



Conservation News

Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District

6021 Development Drive , Suite 2

Charleston, IL 61920



Rain Barrels Now Available at Coles County SWCD

The Coles County SWCD now has custom made rain barrels for sale at the office. Rain barrels are an excellent way to collect and store rain water, allowing homeowners to recycle water and cut down on monthly water bills. Rain water is chlorine free and mineral rich and can be used to water gardens and houseplants. By collecting rain water and re-using it, runoff from storms is reduced and water quality in our rivers and streams is improved. The SWCD rain barrels include an overflow hose, flexible downspout connector, a screened opening that will filter out leaves and sticks, two openings for easy cleaning, IEPA approved recycled barrels and gasket seals to prevent leaks around the spigot and overflow openings. The rain barrels are locally made and all proceeds go to support local conservation pro-

grams. We are taking orders for rain barrels thru December 12 and will have a barrel pick up day on December 19, just in time for Christmas. Rain Barrels make a unique gift that will keep on giving for years to come. All barrels come with instructions and are simple to maintain. The SWCD is selling the rain barrels for \$85.00, cash or checks are accepted. If you have any questions or would like to place an order please call the SWCD office at 345-3901, ext.3.



Reasons to own a Rain Barrel

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- Over 40% of summer water is used for outdoor use. Water used from rain barrels for watering and other outdoor uses saves purified drinking water.
- Rain barrels help control storm water runoff by storing, slowing and directing excess rainwater.
- Owning and using a rain barrel raises awareness of the amount of water consumed.
- Rain barrel water can be used to water gardens, flowers, trees, indoor plants, for washing pets, cars, garden tools, muddy boots, and in your birdbaths and backyard ponds.

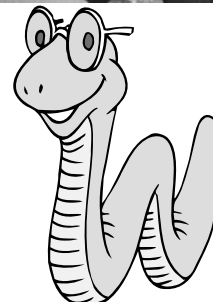
Vermi-composting in Coles County Schools

Vermiculture or worm composting, allows you to compost all your food waste faster than you ever imagined, while producing the highest quality compost and fertilizing liquid.

Best of all, it's self-contained and nearly odorless! If you are interested there is information on the web on buying ready-made bins or instructions on how to build your own bin and how to care for it.

You can also find sources for the worms. Or stop by our office and we'll help you get started.

Second grade students in Erica Kremitzki's class enjoyed taking care of the SWCD worm bin. While in the student's care they learned all about how worms are utilized to recycle food scraps and newspaper which they turn into compost to be used for houseplants or gardens.



Nancy Pals certified to write nutrient plans

Nancy Pals, at the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District, completed training and testing to be certified to develop nutrient management plans for the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Program.

The Nutrient Management Program provides an incentive and an educational tool to assist agricultural producers in developing a fertilizer plan. The plan is developed to provide crops with needed nutrients to reach yield goals and minimize nutrients not needed by the plant from entering the environment.

The nutrient management plans are developed using the latest edition of the University of Illinois, Illinois Agronomy Handbook, recommendations for rate, timing, and placement of nutrients and procedures for soil sampling and calculating yield potentials.

To be eligible for the Nutrient Management Program, a landowner must be a cooperator with the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District, have a signed contract, have never received a

payment for the same acreage from the Illinois Nutrient Management Program, and must have a plan written for no less than 10 acres and will not be paid for more than 200 acres.

The Nutrient Management Program provides an incentive and an educational tool to assist agricultural producers in developing a fertilizer plan.

New incentive rates are now available. If a landowner chooses to use a USDA registered technical service provider (TSP), the TSP may receive \$4/acre. The landowner is eligible to receive an incentive payment of \$8/acre with an additional \$2 per acre if the landowner performs a soil test for phosphorus in the upper 2" of the soil profile or if the nutrient management plan is done in conjunction with a Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District conservation practice.

If the nutrient management plan is written for acreage in an approved

TMDL (total maximum daily load) watershed, the landowner is eligible to receive a maximum of \$12/acre with an additional \$2 per acre if the landowner performs a soil test for phosphorus in the upper 2" of the soil profile or if the nutrient management plan is written in conjunction with a Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District conservation practice.

Contact the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation at 217-345-3901, ext.3 for more information.

Coles County SWCD
6021 Development Drive, Suite 2
Charleston, IL 61920
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Coles County SWCD - Past-Present-Future. Pictured at the Open House for Mary-Nance Miller left to right are: Administrative Coordinator Emily Gilmore who started work with the SWCD on Aug. 25th replacing retiring Office Manager Mary-Nance Miller who started work in March 1980 and retired on Aug. 29th, Freda Donnell Christen, District Clerk, Dec. 1961-Mar. 1978 and Ray Seeley, Soil Conservation Technician, 1954-1983.

AQUATIC—WETLAND PLANT SALE

ONGOING THROUGH

DECEMBER

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PLANTS WILL BE

DELIVERED SUMMER 2009

IN TIME FOR

PLANTING.



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**Conservation News
Coles County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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