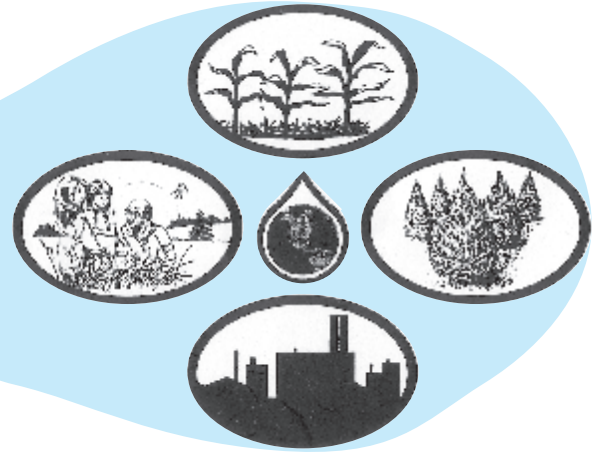




St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



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

September/October 2014  
Volume 16, Issue 5

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

### What's Going On...

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

#### September

*1st - Labor Day - Office Closed*

*16th - St. Joseph County SWCD Board Meeting (7:00 pm @ Centre Township Branch Library)*

*20th - Multi County Forestry Field Day 9am-noon. (See back page for details)*

#### October

*21st - St. Joseph County SWCD Board Meeting (7:00 pm @ Centre Township Branch Library)*

*23rd - SWCD's VIP Owl Prowl*

#### November

*11th - Veteran's Day - Office Closed*

*18th - St. Joseph County SWCD Board Meeting (7:00 pm @ Centre Township Branch Library)*

*27th - Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed*

*28th - SWCD Office Closed*

### Have You Heard? ...

The Natural Resources Conservation Service programs offer help to people who wish to protect or enhance our water systems, soils, wildlife habitats and therefore reduce damages caused by natural events such as floods, and other natural disasters. NRCS offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. Through these programs the agency approves contracts to provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil health, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. The following are currently available programs that offer financial assistance for which you can apply for anytime:

*Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*  
EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as:

- Air and water quality
- Conservation of surface and ground water
- Soil erosion and sedimentation reduction
- Wildlife habitat creation

We can assist you to obtain these benefits by planning and designing practices like:

- Grazing management: fencing, stock water systems, range and pasture planting
- Nutrient management: manure storage structures, planned nutrient applications, soil testing

- Pest management: crop and pest monitoring activities
- Erosion control: cover crops, no-till, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures
- Wildlife habitat enhancement: stream buffers, upland wildlife habitat establishment

#### *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*

The Conservation Stewardship Program helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance as they continue enhance their conservation practices.

#### *Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP)*

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands. The Agricultural Conservation Easements Program consolidates three former programs - Wetland Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program, and Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.

For additional information, please contact us at your local service center at:

USDA Service Center  
2903 Gary Drive  
Plymouth, IN 46563  
Phone: 574-936-2024 extension 4

## **St. Joseph County River Friendly Farmers**

For Indiana farmers, recognition for the work they do every day is nice, but not necessary. They consider the thought and effort they put into protecting soil health and water quality as part of their job description as a farmer.

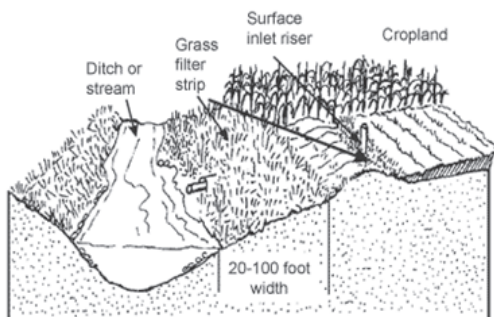


On Aug. 13, however, two of St. Joseph County's Agricultural Producers, were honored as winners of the Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts' 2014 River Friendly Farmer Award. The Award is given to those farmers across Indiana who have shown a dedication to improving the quality of their local waterways through sound conservation farming techniques. Some of the conservation practices utilized by our local farmers include but are not limited to; No-till planting which reduces or eliminates erosion, planting winter cover crops that trap excess nutrients in the field before running off into the waterways, and intensive Nutrient Management that only applies fertilizer where and when a crop needs the fertilizer.

The two St. Joseph County farmers to whom this prestigious award was presented were Jim Eller of Osceola, and The Ehninger Family who farm just west of South Bend. The awards ceremony was held in the 4-H Exhibit Hall Auditorium at the Indiana State Fairgrounds during Farmers' Day at the Indiana State Fair. This year's award was presented by Indiana State Department of Agriculture Director Ted McKinney, President of Indiana Farm Bureau Don Villwock, State Conservationist Jane Hardisty, and IASWCD President Jeff Meinders.

If you would like more information about the River Friendly Farmer, or if you would like to nominate a farmer to be considered for the 2015 award, please contact the St. Joseph County SWCD at 574-936-2024 x 4!

### **Save money AND help improve water quality!**



Courtesy agry.purdue.edu

The St. Joseph River Basin Commission wants to remind you that if you own property along a waterway or water body, Indiana has a filter strip law (IC 6-1.1-6.7) that may significantly reduce your property taxes! Filter strips have been proven to improve water quality by naturally filtering sediment and excess nutrients out of runoff before it enters the waterways. They also help stabilize the soil, preventing sloughing and erosion of the banks. Because they are so

beneficial, land designated as a "classified filter strip" will be assessed property tax at \$1.00 per acre rather than at the current rate! If you have questions regarding the Filter Strip Law and tax assessment reductions please contact the County Drainage Board, Assessor's Office, or Surveyor's Office. For technical assistance and opportunities for funding to develop and maintain filter strips contact your local USDA NRCS and SWCD.

- St. Joseph County NRCS & SWCD 574-936-2024 ext 4
- St. Joseph County Surveyor 574-235-9631
- St. Joseph County Drainage Board 574-235-9543
- St. Joseph County Assessor 574-235-9523
- St. Joseph River Basin Commission 574-287-1829

## **Don't forget to schedule your classroom's Environmental Education Program!!**

Our Environmental Educator's calendar opened on August 12th. If you haven't called or emailed to schedule yet there may still be time!



### Hands on Programs:

Sense of Wonder - Earthworms - Amphibians & Reptiles

### Slide Shows:

Animals of Indiana - Bats - Mammals of Indiana - Birds of Indiana - Insects of Indiana -  
Owls of Indiana - Indiana Endangered Species - Who's in the Hollow Tree -  
Invasive Species

### Discussion:

Jethro the Scarecrow - Wetland Life - Soils of Indiana - Water and You - Recycling -  
Nature Games - Legends and Folktales - Tree I.D. - Environmental Concerns - Wildlife  
Dynamics - Spirit of America

### Field Trips:

Madison Lab - Prairie Vista Lab - Swamp Stomp - Owl Prowl

### Assembly Program: Mr. Nature

Call the office at 574-936-2024 ext 4 or email (best way) Rick at  
Richard.glassman@in.nacdnet.net.



ST JOSEPH COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
2903 GARY DRIVE, SUITE 1  
PLYMOUTH IN 46563

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SOUTH BEND IN  
PERMIT NO. 225



## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

### Upcoming Field Days:

Marshall County - "Healthy Soils Cash and Cover Crop Field Day"

#### August 26th

- 1:30-3:30 Cash Crop Focus
- 3:30-4:00 Refreshments
- 4:00-6:00 Cover Crop Focus
- 6:00-Dusk Dinner & Discussion

For more info or to RSVP call Wanda @ Marshall County SWCD 574-936-2024 ext 3 or the St. Joseph County SWCD at 574-936-2024 ext 4

#### 2014 Multi County Forestry Field Day

**Sept 20th**, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon EDT. To be held at the Dillon Property east of Piercetown, IN.

- Topics: Introduction to the Site - Gary Dillon
- Tree Planting and Thinning - Bruce Wakeland
- Wildlife Ponds and Habitats - Scott Fetters
- Timber Harvesting - Mike Denman
- Bush Honey Control - Tim Eizinger

For more info please call the St. Joseph County SWCD at 574-936-2024 ext 4

#### 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  
Melvin Kulwicki  
Jim LaFree  
Charles Lehman  
Joe Long  
Randy Matthys  
Carole Riewe  
Richard Schmidt  
Dale Stoner  
Dave Vandewalle  
Paul Williams, III  
Dru Wrasse

#### SWCD Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd  
Al Gostola  
Jerry Knepp  
Keith Lineback  
William Millar

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

Debbie Knepp, NRCS  
Rick Glassman, SWCD  
Sarah Harville, SWCD  
James Rodriguez, NRCS

#### Farm Service Agency Staff:

Gideon Nobbe, CED  
Linda Bentele  
Aldona Martin  
Cindy Slonaker

**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!!!!**