

**Whiteside County Soil & Water Conservation District  
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Wetland Projects 2008-2009

The Whiteside County SWCD working with other groups and organizations such as IDNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, Waterfowl USA, and Pheasants Forever has assisted public and private land owners for a number of years with wetland restorations. With Illinois having lost over 90 % of its' original wetlands these restorations are vital for wildlife habitat and clean water. From the farmer who wants to take the difficult to farm wet spot out of production to the land owner that always wanted a spot to duck hunt these land owners have committed to a practice that benefits all of the general public.

All of these projects are done on a voluntary basis spurred on by the land owner or by a suggestion from one of the office staff. Typically after the land owner expresses an interest a staff member visits the land and makes suggestions on how to best restore the area to a wetland condition. Next a plan is made and the land owner then hires a local contractor to complete the project with assistance of the SWCD staff. Many of these projects generate \$5000-\$15000 in project cost share that goes directly back into the County's economy. Normally we coordinate six to twelve wetland projects a year.

Many of these projects are done with assistance of the Farm Service Agency and the Conservation Reserve Program. The SWCD staff provides technical assistance in the field to FSA. The rental rate on these projects can be over \$200 per acre. The rental money goes to the land owner who spends it in the county.

In twenty years of doing these projects landowners and the environment have both been winners.