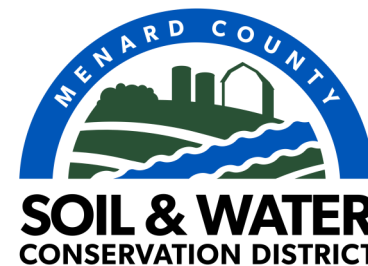


MENARD COUNTY SWCD

Menard County Soil & Water Conservation District
103 Centre Drive Petersburg, IL 62675 ~ (217) 632-2431 ext. 110



Winter/Spring 2024



It is the belief of this organization that the Menard County Soil & Water Conservation District is to be the respected leader in education and motivating those innovators who conserve our natural resources for the present and future generations.

(above) Pictured is Staab Farms cover crop/food plot mixture of clover, grains, buckwheat and brassicas.

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Save paper and receive this newsletter electronically!
Email menardswcd@gmail.com with "Newsletter" in the subject line.
This newsletter is also available on our website, www.menardcountyswcd.com

We have 2022 Plat Books for sale in our office! \$30 for each Plat Book



The Web Soil Survey provides agricultural producers, agencies, Technical Service Providers, and others electronic access to relevant soil and related information needed to make land-use and management decisions.
To use, visit the website to the left and click the green "Start WSS" button.

Sponsorships



- 2 Newsletters per year
- Reaching over 300 landowners and operators in Menard County each time
- Newsletters will be presented on our website with unlimited access

For more questions about becoming a sponsor, please email menardswcd@gmail.com

5 Steps to Assistance
How to Get Assistance from NRCS for Farms, Ranches and Forests

- 1 PLANNING**
Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.
- 2 APPLICATION**
With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.
- 3 ELIGIBILITY**
Find out if you're eligible for NRCS' variety of financial assistance programs.
- 4 RANKING**
NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.
- 5 IMPLEMENTING**
Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

Office Staff



(left to right) Samantha Holliday, Katie Rebbe

Menard County SWCD Staff

Samantha Holliday, Administrative Coordinator
VACANT, Resource Conservationist

NRCS Field Office Staff
VACANT, Soil Conservationist

NRCS Area Office Staff
Katie Rebbe, Engineer
Andrew Fulton, District Conservationist

Menard County SWCD Directors

George Staab, Chairman
Kenton Bell, Vice Chairman
John Lyons, Secretary/ Treasurer
David Dowell/ Director
Ryan Todd/Director



Left to right (Nat Bacon, Sammy Smith, Jared Whitcomb, Lindsey Norvell)

FSA Office

Nat Bacon, County Executive Director
Lindsey Norvell, Program Technician
Jared Whitcomb, Program Technician
Sammy Smith, Program Technician

Field Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Appointments are encouraged,
as staff are often in the field.

Menard County SWCD offers all programs and services without regard to color, nationality, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability or political beliefs. Menard County SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.



Menard County SWCD Calendar

USDA BUILDING SCHEDULE

January 1 Closed – New Year’s Day
January 15 Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 11 Closed– Washington’s Birthday
February 12 Closed- Lincoln’s Birthday
February 19 Closed– Presidents’ Day
May 27 Closed– Memorial Day
June 19 Closed– Juneteenth
July 4 Closed– Independence Day
September 2 Closed– Labor Day
October 14 Closed– Columbus Days

November 5 Closed– Election Day
November 11 Closed– Veterans Day
November 28 Closed– Thanksgiving Day
November 29 Closed– The day after Thanksgiving
December 25 Closed– Christmas

IMPORTANT DATES

January 31 Open House/Election of Directors 7 a.m.—5:30 p.m.
February 12 Deadline for Tree Sale
March 20 Deadline for Fish Sale
April 4 Fish must be picked up @ 11am
April 5 Trees must be picked up @ 11am
April 15 Deadline for Native Plant Sale
June 4 Native Plant Pickup @ 11am



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

The Menard County SWCD board will have an election of directors at an Open House on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 for three positions to be filled starting March 1, 2024.

Any landowner or occupier of land in Menard County, age 18 or older, may vote. Elections will take place at the USDA Service Center from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

**Open House & Director Election
January 31, 2023**

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Land Improvement Contractor and Landowner Seminar
Streambank Stabilization**

Join us at 8 a.m. on Thurs., Feb. 15th, 2024 at the Knox Agri Center Conference Room, 180 S. Soangetaha Road, Galesburg

to learn about the various practices utilized to stabilize streambank erosion and create aquatic habitat at the same time.

- Presenters include;
- Chris Haring, IDOA Stream Specialist
 - Landowner Experience with 2019 & 2023 projects
 - IL LICA updates
 - Kara Downin, Available cost-share programs

Reservations are required by Thurs. Feb. 8th
Breakfast casseroles will be served.

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation for any programs or services should contact (309) 342-5138 ext. 3. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Knox County SWCD and USDA – NRCS are equal opportunity employers and providers.

Thank you!

The Menard County SWCD would like to thank all those that supported the District’s Fish Sale in 2023. We are so excited to finally be offering a Tree and Native Plant sale this year!



We create chemistry

SWCD Accepting Director Nominations

The Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting nominations for three of five Director’s positions, for a two-year term of office.

Elections will be held from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at an Open House and General Election at the SWCD office, 103 Centre Drive Petersburg, IL 62675.

You are eligible to be a Director if you reside in Menard County or own land in Menard County. You must be of legal voting age.

The governing body of the SWCD consists of five elected Directors who shall be owners or occupiers of lands within the District. Their purpose is to carry out, in the public’s interest, the control/prevention of soil erosion, conservation of resources, and prevention of air/water pollution. Directors willingly give of their time to decide what natural resource and agriculture issues need to be addressed in Menard County, what action will be taken, and who is responsible for getting the work done. It is their duty to approve the budget for all funds, approve all payments made by the District, and provide for the annual audit. They have the responsibility for personnel management including job descriptions, performance standards, policies, as well as benefits, while providing direction, motivation, and guidance.

A Director will serve a minimum of a two-year term on the SWCD board, attend monthly board meetings, and participate and serve on committees. SWCD Directors also review, monitor, and supervise the finances, office personnel, and workload of the District; represent the SWCD, as time allows, at local, regional, state and national conservation affiliated events and meetings; and participate, as time allows, in regional and state affiliated organizations.

For more information about the responsibilities, or if you may be interested in running for one of the available positions, please call the office at 217-632-2431 ext. 110.



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(217) 673-4591 - freemansseed@gmail.com

www.freemansseed.com

All orders are supplied with FSA approved paperword and certs



DISASTER ASSISTANCE
Livestock Indemnity Program

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including eligible adverse weather, eligible disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. In addition, LIP provides assistance to eligible livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition.

For more information go to Farm Service Agency's website and go to Programs & Services and then Disaster Assistance Programs.



RIVER BOTTOM TRUCKING

HAULING YOUR LOCAL ROCK AND GRAIN NEEDS

Cell 217-971-6286

17528 German Cemetery Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675

Cook Excavating & Tiling LLC
cookdirtwork@outlook.com

Roy Cook owner/operator
16149 East Oakford Ave
Petersburg IL 62675

Contact Number
217-588-9115



Brian Hughes
Seed Advisor

Kenton Bell: 217-652-5748
Local Dealer

Justin Holliday: 217-361-6229
Local Dealer

M 309.840.3435
14293 CR 3900 E San Jose, IL 62682
brian.hughes@beckshybrids.com

6767 E. 27th St. Atlanta, IN 46031 O 317.984.3508 F 317.984.3500



Cost-Share



Menard County SWCD

Statewide concentrated

sign-up focusing on

these practices

- \$ Cover Crops (NEW plantings)
- \$ No Till / Strip Till
- \$ Conservation Cover / Pollinator Habitat
- \$ Critical Area Planting



Other cost-share opportunities available

If you had previously signed up to be "on the list" for SWCD cost-share projects, you must submit a NEW application during this sign-up period in order to be eligible for current &/or future funding, in accordance with IL Dept of Ag requirements.

For practice information & applications contact:

menardswcd@gmail.com (217)632-2431 ext 3

Menard County Soil & Water Conservation District
103 Centre Drive Petersburg, IL 62675

Menard County SWCD FY2023 Financial Report

	TOTAL	
	JUL 2022 - JUN 2023	JUL 2021 - JUN 2022 (PY)
Income		
418 USDA-NRCS Contr. Agrmnt (deleted)		4,050.00
428 CRP seed rebates (deleted)		2,034.00
CPP - Program Acct.	24,036.23	36,355.90
District Rental Program	1,750.00	12,375.00
District Sales Program	3,596.00	4,145.24
IL Department of Ag Cover Crop Incentive	940.57	
Interest	694.88	207.96
Menard County Grant	6,350.00	3,925.00
Miscellaneous Income	700.00	1,010.11
State II Grant operations	81,958.76	122,680.41
Total Income	\$120,026.44	\$186,783.62
GROSS PROFIT	\$120,026.44	\$186,783.62
Expenses		
Daily Operating Expenses	12,049.32	85,673.44
Directors Expense	1,050.00	
District Equipment	518.22	500.00
District Insurance	8,157.38	3,135.00
District Sales		
Fish	2,876.05	2,597.30
Total District Sales	2,876.05	2,597.30
Dues (deleted)		10.00
Fringe Benefits	8,564.24	5,274.51
Grant Expenditures	23,722.04	10,735.52
Personnel	47,459.00	31,296.00
Training and Education	525.00	
Training Expenses	35.00	380.00
Travel	214.89	
Total Expenses	\$105,171.14	\$139,601.77
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$14,855.30	\$47,181.85
NET INCOME	\$14,855.30	\$47,181.85

Rental Equipment:

- 6ft Great Plains Drill
- 3ft Genesis Drill
- Honda Straw Blower
- Scraper
- Blade
- Brush Puller
- Crary Ditcher
- EZ-Ject Brush Killer
- Drip Torch & Flappers

Check out our website for more information:
www.menardcountyswcd.com

****Want to know if a piece of equipment is being rented? Check out our website where we keep an updated calendar of events****

Equipment must be picked up and returned during office hours!

2024 Spring Plant Sale:

When you order 5" plugs, some of your plants may be in 2.5"W x 3.5"H pots

1 Plug = \$6.00 or 4 for \$20.00

Name _____ Daytime Phone# _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

All orders must be PRE-PAID by either cash or check.

Please make checks payable to **Menard County SWCD**

Mail to: 103 Centre Drive, Petersburg, IL 62675

- **Deadline for ALL ORDERS is Wednesday, April 15th, 2023**

- Plants must be picked up **Tuesday, June 4th 2023 at 11 a.m.** at the SWCD office.

	Number of Plugs (1 plug = 1 Plant):	Total:
New England Aster		
American Bellflower		
Wild Bergamot		
Prairie Blazing Star		
Purple Coneflower		
Missouri Ironweed		
Sweet Joe-Pye-Weed		
Common Milkweed		
Wild Petunia		
Sneezeweed		
Black-Eyed Susan		
Virgin's Bower		
Big Bluestem		
Indian Grass		
Switch Grass		
Canada Wild Rye		

1

2024 Menard County Soil and Water Spring Tree Sale

Species:	Size:	Age:	Cost per Tree:	# of Trees:	Total:
American Plum	18-20"	1-0	\$20.00		
Bur Oak	18-24"	1-0, 2-0	\$20.00		
Pin Oak	12-18"	1-0, 2-0	\$20.00		
Red Osier Dogwood	18-24"	1-0	\$20.00		
Silky Dogwood	18-24"	1-0	\$20.00		
Swamp White Oak	18-24"	1-0, 2-0	\$20.00		
White Flowering Dogwood	18-24"	1-0, 2-0	\$20.00		
White Oak	12-18"	1-0, 2-0	\$20.00		

These plants are for conservation purposes only and shall not be used for ornamental or for landscaping.- SWCD Act

Root Pruned Management Care:

Listed below are a few helpful hints to help ensure the survival of your trees:

- When picking up a potted root pruned tree, transport in a cool covered vehicle.
- Store the trees in a cool area out of direct sunlight or in a cooler if you do not plant them the same day
- Make sure the trees have adequate moisture during storage periods.
- Plant the tree as soon as possible but no later than one week.
- During planting, care must be taken to keep root pruned trees moist, shaded, and protected from the wind.

Bundle Deal: 5 of the same tree for \$90

Name _____ Daytime Phone# _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

All orders must be PRE-PAID by either cash or check.

Please make checks payable to **Menard County SWCD**

Mail to: 103 Centre Drive, Petersburg, IL 62675

- **Deadline for ALL ORDERS is Monday, February 12th, 2024**

- Trees must be picked up **Wednesday, April 5th, 2023 at 11 a.m.** at the SWCD office.



60' long reach excavator and other heavy equipment

ISHMAEL CONSTRUCTION
EXCAVATION, DEMO
SEPTIC, ROCK
ISHMAEL.CONSTRUCTION@ICLOUD.COM
309-543-2231P
217-370-4479C
CHANDLERVILLE, IL

CONSERVATION CROPPING 2024 SEMINARS

Managing your inputs for healthy soils

Attention Illinois Farmers! The annual Conservation Cropping Seminar will be taking place January 21st, 2024 with both virtual and in-person options.

The event will be held from 9am-3:30pm with the in-person attendees meeting at the Illinois Department of Ag Building in Springfield, IL. The in-person event costs only \$25 (lunch included) and the virtual tickets are only \$15.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from the experts and network with other conservation-minded attendees. Register by January 24th at <https://www.ccsxcd.com/conservation-cropping-seminars> to learn more and reserve your spot. In-person spots are limited so sign-up today!

4

Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District

Spring 2024 Fish Sale

Species	Size	Price	Quantity	Item Total
Regular Bluegill	1-3"	\$0.80/ each		
	3-5"	\$1.30/ each		
Hybrid Bluegill	1-3"	\$.80/ each		
	3-5"	\$1.30/ each		
Redear	3-4"	\$1.30/ each		
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$1.00/ each		
	6-8"	\$1.00/ each		
Largemouth Bass	3-4"	\$1.60/ each		
Black Crappie	3-4"	\$1.50/ each		
Fathead Minnows	1-3"	\$12.50 /lb.		
Tripliod Grass Carp	8-11"	\$13.75/ each		
Total				

Name _____ Daytime Phone# _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

*If you order Grass Carp you MUST provide the following information:

(Ex. T18N, R6W, Section 18) Pond Location: Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ Pond size _____ ac.

All orders must be PRE-PAID by either cash or check.
Please make checks payable to **Menard County SWCD**
Mail to: 103 Centre Drive, Petersburg, IL 62675

- Deadline for ALL ORDERS is Friday, March 20th, 2024
- Fish must be picked up Thursday, April 4th, 2023 at 11 a.m. at the SWCD office.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Streamlines Regional Conservation Partnership Program

RCPP Improvements Include:

- Streamlining RCPP agreements for fiscal year 2023 awards and moving one programmatic agreement to begin implementing the RCPP projects awarded under the fiscal year 2024 notice of funding opportunity. This will allow partners to begin quicker implementation of their RCPP projects.
- Entrusting program management and negotiation to the State Conservationists, who lead NRCS programs in each state. This further encourages the locally led process and ensuring the necessary technical needs and costs were realized before project proposal submission.
- Establishing parameters and expectations for easement negotiations, including availability of easement deed templates and established program processes to reduce partnership agreement negotiation and implementation timeframes.
- Improving RCPP guidance and training, ensuring RCPP policies and procedures are communicated in a uniform consistent manner.

For the full list of RCPP improvements Illinois NRCS has identified for future implementation, visit the website!



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Saturday January 27, 2024

8:30 am-5 pm

Presented by CIBA
Central Illinois Beekeepers Association

Registration:

\$100 for members or \$120 for non-members
(Additional family members \$25)

Included with Registration:

Hive tool, Smoker, Book First Lessons in
Beekeeping, Drawings,
CIBA and ISBA membership
(Previous participants with current
CIBA membership \$25)

Event Location:

Bloomington High School
Bloomington IL 61704