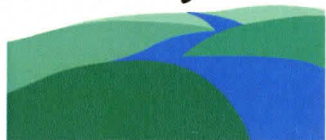


CASS SWCD ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2014



CASS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1 Atlantic, Iowa 50022

P:(712) 243-3180

F: (855)223-7140

Cass SWCD Host Cover Crop Meeting

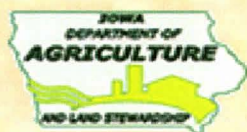
CASS SWCD held a Cover Crop meeting on March 12, 2014 at the Cass County Community center. Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey spoke about the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and received questions from attendees on the strategy and where he sees Iowa currently and in the future. Local producers from Cass County, Nick Hunt, Kelly Cunningham, Dave Steinbeck along with Barry Kusel, from Manning and Paul Ackley from Bedford Iowa served as panelist for attendees to ask questions about their experiences on incorporating cover crops into their farming operations. Stefan Gailans from Practical Farmers of Iowa was also on hand to provide information to attendees on seed varieties and data from trials that the Practical Farmers of Iowa have been conducting on cover crops. He also provided crop data following cover crops and answered questions on crop insurance. Matt Lechtenberg, Water Quality Initiative Coordinator with IDALS-Division of Soil Conservation also attended and provided a presentation on the Iowa Water Quality Initiatives. Approximately 30 people attended from around the area and brought great questions to the panel. Any producers who would like more information on Cover crops should stop by the district office at 503 W. 7th Street, Atlantic. Thanks to all who made this a success.



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Partners working together



Cass County SWCD


**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

\$1.4 Million Available for Water Quality Practices

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey announces \$1.4 million in cost share funds was made available to help farmers install new nutrient reduction practices such as cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fertilizer. In five business days, there were 597 different farms in 90 soil and water conservation districts protecting and enhancing nearly 60,000 acres of cropland. These funds will be allocated by first come first serve basis to all soil and water conservation districts. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship received \$4.4 million for the Iowa Water Quality Initiative for fiscal year 2015. Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District also made funds available to producers for cover crops at \$20 per acre on 20 acres maximum. Producers will be encouraged to sign up for cover crops to be planted for four continuous years. Producers had till August 15th to sign up for local funds.



Cass Soil & Water Conservation District

Curt Behrends Greg Zellmer Ray Wilson Fred Kay Chase Wheatley Alan Peterson



SWCD Election Results

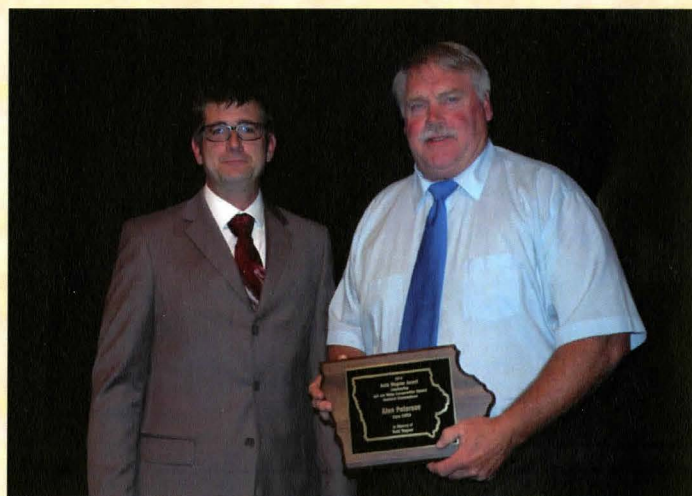
The terms of two Cass County Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners, Greg Zellmer, Pymosa Township and Frederick Kay, Grove Township, of Atlantic, Iowa will expire at noon on January 1, 2015. Successors will be elected at the general election November 4, 2014. Soil and Water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water program in the county. Greg Zellmer and Fred Kay were re-elected to serve four year terms beginning January 2, 2015. Alan Peterson was appointed as Assistant Commissioner. The Cass SWCD meeting is the third Tuesday of each month.



Curt Behrends, Greg Zellmer, Alan Peterson, Ray Wilson, Chase Wheatley, Fred Kay.

Alan Peterson of Cass County Receives State Award

Alan Peterson, Assistant Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioner in Cass County received the Ruth Wagner Award on September 3, 2014 at the 68th Annual Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commissioners Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. The Ruth Wagner Award is an award started in 2001 to honor Soil and Water Conservation District Assistant Commissioners. Johnson SWCD gives the award in memory and honor of Ruth Wagner, who served the Johnson SWCD for 53 years. Alan is a very dedicated assistant commissioner who attends all of the district, regional and annual meetings. He had been actively participating in federal and state conservation programs even before he showed interest in serving as an assistant commissioner. Alan participates in the district's watershed tour, performs duties for the commissioners, brings good discussions to every meeting, and judges conservation posters and scholarship applications. Thanks to Alan and his hard work in making contacts throughout the community, the Cass SWCD 70th anniversary celebration was a success. Alan is an important part of the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District. Alan Peterson was presented the award from Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner and Conservation Districts of Iowa Region 7 Director, Alex Schmidt. For additional information contact Clare Lindahl, Executive Director with Conservation Districts of Iowa, phone: 515.289.8300, Email: clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org.



Alex Schmidt and Alan Peterson, Assistant Commissioner

No-Till Drill Rental

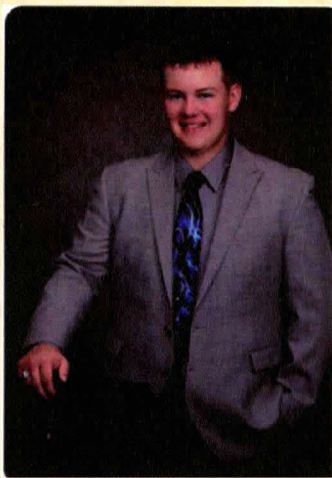
The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District has a Great Plains No-Till drill available for rent by landowners in Cass County. If you would like to rent the drill, landowners must make application at the district office and pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit. The rental rate is \$10/acre with the non-refundable deposit applied to your final bill. Delivery and pickup is provided to the landowner by the district drill employee. For more information call the district office at (712)243-3180 or stop by our office located at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa.



2014 Scholarship Winners



Wyatt Saeugling



Jacob Steinbeck

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District provides scholarships to area youth in Cass County who are pursuing education in the field of agriculture or natural resources. These funds are raised each year through the tree sales program. Area students are encouraged to contact their guidance counselors or stop by the district office at 503 W. 7th Street, Atlantic for applications. Applications are due by mid March of each year to the district office. Wyatt Saeugling of Atlantic and Jacob Steinbeck of Griswold were awarded this years Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship at their schools class nights by Commissioners, Fred Kay and Ray Wilson. Wyatt is the son of Aaron and Danna Saeugling of Atlantic and Jacob is the son of Dave and Tammy Steinbeck of Griswold. Congratulations to both of them and wish them both the best of luck with their college studies.

Cass SWCD Welcomes Summer Intern

I'm Zach Jorgensen, age 21 of Adair, Iowa. I was raised on our family's farm where we raise cattle, corn, beans, and alfalfa. My parents are Paul and Jeannette Jorgensen. I will be a senior at Northwest Missouri State University majoring in Animal Science and minoring in Commercial Agriculture. After college I plan on farming with my parents and working within the agriculture industry. While Zach was employed for the summer with the district, he assisted technicians in survey, layout, and design of summer constructed projects, conducted CRP status reviews, assisted the District Conservationist and Soil Conservationist in conservation planning. Zach was also able to help with some of the conservation compliance field work and worked with the District Conservationist in administering the CIG grant in Griswold. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District was very happy to host a summer intern this past summer.



Zach Jorgensen



DSC is delighted to have 35 interns with us across the state this summer. They met for a summer kickoff meeting with Secretary Northey on May 28th. All interns have graduated high school and will attend, are attending, or just graduated with an agricultural/conservation focus.

Atlantic Staff



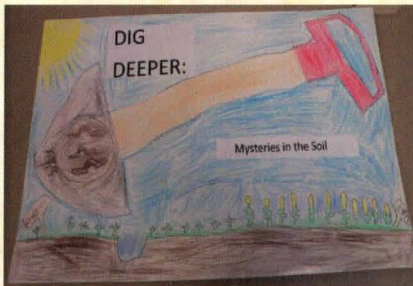
Andrew Koehlmoos, Soil Conservationist
Dave York, District Conservationist
Jana Coughlin, State Secretary
Steve Fluckey, State Technician

POSTER CONTEST

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) co-sponsored the Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest. The Cass SWCD is honored to announce the following winners of the local judging done by the Cass SWCD. This year's winners are Katie York and Bryan York. All students grades K-12th grade can compete in the conservation poster contest through their schools.



KATIE YORK



BRYAN YORK



ENVIROTHON WORKSHOP



03.17.2013

Amanda McNees, Soil Conservationist

The Cass SWCD partners with the Adair SWCD each year to host an Envirothon workshop for schools located in their counties. Presenters on each topic is brought in to help students brush up on information and to ask questions. The Envirothon competition is held each year with Regional competitions starting in March. Bryan Hayes with the DNR Fisheries, Micah Lee with the Cass County Conservation Board, Lindsey Barney, DNR Forester, along with Amanda McNees, NRCS Soil Conservationist all presented information in each subject area. Thanks to the presenters and Adair County Soil and Water Conservation District for partnering together with Cass SWCD to provide this opportunity to students in both counties.



Cass Soil & Water Conservation District

Curt Behrends Greg Zellmer Ray Wilson Fred Kay Chase Wheatley Alan Peterson

Cass County Soil & Water Conservation

Financial Report FY 14

July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014

Revolving Funds

Balance 7/1/13	\$29,766.37
Total Deposits	\$14,908.86
Total Expenditures	<u>\$20,379.11</u>
Balance 6/30/2014	\$24,296.12

Drill Fund

Balance 7/1/13	\$4,911.32
Total Deposits	\$4,839.26
Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,104.71</u>
Balance 6/30/14	

\$7,645.87

IFIP FY14

Balance 7/1/13	\$262,423.09
Total Obligated	\$151,571.82
Total Expended	<u>\$110,851.27</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$0.00

REAP P FY14

Balance 7/1/13	\$57,087.45
Total Obligated	\$37,571.20
Total Expended	<u>\$19,516.25</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$0.00

REAP F/NG

FY14

Balance 7/1/13	\$5116.76
Total Obligated	\$3440.65
Total Expended	<u>\$1,676.11</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$0.00

District Policy Update

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District is announcing some changes in the State Cost share program for conservation practices. The district's local policies and annual rates are reviewed each year by the District. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation announced that anyone that is approved after July 1, 2014 will only have one(1) year from their approval date to complete their work otherwise cost share funds will be cancelled. Landowners who need their time extended will need to make a request in the district office and state why they have been unable to complete their conservation practice within the one(1) year time period. These requests will be forwarded to the Division of Soil Conservation central office for review. The Division of Soil Conservation will also be providing some state cost share funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts for spring work jobs. Applicants who are approved for Spring work will have till June 30th to complete their work, otherwise funds will be cancelled. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District is also making some changes to the state cost share program at a local level by adding Summer Construction of conservation practices to be completed between June 15th-September 15th. The District would like applicants to indicate at time of sign up if they are interested in Spring or the Summer Construction build times. Landowners currently signed up should contact the District office for more information on these changes at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa 50022. You may also reach the District office at (712)243-3180, Ext #3.

Farm Practices Maintenance

Submitted by Steve Fluckey, State Technician

An important part of any farm operation is proper maintenance of conservation systems. With fields bare, this is the perfect time to review your farm for needed maintenance and repairs, which will help extend the lifespan of terraces, waterways, and ponds. Sediment build-up in terraces can prevent drainage and limit water storage. Soil and crop residue can also accumulate around the intakes preventing water drainage. It is important to clean out any sediment and trash. While cleaning the areas, look for any damages that may have occurred and repair them. Broken terraces can funnel runoff and cause large gullies. Cut and spray any trees that might be on the terrace using approved herbicides. This is also a great chance to reseed any spots where seeding didn't take. Also check your waterways for a build-up of sediment. If reshaping is needed, spring would be the best chance for seed establishment. Just a reminder, structures/ponds should also be checked, especially around the inlet or intake. Remove any trash or tree limbs that have accumulated. As with terraces or waterways, spot seeding may be needed until vegetation is well established. Trees and shrubs should also be cut and sprayed along the dam. Though it is okay to flash graze your structure, livestock can be harmful and should not be on it all the time. Check all fences and gates to ensure that cattle are mostly excluded. Taking time to attend this maintenance now could prevent costly problems to conservation systems in the future. If you have questions or need assistance developing a successful maintenance plan, don't hesitate to call your local Natural Resources Conservation Office.

NO INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM

Since 1983, the Division of Soil Conservation has been offering No-interest loans through the Iowa Finance Authority. Loans made under this program can be used to fund conservation practices that protect soil and water resources. Examples include terraces, water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures and waterways. To apply for these loans, applicants must meet the following requirements: Applicants must own the land where the conservation work will take place, Tracts of land must be over 10 acres with a minimum of \$2,500 of agricultural products sold annually and project must meet NRCS field specifications.

TERMS OF LOANS

- * Up to \$20,000 loaned per borrower
- * Loans set up to be paid back in equal installments over a 10 year period
- * 2% loan fee paid to district prior to issue of financial funds to landowner
- * Security interest will be placed on the land until loan is paid in full
- * Payments due March 1st each year with no penalty for prepayment
- * Loans can be used to fund 100% of the cost up to the loan maximum, and can be used in conjunction with other public funds (EQIP or Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds).

Landowners can sign up for this loan at the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa.



STATE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

Iowa Finance Authority offers the state revolving loan program to eligible applicants to implement practices for animal feeding operations, waste storage facilities, deep bedded buildings or other roofed manure control structures that provide 100% confinement. Terraces, grade control and sediment control basins, pasture and hay land planting or prescribed grazing, grassed waterways, filter strips, windbreaks are also eligible under this program. The purpose of the loan program is to improve and protect Iowa's water quality. The loan assistance is facilitated through the State Revolving Fund. For more information on this program, please stop by our office. This loan can be used in conjunction with other public funds (EQIP or Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds).

TERMS OF LOANS

- * Loan amounts from \$5,000—\$500,000
- * Terms up to 15 years
- * Can fund up to 100% of eligible project costs
- * 3% fixed interest for life of the loan
- * Applications accepted anytime
- * Available through the lender of your choice
- * Can be used in conjunction with grants/cost share

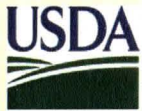
Landowners can sign up for this loan at the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa.



CONTRACTORS MEETING

Cass and Audubon County Soil and Water Conservation Districts hold contractors meetings every other year to help keep contractors informed with any new changes with the programs and engineering changes along with information from utility companies and material suppliers and Iowa Department of Transportation. Approximately fifty four people attended this bi-annual meeting to which they enjoy a great lunch also. This is a great time for contractors and staff to come together .





United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Your Farm Your Plan

by Jamie Carpenter, Assistant State Conservationist(FO)

Although the 1996 Farm Bill introduced conservation financial assistance programs to the list of services that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides, long before then – since 1935 during the Dust Bowl to be exact – and still today, the agency's focus is providing free conservation planning assistance to Iowa's farmers and ranchers. NRCS has at least one office in every Iowa county, located at USDA Service Centers. With conveniently located offices comes local knowledge of local resource concerns. NRCS employs soil conservationists, engineers, biologists, and even specialists in grasslands and wetlands, to assist landowners through the conservation planning process. NRCS's number one priority is to provide high quality technical assistance through conservation planning that effectively addresses resource concerns on the landscape.

What is a Conservation Plan?

A conservation plan is a record of a client's decision(s) in managing the natural resources on the land. Conservation planning is the first step in managing all natural resources on your farm. Conservation plans are the basis for all assistance NRCS provides to clients and the basic tool for clients to manage their natural resources to attain sustainable use and sound management of soil, water, air, plant, animal, energy, and human resources. To protect these resources, NRCS works one-on-one with landowners to plan and install conservation practices to reduce soil erosion; improve soil health and air and water quality; create and restore wetlands; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; improve pasture and woodlands; and reduce flooding, all while considering the client's economic and social needs.

The greatest value comes by having the client engaged in every step of the planning process to combine experienced farming skills with NRCS science-based knowledge. Through participation, the client develops an understanding of the natural resource issues, interactions, and treatments necessary for resource sustainability. Like any good plan, a conservation plan can be revised as needed by the client to ensure it is still aligned with their operational, economic and social needs.

To initiate the conservation planning process, call or visit your local NRCS office located at 503 W.7th Street, Atlantic, Iowa 50022 or phone our office at (712)243-3180 to schedule an appointment with a NRCS planner to visit your farm.

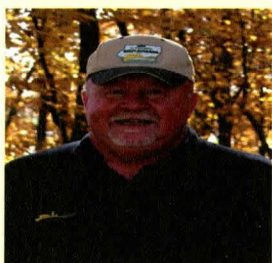


Nutrient Management Meeting

Submitted by Lance Porter, Soil Conservationist, Winterset Office



We had roughly 30 attendees from the farming communities and NRCS field offices of Cass, Audubon, Adair and Madison Counties. We had a farmers panel of 3 individuals that spoke of their farming operations and how they use cover crops, now most of the farmers had not done cover crops long enough to see a reduction in need for commercial fertilizers but were excited to see the test results of their next soil samples. The farmers panel were using cover crops to enrich the soil health and help control soil erosion. We had Matt Lechtenberg from Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, and he spoke about the Iowa reduction strategy and the steps landowners need to take to help achieve the goals set and how the NRCS and partners can help the landowners achieve these reduction goals. The third speaker was an Ag Leader and he spoke about new technologies that are being developed to better manage a farming operation. From cost and inputs to realistic yield goals and market potentials.



James Gillespie,
Division Director

TAKE THE CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

I don't know you personally and you probably don't know who I am, but more than ever we need to come together, as landowners, farmers, and urban folks, and challenge ourselves to do something more for conservation this year. It seems that there are lots of challenges out there

like getting fit and healthy, taking the ice bucket challenge, running or walking for different causes, taking a pie in the face, kissing a pig or things like that. Well, my challenge for you is to do something new this year for soil and water conservation, and together we will make environmental improvements in Iowa.

When you have done your new thing this year, share it. Post it to Facebook, Twitter (using hashtag #1newthingforwater) or other social media accounts. Tell your friends and neighbors. Show others what you are doing and encourage them to do something as well. Sharing your conservation efforts will get others involved in the challenge.

There are numerous reasons to participate in this challenge. We have so many valuable resources in Iowa to protect. We demand a lot from our resources; to produce food, fiber, recreation and a great place to live and work. We choose to live in Iowa because it provides the quality of life we are looking for. Don't we want to insure that it is going to be preserved for future generations of Iowans?

What I personally plan to do in this challenge is to seed down some areas on my property to native grasses and forbs, use cover crops in my garden (I don't farm any ground), and talk to everyone I can about the importance of soil and water conservation.

Thank you for considering this challenge and if you have questions or need technical assistance please feel free to contact your local field office. You are also welcome to contact me at jim.gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov.



Follow us on any of these media outlets



Vince Sitzmann
Field Services Bureau Chief

equally important is the conservation ethic Iowa farmers subscribe to. Farmers throughout the state spend millions of dollars annually out of their own pockets to install conservation practices on their land, which makes them leaders in conservation implementation as well as leaders in ag production.

Two years ago, Iowa unveiled the Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS). This was the first plan of its kind in the nation, aimed at reducing nutrient losses to the Gulf of Mexico. The strategy was pioneered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University, and the Iowa DNR. It incorporates the best science and research we have available and it was built for Iowa. Shortly after the Nutrient Reduction Strategy was released, implementation of the plan was launched and is known today as the Water Quality Initiative (WQI).

Over the past two years we continue to see exciting momentum for the WQI. Iowans are engaged, new partnerships are expanding, and farmers are implementing conservation practices they've never tried before. The Nutrient Research Center at ISU has been established with the purpose of pursuing a science based approach to nutrient management research. The Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance (IAWA) partnership between the Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, and the Iowa Pork Producers has been established, each committing one million dollars annually over the next five years to advance the implementation of the WQI. The Iowa Legislature has also committed 16.8 million dollars over the last two years to support conservation and water quality improvements both in special project areas and for statewide practice implementation.

We have made great strides through the voluntary approach to conservation, but we have to keep the momentum growing by exploring more and different types of conservation practices on the landscape. We have new and emerging technologies in addition to our traditional conservation practices that will improve our nutrient management efforts. I would encourage everyone to evaluate their farming operation and ask yourself if there is more you can do on your farm. Solving water quality issues is something everyone has to be a part of if we are to continue our leadership role in ag production and conservation implementation. If you are interested in learning more about the NRS or the WQI you can visit www.cleanwateriowa.org or stop into your local SWCD to learn how you can be part of this important initiative.





Annual Tree Sales

Tree sales are held each year in Cass county. Anyone interested in purchasing trees and shrubs from the SWCD need to order by March 1st of each year. Landowners can apply for assistance through IDALS-DSC for REAP funds to help with installing new windbreaks. Applications taken first come first served till funds are exhausted. For more information stop in the SWCD office.

Cass County Soil & Water Conservation District
503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1 Atlantic, Iowa 50022
Phone:(712)243-3180 Fax: (855)223-7140

2015 ORDER FORM-TOTAL PAYMENT IS DUE WITH ORDER

Potted Evergreen		Height		Price		Quantity of Pots	TotalPrice	
Black Hills Spruce		2-3'		\$ 25.00				
Black Hills Spruce		3-4'		\$ 30.00				
Black Hills Spruce		5'		\$ 58.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce		2-3'		\$ 25.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce		3-4'		\$ 30.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce		5'		\$ 60.00				
Norway Spruce		2-3'		\$ 30.00				
Norway Spruce		3-4'		\$ 40.00				
Concolor Fir		15-24"		\$ 20.00				
White Pine		2-3'		\$ 25.00				
White Pine		3-4'		\$ 30.00				
White Pine		4-5'		\$ 40.00				
Fraser Fir		3-4'		\$ 30.00				
Hybrid Willow		6'		\$ 10.00				
Bare Root Deciduous Trees		Height	Bundle Size	Price Per Bundle	Bundles Ordered	Price of Singles	Singles Ordered	Total Price
Northern Red Oak		2-3' S	25/bundle	\$ 43.75		1.75/ea		
Bare Root Deciduous Shrubs		Height	Bundle Size	Price Per Bundle	Bundles Ordered	Price of Singles	Singles Ordered	Total Price
Cranberry, American		2-3' TR	10/bundle	\$ 30.00		3.00/ea		
Dogwood, Redosier		2-3' TR	10/bundle	\$ 27.50		2.75/ea		
Lilac, Common Purple		2-3' TR	10/bundle	\$ 20.00		2.00/ea		

Don't see the variety you want? Call our office at (712)243-3180 and we will see if we can locate that species for you.

Order early, our trees and shrubs sell quickly. You will receive a postcard in early April informing you of the location,date,and time for picking up your trees.

Make your check payable to the CASS SWCD

SUBTOTAL_____

7% Sales Tax_____

Total Amount_____

Name_____

Address_____ City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ Date of Order_____

2014 Annual Report

January, 2015

*Published by the
Atlantic News Telegraph*

Cass County SWCD

Cass SWCD Hosts Cover Crop Meeting

CASS SWCD held a Cover Crop meeting on March 12, 2014 at the Cass County Community Center.

Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, spoke about the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and received questions from attendees on the strategy and where he sees Iowa currently and in the future. Local producers from Cass

Cover Cropsee page 2



The Function of the Conservation District: To take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user.



Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey

Inside

Election Results page 3
Petersen Award..... page 4
Summer Intern page 4
District Scholarships page 5



Inside-Poster Contest

**Read
more on page 3**

Zellmer, Kay re-elected after terms expire at beginning of year



Pictured are Commissioners (from left) Curt Behrends, Greg Zellmer, Alan Peterson, Ray Wilson, Chase Wheatley and Fred Kay.

The terms of two Cass County Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners, Greg Zellmer, Pymosa Township and Frederick Kay, Grove Township, of Atlantic, expired at noon on Jan. 1, 2015. Successors were elected at the general election Nov. 4, 2014. Soil and Water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water program in the county. Greg Zellmer and Fred Kay were re-elected to serve four year terms beginning Jan. 2, 2015.

Cover Crop meeting held in Atlantic

Cover Crop..... From page one

County, Nick Hunt, Kelly Cunningham, Dave Steinbeck along with Barry Kusel, from Manning and Paul Ackley from Bedford, served as panelist for attendees to ask questions about their experiences on incorporating cover crops into their farming operations.

Stefan Gailans from Practical Farmers of Iowa was also on hand to provide information to attendees on seed varieties and data from trials that the Practical Farmers of Iowa have been conducting on cover crops. He also provided crop data following cover crops and answered questions on crop insurance.

Matt Lechtenberg, Water Quality Initiative Coordinator with IDALS-Division of Soil Conservation also attended and provided a presentation on the Iowa Water Quality Initiatives. Approximately 30 people attended from around the area and brought great questions to the panel.

Any producers who would like more information on cover crops should stop by the district office at 503 W. 7th Street, Atlantic. Thanks to all who made this a success.

\$1.4 million available for Water Quality Practices

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, announces \$1.4 million in cost share funds was made available to help farmers install new nutrient reduction practices such as cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fertilizer.

In five business days, there were 597 different farms in 90 soil and water conservation districts protecting and enhancing nearly 60,000 acres of cropland. These funds will be allocated by first come first serve basis of all soil and water conservation districts.

The Iowa Department of Ag-



riculture and Land Stewardship received \$4.4 million for the Iowa Water Quality Initiative for fiscal year 2015. Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District also made funds available to producers for cover crops at \$20 per acre

on 20 acres maximum. Producers will be encouraged to sign up for cover crops to be planted for four continuous years. Producers had till Aug. 15 to sign up for local funds.

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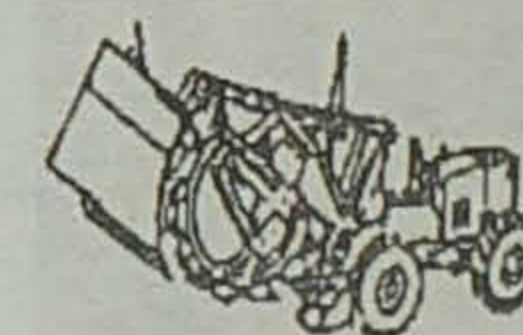
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Jerry Eshelman, Owner
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Home 641-343-7929
Cell 641-221-0396

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All Kinds of Dirtwork
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Waterway Check
Site Demolition



Brian 243-2457 home
249-0314 cell

Chase 249-2025 cell
Travis 249-7115 cell

No-Till Drill Rental

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District has a Great Plains No-Till drill available for rent by land-owners in Cass County. If you would like to rent the drill, landowners must make application at the district office and pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit. The rental rate is \$10/acre with the non-refundable deposit applied to your final bill. Delivery and pickup is provided to the landowner by the district drill employee.

For more information call the district office at (712)243-3180 or stop by our office located at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa.



Cass County Soil & Water Conservation

Financial Report FY 14

July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014

Revolving Funds

Balance 7/1/13 \$29,766.37
Total Deposits \$14,908.86
Total Expenditures \$20,379.11
Balance 6/30/2014 \$24,296.12

Drill Fund

Balance 7/1/13 \$4,911.32
Total Deposits \$4,839.26
Total Expenditures \$2,104.71
Balance 6/30/14

\$7,645.87

IFIP FY14

Balance 7/1/13 \$262,423.09
Total Obligated \$151,571.82
Total Expended \$110,851.27
Balance 6/30/14 \$0.00

REAP P FY14

Balance 7/1/13 \$57,087.45
Total Obligated \$37,571.20
Total Expended \$19,516.25
Balance 6/30/14 \$0.00

REAP F/NG FY14

Balance 7/1/13 \$5116.76
Total Obligated \$3440.65
Total Expended \$1,676.11
Balance 6/30/14 \$0.00

THANK YOU

The Cass SWCD would like to thank everyone who contributed to the publication of the Annual Report

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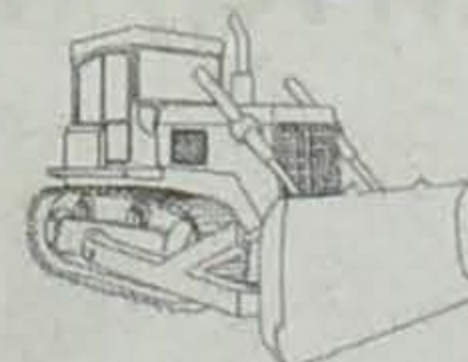
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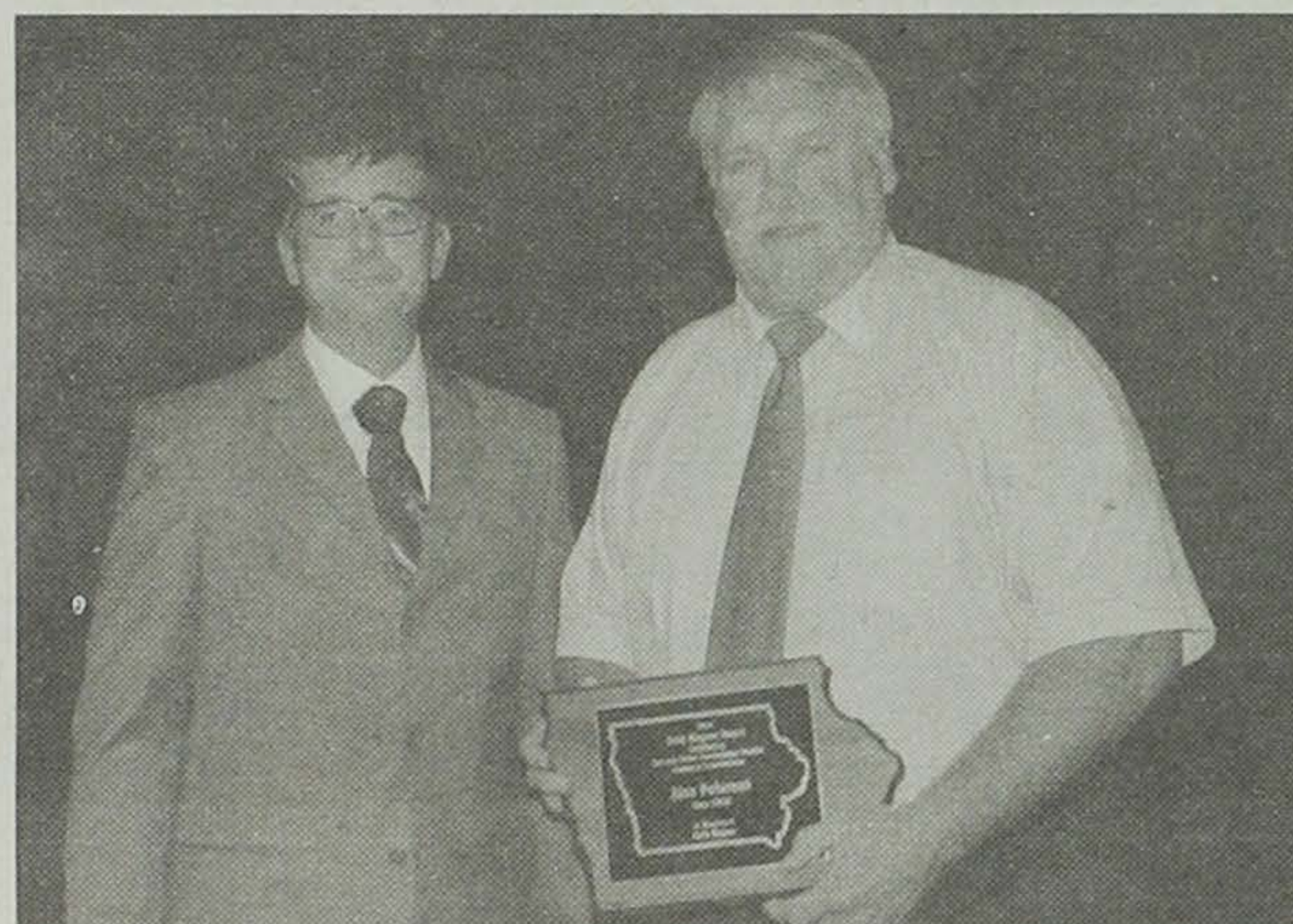
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Alan Peterson of Cass County receives State Award



Alan Peterson, Assistant Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioner in Cass County, received the Ruth Wagner Award on Sept. 3, 2014 at the 68th Annual Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commissioners Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. The Ruth Wagner Award is an award started in 2001 to honor Soil and Water Conservation District Assistant Commissioners. Johnson SWCD gives the award in memory and honor of Ruth Wagner, who served the Johnson SWCD for 53 years.

Alan is a very dedicated assistant commissioner who attends all of the district, regional and annual meetings. He had been actively participating in federal and state conservation programs even before he showed interest in serving as an assistant commissioner. Alan participates in the district's watershed tour, performs duties for the

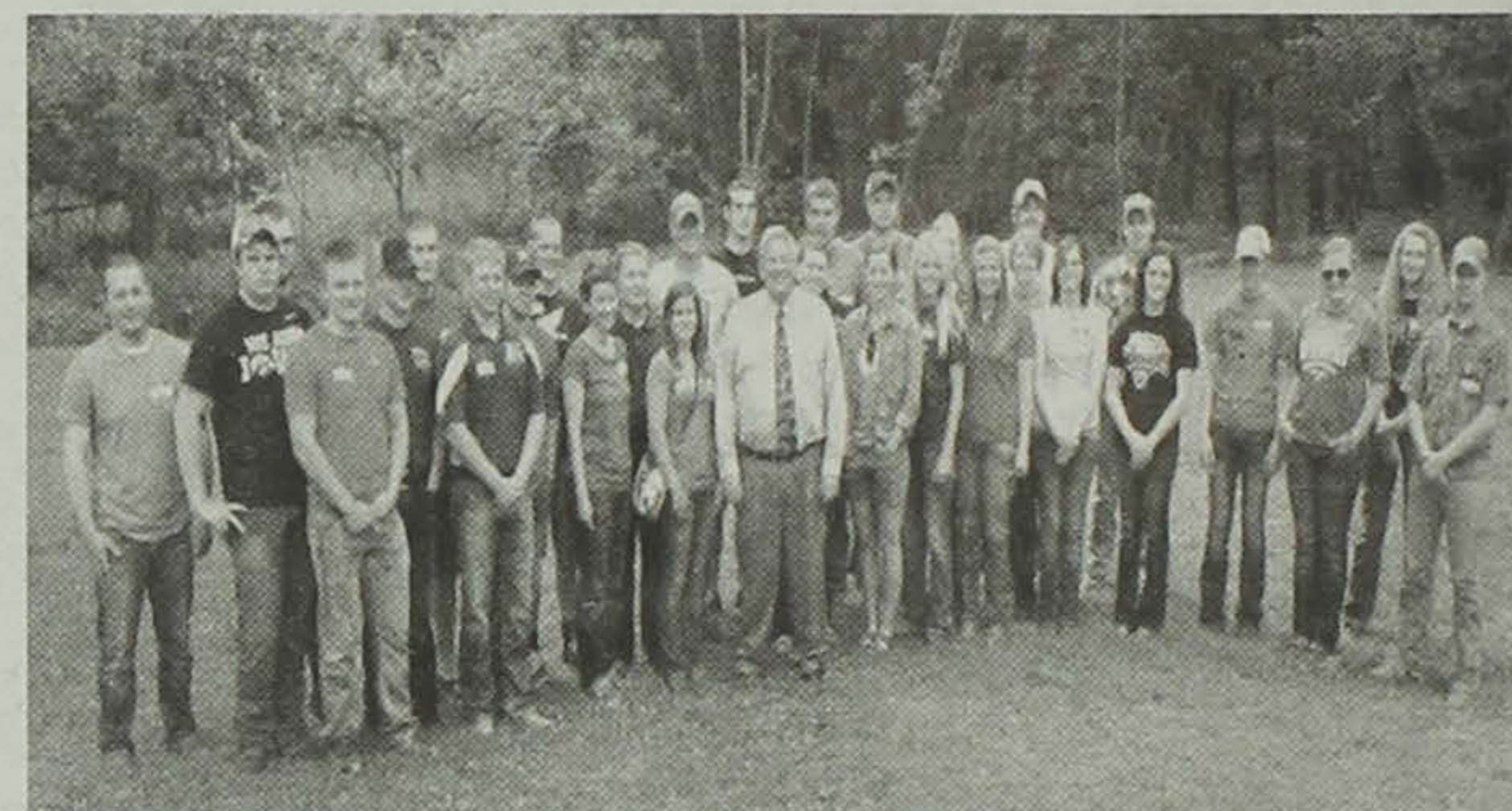
Award.....see page 5

Cass SWCD welcomes Summer Intern

"I'm Zach Jorgensen, age 21 of Adair. I was raised on our family's farm where we raise cattle, corn, beans, and alfalfa. My parents are Paul and Jeannette Jorgensen. I will be a senior at Northwest Missouri State University majoring in Animal Science and minoring in Commercial Agriculture. After college, I plan on farming with my parents and working within the agriculture industry."

While Zach was employed for the summer with the district, he assisted technicians in survey, layout, and design of summer constructed projects, conducted CRP status reviews, assisted the District Conservationist and Soil Conservationist in conservation planning. Zach was also able to help with some of the conservation compliance field work and worked with the District Conservationist in administering the CIG grant in Griswold. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District was very happy to host a summer intern this past summer.

DSC is delighted to have 35 interns with us across the state this summer. They met for a summer kickoff meeting with



Secretary Northey on May 28. All interns have graduated high school and will attend, are attending, or just graduated with an agricultural/conservation focus.

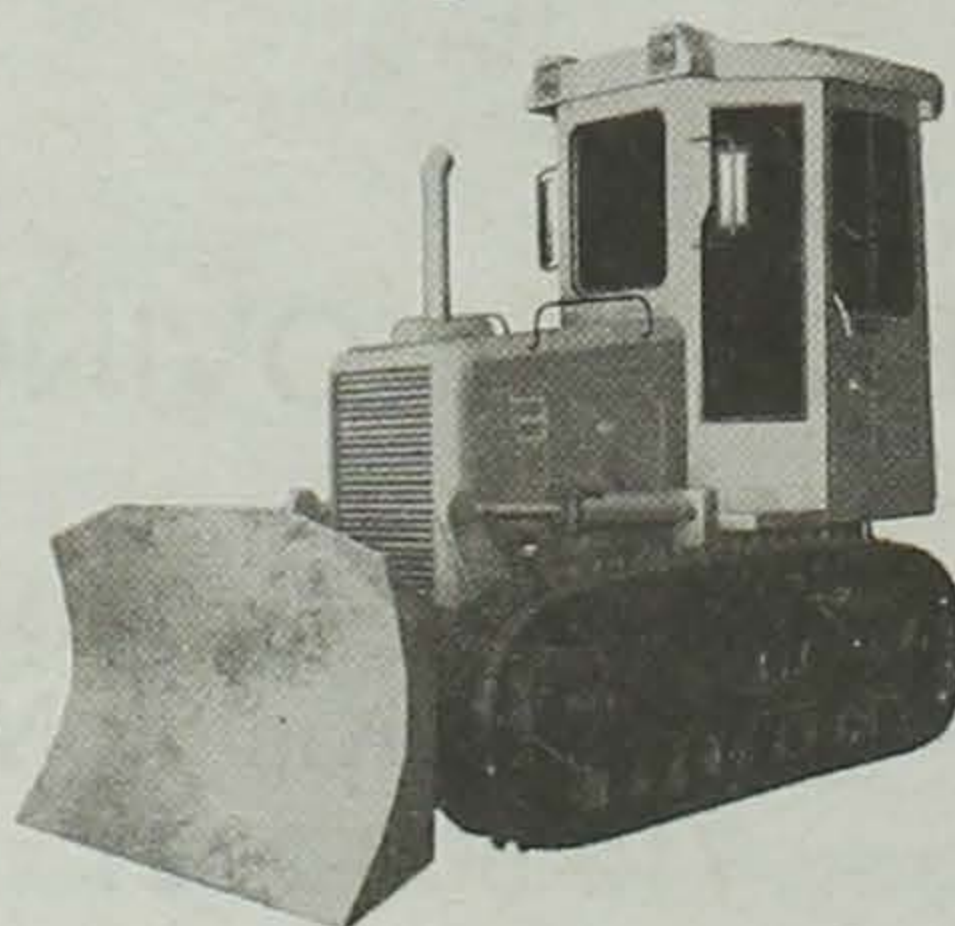
Pictured (top) interns with Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, and pictured (below) Zach Jorgensen, intern for Cass SWCD.

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District Scholarships

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District provides scholarships to area youth in Cass County who are pursuing education in the field of agriculture or natural resources. These funds are raised each year through the tree sales program. Area students are encouraged to contact their guidance counselors or stop by the district office at 503 W. 7th Street, Atlantic for applications. Applications are due by mid March of each year to the district office. Wyatt Saeugling of Atlantic and Jacob Steinbeck of Griswold were awarded this years Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship at their schools class nights by Commissioners, Fred Kay and Ray Wilson. Wyatt is the son of Aaron and Danna Saeugling of Atlantic and Jacob is the son of Dave and Tammy Steinbeck of Griswold. Congratulations to both of them wish them both the best of luck with their college studies.



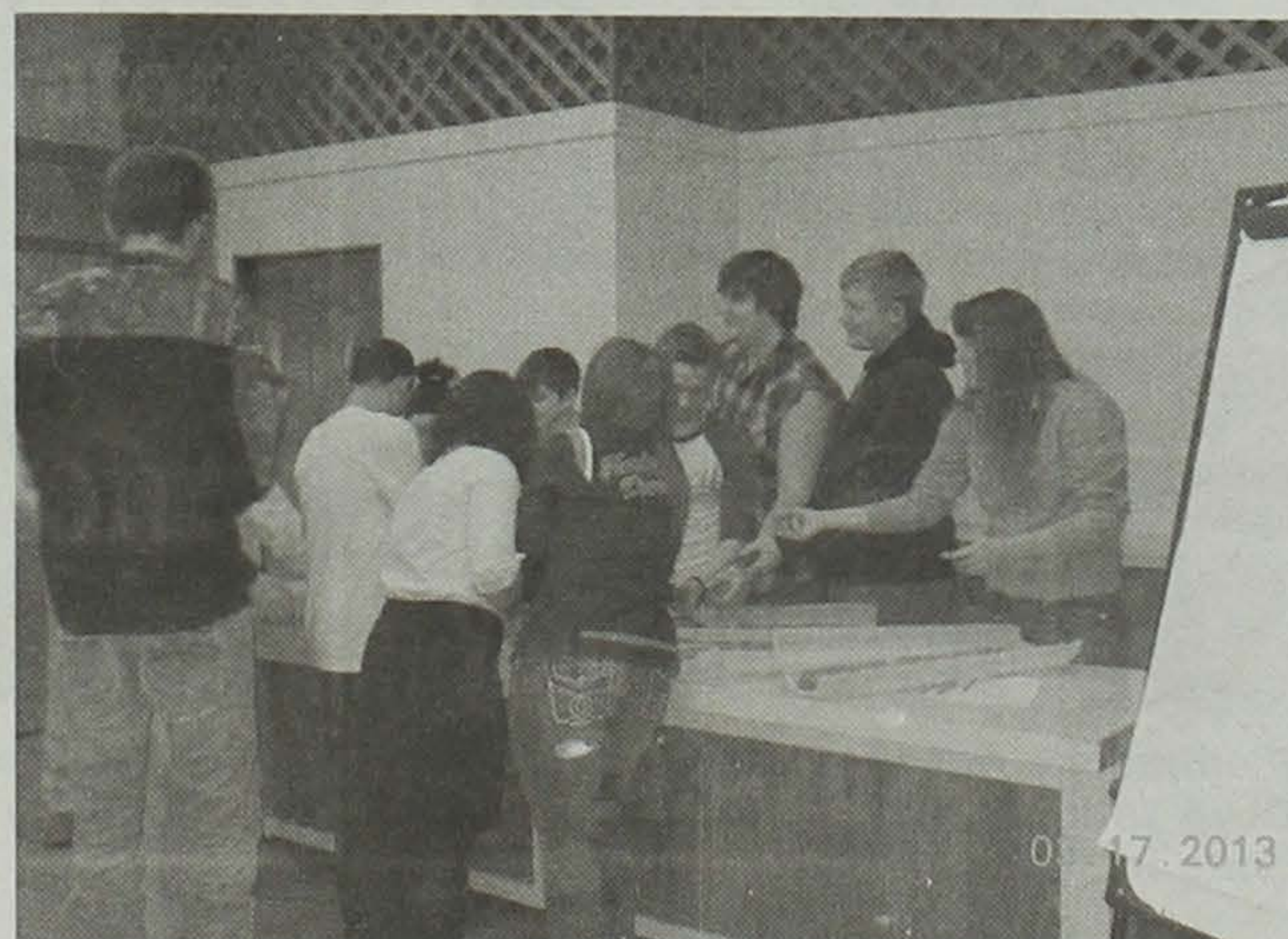
Wyatt Saeugling



Jacob Steinbeck

Envirothon Workshop

The Cass SWCD partners with the Adair SWCD each year to host an Envirothon workshop for schools located in their counties. Presenters on each topic is brought in to help students brush up on information and to ask questions. The Envirothon competition is held each year with Regional competitions starting in March. Bryan Hayes with the DNR Fisheries, Micah Lee with the Cass County Conservation Board, Lindsey Barney, DNR Forester, along with Amanda McNees, NRCS Soil Conservationist all presented information in each subject area. Thanks to the presenters and Adair County Soil and Water Conservation District for partnering together with Cass SWCD to provide this opportunity to students in both counties.



Pictured (at right) is Amanda McNees, Soil Conservationist during the workshop.

District Policy Update

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District is announcing some changes in the State Cost share program for conservation practices. The district's local policies and annual rates are reviewed each year by the District. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation announced that anyone that is approved after July 1, 2014 will only have one(1) year from their approval date to complete their work otherwise cost share funds will be cancelled. Landowners who need their time extended will need to make a request in the district office and state why they have been unable to complete their conservation practice within the one(1) year time period. These requests will be forwarded to the Division of Soil Conservation central office for review. The Division of Soil Conservation will also be providing some state cost share funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts for spring work jobs. Applicants who are approved for spring work will have till June 30 to complete their work, otherwise funds will be cancelled. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District is also making some changes to the state cost share program at a local level by adding Summer Construction of conservation practices to be completed between June 15- Sept. 15. The District would like applicants to indicate at time of sign up if they are interested in Spring or the Summer Construction build times. Landowners currently signed up should contact the District office for more information on these changes at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa 50022. You may also reach the District office at (712)243-3180, Ext #3.

Petersen receives award

Award.....From page four commissioners, brings good discussions to every meeting, and judges conservation posters and scholarship applications.

Thanks to Alan and his hard work in making contacts throughout the community, the Cass SWCD 70th anniversary celebration was a success. Alan is an important part of the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District. Alan Peterson was presented the award from Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner and Conservation Districts of Iowa Region 7 Director, Alex Schmidt.

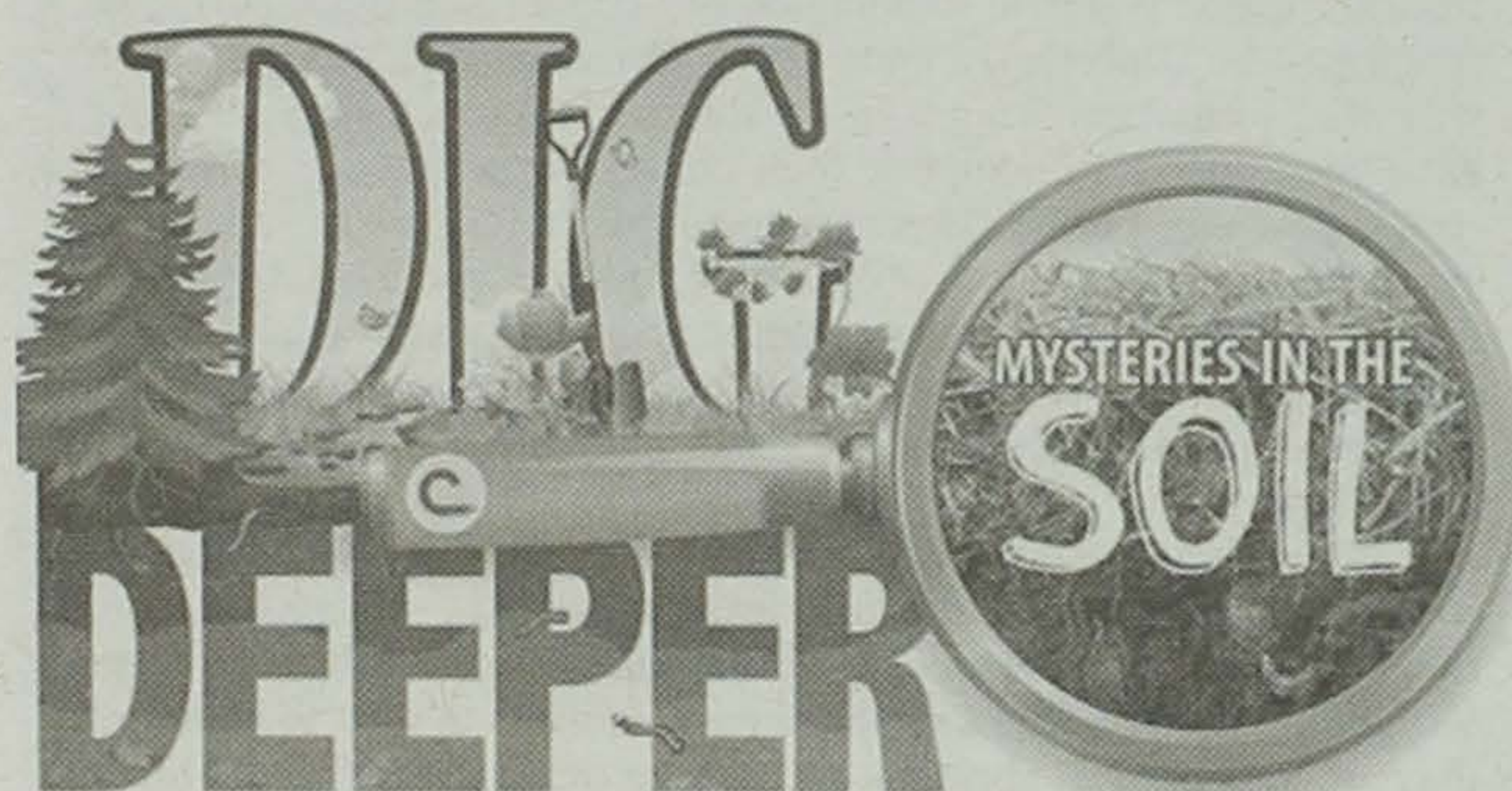
For additional information contact Clare Lindahl, Executive Director with Conservation Districts of Iowa, phone: 515.289.8300, Email: clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org.

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Poster Contest held

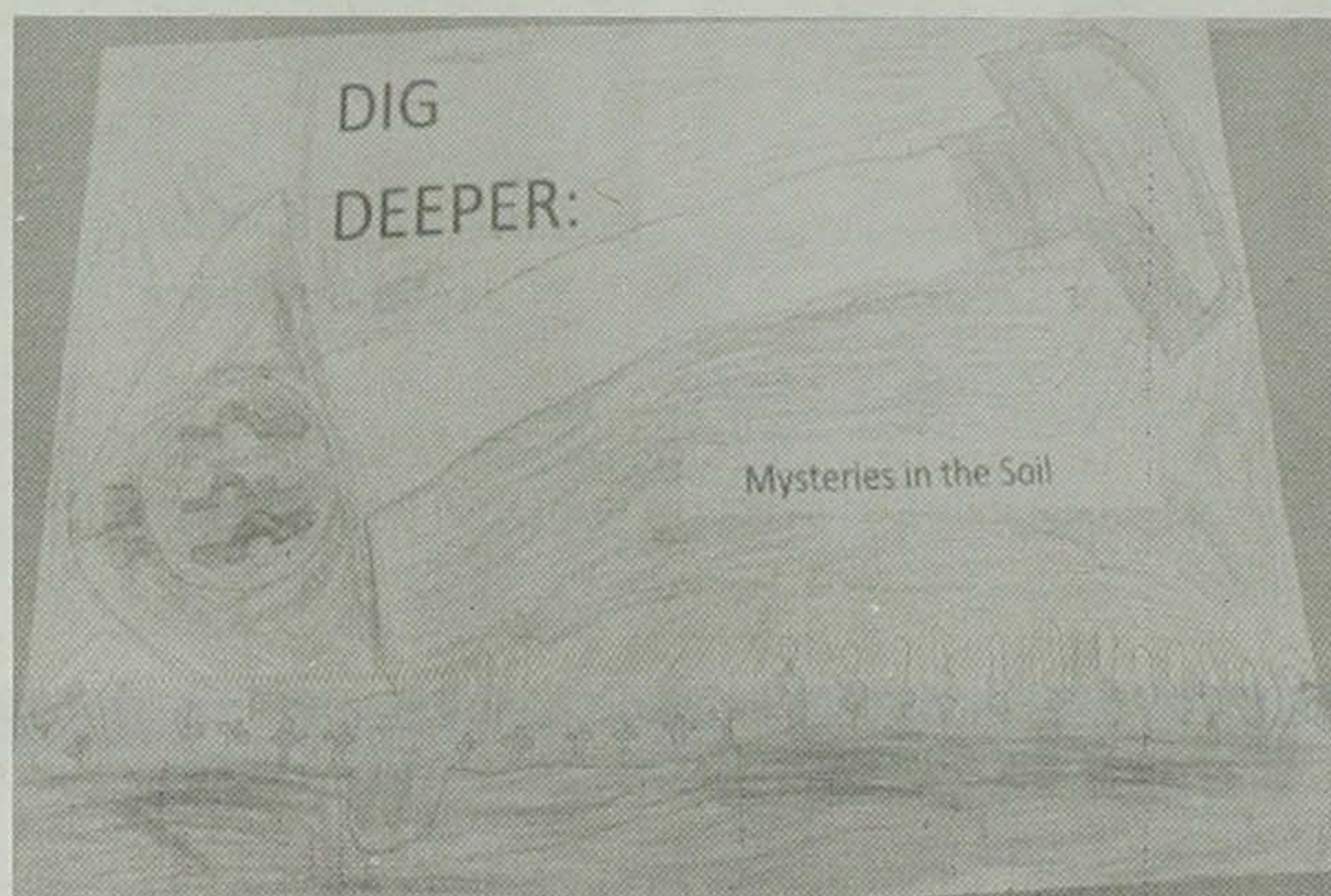
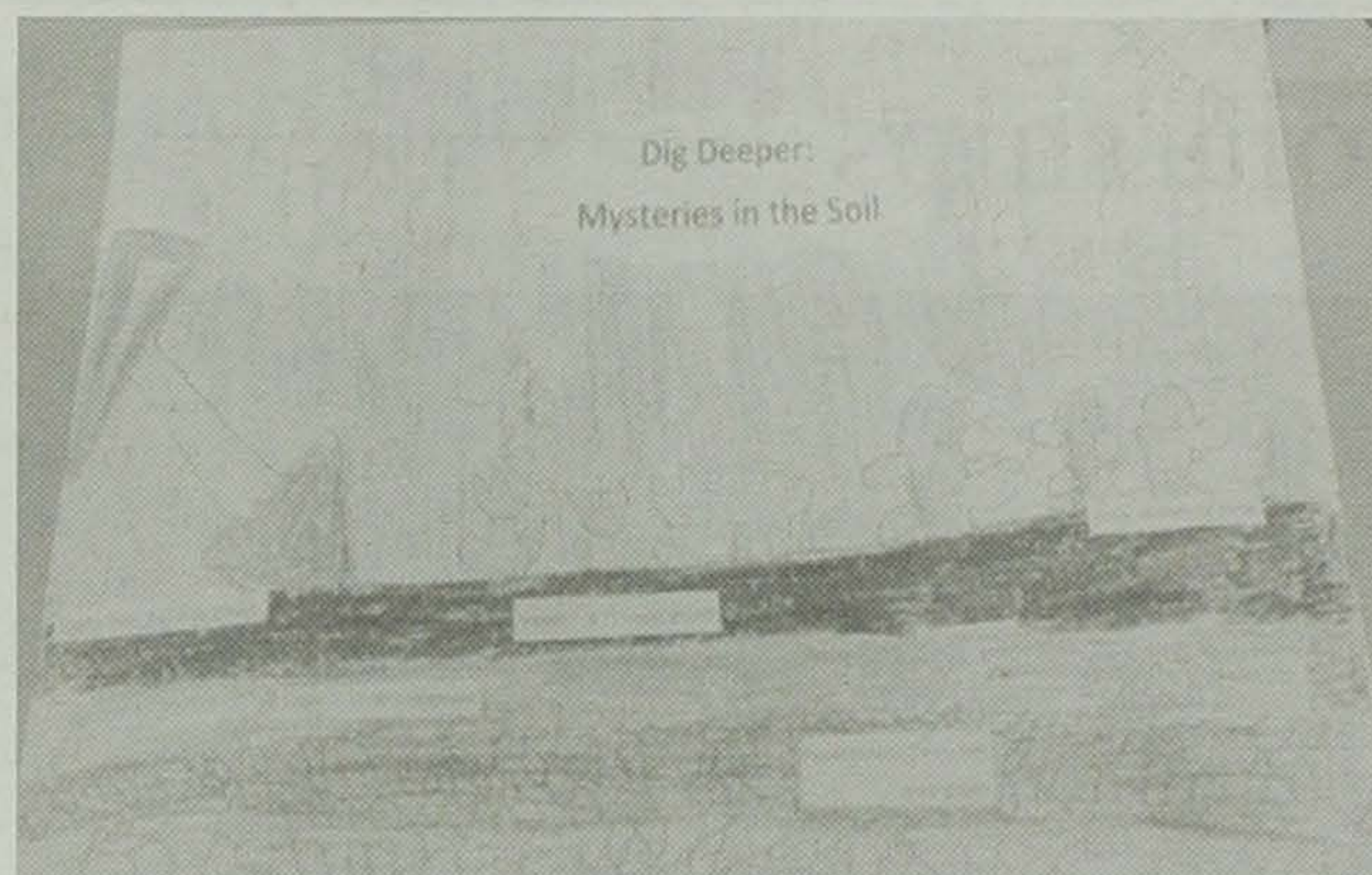
Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) co-sponsored the Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest. The Cass SWCD is honored to announce the following winners of the local judging done by the Cass SWCD. This year's winners are Katie York and Bryan York. All students, Kindergarten through-12th grade, can compete in the conservation poster contest through their schools.



Pictured are Brian York and Curt Behrends.



Pictured are Katie York and Curt Behrends.



Farm Practices Maintenance

Submitted by Steve Fluckey

State Technician

An important part of any farm operation is proper maintenance of conservation systems. With fields bare, this is the perfect time to review your farm for needed maintenance and repairs, which will help extend the lifespan of terraces, waterways, and ponds. Sediment build-up in terraces can prevent drainage and limit water storage. Soil and crop residue can also accumulate around the intakes preventing water drainage. It is important to clean out any sediment and trash. While cleaning the areas, look for any damages that may have

Farm..... see page 7

Atlantic NRCS Staff Members



Pictured are Atlantic Staff Member (from left) Andrew Koehlmoos, Soil Conservationist, Dave York, District Conservationist, Jana Coughlin, State Secretary and Steve Fluckey, State Technician.

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Loan programs available

No interest loan program

Since 1983, the Division of Soil Conservation has been offering No-interest loans through the Iowa Finance Authority. Loans made under this program can be used to fund conservation practices that protect soil and water resources. Examples include terraces, water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures and waterways. To apply for these loans, applicants must meet the following requirements: Applicants must own the land where the conservation work will take place, Tracts of land must be over 10 acres with a minimum of \$2,500 of agricultural products sold annually and project must meet NRCS field specifications.

Terms of Loans

- * Up to \$20,000 loaned per borrower
 - * Loans set up to be paid back in equal installments over a 10 year period
 - * 2 percent loan fee paid to district prior to issue of financial funds to landowner
 - * Security interest will be placed on the land until loan is paid in full
 - * Payments due March 1 each year with no penalty for prepayment
 - * Loans can be used to fund 100 percent of the cost up to the loan maximum, and can be used in conjunction with other public funds (EQIP or Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds).
- Landowners can sign up for this loan at the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa.

State revolving loan program

Iowa Finance Authority offers the state revolving loan program to eligible applicants to implement practices for animal feeding operations, waste storage facilities, deep bedded buildings or other roofed manure control structures that provide 100 percent confinement. Terraces, grade control and sediment control basins, pasture and hay land planting or prescribed grazing, grassed waterways, filter strips, windbreaks are also eligible under this program. The purpose of the loan program is to improve and protect Iowa's water quality. The loan assistance is facilitated through the State Revolving Fund. For more information on this program, please stop by our office. This loan can be used in conjunction with other public funds (EQIP or Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds).

Terms of Loans

- * Loan amounts from \$5,000—\$500,000
 - * Terms up to 15 years
 - * Can fund up to 100 percent of eligible project costs
 - * 3 percent fixed interest for life of the loan
 - * Applications accepted anytime
 - * Available through the lender of your choice
 - * Can be used in conjunction with grants/cost share
- Landowners can sign up for this loan at the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa.

Farm..... from page six

occurred and repair them. Broken terraces can funnel runoff and cause large gullies. Cut and spray any trees that might be on the terrace using approved herbicides. This is also a great chance to reseed any spots where seeding didn't take. Also check your waterways for a build-up of sediment. If reshaping is needed, spring would be the best chance for seed establishment. Just a reminder, structures/ponds should also be checked, especially around the inlet or intake. Remove any trash or tree limbs that have accumulated. As with terraces or waterways, spot seeding may be needed until vegetation is well established. Trees and shrubs should also be cut and sprayed along the dam. Though it is okay to flash graze your structure, livestock can be harmful and should not be on it all the time. Check all fences and gates to ensure that cattle are mostly excluded. Taking time to attend this maintenance now could prevent costly problems to conservation systems in the future. If you have questions or need assistance developing a successful maintenance plan, don't hesitate to call your local Natural Resources Conservation Office.

Contractors Meeting

Cass and Audubon County Soil and Water Conservation Districts hold contractors meetings every other year to help keep contractors informed with any new changes with the programs and engineering changes along with information from utility companies and material suppliers and Iowa Department of Transportation. Approximately 54 people attended this bi-annual meeting to which they enjoy a great lunch also. This is a great time for contractors and staff to come together.



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Conservation Your Farm Your Plan

By Jamie Carpenter

Assistant State
Conservationist(FO)



Although the 1996 Farm Bill introduced conservation financial assistance programs to the list of services that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides, long before then – since 1935 during the Dust Bowl to be exact – and still today, the agency's focus is providing free conservation planning assistance to Iowa's farmers and ranchers.

NRCS has at least one office in every Iowa county, located at USDA Service Centers. With conveniently located offices comes local knowledge of local resource concerns. NRCS employs soil conservationists, engineers, biologists, and even specialists in

grasslands and wetlands, to assist landowners through the conservation planning process.

NRCS's number one priority is to provide high quality technical assistance through conservation planning that effectively addresses resource concerns on the landscape.

What is a Conservation Plan?

A conservation plan is a record of a client's decision(s) in managing the natural resources on the land. Conservation planning is the first step in managing all natural resources on your farm. Conservation plans are the basis for all assistance NRCS provides to clients and the basic tool for

clients to manage their natural resources to attain sustainable use and sound management of soil, water, air, plant, animal, energy, and human resources. To protect these resources, NRCS works one-on-one with landowners to plan and install conservation practices to reduce soil erosion; improve soil health and air and water quality; create and restore wetlands; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; improve pasture and woodlands; and reduce flooding, all while considering the client's economic and social needs.

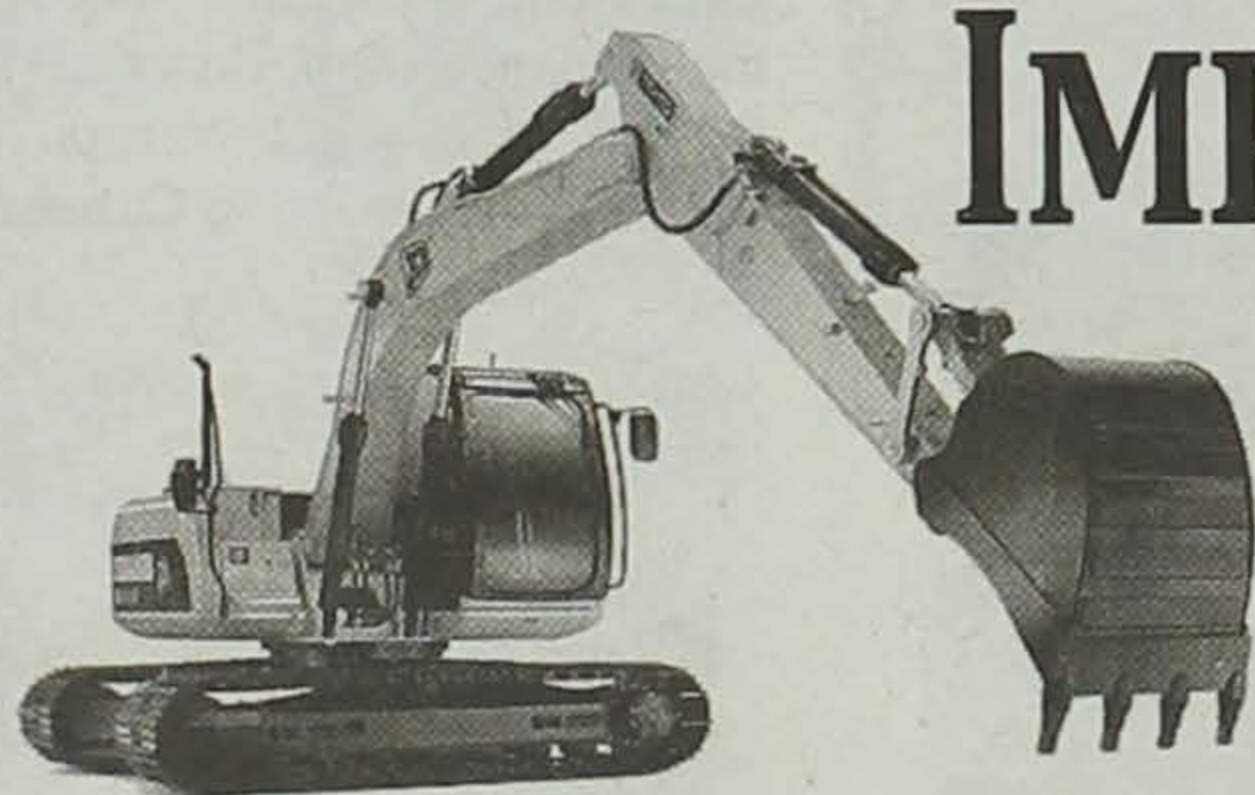
The greatest value comes by having the client engaged in every step of the planning process

to combine experienced farming skills with NRCS science-based knowledge. Through participation, the client develops an understanding of the natural resource issues, interactions, and treatments necessary for resource sustainability. Like any good plan, a conservation plan can be revised as needed by the client to ensure it is still aligned with their operational, economic and social needs.

To initiate the conservation planning process, call or visit your local NRCS office to schedule an appointment with a NRCS planner to visit your farm.

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Nutrient Management Meeting held

Submitted by Lance Porter

Soil Conservationist, Winterset Office

We had roughly 30 attendees from the farming communities and NRCS field offices of Cass, Audubon, Adair and Madison Counties. We had a farmers panel of three individuals that spoke of their farming operations and how they use cover crops, now most of the farmers had not done cover crops long enough to see a reduction in need for commercial fertilizers, but were excited to see the test results of their next soil samples. The farmers panel were using cover crops to enrich the soil health and help control soil erosion. We had Matt Lechtenberg from Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, and he spoke about the Iowa reduction strategy and the steps landowners need to take to help achieve the goals set and how the NRCS and partners can help the landowners achieve these reduction goals. The third speaker was an Ag Leader and he spoke about new technologies that are being developed to better manage a farming operation. From cost and inputs to realistic yield goals and market potentials.

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Annual Tree Sales

Tree sales are held each year in Cass county. Anyone interested in purchasing trees and shrubs from the SWCD need to order by March 1st of each year. Landowners can apply for assistance through IDALS-DSC for REAP funds to help with installing new windbreaks. Applications taken first come first served till funds are exhausted. For more information stop in the SWCD office.

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Colorado Blue Spruce	3-4'		\$ 30.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce	5'		\$ 60.00				
Norway Spruce	2-3'		\$ 30.00				
Norway Spruce	3-4'		\$ 40.00				
Concolor Fir	15-24"		\$ 20.00				
White Pine	2-3'		\$ 25.00				
White Pine	3-4'		\$ 30.00				
White Pine	4-5'		\$ 40.00				
Fraser Fir	3-4'		\$ 30.00				
Hybrid Willow	6'		\$ 10.00				
Bare Root	Height	Bundle	Price	Bundles	Price of	Singles	Total
Deciduous Trees		Size	Per Bundle	Ordered	Singles	Ordered	Price
Northern Red Oak	2-3' S	25/bundle	\$ 43.75		1.75/ea		
Bare Root	Height	Bundle	Price	Bundles	Price of	Singles	Total
Deciduous Shrubs		Size	Per Bundle	Ordered	Singles	Ordered	Price
Cranberry, American	2-3' TR	10/bundle	\$ 30.00		3.00/ea		
Dogwood, Redosier	2-3' TR	10/bundle	\$ 27.50		2.75/ea		
Lilac, Common Purple	2-3' TR	10/bundle	\$ 20.00		2.00/ea		

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Sultan High School operates salmon hatchery at school

By AMY NILE

The Daily Herald

SULTAN, Wash. (AP) — Biology students at Sultan High School are raising salmon in a hatchery on campus and expect to release them into the wild later this year.

The school's hatchery apparently is unique in the state. Students also visit nearby spawning streams to learn about the life cycle of salmon.

Principal Tami Nesting said the hatchery program encourages students to solve real-world problems to keep the fish healthy.

"I've worked in schools with large budgets and incredible science labs," Nesting said. "That doesn't even come close to what we oftentimes take for granted on our small school campus."

Other Washington high schools have programs in which students work at nearby hatcheries. But Nathan Olson, a spokesman for the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, said he knows of no others that have a hatchery on campus.

"It's nice for our students to see that we have something most schools don't," said Ryan Monger, the science teacher who oversees the hatchery. "Salmon are our most important resource in Washington state. It connects them to that."

Without the hatchery, students would be stuck in the classroom because the district lacks money for field trips or expensive lab experiments, he said. Monger estimates that his yearly budget for labs is about \$3 per student. With the

hatchery, students get a chance to go beyond memorizing facts and put their knowledge of biology to work.

"Any chance I get to have students doing real-life science, I like," he said. "It's a very cool project."

Each fall, the high school gets about 10,000 coho salmon from the nearby Wallace River Hatchery. Water is collected from runoff in a concrete basin behind the hatchery. It flows into shallow troughs inside, where alevin, or newly hatched salmon, are kept while they grow.

The salmon are moved into larger containers when they get close to being able to live in saltwater. Students feed and monitor the coho, collecting measurements and other data until they can be released into the Sultan River in early summer. After they're released, the salmon swim to the ocean, where they grow until they return to the river to spawn.

"It's going to be a good feeling to release hundreds of fish into the river," said Jessy Moore, the Sultan High senior tasked with running the hatchery this year. "It's definitely a changing experience to be a part of this."

Throughout the school year, Moore and his classmates care for the fish. They collect data by catching the coho and averaging individual results.

It's Moore's job to feed the fish.

"This is the best part, watching them come up and eat," he said, sprinkling fish food over the murky water.

Don Foltz, a retired Sultan teacher, fills in for Moore, 17, during vacation breaks and has long volunteered to help students continue the project throughout the year.

Raising coho comes with challenges that aren't com-

mon in the classroom. In October, a trough at the hatchery broke. All of the salmon were killed.

"Not everything runs smoothly like in a textbook," Monger said.

Students played "Amazing Grace" at a funeral for the dead fish. Monger got several hundred more coho, and his classes went about raising them.

But just before winter break, the fish were infected with a fungus that started killing some of the weaker ones. Students had to figure out how to control the fungus so their fish would survive.

Now they're waiting for the coho to grow large enough to have their fins clipped. Workers in hatcheries clip salmon fins to indicate to fishermen that they are not wild. Monger wants his students to start doing that this year.

Moore is also planning to renovate the hatchery building before he goes off to college next year. He wants to leave it better than he found it for the next group of high school scientists.

Moore isn't alone in taking ownership of the hatchery project. Senior Kerrin Reynolds so enjoyed working with salmon at school, she started volunteering at the Wallace River Hatchery.

Reynolds, 18, credits those experiences with helping her choose a career path. She wants to study at Washington State University and go into fish management.

"It feels good knowing you're helping the local salmon run," Reynolds said. "Putting those extra salmon into the river helps more than people think. And it's fun, too."



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Oregon refuges report: Some rehab work is a bear of a job

MERLIN, Ore. (AP) — As David Siddon strolls past the cougar enclosure at Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center toward the bear pens, his voice alerts Yak, and the 22-year-old, 800-pound grizzly

bear trots to the gate to meet him.

At Alaska wildlife biologists' behest, Yak and her brother Kodi were flown in to Wildlife Images from Alaska in 1993 as cubs after their mother was killed by a male grizzly and the cubs rescued by bush pilots.

The plan was for Siddon's father, Wildlife Images founder David Siddon Sr., and his crew to initially bottle-feed and otherwise care for the bears until they could be returned to Alaska and released the following spring. But before that could happen,

Alaska tightened its policy, banning the release of animals heavily cared for by humans. Yak and Kodi have remained at Wildlife Images ever since.

"My dad was pretty peeved they didn't take them back," says Siddon, who now runs the center. "Before that, a handshake and a good thought were good enough."

Right now no one is good enough to rehabilitate black bears in Oregon, where no rehab centers have the facilities, staff and policies in place to meet the meticulous protocols for ensuring that cubs raised in captivity don't turn into nuisance bears once released.

Wildlife Images and the seven other major rehab centers in Oregon, plus 38 smaller outfits, don't have the money and space needed to house orphaned cubs in penned areas without the bears relating people to food — the

bane that often ends in the animals' deaths, authorities say.

Bears habituated to people make up the lion's share of bear-damage and public-safety complaints in Western Oregon. Captured ones are euthanized under Oregon wildlife policy because relocating habituated bears only relocates the conflict.

"Rehab's a tricky business," says Colin Gillin, state wildlife veterinarian for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which oversees animal rehab in Oregon. "Even a little bear that goes in (a rehab center) at 13 pounds comes out at over 100 pounds. If they're habituated, there's a problem."

"The really good rehabbers who do bears don't want to give you a bear back that has to be euthanized in a month," Gillin says.

The issue was raised twice re-

Bearsee page 11



**Rick
Larsen**



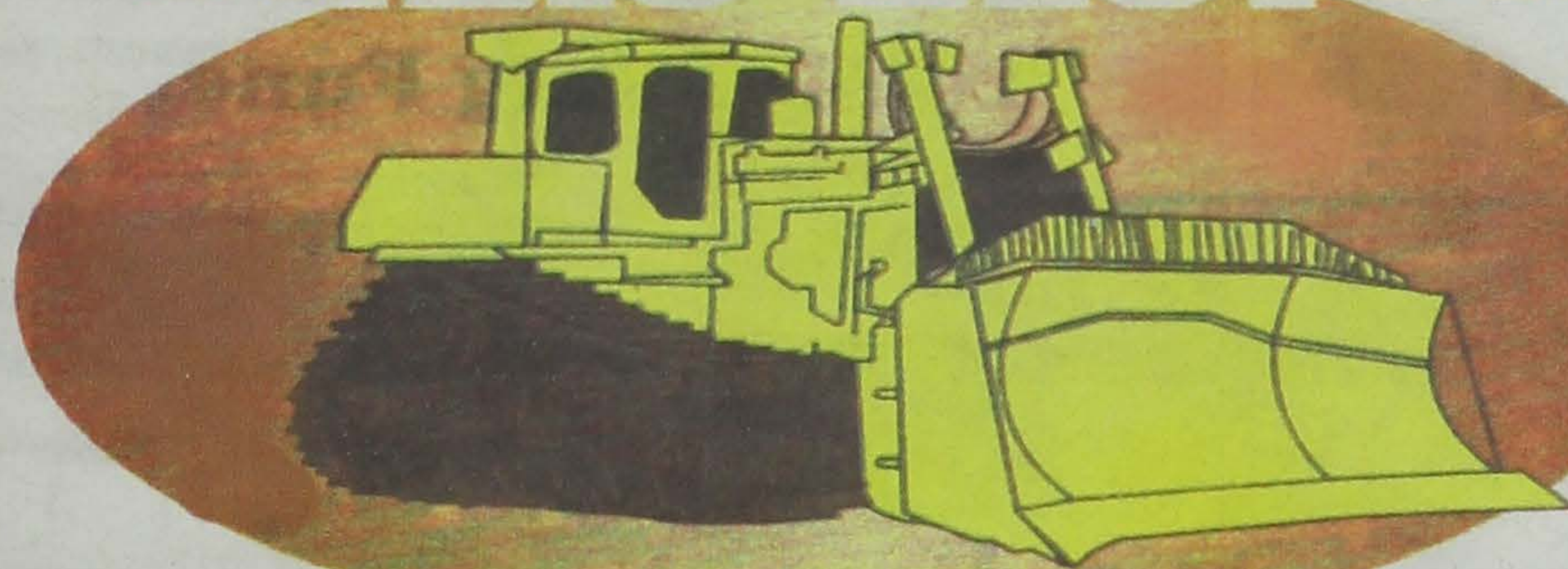
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Rehabilitating black bears

Bear From page eleven

cently when orphaned black bear cubs captured in Jackson County — one after running through an Ashland pharmacy on Oct. 19 and another, a 13-pound cub, after it fell out of a homeowner's tree on Jan. 6 — had to be shipped out of state for care.

The Ashland cub was sent to a Washington facility, but it was later euthanized because it was showing kidney failure. The 13-pound cub was shipped Wednesday to an Idaho center, where it will live in a large enclosure with natural denning sites and food sources until it is returned to Jackson County in the spring for release.

The process must be literally as hands-off as possible to give the bear a chance at being wild again.

"They can't see people, period," says Mark Vargas, the ODFW's Rogue District wildlife biologist. "It's best if they can't hear people, even smell them. Ideally, you need to keep human interaction to zero."

That wasn't the case in the 1970s through the '90s, when

the elder Siddon took in all sorts of bears that had regular interaction and exposure to people at his Merlin center.

"Dad had a pretty casual attitude about it," Siddon says. "He had an, 'Ah, we'll get this figured out' attitude. That wasn't uncommon then. In the early days of rehab, a lot less attention went into keeping the bears as wild as they can be."

As biologists here and throughout the West began to document nuisance and human-safety conflicts with released bears, they, veterinarians and rehabbers alike began to rethink their practices.

Now, Wildlife Images applies nonhabituation tactics to all their rehabbed wildlife, especially with raptors, Siddon says.

"We've changed how things are done," he says. "You adapt as new information becomes available."

As that new information about black bear habituation led the ODFW to ratchet up its requirements, places such as

Wildlife Images couldn't adapt.

"It's a pretty sizable investment," Siddon says. "It also was when the economy crashed. I was thinking more about survival. Survival will be a priority every time."

Siddon says he's considering getting back into the bear business, but it likely would take about \$50,000 to build the kind of facility ODFW now requires.

Gillin says his agency likely would have to be involved in the design, and other issues, such as regular access to veterinarians, would come into play before an Oregon facility could begin receiving orphaned bears.

"We'd like to get back into it, but we'd need an influx of money to do it," Siddon says.

Until then, it will be Kodi, Yak and four resident black bears that will hold court at Wildlife Images. These bruins have long been too ruined for release.

"In a way, I'm glad Kodi and Yak didn't go back to Alaska," Siddon says. "I like having grizzlies."

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