



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

November/December 2018
Volume 20, Issue 6

2903 Gary Drive, Ste 1, Plymouth, IN 46563
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What's Going On...

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

November

6th - Election Day - County Holiday

12th - Veterans Day (Observed) - PSA & NRCS staff off, SWCD staff will be in the office.

20th - Monthly Board Meeting - Open to the Public 9 AM LOCATION: USDA Service Center, 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563

22nd - Thanksgiving Day - office closed

23rd - County Holiday

December

24th - County Holiday

25th - Christmas Day - Office Closed

January

1st - New Year's Day - Office closed

You Are Invited to Join Us for Our 59th Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars to join us as we celebrate 59 years of serving St. Joseph County.

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. Stephanie grew up on a row crop and dairy farm near Leota, Minnesota. She graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University with a degree in Environmental Science and Agronomy. Stephanie has worked in multiple states in her career offering her the opportunity to gain invaluable experience and form meaningful relationships all across the country. Stephanie has been with the Indiana NRCS for 1 year now and lives in Brownsburg, Indiana with her husband of 22 years and their two daughters ages 9 and 5.



Contact the office for more details or to order your tickets! Call: 574-936-2024 Ext. 4.

Email: info@stjosephswcd.org

Visit our website to register:

www.stjosephswcd.org

Silent Auction Donation Form

Each item being auctioned will be displayed along with the name of the donating individual, business, or organization. You may provide a business card to attach to each item if you wish. We ask that each auction item have a retail value of at least \$10.

**Item(s) Submission
Deadline: 1/18/2019**

If you have questions about the Silent Auction or would like more information, call the St. Joseph County SWCD Office Staff at 574.936.2024 x4.



Company/Organization Name (If applicable) _____

Contact Person _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Donated Item & Short Description of Item or Service: _____

Retail Value

\$: _____

Sandhill Crane Chick born on NRCS Restored Wetland



By Prairie Winds Nature Farm
We've got some exciting news!

I was out in the prairie below the house this morning and spooked up two majestic Sandhill Cranes which is always a thrill but what came next was even better. I continued up the trail towards the house and

came across a pretty good-sized tan colored chick. The first thing that flashed in my mind was "How did one of Charlotte's chicks get way out here" but then I saw the legs and made the connection. It was a Sandhill Crane chick!

The parents had landed about 100 yards away and were making a racket. I grabbed my camera and took a few quick pictures and skedaddled to minimize my intrusion. We've been hoping for Sandhills to nest here since we build our wetlands and planted prairie some 20+ years ago. While they have been regular but somewhat infrequent visitors over the years we've always been disappointed.

If you are not familiar with Sandhill Cranes they are big birds, standing up to 4 feet tall. Bigger even than

Great Blue Herons. They raise one brood per year usually in April or May building their nest in a marsh or other wetland though occasionally an upland. Females lay one to three eggs which both parents incubate for about 30 days. The chicks are precocial meaning they hatch covered in down, with their eyes open, and able to leave the nest within a day. The parents brood the chicks for up to three weeks after hatching, feeding them intensively for the first few weeks, then gradually less frequently until they reach independence at 9 to 10 months old.

The chicks remain with their parents until one to two months before the parents lay the next clutch of eggs the following year, remaining with them 10-12 months. After leaving their parents, the chicks form nomadic flocks with other juveniles and nonbreeders. They remain in these flocks until they form breeding pairs at between two and seven years old.

Exciting day at Prairie Winds Nature Farm – I can hardly stand it! To learn more about NRCS Wetland Restoration programs visit their website or contact your local District Conservationist Deborah Knepp at 574-936-2024 Ext. 4. (Prairie Winds Nature Farm gave permission to share this post from their Facebook Page on 6/14/2018.)

USDA Launches Trade Mitigation Programs

USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

USDA provided details in August of the programs to be employed. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will administer the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) to provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers. An announcement about further payments will be made in the coming months, if warranted. USDA is currently working to determine how to address market disruptions for producers of almonds and sweet cherries.

The sign-up period for MFP is now open and runs through Jan. 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. MFP provides payments to cotton, corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.

Market Facilitation Program

Commodity	Initial Payment Rate	Est. Initial Payment** (in \$1,000s)
Cotton	\$0.06/lb.	\$276,900
Corn	\$0.01/bu.	\$96,000
Dairy (milk)	\$0.12/cwt.	\$127,400
Pork (hogs)	\$8.00/head	\$290,300
Soybeans	\$1.65/bu.	\$3,629,700
Sorghum	\$0.86/bu.	\$156,800
Wheat	\$0.14/bu.	\$119,200
Total		\$4,696,300

**Initial payment rate on 50% of production

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

For more further information or to locate and contact local FSA offices, interested producers can visit www.farmers.gov

Since April 9, 1959, the St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District has been helping to preserve, improve, and protect soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources for future generations. 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 throughout St Joseph County.

The St Joseph County SWCD fills a unique and crucial role in conservation and stewardship: that of providing soil and water conservation expertise and services to private landowners. Ninety-six percent of Indiana's land is privately owned. Land use varies from agriculture, productive forests, bodies of water, and urban or industrial use. Regardless of ownership, all lands are interconnected. Responsible and wise management of these private lands is key to Hoosiers' quality of life.

With the help from our donors, we are able to provide programs, cost share, and education to the producers and residents of St Joseph County. Would you consider joining in our effort to protect natural resources today for future generations?

St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District 2019 Membership Form
Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip
Phone:
Email:
Website:

Please Confirm Your Giving Level

_____ Affiliate Membership: \$25-\$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 and recognition in our 2019 Annual Report & website.
*Bronze & Silver Memberships will include everything above PLUS a certificate of recognition, and recognition on the SWCD website will include address, phone number & website.
** Gold Memberships will include everything above PLUS 4 Complementary VIP Tickets to SWCD's Annual Meeting Dinner Banquet (if donation submitted by 1/15/2019).

_____ **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**
- _____ **Youth Environmental Education Supporter**
- _____ **Annual Meeting Banquet and Supervisors Election** (Donation must be submitted by 1-15-2019)
- _____ **Conservation Cost Share** (Help install conservation practices such as cover crops, no-till, pollinator habitat, raingardens, filter strips, etc.)
- _____ **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 and click on the "Donate" button.

Scan me to donate now!

St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

Stacey Silvers

Oct. 15, 1954– Sept. 23, 2018

It is with a sad heart that we share the passing of Stacey Silvers. Stacey served on the board since 2008. She served on several committees and advocated for urban conservation. She had a passion for dogs, birding, raptor (large bird) rehabilitating, and studying nature, preferably first hand. She helped with Science Alive, Legislator Tours, and other education and outreach events as needed. Stacey

has been a great asset for the district and will truly be missed.



Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors:

John Dooms, Chair
Jeremy Cooper, Vice Chair
Mike Burkholder
Dave Vandewalle
Dave Craft

St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff:

Sarah Longenecker, SWCD
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD
Jane Sablich, SWCD
Debbie Knepp, NRCS

SWCD Associate Supervisors:

Jim LaFree
Chuck Lehman
Randy Matthys
Richard Schmidt
Dru Wrasse

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Gideon Nobbe, CED
Aldona Martin
Abby Ciesielski
Tara Wolfe
Devan Herrell

SWCD Honorary Members:

Bernard Byrd
Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback
William Millar



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!