

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Indiana Corn and Soy  
8425 Keystone Crossing #200, Indianapolis, IN 46240  
WebEx Virtual Meeting

- I. 9:30 am.: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of July 2020**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants – Geneva Tyler
  - b. Clean Water Indiana Grant modifications
    - 1. Boone County SWCD- Geneva Tyler
    - 2. Wayne County SWCD- Tara Wesseler-Henry
  - c. Communications policy-Tara Wesseler-Henry
  - d. Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee report-Amy Burris
    - 1. Training dollars
    - 2. 2021 CWI Grant recommendations
  - e. SICIM update- Troy Hinkle
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
  - a. November Plan of Work meeting- Brad Dawson
  - b. January SSCB meeting- Brad Dawson
  - c. Budget update- Jordan Seger
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - a. Temporary appointments
    - i. Brown County SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
    - ii. Hancock County SWCD- Tara Wesseler-Henry
    - iii. Fulton County SWCD- Jennifer Thum
    - iv. Union County SWCD- Tara Wesseler-Henry
- VII. Next Meeting:**  
**2021 Meeting Dates**

January ?	July 20, TBD
March 16, TBD	September 21, TBD
May 18, TBD	October 19, TBD
- IX. Adjourn**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.



# State Soil Conservation Board

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Clean Water Indiana Grants



## Program Updates

### 2021 Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

Clean Water Indiana Grants		
	2020	2021
<b>SWCD Led Applications</b>		
Number of Applications	23	25
Total Funding Requested	\$2,097,411.50	\$2,32,099
Districts Represented	50	41
<b>Non-SWCD Led Applications</b>		
Number of Applications	2	4
Total Funding Requested	\$104,500	\$274,500
<b>CWI 2020 Overall</b>		
Number of Applications	25	29
Total Funding Requested	\$2,201,921.50	\$2,586,599

- The CWI grants committee and DSSs reviewed and ranked all proposals. The group then met to discuss and form recommendations.
- In the coming weeks, ISDA will work with the grant services team to draft contracts.
- The DSS team has solicited feedback from all SWCDs to review the 2021 grants process. Feedback will be considered during the 2022 CWI grants cycle.

### Clean Water Indiana SWCD Led Grants

#### 2018-2020 Grants

- Intermediate claims, reports and modifications are being processed for grantees at this time.
- Administration for 2019 & 2020 grants have been fully transitioned to GMS.

### Non-SWCD Led Projects

#### IASWCD

Expires: 12/31/21

Grant Agreement A337-19-CWI-001

- Total amount of grant agreement \$64,450.00
- Claims:
  - \$12,385.27
  - \$15,538.73
  - \$33,163.95
  - \$8,362.05

- Remaining funds: \$0

Expires: 12/31/2022

Grant Number 37-20-CWI-013

- Claims: One claim for \$22,250.00
- Remaining funds: \$22,250.00

### **SICIM**

Expires 12/31/2022

- Grant number: A337-20-CWI-014
- Claims: Two claims totaling \$54,000.00
- Remaining funds: \$0

### **Grant Reviews**

- Grant reviewed that have been completed are: Dubois (2018), Harrison (2019), Pike (2018).

### **Grants Administration**

- The DSSs are the point of contact for CWI grants. Leah Harmon is assisting with GMS software troubleshooting.

## State Soil Conservation Board

### Clean Water Indiana Grants Communication Policy 2020

#### Questions from Districts and non-SWCD led applicants

- The DSSs will be the central point of contact for CWI grants, both competitive, SWCD training funds, and AFR.
- Questions, both programmatic and process related, regarding CWI grants should be sent to the DSSs.
- ISDA District Support Specialists and Resource Specialists are key resources for proposal development assistance and assisting partnerships with other districts and outside organizations.
- A DSS will be designated for all non –SWCD grants to provide consistent messaging and information.
- Grant Management System (GMS) access or issues should contact the Director of Information Systems

#### Grant Modifications

- All modifications must be submitted using GMS
- Modification requests totaling up to \$1000 or 7% of the grant amount (whichever is less) will be reviewed/approved by the DSSs .
- Modifications requests over \$1000 but less than 7% of the grant amount will be reviewed/approved by the CWI grants committee. **Change all 7% to 10%**
- Modification requests totaling 7% or more of the award amount will be presented at the next SSCB meeting.
  - o Districts submitting modification requests of 7% or more of the grant amount are strongly encouraged to attend the SSCB meeting at which the request is considered.
- The DSSs will notify SWCDs on the status of their modification request.
- No modification requests will be accepted following the last SSCB meeting in the final year of the grant term.
  - **General comment on this section: up the 7% to 10% and up the \$1k amount.**
  - **Modifications involving adjusting dollars between already approved cost share categories will reviewed/approved by the DSS Team.**

- Modifications involving adding cost share practices that are similar in intent to existing approved cost share practices and have similar load reductions will be reviewed by the DSS Team.
- Modifications of Goals, Objectives, or Milestones will go before the DSS team with their discretion to approve or take before the grants committee.
- Some considerations for modifications: Modifications should not be taken lightly. These grants were awarded based upon merit. Largely changing the program of a grant could be seen as favoring some districts over others. Other districts may have submitted similar applications to the proposed modification but were not funded. Also we realize that these are state funds and do not have many of the federal restrictions that other grant programs may have.

### CWI Review/Audit Procedures

#### Review Selection:

- The DSSs will work with the grantee and the RSs to schedule CWI grant reviews.
- Grants to be reviewed will be selected from open grants that are at least 50% complete (either time or funding) and grants that have closed within the last three years.
- Audit letter would go out in February.
- The notification of audit letter will be sent to all districts involved, both staff and supervisors, or non-SWCD partners as appropriate, and the local ISDA RS
- Grants that have at least 40% of the grant funds remaining entering the final year of the project will automatically be reviewed.
- Any grants that have missed a reporting deadline will be reviewed the next year.
- Grants in their final year with more than 40% of funds remaining will be reviewed.
- The DSS team will provide a list of items needed for review and any personnel who should be present for the visit. If applicable, the DSSs /RSs will also request to visit sites improved with cost share dollars.
- Grants that have requested a large change (greater than 7% of funding) from the State Soil Conservation Board will automatically be selected for review.
  - If these two categories do not equal 10 grants, the DSS team with recommendations from RSs will select other grants for routine review.
  - These grants will be selected from all parts of the state and all years of the program.
- **Grant Reviews must take place within 90 days of being contacted by ISDA, or lead applicant will be ineligible for future grants for two years. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis (e.g. FMLA).**

#### Who will be present in a review:

- The DSSs will serve as lead in the review process.

- Someone who does not work directly with the districts involved should be present at all reviews. This will typically be a DSS and/or RS outside of the area.
- The review will be conducted with the staff responsible for the lead district's administration of the grant. Participating districts are encouraged to attend. Supervisors may wish to be present at the review as well and are welcome.
- The local ISDA RS

#### **Reporting Requirements:**

- Must be updated before audit
- Both financial and conservation project tracking

#### **Review Procedures:**

- For cost share grants
  - ISDA will review cost share applications and contracts
  - Reviewers will have specific questions about the process used to determine the producers that received funding
  - All documentation including cost share applications, receipts from producers, copies of canceled checks, quick books reports will be reviewed
  - For practices that are still on the ground, site visits may be conducted of a representative practice
  - Conservation practice tracking on Conservation Link will be checked
- For technical assistance grants
  - ISDA will review time sheets and reports from technical employees
  - The technical employee, if still employed by the district, should be present at the review
- For all grants
  - ISDA also wishes to gain feedback on the CWI program in general and how the grant and grants program is going
  - ISDA will check GMS financial and progress reports
  - ISDA will discuss modification needs/procedures, if necessary

#### **After a Review:**

- DSSs will summarize and complete the audit report
- DSSs will send typed report to grantee following the review for signature (this can be electronic)
- A summary report and recommendations moving forward will be sent to all districts involved, both staff and supervisors, or non-SWCD partners as appropriate, and the local RS
- If grant is not proceeding as expected, lead district chairman or non-SWCD lead will be sent a letter indicating findings. These will be sent via traditional mail.
- DSS will follow up with lead grantee 30 days after review.

- The lead grantee's DSS will make an effort to present the results at an upcoming district board meeting.
- Review reports will be submitted to the SSCB upon completion and mentioned at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.



# State Soil Conservation Board

October 27th, 2020

Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee  
 Amy Burris, Kenny Cain, Bob Eddleman  
 CWI Grants Budget \$1,000,000

## Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

- The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) received 29 applications representing 41 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and 4 conservation groups.
- Requests totaled \$2,586,599 million. Applications ranged from \$2,656 to \$246,750.
- There are 13 applications recommended by the SSCB grants committee for funding. Recommended applications will assist with efforts to reduce sediment and nutrients from nonpoint sources per Indiana Code 14-32-8.
- The grants committee recommends \$30,000 for the SWCD training fund reimbursement program.
- The SSCB Grants Committee recommends the following applications, representing 39 SWCDs, for funding. These funded applications address a variety of concerns in both rural and urban areas. (Listed in alphabetical order by lead district/organization)

SWCD Training Reimbursement	SWCD's Receive Training Fund Reimbursements	\$30,000.00
Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management	The Local CISMA Initiative	\$60,000.00
Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Indiana Urban Technical Soil Health Program	\$90,000.00
Dubois County SWCD*	Tri-County Invasive Plant Mapping and Control	\$99,000.00
Fayette County SWCD	Cover Crop and Invasive Incentive Program	\$60,000.00
Jay County SWCD*	Watershed Capacity Building and Cost Share Program	\$130,000.00
Jefferson County SWCD*	Enhance of Soil Health and Water Quality on Agriculture Land	\$41,595.00
Johnson County SWCD	Rooting for Native Plants	\$2,656.00
Lawrence County SWCD*	Make Indiana's Soil and Water Great Again	\$60,000.00
Marion County SWCD*	Backyard Green Infrastructure Workshops	\$27,500.00
Owen County SWCD*	Soil Health Restore Project	\$64,800.00



Pike County SWCD*	Soil Conservation Technician Position	\$42,000.00
Spencer County SWCD*	Grazing Sediment and Nutrient Runoff Reduction Project 2021	\$80,100.00
St. Joseph County SWCD	Conservation Cropping Systems to Improve Soil Health	\$65,000.00
Sullivan County SWCD*	Soil Health Transition Pilot Program	\$72,000.00
Wabash County SWCD*	Upper Middle Eel River Watershed (UMERW) Cost-Share Program	\$75,000.00

\*Partial Funding Recommended

Key partners on funded proposals include (not a complete list):

- ICP Agencies
  - Historical Society
  - County Governments
  - Universities
  - Ag Retailers
  - Society of American Foresters
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Libraries
  - Parks Departments
- 
- Proposals receiving partial funding will have until November 30th to accept their modified award amount, draft a modified budget, and express their intent to move forward with their project.
  - Any CWI funded projects will be required to have a CWI logo for equipment, handouts, and presentations.
  - Funded applications will be posted on the ISDA SharePoint. Districts who were not awarded funds are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the DSSs to get feedback on their application. A summary of written comments will be made available to districts upon request.
  - The SSCB and DSS team encourage unfunded SWCDs to submit their proposal to other grant programs.

# Clean Water Indiana

## 2021 Competitive Grants



### SWCD Led Applications

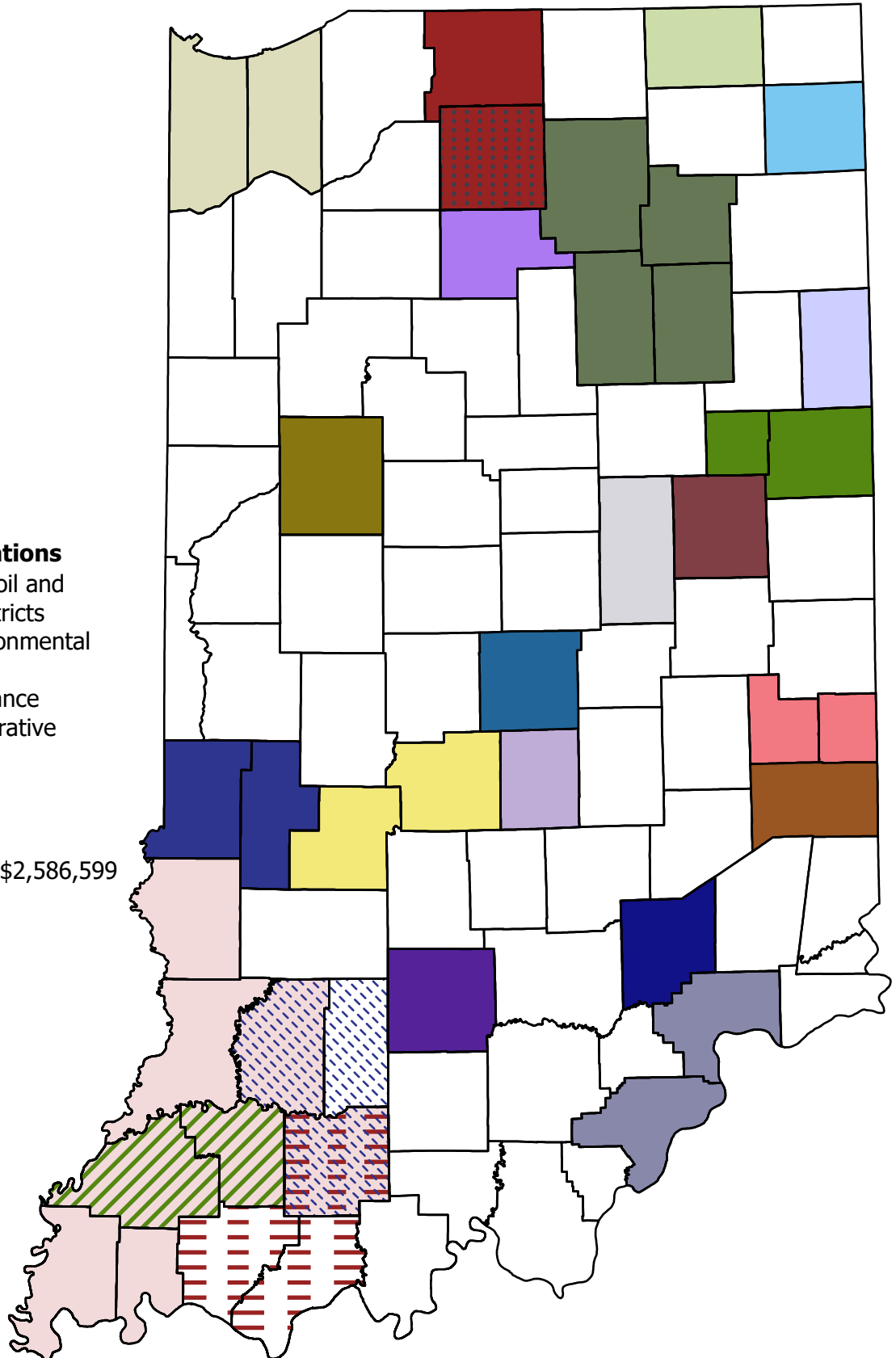
- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### Non-SWCD Led Applications

- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council
- Maumee Watershed Alliance
- Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management

### Application Statistics

Total Applications: 29  
 Total Amount Requested: \$2,586,599  
 SWCDs Represented: 41



## All Applications



# Clean Water Indiana

## 2021 Competitive Grants



### SWCD Led Recommendations

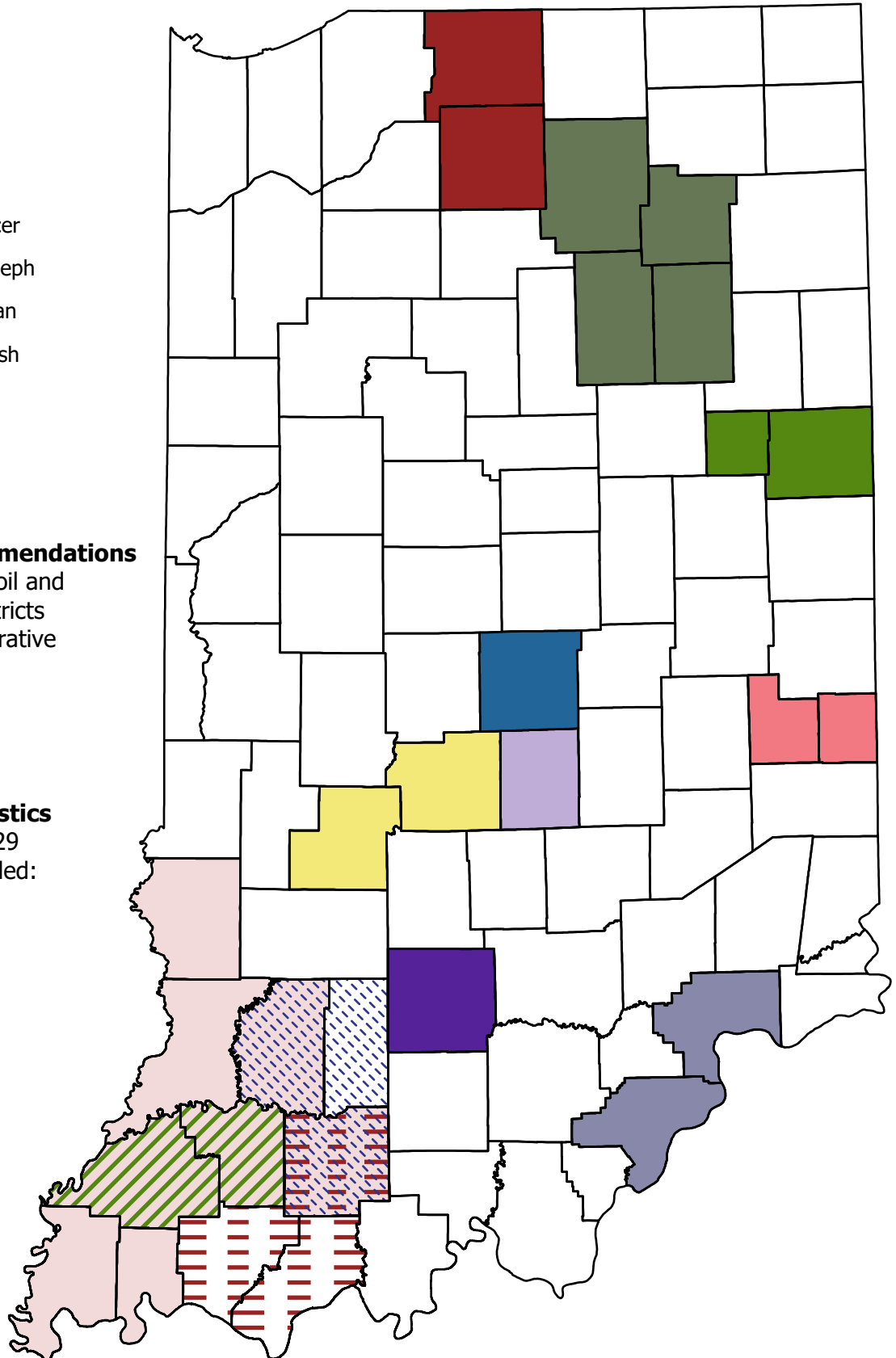
- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Dubois    | Owen      |
| Fayette   | Pike      |
| Jay       | Spencer   |
| Jefferson | St Joseph |
| Johnson   | Sullivan  |
| Lawrence  | Wabash    |
| Marion    |           |

### Non-SWCD Led Recommendations

- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management

### Recommendation Statistics

Total Recommendations: 29  
 Total Amount Recommended: \$969,651  
 SWCDs Represented: 41



## Funding Recommendations





[Home \(/Grants/s/\)](#)

[My Grants \(/Grants/s/in-gov-grant/IN\\_gov\\_Grant\\_c/00Bt0000001A5RbEAK\)](#)

[Account Details \(/Grants/s/account-details\)](#)

[Reports \(/Grant](#)



## Big Walnut, East Fork HUC 10 - 0512010301 - Scope of Services Modification

Future verbiage

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Grantee

Boone County SWCD

Project Title

Big Walnut, East Fork HUC 10 - 0512010301

Grant Amount

\$60,000.00

### PROJECT CONTACT

Name

Scheryl Vaughn

Phone

765-482-6355 x8676

Email

svaughn@co.boone.in.us

### MODIFICATION INFORMATION

**\* (required) Activity to be Changed**

We have had numerous pasture/hayland planting applications submitted for cost share with this grant. When the grant proposal was written, we asked for 9,000 for this practice and we exceeded that amount as of July with 9,921.00 spent. We need additional funds to be able to approve the applications for cost share. We are estimating an additional 10,000 for this practice.

**\* (required) Proposed Change**

We would like to transfer a total amount of 10,921.00 into the pasture/hayland planting fund. Transfer 7761.02 from tillage management/equip modification to the pasture/hayland planting fund. This leaves 2500.00 in the tillage management/equip modification to fund the 1 application we have. We would like to transfer the remaining 3159.98 out of the cover crop practice fund to equal a total of 10,921.00 transferred into the hayland/pasture planting fund.

**\* (required) Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.**

It is not a new activity but a change in the way the money is allocated. We see this as a win, win with the pasture/hayland planting. It is beneficial with keeping ground cover year round plus providing forage for livestock.

SIGNATURE

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Steve" on the top line and "L. Wright" on the bottom line.

Save Clear

Submission Date

Sep 9, 2020 

Submit



## Protecting and Restoring Farms, Forests, and Streams - Scope of Services Modification

Future verbiage

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Grantee

Wayne County SWCD

Project Title

Protecting and Restoring Farms, Forests, and Streams

Grant Amount

\$80,000.00

### PROJECT CONTACT

Name

Kayla Welter

Phone

765-966-0191 x3

Email

kayla.welter@in.nacdnet.net

### MODIFICATION INFORMATION

\* (required) Activity to be Changed

This is a request to transfer funds within the cost-share portion of our grant. The use of invasive species removal of Honeysuckle has been well received for our grant so far. We currently have \$10,700 of our \$12,000 allocated for cost-share on 46 acres. We have received more applications that we would like to provide cost-share funding for, therefore we are requesting to transfer funds to the invasive removal category.

\* (required) Proposed Change

The grant is split into 3 cost-share categories; projects to exclude cattle from streams, projects to reduce sediment and nutrients, and invasive control. We would like to transfer \$8,500 from the cattle exclusion category to the invasive control category. This transfer would allow us to grant the current applicants we have waiting, but still leave funds available for cattle exclusion.

\* (required) Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.

Transferring \$8,500 from the cattle exclusion category to invasive removal would provide additional funding to grant applications for removal to be completed on 38 acres. This would give a grand total of 84 acres cleared of honeysuckle throughout Wayne County. This change would allow us to make a larger impact on invasive removal, while still having a small amount of funding left in that invasive category to try to cover more acreage in our 3rd and last year of the grant. Transferring the funds from the cattle exclusion category is the best option for the funds due to there would still be \$11,000 available to provide funding on more practices.

SIGNATURE



Save Clear

Submission Date

Aug 21, 2020 

Submit

---

# Indiana Invasive Initiative Update 2020

---



October 5, 2020

---



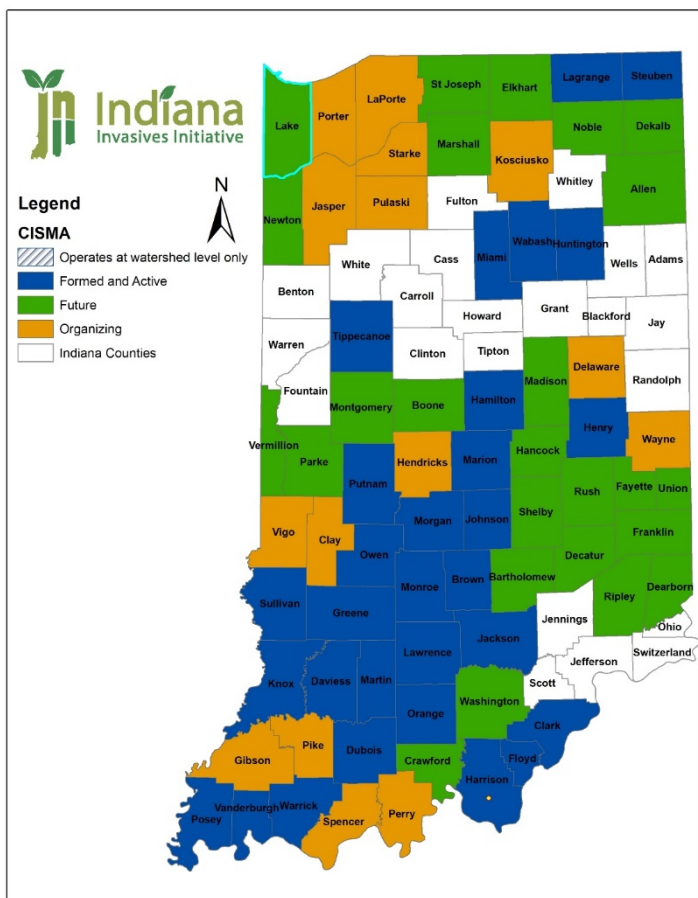


## Original Project Metrics:

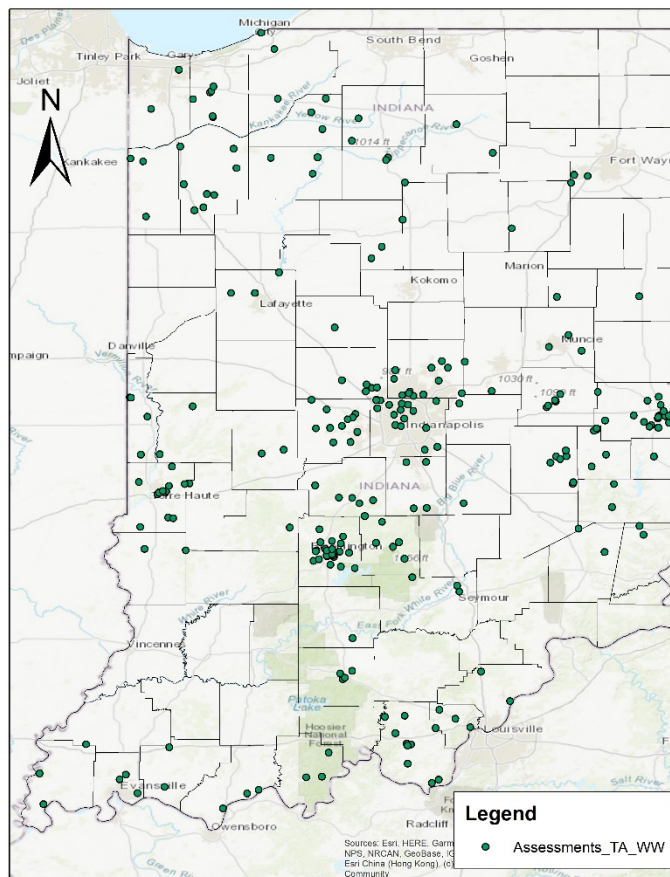
- 4 Regional Specialists and Part-Time Project Coordinator
- ~60 CISMAs created in 5 years
- 400 landowner assessments completed in 5 years
- 600 Technical Assistance provided in 5 years
- 4 Indiana conservation partner trainings annually
- 12 outreach events completed annually

## Results:

1. 37 CISMAs and 70 counties engaged
2. 40 SWCDs engaged in CISMA development & ~47 assisting w/ outreach
3. 264 landowner assessments and < 100 TA provided for < 15,000 acres (TA is provided daily)
4. 41 Weed Wrangles held across the state, focusing land management in our parks/green spaces
5. 12 ICP trainings held, 3 more planned before end of 2020 (~ 30 attendees/training; CEUs)
6. Early Detection Rapid Response utilized (e.g. mile-a-minute, carpet grass, swallowwort, etc.)
7. Working w/NRCS/SWCD to ID species and work w/ landowners for EDRR, utilize EQIP, etc.



8. TA is provided daily via phone, email, IPAC FB page, and in-person to NRCS, SWCD, Public
9. As of September 2020, we have some CISMAs training to conduct assessments (Johnson, Marion, Hamilton)
10. < 420 outreach events have been completed reaching <34,000 people
11. CISMA Conference (< 300 attendees, speakers from three states, offered CEUs)
12. Quarterly CISMA Learn and Network sessions beginning Nov 12, 2020



**Collaboration and Recognition:**

1. Recently recognized by TNC as an effective tool to improve land management efforts
2. Now part of TNC strategic plan w/ goal of 10,000 acres of improved land management by 2025, and grassroots projects across the state to educate, engage and empower citizens to act
3. Recognized by American Bird Conservancy as a partner and stakeholder for forest management
4. Recognized by DNR and IISC as effective tool to increase improved land management practices and assist state to reach conservation and land management goals
  - a. Forestry Division recognized III in state plan
  - b. Fish and Wildlife Division recognized III in state terrestrial invasive species plan
  - c. IISC recognized III and has focus on assisting / supporting the III
  - d. Purdue University collaborates on fact sheets and invasive species videos
  - e. IFWOA partners on fact sheets, conferences and requests assistance

- 
- f. Working w/ Indiana Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects
  - g. Presenting at Ball State University, Franklin College and Bloomington University
  - h. Training Master Gardener and Master Naturalist

Overall, this project has:

- Increased grassroots work and knowledge base about invasive and native plants
- Developed CISMAs across the state that are partnering locally to address invasive species issues and increase native habitat
- Engaged private landowners to manage invasive species in Indiana
- Increase public events and land management in our local parks
- Increased need for contractors, proper waste management, native plant nurseries, alternative integrated land management, identified new species and areas of infestation
- Trained and partnered with agency personnel
- Partnered w/ ICP to address invasive species issues and increase management

We are bolstering our commitments across the state by Increasing our goals and metrics

- 80 CISMAs by 2025
- Annual follow-up visits
- Mapping and management plans for all Weed Wrangles in public green spaces
- Strategically locating Weed Wrangles to connect state forests, preserves, etc.
- 3-year commitment for all Weed Wrangles
- Working with legislative group to develop an umbrella group
- Training Regional specialists, NRCS, Extension, SWCD, State Foresters, etc.
- Increasing efforts to partner w/ DEPP, DNR, Extension, NRCS

Brown County Temporary Appointment

County	Appointment Type	Supervisor Name	City	State	Replacing Who	Term Expiration	Reason	Chairman Name	Submission Date
Brown	Temporary_Elected_Position	Bonnie Closey	Columbus	IN	Al Weber	2022	Death	Scott Stephenson	10/01/2020
Dual Office Holding	Voting Age	Occupation	Qualifications	Conservation Interests	Duties Explained	Email Confirmation			
Yes	Yes	retired from Girl Scouts of the USA and former Brown County Recycling director	current SWCD associate, past supervisor and chairman	environmental education, recycling	Yes	allison-shoaf@iaswcd.org			

Hancock County Temporary Appointment

County	Appointment Type	Supervisor Name	City	State	Replacing Who	Term Expiration	Reason	Chairman Name	Submission Date
Hancock	Temporary_Elected_Position	Tom Nigh	Greenfield	IN	Ray Helms	2022	Death	Brian Gandy	10/16/2020
Dual Office Holding	Voting Age	Occupation	Qualifications	Conservation Interests	Duties Explained	Email Confirmation			
Yes	Yes	Retired from MET Life - working with landowners/farmers. Manages his family farm with a great farm tenant.	Tom has served on the SWCD as an Associate Supervisor and as a Supervisor. Dedication to our Board and County is outstanding.	Waterways, manages his family farm ground. Ponds on farm, cover crops used by the tenant farmer. Tom even has a pair of bald eagles residing on his farm.	Yes	cindy.newkirk@in.nacdnet.net			

Fulton County Temporary Appointment

SWCD	Appointment Type	Who is the Candidate Replacing?	Term Expiration	Reason for Vacancy	Supervisor Candidate Name	Address	City, State, ZIP	Qualifications
Fulton	Temporary_Elected_Position	Austin White	02/04/2022	Resignation	Jennifer Richter	855 W 850 S	Rochester, IN 46975	farmer
Occupation	Conservation Interests	Dual Office Holding	Voting Age	Duties Explained	Chairman Name	Date of Submission		
Farmer & school bus driver	soil health	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dustin Zellers	1603382400000		

## Union County Temporary Appointment

SWCD	Appointment Type	Who is the Candidate Replacing?	Term Expiration	Reason for Vacancy	Supervisor Candidate Name	Address	City, State, ZIP	Qualifications
Union	Vacant_Appointed_Position	Daniel Bolser	2021	Death	Sarah Gifford	111 E. Sycamore Street	Liberty, IN 47353	I am passionate about conservation practices. I have been gardener for several years and a supporter of pollinator habitats in urban areas. This year I participated in Union County, SWCD pollinator project.
Occupation		Conservation Interests	Dual Office Holding	Voting Age	Duties Explained	Chairman Name	Date of Submission	
Human Resource Specialist for Help At Home		Clean water and soil Lead contamination in urban soil Container and urban gardening Pollinators Parks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dana Risch	1602864000000	



# State Soil Conservation Board

## October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Soil Health Program Manager

### Program Updates

#### ➤ INfield Advantage

- We are wrapping our trial programs for this year, with the cover crop trial being currently underway. Growers who elected this trial are currently getting cover crop flown on and will have biomass sampled later on in the season. We are prepping for winter meetings, and informational breakout sessions. These will all be virtual, and will discuss the program this year and at large. We will have information for our partners that we have worked with such as Ceres, Truterra, and Purdue Extension. As a reminder this past year we elected to have a split-field trial program consisting of a cover crop, nitrogen reduction, and reduced tillage trial. Growers elected to participate in any of these three enrolling one field. They received aerial imagery analysis, data from Truterra about their fields, and soil sampling and soil health testing. The program will continue focusing on these conservation practices going forward, and we will have more information at our breakout sessions at the IASWCD annual conference, as well as a call out meeting with further details to be announced. Please let me know, and feel free to reach out, if you would like any other information or have any questions.





**State Soil Conservation Board**  
**October 27, 2020**  
**District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 6/26/20 to 10/11/20**



**Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff:**

- The final CWI Networking Session was hosted June 30
- Three successful VirTuesday training sessions were hosted in conjunction with IASWCD in August and September. Sessions focused on District Succession Planning, Effective Board Meetings, and Roles & Responsibilities of District Staff & Supervisors. Find the recorded sessions here: <http://wordpress.iaswcd.org/for-districts/>
- The Conservation Link virtual training from September 30 can be viewed here: <HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2020CONSERVATIONLINK>
- Lunch and learn with Luke Britt about Annual Meetings and Elections during the public health emergency: September 30- session will be recorded. [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

**New Supervisor Training with DSSs since January 2020:**

- Annual Conference New Supervisor Training Session
- Counties: Cass, Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Hamilton, Howard, Jefferson, LaPorte, Newton, Posey
- Please contact your DSS to schedule a new supervisor training

<b>DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period</b>	<b>Total</b>
Assistance With SWCD Strategic Planning	10
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	37
Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, Input, etc.	47

**Update on Annual Meetings 2020**

90 SWCDs have held their 2020 Annual Meetings. Two have been delayed due to the public health emergency.

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total		
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 10/20/2020	229.58	52.20	5,595.37	51.63	737.31	7,641.65	1464.96	3,217.73	18,990.43	26,250.00	72.34%
Total CREP Enrollment	238.17	58.56	6,407.66	51.43	863.95	8,254.79	2111.36	3,969.25	21,955.17	26,250.00	83.64%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90		
									Difference =	2,964.74	

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fee	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total CREP Dollars	\$ 22,958.00	\$ 5,220.00	\$ 567,057.00	\$ 20,898.00	\$ 298,645.00	\$ 3,148,736.00	\$ 1,322,900.50	\$ 2,338,013.00	\$ 7,724,427.50	\$ 630,980.25	\$ 8,355,407.75

Federal Match of \$4-\$13 is between \$ 30,897,710.00  
\$ 100,417,557.50

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 10/20/2020	0.00	0.00	214.06	4.13	2.90	25.16	0.00	132.42	378.67

Note: These acres are not re-counted in the total above.

**Post-Expansion Acres**

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2 Acres	CP-4D Acres	CP-21 Acres	CP-3A Acres	CP-22 Acres	CP-31 Acres	CP-23 Acres	CP-23A Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	0.00	0.00	11.98	0.00	3.10	114.73	0.00	0.00	129.81
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	9.88	0.00	0.00	644.70	0.00	0.00	654.58
Lower East Fork White	53.50	45.20	139.78	30.30	73.60	717.85	99.41	0.00	1159.64
Lower White	10.70	0.00	44.62	0.00	111.20	2,133.43	123.03	0.00	2,422.98
Middle Wabash-Busseron	0.00	0.00	5.32	0.00	13.50	1,512.60	426.14	29.81	1,987.37
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	95.72	0.00	0.00	67.89	24.60	14.62	209.43
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	81.53	6.97	41.20	676.16	514.19	167.70	1,492.25
Tippecanoe River	93.84	0.00	614.76	0.00	3.41	21.40	73.30	1,927.57	2,734.28
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	351.15	0.00	36.50	192.71	0.00	0.00	580.36
Upper Wabash	21.25	7.00	575.31	2.56	31.30	225.59	82.59	66.85	1012.45
Upper White	35.09	0.00	120.82	0.00	282.80	276.69	0.00	71.18	786.58
Reported Completed as of 10/20/2020	225.48	52.20	2,050.87	39.83	596.61	6,583.75	1343.26	2,277.73	13,169.73
Enrolled as of 10/20/2020	234.07	58.56	2,863.16	39.63	723.25	7,196.89	1,989.66	3,029.25	16,134.47

**Pre-Expansion Acres**

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2 Acres	CP-4D Acres	CP-21 Acres	CP-3A Acres	CP-22 Acres	CP-31 Acres	CP-23 Acres	CP-23A Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.50	0.00	215.00	10.80	16.40	109.20	0.00	0.00	353.90
Tippecanoe River	0.00	0.00	2,916.80	0.00	7.80	20.40	121.70	924.00	3,990.70
Upper White	1.60	0.00	412.70	1.00	116.50	928.30	0.00	16.00	1476.10
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	4.10	0.00	3,544.50	11.80	140.70	1,057.90	121.70	940.00	5,820.70

Extension Acres						Total Extension Acres
	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Acres
Extension Acres -Tippecanoe				14.80	121.70	136.50
Extension Acres -Upper White			1.00	53.70	413.70	474.40
Total Extension Acres			1.00	53.70	428.50	610.90

**CREP to CREP reenrollment**

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2 Acres	CP-4D Acres	CP-21 Acres	CP-3A Acres	CP-22 Acres	CP-31 Acres	CP-23 Acres	CP-23A Acres	Acres
Highland Pigeon	0.0	0.0	26.91	4.13	2.90	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.94
Tippecanoe	0.0	0.0	156.80	0.00	0.00	14.1	0.0	132.4	303.28
Upper White	0.0	0.0	30.35	0.00	0.00	11.1	0.0	0.0	41.45
CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 10/20/2020	0.0	0.0	214.06	4.13	2.90	25.2	0.0	132.4	378.67



## Highlights

### “Ag 101” Coordination

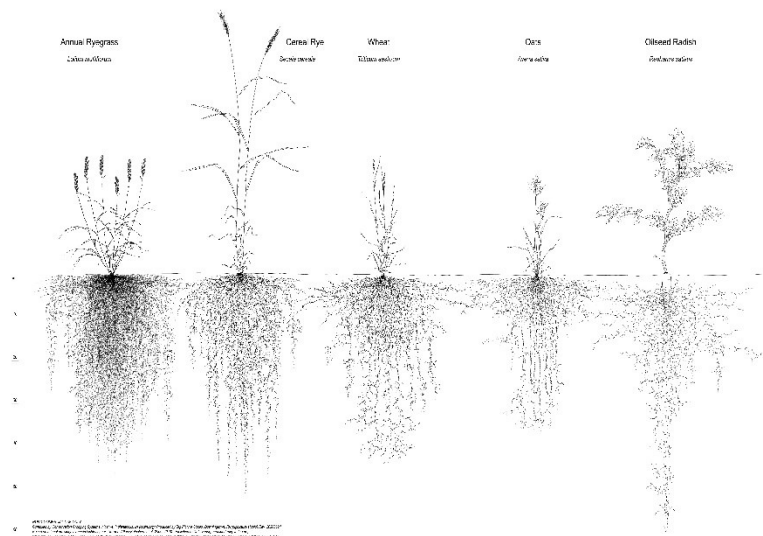
- Led by NPM, CCSI staff provided “behind-the-scenes” coordination for 2 half-days of virtual training for ICP staff, including:
  - “Booking” guest speakers
  - Coordinating and shipping virtual field day kit supplies to 3 different sites
  - Pre-event planning support
  - Multiple “tech tests”
  - Day-of Zoom meeting facilitation support, including use of breakout rooms
  - Acting as “camera man” at one site

### “3-Day” Soil Health Training

- 08/25-27 “3-Day” Soil Health Training, 28 attendees
- Fulfills NRCS requirement for Conservation Planner Certification
  - Successful pivot to interactive hybrid training
  - 2-1/2 days virtual, 1 day in-person

**The Root Project** – new page with downloadable graphics showing root structures of common cover crops; Downloaded globally directly from the website by well over 350 unique individuals

### Average Root Structures of Common Cover Crops



## G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

### 1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

*Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)*

*Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.*

- August 3 – Jim Mosely (A)
- August 4 – Phil Carter (D)
- August 11 – Mike Shuter (D)
- August 19 - Dan DeSutter (A)
- August 28 – Clark Farms Deconstructed (Big Pine) (A)
- Keith Berns, Ken Rulon, Dan DeSutter, Rick Clark – Economics podcast and webinar planning (D)
- September 21 – Dave Brandt (D)
- September 25 – Mark Anson (D)

## **2. Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers**

*Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.*

Quarterly Targets: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

- August 3 – Jim Mosely (A)

## **3. Farmer Influencers**

Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)

*Continued work with W4tL, IANA, and other influencer groups.*

- Soil health careers discussion with Clinton/Carroll County farmer, cont. (A)
- August 10 – Glenn Longabaugh, Winfield Agronomist (D)
- August 12 - AGRY Extension Group Meeting (A)
- August 28 – Sustainable Food Lab crop premium project (D)
- September 11 – Sweet Corn Planter for No-till Testing with PPAC farm crew and Liz Maynard, Purdue Extension (A)

## **4. Presentations**

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)

- August 13 – Filming for AGRY 105 In-field Soil Health Diagnostics (A)
- August 13 (Virtual) – Wheat, a Gateway Crop to Soil Health, “CCSI Intro”, 32 attendees (A)
- August 18 (Virtual) – Area 8 Virtual Agronomy Series “Cover Crops”, 23 attendees (A)
- September 9-10 – AGRY 105 “In-field Soil Health”, 8 rotations of 70 students (A)

*Upcoming:*

- December 1-2 – Kentuckiana Crops Conference (Virtual)
- December 15-16 – Indiana CCA Conference (Virtual)

## **G2. Local Level Partnership Support**

### **1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership’s Outreach and Education**

Quarterly Target: CCSI as a group materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts groups (CCSI Team Goal)

Workshops Completed

- August 10 – (Virtual) Advanced Soil Health Systems training for ag retailers w/ TNC, 20 attendees (D, NPM, SPM)

- August 12 – (Virtual) Women4theLand – Mock Virtual Learning Circle, 22 attendees (D, NPM, SPM)
- August 13 and 20 – (Virtual) Wheat: A Gateway Crop to Soil Health, Resilience, and more (in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa); 32 attendees (NPM, A)
- August 13, 20, and 27 – (Virtual) Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Workshop Series with ISDA; 28 attendees (NPM)
- August 20 – (Virtual) Women4theLand Steering Committee (D, NPM, SPM)
- August 28 – (In-person and Virtual) Clark Farms Deconstructed (Big Pine) Williamsport, 200 in-person/325 virtual attendees (D, NPM)
- September 2 – Boone Co SWCD Virtual Soil Health Field Day (equipment, practice support) (NPM)
- September 9, 10 – (Virtual) Ag 101 with ISDA for ICP staff; approximately 50 attendees (NPM lead + SPM, D)

#### Workshops in Progress:

- October 21-28-11/4(Virtual) Nutrient Planning 2.0 – workshops for ICP staff.
- October 21, 28 (Virtual) WLEB Science and Solutions Conference
- November 12, 19 (Virtual) – Hoosier Chapter SWCS – Pollinator Plantings (partners include USFWS and IDNR)
- November 12 – Women4theLand Steering Committee (host)
- 11/17 – Spencer/Perry Workshop (In-Person) with Rick Clark and Wayne Fredericks
- December 2 – Boone County Demo Plot Field Day (In-person)
- Week of December 7 (Hybrid) Advanced Soil Health Training for Ag Retail with TNC
- December 2020 – VUJC Field Day – *may be postponed*
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 – Indiana-Kentuck Watershed Field Day (Virtual)
- March 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021
- Tippecanoe County Landowner Virtual Field Day
- Vigo Co Small Farm Program – TBD

## **2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging**

*Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.*

### Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health Completed Trainings

- Soil Health Demo Kits distributed to all Indiana counties by NRCS CDT staff.
- 08/25-27 “3-Day” Soil Health Training, 28 attendees
  - Successful pivot to interactive hybrid training
  - 2-1/2 days virtual, 1 day in-person

### Trainings in Progress:

- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual
- 2021-22 Indiana SARE PDP Advisory Committee “Soil Health Track” plan development (A, D)
- 2021 Soil Health Nexus In-Service

## **Professional Development Opportunities**

*Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.*

*Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills*

Trainings in Progress:

- November 5 - Advanced Cover Crops – *changed to virtual format*
- November 2020 (Virtual) – Hoosier Chapter SWCS – Pollinator Plantings (partners include USFWS and IDNR)

### **3. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships**

*Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NPM, SPM)*

- August 19 – Blue River Grazing Working Group (SPM)
- August CCSI Regional Teleconferences cancelled due to 3-Day Soil Health Training
- September 1 – IASWCD Annual Conference Planning (NPM)
- September 2 - Indiana SARE Advisory Committee (Virtual) – (D, A)
- September 15 – ICP COVID-19 Recommendations / CCSI Event Planning Document inclusion
- September 21 – Blue River Watershed / Pasture Project grazing workgroup (D, SPM)
- September 22 (Virtual) – Historic Hoosier Hills and Jefferson Co SWCD re virtual field day support
- September 23, 25 – WLEB Science and Solutions
- September 28, 30 – CCSI Regional Teleconferences; *32 participants*

## **G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication**

### **1. Marketing**

*Quarterly Targets: 3-4 “formal” CCSI Updates (CCSI Team Goal)*

*Annual Target: 1-2 New External Partners*

*Ensure LLPs understand CCSI resources available to them; Ensure external partners are aware of CCSI strengths, tools, and opportunities.*

- September 21 – Events Newsletter: 1787 delivered; 37% open rate; 10% click rate

### **2. Soil Health Messaging**

*Quarterly Targets: 3 Podcasts; 3-6 Blog Posts; 6 Newsletters;*

*Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.*

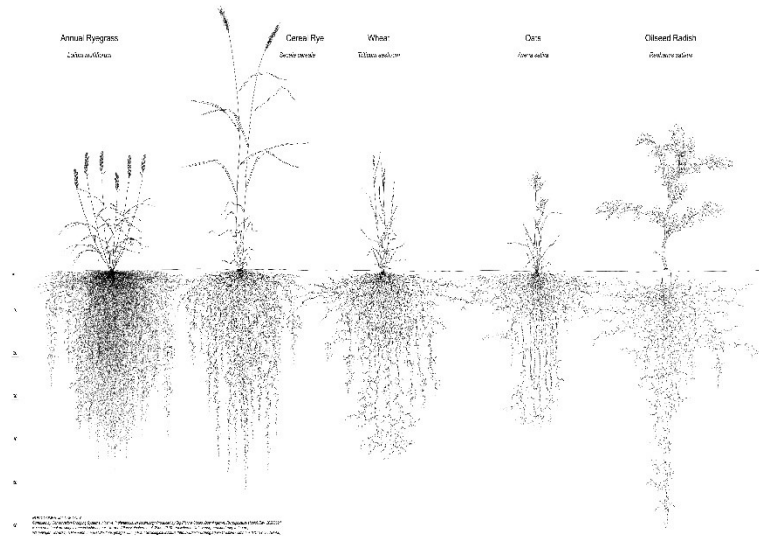
Completed Materials:

- Podcasts:
  - 50 Years of Soil Health with David Brandt
  - Cover crops in smaller scale specialty crops production
  - Cover crops and Sweet Corn
- Blogs
  - National Farm Safety and Health Week
  - 10 Years of Partnership – Adapting to Virtual
  - Sweet Corn and Cover Crops
- Website
  - 1.6K active users on site.
  - Photo library migrated to website from Flickr
  - YouTube Channel connected to website



- The Root Project – new page with downloadable graphics showing root structures of common cover crops; Downloaded globally directly from the website by well over 300 unique individuals

#### Average Root Structures of Common Cover Crops



#### Materials in Progress:

- No-Till Pumpkin planting; follow up video and still footage.
- Sweet corn planter testing
- Adaptation of graphics to yard signs for download
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download

### G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

*CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.*

- Support - Indiana University SARE - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss (Yoder)
- Support – Purdue University SARE - Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (Armstrong)

### G5. Funding

- Additional \$20K from NACD (funds full proposal amount)
- \$12K pledge from ICMC/ISA for general support
- Donation campaign revolving around The Root Project in process.

### OTHER

- EPLP Postponed until 2021 (A)
- Agronomist officially started as part of State Purdue Extension staff (9/15)
- Lake Co SWCD Board approved use of office space by NPM
- Provided support to LaPorte Co SWCD Board Meeting (teleconference line) (NPM)

# Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

## State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

---

### FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Field Staff are reminded that participants can apply at any time for our Farm Bill Programs. We encourage participants to make applications early in the Fiscal Year to avoid the rush at the actual application deadline date. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) applications can be taken now. We anticipate sending out a news release on this matter in the short term. A news release on this topic was issued to the ag media on October 6. For EQIP and CSP we are looking at application deadlines in mid-to-late December. While the application deadline dates for EQIP and CSP may be the same, the actual internal deadlines will be spread out through the late winter and spring months. For ACEP, we anticipate application deadlines in January. These deadline dates will be finalized in the near future.

#### **Wetland Reserve Easement Program**

USDA is investing up to \$30 million nationwide to help eligible conservation partners voluntarily protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on agricultural lands. Indiana is accepting partner applications for technical and financial assistance until November 30. These partners work with tribal and private landowners who voluntarily enroll eligible land into easements to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their properties. Funding is made available for new enrollments into permanent or 30-year easements.

Partners interested in WREP are encouraged to attend a virtual Partner Proposal Workshop on October 22 to discuss FY2021 program and ranking criteria changes. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please e-mail Lisa McCauley, WREP National Program Manager, at [lisa.mccauley@usda.gov](mailto:lisa.mccauley@usda.gov). This session will be recorded, and the recording will be available on the National WREP Website.

Eligible partners may email proposals for individual projects, watershed-wide or larger geographical area projects to Gerald Roach, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs at [jerry.roach@usda.gov](mailto:jerry.roach@usda.gov).

#### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and RCPP conservation program contracts. USDA is now accepting proposals for RCPP through the [RCPP portal](#). Proposals are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 30. For more information, view the [Application for Program Funding on grants.gov](#).

Partners may request between \$250,000 and \$10 million in RCPP funding through this announcement. Partners are expected to offer value-added contributions to amplify the impact of RCPP funding in an amount equal or greater to the NRCS investment. Eligible lead partners are encouraged to apply. Funding is open to private industry, non-government organizations, Indian tribes, state and local governments, water districts and universities, among others. The full list of eligible entities is available in the RCPP funding announcement.

**NOTE:** The original announcement had stated that “Forest land eligibility does not encompass industrial forest lands that are owned by companies, organizations, and individuals who engage in commercially oriented forest management and production activities.” NRCS has removed this language, which partners may have interpreted as limiting opportunities for RCPP projects on forest lands where eligible activities would help achieve conservation benefits.

## **INDIANA PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION FY21 ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PROGRAM FUNDING**

Indiana NRCS will be soliciting proposals for agreements for FY21, which will be competitively selected. Projects should leverage NRCS resources, address local natural resource issues, encourage collaboration and develop state-and-community-level conservation leadership. Proposals must be for projects based in Indiana and focus on conservation issues. Collaborative projects that provide on-the-ground support for Indiana NRCS Field Offices are highly encouraged. Reaching underserved and minority landowners and farmers is also highly encouraged. Research proposals will not be accepted. NRCS anticipates the amount available for support of this program in FY2021 will be up to \$1,000,000.00.

Local and state government entities, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organizations or institutions of higher education will be eligible to apply for two-five-year agreements. This opportunity will be posted on grants.gov in October (anticipated) with a 60-day period for responses.

## **BOX/ONESPAN FOR PRODUCERS**

Producers now have another option in signing documents that can save a drive to the service center. Box/One Span provides an electronic signing option for documents. The Farm Bill specialist servicing your county has been trained to assist producers with this option. They can have a discussion with the producer about the mobile device/personal computer used and how the security authentications will work. A test email/text will be sent prior to sending the documents to sign. USDA has given NRCS a waiver to sign 40 plus financial assistance documents. This list and additional resources can be found on our myFPAC site. [Learn More](#).

## **NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION**

The National Resources Inventory (NRI) is a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection will begin in early September and run through the end of January 2021. The soils staff at the state office will collect data. Field office staff and FSA may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plan, cropping history, etc. If you have any comments or questions, please contact John Allen, Assistant State Soil Scientist at [john.allen@usda.gov](mailto:john.allen@usda.gov).

## **COVID-19**

### **Office Status**

USDA is continuing to take proactive protective measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As you know, FPAC's approach to reopening offices includes three phases, with detailed criteria to reopen a facility. Most of our offices are currently in stage two of the reopening phase and because of the recent surge of COVID-19 cases, we anticipate that we will stay in this stage for a while longer. We are asking SWCD Boards and FSA County Committees to continue to meet offsite as necessary. The Leadership Team will continue to keep you updated as we hear from our National Office. Updated information related to the coronavirus and current status of USDA Service Centers, temporary service center closures, and online options for farmers can also be found by visiting: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus>.

### **Masks**

All USDA Service Center employees must follow the FPAC and Governor's guidance on wearing a mask in the office. If your health does not allow you to wear a face mask, please raise your concerns with your supervisor to investigate possible alternatives. Employees that purposefully disregard the appropriate mask guidance can be subject to disciplinary actions.

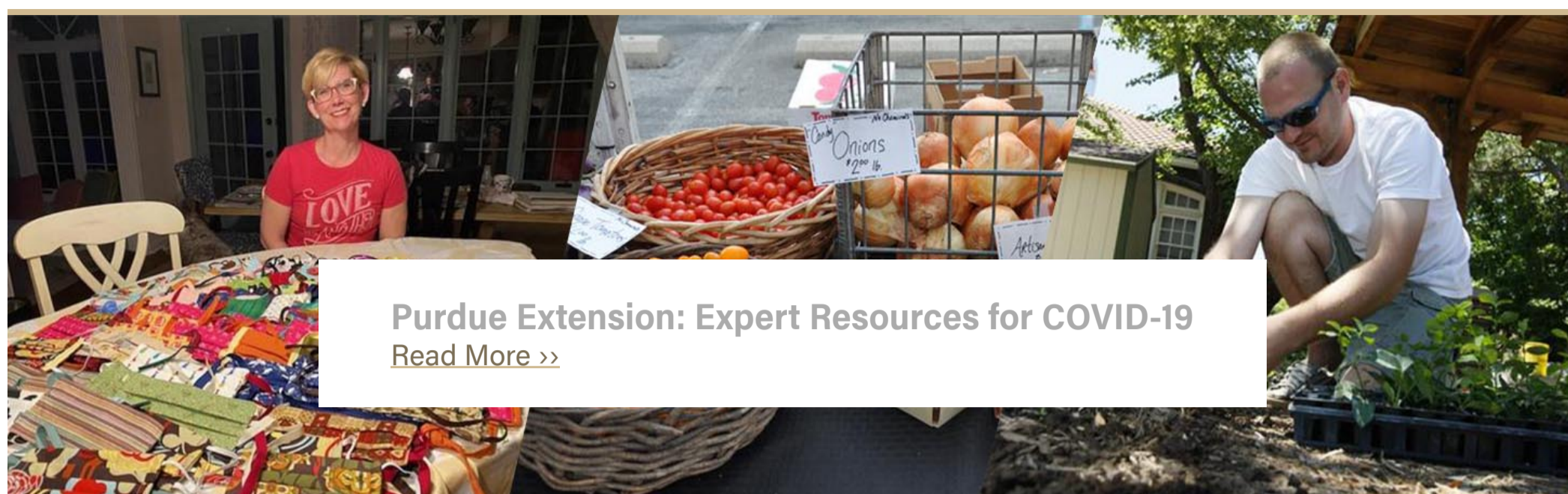
### **Training and Travel**

The current operational posture has created new challenges for employee training and operational type meetings. However, several of you have succeeded in being creative and finding new ways to deliver necessary training to address current employee needs. We must continue to find ways to provide training.

Larger trainings and meetings above 30 attendees, for example, are allowed, but should be minimized as much as possible under the current operating posture. If employees attend trainings, safety must be a top priority. Be mindful that the governor's order on meeting sizes can change and each local health department can impose tighter meeting restrictions than the statewide order.

All training sessions should minimize travel for employee safety. Most indoor-type trainings and meetings should first consider virtual options. The State Food and Agriculture Council (SFAC) has also agreed that external partner meetings, including but not limited to Soil and Water Conservation District Board and County Committees, should not occur in service centers until Phase 4 is achieved for that office.


If at any point prior to or during a training/meeting an employee feels their health is at risk, they do not have to participate. Employees should communicate their concern with their supervisor and inform them of their non-participation.



Purdue Extension: Expert Resources for COVID-19  
[Read More >>](#)

## SARE grants to support Purdue's sustainable agriculture programs

 Abigail Leeds

 October 13, 2020

Faculty, staff and graduate students from the Purdue College of Agriculture and Purdue Extension were recently awarded eight **North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education** (NCR-SARE) Program grants, accounting for over 20% of the \$4.1 million that was awarded. The NCR-SARE competitive grant programs are offered to researchers, graduate students, organizations and others to develop research-based methods that support sustainable agriculture in the Midwest.

“These projects are very farmer-centric and stress the importance of collaboration between farmers and researchers while finding solutions to common issues,” said Jason Henderson, senior associate dean and director of Purdue Extension.

**Shalamar Armstrong**, associate professor of agronomy, will study “Precision Winter Cereal Rye Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship.” His team will research the use of precision agriculture technology to plant cover and cash crops in non-intersecting zones to improve nutrient use efficiency, production and profitability while enhancing soil health and water quality.

**Laura Ingwell**, assistant professor of horticulture extension entomology, will research “Improving Two Spotted Spider Mite Management in High Tunnel Cucumber Production.” With the input and support of Indiana growers, the project will seek to improve monitoring and detecting spider mites in cucumbers grown in high tunnels. She will also evaluate the best method to implement natural enemies and biological pesticides to suppress spider mite populations.

**Darcy Telenko**, assistant professor of botany and plant pathology, will focus on “Identifying and Expanding Integrated Disease Management Resources to include Organic Grains in Support of Organic and Transitional North Central Farms.” Her team’s research aims to expand integrated disease management tools for organic grain production and to provide farmers with replicated data to combine genetic, agronomic and input-based tools into an Integrated Disease Management plan for organic or transitional acreage.

**Eileen Kladviko**, professor of agronomy, in collaboration with Anna Morrow, program manager at **Midwest Cover Crops Council** (MCCC), will work on “Enhancing Cover Crop Training in the North Central Region.” The grant will expand cover crop educational opportunities for farmers, crop advisors and conservation professionals as well as update MCCC’s online cover crop selector tool in four states and expand online cover crop decision tools.

Purdue graduate students also received grants in partnership with faculty for the following projects.

- Meagan Abraham and **Darrin Karcher**, assistant professor of animal sciences, for the project “Establishing Pullet Welfare Measurements and Guidelines for Growers and Managers on Commercial Poultry Farms.”
- Emily Justus and **Elizabeth Long**, assistant professor of entomology, for the project “Assessing Growers’ Knowledge of and Interest in Implementing Insect Resistant Varieties as a Part of an Integrated Pest Management Plan.”
- Caydee Terrell and Ingwell, for the project “Examining the Utility of Black Soldier Fly Larvae Composting on Urban Farms.”
- Danielle Winter and **Sara McMillan**, associate professor of agriculture and biological engineering, for the project “Design and Management of On-Farm Wetlands for Water Quality and Climate Regulation.”

## Recent Stories

[October 8, 2020](#) | [4-H](#)

[October 23, 2020](#)

[October 22, 2020](#)

[October 14, 2020](#)

[Keeping Indiana 4-H youth engaged and safe in a pandemic](#)

[Prescribed fire: 6 things to consider before you ignite](#)

[COVID Recession Makes Farmland Tax Predictions Harder](#)

[Sheep checkoff calls for new funding requests, elects new council members](#)

[VIEW ALL STORIES](#)

© 2020 Purdue University | [An equal access, equal opportunity university.](#)

615 West State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2053

If you have trouble accessing this page because of a disability, please email us at [extension@purdue.edu](mailto:extension@purdue.edu).

[Extension Intranet](#)

