



# Lincoln Hills RC&D 2009-2013 Area Plan of Work

*"To coordinate and develop programs, resources and funding to bring about a higher quality of life for the citizens of the Lincoln Hills region."*



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## ***INTRODUCTION***

Organized locally in February of 1963, and designated as a Resource Conservation & Development Area in October of 1964, Lincoln Hills RC&D not only was among the first group of RC&Ds established in the nation, it was in fact the first RC&D authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Natural resources conservation and rural development area planning and implementation are the central functions of Lincoln Hills RC&D. Serving the needs and opportunities within the four-county area of Crawford, Harrison, Perry and Spencer, Lincoln Hills RC&D has had a historic and unique role in addressing issues involving land conservation, land management, water management, and rural community development.

The first Area Plan was adopted in July of 1964, and was supplemented in 1971, 1973, and 1976. The Lincoln Hills RC&D was legally incorporated and designated as a 501(c)(3) in June of 1987. The original and supplemented Area Plan was revised in 1983 and again in 1993, to include Washington County which has since become a member of the White River RC&D, and then lastly in 2004.

The Area Plan focuses on improving the quality of life in the four-county area over the next five years. It is a concise, accurate, and useful focal point that galvanizes the Council into productive leadership. It identifies the need and opportunities in the area, and prioritizes program areas and potential projects for RC&D assistance while covering RC&D's four primary issues.

## ***SECTION ONE – ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW***

### ***Mission Statement***

The mission of the Lincoln Hills RC&D is to coordinate and develop programs, resources and funding to bring about a higher quality of life for the citizens of the Lincoln Hills region.

### ***Vision Statement***

The vision of the Lincoln Hills RC&D is to have a favorable economic climate in harmony with all resources utilized for a higher quality of life.

### ***Council Structure***

The Lincoln Hills RC&D Council is made up of members representing the primary sponsors of Lincoln Hills RC&D. Those sponsors include the county Soil and Water Conservation District with the Boards of County Commissioners designated as additional, alternate and/or secondary sponsors should it be determined by the Commissioners and the Council to be beneficial to their county and the overall mission and purpose of Lincoln Hills RC&D.

It is the Council's duty to represent the sponsors in guiding the activities of Lincoln Hills RC&D. Responsibilities of the Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Act on behalf of the Sponsors in carrying out goals and objectives related to and restricted to its purpose.
2. Organize resource committees to plan and implement project activities.
3. Secure support and assistance for developing and implementing a project plan.
4. Develop and adopt a project plan that states policy, objectives, course of action and priorities.
5. Prepare long-range area plans and annual plans of work to guide activities of the organization, partnering agencies and individuals during the years ahead.
6. Supply citizens with information about Lincoln Hills RC&D activities.
7. Serve as a clearinghouse for proposed Lincoln Hills RC&D projects and activities.
8. Cooperate in plans of others that are beneficial to natural resource conservation and development.
9. Seek assistance from government agencies, private foundations or the private sector in carrying out projects to meet Lincoln Hills RC&D objectives.

## ***SECTION TWO – OVERVIEW OF THE AREA***

Lincoln Hills RC&D covers four counties in southern Indiana including Crawford, Harrison, Perry and Spencer. This area of southern Indiana is truly distinctive in its vistas of rolling farmlands, open spaces, timbered hills and historic structures. Covering an area of 1,005,440 acres and bordered by Interstate 64 on the north and the Ohio River on the south, these four counties have the unique public lands and natural resources of the Hoosier National Forest and Lincoln Boyhood Memorial, along with numerous state forests, state parks, and state nature preserves. Likewise, the Nature Conservancy opened an office in Corydon, Indiana for the conservation efforts on the Blue River, Indiana's only Wild and Scenic River by federal designation, which lies between Crawford and Harrison Counties.



### ***2.1 Demographics***

#### **2.1.1 County Seats**

Corydon is the county seat of Harrison County and the former state capital of Indiana. It was site of the only Civil War battle fought in Indiana, making it rich with state history. Because of its historic nature, Corydon is a well-known regional tourist destination. The town hosts weekly events from early spring until late fall, usually centered around the historic town square.

English is the County seat of Crawford County. It was founded in 1829 under its original name of Hartford. When the town incorporated in 1884 it was re-named English for William Hayden English, an Indiana politician of the day. In 1896, the county seat of Crawford County was relocated from Leavenworth to English. From 1959 to 1990, English suffered six floods. The town council decided that the only solution to the flooding problem was to move the town. One hundred sixty acres of high ground were purchased, a partnership was formed with Lincoln Hills Development Corporation, and the entire town was relocated. This was the second-largest relocation of an entire town in U.S. history.

The county seat and the largest city in Spencer County, Rockport was first settled in 1808 by James Lankford and his family. James, his wife and daughter, lived in a cave under the bluff overlooking the Ohio River. In 1818, the town officially became the county seat and people moved to the top of the 200 foot high bluffs to avoid the yearly floods. The town spread to the north and west with numerous manufacturing facilities, including two flour mills, four tobacco warehouses, three sawmills, two breweries, one carding mill, five wagon and buggy manufacturers, a furniture factory, three brickyards and seven churches. With a thriving port, Rockport was known by all who used the Ohio River. However, inland access was improved in 1874 when a rail line was constructed that linked the city with Jasper to the north. Later, in 1906, another interurban rail line linked Rockport to other Southern Indiana cities.

Tell City is the county seat of Perry County. It traces its 150+ year old roots to a meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, in November 1856. A group of Swiss-German immigrants met there to organize a society known as the "Swiss Colonization Society." Its purpose was to obtain

affordable homesteads for mechanics, shopkeepers, factory workers and small farmers in a location where all could live in harmony. The Society decided to purchase a tract of land three miles square to be surveyed into a city plot. The group, which was to purchase the land, was told to keep in mind a healthful climate, fertile soil, good water, ample timber, and a location near a navigable river and a railroad, if possible. Purchase of such a site was made in July 1857. The tract, containing 4,152 acres, was laid out in 392 town blocks with 7,328 building lots and 294 garden lots.

**2.1.2 Population**

According to the 2007 Indiana census, the total population in the region was 86,842. County populations range from a low of 10,782 in Crawford County to a high of 36,810 in Harrison County. Harrison County is currently experiencing the highest population growth with a 14.8 percent increase from 1990 to 2007. Perry County currently has the lowest population growth from 1990 to 2007, seeing a -1.1 change in population. The state average growth is 3.8 percent.

Population diversity - by race - is low, with Crawford County the least diverse at 97.7 percent white, and Perry County the most diverse at 96.1 percent white. The black population makes up the largest category reported as non-white in Perry County at 2 percent. See Table 1 for an outline of population diversity in the Lincoln Hills RC&D region.

**Table 1: Population Diversity in Lincoln Hills RC&D Region by Percentage**

	White	Black	American Indian/Alaskan Natives	Asian	Pacific Islander	Hispanic or Latino	Two or more races
<b>Crawford</b>	97.7	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.4
<b>Harrison</b>	96.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	0	1.4	0.6
<b>Perry</b>	96.1	2.0	0.2	0.2	0	0.9	0.6
<b>Spencer</b>	96.2	0.7	0.2	0.2	0	2.2	0.5
<b>State</b>	83.9	8.9	0.3	1.3	*	4.8	1.1

\* Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

**2.2 Natural Resources**

**2.2.1 - Forestry**

Identified in the 2007-2008 Indiana Agricultural Statistics Bulletin, woodlands make up approximately 93,454 acres, or about 9 percent of the Lincoln Hills RC&D region. While forestland has decreased about 8,653 acres since 1997, Spencer County has increased its acreage by 367. Two of the four counties in the region are ranked in the top ten for the State for woodland acres, with Harrison County ranked number five and Spencer County ranked number ten.

### 2.2.1.a – Hoosier National Forest

The Hoosier National Forest, in the hills of south central Indiana, is a property managed by the United States Forest Service. It has a total area of 201,047 acres. It is headquartered in Bedford with a regional office in Tell City (Perry County). Hoosier National Forest lies in parts of nine counties in southern Indiana. In descending order of forestland area they are Perry, Orange, Crawford, Jackson, Monroe, Brown, Lawrence, Martin, and Dubois counties.

Much of Hoosier National Forest is over karst, responsible for the many caves in south-central Indiana. Included in Hoosier National Forest is the Charles C. Deam Wilderness Area, the only recognized wilderness area left in Indiana. This means that no motorized vehicles are allowed in the area, and instead mules and horses must be used to maintain hiking trails.

### **2.2.2 – Watersheds**

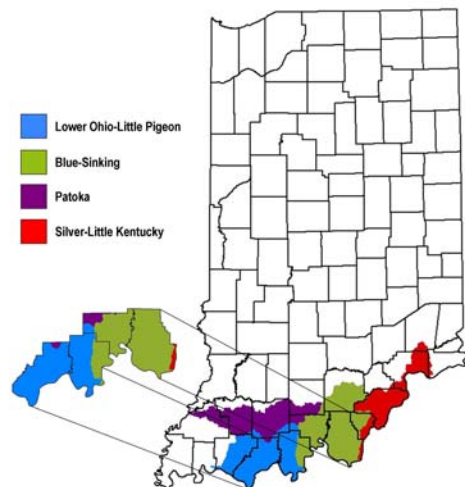
The Lincoln Hills RC&D region has two large watersheds (Blue-Sinking watershed and Lower Ohio-Little Pigeon watershed) and two small watersheds (Patoka and Silver-Little Kentucky).

#### 2.2.2.a Blue-Sinking Watershed

The Blue-Sinking watershed drainage area is just over 795,000 acres and covers eight different Indiana counties. The Blue River originates in Washington County in southern Indiana, and for a portion of its journey to the Ohio it forms the boundary between Harrison and Crawford Counties. It is an entrenched stream whose meanders have cut deep into the Mississippian limestone bedrock. A series of "half canyons" lie astride the Blue River, never completely enclosing it. The Crawford Upland region is typical of karst topography with its many sink holes and caves formed as water dissolved the rock. The limestone walls along the river are usually shrouded in a heavy cover of trees and shrubs. Rock is a constant feature of the stream bed, but much of it is covered by sediment.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2.2.2.b Lower Ohio-Little Pigeon Watershed

The Lower Ohio-Little Pigeon watershed drainage area is approximately 633,044 acres and is located in seven counties in southern Indiana including Crawford, Perry and Spencer Counties. Acreage in Lincoln Hills RC&D region counties totals 433,107, making up 68 percent of the total watershed. Spencer has the highest acreage with 249,929 acres, Perry has 170,207 acres within the watershed, and Crawford has 12,971 acres within the watershed. Like the other watersheds in the area, the Lower Ohio-Little Pigeon watershed has karst topography. The watershed has 102.81 miles of impaired streams, of which 17.26 miles reside in Perry County and 49.59 miles are in Spencer County.



<sup>1</sup> Rapid Watershed Assessment Blue-Sinking Watershed published by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Table 2: Lower Ohio-Little Pigeon Watershed Land Use**

	Total	Crop	Forest	Water/Wetland	Urban	Public Land
<b>Crawford</b>	12,971	377	8,671	16	38	12,325
<b>Perry</b>	170,207	15,398	88,867	1,935	3,126	76,381
<b>Spencer</b>	249,929	106,064	39,447	1,980	2,858	3,420
<b>TOTAL</b>	433,107	121,839	136,985	3,931	6,022	92,126
<b>Watershed</b>	633,044	175,252	194,464	7,551	11,417	98,213
<b>PERCENT</b>	68	70	70	52	53	94

### 2.3 Agriculture

According to the 2007-2008 Indiana Agricultural Statistics Bulletin, the Lincoln Hills RC&D area has approximately 446,380 acres of farmland, accounting for approximately 44 percent of the land use within the region. Harrison County has the most acreage of farmland at 160,251 while Spencer County has the highest percentage of farmland within its county at 61 percent. Crawford has both the lowest acreage (54,950 acres) and percentage of its county land use (28%).

**Table 3: Corn and Soybean Statistics in Lincoln Hills RC&D Region**

	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production	State Ranking
<b>Crawford County</b>					
<b>Corn</b>	*	*	*	*	-
<b>Soybean</b>	*	*	*	*	-
<b>Harrison County</b>					
<b>Corn</b>	28,600	27,900	119	3,319,900	77
<b>Soybean</b>	23,300	23,000	26	602,000	79
<b>Perry County</b>					
<b>Corn</b>	12,000	11,100	151	1,676,100	84
<b>Soybeans</b>	8,500	8,300	36	301,500	84
<b>Spencer County</b>					
<b>Corn</b>	64,700	63,500	146	9,273,500	55
<b>Soybeans</b>	47,700	47,500	37	1,745,400	57

\* Not reported

While there may not be high corn and soybeans numbers in the region, this area has a large number of cattle. According to the January 2008 Indiana Agricultural Statistics, the Lincoln Hills RC&D area has one county in the top ten for cattle numbers and two additional counties in the top twenty-five. See the table below for a more detailed look at cattle in the Lincoln Hills

RC&D region. Refer to Appendix C-E for detailed cattle maps showing the Lincoln Hills RC&D region compared to the rest of the state.

**Table 4: Cattle in Lincoln Hills RC&D Region**

	All	Beef	Milk	State Ranking
<b>Crawford</b>	7,500	3,900	*	48
<b>Harrison</b>	21,300	9,200	600	7
<b>Perry</b>	12,600	4,800	900	23
<b>Spencer</b>	13,100	5,600	600	21

\* Not reported

**2.4 Socio-Economic Information**

**2.4.1 – Education**

With a state percentage of high school graduates at 82.1, each county fall short of the mark. Spencer County has the highest percentage of high school graduates at 81.2 while Crawford County falls well below that at 70.6 percent. Likewise, each county falls short of the State percentage of residents with a Bachelor’s degree or higher. Harrison has the highest percentage of residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher with 13 percent while Crawford is the lowest, again, at 8.4 percent.

**2.4.2 – Employment**

According to the 2008 Census data, unemployment in the RC&D area ranged from a high of 9.8 percent in Crawford County to a low of 6.9 percent in Spencer and Perry Counties. Spencer and Harrison Counties are above the state median household income while Perry and Crawford fall short. Likewise, Perry (12.4%) and Crawford counties (17.5%) are above the state average of 11.1 percent for the percentage of people below the poverty rate.

**Table 5: Socio-Economic Statistics in the Lincoln Hills RC&D Region**

	High School Grads	Bachelor or Higher	Below Poverty	Median household income
<b>Crawford</b>	70.6%	8.4%	17.5%	\$34,739
<b>Harrison</b>	80.3	13.1	9.0	46,420
<b>Perry</b>	74.8	9.6	12.4	39,472
<b>Spencer</b>	81.2	13.0	8.4	45,208
<b>State</b>	82.1	19.4	11.1	43,217

### ***SECTION THREE – RESOURCE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES***

#### ***3.1 Public Participation Activities in the Development of the Plan***

The Lincoln Hills RC&D Area Plan was developed by the local people to ensure that the problems, concerns, and opportunities are consistent with the development needs of the RC&D area.

The Lincoln Hills RC&D Council began their planning stages to collect community input in the summer of 2008. The Council developed a one-page survey that was distributed to the citizens of the four-county RC&D area. These surveys were distributed to community residents through sponsoring agencies including the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Commissioners, and Council Members. Each agency mailed these surveys to local residents and had them available for the public at their offices and during RC&D events.

#### ***3.2 Results of Surveys and Summary of Findings by RC&D Program Elements***

After tabulation and evaluation of the 89 surveys that were returned, the Council summarized and prioritized the results. The top ten concerns are listed in red.

##### **3.2.1 - Land Management**

1. Protection of Farmland – 52 votes
2. Agriculture Sustainability – 36 votes
3. Energy Conservation – 34 votes
4. Protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitats – 31 votes
5. Alternative Agricultural Opportunities – 26 votes
6. Zoning – 24 votes
7. Open Space Preservation – 13 votes

##### **3.2.2 - Water Management**

1. Groundwater Protection – 36 votes
2. Conservation – 34 votes
3. Improvement of Water Quality – 30 votes
4. Watershed Planning – 29 votes
5. Use and Quality of Rural Water Supply – 24 votes
6. Storm Water Management – 21 votes
7. Wetland Protection and Development – 16 votes
8. Nonpoint Source Pollution – 12 votes
9. Flood Mitigation – 11 votes
10. Riparian Corridor Protection and Management – 9 votes

##### **3.2.3 - Community Development**

1. Economic Development /Job Creation – 48 votes
2. Tourism Promotion – 26 votes
3. Development of Resource Based Industry – 19 votes
4. Historic Preservation – 20 votes
5. Waste Management – 18 votes
6. Development of Rural Infrastructure – 18 votes

7. Provisions of Adequate Health and Education Facilities – 16 votes
8. Promotion of Food Security – 15 votes
9. Broadband Communication – 14 votes
10. Improvement of Recreational Facilities – 12 votes
11. Transportation – 10 votes
12. Capacity Building of Local Leaders – 7 votes
13. Assist with Arts and Cultural Programs – 7 votes
14. Cultural Diversity Outreach – 1 vote

#### **3.2.4 - Land Conservation**

1. Erosion Control – 55 votes
2. Agriculture and Environmental Education – 54 votes
3. Sedimentation – 28 votes

***SECTION FOUR – SETTING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, and STRATEGIES***

**Goal A: Promote and enable further implementation of sustainable rural development projects to improve the overall quality of life.**

Objective 1: Community Development: Assess 5 infrastructure development opportunities addressing environmental community issues by 2013

Strategy 1 – Hold 5 workshops assessing interest in alternative energy, historical building revival, water supply management, wastewater management, and hazardous waste management.

Objective 2: Community Development: Educate 12 volunteer fire departments on rural fire protection by 2013.

Strategy 1 – Install one (1) dry hydrant demonstration site by 2010 to be used for future rural fire protection training

Strategy 2 – Hold five (5) field days concentrating on dry hydrant usage and rural fire protection.

Strategy 3 – Apply for annual grants to obtain funding to install fifteen (15) dry hydrants within the Lincoln Hills region

Objective 3: Community Development – Provide support to twenty (20) tourism events throughout the Lincoln Hills region by 2013.

Strategy 1 - Provide clerical and administrative assistance by contacting 70 members of LHPLRR and tracking 61 contracts for the Explore Southern Indiana brochure developed by the Tourism Committee.

Strategy 2 - Provide clerical and administrative assistance for ten (10) travel show booths for the Lincoln Hills Patoka Lake Recreation Region.

Strategy 3 - Provide quarterly updated information of member businesses to website host of the Explore Southern Indiana website.

Objective 4: Community Development - Promote and support the development of ten (10) alternative and small farm value-added ventures by 2013.

Strategy 1 – Hold five (5) farmers market meetings addressing needs of local farmers markets including promotion, management, and health regulations.

Strategy 2 – Coordinate with local agriculture community to hold five (5) Alternative Agriculture workshops with emphasis on local opportunities.

Strategy 3 – Develop promotional materials including flyers, news releases and products for Farmer Market and Alternative Agriculture workshops.

Objective 5: Community Development - Increase the operational budget and program capacity of Lincoln Hills RC&D by 2013.

Strategy 1 - Establish Financial Committee to develop annual operating budgets and conduct internal audits of financial status for each calendar year.

Strategy 2 – Increase membership by twelve (12) sponsors.

Strategy 3 – Increase Project Committees by ten (10).

Strategy 4 – Promote Lincoln Hills RC&D quarterly by submitting press releases to local newspapers and newsletters, updating website information, and developing additional outreach materials.

**Goal B: Promote and enable further implementation of sustainable natural resources development and conservation projects.**

Objective 1: Land Management - Provide natural resource management education opportunities to educate 2,500 area youth and adults in the next five years.

Strategy 1 – Coordinate ten (10) natural resource management field days that address natural resource management and the community’s role in protecting their environment.

Strategy 2 – Build and distribute 650 songbird nesting boxes to promote backyard conservation efforts during local events.

Strategy 3 – Implement twelve (12) workshops/field days addressing Best Management Practices for forested land.

Objective 2: Land Management: Implement Best Management Practices on 645 acres within the Lincoln Hills region by 2013.

Strategy 1 – Perform Timber Stand Improvement on 125 acres with assistance from the United States Forestry Service and Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Strategy 2 – Address wildlife habitat issues by providing 2,000 pounds of wildlife food plot seed to local Lincoln Hills RC&D residents.

Strategy 3 – Establishing twenty (20), ¼ acre plots of wildflower plantings along state highway corridors to reduce soil erosions and provide habitat for small wildlife and insects.

Objective 3: Land Conservation - Protect 2,200 acres of important farmland, forest land, and sensitive environmental areas by 2013.

Strategy 1 – Protect 500 acres of important sensitive areas by assisting the Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area organization in invasive species eradication.

Strategy 2 – Establish 500 acres of Classified Forest

Strategy 3 – Assist Crawford, Harrison, Perry and Spencer County Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationists in enrolling 1,200 acres in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

Objective 4: Water Conservation – Educate 50 teachers on water quality issues relating to the Lincoln Hills region and provide lesson plans they can implement into their classroom by 2013.

Strategy 1 – Coordinate five (5) water quality training programs to inform educators about water quality and water conservation issues.

Objective 5: Water Conservation/Land Management - Assist with two (2) local land use, water quality planning projects by 2013.

Strategy 1 - With the assistance of NRCS District Conservationists and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Lincoln Hills RC&D Area, assess the need of watershed planning and apply for two (2) 319 management plan grants.

## **SECTION 5: LINKAGES TO THE USDA NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **5.1– Linkage to USDA NRCS Overarching Strategies**

#### **5.1.1 – Cooperative Conservation**

*“We believe that enduring conservation is achieved only by the cooperative efforts of individuals, agencies, and organizations across the Nation.” - NRCS Strategic Plan*

Because the RC&D program is a cooperative initiative, all goals meet this overarching strategy.

#### **5.1.2 – Watershed Approach**

*“We believe that a locally led, watershed-based approach to resource management on private lands is key to conserving natural resources. This approach will benefit both inland and coastal communities.” - NRCS Strategic Plan*

- Goal B – Objective 1, Strategy 1
- Goal B – Objective 2, Strategies 1, 2
- Goal B – Objective 3, Strategies 1, 2, 3
- Goal B – Objective 5, Strategy 1

#### **5.1.3 – Market-based Approach**

*“We believe that the voluntary, incentive-based approach is the most effective method of achieving sound resource management and conservation on private lands.” - NRCS Strategic Plan*

- Goal A – Objective 1, Strategy 1
- Goal A – Objective 2, Strategies 1, 2,
- Goal A – Objective 3, Strategies 1, 2, 3
- Goal A – Objective 4, Strategies 1, 2, 3
- Goal A – Objective 5, Strategy 4
- Goal B – Objective 1, Strategies 1, 2, 3
- Goal B – Objective 4, Strategy 1

### **5.2– Linkage to USDA NRCS Foundation Goals**

#### **5.2.1 – High-quality, Productive Soils**

*“A healthy land begins with healthy soils. Soil quality describes the capacity of a soil to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and support human health and habitation. High-quality soils are the foundation of productive croplands, forest lands, and grasslands, and a vibrant and productive agriculture.” – NRCS Strategic Plan*

- Goal A – Objective 4, Strategies 1, 2
- Goal B – Objective 2, Strategies 1, 2, 3
- Goal B – Objective 3, Strategies 1, 2, 3
- Goal B – Objective 5, Strategy 1

### **5.2.2 – Clean and Abundant Water**

*“The Nation’s abundant freshwater supply is distributed unevenly across the landscape, throughout the seasons, and from year to year. In many areas, concerns are growing about the adequacy of the available ground and surface water supply and the quality of the water to support intended uses. Coupled with these concerns are the threats to public health and safety caused by floods and drought.” – NRCS Strategic Plan*

Goal B – Objective 2, Strategies 1, 2, 3

Goal B – Objective 3, Strategies 1, 2, 3

Goal B – Objective 5, Strategy 1

### **5.2.3 – Healthy Plant and Animal Communities**

*“Healthy plant and animal communities provide economic and aesthetic benefits and are essential to people’s quality of life. Sustaining plant and animal communities cannot be achieved by focusing on individual species or isolated areas. Rather, the web of interacting relationships between plant and animal species within a given ecosystem, and their relationship to the physical features and processes of their environment must be sustained to maintain the health and vigor of the system.” – NRCS Strategic Plan*

Goal A – Objective 4, Strategies 1, 2

Goal B – Objective 2, Strategies 1, 2, 3

Goal B – Objective 3, Strategies 1, 2, 3

Goal B – Objective 5, Strategy 1

***SECTION 6: CURRENT & POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH USDA AND OTHERS***

The Lincoln Hills RC&D was built on a strong foundation with local, state, and federal support and recognizes that the success of this organization would be non-existent without the financial and moral support of these entities.

In addition to financial and moral support, the Lincoln Hills RC&D Council also receives technical support from a USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service RC&D Coordinator and Program Assistant. The Coordinator and Program Assistant are on hand to provide day-to-day guidance regarding implementation of the Council's Area and Annual Plan on Work. They also provide technical assistance to Council members to ensure that project committees are running as efficiently and effectively as needed. These actions are carried out by the Coordinator and Program Assistant by acting as motivators, innovators, facilitators, communicators, advisors, and capacity builders.

***6.1 – Sponsoring Organizations***

There are currently four sponsors of the Lincoln Hills RC&D.

- Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Spencer County Soil and Water Conservation District

***6.2 – Supporting Organizations/Individuals***

- Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationists
- Crawford County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- Harrison County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- Perry County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- Spencer County Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry
- Lincoln Hills-Patoka Lake Recreation Region
- Perry County Retired Teachers' Association,
- Arts Councils
- County Chambers
- US Forest Service
- USDA Rural Development

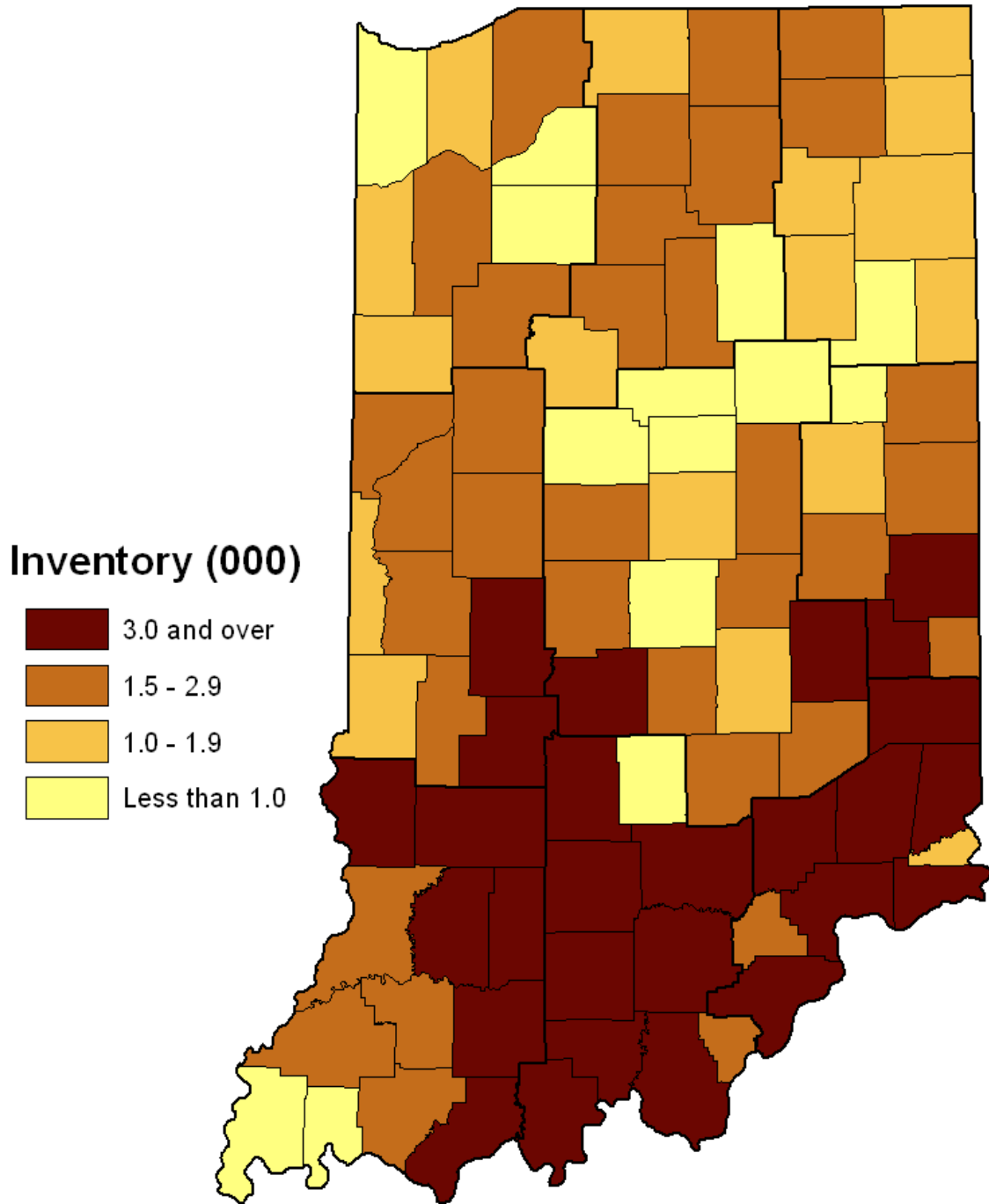






*APPENDIX D - 2008 Beef Cattle Numbers per County*

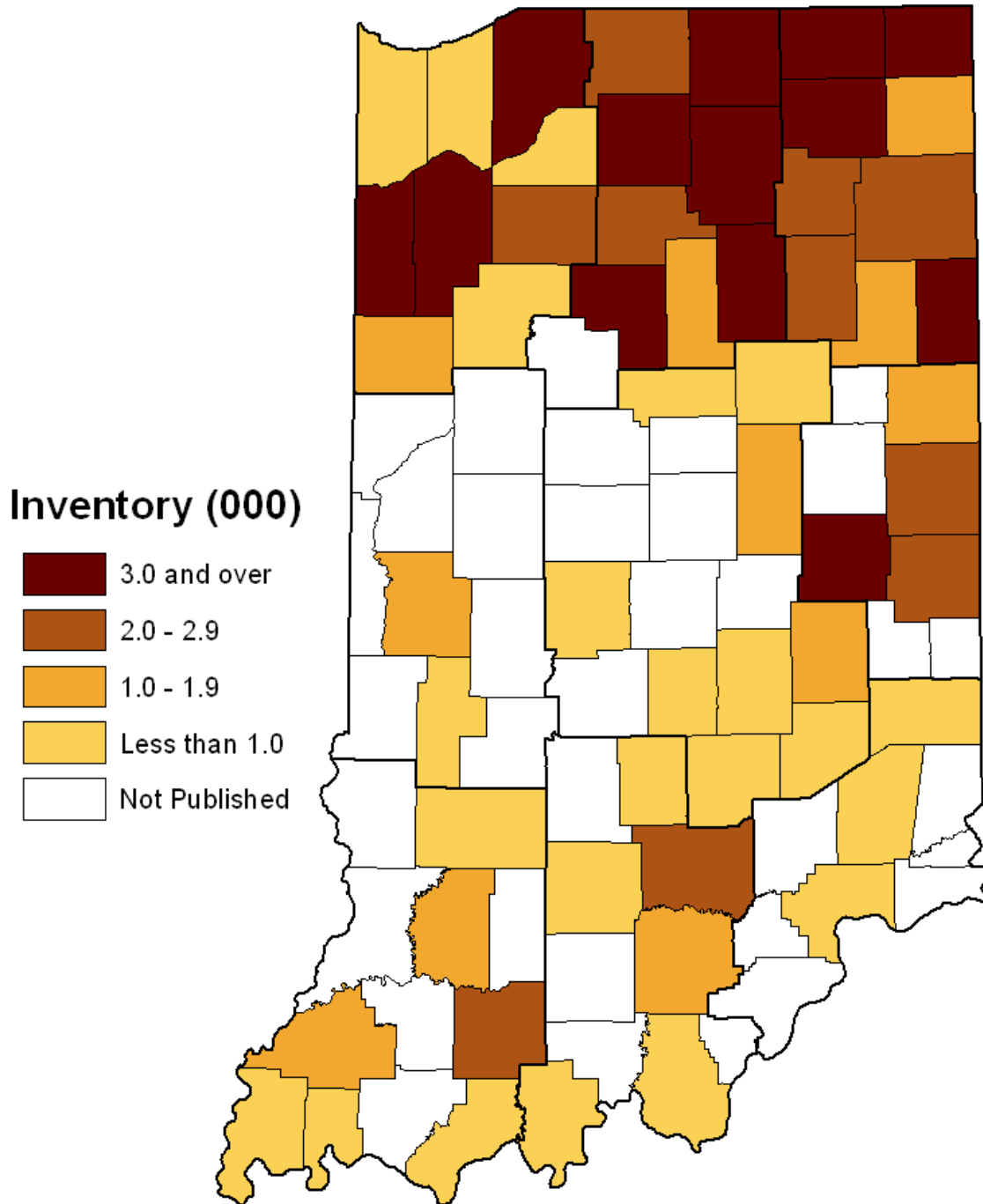
## Beef Cows, January 1, 2008



USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office

*APPENDIX E - 2008 Milk Cattle Numbers per County*

# Milk Cows, January 1, 2008



USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office

**APPENDIX F – Lincoln Hills RC&D Area Plan Survey**

**Please help Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council plan for the future! Your input on local needs and issues is very important. Your responses will be held in strict confidence, and no identifying information will be released. Thank you for telling us what your community needs are!**

1. Are you familiar with Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc.?  Yes  No
2. Have you or your organization utilized our services?  Yes  No

*If you answered no go to question #6. If you answered yes, please answer questions 3 – 5 based on the quality of the service you or your organization have received with 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). Circle one number for each question.*

**3.** Which type of assistance did you receive?

a) Technical assistance                      b) Financial assistance                      c) Organizational assistance

1 2 3 4 5      **4.** How would you rate the quality of products or services provided?

1 2 3 4 5      **5.** How effective has Lincoln Hills RC&D been in assisting you or your organization in meeting your community’s goals?

6. As we set our priority for the next five years, which of the following are most needed in your community? Please select no more than 3 in each category.

**Land Management**

- Agriculture Sustainability
- Alternative Agriculture Opportunities
- Energy Conservation
- Open Space Preservation
- Protection of Farmland
- Protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitats
- Zoning

**Water Management**

- Conservation
- Flood Mitigation
- Groundwater Protection
- Improvement of Water Quality
- Non-point Source Pollution
- Riparian Corridor Protection & Management
- Storm Water Mgt.
- Use & Quality of Rural Water Supply
- Watershed Planning
- Wetland Protection and Development

**Community Development**

- Broadband Communication
- Cultural Diversity Outreach
- Development of Resource Based Industries
- Economic Development – Job Creation
- Historic Preservation
- Improvement of Recreational Facilities
- Promotion of Food Security
- Provision of Adequate Health and Educational Facilities
- Tourism Promotion
- Transportation
- Waste Management
- Development of Rural Infrastructure
- Capacity building of local leaders
- Assist with arts & cultural programs

**Land Conservation**

- Agriculture & Environmental Education
- Erosion Control
- Sedimentation

**7. In your opinion, what are the top three needs / concerns in your community?**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Which of the following services would the community or organizations you represent need that you are currently unable to obtain? Please check all that apply.**

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| a. | Grant writing Assistance                  | i. | Loans for Businesses                      |
| b. | Seminar / Workshop Planning               | j. | Administration of Grants                  |
| c. | Facilitation of Meetings / Board Retreats | k. | Serving as a Fiscal Agent for Fundraising |
| d. | Fund Raising Assistance                   | l. | Strategic Planning                        |
| e. | Project Coordination                      | m. | Referrals to Available Resources          |
| f. | Organizational Development                | n. | Natural Resource Technical Assistance     |
| g. | Coalition Building                        | o. | Training Opportunities                    |
| h. | Forming Cooperatives                      | p. | Searches for Grants that are Available    |
| q. | Other : _____                             |    |   |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide any other feedback that can assist us as we plan for the future! Thank you for taking time to give us your input!**

<p><b>THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR EFFORTS TO PREPARE LINCOLN HILLS RC&amp;D FOR THE FUTURE!!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Completed surveys can be faxed to 812-649-4796 or mailed to: Lincoln Hills RC&amp;D, 996 N. State Road 66, #104, Rockport, IN 47635</b></p>
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