



KNOX COUNTY SWCD

Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District

233 S. Soangetaha Road, Galesburg, IL 61401 ~ (309) 342-5138 ext. 3

Winter/Spring 2026

<https://knoxcountyilswcd.wixsite.com/knox>

It is the belief of this organization that the Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District is to be the respected leader in education and motivating those innovators who conserve our natural resources for the present and future generations.

(above) The IDOA Partners For Conservation Grant (state cost-share) helped fund a Streambank Restoration and Stabilization project to restore and fortify this creek in the Fall of 2025. Rock is placed in the water at the edge of the bank to redirect the current and armor the bank from erosion. Rock is also placed across the creek as a “riffle” to slow down the current and lessen down-cutting of the creek bed. Cedar Township, Section 25.

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Would you rather receive this newsletter electronically?

If so, please email us at knoxcoilsxcd@gmail.com with “Newsletter” in the subject line.

This newsletter is also available on our website, <https://knoxcountyilswcd.wixsite.com/knox>

We Need Your Opinion!

Are you concerned about the natural resources in Knox County?

Do you want to do your part in ensuring future generations of land stewards are able to enjoy and participate in the land that is left to them?

Want a chance to win a Visa gift card??

Help us focus our conservation efforts by taking our short survey using the **QR code down below.** (It’s only 3 questions!!)



Or by visiting this link: form.typeform.com/to/XBW1QFAM

One lucky winner will be selected at random on Friday, February 27th, 2026

IL SWCD Funding Update

[Illinois SWCDs are running on a state FY 2001 funding budget!](#)

Recent history of SWCD State Funding for Knox Co. SWCD Operations income has been...

- ◇ FY17—\$38,374.23 received January 2017
- ◇ FY18—\$39,730.24 received April 2018
- ◇ FY19—\$102,838.36 received partial in 4/2018 & 11/2019
- ◇ FY20—\$40,721.65 received April 2020
- ◇ FY21—\$40,721.65 received May 2021
- ◇ FY22—\$81,958.76 received May 2022
- ◇ FY23—\$81,958.76 received in June 2023
- ◇ FY24—\$81,958.76 received partial Feb. '24 & June '24
- ◇ FY25—\$43,990.00 received June 2025
- ◇ FY26—\$43,990.00 approved in state budget, not released yet

SWCDs care for the natural resource needs of all of Illinois’ 102 counties... over 37M acres... Their creation was hastened by a public awakening to the ravages of soil erosion during the dust storms of the 1930’s. The Knox County SWCD was formed July 27, 1944.

IL SWCDs are funded through the IL Dept of Ag: Partners For Conservation (PFC) Grant line item. **Please contact your State Legislators to restore us to level funding from last year, our level for the past three years.**

Knox County State Legislators include:

- 36th District, Senator Michael W. Halpin, 309.297.4483, senatormikehalpin@gmail.com
- 47th District, Senator Neil Anderson, 309.230.7584, senatorneilanderson@gmail.com
- 71st District, Representative Dan Swanson 309.334.7474, swanson@ilhousegop.org
- 93rd District, Representative Travis Weaver, 309.204.6514, weaver@ilhousegop.org
- 94th District, Representative Norine Hammond, 309.836.2707, rephammond@macomb.com



Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District
233 S. Soangetaha Rd. Ste. 4
Galesburg, IL 61401

Office Staff



(left to right) Jennifer Delpierre, Kindra Pruett, Katie Ingle, Kara Downin,, Emma Molburg, Nicole Miller, & Tim Blackwell

Knox County SWCD Staff

Katie Ingle, Administrative & Education Coordinator
Kara Downin, Resource Conservationist

NRCS Field Office Staff

(Knox, Warren, and Henderson Counties)
Kindra Pruett, Soil Conservationist
Jennifer Delpierre, Soil Conservationist
Emma Molburg, Soil Conservationist
Brandi Woolam, Soil Conservationist

Partners

Tim Blackwell, IDOA Conservation Planner
Evan Laws, PF Farm Bill Biologist
Regan Baker, NGRREC Land Conservation Specialist

NRCS Area Office

Nicole Miller, NRCS Program Support Assistant

Knox County SWCD Directors

George Cummings, Chairman
Brian Friedrich, Vice Chairman
Chris Bewley, Secretary
Dave Asbury, Treasurer
A.J. Harland, Director

Knox County SWCD Associate Directors

Frank Hopkins
Bruce Pecenka
Terry Leafgreen
Don Moffitt
Monica Stevens
Tom Hoben
Ted Mottaz
Joan Whitney
Tyler Main

Field Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Appointments are encouraged,
as staff are often in the field.

Board meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of each month. Please call ahead to confirm meeting time. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Knox County SWCD offers all programs and services without regard to color, nationality, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability or political beliefs. Knox County SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

USDA Building Closure Schedule

January 19th — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 16th – Presidents’ Day
May 25th – Memorial Day
June 19th – Juneteenth
July 4th – Independence Day
September 7th – Labor Day

2026 Important Dates

January 21st - Open House/Election of Directors
7:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.
- Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
February 18th - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
March 13th - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
March 18th - **Tree Sale order deadline**
March 31st - Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- **Grass Carp orders due**
April 1st - **Scholarship Applications due**
April 7th - **all other fish sale orders due**
April 10th - Tree Sale pick-up at 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
April 15th - Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.
April 21st - Fish Sale pick-up, 11:30 a.m.
May 1st - **Native Plant Sale orders due**
May 20th - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
June 5th - Plant Sale pick-up, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
June 24th - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
July 15th - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
August 19th - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
September 16th - Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting times are subject to change—call the office to confirm meeting times closer to the date of a board meeting.

Did you know that there is state cost-share available for cover crops?

Did you also know that you DON'T have to plant the entire field to cover crops



April 2023 Knox County cover crop spot check for the IDOA Fall Covers for Spring Savings program.

Here are the required guidelines for Knox County:

- ◆ For fields NOT planted to cover crops before
- ◆ Cost-share for up to three consecutive years
- ◆ Up to 160 ac per application
- ◆ 75% cost share, up to \$45.85/ac for a single species planted (up to \$79.05/ac for a planted mix).
- ◆ Applications must be approved at the SWCD Board Meeting prior to purchasing seed and planting.

If you'd like more information, please contact the SWCD office. The initial sign-up period is through May 1st, 2026.

For other available cover crop programs in Illinois (government and private), please visit the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership Cover Crop Incentives Directory that they regularly update.

<https://ilsustainableag.org/resource/isaps-cover-crop-incentives-directory/>

North of Rio, IL
April 2022 cover crop spot check visit for the IDOA Fall Covers for Spring Savings program



Board of Directors



Knox County SWCD Board of Directors:
(L to R) A.J. Harland, Brian Friedrich, Chris Bewley, George Cummings, Dave Asbury

DIRECTOR ELECTION Wednesday, January 21, 2026



The Knox County SWCD will have an election of directors on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026** from **7 a.m.—5:30 p.m.** for three positions to be filled starting March 1, 2026.

Any landowner or occupier of land in Knox County, age 18 or older, may vote. Stop by and cast your vote!

Election Day Voting Location:
233 S. Soangetaha Rd, Galesburg
(USDA Service Center)

We will make sure to get you registered and have a fresh ballot ready for you.

This year we have three seats open. We have the following Knox County Residents running for these two seats.

Please stop by January 21st to vote:

- George Cummings
- Dave Asbury
- Chris Bewley

Thank you!

The Knox County SWCD would like to thank all those that supported the District's educational programs in 2024 by purchasing from our sales programs. Your patronage is greatly appreciated!



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Greg Coleman 945-6605

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Behlen - Conrad - GSI/DMC - NECO - Hutchinson
Website - www.dagenconst.com



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- Structural repairs & welding
- Lighting repairs & replacements

Want to improve your lawn, garden, wildlife food plot, or pasture and not sure where to start??



WE SELL SOIL TESTING KITS!

Test Capacity: calcium, cation exchange capacity, magnesium, organic matter, percent saturation, pH, phosphorus, and potassium

Cost: \$52

Includes: instructions, bag for soil sample, an envelope and pre-paid postage

Your Results: includes a professional report with fertilizer recommendations and an information sheet on fertility

The soil test kits are available at the Knox County SWCD office. Call (309) 342-5138 ext. 3 for more information.

2026 Knox County SWCD Prairie Plant Plug Sale

All plants will be a 5" plug or a 2.5" x 3.5" pot and are \$6 each.
Orders will be taken until 3 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026. Pick up at the office will be Friday, June 5th (9:00-3:00 p.m.). Please remember that the possibility of plant failure(s) exists, so substitutions may be necessary. Please call the office with questions at (309) 342- 5138 ext. 3 or knoxcoilswcd@gmail.com

Wildflowers	Color	Bloom	Mature Height	# plants	Cost @ \$6/plant
Aster, New England	Pink/Purple	Aug-Oct	4 ft		\$
Blazing Star, Prairie	Purple	July-Sept	4 ft		\$
Bluestar	Blue	Apr-May	2-4 ft		\$
Boneset, Late	White	Aug - Oct	5 ft		\$
Cardinal Flower	Red	July-Sept	4 ft		\$
Clover, Purple Prairie	Purple	July-Sept	2 ft		\$
Coneflower, Eastern Purple	Purple	July - Sept	4 ft		\$
Coreopsis, Lanceleaf	Yellow	May-Aug	2 ft		\$
Ironweed, Missouri	Purple	July - Sept	4-6 ft		\$
Milkweed, Butterfly	Orange	June-Aug	2 ft		\$
Milkweed, Common	Pink/Purple	June-Aug	3-4 ft		\$
Milkweed, Swamp (Rose)	Pink	June-Aug	4 ft		\$
Milkweed, Whorled	White	July-Sept	2 ft		\$
Mountain Mint, Common (Virginia)	White	June-Sept	2-3 ft		\$
Rattlesnake Master	White	July-Sept	3-4 ft		\$
Rosin Weed	Yellow	July-Sept	5 ft		\$
Sunflower, False "ox-eye"	Orange	June-Sept	5 ft		\$
Susan, Black-Eyed	Yellow	June- Oct	2 ft		\$
Vervain, Hoary	Purple	June-Sept	2-3 ft		\$
Grasses	Color	Bloom	Mature Height	# plants	Cost @ \$6/plant
Big Bluestem	Grn/Brown	June-Sept	7 ft		\$
Indian Grass	Gold	Aug-Sept	4-6 ft		\$
Little Bluestem	Grn/Brown	July-Oct	2-4 ft		\$
Prairie Dropseed	Pink/Brown	July-Sept	2-3 ft		\$
Side-oats Grama	Green	Aug-Sept	2 ft		\$
TOTALS					\$

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone/ Alt. Phone _____
Email _____

Please make checks payable to:
Knox County SWCD
233 S. Soangetaha Rd
Galesburg, IL 61401

For further information on the plant sale, visit <https://knoxcountyilswcd.wixsite.com/knox> and click on the "Sales" tab. The plants are locally grown at Pleasant Prairie Nursery. More information can also be found by visiting www.pleasantprairienursery.com

Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis

Bloom Color: Red
Bloom Time: July-Sept
Height: 4 ft
Sun: Full-Part Sun
Soil Type: Med. Wet
Spacing: 6-16 in.

Hoary Vervain
Verbena stricta

Bloom Color: Blue
Bloom Time: June-Sept
Height: 2-3 ft
Sun: Full-Part Sun
Soil Type: Med.-Dry
Spacing: 10-12 in.

Prairie Dropseed
Sparganium angustifolium

Bloom Time: July-Sept
Height: 2-3 ft
Sun: Full-Part Sun
Soil Type: Med. Wet-Dry
Spacing: 2-3 ft.

Missouri Ironweed
Vernonia missouriensis

Bloom Color: Purple
Bloom Time: July-Oct
Height: 4-6 ft
Sun: Full-Part Sun
Soil Type: Med. Wet-Med. Dry
Spacing: 2-3 ft.

\$ PFC State Cost -Share \$
Knox County SWCD

Statewide Concentrated Sign-up focusing on these practices

\$ Cover Crops - 75% cost share, up to (\$45.85 - 79.05/ac) max, on up to 160 ac max, on fields not planted to cc before. Up to 3 years on the same field.

\$ No Till/Strip Till - 75% cost-share up to \$30/ac on fields going into corn or sorghum and never previously planted no-till or strip-till. Up to 3 years.

\$ Conservation Cover Pollinator Habitat - 75% cost-share up to \$968.93/ac on 10 ac max. Five year commitment.

\$ Critical Area Planting -75% cost-share, up to (\$235.55 - 2,806.76/ac) max, To stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion. Ten year commitment.



For practice information & applications contact:

kara.downin@il.nacdnet.net or knoxcoilswcd@gmail.com
(309)342-5138 x3

Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District 233 S. Soangetaha Rd., Galesburg, IL 61401



"Like" us on Facebook to stay up-to-date!

What you'll get to see this year:

- Our famous *Native Plant Highlight*
- Sales forms and due dates
- Cool events happening in the area and in neighboring counties

Check out "*Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District*"

Courson & Associates LLC

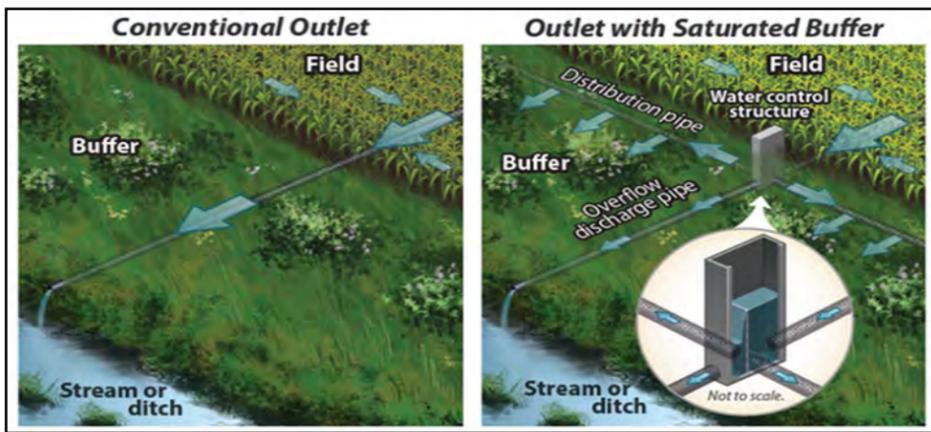
Certified Public Accountants

Dustin G. Courson, C.P.A.



2101 Windish Drive
Galesburg, IL 61401

Telephone: (309) 343-1593
Fax: (309) 343-9888
Email : info@courson.biz



USDA Agriculture Research Service

Knox County Pilot Grant Update

The Knox Soil & Water Conservation District and local partners are scaling up efforts to implement the Illinois Nutrient Reduction Loss Strategy (NLRs), a statewide initiative to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loss to our local

waterways. We have partnered with the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership in a Batch and Build Pilot to streamline the implementation of multiple conservation practices in a similar geography.

We are focusing on practices that reduce nitrates by treating tile outlets near streams; our primary practice is saturated buffers (see above diagram). Other potential Edge of Field practices are Denitrifying Bioreactors and Drainage Water Management.

With partners, we are actively pursuing funding opportunities to provide 100% cost share for the construction of these conservation drainage practices. Year 1 is wrapping up and will soon construct 8 bioreactors. For Year 2, we are searching for sites in northwest Knox County for Saturated Buffers.

Please contact Knox County SWCD if you are interested in this Pilot Grant and staff will set up a field visit with you to evaluate site suitability. We can be reached by email at knoxcoilsxcd@gmail.com.

Conservation Programs Break Down

These are the programs we work with in our office! We can also get you contact info for other programs like Forestry Development Act



1. CPP/PFC:

- Cost-share for implementation (not rent)
- Does not require cropping history
- Funded through Illinois Dept. of Ag (state)
- Contact: SWCD

2. EQIP:

- Competitive (ranked)
- Cost-share for adopting new practices
- Funded through NRCS (federal)
- Contact: NRCS

3. CSP:

- Competitive (ranked)
- Can make enhancements on current operation
- Funded through NRCS (federal)
- Contact: NRCS

4. CRP:

- Requires (reported) cropping history
- Pays rent
- Funded through Farm Services Agency (federal)
- Contact: FSA office

5. Forestry Development Act

- Involves a management plan
- Funded through IDNR
- Contact: IDNR Forester, our office cannot write you a plan

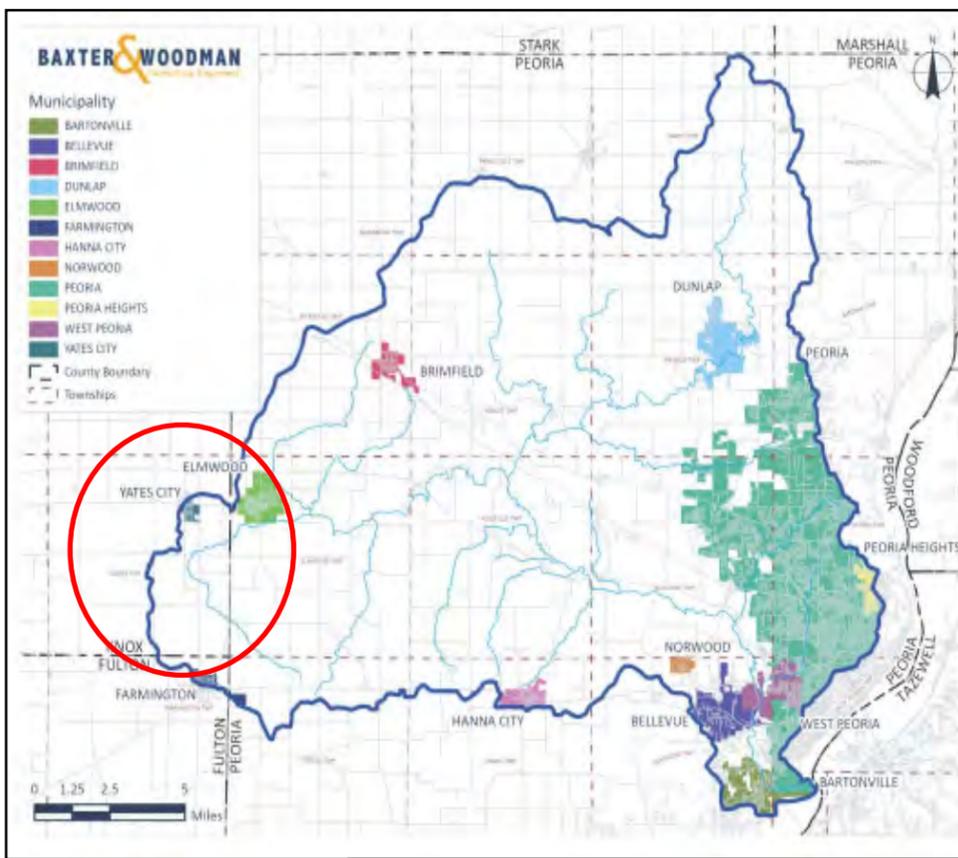
Kickapoo Creek Watershed Update

The Kickapoo Creek Watershed crosses into Knox County including 14 sections in Salem Township (see the red circle over the adjacent diagram). This includes most of Yates City and areas to the south and southwest.

The Watershed Subcommittee wants to focus on streambank erosion areas that were identified by Baxter and Woodman during their recent inventory.

Interested landowners with streambank erosion in this watershed should contact their county SWCD office for a site visit. With enough landowner interest, staff will later apply for grant funding to support erosion control projects.

A landowner and operator meeting is being planned for June 2026 in Elmwood.



8th Grade Real World Event

The University of Illinois Extension held a fall simulation of their Real World Event for Galesburg 8th Graders on November 21st. Kara & Katie worked at the Entertainment Table again this year and had a blast joking around with the kids and helping them budget what fun activities they could afford.

Choices for the students at this table included: throwing a party, going to the movies, getting ice cream with friends, and buying a video game. Extension will hold another simulation in the spring for the rest of the area's 8th Graders.



Kara encourages the kids to improve their work/life balance at the Entertainment table!

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2026 Tree Species Spotlight

Red Osier Dogwood

Mature Spread: 7-12'
Mature Height: 6-10'
Growth Rate: Fast
Sunlight: Full sun/
 partial shade
Soil Type: moist to wet,
 extremely tolerable



Photo courtesy of Arborday.org

White Oak



Our State Tree!!!
Mature Spread: 100'
Mature Height: 50-90'
Growth Rate: Slow to moderate
Sunlight: Full sun
Soil Type: rich, moist,
 well-drained

Photo courtesy K.Bachtell, The Morton Arboretum

Red Oak

Mature Spread: 40-75'
Mature Height: 60-75'
Growth Rate: fast for an oak
Sunlight: Full sun
Soil Type: well-drained,
 fertile, prefers loamy or
 silty soils slightly acidic



Photo courtesy Ohio DNR

Butternut



Also known as White Walnut
Mature Spread: 50'
Mature Height: 60'
Growth Rate: Slow
Sunlight: Full to partial sun
Soil Types: Moist, deep,
 rich, well-drained

Photo courtesy Ohio DNR Division of Forestry

2026 KNOX COUNTY SWCD TREE SALE

SPECIES	SIZE	COST	COST/25	COST/50	COST/100	# OF	TOTAL COST
INDIVIDUAL TREES	(INCHES) Age	EACH				TREES	/SPECIES
Eastern White Pine	10-20	2-1T	\$2.50	\$60.00	\$117.50		
Scotch Pine	12-18	2-0	\$2.00	\$48.00	\$94.00		
Norway Spruce	12-22	2-1T	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		
White Spruce	10-16	2-1T	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		
Swamp White Oak	16-28	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		
Bur Oak	12-24	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		
White Oak	14-24	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		
Red Oak	14-24	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		
Black Walnut	12-20	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		
Butternut	14-20	2-0	\$2.50	\$60.00	\$117.50		
Hazlenut	16-28	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		
Red Osier Dogwood	8-15	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00		

TREE PACKAGES

Package	COST/PKG	# PKGS	TOTAL COST
Oak Package 12 ct total	\$36.00		
Includes: 4 Red Oak, 4 Bur Oak, 4 White Oak			
Low & Wet Package 12 ct total	\$34.00		
Includes: 4 Swamp White Oak, 4 Butternut, 4 Black Walnut			
Windbreak Package 19 ct. total	\$51.00		
Includes: 6 White Pine, 7 Blue Spruce, 6 Norway Spruce			

ACCESSORIES

	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Please mail order form with check to: Knox Co. SWCD, 233 S. Soangetaha Rd., Galesburg, IL 61401			
Plantskydd - Deer and Rabbit Repellent 2 sizes Soluable Powder Concentrate 1lb (4 qt.)	\$27.00		
Ready Spray Bottle 1 qt.	\$18.00		
Soil Test Kit - Lawn/Garden	\$57.00		
Soil Test Kit - Wildlife Food Plot	\$55.00		
10 Fertilizer Tabs	\$3.00		
50 Fertilizer Tabs	\$10.00		
Tree Shelters - 30"	\$8.00		
Tree Shelters - 36"	\$9.00		
Tree Shelters - 48"	\$12.00		
ORDERS DUE MARCH 13th		GRAND TOTAL	

Knox Co. SWCD now accepts credit/debit card (with a 4% processing fee added). Call the office at 309-342-5138 ext. 3
Pick up for the Tree Sale will be on Friday April 10th from 9am-3pm at the USDA Service Center.
 (233 S. Soangetaha Rd., Galesburg, IL) We will be in the north parking lot. ***Orders are first come, first serve***

Grass Carp Orders Due: March 31, 2026
All Other Orders Due: April 7, 2026

Pick-Up: April 21, 2026 at 11:30 am at SWCD Office *please show up as soon as possible*

This is not an all-day event. Orders will be 1st come 1st served We will try to get everyone served as soon as possible.



All fish supplied by Herman Brothers Fisheries
 Hanna City, IL.

	Cost in bulk	Total Ordered	Total Cost
Bluegill 1-2"	\$98 – 250 count		
Bluegill 3-5"	\$63 – 50 count		
Hybrid Bluegill 1-2"	\$98 – 250 count		
Hybrid Bluegill 3-5"	\$63 – 50 count		
Redear Sunfish 1-2"	\$105- 250 count		
Black Crappie 3-5"	\$130 – 100 count		
Largemouth Bass 3"	\$93 – 50 count		
Largemouth Bass 5-8"	\$205 – 50 count		
Channel Catfish 6-8"	\$68 – 50 count		
Channel Catfish 8-10"	\$88 – 50 count		
Grass Carp 10-14"	\$17 EACH		
Fathead Minnows	\$11 per pound		
Plantskydd (spray)	\$18 EACH		
Plantskydd (powder)	\$35 EACH		
Soil Test Kit – Lawn/Garden	\$52 EACH		
Soil Test Kit – Food Plot	\$55 EACH		
			Total:

Please include payment with orders! Checks should be made out to KCSWCD.

Mail order forms to KCSWCD 233 S Soangetaha Road Galesburg, IL 61401

Questions?? Contact the office at 309-342-5138 ext. 3.

Name: _____ We now accept card payments through Square. A 4% processing fee will be added to order. Call 309-342-5138 ext. 3 with questions!

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

* Additional Information needed for Grass Carp Order Permits

Township	Range	Section	County
Owner	Address of Pond		Pond Size

ALL ORDERS OVER \$750 WILL BE DELIVERED AT NO CHARGE TO THE CUSTOMER!!

Web Soil Survey

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

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Conservation Pays!!

Consider installing
FILTER STRIPS



(above) *"Farm the best and CRP the rest!"* a motto borrowed from Scott James. The above photo is of a well-established and well maintained CRP Filter Strip. Persifer Township, Section 14.

What is a Filter Strip?

A strip of dense herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow before it reaches a waterbody. Contaminants include: sediment, chemicals, and nutrients. Width of grass is a function of uphill land slope and flow-through time.

How does this work for my pocketbook?

Grassed Filter Strips are an available conservation practice in at least three programs: USDA/FSA CRP, USDA/NRCS EQIP and IDOA PFC. While these programs are vastly different, CRP is the most cost-effective for the eligible landowner. CRP offers an annual rental payment AND cost-share to install the practice!

Is that it?

Nope! The Illinois Vegetative Filter Strip Assessment Law provides for a reduction in the assessed value of cropland certified as meeting the requirements of the law to 1/6 of its value. Landowners who wish to participate in this Assessment should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District for application forms and further information.

Where can Filter Strips go?

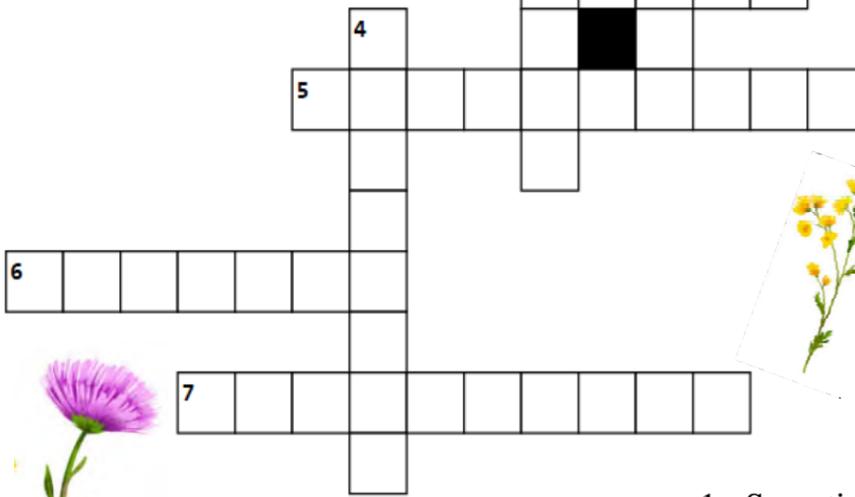
On land to protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as lakes, small streams, small rivers, and ponds. Areas of overland flow only, not concentrated flow, or out-of-bank flow if that is the predominant flow.

Conservation Crossword



Down

1. Forbs, Forbs, and more Forbs!
3. Knox County SWCD Resource Conservationist
4. Luke Koett



Across

1. Sometimes smells a little TOO organic
2. We've provided cost share to seal over 170 of these since 2007
3. Knox County SWCD AC/EC
5. Seas of green in the winter
6. Kara's favorite species are all....
7. Stabilizing Knox County one at a time

Answers are on the back of the last page



INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL & MAINTENANCE

Removal and follow up chemical treatment of Russian and Autumn olive, Honeysuckle and Multi-flora rose.

309.981.9716



Native Grasses and Wildflowers

Open May – September by appointment

Attract butterflies and pollinators by adding native wildflowers and grasses to your landscaping.

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Have you considered creating

Pollinator Habitat (some native bunch grass and LOTS of wildflowers), but you don't have land with cropping history to be eligible for CRP?

We have State Cost-Share for that!

Most of our clients have converted turf grass to pollinator habitat!

SWCDs can provide up to 75% cost-share (up to \$968.93/ac) on up to 10 ac max per application. This is a five-year commitment. Contact your local SWCD by March 1st to get approved before spring planting.

Some other programs offered for Pollinator Habitat include CRP (check with FSA for eligibility) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see ad on page 7).



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WANTED: WELL TO DECOMMISSION in 2026



In fall 2025, Don, Justin and James Moffitt prepare to seal a dug well along the Wolf Covered Bridge Road

State agencies estimate that there are at least 100,000 improperly abandoned water wells in Illinois that could threaten local health and safety.

To promote awareness of ground water quality and safety, the Knox County SWCD holds an annual well sealing demonstration.

Through the IL Dept of Agriculture Partners For Conservation Grant, the Knox County SWCD provides 75% cost-share, not to exceed \$500 for each dug well (\$850 max for a drilled well). By following the proper sealing procedures, a landowner may seal a well him/herself to save on contractor costs.

Landowners are encouraged to apply for assistance, even when multiple wells need attention. Applications are accepted year-round and must first be approved at monthly SWCD board meetings.

For questions regarding sealing procedures, contact Environmental Health at the Knox County Health Department (309) 344-2224. For questions regarding cost-share assistance or to offer your location for a future demonstration, please call the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District at (309) 342-5138 ext. 3.

Deer, Rabbits, & Squirrels... oh my!

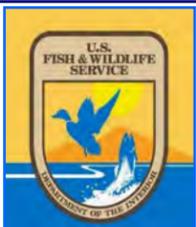
Plantskydd: Deer and Rabbit repellent for use on trees, landscaping, and gardens

The Knox County SWCD is a Plantskydd distributor. It is an animal repellent developed in Sweden, now made in the USA from 100% natural ingredients. The active ingredient is dried porcine and/or bovine blood, recognized by the EPA as an environmentally safe ingredient and is exempt from EPA federal pesticide registration.

Plantskydd lasts up to 6 months over winter on dormant plants and up to 4 months during the active growing season.

We sell it at the office year-round and always have it on hand at our annual Spring Tree Sale.

For more information on the product, visit <http://www.plantskydd.com>



Interested in advice and potential financial assistance to improve wildlife habitat on your land?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners Program is voluntary and non-regulatory.

The program is:

- Landowner driven
- Efficient and quick
- Minimally bureaucratic for landowners
- Oriented toward partnerships, particularly with local conservation groups and agencies
- Project decisions are made by qualified Service staff in the field
- Open to habitat work regardless of current land-use

Contact Scott James, USFWS Private Lands Biologist, for more information!
scott_james@fws.gov
(309) 207-3403

<https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>
<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/rockisland/>

KNOX COUNTY SWCD 2026 NATIVE SEED SALE

Inquiries can be made to knoxcoilswcd@gmail.com or call 309-342-5138 x 3

ALL ORDERS WITH PMT DUE BY MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

The Knox County SWCD can supply a variety of your native planting needs, that meet current USDA standards. We have several mixed designed to match your CRP plans for cp2, cp33, cp38E-2/4D, cp42 and cp43.

*We also have short, mesic pollinator mix that meets the Illinois DNR Solar Scorecard standards.

Native Grass for SAFE CRP (cp38E-2/4D) Quail Area, General CRP and HELI CRP

Mix #1: Mesic Mix (NHEL Fields) = \$160/ac	Mix #1B flowers only, NHEL = \$90/ac
Mix #1C: Mesic Mix (HEL Fields) = \$200/ac	Mix #1D flowers only, HEL = \$95/ac
Mix #2: General/HELI cp2 Conservation Cover (mesic soils, NHEL, 50 pts) = \$95/ac	
Mix #2B: General/HELI cp2, mesic, HEL, 50 pts = \$140/ac	Mix #2C flowers only, HEL = \$60/ac

Pollinator Habitat (cp42)

Mix #3: Pollinator Mix (mesic soils, NHEL Fields) = \$225/ac	Mix #3B: mesic, HEL = \$415/ac
Mix #4: Solar Pollinator Mix (36 in. tall, mesic soil, NHEL Fields) = \$250/ac	
Mix #4B: Solar Pollinator Mix (36 in. tall, mesic soil, HEL Fields) = \$380/ac	

Field Border (cp33) & Prairie Strips (cp43)

Mix #5: Field Border (mesic soils, NHEL Fields) = \$140/ac	
Mix #5B: Field Border (mesic soils, HEL Fields) = \$165/ac	
Mix #6: Prairie Strips (mesic soils, NHEL Fields) = \$155/ac	
Mix #6B: Prairie Strips (mesic soils, HEL Fields) = \$190/ac	

Custom Quotes/Orders available! Contact us to get a quote/place an order!

For more detailed information checkout our website:

<https://knoxcountyilswcd.wixsite.com/knox/sales>

2026 Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District Max and Frances Sanford Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship deadline is April 1, 2026.

The scholarship is offered to a Knox County resident who is currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an Agricultural or an Environmental related field at a junior college or 4 year college or university. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, submit an application with current transcripts (**REQUIRED**) and write an essay on "What conservation means to you and how do you plan to incorporate conservation into your future plans?"

Scholarship applications can be found at the district office 233 S. Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, or online at www.knoxcountyilswcd.wixsite.com/knox. For questions contact the district office at (309) 342-5138 ext. 3 or email knoxcoilswcd@gmail.com

Required: A copy of your most recent transcripts

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

CITY & ZIP: _____

HIGH SCHOOL: _____

HIGH SCHOOL GPA OR COLLEGE GPA: _____

COLLEGE YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND OR CURRENTLY ATTENDING: _____

Number of years of Vo-Ag in High School _____

Number of years of FFA in High School _____

Number of years of FCCLA in High School _____

What program are you pursuing or plan to pursue? _____

What Financial Aid have you applied for in addition to this scholarship?

List activities that you have participated in (High School, College, Church, and Community) related to agriculture or the environment:

On a separate sheet (**not to exceed one page**) submit a statement telling the selection committee what conservation means to you and how you plan to incorporate conservation into your future plans.

I understand that the amount of this scholarship varies. I certify that I plan to attend college this fall as a full time student pursuing an agricultural or environmental related program. Also, I hereby grant the right for the selection committee to review my academic records for the purpose of determining my grade point average.

Signature _____

Please return completed form to:

Knox County SWCD
Attn: Scholarship Committee
233 S. Soangetaha Road
Galesburg, IL 61401

DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2026

FARM SERVICE DIRECTORY

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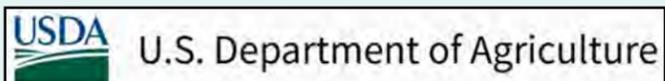
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Interested in advertising in our next newsletter?
Want pricing and sizing information? Reach out!
We are so lucky to have a community that reads our newsletters & supports local businesses!
knoxcoilsacd@gmail.com



Required Management on CRP Acres

Participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are responsible for maintaining the acreage under contract to the minimum specifications and acreages as required by their conservation plan and supporting documents. This includes not only controlling excessive weeds, invasive species, and trees in grass practices, but completing required management on CRP practices as scheduled in your conservation plan.

Conservation Crossword Answers

- | Across | Down |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Plantskydd | 1. Pollinator |
| 2. Wells | 3. Kara |
| 3. Katie | 4. Forester |
| 5. Cover Crops | |
| 6. Natives | |
| 7. Streambank | |

Ken Russell 5th Grade Outdoor Education Day

September 18, 2025 — Katie enjoyed being at Lake Storey Park for a day of fun & education! The Ken Russell 5th Grade Outdoor Education Day was a great success. The District presented the Natural Resources Scavenger Hunt activity at the Regional Office of Education's event.

This annual event hosted 444 students in attendance from Knox County schools (Abingdon/Avon, Galesburg, Knoxville, ROWVA, and Williamsfield).

Katie presented a brief introduction on our topic. Students then worked in small groups to "find" the scattered items. Each group had to decide if the items found were a renewable or non-renewable resource. They also had to decide what each item is made from: animals, plants, rocks, minerals or crude oil. Some items really stumped them! **Do you know what a pair of polyester pants are made from?**

Other stations included; Introduction to Fishing, Butterflies & Bees, Aquatics, Native American History, Nature Trivia, & Weather.



Katie with her friend Priya, whose mom works at NRCS!

Protect your bulbs from rabbits & voles
Prevent deer buck rub on trees



Protecting Bulbs

- Dip or spray bulbs with Plantskydd liquid then allow to dry before planting.
- Sprinkle Plantskydd Granules liberally on and around bulbs when planting, cover plants with soil and sprinkle granules on soil surface.

Protecting trees against buck-rub

- Spray Plantskydd liquid liberally, directly onto bark, on areas where buck-rub issues occur.

Protecting trees and shrubs from over-winter damage

- Spray trees and shrubs liberally (including root flare / collar) to prevent over-winter deer browsing and girdling by rabbits, voles etc.
- For best results, spray when plants are dry and temperatures are above freezing. Allow 24 hours to dry.
- Protects up to 6 months on dormant plants.

Protecting lawns and gardens from vole damage

- Sprinkle Plantskydd Granular at a rate of 500 sq ft per pound before snow is expected.
- Sprinkle down burrow holes and anywhere vole activity is visible.
- Clear ground cover and leaves, sprinkle granular under shrubs and plants.

*Apply Plantskydd before animal damage begins for maximum plant protection

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!

ALL ADVERTISERS HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF THIS NEWSLETTER