

Spring 2012

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District

Directors:

Joann Hartman—Chair
Terry Matzenbacher—
Vice Chair
Pat Wetzel—Treasurer
Lyle Wessel—Secretary
Myron Neff—Director

Associate Directors

Ralph Buettner
Harvey Hoffmann
Harry Reichert
Larry Scace
Ron Solich
Jay Vogt

District Staff:

Cindy Zipfel—Administrative
Coordinator
Courtney Rothlisberger—
Resource Conservationist

NRCS Staff:

Wayne Johanning—
District Conservationist
Chad LaMontagne-Soil
Conservation Technician

AIR QUALITY FUNDS AVAILABLE

New funding this year in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through the Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) includes an Air Quality Initiative in a 5 county area in the metro-east, including Monroe County.

Energy management plans for both the farmstead and cropland and comprehensive air quality management plans are available with this funding.

Conservation practices determined to have a positive effect on air quality are also available. Some of the practices available under the Air Quality Initiative are as follows:

Agrichemical Handling Facility	Integrated Pest Management
Anaerobic Digester for livestock manure management	Manure Amendments for odor control
Biofilters for confined livestock ventilation systems	No-Till for first time on a field
Combustion System Improvement for stationary engines	Nutrient Management
Composting Facility for handling livestock mortalities	Roofs & Covers for livestock feedlots or manure storage
Conservation Cover permanent grass seedings	Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility for livestock manure
Cover Crops	Tree Establishment
Forest Stand Improvement	Waste Storage Facility for livestock manure

The above is not an all-inclusive list but contains most of the practices applicable to this area. To be eligible for this funding an applicant must be an agricultural producer (except for Forest Stand Improvement) and meet Farm Bill eligibility and compliance criteria.

FUNDS.APPLICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE MARCH 29, 2012 FOR AIR QUALITY

EQIP funds for other practices are again available as well, including general conservation practices, forest management plans & implementation, confined livestock operations, and livestock grazing operations.

If you have questions please call the NRCS office at 618 939-6181, ext. 3 or email the District Conservationist, Wayne Johanning, at wayne.johanning@il.usda.gov. Additional information is also available on the Illinois NRCS website at <http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov>. Click on the "programs" tab at the top of the page, then select "Environmental Quality Incentives Program" from the list of programs.

THANK YOU

The Monroe County SWCD wishes to thank the following Businesses for becoming Affiliate Members for the 2012 year:

Acorns Golf Links	BoBeck's Sports Bar & Grill
Columbia National Bank	Country Insurance & Financial Services
Farm Credit Services	First National Bank of Waterloo
Gateway F.S., Inc.	Harrisonville Telephone Company
Hecker Feed Service	Liefer's Garage
Monroe County Electric	Monroe County Farm Bureau
NuDeal Oil Company	Petri Insurance
R&M Oil	Roger's Redi Mix, Inc.
Schneider's Quality Meats	State Bank of Waterloo
State Farm Insurance	Wm. Nobbe & Company, Inc.

USDA-NRCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

GREAT PLAIN NO-TILL DRILL

The SWCD has a 10ft No-Till Drill to rent. A damage deposit of \$200.00 is required before use of the drill. A maintenance fee of \$15.00 per acre will be charged upon completion of use. For more information, please call the office at 939-6181 ext. 3



ELECTION

An election was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at the Monroe County SWCD office in Waterloo. Those elected to serve two year terms on the SWCD board were Myron Neff, Lyle Wessel and Patricia Wetzel.

The Golden Rule of Gardening

If you treat your soil well, it will treat your plants well. "Healthy, fertile soil is a mixture of water, air, minerals, and organic matter. In soil, organic matter consists of plant and animal material that is in the process of decomposing. When it has fully decomposed it is called humus. This humus is important for soil structure because it holds individual mineral particles together in clusters. Ideal soil has a granular, crumbly structure that allows water to drain through it, and allows oxygen and carbon dioxide to move freely between spaces within the soil and the air above.

Successful gardening depends on good soil. One of the best ways to improve soil fertility is to add organic matter. It helps soil hold important plant nutrients. By adding organic matter to sandy soil, you improve the ability of the soil to retain water. In a clay soil, humus will loosen the soil to make it more crumbly. You can increase the organic matter in your garden by adding compost or applying mulch.

Application of organic matter to the soil adds carbon, which promotes the growth of beneficial bacteria, which increases the likelihood of hearty plants. Another benefit is when crops grow and demand more nutrients, added organic matter can be used as plant food. Remember that every time you disturb soil by turning or tilling, oxygen also is added to the soil. This increases microbial activity, which feeds on organic matter. Therefore, soil disturbance can decrease the soil's organic matter reserves and should be kept to a minimum.

Scientists have been researching the benefits of organic material for decades. They have found that plant deficiency diseases usually are less severe in soils that are well supplied with organic matter. This not only increases the vigor of the plants, but various soil microorganisms become more active in the presence of an abundance of organic matter. For example, certain kinds of fungi that live in decaying organic matter have been found to kill harmful nematodes.

Healthy, productive soil has a good proportion of organic matter in it. You can successfully increase the quality of your soil by regularly adding organic matter. Caring for the soil is an ongoing process and is essential for successful backyard conservation.

**The SWCD is
always
looking for
interested
people to
become a
Director or
Associate**

FISH DESCRIPTIONS

CHANNEL CATFISH—Stocking rate: 100-200 per acre without feeding: up to 200 per acre if feeding. When feeding, one needs to feed 100 lbs. of floating food per 100 fish per year. Start by feeding 1/2 lb. four to six times per week but do not exceed the amount the fish will clean up in ten minutes. Feed from April 15 until fish quit feeding in the fall.

HYBRID SUNFISH—Stocking rate: 500 per acre. Hybrid sunfish are a cross between a bluegill and green sunfish. The hybrids are 93% male and produce very few offspring, which results in rapid growth. Largemouth bass should be stocked with the hybrids. The bass will not grow very fast but will prevent survival of the few offspring produced by the hybrids.

LARGEMOUTH BASS—Stocking rate: 50-100 per acre. The bass will grow well in ponds with hybrid sunfish, providing the bass are fed.

SMALLMOUTH BASS—Stocking rate: 50-100 per acre. The smallmouth bass grows slowly and do not reproduce. This species does well in larger lakes.

BLUEGILL—Stocking rate: 500 per acre. Bluegill can take the place of the hybrid sunfish. Bluegill will result in better bass growth but may overpopulate and fail to produce catchable bluegill. (Stock 1/2 rate if stocked with bluegill).

CRAPPIE—Stocking rate: 100-200 per acre. Recommended for lakes of 20 acres or more. They tend to overpopulate in smaller ponds.

REDEAR—Stocking rate: 250 per acre. Stock with bluegill for better bass growth. Redear are a bottom feeder and difficult to catch. Do not stock northern 1/3 of state due to winterkill problems. (Stock 1/2 rate if stocked with bluegill).

FATHEAD MINNOWS—Stocking rate: 1-5 lbs. per acre. About 300 minnows per pound. Fatheads are used for forage in new ponds. Maximum size is 3 inches. They will reproduce.

TRIPLOID GRASS CARP—This fish is used for biological weed control and takes approximately two years to provide good control. Stocking rates are based in percentage of weed cover and size of pond. Stock at a rate of 5 carp per acre. If the lake still has vegetative problems after two years, stock another 5 per acre. Remember that ponds must have an area that is 7-10" deep for the fish to survive over winter. The Grass Carp are sterile and will not reproduce. **It is very important to fill out the exact location of the pond on the order form under, Township, Range, Section and County and return the order form promptly, as the District must apply for Permits from IDNR.**

2012 SPRING FISH SALE

		<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>COST</u>
Channel Catfish	4-6" @ \$.60 each	_____	\$ _____
	6-8" @ \$.75 each	_____	\$ _____
	8-10" @ \$.95 each	_____	\$ _____
Albino Catfish	8-10" @ \$1.80 each	_____	\$ _____
Hybrid Sunfish	1-2" \$65.00 per bag (250)	_____	\$ _____
	3-5" @ \$.75 each	_____	\$ _____
Largemouth Bass	3" @ \$.80 each	_____	\$ _____
	5-8" @ \$1.80 each	_____	\$ _____
Smallmouth Bass	4-6" @ \$2.80 each	_____	\$ _____
Bluegill	1-2" \$65.00 per bag (250)	_____	\$ _____
	3-5" @ \$.75 each	_____	\$ _____
Black Crappie	2" @ \$.55 each	_____	\$ _____
Redear	1-2" \$65.00 per bag (250)	_____	\$ _____
Fathead Minnows	\$10.00 per lb.	_____	\$ _____
Triploid Grass Carp	8-11" @ \$10.00 each***	_____	\$ _____

***TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ COUNTY _____

(TOWNSHIP, RANGE, AND SECTION# ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PURCHASE OF TRIPLOID GRASS CARP.)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MONROE COUNTY SWCD

Amount Due \$ _____

NAME _____

OFFICE USE ONLY:

ADDRESS _____

Amount paid \$ _____

Paid by _____ # _____

CELL/HOME PHONE # _____

Order taken by _____

Grass Carp must be ordered by April 13th. All other fish must be ordered by April 20th and must be picked up on Friday, April 27, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Pick up will be at the SWCD office located at 140 Williamsburg Lane, in Waterloo, **All fish must be picked up at this time!** Payment is due when ordering. Please call 618-939-6181 ext. 3 for more information.

**Fish Sale
Friday,
April 27,
2012**

CPP Sign-Up

If you are experiencing problems with erosion and have been thinking about addressing these problems this summer, now is the time to get your name in to request cost-share and technical assistance. The Conservation Practices Program offers 60% cost reimbursement of establishment of the following conservation practices:

- Filter Strip
- Field border strips
- Pasture and hayland planting
- Critical area planning
- Grassed water
- Terraces
- Water and sediment control basin
- Grad stabilization structure

Note

In order to cut down on the cost of this newsletter, if you no longer wish to receive a copy of the newsletter, or would like to receive it electronically, please notify us so we can make the appropriate adjustments. Also, if you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter and may not be on our mailing list, please let us know so we can add his or her name.

Flags For Sale

The Monroe County SWCD has survey/marketing flags for sale. They are bright orange with 36" stakes. Prices are \$.20. These work great for marking trees or shrubs that you have planted.

Give Us Your Input

The Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District board meets the second Monday of each month at the District Office located at 140 Williamsburg Lane in Waterloo, Call to confirm exact time. Everyone is invited to attend.

Visit Our Web Site

www.mocoswcd.com