

INSIDE IOWA *TODAY*

News of
Interest

Thursday,
January 25, 2007

or the DYSART REPORTER, GLADBROOK NORTHERN SUN-PRINT, REINBECK COURIER, TAMA NEWS-HERALD, TRAER STAR-CLIPPER

2007 Annual Report

Conserving Soil and Water in Tama County



Tama County to participate in Women, Land and Legacy project

By Melody Bro

In recent years, women's roles in Iowa agriculture have changed dramatically. It has become more and more evident there is a need to reach out to women at the local level and to help them make connections they may find helpful as landowners, farmers, and other important role-players in our state's largest industry.

In response to this increasing need, the USDA State Outreach Council has designed a program called Women, Land and Legacy: Building Your Farm's Future Today. Through small group dialogue and focused conversation, women listen to each other and bring ideas together to coordinate connections with each other, with information, with local and statewide resources, and with others in their communities. This grassroots program is currently active in numerous Iowa counties.

Tama County's first Women, Land and Legacy event will take place on Monday, Feb. 5. Refreshments and registration will be begin at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting following from 7-9 p.m.. It will be held at the North Tama Activity Center at 212 N. Main, Traer.

This meeting is free and open to the public, but it is geared toward women with an interest in land and/or agriculture. The goal of this event is to allow women to share their experiences in farming, their dreams for the land, and what is necessary to meet

Women, Land and Legacy: Building Your Farm's Future Today

When: Monday, Feb. 5, refreshments, 6:30 p.m., program 7-9 p.m.

Where: North Tama Activity Center at 212 N. Main, Traer.

Cost: Free

If you go: an RSVP is encouraged. Please call 641-484-2702 by Friday, Feb. 2.

their needs as landowners and operators. If you are interested in attending, an RSVP is encouraged. Please call 641-484-2702 by Friday, Feb. 2.

Several local agencies are working to bring Women, Land and Legacy together—Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Tama County Extension Service, Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development, and the Tama Soil & Water Conservation District. Special thanks to the ladies who served on the Women, Land, and Legacy planning committee: Rebecca Hosek, Julia Bahinat, Margaret Babinat, Glenda Devick, Pat Oettchen, Georgette Edel, Camilla Dostal, and Frances Bacon.

PHOTOS-

Top, left: Owner-Operator award, Rick and Jodi Hopper farm.

Top, right: Joann McBride's new windbreak.

Center: Urban Backyard Conservation award, Linda and David Seemans.

Bottom: Dylan Clausen received an airplane ride as a result of the Grocery Sack Recycling Contest Award. The ride was donated by Jim Pippert of Dysart.



4-H awards of a \$50 Savings Bond presented by the Tama Soil and Water conservation District for their conservation projects that were entered in the Tama County Fair. They also needed to complete their project books. Winners pictured are, left to right: Tyler Wrage, Angela Wrage, Chase Schuett, Levi Petersen, Rob Heise, Mallory Owens, Emma Knoop, Cody Fevold and David Bruene.

Tama County Soil and Water Conservation Award Winners



RURAL BACKYARD CONSERVATION AWARD- Jerry and Pat McHenry with Commissioner Jody Kasal.



WINDBREAK AWARD- Joann McBride (center) with her grandson, Sam Ferriss (left) and Jeff Bruene, commissioner.



FILTER STRIP AWARD WINNER- Ron and Belva Barthelmes, with Dean McKenna, commissioner.



FRIENDS OF CONSERVATION AWARD Stan and Myrna Dostal



LANDLORD/TENANT CONSERVATION AWARD- George Kadmas Sr. and George Kadmas Jr. with Jeff Bruene, Commissioner.



URBAN BACKYARD CONSERVATION AWARD- Linda and David Seemans with Mike Snider, commissioner.



OWNER-OPERATOR AWARD- Rick, Ricky, Jodi, and Emily Hopper with Dean McKenna, commissioner.



ESTABLISHED WINDBREAK AWARD- Roger and Beth Bockes with Mike Snider, commissioner.



CONSERVATION TILLAGE AWARD- Jody Kasal, commissioner, with Allyson and Ryan Bailey and their children Eli, Hunter and Atylissa.

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Dave Meggers 319-478-8650 to coordinate

Photos and stories from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation District staff and office.

Opening grain prices on Friday, Jan. 19, 2007: Central Counties Co-op, Traer, corn \$3.66, beans \$6.45; Tama Benton Co-op, Dysart, corn \$3.58, beans \$6.42; Werner's Grain and Feed, Tama, corn \$3.55, beans \$6.40.

We Salute the Tama County Soil & Water Conservation District and the conservation efforts of the landowners in Tama County

Soil & Water Conservation:
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TAMA COUNTY'S CONSERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Friends of Conservation Award: Stanley and Myrna Dostal

The Dostals have three children. Calvin who farms near Traer, daughter, Brenda (Ed) Hoeg and three children, Joe, Chris and Amanda residing near Traer, and Carrie (Matt) Carlton and their son, Andrew, who reside in Indiana.

They enjoy watching their grandchildren participate in sports such as baseball, softball, volleyball and basketball.

The Dostals are members of Pork Producers, Farmers Union, Farm Bureau and St Paul's Catholic Church.

Stan & Myrna have been active volunteers for the District for several years. Stan was an assistant commissioner for several years and then served as a commissioner from 1997 to 2004. During that year the District has several activities. Whether it is to pick up and sort trees for the tree sale, assist with the Outdoor Classroom, serve as a Contractor's meeting, help with the Envirothon, the Dostals are always willing to assist the District.

Right-
Stanley and Myrna
Dostal



Rurban Backyard Conservation Award- David and Linda Seeman

David and Linda are both retired and enjoy their backyard garden in Tama. They have a daughter, Nicole and two grandson's, Kegan, 15 and Treye 11, who all reside in the Tama/Toledo area.

The Seemans moved to this area from Des Moines in December of 1999 to be near their daughter and grandchildren. They enjoy watching the grandchildren's activities and going fishing (once a while).

Conservation Tillage Award, Ryan & Allyson Bailey: The Bailey's have been married for 17 years and have three children: Hunter (9), Aylissa (8), and Eli (5).

Family, farming, fishing, hunting and gardening are activities that the Baileys enjoy.

Ryan is a corn researcher at Pioneer Hi-Bred.

The farm consists of 150 acres each of corn and soybeans. They have practiced no-till since purchasing the farm in 2002. The farm has no residence on it. During the cropping season, Allyson's parents are gracious enough to let them stay with them as the Baileys live 2 hours south near Hamilton. Allyson's parents assist in many aspects of the farming operation.



David and Linda Seeman

Owner/Operator Award- Rick and Jodi Hopper

Rick and Jodi have two children. Ricky, 12, in 7th grade and Emily, 9, in 4th grade, they both attend South Tama Schools. Jodi works part time for Wobeter Real Estate in Toledo.

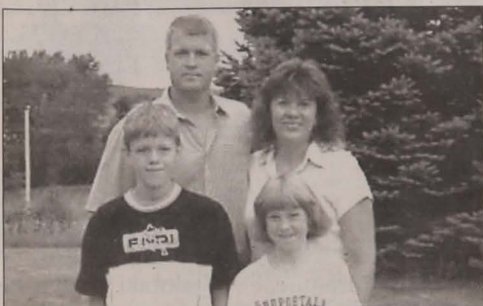
Rick enjoys working with his herd of cows, going fishing with his children. He is coach for his son's basketball team. He also enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Rick farms raising corn, soybeans, hay and has a cow/calf operation. He works part-time at Pioneer Hybrid in Toledo during the winter months. He also assists Pioneer during detasseling and harvest seasons.

He is a member of United Methodist Church, Iowa Cattlemen Association and the American Angus Association.

The Hoppers own 480 acres and rent an additional 730 acres. They raise corn, beans and hay. They have a 100 head cow/calf operation. They sell their calves in the fall that are weaned and pre-conditioned. Rick has been farming since he graduated from high school in 1979. He started by taking over the family dairy operation that his father started in the 50's with registered Guernseys.

The Hopper's farming operation consists of mostly conservation tillage and no till.



Rick, Jodi, Ricky and Emily Hopper

IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM

July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 (Fiscal Year 2006)

05/06 Allocation	\$38,808.00	REAP Practices Allocation	\$8,259.58
Funds Allocated	\$31,775.30	Funds Obligated	\$ 0
Balance Remaining	\$ 7,032.70	Balance Remaining	\$8,259.58
04/05 Allocation	\$41,632.38	REAP Forestry Allocation	\$3,852.00
Funds Allocated	\$39,303.99	Funds Obligated	\$3,012.03
Balance Remaining	\$ 2,328.39	Balance Remaining	\$ 839.97
03/04 Allocation	\$25,942.76	IM Allocation	\$2,000.00
Funds Allocated	\$25,942.76	Expenditures	
Balance Remaining	\$ 0	Commissioner Mileage	\$ 989.96
02/03 Allocation	\$38,870.35	Office Supplies	\$ 349.45
Funds Allocated	\$38,870.35	CDI Dues	\$ 700.00
Balance Remaining	\$ 0	Postage	\$ 457.00
		Awards Banquet	\$1022.80

Enjoy Retirement!

The Natural Resources Conservation Office has a missing person! The secretary, Nancy Havran, has recently retired. The office staff would like to wish her many years of rest, relaxation, and exciting adventures!



Something new at Hickory Hills County Park

By Julie Mitchell

for fish and wildlife.

Have you seen anything new at Hickory Hills County Park? There are two water and sediment control basins located on the grounds.

These were finished in the fall of 2005. The structures were built to reduce the amount of sediment flowing into Casey Lake. Permanent water is stored in these structures and will provide food and shelter

There will be two more water and sediment control basins constructed this spring 2007. These structures will not hold permanent water, but will help reduce sediment going into the lake.

Black Hawk County Conservation Board and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship are responsible for the funding of these conservation practices.

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TAMA COUNTY'S CONSERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

New Windbreak Award- Joann McBride

Joann has two daughters: Vicki (Mrs. Roger Ferriss), they have one son, Sam. Vicki and Roger have a sideline named "Art From the Farm" which is art made from barbed wire. Kathy and her husband, Mike Stok, live outside of Harper's Ferry. They have 4 children, James, Michael, Matt and Marc.

Joann states that her interests/hobbies include family, taking care of her home and acreage, having coffee with the Doyle's (her neighbors), golfing and talking with people.

Joann served as a Tama County Deputy Sheriff for 25 years. Since her retirement, she has held numerous jobs, but now she has "officially" retired until something interesting comes along.

She is a member of the coffee drinkers of Hardees, Farm Bureau, Kiwanis and Christ Methodist Church in Toledo. The acreage of approximately 25 acres has a newly planted windbreak which consists of ninebark shrubs, arborvitae, and a variety evergreens.



Left-

Joann McBride.

Landlord/Tenant Conservation Award-

George Kadrmas Sr. and George Kadrmas Jr.

The Kadrmas farmstead has been in the family since 1884. George and Pat (deceased in 2005) have two children: George Jr. who lives in Cedar Rapids and a daughter, Julie (Armin) Paff and son Matt who live in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

George Sr. enjoys hunting, trapping, gardening. He is an employee at the Meskwaki Casino as a housekeeping porter. He is a member of St Paul's Catholic Church, KD's and Farm Bureau.

George Jr. enjoys gardening, landscaping and vocal music. He is a Technology Development Representative (TDR) for Monsanto in Southeast Iowa and has farmed since 1982.

The home farm is 240 acres and George Jr. rents an additional 80 acres. The Kadrmas' no-till soybeans following corn and minimum till corn following soybeans. They raise some corn following corn which they chisel plow with 2" straight shanks to leave more residue on top. They also contour the rows and have waterways to minimize erosion. They established filter strips along the creek in 2004 and planted the pasture in trees in 2006.



RIGHT- George Kadrmas Sr. and George Kadrmas Jr.

Rural Backyard Conservation Award- Jerry and Pat McHenry:

Pat and Jerry bought this property in 1984. Ever since that time they have been planting trees, flowers and shrubs. Most everything they have planted they did so with the intent to see more wildlife and birds. They have 9 grandchildren.

The McHenry's enjoy hunting, fishing, trapping, golf, gardening, planting and caring for roses, maintaining an orchard, planting and caring for a flower garden as well as a vegetable garden, planting shrubs for birds, feeding birds. They enjoy planting anything that might entice animals and birds to their property.

Jerry is a Metallurgist at Progressive Foundry in Perry and Pat is employed at the Iowa Veterans Home.

They are members of the following organizations; National Rifle Association, Garden Club and National Wildlife Federation.



LEFT-
Jerry and Pat McHenry

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Bohemian Mutual Insurance Toledo - 641-484-5233	Manatt's Inc. Tama - 641-484-4022	Doyle's Family Pharmacy Toledo - 641-484-3906	Thomas Company Tama - 641-484-3240
Williams Manufacturing Tama - 641-484-3170	Nancy L. Burk, Attorney Toledo - 641-484-2394	Benda Ag Service Elberon - 641-489-2946	Dr. Rick Cooper Dr. Christi Downs Town & Country Vet Clinic Tama - 641-484-4086
Appraisal & Real Estate Services Traer - 319-478-2990	Buckingham Co-Op Buckingham - 319-478-2331	Community Service Agency Inc. Dysart - 319-476-4470	Dysart Reporter Dysart - 319-476-3550
Dysart Tire & Service Dysart - 319-476-3977	Eikamp Insurance Agency Dysart - 319-476-4590	Farmers Co-Op Telephone Co. Dysart - 319-476-7800	Farmers Lumber Co. Dysart - 319-476-2180
Farmers Mutual Insurance Assn. Traer - 319-478-2585	Farmers Savings Bank & Trust Traer - 319-478-2148	L.L. Owens & Associates Traer - 319-478-2710	Larry's Plumbing & Heating Traer - 319-478-2404
Carl Luze Real Estate Dysart - 319-476-4949	Sunnycrest Nursing Center Dysart - 319-476-2400	Sunrise Hill Care Center Traer - 319-478-2730	Tama Benton Co-Op Dysart - 319-476-3666
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Jane Appelgate is shown accepting the award for son, Caleb. David Banne is the commissioner presenting the award. Caleb was one of the District's Scholarship award recipients. He was unable to attend as he is currently attending college classes. The other two scholarship award winners were: Nathan Upah and Eric Haughey. They were both unable to attend the banquet as they also are attending college.

District Activities for Fiscal Year 2006

July: Application was approved for a 319/WFP application for Black Hawk Conservation located at Hickory Hills for two grade stabilization structures in the amount of \$34,900. Conservation Board winners were announced. Free Watermelon Feed was sponsored by the District on July 23. Resolutions are needed for the annual CDI conference. Annual Work Plan for the District was reviewed and changes were made to reflect the District's goals and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. The Interagency Agreement between the Black Hawk County Conservation Board and the District for the Hickory Hills Water Quality 319/WFP Project was approved. The District voted to donate \$100 for a new agricultural exhibit at the Smithsonian that would exhibit soils to educate the public about the importance of the soil resource.

August: A conservation four/contractors meeting was held to view some of the cost share conservation projects that have been completed by NRCS. Postcards will be sent to landowners and operators in Tama County to encourage them to contact the office for cost share funding for conservation projects. A letter was mailed to all schools in the surrounding area to inform them of the fact that the District has a district employee that will demonstrate the EnviroScape to their students. Students in 4th through 12th grades will be targeted.

September: Tama County has been approved for the CSP in the Middle Iowa watershed. Sign up will be early in Fiscal Year 2006. Construction on the 319 Project at Hickory Hills has started.

October: CDI resolutions were reviewed. CDI dues in the amount of \$700 were paid. A soil loss complaint has been filed in Section 32 in Salt Creek township. LWFP program information was shared with the commissioners. CSP meetings will be held in the month of November for landowners/operators in Tama County.

November: An agreement between Hawkeye Community College and Tama SWCD was signed for the Hickory Hills 319 Project. Tama County received \$144,000 for EQIP funding. Local resource concerns for Tama County are: soil erosion, water quality, plant productivity and management, and air quality. The two priority watersheds designated are Wolf creek and Deer Creek. It was decided to use the same ranking sheet.

December: A gift from the Pat Kadrmas memorial was received. It was decided to use the funds to award a scholarship to a Tama County senior student. A district audit will be conducted. CSP meetings will be held again this month.

January: Officers were elected, committee members were appointed. Conservation project cost will be reviewed by NRCS staff. A contribution letter will be written by the District Secretary and mailed in the near future. A field day for contractors and the general public will be held in the summer.

February: A civil rights review was held on Title VI (nondiscriminatory service to customers) and Title VII (nondiscriminatory service to employees). The District is interested in conducting a Women, Land and Legacy program in Tama County. A free watermelon feed will be donated by the District at the Tama County Fair. The CSP program was cancelled for the Middle Iowa Watershed.

March: June 7th is the date selected for the Field Day. CDI Regional meeting will be held in March. Scholarship applications were reviewed and recipients were selected. The District voted to donate \$200 to the Regional Envirothon.

April: Field Day arrangements were discussed. The CDI Regional meeting was attended by: Mike Snider, Jan Wobeter, Nancy Havran and Larry Jones. November 14th is the date selected for the Awards Banquet. 11 contracts were approved for EQIP projects. PB IV funding was requested for District employees.

May: Conservation Award Recipients will be selected this month. An extension is being requested on the 319 Project for December 2006.

June: Commissioner Kasal was appointed to serve as a member for the Iowa Valley Iowa River Economic Development board.

Tama Co. Conservation Awards

Established Windbreak Award-

Roger and Beth Bockes

Roger and Beth have a daughter, Melissa (Dave) Belfors who resides in Minnesota and a son, Matt (Tara) Bockes who resides in Bundabula.

The Bockes enjoy landscaping, Iowa State athletics and travel. Roger is the owner of Heavy Equipment Manufacturing in Grundy Center where they manufacture concrete paving equipment. Beth is a teacher at the Grundy Center Community School Learning Center. They are members of the I.S.U. Alumni Association and Prairie Lakes Church in Cedar Falls. They own 120 acres where they live. This farm has been in Beth's family since 1868. They have lived at this site since 1974. They recommend that if you are planning on planting a new windbreak; visit one near you during a blizzard for its effectiveness.



Conservation Buffer Award-

Ron & Belva Barthelmes

Ron and Belva have three children and six grandchildren.

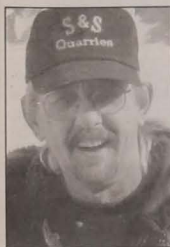
Ron enjoys hunting and fishing and Belva enjoys attending auctions.

They farm 1230 acres using minimum till and some no-till. They have lived at this farmstead for 28 years. Ron stated that these filters have helped save the soil from the area pictured; whereas, before the filters were installed soil was washing away.



New staff member in Toledo office

My name is Cliff Foster, I am the newest member of the Toledo Field Office staff. Although I am the newest member of the staff, I am not new to the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). I have worked for the NRCS for 20 years as a Soil Conservation Technician.



Cliff Foster

I started my career in 1986 in Estherville, Iowa, in 1989 my wife Cathy, four children and I relocated to Poweshiek County. I worked in Poweshiek County for 17 years as a Technician. In 2006 my wife and I purchased an acreage near Tama County, so I decided to try transferring to the Toledo office.

Since I received my transfer in October, my interest is to be involved in conservation activities in Tama County that I did not have an opportunity to be involved with in Poweshiek county.

My interests are gardening of which I operate a .5 acre garden and direct market vegetables to residents at Holiday Lake.

Other interests include automotive, home improvement, sports card collecting and computers. My children are all grown and out of the house now, I enjoy spending time with my three-year-old grandson.

I have had many conservation experiences in my 20 year career, I hope that the skills that I have acquired, over the years can be put to use assisting the Tama county residents in their conservation related needs. My experience has been that even though the two counties share similar topography, conservation implementation can be somewhat different. The Toledo field office staff have been very helpful during my transition.

Updating conservation plans

By Chester Worden
 Soil Conservation Technician

A lot of conservation plans were written prior to 1996 and a few are still being used that were written in 1988-89.

Any plans that are 10 or more years old should be updated. Also any plan where you are now doing or want to do different cropping rotations or tillage should be updated.

They should also be updated when there is a change of owner or operator and before new land is cleared and put into production. If you are spot checked for compliance and you are not following

your old written plan exactly you will be evaluated on current Farm Bill and soil loss standards.

The soil loss standards are now evaluated on a revised soil loss formula and you may or may not meet compliance. Your fields will not be evaluated on standards that were in existence in 1996 when the plan was written. Most operators have or will change practices over time and this winter is a good time to up-date and evaluate plans.

Don't wait until early spring as we may be doing construction projects. There are several NRCS employees that can help you do this.

Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District

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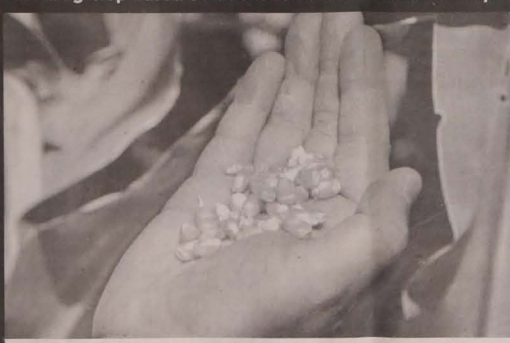
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Time to plan for a new windbreak

By Cliff Foster

With winter coming to a close it may be time to plan for a new windbreak or simply renovate an existing windbreak. A well planned windbreak will not only help slow the wind, they also protect soil, conserve energy, control snow deposition, provide shelter from wind for livestock, improve aesthetics, and provide wildlife habitat. The investment each individual makes in a windbreak will normally be returned many times over in 30 years in savings in fuel costs, wear on structures, health of livestock, and increased values to the environment as a whole.

The minimum requirements for windbreaks for REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) funding is for three rows of coniferous trees on the north and or west sides of areas to be protected. One row of dense deciduous shrubs may be substituted for one row of coniferous trees, usually installed on the windward side. The varieties of coniferous trees, deciduous trees/shrubs are determined by an evaluation of the soil types in the area to be planted. The south/east sides can be considered field windbreak areas, treatment could consist of single row plantings.

Cost-share is available for windbreaks, if interested contact

the local NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) office at (641) 484-2702 to inquire about funds.

There are additional possibilities for funding for shelterbelts, these plantings sometimes require greater than the three row minimums to be planted or may have other requirements to be met.

Additional funding sources could be the DNR (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) Rick Trine Wildlife Biologist at (641) 752-5521. The FSA (Farm Service Agency) office has an option through the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) for shelterbelts, contact at (641) 484-2701.



RIGHT -
Established
Windbreak
Award-
Roger and
Beth Bockes

Tribal liaison activities

By Clint Miller

Nearly a year has gone by since I became the NRCS Tribal Liaison for the Meskwaki Tribe. The Meskwaki National Resources Department (MNRD) and I have worked together on a number of interesting and complicated projects.

Probably the most notable

is the 23 head of bison now housed on the settlement. Commonly known as buffalo, the bison came to the Meskwaki from the Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City. We are working on establishing large areas of native grass pastures to allow the bison to graze in a more natural setting while still protecting the other resources on the settle-

ment.

I have also assisted the MNRD in a cropland valuation study, several erosion prevention projects, and establishing a prescribed burning plan for the tribal owned Wetland Reserve Program area. I look forward to another year of working with the Meskwaki people to protect their natural resources.



Conservation Tillage Award-

Ryan & Allyson Bailey: The Baileys have been married for 17 years and have three children: Hunter (9), Atylissa (8), and Eli (5).

Family, farming, fishing, hunting and gardening are activities that the Baileys enjoy.

Ryan is a corn researcher at Pioneer Hi-Bred.

The farm consists of 150 acres each of corn and soybeans. They have practiced no-till since purchasing the farm in 2002. The farm has no residence on it. During the cropping season, Allyson's parents are gracious enough to let them stay with them as the Baileys live 2 hours south near Hamilton. Allyson's parents assist in many aspects of the farming operation.

NRCS SWCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (100)	2
Conservation Completion Incentive First Year	22
Conservation Cover (327) (ac)	672
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)	2,634
Contour Buffer Strips (332) (ac)	2
Contour Farming (330) (ac)	818
Cross Slope Farming (733) (ac)	40
Early Successional Habitat Development/Manag	897
Fence (382) (ft)	4,771
Field Border (386) (ft)	7,600
Filter Strip (393) (ac)	116
Grade Stabilization Structure (410) (no)	11
Grassed Waterway (412) (ac)	163
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	445
Pasture and Hay Planting (512) (ac)	275
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	374
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (	750
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Stri	1,568
Residue Management, Mulch Till (329B) (ac)	377
Residue Management, No-Till/Strip Till (329A	450
Riparian Forest Buffer (391) (ac)	34
TA Application (912) (no)	1
TA Check-Out (913) (no)	1
TA Design (911) (no)	1
TA Planning (910) (no)	1
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)	26
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac	295
Use Exclusion (472) (ac)	703
Waste Storage Facility (313) (no)	1
Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) (no)	12
Watering Facility (614) (no)	2
Wetland Restoration (657) (ac)	38
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (a	30

Mid-contract Management

By Mark Pokorny

Mid-contract management (MCM) is performing an activity such as spraying, disking, seeding, or burning periodically on CRP ground to diversify or improve wildlife habitat. The old traditional brome grass CRP fields have very little value to wildlife in just a few years. MCM is required on all of the recent CRP enrollments at least twice during the contract period. Owners with older CRP contracts may voluntarily revise their plans to include management activities if they choose. Recent Re-enrollments of old CRP contracts have management activities incorporated into the new CRP plans.

No management activity may occur during the primary nesting season, May 15 - Aug. 1. The years to perform MCM are specified in the CRP plan. There is some flexibility if the weather doesn't cooperate. Management activities should only be performed on 1/3 of the field each year for 3 years

to protect soil loss and provide cover for wildlife if the field is more than 20 acres. Landowners can choose which management activity or a combination of activities they prefer on their land.

Spraying is done by applying a suppression rate of a burn-down herbicide to actively growing grass stands to dry and weaken, but not kill, the stand. Mowing or burning prior to spraying is encouraged to get the stand actively growing. This management activity will allow a more diverse plant community for a few years until the original grass stand takes over again. Fields with heavy noxious weed pressure history should be approached cautiously using the spraying option.

Disking is another method of diversifying the plant community. Disking 2-4 inches deep leaving 50% cover is ideal. This may require 2-3 passes to obtain optimum cover. You may have to reduce the vegetation cover prior to disking to get effective results.

Seeding legumes into existing grass is another option. Site preparation such as spraying, disking, haying, grazing, or burning will be needed before seeding to provide a better seeding stand. This can be done in the spring, fall, or as a frost seeding. This creates an excellent habitat for birds. The legumes attract many bugs that make an excellent food source for young chicks.

Burning is the best way to invigorate a native grass stand. This reduces the smothering effect of the organic matter that native grasses produce. Burning, when timed right, also reduces competition of other grasses and small trees. This also allows the ground to warm up sooner allowing native grasses to thrive. Planning a burn is very critical.

Some of the MCM practices work better or allowed only for certain seeding types. Consult the NRCS or technical service provider for any help you may need with your mid-contract management requirements.

Annual Farm Toy Show coming to Living History Farms Feb. 3 and 4



If You Go:

What- 5th annual Farm Toy Show

Where- Living History Farms, 2600 11th Street, Urbandale,

When- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3, and Sunday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission-\$3

More information- visit Living History Farms on-line at <http://www.lhf.org>

Area farm toy enthusiasts are sure to enjoy themselves as they buy, sell, and trade with a variety of dealers, including representatives from the national Farm Toy Museum, in the Visitor Center at Living History Farms, Saturday, Feb. 3 and Sunday, Feb. 4.

The fifth annual Living History Farms Farm Toy Show will feature a wide variety of farm toy collectibles, from die cast tractors to farming books, and construction toys.

Admission is \$3 per person. No coupons or discounts will be accepted for this event.

Everyone is welcome to sign up for a chance to win door prizes.

Living History Farms opens for the general season May 1, 2007.

Upcoming special events include "Tell Me a Story" on Saturday, Feb. 24 and "Folk Music Friday" on Friday, March 9.

AG NEWS



Farm Bill Discussion

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, recently discussed the upcoming farm bill with Bob Stallman, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Harkin has said he plans to push for an aggressive renewable energy title that contains stronger incentives for developing, producing and using the full range of farm-based energy and bio-based products. Another top priority will be fully funding the Conservation Security Program (CSP), a broadly-supported initiative that Harkin created in the 2002 farm bill to provide financial incentives for agricultural producers who adopt and maintain sound conservation practices on land in production.

Photo courtesy of Senator Harkin's Office

FROM OUT OF THE PAST.....

MARIE K. VILETA

Taylor family of North Tama

Some families who were early residents of Tama county are still remembered. Such is the case of the familiar Taylor family who came to North Tama county in 1852.

In the fall of 1851, the families of Ira and Giles Taylor, brothers, left their native Ohio in three covered wagons. They spent the winter at Tipton, Iowa, where a son was born to Giles and his wife. The baby was named Melville Tipton. Their daughter, Zoe Ann, was then two years old. Ira and his wife had seven children.

When the spring of 1852 came, the Taylors went on to Tama county. Giles bought 160 acres of land from Mr. Osborn and moved into the one room log cabin.

Adjoining land was obtained by Ira from the government and Coon creek made a natural boundary. After a few years, Ira and his family moved to Toledo and engaged in the mercantile business. Sadly, four of their children died during one month in 1854 of diphtheria and were buried in Buckingham cemetery.

Cynthia, one of Ira's surviving daughters, married Rev. S.W. Bingham about 1855. He had organized a Methodist class in the log cabin home of Giles Taylor. The latter lived in the cabin for 21 years but had added two rooms. A larger house was built in 1873. It was in the log cabin that two more children, Elizabeth Adeline (Addie E.) and Elmer Ellsworth (E.E.) Taylor were born. Just three-quarters of a mile from the Giles Taylor cabin was the West Union school the children attended. West Union became a small village with a post office named Wolf Creek, a store, a blacksmith shop, schoolhouse and a rooming house.

The station named Traer was located on the B.C.R. & N. Ry. when it crossed the Giles Taylor property in 1873. Much of the farm was platted into lots, and Mr. Taylor gave a wooded section to the new town for a park which still bears his name.

For the first two terms,

Giles Taylor served as Traer's mayor. When he was 82 years old, in 1889, he died. His wife lived until 1895. Both were laid to rest in Buckingham cemetery.

Addie E. Described her family in this manner when she set down the family history in 1947: "Zoe Ann, born in Ohio in 1849, came to N. Tama Co. in 1852, was a teacher for a number of years, became the first Post Master of Traer, served as P.M. eight years and was married in 1881 to Dr. L.J. Kyett, a physician of Hamburg, Iowa. Was his widow many years, had no children and died in 1933 in Albuquerque, N.M."

Melville Tipton, born in 1852 in Tipton, Iowa, became a farmer, lived many years near Paulina, Iowa. Was married at Traer to Emily Horton. Three children, all daughters, were born to them. The family came back to Traer and all have died except one daughter, Mrs. Grace Taylor Geyer, now living in Traer.

"The third child of Giles and Mary Taylor, Mrs. Addie E. Taylor Porterfield, was born in 1856 in the log cabin. She was married in 1879 to David Alexander Porterfield. Four children were born to them. One died in 1904 in Traer and late in that year the family moved to Albuquerque, N.M. where a son died in 1912. The other two children live in California. D.A. Porterfield died in 1926. Mrs. Porterfield is the only member of the Giles Taylor family living in 1947."

The fourth and youngest child of Giles and Mary Taylor was born in the log cabin in July, 1861, and was named Elmer Ellsworth. Was married to Ella Canfield of Traer who (in 1947) is in her 81st year. E.E., at 16 years of age, while still in school, began publishing a small paper, The Traer Star.....

The Traer Star Clipper is a present-day memorial to E.E. and Ella Taylor while their son, Elmer, Jr., carries on the family tradition of community service.

Reprinted from the Tama News-Herald Jan. 28, 1982.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

By Chester Worden
Soil Conservation Technician

One of the cost share programs NRCS has for farmers doing conservation work is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). It is a federal program that either an owner or operator may apply for. All projects need to help the environment and are ranked on national, state and local concerns.

Practices can be for soil conservation, water quality, and ground plant cover. Examples of soil conservation practices are terraces, water and sediment control basins, first time no-till, grass waterways, and grade sta-

bilization structures. Water quality projects include manure storage facilities, nutrient management, composting and organic farming.

Plant cover practices are pasture and hay planting, and rotational or prescribed grazing. EQIP applications need to be made at the Tama County NRCS Office.

It would be best to make application by February 2, 2007, but can be done anytime.

Final rules and funding have not been established as of Jan. 1, 2007, but should be released soon.

Contact the NRCS office about your farmland and the EQIP program.

"Return the Favor" volunteers again share recipes

STAR COOKING...

MARILYN CHIZEK



Once again "Return the Favor" volunteers are devoting their time and experience working to have quilts ready to give to seriously and terminally ill people.

These people have been working diligently during the January weekends to prepare for the success of the big Jan. 27-28 weekend "Return the Favor" event at the Traer Memorial Building.

You do not have to sew to participate. Pressing, pinning, tying, cutting, labeling, bundling and helping with the food are just some of the many other jobs that need to be accomplished. Any time from men, women and/or children to help with this worthy project is greatly appreciated.

At noon a potluck is always enjoyed with the varied and delicious dishes the volunteers bring.

The following recipes are from volunteers who are graciously sharing with our readers. Thank you!

Twin Meat Sloppy Joes

1 lb. hamburger

1 lb. ground pork

Sauce:

2 T. vinegar

1 C. catsup

1 T. brown sugar

1 tsp. dry mustard

1 tsp. salt

1/2 C. water

2 T. chopped onion

Optional for sauce:

2 T. chopped green pepper
1 T. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. garlic powder
Brown together meats and drain. Mix sauce ingredients together and pour over browned meat; simmer 20 minutes. Serve on hamburger rolls. *Note: Any or all of the optional ingredients may be used. Also, recipe easily doubles for larger quantities.

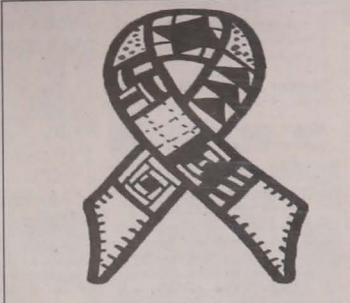
Sausage Cheese Balls

1 lb. Italian sausage
2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 C. chopped onion
1/2 C. chopped celery
3/4 C. Bisquick

1 tsp. garlic powder
Mix ingredients together (like meatloaf) with hands. Form into 1" balls. Bake at 375 degrees until crusty approximately 15 minutes. (Baking time varies by size of ball you make. Smaller size makes nice appetizers.) *Note: Use a nonstick pan or spray pan with cooking spray.

Apricot Meringue Bars

3/4 C. butter
1/3 C. sugar
2 egg yolks
1/2 C. flour
1 C. apricot preserves
2 egg whites
1/2 C. sugar
1 C. chopped walnuts
Mix together butter, sugar, egg yolks and flour and use hands to spread into an 8"x11"



pan. Make sure edges are not thinner than middle. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Spread apricot preserves on crust as soon as it comes from oven. Make egg whites and sugar as for meringue and then fold in the nuts. Spread over the apricot preserves making sure it touches the edges of pan. Return to oven and bake 25-30 minutes more. Cool completely before cutting into bars.

Andes Peppermint Crunch Chunkies

2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
1 C. dark brown sugar, packed
1/3 C. granulated sugar
1 large egg
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 3/4 C. all-purpose flour
1 C. old-fashioned rolled oats
1 C. sweetened grated coconut
1 1/4 C. coarsely chopped pecans
1 1/2 C. Andes peppermint

crunch baking chips
Cream butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar (approximately 3 minutes). Beat in eggs and vanilla extract. On low speed, add baking soda, salt and then flour. Mix completely. Stir in oats, coconut, pecans and Andes peppermint crunch baking chips. Measure out 2 T. for large or 1 T. for small cookies. Place round balls on lightly greased cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Press lightly. Sprinkle some remaining chips on top of each cookie. Bake at 300 degrees for 20 minutes for large cookies or 12-15 minutes for small cookies. Do not overbake. They get crunchy on the outside but remain soft inside. Remove from cookie sheet and let cool. Yield: approximately 30 3-in. cookies or 60 1 1/2-in. cookies.

We hope you have fun Star-Cooking and eating!

If you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers, please submit it to Marilyn Chizek, in care of the Dysart Reporter, Northern Sun-Print, Reinbeck Courier, Tama News-Herald, or Traer Star-Clipper. We look forward to hearing from you.

Middle Iowa watershed: only eligible in state

USDA selected 51 watersheds across the United States as eligible for enrollment in the 2007 Conservation Security Program (CSP). The Middle Iowa, in the east central part of the state, was the only watershed selected in Iowa.

The announcement, made in late September, covers nearly 24 million acres of cropland

NRCS officials urge non-CSP watershed farmers to continue their conservation efforts and learn more about the CSP program.

"You never know when CSP may be coming to your watershed," says Larry Beeler, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist (Programs).

"To qualify for CSP, NRCS asks farmers to apply and maintain soil conservation practices on your farm. This includes using conservation tillage and stream bank protection practices, cover crops, nutrient and pesticide management and enhancing wildlife habitat."

Conservationist (Programs) urges farmers to start talking now with their local NRCS office. "This can give you a good idea of what's required for eligibility," said Beeler.

"To get into CSP, you must be a good steward of the land and continue to practice and maintain soil and water conservation on your farm," Beeler adds. "You need to use minimum tillage or, better yet, no-till on your ground and be concerned with soil quality."

Beeler encourages Middle Iowa watershed farmers interested in the 2007 CSP sign-up to look at the 2006 CSP workbook.

He says it shows producers what practices were important for 2006 CSP participation and it will give Middle Iowa watershed farmers an idea of what is required for basic eligibility for 2007 CSP participation.

Do the planning now

Jim Andrew, a Jefferson county farmer in west central Iowa, is an outspoken supporter of no-till and other soil saving practices. He is very familiar with what it takes to meet CSP requirements. In 2005, Andrew's corn-soybean rotation and conservation practices helped his application qualify at the Tier III, Category A level in the 2005 CSP. What does he recommend to farmers who want to qualify their working lands for CSP?

"Go to your NRCS office and get the CSP workbook," said Andrew. "Or get the workbook from the NRCS website. The workbook gives a good idea of what you must

do to participate in CSP." He suggests farmers do some planning in the fall and take steps to prepare and make their farms eligible. Some of the steps Andrew suggests include:

1. Do what it takes to meet soil fertility requirements. Are your soil tests up to date? If not, get the soil sampled and tested. "Your soil must have been tested within the past four years if you want the fields to qualify for CSP," said Andrew.

2. Start thinking about the rate of nitrogen applied in the past. Look at what's planned for spring 2007. "Put'll likely want to cut back some so you don't over-fertilize," he says.

3. Look at your ground and how you farm it. How can you improve it from a conservation aspect? "Put buffer strips around creeks," Andrew says. "Do everything else you can this fall after the crop is harvested to put your ground in better condition to be accepted into CSP."

USDA makes the CSP available in new watersheds annually on a rotational basis in as many watersheds as funding allows. CSP was first authorized by Congress in the 2002 Farm Bill. CSP applicants participate in the program on three different levels reflecting both their documented historical conservation management as well as their agreement to do additional environmental enhancements. CSP contract payments are capped by law at \$20,000 for Tier I and \$35,000 and \$45,000 for Tier II and III respectively. Currently there are 2,300 active CSP contracts in Iowa.

Resources on the web:
2006 Self Assessment Workbook:
<http://csp.sc.egov.usda.gov/>
CSP 2007:

<http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp2007.html>

and grazing land. The final list of CSP watersheds to participate in the 2007 sign-up will be determined once Congress finalizes the agricultural appropriation. If the appropriated funding level drops below the Administration's budget request, the number of CSP watersheds selected for sign-up may be reduced.

The Middle Iowa watershed encompasses a little over one million acres and includes parts of Tama, Grundy, Story, Marshall, Benton, Linn, Jasper, Poweshiek, Iowa and Johnson counties. There are 2,781 farms in the watershed, which also includes the Meskwaki Indian Settlement. This is a 7,000-acre tribally-owned settlement with a population of about 580.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began offering CSP to landowners and farm-

ers in fiscal year 2004. CSP is a voluntary program that rewards farmers for putting conservation practices on their land. Currently there are 280 watersheds in the CSP nationwide covering about 224 million acres.

Can you qualify for CSP?

Rick Van Klaveren, NRCS State Conservationist, is pleased eligible watersheds were announced early this fall. "This early announcement," Van Klaveren said, "will allow farmers more time to gather resource information on their farming operations in preparation for a prospective sign-up. It also provides them a heads-up before making harvest and post-harvest land management decisions which may impact CSP eligibility."

The specific rules for the 2007 CSP sign up have not yet been announced. Larry Beeler, NRCS Assistant State

Do you need to reduce soil erosion on your farm?

By Julie Mitchell

There are state cost share funds available for soil conservation practices such as grassed waterways, terraces, and grade stabilization structures.

Please stop in the Natural Resources Conservation

Office and speak to a technician about your concern. The technician will visit the field and talk about the concern with you.

Then, the technician will do a cost estimate for the project and you can complete the application forms for the commissioners to review. When

the project has been approved and the technician completes the designs for the project you may start the construction.

The contractor should be given a copy of the designs. The technician should be notified by the contractor when the project is going to be started and upon completion. The

project has to be certified by the contractor to meet NRCS specifications. After, you receive the bills for the project, they should be submitted to the technician for review.

After everything is approved you will receive your cost share money.

Inside Iowa Today Crossword returns next week

Answers To Last Week's Puzzle

S	H	E	L	F	E	L	A	N	G	A	F	F
P	O	W	E	R	V	E	G	A	E	P	E	E
A	R	E	N	A	C	E	O	U	S	T	I	L
E	N	R	I	C	H	N	E	S	S	C	O	T
			N	A	O	M	I	A	T	T	U	N
O	P	S		S	K	I	N		U	R	A	L
C	O	E	D		E	R	E		A	R	T	S
A	S	T	R	I	D	E		A	M	P	O	U
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T	L	I	P	S		R	A	N	I		E	M
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N	A	M		T	I	M	E		A	S	P	E
D	I	E	S		R	I	N	G	L	E	A	D
E	R	N	E		C	L	A	Y		C	R	E
M	O	T	E		H	E	L	M		T	E	N