

Floyd County Soil & Water Conservation District



2025 Annual Report





Tom King
Chairman

Melanie Palaisa
Vice-Chairman

Ron Wathen
Supervisor

Laura Lewis
Supervisor

Matt Payne
Supervisor

Our purpose is to provide information about soil, water, and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; and connecting land users to sources of educational, technical, and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.



Angel Jackson
Director / Educator

District Office:

2524 Corydon Pike / Suite 103
New Albany, IN 47150
812-945-9936

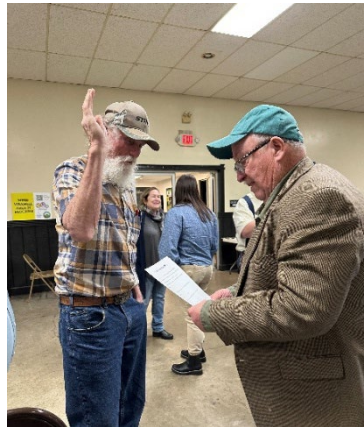
Open:

Monday – Friday
8:00 – 4:00

<https://www.in.gov/counties/floyd/departments/soil-and-water-conservation-district/>



What We Were Up To In 2025



January of 2025 started like so many others getting ready for the district's Annual Meeting. Supervisors Matt Payne and Melanie Palaisa performed an audit of the district's finances prior to publication or state submittal. In February, the district hosted its 77th Annual Meeting at Newlin Hall. Supervisors recognized the residents who had participated in our Invasive Removal cost-share program as Conservation Stewards. Attendees heard from Gina Anderson of Purdue Extension and Director Angel Jackson about their combined education and outreach experiences. Supervisor Matt Payne was elected to a 3-year term while Supervisor Ron Wathen was appointed to his term. County Councilman Dale Bagshaw swore in both. The district hosted its 2nd Agriculture Breakfast in early March. Floyd County Farm Bureau and Purdue Extension co-hosted the event while attendees heard from Rachel Boucher of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Floyd County residents' tree orders were picked up from the Vallonia state tree nursery at the end of the month and the countywide transect survey was completed. April was a busy month of site visits, outreach, and distributing wildlife seed food plot mix. The district worked with the 4-H Conservation Club members to plant a food plot area on the FC Conservation Club property. Supervisors and staff also worked a booth at Pollinator Day giving out literature and bird boxes made by Supervisor Ron Wathen. District Director Angel Jackson helped plant the library book gardens in May and attended a booth for the library's summer reading kick off celebration. In June, the district was contacted by the State Board of Accounts to perform a routine compliance audit. The audit was completed with No Comments from SBOA. The district also collaborated with Purdue Extension to host a Pasture Health workshop featuring speaker Robert Zupancic.



As July was starting, the district welcomed the help of Resilient Indiana Technical Assistance (R.I.T.A.) Technician, Cole Flatt. He helped refresh the Slate Run Elementary raingarden his first week and was a continual asset for the district the rest of the year.

August was not only hot, but it was also a busy month of planning and planting. The district co-hosted a bio swale native planting with our partners Purdue Extension & The Shine Foundation. This native planting was installed on the Buffalo Trail Forest property in Greenville. The district sponsored and co-hosted the 4th Grade Careers in Agriculture field trip in September. Over 900 students from public and private schools attended. At the end of the month, the district worked with the Floyd County Parks Department, Purdue Extension, and the FC Health Department to hold a Bat House Building workshop. Participants learned about safety and exposure, and built 20 bat houses to take home. October was a record month for Education / Outreach opportunities. The district hosted an outreach event about Invasive Species each week of the month. From the FC Library to Nova Parke to Purdue Extension to Jensen Trails. Each week focusing on a different aspect of Invasives and finishing with a guided hike led by the forester Nathan Kachnavage. During November, the district worked with our local CISMA (Floyd County Native Habitat Restoration Team) to tackle a menacing patch of bamboo located on a county park property. For all their hard work, the FCNHR was presented with the Weed Wranglers award by the State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) organization. As the year was ending, December was filled with administrative and financial reporting. Supervisors also reviewed the Annual Plan of Work with updates for 2026.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF FLOYD COUNTY SWCD

January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

RECEIPTS

Balance Brought Forward (Checking + Savings)	\$90,044.68
State for District Operations	\$20,000.00
Clean Water Indiana Grant	
County for District Operations	\$1,699.36
Sales Income (Fish Sale)	
Interest from Savings Account	\$1.72
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$21,701.08

TOTAL (balance forward + receipts) \$111,745.76

DISBURSEMENTS

Annual Meeting Expenses	\$698.89
Audit Expense	\$3,913.95
Conservation Education Programs	\$335.59
CWI Payment to Washington County SWCD	
CWI Cost Share & Projects (Education / Outreach)	\$4,984.70
Dues & Subscriptions	\$4,507.41
Office Supplies	\$201.59
Postage & Delivery & Operating Expenses	
Printing/Copying Expense	\$480.22
Sales Tax to State	\$41.21
Supervisor Per Diem	\$915.00
Supplies for Resale (Fish Sale)	
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	\$149.00
Workshop / Field Day Expenses	\$600.00
Other Disbursements (RCPP 3 rd Year)	\$5,000.00
Other Disbursements (Food Plot & Native Seeds)	\$981.64
Other Disbursements (Sponsorships)	\$3,050.00
Other Disbursements (CISMA Sec., Ad. Designs, Woodland Steward)	\$1,510.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$27,369.20

BALANCE (Balance forward + receipts – Total disbursements) \$84,376.56

CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY

Salaries	\$66,784.09
Fringe	\$8313.59
Other (Mileage)	\$602.70





Harrison/Floyd/Crawford Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) serves the agricultural community by administering many of the federal Farm Bill programs. Among the most popular in this area are the Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL), Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), Disaster Programs for Livestock, and the Farm Loan Programs.

Additionally, FSA has administered many ad hoc relief programs in recent years for disaster assistance, pandemic relief, and marketing assistance due to tariffs. Recent highlights of these programs include distributing the following assistance to eligible producers in the three-county area:

- Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) for economic assistance for the 2024 crop year to mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices: paying over \$2.5 Million
- Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) for eligible disaster events in 2023-2024: paying over \$890 Thousand to date with signup open until April 30, 2026

The CRP program currently has 123 active contracts (77 in Harrison, 16 in Floyd, 30 in Crawford) with 1860 acres enrolled. The CRP program issues over \$230 Thousand of annual rental payments into the local economy.

Marketing assistance loans provide interim financing at harvest time to help agricultural producers meet cash flow needs without selling their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. The producer pledges the agricultural commodity as collateral towards a nine-month loan. Current interest rate is: 4.625%.

The FSFL program provides low interest loans for the construction of commodity storage facilities. These are three to twelve year loans (depending upon the loan amount and equipment constructed) that help provide storage for up to two years of production. Current interest rates are: 3.500% for 3-year term, 3.625% for 5-year term, 3.875% for 7-year term, 4.125% for 10-year term, and 4.250% for 12-year term.

The Farm Loan Programs provide direct loans and loan guarantees for the purchases of land and/or equipment as well as operating loans to local eligible producers. There are 37 direct active loans in the three-county area totaling over \$5 Million and 28 guaranteed loans totaling over \$9.2 Million.

For additional information on FSA programs, contact the office at 812-738-8121 Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. Regional Farm Loan staff are located in the Salem FSA office and can be reached at 812-883-3006.

County Executive Director: Jennifer Anderson, jennifer.anderson@usda.gov

Senior Farm Loan Officer: Megan Downing, megan.downing@usda.gov

Corydon Staff

Jennifer Anderson, County Executive Director (CED)

Lisa Lett, Program Analyst (PA)

Sarah Yelch, Program Analyst (PA)

County Committee

Richard Book, COC North Harrison

Gary Wolfe, COC Central Harrison

Jennifer Lattire, COC South Harrison

Rollin Bach, COC Crawford

Dennis Konkle, COC Floyd





Floyd County NRCS Annual Report

My name is Bryan (Drew) McCutchan. I grew up in Spencer County Indiana working for a local farmer outside Dale Indian who raised hogs, ran a cow/calf operation and row cropped. I attended Murray State University studying Agriculture Business with an emphasis in Agronomy. After college, I worked for Southwestern Indiana Co-Op Superior Ag as a sales trainee and applicator.

In 2020, I became fascinated with soil health and the positive impact landowners and land managers can make on their property that not only benefit themselves and their operation but their community and customers as a whole. This fascination led me to applying for a position with NRCS in Salem Indiana as a Soil Conservationist. In 2022, I became the District Conservationist in Clark County, I have continued in this role to today. Since joining NRCS I have been able to exercise my passion for soil health by helping row crop and livestock producers not only grow crops and livestock but also improve their soil, making their farms more resilient. On top of working with producers growing food, I have also gotten to work with other landowners on my other passion in life, wildlife habitat creation and conservation through projects on fallow land as well as in forestry work.

Beginning in Mid-September I got the privilege to act for Rachel Boucher here in Floyd County. Floyd County has really been a fun county to work in so far. It is full of diverse landscapes and passionate landowners who have made my job very enjoyable!

I really enjoy fieldwork and seeing landowners' properties. I would be more than happy to come walk your property with you to talk conservation!

Contact Information:

Email: bryan.mccutchan@usda.gov

Phone: 812-896-6309 (cell) 812-256-2330 x3 (office)

Address: 9608 Highway 62, Suite 3 Charlestown, IN 47111

Active contracts in Floyd County:

CSP:

Forestry – 4

Acres Impacted: **165 acres**

EQIP:

Forestry – 3

Agronomy – 3

Livestock – 1

Wildlife – 1

Acres Impacted: **1,322 acres**

Applications in Floyd County

EQUIP: 5 Applications

Forestry - 2

Wildlife - 2

Small Farm - 1

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of



Organizations the District worked with in 2025



Extension



NEW ALBANY FLOYD COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION



**SUNNYSIDE
MASTER
GARDENER**
Helping Others Grow

