



St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



**Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future**

November/December 2015  
Volume 17, Issue 6

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### What's Going On...

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

#### November

- 1st - Daylight Savings Time Ends. Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour!
- 3rd - Election Day - County Holiday
- 11th - Veteran's Day - Office Closed
- 17th - St. Joseph County SWCD Board Meeting (7:00 pm @ Centre Township Library)
- 26th - Thanksgiving Day - office closed
- 27th - County Holiday

#### December

- 15th - St. Joseph County SWCD Board Meeting (7:00 pm @ Centre Township Library)
- 24th - Christmas Eve - Office Closed
- 25th - Christmas - Office Closed

#### January

- 1st - New Years Day - Office Closed
- 14th-15th - IASWCD Annual Conference - Indianapolis
- 18th - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - Office Closed
- 19th - St. Joseph County SWCD Board Meeting (7:00 pm @ Centre Township Library)
- 29th—St. Joseph County SWCD Annual Meeting (See page 2 for details!)



### Have You Heard? ...

#### Help Conserve Working Grasslands and Pastureland!

The United States Department of Agriculture announced that beginning September 1, 2015 farmers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands and pastureland while maintaining the area as livestock grazing lands.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75% of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50% of the cost of practices such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences.

To be considered in this first ranking period, applications need to be submitted to the Farm Service Agency by November 20, 2015. Feel free to contact us at (574) 936-2024, ext. 4 for more information. Or contact the Farm Service Agency at (574) 936-2024, ext. 2 to start the application process.

*Wishing you a very happy holiday season!*

Happy Thanksgiving



Happy New Year  
2016



## Tree Sale

Due to declining sales, the board has decided to sit out the 2016 year for our tree sale. If you are in need of tree seedlings please visit one of our neighbor SWCD's, InDNR or our partner nurseries.

- Kosciusko County SWCD - Order Deadline: April 7, 2016. Pick up date: April 16, 2016 [www.kosciuskoswcd.org/](http://www.kosciuskoswcd.org/) 574-267-7445 Ext 3
- Elkhart County SWCD - Order Deadline: March 4, 2016. Pick up date: April 16, 2016 [www.elkcoswcd.org/](http://www.elkcoswcd.org/) 574-533-4383 Ext 3
- Hensler Nursery- [www.henslernurseryindiana.com/](http://www.henslernurseryindiana.com/) 574-867-4192
- Alpha Nursery- [www.alphanurseries.com/](http://www.alphanurseries.com/) 269-857-7804
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Order between Oct. 1, 2015 and May 1, 2016 [www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3606.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3606.htm)



## 56TH ANNUAL MEETING

January 29, 2016  
Doors open at 5:45pm  
St. Hedwig Parish  
331 S Scott St., South Bend, IN 46601

**Please RSVP by January 22, 2016**

Tickets for the Family-Style Polish Dinner are available from any St. Joseph County SWCD board member or contact the office at 574-936-2024 ext. 4 or [info@stjosephswcd.org](mailto:info@stjosephswcd.org)

The evening will feature Rod Noftsgger's Fascinating Rhythm, the very popular silent auction, board supervisor election and awards ceremony.



## CRP General Sign Up



The next CRP General Signup will be held Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016. This is a competitive process. To find out more information on eligibility and contract practices, contact the Marshall/St. Joseph County Farm Service Agency at 574-936-2024 Ext. 2.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is celebrating its 30th Anniversary! Find it on Twitter at the hashtag #CRPis30.

## Sustainability at the University of Notre Dame

We have been contacted by a student at the University of Notre Dame who is studying Sustainability. She is looking to survey farmers within St. Joseph County to understand their knowledge of wetlands and their attitudes towards restoration. If you are interested in being a part of this survey please contact our office so we can add your name to the list of participants. Contact us at 574-936-2024 Ext. 4 or [info@stjosephswcd.org](mailto:info@stjosephswcd.org).



# Support IASWCD



Do you frequently make purchases on Amazon.com? You can help support conservation in Indiana by selecting IASWCD as a recipient of Amazon Smile contributions when you shop at [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com). Amazon will donate a portion of their profits to IASWCD at no additional cost to you. It's a simple way to support conservation in your day to day life!

## Conservation Effects Assessment Project Survey

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service is contacting approximately 24,000 farmers and ranchers nationwide from October 15 - February 15, 2016 as part of a national Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) to study conservation practices. This study will measure the environmental benefits associated with implementation and installation of conservation practices on cultivated and

non-cultivated agricultural lands.

Data obtained from the project will help NRCS conservationists and partners determine the efficiency and effectiveness of current conservation techniques and help identify best practices. For farmers that complete the CEAP survey, NRCS staff will be asked to compile data for selected conservation practices used by these farmers.

### St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District 2016 Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Confirm Your Giving Level

\_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate Membership: \$0-\$99

\_\_\_\_\_ Silver Membership: \$250-\$499 \*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bronze Membership: \$100-\$249 \*

\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Membership: \$500 & above \*\*

**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!

All donors will receive a tax-deductible donation receipt, subscription to the SWCD newsletter, and recognition in our popular 2015 Annual Report/2016 monthly Calendar.

\*Bronze & Silver Memberships will include everything above PLUS a certificate of recognition, and recognition on the SWCD website

\*\* Gold Memberships will include everything above PLUS 4 Complementary VIP Tickets & Oral Introduction to SWCD's Annual Meeting Dinner Banquet (if submitted by 1/15/2016).

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would prefer to make my donation anonymous.**

**If you would like to donate to a specific outreach or project/event, please indicate below:**

\_\_\_\_\_ General Education and Outreach

\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Kaleidoscope Newsletter Supporter

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Environmental Education Supporter

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Meeting Banquet and Supervisors Election (Donation must be submitted by 1-15-2016)

\_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural Producers' Breakfast and Workshop (Donation must be submitted by 2-26-2016)

\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Field Tours (2 per year)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "St Joseph County SWCD" and mail along with this form to:

**St Joseph County SWCD**

**2903 Gary Drive**

**Plymouth, IN 46563**



**Want to donate with your Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal account? Visit our website at [www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org) and click on the "Donate" button.**

**Scan me to donate now!**



ST JOSEPH COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
2903 GARY DRIVE  
PLYMOUTH IN 46563

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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PERMIT NO. 225



## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

# 2016 PRODUCERS MEETING

We are in the beginning stages of planning for our March 2016 Producers Meeting. In years past we have had a breakfast meeting but for 2016 we are looking at expanding to a full day to include keynote speakers and several breakout sessions.

Possible topics are Economic outlook, Gypsum, soil chemistry/biology, new equipment/technology for conservation farming, political outlook on conservation/ EPA regulations, cover crops 101/advanced, no-till/strip-till, new fertilizer tech (slow release), PARP topics to be determined by extension.

**STAY TUNED IN COMING MONTHS FOR MORE INFORMATION!!**

**Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors:**

John Dooms, Chair  
Jeremy Cooper, Vice Chair  
Mike Burkholder, Member  
Arlene Schuchman, Member  
Stacey Silvers, Member

**SWCD Associate Supervisors:**

Dave Craft  
Jan Ivkovich  
Jim LaFree  
Charles Lehman  
Joe Long  
Randy Matthys  
Carole Riewe  
Richard Schmidt  
Dale Stoner  
Dave Vandewalle  
Dru Wrasse

**SWCD Honorary Members:**

Bernard Byrd  
Jerry Knepp  
Keith Lineback  
William Millar

**St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff:**

Rick Glassman, SWCD  
Sarah Longenecker, SWCD  
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD  
Debbie Knepp, NRCS  
James Rodriguez, NRCS

**Farm Service Agency Staff:**

Gideon Nobbe, CED  
Linda Bentele  
Aldona Martin  
Cindy Slonaker  
Abby Ciesielski  
Lorri Awald

**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!