Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2026
www.kendallswcd.org

Conservation Connection



The Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is currently accepting orders for our Spring 2026 Fish & Tree Sales. Order forms are included with our newsletter, available on our website at: www.kendallswcd.org, or can be obtained by contacting our office at info@kendallswcd.org or (630) 553-5821 x3.

Fish Sale

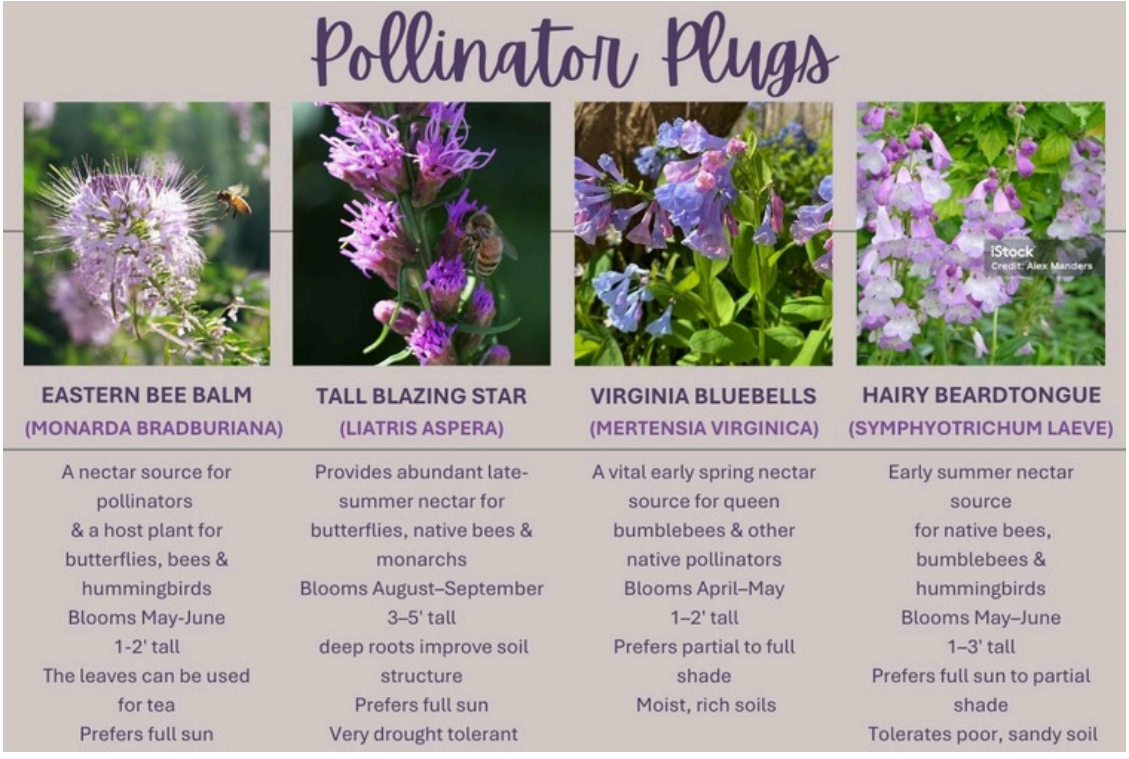


Orders Due:
Triploid Permits: Wednesday, April 1st
All other fish orders: Wednesday, April 8th
Fish Pick-up: Wednesday, April 15th at 11:00 am
Kendall SWCD office

Tree Sale



Orders Due: Thursday, April 16th
Tree Pick-up: Thursday, April 23th from 12 noon-4pm
Kendall SWCD office



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Alyse Olson
Resource Conservationist

Nicole Schneider
Administrative Coordinator

USDA-NRCS Staff:

Erez Brandvain
District Conservationist

Megan Andrews
Soil Conservationist

SWCD Updates & Resources



2026 Oak Tree Planting Initiative

This spring, the Kendall County SWCD, Kendall County 4-H, and Oswegoland Park District are teaming up for another year to plant 25 oak trees on public land in Kendall County as part of a state-wide tree planting initiative. The initiative is being funded by the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the 4-H Foundation, and the Illinois Forestry Development Council. This project will educate students on the value of native oak forests to Illinois natural history, tree planting techniques, and oak tree identification. The volunteer sign-up link will be posted in the next few weeks!

Date: Saturday, April 11th at 10AM

Location: Eagle Ridge Disc Golf Course (5 Ashlawn Avenue, Oswego, IL 60543)

Calling all Farmers, Landowners, and Agricultural Partners: Help Guide Kendall County's Conservation Priorities



Last spring, the SWCD collected input from landowners & conservation partners from local and federal agencies on natural resource concerns within our county. We identified community conservation needs, prioritized areas in need of protection, and recommended action items for moving forward. We would like to keep the conversation going! If you would like to help shape local conservation programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), we would appreciate your input!

Last year, we identified erosion, compaction, and ponding/flooding as the primary resource concerns. We recognized that forestland, floodplains, green corridors, areas with poor soils, and areas where farmland is adjacent to developed land were priority areas in need of protection. The action items that were recommended included providing education, offering incentives for implementing conservation practices on small farms, and promoting local ordinances to ensure proper drainage in areas where residential and agricultural uses are in proximity.

This year, we're inviting farmers, landowners & agricultural partners to join us for a **free breakfast meeting** on **Wednesday, March 25th at 9:00 a.m.** at **Sunfield's Restaurant** in Yorkville in their private gathering room. This is an opportunity for anyone connected to agriculture or conservation in our county to share their input on natural resource concerns and help guide future conservation efforts. Your perspective is valuable, and we hope you'll come enjoy a meal, connect with neighbors, and contribute to an important conversation about the resources we all depend on.

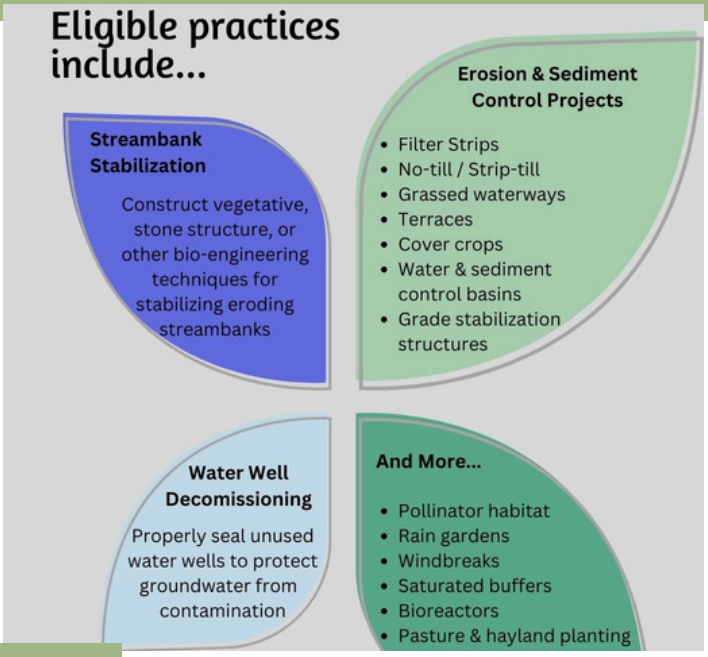
*To attend, please RSVP by **March 18th** with your name and number of attendees. You can call the Kendall County SWCD office at (630) 553-5821 ext. 3 or email alyse@kendallswcd.org.*

SWCD Updates & Resources

Partners for Conservation Program - Sign-Up Open

Funding is currently available through the Partners for Conservation (PFC) cost-share program. The program is intended to help landowners and operators implement projects that conserve soil and protect water quality but may need some technical and/or financial assistance to get started. We'd love to assist with your conservation project!

Be sure to take advantage of available funds while they last. Program sign up is open until **April 1st**. Cost-share rates are 75% of the estimated project cost (based off our current cost list for Kendall County). Questions? Contact Alyse at (630) 553-5821 x3 or email alyse@kendallswcd.org.



Resource Highlight: The Financial Implications of Conservation Agriculture (Soil Health Nexus)

If you're interested in implementing conservation practices on your land, but want to learn more about the financial implications, the Soil Health Nexus website features a booklet titled *The Financial Implications of Conservation Agriculture: Insights from Analyses of Farms in the Upper Midwest*. The booklet is a collaboration between the North Central Region Water Network, the University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension, the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Compeer Financial, and Croatan Institute. The publication discusses the financial implications of cover crops, reduced tillage, nutrient management, and managed grazing. Some highlights include:

- Reduced tillage (two passes of low-disturbance tillage) "...was the most profitable [tillage] system, averaging $328/acre returns."
- "Midwest farmers report median cover crop costs of $15/acre for seed and $12/acre for application."
- "Adopting efficient nutrient management practices can save farmers roughly $30/acre on land currently receiving excess nutrients..."
- Managed grazing systems enhance profitability by matching livestock numbers and movement to the land's productive capacity. This is done through using optimal stocking rates, strategic pasture subdivision, and targeted placement of water or minerals to prevent uneven grazing.

To learn more, click the following link Soil Health Nexus Website.

Vegetative Filter Strip Tax Break Available

Filter strips are areas of permanent vegetation located between cropland or grazing land and an environmentally sensitive area like a creek or stream. According to the Illinois Vegetative Filter Strip Assessment Law, if you have a filter strip on your farm, you can reduce your property taxes on your filter strip down to 1/6 of the assessed cropland value. Contact us for more information on eligibility and to apply!

Did you know we have a Kendall County Ag Producers email list? If you would like to be updated on local conservation programs and upcoming agriculture & conservation education opportunities consider joining! Email alyse@kendallswcd.org indicating your interest!

Kendall County Ag In the Classroom

Meet our new Education Coordinator



Amanda is the Educational Coordinator for the Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District. She has her associates in business from Moraine Valley Community College as well as licenses in Medical Assistant, Phlebotomy, & EMT. Amanda is also a volunteer EMT on Lisbon-Seward Fire Department, a trustee for the village of Plattville, & works at the Grundy County Speedway as an EMT. She is also actively pursuing a certificate in AG Literacy. Growing up, Amanda always had a love and appreciation for agriculture so when the opportunity arose for this position, she felt this would be a wonderful way to tie in her passion of all things AG while getting to be involved in the community she loves to serve. She is very excited to be working for the district and looks forward to working alongside her wonderful colleagues to further promote conservation and agriculture to our future farmers.

ENVIROTHON

A NATURAL RESOURCE ENCOUNTER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Envirothon 2026 is a environmental education competition for high school students in Livingston, LaSalle, Grundy, Kendall, Kankakee, & Iroquois counties that will be hosted in Pontiac, IL on Wednesday March 18th, 2026. For a list of details and registration forms, contact Amanda at kendallaitc@kendallswcd.org or via phone at (630) 553-5821 EXT 3.



Ag in the Classroom with Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau in partnership with Ag in the Classroom with Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District are holding a professional development event for educators at Keg Grove Brewery in Morris, IL on Wednesday March 25th, 2026 from 5:30-8:30 pm. This event does require registration via phone (815) 942-6400 (Farm Bureau Office). The event is $30 per attendee and is non-refundable

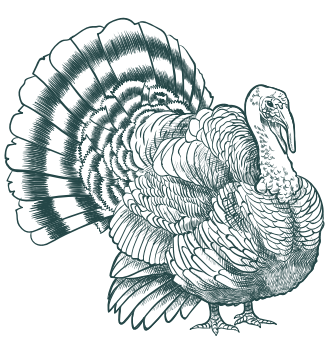
Kendall County Ag In the Classroom

2025-2026 Programs



This school year, students had a poultry, wheat, and pollinator lesson! In the fall, students made their own “turkey rockets” and learned all about turkeys in relation to agriculture. Currently we are in our “Unleash the Yeast” lesson where students get to be apart of a science experiment and learn facts about wheat. Lastly, we are rounding off the year with “The Amazing Monarch Butterfly” in which students will learn about the life cycle, migration, and importance of pollinators such as the monarch in our agricultural system.

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors, schools, teachers, and volunteers for all your hard work and support this year!







The Kendall Ag in the Classroom Program has a lending library of all kinds of elementary agriculture themed books you can borrow. Come and visit the Kendall SWCD Office to check them out!

Volunteer Engagement Program

Our Volunteer Engagement program is growing! You can sign up to engage as a volunteer in 2 ways:

1.) AITC Support Volunteer - Support tasks outside of going into classrooms: preparing materials, organizing materials to go to schools, and delivering materials to schools that support the AITC program. Reach out to the Education Coordinator at kendallaitc@kendallswcd.org to be put on the mailing list to be notified of upcoming support volunteer tasks.

2.) New! Volunteer Presenter Matching Program- Volunteer to present 30 minute lessons that are fun and engaging to students at a school(s) of your choosing. You would be able to set up a time with a point of contact teacher at the school of your choice. You would be able to figure out a time that works for both you and the teacher. You would receive training on the lesson and given all the materials to go into the classroom. Contact the Education Coordinator at kendallaitc@kendallswcd.org to sign up to be a Volunteer Presenter.

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