



CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION CONNECTION

SWCD ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

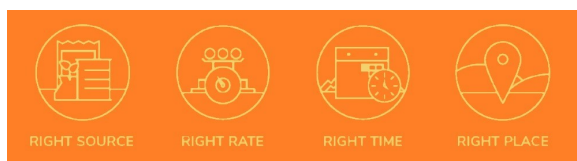
You are invited to attend the Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation Districts' Annual Dinner Meeting on **Tuesday, March 3, 2020** at Arborwood, located at 100 North Park Dr., Frankfort, Indiana. The CCSWCD annual meeting will convene beginning at 6 pm. **A complimentary catered dinner will be served by Shoup's Country Foods.** The meeting will also include a brief business meeting, an election of supervisors and presentation of conservation awards.

We are pleased to announce that Jarred Brooke, Extension Wildlife Specialist, Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University will be this year's keynote speaker.

Establishing and managing native warm season grass communities can be challenging, however, success can be achieved using established management practices. Discussion will include benefits of establishing warm season native grass communities for soil health, wildlife and pollinators species; availability and selection of conservation practices and Farm Bill contract management.

There is no cost for attending, however, **space is limited and reservations are required.** Please call the CCSWCD office at 659-1223 extension 3 or email leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net **prior to February 21st** to make your reservation. You may also register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clinton-county-soil-water-conservation-district-annual-meeting-and-dinner-tickets>

4R's 4 the Future Workshop



Clinton, Howard and Tipton County Soil and Water Conservation Districts', Purdue Extension, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative will host a workshop focusing on the 4 R's of Nutrient Management – Right Source, Right rate, Right Time, Right Place. The half day workshop is being held at the Jeff Stout Community Center located at 650 N. West St., Russiaville, IN on January 22nd, 2020. Registration begins at 7:30 AM EST and includes a free breakfast compliments of *Farm Credit Mid-America*. The program will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 12:00 PM.

Continued on page 2.....



The National Assn. of Conservation Districts announced the 2020 Stewardship Week theme. "Where would we BEE without pollinators?" The 65th Annual Stewardship Week will take place April 26th– May 3rd, 2020. Educational materials may be downloaded at <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/stewardship-week/> Watch for SWCD sponsored events taking place during Stewardship Week!

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Special points of interest

- Attend the CCSWCD Annual Dinner Meeting. Advance registration required prior to 2/21/20.
- Register to attend the 4Rs 4 the Future Workshop. Registration by 1/17/20
- CCSWCD provides cost-share assistance to landowners through grants programs. Additional funding recently awarded.

4R's 4 the Future Workshop Continued....

The challenge to increase food production in an economically viable way while retaining the ecological integrity of food systems is the underlying goal of sustainable agriculture. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship approach is a tool in the development of sustainable agricultural systems because its application can have multiple positive impacts. Applying the right nutrient source, at the right rate, right time, and right placement results in beneficial impacts of improved crop performance, improved soil health, decreased environmental pollution, and the protection of wildlife.—The Nutrient Stewardship 4R Pocket Guide

Management - Ben Wicker, Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance (IANA); Fertilizer Selection and Application Rates (Calculations and Decisions) - Local farmers Clint Orr, Rodney Rulon and Daryl Maple will share their experiences on their own farms and discuss different management strategies that work well for the area. The meeting will conclude with a PARP recertification topic facilitated by Austin Pearson, Ag. and Natural Resources Educator, Purdue Extension. PARP, CCH and CEU credits pending approval. If seeking PARP recertification a \$10.00 program administration fee will be collected.

Speakers and topics for the workshop will include: 4R's Intro and Intro to Soil Testing - Dr. Jason Ackerson, Asst. Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University; Interpretation of Soil Tests - Jamie Bultemeier, Agronomist, A&L Great Lakes Labs; Self-Assessment Tool for Nutrient

Reservations are requested prior to January 17th. Please contact the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District at 765-659-1223 extension 3, email leah.harden@in.nacdn.net or register at <http://bit.ly/4RS4TheFuture>.



The flyer features a header with four icons: 'RIGHT SOURCE', 'RIGHT RATE', 'RIGHT TIME', and 'RIGHT PLACE'. Below this is a table with 'Date & Time' and 'Location' columns. The date is January 22nd, 2020, from 7:30am to 12:00pm, at the Jeff Stout Community Center in Russiaville, IN. An agenda follows, listing activities from 7:30-8:00 (Sign-in and Welcome) to 11:40-12:00 (PARP Topic). Registration information and logos for USDA, NRCS, and Purdue Extension are at the bottom.

Date & Time	Location
January 22nd, 2020 7:30am.—12:00pm.	Jeff Stout Community Center 650 N. West St., Russiaville, IN 46979

Agenda

- 7:30—8:00 Sign-in and Welcome (Breakfast provided)
- 8:00—9:00 4R's Intro and Intro to Soil Testing
Dr. Jason Ackerson, Assistant Professor of Agronomy-Purdue University
- 9:00—10:30 Interpretation of Soil Tests
Jamie Bultemeier, Director of Corporate Sales/Agronomist-A&L Great Lakes Labs
- 10:30—10:40 Break
- 10:40—11:00 IANA Self Assessment Tool for Nutrient Management
Ben Wicker, Executive Director of Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance (IANA)
- 11:00—11:40 Fertilizer Selection and Application Rates (Calculation & Decisions)
Farmer Panel—Clint Orr, Clinton Co., Rodney Rulon, Tipton Co. & Daryl Maple, Howard Co.
- 11:40—12:00 PARP Topic (Precision Ag/Variable Rate)
Austin Pearson, Ag & Natural Resources Educator—Tipton County

PARP, CCH, CEU Credits pending approval: Be sure to bring \$10 for PARP recertification. Call your local Purdue Extension office for more information.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4rs-4-the-future-right-time-right-place-right-time-right-place-tickets-85779902999> or call the Clinton County SWCD (765-659-1223 x3) to register!

“Applying the right nutrient source, at the right rate, right time, and right placement results in beneficial impacts of improved crop performance, improved soil health, decreased environmental pollution, and the protection of wildlife.”

USDA Seeks Public Comment on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The USDA, NRCS seeks public comment on its interim rule for the EQIP, USDA's flagship program that assists producers plan and implement 150-plus conservation practices on working lands. The rule—now available on the Federal Register—takes effect upon publication and includes changes to the program prescribed by the 2018 Farm Bill. NRCS invites comments on this interim rule through February 17, 2020. Electronic comments must be submitted through regulations.gov. NRCS will evaluate comments to determine whether additional changes are needed. The agency plans on publishing a final rule following public comment review.

Sign-up for FY '20 NRCS Farm Bill Conservation Programs

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services helps America's farmers conserve the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

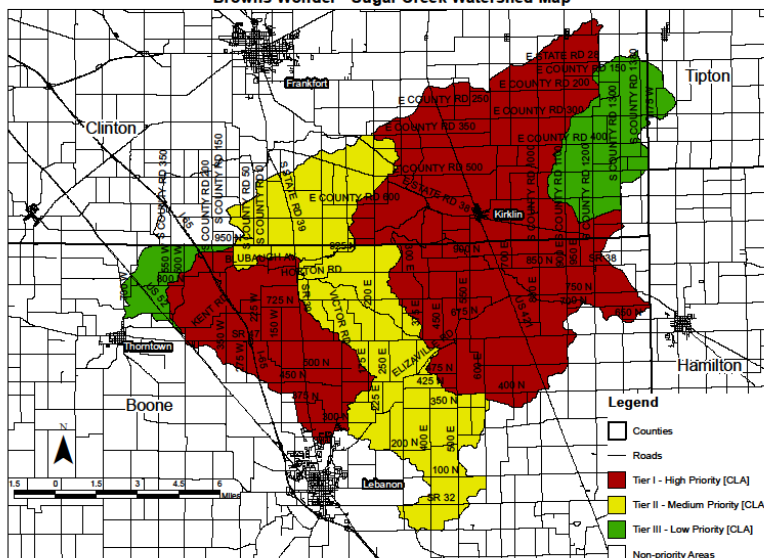
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

Contact the Clinton County USDA, NRCS to speak to the District Conservationist (John Young, Acting) for more information on program eligibility and learn how to submit an application.

Browns Wonder - Sugar Creek Watershed Map



Clinton SWCD Section Awarded Grant to Provide Financial Assistance to Eligible Producers in the Browns Wonder-Sugar Creek Watershed

Conservation districts seek a variety of funding sources to protect, conserve and restore natural resources. Districts are able to pull from Farm Bill conservation programs, state programs (Clean Water Indiana) and leverage funds through private partnerships to achieve conservation objectives. A conservation district can also apply for funding through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Section 319 program a federal source of funding.

The EPA's Section 319 program specifically focuses on nonpoint sources of water pollution, such as agricultural runoff, urban runoff and soil erosion. Unlike point sources that originate from a fixed point—such as a pipe, water treatment facility or industrial plant—nonpoint sources are more difficult to identify, come from many sources and are more difficult to address.

The Clean Water Act was amended by Congress in 1987 to include the Section 319 program. Section 319 is a grant program established to help states, territories, and tribes curb nonpoint source pollution through **voluntary** incentives.

Historically, Section 319 funds have provided the funding source for the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District to work with local producers to voluntarily implement practices throughout both the Wildcat and Sugar Creek Watersheds.

In 2013, the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation received Section 319 funds to conduct an assessment of the Brown's Wonder-Sugar Creek watershed to create a watershed management plan (WMP). The WMP includes specific load reduction goals as identified by a scientific study of water quality throughout the watershed and with input from stakeholders involved in the planning process. Upon approval of the WMP (2017) the CCSWCD submitted a follow-up proposal requesting funding for the following goals:

- 1) ***To implement a cost-share program that meets the needs of local stakeholders***
- 2) ***Address resource concerns identified in the watershed management plan***
- 3) ***Improve water quality***
- 4) ***Conduct an education and outreach effort to improve watershed health***

In October 2019, the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded a Section 319 grant to help achieve the outlined goals over a 3-year timeframe. A cost-share program is currently being developed and once approved details will be announced.

If you reside within the watershed boundaries as identified on the map please contact the Clinton or Boone County office so that an SWCD technical staff person can begin helping you identify resource concerns on your land. Stakeholders are also encouraged to participate on the steering committee to help provide direction for the grant. Steering committee meetings are held on a quarterly basis.

Clinton SWCD Awarded Clean Water Indiana Grant

The Indiana State Soil Conservation Board awarded more than \$1,000,000 in funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the State. The funds support 14 grant proposals representing 39 Soil and Water Conservation Districts and 2 conservation groups.

The Clean Water Indiana Program was created by the legislature in 1999 and began awarding competitive grants in 2011.

Larry Clemens, SSCB Chairman, stated "The CWI program allows SWCD's and other conservation partners to tailor conservation programs to local needs while addressing one of our most pressing statewide natural resource challenges, improving water quality."

The Clinton County SWCD received \$33,000.00 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 also be available for soil testing to ag. producers not currently subscribing to regular soil testing on farm field(s) and using soil fertility information to help develop a plan for nutrient management using the 4R principles—right source, rate, time and place.

Funds are limited. Please contact the SWCD office for more information.

What is an Invasive Plant?

An “invasive” plant is a non-native plant that infests natural areas and causes environmental or economic harm, or harm to human health. Of the roughly 2000 plant species growing outside of cultivation in Indiana, approximately 33% are non-native but only a small fraction of these non-native species are invasive. Invasive plants degrade and destroy thousands of acres of our natural plant communities in Indiana. Each year millions are spent to control them.

Many of these invasive species have been used in landscaping, but to reduce further infestations most are being considered for the terrestrial plant rule that would make them illegal to buy, sell or plant in Indiana.

Why Should I Care?

Invasive plants cost money. A recent survey estimates that \$5.7 million was spent in Indiana to manage invasive species to protect natural areas.

Invasive plants hurt wildlife by crowding out other plants our native animals need for food and cover.

Most invasive shrubs and trees are little used by native insects. This reduces habitat for beneficial pollinators and predatory insects, as well as reducing the amount of food available for birds to feed their nestlings.

Invasive plants can become weedy in a home garden, crowding out other landscaping.

Invasive plants can also decrease ability to enjoy recreational pursuits such as hunting, birdwatching, etc. by crowding forest floors and choking waterways, making use of these areas difficult. For more information visit: https://www.entm.purdue.edu/iisc/pdf/INPAWS_Pretty_Awful.pdf

CCSWCD ANNOUNCES COST-SHARE AVAILABILITY TO LANDOWNERS IN THE S. FORK WILDCAT CREEK WATERSHED

The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) was awarded a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s (IDEM) Section 319 Non-Point Source Management Program to continue working with producers to implement practices such as: cover crops, heavy use area protection, conservation cover, grass 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 enables local stakeholders to voluntarily improve and protect water quality in ditches, streams, rivers and lakes in their communities.

See insert for a complete list of approved practices and cost-share rates available through this implementation program. To be eligible for the program, property owners must be planning one of the listed practices on land within the targeted area of the S. Fork

Eligible Practices			Cost-Share Rates
BMPs	FOTG	YRS	
Practices Targeting Bacteria and Pathogens (p.175)			
Fencing (Edge-of-Field Practice)	382	10	\$2.50/foot
Heavy Use Protection Area (In-Field Practice)	561	5	\$2,000/site
Pasture and Hayland Planting (In-Field Practice)	512	5	\$150/ac
Prescribed Grazing (In-Field Practice)	528	5	\$50/ac
*Waste Utilization (In-Field Practice)	624/ 629	10 5	\$15,000 facility \$0.02/gallon \$0.10/ft ³ \$3.00/ton
*Waste Facility Closure (In-Field Practice)	360	10	\$3.00/yard ³
CNMPP (Comprehensive Nutrient Mgt. Plan) (In-Field Practice)	102	5	\$1,500/plan
Livestock Watering Facility	614	10	\$1,500/structure
Practices Targeting Nutrients (Sediment, Nitrogen & Phosphorus) (pp. 179-174)			
Underground Outlet (Blind Inlet) (Edge-of-Field Practice)	620	5	\$2,800/inlet
Open Channel (2-Stage Ditch) (In-Stream Practice)	582	10	\$20/ linear foot
Denitrification Bioreactor (In-Stream Practice)	747	10	\$50/yard ³
*Saturated Buffer (Edge-of-Field Practice)	604	10	\$7.00/ linear foot
Sediment Basin (Edge-of-Field Practice)	350	10	\$5.50/yard ³
Field Border (Edge-of-Field Practice)	386	5	\$450/ac
Forage & Biomass Planting (In-Field Practice)	512	5	\$350/ac
Grassed Waterway (In-Field Practice)	412	10	\$10/foot
Vegetated Filter Strip (Edge-of-Field Practice)	393	5	\$550/ac
Critical Area Planting (Edge-of-Field Practice)	342	5	\$450/ac
Integrated Crop Management Plan (Nutrients/ Pest Management) (In-Field Practice)	590/ 595	5	\$20/ac
Cover Crops (In-Field Practice)	340	1	\$35/ac
Conservation Cover (Edge-of-Field Practice)	327	5	\$500/ac
Residue & Tillage Management, No-Till (In-Field Practice)	329	1	\$20/ac
Residue & Tillage Management, Strip Tillage (In-Field Practice)	329	1	\$20/ac
Grassed Swale/ Bioswale [URBAN] (Structure for Water Control)	587	5	\$15/ ft ²
Rain Garden [URBAN] (Stormwater Runoff Control)	570	10	\$15/ft ²
Pervious/Permeable Pavement [URBAN] (Structure for Water Control)	587	10	\$10/ft ²
Stormwater Runoff Control [URBAN]	570	5	-
Practices Targeting Environmental Quality Priority (p.176)			
Riparian Forested Buffer (Edge-of-Field Practice)	391	10	\$750/ac
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Edge-of-Field Practice)	390	5	\$650/ac
Streambank Stabilization (In-Stream Practice)	580	10	\$50/foot
Critical Area Planting (Edge-of-Field Practice)	342	5	\$450/ac
Grade Stabilization Structure (In-Stream Practice)	410	10	\$8,000/structure

Wildcat Creek. Also, an application must be submitted and approved by the CCSWCD board prior to implementing the practice. Please contact the SWCD office to schedule an appointment to discuss resource concerns on your land.

THE PRIVATE WELL CLASS

Webinars
GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

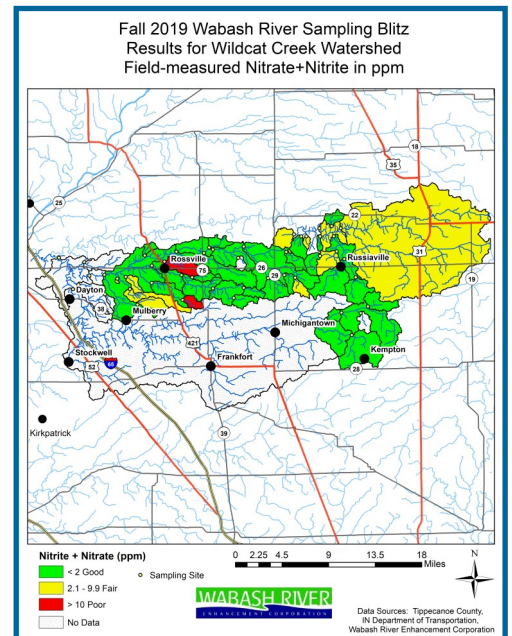
The Private Well Class is designed to help a homeowner better understand how to properly care for their water well, to ensure their water remains safe to drink. By understanding the basic science of water wells and following best practices to maintain and protect water supplies, this class will provide a homeowner the tools need to ensure a safe water supply and help extend the life of the well. To learn more or enroll in a free online course please visit <http://privatewellclass.org/enroll>

Wabash River/Wildcat Creek 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 2018. More than fifteen individuals participated in the Fall volunteer water monitoring Blitz. Data was collected at 24 sites and submitted to the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation for evaluation. To learn more please visit <http://www.wabashriver.net/wabash-sampling-blitz/>. The District would like to acknowledge and thank the committed volunteers who make this effort possible. There have been many volunteers over the course of time but a special thanks goes to our committed long-term volunteers including Rossville High School Vo./Ag. students, Mike Nichols and Tim Anno.



"Water weaves together all living and nonliving things in an intricate tapestry of color, light, and movement. So much a part of us and our routines that we often take it for granted and forget that water - a gift of nature - is life." ~ Water, A Gift of Nature

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

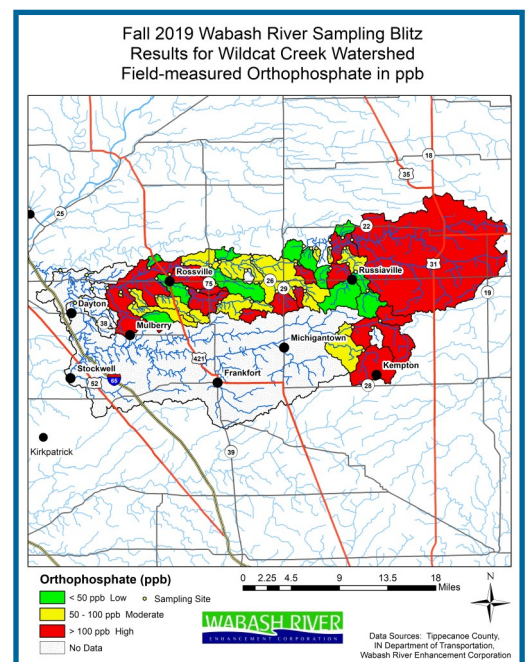
Nitrate-nitrogen concentrations measuring higher than 2 ppm can inhibit aquatic communities. Concentrations higher than 10 ppm exceed the state water quality standards.

Phosphorus is typically the nutrient which limits the productivity in aquatic communities. Higher phosphorous 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.

To learn more visit <http://www.wabashriver.net/wildcat-creek-fall-2019/> OR consider attending a Hoosier Riverwatch volunteer stream monitoring workshop!

The 2020 Spring sampling Blitz is scheduled for April 10th or 17th.....to get involved please contact Leah Harden.





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Supervisors

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David Beard, V. Chairman
Jerry Batts
Dustin Johnson
Matt Kelley

Associate Supervisors

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Devin Bell

Staff

Leah Harden, District Administrator, SWCD
Austin Green, Resource Conservation Specialist, SWCD
Vacant, John Young (Acting), District Conservationist, USDA, NRCS
George Reger, Resource Specialist, ISDA

facebook.com/clintonswcd

***Due to the nature of work performed by the NRCS/SWCD staff, occasionally there are times when all personnel are working outside of the office. It is recommended to call ahead to be sure that someone will be in the office.*

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*Celebrate the local leadership and accomplishments of **YOUR** county Soil and Water Conservation District!*

Please plan on attending the SWCD annual dinner meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020 at Arborwood in Frankfort IN beginning at 6 pm.

There is no cost to attend, however space is limited and reservations are required on or before February 21st. To register please call the office at 765-659-1223 extension 3 or email leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net



Clinton County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

The Clinton County SWCD and its partners are equal opportunity employers and providers.