

Henry SWCD

2009 Annual Report
July 2008 -- June 2009

Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District
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"Our mission is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment."



Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners

Pictured front row: Jan Anderson, Allan Barnes, Harlan Miller and Barb Shelman (Secretary). Back row: Richard D. Gholson, Darrell Mullin, Rick Mallams and Chuck Allen

How Do I Measure Up? By James Gillespie Bureau Chief

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

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

That is why it is so important that all of us (rural and urban) alike do all we can to protect the soil and water. You all have tremendous resources available to you locally in your Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist you with your conservation needs. These people have both the technical assistance and financial opportunities that can help address your concerns.

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

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

If you had to evaluate your own resource issues, how would you say I'm doing? What would your peers think of what I'm doing? Am I doing all I can to protect the soil and water, while maintaining the productivity and use of my property? **EVALUATE YOURSELF AND YOUR LAND USE TO SEE HOW YOU MEASURE UP!**

Henry SWCD District Financial Report of State Funds July 1, 2008 to June 20, 2009

1M Budget-Operating Funds Commissioner and Office Expenses

Initial Allocation	\$3,382.58
Commissioner Expense	\$509.94
Office Expenses	\$290.25
CDI & NACD Dues	\$1,600.00
Educational Materials/Awards	\$ 730.50
Postage	\$ 252.48
Total Expenditures	\$3,383.17
Balance	\$ (0.59)

3M Budget-State Cost-Share Funds

FARMS 2009	
2008 Rollover	\$7,480.00
Initial Allocation	\$29,864.47
Supplemental Allocation	\$89,593.40
Total Allocations	\$126,937.87
Projects Paid	\$76,664.35
Projects Rolled Over to 2010	\$47,723.92
Funds Recalled as of 6-30-09	\$2,549.60

Revolving No-Interest Loan

4 Grade Stabilization Structures Constructed

2009 Allocation	\$ 36,000.00
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2009 Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Column

This year was full of new conservation-related opportunities offered by USDA. And Iowa farmers responded with great interest. The first, and probably most anticipated, was the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Originally Iowa NRCS was allotted 360,000 acres for this first CSP signup. Based on your statewide response, Iowa was granted an additional 56,000 acres for a total of 416,000 acres.

We are still in the process of finalizing our first round of CSP contracts from the 1,100 applications submitted by the funding cutoff deadline. Of these contracts, Henry County submitted 16 applications.

The new CSP signup is statewide and continuous. So if you did not turn in application this time, it's not too late. The second date for a funding cutoff has not yet been announced by USDA. But we would anticipate something in February or March.

A second new opportunity was the Organic EQIP Initiative, which was also available statewide. Originally Iowa was provided about \$1 million to provide financial assistance to help producers transition to organic production, but interest was so high Iowa received an additional \$2 million. So Iowa organic producers received more than \$3 million to assist them implement conservation practices. In Henry County producers received \$95,808.98 of these Organic EQIP Initiative funds.

Iowa is traditionally a top state in conservation implementation. And you are the major reason for that. Our accomplishments are only a reflection of your commitment to do more to protect our state's soil and water. You can learn more about our shared accomplishments by viewing the online slide show at the following link

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/43873399@N05/sets/72157622668751746/show/>

Anyone in agriculture is used to challenges—some of which are unexpected. This year we know will we face challenges created by the state's current financial crisis. It will touch many, if not all, of our districts. The Conservation

REAP-Budget-State Cost-Share Funds

Practices Fund

2 Windbreak, Tree Planting 17.6 Ac., Timber Stand Improvement 57.7 Ac.

2008 Rollover	\$8,370.00
2009 Allocation	\$12,517.71
Total Allocations	\$20,887.71
Funds Spent/Obligated	\$16,749.70
Funds Rolled over to 2010	\$3,923.01
Funds Recalled as of 6-30-09	\$215.00

Forestry/Grasses Fund

1 Windbreak, Tree Planting 4.6 Ac.

2009 Allocation	\$6,997.65
Funds Spent/Obligated	\$5,325.00
Funds Rolled over to 2010	\$1500.00
Funds Recalled as of 6-20-09	\$172.65

Partnership will do it's best to maintain our level of customer service throughout this difficult time, but in some cases we not be able to respond as quickly as we could in the past. I ask for your patience and understanding as we make adapt to best tackle these challenges.

Even with these great accomplishments, as State Conservationist I have asked NRCS staff to focus on three main areas to make improvements: conservation planning, expanding valued partnerships, and managing our financial contracts. All of these priorities will help our staff help provide better customer service to you.

Thanks for all you do and wishing you a healthy and successful 2010.

Richard Sims
State Conservationist

Soil & Water Stewardship 2009 Poster Contest Winners

The Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District sponsors a conservation poster contest each year. Promotional materials are purchased and provided to the schools to use in education and promotion of this contest. The 2009 theme was "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" Each winner received a check from the SWCD and a T-shirt.



Danielle Monaghan
K-1 Division First Place Winner
Waco 1st Grade



Josh Rauenbeuhler
4th-5th Grade First Place Winner
Salem 4th Grade



Winners in Division K-1 from Waco

Danielle Monaghan, 1st Place

Lindsey Roth (not pictured) 2nd Place

Kinsey Duwa, Honorable Mention

Braden Hammond, Honorable Mention

Elizabeth Birchfield, Honorable Mention



Alexis Kephart
K-1 Division, Honorable Mention
Waco Kindergarten



Ben Hemsworth
K-1 Division, Honorable Mention
Winfield 1st Grade



Winners from Salem Elementary
Division Grades 4th-5th

Danielle Coffin, 2nd Place; Brynn Mills, Honorable Mention, Matt Thorne, Honorable Mention; Makayla Kruse, Honorable Mention; and Josh Rauenbuehler 1st Place

All services and programs are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis