



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

January/February 2019
Volume 21, Issue 1

2903 Gary Drive, Ste 1, Plymouth, IN 46563
Website: stjosephswcd.org

Telephone (574) 936-2024
e-mail: info@stjosephswcd.org

What's Going On...

*Events hosted by the St. Joseph County SWCD
& Our Partners in Conservation*



January

- 1st - New Years' Day - office closed
- 16th - Monthly Board Meeting - Open to the Public 9 AM
LOCATION: Farm Credit Services. 5310 S Main St, South Bend, IN 46614
- 21st - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - office closed
- 25th - 59th Annual Meeting (see page 4)

February

- 2nd - Science Alive
- 6th - Producers Workshop →
- 18th - President's Day - office closed
- 19th - Monthly Board Meeting - Open to the Public 9 AM
LOCATION: Farm Credit Services. 5310 S Main St, South Bend, IN 46614

Upcoming Workshops and Education Events...

Producer's Workshop

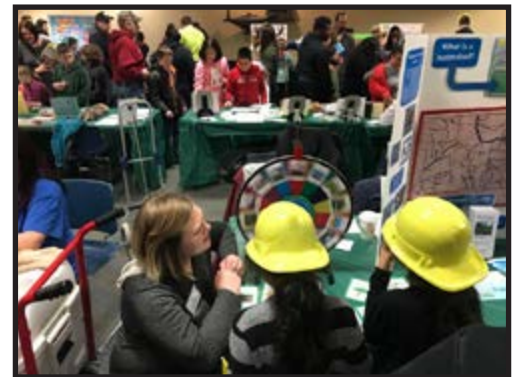
When: February 6, 2019
Where: Christo's Banquet Hall
830 Lincoln Hwy E
Plymouth, IN 46563
Time: 9:00 am—2:00 pm
Registration starts at 8:30 am.
PARP Credits available. Cost is \$10 for PARP.

Join us for a day of learning, discussion, and good food! Our speakers will be talking about weed management, the unique needs of soybeans, building resilience in crop ground and more! PARP and CCA credits will be available and a light breakfast and hearty lunch are provided. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 30th! We look forward to seeing you there!



Science Alive!

Come see us at St. Joseph County Main Branch Library on February 2nd from 10am-4pm . We will be learning about our environment and what we can do to conserve our natural resources.



Contractor's Breakfast

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District, in conjunction with the Michiana Stormwater Partnership, will be holding a morning workshop in late March. The date and location will be announced soon so please check our website for the specific details! This free event is for contractors, engineers, and anyone who deals with Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans or Rule 5 compliance. If you are interested in attending, would like to help sponsor, or would like to have vendor space at the event please give us a call or email at info@stjosephswcd.org.

Do you currently....

- √ Use cover crops
- √ No-till
- √ Have filter strips
- √ Use irrigation management
- √ Use nutrient management
- √ Use rotational grazing practices
- √ Have managed areas for wildlife
- √ Have a forest management plan

If you said yes to any two of these, you might qualify for the **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**.



Our **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you schedule timely planting of cover crops, develop a grazing plan that will improve your forage base, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage forested areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals.

No one knows more about your land than you do, and no one knows more about conservation than we do. Together we can develop a plan tailored to your land and your goals to help you increase productivity and protect the value of your land.

You don't have to be an expert with conservation practices to apply for CSP.

Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program available for agricultural producers and/or landowners. Program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or management activities like irrigation or nutrient management, that address natural resource concerns on their land. EQIP dollars can be used for soil health practices (e.g., cover crops, no-till, etc.), water quality practices, forestry management, etc.

Many applicants are interested in using funds to address soil erosion and water quality issues on their land; however, funds are also available for pasture and grazing land, confined livestock operations, manure management, organic producers, drainage water management, invasive plant control, and wildlife habitat improvement including monarch butterfly habitat development.

Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented.

Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE)

Under this easement program, we provide technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and/or Indian tribes to restore, protect,

and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. These are offered under permanent (perpetuity) easements which NRCS pays 100% of the easement value for the purchase of the easement. Additionally, NRCS pays 100% of the restoration costs.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as grass waterways, native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips and riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

If you feel like you are ready to take your conservation efforts to the next level – we are here to help. Contact us to develop a conservation plan on your land. We can then guide you to the funding program that best fits your needs. You can apply for these programs anytime throughout the year but there will be announced cutoff dates for ranking and funding opportunities. To learn more, contact Debbie Knepp with the St. Joseph County NRCS at 574-936-2024 Ext. 4.

Donate to Your Soil & Water Conservation District

Since 1959, the St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District has been helping St. Joseph County residents improve their natural resources through conservation and education. In cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) we are able to provide a wider array of free technical assistance as well as cost share opportunities to the residents of St Joseph County.

While we do get limited funds from state grants, we work hard each year to raise funds to help with our conservation cost share opportunities and our education and outreach efforts. In 2016 we received two 3-year Clean Water Indiana Grants that accelerated the use of cover crops, no-till, pollinator habitats and raingardens. Even though these grants have come to an end, we would like to continue this momentum. This is where you can help! We are asking for your assistance in our efforts as we continue to expand the use of best management practices and to educate, inform, and assist our community in getting conservation on the ground. You can make a general donation or specify which outreach or event you would like to support.

As a Donor Member, your tax-deductible contribution goes directly to the future of our county. Any size donation goes a long way in continuing what we have been able to achieve in the 60 years we have been a district. Please consider making 2019 our best year ever!

You can make a donation using the donor form below or visit our website to donate with your credit card or PayPal account.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Website _____

Please Confirm Your Giving Level

____ Affiliate \$25-\$99 ____ Bronze \$100-\$249 ____ Silver \$250-\$499 ____ Gold \$500 & Above

If you would like your donation to go towards a specific project or event please indicate below:

____ General Education & Outreach ____ Youth Education ____ Annual Meeting (donation must be received by 1-15-2019)

____ Conservation Cost Share (Help install conservation practices such as cover crops, no-till, pollinator habitat, raingardens, filter strips, etc.)

Please make checks payable to : St Joseph County SWCD

All donors will receive a tax-deductible donation receipt, subscription to the SWCD newsletter, and recognition in our 2019 Annual Report & website.

THANK YOU for your support! The many outreach and education projects we provide would not be possible without the help of community members like YOU!

Recycling your Christmas Tree

Option 1: Check with your city trash service to see if they offer curb side pick up.

Option 2: Drop off at **Organic Resources**. *Note: The fee will be waived for disposal of Christmas trees only.* Trees must be dropped off during business hours: 8:00 AM- 3:45 PM Mon.-Fri. (Closed 12:30 PM- 1:00 PM) Address: 4340 Trade Dr., South Bend, IN 46628.

Option 3: Composting the tree yourself. You can cut it into smaller pieces and add it to your compost pile or stand it up in your backyard to create some attractive bird habitat. You can even decorate it with orange slices, nuts and bird suet to create an organic bird feeder!

NEED MORE INFO?

* South Bend Public Works
(574) 233-0311

* Mishawaka Central Services Division
(574) 258-1660
* Organic Resources
(574) 287-6841





Visit us on Facebook 2903 GARY DRIVE PLYMOUTH IN 46563

The date for the Annual Meeting has changed to February 8, 2019!

St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

Tickets available for the 59th Annual Meeting

Where: St. Hedwig Memorial Center 331 S Scott St., South Bend, IN 46601

When: January 25, 2019.

Time: Doors open at 5:45 pm and the call to order is at 6:30 pm.

Cost: Tickets are \$15 each.

Key Note Speaker: Stephanie McLain is the Indiana USDA NRCS State Soil Health Specialist.

Deadline for Tickets: January 17, 2019

- Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors:**
 John Dooms, Chair
 Jeremy Cooper, Vice Chair
 Mike Burkholder
 Dave Vandewalle
 Dave Craft
- SWCD Associate Supervisors:**
 Jim LaFree
 Chuck Lehman
 Randy Matthys
 Richard Schmidt
 Dave Straughn
 Dru Wrasse
- SWCD Honorary Members:**
 Bernard Byrd
 Jerry Knepp
 Keith Lineback
 William Millar
- St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff:**
 Sarah Longenecker, SWCD
 Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD
 Jane Sablich, SWCD
 Debbie Knepp, NRCS
- Farm Service Agency Staff:**
 Gideon Nobbe, CED
 Aldona Martin
 Tara Wolfe
 Devan Herrell



Are you ready to "GO GREEN" and help us save money and natural resources? We can deliver your "Conservation Kaleidoscope" newsletter by email ... Give us a call or send us an email and tell us you'd like to "GO GREEN" THANK YOU!!!! Scan me to go Green!

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