



2205 E. Washington Street
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641
319-385-2824

**USDA Service Center
Commissioners & Employees**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Field Office Personnel**

Doug Ensminger.....District Conservationist
Randy Robb.....Wetland Specialist
Chris Parizek.....Soil Conservationist
Scott Mellinger.....Soil Conservation Technician

Division of Soil Conservation Personnel

Michael D. Allen.....Soil Conservation Technician
Barb Shelman.....Secretary

**Henry County Soil & Water Conservation
District Commissioners**

Rick Mallams..... New London Twp.
Wilbur Leichthy..... Jefferson Twp.
Harlan Miller,Salem Twp.
Jan Anderson..... Wayne Twp.
Michael L. Brown.....Marion Twp.
Richard D. Gholson.....New London Twp.
Chuck Allen.....Marion Twp.
Rob Smith.....Center Twp.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program
(EQIP)**

The purpose of EQIP is to assist producers with cost-share dollars to comply with local, State and national regulatory requirements concerning soil, water, air quality, wildlife habitat, and surface and groundwater conservation. Sign-up is continuous and will have periodic cutoff dates to rank and allocate funding as it becomes available. Henry County received over 90,000 in cost-share dollars in FY03. FY04 initial allocations look to exceed this number. Due to a strong interest in grazing systems in Henry County, most of these funds will be spent in this category however supplemental funding may take us through the grazing systems into cropping systems such as terraces and waterways. EQIP funds are allocated by a local ranking system. If you have questions or would like to consider an application, stop by the office for details.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life on private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture and range land, as well a forested land that is an incidental part of an agricultural operation. Its goals are simple; to improve the conditions of America's working farms and ranches and to enhance natural resources for the public as a whole. It's role is to identify and meaningfully reward those farmers meeting the very highest standards of conservation and environmental management, create incentives for other producer to meet those same standards and to provide public benefit for generations to come. Currently rules are being written and have not been distributed. In general we expect this program to be available in late summer and FY05, if you have questions feel free to contact the office.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

GRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. This program was made available in FY03 with limited funding and opportunity. Funding and additional opportunity will likely occur in FY04 with long term contracts to allow continued grazing and harvesting of forage while maintaining grasslands. If you have areas that you do not wish to see row cropped or developed, please feel free to stop in and make application for this program.

Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP)

IFIP is a state funded program which allocates its program dollars through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa. Funding in recent years has been limited due to the states financial situation however things are looking up as the state legislature is close to fully funding this program. Applications are ranked and funds allocated by the Henry Soil and Water Conservation District. Funds are typically spent at a 50% cost share rate based on specific rates per unit installed for terraces and basins. If you have an interest in installing these practices stop by the office to sign-up. Our office staff will provide estimates of potential cost and rank your project for approval.

**Resource Enhancement and Protection
(REAP)**

REAP is a state funded program which allocates its program dollars though the Soil and Water Conservation District of Iowa. This program provided funding for management of forested land as well as dollars to plant tree, grasses and shrubs. Cost-share dollars are given at a 75% rate based upon specific costs per unit installed. If you have areas that you may want to improve for wildlife or have a timber lot that is in need of timber stand improvement contact our office for details.

Conservation Compliance

Conservation compliance in general is the application of sound management activities to our croplands to maintain eligibility for federal programs. It also requires that any drainage or clearing completed on cropland or non-cropland has had a wetland determination completed prior to the start of such activity. This is the basis for enrollment in conservation and feed grains programs as well as eligibility for farm loans sponsored by the federal government. In general it requires that all lands considered Highly Erodible Land (HEL) have a conservation plan applied to control erosion. Practices most likely that will be required are conservation tillage, grassed waterways, contouring, contour buffer strips, and field borders. If you are unsure of your conservation plan, please stop by the office to review it with our staff. We will as always be completing status reviews on a certain number of farms and if those practices are not installed and maintained, your eligibility for federally funded programs may be in jeopardy.



A New Face in the NRCS Office

Recently, some people have received papers from the Mt. Pleasant office with the initials "CAP" somewhere on them. That stands for Chris Parizek, and that's me. Originally from Iowa City (Go Hawks!), I graduated from Iowa State University in 2000 with a degree in Animal Ecology, wildlife emphasis (Go Cyclones!). Most of my job experience while in school revolved around corn, but I also worked for the Corps of Engineers, a national historical park in Massachusetts, and for a local development company in south-west Ireland. Before joining the NRCS, I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in sub-Saharan Africa as a (agro)forestry extension volunteer. So, if you spot a NRCS vehicle out and about, and you see it's me, give a wave.

All services and programs are offered in a non-discriminatory manner.

Henry SWCD District Annual Report July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003	
	
1M Budget-Operating Fund	
Initial Allocation	\$ 1,500.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 405.00
Total Allocations	\$ 1,905.00
Commissioner Expense	\$ 537.10
Office Expenses	\$ 705.18
Dues	\$ 712.50
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,954.78
Balance	\$ (49.78)
3M Budget-State Cost-Share Funds	
2000-2001	
Total Allocation	\$ 123,652.24
Funds Spent/Obligated	\$ 123,652.24
Unobligated Balance as of 6-30-2003	\$ -
2001-2002	
Total Allocation	\$ 149,638.00
Funds Spent/Obligated	\$ 149,638.00
Unobligated Balance as of 6-30-2003	\$ -
2002-2003	
Total Allocation	\$ 38,468.00
Funds Spent/Obligated	\$ 38,468.00
Unobligated Balance as of 6-30-2003	\$ -
Revolving No-Interest Loan	
2 Grade Stabilization Structures Constructed	
2003 Allocation	\$ 10,000.00
Funds Spent/Obligated	\$ 10,000.00
Special Lakes Fund-Geode	
1700 L.F. Terrace	
Total Allocation	\$ 6,217.50
Funds Spent/Obligated (75%)	\$ 5,399.06
Funds Returned to State	\$ 818.44
Resource Enhancement And Protection	
Budget-State Cost-Share Funds	
Practices Fund	
11.1 Acres Tree Plantings & 2 Windbreaks	
Total Allocation	\$ 9,867.00
Funds Spent/Obligated	\$ 5,713.50
Unobligated Balance as of 6-30-2003	\$ 4,153.50
Forestry/Grasses Fund	
5.0 Acres Timber Stand Improvement	
Total Allocation	\$ 5,002.00
Funds Spent/Obligated	\$ 375.00
Unobligated Balance as of 6-30-2003	\$ 4,627.00