

**Thursday,
April 1,
2010**

For the DYSART REPORTER, GLADBROOK NORTHERN SUN-PRINT, REINBECK COURIER, TAMA NEWS-HERALD, TRAER STAR-CLIPPER

2009 Annual Report
State Conservationist

This year was full of new conservation-related opportunities offered by USDA. And Iowa farmers responded with great interest. The first, and probably most anticipated, was the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Originally Iowa NRCS was allotted 360,000 acres for this first CSP sign-up. Based on your statewide response, Iowa was granted an additional 56,000 acres for a total of 416,000 acres.

We are still in the process of finalizing our first round of CSP contracts from the 1,100 applications submitted by the funding cutoff deadline.

The new CSP signup is statewide and continuous. So if you did not turn in application this time, it's not too late. The second date for a funding cutoff has not yet been announced by USDA. But we would anticipate something in February or March.

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

A third new opportunity was announced this year, the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Iowa is one of 12 states selected for the MRBI, which will help producers implement conservation practices that help avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff. Only producers in a few small watersheds will be able to participate this year after NRCS selects the MRBI proposals to implement. However, the MRBI will provide opportunities this year and in future years for additional producers to implement conservation practices which address nutrient runoff. Please visit the Iowa NRCS website (www.nrcs.usda.gov) for updates on the MRBI.

Iowa is traditionally a top state in conservation implementation. And you are the major reason for that. Our accomplishments are only a reflection of your commitment to do more to protect our state's soil and water. You can learn more about our

See **REPORT**, page 3



South Tama County student Haley Shope's STEP (South Tama Enrichment Program) water quality project, was taken to Project Share for Talented & Gifted students at MCC in the spring of 2009. Shope is currently a 6th grade student at the STC Middle School.



4H Conservation project winners- Rachel Kopriva, Angela Wrage, Allen Heise, David Bruene, Tyler Wrage. Not shown: Levi Petersen, Luke Pettv.

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07 LEXUS RX350 AWD

Heated Leather, NAV, Perf Road, 43K

\$29,800	\$492/mo
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PRICE: PNT/MO

07 Ford Fusion SEL	\$20,800	\$349/MO
Leather, Roof, 37K, Nice, 21K		
09 Ford Taurus Limited	\$20,800	\$349/MO
Leather, Sunroof, Chrome, 32K		
09 Buick Lacrosse CXL	\$24,800	\$409/MO
Heater, Leather, Power Windows, 29K		
09 Chevy Impala SE	\$20,800	\$349/MO
Heater, Leather, Power Windows, 29K		
09 Buick Lacrosse CXL	\$24,800	\$411/MO
Heater, Leather, Power Windows, 29K		
08 Chevy Impala LT	\$14,800	\$279/MO
08 Buick Lacrosse CXL	\$14,800	\$279/MO
07 Pontiac Grand Prix	\$12,400	\$233/MO
07 Power Windows, Leather, Controls, 34K		
07 Honda Accord EX	\$16,800	\$298/MO
Leather, Sunroof, Chrome, Very Nice, 62K		
07 Ford 500 SEL	\$16,800	\$260/MO
Heater, Leather, Power Windows, Local Trade, 71K		
07 Toyota Camry	\$13,800	\$283/MO
Full Power, Chrome, Local Trade, ONLY 21K		
07 Chevy Impala LT	\$11,800	\$222/MO
Sunroof, Full Power, Alloy Wheels, 61K		
06 Cadillac DTS	\$19,800	\$333/MO
Heater and Sunroof, Leather, Local Car, 22K		
05 Nissan Altima 2.5 S	\$12,400	\$242/MO
04 Old, Auto, Leather, Wheel, Nice, 60K		
05 Buick LaSalle Custom	\$9,800	\$177/MO
Full Power, Wheel, Nice, Local Trade, 71K		

07 CHEVY AVALANCHE LTZ 4X4

Leather, Roof, 20" Wheels, Nice, 40K

WAS \$31,800	NOW \$28,995	\$435/mo
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07 LEXUS ES350

Loaded, Leather, Chrome, Wheel, 22K

WAS \$27,800	NOW \$25,995	\$429/mo
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MARSHALLTOWN CARS

PRICE: PNT/MO

09 Chevy Malibu LT	\$18,800	\$322/MO
Leather, Sunroof, Chrome, Nice, 20K		
09 Chevy Impala LT	\$15,800	\$322/MO
Heated Leather, Wheel, Blight, near 22K		
09 Chevy Corvette Convertible	\$46,800	\$760/MO
Power, 50K, Chrome, Sunroof, Local Trade, 22K		
06 Cadillac DT Performance	\$31,800	\$527/MO
Auto, Power, Leather, Sunroof, Local Trade, 31K		
07 Chevy Impala LT	\$16,800	\$328/MO
Heater, Leather, Full Power, Windows, NICE, 54K		
07 Chevy Impala LT	\$16,800	\$327/MO
Power Roof, Wheel, Full Power, 38K		
06 Chevy Lacrosse	\$16,800	\$328/MO
Heater, Leather, Alloy Wheels, Nice, 87K		
06 Nissan Maxima SE	\$16,800	\$323/MO
05 NAD, Roof, Chrome, Wheels, 66K		
06 Chevy Impala LT	\$16,800	\$322/MO
Heater, Leather, Power Roof, Local Trade, 40K		

06 LINCOLN MARK LT 4X4

Heated Leather, Roof, Wheel, 27K

WAS \$26,800	NOW \$25,995	\$436/mo
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Full Power, Alloy Wheels, 27K

WAS \$13,800	NOW \$12,400	\$253/mo
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ELDORA CARS

PRICE: PNT/MO

09 Chevy Malibu LT	\$17,800	\$394/MO
4.3L Auto, Full Power, Wheels, 24K		
09 Toyota Camry LE	\$16,800	\$327/MO
Power Roof, Wheel, Full Power, 42K		
08 Chevy Impala LT	\$16,800	\$323/MO
5.0L Auto, Full Power, Alloy Wheels, 32K		
09 Chrysler Sebring	\$12,800	\$240/MO
4.3L Auto, Full Power, Very Clean, 34K		
07 Pontiac G6	\$13,400	\$249/MO
Sunroof, Chrome, Wheels, Nice, 41K		
07 Ford F150 Hundred	\$12,800	\$242/MO

06 Buick Lacrosse CXL

06 Buick Lacrosse CXL, CD, Only 25K
06 Pontiac G6 GT
06 Buick Lacrosse CXL, Only 25K
Heater, Leather, Power Windows, 29K
06 Mercedes SL500 Convertible
Auto, Heater, Leather, Power To Drive, 10K
06 Dodge Stratus ES
Full Power, Leather, Nice, Local Trade

\$8,400	\$152/mo
\$14,800	\$278/mo
\$11,400	\$234/mo
\$20,800	\$347/mo
\$4,800	\$152/mo

GLAD BROOK CARS

PRICE: PNT/MO

09 Chevy K1500 Crew LT 4x4	\$29,800	\$492/MO
09 Chevy K1500 Crew LTZ 4x4	\$31,800	\$525/MO
08 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4 Sport	\$20,800	\$332/MO
08 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4 Crew Cab	\$20,800	\$332/MO
08 Ford F-150 Crew Cab 4x4 FX-4	\$23,800	\$449/MO
08 Chevy K1500 Crew LT 4x4	\$19,800	\$327/MO
Heater, Leather, BOSE, Nice, 70K		
06 Dodge Dakota Crew 4x2	\$8,800	\$279/MO
06 Chevy K1500 Crew LT 4x4	\$27,400	\$433/MO
06 Chevy 1500 Ext Cab 4x2	\$7,400	\$234/MO

GLAD BROOK SUVS

2010 Soil & Water Annual Report

Thoughts on 20-plus years of soil conservation work in Tama County

By Chester Worden
Soil Conservation Technician

I have driven on three highway 30's and three highways 20's in my lifetime. I have also seen many different ways of soil conservation work during this time. In high school, we used grass to protect the soil. All farmers used it as it was needed to feed the livestock. Even when moldboard plowing sod or cornstalks, the soil did not wash as bad as it does now. Soil till and organic matter helped stop the washing. Probably the worst soil erosion was in the 60's and early 70's. More row cropping, including soybeans, along with lots of tillage and chemicals really took a toll on the soil. I lived in the flatter northern part of the county. Both soil and chemicals washed to bottom of draws. The bottoms of the draws wouldn't grow corn or even weeds for several years. I drove to Toledo one Sunday afternoon in early May and was appalled at the washing from the hills. That year was the demise of the moldboard plow and many tillage passes.



Chester Worden

Farmers are doing a lot better job of soil conservation now than 70's; but there is certainly room for more improvement. The following are my thoughts where improvement still could and should be made:

1. Don't blame the rains or snow runoff for soil washing. It's the person that is using the land that should be blamed. We need to realize that storms always have and always will come. I remember 6-8 inch rains in the 50's and every decade since. We need to use proper soil conservation practices ALL THE TIME, EVERY YEAR, so we are somewhat prepared for the next storm that we know will come. We just don't know when the storms will come. There are grassed waterways that are just as good as when they were made 16-20 years ago. Why is that? It is because that farmer has kept the soil on the hills by using heavy residue, no-tilling, terraces or a healthy grass cover to keep it where it is needed to grow crops. They have a conservation plan that reduces soil loss to 5Ton/Ac or less.

2. Soybean stubble does not need to be, and should not be tilled. This has been our biggest problem the last few wet springs. We have good deep fertilization equipment now so disking or field cultivation is not needed for that. Most planters will do a decent job of no-

tilling; so let it dry out another day and don't use tillage to try and dry out the soil.

3. Using a corn-bean sequence on the steepest Tama County land is just asking for trouble. No-tilling every year and contouring will certainly help; but the steepest land will need some grass in the rotation.

4. One soil conservation practice is not enough on the majority of Tama County land. Those that are keeping the soil on the hills are using no-till or heavy residue in conjunction with contoured grassed buffer strips, grass in rotation and/or terraces.

5. Treat the hills better than the flatter ground, even if they are in the same field. Remember though that long medium slopes can erode even more than shorter steeper ones. Treat every area as it should be treated for good erosion control.

I commend you for doing better than 20-40 years ago. If you are still getting erosion, there is a reason in addition to the rains. Figure out what that reason is and try and fix it. YOU CANNOT FIX THE WEATHER-BUT YOU CAN IMPROVE HOW YOU ARE TREATING THE LAND. We need to continue improving our soil conservation effort and also work on keeping our waters clean.



Urban Backyard Conservation Award Winner:
Kim Thompson

How Do I Measure Up?

By
James Gillespie
Bureau Chief

Iowa's have faced a lot of challenges this past year, but have stepped up to confront those challenges and taken conservation to heart. Protecting the soil and water of this state are ever apparent by looking at the landscape and water quality.

Over 95% of this land is in private ownership and most of it is used for some form of agricultural production. The balance is in urban, roads, utilities and infrastructure that keep our people and commodities moving. All of these things are needed because I don't think there are many other states or parts of the country that rely on all of their land and its resources to do this.

That is why it is so important that all of us (rural and urban) alike do all we can to protect the soil and water. You all have tremendous resources available to you locally in your Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist you with your conservation needs. These people have both the technical assistance and financial opportunities that can help address your concerns.

Your district has over 50 years of expertise in working with soil and water resources and the sound technical solutions to resource concerns. If you have a conservation plan, it is a great time to review it to see if it still addresses all of the resource concerns and your land use objectives. If you don't have a plan or can not find yours, contact the local office for assistance.

As you begin this next year, (2010), take some time to walk around your property, looking at your land use decisions, and are there some conservation needs that need to be addressed. Do you have erosion occurring and is that sediment leaving your property? Have you identified your land with the watershed that you live in, and are you having any impact on that watershed from your land?

If you had to evaluate your own resource issues, how would you say I'm doing? What would your peers think of what I'm doing? Am I doing all I can to protect the soil and water, while maintaining the productivity and use of my property?

EVALUATE YOURSELF AND YOUR LAND
USE TO SEE HOW YOU MEASURE UP!

LEFT: Owner/Operator Award Winners:
Nancy Patterson Smith,
Frank & Frances Patterson

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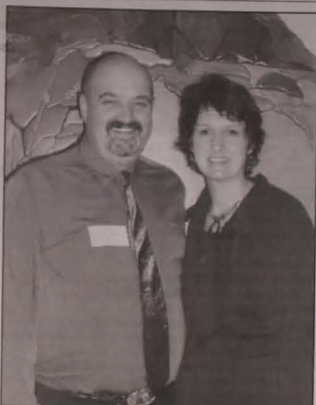
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Soil & Water Annual Report



Conservation Tillage Award: Chris and Laurie Schaffer



New Cooperator Award: Avriel and Paul Koester.



Rural Backyard Conservation Award: Judy and David Beane.

Water Impoundment Grade Stabilization Structure or Pond

By Cliff Foster

The demand for water has increased in recent years, and these types of structures are one of the most reliable and economical sources of water.

These structures serve a variety of purposes, including water for livestock, irrigation, fish production, field and orchard spraying, fire protection, energy conservation, wildlife habitat, recreation, erosion control and landscape improvement.

These structures are made by building an earthen dam across a stream or watercourse where the stream valley is depressed enough to store 5 feet or more of water. These types of structures have several similarities in design; however they also have some differences.

When state or federal cost-share is provided a pond is constructed primarily for water needs for livestock or irrigation and the presence of soil erosion is not a requirement. A grade stabilization structure is constructed primarily for erosion control and ephemeral or classic gully erosion must be present. There are also additional benefits to these structures such as fish, wildlife and recreational, but these are secondary benefits.

The criteria used to evaluate either type of structure are quite similar. Preliminary investigations are completed to find suitable sites for construction depending on the goals that need to be accomplished.

If possible consider more than one location to select the most appropriate and practical site. For economic reasons locate the structure where the largest storage volume can be obtained with the

least amount of earth fill. Avoid large areas of shallow water because of evaporation and the growth of noxious aquatic plants.

If the water is to be conveyed elsewhere such as for irrigation or fire protection, try to locate the structure as close to the major use as possible.

The amount of the drainage area of the structure is a major determining factor in the size of the permanent pool that can be maintained during dry conditions. Generally in this part of Iowa it may take 6-7 acres of surface runoff for every acre of water stored.

The amount of runoff that can be expected annually from a watershed depends on so many factors that no set rule can be given for its determination. The best protection is to have the upland drainage area planted to trees, grass or forbs.

Cultivated areas may need to have practices such as terraces or strip cropping installed to protect from heavier sediment loads. If an eroding or inadequately protected watershed must be used delay construction of the dam until erosion control practices can be installed.

Soils play a significant role in the construction of these types of structures, the clay contents of soils in the construction area must

be high enough to be able to impound water without leaking severely. Evaluation of available soil surveys and/or soil probing can determine characteristics of soils present.

The foundation of the earthen dam will need a core trench installed, this trench needs to extend below the ground to good glacial till materials, and be from waterline at one end of the dam to the other.

These structures should be designed with 2 spillways to handle certain storm events. Pipe spillways (principal or mechanical spillways) protect the vegetation on the earthen dam and in the spillway channel against saturation from spring or low flow; that may continue for several days after a storm.

The pipe should be large enough to discharge the flow from springs, snowmelt or seepage. It should also have enough capacity to discharge prolonged surface flow following an intense storm. Pipe materials necessary will vary depending on the specific design criteria.

Auxiliary spillways or vegetated spillways are installed at one end of the dam, and are used to pass excessive storm runoff around the dam so the water in the pool does not raise high enough to damage the dam by overtopping.

Once construction is completed the dam and surrounding construction area should be seeded to control any potential erosion. A final note would be to not construct these types of structures in areas where a potential dam breach could be life threatening, or damage primary utilities or roads.

By Mark Pokorny

In recent weeks there have been some exciting announcements for the Conservation Reserve Program. Two very popular continuous practices have additional acres allocated for voluntary enrollment. The General CRP program has also been announced. We are excited to have these programs once again available for 2010.

The Upland Quail Habitat Buffers practice (CP-33) has an additional 10,500 acres allocated for the state of Iowa. This was announced on February 27th 2010. This practice was quite popular in the past. Quail Habitat Buffers were first announced in December of 2005. This practice allows field borders to be seeded to native prairie grasses from 30-120'

wide in fields larger than 5 acres. The area offered must meet cropping history requirements. A minimum of at least 1 side of a field must be seeded down to be eligible.

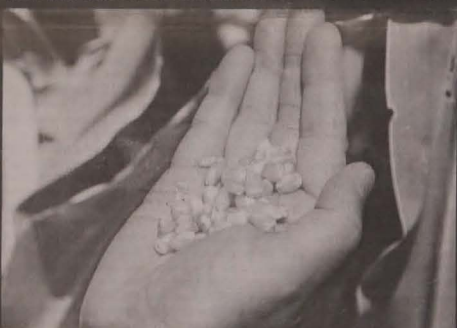
State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) has also had an additional 9,000 acres allocated for Iowa. This was a very popular practice in 2008 for Tama County. Its purpose is to increase populations of pheasants, dickcissel, bobolink, and eastern meadowlark in the state. Certain areas of the county are eligible for this practice. Check with our office to see if your land is in the eligible areas. This practice allows you to enroll a minimum of 10 acres to native grasses, shrubs, or trees on eligible crop ground. There is no maximum size to these

CRP areas. This allocation of acres will certainly be used up fast so don't hesitate to sign up.

The general CRP sign up has also been announced recently. The last general sign up was in 2006, so we are glad to see it again. We do not have a sign up time period or any details about the program at this time. Stay tuned to news sources for a sign up date.

The continuous CRP program has always been active. Wetland areas, filter strips, contour buffers, and riparian filters are always available. CRP rental rates have gone up over the last couple years, making them very competitive and attractive for new enrollments. Please stop by and discuss your CRP needs with us, we would be glad to assist you.

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Report, from page 1

shared accomplishments by viewing the online slide show at the following link <http://www.flickr.com/photos/43873399@N05/sets/72157622668751746/show/>

Even with these great accomplishments, as State Conservationist I have asked NRCS staff to focus on three main areas to make improvements: conservation planning, expanding valued partnerships, and managing our financial contracts. All of these priorities will help our staff help provide better customer service to you.

Anyone in agriculture is used to challenges—some of which are unexpected. This year we know we will face challenges created by the state's current financial crisis. It will touch many, if not all, of our districts. The Conservation Partnership will do it's best to maintain our level of customer service throughout this difficult time, but in some cases we may not be able to respond as quickly as we could in the past. I ask for your patience and understanding as we adapt to best tackle these challenges.

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

Richard Sims
State Conservationist



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