



McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District 2022 Conservation Review

McLean County Soil and Water Conservation

The McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District proudly preserves McLean County's most valuable resources. Our desire to protect soil and water, and serve area producers is 80 years strong. The experienced staff and strong dedication to conservation gives landowners professional options and solutions to protect our natural resources. The past and present District Board of Directors has given this county the strong leadership and correct direction to maintain the rich agricultural integrity of McLean County.

McLean County Conservation Services

The SWCD provides many conservation services to the public. Our tree and fish sales are held annually in both the spring and fall. We work with a comprehensive list of native seed vendors for both programmatic and non-programmatic plantings. Farmers and landowners can apply for conservation cost-share dollars and access a list of local conservation contractors and their services. In partnership with the McLean County Pheasants Forever chapter, we offer access to three no-till drills and a three-point hitch tree planter for habitat installation. McLean County plat books are available at our office. Subscribe to our newsletter lists to learn more about our most current programs and services.



McLean County 2022 Accomplishments

The following accomplishments were executed in partnership with local partners, and the McLean County farmers and landowners. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) contracts and dollars distributed include the Environmental Qualities Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in the most recent fiscal year. To learn more about these specific objectives, and additional opportunities, contact our office.

Conservation Objectives	Projects	Totals
Conservation Trees Distributed	125	1,090 trees
Pond Fish Stocking	65	65 ponds
SWCD Contracts and Dollars Dispersed	10	\$26,404
Cover Crops Projects and Acres	7	656 acres
Lake Bloomington Shoreline Installation	2	2,450 feet
No-Till Drill Projects and Acres	21	88 acres
Filter Strip & CRP Tax Reduction Applications	9	81 acres
NRCS Contracts and Dollars Dispersed	19	\$1,165,012 8,911 Acres

SWCD Board of Directors

Mike Kelley– Chairman
Sally Breese– Vice Chairman
Irvin Bane– Director
Howard Heatherwick– Director
Jeff Mathews– Director

SWCD Staff

Jackie Kraft
 Watershed Coordinator
Ross Fogle
 Watershed Conservation Specialist
Brett Irwin
 Administrative Coordinator
 Resource Conservationist

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SWCD News

Want to stay up to date with the Mclean County SWCD? Sign-up for our **Monthly E- Newsletter** on our website!
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www.mcleancountyswcd.com

The McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status or disability.

This policy covers all programs, services and procedures of the District, including employment.

USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District 2022 Project Highlights

McLean County Monarch Projects

The McLean County SWCD strives to protect and enhance monarch breeding and feeding habitat along with other regional pollinators. The Illinois Monarch Project has lead the path to save the monarchs. We have taken the pledge and share their goal of adding 150 million new milkweed stems and other nectar resources to the Illinois landscape by 2038. Projects have begun working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to convert roadside vegetation to pollinator friendly habitat. The initial project is located on I-55 on the east side of Linden Street. The project is nearly 1 mile or 12 acres of highly visible road frontage. Since 2021 we have asked farmers to commit an Acre of Habitat for the Farm. **Sixteen landowners took the challenge and implemented 21 acres** of Monarch Mix on their farms across McLean County! Three area schools, including Trinity Lutheran, Lexington and Northpoint 3rd grade classrooms have been awarded grants to begin habitat education program offered to classrooms across the country called, Milkweed in the Classroom. In partnership with the McLean County Pheasants Forever chapter the three schools established butterfly gardens and monitored the success of their plantings in the classroom.



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Sally Breese- Vice Chairman
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Watershed Coordinator
Ross Fogle
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Brett Irwin
Administrative Coordinator
Resource Conservationist

Conservation Outreach

The McLean County SWCD held five outreach events including two wildlife habitat tours, a cover crop meeting, a pond shocking survey demonstration, and an FFA Soils Judging Contest. More than 130 individuals participated in the four field day events. Be on the look out for more conservation tours, outreach events, and programs to come. The following partnerships contributed to these events: Illinois State University, Livingston County SWCD, Illinois Conservation Police, Illinois Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever, City of Bloomington, Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership, University of Illinois Pollinarium and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



SWCD News

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Jim Rutherford Conservation Scholarship

The Jim Rutherford Scholarship was established by the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District to assist outstanding agricultural students at any Illinois College. The student awarded the scholarship should demonstrate superior agricultural academic achievement, commitment to soil and water conservation and potential for innovation and/or leadership ability. The Jim Rutherford Scholarship is awarded in the fall semester of the academic year. This scholarship fund is made possible by generous donations from local donors. Each year an annual golf outing is held to raise the necessary funds. Help support the next generation of local agri-business professionals! Seventeen local scholars have been awarded since inception for a total of \$8500 to attend 8 different Illinois colleges. To make a donation, please contact our office.



**2022 Golf Outing
Champions**

Visit our Website!



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