

2009

Fayette SWCD

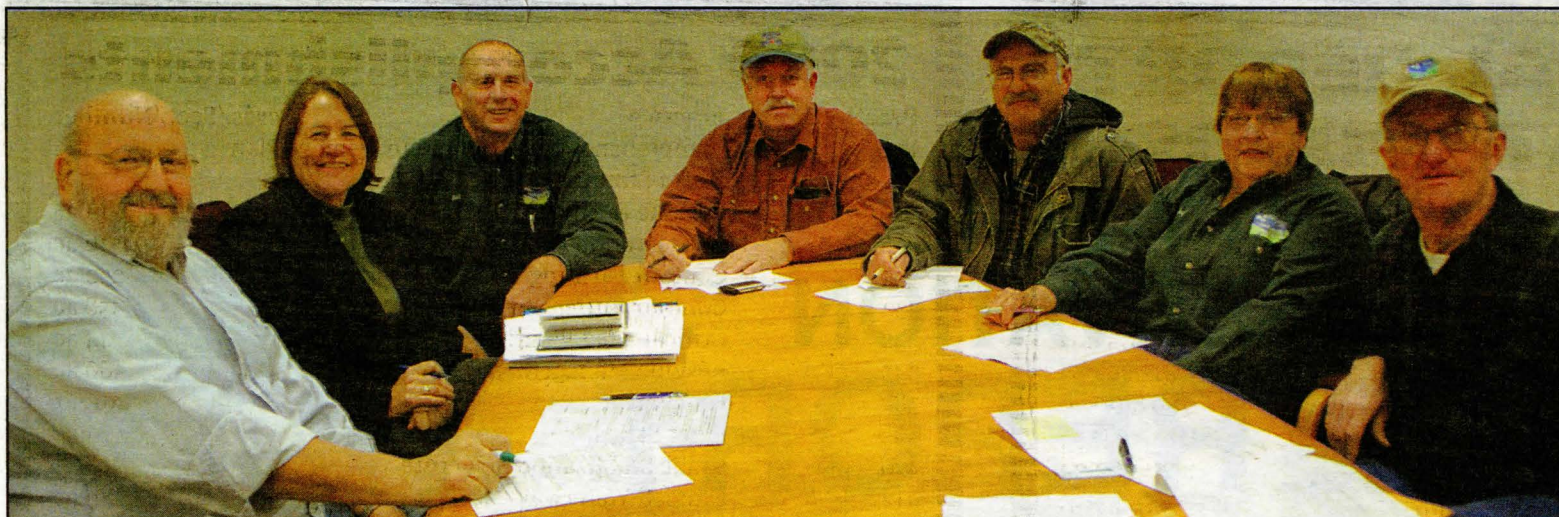
120 N. Industrial Parkway #2
West Union, IA 52175-1612

Postal Patron
PRSRT STD
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
West Union, IA
Permit #75

FAYETTE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT



Jean Leech CP15A Contour buffer strips enrolled into the CRP program. These grass strips are 30' wide with row crops between the grassed strips. Contour buffer strips reduce soil erosion, reduce slope length and provide wildlife habitat.



Pictured are the 2009 Fayette County Soil and Water District Commissioners: Paul Hoeger, Rozann Dallenbach, William Bennett, John Grafenberg, Assistant Commissioner- Rod Marlatt, Assistant Commissioner- Joyce Trotter, Richard Jensen. Absent from photo were: Assistant Commissioners: Deb Dessel, Judy Bennett and Dorothy Jensen.

Identification Statement

The Fayette Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Report

Published by the
Fayette SWCD,
Hwy. 150, 120 N.
Industrial Pkwy.
West Union, IA 52175.

Issue No. 11



Pictured are the 2009 West Union Field Office Employees: front row- Carrie Davis, Lori Kohlmeyer, Ray Drewelow. Back row- Jody Peek, LaVonne Koch. Absent from photo were: Eric Boehm, Sammy Jo Massman, Jerry Muff, and Lucas Frobish

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL - AGRICULTURAL

CONCRETE WORK & DECORATIVE STAMPING

And All of Your Excavation Needs!

BACON CONCRETE L.L.C.

Cory Bacon - Owner

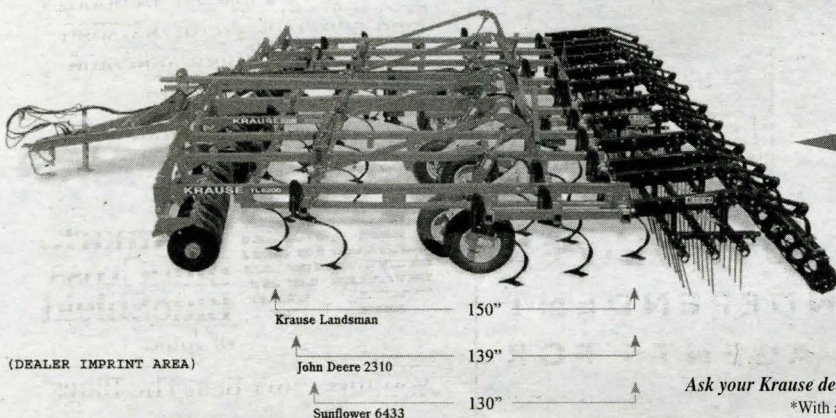
370 N. Bancroft • P.O. Box 188
Postville, IA 563-864-7602

Fax: 563-864-7310

baconconcrete@neitel.net

Maximum Residue Thru-put

The Krause TL 6200 **LANDSMAN**® soil finisher is designed specifically to manage high-yielding Bt corn residue and prepare a superior seed bed. With 150-inch front-to-rear shank spacing, it provides more residue clearance than competitive models. Choose from sizes up to 45' wide to match the efficiency of high-speed planting operations.



NEW

24/7®

Dual Range Conditioner

Patented Dual Range Conditioner features constant down pressure for optimum conditions or "float" position for higher soil moisture operation.

24/7® Tine harrows feature quick, wrenchless tine angle adjustments for optimum agronomic performance in each field.

Ask your Krause dealer about special low-rate financing*

*With approved credit from Krause Agri-Finance.™
See your Krause dealer for eligibility requirements

Franzen Sales & Service

2724 State Hwy. 24, Fort Atkinson, IA • 563-534-2724

www.krauseco.com



WORK & PLAY



The NEW 2010 DODGE PICKUPS are here and they're ready to work!!
Torkelson's is proud to salute the SWCD for their conservation efforts!

TORKELSON'S

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep

ELGIN 1-800-779-0035 • 563-426-5505 WAUKON 1-800-779-0092 • 563-568-4587

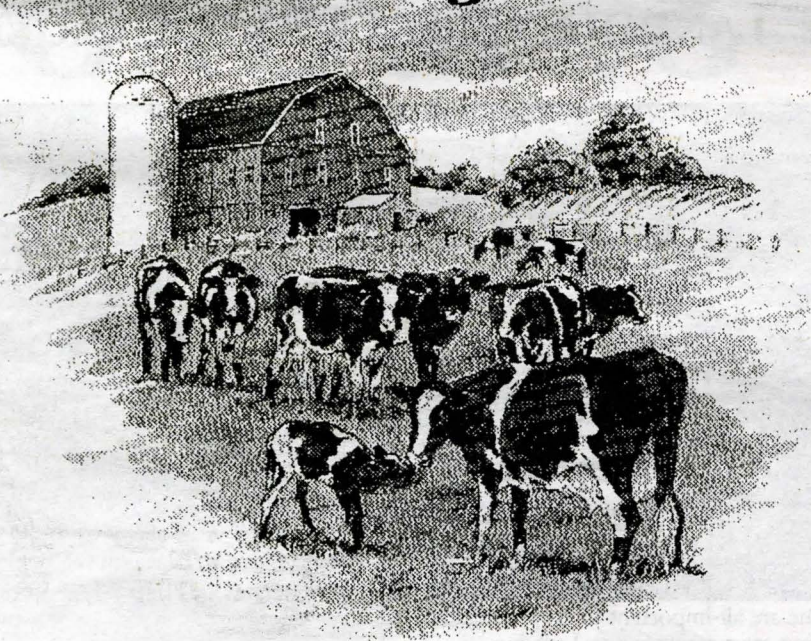
FINANCIAL REPORT OF STATE FUNDS

IM Budget Allocation	\$3,000.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$591.47
Commissioner Expenses	\$2,026.85
Office Expenses	\$1,564.62
FY 2009 State Cost-Share Funds	\$75,883.93
Obligated	\$11,494.63
Spent	\$65,910.70
Recalled	\$241.54
Balance	\$1,762.94
REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Allocation	\$8,730.00
Obligated	\$2,025.00
Spent	\$5,528.40
Recalled	\$494.25
Balance	\$682.35
REAP Practices Allocation	\$25,503.87
Obligated	\$2,267.75
Spent	\$10,668.80
Recalled	\$821.61
Balance	\$11,745.71
Mink Creek WSPF Funds Allocation	\$ 97,843.31
Obligated	\$8,682.50
Spent	\$66,889.70
Balance	\$22,271.11
Nutting Creek WSPF Funds Allocation	\$105,539.50
Obligated	\$54,491.25
Spent	\$14,102.33
Balance	\$36,945.92

2009 Accomplishments

Practice No	Practice	Acres/Feet/Number
100	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	2
313	Waste Storage Facility	2
329	Residue & Tillage Management No-Till	451 ac
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	1516 ac
330	Contour Farming	250 ac
332	Contour Buffer Strips	158 ac
342	Critical Area Planting	44 ac
345	Residue Management Mulch Tillage	566 ac
382	Fencing	2612 ft
393	Filter Strips	81 ac
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	1
412	Grassed Waterway	89 ac
511	Forage Harvest Management	76 ac
528	Prescribed Grazing	32 ac
558	Roof Runoff Structure	2
580	Streambank & Shoreline Protection	932 ft
590	Nutrient Management	1049 ac
600	Terraces	18,711 ft
606	Subsurface Drain	600 ft
612	Tree/Shrub Planting	78 ac
614	Watering Facility	1
620	Underground Outlet	11,488 ft
638	Water & Sediment Control Basin	2
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	9 ac
657	Wetland Restoration	30 ac
659	Wetland Enhancement	26 ac
666	Timber Stand Improvement	211 ac
	CRP in SAFE Gaining Ground	1097 ac
	CRP in SAFE Neotropical Migratory Birds	85 ac
	CRP Enrolled in 2009	1788 ac

Who's Minding the Farm?



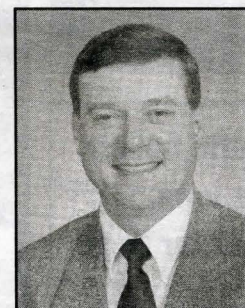
*Hertz Farm Management is proud to
support our area conservationists.
Thank you for all your hard work!*

Hertz™
Farm Management, Inc.
Caring for You and Your Farm™

Waterloo, IA
319/234-1949
319/234-2060 fax

Call today about the **Open Enrollment period** for Senior Blue® Medicare Supplement Plans from The Blues®.

Nov. 15, 2009, through March 31, 2010*



Gerald L. Bauer
Life of Iowa, Inc.

P.O. Box 32, Oelwein, IA 50662
888-568-2406 • 319-283-3696
TOLL FREE 1-888-568-2406
www.wculife.org
lifeofIA@sbttek.net

**AUTHORIZED
INDEPENDENT
AGENTS FOR**



You Just Can't Beat The Blues®

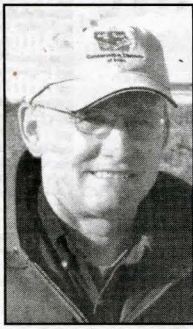
Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ©Wellmark, Inc., Des Moines, IA.
*For effective dates of Jan. 1, 2010 - April 1, 2010 IA-MA-11-P-09

Retiring NRCS director proud of CRP involvement

WEST UNION

-After 35 years spent in conservation, Jerry Muff, District Conservationist for the NRCS retired Jan. 2, 2010.

"I've been here a long time, and I think there is a time to go," Muff said.



Jerry Muff

The 56 year-old West Union resident has been working in Fayette County for 30 years. He grew up in Dow City and graduated from Iowa State with an agronomy degree in 1975. Muff worked for both Jackson and Dallas counties before taking the position in Fayette county.

"I've always had a passion for conservation and farming," Muff said. One of his favorite things about his job is getting to see the work he does in the landscape, "this job is unique like that," Muff said.

Although Muff will be retiring he plans to continue working part-time, but hasn't figured out any specifics. Muff and wife, Chris, have sold their West Union home and will move to their farm between Volga and Elkader. Muff said he really enjoys working on

the farm, hunting and fishing. He insists he doesn't have any big plans for retirement.

"I greatly appreciate having worked with the people of Fayette County," Muff said. "This truly is one of the best jobs a person could have."

Although Muff enjoys his work he said he knows it is time for a change. Muff said the work load has mushroomed since he started, and things have changed so much, he doesn't know if he would be able to keep up in the future.

"Thirty years is a long time to be in a government service job, or any job now-a-days, I think staying this long has been a testament to what a great position this is," Muff said.

As with most jobs, there are frustrating aspects of Muff's position. He said he gets frustrated sometimes when he is trying to get producers to understand the importance of new conservation ideas and "they just won't budge." Muff said he doesn't give up on people. "I'm going to plant the seed, because I've seen producers come along a few years down the road and want to implement the plans I tried to get them to do years before," Muff said.

Every work day has been different, he said. He has been involved in preventing erosion, enforcing rules and regulations, the con-

servation easement program, the conservation security program and the new conservation stewardship program.

Muff said the thing he is most proud of coming out of this position is the continuing work with the CRP program. Fayette county now has more than 2,600 CRP contracts. He is grateful for the partners in conservation like the FSA, DNR, SWCD, the extension, etc. that he has been able to work with throughout his time with the NRCS.

"I am really going to miss the camaraderie of our staff," Muff said. "I feel more a part of the team than a supervisor."

Even after 35 years in conservation, Muff says there is still so much work to be done. However, he will be passing the torch of responsibility at the end of the month. Muff believes a younger staff member will be better suited for the position.

Muff said he has thought about retirement for a while, having been eligible a year and a half ago. He joked that he wanted to beat long-time Extension director Dan Burkhart to retirement. Burkhart retired in January.

SWCD ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

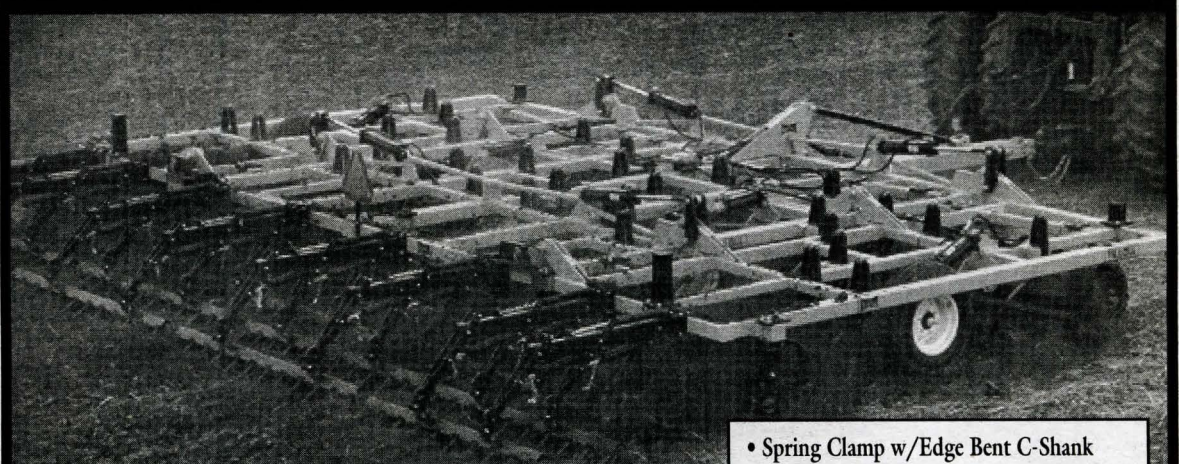
District Revolving Fund

Beginning Balance	\$2,076.79
Receipts	
Money Market Transfers - IM Funds	\$3,591.47
Money Market Transfers	\$16,300.00
Money Market Transfers (RC & D Agreement)	\$1,875.00
Technical Account Transfers (RC & D Agreement)	\$5,307.00
Total Receipts	\$27,073.47
TOTAL	\$29,150.26
Expenses	
ATV	\$1,264.77
Education	\$1,647.58
Donations	\$200.00
Fabric Machine	\$345.68
Gifts Given	\$150.00
Houg Property	\$1,530.82
IM Commissioner	\$2,026.85
IM Office	\$1,564.62
Meeting Expense	\$563.50
Mink Creek	\$210.00
Office Supplies	\$1,216.17
Postage	\$400.68
RC & D Agreement	\$7,182.00
Sales Tax	\$663.00
Trees	\$3,437.02
Water Quality Monitoring	\$4,849.83
Total Expenses	\$27,252.52
Ending Balance 6/30/09	\$1,897.74



875/876

LANDOLL SERIES 875/876 TILLOLL



Conditions at planting time are all-important to crop yield and soil and seedbed preparation are a major factor. Leveling, incorporating and bringing the soil to a nearly-perfect seedbed condition in one trip is what the Tillage is all about. Save field trips and you will be saving fuel, operator labor and equipment dollars. Combining field trips also conserves moisture and provides a firmer seedbed. The soil is worked fewer times, depositing erosion resistant residue and coarser soil on the surface to prevent sealing. Chemicals are successfully mixed throughout the seed bed strata in a single high-speed field trip.

- Spring Clamp w/Edge Bent C-Shank
- 20" Concave Disc Blades 7-1/2" Spacing
- 10" Sweeps
- Soil Deflector/Spray Shields
- Walking tandems on center section (on all Models except 15F)
- 5-Blade 16" Incorporating Reels
- Spring Loaded Scrapers
- Rock Flex Mounted Disc and Reel
- 3-Bar Tillage Spike Tooth Harrow
- T-Type Hitch

BAUMLER IMPLEMENT

1306 Hwy. 150 S., West Union (563) 422-3835

Proud to Support the SWCD



Associated Milk Producers Inc.

Jerry Johnson, Manager
Arlington Division • 3281 40th St.,
Arlington 563-933-4521



Thank you for practicing soil and water conservation.

FAUSER
ENERGY RESOURCES
& Elgin Motor Supply

Elgin, Iowa (563) 426-5811
TOLL FREE 800-328-7371

"Challenges in conservation" was topic at conference

By: Chuck Gipp, Director
Division of Conservation

I was recently invited to participate in a panel discussion at the Conservation Districts of Iowa/State Soil Conservation Committee Annual Conference that was held in Ames at the Gateway Center. The topic was "Challenges in Conservation". That broad topic could and did generate lengthy discussion on the challenges presented by extraordinary weather events, uncertain economic times and declining revenues to support conservation programs. I chose to focus on two obstacles that I view to be our greatest challenge to implementing soil and water conservation programming.

The first challenge is obvious to those that have followed the State of Iowa's budget dilemma—financial and technical resources. With tax revenues coming into the state's coffers declining and spending obligations exceeding available revenue, the Iowa Department of Agriculture (IDALS)/Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) has experienced a 23 % decline in General Fund support since the beginning of the 2009 fiscal year. After the recent across-the-board cuts, IDALS/DSC is at a level of funding equivalent to the level received in 1994. We have also lost numerous employees since 1991 when the number of staff totaled 471. As of today, IDALS employs 364 staff to carry out numerous mandated functions.



Chuck Gipp

DSC once employed 80 full time and part time soil technicians and 100 State Secretaries. Today we have 40 soil techs and 92 State Secretaries. At the same time, we have many more programs such as WSPF, WPF, EQIP and the programming dollars that come with these programs to layout and design with far fewer employees. Coupled with changing cropping and weather conditions, the loss of employee numbers is causing a significant challenge to getting "conservation on the ground".

While the loss of financial and technical support is significant, the greatest challenge to agriculture and conservation programs is the lack of appreciation from the average Iowan for agriculture. In my lifetime, I have never seen the level of disconnect between the producers of food and the people that

consume it more evident than it is today. You may say, "How can that be?" "Iowa has 25% of the world's class A soils." "One of every six Iowans is employed directly or indirectly in agriculture related industries." "Certainly everyone in Iowa knows of the importance of agriculture to Iowa's economy and the production of food". I wish that were the case, but most Iowans get their perception of agriculture from reading news accounts that portray production agriculture as the source of animal waste, polluted water and genetically modified food products that may be unsafe to eat.

While those of us supporting agriculture and conservation programs know that is untrue, we all need to do a much better job of getting our message out to all, especially policy makers at all government levels. Make sure your legislator knows about the importance of providing continued support for conservation programs. The ability of DSC to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners depends on all of us spreading the true message of agriculture, soil conservation and water quality improvement.

Tires for Small Implements & Trucks!



Automotive
Jay Schwamman, Owner

902 Hwy. 150 South
WEST UNION
563-422-5233

Fax 563-422-5285
For all your automotive needs, including:
TIRES - TIRES - TIRES

Cash,
Check or
Credit Cards



Proud to
Support the
SWCD
and area
landowners
who practice
Soil & Water
Conservation!

For All Your Internet and Telecommunications Needs



For customer service,
new installs, or
repair requests call:
(563) 245-4000

Specializing in:

- Home or Office Computer Networking
- Telephone Wiring
- Business Phone Systems
- High Speed Internet
- Computer Security
- Web Design & Hosting

Available for wiring and networking for new construction and renovation projects.

ALPINE
communications

Real Access. Real Value. Real People.

www.alpinecom.net

P.O. Box 1008 • 923 Humphrey Street • Elkader, IA 52043

Time to Start Thinking About FIELDWORK



John Deere
2310 Mulcher Finisher

Key Features:

- 80% Residue Cap
- Leads market with most compact transportation size
- Depth Control
 - Single-point, simple one-location depth adjustment for entire machine
- Frame Configuration
 - Widths available to match acreage & horsepower requirements 18'9"-49'9"
 - Level-lift hitch
 - Maintenance free bearings
 - Walk-Over™ wheels
 - Heavy-duty implement tires

Ground Engagement

- Residue sizing infinitely adjustable to meet different field conditions/requirements
- Low-concavity disks, spaced 7-1/2" for effective slicing
- Variety of 10" sweeps
- TruPosition™ standards
- Attachments
 - 3-bar coil tine harrow with hydraulic lift rolling basket
 - 3-bar spike-tooth harrow with single rolling basket
 - 5-bar coil-tine harrow
 - 6-bar spike-tooth harrow
 - and much more

Let us help with all your implement needs!

CLERMONT
IMPLEMENT

CLERMONT • 563-423-5206



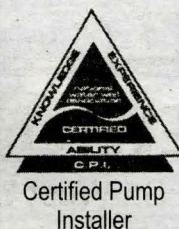
JOHN DEERE

Thank you to area
landowners for
practicing soil &
water conservation

Make Gage & Gage your
choice for on-farm

Water Wells & Pumps

Amana heating & cooling, plus all your
plumbing installation and repairs.



Gage & Gage
Plumbing & Heating

Travis Scholbrock, Owner
609 Hwy. 150 South, West Union
(563) 422-5691 • 1-800-246-5691

Certified Pump
Installer

Support makes a difference

The Fayette SWCD would like to thank all the people of Fayette County and beyond that have made contributions to the supporter club for 2009. Our programs are made possible by your continued support and conservation efforts.

Supporters

Ralph Adams
Mary Batterson
Inez Brown
Tom/Sonya Colvin
Vern/Berneice Dietzenbach
Paul Fox
Dorothy Gilmer
Bernadine Granneman
Willis Grundmeyer
Howard Hildebrandt
Phyllis Holstrom
Ruth Jencks
Garland Knight
Dan Kruse
Harry/Mary Ann Martin
Doug Martins
Marilyn Mihall
Ralph Moellers
Harold Popenhagen
Tim Recker
Leroy Richards Sr
LaVerne Ries
Ernest Streicher

Richard Stubenrach
Robert Traeger
Roberta Warner
Gloria Whitcher

Savers

Lavern Alcorn
Joe Bahe
Steve Baker
Janice Balk
Floyd Baumgartner
Donald Blaker
Killian Bodensteiner
Stanley Boyer
Ruth Brooks
Tammy Brownell
Leo Buchtela
Robert Campbell
Kenton Cowles
Robert Cowles
Leonard Dolezal
Patrick Duffy
Tom Durnan
Donald Durscher
Doug Egeland Tiling
Rollin Fink
Four Strong Ltd
Edward Franzen
Helen Franzen
Paul/Eileen Fritz
Willys/Leanne Fritz
Galwin Family LLC
Diane Granger

Gerald Guenther
Norbert Hackman
Dale Halverson
Patricia Hanson
Thomas Hayes
Nick Hayes
Harry Henry
Paul Hoeger
Leon Jacob
William/Joan Kauten
Samuel Koehler
Ron Koester
Raymond Kueker
L & H Ranch
Keith Lansing
James Lein
Herman Lenz
Edith Mann
Karen Martin
Howard Meaney
Henry Miller
Kenneth J Miller
Janet Mitchell
Jon Mitchell
Jason Moellers
Merrill Nerem
Stanley Ney
Joseph Ogle
Darwin Peterson
Mary Polk
Pork U Pine Haven
Roy Post

Rausch Family Inc
Clair Reid
Riverview Ranch
Lucille Rueber
Anna Mae Schlatter
Gerald Schmidt
Darwin Schrage
Paul Schuchmann
Robert Scott
Vernon Shaw
Kenneth Springer
Lester Steffens
Carolyn Szemkus
Nick Teig
Jack Treloar
Herbert Vagts
Varykino Inc
Renee Voshell
Berniece Walsh
Watercress Run LLC
Richard Winter
David Wireman
Dick Woodard
Tom Woods

Stewards

John R Adams
Paul/Jennifer Adams
Jon Andersen
Anderson Family LLP
Shirley Bagenstos
Bassett Pheasant Ridge Farm

Irvin Bateman
Ron Beerman
Berk LLC
Marty Berta
Kenneth J Blockhus
Ronald Bodensteiner
Paul Boess
Barbara Born
Bowling Farm Ptnshp
Bowling/Heraty Hudson
Jann Bowlus
Harold Bowman
Gary Brownell
Brownell Inc
John/Deb Bruihler
Gary Burger
Veryl Burghardt
Jerald/Mary Burrack
Mabel Burrack
Burrack Farm Inc
C & W Farms
Tom Claassen
Jerry Cole
Betty Cook
Ronald Corbin
Sid Crowe
D & J Pumping
Alan Davis
David/Teri Derflinger
Dave Drilling
Eastons Water Cond.

Continued on next page



HEPING KEEP IOWA FARMS STAY STRONG

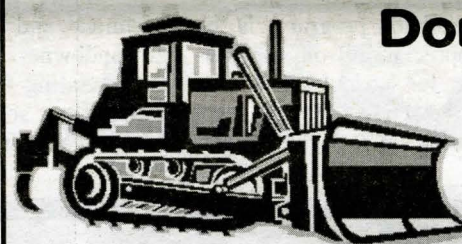
Fredericksburg Farmers Cooperative salutes the soil and water conservation efforts of area farmers and landowners. From the use of no-til and low-til field management, to wetland preservation and the use of buffer strips, contouring and windbreaks to prevent soil loss. You're helping Iowa's agriculture stay strong and competitive for years to come.

Thank you for your hard work.



Fredericksburg Farmers Cooperative

Fredericksburg • Hawkeye • Sumner • Frederika • Bremer • Ionia
800-562-8389 www.fburgcoop.com



Don Rausch & Sons Construction

can take care of your on-the-farm construction needs. We are also proud to assist in the efforts toward proper soil conservation and protecting our resources for the future.

**Ponds • Terrace
Site Preparation
Grading • Excavating**

Call for more information on
how we can help you.

563-534-7356

Fort Atkinson

FARMERS Iowa's Greatest Natural Resource



We salute Iowa Farmers and their families, and look forward to working with you. We appreciate your importance to the economy and understand your business needs.

FreedomBank

YOUR Community. YOUR Finances. YOUR STYLE.



Elkader Monona Postville
245-2522 539-2015 864-7441
www.myfreedomaccount.com



Support, *-continued from previous page*

Richard Egan
Jeryl Fink
Sawyer Fink
Daniel Forsyth
David Fox
Kenneth Friedly
Gary Gibbs
Larry Glass
Gary Goedken
Loren Gross
Ed/Bobbie Gross
William Gumm
Barbara Hagelie
Brad Halverson
Roger Halverson
Tom Hamlett
Brian Harper
Lois Heick
Randy Helgersen
Bert Henderson
Suzanne Henn
Heraty Hudson Farm Acct
Heraty McKenna Family Farm
William Hogan
Mark Howard
Mark Imoehl
Jim Ingels
Kyle Jacobsen
Philip James
Violet James
Charles Jenks
Vernita Jennings

Robert Johnston
Marilyn Juergens
Peter Kalb
Barry/Kris Kamm
Lynn/Bev Kelck
John D Kelly
Charles Kerns
Duane Kerns
Eldon Knoploh
Daniel Kuennen
LaGracia & Sons Inc
T Lansgaard
Leslie Lauer & Sons
Jean Leech
C J Lensing
Tom/Deb Luhman
Don Martins
Marian McIntosh
Kenneth/Becky Meyer
Scott Michelson
Duane Mork
Rodney Morse
Don Mueller
Jerry Muff
Millard Nelson
Northeast IA Home Repair
Joyce Oldfather
Francis Olson
John Orr
David Palas
Robert Peterson
Donald Pliester

Ilo Mae Rau
Don Rausch & Sons
Karel/Joyce Rawson
RDR Farms
Carl Recker
Penny Reed
Catherine Reilly
J Paul/Sharrol Richards
Samuel Ridenour
Roland Riensche Farm
Larry Riley
Florence Robinson
Everett/Vicki Rowland
Dean Rueber
Rueber Livestock
Daryl Ruff
Julie Sandblom
June Sanders
Steve/Connie Schmitt
Lois Schuchmann
Marilyn Seedorff
Robert Shaw
Eugene Sieck
Charles Smith
Patricia Smith
George Steinbronn
Floyd Stensland
Gayle Tellin
Randy Tope
Town/Country Real Estate
Kenneth Vagts
Gerald Vagts

Steve Ward
Eugene/Anna Wenger
Joe Wingert
Dan Winter Jr
Susan Wolf
Joe Wood
George Woodard Jr
Randy Woods
Ron Wymer

Sustainers

Robert/Margaret Addy
Revoc Trst
Alan/Judy Albrecht
Don/Deb Bahe
Jerry Bayness
James Beeghly
William Bennett
Arlene Broughton
Dale Calease
Jeff Cannon
Citizens Savings Bank-Hawkeye
Lynn Darnell
Earl Drilling
DRM Ptnshp
David Elledge
First State Bank-Sumner
Jeff/Lisa Forsyth
Gross Low Farm
Halstead Brothers
Hawkeye Conservation Club
Collin Jensen

Margaret Jespersen
Paul Kaiser
Kerndt Bros Savings Bank- WU
Alice Koempel
Gerald Kuennen
Gary/Nancy Maurer
Maynard Savings Bank
Robert McMillan
Robert McSweeney
Richard Merkel
Luann Munns-Berthel
Mary Nagel
Myron Nagle
Mark Ney
Northeast IA Realty & Appraisal
Reliable Insurance Agency
Dan Rosburg
Kathryn Roys
John Schrader
Shiloh Farms Ltd
Hans Siemers
Russell/Roberta Smith
Ruth Smith
Richard/Marjorie Smith
T J Stecklein
Eleanor Swent
Szabo Construction
Rick/Joyce Trotter
Jon Woltz
Donald Woods Trst
William/Mary Beth Ziegler

For All Your Earth Moving Needs



GRANGER CONSTRUCTION INC.

(563) 422-3598

West Union, IA

Late Model Equipment • Experienced Operators

A family tradition for over 50 years

- Waterways
- Driveways
- Ponds
- Terraces
- Roads
- Water & Sewer
- Site Work
- Basements
- Septic Systems
- Demolition
- Trucking

SHOP ALL THREE MAJOR TRUCK BRANDS...IN ONE LOCATION!



DODGE

**Brown's Salutes our conservationists
for their hard work!**

Brown's
Sales & Leasing

Your Hometown Dealer

Elkader

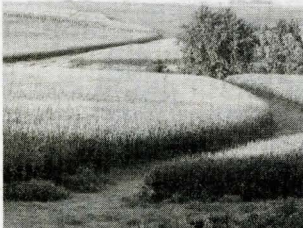
563-245-2505
800-747-2505

Visit our website at www.4browns.com

HOURS:
Mon. 8-8
Tues. 8-5:30
Wed. 8-5:30
Thur. 8-8
Fri. 8-5:30
Sat. 8-3

Thanks for Making an Impact

Farmers Savings Bank salutes the efforts of area landowners and farmers. Your work has made a positive impact on preserving our state's natural resources for future generations to BANK ON!



**FARMERS
SAVINGS BANK**

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!

MEMBER
FDIC

Colesburg
(563) 856-2525

Elkport/Garber
(563) 255-2525

Strawberry Pt.
(563) 933-2525

Arlington
(563) 633-3855

Aurora
(319) 634-3855

BANKLINE 856-5432 or TOLLFREE 1-888-856-5432 www.farmerssavingsbank.com

Support makes a difference

The Fayette SWCD would like to thank all the people of Fayette County and beyond that have made contributions to the supporter club for 2009. Our programs are made possible by your continued support and conservation efforts.

Supporters

Ralph Adams
Mary Batterson
Inez Brown
Tom/Sonya Colvin
Vern/Berneice Dietzenbach
Paul Fox
Dorothy Gilmer
Bernadine Granneman
Willis Grundmeyer
Howard Hildebrandt
Phyllis Holstrom
Ruth Jencks
Garland Knight
Dan Kruse
Harry/Mary Ann Martin
Doug Martins
Marilyn Mihall
Ralph Moellers
Harold Popenhagen
Tim Recker
Leroy Richards Sr
LaVerne Ries
Ernest Streicher

Richard Stubenrach
Robert Traeger
Roberta Warner
Gloria Whitcher

Savers

Lavern Alcorn
Joe Bahe
Steve Baker
Janice Balk
Floyd Baumgartner
Donald Blaker
Killian Bodensteiner
Stanley Boyer
Ruth Brooks
Tammy Brownell
Leo Buchtela
Robert Campbell
Kenton Cowles
Robert Cowles
Leonard Dolezal
Patrick Duffy
Tom Durnan
Donald Durscher
Doug Egeland Tiling
Rollin Fink
Four Strong Ltd
Edward Franzen
Helen Franzen
Paul/Eileen Fritz
Willys/Leanne Fritz
Galwin Family LLC
Diane Granger

Gerald Guenther
Norbert Hackman
Dale Halverson
Patricia Hanson
Thomas Hayes
Nick Hayes
Harry Henry
Paul Hoeger
Leon Jacob
William/Joan Kauten
Samuel Koehler
Ron Koester
Raymond Kueker
L & H Ranch
Keith Lansing
James Lein
Herman Lenz
Edith Mann
Karen Martin
Howard Meaney
Henry Miller
Kenneth J Miller
Janet Mitchell
Jon Mitchell
Jason Moellers
Merrill Nerem
Stanley Ney
Joseph Ogle
Darwin Peterson
Mary Polk
Pork U Pine Haven
Roy Post

Rausch Family Inc
Clair Reid
Riverview Ranch
Lucille Rueber
Anna Mae Schlatter
Gerald Schmidt
Darwin Schrage
Paul Schuchmann
Robert Scott
Vernon Shaw
Kenneth Springer
Lester Steffens
Carolyn Szemkus
Nick Teig
Jack Treloar
Herbert Vagts
Varykino Inc
Renee Voshell
Berniece Walsh
Watercress Run LLC
Richard Winter
David Wireman
Dick Woodard
Tom Woods

Stewards

John R Adams
Paul/Jennifer Adams
Jon Andersen
Anderson Family LLP
Shirley Bagenstos
Bassett Pheasant Ridge Farm

Irvin Bateman
Ron Beerman
Berk LLC
Marty Berta
Kenneth J Blockhus
Ronald Bodensteiner
Paul Boess
Barbara Born
Bowling Farm Ptnshp
Bowling/Heraty Hudson
Jann Bowlus
Harold Bowman
Gary Brownell
Brownell Inc
John/Deb Bruihler
Gary Burger
Veryl Burghardt
Jerald/Mary Burrack
Mabel Burrack
Burrack Farm Inc
C & W Farms
Tom Claassen
Jerry Cole
Betty Cook
Ronald Corbin
Sid Crowe
D & J Pumping
Alan Davis
David/Teri Derflinger
Dave Drilling
Eastons Water Cond.

Continued on next page



HEPING KEEP IOWA FARMS STAY STRONG

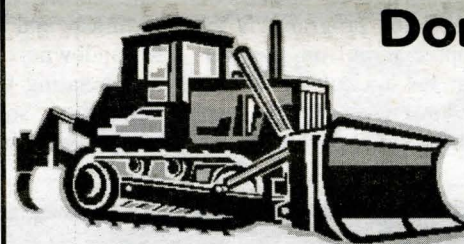
Fredericksburg Farmers Cooperative salutes the soil and water conservation efforts of area farmers and landowners. From the use of no-til and low-til field management, to wetland preservation and the use of buffer strips, contouring and windbreaks to prevent soil loss. You're helping Iowa's agriculture stay strong and competitive for years to come.

Thank you for your hard work.



**Fredericksburg
Farmers Cooperative**

Fredericksburg • Hawkeye • Sumner • Frederika • Bremer • Ionia
800-562-8389 www.fburgcoop.com



Don Rausch & Sons Construction

can take care of your on-the-farm construction needs. We are also proud to assist in the efforts toward proper soil conservation and protecting our resources for the future.

**Ponds • Terrace
Site Preparation
Grading • Excavating**

Call for more information on
how we can help you.

563-534-7356

Fort Atkinson

FARMERS

Iowa's Greatest
Natural Resource

We salute Iowa Farmers and their families, and look forward to working with you. We appreciate your importance to the economy and understand your business needs.



FreedomBank

YOUR Community. YOUR Finances. YOUR STYLE.



Elkader Monona Postville
245-2522 539-2015 864-7441
www.myfreedomaccount.com



Passion for outdoors fuels Woodland owner

WADENA - A love of hunting and spending time with his two grown sons led Russ Smith of Cedar Falls to this area of Northeast Iowa. A passion for the outdoors helped him improve the land.

In recognition of his efforts and his love of nature, Smith was honored by the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District as the Woodland Owner of the Year.

Smith and his wife, Roberta, own 195 acres of woodland in Fairfield Township, five miles southeast of Wadena. The Smiths purchased the property in 2000.

Growing up in the Clear Lake area and spending most of his working career in pharmaceuticals in Charles City while living in Cedar Falls, Russ Smith said he feels lucky to have been able to find land to purchase in Northeast Iowa.

"My family enjoys the outdoors," he said. "We've been fortunate. My two boys and I have been able to hunt deer and turkey in northeast Iowa. We hunt mushrooms and all the things the woods allows."

"We had a dream someday to own a piece of property to call our own and enjoy the wildlife and hunting and fishing."

Even though he isn't from the area, Smith said he was drawn to the hills and woodland around Wadena after going hunting with other landowners along the Turkey River.

"I really liked the area. It was close enough in proximity to Cedar Falls that it wasn't an extra long drive to come over and enjoy it, so the area was attractive to us," he said. "Small towns over the years, we've become somewhat acquainted with them and we like them. It's just a nice area to be involved in."

Since purchasing the property, Smith has been working continu-

ously to improve the woodland. Before the Smiths purchased the land, a previous landowner had logged the majority of the property.

"Originally the land was part of a larger piece of property that had more crop land so originally it was used as a farm with cattle and crop land," he said. "I'm the second owner since that endeavor stopped."

After purchasing the property, Smith created a management plan in 2001. One of the first things he did was move some old farm stick buildings. From 1990 to 1998, 51 acres were planted and direct seeded. The Smiths have been working to thin the stands.

Every year Smith has worked to make timberstand improvements. He and sons, Brad and Ryan, have continued to locate young oak and release them. In 2005 they released eight acres of crop trees. In 2006 they released six acres, and

in 2008 they released 11 acres.

They've also worked on improving the trails on the farm for better access for hunting and management projects. Just a few years ago they established 2-3 acres of native prairie and grass buffer strips.

Additional logging has not been needed; however in the future areas will need to be clearcut and regenerated with oak.

Since completing the management plan, Smith is now implementing the 2008 Forest Stewardship Plan.

Two years ago Smith built a cabin for the family to enjoy while hunting. He said he appreciates having the land to spend time with his two adult sons either hunting or just improving the property for the future.

"We use it quite a bit. We come over here frequently," he said.

Smith said the entire venture with improving the land was a

learn-as-you-go experience.

"Mostly we just learned as we went along," he said. "On all of our home properties we have always enjoyed planting trees."

"I had a forester that worked with me on the timberstand improvement initially, but we do most of the work now in the winter."

District forester Gary Beyer, Charles City, said he's seen lots of benefits to the land for all the hard work Smith has put in.

"He has tremendous interest in improving the health and diversity of the woods for wildlife and to leave a legacy for the family," he said.

Smith said he and his family frequently make the drive to Wadena to work on the timber and just to enjoy the outdoors.

Since making the improvements, Smith said he's seen all kinds of wildlife wandering the land, including turkey, deer and several species of birds.

Smith would like to continue to make timberstand improvements on the property so it can be land his sons can enjoy for many years.

"We would like to keep it as a property for wildlife and for promoting high quality timber," he said. "It's an investment for us - a long term investment."

BANK



CJ Lensing, E.V.P.

Serving area landowners for 115 Years

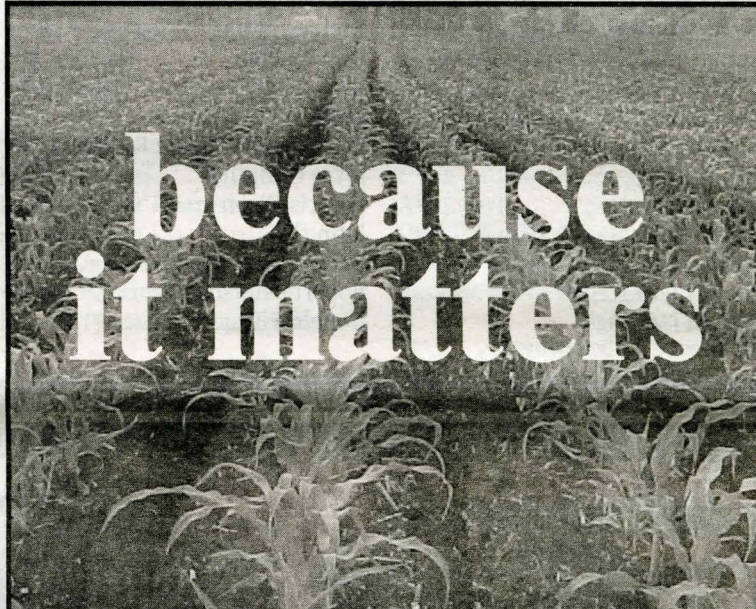
Maynard Savings Bank is proud of its long partnership with area landowners and is proud to support their conservation efforts.

MSB Maynard Savings Bank

- Since 1895 -

Member FDIC
Your Future. OUR FOCUS.

Maynard 563-637-2289 & Hazleton 319-636-2431



because it matters

That's why we support soil & water conservation efforts of area farmers.

Postville Farmers Co-Op Society

(563) 864-7234

"We want to earn YOUR business"



KENT

Justin & Gary Steinlage can help you with a complete line of pet foods.

Unionland Feed & Supply

108 S Walnut St., West Union 563-422-5022

Innovation with a Purpose.

KENT

Shawver

Well Company, Inc.

DRILLING FOR YOUR WELL-BEING

www.shawverwell.com

• All wells pressure grouted • State certified drillers • State-of-the-art equipment

FARM • HOME • INDUSTRIAL • MUNICIPAL • GEOTHERMAL

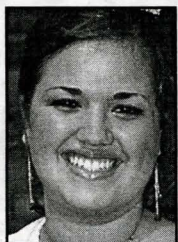
1-800-568-4449

Fredericksburg/Dyersville/Waukon

SERVING EASTERN IOWA FOR OVER 70 YEARS

Adams receives District Conservation Scholarship

Turkey Valley graduate Katie Adams, Waucoma, was awarded the Class of 2009 District Conservation Scholarship.



A student at Iowa State University, Adams is majoring in dairy science.

"I plan to finish my four years at ISU and then come back to the family farm or start up my own herd with prestigious genetics and production," Adams said.

Katie, the daughter of Scott and Jeannie Adams of Waucoma, said she chose dairy science as her major because of the inspiration

from her parents.

"My mom and dad raised our family by working/living on a dairy farm, which is where my passion for the dairy industry began."

Adams said she also gets some of her passion from her older brother, Nathan Adams.

"He has taught me quite a bit about dairy farming and has encouraged me to become more involved in dairy activities."

As the 2009-10 Iowa Dairy Princess, Adams said she has been busy attending and working at various dairy events. In high school she was actively involved in 4-H and youth county council.

"Being involved in those programs taught me responsibility,

time management, and organization," Adams said. "I also had the opportunity to meet many new people and create friendships that will last a lifetime. Being involved in 4-H pushed me to do my best and is something I will never forget."

Adams was also a national participant in the Fayette County Dairy Club.

"I gained so much knowledge of the dairy industry and about dairy farming. I got to participate in dairy quiz bowl and judging." "Dairy farming is important because it provides so many people different jobs and produces wholesome, nutritious and delicious products for consumers."

Although away at school, Adams said she does come home

some weekends and help out on the family farm, Adaway Dairy.

"My favorite thing about dairy farming is the passion and dedication farmers have for their land and animals. To them farming is not just a job, it is a lifestyle."

Adams said the \$500 scholarship will go towards her tuition at Iowa State.

"Ever since I was a little girl my goal was to grow up and become a dairy farmer. Right now I am still

working to achieve that goal."

While in high school Adams was involved in concert, chamber and swing choir, marching band, Just Eliminate Lies (JEL) and National Honor Society. She was the wrestling manager and played golf.

Adams has shown dairy cattle for the last 11 years and hopes to one day be showing her own herd.

"My goal is to raise my children on a farm and teach them all of the life skills that I have been taught."

A Brighter, Greener Future Awaits

Proud to serve you for over 75 years



From left, Ag Specialists: Mark Moser, Dianne Schneberger, Brent Tapper, Brian Reichter and Carolyn Breuer.

For 76 years, First National Bank of West Union has been your financial partner, and we'll be proud to continue that tradition with your children and your grandchildren; just as we did with your parents, and grandparents.

- Agri-Business Loans
- Small Business Loans
- Home Loans
- Online & Phone Banking



FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WEST UNION
Helping You...

Local Ownership ~ Local Decisions

www.fnbwu.com  FDIC 563-422-3883

Farm insurance can be tough to plow through...

Before you start planting this year, it's a good idea to review your farm insurance coverages to ensure your farming operation is properly covered.

Let our knowledgeable, friendly staff help you find coverages to fit your individual protection needs.

FARMUTUAL
Insurance for Town and Farm
A POLICY OF WORKING TOGETHER.

Kelly & Miller Insurance
144 S. Main, Fayette (563) 425-4569
Lisa Kelly • Lyle Miller

SZABO Construction Co., Inc.

Over 35 years of soil conservation and excavation experience.



- Excavating (All Types)
- Terraces
- Demolition
- Waterways
- Water and Sewer
- Ponds

(563) 864-7515

152 S. West Street, Postville, IA 52162

Terry Szabo, President

Appreciating the outdoors at the Jensen Farm

Every year third graders in Fayette County spend a day seeing the world through Dick Jensen's eyes. They learn about taking care of the soil to where food comes from - to protecting water and keeping it clean.

For the last 17 years, Jensen has hosted a three-day field day in which every third grader in the county gets the chance to visit his property to learn about taking care of the natural resources still available.

"We have a generation of children who have been hijacked by technology," said Jensen. "In other words, they don't really have the opportunities of previous generations to get outside and have a kind of spiritual, emotional connection with the great outdoors."

Jensen said he hosts the field day to get the children outside and learn more about their responsibilities.

"The whole purpose behind it is to give those children an understanding that they share the same fate as all other land members, whether it be soil, water, animal,

insect, whatever. We try to give them an understanding that we all share the environment, we all live because of the environment and that gives us mutual responsibility to care for the environment."

Students attending the field day travel to various stations to learn about everything from the soil to where food comes from to protecting honey bees.

At one station, students learn about soil and how important it is to keep water clean and how easily soil can move and contaminate water. In another station, a forester talks about trees and all their uses, including how trees help make soil. An animal expert presents information on animal life and how animals and humans share the same resources. At one station, students learn about fishing and how to take care of streams and lakes.

Bob Fassbinder is one of the presenters during the field day. For over 10 years, Fassbinder has taught students about the importance of the honey bee. He has bee

hives on the Jensen farm, and does a show and tell segment there.

"I go through their value to us as people, what they do for agriculture and for the food supply and the trouble the bees are in," he said.

At Jensen's station, students learn more about where the food they eat comes from. Jensen said he asks students to come up with something they eat that doesn't come from the soil and watches as students struggle to come up with an answer.

"When I say is it true that all food ever eaten truly comes from the soil, they make that solid connection," he said.

Jensen said he hopes students learn more about the connections between people and the environment by visiting all the stations.

"Overall it just connects the child to the natural environment around them and how terribly fragile it is and how it needs to be cared for, if not loved," said Jensen.

"Through the pleasant experi-

ence and exposure, kids begin to realize that, gosh, we all have an obligation and responsibility to care for the environment."

Fassbinder said seeing children's faces when they understand their role in saving the environment is why he continues to come back and give his presentation.

"I feel it's important to educate young people because they're the ones that are going to make the decisions later on how to use the land and environment, and hopefully they think twice before they use too many insecticides," he said. "It's all about conservation and the environment. The bees are having a tough time so if I can do something by helping them make better decisions, then why not do it?"

The presenters aren't the only ones who have fun. The students also get a lot out of the presentations.

Jensen said he's received hundreds of letters over the years from the students thanking him for the experience and saying how

they learned a lot.

"Thank you for setting up all of those stations just for us. I really had a wonderful time," one student wrote.

"Thank you for the awesome field trip. My favorite station was the erosion station. I liked it the best because it was fun to chase the tire. I learned we do not have a lot of space to plant crops. The field trip was great!" wrote another student.

"Thank you for inviting me to the farm. I liked it there. I liked the bees a lot. And being in the forest is fun," said another.

Although he appreciates the thank you letters, Jensen said he has continued to do field day to bring more children outdoors and to help them understand the importance of taking care of the earth.

"It's my passion. I believe it's essential," said Jensen. "Of all the problems we're having, the problems we're suffering in the environment are equally as critical as anything else."

LP SALES & SERVICE

**Tanks For Sale or Lease
LP Bookings
Even-Pay Plan**

GARVIN'S LP GAS

West Union 563-422-3671 or 1-800-632-2324

Free Estimates
on heating & cooling systems!

HARDWARE FOR SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS!

Glidden

Glidden Paint & Paint Supplies



Xact Vinyl replacement windows by Metal Industries

XACT

WINDOWS AND DOORS

Northeast Iowa Coop Paint & Hardware Division

Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:00
& Sat. 7:30-Noon

807 Mill St.
Clermont
563-423-5296

Time to start thinking about SPRING LAWN CARE!



We Offer All Types of Landscaping!



FREE ESTIMATES!

SMUNDSON

PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE SERVICE & Landscaping

Tony Osmundson - Owner/Operator

Commercial - Residential - Industrial - Cemeteries

Give us a call: 563-380-2740 or 563-422-5099

Students enjoy educational field day



Eric Boehm shows students the different soil types in Fayette County.



Richard Jensen teaches children about the value of soil and erosion's impact on it.



John Olds discusses forestry issues with area 3rd Graders.



Students wait for a hayride before the educational field days.



IDNR Fisheries Department provides an opportunity to see various fish species from NE Iowa.



Bob Fassbinder tells students about the benefits of bees.

Leeches honored as conservation owners of year

For Jean Leech and her family, it was more than creating windbreaks or wetlands. It was creating a healthy piece of land for future generations to enjoy.

The Leech family of rural Westgate has been honored by being selected by the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District as being the conservationists of the year for the practices they've implemented on their Century Farm.

"I was pleasantly surprised by it, but I didn't do it to try to get the recognition. It was just something that needed to be done for the land," said Bob Leech, Jean's son.

The Century Farm, located four miles west of Westgate near the Bremer County line, has been in the Leech family since 1854, when Samuel Leech purchased the property from the government. It has been recognized as being one of the top, oldest farmsteads in the state.

Jean and her late husband, Milton, spent their married life taking care of the 510 acre farmstead. Milton had grown up on the land, taking over the farming practices from his father in 1954.

The Leeches utilized the land for their farm operation. They built a new barn soon after moving there and had a dairy operation. They also had a herd of 70 Holsteins and raised hogs and chickens. They raised grain for their livestock and rented out other land on the property.

Jean said her husband had always been interested in conservation and wanting to make the land better than it had been before he lived there.

"The first thing we did was to plant a living wind break along our lane around 1956," she said.

The conservation efforts Milton started have continued through the family line. Jean and Milton's son, Bob, took over the farming operation in 1983, and he continued in his father's work of conservation.

In addition to the windbreak his father started, Bob has worked at planting trees, restoring the wetlands, adding filter strips and buffer strips, adding waterways and creating a quail habitat.

In total, Jean estimates Bob has planted 900 trees.

In fact, the Leeches have devoted 229 acres to contour farming, 1 acre to waterways, 8.3 acres to tree stands, 270 acres of conservation tillage, 2.3 acres of field borders, 33.6 acres of filter strips, 16.3 acres of wetland development and 1 acre of windbreaks.

The continuous CRP buffer strips, wetland, filter strips and tree plantings have helped control soil erosion and have created a wildlife habitat. The grassed waterways control ephemeral gully erosion, protect the water quality and add grass for the wildlife. The contour buffer strips, which have row crops between the grass strips, reduce soil erosion, reduce slope length and provide an area for wildlife.

Bob and his wife, Carmen, manage the family farm but now rent out the farm land. Bob is self employed as an electrician.

Even around their home, Bob and Carmen have worked to employ conservation efforts. They keep up two yards around the homesteads and have a living snow fence along the driveway.

With all the work they've put into the land, Bob said he's seen several benefits.

"There's a lot less soil erosion now, so we actually have better crops," he said. "Another benefit has been the wildlife. We have a lot more wildlife on the land so that means they have more cover now."

Jean, who now lives in Sumner, agrees with Bob.

"I would say the biggest benefit is to keep the soil where it belongs and not to let it go down the creek," she said. "It's also attracted more wildlife, which the kids are very much interested in."

The Leeches have also enjoyed their surroundings, hosting two family outdoor weddings on the farm.

In addition to their belief in conservation efforts, the Leeches are active in their community. Jean is a Soil and Water Conservation District supporter, is a member of the United Methodist Church in Sumner, is on the church finance committee and the church memo-

rial fund, has been on the Greenwood Cemetery Committee for over 30 years, is the church circle vice chairman and has been a Farm Bureau member since 1950.

Bob is a member of Whitetails Unlimited and the Fayette County Pheasants Forever. He also is on the Westgate Fire Department, the board of directors for the friends of youth activities at St. John Lutheran Church and is a member of the Westgate building committee.

Bob still has plans for what he'd like to do with the land. Next he's thinking of implementing no-till or minimal till.

One thing both Bob and Jean want to do is make sure they leave the land in better shape for the next Leech generation. They have a goal to keep the Century Farm in the family name. They also know that since they can't produce new soil, they want to maintain the soil as best as they can.

Both Bob and Jean said they were surprised to learn they were being honored by the SWCD for their conservation efforts.

"We were just absolutely delighted and very surprised," said Jean. "I was very happy that Bob would get the recognition that he deserves because of his hard work."

Bob and Carmen are the parents of Tyler, Cody, Chase and Dylan. Jean also has a daughter, Susan, who lives in Pennsylvania, and a son, Randy, is deceased.



Pictured are members of the Leech family: front row- Robert, Jean and Chase. Back row- Tyler, Carmon and Cody. Absent from photos is Dylan.



The Leech farm aerial photo shows the practices applied.



One of many grassed waterways located on Jean Leech's farm. These waterways control ephemeral gully erosion, protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

"Great Place to Market Your Milk Since 1906"

- Cheddar
- Colby
- Marble
- Monterey Jack
- Dried-whey products

Wapsie Valley Creamery, Inc.
300 Tenth St. NE, Independence
319-334-7193

Mulford is Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award winner

When Barbara Mulford, currently of Nantucket, Mass., set out to create a windbreak several years ago, she had every intention of creating a habitat for wildlife on her Fayette County farm. Seven years later her son, Jeremy Houge, 39, and his family are able to enjoy the results of the 12 acre windbreak.

"It creates a place for wildlife. We see more turkeys, deer and pheasants staying around," Houge said.

This year, Mulford's windbreak was chosen as the winner of the 2009 Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award.

The windbreak doesn't only block the wind, provide habitat and help control erosion, but Houge says it is also aesthetically pleasing. With two rows of shrubs, evergreen trees on the outside and

oak trees in middle, Houge said the project goes nicely with the creek and other trees that run through the property.

To create the windbreak, Mulford had Cascade Nursery visit the property to plant the trees. Two years later, they had the property sprayed for weed control. Since then, it continues to grow and fill the area.

"My mom put in four acres of wetlands conservation before putting in the windbreak. She wanted to get involved in as many government conservation projects as she could," said Jeremy.

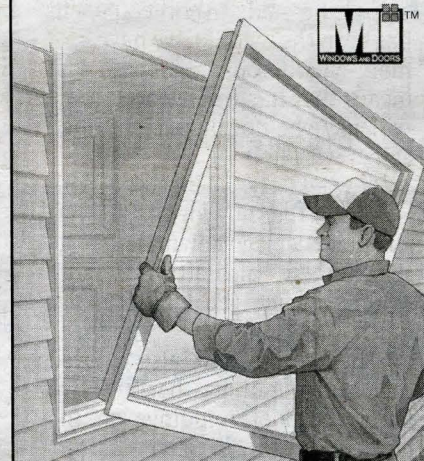
Houge said his parents, Barbara Mulford and the late John Houge, owned the 160 acre farm near Aurora for around 38 years and have tried to make conservation a top priority.



Mulford's windbreak was chosen as the winner of the 2009 Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award.



Call today to schedule
spring construction projects



Soil & Water
Conservation
Benefits Us All

THANK YOU!

**OSSIAN
LUMBER CO.**

203 E Main, Ossian
563-532-9165

Your Complete Service Center

- Tires: auto, lt. truck, farm & commercial
- Alignment
- Struts & Shocks
- Brakes
- Trailer Hook-ups
- Hitches
- Exhaust & More



COMPLETE TRAILER SALES & SERVICE

Enclosed, Car, Flatbed,
Stock, Utility & More!



*Large inventory of trailer parts in stock

All the top brand name tires...

GOODYEAR

DUNLOP

Firestone

KELLY TIRES

TITAN

...and more!



**Avalon Tire
& Service Center Inc.**

10-20th St. SE
Oelwein, IA
(Next to K-Mart)
(319) 283-4040

ALL UNDER ONE ROOF!



LIVING ROOM, CARPETING,
APPLIANCES, LINOLEUM,
BEDROOM & DINING SETS,
TILE FLOORING, DESKS,
TABLES & ALL KINDS
OF ACCESSORIES!



ON HIGHWAY 18 WEST - WEST UNION
ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR ALL YOUR HOME FURNISHING NEEDS!

611 W. Bradford,
West Union

DESSEL-ROACH
Furniture & Floor Covering

563-422-5302
563-422-3419



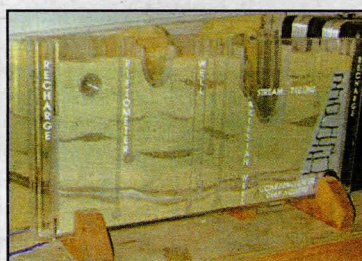
Bill Bennett (left) of the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District, presented plaques Thursday night, Sept. 3, to award winners at the annual banquet held in West Union. Pictured: Jean Leech, Conservation Farm of the Year; Chuck Frieden, Mink Creek Watershed award; Russ Smith, Woodland Owner of the Year Fayette County. (Photo by Cheryl Olson.)

Groundwater Flow Model available soon

The Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners held their monthly meeting at the USDA Service Center in West Union on Jan. 11.

Fayette SWCD has purchased a Groundwater Flow Model which demonstrates the functioning of tile drainage systems, water table

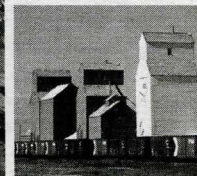
functions, leaking landfills, water movement in artesian wells, and other important groundwater issues. This model will soon be available to schools in Fayette County. An Upper Iowa student will accompany the model to demonstrate and answer questions.



The flow model will soon be available to schools in Fayette County

SunOpta
Grains and Foods Group

**Organic • Non GMO
Identity Preserved**



Direct
grower
connection...
superior
agronomics

Sunrich SunOpta
a SunOpta Company Sunflower

Earthwise
PROCESSORS

**Contact us for Crop Planning
and Crop Programs**

- IP, Non-GMO and Organic Soybeans
- IP and Organic Sunflower
- IP and Organic Corn
- Organic Feed Inputs

*Currently contracting soybean, corn
and sunflower acres!*

Delivery locations across the Midwest! Contracts with year-round delivery!

Sunrich
PO Box 128
Hope MN 56046
507-451-4724

SunOpta Sunflower
227 6th St N
Breckenridge MN 56520
218-287-5510

Earthwise
4111 30th Ave S
Moorhead MN 56560
218-287-5510

SALES - SOURCING - CONTRACTS - grains@sunopta.com

7th Annual OPEN HOUSE



Thursday, March 4

We're providing plenty of people in our parts department so you shouldn't have to wait long in the parts line. These will be the best prices all year on filters, oil, planter parts and sweeps. Turn in your order when you come in and the guys will fill it while you visit.

If your purchase exceeds \$500, you will receive 90 days no interest, no payments, using your Commercial Revolving Account.

Come see the display of equipment in the shop and visit with the sales department for special prices. Company reps will be on hand to help answer any questions you might have.

- **SPECIALS**
- **EQUIPMENT DISPLAY**
- **VISIT OUR SALES DEPT.**

**PARTS
SPECIALS
MARCH 1-6**

*We invite you to come for the deals, the food,
the information, and the fun! Maybe even a
prize if you are actively engaged in farming!*

LUNCH 9:30 am-4:00 pm

CASE III

CASE III
AGRICULTURE

New Hampton Red Power, Inc.

2205 240th St., New Hampton
PH 641-394-3178 FAX 641-394-2013
www.redpowerteam.com

Case Credit
Advantage
account

CASE CREDIT

2009 annual report state conservationist column

By: Richard Sims
State Conservationist

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.

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 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.

A third new opportunity was announced this year, the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Iowa is one of 12 states selected for the MRBI, which will help producers implement conservation practices that help avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff. Only producers in a few small watersheds will be able to participate this year after NRCS selects the MRBI proposals to implement. However, the MRBI will provide opportunities this year and in future years for additional producers to implement conservation practices which address nutrient runoff. Please visit the Iowa NRCS website www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov for updates on the MRBI.

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/>

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.

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 Partnership will do its 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.

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

Soil Conservation Protects Your Land & Investment



...And So Does ADEQUATE INSURANCE

See Your Nearest Agent

Bushman Insurance, Ossian
(563) 562-9207
bushmaninsurance@mchsi.com

Dan Miller Agency Inc., West Union
(563) 422-5810

Don Anderson Agency, Cresco
(563) 883-8012
donanderson@harmonytel.net

CIA Insurance Agency, Cresco
(563) 547-2382
ciainfo@ciains.biz

Hintz-Ziegler-Miller Agency, Oelwein
(319) 283-1555
lyle@hzml.com

Kelly & Miller Agency, Fayette
(563) 425-4569
kellymillerins@iowatelecom.net

Decoah Office
Jim Clarke, Manager
Steve Hildebrand, Adjuster
Judy Ehler, Dianne Fye
& Charity Kuboushek, Agents

Kerndt Brothers Agency, Lansing
(563) 538-4207
lpeters@kerndtbrothers.com

Leslie White Agency, Clermont
(563) 423-5913
insure@acegroup.cc

Lyle Bodensteiner Agency, Waukon
(563) 568-3222
bodensteinerinsurance@msn.com

Michael Ins. Agency, West Union
(563) 422-6081
michaelinsurance@qwestoffice.net

Ron Borsheim, Decorah
(563) 382-3225
ronb@iowa.usa.com

NMI Agency, Decorah
(563) 382-9695
jimclarke@qwestoffice.net

FARMUTUAL
Insurance



**NORWEGIAN MUTUAL
INSURANCE ASSOC.**

119 East Water - DECORAH - 563-382-9695

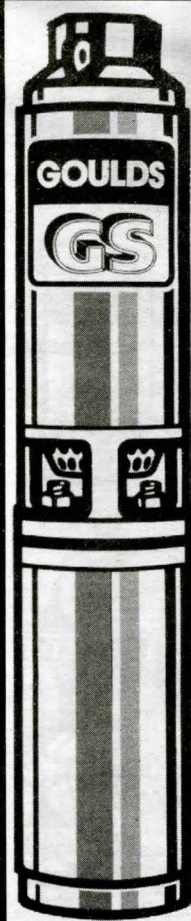
Our future depends on what we do today

Clean water is a necessity for our future

State Licensed Well Contractor
Goulds & Sta-Rite Pumps • Free Estimates
Serving the Area Since 1979

ERICKSON PUMP SERVICE, INC.

Elkader • 800-269-1698
563-245-1698 • 563-245-1684



Absolutely

the toughest pump in the world!
The Goulds GS Submersible:

Muscles of cast stainless. Guts of space-age thermo-plastics. World class performance. And environmentally friendly for a safe water supply.

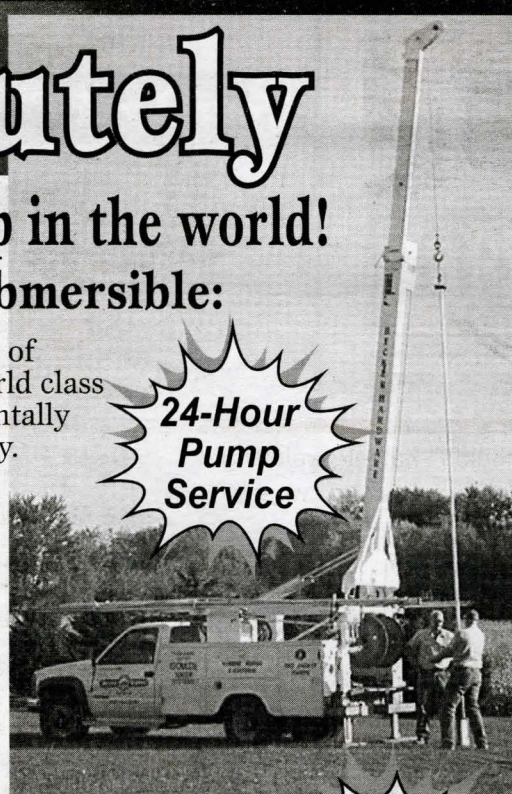
Put one of these at the bottom of your well and your water worries are over.



Sold and installed only by your Goulds Professional Dealer.

FOUR Licensed Installers!

Becker Hardware, Inc.
PLUMBING, HEATING & ELECTRICAL
101 W Main St., Ossian (563) 532-9120



**24-Hour
Pump
Service**

Serving All of
Northeast Iowa
for 125 Years!

Funding awarded for Nutting Creek Watershed Project

Carrie Davis
Project Coordinator

Nutting Creek is a 17,246 acre watershed located in northern Fayette and southern Winneshiek counties. A watershed is the area of land that drains into a particular stream, lake, river, or ocean. This project is designed to be a three-year project intended to improve the water quality of Nutting Creek. Landowners and operators in this special watershed may be able to take advantage of increased cost share, up to 75%, and incentive

programs to improve water quality by implementing certain conservation practices.

Nutting Creek has been listed on Iowa's 2004 303(d) list of Impaired Waters for aquatic life impairment. Recent studies conducted by the DNR TMDL staff indicate that aquatic life is not longer a limitation in the watershed; however E. coli levels have been documented as high as 730,000 colony forming units/100 ml of water after rain events. This is significantly higher than the EPA's recommendation

for body contact.

The goal of the watershed project is to improve the water quality of the stream and reverse the negative impact that fecal coliform bacteria and sediment is having on the ecosystem. The District believes these can be accomplished by promoting several cultural and structural best management practices (BMPs) that contain livestock runoff and reduce or trap sediment and manure from entering the stream.

Cultural BMPs include no-till farming, rotational grazing

and nutrient management while structural practices include animal waste structures, terraces, and grade stabilization structures. These practices can reduce bacteria and sediment loads by slowing down and filtering sediment and manure laden runoff from crop fields before it reaches streams.

The Nutting Creek Watershed Project is supported in part by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation, through funding from the Watershed Protection

Fund and by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Non-Point Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act). Technical assistance is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Individuals interested in the Nutting Creek Watershed Project can contact Carrie Davis at the Fayette County NRCS Office, 563-422-3868 ext 3.

Protecting Your Investment

Serving Northeast Iowa
Since 1877



German Mutual Insurance
WEST UNION 563-422-9538

FARMUTUAL
Insurance for Town and Farm

WE KNOW ROCK!

Make **Bruening Rock Products**
your choice for Excavating, Site Preparation,
and Crushed Rock for Landscaping and Driveways



Ag-Lime • Crushed Rock • Rip Rap
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS
325 WASHINGTON • DECORAH, IA • 382-2933

EARTH MOVING SPECIALISTS!



Moving dirt
at the
West Union
Rec Area

Schedule your
2010 Project
Today!

Les Lauer & Sons
Excavating & Grading
Serving this area since 1948 West Union • 422-5430

It's All About Experience



Jon King

Kent Nelson

Richard Witt

Your Ag & Conservation Resource

Fidelity Bank & Trust of Oelwein is dedicated to agriculture and conservation. We offer personalized service to meet the individual needs of each farm or ag business.

With 61 years of combined experience, Fidelity Bank & Trust is proud to offer one of the finest area ag lending teams. **Jon King** (14 years), **Kent Nelson** (22 years) and **Richard Witt** (26 years).

FIDELITY
BANK

201 S Frederick, Oelwein
(319) 283-2524 or 1-800-568-4239
www.bankfidelity.com



Mink Creek Watershed wraps up

By: Carrie Davis
Project Coordinator

Started in July of 2004 the Mink Creek Watershed Project has helped landowners in the Mink Creek Watershed install or implement numerous conservation practices to help improve the quality of Mink Creek. Mink Creek, a cold water trout stream, is located in eastern Fayette and western Clayton Counties. The 12,000 acres watershed contains great examples of the Karst topography northeast Iowa is known for, with many spring, seeps, rock outcrops and sinkholes. Unfortunately Karst topography can make an area more vulnerable to erosion and ground-water contamination.

The goal of the Mink Creek Project was to assist landowners and farm operators with assistance and cost share to implement conservation practices that help to protect Mink Creek from sedimentation. Sediment for building sites and fields can travel down slope and into streams. This is especially harmful to coldwater trout streams because many cold water animals need gravel and cobble stream bottoms to survive. Silt covers and buries rocky substrate utilized by

trout for spawning and feeding.

Watershed residents have enrolled 858 acres of farmland (7% of eligible land in the watershed) into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a voluntary program that pays producers to seed down sensitive farmland in order to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Streambank stabilization was completed on 1,230 feet of Mink

Creek. This helps to reduce bank erosion. While this work was being completed lunger hides and root balls were installed in the stream to increase habitat for trout and other aquatic species.

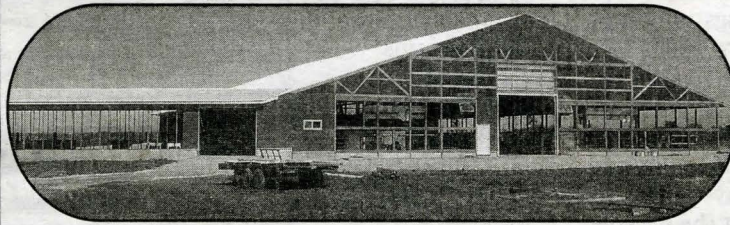
Other practices completed in the watershed include over 35,000 feet of terraces, 15 acres of waterways, 16 water and sediment basins that catch sediment before it can reach the stream and almost 100 acres of timber stand improvement and 50

acres of tree plantings.

Reductions in sediment delivery to the stream due to practices installed has been calculated and it was determined that a reduction of 3,500 tons of sediment per year has been achieved. This is about a 25% reduction in sediment reach-

ing Mink Creek. Watershed participants should be very proud of the changes they made not only on their farms but the watershed as a whole. This just goes to prove that little changes can make a big difference.

Proud to Support Soil & Water Conservation



116x167 Freestall Barn
Rural Ft. Atkinson

Heying Lumber Co.

200 W Main St., Calmar 1-866-HEYINGS
• Free Stall Dairy Barns & Pole Sheds

Featuring CD2000 by



**Wheeling
Corrugating**

A Division Of Wheeling-Pittsburgh
Steel Corporation

PRES

PATIENT _____
ADDRESS _____

R_x

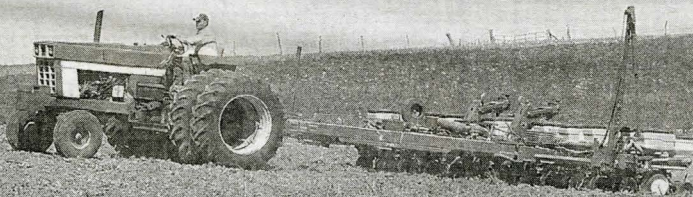
Proud to Support
the SWCD.
We salute the
efforts of area
conservationists!

**HOME OF THE
\$3.00
PRESCRIPTION
FREE DELIVERY**

**Health Mart.
PHARMACY**

SCOTT PHARMACY
FAYETTE 563-425-4530 or 800-246-0024
www.scottrx.com

From *Spring Planting*



**Learn to do common things uncommonly well;
we must always keep in mind that anything that
helps fill the dinner pail...is valuable.**

- George Washington Carver



to *Fall Harvest*

Conservation Makes A Difference

Northeast Iowa Cooperative is proud to support the conservation efforts of area farmers and landowners. Your hard work will help benefit our agricultural community, while preserving Iowa's unique ecological heritage.

Toll Free 1-888-788-7671

Clermont (563) 423-5293 • Maynard (563) 637-2285
Sumner (563) 578-3214 • Elgin (563) 426-5566
Arlington (563) 633-3415 • Winthrop (319) 935-3336
Lamont (563) 924-2171 • Randalia (563) 428-4411
Volga (563) 767-2475



**Northeast Iowa
Cooperative**

*Driven To Exceed Our
Customers' Expectations*

FSWC District Education Programs

Seventeen years old and still growing

By: William Bennett
SWCD Commissioner

Seventeen years ago Fayette SWCD commissioners, Fayette Conservation Board Naturalist Lanette Philips and North Fayette third grade teacher Deb Dessel had an idea on how to provide conservation education to third graders. This is how the Fayette SWCD Third Grade Conservation Education Field Day started.

The first year North Fayette and Valley were invited and it was a one-day event. Now the event is three days with students invited from all schools that have students from Fayette County. The district has continued to provide a hot sandwich at noon, cooked by the county cattlemen's organization or pork producers like Randy Helgersen, who has been grilling in recent years.

Currently, the students hear presentations by DNR staff on fish and ponds, and John Olds, has manned the forestry station all except the first year. Joe Wingert has been doing the wildlife for a number of years. Bob Fassbinder teaches about bees. The last few years Eric Boehm has covered soils, and Richard Jensen is Mr. Erosion. In 2009 the district paid for the cost of transportation to the field day for the first time.

Another education effort the District is involved with is the Ralph Houg Conservation Farm. High school students from Valley High School have been helping plant and protect trees on this educational farm. They have also worked on the trail where people of all ages can gain knowledge about ponds, wetlands, native

grasses & forbs, sink holes, quarries, gully blocks, forestry, and enjoy nature and fishing.

Another new program the district is just starting will bring a better understanding of groundwater to the class rooms of all the schools that want them. It is a program designed for students from sixth grade thru high school. This will be another program the district works with Upper Iowa University on.

For a number of years the district has held field days and meetings to educate farmers and others about government programs and conservation practices.

If you have ideas on how the district can provide conservation education, please talk to one the Fayette SWCD commissioners and let them know.

Decorah Chevrolet-Cadillac
Shop 24/7
www.decorahchev.com

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

GM Certified USED VEHICLES No worries.

DECORAH CHEVROLET CADILLAC
563-382-3619

1815 State Hwy. 9 E., Decorah, IA
563-382-3619
or 800-319-3619
www.decorahchev.com

Sumner Implement

JOHN DEERE

4520 With Cab

4520 Features

- 60hp 4Cyl Turbocharged
- PowerReverser or eHydro
- Loader Ready
- Cab or Open Station
- Standard 4WD

X728 Ultimate™ Lawn Tractor

Features

- 4-Year/700hr Warranty
- 27hp EFI V-Twin
- Shaft Driven
- Differential Lock
- 48, 54, 60, or 62" Deck

ZTrak PRO™ Z930A w/60-in. deck

New Z900 Series

- 7-Iron Pro Deck
- Enhanced Controls
- Improved Sidehilling
- Brake and Go Starting
- Tuff Torq Transmission

New D-Series Skid Steer Loaders

- 3 control options: Hand/foot, Hand only, and Selectable Electro-Hydraulic Joysticks
- 24% Larger Cab, 100% more front glass, 50% larger top window
- Swing Open Door
- Seat Bar Restraint
- Auto Idle
- Hydraulic Reversible Variable Fan
- All new Pressurized Cab is 50% quieter
- Call For A Demo Today

www.johndeere.com

SUMNER IMPLEMENT
1414 W 1ST
SUMNER, IA 50674
(563) 578-5115
www.sumnerimplement.com

WATERLOO IMPLEMENT, INC.
2415 SERGEANT RD
WATERLOO, IA 50701
(319) 233-3553
www.wloimplement.com

WAVERLY IMPLEMENT
1416 4TH STREET SW
WAVERLY, IA 50677-4325
(319) 352-2426
www.waverlyimplement.com

John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol, and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company. The engine horsepower information is provided by the engine manufacturer to be used for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower will be less.

AC2KXBU1A96347-00312722

Northeast Iowa Farms

NEW LISTING:
Sections 31 & 32 of Windsor Twp., Fayette Co.
Great recreational property located 3 miles SW of Clermont.
195.07 acres, 89.3 tillable (77.8 CRP, 11.5 cropped), balance timber/creek.

Section 34 of Union Twp., Fayette Co.
89.00 acres m/l, 19.2 hay/tillable, 18.00 CRP (ends 9-30-2010)
Recreational, Hunting & Pasture Land...2 Ponds!

Sections 16 & 17 of Dover Twp., Fayette Co.
Located 6 miles north of West Union, 63.7 assessable acres,
49.7 tillable in CRP. On paved road, great place to build home.

RESIDENTIAL ACREAGES
10647 275th Street, West Union
3 BR home, recent updates, 2 car attached garage,
9 acres m/l, includes outbuildings...perfect for livestock operation

NEW LISTING: 21980 Armada Road, Elgin
Majestic black hills spruce line the driveway, hiding the home
from the gravel road. Located 1 mile off Hwy. 56.
Perfect for the fishing, hunting enthusiast.

NEW LISTING: 17257 April Ave., Elgin
Country home clad in green metal shingles on 46 acres m/l,
with a stream in your backyard, lots of trees & wildlife!

NEW LISTING: 202 West Burger, Hawkeye
2-story featuring updated kitchen with island & breakfast nook.
Original woodwork, French doors in the living/dining rooms.
Site includes barn & shed, plus fenced pasture.

For complete farm listings, with photos:
www.northeastiowafarmsforsale.com

Northeast Iowa Realty & Appraisal, Inc.
Jay Jensen - Broker Leanne Cline - Broker Associate
Bruce Bemis & Dave Langreck - Sales Assoc.
115 S. Vine, West Union (563) 422-3285
www.northeastiowarealty.com • www.northeastiowafarmsforsale.com

Schaefers is new District Conservationist

Hello, my name is Michelle Schaefers. I grew up in Minnesota in a rural community west of the Twin Cities. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and began my NRCS career in 1999 as a Technician in Wright County, MN. Since then, I was a Soil Conservationist in Mason City, Garner, and Oskaloosa; as well as the District Conservationist for Emmet County.

In the fall of 2008, we relocated to Southeast Minnesota where I worked as the Board Conservationist for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); a state agency similar to Iowa's Division of Soil Conservation (DSC).

My first day as the District Conservationist for Fayette County will be March 15th, 2010. My husband, Pat, also works for NRCS and will be working out of the Clayton County office. We have two little boys, Nicholas (5 1/2) and Clayton (4) who keep us very busy!

I am excited to move back to Iowa and looking forward to working with the landowners of Fayette County!



Michelle Schaefers

...AREA LISTINGS...

LOTS FOR SALE on Stone Man Court
Lot Price Includes MANY EXTRAS!
.....

Car Wash provides steady cash income.
Located near college housing!
.....

The Ultimate Family Home in Fayette
on quiet corner lot. 3-5 Bedrooms, 3
baths with finished basement includes
3,800 sq. ft. of living space, large
outdoor deck and plenty of space!

504 East Plum, West Union

Modern Ranch home on the
east edge of West Union

All the amenities, beautiful landscaping,
ready for family living.
Call to schedule a showing!
.....

SOLD - 112 Mechanic, Fayette

SOLD - 409 Clay, Arlington

Contact Jeff Bradley
563-419-7900 or
jbrads@alpinecom.net

Lande Real Estate

PAM ROGERS, BROKER Sumner 563-578-3238
www.landerealestate.com



Dillon Law, PC

Patrick B. Dillon

107 S. Railroad St., Sumner

patdillon@50674law.com - www.50674law.com

(563) 578-1850

General practice including but not limited to:

Agricultural Law

Taxation & Tax Preparation

Estate Planning

SPRING SERVICE CLINIC

Wednesday, March 3

meeting at 10:00 AM



1 p.m. Precision Farming Focus Group
Everyone Welcome!

PLANTER PARTS SALE

Save 5% with cash on planter parts or take advantage of
90 days no payment/no interest with Farm Plan, thru March 31.

BONUS! All attendees of the planter clinic will receive a
VIP coupon good for \$10.00 off any purchase at the dealership.

Limit one per person. Coupon may be used thru Monday, March 8, 2010

Kinze & Competitive Owners Welcome!



JOHN DEERE

HUB CITY IMPLEMENT

1900 S. Frederick Ave., Oelwein
(319) 283-4371 or (800) 498-4371

"Proud To Be Your John Deere Dealer"

Check out our
redesigned website
www.hubcityimp.com
COMING SOON!

FARMERS, GRAIN & LIVESTOCK HAULERS: WE CAN SERVICE YOUR TRUCK & TRAILER NEEDS!



FAST SERVICE!!

• Oil Changes • Tire Repair • Brakes

WEST UNION TRUCK & TRACTOR REPAIR

563-422-9335 • Hwy. 18 E. • West Union

Beyer retires from Iowa Department of Natural Resources

By: Gary Beyer

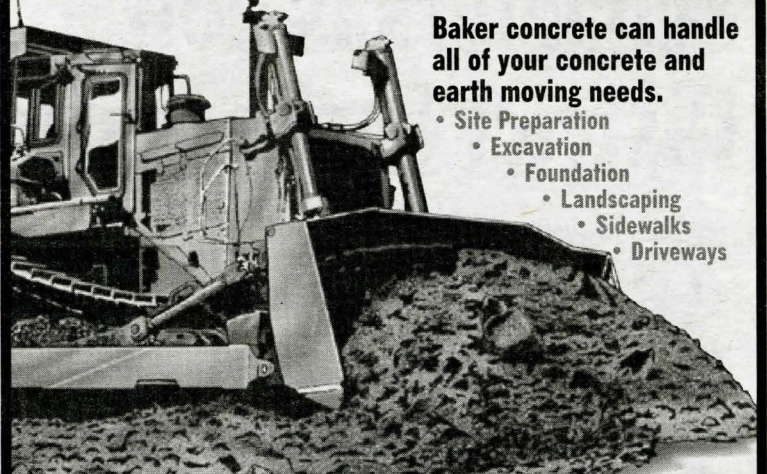
After 33 years as a forester with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, I will be retiring the end of April, 2010. I am not retiring from forestry, but changing employers. I plan to work for myself as a consulting forester. This is something I've wanted to do for many years and while I can still climb up and down hills, the time seemed right. I hope to keep busy conducting timber sales, appraisals, management plans, and timber stand improvement work.

I have enjoyed my work immensely. I am fortunate to work at a job that I love. Not only do I get to see a different property every day, but I get to work with a different landowner with new goals and objectives. It is you the private woodland owners who have made my job such fun. You are some characters, and the work you do to enhance your woodlands benefits every person who lives in Iowa. Our natural areas are the glue that holds Iowa to-

gether, providing scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, water quality, and clean air. I also firmly believe that improving your woodland is one the best investments you can make. No other investment gains value while allowing you to hike, hunt, and simply enjoy it.

Thank you for your dedication to the forest resource and for the years of stories and memories you have provided for me. I hope to see you in the future, only I will be wearing a different hat.

Moving Mountains for our customers

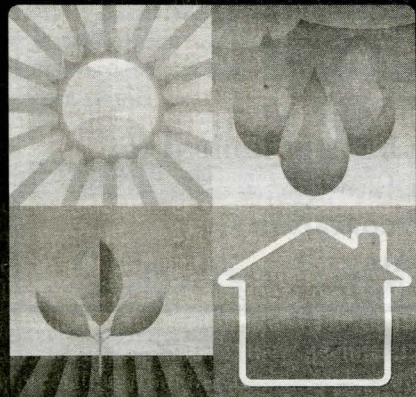


Baker concrete can handle all of your concrete and earth moving needs.

- Site Preparation
- Excavation
- Foundation
- Landscaping
- Sidewalks
- Driveways

BAKER
Concrete & Excavating

Clermont
563-423-5000
Waverly
319-352-2193



Conservation: it benefits us all

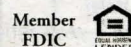


Kerndt Brothers is proud to support the SWCD & the conservation efforts of area landowners. Call our ag loan personnel in West Union for all of your farm and land management loan needs. Seated from left: Joel Van Etten & Mike Cook; standing: Kevin Baumbler, Jason Zander, Tracy Nydegger and Greg Ptacek.

Kerndt
BROTHERS
Savings Bank
Your Financial Family Since 1856

Cedar Rapids (319) 378-8100
Clermont (563) 423-5267
Harpers Ferry (563) 586-2166
Lansing (563) 538-4231 or (800) 577-5272
West Union (563) 422-6072 or (800) 568-4235

www.kerndtbrothers.com



We've been
lending a hand
to farmers for
decades...



...yielding strong protection

FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION FAYETTE, IOWA

Now servicing policyholders formerly with Buchanan Mutual Insurance Association of Independence.
See one of our agents in your area.

A&J Petersburg Agency
Decorah, IA
563-382-3627

Larry Rasmussen
Independence, IA
319-334-4918

Doug Beier
Independence, IA
319-334-6066

Sloan Insurance
Waucoma, IA
563-776-7190

Brown-Lane Insurance
Independence, IA
319-334-2534

Smith Insurance, LLC
Lamont, IA
563-924-2816

Butikofer Insurance, LLC
Elgin, IA
563-425-5306

Smith-D&L Insurance
Independence, IA
319-334-6066

Independence Insurance Services
Independence, IA
319-334-4991

Sorg Insurance Agency
Independence, IA
319-334-7089

Kelly & Miller Insurance
Fayette, IA
563-425-4569

Vogel Insurance Agency
Oelwein, IA
319-283-1836

Wanda Kress
Independence, IA
319-334-2378

Wegner Insurance
Sumner, IA
563-578-8076

Nuss Insurance Agency
Hawkeye, IA
563-427-3419

Steve Brentner
Rowley, IA
319-938-2262

Farmers Mutual
Insurance Association
135 S Main, Fayette (563) 425-4176

FARMUTUAL
Insurance for Town and Farm

Wegner is new Director for Farm Service Agency

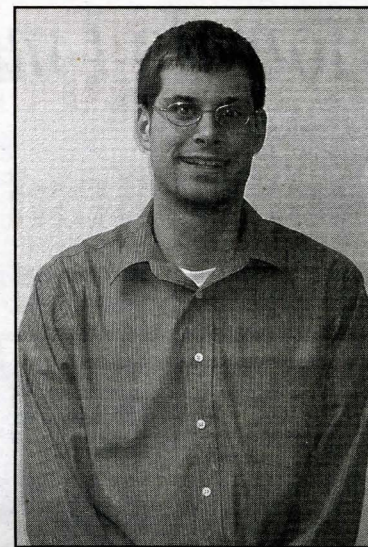
Jesse Wegner was hired as the new Director for the Farm Service Agency in Fayette County in September of 2009.

Jesse grew up on a farm north of Charles City and is a graduate of Iowa State University. He was previously the Director in Clarke

County and has also worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Boone and Wayne County. He is an avid sportsman

and Cyclone supporter.

He is looking forward in playing an active part in the community and is excited to work with the producers of Fayette County. He wants to remind producers that they can now sign-up for 2010 ACRE/DCP and get a 22% advance, and that the Fayette County office is taking SURE applications from the 2008 disaster.



Jesse Wegner

Not happy with your current garbage pickup?

Are your garbage rates causing a stink?

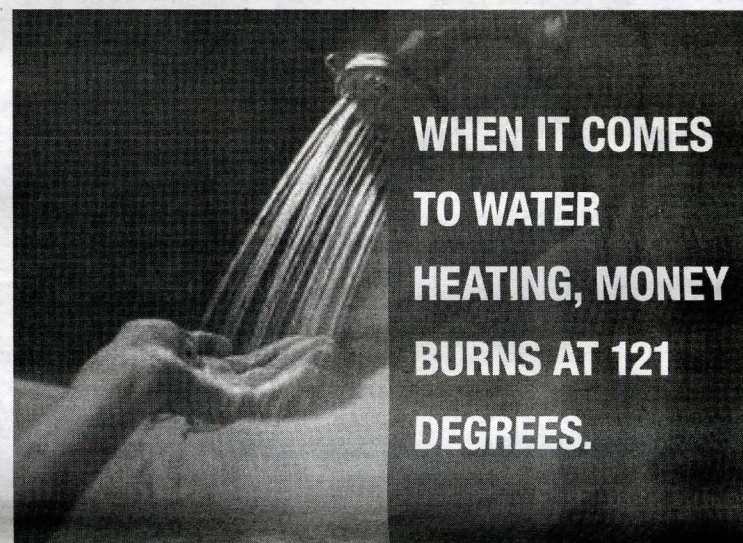
You do have a choice in garbage pickup...



BUNN SERVICES

Septic Tank Cleaning/Installation
Root Removal • Jet Vac • Video Inspection
Portable Restroom Rental
NEW Curbside Garbage Pickup
Rolloff & Dumpsters Available!

24-Hour Emergency Service
Jeff Bunn 14299 190th St., Fayette
Toll Free (877) 286-6462
bunnservices@hotmail.com



WHEN IT COMES TO WATER HEATING, MONEY BURNS AT 121 DEGREES.

I'm saving \$73 a year by turning my water heater down to 120°. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.

- Frank Lloyd Wright

First State Bank salutes the efforts of our soil and water conservationists, foresters, and farmers. Our natural resources are a currency, once completely spent, will reap no further reward. Your efforts help insure a prosperous and productive future for us all.

Visit with Kevin Converse in Fayette or Richard Shonley in Sumner about options available to you for your home, farm or conservation efforts.



Member FDIC

106 W 1st St., Sumner
(563) 578-3312 or
Toll Free 866-578-3314

200 S. Main, Fayette
(563) 425-3395 or
Toll Free 866-578-0008

"Helping your dreams come true" www.fsbsumner.com

We Salute the Conservation Efforts by Area Citizens.

Water:
Our most precious resource.

DNR Certified
for water wells and pump work!

CUSHION
Plumbing, Heating & Electric
Maynard (563) 637-2496



How do I measure up?

By: James Gillespie
Bureau Chief

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

by looking at the landscape and water quality.

Over 95% of this land is in private ownership and most of it is used for some form of agricultural production. The balance is in urban, roads, utilities and infrastructure that keep our people

and commodities moving. All of these things are needed because I don't think there are many other states or parts of the country that rely on all of their land and its resources to do this.

That is why it is so important that all of us (rural and urban)

alike do all we can to protect the soil and water. You all have tremendous resources available to you locally in your Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist you with your conservation needs. These

people have both the technical assistance and financial opportunities that can help address your concerns.

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

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

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

Tired of Volatility? How about stability.

1 Year APY

Currently yielding

2.25%

Guaranteed Rate
No Withdrawals Allowed
Full contract value paid
at the end of policy year.
Form No FPIA-0501

5 Year APY*

Currently yielding

3.75%

10% free withdrawal ea. yr.
Surrender Charges
(Yr.1-9%, Yr.2-7%, Yr.3-5%,
Yr.4-3%, Yr.5-1%, Yr.6-0%)
Form No FPA 1099

10 Year APY*

Currently yielding

4.50%

10% free withdrawal ea. yr.
Surrender Charges
(Yr.1-10%, Yr.2-9%, Yr.3-8%, Yr.4-7%,
Yr.5-6%, Yr.6-5%, Yr.7-4%, Yr.8-3%,
Yr.9-2%, Yr.10-1%, Yr.11-0%)
Form No FPA 1198

All plans provide full withdrawal at the end of the stated time.

Current yield effective 12/10/09. Rates are subject to change on new issues only. Contract Forms FPA 1099 and 1198. Single Premium Deferred Annuity. Form No FPIA 0501 is a single premium immediate annuity. Issued by Western Catholic Union, a fraternal benefit society founded in Quincy, IL in 1877. Not available in all states.

*A current APY (Annual Percentage Yield) means that Western Catholic Union intends to pay this APY only for the period the annuity is subject to a withdrawal charge. This APY is not guaranteed and can fluctuate up or down during the withdrawal charge period. If you purchase an annuity from Western Catholic Union it will have a minimum guaranteed interest rate of 3%. This means even if the current APY decreases during the withdrawal charge period, the guaranteed interest rate, not the current APY, for your annuity will never drop below the 3% stated in the certificate during the term of the annuity.

**The 3% guarantee applies to Forms FPA 1099 & 1198 only.

**Western
Catholic
Union**



Faithful Protection For Life

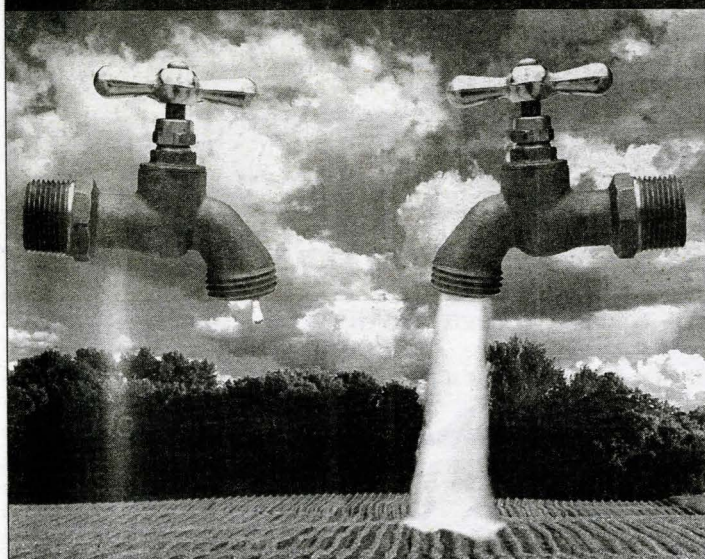
www.wculife.org

Gerald L. Bauer - Life of Iowa, Inc.

P.O. Box 32, Oelwein, IA 50662

888-568-2406 • 319-283-3696 • lifeofia@qwestoffice.net

Water Damage



Water. Too little or too much and it's a problem. Cover yourself against the extremes with multi-peril crop insurance. Call your agent today!

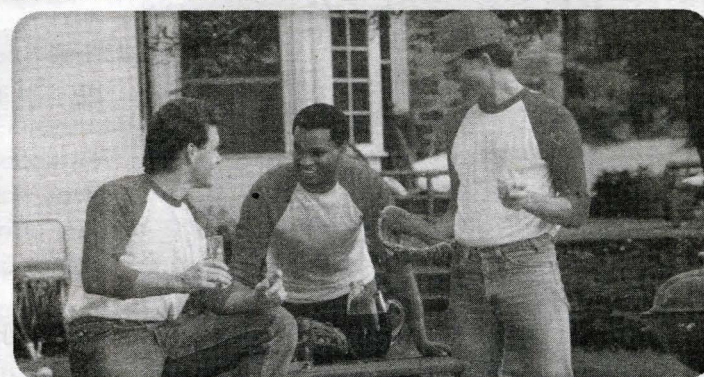
**LAUER &
LAUER**
INSURANCE AGENCY, LTD.

123 N Vine,
West Union
(563) 422-3871

NAU
NAU Country Insurance Company

NAU Country Insurance Company is an equal opportunity provider.

It's good to have friends in the neighborhood.



This is especially true with your insurance protection. When you have a claim, wouldn't you rather deal with someone you can trust, like your local Grinnell Mutual agent?

Call us for a quote on all your insurance needs and get the local, friendly service you deserve.

GRINNELL MUTUAL
SINCE 1909
A Century of Service

Woodard Real Estate Co.
114 S. Vine St., West Union
563-422-3831

Dick Woodard 563.422.5777 Cell 563.380.8882
www.woodard-insurance.com

Buffers to terraces in Mink Creek

Improving water quality, establishing a permanent trout population are goals

Project name: Mink Creek
Watershed size: 12,348 acres
Year began: 2004
Year Complete: Ongoing
SWCD Contact: Fayette
Phone: (563) 422-3868
Purpose: Improve water quality

Soil and Water Conservation District(s): Fayette, Clayton
Other partners: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Environmen-

tal Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, Iowa State University Extension, Northeast Iowa Resource, Conservation & Development

Conservationists were scratching their heads, trying to figure out how to best fit contour buffers to John Moore's farm that would stretch nearly a mile. Moore wanted the buffers to stretch from one end of the farm to the other, winding around the hills on the contour.

They were successful in establishing farmable buffers, but Moore then opted for even better land protection. "I could see the hills needed terraces--better protection than the buffers--even though I farm this land no-till," he says. Using cost-share from the Iowa Department of Agriculture

and Land Stewardship through the Mink Creek Watershed Project, he recently built nearly two miles of terraces on the steepest land to replace the buffers. He now has about 40 percent of the field terraced, and likes the field with its conservation practices. "With these long rows, it farms nice. If you could buy or rent another farm like this one, you would," Moore says.

The Mink Creek Watershed Project began to help reverse the negative trend in water quality and resulting downward trend in fishermen visits to Mink Creek.

One indication of producer interest in conservation is the level of enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). More than 800 acres of cropland--10% of cropland acres in the watershed--was enrolled or re-enrolled in the CRP in the first 5 years of the project. More than a dozen conservation practices are being used.

One in a series of summaries of watershed projects in Iowa carried out by local conservation districts, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation, and other partners--equal opportunity providers and employers.



John Moore, at right, talks with William Bennett and Carrie Davis of the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District about his conservation buffers.



He likes the buffers, but with help from the Mink Creek Watershed Project, he's converting the buffers to terraces, which offer better protection for his land against soil erosion and resulting better water quality in Mink Creek.

**We're Proud to Salute
 All Our Area Landowners
 Who Practice Conservation**

Soil - Water - Wildlife - Timber - Wetland

THANK YOU!



**Steege
 PHARMACY**
 Ken Steege, RPH

119 N. Vine,
 West Union
 (563) 422-3151
 M-F 8-6 & Sat. 8-4

**For All Your Automotive
 Sales & Service Needs**



**ASE
 Certified Techs**

From left, front: Jill Frieden (office) & Tony Schager (sales);
 back, Randy Henning, Bud Johnson, Ryan Jonsberg & Dean Patrick.

**Proud to
 Support
 the SWCD!**

West Union Motors

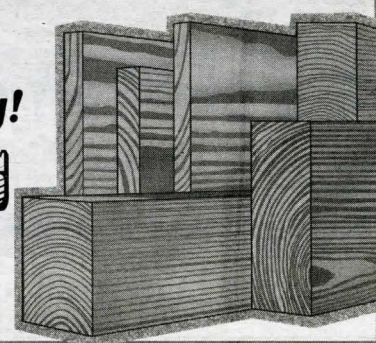
409 West Bradford - West Union
**SALES: Tony Schager (319) 404-7153
 (563) 422-3801
 1-800-373-3801**

www.westunionmotors.com

**Timber is
 a crop...
 harvest wisely!**

**GRAY LOGS
 & LUMBER**

116 Gunder Rd., Elkader
 563-245-1147 or 563-245-1924



Total conservation farm in Nutting Creek

Trees and grasses key to soil conservation and water quality

Project name: Nutting Creek
Watershed size: 17,246 acres
Year began: 2008
Year Complete: Ongoing
SWCD Contact: Fayette
Phone: (563) 422-3868

Purpose: Improve water quality
Soil and Water Conservation District(s): Fayette
Other partners: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land

Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Upper Iowa University.

Dan and Mary Burkhart's 66-acre farm near Ossian in Fayette County is packed with conservation. The couple filled a smaller acreage with trees, then needed more room.

Their retirement acreage in the Nutting Creek Watershed has conservation buffers, a filter strip, 4.4 acres of native shortgrass prairie seedings, 5 acres of walnut and oak hardwood tree plantings, bluebird houses, and timber stand improvement work.

While only 15 acres of the farm is row crop, their lease requires the tenant use soil-saving no-till farming methods. "We've seen for more than 25 years that no-till works, and there are still some people saying it won't work," Dan says. "How much time do you need to convince people it works?"

Burkhart has helped to promote the practices being used in the Nutting Creek Watershed to help improve water quality in Nutting Creek for years as county

Extension Director, and now concentrates on using those practices on his new farm.

The Nutting Creek Watershed is designed to eliminate manure runoff issues on 40% of priority livestock sites and reduce sediment delivery to Nutting Creek by 30% over the life of the project. The creek has biological impairment of the water quality from elevated levels of fecal coliform and sedimentation. The project, which received its first funding in 2008, also has an information and education component. In addition to Fayette County landowners, Winnebago County landowners are also involved.



Water in Nutting Creek Top is being improved by landowners like Dan Burkhart.



Burkhart shows his shortgrass prairie planting.



Burkhart also shows new hardwood trees to Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner William Bennett and Nutting Creek Coordinator Carrie Davis.

Looking at Repairs?

Make NAPA your first stop when looking for parts!

Quality parts, Filters, Accessories, Tools & Supplies
 Cars • Trucks • Farm Equipment • Imports



NAPA Auto Parts

112 E Elm, West Union 422-3896

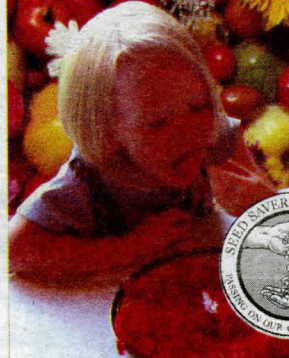
One in a series of summaries of watershed projects in Iowa carried out by local conservation districts, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation, and other partners-equal opportunity providers and employers.

Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend the Fayette County Fair July 27-31



*We salute the efforts of all our area farmers
 on their conservation practices!*

Fayette County Agricultural Society, Inc.
 504 South Vine Street, West Union, IA 52175 563.422.5202



Discover History that Tastes Good

Visit Seed Savers Exchange
 at Heritage Farm

Visitors Center Open
 April-December 2010

3074 North Winn Road, Decorah, IA 52101
 563-382-5990 • www.seedsavers.org