



# KNOX COUNTY SWCD

**Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District**

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




<https://knoxcountyilswcd.wixsite.com/knox> 23 09:11

*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) IDOA Partners For Conservation state cost-share funded part of this Streambank Restoration Project. This practice is Stone-Toe Protection and it armors the “toe” of the streambank to prevent soil erosion from the creek channel. This landowner also seeded Switchgrass to further stabilize this area. Maquon Township, Section 2.

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**Would you rather receive this newsletter electronically?**

If so, please email us at [knoxcoilswcd@gmail.com](mailto:knoxcoilswcd@gmail.com) with “Newsletter” in the subject line.

This newsletter is also available on our website, <https://knoxcountyilswcd.wixsite.com/knox>  
If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please notify the office.

**Meet our new Administrative and Education Coordinator!**  
**Katie Ingle**

Katie was raised in Dallas, TX and graduated from Allen High School in 2014. She went on to play volleyball for Austin College and in 2018 graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies.



Katie relocated to Dahinda, IL shortly after graduation to be closer to her parent’s families and continued her education through Texas Tech, earning her Masters of Science in Natural Resource Management. While pursuing her masters she worked at Pace Analytical (formerly PDC Laboratories) in Peoria, IL as an organic scientist for 4 years running analysis to test for pesticides, herbicides, and PFAS. Her hobbies include hiking, coaching at Eastside Volleyball Club, and teaching her cat, Phillip, new tricks.

**Stop by and meet Katie in our Galesburg Office!**



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233 S. Soangetaha Rd. Ste. 4  
Galesburg, IL 61401

**IL SWCD Funding Update**

[Illinois SWCDs are running on a state fiscal year 2002 funding budget for operations](#)

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

- ◇ FY16—\$0, no State Budget
- ◇ 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 in approved 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. Thank you to our AISWCD and State Legislators for continuing level funding for the past three years!

**Knox County State Legislators include:**

- 37th District, Senator Win Stoller, 309.693.4921, [senatorstoller@gmail.com](mailto:senatorstoller@gmail.com)
- 47th District, Senator Jil Tracy, 217.223.0833, [jiltracy@jiltracy.com](mailto:jiltracy@jiltracy.com)
- 74th District, Representative Dan Swanson 309.507.2975, [swanson@ilhousegop.org](mailto:swanson@ilhousegop.org)
- 93rd District, Representative Norine Hammond, 309.836.2707, [rephammond@macomb.com](mailto:rephammond@macomb.com)



# Office Staff



(Back Row) Cathy Froelich and Nicole Miller,  
(Front) Tim Blackwell, Emma Molburg, Katie Ingle, Kara Downin, Jennifer Delpierre, Kindra Pruet

## Knox County SWCD Staff

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

## NRCS Staff

Cathy Froelich, District Conservationist  
(Knox, Warren, and Henderson Counties)  
Kindra Pruet, Soil Conservationist  
Jennifer Delpierre, Soil Conservationist  
Emma Molburg, Soil Conservationist  
Tim Blackwell, Conservation Planner

## NRCS Area Office

Nicole Miller, NRCS Program Support Assistant

## SWCD Directors

George Cummings, Chairman  
Brian Friedrich, Vice Chairman  
Chris Bewley, Secretary  
Dave Asbury, Treasurer  
AJ Harland, Director

## SWCD Associate Directors

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

## 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 15th — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
February 19th — Presidents' Day  
May 27th — Memorial Day  
June 19th—Juneteenth  
July 4th — Independence Day  
September 2th — Labor Day

## 2024 Important Dates

January 17th — Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
January 23rd - Open House/Election of Directors 7:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.  
January 31st - IDOA Cons. Seminar 9 a.m.— 3 p.m.  
February 21st - Board meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
March 15th - Native Seed Early Bird price deadline  
March 20th - Board Meeting 1:30 p.m.  
March 21st - Grass Carp orders due  
March 22nd - Tree Sale orders due  
April 1st - Scholarship Applications due  
- all other fish sale orders due  
April 11th - Fish Sale pick-up at 9 a.m.  
April 17th - Board Meeting 7 p.m.  
April 19th - Tree Sale pick-up, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.  
May 3rd - Native Plant Sale orders due  
May 15th - Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
June 6th - Plant Sale pick-up, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.  
June 12th - Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
July 17th - Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
August 21st - Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
September 18th - Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

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



“Like” us on Facebook to stay up-to-date!  
Check out “Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District”



We carry seed for agriculture, turf, garden, food plots, and birds  
Fertilizer and Garden Chemicals too!

Contact: Nick Vespa Co-Owner  
202 Hamilton Blvd.  
Peoria, IL 61602  
Ph. 309-674-0577  
Fax 309-674-7652  
nvespa@kellyseedco.com

www.kellyseedco.com

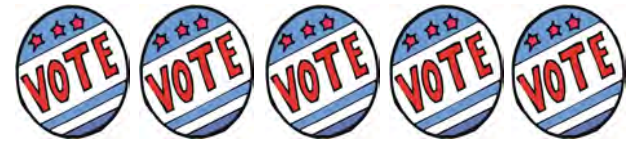


# Board of Directors



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

## DIRECTOR ELECTION Tuesday, January 23, 2024



The Knox County SWCD will have an election of directors on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 from 7 a.m.—5:30 p.m. for three positions to be filled starting March 1, 2024.

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 three seats.

Please stop by January 23rd to vote:

- David Asbury
- Christine Bewley
- George Cummings

## Thank you!

The Knox County SWCD would like to thank all those that supported the District's educational programs in 2023 by purchasing from our sales programs.

Your patronage is greatly appreciated!

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\*Annual Percentage Yield.

Subject to change in rates and availability — rates as of December 7, 2023 — \$1,000 minimum. Interest payouts are mandatory, and interest cannot remain on deposit. The price you receive on a sale prior to maturity depends on prevailing interest rates and may be more or less than you paid.

For more information on specific issues or current rates, contact:

Robert Potter

John Herman AAMS™

Senior Vice President/Investments Senior Vice President/Investments

JT Downin, CFP®, CIMA®

Vice President/Investments

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**More Places To Go...**

One of the more challenging issues facing the Department of Natural Resources is providing public outdoor recreational access and opportunities. Illinois ranks 46th in the nation for publicly-owned land with more than 97% of the land privately owned. In order to carry on our outdoor traditions, we need to connect youth and families to the land. IDNR has created the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) by utilizing resources obtained from the US Department of Agriculture's NRCS Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP).

**More Habitat Restoration Projects to Implement...**

Using VPA-HIP grant funds, IDNR is helping private landowners to protect and restore their land. Landowners who chose to lease their property to IRAP will have a comprehensive habitat/forestry management plan written and be eligible for assistance to implement habitat restoration projects.

**More...**

Since IRAP's inception in 2011, more than 27,000 acres in 52 counties have been leased for outdoor recreational activities. Thousands of outdoor enthusiasts have accessed these sights, hundreds of youth and adult turkey hunters have enjoyed calling in a gobbler and archery deer hunting is in high demand.

Even more impressive is what IRAP is doing on the ground. IRAP has written habitat/forestry plans for more than 175 landowners and has conducted more than 17,000 acres of habitat projects on IRAP leased private property. This includes invasive species control with aerial spraying and on-the-ground removal, prescribed burning, grass and tree planting, pollinator establishment and more.

<https://dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/irap.html>

**IDNR IRAP Phone: 217-782-0137**

**2024 Knox County SWCD Prairie Plant Plug Sale**

All plants come individually in plugs or small containers and are **\$5 each**. Orders will be taken until the close of **business on Friday, May 3, 2024**. **Pick up at the office will be Thursday, June 6th (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.

Wildflowers	Color	Bloom	Mature Height	# plants	Cost @ \$5/plant
Black-Eyed Susan	Yellow	June- Oct	2 ft		\$
Butterfly Milkweed	Orange	June-Aug	2 ft		\$
Common Milkweed	Pink/Purple	June-Aug	3-4 ft		\$
Prairie Milkweed	Pink	June-Aug	4 ft		\$
Swamp Milkweed	Pink	June-Aug	4 ft		\$
Whorled Milkweed	White	July-Sept	2 ft		\$
Cardinal Flower	Red	July-Sept	4 ft		\$
False Sunflower	Orange	June-Sept	5 ft		\$
Hoary Vervain	Purple	June-Sept	2-3 ft		\$
Late Figwort	Red	July - Oct	4-8 ft		\$
Missouri Ironweed	Purple	July - Sept	4-6 ft		\$
New England Aster	Pink/Purple	Aug-Oct	4 ft		\$
Purple Coneflower	Purple	July - Sept	4 ft		\$
Partridge Pea	Yellow	July-Sept	2 ft		\$
Sneezeweed	Yellow	Aug-Oct	4 ft		\$
Starry Campion	White	July-Sept	1-3 ft		\$
Wild Quinine	White	June-Sept	4 ft		\$
White Wild Indigo	White	June-July	4 ft		\$
Wild Petunia	Purple	June-July	1-2 ft		\$
Grasses	Color	Bloom	Mature Height	# plants	Cost @ \$5/plant
Big Bluestem	Grn/Brown	June-Sept	7 ft		\$
Bottlebrush Grass	White	June-Aug	3-5 ft		\$
Indian Grass	Gold	Aug-Sept	4-6 ft		\$
Little Bluestem	Grn/Brown	July-Oct	2-4 ft		\$
Purple Top	Purple	Aug-Oct	3-5 ft		\$
<b>TOTALS</b>					\$

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 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 "Plants" tab. The plants are locally grown at Pleasant Prairie Nursery. More information can also be found by visiting [www.pleasantprairienursery.com](http://www.pleasantprairienursery.com)

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:** \$35

**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.



**Cost-Share**  
 Knox County SWCD

**Statewide Concentrated Sign-up focusing on these practices**

**\$ Cover Crops** - up to \$40/ac on up to 80 ac max on fields not planted to cc before. 1-3 years.

**\$ No Till/Strip Till** - up to \$30/ac on 106 ac max on fields going into corn or sorghum and never previously planted no-till or strip-till. 1-3 years.

**\$ Conservation Cover Pollinator Habitat** - up to \$735.35/ac on 10 ac max. Five year commitment.

**\$ Critical Area Planting** - for temporary cover prior to construction or permanent cover to restore sites that need stabilized. 1-10 years. Range up to \$231.79-\$2,240.93/ac.



For practice information & applications contact:

[kara.downin@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:kara.downin@il.nacdnet.net)  
 (309)342-5138 x3

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



**Meet our newest Director  
A.J. Harland!**



A.J. Harland resides in Lynn Township on a family farm that has been in his mother's family since 1837. Walnut Creek runs through the farm. As a small boy he was fascinated by the creek.

Floods were an exciting event. As he has matured, the fascination for such events has waned.

A.J. and his wife Jeanne raise cattle as well as corn, soybeans, and hay. He cares more for the cattle and hay. She does more row crop farming. After 29 years as an English and physical education teacher, and later as a secondary school athletic director and principal, A.J. took early retirement following the death of his father and returned to the farm full time.

A.J. and Jeanne have served in many organizations and on many boards. At the height of the board frenzy, they were serving on twelve boards. Those included IBA (Illinois Beef Association), NCBA (National Cattlemen's Beef Association), Knox County Cattlemen, Knox County Farm Bureau, Gateway Coop, CFAR (Council for Food and Agricultural Research), Mid Century Telephone Coop, Illinois Telephone Cooperative Association, National Telephone Cooperative Association, and the Walnut Creek Watershed, which got him involved with Soil and Water. He also spent 17 years as Lynn Township Supervisor. This brief fulfillment of a term on the Knox County Soil and Water Board is the grand finale.



*We are excited to have A.J. join the SWCD Board as a fully installed Director! He has been a valuable addition to the Board since becoming an Associate Director in 2008.*

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Land Improvement Contractor and  
Landowner Seminar  
*Streambank Stabilization***

**Join us at 8 a.m. on Thurs., Feb. 15th, 2024 at  
the Knox Agri Center Conference Room,  
180 S. Soangetaha Road, Galesburg**

to learn about the various practices utilized to stabilize streambank erosion and create aquatic habitat at the same time.

Presenters include;

- ◆ Chris Haring, IDOA Stream Specialist
- ◆ Landowner Experience with 2019 & 2023 projects
  - ◆ IL LICA updates
- ◆ Kara Downin, Available cost-share programs

**Reservations are required by Thurs. Feb. 8th**  
Breakfast casseroles will be served.

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation for any programs or services should contact (309) 342-5138 ext. 3. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Knox County SWCD and USDA – NRCS are equal opportunity employers and providers.

**8th Grade Real World Event**

The University of Illinois Extension held a fall simulation of their Real World Event for Galesburg 8th Graders in November. Katie and Marissa, Woodford County SWCD Survey Aide, worked at the Entertainment Table.

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.

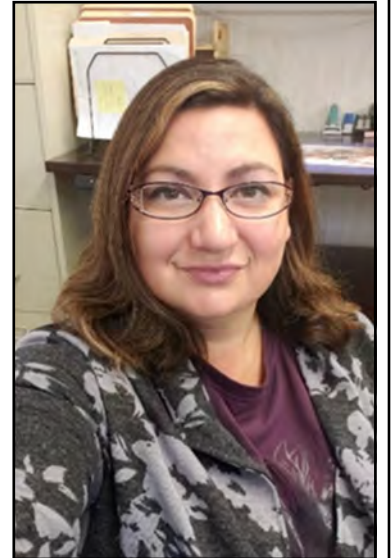
Extension will hold another simulation in the spring for the rest of the area's 8th Graders.



*Katie works hard talking students into throwing a party!*

**Meet our new Soil  
Conservationist! Kindra Pruett**

Originally from Lincoln, Nebraska, she is married to Kyle Pruett and has two children— 6 year old Oliver and 8 year old Arya. Kindra graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Environmental Science and Biology while working at the USDA Plant Transformation Facility. After graduation she worked for Medtronic before pursuing her career in natural resources and moving to Iowa to become a habitat specialist with the Iowa DNR. Later, she moved on to the Nature Conservancy in Missouri before finding her way to the Burlington, Iowa NRCS office as a soil technician in 2009.



After 10 years she became a soil conservationist for the Wapello Resource Team before joining us here in central Illinois! In her free time she enjoys traveling, gardening, and doing crafts at their home in Henderson County.

**Meet our new Land  
Conservationist Specialist!**



Regan Baker is a Land Conservation Specialist with The National Great Rivers Research & Education Center. He has a Bachelors degree in Environmental Studies & Global Sustainability from Central College in Pella, IA.

His previous experience comes from working with a variety of environmental groups including The Student Conservation Association, National Park Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. His past work has been focused on prairie restoration, native plants of the Midwest, proper removal of invasive species, & restoration/management of riparian zones.

As a partner to the NRCS he will be helping out with the CRP programs focusing on wildlife and native grass & forbs practices. Along with working on CRP he will be helping with wetland practices & WRP easements.



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Website - [www.dagenconst.com](http://www.dagenconst.com)*



## 2024 Tree Species Spotlight

### Scotch Pine

Most popular Christmas tree!

*Mature Spread:* 30'  
*Mature Height:* 50'  
*Growth Rate:* Medium  
*Sunlight:* Full sun  
*Soil Type:* acidic, well-drained



Photo courtesy of Arborday.org

### Black Walnut



Photo courtesy of Arborday.org

*Mature Spread:* 70'  
*Mature Height:* 70'  
*Growth Rate:* Rapid  
*Sunlight:* Full to part sun  
*Soil Type:* Prefers deep, moist, rich, well-drained

### White Oak

*Mature Spread:* 70'  
*Mature Height:* 70'

*Growth Rate:* Slow to medium

*Sunlight:* Full

*Soil Type:* Well-drained upland (acidic)



Photo courtesy Kansas Forest Service

### Bur Oak



Photo courtesy Ohio DNR Division of Forestry

*Mature Spread:* 80'  
*Mature Height:* 90'

*Growth Rate:* Slow  
*Sunlight:* Full to partial sun

*Soil Types:* Permanently moist, well-drained, seasonally dry, or very dry

USDA NRCS

## Web Soil Survey

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

## D & L Drainage, LLC

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## 2024 KNOX COUNTY SWCD TREE SALE

SPECIES	SIZE (INCHES)	Age	COST EACH	COST/25	COST/50	COST/100	# OF TREES	TOTAL COST /SPECIES
Eastern White Pine	9-18	2-1T	\$2.50	\$60.00	\$117.50	\$232.50		
Scotch Pine	5-10	2-0	\$2.00	\$48.00	\$94.00	\$186.00		
Norway Spruce	9-18	2-1T	\$2.50	\$60.00	\$117.50	\$232.50		
Blue Spruce	10-16	2-1T	\$2.00	\$48.00	\$94.00	\$186.00		
White Spruce	10-16	2-1T	\$2.50	\$60.00	\$117.50	\$232.50		
Swamp White Oak	16-28	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00	\$279.00		
Bur Oak	16-28	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00	\$279.00		
White Oak	14-24	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00	\$279.00		
Red Oak	16-28	2-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00	\$279.00		
Black Walnut	9-18	1-0	\$2.50	\$60.00	\$117.50	\$232.50		
Butternut	12-18	1-0	\$3.00	\$72.00	\$141.00	\$279.00		
Hazlenut	10-18	1-0	\$2.50	\$60.00	\$117.50	\$232.50		

### TREE PACKAGES

Package	COST/PKG	# PKGS	TOTAL COST
Oak Package 12 ct total Includes: 4 Red Oak, 4 Bur Oak, 4 White Oak	\$36.00		
Low & Wet Package 12 ct total Includes: 4 Swamp White Oak, 4 Black Walnut, 4 Butternut	\$34.00		
Windbreak Package 19 ct total Includes: 6 White Pine, 7 Blue Spruce, 6 Norway Spruce	\$44.00		

### ACCESSORIES

	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Plantskydd - Deer and Rabbit Repellent 2 sizes Soluable Powder Concentrate 1lb/2.2lbs	\$27.00/\$35.00		
Ready Spray Bottle 1 qt	\$18.00		
Soil Testing Kit	\$35.00		
10 Fertilizer Tabs	\$3.00		
50 Fertilizer Tabs	\$10.00		
Tree Shelters - 30"	\$6.00		
Tree Shelters - 36"	\$7.00		
Tree Shelters - 48"	\$9.00		
<b>ORDERS DUE MARCH 22nd</b>		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

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 19th 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\***

## 2024 Spring Fish Sale Order Form

Grass Carp Orders Due: March 21, 2024

All Other Orders Due: April 1, 2024

**Pick-Up: April 11, 2024 at 9 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		
Bluegill 3-5"	\$63 - 50		
Hybrid Bluegill 1-2"	\$98 - 250		
Hybrid Bluegill 3-5"	\$63 - 50		
Redear Sunfish 1-2"	\$102 - 250		
Black Crappie 2-4"	\$100 - 100		
Largemouth Bass 3"	\$76 - 50		
Largemouth Bass 5-8"	\$182.50 - 50		
Channel Catfish 6-8"	\$68 - 50		
Grass Carp 10-14"	\$13 EACH		
Fathead Minnows	\$10 per pound		
Plantskydd (spray)	\$18 EACH		
Plantskydd (powder)	\$35 EACH		
Soil Tests	\$35 EACH		
			<b>Total:</b>

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!!**



### 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 CROPPING 2024 SEMINARS

Managing your inputs for healthy soils

January 31, 2024

Hybrid Event

- In person at the IDOA Building  
801 E. Sangamon Ave., Springfield, IL 62702
- Online via Webex  
Soil & Water CEUs available!

## Agenda (Central Time)

8:30AM	Registration and Refreshments	12:35PM	Banded Systems Management - To the Root of High Yield
9:00AM	Welcome Remarks		Chris Perkins—Banded Ag, LLC
9:10AM	Alternative Farming Methods	1:25PM	<b>BREAK</b>
	Greg Thoren—Stockton, Illinois Farmer	1:45PM	<b>Farmer Panel Discussion</b>
10:00AM	<b>BREAK</b>		Dennis Frey—Frey Family Farms, Dahlgren, IL
10:10 AM	Next Generation of Digital Agriculture: Digital De-commoditization, Smart Tillage, and AI		Frank Rademacher—Rademacher Farms, Gifford, IL
	Dr. Lars Dyrud—Earth Optics		Jean Stewart—Rossville, IL
11:00AM	Struggles with Stratification	3:00PM	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
	Marion Calmer—Calmer Corn Heads		
11:50AM	<b>LUNCH</b> in Illinois Department of Ag Building		

## Registration

Online (credit card) registration can be made at: <https://www.ccsxcd.com/conservation-cropping-seminars>

Registration Deadline: January 24, 2024

In-person Seminar Fee—\$25 per person, lunch included | Online Seminar Fee—\$15 per person

*In-person attendance limited to first 100 to register online for this option. Don't delay!*

For more information please contact: Debbie Gray 217-606-1153



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**Join us for the 2024 Well Sealing Demo in Haw Creek Township on June 25th!**

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 will hold a well sealing demonstration at

**the Block Residence  
10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25th  
1547 Knox Hwy 17, Gilson, IL**

Through the IL Dept of Agriculture Partners For Conservation Grant, the Knox County SWCD provides 75% cost-share, not to exceed \$400 for each dug well (\$750 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.



*In 2023, a well is sealed in the Village of Wataga during the demonstration.*

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

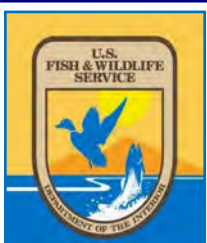
**Plantskydd: Deer and Rabbit repellent for use on trees, landscaping, and gardens**

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>



**Pollinator Conservation Assistance & CREP Enhancement Assistance Program: USFWS**  
The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program's Wildlife Opportunities

**What the program is:** The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife program provides technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land, including high-quality pollinator or CREP habitat. Projects are custom-designed to meet landowners' needs and are targeted to benefit monarch butterflies, rare-and-declining native bees, other pollinators, and other wildlife.

**How you can help wildlife by participating in the program:** New wildlife habitat can be created or existing habitat can be enhanced, with financial assistance that varies depending on the project. Projects greater than five acres are preferred but not required. The program can often be conducted with certain other programs or grants.

**How the financial assistance works:** The Fish & Wildlife Service can contribute money toward site preparation, seed, and/or planting while encouraging the landowner to contribute in some capacity. Unfortunately, there is not an annual payment but the program may be able to assist on sites where more lucrative annual payment programs are not available.

**Benefits of wildlife habitat:** Wildlife habitat not only helps wildlife, but helps grassland birds, improves water quality, and conserves soil. It can also be aesthetically pleasing and can reduce mowing or maintenance costs.

**Who to contact:** If you're interested in learning more, please contact Scott James, Private Lands Biologist, (309) 757-5800 x 205

**KNOX COUNTY SWCD 2024 NATIVE SEED SALE**

Inquires can be made to [kara.downin@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:kara.downin@il.nacdnet.net) or call 309-342-5138 ext. 116

The Knox County SWCD can supply a variety of your native planting needs, that meet current USDA standards.

We have several mixes designed to match your CRP plans for CP38E-2, CP42, and CP33.

\*We also have a short, mesic pollinator mix that meets the Illinois DNR Solar Scorecard standards to plant under ground-based solar panels.

**EARLY BIRD PRICES UNTIL MARCH 15, 2024**

**Native Grass Mixes (CP38E-2 SAFE CRP)**

Mix #1:	Wet & Wet Mesic Mix (NHEL fields)	\$107/acre
Mix #2:	Mesic Mix (NHEL fields)	\$129/acre

**Pollinator Habitat (CP42)**

Mix #3:	Mesic Pollinator Mix (NHEL fields)	\$355/acre
Mix #4:	Solar Pollinator Mix (36 inches tall, Mesic Soils, NHEL)	\$345/acre
Mix #4B:	Solar Pollinator Mix (HEL fields)	\$455/acre

**Conservation Cover (CP2: General CRP)**

Mix #5:	Conservation Cover Mesic Mix (NHEL fields)	\$95/acre
Mix #5B:	Flowers Only CP2	\$58/acre

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

For more detailed information checkout our website:

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

\*The SWCD will store your seed in addition to working with FSA and your contractor

\* Prices are subject to change based on seed availability

\* Payment is due with order \* Seed shipment expected in Spring 2024

**2024 Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District Max and Frances Sanford Memorial Scholarship**

Scholarship deadline is April 1, 2024.

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](http://www.knoxcountyilswcd.wixsite.com/knox). For questions contact the district office at (309) 342-5138 ext. 3 or email [knoxcoilsxcd@gmail.com](mailto:knoxcoilsxcd@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, 2024**



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## 2024 Tree Planting Initiative



Illinois Extension 4-H and the AISWCD Forestry Committee are once again teaming up on a statewide tree planting initiative for 2024. This effort will utilize the strengths of the statewide network of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the educational and youth development of U of I Extension programs to create an oak recovery and tree planting educational program.

The purpose of the tree planting project is educate students and their communities on:

1. The value of native oak forests and trees to Illinois natural history.
2. Oaks as a keystone species in Illinois forestry
3. Tree planting techniques
4. Oak tree identification.

KCSWCD has participated in this project the last two years. The 2022 location was the Knox County Nursing Home. In April 2023, twenty-five oak trees were planted just north of the Williamsfield Public Library.

This fall, we applied to do this project with the Harvest Home Park in Yates City. We are patiently waiting to find out if we are selected.

**Thank you to the Yates City Harvest Home Park Committee for partnering with us this year!!**

*(Photo courtesy of Village of Yates City)*

## Ken Russell 5th Grade Outdoor Education Day

September 21, 2023 — 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.



**Welcome to Ken Russell Outdoor Education Day!**

**Students fishing, some for the first time.**



*(Photos courtesy of Regional Office of Education #33)*

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!