

**Des Moines County Soil
And Water Conservation District
3625 Flint Ridge Drive
Burlington, IA 52655**

September 2, 2005

Dear Mr. Heckenberg:

Thank you very much for your donation to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation. I received a scholarship this year from the Foundation and the money will be a big help to me as I continue my education at SCC in the Ag Program.

Thanks again for your generosity!

Sincerely,


Nicole Yotter

September 17, 2004

Dear Mr. Lounsbury:

I would like to thank you for the scholarship I received from the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation. The extra money will be a big help in my future plans. Once I graduate I plan to take over the family farm and expand it to new levels. I would also like to use my education on the management side to get into manure application, but my main interest is in running the family farm so it remains a competitive operation.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Frank". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

**Kevin Frank
Oakville, Iowa**

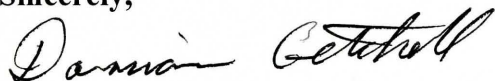
September 17, 2004

Dear Mr. Lounsbury:

I would like to thank you for donating money to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation. I received a scholarship from the Foundation and it has been put to good use to help with my college expenses. After I graduate I plan to start working full-time where I am now while still farming with my dad. Someday I will take over the family farm and run it myself.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Damian Getchell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

**Damian Getchell
Mediapolis, Iowa**

September 22, 2003

**Don Lounsbury
Des Moines Co. Soil & Water Conservation District
3625 Flint Ridge Drive
Burlington, IA 52601**

Dear Mr. Lounsbury:

Thank you very much for the scholarship I received as an Ag student at Southeastern Community College. I will use the money toward tuition and books. It is very nice of you to support area agriculture by helping out a student like me. I really appreciate it.

Thanks again for your generosity!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Blake Bessine".

Blake Bessine

Todd Heckenberg
Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District
3625 Flint Ridge Drive
Burlington, IA 52601

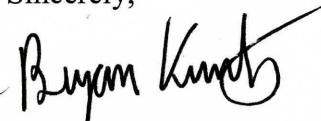
September 4, 2002

Dear Mr. Heckenberg:

Thank you for the scholarship given to me for the 2002-2003 school year. I plan to continue my education at Southeastern Community College in the Agriculture Program.

Thank you again for donating to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation. Your generous gift is greatly appreciated. I will work hard to finish my two-year program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Kuntz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bryan Kuntz

Jeff Bergman
Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District
1104 Derek Lincoln Drive
West Burlington, IA 52655

September 22, 2000

Dear Mr. Bergman:

I would like to thank you very much for the \$500 scholarship. Without your assistance, I would not be able to experience the new opportunities that SCC has offered. I am having a great time at SCC, and really appreciate your generosity.

Thanks again!

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angie Pohren". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Angie Pohren
Fairfield, Iowa



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

1805 W Jefferson Ave.
Suite 2
Fairfield, IA 52556-4236
(515) 472 - 8411

September 19, 2000

Des Moines SWCD
1104 Derek Lincoln Drive
West Burlington IA 52655

Dear Jeff:

I wanted to congratulate your District on the your winning entry for the ISCAP Program Award for the Division II Teacher at the Conservation Districts of Iowa conference last week. Please pass my congratulations on to Sherman Lundy at the Burlington high school.

Thank you for contributions to the preservation of our natural resources and for your District's support of NRCS.

I look forward to our continued working relationship.

Sincerely,

Bruce Trautman
Area Conservationist

Jeff

Sorry I didn't get a chance to
talk to at the conference. I'll try
and catch you sometime.

Thanks
Bruce

10928 142nd Avenue
West Burlington, Iowa 52655
September 13, 1995

Soil Conservation Service
West Burlington, Iowa 52655

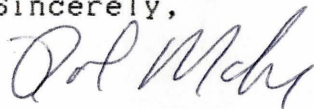
Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for your contribution to the Agricultural Foundation that enabled me to receive a \$500 scholarship. Your support provides me the opportunity to attend Southeastern Community College and prepare for my future in the field of agriculture.

I am finding the information presented in our classes to be interesting and helpful, and I am looking forward to working with area farmers for on-the-job training.

Again, I really appreciate what you have made possible for me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rob Mohr".

Rob Mohr



September 11, 1996

Jeff Bergman
Des Moines Co. Soil & Water
513 N. Main
Burlington, IA 52601

Dear Mr. Bergman:

I want to thank you for the \$500 scholarship money. The money went towards my college tuition and was greatly needed and appreciated.

Without caring people like you, we wouldn't be able to continue this very needed scholarship program.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Andrew Carhoff

Andrew Carhoff

District Offices

1015 South Gear Avenue
P.O. Drawer F
West Burlington, Iowa 52655-0605
319/752-2731

North Campus

1015 South Gear Avenue
P.O. Drawer F
West Burlington, Iowa 52655-0605
319/752-2731

ISP

P.O. Box 316
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627-0316
319/372-5432

Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility

Highway 218 South
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641-1897
319/385-9511

South Campus

335 Messenger Road
P.O. Box 6007
Keokuk, Iowa 52632-6007
319/524-3221

11218 Mediapolis Rd.
Mediapolis, IA 52637

Jeff Bergman
Des Moines Co. Soil & Water
1104 Derek Lincoln Dr.
W. Burlington, IA 52655

Dear Mr. Bergman:

I would like to thank you for choosing me for the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation scholarship.

The money really came in handy and I can use it towards my tuition.

I'm glad people like you take an interest in our Ag Program at SCC. I really appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ross Copeland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ross Copeland

September 9, 1998

**Des Moines County Soil and Water
Conservation District
1104 Derek Lincoln Drive
West Burlington, IA 52655**

Dear Sir or Madame:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Des Moines County Soil and Conservation District for providing me with the scholarship to further my education in agriculture. It has greatly helped me in being able to pay my tuition. I am really enjoying the program here and am glad I have decided to pursue this area of study. I am looking forward to the next two years and all the new things I am going to learn.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Misty Lloyd". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Misty Lloyd



September 21, 1999

Jeff Bergman
Des Moines County Soil & Conservation District
West Burlington, IA 52655

Dear Mr. Bergman:

Thank you for the scholarship that I received from your organization. It will help me achieve my goals through the Agriculture Program at SCC. I really appreciate the fact that there are people and businesses in our community that care enough about agriculture to make this generous gift.

The field of agriculture is very important to present and future generations, and organizations like the Tri-State Agricultural Foundation play a great part in securing that future.

Thank you again.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jess Harl'.

Jess Harl

September 25, 1998

J. B. Martin
Soil Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1104 Derek Lincoln Drive
West Burlington, IA 52655

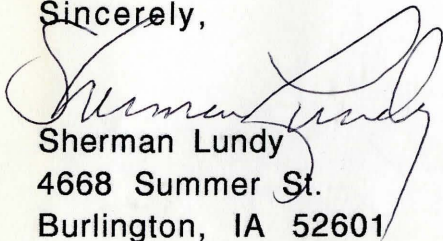
Dear J. B.:

On behalf of myself, the Flint Creek Advisory Committee, and the Flint Creek Water Quality Participants at Burlington High School, please accept my thanks for the nomination which lead to the awarding of the "Watershed Achievement Award," to me by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa.

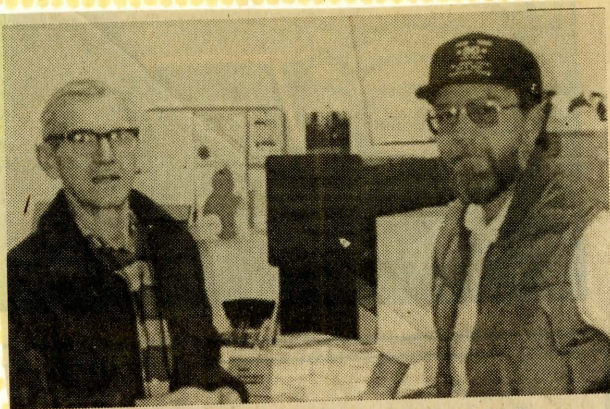
I feel this award represents the recognition of the work done by all of the individuals involved in the Flint Creek Project and the Flint Creek Watershed. It is very gratifying to work with individuals like yourself and the Commissioners who promote and encourage good conservation practices which will permit future generations to use and enjoy all of our natural resources.

Perhaps the ancients were not far from the truth when they initially suggested the vital elements of the earth were: soil, water, air, and fire. Again, thank you very much for the nomination and I am looking forward to our continued association in the Flint Creek Project and other conservation efforts. {Please forward this letter to the State Officials who selected me and our project for recognition at their Meeting this month.}

Sincerely,



Sherman Lundy
4668 Summer St.
Burlington, IA 52601



Harold Linder and current Chairperson, Jeff Bergman, had a chance to discuss changes that have occurred over 50 years. Linder was secretary for the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District for 16 years.

Conservation District Commissioners celebrate 50th anniversary

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners celebrated their 50th anniversary with an open house on Friday, March 1.

During a program held at noon, certificates were presented to Carol Staff and Charles Nealey as local winners of the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Awards program. Nealey also was honored with plaques for his selection as Regional winner of the awards program.

The guests attending enjoyed the picture displays of personnel and completed structures, refreshments, and free memorabilia available. *mepe news 4-25*

Local Farmers Conservation Award Winners

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners recently selected two local farmers as District winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Charles Nealey, Danville, was selected as winner in Division I. This division is for family-operated or owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program as determined by the land use program and soil conservation practices adopted.

Carol Staff, New London, was chosen in Division III. This division is for any farmer who became a new soil conservation district cooperator after January 1, 1994, where the farm has not been under prior agreement with the District. Carol became a new cooperator after receiving cost-share for organic nutrient management. Carol built a solid waste stacking structure for cattle.

Nealey was also selected as the overall district winner to represent the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District in regional competition.

The DES MOINES COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners recently selected two local farmers as District winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Charles Nealey, Danville, was selected as winner in Division I. This division is for family-operated or owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program as determined by the land use program and soil conservation practices adopted. Nealey was selected as the overall district winner to represent the county in regional competition, and then was chosen as regional winner in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program for Region 9. He now advances to the state competition. Carol Staff, New London, was chosen for Division II. This division is for any farmer who became a new soil conservation district cooperator after Jan. 1, 1994 where the farm was under prior agreement with the District. Staff became a cooperator after receiving cost-share for organic nutrient management. Staff built a solid waste stacking structure for cattle.

Receives scholarship

Tiffany Huson of Burlington has been chosen as the recipient of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary scholarship.

Tiffany was chosen from the 17 applications received from seniors throughout the county. Her application was submitted for regional competition and if chosen at that level, she will then be in state competition.

She attends Burlington High School and is the daughter of Richard and Marcene Huson.

The DES MOINES COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with an open house from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Marcy 1. The public is invited to share in this special at the NRCS office, located at 1104 Derek Lincoln Dr., West Burlington. A short program will be presented at noon.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week celebrated next week

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is encouraging interested individuals and organizations to join with the National Association of Conservation Districts in observing 1996 Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 28-May 5.

The purpose of the national observance is to create greater awareness among individuals of their stewardship responsibility to care for America's natural resources. This year's theme is "Harmony: People and Places" which emphasizes the need for greater harmony between people and the place in which they live.

The nation's 3000 soil and water conservation districts, along with their state and national conservation organizations, devote their time to establish greater harmony on natural resource issues in their community.

TIFFANIE HUSON, Burlington, has been chosen to receive the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary. She is the daughter of Richard and Marcene Huson, and attends Burlington High School. She was chosen from among 17 senior applicants in Des Moines County. Her application now advances to regional and possibly, state competition. *Des Moines Co News 4-25-96*

Two SWCD seats up for election in November

The Hawk Eye

The terms of two Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners will be on the ballot for the 1996 general election.

Burlington Township representative Sherman Smith's four-year term will expire Jan. 2, and the four-year term of Tom Birkenstock of Franklin Township will expire Nov. 15.

Any qualified elector residing in the district is eligible to run for commissioner. No more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Jeff

Bergman, Union Township; Frank Hedges, Huron Township; and Don Lounsbury, Pleasant Grove Township, making residents of those townships ineligible to run for election.

Prospective candidates must file nomination petitions available from the county auditor's office signed by 25 eligible electors by 5 p.m. Aug. 28.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county.

For information, call the district office at 753-6221.

Two needed for conservation commission

The terms of two Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will be on the ballot for the 1996 general election.

Sherman Smith's term will expire at noon January 2, 1997. Smith is from Burlington Township. Tom Birkenstock's of Burlington, Franklin Township, term will expire by November 15, 1996.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil and water conservation district, which is all of Des Moines County including cities and town, is eligible for the office of Commissioner. No more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Jeff Bergman, Burlington, Union Township; Frank Hedges, Oakville, Huron Township, and Don Lounsbury, New London, Pleasant Grove Townships; therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil and water conservation district

commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Des Moines County Courthouse no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 28, 1996.

An individual elected to fill Smith's position will serve a term of four years commencing January 2, 1997. The individual elected to fill Birkenstock's position will take the oath of office within ten days of the election and serve the remainder of 1996 and a four year term commencing in 1997.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington or 319-753-6221.

Conservation topic for public forum

An open forum will be held November 14 to seek public input on the natural resource needs of Des Moines County. Everyone with an interest in conservation and the environmental health of our county is invited to attend and participate.

The public's input will help local conservation officials set priorities to assure financial resources will be available. This public forum will be held in Southeastern Community College Dining Rooms A & B at 7:00 p.m.

The 1996 Farm Bill abolished the former federal cost-share program and developed a new conservation cost-share program, EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program). EQIP helps farmers build practices that maintain productivity while protecting our environment.

EOIP will not be available in Des Moines County unless the county works for it—by identifying and prioritizing the county's resource needs, and by demonstrating that those needs are important and worth the funding. Those counties that fail to identify and justify their resource needs could find themselves with little or no federal cost-share funds. It is important to do the best job possible in identifying priority practices and priority areas, and the county conservation agencies cannot do it alone.

Please, plan to join the Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners, the FSA County Committee, and USDA staff in an effort to assure the natural resources of Des Moines County are protected.

DMC News 11-7-96

Conservation still an option for landowners

Dmc News Oct 3

There are currently 2.2 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in Iowa for which the federal government pays \$172 million in annual rental payments. The ten year contracts that cover these CRP acres began to expire in 1995. Two thirds of these acres will expire by the end of 1997. It is estimated that 65% of these acres will revert back to crop production.

Landowners have many choices available to them when

their land comes out of CRP. Do they keep their land in CRP or do they put the land back into production? Do they put their land back into crop production or do they try an income-producing alternative such as grazing? The National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) can work out the alternatives with landowners to come up with the best solution for both the environment and landowner.

The 1996 Farm Bill includes provisions that allow for continuous enrollment and for re-enrollment in CRP of the most environmentally sensitive areas, including waterways and filterstrips, that meet CRP eligibility requirements. Regardless of the decision the landowner makes, a conservation plan must in place to participate in USDA programs.

Continuous CRP sign-up began September 4, 1996. Landowners who have questions or would like to discuss alternatives for land coming out of CRP are encouraged to drop by the NRCS office at 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington or call 753-6221.

Assistance available for livestock producers

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has received their 1996 fiscal year Organic Nutrient Management Program allocation.

The Organic Nutrient Management Program was developed to offer cost-share assistance to producers who want to build ag-waste storage structures.

If interested in the program, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in West Burlington. For more information, call (319) 753-6221.

Dmc News 9-14-95

Open forum on natural resource needs

Memo News 11-7-96

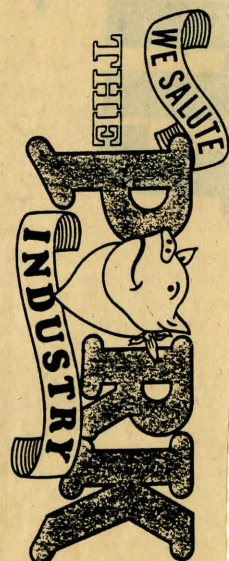
An open forum will be held Thursday, Nov. 14 to seek public input on the natural resource needs in Des Moines County. Everyone with an interest in conservation and the environmental health of our county is invited to attend and participate. Your input will help local conservation officials set priorities to assure financial resources will be available. This public forum will be held at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington, Dining Rooms A & B, at 7 p.m.

The 1996 Farm Bill abolished the former federal cost-share program and developed a new conservation cost-share program, EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program). EQIP helps farmers build practices that maintain productivity while protecting our environment.

EQIP will not be available in Des Moines County unless we work for it - by identifying and prioritizing our resource needs, and by demonstrating that those needs are important and worth the funding. Those counties that fail to identify and justify their resource needs could find themselves with little or no federal cost-share funds. We want to do the best job possible in identifying priority practices and priority areas, but we cannot do it without you.

Please plan to join the Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, the FSA County Committee, and USDA staff in an effort to assure the natural resources of Des Moines County are protected.

Cost share program available for manure handling structures



Dmc News 10-26-95

Pork producers are encouraged to take advantage of a program designed to help share the cost of installing manure handling and storage facilities. The new program, called the Organic Nutrient Management Fund, is being administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

The Organic Nutrient Management Program was initially adopted by the Iowa Legislature and signed by the Governor in 1993 and is designed to provide incentives for the benefit of the environment. The legislation was strongly supported by the Iowa Pork Producers Association. The program provides up to fifty percent cost share funding for new or expanded manure storage and handling facilities, up to a maximum of \$7,500. Cost-share under the new program is available to all counties in Iowa. A variety of manure handling

and storage structures and practices are eligible for cost-share funding under the program. A list of eligible practices from the Iowa Department of Agriculture includes: sediment basins, diversions, filter strips, pond sealing or lining, waste storage ponds, waste storage structures, and waste treatment lagoons. Producers must complete an application process which includes a waste management system plan prior to cost-share funding being approved.

The program is funded at a level of \$800,000 for the current fiscal year. When distributed among all Iowa counties, it may be expected that demand for the funding will quickly exceed the total dollars available. Interested producers should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District office, or call the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation at (515) 281-5321.



TRI-STATE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION '94-'95 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Tri-State Agriculture Education Foundation is pleased to announce the 1996 agriculture scholarship winners. The foundation assists students enrolling in the Southeastern Community College Agriculture Programs. \$500 to \$600 scholarships were available to each student.

We wish to thank the following organizations that have made substantial contributions toward this year's scholarships:

- Des Moines County Farm Bureau • Don Nelson Memorial
- Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Bank of Stronghurst • Querna Seed • Raritan Bank • Twomey's, Inc.



Jeff Burgus (right) Tri-State Foundation Treasurer is shown presenting scholarship checks to (left to right) Robert Mohr, Brian Brown, Kara Russell, Tammy Vorwerk, Greg Link, Eric Higdon, Clayton Neubauer.

For information on receiving or giving a scholarship, contact Arlyn Musselman at 1-800-828-7322 or 752-2731 ext. 153

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners to be elected

The terms of two Des Moines County soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will be on the ballot for the 1996 general election.

Sherman Smith's term will expire at noon on Jan. 2, 1997. Smith is from Burlington Township. Tom Birkenstock's term will expire by Nov. 15, 1996. Birkenstock is from Burlington, Franklin Township.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil and water conservation district, which is all of Des Moines County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of Commissioner. No more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Jeff Bergman, Burlington, Union township; Frank C. Hedges, Oakville, Huron Township; and Don Lounsbury, New London, Pleasant Grove Township; therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil and water conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general

election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Des Moines County Courthouse no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 28, 1996.

An individual elected to fill Smith's position will serve a term of four years commencing January 2, 1997. The individual elected to fill Birkenstock's position will take the oath of office within 10 days of the election and serve the remainder of 1996 and a four year term commencing in 1997.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact Des Moines county soil and Water Conservation District office, 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington, or 319-753-6221.

Thurs. May 30, 1996 Meppa News

Patricia Honson of Sperry has been chosen as the recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and CDI Auxiliary. She was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. She attends Mediapolis High School.

Mediapolis News 4-1

The DES MOINES COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District is offering a scholarship to a locals senior for their first year of college. The scholarship is open to students pursuing a career in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Applications packets are available at high school guidance counselor offices or by calling the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District at 753-6221.

Letter to the Editor

This fall thousands of acres of CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) land contracts will expire. This means that land protected for the past ten years in a government conservation program will once again be at the discretion of the landowners.

We believe landowners should decide the fate of their own land, but we are concerned that history will repeat itself. In the past when a program ended plows were used on highly erodible land and tons of soil washed away, clogging our streams and lakes.

We are eager to provide landowners with information that helps them make decisions that are profitable and which enables them to conserve soil and maintain water quality. If anyone has any questions or desires more information, please do not hesitate to call 753-6221.

Jeff Bergman, Chairperson
Des Moines County SWCD

Sign up for new emergency wetlands program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has received approval to continue accepting applications for the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program (EWRP). The EWRP is a voluntary program for landowners whose land suffered flooding in 1993. Land that has potential to be restored to wetlands can be entered into the program. The land would be restored to a wetland and placed under a permanent easement, in turn for a payment of fair-market value of the property.

Landowners who enter into the program/easement retain ownership and are responsible for payment of property taxes. They retain limited land use that is compatible with wetland stewardship. Landowners control public access to the property.

Wetlands are the most productive wildlife ecosystems on earth, providing food, water, and shelter to large numbers of wildlife species. Wetlands are natural filters, cleansing water of silt and other contaminants

prior to discharging into surface or ground water reservoirs. For these and other reasons, wetland protection and restoration efforts have received wide public support.

Sign-up for the program continues through 1995. For more information, landowners in Des Moines County should contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in West Burlington at (319) 753-6221 or contact the NRCS office in your respective county.

TRENT KUNTZ of Oakville has been chosen as the recipient of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary scholarship. Kuntz was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. His application was submitted for regional competition, and, if selected at that level, will be in the state competition. He attends Mediapolis High School and is the son of Robert and Edra Kuntz.

Danville farmer honored for conservation efforts

Charles Nealey of Danville has been named Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation District and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship award winner for Region 9. He has one

of nine farming operations honored this fall by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation for outstanding efforts in using soil and water conservation practices that protect the environment. Winners were recognized at the Sept. 8 annual meeting of the SWCD district commissioners.

Nealey farms 357 acres in Des Moines County and uses conservation tillage on 230 acres. He has hosted several no-till tours on his farm. In addition to his tillage practices, Nealey has 5.7 acres of contour farming, one acre of grassed waterways, one acre of field borders, two acres of wildlife habitat and a one acre pond. Nealey also uses 11.7 acres of pasture planning.

Sept. 30 at the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District office, 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington. This award is presented to a Des Moines County property owner who has shown commitment to the environment through conservation practices. The award is named for Gary Wagner, former chairman for the DMC Soil & Water Conservation District and an active conservationist, who died in Sept. 1994. He was former owner of Prairie Grass Unlimited and L&G Forestry, and received many awards for his conservation efforts. The recipient will be chosen Oct. 31. For information, call 753-6221.

NOMINATIONS for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award will be accepted until

■ Common concerns: Members of rural organizations want education and better understanding of issues.

By Criss Wilson

The Hawk Eye

Hooked together by their conviction that there needs to be a better bridge between rural and urban Des Moines County, a group of representatives from area agencies is looking for a way to ease agriculture's image problem in town.

"We need some sort of education program out there," said Ron Snyder, coordinator of Geode RC&D, a non-profit agriculture planning group based in Burlington.

Snyder joined representatives of the county Conservation Department, Extension office and a handful of local USDA agencies in a yet-unnamed and still-forming committee.

Just what form that program will take, and who will be involved, is an idea still in its first draft. A key element will undoubtedly be conservation.

Soil conservation practices are something that city dwellers seldom consider. But acre for acre, more soil is lost due to poor urban planning than from farming mismanagement, according to figures gathered by County Naturalist Sharon Kaufmann, another member of the planning group.

"Land use policy needs input from everyone," said Mike Lewitke, director of the county's Natural Resources Conservation Service, a USDA agency.

Lewitke's position includes devising soil conservation plans,

primarily for farmers. He strongly backs a plan to create an urban conservationist position, a proposal that originated with County Conservation Director Jeff Bergman.

"A majority of our farmers are the best land-use managers there are," Bergman said.

"Their livelihood depends on it," ISU Extension's Jim Jensen, another group member, said.

While farmers carefully practice conservation practice, several group members cited recent in-town construction projects that created soil runoff and flooding problems.

"There's a lot of bad planning being made and it just takes

awareness,"

Bergman said.

"They're not aware of what happens when you build a parking lot or when you build a home. The runoff quadruples."

Non-farm dwellers have assumed that the agriculture

community is creating the soil-loss problem, group members said. There's also an assumption that herbicides and pesticides used for farming are creating environmental hazards.

"More herbicides and pesticides are used acre-for-acre in the city than there are on the farm," Kaufmann said.

Finding a way to relate those numbers and create an awareness of community conservation needs is a goal.

"Certainly it would reduce some of the tension between the ag and non-ag communities," Kaufmann said.

It could also conceivably lead to better water quality, improved conservation practices, higher property values and a long-term land-use plan.

How this will be done will be the topic of discussion at the next gathering. Plans to contact other agencies interested in the project are under way.

"More herbicides and pesticides are used acre-for-acre in the city than there are on the farm."

**—Sharon Kaufmann
county naturalist**

Nominees sought for Wagner award

The Hawk Eye

Nominations are being sought for the new Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award, named in honor of former chairman of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District and an active conservationist.

Wagner, who died in September 1994, owned Prairie Grass Unlimited and L&G Forestry, and received numerous awards for his conservation efforts.

Wagner's family and friends established an endowment in his memory to recognize his per-

sonal conservation efforts and land ethic, and to encourage others to follow his example.

The Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award is an annual award presented by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation Board, with the cooperation of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and the Des Moines County Conservation Foundation.

The award is given to people who demonstrate a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

Winners of the award will receive \$250 to be used for conservation or enhancement of Des Moines County's environment.

To be eligible, nominees must own property in Des Moines County and show dedication and commitment to conservation and the environment.

For more information about the nomination process, contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington, or call (319) 753-6221.

The WAGNER LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD nominations will be accepted through Sept. 30 by the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District, Des Moines County Conservation Board, and Partners of Conservation Foundation. The award, named in honor of Gary Wagner, is presented annually to an individual demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of the County's natural environment. It consists of a plaque and \$250 to be used for conservation projects. Two letters of recommendation are required for each nominee. For more information about the nomination process, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District office at 753-6221.

Clean water and soil, everyone's job

DMC 4-24

"Backyard Stewardship" is the theme of the 1997 Soil and Water Stewardship Week observance, April 27 to May 4. The theme focuses on the responsibility of all citizens to take care of the immediate surroundings where they live. Sound conservation practices in our own backyard not only set a good example for our neighbors, but collectively do much toward meeting our national conservation goals.

To encourage beneficial conservation practices in backyards, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is invited interested individuals and

organizations to join with the National Association of Conservation Districts in celebrating the annual observance.

If each person improves their yard just a little, the whole world gets better. You can save water and soil, prevent pollution, and make a home for plants and animals. make it your mission because the whole world is your backyard.

For educational material or information about conservation practices that can benefit your backyard, contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319/753-6221.

Winners at Ag Expo

meo news 9-13

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a booth at Ag Expo '98 at Southeastern Community College on September 2.

Winners of the door prizes were Sandi Gass, Burlington, birdhouse; Dan Wiele, Burlington, toy train; and Curtis Coppes, Yarmouth, toy train.

The birdhouse given away was donated by For Our Birds in Burlington.

DES MOINES COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation Districts announces its new Conservation Products Catalog program. The brochure features a variety of conservation items. Call the District office at 753-6221 to obtain the free brochure.

Dmc News 9-4-97

Local farmers honored with conservation award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have selected three local farmers as District winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Randall Reeser, Burlington, was selected as the local winner in Division III. This division is for any farmer who became a new soil conservation district cooperator after January 1, 1996. Reeser became a new cooperator after constructing terraces.

Dwight Stucker, Danville, and Broadview Farms (J.D. Stucker), Danville, were selected as winners in Division I. This division is for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program. This division includes farms operated by a member of the owner's family.

The Stuckers were also selected as the overall district winner to represent the District in regional competition. The District was recently notified that Dwight and J.D. Stucker were selected as regional winner for Region 9. The judging at regional level was based on land adequately treated, conservation practices accomplished, community service, and general farm husbandry.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District will honor Randall Reeser, Dwight Stucker, and Broadview Farms at the Ag Day to be held at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington on September 10. A short program will be held at 1:00 p.m.

Mepo News 9-4-97

Farmers honored with conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners have selected three local farmers as District winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Randall Reeser, Burlington, was selected as the local winner in Division III. This division is for any farmer who became a new soil conservation district cooperator after January 1, 1996. Randall became a new cooperator after constructing terraces.

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Stuckers were also selected as the overall district winner to represent the District in regional competition. The District was recently notified that Dwight and JD were selected as the regional winner for Region 9. The judging at regional level was based on land adequately treated, conservation practices accomplished, community service, and general farm husbandry.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District will honor Randall Reeser, Dwight Stucker, and Broadview Farms at the Ag Day to be held at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington on Sept. 10. A short program will be held at 1 p.m.

Lundy wins Watershed Award

Burlington High School science teacher Sherman Lundy will receive the Iowa Watershed Achievement award in a Sept. 3 ceremony in Des Moines. Sponsored by the Conservation Districts of Iowa and the State Soil Conservation Committee, the award recognizes individuals who make significant contributions to the solutions of resource conservation problems.

As a member of the Flint Creek Advisory Committee, Lundy is a key figure in efforts to clean up the creek. His AP Chemistry students are involved in testing Flint Creek's water for pollutants, and Lundy assists the Des Moines County Conservation Board and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in planning riparian buffer zones along the creek. He also works with the Iowa Rivers Project, the Missouri/Mississippi River Monitoring Project, and is president of the Des Moines County chapter of Trees Forever. Lundy is a past chairman of the Des Moines County Conservation Board.

Lundy and Jeff Bergman, director of the Des Moines County Conservation Board, will travel to Des Moines on Sept. 3 to accept the award at the annual conference of the Conservation Districts of Iowa.

mepo news 9-4-97

Local farmers honors for conservation

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

Linkin Estates LLC (Rodney Linkin) of New London was selected as the winner in Division III. This division is for any farmer who became a new soil conservation district cooperator after January 1, 1997.

C.B. Nelson Farms, Ltd. of Middletown and Metairie Ltd. (Stan Nelson) of Middletown were selected as winners in Division I. This division is for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program. This division includes

farms operated by a member of the owner's family.

Virgil Massner of Mediapolis and Licko Inc. (Mike Licko) of Mediapolis were selected as winners in Division II. This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and landlord.

Virgin Massner and Licko Inc. were also selected as the overall district winner to represent the District in regional competition.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District will honor these farmers at the Ag Expo to be held at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington on September 2.

A MESSAGE TO EVERY IOWA FARMER

We don't know your plans for your corn and soybean fields this fall after harvest. But we think it's good business for every farmer to think through the reasons for the actions you take on the farm, this fall, or anytime.

That includes the reasons for tilling in the fall. It's very difficult to find good reasons—economic or otherwise—to till soybean ground, for instance. And studies show crop systems that make use of heavy residues to hold soil and farm inputs in place also are among the most profitable.

So, if this fall happens to be an open one, and you have the opportunity to till your land, we just ask that you think it through, to be sure you are tilling for a good reason. We know there are good reasons for not tilling this fall, such as keeping your options open for next spring, and protecting soil and

water resources.

If you're one of the thousands of Iowa farmers using a sound crop residue management system, we hope you will encourage others to adopt similar practices. Before you decide whether you need to do any tillage this fall, we ask you to consider soil conservation and economics as part of that decision.

Dan Bruene, Conservation Districts of Iowa

Doug Lindgren, American Soybean Association

Roy Bardole, American Soybean Association

Larry Kay, Iowa Corn Growers Association

Ed Weiderstein, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

Leroy Brown, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jim Gulliford, Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship

Diane Thompson, State Soil Conservation Committee

Wendy Wintersteen, Extension Service, Iowa State University

The WAGNER LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD nominations will be accepted through Sept. 30 by the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District, Des Moines County Conservation Board, and Partners of Conservation Foundation. The award, named in honor of Gary Wagner, is presented annually to an individual demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of the County's natural environment. It consists of a plaque and \$250 to be used for conservation projects. Two letters of recommendation are required for each nominee. For more information about the nomination process, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District office at 753-6221. 8-27-98

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Dmc News 9-10-98



TRI-STATE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION '95-'96 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Tri-State Agriculture Education Foundation is pleased to announce the 1996 agriculture scholarship winners. The foundation assists students enrolling in the Southeastern Community College Agriculture Programs. \$500 to \$600 scholarships were available to each student.



Jeff Burgus (right) Tri-State Foundation Treasurer is shown presenting scholarship check to (left to right) Robert Mohr, Brian Brown, Kara Russell, Tammy Vorwerk, Greg Link, Eric Higdon, Clayton Neubauer.

We wish to thank the following organizations that have made substantial contributions toward this year's scholarships:

- Des Moines County Farm Bureau • Don Nelson Memorial
- Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Bank of Stronghurst • Querna Seed • Raritan Bank • Twomey's, Inc.

For information on receiving or giving a scholarship, contact Arlyn Musselman at 1-800-828-7322 or 752-2731 ext. 153



Flint Creek Study: 101 was underway in the West Burlington High School science lab as students showed members of the Flint Creek Advisory Committee how to test water quality. Students who helped with the November 2 demonstration were: Julie Bernhart, Nathan West, Jeremy Crowner, Andy Crowner, Justin Newberry, Jesse McCormick, Emily Rothlauf, Darren Miller, and René Paull. After the lab session, Science teacher Tami Plein answered questions for committee members.

As part of the "Rivers Project," W.B.H.S. students have conducted monthly tests on the creek water for a year, gathering facts on nitrates, ammonia, pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorine, phosphates, and fecal coliform. Their data and the research of a Burlington High School science class, will be combined to help determine the source of Flint Creek's contamination.

SHERMAN LUNDY, Burlington High School science teacher, will receive the Iowa Watershed Achievement Award in a Sept. 3 ceremony in Des Moines. As a member of the Flint Creek Advisory Committee, Lundy is a key figure in efforts to clean up the creek. His AP Chemistry students are involved in testing at Flint Creek water for pollutants. Lundy also assists the Des Moines County Conservation Board and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in planning riparian buffer zones along the creek. He has worked with the Iowa River Project, and Missouri/Mississippi River Monitoring Project, is president of the Des Moines County Chapter of Trees Forever, and is past president of the Des Moines County Conservation Board. The award, sponsored by the Conservation Districts of Iowa and the State Soil Conservation Committee, recognizes individuals who make significant contributions to the solutions of resource conservation problems.

Nominations open for Wagner Land Stewardship Award

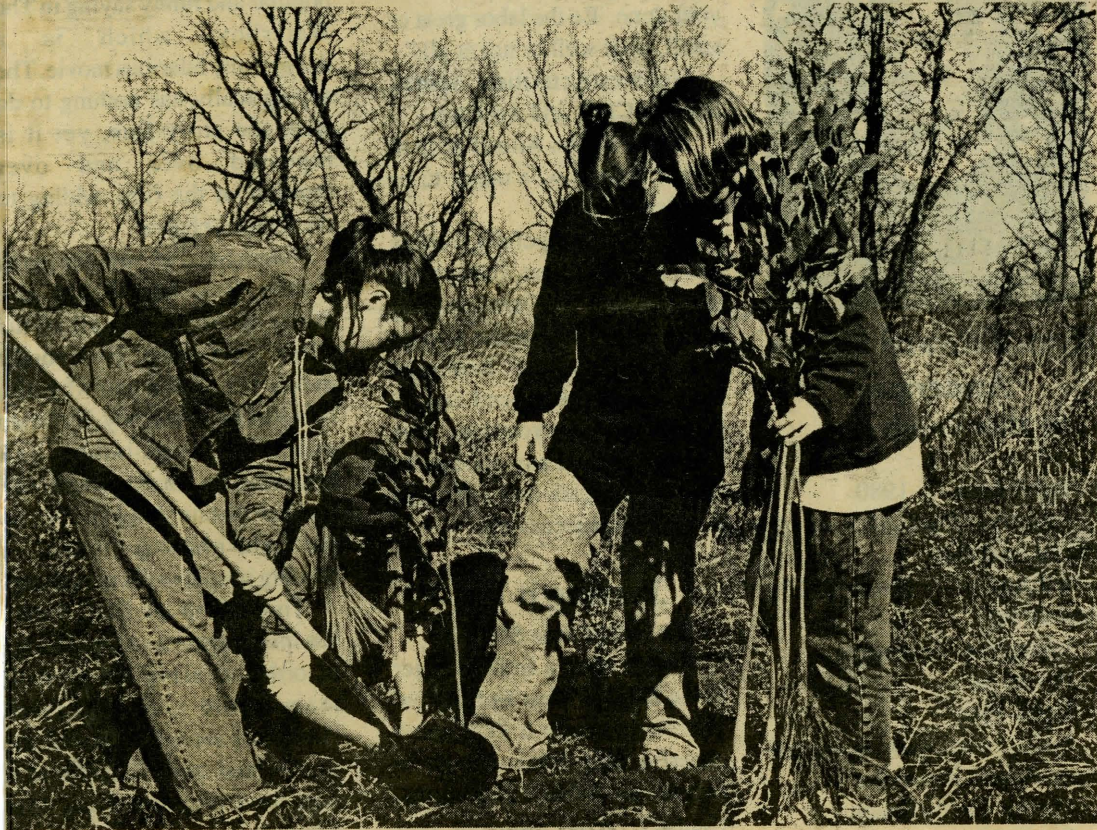
Nominations are being accepted until Sept. 30 for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award, presented annually to an individual demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment. The award, consisting of a plaque and \$250 to be used for conservation projects, is sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, Des Moines County Conservation Board, and Partners for Conservation Foundation.

Named in honor of Gary Wagner to recognize his personal conservation efforts and land ethic, the award has several eligibility criteria. Nominees must own property in Des Moines county, must show a long-term commitment to conservation and environmental issues, and will be chosen for their personal accomplishments, not their professional work. Deceased individuals cannot be considered.

Harold Linder of Sperry won the first Wagner Award in 1997. Linder was honored for his volunteer work at Starr's Cave Nature Center, efforts to improve the varieties of apples in his orchards, and improving wildlife habitat and hunting on his property by planting native grasses and trees.

Two letters of recommendation are required for each nominee. For more information on the nomination process, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District office at 319-753-6221. The award winner will be selected by Oct. 31 by representatives of the Wagner family and the three sponsors.

Conservation in action



Jenny Wallerich, Carrie Mittelstedter, Jenn Dumas, and Carolyn Day put the adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," to work near Flint Creek this weekend. They and other volunteers planted a riparian string along the creek on Randy Higdon's land in upper Des Moines County. The line of 200 sampling oak and walnut trees will help deter erosion and soak up fertilizers and other polluting solvents that would otherwise wash into the stream. Among those helping for the day were members of Cub Scout Pack 85, Burlington High School Ecology Club and Science students, County Conservation Department, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and volunteers from throughout the area.

Lundy earns state conservation award

The Hawk Eye

Sherm Lundy, a Burlington High School science instructor who has been instrumental in promoting study of Flint Creek water quality, has received the Iowa Watershed Achievement Award presented by the Division of Soil Conservation.

The award was presented Thursday during a ceremony in Des Moines.

The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the solution of resources conservation problems through a watershed approach.

Lundy has served on the Flint Creek advisory committee and has chaired the testing committee.

He was one of the volunteers who helped take water samples, and has encouraged the implementation of riparian projects along the creek to reduce the flow of contaminants into the stream.

In addition to his work with the Flint Creek Watershed project, Lundy is active in the Iowa Rivers Project, the Missouri-Mississippi River Monitoring Project, Des Moines County Trees Forever, the Iowa Environmental Council Water Monitoring Project, Global Rivers Environmental Education Network, Des Moines County Planning and Zoning Board and Des Moines County Conservation Board.

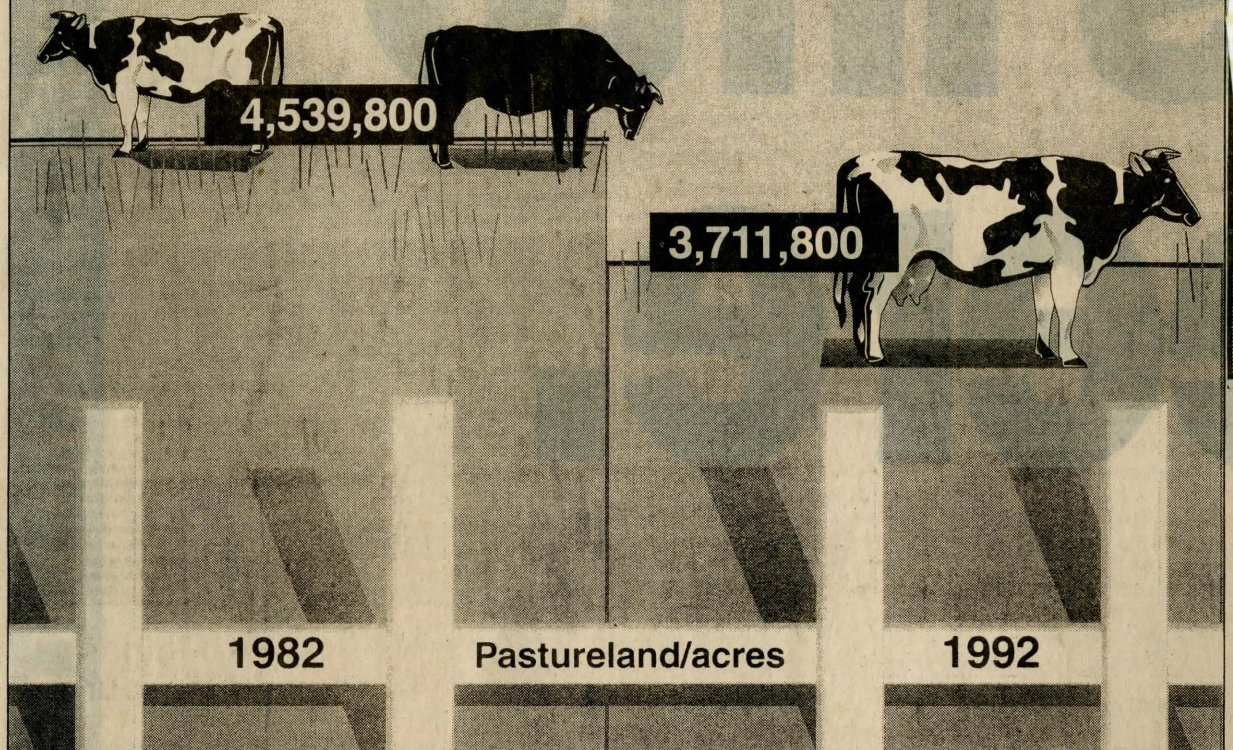
Ag Udates

The DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL & WATER Conservation District sponsored a booth at Ag Expo '98 at Southeastern Community College on Sept. 2. Winners of the door prizes were: Sandi Gass of Burlington, birdhouse; Dan Wiele of Burlington, toy train; and Curtis Coppes of Yarmouth, toy train. The birdhouse given away was donated by For Out Birds in Burlington.

Pastures lost

Med. Paper Nov 2

Since 1982, Iowa has lost 18% of its pastureland or 828,000 acres. More than 40% of the acres were lost from southern Iowa counties.



Source: National Resources Inventory, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRI data cover the 48 contiguous states, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, but not Alaska. Source for '54 - '74 data: U.S. Department of the Interior.

Local farmers honored with conservation awards

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Virgil Massner, Mediapolis, and Licko Inc (Mick Licko), Mediapolis, were selected as winners in Division II. This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

Virgil Massner and Licko Inc were also selected as the overall district winner to represent the District in regional competition.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District will honor these farmers at the ag expo to be held at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington on Sept. 2.

PATRICIA HONSON of

Sperry has been chosen as the recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and CDI Auxiliary. Honson was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. She attends Mediapolis High School, and is the daughter of Kirk and Pamela Honson.

Two Des Moines County Soil & Water Commissioners to be elected

Are you interested in having a positive impact on Des Moines County and Iowa's land and people? If so, you should consider becoming a commissioner for the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Commissioners are voluntary promoters in our county who help guide soil and water conservation programs by establishing conserva-

tion priorities and working with partners to increase awareness and education of natural resource protection.

The Des Moines County SWCD will have two seats open on the 1998 general election ballot. The terms of Jeff Bergman, Union Township, and Frank Hedges, Huron Township, will expire January 4, 1999.

Any qualified elector residing in Des Moines County is eligible for the office. However, no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Don Lounsbury, Pleasant Grove Township; Myranell Dockendorff, Danville Township; and Laura Wagner-Ertz, Burlington Township; therefore, residents of these

Continued on page 3A

Making a difference for our environment

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for office at this time.

Prospective candidates must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions. These petitions must be signed by 25 eligible electors and filed with the County Auditor no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 26, 1998.

For more information, contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation office at 319/753-6221.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week

Just about everyone enjoys seeing wildlife in their backyard or in the countryside. Organizers of this year's Soil and Water Stewardship Week observance are hoping that their "Wonders of Wildlife" theme will attract interest from the public and that individuals and families will take the time to apply basic conservation practices that will benefit the animals and birds that are their neighbors, wherever they live.

To encourage backyard wildlife habitat improvements, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to celebrate Soil and

Water Stewardship week, April 26-May 3, 1998, and to learn more about ways you can improve wildlife habitat in your backyard and neighborhood.

J B Martin, District conservationist for the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, said, "Backyard wildlife improvements can be as simple as placing a peanut butter filled pine cone in a tree for birds to a project as complicated as installing a wetland or small pond to attract other species of wildlife."

To learn more about conservation practices that benefit wildlife, contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District during business hours at the NRCS office in West Burlington.

Gary Wagner Memorial Award

Maples honored for land stewardship

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation, is happy to announce that Richard and Carolyn Mapel of Danville have been chosen as the recipients of the annual Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award.

The Mapels are dedicated land stewards. They have established prairies on CRP acres and developed wildflower, native grass planting strips along Hwy. 79. A small tree plantation was established in a one acre corner. A pond was constructed

by the prairies and includes duck and goose nesting structures.

Richard and Carolyn Mapel are also very active in conservation education. They regularly host field trips of their prairie areas and the wildflower planting by the highway was specifically put there to educate passing motorists.

The Mapels will receive a \$250,000 cash award to be used for a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing their efforts. These will be presented to the couple at a later date.

The Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award was developed by family and friends

of Gary to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the area of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 753-6221.

Scholarship offered

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a scholarship to a local senior for their first year of college while pursuing a career in any field of agriculture or natural resources.

Application packets are available at high school guidance counselor offices or call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

Cost-share available for Yellow Spring watershed landowners

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced a sign-up period of April 19-30 for landowners in Des Moines County located in Yellow Springs watershed who want to apply for cost-share funds from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

EQIP is a federally funded program that offers cost-share for installing conservation practices. The priorities for 1999 will be conversion of

cropland to pasture/hayland, soil erosion structures, wildlife/wetland developments, no-till, and waste storage facilities.

Yellow Springs watershed encompasses certain sections of Benton, Tama, Franklin, and Yellow Springs Townships in Des Moines County.

Landowners interested in the program should sign-up at the Natural Resources Conservation Service. If you have questions, call the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

Soil & Water Stewardship

Caring for our world

Just about everyone enjoys seeing wildlife in their backyard or in the countryside. Organizers of this year's Soil and Water Stewardship Week observance are hoping that their "Wonders of Wildlife" theme will attract interest from the public and that individuals and families will take the time to apply basic conservation practices that will benefit the animals and birds that are their neighbors, wherever they live.

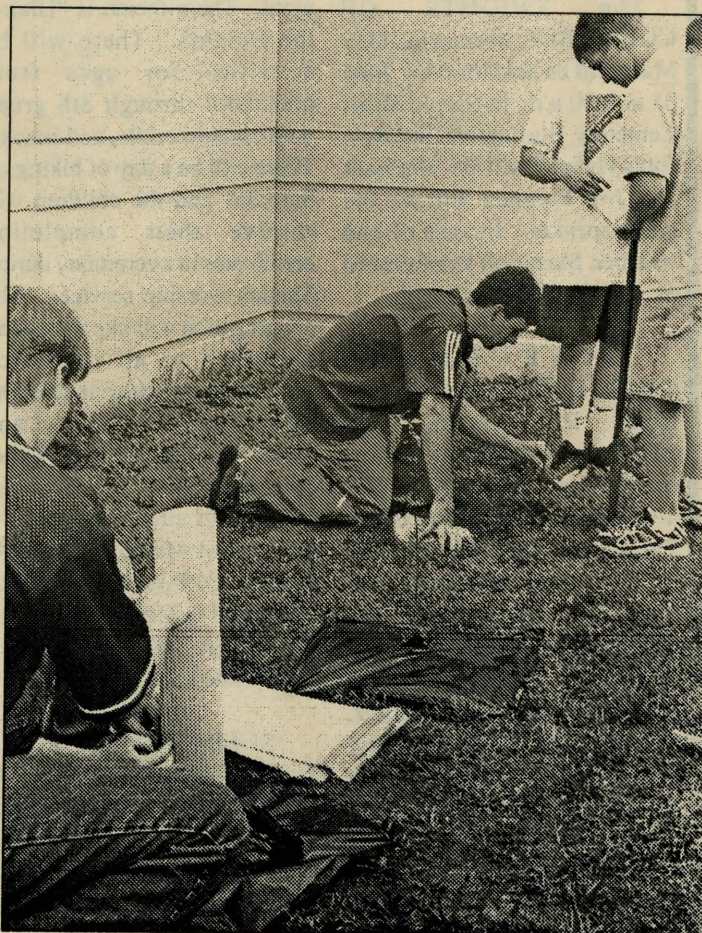
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J.B. Martin, District Conservation Conservationist for the County Soil and Water Conservation District, said "Backyard wildlife improvements can be as simple as placing a peanut butter filled pine cone in a tree for birds to a project as complicated as installing a wetland or small pond to attract other species of wildlife."

To learn more about conservation practices that benefit wildlife, contact the Des Moines County Soil and water Conservation District during

business hours at the NRCS office, 1104 Derek Lincoln, Drive, West Burlington, phone 753-6221.

Student takes studies outdoors



DMCO
News
5-27-99

On May 21, West Burlington High School Biology student established an animal friendly habitat and outdoor classroom along the school's south wall. The project was sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation Commission and supervised by Science instructor Ann Schach. The class studied plant types appropriate to the soil and climate zone, developed the landscaping plan, and planted 25 shrubs and trees in the site. In addition to beautifying the school and creating a botanical studies area, the trees will eventually help reduce energy bills by blocking the sun from the science classroom.

Celebrating conservation with creativity

"Conservation Milestones at the Millennium," a campaign highlighting ten major conservation achievements on private lands, is well underway in Iowa. To celebrate, an art contest has been launched to put the spotlight on farm conservation and the beauty it adds to our lives. Entries are being sought from youngsters through adults in a wide variety of creative forms from poetry to photography, from sculpture to music.

The "Conservation Milestones" program involves resource improvements made with \$100 million of state cost share funds, matched dollar for dollar by landowners. The campaign sponsors are coordinating with the Iowa Arts Council and five local arts councils around the state to cosponsor the art contest.

The contest is entitled "A Conservation Farm is a Thing of Beauty." Participants are encouraged to create original art that honors the beauty of conservation farms. The art forms can be poetry, photography, video, sculpture, music, or some other creative endeavor.

There are three categories for the competition. These include: pre-kindergarten through 8th grade; 9th grade through adult; and professional. One semi-finalist will be selected in each category per region. Iowa is divided into five regions.

Entries are due at the Art Guild of Burlington by 4:00 p.m. Friday, July 16. Interested persons are asked to contact Jamie at the Natural Resource Conservation Service office at 753-6221 for an entry form and more information.

April 25 to May 2 Celebrate Soil & Water Stewardship Week

As we close out the twentieth century, we must think about what we are passing onto future generations, say organizers of the 1999 Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Everyone is encouraged to join in this special observance, set for April 25 to May 2.

The even theme, "In The Children's Hands," reminds us that children of the new century will need both roots and wings—roots anchored in the legacy of sound natural conservation and wings to strike out, to innovate and make the world a better place to live.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is invited youth leaders and parents to take time to help young people better understand their role in caring for the natural resources of our environment. A national Backyard Conservation Program offers ideas and activities that will help families involve children in meaningful activities in their own backyard.

J.B. Martin, District Conservationist of the Des Moines County SWCD, noted that children's activities need to be easy and fun to maintain their attention. He recommended activities as simple as placing an old broken pot out for a toad house, or as complicated as constructing a mini-wetland in the backyard. The important thing, Martin concluded, is to give children a meaningful opportunity to do something positive for the environment that will have a lasting impression on their minds.

To learn more about conservation practices and activities that benefit children, contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319/753-6221.

Dmco News 5-13

JENNIFER DUMAS of Burlington has been chosen as the recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and CDI Auxiliary. Dumas was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. She is a senior at Burlington High School and the daughter of William and Sheri Dumas.

Ag Updates

Sept 16 Dmco News

NOMINATIONS will be accepted through Sept. 30 for the Wagner Land Stewardship Award. This award is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to Des Moines County's natural environment. The award, consisting of a plaque and \$250 to be used for conservation projects, is sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, Des Moines County Conservation Board, and Partners for Conservation Foundation. It is given to a local landowner who has shown long term dedication and commitment to conservation and the environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and shows commitment to conservation and environment. For more information on the nomination process, call 319-753-6221.

Sign up for USDA environmental quality improvement cost share

The USDA has announced a sign-up period of January 25 through February 5 for landowners who want to apply for cost-share funds from the Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP).

EQIP offers cost-share for installing conservation practices. The three statewide resource concerns for 1999 will be 1) livestock manure management and grazing lands, 2) soil erosion, and 3) priority lakes, municipal water supply impoundments and lands,

agricultural drainage wells and DNR priority cold water streams.

In Des Moines County, farms located in Yellow Spring Watershed will not be eligible for the statewide sign-up. There will be another sign-up at a later date for landowners in Yellow Spring Watershed.

If interested, please sign-up at the Farm Service Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service. If you have any questions, call FSA at 752-6432 or NRCS at 753-6221.

USDA cost share sign-up announced

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Local farmers honored for conservation

dmconews
6-17

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have selected five local farmers as District winners for the 1999 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Steve Coates, Mediapolis, was chosen as the winner in Division III for becoming a new soil conservation district cooperator after January 1, 1998. He was selected based on tree plantings he is completing on his ground in Huron Township.

Everett Toft and Dwayne Wright, both of New London, were chosen 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 landlord. Toft and Wright were selected for establishing terraces, a farm pond, CRP, and farming practices to control soil erosion on Toft's farm in Pleasant Grove Township.

Dennis Petersen, Mediapolis,

was named 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. Petersen was chosen because of his extensive timber management, tree plantings, and CRP in Benton Township.

Peterson was also selected as the overall district winner to represent the District in regional competition. This district includes thirteen counties in southeast Iowa.

Additionally, the District chose Charles Thie, Burlington, as a local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year Award. His name was submitted for consideration in state judging. Thie owns approximately 100 acres on which he has established many tree plantations.

The awards will be presented during the Ag Expo '99 at Southeastern Community College on September 1.

The Hawk Eye 6-13-99 Art event under way

The Hawk Eye

"Conservation Milestones at the Millennium," a campaign highlighting 10 major conservation achievements on private lands is under way in Iowa.

To commemorate resource improvements made with \$100 million in state cost-share funds, the milestones' sponsors are assisting in an art contest this summer with the Iowa Arts Council and five local arts councils around the state.

"A Conservation Farm is a Thing of Beauty" contest encourages participants to create original art entries. The entries can be in the form of poetry, photography, video, sculpture and music.

The contest has three categories: pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade, ninth-grade through adult and professional. One semi-finalist will be selected in each category in the state's five regions.

All semi-finalist entries will be displayed in the Agricultural Building during the Iowa State Fair.

Entries are due 4 p.m. Friday, July 16, at the Art Guild of Burlington.

People interested in competing may contact Jamie at the Natural Resource Conservation Service office at (319) 753-6221.

The Hawk Eye 6-13.99

Five win conservation honors

The Hawk Eye

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have selected five local farmers as district winners for the 1999 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Steve Coates of Mediapolis was chosen as the winner in Division III for becoming a new soil conservation district cooperator. He was selected based on tree plantings he is completing on his ground in Huron Township.

Everett Toft of New London and Dwayne Wright of New London were selected as winners in Division II.

This division is for tenant-operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord. The two were selected for the establishment of terraces, a farm pond, Conservation Reserve Program and farming practices to control soil erosion on Toft's farm in Pleasant Grove Township.

Dennis Petersen of Mediapolis was selected as 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. He was chosen because of his extensive timber management, tree plantings and CRP in Benton Town-

ship.

Petersen also was selected as the overall district winner to represent the district in regional competition. The district's region consists of 13 counties in southeast Iowa.

Additionally, the district chose Charles Thie of Burlington as a local

winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. His name has been submitted for consideration in state judging. He owns approximately 100 acres on which he has established many tree plantations.

The awards will be presented during Ag Expo '99 at Southeastern Community College on Sept. 1.

Bergman receives award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that District Commissioner Jeff Bergman has been chosen as the 1999 Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner for Region 9.

The Des Moines County SWCD submitted Bergman's name for this award based on the contributions he has made to the District and Iowa's many soil and water conservation programs. He was elected a District Commissioner in 1992, after serving as an Assistant Commissioner for five years. He is very active in numerous committees of the District and has served as a team member of a state committee for marketing and strategic planning. He has been the chairperson since 1995 and also serves as the co-treasurer for the District.

Bergman will receive his award during the 53rd annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners on Thursday, September 2 in Des Moines.

Chosen for DMC Conservation Awards

Memo News 6-10

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have selected five local farmers as District winners for the 1999 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Steve Coates, Mediapolis, was chosen as the winner in Division III for becoming a new soil conservation district cooperater after January 1, 1998. Steve was selected based on tree plantings he is completing on his ground n Huron Township.

Everett Toft, New London, and Dwayne Wright, New London, were selected as winners in Division II. This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been establishd and maintainedby the tenant and the landlord. Toft and Wright were selected for the establishment of terraces, a farm pond, CRP, and farming practices to control soil erosion on Everett's farm in Pleasant Gove Township.

Dennis Petersen, Mediapolis, was selected as 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. Petersen was chosen because of his extensive timber management, tree plantings, and CRP in Benton Township.

Dennis Petersen was also selected as the overall district winner to represent the District in regional competition. The District's region consists of 13 counties in southeast Iowa.

Additionally, the District chose Charles Thie, Burlington, as a local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. Thie's name has been submitted for consideration in state judging. He owns approximately 100 acres on which he has established many tree plantations.

The awards will be presented during Ag Expo '99 at Southeastern Community College on September 1.

Nominations open for Wagner Land Stewardship Award

Memo News 9-16

Nominations are being accepted until Sept. 30 for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award. This award is presented nually to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to Des Mones County's natural environment.

The award, consisting of a plaque and \$250 to be used for conservation projects, is sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, Des Moines County Conservation Board, and Partners for Conservation Foundation.

This award is presented to a Des Moines County landowner who has shown long term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the area of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information on the nomination process, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District office at 319-753-6221.

Nealeys recognized as Century Conservation Farm Family

Memo News 10-21

Charles and Connie Nealey of Danville were selected to represent Des Moines County as one of Iowa's conservation farm families of the century.

The Nealeys are one of 78 farm families from across Iowa honored at the 1999 Farm Progress Show in the Amanas on Sept. 29. They were officially recognized in a brief ceremony at the show. They were nominat-edby the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District for their efforts to proectct the water, air and land that will produce our food into the next millennium.

Each conservation family received a limited edition wildlife print by well known Iowa artist Larry Anderson, and jackets and certificates signed by Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and other state conservation leaders.

This recognition of Iowa's Conservation farmers caps the year-long Conservation Milestones at the Millennium Campaign that honors the conservation work of Iowa's private landowners and the locAl, state, and federal conservation agencies and organizations which help them.

Nealeys recognized as 'Century Conservation Farm Family'

DMCO News 10-21

Charles and Connie Nealey of Danville were selected for represent Des Moines County as one of Iowa's conservation farm families of the century.

The Nealeys are one of 78 farm families from across Iowa honored at the 1999 Farm Progress Show in the Amanas on September 29. They were officially recognized in a brief ceremony at the show. The Danville farm family was nominated by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District for their efforts to protect the water, air, and land that will produce our food into the next millennium.

Each conservation family received a limited edition wildlife print by well known Iowa artist Larry Anderson. They were also presented jackets and certificates signed by Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and other state conservation leaders.

This recognition of Iowa's Conservation farmers caps the year-long Conservation

Milestones at the Millennium Campaign that honors the conservation work of Iowa's private landowners and the local, state, and federal conservation agencies and organizations which help them.

Linder nominated for Hagie Award

Harold Linder of Sperry has been nominated for the Lawrence and Eula Hagie Award, the largest conservation award in Iowa.

The award, given annually by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), recognizes Iowans who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to conservation and improvement of the natural environment. The 1999 Hagie award winner will receive \$1,000 and a hand-carved acorn sculpture.

INHF is a non-profit, member-supported organization that protects, preserves and enhances Iowa's natural resources for future generations. The group has protected over 50,000 Iowa acres in the past 20 years. This is their 10th year of presenting the Hagie Award.

Linder's commitment to land stewardship has aided to diversity his own farm and to teach others to do the same.

An avid tree farmer, Linder works to preserve the natural species of orchard trees on his farm. Many of the kinds of trees on his farm appear nowhere else. Linder is one of 125 Des Moines County farmers who has devoted a portion of farmland to the Pheasants Forever and the Des Moines County Conservation Board's (DCCB) "Acre for Wildlife" program.

Linder served as the assistant commissioner for the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation Board from 1962-1890. For 16 of those years, he served as the secretary of the board. Linder is also a member of the Fruit and Nut Growers Association and a volunteer at the Starr's Cave Nature Center.

"I have been amazed with Mr. Linder's wisdom and dedication to the environment," said nominator Jamie Fair, secretary at the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. "His expertise is the result of a lifetime of hard work and committed stewardship on his own farm. While working for environmental diversity on his own farm, Linder has also been busy educating others. He continues to write environmental articles for local newspapers and the DCCB newsletter.

"Good land stewardship is difficult to achieve. Mr. Linder has gone above the challenge by offering good stewardship education to the public," Jeff Bergman, director of the DCCB, said.

In 1998 Linder was the first recipient of the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award, an award that honors an individual who has demonstrated a

commitment to protecting and enhancing Des Moines County's natural environment.

Linder continues to share his conservation ethic and love for wildlife by assisting the DCCB with public educational programs such as wildflower propagation, wild edible plants, and mushroom hunting.

The Hagie Heritage Award was established by Jan Shindel of DeWitt and Ila Jeanne Logan of Merville in honor of their parents Lawrence and Eula Hagie. The recipient of this award will be determined later this summer, selected by a committee from INHF's board of directors.

memo News
7-1-99

Art contest announced

Conservation Milestones at the Millennium, a campaign highlighting ten major conservation achievements on private lands, is well underway in Iowa. To celebrate resource improvements made with \$100 million of state cost share funds, matched dollar for dollar by landowners, the Conservation Milestones sponsors are coordinating with the Iowa Arts Council and five local arts councils around the state to co-sponsor an art contest this summer.

The contest, entitled "A Conservation Farm is a Thing of Beauty" encourages participants to create original art entries that honor the beauty of conservation farms. The art form can be poetry, photography video, sculpture, music, etc.

There are three categories for the competition: pre-K through 8th grade; 9th grade through adult; and professional. One semi-finalist will be selected in each category per region (5 in the state).

All semi-finalist entries will be displayed in the Agricultural Building during the Iowa State Fair. Semi-finalists will receive a conservation medallion and \$25. One finalist will be selected from each category and will be awarded an additional \$100 honorarium.

Entries are due by 4 p.m. Friday, July 16, 1999 at the Art Guild of Burlington. If you are interested in this contest, please contact Jamie at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 319-753-6221 for an entry form and more information.

Message to all farmers

mepoNews 11-18

The NRCS office would like to remind all farmers that conservation compliance is still in effect and before any tillage is done this fall, you need to stop in to check your conservation plan.

The dry weather has made this an interesting year for farmers because of the problem with little subsoil moisture. Next spring subsoil moisture will be well below normal. Farmers can help themselves for future water loss by using conservation tillage, which saves soil moisture, helps what water we might receive infiltrate into the soil, and protects the soil from wind erosion. Conservation tillage can also reduce 90% of the erosion which will help those farmers with land with HEL determinations.

If you would like to revise or review your conservation plans then please call NRCS at 319-752-6221 or stop in see us.

Conservation compliance important

D.M. Co News 11-18

The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Office would like to remind farmers that conservation compliance is still in effect and before any tillage is done this fall, you need to stop in to check your conservation plan.

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If you would like to revise or review your conservation plans then please call NRCS at 319/752-6221 or stop by the office at 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington.

Conservation products catalog available

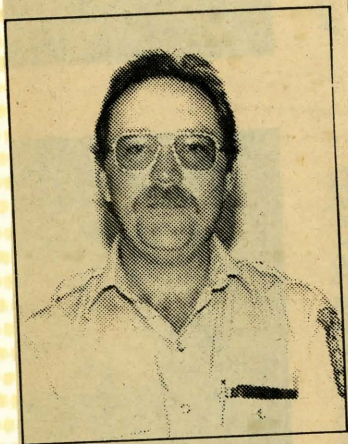
mepoNews 12-3

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District announces its new Conservation Products Catalog program for purchasing conservation items.

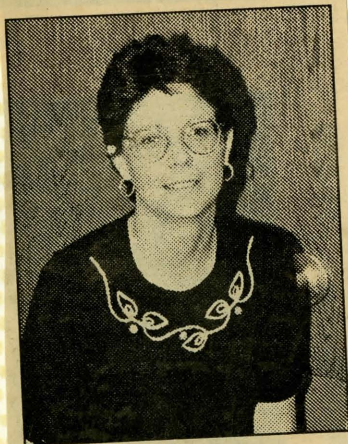
The brochure features mushroom habitat kits, butterfly and bat houses, hummingbird feeder kits, habipaks (tree and shrub packages), tree protectors, wildflowers, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, grapevines, daylilies, ferns, ground cover plants, border and accent plants, and more.

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

Plein, Bergman honored for conservation work



Jeff Bergman



Tami Plein

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District recently announced that two local people will be among those honored for their conservation efforts. Jeff Bergman and Tami Plein will be among the honorees at the 53rd Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners on Thursday, September 2, in Des Moines.

Bergman has been chosen as the 1999 Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners for Region 9. The County SWCD submitted his name for this award based on the contributions he has made to the District and Iowa's many soil and water conservation programs. Bergman was elected a District Commissioner in 1992, after serving as an Assistant Commissioner for five years. He is very active in numerous committees of the district, and has served as a team member of a state committee for marketing and strategic planning. He has been the Chairperson since 1995, and also serves as the co-treasurer for the district.

Plein, West Burlington High School Science Teacher, has been selected to receive the first place award in the Division II of the 1999 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. The purpose of this award is to recognize public or parochial school teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to

safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources. Division II consists of teachers in grades 7-12.

Judging criteria was based on the effectiveness of the teacher to 1) create a favorable climate for conservation education in the classroom; 2) organize conservation field trips that are meaningful to students; 3) create an awareness of conservation and environmental problems at the local, state, and national levels; and 4) motivate students to promote conservation of natural and human resources.

The Des Moines County SWCD submitted Plein's name for many reasons, including her techniques of teaching conservation education by using concepts tied to students' daily routines. She also founded the River Watchers Club, and gets her students involved with Flint Creek water quality testing. Plein's award is to be presented to her by a representative of the Iowa Conservation Education Council and Jerry Perkins, farm editor of the *Des Moines Register*.

Mapels receive Gary Wagner Memorial Award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation, is happy to announce that Richard and Carolyn Mapel of Danville have been chosen as the recipients of the annual Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award.

The Mapels are dedicated land stewards. They have established prairies on CRP acres and developed wildflower, native grass planting strips along Hwy. 79. A small tree plantation was established in a one acre corner. A pond was constructed by the prairies and includes duck and goose nesting structures. The Mapels are also very active in conservation education. They regularly host field trips of their prairie areas and the wildflower planting by the highway was specifically put there to educate passing motorists.

They will receive a \$250 cash award to be used for a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing their efforts. These will be presented to them at a later date.

The Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award was developed by family and friends of Gary to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 753-622.

Receives SWCD scholarship

Kathy Pilling of Mediapolis has been chosen as the recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and CDI Auxiliary.

She was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. Criteria considered in judging the applications included scholastic achievement, need and leadership which includes service, character and self-motivation.

Pilling is a senior at Mediapolis High School. She is the daughter of Charles and Coral Pilling.

The DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL & WATER Conservation District is offering a scholarship to a local high school senior who is pursuing a career in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Applications packets are available from HS guidance counselors or by calling the DMC Soil & Water Conservation District office at 753-6221.

The DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL & WATER Conservation District is offering a scholarship to a local senior for their first year of college. Students must be pursuing a career in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Application packets are available at area high school guidance counselor offices or by calling the Conservation District office at 753-6221.

Scholarship offered

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a scholarship to a local senior for their first year of college while pursuing a career in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Application packets are available at high school guidance counselor offices or call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

The DES MOINES COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District announces that **Kathy Pilling** of Mediapolis has been chosen to receive a scholarship. Pilling's application was chosen from among those received from seniors throughout the county. Criteria considered in judging the included scholastic achievement, need and leadership which includes service, character, and self-motivation. Pilling is a senior at Mediapolis High School, and the daughter of Charles and Coral Pilling. The award is presented each year by the County Soil & Water Conservation District in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and CDI Auxiliary.

DMCO News

Thursday February 24, 2000

Wilcox recognized by conservation district

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and partners for Conservation Foundation, is happy to announce that Kirk Wilcox of Burlington has been chosen as the recipient of the annual Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award.

Wilcox is a dedicated land steward. He has taken crop ground out of production and planted these acres to prairie grass and trees. Wilcox has also enhanced the existing timber. The work he has completed has been done with the benefit of traditional cost-share programs. Wilcox is an example of someone who favors conservation and who is working hard to leave the land in better shape for the next generation.

Wilcox will receive a \$250 cash award, to be used for a conservation or enhancement project, and a plaque recognizing his efforts. These will be presented to him at a later

date.

The Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award was developed by family and friends of Gary to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 753-6221.

DMCO News 3-2

Federal cost-share available

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup for interested landowners whose land is located in Yellow Springs watershed in Des Moines County. The signup will be March 1 through March 31. Yellow Springs watershed encompasses portions of Franklin, Benton, Tama, Yellow Springs, and Huron Townships.

EQIP cost-share is for farming practices that provide the greatest water quality, wildlife and soil erosion benefits. Applications will be ranked against all applications received from the Miss Quad EQIP priority area, which includes Lee, Louisa, and Muscatine counties. Approval of applications will be completed in April.

Application signup for these EQIP funds may be completed at the Des Moines County NRCS office located at 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington.

If you want to see if your land is located in Yellow Springs watershed or have any questions, please call the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

Charles
Nealey

Thank You

Thank
You

Tiffanie
Huson

Thank You

Trent
Kuntz

Charles
Nealey

Thank You

Charles
Nealey

Dear Maier Co. Commissioners & office

I would like to thank
you for my nomination of
Lower Soil Conservation Award,
which then made Regional winner.
You have done a lot of
work which is much appreciated.

Sincerely
Charlie

Thank
You

Tiffanie
Huson

Thank you for all your time and effort that went into making the decision to choose your recipients. I am honored that I was qualified enough to be one of them. Again thank you for your time and confidence. I hope to be successful and prove myself a worthy candidate.

Sincerely,

Tiffanie Huson

Tiffanie
Huson

Thank You

Trent
Kuntz

Dear Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation Board,

I want to thank you for awarding
me your scholarship. It is greatly
appreciated. It will help me finance
my education at SLL this fall. Thanks
again!

Trent
Kuntz

Trent Kuntz

Thank You

Kathu
P. Ling

myranel



A Note of Thanks

1999

You all do a
great job of
educating
people about
the importance
of our precious
natural resources.
Hope this helps.
Jenna Maureen Edick

Thank You

Kathy
Pilling

Dear Soil & Water Commissioners,

Thank you for awarding me the \$150 scholarship this year. It will truly come in handy next year as I start college at Central in Pella, IA.

I appreciate the faith you have shown in my future by selecting me as the 1999 recipient of your award. Once again, I wish to thank you for your generosity.

Kathy M Pilling

Kathy
Pilling



A Note of Thanks

To the Board Members and Employees
of S & W. Conservation Commission:

Thank You for the lovely azaleas.
It was a total surprise to me.

Thank You for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely

Myranell D.

Your thoughtfulness
means so much,
more than words can
ever say.

Keeping watch over precious soil

Stewardship crucial to urban effort

By Criss Wilson

The Hawk Eye

It doesn't look like much. A little gully or a rivulet washing dirt over the curb, into the street, down the sewer.

But consider this: Add up all those gullies and you'd be watching 5.4 million tons of soil being washed away per acre per year. Dump that soil into boxcars instead and the train would stretch from Los Angeles to New York City and back again, according to Department of Natural Resources Conservation Service figures.

Add another 1.3 million tons per acre annually for wind erosion and there's a lot of dust in the wind and dirt in the drain.

That is the national average. Locally, the numbers probably are less, according to those with an eye on the ground. But they do agree that large amounts of soil are sliding into the Mississippi River and its tributaries, along with their cover of pesticides and herbicides. Water quality declines with each rainfall.

The finger of blame has traditionally been pointed at farmers. Only 10 percent of the county's 261,760 acres are urban. Of the remaining 90 percent, 70 percent of those are in row crops.

But that finger may be pointing in the wrong direction.

"Acre for acre, urban residents use more lawn chemicals and pesticides than rural residents," Des Moines County Naturalist Sharon Kaufman said. "Person for person, acre for acre, urban residents contribute more pesticides and herbicides than rural residents."

Unwittingly, it would seem.

Government programs such as the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) have taught agricultural land users the basics of good land practices. Each ounce of rural topsoil lost carries a dollar amount. Less soil means lower productivity, fewer bushels of corn and soybeans. Using more pesticides and



John Stoops/The Hawk Eye

Mike Lewitke of the Natural Resources Conservation Service stands in front of several barriers along U.S. 61 south of Burlington used to prevent gully erosion. Without the barriers, such erosion would allow tons of sediment to dump into the stream and eventually destabilize nearby infrastructure.

Conservation district marks 50 years

By Criss Wilson

The Hawk Eye

It occurred to W.E. Whicher that Des Moines County was the only county in the three southern tiers of the state without a soil conservation district.

That was Aug. 4, 1945, and the Danville farmer made the point at a county Farm Bureau meeting.

By January, the county had one and three commissioners were elected. John L. Blaul of Pleasant Grove Township, Noah Schrock of Huron Township and Edwin Cling of Yellow Spring Township took on the task of urging fellow farmers to save their topsoil for generations to come.

This year will be the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District's 50th anniversary. The current commissioners, now numbering five, will have an open house 10:30 to 1:30

■ The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners will have a 50th anniversary open house from 10:30 to 1:30 p.m. Friday at the NRC office, 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington. There will be a short program at noon. Refreshments will be served.

p.m. Friday at the office next door to Bickel's Bicycle and Fitness Shop on Agency Road in West Burlington.

Serving six-year terms are Sherman Smith, Burlington Township; Jeff Bergman, Union Township; Frank Hedges, Huron Township; Tom Birkenstock, Franklin Township; and Don Lounsbury, Pleasant Grove Township.

The district's purpose is to protect

soil and water resources and was born with the legacy of the Dust Bowl years.

How this is done has changed over the years. Focusing first on rural landowners, where 90 percent of the county property exists, was the primary focus.

In the past five years, the focus has shifted to landowners in urban areas, where on an acre-to-acre basis soil erosion has climbed above rural land figures.

The hope is to turn those numbers around to match those in the rural sector. Better land planning and more education are the basics.

"Of all the environmental indicators — water, wildlife, soil — soil conservation is the only indicator holding its own," Commissioner Jeff Bergman said.

Funding for the program comes largely from statewide REAP funds with assistance from donations.

See Soil page 10A▶

Soil

Continued from Page 1A

herbicides than necessary means rising chemical prices. With tight profit margins, farmers usually are eager to comply with NRCS suggestions or research available options to contain costs.

"That same sort of information wasn't available for urban residents," said Kaufman, one of the county's leading environmental watchdogs. "What almost always happens is when there's a problem with water quality the finger is always pointed at agriculture and agribusiness."

Almost everything an urban landowner puts on the lawn eventually ends up in the same place that rural runoff does, which is the Mississippi River. Every ounce of dirt washed away from land stripped of vegetation goes to the same watery grave.

And while there are regulations to control that contamination, local officials responsible for monitoring land and water quality suspect education will lead to cleaner rivers and less soil loss.

"Stewardship is the key word," said Jeff Bergman, treasurer of the Des Moines County Soil and Conservation District.

A legacy of the Depression-era Dust Bowl, the Soil and Conservation District will be cel-

ebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The traditionally rural focus has been shifting in the past five years as agribusiness gets a grip on its ground and city dwellers begin to see their slip out from under their feet.

Most of the measurable urban land loss is in road construction and building developments. State laws prohibit property owners from changing land configurations to the detriment of neighbors. And city officials now ask contractors to file erosion control and grading plans, according to Mark Brockway, Burlington's development director.

"Basically we've used some good common sense to minimize erosion," Brockway said.

And on at least one recent project — the Westbrook Subdivision — they've required contractors to have someone on site keeping an eye out for potential environmental problems.

Work on the Lowe's project, the other major land-moving event in Burlington, also involved a city-approved erosion control and grading plan.

Erosion control hasn't always been at the top of the development priority list, Brockway said.

"I think we're moving in the right direction," Brockway said. "As time goes by we're trying to improve."

A better flow of information and education is necessary for that improvement. Mike Lewitke, district conservationist for the USDA's Natural Re-

sources Conservation Service, said his agency is making inroads on the urban conservation front.

"We looked at who we were servicing and it was such a small percentage of the community," Lewitke said. "We can't operate in a vacuum. While most of what we're trying to protect is in the rural area you can't ignore the urban."

While farmers have long checked in with his agency for advice, largely in part because conservation plans have been tied to subsidy payments since the 1985 Farm Bill, NRCS also looks over those erosion and grading plans Brockway has coming across his desk.

"Back when we started in the 1940s we had a high soil loss," Lewitke said.

The amount of topsoil lost has slowed dramatically over the years. From 1982 to 1992, Iowa farmers using conservation practices saved 100 million more tons of topsoil, enough to fill a convoy of dump trucks 105 wide, parked bumper to bumper from Council Bluffs to Davenport.

Stewardship, taking responsibility for the land, was the key. Education and information made it possible, according to Lewitke. That same approach likely will be used for urban conservation planning.

"When we talk about urban conservation we have to start at the very beginning," Brockway said. "It's going to have to be done locally."

1999

You folks have all been so
very kind to me. I do not have
much to share with you, but I
will do more when I can. I could
never repay all that you have
done for me.

Merry Christmas
GOD BLESS YOU ALL
Thank you
Dorothy Shanstrom

"Love one another."

John 15:12

1999

You folks have all been so
very kind to me. I do not have
much to share with you, but I
will do more when I can. I could
never repay all that you have
done for me.

Merry Christmas
GOD BLESS YOU ALL
Thank you
Dorothy Shanstrom

"Love one another."

John 15:12

Fifty years dedicated to conservation

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on March 1 with an open house at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in West Burlington.

In August 1945, the Des Moines County Farm Bureau Board requested information regarding the organization of a soil conservation district. After a short discussion, County Extension Director Walter Eyre was instructed to proceed with the steps for the organization of the District. A committee was formed to handle the set up consisting of the William Parrott of Danville, Hugh Jamison of Mediapolis, and George Eversman of Burlington.

After several county meetings and hearings, a referendum was held on January 26, 1946. Polling places were set up in all townships except Augusta. Results of the referendum were 201 voting for the formation of the District and 8 voting against it. Three commissioners were elected at the referendum: Noah Schrock of Huron Township,

John Blaul of Pleasant Grove Township, and Edwin Cling of Yellow Spring Township.

The first meeting of the Des Moines County Conservation District was an organizational meeting on February 14, 1946. Walter Eyre was nominated Secretary. Floyd S. Yetter was the District Conservationist.

Fifty years later, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has a lot to celebrate. Nearly 2 million feet of terraces have been built, 8,200 acres of waterways have been constructed, 699 ponds have been dug, and 2,331 acres of trees have been planted. The District also has hosted approximately 125 demonstrations and tours.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has received \$788,778.22 since 1973 to cost-share projects such as terraces, basins, no-till, grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures. The District has also received \$169,394.65 since 1990 in Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) funds to cost-

share timber stand improvements, tree plantings, windbreaks, and conservation cover.

Numerous men and women have served the District as District Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Secretaries, District Conservationists, and Treasurers. The current District Commissioners are: Jeff Bergman-Chairperson & Treasure; Sherman Smith-Vice Chairperson; Frank Hedges; Don Lounsbury; and Tom Birkenstock. Assistant Commissioners are: Arlyn Musselman, Mike Schwenker, Rick Querna, Brad Weiss, and Laura Wagner-Fritz. Secretary to the District is Jamie Fair and Mike Lewitke is the District Conservationist.

A 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held March 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the NRCS office in West Burlington. A short program will be held at noon. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information or directions, call 753-6221.

DMC Soil & Water Conservation District Open House

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners invite everyone to join them at an open house as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the District.

The open house will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 1 at the NRCS office, 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive in West Burlington.

There will be a short program at noon and refreshments will be served.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



(left to right) Andrew Carhoff, Jason Denning, Eric Rothzen, Jeremy Kane, Matt Weber, Sarah Seitz

The Tri-State Agriculture Education Foundation is pleased to announce the 1996 agriculture scholarship winners. The foundation assist students enrolling in the Southeastern Community College Agriculture Programs. \$500 to \$600 scholarships were available to each student.

We wish to thank the following organizations that have made substantial contributions toward this year's scholarship:

AMERICAN CYANAMID
DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DES MOINES FARM BUREAU
DON NELSON MEMORIAL
QUERNA SEED CO.
RARITAN BANK
TWOMEYS CO.

For information on receiving or giving a scholarship, contact Arlyn Musselman at 1-800-828-7322 or 752-2731 ext. 153

To Whom this may Concern:

We, Nick and Carolyn Mapel, would like to Thank whoever nominated us for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award. Also, a big Thank You to the Des Moines Soil and Water Conservation District, Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation for Choosing us to receive the award in 1998. We have recently planted several evergreen trees. It has been our pleasure to watch many different birds nest in these kinds of trees and rear the young. Also in the years to come the evergreens will provide a wind-break.

We are honored that you Choose us as Stewards of the Land.

THANKS,

Dick

&

Carolyn

Mapel

Nominations Open for Wagner Land Stewardship Award

Memo News
8/11

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District is requesting nominations for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award.

This award is presented to a Des Moines County landowner who has shown long term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the area of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information on the nomination process, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District office at 319-753-6221.

SWCD sponsors poster contest

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest on "The Living Soil" for all students in Des Moines County.

The contest consists of five divisions. Division 1 is kindergarten and 1st grade; Division 2 is 2nd and 3rd grades; Division 3 is 4th through 6th grades; Division 4 is 7th through 9th grades; and Division 5 is for 10th through 12th grades.

The deadline to complete the posters is March 26. For detail information on rules, judging criteria and awards, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221 or 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.

DMC SWCD accepting REAP applications

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting applications for Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) cost share. REAP may be used for farmstead windbreaks, tree planting and timber stand improvement on privately owned land used for agricultural production. If you are interested in signing up or have questions, contact Jamie at 319-753-6221.

Group: Erosion must be stopped

■ **Soil conservation:**
More watersheds
needed to slow down
flooding problems.

By Mike Augspurger
The Hawk Eye

A group of farmers and agriculture specialists believe watershed programs are priorities in Des Moines County.

About 25 people met Thursday night in Southeastern Community College's dining room to discuss EQIP, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program that is replacing many soil conservation programs in the new farm bill.

The government wants the public to determine what each county needs to prioritize and is encouraging more overall comprehensive plans rather than one individual's needs.

A watershed plan, for example, could encompass many county, state and federal programs that could benefit an entire area. Watershed development could include terraces, ponds and other water-retaining devices that would slow down water, prevent low-level flooding and stop so much dirt flowing into creeks and the Mississippi River.

"The state and nation depend

See Erosion page 5D➤

Erosion

Continued from Page 1D

on it," farmer Rich Siegel said of the river that serves exporting, recreational and drinking water needs.

A farmer along the North Bottoms Drainage District, Siegel and taxpayers have paid a great deal of money to dredge the silt out of streams and rivers.

Counties throughout the state are expected to begin discussions on how to receive EQIP funds. Des Moines and Louisa counties are the only two that have started the public input sessions.

"I figure we need to start the ball rolling in this county. Otherwise, the state and feds may tell us what to do," said Jeff Bergman, executive director of the Des Moines County Conservation Department.

Government officials have few guidelines at this time regarding EQIP.

The county residents at Thursday's meeting agreed the bigger the project, the more likely funds will come to the county. They agreed that projects involving several counties are good, too, especially regarding erosion and water quality among the area's rivers and

Conservation priorities

The list of soil conservation priorities for Des Moines County developed this week by a group of agriculturalists and farmers include:

- More watershed projects to stop soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Soil loss from urban construction projects.
- Soil loss on road construction projects.
- Stream bank protection.
- Wetland developments and buffer basins.
- Flint Creek water quality.
- Flatland erosion.
- Educating more farmers about soil conservation practices.

Written comments may be sent to Jeff Bergman, Des Moines County Conservation Dept., 512 N. Main St., Burlington, Iowa 52601 or call (319) 753-8260.

streams.

"Anytime you have regional significance, you have a better chance of funding," Bergman said.

Siegel agreed.

"We're going to have to make the project big enough, visible enough to get attention," he said.

Although EQIP's basic guidelines say money won't be given to large livestock operations, the government has yet to decide how big is large.

Iowa State University Extension farm specialist Harry Tucker said he thinks a lot of

money will be given in northwest and north central Iowa, possibly to big livestock operations.

Farm Service Agency director Don Fry said he hopes that doesn't happen.

"The money is to correct existing problems and not create development," he said.

But all agreed that the previous cost-share soil conservation programs now have become more political.

The group plans to hold another meeting in January to receive more ideas.

1999

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM (ISCAP)

The Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC), the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the Iowa Conservation Education Council, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and The Des Moines Register sponsor a program honoring outstanding conservation teachers and farmers in Iowa.

Presenters: **Jerry Perkins, Farm Editor, The Des Moines Register**
 Duane Toomsen, Iowa Conservation Education Council

Division I Teacher - Kindergarten through Grade 8

Winner: **Lee Schwerdtfeger, Centerville, Lakeview Elementary School, Appanoose SWCD**

Lee Schwerdtfeger, who has been teaching the sixth grade at Lakeview Elementary School in Centerville for the past 30 years, believes that conservation is not just a "unit" to teach. It is a way of life to be introduced, emphasized and enhanced by the way we live every day. This includes the wise use of materials and recycling of substances to decrease landfill use.

Lee is a dedicated educator who encourages his students to respect themselves and the environment. In education he has emphasized life experiences and career exploration and has proactively contributed to the life skills of his students.

Lee is a strong supporter of the outdoor classroom. His students have experience identifying plants, trees and other life forms. Throughout his years of service to the Centerville District, he has organized a sixth grade field day. Students visit sessions that stress wildlife, water safety, gun safety, and environmental issues. This monumental and successful event is organized entirely by Lee's efforts.

Lee Schwerdtfeger truly respects the environment and his place in it. He is a credit to the county in which he lives and to the school where he works.

Division II Teacher - Grades 7 - 12

Winner: **Tami Plein, West Burlington, West Burlington Jr/Sr High School, Des Moines SWCD**

Tami Plein has been teaching physical science and chemistry at West Burlington Arnold Jr/Sr High School for the past six years. Tami believes that conservation teaching should have a valid "connection" to the student. Her philosophy is to tie conservation education with a community issue: water quality.

Each year Tami's students learn about some aspect of water quality. It may be the '93 Flood, rebuilding levees, closing the city potable water plant or purchasing water from other communities. In the exercise "Down the Drain", students diagram the steps water takes before getting to the fountain and where it goes afterward. Students realize that they have only one source for their drinking water.

Tami founded the River Watchers Club, where students donate their time to the County Conservation Board. Students collect data that is used by the Flint Creek Advisory Board to monitor water quality in the Flint Creek Watershed. She organized the Freshman Field Day at Starr's Cave Nature Center, which provides hands on experience for approximately 55 freshmen each year.

Tami does an outstanding job as a classroom teacher and getting students involved in the community. She is able to accomplish both by taking students into the community and by bringing community resources into the classroom.

Finalist in all Iowa Arts Contest

Christopher Koop of Mediapolis has been chosen as a finalist in the Pre-K through 8th grade category of the All Iowa Arts Contest: A Conservation Farm is a Thing of Beauty. Koop wins \$25 and a conservation medallion for a wonderful pencil drawing honoring the conservation farm. Koop's work will be on display at the Agricultural Building gazebo in the center of the building all day Wednesday, Aug. 18 at the Iowa State Fair.

This contest, designed to honor the cooperation between Iowa's conservation farmers and the federal, state and local agencies which serve them - produced many wonderful pieces of artwork. In addition to the works noted above, visitors to the Agricultural Building will see the "best of show," a cloth wall hanging by Helen Degner of Marshalltown which uses a variety of fabrics and other materials to depict the many layers of the earth.

Finalists were chosen from Iowa's five Arts Council regions in three categories (Pre-K through 8th grade; 9th through adult; and professional). One winner was chosen from each category with Best of Show awarded from those three.

The contest was sponsored by the Conservation Milestones Campaign with assistance from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in recognition of \$100 million in state funds that have been used for conservation on private lands and matched dollar for dollar by landowners. Among other resource improvements, these dollars have helped reduce erosion in Iowa by a third since 1982.

Conservation Milestones at the Millennium is a celebration of the conservation efforts of Iowa's private land owners and the many local, state and national agencies which support their work. Throughout 1999, the Conservation Milestones Campaign will celebrate ten milestones and wrap up at the 1999 Farm Progress Show in the Amana with a candidate's forum. For more information on Conservation Milestones, call Boddy Media group at 515-277-5099.

Nominations sought for land Stewardship Award

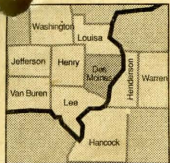
Nominations are now being accepted for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award. This award is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to Des Moines County's natural environment.

The award, consisting of a plaque and \$250 to be used for conservation projects, is sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, Des Moines County Conservation Board, and Partners for Conservation Foundation.

Each year, the award is presented to a Des Moines County landowner who has shown long term dedication and commitment to conservation and the environment in the area of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and who commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

Kirk Wilcox of Burlington was last year's recipient. Wilcox was chosen because of his extensive restoration of crop ground to prairie grasses and trees.

For more information on the nomination process, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District office at 319/753-6221.



News tips

If you see news happening, call
(319) 754-8461 or 1-800-397-1708
and ask to speak with an editor

CITY & REGION

The Hawk Eye • Sunday • November 14, 1999 • 3A

Tree planters rally to stop run-off

■ Flint Creek:

Volunteers armed with 10,000 saplings try to slow contamination.

By Jeanny Sharp

The Hawk Eye

Beautiful weather might have made 60 volunteers planting thousands of trees in rural Des Moines County Saturday wish the saplings would take root immediately to provide protection from the sun.

Sweaty but spirited volunteer environmentalists from a host of organizations participated in a riparian zone planting of 10,000 trees on 20 acres owned by Dorothy Shanstrom along Flint Creek.

"It's a good cause," said Jason Sovern, 16, Burlington, who used an auger to dig holes to plant the trees in. Sovern said the volunteer work was easier than his paying job at Menard, plus this effort will "help keep pollution down."

Studies of Flint Creek have shown its waters are contaminated, probably due to run-off from adjacent properties.

Programs of planting along the creek as a method of slowing soil erosion and filtering out contaminants before they make it into the stream were begun in response to the studies.

The ambitious tree planting effort, coordinated by Notre Dame High School student Brian Gall, 15, Burlington, involved volunteers from Trees Forever, Burlington and Notre Dame High School ecology clubs, the Flint Creek Water Quality Committee, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and BHS Student Council.

"It has gone a lot faster than I thought it would," Gall said of the early full-day effort.

The tree planting is part of an effort by Gall to earn a national Boy Scout award. The project is the equivalent of four Eagle Scout projects, which will help qualify him for The William T. Hornaday conservation award.

"It has taught me how to be a leader and take charge to get things done," Gall said. "It feels good to know that I'm going to help the environment."

Des Moines County National Resources Conservation Service coordinator J.B. Martin and Geode forester Jay Maier assisted Gall with coordination.

Silver maple, green ash, black walnut and burr oak trees were planted to create the riparian buffer.

The buffer is part of a soil erosion program that protects water quality by preventing run-off from fields into the creek. The buffer is also expected to benefit wildlife habitat, improve air quality from reduced wind erosion and, in the long-term, become a salable product to furniture companies.

"It's a long-term investment for sure," Maier said. "The other benefits along the way make it a worthwhile project."

About 600 trees per acre, or 12,000



Samantha Deal/ The Hawk Eye

Matt Fainter, 11, Burlington, and Abimbola Bankole, 17, Burlington, put dirt around the tree they planted Saturday at Dorothy Shanstrom's Farm along Flint Creek to help preserve the creek and surrounding land. Fainter and Bankole were among about 60 volunteers that showed up to plant 12,000 trees.

Landowners' line

Landowners interested in learning more about the tree planting program can contact the Des Moines County Natural Resources Conservation Service at 753-6221.

total trees will be planted on the 20-acre plot after additional pin oak trees are planted later in the month when they arrive from the nursery, Maier said.

The trees are expected to have 80 to 85 percent survival rate.

"The average person doesn't know (tree planting) happens on this scale," Maier said. "We're planting more trees every year than we cut down."

The \$10,000 project is a cooperative effort between the landowner, Trees Forever, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Geode Resource Conservation and Development.

Group recognizes employees

The Hawk Eye

FORT MADISON — Employees at a Fort Madison industry have been honored for their contributions to wildlife habitat conservation.

Cyprus Amax Minerals Co./Climax Molybdenum's facility in Lee County received the national recognition at the Wildlife Habitat Council's 11th Annual Symposium.

Of the 800 acres owned by the company, 60 are used for production facilities. Wetlands, agriculture and forests dominate the remaining property, which is subject to periodic flooding by the Mississippi River.

The company also owns an additional 240 acres six miles west of the plant. Six acres are occupied by a state-permitted landfill and the remaining property consists of native prairie grasses, pasture and forest.

The company has been involved in wildlife enhancement projects since 1979. Over the past 20 years, more than 7,000 trees have been planted, including oak, maple, pine, northern pecan and other species.

The creation of eight acres of wetlands, the installation of more than 120 wood duck boxes and the estab-

lishment of wildflower and hummingbird gardens are some of the programs on the site.

In 1988, 60 acres of native prairie grasses were planted with species such as switchgrass, big bluestem, little bluestem and partridge pea, with an additional four acres of Indian grass and switchgrass planted in 1989. Sightings of red fox, bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasant have been documented in these areas. In 1997, a 1,000-square-foot butterfly garden and 10,000-square-foot wildflower garden also were created.

Efforts also have continued to replace trees lost in the 1993 flood of the Mississippi River, with an additional 1,400 trees being planted.

Thirty-four wood duck and 12 bluebird boxes were constructed and placed, and an additional 2,000 square feet were added to the butterfly and hummingbird gardens.

The Fort Madison plant was one of 109 sites recognized at the 1999 symposium. Since 1990, the Wildlife Habitat Council has certified 260 sites, comprising over one million acres worldwide.

AGRIBUSINESS



Mike Augspurger/The Hawk Eye

Brent Sparrow of rural Niota, Ill., chisel-plows his field last week. Because of dry weather, farmers are worried about what the ground's important soil moisture will be in spring.

Dry soil worries farmers

By Mike Augspurger

The Hawk Eye

NIOTA, Ill. — Brent Sparrow has never seen it so dry.

The Niota, Ill., farmer was chisel-plowing a dry field last week. He plans to plow between 300 and 400 acres this fall on the nearly 700 acres of ground he plants every year.

At 36, he's been a farmer all his life. He learned how to drive a tractor when he was 7 years old.

Crops on the good dirt he had did well. Those planted on lighter dirt didn't do so well.

"These a tough times," he said of the farm economy. "With the reduced yield and reduced prices, I have about a third of my income reduced this year."

What now worries him is the dry fields. The ground needs good subsoil moisture in the fall or early winter for good planting situations in the spring.

The ground could use a lot of moisture.

"A 2 to 3-inch rain would soak up real fast," he said.

The farmland, as well as yards and pastures, haven't had a lot of moisture during the summer and fall.

The state is entering its dry season. But current conditions are unusual, said Craig Cogil, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Des Moines.

The city received just .15 of an inch of rain in October, compared to the average of 2.62 inches, he said.

Statewide, the period of September and October was the seventh driest on record, state climatologist Harry Hillaker told The Associated Press.

The last time a fall season began this dry was in 1975. It was followed by a serious drought, he said.

"That doesn't necessarily work out this way every time, but it's more likely to stay dry in fall, starting like this."

Once the ground freezes, chances for any substantial moisture seeping into the soil are slim. The short-term forecast is not calling for rain. A forecast through January calls for normal conditions, when it would take an unusual amount of precipitation

Farmers should check conservation plans

The Hawk Eye

Area farmers are being reminded that conservation compliance still is in effect and they should check their conservation plans.

The dry weather is sapping the ground moisture, which will affect the subsoil in the spring.

Farmers can help themselves for future water loss by using conservation tillage, which saves soil moisture and helps protect soil from wind erosion.

For assistance, people may contact their local National Resources Conservation Service.

to have an effect.

That has farmers concerned.

"There are many things to overcome as you try to put in and take out crops: insects, weeds, good and bad weather, and then prices," said Margaret Cook, whose family farms near Hubbard.

"In April it seemed like we could only get in the field four days a week, and we ended up with a pretty decent crop year," she said. "You can never count anything out."

Kirk Leeds, executive director of the Iowa Soybean Association, said yields across the state are averaging between 45 and 48 bushels per acre. A record year is expected, with more than 500 million bushels harvested, he said.

"It would have been bigger if there had been more rain," Leeds said.

Similarly, corn growers have largely been reporting strong yields, said Paula Chizek with the Iowa Corn Growers Association.

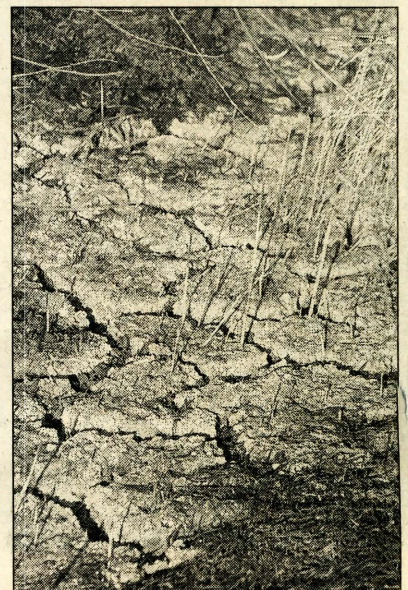
"This is kind of a two-edged sword," said Brent Halling, Iowa's deputy agriculture secretary. "It's a great fall to get things done. But then what happens for planting?"

Right now, it's hampering tillage work and the application of anhydrous ammonia and fertilizer.

And Halling said he's heard of ranchers in southeast Iowa who have been hauling water to fill creeks in their cattle pastures.

Last week, Sparrow burned some of the grass around his ditches. The ditch along the highway usually has water in it. Now there are cracks — deep ones.

"I've never seen that before in my



Mike Augspurger/The Hawk Eye

Dry conditions are evident in a ditch on Brent Sparrow's land. The area usually always has water in it.

36 years of farming," he said.

The weather service said northern and western parts of the state are more parched than the south and east.

But topsoil and subsoil moisture is severely depleted across the state. Levels of most rivers also are far below average, though the Missouri and Mississippi rivers have normal or above normal flows for this time of year, Hillaker said.

"What you usually see next with these drought conditions is an impact on groundwater resources and the water table," he said. "But it usually takes a long time to affect those."



Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation

2000-2001 Scholarship Recipients

Assisting students enrolled in agriculture programs at Southeastern Community College

FOR INFORMATION
on how you
can give or receive
a scholarship, call
Arlyn Musselman
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or 319.752.2731
extension 8153

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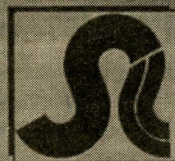
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Cale Evans Biggsville, IL
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(not pictured) **Tracy Vorwies** Burlington



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Southeastern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Local farmers chosen for conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have selected six local farmers as District winners for the 2000 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Dorothy Shanstrom, Burlington, was chosen as the winner in Division III for becoming a new soil conservation district cooperator after January 1, 1999. Shanstrom was selected based on the riparian buffers, filterstrips, and native grass seedings she has completed through the Conservation Reserve Program on her farm in Franklin Township.

Wayne Wasson, West Burlington, 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. Wasson was chosen because of his farming practices that control soil erosion such as no-till farming, grassed waterways and field borders in Franklin, Pleasant Grove, and Flint River Townships. He has also completed filterstrips and a shallow water area through continuous CRP.

Three farmers—Robert Yaeger, New London; Broadview Farms (JD Stucker), Danville; and Thomas Wagner, Danville—were selected as winners in Division II. 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 was selected for the establishment of riparian corridors, streambank stabilization along Flint Creek, wetland areas, filterstrips, and no-till farming to control soil erosion on Yaeger's farm in Pleasant Grove Township.

Yaeger, Broadview Farms, and Wagner were also selected as overall district winner to represent the District in regional competition. The District's region consists of 13 counties in southeast Iowa.

Additionally, the District chose Robert Brown, Yarmouth, as a local winner of the Woodland Owners of the Year award. Brown's name has been submitted for consideration in state judging. He owns 35 acres that he is in the process of renovating the old pastures back into high quality stands of oak and walnut.

Ag Updates

NOMINATIONS for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award are now being accepted. This award is jointly sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District, County Conservation Board, and Partners for Conservation Foundation. A nominee must be a Des Moines County landowner who has shown a long term dedication and commitment to conservation and the environment. This can be in the area of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education and farming practices. Their commitment must be evident in their personal accomplishments rather than professional work. For more information on the nomination process, contact the Soil & Water Conservation office at 319/753-6221.

The DES MOINES COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District reminds anyone interested in serving as a Conservation District Commissioner that nomination papers must be turned in by 5:00 p.m. Aug. 30. Seats held by Don Lounsbury of Pleasant Grove Township, Todd Heckenberg of Benton Township, and Myranell Dockendorff of Danville Township expire on Jan. 2, 2001. Any qualified elector residing in any township except Union or Huron (these are already represented on the Commission) may run. Candidates must obtain the signatures of at least 25 eligible electors, and file the petition with the County Auditor. Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program for the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Lundy, Burlington, Iowa

Mr. Lundy was 2000 Division II Teacher of the Year
for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program

Submitted by Des Moines County Soil and
Water Conservation District



Lundy to receive conservation honor

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District recently announced that Sherman Lundy, Burlington High School Chemistry/Earth Science Teacher, has been chosen to receive the first place award in Teacher Division II of the 2000 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program.

The purpose of the award is to recognize public or parochial school teachers who have made major contributions to soil and water conservation efforts. Recipients have strived to create public awareness about safeguarding our heritage of natural and human resources. Division II consists of teachers in grades 7 through 12.

Judging criteria was based on the effectiveness of the teacher on levels. They must work to create a favorable climate for conservation education in the classroom. They must organize conservation field trips that are meaningful to students, and create an awareness of conservation and environmental problems at the local, state, and national levels. And they must motivate students to promote conservation of natural and human resources.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District submitted Lundy's name for many reasons, including his hands-on teaching techniques.

Lundy motivates his students to become active in many community projects such as water testing at Flint Creek and planting trees for riparian buffers. His students learn environmental issues first hand, not through textbooks.

Lundy will receive the award during the 54th Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners on September 7. The award will be presented to him by a representative of the Iowa Conservation Education Council and Jerry Perkins, farm editor of the *Des Moines Register*.

Six win awards for conservation efforts

The Hawk Eye

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners have selected six local farmers as district winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Brock Beckman of Danville was chosen as the winner in Division III for becoming a new soil conservation district cooperater after Jan. 1, 2000.

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

Holly Wagner of 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. Wagner was chosen because of his farming practices that control soil erosion.

Wagner also was selected as the overall district winner to represent the district in regional competition. The district's region

consists of 13 counties in south-east Iowa.

Additionally, the district chose Steve Nunnikhoven of Mediapolis as a local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. His name has been submitted for consideration in state judging. He has completed many acres of timber stand improvement and tree planting on his 65-acre farm in Huron Township.

Thanks

The word "Thanks" is rendered in a playful, stylized font. Each letter is placed on a separate, overlapping, semi-transparent colored rectangle. The letters are: 'T' (red with a black and white checkered band and a red dot), 'h' (orange with white dots), 'a' (yellow with a white dot), 'n' (green with a white dot), 'k' (blue with a yellow and blue striped pattern), and 's' (purple). The background consists of a white page with a red horizontal bar at the bottom.

Dear Mr Heckenberg,

I would like to express my gratitude to you & your committee for awarding me the \$200 scholarship from the Des Moines county Soil & Water Conservation District. I plan to attend Quincy University in the Environmental Science area. Again, thank you very much

Sincerely,

Ben Caldwell

OUTLOOK 2000

Farmers slow flow of soil into water

The Hawk Eye

Iowa farmers have continued to slow the flow of topsoil from farmlands into waterways across the state, according to a recent study released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Estimated annual soil erosion from wind and water on Iowa's cropland fell 21 percent, from 6.7 tons an acre in 1992 to 5.3 tons an acre in 1997, according to preliminary figures compiled in the 1997 National Resources Inventory.

The inventory shows erosion by water was reduced from 5.4 tons in 1992 to 4.7 in 1997; erosion by wind fell from 1.3 tons to .6 tons an acre in the five-year period. The 1997 rate is nearly a 50 percent cut in total erosion from the 10.4 tons per acre per year rate in 1982.

"We're pleased to see this steady progress in better soil protection," said Leroy Brown, NRCS State Conservationist.

NRI figures show that one out of every 14 developed acres in Iowa was developed since 1987.

"In fact, the annual rate of land development increased by 400 percent during the last 10 years," said Cory Brockmann, NRI specialist for NRCS in Iowa.

NRI figures show land was converted to urban and other uses at a rate of about 5,000 acres a year between 1982 and 1992, but that average accelerated to more than 20,000 acres a year since 1992. Now, about 1.8 million acres, or about 5 percent of the state is developed land.

The NRI study, completed every five years, looks at land cover and use, soil erosion, prime farmland, wildlife diversity, selected conservation practices and other land conditions on more than 800,000 random sample sites on nonfederal, rural land in the U.S.

The goal of the survey, directed by Congress and completed by NRCS, is to evaluate the conditions and trends of the nation's soil, water and related resources. The latest inventory looked at land conditions in 1997.

Other preliminary NRI data show the following changes since 1992:

- Cropland increased 1 percent to 25.3 million acres.

- Pastureland dropped 6 percent to 3.6 million acres.

- Forest land increased 5.5 percent to 2.1 million acres.

More NRI figures are available at the NRCS website:

www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/NRIrlse.html.

Conservation tillage is one aspect of productivity to ensure that farmers have the best soils for planting. Conservation tillage refers to any tillage system that is designed to

reduce soil erosion caused by water or wind.

The following are descriptions and benefits of the different types of tillage you notice in crop fields.

No-till

The soil is left undisturbed prior to planting. Planting is completed in a narrow seedbed or slot created by a planter or drill. Weeds are controlled primarily with herbicides. Some of the benefits of no-till are that it dramatically reduces soil erosion and helps retain moisture. The expenses for equipment, time and fuel are decreased because of fewer trips across the field. There is also less soil compaction.

Mulch till

The total soil surface is disturbed by tillage prior to planting. Tillage tools such as chisels, field cultivators, disks, sweeps or blades are used. Weeds are controlled with herbicides and/or cultivation. Some of the benefits of mulch till are that it reduces soil erosion significantly. Mulch till works well with poorly drained soils and increases infiltration more than conventional tillage. Mulch till also allows the incorporation of surface-applied fertilizers and pesticides.

Ridge till

The soil is left undisturbed prior to planting. The seedbed is prepared on ridges with sweeps, disks, or other row cleaners. The ridges are rebuilt during cultivation. Weeds are controlled with herbicides and/or cultivation. Some of the benefits of a ridge-till system include significant erosion reduction and that residue is placed in the valleys between the ridges, leaving less residue to interfere with planting. The ridges also drain faster and warm up more quickly in the spring, which creates an optimal seedbed and makes early planting possible.

Strip till

The soil is left undisturbed prior to planting. Tillage in the row is done at planting using tools such as a roto-tiller, an in-row chisel, or other row cleaners. Weeds are controlled with herbicides and/or cultivation. A few of the benefits of strip till are that clean strips tend to warm up faster and provide a better seed-soil contact for small seeds. Herbicides are often applied in a band or strip, reducing the total amount applied. Strip till also requires significantly reduced numbers of trips over the field, which means reduced compaction and less machine maintenance.

People with questions about conservation tillage, may call the Natural Resources Conservation Service at (319) 753-6221 or stop at the office, 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week set

Increased community awareness of the need to care for natural resources that make up the habitat that sustains us all is the goal of organizers of the 2001 Soil and Water Stewardship Week, set for April 29 through May 6. The focus of this year's national observance is on the personal responsibility each citizen has to be a good steward of the land, water, wildlife, and other natural resources that enhance our quality of life.

The concept of habitat, which most of us think of in terms of wildlife, has been expanded to

include human and other living things around us that make up the place where we live. The basic elements of habitat are food, water and shelter.

"As living creatures with an appetite for control over our domain, humankind has a special responsibility to sustain a healthy balance of all living elements that make up our surroundings," said Terrance Rudolph, district conservation of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District.

To learn more about how you can protect our habit, call 753-6221.

Habitat for Life is theme of Soil & Water Stewardship Week

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It is common to think about people losing their home and the quality of their living environments as being something that happens to someone else, or in some other place. That may not always be the case. As we see sprawling growth take valuable farmland, read about a town's drinking water being polluted by a chemical spill, or watch helplessly as a flood wipes out farms and towns, we are witnessing a steady loss of the habitat for life that is needed by all people and other living things.

To learn more about how you can help protect your habitat, contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

New Forestry cost share program announced

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced applications will be accepted through June 15 for cost share for forestry projects.

Landowners in Des Moines County will be able to apply for up to 75% cost share through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to complete forestry projects such as Timber Stand Improvement, Tree Planting and Fencing for Livestock Exclusion.

To sign up for the cost share, contact the NRCS office at 319-753-6221 or stop into the office at 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington.

Cost-share fund applications now available

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will now accept applications for landowners who want to apply for cost-share funds from the Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). EQIP is a federal cost-share program for installing conservation practices on privately-owned farm ground. Applications will be accepted until Jan. 26, 2001.

Landowners located in Yellow Springs Watershed in Des Moines County are not eligible for this sign-up. A sign-up for these landowners will be held at a later date.

To sign-up, stop in the Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1104 Derek Lincoln Dr., West Burlington, or the Farm Service Agency before Jan. 26. For more information, contact NRCS at 753-6221.

Get free nature, conservation 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 photos are available in two formats: JPEGs and TIFFS. Image files vary in size from 400k to 17 MB.

"We hope the site will be used by school teachers, children, editors, web designers and partners," said Terrance 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 photos are organized by categories such as buffers, conservation tillage, water quality and wildlife. There are 54 categories of photos from 30 states. Images could be used in newsletters, brochures, web sites, school lessons, presentations and post cards.

Every image is free, however credit should be given to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Conservation tillage gaining ground in Iowa

Conservation and farm group leaders announce results from two surveys that indicate soil-saving conservation tillage methods are holding their own, and may be gaining ground in Iowa.

Results from a 1999 survey of 340 corn and soybean producers in 19 Iowa counties show the amount of no-till acres and the proportion of farmers using no-till changed little from 1997 to 1999. Preliminary results from a field survey collected in the same 18 counties this year shows conservation tillage and no-till have increased significantly since 1998.

"In the last few years there has been speculation within the agricultural and conservation communities of the decline in the use of conservation tillage and no-till in the state. Part of that speculation may be due to a sharp peak in residue management use in 1998 followed by a drop in 1999," says Leroy Brown, State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Iowa. "We are encouraged by the results of both surveys, that show there is not a downward trend in conservation tillage and no-till. The farmer survey results will help us better understand producers' thoughts and attitudes, so we can further increase the use of these tillage systems in Iowa."

Conservation tillage is the practice of leaving the stalks and other residues from the current year's crop on the surface of the soil after harvest, to protect the soil from falling raindrops until the next year's crop can protect it.

The 1999 survey of farmers' tillage practices and attitudes was conducted by the Iowa Residue Management Partnership (IRMP), an informal partnership of private and public organizations that promotes and addresses issues related to conservation tillage and no-till. The survey focused on measuring tillage trends and identifying possible causes of any trend changes among this sample of Iowa farmers. Although there was some small annual fluctuation, results indicate tillage preferences among those farmers have remained stable over the past three years.

The 2000 field survey of crop residue levels was conducted by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC), a nonprofit public/private partnership, and the NRCS in every Iowa county. Currently, results are only available for the same 18 counties sampled in the IRMP survey.

interest in annexation

County residents to the east, west, and north of the Middletown City limits may soon hear from city officials. Council Ron Durbin has been assigned the task of contacting area residents to gauge their interest in voluntary annexation.

The annexation question has been raised in recent months construction of a new four-lane US 34 progresses. Iowa Department Transportation plans call for the new highway to by-pass Middletown to the north of the present corporate limits. There has also been speculation about a new residential subdivision being developed on land on the city's northeast edge.

The city already supplies water to customers in some rural neighborhoods to the north and east.

Council members have expressed no interest annexing

materials in the former Rec Hall. City officials decided to have the tests done and prepared for DNR review after learning that the contractor, Davolt Demolition, had not filed a demolition permit with the agency as stipulated in his contract.

•Mike Saeugling, Van Winkle Jacobs Engineering, provided a progress report on the city's lift station and force sewer main project. Saeugling said that, despite set backs, the project should be completed and operational by the October 1 deadline. Because Alliant Energy has not yet been able to set a power pole for the new lift station, Council authorized the engineer to rent a 3-phase generator to test the facility.

•The City must also establish a contract with Burlington Waterworks to purchase water and end its current contract with the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant by October 1. Council

The Des Moines County Soil

and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest on the gift of trees. The posters will be judged on the entry's conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.

Size of the posters can be from 8½ inches by 11 inches up to 22 inches by 28 inches.

The five divisions will be: kindergarten to 1st, 2nd to 3rd, 4th through 6th, 7th through 9th and 10th through 12th grades.

Detail information may be obtained at 1000 N. Roosevelt Ave., Suite 8, in Burlington, or call (319) 753-6221.

All posters must be completed before March 29.

Prizes will be: 1st place, \$20; 2nd place, \$15; 3rd place, \$10.

Stuckers given award for environmental efforts

The Hawk Eye

NEW LONDON — Doug and Melanie Stucker of New London have received the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award.

The award is given by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation.

The Stuckers have established food plots, native grass seedings, filter strips, trees and riparian buffers. Their future plans include wetland restoration and developing the farm into a model conservation farm for education.

They will receive a \$250 cash award to be used for a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing their efforts. These will be presented to them at a later date.

The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and the environment.

For information about the nomination process, call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at (319) 753-6221.

Dear Friends,

We are pleased and honored to be the recipient of the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award. Thank you for the recognition of our efforts.

We are committed to the conservation of our land and environment and are dedicated to passing along our conservation efforts to future generations.

A special thanks goes to all for your dedication in conservation and the environment.

Sincerely,

Doug & Melanie Stucker

July 10, 2003

Des Moines County News — Page 3

Notre Dame teacher chosen as SWCD Teacher of the year

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has chosen Notre Dame Elementary Teacher Sharon Sommerfelt as the local winner in Division I of the 2003 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

The purpose of the award is to recognize public or parochial school teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources. Division 1 consists of teachers in grades Kindergarten through 8.

The SWCD chose Sharon as their local winner because of her

cooperation with their annual poster contest and her hands-on teaching techniques with her students on conservation activities, including a new butterfly garden in the courtyard of the school.

Ms. Sommerfelt's application has been forwarded for state judging. Judging at the state and local level consists of the effectiveness of the teacher to (1) create a favorable climate for conservation education in the classroom; (2) organize conservation field trips that are meaningful to students; (3) create an awareness of conservation and environmental problems at the local, state and national levels; and (4) motivate students to promote conservation of natural and human resources.

The SWCD has made a donation for the butterfly garden at Notre Dame in recognition of Sharon's award. For more information about the awards program, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

I would like to express my appreciation for naming me Division I Conservation Teacher of the year. 2003 I am honored by your recognition and was thrilled to have been recognized publicly in both the Hangeage and the Mediapolis news. I am sorry this card is so late coming to you, but I wanted to wait until I had the appropriate stationary available. I work continues on our butterfly garden and we plan to add a butterfly fountain this year to add a water source to our habitat. We will then be able to apply to the Natural Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitat Program for recognition. Please stop by and visit our garden anytime - I would enjoy seeing you "the tour"! Sharon Sommerfelt



✕ Notre Dame Elementary School teacher **Sharon Summerfelt** has been chosen by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District as the local Teacher of the Year in Division 1 of the 2003 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program. The purpose of the award is to recognize public or parochial school teachers who perform outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard society's heritage of natural and human resources. Division 1 consists of teachers in kindergarten through eighth-grade.

Summerfelt, whose name has been forwarded for consideration at the state level, was selected the local winner because of her cooperation in the annual poster contest and her hands-on teaching techniques with her students on conservation activities, including a new butterfly garden at the school.

In recognition of the award, the Soil and Water Conservation District has made a donation to support Notre Dame Elementary's

butterfly garden.

Soil conservation winners

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected four local landowners as district winners for the annual Iowa soil conservation awards program and woodland owner of the year.

The Iowa soil conservation awards program is co-sponsored by the Iowa State soil conservation committee and conservation districts of Iowa (CDI) and consists of three divisions.

Randy Higdon, Danville, and Wayne Wasson, West Burlington, were selected as winners in division II. This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

7-19-03 FB
Will Walker, Mediapolis, 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.

Additionally, the district chose Dennis Petersen, Mediapolis, as local winner of the woodland owner of the year award. This award, co-sponsored by the forestry division of the Iowa DNR and conservation districts of Iowa, is designed to recognize individuals who are doing an outstanding job of woodland management.

For more information on the awards program, please call the SWCD at 753-6221.

Two DMC Soil & Water Conservation Commissioners to be elected

The terms of two Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will be on the ballot for the 2002 general election. The terms of Frank Hedges, Huron Township, and Jeff Bergman, Union Township, will expire on Jan. 2, 2003.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil and water conservation district, which is all of Des Moines County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of Commissioner. No more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Todd Heckenberg, Benton Township; Don Lounsbury, Pleasant Grove Township; and Ron Snyder, Burlington Township; therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil and water conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Des Moines County Courthouse no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 28, 2002.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington or call 319-753-6221.

New Fresh From the Farm:

Danville farmers receive conservation awards

Holly Wagner and Brock Beckman, both of Danville, were selected by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Commissioners as district winners in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Beckman was chosen as the winner in Division III for

becoming a new soil conservation district cooperator after Jan. 1, 2000. His selection was based on the terraces he has and will have once they are completed on his farm in Danville Township.

Wagner was selected as the Division I winner. 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. His farm is also located in Danville Township.

Wagner was also selected as the overall district winner and he will represent the district in regional competition. The district's region consists of 13 counties in southeast Iowa.

Nominations open for Wagner Land Stewardship Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award. This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to Des Moines County's natural environment.

The award, consisting of a plaque and \$250 to be used for a conservation project, is sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, Des Moines County Conservation Board, and Partners for Conservation Foundation.

This award is presented to a Des Moines County landowner who has shown long term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the area of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information on the nomination process, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District office at 319-753-6221.

DMC News
10/2

Nominations are open

10.4 F.B

Nominations are now being accepted for the Gary Wagner land stewardship award. This award is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates a commitment to Des Moines County natural environment.

The award, consisting of a plaque and \$250 to be used for a conservation project, is sponsored by the Des Moines County soil and water conservation district, Des Moines County conservation board and Partners for Conservation Foundation.

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Local landowners chosen for conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected four local landowners as District winners for the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and Woodland Owner of the Year.

The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and consists of three Divisions.

Randy Higdon, Danville, and Wayne Wasson, West Burlington, were selected as winners in Division II. This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

William Walker, Mediapolis, was selected as the winner in Division I. This division is for

DMC News
7-3

Landowner conservation awards

Cont'd from page 1

owner-operated farms which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

Additionally, the District chose Dennis Peterson, Mediapolis, as a local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. This award, co-spon-

sored by the Forestry Division of the Iowa DNR and conservation Districts of Iowa, is designed to recognize individuals who are doing an outstanding job of woodland management.

For more information on the awards program, please call the SWCD at 753-6221.

Conservation poster contest

"Food for the Future" is the theme for the 2003 Soil & Water Conservation Poster Contest. Making sure we have an ample supply of food for now and the future is an important task that requires: conservation practices, productive soils, ample water, variety of food crops, stable economy, transportation system, hunger relief, and educated citizens. Posters will be judged on the entry's conservation message (50%), visual effectiveness (30%), universal appeal (10%), and originality (10%).

There are five divisions for youth in grades K-12 and cash prizes for the top winners!

For complete rules and entry form, contact the Extension Office or call Jamie at 319-753-6221. Entries are due March 28 at the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District, 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.

mepe News

Local landowners chosen for Conservation Awards

Mepp News 73

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William Walker, Mediapolis, 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.

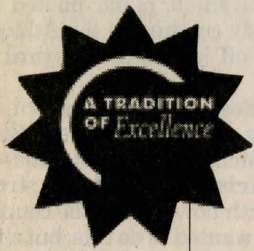
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For more information on the awards program, please call the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

Dear Des Moines County Soil & Water
Conservation Board,

Thank you so much for
awarding me your scholarship!
The money is greatly appreciated
and will be used for tuition
next fall at Iowa Wesleyan.
Thank you so much for this
recognition.

~ Diana Davis



Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation

2002-2003 Scholarship Recipients



Back—Richard Edmunds, Dallas City, IL; Jason Campbell, Mount Pleasant; Robert Hocker, LaHarpe, IL; Ryan Jordan, Carthage, IL; Dustin Vorwaldt, West Point; Bryan Kuntz, Oakville.

Front—Marcus McCabe, New London; Kari Wyett, Danville; Andy Wilson, Houghton; Oliver Lampron, Meriden, CT.

Scholarship Donors

■ Bank of Stronghurst ■ BASF ■ Contract Services LTD ■ Curt Thomas Memorial Scholarship
■ Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District ■ Farmers and Merchants Bank
■ Raritan State Bank ■ Twomey Company ■ Jim Vantiger

FOR INFORMATION on how you can give or receive a scholarship,
call Arlyn Musselman at extension 8153, 866.SCC.IOWA or 319.752.2731

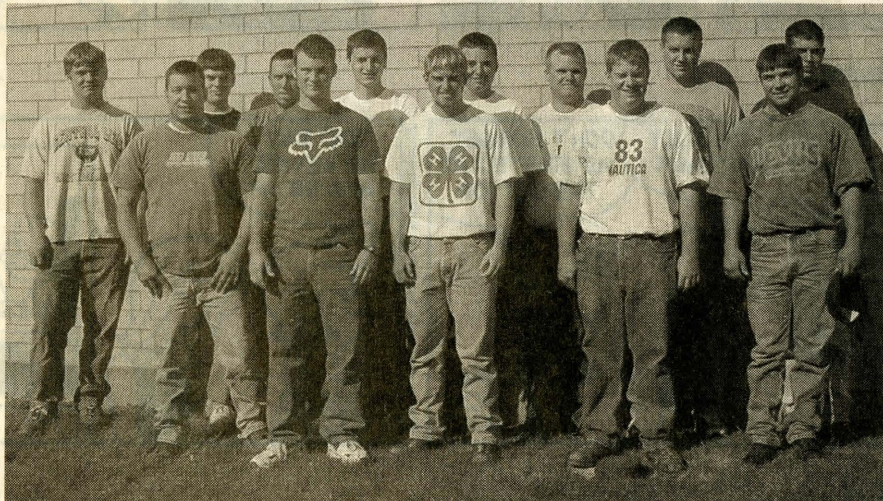


Southeastern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation

2003-2004 Scholarship Recipients



*Back—Joel Bell, West Point;
Brady Schmidt, Burlington; Ron
Ludington, Stronghurst, IL; Blake
Bessine, Burlington; Brandon Jones,
Winfield; J.R. Casteel, Roseville,
IL; Drew Pence, LaHarpe, IL;
Jon Fecht, Carthage, IL.*

*Front—Brandon Wellman, West
Point; Alex Ruebush, Blandinsville,
IL; Cory Strothman, New London;
Corbin Remich, Mount Pleasant;
Mathew Mason, Wapello.*

Scholarship Donors

■ Bank of Stronghurst ■ Burlington Bank and Trust ■ Creelman Research Farm ■ Des Moines County
Soil and Water Conservation District ■ Farmers and Merchants Bank ■ Lee County Bank and Trust
■ Raritan State Bank ■ Curt Thomas Memorial Fund ■ Twomey Company ■ Vantiger Farm Market

FOR INFORMATION on how you can give or receive a scholarship,
call Arlyn Musselman at extension 8153, 866.SCC.IOWA or 319.752.2731



Southeastern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Extension
4-H
Newsletter

Conservation Poster Contest

"The Living Soil" is the theme for the 2003 Soil & Water Conservation Poster Contest. The living soil sustains all life on earth. Without soil, nothing lives. Healthy soils support healthy environments, and healthy environments support healthy life. Posters will be judged on the entry's conservation message (50%), visual effectiveness (30%), universal appeal (10%) and originality (10%). There are five divisions for youth in grades K-12 and cash prizes for top winners! For complete rules and entry form, contact the Extension office or call Jamie at 319-753-6221. Entries are due March 26 at the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District, 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.

◆◆◆
Four local landowners have been selected by the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District as district winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and Woodland Owner of the Year. **Randy Higdon**, Danville, and **Wayne Wasson**, West Burlington, were selected in the division recognizing conservation on tenant-occupied farms. **William Walker**, Mediapolis, was selected in the division for owner-operated farms. **Dennis Peterson**, Mediapolis, was recognized as the local Woodland Owner of the Year. For more information on the awards program, call (319) 753-6221.
▲▲▲

Letter to the Editor

To the citizens of Des Moines County:

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners would like to clarify any misunderstandings our supporters may have gotten from the Big Hollow supplement printed in the Hawk Eye. Because the Des Moines County SWCD is the local board for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the letter from NRCS in the supplement may have been misconstrued as support from the SWCD. This letter to the County Conservation Board from Mr. Bruce Trautman further explains the USDA NRCS position on the project:

"I would first offer my apologies for any confusion that my letter of March 11th, 2003 to Mr. Wiedemeier may have caused. My intent, although possibly misinterpreted, was to offer the support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to the "local land users within the watershed in planning and applying resource management systems." It was NOT and IS NOT an endorsement of the lake itself, nor is it a position against the lake. I understand this is a local decision that will be decided by the local community, not the USDA-NRCS.

"We have not and will not be providing any technical assistance for the lake project, engineering, design, financial assistance, endangered plant and animal surveys, soil investigation or foundation investigation. Our assistance will be limited to conservation planning and application for those within the watershed requesting our assistance.

"I hope that this letter further clarifies our agency's position in this matter."

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners

Don Lounsbury

Todd Heckenberg

Ron Snyder

Maureen Fosdick

Mediapolis News

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Bringing **It** Home

The Hawk Eye

[Main Page](#) [Archive](#)

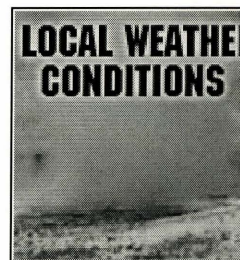
Sunday, February 9, 2003

Poster contest open to students

The Hawk Eye

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, located at 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, is sponsoring a poster contest for Des Moines County students, kindergarten through high school. The theme of the contest is "Food for the Future" and the deadline for entry is March 28.

For more information, call (319) 753-6221.



News • Sports • Obituaries • Commentary • Letters
Lifestyles • Financial • Specials • Features • Columns

The Hawk Eye

800 S. Main St., Burlington Iowa 52601
319-754-8461 Front Desk • 319-754-6824 FAX • 1-800-397-1708 Toll Free

DMC SWCD offers scholarship

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a scholarship to a local student who will pursue a career in any field of agriculture or natural resources.

Application packets are available at high school guidance counselor offices or call the Des Moines County Soil and water Conservation District at 753-6221.

Meppos News
1/15/04

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District

Soil & Water Conservation

District Scholarship recipient

Clayton Thacker of Oakville has been chosen as the recipient of an annual scholarship sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa

(CDI) and CDI Auxiliary.

Clayton was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. Criteria considered in judging the applications included scholastic achievement, need and leadership which includes service, character and self-motivation.

Clayton graduated this spring from Mediapolis High School. He is the son of Rick and Debra Thacker.

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation offers scholarship

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or natural resources.

Application packets are available at high school guidance counselor offices or call the Des Moines County Soil and

Water Conservation District at 753-6221.

This is Soil & Water Stewardship Week

"The Living Soil" is the theme of 2004 Soil & Water Stewardship week. While most of us seldom come in daily contact with soil, we all depend on soil for our daily survival, according to organizers of the 2004 Soil and Water Stewardship Week observance, set for April 25-May 2. "In generation after generation, it is important to bring attention back to the central theme- the living soil sustains all life on earth," said Don Lounsbury, chairperson of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. "Without the soil, nothing lives. Our conservation district works to protect healthy souls that in turn support a healthy environment, and healthy environments support life," he added.

Modern farmers who practice soil conservation are doing their part to keep the living soil alive. Lessons from the past, such as the catastrophic "dust bowl" of the 1930s, have shown what can happen when the topsoil is not protected from wind and water erosion. Today, private land managers employ a host of conservation practices, such as minimum tillage, to protect the topsoil that feeds the nation.

Soil health becomes important when you learn that millions of beneficial organisms are going through their daily routine of eating, breathing, living, and dying in the soil. One cup of fertile soil may contain as many bacteria as there are people on Earth. In one acre- an area about the size of a football field- there may be a ton or more of microscopic bacteria. That's equal to the weight of two full-grown cows!

We eat the food, drink the water, breathe the air, and enjoy the views, but only a few of us walk the fields and forests on a regular basis and understand what those lands need from us in order to sustain the living soil. However, the local district has suggested three things each of us can do in our own backyards to be better stewards of our soil resources:

1. Protect the soil from wind or water erosion by keeping healthy plants growing on the surface.
2. Restore and maintain organic matter in the soil, such as grass clippings or tree leaves (compost).
3. Protect soil life by using the least amounts and least toxic materials to control pest problems.
4. To learn more about how you can help sustain the living soil, contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

Spokesman 11/31/04

Poster contest sponsored

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest on 'The Living Soil' for all students in Des Moines County.

There are five divisions for the contest: kindergarten and 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 4th through 6th, 7th

through 9th, and 10th through 12th grades.

The deadline to complete the posters is March 26. For detail information on rules, judging criteria and awards, contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221 or their office is 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.

Meo News 11/29/04

SWCD sponsors poster contest

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest on "The Living Soil" for all students in Des Moines County.

There are five divisions for the contest: kindergarten and 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 4th through 6th, 7th through 9th, and 10th through 12th grades.

The deadline to complete the posters is March 26. For detail information on rules, judging criteria and awards, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221 or 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.

Poster contest winners announced

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce the following winners of their annual Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest.

Winners are: Division 1 (K-1st grades)- 1st Madeline Bozman, Notre Dame, 2nd Isabella Van Harz, Sunnyside, 3rd Tyler Rogers, Mediapolis; Division 2 (2nd/3rd grades) 1st Nicholas Anderson, Mediapolis, 2nd Jared Schmidgall, Mediapolis, 3rd Andrew Poggemiller, Mediapolis; Division 3 (4th-6th graders)- 1st Shannon Sisco, Mediapolis, 2nd Andrew Osborn, North Hill, 3rd Courtney Pohren, North Hill; Division 4 (7th-9th grades) - 1st Michael Fosdick, Mediapolis; and Division 5 (10th-12th grades) 1st Jayson Calvin, Crusade School.

This year's theme was "The Living Soil." Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal. First place winners have been sent on for regional competition.

For information about the annual conservation poster contest, please contact the Des Moines County SWCD at 319-753-6221.



Front row, left to right- Jaci Steffener, Andrew Poggemiller, Zach Moehle, Tyler Rogers, Andrea Larson. Back row: Allegra Crews, Brody Armstrong, Nicholas Anderson, Jared Schmidgall, Joey Burgus, Shannon Sisco. Photo submitted by Maureen Fosdick.

5-13-04 Mediapolis News

Poster Contest Winners

April 18-24 was Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The theme for 2004 was "The Living Soil." Each year the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors a poster contest so that the youth have an opportunity to explore their ideas about conservation and express them in any art medium they choose. This year 190 entries were received.

Several Mediapolis students submitted posters using "The Living Soil" theme back in March. Entries were judged using the following criteria:

- 50% Conservation Message
- 50% Visual Effectiveness
- 30% Originality
- 10% Universal Appeal

The first place posters will be sent to regional contest with the opportunity to get chosen for state and national competitions.

The following students received a certificate of participation: Allegra Crews, Brody Armstrong, Joey Burgus, Jaci Steffener, Zach Moehle, Andrea Larson

The following students received a certificate and a check:

- Division 1: Grades K and 1
- Third Place Winner- Tyler Rogers- \$10
- Division 2: Grades 2 and 3
- First Place Winner- Nicholas Anderson \$20
- Second Place Winner- Jared Schmidgall \$15
- Third Place Winner- Andrew Poggemiller \$10
- Division 3: Grades 4 through 6
- First Place Winner- Shannon Sisco \$20

Congratulations to these students. The conservation messages were impressive and their artwork was expressive.

Kaufman honored for achievements in conservation

by Betty Massner

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has chosen Mediapolis High School teacher Ralph Kaufman as the district winner in Division 2 (teachers in grades 7 through 12) of the 2004 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. The awards program is open to all public or parochial school teachers in the state of Iowa who teach on a regular basis in any of the grades, and the stated purpose of the award is "to recog-

Kaufman believes he was nominated for "lots of little things" he does...

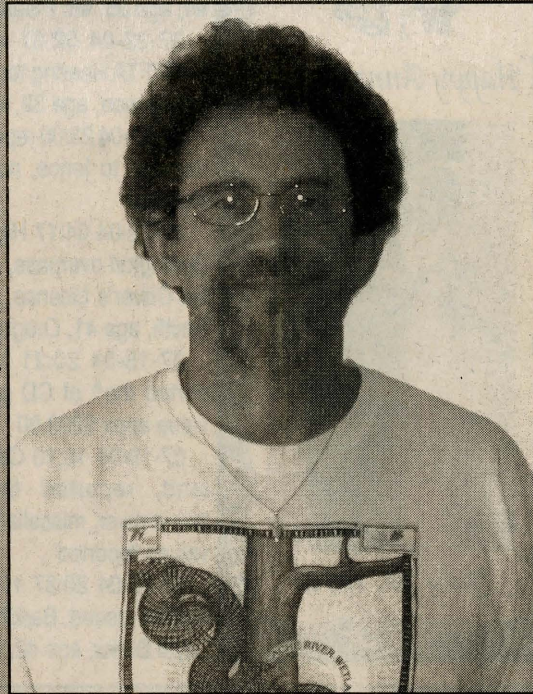
nize public or parochial school teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating pub-

lic awareness of the need to safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources."

Teachers may be nominated from each school within the boundaries of the soil and water conservation district. Anyone in the district may nominate a teacher for these awards, but school superintendents, principals, board members, and other officials are especially encouraged to give emphasis to this activity.

Kaufman says he has no idea who sent his name in, but he got a letter, along with a contest questionnaire, saying he had been nominated. After filling out and sending in the questionnaire, he was notified that he was the district winner. He has now filled

Mediapolis High School Teacher Ralph Kaufman was recently chosen for a 2004 Iowa Soil Conservation award.



out and sent in the state form.

Kaufman believes he was nominated for "lots of little things" he does-some with his classes and some on his own.

First, Ralph's students pick up acorns and plant them. When the acorns have turned into small oak trees, they are given away. Kaufman's botany classes plant over 500 trees each year.

Recently, Kaufman has begun to work with local land owner Jeff Burgus who owns 40 acres of land near Sperry and wants to turn the area into wildlife habitat. Kaufman and Burgus plan to start the project by eliminating invasive plants like multiflora rose and by stabilizing the stream bank.

Continued on Page 3A

Kaufman cont'd from front page

Kaufman is an active member of the Southeast Iowa Limbangers, the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF). Working hand in hand with the Des Moines County Conservation Board, Kaufman made a presentation to the NWTF to receive a grant to aid in the purchase of the former Case Proving Grounds, which will be used for public hunting. Due to his efforts, the board will receive \$100,000 over a four year period. Proceeds received from a REAP grant will also be applied to the purchase price. Kaufman thinks it is wonderful that the new owners of the proving ground are doing this and stated, "I'm sure they could have sold this ground for a much higher price."

Kaufman is particularly pleased that the area will be turned in to a place for public hunting. "This is one of the reasons I am opposed to the Big Hollow project," he explained. "It will just drown the public hunting that goes on there."

Local landowners receive conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected three landowners from the Mediapolis area as district winners for the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and Woodland Owner of the Year. The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and consists of three divisions.

Curtis Orr

Curtis Orr of Mediapolis 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.

Orr explained that he recently did two different things to win his award. First, he added filter strips to a 100 foot border around a waterway. In order to qualify, this area had to have water there for six months and 1 day out of the year. His second project was to plant over 100 trees within a one acre area to serve as a windbreak. In order to receive cost sharing from the federal government, these projects have to remain in place for a minimum of ten years. The owner must also practice weed control.

"This is not the type of ground for conventional farming," explained Orr. "It's more suited as a grassy area to conserve the soil."

Darla Chaddock

Land owned by Darla Chaddock of Yarmouth was cho-

sen as the winner in Division III, which is for landowners who become new district cooperators (first time participants) after January 1, 2003.

Chaddock's land is managed by her father Rodney Wallman also of Yarmouth. Wallman explained that he made a plan for Darla's farm and is now doing whatever he can afford each year. So far he has put in drainage tiles and waterways. Next year he plans to build whole terraces. The federal and state government will pay for 65% of this work.

Wallman explained his theory about farms. "When an owner is done with it (the land) it should be better than when he got it," he stated. Wallman says he learned this practice from his family, all of whom believe that land should be improved.

Clifford Hinson

Clifford Hinson of Kingston was chosen as the local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year Award. This award, co-sponsored by the Forestry Division of the Iowa DNR and Conservation District of Iowa, is designed to recognize individuals who are doing an outstanding job of woodland management. Actually, the

Hinson land is now under the management of Clifford's son Bob.

Bob Hinson says one of the first steps in managing a woodland is to have a professional forester come in and decide exactly how many board feet of each tree species are needed. Armed with this information, Hinson explained a landowner can then evaluate what to do next. The Hinsons have done

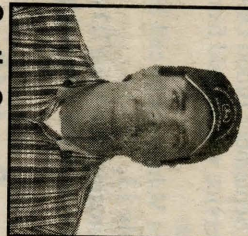
chestnut, conifer and wildlife plantings and created wet lands. "We left the steepest part for wildlife," said Hinson

"We're not in this for the money," explained Bob. He went on to say his whole family, including the grandchildren, loves the timber and is knowledgeable about it.

Bob and Clifford Hinson



Curtis Orr



Darla Chaddock and Rodney Wallman



DMCN

Thursday, July 22, 2004

News from Des Moines Co. Soil & Water Conservation

Local Landowners chosen for conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected five local landowners as District winners for the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and Woodland Owner of the Year.

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Nancy Dunn, Burlington, and Larry's Farm Supply Ltd. Burlington, were selected as winners in Division II. This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

Darla Chaddock, Yarmouth, was chosen as the winner in Division III, which is for landowners who become a new district cooperators after January 1, 2003.

Additionally, the District chose Clifford Hinson, Kingston, as a local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. This award, co-sponsored by the Forestry Division of the Iowa DNR and Conservation Districts of Iowa, is designed to recognize individuals who are doing an outstanding job of woodland management.

For more information on the awards program, please call the SWCD at 753-6221.

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For more information on the awards program, please call the SWCD at 53-6221.

MePo News
7/22

Corman receives Gary Wagner Memorial Award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation, is happy to announce that Wayne Corman of Sperry has been chosen as the recipient of the annual Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award.

Wayne is a conscientious farmer who not only utilizes wise farming practices such as tillage and residue management but also implements strong conservation ethics when it comes to the non-cropped areas of his farm. Through his hard work, the land will be left in better shape for future generations.

Wayne will receive a \$250.00 cash award to be used for a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing his efforts. These will be presented at a later date.

Family and friends of Gary, to honor his memory and recog-

nize his personal conservation efforts to encourage others to follow his example, developed the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 753-6221.

Corman receives Gary Wagner Memorial award

2/24 meps news

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For more information about the nomination process please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

Four Soil Conservation Commissioner terms expiring

The terms of four Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will be on the ballot for the 2004 general election. The terms of Todd Heckenberg, Benton Township; Don Lounsbury, Pleasant Grove Township; and Ron Snyder, Burlington, will expire on January 3, 2005. The term of Bob Hinson, Tama Township, will expire on November 2, 2004.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil and water conservation district, which is all of Des Moines County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of Commissioner. No more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioner is Maureen Fosdick, Franklin Township; therefore, residents of Franklin Township would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil and water conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Des Moines County Courthouse no later than 5 p.m. on August 25, 2004.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington, or call 319-753-6221.

Des Moines



JoAnn Taeger, Page Editor

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Ag in the classroom

Ag in the classroom was presented at the Mediapolis Community Schools March 29. Carol Messer, chairman, coordinated the event with many Farm Bureau members and non-Farm Bureau members participating.

The following helped present the program to the elementary students, K-5. They were Paul Beckman and Cheryl Hillyard, corn; Charles Pilling, Kelly Keitzer and Amanda Abel, soybeans; beef was presented by Catherine Miller and Dawn Pulford; Carol Abel and Martha Kulow, pork; Tom Rappenecker and Jennifer Meller, dairy; sheep was presented by David Eberhardt and Emily Ivins; Tom Steiner and an FFA student, poultry; Chad Kuntz and FFA students, soil and water; and conservation was covered by Maureen Fosdick and FFA students.

After lunch, the FFA students brought in animals and machinery for the students to touch and learn

about.

A video and two books were presented to the school library.

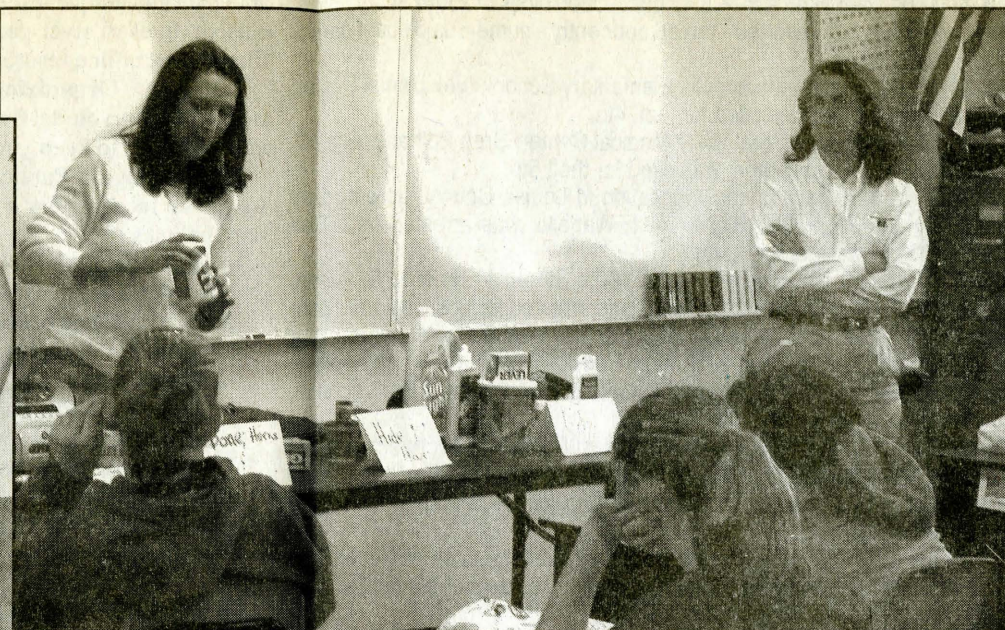
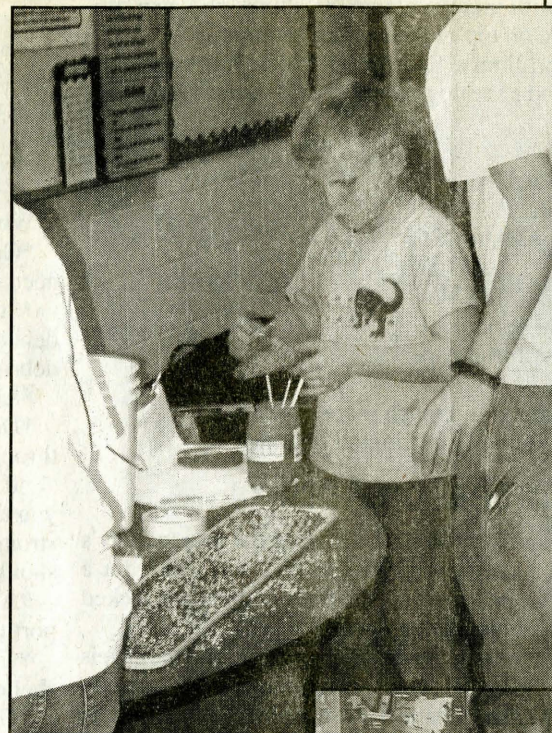
All the helpers were taken to the Buffalo for lunch, furnished by the Farm Bureau.

A very large thank you goes out to all the volunteers and FFA instructor Dallas Massner for making this a very worthwhile experience.

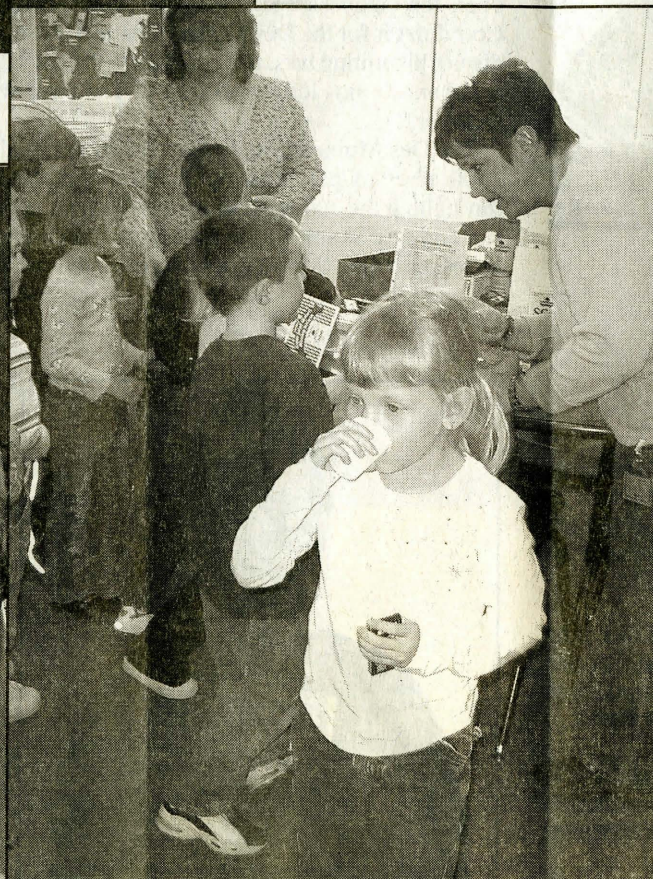
Becoming 'ag-literate'

On Monday of this week, students at Mediapolis Schools were immersed in all things agriculture to help students be "ag literate." The full day of activities - entitled 'Ag in the Classroom' - was sponsored by the Des Moines County Farm Bureau. Farmers and farm wives presented information in 15-minute presentations on everything from poultry to pork to Mediapolis elementary students Monday morning. FFA students and advisor Dallas Massner brought in farm animals in the afternoon for students to see and touch up-close. Farmer Pat Edmonds parked his tractor at the school for students to see. Carol Messer, who organized the event for the Farm Bureau, presented two books, "Life on a Cattle Farm" and "Life on a Pig Farm" and a video to the school's library.

The students really seemed to enjoy the presentations and view into the world of agriculture, as their morning was filled with information and hands-on activities. Those helping students to become ag-literate were: Catherine Miller and Dawn Pulford - beef by-products; Carol Abel and Martha Kulow - pork; Tom Rappenecker and Jennifer Meller - dairy; David Eberhardt and Emily Ivins - sheep; Tom and JoAnn Steiner - poultry; Charles Pilling, Kelly Keitzer and Amanda Abel - soybeans; Paul Beckman and Cheryl Hillyard - corn; Carol Messer and Chad Kuntz - water and soil; and Maureen Fosdick - trees and garden.



Above: Dawn Pulford (left) and Catherine Miller show cattle by-products, including baseball mitts, Jello and marshmallows. Lower right: Paul Beckman talks about Southeast Iowa being "King of CORN." Lower middle: Amanda Abel (back) and Kelly Keitzer distribute samples of soymilk to kindergartners. Lower left: eighth graders cuddle with a lamb with help from FFA members.



The Hawkeye 2/13/05

Poster contest entries sought

The Hawk Eye

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest for all students in Des Moines County.

Celebrate Conservation posters should focus on the benefits conservation has brought to the United States or how it has improved people's lives.

Posters will be judged according to their message, visual effectiveness, originality and universal appeal.

Posters must be made on poster paper ranging in size from 8½-by-11 inches up to 22-by-28 inches. Any artistic medium can be used, including paint, magic marker, pencil, cut and paste or crayon. Three-dimensional effects are not accepted.

Posters should be completed by the competing student only.

The first-place winner from each division will be submitted for the regional competition. The regional first place winner from each division will be submitted for the state competition, and the five state winning posters will be submitted to national competition.

Divisions for the contest are: Division 1, kindergarten and first grade; Division 2, second and third grades; Division 3, fourth through sixth grades; Division 4, seventh through ninth grades; and Division 5, 10th through 12th grades.

The deadline for the contest is March 25.

For additional details, contact the SWCD at (319) 753-6221 or (319) 753-3625.

Ag scholarship offered by SWCD

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a scholarship to a local student who will pursue a career in any field of agriculture or natural resources.

Application packets are available at high school guidance counselor offices or call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 753-6221.

EQIP applications now taken

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has begun taking Fiscal year 2005 applications for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). This program offers cost share to install certain conservation practices on privately owned land. Applications will be accepted until Dec. 1. Please contact the NRCS office at 319-753-6221 to schedule an appointment.

SWCD chooses Teacher of the Year

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District chose Notre Dame High School teacher Kjrsten Bobb as the local winner in Division 2 of the 2005 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

The purpose of the award is to recognize public or parochial school teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources. Division 2 consists of teachers in grades 7 through 12.

The SWCD chose Kjrsten as their local winner because of her teaching philosophy. She feels students need to experience nature firsthand. Kjrsten said, "Firsthand experience with nature makes student learning unforgettable and this is the heart of the conservation education program. Students grow into citizens and decision makers who will continue and expand conservation practices in the future."

For more information about the awards program, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

Mepo News 7/28

Local landowners chosen for conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has selected three local landowners as District winners for the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program, which is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Jon Williams and Kory Klenk, both from Mediapolis, were selected as winners in the division for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

William Totemeier, New London, was selected as the winner in the division for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

If you know a landowner or producer you feel is doing a great job of conserving natural resources, please call the Soil & Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221 to nominate them!

Mepo News 7/28

FBS 2/12/05

Poster contest celebrates conservation

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest, "Celebrate Conservation," for all students in Des Moines County.

Divisions for the contest are Division 1 – grades kindergarten and first; Division 2 – grades second and third; Division 3 – grades fourth through sixth; Division 4 – grades seventh through ninth; and Division 5 – grades 10th through 12th.

The deadline to complete the posters is March 25. For detail information on rules, judging criteria and awards, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221 or 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.

Cookbooks for Sale

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is in the process of compiling a taste tempting cookbook with recipes coming from our past and present District Commissioners, Assistants and office personnel. The cookbook will feature a three-ring-binder cover and contain over 300 recipes including appetizers, main dishes, desserts and more. It will sell for \$14.00 (plus shipping and handling if not picked up). Copies will be available in June. All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will be used for our educational and scholarship programs. To reserve a copy of the cookbook, call Jamie at 319-753-6221.

New cookbook is available

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has developed a taste tempting cookbook with recipes provided from families and friends of our past and present District Commissioners, Assistants and office personnel.

The cookbook features a three-ring-binder cover and contains 350 recipes. The cookbooks sell for \$14. There is a \$4.50 shipping and handling fee for those not picked up at the office.

All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will be used to promote appreciation and knowledge of our precious natural resources through our educational and scholarship programs.

To obtain a cookbook, stop in at the office at 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington, IA 52601, or send a check for \$18.50 to the Des Moines County SWCD at the above address, and one will be mailed to your address.

Good job
on publicity!

Debby

MEP
new 5/12/05

FarmLIFE

Cookin' by the book

Authors hope to raise education money

By Tim Hoskins

Iowa Farmer Today

BURLINGTON — Members of the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) are hoping sales from a cookbook will fill the gap in funds for their scholarship and educational efforts.

"We needed the scholarships," says Maureen Fosdick, a commissioner for the Des Moines County SWCD who grows corn and soybeans.

The scholarships fund not only student scholarships but also scholarships for teachers, she explains.

Proceeds from the cookbook also will fund some award programs, such as its annual poster contest, which students make with a conservation theme.

FOSDICK SAYS they normally award cash prizes for the top three and honorable mention in five categories.

This year, the county had three regional winners.

The county winners advance to a regional competition and then to state competition.

In 2001, Fosdick says they had one entry for the poster competition. Last year, they had 150 entries.

"It has grown," she says of participation in the poster contest.

The cookbook contains 16 cooking hints, such as measurement and microwave advice.

"There are helpful hints," says Fosdick.

"For the really creative person, we have napkin folding."

THE RECIPES are submitted by family and friends of people associated with the SWCD.

Fosdick contributed her Hawaiian Ham recipe to the cookbook.

Her mother found it in another cookbook, and then she tweaked the recipe.

Lori Heckenberg, whose husband Todd serves as a SWCD commissioner, submitted a muffin recipe she makes for



Maureen Fosdick, Lori Heckenberg



Pumpkin Sheet Cake

get-togethers.

The Heckenberg farm includes corn, soybeans and a registered Polled Hereford herd.

Jamie Grimes, who works for the Des Moines SWCD, submitted her pulled pork recipe.

The cookbook has 350 recipes in a three-ring binder with plastic stand.

The cookbooks cost \$14 plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling.

For more information, call Grimes at the Des Moines County SWCD, 319-753-6221.



Slow-Cooked Pulled Pork (above)

- 1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
- ½ C. cider vinegar
- ½ C. ketchup
- ¼ C. light molasses
- 1 T. sweet paprika
- 1 T. spicy brown mustard
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tsp. cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. liquid smoke flavoring
- ¼ C. water
- 4 lbs. boneless pork roast

In a slow cooker, stir onion, vinegar, ketchup, molasses, paprika, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, cayenne pepper, black pepper, salt, liquid smoke and water until combined.

Add pork to sauce mixture and toss to coat. Cover and cook on low setting 8-10 hours. Transfer pork to a large bowl.

Pork will be very tender and fall apart. Pour sauce into a medium bowl and set aside. Shred the pork and return to slow cooker. Skim fat from sauce. Pour sauce over pork and toss to combine.

Pumpkin Sheet Cake

- 2 C. sugar
 - 4 eggs
 - 1 C. oil
 - 2 C. flour
 - ½ tsp. salt
 - 2 tsp. cinnamon
 - 2 tsp. soda
 - 2 C. pumpkin
- Beat eggs and add rest of ingredients.

Bake 30 minutes at 350° in a 15½ X 10½-inch sheet cake pan. Frost when cool.

Frosting:

- 1, 3-oz. package cream

cheese

- 1, 1-lb. box powered sugar
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix well or until fluffy. Spread on cake. Garnish with chopped pecans, if desired.

Grilled Ham with Hawaiian Sauce

- 1-inch center-cut ham slice
- ½ C. pineapple juice
- ¼ C. brown sugar
- 1 T. vinegar
- 1 T. mustard
- ½ tsp. ginger

Place ham slice in a glass baking dish. Combine pineapple juice, brown sugar, vinegar, mustard and ginger.

Pour over ham. Let stand 1 hour at room temperature or several hours in the refrigerator.

Broil over medium coal about 15-20 minutes, turning and brushing with sauce occasionally. Heat remaining sauce and pass with ham.

A.M. Delight Muffins

- 3 eggs
- ½ C. vegetable oil
- ½ C. milk
- 1½ tsp. vanilla
- 2 C. flour
- ¾ C. sugar
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1½ tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 C. chopped apples
- 2 C. shredded carrots
- ½ coconut
- 1½ C. raisins
- ½ C. slivered almonds

Combine eggs, oil, milk and vanilla. Add flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Stir in apples, carrots, coconut, raisins and almonds.

Fill muffin cups half full. Bake 20-25 minutes at 375°.

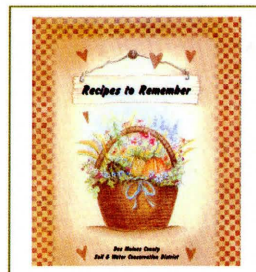
Cookin' DM Style

Submitted By Jamie Grimes

As you all know, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has been selling cookbooks since May 2005 as a fund raising project. Here's the rest of the story:

How did the idea come about? Meeting after meeting, the SWCD talked about ways to raise money but there was never anything that jumped out at them. Then one day, an employee, who is also a cookbook collector, was avidly researching ideas and came upon an article about selling cookbooks – how easy it was and how you could make a lot of money. The idea was presented to the board, and they agreed to give it a shot.

Was it easy? NO! Letters were sent requesting recipes (trying to find descendants from original or deceased board members and employees was time consuming), along with a form a recipe could be copied onto and returned to the SWCD. The SWCD, in turn, would collect the forms and submit them to the company creating the cookbook. Sounds simple – until the recipes starting rolling in and you couldn't read the handwriting, or ingredients were left out or listed but never told when to incorporate into the dish. So the same



Cookbooks are still available if you would like to purchase one! They are \$14 and can be shipped for an extra \$4.50 or delivered at meetings. Just call Jamie at 319-753-6221.

employee with the great idea ended up reading, calling contributors with questions, typing all 350 recipes that were contributed, and proof reading the final copy.

Although deciphering recipes was difficult, it was also very interesting to see all the different ones that we got. Of the 350 recipes contributed, there were only 2 duplicates. We also received several recipes from the 1800's and some very unique recipes – ever heard of cheese mush?

Have we made a lot of money? A lot – no – but we have passed the break even point and are making a profit every time a cookbook is sold. Once all the books are sold, we will probably make enough money to make it worth it. The profits are being used for scholarships, poster contest, awards, and educational projects.

Early Rain for Iowa & Johnson County SWCD's

Submitted By James Martin

In November 2005, a new computer CD, The Rain on Your Roof, was presented to each Soil and Water Conservation District in Iowa. The CD was developed by the Clear Creek Watershed Project of the Johnson and Iowa County SWCD's. The contents include rainwater management activities for all ages. Production was made possible with help from the Conservation Districts of Iowa and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Middle-school students through adults can use the Residential Rainwater Audit to compare run-off from

a 1-inch rain using current practices and best management practices. An illustrated story of two water cycle journeys by Clark Raindrop may be printed and read to lower elementary age children. A field guide for 12 wetland activities is designed for use with upper elementary ages. Both a 22 minute video and a publication on how to build a rain garden are included.

The public may purchase copies of the CD at the Johnson County District Office for \$2.00. Further duplication of the CD for non-profit use (libraries, schools, etc.) is encouraged!

Plants on sale in the name of education

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is selling landscaping plants and spring bulbs. Each packet is \$5. Proceeds will go towards scholarship and educational programs.

There are 17 different plants and bulbs including several types of lilies, everbearing strawberries, orchids and much more. Each plant and bulb is guaranteed to bloom or it will be replaced for free.

To place an order, contact your local commissioner or stop in the SWCD office at 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington. Money is due when the order is placed. For directions or if you have questions, call Jamie at (319) 753-6221.

Soil info CD available

B/31

Interested in the Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) on your land? The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has available a CD that contains soil information for Des Moines County.

The CD includes three sections:

- Soil Survey data tables such as prime farmland, yields, building site development, hydric soils, soil features and properties, engineering properties and more.

- An Interactive Soil Survey Program that allows you to figure the soils, CSR and topography for specific areas.

- A user's guide with step by step directions.

To inquire about prices, shipping, availability or additional information, please contact Jamie at the Des Moines County SWCD at 319-753-6221.

EQIP Federal cost-share available

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications from Des Moines County landowners who want to apply for cost-share funds from the Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP).^o EQIP is a federal cost-share program for installing conservation practices on privately owned farm ground.^o EQIP is available for the installation of soil erosion conservation structures as well as other practices that relate to livestock and plant and water quality.

To sign-up, please stop in the Natural Resources Conservation Service office.^o If you have any questions, contact NRCS at 319-753-6221.

IN MEMORIAM

As the night follows day, there is a time of passing for each of us. During 2002, that time came for many who shared our love for stewardship of the land. Each in his own way gave us something of himself. Each in his own way enriched our lives and our land. Our ranks are diminished by their passing, but their accomplishments as stewards will abide with us forever.

H. Wayne Bower
Delmar Corderman
J. Dale Hamilton
Frank Jacobs
Max Johnson
Marvin Lackman
Charles LaRue
Wayne Lund
Gordon Lundy
Clyde McDonough
Ralph Schnur
Loren Schuett
Howard Strasser
William Vierling
Marvin Volkert

Jefferson SWCD
Sac SWCD
Marshall SWCD
Montgomery SWCD
Mahaska SWCD
Crawford SWCD
Mahaska SWCD
Woodbury SWCD
Story SWCD
Sac SWCD
Story SWCD
Cherokee SWCD
Mahaska SWCD
Des Moines SWCD
Ida SWCD

Linkins receive Gary Wagner Memorial Award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation, is happy to announce that Rod and Carol Linkin of New London have been chosen as the recipients of the annual Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award.

Rod and Carol's commitment to the land is shown through the projects they have completed that are beneficial for wildlife, soil and water conservation such as native grass plantings, food plots, terraces, and timber management practices. Through their hard work, the land will be left in better shape for future generations.

The Linkins will receive a \$250.00 cash award to be used for a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing their efforts. These will be presented at a later date.

Family and friends of Gary developed the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 753-6221.



Cattlemen take tour

Rural New London farmer Don Lounsbury(2nd from left) discussed the EQUIP project with interested cattlemen, during a tour of his farm operation last Wednesday afternoon. His farm was one of two sites selected for the annual Des Moines County Cattleman's Tour. EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) helps farmers with assistance in managing mud and manure in their farming operations. The USDA program offers financial and technical help to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Helping him discuss EQUIP is Dale Schmeiser, of Des Moines County Soil Conservation (3rd from left). Photo by Charlie Jahn.

**Todd Heckenberg
Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District
1104 Derek Lincoln Dr.
West Burlington, IA 52655**

September 4, 2001

Dear Mr. Heckenberg:

My name is Jesse Wooldridge. I want to thank you very much for the scholarship I received. It will do much to help me meet my goal of owning and operating my own cow/calf operation.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely:



Jesse Wooldridge

**Des Moines County Soil
And Water Conservation District
3625 Flint Ridge Drive
Burlington, IA 52655**

September 19, 2006

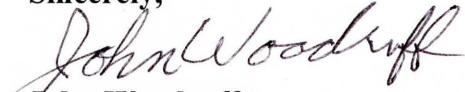
Dear Mr. Heckenburg,

**I would like to thank you for the scholarship I received from the Tri-State
Agricultural Education Foundation. It is an honor to be recognized for my hard
work and this scholarship helps me focus more on my school work and worry less
about money.**

**Your generosity has made a profound difference in my life and I am truly grateful
to be a recipient of this scholarship.**

Thanks again!

Sincerely,


John Woodruff

**Des Moines County Soil
and Water Conservation District
3625 Flint Ridge Drive
Burlington, IA 52655**

September 19, 2006

Dear Mr. Heckenburg,

I was chosen to receive a scholarship from the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation this year, and I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for this award.

Your generosity has made a big impact on my life and I look forward to working hard to complete my education at SCC.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Corman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Corman

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Poster contest announced

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest, "Conservation's Power," for students in Des Moines County.

The deadline to complete the posters is March 26. For information on rules, division categories, judging criteria and awards, contact the soil and water conservation district at (319) 753-6221.

2007 Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation Poster Contest

This year's poster contest theme is "Conservation's Power." Everyone wants to help improve the world. But sometimes the scope of the world's problems seems beyond the reach of one person. This theme helps to remind us of the power of each person to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When people work together, that power grows and grows. And as these good deeds multiply across the nation, the results can be spectacular! The contest has 5 different age divisions. The poster must be made on regular poster paper --- size 8.5"X11" up to 22"X28" only. Monetary prizes will be given and the deadline is March 26, 2007. Please call the Extension office (319-754-7556) for more specific information and an entry form.



DMC SWCD sponsors poster contest

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest, "Conservation's Power", for all students in Des Moines County.

The deadline to complete the posters is March 26. For detail information on rules, division categories, judging criteria and awards, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221 or 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.

Des Moines SWCD contest planned

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest, "Conservation's Power," for all students in Des Moines County. The deadline to complete the post-

ers is March 26. For more information on rules, division categories, judging criteria and awards, please contact the SWCD at (319) 753-6221 or 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington, IA 52601.

Conservation Poster Contest

Extension
Newse

"Water Wise" is the theme for the 2006 Soil & Water Conservation Poster Contest. Water is vital to our life. Water makes up more than 60% of our body and about 75% of our brain. It helps make possible our every movement, thought, and feeling. We sometimes take water for granted. But this precious resource may become increasingly scarce as we place more demands on fresh water sources. Posters will be judged on the entry's conservation message (50%), visual effectiveness (30%), universal appeal (10%) and originality (10%). There are five divisions for youth in grades K-12 and cash prizes for top winners! For complete rules and entry form, contact the Extension office or call Jamie at 319-753-6221. Entries are due March 27 at the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District, 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.



*Your thoughtfulness
is appreciated.*

This letter is in regards to the Scholarship that was given to me by the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District. I thank you immensely for selecting me as the recipient of your award, and I would like you to know that the money will be put to good use. I will spend it on either books, tuition, or other expenses, as all of these areas are costly.

Thanks again,
Josh Abel

Mediapolis High School Envirothon 2007



Mediapolis High School 2007 Envirothon Team: (left to right) seniors Angela Kuntz, Victoria Taffe, Michael Fosdick, Caleb Robb, and Elizabeth Weyer.

On Monday, March 12th, five seniors from Mediapolis High School participated in a regional Envirothon competition held in Iowa City. The team was sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. The students have been preparing for the competition since for the past few months, studying forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife, and soils.

The team competed against nine other teams from Iowa City West, Muscatine, Bellevue, Preston, and Lin-Mar. The team worked together to answer a series of questions about each subject. They earned top honors in the soils division. From the regional level, the top fifteen teams in the state advance to the state competition held at Springbrook State Park in Guthrie County, Iowa.

A special thanks goes out to all who helped get the students prepared: Mr. Kaufman, Mrs. Carter, Gretchen Cline, and Kim Perlstein.



Mediapolis team members (l-r) Angela Kuntz, Victoria Taffe, Michael Fosdick, Caleb Robb and Elizabeth Weyer, tested their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife at the Envirothon competition held last month.

MHS competes at Envirothon

Mediapolis High School competed at the Iowa City Regional Envirothon competition in March. The team placed fourth at the regional competition and was 24th overall in the state of Iowa. Teams placed in the top 15 will attend the state competition at Springbrook State Park on April 23, 2007.

Team members Michael Fosdick, Angela Kuntz, Caleb Robb, Victoria Taffe, and Elizabeth Weyer tested their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, and wildlife. The Mediapolis team was sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District and coached by soil

conservationist Courtney Myers, and teacher Ralph Kaufman. The winning team at the state competition will compete at the Canon Envirothon, July 29- August 4 at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY.

The Envirothon is a team competition for high school students testing their knowledge of natural resources. In the field and classroom, teams of five students are challenged to use their knowledge and critical thinking skills to conduct hands-on investigations, solve real-life scenarios, and answer written questions covering the four cat-

egories of aquatics, wildlife, forestry, and soils.

The Iowa Envirothon is sponsored by the Conservation Districts of Iowa and their partners. The steering committee for this program consists of representatives from Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Land Stewardship- Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa FFA Association, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Pork Producers, Iowa Soybean Association, Pheasants Forever Inc., and the Iowa Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Dear Commissioners,

I want to Thank You for awarding
me the \$200 Scholarship. I assure you
I will put it to good use.

With much thanks,

Randon
Howard

Low interest loans available

The Local Water Protection Program (LWPP) is a new source of low-cost financing available to rural landowners and administered through the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. This opportunity is available specifically to assist and encourage landowners to address non-point source pollution of Iowa streams and lakes.

Iowa's largest contributor to water quality problems is polluted runoff. Although there are hundreds of sources of polluted runoff, the LWPP is intended to target those related to agricultural operations – specifically the delivery of sediment and nutrients into Iowa waters.

Virtually all practices eligible for state and federal cost share are eligible under the LWPP. These practices may include but are not limited to terraces, grade stabilization structures, water & sediment control basins, Waste storage structures, pasture and hayland planting, grassed waterways, filter strips, field borders, windbreaks and riparian forest buffers.

Practices installed through the LWPP must be built to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) specifications. Additional details about the loans include:

- Loans from \$5,000 to \$50,000
- Terms up to 10 years
- Can fund up to 100% of actual costs
- Interest rate up to 3% - fixed rate
- Funding is available when you need it
- Applications are accepted year-round
- No penalty for pre-payment
- Linked deposit loan structure

If you have questions or would be interested in applying for a loan, stop in the Des Moines County SWCD office or call 319-753-6221.

Cost share available for future work

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for federal and state cost share to install conservation practices on privately owned agricultural land for fall 2007 or spring 2008.

Both programs offer up to 50% cost share for conservation practices such as terraces, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, field borders, pasture and hayland planting, and more.

If you have any questions or would be interested in applying for cost share, stop in the NRCS/SWCD office or call 319-753-6221.

Conservation District seeks nominations

The Hawk Eye

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District is requesting nominations for the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award.

This award is presented to a Des Moines County landowner who has shown long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and has shown commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information on the nomination process, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District office at (319) 753-6221.

Nine farms honored with conservation awards

Nine farm families from all regions of Iowa have been honored for their environmental efforts to protect the soil and water.

The nine farmers received 2007 regional soil conservation awards last month at the district meetings of the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

The awards are sponsored by CDI and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF).

"These awards show that farmers are the true stewards of Iowa land and water. They are taking the initiative to prevent soil erosion and nutrient runoff into streams, ponds and lakes," said Rick Robinson, IFBF environmental policy advisor. "We need to take time to thank these folks, and all farmers, for their efforts."

One of the regional winners will be selected as the 2007 state soil conservation award winner. The award will be announced in late November at the CDI annual meeting in Ames.

Here is a list of this year's winners and some of the conservation practices they have installed:

Region 1

Roy and Todd Folkerts of Inwood in Lyon County.

The Folkerts are firm believers in no-till farming. Roy has been no-tilling for 15 years and has passed that belief on to his son, Todd. Along with their no-till farming, the Folkerts have installed a number of conservation structures, including grass waterways, narrow and broad-base terraces, contouring, buffer strips and settling basins. They have a cattle operation and have established a comprehensive nutrient management program.

Region 2

Randall Burt of Rowan in Wright County, operator; John Burt, owner.

Randall and John Burt have both established windbreaks around their homes. Randall Burt has established wildlife cover in several locations on the edges of fields.

Region 3

Leland and Russell Meyer of

Aplington in Butler County.

Most of the conservation work by Leland Meyer and his son, Russell, involves a feedlot where they finish cattle. They moved a portion of the feedlot fence to exclude an area where a concentrated flow of water would flush out manure after a rain. They built a solids settling basin and a filter channel to clean runoff water.

Region 4

Kevin Bergman, operator, of Sumner, and Kim Pleggenkuhle, owner, of Waucoma in Fayette County.

Pleggenkuhle has enrolled a portion his farm into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to control erosion, enhance wildlife and protect streams and lakes. Bergman has adopted no-till farming methods. The two men address nutrient and pest management by keeping records and using soil tests to determine farming procedures.

Region 5

David Dickinson, operator, and Donald Dickinson, owner, of

Logan in Harrison County.

Dickinson has been a no-till grower for years. The farmers have been planting corn no-till into soybean stubble for 15 years, and beans have been no-tilled into corn stalks for three years. The farm also has brome pastures for its cow-calf pairs. For the past several years, the Dickinsons have planted several acres of oats in areas that needed to be terraced, allowing terracing in the summer.

Region 6

Marc Halbloom, operator, and Allan and Michelle Illum, owners, of Haverhill in Marshall County.

The Illums work hard to update and maintain their farm. The family plants trees on riparian buffers. A sediment basin has been installed to keep sediment and nutrients from reaching the ponds.

Region 7

Mark and Janet Dimit of Grinnell in Poweshiek County.

The Dimits plant row crops on their best ground and seed other

acres to grass hay or wildlife habitat. They have installed contour grass strips and seeded grass on critical slopes.

Region 8

Gary Boswell of Corning in Adams County.

Boswell began no-tilling his highly erodible land in 1984 to conserve soil, and then went completely no-till in 1996 because he found that the practice was efficient on non-highly erodible acres. When he acquires new farmland, Boswell works with the owners to install conservation practices and is especially conscientious about planting grass on headlands.

Region 9

Jack Strawhacker of Burlington in Des Moines County.

Strawhacker pursues many programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including CRP quail borders and a biomass program through the EQIP program. He takes good care of his farm and pride in preserving the environment.

Local farmers chosen for conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected five local landowners/producers as winners for the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Jack Strawhacker, Burlington, was selected as the winner in Division 1. This division is for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

Dale and Julie Bartelt, Mediapolis, and Mike and Jason Hinson, Kingston, were selected as winners in Division 2. This division is for tenant-operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

Additionally, Jack Strawhacker was chosen to represent the District in regional competition for Region 9 in southern Iowa.

The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and consists of three Divisions.

Landowners honored

The Hawk Eye

Five local landowners/producers have been selected as winners of the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program sponsored by Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jack Strawhacker of Burlington was selected as the winner in Division 1. This division is for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

Dale and Julie Bartelt of Mediapolis and Mike and Jason Hinson of Kingston were selected as winners in Division 2. This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

Additionally, Strawhacker was chosen to represent the district in regional competition for Region 9 in southern Iowa.

Strawhacker receives award



Jack Strawhacker, of Des Moines County, is the recipient of the Region 9 Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation Award. Jim Flinspach is the Farm Bureau representative from Jefferson County presenting the award. The award was presented Sept. 4.

DMC Soil and Water Regional Award winner announced

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are pleased to announce that Jack Strawhacker, Burlington, has been selected as the regional winner of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program for Region 9.

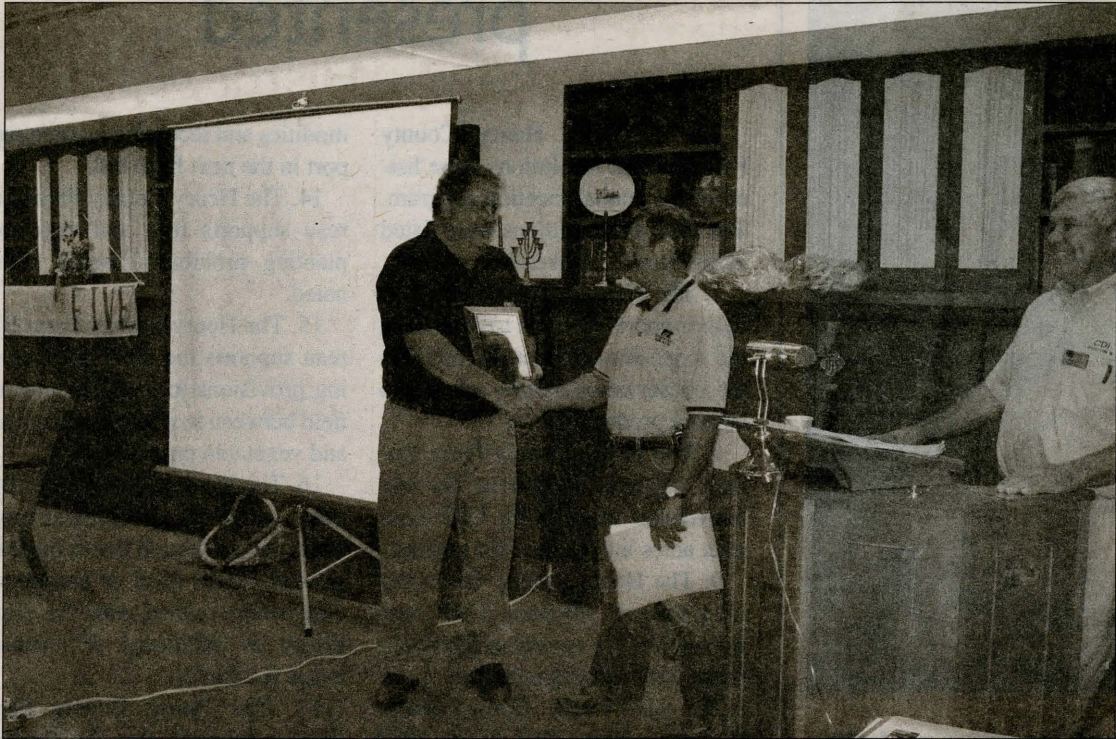
Strawhacker was selected by the Des Moines County SWCD as a local winner in the owner-operator division of the awards program. His score sheet and conservation plan competed with 13 counties in Region 9. The state consists of nine

regions, and each regional winner will be sent on for state competition.

Strawhacker was judged on four categories: land adequately treated, conservation practices accomplished, community service, and general farm husbandry. Des Moines County Farm Bureau would like to congratulate Jack Strawhacker on his award.

For more information about the awards program, please contact the SWCD at (319) 753-6621.

Strawhacker advances to state



Jefferson County Farm Bureau Past President Jim Flinspach presented an award to Jack Strawhacker of Des Moines County on Sept. 4 in Fairfield. Strawhacker received this award for being Region 9 Outstanding Conversationalist and will advance to the state level. This award is sponsored by Iowa Farm Bureau.

Strawhacker receives regional award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are pleased to announce that Jack Strawhacker, Burlington, has been selected as the regional winner of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program for Region 9.

Strawhacker was selected by the Des Moines County SWCD as a local winner in the owner-operator division of the awards program. His score sheet and conservation plan competed with thirteen counties in Region

9. The State consists of nine regions and each regional winner will be sent on for state competition.

Strawhacker was judged on four categories: land adequately treated, conservation practices accomplished, community service, and general farm husbandry.

If you would like more information about the awards program, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

Strawhacker wins

The Hawk Eye

Jack Strawhacker of Burlington was the regional winner of the Iowa Soil Conservation awards program for Region 9.

Strawhacker was selected by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District as a local winner in the owner-operator division of the awards program.

The farmer was judged on four categories — land adequately treated, conservation practices accomplished, community service and general farm husbandry.

For more information about the program, people may contact the conservation district at (319) 753-6221.

2008 EQIP applications due this fall

To be considered for funding in fiscal year 2008, applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will be due at local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) this fall. This is about four months sooner than previous years, according to USDA officials. The exact cutoff date will be released as soon as USDA officials make the final date decision.

"We know this deadline will come at a busy time for most farmers," said Rick Van Klaveren, Iowa NRCS state conservationist. "So we are encouraging producers to come in sooner, before harvest, rather than later."

Statewide EQIP practices include, but are not limited to: grassed waterways, waste storage facilities, terracing, pest management, ag drainage well-head protection and pasture management, tree planting, windbreaks, stripcropping, conservation tillage, organic crop production and wildlife habitat management. This list will vary from county-to-county based on local resource concerns.

Heavy rains this spring and summer might have exposed some previously unknown areas of resource concerns, according to Van Klaveren. There may be financial assistance through EQIP to help address some of these problem areas. One of these opportunities may include financial assistance for repairing terraces breached or damaged by the spring and summer heavy rains.

EQIP was originally established under the 1996 Farm Bill. It provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to voluntarily address soil, water and related natural resource concerns on private lands. Conservation plans must be

developed for the entire area that will be included in the EQIP contract.

NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

EQIP federal cost-share available

The NRCS is now accepting applications from Des Moines County landowners who want to apply for cost-share funds through EQIP. As crops are harvested this fall, producers are encouraged to think about conservation on their farms. Heavy rains throughout the growing season may have caused areas of erosion in crop fields. EQIP is available for the installation of soil erosion conservation structures (such as terraces and ponds) as well as other practices that relate to livestock and plant and water quality.

To sign-up, please stop in the NRCS office. If you have any questions, contact NRCS at 319-753-6221.

EQIP federal cost-share available

Attention Des Moines County Farm Bureau members: The NRCS is now accepting applications from Des Moines County landowners who want to apply for cost-share funds through EQIP. As crops are harvested this fall, producers are encouraged to think about conservation on their farms. Heavy rains throughout the growing season may have caused areas of erosion in crop fields. EQIP is available for the installation of soil erosion conservation structures (such as terraces and ponds) as well as other practices that relate to livestock and plant and water quality.

To sign up, please stop in the NRCS office. If there are any questions, contact NRCS at (319) 753-6221.

Farmers encouraged to think about conservation this harvest season

As crops are harvested this fall, producers are encouraged to think about conservation on their Highly Erodible Land. Heavy rains throughout the growing season may have caused areas of erosion in crop fields, but producers should check with their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) before doing any tillage to repair the problems.

Producers found to not have enough crop residue or washed out areas are risking losing benefits from all USDA programs. These programs include, but are not limited to: Commodity Credit Corporation Storage Payments, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Loan Deficiency Program (LDP), Price Support Loans.

As farm operations and technologies change, it's a good idea to keep conservation plans updated as well. Please stop in your local NRCS office to make sure you're doing what it takes to remain eligible for USDA program payments. Call the Des Moines County office at 319-753-6221 or the Louisa County office at 319-523-6411 to set up an appointment.

Holiday trees yield dollars for groups

The Hawk Eye

WEST BURLINGTON — Thirteen local nonprofit organizations are vying for votes and dollars with gaily decorated holiday trees on display at Westland Mall.

The mall's annual Boulevard of Trees offers organizations a chance to win \$200 by decorating a Christmas tree that will be on display through Jan. 1.

Shoppers are invited to cast a vote for their favorite tree in the ballot boxes in the J.C. Penney and Younker's courts. Votes will be tallied in early January.

Groups decorating trees include Burlington Public Library, Prairie Stars 4-H Club, Young House Family Services, Supporting Our Families & Troops, Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District, Grade A Plus, Seeds Amongst The Stones, Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services, Burlington High School Ecology Club, Women of the Moose, Great River Pageant Systems, Alternative Services and Hope Haven.

2009 EQIP applications due March 27

To be considered for the first round of funding selections, ag producers must apply for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance at local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices by March 27. EQIP is offered through a continuous signup, but NRCS periodically makes funding selections as program dollars allow.

EQIP offers financial assistance to install conservation practices. Statewide EQIP practices include, but are not limited to: grassed waterways, manure management facilities, terracing, pest management, ag drainage wellhead protection and pasture management. Other practices include tree planting, windbreaks, stripcropping, conservation tillage, organic crop production and wildlife habitat management.

Conservation plans must be developed for the entire area that will be included in the EQIP contract. EQIP was originally established under the 1996 Farm Bill and is reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. It provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to voluntarily ad-

dress soil, water and related natural resource concerns on private lands. Congress included new provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill setting aside 5 percent of EQIP financial assistance dollars to assist beginning farmers and another 5 percent to assist social disadvantaged farmers.

For more information or to apply for an EQIP contract, contact your local USDA Service Center. NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

Not welcomed

Because of the request from the state veterinarian John Schiltz, Barb Bryant, Joyce Young and Laurie Wardlow established an emergency rescue animal shelter for local flooded communities along the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers at the Lee County Fairgrounds in Donnellson.

Their dedication to sheltering dogs and cats should be commended by the southeast Iowa area. I witnessed hard work by the people/animal disaster groups from all over the United States and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship volunteers.

The only unfortunate actions toward the shelter were the Lee County Fair Board members continual harassment.

Basically, the emergency shelter was pushed out before the July 5 deadline. These members were petty and uncompassionate to these ladies efforts. Only one of the 18 members was willing to help with the shelter.

If the Mormons in 1846 had to stop in Donnellson and deal with these board members for shelter, they would have found shelter elsewhere.

KIM HANSON

*Animal Disaster Volunteer
Peoria, Ill.*

Our choices

Our friends at the Burlington field
office,

Thank you so much for the
Cute vest, sweatshirt and jeans.
We love them. Brayton will look
adorable in them! Thanks again!

Love,

Drew, Becky & Brayton

Soil & Water Conservation Poster Contest

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District is offering a poster contest open to all youth in Iowa. Posters will be judged on the entry's conservation message, visual effectiveness, universal appeal and originality. Divisions will be based on age. Winners will receive cash prizes with honorable mentions receiving gift certificates from Pizza Hut.

The theme of this years poster contest is "Water is Life". The absolute undeniable fact is that physical life cannot exist on planet Earth without water. Simply put no water, no life. Poster should relate to this theme.

For more information and poster entry form call the Extension office at 754-7556 or 800-914-1914. Entry deadline is March 28th.

Deadline nears for tree planting program

Landowners who are interested in establishing trees in their CRP fields are able to receive up to 75% cost-share assistance for the planting. To be eligible, landowners need a general CRP contract in the project area (which includes most of southeast Iowa.) A minimum of three acres must be planted by June 30, 2008 and should consist of a mix of hardwood trees. Conifers and shrubs are allowed as well. Trees for CRP will not affect current CRP payments or the length of the contract.

Many landowners have taken advantage of this program and the benefits it offers. This past year, Trees for CRP established over 575 acres of trees in southeast Iowa. These trees are providing wildlife habitat and a financial investment for the future. The program can be used to connect timbers to expand wildlife travel corridors, extend timber draws, or to plant entire CRP fields.

2003

Page 8 -- Des Moines County News

Brockways receive Gary Wagner Memorial Award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation, has announced that Brockway Family LLLP of Burlington has been chosen as the recipients of the annual Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award.

According to a news release from the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, "Mark and Terry are dedicated land stewards who are developing impressive conservation areas that benefit wildlife, water, land and people. Through their hard work, they will leave the land in better shape for future generations."

Mark and Terry will receive a \$250 cash award to be used for a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing their efforts. These will be presented to them at a later date.

Family and friends of Gary Wagner, to honor his memory

and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example, developed the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 753-6221.

Five Agriculture Extension Council members elected

The Hawk Eye

Des Moines County voters elected five members to the county's Agriculture Extension Council and two Soil and Water District commissioners on Tuesday.

Seven candidates were on the ballot for the Extension Council. The top five vote getters were

John Dockendorf with 6,304, Daniel Beckman with 6,196, Barbara Kerr with 5,770, Mary Steffener with 5,732 and Robin Thomas with 5,459.

Two of three candidates on the ballot were elected as soil and water commissioners. Jeff Bergman was the top vote getter with 7,001, followed by Maureen Fosdick with 5,482.

Thursday, April 22, 2004

“The Living Soil”

Soil Stewardship Week

April 25 - May 2, 2004

While most of us seldom come in daily contact with soil, we all depend on soil for our daily survival, according to organizers of the 2004 Soil and Water Stewardship Week observance, set for April 25 - May 2. “In generation after generation, it is important to bring attention back to the central theme - the living soil sustains all life on earth,” said Don Lounsbury, chairperson of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. “Without the soil, nothing lives. Our conservation district works to protect healthy soils that in turn support a healthy environment, and healthy environments support healthy life,” he added.

Modern farmers and ranchers who practice soil conservation are doing their part to keep the living soil alive. Lessons from the past, such as the catastrophic “Dust Bowl” of the 1930’s, have shown what can happen when the topsoil is not protected from

wind and water erosion. Today, private land managers employ a host of conservation practices, such as minimum tillage, to protect the topsoil that feeds the nation.

Soil health becomes more important when you learn that millions of beneficial organisms are going through their daily routine of eating, breathing, living and dying in the soil. One cup of fertile soil may contain as many bacteria as there are people on Earth. In one acre - an area about the size of a football field - there may be a ton or more of microscopic bacteria. That’s equal to the weight of two full-grown cows!

We eat the food, drink the water, breathe the air, and enjoy the views, but only a few of us walk the fields and forests on a regular basis and understand what those lands need from us in order to sustain the living soil. However, the local district has suggested three things each of us can do in our own backyards to be better stewards of our soil resources:

1. Protect the soil from wind or water erosion by keeping healthy plants growing on the surface.
2. Restore and maintain organic matter in the soil, such as grass clippings or tree leaves (compost).
3. Protect soil life by using the least amounts and least toxic materials to control pest problems.

