

# Indiana NRCS Report on Flooding Disaster

June 16, 2008

## Summary of Damage:

- Rainfall between April 1 and June 8 was 10.7 to 20.9 inches
- To date, 26 counties declared Federal Disaster Areas by the President, with more being assessed
- Major damage to stream banks impacting public services, exposed water and gas lines, levee breaks, debris in channels, gullies, private dams failure, etc.



- Anticipate major crop failure. Planting was already two weeks late. Only 82% of corn and 43% of soybeans was planted in the southern part of the state due to previous wet weather issues.
- Crops that were not washed out have risks, including: emergence failure due to dense surface crusting of soil; mud deposition on plants causing stress and reduced photosynthesis; periods of saturated soils effecting the vigor of the crop; and significant losses of soil nitrogen due to flooding and ponding that causes denitrification and leaching of nitrate N.



## Impact to NRCS:

- Received a three week extension to complete 17 CSP contracts where documents were destroyed or farmers needed more time to complete the process due to the flooding.
- Practices in program contracts planned for 2008 may not get completed this year and require modifications to the agreements.
- Estimate a request of \$500,000 in exigency Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) dollars, and \$2 million in traditional EWP.
- Have over 57 PL-566 dams in the flooded areas and they all withstood the flooding without failure.
- PL-566 Honey Creek channel project in Terre Haute will need exigency assistance. On June 7 the rain in that area was nearly double the rainfall in less than half the duration that the project was designed to withstand.



- Anticipate need for NRCS program dollars to repair damaged conservation program practices needing repair that could utilize NRCS program dollars.
- One USDA Service Center totally destroyed in Columbus.

(Above: District Conservationist Adam Heichelbech, Admin. Officer Elana Cass and State Conservationist Jane Hardisty assess damage at Columbus USDA Service Center.)