

## Conservation News

Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District  
6021 Development Drive, Suite 2  
Charleston, IL 61920

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# Conservation News

Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District  
6021 Development Drive, Suite 2 — Charleston, IL 61920

Volume 48 Issue 4

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Ju/Aug 2008

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The Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District offers all programs and services without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

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Volume 48 Issue 4

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Address subscription questions to the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District, 6021 Development Drive, Suite 2, Charleston, IL 61920. Postage is paid at Charleston, Illinois and at an additional mailing office.

### Coles County Ag Breakfast

Drainage districts will be the topic at the second Coles County Ag Breakfast. John Armstrong, attorney at Hefner, Eberspacher, Tapella, Armstrong, Grove, Jones, and Britton, will be the featured speaker. He will talk about how to organize a new drainage district, how to re-activate an existing one, how to include your land in a drainage district, how drainage districts get their funds and much more. He will also be available to answer questions.

The breakfast will be held on Tuesday, July 15, at Pagliacci's in Mattoon. It will begin at 7:00 and you will be on your way no later than 8:30. Instead of ordering from the menu, we will have a buffet set up. The cost is \$5 plus tax and tip.

A table will be available for anyone with information/hand-outs to share with the ag community. There will also be time to share upcoming events with the group.

The breakfast is co-sponsored by the SWCD, Farm Bureau, and University of Illinois Extension. To register, call the Extension office at 345-7034 by July 9th.

### Goodbye from Mary-Nance

I am sure many of you have heard the story of my first day on the job when I turned into the parking lot, hit the ice, and slid into Ray Seeley's SCS (before they were NRCS) truck. They still let me stay although Ray and Andy were very careful where they parked their trucks after that.

On August 29, I will retire after more than 28 years in this position. I have been very fortunate not to have had big turnovers in office co-workers or on the board of directors. The downside to that is that after all of these years working with and for the same people, I realize that I have become rather attached to them and leaving them and the customers who have been a part of my life for the past 28 years will not be easy.

Since the next issue of this newsletter will not come out until after my retirement, I wanted to use this issue to say goodbye and to invite you to stop by the office while I am still here to let me tell you goodbye in person.

My years at SWCD have been wonderful and it is due in large part to my office co-workers, my directors and to you, the customers, who have been such a joy to know.

### More Good Reasons to Recycle

In one year, American steel recycling saves enough energy to heat and light 18 million homes.

One pound of recycled steel saves enough energy to light a 60 watt bulb for 24 hours.

## News From Nancy

### Sign up now for State Cost Share

The Coles County SWCD is taking sign up for conservation projects state funded cost share. Projects may include waterways, terraces, diversions, no till/strip till, nutrient management, pasture seeding on cropland and grade stabilization structures. These practices must be on existing cropland and there must be an erosion concern on the field.

Cost share is 60% of total approved cost to build or complete the project. No till/strip till is a flat fee per acre, 40 acre maximum per landowner. Nutrient management is a flat fee per acre and landowners are limited to 200 acres for payment.

Sign up will end August 1, 2008. Please call our office if you have any questions, 345-3901, ext.3.

### Prairie Plantings for CRP Not yet Planted? Don't Panic

The last week in June will be our cut off for planting prairie this spring. If you haven't been able to get your prairie grass and flowers planted, don't worry. You can do a frost seeding after the first heavy freeze in late November or December, without any penalty or contract violation. Several people have asked about planting this fall. We never recommend a fall planting for prairie! Fall is **not** the time to plant prairie, it is not like cool season grasses which does well with fall plantings. Prairie planted in the fall does not have time to get ready for winter and won't survive. Also make sure to store your grass and flower seed in a cool dark place until this winter. If you did not get your prairie planted contact our office to discuss frost seeding and to get your name on the drill or seeder list.

## FOR SALE

### Creating Habitats and Homes for Illinois Wildlife-\$30

Given a chance, wildlife make our lives richer. This book will give you a very practical look at what you can do on your property to attract and benefit everything from blue-winged teal to butterflies.

### Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers-\$25

This book is the ultimate field guide to wildflowers of the midwestern tallgrass prairie. This valuable reference enables all prairie enthusiasts to quickly and accurately identify hundreds of tallgrass prairie plants.

### Central Region Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants-\$6

The goal of this guide is to help identify native plants at various stages of growth. Color photos illustrate seed, seedling, juvenile and flowering stages in addition to distinguishing characteristics. Brief text provides additional identification help.

### Illinois Birds- \$5

Most illustrations show the adult male in breeding coloration.

### Prairie in Your Pocket- \$5

Common and scientific names, blooming dates and heights for 114 easily seen midwestern species.

### Home Water Analysis Kit-\$30

Our comprehensive kit allows you to quickly and easily test for various contaminants

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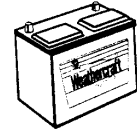
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The first issue of our newsletter was in April/May 1962. Moore Farm Buildings was among our first advertisers in that issue. Charles Miller-Richard Williams Insurance was advertising by our second issue. One year later, Charleston Stone Company began advertising in our April/May 1963 issue. These three businesses are still advertising today in three of our six issues and we want to say a special thank-you to them for their support over the years.