



# 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>

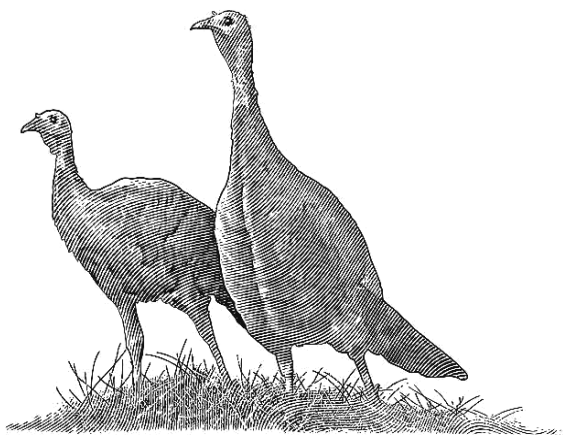
[facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD](https://facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD)

Volume 65 Issue 3

### Food Plots on Your Property

Would you like to see more wildlife in your area? Animals are more likely to spend time in places where their basic needs are met, such as food, water, and shelter.

Illinois has a ban on the feeding of wild deer and other wildlife in areas where wild deer are present. The ban was enacted in 2002 in an effort to limit the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). One exception to the "feeding" rule is food plots! Illinois hunters or property owners wishing to better their viewing of wildlife are legally able to manage their property in a handful of ways that will result in the attraction of deer and other wildlife, including leaving some standing crops and/or installing food plots.



Around August is a great time to plant late-season food plots for winter cover and nutrients. The Coles County SWCD has order forms to purchase seed mixes developed for deer, turkey, and other wildlife. Seed can also be bought at other local seed dealers.

Food plots can be as small as 1/4 an acre and grow from there, but the larger the area, and the better the cover surrounding the area, the more likely you are to attract wildlife.

If you are interested in setting up a food plot on your property, feel free to stop by our office and we can help you get started on your project.

### Upcoming Events:

#### July:

4th— July 4th (Office Closed)

8th—Board Meeting

28th— Coles County Fair Starts

#### August:

2nd— Butterfly Festival

7th— Coles County Fair Ends

12th— Board Meeting

#### September:

1st— Labor Day (Office Closed)

9th— Board Meeting

12th — Fish Sale Orders Due

16th— Pollinator Habitat Monitoring FD

### Charleston Field Office Staff and Directors

#### Coles Co. SWCD Board of Directors

**Bill Janes:** Chairman

**Justin Thomas:** Vice Chairman

**Todd Easton:** Secretary/Treasurer

**J.C. Doty**

**Brian Davis**

#### Coles Co. SWCD Employees

**Kellie Diveley**

Administrative Assistant

**Misti Neal Lewis**

Education Coordinator

**Malina Przygoda**

Resource Conservationist

#### NRCS Employees

**Andy Brantner:** District Conservationist

**Stephen Head:** Soil Conservationist

#### IDOA Employees

**Shannon Kuffel:** Conservation Planner

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.

## Education Corner

Well, summer has finally arrived. I've been busy collaborating with the Coles County Farm Bureau on several projects. We are partnering with them at the local Farmers Market to offer free education, enrichment and engagement to the community. We have most recently made ice cream at the local Charleston Farmers Market for kids of all ages to try. Look for us at upcoming Farmers Markets doing other activities in July and August. If you'd like to try to make Ice Cream in a Bag at home, we have the instructions here!



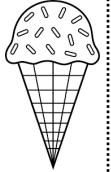
## Ice Cream in a Bag

### You'll need:

- Gallon-size resealable plastic bag
- Pint-size resealable plastic bag
- Kitchen towel
- 1/2 cup milk or half & half
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Ice cubes
- 6 tablespoons rock salt

### Procedure:

1. Fill the large bag half full of ice. Add rock salt.
2. Add the milk, vanilla, and sugar into the small bag.
3. Seal the small bag. (You can use two small bags to prevent leaking.)
4. Place the small bag into the large bag.
5. Seal the large bag.
6. Place the kitchen towel around the large bag.
7. Shake for 5 minutes or until the mixture turns into ice cream.
8. Enjoy!



**CLAYBROOK**  
**EXCAVATING**  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

**Thad: 217-232-4158**  
**George: 217-821-5105**

21341 N. 500th St, Jewett, IL 62436 • Thad & George Holsapple

Email: [info@claybrookexcavating.com](mailto:info@claybrookexcavating.com)

*We are focused on providing affordable prices with  
a very high level of customer satisfaction!*



**Services Offered:**  
• Ponds • Brush Clearing  
• Excavation & Erosion  
• Road & Drainage Ditches  
• Streambank Erosion



**claybrookexcavating.com**



## Well Water Testing Kits

Nitrate levels have been rising in Illinois' drinking water. Shallow rural wells are particularly vulnerable to nitrate contamination. Nationally, 20% of these wells have exceeded the level considered safe by the U.S. EPA. Public water utilities are required to test their water for nitrate, but if you own your well it is up to you to make sure it is safe.

Finding high levels of nitrate in your water is an indicator that your well may be receiving surface water and is more likely to be contaminated with other chemicals. The Coles County SWCD sells well water test kits that test for 10 contaminants for only \$30.

## Coles County Resident Takes First Place in AISWCD Photo Contest!

Sandra Cooper of Oakland has been announced as a winner of the 2025 AISWCD Photo Contest in the "Conservation in Action" category. In addition to a long history of wins in our local contest, she has won many awards at the state and even national level, and this year was no different.

This year, Mrs. Cooper's contribution will be recognized in-person during the Awards Luncheon at AISWCD's Annual Meeting in Springfield. Her photos will advance on to the national competition, with winners to be announced early next year. We wish her luck! Pictured here is her winning photo, "Just Another Slow Day".



# CHRIS OVERTON EXCAVATING

## 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE | GPS EQUIPPED

8957 E CR 450N, MATTOON, IL 61938

CHRIS: 217-273-0411

GRIFFIN: 217-254-4109

## SERVICES OFFERED:

TERRACES, WATERWAYS, TILE REPAIR, PONDS,  
ROCK, CLAY, TOPSOIL, SITE WORK,  
TREE CLEARING AND MULCHING,  
FIELD TILE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

# Coles County SWCD Fall 2025 Fish Sale

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

## Important Dates:

Fish Orders Due: Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

Fish Pick Up: Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

11:00am at Coles County SWCD Office

Please remind me prior to pick up via:

☐ Phone

☐ Email

Return order form with payment to:  
 Coles County SWCD  
 6021 Development Drive, Suite 2  
 Charleston, IL 61920

Fish Species	Size	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$1.50 each		\$
	6-8"	\$1.75 each		\$
Largemouth Bass	3"	\$2.25 each		\$
Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.75 each		\$
Red Ear Sunfish	2-4"	\$1.75 each		\$
Fathead Minnows	1-3"	\$12.50 per lb.		\$
Triploid Grass Carp	8-11"	\$13.00 each		\$
<i>See below</i>				
		Total		\$

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

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

**For Office Use: Date Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check#/Cash:** \_\_\_\_\_

Return order form with payment to: Coles County SWCD, 6021 Development Drive, Suite 2, Charleston, IL 61920



## Upcoming Pollinator Events



### Butterfly Festival

Saturday, August 2, 11-3 pm

Charleston Lake, Charleston, IL.

Learn about and celebrate the efforts in the community to increase biodiversity! Join local food vendors for lunch, listen to live music, enjoy children's activities, attend presentations and visit booths from local conservation and non-conservation organizations, and more. This is a great way to get connected with what is happening in the community and spend time at the beautiful lake at the same time.



Coles County SWCD will have a booth at this event, so make sure to stop by and say hello! We will be making wildflower "bombs" for you to bring home and help spread pollinator-friendly flowers to your own backyard.

If you would like more information on the event, check out Charleston Tourism's event page.

This event is also happening during the Urban Butterfly Initiative's Butterfly Blitz. From July 26th to August 3rd. People of all ages are encouraged to take photos of any butterflies they see in the Charleston area and log them in the iNaturalist app. If you do, the UBI booth will have a special patch for you to pick up during The Butterfly Festival.

---

### Pollinator Habitat Monitoring Field Day

Tuesday, September 16th, 9-12 pm

Warbler Bottoms, Charleston, IL.

Are you interested in understanding how new technologies and tools can assess habitat quality? The University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, and the Electric Power Research Institute received funding from the USDA Conservation Reserve Program to evaluate how new technologies can be leveraged to monitor the quality of CRP pollinator habitat. This research project will explore the use of drones and satellite imagery to develop habitat metrics such as flower cover, bare soil, and woody cover, which can assess habitat value for pollinators.

Environmental DNA is another tool the project team is evaluating as a way to document pollinator richness. Remotely collected imagery and eDNA data are ground validated using traditional vegetation and pollinator field sampling methods. The research team will be hosting a field day in collaboration with Grand Prairie Friends. Learn more about this research and for a demonstration of technologies under evaluation. During the field day, we will discuss technologies that can assess habitat quality and inform management including: 1) drone imagery, 2) satellite imagery, 3) ground photography, 4) airborne eDNA, and 5) pollinator eDNA. The field demonstrations will include drone flights, two types of eDNA sampling, and traditional survey methods performed for both vegetation and pollinators.



An airborne eDNA trap  
This device collects DNA particles in the air from the surrounding environment



Conservation News  
Coles County Soil & Water Conservation District  
6021 Development Drive, Suite 2  
Charleston, IL 61920  
[www.colescountyswcd.org](http://www.colescountyswcd.org)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 32  
CHARLESTON, IL 61920

X

### Corrie Appraisal & Consulting, Inc.

*Providing Services for Agricultural,  
Commercial, Residential & Multi-Family*

**G. Daniel Corrie**  
*Certified General Real Estate Appraiser*  
1403 Sixth Street • Charleston • 348-6011  
[corrieappraisal.com](http://corrieappraisal.com)

### BATTERY SPECIALISTS

**Batteries—Starters—Alternators  
No Batteries Too Big or Small**

1519 Madison - Charleston, 217.345.8658  
309 N 15th - Mattoon, 217.258.8658



Home - Auto - Life - Health - Commercial

*Lori Bumpus*

[loribumpus@consolidated.net](mailto:loribumpus@consolidated.net)  
217-348-7621  
655 W. Lincoln Suite 1  
Charleston, IL 61920  
[Cooperinsure.com](http://Cooperinsure.com) 

This space available!

Interested in sponsoring the  
Conservation News? Our circulation  
is over 1,750 readers per quarter!

To inquire about becoming a sponsor,  
please contact our office at  
(217) 345-3901 ext. 3 or email  
[info@colescountyswcd.org](mailto:info@colescountyswcd.org)

This space available!



*People...Products...Knowledge®*

• Seed • Fertilizer • AgriIntelligence • Chemicals



3559 E Co Rd 1000 N Mattoon, IL 217-234-2726