



*Mission: Increasing agricultural economic benefits by assisting Indiana's farmers in the application of advanced agronomic technologies while improving upon Indiana's soil health and water quality.*

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2015

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*ISDA Staff*

*The Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) started in 1986 housed within the Department of Natural Resources. The DSC was moved to the State Department of Agriculture in July 2005.*

2015 was a successful year for the **Indiana State Department of Agriculture – Division of Soil Conservation** (ISDA-DSC). New employees joined the team, existing programs grew and improved, accountability and transparency was increased, and new initiatives were rolled out. Soil Health, Big Data, program enhancements, increased use of technology, Western Lake Erie Basin focus and outcome reporting were the big themes of 2015.

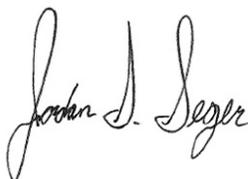
- Soil Health – Indiana landowners, supported by the DSC and the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP), continue to lead the nation in implementing the principles of Soil Health.
  - Indiana landowners increased **no-till acres** on corn and soybean fields by 466% since 1990.
  - Indiana landowners increased **conservation tillage acres** on corn and soybean fields by 311% since 1990.
  - Indiana landowners increased **cover crop acres** on corn and soybean fields by 413% since 2011.
- Big Data –
  - The DSC and the Indiana Conservation Partnership started sharing conservation data and publishing related annual reports in 2014 to better highlight the impacts of local, state, and federal conservation projects.
  - Indiana is one of the few states in the nation to share data across so many partners.
  - In 2015, this data was used in a variety of publications showing the positive water quality impacts achieved by voluntary conservation efforts.
- Program Enhancements – In 2015, DSC staff took it upon themselves to improve existing programs to cut red tape, make more user-friendly, and have a greater impact on conserving natural resources. DSC Programs improved and/or grown in 2015 include:
  - **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** –
    - More new wetlands eligible to be built
    - More new filter strips eligible for planting
    - New Manager (internally promoted)
  - **INfield Advantage (INFA)** –
    - On-Farm Network rebranded to INfield Advantage
    - Lab work and other services brought in state
    - Dramatic growth
    - Increased collaboration with Purdue University
    - Increased support from Indiana Corn Marketing Council and the Indiana Soybean Alliance
    - Increased interaction with other commodity groups such as Indiana Pork
  - **Clean Water Indiana (CWI)** –

## Division of Soil Conservation Annual Report

- Record level of competitive watershed grants awarded in 2015 (\$1.02 mil) and \$965,500 awarded in 2016 to Soil and Water Conservation Districts by the State Soil Conservation Board
- Increased use of technology –
  - More webinar broadcasts of hosted events to engage more listeners and cut travel time
  - Automation of SharePoint database for metric tracking
  - Load reduction modeling
  - More Resource Specialists utilizing GPS survey equipment
- **Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB)** –
  - Toxic Algae blooms in Lake Erie brought more focus to this basin. Additional staff and programs were added to address Phosphorus loss
  - Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan were awarded a 17.5 million dollar USDA grant focusing on Phosphorus reduction
  - Developed a WLEB website link for useful resources
- Outcome reporting –
  - Sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus load reductions modeled for all conservation practices by watershed on an annual basis – trend reporting
  - Annual reports on conservation practices and related water quality improvements to significant water bodies including drinking water reservoirs and volumes of material (ex. train cars of sediment, dump trucks of nitrogen, etc.) kept out of waterways

Other accomplishments in 2015 include extensive work on the Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy and the initiation of a 92 county tour, along with other Indiana Conservation Partnership Leaders, to engage face to face with Indiana's 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Working together the DSC achieved and in some cases greatly exceeded yearly goals set by the [Indiana Office of Management and Budget](#).

I would like to sincerely thank all on the Division of Soil Conservation Team for a successful 2015 and their continued dedication to conserving Indiana's soil and water resources for generations to come. 2016 is sure to be another busy and productive year for the Division of Soil Conservation with developing themes including nontraditional landowner engagement, crediting privately implemented conservation practices into state trend reports, more collaboration with the private sector, and addressing the lag time between conservation practice implementation and direct water quality improvements. The Division of Soil Conservation will continue to adapt to and address the natural resources needs of Indiana while working with landowners and many stakeholders to grow the adoption of voluntary conservation practices across the Hoosier state.



Director, Indiana State  
Department of Agriculture-  
Division of Soil Conservation

The **Indiana Conservation Partnership** is comprised of eight Indiana agencies and organizations who share a common goal of promoting conservation. To that end, the mission of the Indiana Conservation Partnership is to provide technical, financial and educational assistance needed to implement economically and environmentally compatible land and water stewardship decisions, practices and technologies. More information about the ICP can be found at <http://icp.iaswcd.org>.



## Key Performance Indicator and Performance Measures

The ISDA-DSC remains focused on improving accountability year after year. In 2015 the DSC continued collaboration with the **Indiana Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** to automate **real time tracking** towards six DSC annual performance measures. DSC staff, working with landowners, Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Indiana Conservation Partnership met and in many cases far exceeded goals within these six performance measure in 2015.

\*Note that load reduction calculations were fully initiated in 2013.

KPI			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Yellow Target	Green Target						
Top soil stabilization, prevention of sediment from entering waters of the State	252,000,000	280,000,000				296,556,000	213,306,000	423,838,000
<b>Program Measures</b>								
Nitrogen reduced from entering waters of the State	250,000	275,000				324,496	228,487	432,990
Phosphorus reduced from entering waters of the State	125,000	150,000				163,373	112,906	218,880
Number of soil and water conservation practices installed	750	1,000				1,872	1,180	1,754
Number of newly enrolled acres in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	650	750		750	1,119	837	681	954
Number of acres in INfield Advantage	40,000	60,000	2,660	22,540	29,330	42,630	50,540	60,270

The Indiana **State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB)** added two new members in 2015. Mr. Ray Chattin, serves as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Robert Woodling, serves on the Grants Committee. The SSCB hosted board meetings in northern and southern Indiana while placing more emphasis on communication to SWCDs, which included numerous feedback surveys directed directly at SWCDs.

In 2016, the SSCB will see a new Chairman as outgoing Chairman Scott Ham completes his service on the SSCB. The DSC thanks Chairman Ham for his leadership, guidance, and support over the years and wishes him well in his future endeavors. The Governor will appoint a new SSCB member in early 2016.



*State Soil Conservation Board (back row-left to right) Larry Clemens, Ray Chattin, Scott Ham, Bob Eddleman, (middle row) Warren Baird, Robert Woodling (front) Nola Gentry*



## SWCD Staff and Supervisor Training

In 2015, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) improved the procedure that provides training dollars to county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) supervisors and staff. This year, the board developed a \$30,000 training cost-share program. Under the new guidelines, the SSCB provided support to key existing programs and also welcomed SWCDs to apply for reimbursement for attending trainings that build district capacity. Trainings in 2015 included the SWCD Supervisor Summit, the Indiana District Employees Association's Fall Conference, and the Leadership Institute Series. So far, approximately 32 counties and 95 SWCD Supervisors/Staff have benefited from this program.

## Clean Water Indiana

The **Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program** (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the **Clean Water Indiana Fund** to support Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in efforts to reduce sediment and nutrients from nonpoint sources to help improve water quality. The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) accepts competitive proposals for multi-district, multi-year watershed projects. Project proposals can be for up to three years in length and up to \$75,000. Grant funding can be used to help support one or more of the funding categories listed below:

1. Cost Share Incentives/On Farm Demonstrations
2. Increase Direct Technical/Professional Assistance to Land users
3. Adult Education

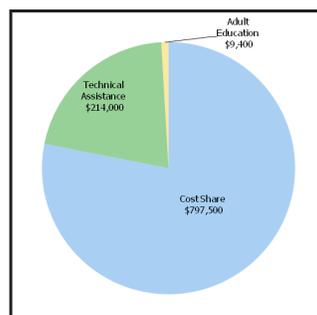


## 2015 Clean Water Indiana

In 2014, 29 applications representing 57 districts, were submitted for the **2015 Clean Water Indiana Grants** round for a total of \$2,006,800. Applicants could apply for up to \$25,000 per year for up to three years in the following categories: Cost Share, Professional Assistance, and Adult Education (limit \$1,000 per year). Applications totaled \$1,618,600 in Cost Share, \$360,400 in Professional Assistance and \$27,800 in Adult Education.

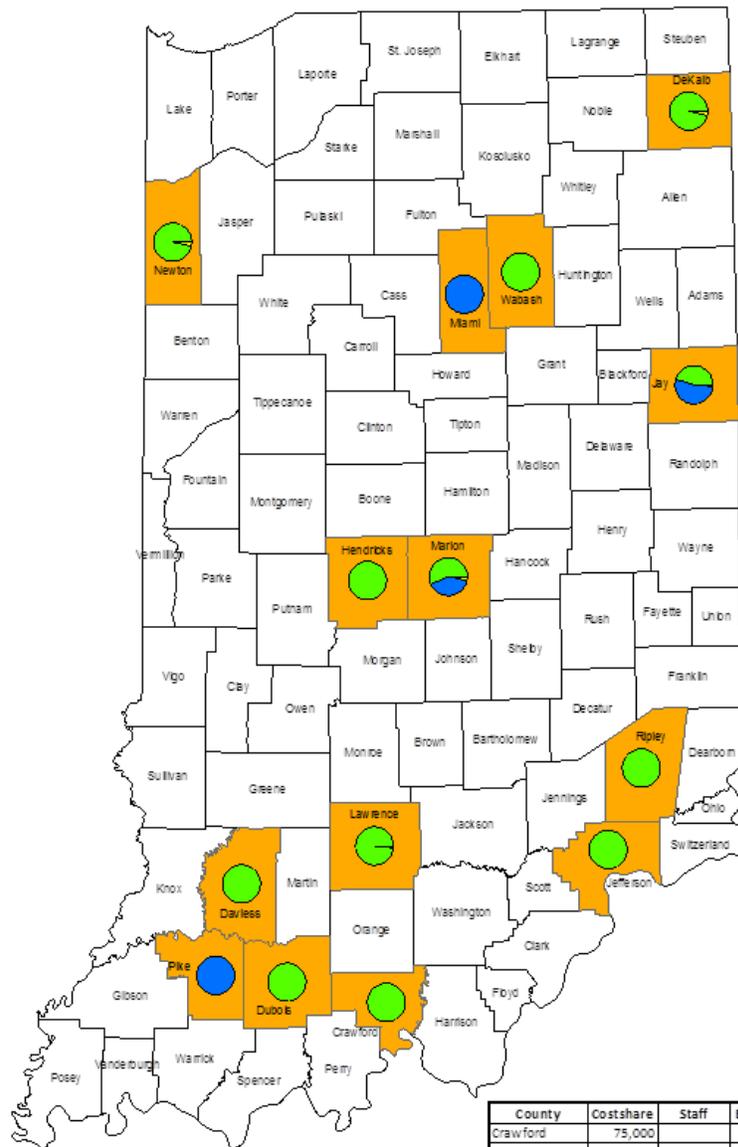
The SSCB awarded 14 CWI grants totaling \$1,020,900. The grants began on January 1, 2015 and will be up to three years in length. Each project focuses on sediment and nutrient reduction within a multidistrict area (35 counties total).

Lead District	Funding	Project Title
Crawford	\$75,000	Enhancement of Soil Health through Livestock & Agronomic Conservation Practices
Daviess	\$75,000	Grazing for Soil Health!
DeKalb	\$75,000	Innovative Conservation: Education, Implementation, and Research
Dubois	\$75,000	Cover Crop and Grid Sampling to Address Nutrient Overapplication
Hendricks	\$75,000	Upper Mill Creek Watershed Initiative
Jay	\$75,000	Upper Salamonie River Watershed Implementation Project
Jefferson	\$75,000	Better Soil. Cleaner Water. More Profit.
Lawrence	\$60,900	United for Clean Soil & Water
Marion	\$60,000	The Urban Conservation Program
Miami	\$75,000	Technical Assistance in the Middle Eel Watershed
Newton	\$75,000	Cover Crop Cost Share and Data Collection: Improving and Protecting Water Quality in NW Indiana
Pike	\$75,000	Southwestern SWCD Problem Solving Initiative
Ripley	\$75,000	Innovative Strategies for Sediment and Nutrient Savings through Cover Crops and Progressive Crop Scouting
Wabash	\$75,000	Cover Crop Cost-Share Program in the Miami and Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation Districts

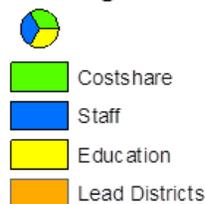


### 2015 Clean Water Indiana

#### 2015 CWI Multi-District Grants



#### Funding Breakdown



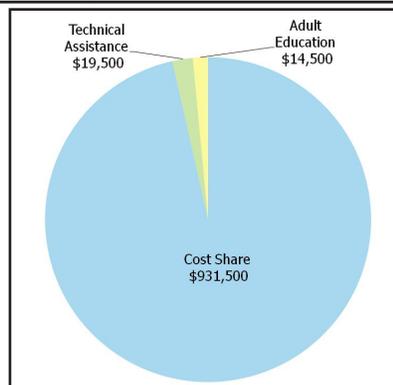
County	Costshare	Staff	Education	Total
Crawford	75,000			75,000
Daviess	75,000			75,000
DeKalb	72,000		3,000	75,000
Dubois	75,000			75,000
Hendricks	75,000			75,000
Jay	34,000	40,000	1,000	75,000
Jefferson	75,000			75,000
Lawrence	60,000		900	60,900
Marion	34,000	24,000	2,000	60,000
Miami		75,000		75,000
Newton	72,500		2,500	75,000
Pike		75,000		75,000
Ripley	75,000			75,000
Wabash	75,000			75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>797,500</b>	<b>214,000</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>1,020,900</b>

## 2016 Clean Water Indiana

Twenty-six applications representing 55 districts, were submitted for the **2016 Clean Water Indiana Grants** round for a total of \$1,778,700. Applicants could apply for up to \$25,000 per year for up to three years in the following categories: Cost Share, Professional Assistance, and Adult Education (limit \$1,000 per year). Applications totaled \$1,554,200 in Cost Share, \$201,500 in Professional Assistance and \$33,000 in Adult Education.

The SSCB awarded 14 CWI grants totaling \$965,500. The grants begin on January 1, 2016 and will be up to three years in length. Each project focuses on sediment and nutrient reduction within a multidistrict area (35 counties total).

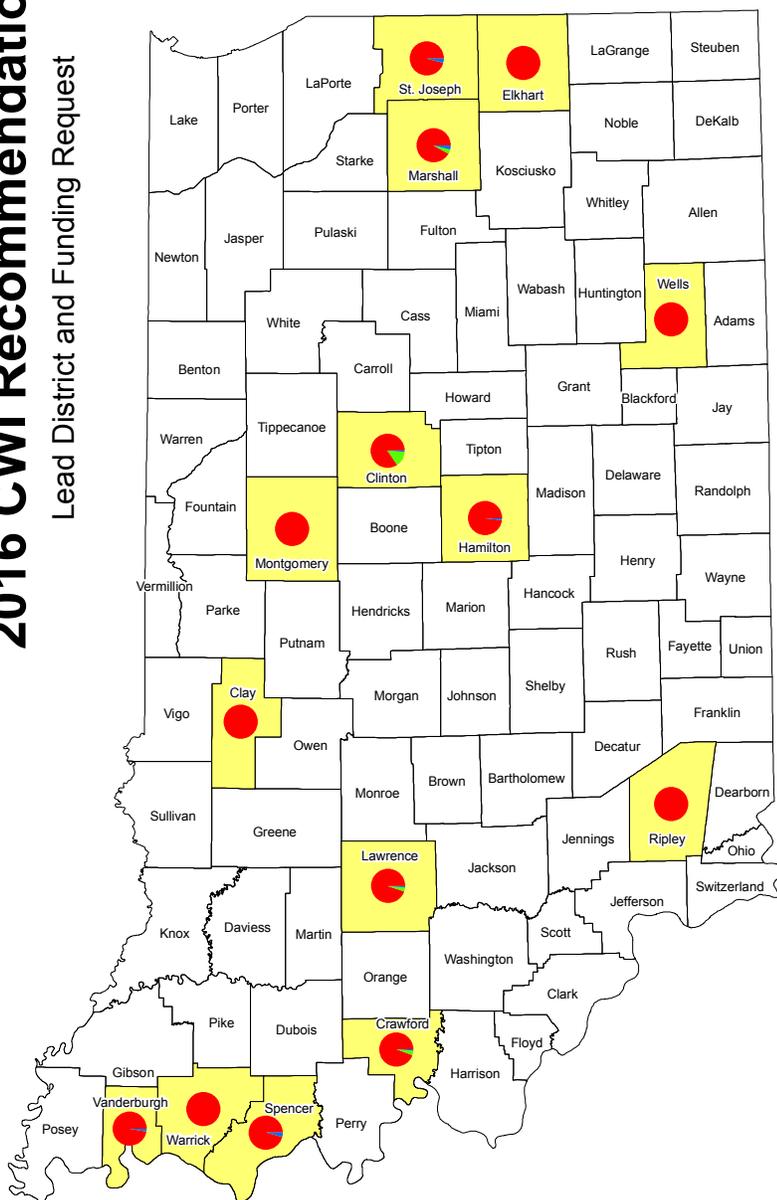
Lead District	Funding	Project Title
Clay	\$72,000	Targeted Conservation on Priority Acres in the Middle Wabash Watershed
Clinton	\$75,000	Soil Health Systems Cost-Share Program and Infield Advantage Grower Support
Crawford	\$75,000	Enhancement of Soil Health and Water Quality on Agricultural/Urban Land
Elkhart	\$75,000	Healthy Soil, Clean Water, Productive Farms
Hamilton	\$75,000	Heartland Backyard Conservation Program
Lawrence	\$75,000	United for Clean Soil & Water
Marshall	\$75,000	Rainscaping- Education, Demonstration, and Installation
Montgomery	\$75,000	The Greater Sugar Creek Watershed
Ripley	\$75,000	Innovative Strategies for Sediment and Nutrient Savings through Cover Crops and Progressive Crop Scouting
Spencer	\$75,000	Nutrient and Sediment Runoff Reduction Project
St. Joseph	\$75,000	Conservation Cropping Systems to Improve Soil Health
Vanderburgh	\$38,500	Native Pollinator Habitat Incentive Program
Warrick	\$75,000	SW IN Conservation Cost Share Cooperative
Wells	\$30,000	Improving Soil Quality Degradation and Protecting Water Quality in the Wabash River Watershed



### 2016 Clean Water Indiana

# 2016 CWI Recommendations

Lead District and Funding Request



Lead	Cost Share	Technical Assistance	Adult Education	Total Request
Clay	\$72,000			\$72,000
Clinton	\$63,500	\$10,500	\$1,000	\$75,000
Crawford	\$71,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$75,000
Elkhart	\$75,000			\$75,000
Hamilton	\$73,500		\$1,500	\$75,000
Lawrence	\$71,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$75,000
Marshall	\$69,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$75,000
Montgomery	\$75,000			\$75,000
Ripley	\$75,000			\$75,000
Spencer	\$72,000		\$3,000	\$75,000
St. Joseph	\$72,000		\$3,000	\$75,000
Vanderburgh	\$37,500		\$1,000	\$38,500
Warrick	\$75,000			\$75,000
Wells	\$30,000			\$30,000

#### Funding Breakdown

- Cost Share
- Technical Assistance
- Adult Education
- Lead District

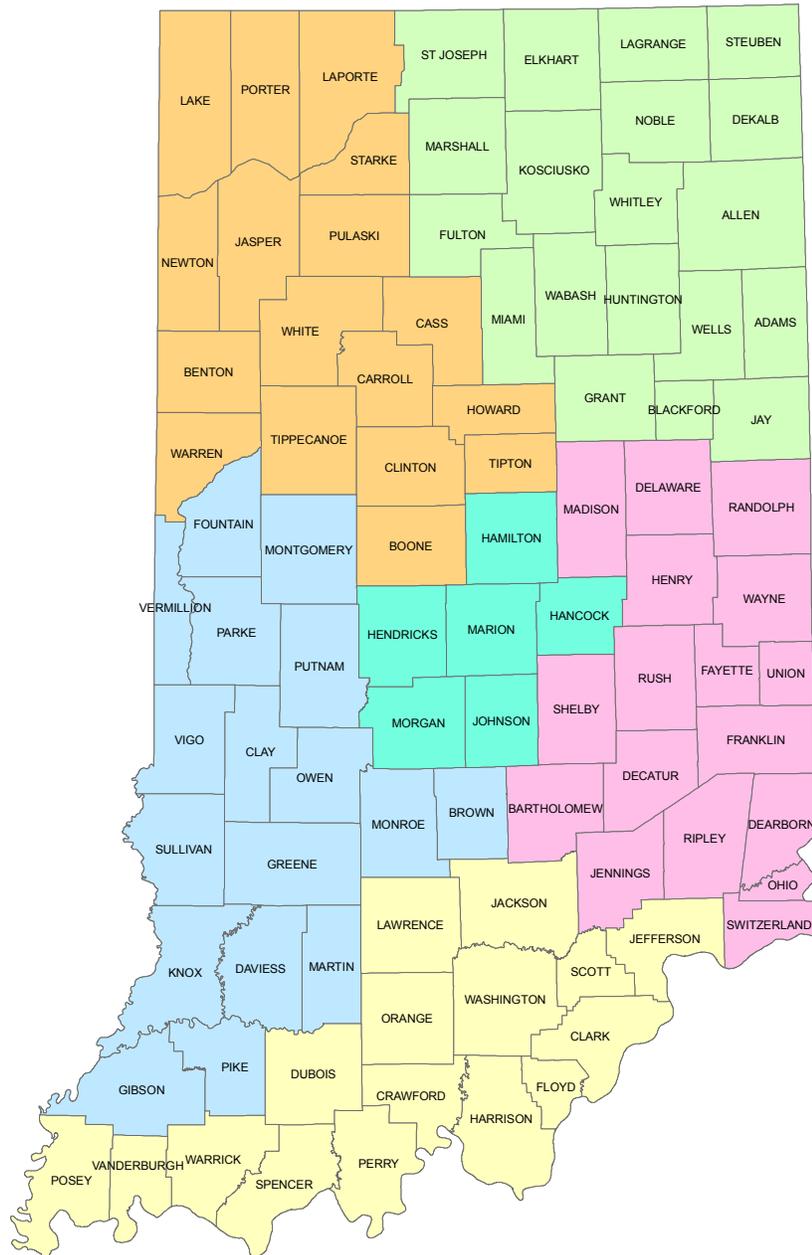
The Division of Soil Conservation employs **District Support Specialists**, through the Clean Water Indiana Fund, to work directly with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to develop conservation priorities, goals, and plans for their respective territories. (See map on next page for more details) Each District Support Specialist assists 6 - 19 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in his/her respective area of the state in developing their respective SWCD Business Plan and Annual Plan of Work. The District Support Specialists provide guidance and assistance to the districts in applying for competitive Clean Water Indiana Grants for implementing multi-district sediment and nutrient reduction projects.

District Support Specialists	Jan 1-Dec 31, 2015
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
Business Plan/Plan of Work updates	22
Meetings to provide guidance for CWI grant applications	48
SWCD Board Meetings attended	225
Planning Assistance for Educational Programs and Field Days	39
SWCD Annual Meetings attended	41
Individual Supervisor/Staff visits	11/130
Assistance with key IASWCD, ICP and IDEA committees, task forces and meetings	34



*District Support Specialists from left:  
Tara Wesseler-Henry, Nathan Stoelting,  
Geneva Tyler, Jennifer Thum, Laura  
Fribley, Leah Harmon*

### District Support Specialist Regions



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**Laura Fribley**  
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lfribley@isda.in.gov

## Leadership Institute

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In 2015, three *Leadership Institute* trainings were held. Sixty-two SWCD supervisors and staff participated in the 2015 trainings and four individuals who completed all four sessions graduated. In 2016, the Leadership Institute will celebrate ten years of training Indiana SWCDs.

## March Region Meetings

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During March 2015, regional meetings were held throughout the four quadrants of the state and SWCD Supervisors, Staff and Partners were all invited to participate. The March Meetings also offered breakout sessions including the following topics: social media, running a better board meeting, soil health demonstrations, finding non-traditional funding, working with local officials, cost-share management, and new supervisor and staff training. A total of 72 SWCD supervisors, 55 SWCD staff, and 25 partnership staff attended the meetings.

## Supervisor Summit

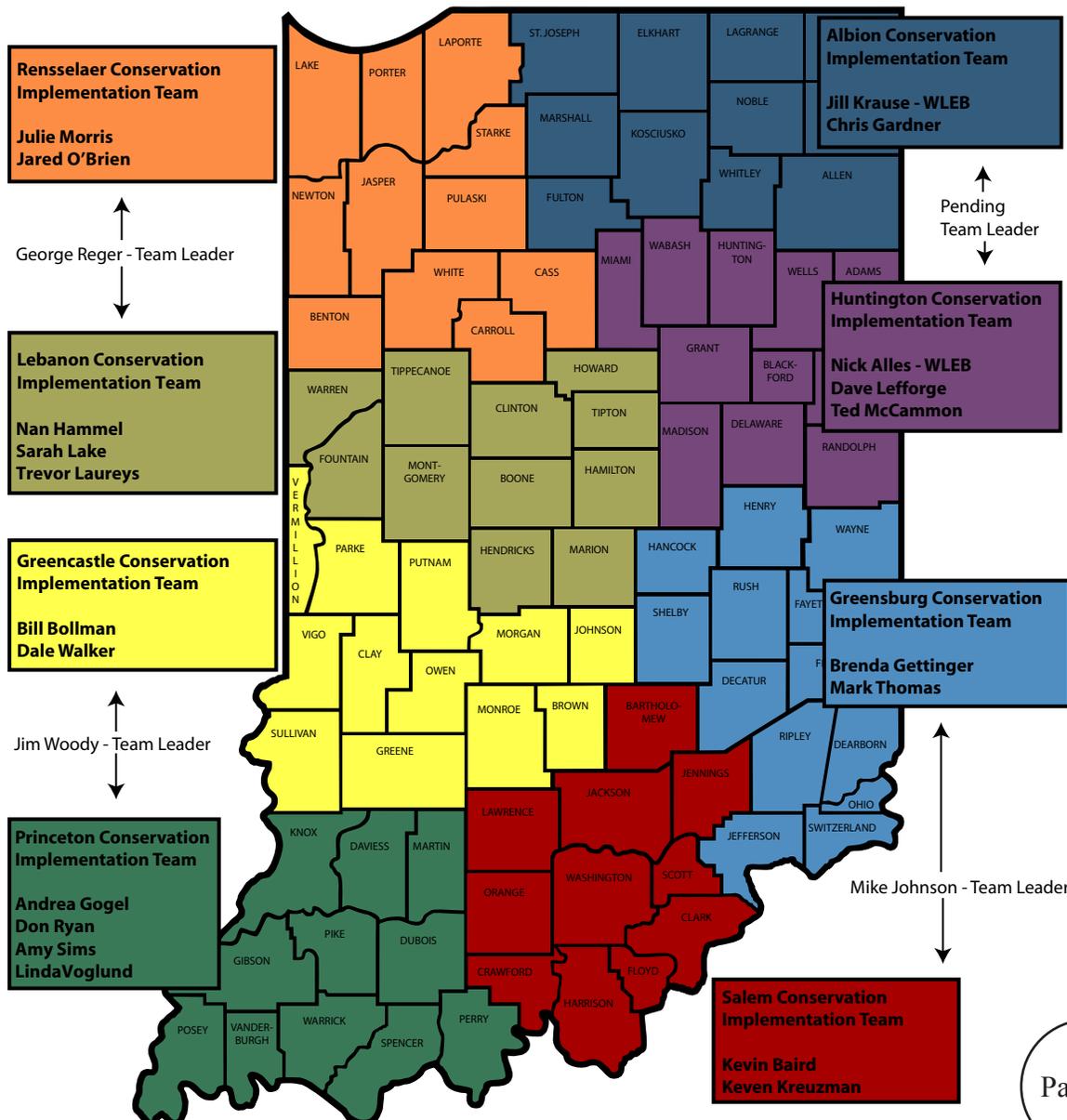
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On August 25, 2015, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts hosted the Supervisor Summit. The Summit was held at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. The workshop offered participants a variety of topics including *How to Engage Local FFA Chapters in Community Events* from the Indiana FFA State Officers, *Leadership and Performance Evaluation*, and *Project Planning and Funding Applications* by Wabash SWCD and case studies for group discussion. Nineteen supervisors attended the event in person and 25 supervisors viewed the event via a new webinar option for SWCDs in far reaches of the state. Additional SWCD supervisors have since viewed videos of the presentations on YouTube at their convenience.

The Division of Soil Conservation employs resource specialists to directly assist land users. The resource specialists work through regional Conservation Implementation Teams to help land users assess specific soil and water resource problems, as well as develop and apply appropriate solutions. Services available to agricultural land users include:

- Provide up-to-date information to create or revise conservation management plans
- Evaluate on-site erosion and nutrient problems
- Help landowners identify specific conservation practices
- Supervise installation and maintenance of selected conservation practices

### ISDA Division of Soil Conservation Resource Specialists



The technical assistance and practice designs of Division Resource Specialists not only translate into conservation on the ground, but also to nutrient and sediment reduction across the state. The DSC utilizes a mathematical model to estimate reductions of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and sediment to water ways from the installation of best management practices. This model, called the Region 5 model, was co-developed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and is recognized by the EPA as a reliable indicator of the environmental benefits of conservation practices.

In 2013, members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) began using the USEPA Region 5 Nutrient Load Reduction Model to determine the impact of installed conservation practices implemented by the ICP Conservation Implementation Teams on Indiana's water quality. The ICP adopted the Region 5 Model to analyze conservation practices funded by state programs such as the ISDA CWI Program and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Lake and River Enhancement Program, as well as federally funded programs including EPA's Section-319 Program and USDA's Farm Bill Programs.

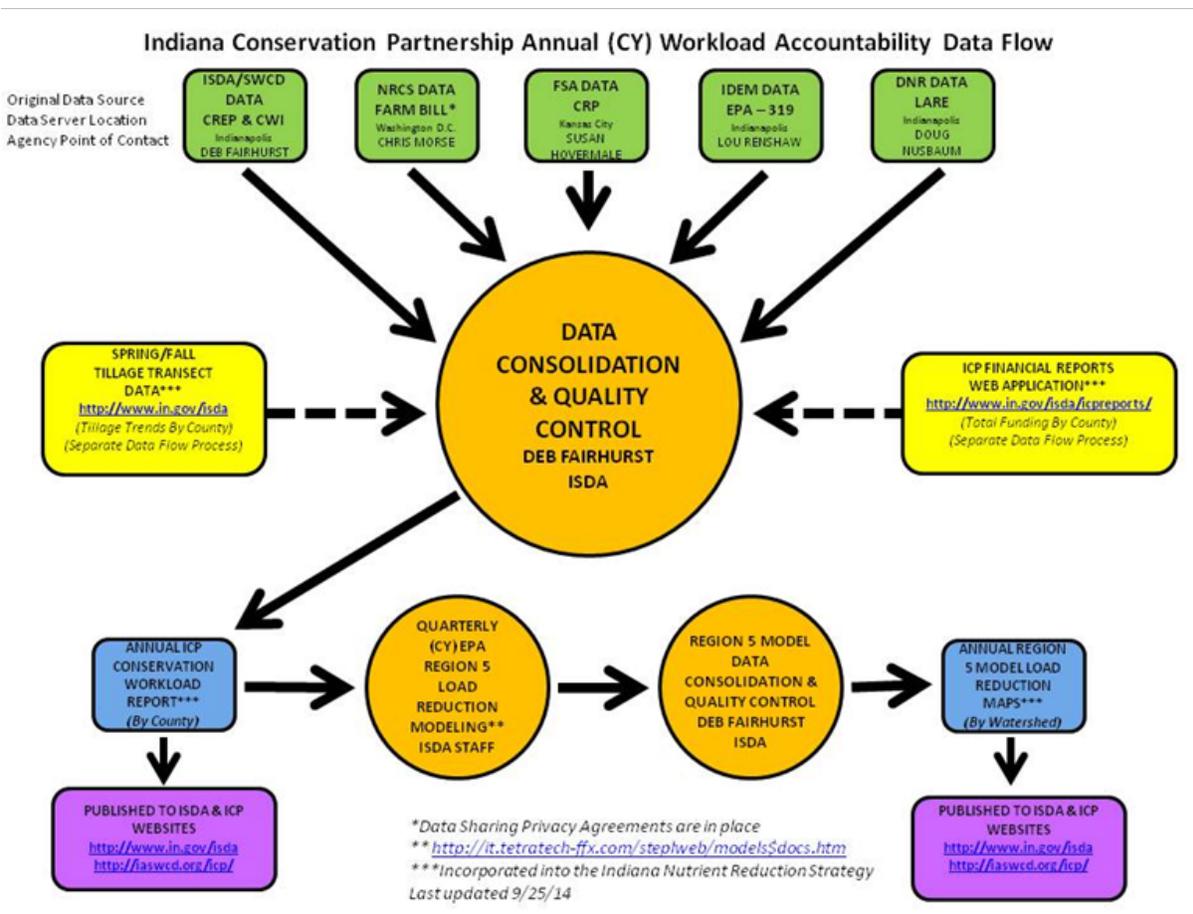
A federal furlough and the late passage of the 2014 Farm Bill resulted in a decrease in installed practices for calendar year 2014. Enrollments for many of the Farm Bill programs including CRP and EQIP were delayed resulting in a shorter window for planning, surveying and construction of conservation practices to occur. Even with the long delay, the ICP Conservation Delivery Teams installed 21,012 conservation practices. A total of 11,365 of those practices could be analyzed using the Region 5 Model, which estimated annual reductions of sediment, as well as nitrogen and phosphorus tied to sediment erosion. These reductions continue for the life of the practices modeled (e.g., grassed waterways are designed to be 10-year practices, while cover crops are 1-year practices, established annually). Reductions in dissolved nutrients, such as dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) and nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>), are not accounted for by the Region 5 Model. The remaining ICP practices were not modeled because they were not associated with sediment loss, or were not covered by the EPA Region 5 Model. This effort represents ICP-assisted conservation in Indiana. Data does not include the many unassisted practices designed and installed solely by a private landowner without ICP assistance.

New in 2014, are the introduction of cumulative nutrient load reduction analyses based upon 2013 and 2014 sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus load reductions per HUC 8 watersheds (pages 15-17). The analysis encompassed a breakdown of 2013 and 2014 conservation practices by lifespan including 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 40 years (according to USDA-NRCS Field Office Technical Guide). For example, grassed waterways are designed to be 10-year practices, while cover crops are 1-year practices, established annually. The maps reflect all of the practices, minus the 2013 practices with a lifespan of one year (10,533), totaling 15,042 practices.

As part of Indiana’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy, this modeling effort illustrates the continued success and challenges of conservation and serves as a tool to help set watershed priority and reduction targets, manage conservation resources, and to further stakeholder involvement at all levels of government within and across Indiana.

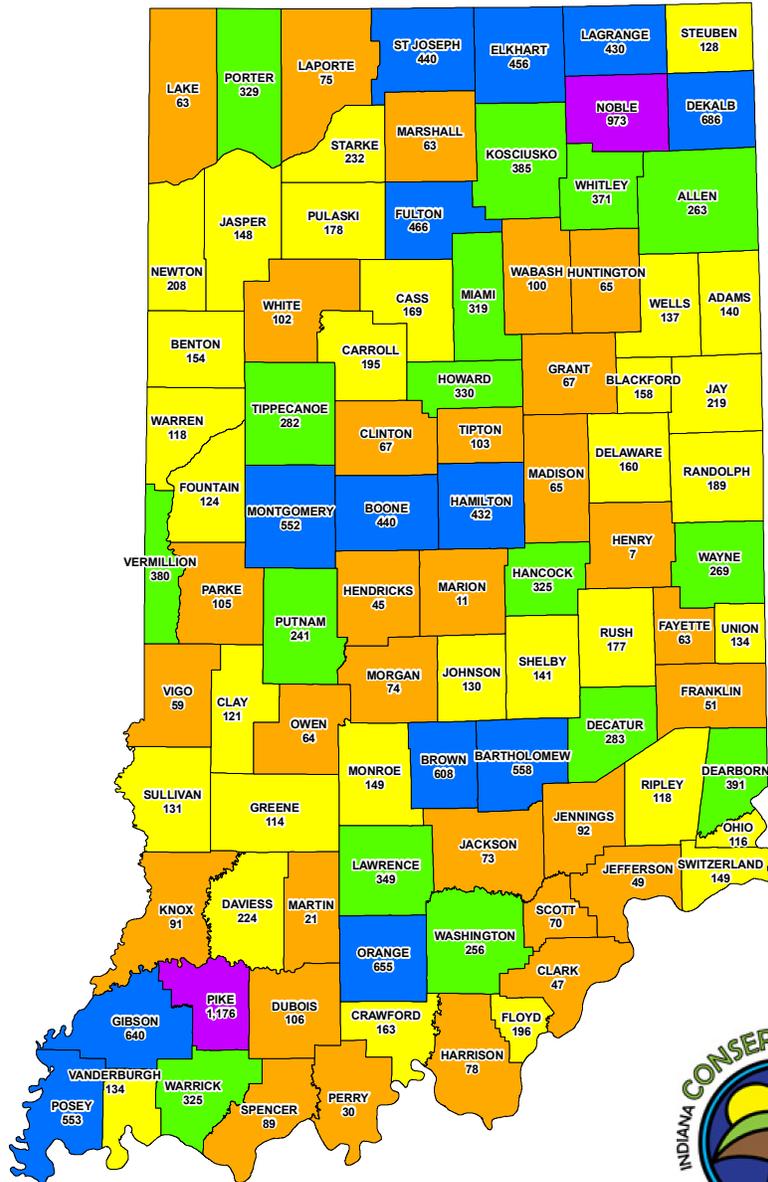
Action	Completed in 2015
Technical Assistance	
Landowners Assisted	2,676
Conservation Workload	
Conservation Practices Underway	478
Conservation Practices Installed	1,415
Total Acres Installed	52,981 acres
Total Feet Installed	176,905 feet
Field Acres Impacted	67,479 acres
HUC8 Watersheds Impacted (38 Total)	32
Nutrient Load Reductions Resulting From Installed Conservation Practices	
Nitrogen Reduction	407,758 lbs./yr.
Phosphorus Reduction	206,146 lbs./yr.
Sediment Reduction	401,652,000 lbs./yr.

The flow chart below shows the methodology for this partnership effort.



The following maps show 2014 conservation practices installed by the entire Indiana Conservation Partnership, as well as their associated load reductions for sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus. Further analysis for the entire 2015 calendar year will be published in March 2016.

## 2014 Indiana Conservation Accomplishments



January 1 thru December 31, 2014  
 Conservation Practices Completed - 21,012  
 Conservation Practices Underway - 1,076

Data: Provided by Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

March 20, 2015  
 Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

### 2014 Conservation Accomplishments

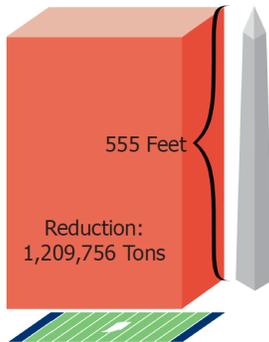
- Total Practices**
- 7 - 106
  - 114 - 232
  - 241 - 391
  - 430 - 686
  - 973 - 1,176

## 2013-14 Cumulative Nutrient Load Reductions: Sediment

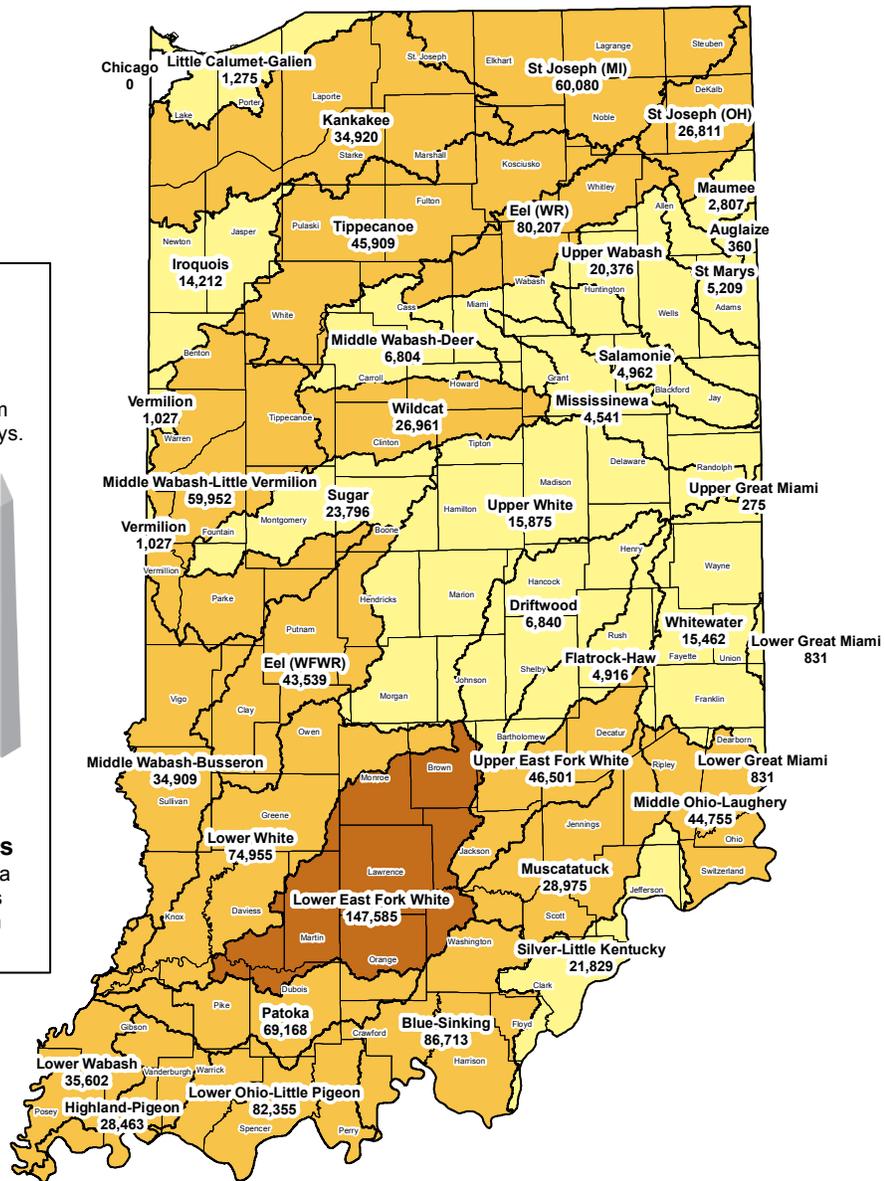


<http://icp.iaswcd.org/>

Since 2013, voluntary conservation efforts from private landowners in Indiana with support from the ICP have reduced nutrients and sediment from entering Indiana's waterways.



**Sediment Reductions**  
A football field covered to a depth of 560 feet, which is taller than the Washington Monument.



A total reduction of 1,209,756 tons of sediment statewide.

**Sediment Reduction (tons)**

- 1 - 25,000
- 25,001 - 100,000
- 100,001 - 175,000
- No Reported Reductions

Based on Region 5 Model analyses conducted on 15,042 conservation practices installed by the Indiana Conservation Partnership January 2013 thru December 2014. This effort does not include the many unassisted practices designed and installed solely by a private landowner without ICP assistance.

Reductions in dissolved nutrients, such as dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) and nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>), are not accounted for by the Region 5 Model.

May 18, 2015  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

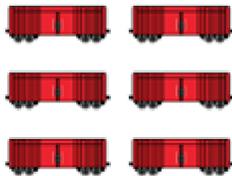


## 2013-14 Cumulative Nutrient Load Reductions: Phosphorus



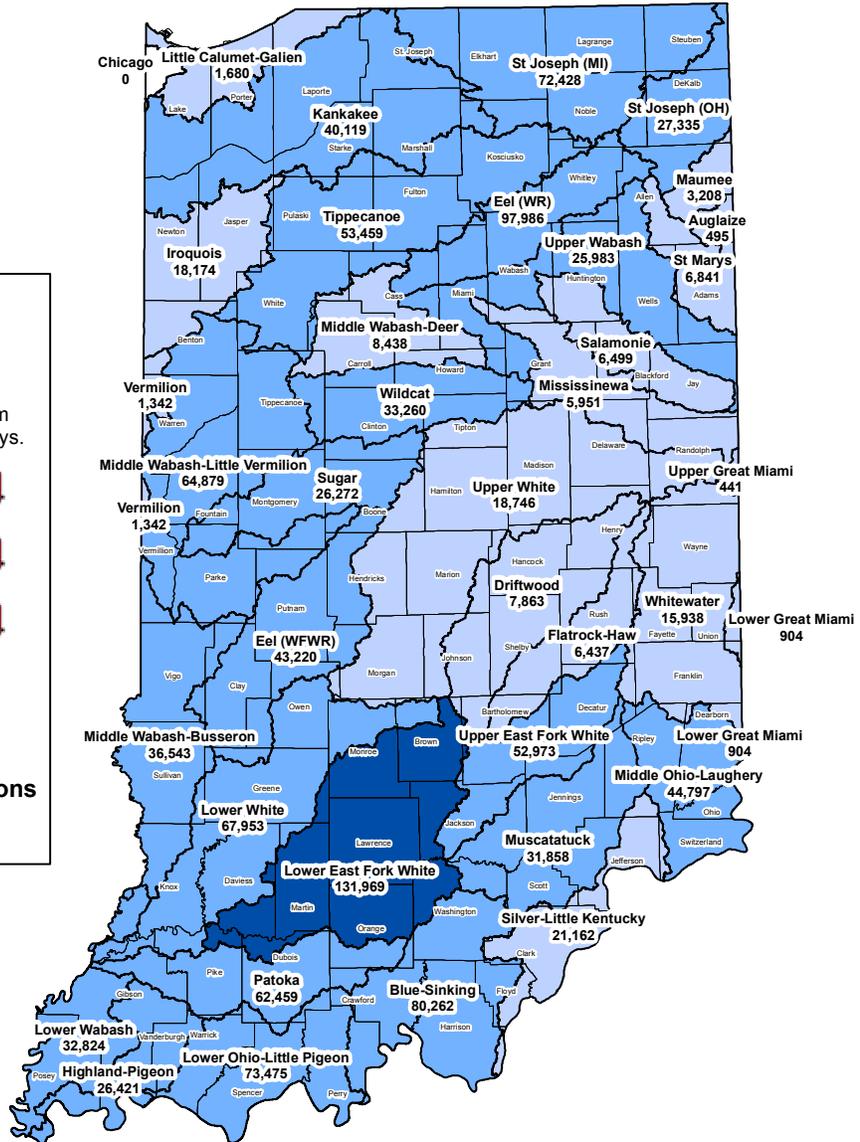
<http://icp.iaswcd.org/>

Since 2013, voluntary conservation efforts from private landowners in Indiana with support from the ICP have reduced nutrients and sediment from entering Indiana's waterways.



Reduction:  
1,250,592 Pounds

**Phosphorus Reductions**  
6.25 Freight Cars



A total reduction of 1,250,592 pounds of phosphorus statewide.

### Phosphorus Reduction (pounds)

- 1 - 25,000
- 25,001 - 100,000
- 100,001 - 175,000
- No Reported Reductions

Based on Region 5 Model analyses conducted on 15,042 conservation practices installed by the Indiana Conservation Partnership January 2013 thru December 2014. This effort does not include the many unassisted practices designed and installed solely by a private landowner without ICP assistance.

Reductions in dissolved nutrients, such as dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) and nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>), are not accounted for by the Region 5 Model.

May 18, 2015  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

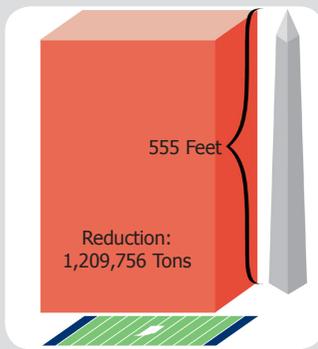
## 2013-14 Cumulative Nutrient Load Reductions: Infographic

### Indiana Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions

Voluntary conservation efforts from private landowners in Indiana with support from the Indiana Conservation Partnership have reduced nutrients and sediment from entering Indiana's waterways. The figures below represent these efforts since 2013.

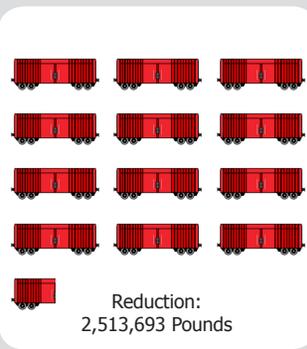
#### Sediment

A football field covered to a depth of 560 feet, which is taller than the Washington Monument



#### Nitrogen

12.5 freight cars



#### Phosphorus

6.25 freight cars



#### Top Conservation Practices in Indiana

##### By quantity of practices installed and reduction per practice:

- No Till
- Reduced Tillage
- Cover Crops
- Grassed Waterways
- Wetland Enhancement
- Filter Strips
- Nutrient Management
- Riparian Buffers

For more information about conservation practices visit: [nrsc.usda.gov](http://nrsc.usda.gov)

#### Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP)

Data is collected by Indiana Conservation Partnership Agencies and aggregated using the USEPA's Region 5 Model to show total nutrient and sediment reductions.

With Support From:

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

**Goal:**

- The **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** is a State and Federal partnership that improves water quality and enhances wildlife habitat by reducing erosion, sedimentation and nutrients into Indiana waters.

**Highlights:**

- 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Indiana.
- The program was first announced in 2005, covering three watersheds in Indiana with an acreage enrollment goal of 7,000 acres.
- The program expanded in 2010, to include eleven priority watersheds touching 65 counties with an acreage enrollment goal of 26,250 acres.
- In 2015, the state paid out \$529,909.50 in direct payments to participants for installation of practices, and more than \$52,000 in administrative fees to partnering SWCDs.
- To date, 9,422.86 acres have been installed within CREP, and 10,278.52 acres have been enrolled in the program since it began. In 2015 these acreages were 255.17 and 953.68 respectively.
- The most popular practice this year was wetland restorations with 140.06 acres of wetland restorations being completed. There are 309.66 more acres that were enrolled in 2015 and are planned for installation in 2016.
- Significant changes were made in 2015, cutting red tape, opening up more new wetlands eligible to be built, and more new filter strips eligible for planting.

2015 Practices* (in acres)								
	Native Grasses CP2	Wildlife Habitat CP4D	Filter Strip CP21	Riparian Buffer CP22	Bottomland Timber CP31	Wetlands CP23	Wetlands CP23A	Total
Completed	8.00	0.0	5.80	29.91	71.40	27.80	112.26	255.17
Enrolled	23.65	1.07	17.50	36.30	513.26	175.91	185.99	953.68

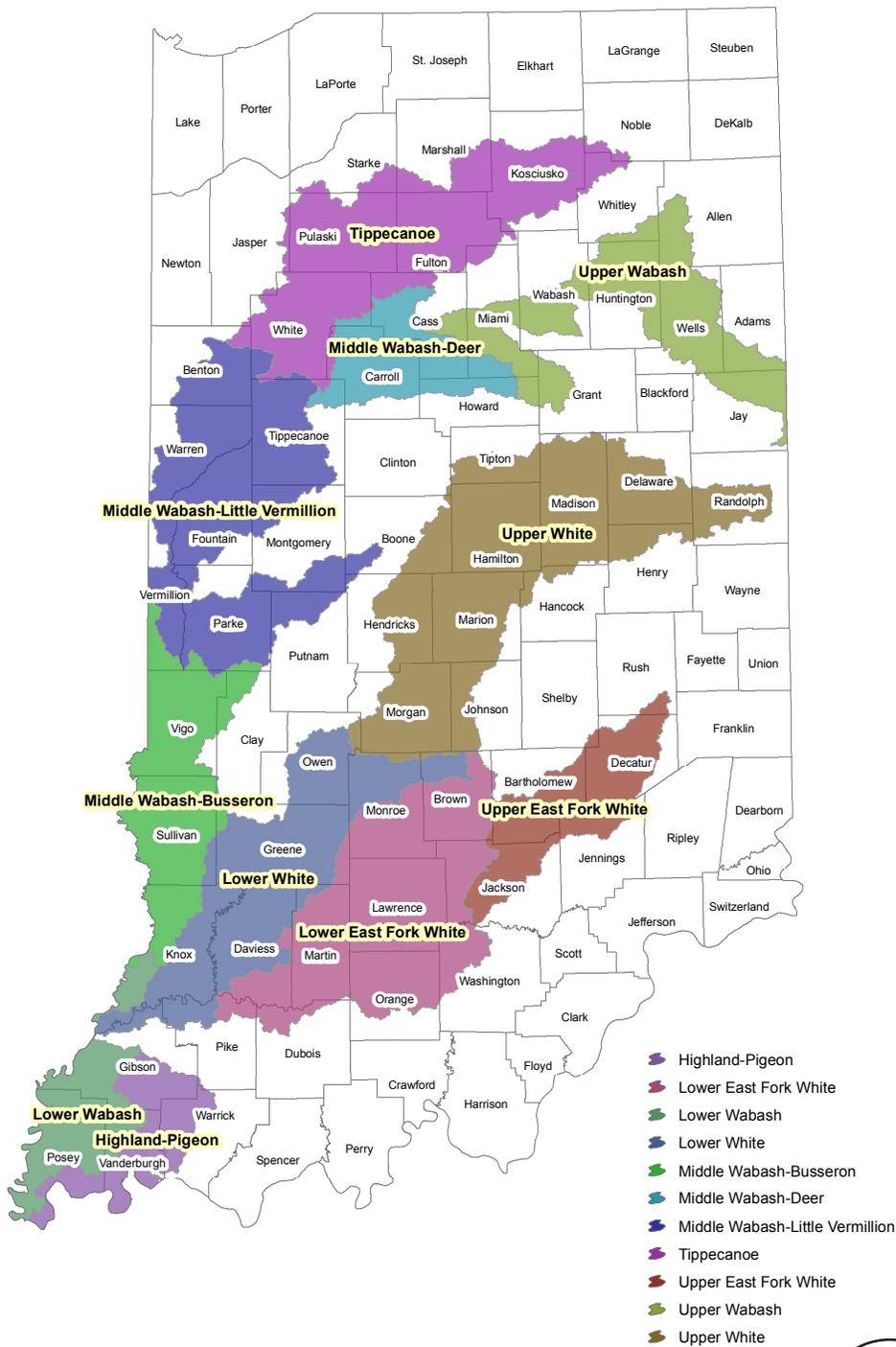
\* Completed practices are those projects where conservation practices have been installed.

\*\* There were no CP3A practices completed in 2014-2015.



## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Eligible Watersheds



## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

### Additional Information:

CREP restores grass and riparian buffers and wetlands to improve water quality, as well as protect land from frequent flooding and excessive erosion by planting hardwood trees in floodplain areas along rivers and streams. CREP continues to address a major milestone of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), showcasing Indiana's progressive and meaningful implementation of conservation practices to protect Indiana's soil, water and related natural resources to improve Indiana water quality and to help alleviate hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

This program is possible through an agreement between the State of Indiana and the United States Department of Agriculture. Program participants receive financial incentives from FSA and ISDA to voluntarily enroll in the program and implement conservation practices on environmentally sensitive land. The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) provides policy and funding direction to the ISDA, DSC on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana (CWI) program, which funds the state incentives and SWCD Administrative fees for the CREP program.

For more information, see the [CREP Annual Report](#).



*A CREP Wetland practice*



## INfield Advantage

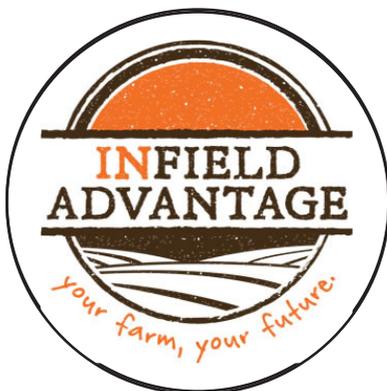
In 2015, ISDA Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC), and **Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance (ICMC/ISA)** successfully launched **INfield Advantage** as a rebranding of the Indiana On-Farm Network. 2014 had seen the conclusion of the USDA Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) under which the Indiana program was introduced. Indiana On-Farm Network was built using the model developed in Iowa a decade earlier and shared Iowa's program's name. While our program still works closely with Iowa, the rebranding gives our program its own identity.

INfield Advantage continues to be one of the largest adaptive nutrient management farmer networks in the country with continued growth in 2015. In 2015, INFA added eight new local groups, bringing total number of active groups to 29. On average, each group enrolled 12 growers and nearly 30 fields. Statewide, over 800 fields, or nearly 60,000 acres, were monitored using the INfield Advantage tool.

INfield Advantage is offered to Indiana growers as a joint project of multiple local, state and national government partners and Non-Governmental Organizations. ISDA-DSC acts as the project coordinator; shaping the program and ensuring that protocols are followed so all growers will have a consistent productive experience. With the conclusion of the Conservation Innovation Grant, the program continues to be available to the growers free of charge. Each of the partners supplies local staff to help growers enroll their fields. ICMC/ISA's check-off funds cover expenses for aerial imagery, collection of tissue samples and field report printing costs..



*INfield Advantage growers participate in a winter meeting.*





## Red Gold Tomato Stewardship Award Program

2015 marked the seventh year of the public/private partnership between DSC, and the **Red Gold Company** overseeing the Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Award Program. The program winners were announced at a field day held at Red Gold's corporate headquarters in Elwood, Indiana on July 31.

The Red Gold Stewardship Award Program was established to showcase the conservation efforts employed by Red Gold Growers. The goal of this award program is to highlight the practices already undertaken by conservation-minded growers and stimulate a proactive approach among all of Red Gold growers to evaluate their farm management practices and make improvements.

This year's competition reached an all-time high of over 90 percent of Red Gold growers participating in the Red Gold Conservation Stewardship Awards. The competition for the award was particularly stiff this year, with seven of the growers qualifying as finalists. The finalists' operations did not fit into any particular model of a typical Red Gold grower – from a “traditional” family owned and operated farm that has been working the same land for the last century to a first-generation tomato grower to a woman-owned and operated farm. Their operations ranged from less than a decade of growing tomatoes to nearly seven decades. While all of their operations raised other crops, there was a wide degree of variation between the management of the rest of their operations.

Greg, Troy and Brent Lievens of Lievens Bros. in Petersburg, Michigan was the 2015 Red Gold Stewardship winner. Lievens Bros. received a \$1,000 scholarship and an extra full truck load of tomatoes per day during harvest. Growing for Red Gold since the early 1990's, Lievens Bros. grow tomatoes as part of a four year rotation using reduced tillage or no-till in every year of their rotation. They use soil testing and replicated fertilizer rate trials, as well as variable rate technology to monitor and control nutrient rates on their crops.



## Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy

2015 marked an important year for the [Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy \(SNRS\)](#). The development of Indiana's SNRS has evolved over the last several years through several iterations and updates. The strategy is a living document with plans to update the document every two years. ISDA, IDEM and the ICP will continue to build upon, improve, and strengthen the strategy with action items and further watershed prioritization. The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) formed a SNRS Workgroup and will conduct their first meeting in February 2016.

The SNRS is the product of an inclusive effort of the ICP under the leadership of ISDA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to capture statewide present and future endeavors in Indiana which positively impact the State's waters, as well as gauge the progress of conservation, water quality improvement and soil health practice adoption in Indiana.

The SNRS represents Indiana's commitment to reduce nutrient runoff into waters from point sources and non-point sources alike. The objectives of this strategy include:

1. Acknowledgment of the challenges facing the improvement of Indiana's impaired waters;
2. Involvement and engagement of stakeholders in the state's efforts to reduce nutrient loads;
3. Prioritization of HUC 8 watersheds and first-round HUC 12 watersheds;
4. Discussion of water quality monitoring and regulatory control of point sources;
5. The inventory and utilization of resources to achieve their highest impact on nutrient reduction;
6. Encouragement of voluntary incentive based conservation through the many state and federal water quality related programs.
7. To illustrate the means by which the state will provide reports and accountability of assisted conservation practices reported by staff in the Indiana Conservation Partnership.

The SNRS serves as a renewed effort to encourage outreach and education to conservation partnerships and the public regarding stewardship of Indiana's waters. This strategy acknowledges that while the potential to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus entering our waters is great, the achievement of these objectives is dependent upon the cooperation of state, federal and local organizations and initiatives, positively changing individuals' behavior via understanding their motivations, as well as many other complex factors, including the location and nature of conservation practices on productive agricultural

## Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy

ground and other rural best management practices (BMPs) such as filter strips, buffers and managed drainage. Septic system management, appropriate residential fertilizer applications, erosion control at construction sites, and urban BMPs, such as green infrastructure, will be key to controlling nutrient runoff. As such, there will always be a need for continued efforts in conservation, education, outreach and research in order to maintain progress.

The Strategy discusses the methods ICP staff are using and will use to promote and advance the use of Soil Health, Nutrient Management and Conservation Cropping Systems approaches to farming. These include:

- Indiana's Conservation Partnership Soil Health Philosophy ([http://www.in.gov/isda/files/ICP\\_Soil\\_Health\\_Philosophy\\_final.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isda/files/ICP_Soil_Health_Philosophy_final.pdf));
- A System's Approach of Conservation Practices ([https://prod.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2\\_030628.pdf](https://prod.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_030628.pdf)); and
- The utilization of the Nutrient Management and Soil Health Strategy 10-year framework put together by Indiana's agricultural commodity groups with input and dialogue from the USEPA, NRCS, ISDA, IDEM and the Indiana Farm Bureau (<https://inagnutrients-public.sharepoint.com>).
- The impact of these actions can be shown through:
- Continuation of the use of the EPA Region 5 Nutrient Load Reduction Model as a means to annually estimate and track sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus load reductions from BMP implementation across Indiana on a watershed-wide scale (<http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>);
- Continuation of the use of the Indiana Tillage Transects and corresponding reports (<http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>);
- An annual preparation of one page load reduction reports for significant waterbodies within Indiana; and
- Trend analysis of instream water quality monitoring data.

The Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy full PDF document can be viewed at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>.

## Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

In 2015, The Division of Soil Conservation and SSCB continued to provide field staff technical and financial support to the **Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)**. CCSI is a nationally recognized **Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP)** project which promotes a systematic approach to production agriculture focusing on continuous no-till/strip-till, cover crops, precision farming, nutrient and pest management, and conservation buffers resulting in improved soil health and quality, water quality and profitability on Indiana cropland.

During 2015, CCSI supplied outreach and education opportunities to growers, Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) and ICP staff. The CCSI Hub farms shared information and the use of their facilities for in-depth soil health research and the technical Hub Team support staff improved their performance and coordination with regular networking opportunities.

CCSI activities in 2015 include:

- About 50 field days/workshops reached over 1,800 people
- Nearly 40 field days/workshops reached over 900 “new audience” that hadn’t attended an CCSI event previously
- More than 230 ICP staff and private providers (i.e. CCAs) received high level technical training
- Conducted replicated strip trials on 17 sites totaling 148 strips
- Over 2,200 aggregated samples pulled (approx. 15,000 individual cores; measurements by 25-35 people)
- Development of Economic Case Studies handouts
- Provided support to SWCDs, Extension and others through Speakers Bureau
- Significant public outreach through website, Facebook, and Twitter. Regular hits coming from: Ohio, France, Ireland, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.
- Significant media coverage through various state outlets (i.e. Indiana Prairie Farmer, AgriNews, Brownfield, etc.)
- Partnered with Purdue University and SARE to develop High School Soil Health Curricula
- Collected data from CCSI Strip Trials for input into USDA-ARS Soil Health Nutrient Tool (Haney Test) Validation Project database
- Worked with SARE to provide scholarships to ICP staff and farmer-mentors to attend soil health workshops
- Working with Vincennes University to develop hybrid (webinar + local facilitation) soil health class

## Western Lake Erie Basin

### **Technical Support:**

ISDA continues to provide technical assistance and district support to the **Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB)** watersheds. 2014's annual nutrient load reductions in the WLEB from ICP workload totaled 74,250 pounds of nitrogen, 37,105 pounds of phosphorus and 34,881 tons of sediment.

### **EPA/ISDA Partnership:**

Since 2014, ISDA has entered into a partnership with the **USEPA** for two EPA-funded, 3-year positions to work in the four HUC8, WLEB watersheds in Indiana to address water quality issues related to phosphorus. These two Resource Specialists focus technical assistance efforts in the WLEB while working to specifically assist the Amish population in the basin. They also bolster assistance for the **INfield Advantage (INFA)** program. More than 1,000 people were reached throughout the basin through these efforts.

Under this EPA-funded grant, ISDA developed a phosphorus soil sampling program to work with farmers in the basin to collect samples and to determine phosphorus levels in their soil. In 2015, 66 fields were sampled, with 131 soil samples collected for analysis. Reducing agricultural phosphorus loss by proper application and timing will improve farm economics and help minimize ecological issues of excessive phosphorus levels in Lake Erie that can lead to harmful algae blooms.

### **4R Certification Program:**

This initiative is led by **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**. It's a program to certify agriculture retailers who agree to promote and encourage farmers to do nutrient management activities that will limit nutrient losses. Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) staff are members of the 4R advisory committee, which meets to discuss the certification guidance document and review feedback from the auditors on their findings. While the majority of efforts on this program targeted the Basin, DSC would like to initiate this program statewide.

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program:**

The Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative is a watershed approach to address water quality issues. This project gives the decision-making power to local groups, the farmers, crop advisers, conservation districts, researchers, and commodity and non-governmental organizations that are connected to the Western Lake Erie Basin. The total amount was for \$17.5 million. Indiana has roughly \$1.8 million that will be

## Western Lake Erie Basin

funneled through NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Agricultural Conservation Environmental Program Wetlands Reserve Program. Our partners will contribute roughly \$4 million in technical and financial assistance.

This project will improve and help protect the Basin by reducing phosphorus and sediment loading and harmful algal blooms. The goal of this project is to reduce phosphorous, especially dissolved reactive phosphorus, and sediment loadings to the Basin.

### **WLEB Action Plan:**

In 2014, The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) met and agreed to consolidate efforts within the Western Lake Erie Basin, Each partner was assigned deliverables. In 2015, the ICP met to share their accomplishments, as well as challenges.



*Producers in the WLEB participate in a hands-on cover crop demonstration*



## Water Quality Trading

The Ohio River Basin **Water Quality Trading** Pilot Project is a market-based, inter-state trading program aimed at achieving water quality standards in watersheds along the Ohio River by allowing dischargers to purchase pollution reductions from other sources. This is a partnership among the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky and was initially funded by a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) to the Electric Power Research Institute and is now privately funded and supported by over a dozen organizations with technical support from local, state and federal agencies. The pilot is in its fourth year. The DSC Staff completed the four year in-field verifications for Best Management Practices of cover crops, heavy use protection areas for livestock, and cropland to hay conversion that were approved, installed, and funded for Indiana landowners through the WQT program.

Indiana is in the process of entering into further agreements with EPRI for a second round of public funds with a emphasis on forestry best management practices.



*In 2015, cover crops were planted near an electric plant on the Ohio River*



## Pathway to Water Quality

2015 was a busy year for **Pathway to Water Quality**. The big project in 2015 was the installation of new pervious concrete. The concrete path now connects the entire front loop of the exhibit. This makes the path much easier for strollers and wheel chairs to get around. An IDEM 319 Grant paid the majority of the pervious pathway installation costs.

The education area also saw an overhaul this year. Several new activities were added to help the younger pathway visitors learn about soil and water conservation. Thousands of children and their parents visit the education area each year. This not only educates the children, but their parents or guardians occasionally learn a few things as well. More changes will be coming in 2016 as the committee continues to look at improvements to both entertain and educate the more than 60,000 visitors each year.



*George Reger, Resource Specialist Team Leader, gives a tour of Pathway to Water Quality to legislators.*



## 2015 Tillage and Cover Crop Transect Surveys

The 2015 Spring Tillage and Cover Crop Transect showed Hoosier farmers continue the trend of plowing less and using sound conservation practices that preserve and build valuable topsoil. Each spring, members of Indiana's Conservation Partnership (ICP) load up their vehicles to conduct a field survey of tillage methods, plant cover, and crop residue in their county. A tillage transect is an on-the-ground survey that identifies the types of tillage systems farmers are using and long-term trends of conservation tillage adoption using GPS technology, plus a statistically reliable model for estimating farm management and related annual trends.

**Conservation tillage** helps keep the soil where it belongs: on the field. Residue cover of just 30 percent can help reduce soil erosion by 50 percent or more compared to bare soil. This is good for our farmers, good for soil productivity, and good for our drinking water.

The ultimate in conservation tillage is "no-till", where farmers directly plant into the previous crop with little soil disturbance. **No-till** farming methods can reduce soil erosion by 75 percent compared to a conventional (chisel-disk) tillage system, and is a critical component to improve soil organic matter and soil health.

Reducing tillage can pay off in other ways. In fact, the 2015 report shows farmers saved over 32 million tons of soil that remained on crop fields by using reduced tillage methods as compared to conventional tillage. Indiana farmers who used reduced tillage systems also required fewer passes and they used less fuel that resulted in over 14 million gallons of diesel saved.

Another important conservation practice that the ICP is tracking is fields planted with **cover crops**. These plants benefit the soil before planting or after harvest by feeding the diverse populations of soil biology, protecting the soil, and building soil organic matter. Over 933 thousand acres of cover crops were recorded in the Indiana spring transect, which continues to increase each year.

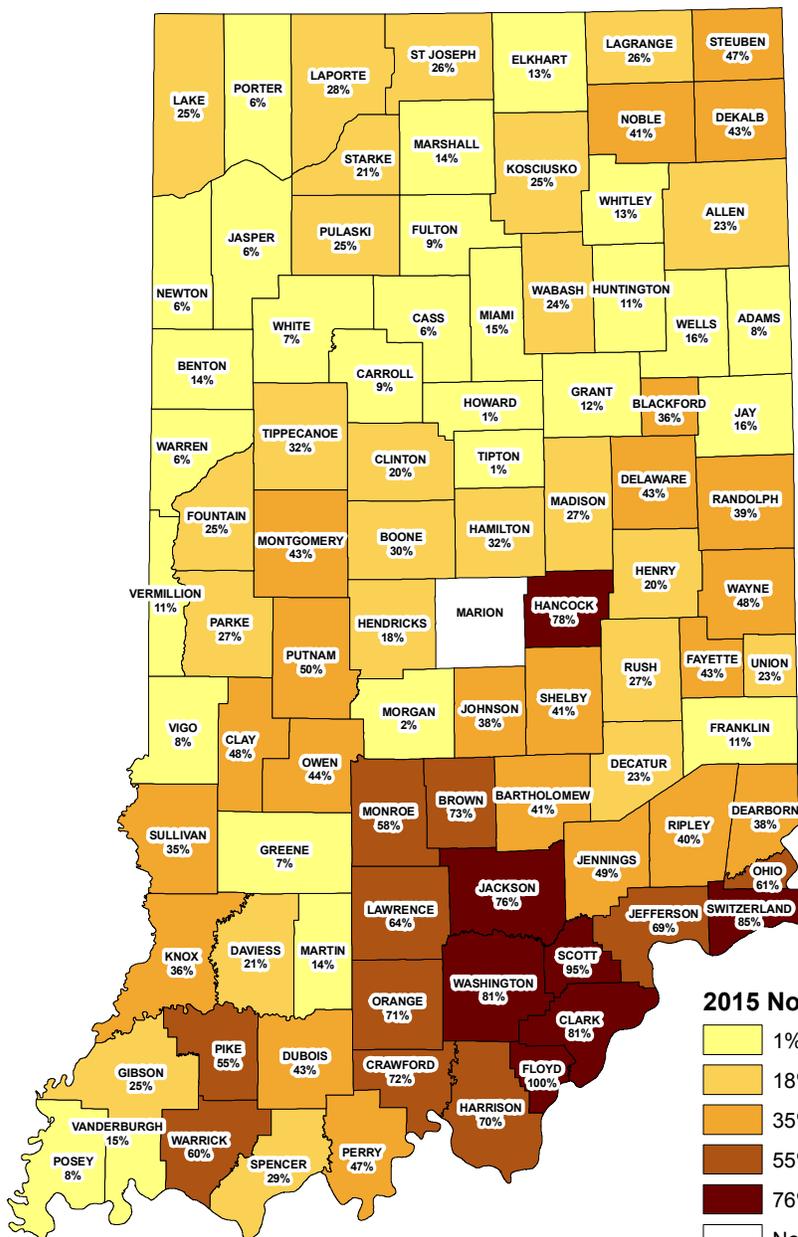
These numbers confirm that Indiana is a national leader in acres of cover crops planted. Indiana farmers were some of the first in the country to figure out the economic and water quality benefits of soil health conservation practices like cover crops.

To view historical maps of Indiana tillage transect trends visit the website at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>.



## 2015 Tillage and Cover Crop Transect Surveys

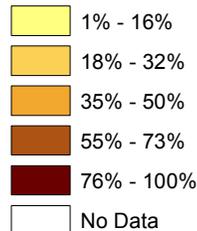
### 2015 No-till Corn Percentages



<http://icp.iaswcd.org/>

**Statewide, 34% (1,621,000 acres) of the harvested corn acres had residues and soil undisturbed.**

#### 2015 No-till Corn Percentages



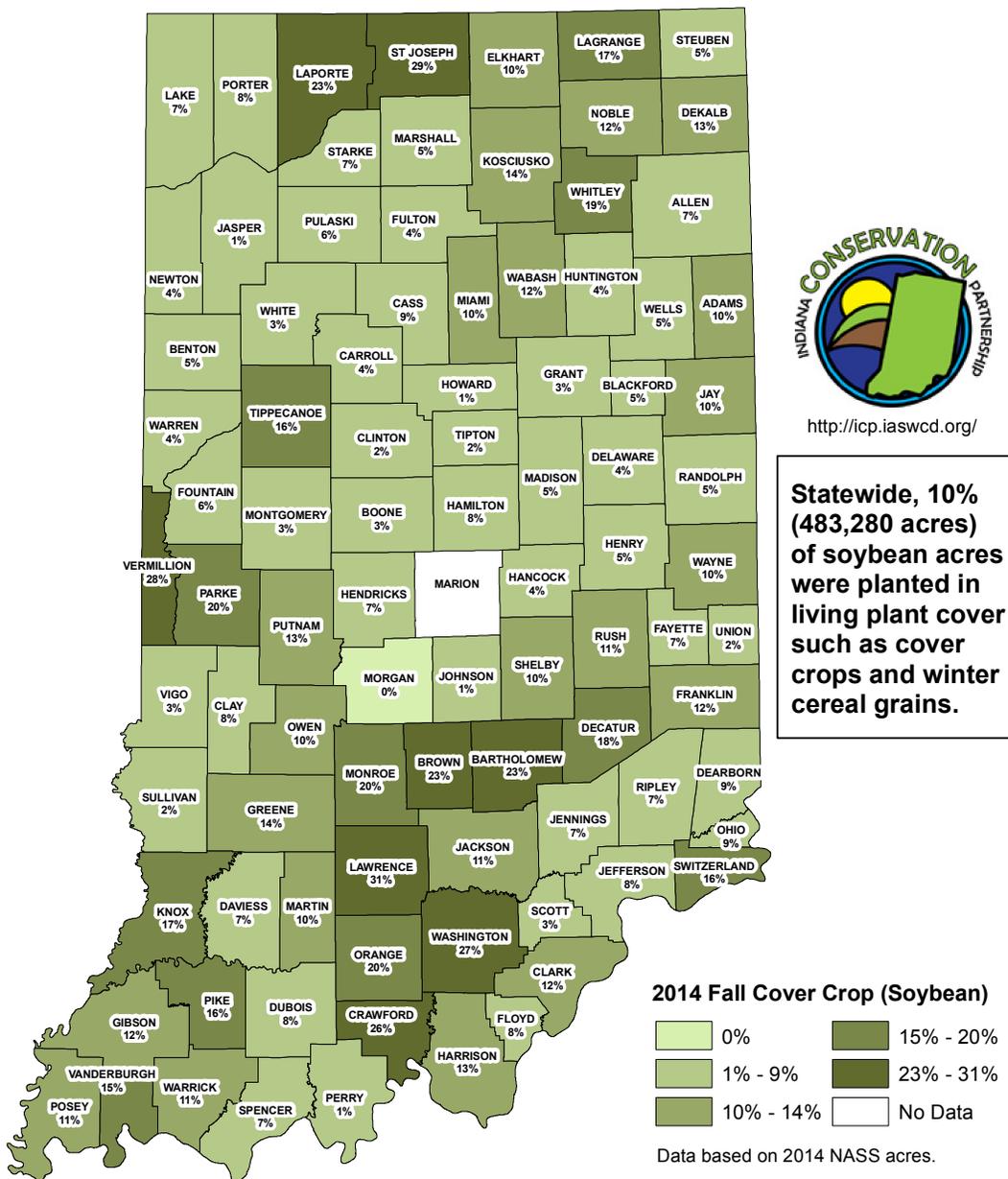
Data based on 2014 NASS acres.

September 30, 2015  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

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

## 2015 Tillage and Cover Crop Transect Surveys

### 2014 Cover Crops Planted in Soybean

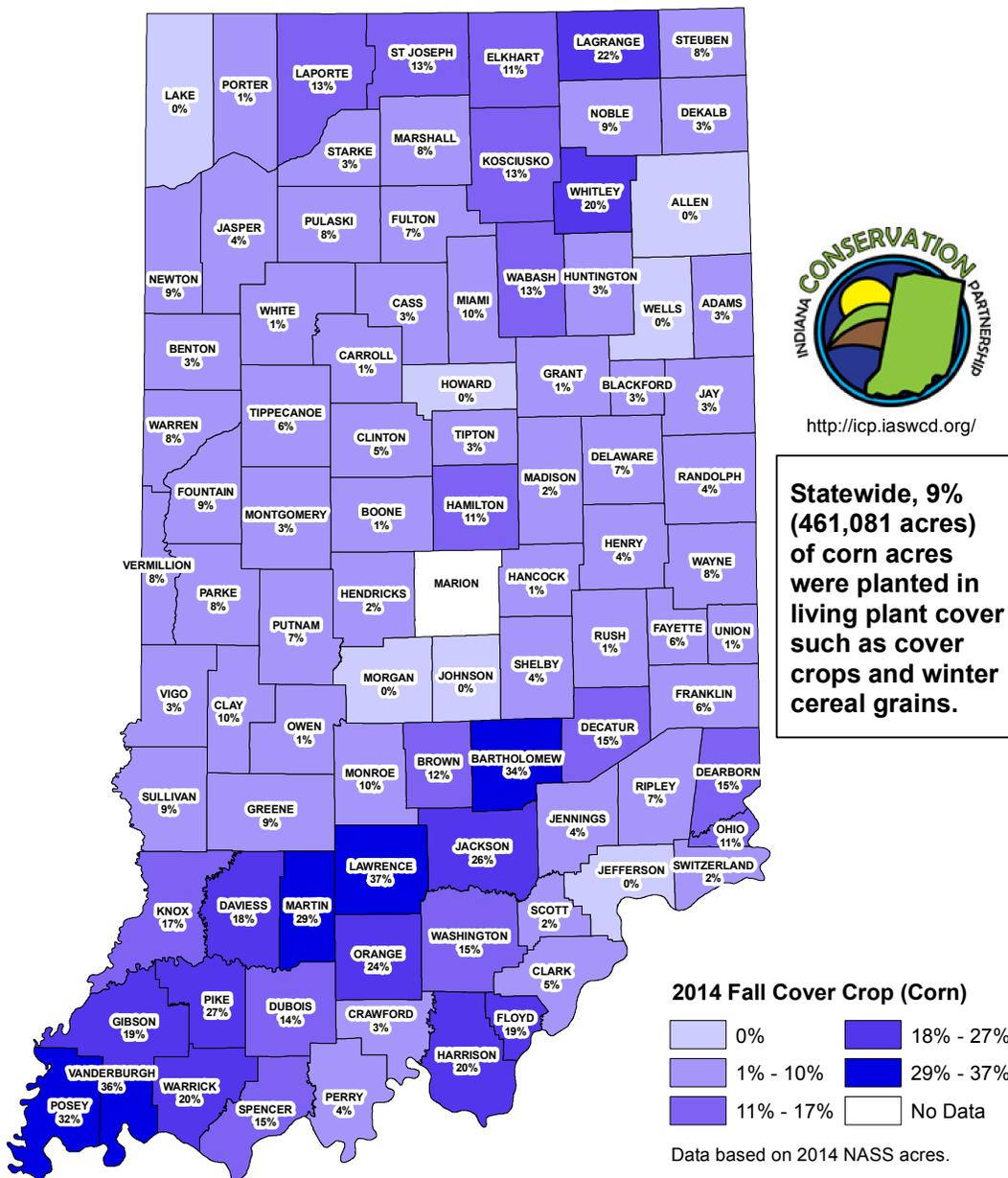


<http://icp.iaswcd.org/>

**Statewide, 10% (483,280 acres) of soybean acres were planted in living plant cover such as cover crops and winter cereal grains.**

## 2015 Tillage and Cover Crop Transect Surveys

### 2014 Cover Crops Planted in Corn



July 15, 2014  
 Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

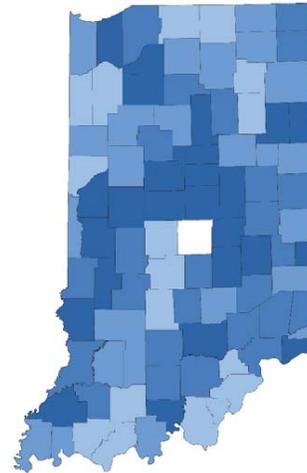
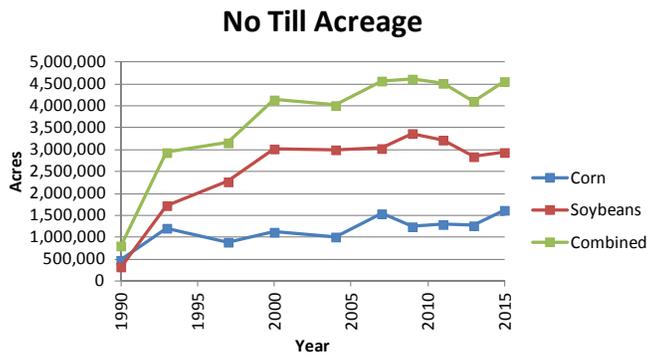
For more information, visit the Conservation Tillage Program web page at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>, or contact the Indiana State Department of Agriculture at [ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov](mailto:ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov).

## 2015 Tillage and Cover Crop Transect Surveys

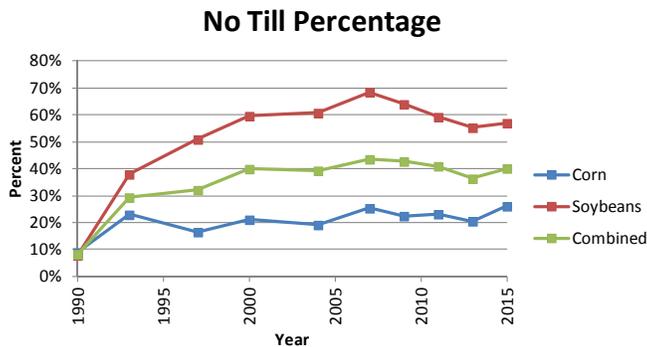
### Indiana Statewide Tillage: 1990-2015



No Till: Any direct seeding system, including site preparation, with minimal soil disturbance (includes strip & ridge till).



\*Note: Darker colors had a greater percent increase in total no till acres (corn and soybeans) from 1990-2015



	Percentage Point Change	Percent Change
Corn	17	191%
Soybeans	49	613%
Combined	32	383%

	Acres	Percent Change
Corn	1,141,745	238%
Soybeans	2,614,351	799%
Combined	5,160,741	466%

\* Please note that not all counties have data for all years. No tillage data is collected for Marion county.

Acreage	1990	1993	1997	2000	2004	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Corn	479,255	1,211,769	891,962	1,120,174	1,011,467	1,542,152	1,244,400	1,296,300	1,266,700	1,621,000
Soybeans	327,249	1,726,956	2,270,370	3,023,134	3,002,974	3,032,493	3,375,300	3,225,400	2,845,300	2,941,600
Combined	806,504	2,938,725	3,162,332	4,143,308	4,014,441	4,574,645	4,619,700	4,521,700	4,112,000	4,562,600

Percentage	1990	1993	1997	2000	2004	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Corn	9%	23%	18%	21%	19%	25%	23%	23%	21%	26%
Soybeans	8%	38%	51%	60%	61%	69%	64%	59%	55%	57%
Combined	8%	29%	32%	40%	39%	44%	43%	41%	36%	40%

For more information please see: <http://in.gov/isda/2383.htm>

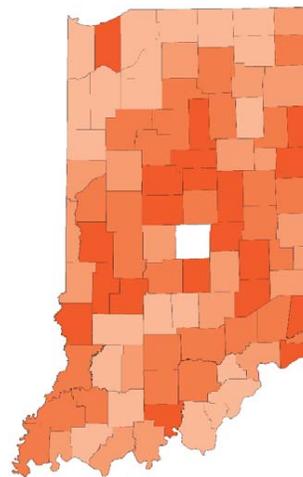
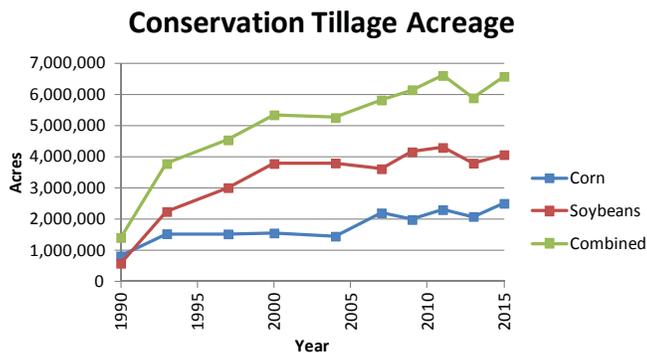
December 29, 2015  
Leah Harmon, ISDA District Support Specialist

## 2015 Tillage and Cover Crop Transect Surveys

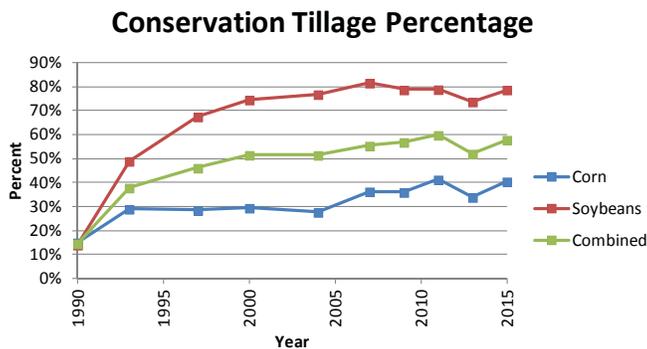
### Indiana Statewide Tillage: 1990-2015



Conservation Tillage: any system that leaves at least 30% residue cover after planting



\*Note: Darker colors had a greater percent increase in total conservation tillage acres (corn and soybeans) from 1990-2015



Conservation Tillage Percentage Change 1990-2015		
	Percentage Point Change	Percent Change
Corn	25	170%
Soybeans	65	591%
Combined	43	365%

Conservation Tillage Acreage Change 1990-2015		
	Acres	Percent Change
Corn	1,683,400	180%
Soybeans	3,477,341	464%
Combined	5,160,741	311%

\* Please note that not all counties have data for all years. No tillage data is collected for Marion county.

Conservation Tillage Implementation										
Acreage	1990	1993	1997	2000	2004	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Corn	824,200	1,536,438	1,528,779	1,558,708	1,455,828	2,202,153	1,988,000	2,304,200	2,086,900	2,507,600
Soybeans	588,159	2,244,690	3,009,387	3,781,933	3,797,671	3,613,545	4,156,160	4,296,000	3,796,600	4,065,500
Combined	1,412,359	3,781,128	4,538,166	5,340,641	5,253,499	5,815,697	6,144,160	6,600,200	5,883,500	6,573,100
Percentage	1990	1993	1997	2000	2004	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Corn	15%	29%	29%	29%	28%	36%	36%	41%	34%	40%
Soybeans	14%	49%	67%	75%	77%	82%	79%	79%	74%	79%
Combined	15%	N/A	N/A	52%	52%	55%	57%	60%	52%	58%

For more information please see: <http://in.gov/isda/2383.htm>

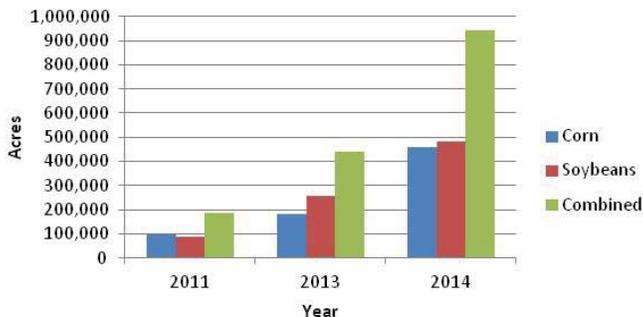
December 29, 2015  
Leah Harmon, ISDA District Support Specialist

## 2015 Tillage and Cover Crop Transect Surveys

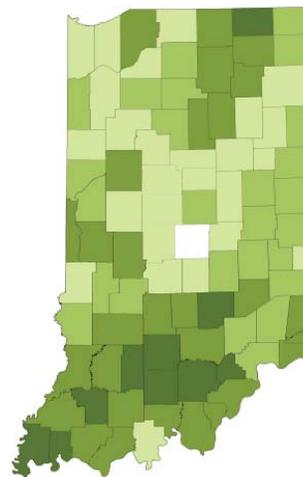
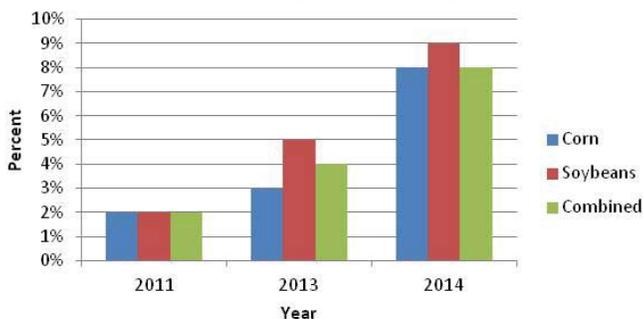
### Indiana Cover Crops: 2011-2014



#### Cover Crop Acreage



#### Cover Crop Percentage



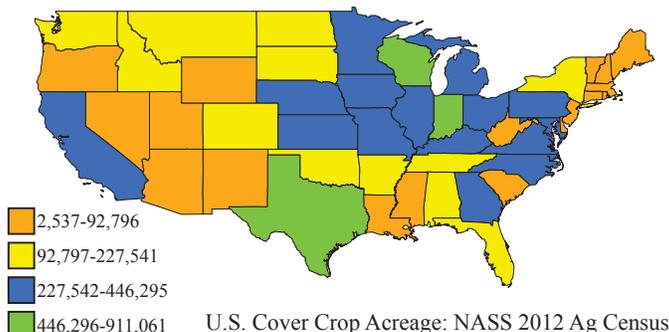
\*Note: Darker colors indicate counties that reported a greater percentage of combined corn and soybean acres utilizing cover crops in 2014.

Cover Crop Acreage Change 2011-2014		
	Acres	Percent Change
Corn	364,881	379%
Soybeans	395,480	450%
Combined	760,361	413%

Cover Crop Percentage Change 2011-2014		
	Percentage Point Change	Percent Change
Corn	6	300%
Soybeans	7	350%
Combined	6	300%

Cover Crop Implementation			
Acreage	2011	2013	2014
Corn	96,200	183,100	461,081
Soybeans	87,800	258,000	483,280
Combined	184,000	441,100	944,361
Percent	2011	2013	2014
Corn	2%	3%	8%
Soybeans	2%	5%	9%
Combined	2%	4%	8%

- \* Please note that no data is collected for Marion County.
- \* 2011 and 2013 cover crop data was collected during the spring tillage transect. Figures collected in this manner may not be a true reflection of cover crop implementation because of winter kill and other factors.
- \* A fall cover crop transect was completed in 2014. Data from this transect is included. Future fall transects are planned to capture application of this conservation practice.



For more information about the transect program, including county level transect data, please see: <http://in.gov/isda/2383.htm>

October 8, 2015  
Leah Harmon, ISDA District Support Specialist



# Clean Water Indiana



The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

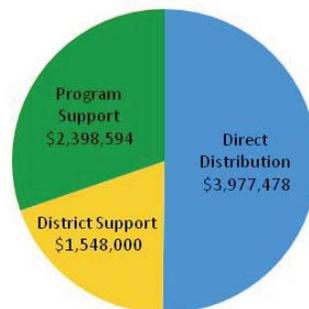
The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as competitive grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). CWI also contributes critical state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land. CREP is locally administered by SWCDs. <http://www.in.gov/isda>

Furthermore, the CWI Program has supported the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which focuses on a management systems approach to crop production which results in improved soil health and water quality as well as profitability on Indiana cropland. <http://ccsin.iaswcd.org/>



The ISDA Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) administers the Clean Water Indiana fund under direction from the State Soil Conservation Board, which is intended to serve Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The DSC has a separate operating budget for uses not directly related to CWI programming. Both the CWI and the DSC budgets are derived from a portion of cigarette tax funds. (IC 6-7-1-29.3) In recent years, the CWI budget has also included general fund appropriations.

### CWI Budget Overview



**FY 2016 and FY 2017 Combined CWI Budget**  
 \*Includes \$2,000,000 general fund appropriation  
 Total: \$7,924,072 before reversion

CWI funds aid SWCDs in three key ways.

#### Direct Distribution to Districts:

- The SSCB provides training scholarships and sponsorships to districts who wish to improve upon current skill sets.
- Competitive CWI grants provide funds for cost share programs, technical assistance and adult education for multi-district initiatives. The 2015 grant cycle awarded record levels of funding.
- For each dollar an SWCD receives from local government, the SSCB will provide a match up to \$10,000. (IC 14-32-8-8)

#### District Support:

- Each SWCD has an assigned District Support Specialist who aids in district capacity building, including developing business plans, grant writing assistance, and sharing marketing opportunities.

#### Program Support by Districts:

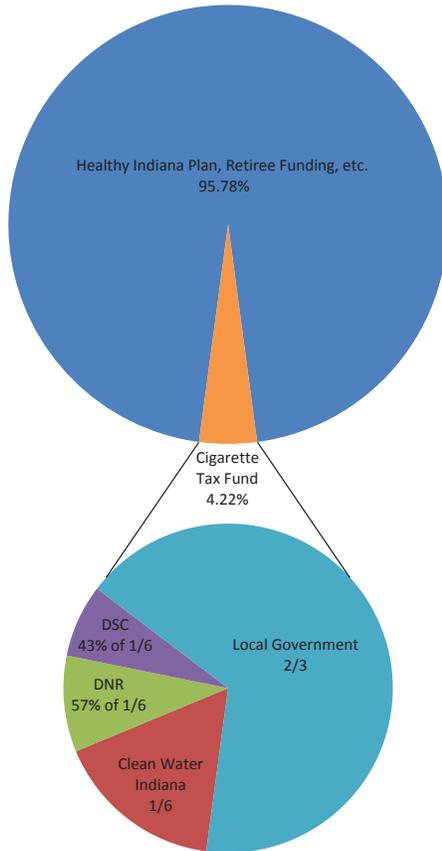
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funds provide incentive payments to plant native grasses, trees, or other vegetation on converted cropland.
- Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) utilizes science-based demonstration hubs to promote conservation practices.

Clean Water Indiana was established by statute. (IC 14-32-8) For more information about CWI and the SSCB, including members, meeting minutes, budgets and past and present grant summaries, please see [www.in.gov/isda/](http://www.in.gov/isda/).

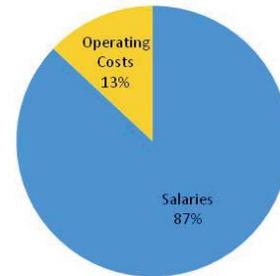


The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has its own budget, derived from the State general fund, in addition to numerous federal grants which funds ISDA Economic Development, Policy, FFA, and Communications functions as well as a portion of the IN Grain Buyers and Warehouse License Authority. The latter of which has an additional budget. The Division of Soil Conservation, housed within the ISDA, is funded with its own separate budget and administers the additional Clean Water IN budget per State Soil Conservation Board guidance.

### Cigarette Tax Revenue Breakdown IC6-7-1-29.3

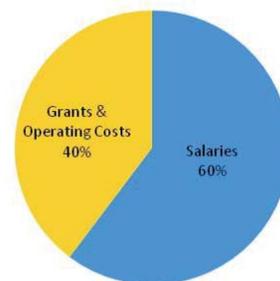


### ISDA Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) Budget Overview



\*Operating costs include gas, training, equipment, IT costs, travel, retirement, vehicle maintenance, services, and fees  
Total: \$1,299,667 before reversion

### ISDA Budget Overview



\*Operating costs include grants, gas, training, equipment, IT costs, travel, retirement, vehicle maintenance, services, and fees  
Total: \$2,320,508 before reversion

For more information about CWI, please visit: [in.gov/isda/2379.htm](http://in.gov/isda/2379.htm).  
Email questions or comments to [cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov).

For more information about about the DSC please visit [in.gov/isda/2342.htm](http://in.gov/isda/2342.htm).  
To view the DSC Annual report, please see [in.gov/isda/files/2014\\_ISDA\\_DSC\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://in.gov/isda/files/2014_ISDA_DSC_Annual_Report.pdf).

To find your local SWCD: please visit: [in.gov/isda/2370.htm](http://in.gov/isda/2370.htm).



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Annual Report can be viewed on-line at:  
<http://www.in.gov/isda/2342.htm>

## Commonly Used Acronyms

<b>ARS</b> Agriculture Research Service	<b>IDEM</b> Indiana Department of Environmental Management
<b>BMP</b> Best Management Practice	<b>IDNR</b> Indiana Department of Natural Resources
<b>CAFO</b> Confined Animal Feeding Operation	<b>INFA</b> Infield Advantage
<b>CCSI</b> Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative	<b>ISDA</b> Indiana State Department of Agriculture
<b>CED</b> County Executive Director (FSA)	<b>LARE</b> Lake and River Enhancement Program, IDNR
<b>CES</b> Cooperative Extension Service (Purdue)	<b>LG</b> Lieutenant Governor
<b>CIG</b> Conservation Innovation Grants	<b>LI</b> Leadership Institute
<b>CIT</b> Conservation Implementation Team	<b>MOA</b> Memorandum of Agreement
<b>CNMP</b> Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	<b>MOU</b> Memorandum of Understanding
<b>CREP</b> Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	<b>MRBI</b> Mississippi River Basin Initiative
<b>CRP</b> Conservation Reserve Program	<b>NACD</b> National Association of Conservation Districts
<b>CSP</b> Conservation Stewardship Program	<b>NMP</b> Nutrient Management Plan
<b>CTIC</b> Conservation Technology Information Center	<b>NMSH</b> Nutrient Management and Soil Health
<b>CWI</b> Clean Water Indiana	<b>NRCS</b> Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
<b>DC</b> District Conservationist (NRCS)	<b>NRS</b> Nutrient Reduction Strategy
<b>DSC</b> Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA)	<b>PWQ</b> Pathway to Water Quality
<b>DSS</b> District Support Specialist (ISDA)	<b>RC&amp;D</b> Resource Conservation and Development
<b>EPA</b> Environmental Protection Agency	<b>RS</b> Resource Specialist (ISDA)
<b>EPRI</b> Electric Power Research Institute	<b>SC</b> Soil Conservationist (NRCS)
<b>EQIP</b> Environmental Quality Incentive Program	<b>SCT</b> Soil Conservation Technician (NRCS)
<b>FOTG</b> Field Office Technical Guide	<b>SSCB</b> State Soil Conservation Board
<b>FSA</b> Farm Service Agency, USDA	<b>SWCD</b> Soil and Water Conservation District
<b>GLRI</b> Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	<b>USDA</b> United States Department of Agriculture
<b>HEL</b> Highly Erodible Land	<b>USGS</b> United States Geological Survey
<b>IASWCD</b> Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Incorporated	<b>WASCOB</b> Water & Sediment Control Basin
<b>IC</b> Indiana Code	<b>WLEB</b> Western Lake Erie Basin
<b>ICP</b> Indiana Conservation Partnership	<b>WQT</b> Water Quality Trading
<b>IDEA</b> Indiana District Employee Association	

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation could not have accomplished these many achievements in 2015 without the guidance, financial, and technical assistance from its many partners. The ISDA-DSC would like to thank the following for their support and commitment to conserving Indiana's natural resources:

- A & L Great Lakes Labs
- Eagle Creek Park
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5
- Electric Power Research Institute
- Gary Truitt – Hoosier Ag Today
- Hans Kok
- Hypoxia Task Force
- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Indiana Conservation Partnership
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana District Employees Association
- Indiana Farm Bureau
- Indiana Landowners, Farmers, and the Indiana Agricultural industry
- Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Marketing Council
- Indiana State Soil Conservation Board, including outgoing Chairman Scott Ham
- Iowa Soybean Association
- ISDA Leadership and Staff
- ISDA Staff Leah Harmon, Deb Fairhurst, and others who compiled this annual report
- Purdue Extension
- Red Gold Tomato Company
- States of Michigan and Ohio for collaboration in the Western Lake Erie Basin
- The Lieutenant Governor's Family of Business
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tom Beckman – Indiana Prairie Farmer
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service