



Huntington County SWCD Conservation Program

Huntington County SWCD
2040 Riverfork Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
260-356-6816
www.huntingtonswcd.org

LANDOWNER/PRODUCER APPLICATION FOR COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE

A. Landowner/User Request

I, _____ (Printed Name) a landowner/producer in Huntington County, Indiana, hereby make application to the Huntington County SWCD Conservation Program for cost-share assistance to install/apply the conservation acre(s) listed below (the cost-share level to be established by the Program. I understand that the practices approved will be installed/applied consistent with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and specifications or other approved specification, will be in place and maintained for a minimum of 3 years and will be installed on land the participant owns or has control. **Project completion required within 14 months from the date in section C.**

Address: _____ Date: _____
City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ County: _____
Project address if different from above: _____

Applicant /Property Owner Signature*

Date

*Staff note—Does applicant have legal control of the property? If not, formal letter showing authorization required.

B: Conservation Practice(s) (To be completed by/with staff)

Conservation Practice(s)	Quantity Or Area (include units)	Practice Estimated Total Cost	Cost Share Amount Requested

Total cost share amount requested:

NRCS, IDNR, OR SWCD Technical Representative Signature

Date

\$ _____

Practice plan including photos and map should be attached as part of the application.

C: SWCD Recommendation for Approval

The Huntington County SWCD Conservation Program recommends the approval of this application for cost-share assistance in the amount of \$ _____.

SWCD Chairman or Designated Supervisor

Date

Contract #



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Criteria and Requirements for Cost-Sharing

Cost share awards cover 75% of actual cost of *approved* practice implementation. Amounts listed below are the maximum cost share payments from the Program. The maximum amount of cost-share a Participant is eligible to receive is listed below under each category or the amount approved by the SWCD board on the application.

Please see Cost Share Policy document for details.

Native/Prairie Plantings

Maximum acreage for cost share: **1 acre**

Maximum Cost-Share Funding: **\$600** (Funding will not exceed \$600 per acre)

Purpose: Replace turf grass or cultivated land to increase water infiltration, reduce pesticide and nutrient applications and improve wildlife habitat.

Requirements:

- Lack of wildlife habitat (food sources, nesting areas)
- Reduce mowing or maintenance on site
- Planting will consist of 100% native plants
- Invasive plants will be removed prior to planting

Restrictions:

- Practice cannot be used on earthen dams or levees
- An operations and maintenance plan must be included in the project

Cover Crops

Maximum Cost –Share Funding: **\$20/acre; \$2,000 maximum funding.**

Purpose: To improve soil health and/or reduce erosion. **Maximum: 100 acres.**

Requirements:

- Follow NRCS seeding dates

Restrictions:

- Include photo documentation that practice was completed



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Conservation Cost Share Policy

PURPOSE

The Huntington County SWCD Cost-Share Program is an incentive program intended to defray some of the landowner costs for implementing conservation practices that benefit soil and water quality and wildlife habitat. Preference will be given to projects on lands that are not eligible for other state and federal cost-share programs and for first-time applicants for cost share programs. The goal of this program is to help landowners practice better environmental stewardship by providing financial assistance for the implementation of conservation practices that would not otherwise be implemented without financial assistance.

The expectation of the Huntington County SWCD Cost-Share Program (hereinafter referred to as the Program) is that Participants in the Cost-Share Program are responsible for proper installation, long-term operation, and maintenance of conservation practices.

The Program is operated by the staff and supervisors of the Huntington County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

COST-SHARE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All non-governmental lands within Huntington County are eligible for the Conservation Cost-Share Program. All cost-share applicants must sign a Participant Agreement between the Program and Landowner in order to be considered for cost-sharing. **Conservation practices installed with cost-share funds for pollinator seeding must be in place for a minimum of (5) five years.**

COST-SHARE RATES AND LIMITS

The Program maintains and annually reviews a document detailing each Conservation Practice and its cost-share rate and maximum funding limit. Depending on the number of applications received and other circumstances at the time of application review, the Program reserves the right to reduce the percentage or amounts of funding from the previously mentioned normal rate.

The maximum cost-share rate and maximum funding a Participant is eligible to receive is \$2000 for Cover Crops and \$600 for Native/Prairie Plantings at a 75% cost-share rate. This funding must be used within 14 months of cost-share approval with the possibility of an additional one-year extension if approved by Program staff.

COST-SHARE APPROVAL PROCESS

Each Conservation Cost-Share application will be evaluated using the Program's Criteria and Requirements for Cost-Sharing. The District staff and supervisors will review all applications and approval will be based on availability of funds, amount of cost-share requested by the Participant, and the degree of benefit for enhancing water quality in the watershed where the project will be located.

Applications shall be signed by the Participant and submitted to the SWCD.

Applicants will be notified in writing of the status of their application. If awarded cost-share funds, such written notification shall also serve as authorization for the Participant to begin practice implementation.

Any costs incurred or contracts signed prior to written approval are not eligible for reimbursement.

It is the responsibility of the cost-share recipient to submit appropriate documentation of expenses. Such expenses may include purchased or contributed materials, contracted or donated equipment, and labor costs. Original receipts are required. Once the conservation practice(s) is/are installed, Program staff will perform a site check to verify proper installation and collect documentation of expenses and will then file the proper forms to reimburse the Participant. **Practice reimbursement rates are based on actual costs and/or fixed rates but may not exceed the amount approved in the cost-share application.**

Maintenance guides and information will be made available upon request.

Equal Opportunity

No consideration of race gender, religion, political affiliation, or working or volunteer positions will be made during the application process.