



April 2019

TTK NEWSLETTER

What's New: NRCS and the 2018 Farm Bill

Do you farm and want to make improvements to the land that you own? Even though the TTK 319 grant program will be on hiatus, ending April 20th, 2019 and reforming in spring 2020, opportunities for conservation cost-share will still be available through the local NRCS office. We've captured some of the impactful updates the 2018 Farm Bill will have on NRCS programming and the assistance it provides to the American farmer.

The 2018 Farm Bill strengthens and expands support to producers who address significant natural resource concerns through adoption of conservation practices and activities, while ensuring that voluntary conservation programs balance farm productivity with conservation benefits so the most fertile and productive lands remain in production. The 2018 Farm Bill continues the initiative to support conservation programs that ensure cost-effective financial assistance for improved soil health, water and air quality and also encourages entry into farming through increased access to land and capital for young, beginning, veteran and underrepresented farmers.



Commonly used conservation incentive programs facilitated through the Sullivan County NRCS office include EQIP and CSP. These programs were reauthorized as part of the 2018 signing, with slight modifications to both programs. Major changes to the EQIP program include raising the cost-share cap for organic producers to \$140,000 over the course of six years. Also new are enrollment options through incentive contracts to address priority resource concerns, and the new offer of an advance payment option to historically underserved farmers.

Major changes to the CSP program include the increase of payment rates for the adoption of cover crop rotations and advanced grazing management activities and well as specific support for organic and transitioning to organic production activities. More information about the effects of the 2018 Farm Bill on conservation assistance programs can be found at nrcs.usda.gov.

Quotes & Quips



***“And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth’s dark
breast rose from the dreams of its wintry
rest.” – Percy Bysshe Shelley***

Upcoming Events

Sullivan SWCD Tree Giveaway

Help us celebrate Arbor Day by planting a few trees! Contact the District at: 812-268-5157, ext. 3 to place your order. Pick up with be April 26th & 27th at the SWCD Office.

Weed Wrangle April 20, 2019: Volunteers Needed!!

Join the SWCD, Indiana Invasives Initiative, & Ouabache Nature Preserve for a Garlic Mustard pull in northern Sullivan County.

Thank you WCIWA Coordinator Laura Demarest for all of your hard work and dedication to the people of Sullivan County over the past several years. With the current TTK 319 grant ending April 20th, Laura will serve a short hiatus away, though will remain busy working on 319 grants in Greene and Clay counties. We plan on seeing her back this coming spring when the next TTK 319 installment arrives!



Check us out!

<http://watershed-alliance.org>

Twitter: @WCIWA

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/100018070@N07/>

Contact:

(812) 268-5157 ext.3

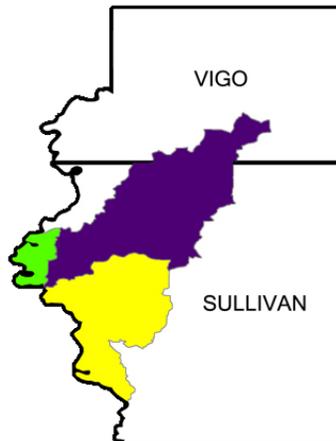
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Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cost-Share Funding for Cover Crops and more!



Eligible participants must live or farm in the **Turman Creek Watershed** (purple on map above) to qualify. Current funding has been **COMPLETELY**

OBLIGATED, though more will be available starting in spring 2020.

Schedule an appointment to review eligibility and add your project to the wait list!

Cost-Share Program information available:

<http://watershed-alliance.org/index.php/ttk-cost-share-program-guidelines/>



Seasonal Recipe

Banana Walnut Bread

Add a little sweetness to your bread basket; this comforting crowd-pleaser is perfect for any occasion.

Yields: 1 loaf

Time: 80 minutes | Active: 20 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon fine salt
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus more for preparing pan
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 very ripe bananas, peeled and mashed with a fork (about 1 cup)
- ½ cup toasted walnut pieces

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sift the flour, baking soda and salt into a medium bowl, set aside. Whisk the eggs and vanilla together in a liquid measuring cup, set aside. Lightly brush a 9 by 5 inch loaf pan with butter.
2. In a standing mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or with an electric hand-held mixer, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually pour the egg mixture into the butter while mixing. Add the bananas and remove from the bowl.
3. With a rubber spatula, mix in the flour mixture until just incorporated. Fold in the nuts and transfer the batter to the prepared pan. Bake for 55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the bread comes out clean. Cool the bread in the pan on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Turn the bread out of the pan and let cool completely on a rack. Enjoy! Recipe courtesy of: foodnetwork.com