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Heart to Heart
... with Hardisty



 The 2008 Farm Bill, the “Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008,” officially became law late in May. This Farm Bill will affect conservation programs and our assistance to farmers during fiscal year 2009 and during the life of the Bill. However, for the remainder of fiscal year 2008 the passage of this law gives NRCS in Indiana additional dollars for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program (GSWC). Our field staff should push for sign-up for these programs now while funds are available. We also received additional dollars for the Wetlands Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Program, but have yet to hear about additional funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

 The recent floods in Indiana are unprecedented, and the damaging flood waters have wreaked vast destruction in many of our counties. I encourage everyone in counties with these flooding issues to consider the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP), and I charge our employees to work with local officials to get the needed assistance.

 As predicted, we only have three months until the end of this fiscal year to get the remaining program dollars obligated and to get conservation on the ground. Despite the unusual challenges we’ve experienced this year, I am confident that we will look back in 2009 to a successful year in conservation.

Jane E. Hardisty

***** Employee Spotlight *****

**Fred Glover,
Civil Engineering Technician, Greencastle**

Q: Fred, you've worked for NRCS for 26 years. Tell us about your time with the agency.

A: I started working for the Soil Conservation Service in September 1982 at the Danville field office as a soil conservation aid. I worked under the watchful eye of the warden-like District Conservationist Henry (Hardcore) Wallis. In April 1986 I was told I was going to have to move out west in order to keep my job. I had been offered the position of Hendricks County Deputy Surveyor about a month previous and decided God must be talking to me. I resigned, took the county job, and learned a lot while working there about legal surveying and legal court drainage laws. I also learned how much I loved working for SCS. After much begging, I was hired back in April 1987 to work in the Princeton field office. I was transferred in July of that year to Martinsville, where I worked for 17 years. Then I moved to the Greencastle Tech Team in July 2002 as a CET. I have worked Emergency Watershed Protection detail in Indiana, Iowa, and Vermont. My next job change will be retirement, God willing.

Q: Through the years, how has the agency changed?

A: Well...we have changed from the SCS to NRCS. From Dumpy Levels to GPS. From Army drab green trucks with no AC and no radio to white extended cab 4x4's with CD players and iPod jacks. From walking two miles to get to a field so we can survey a 400-foot waterway to drive an ATV or utility vehicle to that waterway so we can take a few shots and do an alternative design in less than half the time and the same success. From working in one county and you better not get caught across the county line to..."just do your d - - - job." From a hand full of female employees to working for the "BOSS LADY." Things that don't change never grow. The changes Jane and our leadership made in our structure along with acquiring equipment that is technically up-to-date has improved our work quality and increased the quantity of jobs we can complete.

Q: We know you are a very energetic person. What occupies your spare time?



A: Family, and more specifically my grandchildren; Sam, 3 years old, and Aria, 8 months. My wife, Jeanette, and I will celebrate 29 years together in October. We love to travel together. Going on cruises is our favorite. She is the love of my life. My son Joe, his wife Lindsay, and his family are the 'rose' of my heart. I enjoy hunting turkey, deer, rabbit, game birds, and water fowl, and fishing locally and in Canada. I enjoy serving on church mission trips, both here in the U.S. and in the foreign field. Other than that, I work hard at keeping people wondering what I might be up to.

Q: Some of us have heard your gifted singing voice. Have you had vocal training?

A: I am always amazed when anyone likes what they hear when I sing. I think it sounds awful. My family has always enjoyed singing together at church and reunions. When I was young, a minister apparently felt that I needed help and decided that if I was going to sing he would give me some instruction. He sang opera in his past, so he showed me how to use my voice as an instrument rather than a noise maker. I enjoy singing harmony so there's more than one person to blame if it sounds bad.

Q: Any last words for our readers?

A: The brightest people with the biggest and best ideas can be shot down by the simplest people with the smallest ideas. Think big anyway! Never give up!

Hoosier Happenings

KUDOS to...

****Ruth Montgomery** for her presentation at an SWCD region employee meeting in May. Ruth handed out a performance update and did a great job of covering the Lebanon Tech Team activities.
—Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD Executive Director

****Jill Reinhart** for doing an excellent job facilitating the Sycamore Trails RC&D Council meeting. The Council developed the Area Plan's SMART goals, objectives, and strategies as Jill guided them through the process of visualizing, clarifying, and summarizing.—Susan Meadows, Sycamore Trails RC&D Coordinator

Wabash Habitat Corridor Enlarged

On April 15, State Conservationist Jane Hardisty and Governor Mitch Daniels stood together to publicly announce the Wabash River National Road Wetland Reservation, a new 691-acre WRP site near West Terre Haute. The project is the true definition of Cooperative Conservation, involving: a private donor of \$30,000; \$150,000 from the Vigo County Parks Department to purchase adjacent land; \$75,000 from IDNR-Fish & Wildlife Division; \$220,000 from Indiana Heritage Trust Foundation from the sale of environmental license plates, and \$1.5 million from NRCS for the site's permanent easement and wetland restoration work.



Pictured above: Governor Mitch Daniels and State Conservationist Jane Hardisty

When NRCS completes restoration work, Vigo County Parks Department will provide public access through hiking trails, observation decks, a boat ramp, and other recreational amenities. The Indiana State girls track team has already enjoyed the site, getting in some practice along the levees.

The project is also part of a larger six-county Wetland Reserve Enhancement Project (WREP), tying together existing WRP lands to create a habitat corridor along the Wabash. The Wabash WREP is made possible by a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and NRCS.

“District Conservationist Eddy Adams played an integral role in making this happen,” said Hardisty. “Eddy has been a member of the county park board for several years. Other board members and park board officials knew they could trust and count on Eddy, so they were willing to go to bat to get county funds to dedicate to the project. Having local contributions was a factor in the state's willingness to dedicate state resources to this fine project.”

Hardisty received many kudos about this WRP site including:

****I can't thank you enough for working with us on these WRP enrollments. WRP is such an important and effective conservation tool. Your entire staff deserves big KUDOS for your incredible commitment to conservation in Indiana.—Mary McConnell, Indiana State Director, The Nature Conservancy**

****Thanks for making the event special. Hopefully this project will grow down the road into even more WRP. Thanks again for your help, and you have a great staff.—Pat Ralston, Past IDNR Director**

Outstanding Hoosiers!

Congratulations goes to our SWCS Hoosier Chapter for their 2007 Outstanding Chapter Award! The Soil and Water Conservation Society recognizes up to one chapter from each region for its accomplishments in carrying out its overall program during the year. The Hoosier Chapter was recognized for implementing policy and program objectives in various ways. They created an electronic newsletter to save money and resources, and held two learning workshops that the Professional Development committee pulled together.

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—Special Emphasis— May—Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

President George Bush proclaimed May 2008 as Asian/Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month. In celebration, NRCS employees assembled at the NRCS state office on May 12 to hear guest speaker K.P. Singh. Mr. Singh spoke on the three major elements in this year's APA Heritage theme, which are intimately interconnected: Leadership, Diversity, and Harmony. Mr. Singh stated, "These significant components, principal anchors in our increasingly diverse, fiercely competitive, and interdependent world, when thoughtfully integrated draw strength and support from each other that can lead to surprisingly successful outcomes." An architect, businessman, and published author, Mr. Singh is known for his precise, detailed drawings of historic architecture and monuments in Indiana and around the world. His work is on display in private and public collections in at least 25 countries.



Pictured above left to right: Asghar Chowdhery, AA/PI Program Manager; State Conservationist Jane Hardisty; K.P. Singh

Hoosiers Happenings (cont.)

Their Summer Meeting focused on intensive rotational grazing on a family-owned and operated dairy farm. The bio-energy theme for the Fall Annual Meeting brought industry leaders and university researchers together who examined how ethanol and soy-diesel processes function and how these new production plants will affect farming in the Midwest. The chapter also helped establish outreach programs with other agriculturally-related groups in the state, while involving members in community-based programs to promote soil and water conservation efforts.

Go Hoosiers!

Be Aware Site Available

The Office of the Indiana State Chemist is providing the public with geographic information that will help to locate pesticide sensitive crops and habitats within the state. This map is a method of facilitating voluntary communications between the pesticide applicator, the specialty crop grower and stewards of surrounding at-risk habitat to help ensure sensitive areas are protected, while encouraging appropriate pesticide application. Visit the site at <http://www.isco.purdue.edu/pesticide/beaware.html> to 'Be Aware'.

Conservation Tour Held in Northeast

A conservation tour for Justin Busch, Special Assistant to Chief Lancaster, and Steven Howell on Congressman Souder's staff was held May 12 in Allen and DeKalb counties. Practices representing several federal and state funding sources were viewed.

- Eagle Marsh WRP restoration project encompassing 700 plus acres
- EQIP funded agri-chemical containment facility, cover crops and CSP participant

(more on page 5)

PARTNERSHIP LINKS

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, *Weekly Updates*:
<http://www.iaswcd.org/whatsnew/index.html>

ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation
<http://www.in.gov/isda/soil/>

Purdue University - www.purdue.edu

Indiana Conservation Partnership
<http://www.in.gov/isda/2333.htm>

Hoosiers Happenings (cont.)

- LARE funded grassed waterway project covering land owned by three Amish families
- Dairy farm recently awarded an EQIP contract for animal waste system
- EQIP funded rotational grazing system

The importance of 01 work was emphasized, the interest in CREP in the Western Lake Erie Basin area, the many locally-funded projects going on in the area, and the challenges of delivering conservation technical assistance in this year of stop and go budgeting were also discussed.

Living Cover in Living Color

Cold, windy weather did not stop a Cover Crop Field Day this spring as NRCS Conservation Agronomist Barry Fisher spoke to a huddled mass of over 85 folks at a Decatur County farm. The Decatur County SWCD sponsored the event.

Fisher and Purdue University Professor Eileen Kladvko discussed cover crop benefits and profitability. They emphasized that having living cover for most of the year improves soil and water quality, prevents erosion, and leaves nutrients that future crops can use. Fisher told the crowd to remember one word, “continuous.” He said, “Continuous living soil cover and continuous living biomass production will improve soil quality and meet demand on the cropland.”

PLANT A MILLION Goes Live

The familiar voice of retired State Conservationist Bob Eddleman was heard on WIBC radio station on May 31st. Bob was interviewed by John Strauss regarding the Hoosier Heartland RC&D PLANT A MILLION program. Bob, the project coordinator, will have other opportunities in the near future to inform the listening audience of the importance of trees in the urban areas. Stay tuned...

Achievement Award Deadline Extended

The deadline has been extended for Indiana Civil Rights Achievement Award submissions. If you know of an individual or group that has targeted their work with limited resource or minority customers, participated in community activities related to civil rights, worked to promote diversity in leadership, or participated in recruiting activities please fill out the one page form in Indiana Bulletin 230-7-2 by July 31 and submit to Bennie Clark at bennie.clark@in.usda.gov.

June Floods Destroy Fields and Property

On June 10, three days after record breaking rainfall and flooding hit Indiana, NRCS and FSA key state office staff visited the flooded-out Columbus USDA Service Center. “It’s an incredible mess,” said Jane Hardisty. “Mud is everywhere, and we’ve lost equipment and supplies. But, because it happened on Saturday, nobody was in the office when the Haw Creek levee breached; so we are talking about equipment and files that may be lost, and not peoples’ lives. For this level of flooding, it is surprising that we have not had this situation repeated in other field offices.” Clean-up is a messy business, especially not knowing if the water that inundated the office contained contaminants.



When the team arrived, the landlord’s people were trying to do the initial clean-up. A document salvage contractor is now onsite assessing the damages, assuring USDA administrative leadership that most documents are salvageable. So contract files, conservation plans, and other important records may be restored, which will take time and money. Almost everything else in the office has become trash.



To restore critical operations and service to farmers, the Columbus USDA staff will temporarily be located at the North Vernon USDA Service Center.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Retirement:

Jim Blank, District Conservationist, Salem, effective 06-02-2008

Reassignment:

Teresah Caire, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, state office, effective 06-09-2008

Featured Web Site—Purdue Pest & Crop Newsletter

<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/pestcrop/2008/index.html>



For the most up-to-date information on crop pest concerns (scouting, recent pest outbreaks, populations, treatments) and other integrated pest management news around the state, check out the Purdue Entomology weekly “Pest & Crop” newsletter.

This informative newsletter can be viewed on the Web at the above address. Or you can go to <https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/pcnews1> to subscribe to the newsletter.

Mark Your Calendar

June

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|-------------|--|
| 06/18/08 | Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds Workshop, Trinity Lutheran School, Indianapolis. Contact Hoosier Heartland RC&D at 317-290-3250 |
| 06/20/08 | NRCS Golf Outing, Crawfordsville |
| 06/23-27/07 | NC Region Quality Soil Scientists’ Workshop, Manhattan, KS |
| 06/24/08 | NW Area Meeting, Lafayette |
| 06/25/08 | SW Area Meeting, Vincennes |
| 06/26-27/08 | Indiana Environmental Education Symposium, Indiana State Museum, Contact: Warren Gartner, IDNR-Fish & Wildlife, 317-547-3104 |

July

- 07/04/08 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY
- 07/08/08 NE Area Meeting, Columbia City
- 07/09/08 SE Area Meeting, North Vernon
- 07/17/08 “Conservation in Action,” CTIC conservation tour of farms in Brownsburg, Lebanon, Frankfort, Arcadia and Atlanta. Contact CTIC at 765-494-9555 by June 27.
- 07/26-30/08 Soil and Water Conservation Society 2008 Annual Conference, JW Marriott Starr Pass, Tucson, AZ
- 07/29/08 NW Area Meeting, Lafayette
- 07/29-30/08 Hydrology and Hydraulics Course, Trinity Lutheran School, Indianapolis. Contact Hoosier Heartland RC&D at 317-290-3250
- 07/30/08 SW Area Meeting, Vincennes

August

- 08/06-17/08 Indiana State Fair

Note: For a listing of Natural Resources Education Center workshops, go to www.in.gov/dnr/nrec

Helping People Help the Land