

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
July 31, 2014
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

- I. 9:30AM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of June 2014**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Training Program- Nola Gentry
 - b. 2015 Clean Water Indiana Grants
 - c. Clean Water Indiana Budget Update- Jordan Seger
- IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Grant County SWCD- Jennifer Thum
 - b. Fayette County SWCD- Tara Henry
 - c. Marion County SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
 - d. White SWCD- Geneva Tyler
- V. State Soil Conservation Board Reports**
 - a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Scott Ham
- VI. ISDA Updates**
 - a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger
 - b. Technical Report- Mike Johnson
 - c. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
 - d. Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst
 - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
 - f. Water Quality and CREP-Logan Garner
- VII. Conservation Partner Reports**
 - a. IASWCD Report
 - b. IDEM Report
 - c. DNR Report
 - d. Purdue Report
 - e. FSA Report
 - f. NRCS Report
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Next Meeting:**
 - October 28, 2014
 - 9:30 AM
 - Location: TBD
- X. Adjourn**

Deb Fairhurst will lead a Sharepoint training session for State Soil Conservation Board members immediately following the meeting.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.

National Association of Conservation Districts Soil Health Forum and Conservation Tour

- 31 ISDA staff attended one or both days of conference including Director McKinney who addressed the audience on Monday
 - The SSCB and ISDA sponsored the event by way of subsidizing registration fees for IN SWCD staff and supervisors
- ISDA has recently organized numerous conservation field tours for key IN decision makers:**
- July 3rd – Governor Pence, Director McKinney, Gov. Office staff, ISDA staff, members of the IN General Assembly, farmers, conservation partners (SWCDs, NRCS, FSA, PU, IFB, etc.) gathered in Vigo county at Phil and Debbie Carter's farm. Mr. Carter serves on the Vigo county SWCD board. Conservation was the key discussion topic.
 - July 14th – Key members of the Lieutenant Governor's staff, Director McKinney, ISDA staff, NRCS, and farmers toured four farms in the Hendricks's county area and visited numerous completed conservation projects including a CREP project
 - July 25th – Key members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), State Budget Agency (SBA), and ISDA staff toured four farms in the Hendricks's county area, discussed importance of voluntary conservation, trends in cigarette tax revenue, and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL

Budget

- FY 14 ended June 30, 2014
- FY 15 began July 1, 2014 (similar budget to FY14)
- The General Assembly will compile FY16-FY17 budgets in the next session which begins Nov 18, 2014 (119th General Assembly)
- ISDA has begun budget planning discussions and preparations for this next budget cycle

Indiana State Fair

- Aug 1-17
- ISDA staff will have a presence each day at the Normandy Barn
- ISDA-DSC employees are required to work at least one shift at the Normandy Barn and Pathway to Water Quality
- Director McKinney and key ISDA staff will host over 23 meetings with "commodity" groups and IN Ag leaders including members of the General Assembly at the Normandy Barn during the fair. These "commodity" groups represent every aspect of IN's diverse Ag industry. Challenges, opportunities, and areas of collaboration will be the key discussion topics.
- ISDA awarded a \$50,000 grant to the IN State Fair to go towards Normandy Barn renovations including but not limited to lighting upgrades, sound proofing, aquaculture fish tanks, indoor honeybee hive, and other exhibit upgrades to improve visitor experience and showcase IN Ag

Asia Trade Mission

- Lieutenant Governor Ellspermann and Director McKinney along with staff and representatives of the IN Ag industry recently returned from a trade mission trip to South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan. The trip was Ag focused with an emphasis on new contracts for IN Ag products. Numerous MOU's were signed with the countries visited, many of which involve IN's hardwood industry.

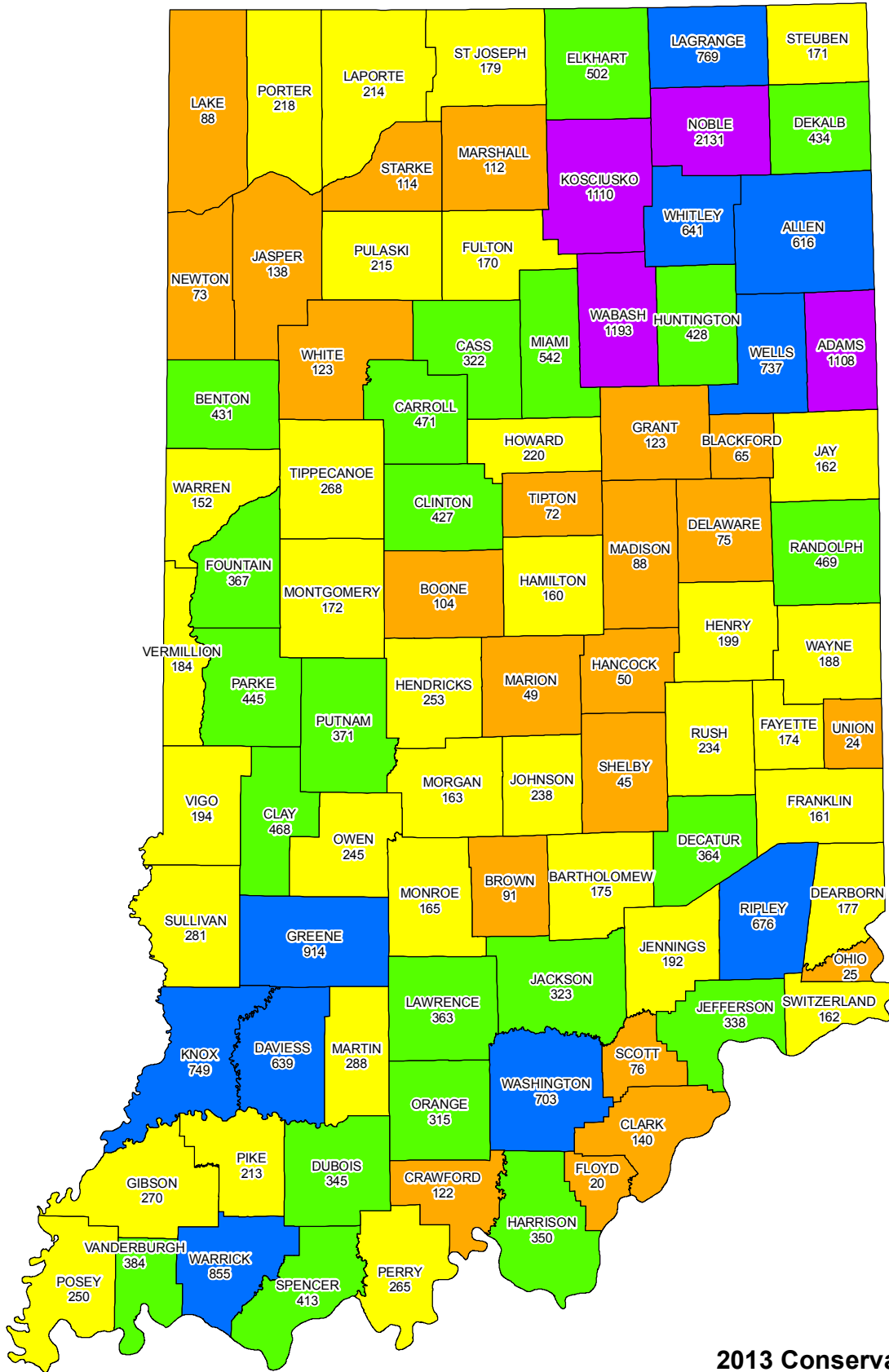
ISDA-DSC Staff Meeting July 16th at Eagle Creek Park – Employee Recognitions

- Outstanding Leadership (as voted on by staff) = Julie Harrold, NE Resource Specialist Team Leader
- Most Valuable Employee (as voted on by staff) = Deb Fairhurst, Accountability and Technology Program Manager
- Jim Woody, SW Resource Specialist Team Leader = 25 years of dedicated service
- DSC staff recognized and signed a state seal for Jen Pinkston who recently left ISDA to pursue an opportunity with the Supreme Court
- Ed Roll, Resource Specialist based in Scott County, retiring end of August – nearly 27 years of dedicated service



2013 Indiana Conservation Workload

Implemented by Indiana Conservation Partnership



2013 Conservation Workload

Total Pratices

- 20 - 140
- 152 - 288
- 315 - 542
- 616 - 914
- 1,108 - 2,131

January 1 thru December 31, 2013
 Conservation Practices Completed - 30,502
 Conservation Practices Underway - 2,393

Disclaimer: Programs with less than 5 practices installed were not included in the data.

COUNTY	AWEP	CREP	CRP	CSP	CWI	EQIP	IDEM	LARE	OFN	OTHER	WHIP	WRP	TOTAL
ADAMS	12	0	75	272	0	666	0	0	21	0	1	61	1,108
ALLEN	0	0	7	48	0	437	0	0	45	0	73	6	616
BARTHOLOMEW	0	0	15	9	0	137	0	0	11	0	3	0	175
BENTON	0	0	13	3	6	396	0	0	6	0	6	1	431
BLACKFORD	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	0	1	0	0	0	65
BOONE	0	0	13	0	0	73	0	2	4	1	11	0	104
BROWN	0	0	0	0	0	82	0	0	0	0	9	0	91
CARROLL	0	0	0	0	1	448	0	0	15	0	7	0	471
CASS	0	0	120	0	0	183	0	0	11	0	8	0	322
CLARK	0	0	0	0	5	114	21	0	0	0	0	0	140
CLAY	0	0	80	0	19	270	0	0	2	0	97	0	468
CLINTON	0	0	89	0	1	298	0	0	29	0	10	0	427
CRAWFORD	0	0	0	0	0	122	0	0	0	0	0	0	122
DAVISS	0	0	0	33	0	542	0	0	6	4	54	0	639
DEARBORN	0	0	3	0	11	142	0	0	1	6	14	0	177
DECATUR	0	0	69	20	0	254	0	0	12	0	9	0	364
DEKALB	0	0	0	6	32	387	0	0	6	0	3	0	434
DELAWARE	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	24	0	1	0	75
DUBOIS	0	0	9	0	1	297	0	0	17	2	19	0	345
ELKHART	354	0	5	60	0	77	0	0	0	0	0	6	502
FAYETTE	0	0	0	0	0	173	0	0	0	0	1	0	174
FLOYD	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
FOUNTAIN	0	0	196	60	14	90	0	0	3	0	4	0	367
FRANKLIN	0	0	14	0	0	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	161
FULTON	0	1	8	51	53	50	0	0	0	6	1	0	170
GIBSON	0	3	0	3	0	239	0	3	15	0	7	0	270
GRANT	0	0	0	2	0	119	0	0	0	0	2	0	123
GREENE	0	0	2	462	0	334	0	0	5	0	101	10	914
HAMILTON	0	0	5	0	0	98	1	0	19	36	1	0	160
HANCOCK	0	0	2	20	0	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	50
HARRISON	0	0	0	0	0	350	0	0	0	0	0	0	350
HENDRICKS	0	0	34	88	0	123	0	0	3	0	5	0	253
HENRY	0	0	10	0	0	185	0	0	3	0	0	1	199
HOWARD	0	0	41	0	1	158	0	0	18	0	2	0	220
HUNTINGTON	0	9	1	0	0	397	0	0	0	0	19	2	428
JACKSON	0	0	0	18	0	270	0	0	0	0	18	17	323
JASPER	0	0	0	0	31	31	0	0	36	36	0	4	138
JAY	0	0	5	0	0	156	0	0	1	0	0	0	162
JEFFERSON	0	0	6	0	28	277	17	0	0	0	6	4	338
JENNINGS	0	0	1	0	19	161	0	0	10	0	1	0	192
JOHNSON	0	0	69	129	3	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	238
KNOX	0	0	1	30	0	582	0	0	5	4	127	0	749
KOSCIUSKO	28	3	3	2	10	879	0	0	25	0	160	0	1,110
LAGRANGE	461	0	0	2	3	287	0	0	0	0	16	0	769
LAKE	0	0	22	0	12	38	0	0	0	16	0	0	88
LAPORTE	26	0	26	0	0	129	0	0	1	0	0	32	214
LAWRENCE	0	1	4	0	9	206	0	0	0	0	143	0	363
MADISON	0	0	0	1	2	59	0	0	26	0	0	0	88
MARION	0	0	0	22	0	20	2	0	0	1	4	0	49
MARSHALL	0	0	0	20	0	88	0	0	0	0	4	0	112
MARTIN	0	0	0	6	18	239	0	0	0	0	25	0	288
MIAMI	0	0	100	0	1	421	0	0	1	0	19	0	542
MONROE	0	0	5	0	0	155	0	0	0	0	5	0	165
MONTGOMERY	0	0	60	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	22	0	172
MORGAN	0	0	17	88	1	48	0	0	0	0	0	9	163
NEWTON	0	0	6	0	29	27	0	0	0	4	0	7	73
NOBLE	423	0	172	772	0	606	0	0	0	0	154	4	2,131
OHIO	0	0	0	0	7	14	0	0	0	2	2	0	25

ORANGE	0	0	1	0	0	282	0	0	0	0	32	0	315
OWEN	0	0	5	127	0	45	0	0	0	0	68	0	245
PARKE	0	1	47	214	13	132	0	0	29	0	9	0	445
PERRY	0	0	50	0	0	159	0	0	0	0	56	0	265
PIKE	0	0	1	0	22	161	0	0	0	0	29	0	213
PORTER	0	0	34	0	5	143	0	0	4	6	17	9	218
POSEY	2	2	0	0	1	163	0	0	17	0	45	20	250
PULASKI	0	0	51	0	84	45	0	0	28	0	0	7	215
PUTNAM	3	0	128	128	0	61	0	0	35	3	13	0	371
RANDOLPH	0	0	131	105	0	226	0	0	7	0	0	0	469
RIPLEY	0	0	101	0	0	560	9	0	1	5	0	0	676
RUSH	0	0	8	168	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	234
SCOTT	0	0	32	0	16	18	0	0	0	0	7	3	76
SHELBY	0	0	0	11	0	32	0	0	1	1	0	0	45
SPENCER	0	0	21	0	3	350	0	0	1	4	34	0	413
ST JOSEPH	10	0	20	57	0	86	0	0	0	2	0	4	179
STARKE	0	1	18	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	24	114
STEUBEN	111	0	0	0	9	22	0	17	7	3	2	0	171
SULLIVAN	0	2	1	15	0	212	0	0	10	0	41	0	281
SWITZERLAND	0	0	33	0	5	65	14	0	0	5	40	0	162
TIPPECANOE	0	0	56	0	0	164	1	0	6	4	34	3	268
TIPTON	1	1	0	0	1	45	0	0	21	0	3	0	72
UNION	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	1	0	24
VANDERBURGH	0	1	0	0	0	374	0	0	9	0	0	0	384
VERMILLION	0	1	16	70	13	35	0	0	44	0	5	0	184
VIGO	0	0	80	3	0	48	0	0	2	0	54	7	194
WABASH	0	5	139	1	133	899	0	0	2	0	14	0	1,193
WARREN	0	0	23	0	0	114	0	0	2	0	6	7	152
WARRICK	0	0	9	0	0	816	0	0	10	0	20	0	855
WASHINGTON	0	2	148	0	6	530	0	0	0	0	17	0	703
WAYNE	0	0	44	0	0	134	0	0	0	0	10	0	188
WELLS	0	2	109	12	0	602	0	0	4	0	8	0	737
WHITE	0	0	6	15	14	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	123
WHITLEY	0	0	33	6	0	518	0	0	21	0	63	0	641
TOTAL	1,431	35	2,653	3,159	642	19,650	66	22	643	151	1,802	248	30,502

Indiana Conservation Partnership Initiatives – Program Descriptions

AWEP – [Agricultural Water Enhancement Program](#) - The USDA Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality.

CREP – [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) - The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state natural resources conservation program that addresses agricultural-related environmental concerns at the state and national level. CREP participants receive financial incentives to voluntarily enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in contracts of 14 to 15 years. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation.

CRP - The [Conservation Reserve Program](#) is a land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

CSP - [The Conservation Stewardship Program](#) is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities and undertaking additional conservation activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers this program and provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers.

CWI – [Clean Water Indiana Program](#) - The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs. The CWI fund is administered by the Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board.

EQIP - [The Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land.

IDEM Section 205j- The federal [Clean Water Act Section 205\(j\)](#) provides funding for water quality management planning. Funds are to be used to determine the nature, extent and causes of point and nonpoint source pollution problems and to develop plans to resolve these problems.

IDEM Section 319- The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) established the [Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program](#). Section 319 addresses the need for greater federal leadership to help focus state and local nonpoint source efforts. Under Section 319, states, territories and tribes receive grant money that supports a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects.

LARE – [Lake and River Enhancement Program](#) - The goal of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement Section is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through measures that reduce non-point sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards.

OFN - The [Indiana On-Farm Network](#)[®] is a group of crop producers interested in economics, stewardship, and reducing their environmental footprint. The goal of the Indiana On-Farm Network[®] is to advance two critical components to driving improved farm-level performance:

1) access to and education on the use of effective, affordable tools and strategies to assess and verify on-farm environmental and economic performance and

2) coordination of data collection, analysis, and feedback to farmers using these tools at the individual farm level and in aggregate across multiple farms in a geographic region.

WHIP - The [Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program](#) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

WRP - The [Wetlands Reserve Program](#) is the Nation's premier wetlands restoration program. It is a voluntary program that offers landowners the means and the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) manages the program as well as provides technical and financial support to help landowners that participate in WRP.

Indiana Conservation Partnership Websites:

[Indiana Conservation Partnership](#) - The Partnership is comprised of eight Indiana agencies and organizations who share a common goal of promoting conservation. To that end, the mission of the Indiana Conservation Partnership is to provide technical, financial and educational assistance needed to implement economically and environmentally compatible land and water stewardship decisions, practices and technologies.

[Indiana Conservation Partnership Reports](#) - Here you can find statewide and county level information on conservation investments made with local, state and federal funding. You can view funding levels, funding specific programs and counties, and county level success stories for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The statewide information page and each county page can be printed as a pdf document.

Ag and Environmental Affairs

State Soil Conservation Board Meeting – July 31, 2014

Meg Leader

On Farm Network

- OFN wrapped up 2014 registration this month with over 700 fields enrolled in the program. This year about 265 growers are enrolled in the program compared to 217 last year.
- Aerial images of the 2014 fields are currently being flown as well as the CCSI fields and some of the Purdue University's research fields.
- On June 25, I presented summary of 2013 results at Nathan Stoelting's regional SWCD meeting. I also discussed future expansion of the project in the area. A number of counties requested information about starting programs in their area.
- On July 10, I took a portion of the OFN Group Leaders to Iowa to receive further training from the Iowa Soybean Association.



Pictured from left to right are Ben Reinhart, Clinton Co. SWCD, Lori Galloway, Fountain Co. SWCD, Dan Perkins, Jasper Co. SWCD, Ashley Brucker, Pulaski Co. SWCD, Debbie Barnett, Parke Co. SWCD, Stacey McGinnis, Noble Co. SWCD, Julie Morris, ISDA, Eric Shideler, Vermillion Co. SWCD, and Meg Leader, ISDA. Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance sponsored the SWCD employees so they could attend the workshop free of charge. The workshop in Iowa was also attended by representatives from Missouri, Minnesota and the Soil Health Partnership.

- Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance hosted Tracy Blackmer over July 17 and 18 so that he could work with Hans Kok, Dan Towery and myself on improving our understanding of OFN.
- ISDA is hosting a training for OFN Group Leaders and sampling crews on August 18 to help standardize CSNT sampling methods.

Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Program

- Site visits were conducted on the top five finalists' farms based on their initial application. The 2014 winner and runner-up will be announced at their Growers' Field Day on August 5.

SSCB July 2014 Meeting

Accountability & Technology Report - Deb Fairhurst

ICP Conservation Workload

- Due to changes in the 2014 Farm Bill language, I removed all conservation workload maps from the ISDA and SWCD SharePoint sites. I also emailed the SWCDs notifying them of the security changes and requested they destroy any conservation workload maps they had saved or printed.
- Conducted GIS analysis on 2013 ICP completed conservation practices. Created an aggregated map which featured the number of completed practices by county. Created an Excel spreadsheet which reflected the total practices completed by county based on program funding. Created a list of program funding definitions which included links to the ICP website and ICP Reports web application. All documents were attached in a PDF document and will be posted on the ISDA and SWCD SharePoint sites, as well as on the Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy web page.
- Currently waiting on USDA national server issues to be resolved. Once corrected, Chris Morse will provide me the 2013 NRCS conservation practices including the tract number. I will filter the practices requiring Region 5 Model analyses by county and create spreadsheets which will be posted to the ISDA SharePoint site. Resource Specialists will cross reference the spreadsheets with their current SharePoint Conservation Practice entries and enter the results of the Region 5 Model analyses they have already conducted. Once completed, they will conduct the Region 5 Model analyses on the remainder practices.

ICP Reports Web Application

- Created ICP Report status maps for the years 2010 thru 2013. DSSs are utilizing these maps to coordinate and assist SWCDs with posting their success stories
- Assisted several SWCDs with their WebCMS issues
- Posted several SWCD success stories and photos
- ICP Reports Status:
 - 2010 - 72 Counties submitted their success stories
 - 2011 - 56 Counties submitted their success stories
 - 2012 - 68 Counties submitted their success stories
 - 2013 - 48 Counties submitted their success stories

Clean Water Indiana

- Coordinated with Jennifer Pinkston to upload the 2014 CWI Grant Report to SharePoint.
- Participated in the DSS meeting to discuss and prepare the 2015 CWI grants guidance documentation.
- Provided Kyleen, Tammy, Beth and Mitzi permissions to access the ISDA and SWCD SharePoint sites. They will be able to access all Clean Water Indiana and CREP grant information.

ISDA-District Support Specialists Team Activity Report (May 15- July 16, 2014)

Major Activities or Events:

- DSSs and NRCS hosted four meetings statewide and one conference call about the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program. DSSs assisted six groups who submitted proposals. The Western Lake Erie Basin group alone is requesting \$20 million for the tri-state area, with Indiana's partners coming up with \$4 million in match thus far!
- Continued planning for the August 26th Chair/Vice-Chair workshop, in partnership with IASWCD and SSCB. This year topics will focus on human resources.
- The CWI grant audit process was developed. Geneva and Jen Pinkston completed the first audit and it was successful for the SWCD and ISDA. 10 grants will be reviewed by year's end covering years 2011-2-14.
- Tara has been working with Janet Ayres on a new Leadership Institute level, "Conflict"
- Updating chapters of the District Operation Manual (scheduled to be completed by July 31st)
- Nathan and Laura hosted at LARE/319 workshop geared towards SWCDs and 37 were in attendance
- Nathan hosted a Regional SWCD Staff meeting. 14 counties/32 people were in attendance.

Ongoing Key Support:

- Board Meetings: DSSs have attended 33 SWCD Board meetings in the following counties and assisted with various topics- Benton, Cass, Clay, Crawford, Decatur, Dubois, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Hamilton, Harrison, Howard, Jasper, LaPorte, Lake, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, Noble, Orange, Perry, Porter, Randolph, Scott, Sullivan, Washington, Wayne, Wells, White, & Whitley
- Business Plans: Tara assisted Randolph & Switzerland Co SWCDs as they updated their business plans
- SWCD Staff visits: DSSs visited staff and provided training, assistance with various projects or tasks, and provided guidance (Blackford, Boone, Brown, Crawford, Grant, Jefferson, Lake, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, Newton, Owen, Tippecanoe, Washington)
- New Staff Training: Laura provided new staff training in Floyd Co, Tara/Jennifer in Adams Co, and Geneva in Montgomery Co
- New Supervisor Training: Geneva provided training to Cass and Howard Counties
- DSSs have been assisting various SWCDs and the SSCB with issues and topics tying to the Clean Water Indiana grants program
- Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative: Laura, Tara and Nathan continue to provide support to this program as they work with their Hubs and Hub Leadership Teams, and associated roles
- DSSs assisted SWCDs in getting District Success Stories submitted to the ICP website
- Sent tillage transect data sheets to SWCDs and Partners upon request. Nathan assisted with the Greene Co transect.

Committees and Advisory Roles: DSSs have been involved serving on various committees and accomplishing related tasks. They've also served in advisory roles at several key events.

- Tara: 2014 IDEA Fall Conference , Water Quality Trading, & Leadership Institute
- Laura: ICP Training and Certification Program (including tasks tying to upcoming raingarden and conservation selling skills workshop, and the recently released Individual Development Inventories) and the Media and Presentation Skills
- Nathan: Pathway to Water Quality, including setting up water system, seeding more cover crops, planting corn, fertilizing, and watering demo area. Got site ready for July NACD Tour.
- Geneva: Farmers helping Urban Farmers & Conservationists, SSCB duties, & IASWCD 2015 Annual Conference

- Jennifer: Western Lake Erie Basin

Other Key Items:

- Tara met with Randolph Co and LARE staff to pursue a grant for Log Jam removals on Mississinwa River
- Geneva, Jasper Co supervisors, and Dan Perkins met with St. Jo College representatives about potentially partnering on a long-term project to manage farm ground
- Planning for the upcoming September, November, and December Leadership Institutes
- Geneva created a “Budget Tool” document for Newton Co, and has been assisting two counties with Supervisor Recruitment strategies. She also assisted a district in completing the self assessment, Measures of Excellence
- Laura attended the Southeast Region NACD meeting in Louisville, and picked up some good ideas for both future speakers and concepts that could be adopted in Indiana

Upcoming Events:

- August 26: SWCD Chair/Vice-Chair Summer Summit, Indianapolis
- September 5 & 6: Leadership Institute, “Board Development”, French Lick (Lead DSS: Laura)
- November: Leadership Institute, “Conflict”
- December 12 & 13: Leadership Institute, “Leadership in Change”, Lafayette (Lead DSS: Geneva)

**Note: due to the large amount of data summarized, errors or omissions may exist.*

ICP Training and Certification Program Team and the \$25k SSCB Grant

- Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC): August 13, Hendricks Co
- Certified Erosion Sediment Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI): August 14: Hendricks Co
- Raingarden Trainings Scheduled with Rusty Schmidt
 - Monday, September 15: Johnson Co, Beginner Workshop
 - Tuesday, September 16: Delaware Co, Intermediate Workshop
 - Wednesday, September 17: Tippecanoe Co, Intermediate Workshop
 - Thursday, September 18: Vanderburgh Co, Intermediate Workshop
 - Friday, September 19: Dubois Co, Intermediate Workshop
 - Saturday, September 20: Clark Co, Intermediate Workshop
- Conservation Selling Skills Workshops Scheduled with Chuck Hitzemann
 - November 5: Lawrence Co
 - November 6: Miami Co
 - November 7: Marion Co area
- Individual Development Inventories were released to ICP employees in May. This training needs inventory had 245 respondents from six agencies (including SWCDs). 80 SWCD staff responded.

Summary of SWCD Training Needs 2014 from Individual Development Inventories (Top 15)		
Rank	Subject	# of Times Requested
1	Weed ID	33
2	Website management	31
3	Rain Gardens	29
4	Grant writing and reporting	28
5	Soil Testing & Interpreting Results	27
6	NRCS Customer Service Toolkit	26
7	GIS - ArcView	25
7	Wetland Plant ID	25
8	Tree & Shrub ID	24
9	Backyard Conservation / Wildlife	23
9	How to set up a cost-share program	23
9	How to talk to producers - "selling conservation"	23
10	Pasture & Range Forage ID	21
10	Marketing/Media	21
11	Conservation Planning	19
12	Soil Survey - Using for Planning	18
12	Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation	18
12	Pasture Management	18
12	Conservation Programs	18
13	Soil Properties & Interpretations	17
13	Septic System O&M	17
13	Desktop Publishing	17
13	Quickbooks	17
14	Herbaceous Weed Control	16
14	Pest Management	16
14	Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control	16
14	Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality	16
14	Construction Erosion & Sediment Control	16
14	Green Building	16
14	Project WET, WILD, Learning Tree	16
14	Grant writing	16
14	Load reductions/modeling	16
15	Composting Facility	15
15	GPS	15
15	USLE or RUSLE Evaluation	15
15	Forest Health Assessment	15
15	Stormwater Management	15
15	Who does that?/ where to go for help	15

Summary of Returned Indiana Conservation Partnership's 2014 "Individual Development Inventories"

Name of Agency & Number of Employee Respondents (245 total respondents)

Agency:	FSA	IDEM	IDNR	ISDA	NRCS	SWCD
# of Respondents:	30	9	9	27	90	80

Number of Times A Training Subject or Objective was Identified as Needed by Employees (Top 15 Subjects out of 154)

RANK	SUBJECT	# OF TIMES REQUESTED	% CHANGE SINCE 2011
1	Weed ID	69	12%
2	Wetland Plant ID	67	9%
3	Tree & Shrub ID	55	3%
4	Conservation Planning	49	-4%
5	Wetland Restoration	47	0%
5	Rain Gardens	47	5%
6	Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation	46	2%
7	Wetland Creation	45	2%
8	Soil Testing & Interpreting Results	44	1%
8	Pasture & Range Forage ID	44	3%
8	Forest Health Assessment	44	9%
9	USLE or RUSLE Evaluation	42	-4%
9	How to talk to producers - "selling conservation"	42	1%
10	NRCS Customer Service Toolkit	41	0%
10	Website management	41	6%
11	GIS - ArcView	40	-4%
11	Forestland Management	40	4%
12	Grant writing and reporting	39	3%
13	Waste Storage Facility	38	1%
13	Backyard Conservation / Wildlife	38	3%
14	Denitrifying Bioreactor	37	7%
14	Timber Production Assessment	37	9%
14	Septic System O&M	37	6%
15	Herbaceous Weed Control	36	4%
15	Drainage Water Management	36	-2%
15	Nutrient Management	36	-7%
15	Pasture Management	36	-1%
15	Aquatic Habitat Restoration	36	4%

SSCB 2014 July Meeting**Technical Assistance Report – Mike Johnson/Deb Fairhurst****Field Staff Activities***January 1, 2013 – July 18, 2014*

Resource Specialist Activities	Total
SWCD Board Meetings	187
ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars, etc.	247
Field Days	86
Training	233
Conservation Planning	206
Survey, Design and Inspections	723
Construction	186
Public Interaction	14,292
CREP – Met with Landowners	65
SWCD Annual Meetings	33
FAC Meetings	2
CCSI Activities	10
IDEM 319 Meetings	2
OFN Activities	33
Watershed Steering Committee Activitiy	24
Tillage Transect Activities	15

DSC Conservation Workload*January 1, 2013 – July 23, 2014*

Action	Currently Reported
Technical Assistance	1,076
Practices Underway	189
Completed Practices	60
Practice Acres	841
Practice Feet	60,960
Field Acres	2,350
Nitrogen Reduction	6,149 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	3,091 lbs.
Sediment Reduction	2,928 tons
Total Watersheds (HUC8) Impacted	25

IDEM Report to SSCB
31 July 2014

Monitoring

- National Water Quality Monitoring Initiative: IDEM began sampling in April at 2 fixed stations in the School Branch watershed and is currently working to determine if it can provide 319 (h) grant dollars for some of the O & M and personnel expenses for the Edge of Field monitoring. IDEM will look at either 205(j) or 319(h) dollars to fund the USGS sentry gage in future years. Also, IDEM's Groundwater section installed ground water monitoring wells for this project to help determine the extent of groundwater/surface water interaction.
- Watershed Characterization sampling for local watershed planning & TMDL development is underway in the Southern Whitewater and the Mississinewa watersheds. Sampling will begin in the South Fork Blue River this fall. Due to other IDEM monitoring needs, no new watershed planning projects will be done in 2015.
- Performance Measures for watershed restoration: the fish and macroinvertebrate sampling in Hogan's and Tanner's creeks is 25% complete.

NPS Program

- Applications for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Section 319 Grant Solicitation are due September 2, 2014. Electronic submittals must be received by IDEM by the close of business on September 2, 2014, and the mailed copy must be postmarked no later than September 2, 2014.
- Staff is working on the 319 Annual Report to be submitted to EPA by September 1st.

State Conservationist's Report

August 2014

Farm Bill Updates

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - Indiana received nine pre proposals for projects which have been ranked and sent into national headquarters. Those selected will be notified to proceed with a full proposal. Full proposals are due Sept. 26. Pre proposals for projects in USDA designated critical conservation areas or that are national in scope have been submitted to NHQ for ranking. Information on the program can be found at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/programs/farmbill/rcpp/>

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - Reminder: existing contracts can renew and adjust their conservation plans through September 12, 2014. More information is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/news/in/newsroom/releases/>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Applications will be selected for funding by August 8, and funded participants will be notified as soon as possible.

NACD Summer Meeting – Focus on Soil Health - The NACD's summer meeting, [Soil Health Forum and Conservation Tour](#), was held in Indiana in July and was a huge success with over 300 participants. Special thanks to several of our champion soil health farmers who hosted conservation tours (Starkey/Maloney, Rulon, and Legan/Britton). Special thanks also to the many SWCD, ISDA, NRCS staff and other partners that assisted.

Pathway to Water Quality - Indiana's Conservation Partnership will be staffing the exhibit August 1-17. This year we will have demonstrations such as soil health, rainfall simulator, earthworms, invasive plants, and water history interpreters on key days (August 8, August 13 and Saturdays). We still need workers – especially on the weekends. Sign up at the ICP website http://pwq.iaswcd.org/PWQ2014_list.php. You can [read about the different areas of Pathway](#). See you at the fair!

NRCS Civil Rights Review - As a reminder, the Indiana NRCS will have a national Civil Rights Review August 4-8, 2014. The national review team will visit the following offices, and have requested that at least one SWCD Board member and one landowner be available for interviews (in person or by phone). District Conservationists will be working with the SWCDs to arrange these interviews.

- Bluffton Service Center
- Booneville Service Center
- Brazil Service Center
- Charlestown Service Center
- Colombia City Service Center
- Columbus Service Center
- Decatur Service Center
- Fowler Service Center
- Fort Wayne Service Center
- Indiana State Office, Indianapolis
- Lebanon Service Center
- Logansport Service Center
- Monticello Service Center
- Richmond Service Center
- Salem Service Center
- Wabash Service Center
- Williamsport Service Center

Feral Swine - Indiana is one of 39 states with a growing feral swine population. Populations are on the rise in southern Indiana causing significant damage to property and wildlife habitat. Feral swine are a major concern to the agricultural community because wild hogs can cause extensive damage to agricultural crops, landscaping, are a source of disease for domestic livestock, and will prey on young livestock and small animals. Feral swine may carry a number of diseases that can also infect people, contaminate human food sources, and water supplies.

Feral swine are also a destructive exotic, invasive species threatening native Indiana wildlife and their habitats. The eggs and young of ground nesting animals, including many songbirds, quail, wild turkey, and rabbits are extremely vulnerable to wild hog predation. Feral swine are also extremely destructive to wetlands and water resources, negatively impacting amphibian and reptile habitat. The rooting of wild hogs can cause serious damage to habitat management practices to develop nesting cover and annual food plots. The rooting and wallowing activities of wild hogs often destroy native plants, flowers, and mushrooms.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has received a grant to work with states with populations of feral swine to address problems and control or eradicate feral swine populations. Integrated management solutions may include exclusion, population management and removal of animals, and innovative approaches and tools generated by research. Here in Indiana:

- APHIS has implemented a five year integrated management project in Indiana that provides for a staff person. This employee will provide training to state, federal, and county government employees as well as provide landowners with information and resources. This position will be located in south central Indiana.
- NRCS will collaborate with APHIS to provide training to field employees as well as Indiana Conservation partners about the growing swine issue and how to recognize and report swine activity.
- NRCS field staff will provide reports of feral swine activity to APHIS and others such as the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
- NRCS will promote the collaborative effort and provide information to private landowners.

Watershed Rehabilitation and Assessments - USDA announced national funding for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program on July 18th. None of the seven rehabilitation projects submitted for Indiana were funded, but we did receive funding for 17 assessments. Below is a link to the press release and also a link to a video from Oklahoma with the announcement and details of the funding.

Press Release

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAO/bulletins/c5034d>

Video of Announcement

The video from last Friday's announcement is now available on our YouTube channel. Here's the link: <http://youtu.be/8656GaCZHY0>. Feel free to share it around with anyone who's interested.

The list of funded projects for Rehabilitation and Assessments can be found at the NRCS website links below:

Assessment List-Watershed Rehabilitation Website

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landscape/wr/?cid=stelprdb1257399#IN>

Rehabilitation List-Watershed Rehabilitation Website

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landscape/wr/?cid=stelprdb1257659>

Letters will be going to sponsors from the State Conservationist letting them know if they were or were not funded and next steps for the agreements to complete assessments.

Mark Your Calendar – The 2015 Indiana Small Farms Conference is March 5-7, 2015 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds.

INDIANA CORN & SOYBEAN *review*[®]

SUMMER 2014

What to Expect in 2014?

*What farmers should be on the lookout
for in their fields this year.*

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Indiana Soybean Alliance, 5730 West 74 Street, Indianapolis, IN 46278-1754



Meg Leader

Agricultural and Environmental
Affairs Program Manager
Division of Soil Conservations,
Indiana State Dept. of Agriculture
mleader@isda.in.gov
www.in.gov/isda/ofn

Images Provide INSIGHT

Last summer I had the opportunity to climb into a friend's little two-seater airplane. He wanted to scout the extent of downed corn due to a recent wind storm, but I was more interested in expanding my understanding of what could be seen from the air. Before we took off, he carefully strapped his camera to the outside of the plane and explained that he had rigged a trigger inside which allowed him to control the shutter; he not only wanted to be able to see the damage, he wanted those photos for his records.

The images he collected matched what he could see himself. When we collect images for the fields enrolled in the Indiana On Farm Network (OFN), we use a much more sophisticated camera that not only takes basic color photos that match what you would see if you were up in the plane, but also takes images at additional wavelengths creating pictures with more information than can be seen with the naked eye.

At the Winter Grower Meetings for OFN participants, there are four images supplied for each field: Enhanced Color, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Near Infrared (NIR) and True Color. Each field receives a printed report at the meeting. The printed report, and most of the discussion, focuses on the Enhanced Color image.

The Enhanced Color image is created when the True Color image-- what you would have seen if you were in the plane with the camera-- is processed in a way that highlights areas of nitrogen stress. The Enhanced Color image doesn't tell us directly what caused the nitrogen stress, but when combined with the field's management history and environmental factors, it is possible to reach some conclusions.

The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). NDVI has been used for over 20 years to predict agriculture

production based on linking the NDVI values to relative photosynthesis. Because of how NDVI is calculated, the effect of localized and current conditions -- like field topography and illumination -- is minimized. The colors of the NDVI image ranges from green (good) to red (bad); and while the image is taken at pollination, the patterns will often match the yield monitor when the field is harvested.

OFN's NIR images indicate the relative vegetation density of the field with the darkest red areas correlating to the thickest leaf layers. NIR is able to differentiate between areas with as many as eight leaf layers, so while your eye may see a closed canopy, the NIR image will tell you if your field is in fact uniform.

In addition to receiving multiple field images, OFN participants receive them in multiple formats, including jpegs which can be opened on any computer. It is possible to enlarge an image to the point that details in a single row of corn are visible. So, while your yield monitor at harvest is averaging across however many rows wide your combine collects, these images will let you discern details connected to a single applicator knife or a single row in your planter. The images are also available as geo-referenced files that (with the right software) can be imported into your monitor and used to address ongoing issues in the field.

At the Winter Grower Meetings, the meeting facilitator works with growers to better understand the factors affecting crop yields. From the aerial imagery information, they discuss historic cropping patterns that suggest compaction from equipment or past manure applications. If the field is tilled, it is possible to see how effective the tiling is or if there are areas that could benefit from additional lines. Patterns suggesting planter skips or application issues are reviewed to determine which piece of equipment would benefit from some adjustments.

It is important to note that aerial imagery does not eliminate the need for scouting. Indiana OFN uses imagery to look for systematic issues that are impacting the field's ability to produce high yields. Many of the issues that we see are addressed with management or equipment modifications that can have lasting impact.



These paired images are from a field that was planted in 2013 with two hybrids in a split planter. The image on the right is the NDVI, while the left is the NIR image.