

DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District



2025 Newsletter

District Updates

In 2024, the district hired two new staff members who are working hard to grow their skill sets and become proficient at assisting DeKalb cooperators in their conservation efforts. Thank you for your patience during this transition period. While waiting on a new USDA building in Maysville, DeKalb SWCD and NRCS staff are working primarily out of the Daviess County office in Gallatin. However, we are happy to meet with cooperators at the temporary office in Maysville by appointment - just give us a call at 816-449-2118 ext. 3. The SWCD will accept cost-share sign-ups by phone until we have a permanent office in DeKalb.

Cover Crop Policy Change

The Soil & Water Conservation Program Commission recently removed the lifetime maximum payment per cooperator and put a \$5,000 annual maximum payment in place. Any cooperator that previously reached the \$20,000 lifetime maximum is eligible to receive cost-share assistance again with the new annual maximum. The commission also removed the two production crop rotation requirement. The practice still has to be applied to cropland where a production row crop is grown. Contact our office as early as June 1st to sign up for cost-share assistance with cover crops next fall.

- \$30 per acre for 1 or 2 species
- \$40 per acre for 3 or more species



Seeding Deadlines

(call to sign up at least 1 week prior to deadline)

September 15: radishes, turnips, canola, kale, vetch, clover

October 15: barley, oats, wheat, annual rye

November 15: cereal rye, triticale

2025 Pond Sign-Up

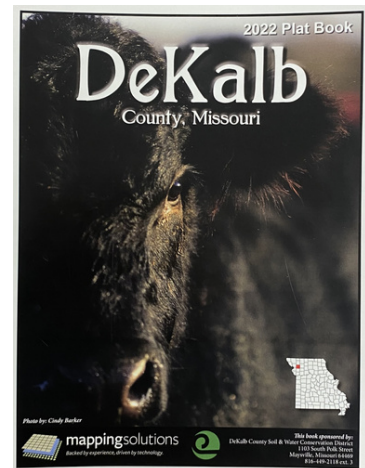
Sign-up for cost-share assistance on water impoundment structures (new construction only) will begin February 3rd and end February 28th. Those interested in a pond must contact the office, fill out a landowner authorization form, and designate two potential pond sites on their farm. At the March board meeting, names will be randomly drawn to establish the order in which landowners will receive cost-share assistance. Landowners may come to the March board meeting to witness the drawing. There is a maximum cost-share amount of \$20,000 per contract. The first five landowners with eligible sites will be funded. Once a contract is board-approved, landowners will have 90 days to start.

Policy Reminder

Sign-up for terraces, diversions, waterways, and seedings begins June 1st each year. All names on the previous year's list are removed and a new list is started. The field must be dozer-ready (fallow or crops harvested) to be eligible for sign-up. The landowner or a representative must contact the office, complete necessary forms and designate tract/field numbers.

Summary of Funds Provided to Landowners:	FY2024	\$493,455
	FY2023	\$335,333
	FY2022	\$530,011
	FY2021	\$476,593
	FY2020	\$627,592

1/2 off 2022 Plat Books!



We have several 2022 plat books still available, now for only \$20.

Call us if you would like one. 2025 plat books will be available through the county clerk's office.

NRCS Programs

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers take their conservation efforts to the next level. CSP is designed to reward producers who are already doing conservation on their operation, while also incentivizing them to adopt additional conservation activities that go above and beyond regular NRCS Standards. CSP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however NRCS established application “cut-off” or submission deadline dates for evaluation, ranking and approval of eligible applications. CSP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and submitted applications may be considered or evaluated in multiple funding pool opportunities.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

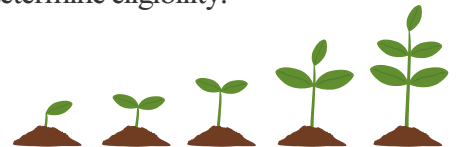
EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land. EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however NRCS establishes application “cut-off” or submission deadline dates for evaluation, ranking and approval of eligible applications. EQIP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and submitted applications may be considered or evaluated in multiple funding pool opportunities. The available fund pools for financial assistance through EQIP are:

- Cropland
- Pasture/Hayland
- High Tunnel Initiative
- On-Farm Energy Initiative
- Organic Initiative
- Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project
- Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)



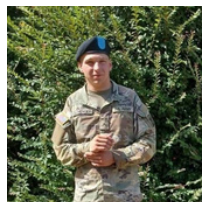
If you are interested in EQIP or CSP, please call 816-449-2118 ext. 3 to speak with Megan, NRCS Soil Conservationist, and she will be happy to answer any questions and work with you to determine eligibility.

District Staff



Sara Gillette sara.gillette@swcd.mo.gov

The district welcomed Sara in March of 2024. She grew up in DeKalb County, then moved to Kansas City where she worked in animal welfare for many years before returning to the area. She loves animals, helping people, poetry, ecology and hiking with her dog, Shirin.



Steven Clevenger steven.clevenger@swcd.mo.gov

Steven joined the district in February of 2024. He is from the Hamilton area and proudly serves in the Army National Guard. He enjoys golfing and is a big Buffalo Bills fan. Steven is excited to work with more landowners as he grows his technical skills.

“For truly, the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, but the responsibility for its stewardship is vested in man.”

-C.W. CREE-



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SWCD Staff

Sara Gillette

District Manager

Steven Clevenger

District Technician

NRCS Assisting Personnel

DJ Engel

Acting District Conservationist

Megan Anderson

Soil Conservationist

Department of Conservation

Mason Hurley

Private Land Conservationist