

Area II: Rush County

Rush County Conservation District board of supervisors in Area 2 is very active in pursuing services that benefit the county farmers, including seed sales. The conservation district has been very active with the promotion of cover crops, pollinators and monarch plantings. This year the district sold 1,054 acres of monarch butterfly plantings and over 3,000 acres in the last five years, building up their Enterprise fund. In 2022, district retail services brought in over \$358,000 in sales receipts.

In 2016, the Rush County Conservation District started a Women on the Farm group for women in the NRCS MU counties, Rush, Pawnee, and Barton. Each year quarterly workshops are held ranging from farm succession to distribution of family treasures to make ahead freezer meals. Fourteen workshops have been held since its inception.

Rush County works to promote the federal programs offered through newsletters, newspaper, presentations, and conversations. With the board's assistance, Rush County currently has 89 active Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts with almost 4 million dollars obligated. Total paid to date on CSP program in Rush Co is about 13 million dollars.

Another way Rush County has provided assistance to NRCS is by providing the NRCS an extra soil conservation technician for the last 30 years. The board felt the need to provide this assistance due to our county workload with federal programs. The board has continued to step up in this area, currently taking on a DOC Soil Conservation Technician. Up to this point it has been an enterprise funded technician.

The Rush County Conservation District was chartered in 1945.