

2009-2010 CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

314 Lake Street
Cherokee, Iowa 51012
Phone 712-225-3769

Conservation Tour

The Commissioners of the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. We hope our cooperative working relations continue as we work to protect our natural resources. The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation problem you may have.

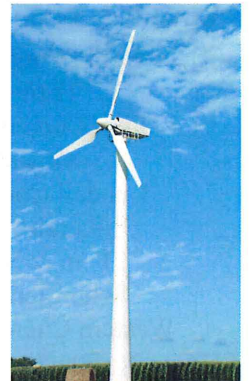
Along with the landowners and operators in the county, we would like to thank the government agencies, news media, schools, businesses, and individuals that have assisted in the promotion and application of soil and water conservation.

Cherokee County District Commissioners



From left to right: Randy Husman, Aurelia; Jason Titcomb, Cherokee; Tom Bindner, Marcus; and Tom Oswald, Cleghorn. Joe Hueser and assistant commissioners Ginger Walker, Linda Bindner, and Pam Pierce not pictured.

Each summer the Cherokee SWCD Commissioners hold a tour in which they invite the public to see various conservation projects in the county. On the evening of July 20th a group of about 35 met at the District Office and headed out to Russ and Beth Winterhof's turkey barn site in Diamond Township. Participants saw two manure stacking facilities and also two 100 KW turbines that produce electricity for Winterhof's farm, including their turkey operation. This summer Russ and Beth were the recipients of the Governor's Award for Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy. The next stop was at Dave and Sally Carlson's farm in Nokomis 6 (located on the west side of Buena Vista County). The Carlsons are in the process of putting up a Seasonal High Tunnel, which will help them extend the growing season for the vegetables they sell at area farmers' markets. The next two stops were both at Butch and Bonnie Sleezer's farms near Aurelia. In Afton 24 the group saw a unique system of using wastewater irrigation to water a windbreak and field of alfalfa. In Spring 36 the group saw a CRP Windbreak. The final stop was at Randy and Kay Jipp's farm in Afton 2 for supper in their remodeled barn. Staff and commissioners provided a meal of taverns, chips, baked beans, salads, and bars. Thank you to all the landowners and presenters for making the tour a success.



Recipes Needed

The Cherokee SWCD is accepting recipes and stories for a cookbook we will be publishing entitled "The Farmer's Wife". Please mail your stories and recipes to: Cherokee SWCD - 314 Lake Street - Cherokee, IA 51012 or email them to Tracy.Rasmussen@ia.nacdnet.net

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

Jason Titcomb, Chairman	Cherokee
Tom Oswald, Vice-Chair	Cleghorn
Tom Bindner, Co-Treasurer	Marcus
Randy Husman	Aurelia
Joe Hueser	Marcus

Assistant Commissioners

Linda Bindner	Marcus
Ginger Walker	Aurelia
Pam Pierce, Co-Treasurer	Cherokee

Field Office Staff

Renee Braun	District Conservationist
Julia Gubbels	Soil Conservation Tech.
Randy Jipp	State Technician
Michelle Harman	District Technician
Tracy Rasmussen	State Secretary
Jeff Brown	WAE



Back row left to right: Renee Braun & Julia Gubbels. Front row left to right: Michelle Harman, Randy Jipp, and Tracy Rasmussen. Not pictured: Jeff Brown.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are the primary source for financing educational and promotional activities. We would like to thank the following contributors who donated money from October 2009 through September 2010. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Bohle Construction L.L.C. - Kingsley
 Farmers State Bank - Marcus
 First Cooperative Association - Cherokee
 Gustafson Realty - Cherokee
 Lundell Construction Co. Inc. - Cherokee
 McGuire Auction Co. Inc. - Holstein
 Tom & Susanne Oswald - Cleghorn
 Schmillen Construction, Inc. - Marcus
 Western Cherokee Mutual Insurance - Marcus

In Kind Contributions \$2003.06

Financial support for program delivery \$15,987.92
 at the District level.

Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District And Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments

(October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010)

Brush Management	268 ac
Conservation Cover	144 ac
Conservation Crop Rotation	3008 ac
Contour Farming	623 ac
Cover Crop	34 ac
Fencing	1815 ft
Filter Strip	5 ac
Grade Stabilization Structure	1 no
Grassed Waterway	34 ac
Nutrient Management	150 ac
Prescribed Burning	211 ac
Residue & Tillage Mngt, Mulch Till	1115 ac
Residue & Tillage Mngt, No-Till/Strip Till/	513 ac
Direct Seed	
Restor/Mngt of Rare & Declining Habitats	34 ac
Subsurface Drain	34,843 ft
Terrace	35,485 ft
Underground Outlet	1,702 ft
Upland Wildlife Habitat Mngt	206 ac
Waste Storage Facility	1 no
Waste Transfer	1 no
Water & Sediment Control Basin	4 no
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	180 ft

Rain Barrels For Sale

The Cherokee SWCD has taken a standard practice of area farmers and adapted it to an urban setting as a means of encouraging urban conservation of our natural resources. The age-old practice is that of collecting rain in rain barrels, then using that moisture for watering flowers and gardens, rather than running up one's water bill to accomplish that task. The rain barrels are now for sale at the District office for \$50. Call 225-4151 for more information.



District employee Shelly Harman and family shown with some of the rain barrels they decorated.

2010 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

January

- * Officers were elected: Jason Titcomb - Chair, Tom Oswald - Vice-Chair, Tom Bindner and Pam Pierce - Co-treasurers. Tracy Rasmussen was appointed Secretary.
- * Ginger Walker, Linda Bindner, and Pam Pierce were appointed Assistant Commissioners.
- * Committee representatives were appointed.
- * The Commissioners met with the Board of Supervisors to request funding for conservation support and received \$13,000.00.

February

- * The commissioners had a booth at the Cherokee County Ag Show.
- * Assistant Commissioner Ginger Walker visited the Aurelia, Cherokee, and MMC schools to go over the poster contest. She also did a presentation on this year's theme "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats".

March

- * The Cherokee SWCD hosted the Northwest Iowa Regional Envirothon which is an environmental competition for high schools.
- * Tom Oswald, Tom Bindner, Renee Braun, and Tracy Rasmussen attended the CDI Spring Regional meeting in Sioux City.
- * Scholarship applications were reviewed and two winners were selected.
- * Submitted nomination for Russ & Beth Winterhof for Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Special Project Award.
- * Applied for Farm Bill IX funding for District employee.
- * The District helped sponsor a multi-county CRP Mid-Contract Management Training Workshop held in Primghar. District employee Shelly Harman assisted with the meeting.

April

- * District tree sales profit benefited the Education Fund.
- * 4th Grade Posters were judged.
- * Poster Contest Awards Program was held at the Cherokee County Conservation Board location. Winners from each school received cash awards, ribbons, and certificates.
- * Randy Husman and Tom Bindner attended a Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting.
- * Celebrated Stewardship Week by giving Activity Sheet/Placemats to several restaurants/groups in Cherokee County.
- * Linda Bindner attended an RC&D meeting.



May

- * Watershed inspections were completed.
- * Scholarships were presented to Russell Godbersen from MMC and Mitchell Sangl from Cherokee.
- * Commissioners reviewed Memos of Understanding. Also reviewed Civil Rights, Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Diversity, Ethics, and Personal Liability.
- * The commissioners met with the Supervisors to discuss slough bill needs and Jason Titcomb gave a progress report on accomplishments.

June

- * 4th grade posters were on display at the Sanford Museum.
- * A resolution was submitted to CDI that would add brush removal to the list of eligible practices for REAP funds.
- * Linda Bindner attended an RC&D meeting.

July

- * Conservation Tour was held. Chuck Gipp (Director of the Division of Soil Conservation), legislative people, and other members of the public attended.
- * District received new state cost share funds.
- * The SWCS booth for Ragbrai was set up at Jason Titcomb's place. Jason, Renee Braun, and Shelly Harman assisted with the booth.

August

- * District Audit was performed.
- * Hosted Chamber Coffee.
- * Applied for Farm Bill X funds.
- * Annual Work Plan was updated.
- * Linda Bindner attended an RC&D meeting.

September

- * Jason Titcomb, Tom and Linda Bindner, and Renee Braun attended CDI Annual Conference in Des Moines.
- * Jason Titcomb, Renee Braun, and Ginger Walker attended the REAP Committee Meeting and Flood Forum meeting held in Cherokee.

October

- * The Conservation Station trailer was stationed at Cherokee's 6th Grade Science Field Day.

November

- * Nathan Anderson & Russell Winterhof were elected commissioners. Randy Husman & Joe Hueser did not seek re-election.
- * Sent out tree brochures to prospective customers.
- * Linda Bindner attended an RC&D meeting.

December

- * Sent out Contribution Letters & Annual Reports.
- * Held a potluck celebration for retiring commissioners Randy Husman and Joe Hueser.
- * Decorated a Christmas tree with a conservation theme for the Chamber's Festival of Trees.

A unique wastewater irrigation system at Butch Sleezer's farm was one of the stops on the District's conservation tour in July.

STATE FUNDING

(July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

IFIP 2009-10 Fund (Cost-Sharing)

Allocation + carryover	\$ 46,187.52
Transferred to Mgt Practices	2,500.00
Total cost-share paid	8,666.00
Total approved & pending	<u>22,155.10</u>
Recalled 6/30/10	\$ 12,866.42

REAP Practices Fund 2009-10

Allocation + carryover	\$ 35,350.80
Total cost-share paid	8,561.47
Total approved & pending	<u>22,163.25</u>
Recalled 6/30/10	\$ 4,626.08

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Fund 2010

Allocation + carryover	\$ 4,304.05
Total cost-share paid	480.45
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Recalled 6/30/10	\$ 3823.60

Management Practices 2010

Transferred from IFIP + carryover	\$ 3,000.00
Total cost-share paid	1,410.00
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Recalled 6/30/10	\$ 1,590.00

* The funds listed above are restricted to particular farm practices or land treatments.

I-M Budget

(July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

(Funds appropriated by the legislature to reimburse commissioners for traveling expenses as well as pay for district office supplies)

Allocation	\$ 2,400.00
Expenses	\$ 2,400.00
Balance 6/30/10	\$ 0.00

Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cherokee SWCD
314 Lake Street
Cherokee, IA 51012
Phone: 712-225-4151 or 225-3769
Fax: 712-225-6090

Contact us about any of your conservation concerns.

Little Sioux Flood Prevention Watershed Maintenance Funds

(July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

(Funds collected in prior years to be used for maintaining existing structures in the county)

Balance carried forward	\$187,792.64
Income (Interest)	\$6,652.05
Expenses	<u>\$583.54</u>
Balance 6/30/10	\$193,861.15

General Fund (Revolving)

(July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

(For District Functions)

Balance carried forward	\$19,637.68
Income	\$24,979.25
Expenses	<u>\$27,471.55</u>
Balance 6/30/10	\$17,145.38

Ross Pinkerton Memorial Fund

(July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

Balance carried forward	\$455.00
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/10	\$455.00

FEDERAL FUNDING

Little Sioux Funds

(October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010)

These funds were obligated by the federal government for projects in the Little Sioux Watershed area which is nearly all of the county. \$169,547.28 was approved for Terraces, Water & Sediment Control Basins, and Grade Stabilization Structures.

EQIP Funds

(October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010)

Funded EQIP contracts in the amount of \$157,181.50. \$128,080.50 was for Livestock Resource Concerns and \$29,101.00 for Wildlife Resource Concerns.

CSP Funds

(October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010)

Funded CSP contracts in the amount of \$105,945.00.

WRP Funds

(October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010)

1st ever contract for 97 acres.

The Cherokee SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

District Awards Scholarships

Each year the Cherokee SWCD gives scholarships to high school seniors who will be pursuing programs of study in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Scholarship applications are judged according to leadership (service, character, and self motivation) and scholastic achievement. To apply for scholarships, students should see their guidance counselor to pick up an application form. The District forwards the top scholarship application to the Conservation Districts of Iowa regional director for a chance to compete for regional and state scholarships. This year's recipients were Russell Godbersen and Mitchell Sangl.



Cherokee SWCD Chairman Jason Titcomb presents a scholarship check to Russell Godbersen.

MMC's Russell Godbersen was the recipient of a \$300.00 scholarship from the Cherokee SWCD. Russ is the son of Bruce and Cynthia Godbersen of rural Cleghorn. While in high school Russ participated in football, wrestling, track, and golf. Russ's community activities included helping with Captain Recycle, Walking Club for Elementary Students, and coaching youth wrestling. He enjoys riding horses and working on the farm. Russ is currently attending Iowa State University in Ames where he is pursuing a degree in Agronomy. He plans to become an Agronomist and save up enough money to buy a farm.



Mitchell Sangl accepts a scholarship check from SWCD Chairman Jason Titcomb.

Cherokee's Mitchell Sangl was the recipient of a \$200.00 scholarship from the Cherokee SWCD. Mitch is the son of Keith Sangl and Kimberly Pingel. While in high school Mitch participated in football, golf, and FCA. He has been active in 4-H for many years and his hobbies include hunting and trapping. Mitch is currently attending Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville. After two years he plans to go on to South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. Mitch would like to be a game warden/conservationist after finishing his education.

Conservation Education 2010: Students Learn about Creating Habitats

In 2010, the National Association of Conservation Districts again offered elementary students the opportunity to learn about conservation through a nationwide poster contest. Each year, NACD proposes a new theme. Their choice for 2010 was “Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats”. The Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners offer the contest to all of the county’s fourth grade classes. In 2010, Aurelia, Cherokee, and Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn elected to participate.

To introduce the contest, Assistant Commissioner Ginger Walker traveled to each school bearing educational handouts, poster board, contest rules, and a lively presentation for the kids. The students learned how developing conservation habits, such as planting trees, choosing native flowers, and providing homes for wildlife could create habitat in their own backyards. They also explored ways that farmers and business owners could make simple changes to provide healthier habitats throughout the landscape.

Students produced colorful posters with the content theme illustrated by whatever inspired them most. Cherokee SWCD Commissioners rated the posters that best met the goals of the contest, voting on the top three posters from each school district. While all of the posters were displayed at the Sanford Museum in June, the top students and their families and teachers were invited to an awards reception where the winning poster for the county was also announced. This poster goes on to a regional competition for a chance at the state and national levels. The 2010 winner for Cherokee County was Lauren Rohwer, a 4th grader at Aurelia Community School. Congratulations, Lauren!

Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn 4th Grade Poster Winners

1st Place – Aspen Woodall

2nd Place – Asiah Jackson

3rd Place – Aliyah Jackson

Jan Brown - Teacher



Pictured left to right:
(front row) Aspen Woodall, Asiah Jackson, and Aliyah Jackson -
(back row) Jason Titcomb, Cherokee SWCD Chairman.

Aurelia 4th Grade Poster Winners

1st Place – Lauren Rohwer

2nd Place – Hope DeRoos

3rd Place – Wyatt Tuttle

Kate Westphal -Teacher



Pictured left to right:
(front row) Lauren
Rohwer, Hope
DeRoos, and Wyatt
Tuttle - (back row)
Jason Titcomb,
Cherokee SWCD
Chairman.

Cherokee 4th Grade Poster Winners

1st Place – Emma Friedrichsen

2nd Place – Ashley Mercer

3rd Place – Kylie Mongan

**Vicki Freed, Kim Miller, Meribeth Adams, and Jim
Shima - Teachers**



Pictured left to right:
(front row) Emma Frie-
drichsen, Ashley Mercer,
and Kylie Mongan - (back
row) Jason Titcomb,
Cherokee SWCD Chair-
man.

Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District

712-225-3769 or 712-225-4151

2010-2011 Trees For Sale

Deciduous Trees	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
Silver Maple	10	S	5-6'	\$30.00		
Sugar Maple	25	S	2-3'	\$49.00		
Red Oak	10	S	3-4'	\$25.00		
Hybrid Willow	25	RC	2-3'	\$45.00		
Shrubs	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
Common ChokeCherry	25	S	2-3'	\$38.00		
Cranberrybush	10	TR	2-3'	\$30.00		
Red Dogwood	10	TR	3-4'	\$23.00		
Common Purple Lilac	10	TR	2-3'	\$20.00		
Common Ninebark	10	TR	2-3'	\$23.00		
Bare-root Evergreens	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
White Pine	10	TR	7-15"	\$13.00		
Black Hills Spruce	10	TR	12-18"	\$19.00		
White Spruce	10	TR	7-15"	\$13.00		

Others:

S (Seedling) TR (Transplant) RC (Rooted Cutting)

**Hurry Now! All Orders Received By January 11, 2011
will receive a 10% cash discount.**

Subtotal _____
Less 10% Discount by 1/11/11 _____
Total Before Taxes _____
7% Sales Tax _____
Grand Total _____

50% Deposit _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All Orders Subject
To Availability!
Order early for best selection!

Please make checks payable to Cherokee County SWCD

Profit from tree sales is used for conservation education projects

**Other varieties & sizes may be available upon request - please give us a call.
Smaller quantities can be obtained.**

No survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices.
All orders are subject to availability, quantities are limited.