



Stephenson County SWCD Newsletter

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Summer 2019

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Fall Fish Sale

Wednesday, September 4, 2019:
Last day to order Grass Carp

Friday, September 13, 2019:
Last day to order all other fish

Monday, September 23, 2019
@11:00AM:
Pick up fish at the SWCD Office

Fall Fish forms are available at the
Stephenson County SWCD office or on
our website: www.stephensonswcd.org



Stephenson County Soil & Water District Well Water Testing Program

The District is pleased to be offering a well-water testing program again this year. The response has been excellent in previous years. Well water can be tested for nitrates, certain pesticides, and metals.

As in previous years the program is organized as a drive which helps to keep the cost down. See below for dates.

**Peace of mind
about the water
you are drinking
truly is as easy
as 1, 2, 3...**



1

Monday - Friday
August 12– 16, 2019
Purchase Water Test Kits at the SWCD Office.

2

Monday or Tuesday (morning)
August 19 – August 20, 2019
Collect Water Sample.

3

Tuesday, August 20, 2019
By 3:00 pm
Return Water Samples to the SWCD Office,
for immediate shipment to testing laboratory.

Note: PurTest® Bacteria self testing kit is
available from the District for \$20.00. This
is not part of the regular testing kits.

See page 2 for more information ►

Stephenson Soil & Water District's Well Water Testing Program

COMPONENTS	TESTS FOR:	COST
Nitrate Package	Tests for nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, fluoride, soluble phosphorus, silica, and conductivity	\$30.00
Pesticide Screens	Detects major herbicides such as atrazine (Aatrex), simazine (Princep), alachlor (Lasso), metolachlor (Dual), and acetochlor (Harness)	\$65.00
Metals	Includes antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, selenium, aluminum, copper, iron, manganese, zinc, nickel, sodium, calcium, strontium, cobalt, magnesium, potassium, silica, and vanadium	\$80.00
**Bacteria	PurTest Bacteria self testing kit is available from the District. **Note: this is not part of the regular testing components; this is a home self test kit.	\$20.00



A confidential report of the test results will be mailed directly to you within 4 to 6 Weeks.

Do You Need to Test Your Water?

The signs of drinking water contamination are not always obvious. Contaminated water does not always look, taste, or smell differently than safe drinking water. What's more, if you have a private water supply, such as a well, you are your own regulatory agency. You are responsible for the quality of water that your family drinks.

These are all good reasons why testing the water regularly are an important consideration for people who have their own water supply.

So how do you know whether you need to test your water or not?

- ♦ Do you have recurrent gastrointestinal illnesses?
- ♦ Are you buying a home and wish to evaluate the safety and quality of the water?
- ♦ Do you have water stains on plumbing and laundry?
- ♦ Water appears frothy, cloudy, or colored.
- ♦ Your water-supply equipment wears rapidly.
- ♦ Are you pregnant, anticipating a pregnancy, or have an infant less than six months old?

If any of these conditions exist, you may want to take advantage of the Soil and Water District's low cost testing program. You can purchase water test kits at the SWCD Office Monday – Friday, August 12-16. Collect water samples on either Monday or Tuesday, August 19 or 20. Return water samples to the SWCD Office by 3:00 pm Tuesday, August 20. The results will be mailed directly to you. For more information, call Lorna at 815-235-2141 ext. 3.

University of Illinois Extension **UPDATE** 2019 Late Planting Checklist

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS — JUNE 2019

Compiled by the University of Illinois Extension Commercial Agriculture Team

- ✓ **Corn planting continues in Illinois - should I change maturities?** For planting by mid-June, the northern tiers of counties probably need hybrids that are 105 RM or less. On the I-80 corridor it should be 110 RM or less. If planting opportunities extend later into June, even earlier maturities might be in order, but remember that such hybrids aren't developed primarily for use this far south, so be aware of the disease resistance packages of hybrids with maturity shorter than 100 to 105 RM.
- ✓ **What about Soybean? Should I be changing maturities as well?** Soybeans with different maturities will flower around the same time (as soon as nights are long enough) when they're planted in mid-June. So there is little need to change to earlier maturing soybean varieties, but for producers north of I-80, varieties no later than MG 2.8 or 2.9 should be used if planting is delayed past mid-June.
- ✓ **Should I change seeding rates in corn and soybean with delayed planting?** With corn the answer is no, except that planned rates more than 38,000 or so might be dropped to the mid-30s. With soybean, yes. It is important to consider increasing the seeding rates of soybean as we move later into the month of June. As planting date is delayed seeding rates should increase on a weekly basis such that by the end of June, soybean populations should be similar to those of double crop soybeans (~200,000 plants/ac). If the option exists, narrower rows also provide greater benefit in late planted soybean. Dr. Emerson Nafziger answers many common questions in his recent Bulletin article "[Dealing with very late planting.](#)"
- ✓ **How can I control big weeds?** Whether controlling larger weeds pre-plant, or controlling weeds on prevent planted acres, tillage is often the best option. Our goal is to kill the troublesome weeds, not to make them mad! Some weeds are difficult to control even with tillage as they get larger, an example being Marestalk. 2,4-D applications are often ineffective against the established Marestalk. Chemical options include glyphosate (we do have glyphosate resistant Marestalk in Illinois) combined with metribuzin, or saflufenacil (products like Sharpen). Dr. Aaron Hager answers many weed control questions in detail in his article "[Weed Management on Prevented Planting Acres.](#)"
- ✓ **Does wet weather mean more disease?** It's all about the disease triangle! Disease occurs when you have the correct host, plant pathogen, and environment together. The longer those three factors are together, the more disease will occur. With very late planting, the likelihood of SCN and SDS may be decreased, Pythium and Phytophthora may still be an issue with wet soils at planting, regardless of the date. Don't ignore seed treatments! Dr. Nathan Kleczewski addressed these diseases and more in "[What impact will late planting have on crop diseases.](#)"
- ✓ **Is there any good news?** Maybe with early season insect pests! Corn rootworm is nearing 50% hatch in central Illinois (June 3). The larvae are hatching into very unfavorable conditions. If they do not locate corn roots within several days of emergence or are in oxygen depleted soils due to saturation, they will perish. As planting is delayed, corn rootworm concerns diminish. However, farmers should scout for later season insects that may concentrate on isolated early or later planted fields, including Armyworms, Bean leaf beetles, Japanese beetles, or Stink bugs.
- ✓ **What to do with bare acres? Cover crops! Choosing the prevent plant option?** Consider planting cover crops on those acres. Benefits include weed suppression, nutrient recycling and erosion control. If choosing a grass cover crop, growth regulator herbicides can be used to control later emerging broadleaf weeds (ie. Waterhemp). Economical grass cover crop options include Oats, Wheat and Cereal rye.
- ✓ **How do I make the decision on whether to plant or not?** For more information, look at the University of Illinois farmdoc team's articles "[Prevented Planting Decision for Corn in the Midwest](#)," "[Prevented Planting, 2019 Market Facilitation Program Payments, Disaster Assistance, and Price Dynamics](#)," and "[The Advisability of Planting Corn Declines Rapidly with Later Planting Dates](#)" for a quick rundown of these options, with examples.

RESOURCES

A compilation of all late/prevented planting information from University of Illinois Extension, including articles and resources from the Bulletin and farmdoc, can be found at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw/lpplanting/>

Keepers of the Land Event Held

On April 30th more than 400 Stephenson County 3rd graders gathered at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds to take part in the annual "Keepers of the Land" event. This event is offered to all 3rd grade public & private classes in Stephenson County.

The idea behind the "Keepers of the Land" event is to promote care for our natural environment. The event organizers goal is to teach students about their dependence and connection to the land, its resources, and living things. We do this through 1) teaching youth in an outdoor environment; 2) having professionals in natural science and education fields as presenters; and 3) introducing the students to observation skills, how animals defend themselves, the importance of insects to humans, the history of their state as a prairie land, and much more!

This program was coordinated by a partnership between three organizations: Ag in the Classroom/Conservation & Agricultural Partners (CAP), Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and University of Illinois Extension.

The presenters for the variety of sessions volunteered their time. They represent the organizations of: Northern Illinois Raptor Rehabilitation, Conservation Police, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District, University of IL Extension, 4-H volunteers, and U of I Extension Master Gardeners.

Students from Taylor Park, Immanuel Lutheran, Pearl City, Empire, Blackhawk, Jones-Farrar, Lena-Winslow, Lincoln-Douglas, Open Bible, Center and Aquin attended this year and had the opportunity to hear speakers on a rotational basis. Conservation topics that were presented included: "Wild Animals in Human Hands," "Going Buggy," "Earth Studio's," "Pioneers on the Prairie," "Animal Survivors," "Watershed Table," "Vermicomposting," "Aquatics," "Seeds to Grow On," "Conservation Police," and "Prairie/Soil Ecology."

This event was made possible by generous donations from the following organizations: Freeport Lion's Club, Freeport Moose Family Center 162, Freeport Kiwanis, NW IL Audubon Society, State Bank of Freeport and Modern Woodmen.

Originally planned to be held at Oakdale Forest Preserve, the event was moved to the Stephenson County Fairgrounds in order to accommodate for the weather.

Pictured: Conservation Police Officer Ron Palumbo



Pictured: Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab & Education; Candy Ridlbauer



Keepers of the Land Event Held (continued from page 4)

Pictured: Aaron Dinderman; SWCD teaching Animal Survivors



Pictured: Rick O'Neal, IDNR teaching Aquatics (he is holding a big catfish!)



Pictured: Grant McCarty, Extension, teaching Prairie & Soil Ecology



Pictured: Cathy Eberle, teaching Pioneers on the Prairie



Pictured: Jay Solomon, Extension, teaching Watershed Table



Pictured: Theresa Boland, teaching Vermicomposting





Extension

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES****Become a Master Naturalist Volunteer**

Freeport, IL---University of Illinois Extension is looking for individuals who are passionate about nature and interested in becoming more active in our community. If this describes you or someone you know, Illinois Extension invites you to check out the Illinois Master Naturalist Program. The Master Naturalist program is a volunteer training program designed to educate participants about our local plants, animals and ecosystems while connecting them to meaningful volunteer opportunities in our region. Examples of volunteer projects performed by current Master Naturalists include butterfly monitoring, natural areas restoration, plant inventories, adult and youth educational programming, bird banding, prairie burns, native plant and pollinator garden construction, and much more.

If you can envision yourself helping out with these types of projects, please consider joining us this summer! Master Naturalist training will be held on Thursday Evenings from 4 to 8 p.m., beginning on August 15 and ending October 17. Classes will be held at a different locations in Stephenson County and taught by local experts. A \$200 fee includes a training manual, over 40 hours of instruction, and ongoing volunteer support for as long as you remain active. The standard cost of the program is \$250, \$50 of the program fee for each participant is generously supported by the Stephenson County 4H and Extension Foundation. For more information and to register, visit go.illinois.edu/jsw or call (815) 235-4125. Registration closes August 1.

For Further Information Contact:

Source: Nikki Keltner, Program Coordinator: 815-235-4125

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Basic information about private water wells



Private water wells are typically shallow (less than 200 feet deep). They are often constructed with solid steel or heavy plastic well casings with screens to allow water to enter.

They often contain below-grade water line connections to prevent freezing. Over 15 million U.S. households (approximately 15 percent of Americans) rely on private water wells for drinking water. Private water wells should be protected from contamination.

If contaminated ground water is consumed, it could cause illness. Ground water contamination can come from many sources, including:

- Seepage through landfills
- Failed septic tanks
- Underground storage tanks
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- Runoff from urban areas

If your family gets drinking water from a private well, do you know if your water is safe to drink? What health risks could you and your family face? Where can you go for help or advice?

EPA regulates public water systems. EPA does not, however, have the authority to regulate private drinking water wells. Private water supplies are not subject to EPA standards. Some state and local governments do set rules to protect users of these wells.

Unlike public drinking water systems, private wells do not have experts regularly checking the water's source and its quality before it is sent to the tap. Households that use private wells must take special precautions to ensure the safety of their drinking water supplies.

Types of wells

There are three types of private drinking water wells.

- **Dug wells** are holes in the ground dug by shovel or backhoe and are typically lined (cased) with stones, brick, tile, or other material to prevent collapse. Because dug wells are typically shallow (approximately 10 to 30 feet deep) they have the highest contamination risk.
- **Driven wells** are hammered or hydraulically pushed into the ground and pull water from the water-saturated zone. Driven wells are also shallow (approximately 30 to 50 feet deep) and have a moderate-to-high risk of contamination from nearby land activities.
- **Drilled wells** are deeper (approximately 100 to 400 feet) and typically have metal or plastic pipe casing which protect the well water from sources of contamination. Drilled wells have a lower risk of contamination. However, no well can be assumed to be contamination-free.

Well construction

Proper well construction and continued maintenance are keys to the safety of your water supply. Your state water-well contractor licensing agency, local health department, or local water system professional can provide information on well construction.

The well should be located so rainwater flows away from it. Rainwater can pick up harmful bacteria and chemicals on the land's surface. If this water pools near your well, it can seep into it and potentially cause health problems.

Water-well drillers and pump-well installers should be bonded and insured. Make certain your ground water contractor is registered or licensed in your state, if required, and preferably certified.

If your state does not have a licensing or registration program, [visit the National Ground Water Association resources for private well owners](#) to find certified water well contractors near you. The National Ground Water Association has a voluntary certification program for contractors. Some states use the Association's exams as their test for licensing.

Keeping your well safe

To keep your well safe, be aware if any possible sources of contamination are nearby. Check with your local health department or environmental program for setback requirements. Possible sources of contamination could include:

- Septic tanks
- Livestock yards, silos, septic leach fields
- Petroleum tanks, liquid-tight manure storage, and fertilizer storage and handling
- Manure stacks

The following are tips for keeping your well safe.

- Maintain your well, find problems early, and correct them to protect your well's performance. Many homeowners tend to forget the value of good maintenance until problems reach crisis levels. This can be expensive.
- Keep up-to-date records of well installation and repairs, plus pumping and water tests. Such records can help you spot changes and possible problems with your water system. If you have problems, find a local expert to check your well construction and maintenance records.
- Protect your own well area. Be careful about storage and disposal of household and lawn care chemicals and wastes. Best-practice farmers and gardeners minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Take steps to reduce erosion and prevent surface water runoff.
- Regularly check underground storage tanks that hold home heating oil, diesel, or gasoline.
- Make sure your well is protected from the wastes of livestock, pets, and wildlife.

Information on page 7 and 8 from: www.epa.gov/privatewells/about-private-water-wells

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Cover Crops to Improve Soil in Prevented Planting Fields

Prolonged rain and flooding have resulted in many fields that will go unplanted this year. Farmers in this situation need to weigh not only their program and insurance options (“prevented planting”), but they should also assess agronomic options to ensure long-term productivity in this difficult situation.

Producers should explore the benefits of planting a cover crop that has the potential to capture applied nutrients, fix nitrogen, build organic matter, control weeds, control erosion and/or improve soil health and biology during the remainder of the growing season and over the coming fall and winter. These together can maintain yield potential for crops that follow.

Producers are advised to check with their crop insurance agents on prevented planting requirements and harvest or grazing restrictions for cover crops.

A key soil health concept is to ensure that there are live roots during all times of the year. [See NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines.](#)

Building vs. Losing Topsoil

As excessive rainfall runoff or flood waters flow across unprotected fields, the topsoil, rich with nutrients, organic matter, and soil biology is lost.

Tillage applied to water-damaged fields to control weeds or smooth them out are susceptible further losses. Even relatively flat soils will be subject to damage from excessive erosion.

Cover crops that produce abundant above and below-ground biomass help protect these soils from further wind and water damage.



Selecting high biomass cover crop mixes will rebuild topsoil. Cover crops will help restore water damaged soils quicker than if left to grow weeds. The damage to these soils will accelerate especially if left with no cover.

Unless emergency forage is needed, avoid removing biomass from the field by harvesting for forage or grain before late fall to maximize the cover crop benefits. Instead, consider spraying or mowing prior to seed-head formation. This will also ensure quicker decomposition and leave more nutrients in the roots that are available to soil organisms and subsequent crops. Managed grazing is a viable method to manage the growth of cover crops unless programmatic restrictions apply.

Soil Biology, Structure and Compaction

Many fields saturated for long periods lose beneficial soil organisms, such as mycorrhizal fungi that build structure and tilth and rhizobia bacteria necessary for nitrogen fixing legume species. Without these organisms, the soils are further subject to compaction and crusting.

Some fields may be so damaged from channel erosion and sand deposits that extensive remediation activities are required. Heavy machinery necessary for these remediation activities can also damage and compact soils.

Cover crops are essential to rebuild healthy soil structure after these necessary activities. The roots of cover crops penetrate compacted zones, re-form water stable soil aggregates, re-establish macropores, and restore beneficial soil organism populations to restore soil function.

Building vs. Losing Nitrogen

Cover crops can build organic nitrogen pools, and/or sequester residual nitrogen in the soil.

A legume or legume mix planted in early summer can easily provide a significant amount of nitrogen for a following corn or small grain crop.

A brassica, grass, or brassica/grass cover crop mix can scavenge significant residual N from the soil, especially in situations where manure or preplant nutrients have been recently applied.

Herbicide Concerns

Where herbicides were applied, a soil bioassay test is recommended to determine if herbicide residues are present that will hinder cover crop establishment. There are many references available to identify if herbicide residues will limit cover crop species selection. Visit: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/covercrop/herbicide-interactions/>.

Cover Crop Species Guidance

Cover crop selection and management should focus on maximizing both above and below-ground biomass and encouraging nutrient cycling as deep in the soil profile as possible. Choosing a mix of a grass with a fibrous root system and a legume or a deep-rooted broadleaf with a tap root will usually provide the widest range of benefits.

Planting wildlife-friendly cover crops, such as buckwheat or brassicas and leaving the growth and/or the grain can provide a valuable winter food source for a wide variety of wildlife and pollinator species.



An early summer planted legume such as cowpeas, will grow rapidly and fix a good amount of nitrogen prior to a killing frost when it will be terminated.

Brassicas provide excellent weed control and nitrogen scavenging potential. The tap roots are excellent at penetrating tillage pans and dense soil layers.

Seeding and Establishment

Drilling has traditionally been the most successful method of establishment for cover crops but broadcasting and lightly harrowing afterward works well also.

Seed Quality

Source and quality of cover crop seed is extremely important. Bin run seed should be cleaned and tested prior to seeding to avoid weed seed introduction, plugging seeder mechanisms by chaff, and determining seed viability.

Additional References

Midwest Cover Crop Council: www.mccc.msu.edu

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE): Managing Cover Crops Profitably www.sare.org/publications

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG): <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Use the following table and/or the Illinois Cover Crop Selector Tool at:

<http://mccc.msu.edu/selector-tool/>

Cover Crop Recommendations by Resource Concern for SINGLE SPECIES Cover Crop Plantings

Resource Concern	Species	Pure Stand Rate lbs./ac. of PLS1	Seeding Dates
SUMMER COVER - Full Rate for Single Species			
Erosion Control ²	Spring Oats	30-60	8/1 - 9/15
	Annual Ryegrass	10-15	8/1 - 9/15
	3Sudangrass or Sorghum/Sudangrass	15-20	5/15 - 7/15
	Buckwheat	20-35	5/15 - 8/15
	Pearl or Japanese Millet	10-12	5/15 - 8/1
Compaction	Oil Seed Radish	4-8	7/15 - 9/15
	Turnips	2-4	7/15 - 9/15
Nitrogen Fixing	Alfalfa	12-16	7/15 - 9/15
	Red Clover	8-10	8/1-9/15
	Cowpea	50-90	5/15 - 7/15
FALL/WINTER COVER			
Soil Building/N Scavenge/ Weed Suppression ²	Annual Ryegrass	10-15	8/1 - 9/15
	Cereal Rye	50-90	8/20 - 10/15
	Winter Wheat ⁴	50-90	FFD - 10/15
	Spring Oats	60	7/15 - 9/15
	Winter Triticale	50-90	8/20 - 10/15
Nitrogen Fixing	Hairy Vetch	15-20	7/15 - 9/15
	Winter Pea	25-50	8/1 - 9/15
	Crimson Clover	10-20	8/1 - 9/15
	Alfalfa	12-16	7/15-9/15
	Red Clover	8-10	7/15-9/15

1. Pure Live Seed (PLS). 2. For weed suppression use the higher seeding rates within the range.
3. Concern with grazing after frost. 4. Wheat should not be planted prior to Hessian Fly Free Date (FFD).
<http://extension.cropsciences.illinois.edu/handbook/pdfs/chapter04.pdf>

This is not an all-inclusive list of species or planting dates. See Midwest Cover Crop Council - Illinois Cover Crop Selector Tool <http://mccc.msu.edu/selector-tool/> for more information.

It is recommended that you plant diverse cover crop mixes. The rates listed are for pure stand seedings. When developing a cover crop mix, take the percent desired by the pure stand rate to determine seeding rate by species. (Example 60% Cereal Rye 40% crimson clover would have a seeding rate of .6 X 50-90 = 30-54 lbs./acre cereal rye and .4 X 10-20 = 4-8 lbs./acre crimson clover).

Examples of Diverse Cover Crop Mixes

See Midwest Cover Crop Council-Cover Crop Decision Tool – Cover Crop Selector for Illinois Counties for an all-inclusive species list.

Resource Concern	Species Mix	% of Pure Stand Rate	lbs./ac. of PLS	Seeding Dates
SUMMER COVER – Seed Mixtures by Resource Concern				
Erosion Control	Sorghum/Sudangrass	50	8	5/15 - 7/15
	Buckwheat	15	3	
	Forage Radish ¹	20	2	
	Cowpea	15	15	
Compaction	Sorghum/Sudangrass	50	10	5/15 - 7/15
	Cowpea	50	25	
Nitrogen Fixing Option 1	Alfalfa	50	8	7/15 - 9/15
	Red Clover	50	5	
Nitrogen Fixing Option 2	Crimson Clover	50	5-10	7/15 - 9/15
	Hairy Vetch	50	8-10	
Grazing/Compaction	Cowpea	20	10	5/15 – 7/15
	Millet (Pearl or Japanese)	20	2	
	Sorghum/Sudangrass	20	3	
	Turnip ¹	20	2	
	Forage Radish ¹	20	2	
FALL/WINTER COVER – Seed Mixtures by Resource Concern				
Soil Building/N Scavenging	Cereal Grain (Cereal Rye, Winter Wheat, Winter Triticale)	50	25-45	7/15-9/15
	Forage Radish ¹	50	2-4	
Erosion Control	Cereal Grain (Cereal Rye, Winter Wheat, Winter Triticale)	60	30-54	7/15-9/15
	Hairy Vetch	40	6-8	
Nitrogen Fixing	Cereal Rye	40	20-36	8/1 – 9/15
	Winter Pea	30	8-15	
	Hairy Vetch	30	8-15	
Grazing/Compaction	Cereal Grain (Cereal Rye, Winter Wheat, Winter Triticale)	50	25-45	8/1 – 9/15
	Forage Radish ¹	25	1-2	
	Turnip	25	½-1	

1. Brassicas are subject to bolt when spring seeded and may produce seed unless mowed or grazed. The seeding dates above were adjusted based on the most limiting species in the mix with respect to growing season. For example, brassicas require at least 45-60 days prior to the first expected frost for optimal growth. Recent on-farm experience suggests that forage radish included in seed mixtures should be limited to 2 lbs. PLS/acre due to competition with other species in the mixture.





STEPHENSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2019 FALL FISH ORDER FORM



Name _____ Phone _____ Email: _____
Address _____ City _____ State, ZIP _____

SPECIES (<i>Stocking Rate</i>)	SIZE	PRICE	UNIT	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Channel Catfish (<i>150/acre</i>) - <i>Sport fish. Mix with Hybrid Sunfish & Largemouth Bass.</i>	4-6"	\$ 0.70	each	ea.	
Channel Catfish	6-8"	\$ 0.90	each	ea.	
Channel Catfish	8-10"	\$ 1.10	each	ea.	
Albino Catfish	4-6"	\$ 1.20	each	ea.	
Largemouth Bass (<i>50/acre</i>) - <i>A predator; helps control bluegill and crappie populations.</i>	2-3"	\$ 0.90	each	ea.	
Largemouth Bass	5-8"	\$ 2.90	each	ea.	
Hybrid Sunfish - <i>Will not overpopulate; accepts artificial food; can grow large.</i>	3-5"	\$ 0.85	each	ea.	
Hybrid Sunfish	5-7"	\$ 1.20	each	ea.	
Hybrid Sunfish (bags of 250) (<i>250/acre</i>)	1-2"	\$ 75.00	per bag	bags	
Redear Sunfish (bags of 250) (<i>250/acre</i>)	1-2"	\$ 75.00	per bag	bags	
Bluegill (bags of 250)(<i>250/acre</i>) - <i>Prolific in ponds. Stock with Largemouth Bass.</i>	1-2"	\$ 75.00	per bag	bags	
Bluegill	3-5"	\$ 0.85	each	ea.	
Black Crappie - bags of 100 (<i>100/acre</i>) - <i>Good in large clear vegetated lakes/ponds. Prolific. Stock with Largemouth Bass.</i>	2-3"	\$ 65.00	per bag	bags	
Fathead Minnows (<i>5 lbs/acre</i>) - <i>Stock in new ponds before Largemouth Bass.</i>		\$ 12.00	per/lb	lb.	
** Grass Carp (<i>5-10 each/acre</i>) - <i>Alternative to using chemicals for weed control. Aquatic plants should not be totally eliminated.</i>	8-10"	\$ 12.00	each	ea.	

** REQUIRED PERMIT INFORMATION FOR GRASS CARP ORDERS

POND LOCATION: TWP _____ SECTION _____ T _____ R _____ POND SIZE _____ ACRES

ORDER TOTAL \$ _____

ORDER DEADLINES: Grass Carp – Wednesday, Sep. 4, 2019 Other Fish – Friday, Sep. 13, 2019

DELIVERY: 11:00 a.m., Monday, September 23, 2019

USDA/SWCD Office parking lot, 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL

PAYMENT: Please include payment with your order, payable to Stephenson SWCD.

MAILING ADDRESS: 1620 South Galena Avenue, Freeport IL 61032 815-235-2141 ext. 3



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

All fish except the 8-10" catfish will be bagged and sealed in oxygenated water.

A 5 gallon bucket or something similar to support the bags is recommended.

The 8-10" catfish cannot be bagged. Bring large containers (garbage cans, etc.) filled with water.

Water cannot be furnished. DO NOT use chlorinated water.



CHANNEL CATFISH

The Channel Catfish is not only an outstanding food fish; it is also an excellent sport fish. It is very popular because of its fast growth rate when fed a commercial fish food. It is compatible in lakes and ponds with all species and works especially well with Hybrid Sunfish and Largemouth Bass.

Stocking rate: 150 per acre, 4-6 inch fish per acre.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

The Largemouth Bass is one of the most popular sport fish in America. It is a predator and works well to help control bluegill and crappie populations.

Stocking rate: 50 per acre, 2-3 inch fish.

HYBRID SUNFISH

Crossing a male Bluegill with a female Green Sunfish produces the Hybrid sunfish. This hybrid cross produces a 90% male and 10% female population. This makes a Hybrid Sunfish an excellent pond fish as it will not over populate. It also accepts artificial feed readily and grows to a much larger size than either parent; 1 to 2 pound fish are not uncommon.

Stocking rate: 250 per acre, 1-2 inch fish.

REDEAR SUNFISH

The redear sunfish is a rather thin and deep-bodied sunfish. It does well in deeper ponds with aquatic vegetations. Its fondness for mollusks has given it the common name of shellcracker in the southern states.

Stocking rate: 250 per acre, 1-2 inch fish.

BLUEGILL

The Bluegill is a thin and much compressed sunfish, of bluish or yellow-green color. It does very well in ponds where it is quite prolific. Largemouth Bass should already be present or stocked to control Bluegill populations.

Stocking rate: 250 per acre 1-2 inch fish.

BLACK CRAPPIE

The Black Crappie does well in clear vegetated lakes or ponds. It feeds largely on small fish as an adult but still relies heavily on insects and crustaceans. This species is extremely prolific; a female may produce from 10,000 to 180,000 eggs. Largemouth Bass should already be present or stocked to control their populations. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SMALL PONDS.**

Stocking rate: 100 per acre, 1-2 inch fish.

FATHEAD MINNOW

Fathead Minnows should be stocked in new ponds. They should be stocked prior to stocking Largemouth Bass so they have an opportunity to spawn and provide plenty of feed for the young bass.

Stocking rate: 5 lbs. per acre.

TRIPLOID GRASS CARP

The Triploid Grass Carp is a viable alternative to using chemicals for weed control. This fish will not reproduce and when the proper numbers are stocked will reduce or eliminate the need for chemical control. Conservative stocking rates are always recommended, it is easier to add fish than to remove unwanted fish. Aquatic plants should not be totally eliminated because they are beneficial and a necessary part of ponds. They are important in producing oxygen and serve as escape areas for young fish. Stocking is not recommended at all if the pond has weed coverage of 20% or less at their peak growth.

Stocking rate: 5-10 per acre.

** Stocking rates are as issued by the private hatchery. The rates are for new ponds where you do not plan to feed your fish. Stocking rates for old ponds with existing fish populations will differ, contact the District office for more information.*

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