

State Soil Conservation Board

Meeting Sign-In

Date May 22

Location Prophetstown

Name/Agency

TREVOR LAUREYS ISDA

Leah Harmon ISDA

Brian Wolff IDEM

Aleg Leader ISDA

Cress Hizer INAg /swed

Jane Handberg NRCS

Ry Chitt

Key Blum

Robert Lawson NRCS

Lisa Holscher CCSI

Amy Work IASWCD

Geneva Tyler ISDA

Nathan Staeltling ISDA

Name/Agency

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**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**May 22, 2017**  
**Prophetstown**

- I. 9:30 a.m.: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of March 2017**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon
  - b. Clean Water Indiana Budget- Jordan Seger
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
  - a. SSCB Chairman’s Report-Robert Woodling
  - b. Executive Committee Report
  - c. Prophetstown and State Park Overview- Jason Getz and Nola Gentry
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - a. Owen County- Nathan Stoelting
  - b. Owen County- Nathan Stoelting
- VI. 10 Minute Break**
- VII. ISDA Updates**
  - a. Director’s Report- Jordan Seger
  - b. Technical Report- George Reger
  - c. Soil Health-Meg Leader
  - d. Accountability and Technology- Trevor Laureys
  - e. District Support-Geneva Tyler
  - f. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold
- VIII. Conservation Partner Reports**
  - a. IASWCD Report
  - b. IDEM Report
  - c. DNR Report
  - d. Purdue Report
  - e. FSA Report
  - f. NRCS Report
  - g. CCSI Report
  - h. IDEA Report
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**  
**2017 Meeting Dates**
  - July 25- NRCS State Office
  - September 19- NRCS State Office

October 31- TBD

**XI. Adjourn**

**\*\*\*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.



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 22, 2017  
Clean Water Indiana Grants



## Program Updates

### Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

2018

- Guidance and Application are now posted on the ISDA website.  
<http://in.gov/isda/2374.htm>
- FAQ Page has been posted on the site as well.
- Outreach
- CWI Info Sessions
  - May 11<sup>th</sup>: Indianapolis
  - May 17<sup>th</sup>: Corydon
  - May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Rochester
- CWI and Coffee
  - May 4<sup>th</sup>: Princeton
  - May 19<sup>th</sup>: Jasper
  - Others are being scheduled around grant reviews and by request.
- Normandy Barn hours during state fair.

### Annual Financial Report Grants

- All 92 SWCDs received at least part of the \$10,000 match.
- All districts returned their grant agreement by the April 28<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  - Due to the new electronic grant process we needed contracts submitted by this date so that funds did not roll over to FY 2018.
  - These payments also included any training reimbursement funds awarded since last year.
- The new administration has determined that going forward, these will be considered direct disbursements rather than grants because the funding mechanism is in code. We will not have to process grant agreements starting in 2018. This greatly reduces the paperwork and confusion for districts.

### Grant Reviews

- Since the March SSCB meeting, we have completed one grant review.
  - The project completed in early 2017 ahead of schedule. All records are in order and no action is needed.
- The remaining 9 grant reviews are scheduled for this summer.



# State Soil Conservation Board



May 22, 2017

ISDA – DSC Director’s Report

Jordan Seger

## Legislative Session

### CONSERVATION:

-No cigarette tax increase

- Positive for CWI as it wasn’t going to get any cut of increase anyways

-The Division of Soil Conservation got an extra 116k per year of dedicated cigarette tax funds

- The DSC portion of the Cig tax fund was increased
- The first time new \$ to the DSC in at least 6 years
- These new \$ are intended to absorb two 100% EPA funded DSC, Western Lake Erie Basin positions (funded until Nov) into permanent status with the DSC

-Additional \$1 million general fund appropriation to CWI unsuccessful

- The original \$1 million general fund appropriation remains in the budget – CWI grant \$ amount will look similar to years past
- Many SWCDs made legislative visits in Indy and at home – those SWCDs should be commended for this outreach

### AGRICULTURE

-250k general fund appropriation for IN Grown, housed within ISDA

-Elimination of sales tax on field tile

-Elimination of some equipment taxes Ag Retailers had to pay

-\$1.2 billion for infrastructure with some going directly to rural roads and bridges

## Budget – FY17 End (As of 5/17)

### Clean Water Indiana

- Total Budget: \$4,133,652      Remaining Balance (Rollover into FY 18): \$48,461 or 1.2%
  - Note: SSCB offered 40k CWI grant to Jackson SWCD but offer did not come to fruition

### Division of Soil Conservation

- Total Budget: \$1,262,144      Remaining Balance (Rollover into FY18): \$10,884 or 0.8%

## SWCD Business Planning

- Phil Anderson contracted (with ISDA funds) to develop tools to improve SWCD planning - testing completed in six SWCD pilot sessions
- DSS Team working with Phil to refine tools and then share with the SSCB, IASWCD, and ICP Leaders

## DSC Staffing

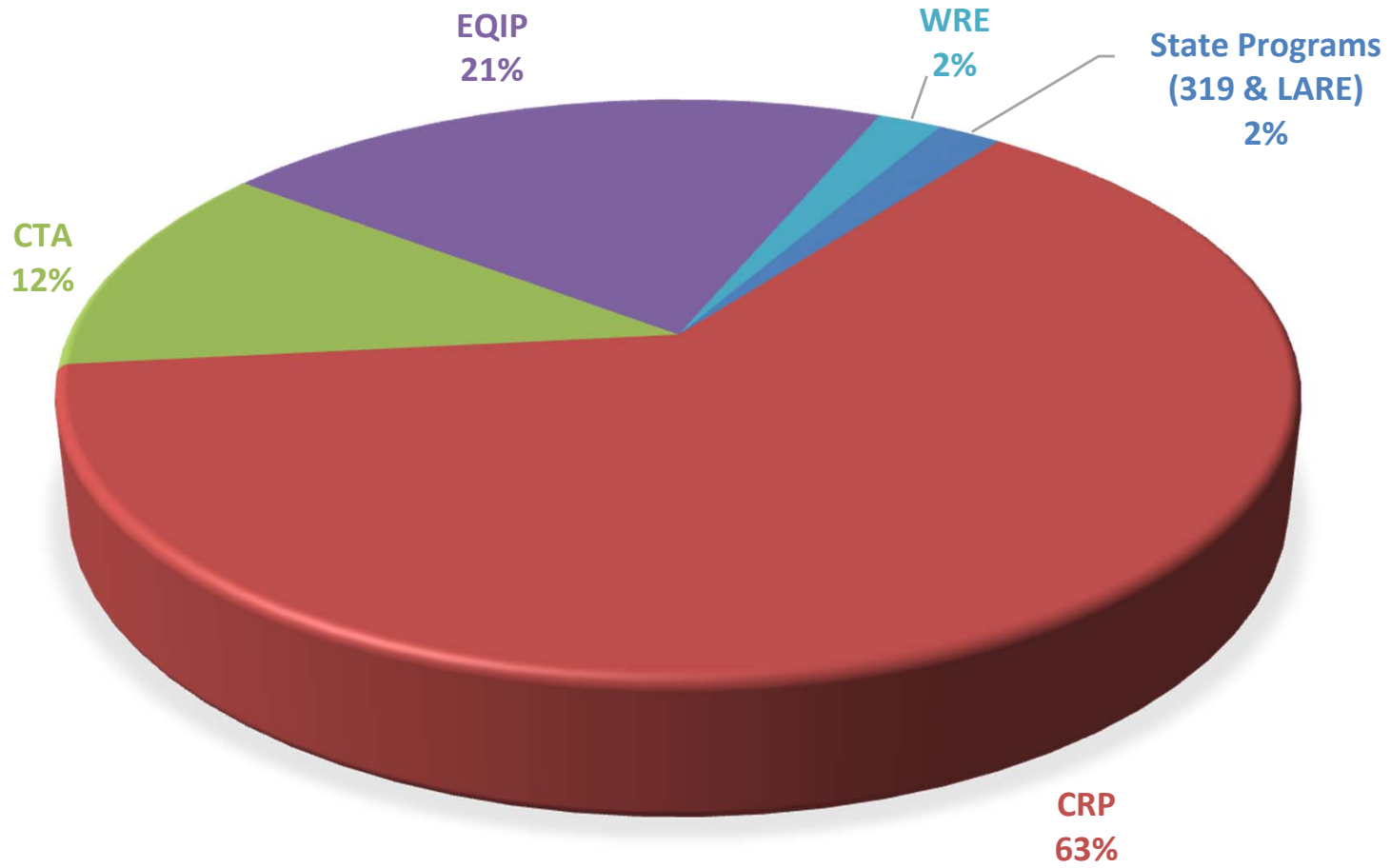
- DSC Summer Intern Wesley Hauser starts May 22. Currently in Graduate school at IU Wes will focus most of his summer improving conservation benefit metrics and modeling
- New SE Resource Specialist Jason Kirchhoff starts June 5<sup>th</sup> in Greensburg. Jason graduates end of May with a Biology degree from DePauw University
- NE Resource Specialist based in Huntington to be filled with an internal candidate in November.
- Two limited duration WLEB Resource Specialists (EPA funded) will become permanent (DSC funded) positions in November

## 2016 ICP

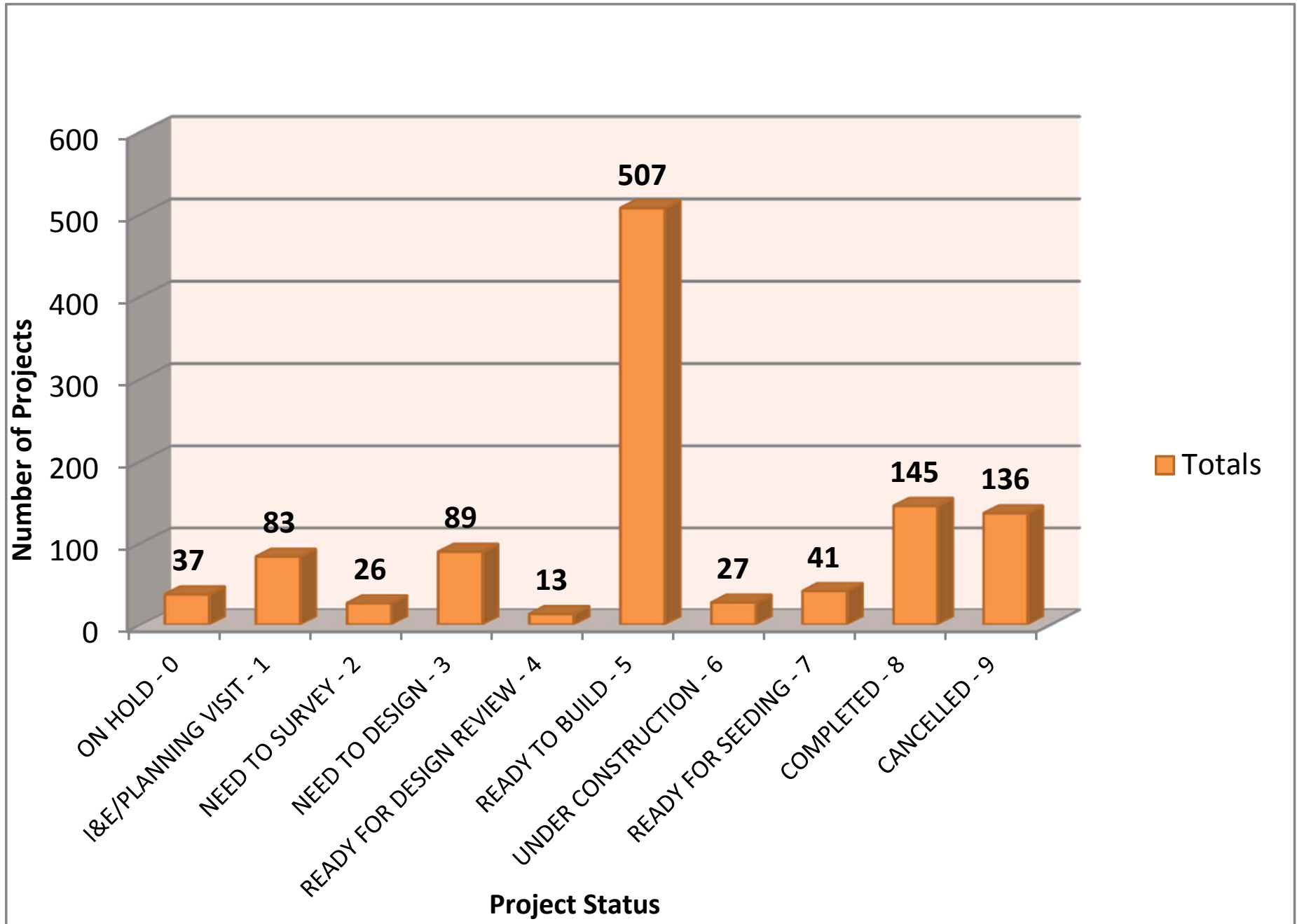
Accomplishments: <http://www.in.gov/isda/files/2016%20ICP%20Conservation%20Accomplishments%20Report.pdf>

[in.gov/isda](http://www.in.gov/isda)

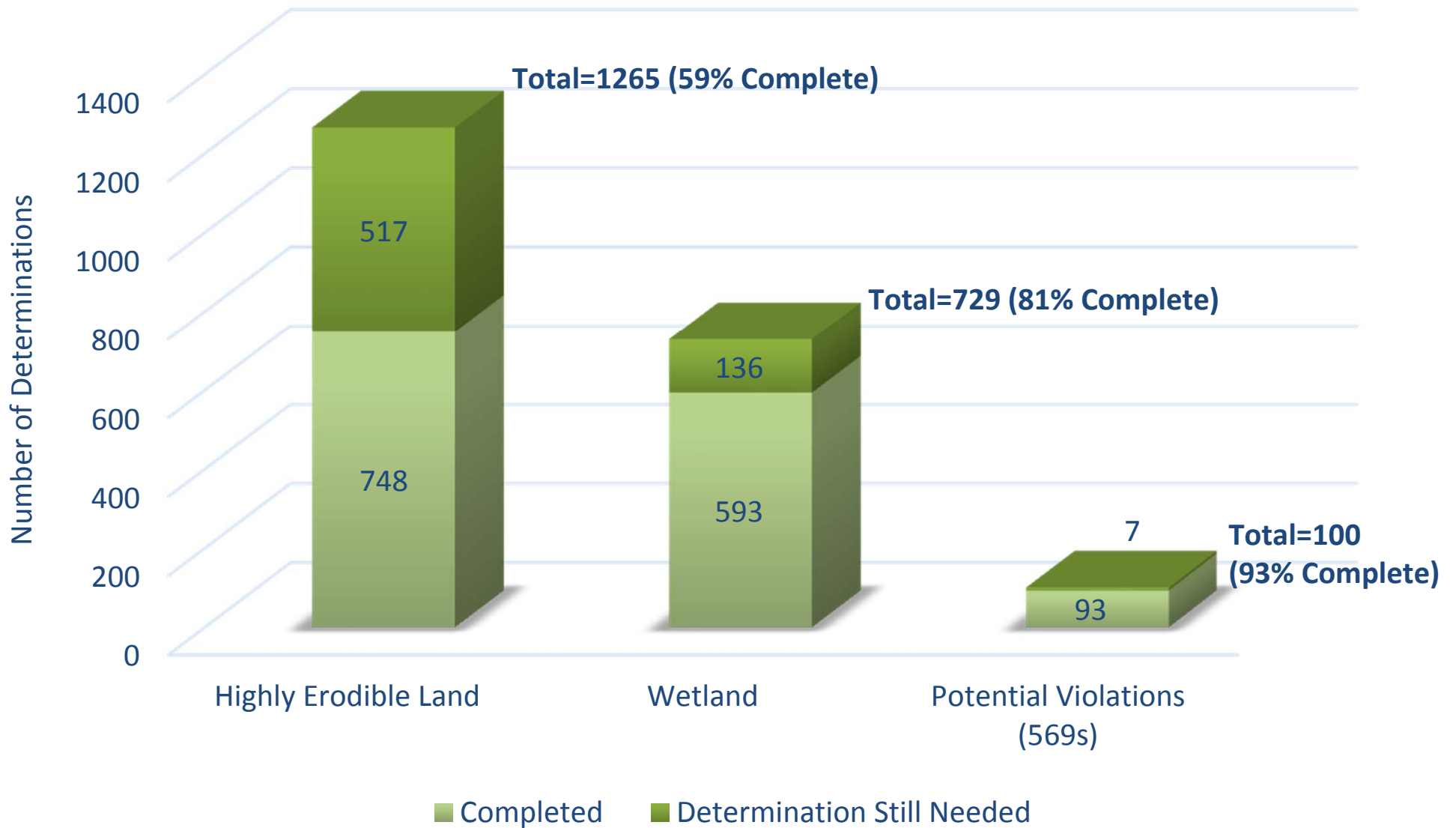
# ENGINEERING JOBS PER PROGRAM



# Northwest Area Engineering Project Status



# Northwest HEL & Wetland Compliance





# State Soil Conservation Board

May 22, 2017

Director of Soil Health



## Program Updates

### ➤ INfield Advantage

- 2017 registration is open. We are expecting about 1,100 corn fields to be registered. Registration will close June 16 (south) and June 30 (north) with another week where groups can add a spare field or two.
- The End of Summer/Fall staff trainings, and to pick up stalk sampling supplies are scheduled for August 10 and September 11. The meeting focus will be scouting.
- Last year's Indiana Pork INfield Advantage Project had some issues outside of the group in Wabash County. Geneva Tyler is joining INFA to cover Special Projects and she'll be managing the additional sampling this year.
- We are anticipating changing how some project pieces are produced this year, primarily imagery collection and report generation, and we should see some significant program savings from the changes.
- We received authorization to offer a basic soybean program this year. All participants will be able to enroll one field. The final protocols are still being settled. If everyone enrolls a field, we'll have about 400 soybean fields.
- The next round of Winter Grower Meetings will include piloting a new format. The new format will be used for a limited number of meetings. Indiana Corn and Soy will host a regional lunch where general data will be presented and then the groups attending will break out into separate grower meetings. These regional meetings are scheduled for December.
- We have four fields enrolled in the NCSRP Multi-state On-Farm Partnership Project. This will be our third attempt to participate and hopefully this year will be successful. Mike Starkey with Dan Towery's assistance put in all four trials.

### ➤ Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- Completed sampling training with all HUB teams.
- Core Cover Crops and Core Soil Health Systems trainings were held in early April. A total of nearly 85 people attended the four sessions.
- Held an Urban Soil Health Training for NE Indiana.



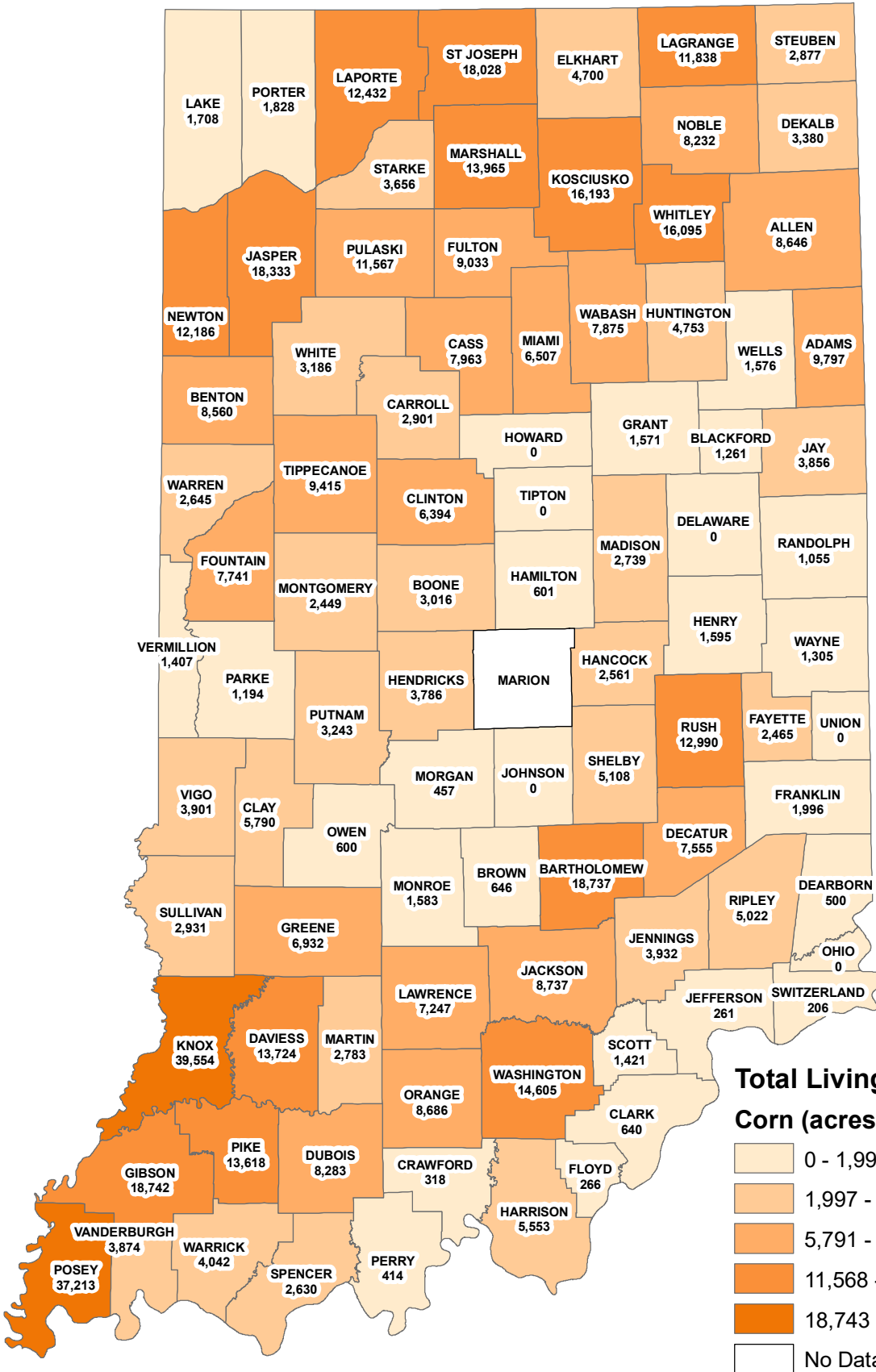
- Selected a facilitator for strategic planning and developing interview questions and participation lists.
- Developing an Advanced Soil Health Systems training in early August with Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter and Blake Vince
- Regular communication articles are being picked up by districts for inclusion in their newsletters and elsewhere.
- 

➤ **Red Gold Tomato Conservation Stewardship Award**

- The 2017 Stewardship Award program received 46, out of 48, applications from Red Gold growers. This is the highest percentage of participation yet.
- This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the award and we are discussing how to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.
- For the March grower meetings, where the award application process begins, ISDA sponsored a presentation by Anna Morrow, MCCC, explaining how to use the MCCC Cover Crop tool.
- Site visits of the five finalists will be conducted by Dave Lefforge and myself in late June.
- The winner and runner-up will be announced at Red Gold's Grower Meeting the first week of August.



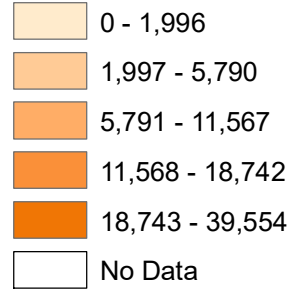
# 2016 Living Covers Planted in Corn



**Statewide, 9.8% (560,000 acres) of corn acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.**

## Total Living Covers Planted

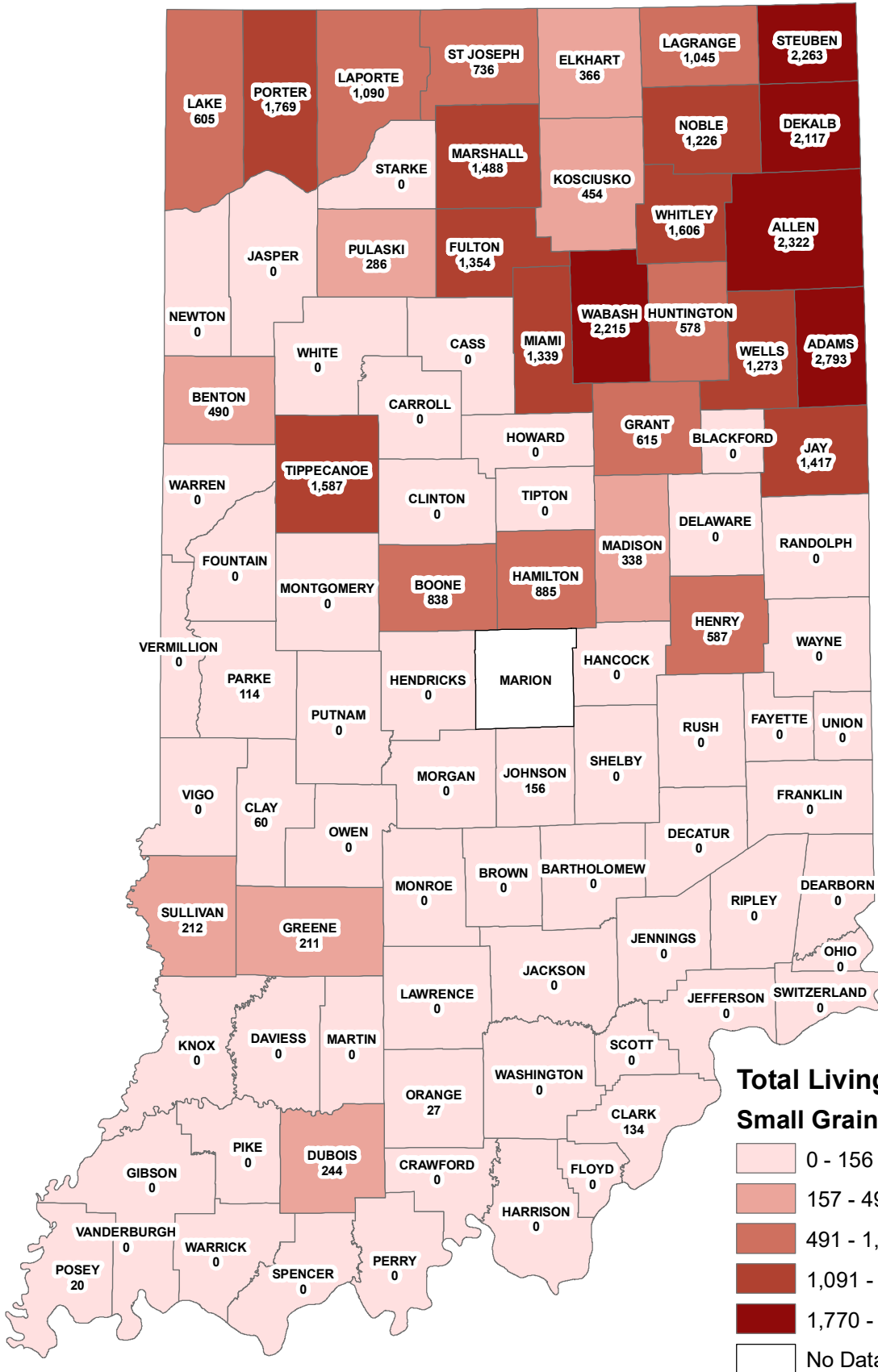
### Corn (acres)



Data is based on the 2016 NASS Cropland Data Layer.  
 May 1, 2017  
 Trevor Laureys, ISDA Resource Specialist

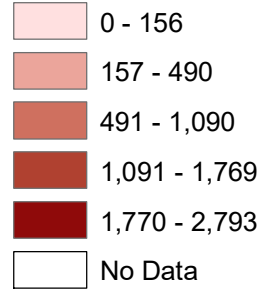
For more information, visit the Conservation Tillage Program web page at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>, or contact the Indiana State Department of Agriculture at [ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov](mailto:ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov).

# 2016 Total Living Covers Planted in Small Grains



**Statewide, 20% (34,000 acres) of small grain acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.**

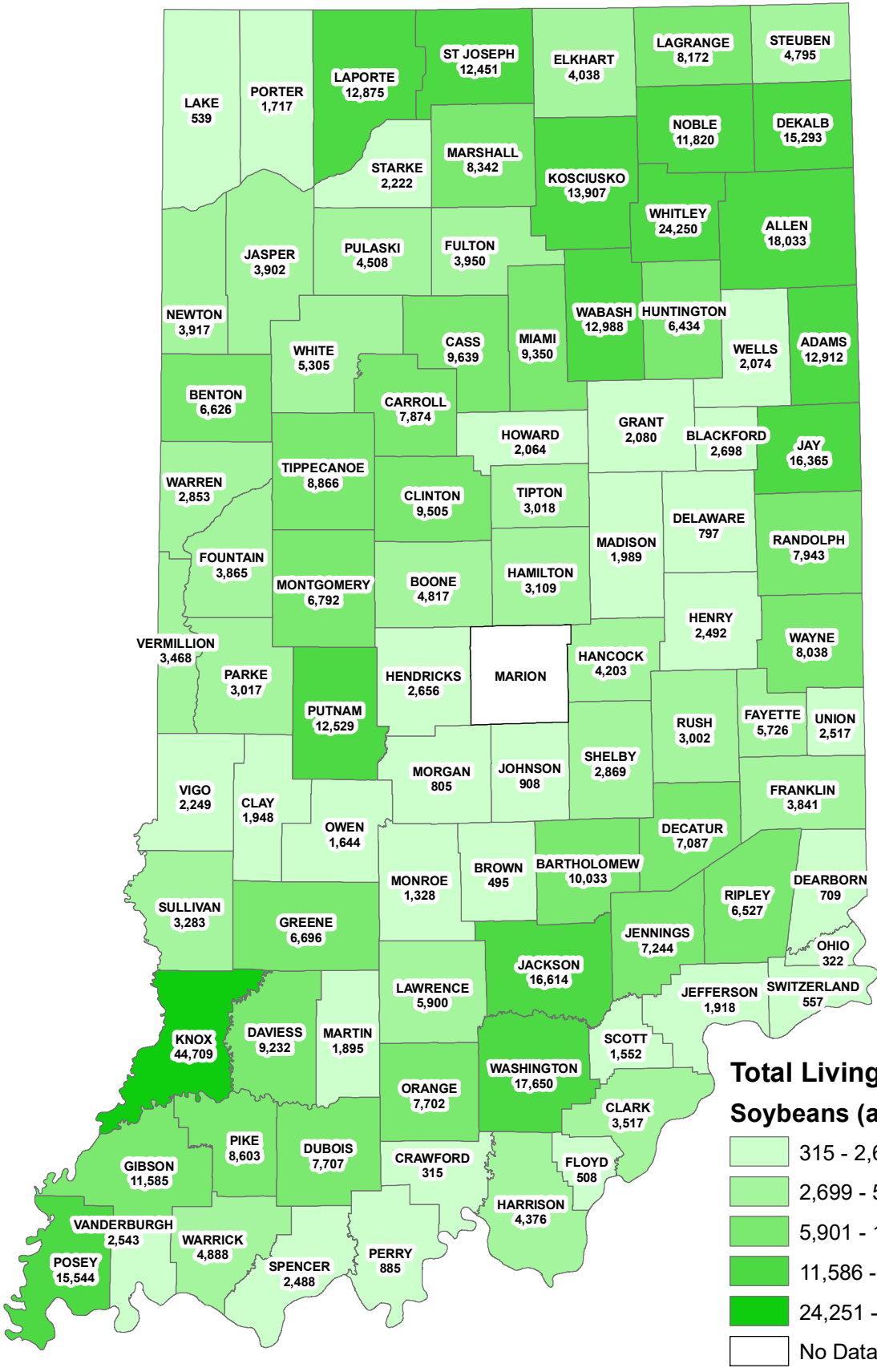
## Total Living Covers Planted Small Grains (acres)



Data is based on the 2016 NASS Cropland Data Layer.  
 May 1, 2017  
 Trevor Laureys, ISDA Resource Specialist

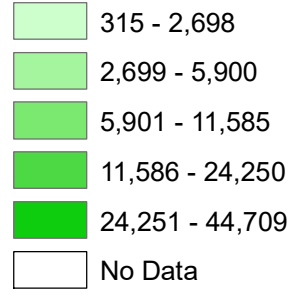
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# 2016 Living Covers Planted in Soybeans



**Statewide, 10.3% (580,000 acres) of soybean acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.**

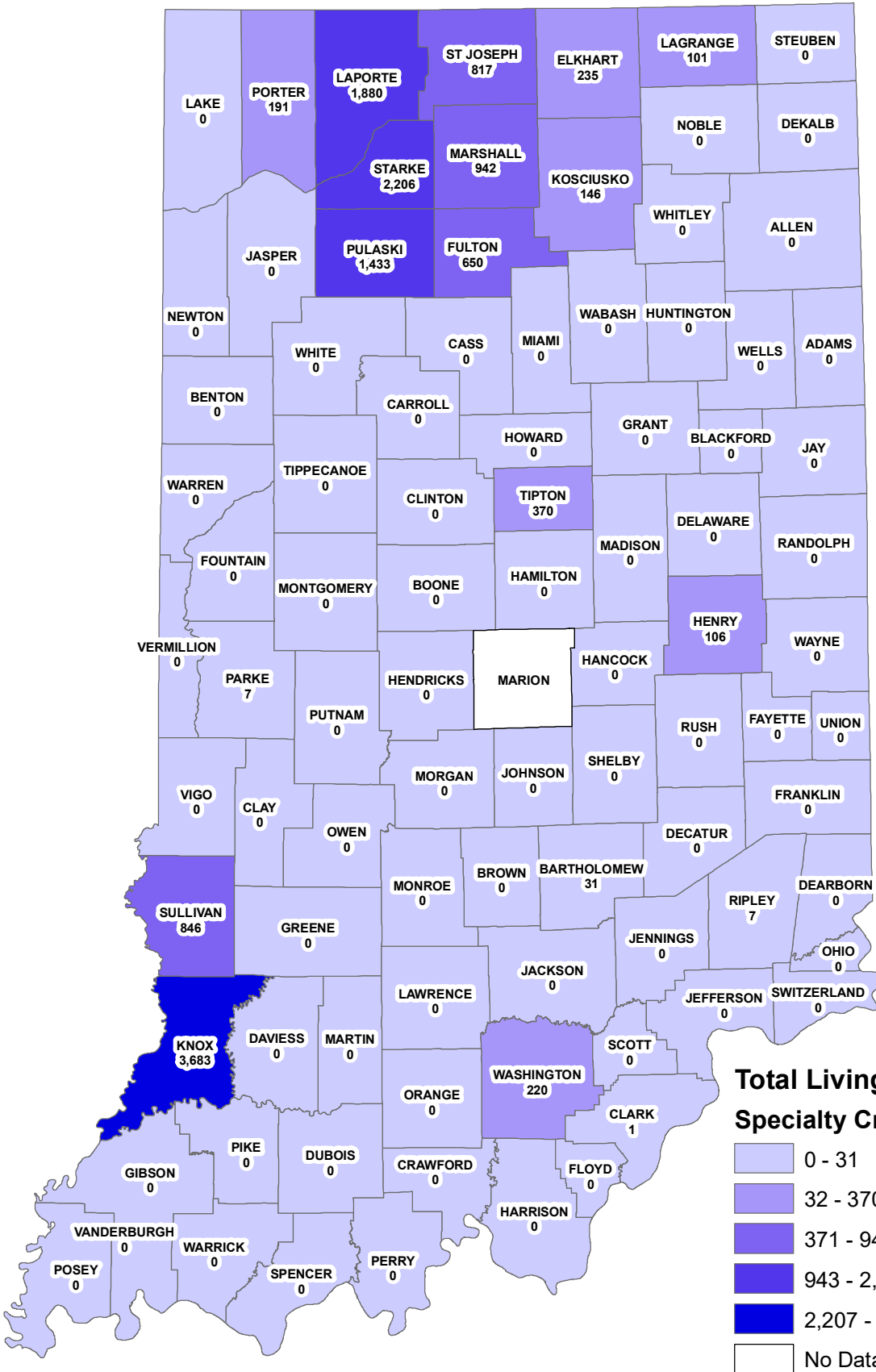
## Total Living Covers Planted Soybeans (acres)



Data is based on the 2016 NASS Cropland Data Layer.  
 May 1, 2017  
 Trevor Laureys, ISDA Resource Specialist

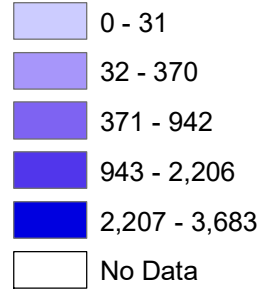
For more information, visit the Conservation Tillage Program web page at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>, or contact the Indiana State Department of Agriculture at [ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov](mailto:ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov).

# 2016 Total Living Covers Planted in Specialty Crops



**Statewide, 36.5% (13,000 acres) of specialty crop acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.**

## Total Living Covers Planted Specialty Crops (acres)



Data is based on the 2016 NASS Cropland Data Layer.  
 May 1, 2017  
 Trevor Laureys, ISDA Resource Specialist

For more information, visit the Conservation Tillage Program web page at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>, or contact the Indiana State Department of Agriculture at [ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov](mailto:ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov).





# State Soil Conservation Board

May 22, 2017

District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 3/11/17 to 5/5/17



**DSS Regional Updates:** *this report focuses on highlights from two DSSs. Other regions and DSSs will be featured in upcoming reports on a rotating basis.*

- **Leah Harmon:** Leah has been working with Marion County SWCD to fill their Urban Conservationist position over the past several months. She worked with her contacts at colleges and universities to spread the word about the position. The Marion SWCD board invited Leah to sit in on the interview process and provide feedback as they made a decision about the candidates and the eventual offer. Leah assisted the board in logistically planning for the new employee so that they could hit the ground running once they started. Since the employee started in early May, Leah has provided new staff training and facilitated networking opportunities for the new staff person to meet other SWCD staff members in the area.
- **Jennifer Thum:** During the first quarter of this year, the northeast saw several staff changes. Due to that change, Jennifer assisted those counties with their AFR and Gateway financial requirements. She spent several days with four districts, helping them plug numbers into Gateway and going over their QuickBooks to ensure that right numbers go into the right line items. Once those districts were able to hire the staff members, she was engaged in doing new staff training. In addition, Jennifer has been extremely busy with assisting her districts with their business plan updates and their annual plan of works. Just about, all of her nineteen counties require their business plan to be updated this year. Several of her districts are working with her to update their business plan through the course of several board meetings, rather than one long day event.

## **Key DSS Statewide Activity Updates**

- **March Training Meetings:** the remaining meetings were held on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. A keynote presentation highlighted the “Conservation on Rivers and Roadways Intended to Develop Opportunities for Resources and Species” (CORRIDORS) and “Grasslands For Gamebirds and Songbirds” (GGS) initiatives. Breakout sessions also include New Supervisor and Staff Training. Approximately 80 people attended the session in the northeast, and 38 in the northwest.

| <b>DSS Activities Statewide</b>  | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|
| Assistance With SWCD Business Plans/Annual Plans of Work                               | 4            |
| Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings                                  | 20           |
| Presenting, Assistance & Attendance at SWCD Annual Meetings                            | 1            |
| New SWCD Supervisor & Staff Training (includes March trainings) NE=12 NW= 3<br>Other=1 | 16           |
| Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, Input, etc.     | 24           |
| Presentations At Events, Workshops, Trainings, etc.                                    | 6            |

**Upcoming Events:**

- June 9: “Leadership in Change” Leadership Institute, Jasper. Register by June 1<sup>st</sup>: [https://leadership\\_institute.eventbrite.com](https://leadership_institute.eventbrite.com)





# State Soil Conservation Board

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



## Program Updates

### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**

- There have been 734.49 acres enrolled already this year in filter strips, riparian buffers, bottomland timber establishment, and wetland restorations to be completed in the next fiscal year.
- Attached to this report is a report on the current status of acres and dollars in CREP.

### **IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)**

- Strategy can be found on the ISDA webpage at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>.
- Comments on the SNRS can be sent to [ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov](mailto:ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov).
- Work on the development of the 10 Basin GIS Story Maps is progressing.

### **Gulf Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)**

- ISDA is working with the LGU's SERA-46 group this year through a Walton Family Foundation grant to look at the sharing and measuring of conservation data at a state level. Indiana and Arkansas are the pilot states.

### **Western Lake Erie Basin**

- The draft Annex 4 Domestic Action Plan (DAP) for Lake Erie will be completed soon and will be out for public comment in July and August. There will be written comments excepted as well as some face-to-face public meetings available.



**Indiana Association of  
Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts**

Protecting and enhancing Indiana's soil  
and water resources for all Hoosiers



**IASWCD**

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Jennifer Boyle Warner  
[Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org](mailto:Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org)

**To:** State Soil Conservation Board  
**From:** Jamie Scott, President, IASWCD  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017

**Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)**

- Business planning strategic session will be held this summer; facilitator hired and process set in place.

**Pathway to Water Quality**

- 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2017 – rededication on Friday, August 4 at 9:30 am. All invited and welcome to attend.
- Volunteer slots will open June 1.

**Other**

- IASWCD was unsuccessful in advocating for a \$1 million INCREASE in general fund appropriation for the Clean Water Indiana program this legislative session.
- Ten Districts came to the Statehouse and lobbied for CWI funding. Cress Hizer, IASWCD lobbyist, spent the day with them. Other Districts have been meeting with key legislators. Increased presence by Districts this legislative session was appreciated!
- Jamie Scott, Marc Roberts, and Roger Wenning will be attending the national partnership leadership workshop in Lincoln, NE on June 22. Most likely Jamie and Marc will be attending the NACD summer meeting in Iowa in July also.
- MOU with Purdue finalized and sent to all Districts.
- A meeting was held with Senator Donnelly to discuss the Farm Bill at Ray McCormick's farm on April 11.
- 2018 SWCD Annual Conference planning committee has met. Session topics and speakers are being finalized. 2018 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conference and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IASWCD. Theme for conference is Be a Part of the Story . . . Discovering the Next Chapter.
- IASWCD and Empower Results held webinars for Districts to learn more about the *Clear Choices Clean Water* campaign (<http://www.clearchoicescleanwater.org/national.php>). IASWCD is considering becoming a sponsor of the project so that Districts could have access to all the great materials.
- Award applications for River Friendly Farmer, Conservation Farmer of the Year, Friend of Conservation, Supervisor of the Year, and District Showcase are all available at [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org).

**THE IASWCD MISSION** *is to enable the conservation of natural resources of Indiana.*

# NRCS State Conservationist's Report

May, 2017

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## USDA REORGANIZATION

USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced his plans to reorganize USDA in order to improve the effectiveness of USDA efforts to meet the needs of agricultural and forest managers and demonstrate increased accountability to the American taxpayer.

The plan proposes to move NRCS, FSA, and RMA, under a new Farm Production and Conservation mission area, which will focus on domestic agricultural issues and provide a simplified one-stop shop for USDA's primary customers, the men and women farming, ranching, and woodland management. In addition, the Secretary proposes adding an Undersecretary of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. The Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment will retain supervision of the U.S. Forest Service. Rural Development will be moved directly under the Secretary.

A reduction in USDA workforce is not part of the reorganization plan and we do not anticipate any changes in how we do business here in Indiana.

USDA's report detailing the reorganization can be found at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/report-proposed-2017-reorg-usda-under-secretary-trade-foreign-agricultural-affairs.pdf>. The public may comment on the reorganization plan by visiting this page hosted by the White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/reorganizing-the-executive-branch>

Indiana FSA/NRCS held a briefing for all employees on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the reorganization and give employees the opportunity to ask questions.

## PALMER AMARANTH LANDOWNER LETTERS

Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) is one of the most widespread, troublesome, and economically damaging weeds in the Southeast, and it has now spread to the Midwest. Palmer amaranth arrived in Indiana and can spread in a variety of ways, including livestock feed, manure, machinery, wildlife, and seed mixes for wildlife habitat, cover crops, and other purposes. It is a pigweed and close relative of water hemp that emerges in May and grows through September. This weed is not on the Indiana noxious weed list, but it grows rapidly, is highly competitive, produces over 100,000 seeds per female plant, and is difficult to eradicate. The high seed production of Palmer amaranth increases the risk of it moving into additional crop fields and other lands. Because of the real threat it poses to agriculture, it is important to limit its spread to more areas in Indiana.

NRCS is working with Purdue, the Office of the Indiana State Chemist, Indiana's seed suppliers, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), and others to take a proactive approach to prevent the introduction of and spread, and to suppress/control Palmer amaranth in Indiana. Participants of NRCS-administered Farm Bill programs with conservation plantings that were installed in 2016, or are planned to be installed in 2017, were sent a joint agency letter from FSA and NRCS National Headquarters to educate them about limiting the spread of Palmer amaranth in Indiana. Recipients of the letters have been instructed to monitor 2016 plantings for Palmer amaranth and if a planting is planned for 2017 to consider testing the seed.

If program participants need additional assistance with identification and control of Palmer amaranth, please refer them to the Purdue University resources below.

- [Purdue University Weed Science](#) Webpage
- [Palmer Amaranth Biology, Identification, and Management](#) (.pdf) (WS-51) 11/13



- [Scout And Identify Pigweed Species Now](#) (.pdf) 3/12
- [Newly Emerging Palmer Amaranth](#) (.pdf) 5/14
- Identifying Palmer Amaranth in the Field – [YouTube Video](#)
- Palmer Amaranth Seedling ID - [YouTube Video](#)
- Palmer Amaranth Time-Lapse, Early Growth - [YouTube Video: Early Palmer Growth](#)
- Palmer Amaranth Time-Lapse, Late Growth - [YouTube Video: Late Palmer Growth](#)

Indiana NRCS will be providing additional guidance and information to employees in the near future.

### **LIVESTOCK SAFETY ISSUES**

With several states reporting cases of low- and/or high-pathogenic avian influenza this season, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) is receiving inquiries about the status of the disease. No illness or mortalities in domestic poultry in the U.S. have been reported. It appears to be one of the strains seen during the outbreak in 2014 and 2015 and serves as a reminder that there is still HPAI circulating in wild birds, and producers need to continue to be vigilant about biosecurity to protect domestic poultry. NRCS employees have been reminded of the need to continue to follow biosecurity protocols regarding visits to livestock farms.

- Until further notice, Level 2 Biosecurity measures must be implemented on all poultry production facilities and fields where litter has been applied within the last six months. NRCS employees will call ahead to confirm if there are any specific biosecurity instructions at that farm, wear boots, and disinfect equipment after field visits to sites associated with poultry.
- NRCS employees will call and ask producers prior to field visits if they have poultry, litter onsite, or if litter applications have been made if not readily known (e.g., backyard flock or poultry litter spread or stored on-site), and adhere to the producer’s decision of whether or not to allow access to NRCS employees.
- The Indiana Board of Animal Health recently announced that a case of Bovine Tuberculosis has been linked to an Indiana farm. Policy requires NRCS employees to implement Level 1 Biosecurity measures during all livestock farm visits – it is anticipated that adhering to this policy will suffice to limit the potential spread of this recent threat.

Here are some additional reminders and updates from BOAH:

- Indiana has had NO CASES of avian influenza to date this year.
- BOAH continues to maintain the HPAI webpage with current information about the disease in Indiana. That may be found online at: [www.in.gov/boah/2390.htm](http://www.in.gov/boah/2390.htm)
- To help poultry owners stay up-to-date with what is happening nationally, BOAH has added a section to that page that lists links to other states with reported cases this year. That may be found online at: [www.in.gov/boah/2815.htm](http://www.in.gov/boah/2815.htm)
- BOAH continues to offer a poultry-focused Facebook page to provide updates: [www.facebook.com/INAvianHealth/](https://www.facebook.com/INAvianHealth/)
- Poultry owners are encouraged to practice good biosecurity and report ill or dead poultry to the Healthy Birds Hotline at: 866-536-7593

### **FALL TRANSECT RESULTS and SPRING TRANSECT DATES SET**

According to the 2016 Fall Transect Report, Hoosier farmers planted over a million acres of cover crops for the second year in a row. These numbers surprised many considering the current economy. In addition to cover crops, the transect also gathers information about tillage methods and residue. Results for residues and soil undisturbed on harvested acres during the winter months include:

- 67 percent of soybean acres
- 58 percent of corn acres



- 50 percent of small grain acres
- 31 percent of specialty crop acres

The ICP is currently planning their bi-annual spring tillage transect to help determine whether covers were unharvested or harvested small grains such as wheat. Estimates of spring tillage and verification of the cover crops planted last fall will be available later this summer.

The transect is a collaborative effort between the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Indiana's 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Earth Team Volunteers and other members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP). ISDA maintains tillage transect reports dating back to 1990 on their website at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm> and includes the most recent transect results.





**Date Range:** April 1-30, 2017

## Key Accomplishments

- Sampling training completed
- 2017 CCSI-SARE Core Cover Crops and Core Soil Health Systems training completed; Post-event surveys indicated participants felt they were excellent workshops
- NE Urban Soil Health Training for ICP Employees completed
- Provided sponsorship for Jasper-Newton SWCD “Road Trip” to Dave Brandt Field Day
- Secured speakers for Indiana Water Resources Symposium
  - Dr Christian Krupke – Transportability of Neonicotinoids and the effects on Benthic Macroinvertebrates
  - Dr. Shalamar Armstrong – Nitrogen Management and Cover Crop Impacts on Water Quality and Agronomics
- Newsletter article on CTIC-SARE Cover Crop Survey created and distributed across ICP
- CCSI now listed as a Contributing Partner on Women4theLand initiative
- ICP-IFB-ACI launch meeting for SE Soil Health – Retailer Outreach Event
- Soil Health Initiative Outreach and Communication Committee teleconferences commenced
- Prospectus developed by Purdue and Iowa State wildlife biologists to help secure funding for research on wildlife interactions with cover crops – including vole pressures
- Facilitators Strategic Planning interviewed, proposals received and selections made,
- First Draft Strategic Planning Interview and Meeting participant lists

## Goals through May 31

- Strategic Planning
  - Execute Contract with Facilitator
  - Finalize Interview and Meeting Participant Lists; Distribute Invitations
  - Launch On-line Survey
  - Launch Telephone Surveys with assistance of NRCS, TNC and other partner staff
  - Set Meeting Date (late June / Early July)
- Training / Workshops
  - CCSI-SARE Advanced Cover Crops – Specialty Crop Track
    - One training = labor intensive; One training = highly mechanized
    - Complete speaker and facilities “booking”, includes Steve Groff for mechanized training
    - Develop Flyers and Registration
  - CCSI-SARE Advanced Soil Health Systems – Commodity Crop Track: “Pro Tour” with Dr Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, and Blake Vince
    - Topic: Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events
    - Work w/ SWCS for cross-promotional event
    - Work on potential for State Fair-based event
  - Greater Wabash RC&D – Help Secure Keynote Speaker

- Prime Farmland Team – Help secure soils / soil health speaker(s)
- SE ICP-IFB-ACI Ag Retailer Event – Help Secure Soil Health Systems Speaker(s)
- Gibson Co SWCD – Review options with board and staff to develop Cover Crop Support Roundtables
- Continue role on planning committees (D) for CTIC Conservation in Action Tour (Sept) and SWCS-Buffer Cover Crops Conference (Dec)
- Begin coordination efforts for TNC-Coke Cover Crops ‘mini-project’, including outreach to next-level/early majority farmers and support for recipients of cost-share.
- Communications
  - Work on media package: interview Mike Shuter, video of rolling cover crops; create social media package, articles, gifs
  - First Draft CCSI monthly newsletter layout and deployment
  - Research / Develop article on split application of N and sidedressing
  - Begin implementing social media calendar, following daily “themes”
  - Begin work with NRCS, ISDA, Purdue, Corn/Soy on Tips and Tricks of communicating soil health input costs with lenders: video, podcast, factsheets
- Research
  - Reach out to INFA, others regarding “special projects” – Incubator-type on-farm trials in areas such as cover crops and weed suppression and cover crops and SCN suppression
  - Coordinate ride-a-long opportunities for Purdue Researchers with top farmers
  - Coordinate quality no-till planting for Purdue Researchers
  - Coordinate meetings / teleconferences with Purdue/Iowa State Wildlife Biologists and Potential Funders
  - Develop prospectus for project linking nutrient density of grains produced in a soil health system to livestock producer/integrator needs.
- Other
  - Coordinate ride-a-longs for planting
  - Continue work with Sherry Fulk-Bringman on potential project to collect, process, and preserve soil monoliths – and house throughout the state with ag educators.

### Status of April Goals

- Training / Workshops
  - ✓ Assist in coordination details of learning circles for Women 4 the Land
  - Continue work with DSS’s on assessing level of participation of districts and further actions to be taken to develop those relationships. *This work continues*
  - ✓ Identify 3-4 locations across northern Indiana for a series of workshops on Manure Management. *These efforts will be re-routed into a newly funded CCSI-SARE training project that will combine a series of webinars with facilitated discussions*
  - ✓ Assist Hamilton/Tipton counties on speaker for winter soil health classes
  - ✓ Core cover crops (April 4, 6) and core soil health systems (April 11, 13) trainings
- Communications
  - ✓ Continue to clean/update webpage
  - ✓ Continue collection of cover crop photos at Boone Co demo plots and Mike Shuter
  - Newsletter articles

- ✓ April / May - Sidedress; Cover Crop Survey
- ✓ Begin testing farmer forum (down to XenForo and V Bulletin)
- Research
  - ✓ Week of the 24<sup>th</sup> Helping graduate student run water retention samples for his research (supervising the use of the expensive equipment, time commitment is short periods but over several days)
- Other
  - Ride-alongs for planting and equipment setup *Mostly delayed due to weather*
  - Agronomist CCA credentials paperwork (exam completed / passed) *Work continues*

## Meetings / Visits / Appearances

### Past

- April 4 – CCSI-SARE Core Cover Crops – W Lafayette – 25 (A, PM, D)
- April 5 – NW Sampling Team Training – 4 (A, PM)
- April 6 – CCSI-SARE Core Cover Crops – Columbia City – 15 (A, CM, D)
- April 11 – CCSI-SARE Core Soil Health Systems – Butlerville – 28 (A, CM, D)
- April 11 – NRCS New Employee Training, 13 (PM)
- April 12 – VUJC Tour (A, PM)
- April 13 – CCSI-SARE Core Soil Health Systems – Jasper – 15 (A, PM, D)
- April 18 – Purdue Veterans Training (A)
- April 19 – SARE Planning Committee – Noblesville
- April 20 – SE SWCD Region Meeting – Jennings County, 18 (PM)
- April 24 – IASWCD Annual Conference Planning – Indianapolis – 15 (CM, PM)
- April 25 – NMSH Task Force – Indianapolis
- April 25 - Working w/ Small Farms – Rochester – 22 (PM)
- April 26 – IFB Retailer Committee – Salem

### Upcoming through May 31

- May 2 – Diversified Farming and Food Systems, W. Lafayette (A)
- May 5 - Communications Partners Meeting – Indianapolis (CM, D)
- May 16 – CCSI-SARE Presentation and Media Skills Training, Noblesville (A, D)
- May 18 – US State Dept Kazakhstan Delegation on Soil Health (D)
- May 17 – Jasper Co SWCD Fall Tour Planning Meeting (PM)
- May 23 – SW SWCD Regional Staff Meeting (PM)
- May 24 – SW NRCS Area Meeting (A, D, CM, PM)
- Ride-a-Longs (Delayed from April)
  - Agronomist w/ AJ Adkins, Dan DeSutter
  - Communications Manager w/ Mike Werling
  - Program Manager w/ Cameron Mills

(D) = Director

(CM) = Communications Manager

(PM) = Program Manager

(A) = Agronomist