



# Conservation Connection



## **SWCD Board of Directors:**

Kerri Horton, Chair

Rita Feltes, Vice Chair

Scott Kaufmann, Treasurer

Deanna Bazan, Secretary

Nancy Cinatl, Associate Director

## **Fall Fish Sale**

Orders Due:  
Tuesday, Sept 3, 2024

Fish Pick-up:  
Wednesday, Sept 18, 2024  
11:00 am  
Kendall SWCD office



## **SWCD Staff:**

Ariel Beauchamp  
Education Coordinator

Alyse Olson  
Resource Conservationist

Nicole Schneider  
Administrative Coordinator



## **Fall Tree Sale**

Orders Due:  
Thursday, Sept 19, 2024

Tree Pick-up:  
Thursday, Sept 26, 2024  
12 noon-4pm  
Kendall SWCD office

Order forms are fillable & printable at  
[www.kendallswcd.org](http://www.kendallswcd.org)

## **USDA-NRCS Staff:**

Erika Luft  
Acting District Conservationist

Megan Andrews  
Soil Conservationist

# SWCD Staff and Board Highlights

## Looking to Volunteer Locally?

The Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District currently has openings for associate directors. What exactly does an associate director do? Soil & Water Conservation Districts are governmental bodies that were created with the purpose of promoting the protection and conservation of soil, water, & other natural resources. Associate directors are appointed individuals who, along with the help of the directors, ensure that we are fulfilling our mission through the programs & events that we offer as well as the information and resources that we provide to the community. Associates attend board meetings, provide input, & participate in special events. If you would like to contribute to the conservation of soil & water, are of legal voting age, & own or occupy land in Kendall County email Nicole at [kendallcountyswcd@gmail.com](mailto:kendallcountyswcd@gmail.com) or call (630) 553-5821 ext. 3 for more info!

## Meet our new Administrative Coordinator – Nicole!



We have a new addition to our team at the office. Nicole Schneider began her position in March as the Administrative Coordinator for the KCSWCD. She has been spending the Spring and Summer learning the responsibilities of her new role.

Nicole received a Bachelor's of Science in Finance at Bradley University in Peoria, IL and is excited to use her knowledge and experience to help the district continue to prosper. She has an interest & passion for conservation and is honored to be apart of an incredible community. Thanks for being here, Nicole!

## AISWCD Annual Meeting & Summer Training

Kendall County was pleased to send three representatives to Springfield July 15-16 for the Annual Summer Training and Conference of the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD). Resource Conservationist - Alyse Olson, & Administrative Coordinator - Nicole Schneider, along with Director - Deanna Bazan, attended breakout sessions, large group presentations & meals with other stakeholders from across the state of Illinois. This year's theme was **MAGIC: Making A Greater Individual Commitment to Conservation**, & one of the keynote speakers was Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton. Awards were presented to the Illinois Farm Family of the Year, youth poster contest winners & photo contest winners, among others. Bazan attended the Annual Meeting of the AISWCD as the voting delegate for Kendall County. We are grateful for the many partnerships our SWCDs have created throughout the state, for continued support & collaboration in pursuit of protecting our precious natural resources.



# SWCD Updates and Resources

## Partners for Conservation Program

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](mailto:alyse.olson@il.nacdnet.net).

## Vegetative Filter Strip Tax Break Available

Filter strips are areas of permanent vegetation located between cropland or grazing land and an environmentally sensitive area like a creek or stream. According to the Illinois Vegetative Filter Strip Assessment Law, if you have a filter strip on your farm, you can reduce your property taxes on your filter strip down to 1/6 of the assessed cropland value. Contact us for more information on eligibility and to apply!

## Cover Crop Incentive Program

**\$25/acre**  
NEW 2023-24  
cover crop acres

**\$15/acre**  
New cover crop acres  
in 2018-2022

**\$10/acre**  
All cover crops  
& can be in  
NRCS Program

\*\*\*Enrollment  
closes  
Sept 13th

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ADM re:generations™ program  
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[farmland.org/icci](http://farmland.org/icci)

## Eligible practices include...

### Streambank Stabilization

Construct vegetative, stone structure, or other bio-engineering techniques for stabilizing eroding streambanks

### Erosion & Sediment Control Projects

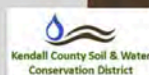
- Filter Strips
- No-till / Strip-till
- Grassed waterways
- Terraces
- Cover crops
- Water & sediment control basins
- Grade stabilization structures

### Water Well Decommissioning

Properly seal unused water wells to protect groundwater from contamination

### And More...

- Pollinator habitat
- Rain gardens
- Windbreaks
- Saturated buffers
- Bioreactors
- Pasture & hayland planting



## Illinois Urban Manual Updates

Soil and Water Conservation Districts have secured a grant from Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to work on updates to the Illinois Urban Manual (IUM). The IUM is a technical reference document used by individuals involved in land use planning, building site development, and natural resources conservation in rural and urban communities. The IUM contains best management practices for soil erosion & sediment control, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and environmentally sensitive area protection.

Updates will involve making the website more functional, creating new or updating existing best management practices, and building & implementing an outreach plan to expand the public's knowledge of the IUM.

The IUM is an evolving document. All updates are reviewed and approved by two committees and posted to the IUM website for public comment prior to final approval by IEPA. If you'd like to learn more visit the IUM website at [illinoisurbanmanual.org](http://illinoisurbanmanual.org)

# SWCD Updates and Resources

## Illinois 2025 Budget Slashes SWCD Funding

The 103rd General Assembly of Illinois has finalized the FY25 budget. This budget was signed into law with a **48% decrease** in SWCD operational funding. Soil and Water Conservation District directors, staff and stakeholders will continue to strive to elevate the message across the state that will ensure that Illinois puts in motion the essential efforts to meet objectives of the nutrient loss reduction strategies (NLRs), achieve grassroots conservation essential to protect the states vital natural resources and raise the bar of climate resiliency across the state. SWCD team members are committed to serving their constituents in agriculture, urban development, watersheds and more. We are mandated by the Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Act to provide technical information on soil and water conservation, and our teams passionately pursue that assignment. We will find a path forward to ensure that the state's essential Soil and Water Conservation Districts remain on the frontlines in protecting the state's most vital natural resources...soil and water.

**We want clean water & healthy soil – restore state funding to Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Please consider signing our petition through the link below or stopping by our office!**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FundSWCDs>

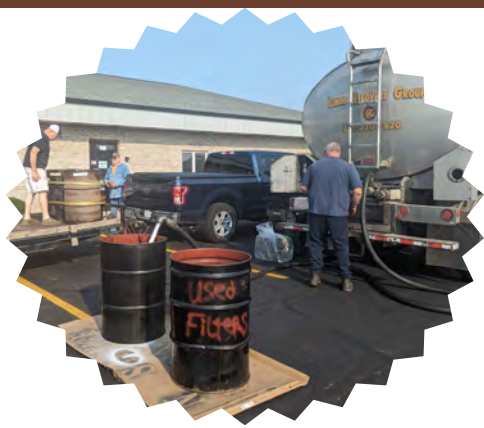
## 4-H Tree Planting

On Saturday April 20th, 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!



## 2024 Used Oil Drive

The Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District hosted the annual Used Oil Drive on Saturday, June 15th at Yorkville USDA. 420 gallons of used oil, 70 gallons of antifreeze and about 25 oil filters were collected to be recycled. Collecting these chemicals is an important step to keep them out of 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 held the Saturday preceding Father's Day each year.



# Kendall County Ag In the Classroom

## 2024-2025 Programs

Last year we have grown the Kendall Ag in the Classroom program to reach 7,454 students, averaging 1,000 students a month in K-12th grades. Students ended the school year learning about pollinators and got to make their own "Throw and Grow" seed ball planting multi colored zinnia seeds.

This school year we will have 3 unique presentations on pork, pizza, and compost. All programs are free of cost thanks to our donors and partners.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help present these programs in classrooms. Volunteers can commit to as little as 2 hours/month to help spread education on conservation and agriculture. Please reach out to the Education Coordinator, if you are interested at [kendallaitc@gmail.com](mailto:kendallaitc@gmail.com).



## FREE Education Posters



We are doing some education cleanup & we have lots & lots of educational posters on animals, soil, trees, plants, apples, pumpkins, etc. All are FREE to a good home. Come claim them before they are tossed out at the end of September. These posters are great for classrooms, home schools, any educational center, or nature enthusiast. On the right are examples of just a few of the posters we have in stock.

**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.**



## Technical & Financial Assistance Available

NRCS, USDA's private lands conservation agency, supports producers by providing one-on-one, personalized assistance to help address the specific needs of your agriculture or forestland operation through free technical assistance and financial incentives.

NRCS works directly with you, the producer, to tailor the assistance to help you accomplish your management, economic and ecological objectives on your farm.

NRCS has conservation programs available to help you implement the needed practices to address resource concerns on your land. Financial assistance is available through programs including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which is typically the first step in a producer's conservation journey, and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which is designed to help producers take their existing conservation work to the next level.

Ready to get started? NRCS Soil Conservationists, at your local field office, work with producers every step of the way to support improvements that benefit your land now and for years to come.

Contact your local NRCS Soil Conservationist, Megan Andrews, for more information at (630)708-4010 or [Megan.Andrews@usda.gov](mailto:Megan.Andrews@usda.gov).

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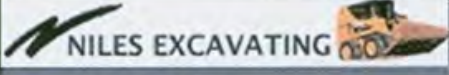
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[https://kendallswcd.org/kswcd/?page\\_id=444](https://kendallswcd.org/kswcd/?page_id=444)

# Fall Cover Crop Seeds Now Available!

## PEA & OAT SEED MIX - \$5/pound.

Planting this mix is a great way to make a natural pathway in your garden. It provides a protective barrier for the soil, slows down erosion, holds nutrients & suppresses weeds.

To purchase your seeds - stop by the office, visit our website, or email us at [kendallcountyswcd@gmail.com](mailto:kendallcountyswcd@gmail.com)!

Cash or check accepted.

Seeding rate: 2 lbs / 1,000 square foot

Fall planting dates: August 11th - September 21st, weather dependent.

All seeds sold first come first serve while supplies last.

## We're going paperless!

Beginning in Fall 2025, Newsletters will be sent out via email and available on our website & Facebook page! Help us reduce our carbon footprint and stay in the loop with the conservation of Kendall County!



**Kendall County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

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