

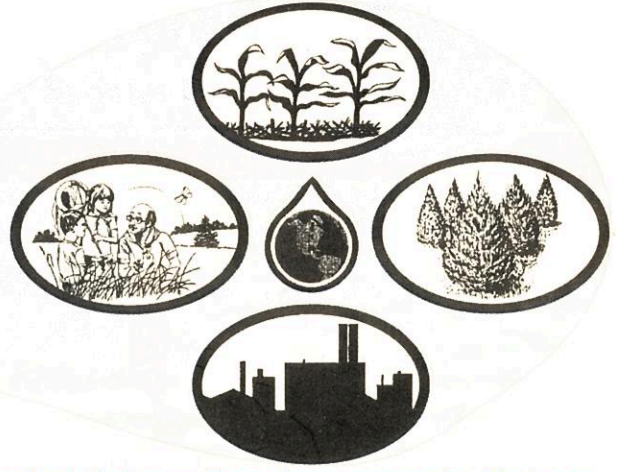


St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District

**CONSERVATION**



**KALEIDOSCOPE**



*Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future*

Jan/Feb/Mar 2007  
Volume 9, Issue 1

5605 U.S. 31 South, Suite 4 \*South Bend, IN\*  
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**Calendar of Events**

**January 1**

New Year's Day  
Office Closed



**January 15**

Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.  
Office Closed

**January 23**

SWCD Monthly Board Meeting  
7:00 PM - Farm Bureau Mtg. Room

**January 26**

47th Annual Meeting  
6:30 PM - St. Adalbert's Hall

**February 3**

Science Alive - St. Joseph County  
Public Library - Main Branch

**February 19**

President's Day  
Office Closed

**February 20**

SWCD Monthly Board Meeting  
7:00 PM - Farm Bureau Mtg. Room

**March 1**

Tree Order Forms Due

**March 19**

SWCD Monthly Board Meeting  
7:00 PM - Farm Bureau Mtg. Room

**March 23, 24, 25**

Ag Days - St. Joseph County 4-H  
Fairgrounds



# ANNUAL MEETING

The 47th Annual Meeting of the  
St. Joseph County  
Soil & Water Conservation District  
will be held on  
Friday, January 26th, 2007  
6:30 PM  
at  
St. Adalbert's Hall  
Tickets - \$8.00/per person

*Reservations are due: Thursday, January 18th, 2007*

**TREE SALE ORDER  
DEADLINE  
MARCH 1ST**

March 1st, is the deadline  
for placing a tree order for  
the 2006 - 2007 tree sale  
program. Orders must be  
in the office or postmarked  
by March 1st.



**WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT  
SEED**

Sorghum and Sunflower seed  
will be available in April for  
the planting of wildlife food  
plots. Call the office for more  
information.



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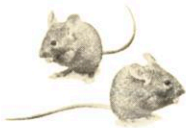
# THE NATURAL EDUCATOR

## THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

It's 2:00 am, and you are suddenly wide awake. What was that sound? A burglar? No wait, is it coming from the attic or maybe between the walls? Is this a horror movie?

No, it is just your friendly neighborhood wildlife come a calling. Mice, squirrels, bats and raccoons are just some of the local wildlife that like to live rent free in our homes.

So now what do you do? Do nothing? Yes there is that school of thought out there. They were here first, so lets' just live together. While this may seem nice at first, most wild animals do bring problems that may not be good for your home or your health.



**Mice** - If you hear a scratching/gnawing noise (especially in the wall) that continues for a long time in one spot, you have mice. Look under sinks or in the attic for their small black droppings. Small holes in the insulation of the attic and little trails over the top of the insulation are all signs of mice.

Trapping mice, whether with glue traps, mouse traps or live traps, will not rid your house of mice. You may catch a few but the others will learn to stay away from the traps.

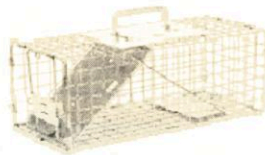
This leaves poison. While I am not the biggest fan of poison, it is the best method for ridding the house of mice. The best area to place the poison is in the attic since no one or no pets go up there.



**Squirrels** - While squirrels will also scratch, it is not a consistent noise. If you hear running across the ceiling, you probably have squirrels.

The most common house dweller is the little Red Squirrel, also called the Piney Squirrel. Gray Squirrels also will live in our homes.

Look for entrance holes where ever two roof lines meet and on the fascia of the house. The best way to get rid of squirrels is by trapping them with a live trap or kill trap like the rat trap. If you trap, bait the traps with peanut butter. Place the bait directly on the trigger of the trap. For best results place the trap by the entrance hole on the outside of the house. Place newspaper in the hole. When the newspaper has not moved for a day, you know you have caught everybody and can then quickly fix the hole.



If your house is in good shape, you may want to try exclusion. This is a one way device that lets the squirrel out but not back in. The problem with this is that they will gnaw a new hole if they can. Exclusion normally does not work on older homes

**Remember, any live trapped animal must be relocated at least 10 miles away and you must have permission from the property owner to relocate the animal on their property.**



**Raccoons** - Slow, heavy walking across the ceiling along with odors are signs of raccoons. If you hear twittering sounds in the fire place in April and May, you have baby raccoons.

Look for entrances to the house. Raccoons will dig holes in roofs and tear apart the soffit to get into attics.



Again, a live trap placed next to the hole is best. Peanut butter placed on the trigger of the trap works fine.

If you have babies in a chimney, sometimes loud constant music will get the mother to leave, with her kids.

Never use moth balls. They will only give you a headache.

**Note if you think you hear things in March, check immediately. Don't wait until you have babies. Also, you need to contact your local Conservation Officer to remove raccoons.**

### Prevention, Prevention, Prevention

Cap chimneys. Caulk anywhere two roof lines meet. Check to make sure that the soffit is attached on dormers, not just setting in the channel. Walk around the house and fill in any little holes you see. By doing these things you will help ensure a good nights sleep.



**For more information and laws covering nuisance animal control go to: [www.in.gov/dnr](http://www.in.gov/dnr).**

You may also call the office and ask for Rick.



# WOODLAND TIMES

## Forestry News Updates for St. Joseph County

### PRIVATE LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Indiana's 4.5 million acres of forestland, with some of the finest hardwoods in the world, produce benefits available from no other land use. Privately owned forests, account for 85% of all Indiana forests. These important lands provide valuable forest products, wildlife habitat, watershed and water quality protection, natural beauty and recreation opportunities.

*District Foresters*, employed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry, are professional foresters available to help forest owners care for their woodlands. District Foresters administer state and federal forestry assistance programs, property tax incentive programs, and cost-sharing incentives to implement projects that promote forest health and sustainability.



#### Your district Forester Can:

- Enter lands into the Classified Forest & Wildlands Program. This Indiana conservation program requires a minimum of 10 contiguous acres of forest or wildlands **and** a commitment to implement an approved management plan that meets the objectives of the program and the owner. The area designated

as Classified Forest and Wildland is devoted to growing timber trees, protecting the watershed, and providing wildlife habitat.

- Administer forest restoration programs, which may share the cost with landowners to plant trees, develop wildlife habitat, improve existing timber stands, or apply other long-term forest management practices.



- Help link landowners with consulting and industry foresters, timber buyers and loggers, and other vendors to implement forestry and natural resources management activities.
- Help plan and provide guidance on tree planting, forest improvement, selling and harvesting of timber, and general woodland management.

A District Forester can help start the management of your forested land with a brief woodland inspection to discuss the best course of action for meeting your ownership objectives.

Many forest owners make management decisions based on limited knowledge. Your District Forester can inform you of your management options and the implications of each option. This will help you make an informed

management decision to meet your land use objectives and keep your forest healthy and productive.

As the map indicates, Steve Winicker, is the District Forester for District 1, which includes the counties of St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall and Starke.

If you need assistance or further information, you may contact Steve at:

Kankakee F & W Area  
P.O. Box 77  
North Judson, IN 46366  
(574) 896-3538  
swinicker@dnr.IN.gov



#### Tree Seminar

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District will be having a tree selection and planting seminar on February 6, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at the St. Joseph County Farm Bureau Building Meeting Room. We will be discussing what trees to plant, where to plant them and give some helpful planting tips.

Please contact our office to reserve your spot by calling (574) 291-7444 ext. 3.



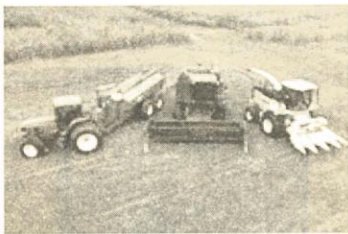
## FIELD NOTES



### REDUCED TILLAGE BMP CHALLENGE

#### HOW MUCH CAN YOU SAVE?

- USING A SIDE-BY-SIDE APPROACH, FIND OUT FIRST HAND HOW REDUCED TILLAGE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS) CAN BOOST YOUR BOTTOM LINE.



The REDUCED TILLAGE BMP CHALLENGE provides technical assistance to help you get the best results and pays you cash if your yield and income are reduced. You'll save money, improve stewardship and sleep soundly. This is a great on-farm research opportunity - you can't lose! Limit: up to 160 acres per farm.

**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?** - If you farm in IA, IL, IN, MN, MI, OH, PA or WI and grow corn for grain or silage you are eligible. Sweet corn, popcorn or corn planted for wildlife are not eligible.

**HOW DOES THE REDUCED TILLAGE BMP CHALLENGE WORK?** - Reduced Tillage BMPs are designed to develop the best reduced tillage practice for your field based on field location and soil type. **Joining the CHALLENGE is easy:**

1. Enroll one or more fields - by contacting Brian Brandt, 614-221-8610, ext. 201 or e-mail [bbrandt@farmland.org](mailto:bbrandt@farmland.org).
2. You'll use your conventional tillage practices on a check strip located by your crop advisor. On the balance of the field, you'll use the reduced tillage practice and manage the entire field (check strip and balance) exactly the same way. If you don't have a crop advisor, we can find one for you.
3. Your crop advisor will help you set up tillage equipment and visit you during the season to assess crop progress. Your advisor will also work with you to identify and help address any tillage-related issues.
4. At harvest, you and your crop advisor will assess yield and contact us if you find a loss. Your payment will be based on yield loss minus reduced tillage.

**YOUR INCOME IS GUARANTEED!** - You will earn at least as much as using your conventional tillage practices, and in most years, you'll be putting more dollars in your pocket. If you do earn more by taking the CHALLENGE, we will discuss your income increase with you and ask that you contribute 33% of your cost-savings up to a maximum contribution of \$6.00 per acre. This contribution ensures that other



farmers will be able to experience the CHALLENGE. The CHALLENGE is backed by a commercial service agreement provided by Agflex, an Iowa corporation. Agflex is not an insurance company and does not sell insurance. The CHALLENGE is not insurance and pays you only for losses due to reduced tillage. Note: American Farmland Trust and its public partners are exempt from any liability associated with the commercial service guarantee contract between Agflex and the farmer.

### FISH USED TO DETECT TERROR ATTACKS

September 19, 2006 - by Marcus Wohlsen, Associated Press SAN FRANCISCO - A type of fish so common that practically every American kid who ever dropped a fishing line and a bobber into a pond has probably caught one is being enlisted in the fight against terrorism.

San Francisco, New York, Washington and other big cities are using bluegills - also known as sunfish or bream as a sort of canary in a coal mine to safeguard their drinking water.



Small numbers of the fish are kept in tanks constantly replenished with water from the municipal supply, and sensors in each tank work around the clock to register changes in the breathing, heartbeat and swimming patterns of the bluegills that occur in the presence of toxins.



## FIELD NOTES

"Nature's given us pretty much the most powerful and reliable early warning center out there," said Bill Lawler, cofounder of Intelligent Automation Corporation, a Southern California company that makes and sells the bluegill monitoring system. "There's no known manmade sensor that can do the same job as the bluegill."

Since September 11, the government has taken very seriously the threat of attacks on the U.S. water supply. Federal law requires nearly all community water systems to assess their vulnerability to terrorism.

Big cities employ a range of safeguards against chemical and biological agents, constantly monitoring, testing and treating the water. But electronic protection systems can trace only the toxins they are programmed to detect, Lawler said.

Bluegills - a hardy species about the size of a human hand - are considered more versatile. They are highly attuned to chemical disturbances in their environment, and when exposed to toxins, they experience the fish version of coughing, flexing their gills to expel unwanted particles.

The computerized system in use in San Francisco elsewhere is designed to detect even slight changes in the bluegills' vital signs and send an e-mail alert when something is wrong.

San Francisco's bluegills went to work about a month ago, guarding the drinking water of more than 1 million people from substances such as cyanide, diesel fuel, mercury and

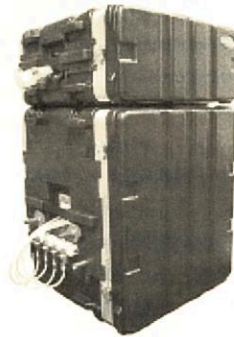


pesticides. Eight bluegills swim in a tank deep in the basement of a water treatment plant south of the city.

"It gave us the best of both worlds, which is basically all the benefits that come from nature and the best of high-tech," said Susan Leal, general manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

New York City has been testing its system since 2002 and is seeking to expand it. The New York City Department of Environmental protection reported at least one instance in which the system caught a toxin before it made it into the water supply: The fish noticed a diesel spill two hours earlier than any of the agency's other detection devices.

They do have limitations. While the bluegills have successfully detected at least 30 toxic chemicals, they cannot reliably detect germs. And they are no use against other sorts of attacks - say, the bombing of a water main, or an attack by computer hackers on the systems that control the flow of water.



Still, Lawler said more than a dozen other cities have ordered the anti-terror apparatus, called the Intelligent Aquatic BioMonitoring System, which was originally developed for the Army and starts at around \$45,000.

San Francisco plans to install two more bluegill tanks.



"It provides us an added level of detection of the unknown," said Tony Winnicker, a spokesman for the city's Public Utilities Commission. "There's no computer that's as sophisticated as a living being."

### PUT PLANNING FIRST

Do you have a Conservation Plan for your land? NRCS can combine your farming experience with the science-based knowledge of a conservation planner to help you meet your land management goals. A Conservation Plan inventories and evaluates your soil, water, air, plant and animal resources, and reviews several alternatives for you to consider. Your decisions are recorded in a Conservation Plan, your roadmap to managing your natural resources. Conservation Plans are required for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program in Indiana. Contact your local USDA Service Center to begin the conservation planning process. Contact and program information is available at [www.in.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov).





# FIELD NOTES

## 2007 FARM BILL: FRAMING THE DATE

Farm Bill reauthorization discussions are well underway in Washington, D.C. and in agriculture communities across the country. While the broad range of policies that make up each farm bill may be familiar to many, some conservation districts that do not deal directly with producers participating in commodity programs may be less aware.

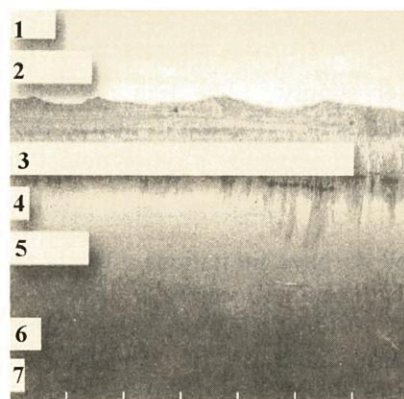
Specific farm bill conservation programs include:

- Agricultural Management Assistance
- Conservation Reserve Program, including Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Farmable Wetlands program
- Conservation Security Program
- Environmental Quality Incentive Programs, including Innovative Grants, Ground and Surface Water Conservation, and Klamath River Basin
- Farmland Protection Program
- Grasslands Reserve Program
- Grassroots Source Water Protection Program
- Great lakes Basin program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Resource Conservation and Development Program
- Watershed Rehabilitation Program
- Wetlands Reserve Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

The Farm Bill provides specific direction for the operation of these programs and in most cases provides mandatory funding. Mandatory funding indicates that funding should be provided each year without specific approval from Congress through the appropriations process. Other conservation programs are

discretionary, which means that each year the House and Senate Appropriations Committees must specifically provide funding for the program to continue operation. The Conservation Reserve program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Security Program are examples of mandatory programs. The Great Lakes Basin program is an example of a discretionary program.

### Conservation spending under the 2002 Farm Act will increase, particularly for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program



*\$ billion of spending over the baseline level that would exist without the 2002 Farm Act, 2002 - 07*

#### Land retirement programs:

1. Conservation Reserve Program
2. Wetlands Reserve Program

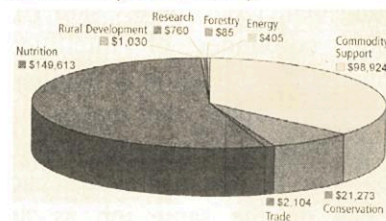
#### Working lands conservation program:

3. Environmental Quality Incentives Program
4. Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
5. (New) Conservation Security Program

#### Agricultural land preservation programs:

6. Farmland Protection Program
7. (New) Grassland Reserve Program

## 2002 Farm Bill - 6-year Cost Estimates (in millions)



### FARM BILL TIMELINE

A likely scenario, but not a guarantee of timing:

**2005** - USDA holds listening sessions across the country.

**2006** - House & Senate Agriculture Committees hold field hearings in several states and oversight hearings in Washington, D.C.

**Summer 2006** - USDA releases farm bill papers.

**Nov 2006** - Congressional elections.

**Jan 2007** - The 100th Congress convenes and sets Committee assignments, dictating who will serve on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

**Early Spring 2007** - USDA expected to release a Farm Bill proposal.

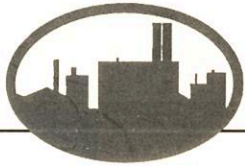
**Feb 2007** - President's budget released.

**Mar/Apr 2007** - Congress sets budget, which will indicate how much money will be available to write the Farm bill, and if overall agriculture spending will be reduced through a budget reconciliation.

**Spring 2007** - House & Senate Agriculture Committees draft legislation.

**Summer 2007** - The full House & Senate consider Farm bill legislation and vote on passage of bills.

**Sept 30, 2007** - Under the 2002 Farm Bill, most program authorizations expire on this date. Congress would need to pass a new bill or extension prior to the end of the fiscal year.



# URBAN MEANDERINGS

## New Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Submittal Process

As we face a new year we face many changes in our day to day lives. The St. Joseph County SWCD is hoping to make some of those changes in regards to submitting Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) as painless as possible. These need to be submitted in accordance with Rule 5 and Rule 13 before starting any construction activities.



The MS4 entities, designated under Rule 13 have developed or are in the process of developing ordinances that will be put in place to cover construction site storm water run-off control and post construction storm water run-off control. Please visit our website ([www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org](http://www.stjoseph.iaswcd.org)) to find out when these ordinances take affect and to see how it will affect submitting your storm water pollution prevention plans. Storm water pollution prevention plans will be submitted in accordance with Rule 5 until the MS4 entities have been given approval from IDEM to take over the 2 components listed above. At the time of publication the information below was correct but could have changed at any time.

The City of South Bend is going to be taking over the review and inspection of storm water pollution prevention plans for construction sites starting September 1, 2006.

St. Joseph County is looking to take over the review and inspection of storm water pollution prevention plans

for construction sites starting in late 2006.

The City of Mishawaka is looking to take over the review and inspection of storm water pollution prevention plans for construction sites starting in late 2006.

Please read the MS4 contact information below to see where the storm water pollution plans need to be submitted and who the contacts are for each entity. The Contact for Rule 5 will still be the St. Joseph County SWCD. If you have any questions please give us a call at (574) 291-7444 ext. 3.



### MS4 Contact Information

*The goal of the MS4 entities is to safeguard the community, protect property, and prevent damage to the environment.*

**St. Joseph County:** All areas of St. Joseph County, including the towns of Osceola and Roseland. Any project that will disturb an acre or more of land requires a SWPPP to be submitted.

**Three copies** of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) must be submitted to the St. Joseph County Engineering Department in the County-City Building along with a \$150.00 filing fee made payable to St. Joseph County, Indiana. Contact Jessica Clark at (574) 235-9626 or send an email to [JCLARK@co.st-joseph.in.us](mailto:JCLARK@co.st-joseph.in.us) for additional information.

**City of South Bend:** City limits of South Bend, including Ivy Tech Community College. Any project that will disturb an acre or more of land requires a SWPPP to be submitted.

**Three copies** of the SWPP needs to be submitted to the City of South Bend Engineering Department in the County-City building along with a \$100.00 filing fee made payable to City of South Bend, Indiana. Contact Jason Durr at (574) 235-5998 or send an email to [jdurr@southbendin.gov](mailto:jdurr@southbendin.gov) for additional information.

**City of Mishawaka:** City limits of Mishawaka, including Bethel College. The City of Mishawaka has 3 different land disturbing classifications. Contact Mishawaka to see what is needed in the SWPPP for each classification and associated fees. The SWPPP will need to be submitted to the Mishawaka Planning Department. Contact Ken Prince at (574) 258-1625 or send an email to [kprince@MishawakaCity.com](mailto:kprince@MishawakaCity.com) for additional information.

If your project was started under Rule 5, at this time it will continue to be inspected by the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). If you have any questions regarding this please contact Troy Manges at (574) 291-7444 ext. 3.

**Note:** All storm water pollution prevention plans must be approved by the respective MS4 entity. Once the SWPPP is approved a NOI must be sent to IDEM with a \$100 fee **before** construction begins!





St. Joseph County Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
5605 U.S. 31 South, Suite 4  
South Bend, IN 46614

## **St. Joseph County Soil And Water**

### Supervisors:

John Dooms, Chairman  
Paul Williams III, V-Chairman  
John Kulwicki, Member  
Randy Matthys, Member  
Carole Riewe, Member

### Associate Supervisors:

Dave Craft  
Jerry Dominiack  
Jan Ivkovich  
Melvin Kulwicki  
Jim LaFree  
Charles Lehman  
Joe Long  
Eugene Myers  
Richard Schmidt  
Dale Stoner

### MISSION

To provide guidance and education to the youth and adults of St. Joseph County and to administer programs to preserve, protect and improve soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources for future generations.

### Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd  
Al Gostola  
Jerry Knepp  
Keith Lineback  
William Millar

### Office Staff:

Debbie Knepp, NRCS  
Tonia Albright, SWCD  
Rick Glassman, SWCD  
Troy Manges, SWCD

### Farm Service Agency Staff:

Mike Hoskins, CED  
Helene Cannoot  
Dee Fox  
Cindy Philhower  
Denise Trimboli