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## **Stephenson SWCD; NRCS and Pheasants Forever to Hold Burn Workshop**

**On Saturday, March 16, 2019** at 9:00 A.M. a Burn Workshop is being planned in the Lincoln-Douglas room at the Stephenson Co. Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring St., Freeport, IL (enter off of Walnut Street).

We will be learning the proper steps to perform a controlled burn. The workshop will be held for CRP participants; Highland Chapter Pheasant Forever members and anyone interested in learning about controlled burns.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is one of the most successful programs ever run by USDA. One of the goals of this program is to provide the very best wildlife habitat possible. One of the ways to ensure the most diverse and successful seeding is by doing mid-contract management to help establish and maintain the seeding.

FSA has to make sure that all of the CRP contract holders are doing the agreed to mid-contract management. There are four options for these practices.

1. Interseeding of legumes/forbs into existing seeding
2. Spraying herbicides
3. Light disking
4. Prescribed burning.

In your Conservation Plan of Operations, there is cost share money available to cover the cost of doing the mid-contract practices; like prescribed burning. To receive that money, USDA requires that you do the prescribed burn according to all of the appropriate laws. You are required to have a current burn permit issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). It does take some time for the permit to be processed. In addition you are required to have a prescribed burn plan that describes how you will conduct this burn in a safe manner. If you do not wish to receive cost share money, you will only have to send for the burn permit and send a letter to FSA stating the date of the burn and that no cost share money was desired.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) organizes and runs the CRP program and is responsible for all of the contract related items. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for all of the technical related issues.

To register clip out the form below and mail with payment. Call the office at 815-235-2141 ext. 3 for questions and additional information or visit the SWCD website at: [www.stephensonswcd.org](http://www.stephensonswcd.org)



YES, I will attend the Controlled Burn Workshop on Saturday, March 16, 2019 9:00 – 11:00 in the Lincoln-Douglas room at the Stephenson Co. Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring St., Freeport, IL (enter off Walnut Street).

Cost: \$20.00 per person / \$30.00 per couple

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people to attend.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Stephenson SWCD. Mail check and above form to Stephenson SWCD 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032. Registration and payment due by Wednesday, March 6, 2019.