



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

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2903 Gary Drive, Ste 1, Plymouth, IN 46563
Website: stjosephswcd.org

Telephone (574) 936-2024
e-mail: info@stjosephswcd.org

Staying Connected with USDA Wherever You Are



This year has taught us that staying connected and being able to easily access our day to day business remotely is very important. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has an online tool that can help you stay connected from the comfort of your own home.

USDA NRCS Conservation Client Gateway Provides On-Line Access for Customers Conservation Client Gateway (CCG) is a secure web portal that lets customers work with NRCS online. Customers can interact with NRCS staff without having to come to the NRCS field office for face-to-face meetings. Through CCG, Landowners and land managers, whether operating as individuals or authorized members of business entities, can 1) electronically sign and submit documents, 2) track their NRCS payments, 3) report completed practices, 4) request conservation assistance, and 5) view and interact with conservation plans and contracts.

Accessing Conservation Client Gateway

Customers access Conservation Client Gateway through the login button on the National Conservation Client Gateway home page at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/>

To access CCG, customers need a USDA eAuthentication Account linked with their active USDA Customer Business Partner record that contains a valid email address. Customers with active NRCS and FSA files almost always have the needed Business Partner record. If you

have questions about your Business Partner record or need one created, please contact your local USDA FSA office.

Creating your USDA eAuthentication Account Create your USDA eAuthentication login at:

<https://www.eauth.usda.gov/home/>

and select the "Create Account" option.

The process will ask you identity proofing security questions, create your account, and link your new eAuthentication account with your Business Partner record.

Business Entities CCG can also support most business entities. NRCS employees can link a customers who have a secure USDA login for CCG to their associated business entity data.

Customer Support If customer support is needed during account creation, login, or in the use of CCG please contact the Client Gateway NRCS Service Desk at:

<https://usdafpacbc.service-now.com/ServiceDesk/> or at (970) 372-4200.

There is also link to the Service Desk in the footer of the CCG web pages.

Other helpful links:

Several videos are available on YouTube, simply search **NRCS client gateway**.

- <https://bit.ly/CCGsetup> This tutorial will help you get started and setup through CCG.
- <https://bit.ly/CCGgetstarted> This is the link to get started to create your account.

What's Going On...

Events hosted by the St. Joseph County SWCD
& Our Partners in Conservation

May

19 - **Monthly Board Meeting** - Open to the Public 7:00 PM LOCATION: Alligator Room, Centre Township Library at Kern and Miami Roads in South Bend - 1150 Kern Road South Bend.
25 - **Memorial Day** - Office Closed

June

2 - **Primary Election Day** - County Holiday
16 - **Monthly Board Meeting** - Open to the Public 7:00 PM LOCATION: Alligator Room, Centre Township Library at Kern and Miami Roads in South Bend - 1150 Kern Road South Bend.

St Joseph County SWCD Welcomes a New Environmental Education Coordinator

Hi there! My name is Sam Buchanan and I am the new environmental education coordinator for the St. Joseph SWCD. I am a Southern Indiana transplant currently living in Mishawaka. In my free time I enjoy hiking, playing guitar, reading, and painting. I graduated from Saint Mary's College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2018. In college I became passionate about the environment, conservation, and climate change and wanted to share my passion with others, which led me to get my master's

degree in environmental education from Goshen College in 2019. I have experience in both formal and informal education, from elementary schools to zoos and nature centers, and I believe that my education and experience give me a good starting point to take on this position with the SWCD. I am so excited to continue learning while serving the county I have come to call home!

**Contact Sam for programs at
(574) 936-2024 Ext 4 or
info@stjosephswcd.org**



Purdue Women in Ag Offers Free Educational Webinars

Throughout the year, the Purdue Women in Agriculture Team offers free educational webinars as an extension of the Women in Agriculture Conference. These webinars can be found at:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/Extension/wia/Pages/webinars.aspx>

Some of the recorded webinars include:

- *Sweet on Bees* - a look at beekeeping for the Small Farm and the Bee-yond.
- *Weather the Storm in Agriculture* - this webinar will help understand the signs and symptoms of stress, build skills in recognizing and responding to mental health concerns and where to go for more help and resources.

- *How to Make an Under the Sink Compost Bin Using Red Worms*
- *Gardening for Royalty: Native Plants for the Monarchs and Queens*
- *Teaching the Women the Skills to Lead - Both On and Off the Farm*
- *Conservation Planning for Your Farm*
- *Grazing System Design*
- *Buy Sell Agreements*
- *Resistant Weed Management*



Conservation Stewardship Program

Have you ever looked across your farm or ranch and thought about elevating your land management goals? Maybe we can help.

Together we can develop a plan tailored to your operation and your goals to help you increase productivity and protect the value of your land.

How It Works

Our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop resiliency, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you identify natural resource problems in your operation and provide technical and financial assistance to solve those problems or attain higher stewardship levels in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. For example, we can look at ways to address the amount of soil lost; mitigate the impact of excess water; reduce the contribution of agricultural operations to airborne soil particles and

greenhouse gas emissions; improve the cover, food, and water available for domestic and wildlife species; or promote energy efficiencies for on-farm activities. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals.

Benefits

CSP is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the United States. Thousands of people voluntarily enroll in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve their business operation.

CSP participants are seeing real results. Some of these benefits include:

- ⇒ Enhanced resiliency to weather and market volatility
- ⇒ Decreased need for agricultural inputs
- ⇒ Improved wildlife habitat conditions

Contact Debbie Knepp, NRCS District Conservationist, today for more details and an application. **Application deadline for fiscal year 2020 is June 1, 2020.**

Staying Connected to Conservation

In recent weeks, many of us have suddenly become confined to our homes as social distancing practices have been put into place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Instead of getting cabin fever, use this time to connect with your environment and learn more about conservation!

Visit a walking trail, park or other natural area.

- **St. Joseph County Parks** are still open at this time. All park restrooms, playgrounds, drinking fountains and park offices are currently closed.
- **All Indiana DNR properties** (including parks and wildlife conservation areas) are still open at this time, but some site services are limited.
- **Mishawaka Riverwalk Trail**
- **South Bend Walking, running and biking trails**

If you can't get outside, there are still plenty of options! Some indoor and outdoor activities for families and individuals.

- **Take a virtual tour through a national park.** Tours are guided by park rangers. You can also research how rangers are working to conserve their parks' resources.
- **Calculate your household water footprint** and see how much water you're using and where you use it most. Then use the tools to create a family action plan to conserve water in your home.

- **Start Planning a garden.** Planting season is starting soon. Take some time to prep and plan for what, when and where you'll be planting.
- **Play some online agriculture games** to learn what farmers are doing to be good stewards of the environment and conserve our natural resources.

Scan the QR code for more information and resources to help you and your loved ones stay connected and conserve the natural resources around you.



Integrated Pest Management

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a site specific combination of pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression strategies.

Practice Information

IPM is used to prevent or mitigate pest management risks for identified natural resource concerns. Strategies that keep pest populations below economically damaging levels and minimize pest resistance should be utilized because they also help prevent unnecessary pest management risks to natural resources and humans.

Common Associated Practices

Integrated Pest Management is commonly associated with conservation practices such as Conservation Crop Rotation, Nutrient Management, Conservation Cover, and Cover Crop.

For further information, contact your NRCS District Conservationist, Deborah Knepp at 574-936-2024 Ext. 4.



St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership



**Due to the
COVID-19
pandemic, keep
up to date on
workshops,**

**board meetings and other district
information through our online sources:**

- Website www.stjosephswcd.org
- Facebook @StJosephSWCD
- Twitter @StJosephSWCD

**Soil & Water Conservation
District (SWCD) Supervisors:**

John Dooms, Chair
Jeremy Cooper, Vice Chair
Mike Burkholder
Dave Vandewalle
Dave Craft

**St. Joseph County
Soil & Water Conservation
Partnership Staff:**

Sarah Longenecker, SWCD
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD
Sam Buchanan, SWCD
Debbie Knepp, NRCS

SWCD Associate Supervisors:

Jim LaFree
Chuck Lehman
Randy Matthys
Richard Schmidt
Dave Straughn
Dru Wrasse

Farm Service Agency Staff:

Gideon Nobbe, CED
Aldona Martin
Tara Wolfe
Devan Herrell
Katie Leitch

SWCD Honorary Members:

Jerry Knepp
Keith Lineback
William Millar



**Are you ready to “GO GREEN” and help us save money and natural resources?
We can deliver your “Conservation Kaleidoscope” newsletter by email ... Give us
a call or send us an email and tell us you’d like to “GO GREEN” THANK YOU!!!!**

Scan me to go
Green!