



Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation

Rock Island County SWCD Spring 2018 Newsletter

www.RockIslandSWCD.org

Copperas Creek Watershed Update!

“Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.”

The concern of erosion in the Copperas Creek Watershed has become more and more prevalent over the last 30 years. However, contrary to our common conception the loss of streambanks can be prevented. Your local Rock Island Soil & Water Conservation District has teamed with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to offer cost-share and technical support to landowners. The program uses inexpensive vegetative and engineering techniques to limit streambank erosion.

The implementation stage of the Copperas Creek Watershed project is in full swing! In late 2017, three streambank stabilization projects have been completed. Streambank stabilizations are found in sections of streambanks that are subject to erosion due to excessive runoff from construction activities. Generally applicable where flow velocities exceed 5 ft/sec or where vegetative streambank protection is inappropriate.

RISWCD has also completed four grassed waterways. How it helps the land? Grass or permanent vegetation established in waterways protects the soil from concentrated flows. Grassed waterways significantly reduce gully erosion.

And finally RISWCD has completed five dry dam projects. A dry dam is a dam constructed for the purpose of flood control. During periods of intense rainfall that would otherwise cause floods, the dam holds back the excess water, releasing it downstream at a controlled rate.

If you feel like you may have a project that falls into one of these categories please give Rich Stewart a call .



Rich Stewart

Contact Rock Island County SWCD Staff

(309) 764-1486 Ext. 3

riswcd@rockislandswcd.org

3020 1st Avenue East Milan, IL 61264

2018 Election Results

The Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual Election of Directors on Monday, February 13th, 2018 at the USDA Service Center in Milan, IL. Rock Island County landowners/occupiers re-elected Mrs. Twila Cederstrom, Mr. Gary Blanchard and Mr. Brian Parkinson for another two-year term. Thank you for the years of dedication to conservation!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Tree Sale Deadline

Close Of Business Friday March 23rd

QCCA Flower & Garden Show

March 23th-25th

Come See Our Booth!

Spring Fish Sale Deadlines

Grass Carp– April 19th

All Other– April 27th

Spring Eco Camp

May 10th and 11th

Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION- RISWCD PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Conservation Funding Available

If you have a conservation need, we have a program that can help. Nearly all conservation practices, management activities, and conservation activity plans are eligible for financial assistance and technical from USDA – NRCS.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, or improved wild-life habitat. Popular EQIP projects include cover crops, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, forest management, tree planting, pollinator habitat, livestock waste management, nutrient management, prescribed grazing, and seasonal high tunnels.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address resource concerns. CSP rewards you for your existing conservation efforts and helps pay for additional conservation activities. A CSP contract is a great way to get started with cover crops, nutrient management, soil health tests, pasture improvement, wildlife habitat establishment, and other conservation practices and activities.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands.

Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands. Landowners receive a one-time payment for the purchase of permanent or 30 year conservation easements on their eligible land and 100% of restoration costs for permanent easements. The current payment rate for enrolling eligible cropland in a permanent easement is \$5400 per acre.

You can sign up for EQIP, CSP, and ACEP WRE any time. Let us know if you would like more information about NRCS conservation programs.

**Contact Joe Gates District Conservationist
For More Information**

**Milan NRCS Field Office
3020 1st Avenue East
(309) 764-1486 Ext. 3**

University of Illinois Extension:

University of Illinois Extension has excellent resources for farm owners and operators.

When you support the University of Illinois Extension Commercial Agriculture program, the agriculture community is provided with access to cutting edge agricultural, food science and research information that can be used by local commercial, producers, agri-businesses, and small farms / urban farms. This information allows for cost savings, increased revenue, latest technology, and pest management best practices. Those benefits include increased economic activity and intangible benefits including sustainable environmental preservation and a venue for providing education about agriculture. Extending knowledge, changing lives.

Useful Information Available At
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/commag.html>

-Cash Rent Resources
-Information On Upcoming Events & Workshops
-Links for Certified Crop Advisors, Certified Livestock Manager Training, Pesticide Safety,
-"Market Maker" and "Farmdoc" Software

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Extension

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

Pheasants Forever: Q&A About Prescribed Burning with Scott James, Farm Bill Biologist

What is a prescribed burn?

A prescribed burn is a fire ignited under specific conditions to achieve specific results for land management. A prescribed burn plan and IL EPA burn permit must accompany the burn.



Why is it used?

It is used to manage land and varies by objectives for the site. Fire refreshes many types of vegetative growth and alters wildlife value of the site. Typically prescribed fire is used to enhance a site's value for wildlife and for beauty. A prescribed fire can suppress or kills trees and plants that site managers don't want growing, can stimulate plants that managers do want growing, can control plant diseases, and can prepare sites for new plantings. Furthermore, an Rx fire can reduce fuel load so if there is a wildfire, it won't burn as dangerously. Needless to say, a fire can be used for dozens of reasons. In my opinion, burning is the best land management tool.

When is it used and where is it used?

It is used any time of year, but most commonly in the spring and in the fall. In prairie settings, spring burns stimulate many grasses and late summer/fall burns favor most wildflowers. Burns are used nearly everywhere from small prairies in one's back yard to a farmer's pasture (when the cows aren't present), to thousands of acres of national forest. In Rock Island County, burns are most commonly conducted on privately owned prairie/grassland or in area parks with prairie or forest.

What should be considered before doing a prescribed burn?

Considerations include the weather, the amount and type of burn equipment, the amount and health of personnel burning, the type of land being burnt, what the adjacent land is and structures or vehicle travel on that land, firebreaks, utilities like gas lines and powerlines, livestock, misc. combustible or dangerous areas, who to notify about the burn, escape areas, expected fire behavior, having good communication, etc. Landowners should seek advice

from experts (like myself or other resource professionals) and need to have & follow a burn plan & burn permit.

What equipment is needed?

Equipment needed varies on the burn. Common types of equipment are mobile water tanks w/ hoses, drip torches for ignition, a tractor with disc or blade, weather radio or kit, first aid kit, cell phones or radios, backpack water pumps, leaf blowers, rakes, flappers, shovel or pioneer tools, and personal protective equipment. The Soil & Water District and Pheasants Forever recently partnered to purchase burn equipment landowners can borrow to burn their property if they have a burn plan. They can contact me or Soil & Water staff about usage.

What are the benefits of burning?

The biggest benefit is improved habitat, typically through stimulation of desirable vegetation, suppression of undesirable vegetation, and other things referenced in question #3. Landowners should monitor the results of a burn—they will likely be pleased!

Farm Bureau:



Women in Agriculture Conference

*March 16th, 2018
Jumer's Casino & Hotel*

*Register and Pay online at
www.womeninagricultureconference.com*

*Questions? Contact the Rock Island Farm Bureau
At 309-736-7432*



RISWCD 2018 Spring Fish Sale — Proceeds Support Conservation!

Grass Carp Orders Due: April 19th Payment & Other Orders Due: April 27th

Pick Up: Friday May 4th 7:00 AM* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486 x3 *Stocking Questions: IDNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Wyffels

Visit rockislandswcd.org for additional information and order forms.

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

Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
Channel Catfish	4-6 in	\$0.85 each		\$
	6-8 in	\$1.05 each		\$
	* 8-10 in	\$1.30 each		\$
Albino Catfish	4-6 in	\$1.45 each		\$
Hybrid Sunfish	1-2 in	\$65.00 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$1.00 each		\$
	5-7in	\$1.45 each		\$
Largemouth Bass	2-3 in	\$1.05 each		\$
	5-8 in	\$3.50 each		\$
Bluegill	1-2 in	\$65.00 Bag of 250		\$
	3-5 in	\$1.00 each		\$
Redear Sunfish	1-2 in	\$65.00 Bag of 250		\$
± Black Crappie	2-3 in	\$55.00 Bag of 100		\$
Fathead Minnows	Avg. 100 per lb.	\$13.50 per lb.		\$
**Tripliod Grass Carp Rec: 6 /vegetated acre	8-11 in	\$13.50		\$
± Black crappie only recommended in ponds over 5 acres.			Total	\$

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 at 7:00 AM* at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264

***This is NOT an All-Day Event; Please be On Time.**



RISWCD 2018 Spring Tree Sale— Proceeds Support Conservation!

Payment and Orders Due: March 23th 2018 – Early Orders Recommended

Pick-Up April 26th-27th at SWCD Office, 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264.

***Pick Up: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

Sale Questions: 309-764-1486 x3 * Visit rockislandswcd.org for planting tips, questions, and order forms.

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. If you are interested in a special order, the sooner you call, the sooner we can reserve with the vendor. Call 309-764-1486 x3 for more information.

Potted Native Prairie Plants Available Again This Year!

- Butterfly Milkweed
- Purple Coneflower
- Ox-Eye Sunflower
- Rough Blazin Star
- Shining Bluestar
- Rose Mallow
- Black Eyed Susan
- Columbine



***Stock Availability Subject To Change, Earliest Orders Will Be Given Priority**

Remind me prior to pick up by:

Phone Email Both

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email Preferences:

- All SWCD/NRCS Emails
- Newsletter
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- Ponds and Fish Sale
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- 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 2018 Spring Tree Sale – Proceeds Support Conservation!

1 Gallon Potted Evergreens Approx. 12-18” in Height

SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Canadian Hemlock	\$9.60		\$
Colorado Blue Spruce	\$9.60		\$
Norway Spruce	\$9.60		\$
Eastern White Pine	\$9.60		\$
American Arborvitae	\$9.60		\$
Grand Fir	\$9.60		\$
Colorado Spruce	\$9.60		\$
Fraser Fir Mt. Rogers	\$9.60		\$
Fraser Fir Roan Mt	\$9.60		\$
Canaan Fir	\$9.60		\$
Subtotal:			\$

3 Gallon Potted RPM (Root Production Method) Trees - Conservation Grade

SPECIES	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
White Oak	\$18.00		\$
Bur Oak	\$18.00		\$
Red Oak	\$18.00		\$
Swamp White Oak	\$18.00		\$
Pin Oak	\$18.00		\$
Chinkapin Oak	\$18.00		\$
Paw Paw	\$18.00		\$
Black Walnut	\$18.00		\$
Pecan	\$18.00		\$
Eastern Redbud	\$18.00		\$
Ohio Buckeye	\$18.00		\$
Downy Serviceberry	\$16.00		\$
Flowering Dogwood	\$18.00		\$
American Hazelnut	\$16.00		\$
American Plum	\$16.00		\$
Black Cherry	\$18.00		\$
Chinese Chestnut	\$18.00		\$
Bucks Unlimited Swamp White Oak	\$25.00		\$
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		\$
Norway Spruce	\$30		\$
White Pine	\$30		\$
Persimmon	\$30		\$
Wild Plum	\$30		\$
Gray Dogwood	\$30		\$
Black Cherry	\$30		\$
Eastern Redbud	\$30		\$
Subtotal:			\$

1 Gallon Native Potted Plants *Plants Range In Size Depending On Species

	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Butterfly Milkweed	\$7.00		\$
Purple Coneflower	\$7.00		\$
Ox-Eye Sunflower	\$7.00		\$
Rough Blazin Star	\$7.00		\$
Shining Bluestar	\$7.00		\$
Rose Mallow	\$7.00		\$
Black-Eyed Susan	\$7.00		\$
Columbine	\$7.00		\$
Subtotal:			\$

Totals	
1 Gal. Potted Evergreens Subtotal	\$
3 Gal. Potted RPM Subtotal	\$
Bare Root Seedlings Subtotal	\$
1 Gal. Native Plants Subtotal	\$
Grand Total:	\$

RISWCD NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

A big thank you to our current sponsors featured below! The printing of our tri-yearly newsletter would not be possible without their support.

This newsletter is mailed to 2000+ recipients. Mailings are timed to promote RISWCD events, sales, and conservation news. Sponsors are selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact RISWCD and Mail a \$200 check to sponsor three consecutive newsletters in 2018. RISWCD staff will work with you to format your sponsorship space.



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Quad City Conservation Alliance

2621 4th Avenue
 Rock Island, Illinois 61201
 A Non-Profit Coalition of Conservation Clubs




Phone: 309-755-7644
 3303 John Deere Rd. Silvis, IL 61282

Crop Production Services



ACKER BULLDOZING

Harvey Acker
 Reynolds, IL
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M & M Enterprises QCA

Quad City Water Conservation Specialist

<http://mmenterprisesqca.fixr.com/>
mmenterprisesqca@hotmail.com
 309-854-3983

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- Lake Treatment Consultation/Training
- Shoreline Cleanup/Repair
- Water Hazard Removal/Marking

Special Promotion

First Ten New Customers to Hire MME QCA for their Lake Or Pond Services Receives 20% Off With This Coupon

Thank you to our RISWCD newsletter sponsors. Their support makes this publication possible.



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

Spring 2018 Newsletter

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Rock Island County SWCD & NRCS
 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL 61264 • 309-764-1486
www.RockIslandSWCD.org

Monday - Friday • 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • Closed Federal Holidays

Rock Island County District Directors:

Gary Blanchard: Chairman
 Bill Parchert: Director
 Twila Cederstrom: Director
 Brian Parkinson: Director
 Nathan Oak: Director

Staff:

Rich Stewart..... Resource Conservationist, SWCD
 McCala Miller..... 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, employer, and lender. 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.

FOR SALE

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

Native Grass Seed and Pollinator Mixes
 Call office at 309-764-1486, Ext. 3 for pricing.

5' Tile Probes: \$30

FOR RENT

7' Great Plains No-Till Drill: \$100/day & \$12/acre
 Pheasants Forever member rate: \$100/day & \$10/acre

6.5' Tye No-Till Drill: \$100/day & \$12/acre
Boxes: Grain, Small Seed, Native Grass

ATV Broadcast Seeder \$25/day

Tree Planter (Seedlings): \$50/day

Donations

Cash or property donations to RISWCD are tax deductible under IRS Code 170(c)(1).