



Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District

www.RockIslandSWCD

Upcoming Events of Interest

Visit us at the QCCA Farm Show
2621 4th Ave, Rock Island, IL
Sunday, January 19th, 10am-5pm
Monday, January 20th, 9am-5pm
Tuesday, January 21st, 9am-3pm

We will be sharing booth space with Farm Bureau again this year. Please stop by to visit, view our exhibit on cover crops and receive a rain gauge.

Mark your calendars and register for these partner events:

Conservation Cropping Seminar
January 28th, 2014, Mendota, IL

National No-Till Conference
January 15th-18th, 2014, Springfield, IL

Women in Agriculture Conference
Friday, March 21st, Jumers, Rock Island, IL

Reduced Taxes on Vegetative 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.

Visit the SWCD Cover Crop Demo Plot

The plots are just west of the junction of 176th Ave (County Road NN) and 63rd St

Thanks to American Farmland Trust, Scott Cocquit, Marty McManus with Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, and C.D. Ford and Sons

A cover crop demonstration plot, pictured above, has been seeded on farmland just east of the Sherrard High School FFA plots. Ten combinations of cover crops were seeded on September 14th using Annual Ryegrass, Oil Seed Radishes, Cereal Rye, Turnips, Crimson Clover, Rapeseed, Oats, and others. Combination plot seed was donated by C.D. Ford and Sons of Geneseo. The farmer, Scott Cocquit, chopped ten acres of silage which was immediately seeded to Cereal Rye on October 3rd. Across the road, 50 acres of Cereal Rye was aerially seeded into standing corn on October 2nd. Cattle have grazed the area.

Cover crops are used to reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, increase organic matter, reduce soil compaction, and reduce weed competition. Different cover crop seeds have different purposes, so finding the right combination for you is the purpose of the plots. Farmers can sign-up for cost-sharing assistance to seed cover crops in 2014 through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Application cut-off dates are: January 17th, March 21st, and May 16th.

Elections

Elections will be held Tuesday, January 7th, from 7AM-5:30 PM at the SWCD office at 3020 1st Ave E, Milan, IL. Three directors serving two year terms will be elected to serve the Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois. All persons, firms, or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying with the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant, or otherwise. Only such persons, firms, or corporations are eligible to vote.

Please show your support for those running by casting your ballot. Refreshments will be served. The January RISWCD meeting will also be held at 3:30PM on January 7th, and is open to the public.

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.

Begin Planning Your Spring Fish and Tree Orders

All sale proceeds are used by RISWCD to further its mission: Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District provides services to enhance, protect, conserve and promote the soil, water, and related resources in Rock Island County. Examples include technical and financial assistance, tree sales, native seed sales, fish sales, conservation education, and more.

The 2014 Spring Fish Sale Delivery will be Friday, May 9th, 2014 at 7AM at the SWCD office.

The 2014 Tree Sale Pickup has not yet been scheduled.

Please check our website for additional details as spring approaches!

Volunteers Needed

Join our Natural Area Guardians to help make a difference! The first 25 volunteers to sign-up for a volunteer shift will receive a free T-Shirt. Visit www.rockislandswcd.org/volunteer or call the RISWCD office for details on the type of help needed and to sign-up for a shift! Upcoming events include: Farm Show and Bald Eagle Days, Flower and Garden Show, and Earth Day Fair

Thank You to All who Volunteered and Provided Resources to Make 2013 A Successful Year

Norm Anselmi
Scott Cocquit
Ron Fargo
Adam Schroeder and Family
Bob Westfahl
VFC Distributors
Reynolds Goldstar FS
Taylor Garages
Rock Island County

Marty McManus, Illinois Department of Agriculture
Steve Felt, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
County Line Agriservice and Kent Feeds
C.D. Ford and Sons
Dean Oswald- Midwest Grass and Forage
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Rock Island County Farm Bureau
WQAD Channel 8- John David
Quad Cities Online

Quad City Times
WRMJ Radio- Jim Taylor
Illinois Cooperative Extension
Rock Island County Master Gardeners
Quad City Conservation Alliance
Reynolds American Legion
Brandon Bleuer- Pheasants Forever
Forrest Keeling Tree Nursery
Copperas Creek Watershed Planning Committee

Highlights of 2013:

- Forage Expo
- Envirothon
- Bald Eagle Days
- Farm Show
- Earth Day Fair
- Contractor's Workshop
- Fall and Spring Eco Camp
- Rock Island County Fair
- Flower and Garden Show
- EQIP in Action Pasture Tour
- Outdoor Classroom Facilitation
- Copperas Creek Watershed Meeting
- Cover Crop Demo Plot and Field Day
- Awarded American Farmland Trust
- Cover Crop Promotion Grant
- Awarded NPDES Review Grant
- Technical and financial assistance with conservation practices

Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District



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SWCD STAFF

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