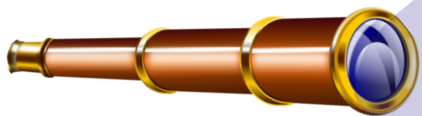


Conservation



Kaleidoscope



Weathering the Changes

Adjustments in farm management are normal. Farmers have always had seasons where they have to adapt to new pests, or weather events, or market conditions. While weather is a common variable, the changes we have seen in the past few years have been more significant.

- **Temperature Increases:** average temperatures have increased over 1.5 degrees since 1900, with the greatest acceleration in the past couple of decades. While this may not seem like a huge change, it has lengthened our growing season, and temperatures are still increasing.
- **Precipitation Changes:** we are seeing heavier, more intense rainfall events, which have a great impact on runoff, erosion and infrastructure. The expectations are that we will have an increase in winter and spring precipitation by about 10 to 20%.
- **Soil Moisture and Drought Stress:** we are facing warmer conditions, longer growing seasons, and longer stretches between rainfalls. Plus the intense rainfalls just mentioned may mean more runoff, decreasing soil moisture and increasing drought stress.



This year we have seen significant, intense rainfall events in some areas, while others had nothing, and that was followed by drought conditions. Unfortunately it looks like these changes are here to stay.

Conservation Plans

Fortunately our cropland has the ability to adapt to these changes with the right planning. Increasing diversity through natural ecosystems and agricultural management practices, utilizing practices that reduce the impact of extreme rainfall, and focusing on building soil health all contribute to the resiliency of a farm.



What issues are you seeing this harvest? Has the weather impacted your yield? If you are concerned about what's happening on your farm, give us a call to set up a site visit. We can do a one-on-one assessment to see how your cropland is weathering the changes. We will make a plan to improve its resiliency and see if our programs can help.

2903 Gary Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

www.stjosephswcd.org

info@stjosephswcd.org

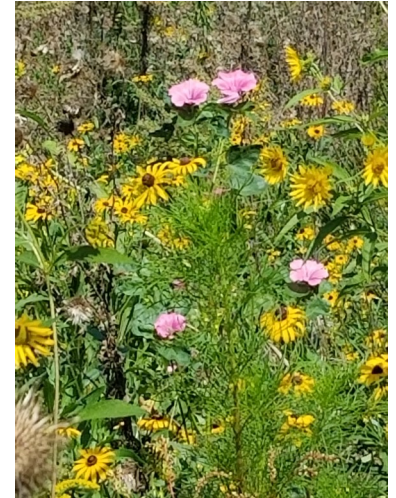
(574)936-2024 ext. 4

Check the List Before You Grow!

Our clients are often excited to get their habitat growing, but before purchasing and planting seed, double check that mix! Like a carefully crafted recipe, each component of the mix is included for a specific purpose. The seed mix developed for you is based on your target habitat, your location, and your site conditions, as well as any program requirements.

Some things to note about the seed mixes:

- Do you have a list of approved species and quantities?
- A big list doesn't necessarily mean a big price tag.
- All mixes developed by USDA are listed in Pure Live Seed.
- Substitutions happen since availability varies.
- If you have a prepared mix you'd rather use, be sure to check that it will meet requirements!



Before you put the seed in the ground, make sure it matches your original list, or double check any changes with NRCS. Remember: unapproved mixes can prevent or delay payment.

With the proper mix, your results will bloom!

Meet the Newest Members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership!



Riley Porter - Indiana Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever

Hi, I'm Riley Porter. I'm originally from Athens, GA, but moved to Indiana to start my career with Pheasants Forever. I moved to the Plymouth area from Starkville, MS where I finished my master's degree at Mississippi State University studying nest box selection by Common Goldeneye in Interior Alaska. I have worked several internships in various wildlife concentrations including small mammals, reptiles, and birds. In my spare time, I enjoy waterfowl hunting, collecting watches, and being with my one year old German Shorthair Pointer, Eider.

Andrea Baker - Soil Conservationist, NRCS

Hello, my name is Andrea Baker. I am a native Hoosier, growing up in Kosciusko County. Right out of high school I owned and operated a small produce market and greenhouse. As an adult I went back to school, earning my associate's degree from Ancilla College in 2007 and my Bachelor of Science degree from Manchester University in 2012. In the summer of 2012, I started as the Conservation Program Technician with Kosciusko County SWCD. I started my career with NRCS in the spring of 2021.

In my spare time I enjoy almost anything outdoors: hiking, kayaking, exploring new places and gardening. I have completed many road races, some trail races (including a 50K in 2023), and a triathlon. A few years ago, I picked up beekeeping as a hobby, and now have 7 hives. I also volunteer with many not-for-profit organizations. In my down time, you can find me spending time with my two sons: Chris (and his family) and Brighton.



2024 Membership Form

Your donation will help us to expand our conservation programs and begin new initiatives. Thank you for your support!

Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone:
Email:
Website:
<input type="checkbox"/> Please keep my donation anonymous.

Giving Levels

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Member (\$25.00 to \$99.00)
Recognition on our website and Annual Report. | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Member (\$100.00 to \$249.00)
Member certificate, contact information on our website and Annual Report. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Member (\$250.00 to \$499.00)
Member certificate, contact information on our website, Annual Report, and other locations when available. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Member (\$500.00 and above)
Member certificate, contact information with logo on our website, Annual Report, and other locations as available, and announcement at our Annual Meeting. |

All donations are tax-deductible.

Please let us know if you would like to donate to a specific project.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Outreach and Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Cost Share Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Payment Options

Make checks out to "St. Joseph County SWCD" and mail to:
2903 Gary Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

Visit our website to make a payment through PayPal.
www.StJosephSWCD.org/donations



Save the Date!

Join us as we celebrate 65 years of conservation in St. Joseph County!



St. Joseph County SWCD
65th Annual Meeting
February 7, 2025 ~ St. Hedwig
Memorial Center

Change Service Requested

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

**St. Joseph County SWCD
Partnership Staff**

Sarah Longenecker, SWCD
Misty Sorchevich, SWCD
Shelley Chaffee, SWCD
Debbie Knepp, NRCS
Andrea Baker NRCS

SWCD Supervisors:

Chris Matthys, Chairman
Marty Lappin, Vice Chairman
Dave Vandewalle
Joe Gregory
Ryan Lee

SWCD Associate Supervisors:

John Dooms
Chuck Lehman
Randy Matthys
Richard Schmidt
Dave Straughn
Dru Wrasse
Mike Burkholder
Scott Laidig

SWCD Honorary Members:

Keith Lineback

Farm Service Agency Staff

Gideon Nobbe, CED
Devan Harrell
Aldona Martin
Diane Stichter
Michael Cuff

Upcoming Events

November

5th - Election Day - No SWCD Employees
11th - Veteran's Day - Office Closed
19th - Board Meeting
22nd - 4th Friday Weed Warriors at Rum
28th - Thanksgiving - Office Closed
29th - County Holiday - No SWCD Employees

December

10th - SCRAP Quarterly Meeting
17th - Board Meeting
24th - Christmas Eve -
No SWCD Employees
25th - Christmas Day -
Office Closed
27th - 4th Friday Weed
Warriors at Rum

Happy Holidays!



Visit our website & watch Facebook for info on events and more!



Contact us to choose to get your
newsletter by email!

Use the QR code to email us at
info@stjosephswcd.org.

