

ST. JOSEPH RIVER REVIEW

A PUBLICATION BY THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative - 2010 Inwood Dr. - Ft. Wayne, IN 46815 - (260)426-4637, ext. 3
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Focus on the Cedar Creek for 2003

One of the Initiative's focus project areas in the next two years will be the Cedar Creek, which empties into the river just north of Fort Wayne. Cedar Creek is the largest tributary of the St. Joseph.

The Initiative recently secured a two-year, \$185,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), 319 non-point source pollution fund. The grant includes efforts to identify sources of bacteria contamination in the river and to establish a stakeholder group to build a watershed management plan for the Cedar Creek.

Cedar Creek drains approximately 273 square miles of Dekalb and Allen counties, as well as a small corner of southeast Noble County. The headwaters for Cedar Creek begin in northwest Dekalb County, and the stream meanders over 31 miles south in to Allen County before discharging into the St. Joseph River approximately one mile southwest of the Cedarville Reservoir. Major tributaries of Cedar Creek include Little Cedar Creek and Diehl Ditch.

The Initiative is working with Dr. Deborah D. Ross, microbiologist from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), who is building and refining a database for identification of sources of fecal bacteria in surface waters through sensitivity to antibiotics.

Dr. Ross' initial work in setting up the database in 2001 was supported by a grant from the Fort Wayne Community Foundation, and refinement continues under the support of the 319 non-point source pollution grant. The goal is to be able to better identify the source of bacterial contamination in the surface water so that efforts to clean up the contamination can be more efficiently focused. Ross' database includes human, horse, swine, beef cattle, dairy cattle, wildfowl, deer, and domestic animals.

Residents and groups in the Cedar Creek subwatershed are encouraged to contact Jane Loomis at the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (260-427-4637) for more information, or to become involved in the watershed group.



2nd Annual Conservation Tillage Event St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative will again be hosting the Tri-State Conservation Tillage Exposition, scheduled for March 4, 2003.

This year's Expo will feature keynote speaker **Ken Ferrie** of Crop Tech Consulting and soils editor for *Farm Journal*. Program topics include vertical tillage, in-line ripping, no-till, and soil quality, covering information for farmers in various stages of adopting conservation tillage practices. There will be break-out sessions for beginners to veterans, as well as displays offered by various conservation organizations and farm business suppliers.



For more information, contact the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative, 426-4637 ext. 3.

Country Chef will be catering lunch.

Taking Advantage of Conservation Cost Share Makes Dollars & Sense!

The continuous CRP program provides an annual payment for the ground that you take out of production and put into **filter strips, grassed waterways, riparian buffers, and/or field windbreaks.**

How much can YOU get paid ?????

You will receive an **ANNUAL PAYMENT** based on: Soil Productivity and Local Cash Rent for similar soil types, which may vary from county to county. **Plus** an additional 20% premium for enrolling your acres into these highly beneficial conservation practices, **and** 50% cost share for seeding and establishing buffers.

Example of Payment in Allen County

Soil Type:	Pewamo (Pe)	Blount (BnA)
Rental Values:	\$98.00 / acre	\$81.00 / acre
20% Premium	\$19.60 / acre	\$16.20 / acre
Maintenance	<u>\$ 5.00 / acre</u>	<u>\$ 5.00 / acre</u>
Total / acre	\$122.60 / acre	\$102.2 / acre

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE.....

- **\$100 - \$150 BONUS** payment per acre
- **40% BONUS** FIP & SIP payment

So there you go. Take an outstanding program such as this, add these great bonuses, and it's easy to see why Conservation Cost Share makes DOLLARS and SENSE.



**Contact your local NRCS/FSA Office to sign up or the
St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative at 260-426-4637 ext. 3**

New Faces at the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative has appointed Jane A. Loomis as the new Executive Director. J. Kirby Thompson has been hired as the Initiative's Natural Resources Programs Administrator.

Ms. Loomis comes to the Initiative from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne where she joined the staff in 1992, and was most recently Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising and Student Services for the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She earned the Master of Public Affairs (MPA) degree in 1998.



Mr. Thompson, who will divide his time between the Initiative and the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, earned a B.S. in Environmental Management from Ball State University in 1996 and has worked for IDEM, Indiana county health departments, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.