



# Conservation News

## Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District

6021 Development Drive, Suite 2, Charleston, IL 61920

Phone: (217) 345-3901 ext. 3

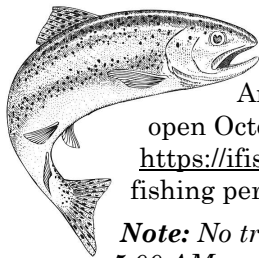
Email: [info@colescountyswcd.org](mailto:info@colescountyswcd.org)

<http://www.colescountyswcd.org>

[facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD](https://www.facebook.com/ColesCountySWCD)

Volume 62 Issue 4

### Illinois Dept of Natural Resources Announces Fall Trout Season Opens October 15, Catch-and-Release Early Fall Fishing Opens October 1 at Select Sites



The 2022 Illinois Fall Trout Fishing Season opens Saturday, October 15th, at 59 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state.

An early opportunity at select trout sites — the Fall Catch-and-Release Fishing Season — will open October 1 at locations marked with an asterisk (\*) in the list at [https://ifishillinois.org/programs/trout\\_stocking.html](https://ifishillinois.org/programs/trout_stocking.html). No trout can be kept during the catch-and-release fishing period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning October 15th.

**Note:** No trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites from October 1st until the fall trout season opens at 5:00 AM on October 15. During the season, the daily catch limit is 5 trout.

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program is funded by those who use the program through the sale of Inland Trout Stamps. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the fall season. An additional 80,000 trout are stocked for the spring season which begins each April.

All anglers — including those who intend to release fish caught before October 15 — must have a valid fishing license and an Inland Trout Stamp, unless they are under the age of 16, blind or disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. Illinois fishing licenses and Inland Trout Stamps are available at IDNR license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. Check the IDNR website for locations at <https://www.exploremoreil.com/agentlocator>. Fishing licenses and trout stamps also can be purchased by using a credit card online at <https://www.exploremoreil.com/>

For information about site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all of the fall trout sites listed below open at 5:00 AM on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite trout fishing location prior to the season.

### Notice of Acceptance of Nominations

To all persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District. Beginning on November 18, 2022, nominations will be accepted for the two year term of the office of Director of the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District at the District's Office at 6021 Development Drive, Suite 2, Charleston, Illinois, during our normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of Director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the District. Interested persons must respond by 4:30 p.m. on December 28, 2022.



### Upcoming Events:

<u>October:</u>	<u>November:</u>	<u>December:</u>
5th—Fish Order Pickup	8th—Board Meeting	13th—Board Meeting
10th—Columbus Day (Office Closed)	11th—Veteran’s Day (Office Closed)	26th—Christmas Obs. (Office Closed)
11th—Board Meeting	24th—Thanksgiving (Office Closed)	

# USDA Opens People's Garden Initiative to Gardens Nationwide



WASHINGTON, September 9, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expanding its People's Garden Initiative to include eligible gardens nationwide. School gardens, community gardens, urban farms, and small-scale agriculture projects in rural, suburban and urban areas can be recognized as a "People's Garden" if they register on the USDA website and meet criteria

including benefitting the community, working collaboratively, incorporating conservation practices and educating the public. Affiliate People's Garden locations will be indicated on a map on the USDA website, featured in USDA communications, and provided with a People's Garden sign.

"We welcome gardens nationwide to join us in the People's Garden effort and all it represents," said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, "Local gardens across the country share USDA's goals of building more diversified and resilient local food systems, empowering communities to come together around expanding access to healthy food, addressing climate change and advancing equity."

## About the Gardens

USDA originally launched the People's Garden Initiative in 2009. It's named for the "People's Department," former President Abraham Lincoln's nickname for USDA, which was established during his presidency in 1862.

People's Gardens grow fresh, healthy food and support resilient, local food systems; teach people how to garden using conservation practices; nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife and create greenspace for neighbors.

Secretary Vilsack added: "We encourage existing gardens and new gardens to join the movement. Growing local food benefits local communities in so many ways, and we offer technical resources to help. Also, it's a great way to connect with your local USDA team members."

## How to Register

To learn more about People's Garden or to register one, visit the People's Garden webpage at [usda.gov/Peoples-Garden](https://usda.gov/Peoples-Garden). The location and information on each garden will be displayed on a map. USDA will send a "People's Garden" sign to each garden and invite continued engagement through photos and information sharing. Gardens on federal property, such as USDA offices, are required to donate produce. We invite these gardens to report how much is being donated.

## To be eligible, gardens:

- **Benefit the community** by providing food, green space, wildlife habitat, education space.
- **Are a collaborative effort.** This can include groups working together with USDA agencies, food banks, after school programs, Girl Scouts, Master Gardeners, conservation districts, etc.
- **Incorporate conservation management practices,** such as using native plant species, rain barrels, integrated pest management, xeriscaping.
- **Educate the public** about sustainable gardening practices and the importance of local, diverse, and resilient food systems providing healthy food for the community.
- New gardens will join the People's Garden at USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. and 17 other flagship gardens established earlier this year.

## More Information

The People's Garden Initiative is part of USDA's broader efforts to advance equity, support local and regional food systems and access to food, and encourage use of conservation and climate-smart practices.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).



## Education Update

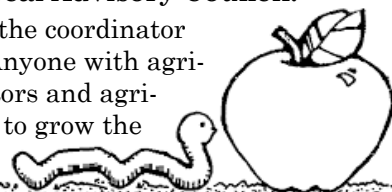
Every school year is full of challenges and Illinois Ag In the Classroom is here to help. Our resources will help teachers reach their classroom goals while also teaching students about the importance of agriculture in their lives. We have lots of resources available at our office, including numerous themed resource kits available for check out to classrooms, homeschool groups, etc.

For October, our suggested activities revolve around pumpkins. We supply materials necessary for your students to create a pumpkin life-cycle chain and a pumpkin life-cycle bracelet. We also have resource kits with themes related to Animals and Farms (check out the Turkey kit for November!), Plants, Soil, Water Cycles, Insects, Illinois, and even a very popular Farm-to-Pizza kit.

Call or email Terina at the office to discuss what options can work best for you and your students. 217-345-3901 ext 4018 or Terina.coffey@il.nacdn.net.

### Coles County Illinois Ag in the Classroom Seeking Individuals to Serve on Local Advisory Council.

The local advisory council meets 2-4 times a year to provide guidance and direction to the coordinator and the program so that local students receive the best ag literacy program possible. Anyone with agriculture and/or education experience can join but we are particularly looking for educators and agriculture industry professionals to help provide networking and volunteer opportunities to grow the program here in Coles County.



## NRCS Accepting Applications For Financial & Technical Assistance

Have a resource concern you are ready to address or a management system you want to try? Your local USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office is ready to help. NRCS accepts applications for its conservation programs year-round, then the agency sets state-specific ranking dates to evaluate applications for funding. You should apply by your state's ranking dates (still TBA for 2023, but likely late winter or early spring) to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Funding is provided through a competitive process.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).** This program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against increasing weather volatility. This highly versatile program has fund pools for livestock, cropland and forestry. Special initiatives are also available for statewide and targeted conservation activities.

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** This program helps agricultural producers and forest landowners maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. This "pay for performance" program allows you to earn payments for actively managing and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, enhanced nutrient management and pollinator habitat while maintaining active agriculture production on your land. Additional conservation activities include soil health planning, building soil organic matter through crop rotations and practices that help producers adapt to or mitigate impacts of changing weather conditions. CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and new management techniques such as precision agriculture applications and new soil amendments to improve water quality. Existing CSP participants may also have a renewal option in the first half of the fifth year of their five-year contract.

Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply. Contact your local office for information specific to your application. All applicants must have farm records established with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). If you're not sure which program is right for you or if you have questions about how to apply, swing by the office or give us a call today!

### Charleston Field Office Staff and Directors

<u>Coles Co. SWCD Board of Directors</u>	<u>Coles Co. SWCD Employees</u>	<u>NRCS Employees</u>
<b>Bill Janes:</b> Chairman <b>Justin Thomas:</b> Vice Chairman <b>Todd Easton:</b> Secretary/Treasurer <b>Pat Harrington</b> <b>William Tapella</b>	<b>Terina Coffey</b> Administrative & Education Coordinator  <b>Lauren Spaniol</b> Resource Conservationist	<b>Andy Brantner:</b> District Conservationist <b>Stephen Head:</b> Soil Conservationist <b>Kent Macy:</b> Technical Biology Specialist <b>Matt Dasenbrock:</b> Area Engineer <b>Kerry Bushue:</b> Civil Engineering Tech.

As a cooperator of NRCS, SWCD must provide reasonable accommodations to USDA customers with disabilities, where appropriate. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation for any NRCS or SWCD programs or services should contact Carzella Pritchett, Illinois NRCS' Disability Emphasis Program Manager, at (217) 353-6651 directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. USDA-NRCS/SWCD are an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Conservation News  
 Coles County Soil & Water Conservation District  
 6021 Development Drive, Suite 2  
 Charleston, IL 61920  
 www.colescountyswcd.org

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 32  
 CHARLESTON, IL 61920

Mailing  
 Address  
 Goes  
 Here



**TOMCO**  
 insurance agency

Auto Home Farm Business

217-345-6750  
 TomcoAgency.com

**Corrie Appraisal & Consulting, Inc.**

*Providing Services for Agricultural,  
 Commercial, Residential & Multi-Family*

**G. Daniel Corrie**  
 Certified General Real Estate Appraiser  
 1403 Sixth Street • Charleston • 348-6011  
 corrieappraisal.com

**CHRIS OVERTON  
 EXCAVATING**

Waterways, Terraces, Fence Rows  
 Free Estimates  
 217/235-4738

Interested in sponsoring the Conservation News? Our circulation is over 1500 readers per quarter!

To become a sponsor, please contact our office at (217) 345-3901 ext. 3.



**Farm Credit Illinois**  
**Julie Crippin**  
 Vice President, Ag Financial Services  
 321 N. Central t: 217-465-7605  
 Paris, IL 61944 f: 217-463-3704  
 c: 217-799-4150

Julie.crippin@farmcreditIL.com  
 scott.montgomery@fcsillinois.com




Oakland, IL  
 (217) 346-2312  
 www.birkeys.com

**BATTERY SPECIALISTS**  
 Batteries—Starters—Alternators  
 No Batteries Too Big or Small

1519 Madison - Charleston, 217.345.8658  
 309 N 15th - Mattoon, 217.258.8658

**Alliance Tractor**



Highway 45 South  
 Mattoon, IL 61938  
 217-234-6478