

"To provide leadership and administer programs to help conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment"

Covid-19 Update: Due to State regulations, our office is currently closed to the public. If you are in need of conservation technical assistance, please call our office at 309-937-3377 ext. 3, or email us at morgan.anderson@il.nacdnet.net to schedule an appointment.

Updates

Poster Contest Winners

We had a lot of great applicants this year for our annual Conservation Poster Contest. Last year, the theme was, "Where would we 'bee' pollinators?"

CONGRATULATIONS to Monica and Cambria Harreld from Cambridge Elementary; Ava Strom and Madison Palmer from Galva Middle and High School. Monica and Cambria received new bikes; Ava and Madison each received a \$50 visa gift card.

New Employee

Henry County SWCD would like to welcome our new Resource Conservationist: Morgan Anderson!

Morgan is a graduate of Augustana College with degrees in Geography and Environmental Studies. In addition to her studies, Morgan has sought out many experiences in Conservation work. One of these experiences includes a summer internship with Rock Island County SWCD, where she took a liking to conservation work in Ag related fields. Welcome to the team, Morgan!



Conservation Stories

Henry County Virtual Field Day

Farmer Brian Corkhill has put in a denitrifying woodchip bioreactor on his family's farm. Unfortunately, we cannot get together for an in-person field day. However, the Henry County Farm Bureau has put together a great virtual field day that you can watch here:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=3974977572518215&id=602382339777772

Fish and Tree Sales

Our fall fish and tree sales were a success for 2020 thanks to our great vendors, volunteers, and customers. We at Henry County SWCD appreciate your support! Be on the lookout for our next batch of sales in Spring 2021



Partnership News

IL Department of Ag

-The Illinois Department of Ag is looking for feedback from Farmers who have participated in the S.T.A.R. program. This program helps farmers assess their beneficial impact on future sustainability of agricultural resources. If you would like to give feedback, or would like to try out the program, contact the RC Morgan Anderson for more info at morgan.anderson@il.nacdnet.net.

- The IL Department of Ag is also offering a \$5.00/acre discount on crop insurance bills with the implementation of cover crops. See the attachment below for more information on how to apply.

PFC update

We are taking applications for the Partners for Conservation Sate Cost-share program for 2020, although funds are limited. Contact the RC Morgan Anderson at morgan.anderson@il.nacdnet.net for more information or to get on the waiting list for upcoming projects.



Conservation Sales

Guides- Our office has a variety of nature field guides for identifying local flora and fauna. Prices vary from \$7.50-\$16.00.

Rain Barrels- Rain barrels are \$70.00 and can hold up to 55 gallons. We have two colors available: 2 red and 4 black.

Drill Rental- Drill is available for rental on a first come, first served basis. Rates are a minimum of \$50.00 or \$15.00 per acre.

-Contact Sharon Matson for more information at sharon.matson@il.nacdnet.net or call the office.

2020 Henry County SWCD Financials

Operations Revenue:	\$113,892.00
Operations Expense:	\$177,884.00
Beginning Balance:	\$245,958.00
Ending Balance:	\$181,966.00

PFC Revenue:	\$15,294.00
PFC Expense:	\$44,040.00
Beginning Balance:	\$44,500.00
Ending Balance:	\$15,754.00



COVER CROP PREMIUM DISCOUNT PROGRAM

FALL COVERS FOR SPRING SAVINGS

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is offering farmers that plant cover crops a \$5/acre discount on their crop insurance bill. IDOA's Cover Crop Premium Discount Program is offered for acres of cover crops installed outside of state and federal program incentives (e.g., EQIP, CSP and state cost share), and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on 50,000 acres across Illinois. IDOA is supporting 50,000 acres of cover crops with this year's funding.

- 1. Interested participants may sign up acres planted to cover crops in the fall of 2020 that will be planted to an insurable crop the following spring.**
- 2. Eligible applicants will receive a \$5/acre insurance premium discount on 2021's crop insurance invoice for every acre of cover crop enrolled and accepted in the program.**

COVER CROPS: A FARMER'S SAFETY NET

Crop insurance is an integral part of the farm safety net, providing protection for farmers when adverse weather impacts crop yields. Cover crops can improve the resiliency of Illinois farm operations by preventing erosion and improving the soil's ability to absorb and hold water for crops. Because more resilient soil results in less yield variation from year to year, another benefit may be fewer insurance claims over time.

Introducing cover crops to your rotation takes purposeful management. Many producers interested in integrating with cover crops start with cereal rye after corn harvest, before soybean planting. The Midwest Cover Crop Council is a great resource on cover crop species selection, seeding rates, planting dates and termination methods, all vetted by experts. You can find more information on their website at: <http://mccc.msu.edu/covercroptool/covercroptool.php>

WHY ILLINOIS?

The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy recognizes cover crops as one of the most effective in-field management strategies to stem the loss of both nitrate-nitrogen and total phosphorus from corn-soybean fields, yet less than 4% of Illinois' cropland is planted to cover crops annually.

"I first got started with cereal rye cover crops through an EQIP program through the NRCS—and it's been very successful alongside my bean crops. I was influenced by this program's incentives to plant more covers than what I was originally going to this year."

*- Montgomery and
Bond County Illinois Farmer*

Messages from AISWCD



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**WE'RE WISHING OUR LOCAL
SWCD COOPERATORS A SAFE
AND BOUNTIFUL HARVEST!**

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL
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