

Indiana Conservation Programs for Private Lands

Program	Lead Agency/ Contact	Eligibility	Resources Addressed	What is Offered	Participant Obligations
MULTIPLE RESOURCS PROGRAMS					
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	USDA-NRCS	Private land in ag production (cropland, grassland, pastureland & non-industrial forestland)	Water quality, soil quality, air quality, erosion, wildlife habitat, managing forest lands	Payment per unit of practice installed	Work with NRCS to develop and follow a conservation plan and assist with practice installation costs
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	USDA-NRCS	Private ag land and forested land incidental to an ag operation (cropland, hayland, and pastureland)	Establishing wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity	Easement purchase, payment per unit of practice installed for restoration & maintenance activities	Work with NRCS to develop and follow a restoration and an operation & maintenance plan; if necessary, assist with restoration cost
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	USDA-NRCS	Private land in ag production (cropland, grassland, pastureland & non-industrial forestland)	Conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources	Payment per unit of practice installed	Follow a conservation plan, adopt additional activities, and improve, maintain, and manage existing activities
Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)	USDA – NRCS and USDA - FSA	Private grasslands	Management of grazing lands and protection from threat of conversion	Annual rental payment for an agreement or a one time payment for an easement	Work with NRCS to develop and comply with easement or restoration agreement
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	USDA – FSA	FSA determined cropland that has certified cropping history 4 out of 6 base years	Management of lands for soil, water and wildlife resources	Payment per unit of practice installed, annual rental payments, and annual maintenance payment; incentive payments eligible for certain practices	Agree to comply with terms and conditions of CRP-1 contract which includes CRP-1, CRP-1 (appendix) and Conservation Plan for a period of 10 to 15 years

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Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	USDA – FSA, ISDA – Division of Soil Conservation	FSA determined cropland that has certified cropping history 4 out of 6 base years and located within an approved CREP priority watershed	Management of soil, water and wildlife resources	Payment per unit of practice installed, annual rental payments, and annual maintenance payment; incentive payments eligible for some practices; Clean Water Indiana incentive payment of \$400 or \$100 depending on practice	Agree to comply with terms and conditions of CRP-1 contract which includes CRP-1, CRP-1 (appendix) and Conservation Plan for a period of 14 -15 years
Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)	USDA – FSA	To be Determined	Energy	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Certified Livestock Producer Program	ISDA	Livestock Farms	Water Quality, animal welfare, wildlife habitat, bio-security, good neighbor	Publicly recognized certification for 5 major components; insurance discounts	Multiple requirements, see program details

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WILDLIFE PROGRAMS					
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	USDA-NRCS	Private land in ag production (cropland, grassland, pastureland & non-industrial private forest land)	Establish, restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat, reduce invasive species	Payment per unit of practice installed	Work with NRCS to prepare and follow a wildlife habitat development plan, assist with installation costs
Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Private land 10 or more acres	Establish and maintain wildlife habitat/wetlands	Up to \$1,000 not to exceed established rates	Agree to maintain practices according to mgmt. plan for a minimum of 5 years
Game Bird Habitat Development Program	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Private land 10 or more acres	Establish and maintain pheasant, quail, turkey or grouse habitat	Up to 100 % of actual cost, not to exceed \$100/acre	Agree to maintain practices according to mgmt. plan for a minimum of 3 years
Tall Fescue Conversion Program	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Private land	Convert tall fescue to wildlife friendly grass/legume mixes	Up to 75 % of actual cost, additional cost-share may be available	Agree to maintain practices according to mgmt. plan for a minimum of 10 years
Pheasant Habitat Incentive Program	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Private land in a State Pheasant Habitat Priority Area	Establish and maintain pheasant habitat	Incentives for CRP enrollment & mid-contract mgmt activities; enhanced cost-share for pheasant habitat establishment and maintenance	Agree to maintain practices according to mgmt. plan for a minimum of 3 years
Indiana Rights of Way for Wildlife Program	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Must own property having a Cinergy (Duke Energy) power line right of way	Establishment of wildlife friendly grasses/legumes and perennial food plots	Plantings are established free of charge by Cinergy contracted crews	Agree to maintain right of way according to mgmt. plan prepared by District Wildlife Biologist

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Quail Habitat Incentive Program	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Private land in a State Quail Habitat Priority Area	Establishment and maintenance of quail habitat	Incentive payments for CRP enrollment and Mid Contract Management Activities; enhanced cost-share for quail habitat establishment and maintenance	Agree to maintain practices according to mgmt. plan for a minimum of 3 years
Northeastern Indiana Wetland/Grassland Restoration Program	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Must own restorable grasslands or wetlands in Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, or Whitley counties	Restoration of wetlands and native grassland habitat	Up to 100% cost-share for wetland restorations; up to 100% cost-share for native grassland restorations in association with existing or restored wetlands	Agree to maintain restored habitat for 10 years according to agreement/mgmt. plan
Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Private land 10 or more acres	Preparation of wildlife management plan to meet landowner’s wildlife objectives	On-site visit, technical assistance and mgmt. plan developed at no charge	None
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Private lands statewide, higher priority for targeted Focus Areas	Restoration or enhancement of wetland, native grassland, and forest habitats for migratory birds or threatened/endangered species	Cost-share: Wetlands: up to 100%; Native Grassland & Reforestation: up to 80% (up to 100% in priority endangered species areas)	Agree to maintain restored or enhanced habitat according to landowner agreement and project plan for a minimum of 10 years (15 years for reforestation projects)

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FORESTRY PROGRAMS					
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)	USDA - NRCS	Non-industrial private forest landowners in targeted geographic areas	Restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to: recover threatened and endangered species, improve biodiversity; and enhance carbon sequestration	Easement purchase, payment per unit of practice installed	Work with NRCS to develop and follow a restoration and an operation & maintenance plan; if necessary, assist with restoration cost
Indiana Woodland Restoration Program (IWRP) (limited availability)	IDNR-Forestry	Non-industrial private forest landowners (minimum of 10 acres)	Managing forest lands, water quality, soil erosion	Cost-share dollars for forest restoration and enhancement	Follow a prescribed practice plan and assist with practice installation costs
Indiana Classified Forest and Wildlands Program (CF&W)	IDNR-Forestry	Privately owned with a minimum of 10 contiguous acres and support a growth of native or planted trees, grass, or wetlands	Managing forest lands, water quality, soil erosion, wildlife habitat	Property tax reduction and written management plan; Green certification available on eligible forested tracts	Enrolled lands must be protected from development, livestock grazing, and wildfire; landowners must also follow the management plan provided
Forest Legacy	IDNR-Forestry	Forest and compatible lands within designated priority areas	Managing forest lands, water quality, soil erosion, wildlife habitat	Conservation agreements (easements) to restrict development and retain forest for traditional forest uses	

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WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS					
Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE)	IDNR – Division of Fish and Wildlife	Generally private land in ag production in designated watersheds	Soil erosion, nutrient runoff	Cost-share for conservation practices	Agree to prepare and follow a whole-farm plan, assist with implementation costs
Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Funding	ISDA and SSCB, program is administered locally by SWCDs	Determined by the local SWCD	Water quality and likely many others determined by the local SWCD	Contact local SWCD for details	Determined by the local SWCD
§ 319(h) Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Program	IDEM	Nonprofit groups, universities, and local, State or Federal government agencies	Watersheds in areas with waterbodies on the State 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies or in areas with approved TMDLs; lands and areas contributing to NPS water pollution	60% grant funding for projects that reduce documented NPS water quality impairments	40% (non-federal) in-kind or cash match of the total project cost. Develop or implement watershed management plans, TMDLs, provide technical assistance, demonstrate new technology & provide education & outreach
§ 205(j) Water Quality Management Planning	IDEM	Regional planning organizations and Interstate Commissions, nonprofit groups, and local, State or Federal government	Water quality	100 % grant	Water quality management planning; to determine nature, extent and causes of point and NPS water pollution problems

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EMERGENCY PROGRAMS					
Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)	USDA - NRCS	Private and public land affected by a sudden watershed impairment. A project must be sponsored by a local unit of government	Provides emergency measures for run-off retardation and erosion control to areas where life or property are threatened	75% cost share for construction costs of emergency measures	Obtain necessary land rights and permits. Administer local contracts. Provide local share of installation costs. Perform operation and management on repaired work
Floodplain Easement Program (FEP)	USDA - NRCS	Private and public land subject to frequent flooding	Water quality, flood reduction, and groundwater recharge	A permanent easement is purchased on the land enrolled in the program	Implement an NRCS restoration plan
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	USDA – FSA	Cropland acreage damaged by a natural disaster	Rehabilitation of damaged cropland	Cost-share not to exceed 75% as determined by the FSA County Committee	Must perform activities to restore cropland as required by FSA
Emergency Forestry Conservation Program (EFCP)	USDA – FSA	Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands damaged by natural disaster	Rehabilitation of damaged forest land	Cost-share not to exceed 75% as determined by FSA County Committee	Must perform activities to restore forestland as required by FSA

Contact Information:

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service – Contact your local District Conservationist at your local USDA Service Center. USDA Service Center locations can be found at: <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/dclist.html>. Additional Indiana NRCS program information is available at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

USDA-Farm Service Agency – Contact your local County Executive Director at your local USDA Service Center. Contact information can be found at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=in&agency=fsa>. Additional Indiana FSA program information is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=in&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>.

Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) – Contact the Indiana State Department of Agriculture at 317-232-8770 or find additional information at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2346.htm>.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) – you can find contact information for any of the 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts around Indiana at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2408.htm>.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) – Contact the Watershed Planning Branch at 317-233-8488 or find additional information at <http://www.in.gov/idem/4381.htm>. A wide-ranging (beyond the ICP) funding matrix may be found at: <http://www.in.gov/idem/4103.htm>

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) - Division of Forestry – Contact your local District Forester at their regional office. An office listing can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/4750.htm>. Additional Division of Forestry program information is available at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/2845.htm>.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) - Division of Fish and Wildlife – Contact your local District Wildlife Biologist. District Wildlife Biologist contact information can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2716.htm>. Additional Division of Fish and Wildlife program information can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3024.htm>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Contact the State Private Lands Coordinator at 812-334-4261, x.212 or visit <http://www.fws.gov/partners/>

Additional Information:

Some programs may have **permit requirements**, such as construction permits prior to installing conservation practices, wetland permits, construction along navigable waters permits, etc. Check with individual program contacts to find out more about potential permit requirements for a given program.

Many Soil and Water Conservation Districts and non-profit groups offer additional local conservation program opportunities, such as Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, RC&Ds, etc. Opportunities vary by location. Check with your local Soil and Water Conservation District (contact information listed above) for information on programs in your area.

All programs are subject to changes in eligibility or scope, please use the web links for the most current program information.

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