

# Floyd County Soil & Water Conservation District



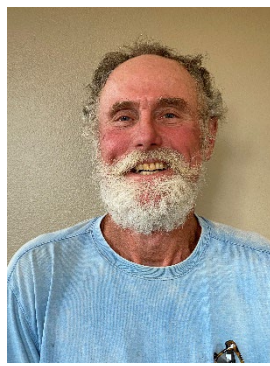
**75** YEARS  
*Of Service to Floyd County*



# 2022 Annual Report



Tom King  
Chairman



Ron Wathen  
Vice-Chairman



Alisa Perkins  
Supervisor



Reba Kamer  
Supervisor



Melanie Palaisa  
Supervisor

*Our purpose is to provide information about soil, water, and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; and connecting land users to sources of educational, technical, and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.*



Angel Jackson  
Director / Educator

**District Office:**

2524 Corydon Pike / Suite 103  
New Albany, IN 47150  
812-945-9936

**Open:**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 – 4:00

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

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# The Year in Review



Commissioner Shawn Carruthers swears in supervisors Melanie Palaisa (left) and Alisa Perkins (right) after the annual meeting in February



Supervisor Alisa Perkins and Director Angel Jackson man the booth at Pollinator Day held at Purdue Extension campus the last Saturday in April



Supervisors Ron Wathen and Alisa Perkins assisted with a Native planting at Lapping Park in May. Plants were purchased with a Friends of NACD grant awarded to Clark Co.'s CISMA



Supervisors Ron Wathen and Tom King work with volunteers to build the Community Garden fence at the 4-H Fairgrounds in May



The District assisted Purdue Extension and Master Gardeners in planting a Monarch habitat patch in the parking lot at Purdue campus



Director Angel Jackson assisted Master Gardeners with a native planting at the county's new Hammersmith Park playground area

In **January** the board of supervisors were busy planning the district's annual meeting. Due to the ongoing public health concern, the meeting had to be a hybrid giving residents the option to attend in person or remotely via a live-stream.

**February** saw the hosting of the district's annual meeting. Alisa Perkins was elected to a 3 year term while Melanie Palaisa was elected to serve the remaining year of a former supervisor's term; The Forestry Award was presented to the son of Melvin Jenson and Conservation Steward Award certificates were given to participants of the CWI Grant cost-share program for removing Bradford /Callary Pear trees. At the **March** meeting Tom King was motioned in as Chairman and Ron Wathen as Vice-Chairman. The board also approved updated Internal Control procedures. Due to a lack of a quorum there was no meeting held in **April** but the district participated in Pollinator Day. The month of **May** saw the Supervisors and Director help with: building the fence for the Community Garden at the 4-H Fairgrounds, planting natives at Lapping Park as part of an NACD grant awarded to neighboring Clark Co. CISMA, planting natives at the county's newest park, and plantings for a "book garden" at the FC Library. The Floyd County 4-H Fair was held in **June** and district staff helped with manning the stations at the "My Little Farm" attraction.

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# The Year in Review



During the 4-H Fair in June, the District helped Farm Bureau and Purdue Extension with families visiting the "My Little Farm" stations



Supervisor Ron Wathen purchased fish during the district Fish Sale hosted the last two weeks of August



ANR Educator, Gina Anderson, stands beside a pile of Invasives removed from the Disc Golf Course at Gary Cavan Park in September during a weed wrangle hosted by Clark & Floyd Co. CISMAS



Attendees listen to Nathan Kachnavage and Supervisor Ron Wathen during a Forestry Workshop focused on Invasive Management held by the district in October



In November Chairman Tom King helped present weather stations to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes at Grant Line Elementary along with members of Farm Bureau and Master Gardener volunteers

Planning fall activities was the focus of the **July** board meeting. The board also agreed to partner with Washington Co. SWCD in applying for a Clean Water Indiana grant to continue addressing invasives. The district hosted a Fish Sale during **August** and worked with Andry's Fish Farm to fulfill orders. The board also ran an advertisement in the News & Tribune to "Thank A Farmer" for all they contribute. In **September** the board approved being one of the sponsors of weather stations provided to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms in the county; the weather stations were part of an agricultural curriculum being taught by Purdue Extension. The district also participated in a weed wrangle at Gary Cavan Park focused on the disc golf course. The Local Work Group Ranking meeting was held by the district in **October** following the regular board meeting and attendees ranked local resource concerns for NRCS funding. A forestry workshop focused on invasives and best management practices was held at the end of the month on supervisor Ron Wathen's woodland. In **November** the district learned their CWI grant application had been approved with a modified budget. Floyd will be the lead district on the grant. The district's Annual Plan of Work was reviewed at the **December** board meeting and updated for plans in 2023.

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ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF FLOYD COUNTY SWCD  
January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

**RECEIPTS**

Balance Brought Forward	\$68,971.59
State for District Operations	\$10,000.00
Clean Water Indiana Grant	\$884.50
County for District Operations	\$914.84
Sales Income (Fish Sale)	\$572.45
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$12,371.79</b>

**TOTAL (balance forward + receipts) \$81,343.38**

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Annual Meeting Expenses	\$77.71
Dues & Subscriptions	\$2,553.00
Postage & Delivery & Operating Expenses	\$82.40
Printing/Copying Expense	\$354.73
Supervisor Per Diem	\$1,440.00
Supplies for Resale (Fish Sale)	\$505.00
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	\$487.00
Workshop/Field Day Expense	\$147.50
Other Disbursements (Adobe Acrobat software)	\$268.47
Other Disbursements (Thank A Farmer Ad.)	\$275.00
Other Disbursements (Sponsorships)	\$2,181.54
Other Disbursements (Wildlife Seed)	\$320.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$8,692.35</b>

**BALANCE (Total receipts – Total disbursements) \$72,651.03**

**CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY**

Salaries	\$58,027.22
Fringe	\$8,357.00
Other (Mileage)	\$523.28

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

Beginning Investments	\$17,231.03
Ending Investments	\$17,232.75
Change (+/-)	\$1.72





## Harrison/Floyd/Crawford Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) serves the agricultural community by administering many of the federal Farm Bill programs. Among the most popular in this area are the Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL), Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), Disaster Programs for Livestock, and the Farm Loan Programs.

Additionally, FSA administered several COVID-19 pandemic relief programs and disaster assistance programs over the past few years, including two rounds of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP and CFAP2) for crop and livestock producers, the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program (PATHH) for loggers, the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program-Plus (WHIP+) for 2019 excessive moisture damage to crops, and currently the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) for eligible disasters in 2020 and 2021. Over \$7.31 Million in CFAP1&2, nearly \$250 Thousand in PATHH, over \$1.58 Million in WHIP+, and \$300 Thousand in ERP funds were distributed to assist eligible producers in the three-county area to date.

The CRP program currently has 198 active contracts (139 in Harrison, 19 in Floyd, 40 in Crawford) with a total of 2329 acres enrolled. The CRP program issues over \$254 Thousand of annual rental payments into the local economy.

Marketing assistance loans provide interim financing at harvest time to help agricultural producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. The producer pledges the agricultural commodity as collateral towards a nine-month loan. Current interest rate is: 5.750%.

The FSFL program provides low interest loans for the construction of commodity storage facilities. These are three to twelve year loans (depending upon the loan amount and equipment constructed) that help provide storage for up to two years of production. Current interest rates are: 4.125% for 3-year term, 3.750% for 5-year term, 3.750% for 7-year term, 3.625% for 10-year term, and 3.625% for 12-year term.

The Farm Loan Programs provide direct loans and loan guarantees for the purchases of land and/or equipment as well as operating loans to local eligible producers. There are 34 direct active loans in the three-county area totaling over \$3 Million and 31 guaranteed loans totaling over \$14 Million.

For additional information on these or any other FSA programs, please feel free to contact the FSA office at 812-738-8121 Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. Regional Farm Loan staff are located in the Salem FSA office and can be reached at 812-883-3006.

County Executive Director: Jennifer Anderson, [jennifer.anderson@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.anderson@usda.gov)

Farm Loan Manager: Debbie Maudlin, [deborah.maudlin@usda.gov](mailto:deborah.maudlin@usda.gov)



Natural Resources Conservation Service

## 2022 Floyd County Update

With the mission of “Helping People Help the Land,” the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Indiana provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to implement conservation practices to address natural resource concerns on their land related to soil health, water and air quality, and wildlife habitat as well as implement climate-smart agriculture practices. With our help, producers are better able to conserve, maintain or improve their natural resources. As a result of our technical and financial assistance, land managers and communities take a comprehensive approach to the use and protection of natural resources in rural, suburban, urban, and developing areas.

Private citizens own over 90 percent of the land in Indiana which includes nearly 15 million acres of farmland and about 4 million acres of forestland. Making stewardship critical to the health of our environment. Each day, these farmers and forest landowners are making decisions about natural resource use and management that impact soil and water quality. With NRCS assistance, many are managing more productive lands while improving healthy ecosystems.

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance through voluntary conservation programs for all kinds of land, natural resources, and people.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the primary program that NRCS uses to provide financial and technical assistance to private landowners wanting to install conservation practices on private lands.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities. CSP may address various resource concerns including soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, and animal or timber resources.

Typical EQIP and CSP contracts include practices such as, livestock watering systems, pasture/hay planting, access roads, heavy use area protection, forest stand improvement, invasive species control, cover crops, nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, no-till, pollinator habitat, and tree planting.

Additional EQIP funding will be available in 2023 through a Regional Conservation Partnership Program, “Farmers Helping Hellbenders.” With help from nearly \$2.7 million in RCCP funding, the project aims to improve hellbender habitat in a four-county region in south central Indiana, the only remaining habitat for hellbenders in the state, by expanding the use of agricultural conservation practices that lead to decreased sedimentation in local rivers systems. The “Farmers Helping Hellbenders” project is led by [Dr. Rod Williams](#) and Purdue Extension wildlife specialist/[Help the Hellbender](#) project coordinator [Nick Burgmeier](#). Through this initiative, focused on Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, and Washington counties, we expect to improve water quality and aquatic wildlife habitat,” Burgmeier said. “Simultaneously, we hope to improve soil retention and nutrient availability to crops by helping farmers implement practices such as cover crops, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, etc. Additional benefits will include increases in riparian and pollinator habitat and increased protection for karst habitat through the selected targeting of sinkholes. *(Continued on next page)*

Improving Soil Health continues to be a major focus of NRCS and the Conservation Partnership. As soil health improves, soils become more resilient and able to function at a higher level even during extreme weather patterns. Healthy soils are more resistant to erosion, absorb more rainfall, cycle nutrients more efficiently, and require fewer inputs. These things are important whether you are producing corn and soybeans or forages for grazing livestock. Implementing practices like no-till, cover crops, nutrient and pest management, conservation buffers, and prescribed grazing will make your soils function at their highest level.

To find out more about the programs and services offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and available in Floyd County, please contact: Kevin Chastain, NRCS District Conservationist at [kevin.chastain@usda.gov](mailto:kevin.chastain@usda.gov) or Erica Wyss, NRCS Soil Conservationist at [erica.wyss@usda.gov](mailto:erica.wyss@usda.gov). Or visit [www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/). or call (812)738-8121 ext. 3.

*"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."*

## Organizations the District worked with in 2022

