

Howard County Highlights
Howard County Soil & Water Conservation District
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ISSUE 4

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SWCD Mission Statement

To provide leadership and administer programs to help the people of Howard County improve and conserve the county's environment and natural resources.

Board of Supervisors

Shane Campbell, Chairperson
Michelle Gilbert, Vice-Chairperson
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Calvin Hartman - Resource Conservationist
Rene' Weaver - Office Manager

USDA, NRCS

Kerry Smith, District Conservationist
Hilary Barnhart, Soil Conservationist

ISDA Division of Soil Conservation

Sarah Lake, Resource Specialist

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Lisa Wooten - CED
Diane Powell - Program Technician
Cindy Johnson - Program Technician
Nadine Aspinwall - Program Technician

Well Capping Cost-Share

Do you or someone you know have a well that is no longer being used? If so, contact us! We received a grant from the Clean Water Indiana Grant Program. With this grant we are offering cost-share of 75% up to \$500.00 per well.

Abandoned wells are potential threats to ground water resources that provide drinking water for most rural residents. Common surface pollutants including animal and human waste, pesticides, fertilizer, and other chemicals can reach ground water via an abandoned well. Properly sealed or plugged wells will prevent contamination. For more information, contact the office.

Tree Stewardship Program Coming Soon

The Indiana Community Tree Steward program is sponsored by the Howard County Master Gardener Association and co-sponsored by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, the Indiana Urban Forest Council, Ivy Tech, and Purdue Extension. [The classes will be on September 18 and September 25.](#)

The program consists of two full day classroom sessions and one hand-on training session. Course topics include tree growth, tree identification, pruning, diagnosing tree pests and disease, species selection, planting and maintenance, and how to identify hazard trees. Participants who complete the course are asked to give back to the community urban forest by completing 15 hours of community forestry or traditional forestry volunteer service in a one year period.

[Cost for the Tree Steward course is \\$30.00](#) and includes a notebook filled with tree resource materials. The class will be held at Ivy Tech, Kokomo. Pre-registration is required. [For more information call the Howard County Master Gardeners Susan Leckrone at 765-453-2197 or Emily Roark at 765-455-2599.](#)

EARN OVER \$260 PER ACRE PLUS INCENTIVES THROUGH CREP

Do you earn over \$260 per acre on your cropland? You may be eligible for this payment through an exciting new conservation program in Howard County. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is now available for a limited time in the northern portion of Howard County. CREP is an enhancement of the popular Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CREP offers even more financial incentives to install conservation practices on cropland bordering open ditches, wetlands and ponds.

BENEFITS OF CREP INCLUDE:

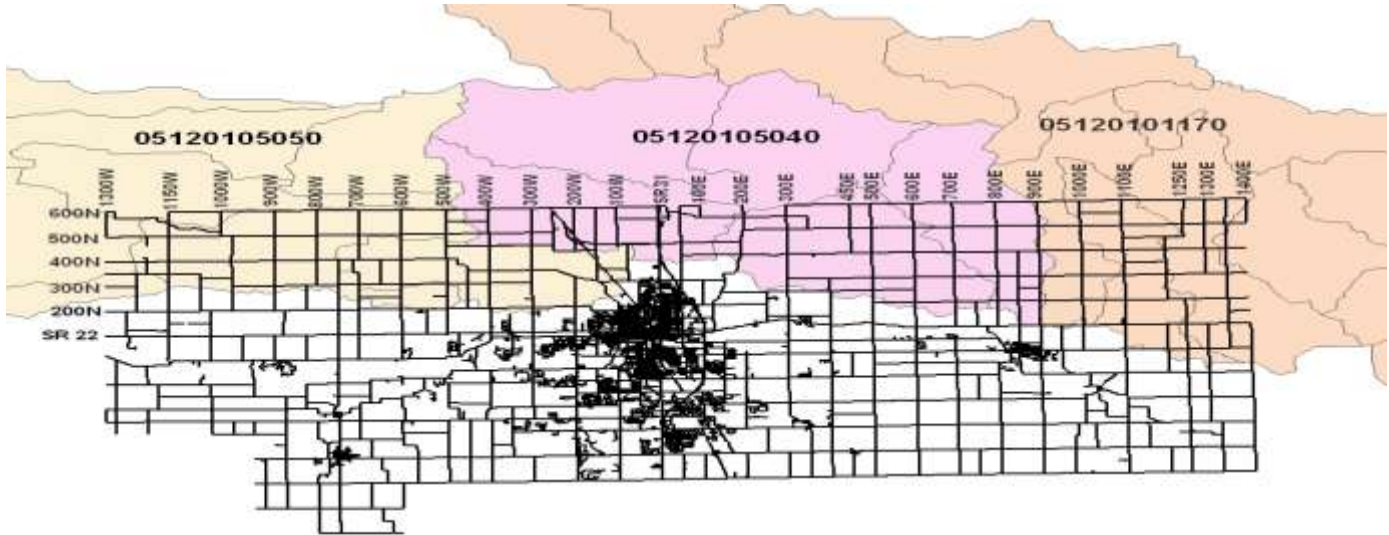
- Cost share to establish conservation practices along water bodies
- Annual land rental payments up to \$262 per acre
- Federal Incentive Payment of \$100 per acre (one time payment)
- State Incentive Payment of \$100 to \$400 per acre (one time payment)

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

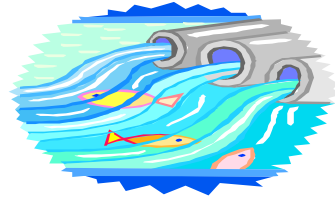
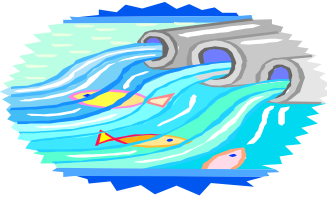
- Cropland will be better prepared to meet “green” payment requirements.
- Hard to farm areas can be taken out of production. Odd shaped fields can be squared up.
- Howard County and our neighbors downstream will have cleaner water and healthier wildlife populations.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES: GRASSED FILTERSTRIPS, NATIVE GRASS PLANTING, WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT, WETLAND RESTORATION, TREE PLANTING

**To learn more contact:
Howard County SWCD or FSA
1103 South Goyer Road, Kokomo, IN 46902
(765) 457-2114**



Howard County CREP Watersheds



319 Grant from IDEM Closed Out

November, 2006 the soil and water conservation district received a “319” program grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The grant was for two watershed areas, Pete’s Run and Little Deer Creek Headwaters. The purpose of the grant was to offer cost-share to the landowners within the watersheds for practices that would reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients that enter into the watersheds.

Ten landowners were able to take advantage of the cost share. At the close of the grant, we are happy to report that we were able to cost-share a total amount of \$229,004.00. We estimate that a little over 30% of the cropland acres have been affected. Manure nutrient losses have been reduced through better application and distribution. Pesticide losses have also been reduced through more efficient application and switching to new products with lower potential for moving off site. Automatic guidance systems for machinery are helping reduce overlapping in chemical applications which means savings in chemical and fuel costs and protection for water quality.

Along with conservation practices, education was also a component of the grant project. Northwestern High School students participated in an outdoor stream study of Harrison Harlan Ditch and the school received water testing equipment to support this experience. Girl Scouts and students from McKinley High School also participated in water quality monitoring to learn more about the connection between land use and water quality. Project funds were also used to produce a 2009 conservation calendar, and information booklets about drainage and water resources in Howard County. Copies of the booklets are available from the SWCD and the Howard County Stormwater District.



Animal Mortality Facility



Variable Rate Control



Spreader Attachments

WE NOW HAVE BLUEBIRD HOUSES.

PREBUILT - \$9.00/EA

KITS - \$5.00/EA (Sold Out)

We are currently sold out of the kits but hope to have some ready soon. Check back with us. Prices are subject to change without notice.

SAVE THESE DATES!

July 12-17-Howard County 4-H Fair

August 24-Soil Productivity Field Day, Purdue Ag Center, West Lafayette

September 1-Soil Quality Workshop, Tipton Education Center & Fairgrounds.

September 2-Pond Workshop, George Summe Pond, 3262S St Rd 29, Burlington

**2009 HOWARD COUNTY
PLAT BOOKS
\$15.00 EACH**

Flags for Sale!

**Fluorescent Orange,
lime, and Pink marking
flags. \$8.00 per bundle
of 100 w/36" wire staff.**

For address corrections or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact the office. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please send request to swkoko@att.net.



The Howard County SWCD and USDA NRCS prohibit discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status

HOWARD COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1103 S. GOYER ROAD
KOKOMO, IN 46902-2777
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SOIL PRODUCTIVITY FIELD DAY

Would you like to learn more about how to make your soils more productive? Plan to attend the Soil Productivity Field Day at the Purdue Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE) in West Lafayette, Indiana on **Tuesday, August 24, 2010.**

An excellent agenda has been developed for this daylong event.

- Phil Needham will start the morning with Conservation Tillage and the benefits
- Followed by a Farmer Panel discussion “Dispelling the Myths of no-till” mentored by Hans Kōk and Dan Towery of the Indiana Conservation Cropping Initiative
- Phil Needham will conduct an equipment demonstration before lunch.

Following lunch there are two concurrent sessions, Water Quality’s Impact on Pesticide Performance and Atrazine use and Surface Water Concerns are one session and the second is soil quality, fertility, and cover crops.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the first session will begin at 9:00 a.m. A catered lunch will be from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

The afternoon sessions begin at 1:00 p.m. and the day ends at 3:00 p.m.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT AND IS BROUGHT TO YOU THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN



Benton, Carroll, Clinton,
Howard & Tippecanoe
County
Soil & Water Conservation



SOIL QUALITY FIELD DAY

Save the Date! Wednesday, September 1, 2010. Plans are underway for a Soil Quality Field Day at the Tipton County Fairgrounds. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about how to improve your soils quality and increase yields and profits. Speakers for the day include: NRCS Agronomist from North Carolina Ray Archeletta, Hans Kok from the Indiana Conservation Cropping Initiative, Barry Fisher, NRCS Conservation Agronomist, and NRCS State Soil Scientist Mike Sucik from Iowa. There will be a cover crop demonstration plot for review and topics will include Aggregate stability, soil respiration, nitrogen credit, cover crops, and compaction.

This event will begin at 9:00 a.m and wrap up at 3:30 p.m. There will be a lunch served at noon. We kindly request a reservation be made for lunch purposes. Please RSVP to Tipton County SWCD by August 25.

There is no charge for the field day or lunch. It is brought to you through a partnership between:



Clinton, Hamilton, Howard, Madison,
and Tipton, County Soil and Water
Conservation Districts.

United States Department of Agriculture





Bi-County Pond Workshop



Howard and Carroll counties have plans to sponsor a pond workshop on **Thursday, September 2, 2010**. The workshop will be held at the George Summe residence located at 3262S State Road 29, Burlington in Carroll County.

The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. A catered lunch will be served. This event is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about ponds whether it is a new construction or an established pond. **We do request a reservation for lunch. Please respond before August 25.**

Topics will include:

Pond History, Grade Stabilization and structures

Aquatic Vegetation by Carole Lembi of Purdue University (if you wish to have weeds identified from YOUR pond, please bring them at this time)

Pond shocking and fish inventory

Please make plans to join us for the day. This is a “bring your own lawn chair” party.

For further information, please contact: Howard County SWCD at 765-457-2114 x3
Carroll County SWCD at 765-564-4480 x3
Purdue Extension Howard County at 765-456-2313



NRCS CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the beginning of the federal commitment to conserving natural resources on private lands. Originally established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, like climate change.

Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners absolutely critical to the health of our Nation’s environment.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

CSP is a program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities as well as adopt additional practices on their operations. CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on the land. CSP provides opportunities to be recognized as excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation. If you think the Conservation Stewardship Program may fit your needs, please contact the office to talk with Hilary Barnhart or Kerry Smith.



South Fork Wildcat Creek Watershed Planning Project

The Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) received funding from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to work with several partners, including the Howard County SWCD, to create a watershed management plan (WMP) for the South Fork Wildcat Creek Watershed to address water quality impairments in the stream and preserve its current diversity and beauty. A steering committee of watershed residents and local agencies has formed to guide the planning process with the vision of *a clear, natural and inviting stream highly regarded for recreation and wildlife opportunities*. While only a small portion of the watershed is in Howard County, anyone who recreates on or enjoys the South Fork Wildcat Creek has a stake in the project. In addition to bi-monthly steering committee meetings, several education and outreach opportunities will be held throughout the watershed for you to become involved. If you would like to participate in the planning process or are interested in joining our mailing list, please contact the Howard County SWCD