board of Supervisors:

- Greg Conner – Chair
- Dan Clark – Vice Chair
- Jeremy Weaver – Member
- Jared Cord – Member
- Chris Gentry - Member

Shelby County SWCD Office Staff:

- Jill Williams – District Administrator
- Christina Gates - District Resource Specialist
- Ann Warble Haehl – Outreach Coordinator
- Frank Jones – District Conservationist

Equipment for Rent

No-Till Drill:

Price: 10.00/acre (7.5 acres min.) 8' Great Plains No-Till Drill



The no-till drill is great for planting soybeans, small grain or clover without tilling the ground and plants warm season grass seed.

Strawblower:

Price: \$25.00/hour (two hour min.)



The strawblower is great for mulching newly seeded areas such as lawns, grassed waterways, pond dams, or any area to be seeded.

Vari-Slice Overseeder

Price—\$100/day



The overseeder is 4' and pulls behind an ATV or tractor.

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Would you like to receive the Observer by email? Send your name, mailing address and email address to: shelby@shelbycountyswcd.org