

Indiana NRCS

Update on Flooding Disaster

August 11, 2008



Potential site for the Floodplain Easement Program along the White River

Emergency Watershed Program

16 EWP exigency projects are complete, for around \$560,000. There are 9 more exigency projects underway, for an additional \$1.8 million. Currently there are 22 requests being processed for non-exigency projects, with many more anticipated.

Conservation Practices Held

“We are pleased at the minimal damage we are seeing to properly installed practices, but we do want farmers who had damage to conservation practices to let us know so we can evaluate their sites and provide technical assistance,” said State Conservationist Jane Hardisty

Indiana NRCS has received \$1 million in funding for doing repairs to conservation practices installed under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and another \$15,000 for those installed under the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

One example of conservation practices protecting the land during the floods is seen on no-till fields. “No-till fields sustained less erosion and scouring than conventionally tilled fields in the same area,” said NRCS State Agronomist Barry Fisher. “By having less disturbed soil and more crop residue protection, these fields were able to better weather the storms.”

Producers interested in funding for damaged EQIP or WHIP practices should contact their local USDA Service Center.

Reclaiming Soil Quality:

NRCS State Agronomist Barry Fisher recommends putting down manure and a cover crop where lands have lost topsoil. “Not only have you lost the soil, but you’ve lost all the biology in that soil that makes it productive for growing crops. Your earthworms, the microorganisms...everything was washed away,” he said. “You’ve got to get some soil biology back into the land.” Fisher explains that the floodwaters also caused compaction in fields, and cover crop roots can start to loosen up these areas.

NRCS has produced two Guide Sheets that lay out the recommendations for reclaiming flood damaged fields. Titled, “Soil Quality Reclamation for Spring Flood Damaged Fields” and “Cover Crops to Reclaim Soil Quality in Flood Damaged Fields,” both are available on the NRCS Web site at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/EWPhomepage.html>.



**Pictures convey representative flood damage, and are not necessarily EWP project sites.
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