

# LAWRENCE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BUSINESS PLAN

**FUNCTION:** To take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

**WE SERVE:** Land users of Lawrence County.

**WHY:** To provide assistance, education, and technical service in conserving soil, water, and related natural resources.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Lawrence County SWCD is to provide assistance, education and technical service to the land users of Lawrence County in conserving soil, water, and related natural resources.

## **Critical Natural Resource Issues:**

### **1. Cropland Management**

- Soil Health (cover crops, no-till, nutrient management)
- Erosion

### **2. Forestry Management**

- Invasive Species
- Wildlife Habitat Loss
- Timber Stand Improvement

### **3. Pasture Management**

- Nutrient Management
- Forage Quality

### **4. Urban**

- Back Yard Management

### **5. Water Quality**

- Filter Strips
- Cattle out of natural water sources
- Nutrient and Pest Management

### **6. Invasive Species**

- Increase Early Detection Rapid Response of invasive species
- Invasive species controls

## 7. **Wildlife**

- Wildlife Management, Wildlife Habitat Management
- Wildlife food plots
- Pollinators

**CRITICAL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS** All concerns are common across all of Lawrence County.

# **Specific Five Year Goals for addressing the Resource Concerns**

**By January 1, 2025 we will accomplish the following:**

### **Cropland Management**

- Increase cover crop acres by 2000 acres over 2019 plantings. Use and work with CCSI on soil health.
- Promote at least two implementation and awareness of Nutrient Management Plans.
- Maintain or increase Conservation Reserve Program acreage by encouraging CRP on unsuitable farm ground 100 acres over 2019 levels.

### **Forestry Management**

- Promote the number of individuals enrolled in the Classified Forests and Wildlands Program by 5%.
- Encourage the number of acres managed with Timber Stand Improvement by
- 300 acres.

## **Pasture Management**

- Promote rotational grazing by having field day.
- Increase utilization of Heavy Use Area Protection practices by 20
- Educate on alternative fertilizer material use and distribution rules.
- Promoting forage and biomass plantings by 140 acres.

## **Urban**

- Host Backyard Conservation Workshop

## **WATER QUALITY**

- Use filter strips along streams and rivers, increase by 10 acres.
- Improve water quality by excluding livestock from natural water sources by installing 2500 feet fence.
- Promote to livestock producers, federal (EQIP), and other programs and funding opportunities to install practices that would keep livestock out of natural water sources. Promote the use of alternative water sources. Ten new water sources installed.
- Increase best management practices for nutrient and pest management on cropland by using CCSI and having soil health workshops.

## **INVASIVE SPECIES**

- Increase early detection rapid response of invasive species by increasing information on invasive species. Work with Keep Invasive in Check (KIC) for updates on species. Include the updates on invasive species by SWCD newsletters and on the SWCD website.

## **WILDLIFE**

- Assist landowners with wildlife management goals by: Annual distribution of wildlife food plot seed for upland birds.
- Hosting wildlife habitat management workshops & pollinator.

### **Key Strategies:**

#### **Information\Education**

**The district will provide conservation information and education to the public by utilizing:**

- Newsletters and other publication
- Website calendar of workshops events
- Technical Workshops
- Field Days related to the Critical Natural Resource Issues
- Annual Meeting
- Customer Service (daily contacts, phone calls, soil survey, tree planting information)

## **YOUTH EDUCATION**

**Promote conservation education to youth on soil & water conservation Issues:**

- Envirothon
- Poster Contest
- 4-H Projects
- Classroom presentations
- Career fairs
- Soil & Water station at the 3rd Grade Ag Day

### **Marketing**

**The district will reach out to the public through:**

- Website
- Public Releases to the local media
- Public Presentation
- E-Newsletter
- Lawrence County Fair
- Sponsorships and Contests
- Promoting conservation programs

## **Demonstrations**

- No-Till, Cover Crop, Soil Health demonstrations
- CCSI Hybrid Seed variety plots
- Forage Management
- Forest Management
- Back Yard Conservation
- Many more....

## **Technical Assistance**

### **The District can assist the public:**

- Finding the right contact
- One on one conservation planning and application assistance
- Survey, design and installation assistance by regional tech team
- Urban Conservation
- Offering workshops where land owners can get certifications (ex. Spraying certification)

## **Financial Assistance**

- Federal conservation programs (i.e. farm bill programs)
- State conservation cost share/incentive grants

## **Funding**

- State Grants (Clean Water Indiana)
- IDEM 319 or 205(j) grants
- Other grants, foundations, etc.
- Affiliate Memberships
- NRCS (i.e. phones, computer, networking services)
- County appropriations
- Partnership Programs

## **Conservation District Business Plan**

### **Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**January 2020 thru January 2025**

**Who We Are:** The Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a subdivision of State Government. It is a public body which exercises public powers. It is governed by five supervisors, each a resident of the County, three elected and two appointed. Its staff members are considered to be employees of the county. The district receives its statutory authority from Indiana District Law (Indiana Code IC 14-32).

**What We Do:** The Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District provides the public with information, education and technical assistance on soil, water and related natural resource conservation; identifies and prioritizes local soil and water resource concerns; and connects land users to sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

**Our Mission:** Leadership in Soil and Water Conservation

**Our Core Value:**

- **Conservation**
- **Knowledge**
- **Partnerships**
- **Consistency**
- **Integrity**
- **Customer service**

