



DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3302 18TH STREET SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 712-336-3782, EXT. 3

DECEMBER 2016

A Quality Environment

The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are pleased to present their 2016 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.



SWCD Commissioners from left to right: Vance Hjelm, Dave Kohlhaase, Mark Ingwersen, Curt Smith and Chris Hoffman

Field Office Staff:

Mark Schutt, NRCS District Conservationist-Dickinson/Emmet
Matt Welsh, NRCS Soil Conservationist-Dickinson/Emmet
Clint Hain, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician-Dickinson
Maxine Butler, IDALS-DSC Conservation Assistant

District Staff:

Jim Sholly, Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, January - April
John Wills, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator & Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, July-December

Look for the
2017 Tree Sale flyer
included with this newsletter

Cover Crops and Soil Health Meeting

Dickinson County Fairgrounds
Community Room
Spirit Lake

Tuesday, February 7, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Open to the Public — Lunch Provided

Call for your Reservation by February 1, 2017
712-336-3782, Ext. 3

Mark your calendars!

Soil and Water Conservation Districts to Host Cover Crop Workshops

February 7th at Expo Center, Spirit Lake Iowa

Cover Crop workshops have been scheduled for February 7, 2017 in Spirit Lake and February 8, 2017 in Moline, Iowa. The programs will feature local farmers along with main speakers, Loran Steinlage, West Union Iowa and Chris Teachout, Shenandoah Iowa. Both meetings will cover the same material and will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Up to 4.5 Certified Crop Adviser Continuing Education Credits in Soil and Water Management have been applied for.

Loran and Chris have extensive experience in cover crops, and have successfully integrated them into their rotations.

This meeting will be an open forum format in which questions will be taken and answered. The focus of this meeting is to provide an avenue for farmers to learn from other farmers about what is working on their farms.

Soil Health has received considerable attention the last several years. Is this a new buzzword or does it have long-term relevance in modern agriculture? Soil Health is defined as the continued capacity of soil to

District Commissioners

Vance Hjelm Chris Hoffman Mark Ingwersen
Dave Kohlhaase Curt Smith

Assistant Commissioner

Orville Berg

District Mission Statement

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

function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. This definition goes hand in hand with farming – the business of growing crops and raising livestock in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. Developing a strategy to improve the long term sustainability of the soil is critical to maintain the long term sustainability of the farm.

The first step is to learn about how management decisions impact the soil biology and the ability of the crop to access nutrients and water while resisting disease. Some of the decisions are subtle changes while others require a major change in the operation. The four basic principles of managing for a healthy soil are:

- Manage more by disturbing soil less;
- Diversify soil biota with plant diversity;
- Keep a living root growing throughout the year;
- Keep the soil covered.

Three of the four of these principles can be achieved by use of cover crops. Use of cover crops in an intensive corn / soybean rotation is not an easy task but one worth the effort. At this meeting we will explore and discuss each principle and how to positively impact the bottom line.

Sponsored by North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), ISU Extension, Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District and local County Farm Bureau.

Agenda:

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome – Michael Henderson, USDA-NRCS Area 1 Agronomist
- 9:15 a.m. Principles of Soil Health - Doug Peterson USDA-NRCS Regional Soil Health Specialist
- 10:30 a.m. Loran Steinlage and Chris Teachout – How to Integrate Cover Crops
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch – Provided
- 1:00 p.m. Local Farmer panel that have experience with cover crops on their farm
- 2:30 p.m. Final comments -- Michael Henderson, USDA-NRCS Area Agronomist

If you are interested in attending the Spirit Lake workshop, please RSVP on or before February 1st by calling 712-336-3782, x302 or you can e-mail to maxine.butler@ia.nacdn.net.

Underground Outlet Instead of Plastic Risers

Thinking of replacing an orange tile intake or beehive anytime soon? An Underground Outlet may be the answer to getting rid of the above ground intake altogether. An Underground Outlet is a conduit installed beneath the surface of the ground to



carry tile water with less pollutants and equal or better drainage.

An Underground Outlet is a structure that is placed in the lowest point of pot-holes, terraces, or waterways to minimize the amount of sediment, and fertilizers, that would be transported to an outlet. (As a point of interest, Underground Outlets are easier to farm around since you may have nothing above ground.)

At present, the most common way to drain potholes is a tile intake, which is essentially a pipe that acts as a direct conduit for water from the field to the tile system. An Underground Outlet is used to filter sediment from the water that is drained from the field. An Underground Outlet, is designed to remove the runoff water from a depressed area or terrace that would occur from a storm, within 48 hours.

The Underground Outlet can be used instead of a surface tile riser. The Underground Outlet allows for the same infiltration as a surface outlet but allows for ease of farming, better water quality, and equal or better drainage.

The size of the Underground Outlet should be determined by the acreage of the depressed area and local precipitation patterns. For more information about design go to: https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/IA/Underground_Outlet_620_STD_2015_07.pdf

The cost of establishing an Underground Outlet will be greatly determined by the cost of purchasing gravel and sand in your area. Proper design should allow the removal of runoff water from a storm within 24 to 48 hours. Other costs include the tile line within the gravel layer, the tile line to connect to a main tile, the geotextile used, and labor for installation.

Cost share may be available for these Underground Outlets. Please contact John Wills at 712-336-3782 ext. 3 for more information about Underground Outlets.



An Underground Outlet during construction . .

. . . and after construction.



From your District Conservationist, Mark Schutt:

I have a great job. I am a farmer at heart, just like you, and if I did not like working with the land I would be working somewhere else. My goal every year is to improve your operation and to improve the value of your soil and water resources by making recommendations and when possible using Federal, State, and local financial assistance programs to help you.



Visit the NRCS office and let's solve agriculture's soil and water erosion problems together locally, one field at a time.

2016 was a great year for crop yields especially in soybeans if your farm avoided excessive rainfall events. Those rains have caused greater soil erosion in fields where conservation practices were not used. Significantly less erosion occurred on fields protected by conservation practices. I see fewer and fewer conservation practices on cropland every year in Northwest Iowa. Waterways are sprayed or tilled up and not replaced, fence lines are removed, terraces are removed, and unproductive areas are tore up and added to fields to square up fields for convenience. Farming these areas will cost you money, not make you more and they cause a poor public perception of farming's conservation ethic.

I recommend you think about this as you plan for 2017. Are you a being good steward of the land you own and the land you farm? I have yet to have anybody say they are not a good steward, but look around your neighborhood. We all could do better. There are shining examples of conservation farmers in Northwest Iowa and they know who they are. We need many, many more of them if agriculture really deserves to police itself as an industry.

The two best ways to reduce soil erosion are to SEED DOWN waterways and poor producing parts of fields and REDUCE your tillage operations. Switching to a strip tillage system away from full width tillage will save you money, increase your soil's natural drainage, build your soil's organic matter, and it will cut your soil erosion in half. Adding cover crops would be even better for your soil's health and your bottom line. If you do not believe yet, pick up any farm magazine and read what the industry is saying. Farming technology continues to improve every year and more producers should start to embrace these changes, and not continue to farm as our grandparents did years ago.

Why are Northwest Iowa farmer's not taking advantage of State and Federal conservation programs to make changes on their farms that make them more money and reduce off site effects of agricultural production at the same rate as producers in other Iowa counties? I do not know. Let's try to catch up.

Conservation programs offered through our office are voluntary, assistance is free. If Local, State, and Federal agricultural programs are not used by producers for voluntary conservation, those programs will eventually cease to exist. When that happens, the financial cost of future agricultural regulatory changes will rest on the shoulders of the farmer alone.

The NRCS staff would welcome the chance to walk your farm and offer our opinion on conservation practices for your land. We do not have a profit motive, but we know that you do. Nothing we suggest is proven to fail, it has all been proven to help your land maintain or improve its value over the long term. All decisions that affect your farming business are yours.

The SWCD Commissioners and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff are here to help you.

Matt Welsh, Soil Conservationist - Dickinson/Emmet County

Greetings Dickinson County!

I wish everyone a happy holiday season to you and your family. This time of year offers opportunities for reflection on the past 12 months.

Conservation in Dickinson County continued in 2016 with many additions to the land by farmers, landowners and conservation organizations/agencies. Some highlights from projects supported by the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS included **rotational grazing systems, cover crops, shoreline stabilization, wildlife habitat establishment, livestock watering systems, wetland restorations, and targeted water quality practices.**

Along with structural and management practices adapted on the land, field days and conferences were held to share knowledge and network about conservation. I'm looking forward to seeing the continuance of these efforts in 2017!



Last year also saw significant erosion in the county. Spring and summer rain events came often and many were intense rainfalls. Conservation will help armor and protect our soils against these storms. This is a great time of year to reflect on problem areas of farms that may need attention going forward. The field office staff is here to help you on that process moving forward.

Conservation in general cuts a wide swath. Conservation efforts can be multi-faceted and multi-beneficial. If we can lay a foundation for conservation that touches on all aspects of conserving our resources; soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy; then Soil Health would be that foundation. Soil Health is defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. Many of our soils

have been degraded far beyond the capacity those soils originally developed under. Soil health teaches us how to manage soils in a manner that allows for sustainability and also full use of the soil's potential, which is especially important in today's current trend of depressed Ag markets. Several properties of soil health can directly affect your farms net return.

Water movement on the surface and through the root zone is greatly impacted by healthy soils. In 2016 we had challenges from intense rain events in short time periods and extreme weather conditions during critical plant growth stages. These occurrences truly test the resiliency of the soil to sustain crop production goals. **Studies have shown healthy soils along with maintaining crop residues on the surface can increase water infiltration by up to 2.5 inches per hour.** Most of our local farms dealing with excess water is an every year occurrence, and even in these landscapes soil health principles can be used to help restore soil structure and aid in water movement through the soil profile. As with the return on investment for tile drainage, soil health also has the ability to return on your investment.

The value of increasing soil organic matter over the time can be very significant. Improving the soil biology will allow the "army" of soil microbes to mineralize more soil nutrients and create better soil structure in soil. **NRCS economists estimate a 1% increase in soil organic matter equates to \$29 an acre for nutrient value & retained water holding capacity.** In many cases depending on soil type and actual mineralization rates, these figures could be even more. Soil bound nutrients largely in an organic form provide a largely untapped pool of nutrients that our crops could utilize. Healthy soils will allow more nutrient cycling to occur and overtime this should help lower amounts of fertilizer needed for crops. In particular, soil organic nitrogen has vast pools in typical Clarion/Webster/Nicollet soils, but the challenge is mineralizing enough into a plant available form. A soil health system will help release more of the nitrogen into a form the plants can utilize for growth (Nitrate). The benefits of that are both economically and environmentally ideal.

In what ways can we improve soil health and its value?

- 1) Reduce tillage or move to a no-till/ strip-till system.
- 2) Increase the diversity of crop rotations or cover crops.
- 3) Keep a living root in the ground as long as possible to feed soil microbes and protect the soil surface; and
- 4) Add livestock to your operation to add nutrient rich manure to the soil as well as increase soil organic matter and diversification. Some operations can fit all principles of soil health into their system and others may be limited to some. I would challenge everyone to look at their own land and operation and ask yourself what can I do to build soil health moving forward? It's a journey with soil health and there are many great resources available today to learn from and even local folks who are implementing these practices. Anytime you have a question or want to know more about soil health give us a ring at the office or

stop on by, we would be happy to meet you.

A quick reminder that if you have problem areas on farms that may need conservation practices or you have ideas for conservation projects let the service center know and we will come out to take a look at those with you. We have very good federal and state programs and locally led grants that can help support conservation planning efforts on your land. Winter is a good time to start thinking about updating conservation plans, especially for those folks farming HEL ground. Let us know if you want to review or update your current conservation plan. We will gladly work with you on that.

Need a Grassed Waterway? Clint Hain, Soil Conservation Technician

With above average rainfall across northwest Iowa, the 2016 growing season was a challenge for Dickinson county farmers. Heavy and timely rainfalls sprinkled throughout the planting season delayed some farmers from getting into the fields, also requiring many acres to be replanted.



Harvest 2016 also was a challenge for local producers with timely rains delaying the start of the harvest season. Rain events in recent years seem to be coming in less frequent events, but with higher intensities. These are the type of rains where we see two or three inches of rain in an hour. This is the type of precipitation events that cause soil erosion to happen. This is never more evident than being bounced around in the combine or tractor while crossing areas of the field where erosion has occurred. By using a grassed waterway in the correct location it can help stabilize the erosion concerns and also allows us to convey unwanted water off of the surrounding crop field.

Grassed waterways are shaped with a parabolic bowl shape bottom and side slopes that are easily crossable with a tractor and implement. The width and depth of these waterways depends on the watershed drainage area of the location and the type of soil also plays an important role in the design. Waterways are built to hold a capacity from a 10 year-24 hour storm event which is 4.3 inches in Dickinson County. They have a 10 year design life and will require little to no maintenance after the brome grass is established. NRCS does have cost share funds available for grassed waterways with rates that vary, but usually around 50% cost share is available. Cost share is also available for other conservation practices such as terraces, water and sediment control basins, windbreaks, and all soil health practices.

Dickinson SWCD Treasurer's Report

6/30/2016

Funds available for cost-share practices - kept in Des Moines

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Carry over from FY 15</u>	<u>FY16 Allocation</u>	<u>Obligated</u>	<u>Recalled or Spent</u>	<u>Balance</u>
IFIP Practices	\$ 4,785.00	\$ 13,130.00	\$ 7,362.50	\$ -	\$ 10,552.50
Plus supplemental to FY Allocation	\$ 1,592.00				
Includes management practices up to \$15,000 - (30% of total allocation over that amount)					
REAP Practices	\$ 5,775.00	\$ 10,061.47	\$ 10,250.00	\$ 4,560.00	\$ 1,026.47
practices in Silver Lake/designated IGL Watersheds only or F/NG after those funds are used up					
REAP-Forestry/Native Grasses	\$ -	\$ 3,357.41	\$ -	\$ 1,392.29	\$ 1,965.12
Water Quality Initiative - STATEWIDE					
beginning obligation \$ (37,140.00)	\$ 873.40	\$ 3,504,947.80	\$ 20,259.50	\$ 3,448,421.70	\$ -
Dickinson Applications			\$ -	\$ 10,704.00	
IGL Targeted BMPs - WIRB 1413-005	Spirit Lake & Center Lake				
Project Totals	Spirit Lake & Center Lake				
\$ 3,000.00	Water Sampling	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,184.00	\$ 1,816.00
\$ 6,000.00	I & E	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,309.00	\$ 4,691.00
\$ 15,000.00	Tile Intakes	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 50,000.00	Shoreline Stab	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 10,000.00	Fish Barriers	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 84,000.00		\$ 84,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 2,493.00	\$ 6,507.00
Lakes Restoration Fund - Use IGL 319 Agreement 030-5.10					
Project Totals	IGL Coord Salary	\$ 15,000.00			
	Reeds Run Sampli	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
	DD35 Tile Intakes	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
IGL Targeted Watershed - WSPF & 319 030-5.10					
16 CRP Incentive - 319		\$ 4,450.50	\$ -	\$ 2,868.50	\$ 1,582.00
16 LID Practices - 319		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
16 Sediment Basin - 319		\$ 18,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,500.00
16 Streambank/Shoreline - 319		\$ 2,160.00	\$ -	\$ 2,160.00	\$ -
16 Bio-retention - WSPF		\$ 39,270.00	\$ 39,270.00	\$ -	\$ -
16 Rain garden - WSPF		\$ 5,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,250.00
16 CRP Incentive - WSPF		\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,611.00	\$ 1,389.00
16 LID Practices - WSPF		\$ 46,900.00	\$ 30,115.50	\$ 1,837.50	\$ 14,947.00
16 Pond/Wetland System		\$ 48,847.50		\$ 41,444.06	\$ 7,403.44
16 Sediment Basin		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 180,378.00	\$ 76,885.50	\$ 51,921.06	\$ 51,571.44
Silver Lake Watershed - WSPF					
16 Grassed Waterway - WSPF		\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -
16 Water & Sed Basin - WSPF		\$ 16,875.00		\$ 16,875.00	\$ -
16 Underground Outlets/CRP Incentive		\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
*Recalled February 2016		\$ 33,675.00	\$ -	\$ 33,675.00	\$ -
Publicly Owned Lakes	FY14	\$ 5,812.50	\$ -	\$ 5,812.50	* \$ -
	FY16	\$ 39,100.00	\$ -	\$ 39,100.00	* \$ -

*recalled

Dickinson SWCD Treasurer's Report

06/30/16

District Revolving Checking Account

				Allocation	Spent	Balance
District Funds						
SLPIA Water Monitoring (reimbursed by SLPIA)				\$ 4,351.17	\$ 3,562.08	\$ 789.09
CL Water Monitoring (reimbursed by WIRB 1413-005)				\$ 3,981.50	\$ 3,981.50	\$ -
WIRB 1413-005 I & E Expenses (reimbursed by WIRB 1413-005)				\$ 1,184.00	\$ 1,184.00	\$ -
				\$ 1,309.00	\$ 1,309.00	\$ -
Water monitoring reimbursed to us						
District Operations - 1M	525 supplemental	\$	13.26	\$ 2,538.26	\$ 2,538.26	\$ -
FY16						
319 IGL Targeted Watershed 030-5.10				\$ 44,300.71	\$ 44,300.71	\$ -
FY16 salary, benefits = \$62,700 (\$42,700 319, \$15,000 DNR LR, \$5,000 WQC CL)						
319 IGL Targeted Watershed				\$ 1,752.60	\$ 1,752.60	\$ -
FY16 travel & training = \$2000						
319 IGL Targeted Watershed I & E				\$ 1,115.34	\$ 1,531.34	\$ (416.00)
FY16 I & E = \$3000						
319 Silver Lake Watershed 030-6.10				\$ 5,019.58	\$ 5,019.58	\$ -
FY16 salary = \$13,450.51						
Center Lake-Fish Barrier Funds						
Dickinson County Endowment	\$	5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Okoboji Foundation Y & P	\$	20,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLIPA donation	\$	5,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CLIPA donation funds may be used for shoreline practice or fish barrier, as needed						
CWA Coordinator Funds				\$ 54,208.57	\$ 59,093.18	\$ (4,884.61)
FY16 salary, benefits, travel & training						
Dickinson County Tree Reserve				\$ 1,932.15	\$ -	\$ 1,932.15
FY16 Expenses						
East Okoboji Lakeshore Improvements	Mau Marine Settlement			\$ 22,500.00	\$ 4,244.89	\$ 18,255.11
	obligated				\$ -	
IDALS Intern				\$ 1,710.00	\$ 1,710.00	\$ -
Reeds Run Sampling Station						
SLPA	\$	2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
Lakeside Lab	\$	2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
AWC Family Foundation-OPA	\$	5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
SLPA-WQC (Oct 2016)	\$	5,000.00		\$ -	\$ 4,174.28	\$ (4,174.28)
IDNR Lakes Restoration (DM)	\$	5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
SLPA Big Spirit Shoreline Stab (3 yr)						
	\$	7,500.00		\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Urban Conservationist 030-4.08				\$ 30,009.60	\$ 30,009.60	\$ -
FY16 salary, benefits = \$67,400						
Urban Conservationist				\$ 856.94	\$ 856.94	\$ -
FY16 travel & training = \$2,000						
Urban Conservationist - I & E				\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,388.00	\$ (288.00)
FY16 I & E = \$2,000						
Watershed Assessment						
	1% for Clean Water			\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
	Reload Iowa			\$ 20,000.00	\$ 18,286.84	\$ 1,713.16
WQC - Center Lake						
	\$	5,000.00 I & E		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,497.78	\$ 1,502.22
	\$	5,000.00 salary		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
spent FY15	\$	40,000.00 practices		\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
	\$	500.00 CLIPA donation		\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
		obligated			\$ -	
WQC - CWA						
	salary			\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Dickinson Co Lakes						
	marketing			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
	Supplies/Services -LO mtg			\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
	CL Water Monitoring (17/18)			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,359.00	\$ 1,641.00
		obligated LO mtg	Aug. field day		\$ 1,000.00	
WQC - Infiltration Based Storm Water				\$ 51,019.05	\$ 51,019.05	\$ -
		obligated				
WQC Lakeshore Revegetation				\$ 73,686.00	\$ 66,901.59	\$ 6,784.41
		obligated			\$ 6,562.50	
WQC - Natural Shoreline						
	Total \$ Available		obligated			
Center Lake	\$	25,000.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Spirit Lake	\$	25,000.00	\$ 13,575.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 2,764.64	\$ 22,235.36
WQC - Targeted Raingardens				\$ 100,050.00	\$ 66,606.13	\$ 33,443.87
	includes \$50 donation from PEO		obligated		\$ 33,000.00	
Total funds in District Revolving Checking						\$ 117,833.48
Petty Cash						
				\$ 160.67	\$ 136.28	\$ 24.39

2016 District Activities

January:

Election of officers: Chris Hoffman, Chair; Curt Smith, Vice Chair; Mark Ingwersen, Secretary-Treasurer

February:

March:

District Staff attends Iowa Water Conference

April:

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

Stewardship material distributed to area churches

Jim Sholly resigns as IGL Watershed Coordinator

May:

District Scholarship is awarded to Okoboji High School Senior Blake Lineweaver, Milford, who also receives CDI Second Place Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000

June:

July:

John Wills accepts IGL Watershed Coordinator position

David Kohlhaase and Chris Hoffman file nomination papers to run for SWCD Commissioner

August:

Area 1 All Employees meeting held in Storm Lake

Field Day is held in conjunction with Prairie Lakes Conference

September:

38th Annual Outdoor Classroom was held at Kettleson Hogsback with 217 sixth grade students participating from Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji and Spirit Lake Middle Schools

October:

November:

David Kohlhaase and Chris Hoffman are elected to four year terms; Mark Ingwersen is elected as a write in candidate and accepts

December:

SWCD Foundation Tree Sale begins

38th Annual Sixth Grade Outdoor Classroom

The Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored their 38th annual Sixth Grade Outdoor at the Kettleson-Hogsback area. 217 sixth grade students from Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji and Spirit Lake School Districts participated.



The classes were conducted by members of the Iowa DNR, the Dickinson County Conservation Board, Iowa State University Extension, Trees Forever, and the NRCS.

The goal of the Outdoor Classroom is to provide a unique learning experience and an increased understanding of the environment.

2016 Scholarship Awarded

The Dickinson SWCD Commissioners and their Foundation awarded their 2016 \$500 scholarship to Okoboji Senior, Blake Lineweaver of Milford.

His application was then forwarded to be considered for the Conservation Districts of Iowa scholarship competition, whose criteria for the scholarship is: involvement; leadership and character; career choice; scholastic achievement and conservation message.



Blake was chosen to receive the Second Place award in the amount of \$3,000.

Conservation or Agriculture Scholarship available

The Dickinson SWCD Foundation announces a \$500 scholarship is available to be awarded to a Dickinson County graduating High School Senior planning to study any field of **conservation or agriculture**.

High school seniors must submit their applications to the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District no later than **March 1, 2017**.

For more information or to request an application, contact the SWCD office at 712-336-3782, Ext. 3 or e-mail: maxine.butler@ia.nacdnet.net or contact your local high school counselor.

This mailing sent to you courtesy of



Dickinson SWCD Foundation
3302 18th Street Suite 2
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 11

Conservation Stewardship Program



CSP Applications taken until February 3, 2017

CSP has been re-tooled this year and offers many opportunities for farmers who are already implementing conservation and who want to build on their existing conservation efforts.

Stop by the office to get started!



EQIP applications taken until March 17, 2017

Financial assistance for conservation practices is available through EQIP.

Common practice installations through EQIP are: **rotational grazing, livestock watering systems, cover crops, no-till/strip-till, sediment basins, grassed waterways and manure storage systems.**

NRCS will help you develop a plan for a project.

There is no obligation to submit an application.

Stop by the office to get started!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.