

"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. Visitors are welcome by appointment only. 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.



PFC Projects

Our new RC was able to complete her first

PFC cost share project! With financial assistance

from HCSWCD, landowner Jay Wilson installed

a new Grassed Waterway to help with erosion!



Envirothon

Unfortunately, Envirothon 2021 was cancelled due to hurdles with the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to coming back bigger and better next year.

Poster Contest

We had two winners this year: Ava Gunn from Galva HS and Ailynn Duarte from Kewanee HS. Congratulations! Thank you to all who participated in this year's poster contest themed, "Healthy Forests= Health Communities".



PFC update

We are taking applications for the Partners for Conservation State Cost-share program for 2021 until August 1st, 2021. Although funds are limited, we have updated our ranking system to select applicants more fairly. Contact the RC Morgan Anderson at morgan.anderson@il.nacdnet.net for more information or to get on the waiting list for upcoming projects.

Vegetative Filter Strip Tax Break Incentive

Contact RC Morgan Anderson at morgan.anderson@il.nacdnet.net for more information on tax break information for filter strips.

Partnership News

IL Department of Ag

Fall Covers for Spring Savings- The IL Department of Ag offered a \$5.00/acre rebate on crop insurance to producers implementing cover crops. This is the second year that the program has been offered with over 133,000 acres available for a rebate. The program was so successful that all of the acreage was accounted for in the first 24 hours of the application period. For more information, check out the full story here: [2021 cover crop program applications](#) | [Morning Ag Clips](#)

NRCS/FSA

The USDA recently announced its goal to enroll up to 4 million new acres in CRP by raising rental payment rates and expanding the number of incentivized environmental practices allowed under the program. We know that there will be an increase in the soil rental rate for all lands that were offered and accepted in FY2021. Additionally, those practices that are environmentally sensitive (Continuous Sign Up) will see additional Practice Incentive Payments. It will take some time for the National Office to implement these changes in the software and the County Offices will have to re-run all offers currently in the system. Currently, the General and Continuous signups are still open for enrollment. See attached fact sheet for more information CRP Program changes.



STAR- Saving Tomorrow's Ag Resources

The STAR initiative is an innovative ranking tool to help farm operators evaluate conservation practices on specific fields. This tool helps recognize big strides in conservation and allows landowners to measure their progress toward more sustainable ag systems. STAR assigns point values to different farming activities with the highest point values being aligned with the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Each field gets a score between 1-5 stars. This year, the star program gave out incentive payments to applicants wanting to increase their STAR ranking from crop year 20-21. Out of the 30+ applicants in the state of Illinois, 5 were from Henry County! Out of those 5, 4 applicants were able to receive funding.



Special thanks go out to our partners at the Henry County Board for their yearly donation towards operations. Thank you for supporting the Henry County SWCD, clean water, and healthy soils!!

Conservation Sales

Fish and Tree Sales

Spring is in the air! Between spring fever, people itching to get outside, and general love for conservation, HCSWCD almost doubled conservation sales this spring. Thank you to all county residents and supporters who helped make this year's spring sale so successful. Keep an eye out for our next batch of conservation sales in September of 2021. Brochures and further information coming this fall!



Composter Special Orders- Contact the Office

If you are interested in purchasing a composter through us for \$150.00, we will be taking down names for a special order this fall. Please contact the office to reserve your composter.

Other 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.

Tree Planter Rental- The Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District offers for rent a Whitfield tree planter for use on conservation projects. Rental for the tree planter is \$50 for half a day and \$100 for a whole day.



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

Call for Public Participation

Pond Clinic

Mercer and Henry County SWCD's invite you to join us for an Electroshocking and Pond Management Workshop!

When: June 11th, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Where: Galva, IL- Address distributed after registration

We are excited to announce that Herman Brothers Lake and Land Management, based out of Canton, IL., will demonstrate a pond shocking and hold a pond management session. Topics of discussion will be fish population dynamics, stocking rates, species selection, fish health and growth, management/harvest, vegetation management.

Space is limited, so reservations are REQUIRED.



Contact Morgan Anderson at morgan.anderson@il.nacdnet.net
phone # 309-937-3377 ext. 3 to reserve your spot at the event.

Call for Public Participation

Lady Landowners Meeting- Save The Date!

When: July 9th

Where: Johnson Sauk Trail State Recreation Area

28616 Sauk Trail Rd.

Kewanee, Illinois 61443

Space is limited, so reservations are **REQUIRED.**

Henry and Stark Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be hosting a Lady Landowners meeting geared toward women in conservation. The event will include educational speakers on conservation, a workshop activity you can take home, and, most importantly, a space for networking and sharing ideas.

Contact Morgan Anderson or Sharon Matson at morgan.anderson@il.nacdnet.net, sharon.matson@il.nacdnet.net, or by phone # 309-937-3377 ext. 3 for more information and to reserve your spot at the event.



Call for Public Participation

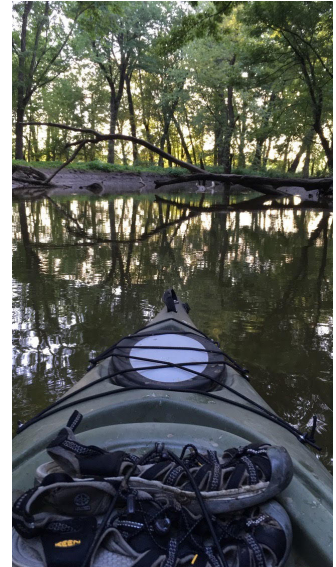
Clean Water Education Event

"Actions farmers take to protect and improve water quality"

When: Sat, July 31; 10am-1pm

Where: Loud Thunder Forest Preserve/ Lake George
Illinois City, IL

Henry County SWCD is partnering with the Henry County, IL Farm Bureau to put on an education outreach event geared toward water quality conservation and the IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. This event includes expert talks on water quality issues, raffles, informational tables, and a **kayak float**! For more information please contact: manager@henrycofarmbureau.org



Local Work Group Round Table

When: Winter 2021-2022

HCSWCD is seeking local businesses to sponsor this event

Please email morgan.anderson@il.nacd.net if you are willing to contribute to this event in anyway. Sponsorships are tax-deductible and will receive proper recognition at the event.

Henry County Soil and Water Conservation will be holding a Local Working Group event to get stakeholders, local producers, contractors, and program specialists talking about conservation project ideas in Henry County. The purpose of this event is to determine what conservation priorities are in the county and to answer any questions residents may have about assistance programs. More information coming soon. To stay up to date on the progress of this event, make sure to follow our Facebook page and get on our email list. Interested parties should contact the office at phone # 309-937-3377, ext. 113



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

43M
TONS OF GREEN HOUSE GASES



9M
VEHICLES OFF THE ROAD

THE CRP PROGRAM SEQUESTERS AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 49M TONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES, EQUAL TO TAKING 9M CARS OFF THE ROAD.

SOURCE: USDA PRESS RELEASE "CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM GENERAL SIGNUP BEGINS TODAY AND ENDS FEBRUARY 12" ON 1/4/21

AISWCD.ORG



NACD ANNOUNCES 2022 STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION THEME

The NACD Stewardship and Education Committee is excited to announce the 2022 Poster Contest and Stewardship Week theme: "Healthy Soils: Healthy Life."

Healthy soils are the foundation for all life on Earth. Soil is an important resource for everything from human health to agriculture to water filtration. The imperative benefit of healthy soil is food production. Healthy soils also give us clean air and water, plentiful crops and forests, diverse wildlife and beautiful landscapes. It is important that each of us recognize where our food comes and the farmers and ranchers who are dedicated to using responsible land-management practices to ensure a sustainable food supply and healthy land and soil for future generations.



Rules, entry forms and other resources for the 2022 NACD Poster Contest will be available for download later this summer.

The 67th Annual Stewardship Week will take place from **April 22-May 1, 2022**. For more information, visit our [Stewardship Program webpage](#).

SPRING IS COMING!

RAIN BARRELS FOR SALE!

AVAILABLE: 4 BLACK, 2 TERRA
COTTA, 4 GREY (ALL ARE \$70 EACH)
AND 1 COMPOSTER (BLACK) FOR
\$150.

309-937-3377

HENRY COUNTY SWCD



CLEAN WATER, HEALTHY SOILS.

FIND YOUR LOCAL SWCD AT AISWCD.ORG



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

What's New?

UPDATE		BENEFIT
OVERALL	Increase collaboration with partners and other USDA agencies on projects to monitor, measure, and verify the climate benefits, and environmental performance of CRP.	Improves environmental benefit estimates of CRP Increases program effectiveness by informing science-based program policy changes.
	Increase technical assistance capacity through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).	Enables producers to plan and implement conservation practices that are appropriate for their needs.
CRP GENERAL	New Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to incentivize practices that sequester carbon, reduce emissions.	More land enrolled, using practices that maximize benefits for climate mitigation.
	Additional one-time, 10 percent "inflationary" adjustment for the life of the contract.	Increases program payments to encourage more land enrollment.
	Adjustment of county rental rates, upward or downward, using a soil productivity index range of 50-150 percent of the county rental rate.	Increases program payments to encourage more land enrollment
CRP CONTINUOUS	New Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to incentivize practices that sequester carbon, reduce emissions.	More land enrolled, using practices that maximize benefits for climate mitigation.
	Add a one-time, 10 percent "inflationary" adjustment for the life of the contract.	Increases program payments to encourage more land enrollment.
	Allow for the adjustment of county rental rates, upward or downward, using a soil productivity index range of 50-150 percent of the county rental rate.	Increases program payments to encourage more land enrollment
	Increase Water Quality Incentive from 10 to 20 percent for water quality benefiting practices	More land enrolled, using practices that maximize benefits for water quality.
	Move State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Practices from the CRP general signup to the CRP continuous signup.	Improves attractiveness of wildlife practices, including extending the signup to year-round, thus more habitat.
	Make Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI) Practices available in both the CRP continuous and general signups.	Improves attractiveness of program by extending the signup to year-round, thus more land enrolled for natural resource benefits.
CRP GRASSLANDS	Establish a CRP Grassland minimum rental rate of \$15.	Returning to this minimum rate would benefit 1,347 counties that are currently under the \$15 minimum.
	Establish National Grassland Priority Zones.	Increase enrollment of grasslands in migratory corridors and environmentally sensitive areas.
PILOTS	Hold a second signup for the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP), incentivizing producers to plant vegetative cover on less productive croplands for 3 to 5 years.	More land with short-term cover leads to healthier soil and better carbon sequestration.
	Expand the Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers 30-year contracts (CLEAR30) to be nationwide. Previous pilots were in the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes regions.	Pilot expansion enables producers across the nation to enter into these long-term contracts and implement practices important to water quality.