Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Published Quarterly

VOLUME 41, Issue 1 **www.stephensonswcd.org** **Winter 2021**

2021 Spring Fish Sale

- *All Fish Orders Due: Friday, April 9, 2021*
- *Fish Pick Up:* Wednesday, April 28, 2021; 11:00 am in the USDA/SWCD office parking lot. Pickup will be drive through; please line up when you arrive and remain in your vehicle.

Order forms are included as an insert in this newsletter or can be picked up in the entryway at the District office or printed from the SWCD website: www.stephensonswcd.org
Order and payment must be mailed or dropped off at the Stephenson Co. SWCD office: 1620 S. Galena Ave. Freeport, IL 61032. A box for orders is located in the entryway marked NRCS/SWCD.

2021 Tree Sale

- *Tree Orders Deadline: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 (No orders will be accepted after this date)*
- *Tree Order Pick-up: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Stephenson County Fairgrounds*

Order forms are included as an insert in this newsletter or can be picked up at the District office or printed from the SWCD website: www.stephensonswcd.org
Order and payment must be mailed or dropped off at the Stephenson Co. SWCD office: 1620 S. Galena Ave. Freeport, IL 61032. A box for orders is located in the entryway marked NRCS/SWCD.

$500 Scholarship Available

The Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a scholarship to help outstanding students of soil, water, and related natural resources to complete their education at any accredited college or university.

To be eligible for this scholarship you must: be a resident of Stephenson County and at least a junior in college, attend an accredited college or university, major in soil and/or water conservation or a related natural resource field, and be a full-time student who is carrying at least 12 credit hours.

Application forms can be picked up at our office, 1620 S. Galena Ave. Freeport, IL. They are also available on our website www.stephensonswcd.org

Return the completed application form along with a copy of your most recent transcript to our office by 3:00 p.m., June 4, 2021.

Protect your investments from hungry and destructive animals using **Plantskydd.**

Why is Plantskydd Repellent the #1 choice of Professional Growers?

1. Proven by independent research to out-last and out -perform all other repellents.
2. Effective against: deer, rabbits, voles, ground squirrels and chipmunks
3. Rain Resistant – no need to re-apply after every rainfall.
4. Safe for use in the production of organic crops
5. Organic – first animal repellant OMRI Listed for food production.
6. Bonus – built in fertilizer results in bigger, healthier plants!

SWCD offers Plantskydd in 3 different application methods, stop by the office for additional information or to purchase.

Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District FY 2019-2020 Financial Report

ASSSETS AS OF 6/30/20

Cash & Cash Equivalents	$459,250.00
Capital Assets	$ 0.00
Current Liabilities	$ 5,060.00
Total Assets	***$ 464,310.00***

FUND BALANCES AS OF 6/30/20

General Operations	$ 388,530.97
Reserved (CPP & SSRP)	$ 37,796.52
Reserved (Scholarship/Grant)	$ 14,675.65

RESTRICTED PROGRAMS	**Revenue**	**Expense**
CPP & SSRP	$ 16,450.00	$11,992.73
IDNR Habitat Grants	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
SWCD Scholarships	$ 0.00	$1,000.00
Other Grants	$ 3,296.50	$3,296.50
Total Restricted	***$ 19,746.50***	***$16,289.23***

GENERAL OPERATION INCOME

Grants	$ 40,721.65
Sales Program	$ 24,355.86
Interest Income	$ 1,685.40
Miscellaneous Income	$ 0.00
LESA	$ 0.00
NRI (Solar Farms)	$ 13,391.50
Local Government Support	$ 25,000.00
NRCS Cooperative Agreement	$ 34,364.66
NRCS Administrative Agreement	$ 23,781.01
Other Support	$ 37,570.94
Publicity	$ 3,663.75
Total Revenues	***$ 204,534.77***

COST OF GOODS SOLD

Cost of District Sales	$ 17,707.60
Total Cost of Goods Sold	***$ 17,707.60***

GROSS PROFIT **$186,827.17**

GENERAL OPERATION EXPENSE

Administration	$ 96,208.75
Publicity	$ 46,029.00
Office Expense	$ 3,607.02
Professional Services	$ 1,073.75
Miscellaneous Expense	$ 4,808.52
Total General Operations	***$ 151,727.04***

NET OPERATION REVENUE **$52,807.73**

Soil and Water Conservation District
Stephenson County

CRP Management

CRP contracts are required to perform at least one management activity on all contract acres during the lifetime of the contract. This activity must be designed to ensure plant diversity and wildlife benefits while ensuring the protection of the soil and water resources. Additionally, management activities are required to take place during years 4-6 on a 10-year contract and years 4-9 on a 15-year contract. For CRP acreages greater than 5 acres, the management activities must be divided into one third per year.

In grass plantings, the perennial grasses tend to crowd out desirable broadleaf plants. Required management activities are designed to set the perennial grasses back to enable broadleaf plants to germinate and thrive. Management activities include Prescribed Burning, Interseeding, Strip Disking and/or Managed Mowing based on which CRP practice is being managed. All management activities must take place outside of the Primary Nesting Season of April 15-August 1.

Prescribed burning is an effective and usually inexpensive activity used to manage grass practices. Prescribed burning will be applied in accordance with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 338 – Prescribed Burning and will be planned outside of primary nesting season of April 15-August 1. An approved prescribed burn plan will be written by NRCS after they have received a copy of the IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency) Open Burning Permit.

CRP contract holders are responsible for completing and submitting the IEPA Open Burning Permit. Copies of the application can be picked up at the USDA Service Center or online at https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/forms/air-permits/Pages/open-burning.aspx . Both NRCS and FSA have copies of the application. Both the IEPA Open Burning Permit and a Prescribed Burn Plan are required prior to implementation of a burn. It is recommended to mail the IEPA Open Burning Permit to IEPA by the end of the calendar year to ensure your permit is approved, allowing time for NRCS to write a Prescribed Burn Plan. Burn permits are good for 12 months allowing the participant opportunity to burn in the spring or fall.

When reporting completion of management activities, contract holders must self-certify completion of the activity and turn in other applicable documentation such as invoices, seed tags, photos, IEPA Open Burning Permit, and/or Prescribed Burn Plan to FSA.

Please remember that management activities are not a replacement for regular maintenance. CRP contracts are expected to be maintained by the CRP participant. Maintenance could include reseeding due to spray drift or spot mowing to control woody and noxious/invasive species. Maintenance is necessary for the practice to function and meet program requirements. Failure to maintain CRP contracts could jeopardize the chance for re-enrollment.

How to build a pollinator garden

We at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service know that pollinators are the engine that run healthy habitats. While we have been actively working to restore and conserve more than 1.3 million acres of land across the Midwest, we need your help. Whether you have a few feet on your apartment balcony or several acres, you can make a difference. Follow this easy step-by-step guide to build your own pollinator garden and help ensure the future is filled with pollinators.

Planning your garden

Careful planning is essential to creating a successful pollinator garden. Follow these easy steps to make sure you have everything covered before you make your investment.

Choosing your location

While flowering plants can grow in both shady and sunny locations, consider your audience. Butterflies and other pollinators like to bask in the sun and some of their favorite wildflowers grow best in full or partial sun with some protection from the wind.

Identifying soil type and sunlight

Take a look at your soil - is it sandy and well-drained or more clay-like and wet? You can turn over a test patch or check out the soil mapper for your county to learn more. Your soil type and the amount of sunlight it gets will help determine the kinds of plants you can grow.

Choosing your plants

Research which varieties of milkweed and wildflowers are native to your area and do well in your soil and sunlight conditions. Native plants are the ideal choice because they require less maintenance and tend to be heartier. Find a nursery that specializes in native plants near you - they will be familiar with plants that are meant to thrive in your part of the country. It is essential to choose plants that have not been treated with pesticides, insecticides, or neonicotinoids. You will also want to focus on selecting perennials to ensure your plants come back each year and do not require a lot of maintenance.

Remember to think about more than just the summer growing season. Pollinators need nectar early in the spring, throughout the summer and even into the fall. Choosing plants that bloom at different times will help you create a bright and colorful garden that both you and pollinators will love for months!

Seeds vs. plants

Once you have identified your plant species, you will need to decide whether to use seeds or start with small plants. While both are good options, your choice will depend on your timeline and budget. Seeds are more economical, especially for larger gardens, but will require more time. If you are using seeds, plan on dispersing them the fall or late winter ahead of your summer growing season. This gives the seeds time to germinate. Nursery-started plants cost more but will generally give you a quick return on your investment and bring pollinators into your yard during the same growing season.

A pollinator habitat sign posted in a blooming pollinator garden. Photo by USDA.

How to build a pollinator garden (article continued from page 4)

Planting your garden

When you are ready to start planting, you will need your seeds or plants along with essentials like gardening tools to break the soil as well as extra soil or compost and mulch.

Prepping your garden

If you are converting an existing lawn, you will need to remove grass and current plant cover and turn your soil to loosen it up. If you are planning on using raised beds or containers, there are a lot of pre-made options available, as well as simple designs to build your own. No matter where you decide to plant your garden, you will want to add nutrient-rich compost or soil to improve the success of your garden.

Planting your seeds or flowers

When you are using seeds, keep in mind that they will need time to germinate, so fall and late winter are ideal times to get started. In the fall, disperse seeds and cover with soil. In the late winter, scatter seeds over the snow. The sun will heat up the seeds and help anchor them into the snow. The melted snow provides moisture that will help the seeds germinate.

If you are starting with small plants, make sure you follow frost guidance to avoid putting your plants in too early. Dig holes just big enough for the root system, then cover and reinforce the roots with soil or compost. Add mulch to reduce weed growth.

Wait, watch, water and weed!

It may take some time, but you will eventually see butterflies and other pollinators enjoying your garden. Make sure to weed and water your garden to keep it healthy. Keep in mind that it may take a couple seasons for milkweed to start producing flowers.

We wish you the best of luck with your pollinator garden. Thank you for making a difference for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators!

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

THE VALUE OF TREES

The sun gets higher in the sky. The days get longer. Soon it will be time to be watching for the swelling buds on trees and bushes hinting at green leaves yet to come. Even if you are not a 'tree-hugger', something about the first appearance of new life from a tree gives a sense of well-being.

We share space with big trees. We feel good having trees around us. They are beautiful, wondrously made, and bring a sense of peacefulness. Trees enhance architecture, provide privacy, supply a good view or screen out objectionable views, and reduce glare and reflection. Trees bring natural elements and wildlife habitats into urban and rural surroundings alike, all of which increase the quality of life for residents.

Trees are a plus for us and the environment including:

- The amount of oxygen produced by an acre of trees per year equals the amount consumed by 18 people annually. One tree produces nearly 260 pounds of oxygen each year.
- One acre of trees removes up to 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide each year.
- Shade trees can make buildings up to 20 degrees cooler in the summer.
- Trees lower air temperature by evaporating water in their leaves.
- Tree roots stabilize soil and prevent erosion.
- Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rainwater, as well as protecting aquifers and watersheds.

In time for planting, there will be trees of all kinds and sizes for sale at garden shops and discount stores. You can take advantage of the Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual sale of bare root deciduous trees, evergreen trees, and shrub seedlings for conservation purposes – windbreaks, privacy screens, buffers along streams, noise abatement, wildlife habitat, and establishing woodland.

CSP

Overview
The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. CSP pays participants for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Benefits
CSP addresses various resource concerns including soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, and animal resources as well as energy.

How It Works
CSP provides two possible types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation.

Who is Eligible?
Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations, or Indian tribes that meet the stewardship threshold for at least two priority resource concerns when they apply. They must also agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the contract. Producers must have effective control of the land for the term of the proposed contract.
Eligible lands include private and tribal agricultural lands, cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, and nonindustrial private forest land. CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or type of crops produced.

How to Apply
Apply at your local USDA Service Center. Applications are accepted at any time. Payments are made soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year. Feel free to call the Stephenson County NRCS office at (815)235-2141 x3 for a complete listing of practices and begin planning for your application.

EQIP

Overview
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

Benefits
Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with one-on-one help and financial assistance to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while improving agricultural operations.

Program at a Glance
NRCS will help you develop a conservation plan that meets your goals and vision. This plan becomes your roadmap for selecting the right conservation practices for your land. NRCS offers about 200 unique practices designed for working farms, ranches, and forests.

Who is Eligible?
Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Historically underserved farmers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans)
- Livestock operations

How to Apply
Apply at your local USDA Service Center. Applications for EQIP financial assistance are accepted throughout the year. Specific state deadlines are set for ranking and funding. If your application is ranked and selected, you will enter into a contract with NRCS to receive financial assistance for the cost of implementing conservation practices. Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year. Feel free to call the Stephenson County NRCS office at (815)235-2141 x3 for a complete listing of practices and begin planning for your application.

The following is from the book, **Kiss the Ground** by Josh Tickell

The Air Up There

Charles David Keeling was an avid outdoorsman and concert pianist. He was also a scientist with a keen interest in the environment. Keeling wanted to know if humans were affecting the level of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere. So, in 1955 he built an infrared gas analyzer capable of measuring CO2 concentration. Keeling made two important discoveries. The first was that overall, carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere were increasing. In just three years, between 1957, when his measurements began at the South Pole, and 1960, and when he published his report, CO2 increased from around 310 parts per million to around 315 parts per million. While some scientists had postulated for a long time that humans could, through their activities, increase CO2 concentration in the atmosphere, this was the first absolute proof. Keeling's second discovery was completely unexpected. When his sampling data was plotted into a graph, it began to resemble a curve, not just an upward curve but an oscillating one. The curve went down in the summer and came back up (higher than before) in the winter. This "Keeling Curve," as it became known, indicated something amazing – in very general terms, the planet is breathing.

More accurately stated, it is the immense quantity of living plant material on Earth that breathes (otherwise known as respiration). During the spring and summer, as plants and crops grow via photosynthesis, they use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide (CO2) into plant tissue, leaves, seeds, roots, and root exudates (carbohydrates and sugars). Then in the fall and winter, as trees lose their leaves and plants go to seed, die, and decompose their carbon is oxidized (combined with oxygen to form CO2) and goes back into the atmosphere. This was well understood, but nobody had ever seen the effects of this biological process on a global geochemical scale.

Thanks to Keeling, there it was in black and white – respiration. Plants, it turns out, and the microbial community that supports them, have the ability to pull so much CO2 out of the atmosphere at one time as to make a measurable dent in the global concentration level of CO2. For the past six decades, this discovery seems to have been an open-and-shut case to the scientific community, kind of a ho-hum type of thing. But this is the very discovery that could provide pivotal to stabilizing atmospheric CO2 and growing a lot more, and a lot better food.

A group of men and woman assembled from the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), the top agricultural research institute in Europe and one of the world's premier centers of agricultural science. Established in 1921 and formalized by law in 1946, INRA has more data on soils and food than any organization save the US Department of Agriculture. This team of advisers is not discussing the carbon emissions from each country. Instead, they are calculating how much carbon each country can store in its soils.

"The Soilution"

According to Dr. Rattan Lal of Ohio State University, a pioneer in the study of "bio sequestration" (using plants and microbes to sequester carbon dioxide), humans have put some 500 gigatons (billion tons) of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere since the birth of agriculture some ten thousand years ago. But most of that CO2 was emitted during the relatively recent advent of modern agriculture. Through plowing the land, which releases tremendous quantities of CO2 deforestation, urbanization, and land-use change we have effectively taken a mass quantity of carbon that used to be stored in the ground and released it into the atmosphere. In addition, about 250 years ago humans began to burn copious amounts of fossil fuels. That added another 350 gigatons of CO2 to the atmosphere (half of which have been produced just since 1980). Total it all up and we have put some 850 gigatons of CO2 into the air. For now, the majority of CO2 humankind has released since the birth of civilization has come from plants and the soil.

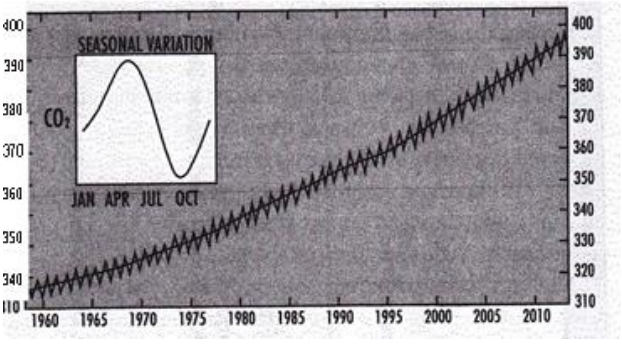
In general terms, carbon is present in all living things. To grow plants, or crops, or food, the more bioavailable carbon there is in the form of the dark, rich topsoil, otherwise know as humus or soil organic matter, the better plants will grow. For a long time, scientists have known that as plants and animals die and decompose, they can add to the topsoil. But as higher-resolution microscopes and more accurate instrumentation become available, biologists have been able to look beyond the macro layer of life (plants, leaves, roots, etc.) and into the micro layer (fungi, bacteria, etc.). That is where the real carbon action is. Plants, through their roots, excrete carbon in the form of root exudates. These exudates feed trillions of microorganisms, which are involved in extremely complex biological and chemical exchanges with the root systems. In a working ecosystem, carbon excreted from roots is carried through a series of handoffs through the upper, pliable "labile" layer of soil as it moves into the deeper, more immobile layers of the soil. It is eventually deposited in the form of organo-mineral complexes deep within the recalcitrant fraction of the soil. That is where it can stay for thousands of years.

Article continued from page 7: **Kiss the Ground** by Josh Tickell

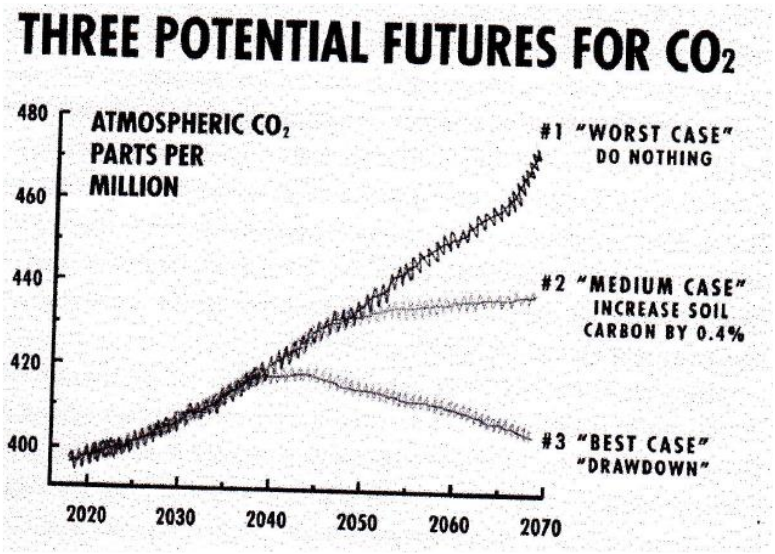
Three futures

How much carbon can be stored? Well, that depends on who you talk to. Agronomists studying this issue in the United States and Australia, believe that widespread implementation of "light" regenerative agriculture techniques like reducing soil tillage, and planting cover crops could cause the same amount of CO2 to be bio sequestered as we humans currently emit each year. I call this our "medium-case" scenario. ("Worst case" being we do nothing and hope that the UN will solve this problem for us with more COP meetings.) This soil-based, medium-case bio sequestration scenario still necessitates that we rachet down the worlds use of fossil fuels, and it is markedly better than our current scenario of continuously adding more CO2 into the atmosphere. But not for the reasons being put forth by the current climate change community – i.e., "saving the polar bear" or "stabilizing global temperatures" While these crusades are important, there is a far more pressing issue. Simply put, when we add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, Earth's natural balancing mechanisms attempt to remove it. The place where it is most readily absorbed is in the oceans. In the oceans, CO2 turns into carbonic acid, causing the pH of the oceans to become acidic. As the oceans acidify, the basis of the food chain – phytoplankton – dies. This may sound bad, because we tend to like to eat things like fish and lobster that rely on many smaller layers of food creatures. But that's not why phytoplankton are important to this discussion. These tiny, delicate creatures produce more than 50 percent of the oxygen we breathe. Thus, more CO2 in the atmosphere equals acidic oceans, which equals dead phytoplankton, which equals insufficient oxygen for humanity. People on both sides of the global warming debate have completely missed this pivotal truth: It is irrelevant whether or not increased levels of CO2 in the atmosphere cause warming if we cannot breathe. Stated differently, if we humans wish to live in a flourishing world well into the future, then pulling the CO2 back down into the ground is as important as the air we breathe. The medium case of drawing down the CO2 we emit yearly would theoretically buy humanity time to wean itself off its insatiable thirst for carbon-based fuels. But even if we stabilize CO2 at 400 ppm, scientists tell us the Earth as we know will undergo dramatic changes. The oceans will continue to acidify, exponentially more species will be lost, and human civilization will be threatened. It is better than the "worst-case/hope the governments of the world will work together to figure this out" scenario, but it is still bleak. However, there is a "best-case" scenario. Granted, it requires thinking global agriculture at its core. It may even involve rethinking the idea of food itself. But the best-case scenario is palatable, if not actually good. In this scenario, an aggressive global program would have to be instituted to reform agriculture so that big moneymakers like herbicides, pesticides, genetic engineering, corn, soy, wheat, and rice monocropping, synthetic nitrogen, confined animal feedlots, and tilling would be abandoned in favor of intensive, large-scale, no-till organic agriculture also know as regenerative agriculture. Done correctly, the numbers suggest we could sequester most if not all of the CO2 that has been emitted by humanity thus far. The best-case scenario is extremely theoretical, perhaps even naïve, but it is the first mathematical model that offers real hope for our species' future. It would not absolve us of having to end the use of coal and petroleum-base fuels (a prudent step in any geopolitically and economically stable future), but by using the restorative power of nature, it might give us a chance at a future that keeps a majority of Earth's ecosystems intact.

Atmospheric CO2 Concentration:
Mauna Loa Observatory 1958 to Present



The close-up white box shows the "respiration" of planet Earth. The rise in the curve is from plants dying in the winter and releasing CO2. The drop is from plants growing in the spring and sucking up CO2.



2021 TREE ORDER FORM

Please print.

Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Description	Size	10 Trees	25 Trees	100 Trees	Quantity	Amount
EVERGREENS						
Douglas Fir New	10-20"	$22.50	$56.25	$225.00		
White Pine	18-30"	$35.00	$87.50	$350.00		
Norway Spruce	24-36"	$25.00	$62.50	$250.00		
White Spruce	20-30"	$33.60	$84.00	$336.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	18-30"	$35.00	$87.50	$350.00		
American Arborvitae (White Cedar)	24-36"	$36.50	$91.25	$365.00		
DECIDUOUS TREES						
Persimmon New	2-3'	$30.00	$75.00	$300.00		
Black Walnut	2-3'	$27.00	$67.50	$270.00		
Quaking Aspen	2-3'	$27.00	$67.50	$270.00		
Shagbark Hickory	18-24"	$30.00	$75.00	$300.00		
White Oak	2-3'	$35.00	$87.50	$350.00		
Burr Oak	2-3'	$30.00	$75.00	$300.00		
Chinkapin Oak New	18-24"	$20.00	$50.00	$200.00		
Swamp White Oak	2-3'	$30.00	$75.00	$300.00		
Black Maple New	2-3'	$40.00	$100.00	$400.00		
SHRUBS						
Black Elderberry New	2-3'	$30.00	$75.00	$300.00		
Redosier Dogwood	2-3'	$27.00	$67.50	$270.00		
Highbush Cranberry	2-3'	$32.00	$80.00	$320.00		
ADDITIONAL ITEMS						
Marking Flags (bundles of 100)			Each	$10.00		
Bat House			Each	$30.00		
Bluebird House (Peterson style)			Each	$30.00		
Wood Duck House			Each	$55.00		
Tree Mats (includes 4 wire staples)			Each	$1.50		
48" Tree Tubes			Each	$3.00		
60" Tree Tubes			Each	$4.00		
White Oak Tree Stakes are ordered upon request			48" $1.25@	60" $1.50@		
				TOTAL PAYMENT		**$**

All Stock are Bareroot Seedlings. The District gives no warranty as to growth or survival. We reserve the right to refund all or part of payments made. Quantities are limited--please place your order early. *These plants are for conservation purposes only and shall not be used as ornamentals or for landscaping.*

Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to ***Stephenson SWCD.*** Mail or bring to **Stephenson SWCD, 1620 South Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032.**
Sorry NO CREDIT CARDS accepted!

Order pick-up: Thursday, *April 15, 2021* , 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tree Pick-Up location: Stephenson Co. Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd. Freeport, IL.

Order Deadline Wednesday, MARCH 10, 2021
(No Orders Will Be Accepted After March 10th)

Large quantity orders (500 trees of one species) will receive special rates.

Call the office (815-235-2141 ext. 3) for more information. Reminder cards will be mailed.

The sale proceeds are an important fundraiser for the District and support the local conservation efforts of SWCD.

If for any reason the pickup is delayed, you will be notified.

EVERGREEN TREES	NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES
DOUGLAS FIR (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) – One of the most popular choices for Christmas trees and landscaping. A fast growing fir, it's medium, flat, bluish green needles give off a wonderful evergreen aroma. Douglas firs prefer moist, well drained soils. Average height 40 - 80 feet. This fir makes great wildlife cover and works well in windbreaks.	**BLACK MAPLE** *(Acer nigrum)* - Medium sized to large tree, up to 85 feet tall. Trunk diameter up to 2 1/2 feet; crown broad, with several upright branches. Bark dark brown to black, smooth when young, soon becoming furrowed and scaly. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to somewhat poorly drained bottomland forests; but also thrives on rich upland forest sites. Autumn color yellow.
WHITE PINE (*Pinus strobus*) - A large, picturesque native tree with long soft needles widely used in reforestation, windbreaks. Moderate to fast grower which thrives in a wide range of soils. Average maximum height to 80 feet.	**WHITE OAK** *(Quercus alba)* - The Illinois State Tree. Known for its majestic beauty and longevity, the White Oak prefers moist, well drained upland soils. This is a sensitive tree which cannot tolerate urban conditions. Acorns are loved by wildlife, produces valuable wood.
NORWAY SPRUCE (*Picea abies***) -** One of the fastest growing spruce trees; it can grow to 5 ft. within 5 to 7 years. Grows well in a wide range of soils. Norway spruce is a large, pyramidal tree with long, cylindrical cones that hang like ornaments from the weeping branches against the dark green foliage. This sun-loving, 50 to 80 foot high tree is often used as windbreaks, screens, or hedges in large-scale landscapes.	**SWAMP WHITE OAK:** (*Quercus bicolor*) –Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 4 feet; crown rounded and broad. Distinguished by leaves which are coarsely round-toothed; softly white and hairy on the undersurface and it's long stemmed acorns. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to poorly drained bottomland forests.
COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE (*Picea pungens***) -** Very hardy, pyramidal shaped tree with stiff branches; blue green needles providing excellent nesting, roosting, and winter cover for birds; great in windbreaks. Mature height in Illinois is 30-60' with a spread of 10-20'. Likes ordinary soil, average moisture, full sun. Does not like wet soil.	**BURR OAK** *(Quercus macrocarpa)* – Large tree, up to 120 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 5 feet; crown rounded with stout branches, trunk straight, stout, sometimes slightly buttressed at the base. Habitat: Prefers rich, well-drained bottomland forests; thrives in upland forests that range in drainage & fertility.
WHITE SPRUCE *(Picea glauca)* - A very hardy evergreen tree that can tolerate heat and drought, and will grow rapidly if planted in a well drained location. With short soft, silver-green needles, it makes a beautiful Christmas tree or ornamental tree and works great in windbreaks. Mature height of 60-70 ft.	**CHINKAPIN OAK** *(Quercus muehlenbergii)* -Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 4 feet; crown oblong or rounded, with many branches; trunk straight; columnar, buttressed at the base. Acorn borne singly or paired, usually on a short stalk. Habitat: Well-drained to moderately well drained upland forests; prefers alkaline, deep, moist upland sites.
AMERICAN ARBORVITAE *(Thuja occidentalis)* – Pyramidal in habit. Leaves are frond-like on flat branches varying from dark green to light green during the growing season. Grows best in loamy, moist soil. May be planted as an ornamental, hedge or windbreak. It is also a good source for wildlife food, shelter from enemies and elements and nesting cover.	**SHAGBARK HICKORY** (*Carya ovata*) - Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 3 1/2 feet; crown rounded, with some of the branches often hanging. Distinguished by its shaggy bark, its usually five large leaflets, and its large winter buds. Habitat: Well-drained to moderately well-drained upland forests; occasionally found on terraced bottomland forests with excellent drainage.
SHRUBS	**PERSIMMON** *(Diospyros virginiana)* – Medium sized tree, up to 80 feet tall; trunk diameter 2 feet; crown broad and rounded or flattened. Bark dark gray to black, broken at maturity into squarish blocks. Berry; fleshy, spherical, with greenish calyx present at one end, yellow-orange to orange, up to 2 inches in diameter, sweet when ripe, few seeded. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to poorly drained bottomland forests; attains best development on deep, fertile, well-drained alluvial soils; also grows in upland forests that range in fertility and moisture.
HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY (*Viburnum trilobum)* – Broadleaf Shrub; yellow to red purple fall color. New foliage has reddish color. Bears extremely handsome whiter flowers and bright red fruit.	
REDOSIER DOGWOOD *(Cornus stolinifera)* – Native shrub, very distinctive red branches highly recommended for windbreaks. Produces small, flat clusters of whitish flowers in late May followed by white berries that are a favorite food of song birds. Adapted for wet soils but will also do well upland when established.	**QUAKING ASPEN** (*Populus tremuloides*) – medium sized tree up to 60 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 1 1/2 feet; crown rounded or occasionally spreading. The whitish trunk and the ovate, trembling leaves distinguish this species. Habitat: Favorable to a wide variety of forested sites; pioneer species after disturbance.
BLACK ELDERBERRY *(Sambucus nigra)* – Elderberry is a deciduous shrub or small tree growing 20 ft tall and wide. The bark, light grey when young, changes to a coarse grey outer bark with lengthwise furrowing, lenticels prominent. The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs, 10–30 cm long, pinnate with five to seven (rarely nine) leaflets, the leaflets 5–12 cm long and 3–5 cm broad, with a serrated margin. The fruit is a glossy, dark purple to black berry 3–5 mm diameter, produced in drooping clusters in late autumn; they are an important food for many fruit-eating birds. It grows in a variety of conditions including both wet and dry fertile soils, primarily in sunny locations.	**BLACK WALNUT** (*Juglans nigra*) - Large tree, up to 120 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 5 feet; crown broadly rounded; trunk straight, columnar, not buttressed at the base. Nut borne singly or in pairs, spherical up to 2 inches in diameter. Habitat: Moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained bottomland forests; attains it's best development on deep, fertile, well-drained alluvial soils; also thrives in rich, well-drained upland forests. Illinois most valuable hardwood species

STEPHENSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2021 SPRING FISH ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Address _____ City _____ State, ZIP _____

SPECIES (*Stocking Rate*)	SIZE	PRICE	UNIT	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Channel Catfish (*150/acre*) - *Sport fish. Mix with Hybrid Sunfish & Largemouth Bass.*					
Channel Catfish	4-6"	$ 0.70	each	ea.	
Channel Catfish	6-8"	$ 0.85	each	ea.	
Albino Catfish	4-6"	$ 1.25	each	ea.	
Largemouth Bass (50/acre) - *A predator; helps control bluegill and crappie populations.*					
Largemouth Bass	3-4"	$ 1.40	each	ea.	
Hybrid Bluegill -					
Hybrid Bluegill	2-3"	$ 0.55	each	ea.	
Hybrid Bluegill	3-5"	$ 0.95	each	ea.	
Bluegill - *Prolific in ponds. Stock with Largemouth Bass.*					
Bluegill	2-3"	$ 0.55	each	ea.	
Bluegill	3-5”	$ 0.95	each	ea.	
Black Crappie - *Good in large clear vegetated lakes/ponds. Prolific. Stock with Largemouth Bass.*	3-4”	$ 1.25	each	ea.	
Redear	3-4"	$ 1.00	each	ea.	
Fathead Minnows *(5 lbs./acre)* - *Stock in new ponds before Largemouth Bass.*	1-3"	$ 11.25	per/lb.	lb.	
** Grass Carp *(5-10 each/acre)* - *Alternative to using chemicals for weed control. Aquatic plants should not be totally eliminated.*	8-11”	$ 12.50	each	ea.	

**** REQUIRED PERMIT INFORMATION FOR GRASS CARP ORDERS**
POND LOCATION: TWP _____ SECTION _____ T_____ R_____ POND SIZE _____ ACRES

ORDER TOTAL $_____

ORDER DEADLINES: Grass Carp & Other Fish: Friday, *April. 9, 2021*

DELIVERY: **11:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

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

Pick-up will be drive through; please line up when arrive and remain in your vehicle.

PAYMENT: Please include payment with your order; checks payable to Stephenson SWCD.
If payment is made in person you will need drop your form and check in the box marked NRCS/SWCD located in the entryway as the door entering the building is locked due to COVID-19 regulations.

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

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

All fish *will be bagged* and sealed in oxygenated water.
A 5 gallon bucket or something similar to support the bags is recommended.

Water cannot be furnished.

2021 FARM SERVICES DIRECTORY

These sponsors contribute to the cost of printing this newsletter.
Please keep this directory with your telephone book.

AGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FARM SERVICES AGENCY (FSA), FARM LOANS
1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport.....(815) 235-2141 Ext. 2

STEPHENSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport.....(815) 235-2141 Ext. 3

IL DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Region 1 NWIL Office, Morrison ..... (815) 772-4708
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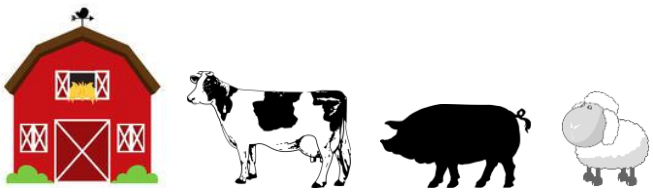

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