



## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER Conservation District

# CONSERVATION News

**K3SWCD OFFICE HOURS:**

**M-F 8am—4pm**

**JANUARY 2019 ANNUAL WINTER NEWSLETTER**

685 Larry Power Road  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

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[www.kankakeecountyswcd.org](http://www.kankakeecountyswcd.org)

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John Settle

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Emilie Janes  
*Resource Conservationist*

Linda Settle  
*Administrative Coordinator*

Trenton Rader  
*NRCS District Conservationist*

Regular board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the District office and are open to the public.



## RC Reflections: A Look Back at 2018

*By Emilie Janes, Resource Conservationist (RC)*

2018 was a great year for the Kankakee County Soil & Water Conservation District! Much of my time was spent executing Natural Resource Information (NRI) reports for potential community solar projects. Overall, I completed 48 NRI reports in 2018 for solar projects in Kankakee County. Although many rezoning and special use permits were approved by the county, it is likely that only a small percentage of the solar developments will come to fruition.

In addition to the influx of solar-related responsibilities, the Kankakee County SWCD helped to provide cost-share for 148 acres of cover crops through the Partners for Conservation Fund Program. The District receives dollars from the Illinois Department of Agriculture to allocate to certain conservation practices. For fiscal year 2019, we have received funding to cost-share practices such as strip-till, cover crops, critical area planting, well decommissioning, and more! Keep an eye out for more information on our cost-share opportunities as the year progresses.

In 2018, our District was excited to invest more time and energy into educational outreach in the community! I find joy in sharing my love for healthy soils, water,

native plants, insects, and other natural wonders that deserve our care and attention. I spent time during the summer at Heldt Park Outdoor Classroom in Grant Park, teaching kids and their families about our native plants, pollinators, and composting. In March our District taught the importance of soil health and clean rivers to more than 1,200 4th graders at the Kankakee County Farm Bureau's annual "Kids Day at the Farm" event. I also enjoyed teaching a day-long entomology workshop for Master Gardeners, hosting a Pond Management

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## RC Reflections: A Look Back at 2018

*Continued from page 1*

Seminar with the IDNR, a Drainage District meeting with the IADD, co-hosting the FFA Soil Judging competition with Iroquois County SWCD, and presenting on pollinators and agriculture at the Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom "Flavors of Ag" event!

With a few new projects in the works, we are looking forward to furthering agriculture and conservation education in the county. Currently I'm working on putting together 'Conservation Kits', equipment bundles that educators within Kankakee County can apply to receive for their classroom.

In 2018 I had the privilege to work with many different groups and organizations to further the protection and management of Kankakee County's natural resources. In 2019 our District will continue to strengthen existing relationships and form new collaborative partnerships with like-minded organizations. Thank you to the NRCS, Kankakee County Farm Bureau, Pheasants Forever, U of I Extension, Limestone Park District, Illinois Native Plant Society, Delta Institute, Illinois Association of Drainage Districts, ONU, KCC, surrounding Soil & Water Conservation Districts, our sponsors, and many more for your time, wisdom, and invaluable relationships!

March 1st of this year will mark my two-year anniversary as the District's Resource Conservationist. 2018 was a year that I stepped out of my comfort zone and experienced a lot of professional growth with the Soil & Water Conservation District. Although I'm still

settling into the position and will *always* have more to learn, I feel that I'm starting to hit my stride, bringing new ideas to the table and strengthening our District with my passion for conservation, education, and the community. I'm looking forward to you, 2019!



**Emilie Janes, Resource Conservationist**  
**[Emilie.Janes@il.nacdnet.net](mailto:Emilie.Janes@il.nacdnet.net)**

## A Message From the Chairman

*By Jeff O'Connor*

I am yet to determine whether it's a privilege to write for our newsletter, or a sentence for holding the office of Chairman. What I am sure of is that this time of year has an unjust amount of influence over my thoughts. Winter time, the supposed "off" season for farmers, lends two opportunities that greatly influence my daily thinking, "meeting season" and "past decisions". Individually, each could fill any given day with mental activity. Combined, they will not disappoint in their ability to mix together past success and failure, with future goals and challenges. I spend all the time required to make the most of the opportunities they present, however, I'm already looking forward to spring.

The Meeting Season. I truly enjoy most of the time I spend at meetings. The benefits of gathering different perspectives about Midwestern or US agriculture can have quite an impact, if you let them. Based off the meetings I have attended, the frontrunner for word of the year in agriculture is "sustainability". However, when I say this, I am referencing it from the top down instead of the more typical bottom up. In my opinion, top down sustainability suggests that the actions being called for are led by the needs of the consumer.

Whether it has been the Global Sustainability Lead from McDonald's or the Sustainability Officer from ADM and Cargill, they are all saying the same thing, that consumers and Board rooms are all calling for



## A Message From the Chairman

*Continued from page 2*

sustainability measures. In one shape or another Walmart is calling for it, venture capitalists are building around it, and Ag land investment companies are asking for it. Most of it inevitably leads back to one place, the farmer and the relationship with the soil on the land he cares for. I've come to respect that I need to pay attention to this overall shift.

So where do "I" draw my encouragement from in the face of these surmounting outside pressures? Science! In what still seems like a short career in farming, I have never seen so much scientific data supporting the cultural and mechanical changes in conservation farming methods. From a broader sense, our soil has been found to be at its' most productive when in a state more closely relating to the original prairie. I'm not calling for a return to prairie, however, the less we repeatedly disturb the soil, and increase cover crop usage, the more it will support our activities to produce abundantly and profitably. Let's not have farmers become the last group to identify the importance of sustainability efforts in today's society.

Trying to point to definitive lasting conservation efforts in agriculture has always been like hitting a moving target. The "needs" of the land have remained the same, but the efforts undertaken to help the land have changed with advancements in knowledge, technology and equipment. Of the three, the easiest to acquire is knowledge. Meetings are held throughout the winter, and around the state, to address the latest findings related to conservation measures. In the very least, attend one meeting or read one article relating to current soil related conservation trends. The challenge will be in doing so with an open mind. If the K3SWCD can ever be of assistance, please call or stop by the office. Have a great winter!

**Jeff O'Connor, District Chairman**  
ocfarms@gmail.com



## NRCS Annual Report

*By Trenton Rader, District Conservationist*

2018 was a good year for the NRCS in regards to quality conservation projects being implemented throughout Kankakee County. There was some uncertainty among agricultural producers and NRCS regarding conservation programs being offered in the new Farm Bill. Thankfully, the 2018 Farm Bill has solidified the USDA's focus on providing funds to producers for conservation practices. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) as well as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) were both included in the final version of the Farm Bill. This means that funds will continue to be available for farmers for implementing important conservation measures on their land. I urge all farmers interested in doing these types of projects to contact NRCS to see if any of our programs are suitable.

**Trenton Rader, District Conservationist**  
(815) 937-8940 ext. 3  
Trenton.Rader@il.usda.gov



## Kankakee County Farm Bureau Report

*By Chad Miller, Farm Bureau Manager*

Crop production in Kankakee County for the 2018 growing season was another one full of surprises. Farm land that consistently produced some of the better crops in the area was outperformed by farm ground considered to be more marginal. The localized drought that much of Kankakee County experienced during July and August decreased yields in some areas by up to 25% in the southwest part of the county. A few pockets of the county were fortunate to have caught some timely rains which bumped up yields. Farmers in the Manteno area who caught this beneficial precipitation reported that in 2018 they had some of the best soybeans they've raised. The dry weather meant that most farmers did not have to spend a lot of time or money on drying their crops as most corn and soybeans were harvested at moisture levels low enough to go right into storage. Many of the specialty crops grown in our area thrive when they are not sitting in heavy moisture and these crops benefited from the dry summer weather.

The foreign trade disputes which began during the 2018 growing season played havoc with the commodity markets. As a result, corn and soybean prices were below break-even for most farmers. With China being the top buyer of U.S. soybeans, the market prices for that locally produced commodity dropped sharply. The summer drought in Kankakee County meant that for many farmers, low prices were coupled with low yields. The federal government created a market facilitation payment program designed to ease farmers' pain felt by the decreased commodity prices. These payments will help during this challenging farm economy; however, farmers would rather earn their income from the marketplace and not from the government.

There are a few things on the horizon which should help restore demand for our agriculture commodities including the renegotiated NAFTA agreement. Trade discussions with China seem to be moving in a positive direction as well. Also, a new federal farm bill was passed and signed into law which includes many provisions the Farm Bureau fought hard to

maintain such as support for crop insurance, flexibility in revenue safety programs, and keeping conservation dollars and rural development funds in place.

There are many anticipated changes in Illinois with 45 new state legislators being seated in the General Assembly. This gives the opportunity to create many new relationships as well as the opportunity for a lot of education. The Farm Bureau played an important role in Governor Pritzker's transition team with the agriculture community being well represented. The rules and regulations for growing industrial hemp in Illinois are coming together and are eagerly awaited as there is a lot of interest in this crop. Protecting agriculture's interests while the state's elected leaders attempt to improve the state's financial situation will be a top state priority. As always the Farm Bureau will continue to educate our legislators about the importance of having a strong, profitable, and efficient agriculture industry in our state.

The County Farm Bureau continues to monitor the 28 square mile refuge proposed for Kankakee County by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The Farm Bureau strongly supports local conservation and the protection of our natural resources. However, such a massive federal project - nearly 18,000 acres in Kankakee County - could impact our community. This will continue to be a priority issue for the County Farm Bureau.

Other developments that your Kankakee County Farm Bureau is monitoring include wind farm projects and a multitude of solar energy proposals. In Kankakee County, agriculture accounts for almost 17% of the county's economy. When large areas of farmland are removed from production, it could translate into a significant economic loss to our local community. Working with our county officials on these issues is just as critical as working with our state and federal legislators.

*(continued on page 5)*

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# Kankakee County Farm Bureau Report

*Continued from page 4*

The Farm Bureau continues to advocate for “best management practices” on the farm in order to improve the farmer’s bottom line but to also improve our environment. The Kankakee County Farm Bureau renewed its partnership with Heritage FS and Growmark again for 2019 to promote the 4R4U program. These efforts are centered on the importance of the 4 R’s in using crop inputs. The 4 R’s being: using the Right source, at the Right rate, at the Right time, and in the Right place. Thank you to local farmers Clay Abbott and Greg St. Aubin for continuing to be a part of that program which provides education to farmers through their local field trials.

The County Farm Bureau also continues to partner with the local Soil & Water Conservation District in order to protect and improve our natural resources and the habitat for pollinators and wildlife. The Kankakee County Soil & Water Conservation District is a great leader in these efforts and the County Farm Bureau will continue working to support these environmental stewardship initiatives. Farmers and the agriculture community care deeply about air, land, and water. These resources are the foundation of our daily activities, have sustained us for generations, and through careful management will sustain us for generations to come.

Educating youth and the non-farming public about the importance of agriculture is another main focus for the Kankakee County Farm Bureau and is accomplished by working effectively through our many dedicated volunteers. The County Farm Bureau also supports youth education through their Kankakee County Farm Bureau Foundation. To date, the County Farm Bureau Foundation has awarded \$86,500 in agricultural scholarships to Kankakee

County students. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Kankakee County Farm Bureau Foundation to support the Ag in the Classroom program and the educational scholarship program. Your financial contributions are important to allow this educational support to continue and to grow.

Organized in 1912, the Kankakee County Farm Bureau has a rich heritage of working on behalf of agriculture and our farming community. Our County Farm Bureau is governed by 17 local farmers and we pride ourselves as being accessible and responsive to comments and suggestions from our membership. We had a strong year in 2018 and we have a great deal of work ahead of us in 2019 in protecting our agriculture industry, private property rights, our rural communities, and our natural resources. Please let us know if we can improve our service to you and your farm family. We appreciate your membership support.

**Chad Miller, Manager**  
(815) 932-7471  
kankfb@sbcglobal.net



# 2019 Native Plant Sale

*By: Emilie Janes*

In addition to our semi-annual tree and shrub sale, this year the District will be having a spring native plant sale! Why give natives a try? Native plants have advantages over non-native species that will benefit you, your landscape, and your pollinator friends. Additionally, Illinois native plants bring the “Three Bs”: **B**irds, **B**utterflies, and **B**eauty, to your property!

Native plants are those that occur naturally and have existed in an area for many years without human introduction. Because they have established natural populations over a long period of time, native plants are adapted to a specific region’s climate. A plant that is specifically adapted to Kankakee County will do much better than an introduced or exotic species! Many native plants can thrive in difficult locations and are drought tolerant once established.

Plants native to Kankakee County are an integral part of our ecosystem, and have formed close, beneficial relationships with insects, birds, and other wildlife. Native plants provide food, shelter, and nesting material for birds. Goldfinches flock to Purple Coneflowers to feed on their seeds, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will visit natives like Royal Catchfly and Prairie Blazing Star to refuel on the go! Planting a portion of native prairie on your property can give many grassland birds a place to feed and nest.

Important pollinator species such as bumble bees, honey bees, and butterflies have special relationships with native plants that benefit both the insect and the plant. The insect will land on a flower for a quick bite to eat, and then take off to visit another flower. Once that insect lands on another flower of the same species, it will drop some of the pollen from its previous visit, pollinating the plant and allowing for the production of seeds. One in three bites of food we eat relies upon pollinator species!

Butterfly species enjoy feeding on nectar from native plants, and also rely on natives as “host plants” to provide food for their larvae (caterpillars). Native

plants and insects have evolved together over a very long time. As a result, important relationships have formed between specific insect and native plant species. Monarch caterpillars, for example, have adapted to overcome a variety of obstacles that milkweed plants use as defense: a dense layer of plant “hairs” (trichomes) on leaves, sticky white latex, and toxic chemicals. Because Monarch caterpillars have overcome these obstacles, they have tapped into a food source free from the competition of other insect larvae. Native milkweed species are critical to the survival of Monarch butterflies!

Unfortunately, due to the decrease in native habitat, many butterfly and bee species are in trouble. Urbanization creates habitat fragmentation and transforms the native landscape into a green monoculture of manicured lawns. Monarch populations have steadily declined since the 90s, and more bumble bee species are finding their way to the threatened and endangered species lists. By planting native plants, you can provide critical habitat for our pollinator species. It is suggested that you plant natives in groups to help butterflies and bees find the flowers more easily.

The District is offering 32 species of flowering plants and 4 species of grasses for pre-order. We ask that you submit your order by **Friday, March 29th** to ensure availability. Plants will be available for pick-up on **Saturday, June 1st from 9am-1pm** at the Kankakee County Soil & Water Conservation District Office at 685 Larry Power Road in Bourbonnais.

We hope you will give natives a try! If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Emilie at (815) 937-8940 ext. 3 or email at [Emilie.Janes@il.nacdn.net](mailto:Emilie.Janes@il.nacdn.net). Species information and order forms can be found on our website at [www.kankakeecountyswcd.org](http://www.kankakeecountyswcd.org).



*Left to Right: Monarch butterfly on Common Milkweed. Silver-spotted skipper on Showy Goldenrod. Honey bee on Swamp Milkweed. Photos taken in CP-42 pollinator habitat fields in Kankakee County.*

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## Cost-Share for Conservation

**Kankakee County SWCD Cost-Share:** For conservation farming practices such as cover crops, strip till, critical area planting, well decommissioning and more.

Funds are made available through the IDOA Partners for Conservation Cost-Share Program to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality and nutrient management. Practices that Kankakee County SWCD will cost-share include cover crops, strip till, critical area planting, well decommissioning, and more. All owners and operators of land in Kankakee County are eligible to apply. More information and applications for 2019 cost-share will be available in the coming months—please call if you would be interested in receiving cost-share information as it is released. (815) 937-8940 ext. 3

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program:** For habitat restoration such as prairie/wetland restoration and timber stand improvement.

The PFW program was established in 1987 to assist individual landowners, organizations, municipalities, and corporations in improving fish and wildlife habitat on their private lands and waters. Any land that is not state or federally owned may be eligible for a habitat restoration project, such as wetland and prairie restorations. The program provides financial assistance, technical assistance, and custom restoration and management plans tailored to your specific restoration goals! Bring wildlife back to your land with the PFW program!

**IDNR Habitat Funds Grant Program:** For establishment/maintenance of CRP (planting, strip disking, inter-seeding, spraying, prescribed burns) and invasive species control.

The Quail and Upland Game Alliance (QUGA) is partnering with SWCDs to help landowners and producers by providing financial assistance for the following: native grass/forb plantings on regular CRP acres, and invasive species control, legume/forb inter-seeding, strip spraying, and prescribed burns on CRP or non-CRP acres. Approval is based upon funding availability and requires a 25% matching fund.

*For questions and more information on any cost-share program mentioned above, call Emilie at the K3SWCD office: (815) 937-8940 ext. 3.*



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## Conservation Kits: Equipment for Educators

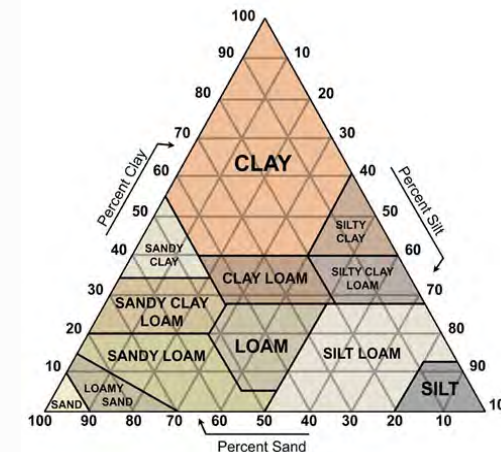
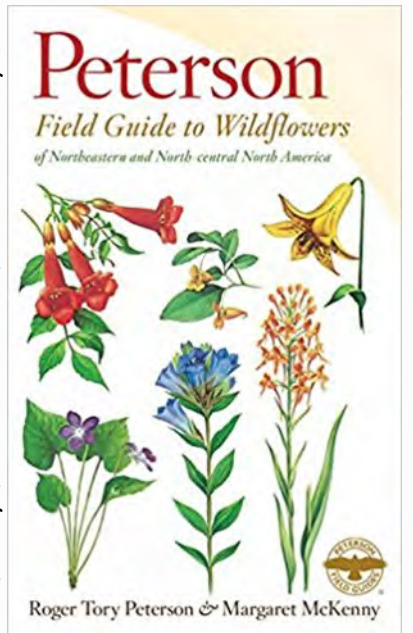
By Emilie Janes

Kankakee County SWCD is offering a limited number of equipment bundles to educators in the county. All educators that teach within Kankakee County are eligible to apply to receive one of the following 'Conservation Kits' of their choice:

**Soil Health kit, Water Quality & Bioindicators kit, Native Trees & Wildflowers Herbarium kit, or Insect Collection kit**

The equipment provided is best suited for junior high or high school science courses. Educators teaching at public schools, private schools, or for homeschool co-ops are encouraged to apply. In addition to being awarded a Conservation Kit of their choice, the educator will receive hands-on training and resources to use the equipment inside the classroom and out in the field. The District will work with the educator to create a conservation-related activity that utilizes the equipment and fits within the teacher's curriculum. A District employee will travel to the classroom during the 2019-2020 school year to perform the classroom activity with the students. It is also an option for the educator to "opt outdoors" for an additional hands-on workshop outside of the classroom!

For kit contents and application information, please give us a call or visit our website at [www.kankakeecountyswcd.org](http://www.kankakeecountyswcd.org). Applications will be due on Friday, May 3, 2019.



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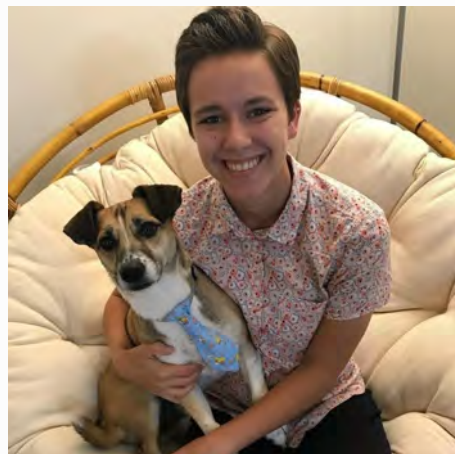


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## Spring Intern: Welcome, Crystal Sauder!

I'd like to give a warm welcome to our spring intern, Crystal Sauder! Crystal is finishing up her senior year at Olivet Nazarene University where she majors in Zoology. Growing up on her family's farm in Woodford County has influenced her passion for agriculture and educating others about conservation efforts. After she graduates, Crystal wants to work with and conserve animal populations.

This spring, Crystal will help our District with educational outreach, organizing events, executing our tree, fish, and native plant sales, and keeping up with our website. When she's not working at Soil & Water or studying for Vertebrate Zoology class, Crystal enjoys insect collecting with her friends, hiking with her pup, Ducky, and sewing/quilting. We are excited to have you on board this spring, Crystal!



## Summer Intern: Catching up with Katlyn

I had the chance to catch up with Katlyn Post, our 2018 summer intern, to see how she's doing! Katlyn is currently a senior at Illinois State University majoring in Agricultural Education. When Katlyn was our intern last summer, she led our Conservation Survey project, spending time with farmers in the county gathering information on tillage practices, nutrient application, cover crop use, and their involvement in other conservation programs and practices. The information that Katlyn compiled will be used to help find locations in the county where our District can make an impact through cost-share, programs, and events!

This semester, Katlyn is finishing up her ag education degree with student teaching at Flanagan-Cornell High School. She is teaching two Intro to Ag classes, Ag Science, Ag Business, Horticulture I and II, and Ag Mechanics! She will also be helping to lead the FFA chapter there, preparing for contests, organizing events, and more. Read an article about Katlyn's experiences student teaching [here!](#)

Katlyn will graduate in May after student teaching. She plans to teach high school ag, with a long-term goal of working for Farm Bureau or the Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE), implementing and improving ag education in schools across the state. We are so proud of you Katlyn, and we look forward to seeing the great things you'll do in the future for agriculture and conservation!



Katlyn (left) prepares a new shipment of plants with ag students at the FCHS greenhouse. Photo by Luke Smucker.

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## Calendar of Events

Visit [www.kankakeecountyswcd.org](http://www.kankakeecountyswcd.org) to view our online calendar and learn more about the following events! You can find tree, fish, and native plant sale order forms on our website as well.

- Mar 14** Native plant program with IL Native Plant Society, time TBD
- Mar 21** Native plant program with IL Native Plant Society, time TBD
- Mar 20** Day 1: Farm Bureau's Annual Kids Day at the Farm Event, 10am-2pm
- Mar 21** Day 2: Farm Bureau's Annual Kids Day at the Farm Event, 10am-2pm
- Mar 25** Spring pond stocking grass carp permit deadline
- Mar 29** Native plant sale order deadline
- Apr 1** Spring pond stocking order deadline
- Apr 8** Tree & shrub order deadline
- Apr 12** **Pond stocking order pick-up** 7am @ office
- Apr 19** **Tree & shrub order pick-up** 7:30am-3pm @ office
- Apr 22** Earth Day!
- May 3** Conservation Kit equipment applications due
- June 1** **Native plant sale pick-up** 9am-1pm @ office

Regular Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the district office, and are open to the public. For updated information about Board Meeting times, please visit our website.

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# Kankakee County SWCD Seventy-First Annual Meeting

February 12, 2018

The seventy-first Annual Meeting of the Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Bourbonnais with 12 people present.

Chairman Jeff O'Connor opened the business portion of the Annual Meeting at 7:30 A.M. Board members and staff present: Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller, Tim McCorkle and David Peters, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

The agenda was presented; a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Larry Kirchner and seconded by John Settle.

Linda Settle reported the minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting were published in the Annual Report. A motion was made by Alan Wissmiller to approve the minutes as printed; it was seconded by Jeff O'Connor. Motion passed.

Linda Settle reported the financial statement was published in the Annual Report. A motion was made by Larry Kirchner to approve the report as printed; it was seconded by Jeff O'Connor. Motion passed.

Jeff O'Connor reported for the nominating committee and presented the names of Larry Kirchner of Salina Township, Alan Wissmiller of Limestone Township and David Peters of Manteno Township in nomination for 2-year terms each. He then asked for nominations from the floor and when none, were received he moved to accept the nominated candidates as duly elected, it was seconded by Tim McCorkle. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alan Wissmiller and seconded by Tim McCorkle to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 A.M.

## Annual Report FY 2018

6/30/2018

### INCOME

State of Illinois	\$ 37,810.26
CPP	\$ 4,500.00
NRCS Admin	\$ 5,848.26
NRCS CRP	\$ 300.00
Newsletter Ads	\$ 1,315.00
Sales	\$ 66,471.80
NRI Production	\$ 34,897.00
E & SC Plans	\$ -
Interest	\$ 235.04

Total Income \$ 151,377.36

### EXPENSES

Staff	\$ 36,827.51
Promotional Activities	\$ 746.17
Sales	\$ 68,212.25
Travel and Training	\$ 1,729.85
Office Operations	\$ 2,146.20
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 20.00
Insurance	\$ 292.40

Total Expense \$ 109,974.38

NET INCOME \$ 41,402.98

# 2018 Highlights

## Kids Day at the Farm



Kankakee County SWCD presented on soil health and water quality! 4th graders from all over the county helped follow a recipe to create healthy soil, learning about its components along the way. Yum!

## Farm Bureau "Food Evolution" Panel Discussion



District Chairman, Jeff O'Connor, served on a post-film panel following the well-attended showing of the movie "Food Evolution". The panel consisted of many knowledgeable members, including a professor of physiology and a dietician. Jeff discussed his experience farming both GMO and non-GMO crops, and answered many questions from the audience!

## Heldt Park Outdoor Classroom



District RC, Emilie Janes, visited Heldt Park throughout the summer to teach kids and their families about protecting our native plants and pollinators, distinguishing between bees and wasps, composting, and more! The Kankakee County SWCD donated a tumbling composter to Heldt Park. Kids and their families will be able to bring their food scraps and other compostable items to the park to create nutrient-rich compost for the outdoor classroom's butterfly garden! Heldt Park, located in Grant Park, is a great location for outdoor learning and imagination!

For plant and wildlife identification, teaching resources, citizen science opportunities, K3SWCD lesson plans and presentations, and more educational resources, visit our website at [www.kankakeecountyswcd.org](http://www.kankakeecountyswcd.org) and navigate to our "Education and Environment" tab!



Kankakee River Sampling

Kankakee County SWCD assisted Kevin Culver, Midwest Regional Environmental Compliance Manager for Aqua Illinois, with the RiverWatch program sampling along the Kankakee River. We spent time collecting, counting, and recording snails, mollusks, insects, insect larvae, and other



species. These creepy crawlies are considered bioindicators, organisms that are used as an indicator of ecosystem health. We are fortunate to have a healthy river in our county!

FFA Soil Judging Contest



On September 26th, Kankakee and Iroquois County SWCDs co-hosted the 2018 FFA Soil Judging Competition. Cissna Park, Iroquois West, Tri Point, and Dwight FFA chapters participated in the competition, with around 50 total students attending. Teams assessed soil characteristics such as topsoil, subsoil, parent material, color, and texture. Congratulations to Cissna Park FFA for placing first overall! A very big thank you to our sponsor, **Wepprecht Drainage Inc.** for volunteering to dig our soil pits for the competition! We appreciate your support!

BBPD Scarecrow Contest



Emilie, RC, created a scarecrow that was on display to the public throughout October and November at Perry Farm! Our scarecrow theme was “Bee a Friend to Pollinators!”

Planting & Harvest

We had successful planting and a fruitful harvest, with some producers in Kankakee County reporting the best soybean yields they’ve ever had!



KANKAKEE COUNTY SWCD  
SPRING POND STOCKING SALE  
DELIVERY DATE April 12, 2019  
7:00AM

Order # \_\_\_\_\_

Species	Size	Qty	Each	Total
Channel Catfish	4"-6"		\$0.75	
	6"-8"		\$1.00	
	*8"-10"		\$1.25	
	* requires pond water			
Albino Catfish	4"-6"		\$1.65	
Hybrid Sunfish	1"-2" (250/bag)		\$80.00/bag	
	3"-5"		\$1.00	
	5"-7"		\$1.60	
Largemouth Bass	2"-3"		\$1.00	
	5"-8"		\$3.00	
Crappie	2"-3" (100/bag)		\$75.00/bag	
Straight Bluegill	1"-2" (250/bag)		\$80.00/bag	
	3"-5"		\$0.95	
Red Ear	1"-2" (250/bag)		\$80.00/bag	
Triploid Grass Carp	8"-11"		\$13.00	
Fathead Minnows	150 per lb.		\$13.00/LB.	

POND DELIVERY CHARGE \$100.00 PER DELIVERY 1000 FISH MINIMUM OR 250 POUNDS OF CATFISH

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Orders must be accompanied by payment in full. Triploid Grass Carp must be ordered by noon on Monday, March 25, 2019. All other orders and payments must be received in the office on or before noon Monday, April 1, 2019. Fish will be delivered on Friday, April 12, 2019 at 7:00AM at the SWCD office. If ordering Grass Carp, the following information is needed for the permit:

Pond Located in \_\_\_\_\_ County. Pond size \_\_\_\_\_ acres.

Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

All sizes are as stated by the fishery. All fish are guaranteed to be delivered live and in good condition. Fishery guarantees to replace for the FIRST TWO WEEKS. Fish will be replaced at next sale delivery. KANKAKEE COUNTY SWCD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE. For more information or additional order forms contact Kankakee County SWCD 685 Larry Power Rd. Bourbonnais, IL 60914 or phone (815) 937-8940 ext. 3.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



**Large container grown whips, with some branching**

Trees are ~ 4' and delivered in a 5 gallon container.

Birch	Price	Quantity	Total
River - Clump	\$45		
Whitespire - Clump	\$45		
Whitespire - Single-Stem	\$45		
Crabapple			
Prairiefire	\$45		
Hackberry	\$45		
American Hornbeam	\$45		
Kentucky Coffeetree	\$45		
Maple			
Autumn Blaze*	\$45		
Sienna Glen	\$45		
Oak			
Northern Red	\$45		
Swamp White	\$45		
White	\$45		
Ohio Buckeye	\$45		
American Redbud	\$45		
Tulip Tree	\$45		
Total			\$

**Small container grown trees**

Trees are between 12-18" unless noted, and are delivered in a 1 gallon container.

American Redbud	\$8		
Mazzard Cherry*	\$8		
Common Hackberry, 24-30"	\$8		
American Hazelnut	\$8		
American Hornbeam, 24-30"	\$8		
Kentucky Coffeetree	\$8		
Fall Red Maple	\$8		
Swamp White Oak	\$8		
Laevis Serviceberry, 24-30"	\$8		
Black Walnut	\$8		
Total			\$

**Container grown hedge plants**

Shrubs are between 12 and 24" unless noted, and are delivered in a 1 gallon container

	Price	Quantity	Total
Nanking Cherry	\$8		
Bailey's Red Osier Dogwood	\$8		
Common Purple Lilac	\$8		
Lamarcki Serviceberry	\$8		
Glabra Smooth Sumac	\$8		
Viburnum, Chicago Lustre	\$8		
Viburnum, Mohican	\$8		
Viburnum, Nannyberry	\$8		
Total			\$

**Container grown evergreens**

Trees are 10"-18" tall, and delivered in a 1 gallon container.

Concolor Fir	\$8		
Eastern White Pine	\$8		
Spruce			
Black Hills	\$8		
Colorado*	\$8		
Norway	\$8		
Total			\$

**Order Deadline: Monday, April 8, 2019 Order****Pick-up: Friday, April 19, 7:30am-3:00pm****685 Larry Power Rd, Bourbonnais**

*The District cannot accept responsibility for size and variability. Sizes and descriptions are as stated by the nursery. Trees and shrubs are for conservation purposes.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Total  
50% down (non-refundable)  
Amount Paid  
Amount Due  
Check # or Cash

\$
\$
\$
\$

Please make checks payable to:

Kankakee County SWCD  
685 Larry Power Rd.  
Bourbonnais, IL 6914

\*Trees highlighted in blue require wet-mesic soils.

\*Plants highlighted in yellow are suitable for residential use only.

\*Colorado Spruce is short-lived (~35 years) in this area.

**Our Mission** at the Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide leadership and coordinate programs focusing technical, financial and educational assistance to help the landowner and the public protect, preserve and enhance our natural resources.

<http://www.kankakeecountyswcd.org/>