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Kult's Korner

-  NRCS remains under a continuing resolution through the end of March. The Debt Ceiling limit will be reached by mid-May and the Farm Bill is set to expire on September 30th.
-  The ICP Leaders have agreed to support completing the Tillage Transect for 2013. The increase in demand for Indiana's row crop production, coupled with the ICP's focus on conservation cropping systems for soil health, and the reports on agriculture's role in the gulf hypoxia and Great Lakes issues makes tracking trends in conservation tillage, energy consumption and cropping systems an important and valuable activity. The Tillage Transect allows the partnership to track adoption trends by state, county or watershed. A letter was distributed on March 12th to all partnership employees outlining the roles and expectations of each partner for the 2013 Tillage Transect.
-  USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has updated their Cooperative Working Agreement between the USDA FSA, Indiana SSCB, ISDA-Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA), Purdue University CES, and each of Indiana's 92 SWCDs. This agreement explains that each partner shares a commitment to the conservation of natural resources at the State and local level while advocating comprehensive resource management planning. The purpose of the agreement is to increase the efficiency of conservation technical and financial assistance to customers. Once signed, the agreement will remain in place for five years, expiring on December 31, 2018.
-  Roger Kult continues in the Acting State Conservationist position while Jane Hardisty is on a national headquarters detail as the Associate Chief for Operations. Susan Meadows is Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Operations. Jill Reinhart is Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Farm Bill Programs until the position is filled, and Becky Fletcher is taking the lead on Public Affairs and Outreach work.



Roger Kult
Acting State Conservationist

-Roger

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

Theresa Hadley, State Office Assistant—State Office

Q: As the one of the newest state office employees, please help us get to know you better. Are you a Hoosier native?

Yes, I was born and raised in southern Indiana. I graduated from Lawrence North High School. I lived several places before coming back to Indianapolis.

Q: Before coming NRCS, what did you do?

I worked for various federal government agencies before coming to NRCS. Most of these agencies were law enforcement. I lived several places including Tampa, Florida, Indianapolis and Austin, Texas. I gained valuable administrative experience and knowledge in each of these positions. The skills I gained while working for these other agencies has prepared me for my duties with NRCS and working with the state office staff.

Q: How did your past work experience prepare you for your current position with NRCS?

I worked for several law enforcement and other federal agencies for more than thirty-three years before coming to NRCS. Each of my previous jobs provided me with extensive experience and knowledge of administrative duties. I use the knowledge I gained from these positions everyday when working for NRCS.

Q: What are you looking forward to most in your position?

I look forward to working with our NRCS staff and continually learning about the relationship between our agency and farmers and how both work together to apply conservation to the land.

Q: Do you have any hobbies or special interests that you can tell us about?

I enjoy cooking and baking for my family and friends.

Q: Do you have any professional or personal goals for 2013?

My professional goal for 2013 is to continue gaining administrative experience to provide the best assistance possible to Indiana NRCS staff.

I have a strong admiration for animals. My personal goal for 2013 will be to help dogs in need by starting my own dog rescue and/or fostering dogs until they find a good home.

Q: I've noticed Colts and Indiana University basketball paraphernalia on your desk. Do you have any favorite players on either of these teams?

I actually don't have any favorite players on these teams but I am a HUGE fan of both!



Hoosier Happenings

KUDOS TO:

Eddy Adams, District Conservationist, for his role in assisting the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with implementing the Healthy Rivers Initiative. Eddy was mentioned by name in a survey DNR conducted of landowners involved in the project.—**Jill Reinhart, Acting ASTC for Programs**

Jennifer Chen, Resource Conservationist, and **Adam Heichelbech, EQIP/WHIP Program Specialist**, on a great job pulling together information for input to national headquarters, as well as your leadership with the payment schedules here and in the Region. It is all greatly appreciated! - **Tony Bailey, Conservationist Agronomist**

Trevor Shepard, Area Agricultural Engineer, for submitting an excellent summary of the Newburgh Emergency Watershed Protection project utilizing the Public Affairs Success Story template and including before and after pictures.—**Becky Fletcher, State Public Affairs Specialist**

Jerod Chew, District Conservationist, for the fantastic job talking about NRCS assistance available to small farmers at the Small Farms Conference. I saw lots of people taking notes and I loved how you took them through the sample planning. It was exactly the kind of presentation needed for this audience.—**Becky Fletcher, State Public Affairs Specialist**

Kevin Shide, District Conservationist, and **Brian Musser, District Conservationist**, for assisting at the Northern Indiana Grazing Conference. They both helped manage breakout sessions and manned the Soil Health booth that promoted NRCS and USDA's farm bill programs. The Conference hosted around 800 people over the two days this year. Thanks again for NRCS's support of this event! - **Martin A. Franke, LaGrange County SWCD District Manager**

Don Donovan, District Conservationist, **Angie Garrison, District Conservationist**, and **Curtis Kneeven, Resource Management Specialist**, for their willingness to staff the exhibit at the 2013 Hort Congress! I know you have a thousand things to do, but helping NRCS be visible at these types of events really helps us promote the agency and what we have to offer all producers – large and small. Thanks again! - **Becky Fletcher, State Public Affairs Specialist**

INDIANA NRCS RECRUITING VIDEO COMPLETE

The NRCS employees featured in the new Indiana Recruitment video would probably have never guessed that “other duties as assigned” would mean being a part of a project that will put their face on YouTube and the NRCS website for thousands to see. I'd like to thank the employees who agreed to be interviewed, as well as the many “extras” for taking time out of their busy schedule to be a part of an important effort.



Rafael Vega, District Conservationist, performs field work for recruiting materials

Interviewees:

Genny Helt, Lindsay Martinez, Rafael Vega, Chris Lee, Angie Garrison, Mark Eastman, Amie Lester, Celia Tharp, and Amie Lester.

Employees working in the field or office:

Chris Smith, Daniel Phillips, Akhtar Soomro, Kenny Streett, Beth Clarizia, Mike Cox, Chris Ritz, Norm Stephens, Jamie Shonkweiler, Chris Torp, and Kevin Norwood

The public affairs staff is working on uploading the video to YouTube and the Indiana website. Stayed tuned for more information about this video.

Partnership Links

IN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Bi-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

**** SPECIAL EMPHASIS ****

STATE OFFICE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY

February is the month we focus on recalling and celebrating a unique part of our American History and the roles of African American figures in shaping what our country is today. History



USDA employees gather for the 2013 Black History Month Luncheon

teaches us that every culture and every society endures good and bad, and it is essential that we continue to learn from our past and move forward to better ourselves for the future. The 2013 theme **“At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington”**.



Daniel Phillips, Black History Special Emphasis Program Manager gives Wilma Moore a token of gratitude for speaking at the 2013 Black History Month Luncheon

The thirteenth annual Black History Luncheon was held on February 26th at the state office. Employees from Farm Service Agency, Risk Management and Rural Development also attended this year’s luncheon and program. A presentation of “Indiana African American History”, from Wilma Moore who

works for the Indiana Historical Society was well received. The food was wonderful as always! Daniel Phillips, Black History Special Emphasis Program Manager, would like to thank everyone who attended this event and sends a special thanks to everyone who helped with the food, setup and clean up.

NRCS employees are a very diverse group. It is diversity that in some respect is our strength. It is important for all of us to learn about the heritage and culture of the people we work with daily. Through understanding the differences in each culture, we can work together to improve service to our customers and employees.

Hoosier Happenings (cont.)

EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEER TIP OF THE MONTH

WORKING WITH AN SWCD DISTRICT ON A FIELD DAY?! Make sure to sign up the landowner and any volunteers as an Earth Team Volunteer!

We’ve been challenged again this year by National Headquarters to have 100% office participation in the Earth Team Volunteer program. While Indiana has been extremely successful in obtaining ETV hours, we have never been able to report 100% office participation. Let’s make 2013 our year!

One of the biggest roadblocks noted by our employees concerning the Earth Team Volunteer program is that they don’t have the time to train a volunteer.

Earth Team Volunteers are all around us and most of the time they are right underneath our nose. If you partner with your SWCD or other organization on a field day held at a



Jim Brown, Earth Team Volunteer, presents on soil health during a Washington County field day

private landowner’s operation, make sure to have your landowner sign up as an Earth Team Volunteer! **Remember: they are taking time out of their busy schedule to assist you in educating our community about conservation practices and/or NRCS programs.** And it doesn’t just stop with your landowners. Make sure to sign up other volunteers assisting with the program too – just be sure they are over the age of 14!

If you have any questions about the Earth Team Volunteer Program, please contact your [ETV Area Coordinator](#).

INDIANA NRCS EARTH TEAM HOURS TO DATE

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS:	77
TOTAL HOURS:	1,227
TOTAL OFFICES REPORTED:	12



PERSONNEL UPDATE

REASSIGNMENTS

Richard Mark DePoy reassigned to District Conservationist at the Warsaw Field Office effective 02-25-13

SELECTION FROM VACANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ben Zuercher selected for Resource Management Specialist in Southeast. Start date has not yet been determined.

EARTH TEAM SHAREPOINT SITE

Are you ready to sign up a new Earth Team Volunteer but aren't sure which forms to use?
Do you want to find ideas position descriptions for potential Earth Team Volunteers?
Are you looking to recognize your Earth Team Volunteer but need a couple of ideas?

Check out the Earth Team Volunteer Sharepoint site at:

<https://nrsc.sc.egov.usda.gov/chief/lpad/et/default.aspx>

for this information and much more about the Earth Team Volunteer program!

FY2012 END OF YEAR REPORT

Make sure to download a copy of the FY2012 Indiana NRCS End of Year report to distribute at Annual Meetings, Conferences, Workshops and Field Days. Download from the Indiana NRCS website at:

<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/news/>

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

- 18: State Office Employee Association Meeting
- 19: 2-stage Ditch Field Day
Area Conservationist Meeting
- 20: Leadership Team Meeting
- 21: Civil Rights Committee Meeting
ICP Advance Cover Crop Training
ICP Leaders Webinar
- 25: Technical Staff Meeting
- 26: Northwest Area Meeting
- 27: Southwest Area Meeting

APRIL

- 2: Northeast Area Meeting
Southeast Field Office Quality Review—Ripley
- 8: Northwest Field Office Quality Review—Montgomery
- 9: Southwest Field Office Quality Review—Johnson/
Morgan
- 10: Southeast Area Meeting
- 11: Northwest Field Office Quality Review—Carroll
- 15: COR Training
- 16: ICP Leaders Meeting
- 17: Northwest Field Office Quality Review—Cass
- 23: Managing for Excellence

You can find up-to-date information about upcoming events on the Indiana SharePoint site at:

<https://nrsc.sc.egov.usda.gov/central/in/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>