

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 10:04 AM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Parke Temp/Vacant Appt

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email was sent from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

ParkeSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Parke
Appointment Type
Vacant_Appointed_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
John Craycraft
Term Expiration
1/1/2027
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Don Donovan
Address
3334 S Catlin Road
City, State, ZIP
Rockville, IN 47872
Qualifications
Parke County resident and a retired NRCS employee with over 40 years of service. Served on the Soil Health team.
Occupation
Retired NRCS employee
Conservation Interests

Soil health
The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.
Yes
The candidate is of legal voting age.
Yes
The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.
Yes
Chairman Name
Bob Hale
Date of Submission
09/24/2026
Is a letter of resignation attached?
Yes
If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this form .

9-22-76

I, John C. Ingram do hereby resign my
position as Supervisor of PARK TRCD

John C. Ingram



Clean Water Indiana Report October 2026

DRAFT

2027 CWI Applications

Grants Committee Meeting October 16th – Report coming soon

Thank you to the grants committee and staff for reviewing, ranking applications, and attending the meeting.

Thank you to the SSCB and staff for providing reviewing and providing comments to the CWI applications.

Great big appreciation to Leah Harmon, ISDA Director of Technology and Information Strategy, for her help with the behind-the-scenes data collection and GMS program logistics. Leah was the key to making the data collection run smoothly.

2026 CWI Timeline:

October 16- Grants Committee meets to review applications for recommendations

October 20th- Recommendation and approval of 2027 grants by SSCB

November- Information about the CWI Training dollars will be sent out

January- Annual Conference session for Capacity Study and session on “From Idea to

Award: Building Competitive Grant Applications” partnership with IDEM 319

Action Needed: CWI Modification for Jefferson SWCD:

Activity to be changed: Jefferson County SWCD purchased a 10ft No-till drill through the 2025 CWI Grant. The SWCD would like to request a modification due to the actual drill cost compared to the quote given when applying for the grant.

Proposed Change: 10ft No-Till Drill; Original amount requested (\$30,650) decreasing to \$27,352.26. We would like the remaining amount (\$3,297.74) be used as "extras" meaning; spare parts, labor, maintenance associated with upkeep items like, spare jacks, hitch pens, portable shop-vac, air pump, grease gun and a cover for the seed boxes or other miscellaneous things.

Modification Justification: The Original quote received when applying totaled \$61,300, we asked for 50% (\$30,650). However, the dealership gave us a government discount when purchasing and paying in full bringing the grand total to \$54,704.52, \$27,352.26 being 50% of the drill. That leaves us with \$3,297.74 remaining unspent from our grant. Requesting these changes can help keep the drill in use. We have already run into a few situations where a few of these items would have been handy to have and would have made the process much easier and quicker getting the drill back to use for the landowners. Overtime, regular use of the drill has required replacement parts and extra supplies to maintain. These expenses have been crucial to the successful use of the drill in Jefferson County and to “save our soil” associated with the no-till seeding practices.

Update to CWI District Capacity Study: DJ Case & Associates

Project Timeline Update

Month	Activity
July/ August	Conduct listening to sessions and district visits in all five regions Week 1: July 21-24 Status: COMPLETE
	Week 2: August 24-28 Status: COMPLETE **Additional SWCD visits were scheduled based on DJ Case & Associate availability Online Option: September 1, 6-8 pm Status: COMPLETE Status: Communication, flyers, and sign up sent out via email, DSS updates, and Face Book Set up state partner interviews: Status: COMPLETE
August (Deliverable: 3-analyze data)	Data analysis (interviews, listening sessions, and onsite visits) Survey questions are being developed and prioritized Status: COMPLETE
September	Survey development based off the August/early September interviews. Status: COMPLETE
October	Launch survey. Post cards will be mailed out, delay from State printing services.
November	Report writing
December	Report writing
January (Deliverable 4)	Report writing, receive feedback if not sooner, Intro to initial findings presentations; at the January Annual Conference
~April	Final report and presentations

October 2026 IASWCD Update



IASWCD Executive Director Search Completed

The search for IASWCD's next Executive Director has officially concluded, and we are excited to announce that a decision has been made! We look forward to sharing more about the new director with our members, partners, and conservation community. Watch for an official announcement in December as we begin this exciting new chapter for IASWCD.

IASWCD Staff & Leadership Transition

Amy Work, Director of Communications & Member Programs, is transitioning into retirement, with her last day scheduled for October 30. Whitney McGrew has begun transitioning into the newly titled role of *Director of Operations & Engagement*, assuming responsibility for communications, operations, grant management and member/partner engagement. During the interim period of October through December, Whitney McGrew and Meg Leader, RITA Director, will co-lead the association and share Executive Director responsibilities. Whitney will serve as the primary point of contact during this transition. She can be reached at: whitney-mcgrew@iaswcd.org

Resolution Submissions

Two resolutions were submitted to IASWCD by Districts. These have been shared with the districts and are posted on the IASWCD website. An online Resolutions Review session is being scheduled in November. This review session will allow time for districts to ask questions and gain clarification on the resolutions received. These resolutions will be voted on at the Annual IASWCD Business meeting on January 26, 2027.

2027 IASWCD Conference

IASWCD is gearing up for the 2027 Conference!

"One Nation in Conservation"

Registration will go live this month.

Watch for more details in your inbox and on the conference webpage:

<https://iaswcd.org/conservation-events/annual-conference/>



Currently Seeking Sponsors and Exhibitors

January 24-26, 2027

The Westin Indianapolis, 241 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

BREAKING NEWS! Sixteen breakout sessions are currently being prepared for this conference! IASWCD is excited to announce that we will be hosting a film screening of the Diverse Corn Belt Project documentary in two of these breakout session time slots.

National No-Till Conference Discount Reminder

CCSI has worked with organizers of the 2027 National No-Till Conference to provide an Indiana Conservation Partnership Soil Health Demo Booth, a breakout session and discount for ALL Indiana Conservation Staff and Supervisors. This includes IASWCD, IDNR, IDEM, IDNR, Purdue, SSCB, USDA-NRCS, and USDA-FSA. SWCD Supervisors, FSA County Committees and Extension County Boards are included as well.

Use the member discount code - CCSI299 - at registration to bring the cost down to \$299!

One important note: each attendee must register individually using the discount code — the savings don't apply when adding guests under a single registration.

Purdue Integrated Pest Management Specialist

Alicia Kelley was offered and accepted the Purdue IPM Specialist position. This position is partially funded through CCSI's NRCS Agreement ending on 09/30/2027. Her prior work focused upon documenting 'exotic insect pests' in Indiana.

This position using IPM techniques to help ensure insecticides applications are well targeted while protecting beneficial insects like lightning bugs (lightning bug larvae are voracious eaters of slugs) and 'sweat bees' (aphid feeders).

Kelley will be working on an AgSeed grant proposal with Dr. Clemente Bataille (Forestry and Natural Resources) that will focus on developing AI-powered traps to monitor migratory moth pests in Indiana, incorporating well with Kelley's goal to re-launch and expand the trapping network for the coming year.

CCSI Soil Health Updates

- **October - Alliance of Indiana Rural Water**

The Monday, October 5th CCSI Soil Health Update featured Amanda Trakas, Alliance of Indiana Rural Water. Trakas presented on AIRW's work on source water protection and opportunities for partnership. Of note:

- NRCS has a 10% target of Farm Bill Financial Assistance funding for identified source water protection practices. This includes wellheads and surface water protection areas.
- Utility operators, including well fields, reservoirs and sewage treatment plants are required to obtain CEUs. Trakas can work with IDEM and local partners to obtain CEU accreditation – providing opportunities to educate those staff members on conservation practices and opportunities.
- AIRW has a wealth of information available regarding populations in a given area – how many are drawing wells from reservoirs, public well systems, and private wells – along with potential water quality concerns
- View the video: <https://bit.ly/2026-10-CCSISHUpdate> / Passcode DLD@1KLc

- **December – Potential PARP program changes**

The December 7th CCSI Soil Health Update will feature Sarah Brackney and/or other Purdue staff as Purdue Extension transitions into a more regional model. As with other organizations, efficiency in expenses is an order of the day. Any changes will be designed to help ensure private applicators needing PARP points have training opportunities.

Upcoming Events and Trainings

- Fall / Post Harvest TBD Dubois SWCD getting started with cover crops
- 11/05 – Lower Wabash Partnership “Ag 101”
- 11/10 – Soil Health Breakfast, Jasper, IN
- 11/12 – Hoosier Chapter SWCS Fall Meeting, Morocco
- 12/01 – CCSI-SARE Conservation Drainage Training, Lewisville
- 12/10 – Randolph County Manure Management
- 12/15-16 - Indiana CCA Conference, Indy
- 01/13-15 – National No-Till Conference, Indy
- 01/24-26 – IASWCD Conference, Indy
- Dec TBD Jay / Randolph Manure Management Field Day
- Date TBD – Clean Water Indiana Pike County Crimper Workshop

Completed Events and Trainings

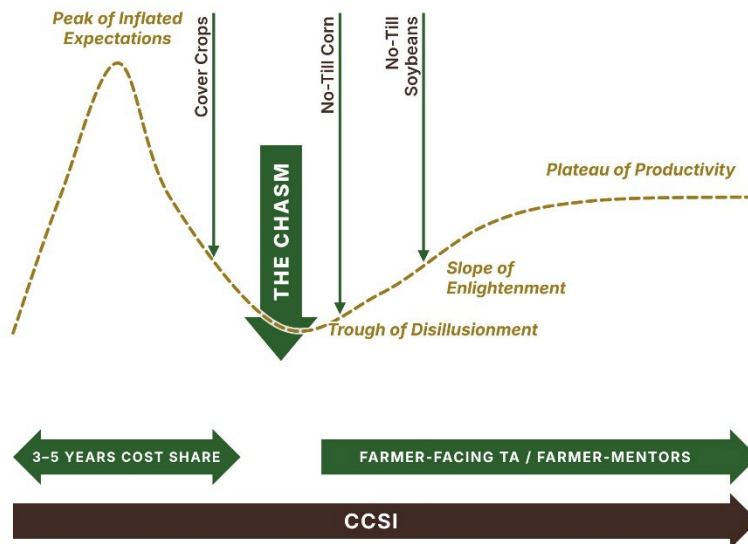
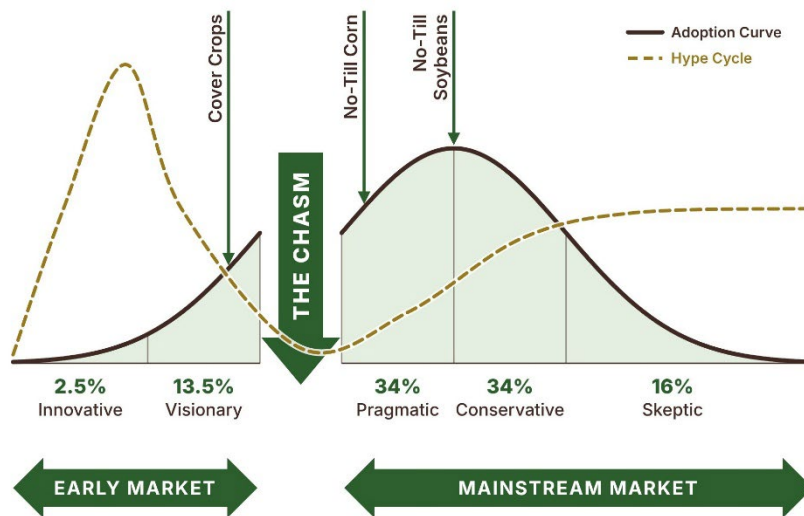
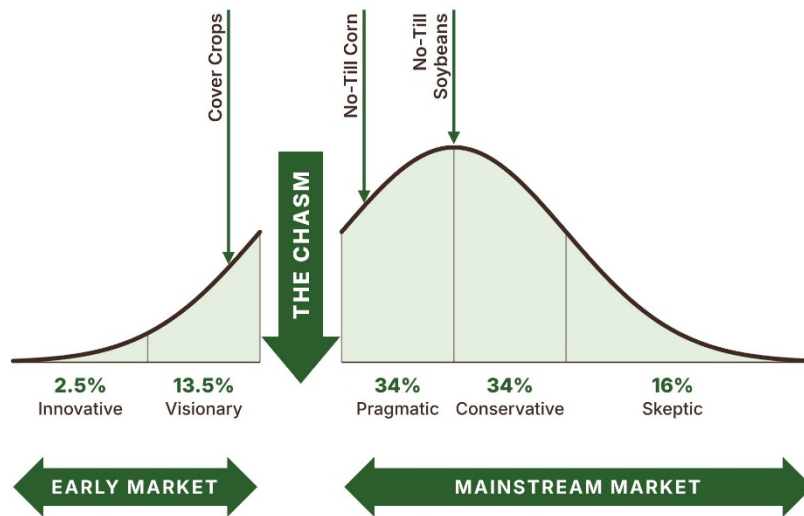
- 09/02 Farm Advisors Group Meeting, Vermillion Co – 45 attendees
- 09/09 Roemke Field Day, Allen Co – est. 75 attendees
- 09/15 Armstrong Purdue University Class, Tippecanoe Co – 18 attendees
- 09/17 Daviess Co Ag Day, Daviess Co – est 300 attendees
- 09/21-24 FFA Convention / Fair Oaks Dairy – est 450 attendees
- 09/29 Putnam Co Conservation Day, Putnam Co – est 350 attendees

FarmWISE / Purdue / CCSI – Edible Dry Beans

After meeting with SW Indiana Farmers and FarmWISE staff in the summer of 2025 and identifying farmers in S-Central Indiana who have successfully grown edible dry beans at scale, FarmWISE staff began work to identify potential buyers of dry beans along with quality control and quantity limitations that would need to be met. Since that time, researchers at Purdue are exploring methodology and finance needs to investigate and identify varieties that may be best suited for these purposes that can be grown in Indiana.

Updated Adoption Curve

(See next page). A “hype curve” has been added to social science-based adoption curves and Indiana adoption rates. This clearly reflects known dis-adoption after cost-share ends without solid technical assistance. CCSI has been providing that technical assistance through training of staff, farmer-facing events focusing upon pragmatic practice techniques, and partnerships with the Farm Advisors Mentoring Program.



Report to the State Soil Conservation Board

October 20, 2026

Program Director Activities

Recruit and hire RITA Technicians

- Hayden Sater's (Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe and Sullivan Counties) last day was October 9. He was head hunted by a local supply co.
- Will Yoder (Bartholomew, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings and Ohio Counties) will be shifting to Sater's region when the new staff starts.
- Leader has posted Yoder's position (closes Nov. 2) and hopes to have the new RITA Tech onboard before the end of the year.



ONGOING GOAL: Serve as a liaison for the agreement, and publicize opportunities related to the agreement to SWCDs statewide.

- The RITA in Action essays in IASWCD's Conservation Insight newsletter have continued.
- On September 17, held our semi-annual meeting with NRCS, SSCB and ISDA to discuss the program and possible future beyond the current funding. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3.

ONGOING GOAL: Facilitate and lead local SWCD Boards, SWCD staff and partners in each program region to ensure effective work assignments and outcomes for Conservation Technicians.

- All RITA Techs continue working closely with NRCS DCs to address federal work loads and to acquire the experience they need to become a Certified Planner.
- The preliminary results from the quarterly review of RITA Techs by SWCDs for the quarter ending September 30. SWCDs have until October 23 to complete.
 - 66% of the 65 hosting SWCDs completed the review
 - 33% of the 14 Events Only SWCDs completed the review (optional)
 - The average score was 4.67 on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is the best possible score.

RITA Technicians Activities

ONGOING GOAL: Support SWCD priorities and projects and track selected metrics in five categories:

➤ Outreach Activities

Activities	Total
Attend SWCD board meetings	508
Attend ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars	567
Attend Field Days and Trainings	798
Present objectives/accomplishments at SWCD board meetings	232
Presentations at Field Days and Trainings	70
Presentations to the general public	350
Educational interactions with producers/forest owners	69
One-on-One discussions with land users on the benefits of soil health and improving water quality	325

➤ Technical Assistance Activities – Resource Concerns

Soil Health Management	125	Drainage & Water Management	87
Commodity Crops/Cover Crops Management	61	Invasives Management	184
Livestock/Pasture Management	31	Diversified/Orchard/Urban Gardens Management	141
Woodlands/Agroforestry Management	37		
TA to support Historically Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged Producers			73

➤ Planning and Engineering Activities

Completed conservation planning activities	3	Number of designs/inspections completed	6
Number of surveys	8	Number of construction checks completed	2

➤ Program Support

CWI Grants	160	RCPP Grants	8
LARE Grants	11	Other Farm Bill Programs	41
ISDA Soil Sampling	4	NACD Grants	7
EPA 319 Grants	93	Other Agency and NGO Grants*	113

* REMC and Community Foundation of Allen Co. Grants

Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant

IDEM Tire Recycling Grant

Ball Grant

Purdue-funded Study

RC & D Grant

IN Academy of Science Bio-inventory Grant

Greenways Foundation Grant

IDNR Community and Urban Forestry Grant

Arrowhead RC&D Grant

IN Native Plant Society Biodiversity Grant

Aluminum Co. of America

Kubota Small Town Grant

Community Foundation of Fountain Co. Grant

➤ ICP Collaboration Activities

Field/Tillage Checks	167	ICP Referrals	10
Transect Participation	32	Meetings with other ICP Staff	260

Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

October 2026 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Application deadline for the following Farm Bill programs is **December 18:**

- [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#): The Agricultural Land Easement component of ACEP enables producers to protect their agricultural land from development by enrolling it in a permanent Agricultural Land Easement. The Wetland Reserve Easement component of ACEP helps landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.
- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#): CSP helps producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operation.
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#): EQIP provides producers with the technical and financial resources they need to address resources concerns on their land including improved water and air quality, increased soil health, reduced soil erosion, improved natural vitality and more.
- [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#): Producers can apply for financial assistance in geographically focused RCPP project areas. Talk to your local district conservationist to see if your property is located in a project area. Projects include Kankakee Watershed and Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds (GSS).
- [Regenerative Pilot Program \(RPP\)](#): NRCS is also providing additional financial assistance nationwide through RPP which enables producers to implement whole-farm regenerative practices through a single application for EQIP and CSP. NRCS recently announced an increase in financial assistance for RPP from \$700 million to \$1 billion nationally in fiscal year 2027. NRCS is dedicating **\$650 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and \$350 million through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** to fund this second year of regenerative agriculture projects. Producers can bundle multiple regenerative practices into one application, streamlining the process and increasing flexibility for operations.

NOTICE OF FUNDING - EASEMENT RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP

NRCS is investing **\$5 million in partnerships** to help agricultural producers and private landowners restore and steward wetlands and floodplains **through conservation easements**. Funding is through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. Awarded work will fall into three main categories:

- [Wetland and Floodplain Easement Restoration](#): Awardees will work with NRCS, partners and landowners to develop and implement sound easement restoration plans, to include structural practices, like levees and water control structures, or vegetative establishment practices, like tree planting.
- [Wetland and Floodplain Easement Stewardship](#): Awardees are responsible for completing easement stewardship activities on restored wetland and floodplain easements. Easement stewardship includes repair, maintenance, management, and enhancement of properties.

- **Easement Assessments:** Awardees will complete onsite and offsite easement assessments. These assessments will document the habitat condition of easements and determine their compliance with deed terms and conditions. Awardees will use the data collected to determine the ecological condition of easements and, if necessary, develop repair, enhancement or maintenance plans to improve the condition of the assessed easements.

Applications are due by **11:59 p.m. ET on November 19, 2026**. NRCS anticipates making selections by December 17, 2026, and expects to execute awards by February 2026. These dates are estimates and are subject to change. Non-federal entities are eligible to apply. For a full list of eligible entity types, additional details, and to apply, [visit the Grants.gov opportunity](#).

NEW SOIL HEALTH RESOURCE WEBPAGE

National NRCS has refreshed its online soil health resources to provide an improved user experience with clearer navigation for agricultural producers, technical service providers, the soil health industry and our partners. NRCS soil health information is **now easier to find and use**, with stronger integration across soil health topics, connecting technical, programmatic and training resources. Pages are **organized by land use**, plus dedicated pages for topics **including soil health testing, economics, cover crops** and more. Anyone who manages working lands can benefit from practical guidance on how to assess their soil, learn about practices that improve soil health, and measure progress over time. These enhanced resources will also support Regenerative Pilot Program participants and the qualified individuals who assist them.

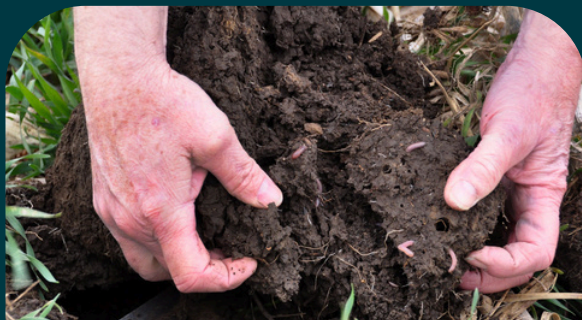
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/soil/soil-health?utm_campaign=101326soilhealth&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

NRI is the National Resources Inventory, a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection will begin on **October 8, 2026, and runs through until the end of January 2027**. The soils staff at the state office will collect the data. Field office staff and FSA may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plans, cropping history, etc. If you have any comments or questions, please contact John Allen, State Soil Scientist at john.allen@usda.gov.

CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP)

The 2026 CEAP survey is a collaboration between NRCS and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to gather in-depth information about the use of conservation practices on cultivated cropland. Around 23,000 farm operators nationwide will be screened for the potential to complete the 2026 CEAP survey. NASS, in cooperation with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), will conduct screening and surveying from **June 2026 to spring 2027**. The survey data will support the third set of national and regional cropland assessments.



WEATHERING WATER EXTREMES:

Connecting Soil Health, Drainage, Irrigation, and Farm Resilience

Join us for a two-day workshop to balance and build connections between drainage, irrigation, soil health, and more!

Audience: Conservation and agricultural professionals interested in soil health and water management.

What to expect:

- Hear from experts on climate, water management, and soil health.
- See real-world examples through farm tours and farmer conversations.
- Take home practical tools and strategies to improve farm resilience.

NOVEMBER

4-5
2026

**ELKHART COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

17746 COUNTY ROAD 34
GOSHEN, INDIANA 46528



**More Information
& Register:**

**[events.anr.msu.edu
/soilnexus26](https://events.anr.msu.edu/soilnexus26)**

Plan your attendance:

Pre-registration: \$135*

On-site registration: \$165

*Hotel block available at Fairfield Inn
(Ask for Soil Nexus Participant price)*

***First Timer Discount (\$25)**

Must have never attended an in-person Soil Health Nexus workshop

**9 Soil and Water CCA
Credits pending**

SOIL HEALTH
NEXUS

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

P PURDUE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

WEATHERING WATER EXTREMES: Connecting Soil Health, Drainage, Irrigation, and Farm Resilience 2026 Workshop Schedule

Wednesday, November 4th 9:30am - 7:00pm

- **Registration and Welcome**
- **Climate Trends and Agricultural Implications**
Austin Pearson, Purdue University
Agriculture Meteorologist & Climatologist
- **Drainage Water Quality and Agricultural Resilience**
Ben Reinhart, Conservation Planner at Ecosystems Exchange
- **Lunch**
- **Biosecurity on Today's Farms**
Kathryn Jennings, Purdue Extension Educator
- **Farm Tours featuring:**
 - *Keith Miller Farm: Nearly 50 years of no-till and cover crop management*
 - *Irrigation management and water-use efficiency*
 - *Entomology of No-Till & Cover Crops, Dr. Coy St. Clair*
 - *Conservation Drainage in Action: Planning for Better Water Management, Dr. Eshan Ghane*
- **Dinner and Networking**

Thursday, November 5th 8:30am - 3:00pm

- **Digging into Soil Health: A Facilitator's Guide to Real-World Decisions**
Leslie Johnson, University of Nebraska Extension Educator
- **Irrigation Management: Making Every Drop Count**
Brenden Kelly, Michigan State University Extension Irrigation Educator
- **The Economics of Cover Crops and No-Till**
Michael Langemeier, Purdue University Professor of Agricultural Economics
- **Farmers' Perspectives: Soil Health, Livestock & Water Management**
Farmer Panel
- **Lunch**
- **Farm Tour: Martin Organic Dairy**
Goshen, Indiana

As a partner with Michigan State University Extension and Purdue Extension, this program and associated materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.



Information & Register: events.anr.msu.edu/soilnexus26



State Soil Conservation Board

October 20, 2026

Nutrient Stewardship Update, Ophelia Norman



Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program

- And we're off!! Fall 2026 MRB SSP registration started successfully on Monday, September 14 and will remain open until Friday, November 6.
 - This round of registration will be the first under Workplan #2.
 - To date, we've received well over 100 registrations from IN landowners requesting to have acreage sampled.
 - Nearly 25% of these registrations have been referred to our CCA partners because of current program requirements.
- The program acreage enrollment threshold for ISDA staff to sample will be 50 acres (pasture, hay, specialty), all crop acres plus any other registrations over 50 acres will be shared with our CCA partners. This change was made in consideration of ISDA Resource Specialists to maintain workload capacity for other responsibilities related to their roles.
- This program includes Indiana watersheds within the MRB and excludes the WLEB and Lake Michigan Basins. This is due to federal statutory language associated with the funds.

Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP)

- The next GHP CC Taskforce Meeting has just been announced and is set for November 18-19 in Florida. Julie, Tara and Ophelia will both be attending this HTF CC Taskforce meeting.
- After submitting a request to EPA earlier in August, ISDA has received approval from EPA for a 6-month extension on Workplan #1 that will allow ISDA to purchase much needed supplies for our ISDA field staff. New end date is March 31, 2027.
- Workplan #2 has been approved and is being utilized now during Fall 2026.
 - As a reminder, these are non-competitive funds established under the GHP to allow Hypoxia Task Force Member states to further their nutrient reduction strategy efforts.



State Soil Conservation Board

October 20, 2026 District Support Specialist (DSS) Report:

August 22, 2026 – October 2, 2026

STATEWIDE DSS ACTIVITIES OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD/TOTAL

- Input, assistance & attendance at SWCD Board Meetings: 7
- Assistance with SWCD or Partner strategic planning: 1
- Assistance with CWI initiatives (competitive grants, capacity reports, etc.) as a key focus (doesn't include assistance during other interactions such as Board Meetings): 18
- Other events with SWCDs for training, assistance, guidance, etc.: 19
- Total number of counties impacted by activities of significance: 43

NEW DSS JOB POSTINGS

- DSSs and other ISDA staff reviewed applications for the southwest and northeast DSS positions and prioritized which candidates would be offered interviews. Virtual interviews were conducted for both regions. Next steps: in-person interviews.

STATEWIDE/REGIONAL TRAININGS FOR SWCD SUPERVISORS AND STAFF

Completed trainings and events:

- August 25: Geneva hosted a SNW SWCD staff meeting. Key discussion points included CWI competitive grants, IDEA updates and election season questions (8 counties in attendance).
- August 26: Kylie hosted a SWCD staff and supervisor training on how to work with your local government. Colette Childress of Indiana Farm Bureau spoke at the training (20 people attended.)
- September 1: Nathan provided ISDA updates at the local Region Meeting (14 SWCD staff and supervisors in attendance.)
- September 2: Sandra attended the NNW IDEA meeting (7 counties in attendance).
- September 21: Laura hosted a SWCD training on conflict management and 319/CWI grants. (7 counties in attendance.)

New Supervisor and Staff training: available year-round. Please contact your ISDA DSS for more information.

SWCD Supervisor training guidelines effective July 1, 2026: beginning January 1, ISDA will begin formally tracking Supervisor training participation via the Board Leadership Program website. The DSS September Update included a table further explaining training requirements for supervisors.

DSS COMMITTEE WORK AND OTHER KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- DSSs are assisting SWCDs with processes tying to the following deadlines:
 - November 1: election committee appointment
 - November 1: recommendations for supervisor appointment
 - December 1: nominees for election
- Committee work included: Board Leadership Program, Clean Water Indiana, & State Soil Conservation Board.
- DSSs are encouraging participation in the Needs Assessment initiative.

CLEAN WATER INDIANA (CWI)

- DSSs provided feedback on 2027 CWI competitive grant applications and answered questions from applicants. DSSs also reviewed and ranked applications for consideration of the Grants Committee, abstaining from ranking applications in which they were involved. We appreciate each applicant's time and efforts pursuing different ways to implement more conservation in their areas.
- DSSs assisted current grantees with tasks such as modifications

BOARD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (BLP)

- NEW module: "The Dust Bowl". Reading Through History explains the factors leading to the devastating drought and agricultural practices that caused the 1930s environmental disaster, The Dust Bowl.
- UPDATED module: "Reviewing Claims at Board Meetings" now has an upgraded video instead of just a text format module.
- Access the BLP website: ISDA website [ISDA: Districts Tools](#) and [Conservation Link SWCD Training - Home](#)