



# Preliminary Program



## Gateway to Conservation

81<sup>st</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference  
St. Louis, Missouri | July 26–29, 2026

[www.swcs.org/26AC](http://www.swcs.org/26AC) | [#SWCS26](https://twitter.com/SWCS26)

## About the Conference

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**The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) invites you to join us for the 81st SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place on July 26–29, 2026, in St. Louis, Missouri.**

This year's theme, "Gateway to Conservation," embraces St. Louis's historic and geographic significance. Located just south of the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, the two largest moving bodies of water in North America, St. Louis has long been a meeting place for people, ideas, and opportunity. For thousands of years, vibrant Native American communities thrived across the Upper Mississippi River Valley, where tens of thousands of people called the region home. Later, the city became a hub for westward expansion, symbolized by the iconic Gateway Arch, which today provides an entryway to 128 miles (and counting!) of interconnected greenways.

As we gather at this gateway from East to West, we're invited to think about expansion in a new way: the expansion of conservation itself. How do we widen our reach, deepen our connections, and strengthen our collective impact around the world? How do we show reverence for the past while forging a future? Just as the Mississippi and Missouri rivers converge here to flow forward together, so too can our efforts unite as an inspiring symbol for the future of conservation.

Join SWCS in St. Louis as we bring together our conservation community of researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, farmers, and students from around the world to share inspiration, connections, and wisdom for success.

The conference will feature the latest ideas, technologies, and practices and foster dialogue around their adoption. Through workshops, sessions, symposia, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations, cutting-edge research and practice developments in soil health, water quality, and resource management will be shared. Scientists, practitioners, and farmers will present their work at the field, farm, and watershed scale that span the private and public sectors. Applications of social theories and examples of successful outreach and education will enable attendees to identify ways to scale up localized successes. Participants will also hear about policy and economic developments that build a framework to increase conservation adoption and support future generations.

And when you're done with a day of inspiration, connection, and learning, soak up the beauty of the rivers, cheer on the Cardinals or Cubs, explore historic neighborhoods or the Gateway Arch, and enjoy some iconic St. Louis bites—like toasted ravioli, St. Louis-style pizza, and gooey butter cake!



# Schedule At-a-Glance

## SUNDAY, JULY 26

New Member and First-Timer Orientation, Half-Day Workshops, Student and Early Career Professional Networking, and Local Forum and Flavor Reception

## MONDAY, JULY 27

Conference Kickoff, Pritchard Keynote Lecture, Concurrent Sessions, SWCS Members Luncheon, and Exhibitor and Poster Reception

## TUESDAY, JULY 28

Plenary Session, Concurrent Sessions, and Awards Luncheon

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Plenary Session, Concurrent Sessions, and Conservation Tours

# Program Topics and Areas of Interest

The theme for this year's conference is "Gateway to Conservation." In addition to the General Conference Theme tracks, the program committee has also selected three specialty training tracks.

- Conservation at the Confluence
- Innovation, Technology, and Data in Conservation
- The Producer and the Plot

The following nine topic areas will be covered within the General Conference Theme training track:

- Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts
- Conservation Economics and Policy
- Conservation Models, Tools, and Technologies
- Conservation in Organic, Specialty, Small-Scale, or Urban Agriculture
- Cultivating Conservation Technical Assistance, Community, and Networks
- Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement
- Social Sciences Informing Conservation
- Soil Health Resources, Indicators, Assessment, and Management
- Water Resource Assessment and Management

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## Technical and Leadership Workshops

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The professional development workshops held in conjunction with the SWCS International Annual Conference will be eligible for continuing education credits from various certifying organizations.

### Workshop 1: Building Conservation Leadership Pipelines: Developing Tomorrow's Soil and Water Leaders Today

**Sunday, July 26**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Tickets:** \$75 early/\$100 regular (after June 16)/\$125 onsite (after July 16)

*Instructor: Brandon Bell, Syngenta North America*

Conservation organizations face a critical challenge: developing the next generation of leaders who can navigate complex environmental challenges while maintaining institutional knowledge. This interactive workshop guides conservation district leaders through creating sustainable leadership development programs within their organizations. Participants will learn practical strategies for identifying high-potential talent, creating meaningful development opportunities, and building stronger succession strategies. Through hands-on exercises and peer learning, attendees will leave with a customizable framework for leadership development and concrete next steps for implementation.

### Workshop #2: Human-Centered AI in Soil and Water Conservation Science

**Sunday, July 26**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Tickets:** \$75 early/\$100 regular (after June 16)/\$125 onsite (after July 16)

*Instructors: Sushant Mehan, South Dakota State University; Maysoon Mikha, USDA ARS; Kathy Boomer, FFAR*

Artificial intelligence, particularly large language models (LLMs), is rapidly entering environmental and agricultural decision-making. Their promise for soil and water conservation is real, but effective and responsible use depends on domain expertise, structured problem formulation, and critical evaluation. This interactive workshop helps participants move beyond using LLMs as a “consumer” tool and instead apply them as a collaboration tool to surface assumptions, connect knowledge, and accelerate shared learning.

Participants will work in small teams on real-world soil and water conservation problem statements, such as nutrient loss reduction, water quality protection, or conservation practice optimization. Through guided prompting, hypothesis development, model design, and iterative refinement, the workshop will demonstrate both the capabilities and limitations of LLMs when applied to conservation science.

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Gain proficiency with LLMs for problem formulation, hypothesis generation, and conceptual model development in soil and water conservation.
- Design and evaluate conservation models using a combination of AI outputs and expert judgment.
- Critically assess LLM limitations, biases, and failure modes in environmental applications.
- Articulate why human-in-the-loop approaches are essential for credible and responsible AI-enabled conservation science.

## Outdoor Classroom—Educational Training Tours

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All tours will take place on Wednesday, July 29. Departure and return times are subject to change. Final details will be provided at [www.swcs.org/26AC](http://www.swcs.org/26AC). The tours will give exposure to interesting and informative conservation work happening in the area. Be sure to register early to secure a seat. SWCS reserves the right to cancel a tour that does not have the minimum number of attendees and to change the maximum number of attendees.

### Tour #1: Regenerative Grazing on Working Land Farm Tour

**Wednesday, July 29**

**1:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Tickets:** \$75 early/\$100 regular (after June 16)/\$125 onsite (after July 16)

If you want to see regenerative agriculture working in real time, not just talked about on a stage, this farm tour is for you! During this tour, in partnership with Lincoln University and University of Missouri Extension, attendees will hear how farmers and researchers are collaborating to implement, measure, and manage soil health principles. Farmers are looking for ways to build soil health, extend grazing seasons, reduce purchased feed, and strengthen their bottom line, all while meeting increasing environmental expectations. This innovative project in Truxton, Missouri, brings those goals together through a Conservation Innovation Grant supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The focus: using grain sorghum as a fall and winter forage for cattle and sheep as part of a year-round grazing system designed to improve both economic and ecological resilience.

What makes this operation stand out is the blend of research and practice. You'll hear directly from the producers implementing the system and learn how researchers are measuring outcomes, from soil health and ground cover to livestock performance and system economics. It's a rare opportunity to see how regenerative principles like continuous living cover, diversified rotations, and integrated livestock actually function.

Next, participants will visit Harry Cope's farm, a Leopold Conservation Award winner. If you want to understand how conservation professionals can support systems that truly work for producers, this tour offers something you won't get from a conference stage. It shows how innovation moves from grant concept to field implementation, how farmers and researchers learn together, and how soil health and profitability can reinforce one another.

### Tour #2: Streamside to Taproom Walking Tour

**Wednesday, July 29**

**1:30 PM – 5:30 PM**

**Tickets:** \$50 early/\$75 regular (after June 16) /\$100 onsite (after July 16)

Join Charlie Cole—SWCS member, Emerging Leader Program alumnus, and international award-winning brewmaster—on a walk to explore how water and agriculture shape one of the world's most iconic beverages. Participants will also receive practical insight on how to build community around local grains, brews, and establishments to advance their own natural resource goals. The tour will also include some local history of St. Louis.

During this experience, attendees will walk to 4 Hands Brewing. The walk is approximate one mile each way and passes Busch Stadium, the Old Courthouse, and several lesser-known historical landmarks. Along this walk through St. Louis, Charlie will share his expertise in brewing, conservation, and community building. He'll offer a brief history of how water, grains, hops, and yeast come together to create beer, and how he connected the nation's most popular beverage to conservation through his SWCS Conservation Event Planner Certification by launching Kegs for Conservation. Sold as "Not Your Grandfather's Field Day," Kegs for Conservation explored the agricultural connections behind beer ingredients and the innovative ways they are being grown and brewed with a focus on conservation and sustainability.

Part community organizing master class, part conservation storytelling—where beer begins in the soil and ends in your glass. Don't miss it! This is an active walking tour, so bring comfortable footwear.

## Symposia Training Sessions

Symposia training sessions provide more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a specific topic. They are scheduled as 90-minute sessions and will take place on Monday, July 27; Tuesday, July 28; and Wednesday, July 29. Symposia are organized by an individual(s) and typically incorporate multiple presenters, panel discussions, or other formats as determined by the organizer. The tracks below are subject to change.

### Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

- Delivering Healthy Native Ecosystems: Advocating for Quality and Value in Ecological Restoration
- From Suppression to Recovery: Rethinking Invasive Plant Management

### Conservation at the Confluence

- Advancing Mississippi River Basin Nutrient Reductions Through Hypoxia Task Force Member Actions
- Advancing Renewable Energy Through Sustainable Agriculture: Transformational Opportunities in Livestock and Cropping Systems
- Beyond the Field Edge: Legacy Phosphorus, Lagged Transport, and Streambank Processes Driving Water Quality in the Mississippi River Basin
- From Policy to Practice at the Confluence: Advancing Water Quality and Quantity in the Mississippi River Basin
- Linking Dairy Crop Production to Water Resources: Field-Scale Evidence and Hydrologic Insights from the Dairy Soil and Water Regeneration Project

### Conservation Economics and Policy

- Scaling Up Conservation: Alternative Financial Incentives Led by Local Farmer Networks
- Stacking the Deck: Coupling Government Funds with Private and Innovative Financing for Conservation at Scale

### Cultivating Conservation Technical Assistance, Community, and Networks

- Accelerating Conservation Through Trusted Farm Advisors: A Collaborative Industry Roadmap
- Achieving Conservation Through Targeting Information, Outreach, and Networking (ACTION)
- Implementing Edge-of-Field Conservation Practices: What Are the True Costs and Barriers and How Do We Overcome Them?

- Mentor the Middle
- The Land Stewardship Leadership Academy: An Evidence-Based Curriculum for Equipping Conservation Professionals in a Corn-on-Corn World

### Innovation, Technology, and Data in Conservation

- 40 Years of Process-Based Soil Erosion Research: A National Perspective and What's Next
- Advancing Conservation and Agronomic Performance Through Technology: Remote Sensing Applications for Agricultural Best Management Practice Adoption, Precision Agronomics, and Compliance



## Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement

- Emerging Leaders Lightning Talks
- Regenerating Soil and Community: Combining a Relational and Data-Driven Approach to Accelerate Adoption of Regenerative Agriculture
- Ten Partners, Ten Years, One River's Future
- The Future of Farming: Increasing Adoption of Conservation Practices Among Alabama Row Crop Farmers
- Cultivating Conservation at the Local Level: People, Partnerships, and Networks

## Regenerative Agriculture for All Scales and Systems

- Advancing Regenerative Agriculture: Multi-Model Carbon and Nitrogen Outcomes
- Outcome-Based CEAP Farm Modeling to Support Regenerative Agriculture—Part 1: Model Development and Improvement
- Outcome-Based CEAP Farm Modeling to Support Regenerative Agriculture—Part 2: Application on a Selected Farm

- Unlocking Diversification Across the Corn Belt: Stakeholder Perspectives on Policy and Market Opportunities from the Diverse Corn Belt Project

## Soil Health Resources, Indicators, Assessment, and Management

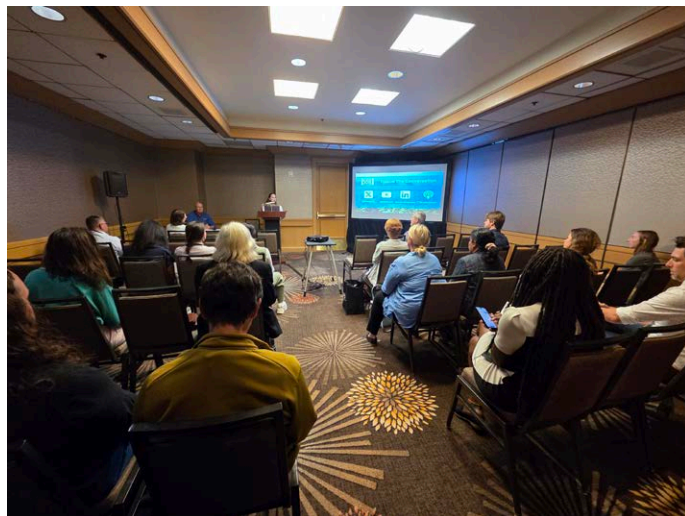
- Understanding Soil Health in Context: Dynamic Soil Properties in Soil Survey

## The Producer and the Plot

- Place-Based Regenerative Transitions for Landscape-Level Impact

## Water Resource Assessment and Management

- Improving Water Quality, Quantity, and Resilience Through Drainage Water Recycling: From Assessment to Implementation
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Agricultural Settings: Challenges and Potential Solutions
- Tackling the Nonpoint Source Water Quality Issue: Using EPA Funding to Kickstart Your Watershed Finance Partnership



# Oral Presentation Training Sessions

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Oral presentations are opportunities to share the results of conservation research projects and/or lessons learned through professional experience with conservation projects, systems, programs, and technologies. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes: 15 minutes to make the presentation and 5 minutes for questions. Oral presentations are scheduled on Monday, July 27; Tuesday, July 28; and Wednesday, July 29. The tracks below are subject to change.

## Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

- From Design to Function: Evaluating Water Quality Pond Performance
- Phytoextraction of Lead by Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea* L.) Under Different Levels of Lead Nitrate Contamination
- Short-Term Impacts of Manure-Based Conservation Practices on Soil Zinc Dynamics and Drainage Water Quality in Maize Systems
- Tailwater Recirculation Influences Water Use Efficiency and Global Warming Potentials of Row Rice

## Conservation at the Confluence

- Conservation at the Confluence... and Beyond
- Effects of Grass Structure on Wind Erosion Using a Wind Tunnel Simulation
- From Tile to Tap: How Farm-Based Wetlands Can Protect Urban Drinking Water
- Habitat Matters: Using Digital Tools to Bridge Conservation and Community Across Illinois
- Heavy Metals in Runoff and Seepage Water from an Agricultural Field Amended with Biochar and Animal Manure
- Integrated Soil Fertility Management Strategies Improve Soil Fertility and Maize Yield Stability in Semi-Arid Agro-Ecosystems: Evidence from an Ongoing Long-Term Experiment
- Lake Decatur Watershed Management Program: A Midwest Conservation Success Story
- Land Degradation, Smog, and Socioeconomic Implications in South Asian Punjab: Investigating Crop Residue Burning Hotspots to Mitigate Climate Change
- Large-Scale Watershed Improvements Start Local: Cummins and The Nature Conservancy Partner to Improve the Mississippi River and Gulf

- Leveraging Ag Retail for Successful Conservation Programming
- Nutrient and Microbial Contamination Assessment in Surface Water of the Kentucky River Basin
- Scaling Soil Health Through Partnership: How State Agencies and Conservation Districts Use the STAR Tool to Build Capacity and Align Incentives
- Scouting for Volunteers? Scouting America May Be Your Match!
- The Mississippi River Watershed Partnership

## Conservation Economics and Policy

- Advancing Colorado's Conservation Efforts Through Tax Credits
- Biochar Application Rate and Economic Cost Calculator
- Conservation Management Effects on Nutrient Loads and Environmental Damage Cost
- Crop and Livestock Integration in the Midwest: Does It Pay?
- Economics of Soil Health in South Central Nebraska
- Reframing Conservation Agriculture for Public Health
- Soil Health Practices Reduce Revenue Risk: Latest Insights from the Land Core Risk Model
- Stages of Farm Profitability After Soil Health System Adoption in Georgia Cotton

## Conservation Models, Tools, and Technologies

- A Standardized Workflow to Investigate the Rhizosphere Microbiome in Semi-Arid Agricultural Soils
- Assessing Sediment Sources, Nutrient Storage, and Long-Term Sustainability of Farm Ponds in Southern Iowa

- Coupling Social and Ecological Data to Understand Drivers of Soil Health on New England Farms
- Cover Crops and Ecosystem Services: When Does Planting Rate Pay Off?
- Engaging Farmers in Developing a Conservation Strategy
- Equipping Conservation Professionals and Farmers with Tools to Deliver Edge-of-Field Practices at Scale for Nutrient Reduction in the Upper Mississippi River Basin
- Evaluation of the Impact of Growth-Stage-Based Deficit Irrigation Strategies on Peanut Yield in Alabama
- HAWQS-Based Prioritization of Management Strategies to Reduce Water Quality Impairment Under a Changing Climate
- Mapping Ephemeral Gully Potential Using Terrain Indexes
- MCCC Cover Crop Tool: Answering “Is It Too Late to Plant My Cover Crop?”
- Nitrogen Reduction Estimation for Wetlands Treating Runoff and Drainage from Rainfed Cropland
- Satellite-Based Mapping of Yield Stability Under Long-Term Cover Crop Management
- Smart Placement, Measurable Conservation: Estimating Sediment Load Reduction
- Spacing Theorems and Procedures for Manual Level Bench Terraces
- Spatial Frameworks for Sustainable Bioenergy and Conservation Planning in Agricultural Landscapes
- The SWAT+ Model Service for Water, Nutrient, and Carbon Balance Assessments on Cultivated Land

### **Cultivating Conservation Technical Assistance, Community, and Networks**

- Beyond Cost-Share: Reimagining Technical Assistance for Conservation at Scale
- Lessons Learned from Delivering Conservation Technical Assistance Across 20 States
- The Emergence of the Conservation Agronomist Profession: Current Context and Future Outlook



- Who Will Answer Their Questions? A Mixed-Methods Study on Supporting the Research Needs of Producers Innovating in Soil Health

### **Innovation, Technology, and Data in Conservation**

- Automated Detection of Field-Scale Tillage, Planting, and Harvest Events from Agricultural Imagery
- Building a National Resource for Soil Fertility Decisions: The FRST Approach
- Estimation of Soil Loss in Oyo State Using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation and Geographic Information Systems
- From Data to Action: A Prioritization Framework for Effective Nutrient Loss Reduction
- Harnessing Technology and Data to Inform On-Farm Decisions for Saturated Buffer Design
- High-Clearance Robotic Irrigation Impacts on Soybean and Corn Yield and Nutrient Application

- Managing Cover Crop Termination in Minnesota for Biomass and Yield Outcomes
- Mapping Soil Water Movement for Precision Conservation Management
- Nutrient Timing Matters: Aligning Manure Application with Crop Demand to Protect Water Quality
- Power of Perennials: Insights and Tools for Crop Diversification and Environmental Outcomes in Illinois
- Profitable Conservation Around the Margins: Integrating Edge-of-Field Practices into Production Systems to Deliver Economic and Conservation Outcomes
- Quantifying Nitrous Oxide Emission Factors Across Agroecosystems Along a Conservation-Intensity Gradient
- Regional Benchmarking of Soil Health Indicators to Inform Adaptive Management
- XWEPP: A Scalable Framework for Sub-Field Water Quality Modeling in Large Agricultural Watersheds

## Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement

- Conservation in an Urbanizing Coastal Landscape Through Nature Preserve Programming
- Designing More Effective Conservation Outreach: Using a Content Pyramid to Improve Reach and Engagement
- Farmer-Led Advances in Soil Health: Roadmap to Success
- Illinois Extension's NLRs Outreach: Engaging Farmers and Stakeholders for Nutrient Loss Reduction
- Promoting and Developing Georgia Aquaculture
- Shell Creek Watershed Monitoring Project: High School Student Volunteer Monitoring
- Social Science Meets Soil Health: An Education and Outreach Approach for Landowners
- The Farm Foundation Soil Health Experience
- The Impacts of Pocket Change: Integrating Outreach to Enhance Unconventional Conservation in the Midwest Through Urban Agriculture Mini-Grants
- The Land-Grant University We Need Today: Bridging the Divide and Harmonization Between Academia and Farmers
- The Power of Conservation Partnerships: Examining the High Plains REPI Project

## Regenerative Agriculture for All Scales and Systems

- Assessing Potential Crop Yields by Increasing Native Pollinator Habitat on Photovoltaic Farms
- Audubon Conservation Ranching: Using Private Lands Management to Impact Environmental Sustainability
- Cropping System Optimization for Regenerative Semi-Arid Cotton Production
- Designing Flexible, Outcomes-Based Funding Programs for Regenerative Dairy Farms: Lessons from a Multi-Partner Pilot
- Economics of Soil Health Management Systems Across the US Cotton Belt
- Effects of Conservation Management on Soil Carbon and Nitrogen Dynamics During the Transition from Irrigated to Dryland Forage Systems



- Effects of Soil Tillage and Nutrient Management on Weed Abundance During the Transition to Organic Grain Production
- Evaluating the Impact of Fertilizer Application on Soil and Foliar Nutrient Concentrations in a Temperate Alley Cropping System
- Grain Sorghum Production in the Solar Corridor Cropping System for Livestock Utilization
- Improving Soil Quality Using Cover Crops in Urban Agricultural Farms of South Florida
- Is Roller Crimping an Effective Management Tool? An In-Depth Assessment of Three On-Farm Trials in New York and Kentucky
- Managing Soil in High Tunnel Production Systems: Field Day Feedback for Implementing Practical Solutions for Broader Adoption
- More Than Trash: How Crop Residues Influence the Nitrogen Cycle
- National Cover Crop Variety Improvement and Seed Production Program
- No-Till Impacts on Water Infiltration and Retention: Insights from the Western US Corn Belt After 40 Years
- On-Farm Progress Toward Soil Health Potential in Southern US Row Crops
- Regenerative Agriculture in the Urban Lawn
- Soil Health Impacts Crop Yield Across North America
- Stacking Climate-Smart Agriculture and Pollinator Conservation to Leverage Market-Based Incentives
- Tomorrow's Water: How Restoring Playas Can Help High Plains Communities
- Turning Soil Health Practices into Measurable and Monetizable Water Quality Benefits
- What Do Mainstream Farmers Think About Soil Management?

### **Social Sciences Informing Conservation**

- A One-Stop Conservation Shop: Embedding a Conservation Agronomist in Ag Retail
- An Uneven Playing Field: Power, Risk, and Farmer Participation in Environmental Cost-Share Programs
- County-Level Variations Among Midwestern Farmers in the Adoption of Conservation

- Agriculture: The Role of Macrostructures and Individual Farm and Farmer Attributes
- Designing Programs for Stewardship: Farmer Experiences with Conservation Planning and Program Delivery in New England
- Early Missouri Conservation History
- Implementing Nonpoint Source Pollution Programs: Insights from Interviews with Agency Professionals
- Mapping the Flow of Conservation Information Across Wisconsin Farming Communities: Evidence from a Social Network Analysis
- Mind the Gate: No Access, No Action
- Remaking Climate Disaster Relief Programs for New England
- Survey Snapshot: Key Results from the National Agroforestry Producer Survey
- When Climate-Smart Means Different Things: (Mis)Alignment Between Consumer Expectations and Farm-Level Feasibility in US Dairy
- When Innovation Isn't Labeled Innovation: Informal Pathways of Agricultural Problem-Solving

### **Soil Health Resources, Indicators, Assessment, and Management**

- Assessing Bioavailable Phosphorus and Soil Buffering to Support Soil and Water Conservation
- Biochar and Compost as Sustainable Amendments for Soil Health and Water Functions in a Semi-Arid Environment
- Building Functional Organic Grain Systems Under Southeastern Conditions
- Conservation Tillage and Cover Crops Improve Soil Health and Water Conservation in Mississippi Delta Cotton Production
- Do Cover Crops Increase the Number of Days Suitable for Fieldwork?
- From Erosion to Resilience: Integrating Traditional and Innovative Soil-Water Conservation Practices to Sustain Olive Production on Marginal Mediterranean Hillsides
- Improving Soil Health with Agroforestry
- Promoting Mineral-Associated Organic Matter Development in Cultivated Histosols Through Amendment Applications

- Restoration Impacts on Degraded Meadow Soil and Microbial Communities
- Sanborn Field: Soil Health Differences 138 Years in the Making
- Soil Health and Economic Assessment for Farmland Protection
- Soil Health Dynamics Following Single and Multispecies Cover Crops in Semi-Arid Cotton Production
- Soil Health Management to Support Climate Resilience in Midwest Row Crop Systems
- Soil Health Response of Transitioning Traditional Row Crops to Perennial Forage Systems
- Improving Late-Season Drought Resistance and Associated Soil Health Parameters Utilizing Cover Crops Among Cultivated Forage Species
- Land-Use and Land-Cover Change Effects on Streamflow in Upper Colorado River Basin Watersheds Using the SWAT+ Model
- Monitoring Water Quality and Best Management Practice Implementation in the Black Hawk Lake Watershed, Iowa
- Nitrate Removal Activity and Nutrient Content in Denitrifying Bioreactors as Woodchips Age
- Performance of Varied Microsprinkler-Irrigated Bamboo Under Different Nitrogen and Phosphorus Regimes

### The Producer and the Plot

- Empowering Farmers Through On-Farm Research: How Farmer-Led Trials Improve Conservation Practices and Decision-Making
- FLOURISH: Farmers Leading Our United Revolution in Soil Health
- Land Stewardship: Agrivoltaics for Farm Resilience
- Navigating Practical Barriers: Methods and Lessons Learned from Biochar Application for On-Farm Trials

### Water Resource Assessment and Management

- Applying Adaptive Management in Feasibility Studies for Watershed and Lake Restoration
- Cotton Production in Arkansas: A Focus on Water Quality Impacts
- Enhance Flood Resiliency by Protecting Hydrologically Sensitive Areas in Landscape: A Case of Somerset County in New Jersey
- Enhancing Floodplain Aquifer Recharge Through Engineered Wetland Systems in Drought- and Flood-Prone Rural Iowa
- Field-Scale Assessment of Climate-Resilient Irrigation Techniques: A Comparative Performance Analysis in Rainfed Pothowar, Punjab
- From Forest to Field: Using SWAT+ to Assess Land Use Change Impacts on Water Resources in a Sensitive Watershed
- How Biochar Variants Alter Soil Phosphorus Forms and Affect Water Quality

- PFAS Filtration from Agricultural Drainage in Farmlands Using Recycled Steel Byproducts
- Quality Over Quantity: Understanding Irrigation Water in Central Kansas
- Runoff Dynamics of Upper Midwest Agricultural Systems Under Variable Tillage Management and Weather
- Supplemental Irrigation from On-Farm Water Capture and Reuse Systems Improves Corn Resilience to Drought in North Carolina
- The Duley-Miller Plots: The Pioneer of Soil and Water Conservation
- Twenty-Six Years of Locally Led Conservation: The Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group Story
- Water Harvesting Partners Project
- Will Gypsum Addition Aid in Phytoremediation of Pesticides and Nutrients? A Mesocosm Experiment



# Poster Presentations

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Poster presentations report the results of research or lessons learned on a specific theme-related topic. Posters will be on display throughout the conference in the Exhibit Hall, and presenters will be available during exhibit hours. Poster tracks are subject to change.

## Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

- Assessment and Management of Soil Sustainability in Tropical Ekiti State: Implications for Conservation and Climate Resilience
- Ready, Set, Scale: Accelerating Edge of Field Adoption in Illinois Through Alternative Delivery Models

## CEAP Showcase

- Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) Enhancement: Assessment Development, Validation, and Crediting for Agricultural Producers
- Assessing Soil Erosion Mitigation by Conservation Practices Through Automated Implementation of the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)
- Balancing Groundwater Recharge, Nitrate Leaching, and Soil Carbon Under Agricultural Managed Aquifer Recharge
- CEAP Special Project: Impacts of Conservation Practices to Reduce Soil Loss from Ephemeral Gullies Within CEAP Watersheds
- Conservation Effects Assessment Project in Northeast Arkansas
- Evaluating Cropland Groundwater Lag Time in the Monocacy River in Maryland, USA, Using the MESA Tracer
- Evaluating the Performance of Ensemble Runoff Forecasts in the Mahantango Creek Watershed
- From Farm Expansion to Groundwater Outcomes: Rewriting Dairy vs Orchard Nitrate Legacy
- Impacts of Scientific Studies from the CEAP Goodwin Creek Experimental Watershed
- Implications of Algal Nutrient Responses for Identifying Strategies to Improve Water Management Within Agricultural Watersheds in the United States
- Integrating Crop Rotation and Remote Sensing to Assess Soil and Water Conservation in Organic Soils of the Everglades Agricultural Area

- Modeling How Cooperation with Nitrogen Targets Could Improve Central Valley Groundwater Quality
- Monitoring and Modeling Nitrate Leaching in an Almond Orchard Using Deep Vadose Zone Measurements and HYDRUS-1D
- Nutrient Dynamics in Cattle-Impacted Watersheds of the Southern Coastal Plain
- Quantifying Effectiveness and Long-Term Storage of Sediment and Nutrients in a Sediment Retention Pond in the CEAP Beasley Lake Watershed
- Simulating Annual and Perennial Cropping System Effects on Legacy Soil Phosphorus Using the APLE Model, Choptank River, Maryland, USA
- Soil Carbon Stabilization and Nutrient Loss Mitigation Under Conservation Agriculture Management Within the Everglades Agricultural Area
- Soil Moisture Prediction: A Review of Models, Principles, Applications, and Future Needs
- Temporal and Spatial Trends for Sediment Phosphorus Buffering Dynamics in Streams Within the Lower Mississippi River Basin
- Temporal Dynamics of Nitrate Concentration and Leaching Losses Under Artificially Drained Mollisol
- The BUSHEL Initiative: Stakeholder Engagement Activities to Better Soil and Water Management and Modeling with and for Farmers (St. Joseph River CEAP Watershed, Indiana)
- Understanding Ecohydrologic Processes of Irrigated Citrus Orchards in California: Integrating In Situ and Modeling Approaches
- Watershed-Scale Effects of a Novel Water Control Structure on Atrazine Within Channelized Agricultural Headwater Streams

## CIG Showcase

- Addressing Barriers for Historically Underserved Producers in California's San Joaquin Valley

- to Implement Combined Soil Health Practices Through Participatory Planning and Evaluation on Diversified Farms
- Barley Jump-Started Ground Cover Restoration of Saline-Sodic Soils
- Converting Invasive Biomass into Biochar to Improve Tropical Soil Health for Reforestation and Agriculture in Hawai'i
- Effect of Combining Tillage, Cover Crop, and Optimized Nitrogen on Corn Yield and Soil Health During the Transitional Period
- Effects of Vermifiltration Vermicompost on Soil Health and Nitrous Oxide Emissions Across Different Annual and Perennial Systems in Washington and California
- Grazing the Bar
- High Clearance Robotic Irrigator for In-Season Nutrient Management in Ohio
- LeafSpec: A Hyperspectral Leaf Imager for Accurate Nitrogen Assessment and Smart Fertilization Decisions
- Novel Highly Efficient Fertilizers and Seed Treatments for Organic Production Systems
- Nutrient Export Across Topographic and Soil Textural Gradients in Three Alabama Demonstration Farms
- OPTIMA Fields: An On-Farm Project Helping Alabama Farmers Adopt Site-Specific Management Practices
- Profitability and Cost Tradeoffs of Cover Crops and Smart Irrigation in Alabama
- Scaling Biochar Adoption in Agriculture: Lessons from a National Soil Health Demonstration Trial Program
- SWAT-Based Evaluation of Silvopasture Impacts on Hydrology and Water Quality in a HUC-10 Watershed
- Technologies to Enhance Rangeland and Livestock Management Decision-Making in the Malpai Borderlands Group
- Understanding Nitrogen Loss Pathways in Commercial Row Crop Systems: Insights from Yield Zone-Based Management
- Using 360Rain for In-Season Manure Application: A Conservation Practice That Aligns

Nutrient Stewardship, Emissions Reduction, and Crop Productivity

- WWF Beef Tracing and Allocation

### Conservation at the Confluence

- Corncocks May Remove More Nitrate Than Woodchips in Denitrifying Bioreactors
- Dryland Wheat Production as Influenced by Compost Application
- Effect of Soil Amendments on Runoff Water Collected on Agricultural Fields
- Impact of In-Channel and Near-Stream Restoration Practices on Water Quality and Stream Metabolism
- Impact of Land Use and Hydrological Regime on Nitrogen Cycling Microbial Communities in Missouri Riparian Zones
- Mitigation of Dimethazone and Trifluralin Residues in Runoff and Seepage Water
- Quantifying Physical and Hydraulic Properties of Potential Woodchip Sources for Use in Denitrifying Bioreactors
- Scouting America's Distinguished Conservation Service Award

### Conservation in Organic, Specialty, Small-Scale, or Urban Agriculture

- Cover Crop Mowing or Tillage, but Not Sheep Grazing, Alter Within-Season Soil Inorganic Nitrogen Availability in an Organic Vineyard

### Conservation Models, Tools, and Technologies

- Assessing Winter Runoff Estimation in the Wisconsin Phosphorus Index
- Development of an Innovative Machine Learning Application to Classify Habitats in Private Wetland Easements
- FireWatch at the Edge: Low-Cost AI Detection for High-Risk Landscapes

### Innovation, Technology, and Data in Conservation

- From Waste to Resource: NRCS Design and Conservation Planning for Forced-Air Poultry Composting Systems

- Site Selection of Water Level Sensors for Rice Irrigation Water Management and Automation

### **Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement**

- Dirty Pictures: Art-Based Soil Education
- Equipping Tomorrow's Conservation Workforce: Our Year in the SWCS Emerging Leaders Program
- Farmer Networking and Skill-Share Events: Lessons Learned
- From Demonstration to Decision: Accelerating Farmer-Centered Biochar Adoption
- Homeowners at the Forefront of Conservation
- Planning and Executing a Conservation Field Day: A Firsthand Look at Outreach in Action
- Shell Creek Watershed Monitoring Project: High School Student Volunteer Monitoring Poster
- Three Projects, Three Approaches to Larger Impacts
- Voices from the Field: What May Drive or Prevent Cover Crop Adoption in the Semi-Arid Great Plains

### **Regenerative Agriculture for All Scales and Systems**

- Actionable Knowledge for Designing Multifunctional Buffers
- Effects of Preservation Management Strategies vs Production Management Strategies on Wetland Soils
- Evaluating Regenerative Conservation Strategies for Soil Restoration and Long-Term Health in the Badlands
- Gateway to Grazing: Investing in Portable Grazing Infrastructure to Scale Benefits for Farmers and the Land
- Regenerative Semi-Arid Cropping Systems' Impact on Soil Nitrogen Dynamics
- Regenerative Strategies for Strengthening Soil Health and Nitrogen-Use Efficiency in the Southeastern United States

### **Social Sciences Informing Conservation**

- Succession Planning for Ranching Operations

### **Soil Health Resources, Indicators, Assessment, and Management**

- Evaluating Soil Microbial Communities Under Rain-Fed Perennial Grasses and Irrigated Row Crops in Nebraska for Ecosystem Service Quantification
- Improving Soil Structure and Reducing Compaction Through Conservation Management in the Mississippi Delta
- Investigating the Combined Effects of Nitrogen Addition and Drought on Inorganic Carbon Cycling Within Grassland Soils
- Judging SSURGO: Comparing Soil Judging Contest Pit Descriptions to the Soil Survey Database
- Long-Term Cropping System Influence on Upper Soil Profile Health at Sanborn Field
- On-Farm Assessment of Cover Cropping as a Climate-Smart Agricultural Practice in the Mississippi Delta
- Seasonal Soil Health Dynamics in Solar Corridor Cropping System Under Organic Management
- Soil Health Indicators Across Cover Crop Species in a No-Till Conservation System
- Soil Microbial Responses to Swine Manure and Commercial Fertilizer Applications and Their Implications for Soil and Water Conservation
- Total Carbon and Nitrogen Across a Palustrine Wetland Chronosequence in the Northern Mississippi Embayment, Kentucky

### **The Producer and the Plot**

- Heavy Metals in Southeast Missouri Soils

### **Water Resource Assessment and Management**

- Annual and Perennial Land-Use Effects on Soil Moisture Distribution Within Claypan Soil Profiles in Northeast Missouri
- Edge-of-Field Monitoring of Nutrient and Sediment Loss from Wetland Watersheds in the Northern Mississippi Embayment, Kentucky
- New Tools for Measuring Soil Color: Impacts on Wetland Delineation

## Events, Meetings, and Luncheon

### SUNDAY, JULY 26

#### New Member and First-Timer Orientation

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

New members and conference first timers will have the opportunity to network with one another and discuss the conference and membership with SWCS leadership. The session will highlight professional development opportunities throughout the conference, provide tips for engaging in professional networking, outline the benefits of an SWCS membership, and more. Attendees are encouraged to use this time to ask questions about the conference and the Society. Attendance is also encouraged for students and early career professionals.

#### Student and Early Career Professional Networking

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

This is a networking opportunity for students and professionals early in their careers to meet and connect with professionals in the field. Attendees will learn about available internships, jobs, and graduate school opportunities. Attendance is encouraged for professionals wishing to connect with students. We hope you are able to join us! The early career mixer is graciously sponsored by ISG.



### SWCS Silent Auction

The Missouri Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is excited to host the 2026 SWCS Silent Auction! This auction will run live and in person Sunday and Monday at the 81st SWCS International Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Items on the auction will include handmade crafts, hunting/camping gear, local treasures, SWCS gear, and more!

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will help support the Missouri Show-Me Chapter events and projects including the chapter's scholarship program, chapter professional development opportunities, educational opportunities, and effective partnerships that support and inform conservation professionals and their work.

Your participation in the Silent Auction will be much appreciated as we plan for this exciting SWCS International Annual Conference, execute our mission, and fundraise for our future!

#### Contact Info:

The Missouri Show-Me Chapter c/o Diane Bradley-Redden  
 dianembr@gmail.com  
 816-916-3820

**Shipping Address for Donations:** 27920 S Bybee Road, Harrisonville, MO 64701

Items can also be delivered onsite directly to the Silent Auction area upon arrival.

## Local Forum and Flavor Reception

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**Tickets:** \$50 early/\$75 regular (after June 16)/\$100 onsite (after July 16)

The Local Forum and Flavor Reception will kick off with a warm Missouri welcome by SWCS North Central Regional Director Krista Kirkham, setting the stage for an evening of conversation, connection, and local flavor, followed by this year's presentation, "A Historical Perspective of St. Louis."

*Presenter: Amanda Clark, Missouri Historical Society*

St. Louis is an urban center with an extraordinarily complex environmental history. Its story is one of how we've manipulated water, air, and soil to transform a river town into a modern metropolis—and how the natural world has pushed back. The mighty rivers that surround us have brought both fortune and ruin, fueling growth while also spreading floods and disease. Meanwhile, rich clay deposits and abundant limestone allowed St. Louis to literally build itself from the ground up, even as those same resources shaped modern socioeconomic struggles. Public historian Amanda Clark explores the fascinating connections between deep time and present-day St. Louis.



Amanda Clark is a St. Louis transplant and has spent more than 15 years sharing her passion for the city's gorgeous architecture and complex history. In 2012, she founded Renegade STL, and her unique, unscripted approach to public history has been featured in the *New York Times*, *St. Louis Magazine*, theSTL.com, and the *St. Louis Business Journal*. In 2020, she brought Renegade to the Missouri History Museum (MHS) under a new name—See STL Tours. At MHS, her work as a public historian includes not only tours but also research, writing, and exhibit development. She served as content lead for the Eads Bridge at 150 exhibit, the Yours Forever exhibit about Forest Park, and the current Marvel in Motion exhibit about the 1904 World's Fair Ferris Wheel. Amanda also volunteers in various capacities with 4theVille, Landmarks Association, and the National Building Arts Center.

Following the presentation, enjoy an evening of networking with appetizers and beverages showcasing Missouri's agricultural history. Raise a glass to conservation, collaboration, and the future of our natural resources.

A ticket for this event is included with full conference registration. Additional tickets may be purchased online in advance for guests or at the registration table if available.

## MONDAY, JULY 27

### Conference Kickoff and Pritchard Keynote Lecture

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

The Conference Kickoff will be opened by SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl, followed by the Pritchard Keynote Lecture, "The Hope in Soil Health."

*Presenter: Ray Archuleta, Ray the Soil Guy*

Keynoting this year's conference with a message of hope is Ray Archuleta. Ray works tirelessly to educate and train farmers, their advisors, and the broader public about the importance of soil health and regenerative agriculture from a unique, holistic, and integrated perspective.

During his talk, Ray will show how soil health and regenerative agriculture offer hope for the future of farming. Drawing from decades of experience in the field, he will reflect on what inspires lasting change and why relationships and trust remain at the heart of progress. Speaking from farmer advisor to farmer advisor, he will focus on the shared role we play in advancing soil health for the benefit of our farmers, food systems, and communities. Participants will explore how ecological principles, systems thinking, and simple in-field soil

assessments can shift farmer mindsets. This session will leave attendees encouraged, equipped, and united around a common goal of helping farmers and ecosystems thrive.



Ray Archuleta is a certified professional soil scientist with the Soil Science Society of America and has over 30 years of experience as a soil conservationist, water quality specialist, and conservation agronomist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). During his tenure with the NRCS, Ray served in New Mexico, Missouri, Oregon, and North Carolina.

Ray received his AS degree in livestock science from Northern New Mexico College, and a BS degree in agricultural biology, plus 30 hours of graduate work in soil related courses, from New Mexico State University. He served in the Peace Corps for two years in Guatemala as a livestock specialist.

After his retirement from the NRCS in 2017, Ray founded Understanding Ag, LLC and Soil Health Academy to teach biomimicry strategies and agroecology principles for improving soil function on a national scale. Ray also owns and operates a 150-acre farm near Seymour, Missouri, that he operates along with his wife and family. On his farm, Ray “practices what he preaches” by faithfully employing the principles of regenerative farming.

Ray is a native of Espanola, New Mexico. His family of origin has 400+ year history in northern New Mexico and the southern Colorado region.

## Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Showcase (Partner Event)

**10:30 AM – 5:00 PM**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in conjunction with SWCS, will host the CIG Showcase at the SWCS annual conference. Since 2004, CIG has supported the development of innovative natural resource conservation approaches and technologies on working lands.

This year’s showcase includes an overview of the CIG program and three themed panels. The first panel is an introduction and highlights the variability of the CIG program, the second panel explores innovations in irrigation management, and the last panel covers innovative conservation approaches for nutrient management.

This showcase runs from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday, July 27. Following the showcase, CIG project posters will be included in the poster presentation session held in the poster display area of the Exhibit Hall from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

## Continuing Education Units/Credits (CEUs)

Attendees who wish to receive CEUs should designate the certification program for which they are seeking CEUs when registering for the conference. SWCS will arrange for Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits in the soil and water area. By attending the full conference and workshops, attendees have the ability to earn up to 25 CEUs. Additionally, SWCS will work with attendees to arrange credits for certified, licensed, or professional engineers (PE); agronomists (CPAg); soil scientists and classifiers (CPSS and CPSC); crop consultants (CPCC); foresters; range managers (CPRM); grassland professionals (CGP); professionals in erosion and sediment control (CPESC) and storm water quality (CPSWQ); and others as requested.

## SWCS State of the Society Address and Board Panel Discussion (SWCS Members Luncheon)

**12:00 PM – 1:15 PM**

**Tickets:** \$75 early/\$100 regular (after June 16) /\$125 onsite (after July 16)

Join your professional society for a members luncheon and hear what SWCS and its network of leaders are doing across the nation. Over lunch, members and attendees will receive a briefing on the Society's latest efforts—shaping the future of conservation, the profession, and the movement.

Following lunch, the SWCS Board of Directors will take the stage for a panel discussion on how we can keep critical conservation priorities at the forefront. This is your chance to connect, share ideas, and be part of the conversation shaping SWCS's impact.

SWCS members will be recognized with a membership indicator on their name badges. Not a member yet? [Join today!](#) Additional tickets may be purchased online in advance for nonmembers or guests or at the registration table if available.

## Exhibitor and Poster Reception

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**Tickets:** \$50 early/\$75 regular (after June 16)/\$100 onsite (after July 16)

This reception offers a prime opportunity to visit with exhibitors showcasing their newest technology, programs, products, and services. Attendees will have the opportunity to view posters and hear from the authors. This is also a great time to connect with potential business associates and reconnect with colleagues. A selection of appetizers will be served, along with a cash bar.

A ticket for this event is included with full conference registration. Additional tickets may be purchased online in advance for guests or at the registration table if available.

## Conservation Concierge Workshop

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

The Campbell Foundation and The Commons invite you to learn about and help develop a key new conservation tool, the Conservation Concierge™.

In this session, we will demonstrate a new conservation tool that is designed to assist conservation professionals in assessing agricultural lands for enrollment in conservation programs and simplifying the funding application process.

The session will demonstrate the tool and provide a forum for engagement in refining, development, and deployment of the tool. We anticipate this will be a significant new asset to assist conservation professionals (and farmers) in accessing adoption of conservation and funding for implementation. Drinks will be provided.

An invitation email will be sent out in June; RSVP will be required.

## TUESDAY, JULY 28

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### SWCS Leadership Breakfast (Invitation Only)

**7:00 AM – 8:15 AM**

This event is for SWCS Board of Directors, staff, chapter leaders, committee leaders, and Emerging Leader Program participants. We'll kick off with an inspiring message, then SWCS leaders from across the nation will gather by region to share pressing local conservation issues and collaborate on solutions. This dialogue will shape SWCS's efforts to provide resources, build community, and ignite passion for conservation in the year ahead. By blending the wisdom of seasoned members with fresh ideas from emerging leaders, we'll strengthen our collective impact.

## Opening Remarks and Plenary Session

### 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

The Tuesday plenary session will be opened by SWCS Board Chair Ellen Gilinsky, followed by addresses from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and wrapped up with this year's presentation, "Farmers for Soil Health: Centering the Farmer in Conservation Programs."

*Presenters: Aubrey JD Bettencourt, USDA NRCS Chief; Jeffrey Silverstein, USDA ARS Associate Administrator; Jack Cornell, United Soybean Board and Farmer Panelists*

### USDA in Action: From Research to Results

Leadership from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) are invited to share 2026 agency priorities, key initiatives, and their vision for the future of conservation.

Updates will show how research and practice are being integrated to meet today's most pressing needs and advancing a more outcomes driven, farmer centered approach to conservation.

### Farmers for Soil Health: Centering the Farmer in Conservation Programs

During this panel, attendees will hear directly from farmers about what centering them in conservation really looks like, the messages that resonate, the incentives that matter, and the support that turns intention into implementation.

Led by farmer member organizations, the Soy Checkoff, Pork Checkoff, and the National Corn Growers Association, "Farmers for Soil Health" is built on a simple premise: conservation must work agronomically and economically. The initiative supports farmers across the United States with local technical assistance and financial incentives to adopt soil health practices like cover crops, while also creating pathways into sustainability marketplaces that connect growers with supply-chain partners seeking verified outcomes. This initiative is funded through the Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) grant.

By integrating data, science, and traceable metrics, the program strengthens credibility across the value chain, without losing sight of the producer at the center. The ambition is bold and measurable: expand cover crop adoption to 30 million US acres by 2030, scaling soil health in a way that protects profitability, productivity, and long-term resilience.

## CEAP Showcase (Partner Event)

### 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project-Watershed Assessment Studies (CEAP-WAS) was initiated in 2003 to quantify the measurable outcomes of conservation practices and develop the science base for managing agricultural landscapes for improved water quality, water and nutrient use efficiency, and soil health. CEAP Watersheds has grown to include 26 active watershed studies assessing effects of conservation practice implementation and 10 collaborative network projects addressing priority conservation topics including legacy nutrients and sediments, ephemeral gully erosion, and the development and assessment of conservation tools and models. Please join USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and university CEAP scientists to learn about and discuss the assessments conducted in cooperation with farmers across the United States measuring the outcomes of stewardship efforts and informing American agricultural producers. This year's CEAP Showcase will again bring new findings and insights directly to conservation professionals, farmers, and scientists participating in the annual SWCS meeting. The CEAP Showcase will feature 12 oral presentations with discussions across 3 sessions on Tuesday, July 28, and a poster session with 24 posters on Monday, July 27, and Tuesday, July 28. Presentations range in topics from quantifying conservation outcomes, legacy sources (processes and conservation options), and innovative tools and approaches for assessing conservation outcomes. Please join us to learn about and discuss your thoughts on CEAP work, findings, and conservation insights!

## Awards Luncheon

**12:00 PM – 1:15 PM**

**Tickets:** \$75 early/\$100 regular (after June 16) /\$125 onsite (after July 16)

SWCS is pleased to honor award recipients who have exhibited exemplary service to the conservation community. Award recipients demonstrate excellence in supporting the Society's mission to advance soil, water, and related natural resources conservation to achieve sustainability. Individuals, organizations, and chapters nominated for these awards competed on a national and international level against others who have demonstrated leadership, creativity, and dedication in delivering assistance to landowners, communities, or local governments.

A ticket for this event is included with full conference registration and Tuesday-only registration. Additional tickets may be purchased online in advance for guests or at the registration table if available.

## Beyond Corn: Reimagining the Midwestern Landscape (Partner Event)

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

This documentary explores how three Midwest farmers navigate the challenges and opportunities of diversifying their operation beyond conventional corn and soybean systems. Through on-the-ground stories and candid perspectives, it highlights the economic, environmental, and social factors shaping decisions on working lands. Grounded in real-world experience, the film offers a hopeful, farmer-driven vision for a more resilient agricultural future.



## WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

### Conservation Through the Generations

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

The Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE), an organization comprised of retired employees of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its predecessor, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), is aligning with the USDA Freedom 250 initiative, part of the nationwide celebration marking the 250th anniversary of American independence in 2026. As part of this effort, ARCSE will host a special general session and networking breakfast during the SWCS International Annual Conference, bringing together past and present conservation leaders to recognize the legacy of conservation in the United States.

The program will feature reflections on the history and future of conservation, and current and former chiefs of NRCS have been invited to participate in the discussion. The gathering will provide an opportunity for retired and active conservation professionals to connect, celebrate the enduring mission of conservation, and honor the people who have helped shape it. Join ARCSE for a "Mentoring and More: Leadership, Followership and the Future of Conservation" session from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM and their annual meeting from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM to continue the conversations.

The plenary session will end with closing remarks by SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl.

### Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) Annual Meeting (Partner Event)

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM** (This meeting will be held both in person and via Zoom)

The annual meeting is open to Association members and others interested in learning more about organization. Leaders from NRCS, SWCS, ARCSE, and other organizations have been invited to speak on topics involving conservation policy and program direction, project updates, and other priority interests. The ARCSE Awards Ceremony will be held during the meeting to honor award recipients for distinguished service, community service, and meritorious service.



Association Of Retired Conservation  
Service Employees

# Registration and Accommodation Information

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To complete registration online, please visit [www.swcs.org/26AC](http://www.swcs.org/26AC). The early registration cutoff is June 16, 2026, and the online registration cutoff is July 16, 2026.

**NOTE: The email you use to register is how you will access the event app. Be sure to keep your confirmation email once received and know exactly which email address you used to register.**

The conference registration fee covers one attendee. If guests wish to attend educational sessions, a conference attendance option must be purchased. Please use the appropriate area on the registration form to purchase additional tickets for guests to attend the Local Forum and Flavor Reception, Exhibitor and Poster Reception, Awards Luncheon, or other special events. Register and pay online at [www.swcs.org/26AC](http://www.swcs.org/26AC), OR return the completed form and payment to:

**Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Attn: 2026 Annual Conference Registration  
945 SW Ankeny Road  
Ankeny, IA 50023**

Questions? Email [events@swcs.org](mailto:events@swcs.org).

Payments for conference registrations, tours, workshops, or special event tickets must accompany registration and will be accepted in US funds only—credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or American Express) or check. If a cancellation is received on or prior to July 16, a full refund will be issued less a \$75 processing fee per conference registration and a \$25 processing fee per tour or workshop, and a \$10 processing fee per special event ticketed items. Due to contract commitments made to service providers, **no refunds will be made after July 16 for conference registrations, tours, workshops, or special event tickets.**

## Special Needs

Please indicate on the registration form any physical or dietary special needs. SWCS is committed to meeting the needs of persons covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Workshops, Tours, and Special Event Tickets

Workshops, tours, and special events tickets will be handled on a reserved ticket basis only and do not need to accompany a conference registration. Tickets will be sold at the conference based on availability, but purchasing them as early as possible is best to guarantee participation. Workshops, tours, and special event functions may be canceled without sufficient participation. These events are subject to minimum and maximum capacity controls. SWCS reserves the right to cancel if minimum registrations are not reached or for other reasons beyond our control. Maximums may also be adjusted, so reserve your space early. If a tour is canceled or minimums are not met, attendees will have the option to exchange tickets for another tour or request a full refund. Refunds for canceled activities will be given after the conclusion of the annual conference.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Hotel

To view options for SWCS discounted hotel room blocks, please visit [www.swcs.org/26AC](http://www.swcs.org/26AC).

### Transportation

Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark is located approximately 20 minutes from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport. Our recommended economical method of travel to and from the airport is to take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft.





# Registration Form

**Early Registration Cutoff: June 16, 2026**  
**Online Registration Cutoff: July 16, 2026**  
 Register online at [www.swcs.org/26AC](http://www.swcs.org/26AC)



## REGISTRANT INFORMATION \*Required

Name (please print)\* \_\_\_\_\_ Organization\* \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Industry\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address\* \_\_\_\_\_ City\* \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province\* \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code\* \_\_\_\_\_

Country\* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current SWCS member?\*  Yes  No  Unknown

Are you a current or alumni SWCS Emerging Leader?  Current  Alumni

Physical or dietary restrictions  Yes  No If yes, please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Full Conference Registration Categories	Early Rate thru 6/16	Regular Rate thru 7/16	Onsite Rate after 7/16
SWCS Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600	<input type="checkbox"/> \$650
Register and Join*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$615	<input type="checkbox"/> \$715	<input type="checkbox"/> \$765
Nonmember	<input type="checkbox"/> \$650	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$800
Senior (65+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$550
Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$550
International	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$550
Full Time Student**	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400

Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

One-Day Conference Registration Categories	Early Rate thru 6/16	Regular Rate thru 7/16	Onsite Rate after 7/16
One-Day SWCS Member†	<input type="checkbox"/> \$315	<input type="checkbox"/> \$365	<input type="checkbox"/> \$415
One-Day Nonmember†	<input type="checkbox"/> \$375	<input type="checkbox"/> \$425	<input type="checkbox"/> \$475
One-Day Senior (65+)†	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350
One-Day Farmer†	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350
One-Day International†	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350
One-Day Full Time Student†**	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250

Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday ONLY  \$200  \$250  \$300

### Student and Early Career Professional Networking

Please indicate your intent to participate in the Student and Early Career Professional Networking on Sunday, July 26, from 4:00 PM – 4:45 PM.

Indicate which best represents your participation:

- Early career professional/student
- Established professional looking to network with the group

\* Not a member of SWCS? Join today! Include an SWCS standard individual membership (\$115) and save on registration. Rate includes a 12-month SWCS membership.

\*\* Available to full-time students who carry at least 12 semester hours.

† Please list day attending:

\_\_\_\_\_

**St. Louis Cardinals vs. Cincinnati Reds Baseball Game**

If you plan to attend the St. Louis Cardinals vs. Cincinnati Reds baseball game on Saturday, July 25, at 6:15 PM (additional fees apply), please indicate the number of tickets you will need. More information to be provided at a later date.

**2. WORKSHOPS – SUNDAY, JULY 26**

(Conference registration not required. Regular fees apply after June 16. Onsite fees apply after July 16.)

**#1: Building Conservation Leadership Pipelines: Developing Tomorrow’s Soil and Water Leaders Today**

\$75 early/\$100 regular/\$125 onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**#2: Human-Centered AI in Soil and Water Conservation Science**

\$75 early/\$100 regular/\$125 onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**3. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING TOURS – WEDNESDAY, JULY 29**

(Conference registration not required. Regular fees apply after June 16. Onsite fees apply after July 16.)

**#1: Regenerative Grazing on Working Land Farm Tour**

\$75 early/\$100 regular/\$125 onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**#2: Streamside to Taproom Walking Tour**

\$50 early/\$75 regular/\$100 onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**4. SPECIAL EVENTS TICKETS**

(Conference registration not required. Regular fees apply after June 16. Onsite fees apply after July 16.)

**• Guest Ticket(s) for Local Forum and Flavor Reception**

\$50 early/\$75 regular/\$100 onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**• Nonmember or Guest Ticket(s) for SWCS Members Luncheon**

\$75 early/\$100 regular/\$125 onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**• Guest Ticket(s) for Exhibitor and Poster Reception**

\$50 early/\$75 regular/\$100 onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**• Guest Ticket(s) for Awards Luncheon**

\$75 early/\$100 regular/\$125 onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**5. PRINTED PROGRAM**

(Conference program will be available on the event app. Additional fees apply for a hard copy.)

\$20 early/\$30 regular and onsite x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**6. RENEW SWCS MEMBERSHIP**

(Will renew for one year as of your current membership expiration date.)

- |                                      |       |                                       |      |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member      | \$115 | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Career | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Plus | \$225 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student      | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired     | \$75  |                                       |      |

**7. CONTRIBUTION**

I’d like to give and support the SWCS Professional Development Fund in the amount of...

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Register and pay online at [www.swcs.org/26AC](http://www.swcs.org/26AC), OR return completed form and payment to:

**Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Attn: 2026 Annual Conference Registration  
945 SW Ankeny Road  
Ankeny, IA 50023**

Opt out of sharing contact information with conference sponsors.

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

**Choose One.** Payment must accompany registration. All checks should be payable to SWCS.

Check (US funds) enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_