

# The Conservator

FALL / WINTER 2024  
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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.*



## Be “Salt Smart” This Winter: Safe Application for People, Pets, the Environment, and Wildlife



*In de-icing season, a “less is more” approach best protects lakes and streams.*



As winter begins to settle in, the need for safe and effective de-icing practices becomes crucial. While salt is a common choice for keeping walkways and driveways clear of ice, its application requires careful consideration. Using salt helps prevent slips and falls on icy surfaces, but extensive application of it can lead to environmental consequences and harm our furry friends.

### **Environmental Impact**

Runoff and Soil Contamination: Large quantities of salt, which may contain chlorides, can wash off impervious surfaces like roads and driveways into local water bodies, leading to increased salinity levels. Once salt gets into the water, it is difficult to remove. Chloride, a key component of surface salt (along with sodium), is soluble, highly mobile in water, and at high concentrations, can be toxic to aquatic vegetation and wildlife.

Did you know one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water? That’s right, once the chloride is in our water, it is there for good, and continues to build up year after year.

Soil Health: High salt concentrations can impair soil structure and fertility. Elevated salinity levels can hinder plant growth, reduce biodiversity, and lead to the degeneration of local habitats.

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## SWCD - NRCS - ISDA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

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Janel Meyer, *Administrative Coordinator*

Bailey Temple, *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

Learn why the Steuben County SWCD was formed  
and how we accomplish our mission at:

[https://youtu.be/w8KU\\_ngs1cY](https://youtu.be/w8KU_ngs1cY)



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

## Be “Salt Smart” This Winter: Safe Application for People, Pets, the Environment, and Wildlife *(continued from page 1)*

### Protecting Pets and Wildlife

Salt can be harmful to pets and local wildlife. Salt can cause paw irritation in pets and can be toxic if ingested. The consumption of even small amounts of de-icing salt can lead to gastrointestinal distress or more severe health issues.

### Keeping Pets Safe

Wash Paws After Walks: If your pet walks on salted surfaces, rinse their paws after outdoor excursions to prevent irritation or ingestion of harmful residues.

Opt for Pet-Friendly Products: Look for de-icers specifically labeled as safe for pets. These products typically have lower toxicity and are less harmful to the environment

### Strategies for Responsible Application

Evaluate Conditions: Before applying salt, monitor weather forecasts. If temperatures are expected to rise, it might be more effective to wait, as salt can wash away in rain or snow-melt, reducing its effectiveness and increasing environmental risks. 15°F and below is too cold for salt. Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use sand instead for traction, but remember, sand does not melt ice.

Using the Right Amount: A little goes a long way. Instead of dumping large quantities, sprinkle just enough salt to create a barrier on icy surfaces. This not only conserves resources but also minimizes runoff into soil and waterways. People often think using more salt means more melting and safer conditions, but this is not true. Around 12 ounces - roughly a coffee mug full - effectively treats a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares (about 1,000 square feet).

Target Key Areas: Focus on high-traffic zones such as sidewalks, steps, and driveways. Using a targeted approach reduces the overall amount needed while ensuring safety where it is most critical.

Sweep Up Visible Salt on Dry Surfaces: Leftover salt is no longer doing any work and can be washed away into local waters. You can keep it and reuse later. Next time, cut back on the amount you use.

Educate Your Community: Share information about environmental and health impacts of excessive salt use with neighbors. Engaging with neighbors can promote a community wide effort to adopt safer practices.

## 2024 Affiliate Members

### BRONZE LEVEL

Carper Farm Supply	Niann Lautzenhiser ( <i>Hamilton</i> )
Jerome & Lynn Chandler ( <i>Angola</i> )	Tim Offerle ( <i>Fremont</i> )
Mike & Sue Claphan ( <i>Angola</i> )	Ronald L. Parker ( <i>Pleasant Lake</i> )
Bill & Diana Clingan ( <i>Hudson</i> )	Karen Spake ( <i>Angola</i> )
Daft Erosion Control, LLC	Stroh Farm Supply
Hoham Feed & Seed	Janet Young ( <i>Hudson</i> )
Thelma Knowles ( <i>Hudson</i> )	Peg Zeis ( <i>Fremont</i> )

### SILVER LEVEL

City of Angola MS4	Deloris Howarth ( <i>Fremont</i> )
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy	Peter Mountz ( <i>Garrett</i> )
Crowe Forest Management	Kevin Northup Excavating
Tom & Alice Filbrun ( <i>Angola</i> )	Sandhill Environmental Services, LLC
James Holse ( <i>Ashley</i> )	John Williamson, Jr. ( <i>Angola</i> )

### GOLD LEVEL

Booth Farms (*Orland*)

### PLATINUM LEVEL

Angola American Legion Post #31	Farm Credit Mid-America
Angola Seed & Supply, LLC	Tom Green Engineering
Aquatic Enhancement & Survey	Chuck & Nila Howard ( <i>Hamilton</i> )
Budreau Ins. and Financial Services Inc.	Lake George Conservancy, Inc.
Cameron Memorial Community Hospital	Raymond Lauer ( <i>Fremont</i> )
Catalpa Cove Family Giving Fund	Jim & Jean Parsell ( <i>Angola</i> )
CMR Family Farm ( <i>Fremont</i> )	Dewey & Marcia Powers ( <i>Angola</i> )
Dailey Farms ( <i>Angola</i> )	Steve Schroeder ( <i>Fremont</i> )
Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC	Ken Shelton ( <i>Angola</i> )
Edon Farmers Co-Op Association, Inc.	Steuben County Lakes Council
	Stoy Farms ( <i>Ashley</i> )
	Shane & Chanda Swager ( <i>Angola</i> )
	Lynn Wernet ( <i>Angola</i> )
	The Wilson Farm ( <i>Hudson</i> )
	Fred Wooley ( <i>Fremont</i> )

## Farm Service Agency (FSA) Updates

Please call the FSA office (260.665.3211 Ext. 2) for more details.



### ABOVE

Kayleen Hart, Steuben County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director.

*Photo courtesy of Kayleen Hart.*

In August, Kayleen Hart became Steuben County FSA's new County Executive Director. With over 9 years of experience as a Program Analyst, she aims to enhance FSA's visibility and educate local consumers about its services. "I look forward to this new opportunity to serve the

farmers of Steuben County and am excited to begin integrating FSA with our local agencies to grow our customer base".

Kayleen was raised in the Fremont area, attended Manchester College, and began her career as a journalist and graphic designer. After staying at home with her three children for a few years, she began a new career path with the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), where she served for nearly a decade before joining FSA in 2015. She still has a passion for natural resources and conservation, currently serving as the chair of the Steuben SWCD Board and secretary of the Fremont Park Board. Stop by the FSA office to meet Kayleen and the team and learn more about their services. **FSA Reminder:** Wheat and other small grains must be certified by **December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## 2025 Indiana Master Naturalist Workshop

Next spring, Pokagon State Park and the Steuben County SWCD will host an adult Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN) Workshop in partnership with the Friends of Pokagon.

Registration information and further details will be available on the SWCD's website and Facebook page as soon as all specifics are finalized.

The workshop fee is \$120 and includes all materials (various nature/field guides, binders, notebooks, etc.) and light refreshments.

## 2025 Indiana Master Naturalist Workshop



Pokagon State Park and the Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District will host an adult Indiana Master Naturalist Workshop in partnership with the Friends of Pokagon.

10 sessions  
April 10—June 5

\$120.00  
Workshop  
Fee

Registration information and further details will be available soon\*.

\*Additional information for the 2025 IMN Workshop will be provided on the Steuben SWCD's website and Facebook page as soon as all specifics are finalized.

The mission of the Indiana Master Naturalist program is to bring together natural resource specialists with adult learners to foster an understanding of Indiana's plants, water, soil, and wildlife, and promote natural resource volunteer service within the State of Indiana.



## Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

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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, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.*

## SAVE THE DATE!!

### Steuben County SWCD 2025 Annual Meeting

# SAVE THE DATE

## STEUBEN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2025 ANNUAL MEETING



**Wednesday, March 12th, 2025 (6:00 p.m.)**

In case of Inclement Weather

Snow Date: Wednesday, March 19th, 2025



**Pleasant Township Trustee Office**

2510 N 200 W, Angola, IN 46703

REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

### CONTACT US



PHONE: 260.665.3211, Ext. 3



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