

2016-2017 CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District

314 Lake Street
Cherokee, IA 51012
Phone: 712-225-4151 or 225-3769
Fax: 855-233-1296

Annual Report of our Conservation Progress

The Commissioners of the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. We hope our cooperative working relations continue as we work to protect our natural resources. The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation problem you may have.

Along with the landowners and operators in the county, we would like to thank the government agencies, news media, schools, businesses, and individuals that have assisted in the promotion and application of soil and water conservation.

Cherokee County District Commissioners



From left to right: Scott Osborn (Assistant Commissioner), Cherokee; Linda Bindner (Assistant Commissioner); Marcus; Brian Mugge, Cleghorn; Keith Glienke, Aurelia; Tom Bindner, Marcus; Russell Winterhof, Aurelia; and Ramona Nitz, Cherokee. Assistant commissioners Nathan Anderson, Pam Pierce and Daryl Ducommun are not pictured.

The Cherokee SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

Russell Winterhof, Chairman	Aurelia
Brian Mugge, Vice Chairman	Cleghorn
Tom Bindner, Co-Treasurer	Marcus
Keith Glienke, Co-Treasurer	Aurelia
Ramona Nitz	Cherokee

Assistant Commissioners

Nathan Anderson	Aurelia
Linda Bindner	Marcus
Daryl Ducommun	Larrabee
Scott Osborn	Cherokee
Pam Pierce	Cherokee

Field Office Staff

Justin Boersma	District Conservationist
Nick Livermore	Soil Conservationist
Tracy Rasmussen	Conservation Assistant
Katie Cedar	District Technician
Sam Thomas	Civil Engineering Tech.
Mike Henderson	Area Agronomist

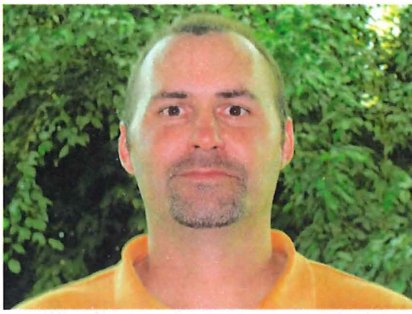


Back row (left to right): Justin Boersma and Nick Livermore. Front row (left to right): Tracy Rasmussen, Sam Thomas, and Katie Cedar. Mike Henderson not pictured.

Check out our Facebook page under
Cherokee Swcd

2017 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- 16 Regular Meetings
- Sent out contribution letters and annual reports
- Organizational Meeting to Approve District Policies, elect officers, and establish committees
- New Commissioner Training
- Booth at the Cherokee County Ag Show
- Poster Contest Presentations
- CDI Spring Regional meeting
- Hosted Northwest Iowa Regional Envirothon (environmental competition for high schools)
- Reviewed scholarship applications
- District Tree Sales
- 4th Grade Poster judging
- Watershed inspections
- Scholarships presented at High School Awards Programs
- 4th grade posters displayed at the Sanford Museum
- Submitted nominations for conservation awards
- CDI Annual Conference
- Photo contest at Cherokee County Fair
- Paid CDI and NACD Dues
- Conservation Tour
- District Audit
- REAP Assemblies



Vince Sitzmann

Field Services Bureau Chief

Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality

State Fiscal Year 2017 was another successful year for getting conservation on the ground. Staff was able to complete lots of plans, surveys, and designs and Mother Nature chipped in which made for productive spring and fall construction seasons. Each year, when the state fiscal year wraps up, we evaluate our programs and find out what kind of a year it's been; and each year, when the evaluation is complete, I'm always surprised at how much money is spent on conservation. I'm not just talking about how much money the state contributes through our programs, I'm talking about your investment in conservation. Even when margins are as tight as they are today, the demand for conservation outweighs supply.



The dollars reflected above represent the state's contribution to our programs only, not the landowners share. Keep in mind that these figures only represent a small portion of the overall investment in conservation across the state. The graph does not take into account any federal programs such as CRP or EQIP, nor does it take into account the work that is done by private landowners without state or federal assistance.

I want to take a moment to highlight the State Revolving Fund (SRF) in the bar chart above as it is our most popular program in terms of funding utilized by landowners. SRF is a loan program that can fund 100% of a practice or can be used in conjunction with other state or federal programs. Farmers are borrowing an average of \$10 million annually to install conservation practices on their farms. These low-interest loans can be used for a number of different conservation practices; however our most common include terraces, ponds and livestock facilities. Loan amounts can range from \$5,000 to \$500,000 and must be paid back over a 10-year period.

If you have been thinking about installing a practice on your farm I would encourage you to stop into your local Soil and Water Conservation District office and talk to the staff. As always, thank you for your conservation and land stewardship efforts.

STATE FUNDING

(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

Cost Share and REAP Practice Funds are used to provide up to 50% cost share for installing practices such as waterways, terraces, and water & sediment control basins. Management Practice Funds are used to provide a one time incentive payment to try no-till, strip-till, or planting cover crops. REAP F/NG Funds are used to provide up to 75% cost share for planting windbreaks.

Cost Share Fund

Allocation + Carryover +	\$ 79,766.65
Supplemental Received	
Total cost-share paid	64,609.71
Total approved & pending	<u>15,156.94</u>
Balance 6/30/17	\$ 0.00

REAP Practices Fund

Allocation + Carryover +	\$ 33,685.12
Supplemental Received	
Total cost-share paid	23,092.73
Total approved & pending	<u>10,592.39</u>
Balance 6/30/17	\$ 0.00

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Fund

Allocation + Carryover	\$ 3,363.80
Total cost-share paid	2,637.00
Total approved & pending	<u>726.80</u>
Recalled 6/30/17	\$ 0.00

Gere Creek WIRB Grant

Allocation	\$ 239,942.00
Total cost-share paid	162,118.41
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/17	\$ 77,823.59

Statewide Water Quality Initiative Funds

Approvals made	\$ 31,667.25
Total cost-share paid	26,355.80
Slippage/Cancellations	<u>5,311.45</u>
Balance 6/30/17	\$ 0.00

Buffer Initiative Funds

Approvals made	\$ 3,029.50
Total cost-share paid	<u>3,029.50</u>
Balance 6/30/17	\$ 0.00

Little Sioux Flood Prevention Watershed Maintenance Funds

(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

These funds were collected from the original landowners in the Little Sioux Watershed many years ago. These funds are used to pay for repairs, maintenance, and inspection of existing watershed structures.

Balance carried forward	\$177,186.00
Income (Interest)	\$ 2,236.68
Expenses	<u>\$ 2,630.71</u>
Balance 6/30/17	\$176,791.97

General Fund (Revolving)

(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

These funds are generated through tree sales, donations, and coop agreements. They are used to pay District expenses that are not covered by IM Funds and to hire employees.

Balance carried forward	\$63,888.36
Income	\$37,352.96
Expenses	<u>\$41,570.18</u>
Balance 6/30/17	\$59,671.14

Commissioner Expense Fund

(July 1, 2016– June 30, 2017)

These are funds appropriated by the legislature to reimburse commissioners for traveling expenses as well as pay for district office expenses.

Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Expenses: Mileage reimb.	\$ 840.00
Dues	\$ 1,100.00
Regional meeting	<u>\$ 60.00</u>
Balance 6/30/17	\$ 0.00

Extra commissioner expenses of \$1135.42 incurred, but not reimbursed.

FEDERAL FUNDING

(October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017)

Funded 10 new EQIP contracts totaling \$545,657.14

54 CRP Contracts approved

Cherokee SWCD Awards Scholarships

Each year the Cherokee SWCD gives one or more scholarships to high school seniors who will be pursuing programs of study in conservation or agriculture and who show leadership and scholastic achievement. This year the District awarded \$500.00 scholarships to Clare Conley, Frances Conley, and Jamie Theisen. Clare Conley's application was forwarded to Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and she was chosen as the regional winner so she received an additional \$600.00 scholarship from CDI.

Clare Conley is a 2017 graduate of Washington High School. In high school she maintained an impressive 3.99 G.P.A. and was involved in many activities including National Honor Society, Band, Spanish Honor Society, Spanish Club, Tennis, Speech, TEAMS, Volleyball, FCA, Quiz Bowl, Book Club, and Homecoming Court. She was heavily involved in 4-H, including State 4-H Council and Cherokee County 4-H Council. Clare is attending Iowa State University where she is pursuing a degree in Agricultural Education. She looks forward to being an agricultural teacher one day.

Frances Conley is a 2017 graduate of Washington High School. In high school she earned a 3.979 G.P.A. and was involved in Volleyball, Tennis, Large Group Speech, Band, Quiz Bowl, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, TEAMS, Spanish Club, Basketball, and Track. She was also involved in County 4-H Council and State 4-H Council. Frances is attending the University of Northern Iowa and double majoring in Agribusiness and Management Information Systems or Accounting. She has a goal of obtaining an accounting job with an emphasis in agriculture.

Jamie Theisen is a 2017 graduate of MMCUR. She earned a 3.368 G.P.A. in high school and was involved in Softball, Volleyball, Cheerleading (football, wrestling, and competitive), FFA, and Trap Shooting. She is attending South Dakota State University where she is studying Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. After graduating from college she plans to get a job working at a park in the area.

Together, Conservation District of Iowa and the 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Iowa, fund and implement the scholarship program as part of their mission to protect and enhance soil, water, and other natural resources valuable to our state.



Scholarship recipients pictured left to right: Jamie Theisen, Frances Conley, and Clare Conley.

Conservation Education 2017: Students Learn About Healthy Soils

Earlier this spring, 4th grade students from Cherokee, MMC, Aurelia, and River Valley had an opportunity to participate in the Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District's poster contest.

The theme of this year's contest was "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life". Mike Henderson, Area 1 Agronomist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Laura Jones, Cherokee County Naturalist, spent time in each 4th grade classroom explaining the poster contest, as well as conducting a program on soils. Mike and Laura explained the characteristics and contents between each layer of soil, building a soil profile. The profile was labeled (i.e. O, A, B, C, R) and represented with Tupperware containers, each contained items that you would find in each layer of the soil. Some layers contained tablets playing videos of worm activity and microbes, another contained plastic worms and real bones, another had a badger pelt, and another contained rocks. The contents were to remind students that there is life in each of the layers, both big and small, that plays an important role in providing food and materials for all to live. In fact, soil is home to many living things.

Posters were judged on the following criteria: 50% for conservation message, 30% for visual effectiveness, 10% for originality, and 10% for universal appeal.

Cherokee SWCD Commissioner Ramona Nitz presented the first, second, and third place winners from each school with ribbons, certificates, and Dairy Queen gift cards from the Cherokee SWCD.

From Aurelia the winners were Aubrey Kannegieter – First Place, Liberty Bengtson – Second Place, and Isaac Sanchez - Third Place. Cherokee's winners were Bree Richardson – 1st place, Laney Wolfswinkel – 2nd place, and Savannah Puffer – 3rd place. From MMC the winners were Elspeth Hogg – 1st place, Brooke Gravenish – 2nd place, and Wyatt Hinesly – 3rd place. River Valley's winners were Myah Dausel – 1st place, Tyra Vaughn – 2nd place, and Maddison Todd – 3rd place.

Myah Dausel was chosen as the overall winner for Cherokee County and her poster was sent to the Conservation Districts of Iowa Regional Director for the regional competition.

All of the participating students' posters were on display at the Sanford Museum during the month of June.

Aurelia 4th Grade Poster Winners



From left to right: 1st place winner Aubrey Kannegieter, 2nd place winner Liberty Bengtson, and 3rd place winner Isaac Sanchez.

Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn 4th Grade Poster Winners



From left to right: 1st place winner Elspeth Hogg, 2nd place winner Brooke Gravenish, and 3rd place winner Wyatt Hinesly.

Cherokee 4th Grade Poster Winners

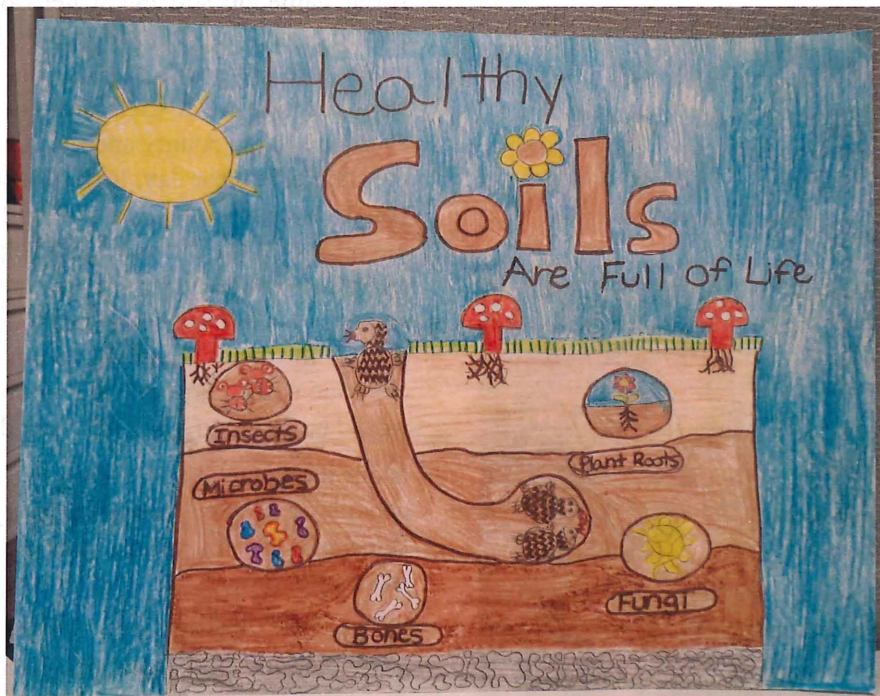


From left to right: 1st place winner Bree Richardson, 2nd place winner Laney Wolfswinkel, and 3rd place winner Savannah Puffer.

River Valley 4th Grade Poster Winners



From left to right: 1st place winner Myah Dausel, 2nd place winner Tyra Vaughn, and 3rd place winner Maddison Todd.



Myah Dausel's poster was chosen as the overall winner for Cherokee County.

Contributions

Contributions are the primary source for financing educational and promotional activities. We would like to thank the following contributors who donated money from October 2016 through September 2017. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Soil & Water Sustainers

Timothy and Angela Cronin
Farmers State Bank - Marcus
Sharon Nelson
Western Cherokee Mutual Insurance
WHJ LLC
Russell and Beth Winterhof

Soil & Water Stewards

Tom and Linda Bindner
Filmore and Darlene Gustafson
Montgomery Inc.
Roger and Sharon Nelson
John and Ramona Nitz
Schmillen Construction Inc.
Paul and Traci Wilkie
Scott and Sally Wilkie
Roger and Margaret Woltman

Soil & Water Supporters

Mark and Janice Carlson
Barbara Esch
Dale and Janice Grell
McGuire Auction Company Inc.
Mark Schleef
Craig and Beverly Simonsen



James Gillespie - Division Director

Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality

Director's Thoughts

A lot of Soil and Water Conservation Districts are celebrating their 75th Anniversaries around the state. What great accomplishments they have to share with the farmers and landowners in their counties. It is definitely something they should be proud of and take time to reflect on what has been done.

It is a time to think back to when the district was organized and why. We were just coming out of a serious economic depression and were in the midst of World War II. The Iowa Experiment Station, now Iowa State University Extension had done a study that showed that we had eroded 25% of our top soil on average across the state. Something needed to be done to stop this erosion and start improving our agriculture management in order to reverse this unsustainable degradation. Iowa has been blessed with some of the richest soils in the world and they have been very productive.

Along came the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that started organizing in 1940 and the last district organized in 1952. The leadership of those first commissioners that set the stage for how the districts could help farmers, landowners, and everyone in the county and the state took off. If you fly over the state on a clear day, look out the window of the plane or as you drive around the state you will see the practices (marks on the land) that the districts have helped those farmers, landowners and others install to protect and improve all of our natural resources. Isn't it a beautiful tapestry to behold? That leadership by the districts and the commissioners and field office staff continues to this day and I believe our forefathers and mothers would be proud of what has been done.

Is our job done? I don't think so. We continue to utilize and need those precious resources every day and will into the future. We should be of a mindset that we are going to be in an ever improving process for those resources. More than just protecting them but making them better.

Yours and my challenges are what can we do every day to improve our soil health and water quality? So what are we (there is no "I" in team) going to do to take care of the resources we have been blessed with and how are we going to make them better for those who will follow us, like those who organized the Soil and Water Conservation Districts years ago? I believe they were thinking about us and this great state when they organized the districts. We can't let them down!



First Place Overall Winner of Regional Envirothon
Unity Christian FFA 1

Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt: Take the 1% Challenge

Many of the benefits from improving soil health don't happen overnight. They build over time, as farmers consistently implement soil health practices like no-till, cover crops and crop rotations. But there is a way to monitor your progress: measuring the amount of organic matter in your soil.

First conceived by the late District Conservationist Brad Harrison from Adel, **The 1% Challenge** encourages farmers to commit to a long-term plan to increase their soil's organic matter by 1 percent. Soil organic matter is decomposed plant and animal material in your soil. This material gives your soil good tilth, a dark color, better water holding capacity, improved water infiltration rates, and it contributes to your overall soil fertility. And it happens to be a very good indicator of improved soil health.

How much will it take to increase my soil organic matter by 1%?

Soil organic matter is increased through substantial increases in organic materials, like roots, residue, compost and manure in the soil. Only 10% of the organic material added each year actually remains in the soil. Because of this, building a 1% organic matter increase will require 200,000 pounds of material, or the equivalent of 167 round bales of cornstalks per acre.

Sound impossible? It's not!

Depending on your original organic matter levels, soil types and crop rotations, it is possible to increase organic matter at an average rate of 0.1% per acre per year through no-till farming and planting a mixed cover crop each fall. After 10 years, that's a 1% increase.

Why is it worth it?

While each operation's expenses are unique, we've put together these estimates to illustrate the economic impact of improving soil organic matter:

Each year, 1% of soil organic matter per acre releases \$15.70 worth of nutrients.

Eliminating tillage will save approximately \$3.50 in fuel costs per acre per year.

Utilizing cover crops may reduce the need for herbicides by about \$16.20 per acre per year.

An average increase of 5 bu./ac. in soybean yields following cover crops can earn an additional \$50 per acre per year.

Based on these calculations, in an average year of a corn/soybean rotation, your bottom line could improve by more than \$60 per acre. PLUS, this significant increase in organic matter can hold 9/10" of plant-available water, reducing the potential for erosion due to runoff by 15%.

So, how do you get started?

Establish a baseline by completing a routine soil test with an organic matter calculation. In addition, conduct a soil health assessment in your field by recording soil temperatures, counting earthworms, calculating water infiltration rates, and testing for compaction. We also recommend having a certified lab conduct a soil health analysis, such as the Haney test or the Cornell Soil Health Test.

The next step is to develop a soil health management plan, and that's where NRCS can help. After discussing your goals and evaluating your current operation plan, we can recommend the types of practices and changes in management that will help you improve soil health and build organic matter.

And finally, monitor and document your progress each year. Items to record include crops planted, fertilizer and pesticides applied, weed pressure, yield and soil health assessments results (temperature, earthworm counts, infiltration rates, etc.). Then in year four or five, conduct another soil test battery. Did your soil organic matter increase by a half percent? If so, you are on the right track. If not, take time to evaluate your management (NRCS can help) and make adjustments if necessary.

Interested in taking **The 1% Challenge**? You can find more resources, fact sheets and soil assessment worksheets on the Iowa NRCS website at www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov.

Kurt Simon
Iowa NRCS State Conservationist



2017-2018 Tree Price List

Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District

314 Lake Street, Cherokee, IA 51012 PH: (712) 225-4151
FAX: (855) 233-1296 EMAIL: Tracy.Rasmussen@ia.nacdnet.net

Species	Size	Type	Trees Per Bundle	Price Per Tree	Price Per Bundle or Pot	No. of Bundles	No. of Trees	Total Price
If you are looking for a species not listed below, give us a call. Other varieties may be available.								
Deciduous Trees								
Male Cottonwood (seedless)	4-5'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$2.80	\$70.00			
Autumn Blaze Maple	3-4'	Seedling	Bundles of 5	\$18.00	\$90.00			
Silver Maple	5-6'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$3.80	\$38.00			
Sugar Maple	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$2.40	\$60.00			
Bur Oak	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$2.20	\$22.00			
Red Oak	3-4'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$3.00	\$30.00			
Hybrid Willow	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$2.00	\$50.00			
Shrubs								
Arrowwood	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$2.30	\$23.00			
Nanking Cherry	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$1.88	\$47.00			
Common Chokecherry	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$2.00	\$50.00			
Cranberrybush	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$2.40	\$24.00			
Redosier Dogwood	2-3'	Transplant	Bundles of 10	\$2.50	\$25.00			
Common Purple Lilac	2-3'	Transplant	Bundles of 10	\$2.60	\$26.00			
Amur Maple	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$2.00	\$20.00			
Common Ninebark	2-3'	Transplant	Bundles of 10	\$2.70	\$27.00			
American Plum	3-4'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$2.20	\$22.00			
Evergreens								
White Pine (2 Gal)	18-24"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$19.00		NA		
Black Hills Spruce (2 Gal)	18-24"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$18.00		NA		
Meyer Spruce (2 Gal)	18-24"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$18.00		NA		
Norway Spruce (2 Gal)	18-24"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$18.00		NA		
White Spruce (2 Gal)	18-24"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$18.00		NA		
Special Order	Size	Type	Trees Per Bundle	Price Per Tree	Price Per Bundle or Pot	No. of Bundles	No. of Trees	Total Price

All Orders Subject to Availability!

50% Deposit Required on all orders.

Please make checks payable to Cherokee SWCD

No survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices.

Trees will be available the first or second week in April for pickup.

SUB TOTAL	
7% STATE & LOCAL OPTION TAX	
GRAND TOTAL	
CASH/CHECK#	
AMOUNT PAID	
BALANCE DUE	

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

10 Email _____

Dear Soil & Water Conservationist:

For over 73 years the Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District has been helping producers conserve two of our most valuable resources, our soil and water. We believe that soil and water conservation is an easy task that everyone can do and we need your help. We invite you to join our local conservation efforts by becoming a Conservation Club Member for 2018. All Conservation Club funds collected are used specifically for projects like: scholarship awards for high school seniors, Lunch 'n' Learn meetings with area youth, conservation education materials, 4th grade poster contest prizes and materials, and our yearly Conservation Tour in which the public views newly implemented conservation practices. We also provide technical assistance in the local office by paying for part-time employees.

As Iowans, we all share similar concerns for soil and water quality as well as protecting these resources for future generations. Iowa is faced with challenges that will impact conservation programs. By donating to the Cherokee SWCD, we can continue to promote, educate, and implement these important conservation practices. Any support you can give to the SWCD is greatly appreciated. And remember, your contribution **is tax deductible**. If you would like to make a contribution, please complete the membership form below and mail it with your donation, made payable to the Cherokee SWCD.

With Sincere Thanks,

Cherokee SWCD Commissioners

Please make your donation payable to:

Cherokee SWCD



Name: _____

Address: _____

Cherokee SWCD
314 Lake Street
Cherokee, IA 51012
712-225-3769

Levels of Support

Soil & Water Supporter	\$20 - \$49.00	Soil & Water Saver	\$50 - \$99.00
Soil & Water Steward	\$100 - \$149.00	Soil & Water Sustainer	\$150.00 and above

Donation enclosed: _____ **Any Amount Welcome**



2017 Conservation Tour

By Ramona Nitz - Commissioner

The annual Summer Tour of the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Tuesday evening, August 8th.

Chairperson Russ Winterhof welcomed all participants to the annual event and introduced his fellow commissioners. I, representing the state board of directors for Conservation Districts of Iowa, brought congratulations from CDI for the planning of another successful tour and thanks for Cherokee County's continuing efforts on hosting the region's Envirothon Competition, a conservation competition for high school students in Northwest Iowa.

The tour participants then caravanned to their first stop where they learned about the nitrate monitor that has been placed northeast of Cherokee. Lee Gravel spoke about the importance of closely monitoring nitrate levels which can affect the quality of drinking water.

Also speaking at that site was Cherokee County Conservation Director Chad Brown. He showed us his property that he has in the CRP program and discussed the advantages and challenges that come from participating in the program.

We were welcomed to our next stop by Rick and Janet Angell. The Angells have been working with us for the past few years on the installation of a grade stabilization structure. Work has been completed and the result is a beautiful pond where the entire Angell family has been enjoying the fishing and swimming opportunities now available to them!

We then traveled to property owned by Loni and Rosanne Loucks. While there, we learned from Matt McClanahan, CDI, about the Iowa Habitat Access Program (IHAP).

IHAP is the Iowa Hunting and Access Program. This program allows landowners to receive funding for habitat improvements as well as expert advice for managing these areas. In return, participating landowners must allow public access to their land for hunting from September 1 to May 31. IHAP areas are posted with signs and DNR conservation officers patrol these IHAP tracts.

Our final tour stop, before heading to Cleghorn for a delicious supper prepared by Mary Bierman, was the Ron Goth farm where we viewed his CRP.

Please consider joining us next summer when we will view more of the many projects of your local Soil and Water Conservation District.



Nitrate Monitor on Mill Creek



Chad Brown's CRP field



Rick Angell's grade stabilization structure



IHAP site on Loucks property



Ron Goth's CRP



The group at Ron Goth's

Sign Up for Waterways, Terraces, and Cover Crops Today

In recent years, we've seen some unprecedented weather patterns. Our storms seem to be getting less frequent and more intense. It's not terribly uncommon anymore to see a summer thunderstorm drop five inches of rain in a night.

Likewise, this has caused erosion on a scale that we haven't seen in recent history. We've all probably observed erosion in places that we've never seen it before. This erosion can transport huge volumes of your highly productive soil, and damage your profit potential. Your neighbor is probably a pretty nice guy, but give him a gift basket for Christmas, not your topsoil!

In Cherokee County, we have some of the healthiest soil in the country. That's something we need to be truly proud of. It is also something that we need to be very intentional about protecting. We can't take much credit for the health of our soil now, but we can take credit for preserving it into the future.

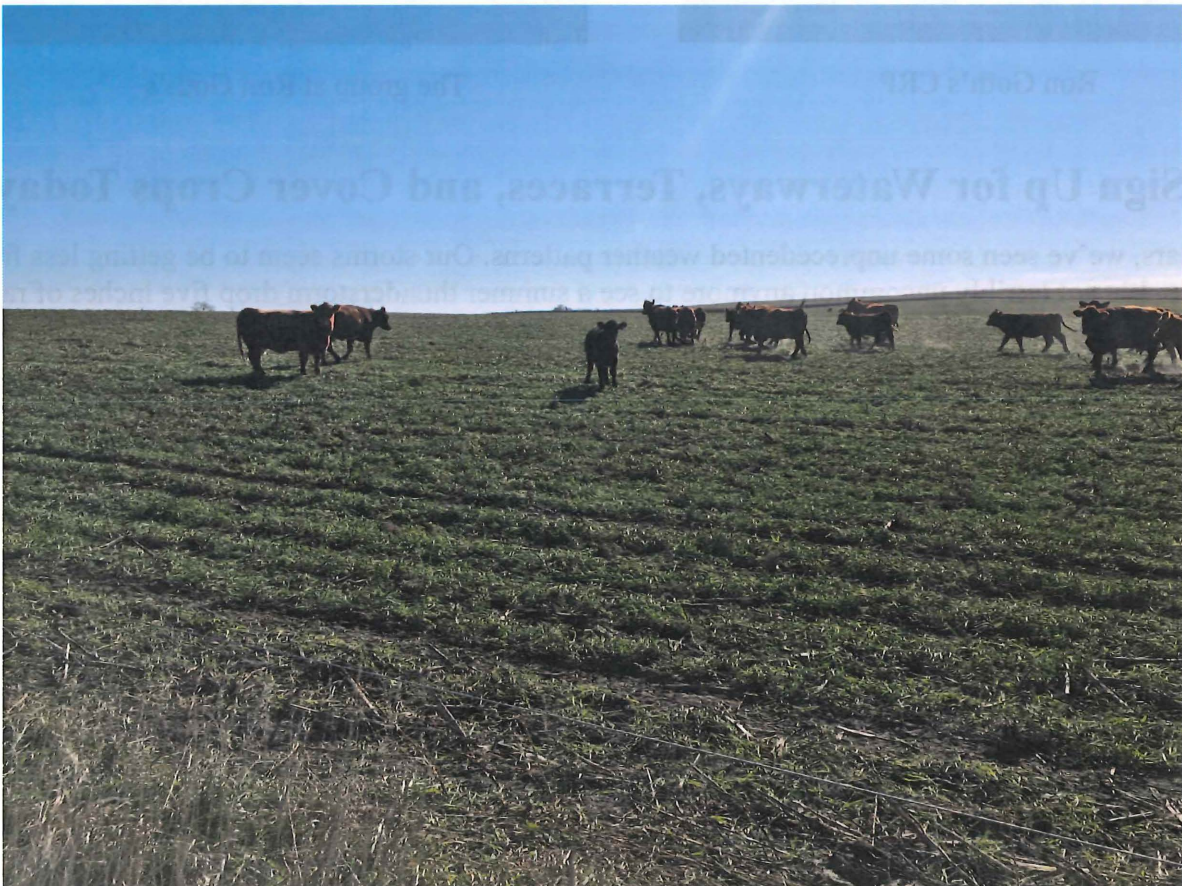
The Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are here to help you with that goal. We have a number of programs that offer financial assistance to help you keep your farm in shape.

It is very important to be proactive with your farmland conservation because sometimes we are limited by the number of dollars we get for assistance and weather cooperation. Give us a call at 712-225-3769 Ext. 3 or stop in and see us today.

Justin Boersma
District Conservationist



Oat Cover Crops.



Cover crops are a great source of feed for livestock.