

Decatur County Soil & Water Conservation District Update

Spring 2011

"A Quarterly Newsletter Devoted to Conservation"

Volume 4, Issue 1

4th Annual Tree Giveaway

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Pat Grote

-Chairman

A. Brian Cruser

-Vice Chairman

Roger Wenning

-Secretary

Reuben Kissel

-Member

Tom Cherry

-Member

SWCD Staff

Jenna Peck

-District Coordinator

Scott Sanders

-Natural Resource Specialist

NRCS Staff

Mike Hughes

-District Conservationist

Clifty Creek/Flatrock-HawCreek Watershed

Project Staff

Heather Siesel

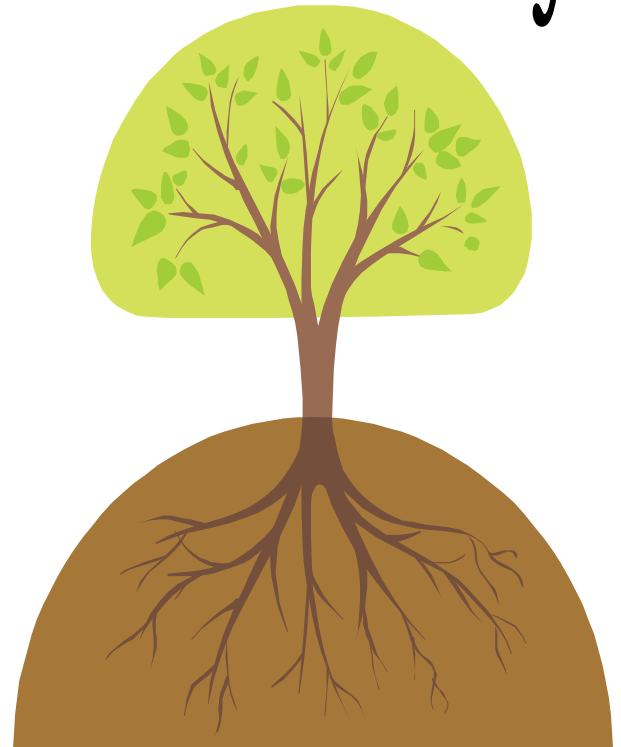
-Project Manager

When: April 16, 2011 at
9am

Where: Decatur County
SWCD Office
1333 N Liberty Circle E

Tree Species Available:

- Flowering Dogwood
- Bald Cypress
- Pin Oak
- Red Oak
- White Oak
- Tulip
- White Pine



Limit of **5** trees per person!

While you're there, check out our rain barrels and composters for sale!

55 gallon rain barrel : \$75

55 gallon composter: \$140

5 gallon composter: \$50



Save the Date: August 16, 2011

Cover Crop & Soil Quality Field Day with Ohio State professor, Jim Hoorman

More information to follow

2011 Annual Meeting

The Decatur County Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual meeting on February 14, 2011. Approximately 125 people were in attendance. Reuben Kissel began the meeting with the recognition of guests followed by invocation and then dinner catered by Barb Waechter. Pat Grote gave the annual report followed by Brian Cruser holding the election of supervisors. Jerry Kitchin recognized the following award winners. Bob Oesterling – Conservation Farmer of the Year, Blaine Schroeder – R. Frank Zobel 4H Award, and Scott Templeton – River Friendly Farmers. The entertainment for the evening was Katie Stam, former Miss America 2009. The election results were announced as Tom Cherry was elected to a 3 year term as he beat out current supervisor Jerry Kitchin. Previously, Pat Grote was appointed to a 3 year term. Door prizes donated by local business were given out to round out the evening. Thank you to everyone involved in helping with the annual meeting.



A big thank you to Jerry Kitchin for serving on the board of supervisors for 16 years!



Also, thank you to the Greensburg, North Decatur, and South Decatur FFA members who helped out during the annual meeting. We really appreciate all of your help!

Decatur County Community Foundation Grant

The Decatur County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of a grant for up to \$1,450 from the Ag Field of Interest. The grant is open to non-profit organizations promoting the purpose of the fund, which is promoting non-profit agricultural programs in the community. Grant applications will be reviewed upon their impact on the community. Applications are available from the DCCF at 662-6364 or www.dccfound.org or at the Decatur County Extension Office. Applications are due at 4:00pm, June 1, 2011. The grant recipient will be announced Friday, July 15, 2011.

Opportunity for producers to monitor nitrogen use

The Decatur, Bartholomew, and Jennings County SWCDs have partnered together on an initiative that will improve water quality and overall health of the Mississippi River. With this initiative there are some opportunities available for nitrogen monitoring available. Producers interested in participating will be working with our office in conjunction with the On Farm Network. The On Farm Network is looking for producers wanting to do nitrogen strip trials and guided stalk sampling (GSS). There are a limited amount of producers needed. Producers interested in the guided stalk sampling need to contact our office by June 1, 2011. GSS compares the amount of nitrogen applied to corn to the amount that is actually used by the plant. A tissue sample is taken when the corn is in black layer and sent for analysis. Participating producers will be invited to a wrap up meeting to discuss the results after harvest. For more information please call us at (812) 663-8685 x3.



Wanted: Earth Team Volunteer

The Decatur County NRCS and SWCD office is looking for an Earth Team volunteer to assist with office work. The person must be available during the hours of 8am-4pm.

General Information

Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older and are people like you--professionals, nonprofessionals, retirees, and students-- who are interested in conserving natural resources. Hours can vary from part time to full time.

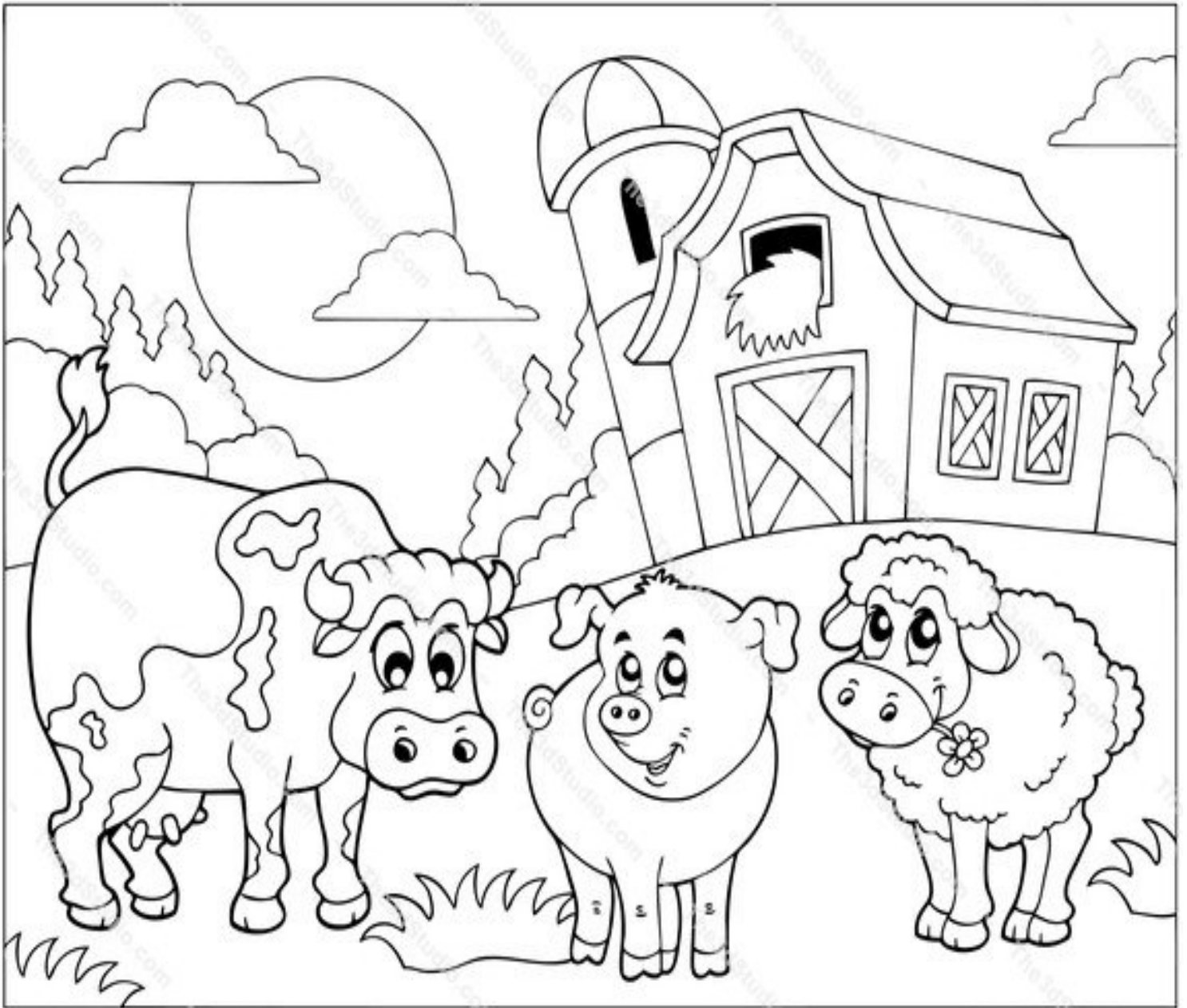
Please contact the office at 812-663-8685 x3 if you are interested in volunteering!



WATERSHED PROJECT RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY

The Clifty Creek Watershed Project's delisting of a stream segment from the State list of impaired waters that has received national recognition. In 2010, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) proposed removing an 8.12 mile long segment of lower Clifty Creek from the 2002 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) list of impaired waters from *Escherichia coli* bacteria. This project has recently been recognized by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Section 319 Nonpoint source program success story for the state of Indiana.

Escherichia coli bacteria originate from contamination of water by fecal or waste materials. The Clifty Creek Watershed Project along with several partners have reduced bacteria inputs including key sources such as manure spread on pastures, crops, livestock, leaking and failing septics as well as wildlife. The Watershed Projects partners include Bartholomew Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Decatur County Soil and Water Conservation District as well as many more. You can find out more information about this success at http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/in_lowerclifty.cfm



Stewardship Week will be celebrated April 24 to May 1, 2011 with a theme of "Forests for People More Than You Can Imagine."



Forests play a key role in our lives. Home to 300 million people globally, forests cover 31% of total land area. Our economies also benefit from forests with over 1.6 billion people's livelihoods depending on them.

Join us for our tree giveaway on April 16th, 2011 and then plant a tree at your home!

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JOHN HARDEBECK 812-591-2967

FAX: 812-591-3673

Todd A. Conwell
Owner

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Greensburg, IN 47240
(812) 663-8685 ext. 3
www.decaturswcd.org

Upcoming Events

April 16: Tree Giveaway @ 9am at USDA Service Center
April 22: Good Friday (OFFICE CLOSED)
May 2: Board Mtg @ 7pm at USDA Service Center
May 3: Primary Election Day (OFFICE CLOSED)
June 6: Board Mtg @ 7pm at USDA Service Center

Rental/Sales Information

- * Decatur County Soil Survey data is available in several different formats—FREE
- * Straw blower rental: \$55 for half day, \$25 additional half day
- * No-till drill rental: 10' wide model—\$10/acre

Wetland/HEL Determinations

If you are needing a wetland or highly erodible land determination on your farm, please remember that it is imperative to allow adequate time for the determination to be completed before you are ready to begin working. Determinations should be requested **at least three months** before you are ready to begin. Please see FSA to fill out the proper paperwork.

Decatur County SWCD Mission

To promote the wise use of our soil, water, and related natural resources. Each county in Indiana has a soil and water conservation district (SWCD). SWCDs are subdivisions of state government led by a 5 member board of supervisors. SWCDs determine and address natural resource needs in their counties. SWCDs address issues such as agricultural conservation, urban conservation, forestry, wildlife, water management, and natural resource education.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.