

SCS has new name

DES MOINES, Iowa — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service has had a name change to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The new agency was authorized as part of USDA's reorganization in October by Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy.

"Our new name more accurately reflects what we do," said Leroy Brown, Iowa's State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. "Our responsibilities go farther than soil conservation. They have for some time."

While the agency has focused on soil conservation for the past 60 years, it has also been the key federal agency to offer technical help on private lands for improvements to water, wildlife habitat, woodlands, grasslands, and other resources connected to the land. More recently, the agency has worked with the nation's private landowners to increase acreage of grasslands, wetlands and woodlands through USDA programs.

"More than two-thirds of the land in this country is privately owned. Those private landowners are the key to our environmental well-being," Brown said. "We will continue to build on our 60 years of experience with a unique relationship between the federal government and those landowners, as well as the conservation partnership with local conservation districts," Brown added.

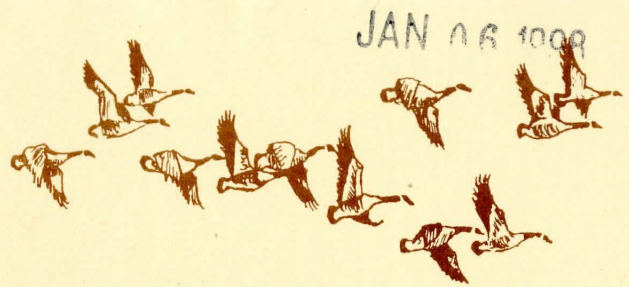
The new Natural Resources Conservation Service will continue to have responsibility for all the programs of the former Soil Conservation Service. In addition, several other programs have been transferred to it, including the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Water Bank Program, the Forestry Incentives Program, the Colorado River Salinity Control Program, and the Farms for the Future Program.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will increasingly look at all resources on private lands as its resource conservationists help private landowners on a voluntary basis. "What's done on our vast acreage of private lands encompasses so much more than the soil resource-- our water, our woodlands, our wildlife, our air and our quality of life should also be considered."

D.M. Reg 11/94

**LOUISA COUNTY
CONSERVATION BOARD**

BOX 261, 609 JAMES L. HODGES AVE.
WAPELLO, IOWA 52653
319-523-8381



January 6, 1998

To: Lee, Henry, Louisa and Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
From: Julie Ohde

Our local REAP assembly will be held March 19, 1998 in West Burlington. This meeting is an opportunity for local input into the REAP program and we want to offer participants as much information about REAP as possible.

This year the state is asking each regional assembly to provide a photo exhibit of local REAP projects. We are especially interested in projects paid for by the annual allocations to soil and water conservation districts and conservation boards. We would like to get pictures of as many different types of projects as possible -- waterways, tree plantings, native grassing plantings -- whatever you have spent your money on!

Photos must be submitted as color slides. Enlargements will be made and the slides returned to you after the regional assembly. Be sure to mark your slides and include a description of the project. Slides must be submitted to me **no later than February 1, 1998.**

If you have any questions, please give me a call. We would like to get at least one usable slide from each agency receiving REAP money in our region but feel free to submit more so we have a variety to choose from.

*Thanks,
Julie*

didn't find any



Thank You

2004
Soils Team

RECEIVED MAY 19 2005

Bred
Kers

Megan
Maret

Allen
Wonders

Kyle Conington

Dear LCSWCB,

Thank you very much for sponsoring
this years soil award. We put a lot
of hard work into getting the award,
and we would like to thank you for
sponsoring the soils award.

Thanks, The 2004 Soils team



2005 Awards

Bill Beik

Steve Martin

Kenny Hill

George Griffith

Roger Gipple

2005 Awards Presentation

*Conservation Farmer of the Year Award

Bill Beik- Bills farm is located about 2 miles SE of Grandview. Bill farms about 650 acres. He has 60 acres of permanent pasture and about 17 acres of Hay ground. Bill has a 35 head cow/calf operation. Bill practices no-till farming on all of his crops and has been doing so for a lot of years. Some of the conservation practices that he has installed include: Terraces, Grassed Waterways, a Farm Pond, Sediment Basins, a Wetland and Native Grass Plantings. Bill has received State cost share and CRP cost share to help him construct some of his terraces and Wetland project. Bill has received state cost share, and CRP cost share to help him install some of these practices.

***Windbreak/Shelterbelt of the Year Award**

Steve Martin- Steves farm is located 3 miles east of Columbus Jct. Steve planted his Shelterbelt in the spring of 1998. It consists of 8 rows of Red Cedar, Black Locust, Silver Maple, Honey Suckle, and Ninebark. The establishment years are critical to having a successful Shelterbelt. Steve has maintained his windbreak and that is why it looks the way it does today. Steves Shelterbelt attracts lots of wildlife. Some of the wildlife observed in or near Steves Shelterbelt include: Quail, Pheasants, Song Birds, and Rabbits. Steve received CRP cost share to help him establish his Shelterbelt.

*** Wetland Owner of the year Award**

Kenny Hill- Kenny's farm is located approx. 3 miles west of Conesville. Kenny restored a 10 acres wetland in the spring of 2003. He liked the first one so much that he decided to restore another wetland in the spring of 2004. He also planted a mixed stand of native grasses and wildflowers on the adjacent acres surrounding the wetlands acres. With the addition of the wetlands and the native grasses on his farm he seen an increase in the wildlife

***Woodland Owner of the Year**

George Griffith-Georges farm is located approx. 2 miles NE of Morning Sun. George has been working on his timber to improve the quality for quite a few years now. In 2002 George did a Timber Stand Improvement project on 54 acres, and a Tree Planting project on 11 acres. George has also done a small Riparian Forest Buffer on 8 acres. George has received REAP and CRP cost sharing to help him achieve some of his goals. He has worked closely with the District Forester to help plan these projects.

Wildlife Habitat owner of the year award

***Roger Gipple**- Rogers farm is located about 2 miles NE of Wyman. Roger has done a multitude of habitat projects over the years and some of them include: Filter Strips, Grassed Waterways, Farm Ponds, Contour Buffer Strips, Tall Grass and Prairie and Wildflower Plantings, Food Plots, Quail Strips, and a Wetland Restoration to name a few. Because of Rogers work, wildlife is abundant on his property. Roger has received cost share and technical assistance from the soil and water conservation district to help achieve his habitat goals.

Williams, Janet - Wapello, IA

From: Latisha Cunningham [latisha-cunningham@cdiowa.org]

Sent: Monday, August 22, 2005 12:54 PM

To: swcdsecretaries@cdiowa.org; Deb Ryun; Alan Lemker; Arlan Becker; Babetta Lucke; Barbara Johnson; Bernie Bolton; Butch & Patsy Neumeyer; Marshall, Carolyn - Algona, IA; Siefken, Colleen - Epworth, IA; Cheryl Archer; Darrell Stamp; Rohrbaugh, Deborah - Primghar, IA; Greg Wagner; Harvin Meyer; Jerry & Darla Fine; Jerry Crew; Lorna Troester; Monty Leu; Rachel Engwall; Rick Juchems; Ron Snyder; Tim Palmer; Wilbert Knobloch; William Shipley; Gillespie, Jim

Subject: 2005 Regional Poster Winners

Attached you will find the 2005 CDI Auxiliary Regional Poster winners. The winner of each division will receive a \$35 check (issued by co-sponsor Grinnell Mutual) late October.

Latisha Cunningham
Administrative Assistant
Conservation Districts of Iowa
641-774-4461

2005 CDI Auxiliary Poster Contest

Regional Winners

Region 1

Division I (K-1): Adri Tilstra, 135 5th St. S.W., Sioux Center, IA 51250

Kindergarten Sioux Center Community Age 7
Bill Tilstra & Dr. Shawn Scholten
Sioux County

Division II (2-3): Tara Tilstra, 135th 5th S.W., Sioux Center, IA 51250

2nd Grade Sioux Center Community Age 8
Bill Tilstra & Dr. Shawn Scholten
Sioux County

Division III (4-6): Erin Groeneweg, 2565 280th St., Rock Valley, IA 51247

6th Grade Rock Valley Christian School Age 12
Bob & Cherie Groeneweg
Sioux County

Division IV (7-9): Alex Warnke, 707 Main Street, Ida Grove, IA 51445

7th Grade BCIG Middle School, Battle Creek, IA Age 13
Bret & Lind Warnke
Ida County

Division V (10-12): Naomi DeBoer, 806 3rd Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250

11th Grade Unity Christian High School Age 17
Doug & Marge DeBoer
Sioux County

Region 2

Division I (K-1): Benjamin Olson, 62999 220th Ave., Pomeroy, IA 50575

1st Grade Pomeroy-Palmer Age 8
Jon & Rachel Olson
Calhoun County

Division II (2-3): Marquise Oleson, 1302 Fairview Ave., Spencer, IA 51301

3rd Grade Fairview Elem. Age 9
Jason & April Oleson
Clay County

Division III (4-6): Nichole Licht, 1838 130th St., Humboldt, IA

5th Grade Manson NW Webster School Age 11
Scott & Deb Licht
Webster County

Division IV (7-9): Scott Skophammer, 2924 19 Ave N, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
7th Grade Phillips Middle School Age 13
Tom & Karen Skophammer
Webster County

Division V (10-12): Jackie Hon, 3509 30th Ave., Fenton, IA 50539
12th Grade Armstrong-Ringsted Age 18
Susan & Duane Quinn
Emmet County

Region 3

Division I (K-1): Alex Hartwig, 707 North Main St., Kanawha, IA 50447
1st Grade West Hancock Kanawha Elem. Age 7
Randy & Sandy Hartwig
Hancock County

Division II (2-3): Tiffany Cassmann, 13146 Forest Ave., Bristow, IA 50611
3rd Grade Greene Community School Age 9
Dennis & Merlette Cassmann
Butler County

Division III (4-6): Haleigh Hempen, 10857 N Ave., Parkersburg, IA 50665
4th Grade Parkersburg, Elem. Age 10
Jill and Kurt Hempen
Butler County

Division IV (7-9): Janessa Reding, 2720 Oak Ave., Garner, IA 50438
7th Grade Garner-Hayfield Age 13
Paul & Darla Reding
Hancock County

Region 4

Division I (K-1): Russell Manternach, 25268 375th St., Edgewood, IA 52042
1st Grade Starmont Age 8
Tim & Gianna Manternach
Clayton County

Division II (2-3): Abe Miller, 2429 140th Ave., Manchester, IA 52057
3rd Grade Home Schooled Age 9
Kenneth & Dawn Miller
Delaware County

Division III (4-6): Alissa Fairbanks, 20386 90th Street, Anamosa, IA 52205
4th Grade Strawberry Hill Age 10
Terry & Jill Kennebeck
Jones County

Division IV (7-9): Emily Hogan, 2067 260th Ave., Earlville, IA 52041
7th Grade Beckman High School Age 13
Margaret Hogan & John Hogan
Delaware County

Division V (10-12): Danielle Michel, 30740 Woodlawn Dr., Bellevue, IA 52031
12th Grade Marquette Age 18
John & Denise Michel
Jackson County

Region 5

Division I (K-1): Beyley Brandt, 3180 HWY 141, Mauilla, IA 51454
1st Grade IKM –Irwin, IA Age 7
David & Dawn Brandt
Shelby County

Division II (2-3): Savanna Scheffler, 2212 9th St., Harlan, IA 51537
3rd Grade New Park Age 9
Michael Jenny Scheffler
Shelby County

Division III (4-6): Susan Herr, 1808 270th St., Fontanelle, IA 50846
6th Grade Nodaway Valley Middle School Age 12
Paul & Virginia Herr
Adair County

Division IV(7-9):

Division V: (10-12): Travis Agan, 1785 345th St., Vail, IA 51465
10th Grade AR-NE-VA Age 17
Tom & Sandi Agan
Crawford County

Region 6

Division I (K-1): Allyson VanderHart, 1510 W Roosevelt, Knoxville, IA 50138
1st Grade West Elementary Age 7
Doug & Patti VanderHart
Marion County

Division II (2-3): Jenny Petersen, 907 Quebec St., Knoxville, IA 50138
2nd Grader Mecher-Dallas Elementary Age 8
James & Julie Petersen
Marion County

Division III (4-6): Maria Finan, 1286 82nd Ave., Knoxville, IA 50138
5th Grader Northstar Elementary Age 11
Pat Finan & Laura Hollinrake
Marion County

Division IV (7-9): Holly Van Wyk, 909 HWY 14 N, Knoxville, IA 50138
7th Grade Knoxville Middle School Age 13
Mike Van Wyk
Marion County

Division V (10-12): Kelsey Rotenboom, 9519 E 120th St. S, Sully, IA 50251
10th Grade Lynnville-Sully Age 16
Galen & Peggy Rotenboom
Jasper County

Region 7

Division I (K-1): Sydney Stephens, 10802 218th Ave., Columbus Jct., IA 52738
Kindergarten Wapello Elementary Age 5
Lynn & Sheryle Stephens
Louisa County

Division II (2-3): Eric Sindelar, 5427 Skyline Dr. N.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
3rd Grade Truman Elementary Age 8
Kevin & Karen Sindelar
Linn County

Division III (4-6): Kacie Struve, 802 W 15th St., Vinton, IA 52349
4th Grade Lincoln Elementary Age 10
Jim & Jill Struve
Benton County

Division IV (7-9): Ashly Nesbit, 1369 N Isett, Moscow, IA 52760
8th Grade Wilton School Age 15
Rhonda Brown
Muscatine County

Division V (10-12): Derek Lamb, 15546 Co Rd . G44X, Letts, IA 52754
10th Grade L&M High School Age 16
Donald & Cindy Lamb
Louisa County

Region 8

Division I (K-1): Sierra Paul, 403 N. Conway Street, Bedford, IA 50833
1st Grade Bedford Community School Age 7
Chad & Nichol Paul
Taylor County

Division II (2-3): Leah Klejch, 1413 240th St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854
3rd Grade Mt Ayr Community Age 9
Gary & Linda Klejch
Ringgold County

Division III (4-6): Billy Dyke, P.O. Box 684, 1211 Illinois Street, Sidney, IA 51652
5th Grade Sidney Elementary Age 11
Dean & Susan Dyke
Fremont County

Division IV (7-9): Maggie Thelen, 1890 Jaguar Ave., Creston, IA 50801
8th Grade St. Malachy School Age 14
Sarah & Randy Thelen
Union County

Region 9

Division I (K-1): Ashley Moore, 13823 120th St., Keswick, IA 50136
1st Grade TriCounty Elementary Age 6
Laura Moore
Keokuk County

Division II (2-3): Jayla Kreiss, 322 N. Gertrude, Burlington, IA 52601
2nd Grade Notre Dame Elementary Age 8
Kent & Kerry Kreiss
Des Moines County

Division III (4-6): Kelli Sisco, 308 N Northfield St., Mediapolis, IA 52637
5th Grade Mediapolis Comm. School Age 12
Jeff & Lisa Sisco
Des Moines County

Division IV (7-9): Brenda Fritchen, 30377 225th Ave., Ollie, IA 52576
8th Grade Pekin School Age 14
Nathan & Sharon Fritchen
Keokuk County

Division V (10-12): Janette Kirk, 1620th South 15th, Burlington, IA 52601
10th Grade Notre Dame Age 16
Ann & Willis Kirk
Des Moines County



Sydney Stephens, left, Janet Williams, district secretary, and Drucilla Stephens, right, with Drucilla's second-place entry, after the award presentation from the Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District.

Conservation Poster winners announced

WAPELLO – The theme for Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation Districts' poster contest was "Celebrate Conservation."

Division I (grades K and 1) winners were Sydney Stephens who placed first with her poster

and her sister, Drucilla Stephens who placed second with her entry. The first-place entry was sent on to Region 7 competition.

The parents of the girls are Sheryle and Lynn Stephens of rural Columbus Junction.

County SWCD receives grant

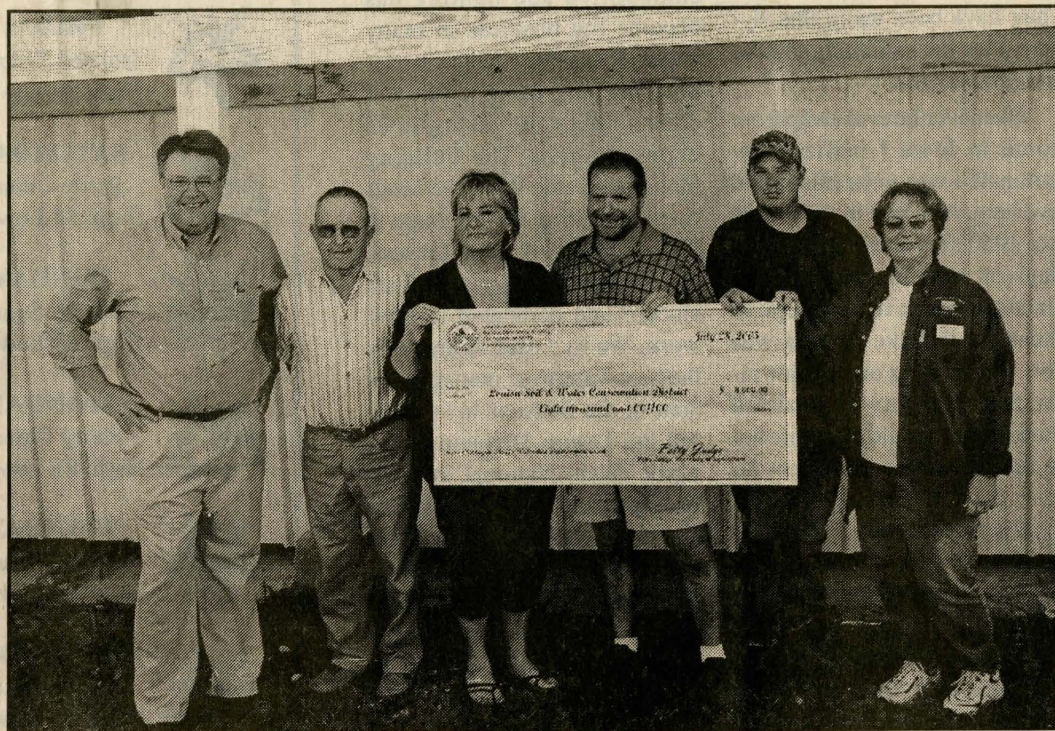


Photo submitted

Pictured Left to Right: Ken Tow, State Director for the Iowa Division of Soil Conservation, Commissioners: Lee Harris, Michelle Rees, Greg Wagner, Sam Willson, and Mary Boysen.

For crop years 2003, 2004

Sign up for crop losses ends Sept. 9

Wapello, Iowa, August 12, 2005 – Louisa County producers who suffered crop losses from damaging weather in 2003 or 2004 have until September 9, 2005, to sign up for benefits under the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Crop Disaster Program.

John Bartenhagen, Louisa Farm Service Agency County Executive Director stated, "We are pleased to be able to provide these benefits to producers as quickly as possible. Drought and floods are unpredictable weather events that put farmers at risk in producing a dependable and national food supply."

Enrollment for the program opened on March 14 of this year.

To date, FSA has paid over \$459,000 in disaster assistance to county farmers under this program. To meet deadline requirements, Bartenhagen said producers must submit a completed form CCC-750, Crop Disaster Program Application, and all supporting documentation before close of business on September 9, 2005.

Producers suffering greater than a 35-percent production loss are eligible. The payment rate for Crop Disaster Program (CDP) is 65 percent of the established commodity price for insured crops and noninsured crops, and 60 percent of the price for uninsured commodities. Producers may apply for CDP for

any crops that are eligible for coverage under the Federal Crop Insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance programs.

The Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently received an Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Development Grant to study some flooding concerns in Chinkapin Bluff Watershed located near Columbus Jct.

There has been flooding concerns to the Louisa County Fair Grounds for many years. This money will be used to study the problem at hand and come up with possible solutions that could be implemented to solve the problems.

The Louisa SWCD has been and will continue to work with the landowners in the watershed to develop conservation plans that will address the flooding concerns.

Chinkapin Bluff Watershed drains approximately 800 acres. Most of the watershed flows under R Ave. and directly outlets into the Iowa River.

This grant was one of eleven awarded to Soil and Water Conservation Districts State wide.

Anyone interested in being on the Chinkapin Bluff Watershed advisory committee please contact the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Office, 514 Isett, in Wapello or call 319-523-6411.



7/28/05 Louisa Co. Fair

From: DeLang, Drew - Wapello, IA
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2005 9:46 AM
To: 'Ken.tow@idals.state.ia.us'; 'Vince.Sitzmann@idals.state.ia.us'
Cc: Williams, Janet - Wapello, IA
Subject: Louisa County Awards



LouisaCounty.JP
 G (634 KB)

Ken/Vince

Just wanted to say thanks for taking the time to come down to the Louisa County Fair to present the Development Grant to the Louisa SWCD. Hope you liked the Red Hat Ladies.

Pictured Left to Right: Ken Tow, (Commissioners) Lee Harris, Michelle Rees, Greg Wagner, Sam Willson, Mary Boysen (Chair).

Thanks
 Drew DeLang, Janet William, & Commissioners

Louisa Development Group to raffle locally made rifle

Like most non-profit organizations Louisa Development Group hopes to increase their budget a little farther with the occasional fundraiser. When that fundraiser also promotes a local business the benefit is double. Such was the thinking that led the LDG board to organize a rifle raffle that is being kicked off this month.

When board members decided earlier this year to undertake a fundraiser they decided they wanted to feature a prize that would showcase local manufacturing talent. A rifle from Superior Arms quickly met with approval. Terry Williams of Superior Arms gladly agreed to design an AR rifle bearing a Louisa County logo and serial number of 2005/1 of 1. The logo is an adaptation of one created by Rich Herrick of Columbus Junction.

There are less than ten firearms manufacturers in Iowa and only one, Superior Arms in Wapello that makes

AR 15's. The company's website www.superiorarms.com details their history, product line and capabilities.

A customized AR made in Wapello is truly a unique raffle prize. "It's a well-made and unique rifle." commented LDG president Gary Todd, "A real collector's item."

Raffle tickets for the rifle raffle went on sale last week for \$2 each or three for \$5. They are available at the LDG office in Wapello and from any board member. Proceeds from the raffle will go to LDG programming including educational events, marketing and membership services. Over one hundred tickets have already been sold.

To find out more about the raffle or to purchase please contact the Louisa Development Group office at 319-527-5182 or loudevgr@louisacomm.net. The raffle winner must be qualified to possess firearms.

Louisa County Hosts a Conservation Tour Geared Towards Hispanic Landowners

Submitted by Christine Lousias and Robert Mier

Louisa County has one of the highest populations of Hispanics in the State of Iowa. At the same time, Louisa County, as most other counties in Iowa, has less than a handful of Hispanic co-operators who utilize programs that the NRCS has to offer. Of the counties with major Hispanic populations, Louisa has many that have acquired small parcels of land, thus there is a greater potential participation for cost-share programs and technical assistance from NRCS and the Louisa County SWCD. In an effort to expose this group to NRCS programs, Louisa County hosted a conservation tour targeting the Hispanic population.

On May 14, 2005, 25 people gathered at the tour bus to participate in the conservation tour. The first stop took the group to a restored wetland site. The site was created using funds from the Conservation Reserve Program. Frogs and shorebirds greeted the busload as we visited their home. One family had brought two boys with them on the tour. They promptly took off to try to capture frogs. In addition to the wetland, an example of a native grass filter strip was on site.



Group looks at wetland while boys go frogging!

From the wetland, the group headed to an EQIP project with a grade stabilization structure, terraces and a tree planting. As we passed grassed waterways and some of the different tillage systems, the DC pointed out and explained the benefit of each tillage system and how they conserve soil. After a quick look at a farmstead shelterbelt, the group headed to the rendezvous site for a catered lunch by a local Mexican restaurateur.



Gathered around a grade stabilization structure.

The goal of the tour was to familiarize an underserved group of people within our Louisa County, with NRCS programs. Contacts were made and the first domino has been tipped. Participation of Hispanics on the tour was below what we had hoped for, and new strategies for reaching-out and communication are needed in the future. With some follow up by the field office, we feel confident that we have exposed ourselves to be available to a greater number of landowners in Louisa County.



Feasting after touring with fine Mexican Cuisine.

The tour was possible with sponsors from: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District, Louisa Development Group, Geode Resource Conservation & Development, The New Iowan Center, Tyson Foods, and Louisa County Conservation Board.

Soil, water commissioners present awards

COLUMBUS JUNCTION – The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District presented awards during the Louisa County Fair as follows:

Conservation

Farmer of the Year

Bill Beik – Bill's farm is located about 2 miles southeast of Grandview. Bill farms about 650 acres. He has 60 acres of permanent pasture and about 17 acres of Hay ground. Bill has a 35 head cow/calf operation. Bill practices no-till farming on all of his crops and has been doing so for a lot of years. Some of the conservation practices that he has installed include: Terraces, Grassed Waterways, a Farm Pond, Sediment Basins, a Wetland and Native Grass Plantings. Bill has received State cost share and CRP cost share to help him construct some of his terraces and Wetland project. Bill has received state cost share, and CRP cost share to help him install some of these practices.

Windbreak/ Shelterbelt of the Year

Steve Martin – Steve's farm is located 3 miles east of Columbus Junction. Steve planted his Shelterbelt in the spring of 1998. It consists of eight rows of Red Cedar, Black Locust, Silver Maple, Honey Suckle, and Ninebark. The establishment years are critical to having a successful Shelterbelt. Steve has maintained his windbreak and that is why it looks the way it does today. Steve's Shelterbelt attracts lots of wildlife. Some



From left: Kenny Hill, Bill Beik, George Griffith and Steve Martin.

of the wildlife observed in or near Steve's Shelterbelt include: Quail, Pheasants, Song Birds, and Rabbits. Steve received CRP cost share to help him establish his Shelterbelt.

Wetland Owner of the Year

Kenny Hill- Kenny's farm is located about 3 miles west of Conesville. Kenny restored a 10-acre wetland in the spring of 2003. He liked the first one so much that he decided to restore another wetland in the spring of 2004. He also planted a mixed stand of native grasses and wildflowers on the adjacent acres surrounding the wetlands. With the addition of the wetlands and the native grasses on his farm he has seen an increase in the

wildlife populations on his farms.

Woodland Owner of the Year

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Wildlife Habitat Owner of the Year

Roger Gipple – Roger's farm is located about 2 miles northeast of Wyman. Roger has done a multitude of habitat projects over the years and some of them include: Filter Strips, Grassed Waterways, Farm Ponds, Contour Buffer Strips, Tall Grass and Prairie and Wildflower Plantings, Food Plots, Quail Strips, and a Wetland Restoration to name a few. Because of Roger's work, wildlife is abundant on his property. Roger has received cost share and technical assistance from the soil and water conservation district to help achieve his habitat goals.





Staff

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2005 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST



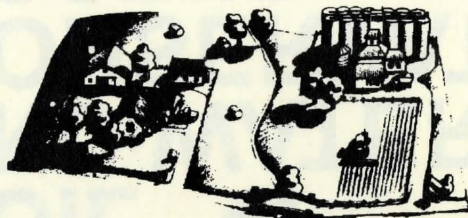
Open to all Iowa School Students
in Grades K through 12

\$1,825 in Prizes

Sponsored by the
Auxiliary of the
Conservation Districts
of Iowa
and
Grinnell Mutual
Reinsurance Company

Topic

"Celebrate Conservation"



How To Enter

Contact your local soil and water conservation district for entry information and contest deadline.

Contest Awards

PRIZES FOR REGIONAL WINNERS –

Division 1 – \$35
Division 2 – \$35
Division 3 – \$35
Division 4 – \$35
Division 5 – \$35

PRIZES FOR STATE WINNERS –

Each Division –
\$50, First Place

Prizes provided by **GRINNELL MUTUAL**
REINSURANCE COMPANY

Poster Contest Rules

1. This contest is open to all students who are residents of the state of Iowa.

Division 1 – grades K and 1
Division 2 – grades 2 and 3
Division 3 – grades 4 through 6
Division 4 – grades 7 through 9
Division 5 – grades 10 through 12
2. The poster should be 8.5" x 11" up to 22" x 28".
3. Each poster will be created and constructed by the competing student.
4. Each poster must have a completed entry form attached to the back of the poster.
5. Posters should remain flat when submitted for judging.
6. The posters will be judged on entry's conservation message, visual effectiveness, universal appeal and originality.
7. The state winning posters will be displayed during the 2005 Annual Conference for Conservation Districts of Iowa.
8. The five state winning posters will be submitted to the national competition with those awards to be presented at a convention of the National Association of Conservation Districts in 2006.

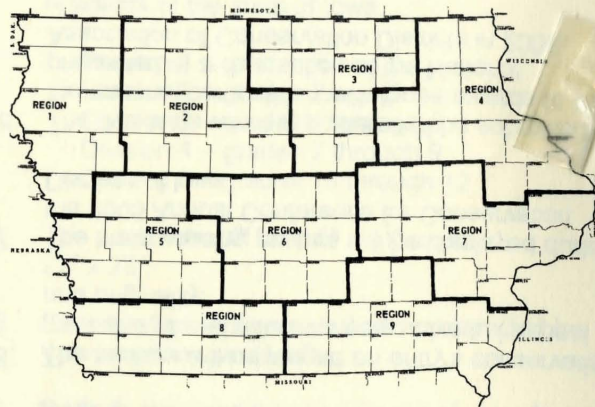
DEADLINE: March 25, 2005 – Local entries sent to soil and water conservation district offices.



Conservation Districts of Iowa

*Regions –
Soil and Water Conservation
Poster Contest*

GMRC 2063 11-04



THANK
YOU



Central
Lee HS,

RECEIVED OCT 05 2005

Louisa County NCRS Staff

*With special thanks
and appreciation
for being
so thoughtful.*

Central Lee
High School

RECEIVED 2005

RECEIVED MAR 22 2005

Dear Mr. ~~Mr.~~ DeLong,

Thank you for participating in the Junior Achievement Job Shadow Day. The most important thing I learned was to work hard at what ever you do. While I was at NRCS, the most enjoyable part was the geese ducks. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chae Moore
Brandt Ewert

THANK
YOU



RECEIVED OCT 05 2005

Louisa Soil and Water Conservation
District

*With special thanks
and appreciation
for being
so thoughtful.*

Central Lee High School

*With
Heartfelt
Thanks*

Janet, Drew, Kris, Norm, Duane, You Goils and
John at FSA and OF course the Commissioning
(where!).

RECEIVED NOV 22 2005

All is well w/ me. I am busy doing
Recons, soon to be busy with CSP.
My house is sound and pleasant and
thankfully WARM! Drew & Kris you will
be happy to know I am laying low and
I kind of like the view from this
angle! Norm & miss you! If I actually
want a cup of coffee, I have to bring
my own. Good time to go on the wagon

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.

Philippians 1:3

I guess! Anyway, I just want to
thank you all for the party, gifts and
just plain old Friendship with an almost
feeling of family. I thank the Lord
He brought you all into my life. I am

Your thoughtfulness made a real difference
and was a true blessing from God.

Thank you so very much!
fuller for it.

All my love

Christine

11/2005

Thank You



RECEIVED MAR 14 2005

APR 05
#2 Cor.

Re: Remaining TSI of 68.7 acres
of 121 acres.

Conservation Board, I thank
you for seeing us through the
TSI. Nick Beelman has completed
our contract and submitted it.
I hope that you have a chance to
glance over his report (copy sent to
Stan). It is so complete that we
are duly impressed with his caring
and focus on doing the best for
the trees and land. We would
endorse him if anyone needs

the same. He has offered
to walk the area with us
showing the stands of red oak,
walnut and ash and their relation-
ship to the land. If anyone on the
Committee is interested in

Illustration by

Liz Schreiner

walking with us let us know.
Imagine this is one of the larger
and earlier ones in trees. Thanks
for your assistance and
involvement. Connie Lewis



RECYCLABLE



MADE IN USA
© 1999 PVA 125TK99006AU

Thank-yous

2005?

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,

Or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,

If so we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,

As any friend could say;

Perhaps you were not there at all,

Just thought of us that day,

Whatever you did to console our hearts,

We thank you so much whatever the part.

The family of

James Dixon

Thank-yous

Drew, Janet, Norm, & Chris

Thank you for your
kindness and support during
this difficult time.

Your card meant alot
during this period.

Thank you



Louisa County Pheasants Forever

Photo by R.W. Peterson



RECEIVED FEB 22 2005

#12
Cor
March
10th

Thank You

**for your generous
contribution to
Louisa County
Pheasants Forever.
This will help Pheasants
Forever promote
wildlife habitat in
Louisa County.**



Thank you for the
lovely vase of pink
and yellow flowers.
It was so thoughtful
of the commissioners
and staff. Thank you
again.

May

RECEIVED JAN 08 2004

For all the kindness you have shown,
We thank you very much,
For sympathy in sorrowing days,
For friendship's healing touch
With gratitude our hearts are full,
Though words cannot convey
The tender thoughts and thankfulness
We hold for you today

By the family of
Marcella Erwin



Shane Mairet
21892 - 87th St.
Columbus Junction, IA 52738



Thank You

RECEIVED JUL 19 2005

Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation,

Thank You for choosing me as Your 2005
Scholarship recipient. Your generosity in
providing this scholarship will help me to obtain
my educational goals.

Thanks Again,
Shane
Mait



RECEIVED JUL 28 2005

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
152 MAINTENANCE COMPANY
APO AE 09344

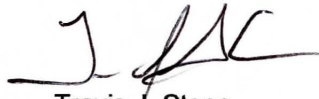
WQCRAA

18 July 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICES, 519 ISETT AVE,
WAPELLO, IOWA 52653

SUBJECT: THANK YOU

1. Our unit received the care package you sent with all the nice things in it. The variety of things included in your gift, helped many soldiers fulfill some of their daily necessities.
2. The team is doing a great job, even though our mission is not typical of a maintenance company. Currently, the majority of us are tasked with protecting coalition forces around Baghdad, Iraq. We have approximately seventy soldiers from Iowa in the 152nd Maintenance Company, who are detached from the 3655 Maintenance Company from Eagle Grove and Camp Dodge, Iowa. The 152nd Maintenance Company is made up of soldiers from Iowa, Washington, and Maine. The care package you sent was shared equally with the soldiers in our unit.
3. On behalf of the soldiers of our unit, I would like to thank you for your help and support during this difficult time. We have seen a lot of progress since we arrived in April, and hope to see further progress as time moves forward. While our military is fighting our enemy abroad to protect the homeland, your consistent and continued support plays a key part in helping to defeat these enemies of freedom to bring peace and justice to our world.
4. Thank you again for your help and support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Travis.Stone@US.ARMY.MIL or 011-964-790-241-8766.


Travis J. Stone
1LT, OD



*Thank
You*



*Thank
You*

Janet, Norm, Kris + Duane

Thanks for your support through
this tough time. Thanks for
the Isable Bloom Sculpture. The
Lab sculpture was just what I
needed to cheer me up.

Thanks

Drew + Becky
DeLong

11/2005

Commissioners

Thanks for the Isable Bloom
Lab Sculpture. It was just
what I needed to cheer me
up through this tough time. Thanks
for your support.

Drew + Becky
DeLong

11/2005

2006 Awards for Conservation
presented by Drew DeLang, D.C. at Louisa Co. Fair



Conservation Board elects 2006 officers

WAPELLO – The Louisa County Conservation Board organized for 2006 at its January meeting with new officers.

Gene Murray was elected chairman, Jay Schweitzer as vice-chair and Doug Brown as secretary/treasurer.

Pay rates for seasonal employees for spring-summer 2006 were approved – conservation aide at \$7-\$8.50 per hour, seasonal park ranger at \$10 per hour and intern naturalist at \$8 an hour.

Julie Ohde, conservation board director, reported that the date for the Chinkapin Bluffs Xtreme Makeover has been set for April 22. She said a meeting with community leaders will be held Wednesday, Jan. 25, in Columbus Junction to identify project leaders.

Ohde also told the board about plans to offer a free camping weekend in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' annual event. Ohde is also looking into offering camping coupon booklets for sale.

Regular meeting dates were set for 5:30 p.m. Feb. 1, March 1, and April 5.

1/19/06
Wap. Rep



Tessa Pugh, left, representing Louisa County Extension, receives a grant from Louisa County Community Foundation Vice-President Jim Everett.



Pete Hall, left, and Rondalyn Weyrick accept a grant for the Wapello Park Board from Louisa County Community Foundation Vice-President Jim Everett.

Grants total over \$47,000 *Wapello Republican Jan. 26, 06* Community Foundation of Louisa County holds awards presentation

WAPELLO – The Community Foundation of Louisa County awarded 22 grants totaling \$47,698 at its first Grant Awards Presentation Monday, Jan. 23, at the Louisa County Heritage Center.

Grant recipients included (the recipient is listed first, followed by the intended use of the grant and the grant amount):

Civic Society of Columbus Junction, outreach programs, \$3,000.

Columbus Community Civic Center Foundation, new com-

puters, \$3,000.

Columbus Community Schools, nursing course, \$1,000.

Columbus Junction Hispanic Cultural Festival, festival improvements and marketing, \$1,000.

Columbus Junction Swinging Bridge, landscape and tile, \$2,600.

Community Foundation of Louisa County, operational support, \$3,000.

Keck Library, new computers, \$3,000.

Louisa County Conservation Board, playground at Chinkapin

Bluffs, \$3,000.

Louisa County Extension, GPS units for Ready to Navigate, \$2500.

Louisa County Extension, Intercambio – a language learning project, \$1,000.

Louisa County Extension, fourth- and fifth-grade garden project, \$500.

Louisa County Fair Board, horse arena project, \$1,300.

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity, house, \$3,000.

Louisa County Soil and Water, buffer education, \$1,100.

Louisa Development Group,

tourism advertising, \$3,000.

Morning Sun Betterment, Rural Free Delivery Museum outdoor improvements, \$2,600.

Wapello Ambulance, meeting room/office, \$3,000.

Wapello Elementary, book shelves, \$2,000.

Wapello Elementary and Pre-School, playground equipment, \$2,000.

Wapello Fire and Rescue, unit replacement, \$2,000.

Wapello High School, art display case, \$1,098.

Wapello Park Board, playground equipment, \$3,000.

Community Foundation to award first grants

WAPELLO – The Community Foundation of Louisa County will hold its first grant awards presentation at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello.

The event is free and open to the public. A breakfast will be served followed by the presentation of checks to grant awards winners. Reservations are requested by Thursday, Jan. 19, and can be made by contacting the Foundation office at 319-527-5182 or by e-mailing cflc@louisacomm.net.

The Community Foundation of Louisa County was formed in 2005 to serve philanthropic needs in Louisa County. Activities include individualized service to donors; general endowment building; granting to local non-profit organization and serving as a resource to those organizations in terms of research, organizational development and marketing.

Community foundations are attractive to donors who want to leave a lasting legacy in their own communities by contributing to either specific or broad interests, while receiving maximum tax advantages.

The 2005 session of the Iowa legislature enacted a law that authorizes that one half of one percent of state gambling proceeds be distributed to community foundations in counties without gambling facilities. CFLC applied for and was approved to receive funds for Louisa County. The 2005 award to counties was \$63,601. The legislation specifies that twenty-five percent be placed in an endowment fund and the remainder be distributed to projects throughout the county. The funds can only be distributed to organizations with 501(c)3 IRS status and government bodies. A total of \$47,698 will be awarded on Monday to twenty-two organizations.

1/19/06 Wap. Rep.
Louisa Co SWCD received \$1100.00
Grant

Geode tackles a host of local projects

Agency governed by five southeast Iowa counties

By **BOB HANSEN**
for *The Hawk Eye*

If you wish to develop a small-town medical clinic, build a system of nature trails or promote the growth of shiitake mushrooms, the place to look for assistance may be Geode Resource Conservation and Development.

This partnership between five southeast Iowa counties and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently moved into new offices on Burlington's North Third Street but it has been serving this area in a variety of ways for 30 years.

"Geode Resources is perhaps

one of the best kept secrets in the area, but we have a proven track record of success and we take on a really impressive range of projects and we think of ourselves as a quality of life organization," said Christa Perkins, Geode's project coordinator. "We are doing great things for the counties in southeast Iowa."

Geode provides an array of services to local organizations that includes project facilitation, grant writing, financial packaging and fiscal agent services. The governing board of the organization is made up of one county supervisor and one representative from the elected county Soil and Water Conservation District from Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa and Washington counties, as well as one at-large member

Geode RC&D

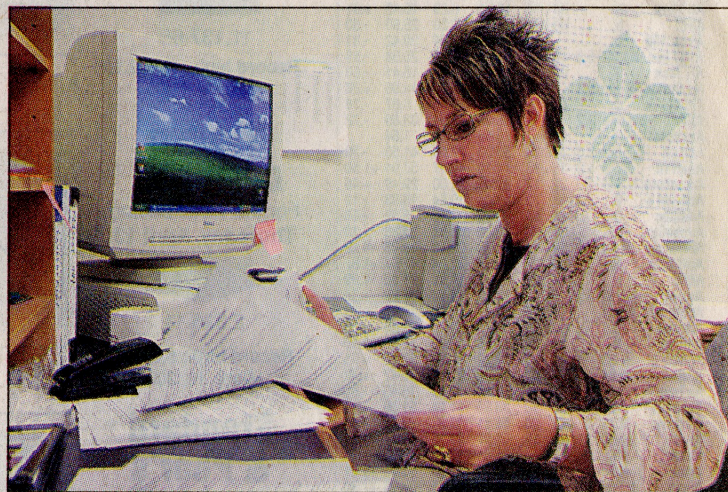
- **Address:** 308 N. Third St.
- **Project coordinator:** Christa Perkins
- **Telephone:** (319) 752-6395
- **Fax:** (319) 752-0106

from each.

Perkins is an employee of the USDA and that federal agency provides funding for the local office.

"The projects that come to us come through our board," Perkins said. "They are the decision makers and determine the organization's objectives. This office is the facilitator. A lot of our

See Geode page 4D



John Lovretta/The Hawk Eye

Christa Perkins of Geode RC&D works on a grant proposal last week at the agency's new North Third Street offices.

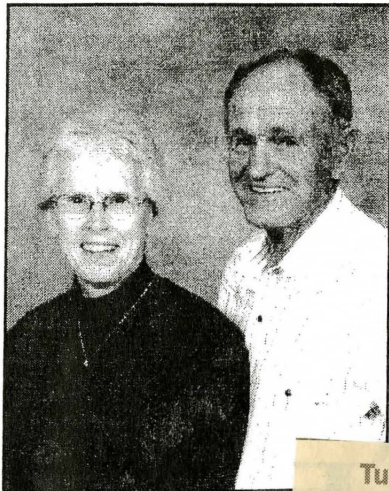
Hunters to celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Harold and Juanita Hunter of Columbus Junction are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary, August 19th at the American Legion in Lone Tree.

A dinner will be served from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. with a dance to follow.

The Hunters are the parents of Kevin and Peg Hunter, Karen and John Heiden, Connie and Jeff Howell and Colleen and Brian Bean. They also have eight grandchildren.

All friends and family are invited.
No gifts please.



Tue

Long Creek Watershed update

3/30/06

The first part of this study has been focusing on establishing base line water quality data. This data eventually will become our measuring stick, so in the future we can measure our progress. So far, all the water sampling has been taken at low flow, non-run off affected conditions due to the mild winter we have had. Sampling under these conditions can yield extremely low nutrient levels, creating low reference stream values. To be consistent with other stream data, sampling should reflect a variety of stream flows, both run-off and non-run-off conditions. Hopefully, when the April rains come the stream should allow us a chance to test in run-off conditions with high flow.

The Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) is developing water quality criteria, which should be completed in the near future. Iowa will then be required to adopt EPA criteria. Right now there are no national standards on monitoring water quality, so test results in the Long Creek Watershed are only guidelines established by EPA. At this time the stream does not appear to be exceeding any high limits of pesticides, nutrients or other conditions. However during this low flow condition, where nutrients are going to test low, the nitrate levels are testing a little bit high and bacteria is present. With additional nitrogen fertilizers being applied to farm ground this spring; nitrate levels could increase, especially during

a run-off condition. A good nutrient management plan is critical to help control nitrates and phosphates, but may not be enough to meet EPA standards in the future. Additional conservation practices such as no-till farming, building terraces, installing sediment basins, adding buffer zones or filter strips may be needed to help soil erosion and filter water.

The next important phase of the project will be individual contacts with landowners and operators in the watershed, along with continuous water monitoring during the months of April and May. These contacts will allow concerned individuals to comment on water quality issues and see if anyone has conservation proposals for their

land that will help curb erosion and protect the watershed from pesticide and nutrient run-off.

Right now the project is on schedule for final documentation back to the state in June of this year. The watershed coordinator Ed Allworth feels this project could bring an opportunity for Louisa County landowners to receive incentives to be environmentally responsible and at the same time protect our natural resources. The watershed committee will have another informational meeting later in April. Anyone interested in water quality is encouraged to come and share his or her thoughts and ideas. Also, you are welcome to stop by the Natural Resources Conservation Office in Wapello.

1/9/06

Pheasants Forever set annual banquet

COLUMBUS JUNCTION – The Louisa County Chapter of Pheasants Forever will hold its annual banquet Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds (next to Thirsty Camel) three miles north of Columbus Junction on Iowa Highway 70. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. for viewing of merchandise, silent auction and raffles.

The meal featuring grilled pork loins donated and cooked by Tyson will be served at 6:15 p.m. Banquet ticket and membership is \$40. Spouse and children age 15 or younger are \$10. Meal tickets for members from other chapters are \$10. The proceeds will be used on pheasant and wildlife habitat in Louisa County.

There will be many general raffle items. Other events include a live auction, silent auction, raffles and games.

Prizes include: two 15-ton loads of road stone donated by River Products delivered free, several sponsor guns, Superior Arms AR (.223 Sport Rifle), pellet gun for kid's raffle, chain saw, DVD-TV combo, 20 ga. Wingmaster, 204 Cal. Varmint Rifle, Browning BPS. There will be a 7-week old pheasant hunting pup donated by Al Muhlenbruck's Eagle's Roost Labradors with pointing lab blood lines. There are several handcrafted wood items including a cedar-lined walnut chest.

Obtain advance tickets and information at Louisa Vet Clinic (319-728-2712) or President Dick Grimm (319-726-3011).

This handcrafted cedar-lined walnut chest, donated to Louisa County Pheasants Forever by Mark Shear, will be available at the Feb. 4 Pheasants Forever banquet.

Louisa County

Pheasants Forever Annual Banquet

Saturday, February 4

Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds

(3 miles north of Columbus Jct. on Hwy 70).

Doors open at 4:30. Meal begins at 6:15

Banquet Tickets & membership \$40

Spouses and kids 15 or under are \$10.

\$10 for meal if you are a member elsewhere.



Food • Fun

• Live Auction • Silent Auction

• Raffles • Games

*District
Sponsor*

1/19/06 Wap. Rep



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** THE 48TH IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARED IT TO BE THE POLICY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO INTEGRATE THE CONSERVATION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES INTO THE PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TO INSURE THE LONG-TERM PROTECTION OF THE SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF IOWA; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE LEGISLATURE FURTHER DECLARED ITS POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF FARM MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE CAPABILITY OF THE LAND TO SUSTAIN AGRICULTURE, AND THEREBY TO PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES, CONTROL FLOODS, PREVENT IMPAIRMENT OF DAMS AND RESERVOIRS, ASSIST AND MAINTAIN THE NAVIGABILITY OF RIVERS AND HARBORS, PRESERVE WILDLIFE, PROTECT THE TAX BASE, PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND PUBLIC WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE; AND
- WHEREAS,** SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS WERE CREATED AS A GOVERNMENTAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE TO CARRY OUT THIS POLICY; AND
- WHEREAS,** DISTRICTS WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IOWA LANDUSERS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND
- WHEREAS,** IOWA'S 500 ELECTED SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND ITS CONSERVATION PARTNERS WILL GATHER FOR THEIR 60TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 15 AND 16; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM NOVEMBER 12-18, 2006, AS:

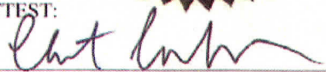
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION WEEK

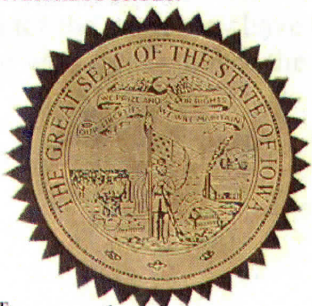
IN IOWA, AND TO BE CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT OUR GREAT STATE AS AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER TIME, TALENT, AND LEADERSHIP TO PROTECTING OUR SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES.

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 28th DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND SIX.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE



Draft Article for SWCDs to Adapt and Publish

Governor Recognizes Soil & Water Conservationists

Governor Tom Vilsack has proclaimed November 12-18 as “Soil and Water Conservation Week” in Iowa to be celebrated throughout the state as an expression of gratitude to those who volunteer time, talent and leadership to protecting our soil and water resources. For more than 60 years, Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been working with private landusers to implement conservation measures on working lands in Iowa enhancing our natural resources.

Iowa’s 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts(SWCDs), the Division of Soil Conservation in the Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service share offices in every county of the state. SWCDs offer technical assistance and cost-share incentives for private landusers to take advantage of programs to save and build productive soils, provide clean water in streams and lakes, enhance both plant and animal wildlife, and install practices for good air quality. Urban residents are joining the effort with rain gardens, storm water control, and soil conservation methods in new housing construction. Benefits enhance the quality of life for all Iowans with cleaner water and flood protection as just two examples.

As we look to the future, there continues to be more demand put on Iowa’s working lands for more food and fiber for both human and animal needs. Renewable fuel sources are fast becoming another factor. All of these demands on our natural resources require additional practices to protect our air, water, and land. It is extremely important that we maintain the established local, state and federal partnership in Iowa. Iowa citizens, rural and urban, need to continue to work together to protect and maintain the state’s soil and water resources.

Iowa is a beautiful, green state with a diverse landscape. Soil and water conservation practices that protect the landscape contribute to our quality of life. Please join the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District in celebrating “Soil and Water Conservation Week” in Iowa in thanking our public and private conservationists for the work they have done to preserve and build our state’s natural resources. Stand with us as we face the challenges of the future.

1/9/06 Wap. Rep. D.C. to attend

Rural Development seminar slated

Columbus Junction – Louisa Development Group (LDG) will hold a “Louisa County Rural Development Seminar” from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at the Civic Center, 232 Second St., Columbus Junction.

The seminar is directed to USDA-NRCS personnel and others interested in what’s new in terms of agriculture, business development, and natural resources in Louisa County.

The Session will begin with a welcome to the newly completed Columbus Junction Civic Center by Columbus Junction Mayor Dan Wilson.

Seminar topics that will be covered include Asoyia, Hispanic Leadership in Agriculture,

Scenic Byways and Langwood Master Plan, Columbus Junction Farmers Market, and the SEI Buy Fresh Buy Local program.

Featured speakers include LDG representatives Vivan Jennings, Katie Lewis, Julie Ohde and Polly Prior.

A catered lunch will be served at noon by La Reyna, followed at 1 p.m. by a tour of the New Columbus Junction Civic Center/Library. Individuals wanting to attend must register by Tuesday, Jan. 24. There is a \$7 registration charge to cover the meal cost.

To register for the Seminar or to request further information call Mallory Smith at 319-527-5182 or email her at loudevgr@louisacomm.net.

E. Stone
411 S. Main
Wapello, Ia 52653

QUAD CITIES IL P&DF
IL 612 1 L
05 SEP 2006 PM



Hawkeye County Soil Conservation
514 Isell

Wapello

#11 ^{out} ^{you} ~~Agenda~~

2006

RECEIVED SEP 06 2006



A Special Note—

to District Commissioners

*Thank you again for your
part in the Regional award
Ceremony. It was nice to be
honored. I appreciate it
very much. Thanks to the
women who made desserts. I
heard a lot of men commenting
on that too. Thank you, Drew,
for your part too.*

*Sincerely
Eleanor Stone*



Eleanor Stone

Stone to observe 80th birthday

Eleanor Stone of Wapello will celebrate her 80th birthday on Sept. 11. Her family is hosting an open house in her honor from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18, at the Oakville Community Building.

Her sons, Fred, Greg (Linda) and Norman (Karren), all of Wapello, grandchildren Chris Moore of Freeport, Fla., Matt Stone of Iowa City, Shawn Duff of Atlantic, Travis Stone of West Des Moines, Lindsey Stone of Forest Lake Minn. and Seth Stone of Iowa City, and great-grandchildren, Anna and Gabe Moore and Madison Stone invite her friends to help celebrate her special birthday.

No gifts, please.

RECEIVED AUG 07 2006

on Sept
Agenda

Commissioner -

Thank you so much for
selecting me as "Farmer of
the year. That is a great honor
and I appreciate it very much.
The presentation was great and
the plaque is very nice,

Now I've received notice that I've
won the Regional Contest. That is
great, too. It pays to do Conservation
work. Thank you again.

I'll keep teaching water to
"walk" not "run".



Eleanor Stone



THANK YOU

Dear Mrs. Ohde,

I received your letter of congratulations and I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to you and the Conservation Districts members for selecting me as a Scholarship winner. The scholarship will help out a lot when I begin college this fall. I will make sure to send you a copy of my grades from the 1st semester, along with my social security number, & name & address of the college.

P.S.
Please
extend my
thanks to
the other
board members

Again many thanks
for selecting me as a scholarship winner
Sincerely
Eric Wilson

Soil & Water

RECEIVED OCT 30 2006

conservation Board -

Thank you for your
sponsorship of our
recent Women in Ag
night.

In the end 16 women
attended for at least
part of the presentations
including dinner &
the 10 minute massages
you provided.

Thank you - and
I hope we can partner
together again! Kathy Lang

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

RE: Oct 26, 2006
Women in Ag Mtg



THANKS
SO
MUCH!



Kris Hull



HAPPY GARDENING



Norm, Janet, Drew, and

Thank you for the well
wishes & gift card. Don't
worry about me going to the
Laea office! What happens in
Napello stays in Napello.
This again
Kris Hestfelt



Louisa County Pheasants Forever

photo by R.W. Peterson

Thank You

**for your generous contribution to
Louisa County Pheasants Forever.
This will help Pheasants Forever
promote wildlife habitat in Louisa
County.**



Thank You

Dear Deew,

Thank you for participating in the Junior Achievement Job Shadow Day. The most important thing I learned was what a ~~terrace~~ ^{amazed} was I was ~~amazed~~ at all the cool work you do. The most enjoyable thing was that we spent time and talked about the job that that you do. Thank you for your hospitality

Sincerely, ^{Dillon Poole}
Deew Johnson

Wapello farmer wins conservation award

Editor's note: The following is from an Iowa Farm Bureau Federation news release.

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — Eight Iowa farmers, including one from Wapello, are being honored this month for their environmental efforts to protect soil and water resources.

The farmers will receive regional soil conservation awards at district meetings of the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), beginning Aug. 21. This is the 31st year that the Farm Bureau is presenting the awards.

Eleanor Stone's 211-acre Wapello farm is this year's winner in region 7. Nearly all of her land utilizes contour planting with waterways; 50 acres are terraced and there are 21.6 acres of tree plantings, four water diversion structures and eight farm ponds. Conservation tillage is used to plant crops. She also has 57 acres of pasture and installed 28 acres of filter strips along streams.

Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation environmental policy adviser, said in a news release that the demand for funds to build terraces, waterways and more is nearly twice the amount

allocated by the state. "Farmers are working to protect water resources, often without state cost-share funds," he said.

Erosion has been reduced statewide to an average of 5.3 tons per acre per year, down from 8.3 tons per acre in 1992 and 10.2 tons per acre in 1982.

"But, there's still work to be done, and it's through the efforts of farmers, like this year's regional winners, that we'll continue to make progress," said Robinson.

The purpose of the award is to encourage better land use programs and environmental control on Iowa farms. The award is sponsored by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and Conservation Districts of Iowa.

The state-wide winner will be announced Thursday, Nov. 16, during the CDI annual meeting in Ames.

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation bills itself as a grass roots, statewide organization dedicated to enhancing the people, progress and pride of Iowa. More than 153,000 families in Iowa are Farm Bureau members.

Online

■ Iowa Farm Bureau

Federation: www.iowafarmbureau.com

Woman earns farmer of the year award

When it comes to conservation, she and her family leave no Stone unturned

Connie Street

of the Muscatine Journal

WAPELLO, Iowa — A project that began in 1946 has reaped a great deal of joy for Eleanor Stone, and an award to be proud of.

Stone has done her share of disking, planting, baling hay and conserving the land. And this year, Stone was named 2006 Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year by the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation Commission in recognition of her superior effort in helping to conserve America's natural resources in Louisa County. She received a plaque at the Louisa County Fair in July.

The Stone family has installed many conservation practices on the farm in the Fairport community south of Wapello. Some of these practices include eight farm ponds, 5,000 feet of terraces, 19 water and sediment control basins, 2.5 acres of grassed waterways, 25 acres of tree planting and 28 acres of filter strips. The farm also has 35 acres of permanent pasture. They rotate 12 acres of alfalfa and practice no-till farming on the remaining crop acres. Wildlife is abundant. About 130 acres of Stone's farm is crop land. They also raise a few cows.



CONNIE STREET/ MUSCATINE JOURNAL

Eleanor Stone of Wapello stands near one of eight ponds on her farm. The blue container behind her is a goose nest. Stone was named 2006 Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year by the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation Commission and was also selected for the Region 7 Iowa Soil Conservation Farmer Award. The pond is just one of the conservation practices used on the Stone farm.

"This farm is a true showplace," said Drew DeLang, district conservationist with the Louisa County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil and Water Conservation District.

Stone has seen many changes in farming and conservation practices in the last 60 years since she and her husband, Fred Stone, bought a 211-acre farm.

"There have been lots of changes through the years as you learn new concepts and try to do what's best," Stone said. "If you

have it, you've got to take care of it."

When Fred Stone died in 1973, his third son, Norm Stone, took over his farming duties.

"Everything is done with mom's knowledge and approval," he said.

According to Norm, who is a soil conservation technician for NRCS, the majority of the conservation practices on the farm were put in place before his dad's death, but several additions have been made since then. No-till farming began in the late

1970s and tree stands were planted in the 1980s, he said.

"We've tried different things through the years," Norm Stone said. "Many practices have changed dramatically. No-till farming is so much easier now that herbicides such as Roundup are available." In years gone by, Eleanor remembers having kids working in the fields pulling weeds by hand.

Erosion control methods, which Eleanor describes as like "teaching water to walk," have

■ Windbreak/Shelterbelt Owner of the Year – Harlan Hayes:

Hayes planted a windbreak on his farm west of Wapello in 1983. The windbreak consists of three rows of white pine, Norway spruce, and arborvitae. Hayes had to use drip irrigation to water the new trees the first summer. The windbreak provides excellent protection for his farmstead and to the cattle lots to the south of the farmstead. Today the windbreak stands 25 feet tall. Hayes frequently sees pheasants and quail in and around his windbreak.

■ Wildlife Habitat Owner of the Year – Wagner Farm Limited Partnership

Wagner Farm Limited Farm Partnership owns about 550 acres northwest of Columbus Junction. The Wagners have been managing for wildlife for the last 15 years. Habitat improvement projects include quail strips, contour buffers strips, riparian forest buffer strips, 19 shallow water wetlands, one pond, field windbreaks, timber stand improvement, tree plantings, and multiple food plots. Most of the habitat acres have been restored to native prairie species and the Wagner farms are abundant with wildlife.

■ Wetland Owner of the Year – Al Wiegand

In 2001, Wiegand enrolled 10 acres

also changed. First, terraces, then contour farming and more recently underground tiling direct water runoff to a proper destination.

Eleanor says she is grateful for the assistance, such as cost sharing, planning and technical assistance, that she has received from NRCS and other conservation agencies.

DeLang pointed out that the assistance Stone received is

Other winners of Louisa County Conservation awards

into the Conservation Reserve Program and constructed a shallow water wetland on his farm west of Wapello. He liked his first wetland so much he decided to enroll another 40 acres in 2002. These areas have all been seeded down to native grasses and wildflowers. In most springs, the highly visible wetlands are teeming with waterfowl, shore birds, pheasants, quail, and deer, to name a few. Newly hatched broods of ducks have been observed on Wiegand's wetlands most springs. Wiegand manages these areas with fire to stimulate the native grasses.

■ Woodland Owner of the Year – Tom Wahl and Kathy Dice

The Wahl-Dice farm southeast of Grandview, named Red Fern Farm, has 65 acres of woodland. The couple wrote their first woodland management plan in 1989 with the goal of improving wildlife habitat. They have done timber stand improvement on all woodland acres to remove honey locust and other undesirable trees. They have also planted 15 acres of chestnuts, pecans, hickory, paw paws, dogwoods, and pines. They continue to plant trees each year and have never harvested live timber on their property. They host field days to showcase woodland management practices.

available to any farmer.

Stone was also selected for the Region 7 Iowa Soil Conservation Farmer Award. There will be a presentation at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, at the Fall Region 7 Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners meeting at the Briggs Civic Center in Wapello.

Contact Connie Street at: 319-527-8164 or ckcasey@louisacomm.net



October



Women in
Ag Mgt
Sponsored
by
Extension &
District

Conservation Office now accepting applications for Environmental Quality Incentive Program

The Louisa County NRCS office is currently accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. This program is available to farmers, and offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

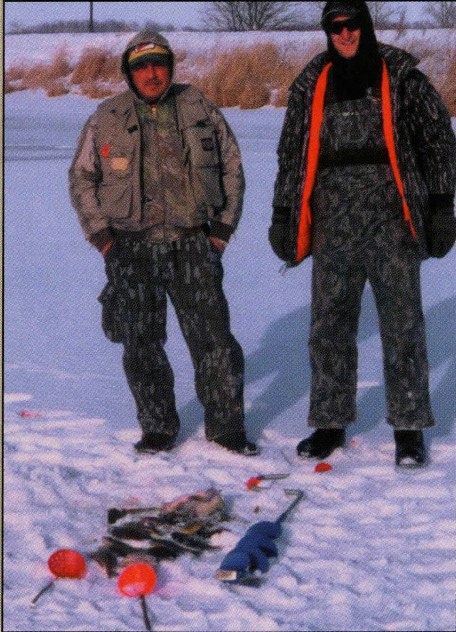
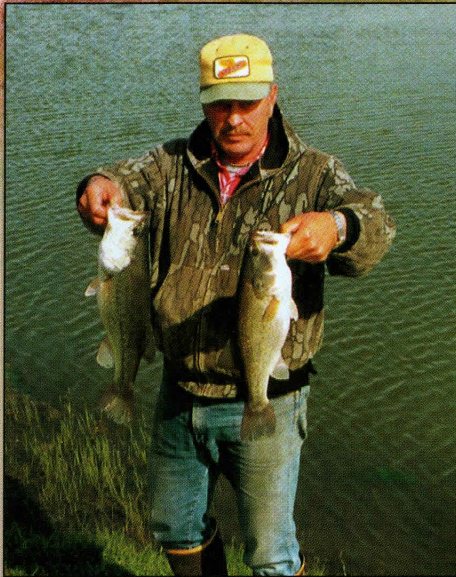
The EQIP application is based on assistance and decisions reached with producers during the conservation planning process. EQIP applications are prioritized for funding using national, state and local ranking factors as well as identified priority areas for

the county. Multiple structural and management practices may be eligible for cost-share assistance including; terraces, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, timber stand improvement, tree and shrub planting, pasture and hayland planting, and prescribed grazing systems to name a few. Landowners may be eligible for up to 50% cost share assistance.

If you are interested in applying for EQIP or would like further information please contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 514 Isett Street in Wapello or call (319) 523-6411. Additional information may also be viewed at www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov.

Creating A Farm Pond Shelter Belt Hunting For All The Right Reasons

Story & Photos by Richard W. Peterson



Top—The pond owner showing off a couple of largemouth bass, which were returned to the water to grow larger.

Bottom—Roger Gipple on the left, and a nephew, on the January ice during a fishing trip. They were taking advantage of a sunny day, and the shelter belt on the north side of the pond.

Farm ponds and fish seem like they simply just go together. In most cases, that's what building a pond is about. With years of fishing being the primary goal for many landowners, that certainly doesn't exclude other reasons to build a wet spot on your land. While planning to build a pond, it may be time for some potential pond owners to start "hunting" for reasons other than fish. For one thoughtful Midwest farmer with visions of fishing dancing through his goals, the areas surrounding his pond deserved careful attention. That's where "Hunting For All The Right Reasons," came into play in his planning stages.

Roger Gipple, an Iowa farmer, is an avid outdoorsman and hunter, and one of his favorites is ringneck pheasant. So, along with creating a good fish pond, Gipple wanted to create an active shelter belt and living watershed. While the ponds are designed to be nice fisheries, the emphasis expanded well above the water line. Gipple decided the areas around and above the dam should be thoughtfully designed as good habitat for pheasants, bobwhite quail, and for resting and bedding spots for whitetail deer. By combining the habitat idea with the right surroundings, he was not only able to create a wildlife friendly environment, he was also able to create a clear-water friendly pond with minimal siltation.

He tells the story. "My first pond, in 1989, was carved on the first farm that I actually owned." Although he farmed for years on a rental basis, the opportunity came to buy a nice, fertile piece of ground a couple of years earlier from his Dad. This historic tract of farmland was purchased in the year that the ground became a Century Farm. This piece of land had been in the Gipple family for 100 years. "I

always wanted a pond, and could get one-half cost-share for building it," he continued. "It was also a good location for a pond. I went to the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in the spring, and we pored over topo maps and aerial photos, then they drew up plans for a one acre pond. Within a few weeks the plan was approved, and a dozer was working, pushing dirt. This was a great year for building a pond, because we had eleven inches of rain in August, and it was filled before winter."

The immediate area around the north side of the pond basically grew up in foxtail and bluegrass, with a well planted watershed coming in through a mildly slope-sided and downhill draw 60 yards wide and 450 yards long, to the beginning of the pond. It was another 150 yards from this point to the dam. Places where water would have the fastest runoff were planted in oats for a cover crop to let other seeds get started. There was one terrace above the pond and one on the south side of the pond.

"After it was well established in 1992, I decided to put in some trees on the north side of the watershed and pond to create a windbreak for ice fishing in winter, good winter habitat for pheasants, and some nesting areas for spring and summer nesting," Roger explained.

Trees and shrubs he selected were mostly red and white pine and cedar for year round foliage, along with a few pinoaks and mountain ash. He also put in a smaller assortment of Nanking cherry, red-osier dogwood and juniper for berries to attract birds and provide feed in winter. The area planted with these trees and shrubs is a belt 10 to 15 yards wide from the north side of the dam, along the pond, and 500 yards to the west, ending about 150 yards from the westward beginning of watershed

vegetation.

"In the spring, I got about 1500 small seedlings from the state nursery and rounded up several family members on a weekend for a planting party. Those small seedlings were planted by making a slit in the ground with a spade, and gently dropping the plant in. At the time my thoughts were that it will be nice to see what it will look like in 10 to 20 years, and now that is coming true."

He did not need to water his seedling trees that particular summer since it was exceptionally wet, and a majority of the trees made it. "I actually planted the bare-root trees in rows, with each seedling about 5 to 6 feet apart, even though the recommended spaces were 10 to 15 feet. I figured many would not survive. Actually a lot did, and now I need to thin them because they are crowding each other in some places. I should have done the thinning after 4 or 5 years, but I just couldn't see cutting down those 4 and 5 foot trees." Since original trees were planted in rows among some bluegrass, he did mow between the rows the first 2 years, although he isn't sure at this time that it was needed.

"I will be cutting some of the most crowded spots, and use the limbs to make brush piles above the pond in the watershed for wildlife cover," he noted. "I will also put some of them on the ice this winter for fish habitat in this pond and in the two new ones I have put in during the last 6 years." He also plans to cut some volunteer trees such as the many mulberry trees that have sprung up, and add them to the brush piles. Gipple also feels that the next time he makes a mass tree planting he will plant them 10 to 15 feet apart as was recommended the first time, and then replace those that don't make it after the first couple of years.

Although there are some trees that need to come out due to over planting, this has proved to be an unplanned advantage for him since he has put in two more ponds. "I plan to bring in a tree spade to move some of the 10 to 15 foot tall trees to surround the new ponds." A little of this has already been done during the past summer.

As to size of trees to plant, Gipple has his theory for the original planting for fast growth and still have trees that will be around for awhile. "When I was planting the original trees in 1992, a local feed and grain dealer with an Agronomy degree from Iowa State University and experience with the U.S. Forest Service gave me some advice. He said that if you want a big tree fast, a small seedling will reach the same height in 15 years that a 4 or 5 foot transplanted tree will make. He explained the small seedlings only have to set up their



Top—Bobwhite quail taking advantage of a shelter tree, while weathering a snow storm during an Iowa winter. Bottom—Roger Gipple and family members planting the shelter belt trees in 1992, two years after the pond was completed.

root structure once, while larger transplants will have to kind of re-tool their root system, and this will take some extra time to get them growing in the new spot. Also, larger trees need regular watering during summer months."

Although Gipple did not water his original seedlings due to plentiful rain that summer, he did water some of the transplanted 5 or 6 foot trees during last summer's dry spells. "I have a 25 gallon spray tank on my ATV, and would fill it up and take a load out several evenings a week and water the transplants. I would not get them all each day, but they would all get some water each week. And, there were not near the numbers to water as in the initial seedling plantings."

As to achieving his goals of a fishing spot for both summer and winter with premier upland bird habitat, a trip to Roger Gipple's first pond in the spring and summer can produce plentiful bluegills, healthy channel cat, and nice-sized largemouth bass. And listening to the rooster pheasants crowing throughout the area and strutting their stuff on the dam, or hearing the whistle of the bobwhite quail is much more than "value-added." It helps prove his points of "Creating A Farm Pond Shelter Belt, and his "Hunting For All The Right Reasons."

Richard Peterson is a free-lance outdoor writer from Iowa.



Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007

Time to apply for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

WAPELLO – The Louisa County U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program of the that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. This program is available to farmers, and offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

The EQIP application is based on assistance and decisions reached with producers during the conservation planning process. EQIP applications are prioritized for funding using national, state and local ranking factors as well as identified priority areas for the county.

Multiple structural and management practices may be eligible for cost-share assistance including; terraces, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, timber stand improvement, tree and shrub planting, pasture and hayland planting, and prescribed grazing systems to name a few. Land-owners may be eligible for up to 50% cost share assistance.

To apply for EQIP or for further information contact NRCS at 514 Isett St. , Wapello or call (319) 523-6411.

Farmers urged to think about conservation this fall

10/3/07
Col. Gazette

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 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.



Is it Dirt or is it Soil?

By Bret Carlson

Columbus FFA Reporter

The Columbus FFA Chapter took part in the annual sub-district soils judging contest on September 26. The contest was held in a cornfield along Highway 61, 5 miles south of Wapello, Iowa.

The FFA members that took part in the activities included Javier Rendon, Elyssa McFarland, Alissa Conaway, Alex Edwards, Austie Hollenbeck, Jared Todd, Seth Todd, Ashley Davis, Rachel Pierce, Chelsey Smith, Ruger Dean, Zach Gerot, Brady Milder, and Bret Carlson.

The students left the Columbus High School at 8:30 and had their first practice pit at 9:30. (The practice pit gives them the chance to see how the pits that they are going to be judging were judged, so they had a better chance at getting more questions right.) Following the practice pit, they judged three pits.

After lunch was the soils test. Then to wrap up the day's activities, the soil scientists went over the correct answers for each pit and explained their reasons.

The FFA members had to judge the soil in the field by going into previously dug pits and looking at the soil's profile. The pits were about 4 feet deep and had flat sides; this way the soils' profiles were more easily identifiable. The purpose for soils judging is to make determinations on what the land is

capable of being used for and any limitations that there might be. In addition, students have to determine if there are agricultural practices that can be done to overcome these limitations and whether or not the soil could be used for houses with basements, septic tanks, or even as a source of topsoil.

"I had a good time at sub districts examining the soil and answering questions about it. I learned more about soil and found out that there's more to soil than just dirt. I enjoyed getting my hands dirty and getting involved. I had a great time and hope to do it next year!" stated Ashley Davis.

The four best scorers from sub-districts from Columbus move on to districts, held at Muscatine Community College. Elyssa McFarland finished 4th overall; Bret Carlson finished 10th overall. There were 128 participants and 32 teams. The team of Elyssa McFarland, Bret Carlson, Alex Edwards, and Alissa Conaway finished 3rd overall in team standings. The freshman girls' team finished 16th overall. The two other teams placed 21st and 25th. The District team composed of the best 4 finishers will be Elyssa McFarland, Bret Carlson, Seth Todd, and Alex Edwards. They will compete in district contest on Tuesday, October 2nd.

Janet Williams receives Conservation Award

Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Secretary, Janet Williams, recently received an award for her outstanding contribution to Soil and Water Conservation in Louisa County for 2007. The award was given by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Janet has been the District Secretary since 1987. Chances are if you have installed conservation practices on your farm since then she has helped process your cost share paperwork. Thanks Janet for all your hard work.

Pictured left to right: Paul Valin, Field Rep. for the division of Soil Conservation, Janet Williams, District Secretary, Drew DeLang, District Conservationist.





Kim + Sandra Hewitt 2007 Soil Cons. Farmer of the Year

Mary Boysen Chairperson Louisa SWCD presenting Soil Cons. Farmer
of the year award To Kim & Sandra Hewitt. Commissioner Lee
Harris Congratulated Them.

Spring tree sales begin in Wapello

WAPELLO, Iowa — The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering trees and shrubs for sale for planting this spring. Profits go for conservation education and promotion in Louisa County.

Bare root tree seedlings available include: shellbark hickory, pin oak, bur oak and white swamp oak. Conifers include white pine, red cedar and concolor fir. Shrubs include common ninebark, american cranberry, red osier dogwood, nanking cherry, hazelnut, common lilac and American plum. They are sold in bundles of 10, except for the white pines, which are sold individually for \$6. Prices for bundles range from \$20 for 10 lilacs to \$25 for 10 bur oaks.

The district is offering bare-rooted Chinese chestnut trees for \$6 each for two or more. Native grass and forb seeds are also available.

Orders will be taken until Wednesday, Feb. 28. Trees will arrive in April. For more information or to order trees, call 319-523-6411, e-mail Janet at janet.williams@ia.nacdnet.net or stop by its office at 514 Isett St., Wapello.

Musc. Journal

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The district is offering high quality, bare-rooted Chinese chestnut trees for \$6 each for two or more. Native grass and forb seeds are also available.

Four-foot tall tree shelters are available for young trees at \$3.50 each; stakes for attaching to the shelters are \$2.25 each and three-foot square tree mats with small stakes are \$1.50 each.

Orders will be taken until Wednesday, Feb. 28. Trees will arrive in April. For more information or to order trees, call 319-523-6411, e-mail Janet at janet.williams@ia.nacdnet.net or

stop by its office at 514 Isett Sr., Wapello.

Mentors needed for shadow day

MUSCATINE, Iowa — Junior Achievement (JA) needs about 250 local business people to serve as mentors on Thursday, Feb. 22, as part of The Sedona Group, JA Job Shadow Day. The event is to encourage volunteer mentors to accept a student "shadow" at their place of business.

Mentors show students what their jobs are like and how skills learned in school can be put into action. JA plans to involve 490 eighth-grade students from Central Middle School, Louisa-Muscatine Junior/Senior High School and West Middle School.

JA invites employees at businesses in Muscatine and Louisa counties to volunteer their time for the day. Being a host involves allowing two students to spend time shadowing an employee's workday.

Students will arrive at about 9:30 a.m., spend the day with their host and then depart the workplace between 1:15 and 1:30.

To host students at your workplace, contact Betsy Justis at Junior Achievement, 309-736-1630, ext. 117. or by e-mail at bjustis@jaheartland.org.

JA Job Shadow Day is a part of a national initiative in cooperation with America's Promise and the Department of Labor.



Students participate in the Sub District Soil Judging contest held near Newport Junction on Sept. 26.

Sub District Soil Judging contest held in Louisa County

On September 26, 2007 the Sub District Soil Judging contest was held in Louisa County. The Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored the contest. This year there were seven area schools represented (Wapello, Mediapolis, Columbus Junction,

Lone Tree, Ft. Madison, Central Lee, and Davis County) with 142 FFA students participating.

Mark LaVan, NRCS Soil Scientist, officially judged the pits. Louisa NRCS and SWCD employees, Norm Stone, Duane Lewis, Chris Bradley and Janet

Williams helped organize the event along with Irv Meier, Wapello FFA teacher.

The contest was held on the Gabeline Farm, just north of New Port Junction. Glen Ball Bulldozing donated his time to excavate the pits for the contest.



Louisa County Pheasants Forever

Photo by R. W. Peterson

RECEIVED FEB 28 2007

Thank You

**for your generous
contribution to
Louisa County
Pheasants Forever.**

**This will help Pheasants
Forever promote
wildlife habitat in
Louisa County.**

*\$250
Partner
donation*

X **Windbreak Award – Craig & Sheila Helmick**

Craig & Sheila own 230 acres located approx 4 miles SW of Columbus City. Around there farm stead they planted a Windbreak in 1986. This is a 4 row windbreak consisting of a row of Arbovitae, White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce and Norway Spruce. This windbreak is fully established and looks great. Craig & Sheila have noticed a huge difference in the amount of snow drifting that no longer occurs in ^{their} there yard & driveway. They have also noticed an increase in wildlife abundance in and around the windbreak. ^{Their} There windbreak looks great. Congratulations!

X **Wildlife Award – Geneva Peterson Family**

Geneva owns approx. 350 acres located 3 mile NE of Wapello. On there farm they have constructed 8 farm ponds, 1 wetland, ---- acres of native grass plantings, 42 acres of tree planting, food plots,.....

X **Woodland Award – Dan & Sue Vogeler**

Dan & Sue's farm is located 5 miles West Columbus Jct. They own 115 acres along Long Creek. They have enrolled there cropland into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and are working hard to manage there woodlands for wildlife. Dan & Sue are always adding more tree plantings to the property. Presently they have done 15 acres of tree/shrub planting, 5 acres of Timber Stand Improvement, 40 acres of native grass and wildflower plantings, and they have done edge feathering to promote quail habitat. They also have 8 acres of wetland restoration on the farm. Thanks for your hard work.

X **Conservation Farmer Award – Roger & Marianne Hunt Family (Suntree Farm)**

Roger & Marianne own approx. 220 acres located 4 miles East of Columbus Jct. All crops planted on this farm have been no-tilled since the late 1980's. Some of the conservation practice that they have installed on there farm are: Farmstead Windbreak, Field Windbreaks, grassed waterways, terraces, 1 farm pond, 5 constructed wetlands, 20 acres of native grass & wildflower plantings, a prescribed grazing system with 10 paddocks, filter strips, 20 acres of tree plantings and 12 acres of Timber Stand Improvement. They are good stewards of the land. Thanks for all your hard work.

*Janet's
Copy*

2008 Award Recipients

Conservation Farmer of the Year Roger and Marianne Hunt
Roger Hunt (Marianne) 15868 O Ave, Columbus Jct, IA 52738
Phone 319-728-7323

Wetland Owner of the Year Daryl and Pamela Hartsock
Daryl Hartsock (Pam) 19382 105th St., Columbus Jct, IA 52738
Phone 319-523-6534

Windbreak Owner of the Year Craig and Sheila Helmick
Craig Helmick (Sheila) 11737 W ave., Columbus Jct, IA 52738
319-728-2052

Wildlife

Habitat Owner of the Year Geneva Peterson and Family
Geneva Peterson
Kermit Peterson 12586 105th St. Wapello, IA 52653
319-523-3446

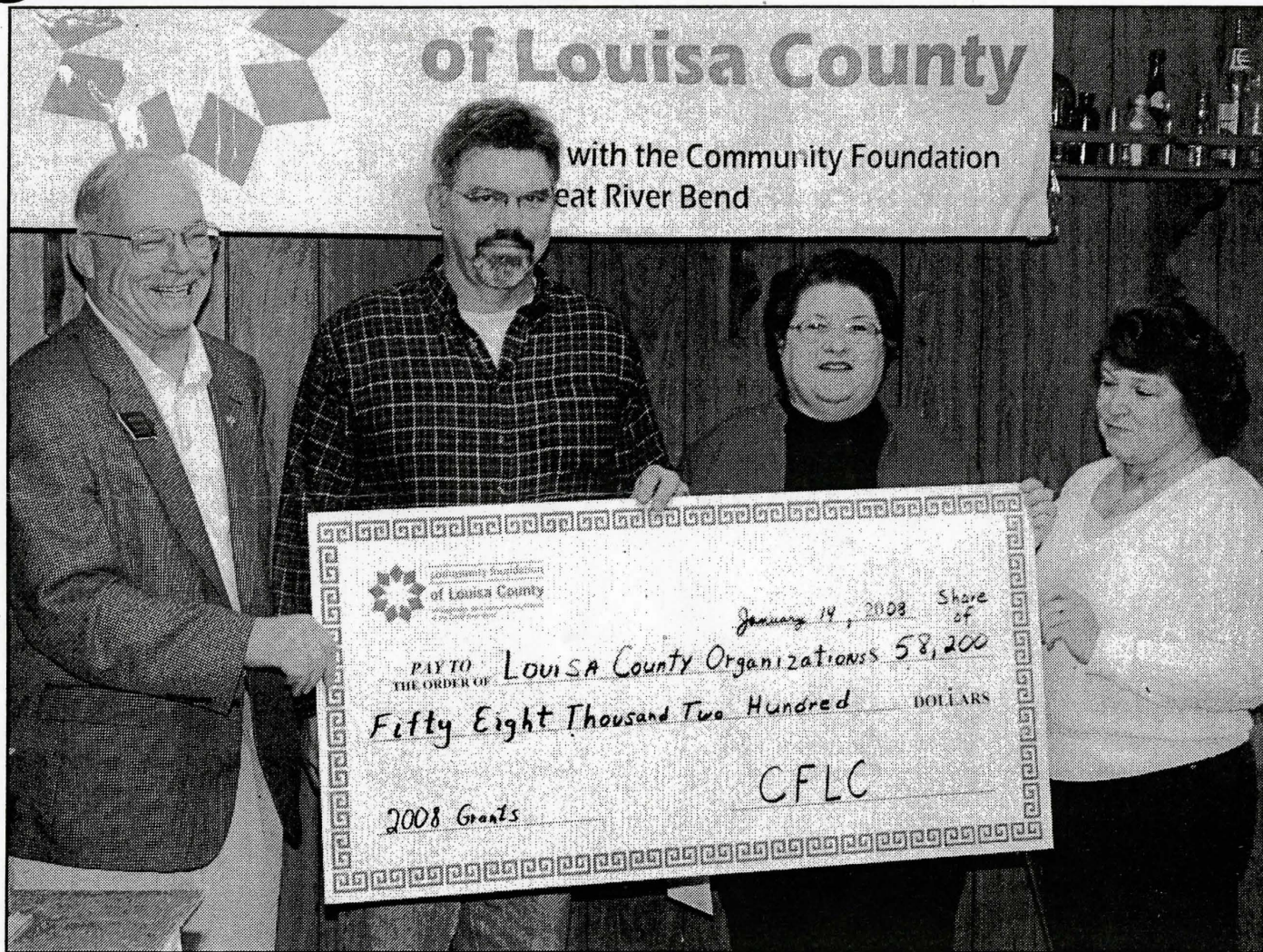
Woodland Owner of the Year Dan and Sue Vogeler
Dan Vogeler 27675 140th St., Columbus Jct, IA 52738
319-728-3030





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Community Foundation awards grants totaling \$58,200



Community Foundation representatives Ken Purdy, left, Nancy McGill and Rondalyn Weyrick present a symbolic check to Wapello City Councilman Kevin Hardin for park improvements.

The Community Foundation of Louisa County held its annual awards breakfast on Monday, January 14, at the Louisa Heritage Center.

The foundation awarded \$58,200 in grants to local communities and organizations this year.

This year marks the third year the foundation has made grant awards. Thirty-three grants were approved this year, with grants ranging in size from \$500 to \$3000.

Grants that were approved by the Community Foundation of Louisa County included (grant recipient listed, followed by grant project and amount of grant):

City of Columbus City, generator, \$3000.

City of Columbus Junction, Civic Center landscaping, \$1000.

City of Wapello Parks, park improvements, \$1500.

Civic Society of Columbus Junction, multicultural outreach, \$1500.

Columbus Community Senior Center, roof, \$3000.

Community Foundation of Louisa County, operational support, \$3000.

Friends of Keck Memorial Library, new books, \$1000.

Girls Scouts of Shining Trail, safety first program, \$1500.

Habitat for Humanity, house #11, \$3000.

Hispanic Cultural Festival, \$1800.

ISU Extension, immersion weekends, \$1500.

Izaak Walton League, new clubhouse, \$1500.

Keck Memorial Library, digital multimedia projector, \$1000.

Keck Players, electronic keyboard, \$1500.

Lawnchair Theatre, projector, \$1000.

Louisa County Conservation Board, Flaming Prairie playground makeover, \$2000.

Louisa County Conservation Board, tree planting, inventory and education, \$1000.

Louisa Development Group, Naturally Louisa County tour guide, \$2500.

Louisa Development Group, Shop Louisa billboard, \$2000.

Letts Community Park, park improvements, \$1500.

Letts Library, computer upgrades, \$2000.

Letts Library and Community Center Committee, new library and community center, \$3000.

Louisa County Fair Board, Louisa County horse facility, \$1500.

Louisa County Historical

Society, childrens' puppet theatre workshop, \$1000.

Morning Sun Decelopment Corp., Morning Sun Community Center, \$3000.

Roundy Elementary School, after-school program, \$1800.

Storks Nest of Louisa County, weekly support group program, \$2000.

Soil and Water Conservation District, water quality improvement education, \$1000.

Wapello Ambulance Service, audio/visual equipment, \$1000.

Wapello Community Club, sound system, \$850.

Wapello Fire and Rescue, rescue airbag system upgrade, \$2000.

Wapello Trees Forever, trees for park playground area/landscaping, \$500.

Wapello United Methodist Church, ESL program, \$2750.

ing and Class.

Conservation District to meet

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet May 8, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. Topics on the agenda will be an update on cost share projects and discussion on the 2008 award nominations. For more information please contact the office at 260 Mulberry St. STE 2, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

5/08/08

Cancelled
lack of
Quorum

Conservation Poster Winners



Pictured above are the winners in the Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District Poster Contest for 2008. Sydney Stephens and Drucilla Stephens entered the Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District's 2008 Poster Contest. Their posters were chosen to be sent to the Conservation Districts of Iowa Regional Poster Contest competition. Sydney and Drucilla are the daughters of Cheryle and Lynn Stephens of rural Columbus Junction.

Dakota Hoben awarded Conservation Scholarship

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that Dakota Hoben of Wapello, Iowa was selected as winner of the Conservation District of Iowa's 2008 Scholarship Program. Winners are selected from applicants across the state. The scholarship is awarded to students pursuing further education in fields of agriculture or natural resources. Selection is based on demonstrated leadership, academic achievement, and need.

The son of Bryan and Jill Hoben, Dakota grew up on a production farm where he had a variety of experiences from planting chestnut orchards and windbreaks to working to improve their cow/calf operation. Becoming involved in 4-H and FFA spurred his interests in having his own cow/calf operation at an early age. Dakota is the current Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter President in as well as Southeast District South Vice President. Working with others to promote agriculture and develop policy has been an exhilarating experience for him. He is involved in numerous

other extra curricular programs at Louisa-Muscatine Community School District. Dakota plans to combine his interest of leadership, public service and agriculture and attend Iowa State University double majoring in political service and agribusiness.

Dakota was also selected as winner of the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District's \$300 scholarship which put him into the competition for the statewide award of \$1800. Funding for the local scholarship and other education projects is made possible through trees sales by the soil and water conservation district.

Conservation Districts of Iowa is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the 100 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide assistance and educational programs for the protection of our soil, water and other natural resources. For further information on the scholarship awards or other information visit www.cdiowa.org.

The Columbus Gazette
Wednesday, April 23, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

This certifies that

Dakota Hoben

*was awarded first place
in the 2008*

***Conservation Districts of Iowa
Scholarship Program***

Rick Juchems
Rick Juchems, CDI President

4/17/08
Date

Hoben wins statewide Soil and Water scholarship

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The son of Bryan and Jill Hoben, Dakota grew up on a production farm where he had a variety of experiences from planting chestnut orchards and windbreaks to working to improve their cow/calf operation. Becoming involved in 4-H and FFA spurred his interests in having his own cow/calf operation at an early age. Hoben is the current Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter President as well as Southeast District South Vice President. Working with others to promote agriculture and develop policy has been an exhilarating experience for him. He is involved in numerous other extra curricular programs at Louisa-Muscatine Community School District. Hoben plans to combine his interest of leadership, public service and agriculture and attend Iowa State University double majoring in political service and

agribusiness.

Hoben was also selected as winner of the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District's \$300 scholarship which put him into the competition for the statewide award of \$1800. Funding for the local scholarship and other education projects is made possible through trees sales by the soil and water conservation district.

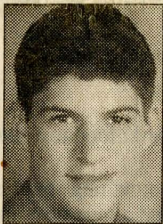
Conservation Districts of Iowa is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the 100 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide assistance and educational programs for the protection of our soil, water and other natural resources. For further information on the scholarship awards or other information visit www.cdiowa.org.

Hoben wins two scholarships

Iowa Soybean Association

URBANDALE, Iowa— The Iowa Soybean Association has announced Dakota Hoben of Wapello as one of this year's winners of the ISA Ag Scholarship Program.

There will be \$2,000 scholarships awarded to 10 Iowa high school seniors who are pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related field.



Hoben

The award is based on scholastic achievement, community leadership, as well as other achievements and interests.

Hoben is the son of Bryan and Jill Hoben. He is a senior at Louisa-Muscatine High School and plans a double major in ag business and politi-

Winners are selected from applicants across the state. The scholarship is awarded to students pursuing further education in fields of agriculture or natural resources. Selection is based on demonstrated leadership, academic achievement, and need.

He is the Louisa-Muscatine FFA Chapter president as well as Southeast District South vice president.



Class of 2008

Thank You

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Local SWCD
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+ then won
State Schol. Tot of \$1800.

Dear Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation
District,

Thank you so much for Awarding me this
scholarship. This scholarship will be very
beneficial in helping to pay for college.

Once again thank you for the scholarship.

Sincerely,

Dakota Hoben

(2008)

A look at the Louisa County Flood of 2008

The Wapello Republican received dozens of photos of the flooding in Louisa County. We would like to share some of those photos with our readers

Flooded areas pose risk of injury

Special precautions urged during recovery and clean-up

DES MOINES — Among the many health risks associated with flooding, personal injury is the most common. As Iowans prepare to re-enter homes and begin recovery and clean up efforts, public health officials are urging caution to avoid personal injury.

"In the wake of the recent flooding across the state, it's understandable that Iowans are

anxious about their personal property," said Iowa Department of Public Health Director, Tom Newton. "It is of the utmost importance, however, that Iowans take every possible precaution to protect their most precious possession—the health and safety of themselves and their family."

Iowans can prevent personal injury in several ways:

- Keep children and pets away from affected areas.
- Never enter floodwaters where power lines are down.
- Step carefully to avoid falls and wear protective gear, including eye protection.
- Make certain the electricity is off before checking electrical circuits and equipment or when checking a flooded basement. Do not turn on any lights or appliances.
- Be aware of potential chemical hazards in flood waters.

- Gas powered generators, power washers, and other equipment can cause carbon monoxide poisoning. Use this equipment outside, in a well-ventilated area only. NEVER run a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure, even if the doors or windows are open.
- Apply first aid immediately to cuts and scrapes. Wash the affected area and your hands with the cleanest water available and with soap for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use alcohol-based hand gels.

For information about flood-related health issues, visit www.idph.state.ia.us and look under "Topics of Interest" for flood information.

###

Oversize permit issuance suspended in eastern Iowan

ANKENY, Iowa — June 12, 2008 — Due to the widespread flooding in eastern Iowa, the Iowa Department of Transportation's (Iowa DOT) Office of Motor Carrier Services has suspended issuing oversize permits that would involve routing east of Interstate 35 in Iowa from the Minnesota to the Missouri state lines. Any trucker hauling an over dimension load on a previously issued permit for this area will be asked to park the load in a safe location until the situation eases.

The move is in accordance with Iowa Code, Chapter 321E.1.

The states of Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri have been advised of this restriction. With the forecast of an additional three to five inches of rain in the already-flooded area, the restriction is expected to be in place into next week.

The Iowa DOT understands this restriction will cause an inconvenience, and will begin issuing permits as soon as possible. Please check the Office of Motor Carrier Services' Web site at: <http://www.iamvd.com/omcs/index.htm> <<http://www.iamvd.com/omcs/index.htm>> for updates.



Thanks to all who emailed us photos of the flooding in Louisa County



Questions about your subscription or change of address to the Wapello Republican??

You can now e-mail your questions to Donna at lpccsubs@louisacomm.net

Send your news items by e-mail to

lpcc@louisacomm.net

Be sure to include name of the newspaper and date you would like it to appear as well as your name and daytime phone number.

Louisa County

School Calendar

WAPELLO COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2007-2008

JUNE

26 - JV/V Softball vs Mediapolis 6:00; JH Baseball & Softball @ L & M 5:30
27 - JV/V Softball @ IMS 6:00; V DH Baseball vs Mediapolis 5:30;
H Baseball & Softball @ Lone Tree 5:30
28 - V Softball @ Solon Tourney - TBA
30 - JV/V Softball @ Highland 5:30; JV DH Baseball @ Highland 5:30;
JH Baseball & Softball vs Pekin 5:30.

JULY

1 - VDH Baseball vs Columbus 5:30; JH Baseball & Softball @ Mediapolis 5:30
3 - JV DH Baseball @ L&M 5:30; 2A Softball Districts.
5 - Var Baseball Class 2A District 12 @ LM vs Mediapolis 5:00; 2A Softball Districts.
8 - Var. Baseball Class 2A District 12 @ LM,
Wapello/Mepo winner vs. Columbus/LM winner 7:00
8, 9, 10 - 2A Softball Regionals
12 - Var. Baseball Class 2A District 12 @ West Burlington 7:00
15 - Class 2A Baseball Sub State.
15-19 - 2A Baseball State
21, 24, 26 - Class 2A Baseball State.

LOUISA-MUSCATINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2007-2008

JUNE

26 - JH Baseball & Softball vs Wapello 5:30; V/V Baseball @ IMS 5:30; JV/V Softball @ IMS 6:00.
27 - JV/JV Baseball vs IMS 5:30; V/V Softball vs Mt. Pleasant 6:00
28 - V Baseball @ Keokuk Tourney 12:00; V Softball @ Mid-Prairie Tourney 12:00
30 - JH Baseball & Softball @ WACO 5:30; JV/JV Baseball @ WACO 5:30;
JV/V Softball vs WACO 6:00

JULY

1 - V DH Baseball @ Lone Tree 5:30; JH Baseball & Softball vs Lone Tree 5:30.
3 - JV DH Baseball vs Wapello 5:30.

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2007-2008

JUNE

26 - JV/V Baseball vs Danville 5:30; FS/V Softball @ WACO 6:00
27 - V/V Baseball vs WACO 5:30
28 - JV/V Baseball @ IC Regina 5:30
30 - JV/JV Baseball vs Lone Tree 5:30; FS/V Softball vs Lone Tree 6:00

JULY

1 - V/V Baseball @ Wapello 5:30
3 - JV/JV Baseball vs Mediapolis 5:30; Var. District Softball @ TBA
7 - Baseball Districts - TBA
18 - Baseball Substate
24-26 - Baseball State

July 5, 8, 12 - Class 2A Baseball District
July 15 - Class 2A Baseball Sub State
July 23, 24, 26 - Class 2A Baseball State

July 3, 5 - 2A Softball Districts
July 8, 9, 10 - 2A Softball Regionals
July 15-19 - 2A Softball State

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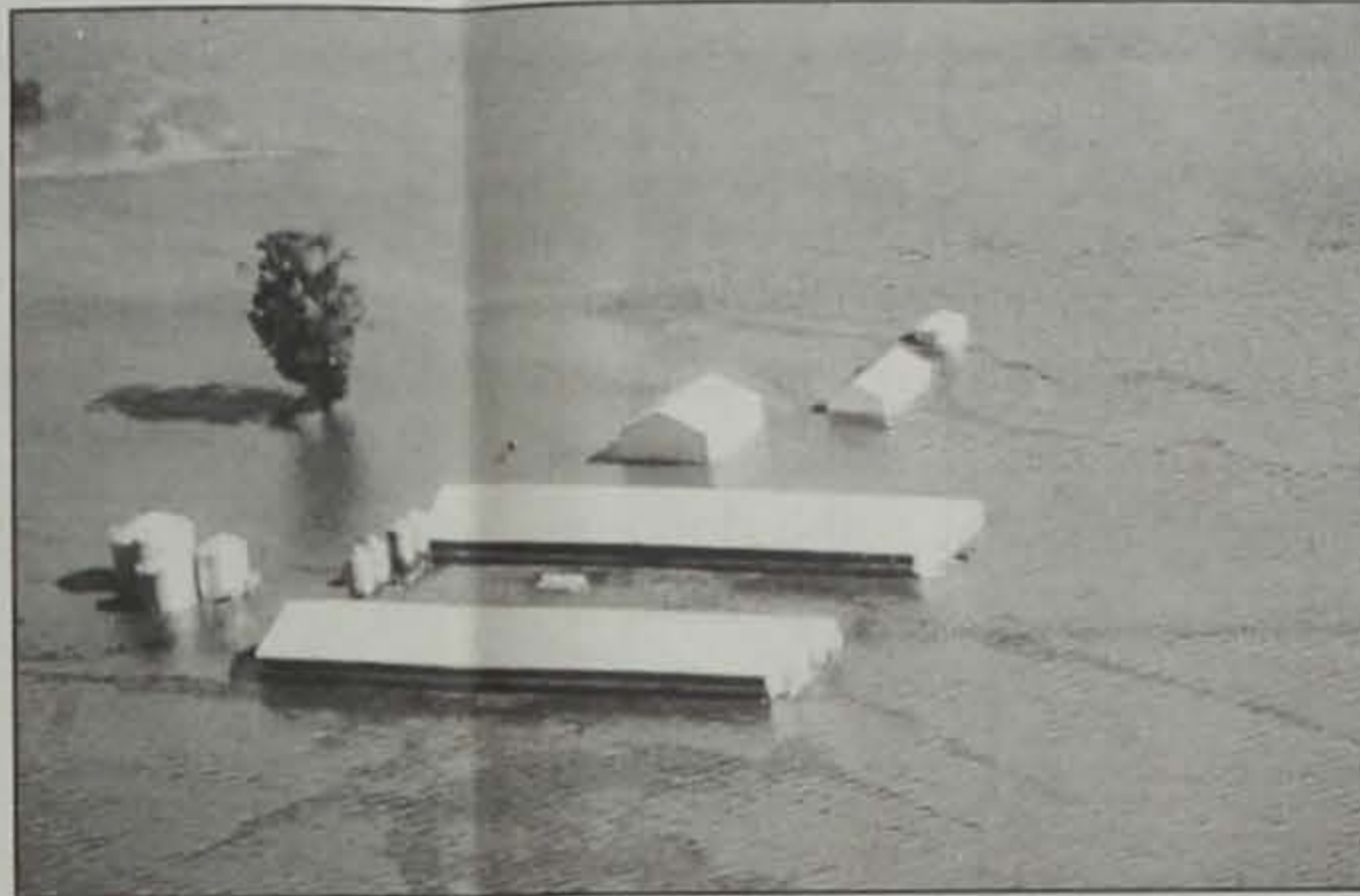
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Wapello
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Louisa County Flood of 2008



Flood waters and food safety

BURLINGTON, Iowa — Wondering if your food is safe during storms and floods? Water everywhere can lead to food-borne illness when basements flood and the electricity goes out, says Sam Beattie, Iowa State University Extension food safety specialist. "Any food that is dry — flour, packaged food, cereals — that gets wet should be discarded. It will mold, it will suffer quality issues and you just will not want to eat it," Beattie said.

If cans of food become submerged in floodwater, the food in the cans is safe, but the surfaces of the cans could become contaminated from the floodwater, Beattie said. Get the cans out of the floodwater; then wash them with soapy water followed by light bleach to sanitize them. "You're going to lose the label during this process," Beattie warns. After the can is sanitized, use a waterproof marker to identify the can — what food it contains and the date by which you need to use it. Home canned foods are harder to deal with, he said. The threads on the jar may become contaminated in an area that is very difficult to sanitize.

Patty Steiner, Nutrition & Health Field Specialist for Iowa State University Extension, offers the following advice on deciding what foods can be kept or tossed when there is concern for food safety. "We hope you won't need to use this information. But if you do and do not have easy access to this article, remember you can get this information in several ways:

- 1) Contact your county Extension office (in Burlington, call 319-754-7556),
- 2) Access the ISU Extension website at: www.extension.iastate.edu, and
- 3) Call AnswerLine at 800-262-3804.

Here are answers to common concerns:

What Food Can I Keep and What Should I Throw Out?

Flood waters covered our food stored on shelves and in cabinets. What can I keep and what should I throw out?

Do not eat any food that may have come into direct contact with flood water.

Discard any food that is not in a waterproof container if there is any chance that it has come into contact with flood water. Food containers that are not waterproof include those with screw-caps, snap lids, pull tops and crimped caps. Also, discard cardboard juice/milk/baby formula boxes and home canned foods if they have come in contact with flood water, because they cannot be effectively cleaned and sanitized.

Inspect canned foods and discard any food in damaged cans. Can damage is shown by swelling, leakage, punctures, holes, fractures, extensive deep rusting or crushing/denting severe enough to prevent normal stacking or opening with a manual, wheel-type can opener.

Steps to Salvage All-Metal Cans and Retort Pouches

Undamaged, commercially prepared foods in all-metal cans and retort pouches (for example, flexible, shelf-stable juice or seafood pouches) can be saved if you do the following:

- Remove the labels, if they are the removable kind, since they can harbor dirt and bacteria.
- Thoroughly wash the cans or retort pouches with soap and water, using hot water if it is available.
- Brush or wipe away any dirt or silt.
- Rinse the cans or retort pouches with water that is safe for drinking, if available, since dirt or residual soap will reduce the effectiveness of chlorine sanitation.

Then, sanitize them by immersion in one of the following two ways:

- Place in water and allow the water to come to a boil and continue boiling for 2 minutes, or
- Place in a freshly made solution consisting of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water (or the cleanest, clearest water available) for 15 minutes.

Air-dry cans or retort pouches for a minimum of 1 hour before opening or storing. If the labels were removable, then re-label your cans or retort pouches, including the expiration date (if available), with a marker.

Food in reconditioned cans or retort pouches should be used as soon as possible, thereafter.

Any concentrated baby formula in reconditioned, all-metal containers must be diluted with clean, drinking water.

News deadline is Noon Tuesdays



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Each year millions of dollars in unclaimed money are reported to the Office of the Treasurer of State. All names listed are from the last reporting periods and are reported as being owed \$50 or more. Unclaimed property can be forgotten savings or checking accounts, utility refunds or deposits, uncashed benefit checks, lost stock and abandoned safe deposit box contents. If your name is listed or you are an heir to one of the names listed, log on to our website to print your claim form today or fill out the coupon below and mail to the Treasurer's Office. You will be asked to prove ownership.

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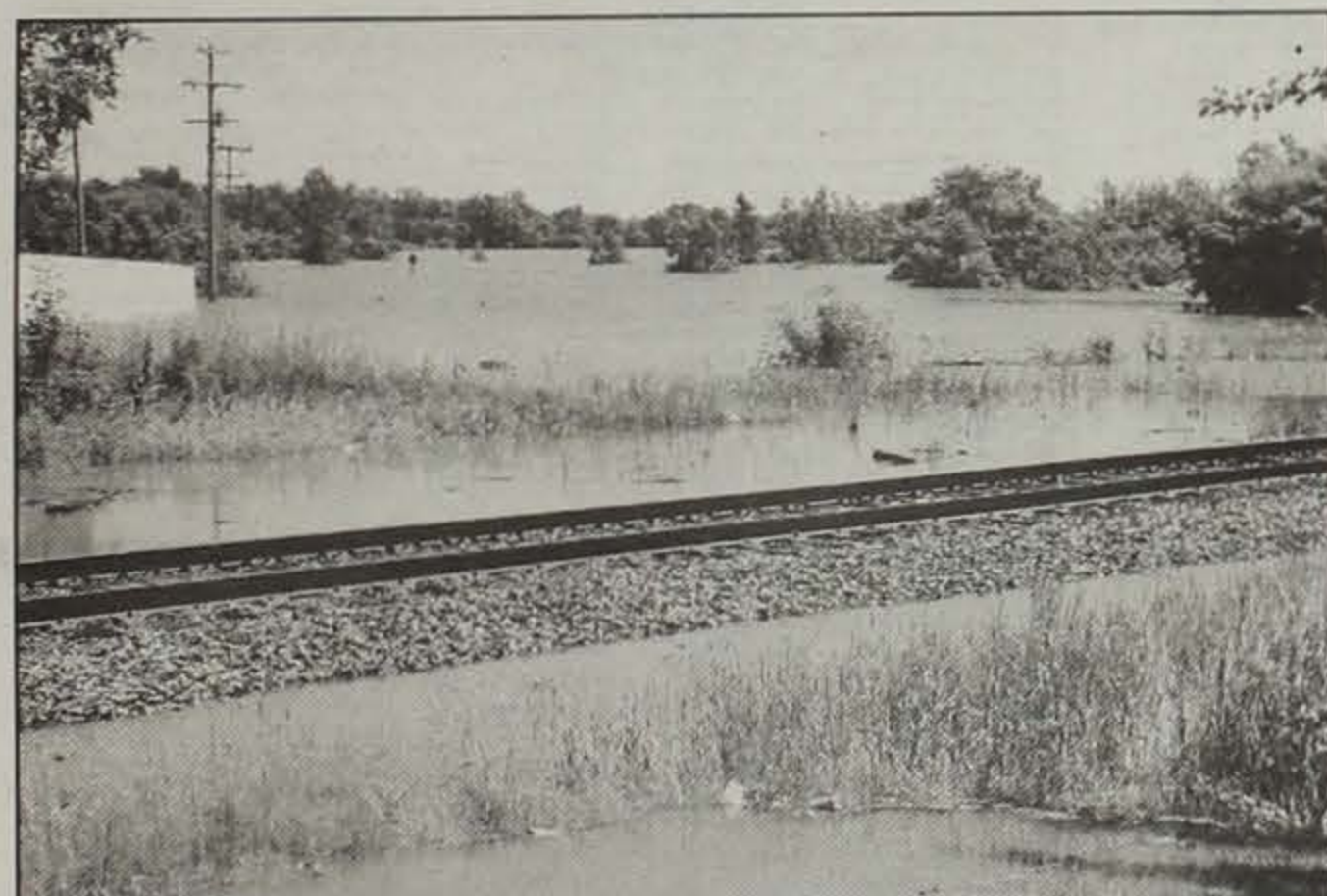
Writing a Good CLASSIFIED Ad

Put yourself in the reader's shoes. What would you want to know about the product or service you are interested in?

Be descriptive

- Include a brand name, if available.
- List the feature of your product or service. What makes it different from other items in the same category?
- Avoid abbreviations. They can abbreviate your results!
- Include the price.
- Include your phone number and the best times to call.

Louisa County Flood of 2008



After the flood: preventing and removing mold

IDPH provides guidelines for safety

Mold growth is a common event after flood waters recede. Molds are a natural part of the environment and we are exposed to mold spores in everyday activities. Because molds have the potential to cause health problems when excessive growth occurs, they should be cleaned promptly and correctly. "Any structure that has been flooded should be presumed to contain materials contaminated with mold if those materials were not thoroughly dried within 48 hours," said Iowa Department of Public Health Director Tom Newton. "Under the current conditions, it is obvious mold growth is something to be aware of."

Exposure to molds can cause reactions such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes and rash. These types of reactions are common and can be immediate or delayed. To effectively prevent the growth of mold, the following steps should be taken:

- Clean up and dry out the area as quickly as possible. Open windows and doors and use fans or dehumidifiers to dry out the area.

- Remove, dispose, and replace all items that have absorbed flood water and cannot be thoroughly washed and dried. Examples of these items include carpeting and carpet padding, upholstery, wall-

paper, drywall, ceiling tiles, insulation material, leather, paper, some wood and wood products, and food.

- Clean wet non-porous (items that do not absorb water) items and surfaces with detergent and water to prevent mold growth.

If mold has already begun to grow, it's important to remove it as soon as possible. The longer mold grows, the more destructive it can become. When cleaning up mold, a few precautions should be taken:

- Wear gloves to protect your hands.

- Wear goggles that do not have ventilation holes to avoid getting mold or mold spores in your eyes.

- Avoid breathing in mold or mold spores. This can be done by carefully removing mold contaminated materials so mold spores do not become disturbed. In cases of severe mold growth, a dust mask or respirator can be worn to minimize exposure.

For more information on mold prevention and cleanup, the following resources are available:

- www.cdc.gov/mold/pdfs/dampness_facts.pdf

- www.epa.gov/mold/moldbasics.html

For more information on general health issues related to flooding, visit:

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/flood.asp

Iowa tax deadline extended for taxpayers affected by tornadoes and flooding

DES MOINES — Taxpayers affected by tornadoes and flooding will have additional time to file Iowa tax returns and pay Iowa tax.

The extended deadline is July 28, 2008, for returns and payments due after May 24, 2008, and before June 26, 2008.

Affected taxpayers will not be subject to any penalty for failing to file or pay. In addition, interest will not be due on payments made by July 28, 2008.

The taxes that are impacted by this extension are:

- Withholding tax
- Corporation income tax
- Franchise tax
- Sales and use tax, including the automobile rental excise tax and the special equipment tax
- Hotel and motel tax
- Environmental protection charge

- Inheritance tax, including the generation skipping transfer tax and the qualified use inheritance tax

- Motor fuel and special fuel tax

- Cigarette and tobacco tax

If an affected taxpayer receives a penalty or interest notice from the Iowa Department of Revenue, the taxpayer should call the telephone number on the notice. Taxpayers filing a paper return should make a notation on the return stating, "Taxpayer affected by tornadoes/flooding."

Casualty Losses

Affected taxpayers in presidentially-declared disaster areas may claim disaster-related casualty losses on their federal income tax returns for either 2007 or 2008. The option chosen for federal purposes will be automatically allowed for

Iowa tax purposes. Taxpayers may amend their 2007 Iowa income tax returns to take advantage of this provision.

The State of Iowa Flood 2008 Web site maintains the most

current lists of state and federal disaster counties. Questions about Iowa taxes and due dates should be directed to the Iowa Department of Revenue at 1-800-367-3388 or idr@iowa.gov

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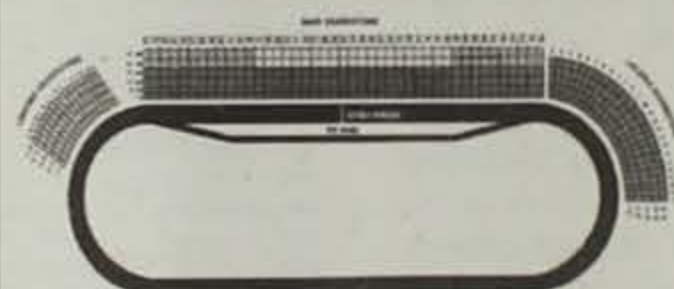
Pro Racing Weekly Update

June 28 - 29, 2008



This Week's Race: Lenox Industrial Tools 301

New Hampshire Motor Speedway



Race Information & Records

Last Year's Winner: Denny Hamlin
Qualifying Record: Rusty Wallace 132.089 - 2000
Race Record: Jeff Burton 117.134 - 1997
Race Time: 12:30 pm ET, June 29th

Track Statistics & History

Location: Loudon, N.H.
Turns / Straights: 12° / 2°
Distance: 1.058 miles
Shape: Oval

New Hampshire Motor Speedway has become New England's NASCAR mecca for drivers and fans that travel here from all over the country to attend races. The two Sprint Cup Series races at NHMS, also known as "The Magic Mile", are the largest spectator sporting events in New England with over 100,000 guests in attendance at each race. Located near Loudon, the Speedway is about one hour from Boston, two hours from Portland, Maine, and Providence, R.I., and is easily accessible from Vermont and Canada. Jimmie Johnson and Kurt Busch have been the dominant drivers the past four years at this track, each winning on two separate occasions.

Standings

Through June 22, 2008

2008 Sprint Cup Series

Driver	Points
1) Kyle Busch	2408
2) Jeff Burton	2305
3) Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2256
4) Carl Edwards	2150
5) Jimmie Johnson	2082
6) Jeff Gordon	2041
7) Greg Biffle	2019
8) Denny Hamlin	2008
9) Kasey Kahne	1958
10) Clint Bowyer	1924
11) Tony Stewart	1908
12) Matt Kenseth	1892

2008 Nationwide Series

Driver	Points
1) Clint Bowyer	2506
2) Brad Keselowski	2318
3) David Reutimann	2316
4) Carl Edwards	2301
5) David Ragan	2201
6) Mike Bliss	2192
7) Kyle Busch	2093
8) Mike Wallace	2053
9) David Stremme	1977
10) Jason Leffler	1968

Driver's Bio

Kyle Busch

Born: May 2, 1985
Sponsor: M&M's/Snickers
Crew Chief: Steve Addington
Car: Toyota



Biography:

Kyle Busch joined Hendrick Motorsports on Feb. 4, 2003 and found success on the track almost immediately. He won his first Automobile Club of America race at Nashville Speedway from the pole position, and followed up with a second win at Kentucky Speedway in the very next outing. That same year he entered seven NASCAR Busch Series, earning a runner-up finish at Lowe's Motor Speedway in his first start. In late 2004, Kyle Busch was selected by Hendrick Motorsports to replace racing veteran and two-time Winston Cup championship winner Terry Labonte in the famed No. 5 Kellogg's Chevrolet for 2005 and beyond. In 2005, Busch had already clinched the 2005 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Rookie of the Year title before the end of the season. He won his first Cup race at the Sony HD 500 at California Speedway in Fontana, California in September 2005. In 2006, Busch qualified for the Chase for the Nextel Cup, but struggled to compete and finished the season in 10th place. Last year, Busch competed in the Cup Championship, but finished the season in 5th place.

Racing News

Joey Logano, the 2007 Camping World East Series champion, who now drives for Joe Gibbs Racing in the Nationwide Series, followed up his victory at Kentucky Speedway by finishing second to Roush Fenway driver Carl Edwards in the Camping World RV Rental 250. Logano was the only non-Sprint Cup Series regular in the top-5. He led 35 laps and finished 1.58 seconds behind Edwards. Two weeks ago at Kentucky Speedway, eighteen year old Logano, in his third Nationwide Series start, became the youngest driver in NASCAR history to win in the division or in any of NASCAR's three national divisions.

Last Week's Race: Toyota/Save Mart 350

Driver	Start	Finish	Points/Bonus
Kyle Busch	30	1	195/10
David Gilliland	31	2	170/0
Jeff Gordon	5	3	165/0
Clint Bowyer	19	4	160/0
Casey Mears	23	5	155/0
Juan Montoya	21	6	150/0
Ryan Newman	9	7	146/0
Matt Kenseth	33	8	142/0
Carl Edwards	12	9	143/5
Tony Stewart	39	10	134/0

Kyle Busch won at Infineon Raceway on Sunday. It was his first Sprint Cup Series win on a road course with a Toyota and his fifth visit to Victory Lane this season. It was his second road course victory, having won a Nationwide Series race in Mexico City in April. After the race Kyle said, "I'm not happy unless I am winning, to be honest. I am a miserable person." Montoya had moved through the field early and had taken the lead until Busch grabbed it from him. David Gilliland finished a career-best second and was followed by Jeff Gordon and Clint Bowyer.

Race Trivia

What car did Chevrolet use prior to the Monte Carlo in Winston Cup competition?

- a) Lumina c) Impala
b) Cavalier d) Caprice

Lumina in 1995. *Answer: a) The Monte Carlo replaced the Lumina in 1995.*

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WAPELLO JOURNAL REPUBLICAN

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Thursday, June 26, 2008

Louisa County, the Wapello School Board and the Cities of Wapello, Oakville, Letts and Grandview For Legal Notices see pages 6, 2B

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Wapello City Council

Flood assistance proposed

By Jim Rudisill

WAPELLO - A mixed group of more than 50 flood victims, relief workers, government leaders and interested citizens crammed into the Wapello City Council Chambers June 19 to discuss possible flood relief efforts that could be launched by Wapello or other government agencies.

An initial list of ideas developed by city officials included waiving building permit, water and sewer hookup fees; providing property tax rebates for homebuyers or builders; offering a 25% reduction in water and sewer rates for one year; and offering free 2008 pool passes to flood victims living within the Wapello Community School District.

One person who had been displaced by the flood waters however said an immediate concern for victims was trying to locate housing. She said rental assistance was needed because most rental owners were seeking long-term leases. However, the uncertainty of their situation made displaced residents reluctant to commit to a rental property for six months or more.

Oakville Mayor Benita Grooms said she understood the landlord's desire for that long a commitment, but she agreed most flood victims could not focus on that time frame.

"(The renter) doesn't know what's down the road. We're hanging ten and will not know

until FEMA (and other agencies) get in and determine if we have a community or not," she explained.

"We need people to step forward with places to rent," Louisa County Public Health Nurse Alana Poage said.

Councilman Shawn Maine and Mayor Ron Durbin said any assistance programs should benefit persons displaced by the flood.

"I don't want landlords to profit from this. I want assistance to go to people who need it," Maine said.

Durbin agreed.

"We seriously hope people are not taking advantage of you," he said, explaining one possibility was to establish a temporary housing site at the Wapello Fairgrounds. He said city services were already located there and a temporary site could be established without too much difficulty.

While that temporary assistance might attract some, Grooms said some of Oakville's elderly appeared to be heading towards Morning Sun. Wapello officials agreed to contact the

owner of the building that currently is being used as the Wapello Police Department as a possible alternate site for the Oakville city government. However, Grooms said two sites had already been offered in Morning Sun and because some of Oakville's elderly had gone there, it might be a more convenient site.

Poage also said child care services needed to be established. Dan Doolin, pastor of Solid Rock Baptist Church, said the Southern Baptist Convention Recovery program would be establishing day care services at the church in a short time.

However, the lack of information on the number of displaced people, damaged buildings and other effects of the flood prevented more concrete offers of assistance, although officials promised to continue planning efforts and hold additional meetings as more assistance details became available.

Cathy McCue, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) official who attended the meeting, said the most important step anyone affected by the flooding could do would be to register with her agency by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Persons can also apply for assistance online at www.fema.gov.

"Nothing will happen unless you call," McCue told the group,

Continued on page 3

Railroad bridge collapses, engineer taken to hospital

At 11:29 p.m. Tuesday evening, June 24, the Louisa County Sheriff's Office received a call from the IC & E Railroad that one of their railroad bridges in the Columbus Junction area had collapsed and the engineer was still in the locomotive and in the water.

Columbus Junction Fire and Rescue responded, along with law enforcement and the water rescue team from Muscatine

County. The engineer was extricated from the locomotive, and transported by Louisa County Ambulance to the University of Iowa Hospital. The extent of his injuries were not known.

The Federal Railroad Administration will investigate the accident. The Iowa DNR has been notified and will respond to address a diesel fuel spill.

Col. Jct. boil order lifted

COLUMBUS JUNCTION, Iowa - The boil order for Columbus Junction and Columbus City was lifted on Saturday, June 21, according to Mallory Smith, Community Development Director, Columbus Junction.

"The water treatment system is fully functioning. The water was tested by the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory and was approved for all uses. Bottled water will no longer be distributed," Smith said.

Continued from page one Wapello City Council

Flood assistance

explaining immediate help for such needs as rental assistance could be provided in a few days.

An Oakville flood victim confirmed the agency's quick response, saying he had registered with FEMA on June 17 and had rental assistance funds deposited in his bank account on June 19. McCue said her agency, as well as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other government programs would also be providing other assistance, but some of that help would not be available until a recovery center (RC) had been established.

"I don't know when an RC will be set up, but as soon as I know, I'll let you know," she told city officials.

Elias Gutierrez, executive director of the Louisa Development Group (LDG), said communication would be an important component of recovery efforts. He said providing information on temporary and permanent housing, repairs, disaster loan information, unemployment and legal assistance and other needed information would be posted on the LDG website. He said efforts needed to be made now to keep residents in the area.

"I can't tell you what will happen in Oakville, but the bottom line is some of these people are going to leave, (but) what can we do to keep them here?" he asked.

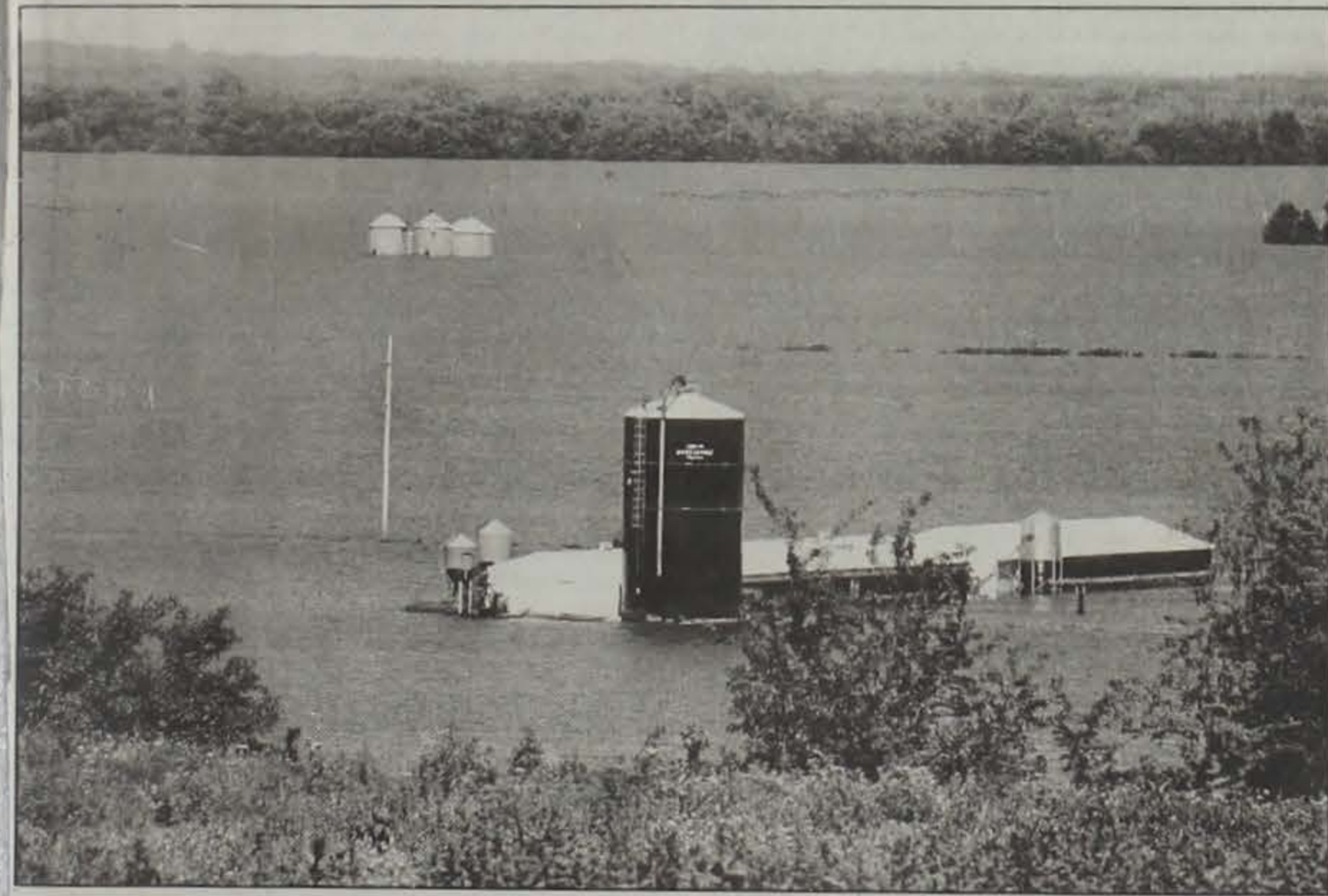
He said a critical issue will be the effect of the flood and possible relocation on the school district. Around 120 students live in the Oakville area and that could have a major impact on state aid if many of those families leave. Superintendent John Weidner said the school would be willing to provide computer

access to flood victims and also use the district's emergency calling system to notify residents of potential assistance or other news.

Even if people do eventually return to their homes, everyone at the meeting agreed there will be a monumental rebuilding need that would likely attract a large number of contractors and other repair businesses to the area. Officials worried that some of those businesses might provide shoddy work and then disappear, causing even more problems for flood victims.

Doolin, who is also a local contractor, told the group all contractors in Iowa need to register with the Iowa Department of Labor and property owners should insist on seeing any contractor's registration before hiring them. Shelly Singleton also reported that after an earlier disaster, L.J. Thompson, mayor of Wapello at that time, had gone around to local business owners and told them to tell any contractors who asked to post notices for their services in their establishments, that they needed to register at city hall.

The Wapello City Council will meet again June 26 at 7 p.m. at the Briggs Civic Center to continue discussing possible help. Durbin also said other meetings could be held even sooner if needed. Other groups will also be holding meetings to help coordinate aid. Louisa County Extension Director Kathy Vance said a 1 p.m. meeting has been scheduled for June 30 at the Louisa County Historical Museum in Wapello that will bring USDA, FEMA and other relief agencies together. She said that meeting will focus on crop damage and possible assistance to area farmers.



Flood aftermath continues to be top concern

In the picture above, a hog confinement operation just east of the Apostolic Church near Oakville remained under several feet of water last Sunday.

In the bottom photo, U.S. Senator John McCain, center, is flanked by Louisa County Sheriff Curt Braby (left) and Columbus Junction mayor Dan Wilson. McCain visited the county last Thursday.

Iowa Senators Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin toured the area on Friday.

You and Me

Michael A. Hodges

The past week has been one of heroic effort on the part of area communities and volunteers to turn back the surging waters of an historic flood.

While these efforts did not result in the type of outcomes that all of us prayed for, they did not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

It's usually a nice thing when Iowa makes the national news, but, for once, I wish they had been able to overlook us like they do most of the time.

I was proud when a number of national news commentators made mention of our community

spirit, and our faith, as we worked together to first, protect our communities, and then, to make sure all were safe.

There is a great amount of work ahead.

Work that will require help from individuals and governmental entities.

Work that will try our spirits and our faith.

Let us work together to rebuild, in whatever way we can, with the same spirit of cooperation that was shown in the dark days of the last week.

Thanks for visiting.
MAH

IOWA'S OLDEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER. EST. 1851

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For Legal Notices see pages 5, 2B

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Louisa County Soil and Water District 7/1/2008 1
260 Mulberry St Ste 2 23000
Wapello IA 52653-1571

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Levees break near Wapello and Oakville, in Columbus Junction; homes, businesses, farmland under water

River tops levels of 1993

by Mike Hodges

The past week has resembled a literary work that begins with "It was the best of times, and it was the worst of times".

It was the best of times in how people responded to the challenges presented by a flood of monumental proportions.

It was the best of times in how people responded to the challenges presented by a flood of monumental proportions.

Workers from every area community, indeed from much of Southeast Iowa, responded in droves to help Wapello, Oakville and Columbus Junction in their battle against a terrible foe.

There were no economic, political or religious divisions among those whose backs and hearts were united in a common goal—to do what they could to protect these communities and the thousands of acres of farms and the hundreds of rural homes in the at-risk area.

It has also been the worst of times.

It has also been the worst of times.

Despite the thousands of hours of work, the thousands of sandbags, the dedication of city residents and the army of volunteers, levees were breached or broken east of Wapello, at Columbus Junction, and southwest of Oakville.

Wapello

Volunteers had been meeting in the high school parking lot to fill sandbags to be placed on the levee east of town (just east of the Highway 99 bridge).

That levee protected homes and farmland on the east side of Wapello, and to the southeast.

Early in the afternoon on Friday, June 13, that levee was compromised, sending a torrent of water into that area.

Once the levee had broken, efforts shifted to sandbagging a few local residences that appeared to be at risk, and to sending volunteers and sandbags to the Columbus Junction and Oakville areas.

Oakville

Hundreds of people converged on the community with four wheelers, heavy equipment, and willing hands to fortify a seven mile stretch of levee to protect that town and the thousands of acres of farmland, hog confinement operations, and rural homes that lay to the east and the south.

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 14, it became apparent that, despite the heroic effort, the levee was not going to hold, and workers and remaining Oakville residents were ordered out of town.

Late that evening, the levee broke.

The break flooded not only the community of Oakville, but an estimated 45,000 to 50,000 acres of farmland, homes and livestock operations.

The break flooded not only the community of Oakville, but an estimated 45,000 to 50,000 acres of farmland, homes and livestock operations.

While Oakville residents and area farmers had been removing household goods, farm equipment and livestock for several days, time still prevented people from removing everything.

Columbus Junction

When city officials received word on Monday, June 9, that the Iowa River's crest would exceed the record 1993 levels by a substantial amount, plans were made as to how to proceed.

It was decided that, to protect a large area of eastern Columbus Junction, where a number of businesses were located, a levee would be built.

The railroad tracks were to be the north portion of the protected area, with the levee to be constructed east of the Columbus Motel, west down U.S. Highway 92, and then would use a natural rise in elevation to the west.

Work began on Tuesday, June 10, with heavy equipment and hundreds of volunteers working feverishly for days.

At noon on Saturday, June 14, work was halted when it became evident that the levee was not going to hold.

At noon on Saturday, June 14, work was halted when it became evident that the levee was not going to hold.

Columbus Junction mayor Dan Wilson noted that, "At that time the focus became safety, and we got everyone out".

Work continued for a time at a few residential locations, but the heavy lifting was over.

The city's water plant is located in the affected area, and the city shut down the plant to avoid contamination.

There was great concern that the city would run out of water.

Continued on page 3



Columbus Junction's east side business district was inundated with flood waters after a levee break last Saturday. The top aerial photo was submitted, the photo at left is a Republican photo.

In Wapello-Council meeting set for flood relief efforts

The Wapello City Council will hold a special meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 19, at City Hall.

This meeting has been called to determine and establish proposals for flood relief efforts.

Supervisors hear briefing on flood; damage far exceeds 1993

By Connie Street
WAPELLO, Iowa - While areas of Louisa County have been under water, the river levels seems to be receding. About 15,000 acres are under water east of Wapello and several homes have been destroyed in the Oakville area - including 14 of 16 cabins at Hawk Eye Woods

on the Wapello side of the Oakville bridge. Homes at Elrick Junction are also sitting in deep water.

Several Wapello businesses, including county government, are working short staffed because those who live north of Wapello can't cross the Iowa River to get work.

Louisa County Sheriff Curt Braby told the County Supervisors Tuesday morning that he has deputies who live on each side of the river and are patrolling those areas. He said he is short two jailers and three dispatchers because they can't get to town. He said his staff members are generally working 12-hour shifts and estimated that overtime will top 400 hours. The county anticipates that FEMA funds will help with extra costs associated with the flooding.

Donations for flood victims accepted locally

Donations for local victims of the recent flood may be taken to the shelter at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Wapello.

The following items are urgently needed (they may also be dropped off at Mutual Telephone Company in Morning Sun):

Infant and toddler diapers, formula, jar baby food, pet food, laundry detergent, bath towels and wash cloths, garbage bags, dish soap, shoes, furniture, clean up kits (bleach and scrub brushes).

Braby reported that one man had died since Wednesday, June 11, when he was reported missing. The body was discovered Sunday afternoon by rescue workers in boats.

"We don't know for sure what happened, but he was apparently swept away," Braby said. "That is an example of why we don't want people going into those areas."

He said it is his understanding that most pigs in local confinements were removed from the area, although there are reports of pigs washing ashore, both dead and live, in the Gulfport, Ill., area.

Braby also noted that the American Red Cross wants to set up a temporary headquarters in Wapello and if a location is found, there would be about 150 staff members coming to town in about a week and will stay two to three months. Housing will be needed for them, also.

Braby said a few houses on the north of Wapello have wet basements, but otherwise there is no damage to homes in the county seat.

Highways 61, 92, 22, 70 and Louisa County Road G28 north-

Continued on page 3



The Don Purdy home, east of Wapello on Highway 99, is pictured after the levee break east of Wapello in the photo at top. The city of Oakville was covered by several feet of water after a levee break southwest of town, bottom photo (photos submitted).



Louisa Communications restores service for local Iowa Telecom customers

Louisa Communications came to the aid of Iowa Telecom last weekend, when flooding caused by a levee break east of Wapello led to the loss of service for Iowa Telecom's local customers.

On Sunday, June 15, Louisa

Communications was notified of the loss of service (a fiber link was lost).

Louisa Communications immediately began working to restore service (long distance and 911) for Iowa Telecom customers.

Corn and Soybean Growers Banquet cancelled

The Louisa and Des Moines County Corn and Soybean Growers Annual Banquet, set for Thursday, June 19, has been cancelled due to flooding concerns.

The banquet was to be held at Comfort Suites in Burlington.

THIS WEEK IN SECTION B

- P. 1B Louisa County flooding
- P. 2B County Clips
- P. 2B Legal Notices
- P. 2B Just For Fun
- P. 3B Louisa County Sheriff's Report
- P. 3B Pro Racing Weekly Update
- P. 3B Southeast Iowa Trackside
- P. 3B College Corner
- P. 4B Good News from Iraq
- P. 4B Louisa County Sheriff's Report
- P. 4B Louisa County School Calendar of events
- P. 6B Dollar Stretcher Tips
- P. 6B Top 20 TV Listings

Inserts:
•Jack & Jill*
•Farm King*
•Energy Savings Guide

This Week on
www.bigbluebutton.com
Flood Pictures

*Partial Insert

WAPELLO REPUBLICAN

SECTION B



INSIDE SECTION B

- Top 20 TV Listings
- County Clips
- Legal Notices
- Dollar Stretcher Tips
- Just for Fun
- College Corner
- L-M Scholarships
- Wapello Honor Roll
- Race Results
- Louisa Co. Sheriff's Report
- Good News fro Iraq

Section B is also
included in the Morning Sun News
Herald for Morning Sun subscribers.

Volume 157 Issue 25

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Louisa County prepares for the flood of 2008

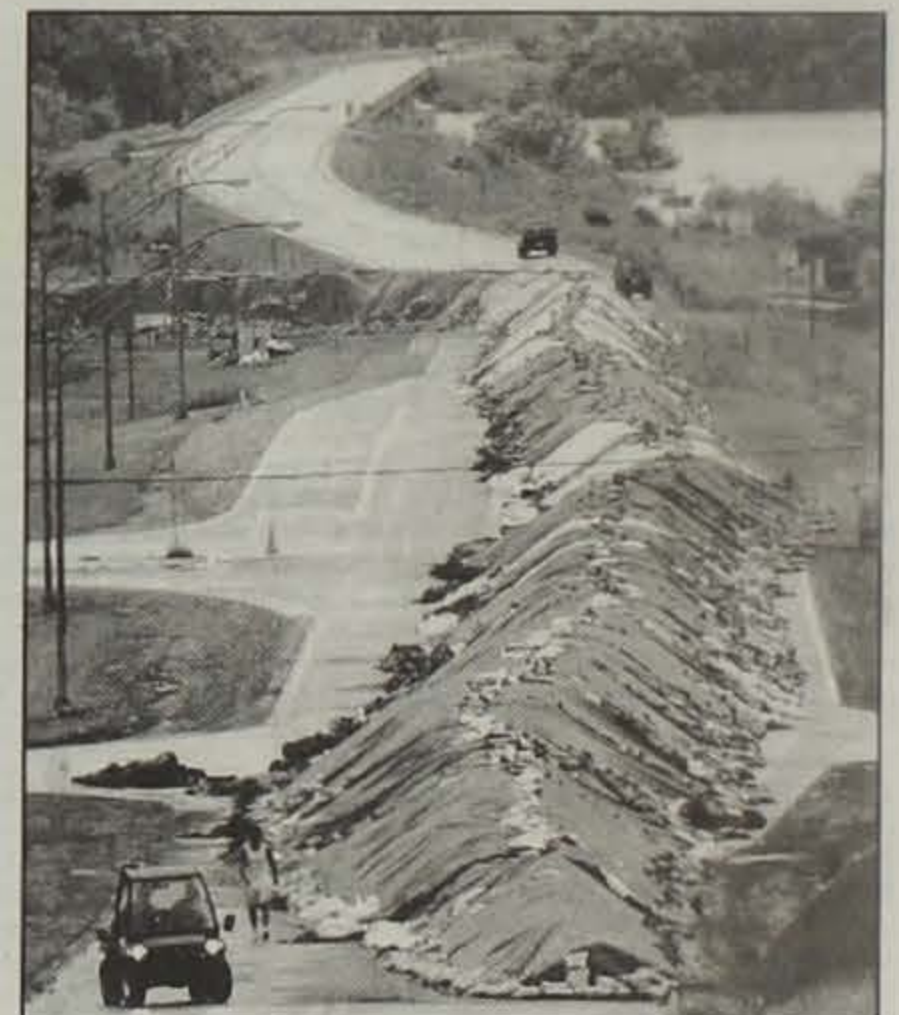
Oakville



Columbus Junction



Photos by Dana Royer/
The Wapello Republican
**Look for more
photos of the flood
of 2008 next week**



Continued from page one Supervisors briefing

east of Wapello are closed as is H22 (the K Road). He said once damage is assessed they might or might not be opened soon.

County Engineer Larry Roehl said there are 40 miles of gravel roads and 10 miles of paved roads under water. Roehl said 70 would probably be the first to open. He said there are probably some pretty big holes in 61 and 92.

Roehl said he doesn't know how badly the roads are damaged, but said major work will be needed. He estimated costs for paving, gravel, debris removal and erosion control at about \$4 million.

Braby said over the weekend the water was down to the 1993

flood stage.

"We have come to realize that 1993 wasn't so bad," he said.

Jail construction has come to a halt with no way to get equipment or workers to the location.

Norm Stone and Drew DeLang with the U.S. Department of Agriculture also made a report to the supervisors.

"We want to offer our services," DeLang said. "We will do what we can."

They said the agency could help in many ways with such projects as riprap, debris removal, bridge abutments, soil stabilization and maybe some private levees. They said they would not build roads.



This aerial photo shows the break in the levee southwest of the city of Oakville. The break led to several feet of water in the town, and to the flooding of thousands of acres of farmland (submitted photo).

Continued from page one River tops 1993 level

but they were able to use a Tyson well, and keep water flowing for bathing, washing clothes, etc.

Bottled drinking water was being provided to residents.

On Tuesday afternoon, water levels were falling, and there was hope that the water plant could be cleaned and back on line in two or three days.

Where do we go from here?

have yet to recede enough to fully examine the great amount of damage done.

Next week the Republican will take a look at the damage, and the direction area residents must go to begin the long process of healing.

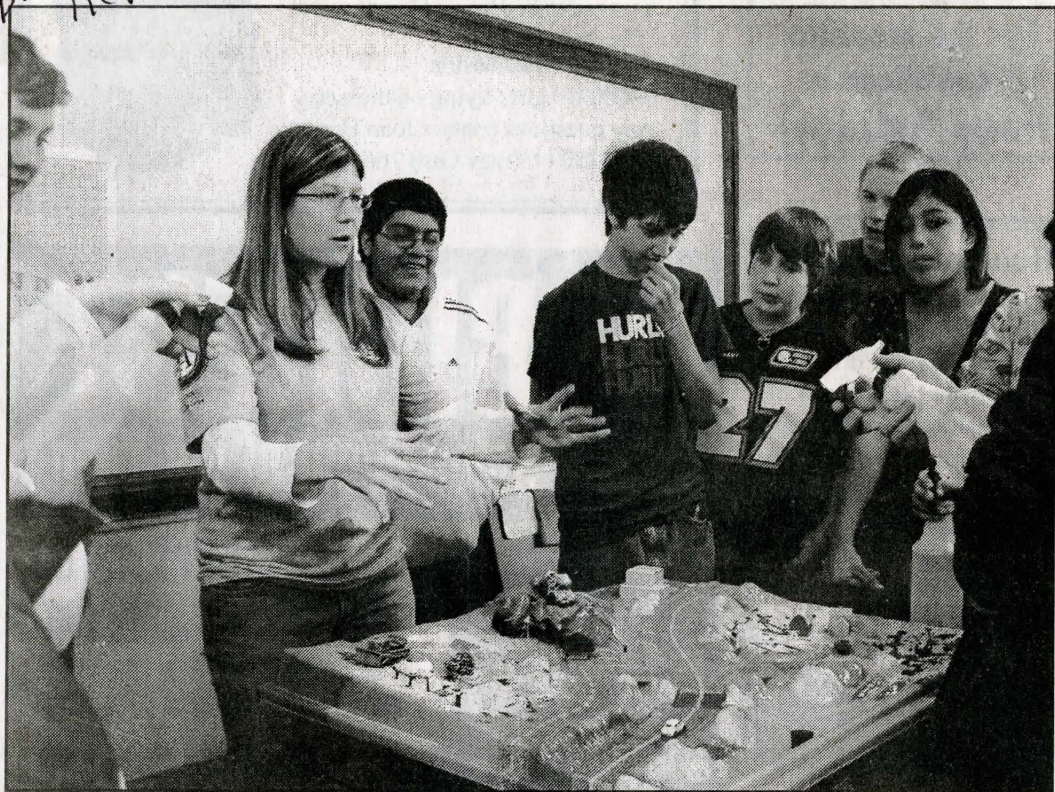
Area residents that have sustained flood damage are urged to contact FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or www.FEMA.com

The waters have crested, but



Water gushes across Highway 99 east of Wapello after a levee was compromised last Friday. As of Tuesday afternoon, the bridge east of Wapello and the highway remain closed, although water levels had begun to recede.

Wapello Rev



Elizabeth Yoder, AmeriCorp Naturalist with the Louisa County Conservation Board, talks about water pollution to the Wapello 7th grade science class on Thursday, January 24th. The class was using a plastic landscape model to see how pollutants can enter a community's water supply. The students tried to develop practices to keep pollutants out of the water. This program was funded by the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.



Courtesy of Pheasants Forever

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Thank You

**for your generous contribution to
Louisa County Pheasants Forever.
This will help Pheasants Forever
promote wildlife habitat in Louisa
County.**

Record crests this weekend

31.5 feet predicted at Wapello; 32.5 feet predicted at Columbus Junction

In 1993 officials said that it was a 100 year flood.

Now, fifteen years later, Louisa County residents (indeed, residents statewide) are faced with the unpleasant prospect of dealing with another "100 year flood".

In fact, crest predictions early Tuesday afternoon point to local river levels even higher than in 1993.

Officials were predicting a crest of 31.5 feet in Wapello on Sunday. The record crest was set on July 7, 1983, at 29.53 feet, making the predicted crest some two feet higher than the previ-

ous record.

Columbus Junction area residents were working feverishly this week, preparing for a crest of 32.5 feet--again some two to three feet over the record crest of 1993.

Levees were being built and sandbags filled and placed into position.

Without the newly-constructed levee in Columbus Junction, water levels would cover the lumber yard, Economart, Casey's, Subway and Columbus Motel areas with a few inches to a few feet of water.

Concern throughout the county centered not only on whether levees would hold, but also if the record levels would be over the top of the levees.

Complicating the situation is the fact that, while the crest is forecast for Sunday, the river is likely to stay at or near those levels for two to three days, before a slow fall is forecast.

As of Tuesday afternoon, county road closures included:

Highway 92 from Columbus Junction viaduct to Columbus Junction Highway 70 (a levee was being built on Highway 92).

County road G26 in the

Gladwin area.

Meyerholz Lake Road from Highway 99 to Highway 99.

I Avenue off Highway 99.

Toolesboro Landing off Highway 99.

Cappy Russell Road and Landing off Highway 99.

In addition, Highway 99 was slated to be closed Wednesday just south of the Oakville bridge, so the levee can be filled in at that location.

As the crest approaches, additional closures are likely.

For updates on road closures, check the following website: www.louisacountyiowa.org



Flood preparations

Area residents in the path of rising flood waters have been making preparations for record crests.

In the top photo, work was underway in Columbus Junction to build a levee protecting the east part of the town.

In the photo at left, sandbags were being stored for use on the levee just east of Wapello.

Soil judging clinic held for South Sub-district FFA Chapters

By Jacob Kerr
and Denise Allen

Wapello FFA and six other FFA chapters from the South Sub-district of the Southeast District participated in a Soil Judging Clinic and Contest hosted by the Louisa County National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The event was held on Wednesday, September 24th, 2008, on land owned by Eleanor Stone.

Each chapter was allowed as many teams as they desired. Wapello's two teams placed second and tied for 7th out of 22 teams entered. Kelsey Gittings, Brock Webb and Grant Schaeffer made up the first team and Bryan Bockes, Jacob Kerr and Cortney Tomson were on the second team.

Gittings placed 3rd among the 87 individuals participating. Other individual placings included Schaeffer 6th, Webb 11th, Bockes 14th, and Tomson 45th. The top three teams and the top three individuals were awarded medals sponsored by the Louisa County SWCD.

All the participants started with a practice pit. After viewing the pit, Mark Levan, Soil Scientist from the District NRCS Office in Washington, went through the scorecard for that pit with the students. Then, each participant completed scorecards on three more pits and submitted them for judging. They completed the day's activities by taking a 40-question test related to soils.

To complete the soil scorecard for each pit, the contestants have to evaluate surface features, evaluate profile features, determine the class of land, recommend conservation practices, and determine suitability of the soil for houses with basements, septic tank disposal fields, and use as topsoil.

The next competition is the Southeast District Event, Tuesday, October 7th, at MCC. If they place in the top 5 at district, they advance to the state competition in Ames on October 11th. There they will square off with the top 5 teams for the other 5 districts. The top 5 teams at the state event qualify to compete at the International Land Olympics in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in May 2009.

The NRCS and its staff located the site, dug the pits, prepared the scorecards and completed all the leg work to make the experience both educational and enjoyable for all students involved.

Norm Stone, NRCS Technician took the lead role in this event. He located the sites for the pits, dug the pits, and coordinated all the activities.

Other NRCS staff who helped included Drew DeLang, NRCS District Conservationist and Chris Bradley, NRCS Technician.

The Louisa County SWCD provided the awards for the event, publicized the event, provided staff time, and treated the participants to a snack. Duane Lewis, SWCD Technician, and Janet Williams, SWCD State Secretary helped carry out activities and communication.

Following is a list of the top teams and individuals:

Teams

1st Columbus 1	390
2nd Wapello 1	363
3rd Washington 1	357
4th Lone Tree 1	325
5th Davis County 1	311
6th Central Lee 2	300
7th Wapello 2	296
Columbus 2	296

Individuals

1st Elyssa McFarland,	
Columbus	139
2nd Seth Todd, Columbus	131
3rd Kelsey Gittings, Wapello	129
4th Sam Shepherd,	
Washington	122
Jared Vittetoe, Washington	122
6th Grant Schaeffer, Wapello	120
Tanner Travis, Columbus	120
8th Cecil Knapp, Davis County	117
9th Jared Todd, Columbus	115
Matt Sly, Central Lee	114
11th Brock Webb, Wapello	113
14th Jacob Kerr, Wapello	111
45th Cortney Tomson, Wapello	83



Mark Levan(in the pit), District Soil Scientist for NRCS, explains the scoring of the practice pit for the South Sub-district FFA Soils Clinic and Contest. Twenty two teams and 87 individuals from seven schools participated. Norm Stone, NRCS Technician, coordinated the event jointly sponsored by the Louisa County NRCS and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District. Lunch and results were coordinated by the Wapello FFA.