



## Clean Water Indiana Grants Report May 14, 2024

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### **2024 Grants**

Contracts have been completed and communication has been sent to grantees to make initial claims of 50% of the awarded funds. 18 out of 27 grantees have requested the first 50% of their CWI funds.

Monroe Co SWCD 2024 grant is completed. They purchased a drill for the district.

### **2022, 2023, 2024 Grants upcoming deadlines**

- **Reports will be due in GMS JULY 31, 2024**
- **CWI cost-share practices due in Conservation Link/Conservation Project Tracking (CPT) July 5, 2024**

### **Capacity Reports**

Capacity Reports may now be submitted in GMS. In most scenarios, up to \$20,000 will be reported for 2024.

### **CWI GRANT SPOTLIGHT**

#### **Washington SWCD, 2022**

**Funds awarded: \$71,250.00**

**From their January 31, 2024 CWI Grant update:**

To date, total project funds spent so far are \$59,628.96.

- Cost-share funds: \$52,548.90
- Technician funds: \$7,080

Cost-share practices include pasture & hay plantings, watering facilities (including the facility and pipeline), HUAPs, access road, and technician funds.

Total District In-Kind was \$25,866.05

District Cash Match was \$15,674.93

Wash. Co SWCD has promoted the grant through newsletter articles, in person conversation, flyer distribution, on social media and at public events such as the Fall Conservation Field Day and Women's Forum. They have reimbursed landowners in out of county rental fees for drill rentals. The Washington County technician completes all required reporting for the grant. Other SWCD staff members assisted with CWI promotion and contract preparation.

Crawford Co. SWCD has promoted the grant through quarterly newsletter articles (goes out to 406 county landowners), social media, and their local newspaper and at their events such as the Annual Meeting (average of 80 attendees). They also include a section in their Annual Report promoting Clean Water Indiana. All reporting requirements were completed, and information was shared with lead district as requested.

Harrison County SWCD promoted through in person conversations. They provided \$3,000.00 in cash match towards conservation practices and purchased wildlife seed that was distributed to landowners in Harrison County (sunflower, milo, oat seeds). All reporting requirements were completed, and information was shared with lead district as requested.

Perry County SWCD stays up to date of grant activities at board meetings. They are given a report of the status of each project. All reporting requirements were completed, and information was shared with lead district as requested.

NRCS employees in all counties have assisted with technical assistance over the last reporting period as well as conservation planning as needed.

Purdue Extension in all counties have assisted with educational events and field days.

ISDA employees have assisted with conservation planning, technical assistance, field checks, general grant questions, and have communicated relevant information with all involved counties.

Producers in the counties have contributed in kind and match through their installation of conservation practices.

Participating counties have made good progress towards meeting their goals in this reporting period, including meeting their goal for Access Roads and Watering Facilities. They are approaching their goal of livestock pipeline.

Women's Forum (Washington County)– October 13, 2023, 11 Attendees

Fall Conservation Field Day (Washington County)– August 29, 2023, 107 Attendees

How Clean Is Your Stream (Crawford County) - Planned for Fall 2023, cancelled due to low registration.

Beginning Farmer Breakfast (Washington County - Planned for November 2023, rescheduled to January 2024 due to low registration numbers.

Washington County held a Fall Conservation Field Day in August of 2023. There were 107 attendees who visited the farm of Aaron & Danielle Walker, local lamb producers. Speakers included Robert Zupancic – NRCS (Fencing options & demonstrated Soil Health Trailer), Jason Tower – Purdue, SIPAC

(Temporary and Permanent Water Options), Shannon Winks – DNR (Pollinator Planting as part of the grazing system), Keith Johnson – Purdue (Managing undesirable weeds such as Buttercup). Attendees were able to see BMPs installed on the farm including pollinator planting, annual forages, fencing, watering facilities, above ground pipeline, exclusion fencing, etc.

Women’s Forum – October 2023. 11 attendees met with NRCS, FSA, SWCD, Purdue Extension, ISDA, and Washington County Community Foundation to learn about options for specialty and small farm producers. Cara Bergschneider (NRCS urban small farm conservationist) talked to the attendees about BMPs they could install on their properties. Attendees also visited a with a local female business owner and specialty producer, Brenda Hash. Brenda utilizes hydroponics to grow a variety of leafy greens with her family. Attendees toured her operation and learned about the history, development, and marketing of the operation.

Crawford County planned a workshop to educate landowners called “How Clean is Your Stream?”. The event was cancelled due to low registration numbers. They hope to gather more interest and plan for the future.

Perry and Harrison Counties have spent funds for this grant.

Washington and Crawford Counties have remaining funds allocated to producer projects. Both Districts are in contact with producers to make sure projects are on track.

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## **Clean Water Indiana 2025 Competitive Grants Guidance**

### **Executive Summary**

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the Clean Water Indiana Fund to Support Indiana conservation groups (nonprofits or units or subdivisions of government), in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in efforts to address the priority concerns of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) business plan. The SSCB is accepting competitive proposals for targeted projects up to three years in length. The Clean Water Indiana fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) under the direction of the SSCB (IC 14-32-8-6).

### **Application Process**

Applications are submitted online through the Indiana Grant Management System (GMS). A request for a GMS account is required. Please visit:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/898f6ffc7f794f80abda15c5b773ba93> to request a GMS account for a CWI grant access.

All applications will be scored and ranked for CWI funding consideration. The SSCB CWI grants committee's funding recommendations will be presented to the full SSCB at their October meeting.

Applicants who are not a local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) must be working with a SWCD as a partner.

Applicants should request the amount of funds that are needed for the project to the nearest whole dollar. It is not the goal of the SSCB CWI Grants Committee to fund partial applications. Partially funded applications will be made only in special situations.

Applicants must provide a letter of commitment signed by each board/partners involved outlining financial commitment and roles.

No more than three attachments, with a total maximum of six pages, may be uploaded with the application. Any letters of commitment documents will not count against your six page maximum.

### **Application Deadline: September 5, 2024 by 12p.m. EST**

Late applications will not be accepted.

By submitting the application, the lead applicant certifies that each partner has agreed to the terms outlined in the application. The designated signatory of the lead applicant must have prior approval from their boards, managers, etc.



Upon submission of the application, if a pdf copy is needed please request a copy here:  
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/2a1a2557c61b4e688b028032c37697a4>

### **Eligible Applicants**

- Any SWCD or natural resources related conservation groups in the State of Indiana.
- One application is permitted per project and must be submitted by a lead applicant.
- Lead applicants must be up to date on all awarded CWI grant reporting.
- Lead applicants may be lead on up to two applications.
- Applicants are not limited to the number of applications they can be partners on.
- Projects relating to urban practices that will reduce sediment and nutrient are eligible.
- Conservation practices and lab analysis of soil and water that are components of research projects are eligible.
- Equipment purchases for SWCDs and non-SWCDs to own and make available to land owners is allowable.
- All grant deadlines and reporting requirements have been met. (if applicable)

### **Funding Restrictions**

Proposals must fall within the funding context allowed under the Clean Water Indiana Law (IC 14-32-8).

- The law prohibits funds to be used for food, food related paper products, office equipment or district self-promotional materials (i.e. mugs, t-shirts, pens, etc.)
- CWI grant dollars shall not be utilized to pay directly for employee benefits, such as retirement, health insurance, paid time off, taxes, etc. If CWI competitive grant dollars are being utilized to fund a staff position, once the funds are disbursed to a staff person, they may utilize their stipend/wages as they see fit. This only pertains to CWI competitive grant dollars and not to the \$10,000 CWI statutory match.
- Cannot be used to fund research equipment.
- Cost-sharing is also not allowed on specific practices that an entity is required to install to comply with a state or local rule or ordinance. *Example: CWI funds cannot be used to meet MS4 requirements unless the proposed use of funds goes above and beyond the requirement outlined in the MS4 permit's Storm Water Quality Management Plan.*
- Cost share programs for the modification or purchasing of equipment to enhance assets to a landowner is not allowable for a grant request.
- Recycling grants are not eligible.

### **Funding Staff**

CWI grant dollars shall follow all funding restrictions listed under funding restrictions. If CWI competitive grant dollars are being utilized to fund a staff position, once the funds are disbursed to a staff person, they may utilize their stipend/wages as they see fit. This only pertains to CWI competitive grant dollars and not to the \$10,000 CWI statutory match. The grant may ask for no more than 10% of the total grant funds for administrative support of the grant.

### **Proposal Logistics**

This grant opportunity is competitive. Proposals can be for any amount that would accomplish the project described. A lead district must be selected to serve as the grantee to receive and administer the grant. **However, grant funds can be shared between districts through cooperative agreements locally.** The grant proposal must document how the grant funds will address at least two of the State priority resource concerns referenced in the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB's) Business Plan adopted in 2021. Proposals that outline how CWI funds will leverage additional funding from other sources as well as engage other partners are strongly encouraged. CWI project proposals that will be in tandem with ongoing projects are encouraged. *Example: CWI funds might be used to add technical assistance to help implement sediment and nutrient reduction practices cost-shared through a LARE or 319 project.*

### **Project Dates**

All 2025 Clean Water Indiana Grant projects shall take no longer than three full years to complete. Projects will start in 2025 after a fully executed contract between the lead applicant and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture is signed. Partners do not sign the contracts. All funds must be spent by December 31, 2027.

### **Partnerships**

Each application must state clearly what each partner and participating district will be contributing to the proposed project (i.e. outreach, professional assistance, estimated funds, etc.) Partnering districts and organizations must be identified with a point of contact for the project, their contact information, and an explanation of any anticipated cash or in kind match from the partner.

A letter of commitment is now required to show each board or partner approval for all match and project contributions listed in the grant application.

### **Conservation Practices**

- Conservation planning and practices and structural measures shall follow NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, if practices installed are not applicable, please work with your DSS and RS. New technologies not currently in the technical guide may be implemented if reviewed and concurred in by a technical representative of the Conservation Implementation Teams (CIT) or their designee.
- Pollinator plantings must be free of species that are noxious, invasive, and/or all amaranth. To verify that seed mixes are free of these species, a district **MUST** request the seed lab card from the distributor.
- For all cost share programs, CWI funds may be used to pay up to a maximum of 75% of the total conservation final practice cost.
- For cover crop cost share programs, the maximum cost share is 75% of the total final cost of the practice, with 25% of the cost being the responsibility of the landowner, and a maximum dollar cap at \$30/ac.
- Any CWI funded applications that have cost share funds for livestock alternative watering systems, **MUST** fence out the existing watering sources that have a natural resource concern.

- If applying for cost share, please describe the process you will implement to select grant recipients. Priority will be given to projects who demonstrate a strategic process for managing cost share dollars and prioritizing first-time users and new acreage.

### **Match Requirements**

A 50 percent cash and/or in-kind match is required. Match contributions can be federal, state, and/or local sources including such things as landowner costs, staff time, supervisor time, equipment use, purchase, rental, etc. Proposals that request funds for staffing require a 25% cash or in-kind match for the staffing component. *Example: District A submits a \$10,000 for solely a staff position. District A's proposal requires a match of \$2,500. District B submits a \$10,000 proposal that includes \$5,000 for staff and \$5,000 for cost share. Proposal B is required to have \$3,750 match.* The match is applicable only if directly related to the purpose of the proposed project. The grants committee may give preference to cash match rather than in kind during the scoring process. Grant proposals must use the match standards outlined below to develop their project budget. State employee time may not be used as match.

Each grantee must track in-kind/ cash match for all partners and be able to provide documentation.

### **Match Standards (all figures are per hour of project work)**

ICP Staff/SWCD supervisors (including associates) \$35\*

Landowner Time: \$35

Professional Services: \$35

Student/Intern/Volunteer: \$15

\*ICP match rates were calculated from publicly available data in Gateway and public transparency portals.

Any landowner contribution toward the remaining portion of cost share practices should be counted as cash match.

In general, time spent working on the project should be considered in-kind match; whereas money would be considered cash match.

### **Leveraging Funds**

SWCDs are encouraged to partner with traditional and non-traditional organizations/agencies at the local, state, and federal level to leverage additional funds for their project/initiative. Projects which add to the percent cost-share/incentive rate offered through another program are prohibited. *Example: A project where CWI funds are used for cost share and 319 funds for technical assistance are acceptable. A project where CWI and 319 funds are both used to give producers a larger cost share amount is prohibited.*

All applicants are encouraged to work with county officials to retain staff hired through staffing grants at the completion of any CWI grant funding. We recommend having discussion with your county or board while applying for the grant to make them aware of potential new employees and retainment options once grant has ended.

### **CWI Promotion**

Any CWI funded projects will be required to have a CWI logo for equipment, handouts, and presentations.

Photo(s) required for grant final report.

### **Process of Payments**

All funded SWCDs are required to register as a bidder with the State of Indiana. Instructions for registration can be obtained from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Once the proposal is approved by the SSCB, ISDA will issue an electronic contract to the grantee.

Grantees must return their electronically signed contract to ISDA within 30 days of receipt in order to receive their funds. Funds must be utilized in a timely manner. Up to 50 percent of grant funding may be disbursed at the beginning of the grant. All other payments, after the 50% is spent, will be made as reimbursement 45 days in arrears upon receipt of an updated report and claim that is submitted on GMS. *Please note that reimbursement claims may require updated financial reporting, a claim voucher and a financial report showing that requested funds have been paid by the lead entity.*

10% of the total grant funds will be withheld until the final report is completed.

All funds must be spent at the end of the grant. Applicants need to make sure all cost share or incentive payments are made to the landowner by the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Financial and project status updates will be required for the duration of the grant and a cumulative final report will be due at the end of the grant. The grant updating form will be provided on GMS. This update must be completed semi-annually (every 6 months) and summarize the outcomes and achievements of the project for the 6 months. The total match and in-kind for each report is cumulative. Tracking of conservation practice implementation (following FOTG standards) must be reported through Conservation Link: conservation project tracking system (CPT) spreadsheet shall be completed by the 1st Friday of the quarter. The final report of the grant is a cumulative report; 10% of the total grant funds will be withheld in the state account before submitting the final report.

All in-kind must be reported in full for each grant update. In-kind cannot be accounted for at a later report. Any state employee's time may not be counted as in-kind match.

Grantees are expected to meet all deadlines. If reporting deadlines are not met on the due dates, the lead and the partners will not be eligible for CWI grant funding a year after the grant is complete. If special circumstances prevent a grantee from meeting a deadline they may make an in-person request to the SSCB for a waiver.

Photo(s) required for grant final report.

### **Reporting Deadlines**

Grant updates due in GMS annually: January 31<sup>st</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>

Conservation Project Tracking in Conservation Link: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of January, April, July, and October

### **Grant Reviews**

ISDA routinely visits with its grantees to ensure projects and grants are proceeding as intended and offer guidance and support if needed. Each year, ISDA will strategically select grants to review. These reviews can include open grants and grants that have been completed in the last three years. Upon completion of a review, ISDA will send a summary of results to all districts involved in the project and their board(s).

If found during formal review or routine reporting checks, failure to make progress on the project or report progress as specified in the grant agreement will be noted in a project's file and may jeopardize a district's ability to receive competitive grant funds in future cycles. Also, no grant payment will occur until the grantee corrects any grant failures. Grant Reviews must take place or be scheduled within 90 days of being contacted by ISDA, or lead applicant will be ineligible for future grants for two years. Exceptions may be made (e.g. FMLA).

### **Modifications**

Modifications should not be taken lightly. These grants were awarded based upon merit. Largely changing the program of a grant could be seen as favoring some applicants over others. Other applicants may have submitted similar applications to the proposed modification but were not funded. No modification requests will be accepted following the last SSCB meeting in the final year of the grant term. Please contact the DSS team before submitting a modification.

### **Questions**

For assistance please contact your District Support Specialist (DSS).

<i>North</i>	Sandra Hoffarth	<a href="mailto:shoffarth@isda.in.gov">shoffarth@isda.in.gov</a>	(317) 460--0428
<i>Central:</i>	Geneva Tyler	<a href="mailto:gt Tyler@isda.in.gov">gt Tyler@isda.in.gov</a>	(317) 518-4036
<i>South:</i>	Laura Fribley	<a href="mailto:lfribley@isda.in.gov">lfribley@isda.in.gov</a>	(812) 595-5641
<i>West:</i>	Nathan Stoelting	<a href="mailto:nstoelting@isda.in.gov">nstoelting@isda.in.gov</a>	(812) 320-9873
<i>East:</i>	Kylie Wheeler	<a href="mailto:kywheeler@isda.in.gov">kywheeler@isda.in.gov</a>	(765) 480-1713



**Clean Water Indiana  
SWCD Led Competitive  
Grant Application Template**

*\*All grant applications must be submitted via the grants management system.*

**Contact Information**

Lead District	
Amount Requested	
Participating District(s), if applicable	

**Grant Contacts**

Role	Primary Contact
Name	
Email Address	
Phone	

Role	Authorized Contract Signatory
Name	
Email Address	
Phone	

**Project Information**

<i>Project Title</i>

<i>Project Description</i>

<i>Provide the specific issue, problem or need that the project will address.</i>

<i>Describe each partner and their specific contributions and anticipated match to the project.</i>





OHIO COUNTY  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
PO Box 14  
Rising Sun, IN 47040-0014



May 3, 2024

Dear SSCB Members,

As the Secretary/Treasurer for the Ohio County Soil & Water Conservation District, I am writing to you to consider our request for additional funding. We were not eligible for the extra \$10,000 match but we made sincere efforts to seek additional funding from our County Council and County Commissioners and were told “we already gave you \$10,000.”

Of that county match, the \$10,000 is used to pay two part time salaries for a secretary/treasurer and an office administrator, along with the monthly phone bill, office supplies, equipment repairs, computer repairs, insurance for equipment, postage, IDEA dues, state dues and will be used towards the upcoming audit. All of this is normally paid for by the county government for county offices, which we have never been recognized for or used as a budget item for county expenses.

In prior years we have had to use \$7,375.00 of the \$10,000 for county funding to be given back to the county to pay for “rent” of a small office space that was used in the Ohio County Extension Office (which was a county owned building) and shouldn’t have had to be used as a rental office. We were never allowed to hold a meeting there because the Extension Office staff had a priority to use so our monthly meetings were held at the Ohio County Courthouse. Additionally, all our monthly expenses, (phone, office supplies, computer repairs, salaries, postage, etc) are paid for by Ohio County SWCD instead of claims written to be paid for by the county Auditor as the other county offices are required to do.

Ohio County is trying to initialize new programs and have just purchased a Plot Master, a food plot planting machine to be used on remote locations and large fields which was requested by several local farmers on our Ohio County Soil and Water Facebook page. With the responses that were given from the media, we decided to use that purchase to aiding our local farmers.

We have also partnered with the Rising Sun Church of Christ, the Purdue Extension office and Urban Soil and Health to provide a Community Garden project to assist the local community as well.

Additionally, Megan Ayers has agreed to assist us with creating a working group towards raising monies for our group such as enabling soil testing in our community, technical assistance for soil results, educational workshops and events, guest speakers for field days, etc. Megan has also agreed to do training sessions for our group on site visits and offered guidance on other projects such as community



gardens, pollinator patches, rain gardens, native plant sales, soil summits and field days.

Ohio County SWCD may be the smallest county in the state, but we have ambitious members who have the incentive to make our name heard. We would like to prove to our county government that we are an entity that they should include in their budget as a line item and would appreciate any ideas or financial backing you could help us in achieving these goals.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Terrill".

Beth Terrill

Ohio County Soil & Water  
Secretary/Treasurer



**State Soil Conservation Board**

ISDA – DSC Director’s Report

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Budget Update:**

<b>State Fiscal 2024 Approved Budget</b>	
Staff	\$1,500,000.00
Training Reimbursement	\$50,000.00
District Match	\$1,840,000.00
CWI Competitive Grants	\$2,375,600.00
CREP	\$2,000,000.00
CREP PEA	\$100,000.00
ISDA Partner Agreements	\$50,000.00
Equipment	\$50,000.00
IASWCD Proposal (CWI)	\$540,000.00
IDEA Proposal	\$4,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,510,000.00</b>

<b>State Fiscal 2025 Proposed Budget</b>	
	<b>\$8,519,014.00</b>
Staff Salaries	\$1,840,000.00
AFR District Match (10+10)	\$1,840,000.00
CWI Competitive Grants	\$2,150,000.00
Training Reimbursement	\$50,000.00
CREP	\$1,700,000.00
Resilient Indiana – IASWCD CWI Proposal	\$540,000.00
New Harmony Super Gage	\$30,000.00
Potential Financial/Technical Agreements (leverage)	\$130,000.00
Regional ICP	\$5,000.00
I-Cover	\$60,000.00
Surety Bond	\$2,000.00
Staff Training (DSC)	\$35,000.00
Regional Meetings (Bd. Leadership and summer staff mts.)	\$3,000.00
NASCA Dues	\$3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,348,000.00</b>
<b>Remaining for 2% reserve</b>	<b>171,014.00</b>

## FY 2025 Budget Narrative

As noted above, there are some changes to the FY 2025 budget for consideration.

- The budget staff asked us to increase the allocated amount for staff salaries due to the previous salary adjustments across the State.
- ICP Leaders approved us to pilot the regional ICP initiative this year, and ISDA wanted to allocate some funds to get that program off the ground. The funds would help secure meeting locations if needed. ISDA hopes to get this off the ground Fall 2024. More information will be forthcoming.
- The I-Cover RCPP will start this fall. Since the agreement is an Alternative Funding Agreement RCPP, ISDA will need to set aside funds to pay for items and then seek reimbursement.
- This past year, it came to our attention that the New Harmony Super Gage, a crucial component of our water sampling information system located in the Wabash River, would face a funding gap if ISDA and IDEM, along with a few other agencies, could not contribute \$30,000 each. This is a matter of utmost importance, and we urge your support to ensure the continuity of this vital resource. The budget includes a significant allocation of \$130,000 for potential financial and technical agreements. This substantial amount opens up opportunities for the Division to leverage new agreements that greatly benefit conservation and our SWCDs.
- One new item is the dedicated amount for division staff training budgets. With these funds, each team leader would be given a set amount to allow their staff to attend training events. This could be a conference, a workshop on managing conflict, or learning new skills on how to sell conservation. This is something new, and we want to make sure our staff are trained and encourage them to seek educational opportunities.
- In this round, we set aside \$2,150,000.00 for competitive grants. This could be increased by \$170,000 if we don't need to set aside the 2% reserve. We have asked not to set aside funds in the past, and it's been granted. However, with a new administration, I wanted to ensure we set aside the funds. I will know by our October meeting if a reserve is needed.

Calendar Year 2023												Calendar Year 2024											
J	F	★	A	★	J	J	A	S	★	★		J	F	★	A	★	J	J	A	S	★	★	
a	e	a	p	a	u	u	u	e	c	o	e	a	e	a	p	a	u	u	u	e	c	o	e
n	b	r	r	y	n	l	g	p	t	v	c	n	b	r	r	y	n	l	g	p	t	v	c
State Fiscal Year 2023					State Fiscal Year 2024												State Fiscal Year 2025						

- ★ • SSCB Budget Vote Ahead of Next Fiscal Year  
Fiscal Year Runs July 1 – June 30
- ★ • CWI Award Vote in October
- ★ • CWI Contracts
- ★ • Annual Financial Reports Due – Match Dollars Distributed upon receipt.

## FY26 – 27 Biennium

Process:

- Department submits a “transmittal letter” to LG Office around July 22
  - This includes justifications of our current funding levels and any new asks
  - Our “new” asks don’t always get approval or move forward to the next step
- The LG’s office would submit documents forward to OMB (Office of Management & Budget)
- The Governor puts together his budget which is ultimately unveiled in January 2026 before the long session.
- The legislature considers gov budget, debates and finalizes budget by end of the April 2026.

### Staffing

**Deputy Director** – Breegan Anderson was promoted to Deputy Director. She served as the Nutrient Stewardship Manager, and worked under the Gulf Hypoxia funding and led the Soil Sampling Program and other initiatives as part of that agreement. She’s has been a HUGE asset to the division, and ISDA would be lost without her.

**Nutrient Stewardship Manager** – Interviews were held two weeks ago, and an offer has been made. An announcement will be made soon.

### Board Terms:

ISDA is awaiting approval from the governor's office on the appointment for the Northeast area, which is currently being served by Larry Clemons. We are also still waiting for information on the terms, as our office has some concerns about the term expiration dates and not staggering enough.

### SSCB Website Updates:

The ISDA Communication Team has made changes to the website. Personally, I believe that the changes are refreshing and organize the minutes and past agendas more efficiently. In addition, the SSCB packets will be made available on that website ahead of each board meeting.

### Guest Speakers:

As noted, DNR was not able to attend this months SSCB meeting due to a conflict. However, we hope to have them at our July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

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**From:** Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:29 PM  
**To:** Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)  
**Subject:** Update: Crawford Temp/Vacant Appt

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

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CrawfordSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

<b>SWCD</b>
Crawford
<b>Appointment Type</b>
Temporary_Elected_Position
<b>Who is the Candidate Replacing?</b>
Rollin Bach
<b>Term Expiration</b>
1/1/2025
<b>Reason for Vacancy</b>
Resignation
<b>Supervisor Candidate Name</b>
Tim Clutinger
<b>Address</b>
8324 Brown Mountain Rd N
<b>City, State, ZIP</b>
St. Croix, IN 47576
<b>Qualifications</b>
Landowner and Farmer. He raises cattle on 190 acre family farm.
<b>Occupation</b>
Retired after working for Mulzer Quarry for 42 years. Now he just works on the farm.

**Conservation Interests**

supports implementing conversation practices to conserve soil and water.

**The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.**

Yes

**The candidate is of legal voting age.**

Yes

**The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.**

Yes

**Chairman Name**

Richard Langdon

**Date of Submission**

03/28/2024

**Is a letter of resignation attached?**

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).



**Crawford County**  
**Soil and Water Conservation District**

306 Oak Hill Circle, P.O. Box 100

English, IN 47118

Phone: 812-338-3224 Fax: 812-338-3294

Jan. 22, 2024

Regarding: Resignation of SWCD Board of Supervisors

To whom it may concern:

Due to the Dual Office Holding Law in Indiana, I regret to inform the board that I must resign from my position as Vice Chairman of the Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District. I have been elected to the County Committee of the Farm Service Agency.

Sincerely,

*Rollin Bach*

Rollin Bach

## Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

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**From:** Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:39 AM  
**To:** Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)  
**Subject:** Update: Fulton Temp/Vacant Appt

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

---

FultonSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

<b>SWCD</b>
Fulton
<b>Appointment Type</b>
Temporary_Elected_Position
<b>Who is the Candidate Replacing?</b>
Kyle Riffle
<b>Term Expiration</b>
2027
<b>Reason for Vacancy</b>
Resignation
<b>Supervisor Candidate Name</b>
Art Gudas
<b>Address</b>
9765 W 100 S
<b>City, State, ZIP</b>
Kewanna , IN 46939
<b>Qualifications</b>
Art has served on Fulton County SWCD board before.
<b>Occupation</b>
Farmer



**Conservation Interests**

Art has a farm in Kewanna. They have cooperated with the Soil & Water Conservation District on many practices to protect our soil and water resources. Their efforts have included such things as participation in our cover crop program.

**The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.**

Yes

**The candidate is of legal voting age.**

Yes

**The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.**

Yes

**Chairman Name**

Mike Norman

**Date of Submission**

04/11/2024

**Is a letter of resignation attached?**

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

## Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

---

**From:** Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 2:11 PM  
**To:** Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)  
**Subject:** Update: Fulton Temp/Vacant Appt

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

---

FultonSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

<b>SWCD</b>
Fulton
<b>Appointment Type</b>
Temporary_Elected_Position
<b>Who is the Candidate Replacing?</b>
Drew McCulley
<b>Term Expiration</b>
2026
<b>Reason for Vacancy</b>
Resignation
<b>Supervisor Candidate Name</b>
Glen Jones
<b>Address</b>
4750 N 450 E
<b>City, State, ZIP</b>
Rochester, IN 46975
<b>Qualifications</b>
Served on the SWCD board before
<b>Occupation</b>
Retired

**Conservation Interests**

The Jones are very conservation minded. They use best management practices on their properties. Glen was very active in helping with past LARE watershed studies through the SWCD. Also involved in helping and teaching our future generation on the soil judging contest held every year.

**The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.**

Yes

**The candidate is of legal voting age.**

Yes

**The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.**

Yes

**Chairman Name**

Mike Norman

**Date of Submission**

04/20/2024

**Is a letter of resignation attached?**

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

## Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

---

**From:** Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:44 AM  
**To:** Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)  
**Subject:** Update: Fulton Temp/Vacant Appt

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

---

FultonSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

<b>SWCD</b>
Fulton
<b>Appointment Type</b>
Temporary_Elected_Position
<b>Who is the Candidate Replacing?</b>
Adam Luhnnow
<b>Term Expiration</b>
2025
<b>Reason for Vacancy</b>
Resignation
<b>Supervisor Candidate Name</b>
George Krom
<b>Address</b>
1136 N 525 E
<b>City, State, ZIP</b>
Rochester, IN 46975
<b>Qualifications</b>
George has served on the Fulton County SWCD board before.
<b>Occupation</b>
Farmer

**Conservation Interests**

The Kroms have farmed east of Rochester for their entire adult lives. They have cooperated with the Soil & Water Conservation District on many practices to protect our soil and water resources. Their efforts have included such things as participation in our cover crop program as well as being one of the counties early adopters of no-till crop production.

**The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.**

Yes

**The candidate is of legal voting age.**

Yes

**The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.**

Yes

**Chairman Name**

Mike Norman

**Date of Submission**

04/11/2024

**Is a letter of resignation attached?**

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).



Megan Malott <swcdfultonco@gmail.com>

---

## Fwd: Resignation

---

**Hoffarth, Sandra** <SHoffarth@isda.in.gov>  
To: Fulton County SWCD <swcdfultonco@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 8:52 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Drew McCulley <dmcculle@gmail.com>  
**Date:** April 9, 2024 at 10:50:07 AM EDT  
**To:** "Hoffarth, Sandra" <SHoffarth@isda.in.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Resignation

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

---

Please see the email below that I sent out earlier

Drew

Drew McCulley  
Valhalla Ag Group LLC  
Valhalla Farms LLC

765-585-1906 Cell  
[www.Valhallafarms.net](http://www.Valhallafarms.net)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Drew McCulley <dmcculle@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 10:31 AM  
**Subject:** Resignation  
**To:** Adam Luhnnow <aluhnnow@yahoo.com>  
**CC:** Kyle Riffle <rifflefarms@gmail.com>, Mike Norman <mikenorman56@icloud.com>, Shirley Needham <spaceworksin@rtcol.com>

Good morning all,



Megan Malott <swcdfultonco@gmail.com>

---

## Resignation

1 message

---

**Kyle Riffle** <rifflefarms@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 10:41 AM

To: Adam Luhnnow <aluhnnow@yahoo.com>, Drew McCulley <dmcculle@gmail.com>, "Hoffarth, Sandra" <shoffarth@isda.in.gov>, Megan Malott <swcdfultonco@gmail.com>, Mike Norman <mikenorman56@icloud.com>, Shirley Needham <spaceworksin@rtcol.com>

Dear all,

I Kyle Riffle will resign as a Fulton County SWCD board member. I do wish the Fulton County SWCD good luck in the future. I signed up, to be on this board, to promote good stewardship of the beautiful land god created, and help others achieve goals in becoming good stewards of the land. The last few months have been dealing nothing with that. So effective immediately I will resign as a board member. Sandra, please email any paperwork that I need to fill out to execute this resignation.

Thank you, Kyle Riffle Riffle Farms [rifflefarms@gmail.com](mailto:rifflefarms@gmail.com)

Due to circumstances that have arisen. I can no longer continue as a board member for SWCD. I wish the board luck in all future endeavors.

Best regards,  
Drew

Drew McCulley  
Valhalla Ag Group LLC  
Valhalla Farms LLC

765-585-1906 Cell  
[www.Valhallafarms.net](http://www.Valhallafarms.net)

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 10:29 AM Adam Luhnnow <[aluhnnow@yahoo.com](mailto:aluhnnow@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Some issues have been brought to my attention, I can no longer be on the board or deal with the issues that are going on. I am resigning immediately and will call the commissioners to inform them.

Good luck to the rest of the board in future endeavors.

Adam Luhnnow



## Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

---

**From:** Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:20 PM  
**To:** Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)  
**Subject:** Update: Jefferson Temp/Vacant Appt

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

---

JeffersonSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

<b>SWCD</b>
Jefferson
<b>Appointment Type</b>
Vacant_Appointed_Position
<b>Who is the Candidate Replacing?</b>
Jeremy
<b>Term Expiration</b>
2/21/24
<b>Reason for Vacancy</b>
<b>Supervisor Candidate Name</b>
Dale
<b>Address</b>
8514 E Tate Ridge Rd
<b>City, State, ZIP</b>
Madison, IN 47250
<b>Qualifications</b>
Served on board previously
<b>Occupation</b>
Retired

**Conservation Interests**

Does own conservation practices

**The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.**

Yes

**The candidate is of legal voting age.**

Yes

**The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.**

Yes

**Chairman Name**

Jeffrey Ferguson

**Date of Submission**

03/13/2024

**Is a letter of resignation attached?**

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



## Program Updates

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- CREP Expansion:
  - The CREP Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) has begun. We are working with VERSAR. A 30-day public comment period on the Draft PEA will begin on May 28<sup>th</sup> and go until June 26<sup>th</sup>. Timeline for completion of the PEA is going to be delayed because of a delay in initiating the 30-day public comment period due to additional review time requested by the FSA National Environmental Office. I am working with the contractor VERSAR on a no-cost extension to extend the contract for one additional month, to July 31, 2024
  - ISDA's goal for the program expansion to start is October 1, 2024. We are working on doing an official CREP signing ceremony on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with the FSA.
  - Training with ISDA Resource Specialists is planned for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - 3 SWCD CREP Administrator training are scheduled in June:
    - 1) June 12<sup>th</sup> – south central Indiana in Jackson County
    - 2) June 25<sup>th</sup> – northeast Indiana in Huntington County
    - 3) June 26<sup>th</sup> – northwest Indiana in White County
  - The contracts between ISDA and the SWCD CREP Administrating counties have all gone out for signature. These included the dollars that were appropriated for the new watersheds last fiscal year so that these contracts could be set up and be ready to go when the expansion is open. Any new dollars appropriated will be added to these contracts.
- Approximate acres signed up so far this calendar year are 653 acres.
- To date, the state has paid out more than \$11.3 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$4-\$13 for every state dollar, which is currently between \$41.3 million and \$134 million of federal dollars depending on the practice.

### IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)

- The next revision of the SNRS is to be released in late calendar year 2025.
- Indiana Science Assessment
  - Component 1:
    - An online web tool has been developed and released displaying the results of the water quality trends report and making the results more accessible to conservation partners and the public. It can be found on the Science Assessment website at: <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/>.
    - Core Team is discussing internally what the next steps of this component will look like.
  - Component 2:
    - Contract with Purdue for INREP has been fully executed and work is continuing.
    - An INREP manager has been hired at Purdue. His name is Chris Hay. A graduate student is continuing to work with us as a research assistant
    - Fact sheets showing the results of four practices are available; Cover Crops, Phosphorus placement, phosphorus rate, and DWM.



United States Department of Agriculture

# 2024 SW Area Overview



United States Department of Agriculture

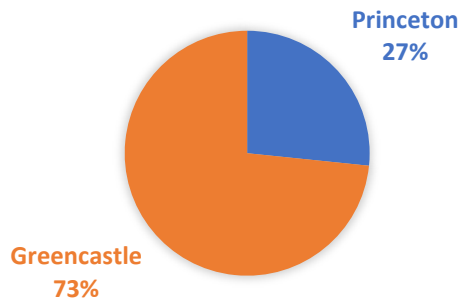
# SW Area Programs Information

Provided by: Miranda McGillem and Dan Luczynski

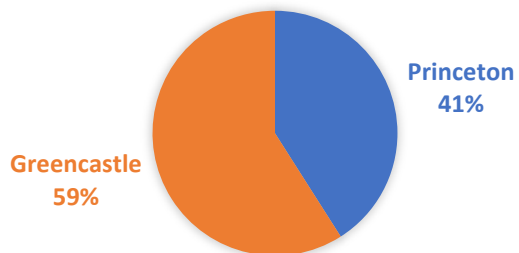
# CRP 2024 Overview

<b>New Acres enrolled in CRP:</b>	<b>1,273 acres</b>
Acres to be Re-enrolled in CRP:	1,830 acres
Total Practices in CRP for SW Area	3,844 no

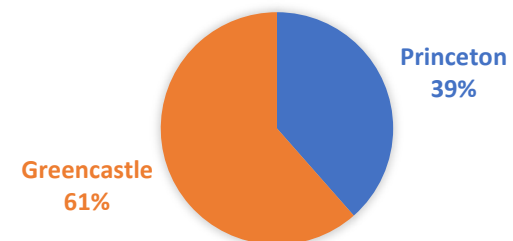
**NEW ACRES ENROLLED IN CRP  
PER CDT AREA**



**ACRES TO BE RE-ENROLLED IN CRP  
PER CDT AREA**



**TOTAL PRACTICES IN CRP  
PER CDT AREA**



# CSP 2024 Overview

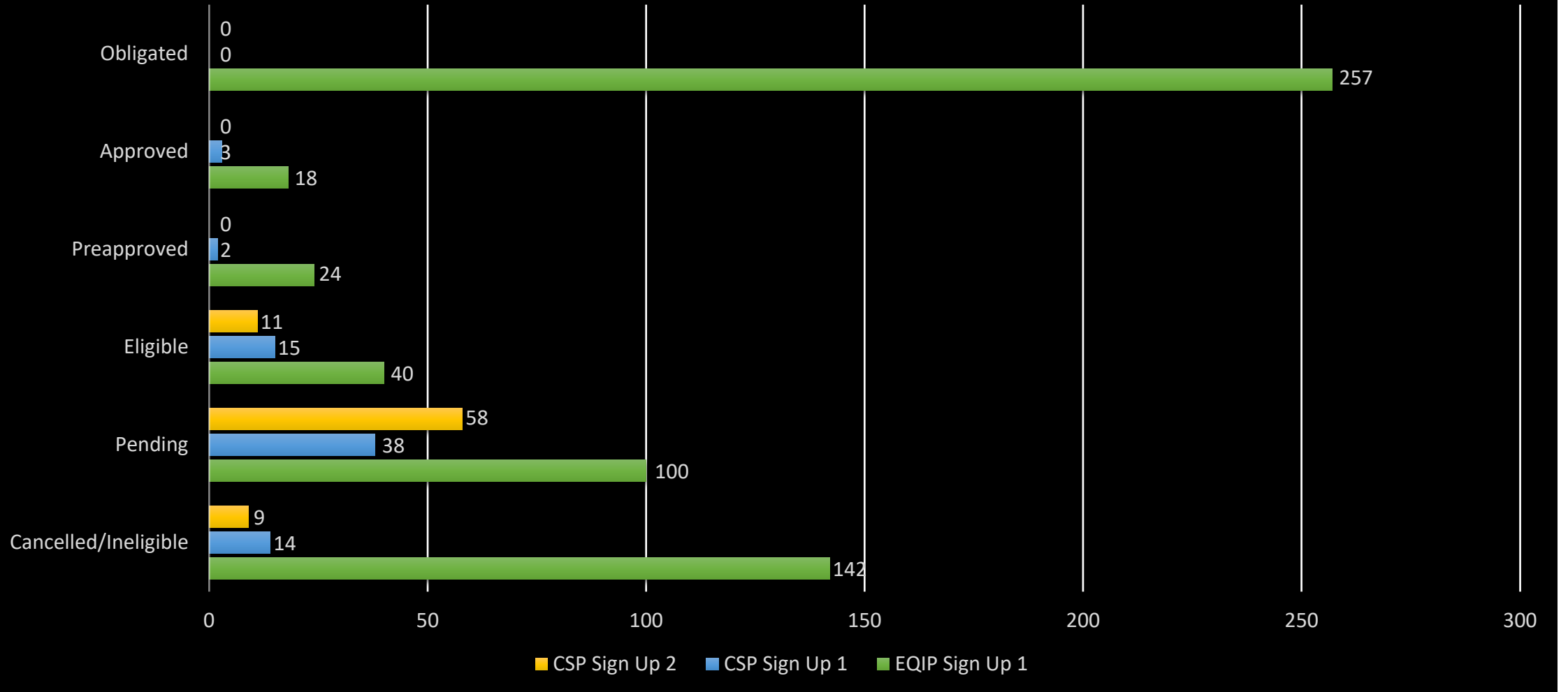
- Sign Up 1 – Applications received by 12/8/24
  - ACT Now selections made 4/5/24; yielded 6 Preapproved applications for SW Area.
  - All other selections will be made by State Office after 5/3/24.
- Sign Up 2 – Applications received by 3/15/24
  - Selections will be made by State Office after 6/21/24.

# EQIP 2024 Overview

- Indiana's 2024 EQIP Allocation was over \$54 million.
- SW Area received over \$12 million.
  - Over \$7 million in IRA Applications
  - Over \$3 million in Traditional Applications:
    - Includes: Cropland, Forestland, Pastureland and Confined Livestock
  - Over \$1.5 million in HU Applications
    - Includes: Beginning Farmer, Social Disadvantage & Limited Resources
  - Over \$650,000 in Initiatives Applications
    - Includes: WLFW Monarch Butterflies, Specialty and Small Farms, WLFW Northern Bobwhite, MRBI, National Organic Initiative, Wildlife Habitat, On-Farm Energy Initiative
  - Over \$400,000 in Conservation Activities Plan Applications

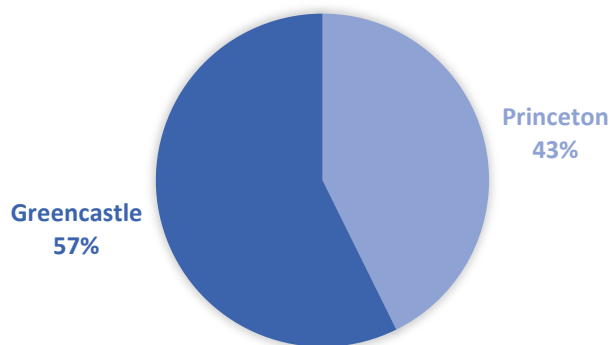


## Current Status of FY24 EQIP and CSP Applications

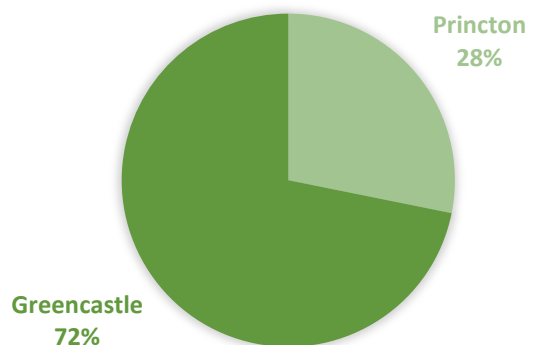


# 2024 Application Workload Per CDT Area

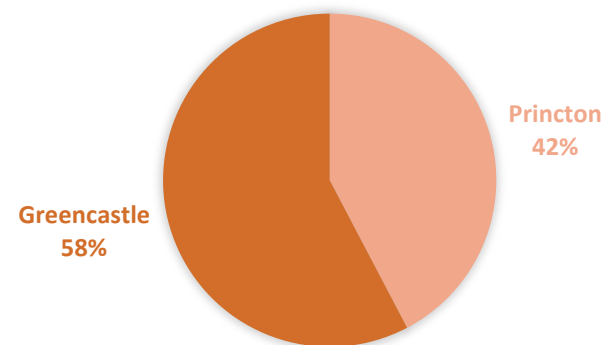
**EQIP APPLICATIONS  
PER CDT AREA**



**CSP SIGN UP 1 APPLICATIONS  
PER CDT AREA**



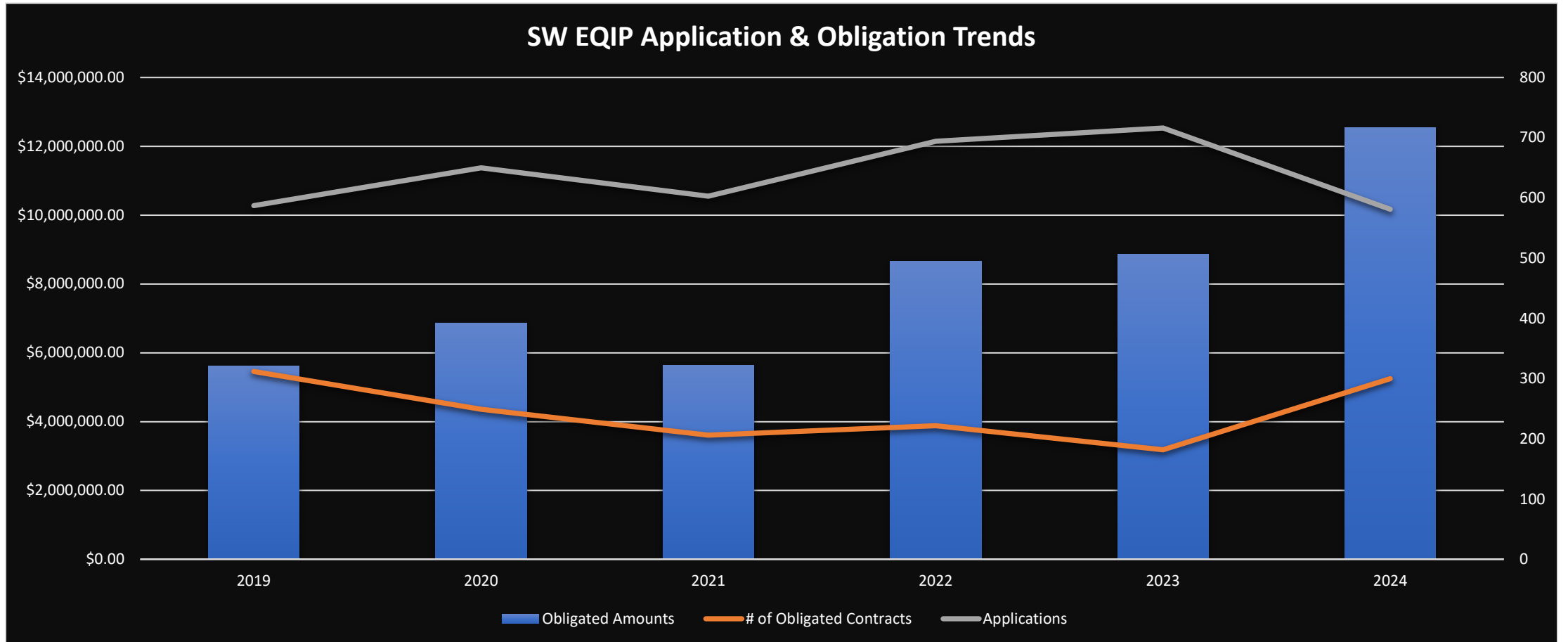
**CSP SIGN UP 2 APPLICATIONS  
PER CDT AREA**



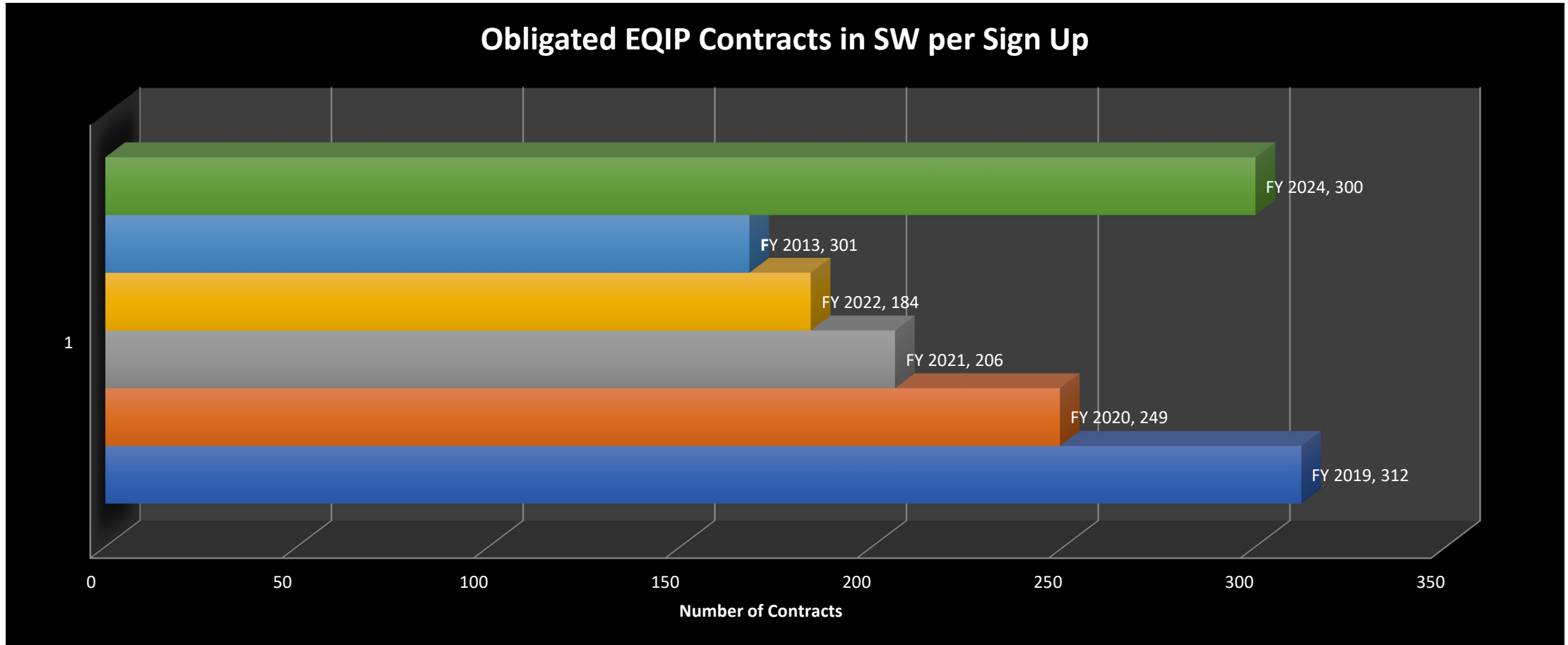
# SW Active Contracts per Program as of 4/29/24

Program	# of Active Contracts	IRA Funded Contracts
EQIP 2014 Farm Bill	5	N/A
EQIP 2018 Farm Bill	689	144
RCPP-EQIP 2014 Farm Bill	4	N/A
CSP 2018 Farm Bill	116	7
CSP-GCI 2018 Farm Bill	7	N/A
<b>Total:</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>151</b>

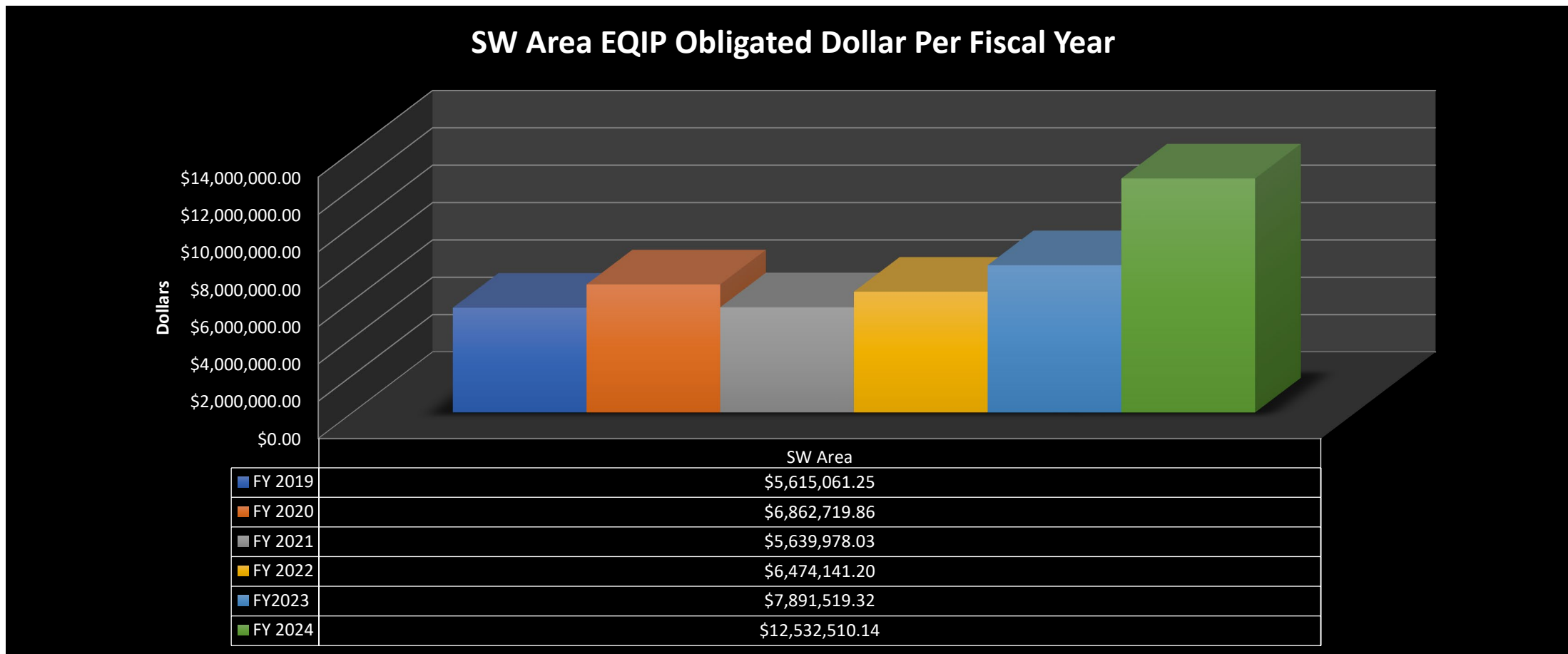
# Last Five Years Trends – EQIP Only



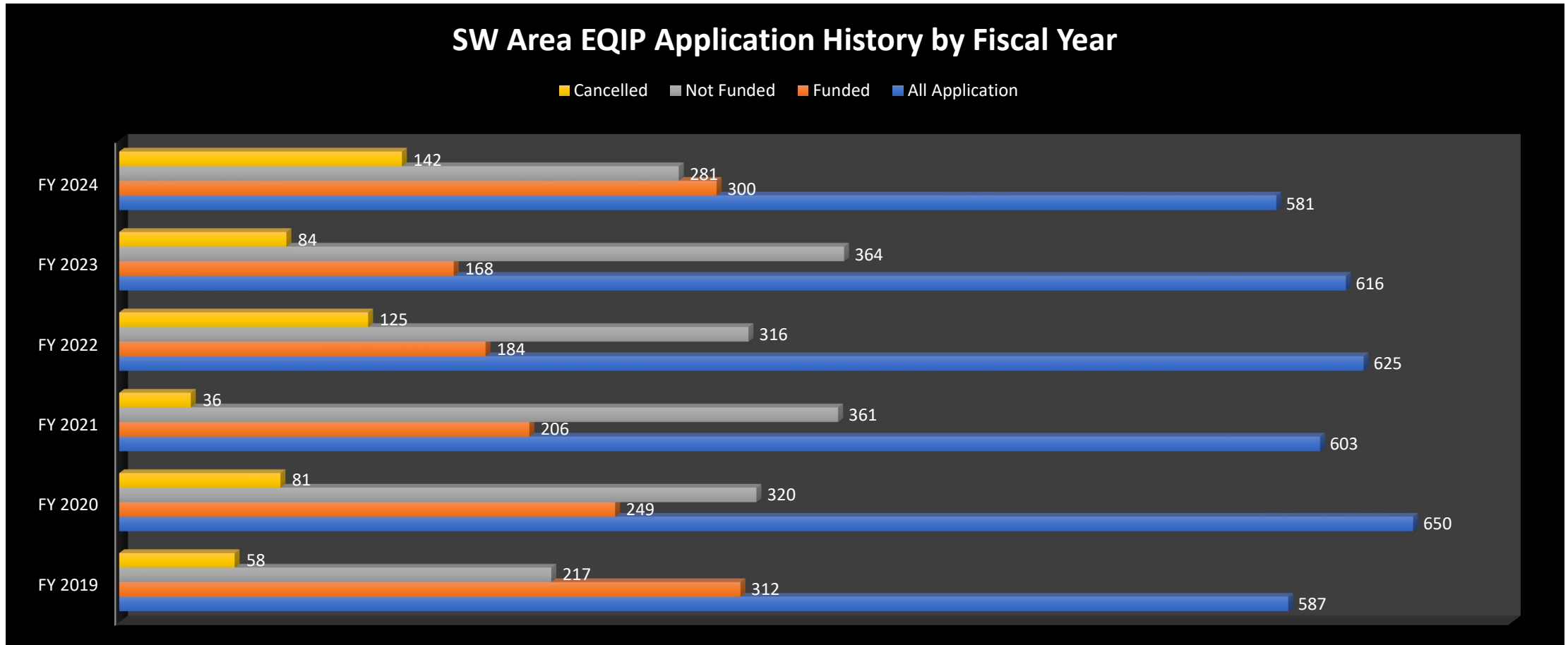
# Last Five Years Obligations – EQIP Only



# Last Five Years Obligated Dollars – EQIP Only



# Last 5 Years Applications – EQIP Only





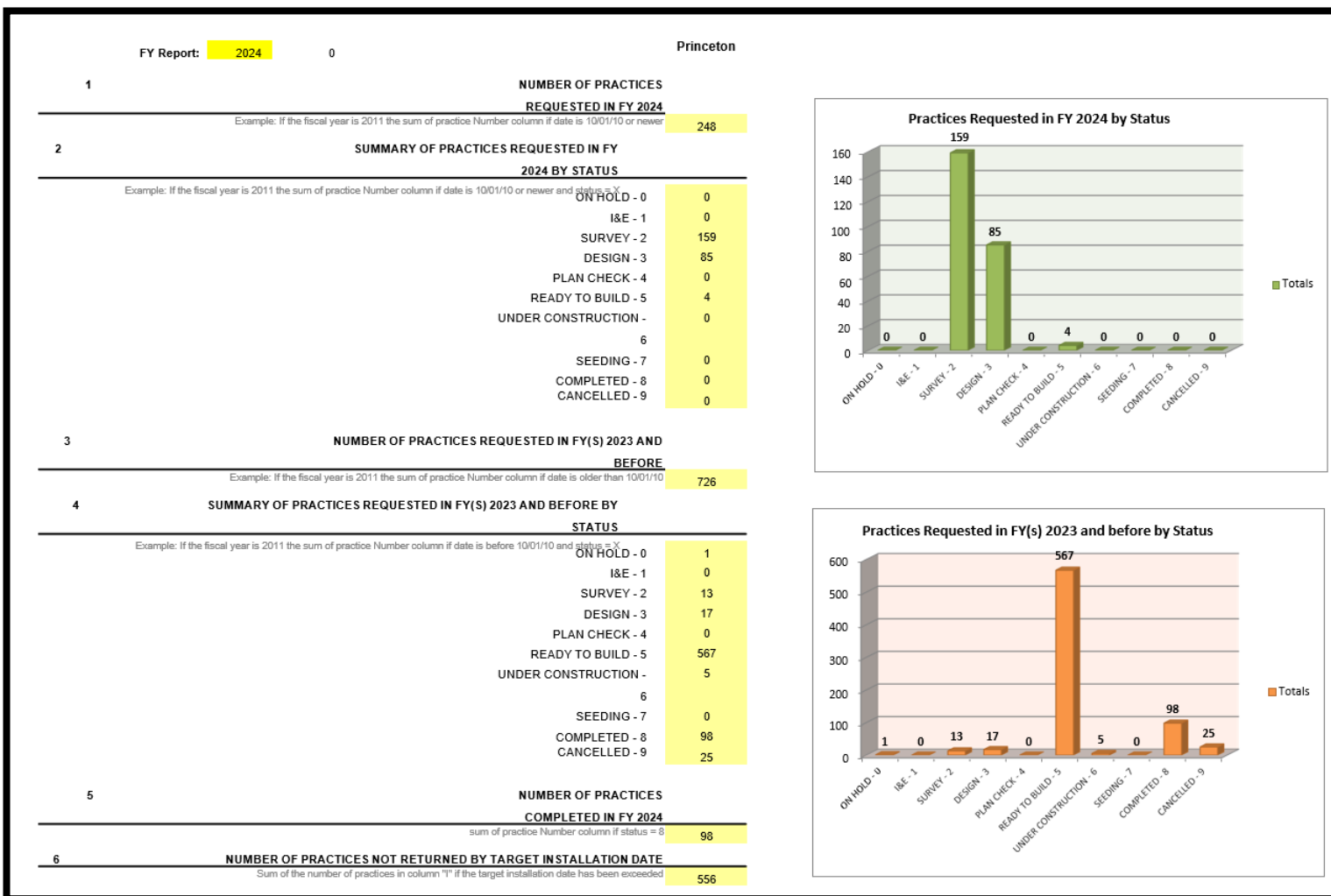
United States Department of Agriculture

# SW Area CDT Information

Provided by: Trevor Shepard

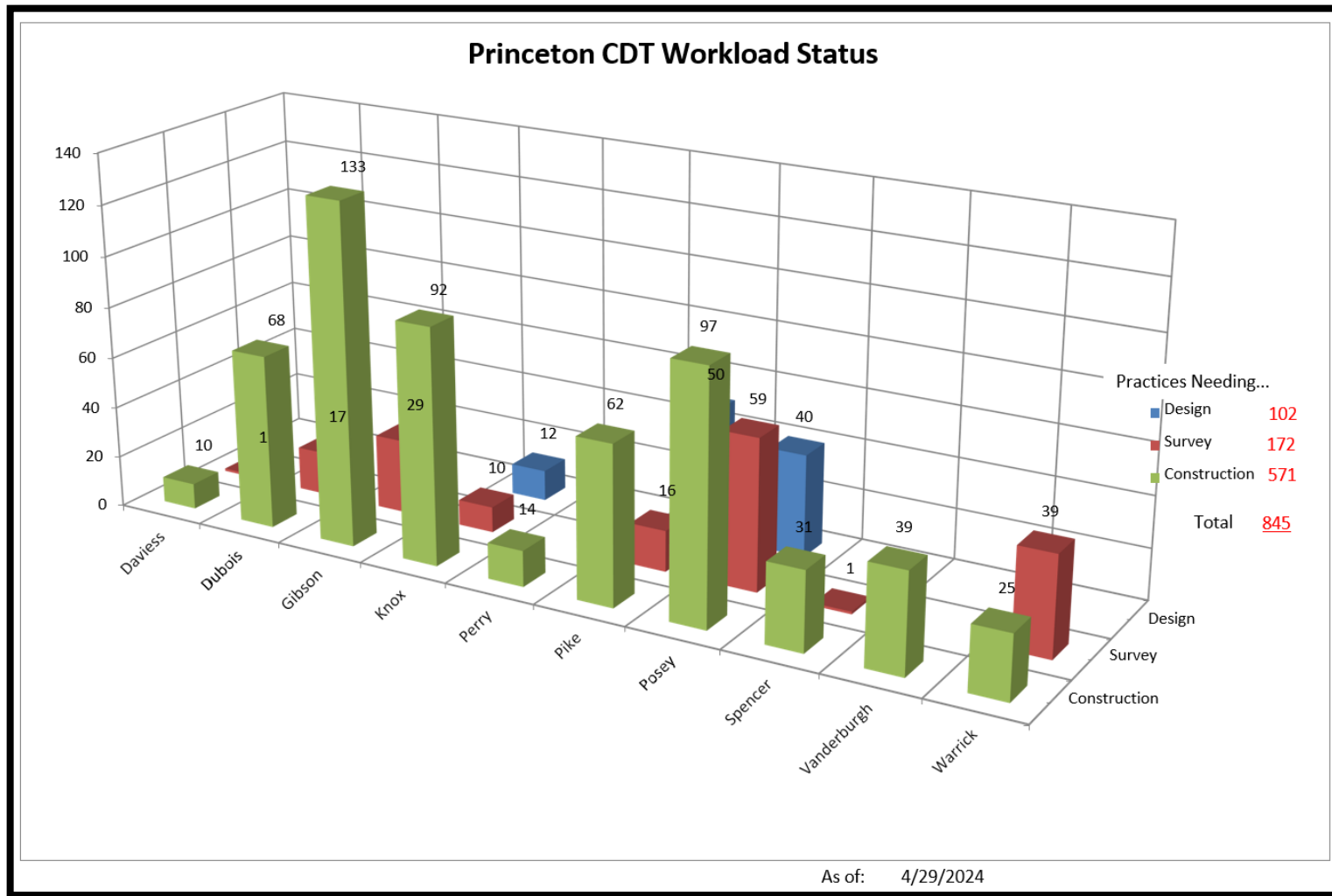


# Princeton CDT Practice Status

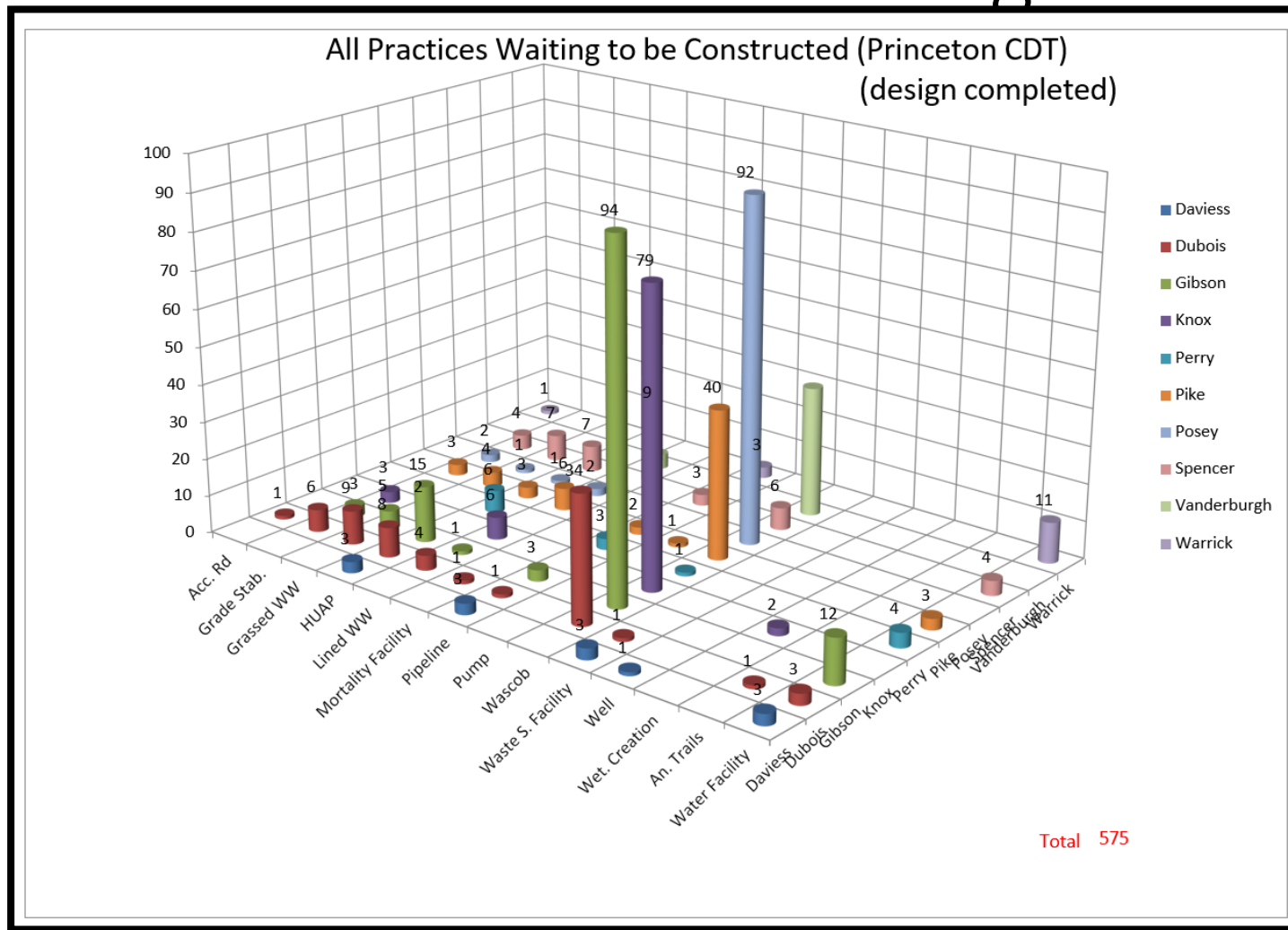


# Princeton CDT Workload Status

- Practices Needing:
  - Designs: 102
  - Survey: 172
  - Construction: 571



# Princeton CDT – Practices Pending Construction



# Greencastle CDT Practice Status

FY Report: 2024		Greencastle																				
1	<b>NUMBER OF PRACTICES REQUESTED IN FY 2024</b> <small>Example: If the fiscal year is 2011 the sum of practice Number column if date is 10/01/10 or newer</small>	216																				
2	<b>SUMMARY OF PRACTICES REQUESTED IN FY 2024 BY STATUS</b> <small>Example: If the fiscal year is 2011 the sum of practice Number column if date is 10/01/10 or newer and status = X</small>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>ON HOLD - 0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>I&amp;E - 1</td><td>126</td></tr> <tr><td>SURVEY - 2</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>DESIGN - 3</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>PLAN CHECK - 4</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>READY TO BUILD - 5</td><td>42</td></tr> <tr><td>UNDER CONSTRUCTION - 6</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>SEEDING - 7</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>COMPLETED - 8</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>CANCELLED - 9</td><td>14</td></tr> </table>	ON HOLD - 0	0	I&E - 1	126	SURVEY - 2	24	DESIGN - 3	7	PLAN CHECK - 4	0	READY TO BUILD - 5	42	UNDER CONSTRUCTION - 6	0	SEEDING - 7	0	COMPLETED - 8	3	CANCELLED - 9	14
ON HOLD - 0	0																					
I&E - 1	126																					
SURVEY - 2	24																					
DESIGN - 3	7																					
PLAN CHECK - 4	0																					
READY TO BUILD - 5	42																					
UNDER CONSTRUCTION - 6	0																					
SEEDING - 7	0																					
COMPLETED - 8	3																					
CANCELLED - 9	14																					
3	<b>NUMBER OF PRACTICES REQUESTED IN FY(S) 2023 AND BEFORE</b> <small>Example: If the fiscal year is 2011 the sum of practice Number column if date is older than 10/01/10</small>	1628																				
4	<b>SUMMARY OF PRACTICES REQUESTED IN FY(S) 2023 AND BEFORE BY STATUS</b> <small>Example: If the fiscal year is 2011 the sum of practice Number column if date is before 10/01/10 and status = X</small>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>ON HOLD - 0</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>I&amp;E - 1</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>SURVEY - 2</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>DESIGN - 3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>PLAN CHECK - 4</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>READY TO BUILD - 5</td><td>1135</td></tr> <tr><td>UNDER CONSTRUCTION - 6</td><td>84</td></tr> <tr><td>SEEDING - 7</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>COMPLETED - 8</td><td>212</td></tr> <tr><td>CANCELLED - 9</td><td>78</td></tr> </table>	ON HOLD - 0	13	I&E - 1	62	SURVEY - 2	27	DESIGN - 3	5	PLAN CHECK - 4	11	READY TO BUILD - 5	1135	UNDER CONSTRUCTION - 6	84	SEEDING - 7	1	COMPLETED - 8	212	CANCELLED - 9	78
ON HOLD - 0	13																					
I&E - 1	62																					
SURVEY - 2	27																					
DESIGN - 3	5																					
PLAN CHECK - 4	11																					
READY TO BUILD - 5	1135																					
UNDER CONSTRUCTION - 6	84																					
SEEDING - 7	1																					
COMPLETED - 8	212																					
CANCELLED - 9	78																					
5	<b>NUMBER OF PRACTICES COMPLETED IN FY 2024</b> <small>sum of practice Number column if status = 8</small>	215																				
6	<b>NUMBER OF PRACTICES NOT RETURNED BY TARGET INSTALLATION DATE</b> <small>Sum of the number of practices in column "I" if the target installation date has been exceeded</small>	2																				

**Practices Requested in FY 2024 by Status**

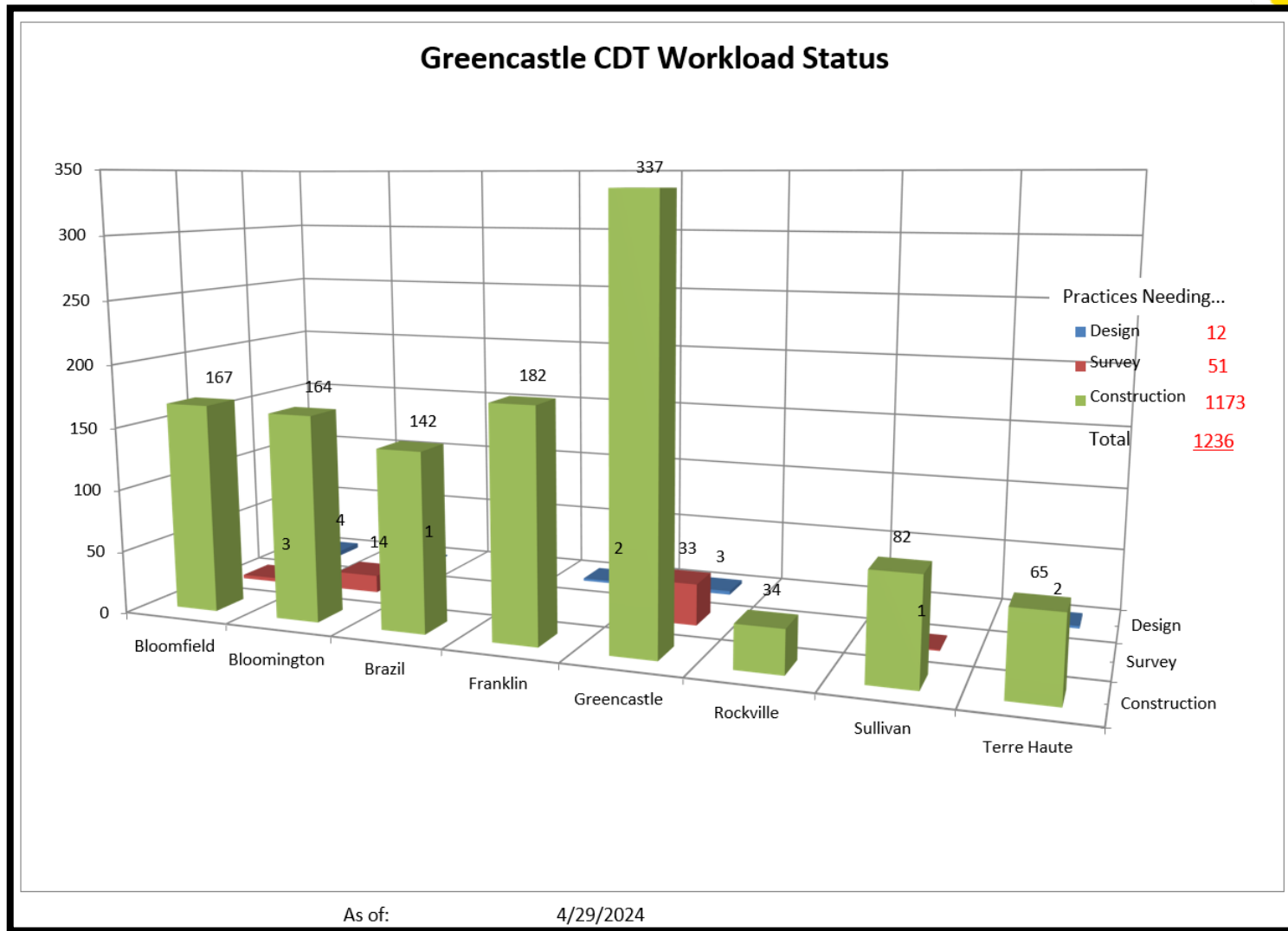
Status	Totals
ON HOLD - 0	0
I&E - 1	126
SURVEY - 2	24
DESIGN - 3	7
PLAN CHECK - 4	0
READY TO BUILD - 5	42
UNDER CONSTRUCTION - 6	0
SEEDING - 7	0
COMPLETED - 8	3
CANCELLED - 9	14

**Practices Requested in FY(s) 2023 and before by Status**

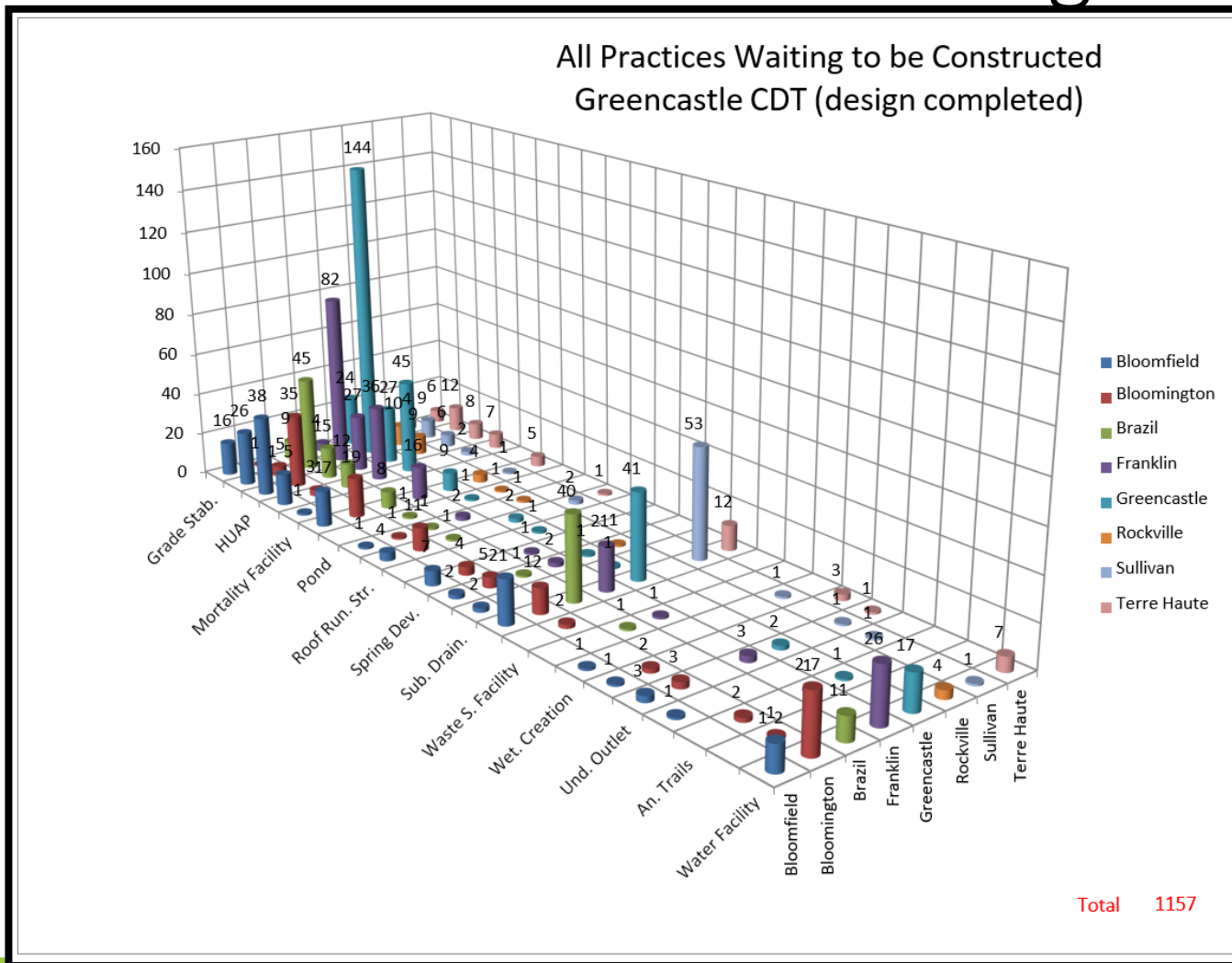
Status	Totals
ON HOLD - 0	13
I&E - 1	62
SURVEY - 2	27
DESIGN - 3	5
PLAN CHECK - 4	11
READY TO BUILD - 5	1135
UNDER CONSTRUCTION - 6	84
SEEDING - 7	1
COMPLETED - 8	212
CANCELLED - 9	78

# Greencastle CDT Workload Status

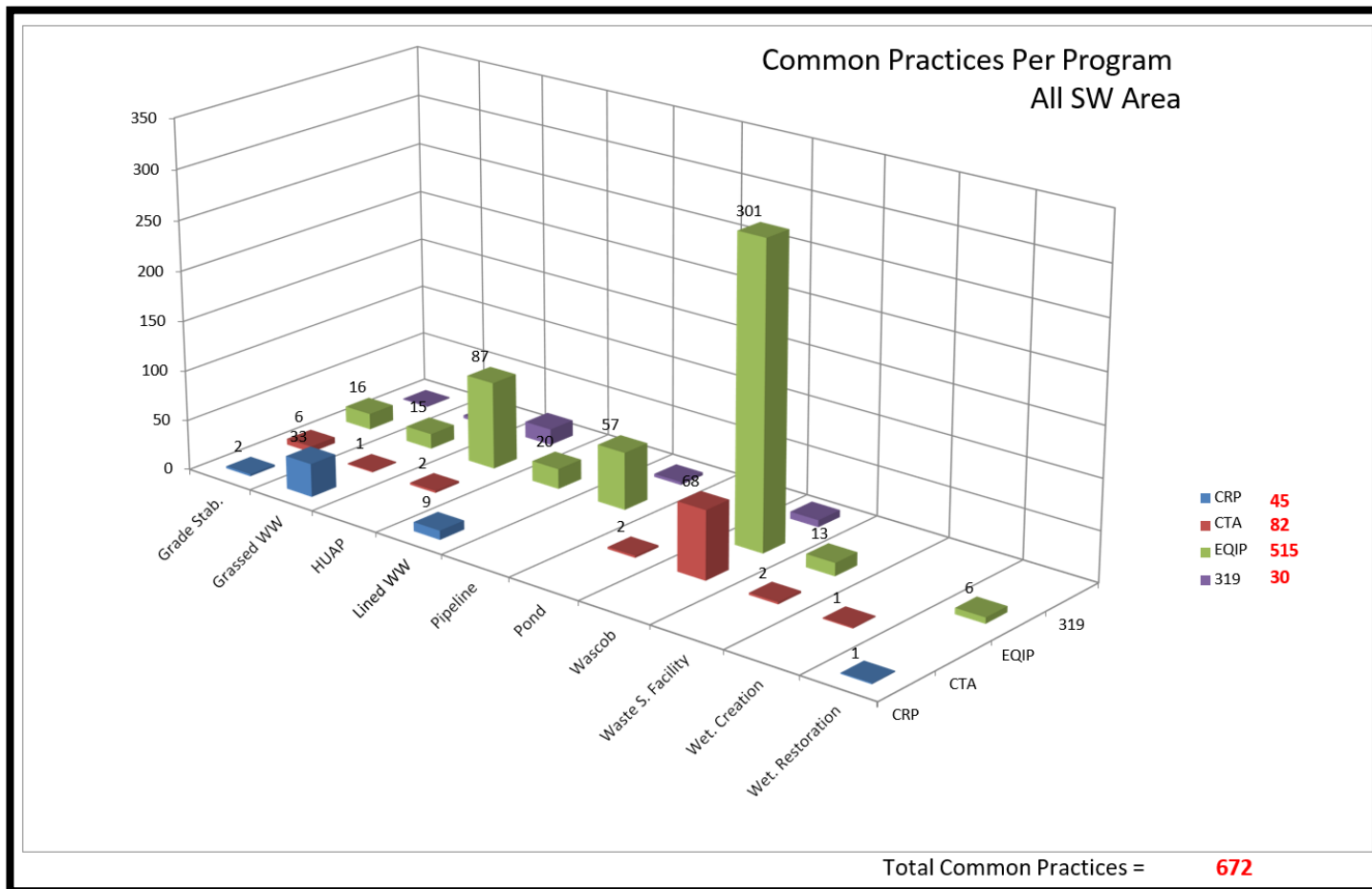
- Practices Needing:
  - Design = 12
  - Survey = 51
  - Construction - 1173



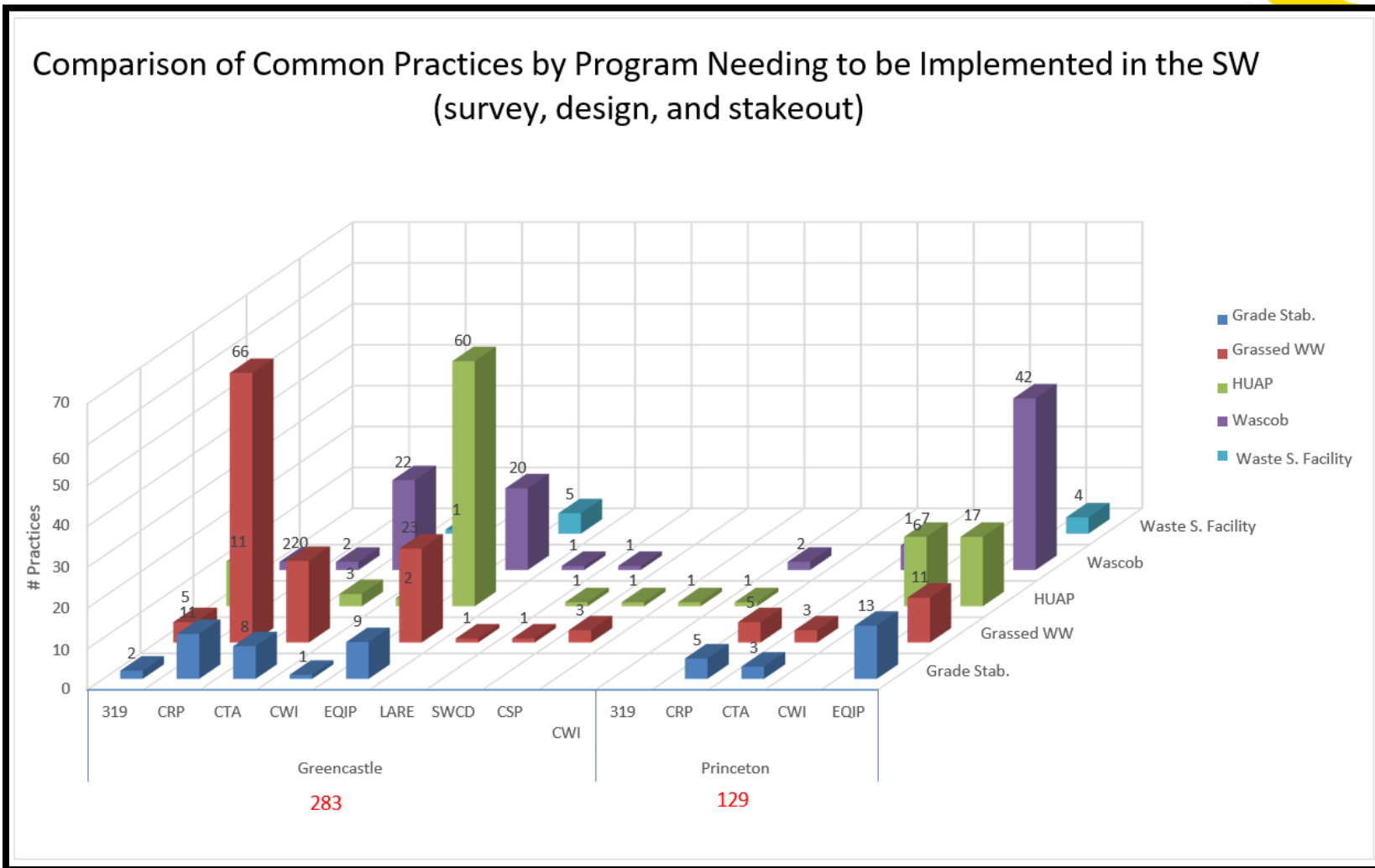
# Greencastle CDT – Practices Pending Construction



# Common Engineering Practice Per Program



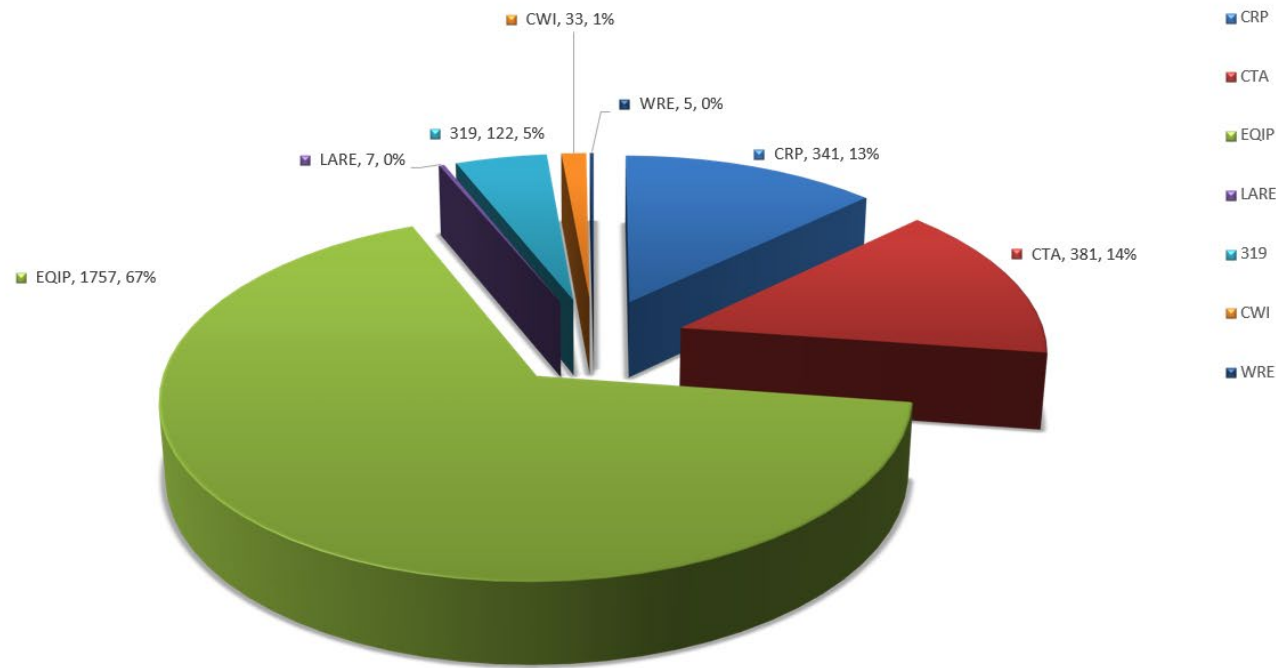
# Common Practices – Pending Implementation





# Breakdown of Engineering Practices by Program

SW Area - Number & Percentage of All Engineering Practices by Program



4/29/2024

Total = 2,646



United States Department of Agriculture

# SW Area Easements

Provided by Chris Shoults

# EASEMENTS

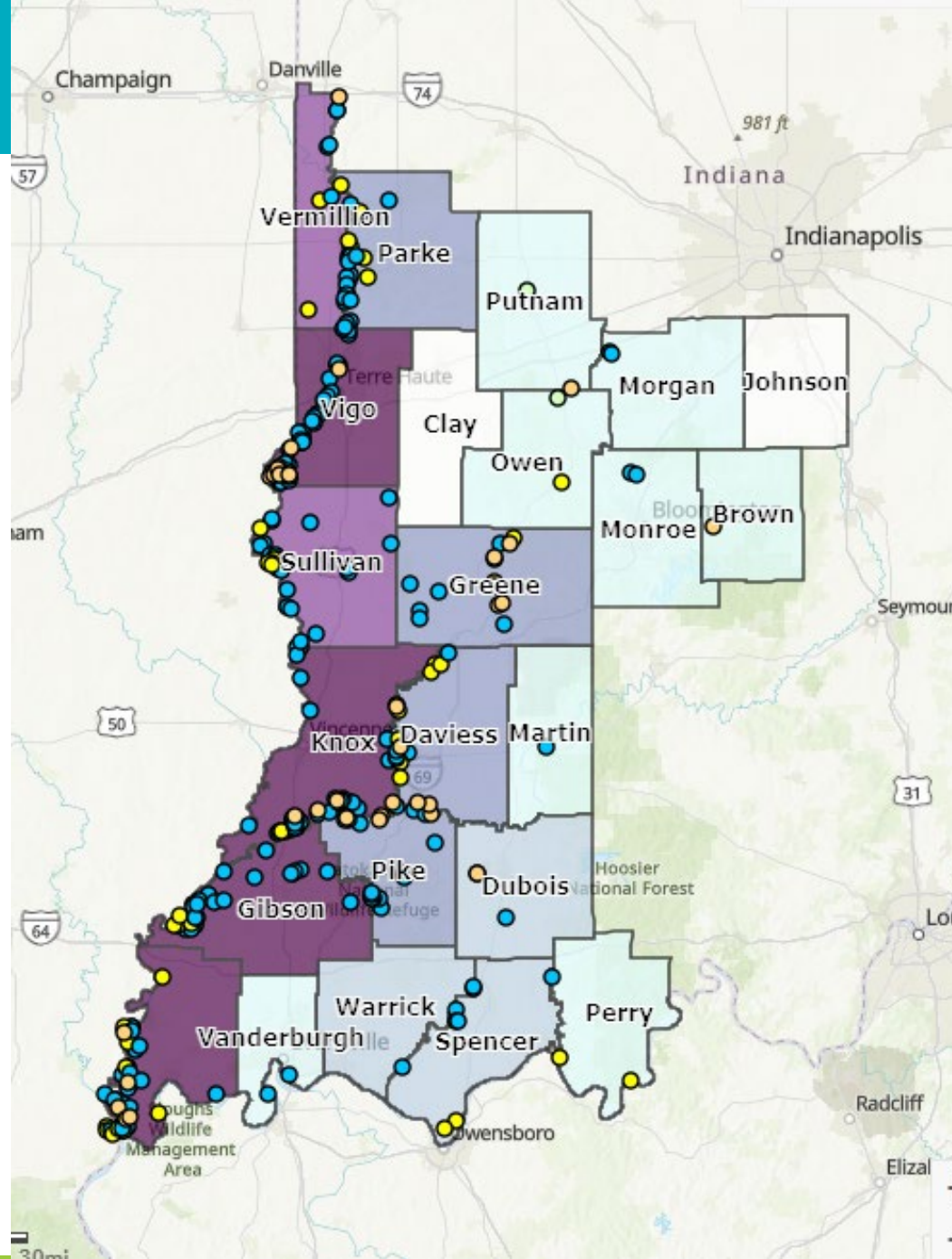
## Indiana NRCS SW Area

Easement Type	# of Easements	Acres
WRP	214	28,231
EWPP-FPE	46	7,635
ACEP-WRE	42	4,251
GRP	2	128
	TOTAL	TOTAL
	304	40,245

Annual Easement Monitoring, Landowner Contacts and Compatible Use Authorizations completed primarily by Easement Biologist and Area Easement Program Specialist in SW Area

# SW Area Easement Locations

- Wabash River Corridor
- West Fork of White River
- Patoka River
- Goose Pond
- Beanblossom Bottoms
- Ohio River Corridor



# SW Area

## 2024 WRE and WREP Signup

- 2 funded General WRE Applications
- 2 funded WREP Applications (Agreement with TNC)
- Applications funded total 244.7 acres and approximately \$2 million in easement payments
- 10 new applications received
- 4 deferred applications from prior year



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 14, 2024

Nutrient Stewardship Updates, Breegan Andersen



## Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program

- Spring sign-ups for Indiana's Mississippi River Basin (MRB) Soil Sampling Program, which opened on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and closed on April 3, 2024. There were about 170 farms enrolled covering around 6,900 acres.
- The program webpage has been updated to reflect we are no longer accepting applications and can be found on the [ISDA website](#).
- This program includes Indiana watersheds within the MRB and excludes the WLEB and Lake Michigan Basins. This is due to federal statutory language associated with the funds.
- We continue to work on developing a novel procurement process with the State to reduce the burden of the contracting process for private sector assistance. However, we have been provided with a temporary path forward for entering agreements with the private sector. We are piloting between 5-7 contracts to get this portion of the program operating. Updates will continue to be shared when we have more information.

## Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP)

- Breegan Andersen has taken on a new role within ISDA's Division of Soil Conservation. She will continue to manage the soil sampling program and GHP funds until a new Nutrient Stewardship Program Manager is hired and work is transitioned.
- We will be traveling to Lexington, KY May 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, to meet with the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force's Coordinating Committee. This meeting will include but is not limited to, a discussion surrounding the release of the next implementation memo allowing ISDA to submit our next GHP work plan.



**State Soil Conservation Board**  
**March 12, 2024 District Support Specialist (DSS) Report:**  
**3/2/24 to 4/26/24**



**Statewide or Regional Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff**

- **Completed since last report:**
  - April 22: Laura and Nathan co-hosted a SWCD Regional Staff Meeting. Topics included developing local grant MOUs and telling your CWI story. Local RSs attended too. (23 in attendance)
  - April 23: Laura hosted a SWCD Regional Staff Meeting- same agenda as above. (15 in attendance)
- **New Supervisor Training:** available year-round via your ISDA DSS in both in-person and virtual options as well as a recorded link.
- **Upcoming:**
  - Clean Water Indiana 2025 Competitive Grants Information Virtual Session: TBD. Stay tuned! ISDA DSSs will also be available for local group meetings. Please contact your DSS if interested.
  - Summer Summits: ISDA and IASWCD are planning upcoming meetings that will take place in August and September. These in-person evening meetings will be held in six areas of the State. More information is coming soon.

**Clean Water Indiana**

- March 31 was the deadline for SWCDs to submit their Capacity Report and Annual Financial Report through Grants Management System. DSSs assisted with reviewing submissions, answering questions, etc. Thanks to everyone statewide for your hard work! DSSs and ISDA staff also looked at ways to improve these processes.
- Capacity Reports: ISDA staff will work with our summer marketing intern to compile a summary document.
- DSSs continue to provide assistance to groups with active competitive CWI grants.
- DSSs have identified and notified CWI competitive grantees who will undergo Grant Reviews in 2024. Grant Reviews must take place or be scheduled within 90 days of being contacted by ISDA.
- DSSs and other ISDA staff are working with a consultant to review CWI processes, and identifying possible areas of improvement.
- DSSs provided input and assistance to the CWI Grants Committee as they reviewed guidance and documents.

**DSS Committee Work and Other Key Accomplishments:**

- DSSs participated in regional or statewide committee working including: All Employee Meeting, Board Leadership Program, Clean Water Indiana, Envirothon, ICP Training and Certification Program, IDEA Fall Conference, Indiana Grown, Pathway to Water Quality,

State Soil Conservation Board, Summer Summits, Transect, Urban Soil Health Advisory Committee, and Women’s Learning Circle.

### **Elections, Appointments and Annual Meetings**

- SWCD Annual Meetings were to be completed in the first quarter of the year, as outlined in Indiana Code. Supervisor Directories are available on ISDA’s Conservation Link.

<b>DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period of “Significance”</b>	<b>Total</b>
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	25
Assistance with SWCD or Partner Strategic Planning	5
Attendance at SWCD Annual Meetings	12
Assistance with CWI Initiatives (Competitive Grants, Capacity Report, AFR) as a “Key Focus” (doesn’t include assistance during other interactions such as Board Meetings)	34
Other Events with SWCDs For Training, Assistance, Guidance, etc.	46
Total Number of Counties Impacted by Activities of “Significance”	73

### **Board Leadership Program**

*Update- 5/2/24: the name “Board Certification Program” was changed to “Board Leadership Program”, to encompass broader efforts the initiatives will offer.*

The Board Leadership Program committee (IASWCD and ISDA), along with IDEA, will meet May 2 to discuss what “certification” looks like. Currently, the website hosts various trainings and modules pertinent to SWCD Supervisors. There is no certification tied to the program at this time. View the website here: <https://bit.ly/swcdbcp>. The DSS team is discussing the website at Board Meetings and other events, and is requesting feedback and input for the committee to consider.

Featured training: “Indiana Code”. *This training module will walk the reader through Indiana Code where the SWCD’s, SSCB, CWI & Division of Soil Conservation is referenced.* Time to complete this module: 18 minutes.



## Highlights

### Southwest Program Manager

An offer was extended to and accepted by Melissa Ruschau for the Southwest Program Manager position. She will start on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Melissa has been an employee of the Dubois Co SWCD for seven years, including management of the Vincennes University Jasper Campus' Land Stewardship Initiative. She has also served on the Jasper High School FFA Advisory and Stem Committees.

### Indiana Extension Educators Association Spring Conference

- April 23-24 at Turkey Run State Park
- Both the pre-conference “Soil Health Signature Program” and the “CCSI and Purdue On The Farm” sessions were well-received by attendees.

### CCSI-SARE Fundamentals of Soil Health

- April 2, 16, and 23 (virtual) and 9<sup>th</sup> (in-person)
- Registrants included:
  - 17 NRCS
  - 22 SWCD, including one from Iowa
  - 3 Extension
  - 3 IDEM
  - 3 CTIC
  - 1 Co-op
  - 1 Farmer
- Final tally of course completion is in process (Not all registrants attended all sessions)

### Agronomic Fundamentals Training

- July 26 Pilot Training\* *Date to be confirmed*
- “Ag 101” type content geared towards staff who do not have a farming background

### Purdue Extension Digital Ag Van Wrap



## **G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement**

### **1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers**

*Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each – CCSI-POTF, Program Manager)*

*Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.*

- 03/01 Nevin Stumler, Fredericksburg – currently corn/soy/pumpkin rotation (SWPM)
- 03/07 Joe McCutchen, Montgomery Co – burn down and demo plot plans (A)
- 03/07 Ben Lindsey (CSA)
- 03/08 Andy Klemp, Jasper Co (A)
- 03/13, 18 Allen Reese, Fulton Co – cover crop establishment issues (A)
- 03/19, 27 Andrew Fansler, Shelby/Decatur Co (A)
- 03/25 Jon and Nathan Kingma, Jasper Co – Seeding rate demo (A)
- 03/25 Dan Perkins, Jasper Co – seeding in hoop houses, mulching (A)
- 03/27 Elam Fisher, Byron Seeds – demo tour and examination of drone seeded plots (CSA, A)
- 03/22 Cameron Mills and Jamie Scott – drone seeded plots (A)
- 04/05 Cameron Mills and Jamie Scott – Scout drone-seeded cover crops (A)
- 04/05 Roger Wenning (D)
- 04/09 Blake Vince (D)
- 04/10 Pat Bittner (D)
- 04/12 Allen Reese – Scout cover crop establishment issues (A)
- 04/16 Jon and Nathan Kingma – Biomass sampling of Cereal Rye (A)
- 04/18 Tom Rudolph (D)
- 04/19 Mark Kingma – Potential split field trials (A)
- 04/24 Ray McCormick (D)
- 04/26 Mark Anson (D)
- 04/26 Don Villwock (D)

### **2. Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers**

*Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.*

*Quarterly Targets: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each – CCSI-POTF, Program Manager)*

- 04/05 Joe McCutcheon – Scout cover crops (A)
- 04/11 Locust St Companies / Gray Family Farms – Discussed soil health sampling under solar panels (CSA)
- 04/22 Joe McCutchen – Scouting seed slot closure of no-till soybeans into cover crop. 2<sup>nd</sup> year of no-till (A)
- 04/22 Kyler Laird – Engaging in ION Organic research project
- 04/10, 26 Gary Hamstra – Discussed burn down options on cereal rye and oats. Sampled field for soybean cyst nematode. (AL)
- 04/26 Scott Tyson – Discussed burn down options and cover crops for next fall (A)

### **3. Farmer Influencers**

*Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)*

- 03/12-13 Various – CTTC, Ada OH

- 04/23 Noah Radde (D)
- 04/23 Betsy Bower (D)

#### 4. Presentations

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (CCSI-POTF)

- Ongoing – AGRY 598 Course, 23 students – 3 graduate students and 20 undergraduate students (DA)
- 03/04 Newton County PARP “Preparing Now for Next Year’s Cover Crop”; 21 attendees (A)
- 03/06 – HOSTED, NOT PRESENTED – NECI Professional Development Meeting featuring Rachel Bezner Kerr, Virtual “Climate Change and Food Systems” (25 attendees)
- 03/11 Jasper County PARP “Preparing Now for Next Year’s Cover Crop”; 14 attendees (A)
- 03/12 – Area 9 ANR Educator Meeting, Virtual, “CCSI and Purdue on the Farm” (6 attendees)
- 03/13 – SC Indiana Envirothon, Bedford, “Renewable Energy in Indiana” (200 attendees)
- 03/21 – Boone County PARP, Lebanon, “Soil Health and Climate Smart Strategies” (50 attendees)
- 03/21 – Resurrection Catholic Church Senior Group, Evansville, “Climate Change in Indiana” (15 attendees)
- 03/25-26 – UAV Signature Program, Loogootee, co-teach with Valerie Clingerman (10 attendees)
- 03/28 – HOSTED, NOT PRESENTED – IL/IN Webinar Series, Virtual, “Climate Change and Water with Dominguez” (30 attendees)
- 04/02 Fundamentals of Soil Health “Intro to Soil Health”, Virtual; 40 attendees (CSA)
- 04/03 – HOSTED, NOT PRESENTED – NECI Professional Development Meeting featuring Sean Parks, Virtual “Fire in the Anthropocene”; 25 attendees (CSA)
- 4/5 Hamilton County PARP “Preparing for a Successful Cover Crop”, Noblesville; 20 attendees (A)
- 04/05 – Hamilton County PARP, Noblesville, “Soil Health and Climate Smart Strategies”; 22 attendees (CSA)
- 04/09 Fundamentals of Soil Health, West Lafayette “In-Field Soil Health Diagnostics”, 31 attendees (CSA)
- 04/12 White County Ag Day UAV Demos, approximately 1000 adults and students (DA)
- 04/16 Fundamentals of Soil Health “No-till Basics” (DA)
- 04/17 Spray Drone Conference, 43 attendees (DA)
- 04/23 Fundamentals of Soil Health “How to Read Seed Tags” (A)
- 04/23 IEEA Workshop -Soil Health Signature Program, Nashville; 7 attendees (CSA, A, DA)
- 04/23 IEEA Breakout Session – CCSI and Purdue On The Farm, Nashville; 12 attendees (CSA, A, D)
- 04/29 – HOSTED, NOT PRESENTED – NC3 Webinar Series, Virtual, “Social Science and Climate Change with Nowaskie”, 190 attendees (CSA)

## **G2. Local Level Partnership Support**

### **1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership's Outreach and Education**

*Quarterly Target: CCSI as a group materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts groups (CCSI Team Goal)*

#### Workshops Completed

- 03/05 AGree Farmer-led Mentoring program design meeting
- 03/05-7 Pay Dirt, Goshen
- 03/05 Orange Co Soil Health Workshop, approx. 30 attendees.
- 03/12-13 Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference – Soil Health Demo Booth, Ada, OH; 725+ attendees
- 03/14 Going Green for Ag, Decatur
- 03/20 SoilCon, Syracuse; 130 attendees
- 03/20 Howard/Tipton Workshop; 35 attendees
- 03/21 Wayne Co Conservation Focus Workshop, approx. 70 attendees
- 03/26 Fayette Preparing for Cover Crops workshop (supplied root banners and projector), 63 attendees
- 03/26 St Joe PARP, 9 attendees
- 04/04 Mud is Fun, Rochester, 12 attendees
- 04/05 Hamilton Co PARP, Noblesville, 22 attendees
- 04/11 UAV Class – Marshall Co, 12 attendees
- 04/17 Spray Drone Field Day
- 04/23-25 IEEA Spring Conference
  - Pre-conference Soil Health Signature Program workshop
- Soil Health Signature Program and Purdue On The Farm breakout session

#### Workshops in Progress:

- 05/23 Conservation Farming Workshop, Morgan County
- 06/06 Warrick Co Cover Crop Field Day, Joseph Kerns farm
- 06/20 Pinney PAC Diagnostic Training
- 08/01 Lower Salomonie Field Day
- 08/06 (tent) Indiana Soy Cover Crop Field Day
- 08/07 Agronomy Field Day / Andersons
- 08/09-10 Manure Management Workshop
- 8/22 Regional Ag Forum, Princeton, Secured Jim Hoorman and working on RMA speaker
- 08/14-17 Successful Soil Solutions events with Ray Archuleta and Barry Fischer – Miami, Wabash, Pulaski and Fulton Counties
- 08/27 Upper Wabash Regional Watershed Biological Field Day
- 09/04 Allen County Soil Health Field Day
- 09/2024 Porter County Event
- 09/26 Allen SWCD Soil Health Field Day
- 10/23-25 IDEA Fall Conference, Michigan City
- November 2024 – Spencer County SWCD
- Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee)

## 2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

*Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health*

### Completed Trainings

- 04/2, 9, 16, 23 CCSI-SARE Foundations of Soil Health Systems, 53 registrants

### Trainings in Progress:

- 06/11-13 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff
- 07/26 Agronomic Fundamentals – DTC
- Soil Health Scouting / Diagnostics Modules
- Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic Development

## Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

*Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills*

### Completed Trainings:

### Trainings in Progress

- Summer 2024: CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education: Machinery and Equipment Set-up (tentative)
- September 2024: Engaging New Audiences

## 4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NWPM, NEPM, SWPM, SEPM)

- Mondays – US Drought Monitor Coordinating Calls (CSA)
- 03/01 IEEA Board Meeting (A)
- 03/01 IN SARE Advisory Council Meeting (D, CSA)
- 06/06 ANR Leadership Team Meeting – virtual (CSA)
- 03/06 NW Soil Health Team (NWPM)
- 03/07 Elkhart SWCD Annual Meeting (NEPM)
- 03/08, 27 IEEA Conference Committee (A)
- 03/11 POTF Operations Team – virtual (CSA, A, DA)
- 03/13 SE NRCS Area Meeting – virtual (SEPM)
- 03/13 National Extension Climate Initiative Executive Committee (CSA)
- 03/14 ANR Extension Leadership Team (CSA, A)
- 03/18 ANR Extension Area 3 (A)
- 03/18 NC3 Leadership Team Meeting – virtual (CSA)
- 03/18 Agronomy Extension Monthly Meeting – virtual (CSA)
- 03/21 Tara Wessler-Henry, ISDA (SEPM)
- 03/21 Lower Salamonie Steering Committee Meeting (NEPM)
- 03/22 Soil Health Nexus Event Planning Committee Meeting (CSA)
- 03/25 CCSI Soil Health Update
- 03/26 Marshall Co Planning and Extension (A)
- 03/26 NE NRCS Area Meeting (NWPM)
- 03/28 Black Loam Conference (NWPM)2/8 – Hamilton Co SWCD Annual Meeting

- 04/01 CAMF Farmer/Advisor Meeting (CSA)
- 04/01 NC3 Leadership Meeting (CSA)
- 04/02 IN CCA Conference Planning Meeting (CSA)
- 04/03 Midwest Climate Hub Action Team Meeting (CSA)
- 04/03 ANR Extension Monthly Meeting (CSA, A, DA)
- 04/03 Regional Ag Forum Planning Meeting (SEPM)
- 04/05 IASWCD Annual Conference Planning Meeting (SEPM)
- 04/05 NC3 North Central Ag Climate Conference Planning Meeting (CSA)
- 04/16 St Joseph SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 04/18 Adams SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 04/22 SWCD Staff Meeting, Jasper (SEPM)
- 04/23 SWCD Staff Meeting, Corydon (SEPM)
- 04/24 IEEA Board Meeting (A)
- 04/25 Fulton, Wabash, Pulaski, and Miami Event Planning Meeting (NWPM, NEPM)
- 04/26 Regional Soil Health Training Planning Meeting (CSA)

### **G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication**

#### **1. Marketing and Messaging**

*Quarterly Targets: 3 Podcasts; 6 Newsletters; Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.*

##### Podcasts

- Approximately 2200 downloads during the period
- One person can make a huge impact – the Legacy of Fred Woods with Barry Fisher, Fisher Soil Health (NRCS ret), and Chris Lee, SE NRCS Area Conservationist
- Resilient Ag Plots at Purdue Ag Centers with Christian Krupke, Purdue Entomology and Joel Wahlman, Southeast Purdue Ag Center Superintendent

##### Website

- 1564 site sessions; 1120 unique visitors; 25 countries; 45 US States

##### Completed Materials:

- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Series

##### Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz, Ann Kline, Mathias Ingle, Ashley Adair, and Matt Pearson, OISC – PARP Regulatory Topic in draft status

### **G4. Research**

*Quarterly Targets: None*

*CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.*

- Support – Purdue University NIFA – Empowering Indiana’s Organic Farmers – Assessing Regional and Farm Scale Soil Health with a Farmer Network (Rui)
- Purdue Weed Science / POTF – UAV Applications of Herbicides

- Support - SDSU and Pork Board – 5-year study with swine manure and effects of soil health on continuous corn

SEPM: Lead and Southeast Program Manager

SWPM: Southwest Program Manager

NWPM: Northwest Program Manager

NEPM: Northeast Program Manager

CSA: Soil Health/Climate Smart Ag Specialist

A: Soil Health/Agronomic Specialist

DA: Soil Health/Digital Ag Specialist

D: Director

## Highlights

### Southwest Program Manager

An offer was extended to and accepted by Melissa Ruschau for the Southwest Program Manager position. She will start on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Melissa has been an employee of the Dubois Co SWCD for seven years, including management of the Vincennes University Jasper Campus' Land Stewardship Initiative. She has also served on the Jasper High School FFA Advisory and Stem Committees.

### Indiana Extension Educators Association Spring Conference

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  - 1 Farmer
- Final tally of course completion is in process (Not all registrants attended all sessions)

### Agronomic Fundamentals Training

- July 26 Pilot Training\* *Date to be confirmed*
- “Ag 101” type content geared towards staff who do not have a farming background

### Purdue Extension Digital Ag Van Wrap





## Highlights

- Site visits / Technical assistance 2024:
  - Working Groups = 105 (avg. 25 / month)
  - USH = 60+ (avg. 15 / month)
- Working Group payments 2024:
  - Events / materials = \$3,500 (15+ events to date)
  - Site visits / TA = \$23,850
- Soil samples by USH 2024: \$640 (26 samples)
- Cover crop seeds: 4,000 packages for USH events and Working Groups
- Working Groups at the local level have significantly increased their activities with both site visits and technical assistance, along with outreach events so far in 2024. They're engaging with their community of backyard and market growers, and leveraging the power of the USH Program to support their initiatives.
  - New! Warren-Fountain Working Group FLASH (Friends Learning About Soil Health)***
- USH Advisory Council launched – support USH 2.0. Mix of conservation partners leadership and growers.
- NRCS 3-Day Pilot training: Urban / Small Scale Soil Health – 35 people with state leadership positions in urban and small scale conservation were hosted by USH and Indiana NRCS to pilot a new national training for 2025.



NRCS 3-Day Training – National pilot



NW Tippecanoe Community Garden outreach; Kosciusko County WG soil sampling training; SW PHISH garden soil health



SE Clark Co SOIL Yard Sprouts event



SW Bloomingfoods Market EarthFest event





Cover crop seed packages – Fulfilled by Byron Seeds. 4,000 packages w/ educational information.

## Workshops / Events

- 3/23 – Marion County Garden Tour
- 3/25 – Integrated Elements: Composting, Vermicomposting, and Microbes (oh my!)
- 3/26 – Keep It Growing: Season Extension Workshop, PIFF, Purdue Ext, Food and Growers Association
- 3/27 – Nutrient Management workshop / calculator
- 3/28 – Black Loam Conference, Gary, Legacy Taste of the Garden
- 4/6 – District 6 “Industry Days” garden soil health, Vigo County
- 4/9 – Urban Updates: Wool as a Mulch
- 4/13 – Regenerative Spring Garden, Copper Cataract Homestead
- 4/20 - Healthy Soils Year-Round, Harrison Master Gardeners
- 4/20 – Earthfest, Bloomingfoods Market, Bloomington
- 4/22 - Grass to Garden: Hands-on Garden Build, Jennings Co. SWCD, Parks Department
- 4/23 – Byron Seeds annual cover crop field day (learning opportunity)
- 4/27 - Urban Soil Health Booth, Springdale Neighbors
- 5/7 – 5/9 – NRCS 3-Day National Pilot: Soil Health for Urban and Small Scale Agriculture
- 5/14 – Urban Updates: Mulching Overview and Calculator; Pollinator Partnership



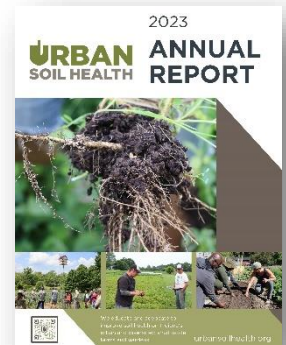
Jennings County demo garden launched

## Technical Resources / Projects

- The results of the brassica bolting trial we conducted last summer at PPAC are officially published in the [Midwest Vegetable Trial Report](#) journal.
- [NCR-SARE Announces 2024 Partnership Grants \\$15,565](#) - “Solving the Compost Conundrum: Utilizing Microbial Inoculation to Increase Fertility and Soil Health on Small Farms.”
- Mulching Overview: [USDA-NRCS Mulching for Small Farms and Gardens](#)
- Mulching Calculator: [Indiana Mulching Tool - Small Farms and Gardens](#)

## Working Groups / Special Projects

- 4/2 – Spring Garden Workshop - PHISH
- 4/15 – Cover Crops Deep Dive - St. Joseph County SCRAP
- 4/17 – Soil Testing training for volunteers - Kosciusko County Urban Healthy Soils
- 4/17 – Yard Sprouts Urban Gardening Series - Clark Co SOIL
- 4/18 – Women’s Learning Circle – Allen County Healthy Soils Collaborative
- 4/25 – Soil Health for Small Farms and Gardens – Tippecanoe County
- Warren / Fountain – **NEW!** Working Group **FLASH** (Friends Learning About Soil Health)
  - 4/2 – site visit and soil testing training



USH Annual Report 2023: Check out our [full report!](#)

## Report to the State Soil Conservation Board

May 14, 2024

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### Program Director Activities

**FY24 GOAL: Introduce Resilient Indiana to SWCD Boards, SWCD staff and partners and lead discussions of the need for Technical Assistance.**

Continued attending SWCD Meetings and meetings with various partners.

- Elkhart Co. SWCD Annual Mtg
- Clinton Co. SWCD Annual Mtg
- IASWCD Board Mtg
- Lake Co. SWCD Annual Mtg
- NW Area Mtg
- The Nature Conservancy Mtg
- Warrick Co. SWCD Staff
- Indiana Smart Ag
- IASWCD 2025 Conference Planning Committee
- STAR program
- S-SW Region IDEA Mtg
- N-SW Region IDEA Mtg
- CCSI Soil Health Update

**FY24 GOAL: Recruit and hire the first cohort of Conservation Technicians.**

- Job description was posted on March 13. It was posted to roughly 50 colleges/universities in Indiana and the surrounding states that have agricultural or environmental programs, as well as the Conservation Job Board and LinkedIn. It was sent to individual professors at PU, IU, IUPUI and DePauw, Extension staff and shared on Facebook.
- Thirty resumes were received, and the Program Director held pre-interviews with half of them.
- Eight candidates were invited to a final interview the week of May 6.
- The anticipated start date of the first cohort is June 3.

**ONGOING GOAL: Serve as a liaison for the agreement, and publicize opportunities related to the agreement to SWCDs statewide.**

- Received permission to amend the NRCS agreement to include in-kind match to receive additional funds. The additional funds will be used to expand staff training opportunities and travel allowances.
- Continued to encourage SWCDs to complete the survey. Some of the preliminary results are attached.





**AGRICULTURE**

## Annual Field Days at Purdue Agricultural Centers Lead to Financial Improvements from Adoption of Recommended Practices

May 7, 2024

There are 56,800 farming operations in Indiana, and 97% of Indiana's farms are family-owned. Of Indiana's roughly 23.3 million acres, 84% are farms, forests and woodland. Corn (\$3.16 billion) and soybeans (\$2.84 billion) account for the largest value of sales for Indiana's commodities. Successful and sustainable production requires attention to a vast array of variables, including soil health, water availability and access, prevalence of weeds, insects, invasive species, and diseases, and seasonal and weather variability. The need for access to and understanding of new technologies and management is great for Indiana's producers and the future for crops and livestock. It is prudent for Indiana to protect its resources and support productivity of the land, farms, and operations.

In conjunction with the eight Purdue Agricultural Centers (PACs) across Indiana, Extension provided 13 field days between May and October to address field crops, horticulture, livestock, and natural resources. Activities included presentations, demonstrations, and field tours. Topics presented were strawberries, seed treatment, pesticide application and storage, insects, apples, cover crops for vegetables, weed management, hemp, grapes, irrigation, vegetables, sprayer drones, regulations for agronomic use of drones, precision nutrient management, disease management, soil diagnostics, corn response to sulfur, pest management, forest management, invasive species, soybean seeding rates, nitrogen timing management of corn, foliar disease management, and livestock fencing. Participants could earn professional credits for Private Applicator Recertification Program (PARP), Continuing Certification Hours (CCH), and Certified Crop Advisor (CCA).

A total of 1,085 farmers, livestock producers, owners of woodlands, and fruit and vegetable producers attended the 13 PAC events. All PAC events included a post-survey asking participants about adoption of recommended practices after the program.

Of the 925 attendees at seven field days that focused on field crops (Seed Treatment Workshop, five Field Days, Ag Sprayer Drone Technology Day), 555 (60.0%) responded. As a result of attending, more than a third (41.3%) indicated they plan to adopt recommended field crop practices for their farm/operation. A third reported that they plan to adopt fertilizer and/or pesticide practices (35.6%) or management practices (31.3%).

Focusing on the four horticulture programs (strawberry field day; fruit, vegetable, and hemp field day, and two vegetable field days), a total of 128 attended, and 55 (43.0%) responded. Participants indicated they plan to adopt recommended practices/technologies for horticulture and the environment (44.4%), increased yields (38.9%), increased efficiencies (35.2%), and conservation of resources (33.3%)



For a livestock event, Fencing School, 19 attended and 11 (57.9%) responded. As a result, nearly three-quarters (72.7%) indicated they plan to adopt management practices, and more than half (54.5%) intend to adopt technologies for their farm/business. The forestry field day, focusing on natural resources and land use, had 13 attendees and 11 (84.6%) responded. As a result, three-quarters (72.7%) indicated they plan to adopt or improve stewardship practices. More than half (54.5%) plan to contact professional advisors for natural resource management, or plan to create or revise their land management plan.

Participants were asked if they had attended the PAC event in the past. Of the 574 field day participants responding, three-quarters (72.1%) indicated they had. Of those, more than half (52.7%) reported they had adopted a new, recommended practice for their farm or operation. Past participants reported new practices they adopted, and most mentioned fertilizer/chemical applications, cover crops, sulfur, and no-till. When asked about financial improvements observed as a result of adopting recommended practices, more than half (58.7%) indicated improvements as increased dollar return per acre. A third (35.5%) reported reduced costs per acre. When asked to estimate dollar per acre of financial improvement, more than half (58.2%) reported financial improvement between \$1 to \$100 per acre. Other responses for improvements were soil quality, improved weed control, efficiency, more yield per acre, and better-quality pumpkins. Purdue Agricultural Center Field Day events contributed to farmer and producer adoption of recommended practices resulting in financial improvements up to \$100 per acre.

**SMALL FARMER**

+

**COMMERCIAL PRODUCER**

+

**WELLNESS PROFESSIONAL**

+

**COMMUNITY LEADER**

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## **U.S. Department of Energy taps Purdue Extension to lead new Indiana collaborative for renewable energy - Nancy Alexander April 30, 2024**

A developer approaches a local plan commission, seeking approval to locate a wind or solar farm in the community. But the community may not have an ordinance that regulates a commercial solar or commercial wind development. Or, because the technology has changed so rapidly, the existing ordinance needs review and rewriting.

Perhaps a locality is further along, on its way to permitting a renewable energy development. But local officials are unsure how to negotiate an economic development agreement that best serves their community.

Purdue Extension — already an informational resource for issues like these — has received a three-year, \$1.9 million award to lead an Indiana Renewable Energy Planning and Technical Engagement Collaborative. The collaborative will be a hub to help Indiana communities with renewable energy planning, evaluation and decision-making.

Purdue Extension was one of six state-based projects that received funding through the **Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) program**. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's **Solar Energy Technologies Office** and **Wind Energy Technologies Office**, R-STEP supports statewide initiatives that provide expertise, trainings and technical resources to help local governments and communities plan for and evaluate large-scale renewable energy and energy storage projects.

Many renewable energy projects are in rural areas because of the space that commercial solar and commercial wind development require. “A lot of communities are getting approached,” says Tamara Ogle, community development regional educator with Purdue Extension. “For many, this is a new land use, and understanding the implications of that land use, as well as what it brings into the community, is really important.”

“The way that Indiana works is that local communities can make the decision on their own whether or not they want to have planning and zoning for renewable energy,” explains Kara Salazar, assistant program leader for community development with Purdue Extension. “But they need to consider a lot of different factors to decide if and how they want to regulate renewable energy land uses, and it can be challenging for a community to have all of the expertise locally to guide them through these decisions.”

By supporting data-driven, local decision-making, the collaborative will help communities understand the effects of renewable energy development on the local economy, land rights and use, local workforce, and the broader energy landscape.

Communities sometimes ask Purdue Extension how to bring a wide range of viewpoints into their decision-making process. This is especially important in rural communities that don't often see large-scale development, Salazar says. "It's a big decision to make. It's not as much about the technology itself; it's more about how the community is going to look and feel and grow into the future. So when residents and other interested parties who live there and work there are able to help make decisions, you can have the placement of these different types of projects in areas that make sense locally."

"Purdue Extension has been doing this kind of process and technical assistance work in communities for a long time," Ogle adds. "Our goal is to support informed local decision making — helping them to weigh alternatives and consequences and have the information to make the best decision for their community."

One area in need of attention is Indiana's patchwork of inconsistent local ordinances. The grant will allow Purdue Extension to update the state's ordinance inventory to include the many changes that have occurred since it was compiled in 2021. "The ordinance inventory helps communities and plan commissions throughout the state look at and compare ordinances so that they can craft their own for renewable energy," Salazar explains.

Other help will be hands-on. Landowners and planners alike may benefit from new webinars, site tours of renewable energy projects, workshops, networking opportunities and presentations. Extension is also working with technical experts and planners on a renewable energy guidebook, fact sheets and web-based resources like case studies. A statewide summit in year three will offer insight into how the collaborative can continue to support communities.

In 2023 the Indiana Legislature approved voluntary guidelines for wind and solar standards that local communities can adopt, and established the **Commercial Solar and Wind Energy Ready Communities Development Center** as a resource for wind and solar energy development. Through the R-STEP grant, Purdue Extension is working with the **Indiana Office of Energy Development** to assist communities interested in becoming certified as Commercial Solar Energy Ready, Wind Energy Ready or both.

"The Indiana Office of Energy Development is excited to partner with Purdue University on this program. R-STEP will support local communities in making



informed decisions about Indiana’s important energy resources, including wind and solar,” says Ryan Hadley, executive director of the Indiana OED.

Other partners in the collaborative include the **Association of Indiana Counties**, **Ball State University Center for Business and Economic Research**, **Center for Energy Education**, **Center for Infrastructure & Economic Development**, **Clean Grid Alliance**, **EDP Renewables**, Indiana Agriculture Coalition for Renewable Energy (**IN-ACRE**), **Indiana Chapter of American Planning Association**, **Indiana University Public Policy Institute**, **Myerson Consulting**, **JMW Co.**, and **The Nature Conservancy in Indiana**.

The collaborative not only fosters coordination and communication between partners; the diverse and multidisciplinary group covers the full spectrum of support that communities need to make informed decisions as well.

It also will enable Purdue Extension to respond more quickly to communities that are asking for help and guidance, Ogle says. “Especially in solar, we’re seeing a lot of proposed development out there. We have to be able to respond quickly so that communities can make those decisions when they need to make them.”

Those decisions are especially timely as Indiana transitions to an increasingly diverse fuel mix and new technologies. In the last 10 years, coal has declined from 76% to 47%, while wind increased to 9% of the state’s fuel mix. Indiana is a national leader in solar development, with estimates that solar may make up 15% of the state fuel mix in the next few years.

Beyond Indiana, R-STEP opens communication between Purdue Extension and the five other grant recipients, three of which are led by university-based extension offices. “This grant will allow us to connect with other states that are doing the same work,” Ogle says. “We’ll be able to learn from some of the things that they’re putting together and bring those resources here as well. The ability to synergize and collaborate is going to elevate the work that we can do in this area.”

The Purdue Extension-led collaborative ultimately focuses on local communities. “There is a lot of misinformation out there about renewable energy right now,” Salazar says. “We’re here to provide education and resources for a regulated land use, and that’s something we do for communities across the state as part of our mission in Purdue Extension and our land use education efforts.”

# Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

## May 2024 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

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### FARM BILL

#### ***MRBI and NWQI Watershed Projects***

Indiana NRCS is accepting proposals to designate new priority watersheds for the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) and National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) through June 15.

Projects must have a watershed assessment plan that meets NRCS guidelines to be eligible for implementation funding. Projects that do not have an approved plan can apply for planning phase funding which will provide time for watershed-level assessment, on-farm planning, and outreach to support the development of the multi-year implementation plan that will assist states with their nutrient loss reduction strategies or source water protection. Watershed assessment plans do not need to be developed with NRCS funding but do need to be approved by NRCS before the project is eligible for future implementation funding.

Projects with an already approved watershed assessment plan can apply for targeted Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and/or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding for implementation of conservation practices over the course of several years. The approved assessment plan does not have to be a product of the planning phase but does need to meet the NRCS assessment plan criteria.

Partners who are interested in being a part of the planning phase or implementation phase should contact Jerod Chew, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, at [jerod.chew@usda.gov](mailto:jerod.chew@usda.gov) for information and application materials. Application materials are due no later than June 15.

#### ***Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)***

##### Notice of Funding

Indiana NRCS is accepting project proposals now through July 2 that will help farmers and forest landowners adopt and expand conservation strategies to enhance natural resources while tackling the climate crisis.

There are two separate funding opportunities being announced today: RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA). RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities in collaboration with project partners. Through RCPP AFA, the lead partner works directly with agricultural producers to support the development of innovative conservation approaches that would not otherwise be available under RCPP Classic.

The 2024 RCPP funding priorities are climate-smart agriculture, urban agriculture, conservation, and environmental justice. NRCS encourages proposals led by historically underserved entities or tribes and will set aside \$100 million for Tribal-led projects to be used between both funding opportunities.

Project proposals for RCPP are being accepted through the [RCPP portal](#) and must be submitted by 4:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 2, 2024. Details on the [RCPP Classic](#) and [RCPP AFA](#) funding opportunities are available on [Grants.gov](#). NRCS will also be hosting webinars to provide additional information. Learn how to participate at the [RCPP website](#).

### GRAZING LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (GLCI)

NRCS is investing up to \$22 million in partnerships that expand access to conservation technical assistance for livestock producers and increase the use of conservation practices on grazing lands. NRCS is accepting

proposals through its Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) until Sunday, May 26, 2024.

Projects must address one or more of the following priorities:

- Local natural resource concerns.
- Climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices and principles.
- Encourage existing and new partnerships through emphasizing equity in advancing the resource needs of underserved communities.
- Identify and implement strategies to quantify, monitor, report on and verify conservation benefits associated with grazing management systems.
- Utilize Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge, where applicable.

Eligibility is limited to single individuals or the following entity types:

- Nonprofit organizations having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Farmer or rancher organizations
- State and local conservation governmental agencies
- Agricultural Extension Services
- Native American Tribal governments and organizations
- Land grant universities including 1890 or 1994 land grant institutions, Hispanic-serving institutions, or other minority-serving institution, such as a historically Black college or university, a Tribally controlled college or university or Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institution.

For more information visit the funding opportunity on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

### **FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION**

USDA is seeking nominations for four positions on the [Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#). USDA will accept nominations from May 7, 2024, to July 7, 2024. The 12-member Committee is part of USDA's efforts to increase support for urban agriculture and innovative production. Members of the Committee provide input on policy development and help identify barriers to urban agriculture as USDA works to promote urban farming and the economic opportunities it provides in cities across the country.

USDA is seeking nominations for individuals representing a broad spectrum of expertise. Four positions are open for nominations including:

- One individual who is an agricultural producer or farmer using innovative technology.
- One individual representing an institution of higher education or extension program.
- One individual with supply chain experience, which may include a food aggregator, wholesale food distributor, food hub, or an individual who has direct-to-consumer market experience.
- One individual representing related experience in urban, indoor and other emerging agriculture production practices.

Individuals who wish to be considered for membership must submit a nomination package including the following:

- A completed [background disclosure form \(Form AD-755\)](#) signed by the nominee.
- A brief summary explaining the nominee's interest in one or more open vacancies including any unique qualifications that address the membership composition and criteria described above.
- A resume providing the nominee's background, experience, and educational qualifications.
- Recent publications by the nominee relative to extending support for urban agriculture or innovative production (optional).
- Letter(s) of endorsement (optional).

Nomination packages must be submitted by email to:

[UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov) or postmarked by July 7, 2024. If sending by mail, packages should be addressed to USDA NRCS, Attn: Brian Guse, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4083, Washington, DC 20250. Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals for membership, including self-nominations. For special accommodations, contact Markus Holliday at [UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov).

#### **NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION**

NRI is the National Resources Inventory, a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Information collected includes the status, condition, and trends of land, soil, water, and related resources on the non-federal lands. The sampling units are areas of land called “segments”, within which detailed data on soil properties and land use are collected at a random sample of points.

During the summer, a Pasture NRI study is done. Data will be collected on active grazing land that includes statistics on forages and plants at each site. Indiana’s Pasture NRI data collection will begin on May 1, 2024, and run through until the end of July 2024. The soils staff at the state office and a retired NRCS State Agronomist & Grazing Specialist will collect the data. Field office staff and FSA may be contacted to provide landowner contact information. If you have any comments or questions, please contact John Allen, State Soil Scientist at [john.allen@usda.gov](mailto:john.allen@usda.gov).

#### **FARMERS.GOV LOCAL DASHBOARD NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCERS IN INDIANA**

Farmers in Indiana can now access county specific farming data and USDA resources all in one place via the [new farmers.gov local dashboard](#). Your farmers.gov local dashboard includes farming data and USDA resources including USDA news, commodity pricing, weather forecasts, historical climate data, past storm events, USDA service center locator and additional state resources for Indiana and your county. The dashboard transforms complex data sets into easy-to-read charts and graphs to help you quickly find information that matters to you. <[link to farmers.gov](#)>

**Indiana District Employee Association**  
**SSCB and IASWCD Board Update**  
**May 2024**

Indiana District Employee Association has had a lively and active start to 2024. In January we held the Silent Auction at the IASWCD Annual Conference bringing in a little of \$600 to be used for scholarships for the Employee Fall Conference.

The North North-West Region under the Directorship of Angela Courtney, Jasper Co SWCD and her Assistant Director Bri Styck, Newton Co SWCD have their team hard at work preparing for the 2024 IDEA Fall Conference in Michigan City, Indiana this October. Securing a location that will hold our crowd size and that we can afford is the biggest challenge that a hosting region faces. Next is setting up the team building activities, breakout session speakers and securing this can all be done for an affordable cost to the districts.

As of this report IDEA had 148 registered members.

The Employee Career Development Program has two sessions, Communication and Education under its belt in this inaugural year on the program. With 17 new participants, 16 district employees and 1 DSS. Our next session, Partnership, will be May 21. The ECDP Committee, headed by Brandi Frazier, Madison co SWCD, IDEA Vice President provided all participants with some necessary tools to begin the session. A backpack full of supplies and a water mug to keep everyone hydrated during the sessions. These supplies were purchased with the understanding that we could use the CWI funds the SSCB had provided, but have since been instructed that we might not be able to use the CWI funds for these supplies.

Julie Clark, Madison Co SWCD, South North West Region Director stepped up to be the chair of our State Poster Contest and that is well underway with various Districts across the state holding local contests in the spring.



Farm  
Production  
and  
Conservation

## Indiana Farm Service Agency Written Report

May 14, 2024

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Indiana Farm Service Agency continues to work closely with Indiana State Department of Agriculture on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) expansion. We are on track to sign the agreement and start signups October 1, 2024. State Executive Director, Julia Wickard has arranged for FSA Administrator, Zack Ducheneaux, to visit Indiana September 18-19, 2024. During his visit we will host a CREP Day on September 18 where we will announce the agreement and have FSA along with ISDA sign it. We are hoping to partner with ICP to host an event/reception on the evening of September 18.

FSA is currently accepting Continuous CRP offers. Any producer who is interested in offering new acres into the program or re-enroll existing acres should sign their offer with FSA by July 31, 2024.

Indiana had 73 offers submitted totaling 1,063.16 acres for the General CRP signup this year. We are still awaiting results from that signup to be announced. Once announced FSA will be contract participants that submitted an offer to inform them if the offer was accepted or not.

Last meeting we shared that FSA would offer CRP Forest Management Incentive Program (FMI) through 2031. FSA is still currently taking applications for the following practices: Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Control, Conservation Cover, Prescribed Burn, Firebreak, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Early Successional Habitat Management, Tree/Shrub Planting and Forest Stand Improvement. While we are still taking applications there has been a pause on approving any applications due to funding. FSA utilized all funding obligated for FY2024. As additional funding becomes available FSA will resume approving these applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared Thomas  
Indiana Farm Service Agency  
Conservation/Compliance Chief