

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation 2002 Annual Report



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Personnel



Pictured above: Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are Jeff Bergman (Union Township), Ron Snyder (Burlington), Todd Heckenberg (Benton Township), Frank Hedges (Huron Township), and Donald Lounsbury (Pleasant Grove Township).

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Arlyn L. Musselman
Bradley J. Weiss
Barb Anderson
Jeremy Cochran
Scott Salisbury
George Marzecek Sr. (Until May)

OFFICE STAFF

Terrance D. Rudolph, District Conservator
Debra A. Nace, Soil Conservator (through October)
John J. Horan, Soil Conservation Technician
Jamie L. Grimes, State & District Secretary
Margaret McLachlan, District Employee
Tom R. Binkstock, District Employee (Jan.-March)

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)

Bruce W. Trautman, Area Conservator
Shawn A. Dettman, Area Resource Conservator
Mark R. Lavan, Resource Soil Scientist
Sue M. Long, Civil Engineer
Nicholas R. Schaefer, Civil Engineering Technician
Kerry K. Richards, Computer Specialist
Suzette D. Betts, Administrative Management Assistant
Darlene G. Lauder, Area Secretary

NRCS Web Information

Are you connected to the Internet? Any information about NRCS programs can be found on their web site. The national site is www.nrcs.usda.gov and the Iowa site is www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov. The site also includes links to other government agencies. Check it out!

Revolving Funds Account

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines County SWCD regular checking account from July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2000 \$4,168.68

Receipts:

Miscellaneous Sales	12.00
Checking Account Interest	49.94
Brochure Commission	72.99
Donations	80.00
Dues Reimbursement	600.00
1M Reimbursement	1,331.25
IDALS Watershed grant	2,584.18
TOTAL	\$5,330.36

Disbursements:

Postage	601.50
Checking Account Service Charge	24.00
Office Supplies & Expenses	546.28
Scholarships	95.00
Booths & Expenses	261.75
Awards & Gifts	299.07
Commissioner Travel	639.85
Printing Charges	150.00
Plat Books	100.00
Dues	1,200.00
DOT Scales	100.00
206 Expenses	63.30
Subscriptions/Memberships	195.97
Envirotech Donation	25.00
Film Processing	22.96
IDALS Watershed Grant	2,584.18
TOTAL	\$7,758.86

Balance On Hand, June 30, 2001 \$1,740.18

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines County SWCD special projects/payroll account from July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2000 \$12,984.40

Receipts:

Account Interest	165.97
Pheasants Forever	3,000.00
IDALS Buffer Funds	5,000.00
Watershed Development grant	1,415.82
Co-Op Funds	9,010.40
TOTAL	\$18,592.19

Expenditures:

Workman's Comp Insurance	259.50
Federal Tax	3,314.24
State of Iowa - Tax	341.00
IPERS	429.10
Unemployment Insurance	11.03
Help Wanted Ads	35.83
Payroll	9,861.21
TOTAL	\$14,251.91

Balance on Hand, June 30, 2001 \$17,324.68

Des Moines County SWCD Budget

July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001 Expenditures of funds provided by State of Iowa for Commissioners' Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP), Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) and Public Owned Lakes (POL).

1M Budget & Operating Expenses

Allocation	\$3,000.00
Commissioners Expense	624.55
Office Expense (includes postage, subscriptions & booths)	1,625.45
Printing	150.00
CDI Dues	325.00
NACD Dues	275.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 2000-01

Allocation	\$780.00
Site Prep for National Regeneration, incomplete	780.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 2000-01

Allocation	4,174.50
Tree Planting, 3.0 acres completed	1,095.00
Timber Stand Improvement, 18.9 acres completed	1,417.50
Site Prep for National Regeneration, incomplete	1,662.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 1999-00

Allocation	\$6,451.00
Timber Stand Improvement, 18.9 ac completed	600.00
Field Windbreak, .6 ac complete	151.00
Transferred to 2000-01 funds	5,700.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry/Native grasses 1999-00

Allocation	\$4,404.50
Riparian Buffer, 20.4 ac completed	1,892.00
Transferred to 2000-01 funds	2,512.50
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 1998-99

Allocation	\$5,464.32
Tree Planting, 6.3 ac completed	2,042.07
Timber Stand Improvement, 63.5 ac completed	3,416.25
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 1998-99

Allocation	\$3,307.50
Tree Planting, 9.8 ac completed	3,307.50
Balance	-0-

IFIP 2000-01

Allocation	\$88,466.00
Terraces, 11,680 ft completed	30,517.72
Terraces, incomplete	28,909.00
Grassed Waterways, 7060 ft completed	6,031.48
Grassed Waterways, incomplete	2,662.50
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 4 completed	5,308.77
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	4,088.50
Grade Stabilization Structure, 1 completed	3,350.00
Balance	\$7,598.03

IFIP 1999-00

Allocation	\$107,465.87
Terraces, 22,715 ft completed	71,255.28
Terraces, incomplete	24,289.50
Grassed Waterways, 6400 ft completed	6,558.92
Water & Sediment Control basins, 4 completed	3,170.17
Water & Sediment Control basins, incomplete	2,192.00
Balance	-0-

IFIP 1998-99

Allocation	\$32,198.95
Terraces, 8425 ft completed	24,458.82
Terraces, incomplete	1,388.13
Grassed Waterways, 7940 ft completed	6,352.00
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2000-01

Allocation	\$14,216.25
Terraces, incomplete	14,216.25
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 1999-00

Allocation	\$28,831.36
Terraces, 7200 ft completed	28,831.36
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 1998-99

Allocation	\$6,210.68
Terraces, 1825 ft completed	6,210.68
Balance	-0-

District Activities During 2001

January

- Election of Officers for 2001 resulted as follows: Chairperson: Todd Heckenberg; Vice-Chairperson: Donald Lounsbury
- Appointments for 2001 resulted as follows: Secretary: Jamie Grimes; Treasurer: Grimes; Co-Treasurer: Bergman; Assistant Commissioners: Arlyn Musselman, Brad Weiss; RC&D Executive Board: Don Lounsbury, Frank Hedges, Clint Creek Advisory Board: Heckenberg, County RC&D Board: Bergman; REAP: Bergman; Education Committee: Heckenberg, Weiss; Fund Raising Committee: Hedges, Ron Snyder; Marketing Committee: Bergman, Musselman; Agreements Committee: Lounsbury, Heckenberg; Contest Committee: Snyder; Special Programs Committee: Bergman, Lounsbury; Legislative Committee: Hedges; Urban Conservation Committee: Snyder.
- CDI and NACD dues were paid.
- Heckenberg and Snyder attended Commissioner training in Fairfield on January 18.
- Debra Nace attended an Ag Summit in Ames on January 12.
- Nace did a presentation at Sunnyside Preschool on January 22 and 23.
- Statewide EQIP sign-up ended January 26.

February

- Annual Report was printed in Mediapolis News.
- Civil Rights were reviewed.
- Miss Quad EQIP sign-up began February 20.
- Jeremy Cochran, Scott Salisbury, Barbara Anderson, and George Marzecek Sr. were appointed Assistant Commissioners.
- A \$700 donation was given to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for a scholarship.
- The District hosted a booth at John Deere Days at Haasentrit Imple ment for the promotion of buffers on February 8.
- Nace, Terrance Rudolph, and Grimes attended an All Employee Award Meeting on February 22 in Iowa City.

March

- The District hosted two 206 Yellow Spring Project meetings for landowners on March 6.
- Miss Quad EQIP sign-up ended March 30.
- The District hosted a booth at Danville Ag Days on March 24.
- A survey was mailed to all landowners in the Tri-Creek watershed.

April

- Soil and Water Stewardship Week was April 29-May 6.
- Snyder attended the Spring Regional Meeting in Ottumwa on April 2.
- Nace gave a presentation at an outdoor classroom at Starr's Cave on April 19.
- Doshia Johnson, North Hill second grade student, received 1st place in the poster contest. Her poster was sent on for regional competition.

May

- One application from Des Moines County was approved for Miss Quad EQIP funds.
- Brock Beckman, Holly Wagner, Vera Miller and Bill Tucker were selected as local winners of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Other nominations for various awards were Steve Nunnikhoven-Woodland Owner of the Year; and Heckenberg-Ken Wagner Award.
- Five applications from Des Moines County were approved for Statewide EQIP



Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation 2002 Annual Report

District Activities continued -

- Brock Beckman, Holly Wagner, Vera Miller and Bill Tucker were selected as local winners of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Other nominations for various awards were Steve Nunikhoven - Woodland Owner of the Year; and Heckenberg - Ken Wagner Award.
- Five applications from Des Moines County were approved for Statewide EQIP funds.
- The District received a soil loss complaint and conducted a tour/visit of the site.
- A damage assessment report was completed due to the heavy rains received May 14.
- Nace gave a presentation at an outdoor classroom at Starr's Cave on May 16.

June

- Snyder and Hedges were appointed to conduct an annual audit of the District books.
- Yearly status reviews were conducted the first week of June.
- A female landowner survey was completed.

July

- One application from Des Moines County was approved for EQIP for estuary funds.
- Rudolph and McLachlan attended a Sub Area Meeting on July 26 at Oakland Mills.
- Nace attended IOWATER training in Cedar Falls on July 19.

August

- Two additional applications from Des Moines County were approved for statewide EQIP funds.
- Snyder and Hedges completed the annual audit of the District books.
- Snyder attended the Fall Regional Meeting in Mt. Pleasant on August 27.

September

- An additional application from Des Moines County was approved for EQIP forestry funds.
- The District received \$3,000 for the Buffer Initiative.
- The monthly meeting was held at Starr's Cave Nature Center.

October

- Nace's last day was October 30.
- Rudolph completed Conservation Planning certification.
- Rudolph worked with Notre Dame High School concerning native plant restoration in an Outdoor Classroom.

December

- Statewide EQIP sign-up was held until December 28.

District Accomplishments: July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

	Amount	Unit
New District Cooperators on 760 acres	7	No.
Individuals or Groups Assisted	2,051	No.
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	26	Acres
Terraces Constructed	24,080	Ft.
Water & Sediment Control Basin Constructed	5	Acres
Woodland Improvement	19	Acres
Tree Plantings Completed	17	Acres
CRP Established	1,000	Acres
Field Windbreak Established	2	Acres
Riparian Forest Buffers Established	21	Acres
Riparian Filter Buffers Established	347	Acres
Shallow Water Areas Established	20	Acres
Grade Stabilization Structure Completed	1	No.
CRP Contracts Completed	64	No.
EQIP Contracts Completed	2	No.



Scholarship Recipients: Richard Edmunds, Charlie Ford, Erik Krekel, Mark Carlisle, Justin Schulte, James Whitcomb, Kyle Buckert, Jesse Logan, Marcus McCabe, Jesse Woolldridge, Casey Diehl.

District Donates Scholarship

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District donated \$700 to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for the 2001-2002 school year.

The Foundation was established to assist students enrolled in agriculture programs at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington.

Other organizations who made contributions towards the 2001-2002 scholarship fund were Bank of Stronghurst, BASF, Country Cars II, Curt Thomas Memorial Scholarship, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Griffin LLC, Novartis, Raritan State Bank, and Twomey Company.

Recipients of 2001-2002 Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation Scholarships were Richard Edmunds, Charlie Ford, Erik Krekel, Mark Carlisle, Justin Schulte, James Whitcomb, Kyle Buckert, Jesse Logan, Marcus McCabe, Jesse Woolldridge, and Casey Diehl.

Deutmeyer joins staff

Troy Deutmeyer recently joined the staff of the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist. Troy grew up on a grain and hog farm in northeast Iowa near Dyersville. After graduation from high school, he attended Iowa State University where he received his degree in Ag Technology and Agronomy. He is currently working on his Masters of Agronomy at Iowa State. After graduating from Iowa State, Troy was an Agronomist/GPS Specialist for a crop consulting firm near Cedar Rapids and a Research Agronomist/Precision Ag Specialist for Monsanto. Before recently joining the NRCS staff in January, Troy spent two years as a Crop Systems Specialist for John Deere in Davenport. Troy has been married to his wife Michelle for 5 years and they have a 10-month-old son, Shawn.



Local Farmers Chosen for Conservation Awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners selected five local farmers in 2001 as District winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and other awards.

Brock Beckman, Danville, was chosen as the winner in Division III for becoming a new soil conservation district cooperator after January 1, 2000. Brock was selected based on the terraces he has completed on his farm in Danville Township.

Vera Miller, Mountain Home, Arkansas, and Bill Tucker, New London, were selected as winners in Division I. This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained

by the tenant and the landlord. This farm, located in Pleasant Grove Township, was selected for the extensive establishment of terraces. Filterstrips have also been applied through Continuous CRP.

Holly Wagner, Danville, was selected as the winner in Division I. This division is for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program. Holly was chosen because of his farming practices that control soil erosion such as terraces, grassed waterways, filterstrips, tree plantings, field borders and a farm pond in Danville Township.

Additionally, the District chose Steve Nunikhoven, Mediapolis, as a local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. Steve has completed many acres of timber stand improvement and tree planting on his 65 acre farm in Huron Township.

An awards supper will be held this spring.

Spring Landscaping Products Available

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a variety of landscaping products for sale through a Conservation Products Brochure.

The brochure includes trees, bat and butterfly houses, wildflower seeds, strawberry plants, daylilies, ferns, ground cover plants, grapevines, blackberries, blueberries, and mushroom kits.

Call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221 for a free brochure.

Booths Sponsored to Raise

Awareness of Buffer Program

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored two booths during 2001. The first was in February during John Deere Days at Hassenfritz Implement near Mediapolis. The second booth was hosted during March at Danville Ag Days, located just west of Danville. This gave the SWCD the opportunity to market the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program to a wide variety of farmers and urban residents.

Continuous CRP is a program to install conservation buffers along streams, lakes, drainage ditches, or other bodies of water. Conservation buffers are strips of land in permanent vegetation that helps landowners reduce pollution. The following practices are included in continuous CRP: filterstrips, riparian buffer strips, shallow water areas, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, grassed waterways, living snow fences, contour grass strips and farmable wetlands.

If you are interested in Continuous CRP or have any questions, please call the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

Top Ten Reasons to Add Legumes to Your Pastures by Lisa Tyler, Area Grassland Specialist

10. Lower Nitrogen Costs

Legumes have the ability to obtain nitrogen from the atmosphere and fix it in the nodules on the roots.

The amount of nitrogen fixed varies depending on species, stand density, soil fertility, weather, and the amount of leaf surface on the legumes.

9. Improved Forage Quality

Forage quality of legumes is generally higher than that of most grasses at the same stage of maturity.

Legumes are generally higher in crude protein, digestibility and mineral content and are digested quicker than most grasses.

8. Better Growth Distribution

The addition of legumes to pastures often extends the grazing season and fills voids in grass monocultures.

7. Increased Forage Yield

The total yield from grass/legume mixtures is usually increased over straight grass pastures.

Studies show that red clover grown with tall fescue produces more total yield than tall fescue fertilized with 180 pounds N/acre.

6. Reduced Risk

Mixtures of grasses and legumes constitute a lower risk than a pure stand of either.

Mixed stands are less susceptible to devastation from disease, insects, and adverse weather.

5. Added Benefits

Legumes can improve soil tilth by creating deep root channels, which also improves soil drainage and the amount of air that is in the soil.

4. Environmental Acceptance

Because of the legume plant's ability to "fix" nitrogen through Rhizobium bacteria, legumes provide a natural, slow-release nitrogen.

3. Reduced Animal Toxicity

Growing legumes with tall fescue is the number one strategy used to combat endophyte problems associated with tall fescue.

2. Aesthetic

Legumes provide color and diversity to grass meadows and pastures.

And the number ONE reason to add legumes to your pastures...

Increased profit potential!

More milk production, higher weaning weights, higher average daily gains, and higher reproductive efficiency are common when legumes make up a significant portion of the forage mix.

Legumes are agronomically sound, environmentally friendly, and economically advantageous.

Adapted from an article in "Management Intensive Grazing in the Ozarks"

Volunteers Construct Riparian Buffer



Local volunteers contributed approximately 75 hours constructing a riparian buffer along Flint Creek in April 2001.

On April 21, 2001, a crew of approximately 40 volunteers planted 1,350 white pine, bald cypress, swamp white oak, red cedar, serviceberry, redbud, dogwood, shellbark hickory, pecan, and burr oak trees along Flint Creek in Tama Township to construct a riparian buffer.

A riparian buffer is a zone consisting of trees, shrubs and grass along a body of water. The buffer filters sediment and pollutants entering the water. A riparian buffer also benefits wildlife habitat.

Among those helping with the riparian buffer were members of local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Burlington and West Burlington High School students, Trees Forever, County Conservation Department and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

If you would be interested in constructing a riparian buffer along a creek, please contact the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

Excessive Erosion & Compliance Plans



A parabolic waterway was constructed in Washington Township using EQIP funds.

Do you have a conservation compliance plan? If so, are you following the conservation plan? Many people assume conservation plans are no longer required, but in order to receive USDA benefits, a compliance plan must be in place and followed.

On May 14, 2001, the county received approximately 2.75" of rain in a very short period. The picture shows the amount of erosion that can occur due to a heavy rain if little or no residue is left in a field to show down the water. Excessive erosion is also occurring during winter if you use fall tillage. Erosion does not only happen on Highly Erodible Land (HEL), Non-Highly Erodible Land (NHEL) is just as susceptible to severe erosion.

Severe erosion can be eliminated with the right conservation plan. Although conservation compliance plans are not required on NHEL, ground, if you are worried about soil loss and erosion, a plan can be developed to alleviate this problem.

Now is the time to review and/or revise your conservation plan. Please contact the NRCS office at 319-753-6221 to schedule an appointment.

EQIP



The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is the federal cost-share program that replaced the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) in 1996 under the new farm bill. The purpose of EQIP is to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to develop and implement conservation plans that address specific natural resource concerns.

EQIP is aimed at treating all natural resources on a tract of land: soil, water, air, plants and animals. Landowners look at the entire farm, rather than treating just one resource. EQIP contracts usually have several components and run for five to ten years. Since EQIP began, the Des Moines County SWCD has had 29 applications approved.

If you have any questions or are interested in EQIP, please call the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

Get Free Conservation and Natural Resources Photos Online

By a simple "point and click," anyone with Internet access can download free conservation-related images from a new web site at photogallery.nrcs.usda.gov. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed the site, which currently contains about 2,000 images.

The website contains more than 600 images from Iowa NRCS. You can link to the photogallery from the Iowa NRCS home page at www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov.

"We hope the site will be used by school teachers, children, magazine editors, web designers and other partners," said Terrence Rudolph, District Conservationist for the USDA NRCS in Des Moines County. "Any time these photos are used, it will help us share the important story of good land stewardship."

The images could be used in many different ways: newsletters, brochures, web sites, school lessons, presentations and post cards. Every image is free. However NRCS does request that if an image is published, the following photo credit line is used: Photo by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NRCS is a federal agency within USDA. It provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people voluntarily conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment.

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