



# ADVANCED CONSERVATION DRAINAGE TRAINING PROGRAM

*Building capacity to reduce nutrient losses from tile systems*

## 2019 Sessions

June 19-20

Saturated Buffers

Champaign

July 24-25

Constructed Wetlands

East Peoria

August 7

Drainage Water Management

Decatur

Are you a contractor or engineer who works with clients to address agricultural drainage concerns?

Are you a farm manager or drainage commissioner interested in new options for managing tile systems?

Are you a conservation professional involved in efforts to reduce agricultural nutrient losses?

The Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP) is now accepting applications for its **Summer 2019 Advanced Conservation Drainage Training Program**. Our unique training program brings together diverse members of the agricultural and drainage communities and provides them with knowledge, tools, and connections to make **conservation drainage** an integral part of tile installation and farm management.

As someone who is already engaged in agricultural drainage and/or nutrient loss reduction issues, this training will enhance your own professional development and will help our partners expand the network of qualified conservation drainage professionals who are catalyzing Illinois's progress toward water quality, environmental sustainability and production system resiliency goals.

Our 2019 training series will focus on three conservation drainage practices: **saturated buffers, constructed wetlands, and drainage water management**. Through classroom exercises, field demonstrations, and expert-led discussions, participants will learn about the science behind how each practice works, gain technical knowledge associated with siting, designing, and constructing conservation drainage practices, and develop strategies to successfully implement practices while overcoming common administrative challenges. We are recruiting a diverse cadre of trainees (drainage contractors, farmers, engineers, agency experts, crop consultants, etc.) to enhance the learning experience and create a strong, continuing network of regional experts.

The training will consist of three in-person workshops this summer. Workshops will include both classroom and field elements and will take place at sites across Central Illinois.

### Things to Know

- We can accommodate up to 25 individuals for this advanced training course. Applicants should have some prior experience in drainage implementation or knowledge about water management and/or experience providing outreach and education to the agricultural community.
- The time commitment for this program is significant (three 1.5-day sessions over three months) and will require travel. ISAP will cover travel and related expenses for trainees such as mileage, lodging, and meals.
- The training is progressive; ideally trainees will attend all three workshops. For workshops missed, trainees are expected to review the materials covered (recorded presentations/demonstrations, handouts, etc.).
- Following the workshop series, each trainee will commit to participating in at least one outreach event in his/her local area. Outreach may be done in partnership with other groups such as a local Soil and Water Conservation District or Farm Bureau chapter. ISAP can assist you in developing your outreach ideas if needed.

To apply for a space, please fill out the [online application](#) by **April 19<sup>th</sup>**. Specific questions on the training can be directed to Adrienne Marino, Training Coordinator ([adrienne.marino@tnc.org](mailto:adrienne.marino@tnc.org)) or to Keegan Kult, Training Facilitator ([kkult@admcoalition.com](mailto:kkult@admcoalition.com)).

On behalf of our steering committee members, thank you for your consideration of this training opportunity. **Please pass along this information to others who may be interested in participating.**

