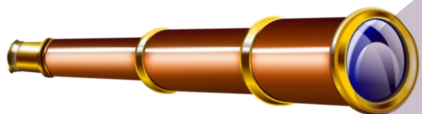


Conservation



Kaleidoscope



Fix that Seeder?

The old adage, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" has been used forever. But what if you need to modify a piece of equipment so that it is easier to install beneficial conservation practices, such as cover crops, reduced and no-till, and better nutrient management? Some examples of equipment modifications are Variable Rate Technology, Auto Steer/Auto Trac, GPS Systems and displays, seeder boxes, air seeder boxes, no-till drill modifications, highboy modifications for planting cover crops, no-till coulters, roller-crimpers, row cleaners, and wheel closing upgrades.

The 319 implementation grant for the Headwater Yellow River Watershed that the District received last year can help with as much as \$15,000 of these costs. Even if the modification that you need is not listed, it is possible that you could still receive funds to help with changes. Not sure if you're in the watershed? Give us a call here at the office and we can help you find out. Incorporating important conservation practices on your acreage is crucial to keeping the soil healthy and the water clean, because nothing is more important!



Equipment modified to plant cover crops in standing corn.

Farm Visits



Is your farm living up to your dreams? Do you have a different vision for your farm? Do you have any natural resource concerns?

We can help! We offer free technical assistance. We can come out and discuss your concerns, assess the health of the soil, and help get your farm on the path you're looking for! Give us a call!

2903 Gary Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

www.stjosephswcd.org

info@stjosephswcd.org

(574)936-2024 ext. 4

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Allison.pudlo@in.nacdn.net
574-936-2024 ext 4

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Indiana NRCS Accepting Applications for Third Round of CSP-IRA Funding

INDIANAPOLIS, June 12, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced a third round of Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which was passed by Congress in August 2022.

The CSP-IRA funding is now available from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Indiana to help farmers and private forestland owners implement conservation practices on their ground.

Applications for the current funding cycles for CSP-IRA are being accepted through **July 21**. Interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by July 21 to be considered for the current funding period.

The Inflation Reduction Act provided an additional \$19.5 billion nationwide over five years for climate smart agriculture through several of the conservation programs that NRCS implements. NRCS is making \$850 million available nationwide in fiscal year 2023 for customers who have not been able receive funding in the past due to volume of applications in other programs. The additional funding provided through IRA available for farmers and private forestland owners to implement a suite of core practices that NRCS has identified as playing the biggest role in mitigating the harmful effects of climate change. These practices include nutrient management improvements, cover crops, reduced tillage, forest stand improvements, prescribed grazing improvements and more. A full list of eligible practices is available at your local USDA service center.

CSP is a financial assistance program for producers who want to add more conservation benefits on their land, such as improved water and soil quality, climate-smart agricultural practices and enhanced wildlife habitat.

"This new round of funding will enable even more farmers and private forestland owners to make a lasting impact on the landscapes throughout Indiana while also mitigating impacts of extreme weather events," said David Doctorian, acting state conservationist for Indiana NRCS. "NRCS is committed to leading the way in assisting producers implementing conservation practices that have positive impacts on production, profitability and persistence of Indiana's farms while at the same time providing positive environmental impact. The Conservation Stewardship Program enables you to take your existing conservation to the next level and have a generational impact on the land for current and future generations."

To apply for CSP funding through IRA, contact your local district conservationist, Deb Knepp, deb.knepp@usda.gov, 574-936-2024 ext. 4.

Friend of Forestry Award Recipient

In February, at our 63rd Annual Meeting, we presented the Friend of Forestry to Kim and Andrew Bonham for their outstanding forest management on Kim's family property. This is the letter Kim sent after the meeting:

We are very honored to receive this recognition!

Our land story began in 1875 when my great-great grandfather Albert Franklin Palmer Sr - born here in South Bend- bought a tract of land and began a life of farming. With his wife Emma, they raised a family of 12 children.

Beginning in the 1920's, 5 of his sons, including my great grandfather, Albert Franklin Palmer Jr., built the Reliable Dairy on this property, which supported many families in the area well into the 1970s.

In 1972, my great grandfather passed and left the portion of land we are on today to my grandmother, Georgia Louise Palmer Simmons Greenwood. As a young child I remember the occasional adult conversations about, "What do we do with this land?"

It was in this decade that our forest was born! Georgia and her husband John Simmons, my grandparents, decided to plant a Legacy Crop, and placed the property in the Classified Forest Program.

Wakeland Forestry helped plan and plant over 10,000 trees in a little over 50 acre space including Black Walnut, Poplar, Oak, Red Maple and many other species to support proper growth of the timber trees and promote wildlife. In 1982, Grandpa Simmons passed and again with the question, "What do we do with this land?"

As the years went by, GG and I had many conversations about the woods. She worried it wasn't taken care of properly, that she didn't know how or what to do. It was a burden to her. After her passing, the property went to my parents, Terry and Betsy Garner.

In 2016, it was time for the DNR to inspect the property for the Classified Program. Pop called me and asked if Andy and I would like to meet the DNR for the walk through. "What are we going to do with this land?" The forest needed so much work. I felt an overwhelming sense of obligation. It seemed I had an answer to the question asked over and over again. It was my turn to pick up the ball and do the best that I can with this land, in this moment and in this time.

On behalf of our family, I would like to thank Jennifer Sobeski from the DNR. Jennifer was my first contact and inspiration. She offered so much knowledge, and encouraged us to get in contact with the NRCS. It never occurred to me that at 50 plus, I would take on another career direction and become the forest manager of what we now call The Old Reliable Tree Farm. Thank you, Jennifer, for my new part time job!

Deb Knepp, thank you so much for your guidance and helping us navigate the resource overload. To Sarah Longenecker and the rest of the team for your support in helping Deb keep us compliant.

Thanks to our Forester, Jeff Steinkraus. He does all the hard work. And Ben Wilson from DNR for his guidance. Finally, I would like to say the successes with our forest has been shaped by the strength of the foundation you have set.

A foundation of excellence is built on the quality of YOUR actions and the integrity of YOUR intent!

Thank you for your commitment and for doing your part to provide such an excellent resource for landowners.





St. Joseph County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

2903 Gary Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563

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ORGANIZATION
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Upcoming Events!

July

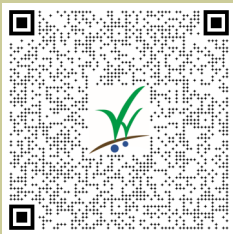
3rd—County Holiday
4th—Independence Day—Office Closed
18th—Monthly Board Meeting—Centre Township Library—7PM
23rd—Unity Gardens Westside BBQ—12-4PM
27th—Rain Barrel Workshop—Unity Garden

August

2nd-4th—Food, Farming, & Sustainability Conference—Good Shepherd Montessori School
12th—Elkhart EnviroFest—Island Park
15th—Monthly Board Meeting—Centre Township Library—7PM



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St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation Partnership

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