

Indiana NRCS

2012 Disaster Relief Efforts

SUMMARY OF STORM

On March 2, 2012 six Indiana counties were devastated by severe weather and tornadoes. The strong storms and tornadoes hit the rural southeastern part of the state killing at least 13 people and rendering hundreds homeless.

DAMAGE IN CLARK COUNTY

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, Jane Hardisty, Indiana NRCS State Conservationist, along with a team of state and area NRCS employees, visited southern Indiana to perform an environmental assessment of damage done. The assessment revealed 33,120 feet of stream impairment in Clark County, as follows:

Miller Fork of Silver Creek

3,900 feet of stream debris. Downstream bridge impact, in addition to the flooding threat. Woody debris mixed with lots of insulation, sheet metal and household debris.

Silver Creek/Clegg Creek tributary to Silver Creek

26,220 feet of stream debris. Bridge, crop fields and properties threatened if not removed. Mostly woody debris.

West Fork of Fourteen-Mile Creek

3,000 feet of stream debris. At least one bridge downstream impacted in addition to the crop/hay fields adjacent to the water course. Mostly woody debris.

NRCS PREPAREDNESS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. The program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.

NRCS field office and technical staff receive annual EWP training to identify eligible sites and the process needed to get funding for these sites. Because of these training efforts, Salem Technical Team staff led by Chris Downing and Clark County District Conservationist, Jennifer Kipper were able to assess the damage within days of the storm and quickly develop the disaster survey report to submit for funding.

NRCS CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Within 24 hours after assessment, NRCS was able to secure funding to assist Clark County in the following conservation efforts:

	Debris Removal	Access Road	Seeding	Repair to Fields
Miller Fork	3,900 linear feet	1,146 linear feet	3.6 acres	14.3 acres
Silver Creek/ Clegg Creek	26,220 linear feet	9,495 linear feet	28 acres	93 acres
West Fork	2,346 linear feet	1,146 linear feet	2.5 acres	8.5 acres

