

Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Newsletter

Phone 812-689-6410 ext. 5 www.hhhills.org Fax 812-689-3398



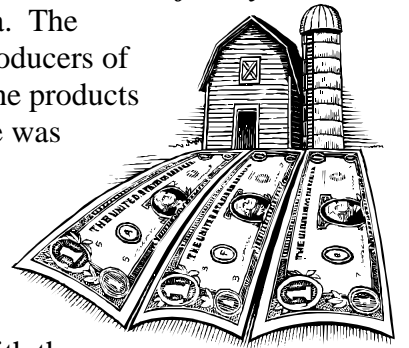
Volume 29

February 2001

Issue 2

Value-added Conference a Success!

Sixty-five southern Indiana farm families were represented at the “*Adding Value to Products from your Farm*” Conference on Wednesday, February 7 at the Holiday Inn in Columbus, Indiana. The Conference was planned by the “Ways to Grow” Steering Committee to help producers of specialty crops and products learn ways to do processing on the farm and give the products they sell higher value, increasing net income from the products. The conference was structured with breakouts to cover Livestock Products; Processed Produce; and Education, Entertainment and Decorative Products. Presenters in each of these categories were farm family members who are already successful with their business venture.



Keynote Speaker was **Duncan Hilchey**, Agricultural Development Specialist with the Farming Alternatives Program at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Dr. Hilchey emphasized the importance of community-based support for value-added initiatives. He talked about cooperative efforts in building specialty food networks or associations, building regional product identity, using farmers markets as incubators, setting up cooperatives, and doing educational programs to support value-added efforts.

Breakout topics covered a wide range of enterprises: Livestock Products included pasture-raised poultry; freezer meats and fish; cheese and yogurt; and a session on assuring food safety (awareness of health regulations and requirements). Processed Produce included jellies, jams and other canned goods; juices and wines; catering and baked goods; and also on assuring food safety. The Education, Entertainment and Decorative Products included a broad range of topics: corn mazes, class tours, U-picks, and bed and breakfasts; decorative gourds and painted pumpkins; dried florals; decorative fabrics; and greenhouse specialties and fresh-cut flowers. Speakers in all the breakouts were growers or entrepreneurs who were already successful at their enterprise and were willing to share their story.

After the noon luncheon, participants heard from six speakers who explained programs that can provide technical help or funding assistance for start-up businesses including ag enterprises.

The conference closed with “cider time” – participants enjoyed locally produced cider while they talked with speakers, presenters, Extension Educators and each other.

The conference was made possible by four corporate sponsors – Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc; Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc; Bartholomew County REMC; and Southeastern Indiana REMC. We appreciate their support of this conference.

“Ways to Grow” is a program of Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service in partnership with Historic Hoosier Hills to help farm families in southeastern Indiana investigate and move successfully into supplemental or secondary enterprises beyond the traditional commodity crops.

Funds for the Future...

The Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund

*Article by Louise Markel, Executive Director
Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County*

Making charitable contributions is an art-a creative process that adapts to the changing needs and wishes of the donor. Over the next months you will see in this column some ideas that may suit you if you wish to donate to the Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund, or to any of your favorite charities. For instance, here’s a true story (modified somewhat to protect the donor’s privacy):

Daniel has long played an active role in helping a local charity carry out its goals. He feels the charity is necessary to his community and hopes its good work continues into the future and decided to do something to help this happen.

Back in the ‘50’s he acquired some stock in a company. Over the years the company was sold and resold and finally became part of a large national corporation. The little bit of stock he acquired years ago is worth a lot more than it was forty years ago, but it really isn’t doing him much good right now.

If he sells the stock, he’ll have to pay capital gains taxes of 20% on the difference between the amount he purchased it for and the amount of the sale. The annual dividends are not providing much cash for him and his wife, and dealing with the tax forms for this dividend income is a headache.



Dan and Sue decided to make a gift of the stock itself to the Community Foundation, designated to the charity’s Endowment Fund, after weighing the advantages and disadvantages of such a gift. The disadvantage was giving up an asset, but Dan and Sue decided they can continue to live comfortably without it, and their grown children have successful careers and don’t need it, either.

The advantages were that they could make a large gift without using their cash, they wouldn’t have to pay capital gains taxes to make the gift and they could claim the current value of the stock as a tax deduction. But the most important benefit, they feel, is that they are doing something for the future well being of their community.

If this type of donation to the Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment is something that suits your personal situation, contact Gary Conant at Historic Hoosier Hills or Louise Markel at the Community Foundation office at (812) 265-3327. With a gift such as this you, too, would be a part of continuing the development and conservation of our southern Indiana natural resources.

(The information provided in the example is for illustrative purposes only. We ask that you contact your attorney or accountant for professional advice.)

**Historic Hoosier Hills
Activities Calendar
Meetings and Programs
March 2001
Phone (812) 689-6410 ext 5**

**Reminder: Fish and Wildlife Committee
Sunday, February 25**

All Game Dinner (annual meeting) and deer measuring session at the Laughery Valley Fish and Game Clubhouse on the Elrod – Friendship Road. Deer measuring begins at 8:00 A.M. with IDNR Biologist Ed Guljas and others, and will end by 10:00 A.M. Following will be the annual meeting with election of officers and plans for the coming year., with dinner at noon. The meeting and deer session is open to anyone with an interest in conservation activities. Contact Bob Hughes at (812) 654-3724 for more information.

***Conservation Education Committee
Thursday, March 1***

1:00 P.M. at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. Agenda includes report of HASTI Convention and plans for fall teacher workshop.

***Woodland Committee
Wednesday, March 7***

Timber Industry Meeting at the Purdue Farm at Butlerville (SEPAAC). Program for area loggers and sawmill owners and operators – starts at 3:00 P.M. with a tour of tree plantations; dinner at 6:00 and a program on tree planting by Extension Forester Jack Siefert following. Reservations need to be called in to the Historic Hoosier Hills office by Friday, March 2.

***Southeastern Indiana Forage and Livestock Association
Board of Directors
Thursday, March 8***

Spring Program and Annual Meeting at the South Ripley Elementary School, starting at 7:00 P.M. Guest speaker is Scott Gardner, Manager of the new United Producers Stockyard at Little York, Indiana. He will talk on the plans for and operation of the new livestock marketing facility. Agenda includes short business meeting, election of three directors, and time to talk with the speaker over refreshments.

***Fish and Wildlife Committee
Thursday, March 8***

7:00 P.M. at the Laughery Valley Fish and Game Clubhouse on the Elrod – Friendship Road. To reach the clubhouse, turn south on the Friendship Road from U.S. 50 at Elrod and go about 3 _ miles – the clubhouse property is on the right.

***Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council
Board of Directors
Monday, March 26***

6:30 P.M. at the Historic Hoosier Hills office in Versailles. Agenda includes final arrangements for the April Annual Meeting; updates on resource and project committee activities; and consideration of requests for assistance.

The Historic Hoosier Hills Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720 5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council meets on the 4th Monday of every other month. The Executive Committee meets on the 3rd Friday of every other month that the Council does not meet. All meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend will certainly be welcome.

area, and to properly develop, utilize, and conserve our natural and human resources.”

Vision Statement:

“Workable economic climate in harmony with natural resources developed to their full potential for a higher quality of life.”

Officers & Staff

Council President – Lilian Carmer
1st Vice-President – (vacant)
2nd Vice-President – William Corning
Treasurer – Raymond West
Secretary – Barbara Corning
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant
RC&D Assistant – Phyllis May
Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

Mission Statement:

“Serve as a catalyst to empower local people to solve the overall economic and natural resource problems of the