



# Conservation News

## Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District

6021 Development Drive, Suite 2, Charleston, IL 61920

Phone: (217) 345-3901 ext. 3

Email: [info@colescountyswcd.org](mailto:info@colescountyswcd.org)

<http://www.colescountyswcd.org>

[facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD](https://www.facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD)

Volume 62 Issue 1

### Conservation Farmers of the Year: Wesley and Jane Orman



Wesley and Jane Orman were chosen as Coles County SWCD's 2021 Conservation Farmers of the year. After coming home from the Marine Corps in 1987, the Ormans started farming in 1991, primarily in the Gays area. Wesley and Jane have been active SWCD and NRCS Cooperators for many years. Throughout that time, they have been good stewards of the land in their care, actively adopting and applying conservation practices benefiting water quality, soil quality and health, and wildlife.

In addition to implementing conservation practices such as waterways and terraces, the Ormans have been rotationally grazing beef cows since 1998. They're also using no-till, and in 2015 seeded oats in the fall for grazing in place of wheat for silage for the first time. Since then, different species of cover crops have been used for grazing. In 2018, they ventured into

regenerative ag, and a few acres were seeded with a 10-way cover crop mix that included buckwheat, radish, clovers, oats, and peas. They were so pleased with the results that 100% of the farm ground was planted to a diverse mix of cover crops in the fall of 2019. In 2021, a 3-acre pollinator plot was installed. This year, they're planning to start experimenting with biologics in addition to the conservation practices they've already started.

"Our goal is to improve soil health and drainage, rely less on fertilizers and chemicals while maintaining yields and improving (return on investment)," said the Ormans.

The Orman family, including Wes and Jane's children Bobby, 37, Phillip, 34 and Marylee, 18, who all three help on the farm, are also actively involved in the community. Wes and Jane were previously active in Farm Bureau's young farmers program, have helped with Illinois Ag in the Classroom, and assisted in ag classes at Windsor High School. Wes is a commissioner on two drainage districts. Jane is a past 4H leader, 4H Foundation member, and has served on various committees at their church. Bobby, Phillip, and Marylee were involved in 4H and FFA, showing their projects at the Coles County Fair. Additionally, Wes and Bobby have graciously volunteered their time as a speaker at SWCD field days. The family is always happy to share their experiences in conservation with others.

The object of this award is to provide recognition to an outstanding conservationist in the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District that exemplifies Total Resource Management. It is open to all landowners and/or operators who are soil and water conservation district cooperators. Recipients are selected based on their use of best management practices, implementation of new and innovative technologies, demonstrations of commitment to conservation and stewardship, participation in educational programs and community involvement, and leadership in community, government, and nonprofit or grassroots groups to further their work.

### Upcoming Events:

#### January:

11th—Board Meeting  
17th—MLK Day (Office Closed)  
26th—Polecat Creek Meeting  
31st—STAR Field Forms Due

#### February:

3rd—Election of Directors  
8th—Board Meeting  
14th—Valentine's Day  
21st—Presidents' Day (Office Closed)

#### March:

8th—Board Meeting  
11th—Fish Orders Due  
22nd—Chainsaw Safety Training  
25th—Tree Orders Due  
31st—Scholarship Applications Due

## Sponsors Sought for Arbor Day

Although it may not feel like spring outside yet, we are anticipating warmer weather and that means gearing up to teach Coles County's third graders all about trees this Arbor Day! Every third grade classroom that we visit will be presented with the history of Arbor Day, a discussion of the importance of trees, and each student will take home their very own white pine seedling.

"It is amazing seeing the students' faces light up when they realize they are going to have a tree in their yard that they planted and that they get to be responsible for," says Terina Coffey, Coles Co. SWCD education coordinator.

Each tree costs about \$0.75 and we would like every third grader in Coles County to receive a tree. Due to budgetary constraints, the SWCD is seeking donations to help provide the students with their trees. Will you help us meet our goal of placing a tree in each student's hand?

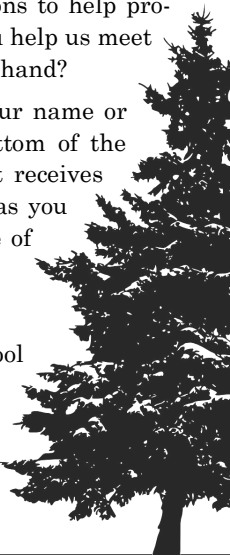
We will recognize your gift by putting your name or your business' name and logo at the bottom of the care instructions sheet that each student receives so they and their families will know it was you who invested in them. Here's an example of the impact of your gift.

-\$20 will purchase trees for one classroom

-\$150 will purchase trees for an entire school

-\$400 will purchase trees for all Coles Co. 3rd graders

Donations may be mailed or placed in the drop-box in the foyer at the office.



# Polecat Creek Watershed Stakeholder Meeting

**Wednesday, January 26th 6:00 PM**  
**The Seed Shed**  
 11207 NCR 2570 E,  
 Ashmore, IL 61912  
**Free dinner provided**

### For Rent:

15' John Deere Drill (\$100 minimum)	\$10/ac.
6' Truax Drill	\$75/Day
Truax Seed Slinger	\$50/Day
Prescribed Burning Equipment	Free!

### For Sale:

Pin/Marking Flags	\$0.20/ea.
Pollinator Seed Packet (10 sq. ft. area)	\$5
Pollinator Seed "Bear" (50 sq. ft. area)	\$20

### Ask us about ordering seed for larger habitat areas!

SWCD License Plate Frame	\$5
Tree Guard + Stake	\$3/ea.
Well Water Test Kit	\$30
Vinyl "Pollinator Protector" Sign	\$15

**Call the office 217-345-3901 ext. 3 for more info!**

## Notice of Election of Directors

**To All Owners and Occupiers of Lands Lying Within the Boundaries of Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District:**

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held on the 3rd day of February, 2022 from 7:00am to 5:30pm at 6021 Development Drive, Ste. 2, Charleston, IL 61920. Two (2) Directors will be elected to serve the Coles 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 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.



## Charleston Field Office Staff and Directors

<u>Coles Co. SWCD Board of Directors</u>	<u>Coles Co. SWCD Associate Directors</u>	<u>NRCS Employees</u>
<b>Bill Janes:</b> Chairman	<b>Larry Coutant</b>	<b>Andy Brantner:</b> District Conservationist
<b>Justin Thomas:</b> Vice Chairman	<u>Coles Co. SWCD Employees</u>	<b>Stephen Head:</b> Soil Conservationist
<b>Todd Easton:</b> Secretary/Treasurer	<b>Terina Coffey</b>	<b>Bridget Ragan:</b> Soil Conservation Tech.
<b>Pat Harrington</b>	Administrative & Education Coordinator	<b>Kent Macy:</b> Technical Biology Specialist
<b>William Tapella</b>	<b>Lauren Spaniol</b>	<b>Matt Dasenbrock:</b> Area Engineer
	Resource Conservationist	<b>Aaron Pryer:</b> Agricultural Engineer
		<b>Kerry Bushue:</b> Civil Engineering Tech.

As a cooperator of NRCS, SWCD must provide reasonable accommodations to USDA customers with disabilities, where appropriate. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation for any NRCS or SWCD programs or services should contact Carzella Pritchett, Illinois NRCS' Disability Emphasis Program Manager, at (217) 353-6651 directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. USDA-NRCS/SWCD are an equal opportunity employer and provider.

# Spring 2022 Sales

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## New pond? Suggested stocking rates:

Largemouth Bass: 30-50 per acre  
 Bluegill: 150-250 per acre  
 Redear Sunfish: 200-250 per acre  
 Fathead minnows: 4-10lbs per acre  
 Channel Catfish: 25-100 per acre

Call our office or the IDNR fisheries biologist for restocking guidelines!



Recommendations are for new ponds 1/2 acre or more

FISH SALE				
Fish Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Sub-total
Albino Catfish	4-6"	\$1.50 ea.		\$
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$1 ea.		\$
	6-8"	\$1.25 ea.		\$
Largemouth Bass	3-4"	\$1.25 ea.		\$
Bluegill	2-3"	\$1 ea.		\$
	3-5"	\$1.25 ea.		\$
Hybrid Sunfish	2-3"	\$1 ea.		\$
	3-5"	\$1.25 ea.		\$
Red Ear Sunfish	3-4"	\$1 ea.		\$
Black Crappie	3-4"	\$1.25 ea.		\$
Fathead Minnows	1-3"	\$12/lb		\$
Triploid Grass Carp	8-11"	\$12 ea.		\$
*See table below for info about pond location				
Total				\$

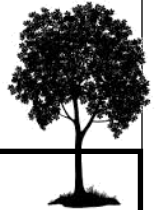
## Important Dates:


Tree & Fish Orders Due: Friday, March 18th  
 Fish Pick Up: Wednesday, April 6th, 11:00am  
 Tree Pick Up: Friday, April 8th by appointment

Please remind me prior to pick up via:

Phone

Email



TREE SALE				
Tree Species	Size	Price	Qty.	Sub-total
<b>Conifers</b>				
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	12-18"	10 for		\$
	2-0	\$30		
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	18-24"	10 for		\$
	2-0	\$30		
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	18-24"	10 for		\$
	1-0	\$30		
<b>Deciduous</b>				
Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	18-24"	5 for		\$
	1-0	\$15		
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	18-24"	5 for		\$
	1-0	\$15		
White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i>	18-24"	5 for		\$
	1-0, 2-0	\$15		
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	18-24"	5 for		\$
	2-0	\$15		
Downy Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	18-24"	5 for		\$
	1-0	\$15		
<b>Shrubs</b>				
Button Bush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	12-18"	3 for		\$
		\$10		
Highbush Cranberry <i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	12-18"	3 for		\$
		\$10		
<b>Tree Guard</b>				
4" diameter x 36" tall tube. Includes a 48 inch wood stake. Note: Tubes should be buried a minimum of 2" into the soil. Recommended for deciduous trees only.			\$3	\$
			Each	
Total				\$

## TABLE MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ALL GRASS CARP ORDERS:

County	Township	Range	Section	Pond Size (Surface Acres)	Water Name	# of Fish
Ex: Coles	T11N	R9E	16	12 ac.	Pond	4

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 6021 Development Drive, Suite 2  
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 www.colescountyswcd.org

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