



# Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District

Rock Island County SWCD Winter/Spring 2015 Newsletter

[www.RockIslandSWCD.org](http://www.RockIslandSWCD.org)

*Photo above shows cover crop mix of annual ryegrass and oilseed radish aerial seeded into corn residue Aug 21st.*

## ROCK ISLAND COUNTY COVER CROP PRODUCERS MEETINGS

The Rock Island SWCD is hosting two Cover Crop field days this spring. One plot is in the north part of Rock Island County and one is in a familiar spot in the southern part of Rock Island. Cover crops are being promoted to reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, help with compaction problems, and reduce the loss of nutrients from crop fields into area streams and lakes.

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 - 10 AM**  
**Bob DePauw's farm in Coe Township**  
**27004 - 122nd Ave. N. Port Byron, IL.**  
**(1 mile east of 256<sup>th</sup> St N on 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave N)**

**Wednesday, April 1, - 10AM**  
**McCarthy – Anderson Farm in Rural Twp.**  
**West of the intersection of 176<sup>th</sup> Ave and 63<sup>rd</sup> St.**  
**(1/2 mile east of Sherrard High School)**

Both events will begin at 10 AM with refreshments / coffee followed by a brief program. Results of last fall's seeding plots will be discussed. Cover Crop specialists will discuss cover crop seeding and species options. Also, farmers who have tried cover crops from 2013 will be on hand. A field tour of the fall seeding will follow a short program. Cost-share information and how to apply will also be discussed.

Reservations Requested—Call the Rock Island SWCD office at 309-764-1486, Ext. 3 by Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Call for Contact and Registration Info

#### **Farm Bill Meeting**

February 9th, Milan, IL

#### **Conservation Cropping Seminar**

February 18th, Macomb, IL

#### **Invasive Pest Workshop**

February 19th, Moline, IL

#### **Urban Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop**

February 24th, Jumers, Rock Island, IL

#### **Soil Fertility Seminar**

February 27th, Rock Island County Extension, Milan

#### **Nursery School**

February 28th, iWireless Center, Moline IL

#### **Women in Agriculture Conference**

March 20th, Jumers, Rock Island

#### **Flower and Garden Show**

March 26-29, QCCA Expo, Rock Island, IL

#### **Cover Crop Workshops**

March 31st, Port Byron, IL and April 1st, Sherrard, IL

### THE NEW FARM BILL

#### Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines

Feb. 9, 2015 at Camden Center (Milan Community Center) 10 a.m. (offered by Country Financial's Steve Sim; to register call 309-764-3116)

Landowners have until Feb. 27 to decide whether to reallocate base acreage or update payment yields. Farmers can choose between ARC (Ag Risk Coverage) and PLC (Price Loss Coverage) from Nov. 17 through March 31. Those who don't make a decision will automatically be enrolled in PLC.

### INVASIVE PEST WORKSHOP

Illinois Extension is hosting a workshop focusing on nursery and landscape pests on February 19th in Moline. Registration deadline is February 5th. Cost is \$40. Call Illinois Extension at 309-756-9978 for information.

## UNDERSTANDING ILLINOIS' NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY

“Nutrient pollution is a major threat to water quality. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus carried in runoff from city streets and farm fields or flowing out of wastewater treatment plants can fuel algae blooms that decrease oxygen needed by aquatic plants and animals. In the Gulf of Mexico, nutrients washed down by the Mississippi River have created a "dead zone" that stretches for thousands of square miles. At home, nutrient pollution can also lower property values, hinder recreation, and degrade drinking water quality. To help protect local streams and the Gulf, Illinois and 11 other states in the Mississippi River basin have pledged to develop strategies to reduce the nutrient loads leaving their borders. These strategies are part of a national plan developed by the Mississippi River, Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force.”- *From Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Website*

Researchers identified the major nutrient sources and their proportional contribution to nutrient loss to the Mississippi River. See the table to the right for the breakdown. Researchers then identified best management practices (BMP's) that are effective at reducing nutrient losses. The targets are 25% reduction of phosphorous loss and 15% reduction of nitrogen loss by 2025. Reductions will be achieved through voluntary implementation of BMPs. The national hypoxia working group set the eventual target reduction of N and P flowing into the Gulf of Mexico at 45%.

Nutrient Source	Proportion of Nutrient Loss to Mississippi River	
	Nitrogen	Phosphorus
Agricultural Runoff	82%	48%
Point Source (wastewater treatment, etc...)	16%	48%
Urban Runoff	2%	4%

The agricultural reductions will be realized through voluntary conservation practices. “The focus is on reducing nutrient losses to the environment—not on reducing nutrient uses by Illinois agriculture,” said Laura Lurkins, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) director of natural and environmental resources in IFB's December 8th issue of Farm Week.

## PRODUCERS RECEIVE FUNDS TO REDUCE NUTRIENT LOSS

The effects of nutrient loss have been in the news for years. More so since the Midwest flood of 1993 led to unprecedented expansion of the hypoxia zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Illinois agriculture has a great opportunity to reduce the amount of nutrients that leave crop fields and enter the Mississippi River. Not only can producers reduce an environmental problem, they can also improve their bottom line. Producers in Illinois are using existing voluntary conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Partners for Conservation (PFC) to apply conservation practices that protect water quality. These existing conservation programs are the centerpiece of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Strategy. A good place to start is with developing a nutrient management plan for your farm. Funds are available to help pay for the cost of hiring a qualified technical service provider to develop a custom plan for your operation. The plan will outline ways for you to fine tune your nutrient management strategy by selecting the best nutrient source, rate, timing, and placement. Other conservation and management practices including filter strips, nutrient management, split applications, high efficiency fertilizers, N stabilizers, precision application, plant tissue testing, and cover crops are also eligible for funding with existing programs. You can submit applications for these programs at any time. Just visit the NRCS/SWCD office or give us a call if you would like more information. *By Joe Gates, NRCS District Conservationist*



# RISWCD 2015 Spring Tree Sale – Proceeds Support Conservation!

**Payment and Orders Due: March 20th, 2015– Early Orders Recommended**

**Pick-Up at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264.**

**\*Pick Up: Thursday, April 16th, 2015 and Friday, April, 17th, 2015, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

Sale Questions: 563-528-3583 \* Visit [rockislandswcd.org](http://rockislandswcd.org) for planting tips, to order online, or to pay with credit card (2.35% convenience fee).

**Make check payable to: RISWCD, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264**

## Special Orders

A wide selection of species and sizes are available from our nursery vendors. Many species (especially the seedlings) sell out months in advance. If you are interested in a special order, the sooner you call, the sooner we can reserve with the vendor. Call 563-528-3583 for a custom quote.

## Species Spotlight

### ± American Chestnut Potted 3 gallon RPM, \$16.50

The IL DNR District forester sourced local chestnuts for this year's American Chestnut stock!

### ± Bucks Unlimited Swamp White Oak, \$23

This natural selection offers consistent annual yields with heavy, early production. This beautiful, long-lived oak species will develop a stately profile and live as long as 300 years on a variety of sites from upland forests to floodplains.

A premium-quality, fast-growing Swamp White Oak selection proven to out-produce the acorn production of other oaks by as much as two to one! Acorns are a key component of the diets of nearly all wildlife, including deer, waterfowl and upland game birds. And, this special oak also gives:

- Earlier flowering and fruiting
- Faster growth on a variety of sites
- Superior mast production of a wildlife-preferred food source acorn.

## Remind me prior to pick up by:

Phone  Email  Both

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Preferences:

- All SWCD/NRCS Emails
- Newsletter
- NRCS News
- Ponds and Fish Sale
- Forestry and Tree Sale
- Wildlife
- Agricultural Conservation
- Backyard & Urban Conservation
- Livestock and Forage
- Conservation Education
- Copperas Creek Watershed

\*Weather and planting conditions beyond the control of the nursery may affect the tree pick-up date. We cannot be responsible for trees after the specified pick-up date. Please make arrangements to pick them up on time.

Plants are for conservation purposes only, and shall not be used as ornamentals or for landscaping. We make every effort to provide excellent quality stock, but we cannot provide any guarantees of survival or growth.

# RISWCD 2015 Spring Tree Sale – Proceeds Support Conservation!

## 1 Gallon Potted Evergreens

Approx. 12-18" in Height

\*Conservation Grade / Christmas Tree Grade

SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Canadian Hemlock	\$8.50		\$
Colorado Blue Spruce	\$8.50		\$
Norway Spruce	\$8.50		\$
White Pine	\$8.50		\$
American Arborvitae	\$8.50		\$
*Douglas Fir	\$4.50		\$
*Black Hills Spruce	\$4.50		\$
*Fraser Fir Mt. Rogers	\$4.50		\$
*Fraser Fir Roan Mountain	\$4.50		\$
*Canaan Fir	\$4.50		\$
Subtotal:			\$

## 3 Gallon Potted RPM (Root Production Method)

Trees - Conservation Grade

SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
White Oak	\$16.50		\$
Bur Oak	\$16.50		\$
Red Oak	\$16.50		\$
Swamp White Oak	\$16.50		\$
Kimberley Oak	\$16.50		\$
Pin Oak	\$16.50		\$
Chinkapin Oak	\$16.50		\$
Black Walnut	\$16.50		\$
Pecan	\$16.50		\$
Eastern Redbud	\$16.50		\$
River Birch	\$16.50		\$
Tulip Poplar	\$16.50		\$
Downy Serviceberry	\$15.50		\$
Flowering Dogwood	\$17.00		\$
American Hazelnut	\$15.00		\$
American Plum	\$15.00		\$
Black Cherry	\$16.50		\$
American Chestnut ±	\$16.50		\$
Bucks Unlimited Swamp White Oak ±	\$23.00		\$
Subtotal			\$

## Bare Root Seedlings—mainly 1-year-old

Must order in multiples of 25

Quantities of Seedlings are Limited

SPECIES	PRICE for 25	QTY	TOTAL
Bur Oak	\$30		\$
Red Oak	\$30		\$
Swamp White Oak	\$30		\$
White Oak	\$30		\$
Chinkapin Oak	\$30		\$
Pecan	\$30		\$
Norway Spruce	\$30		\$
White Pine	\$30		\$
Persimmon	\$30		\$
Wild Plum	\$30		\$
Gray Dogwood	\$30		\$
American Hazelnut	\$30		\$
Subtotal:			\$

## Accessories

SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Tree Wrap 2'	\$2.50		\$
Tree Tube 3' with Stake	\$5		\$
Tree Tube 4' with Stake	\$7.50		\$
Tree Tube 5' with Stake	\$8.50		\$
Plantskydd Deer and Rabbit Repellent—1 lb Concentrate	\$25		\$
Seedling Planting Bar Rental	\$10/day		\$
Seedling Planter Rental	\$50/day		\$
Subtotal:			\$

## Totals

Bare Root Seedlings Subtotal	\$
1 Gal. Potted Evergreens Subtotal	\$
3 Gal. Potted RPM Subtotal	\$
Accessories Subtotal	\$
<b>Grand Total:</b>	\$

**Please provide contact information on back of form.**

## STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS SUPPORT HEALTHY FORESTS

The Fiscal Year 15 Illinois Department of Natural Resources budget revealed nearly \$700,000 in cost share funds for applying forestry practices for this year. This is a substantial increase from the last few years. The purpose of the funding is for implementing forestry practices and developing forestry plans for Illinois landowners. The revenue for this comes from the collection of a 4% harvest fee from landowners who harvest timber on their lands. Last year, \$23,314,642 of timber was reported sold in Illinois generating \$935,962.79 in 4% money. Monies collected go towards assisting landowners in implementing forestry practices and operations for both the IDNR Division of Forestry and the IL Forestry Development Council. Now is the time to apply for funding through the IDNR. The IDNR District Forester for Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Knox, Stark, and Bureau counties is Steve Felt. Steve can be contacted at [Stephen.Felt@illinois.gov](mailto:Stephen.Felt@illinois.gov) or (309) 788-0419.

In order to be eligible to receive funding, you must have a forestry plan approved by IDNR. NRCS offers a program through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help cover the costs of obtaining a forestry plan from a private forester. For more information on this program contact your local NRCS District Conservationist. For Rock Island County, contact Joe Gates at [joe.gates@il.usda.gov](mailto:joe.gates@il.usda.gov) or 309-764-1486 x106. Incentive rates are listed below.

PLANNING	Traditional Applicants	Historically Underserved Applicants
<b>[106] CAP - Forest Management Plan (FMP)</b>		
Forest Management Plan less than or equal to 50 Acres	\$ 624.06	\$ 748.87
Forest Management Plan 51 - 100 Acres	\$ 884.09	\$ 1,060.90
Forest Management Plan 101 - 200 Acres	\$ 1,352.13	\$ 1,622.56
Forest Management Plan 201 - 400 Acres	\$ 2,028.19	\$ 2,433.83
Forest Management Plan 401 - 600 Acres	\$ 2,860.27	\$ 3,432.33
Forest Management Plan 601 - 1000 Acres	\$ 3,692.35	\$ 4,430.83
<i>(Developed by Certified TSP to CAP Criteria and IFMP Outline)</i>		

The IDNR money is available on a first come, first served basis. However, landowners who have harvested timber within the past two years receive a priority. Landowners in this category are eligible to receive the 4% harvest fee back in the form of a cost share payment for implementing any practice recommended in their plan. Tree planting, invasive species control and forest improvement practices accomplished through these funds contribute to healthy forest conditions. Forests provide 75 percent of the state's wildlife habitat. Sixty-one percent of the native and forty-seven percent of the threatened and endangered plants of Illinois are found in forested settings. This is truly an important resource to our state, and landowners should take advantage of this funding opportunity.

## OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND WITH PHEASANTS FOREVER

Opportunities exist for area landowners and citizens to establish and enhance wildlife habitat by partnering with Pheasants Forever (PF). PF Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Brandon Bleuer works with landowners to establish wildlife habitat projects. The projects usually include establishment and management of native prairie grasses and forbs. These projects consist of both land that is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) program and non-CRP habitat projects. Bleuer can write a prescribed fire plan for managing your native grass seeding. Landowners can take advantage of Pheasants Forever's grant program that rewards landowners for establishing quality wildlife habitat and helps them to cover the costs of seed. If you're interested in learning more about the opportunities provided through Pheasants Forever, contact Brandon Bleuer at [bbleuer@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:bbleuer@pheasantsforever.org) or (309) 660-3147.

## SIGN UP ANY TIME FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Eligible land may be enrolled in continuous CRP at any time. To be eligible, the cropland must have a cropping history for at least 4 years during 2008 through 2013. Consider these great practices below:

- Enroll in CRP Filter Strips. Now is a great time to lock-in a 10 year rental rate. Filter strips receive a 20% bonus on the soil rental rate, making the annual rental payment as high as \$363/acre. Pictured right.
- CRP Field Borders- Fields greater than 5 acres may be eligible for a field border to provide food and cover for upland birds in cropland areas. Borders must be a minimum of 30 feet and maximum 120 feet and planted to native vegetation. This can be a good option if you're looking to take a small field out of production! Consider enrolling the interior part of the field in Pollinator Habitat! See the next page for more details on Pollinator Habitat.
- Additional practices include waterways, field windbreaks, shallow water areas, farmstead and feedlot windbreaks, living snowfences, riparian buffers, wetland restorations, and more. Streambank stabilization, nutrient management, drift-reducing nozzles, GPS spray application, cover crops, forestry, and more are available through state and NRCS programs. NRCS also has livestock opportunities, including fencing, stream crossing, forage planting, livestock pipeline, feeding station, watering facility, access road, brush management, windbreak, waste storage facility, animal mortality facility, and more. If you have a conservation need, call our office, and we will find a solution that fits your operation and your land! Call 309-764-1486 Ext. 3.



## REDUCED PROPERTY TAXES ON FILTER STRIPS

The Vegetative Filter Strip Assessment Law, passed by the state of Illinois in 1997, provides tax incentives for vegetative filter strips. A “vegetative filter strip,” will be valued at 1/6th of its productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland if it meets the requirements of the law and is certified by the soil and water conservation district.

This voluntary program applies to land that is located between a farm field and an area to be protected, including but not limited to surface water, a stream, a river, or a sinkhole. To qualify, the land must also meet the following:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards and specifications
- Uniform ground cover
- Heavy fibrous root system
- Tolerant to field pesticides
- Conservation plan created and on file in SWCD office

Interested landowners must request assistance of the Soil and Water Conservation District for either developing or implementing a conservation plan, or in certifying an existing vegetative filter strip. The landowner must file the signed certification form with the County Supervisor of Assessments.

## NEW CONTINUOUS CRP PRACTICE — POLLINATOR HABITAT

Pollinator Habitat, or CP42, is a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program practice available for farm landowners. The purpose of this practice is to establish habitat to support a diversity of pollinator species. Cost-sharing will cover 50% of the seeding expenses with a not-to-exceed rate established by the FSA office. Soil rental rates for CRP range from \$168 to \$303 per acre depending on the soil type for the enrolled acres.

Eligible land may be enrolled in continuous CRP at any time. Land eligibility includes cropland that has been planted to annual crops 4 out of six years from 2008 to 2013 and is at least one-half acre or more. If the landowner does not wish to enroll a whole field, block plantings are preferred over strips with the minimum size of ½ acre per habitat block.

Land that is enrolled into the Pollinator Habitat practice will be seeded to a mixture of native grasses and forbs that area butterflies and bees can use to help their survival. A minimum of nine or more pollinator friendly wildflowers or forbs will be planted with at least three species blooming at different times of the year – from April through October.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farm landowners enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10 years in length. Rock Island FSA can be reached at 309-582-5153, x2 for more information or to schedule an appointment. The Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service provide planning and technical assistance for CRP. For more information about pollinator and other continuous CRP practices, contact Rock Island NRCS at 309-764-1486, Ext. 3.



## RISWCD ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR COVER CROP PROGRAM & MORE

Farmers and rural landowners can apply for state funding for conservation practices through the Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District. If you have been considering a project, now is the time to apply! ***The application is not a contract, but it will prompt staff to visit your property, design, and price your conservation solution.***

It is very important that RISWCD receives applications as the documented demand for conservation funding will serve as the evidence for our future funding requests! If your project does not meet the ranking cutoff this year, your project will receive ranking bonus points in following years—just for being on the waiting list!

Rock Island SWCD is currently promoting the cover crop practice. An application for this practice will also receive ranking bonus points. If you are considering cover crops, this program will help you get started. Any field that has never been cover cropped is eligible. Cost-share is 60% of seed and seeding costs, the maximum payment is \$40 per acre, and total payment is capped at \$1600.

Other eligible practices for cost share include grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, water and sediment control basins, and decommissioning abandoned wells. Funding is also available for no-till and strip-till, if the practice has never been applied to that field. Severely eroded areas can be treated using Critical Area Planting. Pasture and hayland planting on cropland may also be eligible if the land meets erosion criteria and is maintained for a minimum of 5 or 10 years (depending on the seed mix). Diversions and terraces that are used to reduce soil erosion and water runoff qualify for state cost-sharing as well. Contact the Rock Island SWCD office at 309-764-1486, Ext. 3.

## COPPERAS CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT PARTNERS WITH AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

Water quality is a resource concern addressed by the Copperas Creek Watershed Resource Plan. We know soil erosion and runoff are affecting water quality, but we lack concrete data on the impact. Water quality monitoring data can provide that concrete data—helping us to better understand the resource concerns and treat them more effectively. We also know that using practices like filter strips, cover crops, and no-till will help, but how much? Again, water quality monitoring data can quantify the reduction in soil erosion and nutrient loss.

Water quality monitoring data will also provide proof that grant dollars are needed for cost-share on conservation practices in the watershed. The big watershed grants recognize the importance of monitoring. Developing and implementing a monitoring plan will improve our grant applications and chance of selection. Even if we are not selected, the data will help guide existing resources and technical assistance.

RISWCD reached out to the Augustana College Environmental Studies and Geography Departments to assist with designing and implementing a water quality monitoring program for the Copperas Creek Watershed. Our request was enthusiastically received by Dr. Reisner, Dr. Heine, and Dr. Fockler, who were excited to provide problem-based learning opportunities for their students. Many Augustana students hail from urban areas, so this opportunity to learn about rural agriculture was especially exciting.

A mutually beneficial partnership plan was outlined. RISWCD and NRCS staff took a class on a tour of Copperas Creek Watershed in early December (pictured right). The tour highlighted existing conservation practices in the watershed and the need for additional conservation practices. Students saw existing streambank stabilization, cover crops, filter strips, riparian buffers, no-till, and more. They also saw areas where conservation practices would be beneficial. Staff pointed out the high cost of these practices and the need for financial assistance.

The students are working in teams to develop monitoring plans. The student plans will be reviewed by RISWCD and the Copperas Creek Planning Committee, and used to develop a water quality monitoring plan for Copperas Creek Watershed. The final sample sites will be chosen with landowner approval and support.

Every Geography and Environmental Studies student must complete a senior inquiry on a topic of their choice prior to graduation. Students who take interest in the watershed can choose to partner with RISWCD and the Copperas Creek Planning Committee on their senior inquiry. These upper-level Augustana students will begin collecting samples Spring 2015. The samples will also be processed by the students in Augustana's lab. The lab work will follow protocol, and will be completed under the guidance of lab staff to ensure results are valid and recognized as such. Through the summer, RISWCD will hire two interns to continue the monitoring program. The interns will be mostly funded through an Illinois Board of Higher Education Emerging Professionals grant coordinated by Augustana.

As new students adopt Copperas Creek Watershed for their senior inquiry, we will be able to continue the partnership into future years. The projects will grow and change to reflect where we are in the implementation of the Copperas Creek Watershed Resource Plan. Augustana champions these types of partnerships—they even have staff to assist partners with grant writing when the grant provides learning opportunities for their students.

The Copperas Creek Watershed Project provides students with a great learning opportunity, career development opportunity, and the opportunity to make a real difference. This partnership will also help shape and educate the next generation of conservationists. We are excited about the opportunity to share our love for and understanding of rural conservation! We hope you are too!



Copperas Creek Planning Committee co-chair Doug Hessman explains farming and conservation practices to students in Augustana's Land Resources class. The tour started at New Boston Blacktop where Copperas Creek is channelized to the Mississippi River.





# RISWCD 2015 Spring Fish Sale — Proceeds Support Conservation!

**Triploid Orders Due: April 17, 2015      Payment and Orders Due: April 24, 2015**

**Pick Up: Friday, May 8, 2015 at 8:00 AM\* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL**

Sale Questions: 563-528-3583 \* Stocking Questions: IDNR fisheries biologist, ken.clodfelter@illinois.gov  
 Visit rockislandswcd.org for stocking information, to place an order, or to pay with credit card (2.35% convenience fee).

**Make check payable to: RISWCD, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264**

Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
Channel Catfish	4-6 in	\$0.70 each		\$
	6-8 in	\$0.85 each		\$
	* 8-10 in	\$0.95 each		\$
Albino Catfish	4-6 in	\$1.20 each		\$
Hybrid Sunfish	1-2 in	\$62.00 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$0.90 each		\$
	5-7in	\$1.15 each		\$
Largemouth Bass	2-3 in	\$0.90 each		\$
	5-8 in	\$2.10 each		\$
Bluegill	1-2 in	\$62.00 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$0.85 each		\$
Redear Sunfish	1-2 in	\$62.00 Bag of 250		\$
Hybrid Redear Sunfish	2-4 in	\$0.50 each		\$
± Black Crappie	2-3 in	\$52.00 Bag of 100		\$
Fathead Minnows	Avg. 100 per lb.	\$10.00 per lb.		\$
**Triploid Grass Carp Rec: 6 /vegetated acre	8-11 in	\$10.50		\$
± Black crappie only recommended in ponds over 5 acres.			<b>Total</b>	\$

### Remind me prior to pick up by:

Phone  Email  Both

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Preferences:

- All SWCD/NRCS Emails
- Newsletter
- NRCS News
- Ponds and Fish Sale
- Forestry and Tree Sale
- Wildlife
- Backyard & Urban Conservation
- Livestock and Forage
- Agricultural Conservation
- Conservation Education
- Copperas Creek Watershed

### \*\*REQUIRED FOR TRIPLOID GRASS CARP ORDERS

County	Township, Range, Section If unknown, Property Address	Pond Size (Acres)	Water Name	# of Fish
Ex: Rock Island	T16N R2W S16	2ac	Pond	4

### Getting Your Fish Home Safely— Save This Portion of Form

- All fish, except 8-10" catfish, will be bagged at the time of pick up and sealed in oxygenated water.
- Bring containers such as 5 gallon buckets, coolers, or totes, to secure the bags while travelling.
- 8-10" catfish: Due to their spines, you must provide a container with pond water. Pond water should be collected on pick-up day to ensure sufficient oxygen.
- Bagged fish should be kept out of sunlight on your trip home.
- After pickup, go directly to your pond and put your fish in.

**Pick Up is Friday, May 8, 2015 at 8:00 AM\* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264**

**\*Pick-up hours may be extended; you will be notified. This is NOT an All-Day Event; Please be On Time.**

## WE'RE EXPECTING TO SEE YOU SWCD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 3, 2015

**Who?** All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or who are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), whether they are a lessee, renter, or tenant.

**When?** On February 3, 2015 between 7 AM and 5:30 PM.

**Where?** At the USDA Service Center, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL

**Why?** To elect directors to serve two-year terms on the Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Annually two or three directors are elected to the District Board by you - property owners and residents of Rock Island County. If elected, board members are expected to attend public monthly board meetings, participate in district programs and activities, and promote them in the community.

By electing the Board, you become involved in conservation planning. Elections assure that services of the SWCD address the needs of the county. Board members are responsible for establishing SWCD policies and programs, providing guidance on program implementation, accessing resource needs, and developing strategies to address these needs. The District provides land users with technical assistance, develop programs to address local natural resource problems, and provide quality conservation education to children and adults. The District draws on the technical expertise of its staff and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to assure that plans and practices are designed to meet the standards and specifications necessary to be effective. SWCD staff is also available to assist city and county government with growth and development issues.

Districts function independently through a five-member Board of Directors. Although SWCDs occupy the same boundaries as counties, they are not part of county government. Districts do not have taxing authority. State, federal, and local governments provide funding assistance to support their beneficial partnership with the districts. Additional revenues generated from sales and services provide support to carry out the district's mission.

## RISWCD SEEKS ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, and are a great opportunity to understand the director's role. Interested persons can be named as associate directors, adding insight and diversity to the board. In addition, an experienced associate director makes an ideal candidate for an elected position in the future. Elected directors who are already familiar with the organization help provide stability and continuity to the conservation district. Currently, there are no elected or associate directors from the northern part of the county. If you live up north, please consider this opportunity to represent your area.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

Cover Crop Plot Demo and Field Day  
Envirothon  
Bald Eagle Days  
Conservation Teacher of the Year: Nancy Wolber  
Farm Show  
Earth Day Fair  
Fall and Spring Eco Camp  
Rock Island County Fair Booth and Scavenger Hunt  
Flower and Garden Show  
Women Caring for the Land Learning Circle  
Copperas Creek Watershed Tour with Augustana College  
Cover Crop Educational Meeting  
Awarded NPDES Review Grant  
Four Educational Newsletters  
Purchased new Great Plains No-Till Drill  
Technical and financial assistance with conservation practices

## THANK YOU FOR A GREAT 2014

American Farmland Trust  
Anderson-McCarthy Farms  
Scott Cocquit  
Brandon Bleuer Pheasants Forever  
Bob DePauw  
Rod and Julie Derrer  
Copperas Creek Watershed Planning Committee  
Cravers Little Red Barn  
Steve Felt, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
C.D. Ford and Sons  
Illinois Cooperative Extension  
Marty McManus, Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Dean Oswald- Midwest Grass and Forage  
Tom Parkinson  
Brian Parkinson  
Quad Cities Online/Dispatch  
Quad City Conservation Alliance  
Quad City Times  
Reynolds American Legion and Barry Gerischer  
Rock Island County  
Rock Island County Farm Bureau  
Rock Island County Master Gardeners  
Rock Island/Henry Pheasants Forever Chapter  
Taylor Garages  
Women, Food, and Agriculture Network (WFAN)  
WQAD Channel 8- John David  
WQPT The Cities  
Director Jim Mueller (~31 years)  
Director Gary Blanchard (~26 years)  
Director Brian Parkinson (~16 Years)  
Director Bill Parchert (5 years)  
Director Twila Cederstrom (2 years)  
Associate Director Bob Westpfahl (2 years)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The first 25 volunteers to sign-up for a volunteer shift will receive a free T-Shirt. Visit [www.rockislandswcd.org/volunteer](http://www.rockislandswcd.org/volunteer) or call the RISWCD office for details on the type of help needed. Upcoming events include the Flower and Garden Show at the QCCA Expo.

## FOR SALE

5' Tile Probes: \$30

Flags (multiple colors): \$.15 each or 100 for \$12

Specs: 36" Wire Staff. Flag measures 2.5" x 3.5"

Native Grass Seed and Pollinator Mixes

Call office at 309-764-1486, Ext. 3 for pricing.

## FOR RENT

Call 309-764-1486, Ext. 3 To Reserve

**7' Great Plains No-Till Drill: \$100/day & \$12/acre**

Pheasants Forever member rate: \$10/acre, \$100/day

Boxes: Grain, Small Seed, Native Grass

Pin Hitch, min. 50 hp front wheel assist

2 way hydraulics

Great for Cover Crops and Native Grasses

**6.5' Tye No-Till Drill: \$100/day & \$8/acre**

Boxes: Grain, Small Seed, Native Grass

Pin Hitch, min. 50 hp front wheel assist

2 way hydraulics

Great for Waterways

**ATV Broadcast Seeder \$25/day**

**Tree Planter (Seedlings): \$50/day**

Ball Hitch, min. 50 hp front wheel assist

Recommended for plantings over an acre

**Dibble Bar/Tree Bar: \$10/day**

Recommended for plantings over 50 seedlings

## NEWS YOU WANT

The RISWCD/NRCS print newsletter is mailed as budget allows. Stay informed between newsletters by email. You choose your subscription preferences so you only get the news you want! Email newsletters are computer and smart-phone friendly. Please provide your email and preferences using the tree sale order form (no purchase necessary).

FSA discontinued paper mailings due to budget constraints. Stay informed with email newsletters. Subscribe in the Aledo office subscribe at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new>

**Rock Island County SWCD & NRCS**  
3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264 • 309-764-1486, x3  
[www.RockIslandSWCD.org](http://www.RockIslandSWCD.org)

Monday - Friday • 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • Closed Federal Holidays  
Please call ahead, as staff are frequently in the field.

The Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service work in a unique partnership to promote, protect, maintain, improve, and wisely use our county's irreplaceable soil, water, and related natural resources.

The Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District was established February 10, 1942 under the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Act of 1937. Each District is classified as a "local unit of government"; SWCDs are NOT a branch of federal, state, or county government. The Act gives SWCD's the responsibility to provide technical information to individuals and groups on methods of soil and water conservation. The District is governed by an elected five-member board of directors. Board meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday at the USDA Service Center. You are invited and encouraged to attend. Please call ahead to confirm meeting date and time.

Districts have no taxing authority. Funding is provided by grants from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and Rock Island County. Additional resources are provided by NRCS, based on a Memorandum of Understanding. Revenues from District programs, services and sales also support the district mission.

### Rock Island County District Directors:

Gary Blanchard.....Chairman  
Bill Parchert..... Vice-Chairman  
Jim Mueller.....Treasurer  
Twila Cederstrom.....Secretary  
Brian Parkinson.....Director  
Bob Westpfahl.....Associate

### Staff:

Rich Stewart.....Resource Conservationist, SWCD  
Sally Ferguson.....Administrative Coordinator, SWCD  
Joe Gates.....District Conservationist, NRCS  
Wyatt Junis.....Soil Conservationist, NRCS  
Ed Griffin.....Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250- 9410 or call (866) 632-9992. Rock Island County SWCD operates in accordance with the USDA policy.

## Farm Service Agency

308 SE 8th Avenue, Aledo, IL 61231 • 309-582-5153, x2

**APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED:** Beginning April 2013, the Rock Island FSA office was converted to a part-time office, with Mercer County as the headquarters office. Customers can conduct their business 5 days a week in Mercer County, by appointment. Appointments can be made for the Rock Island County office on select Wednesdays. FSA records are in Aledo.



Rock Island County  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
3020 1st Ave E  
Milan, IL 61264

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## Winter/Spring 2015 Newsletter

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- Tree Sales
- Fish Sales
- Conservation Programs
- Copperas Creek Watershed
- Cover Crop Meetings
- New Farm Bill
- Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy
- Nutrient Management
- Forestry Programs
- Wildlife Habitat
- Reduced Property Taxes
- Director Elections

## CONSERVATION CROPPING SEMINAR February 18th, 2015 \* Macomb, IL

Curious about Cover Crops? Want to learn more about soil health? Don't miss out on this great opportunity to learn more about cover crop best practices and implementation. Hear from local Ag producers and resource experts who will share information and insights on soil health improvements, cover crop success, and wise nutrient management. Visit [www.ccswcd.com](http://www.ccswcd.com) to register or call Marty McManus at 309-738-7227. The \$20 fee includes lunch. Highlights Include:

- IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy "What and Why Now?" – Lauren Lurkins, IL Farm Bureau
- Soil Health – Dr. Laura & Lowell Gentry, Univ. of IL
- Conservation Cropping Systems– Clay Mitchell, IA farmer
- Cover Crops- Dr. Mark Bernards & Joel Gruver, WIU
- Trends in Cover Crops in the Corn Belt – Dr. Rob Myers, University of Missouri

## NEW NO-TILL DRILL FOR COVER CROPS AND NATIVE SEED



RISWCD purchased a 7 foot Great Plains No-Till Drill, with help from Pheasants Forever. The drill has received great reviews. It has native grass, grain and small seed boxes. Rental is \$100/day and \$12/acre\*.

**Call 309-764-1486, Ext. 3 To Reserve**

Requires Pin Hitch, min. 50 hp front wheel assist, and 2 way hydraulics  
\*\$10/acre for Pheasants Forever , daily fee applies