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 7

Issue 146
Fall 2011

Contractors workshop
January 24, 2012 from 9 a.m to 12 p.m.
Location TBA in Morristown

The Shelby & Hancock County SWCD's will host a workshop to provide information to contractors on USDA Farm Programs.

Topics include:

- FSA & NRCS Responsibilities
- USDA Payment process
- Best Management Practices (BMP) review

Please RSVP by January 18th to 765.544.2051 x 7. Lunch will be provided.

Shelby County SWCD 53rd Annual Meeting
February 8, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
Shelbyville Middle School
1200 W McKay Rd, Shelbyville, IN 46176
Ticket cost (meal included): $11/adult, $7/child
Guest Speaker : Professor Robert Taylor

Professor Robert Taylor teaches undergraduates macroeconomics and farm management at Purdue University. He has taught at Purdue since 1962 and has had over 50,000 students.

As a part of his work with Purdue, he has lived in Brazil and has taught farm management in Portuguese in both Brazil and Portugal. He is the faculty advisor for thirty undergraduate students, working with them as potential students through job placement and as a mentor on the job.

Contact the Shelby County SWCD at 765.544.2051 x 7 to purchase your tickets.

How Healthy is Brandywine Creek?

The health of our environment can directly affect our personal health, quality of life, safety, and even our economy. A study was recently completed that assessed the health of Brandywine Creek. A plan has been developed that includes practices that should be implemented to improve the health of Brandywine Creek and the surrounding land.

A public meeting will be held at the Hancock Count Public Library located at 900 West McKenzie Road in Greenfield on December 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Please attend the meeting and learn how you can make a difference for environmental health in your community. Information on cost-share programs to implement practices on farmland and even details on simple and fun projects that city dwellers can do in backyards to make a difference will be shared.

Demand for Conservation Practices Not Decreasing Over Time

By Andy Ertel

Back in 2003, Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) changed their technical delivery system into eight implementation teams with the state. This was done to solve an ever increasing engineering workload, gain more efficiency with and develop more consistent quality engineering.

For the nine year average in the Greensburg Technical Service area (covering 14 counties), approximately 415 engineering requests are completed every year and approximately 400- 430 are constructed every year.

This year, we have seen an increase of 25% for engineering requests due to the CRP re-enrollment projects that were signed in 10 years ago and coming out for review. Another reason for the increase is the 319 watershed programs sponsored by the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts in partnership with IDEM. Those partnership employees are working locally with their customers, designing plans, but still work through our CIT system for quality control and implementation assistance.

The majority of engineered conservation practices implemented have been grassed waterways, fences, heavy use area protection pads, pipe line systems, ponds and erosion control structures.

It's hard to count the number of conservation practices out on the land over the past nine years, but it is in the thousands, with more to come.

Farm Service Agency News

2012 DCP and ACRE Enrollment Begins January 23, 2012
As required in the 2008 Farm Bill, there are no 2012 advance direct payments for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE). Enrollment for 2012 DCP and ACRE will begin on January 23, 2012. The beginning enrollment date has been moved back to January 23, 2012 for 2012 DCP and ACRE in order to allow County Office employees time to begin signup of 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) and allow County Office employees time to finalize supplemental revenue assistance programs. The enrollment deadline for 2012 DCP and ACRE elections is June 1, 2012.

SURE Sign-Up to Begin November 14, 2011 for 2010 Crop Losses
Enrollment for 2010 crop losses under the SURE program will begin November 14, 2011 and end June 1, 2012.

The SURE Program provides benefits for crop losses due to natural disasters that occurred in the 2010 crop year. This program is revenue based which accounts for losses in production quantity and quality, as well as price.

A producer's SURE operation includes all acres of all crops in all counties (and states). To be eligible, a producer must have at least part of his or her "farm" located within a Secretarial declared county, a contiguous county, or must have suffered at least a 50% loss of actual production on the farm. To be eligible for payment, a producer must have suffered at least a 10% loss of production on at least one crop of economic significance in a declared or contiguous county.

SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and a producer's total revenue. The producer's guarantee fluctuates depending on the amount and level of crop insurance and NAP coverage a producer carries. For additional information about the SURE guarantee and revenue calculations, see the web link: www.fsa.usda.gov and click on "Disaster Assistance Programs."

County Committee Elections
Voters in Local Administrative Areas (LAA's) holding elections should watch their mailbox for the official FSA County Office committee election ballot in November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters beginning in early November 2011 If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, notify the FSA County Office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the County Office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011.

Conservation Compliance
Attention Producers and Landowners!

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or expand existing cropland?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there areas on your farm(s) that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Are you planning any drainage projects such as installing new tile lines or grading wet spots in a field?
- Are you planning on clearing a fence row?

These are highly erodible and wetland provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any questions or concerns that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your FSA or NRCS representative at your local USDA Service Center before you begin any work.

Do You Wish To Receive FSA News Updates?
As budgets continue to get tighter, one way FSA is trying to safe is by having an electronic newsletter system. If you have an e-mail address, please contact the office with your e-mail so we may add you to the electronic list. Please remember that your neighbors may not have e-mail and share any information you receive with them.

Shelby County Co-op
ACE Hardware
Farm Store
317-398-9729
CO-OP
Crops
317-392-4472
Petroleum
317-398-6655
2350 E. State Road 44
Shelbyville, Indiana 46176
L.P. Gas
317-392-5677
Serving Shelby County Over 70 Years

Farmers Mutual Insurance
Shelby County Agents Serving You
Larkey Ins. Agency 835-7232
Kevin Carson 835-4404
Ryan Marshall 763-7875
George Larrison 525-4580
Olinger Ins. Agency 398-8936

Cover Crop Field Day
Wednesday November 30, 2-4pm
Corner of Five Pts Road (300 East) and Main Street (Rockland Road, east of Greenwood, IN)

Highlights include:

- 1100' linear feet of N-Vest Cover Crop plots in a long-term no-till field
- 10 different mixes or straight species shown
- Root Digs (weather contingent)
- Several Cover Crop Agronomists on hand for tours and to discuss the value of species and mixes
- Within 1/2 mile there are over 150 acres in three fields that have cover crops (after corn and after manure applied to wheat).
- Rain or shine we will have a gathering (call if the weather is bad for "plan B")

Speakers/tour guides include: Hans Kok, Greg Downing, Dave Robison, Don Robison, and more.
RSVP: Don Robison 317.357.7013 or donrobison@ciscoseeds.com or Dave Robison at dave@plantcovercrops.com

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Category 14 Testing Available Locally
By Scott Gabbard

Certification and licensing of professional applicators and farmers to load, transport and apply livestock manure to their farms (and other farms) or onto fields for-hire from CAFOs will soon be required. Instruction and testing will be offered locally in Hancock, Shelby and Ripley counties so that local handlers and farmers may earn Category 14, Agriculture Fertilizer Applicator Certification, license (after the exam has been passed and fee for licensing has been paid). For details, go to www.isco.purdue.edu .

The original offering for certification in SE Indiana was at Greensburg. Since then, the State Chemist has agreed to proctor three other testing sites nearby. All three sites will have a training, for free, prior to the test. Unlike most opportunities, walk-ins will not be accepted. All participants must be pre-registered to attend. You will need a government issued photo identification to take the test. The sites will be:

Date: November 28
Time: Workshop 9AM, Test 11AM
Place: Exhibit Hall, Hancock Co Fairgrounds
Phone # to register: 317-462-1113

Date: December 19th
Time: Workshop 8:30 AM, Test 10:30AM
Place: Brinson Hall, Shelby Co Fairgrounds
Phone # to register: 317-392-6460

Date: December 19th
Time: Workshop 11 AM, Test 2 PM
Place: SEPAC, Southeast Purdue Ag Center (Butlerville, IN)
Phone # to register: 812/689-6511 (Ripley County Extension Office)

If you are taking the Category 14 test, please download and read the manual at www.ppp.purdue.edu . Scroll down and download the training manual on the right hand side of the screen. Call the Purdue Extension – Shelby County Office if you do not have internet access at 317.392.6460 or toll-free 1.888.671.2367.

Participants MUST bring a valid Driver's License or State of Indiana picture ID to be allowed to take the exam for certification.

Ron L. Dixon
Natural Resource Consultant
- Wetland Assessments
- Septic Field Soil Evaluation
- General Environmental Consulting

Ph:(317)862-7446
www.natural-resource-consulting.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 28 & December 19—Category 14 testing
November 30—Cover Crop Workshop (Johnson County)
December 1—Brandywine Creek Public Meeting
December 14—SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
January 24—Contractors Workshop

www.shelbycountyswcd.org

Shelby County SWCD Board of Supervisors:

Chris Lux – Chair
Mike McCain – Vice Chair
Jeremy Weaver – Member
Greg Conner – Member
Jared Cord – Member

Shelby County SWCD Office Staff:

Jill Williams – District Administrator
Ashley Carlton – Resource Specialist
Bill Harting – NRCS District Conservationist
James Stewart – Educator

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 7 to make an appointment

Equipment for Rent

No-Till Drill:
8' Great Plains No-Till Drill
Call the SWCD for rental information.

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 minimum)

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

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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