

Project Statistics

Lead District: Tipton
Amount Funded: \$92,000
Participating Districts:
Howard



Project Information:

Project Title: Conservation Implementation for Healthy Soils
Project Dates:
1/1/19-12/31/21

Project Overview:

Clean Water Indiana funds will be offered to producers in Tipton and Howard Counties who are interested in using cover crops and conservation tillage methods by modifying their current equipment. First-time adopters wanting to implement conservation tillage along with cover crops will rank higher than those wishing only to incorporate a cover crop or those who are currently using a cover crop and want to increase their cover crop acreage. Funds will be used to cost-share those producers who want to modify their existing equipment to a conservation tillage system. Conservation tillage equipment modification or purchase will take a higher ranking than cover crops in years 1 and 2 of the CWI Grant. The cost-share for cover crops will be a maximum of \$20 per acre (the maximum amount allowable under the CWI Grant Program), with a maximum acreage per producer of 50 per year. Equipment modification will be eligible to four producers at a cost-share of 75% not to exceed \$18,000 per producer. Data analysis will be an essential part of the project to measure organic matter levels and as a method to measure nutrients in the soil and its water holding capacity. Drone imagery during the crop season will be used to determine crop health. Soil tests and stalk testing will also be used. To ensure quality control and consistency GPS points will be used for the selected testing sites. A Soil Health Learning Series will be offered to anyone interested in learning more about best management practices and soil health.

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.