

# The Conservator

Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District

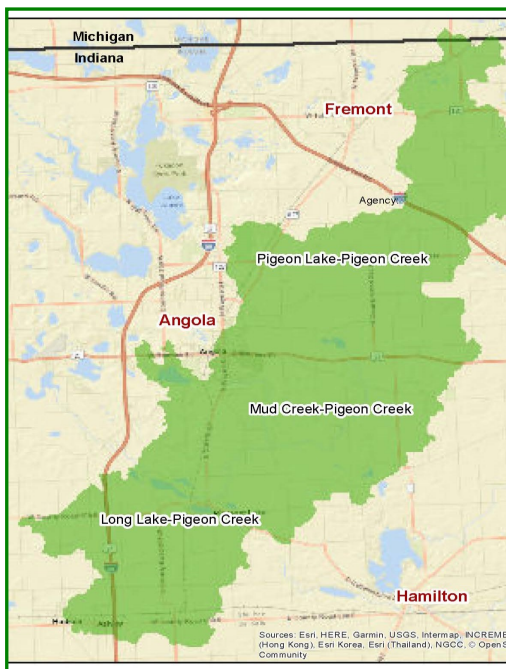
1220 N 200 W, Suite L ~ Angola, IN 46703 ~ Phone: (260) 665-3211, ext. 3

**Providing leadership and assistance in the proper use and management of soil, water, and related natural resources in Steuben County.**

SUMMER 2021  
VOLUME 44, ISSUE 3



## Pigeon Creek Grant Funding Available for Hay and Pasture Plantings



The Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has limited funding available through our Great Lakes Commission (GLC) Pigeon Creek Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant. The funding can be used in the upper stretches of Pigeon, including the sub-watersheds of Pigeon Lake, Mud Creek, and Long Lake for the implementation of conservation practices to reduce the amount of sediment & nutrients entering Pigeon Creek (*see area highlighted in green on map*).

The only practice eligible for cost-share assistance is **hay and pasture plantings**. Plantings will need to be completed between August 1 and September 15, 2021, per Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) seeding requirements.

If you have an interest in this program, please contact the Steuben SWCD as soon as possible. The expedited deadline is necessary as this grant ends September 30, 2021. Funding has become available due to a recent contract cancellation.

**GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR HAY AND PASTURE PLANTINGS  
TO HELP PROTECT THE PIGEON CREEK WATERSHED**

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## Farm Service Agency Updates

Please call the office, (260-665-3211, ext. 2) for more details.

### 1. CRP Continuous Enrollment Deadline

Anyone interested in enrolling in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) needs to contact the FSA Office as soon as possible. **The signup deadline is August 6th!!** Practices such as filter strips, windbreaks, wetland restorations, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) trees and warm season grasses, and grassed waterways are eligible.

### 2. Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP)

The Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP) has opened. Producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP) may receive up to 50% of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$500. Please contact FSA for details.

### 3. FSA Now Accepting Nominations for County Committee Position

If you live in the Northern townships of Steuben County (Millgrove, Jamestown, Fremont, or Clear Lake), and have always wanted to know how FSA operates, think about running for a position on the County Committee.

County Committee members assist in making decisions on how federal farm programs are administered locally. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program, and reside in any of the listed townships, may be nominated for candidacy for the County Committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others.

FSA encourages participation from all producers, big or small, especially socially disadvantaged groups, such as female farm owners and beginning farmers. All nomination forms for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the USDA Angola Service Center by AUGUST 2, 2021. Contact FSA for additional details.



Check out the happy campers who participated in the SWCD Conservation Camp at Pokagon State Park on July 13<sup>th</sup>. They all did a great job building & painting bird houses to use in their yards.

*Photo courtesy of Steuben County SWCD*

## SWCD - NRCS - ISDA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

### Board of Supervisors:

Kayleen Hart, *Chair*

Chuck Howard, *Vice Chair*

Craig Holman

David Perkins

Beth Williams

### Associate Supervisors:

Timothy Groosbeck

Bridget Harrison

Daniel Oberst

### SWCD Staff:

Janel Meyer, *Administrative Coordinator*

Aimee Wentworth, *Resource Conservationist*

### NRCS Staff:

Arthur Franke, *District Conservationist*

### Indiana State Department of Agriculture Staff:

Kate Sanders, *Resource Specialist*

[steubenswcd@gmail.com](mailto:steubenswcd@gmail.com)

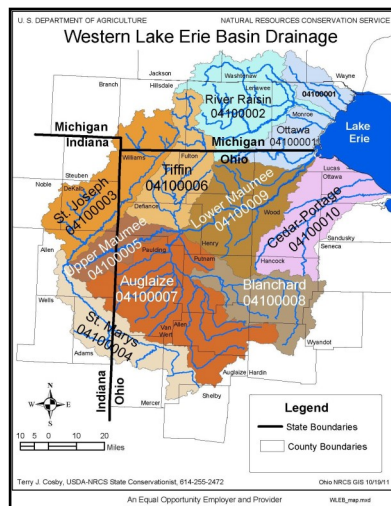
[www.steubenswcd.org](http://www.steubenswcd.org)

[www.facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD](https://www.facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD)

Scan this symbol with your smartphone  
to link to our website.



## Tri-State Partnership



Map courtesy of  
USDA-NRCS  
(Terry J. Crosby)

A partnership project between Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio was recently awarded \$7.7 million to protect and enhance soil health, improve water quality, protect natural resources, and support landowners in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) watershed. For the next 5 years, this exciting partnership, called the "Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Collaboration", will focus on the headwaters of the WLEB in each of the three states.

Over 30 different organizations will work together on a variety

of projects to continue to improve soil health and water quality across the almost 7 million acres of land in the WLEB, with the goal of decreasing the frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Lake Erie.

**"In Indiana, the Tri-State WLEB Collaboration is going to focus on the headwaters of the Maumee River. The Maumee is a crucial source for Lake Erie. By focusing on the smaller streams surrounding Lake Erie we are better able to increase the water quality of the lake as a whole."**

**- Bruce Kettler  
ISDA Director**

This is one of three Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPP) that the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA - NRCS) awarded in the WLEB watershed, totaling \$23.2 million. Stay tuned for more information on projects and programs related to this partnership.

## New State Record Set for Cover Crops



Photo courtesy of  
Steuben County SWCD

According to a recent conservation survey, Indiana farmers have set a conservation record this year by planting an estimated 1.5 million acres of overwinter living covers, the largest amount ever recorded by an Indiana Conservation Partnership survey.

Overwintering living covers (i.e. cover crops and small grains) are known for their environmental benefits. Cover crops and small grains help increase organic matter in the soil and improve overall soil health by adding living roots to the land more months of the year. Cover crops also improve water infiltration into the soil, while other covers, like legumes serve as natural fertilizers.

Although the conservation transect doesn't differentiate between cover crops & small grains (e.g., wheat), Indiana farmers typically plant fewer than 200,000 acres of small grains annually, so cover crops vastly dominate the 1.5 million estimated acres. With the exception of corn and soybeans, cover crops are planted on more acres than any other commodity crop in Indiana. Cover crops are typically planted in the fall after harvest; they protect the soil and keep roots in the ground through the winter, which improves soil health and helps filter water runoff.



## 2021 Affiliate Members

### Bronze Level

Carper Farm Supply  
Caruso's Restaurant  
Mike & Sue Claphan  
Bill & Diana Clingan  
Daft Erosion Control, LLC  
Hoham Feed and Seed  
Niann Lautzenhiser  
Peter Mountz  
Sue Myers  
Stroh Farm Supply

### Silver Level

Booth Farms—William Booth

City of Angola MS4  
Clear Lake Township Land  
Conservancy  
Edon Farmers Co-Op  
Franklin Paul Group, LLC  
Deloris Howarth  
Kevin Northup Excavating  
Sandhill Environmental  
Services, LLC  
John Williamson

### Gold Level

Aquatic Enhancement &  
Survey, Inc.  
S & P Earthwork

### Platinum Level

Angola American Legion  
Post #31  
Dailey Farms  
Tom Green Engineering  
Lake George Conservancy, Inc.  
Steuben County Lakes Council  
Pete Thompson  
The Wilson Farm in Memory of  
Loyal Wilson  
Travis Wilson  
Tom Wilson





## Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

Peachtree Plaza 200  
1220 N 200 W, STE L  
Angola, IN 46703  
260-665-3211, ext. 3  
[www.steubenswcd.org](http://www.steubenswcd.org)



[facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD](https://facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD)

Providing Leadership and Assistance in the Proper Use and Management  
of Soil, Water, and Related Natural Resources in Steuben County.

Please help us **go green** by subscribing to the newsletter via **e-mail**. Visit our website and click on the Newsletter tab, or call the office to change your subscription to *The Conservator* at any time.

*All programs and activities of the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and its Partnership Agencies are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.*

## Upcoming Events

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| August 11 <sup>th</sup>                    | Steuben SWCD Board Meeting<br>5:00 PM @ Community Center   |
| August 14 <sup>th</sup>                    | Steuben Lakes Council Annual Meeting<br>8:00 AM @ Lake James Retreat   |
| September 6 <sup>th</sup>                  | County Offices Closed<br>Labor Day Holiday   |
| September 8 <sup>th</sup>                  | Roemke Field Day<br>8:00 AM (Allen County)   |
| September 8 <sup>th</sup>                  | Steuben SWCD Board Meeting<br>5:00 PM (Location TBD)   |
| September 14<br>- October 19 <sup>th</sup> | Steuben County Life Program<br>Tuesdays 6 - 8:15 PM  |
| September 20<br>- 24 <sup>th</sup>         | EPA Septic Smart Week<br><a href="http://www.epa.gov/septic">www.epa.gov/septic</a>  |
| September 25 <sup>th</sup>                 | Free Fishing Day for Indiana Residents<br>Fishing license or trout/salmon<br>stamp not required to fish<br>Indiana's public waters |
| October 16 <sup>th</sup>                   | Steuben SWCD Forestry Field Day<br>9 AM - Noon (Rolling Acres Farm)  |

*\*\*For more events and updates please check our website\*\**

## Forestry Field Day

October 16, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Rolling Acres Farm

5768 W Lake Valley Road

Pleasant Lake, IN 46779

Join us for a discussion with  
Crowe Forest Management

about long-term forest  
management plans.

The event is free with a  
FREE lunch to follow.

Hosted by:  
Steuben County Soil & Water  
Conservation District

Please **RSVP** by  
**October 8, 2021**  
Steuben County SWCD  
(260) 665-3211 ext. 3