

# 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.**

## District Cost Share for Septic Systems - Coming Soon!



The Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is excited to announce a NEW District Cost Share program is **COMING SOON** to help Steuben County residents offset the cost of septic system maintenance, repairs, and replacements.

Your septic system is one of the most important — and most overlooked — parts of your property. It quietly manages all the wastewater from your home, keeping harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients out of the environment. When it's working well, you probably don't think about it. But when it fails, the impact can be serious and expensive.

Steuben County is home to many lakes, streams, and wetlands that support recreation, tourism, and wildlife. By investing in septic system upkeep and replacement when needed, we can reduce nutrient loading, protect public health, and maintain the water quality our community depends upon. A failing septic system can lead to

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## District Cost Share for Septic Systems

### - Coming Soon! *(continued from page 1)*

contamination of surface and ground water, which can ultimately impact drinking water and waters used for recreation.

A properly designed, installed, and maintained septic system is an effective method of wastewater treatment. Maintenance of a septic system is rather easy. In general, a septic tank should be pumped by a licensed septic pumper every 3 to 5 years. The frequency of pumping depends on the tank size, number of people in the household, habits of water use as well as the amount of solids accumulated in the tank. A septic tank effluent filter may also require frequent maintenance and should be included in the maintenance activity. Failure to perform routine maintenance can cause solids in the tank to migrate into the drain field and clog the system.

Full details on eligibility, cost share rates, and how to apply will be announced soon. Updates will be provided on the Steuben County SWCD website and Facebook page when the program is officially launched. We hope the community will take advantage of this opportunity to protect both your home and local waterways.

## Forestry Field Day



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**FORESTRY FIELD DAY**

**October 4, 2025**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Rolling Acres Farm**  
**5768 W Lake Valley Rd**  
**Pleasant Lake, IN 46779**



Mark your calendars for this upcoming field day - showcasing a woodland with a Forest Management Plan. This will be the last of a three-part series, which began in 2018. This final installment will review the plan objectives and management recommendations implemented that will help maintain a healthy and resilient woods. Additional details about this free event can be found on the Steuben County SWCD website. Light morning refreshments and lunch will be served.

## SWCD - NRCS - ISDA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

### Soil & Water District Staff:

Janel Meyer, *District Coordinator*

Bailey Temple, *Resource Conservationist*

### Board of Supervisors:

Kayleen Hart, *Chair*

Chuck Howard, *Vice Chair*

Beth Williams, *Secretary*

Brad Hamlin

Craig Holman

### Associate Supervisors:

Timothy Groosbeck

Daniel Oberst

David Perkins



Scan Me!

### Natural Resources Conservation Service 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**

Learn why the Steuben County SWCD was formed and how we accomplish our mission at:  
[https://youtu.be/w8KU\\_ngsIcY](https://youtu.be/w8KU_ngsIcY)

*Photo courtesy of Bailey Temple*

Steuben County SWCD Board Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:00 p.m. @ the Angola USDA Service Center\*  
*\*subject to change*

## 2025 Conservation Camp Canoe Trip!

This summer's Conservation Camp was an adventure to remember! Campers grabbed paddles and life jackets for a guided canoe trip down Pigeon River, exploring the beauty and importance of our local waterways.

Along the way, they learned how to identify macroinvertebrates—tiny aquatic creatures that help indicate water quality—and discovered how healthy streams support both wildlife and people. The trip combined outdoor fun with hands-on science, giving campers a deeper appreciation for protecting our natural resources.

A big thank you to all the participants for their enthusiasm and curiosity, and to our wonderful volunteers, whose time and energy made this experience possible.



## Angola USDA Service Center Ag Appreciation Day

We fired up the grill on August 19th for our inaugural Ag Appreciation Day to celebrate our community pride in conservation, sustainable Ag, and the valuable contributions it has in our lives. We appreciate everyone that shared part of their day with us!

Thank you, Ridenour Farms - for donating and cooking corn; Kuster Farms - for bringing the International Harvester; Kuster's Dairy Foods - for donating ice cream and chocolate milk; and Jenny & Brian Alexander - for providing the grill and helping serve.

More event pictures on page 4.





## 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



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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.

The Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and its Partnership Agencies are equal opportunity employers, lenders, and service providers.

## 2025 Affiliate Members

### BRONZE LEVEL

101 Sheds/Palette Boekhout (*Fremont*)  
Caruso Enterprises, Inc.  
Bill & Diana Clingan (*Hudson*)  
Daft Erosion Control LLC  
Hoham Feed & Seed  
Niann Lautzenhiser (*Hamilton*)

Ronald L. Parker (*Pleasant Lake*)  
Karen Spake (*Angola*)  
Stroh Farm Supply, Inc.  
Janet Young (*Hudson*)  
Peg Zeis (*Fremont*)  
Judy Zinn (*Fremont*)

### SILVER LEVEL

City of Angola MS4  
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy  
Crowe Forest Management, LLC  
Tom & Mary Alice Filbrun (*Angola*)  
James Holse (*Ashley*)  
Delores Howarth (*Fremont*)

LOW McClish Lake Association  
Peter Mountz (*Garrett*)  
Kevin Northup Excavating  
Steve Schroeder (*Fremont*)  
John Williamson, Jr. (*Angola*)

### GOLD LEVEL

Paul Longville (*Angola*)

### PLATINUM LEVEL

Brian Albright (*Hamilton*)  
Robert Amstutz, Jr. (*Pleasant Lake*)  
Angola American Legion Post #31\*  
Angola Seed & Supply, LLC  
Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc.  
Budreau Ins. & Fin. Services Inc./  
Austin Budreau  
Booth Farms (*Orland*)  
Cameron Memorial Community Hospital  
Catalpa Cove Family Giving Fund  
CMR Family Farm (*Fremont*)  
Dailey Farms (*Angola*)  
Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC  
Edon Farmers Co-Op Association, Inc.  
Farm Credit Mid-America

Tom Green Engineering  
Pete Hippensteel (*Angola*)\*\*  
Howard Farms (*Hamilton*)  
Lake George Conservancy, Inc.  
Raymond Lauer (*Fremont*)  
Parsell Farms (*Angola*)  
Dewey & Marcia Powers (*Angola*)  
S & P Earthwork  
SC & R Enterprises, Inc./  
Shane & Chanda Swager (*Angola*)  
Smitty's Lost Acres (*Hamilton*)  
Steuben County Lakes Council, Inc.  
Stoy Farms (*Ashley*)  
Vestil Manufacturing Company  
Wilson 85 LLC/Wilson Farm (*Hudson*)  
Fred Wooley (*Fremont*)

\*\$1,000 Donor; \*\*\$300 Donor

August 19, 2025  
Angola USDA  
Service Center  
Ag Appreciation Day

