



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

CONSERVATION KALEIDOSCOPE



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

July/Aug/Sep 2010
Volume 12, Issue 3

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MEET JOHN & KATIE!

Hello, my name is John Baute and I am originally from southeastern Indiana. I will be graduating from Ball State University in July with a BS in Land Management from the Natural Resource Environmental Management Department. My wife Brienne and I live in Mishawaka with our two dogs, a German shepherd named Diesel and a 4-pound Chihuahua-Pomeranian named Minnie.

Two summers ago, I interned at the Bartholomew County SWCD, which was one of the counties that got hit with the flood that spring. Our office was flooded with 4-1/2 feet of standing water. This gave me a very interesting learning experience for the summer. Working for the SWCD gave me exposure to the NRCS and I knew I wanted to pursue a job in the NRCS.

Last summer, I interned in Huntington for the NRCS and enjoyed my experience there. I started in St. Joseph County in January 2010 as an NRCS Soil Conservationist. I have enjoyed working with producers and land owners in preserving our natural resources. I hope to continue

meeting more people and helping solve more resource concerns in the county.

Hello, My name is Katie Losekamp and I am the new summer intern for the St. Joseph County SWCD. I just finished my sophomore year at Purdue University, studying Agricultural and Biological Engineering. I am originally from Cincinnati, but I am living in Elkhart for the summer. I love the outdoors and helping to make nature a little cleaner for everyone, so I am very excited to be a part of the SWCD.



Help Us GO GREEN!

This newsletter was mailed to you because we don't have your e-mail address.

We've started a new campaign to lighten our environmental impact and help us save money on postage.

If you're a regular reader of our newsletter and would like to opt-out of hardcopy newsletter mailing list in the name of **GOING GREEN**, please email us at alisa.wynn@in.nacdnet.net with the subject line "Go Green" and include your **name** and **home mailing address** in the body of the e-mail.

Thank you for helping us become more environmentally and economically responsible!



SAVE THE DATE

Thurs, August 5, 2010 ~ 5-7:30PM
~ IUSB Campus ~

Special Guest Speaker: Professor Deb Marr, *Biology Department and Faculty Member of the Center for a Sustainable Future, IUSB*

COMMUNITY FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION ON LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

A **FREE EVENT** organized by
YOUR St. Joseph County SWCD
& the Michiana Stormwater Partnership
* * *

The documentary **WATERLIFE** is an award-winning documentary that examines the story of the Great Lakes and our sustainable future. Locally significant water quality issues will be explored in light of the St. Joseph River feeding into Lake Michigan.

For DETAILS or to RESERVE a "SEAT", give us a call at 574-291-7444 x 3
www.ourwaterlife.com

What's Inside . . .

Urban Meanderings.....	2
Woodland Times.....	3
The Natural Educator.....	4
Field Notes.....	5, 6, 7



Water Quality & YOU

By: Katie Losekamp, St. Joseph County SWCD

WATER QUALITY... It's kind of a broad topic. There is so much that influences water quality, and to be honest some of it can be a little confusing. Where does our drinking water come from? Where can water be tested for impurities? What are PCBs? What's the difference between point and non-point source pollution? What can the average person even do to improve water quality? The questions are endless. This article should not only help you understand a little more about water quality but it should also give you a clearer picture of a few steps you can take to help improve water quality throughout your local community.

Where does my drinking water come from?

It depends on where you live. Drinking water usually comes from two different sources:

- If you live in a larger city it usually comes from rivers and lakes and is then taken to a treatment plant to be purified before it goes to your homes and the pipes in your houses.
- If you live in a more rural area it probably comes from ground-water that was pumped by a well. This water also needs to be purified before going out to the general public but it does not take as long to be purified as the water from rivers and lakes does. This is because the soil helps out filter impurities in the water as it moves downward through it.

How can I test my water for impurities?

- Call your county health department (in St. Joseph County, call 574-235-9750).
- You can also check out Purdue Extension's Water Quality Program website at www.ces.purdue.edu/waterquality

What are PCBs and how do I avoid eating them?

I know what you're thinking. PCB stands for *Panama City Beach* and it means *crazy spring breaks*. . . Well actually no, when it comes to water quality issues, PCBs stands for **Polychlorinated biphenyls**. Wow aren't those intimidating words, but all you need to know about them is that they are man-made compounds that were used extensively in electronics. They are no longer allowed to be used but the issue comes from the fact that they are extremely stable compounds that do not break down in the environment. PCBs are

not found naturally in the environment and are believed to cause different health effects, including cancer. Even though they have been outlawed, they are still found in some plant and animal tissue because they do not break down naturally. A common source of PCBs is fish tissue and it is very important that people everywhere know how much fish to eat and what fish are healthy to eat. A list of the fish that are healthy to eat and where they are commonly found in St Joseph and Elkhart counties can be found on page 7 of the *2009 Annual Report on Elkhart-Mishawaka-South Bend Aquatic Community Monitoring* put out by the City of Elkhart Public Works (online at <http://tinyurl.com/37g2k8x>). This report also gives some information about how the health of fish corresponds to water quality.

Tell me more about the sources of water pollution...

"Point-source pollution" refers to when harmful substances are emitted directly into a body of water from a particular "point source", or a particular site, such as a factory or oil rig. "Non-point source pollution" or "run-off pollution" is when harmful chemicals enter a body of water because of everyday activities that no one thinks twice about, such as driving to work or applying fertilizer and pesticides to lawns. When rain-water moves over areas of land and goes into storm drains, it ends up in our streams, rivers, lakes and bays, taking the harmful substances with it. Run-off from parking lots is one of the most common sources of non-point source pollution. Oil, salts, anti-freeze chemicals, and other pollutants can be transferred to bodies of water from rain water moving across the land.

What can I do to improve water quality & run-off pollution?

- **LEARN MORE!** One way is to attend our free film screening of the award-winning film, **WATERLIFE** (see page 1 of this newsletter).
- Try to create ways of slowing or stopping run-off. For example, making sure there are plants or grass on hillsides will help keep soil from eroding into storm drains.
- Don't throw cigarette butts and other trash in the street.
- Pick up all waste after walking your dog to keep it out of storm drains.
- Wash your car in the lawn so the water has a chance to soak into the ground instead of running down the storm drain.
- When you change the oil in your car don't pour oil down the storm drain or on the sidewalk or street.
- Recycle!!!! This will always help reduce our natural resource consumption and help keep trash out of our bodies of water.
- Most importantly, **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!!** Remember, whatever ends up in storm drains ends up in the bodies of water that the drain connects to. Take the time to think about where the water is going after it goes into the storm drain and the impact that you have on the quality of that water.



**St. Joseph County SWCD
is Proud to Announce
Our 2010-2011
25th Annual Tree Sale!**

Over the past 24 years you have helped us place **more than 400,000 trees** throughout our community.

Your support and hard work has helped to protect water quality, create environmental education programs and provide valuable assistance to our community.

We would like to **THANK YOU** for all your years of support. Let's continue to do great work together!

Look for our **25th Annual Tree Sales Flyer** in your mail box this October.

If you do not currently receive our annual tree sales flyer please contact our office to be included on our mailing list.



**Windiana 2010:
Integrating Wind in Indiana**

Three concurrent tracks: (1) Big Wind; (2) Supply Chain; (3) Community/Smaller Wind

Registration is \$100/per person prior to July 1, 2010; \$125/per person after July 4

For more information, visit www.in.gov/oed/2413.htm or contact Kathy Walters, CMP Conference Coordinator for Purdue University @ 800-359-2968
Organizing Sponsors: Indiana Office of Energy Development and Discovery Park at Purdue University

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday EVENING, September 21, 2010

Location: To Be Announced

TRI-COUNTY FORESTRY FIELD DAY

A **FREE EVENT** brought to you by
Your SWCD's in St. Joseph, Elkhart, & Kosciusko Counties
* * *

Prospective Topics: Backyard Conservation, Soils, Timber Stand Improvement, Tree I.D and Harvest Methods, & MORE...
For **DETAILS** or to **RESERVE** a "**SEAT**", give us a call at 574-291-7444 x 3



**The United Nations Has Declared
"2011 is the International Year of Forests"**

Recognizing that forests and sustainable forest management can contribute significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals in 2006 the UN decided to proclaim 2011 as the **International Year of Forests** (UN Resolution 61/193). The UN's Forum on Forests officially launched the 2011 International Year of Forests (**IYF**) initiative in April 2010. Voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups are being encouraged to facilitate and promote activities related to **IYF** at the local and national levels, including by creating national committees or designating focal points in their respective countries.

At this point, countries and organizations are planning their activities for next year's **IYF**. In the United States, The U.S. Forest Service, as the lead government agency for Forestry issues in the United States, along with other agencies have initiated planning together with state foresters, NGOs, and other stakeholders, for activities to recognize the International Year of Forests in 2011

IYF offers countries and other organizations a means for raising public awareness of leaders and citizens on this issue. **IYF** is also a celebration of the importance forests play in everyday life.

For more information, the official United Nations **IYF** website can be found by Googling **2011 International Year of Forests**. The latest developments on **IYF** can also be traced on **IYF's** official Facebook Page.



THE NATURAL EDUCATOR

BACKYARD CONSERVATION

It'll grow on you.

land to do this... even an apartment patio will do. If every person adds to their own small space, overall it ends up being a rather large area for wildlife.

The 5 building blocks for improving your backyard are simple: **FOOD, WATER, COVER, SHELTER** and you can go another step further by adding **SUSTAINABLE GARDENING**.

FOOD: Many of us think of bird feeders when we think of wildlife food, but providing food can be done on many different levels. Bird food is great and can be provided year-round, and while you may not have as many birds in the summer you will get to experience bird behavior not seen in the winter months. Also remember that not every bird species eats the same type of food, but with a little research you will be able to attract your favorite birds to your yard. For other animals, food plot plantings are a great way to provide nourishment to backyard wildlife. Again with a little research you can find trees, bushes and flowers that are not only beautiful but a wonderful source of food for wildlife.

WATER: Providing water can be as simple as a birdbath or as extreme as digging a pond. A small plastic pond with a fountain can be a magnet for wildlife and you will get to see some amazing behavior from your visitors.

COVER: This means providing hiding places for wildlife. A simple evergreen tree can provide cover for a wide variety of bird-life. If you have the space, plant a windbreak of evergreen trees. Not only will you provide cover for wildlife but it will help reduce your heating and air conditioning bills. Brush piles are another easy and excellent way to provide cover. Remember that by planting trees and bushes of varying sizes you will attract a wider variety of wildlife.

SHELTER: This means providing sleeping places and places to raise babies. Evergreens, bushes and brush piles will provide this for many species of wildlife. Birdhouses are another excellent method for any-sized yard. Use a variety of sizes to attract the highest number of species... and you may be surprised by the types of animals that use your "bird" house.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING: This means thinking about how we use and what we use for our backyard. Rain barrels and water gardens that help prevent runoff from reaching our waterways are two sustainable practices. Composting so that we recycle our organic materials and not waste them is another. Another method is to use only the minimal amount of fertilizer and other chemicals and always apply them correctly per label instructions. In short, it's about realizing that your little world is part of everyone's big world and everything we do has an effect on our planet.

This has been a very brief overview of **BACKYARD CONSERVATION**. There are many sources of information for you to explore for more guidance. For instance, refer to the National Wildlife Federation website (www.nwf.org) and its Indiana affiliate (www.indianawildlife.org), which also has a program for you to register your backyard as a wildlife habitat. Also the USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service website (www.usda.gov) is an excellent resource.

So go outside and GREEN UP YOUR LITTLE CORNER OF THE PLANET !!!

Today the "buzz" word seems to be "green." Everyone seems to be talking about ways that they are "going green" or how you can "go green," which is great and I would like to add another phrase to the buzz: **GREEN UP YOUR LITTLE CORNER OF THE PLANET**. You do not need acres of



The clipart featured in this edition of *The Natural Educator* are all courtesy of Florida Center for Instructional Technology (FCIT) at USF (<http://etc.usf.edu/clipart>)



Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Compliance: *It Still Exists.*

By: John Baute, Soil Conservationist NRCS (St. Joseph County, Indiana)

Background

25 years ago the 1985 Farm Bill required that, by 1995, program participants to have a conservation plan written and implemented for highly erodible land (HEL) in order to participate in USDA programs. Since 1995 anyone interested or receiving USDA benefits is expected to actively apply a conservation system on all HEL grounds that are being used to produce annually tilled agricultural commodity crops. Also, the 1985 Farm Bill and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act required landowners and producers to protect wetlands on land they own or operate. The new Farm Bill continues to stress HEL and wetland compliance. Both NRCS and FSA perform status reviews on a number of tracts annually to determine compliance with HEL and wetland conservation regulations.

HEL Compliance Q&A

What is HEL?

A field will be considered highly erodible if either one-third or more of the field is highly erodible, or if the highly erodible land in the field totals 50 or more acres.

Is a conservation plan required on HEL ground?

Yes. As a matter of fact you might already have an existing plan on file. Contact your NRCS office to check for existing conservation plans.

What is the most common mistake made by operators who are out of compliance?

Working soybean residue into the ground is the most common cause of noncompliance. Any tillage to soybean ground could cause your operation to be out of compliance.

Keep a few things in mind about tillage.

Using aerators or rotary harrows on fields scheduled for no-till may result in noncompliance. Strip tillage that has less than 25% row disturbance is equivalent to no-till.

What about fertilizer applications?

Refer to your conservation plan when applying fertilizer. Keep in mind that required residue levels must remain after planting.

What if I want to update my conservation plan?

Updates to your conservation plan are your responsibility. To change your conservation plan you must achieve either the equivalent to or greater than the level of protection of your current system. Also, a new conservation plan will need to be written and signed by you and your District Conservationist.

Wetland Compliance Q&A

What is a Wetland?

A wetland is an area of predominantly hydric soil that, under normal circumstances, supports a prevalence of water-loving plants such as cattails, willows, sedges and rushes indicative of land with wetland hydrology.

Do I have a Wetland?

Refer to your Certified Wetland Determination, which you may request through your local FSA office if you plan to bring more land into production or increase drainage on cropland.

How can I stay in compliance?

Communicate with NRCS. In most cases, you will farm as you always have, as long as you do not make crop production possible in a wetland, increase drainage on Farmed Wetlands, or add fill to any wetland.

What can I do if I need to work on or in a wetland or Farmed Wetland?

Contact NRCS for options to avoid wetland losses and stay in compliance.

Activities that could put you at risk in HEL/Wetlands

Land clearing, filling, leveling, excavation, dredging, stump removal, or creating new drainage systems

Purpose of HEL/Wetland protection

- Reduce soil loss due to wind and water erosion
- Protect the Nation's long-term capability to produce food and fiber
- Reduce sedimentation and improve water quality
- Assist in preserving the functions and values of the Nation's wetlands

What can happen if you are noncompliant?

Your USDA Benefits that could be removed because of noncompliance include programs and services such as:

Commodity Programs

- *Direct and Counter Cyclical Program*
- *Deficiency Payment*
- *Consolidated Farm Rural Development Act*
- *Dairy Marketing Assistance Program*
- *Non-insured Assisted Program*
- *Emergency Feed Program*
- *Farm Storage Loans (HEL only)*
- *Crop Disaster Program*

Conservation Programs

- CRP
- CSP
- EQIP
- *Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act payments or loan assistance*
- *Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program*
- GRP
- WRP
- WHIP



Select Covers that Balance Pests, Problems of Farm

An excerpt from the book "Managing Cover Crops Profitably" Published by the Sustainable Agriculture Network

Many crops can be managed as cover crops, but only a few have been studied specifically for their pest-related benefits on cash crops and field environments. Learn all you can about the impacts of a cover crop species to help you manage it in your situation. Here are several widely used cover crops described by their effects **under conservation tillage** in relation to insects, diseases, nematodes and weeds.

• **Cereal Rye** (*Secale cereale*)—This winter annual grain is perhaps the most versatile cover crop used in the continental United States. Properly managed under conservation tillage, rye has the ability to reduce soil-borne diseases, nematodes and weeds. Rye is a non-host plant for root-knot nematodes and soil-borne diseases. It produces significant biomass that smothers weeds when it is left on the surface and also controls weeds allelopathically through natural weed-suppressing compounds. As it grows, rye provides habitat, but not food, for beneficial insects. Thus, only a small number of beneficial insects are found on rye. Fall-planted rye works well in reducing soilborne diseases, root-knot nematodes and broadleaf weeds in all cash crops that follow, including cotton, soybean and most vegetables. Rye will not control weedy grasses. Because it can increase numbers of cut worms and wire worms in no-till planting conditions, rye is not the most suitable cover where those worms are a problem ahead of grass crops like corn, sweet corn, sorghum or pearl millet.

• **Wheat** (*Triticum aestivum*)—A winter annual grain, wheat is widely adapted and works much like rye in controlling diseases, nematodes and broadleaf weeds. Wheat is not as effective as rye in controlling weeds because it produces less biomass and has less allelopathic effect.

• **Crimson Clover** (*Trifolium incarnatum*)—Used as a self-reseeding winter annual legume throughout the Southeast, fall-planted crimson clover supports and increases soil-borne diseases, such as the pythium-rhizoctonia complex, and root-knot nematodes. It suppresses weeds effectively by forming a thick mulch. Crimson clover supports high densities of beneficial insects by providing food and habitat. Because some cultivars produce "hard seed" that resists immediate germination, crimson clover can be managed in late spring so that it reseeds in late summer and fall.

3 Ways to LEARN MORE

- Give us a call (574.291.7444 x 3)
- Visit the Midwest Cover Crops Council Website at www.mccc.msu.edu
- Read more of "Managing Cover Crops Profitably" online at <http://tinyurl.com/managecover>

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, August 12, 2010
~ 5PM-7:00PM ~
@ St. Joseph Cty Farm Bureau
Mtg Rm. South Bend

COVER CROP Q&A's
with
Special Guest Speaker, Jamie Scott

A FREE EVENT
organized by
YOUR St. Joseph County SWCD

For DETAILS or to RESERVE a "SEAT" give us a call at 574-291-7444 x 3

SAVE

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Are you thinking about trying out COVER CROPS for the first time, or for the first time in a while?

The St. Joseph County SWCD has a NEW COST-SHARE PROGRAM to help you out! The **deadline** to sign up for our **"Cover It Green" Cost-Share Program** is **July 1st**, so call right now for more details (*including the fact that it's easy to sign up, and even if you are already signed up to receive cost-share money for cover crops through another program, you may be eligible for even more \$ through us!*)



Help Available for Farmers Fighting Wet Fields

Across Indiana, warm dry days in April offered early opportunities for farmers to get into fields. Given the problems with wet soils and cold temperatures in the planting seasons the last two years, farmers seemed to explode into the fields this year. Farmers were not only ahead of last year's pace, they were way ahead of the five-year average for planting. May's cool, wet weather did, however, complicate matters.

"During the last two years, farmers have seen extensive flooding and long periods of wetness and cool temperatures in spring and early summer," said Jane Hardisty, state conservationist with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "In 2009, when we announced the opportunity for a lump sum payment to put land under easement on acres with ongoing wetness problems, we heard from a lot of farmers. We ran out of funding before we could help them all, but with **2010 Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** funding, we could offer easement payments to farmers we couldn't reach last year," says Hardisty. "Now, we have an additional WRP allocation for 2010. Farmers who are still fighting wet fields can apply at our local field offices to receive some of that funding."

WRP is the nation's premier wetlands restoration program. It is a voluntary program that offers landowners the means and the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. Restoring wetlands helps to stabilize and protect the soils in the floodplain to improve overall water quality, improves habitat for migratory birds and wetland dependant species, and temporarily stores floodwater to reduce flooding downstream. Restored vegetation helps filter sediments from floodwaters and enables infiltration to recharge groundwater.

In Indiana, as in other states in the Midwest, floodplain soils were often some of the first lands to be cleared by the pioneers, who knew that the flood cycles would bring topsoil from upstream and deposit it. River bottom soils often became more fertile and produced good crops with fewer inputs.

Today, as more upstream land has been developed and is under roof and paving, storm runoff is greater and comes faster. River bottom fields can be damaged and can be under water for longer periods of time, making them less viable as cropland. Soils that stay wet for long periods can delay planting or inhibit growth, producing poorer crops. Farmers can be facing situations where they spend more on inputs than they get back in outputs from those fields. WRP can help in those situations.

To read more about WRP on Indiana's NRCS website, simply Google **Indiana NRCS WRP**. You can read more on the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance website (www.cfda.gov) by using the search term **WRP**.

To apply or to learn more, interested producers should contact your USDA Service Center to determine eligibility. In St. Joseph County, call 574-291-7444, ext. 3.

Natural Resources Success Story Emerges From the Soil

By JANE HARDISTY,
NRCS State Conservationist for Indiana

In April 1935, a soil scientist and showman named Hugh Hammond Bennett stood before congress testifying that private lands in the Southwest and the people who lived and worked on that land were being ruined.

He was advocating that economic stability of the nation depended on landowners who grow food and fiber crops and that they needed help managing and protecting America's farmlands. That very day, dust from the Great Plains blew into the windows of Congress.

Now fast forward to today, 75 years after the creation of the Soil Erosion Service, things are different. Science and technology have transformed agriculture and expanded farmers' capabilities to produce crops.

And, because 70% of the land in the United States is privately owned, stewardship by private landowners is absolutely critical to the health of our Nation's natural resources.

Today, the Natural Resources Conservation Service works with private landowners to help them be good stewards of the land they use to produce crops.

Soil quality and energy have become critical issues to Indiana agriculture. We offer farmers a Conservation Cropping System, designed to enhance long-term soil health and productivity and help them identify where they can reduce their energy usage and costs.

NRCS is helping farmers understand how their everyday decisions can improve the quality of soil resources, improve water quality and have positive impacts on climate change.

By managing nutrients and crop residues differently and including cover crops, farmers can keep carbon tied up in the soil in the form of organic matter, reducing carbon in the atmosphere, making the soil biotic community healthier and the soil more productive.

Helping organic producers is a priority of the 2008 farm bill. In 2009, we announced our Organic Initiative.

Our objective is to make organic food producers eligible to compete for financial assistance in our Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

EQIP dollars now also are available to help farmers transition to organic production. The 2008 farm bill also recognizes that growing and using crops locally, finding local sources of livestock feed and recycling livestock manure locally, all save transportation costs.

NRCS delivers high quality technical assistance to Hoosier farmers and other land use decision-makers. We know much more about our soils and other natural resources today than we knew 75 years ago.

With our partners and customers, we are finding better, more efficient ways to use those natural resources and better ways to protect them.

NRCS employees, servicing every county in Indiana, are looking forward to the next 75 years, whatever the winds blow our way.



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5605 US HIGHWAY 31 SOUTH STE 4
SOUTH BEND IN 46614-5296

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District

Supervisors:

John Dooms, Chair
Paul Williams, III, Vice-Chair
Jim LaFree, Member
John Kulwicki, Member
Carole Riewe, Member

Associate Supervisors:

Brian Cherry
Dave Craft
Jan Ivkovich
Melvin Kulwicki
Charles Lehman
Joe Long
Randy Matthys
Eugene Myers
Richard Schmidt
Arlene Schuchman
Stacey Silvers
Dale Stoner
Dave VanDewalle
Dru Wrasse

Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
Al Gostola
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback



JULY

- 1 - "Cover it Green" Grant Application Deadline
- 2-10 - St. Joe County 4H Fair
- 5 - Day after Independence Day— OFFICE CLOSED
- 19 - **SWCD Monthly Board Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg Rm.
- 20 - "Cover it Green" Grant Applicants notified of possible funding

AUGUST

- 5 - **FREE EVENT**-Film Screening of WATERLIFE (see pp. 1-2)
- 12 - **FREE EVENT**-Cover Crop Q&A's Workshop w/ Jamie Scott (see p. 6)
- 16 - **SWCD Monthly Board Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg Room

SEPTEMBER

- 6 - Labor Day — OFFICE CLOSED
- 20 - **SWCD Monthly Board Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Farm Bureau Mtg Rm.
- 21 - **FREE EVENT**-Tri-County Forestry Field Day (see p. 3)

Office Staff:

Debbie Knepp, NRCS
John Baute, NRCS
Rick Glassman, SWCD
Maria Schaefer, SWCD
Lisa Wynn, SWCD
Katie Losekamp, SWCD Intern

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Morgan Thornburg, CED
Helene Cannoot
Cindy Philhower
Denise Trimboli

OUR 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.