

Mississippi River Basin Initiative

CICERO CREEK

April, 2015

Through the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), NRCS and our partners work with producers and landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices that improve water quality, restore wetlands, enhance wildlife habitat and sustain agricultural profitability in the Mississippi River Basin.

The Problem

Nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorous, can have negative impacts on waterways. NRCS works with farmers and conservation partners to implement conservation practices that help trap and reduce runoff of nutrients. This work also helps farmers, as NRCS provides assistance for improvements made to farms.

The Solution

Science shows that targeted conservation works. Through MRBI, we prioritize where we can have the biggest impacts, focusing efforts on small priority watersheds and where there is a large opportunity to work with producers to get conservation practices on the ground.

The Funding

NRCS provides dollars to eligible farmers and other landowners to help pay for conservation practices. Producers apply for funds at the local NRCS office. Applications are ranked and those that address priority resource concerns are funded. Funding is made available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

The Core Conservation Practices

Cover Crops

Crops including grasses, legumes, and forbs for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes.

Residue Mgmt

Limiting soil disturbance to manage the amount, orientation and distribution of residue on the soil's surface year round.

Nutrient Mgmt

Managing the amount, source, placement, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments to minimize nonpoint source pollution.

Two-Stage Ditch

Drainage ditches that have been modified by adding benches that serve as floodplains within the overall channel.

Conservation Cover

Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover to reduce erosion and improve soil quality.

Filter Strip

A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow.

The Benefits

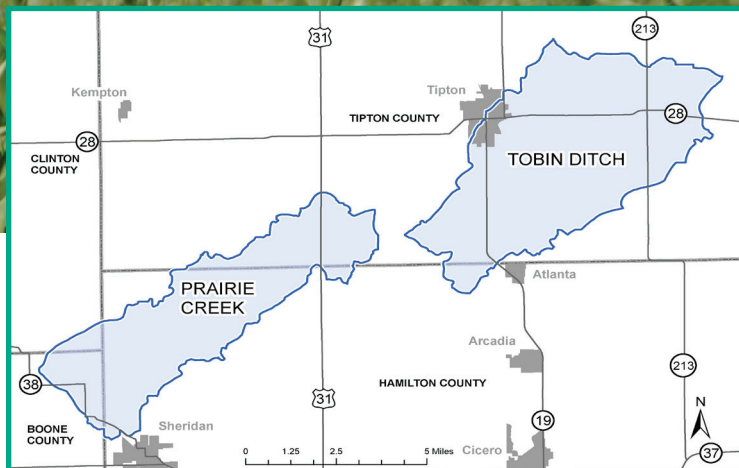
Conservation practices installed by producers will serve to avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff, prevent erosion and provide essential wildlife habitat. These practices benefit the natural resources of the Mississippi Basin and enhance agricultural profitability through reduced input and enhanced soil health, which results in higher soil organic matter, increased infiltration and water-holding capacity and nutrient cycling.



For more information, visit Indiana NRCS at: www.in.nrcs.usda.gov



Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service
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The Watersheds

Indiana is targeting MRBI assistance to conservation practices that reduce nutrient reductions in the Prairie Creek and Tobin Ditch watersheds through Fiscal Year 2018.

Prairie Creek - 051202010601

Total Acres: 15,127
Acres of Cropland: 13,086
Acres of Pastureland: 832
Acres of Forestland: 340

Tobin Ditch - 051202010605

Total Acres: 21,091
Acres of Cropland: 17,341
Acres of Pastureland: 949
Acres of Forestland: 779

The Partners

Big Cicero Joint Drainage Board
Citizens Water
Farm Bureau
Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Hamilton County Surveyors
Indiana Corn Marketing Council
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Indiana Pork
Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)
Tipton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Tipton County Surveyors

More Information

If you would like more information about MRBI, visit the Mississippi River Basin website at:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/in/programs/landscape/?cid=nrcs144p2_031031

If you would like more information about Farm Bill Programs, check out the Indiana NRCS webpage at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/programs/farmbill/>.

For more information about USDA-NRCS program eligibility or applying for a program, please contact your local NRCS office.

Boone and Hamilton County Service Center

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