

Advanced Conservation Drainage Training Program SATURATED BUFFER SESSION - PRESENTERS



Jane Frankenberger, Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering Purdue University

Dr. Jane Frankenberger earned a B.A. in Physics from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, an M.S. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Minnesota, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Cornell University. She leads an active applied research and Extension program on agricultural drainage, watershed management, and water quality. Dr. Frankenberger is responsible for the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service program in soil and water engineering and water management and serves as the Extension Water Quality Coordinator. Her research program focuses on watershed management, nonpoint source modeling, and water and

nitrate flux to subsurface drainage tiles. Dr. Frankenberger leads the Transforming Drainage Project, 5-year, 8-state project led by a core group of 15 leading agricultural engineers, soil scientists, agronomists, economists, social scientists, and database and GIS specialists with a common vision — to transform the way drainage is implemented across the agricultural landscape.



Keegan Kult, Executive Director Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition

Keegan holds Bachelor and Masters degrees from Iowa State University. In Fall 2018, he was named the Executive Director of the Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition (ADMC), an industry led organization which looks to speed the implementation of conservation drainage practices to improve water quality while maintaining the production benefits of drainage. Prior to joining ADMC, Keegan spent ten years as an Environmental Scientist with the Iowa Soybean Association. While at ISA, Keegan contributed to the design, evaluation, and installation of conservation drainage practices.



Ruth Book, State Conservation Engineer USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Illinois

Dr. Ruth Book is the State Conservation Engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Illinois, and has been named Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. She is responsible for the planning and design of all NRCS engineering conservation practices in the state. In recent years, Ruth has also provided national leadership for NRCS technical expertise with conservation drainage practices. With NRCS, Ruth has provided leadership in the development of software and technical guidance for engineering design. However, her wide-ranging career includes work in industry and academia, as well as government. She began her

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engineering career in hydraulic system design with Cessna Fluid Power and Eaton Hydraulics in Kansas and Minnesota. After taking time away from employment to raise a young family, she went back to school at the University of Illinois, earning a doctorate and doing some research and teaching. She joined NRCS in September 2000.



Nathan Utt, Doctoral Candidate

University of Minnesota, Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Nathan Utt is a PhD student in at the University of Minnesota and has been involved in the drainage industry for over ten years. Prior to resuming his studies at the U of MN, Nathan worked as a consultant in the private sector and was involved in the design, installation, or monitoring of more 20 saturated buffers across the Midwest. His current work is focused on better understanding how saturated buffers work with the goal of improving their design methods and treatment efficiency.



Stephen Anderson, Owner and P.E. Water Management Solutions, LLC

Stephen Anderson holds a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering and an M.S. is Agricultural and Biological Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He worked with a large agricultural chemical consulting company and then with USDA-NRCS before returning home to co-found WMS. Stephen also remains an active partner in his family farm near Effingham.