



## Conservation News

### Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District

6021 Development Drive , Suite 2

Charleston, IL 61920



### COLES COUNTY AG BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009, 7—8:30 A.M.

#### FARM BILL UPDATE BY DOUG YODER

The Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District, Coles County Farm Bureau and U of I Extension are hosting an Ag Breakfast on January 29th at the Stovepipe Grill, east of Charleston just off Rt. 16.

Guest speaker will be Doug Yoder, Senior Director of Marketing & Risk Management at the Illinois Farm Bureau. Yoder is responsible for developing professional education classes for farmers. He teaches a wide variety of ag marketing, risk management, crop insurance, government farm policy and e-commerce classes.

To register please call the Coles County Farm Bureau office at 345-3276 by Friday January 23rd. Tickets are \$10 each.

Plan to Join us on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Notice of Election of Directors

The Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District director election will be held on **Tuesday, February 3, 2009** in the SWCD office at 6021 Development Drive from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

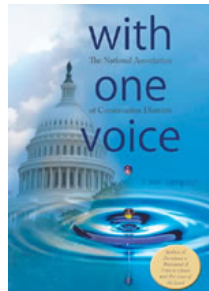
Absentee voting may be conducted in person at the SWCD office through from January 21 through February 6, 2009.

Two directors will be elected to serve two-year terms on the SWCD Board of Directors.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within 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.

For more information, call the SWCD office at 345-3901 (ex. 3).

Though Congress has consistently developed new and expanded conservation programs in recent years, it has often failed to provide the funding necessary to accomplish its goals. As a result, while there have been significant achievements in protecting America's land and water resources, they have often been accompanied by significant frustration and burnout on the part of employees and volunteers. *With One Voice* by author R. Neil Sampson, tells the story of America's national soil and water conservation efforts through the eyes of the National Association of Conservation Districts, providing a reference for people who seek to refine and implement these programs. Copies are available on Amazon.com, or [www.wheatmark.com/bookstore/](http://www.wheatmark.com/bookstore/) or by phone at 1-888-934-0888 ext. 151.



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## Spring Sale Information

Even though we are in the middle of winter, spring will be here before you know it. The Coles County SWCD will again host their spring sales including trees, fish, prairie plants, aquatic plants, rain barrels, and plants for rain gardens. Order forms will soon be available. Watch our March/April issue of Conservation News for more information.

The fish sale is scheduled for March 30, 2009 at 8 am. Fish offered will include Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Hybrid Sunfish, Bluegill, Redear, Hybrid Redear, Black Crappie, Fathead Minnows, and Triploid Grass Carp.

Trees to be offered this year include Norway Spruce, Douglas Fir, White Pine, Red Dogwood, Buttonbush, Red Maple, Red Oak and American Cranberry.



## Soil & Water Stewardship April 26-May 3, 2009



"Dig It! The Secrets of Soil." is the 2009 Stewardship Week theme to be officially celebrated April 26 to May 3, 2009, but we encourage you to celebrate throughout the year. Materials for 2009 Stewardship Week will be available through the Coles County SWCD in January 2009. Local churches, school classrooms or other groups can receive materials including posters, educational booklets/activities, bookmarks, placemats, program blanks and inserts to be used to celebrate stewardship week.

National Association of Conservation districts (NACD) is using the 2009 theme, "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," in partnership with the Smithsonian institution and Soil Science Society of America. NACD's stewardship and education material developed through this collaboration complements the Smithsonian "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," exhibition, which will run July 19, 2008 through January 3, 2010 at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and travel to museums across the United States, May 2010 to September 2013.

If you have any questions regarding Stewardship Week, please email [emily.gilmore@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:emily.gilmore@il.nacdnet.net) or stop by our office.

## Education Corner

The Coles County SWCD wishes to thank the Wal-Mart Corporation and the Charleston and Mattoon stores for their generous donations to our conservation education program. Fraun Lewis, Education Liaison for the Coles CO. SWCD applied for the grants and is shown receiving a check from Wilda Land from the Charleston Wal-Mart.

We regret we have to say good-bye to Fraun Lewis who has left the district to spend more time with her family. Fraun has served as the Education Liaison for the past two years. Her dedication to the conservation education program and exuberant delivery of our program will be greatly missed both in the county schools and our office. We wish Fraun the best of luck!



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## 2009 TILLAGE TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SEMINARS

The 2009 Illinois Tillage Seminars will focus on technology and environmental stewardship associated with adopting a no-till and strip-till farming system. The registration cost is \$20 which includes refreshments and lunch. The meeting provides 4.5 CCA credits. The nearest meeting to Coles County will be January 27, Interstate Center, Bloomington, IL. Send registrations to: McLean Extension, 402 N. Hershey Rd., Bloomington, IL 61704, ph. (309)-663-8306. On-line, credit card registrations can be made at [www.mcleanextension.org](http://www.mcleanextension.org)

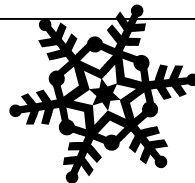
Three nationally-recognized no-till/strip-till experts will be featured speakers at the seminars. Clay Mitchell, a very innovative and progressive Iowa Farmer and National No-till Conference Speaker, will be discussing "Soil Effects of Long-term No-till/Strip-till, Controlled-traffic, Aligned Farming Systems" and "Managing No-till/Strip-till: Weed Shifts and Resistance".

With all of the current interest and concern on global warming, Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Director of the National Soil Tillth Lab in Ames, Iowa will provide a very pertinent discussion on "The Role of Tillage on Carbon Sequestration". Clay Mitchell and Jerry Hatfield are being brought back by popular demand, each having spoken several years ago at previous Illinois Tillage Seminars.

The third nationally-known speaker is Barry Fisher, State Agronomist for the Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service. He will speak on "No-till Planter Set-up & Equipment Modifications and No-till Management". Barry has a passion for no-till that is contagious. His enthusiasm sells no-till and conservation on the farm. His message is clear--no-till saves time, money, and energy while improving soil, air, and water quality as well as yields.

### Agenda

8:00 – 8:50 am	Registration, Meet with Agri-business Exhibitors, Coffee & Rolls
8:50 – 9:00 am	Opening Remarks and Welcome, U of I Extension Natural Resources Educator
9:00 – 9:15 am	2008 Cropping Season in Review, U of I Extension Natural Resources Educator
9:15 – 9:30 am	State Cost-Share & Technical Assistance Programs, IL Dept. of Ag. Regional Representative
9:30 – 9:45 am	2008 Farm Bill, Conservation Payments, USDA/NRCS Regional Agronomist
9:45 – 10:30 am	Role of Tillage on Carbon Sequestration, Jerry Hatfield, Director, National Soil Tillth Lab
10:30 – 10:45 am	Break, Meet with Agri-business Exhibitors
10:45 – 11:25 am	Impact of Climate on Crops, Jim Angel, State Meteorologist, Illinois State Water Survey
11:25 – 12:15 am	Soil Effects of Long-term No-till/Strip-till, Controlled-traffic, Aligned Farming Systems, Clay Mitchell, Iowa Farmer, National No-till Conference Speaker
12:15 – 1:15 pm	Lunch and Visit with Exhibitors
1:15 – 2:10 pm	No-till Corn Management, Energy Costs for No-till, Barry Fisher – IN State Agronomist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
2:10 – 3:00 pm	Managing No-till/Strip-till: Weed shifts and Resistance, Clay Mitchell – Iowa Farmer, National No-till Conference Speaker
3:00 pm	Seminar Adjourns, Meet with Exhibitors & Speakers



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**LAKE LAND COLLEGE TO HOST ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CONFERENCE**

Lake Land College will host the second annual Energy Innovation Conference on Feb. 25-27 on its campus in Mattoon, Illinois. The Honorable Chuck Hartke, former director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, will kick off the conference on Wednesday at 1 p.m. with the keynote address. Additional highlights include a legislative panel on Thursday at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and ask state legislators questions about current or future legislative bills concerning energy.

Attendees can choose presentations from an agricultural/residential or an academic tract. Select workshops will be open to the public. Vendors will be available to share their expertise on energy savings initiatives and products. More information about the conference is available online at [www.energyconf.org](http://www.energyconf.org).



**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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