

## **Water Management and Wildlife Field Days at SEPAC**

The Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association (INLICA) is working together with Purdue University to host a two day event at the Southeast Purdue Agriculture Center (SEPAC) near Butlerville in Jennings County. This event is scheduled for August 14 and 15.

On these days there will be an opportunity for farmers, contractors, and the public to learn about:

- ◆ Tile drainage installation
- ◆ Managing tile drains for crop yields and water quality
- ◆ Wetlands for water quality and wildlife
- ◆ Management of woodland edges for wildlife

Demonstrations of drainage plows, trenchers, drainage control structures, and GPS-controlled equipment will take place on both days. Tours will be conducted so visitors can see the equipment in action. A wetland will be constructed to hold drainage water from the tile system and the tile outlets will be installed with water control structures to manage the flow of water from the system or keep water in the system during dry weather.

Woodland edge feathering for improving wildlife habitat will also be demonstrated. This new practice offers an opportunity to not only improve habitat for various wildlife species, but is also helpful to decrease the shading effect of trees around the edge of crop fields. A tree clipper will be running during the tours to demonstrate how trees are cut and piled to carry out the practice. In addition, there will be a discussion and demonstration on planting buffers around fields to improve quail habitat.

Don Biehle, SEPAC Superintendent, said, “We are installing drainage to increase productivity and efficiency of an unusually shaped field. At the same time we wanted to square up the field for increased efficiency, and the irregular edges can then be improved for wildlife habitat.”

Various exhibits will be available and will open at 2 PM on August 14<sup>th</sup>. A tour for visitors will start at 3 PM and a free hog roast will be available at 5 PM. Another tour will begin at 6 PM. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, exhibits will open at 9 AM and a tour will start at 9:30 PM. The demonstration area is on Camp Holland road on the northern section of the SEPAC farm.

Those assisting with the field day include INLICA contractors, Purdue staff, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

For more information, contact SEPAC by calling 812-458-6977 or the Jennings County SWCD office at 812-346-3411 X3, or Donna Clark, INLICA Executive Director at 765-593-1901.