



St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



## Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

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### Have You Heard? ...

#### Emergency Livestock Mortality

Funding available to help with safe disposal of livestock due to COVID-19.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to livestock producers for animal mortality disposal, resulting from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Producers facing livestock depopulation are encouraged to file an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application (Form CCC-1200) with their local NRCS field office. **Applications are being accepted now.**

Through EQIP, a producer can apply for a practice called Emergency Animal Mortality Management and other practices to properly dispose of carcasses. Across the nation, NRCS will offer consistent options for farmers to find the right alternatives for their needs.

The producer is responsible for the proper disposal of animal mortality by following requirements specific to each option. All Federal, State and Local laws must be followed and are the responsibility of the producer to secure any necessary permits.

Plans and permits may be required for each option through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and others as needed.

For more information, contact Debbie Knepp at 574-936-2024 Ext. 4 or visit <https://bit.ly/NRCSelm>.



#### Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19.

USDA is accepting applications **now through August 28, 2020**. Producers should apply through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at their local USDA Service Center. While USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, FSA is working with our agricultural producers by phone and using email and online tools to process applications. Please call your FSA county office to schedule an appointment, (574) 936-2024 Ext. 2.

For more details visit [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap) or call your local FSA office.



Spring planting is underway in Indiana and USDA is following the progress as farmers complete field prep and plant their spring crops. Producers are invited to follow along or get involved by sharing their **#Plant2020** photos and videos. Submit your own photos or 15-second or less video (please use a landscape orientation image rather than portrait). Send the photo or video to [sharingoursuccesses@usda.gov](mailto:sharingoursuccesses@usda.gov), please include the producer name, crop type, and city and state.

**More information is available here:**

[www.farmers.gov/plant2020](http://www.farmers.gov/plant2020) which also includes a link to the story map of already submitted photos.

# Conservation Education Opportunities

Teachers and community leaders: We understand that the coming school year will have many uncertainties and new challenges to face. As your SWCD education coordinator, I am here to help! Although I am unable to offer in-person programming or field trips until further notice, I am happy to work with you on remote programming, educational videos, and curriculum building.

Have a topic or program idea you don't see here? Just send me an email at [samantha.buchanan@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:samantha.buchanan@in.nacdnet.net) and we can discuss options that can meet your program needs. You can also check out

our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/user/stjosephswcd](http://www.youtube.com/user/stjosephswcd) for some other educational videos we have available.

**Topics covered by SWCD programming include (but are not limited to):**

- Watersheds
- Soils
- Pollinators
- Composting
- Agricultural conservation
- Backyard conservation
- Indiana wildlife
- Invasive species
- Food webs
- Habitats

If you would like to request a program from the SWCD, check out our website at [www.stjosephswcd.org/education](http://www.stjosephswcd.org/education) for the registration link, or scan this QR code for a direct link to the request form.

I am looking forward to connecting with you and working together to provide quality education for our community.



## USDA Expands Farmers.gov Features to Help Manage Conservation Activities

New self-service features on [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) will help Indiana farmers and forestland owners manage their conservation activities online and request assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"These conservation features join a number of others already available through [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov), including the ability to view farm loan information," said Deborah Knepp, District Conservationist, St Joseph County. "As more content and capabilities are added, [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) is quickly becoming the online hub for producers to find resources, submit applications, request assistance and make connections. Now, amid this pandemic, we recognize the importance of online options for producers to manage their USDA business."

Producers can access these conservation features by desktop computer, tablet or phone. They can now:

- View, download and e-sign documents;
- Request conservation assistance;
- Reference technical terms and submit questions;
- Access information on current and past conservation practices; and
- View detailed information on all previous and ongoing contracts, including the amount of planned and received cost-share assistance.

The new conservation features enhance the request process with a customer-friendly unified mapping tool that allows farmers to locate areas of interest in minutes, with high-resolution aerial imagery and multi-layered display functionality.

The new features include the most popular functionalities from NRCS's Conservation Client Gateway (CCG) while providing enhanced functionality and an improved user experience. CCG is the NRCS portal for producers, but now these functionalities are being moved to [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) to give producers one place to do business with NRCS, Farm Service Agency and other USDA agencies.

To access their information, producers will need a USDA eAuth account to login into [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov). After obtaining an eAuth account, producers should visit [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) and sign into

the site's authenticated portal via the "Sign In / Sign Up" link at the top right of the website. Current CCG users can use their existing login and password to access the conservation features on [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov). CCG will continue to be actively maintained and supported until all core components have been migrated to [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) later this year.

Currently, only producers doing business as individuals can view information. Entities, such as an LLC or Trust, or producers doing business on behalf of another customer cannot access the portal at this time, but access is being planned. Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Edge are the recommended browsers to access the feature.

USDA is building [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) for farmers, by farmers. Future self-service features available through the [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) portal include: authority for FSA and NRCS customers to work in the portal and act on behalf of their active power-of-attorney entitlements and their current authorities for business entities, updated e-sign capabilities to enhance the single and multi-signer functionalities and a robust document management system that enables customers to download, upload and interact with their important conservation practice and contract documents.

To learn more about [www.farmer.gov](http://www.farmer.gov), Conservation Client Gateway or how to obtain an eAuth account, contact your District Conservationist, Deborah Knepp at 574-936-2024 Ext. 4.



# Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule

The Terrestrial Plant Rule (312 IAC 18-3-25) designates 44 species of plants as invasive pests. This rule makes it illegal to sell, gift, barter, exchange, distribute, transport, or introduce these plants in the State of Indiana. Signed by Governor Eric Holcomb, this rule went into effect in two stages. It became fully enforceable on April 18, 2020.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	What Happens If Found Selling Material Listed on the Terrestrial Plant Rule? If you are found to be selling material listed on the Terrestrial Plant Rule, a Notice of Stop Sale will be issued for that material, and a Notice of Violation can be issued. If a Notice of Violation is issued, a fine could be levied at \$500 per day per plant and Nursery licenses can be revoked.
<i>Achyranthes japonica</i>	Japanese chaff flower	<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	Japanese hops	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of heaven	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's rocket	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Sericea lespedeza	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black alder	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Pepperweed	
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Blunt leaved privet	
<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Small carpgrass	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese barberry	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur honeysuckle	
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Spiny plumeless thistle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's honeysuckle	
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tatarian honeysuckle	
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Asian bittersweet	<i>Lonicera x bella</i>	Bell's honeysuckle	
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Spotted knapweed	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stiltgrass	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle	<i>Morus alba</i>	White mulberry	
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canarygrass	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur cork tree	
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown vetch	<i>Phragmites australis</i> subspecies <i>australis</i>	Common reed	
<i>Dioscorea polystachya</i> ( <i>oppositifolia</i> )	Chinese yam	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>	Mile-a-minute vine	
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common teasel	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> (syn. <i>Fallopia japonica</i> )	Japanese knotweed	
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Cut-leaved teasel	<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i>	Giant knotweed	
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive	<i>Reynoutria x bohemica</i>	Bohemian knotweed	
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common buckthorn	
<i>Euphorbia virgata</i>	Leafy spurge	<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i>	Black swallow-wort	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Glossy buckthorn	<i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i>	Pale swallow-wort	

**Why Are These Plants Being Regulated?** Millions of dollars are spent annually to control invasive species. To qualify as an invasive species a plant must be alien and cause harm either to the environment or to human health. Unfortunately, many invasive plants started out in the horticultural industry and escaped cultivation invading our natural areas. Invasive species are responsible for habitat destruction and a decrease in biodiversity.

**Why This List of Plants?** Extensive research has been conducted by the Indiana Invasive Species Council (IISC). The IISC was established by state legislature to enhance the ability of government agencies to detect, prevent, monitor, and manage new and long established invasions, as well as increase public awareness about invasive species. You can learn more about the IISC by going to [www.entm.purdue.edu/iisc/](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/iisc/)

**What Other Plants Are Regulated in Indiana?** Several other species of plants are regulated under Indiana Code. They include multiflora rose, purple loosestrife, Canada thistle and a number of aquatic invasive species. More details can be found at [www.IN.gov/dnr/entomolo/2894.htm](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/entomolo/2894.htm)

**What If I Have Questions About the Rule?** You can contact the Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology at Phone: 317-232-4120 or 866-NO-EXOTIC Fax: 317-232-2649 Email: [DEPP@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:DEPP@dnr.IN.gov) Or find the local nursery inspector at [www.dnr.IN.gov/entomolo/2899.htm](http://www.dnr.IN.gov/entomolo/2899.htm)

**Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule and You.** For more information, check out Sam Buchanan's, SWCD Environmental Education Coordinator, YouTube video. Visit [www.bit.ly/ITPRandYou](http://www.bit.ly/ITPRandYou) or click on the QR code.



## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

With all the events and special programs being released to help with those affected by Covid-19, we sent out an e-mail blast in May with the information that was too late for the newsletter printing. Did you miss this information? Switch your subscription to digital and receive all the latest information at your fingertips and ensure you don't miss the latest news from the SWCD & NRCS.

### FAQ

- We send 6 newsletters per year, 1 annual report, and 0-5 current programs/events emails per year.
- We will not sell or give your information to others without your consent.
- You can unsubscribe at anytime.



### Are you ready to "GO GREEN"?

- ◆ Give us a call
- ◆ Send us an email and tell us you'd like to "Go Green"\*
- ◆ Scan the QR code to "Go Green"\*

\*Make sure to tell us your mailing address so we can take you off the snail mail list.



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