

○ FEBRUARY | ○ 2019 |

www.ccswd.com
217-352-3536 ext 3

Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District



- S.T.A.R.....2
- FISH SALE.....3
- SURVEY RESULTS.....4
- HABITAT.....6
- MCCC MEETING.....7
- AWARDS.....8
- HIPPIE/WETLAND.....9
- NRCS.....10
- PCM.....11



SOIL & WATER *focus*

WORKING TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES
BUILDING ON THE PAST - PRESERVING FOR THE FUTURE

S.T.A.R. (SAVING TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURE RESOURCES)



The Stewardship Committee of the Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District has developed a FREE tool to assist farm operators to evaluate their own nutrient loss management practices and to promote "best management practices" on individual fields.

The S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources) evaluation system assigns points for each cropping, tillage, nutrient application and soil conservation activity used on individual fields. The total points are then used in a scale to determine a rating of 1 to 5 Stars for each individual field based on the management practices being used.

The benefits of using this program include: decreased nutrient loss, potential increased net farm income, potential to gain new farms to lease, land owners evaluation of tenants' contributions to conservation, assistance in securing local conservation cost share (when available), assistance to producers in obtaining documentation to support potential water quality issues, and assistance to producers in obtaining potential market premiums for conservation cropping practices. (con't on page 2)

The Champaign County SWCD would like to thank the Barnhart family for everything that has been done at the Barnhart Prairie. Their continued work to improve the prairie is greatly appreciated!



SWCD Board Members

Joe Rothermel, Chairman
Steve Stierwalt, Vice-Chairman
Eric Suits, Secretary-Treasurer
Eleanor Blackmon, Director
Lennie Heiser, Director
Kenneth Kesler, Associate Director

SWCD Staff:

Erin Bush, R.C.
Hannah McDonald, C.C.
Renee Weitekamp, A.C.
Bruce Henrikson, Special Projects Coord.
Clay Bess, PCS
Sharyl Walker-Ogle, GIS

NRCS Staff:

Kevin Donoho, D.C.
Taylor Shedd, S.C.

2110 W Park Court, Suite C,
Champaign, IL 61821

(con't) S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources)

For more information, including an evaluation form and instructions, please see the STAR tab on the www.ccswcd.com website, or contact our office.



The CCSWCD is excited about this program and the opportunities it holds. We have presented to groups across the state and have received positive interest in this tool.

The S.T.A.R. program has been accepting Field Forms for the 2018 Crop year since last July. We have over 40 participants thus far, and over 130 fields have been rated. We now have 27 other counties that have signed a License Agreement and are starting to use the program this winter and a number of others in the process of getting approval.

In the last few weeks, we opened access to the "portal" that uses the PCM portal as the platform that allows any participant to enter their field information by computer or by a smart phone. Each county using S.T.A.R. will be able to use that system. The Nature Conservancy has paid for that development and deserves much credit for other services they have provided.

We have organized a number statewide committees that will help with various parts of the program to involve more people in the structure and to help spread out the workload to expand S.T.A.R. The primary responsibility now lies with the Steering Committee, but there are five other committees now activated with over 35 different individuals serving.

We continue to seek methods to get the supply chain firms to accept the advantage of S.T.A.R. for their sourcing of commodities and to consider how they can encourage farmer participation. The first major step has been an action by ADM in which they are asking farmers in the Tuscola location area to complete the S.T.A.R. application and have set specific goals for the S.T.A.R. ratings for those fields.

Our next task in Champaign County is to get more participation from our local farmers and landowners and to expand the recognition of the program by the agriculture businesses in the area. We hope to get some sponsorship from some of those firms to pay for the field signs and some of the promotional materials.



Find us on
Facebook

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CHAMPAIGNCSWCD

FISH DESCRIPTIONS

Channel Catfish: They are excellent for food and sport fishing. They are compatible with all pond species and can grow 1 lb. per year if fed with commercial feed.



Black Crappie: Excellent for food and sport fishing; however, they can quickly overpopulate and are not recommended for small ponds.

Straight Bluegill: An excellent sport fish that grows a little slower than sunfish.

Largemouth Bass: One of the most sought after game fish. The average size is 20 inches and they may live up to 23 years.

Fathead Minnows: These are especially important when stocking new ponds. They are also good for ponds prior to stocking largemouth bass. Young bass use them for food.

Red Ear Sunfish: Excellent in deeper ponds and with Bluegill and Hybrid Sunfish.

Hybrid Sunfish: They come from crossing a male bluegill with a female

Green Sunfish. They produce 90% males so they do not over populate a pond. They are a good choice for small ponds and will grow ¼ to ½ lb. per year. They can reproduce with bluegills if they are present in the pond.

Triploid Grass Carp: They eat many weeds, but not algae, and do not reproduce.

Champaign County SWCD Spring 2019 Fish Sale



Last day to order Fish: **Friday, March 15th**
 Grass Carp must be ordered by Wednesday, March 6th

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Information for Grass Carp Orders Only: (GRASS CARP MUST BE ORDERED BY MARCH 6TH)

Pond Acreage: _____ Township: _____ Section: _____

To Place an Order:

Complete order form and mail along with your check:

Please make checks payable to: Champaign County SWCD
 Or pay by credit card from our web site: www.ccsxcd.com

Champaign County SWCD
 2110 W. Park Ct, Suite C
 Champaign, IL 61821
 217-352-3536 ext 3

Fish Type	Size	Bag or Pound Quantity	Price	Quantity Ordered	Price
Channel Catfish	4-6"		\$ 0.65 each		
Channel Catfish	6-8"		\$ 0.80 each		
Channel Catfish	8-10"		\$ 0.95 each		
Albino Catfish	4-6"		\$ 1.05 each		
Black Crappie	2-3"	100 per bag	\$ 60.00 per bag		
Fathead Minnows		100-150 fish per lb	\$ 10.50 per lb.		
Hybrid Sunfish	1-2"	250 per bag	\$ 70.00 per bag		
Hybrid Sunfish	3-5"		\$ 0.75 each		
Hybrid Sunfish	5-7"		\$ 1.05 each		
Largemouth Bass	2-3"		\$0.80 each		
Largemouth Bass	5-8"		\$ 2.50 each		
Red Ear Sunfish	1-2"	250 per bag	\$ 70.00 per bag		
Bluegill	1-2"	250 per bag	\$ 70.00 per bag		
Bluegill	3-5"		\$ 0.75 each		
Triploid Grass Carp	8-11"		\$ 10.50 each		
Pond Delivery available on orders over 1,000 fish			\$ 100.00	Yes___ No___	

Total Cost

Fish Pick-up will be:
 Monday, March 25, 1-2:30 p.m.

Office Use Only
 Date: _____
 Amt pd: _____
 Payment: _____



NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY SURVEY 2018 RESULTS

As we near the beginning of the third year of this survey, you may be wondering what we've learned. This information will be beneficial in creating a baseline for what is happening on our farmland.



Fall Cover Crop Practice

Survey Says....

- ✓ 159 farmers and landowners responded to the survey representing 125,313 acres
- ✓ 30% of those surveyed indicated usage of no-till practices on soybeans
- ✓ 12% of those surveyed indicated usage of no-till practices on a corn and soybeans
- ✓ 15% indicated strip-tillage was part of their tillage practices
- ✓ 31% indicated the usage of nitrogen applied as split pre-plant and in-season applications on corn
- ✓ 15% utilize side-dress only of nitrogen application on corn
- ✓ 52% apply phosphorus used variable rate technology (VRT)
- ✓ 20 farmers planted cover crops on 5,741 acres in Champaign County

This information will be used to evaluate current tillage, nutrient, and cover crop practices found within various watersheds of Champaign County, and provides a baseline of information in creating strategies and practices towards the goal of reducing the amounts of nutrients lost within the county. The Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates those who contributed data for the 2016, 2017 & 2018 survey.

THANK YOU CCSWCD SPONSORS

Arends Hogan Walker LLC
Berns, Clancy and Associates
Busey Ag Services
Capital Agricultural Property Services
CF&H Insurance Agency, Inc
Day Drainage
Dewey Bank
Ehler Brothers Fertilizer
Farm Credit Illinois
Fasprint

Franzen Construction Group LLC
The Gifford State Bank
Gordon Farms Seed Company
Grussing Construction
Illini FS
Johnson Trailer Sales
Kitchen Seed Company
Koeberlein Drainage LLC
Longview Bank
Magsamen Backhoe & Farm Drainage
Martin Equipment

Noel Farm Management
Premier Cooperative
Rick Wolken Tiling
Round Barn Banquet Center
Saddle Butte
Suits Ag Services
Sun Prairie Seeds
The Andersons
Trés Posh Décor
United Prairie
Waibel Farmland Services



Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources

About S.T.A.R.

- S.T.A.R. is a **FREE** state-wide tool to assist farm operators and land owners in evaluating their nutrient and soil loss management practices on individual fields. The ultimate goal is to meet the goals of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.
- *The S.T.A.R. evaluation program assigns points for each cropping, tillage, nutrient application, and soil conservation activity on individual fields.* The S.T.A.R. Science Committee, made up of experts and university researchers, reviews practices to determine the points and ranking system. Higher point values are assigned to those practices that align best with the NLRs science assessment and goals and will be updated annually to reflect the most current research. The star rating for a field can be anywhere from 1 to 5 stars.



Potential Benefits of Using This Program –

- Increase net farm income
- Inspire other farmers and landowners to take action in helping to meet nutrient loss reduction goals for Illinois
- Promote a positive image of farmers and agriculture in the local community
- Decrease nutrient loss
- Promote producers for new farmland leases
- Assist producers in securing local conservation cost share
- Assist producers in obtaining future market premiums for crops grown using conservation cropping practices
- Assist producers in obtaining documentation in support of water quality issues

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Listed are some practices used in the rating system and the points that may be assigned:*

No nitrogen applied in fall or spring, use of a winter hardy cover crop, no tillage in fall or spring
5-6 points

Soil sampling every 3 years, a crop rotation that includes a small grain
4 points

At least 75% of nitrogen applied in spring/summer, total nitrogen minimized, at least 50% of phosphorus applied was banded subsurface
3 points

At least 25% of nitrogen side-dressed, winter kill cover crop, use of Triple Super, VRT, filter strips, waterways, etc.
2 points

Continuous soybeans, written nutrient plan, limited tillage
1 points

**Some practices reduce the total points! Not all management practices considered are listed above.*



Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District
2110 W. Park Court, Suite C
Champaign, IL 61821
P: 217-352-3536 ext. 3
www.ccsxcd.com
f ChampaignCSWCD

If you want to learn more about the S.T.A.R. program, go to our website, or email star@ccswcd.com, or call us.

For access to our portal that can be used for entries by phone or computer, go to star.precisionconservation.org.

Pheasants Forever Expanding To Put More High Quality Habitat On the Landscape

Jason Bleich – PFQF Conservation Specialist

As we gear up to celebrate our habitat accomplishments and rally to overcome future challenges, one major highlight from 2018 was the banner Monarch migration that took the Midwest by storm in September. Some expert projections say the wintering Monarch population could reach 250 million butterflies. This would be the highest number in over a decade.

In June 2019, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be tasked with the daunting decision of whether to place the Monarch Butterfly on the Endangered Species List. A species with such a large range has never been listed before and the impacts from doing so could greatly affect the future of conservation practices, agriculture, development, and other land management practices. Although the extreme population decline has many factors, the #1 factor continues to be habitat loss. Alongside our moral obligation to prevent a species from becoming endangered or possibly extinct, PF/QF has become a major player in Monarch conservation for this reason... good Monarch habitat is also phenomenal pheasant and quail habitat. By providing season long nectar sources through diverse seed mixes of native grass and wildflower species, we can ensure sufficient food and cover will be available throughout the year for pheasants, quail, deer, turkey, and other wildlife.

As we quickly approach that important June decision, PF/QF, our conservation partners, landowners, and farmers across the Midwest are tirelessly working to put more high quality monarch and pollinator habitat on the landscape. We are working to pursue and

develop new habitat partnership opportunities and promote our high quality habitat standards. One huge opportunity lies in the rights-of-way and energy sector. Over the last 5 years, we have started habitat partnerships with multiple state Department of Transportation, transmission and pipeline companies, solar energy companies, power plants, local utility companies and many urban and rural municipalities. Combined, these various groups own and manage millions of acres of potential habitat projects. These man-made webs of roads, powerlines, pipelines, and utilities that connect our society can (and should) also play a vital role in creating wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.

On February 22nd – 24th 2019, National Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic will be highlighting some these new habitat partnerships and opportunities in the “PF/QF Pollinator Pavilion”. We will be highlighting the importance of pollinator habitat for bees and butterflies, as well as all other wildlife. We will also be highlighting the importance of partnerships. Seminars, displays, and interactive information throughout the weekend will emphasize high quality habitat and its vital role in pollinator and upland conservation. Whether your passion is wildlife conservation, hunting, bird dogs, or engaging the next generation in conservation and hunting, National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic has something for everyone!

As the conservation world continues to be faced with challenges on the landscape, new habitat opportunities continue to emerge. We are progressing towards a critical, yet special, moment in time for conservation, and we must work together to make the biggest impact and make our voice heard. We hope to see you at National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic this year!



DRONE SERVICE AVAILABLE

The Champaign County SWCD has 2 FAA UAV commercial licensed pilots who are available to come fly your field.

Benefits of Aerial Imagery:

- In season crop images
- tile line mapping
- assessments for conservation planning
- research and demonstration plot imagery
- crop residue evaluation

District UAVs are registered and insured and include a Phantom 4.

Fee Schedule

\$150 flat fee in Champaign County for the first field of 80 acres or less. \$50 for each additional field flown that day.

Out-of-County: \$50 an hour, including travel time, plus mileage with a minimum of \$150.

Images and video are available on a USB storage device shortly after flight mission completion.



Midwest Cover Crops Council Annual Meeting and Conference

The Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC), in collaboration with University of Illinois Extension, will be holding its annual meeting in Springfield, Illinois, on February 20-21, 2019. This is the first time Illinois will be the host state for the MCCC conference. The meeting will be held at the Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center, located at 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62702.

The conference theme this year is, “Cover Crops and Soil Health: The Practical Way Forward”. February 20 will consist of a working session to guide MCCC in developing meaningful outreach tools, including a listening session with Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) to gauge usefulness of currently available cover crop resources and future resources. In addition, MCCC states, provinces, and partners will provide research and Extension updates related to cover crops. February 21 will be the Grower Conference portion and will feature speakers on topics such as:

- Practical Implementation of Cover Crops – Lee Briese, 2017 International Crop Adviser (CCA) of the Year
- Building Your Soil Health System on Sound Principles – Barry Fisher, NRCS Soil Health Specialist
- Nutrient Reduction Regulations in Ohio – Sarah Noggle, Ohio State University Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator
- The Effect of N Management and Cover Crops on Tile Nitrate Loads in Central Illinois – Lowell Gentry, University of Illinois Principal Research Specialist in Agriculture
- Soil Health: What’s Old, What’s New, and How does it Relate to Cover Cropping? – Andrew Margenot, University of Illinois Assistant Professor of Soil Science
- Effects of Cover Crops on Weed Control in Soybeans – Brent Sunderlage, Southern Illinois University Weed Science Researcher
- Farmer and CCA Panel Discussion – Moderated by Joel Gruver, Western Illinois University Associate Professor of Soil Science and Sustainable Ag

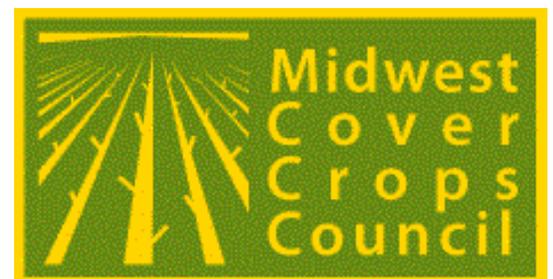
“The MCCC Conference will provide an excellent opportunity for Illinois farmers, agriculture professionals, CCAs, and the public to engage with cover crop experts from around the Midwest. From farmers who have never tried cover crops to those who have years of experience, there will be something to learn for all,” says Jennifer Woodyard, University of Illinois Extension Watershed Outreach Associate.

Registration fees are \$60 for the Grower Conference on February 21 only, or \$110 for both February 20 and 21. Fees are discounted for CCAs; they may register for the Grower Conference at a rate of \$30, and attend the working session and updates on February 20th for free. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available both days of the conference for CCAs. To register, go online at <http://mccc.msu.edu/about/meetings/>.

Sponsors and vendors are still being accepted. There are four sponsorship levels available, ranging from \$1,500 to \$200. To sponsor the conference, go to <http://mccc.msu.edu/about/meetings/>.

Contact Jennifer Woodyard at woodyar2@illinois.edu or 217-347-7773, or Anna Morrow (MCCC Program Manager) at annamorrow@purdue.edu or 317-392-6417, for more information.

The University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact our office.



2019 FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD PRESENTATION

CCSWCD has a history of developing partnerships and building bridges between groups that may not have otherwise come together. We have long since learned that despite different perspectives, many groups have the same goals for healthy farms and better water quality. It is better to find ways to work together so both sides can accomplish their goals. Therefore, it is an honor to award this year's Friend of Conservation to a man who shares that philosophy.

Dr. C. Pius Weibel came to Champaign-Urbana in 1978 for graduate studies in geology at the University of Illinois. After completing his studies, he was employed for nearly 30 years at the Illinois State Geological Survey, a division of the UI Prairie Research Institute. As a research geologist, his pursuits of geological information and coffee outlets lead him to all corners of the state, and resulted in numerous publications on Illinois geology, but none on coffee. Mr. Weibel has served on the Champaign County Board from 2004-2012 and from 2014 to 2018, and served as Chair of the Board, first from 2006-2012, and again, starting in 2016 to 2018.

Dr. Weibel also served on the CU Public Health Board for at least 10 years, the Joint County Board Education Committee, the Mahomet Aquifer Advocacy Alliance, and the Embarras River Management Association (E.R.M.A.). He has been an integral part of the Lincoln Heritage Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). The Champaign County SWCD admires and appreciates all the volunteer time and efforts Dr. Weibel has devoted to watershed and conservation efforts. He has been a long standing friend of conservation.

CONSERVATION INNOVATOR AWARD PRESENTATION

Caroline Wade has been the Agriculture Program Director for the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy since May 2017. She is leading the Illinois TNC's agricultural initiatives, working to improve water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat, and air quality, while addressing the impacts of climate change.

Throughout her career, she has worked to unite environmental science and agriculture by focusing on practical yet innovative solutions to the many natural resources issues facing the Midwest, particularly water quality, and by engaging collaboratively with multiple stakeholders. Caroline graduated from Illinois

State University with a B.S. in Environmental Health and Environmental Science and a M.S. in Agriculture. She previously worked for the Illinois Corn Growers Association, where she served as the Nutrient Watershed Manager and collaborated with partners in Illinois and across the country on sustainability efforts in agricultural production systems.

She finds inspiration in the wonders of the natural world and spends her free time enjoying mountain biking, kayaking, camping, hiking and gardening.

WELCOME ERIN BUSH, RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST

The Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to welcome our new Resource Conservationist. Erin will be in the office starting at the beginning of March. Feel free to stop by the office to give her a big welcome to the conservation world!

FARMTEK 2019 Conservation Series

Monday, February 25th from

7:30am to 9:30am

Harms Farm Shop

2223 CR 2200 N | St. Joseph, IL 61873

Topics:

- ◆ The new Farm Bill & impacts on conservation programs.
- ◆ Drainage law & responsibilities
- ◆ Discussion on experiences of a drainage district commissioner.

Please RSVP by February 20th by calling 217.352.5235



HEADWATERS INVASIVE PLANT PARTNERSHIP

The Headwaters Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) is a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)—a partnership between local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, private landowners, and university groups in east central Illinois. HIPP's mission is to address the threat of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants across jurisdictional boundaries. By sharing limited resources, CWMA's can improve effectiveness and efficiency of control and outreach efforts. HIPP's coverage includes eleven counties in east central Illinois: Champaign, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Piatt, and Vermilion counties. These counties are home to the headwaters and much of the watersheds of the Embarras, Kaskaskia, Little Vermilion, Mackinaw, Sangamon, and Vermilion Rivers.

In 2018 HIPP was awarded two federal grants, one of which included funds to hire a part-time Program Coordinator. Before that point, HIPP had functioned solely through partnered professionals and volunteers. Having a dedicated employee has helped HIPP become more active and organized as well as freed up more time for partnered groups who had previously been leading the charge.

ST. JOSEPH WETLAND UPDATE

Many years ago, the base for the parking and viewing area at the St. Joseph Wetland Restoration and Education site was created. Lack of funding has stopped the CCSWCD from completing this project. Over the past year, the district stepped back and decided to take a different approach. Instead of constructing a premier site from the beginning, the goal has changed to make it a usable site and then improve from that.



parking area in order to level the grade. As gravel was being delivered, Rod, utilizing his own tractor and equipment, spread and leveled the material. Rod's advice and assistance in completing the initial construction of a useable parking area was valuable and greatly appreciated. As a result, we have a place for people to park their car and look out over the wetland to enjoy nature.

This spring, the CCSWCD plans on finishing the educational part of the wetland. The fabric and gravel were laid this past fall to settle over the winter where the engraved pavers will be placed. The engraved pavers will be set in place, and the benches that were made by the high school students of St. Joseph Ogden High School will be brought and placed.

Your patience, volunteer efforts and financial support are all greatly appreciated and vital to completing this project. Thank you.

To make it a usable site, the parking/viewing area needed a final grade, fabric and gravel. Our friends at Vermilion County Soil & Water supplied the fabric at cost and Mr. Rod Maddock, the Road Commissioner for St. Joseph Township, agreed to help. Rod utilized the township grader to perform an initial blading of the

COST SHARE FUNDING

As the CCSWCD awaits the release of funding for cost-share, we are asking for your help. If you are planning a conservation or best management practice and interested in potential funding, please contact our office. We are developing a list of interested producers and projects in an effort to better serve our producers and distribute funding more efficiently once it is received.



Examples of practices:

- ◆ Cover Crops
- ◆ Strip Till
- ◆ Pollinators
- ◆ Well Decommissioning
- ◆ Grassed Waterways (acres)
- ◆ Filter Strips



NRCS IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR EQIP & CSP

In 2018, we were able to financially and technically aid **11,534 Champaign County acres** install conservation practices through EQIP, CSP, and RCPP. **We want more!**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers funding for operations and projects that are associated with cropland, grazing and pastureland, and non-industrial private forest. This program gives cost-share for installing conservation practices or developing conservation plans. Some common practices around Champaign include Grazing Land Operations, Forest Management, Pollinator Habitat, High Tunnels, Nutrient Management, and Cover Crops.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) gives agricultural producers, who already practice good stewardship across their land, payments to take additional steps to enhance conservation activities. Contracts provide an annual payment for five years. Enhanced conservation activities may include multispecies cover crops, use of precision application technology to apply nutrients, or splitting nitrogen applications. CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and new management techniques such as precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rate, and new soil amendments to improve water quality.

Some of these benefits of CSP include:

- Improved water quality;
- Increased crop yields;
- Improved wildlife habitat;
- Improved cattle gains per acre;
- Decreased inputs;
- Better resilience to weather extremes.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) will now be a stand-alone program with updates soon to come.

Please visit www.NRCS.USDA.gov/EQIP or www.NRCS.USDA.gov/CSP for more information. Contact Champaign County NRCS for one-on-one assistance or to complete an application.

Taylor Shedd

Champaign County NRCS Field Office
2110 W. Park Court, Suite C
Champaign, IL 61821

Taylor Shedd, Soil Conservationist
Taylor.shedd@usda.gov
(217) 352-3536 ext. 131

Tylar Midden, Soil Conservationist
Tylar.midden@usda.gov
(217) 442-8511 ext. 3570

Kevin Donoho, District Conservationist
Kevin.donoho@usda.gov
(217) 352-3536 ext. 114



As a cooperator of NRCS, SWCD must provide reasonable accommodation to USDA customers with disabilities, where appropriate. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations for any NRCS or SWCD programs or services should contact Carzella Pritchett, Illinois NRCS' Disability Emphasis Program Manager at (217) 353-6651 directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

If conservation practices were to improve your bottom line, would you change?

If data showed conservation practices enhance revenue and/or yields on specific fields, would you try that practice?

If you had a consultant to study conservation economics and guide you towards success with financial/technical opportunities, could you meet for 4 hrs/yr?

If you were paid \$750 to be proactive in Illinois' quest to become nutrient sustainable, would you consider your options?

Welcome to Precision Conservation Management

Conservation makes cents.

East-Central PCM Specialist: Clay Bess (309)445-0278

cbess@precisionconservation.org Champaign, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Vermilion

www.precisionconservation.org



facebook.com/USpcm16



twitter.com/USpcm

- PCM aggregated agronomic data paired with U of I/FBFM economics typically prove that less tillage, cover crops, & efficient nutrient strategies improve a farm's bottom line.
- PCM compares soil productivity ratings and a range of conservation approaches to understand which practice has the best chance for success on individual fields.
- PCM Specialists work one-on-one with farmers, deliver an individualized, confidential Resource Analysis and Assessment Plan, and examine conservation options. Specialists also work with local organizations, such as the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to be familiar, and assist farmers, with programs (e.g. STAR, NRCS' EQIP and CSP).
- PCM, an Illinois Corn initiative, pays a farmer \$500 for the first year of participation as compensation for his/her time and opinion as the program builds a foundation to understand economic consequences of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

Wed, March 20 5pm-7 Salt Fork Center 2573 S Homer Lake Rd, Homer

Speakers:



Free Dinner with RSVP by 3/14

Clay Bess (Conservation Specialist) PCM Update and Goals

Chesapeake Bay or Gulf of Mexico Representative Nutrient loss issue from a national perspective and the eyes on agriculture

Conservation Economic Presentation Report unveiling newest findings of PCM aggregated agronomic data paired with U of I cost share/FBFM financial data

Sponsorship and venue provided by the Champaign County Forest Preserve District



Champaign County SWCD
 2110 W Park Court, Ste C
 Champaign, IL 61821

Presorted
 Standard
 US Postage Paid
 Monticello, IL
 Permit No 70



Two directors were re-elected to the Champaign County SWCD board to serve a two year term.

Your 2019 Board of Directors are:

- Joe Rothermel, Chairman
- Steve Stierwalt, Vice-Chairman
- Eric Suits, Secretary-Treasurer
- Eleanor Blackmon, Director
- Lennie Heiser, Director

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

FISH SALES

S.T.A.R

WORKSHOPS, WETLAND

HABITAT AND MORE



Upcoming Meeting Dates:

February 20-21st- MCCC Annual Meeting and Conference

February 25th- FARMTEK Conservation Series

March 6th - Grass Carp Orders Due

March 15th - Fish Sale Orders Due

March 20th- PCM Meeting

Meeting locations and times can be found inside and on our website.

