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Supplement to The Farmer's Exchange

NEWSLETTER

AREA FIELD DAYS

The St. Joseph County SWCD will be holding a late summer field day on Tuesday, August 27th from 3:00 - 6:30 p.m. Will Erwin as guest speaker. The meeting's focus will be on other "Alternatives to Farming", which include CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), Hayland Management, Woodland Management, Tree Planting, Wildlife Restoration and Wetland Development. There will also be chemical representatives attending to talk on chemical packaging and environmental regulations, and Dave Millar to discuss the Tri-County Water Quality Project. The field day will be held at the Z.B. Falcons Conservation Grounds on Roosevelt Road east of Myrtle Trail. A meal will be provided only to those with a reservation. If you have any questions, need additional information, and/or making a reservation to attend, please contact the SWCD Office at 291-2300 before August 20th, 1991. MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

The Tri-County Water Quality Project planning staff has announced that a field day is planned for Friday, August 30th beginning at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. The first stop will be the Elmer Gumz farm with Dr. Dave Mengel discussing nitrogen application and utilization plots. Next stop will be John Dooms' farm with Dr. Brad Joern demonstrating manure spreader calibration and loading rates based on test results of various manure spreader samples which have been tested. These two locations were selected because they are fairly central located for the Tri-County Water Quality Project. Plan on attending!



Tri-County Water Quality Project

St. Joseph, LaPorte, and Marshall Counties

PROJECT COORDINATORS APPOINTED

Tony Bailey of the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation Service, along with Susan Meadows of LaPorte County, have accepted the responsibility as "Project Coordinators" for the Tri-County Water Quality Project, which covers the upper Kankakee watershed in St. Joseph, LaPorte and Marshall counties. As coordinator, Tony is the primary contact person for the special project area in St. Joseph County. He will direct requests for information and assistance to the appropriate technical people. Tony's office telephone number is 291-2300.

Tony was born in Elkhart County and has a strong interest in agriculture. His interest in the field of agriculture has been cultivated differently since he wasn't raised on a farm. Tony started his career in agriculture through FFA, working with ducks, dairy and seed corn. He moved on to further his career by becoming a student trainee for the Soil Conservation Service in Jennings and Miami counties. After earning his B.S. degree in agronomy at Purdue University, he worked in Monroe County for a year. He moved to St. Joseph County as a Soil Conservationist five months ago.

ANIMAL WASTE OPERATIONS - A WATER QUALITY CONCERN

The Soil Conservation Service staff has been busy gathering field data and designing animal waste systems for several farmers in the county in recent months. Due to a renewed awareness for the environment, animal waste operations are receiving more attention with regards to soil contamination, water quality and environmental aesthetics. These systems can take several months to design and several additional months, if they have to be sent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for permit approval. With stricter environmental regulations coming down the road everyday, it's only a matter of time before livestock producers will be forced to install animal waste systems.

If you are interested in one of these systems, please feel free to contact our office for technical assistance and information on possible cost-share funds through ASCS for installing an animal waste system. Also, please keep in mind the time factor when you are planning such a facility.

1991 ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FAIR

Once again the St. Joseph County Fair was a great success. This year's SWCD booth in the Nature Center focused on Wetlands. Using a mural, that was painted by students at Stanley Clark School, and live plants, the display showed the difference between the different wetland types, stressing that it doesn't need to have standing water to be a wetland. An aquarium helped bring to life the variety of animals living under the surface of a wetland. The display also demonstrated the nationwide loss of our wetland acres from 1790 to 1990.

Joining the SWCD display in the Nature Center, were displays by the Indiana Wildlife Federation, Izaak Walton League and Audubon Society.

The SWCD office staff would like to thank all who came and visited us at the fair, and especially thank all the volunteers who helped watch the building. Your help is truly appreciated.



REVISE CONSERVATION PLANS NOW

The local SCS office needs to clarify and update the FSA (Food Security Act) Highly Erodible Conservation

Plans by the end of this year. The update and clarification may include adjusting the date you said you would start the practice or making sure you understand the amount of residue needed at planting time for certain crops. The time involved to revise a plan usually takes no more than fifteen minutes. Contact our office at 291-2300 to set up a time to review your plan. Remember, it must be revised by December 31, 1991 if you plan to stay in compliance for the government program!



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