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○ FEBRUARY | ○ 2016 |

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

Champaign County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

# SOIL & WATER *focus*

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

## THE CCSWCD CELEBRATED THEIR SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

On February 5, 2016, nearly 140 people came together at the Round Barn Banquet Centre for the Annual Meeting themed, "What Can I Do?" The event started with Molly Madden, a very talented harpist, playing music while the crowd enjoyed lunch. During the business meeting, Matt Rhodes, Farm Manager for Busey Ag Services and Chair of the Nominating Committee ran the election. Eleanor Blackmon, Lennie Heiser, and Steve Stierwalt were re-elected to serve a two-year term as directors. Volunteers and partners were introduced by Chairman Stierwalt as he stood at the podium adorned with original artwork by Judy Seyb. Recognition was also given to the 33 sponsors who helped make the event possible. Several special recognitions were made with the first going to Ms. Debra Busey, Champaign County Administrator. - con't on page 3.



## NEW FACES IN THE OFFICE

When you stop by the office, you may notice some different faces for both the CCSWCD and USDA-NRCS. The district is pleased to have Larry Thurow as Special Projects Coordinator. con't on page 11.

## NO-TILL DRILL AND TRACTOR AVAILABLE FOR RENT

The CCSWCD has a 15' John Deere 1590 no-till drill and tractor. Please contact us for tractor and drill rental options for planting your wheat, soybeans, etc. Options are also available for rental or a planting service for your cover crops.

### SWCD Board Members

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

### SWCD Staff:

Jonathon Manuel, R.C.  
Renee Weitekamp, A.C.  
Larry Thurow, Special Projects Coord  
Sharyl Walker-Ogle, GIS  
Randall Grussing, Field Consultant

### NRCS Staff:

Adam Wyant, D.C.  
Kevin Donoho, S.C.  
Cara Grabowski, S.C.  
Richard Parks, S.C.T.

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

# IMPROVE YOUR FARMING OPERATION WITH C\$P

The NRCS' Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages farmers to improve their level of conservation by adopting new practices as well as improving, maintaining, and managing their existing system. CSP participants may receive an annual payment up to **\$40,000 per year** for 5 years. That's potentially **\$200,000** over the life of contract! Under CSP, participants are paid for conservation performance: the higher your operational performance, the higher your payment. CSP application deadlines are **March 31, 2016**. Stop by the NRCS office today to find out more and sign up!

## COST SHARE IS AVAILABLE

The Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been awarded several grants which can provide cost-share for side-dressing, strip-till and cover crops. Contact our office for more details.

## VOLUNTARY SURVEY WHEN YOU REPORT YOUR ACRES

When you come to the FSA office this year to report your acres, you will be asked to take a voluntary survey. This survey was developed by the CCSWCD Soil & Water Stewardship Committee and is completely anonymous. The goal of this survey is to gather information concerning farming practices found in east-central Illinois. Survey results will assist in creating strategies and practices in reducing the amount of nutrients lost. This survey will help in identifying best management practices in response to the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy plan from the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Results will be categorized by watershed with no way to identify single farms.

**WHAT'S YOUR STRATEGY?**

**C-BMP**  
Illinois Council on Best Management Practices

**Lost Nutrients = Lost Money!**

The **Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy** is a real strategy that will demand you consider your best management practices and make changes that fit your family farm.

**TEST YOUR FARM'S WATER**

Beginning March 1st  
Every Tuesday at 3 pm  
Champaign County SWCD

**ilcorn.org**

## NEW FARMER SERVICE PROGRAM AWARDED \$5.3M FROM USDA

Precision Conservation Management (PCM), a new farmer service program that helps farmers make financially-based conservation decisions, has been selected to receive an award from NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The Illinois Corn Growers Association and 30 other conservation partners, including the Champaign County SWCD, has been selected to receive \$5.3 million to develop the new program. PCM will assist producers with farm business planning related to conservation practices as well as provide assistance with NRCS program enrollment and provide anonymous representation of farmers' conservation efforts to demonstrate good stewardship and continuous improvement in water quality and soil health practices.

Bring in at least an 8 ounce water sample in a clean container. The sample will be tested as soon as possible and your results will be given to you. The CCSWCD and C-BMP does not keep any of the information. The only information we are keeping is how many people take part in this service.

Remember one sample one week is only a snap shot of what is going on. To really understand what is happening a sample should be brought in every couple weeks until the water freezes up and then start again as soon as the water is flowing again.

The goal is to see if what you are doing on your field is working or if you need to take a second look. After all who wants to lose money and that is what happening when we find N in the water.

# THANK YOU CCSWCD SPONSORS

American Farmland Trust (AFT)	Farm Credit Services	Magsamen Backhoe & Farm Drainage
Arends Hogan Walker LLC	Franzen Construction Group LLC	Noel Farm Management
ASM (Agricultural Soil Management)	The Gifford State Bank	PNC Bank
Berns, Clancy and Associates	Gordon Farms Seed Company	Premier Cooperative
Busey Ag Services	Grussing Construction	Rick Wolken Tiling
Capital Agricultural Property Services	Illini FS	Saddle Butte
CF&H Insurance Agency, Inc	JBS United, Inc	Suits Ag Services
Day Drainage	Johnson Trailer Sales	The Andersons
Dewey Bank	Kitchen Seed Company	Trés Posh Décor
Dovel's Land Improvement	Koeberlein Drainage LLC	United Prairie
Ehler Brothers Fertilizer	Longview Bank	Waibel Farmland Services

## ANNUAL MEETING con't

Ms. Busey has been a tremendous liaison between the district and the county board for a number of years and the district truly appreciates her support and assistance; she was presented with the "Friend of Conservation Award". To give a portrayal of Ms. Busey, this quote from a peer serves best, "her input to the County is exemplary." AHW, Arends Hogan Walker, received a Friend of Conservation Award for assisting the district with the tools necessary to implement conservation throughout the county. When the district decided to lease a 1590 no-till drill, AHW was very cooperative setting up terms that worked for the district. In addition to the sales staff, the shop employees have been very helpful when setting up the machine and in keeping it going. The final recognition of the day went to the Barnhart Family. A commemorative sign will be erected at the Barnhart Prairie Staging Area to honor the Barnhart Family for their vision of restoring the native prairie. It is a special vision that now spans generations of their family and the district is proud to be part of the process. Time was allotted to discuss the theme of the meeting; with districts in difficult financial times, it is important to talk to legislators and show your support for districts. Districts across the state will be vital resources in the implementation of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, and districts are critical in the work with NRCS and other partners. The CCSWCD directors also wanted to encourage every attendee and every Champaign County resident to consider what they can do to reduce the loss of nutrients, improve water quality and reduce soil erosion. The district will strive to provide educational opportunities to help address these issues. Finally, Mr. John Phipps, addressed the group. He shared some stories from being a US Farm Report Commentary and in a light hearted way discussed ideas to help us make better decisions in agriculture and life.

## 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.

**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.

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

**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 overpopulate 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.



Check out our  
St. Joseph  
Wetland Video

# Champaign County SWCD Spring 2016 Fish Sale



Last day to order Fish: **Friday, March 18th**  
Grass Carp must be ordered by Tuesday, March 8th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Information for Grass Carp Orders Only: (GRASS CARP MUST BE ORDERED BY MARCH 8TH)

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](http://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	\$ 55.00 per bag		
Fathead Minnows		100-150 fish per lb	\$ 10.00 per lb		
Hybrid Sunfish	1-2"	250 per bag	\$ 65.00 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	\$ 65.00 per bag		
Bluegill	1-2"	250 per bag	\$ 65.00 per bag		
Bluegill	3-5"		\$ 0.75 each		
Triploid Grass Carp	8-11"		\$ 10.00 each		
Pond Delivery available on orders over 1,000 fish			\$ 100.00	Yes____ No____	

**Total Cost**

Office Use Only

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt pd: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

Fish Pick-up will be:  
Monday, March 28, 1-2:30 p.m.



# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2016 AQUATIC PLANT SALE

Orders Due  
March 7th

Native Plants for Pond Edges and Wetlands.

Species	Price	Quantity Ordered Minimum of 5 per species	Total Cost
Butterfly Weed	\$1.50/plant		
Cardinal Flower	\$1.50/plant		
Ironweed	\$1.50/plant		
New England Aster	\$1.50/plant		
Prairie Blazing Star	\$1.50/plant		
Rattlesnake Master	\$1.50/plant		
Rose Mallow	\$1.50/plant		
Southern Blue Flag Iris	\$1.50/plant		
Swamp Milkweed	\$1.50/plant		
Three Square Bullrush	\$1.50/plant		

Due to growing conditions, we ask that you order a **minimum of 5 per species.**

Total Cost \$

Plants will come in large plugs and the plants should be around 12" tall.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Champaign County SWCD

**To Place an Order by Friday, March 7th:**  
Complete order form and mail along with your check:

Or pay by credit card from our web site:  
[www.ccsxcd.com](http://www.ccsxcd.com)

Champaign County SWCD  
2110 W. Park Ct, Suite C  
Champaign, IL 61821

**PLANTS ARE GROWN SPECIFICALLY FOR US AND WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FOR PICK-UP BETWEEN MAY 16TH AND JUNE 17TH.  
WE WILL NOTIFY YOU WHEN A SPECIFIC DATE AND TIME HAS BEEN SET.**

Plants offered through this sale are from local ecotypes. This is important, because plants from other localities, such as Wisconsin are subject to environmental conditions and have different growth habits. For instance, plants from Wisconsin will grow much more aggressively due to the adaptation to a shorter growing season. Although, these and other plant species can be purchased through mail-order catalogs, this is **NOT** a recommended way to obtain starts.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SWCD - 2110 W. PARK COURT, STE C, CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821  
217-352-3536 EXT 3 - [WWW.CCSWCD.COM](http://WWW.CCSWCD.COM)



# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Cardinal flower** is the Cadillac of wetland flowering plants. The vibrant red flowers are attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds alike. Cardinal flower does best on the shoreline/water interface and therefore provides some protection against erosion. These plants spread very slowly and like iris, need to be planted where you want them to grow. Cardinal flower may grow to heights of five feet, but 3 to 4 feet is the average. Plant in groups spaced to create the desired aesthetic effect.



**Ironweed** is an additional plant that produces showy blossoms. The purple flowers are highly attractive to butterflies in late summer. Ironweed will grow in moist soil, just above the water's edge. The primary purpose for planting Ironweed is to add color to the pond's edge. Ironweed may grow to heights of five feet, but 3 to 4 feet is the average. Plant in groups spaced to create the desired aesthetic effect.



**New England aster** is a common plant that produces showy blossoms into fall. Again, the purple flowers are highly attractive to butterflies. New England aster will grow in both moist and dry soils and may attain heights of 4 feet. Plant in groups spaced to create the desired aesthetic effect.



**Bulrush** is a plant with "reedy" or "whip" type stems which are triangular in cross section. The leaves have been reduced to a sheath at the base of the stem. The flowers are presented as brown "bullet-shaped" structures seated tightly near the tip of the stem. This plant is restricted in its growth to water less than 1 foot deep. Although growing to 2.5 feet tall, it keeps a relatively neat growth appearance and does not produce an overly thick stand. Three square bulrush is an excellent shoreline stabilizer and provides seeds for birds and waterfowl to eat. This species will spread on its own and can be planted in small clumps, spaced 12 to 16 feet apart for maximum effect.

**Swamp milkweed**, produces very showy pink blossoms that are very attractive to butterflies. This is one of the many milkweed species that are the essential food supply to monarch butterfly caterpillars. It is planted around the pond primarily for its aesthetic value, but its root systems will help protect shorelines from erosion. Stem heights will reach 3.5 to 4 feet. Plant in groups spaced to create the desired aesthetic effect.

**Butterfly weed** is an extremely hardy, long-lived perennial. The flowers produce a large quantity of nectar which attracts butterflies throughout the growing season. Requires a very well-drained sandy or gravelly soil in full sun. (<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>)



**Wild iris** looks very similar to the cultivated "bearded" irises, but with slightly smaller flowers. It develops very showy blue flowers in late spring and early summer. The leaves can reach a height of 3.5 feet. Wild iris is restricted to growing in shallow water. Its thick root system helps protect the shoreline from erosion while providing valuable aesthetic benefits. Wild iris spreads very slowly and needs to be primarily planted where you want it to grow. Space transplants in small groups spaced 8 to 12 feet apart, or evenly spaced about every 2 feet.

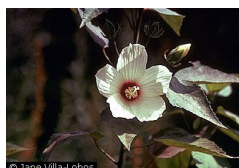


**Prairie Blazing Star** is a hardy, native perennial herb that grows from a tuber. It is one of the most conspicuous of the prairie inhabitants, as its leafy stems grow erect to a height of 5 feet. The top two-thirds of prairie blazing star is a spike of rose-purple, thistle-like flowers that are given a somewhat fuzzy appearance by extended white stamens (male flower parts) and pistils (female flower parts). Flowering starts at the top of the spike and moves progressively downward. (<http://plants.usda.gov>)

**Rattlesnake master** is a warm-season perennial native forb which grows well on wet or dry mesic prairie soil. Plants grow 2 to 6 feet tall from a short, thick rootstock. Flower heads have a honey-like odor and are in bloom June to September. (<http://plants.usda.gov>)



**Rose Mallow** grows from 3-5 feet tall grows along wet edges of ponds, lakes, ditches and streams and in low wet woods. It is known for its showy flowers which bloom July through October.



Unfortunately, many species of aquatic plants are too aggressive, grow too deep or thick, and/or are too difficult to control in the average pond. Water lilies and American lotus, have beautiful showy foliage and flowers. However, they can quickly colonize a pond, grow in deep water, and are extremely difficult to control by hand, with herbicides, or grass carp.

**Order by  
March 14th**

# Champaign County SWCD 2016 Tree Sale

**Bareroot  
Seedlings  
\$2.50**

**RPM Potted  
\$20.00**

**1 gal Potted  
\$7.50**

## Check Out Our Changes!

This year, we are offering  
more RPM Trees from  
Forrest Keeling

Please See Reverse Side  
for Descriptions

### To Place an Order:

Complete order form and  
mail along with your check:

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

Please make checks payable  
to: Champaign County SWCD  
Or pay by credit card from our  
web site: [www.ccsxcd.com](http://www.ccsxcd.com)

### Tree Pickup -

Champaign County  
Fairgrounds, Kesler Hall  
**Friday, April 8, 2016**  
**(7:30 am - 4 pm)**  
**Saturday, April 9**  
**(8 am - 11 am)**

NOTE: CALL IF YOU NEED  
OTHER SPECIES,  
WE CAN PROBABLY  
GET THEM.

All orders are subject to availability of  
stock. The District retains the right to  
reject stock if it does not meet our  
standards. We retain the right to limit or  
reject any orders. These plants are for  
conservation related projects only and  
carry no warranty, and shall not be used in  
any ornamental or landscape plantings.

## Evergreens

Northern White Cedar

White Pine

Eastern Red Cedar

Norway Spruce

Blue Spruce

## Hardwood Trees

Wild Black Cherry

River Birch

Hackberry

Shellbark Hickory

Red Maple

Bur Oak

Northern Red Oak

Overcup Oak

Pin Oak

Swamp White Oak

White Oak

Northern Pecan

Pecan

Black Walnut

## Shrubs

Red Twig Dogwood

American Hazelnut

Old Fashioned Lilac

American Plum

Nannyberry

	Total Qty Ordered	Price	Totals
Bareroot Seedlings		\$2.50/tree	
RPM Potted		\$20/tree	
1 gal Potted		\$7.50/tree	
<b>Total Cost</b>			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Champaign County SWCD 2016 Tree Sale

**Bareroot Trees:** Excellent for large tree plantings. Trees should be 12-18" tall and orders will be pre-bagged. Trees should be planted right away but may be briefly kept in cool and dark location. Please call our office for prices if you are planning a large project.

**RPM Trees:** Stands for Root Production Method. RPM combines superior and appropriate seed stock. Strict grading with special nutrition, a unique growing medium, and proper production timing to produce plants with unrivaled root mass and vigorous plant growth.



Picture from Forrest Keeling S3-3 Trees

## LARGE BALLED AND BURLAPPED TREES ORDER FORM

Pick-up day is April 8, 2016 (7:30 am-4 pm) or April 9, 2016 (8 am –11 am)

**LAST DAY TO ORDER- MARCH 14, 2016**

Due to Illinois law, districts are not allowed to sell any tree that will not fit into a 1 gallon pot. For those people wanting trees larger than those on the other order form, we will be acting as an agent for Elwin Tree Farm, who will be selling large spruce and pine trees directly to you.

Spruce and pine trees are 30-36" balled and burlapped stock.

Pick-up on April 8th or 9th will be arranged through the Champaign County SWCD at the Champaign County Fairgrounds.

Checks must be made out to Elwin Tree Farm for these trees only.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Species	Size	Price	Quantity Ordered	Total Cost
B&B Norway Spruce	30-36"	\$30.00		
B&B Blue Spruce	30-36"	\$30.00		
B&B White Pine	30-36"	\$30.00		
Price includes sales tax.			Total Cost \$	

All orders on this sheet must be paid by check, made out to Elwin Tree Farm.

Mail completed form and check to: Champaign County SWCD  
2110 W. Park Ct, Suite C  
Champaign, IL 61821  
217-352-3536 ext 3





# Champaign County

Soil and Water Conservation District  
2110 West Park Court Suite C Champaign, IL 61821  
(217) 352-3536 Extension 3 --- [www.ccsacd.com](http://www.ccsacd.com)

## Important Information Cover Crop Spring Termination

**Oilseed Radish** and **Oilseed Radish with Oats** - Termination of the cover crop should happen after several days in a row of temperatures 20 degrees or below.

### **Cautions:**

- The odor of the decaying cover crop may be offensive if grown close to residential areas.
- Kill or till-in at least three weeks before planting cash crop.

**Annual Ryegrass** - Annual ryegrass will need to be terminated by one of the following methods 14 days before planting corn or when the Annual Ryegrass reaches 6-8 inches and actively growing:

- Herbicides - (check herbicide label directions for rate and timing)
- Tillage

### **Cautions:**

If Annual Ryegrass goes beyond the vegetative stage before terminated, its N release may be delayed and not match the needs of the growing crop.

**Cereal Ryegrass** - Termination of Cereal Rye should happen 14 days before planting corn and when the Cereal Rye is < 12 inches tall; Soybeans can be planted into much taller cereal rye without major issues:

- Herbicides – easy to kill (check herbicide label directions for rate and timing)
- Tillage – do not let it get too tall
- Use Roller/crimper (plant must be at milk or dough stages)
- Mow (Plant must be at milk or dough stages)

### **Cautions:**

Killing the rye early reduces potential for all elopathic effects, armyworm damage, N immobilization, and dry soil (in a dry spring).

Armyworm moths are strongly attracted to cereal rye for egg laying in early spring.

Killing the rye 2-3 weeks before planting will starve most hatching armyworms before the cash crop is planted. It may tie-up or limit N availability to corn if allowed to grow very tall (> 16") due to C:N ratio. Rye can pose a moderate problem as a weed if allowed to go to seed or is not killed completely.

### **Information Sources for more detail:**

Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide

<http://www.mccc.msu.edu/selectorINTRO.html>



## “What I Can Do” Campaign for Champaign County

The Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District will continue the 2016 Annual Meeting theme and spend the year talking about “What Can I Do?” In this case, what can I do to reduce nutrient loss? In order to implement the Illinois NLRS, Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, the district believes it is critical to get the land owner and farmer working together to make changes. The district will strive to inform and educate both the land owner and the farmer on changes that could be made at minimum to no cost to the operation yet reduce nutrient loss. This would be done by identifying and promoting a basic nutrient loss reduction plan that most Champaign County farmers could adopt that would not significantly increase their costs. The district’s Soil and Water Stewardship Committee is studying the possibility of certifying, or verifying, fields that have implemented these nutrient loss reduction BMPs. This verification would provide documentation showing that the farmer is taking steps to implement the NLRS. Some of the BMPs that have been identified by the Illinois NLRS are as follows.

- Develop a nutrient management plan for each field
- Utilize the Maximum Return to N (MRTN) Calculator
- Split application of nitrogen
- 4 R’s (Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place)
- All fall nitrogen application after a week of 55 degrees or less with an N stabilizer.
- No P application on frozen ground
- Ensure all conservation practices needed are in place
- Spring soil sampling
- Consider the use of Triple Super 0-46-0

Save time and money by making fewer trips to the NRCS office  
with Client Gateway



CONSERVATION  
**CLIENT GATEWAY**  
CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE JUST A CLICK AWAY

Please contact NRCS at  
adam.wyant@il.usda.gov or  
(217) 442-8511, ext. 3 for details

1  
REQUEST  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE

2  
APPLY FOR  
FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE

3  
REVIEW, SIGN  
& SUBMIT  
APPLICATIONS,  
CONTRACTS & MORE

4  
TRACK YOUR  
PAYMENTS

**\*Open 24/7\*** Request assistance online anytime, sign documents electronically  
and review conservation plans at your convenience

## NEW FACES con't

Many of you will recognize Mr. Thurow from Parkland College. When he is not serving as Professor Emeritus he is helping the district with a variety of projects from the tractor/drill rental to wetland maintenance to his work preparing the survey with the Soil & Water Stewardship Committee.

Next we would like you to meet Adam:

My name is **Adam Wyant** and I am the new NRCS District Conservationist for Champaign and Vermilion Counties. I was most recently the District Conservationist for Vermilion County up until IL NRCS reorganized its structure to multicounty districts. I have worked for NRCS for 12 years in five different field offices throughout Illinois, one in Maryland, and was the District Conservationist in two different field offices in Wyoming.

I grew up on a small 40 acre farm near Colfax, Illinois. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, weightlifting, woodworking, gardening, and now projects on my new house. I graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale with a degree in wildlife biology in 2006.

Also joining the NRCS staff as a Soil Conservationist is **Cara Grabowski**. Cara came to NRCS in September after spending the last year and a half with the Champaign County Forest Preserve as an Educator and Naturalist. She received her Associates of Art in 2012 from Harper Community College in Palatine, Illinois, and then transferred to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she graduated in 2014 with her Bachelors of Science degree in Natural Resource and Environmental Science (NRES) with a concentration in Fish and Wildlife Conservation. During her time at the U of I, her professors sparked her interest in the Natural Resource Conservation Service when she learned about her professor's research and NRCS involvement.

Cara is from Palatine, Illinois. She enjoys bowling and is on a weekly bowling league. She also enjoys cooking and admits she may not be the greatest chef in town but likes picking out new meals every week and attempting to make them. She enjoyed her time with the CCFPD and volunteers whenever she can.

We hope you will stop in and personally meet all our staff.

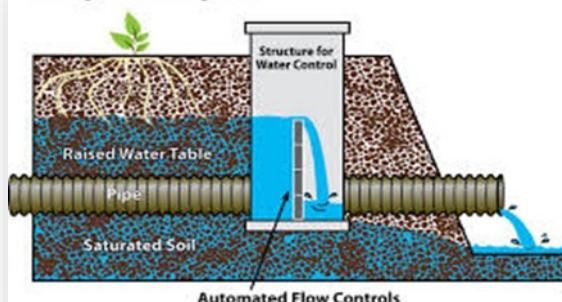
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## SAVE THE DATE

Your Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Ford, Iroquois, Vermilion and Champaign are coming together for the 3rd Annual Seeds Over East-Central Illinois on Friday, June 17th from 9 - noon. The event will be held in Potomac at Mills Ag Service and will feature ground and aerial demonstrations as well as a variety of speakers and equipment and seed dealers. More information will be posted in April and May.

### WHY WASTE MONEY ON AN EXPENSIVE IRRIGATION \$YSTEM?

NRCS Conservation Solutions...  
Drainage Water Management



- Reduce loading of nutrient pathogens and/or pesticides into the drainage system and off the farm
- Improve plant/crop productivity and profitability
- Reduce oxidation of soil organic matter
- Prevent leaking of manure into tile drains during land application by raising riser boards



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

Presorted  
Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Monticello, IL  
Permit No 70

## WATER WELL SEALING VIDEO ONLINE



With the help of many great partners, including Jody Christiansen and IL NRCS, an informative video was made on the process of water well decommissioning and the reasons why this practice should be done. Check our website for a link.

## LOOK INSIDE FOR:

**FISH SALE ORDER FORM**

**TREE SALE ORDER FORM**

**TRACTOR/DRILL RENTAL**

**COVER CROP TERMINATION**

**AVAILABLE PROGRAMS AND COST-SHARE**

**AQUATIC PLANT SALE ORDER FORM**

**REDUCE NUTRIENT LOSSES**

**ANNUAL MEETING RECAP**

