



THE STEWARD

Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

SWCD Supervisors:

Brett Glick, *Chair*
Adam Hall, *Vice-Chair*
Shane Meier
Ed Engellau
Daryn Romine

District Coordinator:

Melissa Sporleder

District Conservationist

Adam Heichelbech

Clifty Creek Watershed Project Manager:

Heather Siesel

Resource Specialist

Christine Goldstein

Points of Interest

- ☞ Farm Bill Highlights
- New Board Members
- Watershed Museum
- Exhibit
- Rain barrels
- Summer Intern
- District Updates

Farm Bill Conservation Program Highlights

The guidelines for the conservation programs in the 2008 Farm Bill have been released in Indiana. We are taking applications now for programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Here are some highlights of each program

EQIP

This program provides financial assistance to treat natural resource concerns on cropland, pasture, and livestock feeding operations, as well as orchards, forestland, and organic farms.

Forestry- Funding available to have a forest management plan developed for your forest as well as for completing forest stand improvement in conjunction with a timber harvest.

Confined Feeding Facilities- Assistance is now available for the installation of an anaerobic digester for the collection of methane on a confined feeding operation. Anaerobic digesters breakdown animal waste into methane that is collected and used to power a farm.

Row crops- The Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System is still available for any farmer who is willing to implement no-till, nutrient management, cover crops, and buffers as a complete system. This would be a payment in addition to payments for each of these practices you are eligible to receive.

Organic Farming- funding is now available to assist with the transition from conventional farming to organic crop production.

Orchards and Truck Crops – Assistance is now available for pest management on orchards and truck crops.

Invasive Species- Funding available to remove presence of invasive species in production forests and pastures. Species include: Honeysuckle, Tree of Heaven, Multi-Floral Rose and Autumn Olive.

WHIP

Funding remains available to treat wildlife habitat for invasive species like Autumn Olive, Tree of Heaven, Asian Bush Honeysuckle and others.

The NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Please welcome our newest board members, Ed Engelau and Daryn Romine.

Ed joined the SWCD in 2009 as a temporary appointed supervisor and will be voted on as an elected supervisor in 2010. Ed has farmed full-time since graduation from Columbus North High School in 1994. Engelau Farms consists of Ed, his father Harold and brother Jason, operating in three counties; Bartholomew, Jackson and Jennings. Engelau Farms was awarded the Gilman O'Neil Award for Conservation Farming in 2009.

Daryn joined the SWCD in 2009 as a temporary appointed supervisor and will be voted on as an elected supervisor in 2010. Daryn is the owner of Romine Tile Service and farms with his father.

Watershed Project Continues to Expand on Museum Exhibit

The Clifty/Flatrock-Haw Creek Watershed Project sponsored by the Bartholomew SWCD has hosted a museum exhibit titled Clifty Creek Lab at kidscommons columbus's community children's museum since October 2007. The permanent museum exhibit is a small portion of Clifty Creek showcasing the natural habitat including animals. The Watershed Project continues to expand on the exhibit by developing programming to coordinate with the permanent exhibit as well as the traveling RiverLab, stream flow table.

The Watershed Project in conjunction with kidscommons is developing programming with the exhibits including public museum programming, a summer camp, and school programming. Public museum programming is on-going including: A Waterproof Case on June 4th and a Family CreekLab Collection Event on July 31. A summer camp is planned for June 29- July 3 on the topic of local waters. School programming is expected to commence in the 2009-2010 school year. For more information concerning programming specifics contact kidscommons at 378-3046. Don't forget to visit the permanent exhibit at kidscommons today at 309 Washington Street, Columbus.



Want to know the health of local streams?



We are always looking for interested individuals to join our water monitoring team for the Clifty Creek or Flatrock-Haw Creek Watersheds.

You will gain first-hand experience testing water quality for such parameters as pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature.

Call Heather at 812-378-1280 ext. 3 today for information.

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Want to do your part for the environment but unsure how? Purchase a rain barrel. A rain barrel is an above-ground cistern that harvests and stores water, which can be used later as needed. The rain barrel can be attached to your downspout enabling it to catch water from a roof. The water can be used to water your garden, wash your car, or bathe your animals. Rain barrels have already been purchased by people in Columbus, Hartsville and Hope.

Due to overwhelming success the Clifty/Flatrock-Haw Creek Watershed Project is taking orders again for rain barrels. You can order a barrel in the following colors: earth brown/black, nantucket gray, and forest green. The rain barrels are 60 gallons and come with a filter and all the necessary fittings. Down spout diffusers can also be purchased separately.

In addition, if you live in Clifty Creek Watershed you may qualify for our cost share program. The cost share program is a voluntary program which can provide participants with financial assistance to install conservation practices in the Clifty Creek watershed. Rain barrels are one potential conservation practice. Some other practices include rain gardens, cover crops, fencing livestock out of streams and nutrient management planning. The project is able to pay up to 75% of the cost of the conservation practice. If you are interested in ordering a rain barrel for yourself or a family member or just would like more information about the program please call Christine at 812-378-1280 ext 3

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Summer Intern - Bartholomew SWCD Summer Intern

The Bartholomew County Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking a qualified individual for a summer internship position to assist with the delivery of federal and local conservation programs related to soil and water conservation. The incumbent must have knowledge of file organization, basic natural resource principals. The incumbent must have an ability to interpret maps and use Microsoft Office software. An individual actively seeking an education in natural resources or a related field is preferred. Send resume to: Melissa Sporleder, 1040 2nd St Columbus, IN 47201

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**Bartholomew County
Soil & Water
Conservation District**

We are committed to providing our customers with quality service through effective communication, professional integrity, and mutual respect.

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www.nrcs.usda.gov
www.fsa.usda.gov

Reminder: The district holds it's monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm at the district office located at 1040 Second Street in Columbus, Indiana.. The meeting is open to the public.

SAVE THE DATE - Pasture Walk at Wayne Downeys on August 26, 2009 from 9:00 am to 2:00pm. RSVP requested. For more information please call the district office at 812-378-1280 ext 3

We are in the process of updating our mailing list. If you have an address change, received multiple copies of the newsletter or no longer wish to receive our newsletter please notify the office at 812-378-1280 ext3. We are in the process of creating a email list for our newsletter if you wish to receive the newsletter in this form please send an email to melissa.sporleder@in.nacdnet.net.

☞ Please check out our new website at

☞ bartholomewswcd.org.

☞ The District has food plot seed available for pick up..

The District now has marker flags available for sale.

E-mail: melissa.sporleder@in.nacdnet.net

Fax: (812) 378-1213

Phone: (812) 378-1280 ext. 3

Columbus IN 47201

1040 Second Street

Bartholomew County SWCD

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