



# The SOIL & WATER Conservation District

## ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022 ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

The 2022 Soil & Water Conservation District 62nd Annual Meeting will take place on March 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Seymour High School Ag-Science Building at Freeman Field. Roger Wenning, a farmer in Decatur County will be our speaker. We will also hear the 2021 meeting minutes, treasurer's report, and our

accomplishments. Ashley Shoemaker and Dale Potts Schmidt are on the ballot to be voted on for a supervisor position.

We are asking everyone who is interested in attending our meeting to stop by our office at 1350 Woodside Drive in Brownstown or call the office at 812-358-2367 and use ext. 3035 to get a ticket for the annual meeting.

### JACKSON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

March 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.  
Seymour High School Ag-Science Building  
at Freeman Field

Tickets can be obtained by calling or  
stopping by our office  
812-358-2367 ext. 3035

## 2021 COVER CROP GRANT

The Jackson County SWCD decided to fund their own cost-share for planting cover crops. Cover crops help put nutrients in the soil and keep the soil from eroding away. We had 12 participants who planted a total of 1135.3 acres which is 122.1 acres above the 1013.2 acres that received cost-share. The Jackson County SWCD funded \$17,700.75.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District promotes the protection and improvement of the natural resources of Jackson County through leadership, education, and technical assistance to both the rural and urban communities.

The District provides information about soil, water and related natural resources; identifies and prioritizes local soil and water resource concerns; to connect land users to

sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

The function of the Conservation District is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate these so that they meet the needs of the local land user or constituent for conservation and/or education of soil, water, and related resources.

## WHY NOT APPLY FOR 2022 COST-SHARE GRANT?

Jackson County has approximately 155,000 acres of cropland and 8,052 acres of pastureland. The use of cover crops and pasture and hay planting are crucial to keeping the sediment and nutrients from entering rivers, streams, and other water bodies. Carbon sequestration, a product of cover crops, is a fairly, new topic and will be discussed at a field day. According to the 2020 Carbon Sequestration in Agricultural Soils from Cover crop practices published by ISDA, Jackson County was one of six counties that saved greater than 6,011 tons of carbon. We would like to continue this trend by increasing the number of people installing these practices.

Jackson County SWCD applied and was awarded a Clean Water Indiana grant and will receive \$40,000.00 to spend on cost-share for the installation of conservation practices like cover crops and pasture and hay plantings. We believe the landowners will see better feed for the livestock, increase in crop yields by having nutrients held in place by installing cover crops or pasture and hay plantings. A ranking system is used, and priority will go to applicants who are planting cover crops and/or pasture and hay plantings for the first time. A current soil test will be required for both practices. Cost-share will pay 75% of expenses or no more than \$20.00 per acre up to 100 acres for cover crops and 75% of expenses or no more than \$100.00 per acre up to 20 acres for pasture and hay plantings.

Find out how to apply for the cost-share grant by reading information in newspapers, newsletters, on Facebook (Jackson County Indiana Soil Water Conservation District), and get informational flyers at ag businesses. Contact Terry Ault by calling 812-358-2367 and use extension 3035 to request information be e-mailed or mailed to you. Request to be added to our newsletter e-mail list.

## SPEAKER BIO

### ROGER WENNING

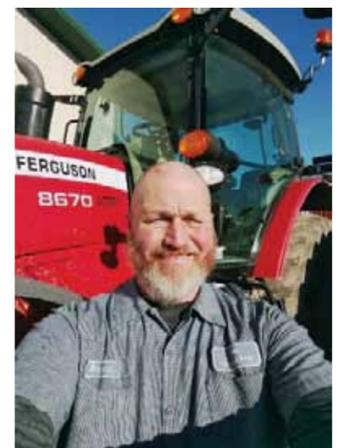
Roger has farmed all his life. Forty years ago, he started trying no-till planting and using cover crops, on erodible ground. Thirty years ago, Roger got serious with those practices and 21 years ago decided to do 100% no-till planting and use cover crops. He has planted green for the last 12 years.

Roger has received the following Indiana awards: Conservation Farmer of the Year, Supervisor of the Year,

Master Farmer, Farm Family of the Year and is the immediate past President of the Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

He and his wife, Mary Beth, have been married 42 years, and have 4 children and 12 grandchildren.

Roger will talk with us about his experience with carbon credits and what he does on his farm in God's country, Greensburg.



# AMERICAN AGRICULTURE; HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

DON DONOVAN, DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

From the time man changed from a hunter and gathering lifestyle to producing his own food through cultivation of plants and the domestication of animals, agriculture has gone through many revolutions up to modern day. The use of animals to pull implements, the steel plow to break up sod, the tractor to replace those domestic animals, hybrid seed, commercial fertilizer, herbicides, genetically modified seed, and precision technology are just a few of the many revolutions that have taken place over the years. From a historical point of view, the eye-opening thing is most of these have occurred in the last 120 years, since the beginning of the 1900s. As we look ahead to the days before us, one could ask where is agriculture going and what might the next big revolution be?

As with all things that come along, these revolutions were not 100% good or 100% bad. The invention of the tractor and steel plow allowed the conversion of thousands of acres of fragile grass lands into wheat production needed during World War I. Then a few years later, that soil was being blown all the way from the southern Great Plains to Washington DC during the Dust Bowl. Herbicides have provided a way of controlling unwanted plants in our crops, increasing yield, but some weeds have grown resistant to herbicides making their control more challenging. Farming has always been a challenge in every aspect, putting seeds in the ground, nourishing a plant to maturation, and harvesting the bounty. Then a few days after harvest was completed, start the process all over again for the next year. Farming is a way of life, not a job and therefore the challenge was always accepted, and the next crop planted.

So where does agriculture go from here? What is the next great revolution in agriculture? There is talk of technology being the answer to future production needs and in all likely hood it will play a role. But does technology have a ceiling limiting how far it can go, and is it the true answer? Does more technology solve all the issues and challenges agriculture faces? Is the answer something much simpler, but much more complex? If you are a thirty something farmer, what will American agriculture look like when you retire? Should you be excited to be a young farmer in 2022?

A lot of buzz words get tossed around, but one you may be hearing is "regenerative agriculture". Now like a like of things, sometimes it is hard to pin down the exact definition of regenerative agriculture and everyone has their opinions. This writer's opinion is relatively simple;

Build a healthier soil that grows healthier plants, that produces healthier humans. Whether those healthier plants are consumed by humans or animals that are consumed by humans, a healthier human is the ultimate goal. So where do we start?

Since the soil is the basis for most of our food production, it is the starting place for a regenerative agriculture journey. Four basic principals are involved in producing a healthier soil: increase diversity of plants grown, keep the soil surface always covered, limit soil disturbance or tillage, and keep a living root growing as much of the year as possible. This system, while requiring a higher level of management, starts the soil on that journey to being healthier, more resilient, capable of infiltrating and storing more water, and increasing nutrient cycling efficiency. The incorporation of grazing livestock into this system brings even more benefits, speeding up the journey to soil health, while improving the production profit margin.

Any discussion of regenerative agriculture must include the ultimate reason for farming at any level, the consumer of the agriculture products being produced. It really does not matter if we improve our soil health and raise healthier plants and animals if we cannot put those products into the hands of the consumer at a quantity, quality, and price that they desire. They are the drivers of this great agriculture engine; they have much to say about where we go in the future with American agriculture. Where all of this goes in the future remains somewhat an unknown mystery, but at the same time it is exciting. We could be on the cusp of that next great agriculture revolution, regenerative agriculture, where we build soils instead of derogating them, produce food, fiber and fuel that is not only higher in quantity, but higher in quality and the ultimate goal, improve the human health of our nation.

Everyone has a role to play! If you are a farmer, start your personal soil health journey or continue marching onward if you have already begun. A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step, take that step forward! If you are a consumer, become more involved with your food selection. Buy local if you can, get to know the local person growing your food not only so you know about the quality of the food they produce, but learn about the challenges they face to produce that food for your table. Let us make 2022 the start of a journey, a journey of health, a journey of understanding, and a journey of all of us making our county, state, country and earth a better place!

## JACKSON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 4, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.

Chairman Grant VonDielingen welcomed the 19 attendees to our 61st Annual Meeting held virtually using the Zoom platform at 6:35 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending.

Introductions were made of the various employees of partnering agencies.

Terry presented the 60th annual meeting minutes and treasurer's report via a power point presentation. Viewers were given time to read the reports and asked questions.

Cathy Blair moved to accept the minutes and treasurer's report as presented. Tyler Shaw seconded. Motion carried.

Requests for nominations were published in the newspaper, posted on Facebook and e-mailed to newsletter mailing list. We didn't receive any nominations prior to the annual meeting. Jeanna moved to close the nominations. Nate seconded. Motion carried.

Tyler Shaw read the biographies of the supervisor candidates, Cathy Blair and Greg Sutton. Ballots were counted during the meeting.

Cathy Blair recognized the 4-H Awards Champions: Taylor Loudermilk for Champion of Plant Science; Wyatt Wischmeier for Champion of Entomology; and Kelsey Schneider for Champion of Soil & Water.

Cathy Blair also recognized Bruce Shoemaker for Conservation Farmer of the Year. Nate Kemp gave an update on the Jackson County Invasive Partnership group and their accomplishments in 2020 as well as the events planned for 2021.

Grant VonDielingen gave a summary of the SWCD 2020 accomplishments including our complete Lake and River Enhancement grant for \$80,000.00 which was used to fund the removal of 3 logjams from the Vernon Fork of the Muscatatuck River and a Clean Water Indiana grant for \$20,000.00 which was used to cost share on cover crops.

SWCD also funded approximately \$5300.00 for cover crops.

Tyler Shaw talked about the pictures of the Lake and River Enhancement grant and mentioned the 1417 acres of cover crops planted due to Clean Water Indiana and SWCD funding.

Paige Hudson, NRCS District Conservationist, introduced herself. She began her duties on Nov. 23, 2020 and is looking forward to working in the county.

Grant VonDielingen announced Cathy Blair was elected as supervisor for her second 3-year term.

Grant VonDielingen thanked everyone for attending. Tyler Shaw moved to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Blair seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

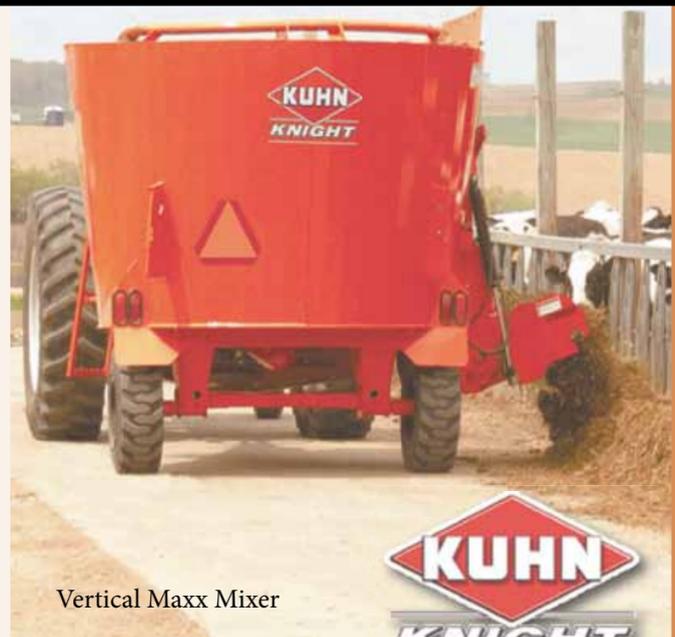
Respectfully submitted by Terry Ault, District Coordinator

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# EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

Our Equipment Program has assisted several operators, contractors, and landowners in getting conservation practices on the ground at an affordable rate. All rentals require a deposit and rental forms to sign. An additional \$100.00 charge will be added if drill is taken out of Jackson County.



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**JOHN DEERE NO-TILL DRILL**

\$12 / Acre (\$75 minimum)  
 Drill must be vacuumed out and tubes emptied of every seed.



**CRIMPER**

\$30.00 minimum  
 \$30.00 per acre

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF JACKSON COUNTY SWCD

January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

Balance Brought Forward	\$39,855.16
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Total Intergovernmental Receipts	48,500.07
Total Charges for Services	21,456.28
Total Miscellaneous Revenue	89,879.11
Sub-Total	\$159,835.46
<b>TOTAL (Balance forward + receipts)</b>	\$199,690.62
<b>DISBURSMENTS</b>	
Total General Government Disbursements	43,371.88
Sub-Total	\$43,371.88
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	\$43,371.88
<b>BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31</b>	\$156,318.74
<b>CASH BOXES</b>	
Petty Cash	100.00

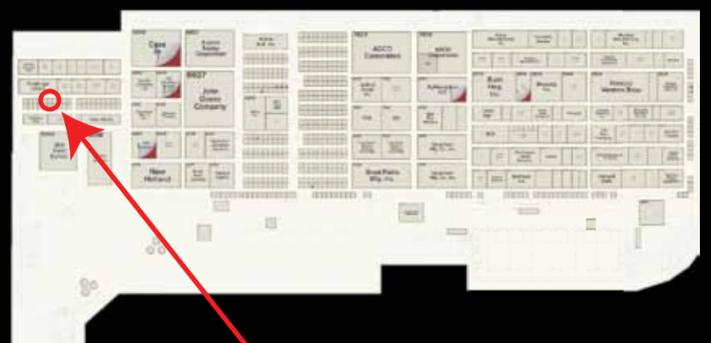
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## 2021 CONSERVATION FARMER OF THE YEAR CRAIG KLINGE



Craig Klinge has been selected as the 2021 Conservation Farmer of the Year. Farming in Craig's family started with his great, great grandpa, great grandpa, grandpa and then to his father, Denver. Craig is the 5th generation of farmers and his son, Chase is the 6th generation to farm. The ultimate goal for Craig is using no-till, minimum till and nutrient management to keep his valuable

resource, soil, on the farm. These farming methods keeps the topsoil in place which is where you get the most productivity for your crop. If the topsoil moves away so does the productivity. Keeping topsoil in place helps to build and retain the organic matter which contains the nutrients the seed needs to grow and produce, and it also helps to hold water which is then available to the plants. Irrigation helps 320 acres in Jackson county and 270 acres in Switzerland grow a good crop.

A six row Precision planter delivers fertilizer from 3 different locations on the planter, and optimizes the seedbed with a single pass. Craig also uses a virtual tillage / cover crop applicator. There are two rows of vertical discs followed by a residue manager, which throws the soil up and allows the residue to fall on top of the soil and then a rolling basket helps firm the seed bed.

Craig uses a corn and soybean rotation but also raises some wheat and hay. Craig operates the Jackson county farm ground and he and two others lease ground in Switzerland county. There is 2100 acres in Jackson county and 950 acres in Switzerland county they plant to crops. Jackson county has 20 acres of pasture and Switzerland county has 1100 acres in pasture. The farm consists of 120 acres of woodland also.

Craig has cow/calf operation with 95 head of cattle and

has a wean to finish swine operation for 8000 head he runs for contract finishing with Premier Ag. He leases the building to his son, Chase.

No-till is done on 300 acres and vertical tillage is done on 1700 acres. Craig applies fertilizer 3-4 times when in season to his crop ground.

Craig has approximately 4.5 acres of grassed waterways which help to slow down the water that runs off the field and keeps soil and nutrients from getting into the ditches, streams, and rivers.

Implementing various conservation practices, over the years, has helped the soil become more "alive". Craig walks through his fields after a rain event in hopes of seeing earthworms. If earthworms are there, then everything else needed to drive the yields higher is there. Craig says, "A living soil, in my eyes, means we have the oxygen, water, and soil in proper order. This allows microbes and fungi to thrive and breakdown residue and nutrients and make them available to plants. It is hard to measure crop yield improvements, however, when areas that have been stressed are shrinking over time, then we know we are accomplishing something."

## JACKSON COUNTY'S RIVER FRIENDLY FARMER OF THE YEAR DALE POTTSCHMIDT



Indiana's lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands are valuable natural resources. Protecting these water resources is imperative and forty-seven farmers received accolades on August 18 at the Indianapolis State Fairgrounds for their 'river-friendly' efforts.

"Honoring these farmers annually for their conservation efforts is a high priority for the state association of soil and water conservation districts. We are so pleased to be able to meet in person and show our 'thanks' for helping us improve water quality and build soil health statewide," states Bobby Hettmansperger, Board President, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD). "We need everyone to get on board like these farmers and make the protection of natural resources a priority so they are here to enjoy for future generations."

Dale Pottschmidt, of Pottschmidt Farms Inc. was named Jackson County's River Friendly Farmer this year and submitted to the state for recognition. Pottschmidt Farms Inc. raises grain and small livestock in the Muscatatuck and Upper East Fork of the White River watershed. By using cover crops and no-tilling, they have improved water infiltration and the worm population on their land. Equipment repairs and field trips have decreased as well as a reduction in run-off. Dale has hosted soils judging contests for the Jackson County SWCD and worked with them on their Lake and River Enhancement grant - removing three large logjams.

The annual River Friendly Farmer Award ceremony recognizes farmers for their implementation of conservation practices, like no-till and cover crops, which ultimately protect waterways and improve water quality in Indiana. These farmers were nominated by their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD).

Sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau, the River Friendly Farmer Award program began in 2000 and has honored over 1,000 Indiana farms.

This year the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts hosted the event and IASWCD Board President Bobby Hettmansperger opened the ceremony and remarks were made by Randy Kron, Indiana Farm Bureau President; Jerry Raynor, Indiana State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS); and, Trevor Laureys, Director of Soil Conservation, Indiana State Department of Agriculture. Amie Simpson, Brownfield Ag News, emceed the ceremony.

For a complete list of this year's winners along with a short bio, go to: <http://wordpress.iaswcd.org/river-friendly-farmer-award/>.

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# JACKSON COUNTY INVASIVE PARTNERSHIP 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Just as our Jackson County Invasive Partnership group was moving out of the planning stage and beginning to start their public education efforts, COVID-19 struck and curbed a lot of our plans. We are anxious to begin educating the public about the severity of invasive plants on the native plants. This topic is to be taken seriously. Invasive species grow and take over the spaces where they reside. They block the sun for the native plants and prevent their full growth. Native plants are needed to feed our wildlife, therefore, it is extremely important to get rid of invasive plants. Our goal is to get landowners to make efforts toward controlling invasive species and to replace invasive species in landscaping with native plants.

In 2021, we had a banner made with colored pictures of the most common invasive weeds to be used at the Jackson County Fair and other events. This banner drew a lot of attention at the county fair.

We have begun filming short educational videos featuring invasive species and posting them on our Facebook page, Jackson County Invasive Partnership. The video will show the actual live plant, show and tell the characteristics that help identify specific plants, and give instructions on how to treat the invasive species to help control the spread of the plant. Videos will cover Callery Pear tree, Burning Bush, Asian Bush Honeysuckle, and Oriental Bittersweet. Watch for more in the future.

Indiana has a Terrestrial Plant Rule. According to the Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule brochure, the rule makes it illegal to sell, gift, barter, exchange, distribute, transport, or introduce plants on the enclosed list in the State of Indiana. You can view the brochure at [https://www.in.gov/dnr/files/ep-terrestrial\\_plant\\_rule.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/files/ep-terrestrial_plant_rule.pdf).

To help landowners obtain native plants we had a plant sale and sold flower seeds, shrubs and trees. We plan to have a spring plant sale of flower plugs, trees, shrubs, and a grass. Details will be forthcoming.

If landowners want to plant a 5-acre wildlife habitat, we can get you help with identifying invasive species and give guidance on how to treat them.

If you would like to stay in touch with us, please send your e-mail address to [terry.ault@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:terry.ault@in.nacdnet.net) to get added to the meeting invitation list and the SWCD newsletter list. You can also follow us on our Facebook page, Jackson County Invasive Partnership. Join us and help us spread the word.

## OTHER AGENCIES COOPERATING WITH DISTRICT



The Agricultural Conservation Program Service Staff. Seated (left to right)—Fred Krumm, Chairman of County A. S. C. Committee; Harry Spring, Office Manager. Standing (left to right)—Clara Lou Quinn, Acreage Allotment and Marketing Guide; Judy Ballin, Performance Clerk; Condon Wilcox, A. C. F. Clerk; Loyd Jones, Member of County A. S. C. Committee; Agnes Melloncamp, Administrative Clerk; Paul Snyder, Member County A. S. C. Committee; Betty Hoskins, Performance Clerk.

The A. C. F. shares in the cost of applying selected Conservation practices on farms.

The Program is administered by the State and County A. S. C. Committees.

The District Governing body, the Soil and Water Conservation District, and the County Agent help the County Committee select the practices for cost share. The County A. S. C. Committee approves all cost share payments to the land owners.

Indiana Road Control and Water Resources Commission gives State approval for assistance in the small Watershed Program (P. L. 966). It also assists with organizing Conservancy Districts.

The Agricultural Extension Service serves on the education program. The County Extension staff supported by Purdue University and the Federal Agricultural Extension Service, is responsible for this educational program.

The State Department of Conservation provides assistance through its Education Department, District Forester and Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Specialist.

The picture above was clipped from the 1962 SWCD Annual Report. Sixty years have come and gone since that picture was taken of that great bunch of people. Oh, how the times have changed. We had a lot more farmers back then, farming smaller acreages. Conventional tillage was used along with cultivation, in the place of no-till and herbicides. I remember several people who kept their own milk cow in the 1960s, along with some chickens. Seems like about everyone had hogs. Feeder lids were banging all day long. Gravity wagons were a lot smaller. Grain trucks were a lot smaller. All the hay was baled in nice small square bales. No more loose hay to put in the lofts. It was modern times!

Well, it's hard to believe I've been here for 38 of those 60 years. The first program I learned as a new employee was the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), which is mentioned in the clip. ACP offered cost-share on several practices such as waterways, ponds, forest establishment, and pasture management. One of our most popular programs in the 1980s was the "No-Till" practice incentive. We paid cost-share to get farmers to try no-till instead of conventional tillage.

While the ACP program has been retired for many years now, we have other programs which have taken over the responsibilities for conservation. The 1985 farm bill gave us the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which provides cost-share for several practices as well as annual rental payments on the land on which they are installed. Natural Resource Conservation Service also has several conservation programs including Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). If you have a conservation problem on your farm, contact us. In all probability, one of our programs will fit your needs.

Also, I have a new staff. I'm the only old timer left here. Brooke Ritz and Maddie Root are here to start us into the next 60 years! Call us for your conservation needs!

Jeff Fisher  
County Executive Director, FSA

# A YEAR WITH NRCS: 2021

I can't believe it is already 2022 and I have been in this position for over a year now – it is so crazy how time flies. 2021 was a year jam-packed full of learning experiences and conservation. In 2021, we completed 45 site visits, received 32 USDA program applications, and attended 18 trainings for various conservation topics. Of those 32 USDA program applications, 16 were funded. During the year, the office also provided numerous highly erodible land and wetland determinations, and conservation plans for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Jackson County is an extremely diverse county with hills, hollers, slews, wetlands, pasture ground and more, it is not hard to find work in the county. We are blessed to have programs that are able to be utilized in the county's wide range of landscapes including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE). Fun fact: Jackson County holds a large majority of the total number wetland easements in the Southeast Area thanks to the Muscatatuck and White Rivers. We received 32 USDA program applications (again!) for 2022 and I am hopeful that we can get 16 or more funded as in 2021. 2021 was an excellent learning year and I have enjoyed getting to know the producers of Jackson County; Socializing with all of you and getting to know you and your operations is arguably the best part of my job. I hope 2022 teaches me just as much as 2021 and I have just as much fun doing so. Thank you for being patient with me as I transitioned into this new position, I appreciate every single one of you for your kindness and support. I look forward to assisting you in 2022!

Sincerely,  
Paige Hudson  
Jackson County NRCS District Conservationist



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## BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF



### GRANT VON DIELINGEN, CHAIRMAN

was elected in 2015 as a supervisor. He graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's in agriculture education in 2008. Grant is married to Heather and they live on a family farm south of Seymour. This past October they were blessed with their daughter, Marin. They are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. He is employed with Premier Companies as the Director of Credit. Grant and Heather are members of their family's farm partnership, VF Farms LLC. The partnership includes his father and mother, uncle and aunt, and sister and brother-in-law. They farm 1000 acres and own 40 mother cows. The farm is primarily no-till and has installed grassed waterways and uses cover crops. Grant and Heather are also member/owners of Jackson County Custom Processing. Grant

has had many leadership experiences in high school and college with FFA and other organizations. Grant has served on many boards at St. Peter's Lutheran church, a past member of the Jackson County Farm Bureau Board, and served on several committees for 4-H.



### TYLER SHAW, VICE-CHAIRMAN

Joined the board as an elected supervisor in 2017. Tyler and his wife Amelia, live near their Church, St. Paul Lutheran, Borchers in rural Jackson County with their two sons, Andrew and Connor. He earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University majoring in Agricultural Systems Management. He is a Precision Farming Specialist for Jacobi Sales in Seymour where he sells and services precision farming technology to help producers farm more efficiently.



### CATHY BLAIR – SUPERVISOR

Cathy has served on the board for four years and is running for a second term as supervisor. Cathy holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and retired as Director of Human Resources for Valeo Sylvania in March of 2012. After one year of retirement, she was employed as Human Resources Director for Family Ark, a non-profit child placement agency, in Jeffersonville. She left Family Ark in 2014 and continued to support the agency by serving as Vice-President of Family Ark's Board of Directors for 5 years. Currently, Cathy serves as the secretary/treasurer for the Tampico Christian Church. Cathy and her husband, Jeff, have a cow/calf operation and they no-till crops on their family farm in Tampico. Jeff and Cathy have two daughters, two son-in-laws and

twin grandchildren.



### JEANNA EPPLEY, ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR

Jeanna has served as an associate supervisor since 2014. She was raised on a family farm in Brownstown and attended Purdue University earning a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in youth development and agricultural education. She taught for 6 years outside of Jackson County before returning with her husband to live on the family farm. In addition to row crop, the family also raises freezer beef and owns a meat processing facility. Tony and Jeanna live in the Cortland area with their daughter Patsy. She is currently one of the agriculture educators and FFA Advisors for Seymour High School. She teaches at the AgScience Facility full time and manages the 140-acre school farm.



### ZACH FLINN, ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR

Zach Flinn, Associate Supervisor, owns Flinn Ag Services which is an excavation and field drainage business and works part time on the family farm. He is interested in helping farmers with water management and soil health. Zach and his wife, Katie have two sons, Owen & Harrison.



### NATE KEMP, ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR

Nate Kemp, Associate Supervisor, currently works as the Technical Agronomist in the Eastern Midwest for Oro Agri, Inc. Nate is an American Society of Agronomy certified professional agronomist, and he serves on the Indiana Certified Crop Advisor board. He holds both a B.S. from Purdue in crop protection and M.S. from Michigan State in crop and soil science. Nate has been a resident of Jackson County since 2008 along with his wife, Julie, and children Max and Madi.



### TERRY AULT, SWCD DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Terry Ault, District Coordinator, has promoted Clean Water Indiana grants, rented equipment such as the John Deere and Great Plains no-till drills, roller crimper and straw crimper. In addition to her administrative duties, she coordinates conservation activities such as soils judging contest, Envirothon contest, 3rd Grade field day, Public Officials Tour, fair displays, and ag field days for the county, and works with the INField Advantage program. Terry is a past Indiana District Employees Association Region Director for the South-Southeast area of Indiana. Terry is married to Tom and they have 3 children who have given them 8 grandchildren. Tom and Terry really enjoy attending the grandchildren events and having family get-togethers.



### KELLEY ROBERTS, NRCS SOIL CONSERVATIONIST

Hi, my name is Kelley Roberts and I am the new Soil Conservationist in the Brownstown office. I grew up in Goodland, IN but am now living in Salem, IN. I have always been around agriculture, helping my grandpa and uncles on the farm. Being involved in Crops Judging (FFA) in high school, being a 10 year 4-H member, and knowing that there is always going to be a need for agriculture, I quickly realized that Agronomy is what I wanted to go into. I graduated from Purdue University in May 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy: Crop and Soil Management and a minor in Horticulture. During my time at Purdue, I was an Agronomy Ambassador and was part of the Agronomy Club, Horticulture Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and the Honors College. I also recently transferred

over from being a Program Technician with the Farm Service Agency at the beginning of September 2021. I am very excited to be a part of the NRCS and am looking forward to helping people help the land!



### PAIGE HUDSON, NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

My name is Paige Hudson and I am the NRCS District Conservationist in Jackson County. I graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agronomy and I am now pursuing my master's degree in Agronomy specializing in Range and Forage Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I currently live just outside of Bedford with my husband, Jordan, our 2 dogs and 3 cats. I grew up on a farm in Heltonville where we raised corn, soybeans, and beef cattle, and did custom hay. My husband and I still help with the farm working cattle, moving equipment, running the grain cart, hauling grain, etc. I was a 10-year 4-H member showing Dairy cattle, swine, and goats, as well as being an FFA member all four years in high school.

My husband and I currently live in my grandparent's old home on a parcel of my family farm. We are enrolled in the NRCS-EQIP program in Lawrence County to get our pasture ready for a herd of cattle of our own. Between work, renovating our home, school-work, and trying to establish our own farm, I don't have much free time, but when I do, I enjoy traveling, DIYing items for our home, and playing golf. I have had a great time getting to know the producers of Jackson County this past year and I look forward to meeting more of you as time goes on! Feel free to contact me any time at (812) 358-2367 ext. 3 or paige.hudson@usda.gov. Stay safe & well; I look forward to speaking with you soon! Sincerely, Paige

## SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES



### DANA JOHNSON

Dana is a lifelong resident of Jackson County. He has been in the supply business for 30 plus years. Dana is currently the President of Winsupply of Seymour. Where they serve Plumbing, Heating and Air, and Kitchen and Bath customers, as well as the agricultural community. Dana and his wife Jessie live in Uniontown. They have five children and four grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with his family and doing outdoor activities.



### ASHLEY SHOEMAKER

Being a leader in the agriculture community has been a goal of mine since my time in FFA and 4-H. Competing on different Career Development relating to conservation teams such as soils, crops, and livestock skillathon. Growing up in rural Indiana I learned early the value of agriculture to not only with the products produced, but to our family values and communities. Using conservation practices will allow us to preserve our ways of life. While attending Purdue University to study Agriculture Education I took many classes around environmental conservation. As a family farm along the White River we strive to implement farming practices that are sustainable for future generations; I believe that being a supervisor with the Soil and

Water Conservation District will allow me to be a part of the work that is helping family farms preserve their resources for future generations.



### DALE POTTSCHMIDT

Dale Potts Schmidt has agreed to be a supervisor candidate. Dale comes from several generations of farmers and has lived most of his life in Washington Township. Potts Schmidt Farms Inc. began in January of 1987 and two of his sons, Clayton and Tyler, help him farm now. Together they own and/or lease 1700 acres in the Vernon Fork of Muscatatuck River and in the Grassy Fork portion of the East Fork of the White River. In April 2021, they started a small feeder calf operation as well as raise corn, soybeans and plant cover crops. Dale is married to Teresa and they have 3 sons, Josh, Tyler, and Clayton.

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# INDIANA CONSERVATION TRANSECT SURVEY

2021 LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING | JACKSON COUNTY

PERCENT AND NUMBER OF JACKSON COUNTY FIELDS WITH INDICATED FALL/WINTER TILLAGE SYSTEM AND COVER CROPS AFTER 2020 CROP HARVEST.

Present crop	No Till		Reduced Till		Conventional Tillage		Tillage Unknown or N/A		Cover Crops	
	%	pts	%	pts	%	pts	%	pts	%	pts
Corn	82%	140	18%	30	0%	0	0%	0	7%	12
Soybeans	93%	189	7%	14	0%	0	0%	0	15%	30
Small grains	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
Hay/Pasture	3%	1	0%	0	0%	0	97%	33	0%	0
Fallow	25%	1	0%	0	0%	0	75%	3	0%	9
Specialty Crops	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
CRP and similar	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>42</b>

ESTIMATED ACRES OF JACKSON COUNTY CORN AND SOYBEANS WITH INDICATED FALL/WINTER TILLAGE SYSTEM AND COVER CROPS AFTER 2020 CROP HARVEST (BASED ON 2019 CDL NASS DATA)

Present crop	No Till acres	Reduced Till acres	Conventional Tillage acres	Cover Crops acres
Corn	28,300	6,200	0	2,400
Soybeans	59,500	4,500	0	9,600
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>87,800</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,000</b>

ESTIMATED SOIL & SEDIMENT BOUND NUTRIENT SAVINGS FROM COVER CROPS AND CONSERVATION TILLAGE SYSTEMS

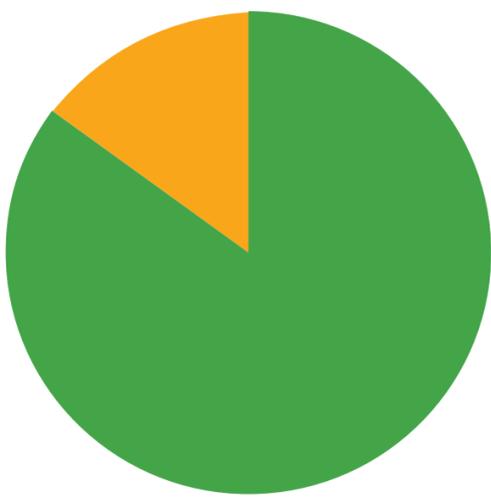
BMP	Pre-BMP Sediment (tons)	Pre-BMP Phosphorus (lbs)	Pre-BMP Nitrogen (lbs)	Post-BMP Sediment (tons)	Post-BMP Phosphorus (lbs)	Post-BMP Nitrogen (lbs)	Sediment Reduction (tons)	Phosphorus Reduction (tons)	Nitrogen Reduction (lbs)
Cover Crops	13,400	21,000	41,900	4,000	8,000	16,000	9,400	13,000	25,900
No-Till	130,100	192,400	384,200	38,300	72,300	144,300	91,800	182,500	364,500
Reduced Till	20,600	28,900	57,800	7,300	12,580	25,100	13,300	14,800	29,600

Sediment and Nutrient loading without BMPs

Sediment and Nutrient loading with BMPs

Reduction of Sediment and Nutrient loading from these BMPs

## CORN



- NO-TILL\* (82%)
- REDUCED TILL (18%)
- CONVENTIONAL TILL (0%)

**\*NO TILL:**

Any direct seeding system, including site preparation, with minimal soil disturbance (includes strip and ridge till)

**MULCH TILL:**

Any tillage system leaving 30% to 75% residue cover after planting, excluding no till

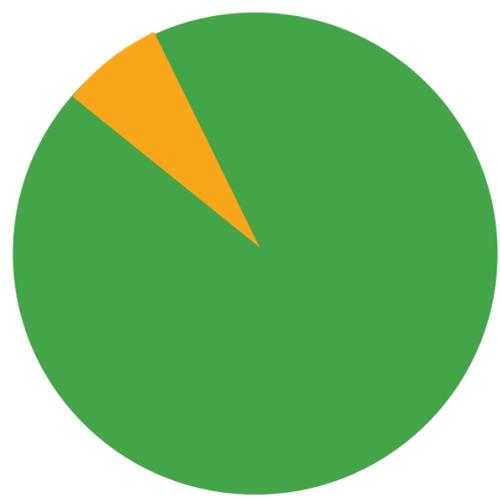
**REDUCED:**

Any tillage system leaving 16% to 30% residue cover after planting

**CONVENTIONAL:**

Any tillage system leaving less than 15% residue cover after planting

## SOYBEANS



- NO-TILL\* (93%)
- REDUCED TILL (7%)
- CONVENTIONAL TILL (0%)

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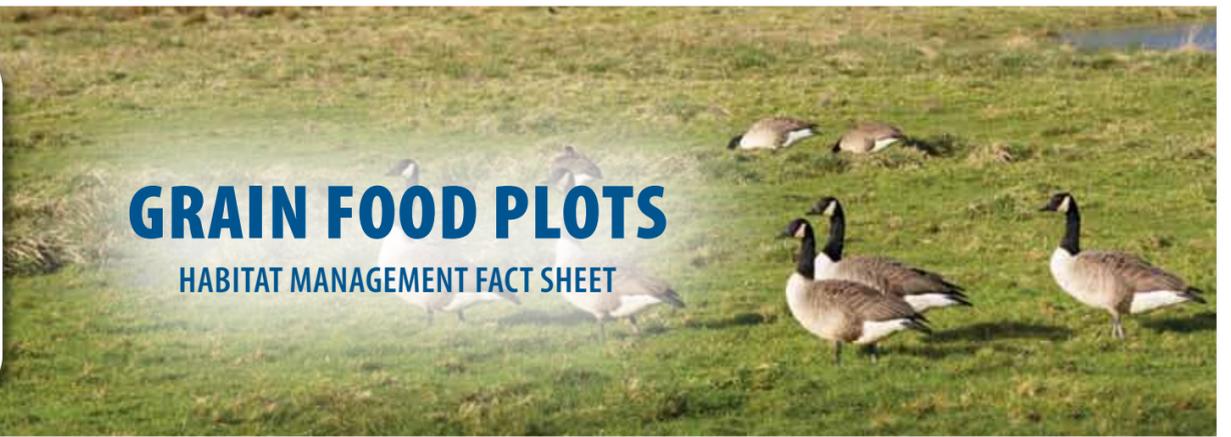
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# GRAIN FOOD PLOTS

## HABITAT MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET



Wildlife habitat consists of food, water, cover, and a good arrangement of these components. Most wildlife species find adequate food during daily movements, however, many areas will benefit by the landowner providing additional food through the development of grain food plots. During the winter, especially in late winter and early spring, wildlife can benefit from reliable food sources provided by landowners. Species of wildlife ranging from small mammals and songbirds, to deer and turkey, may benefit from grain food plot establishment. The type of food provided, and the placement of the plots, can result in wildlife overwintering in good condition and ready for the spring breeding season.

### FOOD PLOT SIZE AND PLACEMENT

Food plots are best utilized when placed along the edge of different cover types. The border between an open grassland and woods, or between an open grassland and a brushy area will benefit species using the different cover types. It is important to position the plots near cover to ensure species using the plots will not be overly exposed to predators. Food plots should be placed on non-erodible sites, and, if possible, adjacent to good cover. The plots should receive at least 6 - 8 hours of sunlight per day. Long, narrow plots (500' x 20') and small plots (1/4 to 1/2 acre) interspersed throughout the property are preferable. A strip 50 feet wide and 218 feet long is 1/4 acre. One half to one acre of food plot per 40 acres should be sufficient to provide valuable food to wildlife. Several smaller food plots established in key locations are more desirable than 1 or 2 large plots. If the food plot location was formerly fescue, efforts should be made to eradicate the fescue before planting. Annual weeds are very beneficial to wildlife, but fescue will compete against the grains being planted and can also be toxic to wildlife.

### FOOD PLOT ESTABLISHMENT

Food plots should be rotated so that the same location is planted only once every two or three years. Grain and valuable cover may still be available the second year after planting, and annual weeds such as ragweed, smartweed, pigweed, and foxtail will germinate in older food plots providing valuable food for wildlife. One recommended method of providing a good wildlife feeding area is to prepare a seed bed twice as wide as the width of the proposed food plot. Plant the food plot on half of the prepared seed bed and leave the other half fallow. The following year leave the previous year's plot standing and plant the other half of the disced ground. By rotating the plots in this manner, natural food sources will be provided along with a variety of cover and food including the grain planted. As with any crop, proper applications of lime and fertilizer will improve food plot success. If possible, a soil test should be conducted. In lieu of a soil test, a general guideline would be to use 200 lbs/ac of 12-12-12 fertilizer for grain food plots. Herbicides should not be used (except with sunflower plots) or used at a very low rate. To minimize excessive weed competition, planting should be delayed until late May or early June.

### TYPES OF FOOD PLOTS

Before planting, a good seed bed should be prepared by discing the soil thoroughly. The method of planting depends on results desired, and availability of equipment, time and manpower. Effective food plots can be provided by discing and broadcasting fertilizer and seed using broadcast equipment or by hand. It should be remembered, light grain stands are more beneficial than crowded, heavy seeded plots. Areas of bare soil and annual weeds that establish in food plots provide excellent components of good wildlife habitat. Do not sow the seeds too thick. Listed below are grain types that may be used, the rates and methods of planting, and wildlife attracted.



**CORN:** Corn ranks at the top of wildlife food types. It is attractive to deer, turkeys, small mammals, songbirds, and upland game birds. Corn food plots may be difficult to establish in high deer density areas. Several special varieties are available which provide low ear height, multiple small ears, and varying maturity dates. Popcorn, due to its small kernel size, is also good for wildlife plantings. Corn may be planted with conventional row crop equipment in well prepared soil in late April to mid-May. A rate of 8 - 10 lbs/acre would be sufficient. Corn plots may also be established by broadcasting the seed (with fertilizer) at a 15 - 20 lb rate and then discing in the seed.



**SUNFLOWERS:** The "oil" variety of sunflowers grown commercially make excellent food for mourning doves, upland game birds, songbirds, and small mammals. Sunflowers are relatively drought-tolerant and grow 4-6 feet in height. Sunflowers should be planted with conventional tillage equipment at 3-5 lbs/ac or broadcast at 5 - 10 lbs/acre in May. If broadcast, the seed bed should be disced to lightly cover the seed. If the sunflower plot is being planted to attract doves for hunting purposes, herbicide should be used to keep the bed free of weeds, and the seed should be planted as soon as soil permits in the spring. Sunflowers mature early in the fall, and by winter the seed has either been eaten or has dropped to the ground. Since this will not benefit wildlife during the harsh winter months, additional food plots of corn or sorghum should be provided near the sunflowers.



**SORGHUM, MILLET AND MILO:** These grains are in the sorghum family and produce BB sized seeds which are used by a variety of birds including doves, quail, waterfowl, turkeys, songbirds and small mammals. The plants grow 2 - 3 feet, and usually stand up well to snow, providing both food and cover for wildlife. The seed can be drilled at 10 lbs/acre or broadcast at 15 - 20 lbs per acre. If broadcast, good soil contact should be made by light harrowing or discing. If deer browse the food plot to the extent that seed heads do not form, taller varieties may be planted to avoid the problem. Taller varieties may include, sudan grass or forage sorghum.



**WHEAT:** Wheat ranks near corn in number of wildlife users and value to wildlife. Wheat makes an excellent nurse crop into which legume food plots may be seeded, and also provides a good food source both in the vegetative and grain states. Waterfowl, deer, upland game birds, songbirds, rabbits and other small mammals use wheat as a food source. Wheat can be broadcast or drilled in the fall at a rate of 1 bu/acre.

Landowners may wish to provide a mixture of different food sources in one food plot. If this is done, care should be taken not to crowd the seed. It should be remembered, that bare soil and annual weed growth in the food plots may be as important to wildlife as the grain provided. If a mixture of different seed types are used in one food plot, the rate of each should be cut to 1/4 the rate of that used in a single grain food plot.

A cheap and often overlooked source of food plot seed is bulk bird feed that can be purchased at most department stores. Many bird feed mixtures contain unhulled oil sunflower, giant sunflower, sorghum, milo, and millets. Although the germination rate may not be as high as certified seed, good success can be achieved by broadcasting the seed at a higher rate. Care should be taken not to purchase bird seed that contains cracked corn, since it will not germinate.

The establishment of wildlife food plots is approved for use on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) acreage provided the landowner's Conservation Plan has been amended accordingly. Owners of CRP or WRP acreage should contact their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office for further information and restrictions.

Other grains such as barley, oats, and rye may be used as food plots. The above-mentioned grains may be obtained from local agricultural seed dealers. Often, the Division of Fish and Wildlife and certain conservation organizations make seed available to the public. Contact the local Private Lands Wildlife Biologist or the NRCS office for more information regarding the planting food plots for wildlife.

GRAIN	DRILLED SEEDING RATE	BROADCAST SEEDING RATE	SEEDING DEPTH (INCHES)
<b>CORN</b>	8-10 lbs. / acre	15-20 lbs. / acre	0.5 - 2 inches
<b>SUNFLOWER</b>	3-5 lbs. / acre	5-10 lbs. / acre	1-2 inches
<b>SOYBEANS</b>	30 lbs. / acre	45 lbs. / acre	1.5 - 2 inches
<b>SORGHUM</b>	10 lbs. / acre	15-20 lbs. / acre	1-2 inches
<b>WHEAT</b>	40 lbs. / acre	60 lbs. / acre	1-2 inches
<b>MILLET/MILO</b>	10 lbs. / acre	15-20 lbs. / acre	0.5 - 1 inch
<b>BUCKWHEAT</b>	30 lbs. / acre	40 lbs. / acre	1-2 inches

Prepared by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife. For up-to-date information concerning the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, or for information on the location of your District Wildlife Biologist, visit our website at [www.wildlife.IN.gov](http://www.wildlife.IN.gov)