

State Soil Conservation Board

Meeting Sign-In

Date 9-20-16

Location TNC, Indy

Name/Agency

George Reger ISDA
Laura Fribley ISDA
Tara Henry, ISDA
DEB FAIRMURST, ISDA
Jordan Seger, ISDA
Sheral Vaughan
Walt Sell
Genera Tyler
Jed McKinney
Jennifer Boyle Warner
Julie Harrold
Jane Hardisty
Adam Heilbeck
Scot Minue

Name/Agency

ISDA
Boone SWCD
Purdue Extension
ISDA
ISDA
IASWCD
ISDA
NRCS
NRCS
White River Alliance

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
September 20, 2016
TNC, Indianapolis

- I. 9:30 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of July 2016**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Jordan Seger
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
 - a. SSCB Chairman’s Report-Ray Chattin
 - b. NRCS Leadership Development Program-Raphael Vega, Adam Heichelbech
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Lawrence County- Laura Fribley
 - b. Miami County- Jennifer Thum
 - c. Shelby County- Tara Wessler-Henry
- VI. 10 Minute Break**
- VII. ISDA Updates**
 - a. Director’s Report- Jordan Seger
 - b. Technical Report- George Reger
 - c. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
 - d. Accountability and Technology- Deb Fairhurst
 - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
 - 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
Scott Minor: Empower Results- Clear Choices, Clean Water
 - g. IDEA Report
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**
2016 Meeting Dates
October 25, Huntington County
- 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

September 20th, 2016
Clean Water Indiana Grants



Program Updates

Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

- CWI grant applications were due on September 15th.

	2016	2017
Total Applications	26	31
Total Districts Participating	55	57
Total Amount Requested	\$1,780,000	\$2,529,142

- Initial scoring will take place in the next few weeks.
- Grant funding recommendations will be presented at the October SSCB meeting

Annual Financial Report Grants

- We are in all phases of processing these contracts.
- As of September 15th,
 - All grant agreements have been returned.
 - 90 have come back fully executed, with all signatures.
 - 60 have submitted claim vouchers to release funds.
- Once districts submit a claim voucher, it takes approximately 45 days for payment to get to their checking account.
- I am starting to develop documents for next year's AFRs.

Training Reimbursement/Sponsorship

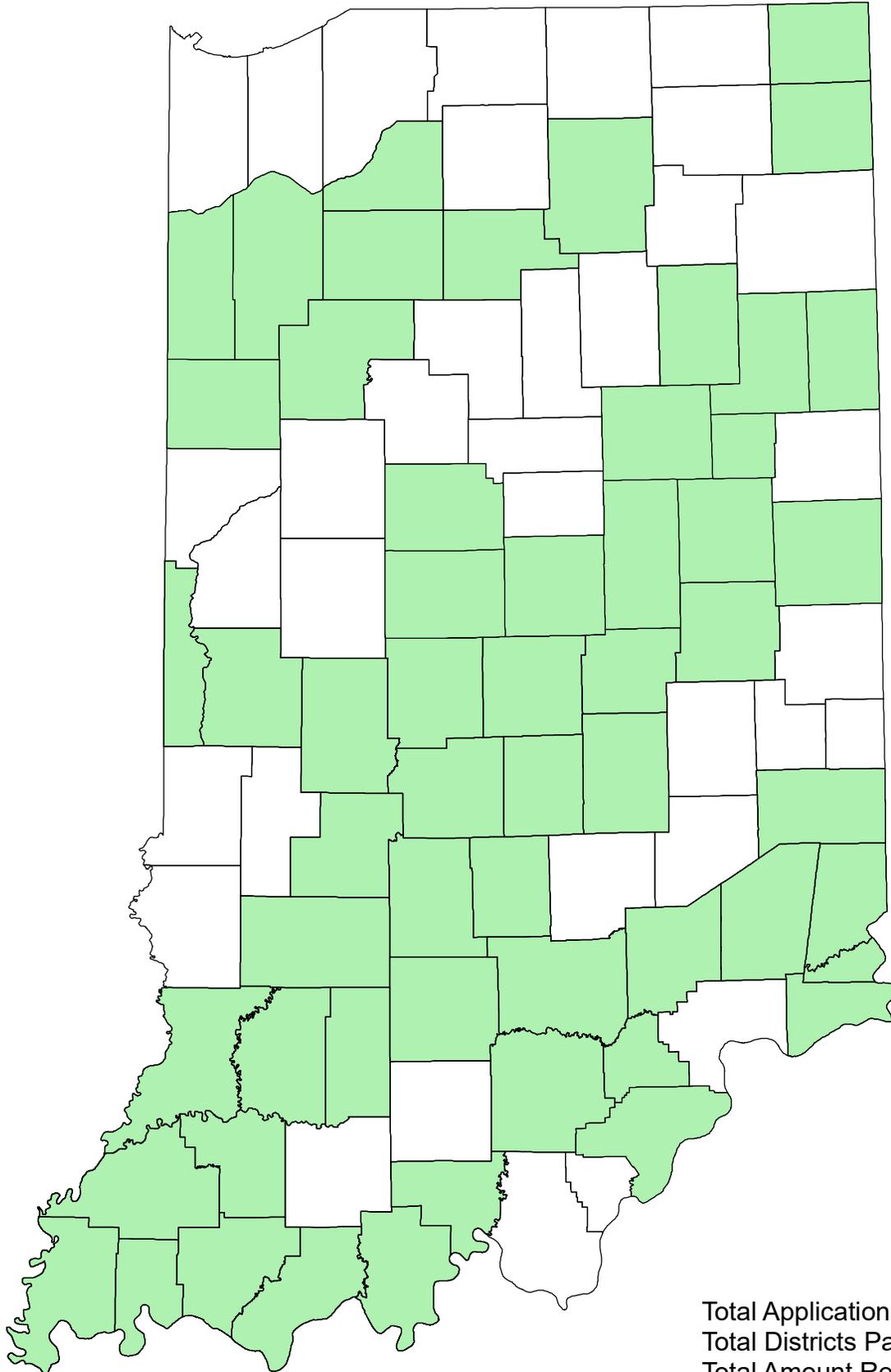
- I have developed a training reimbursement application similar to year's past. It uses the same online portal that we used for the competitive grant application. It can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isda/3371.htm>
- Like last year, we will distribute these funds to districts with their AFR payment.
- Pending board approval of application procedure and total dollar amount, I will distribute to SWCDs.

Grant Reviews

- The DSS team has conducted one grant review since the last meeting.
- Project reviewed is going well.
- No modifications or findings at this time.
- Results of the review were sent to all districts involved in the grants as well as their boards of supervisors.
- Six others are scheduled at this time. All will be complete by November 9th.

Clean Water Indiana

2017 Competitive Grants Participating Districts



Total Applications: 31
Total Districts Participating: 57
Total Amount Requested: \$2,529,142

SSCB Meeting

9/20/16

ISDA-DSC Director's report – Jordan Seger

Budget(s)

- DSC – overall steady, very similar to last FY, anticipating some vehicle repairs, full staff
- Clean Water IN – overall steady, will likely spend all of 660k towards CREP this FY (matches fed \$)
 - Grants allocation = \$1,102,651 – 89k for CCSI (already approved) – 25k for CCSI (newly approved last year) – 30k* for training grants to SWCDs (*30k in past two FYs, needs SSCB approval at Oct. 25 SSCB meeting). $\$1,102,651 - 89k - 25k - 30k^* = \$958,651$

Staffing

- 33 of 34 positions filled
- Interviewing for Resource Specialist/CREP Leader based in Danville
- DSC fall/winter intern applications due Sept. 30

4R's

- 4R's vs. 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification (TFI)
- Western Lake Erie Basin currently only focuses on P, not a copy and paste to grow statewide
- Nutrient Stewardship Council meeting in Sept. to discuss/accept N principles. In Oct OABA likely to launch statewide 4R Certification Program
- KY also showing statewide interest once N principles added
- Still can "Indianaize" a state wide program that looks different than OH or KY
- EPA recognizes value a statewide program offers

Fall/Winter Tillage and Cover Crop Transect

- Guidance to go out early to mid October
- ISDA staff would like to lead after finishing this last year connected to CCSI agreement and still track in kind

Western Lake Erie Basin

- Clarification – "Collaborative Agreement" (OH, MI, Ontario) vs. "Annex 4" (IN, OH, MI, Ont., EPA, Environment Canada)
 - Collaborative Agreement = 20% TP reduction by 2020 and 40% TP reduction by 2025
 - Annex 4 = The best science says 40% is magic number in WLEB, but doesn't set time frame
 - Let states and voters lead not courts
- Ag mgmt. discussions
 - Soil sampling, use, apply P per recommendations (leave strips)
 - Manure on frozen/snow covered ground and before large forecasted rain events
 - Fall application
 - Incorporate P with minimal soil disturbance

Mississippi River Basin

- ISDA continuing work with IDEM on EPA mandated IN Nutrient Reduction Strategy (covers entire state, point and non-point sources)
 - Farm Bureau, Commodity Groups, PU have led the IN Nutrient Mgmt. and Soil Health Strategy – the Ag Implementation Plan
 - Identifying common goals, building on strengths of partners
 - Soil Health vs. Water Quality

- Process vs. prescription
- Creating basin based web interfaces which are mobile friendly and more easily accessible than large PDF reports, faces a variety of audiences
- Ag Leaders meeting later in Sept. to discuss/identify collective efforts

Water Quality Trading

- ISDA forming competitive process to identify two SWCDs (one south, one north) to administer 100k of EPRI dollars
- SWCDs will receive 10% for leading admin., ISDA waived admin. fees

Indiana Bicentennial/Third Century Project

- Learn more here: <http://www.sagamoreinstitute.org/third-century-project>
- Improving water quality to be a focus area

Contact

Jordan Seger, ISDA – Division of Soil Conservation

jseger@isda.in.gov

317-695-4933



State Soil Conservation Board

September 20, 2016
DSC Technical Assistance Report



Field Staff Activities

January 1, 2016 – September 9, 2016

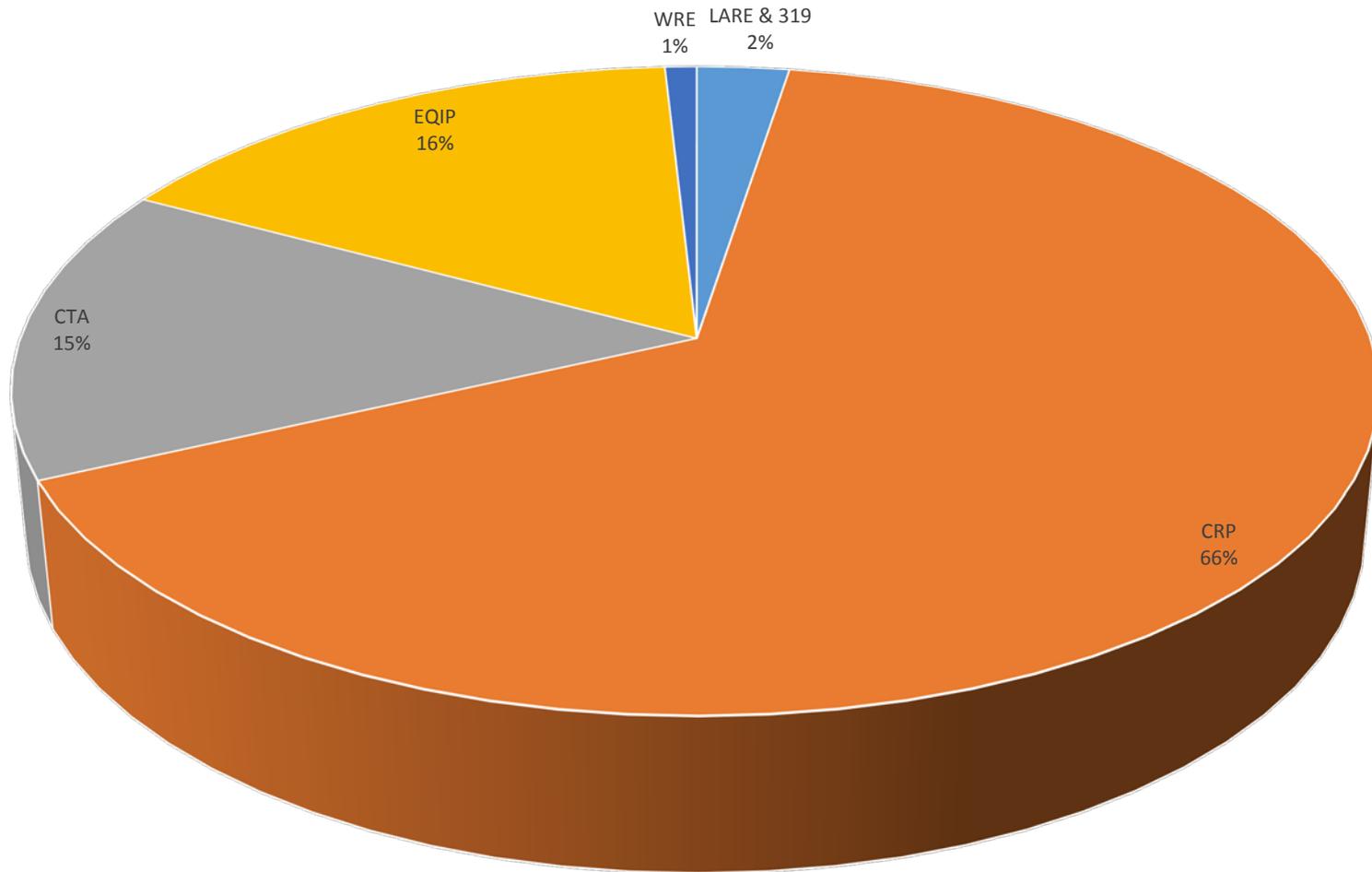
Resource Specialist Activities	Total
SWCD Board Meetings	239
ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars, etc.	285
Field Days	90
Training	110
Conservation Planning	703
Survey, Design and Inspections	908
Construction	238
Public Interaction	7,347
CREP – Met with Landowners	143
CCSI Activities	36
INFA Activities	119

DSC Conservation Workload

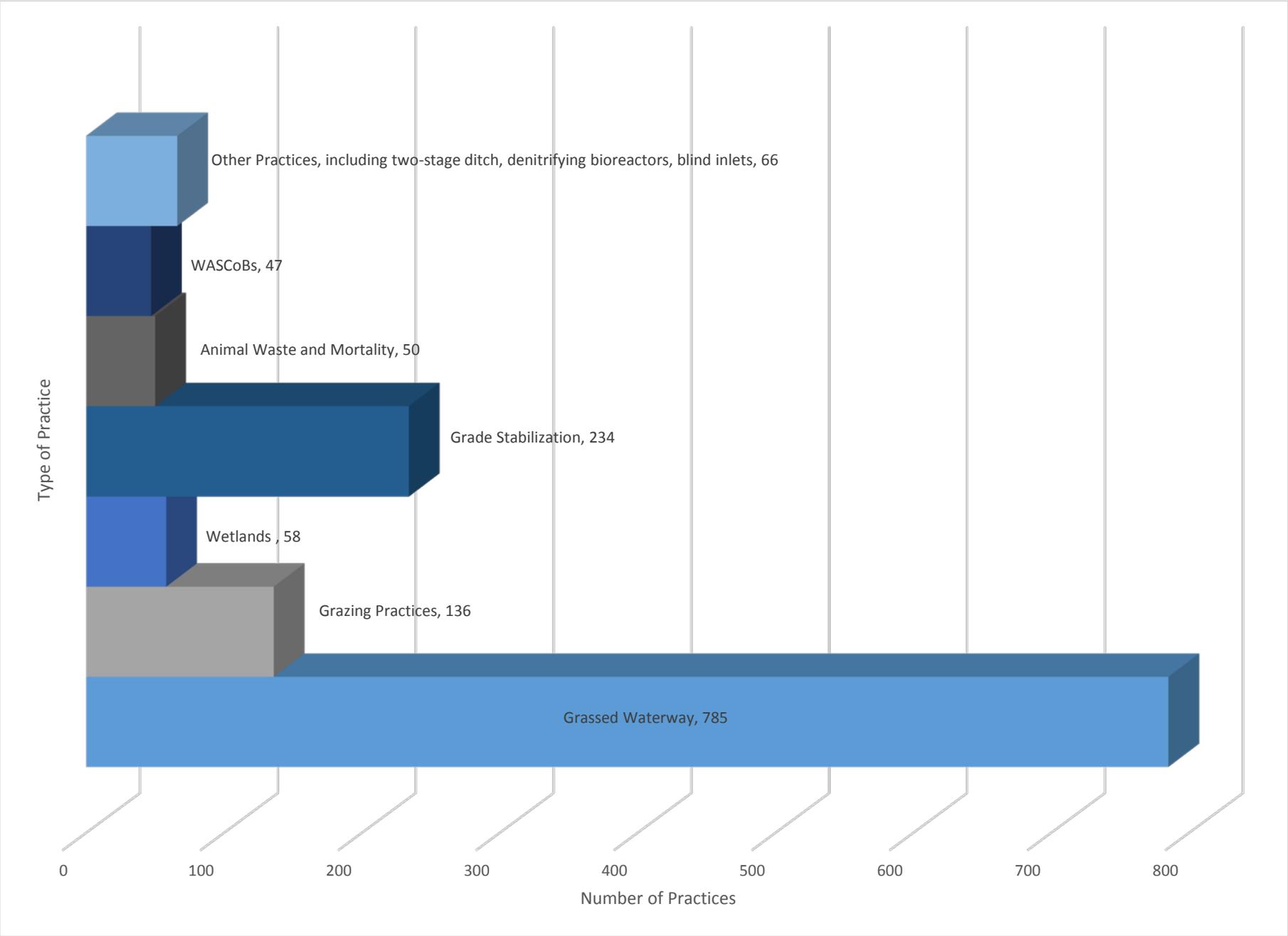
January 1, 2016 – September 9, 2016

Action	Currently Reported
Technical Assistance	1,704
Practices Underway	1,664
Completed Practices	411
Practice Acres	4,926
Practice Feet	138,273
Field Acres	8,639
Nitrogen Reduction	70,725 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	35,412 lbs.
Sediment Reduction	36,890 tons

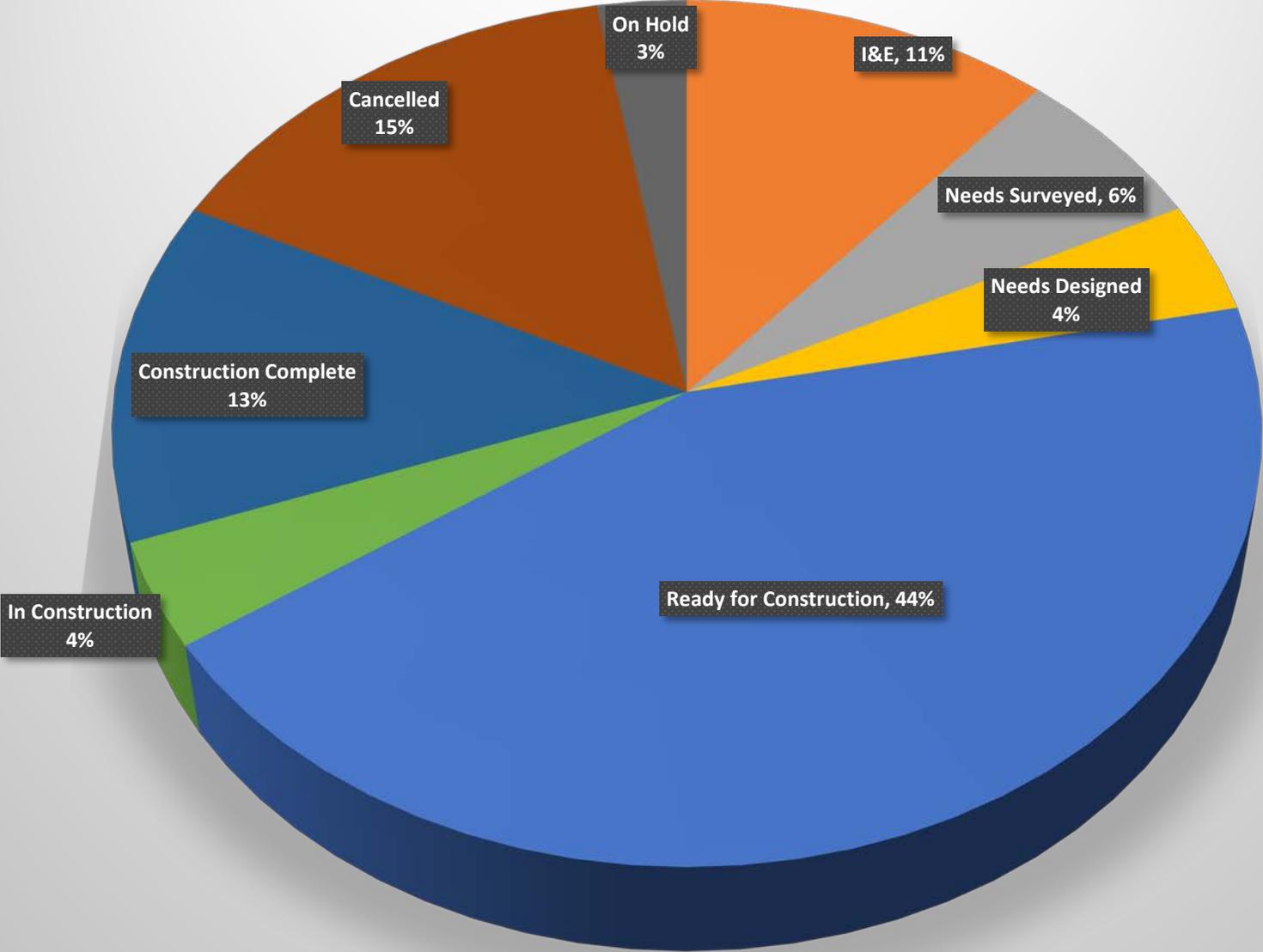
Program Assistance in the Northwest



Conservation Practices in the Northwest Area



NORTHWEST PROJECT STATUS





State Soil Conservation Board

September 20, 2016

Agricultural and Environmental Affairs Program Manager



Program Updates

➤ INfield Advantage

- The 2016 program has 1015 Guided Stalk Sampling fields and 15 Replicated Strip Trial fields.
- The final imagery was collected about August 23.
- Roughly a total of 80 ICP staff attended either the August 16 (Bedford) or September 12 (Rochester) fall training to collect their corn stalk sampling supplies. Speakers included an agronomist (Stan Mills or Jamie Bultemeier) from A&L Great Lakes lab discussing other row crop testing and NRCS Resource Soil Scientist (Dena Anderson or Scot Haley) discussing soil interpretations.
- This year we are coordinating with NRCS to have all non-ICP sampling volunteers signed up as Earth Team Volunteers.
- Crews have been collecting corn stalks since the last week of August. As of September 14, the lab has returned reports on about 140 fields, or 13%.
- A&L Great Lakes is hosting facility tours to INFA staff on October 7. Reservations are required.
- Indiana Corn and Soybean will be holding the Annual Group Leader Appreciation luncheon on November 30 at their offices. I am working on arranging speakers.
- The Winter Grower Meetings are nearly all scheduled. There will be 33 meetings from January 5 – March 14.
- Purdue Extension Ag Educators are being actively encouraged by their

➤ Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- Taylor Lord was hired as Communications Manager and started on August 30.
- The agronomist position has been filled. A formal announcement will be coming.
- The Program Manager final interviews are September 15.
- Funding is secured through NRCS National Soil Health Division for 1-year post-doc to assist with analysis of data.

- CCSI joined Nutrient Reduction Strategy Task Force
- Advanced Conservation Cropping Systems was held on Aug 10 and 11 in Brownsburg. 90 ICP staff attended.
- 3 Day Soil Health Training was held August 30 through September 1 in W. Lafayette. 20 ICP staff attended.
- Didn't receive a 2016 CIG grant

➤ **Red Gold Tomato Conservation Stewardship Award**

- Winner, Runner-up and Second chance drawing winner were announced a grower field day on August 5.
- 1st Place: Gary Gallup and State Line Farms in Morenci , MI
- 2nd Place: David Keesling and Keesling Farms in Middletown, IN
- Second chance winner: Josh Carey and Carey Farms in Swayzee, IN

➤ **Roadside Pollinator Program**

- Our NFWF grant application was not funded. INDOT is proceeding with the smaller project they have funding for.



State Soil Conservation Board

September 20, 2016
Accountability and Technology



Program Updates

2016 Fall Cover Crop and Tillage Transect Survey

Plans are underway to coordinate the fall cover crop and tillage transect survey. Efforts are underway to prepare the necessary tools required for the survey. SWCDs and ICP personnel will receive notification in October instructing them to begin preparations for the fall survey.

Basin Story Maps

Interactive ArcGIS story map applications featuring the following nine basins are currently being developed.

- East Fork White River
- Great Lakes
- Kankakee River
- Lower Wabash River
- Ohio River
- Patoka River
- Upper Wabash River
- West Fork White River
- Whitewater River

The purpose of the story map applications is to showcase Indiana's efforts to enhance water quality within these nine basins, as well as educate landowners, both rural and urban, about local, state and federal cost-share programs, educational opportunities, and rural and urban conservation practices. The story map will feature maps which allow users to click on watersheds, water monitoring locations, and educational sites to view pop-ups which provide detailed information about each basin.

Earlier this year, a similar story map application was created for the Western Lake Erie Basin. You can view the WLEB story map at <http://arcg.is/1PCUdrl>. It is best viewed in Google Chrome.

2013-15 Practice Costs and Landowner Match

Last year, we added an additional component to the ICP Conservation Accomplishments Report. Practice costs were tallied for all nutrient load reduction practices along with landowner match. Practice costs were based upon 2015 average installation costs per practice, but did not include technical assistance costs. Landowner match was based upon cost-share match per federal, state and local programs.

In an effort to expand upon this component, efforts are underway to calculate 2013-15 total practice costs, nutrient load reduction practice costs, and landowner match. Thus far, IDEM, LARE and NRCS practice costs are completed. ISDA is currently coordinating with Districts to submit a list of practices installed via CWI cost-share funds and the amount spent on these practices. ISDA has also contacted FSA to request CREP match for the years 2013 and 2014. Once this information is received, the results will be published in the 2016 ICP Conservation Accomplishments Report.

ICP Reports Web Application

A total of 25 Districts have uploaded their 2015 success stories to the ICP Reports web application. The District Support Specialists are encouraging Districts to prepare their 2015 success stories and will post them to the web application as they are completed. You can view the web application at <http://www.in.gov/isda/icpreports/>.



State Soil Conservation Board

September 20, 2016

District Support Specialist Report (7/9/16 – 9/2/16)



Major Activities or Events:

- CWI grants: DSSs provided input to the SSCB CWI Grants Committee, and have been providing assistance to SWCDs as they tackle applications and project ideas
- Pathway to Water Quality- DSSs staffed shift(s) at the State Fair, and Nathan provided a high level of support to the initiative
- Supervisor Summit- 24 Supervisors attended. The event was held in cooperation with the IDEA Staff Summit.
- DSSs finalized a SWCD internal staff handbook for districts to consider as they write down notes or procedures on how their job is performed
- August Leadership Institute was scheduled, but had to be cancelled due to lack of enough registrants
- The first in the “Ag 101” Workshop series for SWCDs and Partners was hosted in Wabash County

Ongoing Key Support:

- Business plans and/or annual plans of work- DSSs facilitated and/or provided input and assistance to Lake, Newton, & Putnam counties
- CWI Grant Reviews- conducted on Pulaski & Marion county grants
- SWCD Board Meetings-DSSs have attended and assisted with various topics in the following counties: Benton, Boone, Clinton, Clark, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Fountain, Gibson, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, LaPorte, Marion, Martin, Sullivan, & White
- District Staff and Supervisor visits- DSSs visited staff and/or supervisors and provided training, assistance with various projects or tasks, and provided guidance in the following counties: Cass, Clark, Clinton, Fayette, Hamilton, Hendricks, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Owen, Scott, Washington, Wayne
- New Staff or Supervisor Training was conducted in the following counties: LaPorte, Sullivan
- DSSs are providing support to SWCDs as they prepare for election and annual meeting type responsibilities
- DSSs are providing ongoing support on district success stories, and internal control
- DSSs presented or assisted at field days or workshops in the following counties: Bartholomew, Decatur, Jackson, Lawrence, Madison, Montgomery, Scott, Shelby, Washington, Warrick

Committees and Advisory Roles: DSSs have been involved serving on committees and/or providing these groups with assistance and accomplishing related tasks.

- Laura- VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative, George Roger Clark Land Trust, INFA, ICP Training & Certification Program, PWQ, IWLA, Leadership Institute
- Nathan- INFA, Pathway to Water Quality, Leadership Institute

- Leah- SSCB, CWI, IASWCD Annual Conference, GIS, tillage transects, INFA
- Geneva- Women4theLand, Leadership Institute, INFA
- Tara- CCSI, WQT, IDEM Recycling Marketing Development Board

Upcoming Events:

- Fall IASWCD Region Meetings: TBD
- 2017 March Region Meetings: March 2- SW, March 9- SE (not March 7th), March 16- NW, March 23- NE

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



State Soil Conservation Board

September 20th, 2016

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**

- The allocation of the \$660,000 has been split up between 6 of the 10 CREP Administrators. Contract amendments have been sent to the districts to be signed.
- There has been incredible demand, we are now at \$1.72 million for obligated dollars toward practices. We have had over 2,700 acres of signup in 2016.
- To date the state has paid out \$3,482,904.40 in the CREP program. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is \$7-\$10 for every state dollar.
- Attached to this report is a report on the current status of acres and dollars in CREP.

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

- Progress on the next version of the strategy continues.
- The latest version of the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>.
- Comments on the SNRS can be sent to ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov

- **Other Water Quality Issues**

Gulf Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)

- Work is on-going with the Coordinating Committee and with the Sub-Committee on 'Common Measures' and 'data sharing' within the states in order to determine the impact we are having on the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Zone.

Western Lake Erie Basin

- I am participating on the Advisory Committee for the development of Indiana's Domestic Action Plan (DAP) for Lake Erie as part of the Lake Erie Binational Phosphorus Reduction Strategy.

SSCB Meeting, September 20, 2016 - CREP Summary

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total		
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 9/14/2016	173.40	14.00	3,661.30	17.20	366.21	3,882.59	287.80	1,505.76	9,908.26	26,250.00	37.75%
Total CREP Enrollment	204.17	14.00	3,941.70	33.04	455.13	5,268.08	751.57	1,962.38	12,630.07	26,250.00	48.11%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90		

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fee	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total CREP Dollars	\$ 17,340.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 358,817.00	\$ 7,126.00	\$ 159,913.00	\$ 1,660,161.00	\$ 175,150.00	\$ 914,972.00	\$ 3,294,879.00	\$ 188,025.40	\$ 3,482,904.40

SSCB Meeting, September 20, 2016 - CREP Acres (broken down by watershed)

Post-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.10	99.90	0.00	0.00	103.00
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	454.69	0.00	0.00	454.69
Lower East Fork White	33.50	7.00	0.00	5.40	41.10	567.80	0.00	0.00	654.80
Lower White	10.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	456.68	0.00	0.00	467.38
Middle Wabash-Busseron	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	687.29	0.00	0.00	687.29
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	5.80	0.00	0.00	21.20	0.00	0.00	33.60
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	134.70	65.00	36.80	241.00
Tippecanoe River	89.50	0.00	49.83	0.00	3.41	21.40	73.30	463.39	700.83
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74.16	0.00	0.00	74.16
Upper Wabash	3.70	7.00	1.37	0.00	0.00	162.96	27.80	35.87	238.70
Upper White	20.80	0.00	59.80	0.00	177.90	143.91	0.00	29.70	432.11
Reported Completed as of 9/14/2016	169.30	14.00	116.80	5.40	225.51	2,824.69	166.10	565.76	4,087.56
Enrolled as of 9/14/2016	200.07	14.00	397.20	21.24	314.43	4,210.18	629.87	1022.38	6,809.37

Pre-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.50	0.00	215.00	10.80	16.40	109.20	0.00	0.00	353.90
Tippecanoe River	0.00	0.00	2916.80	0.00	7.80	20.40	121.70	924.00	3990.70
Upper White	1.60	0.00	412.70	1.00	116.50	928.30	0.00	16.00	1476.10
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	4.10	0.00	3,544.50	11.80	140.70	1,057.90	121.70	940.00	5,820.70

	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total Extension Acres
Extension Acres -Tippecanoe			14.80	121.70		136.50
Extension Acres -Upper White		1.00	53.70	413.70	6.00	474.40
Total Extension Acres		1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	610.90

SSCB Meeting, September 20, 2016 - CREP Dollars (broken down by watershed)

Post-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fees	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 39,960.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,200.00	\$ 4,120.00	\$ 45,320.00
Lower Wabash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 181,876.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 181,876.00	\$ 18,187.60	\$ 200,063.60
Lower East Fork White	\$ 3,350.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 16,440.00	\$ 227,120.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 249,770.00	\$ 24,977.00	\$ 274,747.00
Lower White	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 182,672.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 183,742.00	\$ 18,374.20	\$ 202,116.20
Middle Wabash-Busseron	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 274,916.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 274,916.00	\$ 27,491.60	\$ 302,407.60
Middle Wabash-Deer	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 580.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,480.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,720.00	\$ 972.00	\$ 10,692.00
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,880.00	\$ -	\$ 34,960.00	\$ 89,290.00	\$ 8,929.00	\$ 98,219.00
Tippecanoe River	\$ 8,950.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 8,560.00	\$ 69,635.00	\$ 440,220.50	\$ 528,729.50	\$ 52,872.95	\$ 581,602.45
Upper East Fork White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,664.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,664.00	\$ 2,966.40	\$ 32,630.40
Upper Wabash	\$ 370.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 137.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,184.00	\$ 26,410.00	\$ 34,076.50	\$ 126,877.50	\$ 12,687.75	\$ 139,565.25
Upper White	\$ 2,080.00	\$ -	\$ 3,650.00	\$ -	\$ 71,160.00	\$ 57,564.00	\$ -	\$ 28,215.00	\$ 162,669.00	\$ 16,266.90	\$ 178,935.90
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,980.00
Reported Paid as of 9/14/2016	\$ 16,930.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 4,367.00	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 92,004.00	\$ 1,129,876.00	\$ 96,045.00	\$ 537,472.00	\$ 1,880,254.00	\$ 188,025.40	\$ 2,068,279.40

Pre-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 4,316.00	\$ 6,564.00	\$ 43,680.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,310.00
Tippecanoe River	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 291,680.00	\$ -	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 8,160.00	\$ 48,680.00	\$ 369,600.00	\$ 721,240.00
Tippecanoe River Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 30,425.00	\$ -	\$ 34,125.00
Upper White	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 41,270.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 46,600.00	\$ 371,320.00	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 466,150.00
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 11,625.00	\$ 103,425.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 116,800.00
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	\$ 410.00	\$ -	\$ 354,450.00	\$ 4,966.00	\$ 67,909.00	\$ 530,285.00	\$ 79,105.00	\$ 377,500.00	\$ 1,414,625.00



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

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



IASWCD

225 S. East Street
Suite 740
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317.692.7325
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Web: www.iaswcd.org

PRESIDENT:
Mike Starkey
Hendricks County

VICE PRESIDENT:
Jamie Scott
Kosciusko County

TREASURER:
Paula Baldwin
Marion County

SECRETARY:
Roger Wenning
Decatur County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Jennifer Boyle Warner
Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org

To: State Soil Conservation Board
From: Jamie Scott, Interim President, IASWCD
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2016

IASWCD Officers

- IASWCD Board of Directors accepted resignation of President, Mike Starkey
- Jamie Scott, VP, was nominated (and accepted) for Interim President
- VP slot will remain vacant; the 2017 Officer slate will be presented in November and elections will be January 24, 2017.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

- Agronomist position has been filled and will be announced by early December.
- Taylor Lord has been hired as Communications Manager. Her office is based out of the IASWCD.
- Soil Health Manager has been hired and will be announced (and starting) mid-October.
- Final CIG report due in November.

Pathway to Water Quality

- A special thanks to everyone who volunteered before and during the State Fair to get PWQ ready.
- A special thanks to Sara Peel for serving as coordinator.

Other

- Signup is still available to attend the Indiana Conservation Alliance Conservation Congress on Friday, September 30. To register visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inca-conservation-congress-tickets-25841520684>
- 20 ICP leader visits completed to date. Additional ones will be scheduled for November/December.
- District Showcase awards will be announced soon and tours will be set up this fall.
- Fall regions meetings will be scheduled soon.
- SWCD Annual Conference is January 23-24, 2017. Brochures will be mailed to all Supervisors by the end of Sept. Registration will also begin.
- SSCB meeting at SWCD Annual Conference is Sunday, January 22 from 3-5 pm at the downtown Marriott.



A CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE CHOICES WE MAKE
AND THEIR IMPACTS ON WATER QUALITY

Shared Challenges

How do we get people to care & respond?

How do we change the social landscape?

How do we measure our outreach impact?



Social Indicator Survey + Social Marketing

Social Change
(Clean and Ample H₂O)

Key Questions that Impacted Our Approach

Do you live in a watershed?

Need to teach about watersheds

and

Need to help people understand the actual pollutants

Do you live in an area that drains to the White River?

How much of a problem are the following water imp area (bacteria, nutrients, sediment, pesticides, gre

Need to use relatable pictures

During the last calendar year, how have you used the wa and around your community?

Need to understand my best outreach partners

Who do you trust for information about the environment?

How do you like to receive information about activiti improve water quality?

Need to show them how their actions matter and have impact

My actions have an impact on water quality?

Need to make sure my public officials can see people's commitment to water issues

It's important to protect water quality even if it slows development?

Social Marketing

seeks to influence social behaviors not to benefit the marketer, but to benefit the target audience and the general society.

Not the polar bears selling Coke... more like selling climate change prevention to save the polar bears





Your **PLANT CHOICES** are **CONNECTED** to **Clean Water**

Go Native! Plant Native Plants to Prevent Water Pollution

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Focuses on getting people to **PLEDGE ACTION**

Make a Difference **TAKE A PLEDGE!**

- PET & OTHER POO**
LEARN MORE
LAST PLEDGE: Mark B. - Leesburg
- NATIVE PLANTS**
LEARN MORE
LAST PLEDGE: Tom B. - Leesburg
- LAWN FERTILIZER**
LEARN MORE
LAST PLEDGE: Samuel S. - Larwill
- SEPTIC SYSTEMS**
LEARN MORE
LAST PLEDGE: Sa S. - La

WELCOME TO CLEAR CHOICES CLEAN WATER INDIANA

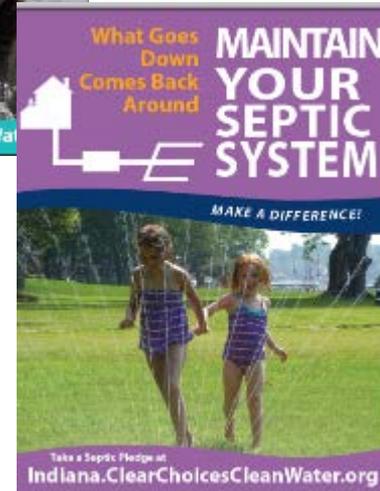
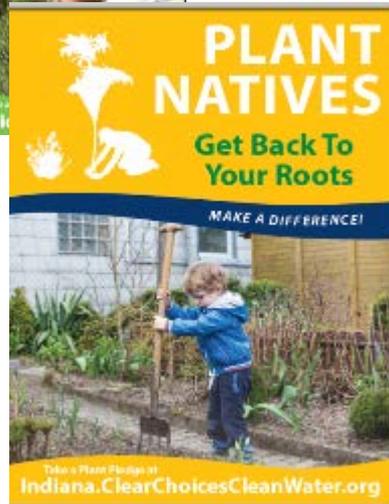
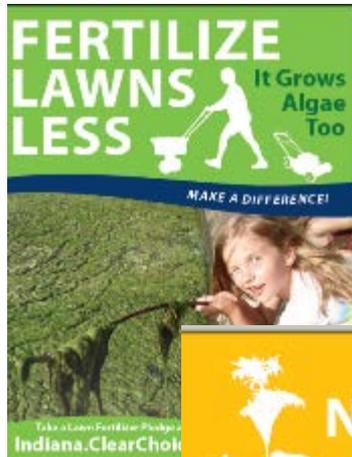
WE ARE SO GLAD YOU STOPPED BY!
Clear Choices Clean Water is a nationally award-winning campaign designed to simply increase awareness about choices we make and the



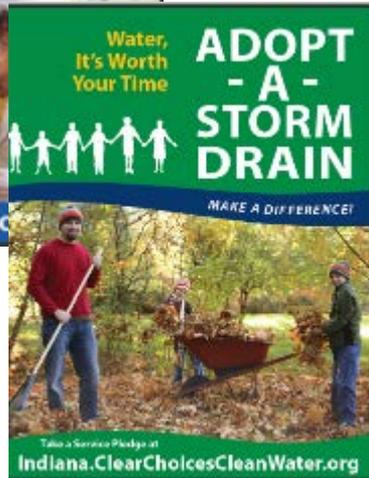
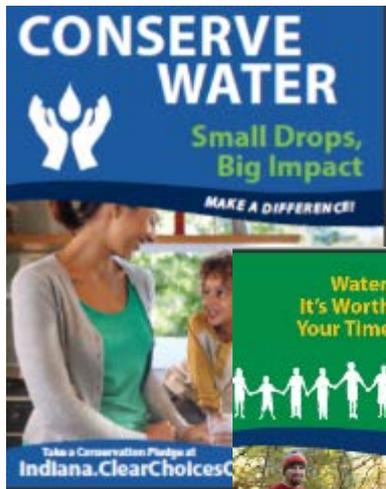
WHO ELSE IS PLEDGING?



Started with 4 Campaigns...



Now introducing...



Keeping the soil COVERED with living plants and natural mulches

REDUCES soil EROSION, suppresses weeds, and reduces the need for fertilizer.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



**Make a Difference
TAKE A PLEDGE**

WHO ELSE IS PLEDGING?



WHY SOIL MATTERS

 Today, more than ever, healthy soils are critical to sustaining life. Healthy soils are

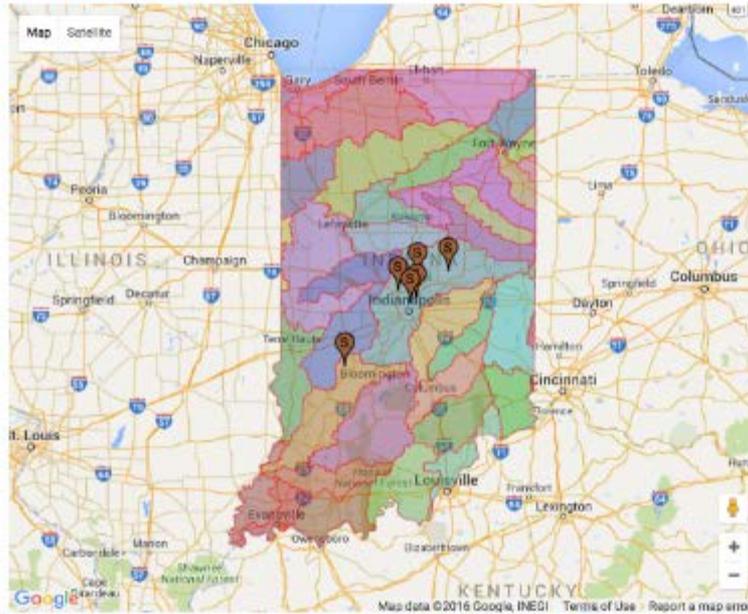
GROW SOIL HEALTH



MORE KEY ACTIONS

 In addition to planting cover crops, reducing tillage, diversifying and

WHO ELSE IS DOING IT?



PLEDGE TYPES

Use the check boxes below to hide/show the various pledges that will appear on the map to the left.

- Healthy Soils
- Native Plants & Gardens
- Lawn Fertilizer
- Conservation
- Pet & Other Poo
- Septic Maintenance
- Volunteer Service

ZIP CODE LOCATOR

SUBMIT

LAST HEALTHY SOILS PLEDGE

Lance L. - Zionsville

TOTAL HEALTHY SOILS PLEDGES

6

WHY SOIL MATTERS

Today, more than ever, healthy soils are critical to sustaining life. Healthy soils are needed for food production, water filtration, replenishing groundwater supplies, and breaking down and recycling many important nutrients needed in the overall food chain. Soils are fundamental living systems that support all other living systems on the planet. Protecting and/or growing healthy soil in both urban and agricultural areas protect local water cycles and supply valuable food. *Even if you don't have a lot of land, you can still help make a difference.*

Experts have predicted that the current world population of nearly 7.5 billion will increase to over 9 billion people by 2050. In order to keep up with this rapid growth, food production will need to increase by 70 percent¹. As populations continue to increase, productive farmland is decreasing. From 1982 to 2007, the US lost 14 million acres of prime farmland to development². In order to meet the world's demands for food soils need to be at their best - healthy, high-performing, and productive.



WHAT IS A HEALTHY SOIL?

A healthy soil is full of life. It should smell, look, and feel alive. Healthy soils smell sweet and earthy, not sour or metallic. When you dig into the soil, it should be soft, moist, and easily crumble. Air, water, minerals, decaying plant residue, organic matter from dead and living organisms, insects, worms, animals, and microbes all comprise a healthy soil. Each piece works to provide a balanced environment that feeds the plants, microbes, and insects that depend on it for life.



HOW IS SOIL HEALTH CONNECTED TO CLEAN WATER?

Healthy soils lead to cleaner water in a number of ways, but first let's talk about the amazing water storage capacity of soil. With the recent droughts throughout the US, soil water storage is key to keeping crops growing during these stressful times and replenishing groundwater supplies. One of the most important components of a healthy soil, and in turn its water storage capacity, is the amount of organic matter in the soil. What is organic matter? Well, it's the small fraction of soil composed of anything that once



UNLOCK THE SECRETS
TAKE A PLEDGE

Unlock the Secrets in the soil

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service has put together a "starter kit" on soil health called [Unlock the Secrets in the Soil](#). It includes basic information on the benefits of healthy soil. It was originally developed for farmers, but much of the information applies to anyone with their own backyard garden.

Did you know...

- One percent of **organic matter** in the top six inches of soil would hold approximately 27,000 gallons of water per acre
- For each **1% increase** in organic matter, US cropland could store the amount of water that flows over Niagara Falls in 150 days

HOW IS SOIL HEALTH CONNECTED TO CLEAN WATER?

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MORE

HOW IS SOIL HEALTH CONNECTED TO AMPLE WATER SUPPLIES?

As if the soil's ability to clean water isn't amazing enough, it also plays an important role in the overall water cycle and supply of water as well. Healthy soils are often the result of keeping something growing in them as long as possible each year. These year-round plants/cover crops protect the soil and provide important root channels that help direct rain water deep into the ground and eventually help replenish/recharge the groundwater aquifers. Many residents, utilities, and industries (including agriculture) depend on groundwater for their daily needs.



WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO MAKE MY SOIL HEALTHIER?

You can begin by implementing what's called a [Soil Health Management System](#). It starts with these four basic steps:

- **Do Not Disturb** - reduce or eliminate tilling to maintain soil structure
- **Keep It Covered** - use cover crops and/or natural mulches to keep the soil covered
- **Grow, Grow, Grow** - keep something growing in the soil for as long as possible each year
- **Diversify and Rotate** - plant a variety of plants and rotate them around in your garden year to year

By including a few more key actions to the above-mentioned four basic steps, you can have a complete soil health management system.

MORE

GROW SOIL HEALTH

Any landowner, no matter the size of their property, no matter if the property is in the city or the country, can help improve soil health. Soil health management starts with these four basic steps:

- [Do Not Disturb](#)
- [Keep it Covered](#)
- [Grow, Grow, Grow](#)
- [Diversify & Rotate](#)



A complete soil health checklist also includes applying additional steps discussed on the [More Key Actions](#) page.

DO NOT DISTURB

Tilling is the act of preparing the land for growing plants, but it can cause chaos for the soil. Tilling opens up soil and exposes more of the organic material in the soil to the open air. By exposing organic matter to air, bacteria are able to quickly decompose it, resulting in soil that is less fertile and holds less moisture. Similarly, more organic material can be lost to erosion when soil is left bare and unprotected or loosened by tilling activities. One of the most important parts of soil organic matter is then easily washed away in a storm event. This soil often ends up in our streams



[MORE](#)

KEEP IT COVERED

Cover what? - you might be asking... the soil! More and more agricultural producers are turning to cover crops for their fields during the fall/winter seasons. The reason why is not surprising - current users are reporting increased yields. Cover crops not only increase yield, but they also increase soil organic matter, improve water infiltration, decrease runoff and soil erosion, suppress weeds and pests, and much more! These incredible results can occur in small-scale urban farming or gardening operations as well.



[MORE](#)

GROW, GROW, GROW

A healthy soil needs a living root system growing in it for as much of the calendar year as possible in order to help feed the soil and keep it in place. A continuous living root in the soil also means that nutrients are always being used by plants, instead of being released by the soil and eventually making their way to our waters where they can cause algae growth and other negative impacts. Even after the cover crop (or primary crop) is harvested above ground, the billions of [living organisms](#) below ground continue working. A living root helps increase and stabilize soil microbes



[MORE](#)

DIVERSIFY & ROTATE

Plant diversity and rotation are key to keeping harmful diseases and pests from destroying your crops. This is because most pests are designed to flourish on a limited number of crops, so by diversifying and rotating the plants you grow, you can minimize the problems that these nuisance pests cause. As a result, you use less chemical pesticides and beneficial organisms are able to prosper.

Plant diversity and rotation go hand-in-hand. Diversity is as simple as growing more than one type of plant. Rotation is moving your crops around to different parts of your garden or fields from year to year. For many farmers, crop rotation and diversity on a field might be similar to this cycle: corn -> cover crop -> soybean -> cover crop -> corn. For gardens,

[MORE](#)



UNLOCK THE SECRETS
TAKE A PLEDGE

Dig a Little Deeper

The NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) has developed a series of short videos focusing on the science of soil health. Episodes range from investigating what happens when you till to cover crops and moisture to soil insects and earthworms. So [Dig a Little Deeper](#) and check out this video series that explores the science of soil health.

What lives in the soil?

Do you know what lives in the soil below? The Natural Resource Conservation Service has put together facts about the living organisms in our soil. Find out more about them and how they help make our soil healthier.

- [Arthropods](#)
- [Bacteria](#)
- [Earthworms](#)
- [Fungi](#)
- [Nematodes](#)
- [Protists](#)

MORE KEY ACTIONS

The four primary soil health concepts are described on the [Grow Soil Health](#) page, but there are other important actions that need to be a part of your overall soil health plan to protect both soil and water quality. These additional key actions work hand-in-hand with the primary soil health concepts to grow your soil health. The supporting key actions include steps related to:

- [Soil Testing](#)
- [Compost](#)
- [Fertilizers, Herbicides, and Pesticides](#)
- [Pest Management](#)



SOIL TESTING

Before you spend too much time and money investing in your soil, you might want to know what's already going on with your soil. The easiest, and most comprehensive, way to find out is to have your soil tested. Soil testing means sending a sample of your garden's soil to a laboratory for analysis to learn what levels of nutrients currently exist. The test results also provide recommendations about what your garden soil may need (in terms of phosphorus, potassium, and pH adjustments, etc.) to be healthy. Professional soil tests typically cost around \$20, depending on how simple or



[MORE](#)

COMPOST

Compost is a mixture of materials high in organic matter that is used to enhance soil quality. Composting takes the natural process of decomposing organic materials and puts it in a controlled environment. The finished product, compost, is then typically added to gardens to increase the amount of organic matter in the soils. In addition to the significant amount of organic matter it supplies to the soil, compost provides many other benefits. If you have a heavy, clay soil, compost increases infiltration and permeability (the ability of water to get into the soil), which reduce erosion and runoff. If you



[MORE](#)

UNLOCK THE SECRETS
TAKE A PLEDGE

Do your actions matter?
Yes, they do! [See how here.](#)

How to read a label
If you plan on applying fertilizer or spraying for nuisance weeds and bugs, it's important to know how to read the label. The links below provide some helpful tips on how to read the label.

- [Pesticide Label](#)
- [Fertilizer Label](#)

FERTILIZERS, HERBICIDES, AND PESTICIDES

While the principles of soil health are great for reducing the need for chemical treatments, some situations may require the addition of fertilizers to improve deficiencies or pesticides to rid of unwanted pests. An overall long-term goal of soil health management is to remove or significantly lessen the need for chemicals by encouraging nutrient recycling and healthy diverse soil microbes (bugs). Hang in there, it may take a little time, but in your efforts will make a big difference!



[MORE](#)

PEST MANAGEMENT

Unfortunately, pests are one problem that all gardeners and growers will likely have to deal with at some point during their gardening days. The word "pest" is used collectively to represent anything that can have a negative effect your crop – insects, diseases, weeds, rodents, and animals. The most common way to deal with these pests is by using Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM uses a variety of common-sense steps that reduce reliance on pesticides, all while minimizing the risks to people and the environment. Integrated Pest Management also goes by several other



[MORE](#)

TURFGRASS REPLACEMENT

If you don't have a garden and still want to make a difference to soil health, consider replacing part (or all) of your lawn with native plants. Native plants are species of plants that have adapted to Indiana's climate over thousands of years. They typically don't need chemicals to help them grow, can tolerate varying temperature changes, and have very deep roots that allow them to be more drought resistant. Native plants have also developed defenses against harmful native insects and can serve as habitats for native wildlife, such as butterflies, songbirds, and hummingbirds. The deep roots of native plants are great for soil health because they create channels in the soil, which allows water to soak in quickly reducing runoff and erosion. Typical turfgrass lawns don't have the deep root system that native plants have and therefore rainfall often runs right off a turfgrass lawn. Learn more about native plants, where to get them, how to plant them, and what to expect when planting them, check out the ["Clear Choices" page about native plants.](#)



SOIL HEALTH FAQS

- [Will cover crops look messy?](#)
- [Is it more expensive to use cover crops?](#)
- [What are the long term soil health benefits of no-till planting and cover crops?](#)
- [Where can I find cover crop seeds?](#)
- [Where can I find technical assistance?](#)
- [What equipment will I need?](#)
- [How do I plant without tilling?](#)
- [How do production rates change when you use no-till and cover crops?](#)
- [Will cover crops attract rodents and bugs?](#)
- [Will cover cropping require permits? Are there ordinances against their use?](#)
- [Are there any cost-share opportunities or seed kits available?](#)
- [Are there any local leaders in the practice of no-till and cover cropping?](#)
- [What's the best way to rotate crops if I only grow a single vegetable, like tomatoes?](#)
- [When will I see results?](#)
- [Which cover crops are best for my garden?](#)
- [Where can I find more resources about soil health and soil science?](#)
- [What should be on my checklist to improve soil health?](#)

WILL COVER CROPS LOOK MESSY?

Your garden's appearance is a personal choice, but there's a lot to say in favor of planted spaces over bare earth. A lot of it depends on what type of cover crops you choose to grow. Not only do they help prevent eroded soil from spilling over yards and walkways and running off into the storm system, they also can create a green space in your yard through the winter, provide cover for wildlife, a colorful aesthetic in an otherwise dreary landscape, and more.

IS IT MORE EXPENSIVE TO USE COVER CROPS?

This is a complicated question as it involves a number of variables, but the answer is probably no. Building healthy soil through the use of cover crops can lead to a reduced reliance on watering and use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. You will also be able to reduce the expense of compost to build fertile soil. And to top it all off, cover crop seeds are relatively cheap!



UNLOCK THE SECRETS

TAKE A PLEDGE



Want to print this page?

Click [here](#) for a [printable pdf](#) for your reference.

Taking a Pledge

TAKE A PLEDGE

Pledge Information

I currently implement practices that improve soil health.
 I pledge to implement practices that improve soil health.

First Name: *

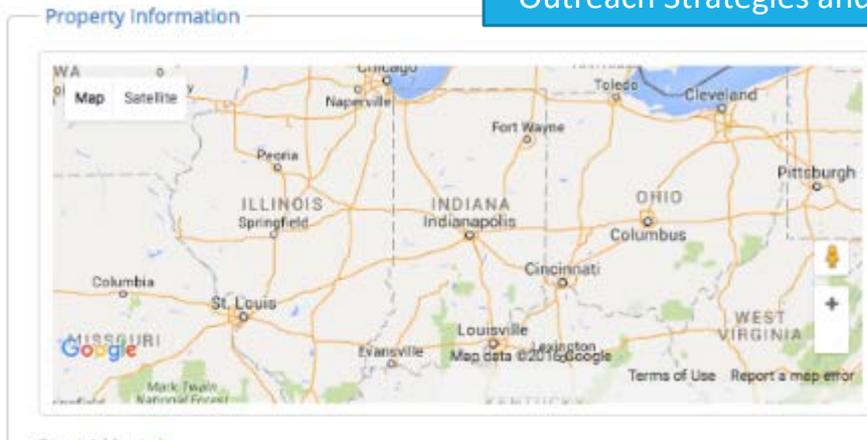
Last Name: *

Contact Email: *

How Did You Hear About Us: *

From Whom: *

Built-in Evaluation Mechanisms for Outreach Strategies and Partners



WHO ELSE IS PLEDGING?

LAST HEALTHY SOILS PLEDGE
Lance L. - Zionsville

ALL HEALTHY SOILS PLEDGES

Able to engage 'early adopters'/leaders
Able to measure behavior change

Eight Individual Soils Pledges

Street Address: *

Street Address 2

City: * State: * Zip: *

I pledge to plant a cover crop after harvest or keep a living plant growing year-round in the soil.

I pledge to reduce or stop mechanical tilling (rototiller, etc.) to decrease soil disturbance.

I pledge to rotate and diversify the crops I grow.

I pledge to replace some of my turfgrass lawn with native plants.

I pledge to have my soil tested and adjust my fertilizer use accordingly.

I pledge to compost my kitchen and yard waste and apply it to my garden and flower beds.

I pledge to use natural mulch (such as straw, grass clippings, and/or leaves) to cover any bare soil.

I pledge to manage pests (insects and weeds) following an environmentally-friendly approach that promotes healthy plant growth and beneficial organisms

[SUBMIT MY PLEDGE!](#)

Taking a Pledge – Measuring Impacts

I pledge to plant a cover crop after harvest or keep a living plant growing year-round in the soil.

I already do this
I will do this

COVER CROPS

- By planting a cover crop, you're helping to increase moisture, nutrients, and organic matter in the soil and decrease pests and erosion problems.
- Increasing organic matter also means an increase of soil carbon sequestration (trapping carbon in the soil so it's not available to contribute to climate change).

Planting Width in linear ft: * Planting Length in linear ft: *

Sediment Reduction in t/yr: Phosphorus Saved in lbs/yr:

Nitrogen Saved in lbs/yr: Algae Prevented in lbs/yr:

[Assumptions](#)

Personalized pollution reductions and relatable outcomes resulting from each person's 'choice'/action

Taking a Pledge – Narrative Feedback

I pledge to rotate and diversify the crops I grow.

I already do this

I will do this

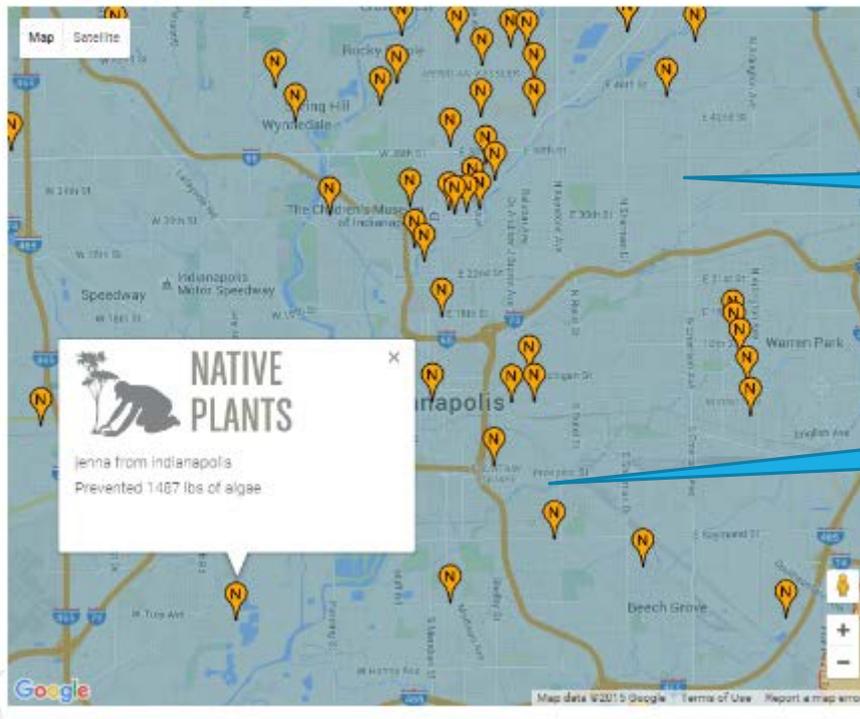
DIVERSIFYING CROPS

- By rotating what you plant, you have reduced the risk of spreading plant disease. Over time, these diseases can build up and eventually result in crop failure or costly intervention. Crop rotation keeps these organisms in balance.
- Because different plants require different nutrients to help them grow best, by rotating crops you have helped keep your soil from being depleted of nutrients. It also allows you to apply targeted soil amendments without over fertilizing, which protects water resources from fertilizer runoff.
- Crop rotation can also increase soils moisture and improve your crops' potential yield.

Taking a Pledge – The Map

Who Else Is Doing It? Runoff Impacts Rain Gardens Rain Garden FAQs Shorelines Shoreline FAQs Take a Pledge

WHO ELSE IS DOING IT?



PLEDGE TYPES

Use the check boxes below to hide/show the various pledges that will appear on the map to the left.

Pet & Other Poo

Conservation

Septic Maintenance

Volunteer Service

Native Plants & C

ZIP CODE LOC

SUBMIT

LAST PLEDGE

Caitlin Z. - St. Louis

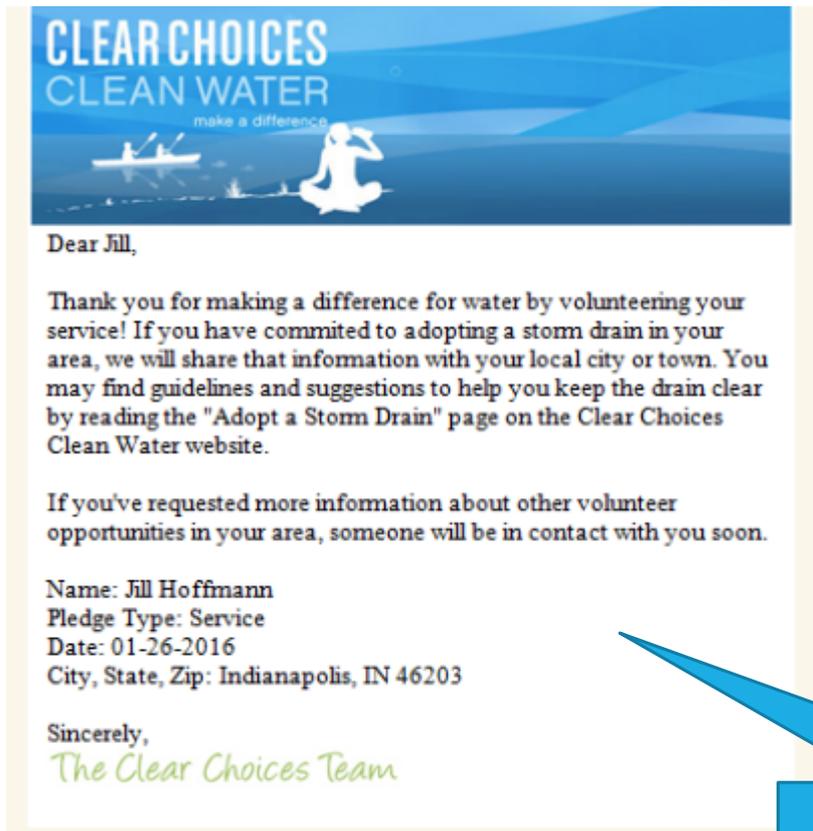
TOTAL PLEDGES

656

Pledge Map = Peer Pressure and Proof of Social Acceptance

Public Commitment and Acknowledgement

Taking a Pledge – Follow up



Follow-up Encouragement Emails –
Set Up as Customizable
Auto-Response system

Impact of 3056 Pledges

1468 lawns - 810 acres

- 26,441 lbs Phosphorus saved/yr
- 6.5 million lbs Algae prevented

733 pet owners – 1036 dogs

- 6.1 trillion Bacteria/year

580 native planting pledges

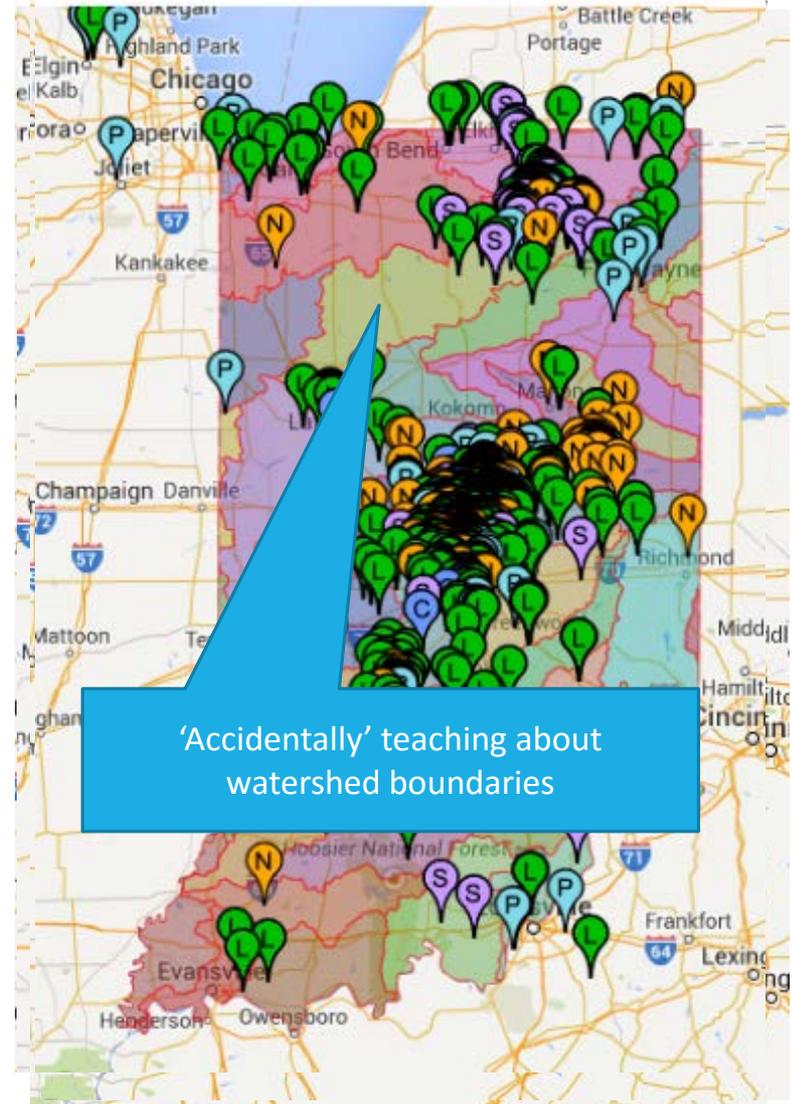
- 1.2 million lbs Phosphorus saved/yr
- 610 million lbs Algae prevented

218 septic pledges

- each save 76,650 gallons waste

57 conservation pledges

- 7.4 million gallons water saved/yr



Social Change

Cleaner Water & Water Conservation

Evaluation Measures

of Impressions

of Pledges

of Web Site Hits

Pollution Load Reductions

% Behavior Change

Engaged Partners



Media & Marketing Outcomes

Two Important Goals:

Goal 1 – Pledge #s and Tangible,
Measurable Behavior Change

Goal 2 – Issue Awareness at Broader
Scale; Messages Being Seen

Current Multimedia Resources Available to Sponsors

Facebook Advertisements

Facebook 'canned' posts

Print Advertisements

Postcards/Handouts

Posters

Billboards

Banners

Radio Advertisements

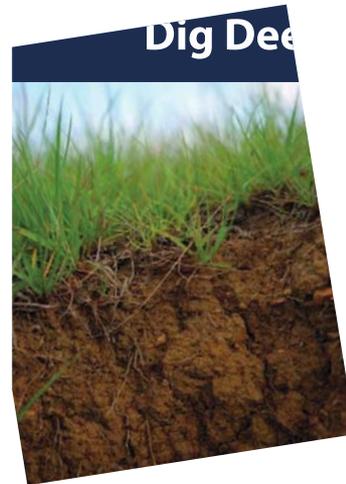
TV Advertisements

Kids packet items

* Bulk Buys & Logo-ing available



Postcards



Seed Packs

What are Cover Crops?

Cover crops do a lot to protect water quality and improve the soil health in your garden. They help keep living roots in the ground for more of the year, creating channels that hold on to water for your plants to use. These roots also help produce organic matter in the soil, which soaks up water, feeds your plants, and keeps them strong and healthy. The cover crops themselves suppress weeds and keep rain from washing away your soil and its valuable nutrients.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Plant after fall harvest or seed under maturing vegetables before mid-September for adequate growth.
2. Spread by hand as evenly as possible. Packet covers 100 sq. ft.
3. Rake or lightly cultivate seeds in 1/2 inch - 1 1/2 inches deep for good seed to soil contact.
4. Keep ground moist until germination. Oats will die off in the winter - leave to decompose on garden.

DID YOU KNOW?

- One percent of organic matter in the top six inches of soil can hold approximately 27,000 gallons of water per acre.
- One teaspoon of healthy soil contains up to 1 billion good bacteria that help cycle nutrients for your crops.
- Roots of some plants like these oats can grow 3-feet deep in 60 days!

TAKE AN ACTION PLEDGE

indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/soils



OAT COVER CROP

Avena sativa

GROW SOIL HEALTH

Use these oats on your garden to build organic matter, help water soak into the soil, reduce erosion, and protect our streams.



Banner

CLEAR CHOICES CLEAN WATER

GROW SOIL HEALTH

Healthy soils are **LIVING SYSTEMS**
full of beneficial organisms

Growing **COVER CROPS**
increases important organic matter

TAKE AN ACTION PLEDGE!

LESS TILLING
protects root channels
and decreases watering needs

Rotating crops **HELPS PREVENT**
diseases and pests

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Indiana.ClearChoicesCleanWater.org

WHITE RIVER ALLIANCE MASON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT USDA



8' Tall!



Awards

IN Water Resources Association

Telly Award for best 'caused based marketing' spot

Indiana Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence!

North American Lake Management Society Technical Merit Award for Education and Outreach

Water Environment Association Award for Outstanding Website



A Big Thank You to Our Soil Health Partners!



Natural Resources Conservation Service



Thank you!
We look forward to
working with you!



NRCS State Conservationist Report

September, 2016

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has helped our customers take their conservation efforts to the next level, improving the health and productivity of their operations while protecting our natural resources for the future. CSP has now become the largest conservation program in all of USDA with nearly 70 million acres enrolled since 2010. Over the past two years we have carefully considered recommendations made by employees at field, state and national levels and together we have developed that will simplify program delivery while refocusing on our core competency: conservation planning. Please take the opportunity to promote CSP during your local work group meetings. In the upcoming months we will have additional information released to assist with the rollout of the program. Bulletin 300-16-19 was released and allows local input for ranking CSP and EQIP for fiscal year 2017 programs. A CSP “Building Better Outcomes” brochure is attached for additional information.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Indiana NRCS received an additional \$395,000 in funds for the EQIP Hoosier Hills and Highlands Joint Chiefs Initiative. These dollars will be used to fund the remaining 37 preapproved applications. We also received an additional \$1,705,000 in EQIP general funds that will be used to fund an additional 65 preapproved applications throughout the state.

INFORMATION SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING

All USDA employees, partners, TSPs, volunteers and contractors who have access to a CCE compliant computer must complete the mandatory annual information security awareness (ISA) training. This training is required by law and is an essential part of keeping the information systems secure. The FY17 ISA course will be assigned to AgLearn user accounts on October 1, 2016. The NRCS deadline for completing this training is February 1, 2017. Those who do not complete the training by this deadline will have their access to USDA computer systems suspended until the training is complete.

INDIANA STATE FAIR

Thank you to all of our volunteer who participated in the 2016 Indiana State Fair. Despite the record attendance of 83,148 people on the last day, the attendance was down by 19.4 percent from 2015 because of weather related issues. Total attendance for the 2016 Indiana State Fair was 731,543. Even with the rain and heat, many fairgoers still walked through Pathway to Water Quality and observed the updated exhibit. This gave us an incredible opportunity to let them know what we do as a conservation partnership.

Pathway to Water Quality Volunteer Hours by Agency

NRCS	306.5
ISDA	143
SWCD	107.5
Earth Team	56
FSA	53
IDEM	38.5
IASWCD	14.5
DNR	5.5
Purdue	3



NEW STUDY – ECONOMIC COSTS AND BENEFITS OF COVER CROPS

Through a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from NRCS, Farm Foundation, in collaboration with Purdue University, is developing a comprehensive dataset on the economics of cover cropping systems. The study uses entire field data, rather than data from strip trials.

They are currently seeking Indiana farmers to be part of this three-year study which is targeting farms in 37 counties of Indiana. Up to five fields will be targeted on each farm. Only farms with corn-corn or corn-soybean rotations on the targeted fields will be accepted. Both cover crop and non-cover crop farms and fields are needed. To participate, a farming operation must be in one of the following 37 Indiana counties: Adams, Allen, Benton, Blackford, Boone, Carroll, Clinton, Decatur, DeKalb, Delaware, Fayette, Grant, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Howard, Huntington, Jay, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Miami, Montgomery, Morgan, Noble, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Union, Wabash, Wayne, Wells, and Whitley.

For more details and contact information, contact Wally Tyner at: wtyner@purdue.edu, or (765)-494-4191.

EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEER HOURS

The end of the fiscal year is quickly approaching and now is the time to make sure all Earth Team hours are being captured for FY16. We are expected again this year by National Headquarters, and subsequently by our State Conservationist, to have 100% office participation in the Earth Team Volunteer program. Remember: Think back over past projects or the events that would have used volunteers like the Envirothon, county fairs, field days, people's gardens, pasture walks, farm tours, fish sale, tree sale, outreach meetings, community/park cleanups, locally led meetings, tillage/cover crop transects, women's learning circles, annual meetings, etc. All hours for FY16 should be submitted no later than September 30th. For more information, contact Kris Vance at: kris.vance@in.usda.gov.

CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP) - REDUCTION IN ANNUAL FUEL USE FROM CONSERVATION TILLAGE

Conservation tillage is one of the most widely adopted conservation practices in the United States. The CEAP-1 survey of farmers from 2003 through 2006 indicates that nearly 86 percent of the Nation's cultivated cropland acres use some form of conservation tillage for at least one crop in the crop rotation. In addition to the more commonly recognized environmental benefit of reduced soil disturbance, conservation tillage significantly reduces fuel consumption and therefore emissions from operations. CEAP recently published an article on this topic titled: "Conservation Insight on Fuel Savings and Emissions Reductions from Conservation Tillage Adoption." To read the full article please visit: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcseprd1258255.pdf

