



WEST CENTRAL INDIANA WATERSHED ALLIANCE

WWW.WATERSHED-ALLIANCE.ORG



Newsletter

WCIWA

Summer 2010

The Program Issue

A wealth of programs are available to landowners, farmers, and other stewards of the land through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Services Agency, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts. The Summer 2010 WCIWA newsletter features a variety of these programs currently available to those interested in conserving our natural resources.

Whether signing up for CRP, EQIP, WHIP, CCPI, Section 319 or any of the other alphabet soup of programs, some basic information is typically required:

- **Tract Maps** for properties you wish to enroll (Available from FSA) You may be asked to highlight areas where you would like to install practices.
- **Proof of Control** for Tracts you wish to enroll. This can be a copy of a deed, a copy of a lease agreement, or a com-

pleted *Control of Land* form (Available from the NRCS).

• Completed Application Form

You will typically work with your NRCS District Conservationist or SWCD technical staff to develop conservation plans showing where and what type of practice you would like to implement. Structures such as WASCoBs, grassed waterways, and terraces may require design and layout by an NRCS Tech Team. Your local Conservation Office will help you through this process.

Not every program and practice can be highlighted in a single publication. And the programs evolve with each fiscal year, changes in Farm Bills, and targeted incentive programs. It's a good idea to stay in touch with your local Conservation Office to see what programs may be available for you and your land.

As a service of the West Central Watershed Alliance, applicants to the Busseron Creek Cost-Share Programs will meet with staff to review potential conservation practices that would fit their land, farm, and management strategies. This meeting typically involves a driving tour of lands in the Busseron Creek Watershed as well as tracts that lie outside of the area. A holistic conservation plan is developed that notes potential technical and financial support – such as Section 319, NRCS programs, FSA programs, and DNR programs.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) recently announced the expansion of the State's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Of Indiana's 92 counties, 65 have potentially eligible lands. All of the watersheds in which the WCIWA works (Busseron, Turtle, Turman, and Kelley Bayou) are included in this expanded program.

This enhancement program can provide incentives beyond traditional Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments for qualifying practices.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Location in a CREP watershed
- Cropland must meet cropping history criteria and be physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner.
- Marginal pastureland along streams,

watercourses and certain upland areas may be eligible.

Lands under an existing CRP contract or an approved offer with contract pending are ineligible for CREP until that contract expires.

Lands enrolled into CREP will be eligible for standard FSA cost-share payments along with additional state incentives. For the duration of the 14-15 year contract, landowners will receive rental payments based upon average soil rental rates from the USDA *plus* an additional 40% from ISDA.

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Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) cont from page 1

Native Grasses CP2



A mixed stand of a least 3 native grasses and at least 2 forbs or legumes will be established to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat.

- Minimum 50ft wide
- Maximum 180ft wide

FSA Cost-Share: 50% NTE \$130 / Ac
One-time State Incentive: \$100 / Ac

Hardwood Trees CP3A



A mixed stand of 3 or more hardwood tree species will be utilized to establish a wooded corridor along and around water bodies.

- Minimum 35ft wide
- Maximum 180ft wide

FSA Cost-Share: 50% NTE \$266 / Ac
FSA Y2 Weed Control: NTE \$34/Ac
One-time State Incentive: \$400 / Ac

Wildlife Habitat CP4D



A mixed stand of at least 5 native grasses and forbs with at least 20% of the acreage being trees and/or shrubs in blocks or strips best suited for various wildlife species in

the area.

- Minimum 35ft wide
- Maximum 180ft wide

FSA Cost-Share: 50% NTE \$155 / Ac
One-time State Incentive: \$100 / Ac

Filter Strip CP2I



Areas of grass and other perennial (non-woody) vegetation that are established between agricultural fields and water bodies to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, and stabilize streambanks.

- Minimum 35ft wide
- Maximum 120ft wide

FSA Cost-Share: 50% NTE \$73 / Ac for cool-season grasses and \$130 / Ac for native grasses
One-time Signing Incentive: \$100/ Ac
One-time Practice Incentive Payment: 40% of eligible installation costs
One-time State Incentive: \$100 / Ac

Riparian Buffer CP22



Areas of trees, shrubs, and grasses established along open bodies of water to provide soil protection, water quality enhancement and wildlife habitat.

- Minimum 35ft wide
- Maximum 180ft wide

FSA Cost-Share: NTE \$266 / Ac
FSA Y2 Weed Control: NTE \$34/Ac
One-time Signing Incentive:\$100/Ac
One-time Practice Incentive Payment: 40% of eligible installation costs
One-time State Incentive: \$400 / Ac

Wetland Restoration CP23/23A



Re-establishment of a previously drained wetland by filling ditches, diking, or removing and/or breaking drains.

- Entire fields may be enrolled
- Must have hydric soils
- Debris must be removed from pipe inlets / outlets
- Pipes need to be inspected and repaired before restoration
- No maximum width limits

FSA Cost-Share: 50% of cost for excavation and hydrology restoration. Native grasses FR \$130 / Acre.
Trees FR \$266 / Ac

FSA Y2 Weed Control: NTE \$34/Ac
One-time Signing Incentive: \$100 / Ac
One-time Practice Incentive Payment: 40% of eligible installation costs
One-time State Incentive: \$950 / Ac

Bottomland Timber CP3I



Establish a native stand of predominantly hardwood trees in the 100-year floodplain of a stream with permanent flow to provide soil protection, water quality enhancement, and wildlife habitat.

- Entire fields may be enrolled

FSA Cost-Share: NTE \$266 / Ac
FSA Y2 Weed Control: NTE \$34/Ac
One-time Signing Incentive: \$100 / Ac
One-time Practice Incentive Payment: 40% of eligible installation costs
One-time State Incentive: \$400 / Ac

Images courtesy NRCS Photo Gallery



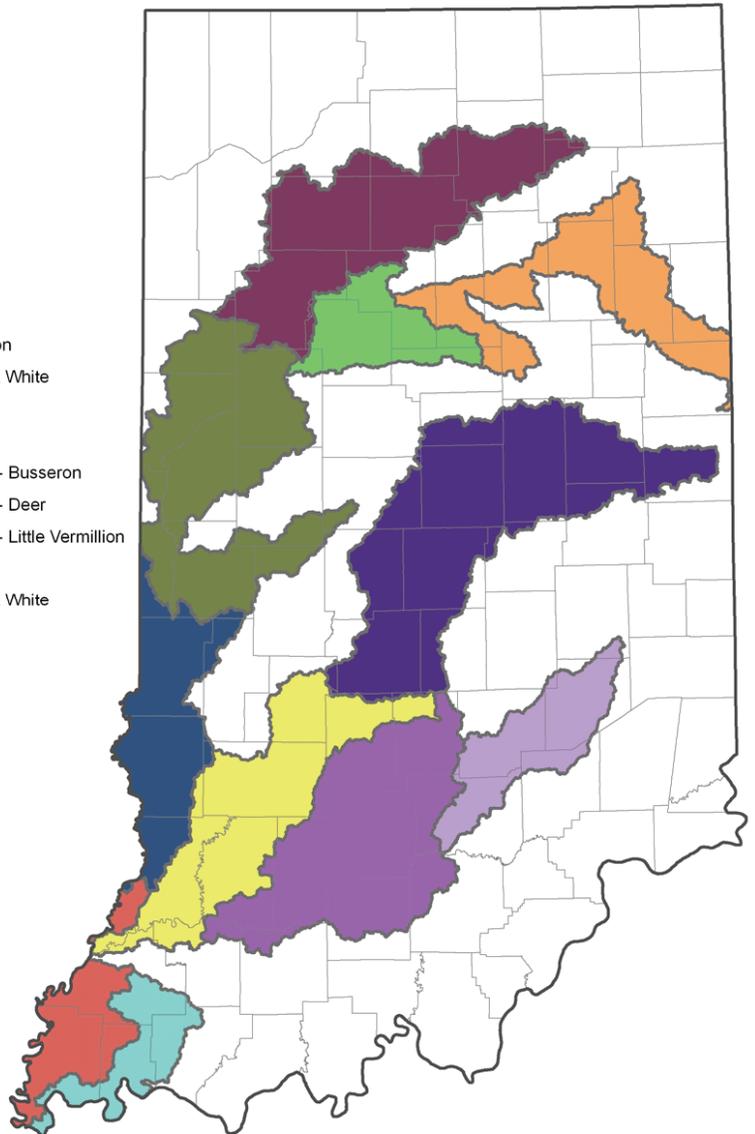
Indiana's CREP Partnership



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
Soil and Water Conservation
DISTRICTS

Landowners interested in any of the CREP practices described on page 2 should contact their local SWCD, NRCS, or FSA office.

-  Highland - Pigeon
-  Lower East Fork White
-  Lower Wabash
-  Lower White
-  Middle Wabash - Busseron
-  Middle Wabash - Deer
-  Middle Wabash - Little Vermillion
-  Tippecanoe
-  Upper East Fork White
-  Upper Wabash
-  Upper White



2010 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Watersheds

Clay County

955 W Craig Ave
Brazil, IN 47834
812 / 448-1108

Sullivan County

2316 N Section Street
Sullivan, IN 47882
812 / 268-5157

Greene County

104 CR 70E, Suite B
Bloomfield, IN 47424
812 / 384-4781

Vigo County

3241 S 3rd Place
Honey Creek West
Terre Haute, IN 47802
812 / 232-0193



Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the NRCS develops contracts with ag producers to implement conservation practices to address environmental and natural resource problems. Payments are made to producers once conservation practices are completed according to NRCS requirements.

Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible for the program. Eligible lands include cropland, forestland, and other farm and ranch lands. Ap-

plicants must be an ag producer. They must also be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Farm Bill.

Typical EQIP practices include:

- Cover Crops
- Exclusionary Fencing
- Nutrient Management, including Variable Rate Applications of fertilizer
- Pest Management, including integrated pest management
- No-till and Reduced Tillage
- Prescribed Grazing
- Sediment Basins
- Well Decommissioning
- Waste Storage Facilities (livestock)

Many other practices are avail-

able for incentives or cost-share. Information is available from the Indiana NRCS website (www.in.nrcs.usda.gov) Producers may also contact their NRCS District Conservationist or local SWCD office for more information about the program.

The EQIP program has a continuous sign-up, and cut-off dates are used to establish ranking of applications / prioritization of contracts. Because practices and payment rates change annually, most applications are completed during the weeks following EQIP program announcements. First-round typically takes place during November/December and Second-round typically occurs in January/February.



Busseron Creek Section 319 Cost-Share

Over \$150,000 of Busseron Creek Cost-Share funds have been allocated to date. Approved applications that are unfunded through the active Section 319 grant will be queued into the next Section 319 program. On behalf of the WCIWA, the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District is working with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to complete contract documents and expedite funding of that second Section 319 grant for the Busseron Creek Watershed.

In general, a practice must reduce soil erosion, reduce inputs, reduce run-off of inputs, or filter run-off.

The program has been used extensively to fill gaps in other conservation programs. For example, some programs will fund grassed waterways, but not WASCoBs. When used as *part* of a conservation sys-

tem, the Busseron Cost-share can fund up to 75% of the cost to install those WASCoBs.

The most popular BMP is the adoption of Precision Ag Technology for guidance and automatic boom section control on sprayers and fertilizer tool bars. Payment on these items are tiered: those applicants who have implemented more BMPs receive larger cost-share percentages with higher payment caps.

Other popular BMPs include terraces and other structures as part of a conservation program that includes no-till or cover crops, crop rotation, variable rate fertilizer applications, and other practices that enhance or improve water quality.

The WCIWA has a drill available for those people interested in seeding upland habitat of warm season grasses or grass / wildflower mixes.



The drill was donated by the National Wild Turkey Federation. The drill may be used to install practices funded through other programs and may also be used in areas outside of the Busseron Creek Watershed. Other drills are available for use or rent from the group's partner SWCDs.

For more information, contact the WCIWA at:

812-268-5157 x 3

or lisa@Watershed-Alliance.org



Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

Greene, Knox, and Sullivan Counties

A partnership of the Greene, Knox, and Sullivan SWCDs, the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and the Four Rivers RC&D was awarded a Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) grant from the NRCS. The grant will be used to improve irrigation system efficiency and water quality on existing systems located in Greene, Knox, and Sullivan counties.

\$215,000 will be allocated to farmers over the course of 5 years (\$43,000 / year). Interested growers should contact the Greene, Knox, or Sullivan Conservation Offices.

Practices

Irrigation Water Management (449)

\$12.00 / Acre for up to 3 payments

- Uniformity Test required, Y1
- Payment for detailed record

keeping and data collection, and irrigating according to an approved irrigation scheduling program

- Participant must have irrigated at least 2 of the past 5 years.

Check Valve (441 / 442)

\$1500 / unit

- Payment is for installation of backflow prevention device on system chemigating or fertigating and currently without device

Irrigation Sprinkler Upgrade (442)

\$44.00 / Acre, \$6000 cap for each irrigation system enrolled.

- Irrigation Water Management (449) is required
- Upgrades must be to improve energy and/or water efficiency.



Image courtesy NRCS Photo Gallery

- Upgrade must include two or all of the following:
 - Installation of backflow preventer to address water quality resource concerns.
 - Nozzle replacement of different type or to replace nozzles over 5 years old.
 - Pressure regulator replacement or installation.



Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private land. By targeting wildlife habitat projects on *all* lands and aquatic areas (not just farmland), WHIP provides assistance to conservation minded landowners that are unable to meet specific eligibility requirements of other USDA conservation programs.

Through WHIP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75% cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Agreements generally last from 5 to 10 years.

Landowners interested in long-term agreements (15 years or longer) may be eligible for up to 90% cost-

share to install conservation practices for essential plant and animal habitat.

Land eligible for WHIP may be private agricultural land including cropland, grassland, rangeland, pasture, and other land determined by NRCS to be suitable for fish and wildlife habitat development. It may also be non-industrial private forest land, including rural land that has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees.

Landowners *need not* be agricultural producers.

Typical WHIP practices include:

- Woodland Edge Feathering
- Field Borders
- Hedgerow Planting
- Invasive Species Management
- Upland Wildlife Habitat
- Wetland Creation and Enhance-

ment

- Many other practices are available

The WHIP program has a continuous sign-up. Cut-off dates are used to establish ranking of applications / prioritization of contracts. Because practices and payment rates change annually, most applications are completed during the weeks following WHIP program announcements. First-round typically takes place during November/December and Second-round typically occurs in January/February.

Information is available from the Indiana NRCS website (www.in.nrcs.usda.gov) Producers may also contact their NRCS District Conservationist or local SWCD office for more information about the program.

Newsletter

West Central Indiana Watershed Alliance
2316 N Section Street
Sullivan, IN 47882

812-268-5157 x3
812-564-1162

VOLUNTEER!! **Sullivan County SWCD** **Annual 8th Grade Raft Trip** October 5th, 6th, 7th

Adult Supervisors for Rafts

- 30-40 volunteers each day
- 7:30 am—5:00pm

Shore Detail

- 2-3 volunteers each day
- 10:30 am—2:30pm

Volunteer for 1, 2, or all 3 days!

Contact:

Judy Bengochea
Sullivan-SWCD@illianawireless.com
812-268-5157 x3

SAVE THE DATE!!

Master Naturalist Program

Thursdays 9:00am - noon
Starting Sept 9th, Ending Oct 28th
At Various Locations in Vigo County

Eight hands-on learning sessions include:

- Native Plants
- Invasive Plants
- Forestry
- Water Resources
- Wildlife
- Soils
- Agriculture
- Geology

After completing the 8 class modules, participants can accrue 24 hours of community service to complete their Master Naturalist Certification. Cost \$75.00 - which includes class materials and refreshments

Contact:

Sycamore Trails RC&D
765-653-9785
Jim Luzar, Purdue Extension
812-462-3371

Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area **What's All the Fuss?**

Monday, September 20th
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Wabash Valley Fairgrounds
Floriculture Building

A presentation will be followed by a Question & Answer session with a panel of project participants, including:

- Eddy Adams
NRCS District Conservationist
- Keith Ruble
Director, Vigo County Parks
- Randy Miller
Wabashiki Project Manager, DNR
- Max Miller, Riverscape

Sponsored by Sycamore Trails RC&D

Special Thanks To:

WCIWA Partner SWCDs

Clay Co. SWCD
Greene Co. SWCD
Sullivan Co. SWCD
Vigo Co. SWCD

CCPI

Four Rivers RC&D
Greene Co. SWCD
Knox Co. SWCD
Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
Sullivan Co. SWCD

CREP Program

Indiana State Department of Agriculture
USDA - Farm Services Agency

Local CREP Promotional Partners

Quail Unlimited, Chapter 261
Greene Co. SWCD
Sullivan Co. SWCD
Greene & Sullivan Co. FSA Offices
Greene & Sullivan Co. NRCS Offices

And to

All of our partner organizations who helped in the completion of our Turtle Creek-Turman Creek-Kelly Bayou Section 319 Grant Application

