

The Conservator

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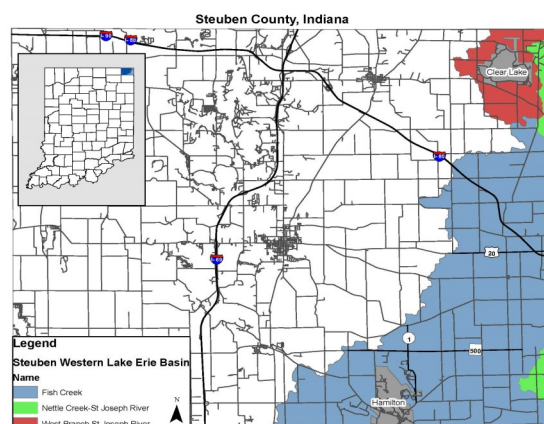
Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District
1220 N 200 W, Suite L ~ Angola, IN 46703 ~ Phone: (260) 665-3211, ext. 3

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



Upper St. Joseph River (Lake Erie) Cost Share Funding Available

Cost share funding is **still available** for local producers to implement agricultural conservation practices in Steuben County's Upper St. Joseph River Watershed (USJRW). This area includes the sub-watersheds of Fish Creek, Nettle Creek, and the West Branch of the St. Joseph River (see map). The project area is part of the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). The WLEB is one of our nation's most significant collections of inland rivers and streams, covering nearly 7 million acres. It encompasses most of northwest Ohio, as well as portions of northeast Indiana and southeast Michigan. Specific to our area, it covers about a third of Steuben County.



Upper St. Joseph River Watershed
Steuben County, Indiana

In 2021, the Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) received funding from the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program to promote and lend technical assistance to landowners desiring to implement conservation practices. Practices applied in this area will help reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment reaching Lake Erie. Eligible practices include Critical Area Plantings, Fencing (*to regulate livestock access to environmentally sensitive areas, convert cropland to pasture, or for proper grazing distribution*), Field Windbreaks, Filter Strips, Grassed Waterways, Heavy Use Area Protection, Pasture and Hay Plantings, Pollinator Plantings, and Water & Sediment Control Basins, among others. Contact the Steuben County SWCD at 260/665-3211, ext. 3 if you have an interest in this program. Practices will need to be implemented by December 31, 2023.

Examples of practices eligible for the Steuben County SWCD Upper St. Joseph River Watershed Grant
Photos courtesy of Steuben County SWCD



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2023 NE Indiana Conservation Camps



Conservation Day Camp

The Northeast Indiana Conservation Districts are offering three individual Conservation Day Camps this summer for your children to enjoy! Each camp costs \$10* per child from ages 9-13. The camp is from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. with lunch and supplies provided.

Tuesday June 20, 2023 - ParGil Learning Center
2335 N. State Rd. 9
LaGrange, Indiana

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 - Pokagon State Park
450 Ln 100 Lake James
Angola, Indiana

Tuesday, August 1, 2023 - Camp Whitley
4305 W. Camp Whitley Rd.
Columbia City, Indiana
*Cost = \$15.00/child

**Registration Form on back
or call your local SWCD to register**

DeKalb Co. SWCD	(260) 925-5620 x 3
LaGrange Co. SWCD	(260) 463-3166 x 3
Steuben Co. SWCD	(260) 665-3211 x 3
Whitley Co. SWCD	(260) 244-6266 x 3

2023 Conservation Camp

Steuben County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Our Wonderful Water



July 11, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Ages 8 -14
Cost: \$10*

Pokagon State Park
Upper CCC Shelter
450 Ln. 100 Lk. James
Angola, IN

Contact the Steuben County SWCD
office to register by July 3
(260) 665-3211 ext. 3

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Enviroscape
"The Incredible Journey"
Augmented Reality Sandbox (ARS Unit)
Outdoor Activities
Take-home Craft

***\$5 scholarship offered to
Steuben County youth -
Total cost of camp only \$5!**

The Steuben SWCD is offering a scholarship for Steuben County youth wanting to attend any of the NE Indiana Conservation Camps. Total cost for each Steuben County youth will only be \$5.00/camp!!

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
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

www.steubenswcd.org

www.facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD

*Steuben County
Soil and Water
Conservation District*

https://youtu.be/w8KU_ngslcY



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

Farm Service Agency Updates *Please call the office, (260-665-3211, ext. 2) for more details*

1. ERP Phase 2 and PARP

Recently, USDA/Farm Service Agency (FSA) opened two new programs which may be able to offer farmers financial assistance. The deadline for both programs is **June 2, 2023**.

Emergency Relief Program Phase Two (ERP 2) –

Farmers may have received an ERP Phase 1 payment last year. Phase two offers additional disaster funds. To be eligible for this payment, you must have shown a decrease in allowable gross revenue for 2020 and/or 2021, as compared to the benchmark years of 2018 or 2019 due to an eligible disaster. Qualifying disasters include drought, derecho, excessive heat or moisture, flooding, freeze, hurricane, smoke exposure, wildfire, or winter storm (Please note: Indiana was not on the drought list for these years, so this would not be a valid reason for any Indiana participants to apply). To receive this payment, you would need to agree to purchase crop insurance for the next two crop years. **Livestock is not eligible for this program.**

The Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP)

will be the last of the COVID-19 pandemic assistance programs. PARP will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities (including some livestock) who experienced at least a 15 percent revenue decrease in calendar year 2020 as compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Previous pandemic programs targeted price loss or lack of market access. This program targets overall revenue loss. Previous payments received from other pandemic assistance programs (for example, CFAP) will be subtracted from any earned payments.

Your Schedule F from your tax returns will be a helpful tool to assist in deciding if you would like to apply for these programs. There are also spreadsheet tools on the **Farmers.gov** website to plug your Schedule F numbers into, which are also beneficial. Your tax accountant is also

a good resource. You may apply for one or both programs. Payments from other disaster or pandemic programs will be subtracted from the calculated payments on these programs. Give our office a call for more information or assistance.

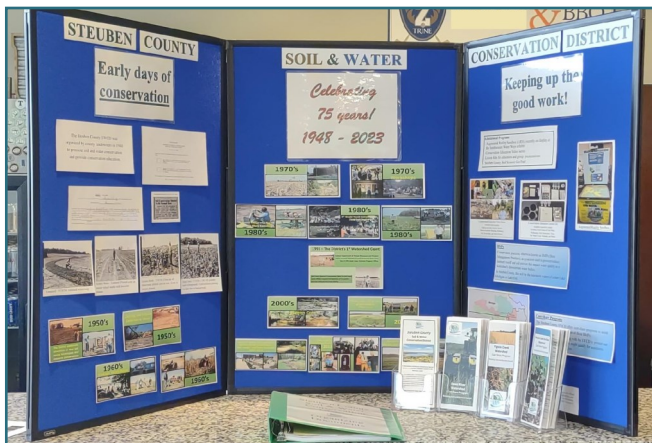
2. CRP Continuous Enrollment Period

FSA is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup. You can apply for this program until August 6, 2023. CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive Ag land is devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”), to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration. Unlike CRP enrollments under general CRP signups or CRP Grasslands, offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, visit fsa.usda.gov/crp.

3. Certification Deadlines

Certification for Corn, Soybeans, CRP, and perennial forage is **July 15th**. **Please try to make an appointment as soon as possible after you have planted your crops to get them certified.** We have many programs with deadlines around the same time, so the earlier you can do this, the better. If you would like maps, contact the office, and we will get these printed off, so you can fill them out at home with your crop and planting dates. Not procrastinating will also cut down on errors made, because it will give all parties a chance to review the information.

Steuben County SWCD 75th Anniversary Celebration



The Steuben County SWCD marked our 75th Anniversary this year at the 2023 SWCD Annual Meeting, held on March 8th at Club Z (Trine University). Highlights of the evening included the re-election of Charles “Chuck” W. Howard for an additional three-year Board Supervisor term and a presentation on managing Indiana rivers and streams in a changing climate by Bob Barr, Research Scientist at Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis.



Board Chair Kayleen Hart (center) and Steuben SWCD Board Supervisor Craig Holman (left) administer the oath of office to Chuck Howard (right).

Photo courtesy of Beth Williams



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



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

May 29 th	County Offices Closed Memorial Day Holiday
June 3 - 4 th	Free Fishing Days for Indiana Residents
June 14 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 5:00 PM (Angola USDA Service Center)
June 19 - 25 th	2023 National Pollinator Week http://www.pollinator.org
June 20 th	Conservation Camp—LaGrange County 9 - 2:30 PM (ParGil Center)
July 4 th	County Offices Closed Independence Day Holiday
July 11 th	Conservation Camp—Steuben County 9 - 2:30 PM (Pokagon State Park)
July 12 th	Steuben SWCD Board Meeting 5:00 PM (Angola USDA Service Center)
July 21 - 27 th	Steuben County 4-H Fair Crooked Lake, Angola, IN
August 2 nd	Agronomy Field Day The Andersons, Waterloo, IN

****For more events and updates please check our website****
Times and places of meetings subject to change

2023 Affiliate Members

Bronze Level

Carper Farm Supply
Bill & Diana Clingan (Hudson)
Hoham Feed & Seed
Niann Lautzenhiser (Hamilton)
Karen Spake (Angola)
Stroh Farm Supply

Silver Level

Aquatic Enhancement &
Survey, Inc.
Clear Lake Township Land
Conservancy
Crowe Forest Management, LLC
Tom & Alice Filbrun (Angola)
James Holse (Ashley)
Deloris Howarth (Fremont)
Peter Mountz (Garrett)
Kevin Northup Excavating
Robert L. Parker (Pleasant Lake)
Sandhill Environmental
Services, LLC
John Williamson, Jr. (Angola)

Gold Level

Booth Farms

Raymond Lauer (Fremont)
S & P Earthwork, INC
Stoy Farms

Platinum Level

101 Sheds
Dailey Farms
Edon Farmers Co-Op
Farm Credit Mid-America
Tom Green Engineering
Holman Excavating
Chuck & Nila Howard (Hamilton)
Lake George Conservancy, Inc.
Jim & Jean Parsell (Angola)
Dewey & Marcia Powers (Angola)
Steuben County Lakes Council
Steve Schroeder (Fremont)
Lynn Wernet (Angola)
Bob & Connie Wilson (Hudson)
The Wilson Farm
Fred Wooley (Fremont)

Platinum Plus Level

Angola American Legion
Post #31