

Project Statistics

Lead District: Spencer
Amount Funded: \$50,000



Project Information:

Project Title: Promoting
Soil Health through
Conservation Cover
Project Dates:
1/1/19-12/31/21

Project Overview:

The SWCD will offer a cost share program to promote the further use of cover crops throughout the county and reduce the continued degradation of soil health. The district does intend to target highly erodible land, first, with this program, preventing further erosion on already sensitive soils and slopes. More than 60 percent of the district soils can be classified as Highly Erodible Land (HEL). Highly erodible land (HEL) is soil found in cropland, hayland or pasture that can erode at excessive rates. If a producer has a fields with soils identified as HEL, that producer is required to maintain a conservation system of practices that keeps reduce soil loss.

The district is trying to promote the continued use of cover crops because they promote soil health in ways that no-till or minimum tillage cannot. The district and surrounding areas were plagued by heavy late-winter and early spring rains; many acres of fields left untreated with cover crops; even producers with minimum to no-till practices even noticed soil erosion. Approximately 67% of soils in in the county are considered highly erodible; a great deal of that land is engaged in farming practices. Cover crops are the single practice which the SWCD can promote will reduce the need for herbicides, improve yields over time by promoting soil health, prevent soil erosion, conserve soil moisture, and protect water quality.

Program Overview:

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program (IC 14-32-8) was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. Through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs, the program supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution.

Program Administration:

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 (SSCB). The fund is derived from a portion of cigarette tax funds. (IC 6-7-1-29.3) The cigarette tax fund is 4.22 percent of total cigarette tax revenue, and the CWI fund receives one sixth of this amount. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects.

For more information about CWI, please visit: in.gov/isda/2379.htm.
For more information about the SSCB, please visit: in.gov/isda/2361.htm.
Email questions or comments to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov.
To find your local SWCD: please visit: in.gov/isda/2370.htm.

