



CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water
Conservation District Newsletter

SEPT 2021 | VOL 1 ISSUE 3



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New Urban Initiatives Coming Soon!

Here at the Montgomery County Soil and Water District, we are trying to diversify and expand our audience within the county by creating an Urban Initiatives Program! Our new Program Coordinator, Megan Sweeney, will be in charge of these efforts.

This program's main audience will be anyone living within Montgomery County who gardens in a community garden or your backyard, urban and small-scale farmers along with anyone who owns or manages a lawn. The main goal for the program is to address water and soil issues within these areas of the county through various conservation techniques. You may even be using some of these techniques without knowing it. Some of them include composting, the use of rain gardens and rain barrels, cover crops, no or low till, and mulching within the garden space.

We are interested in learning what conservation techniques the residents of Montgomery County already use and what they would like to learn more about. If you want to help inform our programming please take the survey here:

**<https://bit.ly/3mWOuYd> or call 765- 362-0405
ext. 121.**

Introducing our New Program Coordinator!

Megan Sweeney is our new Program Coordinator here at the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District! She began in late August 2021. Megan will be continuing the projects and events that Kristen began when she was in the position. These will include the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) and planning events with Women4theland. Megan will also focus on new resources and events for urban conservation, social media for the district, and other conservation related events for all ages.

Megan attended Ohio University and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology. During this time she conducted research on the effects of pesticides on wood frogs. Over the past year, Megan served as an AmeriCorps member with Green Iowa AmeriCorps. In this position she worked alongside Practical Farmers of Iowa educating farmers and landowners on how to create more resilient farms and communities.

If you want to reach out to Megan with questions about future events or sources of technical and financial assistance for natural resource conservation, feel free to email her at msweeney@montgomerycoswcd.com or call 765- 362-0405 extension 121.

Welcome to the team Megan!



Thank you 2021 sponsors!

We would not be able to do what we do without the support of our generous sponsors!

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Photo courtesy of Friends of Sugar Creek

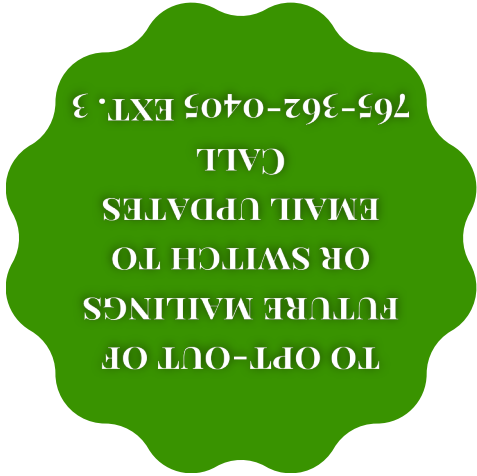
River Friendly Farmer Award Given to Cains Farms Inc.

We are very excited to announce that Cains Farms Inc. has been awarded IASWCD's River Friendly Farmer Award for 2021! This statewide award program started in 1999 to recognize farmers who help keep Indiana's rivers, lakes, and streams clean through good management practices.

Zach Cain accepted the award on behalf of Cains Farms Inc. at the Indiana State Fair on August 18th. Cains Farms Inc. produces corn and soybeans along with some wheat. They have installed several filter strips to prevent surface water run off from entering waterways. Practicing no-till has benefitted their land during large rain events as the water infiltrates at a higher rate. Approximately 100 acres of their land was put into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with several acres specifically focused on protecting quail and pheasant habitat. They contribute greatly to the district's education efforts by hosting 4th grade field days every year. We appreciate the great things they do for the district and for the environment!

If you know a Montgomery County Farmer that would be a good candidate for the River Friendly Farmer Award feel free to contact us via email at mcswd@montgomerycoswcd.com or call 765-362-0405 extension 3. We can nominate up to two farmers per year.





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Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- **October 11th:** SWCD, NRCS, and FSA offices closed
- **October 20th:** Weed Wrangle 3-5pm Rock River Ridge Road Trailhead
- **November 3rd:** Women 4 the Land Learning Circle at Starkey Farms in Brownsburg
- **November 11th:** SWCD, NRCS, and FSA offices closed
- **November 25-26th:** SWCD, NRCS, and FSA offices closed

Attention Women Landowners!

What: Women 4 the Land Learning Circle
Who: Women landowners and producers in Montgomery, Hendricks, and surrounding counties
When: Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021
Where: Starkey Farms in Brownsburg
Cost: FREE!
Why: Learn about water quality on a local farm, get the resources you need to improve water quality or to solve issues on your own land, meet other women producers in the area, and make lasting connections!

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3AlF5gL>