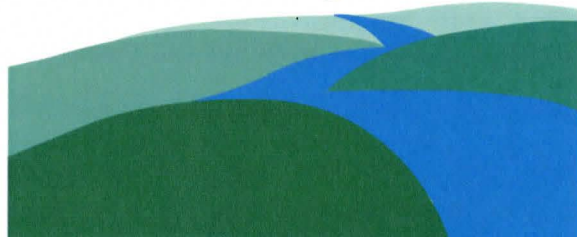


Annual Report 2010

Cass County SWCD



2010 Newsletter

Baughman Creek Watershed Project

The Cass County SWCD in partnership with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship signed a planning grant agreement for the purpose of completing activities to assess Baughman and Un-named Creek watersheds, completing a hydrologic and erosion control assessment, preparing a watershed plan, and when appropriate, preparing grant applications to implement the watershed plan. Since that time, the Cass SWCD applied for and was awarded an I-JOBS grant (a grant that was approximately \$190,000 awarded in November) for the Baughman Creek area to install terraces and grade control structures to help control flooding that occurs during peak rainfall events in the Griswold area. Baughman Creek and the un-named tributary, both drain (in an area near Griswold, and) have historically presented flooding problems for Griswold. With the continued nice fall harvest weather, there has been 17,600 ft of terraces installed, with 39,750 ft scheduled to be completed during Spring 2011. For further information, please contact the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District at: (712)243-3180.



FY 2010

Inside this issue:

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CDI Scholarship	
Contractors Meeting	
Low Interest Loan	

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Commissioner Elections

November 2, 2010



General elections were held on November 2, 2010 in which the Cass County SWCD had two positions open for election. Fred Kay and Greg Zellmer terms expired in January 2011 which required action for the 2010 election on November 2nd. Frederick Kay and Greg Zellmer were re-elected. They were sworn in January 3, 2011 at the District Organizational meeting to start their four-year terms.



2011 Officers

Curt Behrends— Chairman
 Greg Zellmer— Vice Chairman
 Ray Wilson—Treasurer
 Fred Kay— Commissioner
 Brian Follmann— Commissioner
 Secretary— Jana Coughlin
 Co-Treasurer— Jana Coughlin

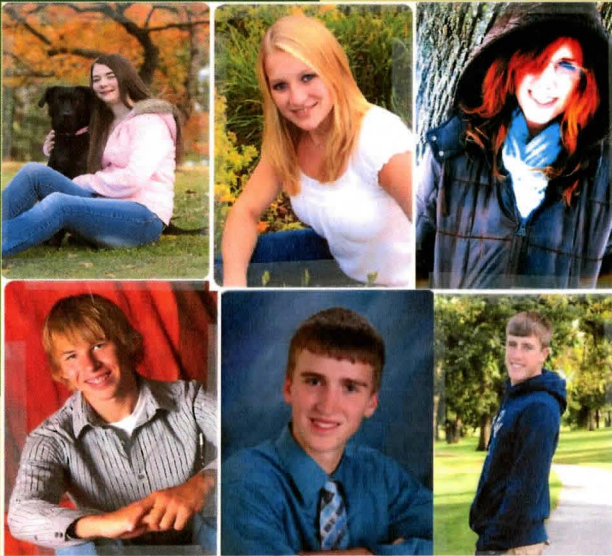


2010 Scholarship Winners



The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District awarded graduating Seniors of Cass County \$300.00 scholarship to help with their continued studies in Agriculture/Natural Resources field of study. The Cass County SWCD encourages graduating seniors in Cass County to make application by March of each year to be eligible for scholarships. Students and guidance counselors may use the districts website to view more information about these scholarships at www.cassswcd.org. This years recipients are Sara Pottebaum, Chelsey Klindt, Nicole Laurito, Alec Guttenfelder, Jonathan Olsen, John "JJ" Bierbaum.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



CDI Scholarship Winner

Jon Olsen was also selected by Conservation Districts of Iowa to receive a \$300.00 scholarship. Jon will receive a President's letter along with a check from the Conservation Districts of Iowa. Scholarship applicants can obtain applications at their local school guidance counselors or stop by the Cass County SWCD office at 503 West 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa.



CONTRACTORS MEETING

The Cass & Audubon County SWCDs co-sponsored a contractors meeting that was held February 17, 2010 at the Pizza Ranch in Atlantic. Jeff Sporrer, Resource Conservationist opened the meeting.

Several supply companies gave presentations along with attendees watching the Iowa One Call video. Jeff Godwin, Area Engineer and Kristi York, Area Program Specialist also provided information. This meeting continues to be very well attended. Thanks to all who makes it successful.



Low Interest Loan Program

The Iowa Finance Authority has a Iowa water quality loan fund in which producers can access to fund their portions of construction projects. This can be used by itself or in conjunction with State and Federal cost share programs. Loan terms are as follows;

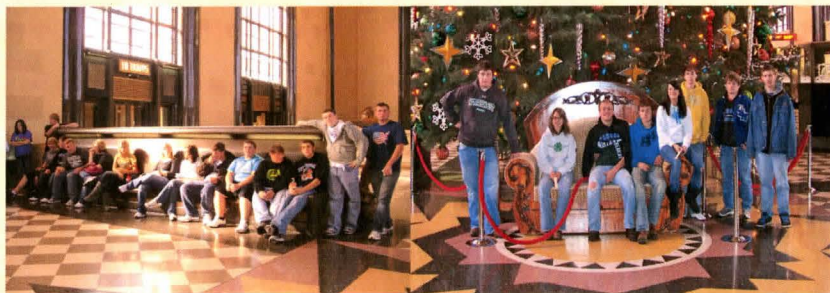


- Loans from \$5,000 to \$500,000
- Terms up to 10 years, and 20 on livestock facilities.
- 3% fixed rate for life of loan
- Can fund up to 100% of the actual cost
- Applications accepted year-round
- Available through lender of your choice

If you are interested in participating, contact The Cass SWCD office or you may view information online at: www.ifaprograms.com.



Dig It! The Secrets of Soil exhibit was on display at the Durham Museum in Omaha, Nebraska from October 2-December 26, 2010. This exhibit was created by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. The Durham Museum was the only location outside of Washington DC to host the exhibition. Visitors could view 54 soil samples representing each U.S. state and territory and the District of Columbia, as well as soil maps and touchable soil models. The Cass SWCD provided funds for the Griswold and CAM community school districts to take students to the Dig It exhibit at the Durham Museum in Omaha. Griswold took 52 students and CAM took 9 students.



GRISWOLD FFA STUDENTS

CAM FFA STUDENTS

ENVIROTHON WORKSHOP



The Cass and Adair County SWCD co-hosted an Envirothon workshop on March 10th for area schools to come and review information in preparation for the Envirothon regional competition. Julie McMichael, with the NRCS provided information on soils, Brian Hayes with the DNR at Cold Springs Park, provided the Aquatics information and Alan Carr representing the DNR provided the wildlife information. Any Cass County school that would like to participate in this workshop should contact the Cass or Adair County SWCD offices. The Cass County SWCD has also gave Cass county schools a re-imbursement for their entry fees to attend the Envirothon Regional competition. For more information about the Envirothon go to : <http://www.cdiowa.org/ENVIROregional.html>.

TREE SALES

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District started the tree and shrub sales program in 2001. Anyone can purchase bare root or potted trees from the district. The sales dollars generated from this program supports our education programs such as the scholarship program that the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District makes available to seniors in Cass County school districts. Trees are great protection from winter wind for farm producers around their farmsteads and feedlot areas. Any producer can receive up to 75% of actual cost and cost share not to exceed \$1500.00 per year to install a windbreak according to N.R.C.S specs. Anyone can purchase these trees and shrubs, whether you live in town or in a rural area. If you have a certain species your needing to replace trees that have died or been damaged from wind or storms, please let us know to ensure that they will be available for purchase. For orders of \$100 or more a fifty percent deposit is required. You can place your order with the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District at 503 West Seventh Street or by calling 712/243-3180. You can also find order forms online at www.cassswcd.org.



AMERICORP HABITAT SPECIALIST



Hello! My name is Rebekah Karsch and I am the new DNR Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps Habitat Specialist for Cass and Montgomery Counties. For those of you who have not heard of AmeriCorps, it is a national service program and has been called the domestic Peace Corps. I will be working with Matt Dollison, the area DNR Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, and will be located in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office in Atlantic. My job will be to promote and help create wildlife habitat on private land using federal and state conservation programs. This means that private landowners in my counties can expect to receive letters in the mail, phone calls or even house calls from me to endorse programs such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). I will also be assisting NRCS staff to help decrease turnaround time for landowners who have already applied for programs.

I am originally from Lexington, Virginia and I graduated in 2009 from James Madison University with a degree in Biology and a concentration in Ecology and Environmental Science. I am excited to be in Atlantic and I am looking forward to getting to know people here and exploring my new home.



CASS COUNTY FAIR



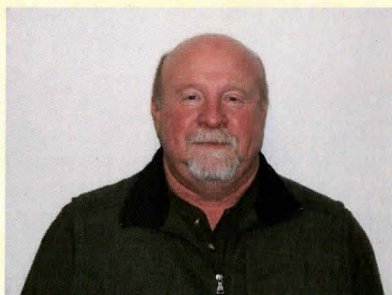
Conservation Station was at the Cass County Fair on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This mobile learning unit has interactive demonstrations, pictures, computer animations, three dimensional displays where people of all ages can learn why Iowa's water and soils are precious and how they can help preserve and protect these natural resources.

This service is free service provided by the Iowa Learning Farm. For more information on the Conservation Station go to www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf



CAN CONSERVATION WAIT?

By Jim Gillespie



In this ever changing world and state, what does the future hold for conservation and agriculture? Commodity prices are high, land values are high, rents are high, inputs are high, and the list goes on.

But can conservation of the soil and water wait? That has to be a good question everyone should be thinking about. With more demands being placed on soil and water resources to produce more food for an ever growing population in the world and with changing technology and genetics to allow different forms of production in agriculture CONSERVATION

CAN NOT WAIT. Every land owner and farm operator should take the time to contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office to see what they can do for conservation on their land. Look at this as an opportunity to protect the land that is the basis of your farming business. Everything that comes from your operation depends on the land that you own or operate. You are left to manage your land as well as you can to be as productive as possible. But you will need the soil and water resources that you have for a long time, so protect them so they can support your operation well into the future.

Consider practices such as residue management, structural practices, and nutrient management to protect the productivity of your operation as well as protect water quality. Keep your valuable soil in place to maintain good soil quality that will enhance and maintain production. Control the water that falls on your land by reducing compaction and try to absorb as much as possible to reduce runoff. Water is valuable to production and protection, so try to use it so that it will be available when needed by the plants.

When you look at the definition of "Conservation" in the Webster's Dictionary it states "a careful preservation and protection of something: esp: planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect". That says a lot and gives us all a large responsibility.

Accept that responsibility and put CONSERVATION at the top of your business plan. Be the best land and farm operator you can be and conserve your soil and water resources so your agricultural operation will maintain itself for a long time.

New District 9 Forester



Lindsey Barney is the District 9 Forester for the Iowa DNR covering the counties of: Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Audubon, Shelby, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Cass, Montgomery, Mills, Fremont, and Page. Lindsey started life in Marshalltown, Iowa but spent the majority of her growing years in the South-Central Iowa town of Lamoni. Lindsey attributes her love of nature to frequent outings to Nine Eagles State Park and Slip Bluff County Park, and watching Marty Stouffer (Wild America) as a child. Lindsey attended Iowa State University, starting out in the field of Animal Ecology – Wildlife Management. Three years into college, she decided Forestry (Natural Resource Conservation Option) was just as interesting and decided to acquire double degrees in both. While in college, Lindsey worked for Riparian Buffer research team led by Dr. Schultz and Dr. I Senhart. She also worked 2 seasons with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Nebraska as a Range Tech (fire) and 1 season with the Missouri Department of Conservation as a Resource

Forestry Intern. After graduation from Iowa State in 2007, Lindsey worked for the National Park Service through Northern Great Plains Fire Management as a Fire Effects Monitor, and later as a contract FIA forester for the U.S. Forest Service in central Michigan. In February 2008 Lindsey accepted a job as Fire Management Forester for Custer State Park in South Dakota – focusing on fire ecology, restoration ecology, in addition to commercial forestry of ponderosa pine. This past summer Lindsey decided that Iowa was where she needed to be, and in August of 2010 she accepted the position as District 9 Forester for the Iowa DNR. Lindsey's interests are in woodland, savanna, and prairie restoration and also in fire effects and behavior. Lindsey looks forward to meeting everyone in her district and helping out/being involved with her new district as much as possible!

New Area Resource Conservationist



Kevin Kuhn has is our new Area Resource Conservationist for Area 4. He most recently served as District Conservationist for Adair County for the last five years. Kuhn started working for NRCS after graduating from Iowa State University in 1987. Position's with NRCS include: Soil Conservationist in Guthrie County, Project Coordinator for a NE Iowa Water Quality Project in NE Iowa, Agribusiness Coordinator in NW Iowa and also served as a District Conservationist in Mills County. He has been active with Iowa SWCS chapter including serving as President and has been a Certified Crop Advisor since 1995. Kuhn has a 240 acre farm near Spring Brook State Park in Guthrie County.

Cass County Soil & Water Conservation

Financial Report

FY 10

July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010

Revolving Funds

Balance 7/1/09	\$31,480.82
Total Deposits	\$23,666.46
Total Expenditures	<u>\$23,809.25</u>
Balance 6/30/2010	\$31,338.03

Drill Fund

Balance 7/1/09	\$8,354.73
Total Deposits	\$2,933.00
Total Expenditures	<u>\$622.86</u>
Balance 6/30/2010	\$10,664.87

IFIP

Balance 7/1/09	129,931.04
Total Deposits	35,170.93
Total Obligated	96,283.10
Total Expended	<u>68,818.87</u>
Balance 6/30/2010	0.00

REAP P

Balance 7/1/09	\$49,200.76
Total Deposits	\$2,940.30
Total Obligated	\$19,113.89
Total Expended	<u>\$33,027.17</u>
Balance 6/30/10	\$0.00

Reap F/NG

Balance 7/1/09	\$4,100.05
Total Deposits	\$695.63
Total Obligated	\$3,331.53
Total Expended	<u>\$1,464.15</u>
Balance 6/30/10	\$0.00

Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District

503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1

Atlantic, Iowa 50022

(712)243-3180 • FAX (712) 243-1688

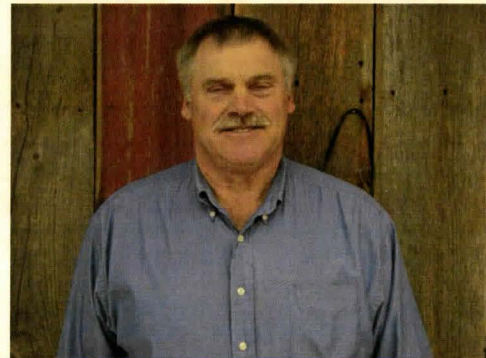
CASS SWCD COMMISSIONERS



L- R: Ray Wilson, Curt Behrends, Greg Zellmer, Fred Kay, Brian Follmann



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER- TRACY MARSHALL



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER- ALAN PETERSON

ATLANTIC FIELD OFFICE STAFF



L-R: David York, District Conservationist, Scott Breach, District employee, Jana Coughlin, Secretary, Randall Larsen, Federal Technician, Steve Fluckey, State Technician, Jack Bucklin, Soil Conservationist, Jeff Sporrer, Resource Conservationist.

Conservation Practices

Installed

FY 2010

Terraces 276,200 ft

Windbreaks 5

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information,

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large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

March -Celebrating Soil and Water Conservation

Changes in the Soil and Water District



Pictured (from left) Commissioners Ray Wilson, Curt Behrends, Greg Zellmer, Fred Kay and Brian Follman.

Photo contributed

It has been a busy year with the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District. We have had new Commissioners learning the roles and duties of commissioner, along with the Secretary learning her position. We have also had some staff changes in the Natural Resources Conservation Service office also. Jeff Sporrer, Soil Conservationist, accepted a new position as Resource Conservationist and will be splitting his time between the Cass and Audubon County field offices. Jack Bucklin has joined the

Atlantic field office staff as Soil Conservationist. Jack came to the Atlantic field office from Guthrie County, where he was a technician for five years. The District board has also acquired a couple of Assistant Commissioners in 2009. Alan Peterson of Atlantic was appointed in July and Tracy Marshall of Lewis was appointed in November 2009. Wel-

Soil..... see page 2

Inside

Sporrer.....	page 2
Staff.....	page 3
Budget Numbers.....	page 4
Down on the Farm	page 6

How do I
measure up?
See Page 8



Cass County Soil Survey Update nearing completion

By Richard Lensch
Soil Scientist

The staff at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Southwest Iowa Soils Office is happy to report that the field work for the Cass county soils survey update is nearing completion. To date over 99 percent of the field work has been completed. Richard Lensch, Cass County Project Leader commented, "A few field visits this spring will be needed to wrap-up a few loose ends, then we will be finished".

Soil scientists are now making digital edits to the soil maps using the data and information gathered through the field investigations. The changes seen in the soil survey update will include a new soil map unit naming scheme, employing soil series that were set-up after the original survey was completed, increased level of detail in the mapping scale, and changes to the soil delineations where the soil properties have changed or need to be combined. The goal is to complete the digital editing by July of 2010 at which time the digital soils information will be sent to the digitizing unit in Madison, Wisconsin for quality assurance checks.

Once the information has been reviewed, the soil survey maps and interpretative data will be published in three forms: hard-copy soil survey book, DVD, and through the internet. The new soil survey books will be published in limited quantities with larger maps and improved management and engineering data. The DVDs will include an interactive program called SoilView, which allows users

Survey..... see page 3

Resource Conservationist-Jeff Sporrer

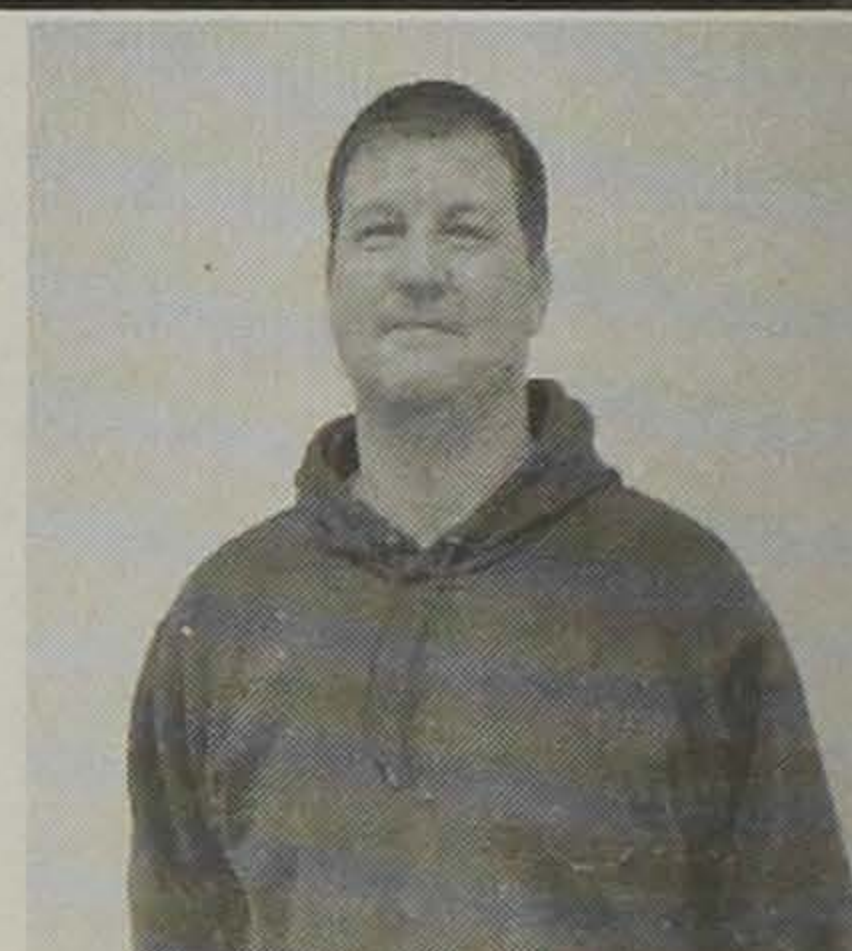
I have accepted a new position with NRCS as a Resource Conservationist. My responsibilities have been expanded to both Cass

County and Audubon County. My duty station is now in the Audubon office but I will be traveling between the two locations as necessary.

Please contact me at either office: Audubon 712-563-4248, Atlantic 712-243-3180, or by email jeff.sporrer@ia.usda.gov I can schedule

time to meet you at the office of your preference.

(Pictured at left)
Jeff Sporrer



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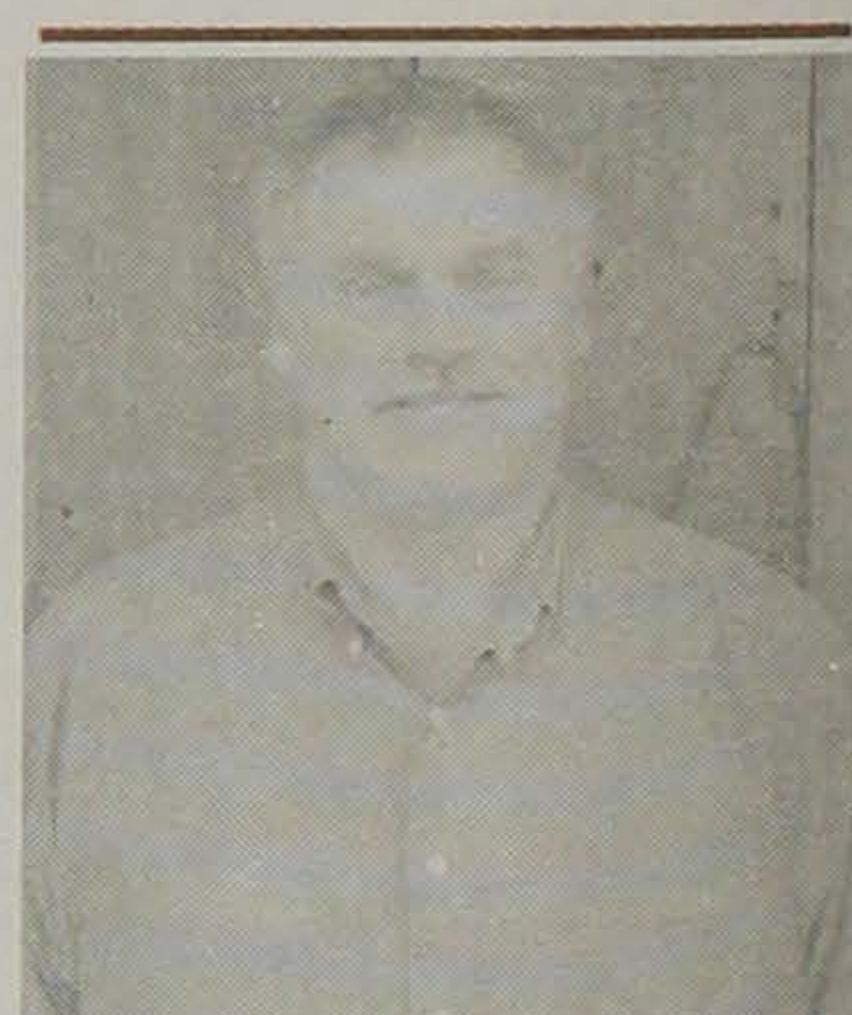
Dave Home: 712-762-3810

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Soil...From page one



(Above) Alan Petersen and
(Below) Tracy Marshall.



come to all, and Congratulations on your accomplishments. The Cass County SWCD administers the state cost share programs, Low Interest Loan programs. The District is also a partner in the operation and maintenance of watersheds in Cass County. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District meets the fourth Thursday of each month.

NRCS/Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District Field Office Personnel



Pictured are NRCS/Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District Field Office Personnel (from left) David York, District Conservationist, Scott Breach, District Employee, Jana Coughlin, State Secretary, Randall Larsen, Federal Technician, Steve Fluckey, State Technician, Jack Bucklin, Soil Conservationist, Jeff Sporrer, Resource Conservationist.

Photo contributed

NRCS Soils Staff



Pictured from left are Richard Lensch, John Hammerly and Dan Pulido.

Photo contributed

SurveyFrom page one

to find soils information for specific areas and generate interpretive soil maps. They will also include an electronic reproduction that matches the hard-copy soil survey page for page called Web Soil Survey.

In August of 2005, the USDA launched the Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>) to provide the public with a way to access and analyze the data in the National Soils Information System. The first information released from the Cass County soil survey will be through Web Soil Survey. The benefit of using the Web Soil Survey is that the user is assured of getting the most up-to-date published soils information available, that is, any changes

made to the soils information for Cass County will be updated here immediately, whereas the DVD and hard-copy versions will be updated less frequently.

The finished digital product is expected to be available in late 2010 and publishing of hard-copy books and DVDs will become available in sometime 2011. People with questions regarding the soil survey and soils information can contact Richard Lensch at the USDA-NRCS Southwest Iowa Soils Office. It is located within the Cass County USDA-NRCS Service Center at 503 W. 7th St., Ste. 3, Atlantic, IA or call (712) 243-1576.

New Soil Scientist

John Hammerly, from the Storm Lake area, will be working with Dan Pulido and Richard Lensch on the soil survey update of Dickinson and Cass counties, as well as other special soil related projects in western Iowa. Originally from a family farm outside of Newton, John went on to Iowa State University where he graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy. After graduation, he began working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a soil scientist in Storm Lake. In his spare time, he enjoys biking, hiking, and fishing. He also likes listening to music, and watching movies. John is looking forward to meeting new people

and discovering the many opportunities Atlantic has to offer.



FARMS FOR SALE

- 150 Acres, m/l: Located 2.5 miles northeast of Cumberland. Cropland/pasture combination. Two-story home and full set of buildings. \$3325 per acre.
- 117 Acres, m/l: Located 4 miles south west of Griswold. 84.0 crop acres with 76.3. Nishnabotna River bottom. \$3550 per acre.
- 2200 Acres, M/L: Located one mile north of Little Sioux, Iowa. 2,102.5 crop acres with appr. 1,100 irrigated. CSR = 57.7. Excellent investment property. \$4,691 per acre. Property can be split.
- 121 Acres, M/L: Located appr. 5 miles S.E. of Brayton. Currently about half good quality cropland with average CSR of 64. Balance good, open pasture. \$3200 per acre.
- 200 Acres, M/L: Located 1 mile south of Red Oak. 167.6 cropland acres. Remodeled 2-story home, 6 acre building site. \$3800 per acre.

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Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District FY09 Budget and Finance

1-M Budget (Office Supplies/Expenses/ Commissioners Expenses) July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009	Meeting Registrations \$40 Printing and Printed Materials \$82.12 Advertisement \$120.81 Meeting and Workshop Ex- penses, Dues \$1,717.18 Fair Booth \$110.46 Total Expenditures \$4,648.10 *Any amount over allocation was paid from District's Revolv- ing Fund	Tree Sales \$4173.61 Watersheds \$200,052.02 Cass County Auditor \$10,000.00 O & M Reimbursement \$3041.41 DSC-Farm Bill \$8760.83 Total Receipts \$229,027.87 Expenditures Postage \$494.12 Miscellaneous Supply \$1,554.04 Commissioner Mileage/Ex- penses \$730.86 Entry Fees \$105.00 Scholarships \$1,200.00 Sales Tax 689.84	Fair Booth \$119.96 District Payroll \$4,000.00 Tree Expense \$2,116.29 Dues and Memberships \$1,645.00 Watershed Expenses \$200,109.84 Total Expenditures \$212,764.95 Balance on hand June 30, 2009 \$27,533.94 Grass Drill Fund Balance on hand July 1, 2008 \$6,557.90 Total Receipts \$4596.50 Total Expenditures \$2,799.67 Balance on hand June 30,	2009 \$8,354.73 Iowa Financial Incentive Pro- gram Conservation Practices IFIP Budget 2008-2009 Allo- cation \$170,579.95 Cost-share warrants paid \$102,092.30 Obligated Expenditures \$68,380.00 Balance of Unobligated 2008- 2009 Funds \$107.65 REAP-P (Practices) 2008-2009 Allocation \$20,326.26 Cost-share warrants paid \$11,717.13 Obligated Expenditures \$8,430.00 Balance of Unobligated \$179.13 REAP-F (Forestry/Native Grasses) 2008-2009 Allocation \$4,811.70 Cost-share warrants paid \$3,042.00 Obligated Expenditures \$1,768.50 Balance of Unobligated \$1.20
Annual Report - 2009 Budget and Finance				
Fiscal Year 2008 Allocation \$3,000.00				
Postage/Bulk Mailing \$494.12	District's Revolving Fund (Period covers from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)			
Miscellaneous Supplies \$1,353.09	Balance on hand \$11,271.02			
Mileage and Expenses \$730.32	Receipts 1M Allocation \$3,000.00			

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**Thanks
to the Soil
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providing
the stories
and
pictures for
the Farm
Monthly**

Conservation sponsors watershed tour

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a watershed tour on Wednesday, June 24. The Cass County Supervisors were also invited to attend the tour of sites located in Turkey Creek Watershed so they can see how important it is to continue in partnership in the operation and maintenance of the structures that help in flood control for the surrounding area. Turkey Creek sites that were toured were; 58D belonging to Jim and Kathi Mailander, 50D belonging to Art Hoskins, and 57 belonging to Brad Suhr. When the commissioners visited the Mailander property, Jim and Kathi Mailander were on site to show the commissioners what improvements to the property they had made to ensure the integrity of the site. Jim and Kathi has recently done a extensive tree planting around the property. All their dedication to conservation is greatly appreciated.

Earth team volunteers

Students at the Griswold Community School Web Design class were recognized for their volunteer efforts in creating a website for the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District. Eric Baker, Business and Technology teacher, helped the students along with information being provided by the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District. The students created many versions of



sites, and the District choose one to use. These students have become Earth Volunteers in which any time they use to do updates to the site is tracked for their volunteer hours. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman, Fred Kay and Commissioner, Ray Wilson presented the students with certificates and provided rolls and juices to the group at the Griswold Community School. Visit our website at cassswcd.org to keep updated on programs and announcements.



2009 Contractors Meeting

The Audubon/Cass County SWCD's held a joint contractors meeting Feb. 17, 2009 in Atlantic at the Pizza Ranch. Technicians in the field offices contacted suppliers along with having the Iowa DOT available for area contractors to get information on products and regulations. David York, District Conservationist, with the NRCS presented information on Civil Rights, and Programs available through the office. Kevin Holcomb, Civil Engineering Technician with the Area office provided information about Quality Control/Assurance of projects. Field office technicians provided information about how to complete construction notes for proper processing. The Audubon/Cass County SWCD commissioners supported this meeting by providing a meal to all the contractors who attended the meeting.

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FARM LAND AUCTION

237 Acres M/L Bear Grove, Noble TWP • Cass County, Iowa

Tuesday March 23, 2010 10:00 AM

***Sale Location: Cass County Community Center, Atlantic IA**

Property Location: 8 miles South of Atlantic IA on Hwy 71 to Hwy 92, East 2 miles to 650th St, South ½ mile. From Cumberland IA: South to Hwy 92, West 4 miles to 650th St, South ½ mile. From Lyman IA: 2 miles north on Hwy 71 to Hwy 92, east 2, south 2. (Sections 35 & 36 Bear Grove TWP and Section 2 Noble TWP) Brief Legal: SE ¼, Sec 35 T-75-N R-36-W and SW ¼, SW ¼, Sec 36 T-75-N R-36-W and 24.6 acres N ½, NE ¼, 2 T-74-N R-36-W • FSA: Farmland 237 acres - Cropland 207.1

2009 Crop Certification: 182.1 row crop

25 acres CRP \$4095 / Yr. Expires: 2017
Farm # 4599. Tracts 6294 & 6509

Court House: 230.9 Taxable Acres \$4082 / Yr

Note: This is a very nice tract of bare farmland with an average CSR of 73.2. There is 140.7 acres with CSR of over 80 (92/A has a 91 CSR) (Approximate, obtained NRCS USDA) Stalk ground has been chisled and NH3 has been applied to bean stubble. Buyer will agree to pay for the NH3 product at closing.

Buyer to have full Possession for 2010 Crop Year

TERMS: Successful Bidder will sign real estate contract immediately after the sale and deposit 10% of the total sale price, earnest money to be held in Broker Trust Acct. Balance will be due on or before April 20, 2010 in exchange for Deed and Abstract showing merchantable title subject to any easements of record. Full Possession to be given at closing. Buyer may enter property April 15, 2010 at their own risk. Buyer will be responsible for their own Title Opinion. Bids are not subject to finance. Financing arrangements must be made before auction date. Property taxes prorated to closing date. **Note:** Property Connection Real Estate represents the Sellers

at this auction. Any announcements made sale day will take precedence over all printed material. All information provided was gathered from sources deemed reliable but not guaranteed by Property Connection Real Estate. Bidders are urged to inspect the property and verify any information to their satisfaction.

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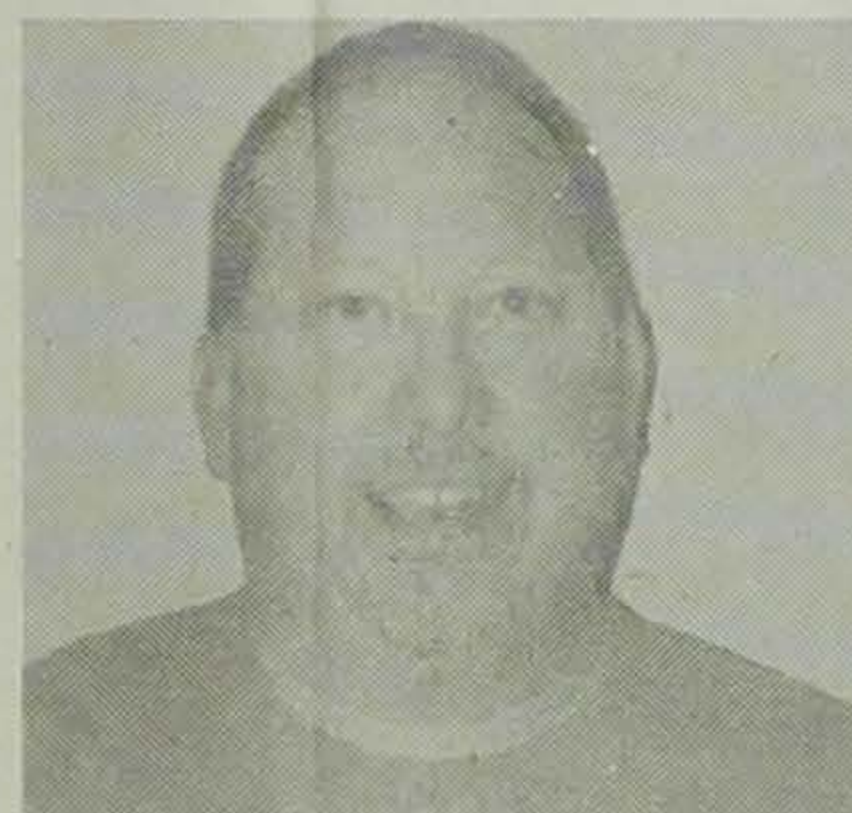
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We salute area FFA members!

Down on the Farm



By Tom McLaren

March- Lamb, Lion or Fish?

We have all heard the adage about March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb or vice versa, I really don't care as long as spring is close. This year someone might want to add a fish or amphibian of some sort to the equation because of all the water. I know by now I should expect it after that tremendous snowfall we have had, but wow! I don't think the farmers will have to worry about subsoil moisture this spring - there seems to be plenty. Those mudholes that you had to sneak around cautiously - well this year you better stay the heck away because it will be - "I sunk her to the axles and there was no moving anywhere" time.

March always make me think of basketball because of the many

cold Sunday afternoon in the barn playing basketball. Dick Anstey had a huge barn that we used to play full court in. The reason I remember this in March is because that was the first month that it wasn't so blasted cold. We played through the winter, but sometimes it was just so darn cold when you would be going up and down the court you couldn't see for your breathe. I had the opportunity to play basketball with many different characters and friends in the true "barn." My dad played- I still haven't decided if he was very good or not but he got up and down the court okay. One of my favorites was always Kent Berry who remains a good friend and fellow hoopster for many years after we moved up to the YMCA old guys noon league. Kent always played very hard and he fouled hard too as I recall. There is also a misnomer out there that I might have fouled a bit as well. Of course there was the home court favorites Tim, Kevin and Bob Anstey - for a shorter guy old mouse (Tim) could really shoot and usually with a plier pouch on too, impressive. Every once in awhile Bob and I were convinced that we as eighth and ninth graders could whip old Kent, sometimes when you are young you should think things through just a little bit more, because suffice it to say we couldn't whip him, in any way shape or form. There were also guys like Byron Dinkla, Dan Becker, and Steve Edwards who played all good players however

Byron and Steve seemed to need a few more cigarette breaks than the rest of us thought necessary. I even remember Larry Swartz playing a time or two. There was usually some screaming and an occasional profanity uttered loudly but all in all it was a good time. I often attribute my flat shot when I was younger to playing in the barn because of the cold, it was hard to get arch on your shot with no feeling in your hands. Speaking of the cold, it was always interesting after you got into the warmth to see which fouls, usually from Kent, hurt the worst because you weren't numb anymore, the pain came out. I have to give Kent credit- he showed me that there were no easy shots in the lane, if you came in there you paid the piper, part of the game that came in handy later on. Kent also coined me with the name Lloyd, as in Lloyd Free, the 76ers guard from the 80's who was an awesome scorer. I think he was just jealous of my pretty shot- he maintains that it was because I shot too much. However as I told young Evan Schuler last weekend at a youth tournament good shooters have to shoot their way out of a slump. I never saw a shot I didn't like.

It's almost April and the good lord willing, even though the creek is rising it will be warm by next month and everyone will be hot and heavy in the field. Be safe and be ready to go while the goings good.

Envirothon Workshop

The Adair and Cass Counties SWCD sponsored at workshop for youth from Adair and Cass County to attend to prepare for the Envirothon Competitions. The Workshop was held on March 4 at the American Legion Hall in Massena. The following people presented information: Julie McMichael, NRCS-Soils, Randy Goerndt, DNR-Forestry, Don Sievers, DNR-Aquatics, Micah Lee and Lora Schwendinger, Cass ACCB-Wildlife. Schools from CAM and Orient Macksburg attended the workshop. This workshop gives the students a chance to review information and also test on information to prepare for the Regional Competition. The Cass County SWCD provided funding for schools in Cass County that entered a team in the Regional Competition.

Southwest Iowa's Best Kept Secret is Out!

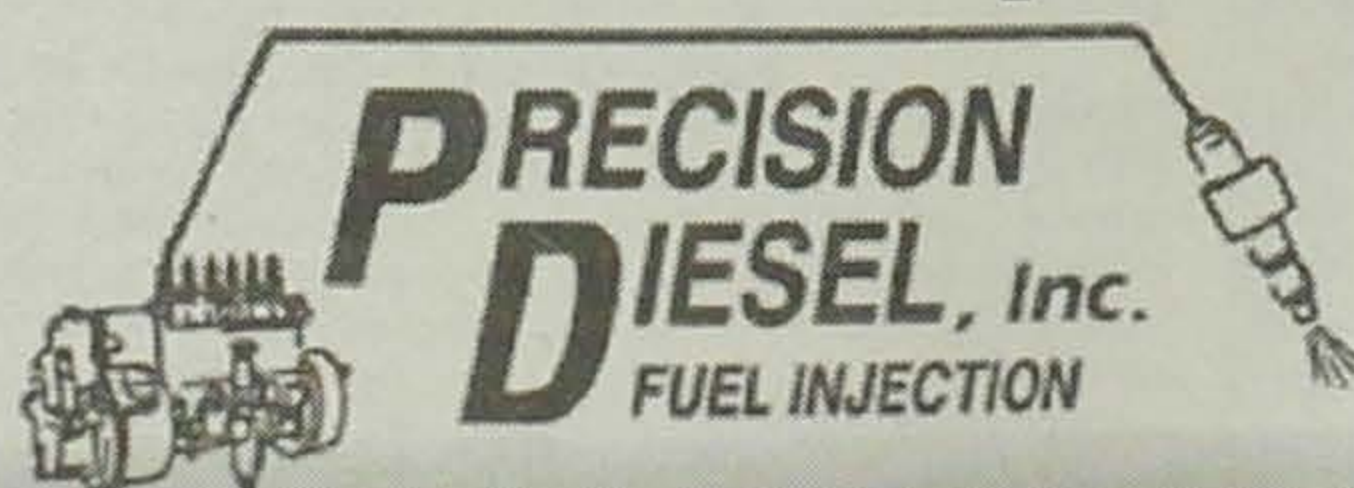
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Using cover crops to heal the land

(Information provided
by Thomas Hurford Area
Resource Conservationist)

In the last two years Iowa has received exceptionally high rainfall. Much of this rainfall has come in very intense events, which have caused extremely high amounts of erosion.

As a result, rills and ephemeral gullies have shown up in areas where they have not been a problem in the past.

This has prompted many to perform spot tillage in fields to smooth these areas out in order to plant. The problem with this is that the tillage has further loosened the soil and made these areas even more susceptible to erosion when the next extreme rainfall event occurs.

Thus in many of these fields we are caught in a vicious cycle of erosion, tillage to smooth out the effects of the erosion, and even more erosion when the next event occurs.

The first question that should be asked is: Is this erosion truly caused by extreme events unlikely to occur in the future to the extent they occurred over the past few years?

If the answer to this question is no, than grassed waterways should be planned and installed.



If the answer is yes, than at a minimum, consideration should be given to seeding a cover crop such as oats, wheat, or rye to provide temporary cover in order to allow the soil to re-consolidate after tillage. By far the best option is to plant either winter wheat or rye in the fall early enough to allow some fall growth prior to the onset of winter. For this to work, the cover crop should be seeded prior to the middle of October. If this is not possible, than the second best alternative is to seed a small grain cover crop in the early spring. Any small may be seeded, however in the spring; a higher

seeding rate should be used than is normally recommended for cover crop purposes. Two to three bushels of oats to the acre would be the recommended seeding rate.

The crop can be planted through the cover crop but should be allowed to grow until it provides sufficient cover to control erosion, generally until it reaches eight to 12 inches in height.

The cover crop can then be killed with the first post emergent herbicide application.

"If a farmer wants to only seed down a filled ditch, a grass cover such as rye can be an effective choice. It grows very aggressively and has less risk to the crop by being on only a small area." This according to Steve McGrew of McGrew Brothers Farm located in Mills County. The McGrew Brothers have successfully used cereal rye cover crops for several years now, to heal ephemeral gullies.

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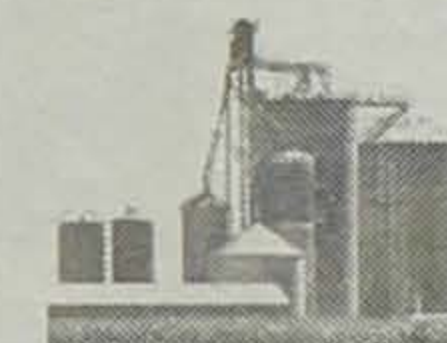


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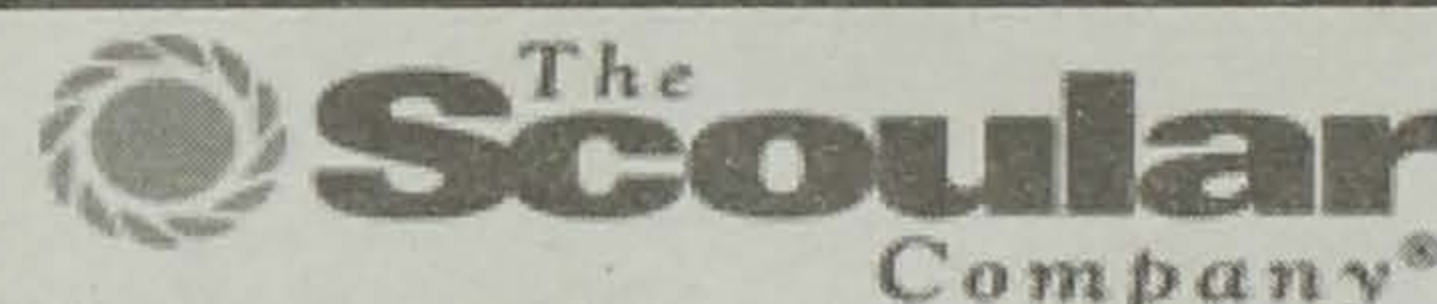
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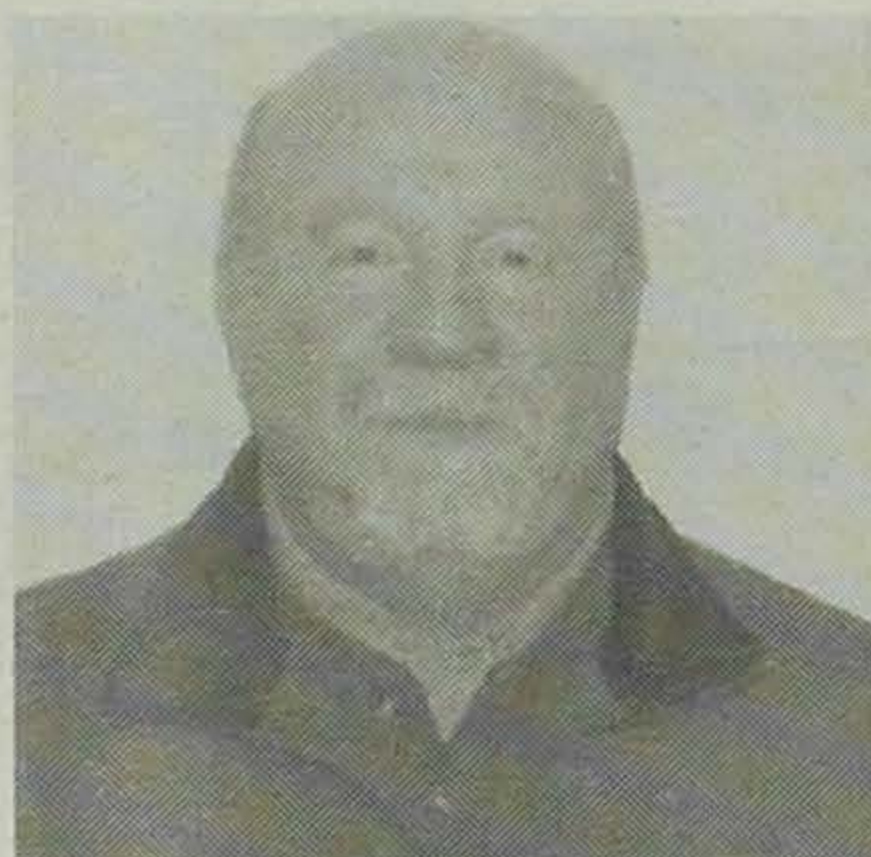
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How do I measure up?



By James Gillespie
Bureau Chief

Iowan's have faced a lot of challenges this past year, but have stepped up to confront those challenges and taken conservation to heart. Protecting the soil and water of this state are ever apparent by looking at the landscape and water quality.

Over 95 percent of this land is in private ownership and most of it is used for some form of agricultural production. The balance is in urban, roads, utilities and infrastructure that keep our people and commodities moving. All of these things are needed because I don't think there are many other states or parts of the country that rely on all of their land and its resources to do this.

That is why it is so important that all of us (rural and urban) alike do all we can to protect the soil and water. You all have tremendous resources available to you locally in your Soil and Water Conservation District and the

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist you with your conservation needs. These people have both the technical assistance and financial opportunities that can help address your concerns.

Your district has over 50 years of expertise in working with soil and water resources and the sound technical solutions to resource concerns. If you have a conservation plan, it is a great time to review it to see if it still addresses all of the resource concerns and your land use objectives. If you don't have a plan or can not find yours, contact the local office for assistance.

As you begin this next year, (2010), take some time to walk around your property, looking at your land use decisions, and are there some conservation needs that need to be addressed. Do you have erosion occurring and is that sediment leaving your property? Have you identified your land with the watershed that you live in, and are you having any impact on that watershed from your land?

If you had to evaluate your own resource issues, how would you say I'm doing? What would your peers think of what I'm doing? Am I doing all I can to protect the soil and water, while maintaining the productivity and use of my property? Evaluate yourself and your land use to see how you measure up!

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