



Conservation Connection



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Fall Fish Sale

Orders Due: Tuesday,
September 5, 2023

Fish Pick-up: Wednesday,
September 20, 2023 at
11:00 am at the
Kendall SWCD office



Fall Tree Sale

Orders Due: Thursday,
September 28, 2023

Tree Pick-up: Thursday,
October 5, 2023 from
12 noon-4pm at the Kendall
SWCD office

Order forms are printable at
www.kendallswcd.org



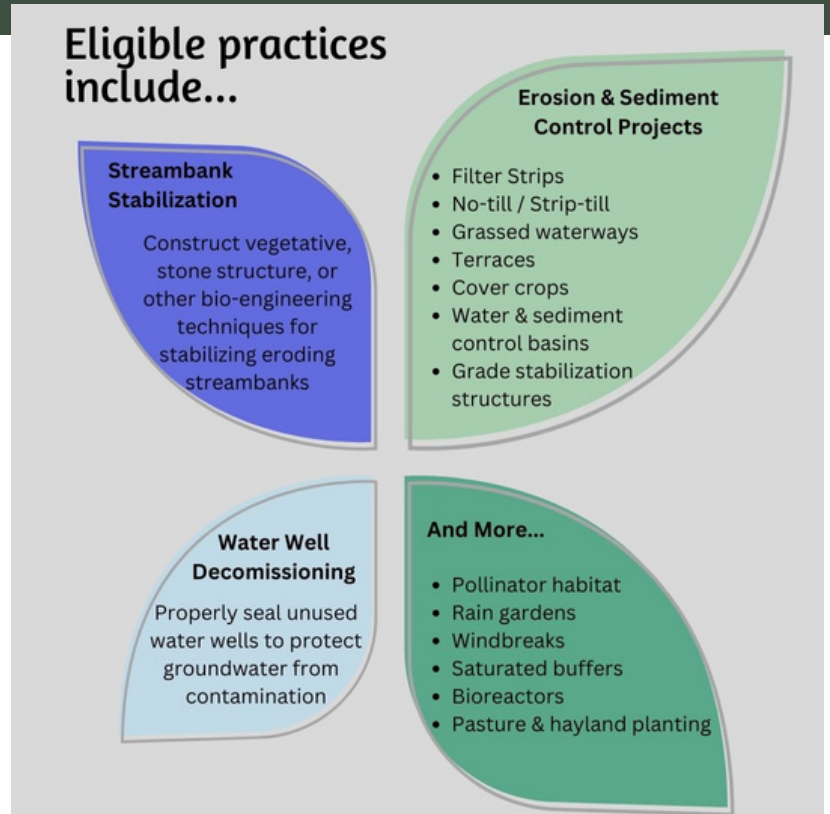
SWCD Updates and Resources

PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

Cost-Share Assistance Available!

Funding is currently available through the Partners for Conservation (PFC) Program. The program is intended to help landowners and operators implement projects that conserve soil and protect water quality but may need some technical and/or financial assistance to get started. We'd love to assist you with your conservation project!

Be sure to take advantage of available funds while they last. Cost-share rates are 75% of the estimated project cost (based off our current cost list for Kendall County). Questions? Contact Alyse at (630)553-5821 x3 or email alyse.olson@il.nacdnet.net.



SERVICES WE OFFER TO THE COMMUNITY

- **Conservation Sales:** Fish, trees & plants, cover crop seed, and field flags
- **Used Oil Collection:** An annual event held every June on the Saturday before Father's Day
- **Resource Materials:** We can provide information & resources on rain gardens, soils, ponds, trees, native seeding, NRCS & SWCD programs, etc.
- **Maps:** We can generate natural resource maps for soils, floodplains, topography, & wetlands
- **Natural Resource Information (NRI) Reports:** We provide natural resource information to local governing officials and other decision makers, in the form of an NRI report, on projects that involve zoning changes, variances, and special use permits. Our goal is to provide current natural resource information in an understandable format.
- **Technical and Financial Assistance:** We can help you with your conservation projects that protect soil & water. Take a look at eligible practices above!

Be sure to visit the Resources tab on our website to view helpful links & information on these topics!

SWCD Updates and Resources

4-H TREE PLANTING

On Saturday April 8th, the Kendall County SWCD, Kendall County 4-H, and Oswegoland Park District teamed up to plant 25 oak trees on public land in Kendall County as part of a state-wide tree planting initiative. The initiative was funded by the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the 4-H Foundation, and the Illinois Forestry Development Council. This project allowed students to learn about planting techniques and get their hands dirty!



POLLINATOR HABITAT FIELD DAY



On Friday June 16th, the Kendall and Grundy County SWCDs partnered with Pheasants Forever, NRCS, and Pollinator Partnership to put on a Pollinator Habitat Field Day. Participants learned about the benefits of pollinator habitat, assistance programs available to landowners, and got the chance to visit two local pollinator habitat sites. We had great discussion and even had a few plant experts in the group who shared their knowledge on the native species we observed! A special thanks to the landowners who graciously shared their properties with us!

USED OIL DRIVE HELD

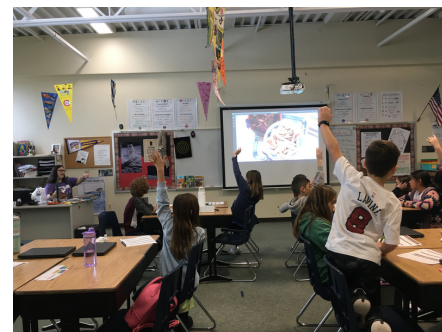
The Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District hosted their annual Used Oil Drive on Saturday, June 17th at Yorkville USDA. 1,480 gallons of used oil, 30 gallons of antifreeze and about 50 oil filters were collected to be recycled. Collecting these chemicals is an important step to keep them out landfills, forests and waterways. A big THANK YOU to IL Recovery Group for recycling the oil, and everyone who volunteered. If you missed us this year, mark your calendar. The used oil drive is typically held the Saturday preceding Fathers day each year.



Kendall County Ag In the Classroom 2023-2024 Programs

We had much success with those who volunteered their time to go into classrooms and share the wonderful ag in the classroom presentations this past school year! We reached over 7,000 students with 4 unique presentations on pumpkins, soil, erosion, and beef. This year, the Kendall County Ag in the Classroom program will have the trained volunteer presenters deliver classroom lessons on apples, soybeans, water, and pollinators.

This Fall, students will experiment with apples and make soy plastic. All programs are free of cost and make excellent curricular tie-ins. We are always looking for more volunteers to help present these programs in classrooms. Please reach out to the Education Coordinator, if you are interested at kendallaitc@gmail.com.



16th Natural Resources Tour 2023



In May, about 415, 4th grade students from Emily G. Johns and 5th grade students from Yorkville Intermediate School attended the 16th annual Kendall County Natural Resource Tour. While at this tour, students learned about soil, trees, river ecology, watersheds, wild life conservation, recycling, mosquitos, ticks, bird migration, and more. Students had fun outdoors, got their hands dirty, and learned a lot during this interactive tour.

This year's tour was hosted at Silver Springs State Park around Loon Lake and organized by the Kendall County Agriculture in the Classroom program, which is housed by the Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District. Many different local organizations and agencies made this event possible through their participation. These organizations included the Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kendall County Forest Preserve District, Kendall County Outdoor Education Center, Kendall County Environmental Health Department, and University of Illinois Extension. Additional presenters included Illinois Conservation Police, Friends of the Fox River, and Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District. Funding for the tour is made available through the Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District. This tour is free for Kendall County schools to attend.

Thank you to these organizations for supporting the Ag in the Classroom program:
Kendall County Board,
Kendall County Farm Bureau Foundation,
Kendall County Young Leaders, and Kendall County Beef Producers.

Summer Ag Institute 2023



Teachers from Will, La Salle, Grundy, and Kendall Counties attended this 4-day event. They learned about ways to connect agriculture in their classrooms and about many resources that are available to them where they can integrate them into their regular lessons. On the first day, teachers toured the Starved Rock Lock & Dam, an apple farm, bee farm, and alpaca farm. On the second day, they toured Union Pacific Intermodal, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and a dairy farm. On the third day, they toured Heap's Pumpkin Farm, Red Bud Creek Farm, Homegrown Meat Company, and Stewarts Farm. On the fourth day, teachers toured the biodiesel plant Renewable Energy Group and FS Grain Elevator and ended with hearing from agriculture groups and Illinois Ag in the Classroom providing many resources and lessons for teachers to add to their classrooms. Teachers left excited to integrate these hands-on learning activities in their classrooms.



Agriculture Career Field Trip Series

Over 6 days, high school students from various Kendall County schools, most without agriculture education in their schools, were invited to participate in a summer experiential learning experience in which they were able to travel to various businesses and organizations to learn about different careers related to agriculture, food, and natural resources. This field trip series was a SARE grant funded opportunity and coordinated by the Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Students learned about more than 18 different careers. Some careers students were able to learn about from experts include: Soil Conservationist, Conservationist Police Officer, Fisheries Biologist, Grain Farmer, Plant Manager, Sanitarian, Dietitian, Agriculture Teacher, Beef Feeder, Butcher, Lab Technician, Director of Waste Management, Farm Mechanic, Chef, and many more.

Businesses and organizations that the students were able to experience included: Newark High School FFA, CHS, Seattle Sutton, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Yorkville-Bristol Sanitary District, Kendall County Environmental Health Department, Redbud Creek Farm, Clearview Pork Farm, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District, Stewart Farms, S & H Seeds, and Homegrown Meats.

In a post survey of the experience, all students marked that they would consider a career in agriculture and loved all the exposure these careers had in being outside. Many students mentioned they would love to do this again next year and recommend it to others.





Financial Incentives & Technical Assistance Available

Interested in improving your bottom line with conservation? USDA has expanded access to funding for your agricultural operation.

Are you interested in increased crop yields, decreased input costs and increased resilience to weather extremes?

New funding supports increased access to financial incentives through NRCS programs. Whether you are a grain producer, livestock producer, specialty crop producer, a forest landowner, or a suburban resident there are opportunities available for you and your operation.

Have you considered cover crops, reduced-till, strip-till, no-till or nutrient management? Interested in building soil health, creating wildlife habitat or tree/shrub plantings? Need to address erosion concerns with the recent weather events? Now is time to take advantage of newly available funding.

Contact NRCS, at your local field office, in Kendall County, to learn about new opportunities for conservation on your farm, information on available programs, conservation practices eligible for financial incentives and the program application process. Even if you are not currently ready to implement any new conservation practices, now is a great time to learn about the expanded financial opportunities that are now available.

Below is a snapshot of available programs, through NRCS:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP addresses resource concerns through conservation practices; payment is provided based on each practice.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP helps producers take conservation activities on the farm to the next level. CSP is for cropland and pastureland; the program supports producers to build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening the entire operation. Payment is provided for current conservation stewardship and additional practice or enhancement activities.

Program applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and cutoffs are provided during the fiscal year where applications received by that date are considered for available funding. Our new fiscal year begins October 1st.

Contact Megan Andrews, NRCS Soil Conservationist, located in the Yorkville Field Office at (630)708-4010 or Megan.Andrews@usda.gov.

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Fall Cover Crop Seeds Now Available!

A pea & Oat seed mix is now available \$5 per pound. Planting this mix is a great way to "winterize" your garden. It works as a protective barrier for the soil, slowing down erosion, holding nutrients and reducing weeds. To purchase your seeds, stop by the office or email us at julie.brown@usda.gov!

Cash or check accepted. All seeds sold first come first serve while supplies last. Seeding rate: 2 lbs per 1,000 square foot or 75 lbs per acre. Fall planting dates are August 11th- September 21st, weather dependent.



**Kendall County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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