

# 2021 Annual Report



**Clinton  
County**



**Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District**

*860 S. Prairie Ave., Suite 1*

*Frankfort, IN 46041*

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*[www.clintonswcd.org](http://www.clintonswcd.org)*

*[facebook.com/clintonswcd](https://facebook.com/clintonswcd)*

All programs and services of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District and its partners are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status or handicap.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CLINTON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MARCH 1, 2022 BEGINNING AT 6 PM**

**ARBORWOOD, 100 NORTH PARK DR., FRANKFORT, INDIANA**

Welcome and Chairman’s Message	Clint Orr, Supervisor, Chairperson
Staff, Supervisor and Distinguished Guest Recognition	Dustin Johnson, Vice Chairperson
Invocation	Clint Orr, Chairperson

***Dinner—by Shoup’s Country Foods*** (tables will be dismissed to go through serving line as indicated by Shoup’s staff)

*Dinner provided through the generous financial support of our sponsors TTG Equipment, CIS, Crop Insurance Specialist, Becks Hybrids, Drago Indiana, Halderman Farm Mgmt. & Real Estate, Farm Credit Services and The Farm Clinic*

Election and Election Results	Election Committee Clint Orr, Jerry Batts, Harold Marshall
Oath of Office	Clark Beard, Clinton Co. Councilman
Introduction of Guest Speaker	Ty Brown, Supervisor

***Cassie Hauswald, Freshwater Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy***

***“A SHELL OF INDIANA’S RIVERS—MUSSELS”***

Award Presentations	Matt Kelley/SWCD Staff
Presentation of Annual Report	SWCD Staff
IDEM SECTION 319—Upper Sugar Creek	Seth Harden, TNC
USDA Conservation Program Update	Brittany Shephard, USDA, FSA Katelyn Fagan, USDA, NRCS
Closing Remarks	Leah Harden

***A short business meeting and election of officers will be held immediately following the annual meeting program. The business meeting is a public meeting and open to all individuals.***

***Thank you for attending to learn more about the efforts of YOUR local Soil and Water Conservation District!***

## CCSWCD MISSION STATEMENT

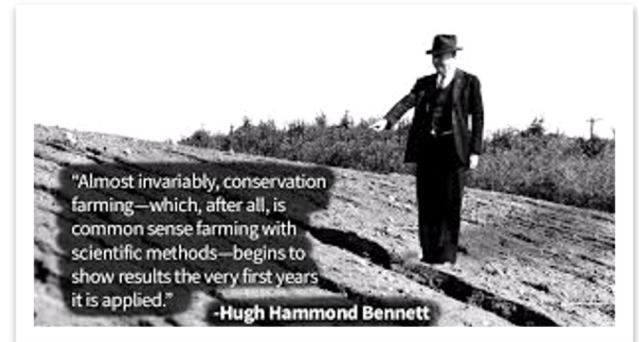
To create an environment through leadership, cooperation, and education in which citizens wisely use and enhance natural resources.

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S PURPOSE

The purpose of a Soil and Water Conservation District, or SWCD, is to provide information about soil, water, and related natural resources conservation; identify and prioritize **LOCAL** soil and water resource concerns; and connect landusers to sources of education, technical and financial assistance from local, state and federal sources to assist them in implementing conservation practices and technologies.

## HISTORY OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

As the Dust Bowl raged in the early 1930's, soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett brought the serious issue of soil erosion to Congress' attention. As seventy-five percent of US land was privately owned, Congress soon realized that buy-in to the program would result from local level planning. The Soil Erosion Service was created in response.



In 1937, Indiana joined states across the nation in forming soil and water conservation districts to provide local leadership in carrying out soil and water conservation programs. The Indiana Conservation Act (IC 14-32) established Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which are chartered, legal subdivisions of State Government. The Clinton County SWCD was organized through a public referendum held March 27, 1967.

## DISTRICT STRUCTURE

The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a legal subdivision of state government. It is a public body that exercises public powers. The district receives its statutory authority from Indiana District Law (Indiana Code 14-32-5-1). The official governing body of a district consists of five supervisors, each a resident of the county. Three are elected at the local Annual Meeting of land occupiers and two are appointed by the State Soil Conservation Board based on recommendations from the governing board of the District. Supervisors serve as public officials responsible to the SWCD and to the State and are required to subscribe to a standard public oath of office.

The Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) develops and implements conservation programs based on a set of resource priorities and channels resources from all levels of government into action at the local level. SWCD's identify and address soil and water conservation needs in their counties as identified in the SWCD 2018-2022 Strategic Plan:

- Soil erosion
- Implementing conservation cropping systems to improve soil health
- Implementing strategies for improving surface water quality
- Land use planning and development
- Drainage water management
- Wildlife habitat development
- Forest improvement
- Invasive species management

## LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND THE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY

The Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District, its Supervisors and Staff, along with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service appreciate the high level of involvement that the Clinton County Commissioners, County Council, Elected Officials and County employees play in making the CCSWCD stand out from our counterparts. Without the support of our local government, residents, and partners our work to improve the quality of life by providing education, outreach, technical resources, and financial support would be severely limited.

The CCSWCD is able to provide exceptional benefits and services to the residents of Clinton County by cooperating with other units of city, county, state and federal government to carry out its mission. By leveraging the budget set forth by the Clinton County Government, the CCSWCD was able to bring in to the county more than **\$12.00** from outside sources in fiscal year 2021. Without highly skilled technical and administrative staff and the commitment of the elected and appointed individuals who serve the CCSWCD as Supervisors, those dollars that filter through our local economy would likely have gone elsewhere.

The CCSWCD invites you to learn more about how you can have an impact on your community and conservation of its natural resources by becoming involved as an associate supervisor, serve on a steering committee, volunteer or simply by attending our events. We hope that you will choose to become involved and be instrumental in directing and delivering conservation activities and actions at the local level - **in your community!**

All SWCD Board meetings are public meetings. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 AM and are held at the Purdue Extension Office, 1111 S. Jackson St., Frankfort, IN

### STAFF

#### Soil and Water Conservation District

Leah Harden, District Coordinator

Meghan Rose, Resource Conservation Specialist

Winnie Beard, Program Support Specialist



#### USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Katelyn Fagan, District Conservationist



#### Indiana State Department of Agriculture

George Reger, Resource Conservationist

Austin Green, Resource Conservationist

Geneva Tyler, District Support Specialist



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Clint Orr, Chair

Dustin Johnson, Vice Chair

Jerry Batts

Matt Kelley

Ty Brown (picture not available)



## ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Harold Marshall

Richard Moore

Devin Bell

David Beard



## SUPERVISOR ELECTION

The official governing body of a district consists of five supervisors. Three are elected (one each for a three-year term). Indiana Law cites that supervisor elections must occur during a District annual meeting of public stakeholders. Two supervisors are appointed, also for staggered three-year terms, by the State Soil Conservation Board based upon recommendations of the current supervisors of the district. Thus, the selection of all five supervisors is based on input and election of the local people that they serve. Supervisors are required to subscribe to a oath of office by which they commit to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Indiana, and to faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Supervisor.

An election of supervisor will be held during the March 1, 2022 Annual Meeting for one (1) three-year term position. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. To hold the position of elected Supervisor, an individual: (1) must be of voting age; (2) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is located within the district; and (3) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district; and (4) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this imposes on supervisors. (IC14-32-4-1).

*Ty Brown was appointed to serve the remaining term of David Beard who resigned his elected position in March 2021. Ty is seeking his first three-year term as an elected supervisor. Ty resides near Mulberry with his wife Sacha and their four children. Ty owns a machinery dealership and operates a corn and soybean farming operation alongside his wife and parents Hal and Sue Brown. Ty's conservation interests include cover crops and soil biology. Ty believes in using conservation to harness the natural productivity of the soil he manages and to protect the resource for the future. Ty is a graduate of Purdue University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy.*

*Matt Kelley, based on a recommendation by local leadership, was appointed to a three-year term by the State Soil Conservation Board. Matt will begin serving his sixth term as a supervisor of the Soil and Water Conservation District. The Kelley farming operation produces grain in a corn/soybean rotation and are 100% no-till. Matt has used Farm Bill Programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Conservation Reserve Program to address resource concerns on the farm. Conservation practices implemented include filter strips, grassed waterways, native prairie grass planting and forest management practices. Matt's leadership experience includes attending several state sponsored SWCD leadership development seminars and has served on several steering committees for watershed-based projects sponsored by the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District.*

Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District

54th Annual Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 beginning at 6:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

*Purpose: The Soil and Water Conservation District is responsible for the leadership in conserving and protecting soil and water related resources within Clinton County. The SWCD provides information about soil, water and related natural resource conservation; identifies and prioritizes local soil and water resource concerns; and connects land users to sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.*

*Vision statement: The Vision of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District is to create an environment through leadership, cooperation, and education, in which citizens wisely use and enhance natural resources.*

<u>Supervisors present</u>	<u>Associates present</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Other</u>
Clint Orr	Richard Moore	Leah Harden	David Beard	Katelyn Fagan, NRCS
Jerry Batts		Austin Green		Brittany Shephard, FSA
Matt Kelley				Adam Shanks, Purdue
Dustin Johnson				

On March 2, 2021 at 6:38 PM, EST the annual meeting of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman, Clint Orr. Ten individuals were registered and in attendance. Chairman Orr welcomed those in attendance and extended thanks to Adam Shanks for hosting the Zoom meeting. A link to the Zoom meeting can be found at <https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/rec/share/IJxIaji5ulhug4QPRZqUy5D-6gZ97s0hllvp3ykEy54HKzfzWvmUt3jwmUev6MjT.h0LvQP9Gz0jMS5Nc>

The Election Committee of Dustin Johnson and Adam Shanks {Harold Marshall absent} presided over the supervisor election. Clint Orr's elected term was expiring. He chose to seek re-election. The nominating committee called for nominations from the floor. Having no nominations from the floor the election committee called for a motion to close the nominations. A motion was made and seconded {Matt/Jerry}. Eligible voters were asked to vote by a show of hands via the chat feature in Zoom with the majority of eligible voters being in favor. Clint was elected to serve a three-year term. The nominating committee certified the election process. Dustin issued the Oath of Office to Clint Orr. Jerry Batts was re-appointed after being recommended to the Indiana Soil Conservation Board. Dustin issued the Oath of Office to Jerry.

A presentation of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation Districts' 2020 financial report and accomplishments was presented by SWCD staff using Powerpoint. It was noted that the annual report in written format will be posted to [www.clintonswcd.org](http://www.clintonswcd.org) to view or download once completed.

Clint asked USDA staff to provide updates. Katelyn Fagan, District Conservationist, USDA, NRCS explained that the obligation deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is late April. The new administration provided new guidance associated with office staffing due to COVID restrictions. The Phase(d) approach has been eliminated and occupancy is limited to 25% occupancy for all agencies.

Brittany Shephard, County Executive Director, Farm Service Agency explained that the FSA has received a significant number of inquiries about the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Primarily field board and filter strip practices. She further noted that there are fifteen pending offers in que for planning. Brittany further reiterated the government mandated policies concerning office policies surrounding COVID. There are concerns about dealing with high workload centering around sign-up and administration of disaster programs. Rural areas may require a higher percentage of individuals able to work in office versus telework. FSA is the lead on FPAC and they will pass down any information as it changes. An FPAC meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2021.

Chairman Orr provided closing remarks and asked for a motion to adjourn the annual meeting of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District. At 7:08 PM a motion was made to adjourn the annual meeting. Jerry/Dustin.

The regular business meeting of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District convened at 7:08 PM.

Attendance: Jerry Batts, Clint Orr Matt Kelley, Dustin Johnson, Leah Harden, Austin Green, Richard Moore, Adam Shanks, Katelyn Fagan

The minutes of the February 2, 2021 business meeting were reviewed. Matt made a motion to approve. Seconded by Jerry. Motion carried.

The financial records were presented for review. Matt/Jerry. Carried.

Certificate of deposit ending in 340 reaches maturity on 3/19/2021. A motion was made to reinvest at the best rate and term at time of maturity. Matt/Jerry. Motion carried.

The following nominations were made to serve as officers of the SWCD and will serve until the 2022 annual meeting. Clint Orr to serve as chairman; Dustin Johnson to serve as V. Chairman and Leah Harden to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. The slate of officers accepted their nominations. A motion was made to approve the slate of officers. Matt/Jerry. Motion carried.

Dustin raised concerns about Supervisor David Beard’s participation in recent SWCD business meetings. Clint provided some insight as he had talked with David several months ago. He also noted that per a recent conversation that he and the District Administrator had had that if David’s circumstances no longer permit him to be involved that a letter of resignation is required. At that time action can be taken to fill the vacant position. Clint offered to reach out to David again.

Old business included annual employee reviews. Clint and Dustin will be scheduling those reviews soon. The status of Leah’s retirement has been put on hold for an undetermined amount of time.

Chairman Orr provided closing remarks and the regular business meeting of the CCSWCD adjourned at 7:25 PM. The next regular business meeting of the CCSWCD will be held April 6, 2021 and will be held at Purdue Extension or via Microsoft Teams beginning at 7:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Leah Harden.

**Minutes Approval**

_____ <b>Chairman</b>	_____ <b>Vice Chairman</b>	_____ <b>Member</b>
_____ <b>Member</b>		_____ <b>Member</b>

  
**“...soil conservation is not just an incidental bit of the mechanics of farming; it becomes part and parcel of the whole business of making a living from the land, and is the only way by which we may have permanently productive land for a permanent agriculture to support a permanent nation.”**  
**Hugh Hammond Bennett**  


Form approved by State Board of Accounts, 2002

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF CLINTON COUNTY SWCD

January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

File an Annual Financial Report with SBOA by March 1, 2022 (via Gateway) and send this form to your ISDA District Support Specialist by March 31, 2022.

Balance Brought Forward	\$160,376.36
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
State for District Operations	\$10,000.00
Clean Water Indiana Grant	\$0.00
County for District Operations	\$10,605.58
Federal and State Funds (not CWI)	\$68,735.75
Non Government Grants	\$0.00
Other Grants (List) PSS Agreement/CCSI Small Grant	\$4,164.31
<b>Total Intergovernmental Receipts</b>	<b>\$93,505.64</b>
Equipment Rental & Farm Income	\$544.00
Donations & Memberships	\$0.00
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	\$0.00
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	\$0.00
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	\$0.00
<b>Total Charges for Services</b>	<b>\$544.00</b>
Advertising	\$0.00
Annual Meeting Income	\$0.00
Interest from Checking, CDs, Savings, Etc.	\$126.16
Reimbursements & Refunds	\$2,833.05
Sale of Used Equipment	\$0.00
Sales Income	\$5,424.89
Workshop/Field Day Income	\$0.00
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Describe)	\$0.00
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Describe)	\$0.00
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Describe)	\$0.00
<b>Total Miscellaneous Revenue</b>	<b>\$8,384.10</b>
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$102,433.74
Sale of Investments (CDs, saving accounts, transfers)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)</b>	<b>\$262,810.10</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	\$2,604.22
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$31.19
Audit Expense	\$0.00
Bonding and Liability Insurance	\$694.00
Clean Water Indiana Projects or other State grant funded projects	\$8,065.56
Conservation Education Programs	\$7,686.42
Contractual Services	\$900.00
Cost-Share Projects/Federally-Funded	\$54,027.43
Cost-Share Projects/SWCD-Funded	\$0.00
CWI Payments to other SWCDs	\$0.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,047.50
Employee Salaries Paid by District	\$29,442.24
Office Supplies	\$1,048.01
Other Services & Charges	\$2,602.07
Postage & Delivery Expenses	\$1,131.21
Printing/Copying Expense	\$0.00
Rent	\$1,584.00
Repair Expenses	\$461.92



Sales Tax Paid to IN Dept. of Revenue	\$238.28
Supervisor Per Diem	\$1,695.50
Supplies for Resale	\$3,929.70
Telephone or Other Utilities	\$251.00
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	\$660.00
Workshop/Field Day Expense	\$0.00
Other Disbursements Visa	\$0.00
Other Disbursements - Fuel for Vehicle	\$321.43
Other Disbursements (Describe)	\$0.00
Other Disbursements (Describe) Petty cash	\$0.00
<b>Total General Government Disbursements</b>	<b>\$120,421.68</b>
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	<b>\$120,421.68</b>
Purchase of Investments (CDs saving accounts, transfers)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)</b>	\$120,421.68
<b>BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31</b>	\$142,388.42
<b>CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY</b>	
Salaries	\$95,884.06
Fringe	\$17,188.83
Other	\$0.00
<b>INVESTMENT INVENTORY</b>	
Beginning Investments	\$15,000.00
Ending Investments	\$15,000.00
Change (+/-)	\$0.00
<b>CASH BOXES</b>	
Petty Cash	\$50.00
Cash Change	\$24.96

## CHECKING ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

Balances in checking accounts:

Name of Bank	Date of Statement	Statement Balance	
FARMER'S BANK	12/31/21	\$150,462.22	
		\$0.00	
		\$0.00	Total: <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$150,462.22</span>

### Outstanding checks (list separately):

Ck# <u>    4836    </u>	<u>    \$100.00    </u>	Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>
Ck# <u>    4854    </u>	<u>    \$702.80    </u>	Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>
Ck# <u>    4859    </u>	<u>   \$5,451.00    </u>	Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>
Ck# <u>    4862    </u>	<u>   \$1,820.00    </u>	Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>
Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>	Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>
Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>	Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>
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Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>	Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>
Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>	Ck# <u>                    </u>	<u>    \$0.00    </u>

Subtract total outstanding checks	<u>    \$8,073.80    </u>
Plus deposits in transit	<u>    \$0.00    </u>
Adjusted bank balance (should equal Balance at December 31 on reverse side of this form)	<u>   \$142,388.42    </u>

Petty Cash Fund	Cash in Box	\$50.00	+	Paid Invoices	\$0.00	=	<u>    \$50.00    </u>
Cash Change Fund	Cash in Box	\$24.96	+/-	Amount Over+/(Under-)	\$0.00	=	<u>    \$24.96    </u>
Total Cash Available (excluding investments) as of 12/31/21							<u>   \$142,463.38    </u>

### INVESTMENTS INVENTORY AS OF 12/31/21

List separately and identify	Date of Purch.	Account or Serial Number	Purchase Cost	Beginning Value or Balance	Deposits or Purchases of Investments	Earned Interest	Withdrawals or Sales of Investments	Ending Balance 12/31/2020
Savings Accts	XXX		XXXXX					0.00
	XXX		XXXXX					0.00
	XXX		XXXXX					0.00
24 MOS.CD	11/17/22	***620	5,000.00	5,000.00				5,000.00
18 MOS CD	3/24/21	***915	5,000.00	5,000.00				5,000.00
24 MOS.CD	8/17/21	***916	5,000.00	5,000.00				5,000.00
								0.00
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								0.00
Totals	XXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00

This District Financial Report is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
 Leah Harden, Treasurer  
 Clinton County  
 Date     24-Feb-22    

Auditing Committee Statement: We certify that we have audited the general journal, ledgers, receipts, checks, and bank statements, and found this District Financial Report to be accurate for 2021.  
 Clint Orr, Member  
 Matt Kelley, Member



**Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP):**

Two contracts: \$153,126.53

Applications received: 13

Types of practices under EQIP: Cover Crops, Pollinator Habitat, Tree Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Brush Management, Waterway Waste Facility Pit Closure

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):**

Applications received: 3

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** Fiscal Year (FY) 2021:

USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA) – CRP Administrators

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – CRP Technical providers

Total number of New FY 2021 CRP Contracts: 15

Total number of FY 2021 CRP Acres: 37.94

Continuous CRP (includes re-enrollments) practices: CP8A, CP21, CP22, CP23, CP30, CP31, CP33, CP38C-31, CP38C-3A, 38E-2, CP42, CP5A

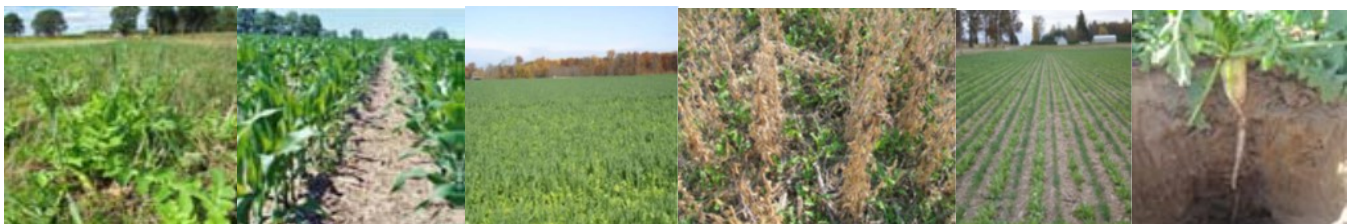
Total number of active CRP contracts: 337

Total number of CRP Acres: 1242.58

Total Annual CRP Payments: \$298,775.00

**Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC), Wetland Conservation (WC)** Certification Determination (1026) and **FSA 569 NRCS Report of HELC and WC Compliance (569)** (due to finding of potential non-compliance) Requests from Farm Service Agency (FSA) Fiscal Year (FY) 21:

Total: HELC/WC: 42; 569:11



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

## SOUTH FORK WILDCAT STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE—PHASE II

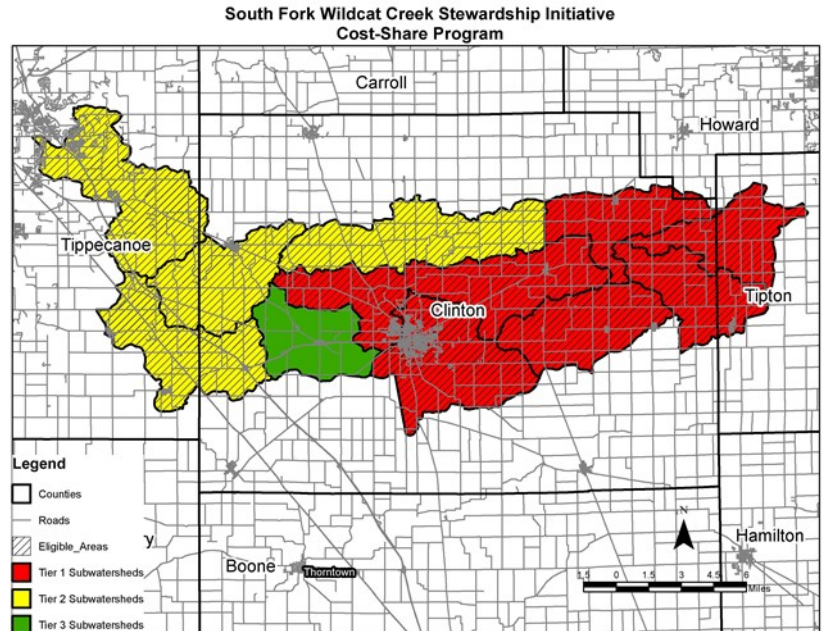
*Project Partners: Clinton County Board of Commissioners; Clinton County Drainage Board; Purdue Extension—Clinton County; Howard and Tipton SWCD; City of Frankfort MS4; Wabash River Enhancement Corp.; Indiana State Department of Agriculture; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; NICHES Land Trust*

According to the Natural Resources Commission, the South Fork Wildcat Creek is part of Indiana’s State Scenic River System, a State Heritage Program Site, a designated Canoe Trail, and is a High Water Quality River. Despite these unique designations, approximately 44% (US EPA) of the total 86 stream miles within the South Fork Wildcat Creek Watershed do not meet or are not expected to meet the State’s water quality standards and are included on the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s 303 (d) list of impaired waterways for E. coli, nutrients, and low dissolved oxygen. Due to the watershed’s unique designations and the documented impairments, the South Fork Wildcat Creek has been the focus of several CCSWCD-led community initiatives and environmental studies.

In 2012, the CCSWCD led a project resulting in the completion of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the S. Fork Wildcat Creek. This was followed by a Section 319 funded implementation Initiative (2013-2015) which allowed the CCSWCD and stakeholders to develop and implement a restoration strategy to address water quality concerns. Success is being shown in the watershed as several segments have been removed from the IDEM’s 303 (d) list for impaired biotic communities. Strong stakeholder interest within the watershed indicates that there is more opportunity for restoration.

This second phase of implementation is a 3-year project beginning April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and ended February 2022. Of the total \$158,250 in project funds, \$100,000 was allocated as cost-share to producers in the watershed. The remaining funds provided funding for technical assistance and education and outreach efforts. Practices implemented include acres of cover crops, 3 watering facilities, 3 heavy use area protection pads, and 1 grassed waterway. According to the Region 5 Model, the total load reductions for completed practices are estimated to be **6,132 lbs./yr.** of Nitrogen, **8,412 lbs./yr.** of Phosphorus, and **6,664 tons/yr.** of Sediment.

*To build upon past successes through implementation efforts, the CCSWCD and its Partners were recently awarded a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Non-point Source Management Program (Section 319) to continue working with producers to implement practices such as cover crops, heavy use area protection, conservation cover, grassed waterways, livestock exclusion fencing, blind inlets, 2-stage ditches, and other approved practices. These grant dollars are passed down to the states from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the Federal Clean Water Act, which provides funding resources to enable local stakeholders to voluntarily improve and protect water quality in ditches, streams, rivers and lakes in their communities. The Phase III implementation efforts began January 15, 2022. The steering committee is drafting a cost-share program to submit to IDEM for approval. Once approved, the SWCD Technical staff can begin meeting with interested producers to complete an application and begin conservation planning efforts.*

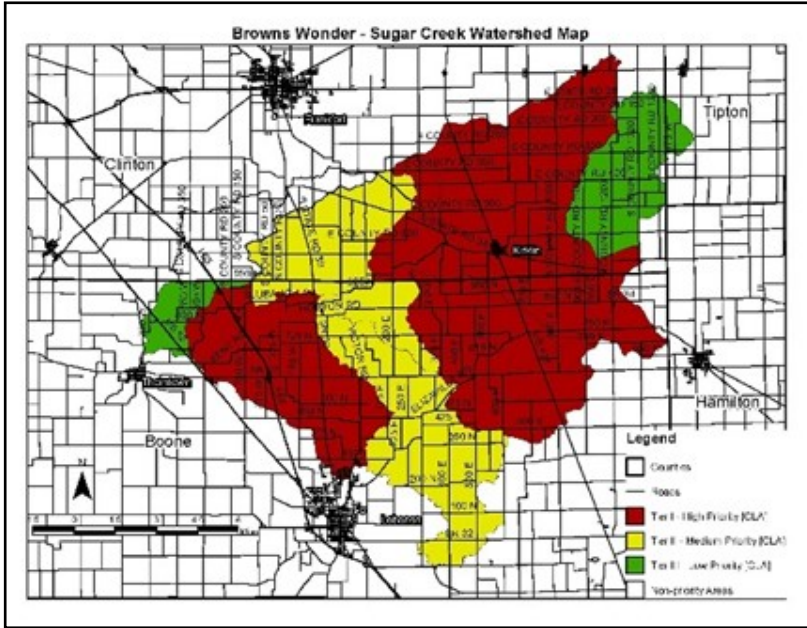


### SOUTH FORK WILDCAT CREEK STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE – PHASE II

- SECTION 319 FUNDS AWARDED APRIL 2018
- TOTAL PROJECT AWARD \$263,750.00
- 3-YEAR PROJECT
  - AWARDED 1-YEAR EXTENSION
  - PHASE II AGREEMENT EXPIRED FEBRUARY 2022
- GOAL 1 : TO IMPLEMENT A COST-SHARE PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
- GOAL 2: CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORT
- TO MEET THE GOALS LISTED IN THE SOUTH FORK WILDCAT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

# Browns Wonder- Sugar Creek Implementation Project

*Project Partners: Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Boone County SWCD, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; Indiana State Department of Agriculture; Purdue Extension—Boone and Clinton County, Clinton County Commissioners, Clinton County Surveyor, Town of Kirklin, The Nature Conservancy, Friends of Sugar Creek*



As early as 2009, local Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and interested stakeholders such as the Friends of Sugar Creek, landowners, government officials and state conservation agencies began discussing opportunities to initiate watershed planning activities in the Sugar Creek Watershed. These discussions continued sporadically until late 2010, when the Boone and Clinton County SWCDs jointly applied for funding from the Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to complete a Watershed Diagnostic Study. The intent of this study was to evaluate water quality conditions by compiling past data as well as collecting new water samples, and to develop conservation priorities to address water quality issues in the Browns Wonder- Sugar

Creek (BWSC) Watershed. In conjunction with these baseline efforts, the Boone and Clinton County SWCDs began public outreach efforts to promote watershed activities in the community and gather public input. The water quality sampling, and associated Watershed Diagnostic Study, was completed in 2012.

In 2015, The Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), along with local partners, applied for funding to develop a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the Brown Wonder-Sugar Creek Watershed. Additional water quality data was collected and public meetings allowed for stakeholders to be instrumental in the process of Plan development. The plan was finalized in December 2017. Copies of the WMP are located at Clinton & Boone County SWCD offices, Lebanon Public Library, Thorntown Public Library and Frankfort Public Library.

In October 2019, the CCSWCD was awarded \$259,973.00 to provide funds to develop and implement a cost-share program, provide technical assistance and to provide an effective education and outreach program in the Brown’s Wonder-Sugar Creek. Additionally, The Nature Conservancy provided a \$5,000.00 cash match and partners will contribute approximately \$170,000.00 in in-kind match over the life of the grant (2019-2022).

Implementation efforts (cost-share funds) are limited to Tier 1 Critical Land Areas (CLA’s) and Priority Protection Areas (PPA’s) as identified in the completed Watershed Management Plan. Future efforts will focus on Tier 2 CLA’s & PPA’s (Phase 2) pending determination of landowner interest, remaining need for restoration and submission and approval of application during solicitation process.

According to the Region 5 Model, the total load reductions for completed practices are estimated to be **6,296 lbs. /yr. of Nitrogen**, **3,151 lbs. /yr. of Phosphorus**, and **2,287 tons/yr. of Sediment**.

**BROWNS WONDER SUGAR CREEK STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE-PHASE I**

- SECTION 319 FUNDS AWARDED OCTOBER 2019
- TOTAL PROJECT AWARD \$435,643.00
  - \$200,000 LANDOWNER COST-SHARE
  - \$59,873.00 OTHER FUNDS
  - \$175,770.00 IN MATCH
- 3-YEAR PROJECT (OCTOBER 2019 – 2022)
- GOAL 1 : TO IMPLEMENT A COST-SHARE PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
- GOAL 2: CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORT
- TO MEET THE GOALS LISTED IN THE BROWNS WONDER-SUGAR CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

# CLEAN WATER INDIANA COST-SHARE PROGRAM

*Project Partners: Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation, State Soil Conservation Board, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service*

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups in the State of Indiana. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce non-point sources of pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and financial incentives (cost-share). 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 Clinton County SWCD received \$33,000.00/3 yr. through the competitive grants program and will utilize the funds to provide a cost-share program that will focus on practices consistent with conservation cropping systems such as cover crops, transition to no-till, integrated crop management and gypsum application. In addition cost-share funds will be available for soil testing to ag. producers not currently subscribing to regular soil testing on farm field(s) and using fertility information to help develop a plan for nutrient management using the 4R principles—right source, rate, time and place.




Practices Implemented 1,335 acres cover crops, nutrient mgmt. planning. and gypsum application. Load reductions:

**1,316 tons/yr. of Sediment**  
**1,681 lbs./yr. of Phosphorus**  
**3,359 lbs./yr. of Nitrogen**

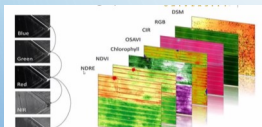
# CLINTON COUNTY INFIELD ADVANTAGE

*Project Partners: Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Corn Marketing Council & Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Assn. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Purdue Cooperative Extension*

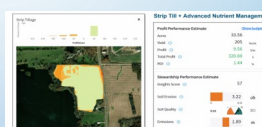
## INFIELD ADVANTAGE






- Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Matching funds from Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC)
- Local technical support provided by SWCD, Extension & ISDA staff
- FY 2021 4 Growers enrolled in trials



Purdue Extension offers in-season imagery for those enrolled in INFA.



INFA utilizes Truterra which helps growers analyze field data so they can efficiently manage their land to increase yields and profit.









## INFIELD ADVANTAGE

- Split field trials on 40-60 acre fields
  - Cover Crops (Seed provided by INFA)
  - Nitrogen Rate
  - Reduced Tillage
- \$200 incentive to sign up
- What is offered
  - Soil Sampling
  - Biomass Sampling (Cover Crops)
  - Soil Health Assessments
  - Agronomic benchmarking software (Truterra)
  - In-season Drone Imagery

**Partners**

- Ceres Solutions
- Purdue Extension
- ISDA
- NRCS
- SWCD



## LANDFILL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REVIEW

District Law (Indiana Code 14-32-1-4) requires the district to inspect every landfill located within the district's boundaries bi-annually with regards to sediment and erosion control. A written report on the results of each inspection is prepared for the executive body of that county, the commissioners, the solid waste inspector of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the director of the ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation. The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) conducted inspections of the Clinton County Landfill and the Walnut Creek Landfill both located on State ad 39. The site visits were completed on May 2021 and August 2021.

*Clinton County Landfill*



*Walnut Creek Landfill*



## EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL (RULE 5)

The Clinton County SWCD administers 327 IAC-15-5 (Rule 5) which addresses stormwater runoff associated with land disturbing construction activities on 1 acre or more of land. The primary purpose of this regulation is to minimize environmental impacts associated with stormwater runoff during construction activities. As a component of Rule 5, the Clinton County SWCD provides the county with technical reviews of construction plans to ensure compliance with Rule 5 and associated environmental regulations as well as conducts site inspections throughout the life of the construction project. In 2021, the Resource Conservation Specialist for the Clinton County SWCD completed fourteen plan reviews. Regular site visits occurred on active projects.



**BMP's installed: silt fence for sheet erosion and a foam barrier for rill and gully formation.**



**Temporary seed and erosion control blanket to protect the bare soil & filter sock to protect inlet.**

## WATER WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District has an ongoing cost-share incentive for rural landowners who have identified and would like to plug and cap abandoned water wells on their property. The SWCD may provide cost-share for well closure at a rate of 75% of actual costs up to \$500.00 per well. Decommissioning of the well may not begin until an application has been received and approved by the SWCD Board of Supervisors. Since the programs inception, 28 abandoned water wells in the county have been identified and decommissioned.

Abandoned water wells provide a direct conduit to groundwater, which is the source of drinking water for virtually all homes in Clinton County. These wells present a potentially serious threat to groundwater quality and some cases may present a physical safety hazard where a child or pet may fall into a well. Plugging an abandoned well can eliminate these risks on your property.



## FALL TREE SALE

One of the most important things we can do for our environment is to plant native species that support our ecosystem. To aid in this mission, the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District offers quality native trees and shrubs during its annual Fall tree sale. Because native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions, they require far less water, saving time, money and perhaps the most valuable natural resource: water. In addition, they provide vital habitat for birds, and many other species of wildlife. Native trees and shrubs selected for sale are ideal for establishment on rural acreage or in a small backyard.

Fall's cooler temperatures, warm soils, and plentiful rain provide the optimum conditions for strong root growth allowing the newly planted trees to take off in the spring. Woody Warehouse, a local nursery that specializes in quality native hardwoods and shrubs, provides the containerized trees. .



We anticipate announcing the Fall 2022 tree sale mid-summer with delivery expected to occur in late September. If you would like to receive more information on the upcoming sale or if you would like to volunteer to assist with the tree sale please contact [clinton-swcd@iaswcd.org](mailto:clinton-swcd@iaswcd.org)

The CCSWCD is a unit of local government, and sale proceeds benefit the CCSWCD's mission of providing services to enhance, protect, conserve and promote the soil, water, and related natural resources in Clinton County.

## NATIVE SEED PACKETS

The CCSWCD partners with Roundstone Native Seeds, a local quality native seed supplier, to offer native seed packets. The seed packets make choosing seeds for your planting easy. Each packet is designed to plant an area 15 square feet. The CCSWCD offers a pollinator and bee conservation mix for wet or dry soil conditions. The cost per packet is \$3.00 and are available at the CCSWCD office. The SWCD also maintains a list of native seed suppliers for individuals who are considering purchasing seed in larger quantities.





## BI-COUNTY SOILS JUDGING CONTEST

Annually, the Clinton and Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in partnership with Purdue Extension, host a mock soils judging contest for local teams. The event is held on a local farm to provide teams with an opportunity to gain experience prior to regional competitions. In 2021, Rossville FFA earned the top Sr. Team honors. Team members included Emmeline Seest, Hailey Uerkwitz, Garrett Miller and Gabe Freeman. Emmeline Seest was the top scoring Sr. Individual. Jesse Davis, Rossville Vo-Ag Instructor and Phil Carter are the team advisors.

We would also like to recognize Carroll County for hosting the 2021 contest and Mike Wigginton, USDA, NRCS (now retired) for providing soils expertise in preparing for the contest.



## COVER CROP AND SOIL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION AREA

The CCSWCD recently completed a soil health/cover crop demonstration area at the Clinton County Fairgrounds.

The raised bed demonstration area and informational signage will provide a visual educational platform in which to educate crop producers, landowners, and others about the benefits of adopting a soil health system of practices and to be successful in their efforts to improve soil health and improve water quality.

We would like to recognize and thank the many partners involved in making this project a success.

Purdue Extension, South Fork Wildcat Stewardship Initiative, Browns-Wonder-Sugar Creek Stewardship Initiative, Ceres Solutions, Indiana Assn. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Urban Soil Health Program, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Clinton Prairie Building Trades class, Clinton County Farm Bureau, Inc. Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative and the Clinton County Highway Department.



Thanks to Rick Campbell and the County Highway staff for assisting

## RIVER FRIENDLY FARMER AWARD

### JAY AND SUE HAWLEY

As concern grows in our communities regarding water quality, there are farmers utilizing conservation practices that are making a difference. The practices they have implemented, often voluntarily, are protecting waterways and water quality in Indiana and beyond. Jay and Sue Hawley are one of those farmers and were one of the 47 farmers who received the statewide award of 'River Friendly Farmer' at the 2021 Indiana State Fair



The Hawley Farm is a corn and soybean operation located in the Sugar Creek Watershed. The farm is no-tilled providing cover year-round reducing erosion, soil compaction and fertilizer inputs making the soil healthier. Fall cover crops are planted on the land to replace nutrients and to protect the soil. Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management Plans allow Hawley to apply the right nutrients, at the right time and place. These best management practices reduces the amount of sediments, nutrient and pesticide runoff into the watershed.

When asked about his long commitment to conservation Jay's reply was "because we care. This is God's land and ours to take care of." Incidentally, Jay's father, Charles Robert Hawley, was one of the first elected supervisors to serve on the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation Districts Board when it was first formed by public referendum in 1967.

Indiana's River Friendly Farmer Program was initiated in 1999 as a statewide initiative to recognize farmers who do an excellent job of managing their farm in an economically and environmentally sound way to help protect and improve Indiana's soil and water resources for future generations. The award is sponsored by the Indiana Assn. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc. and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.



## SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK/ARBOR DAY SEEDLING GIVE-A-WAY

In 1955, the National Assn. of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship of their natural resources. Today it is one of the world's largest conservation related observances. Soil and Water Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May.

The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District encourages residents to think about their personal responsibility to be good stewards of natural resources during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. In 2021, the theme was "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper." This District celebrated by providing stewardship materials to schools and libraries throughout the county, offering education materials to schools across the county and provided free hardwood tree seedlings to residents during the week-long celebration.



*The 2022 Soil and Water Stewardship celebration will be observed April 24th—May 1st marking the 67th year for the national event. The 2022 Stewardship Week theme is "Healthy Soil Healthy Life" Educational materials are available at <https://www.nacdnet.org/conservation-education-hub/curriculum-3/>*

*The Clinton SWCD plans to celebrate once again with educational programming and a tree give-a-way.*

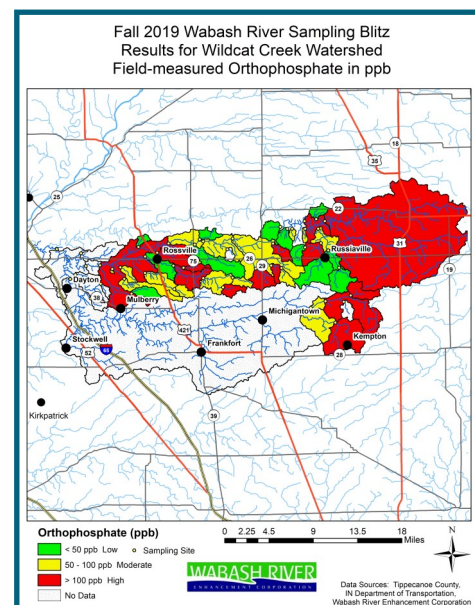
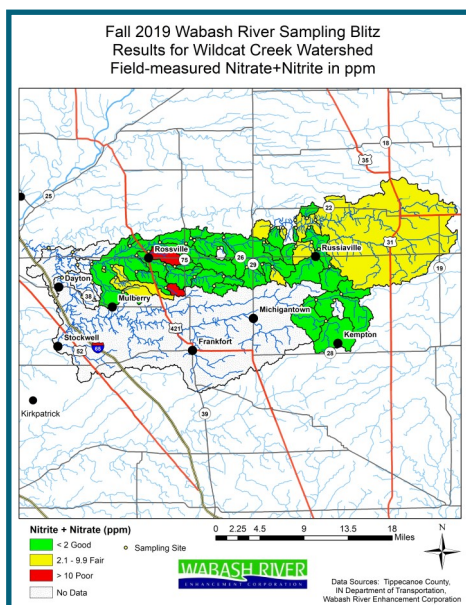
"Men and nature must work hand in hand. The throwing out of balance of the resources of nature throws out of balance also the lives of men."



## WABASH RIVER VOLUNTEER SAMPLING BLITZ

Since the fall of 2009, volunteers throughout the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River watershed complete a snapshot assessment of water quality throughout the watershed. In the spring of 2011, sampling expanded to include sample sites within the Wildcat Creek watershed. Volunteers monitor temperature, water cloudiness (turbidity), nutrient levels, and pathogen concentrations.

Sample results are presented on a sub-watershed basis. This means that the entire area which drains or contributes to the sample point is shown on each map. Further review of the data will allow the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation and project partners to identify specific locations where water quality problems exist. The results for the Wildcat Creek sub-watershed are available for Spring/Fall 2011 through 2021. More than twenty individuals participated in the Fall volunteer water monitoring Blitz. Data was collected at 44 sites and submitted to the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation for lab analysis. [To learn more please visit http://www.wabashriver.net/wabash-sampling-blitz/](http://www.wabashriver.net/wabash-sampling-blitz/). Data for not yet available for 2021 sampling events. The District would like to acknowledge and thank the committed volunteers who make this effort possible.



### What does it mean?

Nitrate-nitrogen concentrations measuring higher than 2 ppm can inhibit aquatic communities. Concentrations higher than 10 ppm violate the state water quality standards.

Phosphorus is typically the nutrient which limits the productivity in aquatic communities. Higher phosphorus concentrations typically lead to higher levels of productivity. This can increase concentrations of algae or plants, which can result in decreased oxygen concentrations, taste and odor problems, and poor habitat for aquatic communities.

**The 2022 Spring sampling Blitz is scheduled for April 8th.....to get involved please contact Leah Harden.**

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The CCSWCD is committed to creating public awareness of the most current conservation issues by providing adult and youth education to promote stewardship of our natural resources. We thank our partner agencies, organizations, businesses, local government and landowners for their assistance and involvement in promoting educational programs offered by the CCSWCD.

### FARM EDUCATION CONSERVATION CAMP

In 2021 the event pivoted to a virtual event. More than 700 fourth and fifth grade students from across the county participated in the virtual ag. day program. Guest instructors recorded presentations on dairy, grain production, soils, watersheds and water quality, Indiana wildlife, swine production, forestry, sheep production and goat production. The District partnered with Farm Bureau, Inc. and Purdue University to plan this live event.

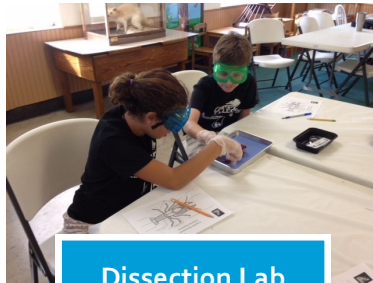
### CAMP CULLOM ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District and Camp Cullom (operated by the Clinton County Foundation for Youth, Inc.) partner to host the Academy of Science. The Academy is an exciting opportunity for selected fifth-graders from each county school to learn more about the fascinating world of science outside of the classroom. Professionals in their field lead the students in hands-on studies in the areas of natural environments, botany, environmental science, aerospace engineering, physics, chemistry, astronomy and life sciences in an outdoor setting. The Academy of Science commences on Friday evening with an astronomy program for students and their families. On Saturday, the students reconvene for a full-day of science programming and activities.

Each fifth-grade teacher across the county (including homeschool) may nominate a boy, a girl and one additional student (boy or girl) to attend the Academy of Science. The selected students are nominated based on a strong interest in science and identified as benefitting from the stimulating program. Twenty-four students attended the 2021 program.



2019 Science Academy



Dissection Lab



Forest Ecology

**If we are bold in our thinking,  
courageous in accepting new  
ideas,  
and willing to work with  
instead of against our land,  
we shall find in conservation  
farming an avenue to the  
greatest food production the  
world has ever known.**

**Hugh Hammond Bennett**



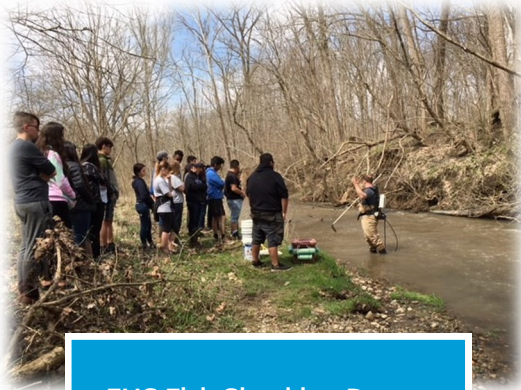
## CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP



SWCD staff led a session on stream ecology to Cub Scouts attending Day Camp at Camp Cullom. Each day the Scouts were immersed in learning about the hydrologic cycle, watersheds and water quality, stream biology and how to monitor the health of the stream using chemical and biological parameters.

## STREAM ECOLOGY FIELD TRIPS

Students enrolled in AP Environmental Science or Biology classes learn about the impacts of land use on water quality through hands-on testing of water quality parameters and collecting and studying benthic macro-invertebrates which can be biological indicators of water quality. The SWCD partners with local educators to provide this one-of-a-kind opportunity.



FHS Fish Shocking Demo.



Clinton Prairie AP Biology

## HOOSIER RIVERWATCH VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Hoosier RiverwaTch is a program of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Office of Water Quality. The program goal is to involve the citizens of Indiana in becoming active stewards of Indiana's water resources through watershed education, water monitoring, and clean-up activities. This is accomplished at the local level by increasing public awareness of water quality issues and concerns by training volunteers to monitor stream water quality.

In 2021, the SWCD facilitated an introductory-level workshop in which six individuals discovered the meaning of water quality and how to measure it. Participants gained experience in the use of CHEMetrics monitoring kits and aquatic insect collection and identification. After attending the training individuals are prepared to perform their own stream analysis and may submit their data to the Hoosier Riverwatch online database. For more information on the Hoosier Riverwatch Program please visit <https://www.hoosieriverwatch.com/>



The Soil and Water Conservation District gratefully acknowledges the following businesses for their continued financial sponsorship of the Districts' program and initiatives.

