

SOIL & WATER NEWS

402 N Kays Drive, Normal IL 61761 309-452-3848 extension 3
www.mcleancountyswcd.com



McLean County Conservationist of the Year

On behalf of the McLean County SWCD Board and Staff we are excited to present the Conservationist of the year award to the Wyant Family. For over 35 years, they've acquired and developed 152 acres along the Mackinaw River near Colfax, into a thriving wildlife haven. Their conservation story begins in 1964, when 10-year-old on a school bus, caught his first glimpse of three deer running across a McLean County field—on the very farm his grandfather once worked. In 1990, he claimed those 40 acres as his own, farming them until 2005. That year, they enrolled every cropland acre into CRP. This legacy of conservation began with Mike and Trisha Wyant and ignited in their sons a fire for wildlife habitat development and conservation. Michael and Adam attended SIUC to achieve degrees centered around conservation. Michael with a forestry degree and Adam, wildlife biology. Adam has worked for NRCS since 2004 and served as the District Conservationist in McLean County. Since 2005 the family has planted a windbreak with more than 1,100 trees and shrubs. They seeded tallgrass prairie and carved a 4+ acre shallow pond. Wildlife answered instantly: Pheasants, surged; deer and turkey returned; meadowlarks sang from the grasses; and the pond drew waterfowl—species unseen before. Nineteen acres of the farm is in a permanent conservation easement, CREP. Today, the 152 contiguous acres is nearly all habitat, with a family passion to preserve it for generations to come. The Wyant family is a great example of conservation legacy and stewardship. Congratulations to the Wyant Family, your 2025 McLean County Conservationists of the Year. The McLean County Board and Staff are honored to induct you into this special recognition of our counties greatest Conservationists.



Conservation Cost-Share Opportunities through McLean County SWCD

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. Cover crop cost-share is capped at \$10,000 per applicant or 75% of total costs, whichever amount is less. It is important to note that applications must be filled out and approved before seed or other project costs occur as payments cannot be made retroactively. Conservation practices include but are not limited to: cover crops 75% cost share up to 3 year maximum, grassed waterway construction 75% cost shared, water well decommissioning 75% cost shared and new adoption of no-till or strip till 75% cost shared up to \$10,000 maximum. Make an application with Brett Irwin at 309-452-3848 ext 3 or email at brett.irwin@il.nacdnet.net. Application sign-up is February 1-28, 2026 at the SWCD office.

Thank you Howard Heatherwick



The McLean County SWCD board and staff are grateful for Howard's leadership for conservation delivery. Howard and his wife own and manage their multi generational farm near McLean. Active conservationists with prairie restoration, woodland habitat, streambank stabilization and row crops they preserve resources through sound conservation practices. After 9 years of service to the board, Howard has retired from the SWCD board of directors. Thank you for the many years of dedication to McLean County and our conservation resources.

SWCD Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00am to 4:30pm

SWCD Board of Directors

Mike Kelley - Chairman
Jeff Mathews - Vice Chairman
Irvin Bane - Director
Garrett Conaty- Director
Collin Loeffler - Director

SWCD Staff

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

NRCS Staff

Allan Hertzberger
Acting District Conservationist
Matt Bell
Soil Technician
Devin Jefferson
Soil Conservationist

Visit our Website!



www.mcleancountyswcd.com



Find us on Facebook!

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.

The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

McLean County SWCD Foundation



The McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District Foundation was established in 2024. A non-profit 501c3 organization that accepts contributions to further promote the positive image of Agriculture through conservation education. Through generous donations we have helped more than 25 local students with scholarships pursuing agricultural degrees with an emphasis on conservation stewardship. The organization consists of a board of directors and is administered by the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District. To make a contribution you can mail your contribution to our office mailing address of 402 N Kays Drive, Normal IL 61761.

Drainage Water Management Program Available

If you own or operate land in the conservation districts of DeWitt, Iroquois, Ford, Livingston, McLean, Macon, or Piatt County, technical service is available for a managed drainage system. Eligible producers will receive technical services at no cost for site assessment, planning and engineering design of select practices. Some of these practices include drainage water management, saturated buffers, and bioreactors. These opportunities are offered between the National Association of Conservation Districts and Ecosystem Services Exchange with funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Eligible participants must have an existing and functioning tile drainage system on cropland that is technically feasible for use with one or more of the above mentioned practices. Participants eligibility is dependent in accordance with the conservation compliance provisions of the farm bill. To learn more contact Kate Schafer at (515)771-2495 or by email at kate@ecoexch.com.

Lake Bloomington Watershed Cover Crop Program

A partnership with the McLean County SWCD, City of Bloomington, Purdue University and the University of Illinois was awarded a grant from the Illinois Soybean Association. The grant efforts proved successful when farmers implemented 815 acres of cover crops in the fall of 2025. The goals of this collaboration are to evaluate the long-term stream and lake water quality data set of Lake Bloomington watersheds in correlation with the change of conservation on the landscape. The results will generate a firm background of nutrient (N and P) and sediment loss over time. Modeling of a "Nutrient Loss Risk Analysis" identified high and low risk nutrient loss zones ("priority areas") of the watershed. Those results helped us engage farmers by encouraging cover crop and conservation adoption in the priority area watershed zones through farmer engagement and a \$65/acre incentive. A field day is planned for April 2026 to be held at Davis Lodge Lake Bloomington. More information is forth coming, to learn more contact the McLean County SWCD office.

No-Till Drills, Broadcast Seeders, and Tree Planter Available for Rent

Three no-till drills, two three-point broadcast seeder, a tree planter, and multiple hand/UTV broadcast seeders are available for wildlife habitat installation in McLean County. Some of these pieces of equipment were purchased in cooperation with Illinois DNR through Habitat Stamp funds raised by Illinois Hunters. Reporting of habitat installation is required to maintain records of the acres installed. Equipment is owned by the McLean County Pheasants Forever Chapter. A rental agreement, and Pheasants Forever membership is required.

Rental Agreement Details:

- \$250 Security Deposit
- \$150 Daily Charge for Native Seedlings with Drills & Tree Plantings
- \$200 Daily Charge for Drill operation on Waterway Seedlings
- \$250 Daily Charge for Three-Point Broadcast Seeder
- All Equipment includes a \$100 Weekend charge if not returned by COB Friday
- \$45 Pheasants Forever Current Membership required
- Copy of Current Seed Tag is Required when equipment is returned

Equipment Requirements/Specifications:

- Minimum 50 horsepower tractor for equipment use
- Drills have pioneer ends and 2 hydraulic lines for raising/lowering
- Drill is 8 feet wide and does 5 feet of planting
- Drills include three seed boxes, capable of planting native & pollinator habitat or food plots
- A hitch pin for drill transportation required (45mph max speed)
- Three Point attachment for broadcast seeder or Tree Planter required
- A 2" ball for transport (35mph max speed) of Tree Planter, already on a trailer
- Tree Planter is capable of planting up to 4-5' bare root trees
- PTO required for broadcast seeding
- Trailer or pick-up bed required to transport of Three Point Broadcaster

McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District

2026 SPRING FISH SALE



Description	Quantity	Price	Total Amount
Fathead Minnows		\$14.00 per pound	
Channel Catfish 6-8" (NB)*		\$65.00 per 50	
Channel Catfish 8"-10" (NB)*		\$85.00 per 50	
Hybrid Sunfish 1-2"		\$100.00 per 250	
Hybrid Sunfish 3-5"		\$65.00 per 50	
Bluegill 1-2"		\$100.00 per 250	
Bluegill 3-5"		\$65.00 per 50	
Black Crappie 3-5"		\$140.00 per 100	
Redear 1-2"		\$100.00 per 250	
Largemouth Bass 3"		\$95.00 per 50	
Largemouth Bass 5-8"		\$200.00 per 50	
Triploid Grass Carp		\$18.00 per fish	
HB Black OR Blue Pond Dye (Circle one)		\$22.00 per quart	
HB All Seasons Blend Bacteria (2 pounds per acre)		\$11.00 per pound	
Triton High Protein Fish Food		\$50.00 per 50# bag	
Electrofishing Survey		\$975.00 per pond	
Texas Hunter Automatic Fish Feeder (75lb capacity)		\$1,070.00	
TOTAL			

All fish are sold in quantities as advertised.

Send Order and
Payment to:
McLean County SWCD
402 N. Kays Drive
Normal, IL 61761

Credit Cards 4% surcharge

Phone: (309)452-3848 ext. 3
www.mcleancountyswcd.com

Payment & Order DEADLINES

Grass Carp - March 19
All Other Items - April 3

Free delivery for fish orders over
\$1000

PICK-UP

Thursday, April 9
9:00am
Interstate Center South
Parking Lot
1106 Interstate Dr
Bloomington, IL 61705

*(NB) Not Bagged Disclaimer:

All Catfish will need coolers filled with pond water in order to pick-up.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

INFORMATION BELOW REQUIRED BY IDNR IF PURCHASING GRASS CARP:

Township _____ Section _____ Size of pond (Acres) _____

McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District

2026 SPRING TREE SALE



ORDER DEADLINES:
April 9, 2026

Send Order and Payment to:
McLean County SWCD
402 N. Kays Drive
Normal, IL 61761

*Credit cards 4% surcharge.

PICK-UP
Thursday April 16, 2026
8:00 am — 4:30 pm
McLean County SWCD Office

Phone: (309)452-3848 ext. 3
www.mcleancountyswcd.com



Scan this QR code with
your cell phone
camera to open all
Tree descriptions and
product information.

Smaller Trees (#1 containers)			
Description	Quantity	Price	Total
Sugar Maple 15-18"		\$15.00	
Fall Red Maple 18-24"		\$15.00	
Bur Oak 24-30"		\$15.00	
Swamp White Oak 24-30"		\$15.00	
American Hornbeam 18-24"		\$15.00	

Conifers (#1 containers)			
Eastern White Pine 15-18"		\$15.00	
Colorado Spruce 12-15"		\$15.00	
Norway Spruce 15-18"		\$15.00	
Black Hills Spruce 10-12"		\$15.00	
White Fir 15-18"		\$15.00	

New: Native Perennial Plants (#1 containers)			
Coreopsis		\$15.00	
Purple Coneflower		\$15.00	
Black-eyed Susan		\$15.00	
Northwind Switch Grass		\$20.00	
Prairie Dropseed Grass		\$20.00	

Smaller Shrubs & Protectors (#1 containers)			
Red Osier Dogwood 10-12"		\$15.00	
Purple Lilac 15"		\$15.00	
Black Chokeberry 15-18"		\$15.00	
Tree Protector, 2ft Vinyl w/stake		\$5.00	
TOTAL			

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

NOTE: These Plants are for conservation purposes only and shall not be used as ornamentals or for landscaping (SWCD ACT). The District cannot accept responsibility for sizes and/or the viability of plant materials as stated by the nursery. All planting material requires commitment to assure survival. Putting plants under stress (i.e. lack of water, planting too deep or too shallow, or a delay in planting) will weaken the plants and lessen survival rates. Do not plant larger trees too close to buildings, sidewalks, driveways or utilities. It is your responsibility to learn proper planting techniques and to select appropriate planting sites. The District cannot be responsible for replacing stock that do not survive.

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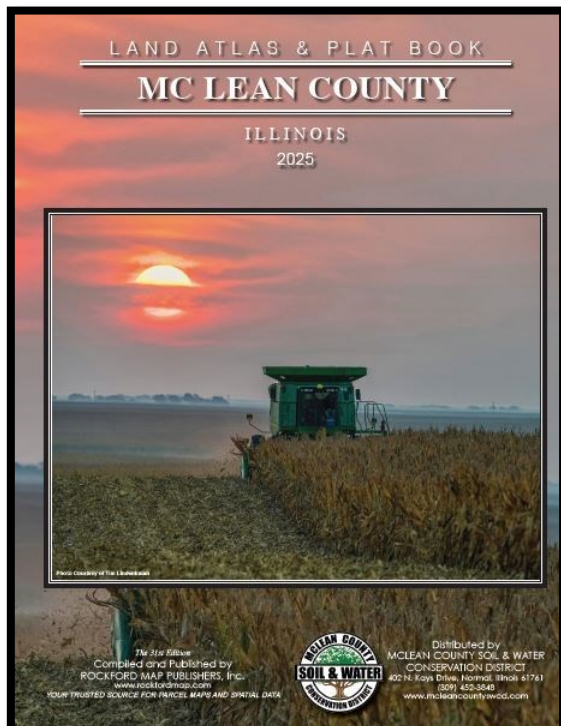


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2025 PLAT BOOK, TREE, AND FISH SALE INFORMATION INSIDE!

2025 McLean County Plat Books Available



\$35 Per Book

The McLean County 2025 Plat Book is available for purchase at the McLean County SWCD Office. McLean County Plat Books are provided by Rockford Map Publishers, who collects public information through McLean County tax records to publish the plat book every two years. If you would like to purchase this edition you can visit our office at 402 N Kays Drive, Normal IL 61761. Plat Books are \$35 per book, cash or check. If you would like to purchase with a credit card, \$40 per book. Shipping is available for an additional charge.