



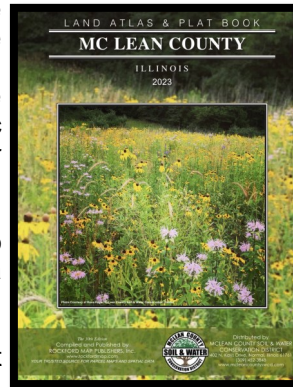
McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District 2023 Conservation Review

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 81 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 local contractors for conservation implementation and native seed vendors for both programmatic and non programmatic projects. Farmers and landowners can apply for conservation cost-share dollars and access federal program possibilities. In partnership with the McLean County Pheasants Forever Chapter, we offer access to three no-till drills, a three-point broadcast seeder and a three-point tree planter for habitat installation. McLean County plat books are also available at our office. Subscribe to our newsletter to learn more about our most current programs and services available to you.



Our 2023 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 in the most recent fiscal year through the Environmental Qualities Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Program Partnership (RCPP) 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	110	2202 trees
Pond Fish Stocking	70	70 ponds
SWCD Contracts and Dollars Dispersed	11	\$40,654.54
Cover Crop Projects and Acres	10	1,036 acres
Lake Bloomington Shoreline Installation	1	925 feet
No-Till Drill Projects and Acres	20	111 acres
Filter Strip & CRP Tax Reduction Applications	2	5.1 acres
NRCS Contracts and Dollars Dispersed	31	\$2,372,395.77
		26,008.4 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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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.

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McLean County Conservation Cost-share Projects

Partners for Conservation funds are available for conservation installation that will conserve soil and benefit water quality. This funding pool is available on behalf of the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District. The funds can be used for projects outside of current practices enrolled in an active government contract. Cost share is based on a practice component list that sets expectations for average costs of installation. In 2023 funding in the amount of \$40,654.54 was allocated to McLean County landowners on 11 separate projects. The following practices and projects reflect those totals. Five projects impacting 564 acres for cover crop implementation, One project for the adoption of strip till impacting 178 acres, One project to decommission a well for a total of \$400, and finally four reconstructed waterway projects for a total of \$25,098.85. Applications are available at the office with a sign-up deadline before March 29, 2024.



Conservation Restoration Projects

The McLean County SWCD continues to provide valuable conservation restoration resources to farmers and landowners. Conservation grade tree sales, and pond stocking are two opportunities that diversify and protect our valuable local resources. The district promotes two sales each year, one in the spring and another in the fall to meet weather and planting conditions. Recommendations can be made by our office and other conservation professionals to meet the needs of the landscape and customer. An annual pond shocking demonstration is held to help educate pond owners about deciding on various stocking rates, pond maintenance, and fish species. In 2023 the McLean County SWCD assisted the pond stocking of 70 local ponds, and worked with 110 projects to plant 2,202 trees and shrubs. Additionally, the no-till drills were utilized on 20 projects impacting 111 acres of conservation cover seedings.



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 students awarded the scholarship demonstrate superior agricultural academic achievement, commitment to soil and water conservation and innovation. 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. Since 2015, we have awarded 20 local students with scholarships amounting to \$10,500. The McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District Awarded three scholarships this year including (1) \$1000 scholarship, and (2) \$500 scholarships. The proceeds were received through the generous donations of our community, and the annual Golf Outing fundraiser. Special thanks to Compeer Financial, Hughart Family Limited Partnership and Richard Farms for underwriting scholarship awards! If you would like to help us award future applicants, please consider making a donation or joining us for the outing!

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