



St. Joseph  
County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



## Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

November/December 2022  
Volume 24, Issue 6

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### What's Going On...

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

#### November

8th - Election Day  
County Holiday

11th - Veterans Day  
Office Closed

15th - November Board  
Meeting - TBA

24th - Thanksgiving Day  
Office Closed

25th - County Holiday

#### December

20th - December Board  
Meeting - TBA

26th - Christmas Day  
(Observed) - Office Closed

#### January

2nd - New Year's Day  
(Observed)

### Positive Impacts of NRCS & SWCD Programs

The office staff is proud to see the positive impacts local landowners are having across the county through practices implemented with the help of our Programs and Technical Assistance.

Every year we are seeing more and more farmers moving towards increasingly sustainable systems by incorporating no-till, cover crops, filter strips, irrigation/nutrient management plans, and more.

These practices have helped producers increase their yields, profits, soil health, livestock and crop health.



We've also helped landowners preserve and restore Indiana's natural ecosystems which are now acting as hubs for our wildlife by means of wetland restoration, wildlife habitat plantings, and pollinator prairies.

The restoration of local habitats has allowed landowners to benefit through the beautification of their properties, increasing wildlife populations for hunting, and enhancing recreational opportunities for their families.

If you would like to find out more about how you could enroll into our programs or receive technical assistance please feel free to call in to our office at 574-936-2024 ext. 4 or by emailing us at [info@stjosephswcd.org](mailto:info@stjosephswcd.org).

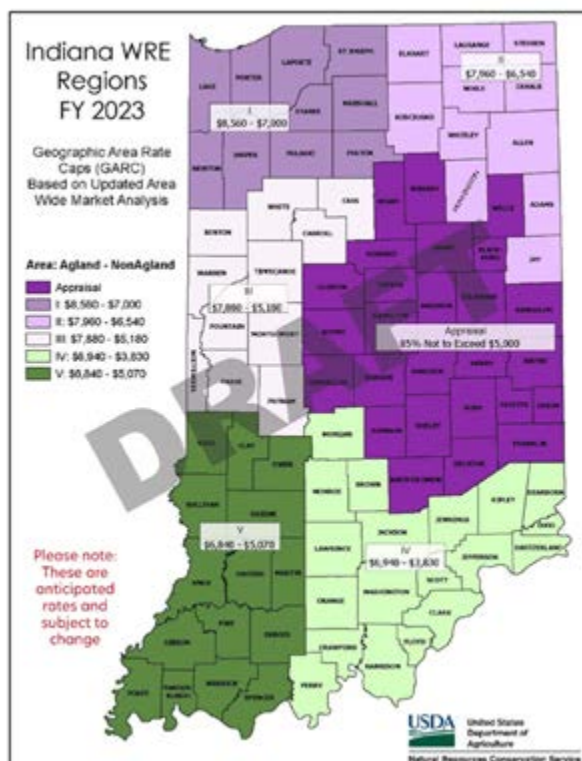
## Wetland Easement Compensation Rates Anticipated to Increase

The anticipated 2023 Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC) rates for Indiana have been released and it's good news for Indiana residents considering enrolling eligible land into the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program's Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). GARC rates are the per acre compensation ranges a landowner will receive in return for enrolling his or her land into ACEP-WRE.

The GARC rates from Indiana NRCS are anticipated to raise significantly for this year to match the rising cost of the fair market value of land. The values are based on various factors including soil types, types of crops capable of being grown, production history, location, real estate market values, tax rates, and county assessments.

Indiana NRCS expects the next ACEP-WRE sign-up cutoff to be **Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**. While applications are accepted continuously throughout the year, eligible landowners must work with their local District Conservationists to have their applications in by **Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>** to be eligible for this round of funding.

For more information about ACEP-WRE please contact your District Conservationist, Deb Knepp, or visit the [Indiana ACEP website](#).



## USDA Opens People's Garden Initiative to Gardens Nationwide

USDA is expanding its People's Garden Initiative to include eligible gardens nationwide. School gardens, community gardens, urban farms, and small-scale agriculture projects in rural, suburban and urban areas can be recognized as a "People's Garden" if they register on the USDA website and meet criteria including benefitting the community, working collaboratively, incorporating conservation practices and educating the public. Affiliate People's Garden locations will be indicated on a map on the USDA website, featured in USDA communications, and provided with a [People's Garden sign](#).

## USDA Agency-Wide Focus on Nutrient Management and Climate-Smart Agriculture

NRCS plays a major role in the department's work by helping farmers optimize fertilizer use to save money, maximize yields, and protect the environment. The Inflation Reduction Act will deliver \$19.5 billion in new conservation funding to support climate-smart agriculture, including for NRCS to improve opportunities for nutrient management. NRCS will target funding, increase program flexibilities, expand partnerships to develop nutrient management plans, and launch a new outreach campaign to promote nutrient management's economic benefits.

USDA has set up websites at [farmers.gov/global-food-insecurity](https://farmers.gov/global-food-insecurity) and [farmers.gov/conservation/nutrient-management](https://farmers.gov/conservation/nutrient-management) for farmers to learn more about SMART Nutrient Management Planning and access further resources.

**St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**2023 Membership Form**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City/State/Zip**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Website:**

**Please Confirm Your Giving Level**

\_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate Membership: \$25-\$99

\_\_\_\_\_ Silver Membership: \$250-\$499 \*

\_\_\_\_\_ Bronze Membership: \$100-\$249 \*

\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Membership: \$500 & above

**THANK YOU** for your support! The many outreach and education projects we provide would not be possible without the help of community members like YOU!

All donors will receive a tax-deductible donation receipt, subscription to the SWCD newsletter, and recognition in our 2020 Annual Report & website.

\*Bronze & Silver & Gold Memberships will include everything above PLUS a certificate of recognition, and recognition on the SWCD website will include address, phone number & website.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would prefer to make my donation anonymous.**

**If you would like to donate to a specific outreach or project/event, please indicate below:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **General Education and Outreach**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Youth Environmental Education Supporter**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Annual Meeting Banquet** (Donation must be submitted by 1-15-2021)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Conservation Cost Share** (Help install conservation practices such as cover crops, no-till, pollinator habitat, raingardens, filter strips, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Other** (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "**St Joseph County SWCD**" and mail along with this form to:

St. Joseph County SWCD  
2903 Gary Drive  
Plymouth, IN 46563

**Want to donate with your Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal account?**  
**Visit our website at [www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org) and click on the "Donate" button.**

**Save the date!**

Mark your calendars to join us as we celebrate 63 years of serving St. Joseph County!

**What:** The St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District's 63rd Annual Meeting

**When:** February 10, 2023 - Doors open at 5:45 pm and meeting starts at 6:30 pm

**Where:** St. Hedwig Memorial Center, 331 S. Scott St., South Bend, IN 46601

**Cost:** \$15 per person - includes dinner





## St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

The St. Joseph SWCD & NRCS Staff & Board  
Wish you a very happy holiday season.



**SWCD Supervisors:**

John Dooms, Chairman  
Dave Vandewalle, Vice Chairman  
Marty Lappin  
Sam James  
Chris Matthys

**SWCD Associate Supervisors:**

Dave Craft  
Chuck Lehman  
Randy Matthys  
Richard Schmidt  
Dave Straughn  
Dru Wrasse  
Mike Burkholder

**SWCD Honorary Members:**

Jerry Knepp  
Keith Lineback  
William Millar

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

Sarah Longenecker, SWCD  
Ally Pudlo, SWCD  
Rylee Stout, SWCD  
Debbie Knepp, NRCS  
Jorge Lozoya, NRCS

**Farm Service Agency Staff:**

Gideon Nobbe, CED  
Devan Harrell  
Aldona Martin  
Diane Stichter



Scan me to go Green!

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!!!!