

Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District 2002 Annual Report

Mark Ingwersen

Published by Lakes News Shopper (712) 338-2232



Cover Photo Courtesy NCRS

Dickinson SWCD, 2412 17th St. Spirit Lake, IA 51360
Ph. (712) 336-3782 Ext. 3 E-Mail DickinsonSWCD@iaspiritla.fsc.usda.gov

2002 Highlights

January

- Election of officers: Mark Ingwersen, Chair; Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair; Scott Mitchell, Secretary; Orville Berg, Treasurer
- Tom Koster, Curt Smith and Keith Van Kleek are appointed Assistant Commissioners
- Clean Water Alliance Meeting held
- District Newsletter published

February

- Public Coffee Talk meeting was held to discuss conservation programs
- Regional Envirothon attended by two teams from Terril School which was sponsored by the SWCD
- Minnesota Clean Water Alliance Meeting held

March

- Clean Water Alliance Meeting held
- Water Quality Commission approved grants for Clean Water Alliance Coordinator and SWCD Environmental Specialist
- District Newsletter published

April

- Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Region 2 meeting in Everly attended by Carroll Oskvig and Orville Berg
- Commissioners distribute trees for each 6th grade student in Dickinson County to the schools
- Nursery stock was delivered and Foundation Tree Sale was concluded for 2002
- Clean Water Alliance Meeting held
- Stewardship material distributed to area churches
- Terrill Envirothon Team 1 places second in State Overall Competition and Team 2 places fourth in State Overall Competition

May

- Laura Ingwersen was the recipient of the Jo Groves Memorial Scholarship and Tony Morse was the recipient of the SWCD Foundation Scholarship

June

- The Iowa Great Lakes Final Report submitted. The Iowa Great Lakes Clean Water Project ends June 30, after eleven years. A DNR assessment needs to be completed before re-application can be made

July

- Tim Terrill accepts Environmental Specialist position in Sioux County
- Storm drain permanent decals are placed on storm sewers in the County
- Clean Water Alliance Meeting held

August

- Clean Water Alliance Meeting held
- First annual SWCD tour was held for political candidates

September

- 24th Annual Outdoor Classroom was held at Kettleson Hogsback with 232 6th graders from Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji, Spirit Lake and Terril School Districts participating
- Commissioners and staff assisted with Clay County Fair SWCD Booth
- District Newsletter published
- A pasture walk was held at the farm of Doug Archer
- 3 Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) applications were accepted

October

- Funding for Water Quality Commission grants begins
- Clean Water Alliance Meeting held

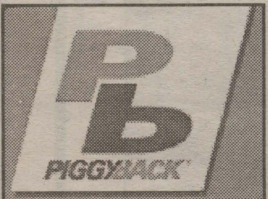
December

- SWCD Foundation Tree Sale begins
- Clean Water Alliance Meeting held

Conservation Practice Statistics:

19,500+ feet of waterways
 13,000+ feet of farm windbreaks and field windbreaks
 22.3 acres of filter strips
 12.9 acres of riparian buffers
 425+ acres of CRP Wetland Pilot Program
 20 acres of CRP Shallow Water Areas
 174.8 acres of Wetland Reserve Program easements
 2000+ acres of EQIP Integrated Crop Management

COMMITTED TO SERVICE NEW AT SHOPPERS SUPPLY!



We've added the Piggy Back™ Delivery System to our expanding lumber department.

With this system, we piggyback a forklift along with your load of materials.



This enables our driver to deliver the materials to where you want them... utilizing our 5,000 lb. capacity forklift.

Great for:

- Lumber •Drywall
- Shingles
- Landscaping Products & more!



SHOPPERS

SUPPLY

HWY. 71 S. • SPIRIT LAKE • 712-336-2287



*It All Begins
On
The Farm...*

FAREWAY
 ECONOMICAL
 FOOD
 STORES

COPYRIGHT 2003

Hwy. 9 & 71
 Spirit Lake

Dickinson SWCD Financial Report Fiscal Year 2002

1M Budget – District

Funds provided by the State of Iowa for printing costs, office supplies and equipment, District Commissioner's mileage and associated travel expenses

Allocation	\$ 1,500.00
Supplemental Allocations	\$ 920.00
Less:	
Commissioner Expenses	\$ 498.90
Office Supplies & Equip.	\$ 82.33
Printing	\$ 380.64
Postage	\$ 746.13
Meeting Expense, Dues	\$ 712.00

3M Budget – Iowa Financial Incentives Program

Funds provided for cost-share assistance to landowners for installing permanent soil and water conservation practices and offers 30% of the allocation for tillage incentives.

Allocation	\$ 15,876.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 6,983.11
Unobligated Amount	\$ 8,892.89

Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP)

Practices	
Allocation	\$ 11,433.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 6,978.32
Unobligated Amount	\$ 4,454.68

Forestry & Native Grasses

Allocation	\$ 2,027.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 1,971.98
Unobligated Amount	\$ 55.02

Iowa Great Lakes Clean Water Project

Allocation	\$ 54,250.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 33,924.41
Unobligated Amount	\$ 20,325.59

Dickinson SWCD Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Dickinson SWCD Foundation Commissioners were pleased to award two \$500 scholarships to deserving Dickinson County High School Seniors this past May. The Commissioners extend their congratulations to both scholarship recipients and extend their best wishes while they strive towards their career goals.

District Scholarship awarded to Tony E. Morse

Tony is the son of Charles Morse and Tonya DeVries-Morse of Spirit Lake. Tony was active in both sports and music while maintaining high academic standards in Spirit Lake High School.

Tony plans to obtain a master's degree in fisheries or marine biology. He is currently enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa.



Jo Groves Memorial Scholarship awarded to Laura A. Ingwersen

Laura is the daughter of Mark and Kim Ingwersen of Spirit Lake. Laura was active in sports and music while maintaining high academic standards in Spirit Lake High School.

Laura plans to obtain her under-graduate degree through her current enrollment at the University of Northern Iowa and then to attend Palmer College of Chiropractic.



The Prairie Flower Native Prairie Seeds & Plants

- Seed for CRP
- Custom Mixes and Garden Plans
- Native Grass Seeding
- Bare Root Tree Planting
- Prairie Restoration
- Large Selection of Native Plants

Visit us for prairie tours, browse our native plant library, sign up for workshops or sit down with our ecologist to plan your project.

We also sell gardening supplies, local crafts and prairie art and books.

Spring Hours (after April 15)
Thursday 2-7; Friday 10-7; Sat. 10-7

The Prairie Flower
Beautify Your World

Dwight & Bev Rutter, Ginger Viator
Partners

Phone: 712-262-5864
Ginger Cell: 712-363-3490

e-mail: prairieflower@evertex.net
web site: www.theprairieflower.com



PHEASANTS

forever®

Dickinson County Pheasants Forever

We planted 24,000 trees and shrubs; spent \$2,234 on grass seed; \$9,451 on trees and shrubs; turned 415 private property acres into habitat, and worked on 21 different conservation projects.

County Farmers... Call us for information on your 2003 Wildlife Foodplot Acres.
Call 338-4630 for information on trees and planting.

**"Land and
Wildlife
Conservation
Is Our
Top
Priority."**

CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By: Steve Anderson,
Clean Water Alliance Coordinator

After a busy year with several meetings, partnerships, and accomplishments, the Clean Water Alliance (CWA) has again had a good year. The CWA is a partnership effort by governmental agencies and private organizations to conduct a long-term comprehensive effort to protect water quality in the lakes of Dickinson County. Initial efforts focus on landscape protection and restoration, as well as landowner and citizen education. Currently the CWA is working with more than 60 organizations in both Iowa and Minnesota to protect the water quality in Dickinson County Lakes. The Clean Water Alliance has had a full time coordinator for almost 18 months now. The position is supported and funded by Clean Water Alliance members. The organizations that have support the CWA Coordinator's position in 2002:

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	\$10,000
Water Quality Commission	\$ 4,400
Dickinson County SWCD	\$ 5,500
Okoboji Protective Association	\$ 4,000
Spirit Lake Protective Association	\$ 1,150
East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corp.	\$ 1,150

Thanks to the local memberships and support of these organizations, the Clean Water Alliance was able to work throughout 2002 and into the future.

The Clean Water Alliance has helped to achieve a few accomplishments this year. A few outstanding accomplishments that have taken place are the initiation of the Water Quality Commission, the Storm Sewer Decal Project, Candidates Education Forum, and the Water Craft Safety Course.

The Water Quality Commission was the first

known of its kind in the State of Iowa. The Water Quality Commission is the 28-E agreement between all the municipalities in Dickinson County to protect and preserve the water quality of our lakes. This agreement has the possibility of spending \$1.5 million dollars over eight years on the water quality of Dickinson County Lakes. The main goal of this agreement was to match \$3 of federal, state and private money to every dollar that was funded by the commission. This goal was attained and exceeded! In 2003 of the \$100,000 available, \$6 was matched for every dollar the Water Quality Commission appropriated. For 2004 of the \$200,000 available, \$12 was matched for every dollar the Water Quality Commission appropriated.

If you are walking or driving in the urban areas of our county that drain into a lake, you should see a decal that states "Don't Dump! Drains to Lake". These are storm sewer decals that were purchased largely due to a grant available from the Iowa Farm Bureau. The Dickinson County SWCD received a \$2,500 grant from Iowa Farm Bureau. The SWCD also received \$400 from the Okoboji Protective Association, \$250 from the Spirit Lake Protective Association and \$250 from the East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation to help purchase 1,000 storm sewer decals for Dickinson County Storm Sewers entering the lakes. Service groups and businesses in Dickinson County placed the storm sewer decals on the storm sewers throughout the county. The groups that assisted in protecting the Dickinson County Lakes are: St. Mary's Catholic Church Youth Group, Lakeview Open Bible Church, the girl scouts and the Retired and Senior Volunteers at the first Join Hands Event, Boy Scout Troop 152 (first service project), and Pure Fishing. A couple of public programs were held to discuss the storm sewer decal project and to remind people not to dump anything down the storm sewers.

This last August, the Clean Water Alliance

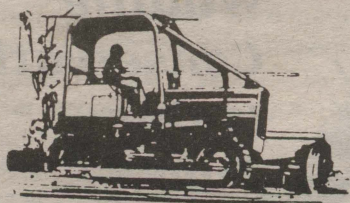
was looking for a way to make sure that water quality and the environmental concerns were addressed in the 2002 elections. So the Clean Water Alliance held the Candidates

Environmental Education Forum. The Iowa State Extension brought in a person to help run the meeting so that it would not be a debate but a place for candidates that represent Dickinson County to learn about environmental concerns from all the different organizations that make up the CWA. All the supervisor candidates, as well as the Senate and House of Representative candidates were invited to this meeting. Everyone was given a packet of information as well as the opportunity to meet and listen to several conservation organizations from Dickinson County. The success of this forum would not be realized until after the forum. We received several compliments from all the candidates that were present at the forum for helping them better understand what was happening to protect and preserve water quality and the environment in Dickinson County. If you remember back to the local campaigns, how many did you hear that didn't mention water quality or the environment? There were basically no campaigns that did not talk about some specific part of the environment and more specifically, protecting water quality. Many people have stated that this seems to have been the first large environmental campaign in Dickinson County. Now that the elections are over the Clean Water Alliance members will continue to work with the elected official's work on protecting water quality in Dickinson County.

In August of 2001 the Clean Water Alliance Coordinator presented concerns of the lake protective associations to the Iowa DNR Commission. One of the issues was boating safety. The protective associations were all concerned that a person at the age of 12 can drive any watercraft in Iowa without training or

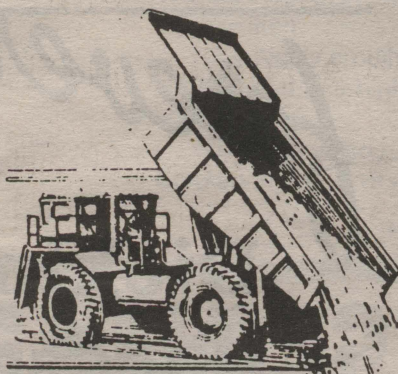
Continued on Page 5

Practice Conservation -

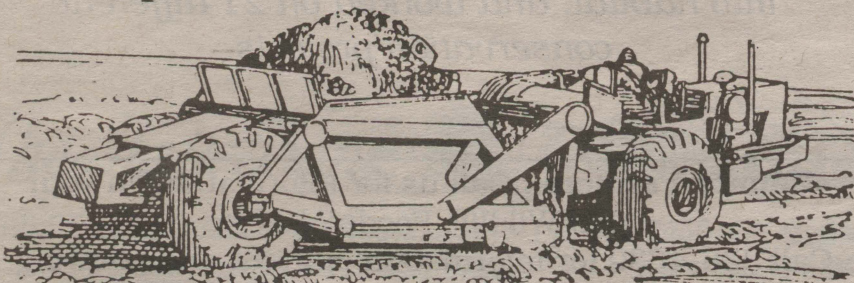


Let Us Help
You Conserve
Your Property.

- Site Preparation & Excavation
- Dozers & Scrapers
- End Loader
- Backhoes • Dump Trucks
- Dragline • Ditching
- Road Gravel • Sand
- Black Dirt



WEDEKING
CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Spirit Lake, Iowa • 336-2981



North Milford
338-4716

"39 Years of Service to Milford and the Lakes Area!"

**Thank You For All Your Efforts To
Preserve Our Environment For
Today And Tomorrow!**

CONSERVE NOW!!

So that future
generations can be
assured pure soil
and clear water!



**FIRST
BANK AND TRUST**
FDIC
Spirit Lake, IA
Phone 712-336-2180
A FULL SERVICE BANK

— Clean Water Alliance —
Continued from Page 4

supervision. This was very disturbing to several people and the hopes were to get a watercraft safety course established in Iowa. During the Iowa 2002 Legislative Session, it became law that any person between the age of 12 and 18 must pass the Iowa Watercraft Safety Course before they can operate a watercraft in Iowa without supervision. Although this is a big step in the right direction this was not exactly what the protective associations were wanting. The current course is basically a take home test that gets sent into the Iowa DNR and then a permit is issued to the persons passing the test. The protective associations were looking for a one or two day class to teach rules of boating, how to operate watercrafts, and how boating impacts water quality. However the first step has been taken. The next step is to create and make a mandatory one or two day class that will be agreeable to the protective associations' original request.

Of course just because the year is just about over doesn't mean that projects end. There are a lot of projects that are on going for the CWA. A couple projects that are up and going as we head into 2003 are the Countywide Composting Site, the CWA Communications Plan, a uniform lakes watershed storm water ordinance, working with Minnesota partners, and a Statewide Lake and Watershed Association.

Due to a state law that is being enforced by the Iowa DNR, the cities will no longer be able to pick up leaves, grass clippings, and tree branches or green waste and burn it. Since the cities do not want to end this service, an alternative must be created. A countywide composting site seems to be the next best step. This site would be created for citizens, municipalities, and business to drop off green waste as described before so it can be composted or chipped and then reused, instead of burning. This will help protect water quality

from the ashes that can be high in nutrients for algae, and improve air quality in Dickinson County. The landfill commission is working on one site currently near Milford and is talking about looking at a second site in the northern part of the county. It may take some time to get everything done but it looks like we could see a site opening maybe as soon as summer of 2003.

The CWA Communications Plan will help to communicate to everyone that uses the lakes in Dickinson County how they can protect the quality of our lakes. At the next CWA meeting we will be discussing the newest parts of the plan, which will include a mascot for the CWA and the issues that the logo will work on. We are in hopes that the logo will be ready to go by summer of 2003 and you will be seeing it in the paper and on TV, as well as hear it on the radio. The Communication plan logo and messages were made possible due to the funds from the Water Quality Commission.

Several groups and individuals within the CWA have been working on how we can get uniform watershed storm water ordinances. The reason why we need uniform ordinances is because storm water and any pollutant that it carries don't stop at the jurisdictional line of a city or the county. When one city development creates a water problem for another all it does is give our municipalities another reason not to work with each other. So when several cities in the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed and the county are looking at or doing new land usage plans, it seemed like the best time to start to work on uniform storm water management ordinances. After a couple of meetings it became obvious that this must be done outside of land usage planning but must be incorporated in the land usage plans. So over the next year the CWA will be working hard with the municipalities, the county, and all of their planning and zoning committees to get a uniform storm water management ordinance.

The CWA started holding quarterly meetings in Minnesota in 2002 and it has created a better

relationship between the two states. We have seen a lot of cooperation between both states DNR, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and other conservation organizations. The Jackson SWCD has hired a person to help them get conservation practices on the ground primarily in the watersheds that put water into Dickinson County watersheds. The Iowa and Minnesota DNR jointly received a North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant. This is money that will be used to restore and protect wetlands in the watershed in both Iowa and Minnesota. Also the Iowa DNR, the Water Quality Commission, and the Jackson County Environmental Services Office have all partnered together to the first aerial mapping done for the Iowa Great Lakes and Silver Lake Watershed. These partnerships will just continue to grow and increase the protection and enhancement of the water quality in Dickinson County lakes.

The last thing that will be mentioned as an on going project is the creation of a Statewide Lake and Watershed Association. This started out looking like it was going to be a group focused only on dredging for lakes but due to the Clean Water Alliance is now going in a different direction. The Clean Water Alliance Coordinator attended the meeting and talked about the idea of being a voice for lake concerns all over the state of Iowa. Now this group is looking like it will be deal with water quality problems, boating issues, the lack of funds for water quality and lake management, and lake restoration projects. This association will create a uniform front for lake and watershed issues that seem to be placed on the back burner. The CWA is being a leading force in the organization with the Dickinson County lakes protective associations.

These are just a few highlights that have taken place over the last with the Clean Water Alliance. If you would like to know what is going on with the CWA this year or if you would like to attend a meeting you can now find the Clean Water Alliance on the internet at: <http://www.angelfire.com/ia3/cleanwateralliance/home.html>



PIONEER®
BRAND · PRODUCTS

**Contact the Pioneer Seed Corn
Dealer in your area...**

- ◆ **Tim Titterington • Milford**
712-338-4476
- ◆ **Todd Hummel • Spirit Lake**
712-336-3812
- ◆ **Brian Goodell • Lake Park**
712-832-3093

**As we all strive to do our part to
conserve the environment, we applaud
the efforts of the Dickinson County
Soil & Water Conservation District.**



United Community Bank

Your #1 Financial Partner • www.unitedcommunitybank.com

MEMBER FDIC

MILFORD	MILFORD	OKOBOJI	HARTLEY	HARTLEY	OCHEYEDAN	LAKE PARK
Commercial/Ag	Consumer	Hwy. 71 N.	Downtown	Hwy. 18	850 Main St.	113 Market St.
Administ. Center	Financial Center	Okoboji, Iowa	117 S. Central Ave.	Drive-Up	Okoboji, Iowa	Lake Park, Iowa
1000 Okoboji Ave.	1905 Okoboji Ave.	712-332-7717	Hartley, Iowa	91 3rd St. NW	712-758-3141	712-832-3296
Milford, Iowa	Milford, Iowa		712-728-2101	Hartley, Iowa		
712-338-2781	712-338-2059			712-728-3158		

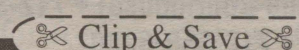
Diversity Farms, Inc.

**Habitat
Professionals**

**25 Years
Experience**

- ◆ Native Prairie SEEDING Specialists
- ◆ All Types of Prairie Grass and Wildflower SEED
Available For All Types of Projects:
 - WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM
 - BUFFER STRIPS
 - FARMED WETLANDS
 - HABITAT PLANTINGS
- ◆ "All Iowa Ecotype" prairie seed available
- guaranteed Iowa genetics -

CALL OR EMAIL FOR PRICES:
712-683-5577 dfarms@pionet.net



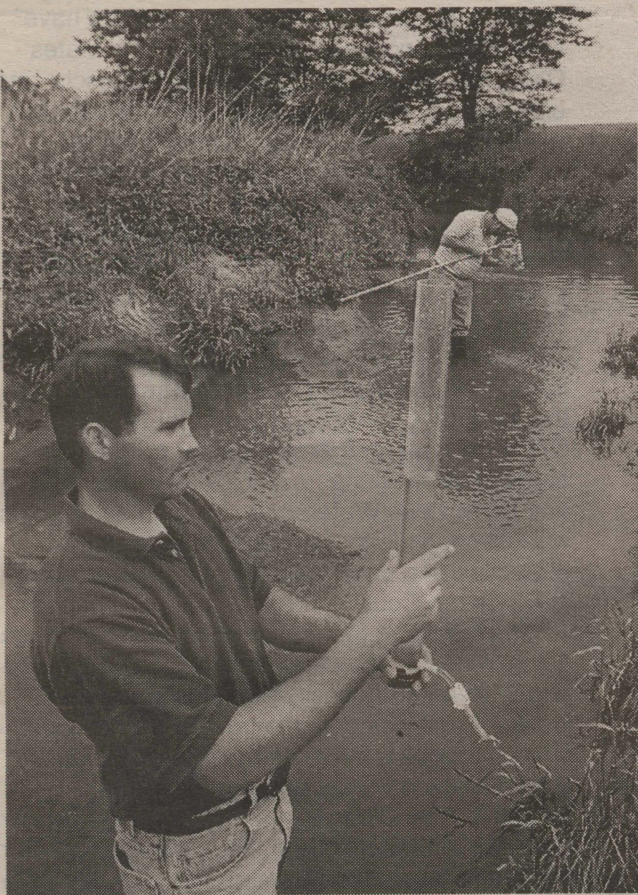


Photo courtesy NCRS

2002 DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT

By: Carroll Oskvig,
NRCS District Conservationist

2002 was a very successful year for the Dickinson SWCD.

Three Wetland Reserve Program permanent easements totaling 175 acres were enrolled. This program will provide permanent protection of soil and water resources through wetland restorations and buffer seedings of native grasses.

Local work group meetings were held for both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Security Program. These programs will provide cost-sharing for farmers who install conservation practices.

127 Field checks to monitor conservation practice establishment were made for the following programs: Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

Nine Earth Team Volunteers donated 177 hours in 2002. They include: Clarence Call, Mike Rohlk, Deanne Anderson, Ray Meylor, Dennis Hopperman, Cindy Kettner, Adam Kraninger, Ike Peterson, and Bill Fitzgerald. A special thanks is given to each of these volunteers.

I attended an urban conservation conference at Des Moines Area Community College which provided information on many aspects of

protecting water quality before urban construction begins.

Tim Terrill, Environmental Specialist, was re-assigned to the Orange City field office due to the expiration of the Iowa Great Lakes Clean Water Project. Tim wrote the final Clean Water Project Report that described the accomplishments of the project since 1990. Thanks go to Tim for his work on the Clean Water Project.

Maury Muhm provided excellent assistance to the SWCD by working with landowners on applications for the Wetland Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and Conservation Reserve Program.

Maxine Butler, Iowa Department of Land Stewardship (Division of Soil Conservation) State Secretary, was awarded the DSC's employee of the month award in December for her excellent work. Maxine also served on the State's Quality Steering Team.

The Farm Service Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District, ISU Extension Service, Division of Soil Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service partnered to hold a public information meeting on conservation programs.

The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District held a field tour of conservation practices for political candidates, and conservation

partners. The tour covered the eastern part of Dickinson County.

A pasture walk was held at the Doug Archer farm. Tom Gould, Natural Resources Conservation Service Grazing Specialist, discussed several aspects of rotational grazing and their benefit to water quality.

Conservation plans were applied on 4,081 acres this year in Dickinson County. These included: 41 continuous CRP plans for 582 acres; 374 acres of no-till systems; 2626 acres of mulch till systems; 63 acres of grazing systems; 1918 acres of nutrient management; 2166 acres of pest management; 90 acres of wetland restoration; 575 acres of upland habitat management and 126 acres of wetland habitat management.

52 certified wetland determinations were completed for farm program participants.

The SWCD partnered with the Dickinson County Conservation Board in developing two non-farm shelterbelts.

Assistance was given to the Army Corps of Engineers in completing two certified wetland determinations.

21 Conservation Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program burn plans were written.

Nine highly erodible land plan compliance reviews and four highly erodible land plans were completed.

Wayne Peterson, Natural Resources Conservation Service Urban Conservation

Specialist, was the keynote speaker at a Dickinson County Council of Governments meeting and at an urban conservation meeting for engineers.

The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a silt fence ordinance workshop for municipalities.

Maxine Butler coordinated the 24th Annual SWCD Outdoor Classroom for 232 sixth Grade students in Dickinson County, at the Kettelson-Hogsback Nature Center. Presenters included staff from: Pure Fishing, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Dickinson County Conservation Board (DCCB), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Orphaned and Injured Wildlife.

A wetland field tour was given for the Harris-Lake Park Voc-Ag students.

A conservation buffers report was given at the annual meeting of the Dickinson County Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

450 conservation tillage survey samples were recorded in Dickinson County.

40 National Resource Inventory samples were completed in 2002.

We thank all of our conservation partners and clients for a very successful year in planning and implementing conservation practices in Dickinson County.

**BUMPER
TO
BUMPER**

AUTO SUPPLY

2323 Circle Dr. W. (across from Polaris)

Spirit Lake • 712-336-3211

HOURS: 7:30-6 Mon.-Fri.; 7:30-4 Sat.; Closed Sunday

celebrate the good earth...

PRACTICE SOIL CONSERVATION



M&M Forestry LLP

Complete Planting and
Care Services

- CRP Buffers, Windbreaks, & Shelterbelts
- Wildlife Tree Planting & Native Grass Seeding
- Site Preparation Spraying & Weed Control
- Mowing, Mulching, & Tree Pruning
- Direct Tree Seeding - Timberland Improvement

712-662-4809 • 2237 Voss Ave. • Sac City, IA

AG LENDING NEEDS?

See Bruce Keenan

The State Bank



SPIRIT LAKE (south of the Courthouse) • 712-336-2455

TERRIL • 712-853-6200

MEMBER
FDIC

BOETTCHER - DEKALB



Providing Top Quality
Products & Service!



John Boettcher
Spirit Lake

336-5807 • 330-3373



Photo courtesy NCRS

PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM

By: Chris LaRue, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Big Sioux Wildlife Biologist

In the Iowa Great Lakes, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Big Sioux Wildlife Unit has been busy with development and management of public lands. The strong partnership with the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff has continued to expand and strengthen.

The IDNR private lands program was first implemented in 2000 to help SWCD, NRCS, Pheasants Forever, FWS, and other conservation partners address the growing interest in conservation and wildlife management on private lands. Iowa's agricultural productions along with new changes in the farm bill have also been a driving

force for this new program. Conservation programs like the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Continuous Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP), including the new Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program (FWP) have created more conservation opportunities for landowners in Iowa.

New incentive payments, great soil rental rates, and multiple soil, water, & wildlife conservation practices have generated huge workloads. These new programs continue to add quality conservation in sensitive areas that benefit farming operations by providing more efficiency while generating more income. In the last few years thousands of acres have been impacted across the State of Iowa and in Dickinson County from the private lands program. The successful program and impacted acres will no doubt add more benefits to soil, water, and wildlife conservation across Iowa.

Iowa DNR and the SWCD continue to work on protection of natural resources like the Iowa Great Lakes watershed, wetlands, native and remnant prairie, fens, and wildlife habitat. The Iowa DNR management unit has also been very busy with major wetland development on public lands for water quality and Iowa Great Lakes watershed protection. These newly developed wetland projects will provide more important migratory waterfowl and upland wildlife habitat. Every critical wetland, small to large, is just one more piece of this huge landscape puzzle. To see the greatest environmental impact on the landscape, efforts must continue on private lands. Private landowners hold the key to the long-term water quality, watershed protection, and wildlife habitat in Dickinson County.

In the last year both agencies have added and completed some wonderful projects that will provide permanent environmental and natural resource protection in Dickinson County. With new programs and continued cooperation, both agencies hope to see every "small effort"

contribute to more quality soil, water, and wildlife conservation.

Farm Program opportunities for farmers and ranchers to consider over the course of the next six years. The Farm Bill's Commodity Program Title including the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment contract signup began in October 2002 continues into 2003. Base and Yield elections need to be completed by farm owners no later than April 1, 2003 with contracts completed by the farm owner and operator no later than June 2, 2003. Programs and provisions of the Farm Bill's Conservation Program Title aspects are still under development and will be provided in detail as soon as we receive them. However the Conservation Reserve Program continues to be available to Dickinson County farmers and landowners, due to the fact that nation-wide CRP is the Federal Government's single largest private-lands environmental improvement program as well as one of its most productive and cost-efficient.

Established in 1985, and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) with technical support by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), CRP encourages farmers to voluntarily establish environmental sensitive practices like Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife, Riparian Buffers, Grass Waterways, Filters Strips, Shelter Belts, Field Windbreaks and Living Snow Fences, as well as simply planting permanent areas of grass and trees on land that needs protection from erosion. Farmers and landowners enter into CCC contracts that last between 10 - 15 years in exchange for receiving annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain practices, and cost share assistance. A new CRP Program practice, the Farmable Wetland Program (FWP), initially was only available in a six-state area which included Iowa. The FWP program generated a lot of interest here in Dickinson County since its pilot program announcement status and is still a CRP practice that with its allowance for enrollment of certain wetlands and associated buffers, has applicability to many Dickinson County landowners. Signup for enrolling into CRP certain high-priority conservation practices that yield highly desirable environmental benefits continues on an on-going daily basis at FSA

Offices. With respect to a nation-wide general CRP signup, we have been informed that a general signup for larger acreage enrollments compared to the continuous CRP practice oriented enrollment is anticipated to be conducted in the first half of the 2003 year.

Anyone interested in either of those sign-ups, the continuous or general CRP signups, or CRP practices, or CRP components, or complete CRP eligibility information should contact the Farm Service Agency or any one of your local USDA Service Center agencies.

SOIL CONSERVATION

PROFITS EVERYONE

USDA CONSERVATION PROGRAMS - 2002 & BEYOND

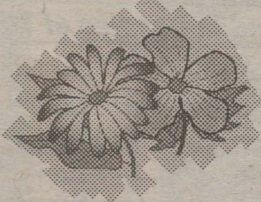
By: Larry D. Lago, Dickinson County Farm Service Agency Executive Director

2002 was a year filled with new and exciting changes and developments in Federal Farm Programs. The passage of the new six year Farm Bill - "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002" has brought on lots of new Federal

Nelson's Seeding & Sales

Wild Flower & Native Grasses

Richard & Anne Marie Nelson



3425 460th Avenue
Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536
Phone: 712.852.4383
Fax: 712.852.4383
E-mail: dna farms@ncn.net

Bank Midwest

INSURANCE SERVICES

613 Lake Street • Spirit Lake, Iowa
712-336-1224 or 712-336-3608

222 Market Street • Lake Park, Iowa
712-832-3210

**SPORT UTILITY...
WORK TRUCK...
BEDLINERS...**

**We've got the products to
"Complete the Package!"**




CURT
MANUFACTURING INC.

Top Notch
Truck Accessories Inc.

2216 15th Street (Behind Walmart) • Spirit Lake • 336-5155
Mon. - Fri. 9-5:30; Saturday 9-Noon



Spirit Lake Office Staff

Left to right: Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist; Maxine Butler, State Secretary; Steve Anderson, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator; and Tim Moran, Soil Conservation Technician.



District Commissioners

Left to right: Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair, Lakeville Township; Scott Mitchell, Secretary, Diamond Lake Township; Mark Ingwersen, Chairman, Spirit Lake Township; and Bill Northey, Superior Township. Not pictured: Orville Berg, Treasurer, Center Grove Township; and Assistant Commissioners: Tom Koster, Center Grove Township; Curt Smith, Superior Township; and Keith Van Kleeck, Milford Township.

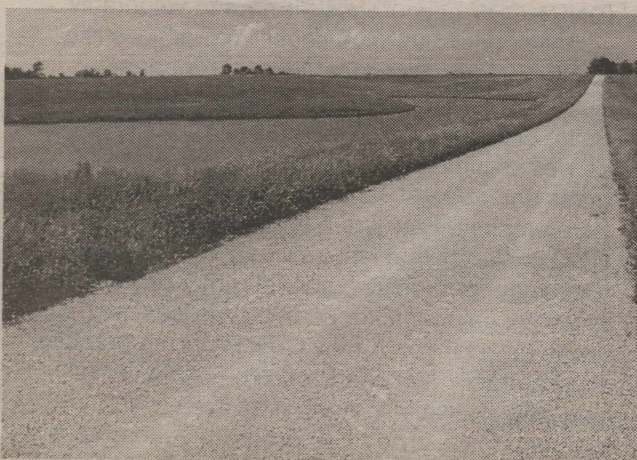


Photo courtesy NCRS

Let The Professionals
At Ferguson's Help You
Plan Your Windbreak!

Stop in
or call
today!

Ferguson's

Hwy. 712 • Spirit Lake, Iowa • 712-336-2085

John's Tire Service

24 Hour Repair Service

"On the Road & Farm Repair"
TIRE SALES
PHONE 338-2465 MILFORD

Dickinson Co. Farm Bureau Insurance

Spirit Lake, Iowa
Phone 336-3260

THANK YOU

to the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District for letting us publish your 2002 Annual Report.

Lakes News Shopper

918 10th Street • Milford, Iowa • PH: 712-338-2232 • FAX: 712-338-4489

"Published
Weekly...
Read Daily"



Dickinson SWCD Foundation 2003 TREE SALE

Trees - Bareroot Stock Sold in Bundles of 10

Green Ash	4-5 ft.	\$15.00 bdl
Red Oak	2-3 ft.	\$20.00 bdl
Silver Maple	4-5 ft.	\$20.00 bdl

Trees - Bareroot Stock Sold in Bundles of 25

Green Ash	3-4 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
Hackberry	2-3 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
Sugar Maple	2-3 ft.	\$50.00 bdl
Black Walnut	2-3 ft.	\$31.25 bdl
Golden Willow	2-3 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
Hybrid Willow (Austree)	2-3 ft.	\$31.25 bdl

Bareroot Stock - Evergreens

Concolor Fir	7-15 in.	\$20.00 bdl (10)
Eastern Red Cedar	15-18 in.	\$50.00 bdl (25)

Shrubs - Bareroot Stock Sold in Bundles of 10

Common Lilac	2-3 ft.	\$10.00 bdl
Late Bloom Lilac	2-3 ft.	\$10.00 bdl
Amur Maple	2-3 ft.	\$10.00 bdl
Common Ninebark	2-3 ft.	\$15.00 bdl

Shrubs - Bareroot Stock Sold in Bundles of 25

Caragana	2-3 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
Nanking Cherry	2-3 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
Chokecherry	2-3 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
Cotoneaster	2-3 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
Cranberry Bush	18-24 in.	\$50.00 bdl
Redosier Dogwood	3-4 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
Hawkeye Honeysuckle	2-3 ft.	\$25.00 bdl
American Plum	2-3 ft.	\$25.00 bdl

Potted Evergreens

Scotch Pine	15-18 in.	\$8.00	Colorado Spruce	15-18 in.	\$8.00 ea.
Black Hills Spruce	15-18 in.	\$8.00	Colorado Spruce	18-24 in.	\$11.00 ea.
Black Hills Spruce	18-24 in.	\$11.00	Eastern Red Cedar	12-15 in.	\$8.00 ea.

Questions? Contact our Sale Coordinators, Mark & Kim Ingwersen at 712-336-3616 or stop by our office on Highway 9, Spirit Lake.

- Commercial •Automobile
- Homeowners
- Renters
- Health & Life Insurance
- Long Term Care
- Disability •Annuities

Representing **923 OKOBOJI AVENUE**
DICKINSON COUNTY MILFORD, IA 51351
MUTUAL 338-2654

Handy Andy Yard & Spraying Service

Milford, Iowa
Phone 338-2273