

# Town & Country

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2018

## Native Plant Kit and Rain Barrel Pre-Orders

Native plant kits take the guess work out of creating your native plant garden. Get a selection of tried and true native perennial plants to create your own pollinator, shade, or rain garden. Each kit includes a milkweed species and plants thoughtfully selected to bloom throughout the growing season.

### Pollinator Garden Kit

*Perfect for attracting bees and butterflies in full sun*

Butterflyweed	Blazing Star
Golden Alexanders	Prairie Dropseed
Blue False Indigo	Wild Bergamot
Common Milkweed	New England Aster
Purple Coneflower	Showy goldenrod

### Shade Garden Kit

*Great for your part sun/shade areas*

Golden Alexanders	Whorled Milkweed
Beardtongue	Lanceleaf Coreopsis
Culver's Root	Inland Sea Oats
Ohio Spiderwort	Blue Stemmed Goldenrod
American Beak Grass	Bottle Gentian

### Rain Garden Kit

*Ideal for rain gardens, bioswales, and full/part sun wet areas*

Beardtounge	Purple Coneflower
Fox Sedge	Cardinal Flower
Culver's Root	Turtlehead
Blazing Star	Riddell's Goldenrod
Marsh Milkweed	Bottle Gentian



Great for Mothers Day!

### How to Order Plant Kits or Rain Barrels:

Order and pay online at [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org) or contact the office at 317-773-2181 for an order form.

**Orders & payment due: April 16th**

**Plant and barrel pick up: Friday May 11th**  
**4-H Fairgrounds Llama Barn**

### Plant Kit info:

50 plants per kit  
(~5 plugs of each species)

\$120.00 per kit + tax

Pick up plant kits in  
Noblesville  
Friday May 11th

### Rain Barrel Pre-Orders

55 gallon rain barrels available for pre-order (\$75)  
*Choose from terra cotta, black, or grey colors*

Diverter installation systems also for sale (\$25).

Pre-order by April 16th, pick up May 11th.

Beginning May 15th, rain barrels will be for sale out of the office while supplies last.



**Board of Supervisors**

Rodney Rulon, *Chair*  
 Jared Kakasuleff, *Vice Chair*  
 Warren Sarber, *Treasurer*  
 Dustin Forrer, *Member*  
 Doug Quear, *Member*

**Associate Supervisors**

Chris Cruzan  
 Ted Engelbrecht  
 Amy Jo Farmer  
 Lisa Meek  
 Jim Riggs  
 John Talbot

**Office Personnel**

Ginger Davis  
*District Administrator*

Mark McCauley  
*Resource Conservationist*

Claire Lane  
*Urban Conservationist*

Sue Fisher  
*Office Coordinator*

Angie Garrison  
*NRCS District Conservationist*

Andy Fritz  
*Urban Agriculture Conservationist*

**Town & Country**

Published quarterly and distributed to landowners, farm operators, teachers, local agencies, public officials, conservation organizations and other interested individuals.

1717 Pleasant St. Suite 100  
 Noblesville, IN 46060  
 317-773-2181  
 soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

**Annual Meeting Recap**

The 2018 SWCD Annual Meeting and Workshop was held on February 22nd with approximately 100 program partners and county property owners in attendance. Four education sessions were held including the Impact of Cover Crops with Dr. Shalamar Armstrong from Purdue and Where the Wild Things Were, a wildlife focused Hamilton County natural history lesson with county historian David Heighway. A Dicamba training with the Office of the Indiana State Chemist and an introduction to the Indy Wildlife Watch program from the Director of the Butler Center for Urban Ecology Dr. Julia Angstmann were also offered.

Attendees viewed a short movie on the father of conservation, Hugh Hammond Bennett and reviewed the District's 2017 activities and highlights via a program report. Four award winners were recognized for their conservation efforts. The Rural and Community Assistance Program was recognized as the Partner in Conservation. John Law was recognized as the River Friendly Farmer. The team members of the winning 2017 Hamilton-Boone Soil Judging Team were recognized. These team members included Lauren McKinney, Michael Reed, Nolan Miller, and coach Scott Ison all of Sheridan FFA. Warren Gartner was recognized as the Outstanding Partner of Urban Conservation.



*David Heighway introduces attendees to some of the environmental and wildlife historical oddities of Hamilton County.*



*Annual Meeting attendees learned about how SWCD's were created.*

Rodney Rulon was re-elected by acclamation to another term on the SWCD board of supervisors and will retain his Chairman role. The oath of office was issued by Brad Beaver, Hamilton County Commissioner. A delicious buffet lunch fueled participants.

As the District was founded in 1958, we were happy to use the annual meeting to celebrate 50 years of conservation education and implementation in Hamilton County.

**Intern Spotlight—Kelsey Hughes**

Fall of 2017 brought a new partnership and intern, Kelsey Hughes, to the SWCD. The district partnered with the Noblesville High School's internship program to host a Noblesville senior throughout the 2017-2018 academic school year. Through this program, students spend 6-9 hours a week at their internship location during the school day. They gain valuable job skills, apply academic knowledge in a professional setting, and collaborate with a workplace team.

Kelsey joins staff on site visits and assists with day to day operations around the office. She has also worked on several projects including interviewing former staff and developing a 50th anniversary video for the District, supporting the soil tunnel trailer project, and planning for the Envirothon competition. Of her time at the SWCD Kelsey says "I've been exposed to many scenarios within the environment and the workplace. I now understand just how important soil and water is to the health of the environment. Ultimately, my experience at the district has reassured my interest in Environmental Science."

Kelsey plans to continue her education at Hanover College where she will study environmental science and play soccer.

## INfield Advantage Program Success in 2017 and Expansion in 2018

Mark McCauley, Resource Conservationist



### Hamilton County Expands INfield Advantage Program to Include Soybean Study

The INfield Advantage (INFA) has traditionally been focused on nitrogen use in corn. Last season corn stalk nitrate testing and round table discussions helped growers find ways to improve their nitrogen use efficiency and reduce their expenses of producing a bushel of corn. In 2018, INFA is turning its attention to soybeans. Building on Dr. Shaun Casteel's (Purdue University) work applying sulfur to soybeans, INFA is offering participants a chance to see if their beans will respond similarly with a yield increase.

Purdue Soybean Performance Trials have documented soybean yield response to sulfur near LaCrosse, Indiana (sulfur deficient fields) at 8.5 to 13 bu/ac increase with broadcasted dry sulfur-containing fertilizer applied near planting in 2016 and 2017. Fertilizers tested included granular ammonium sulfate (AMS, 21-0-0-24S) and MES10 (12-40-0-10S) to supply 20 lb S/acre. The objective of INFA's program is to determine the distribution of soybean-responsive fields to sulfur across Indiana.

INFA is focused on dry fertilizer applications of sulfur prior to planting. In the INFA survey across the state, the growers are asked to not apply the sulfur fertilizer to at least one check strip so there will be an indication of the yield difference. Yield maps (or raw data) are the best way to determine the responsiveness of soybeans to sulfur. The fields enrolled will also have imagery and tissue samples collected and the results will be discussed as part of the INFA Winter Meetings.

The expenses related to imagery and tissue collection will be funded by Indiana corn and soybean checkoff funds. Each INFA participant can enroll one soybean field, though it is a local choice on how many fields to have in each region. To obtain the full project protocol and to sign up, contact the Hamilton County group leader, Mark McCauley, 317-773-2181, mark.mccauley@hamiltoncounty.in.gov. Of course we are also offering the traditional corn stalk nitrate testing again this year, so we would encourage you to sign up for that as well.

### 2017 INfield Advantage Program Report

The Hamilton County INfield Advantage (INFA) group held its Winter Meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. At the meeting attendees discussed the 2017 growing season and the Indiana Nutrient Management Strategy. Led by the meeting facilitators Meg Leader, INFA State Coordinator; Hans Kok, consultant; Justin Orme, Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance, and Mark McCauley, Hamilton County SWCD, participants came away with some ideas about their crop management.

INfield Advantage works with small regional groups of farmers who are interested in improving nutrient use efficiency on their corn fields. This is done by producers sharing their management decisions and INFA assessing and sharing the resulting impact those decisions had on production. The goal is to create personalized local guidance for future management innovations. This was the seventh year of the program and it continues to be one of the largest adaptive nutrient management farmer networks in the country. In 2017, there were 35 active regional groups located across more than 60 Indiana counties. State-wide, nearly 1,100 fields with over 70,000 acres were monitored using the INfield Advantage tools. The participants have a direct impact on the management of over half a million cropland acres across the state.

In 2017, the Hamilton County group was formed by local growers to improve their nitrogen use efficiency in corn. This year, we had 11 local growers participate in INFA. More information about the program and previous years' results can be found at: [www.INfieldAdvantage.org](http://www.INfieldAdvantage.org)

INFA uses aerial imagery and the Corn Stalk Nitrate Test (CSNT) to determine nitrogen use efficiency in each field enrolled. Producers are not restricted on tillage, rotation, nitrogen form, timing or rate and may enroll multiple fields. The basic level of the program is called Guided Stalk Sampling (GSS). Growers may also use INFA to conduct on-farm research using Replicated Strip Trials (RST). At the end of the year, INFA supplies each grower with the imagery and CSNT results from each field. Any fields with a Replicated Strip Trial will also have an RST report. Each grower also receives a regional report, with each field assigned an anonymous ID number. IN 2017 INFA continued a joint project with Indiana Pork focused on fields with hog manure. In addition, major cost savings were captured by changing the contracting format with suppliers. *(continues on page 5)*



## Conservation Happenings

*Ginger Davis, Conservation Administrator*

### Smithfield Foods Generously Donates to Central Regional Envirothon

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that Smithfield Foods, Inc., a longtime supporter of the State Envirothon Competition, will support this year's Central Regional Envirothon Competition in Noblesville. The program aligns with Smithfield's commitment to helping communities and its industry-leading sustainability program. Smithfield employees work daily to improve resource efficiency in countless ways by conserving water and finding ways to reduce energy, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and solid waste. For this reason, they are a perfect partner for Envirothon.

Envirothon is high school aged student competition that helps students learn about natural resources and the issues facing current and future generations. Teams are comprised of five students in grades 9 – 12 with one optional alternate and one adult coach. During the competition, each team will answer questions about resource problems they have been studying in five environmental areas (soils/land use, aquatic ecology, wildlife, forestry, and a current environmental issue). Teams may consist of members from a variety of organizations: clubs at high schools (environment, green, agriculture, science, and academic clubs), Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, home schooled students, and 4-H Clubs. This year Noblesville High School is competing for the first time in an Envirothon Contest. The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to be financially sponsoring teams from Hamilton County for the event this year. "We are happy to sponsor our local youth education programs that support conservation of natural resources," states Rodney Rulon, Chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board for Hamilton County.

This year, teams that place first and second at the Regional Competition move on to the State Competition held in West Lafayette on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The top teams from each regional competition compete head to head against teams from around the state. For the state Envirothon competition, the teams have to develop a presentation that corresponds with the current issue. This year's current issue is Pasture Management: Balancing Agriculture, Conservation and Wildlife. The team that scores the highest at the state Envirothon Competition then represents Indiana at the North American Envirothon this year being held in Pocatello, Idaho on the campus of Idaho State University. This week-long event allows students to interact with campus life and mingle with like-minded students from the United States, Canada, and other participating countries.



*Jason Spriggs (Left), Environmental Health & Safety Manager for Smithfield Foods presents Ginger Davis, Central Envirothon Coordinator, with \$500 check to support the Envirothon*



**Indiana Envirothon**

The Central Regional Envirothon competition is completely volunteer based and depends on support of local businesses, donations, and volunteers to make it successful. Currently, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Madison, Boone, Marion, and Hamilton, along with the Noblesville Rotary Club and Purdue Extension, have been the driving force behind providing volunteers for the event. Experts from Arbor Terra, The Nature Conservancy, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) will round out the presentations for the subjects at the competition. Ginger Davis, event coordinator for the regional competition shared that "with Smithfield's generous donation of \$500 and catered lunch for the students, we will be able to support the event logistics and create a premier Envirothon competition for the central portion of the state, right here in Hamilton County."

If you would like to donate or volunteer for future Central Indiana Envirothon Competitions contact Ginger Davis at 317-773-2181. For more information about the Envirothon, visit [www.hamiltonswcd.org/envirothon.html](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org/envirothon.html) or [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)

### Noblesville Residents Eligible for Discounted Rain Barrels

Noblesville residents and business owners may purchase discounted rain barrels thanks to the Noblesville Clean Storm Water Program. In order to qualify for this program, residents/businesses must pre-order their barrel at the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District after March 1st until supplies last. To complete a pre-order, residents need to 1) provide a City of Noblesville Wastewater Utility bill that shows his/her name and address, 2) take one or more of the online clean water improvement pledges at [clearchoicescleanwater.org](http://clearchoicescleanwater.org) and show email/print confirmation of the pledge, and 3) pay \$30.00 (cash or check preferred). There is a limit of one rain barrel per address and quantities are limited (50 available). Participants will be able to pick up their pre-ordered barrels on Friday May 11th from the 4-H Fairgrounds Llama Barn in Noblesville. Learn more at [www.hamiltonswcd.org/noblesvillerrainbarrels](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org/noblesvillerrainbarrels).

### Volunteers Needed

Plant kit and rain barrel sales are great fundraisers for the SWCD and all proceeds go right back to conservation and education efforts. Need volunteer hours or want to lend a hand? The SWCD welcomes volunteers to assist with plant kit assembly and rain barrel organization and unloading on Thursday May 10th in Noblesville. Volunteers are also needed on Friday May 11th. If you are interested in volunteering for this project or other times throughout the year please contact Claire Lane at 317-773-2181.



*Many hands make light work. Volunteers and District staff at the fall tree sale.*

### Continued from page 3—INfield Advantage 2017 Report

Our 2017 working group consisted of 24 GSS corn fields, 1 GSS soybean field and 2 RST fields. INFA costs are funded through Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance (ICMC/ISA) checkoff funds and is offered free of charge to producers. The total value of the imagery and lab work to our local producers in 2017 was \$5,577. Our program is possible due to the coordination and support of local Indiana Conservation Partnership staff. Our group also received additional support from state-wide coordination by ISDA, central office, and ICMC/ISA. This in-kind support is roughly valued at \$4,500. **2018 INFA registration forms are available.** If you are interested in enrolling fields as either GSS or RST, please contact the Hamilton County group leader, Mark McCauley [mark.mccauley@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:mark.mccauley@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) 317-773-2181.



[www.infarmbureau.org](http://www.infarmbureau.org)  
317-773-2431

*If one person can make a difference,  
think what thousands of us can do, working together!*



Grain Co., Inc.

Healthier soils.  
Better crops.

[www.gypsoil.com](http://www.gypsoil.com)  
1-866-(GYPSOIL)-497-7645



Spencer Carson - Local Seed Advisor

317-946-4450 • [spencer.carson@beckshybrids.com](mailto:spencer.carson@beckshybrids.com)

*We're in the business of helping  
farmers succeed since 1937*



**JOHN WARD CONSTRUCTION INC.**

EXCAVATING • BULLDOZING

27649 Gwinn Rd.  
ATLANTA, IN 46031  
317-984-5404

**Guardian Retention Systems**

*Premier bank stabilization and  
flood mitigation services.*

[GuardianRetentionSystems.com](http://GuardianRetentionSystems.com)



Pamela Dunn-Louks

SA Certified Arborist

317-385-6476

[pam@in2trees.com](mailto:pam@in2trees.com)

[www.in2trees.com](http://www.in2trees.com)

Assisting private & public landowners



Sarah Lucas

3406 N. SR 9 Anderson, IN 46012  
765-644-7172

[Sarah.Lucas@e-farmcredit.com](mailto:Sarah.Lucas@e-farmcredit.com)

22755 Six Points Road

Sheridan, IN 46069

800-622-4794 • 317-758-6060

## Urban Conservation Spotlight

Claire Lane, Urban Conservationist

### \$38,000 Clean Water Indiana Grant Supports District Urban Agriculture Work



Initial grant funding from the National Association of Conservation Districts and Legacy Fund, a Central Indiana Community Foundation affiliate, helped the SWCD launch the urban agriculture effort in 2016. These grants allowed us to hire and retain two part-time staff members through the end of 2017. Through their hard work, the urban agriculture effort launched to great success but continued funding for staffing presented a problem. Thankfully, in early 2018, we were able to secure a \$38,000 Clean Water Indiana Grant from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture that will allow us to retain our urban agriculture conservationist through fall 2019.

The urban agriculture program builds on the success of the urban conservation program and supports backyard and community gardens across Hamilton County. Technical assistance is provided to help county residents start new vegetable and fruit gardens and improve their existing gardens. Comprehensive education and outreach programs are focused on alleviating food insecurity in the county and connecting residents with local food. Donations of fresh vegetables to local food pantries are supported by pairing businesses, community gardens, and service organizations with food pantries. The Hamilton County Garden Network was created to support and connect the growing number of community gardens across the county.

The Clean Water Indiana program is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and provides grants for conservation projects and capacity building through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. More information is available at [www.in.gov/isda/2379](http://www.in.gov/isda/2379).

### Spring Sustainability Workshop—Permaculture in Practice

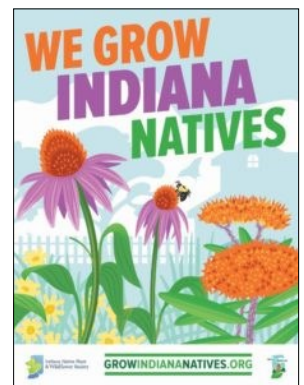
For the third year, the SWCD is partnering with Purdue Extension Hamilton County to host a spring sustainability workshop. This year the focus will be on permaculture. Permaculture focuses on utilizing patterns and relationships on your property to minimize impact while keeping maintenance low and yield high. Conscientious design of home gardens, landscapes, and small homesteads or farms through permaculture strives to achieve diversity, stability, and resilience of ecosystems. This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn what permaculture is, how it can benefit your property, and how to get started.

Workshop speakers include Jonas Carpenter of Bread and Roses Nursery, Darren Bender-Beauregard of Brambleberry Farm, and Kevin Allison, Soil Health Specialist at Marion County SWCD. The workshop will include an introduction to permaculture, a question and answer session with permaculture examples, and a soil health session. After lunch we will split into groups where attendees will work with other individuals who are focused on either landscape style permaculture, small gardens, or community gardens/larger scale food production. Attendees will receive an aerial photo of their property and workshop leaders will work with groups to generate a preliminary site plan.

The Sustainability Workshop will take place Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall in Noblesville. The workshop costs \$40 per person (includes lunch) and will run from 9am – 3pm. Registration can be completed at [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org). Space is limited so register soon.

### New Native Garden Certification Available

The Grow Indiana Natives program expanded statewide in 2017 and continues to grow with a new native garden certification program. Individuals or properties where Indiana native plants are cultivated and the property owner is working to remove any invasive plants qualify for this free new program. To join, you can fill out an application at [www.growindiananatives.org/native-garden](http://www.growindiananatives.org/native-garden) and submit a list of your native plants and a couple garden photos. Once approved, you will receive a certificate and a Grow Indiana Natives window cling. You will also be eligible to purchase a 9"x12" metal "We Grow Indiana Natives" sign (right).



The garden certification is an expansion off of the broader Grow Indiana Natives program. Through this program, retailers who sell native plants and do not sell any plants on the Indiana invasive plant list are eligible to apply and be listed in the Buy Natives directory at [www.growindiananatives.org/buy-native](http://www.growindiananatives.org/buy-native). New this year, landscape designers who use native plants are eligible to apply for Design Natives listing. This website helps connect property owners with retailers and designers who have a selection of, or design with, native plants and are doing their part to stop the spread of invasive species by not selling or using invasive plants.

Many people suspect that invasive plants are not available at plant retailers but that is not the case. Many invasive plants are widely available in the nursery trade because either the supplier does not know they are invasive or, simply, because they sell. Two common examples are Wintercreeper and Callery/Bradford pear. We can affect change by shopping at invasive free retailers and generating demand at other retailers by sharing what plants we want to purchase instead.

## Urban Agriculture Update

Andrew Fritz, Urban Agriculture Conservationist

### Donating Your Vegetables: The Other Conservation Practice

The benefits of gardening for our personal and natural well-being are well known. Eating healthy and fresh produce is one obvious benefit. We now also know that spending 20 minutes in a garden can improve our sense of well-being. In the natural world, greater plant diversity through a garden creates food and habitat for beneficial insects. Likewise, by working the soil and nurturing its health, water quality improves. There is also a link between the benefits a garden offers and improved soil quality through conservation practices.

Gardening as a conservation practice can improve societal well-being, too. For example, by donating produce from your garden to local food pantries, you are practicing conservation with those that face food insecurity in Hamilton County. **Donating surplus produce from the garden is an act of conservation because it is a way of saving our community.** This concept is simple but steps outside our normal understanding of the word. I'll attempt to explain.

The word "conserve" itself is the formation of two Latin words. The first part, "con," means "with," or, "together." The second word, "serve" in Latin means, "save." Thus, "to conserve" or to practice conservation, literally means, "to save together" or "to save with." We work to save together because we benefit by doing so. The word itself has always been used within the context of saving air, water, soil, trees, our community - even sewer systems and roads. After all, what is conservation for if it is not about saving these things for others and the future?

"No act is too small. Everyone can donate the vegetables from their garden."

Donating your garden vegetables is easier than you might imagine and no act is too small. In fact, there are 25 food pantries in Hamilton County that welcome garden produce. Chances are there is a food pantry within a few miles of your garden. Furthermore, except in the case of negligence, it is possible to donate vegetables without liability. Your donation can be tax deductible, too.

More information on how, when, and what to donate can be found by visiting [www.hamiltonswcd.org/donateyourvegetables](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org/donateyourvegetables). You may also contact Andrew Fritz at [andrew.fritz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:andrew.fritz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

### The Psychology of Making Decisions when Food Insecure

Imagine this scenario: you can buy one coin cell battery for \$5.99 or by six for \$17.99 (\$3.00 each) for your hearing aids. You have only \$20 on hand. You have not eaten today. And the next paycheck is already earmarked for late bills. What do you do?

If you are one of the 27,000 people in Hamilton County who are food insecure, you are likely to buy the \$5.99 battery. By doing so, you can be certain that you will be able to hear and have a full stomach by the end of the day. Otherwise, it is one or the other. Despite conventional thought, it is a rational decision.

Food insecurity is when "there is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or *uncertain* (emphasis mine) access to adequate food." In other words, if you have to make the decision between fitting in to society, paying bills, and buying food, you are food insecure. In Hamilton County, 60% of the 27,000 food insecure are not eligible for government subsidies. That means they must rely on food pantries and other forms of support. This group of people are called the "working poor" which means they are employed but do not earn enough to meet the cost of living within Hamilton County.

The severity and degree of uncertainty a person is confronted with can be directly linked to the severity and degree of stress one will experience. In short, increased uncertainty increases stress. The body's response to stress is to increase a hormone called cortisol.

Stress is like watching Netflix on dial-up.

This hormone helps defend against immediate threats by supplying our body with adrenaline in times of need. But it also reduces cognitive functioning so that one is able to only focus on the present threat. In other words, when we are stressed, it becomes difficult, if not reckless, to make long-term decisions. Cortisol also acts to narrow the cognitive bandwidth as if you were watching Netflix on a dial-up internet connection. Stress, in many ways, acts as a throttle on our ability to think, learn, and remain calm.

We all make decisions, usually subconsciously, along the certainty/uncertainty line. Of course, we take for granted that the electricity will be on in the morning, that the car will start, that our job will be there in the morning, that our children will go to school healthy and well fed, etc. But what if even one of these things were uncertain on a daily basis? Or multiple? That amount of uncertainty on a regular basis would be paralyzing and can certainly compromise our physical and mental well-being.

### **Position Announcement- Part-time Conservation Technician and Outreach Assistant**

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking a part-time Conservation Technician and Outreach Assistant. We are looking for a courteous, organized, detailed oriented individual that is good with people and is willing to assist in the field, in the office, and at educational events. We are requesting applications, resumes and cover letters be submitted to [jobs.hamiltoncounty.in.gov](http://jobs.hamiltoncounty.in.gov). This is a part-time, permanent position with a work load of 28 hours per week. Compensation will be based on experience. Hamilton County part-time employees do not receive additional benefits. Resumes will be considered until position is filled. Primary duties include:

**Join our  
team!**

- Assisting staff in providing conservation technical assistance and information to landowners/users.
- Assisting with coordination and/or presentation of conservation education programs, classroom activities, workshops, and adult education programs, including scheduling and arranging tours, field days, fair displays, and/or meetings.
- Promoting conservation practices, including assisting with newsletters, articles, and informative brochures; developing displays, exhibits, and curriculum on natural resources; and establishing and promoting the use of outdoor laboratories.
- Assisting with outreach programs via publicity, press releases, social media posting, and at public functions; Updates and helps maintain department website and social media presence.
- Assisting in organizing, implementing, and participating in public events, SWCD annual meeting, soil trailer program, and Envirothon.
- Assisting in preparation of grant proposals and donation requests for funding of projects

---

All programs and services of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, marital status or disability.

If you wish to be removed from our distribution list, to make a name or address change, or to switch to email newsletters, please call 317-773-2181 or email [soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).