



Hoosier



Headlines

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Heart to Heart ... with Hardisty



We, along with our conservation partners, continue to help Hoosiers address their resource concerns and apply conservation on the land. Because of our work, conservation success stories compound daily, providing investments for the future.

To share some of these success stories, we have developed a new **Conservation Showcase** link on our NRCS Indiana Web site on the News tab. We will continue to add to these stories to let the public know of the work we do in conservation.

Additionally, we now have entered the 21st century in communications with a Twitter account for NRCS Indiana. Information has been posted on our Web site about following us on Twitter @IndianaNRCS for current news and information. As of this writing, we have 50 followers, with more added daily.

The new Indiana Conservation Partnership's accomplishments Web site affords us with yet another way to tell our success stories. Information on this Web site is featured on page five of this newsletter, and a link to this site is posted on our NRCS Indiana homepage.

Thank you to all who are doing great conservation work in Indiana, and to those who are telling our story.

Jane E. Hardisty



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

**Karen Hauer,
Resource Conservationist**

Q: Karen, you have worked for NRCS for quite some time, and we are fortunate to have you. How and when did you get started with the agency?

A: I started as a trainee between my junior and senior year at Purdue University, after seeing the vacancy announcement in the Ag building. Being raised on our family farm in northeastern Putnam County, my dad had worked with SCS (Soil Conservation Service) to install various practices, so I was aware of the agency. I spent my first summer in White/Benton County, getting to see a difference part of Indiana. I was actively involved working on our farm and knew I wanted a career that would let me be outdoors and be involved in agriculture. After graduation, I was happy to get to return to the agency and began working in the Greensburg field office.

Q: As you've worked to restore wetlands, has there been a particularly rewarding project?

A: There has not really been any one project that stands out. I enjoy working with WRP (Wetlands Reserve Program), as it involves producers who are voluntarily working with us to restore wetlands. It is good to see the entire process of an easement acquisition from the start to the final completed restoration years after construction. I have gotten to meet a variety of landowners, from urban people with no ag background to long time ag producers tired of the battle with flooding and water. The regulatory part of my position is not so pleasant when dealing with producers who have violations. A willing enthusiastic person is much more enjoyable to work with, and you really feel like you have accomplished something with them.

Q: On a personal note, the Jackson County newspaper, *The Banner*, published an article about you in 2007. The article highlighted your love for cooking. Now that you are famous, do you share your recipes?

A: I really do like to cook, but people often do not realize how simple many of my recipes are. When I share a recipe, it gives away my secret and people are not quite as impressed. I also like to try new recipes and change them to fit our tastes. I don't think I am any better of a cook than others, but my two teenage sons do seem to enjoy my cooking!



Q: Do you have any other hobbies or interests outside of cooking?

A: I enjoy traveling, especially to Mexico and the Caribbean. With the increased violence in Mexico, people are fearful of going there, but I have always felt safe there—at least so far. I also enjoy yard work, watching my boys play basketball and football, and fishing.

Q: Do you have any final ‘words of wisdom’ for our readers?

A: Not really, I am just glad to have a position where I can be outdoors at times, help improve our land, and also see results of my work in a variety of counties.

Hoosier Happenings

KUDOS to...

****Chris Morse** for his help to us on the Eagle Creek project. We were delighted with the information he sent for the project, and he answered all of our many questions remarkably quickly and completely. —Jane Frankenberger, Purdue University

****Susan Meadows** for facilitating a meeting for the Indiana State Board of Animal Health. Susan was terrific and got us just where we needed to be with some focused goals/action items to work toward. —Denise Derrer, Indiana State Board of Animal Health

Farmer Briefs Senator Lugar on Landslide

Heavy spring rains have left their mark in Indiana, leaving damage along the way. Newburgh, Indiana is no exception. Heavy rains have caused the hillside above the Newburgh Old Lock and Dam on the Ohio River to slide in some areas as much as six feet, resulting in structural damage to two houses and utility infrastructure.

A meeting was held on June 4 at the Newburgh Town Hall to brief Senator Richard Lugar of the situation, and **Craig Farmer** represented NRCS quite well. Farmer, district conservationist in Boonville, worked closely with the Senator and his staff to provide information on NRCS programs and potential support. The group left the Town Hall to view the site, where Farmer, along with the Town Engineer, gave an explanation of the landslide to those in attendance.



Above: Senator Lugar and others in group assess damage at site along Ohio River.

Conservation Structure Beautifies Landscape

They say a picture is better than a thousand words, and this is certainly true of the picture below, taken by Greg Woods of the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Woods was on a recent status review to determine how well the conservation practices withstood the harsh winter and the spring rains. He found this one to be impressive. According to Woods, "One year ago, the area was an ugly, silt-producing, ditch-filling, actively eroding gully. The evolution required the involvement of numerous local entities. However, **kudos** to **Chris Smith**, civil engineering technician on the Lebanon Tech Team, for his relentless effort to correctly design and supervise the construction of an effective and comprehensive erosion control system, which is also a beautiful asset to our landscape."

Secretary Announces Feds Food Drive

USDA Secretary Vilsack announced that the Feds Feed Families food drive is underway for 2011. USDA has set a goal of donating more than 500,000 pounds of healthful food to food banks and pantries across the country. This summer NRCS, FSA and RD will join efforts in conducting the food drive in Indiana. **Lisa Bolton** will coordinate the efforts for NRCS again this year. Be ready to hear more soon and to gather food for those less fortunate.

Pokagon Wetland Restoration Protects Area

The 2011 spring rains in St. Joseph County drove water in the Horace Miller Ditch to within four inches of the top of the levee. Although floodwaters were high, there were no catastrophic levee breeches.

(more on page 4)

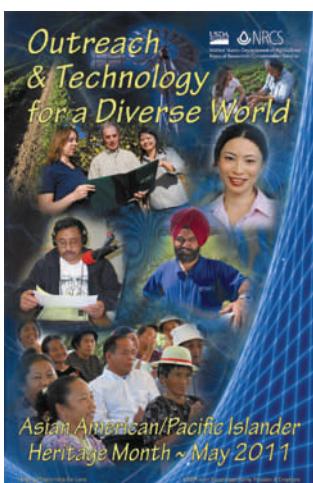
Special Emphasis— AAPI Heritage Month

Each May, Americans celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). During the AAPI Heritage Month, we recognize the tremendous efforts of AAPI individuals who have helped build our country and shape the American dream for centuries. We celebrate the millions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders whose talents and contributions strengthen our economy, protect our security, and enliven our country.

President Barack Obama stated, “Today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a profound impact on our society as leaders in all facets of American life; thriving as athletes, public servants, entrepreneurs, and artists. Whether as small business owners

or as proud members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are helping to write the next chapter of the American story.”

Public Affairs Specialist Jim Cairns of California was awarded first place in the 2011 AAPI poster contest. His poster, pictured here, serves as the Agency’s official poster for 2011.



Contact: Asghar Chowdhery, AAPI Special Emphasis Program Manager in Indiana, by email at asghar.chowdhery@in.usda.gov or phone 317/290-3200, ext 374.

PARTNERSHIP LINKS

- IN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, *Weekly Updates*: www.iaswcd.org/whatsnew/index.html
- IN Conservation Partnership: www.iaswcd.org/icp/index.html
- IN Dept. of Environmental Management: www.in.gov/idem
- IN Dept. of Natural Resources: www.in.gov/dnr
- IN State Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation: <http://www.in.gov/isda/soil/>
- Purdue University: www.purdue.edu
- USDA Farm Service Agency: www.fsa.usda.gov

Hoosier Happenings (cont.)

John T. Law, of the St. Joseph County Drainage Board, contributes this success to the wetland and drainage restoration work on property adjacent to the Miller Ditch levees and adjoining cities—the Pokagon Band Wetlands Reserve Program site. Law told Mark Parrish of the Pokagon Band, “The amount of storm water your property was able to store and keep out of the overloaded Miller drain was the difference between 100 acres of crop ground flooded and thousands, a few thousand dollars in repair costs, and much more.” Yes, wetlands restoration works!

NRCS Trains Team Headed to Afghanistan

The Illinois National Guard Agri-business Development Team (ADT) has been preparing to go to Afghanistan; not to fight, but to train local farmers with knowledge and skills to use in the future. In May, the team traveled to Indiana near Camp Atterbury where District Conservationist **Tony Branam**, Engineering Technician **Fred Glover**, and ISDA’s Resource Specialist **Geneva Rawlins** provided a full day of training on conservation systems planning. Branam, who coordinated the training, used and disseminated materials provided by NRCS Engineers **Beth Clarizia** and **Trevor Shepard**, and NRCS Soil Scientist **Steve Wade**. Team members commented after the training that they learned more in one day than in weeks of training from other institutions. NRCS Indiana gets a gold star!



Training Workshop Held for Support Staff

A training tour was held on June 1, 2011 for state office staff, new employees, and partners to see firsthand the conservation work applied on the land. Those conducting the training tour from NRCS included **Fred Glover, Matt Jarvis, William Elliott, Tim Kiste, and Scott Wagner**. **Jim Woody**, ISDA Team Leader, and **Harold Thompson**, retired NRCS and SWCD 319 Coordinator, also provided information at the tour.

Those in attendance viewed two stream bank stabilization projects where NRCS did design work and provided technical assistance during construction. The group moved on to the Legan Farms hog operation. Legan Farms operation was honored as the conservation farmer of the year in 2010. This producer has contracts in many conservation programs with numerous conservation practices in place; that include cover crops, wildlife plantings, irrigation from waste storage lagoons, Backyard Conservation, and on farm trials with Purdue University and ISDA. In the afternoon, presenters showed the group an Aluminum Overfall Structure at the outlet of a large watershed protected

by waterways and conservation tillage. There, technical experts demonstrated the accuracy of the use of GPS equipment.

They then viewed a field with multiple conservation practices applied and learned how these practices change the speed and amount of surface water runoff. Tour guides explained how terraces, WASCOBS, and waterways reduce sediment that flows into Indiana's lakes and rivers.



To end the day, the group toured an Emergency Watershed Protection site in Owen County that was completed as an exigent emergency watershed project after the June 2010 flood.

State Conservationist Jane Hardisty was pleased with the many positive comments she heard after the event. She applauded presenters for their time and expertise to do the training. Hardisty said, "Your passion for doing things right in getting conservation on the ground was apparent, and your willingness to help other employees understand that importance was awesome."



Personnel Update

Retirements:

Ken Lane, District Conservationist, Aurora, effective 5/20/11

Reassignments/Selections:

Amanda Kautz, Soil Conservationist, South Bend, effective 5/22/11

Featured Web Site — ICP Accomplishments

www.in.gov/isda/icpreports/

The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) has launched a new Web site that provides information on Indiana's conservation investments made with local, state, and federal funding. This tool provides reports on all ICP conservation work accomplishments for each county and statewide. Reports can be viewed and printed for multiple uses.



Mark Your Calendar

June

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|--------------|--|
| 06/20/11 | State Office Employee Training, Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis |
| 06/22/11 | NRCS Leadership Team Meeting, Indianapolis |
| 06/27-7/1/11 | Engineering Boot Camp, Marion, Indiana |
| 06/28/11 | NW Area Meeting, Lafayette |
| 06/30/11 | Prime Farmland Tour, Somerville Mine, Gibson County |

July

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| 07/04/11 | HOLIDAY |
| 07/13/11 | SE Area Meeting, North Vernon |
| 07/21/11 | NRCS Leadership Team Meeting, Indianapolis |
| 07/26/11 | NW Area Meeting, Lafayette |
| 07/28/11 | Indiana Soil Scientists' Quarterly Meeting, Indianapolis |

August

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| 08/02-03/11 | EWP Training, Southern Indiana |
| 08/05-21/11 | Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis |
| 08/10/11 | NE Area Meeting |
| 08/10/11 | SE Area Meeting, North Vernon |
| 08/24/11 | NRCS Leadership Team Meeting, Indianapolis |
| 08/30/11 | NW Area Meeting, Lafayette |