



DUBOIS COUNTY CONSERVATION NEWS

Dubois County
Soil and Water Conservation District

Jeff Nalley to Speak at SWCD Annual Meeting on January 29

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at the Dubois County Museum on Newton St in Jasper. Join the SWCD Supervisors for food, fellowship, timely information about agriculture programs, and an update on SWCD activities.

Dinner will begin at 6:30 PM, followed by highlights of the SWCD's 2007 programming. Joining the SWCD as guest speaker is Jeff Nalley, farm director for the Cromwell Ag Radio Network, serving farmers in central Illinois, southern Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.



Jeff Nalley, Guest Speaker

Jeff is a 25-year veteran farm broadcaster and a past president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. Jeff's roots run deep in agriculture. He would have represented the 6th generation of his family's farming operation. His love of the soil, experience in production agriculture and passion for the industry are evident in each of his daily farm broadcasts. Jeff's broadcast career has taken him from the White House to farm houses across the Midwest. He's covered farm news from hundreds of counties and even foreign countries, searching for answers for his farm audience. Jeff and his wife Robin have four children and live in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Items on the agenda also include the announcement of the 2007 Otto J. Bauer Conservation Farmer of the Year award recipient, and presentation of the Kimball Forest Stewardship award and the Ken McWilliams Memorial Award for Soil Judging Excellence. An election will be held to fill a

SWCD Supervisor position, and the SWCD financial report and 2007 accomplishments will be reviewed.

Tickets for the meal are \$7.50, and can be purchased from any SWCD Supervisor or at the SWCD office at 1486 Executive Blvd., Jasper. There is no charge to attend the annual meeting. In case of inclement weather on the 29th, the meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 30.

SWCD Seeks Residents Interested in Resource Conservation

Have you been looking for a way to get involved in natural resource conservation in Dubois County? The SWCD is forming several committees, and any interested resident is welcome to participate. Spots are open on the soil erosion, forestry, and livestock committees, and interested persons can commit as little or as much time as they have in their busy schedules.

Soil Erosion committee chair is Alan Weyer, and projects in the planning stages include spring and fall natural resource tours of the county. Forestry committee chair is Jim Hochgesang; upcoming projects include a spring panel discussion about the benefits of forest management. Potential projects for the Livestock Committee include assisting with the county tours, and seeking a new Livestock Management Specialist for the county.

For more information or for the meeting schedules, contact the SWCD office or any committee chair.

“Free Walk in Your Woods” Program Available

The SWCD Forestry Committee and the Indiana Forest and Woodland Owners Association (IFWOA) are jointly sponsoring a “Free Walk in Your Woods” program for all of year 2008.

Now is your chance to have a professional, experienced forester walk through your woods with you, and discuss species, management options, and general forest health. This walk in your woods is free, and is designed to assist landowners to learn more about their forest resources.

For more information, contact Jim Hochgesang at (812) 634-1814, Liz Jackson at (765) 583-3501, or the SWCD office at (812) 482-1171, Ext. 3.

EQIP Applications Currently Being Accepted

Even though Congress is working on a new Farm Bill, farmers can *still* benefit from some of the 2002 Farm Bill programs. One of these programs offers farmers the chance to prepare now for the conservation measures they need to apply, thanks to assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty said, “We know what our 2008 allocations are for a couple of conservation programs, and for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) we have around \$9 million to help Indiana farmers take the next step toward reaching their conservation goals.” Funding for 2008 EQIP contracts began in December of 2007, and the \$9 million has tentatively been committed to Indiana farmers. If contracts get cancelled, or if other states do not obligate all of their funds, more contracts will be funded in Indiana.

“We accept applications for EQIP continuously, but now would be a good time for anyone who needs a conservation plan or needs to add to an existing plan to apply,” said Hardisty. “Conservation plans usually cover multiple years, and when we allocate this year’s dollars, it commits them over the life of the contract. That way the cost-share and incentives money is available to support all the conservation measures in the plan.”

Our field staff is ready to work one-on-one with farmers and have the technical expertise to plan and design conservation measures that are needed to protect natural resources on farm lands.

EQIP funding is available for conservation measures such as cover crops, waterways, structures, filter strips and other buffers, or for land management practices which includes nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, animal waste utilizations, and similar practices. To find out more or to sign up, contact Bart Pitstick at the Jasper USDA Service Center at (812) 482-1171 Ext. 3, or view a complete list of practices eligible for funding on the NRCS Web site <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/2008eqip/eqip2008.html> in a document called “EQIP Indiana 2008 State Guidelines.”

THE SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Jack Welp, Chair

Glenn Menke, Vice Chair

Alan Weyer, Member

Jason Small, Member

Sam Oxley, Member

Duane Hopf, Stan Leinenbach
Donovan Brunsman, Lee Schnell
Jim Hochgesang,
Associate Members

**Contact one of these county
officials with your
conservation questions,
comments, and concerns!**

Service Center Staff:

Amanda Bough

SWCD Technical Specialist

Radius Weisman

SWCD Technical Specialist

Judi Brown,

SWCD Executive Director

Bart Pitstick,

NRCS, District Conservationist

SWCD BOARD MEETINGS

The Dubois County SWCD Board of Supervisors meets on the first Thursday of each month. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM Nov. through March, and 7:30 PM April through October, and are located in the in the USDA Service Center in Jasper IN. Anyone interested in local soil and water conservation issues is encouraged to attend.

The Dubois County Soil and Water

**Conservation District
promotes to all citizens
- both agricultural and
non-agricultural -
the vital benefits of
protecting and
preserving natural
resources, especially
soil and water.**

All programs and services of the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, relation, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Livestock Management Project Completed

Since August of 2005, the Dubois and Pike County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have worked together to provide technical and financial assistance to livestock owners in the Patoka River watershed through a federal Clean Water grant. The project was funded through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and administered by the Four Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D). The grant included \$70,000.00 in cost-share incentive payments for best management conservation practices, and additional funds to hire Colt VanNatta as Livestock Management Specialist to oversee the project.

Since 2005, VanNatta has designed 180 conservation practices that were installed in Dubois and Pike Counties for this grant project, as well as for a Clean Water Indiana grant, and the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). These practices

include fencing, watering facilities, heavy use area protection, stream crossings, pipelines, spring developments, and prescribed grazing plans.

Education and outreach to landowners in the watershed was another major objective of the grant project. During this time, VanNatta planned, led, or spoke at several locations, including a Watering Systems Field Day, Pasture Walk, Goat and Sheep workshop at SIPAC, No-Till Field Day in Perry County, and two Dubois and Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meetings. In addition to these presentations, 32 articles, promotional flyers, and inserts were published in local newspapers and the Conservation District newsletters.

The grant period terminated in October, and VanNatta has left the Jasper USDA Service Center, and has begun working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service as the District Conservationist for Fayette

and Union Counties.

For more information about conservation practices or the USDA's



Colt VanNatta

Farm Bill programs, contact the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District at (812) 482-1171 Ext. 3.

Final Thoughts About Pasture Management

By Colt VanNatta, Livestock Specialist

Have you driven down the road, looked over at your pastures and thought, "I wish I could change some things out there but what should I do?" My family farm is over three hours away but every time I go home I ask myself this same thing.

The biggest help I've had in making management decisions comes from things I've learned from visiting your farms during the past two years. If variety is the spice of life, then Dubois County has no shortage. I've had the pleasure of working in five counties in the state of Indiana and no other county has the physical differences in the lay of the land as Dubois County.

So what works on your pasture might not work on your neighbor's five miles down the road. All are different but they all provide ideas about different management styles. Take the time to talk to your neighbors and learn more about their operations, and you too can see the MANY different practices and management styles within your county.

Some examples I've seen include using large construction equipment tires as watering systems. The tires have the bead and part of the sidewall cut off, with layers of bentonite clay and concrete in the bottom to seal the water. Directly below the tire is a hole that extends several feet under-

ground and uses the earth's geothermal heat to rise and keep the water from freezing in colder weather. A note for producers, steel belted and cut resistant tires are nearly impossible to cut!



Another idea is using heavy producing springs (hill side seeps) as a high quality water source for livestock. Springs are noted as having the cleanest source of water for any livestock on pasture.

Brassicas (turnips) and warm season grasses (switchgrass) can be used as alternative forages for livestock during periods of slow growth of cool season grasses. This helps to extend the grazing season by letting primary forages rest so they can be used later and cut down on your dependence on hay.

Pipeline can be used for summer grazing only and drained for winter use. This is done by laying the pipeline on top of the ground in protected areas, such as under fence lines so animals do not step on it. This also prevents the sun from raising the temperature of the water inside the pipe-

line.

Heavy use area protection pads or large rock pads of 53 gravel with additional lime on top keep animals out of the mud. After our past winter and spring these pads have proven their worth to me; they were able to keep cattle out of mud and make life easier on producer and livestock.

Get out there and talk to your neighbors! There is a vast amount of knowledge sitting at your doorstep. But be sure that you fully understand the concepts and consequences of anything that you are planning on implementing to your system.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Livestock Management Specialist these past two years, and I wish you all the best.



Dubois County SWCD
1486 Executive Blvd. Suite A
Jasper IN 47546
(812) 482-1171 Ext. 3
judi.brown@in.nacdnet.net

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
JASPER IN 47546
PERMIT NO. 191

OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 8 AM TO 4:30 PM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
NEWSLETTER

SWCD Provides Conservation Items

- **No-Till Drill**
Great Plains No-Till drill has a seeding width of 10 feet, and can be used to plant soybeans, wheat, legumes, grasses, etc. It can also be used to plant native, or warm season, grasses. Rental fee is \$7/acre.
- **Stapler**
Installing erosion control blankets? This stapler makes completing the job easy! The plunger simply pushes the staples into the ground. Cost is \$10/use.
- **Spinning Jenny**
Use to install high-tensile wire fences. Load with wire and set on the ground. Walk away pulling the end of the wire and it will spin, preventing your wire from tangling. Slow down gradually before stopping to prevent over-spinning and tangling. Can also be used to rewind wire in the field. No charge.
- **Geotextile Fabric**
Black fabric can be used to keep rock from being pushed into the ground by cattle, or on driveways. Cost is \$2.50 for a running foot; 15' wide.
- **Tile Flags**
Flags on 36" wire staff can be used to mark underground power lines, or surveying jobs. \$6.00/bundle of 100.

SWCD Hosting Public Speaking Contest for High School Students

The Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is sponsoring a public speaking contest for Dubois County High School students. The contest will be on Tuesday, January 22 at 6:00 PM EST in the Council Chambers at Jasper City Hall.

The contest theme is "Water Is Life", and should be the topic of the speech. Speeches should be no less than 5 minutes in length, and no longer than 8 minutes. All Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors enrolled Dubois County High Schools are eligible to participate. Home schooled students in these grade levels are also eligible.

The contestants will be judged on content and organization, and presentation. First and second place winners will be awarded US Savings Bonds, \$200 and \$100 respectively. Also, the first place speech contestant will be invited to present their speech at the SWCD annual meeting on January 29, 2008.

Contestants should register with the Soil and Water Conservation District office by phone at (812) 482-1171 Ext. 3 or by e-mail to judi.brown@in.nacdnet.net by 4:00 PM Friday, January 18 to be eligible to compete. Complete contest rules can be obtained by contacting the SWCD.