

2003 Annual Report



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Great Plains Drill

The District purchased the Great Plains drill in the spring of 2001. Drill usage was down in 2003 with it being used on only 171 acres. Dennis Hockenberry, hired by the District, is in charge of delivering the drill to the site and picking it up after the landowner has finished with it. The drill rents for \$10/acre with a \$50 deposit required at the time of application. A more positive outlook is in store for drill usage in 2004 with the recent CRP sign-ups. Although designed for native grasses, the drill works equally well in seeding cool season grasses.

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Senior Scholarship Recipient

Samantha Holste, daughter of Curtis and Jayne Holste, Atlantic, was one of two \$300 Conservation Senior Scholarship recipients in 2003. Samantha graduated from Atlantic High School in May, 2003. She is attending Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. Her goal is to own a horse stable, teach riding lessons in both western and English riding, and to train horses as well as being successful and becoming a knowledgeable business owner. While in high school, she held a part-time job working for a local small stable owner. Her duties were to groom, bathe, exercise and feed thirty-two horses. Her hobbies include showing horses in the Palomino Horse Breeders of America Association and participating in 4-H horse shows. She has competed in two queen contests – Miss Teen Rodeo Iowa and Miss Iowa High School Rodeo pageants. Along with her family, she enjoys trail riding in the spring and fall. Samantha says that being a member of 4-H has played an important part on her choice of career. Extracurricular activities Samantha participated in were a) Iowa High School Rodeo Association as a competing member; b) National Honor Society – member in acts of community service; c) Random Acts of Kindness Organization – member in acts of kind giving to the student body at Atlantic High School; and d) Future Farmers of America – served as chapter's assistant secretary and chapter treasurer. Community services included a) 4-H club historian and secretary; junior horse superintendent at the Cass County Fair; secretary and vice-president of the horse club; b) Rawhiders Saddle Club – participating in trail rides in the county; and c) Pony Express Riders of Iowa – helped raise money for crippled children to attend Camp Sunnyside.

The second \$300 scholarship winner was Kari Amos Hackney. Kari is the daughter of Daniel and Carol Amos of Lewis. She graduated from the Griswold High School in May, 2003. Kari is attending college in Alaska, majoring in Biological Sciences. She hopes to work for the U.S. Forest Service upon

graduation. While attending high school in Griswold, Kari participated in band, jazz band, marching band, pep band, chorus, volleyball, basketball and track. She is a member of Central Church of Christ and participated in the drama team, worship team, member of youth group, and member of leadership study. Her hobbies include hiking, camping, biking, tennis, and mountains.

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Calendar of Events

January

The Oath of Office was administered to Greg Zeller who was re-elected to serve a four-year term as a district commissioner. Mike Hall was elected chairman; Terry Hoskins, vice-chairman; Connie Esbeck, secretary-treasurer; and Ray Wilson, co-treasurer. Russell Joyce was appointed as an assistant commissioner.

February

The District sponsored a team from the Anita FFA to the Envirothon Contest. They also shared expenses with Adair County to sponsor a workshop for the contest and with Adams County for hosting the regional competition. Property tax exemptions were approved on 662.18 acres for 63 applicants.

Dennis Hockenberry was hired as a district employee to handle the scheduling, maintenance and transporting of the drill to landowners/operators renting the drill.

An O&M bill for \$345 was approved for reseeding Crooked Creek Watershed site 13C.

Commissioner Ray Wilson attended the "Life as a SWCD Commissioner" seminar at the Griswold Community Center.

March

Cass County hosted the Regional Commissioner's Meeting held at the Feedlot in Atlantic. Approximately 50 were in attendance for the meeting and the tour following to Milk Unlimited.

April

The tree sales days were held at the Cass County Fair grounds on April 15 & 16.

The Cass County Locally-Led Work group met on April 15 to discuss the final draft of EQIP priorities, ranking, and the cost-share list.

The district renewed their membership with Iowa Watersheds.

Robert Anderson completed the O&M inspections for Crooked Creek, Troublesome Creek and Turkey Creek Watersheds.

May

Commissioners Ray Wilson and Fred Kay presented \$300 scholarships to Kari Amos of Griswold and Samantha Holste of Atlantic, respectively at their Class Nights.

Copies of the O&M reports for Troublesome, Crooked and Turkey Creek Watersheds were distributed to each commissioner and discussed. Recent repairs and needed repairs were noted.

June

The Project Agreement for Turkey Creek Sites 19-29, 39-9, and 58D were signed by the Chairman and Secretary. Russell Joyce was appointed to serve as Contracting Officer.

July

The District had a booth at the Cass County Fair grounds. The Backyard Conservation group set up a display in the booth which was manned by both them and commissioners.

Repairs and seeding was completed on Site 1C, Crooked Creek Watershed.

August

Esbeck presented a budget of the I-M funds for F.Y. 2004. Copies of all financial account reports distributed to all commissioners.

Seidel discussed proposals presented at the regional meeting and the budget IDALS has requested.

Five EQIP contracts, totaling over \$78,000, were approved.

Letters mailed to landowners regarding Grassland Reserve Program.

September

CDI resolutions were discussed and commissioners voted on each.

Annual conference announced for November 19-20 in Marshalltown

District agreed to sponsor one or more teachers to the Food, Land & People Area Workshop at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center.

October

Proposed resolution regarding cost-share on fencing was discussed.

Pre-bidders tour held for Turkey Creek Sites 19-29, 39-9 and 58D. Commissioner Terry Hoskins; Assistant Commissioner Russell Joyce; Turkey Creek Watershed Director Myrna Rabe and staff personnel Ed Seidel, Connie Esbeck, Duane Orgies, Gary Wolfe, Ron Petersen and Kay Steffes attended the tour.

Hoskins, Joyce, Esbeck, Petersen, and Steffes toured the newly completed structure, Troublesome Creek Site 29-1 on the Glenn Roberts property.

November

Commissioner Greg Zellmer attended annual conference and gave a report.

Bid opening for Turkey Creek Watershed Sites 19-29, 39-9 and 58D was held November 13. Culver Construction, Red Oak, was the apparent low bidder at \$150,000.

Each District was instructed not to approve any cost-share applications until further notice.

December

Commissioners and staff held their Christmas party at the Feedlot in Atlantic.

Financial reports submitted by Esbeck were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved at the December meeting.

July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

Terraces Honor Roll

Charles D. McAfee	3050'
W. Dale Jenkins	2400'
Alvin H. Arp	4050'
Frank E. McMullen	4000'
Viola Silk	4750'
C. R. Anstey Trust	4400'
Larry Wagner	4100'
Mike Freund	2400'
Glen A. Dinkla	3250'
Larry D. Petersen	2300'
Basil Pelzer	1950'
Robert A. Anstey	4800'
Joe Newell	4550'
Chris R. French	650'
Max H. Miller	850'
Paul Dreager	1350'
Marjorie Ford	1200'
Michael J. Lee	850'
Dan Follman	900'
Joe Newell	3650'
Brian Follman	400'
Jerry Lowers	200'
Dennis Newell	4000'
Meredith Family Farm	4050'
Sam Fager	1150'

Total 65,250' / 12.4 mi.

Grade Stabilization Structure

Robert Buboltz	1
Marietta Holste	1
Stanford Pelzer	1

Windbreak

Paul Gude	0.4 Ac
Rebecca Clarken	0.6 Ac
Ryan Rich	0.8 Ac
Mike Pelzer	0.5 Ac
Dan Dorsey	0.4 Ac
Mark Knudsen	0.3 Ac
Kristy Pellet	0.2 Ac
Alan Zellmer	0.9 Ac
Alan Zellmer	0.4 Ac
Gene Ehrman	0.6 Ac
Scott Small	0.3 Ac

Tree Planting Practice

Richard Scholl	4.0 Ac
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Grassed Waterway

Gerald Lappe	1.8 Ac
Marjorie Ford	2.2 Ac
Clinton Schutt	0.9 Ac

Sediment Control Basin

Mark Whitley	1
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Accomplishments
July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

Terraces	12.4 miles
Sediment Control Basin	1 each
Grade Stabilization Structure	3 each
Windbreak	5.4 acres
Tree Planting Practice	4.0 acres
Contour Buffer Strips	87.3 acres
Filter Strips	817.1 acres

Contributors in 2003

William Dimig
Roger Ford
Marjorie Ford

The Cass District did not solicit contributions during this fiscal year but some offered a contribution, nevertheless. We sincerely thank these people for their generous giving which will benefit our Education Fund

Conservation Field Day for 6th Graders

The sixth grade conservation field day was held May 13th at the property owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Simmons in section 14, Benton Township. There were 137 sixth graders from Atlantic in attendance. The students were divided into eleven groups which rotated through eleven different conservation stations around the Simmons pond approximately every 15-20 minutes. The stations were as follows: 1) soils; 2) conservation golf; 3) waterways and CRP; 4) terraces; 5) survey instruments; 6) ponds; 7) SWCD office; 8) trees; 9) Backyard Conservation; 10) GPS; and 11) DNR birds and furs. The weather was perfect, making it an enjoyable event for the students, chaperones, teachers, and the presenters. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank the Simmons' again for making their land available for the field day. Also, a special thank you to all the presenters that volunteered their time to made the day a success.

**ANNUAL REPORT - 2003
BUDGET & FINANCE**

I-M Budget		
(Office Supplies/Expenses/Commissioner's Expenses)		
July 1, 2002- June 30, 2003		
02-03 Allocation		\$1,905.00
Commissioners Mileage/Expenses	\$570.45	
Office Supplies/Exopenses	<u>1,334.55</u>	
Total Expenditures	\$1,905.00	

00-01 Allocation		\$140,480.52
(Period covers July 1, 2000 - December 31, 2003)		
Cost Share Warrants Paid	\$139,873.52	
Returned to DSC 12/31/03	<u>607.00</u>	
Total Expenditures	\$140,480.52	

02-03 Allocation		\$47,729.00
(Period covers July 2, 2002 - December 31, 2003)		
Cost Share Warrants Paid	\$46,157.90	
Obligated Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>	
	\$46,157.90	
Balance of Unobligated 2002-03 Funds		\$1,571.10

03-04 Allocation		\$76,858.00
(Period covers July 2, 2003- December 31, 2003)		
Cost Share Warrants Paid	\$52,373.30	
Obligated Expenditures	<u>19,918.75</u>	
	\$72,292.05	
Balance of Unobligated 2002-03 Funds		\$4,565.95

No-Interest Loan Fund (RLF) (2003 Allocation)		\$10,000.00
Warrants Paid	\$9,512.12	
Obligated Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>	
	\$9,512.12	
Balance of Unobligated No-Interest Loan Fund (RLF)		\$487.88

2003 REAP Funds

(Period covers July 1, 2003- December 31, 2003)

REAP-P (Practices) Allocation

\$13,081.00

Warrents Paid	\$3,805.29
Obligated REAP-P Funds	7,983.38
Released to DSC June 30, 2003	<u>1,292.33</u>
	\$13,081.00

REAP-F (Forestry/Native Grass) Allocation

\$4,800.00

Warrents Paid	\$3,602.56
Returned to DSC June 30, 2003	<u>1,197.44</u>
	4,800.00

District's Revolving Fund

Balance on hand July 1, 2002

\$ 7,843.15

Receipts

I-M Reimbursement	\$1,905.00
Tree Sales	14,296.77
Contributions	145.00
Watershed	18,812.77
Miscellaneous	<u>2,450.45</u>
	\$37,609.99

Expenditures

Commissioner Expenses	\$570.45
Postage	1,131.17
Education/Meeting	2,170.17
Office Supplies/Expenses	242.53
Association Dues	1,475.00
Tree/Shrub	10,856.03
Miscellaneous	621.57
Watershed	<u>18,663.77</u>
	\$35,730.69

Balance on hand June 30, 2003

\$ 9,722.45

Grass Drill Fund

Balance on hand July 1, 2002

\$8,625.58

Receipts

Drill Rental Fees	\$2,785.00
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Expenditures

Refunds	\$50.00
Supplies/Repairs	204.74
Insurance	<u>341.00</u>
	\$595.74

Balance on hand June 30, 2003

\$10,814.84

Payroll/District Employees			
Balance on hand July 1, 2002			\$1,924.32
Receipts			
Cass County Auditor	\$4,300.00		
Expenditures			
Payroll		\$3,277.94	
Payroll taxes, benefits		1,257.83	
Treasurer of State		<u>92.00</u>	
		\$4,627.77	
Balance on hand June 30, 2003			\$1,596.55

**Cass County SWCD
Summary of Payroll Funds
July 1, 2002 -- June 30, 2003
As of June 30, 2003**

Expenditures							Income					
Federal			Unemp.				Balance on hand July 1, 2002				\$1,924.32	
Tax	State Tax	IPERS	Tax	Misc	Salaries	Totals	Source of Income					
89.70	20.00	127.36	1.34		275.15	\$513.55				County		
121.14	41.00	193.87	2.05		289.47	647.53				Auditor	Totals	Balance
138.82	1.00	15.60	1.41		166.90	323.73				\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00	on
104.96	30.00	133.26			234.51	502.73				2,150.00	4,300.00	hand
40.34					292.80	333.14						
25.24					355.42	380.66						
193.88					112.59	306.47						
14.92					124.60	139.52						
53.94					108.27	162.21						
					145.27	145.27						
					310.44	310.44						
					465.60	465.60						
					151.92	151.92						
					158.57	158.57						
					86.43	86.43						
782.94	92.00	470.09	4.80	\$0.00	3,277.94	\$4,627.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,074.32
APPROVED BY AUDITING COMMITTEE						Date				Beginning Balance		\$1,924.32
										Total Receipts	\$4,300.00	
										Less Expenditures	\$4,627.77	
										Balance on Hand 6/30/03		\$1,596.55

**Summary of Revolving Funds
Cass County SWCD
July 1, 2002 -- June 30, 2003
As of June 30, 2003**

[illegible]

APPROVED BY AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Date: _____

Beginning Balance 7/1/02		\$7,843.15
Receipts		<u>37,609.99</u>
Total Receipts		\$45,453.14
Less Expenditures	35,730.69	
Balance as of 6/30/03		\$9,722.45

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Date _____

**Summary of Revolving Funds
Cass County SWCD
July 1, 2002 -- June 30, 2003
As of June 30, 2003**

[illegible]

APPROVED BY AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Date: _____

Beginning Balance 7/1/02		\$7,843.15
Receipts		<u>37,609.99</u>
Total Receipts		\$45,453.14
Less Expenditures	35,730.69	
Balance as of 6/30/03		\$9,722.45

**Cass County SWCD
Fiscal Year 2003-04**

Date	Warrant Number		Claimant	Voluntary C/S No.	Total Expended	Release	Suppl.	Balance
July Allocation								38,808.00
Withheld	757672	(State of IA)	Dustin McLaren	1a	1,003.01			37,804.99
8/1/03	2757673		Paul McLaren	1b	1,003.01			36,801.98
8/1/03	2757674		Nathan McLaren	1c	1,003.01			35,798.97
8/1/03	2757675		Daniel McLaren	1d	1,003.01			34,795.96
8/1/03	2757676		Darby McLaren	1e	1,003.01			33,792.95
8/29/03	2902172		Richard B. Nichols	2	3,782.95			30,010.00
8/29/03	2902173		Keith Mehlmann	4	4,376.45			25,633.55
8/27/03 Supplemental Alloc.							38,050.00	63,683.55
9/29/03	3035561		Carl F. Lilienthal	6	4,489.60			59,193.95
10/29/03	4325509		Glen R. Smith	5	4,000.00			55,193.95
12/9/03	3313873		Richard P. Hansen	9	9,000.00			46,193.95
12/3/03	3294094		Ted Wickman	7	2,550.00			43,643.95
12/9/03	3313872		Joe Newell	10	1,151.30			42,492.65
1/13/04	3425426		Chris French	14	2,282.50			40,210.15
1/13/04	3425428		Donald Prall	22	1,006.32	(tile)		39,203.83
1/13/04	3425427		Howard Hendersen	20	5,062.50			34,141.33
1/14/04	3432412		Bill Kragelund	21	963.75			33,177.58
1/21/04	3454277		Lee Poeppe	16	4,278.05			28,899.53
1/21/04	3454275		Steve Nelson	12	2,339.83			26,559.70
1/21/04	3454276		Chris French	14	2,075.00	(tile)		24,484.70
					52,373.30	Total Spent		
					19,918.75	Obligated		
					4,565.95	Unobligated		
					76,858.00	Total Allocation		

	Obligated Funds	Amount
3	Glen R. Smith	3,175.00
8	WYOWA Farms, Inc	3,500.00
9	Ryan Rich	5,062.50
13	Keith Ticknor	5,681.25
18	DeLaine Erickson	2,500.00
	Total Obligated 03-04	19,918.75

Fiscal Year 2002-03

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Obligated Funds Amount

Total Obligated 02-03 0.00

Cass County SWCD
2000-01 Ledger

Date	Warrant Number		Claimant	Voluntary C/S No.	Total Expended	Release	Additional	Balance
7/1/00		Allocation						\$59,541.00
8/23/00		Supplemental Allocation					\$65,739.00	125,280.00
10/5/00	4660860	X	Helen Carter	1	6,054.25			119,225.75
11/28/00	5093863	X	Dalrie Berg	9	5,850.00			113,375.75
11/28/00	5093864	X	Gerald Lappe	16	3,715.00			109,660.75
12/28/00	5357119	X	Marian Stewart	3	2,925.00			106,735.75
12/28/00	5357121	X	Jack Erickson	8	5,118.75			101,617.00
12/28/00	5357120	X	Dale Pauley	7	3,153.16			98,463.84
12/28/00	5357123	X	Glen R. Smith	20	3,206.25			95,257.59
12/28/00	5357122	X	Brenda Holtz	18	3,262.50			91,995.09
12/28/00	5357124	X	Steve Nelson	29	5,118.75			86,876.34
1/5/01	5421320	X	Robert A. Anstey	5	5,233.20			81,643.14
1/5/01	5421319	X	C.R. Anstey Trust	4	4,712.48			76,930.66
5/31/01	7321016	X	H. Ted Cooley	27	5,212.05			71,718.61
5/31/01	7321015	X	Nitrogas	2	4,455.00			67,263.61
8/8/01	7967987	X	Daniel L. Schrier	35	4,587.88			62,675.73
8/10/01	7984934	X	Mary Pat Gregerson	34	3,517.50			59,158.23
10/5/01	2462932	X	Sharon Hewitt	33	4,585.13			54,573.10
10/12/01	2516432	X	Double TT's LLC	38	3,250.00			51,323.10
10/23/01	2590537	X	Chris French	39	4,718.00			46,605.10
12/7/01	298100	X	Wyowa Farms Inc.	36	4,119.58			42,485.52
12/12/01	3025859	X	Lloyd Pauley	37	3,949.50			38,536.02
12/21/01	3104117	X	Gerald Lappe	43	4,065.25			34,470.77
1/7/02	3218947	X	Randall McCunn	45	3,318.75			31,152.02
12/28/01	3160491	X	Marjorie Ford	46	825.00			30,327.02
12/28/01	3160501	X	Charles McAfee	25	2,919.25			27,407.77
12/28/01	3160502	X	Max H. Miller	42	649.65			26,758.12
2/1/02	3474319	X	Larry Wagner	41	5,118.75			21,639.37
2/12/02	3578900	X	Donald L. Jensen	31a	2,611.97			19,027.40
2/12/02	3578901	X	Marcy J. Jensen	31b	652.99			18,374.41
2/12/02	3578902	X	Bryan D. Jensen	31c	652.99			17,721.42
2/12/02	3578903	X	Peggy L. Medvec	31d	652.99			17,068.43
2/12/02	3578904	X	Javen E. Smith	31e	652.99			16,415.44
2/1/02	3474314	X	Valley View Corp	11	1,980.00			14,435.44
2/1/02	3474318	X	Leona Johnson Est.	40	3,000.00			11,435.44
6/6/02	5077524	X	Larry Wagner	48	7,593.75			3,841.69
9/4/02	5900634	X	Mark Whitney	49	905.00			2,936.69
11/15/02	6475429	x	Marjorie Ford	51	660.00			2,276.69
1/14/03	6866654	x	Paul L. Dreager	50	1,313.93			962.76
1/14/03	6866653	x	Mike Lee	52	956.25			6.51
Returned to DSC 12/31/02							6.51	0.00
2/26/03 Supplemental Allocation Received							14,569.00	14,569.00
3/31/03	7637615	x	Joe Newell	54	3,793.50			10,775.50
3/31/03	7637616	x	Dennis Newell	57	4,187.15			6,588.35
4/28/03	7990068	x	Jerry Lowers	56	85.00			6,503.35
Suppl. Alloc. Via phone 4/25/03							31.20	6,534.55
5/2/03	2038680	x	Meredith Family Farm	58	3,553.13			2,981.42
Returned to DSC 6/30/03							0.17	2,981.25

8/15/03	2836763	x	Dan Follman	53	1,012.50			1,968.75
8/15/03	2836764		Brian Follman	55	450.00			1,518.75
8/15/03	2836765	x	Samuel J. Fager	59	911.75			607.00
Returned to DSC 12/31/03					607.00			0.00
					\$139,873.52	Spent		
					\$139,873.52	Allocated		
					\$0.00	Obligated		
					\$0.00	Unobligated		

REAP-P

[illegible]

REAP-F

[illegible]

Obligated Funds	Amount
Harlan Northrup	6,637.50
Carl F. Lilienthal	1,345.88
Obligated	7,983.38

Obligated Funds	Amount
Obligated	0.00

February 2, 2004

SUBJECT: Conservation Buffer Newsletter Insert/Handout

TO: FSA State Directors
NRCS State Conservationists
FSA County Executive Directors
NRCS District Conservationists

The 2002 farm bill and resulting program rules contain some important changes that make conservation buffers an even more attractive component of the conservation systems needed to solve natural resource management problems on cropland, pasture, and rangeland. The continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) retains its attractive financial incentives, and several new buffer practices have been added to the program. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and other programs—all of which can be used by farmers and ranchers to install conservation buffers—are funded at the highest levels ever.

The attached pdf files feature a new information insert/handout (a color version and a black-and-white version) that outlines the potential for use of buffers to achieve many different conservation objectives. We ask that you do three things with this new information piece:

1. Use the piece as a special insert in FSA county committee newsletters.
2. Encourage use of the piece as a special insert in conservation district and RC&D council newsletters.
3. Use either the color version or the black-and-white version as a handout in our service centers, at field days and fair exhibits, etc.

The information insert/handout has numerous other potential uses. For example, it could be used for mailings to absentee landowners, to minority and limited-resource farmers and ranchers, and to other targeted groups of producers and landowners. Agricultural and conservation organizations at state and local levels also might be willing to use the insert in newsletters, direct mailings, or similar venues.

The attached pdf files can be used to reproduce the information handout economically. Limited quantities also can be obtained by calling 1-888-LANDCARE.

/s/

JAMES R. LITTLE
FSA Administrator

/s/

BRUCE I. KNIGHT
NRCS Chief

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County Practice Summary
 For Signups 24, 25, 26 and 27

	NUMBER PRACTICE OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
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Signup 26

No Active CRP Practices for Signup 26 and selected practice(s).

Summary for Signups 24, 25, and 26

CP15A	13	87.3	2,514	660
CP21	58	677.1	42,606	3,418
Total		764.4	45,120	4,078
Total Number of Contracts:		120		

Signup 27

Summary

CP21	5	140.0	4,215	
Total		140.0	4,215	
Total Number of Farms:		5		
Total Number of Contracts for Signup:		12		

Summary for Signups 24, 25, 26, and 27

CP15A	13	87.3	2,514	660
CP21	63	817.1	46,821	3,418
Total		904.4	49,335	4,078
Total Number of Contracts:		132		

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Signups 24, 25, 26 and 27

FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE

<u>Signup 24</u>					
54	CP21		15.8	469	
224	CP21		5.7	143	
399	CP21		6.9	269	
403	CP21		7.3	200	
626	CP15A		12.0	339	
718	CP15A		1.7	48	
821	CP15A		13.0	368	368
	CP21		23.8	651	650
894	CP21		12.3	336	
1076	CP21		9.8	267	
1237	CP21		15.3	454	
1498	CP21		2.8	108	
1918	CP21		3.3	90	
2586	CP21		4.2	115	111
2790	CP15A		3.1	88	
2885	CP15A		1.3	37	
	CP21		5.4	148	
3068	CP15A		.9	25	
3109	CP21		7.1	193	
3273	CP21		16.0	5,465	
3554	CP21		5.5	164	
3656	CP21		11.2	333	
3741	CP21		3.9	116	

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Signups 24, 25, 26 and 27

FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE

<u>Signup 24</u>					
3833	CP15A		5.7	169	
	CP21		24.5	727	
3834	CP21		19.4	577	
3939	CP21		4.5	124	
4032	CP21		.8	22	
4033	CP21		1.7	46	
4071	CP21		4.8	131	
4320	CP21		7.5	2,590	
4329	CP21		3.1	85	
4340	CP15A		5.4	160	
	CP21		6.1	181	
4365	CP15A		1.6	48	
	CP21		29.9	888	
4368	CP21		11.0	300	
4373	CP21		3.0	277	204
4395	CP21		3.0	117	
4397	CP15A		10.1	300	
4420	CP21		7.0	283	283
4423	CP21		4.8	194	194
4424	CP21		2.4	97	97
4583	CP21		5.5	161	
4591	CP21		45.5	14,649	
Total			395.6	32,552	1,907

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Signups 24, 25, 26 and 27

FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
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Signup 24

Summary

	CP15A	10	54.8	1,582	368
	CP21	35	340.8	30,970	1,539
Total			395.6	32,552	1,907
Total Number of Farms:				40	
Total Number of Contracts for Signup:				72	

Signup 25

8	CP21		9.5	370	
30	CP21		15.2	415	
253	CP21		12.8	349	349
275	CP21		12.2	333	
487	CP21		17.0	662	
624	CP21		15.3	454	418
688	CP21		3.2		
788	CP21		13.1	358	
1267	CP21		11.8	145	
1869	CP21		24.9	968	753
2538	CP21		3.9	107	107
2633	CP15A		6.0	170	
2667	CP21		13.1	1,807	

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Signups 24, 25, 26 and 27

FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
<u>Signup 25</u>					
2885	CP21		2.6		
3328	CP21		16.5	840	
3516	CP21		22.7	674	
3552	CP21		42.2	1,120	
3753	CP21		25.0	684	
4055	CP21		20.3	790	
4227	CP21		20.1	597	252
4231	CP21		6.0	164	
4373	CP21		7.5	189	
4452	CP15A		18.2	516	292
4583	CP15A		8.3	246	
	CP21		11.0	326	
4599	CP21		10.4	284	
Total			368.8	12,568	2,171
Summary					
	CP15A	3	32.5	932	292
	CP21	23	336.3	11,636	1,879
Total			368.8	12,568	2,171
Total Number of Farms:			25		
Total Number of Contracts for Signup:			48		

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Signups 24, 25, 26 and 27

FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
Summary for Signups 24, and 25					
	CP15A	13	87.3	2,514	660
	CP21	58	677.1	42,606	3,418
Total			764.4	45,120	4,078
Total Number of Contracts:			120		

Signup 26

No Active CRP Practices for Signup 26 and selected practice(s).

Summary for Signups 24, 25, and 26

	CP15A	13	87.3	2,514	660
	CP21	58	677.1	42,606	3,418
Total			764.4	45,120	4,078
Total Number of Contracts:			120		

Signup 27

808	CP21	18.4	502	
2610	CP21	11.1		
3740	CP21	2.0	64	
4229	CP21	101.9	3,474	
4569	CP21	6.6	175	
Total		140.0	4,215	

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Signups 24, 25, 26 and 27

FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
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Signup 27

Summary

CP21	5	140.0	4,215
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Total		140.0	4,215
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Total Number of Farms:	5
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Total Number of Contracts for Signup:	12
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Summary for Signups 24, 25, 26, and 27

CP15A	13	87.3	2,514	660
CP21	63	817.1	46,821	3,418

Total		904.4	49,335	4,078
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Total Number of Contracts:	132
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Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Program Years
2002 and 2003

FARM		NUMBER	ACRES	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL
NUMBER	PRACTICE	OF FARMS			

Program Year 2002					
54	CP21		15.8	469	
224	CP21		5.7	143	
240	CP21		7.8	232	
399	CP21		6.9	269	
403	CP21		7.3	200	
626	CP15A		12.0	339	
	CP21		8.1	222	
718	CP15A		1.7	48	
821	CP15A		13.0	368	368
	CP21		23.8	651	650
894	CP21		12.3	336	
1076	CP21		9.8	267	
1228	CP21		2.7	175	
1237	CP21		15.3	454	
1498	CP21		2.8	108	
1556	CP21		8.5	233	
1918	CP21		3.3	90	
2586	CP21		4.2	115	111
2790	CP15A		3.1	88	
2885	CP15A		1.3	37	
	CP21		5.4	148	
3068	CP15A		.9	25	
3109	CP21		7.1	193	

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
 For Program Years
 2002 and 2003

FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
<u>Program Year 2002</u>					
3273	CP21		16.0	5,465	
3554	CP21		5.5	164	
3582	CP21		4.6	133	
3619	CP21		7.6	207	
3656	CP21		11.2	333	
3682	CP21		52.3	1,668	
3741	CP21		3.9	116	
3833	CP15A		5.7	169	
	CP21		24.5	727	
3834	CP21		19.4	577	
3849	CP21		4.7	140	
3939	CP21		4.5	124	
4032	CP21		.8	22	
4033	CP21		1.7	46	
4071	CP21		4.8	131	
4320	CP21		7.5	2,590	
4329	CP21		3.1	85	
4340	CP15A		5.4	160	
	CP21		6.1	181	
4365	CP15A		1.6	48	
	CP21		29.9	888	
4368	CP21		11.0	300	
4373	CP21		3.0	277	204

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Program Years
2002 and 2003

		FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
<u>Program Year 2002</u>							
		4374	CP21		6.6	1,455	
		4395	CP21		3.0	117	
		4397	CP15A		10.1	300	
		4402	CP21		28.7	915	902
		4403	CP21		7.1	227	223
		4420	CP21		7.0	283	283
		4423	CP21		4.8	194	194
		4424	CP21		2.4	97	97
		4583	CP21		5.5	161	
		4591	CP21		45.5	14,649	
Total					534.3	38,159	3,032
Summary							
			CP15A	10	54.8	1,582	368
			CP21	46	479.5	36,577	2,664
Total					534.3	38,159	3,032
Total Number of Farms:					50		
Total Number of Contracts for Program Year:					90		

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Program Years
2002 and 2003

FARM		NUMBER	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL
NUMBER	PRACTICE	OF FARMS	ACRES	COST-SHARE	COST-SHARE
<u>Program Year 2003</u>					
8	CP21		9.5	370	
30	CP21		15.2	415	
253	CP21		12.8	349	349
275	CP21		12.2	333	
487	CP21		17.0	662	
624	CP21		15.3	454	418
688	CP21		3.2		
788	CP21		13.1	358	
1267	CP21		11.8	145	
1869	CP21		24.9	968	753
2538	CP21		3.9	107	107
2633	CP15A		6.0	170	
2667	CP21		13.1	1,807	
2885	CP21		2.6		
3328	CP21		16.5	840	
3516	CP21		22.7	674	
3552	CP21		42.2	1,120	
3753	CP21		25.0	684	
4227	CP21		20.1	597	252
4231	CP21		6.0	164	
4373	CP21		7.5	189	

Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary with Farms
For Program Years
2002 and 2003

FARM NUMBER	PRACTICE	NUMBER OF FARMS	ACRES	ESTIMATED COST-SHARE	ACTUAL COST-SHARE
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Program Year 2003

4452	CP15A		18.2	516	292
4583	CP15A		8.3	246	
	CP21		11.0	326	
4599	CP21		10.4	284	

Total			348.5	11,778	2,171
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Summary

CP15A	3	32.5	932	292
CP21	22	316.0	10,846	1,879

Total		348.5	11,778	2,171
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Total Number of Farms:	24
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Total Number of Contracts for Program Year:	46
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Summary for Program Years 2002 and 2003

CP15A	13	87.3	2,514	660
CP21	68	795.5	47,423	4,543

Total		882.8	49,937	5,203
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Total Number of Contracts:	136
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Conservation Reserve Program

County Practice Summary
For Signups 24, 25, 26 and 27

	NUMBER		ESTIMATED	ACTUAL
PRACTICE	OF FARMS	ACRES	COST-SHARE	COST-SHARE

Signup 24

Summary

	CP15A	10	54.8	1,582	368
	CP21	35	340.8 ✓	30,970	1,539
Total			395.6	32,552	1,907
Total Number of Farms:			40		
Total Number of Contracts for Signup:			72		

Signup 25

Summary

	CP15A	3	32.5	932	292
	CP21	23	336.3 ✓	11,636	1,879
Total			368.8	12,568	2,171
Total Number of Farms:			25		
Total Number of Contracts for Signup:			48		

Summary for Signups 24, and 25

	CP15A	13	87.3	2,514	660
	CP21	58	677.1	42,606	3,418
Total			764.4	45,120	4,078
Total Number of Contracts:			120		

WATER CONSERVATION IN THE YARD by Sindra Jensen, Soil Conservationist

Often you don't appreciate something until it's gone! That can really be true with water. Taken for granted when it is plentiful, its importance is truly appreciated in the garden once it becomes scarce. If you find yourself in a drought, there are some things you can do to help conserve water and make the best use of what you have available.

- ❖ If you have not already mulched your plants, do it!! Mulch will help limit the amount of water that evaporates from the soil. While organic mulches such as grass clippings or wood chips are preferable since they add organic matter to the soil, plastic mulches are useful in limiting evaporation from the soil. They can be laid between rows in the vegetable garden and will help limit moisture loss; however, they also will limit infiltration.
- ❖ Place your water where it will do the most good. Sprinklers are very inefficient for getting water to the roots of your plants. Much of the water lands on the leaves and evaporates before reaching the ground. A slow gentle watering at the base of the plants, allowing the water to soak into the soil, will be most efficient.
- ❖ Water those plants needing it most. Newly planted trees, shrubs, and flowers with limited root systems will most likely suffer first from drought conditions. Give these plants priority if water is scarce. Well-established plants, especially those native to the area, are likely to withstand drought conditions with limited damage.
- ❖ Water in the early morning before the heat of the day. This limits evaporation and supplies plants with needed moisture to make it through the hot, sunny day.
- ❖ Consider using drip or trickle irrigation systems. Many inexpensive, easy to install systems are available that provide small amounts of water to the base of individual plants. These systems place the water where it is needed most, rather than applying it across the whole garden. Check with your local garden center.
- ❖ Collect water from downspouts when it rains. Roofs intercept significant amounts of rain. Collecting this runoff into a barrel can help limit the use of city or well water during dry spells. There are plans you can get off the internet to design your own rain collection barrel.

Water Conservation is just one of the many topics covered by the Cass County Backyard Conservation Team. I thought this might be appropriate since our last two summers have been very dry and have taken a toll on the health and growth of our trees, shrubs, and gardens. The Cass County Backyard Conservation Team has gone to the Birds this season. Backyard Birds will be the theme of the upcoming free informational meetings sponsored by the Backyard Conservation Team, Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcement of our 2004 meetings or call to be placed on a mailing list to 243-3180.

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Time to Plan for a New Windbreak by Sindra Jensen, Soil Conservationist

Now that winter is maybe slipping away but before you forget about the bitter northwest winds freezing us to the bone, it's time to plan for a farmstead windbreak. A well-planned windbreak 30 feet tall will reduce winds to 50% of their original velocities at the leeward distances of up to 240 feet, thus cutting wind-chill. This is a subject I can speak on based on my experiences this winter. I moved to a house north of my parents' home. When my Dad built their house 31 years ago the first thing he did was plant a windbreak. The house I live in was built 5 years later and the owners never planted a solid windbreak. This winter the difference between the two was that I felt like I lived on top of Mount Everest while they kept cozy in their protected little valley. Trust me I will improve my windbreak!

Windbreaks not only help slow the wind they also protect soil, conserve energy, control snow deposition, provide shelter from wind for livestock, beautify an area, and improve an area for wildlife. The primary 3-row windbreak can be applied on land next to farmsteads where wind damage is likely or where the natural beauty of the trees and shrubs is wanted. Windbreaks can be planted next to feedlots, grazing areas, or ponds to provide livestock shelter, or to provide wildlife food and shelter.

There are many planning considerations that must be made during winter months so that the site will be ready for tree planting in the spring. The windbreak should be located to protect farmsteads and feedlots from prevailing northwestern winds. The windbreak should be at least 100-300 feet away from the area to be protected.

A 7-11 row windbreak is ideal but isn't always practical. The minimum requirements for windbreaks for REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) is three rows of coniferous trees (evergreen) with at least one row containing Eastern Red Cedar, Northern White Cedar or a Spruce. One row of dense deciduous shrubs may be substituted for one row. The NRCS office has lists of trees that are suitable for windbreaks and can assist landowners with decisions. Cost share is available for windbreaks. If you are interested please contact the NRCS office at 243-3180 to see if funds are available.

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To All Cass County Farmers:

This is a quick note to serve as a reminder that if your conservation compliance plan calls for No-Till both crops (soybeans and corn), that means NO TILLAGE. Tillage is defined as any implement that disturbs the soil surface. Implements include but are not limited to deep rippers (blue jets), rotary hoes, harrows, soil conditioners, disks, etc. Implement dealers may label implements as no-till such as a no-till ripper or a no-till mulcher. That is not true in relation to your compliance plan. To NRCS No-Till is NO TILLAGE. No-Till still allows the knifing in of anhydrous but with our new soil loss calculators it greatly increases soil loss. When knifing in anhydrous try to apply at a rate that does minimal soil disturbance. If you have questions regarding your conservation compliance plan please contact the NRCS office at 243-3180.

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Overgrazed Pastures – Now What

Due to the very dry years many pastures in Cass County have been overgrazed. What can be done to improve their conditions before the next grazing season? Rain will be very helpful! But there are also management practices you can implement to improve your pasture for the next grazing season.

“There is no substitute for rain, but your management is important regardless of the weather,” says Brian Peterson, Grassland Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). “There are some things you might be able to do to improve your overgrazed pastures. But, before you jump in, think about your goals and how your actions might affect the goals. Your goals might be weed control, improving fertility, installing division fences, or adding legumes. Do whatever is best for you and what you are comfortable with.”

“The first step to benefiting overgrazed pastures, if you haven’t already, is to remove the cattle from all or as many of the overgrazed pastures as you can,” says Peterson. “Then move the cattle into crop fields where they can enjoy the corn residues.” This will give your pastures some much-needed rest. Corn residues are a valuable resource that can help cattle producers reduce their stored feed costs and still provide adequate feed for the cattle.

“A short overgrazed pasture provides an excellent opportunity for frost or interseeding legumes into it prior to spring grazing,” says Peterson. “The overgrazing has helped reduce competition and will improve your chances of success to incorporate legumes into the grass pasture. The legumes, once established, will extend the grazing season of the cool season grass pasture farther into the summer and also feeds nitrogen to the grass,” explains Peterson.

An important question to ask yourself before you begin to broadcast or seed legumes is “Do I have a broadleaf weed problem in my pasture?” If you have Musk or Canada Thistles or some other weeds you plan to control with chemicals it may be a waste of time and money to add legumes to your pasture at this time. First control the weeds, and then add the legumes!

Another important consideration according to Peterson is “Are your pastures divided so you can rotate them and let your legumes rest for at least 30 days in the summer?” You will need to rest them to maintain legumes in the forage. If you don’t rest them it might be more beneficial for you to use nitrogen fertilizer to increase grass production.

Before you spread nitrogen fertilizer on all of your pastures, stop and think about how your grass grows and what time of year you usually have extra forage. Most people have an abundance of cool season grass in the spring. Can you utilize all of it through grazing before it heads out? If not what can you do about it? Consider not fertilizing all of your pasture in early spring. It may be beneficial to apply nitrogen fertilizer later in the spring

on a portion of your pasture. Another option is to harvest a portion of your pasture as hay if it is growing faster than your livestock can graze it back.

Remember, management is the key to helping improve your pastures next spring. For assistance with grazing management and planning contact the NRCS office at 243-3180.

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Inside- A new discovery-see page 7

March, 2004

Atlantic Farm Monthly

Celebrating Soil Conservation

Serving Cass, Shelby, Guthrie, Audubon and Pottawattamie Counties for over 130 years.

Vol. 43 - No.3

Visit Atlantic's Website at: www.atlanticiowa.com

Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and Staff



Pictured above are Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners (front row, left to right) Terry Hoskins, chairman; Ray Wilson, vice chairman; and Greg Zellmer; and (back row) Mike Hall, member; Fred Kay, member; and Russell Joyce, Assistant Commissioner.

Photo by Jennifer Nichols



Pictured above are the field office staff (front row, left to right) Sindra Jensen, Soil Conservationist; and Connie S. Esbeck, State Secretary; and (back row) Gary Wolfe, State Technician; Duane Ortgies, Soil Conservation Technician; Ed Seidel, District Conservationist; and Dennis Hockenberry, District Employee.

Photo contributed

The life of a soil commissioner

There are three particular things that the Cass County Soil Conservationists are in charge of handling, according to current chairman Terry Hoskins.

"We oversee the county checking on soil losses, determining where structures need to be placed, and determining how to use the federal money the county receives," Hoskins explained.

Hoskins also explained if individuals in the county have a complaint concerning soil losses or water control, soil commissioners are brought in to look at the situation, and recommend what can be done to resolve the situation.

Hoskins, who has been part of the commission for three years and said he has always been interested in soil and water conservation, is currently the chairman of the group.

"Basically, the chairman oversees the meetings," Hoskins said, explaining that the group meets monthly. "Connie (Esbeck) is the secretary, and she does most of the paperwork, although there are some papers that need to be signed. Any of the commissioners can sign the papers, normally the chairmen signs them."

Hoskins said the most recent project is a new structure, which was placed on Turkey Creek near Anita.

"(The structure) holds backs and retains water," Hoskins explained. "It helps control the flood situation."

Hoskins said he was elected to the commission, and said commissioners are elected from different parts of the county.

"I'm from the Franklin and Benton township area, and other commissioners are from places like Atlantic, Massena and Griswold. We're not all from one particular area."

Riparian Buffer Zones:

Living filters slow run off, keep soil, nutrients and chemicals out of waterways

BY LAURA BACON
NT Staff Writer

How can trees, shrubs and native grasses help control the presence of sediments and chemicals in streams?

Farmers with streams on their properties might want to consider a conservation technique called a riparian buffer zone to prevent soil, nutrients and agricultural chemicals from running off into those streams.

The idea of using riparian buffer systems has really caught on in the southwest Iowa area, according to Alan Teel, Director of the Cass County Extension.

What is a riparian buffer system, and how does it work?

"Plants of varying species, planted between the source of the run off and the stream, collect the run off and filters the

water," he explained.

Generally, he explained, riparian buffer systems started with native grasses near the field, then progressed to trees including brush type trees and willows, and to shrubbery.

The plants slow down the run off coming off the fields, Teel said.

"The grasses slow down the water, and allow the ground to absorb the nutrients. It allows the soil parts to drop out," he said, and gave more time for agricultural chemicals to break down before ending up in the stream.

"It's a water pollution control structure," he said, "and it's being used a lot more these days

Buffer strips
see page 2

Soil Conservation Calendar of Events

January

The oath of office was administered to Greg Zeller who was re-elected to serve a four-year term as a district commissioner. Mike Hall was elected chairman; Terry Hoskins, vice-chairman; Connie Esbeck, secretary-treasurer; and Ray Wilson, co-treasurer. Russell Joyce was appointed as an assistant commissioner.

February

The district sponsored a team from the Anita FFA to the

Envirothon Contest. They also shared expenses with Adair County to sponsor a workshop for the contest and with Adams County for hosting the regional competition.

Property tax exemptions were approved on 662.18 acres for 63 applicants.

Dennis Hockenberry was

hired as a district employee to handle the scheduling, maintenance and transporting of the drill to landowners/operators renting the drill.

An O and M bill for \$345 was approved for reseeding Crooked Creek Watershed site 13C.

Commissioner Ray Wilson attended the "Life as a SWCD

Commissioner" seminar at the Griswold Community Center.

March

Calendar
see page 3

Senior scholarship recipients



Sam Holste

Samantha Holste, daughter of Curtis and Jayne Holste, Atlantic, was one of two \$300 Conservation Senior Scholarship recipients in 2003. Holste graduated from Atlantic High School in May 2003. She is attending Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. Her goal is to own a horse stable, teach riding lessons in both western and English riding, and to train horses as well as being successful and becoming a knowledgeable

business owner. While in high school, she held a part-time job working for a local small stable owner. Her duties were to groom, bathe, exercise and feed thirty-two horses. Her hobbies include showing horses in the Palomino Horse Breeders of America Association and participating in 4-H horse shows. She has competed in two queen contests - Miss Teen Rodeo Iowa and Miss Iowa High School Rodeo pageants. Along with her family, she enjoys trail riding in the spring and fall. Holste says that being a member of 4-H has played an important part on her choice of career. Extracurricular activities Samantha participated in were a) Iowa High School Rodeo Association as a competing member; b) National Honor Society member in acts of community service; c) Random Acts of Kindness Organization - member in acts of kind giving to the student body at Atlantic High School; and d) Future Farmers of America - served as chapter's assistant secretary and chapter

treasurer. Community services included a) 4-H club historian and secretary; junior horse superintendent at the Cass County Fair; secretary and vice-president of the horse club; b) Rawhiders Saddle Club - participating in trail rides in the county; and c) Pony Express Riders of Iowa - helped raise money for crippled children to attend Camp Sunnyside.

The second \$300 scholarship winner was Kari Amos Hackney. Hackney is the daughter of Daniel and Carol Amos of Lewis. She graduated from the Griswold High School in May, 2003. Hackney is attending college in Alaska, majoring in Biological Sciences. She hopes to work for the U.S. Forest Service upon graduation. While attending high school in Griswold, Hackney participated in band, jazz band, marching

Scholarships
see page 4

Conservation field day for sixth graders

The sixth grade conservation field day was held May 13 at the property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Simmons in section 14, Benton Township. There were 137 sixth graders from Atlantic in attendance. The students were divided into eleven groups which rotated through eleven different conservation stations around the Simmons pond approximately every 15-20 minutes. The stations were as follows: 1) soils; 2) conservation golf; 3) waterways and CRP; 4) terraces; 5) survey instruments; 6) ponds; 7) SWCD office; 8) trees; 9) Backyard Conservation; 10) GPS; and 11) DNR birds and furs. The weather was perfect, making it an enjoyable event for the students, chaperones, teachers, and the presenters. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank the Simmons' again for making their land available for the field day. Also, a special thank you to all the presenters that volunteered their time to made the day a success.

Buffers strips *continued from page one*

in various forms."

The woody shrubs and trees use root systems to prevent soil erosion and help to stabilize stream banks, and the buffer zones also provide habitat for wildlife and birds along the stream.

Some local farmers use the grass part of the zone by itself along streams on their property, Teel said.

He used the example of grass buffer strips being used outside of Wiota to the east, along a stream, and said that grass only

buffers were usually wide.

"Sixty feet of switchgrass can take that water and slow it down," he said.

And whether a farmer chose to use a grass only 'style buffer zone, or one that included trees and shrubs, it was usually not necessary to run the buffer zone the entire length of the waterway.

"They don't always go the full length," he said, noting that the zones were most effective where the water from the fields would run off the worst.

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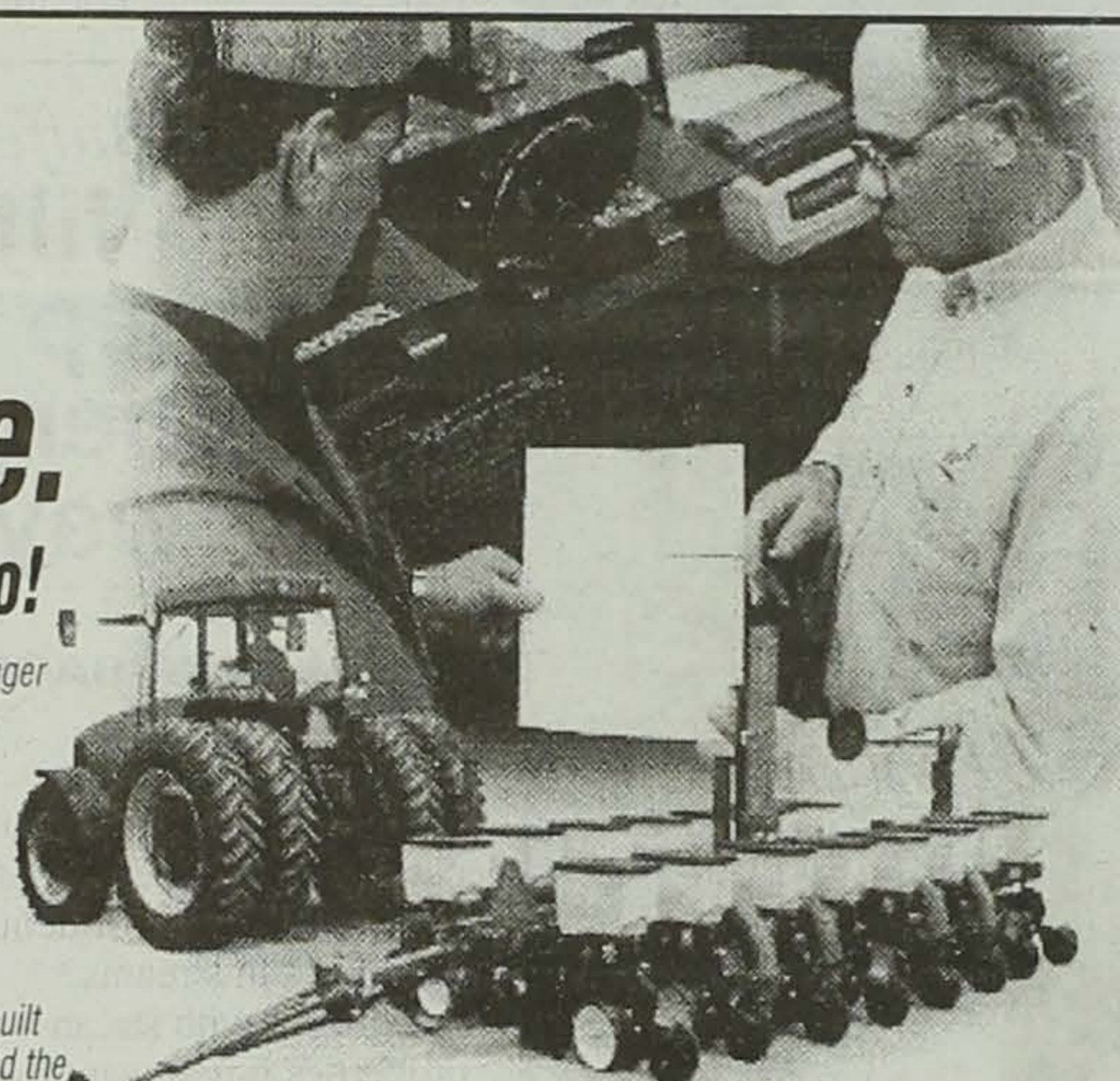
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Calendar continued from page one

Cass County hosted the Regional Commissioner's Meeting held at the Feedlot in Atlantic. Approximately 50 were in attendance for the meeting and the tour following to Milk Unlimited.

April

The tree sales days were held at the Cass County Fair grounds on April 15 and 16.

The Cass County Locally-Led Work group met on April 15 to discuss the final draft of EQIP priorities, ranking, and the cost-share list.

The district renewed their membership with Iowa Watersheds.

Robert Anderson completed the O and M inspections for Crooked Creek, Troublesome Creek and Turkey Creek Watersheds.

May

Commissioners Ray Wilson and Fred Kay presented \$300 scholarships to Kari Amos of Griswold and Samantha Holste of Atlantic, respectively at their class nights.

Copies of the O and M reports for Troublesome, Crooked and Turkey Creek Watersheds were distributed to each commissioner and discussed. Recent repairs and needed repairs were noted.

June

The Project Agreement for Turkey Creek Sites 19-29, 39-9,

and 58D were signed by the Chairman and Secretary. Russell Joyce was appointed to serve as Contracting Officer.

July

The District had a booth at the Cass County Fair grounds. The Backyard Conservation group set up a display in the booth, which was manned by both them and commissioners.

Repairs and seeding was completed on Site 1 C, Crooked Creek Watershed.

August

Esbeck presented a budget of the I-M funds for F.Y. 2004. Copies of all financial account reports distributed to all commissioners.

Seidel discussed proposals presented at the regional meeting and the budget IDALS has requested.

Five EQIP contracts, totaling over \$78,000, were approved.

Letters mailed to landowners regarding Grassland Reserve Program.

September

CDI resolutions were discussed and commissioners voted on each.

Annual conference announced for November 19-20 in Marshalltown.

District agreed to sponsor one or more teachers to the Food, Land and People Area Workshop at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center.

October

Proposed resolution regarding cost-share on fencing was discussed.

Pre-bidders tour held for Turkey Creek Sites 19-29, 39-9 and 58D. Commissioner Terry Hoskins;

Assistant Commissioner Russell Joyce; Turkey Creek Watershed Director Myrna Rabe and staff personnel Ed Seidel, Connie Esbeck, Duane Ortgies, Gary Wolfe, Ron Petersen and Kay Steffes attended the tour.

Hoskins, Joyce, Esbeck, Petersen, and Steffes toured the newly completed structure, Troublesome Creek Site 29-1 on the Glenn Roberts property.

November

Commissioner Greg Zellmer attended annual conference and gave a report.

Bid opening for Turkey Creek Watershed Sites 19-29, 39-9 and 58D was held November 13. Culver Construction, Red Oak, was the apparent low bidder at \$150,000.

Each District was instructed not to approve any cost-share applications until further notice.

December

Commissioners and staff held their Christmas party at the Feedlot in Atlantic.

Financial reports submitted by Esbeck were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved at the December meeting.

after the landowner has finished with it. The drill rents for \$10/acre with a \$50 deposit required at the time of application. A more positive outlook is in store for drill usage in 2004 with the recent CRP sign-ups. Although designed for native grasses, the drill works equally well in seeding cool season grasses.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS JULY 1, 2002-JUNE 30, 2003

Terraces 12.4 miles
Sediment Control Basin 1 each
Grade Stabilization Structure 3 each
Windbreak 5.4 acres
Tree Planting Practice 4.0 acres
Contour Buffer Strips 87.3 acres
Filter Strips 817.1 acres

CONTRIBUTORS IN 2003

William Dimig
Roger Ford
Marjorie Ford

The Cass District did not solicit contributions during this fiscal year but some offered a contribution, nevertheless. We sincerely thank these people for their generous giving which will benefit our Education Fund.

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ATLANTIC NEWS TELEGRAPH
LOCAL NEWS & SPORTS

FARMS FOR SALE

- 108 Acres, M/L: Located approx. 5 miles south of Stanton. 75 acres cropland, balance pasture that could be converted. \$1650 per acre.
- 120 Acres, M/L: Located 12 miles S.W. of Stuart. 67.9 acres CRP, balance pasture. \$1165 per acre.
- 94 Acres, M/L: Located 12 miles S.W. of Stuart. 70.7 acres CRP, balance timber. \$1285 per acre.
- 76 Acres, M/L: Located 2 miles S.W. of Massena on Highway 148. All in CRP. \$108 per acre. No buildings. \$1550 per acre.
- 76 Acres, M/L: Located 3 miles S.W. of Lyman. Nearly all tillable, terraced Marshall soils, about half of cropland is near level ridge. 71.3 CSR. Grain bin. \$2534 per acre.
- 77 Acres, M/L: Located 6 miles S.E. of Massena. 43.7 acres nice laying cropland, balance pasture. \$1685 per acre.
- 40 Acres, M/L: Located 3 miles north of Cumberland on N28. 93% tillable, terraced cropland. \$1850 per acre.
- 140 Acres, M/L: Located 1 mile north of Marne. 92% tillable. Productive mostly Marshall & Judson soils. \$2350 per acre.
- 313 Acres, M/L: Located 5 miles south of Massena. Nice ridge with mostly Sharpsburg soils. Well tiled. \$1965 per acre.
- 80 Acres, M/L: Located 6 miles S.E. of Guthrie Center. All permanent pasture. Some timber. \$1150 per acre.
- 300 Acres, M/L: Located 3 miles S.W. of Griswold. Mostly top quality Nishnabotna bottom cropland. Estimated avg. CSR = 77.24. \$2450 per acre.
- 80 Acres, M/L: Located 6 1/2 miles N.W. of Casey in Guthrie County. 65.5 acres CRP and balance timbered draws. Good hunting. \$1285 per acre.
- 140 Acres, M/L: Located 7 1/2 miles S.W. of Treynor. 12 miles from Council Bluffs. Gently rolling cropland. \$2600 per acre.
- 80 Acres, M/L: Located 5 1/2 miles S.E. of Massena. Appr. 52 acres in CRP, balance pasture. No buildings. \$1088 per acre.
- 35 Acres, M/L: Located 1 3/4 miles S.E. of Cumberland. Almost all tillable. No buildings. \$1700 per acre.
- 160 Acres, M/L: Located 6 miles S.E. of Lyman. Cropland & CRP combination & appr. 25 acres of timber & cabin. \$1450 per acre.
- 160 Acres, M/L: Located 5 1/2 miles S.E. of Anita in Lincoln Twp. Very nice laying farm. \$2,400 per acre.
- Rural Acreage: Located 6 miles S.E. of Anita. Approximately 2.2 acres. 1-1/2 story home with many nice features & outbuildings. Price reduced to \$68,500.
- 107.7 Acres, M/L: Located 13 miles S.W. of Massena. 96% tillable. Tiled & terraced. Primarily Sharpsburg soils. High corn base. \$1752 per acre.
- 35 Acres, M/L: Located 3 miles east of Grant. Nearly all tillable Sharpsburg soils with a high percentage of ridge. \$1850 per acre.
- 80 Acres, M/L: Located 7 miles north of Bridgewater. 78% tillable, balance timber & building site. \$1825 per acre.

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Time to plan for a new windbreak

BY SINDRA JENSEN
Soil Conservationist

Winter is maybe slipping away, but before you forget about the bitter northwest winds freezing us to the bone, it's time to plan for a farmstead windbreak. A well-planned windbreak 30 feet tall will reduce winds to 50 percent of their original velocities at the leeward distances of up to 240 feet, thus cutting wind-chill. This is a subject I can speak on based on my experiences this winter. I moved to a house north of my parents' home. When my Dad built their house 31 years ago the first thing he did was plant a windbreak. The house I live in was built five years later and the owners

never planted a solid windbreak.

This winter the difference between the two was that I felt like I lived on top of Mount Everest while they kept cozy in their protected little valley. Trust me I will improve my windbreak!

Windbreaks not only help slow the wind, they also protect soil, conserve energy, control snow deposition, provide shelter from wind for livestock, beautify an area, and improve an area for wildlife. The primary three-row windbreak can be applied on land next to farmsteads where wind damage is likely or where the natural beauty of the trees and shrubs is wanted. Windbreaks can be planted next

to feedlots, grazing areas, or ponds to provide livestock shelter, or to provide wildlife food and shelter.

There are many planning considerations that must be made during winter months so that the site will be ready for tree planting in the spring. The windbreak should be located to protect farmsteads and feedlots from prevailing northwestern winds. The windbreak should be at least 100-300 feet away from the area to be protected.

A 7-11 row windbreak is ideal but isn't always practical. The minimum requirements for windbreaks for REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) is three rows of coniferous trees (evergreen) with at least one row containing Eastern Red

Cass District's Tree Sales Program

SUBMITTED BY
CONNIE S. ESBECK

Now that March is here, many of you may be thinking about planting a windbreak or renovating an old windbreak. If not, you may be thinking of just adding a few trees and/or shrubs to your yard.

In 2001, the Cass County S.W.C.D. started a tree sales program whereby anyone can purchase the bareroot stock or potted trees by placing an order. Each year since we started the program, we have added something new to give you, our customers, a better selection of trees and shrubs. Our bareroot stock consists of seedlings and transplants ranging from \$1 - \$2.25 each. These are sold in bundles of five and 10, depending on the

species. Potted trees are \$16 - \$21 each, also depending on the species. The trees will be delivered for you to pick up on April 13 so we urge you to stop in the office at 503 West 7th Street or call 243-3180 for further information. Proceeds from the trees sales is used to enhance our education program. A few of them are 1) Scholarships to graduating seniors from Cass County; 2) Sixth grade field day held annually at the Ralph Simmons pond and 3) to sponsor teams to participate in the Envirothon Contest held annually, as well as other educational activities.

Any inventory of stock left by

Scholarship *continued from page two*

band, pep band, chorus, volleyball, basketball and track.

She is a member of Central Church of Christ and participated in the drama team, worship team, member of youth group, and member of leadership study. Her hobbies include hiking, camping, biking and tennis.

(At right) Kari Hackney



Windbreak see page 5

July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

Terraces Honor Roll

Charles D. McAfee 3050'
W. Dale Jenkins 2400'
Alvin H. Arp 4050'
Frank E. McMullen 4000'
Viola Silk 4750'
C.R. Anstey Trust 4400'
Larry Wagner 4100'
Mike Freund 2400'
Glen A. Dinkla 3250'
Larry D. Petersen 2300'
Basil Pelzer 1950'
Robert A. Anstey 4800'
Joe Newell 4550'
Chris R. French 650'
Max H. Miller 850'
Paul Dreager 1350'
Marjorie Ford 1200'
Michael J. Lee 850'
Dan Follman 900'
Joe Newell 3650'
Brian Follman 400'
Jerry Lowers 200'
Dennis Newell 4000'
Meredith Family Farm 4050'
Sam Fager 1150'
Total: 65,250'/12.4 mi.

Grade Stabilization Structure

Robert Buboltz 1
Marietta Holste 1
Stanford Pelzer 1

Windbreak

Paul Gude 0.4 Ac
Rebecca Clarken 0.6 Ac
Ryan Rich 0.8 Ac
Mike Pelzer 0.5 Ac
Dan Dorsey 0.4 Ac
Mark Knudsen 0.3 Ac
Kristy Pellett 0.2 Ac
Alan Zellmer 0.9 Ac
Alan Zellmer 0.9 Ac
Gene Ehrman 0.6 Ac
Scott Small 0.3 Ac

Tree Planting Practice

Richard Scholl 4.0 Ac

Grassed Waterway

Gerald Lappe 1.8 Ac
Marjorie Ford 2.2 Ac
Clinton Schutt 0.9 Ac

Sediment Control Basin

Mark Whitley 1

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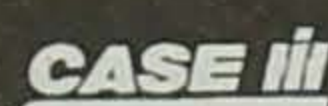
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Water conservation in the yard

BY SINDRA JENSEN
Soil Conservationist

Often you don't appreciate something until it's gone! That can really be true with water. Taken for granted when it is plentiful, its importance is truly appreciated in the garden once it becomes scarce. If you find yourself in a drought, there are some things you can do to help conserve water and make the best use of what you have available.

If you have not already mulched your plants, do it!! Mulch will help limit the amount of water that evaporates from the soil. While organic mulches such as grass clippings or wood chips are preferable since they add organic matter to the soil, plastic mulches are useful in limiting evaporation from the soil. They can be laid between rows in the vegetable garden and will help limit moisture loss; however, they also will limit infiltration.

Place your water where it will do the most good. Sprinklers are very inefficient for getting water to the roots of your plants. Much of the water lands on the leaves

and evaporates before reaching the ground. A slow gentle watering at the base of the plants, allowing the water to soak into the soil, will be most efficient.

Water those plants needing it most. Newly planted trees, shrubs, and flowers with limited root systems will most likely suffer first from drought conditions. Give these plants priority if water is scarce. Well-established plants, especially those native to the area, are likely to withstand drought conditions with limited damage.

Water in the early morning before the heat of the day. This limits evaporation and supplies plants with needed moisture to make it through the hot, sunny day.

Consider using drip or trickle irrigation systems. Many inexpensive, easy to install systems are available that provide small amounts of water to the base of individual plants. These systems place the water where it is needed most, rather than applying it across the whole garden. Check with your local garden center.

Collect water from downspouts when it rains. Roofs intercept significant amounts of

rain. Collecting this runoff into a barrel can help limit the use of city or well water during dry spells. There are plans you can get off the internet to design your own rain collection barrel.

Water Conservation is just one of the many topics covered by the Cass County Backyard Conservation Team. I thought this might be appropriate since our last two summers have been very dry and have taken a toll on the health and growth of our trees, shrubs, and gardens.

The Cass County Backyard Conservation Team has gone to the birds this season. Backyard Birds will be the theme of the upcoming free informational meetings sponsored by the Backyard Conservation Team, Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcement of our 2004 meetings or call to be placed on a mailing list to 243-3180.

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Overgrazed pastures - now what?

Due to the very dry years, many pastures in Cass County have been overgrazed. What can be done to improve their conditions before the next grazing season? Rain will be very helpful! But there are also management practices you can implement to improve your pasture for the next grazing season.

"There is no substitute for rain, but your management is important regardless of the weather," says Brian Peterson, Grassland Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "There are some things you might be able to do to improve your overgrazed pastures. But, before you jump in, think about your goals and how your actions might affect the goals. Your goals might be weed control, improving fertility, installing division fences, or adding legumes. Do whatever is best for you and what you are comfortable with."

"The first step to benefiting overgrazed pastures, if you haven't already, is to remove the cattle from a field or as many of the overgrazed pastures as you can," says Peterson. "Then move the cattle into crop fields where they can enjoy the corn residues." This will give your pastures some much-needed rest. Corn residues are a valuable resource that can help cattle producers reduce their stored feed costs and still provide adequate feed for the cattle.

"A short overgrazed pasture provides an excellent opportunity for frost or interseeding legumes into it prior to spring grazing," says Peterson. "The overgrazing has helped reduce competition and will improve your chances of success to incorporate legumes into the grass pasture. The legumes, once established, will extend the grazing season of the cool season grass pasture farther into the

Overgrazing see page 6

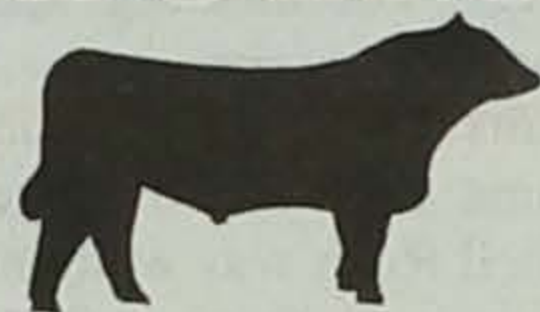
No-Till reminder

To All Cass County Farmers:
This is a quick note to serve as a reminder that if your conservation compliance plan calls for No-Till both crops (soybeans and corn), that means no tillage. Tillage is defined as any implement that disturbs the soil surface. Implements include but are not limited to deep rippers (blue jets), rotary hoes, harrows, soil conditioners, disks, etc. Implement dealers may label implements as no-till such as a no-till ripper or a no-till mulcher. That is not true in relation to your compliance plan. To NRCS No-Till is no tillage. No-

Till still allows the knifing in of anhydrous but with our new soil loss calculators it greatly increases soil loss. When knifing in anhydrous try to apply at a rate that does minimal soil disturbance. If you have questions regarding your conservation compliance plan contact the NRCS office at 243-3180.

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Windbreak

continued from page four

Cedar, Northern White Cedar or a Spruce. One row of dense deciduous shrubs may be substituted for one row. The NRCS office has lists of trees that are suitable for windbreaks and can assist landowners with decisions. Cost share is available for windbreaks. If you interested contact the NRCS office at 243-3180 to see if funds are available.

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Tree Sales

continued from page four

April 13 may be seen at the Cass County Fair Grounds and purchased that day, but to guarantee your order, stop in the office as soon as possible.

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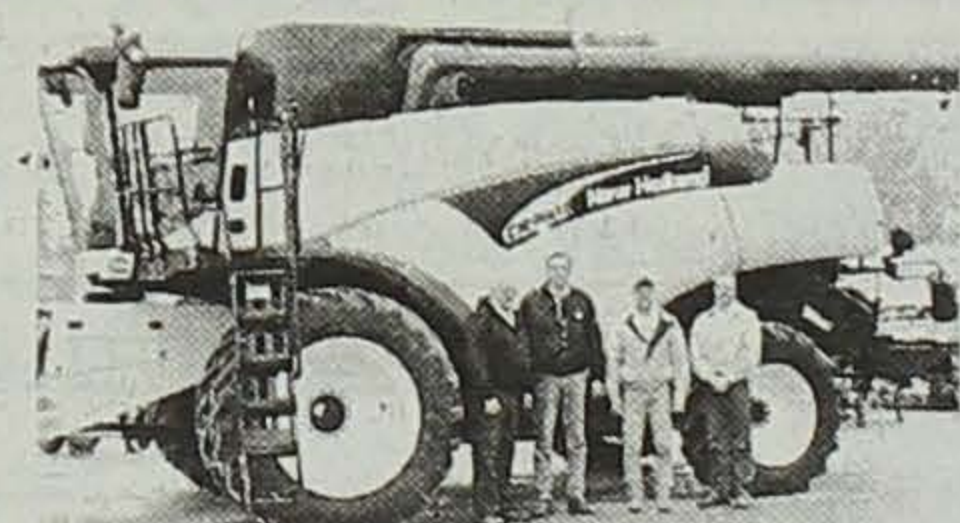


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4-H News

Bear Grove Blazers 4-H Club

BY MICHELLE
BUBOLTZ
Reporter

The regular meeting of the Bear Grove Blazers 4-H club was held on Jan. 17, at Washington School. The meeting was called to order by President Michelle Euker. Michelle Buboltz led the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the last meeting were read by Caleb Nelson. Josh Schuler gave the treasurer's report. Several thank-you notes for Christmas cookie plates were read.

The 4-H volleyball tournament will be held on Jan. 18. Bear Grove will enter one team. Project booklets were distributed. The Discovery workshop is Feb. 21. Mardi Gras is March 14. Ideas for Mardi Gras were discussed. The date of the next meeting was changed to Feb. 16. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Washington School.

Cass Coed Clan

BY RHONDA BERRY
Reporter

The monthly meeting of the Cass Coed Clan was held on Jan. 7 at the Cass Coed Clubhouse. The meeting began at 7 p.m. Fifteen members attended the meeting. Roll call was "What is your favorite Christmas present?" Tony Orstad led pledges. The Nichols family were hosts. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Rhonda Berry reported she purchased Christmas gifts for a needy 6-year-old girl. Marlys Berry gave a short lecture on filling out our record books.

Business items were the upcoming bloodmobile on Feb. 19 and Discovery workshop on Feb. 21. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 4 at the Cass Coed Clubhouse.

Pleasant-Noble United 4-H Club

BY JOSHUA BIERBAUM
Reporter

February meeting

The Pleasant-Noble United 4-H club meeting was held at the Griswold High School on Feb. 4. Pledge to the American flag was led by Heather Dickerson. Twenty-nine members answered roll call: "What's your favorite Valentine Candy?" The club was congratulated on their second place finish in the volleyball tournament. Amanda Seyler reported on the Food & Fitness program. A sleigh riding party

will be held on Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at Brent Bierbaum's house. Check the hotline for updates. Marcus Josephson led the 4-H Pledge. Presentations were made by Ben Rush on how to make a paper air plane, and Linnea Casey on how to make a quilt pillow. Hosts were Chris Steinbeck, and Amanda, Nick, Jesse, Spencer, Bridgett Seyler and Greg and John Travor. The next meeting will be March 3 at the Griswold High School.

March meeting

The Pleasant-Noble United 4-H club meeting was held at the Griswold High School on March 3. Lauren Fast led pledge to the American flag. 35 members answered roll call: "What is your dream car?" Three guests were present. Heath Anderson gave a report on the club exchange. Mardi Gras will be held on March 14 at the Atlantic Community building. Members were reminded that swine weigh-in is April 3. PQA training will be held March 18 or 24. Poultry and rabbit workshops will be held March 29. The club voted to make a donation to 4-Her's for 4-H, and the Cass County Endowment fund. Members are to be thinking of ideas for the club tour. Rachel Bierbaum led the pledge to the 4-H flag. Presentations were by Heath Anderson on how to use a welder; Molly Martens on her 4-H pig; Amanda Seyler on her rescued cat; Marcus Josephson on how to tie a tie; and Jesse Seyler on pottery. Hosts were Mitch Whiley and Ben Rush. The next meeting is April 7.

Pymosa 4-H club

BY EMILY ROBINSON
Secretary

January meeting

The Pymosa 4-H club met at Emily and Maggie Robinson's home on Jan. 11 at 3 p.m. Sixteen members were present. President Jake Smith brought the meeting to order. Old business discussed was discovery workshop and the volleyball tournament. New business was Mardi Gras. Maggie Robinson gave a presentation on "horses."

February meeting

On Feb. 8, the Pymosa 4-H club met at the Super Bowl for family bowling. The meeting was called to order by Jake Smith. Twenty members were present. Mardi Gras was discussed with Aaron Williams chairing the committee. Chad Olsen, Peter Smith, Gus Williams and Kristi Fager are also serving on the committee. Shawnell Rush was welcomed into the club as a new member. Larry Bowman and Denise O'Brien gave a short presentation of Trees Forever. The club will help plant the trees along the bike trail as a service project.

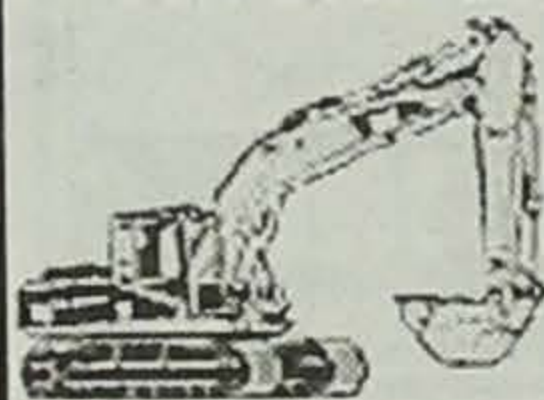
Washington Winners

BY MELANIE RUSH

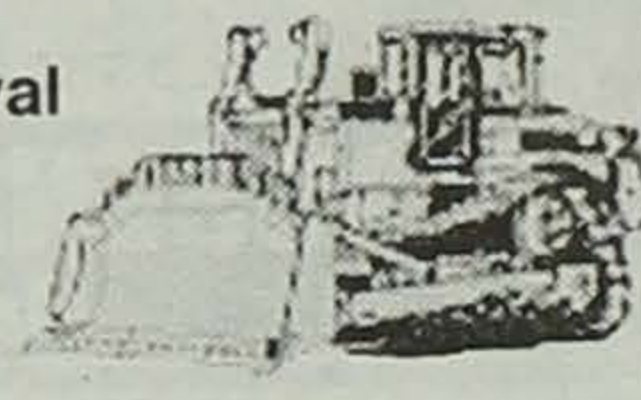
The regular meeting of the Washington Winners 4-H group was

4-H News see page 7

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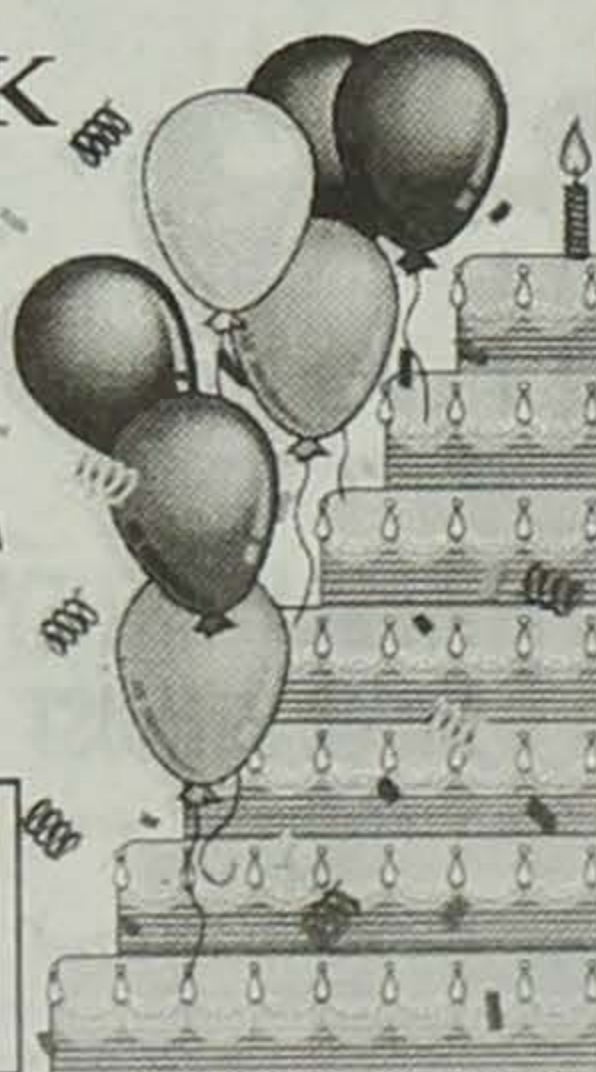
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Are buffers for you?

Are conservation buffers a good economic choice for your operation? Your neighbor may be the best person to ask. Farmers and ranches are among the strongest and most credible advocates for use of buffers and supporting practices.

- More than 250,000 buffer contracts with USDA have been signed.

- Nearly 160,000 farms and ranches have buffers, installed under voluntary programs that provide annual rental payments and other financial incentives.

- There is no bidding, no waiting. Offers are automatically accepted if eligibility and other requirements are met.

- Payments vary across the country, with an average of about \$97 an acre per year.

Many farmers and ranchers find that setting aside environmentally sensitive land makes a lot of economic sense. Employees at your local USDA service center or conservation district office can tell you more. Or you can ask a neighbor!

Overgrazing

continued from page five

summer and also feeds nitrogen to the grass," explains Peterson.

An important question to ask yourself before you begin to broadcast or seed legumes is "Do I have a broadleaf weed problem in my pasture?" If you have Musk or Canada Thistles or some other weeds you plan to control with chemicals it may be a waste of time and money to add legumes to your pasture at this time. First control the weeds, and then add the legumes!

Another important consideration, according to Peterson, is "Are your pastures divided so you can rotate them and let your legumes rest for at least 30 days in the summer?" You will need to rest them to maintain legumes in the forage. If you don't rest them it might be more beneficial for you to use nitrogen fertilizer to increase grass production.

Before you spread nitrogen fertilizer on all of your pastures, stop and think about how your grass grows and what time of year you usually have extra forage. Most people have an abundance of cool season grass in the spring. Can you utilize all of it through grazing before it heads out? If not what can you do about it? Consider not fertilizing all of your pasture in early spring. It may be beneficial to apply nitrogen fertilizer later in the spring on a portion of your pasture. Another option is to harvest a portion of your pasture as hay if it is growing faster than your livestock can graze it back. Remember, management is the key to helping improve your pastures next spring. For assistance with grazing management and planning contact the NRCS office at 243-3180.

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Time: **Film at 10 & 1 Lunch 11:30-1:00**

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Thirty-year-old research leads to new discovery

BY SUSAN THOMPSON

For several years, there has been an emphasis on the use of practices such as nutrient management and riparian buffer strips to reduce the movement of agricultural fertilizers into surface water. Farmers, conservation groups, communities and government agencies are pooling efforts and resources in an attempt to improve water quality within local watersheds.

Research by two scientists at USDA's National Soil Tilth Laboratory on the Iowa State University campus shows it may take decades for conservation practices to improve groundwater quality.

"Agriculture has been linked to nutrients in ground and surface waters," says Mark Tomer. "Better nutrient management, crop rotation and other practices can reduce this movement and the quality of surface runoff water may improve rapidly. But improvement in groundwater, and in stream flow that is fed by groundwater, is difficult to predict and depends on many factors."

Tomer and Michael Burkart, scientists with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), have found lingering effects of an ARS experiment finished nearly 30 years ago. It proves patience is a virtue when it comes to measuring the movement of nitrates through soil and groundwater. The ARS Deep Loess Research Station is near Treynor in southwest Iowa. The station includes two small watersheds. Research at the site began in the 1960s, and focused on erosion and nutrient balances under continuous corn production.

Between 1969 and 1974, researchers applied nearly 400 pounds of nitrogen per acre to a field in one of the watersheds. A more typical 150-pound-per-acre application was made in the other watershed. Soil nitrate concentrations were tracked for the next decade.

In 1996, Tomer and Burkart were preparing to monitor groundwater for a new experiment when they detected an unusually high level of nitrate in the heavily fertilized watershed at a 60-foot depth. By examining groundwater flow rates and

ages, and comparing the concentration's depth with stream flow records, they were able to link the nitrate to the old experiment.

New crop rotations were established in 1996, with a corn-soybean rotation in one watershed and a six-year, contour-strip rotation with corn, soybean, corn and three years of alfalfa in the other watershed. "We expect the six-year rotation to show less nitrate leaching, but we won't be able to prove that using stream monitoring until we have a few more years of data collection and analysis," Tomer says. And as their earlier work shows, it could be 30 years before the full effects on groundwater quality can be measured.

Tomer and Burkart both are collaborative faculty members at Iowa State. An article outlining the research was published in the November-December issue of the Journal of Environmental Quality.

(Susan Thompson is a communications specialist with the Iowa State University College of Agriculture.)

4-H Junior Leader of the Month

Name: Michelle Euken

Parent's Name: Randy and Jill

Sisters/Brothers: Bret Euken

School: Atlantic

Years in 4-H: 9

Age: 16

Name of Club: Bear Grove Blazers



1. What projects have you carried in 4-H?

Beef, Breeding Beef, Swine, Home Improvement, Food and Nutrition, Clothing, Photography and Visual Arts

2. What have you done on the local club level?

Been president and treasurer of my club

3. What have you done on the county level?

Junior Superintendent for Beef and Youth Council

4. What highlight of your 4-H career stands out most in your mind?

Winning Reserve Grand Champion Market Heifer or winning Champion Feeder Steer at county fair.

junior leader?

I get to help younger kids learn more about project and I get to help out at fair.

6. How do you about 4-H?

4-H has taught me many skills needed in life, most of all responsibility. It also helps me to reach my goals throughout the year.

7. Future plans: Attend a four-year university

5. Why do you like being a

4-H News *continued from page six*

Jan. 19: The volleyball food stand was discussed and members were told about some upcoming activities. Kelly handed out project papers and Carrie went over the club bylaws. The next meeting will be Feb. 16, and presentations will be given by Alexis Bigalow and Jorden Ecklin.

Groovy Grovers

BY ELLIE FJELLMAN
Reporter

February meeting

The monthly meeting of the

Groovy Grovers was held at the First Church of Christ on Feb. 9. Roll call was, "One thing I like to do with my Dad or Grandpa." Sixteen members were present. Pledges were lead by Cassie Gibson. Things discussed were Share in the Fun, Talent and Pet Show committee, Seventh and eighth grade intermediate lock in, Discovery Workshop and Mardi Gras. Presentations were given by Diana Perkins, Joshua Perkins and Levi Shmitt. Special guest was Julie Hering who also gave a Presentation on "How to run a 4-H meeting." The next meeting will be held on March 8, at the First Church of Christ, Atlantic.

March meeting

The monthly meeting of the Groovy Grovers was held at the First Church of Christ on March 8. Roll call was "A fair project I am dreaming of." Sixteen members were present. Pledges were lead by Levi Shmitt and Jacob Fjellman. Things discussed were rabbit and poultry workshop, booth at Lewis, material for the nursing home, taxidermist and Mardi Gras. Presentations were given by Jordan, Jacob and Ellie Fjellman, Cassie Gibson and Haley Pottebaum. The next meeting will be held on April 12 at the First Church of Christ, Atlantic.

Buffer Benefits

In addition to providing economic benefits, buffers can help you achieve a number of important conservation objectives. When used with supporting practices, buffers can help you:

- Prevent soil erosion.
- Improve water quality by removing sediment, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants from runoff
- Improve air quality.
- Enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

- Control flooding.
- Improve farm safety.
- Protect buildings, roads and livestock.

• Conserve energy.
• Beautify the landscape.
USDA's voluntary incentive programs, including the continuous Conservation Reserve Program-CCRP-are stronger than ever. They are valuable tools that can help you sustain your operation and protect the environment. That's good news for today and tomorrow!

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Buffers- way to stay profitable

Conservation buffers are a simple way for you and many other farmers and ranchers to stay profitable while protecting your land. USDA supports the use of buffers on cropland, pasture and rangeland through several conservation programs including the continuous Conservation Reserve Program or CCRP. Unlike the regular CRP, sign for the CCRP is available year-round.

Financial incentives available through CCRP are especially attractive. They include: a signing incentive payment of \$100 to \$150 per acre for riparian buffers, filters strip, grassed waterways, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, living snow fence, farmable wetlands and wetland buffers, up to 50 percent cost sharing for practice installation, a practice incentive payment of up to 40 percent of eligible practice installation costs, a 20 percent rental rate incentive for riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways and field windbreaks, a 10 percent, rental rate incentive for wellhead protection area, higher annual maintenance payments per acre for certain activities and competitive rental rates nationwide for installing riparian buffers on marginal grazing land.

Buffers- more options

A related program for conservation buffers available is about half of the states is the Conservation Reserve Program. CREP is a federal-state-local program that addresses specific conservation needs, primarily water quality, in the states where it operates.

You'll find that, in addition to CCRP and CREP, several other programs can help you install conservation buffers.

Here are just a few examples: Environmental Quality Incentives Program- Significant increases in funding for EQIP in the 2002 farm bill make it an attractive program. Livestock-related natural resource concerns and other conservation priorities, including buffers, are among the practices EQIP funds. Local input helps establish local conservation priorities under EQIP.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program- WHIP is a voluntary program for landowners who want to develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat on private land.

Wetlands Reserve Program- Landowners can protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property with this voluntary program.

Forest Land Enhancement Program- A new program in the 2002 farm bill, FLEP provides cost sharing, technical assistance and education to owners of private forest land. Planning, tree planting, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian restoration and forest improvement are among practices that states and private landowners may focus on FLEP.

Buffers- Eligible practices

One or more of these buffers may be right for your farm or ranch

Grassed waterways
Contour grass strips
Shelterbelts/field windbreaks
Living snow fences
Vegetation to reduce salinity
Filter strips
Riparian buffers
Wetland restoration
Cross-wind trap strips
Farmable wetlands
Farmable wetland buffers
Marginal pastureland wildlife habitat buffers
Marginal pastureland wetland buffers
Shallow water areas for wildlife
Public wellhead protection buffers

Buffers- not just for farmers

America's farmers and ranchers often must "go it alone," but when it comes to buffers, other partners have jumped in to help. Their message is, "We're in this together!"

- Groups like Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited and Quail Unlimited believe so strongly in buffers that they are committing thousands of dollars and volunteer assistance to increase buffer establishment.

- Citizen groups are providing funding and volunteer support for buffer programs.

- States and cities are supporting buffer programs on rural land, in recognition of the positive impacts buffers have on drinking water supplies.

- Rural lenders often promote buffers as a wise economic choice.

- Many farm-related groups and businesses, including cooperatives, also support buffer use.

Talk to USDA service center or conservation district personnel about partners in your area

I-M Budget

(Office Supplies/Expenses/Commissioners Expenses)
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

02-03 Allocation	\$1,905.00
Commissioners Mileage/Expenses	\$570.45
Office supplies/expenses	\$1,334.55
Total Expenditures	\$1,905.00

00-01 Allocation	\$140,480.52
(Period covers July 1, 2000-December 31, 2003)	
Cost-share warrants paid	\$139,873.52
Returned to DSC 12/31/03	\$607.00
Total Expenditures	\$140,480.52

02-03 Allocation	\$47,729.00
(Period covers July 2, 2002-December 31, 2003)	
Cost-share warrants paid	\$46,157.90
Obligated Expenditures	\$0.00
	\$46,157.90
Balance of Unobligated 2002-03 Funds	\$ 1,571.00

03-04 Allocation	\$76,858.00
(Period covers July 2, 2001-December 31, 2002)	
Cost-share warrants paid	\$52,373.30
Obligated Expenditures	\$19,918.75
	\$72,292.05
Balance of Unobligated 2002-03 funds	\$4,565.95

No-Interest Loan Fund (RLF) (2003) Allocation	\$10,000.00
Warrants paid	\$9,512.12
Obligated Expenditures	\$0.00
	\$9,512.12
Balance of Unobligated No-Interest Loan Fund	\$487.88

2003 REAP FUNDS	
(Period covers July 1, 2003-December 31, 2003)	
REAP-P (Practices) Allocation	\$13,081.00
Warrants Paid	\$3,805.29
Obligated REAP-P Funds	\$7,983.38
Released to DSC June 30, 2003	\$1,292.33
	\$13,081.00
REAP-F (Forestry/Native Grass) Allocation	\$4,800.00
Warrants Paid	\$4,800.00
Returned to DSC June 30, 2003	\$1,197.44
	\$4,800.00

District's Revolving Fund	
Balance on hand July 1, 2002	\$7,843.15
Receipts:	
I-M Reimbursement	\$1,905.00
Tree Sales	\$14,296.77
Contributions	\$145.00
Watersheds	\$18,812.77
Miscellaneous	\$2,450.45
	\$37,609.99
Expenditures:	
Commissioners Expenses	\$570.45
Postage	\$1,131.17
Education/Meeting	\$2,170.17
Office Supplies/Expenses	\$242.53
Association Dues	\$1,475.00
Tree/Scrub	\$10,856.03
Miscellaneous	\$621.57
Watersheds	\$18,663.77
	\$35,730.69
Balance on hand June 30, 2003	\$9,722.45

Grass Drill Fund	
Balance on hand July 1, 2002	\$8,625.58
Receipts:	
Drill Rental Fees	\$2,785.00
Expenditures:	
Refunds	\$50.00
Supplies/Repairs	\$204.74
Insurance	\$341.00
	\$595.74
Balance on hand June 30, 2003	\$10,814.84

Payroll/District Employees	
Balance on hand July 1, 2002	\$1,924.32
Receipts:	
Cass County Auditor	\$4,300.00
Expenditures:	
Payroll	\$3,277.94
Payroll taxes, benefits	\$1,257.83
Treasurer of State	\$92.00
	\$4,627.77
Balance on hand June 30, 2003	\$1,596.55

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- Kinze 2200, 12-30
- Kinze 2000, 6-30-11
- JD 1760, 8RW w/fold
- JD 1780, 12-30-23
- JD 7240m 8-30-15
- JD 7200, 12-30 flex
- Blk. Mach., 12-30-15
- White 6100, 8RW-15

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