

## **LAWRENCE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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- The Lawrence SWCD provides technical assistance to the Lawrence County landowners for many programs sponsored by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The local SWCD is the local contact and delivery system of the programs. These programs include the Conservation Practices Program, the Streambank Stabilization Program, the Water Well Sealing Program, T by 2000 Transect and the Nutrient Management Program. Each year with these programs over \$100,000 are utilized in Lawrence County. In addition, the Lawrence County SWCD has always had a very strong partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service which has lead to a significant conservation dollars administered in the county. Multiple Federal conservation programs and money are obligated to Lawrence County private landowners. Last year alone over 2.5 million dollars were authorized to the county. Total tons of soil saved from the application of these projects is over 15,000 tons. The Lawrence County SWCD assists in investigating and applying these federal projects with the landowners. The Lawrence County SWCD directors have always believed that “Putting conservation on the ground” is what we are here for. Below is a wonderful example of the building of just one of those conservation practices under the Conservation Practice Program.



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- Over 4100 citizens of Lawrence County directly utilize the services of the soil and water district each year. Population of county is 15,452. These services include the field investigation, field flagging, and design of conservation practices for the protection of natural resources in Lawrence County. Resource maps, tree and fish ordering, soil stewardship materials and adult educational programs informing the public of ways to protect and improve the natural resources. A yearly notill meeting is sponsored by the Lawrence County SWCD for farmers which provide them with the latest in technology in the industry. A land improvement contractors meeting is held each year as well. A JULIE (Joint Utilities Locating Information for Excavators) representative comes and presents the latest information to keep everyone up to date. All county highway and township road commissioners are invited as well to keep everyone in tune. Approximately, every three years farmer machine shed meetings are held to take the latest programs to all parts of the county. These meetings are held at actual farmer machine sheds and the latest programs are presented in an informal manner which provides for ample time for questions and discussions. This also brings them an opportunity to think about the conservation practices they could utilize on their land.

Here is shown the notill meeting held recently for Lawrence County farmers with speaker Mike Plumer from the University of Illinois Extension.



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- Youth education of natural resources includes programs for various ages. A 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Day is held each May for all the students in the county. They make tour stops with Natural Resource Specialist who discuss the importance of conservation. High school students are given the opportunity to participate in the nationally known Envirothon program. Students study areas of natural resources and then compete at a regional competition of that knowledge they have attained in the protection and enhancement of natural resources. To the bottom top is the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Field Day learning about soil erosion. To the bottom is the winning team from Lawrenceville High School students at the Envirothon Competition.

