

# Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District

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The Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District's George P Irwin Conservation Education Station was the training site for the National Wild Land Fire Fighter II Certification. Four instructors from the Illinois Fire Service Institute conducted the training to 17 volunteer firemen from 5 Illinois counties. The training certifies the firemen in conducting prescribed burns.

Because of this training the Kell Fire Dept continues to conducted prescribed control burns for interested landowners. This has become one of the greatest benefits to Marion County Landowners who have land in CRP and planted to warm season grasses and legumes. Not only is it a benefit to the Marion County landowners because of the availability of the mid contract management provisions in the CRP contract, but funding is now available to donate the Kell Fire Department for their work. These donations have been a source of additional revenue for the Kell Fire Department who has used it for advance training and additional fire fighting equipment. Since the completion of the training the Kell Fire Department has assisted 23 landowners on 694 acres of prescribed burns

