



A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 712-336-3782, EXT. 3

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are pleased to present their 2009 Annual Report. It represents the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

The Commissioners invite the public to contact the office to learn more about our current projects, programs and cost-share opportunities.



Back row: Chris Hoffman, Scott Mitchell and Curt Smith, Commissioners; Front row: Mark Ingwersen, Commissioner, Phyllis Nielsen, Assistant Commissioner
Not present: John Myhre, Commissioner; Orville Berg, Earl Muilenburg and Keith Van Kleeck, Assistant Commissioners

Field Office Staff:

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist
Betty Romero, Soil Conservation Technician
Maxine Butler, State Secretary

District Staff:

Steve Anderson, Urban Conservationist (January—April)
John Wills, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator, Urban Conservationist (Interim)
Derek Namanny, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator Assistant
Ryan Ransom, Silver Lake Watershed Coordinator
Spencer Herbert, Summer Intern

CREP Groundbreaking Ceremony **held July 20, 2009**



Pictured are: Steve Wallace, Dickinson Co. FSA County Office Committee member; Brent Petersen, son of landowner; Chuck Gipp, Director of IDALS-DSC, Des Moines; Orville Berg, Dickinson SWCD Assistant Commissioner; and Jim Thornton, O'Brien County FSA Program Technician

An official groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Iowa **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** on an area being converted into a three-acre wetland to treat 600 acres of farmland.

The goal of the program is to reduce nitrogen loads and movement of other agricultural chemicals from croplands to streams and rivers.

There are approximately 35 CREP sites in the State and approximately another 30 in the design or construction phase. Dickinson County has 2 CREP sites, with the second site having a nearly 17-acre pool that treats 2700 acres of land.

Iowa CREP is a state, federal, local and private partnership that provides incentives to landowners who voluntarily establish wetlands for water quality improvement in the tile-drained regions of Iowa.

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen Chris Hoffman Scott Mitchell
John Myhre Curt Smith

Assistant Commissioners

Orville Berg Earl Muilenburg Phyllis Nielsen
Keith Van Kleeck

District Mission Statement

The Dickinson SWCD will serve its customers and the needs of the District's natural resources through education, promotion, and demonstration.

2009 District Activities

January

Election of officers: Mark Ingwersen, Chair; Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair; Scott Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer
Orville Berg, Earl Muilenburg, Phyllis Nielsen and Keith Van Kleek are appointed Assistant Commissioners
Silver Lake initial meeting held

February

March

CDI Regional is attended in Ashton

April

Steve Anderson leaves for a year of military deployment; John Wills steps in as interim Urban Conservationist

Commissioners distribute trees for each 6th grade student in Dickinson County to the schools

Rain Gardens & Bioretention Cells for Managing Storm Water Quality workshop held

Stewardship material distributed to area churches
John Wills and Ryan Ransom participate in Environmental Learning Fair at Gull Point Lodge for Earth Day

May

Derek Namanny is hired as CWA Coordinator Assistant (interim assignment)

Katelyn Warburton was the recipient of the Jo Groves Memorial Scholarship

District participated in the annual Teacher Academy

July

Spencer Herbert works as Summer Intern

CREP ceremony held in southern Dickinson County

Secretary Bill Northey attends Dickinson County Fair

August

Assistant Commissioner Orville Berg honored by Okoboji Protective Association with Ace Cory Conservation Award

September

31st Annual Outdoor Classroom was held at Kettle-son Hogsback with 215 6th graders from Okoboji, Spirit Lake and Terril School Districts participating

CDI Regional meeting attended

October

November

December

SWCD Foundation Tree Sale begins

District Financial Report **July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009**

State funds provided by the Iowa General Assembly are allocated to the SWCD by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/Division of Soil Conservation.

1M – Commissioners Expenses Fund

Commissioner Expenses Fund is provided by the state to pay Commissioners' and Assistant Commissioners' expenses, as well as office supplies, state and national dues and other expenses.

The SWCD Foundation supplements the state allocation with funds raised by selling trees and shrubs each year.

Total Allocation from IDALS	\$ 3,500.00
Less:	
Office Supplies & Expenses—Postage	\$ 655.66
Small Office Equipment & Hardware	\$ 9.00
Commissioner Mileage & Expense	\$ 1,111.74
Printing & Printed Material	\$ 123.60
Meeting Expenses/CDI & NACD Dues	\$ 1,600.00
	\$ 0.00

Commissioner Funds used to cover additional expenses:

Postage	\$ 37.38
Membership Dues-Local Organizations	\$ 625.00
Donations	\$ 310.00
Outdoor Classroom Misc.	\$ 490.00
	\$ 1,462.38

Iowa Financial Incentives Program Funds

Iowa Financial Incentives Program Funds (IFIP) budget provides 50% cost-share assistance for installing permanent soil and water conservation practices to improve water quality and/or help stop soil erosion. Some practices include: terraces, grassed waterways, water and sediment basins.

No till/strip till incentive program – A one-time payment of \$10/per acre with 80 acre maximum for operators trying no till, strip till or ridge till for the first time.

Allocation for 2008/09 totaled	\$ 21,337.92
Obligated/Spent	\$ 3,648.06
Balance unspent	\$ 17,689.86

REAP Funding

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) is divided into forestry/native grasses and practices.

Cost share payments of up to 75% of the cost to establish windbreaks, with a maximum cost-share of \$1,500. A plan will be need to be completed by NRCS.

50% cost share is available through this program to establish or improve pastures, through the establishment of native grass components, fencing and water systems that provide rotational pasture system.

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses

Allocation for 2008/09 totaled	\$ 4,372.65
Obligated/Spent	\$ 0.00
Balance unspent	\$ 4,372.65

REAP Practices

Allocation for 2008/09 totaled	\$ 12,018.11
Obligated/Spent	\$ 8,162.50
Balance unspent	\$ 3,855.61

IFIP and REAP funds were used to complete:

- 1 grassed waterway
- 1 sediment and water control basin
- 3 rain gardens
- 1 storm water grassed swale.



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Natural Resources Conservation Service Reports

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. This program is available to farmers, and offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) FY09 funding was used to provide \$115,000 of incentive payments for five (5) new contracts on 617 acres. Conservation practices in these contracts included:

- Animal Waste Facility
- Diversion
- Two solids settling basins
- Animal Mortality Facility
- Manure Transfer System.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) is a USDA program administered by NRCS. This voluntary program offers landowners an opportunity to restore wetland basins and upland buffer areas with up to 100% cost share and up to full agricultural value to place the land in an easement with NRCS. Easements may be either for 30 years or permanent. Ten year cost share agreements are also available to landowners who wish to restore wetlands on their land, with financial and technical assistance from NRCS.

Two (2) options to purchase were offered and signed with funds obligated, two (2) easements are still awaiting closing, and restorations were completed on two (2) easements.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of live-stock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

We had one Conservation Security Program (CSP) program sign up in 2009. Two (2) applications for 533 acres were received. Pre-approval selections for CSP applications are pending.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. CRP is managed by the Farm Service Agency.

The Dickinson County Soil and Water District Commissioners approved new and re-enrolled practice plans for fiscal year 2009 consisting of:

- CP5A Field Windbreak Establishment

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen — Chair Chris Hoffman — Vice Chair
Scott Mitchell — Secretary, Treasurer
Curt Smith John Myhre

Assistant Commissioners

Orville Berg Earl Muilenburg Phyllis Nielsen
Keith Van Kleek

District Mission Statement

The Dickinson SWCD will serve its customers and the needs of the District's natural resources through education, promotion, and demonstration.

- CP8A Grass Waterway
- CP9 Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife
- CP15A Contour Grass Strips
- CP21 Filter Strips
- CP27 Farmable Wetlands
- CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors & Habitat re-enrollments.

2009 Annual Report

By Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist

The Dickinson SWCD had a very successful year in 2009. Conservation practices ranging from rain gardens to waterways were installed to protect the soil and water resources of Dickinson County.

There is a very large interest in protecting water quality among agricultural and urban residents of Dickinson County. The number of partners with the District continues to grow. A very recent example of this growth is the SWCD's partnering effort with Pheasants Forever to hire Rob Patterson. Rob will be concentrating his efforts on conservation planning that will enhance wildlife benefits.

The future is an exciting one for the Dickinson SWCD. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proud to be a partner to the Dickinson SWCD.

2009 Annual Report from State Conservationist

By Richard Sims, NRCS 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 an application this time, it's not too late. The second date for a funding cutoff has not yet been announced by USDA, but we would anticipate something in February or March.

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

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 we will 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 will not be able to respond as quickly as we could in the past. I ask for your patience and understanding as we adapt to best tackle these challenges.

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

Conservation District Employee Reports

Clean Water Alliance and Dickinson County Water Quality Commission stays busy!

By John Wills

Clean Water Alliance Coordinator / Urban Conservationist

In the year and a half that I have been back in the Iowa Great Lakes as the Clean Water Alliance Coordinator has left me with the knowledge that there has been a lot accomplished in the years of its existence but there is also much to do. There is a tremendous list of accomplishments this year to announce as success for Dickinson County in the form of water quality improvements.

First and foremost, the CWA could not be successful without education, coordination, and funding. If I were to sum up what the CWA does, it is those 4 things.

This year the CWA has made a difference in Dickinson County. The list of accomplishments may not be a record setting year, but it does demonstrate the need for the Alliance and the work that still needs to be done.

The Alliance has done the following things over the last year:

- Completed the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Assessment
- Successfully obtained funding from 2 EPA grants for a total of nearly \$700,000 in funding for the Iowa Great Lakes and Silver Lake
- Successfully obtained funding for an I-Jobs grant through the Iowa Department of Agriculture for \$115,000 for Low Impact Development in the IGL
- Wrote 2 Water Quality Commission Grants. One grant was for lakeshore restoration and one for Low Impact Development.
- Successfully demonstrated lakeshore restoration on 2,200 feet of shoreline in Dickinson County.
- Assisted 25 landowners with water quality concerns in Dickinson County
- Assisted 3 businesses with water quality concerns
- Maintained the website www.cleanwateralliance.net
- Provided assistance to the County on the East Okoboji Beach road construction project on a daily basis
- Assisted all of the cities in Dickinson County with water quality needs.
- Assisted the County on several storm water ordinance issues
- Provided 23 presentations throughout the county about the Assessment of the Iowa Great Lakes.
- Completed a 10.52 acre conservation easement on the Lutheran Church property south of West Okoboji.

For the Water Quality Commission this has been a terrific year in which the Commission continues to affect tremendous change in Dickinson County. The Commission provides up to \$200,000 per year for water quality purposes in Dickinson County in the form of grants. Those grants have brought the county 10 dollars for every 1 dollar that has been spent by the Commission. To date nearly 1.6 million dollars have been obligated or spent by the commission and over 16 million dollars have been brought back to the county in the form of matching dollars.

This year there have been 7 applications submitted. The total of these 7 grants only totals approximately \$165,000 so there will be excess funds this year for only the second time of the Commission's existence.

As always, please feel free to contact us at anytime. The Iowa Great Lakes need people who are concerned about

the well-being of the lakes. You are a key in the protection of our lakes. Thank you for all you have done in the past and all you will do in the future.

Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Annual Report

By Derek Namanny

CWA Watershed Coordinator Assistant

This summer the Dickinson SWCD hired Derek Namanny and Spencer Herbert to assist with the duties of the District and the Clean Water Alliance (CWA). They started the summer off by completing a spring tillage survey of the whole Iowa Great Lakes (IGL) watershed. They used the data to help calculate the sediment load draining into the Iowa Great Lakes.

Derek and Spencer also had some summer-long projects. They assisted with water sampling and monitoring at the Maritime Museum in Arnolds Park, and the housing districts of East Okoboji Beach and Arthur Heights around East Lake Okoboji. After helping with the installation of the lakeshore restoration project, they watered and maintained the six sites throughout the summer.

In the final weeks of the summer Derek and Spencer inspected and took pictures of all of the conservation easements held by the district. They also took GPS points and pictures of all of the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) agreements around the IGL watershed.

At the end of the summer Spencer returned to Iowa State University to complete his environmental science degree. Derek is still employed by the district and continues to assist with urban conservation duties like rain garden designing and other IGL watershed projects.

Silver Lake Watershed Project Annual Report

By Ryan Ransom

Silver Lake Watershed Coordinator

The Silver Lake Watershed Project and coordinator Ryan Ransom were off and running in January of 2009. Using grant funding from the State of Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB), landowners in the Silver Lake Watershed have been offered incentives for enrolling wetland acres into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). The WRP program is designed to compensate landowners for long-term wetland restoration efforts, and has a 30-year or a permanent easement option.

With the help of NRCS staff from Dickinson & Osceola County field offices, Ransom was able to submit several applications for new WRP projects in the watershed. Although available funding for new projects in 2009 has been very limited, Ransom is optimistic about a pair of key sites in the watershed which may rank high enough to be funded in spring of 2010. If restored, these wet-

land basins would be a great step forward in protecting the quality of water entering Silver Lake.

Between the months of May and August in the summer of 2009, water monitoring was conducted every two weeks at seven (7) key points in the watershed. Field data was recorded at each site, and samples collected at each site were sent to the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory in Iowa City. Periods of consistent rainfall in the months of June and July resulted in high levels of suspended solids and nutrient loading in many samples within the watershed, as well as isolated samples producing high bacteria counts. Data from the 2009 field season will be compared to sampling results from the same sites in previous years, and used to help paint a better picture of the water quality impairments facing Silver Lake.

In November of 2009, the Silver Lake Park Improvement Association (SLPIA) received \$2,500 in grant funding from the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission (WQC). SLPIA and the Dickinson County WQC have both been major contributors to the Silver Lake Watershed Project in the past, and will use this grant funding for expenses associated with water testing in the Silver Lake Watershed in 2010.

The Dickinson SWCD was notified in August that the Silver Lake Watershed Project had been selected for EPA 319/WSPF grant funding. A selection committee comprised of officials from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as well as the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), awarded the Silver Lake Project with over \$300,000 in funding. Silver Lake was one of only six grant applications selected for funding by the committee in Iowa for 2009. Ransom hopes to have funding available to landowners in January or February of 2010.

This grant will provide substantial funding for water quality protection and restoration, and will be geared toward providing producers and landowners incentive payments for a wide variety of conservation practices. Incentive payments will include agricultural practices such as grassed waterways, stream buffers, sediment basins, and conservation tillage; as well as urban practices such as rain gardens, impervious paving, and shoreline restoration. Ransom stated, "The funding made available through the 319/WSPF grant program will be a necessary compliment to the first phase of the Silver Lake Watershed Project, which is focused on wetland restoration. We will now be able to offer producers and property owners a wider variety of incentives for conservation practices on almost any type of land, and be able to work with produc-

ers on programs that might be able to better match the goals of their operation."

How Do I Measure Up?

By James Gillespie,
Division of Soil Conservation 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.¹²⁵

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!**

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Publicly Owned Lakes

Publicly Owned Lakes provides for 75% cost-share to build conservation structures that improve water quality in the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed. There was no allocation for this program for FY 09.

Low Interest Loan Programs

Low interest loans are available to producers for the installation of conservation practices that improve water quality. The Interest rate on this loan is 3% with terms up to 10 years on soil erosion practices and up to 20 years for water quality improvements for eligible existing livestock facilities.

3% loans are also available for Low Impact Development (LID) practices, such as rain gardens and pervious paving.

Grant/Project Funds as of December 30, 2009

CWA Misc. Funds

Allocation	\$ 797.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ 94.00
Balance unspent	\$ 703.00

Dickinson County Tree Reserve

Allocation	\$ 3,110.53
Obligated/Spent	\$ 0.00
Balance unspent	\$ 3,110.53

Easement Funds

Allocation	\$ 298.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ 64.00
Balance unspent	\$ 234.00

East Okoboji Beach-WIRB

Total Allocation for the 3 year project is \$386,000.00

Allocation received to date	\$205,000.00
Obligated/Spent	\$205,000.00
Balance unspent	\$ 0.00

IGL Watershed Assessment

Allocation	\$ 47,128.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ 18,626.50
Balance unspent	\$ 28,501.50

Silver Lake Monitoring Funds

Allocation	\$ 2,351.04
Obligated/Spent	\$ 2,351.04
Balance unspent	\$ 0.00

WQC-Infiltration Based Storm Water

Allocation	\$ 51,019.05
Obligated/Spent	\$ 37,099.23
Balance unspent	\$ 13,919.82

WQC-Lakeshore Restoration

Allocation	\$ 28,000.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ 26,533.02
Balance unspent	\$ 1,466.98

WQC-Targeted Raingardens

Allocation	\$ 25,000.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ 0.00
Balance unspent	\$ 25,000.00

LID WIRB Grant completed in 2009

Allocation	\$400,166.41
Obligated/Spent	\$347,983.06
Unspent funds returned	\$ 52,183.35
Balance	\$ 0.00

Commissioner Funds

Funds raised or received	\$ 17,514.72
Funds Spent	\$ 15,836.83
Balance unspent	\$ 1,677.89

District Employee funding as of December 30, 2009

District Cost for doing payroll	\$ 3,354.75
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CWA

Funds available	\$ 61,068.14
Spent	\$ 28,457.41
Balance unspent	\$ 32,610.73

UC

FY 09 Funds 7-1-08—6-30-09	\$ 68,435.00
Spent	\$ 62,574.02
Balance unspent & returned 7-23-09	\$ 4,906.80

FY 10 Funds to date 7-1-09—12-31-09	\$ 48,849.75
Obligated/Spent	\$ 36,280.24
Balance Unspent	\$ 9,569.51

SL

WIRB Funds managed by Osceola County
319 Funds to be managed by Dickinson County

Pilot No-Till or Strip-Till Announced

A Pilot No-Till or Strip Till program was renewed for 2009 and 2010 for six northern Iowa counties including Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Palo Alto and Pocahontas.

This program is for producers interested in learning the benefits of no-tilling or strip-tilling. **An incentive payment of \$50 per acre with a maximum of 200 acres for a three year commitment to no-till or strip tillage is available this spring.** Limited funds are available.

The Dickinson SWCD is taking applications for this program through April 1, 2010. Please contact the Dickinson SWCD at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3 or stop in the USDA Service Center at 2412 17th Street, Spirit Lake, to learn more about this pilot program and review the necessary rules for qualifying for this incentive payment.

Two applications were accepted in 2009. Two applications have already been accepted for the 2010 crop year.

Reception for Steve Anderson



Steve Anderson, Dickinson County Urban Conservationist, stepped into a new "job" for a year beginning this last April. Steve, a 15 year member of the South Dakota National Guard, was deployed to Kuwait for a year.

The Commissioners hosted a recep-

tion for Steve on Thursday, April 9, 2009. Steve (at right) and his wife, Sara (facing forward), meet and chat with those who came to the reception.



Shared Management Unit

In 2008, the Natural Resources Conservation Service began utilizing Shared Management Units, which is the sharing of a District Conservationist for two counties. Currently in Iowa there are nineteen shared management units, four of which are in northwest Iowa.

Dickinson and Emmet Counties began as a shared management unit in the fall of 2008 with Carroll Oskvig as the District Conservationist for both counties. Loren Ehlers, who transferred from the Rock Rapids NRCS office, is the Resource Conservationist for Emmet County.

Poster Contest Winner

The Dickinson SWCD Commissioners announce the winner of this year's poster contest, as Krista Kolegraff, a junior at Spirit Lake High School, a student in Mr. Proctor's art class. The contest is co-sponsored by Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI). Using this year's theme of "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," Krista cleverly created the paint for her poster using Iron Oxide, Bentonite, Chrome OA, Iron Chromate, Dolomite and Ball Clay.



The Dickinson SWCD Commissioners presented Krista \$20 and an Earth Day t-shirt.

Secretary Northey Visit on July 29

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey visited Humboldt, Pocahontas, Buena Vista and Dickinson Counties on Wednesday, July 29 as part of his effort to visit each of Iowa's 99 counties again in 2009, to meet with Iowans and discuss agriculture and the issues facing farmers in the state. Northey visited Spirit Lake during the Dickinson County Fair.

According to an article released by the Secretary's office in Des Moines, he said, "I've learned from the meetings I've attended in each of the counties over the past two years and I'm sure this year will be no different. It's a challenging time on and off the farm and I'm excited to hear from Iowans about the issues facing agriculture."

Orville Berg Receives Ace Cory Award



Assistant Commissioner Orville Berg was honored by the Okoboji Protective Association who awarded him the 2009 Ace Cory Conservation Award for his pioneering accomplishments in conservation and the environment and for heightening public awareness of those issues in the Iowa Great Lakes Region.

Orville was an elected Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner from 1978 through 2005. He has been appointed as an Assistant Commissioner from 2005 through the present.

Scholarship Winner

Katelyn Warburton, daughter of Joe and Diane Warburton of Milford was the 2009 recipient of the Jo Groves Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500. This scholarship is not limited in the course of study.

Katelyn is attending Gustavus Adolphus College with her career goals including majoring in psychology and possible graduate school for neuro-psychology or law school.



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