

Youngs Creek /Indian Creek Watershed Projects
Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District
550 East Jefferson Street, Suite 202
Franklin, IN 46131
Phone: 317-346-6102 or 317-878-4064
Fax: 317-736-9344
www.swcd.org/watershed.htm



PRSRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Franklin, IN
Permit No. 282



Watershed Connections

A quarterly newsletter dedicated to the activities of the
Youngs Creek and Indian Creek Watershed Projects

June, 2008

WATERSHED STAFF

Debra Ashack

Watershed Coordinator
debra-ashack@iaswcd.org

David Harrell

Conservation Resource
Specialist
david-harrell@iaswcd.org

550 East Jefferson Street
Franklin, IN 46131
(317) 346-6102

Martinsville Area
(317) 878-4064

www.swcd.org/watershed.htm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cost-share update
Steering Committee
Advisory Group
Ag Days

Emerging Technologies in Agriculture Field Day Review

The Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Youngs Creek and Indian Creek Watershed Projects sponsored a field day at Scott Hall, at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, March 19, 2008.

Technologies showcased included: Auto Steer, Radio-Frequency ID (RFID), Ultrasound Technology, Variable Rate Technology (VRT), Real Time Kinematic (RTK), Yield Monitors, Record Keeping Software, Guidance Systems, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Conservation Engineering.

Participants included: Purdue University, Precision Partners, Agro Chem, NRCS, Farm Works, Indy Tractor, and Kova Fertilizer. Each company presented information about the technology they sell.

Unfortunately, a rainy day did not allow for field demonstrations.

A free buffet lunch was included for attendees. The lunch was sponsored by Johnson County Beef Cattle Association and Johnson County Farm Bureau, Inc.

Thanks to the Johnson County Fair Board and all the participants who made the field day a success.

Johnson County Fair

Be sure to visit our booth at the Johnson County Fair. We will be in the Farm Bureau Building from July 13th through the 19th. Returning this year will be the Ducks! Each day we will feature a demonstration about how streams can meander and steps we can take to reduce flooding and streambank erosion using our stream simulation table. There will be free information about conservation. A special prize will be awarded this year. We have two rain barrels that will be given away at the end of the fair. These rain barrels are recycled oak whiskey barrels that are used to collect water from the downspouts of your house. The water is then used to water flowers or trees around your house. If you think back to last summer when we went months without rain and at times water became scarce, wouldn't you have liked to conserve all the water you could? By saving rainfall it reduces the need to use municipal water supplies for plants. An average roof can produce up to 500 gallons of water in a one inch rainfall. Think about the uses for 500 gallons of water. For more information on rain barrels or other conservation issues, please stop by our booth during the fair.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ June 9th Indian Creek Watershed Steering Committee Meeting at the Painted Hills Club-house
- ◆ June 19th 10:00am Youngs Creek Watershed Advisory Group Meeting
- ◆ July 13-18 Johnson County Fair, Come visit the SWCD booth in the Farm Bureau Building

Please refer to our website www.swcd.org/watershed.htm or call the office for more information on future events.



New SAFE Program Signup

The Farm Service Agency released a new program for wildlife habitat improvement. This program is part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). It is administered similarly to other CRP programs with the exception of the contract lengths being longer. For more information see the related article in the SWCD district newsletter or our website www.swcd.org.

Johnson County Ag Days



Here are some pictures from the Johnson County Ag Days held in March. Over 1,200 4th graders from across the county attended. They were able to see the conservation efforts of the SWCD and other agriculture groups from the county, and many of the farm animals that are raised here. There were eleven different stations presenting information about agriculture and farming. Programs such as these remain vital to educating the public about agriculture as our county becomes more urbanized.



Cost-share Update

The cost-share program will run through March 2009. If you are thinking about doing a project please contact David Harrell as soon as possible in order to complete your project before the program ends. If you have interest in doing a cost-share project, please refer to our website for more details on the program or contact David Harrell at 317-346-6102 ext. 106. The cost-share program was revised at the Youngs Creek Advisory group meeting on February 21st.

Indian Creek Watershed Update

Development of the ICW Management Plan is progressing as results are in from two models run to help determine the quantity of pollutants contributed to the watershed waters and the critical areas responsible for the greatest contributions of pollutants. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) staff ran the Long-Term Hydrological Impact Analysis (L-THIA) model to determine the pollutant loads contributed to watershed waters by various land uses, soils and topography. Their results showed that the areas within the Goose/Barnes Creeks, Bear Creek/Long Run and Sand Creek sub-watersheds were contributing the greatest amounts of phosphorus, nitrogen and suspended solids. Based on acceptable State water quality standards, these results will help determine the percent reduction of these pollutants needed.

The other model, developed by Jennifer Sobecki, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and a member of the Indian Creek Watershed Steering Committee, looked at land uses, soil types, topography and riparian zones of the watershed streams. The riparian zone is the area on either side of a stream which can serve to slow and filter runoff of stormwater into streams. Vegetated riparian zones are important in slowing stormwater runoff, providing an opportunity to infiltrate into the ground or be filtered and cleaned of pollutants, especially eroded soil, before it reaches the stream. Jennifer's model scored and ranked the seven sub-watersheds and stream reaches (approximately 1/2 mile stream segments) of the Watershed. Her results provided information on the sub-watershed and stream reach levels, providing information on critical areas of concern on a broad scale and local stream scale. Comparison of this model to the results of the L-THIA model and the visual stream assessment conducted by watershed staff last year confirmed the areas of greatest concern for non-point source pollutants within the Goose/Barnes Creeks, Bear Creek/Long Run and Sand Creek sub-watersheds. The next step for the Steering Committee will be to look at the potential sources of those pollutants and develop goals for reducing them through Best Management Practices (BMP) such as conservation practices and education/outreach. For more information on these models and their results, visit our web site at www.swcd.org or call Debra Ashack at 317/346-6102 ext. 105.

Available at the SWCD office

Do you need supplies for your next conservation project? We have many of the items you may need available at the SWCD office. Here is a partial list.

Marking Flags \$9.00 per bundle (100 flags per bundle)

Erosion Control Netting .25 cents per linear foot (includes staples)

Geotextile Fabric, 8 oz non woven, 15 ft wide \$1.50 per linear foot

Also available are many different educational materials that are free of charge. Please call the office for a list of what we have available.

Advisory Group Meeting

The Youngs Creek advisory group will meet at 10:00am June 19, 2008, at the Johnson County SWCD office. There will be discussion about possible field days or workshops for the summer and fall. Also to be presented will be a cost-share update. If you would like to attend please email David Harrell at david-harrell@iaswcd.org or call 317-346-6102 ext. 106