



THE STEWARD

Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District

SWCD Receives ISDA Grant

The Bartholomew County Soil & Water Conservation District has received a grant from The Indiana State Department of Agriculture to assist farmers with repairing damages caused by the flooding and excessive rainfall during the spring and summer months. The total amount of the grant is \$59,178.48. The SWCD will be using the money to help cost share for soil sampling to acres affected by the flooding. The SWCD will cost share up to \$8.00 per acre and a maximum of \$2000.00 per farmer.

Farmers who have already paid to have this done may submit bills for their expenses. It is suggested that they furnish a map showing where the work was done. Where work still needs to be done, farmers should make an appointment to look at the site with SWCD personnel.

Applications are being taken initially until November 21st. At that time the SWCD will review the applications and decide on allotment of funds at the next board meeting.

The grant will run through September 1, 2009 to have work completed.

To get an application form or to discuss the program call the SWCD office at 812-418-6236 or stop into the office at 1971 State Street.

IQ+ Beef merges good business and best management practices

As costs continue to increase, producers need to manage their animals for efficient growth and a higher-quality beef, said a Purdue University specialist.

The Indiana Quality Plus Beef certification program, an online tool developed by Purdue beef specialists, brings professionalism to raising cattle, said Matt Claeys, Purdue Extension beef specialist.

The program is designed to do three things, Claeys explained. First, it helps to educate producers about topics such as quality assurance, the environment and genetics, as well as how to handle pharmaceuticals. Second, it helps to ensure the health of the cattle. Last but not least, it let's neighbors know the job is being done professionally.

"Essentially, this program brings to light the best management practices a producer should implement to add value, or at least not get discounts, to their cattle as they go through the production ladder," Claeys said. "It looks at the total production system from the grower to the feedlot to the end product.

Hoosier producers aren't the only ones using the program, Illinois and Georgia have recently signed up for the program too.

"We are excited that Illinois and Georgia have come online and supporting this program," said Phil Reid, who also helped developed the program. "The more states that participate, the more up to date producers will be with best management practices, which helps to ensure the safety of the food supply."

The program has been customized for beef producers in participating states and takes into account the different environmental regulations, issues and key contact people and organizations. Producers from non-participating states can still enroll in the program, but the environmental section will be different due to variation in regulations from state to state.

The IQ+ Beef program, the initial program a producer would take, includes four sections and takes approximately two hours to complete. The initial certification is valid for up to two to three years, depending on what state you're in. After that, producers need to be recertified, which takes about an hour. The program does not have to be completed in one sitting, but can be broken down by section. The cost to enroll in the program is \$10 at <http://www.IQbeef.org>, which includes technical support.

The program can be done anywhere there is a computer with Internet access. It's a flexible program, Claeys said.

"It can be completed by producers on an individual basis or an educator can choose to offer it in a group setting and bring producers together at the local Extension office," he said.

For individuals who don't have Internet but would like to participate, contact the local Purdue Extension office.

"Producers will be asked to keep better records which allow for better informed business decisions, as well as aid in the identification and avoidance of beef product defects," Claeys said.

Claeys encourages producers to establish a good relationship with a veterinarian because having a good relationship with the vet adds credibility to your cattle.

"Veterinarians are highly sought after for their opinions on a number of different topics, including animal health and helping make sure the food supply remains safe," he added.

For more information about the program call (888) EXT-INFO. For questions contact Claeys at (765) 494-4834, mclaeys@purdue.edu or Phil Reid at (765) 496-7370, preid@purdue.edu.

The IQ+ Beef certification program is sponsored by Purdue Extension, Indiana Board of Animal Health, Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, the Beef Checkoff and the Indiana Beef Cattle Association.

Word from the District Conservationist

The June flood event affected all parts of our community, in both the urban and rural communities. It took a tremendous toll on our natural resources as well. I saw extreme amounts of soil loss and stream bank damage in the area.

The Bartholomew County USDA Service Center experienced the flood on a direct level as well. The office took a direct hit from Haw Creek which thankfully happened over the weekend and no one in the office was injured.

Though the service center suffered severe damage, I want let everyone know that we are committed to returning to Columbus as timely as possible. I thank every producer for being patient with the additional time and effort it takes to get service while we are temporarily located in another county. Until that time comes, please be aware that the NRCS is committed to making an effort to provide the same level of service as always in assisting you with making management decisions for your natural resources.

The next year should be an exciting one as we will begin implementing a new Farm Bill, and recovering from a rough previous year.

If you have natural resource problems on your property please contact me so that we can continue to work together to address them. I can be reached at North Vernon Field Office at (812) 346-3411 or feel free to contact my cell phone at (317) 373-2835.

Sincerely,

Adam Heichelbech



The Clifty Creek Watershed Project is back. The Clifty Creek Watershed Project is a regional grassroots initiative, created for the purpose of understanding and addressing water quality concerns in the Clifty Creek Watershed. From the very beginning, the Watershed Project has worked to build partnerships within communities to improve water quality in a manner that meets local needs and cooperative values.

The mission of the project is to maintain and enhance the natural resources of the watershed by encouraging and building partnerships through a common sense approach to education, communication, and facilitation of local strategies and projects.

The project is guided by a Steering Committee made up of local residents from diverse backgrounds. The project includes hosting educational events, water quality monitoring, and providing cost share for landowners who are interested in conservation practices. Educational events range from Outdoor Lab and Agriculture day for kids to field days and presentations for adults. Educational events are being held to raise the awareness in the community surrounding water quality issues. Water quality monitoring is completed monthly at ten sites throughout the watershed in order to establish baseline data for the watershed. The cost share program is a voluntary program which can provide participants with financial assistance to install conservation practices in the Clifty Creek watershed. The goal of the cost-share program is to aid residents of the watershed with implementing conservation practices.

There is a continued need for community members that would be interested in being involved with the steering committee or helping with water quality monitoring and the various educational events. The cost share program is also now accepting applications. For more information about the Watershed project or to learn how to participate, please contact: Heather Siesel at (812) 343-1535, heather.siesel@in.nacdn.net or Christine Goldstein at (812) 343-6683, christine.goldstein@in.nacdn.net

Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

October 1st, 2008 Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District in conjunction with Clifty Creek Watershed Project and South Central Indiana Gardening Club received a Governor's Award. The award was received for work completed at the Mapleton Recycling Center's 3-R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Park. Clifty Creek Watershed Project aided in the installation of a bioswale, a vegetative waterway to help reduce urban storm water runoff. Visit the 3 R's park today to see the bioswale as well as people trails, pavilion, and sculptures!





**Bartholomew County
Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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

www.iaswcd.org
www.nacdnet.org
www.in.gov/isda/
www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome
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 1971 State Street in Columbus, Indiana.. The meeting is open to the public.

SAVE THIS DATE The annual Purdue Extension and SWCD annual meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2009 at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds . More information will be forthcoming from the SWCD District office and the Purdue Extension office.

BACKYARD CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

The Clifty Creek / Haw Creek Watershed Project will be hosting a workshop on backyard conservation on December 10, 2008. The workshop will be at the Family Arts building at the Bartholomew County 4 H Fairgrounds from 6-8 p.m. The workshop will feature speakers from Williams Creek Consulting speaking on the topic of rain gardens. Other displays will include rain barrels, master gardening, Columbus in Bloom, and urban soil testing. We will also be taking orders for rain barrels that evening. If you would like more information regarding the workshop or would like to order a rain barrel please call Christine Goldstein at (812) 343-6683.

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Bartholomew County SWCD

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