

# Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

# Newsletter

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*Volume 31*

*February 2003*

*Issue 2*

## State Veterinarian Explains Homeland Security Plans



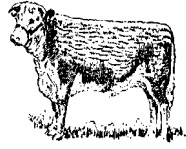
*Dr. Bret Marsh, State Veterinarian*, was guest speaker at the January Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Marsh informed the group of Indiana's plan for animal health and protection in the event of a biological agent attack. There are a number of diseases that can move rapidly through domestic animal populations, and could be

spread by terrorist attack. Affecting our food supply would be one way terrorists could attempt to demoralize the United States. Indiana has a wide network of veterinarians and others who watch for and report any outbreaks of diseases, especially highly infectious diseases. Dr. Marsh stresses the importance of identifying and isolating infected animals rapidly is one key to controlling this kind of threat. He asked for more "eyes and ears" locally to help them with this challenge.

In other business, the Board reaffirmed its support of the "Ways to Grow" Program. There is a group working to bring the program back and they had requested Historic Hoosier Hills' involvement in the project. (See following article).

The Board approved an extension of the contract for a feasibility study for a Horticultural Marketing Facility along I-65, and completed plans for the March 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. They also approved and signed a contract with the Rising Sun Regional Foundation for the Versailles Historical Society funding for Phase II of the historic lighting project on the Versailles Town Square.

## Forage and Livestock Association Elects Officers, Directors



The *Board of Directors of the Southeastern Indiana Forage and Livestock Association* approved Bylaws changes which moved their Annual meeting from March to January and allows for elections at that time.

Following the Bylaws approval, the Board elected Dave Nuhring to the Ripley County Director position; Bernard Housemeyer as the Ohio County Director; and Henry Nickell (Ripley County) and Jim Casper (Dearborn County) to two At-large Director positions. Officers elected for 2003 were: John Harrell, Jefferson County, President; Sherman Hughes, Dearborn County, Vice President; and Jim Casper, Dearborn County, Secretary.

The group reviewed and approved a proposal to develop a website for southeastern Indiana livestock producers to list their cattle for sale. The next step is to secure funding to develop the website.

## Pasture and Forage Program Well Attended

Over 80 area producers came to listen to *Dave Forgey*, a dairy farmer from northern Indiana who is nationally recognized for his innovation in pastured and seasonal dairy. Dave explained his transition to seasonal dairy and the benefits to his operation. The program was held at The Pines in Seymour on January 30. Dave talked about the

benefit of being able to downsize his equipment as he moved from row crops to pasture, and discussed the costs involved. He discussed the benefits of rotational grazing and how he stockpiles forages – all economic advantages to his operation. And he presented information to help southeastern Indiana producers get started in Management Intensive Grazing.

Producers from 13 area counties attended the program, sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Purdue Cooperative Extension, United Producers of Little York, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Southeastern Indiana Forage and Livestock Association.

## “Ways to Grow” Ag Program May Have New Life



“*Ways to Grow*”, a program developed by Purdue Cooperative Extension Service and piloted in southeastern Indiana through Historic Hoosier Hills in 1998, 1999, and 2000, was highly successful in that it worked directly with ag producers who wanted to transition from tobacco or more traditional commodity crops to higher value specialty crops. Well over 100 farm families were progressing through the program when it ended in 2001 for lack of funding. The original program was funded largely by Value Added Grants from the Office of Commissioner of Agriculture, and by Purdue Extension. The state’s fiscal crisis further removed chances of additional funding and the program ended.

In January, representatives of Purdue Extension and Historic Hoosier Hills held an open meeting in Scottsburg to determine interest in reviving the program and to look for partners willing to make it happen. Over 40 producers, Extension Educators, USDA-NRCS field staff, local and state governmental officials and organizational representatives attended, and agreed unanimously to work together to bring the program back. The group created a Board of Directors of eighteen, representing all entities present, to plan and oversee the program.

The “Ways to Grow” Board will have its work cut out this spring to identify needs and find funding to put the program back in operation. But the group reflected a commitment to again provide this valuable program in Southeastern Indiana.

## **John Hunt Morgan on the World Wide Web**

The *John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail Project* completed another goal in January when the website explaining the project was completed and put up on the Web. The address is: [www.hhhills.org/jhmht](http://www.hhhills.org/jhmht). While the website is attached to the Historic Hoosier Hills website, viewers can access it directly by typing in this URL. The site explains the project, explains the historic significance of the raid in Indiana history, and makes the brochures, Guidebook, audiotapes and CDs available to those interested in acquiring them.

The goal of the project from the beginning has been to “identify, interpret, and promote” the route of the 1863 raid of the Confederate general through Indiana, according to Dick Skidmore, project chair. The results of this effort do not glorify John Hunt Morgan nor the raid, but make available an account of the most significant and tragic event to take place in Indiana during the Civil War.

A formal route dedication is planned for February 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. in Corydon by the Visitor and Convention Bureaus in the seven counties. Plans are also developing for a two-day re-enactment through the seven counties in April. More information will be available in local newspapers.

### **Mark Your Calendar!!**

The *Annual Meeting of the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, Inc.* is set for Monday, March 24 at 6:00 P.M. at the Southeast Career Center in Versailles.

Program speaker is Joe Pearson, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for Indiana.

Outstanding Project, Outstanding Individual and Tenacity Awards will be presented. Resource and Project Committees will have displays of what their committee or project is doing.

Dinner is being catered by Biehle Catering from North Vernon, cost is \$8.00 per person. Please call (812) 689-6410 ext. 5 by March 20, 2003 to make your reservation.

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, 14<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every other month. The Executive Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **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 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  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Vacant  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – William Corning  
Interim Treasurer – William Corning  
Secretary – Barbara Corning  
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant  
RC&D Program Assistant – Phyllis May  
Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak