

Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District
709 S. Iris Street, Suite 101
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641
319-385-2824, Ext 3

2014 Annual Report
July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014



**Soil & Water
Conservation
Commissioners**

Front row:
Rick Mallams
Harlan Miller
Jeff Olson

Back Row:
Allan Barnes
Chuck Allen
Ross Tweedy
Alan Miller

District Commissioners:

Allan Barnes, Chairman
Rick Mallams, Vice-Chairman
Harlan Miller
Jeff Olson
Alan Miller

Assistant Commissioners

Chuck Allen
Ross Tweedy

IDALS-DSC Staff:

Barb Shelman, Secretary
Michael Allen, Technician



NRCS Staff:

Doug Ensminger, District Conservationist
Josh Sieren, Soil Conservationist
Dale Schmeiser, Soil Conservation Technician



SWCD Staff:

Caleb Waters, Watershed Coordinator=
Nathan Shelman, Lower Skunk River WQI Watershed Coordinator

"Our mission is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment."

2014 SWCD Poster Contest Winners



Soil & Water Stewardship Materials purchased by the Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District were provided to New London, Waco and Winfield-Mt. Union School Districts. Five teachers used these materials to promote soil and water conservation to their students. Posters created for the 2013 Poster Contest featured the theme **“Dig Deeper Mysteries in The Soil”**. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Conservation Districts of Iowa, and the Henry County SWCD co sponsor the SWCD contest. Winners of the 2014 Poster Contest were:



**Cayten Coakley
Deacon Bird
Louden Huisenga
Shanae Riley, 2nd
Place
Not pictured
Riley Doonan,
1st Place**

**Grades K-1
Waco**



**Aiden Barton--1st Place
Mystery Wade, 2nd Place (not
pictured) Tysann Gipple,
Honorable Mention Grades 2-3
New London**



**Katherin Bird
1st Place
Grades 7-9
Winfield Mt. Union**

District Financial Report of State Funds & Accomplishments: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Budget-Operating Funds Commissioner and Office Expenses

Total Allocations	\$2,250.00
Commissioner Meeting Expense	\$ 490.62
Office Expenses	\$ 79.30
CDI & NACD Dues	\$1,150.00
Educational Materials/Awards	\$ 195.08
Postage	\$ 340.28
Total Expenditures	\$2,255.28
Balance	\$ (5.28)

REAP

Resource Enhancement And Protection 75% Cost-Share Funds

Cedar Creek Priority Watershed Practices Fund Terraces 10,850 L.F.

2013 Projects Rolled Over	\$ 19,202.11
Initial Allocation	\$ 10,461.14
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 17,959.63
Total Allocations	\$ 47,622.88
Projects Complete & Paid	\$-26,607.82
	\$ 21,015.06
Funds Rolled Over to 2015	\$-21,015.06
Funds Recalled	\$ 0.00

Forestry/Grasses Fund Timber Stand Improvement 57.6 ac. Tree Planting 8.0 ac & 1 Windbreak

2013 Projects Rolled Over	\$ 3,750.00
Initial Allocation	\$ 3,283.22
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 9,849.66
Total Allocations	\$16,882.88
Funds Complete & Paid	-11,339.22
	\$ 5,543.66
Funds Rolled Over to 2015	- 4,590.00
Funds Recalled	\$ 953.66

All services and programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

State Cost-Share Funds

Terraces 51,660 L.F. 3 Basins, Conservation Cover 37.5 Ac.

2014-Cost Share

2013 Practices Rolled Over	\$ 25,488.35
Initial Allocation	\$ 50,224.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 150,672.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 19,667.50
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 2,885.00
Transferred to Mgt. Practices	\$ - 18,025.00
Total Allocations	\$ 230,911.85
Projects Complete & Paid	\$-144,361.61
	\$ 86,550.24
Projects Rolled Over to 2015	\$ 86,550.24
Unobligated Funds	\$ 0.00

State Cost-Share Management Funds Cover Crops, 39 landowners, 721 Ac.

2014-IFIP-Management Practices

Total Allocations	\$18,025.00
Projects Complete & Paid	\$18,025.00
Unobligated funds	\$ 0.00

State Revolving Fund--No-Interest 0% Loans 1 Grade Stabilization Structure Constructed

2014 Allocation	\$ 81,000.00
Projects Rolled Over from 2013	\$ 10,000.00
Projects Completed & Paid	\$- 11,000.00
Funds Rolled Over to 2015	\$- 80,000.00
Unobligated Funds/Recalled	\$ 0.00

Public Owned Lakes---Lake Geode 7 Projects; Terraces 6,050 L.F.

Funds Paid in Henry County	\$37,008.15
----------------------------	-------------

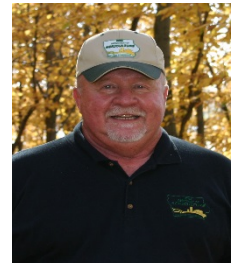
Water Quality Initiative Statewide Cover Crops 50,795 ac. & No-till 30.0 ac.

Funds Paid in Henry County	\$51,095.00
----------------------------	-------------



CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

By Jim Gillespie
DSC Director



I don't know you personally and you probably don't know who I am, but more than ever we need to come together, as landowners, farmers, and urban folks, and challenge ourselves to do something more for conservation this year. It seems that there are lots of challenges out there

like getting fit and healthy, taking the ice bucket challenge, running or walking for different causes, taking a pie in the face, kissing a pig or things like that. Well, my challenge for you is to do something new this year for soil and water conservation, and together we will make environmental improvements in Iowa.

When you have done your new thing this year, share it. Post it to Facebook, Twitter (using hashtag #newthingforwater) or other social media accounts. Tell your friends and neighbors. Show others what you are doing and encourage them to do something as well. Sharing your conservation efforts will get others involved in the challenge.

There are numerous reasons to participate in this challenge. We have so many valuable resources in Iowa to protect. We demand a lot from our resources; to produce food, fiber, recreation and a great place to live and work. We choose to live in Iowa because it provides the quality of life we are looking for. Don't we want to insure that it is going to be preserved for future generations of Iowans?

What I personally plan to do in this challenge is to seed down some areas on my property to native grasses and forbs, use cover crops in my garden (I don't farm any ground), and talk to everyone I can about the importance of soil and water conservation.

Thank you for considering this challenge and if you have questions or need technical assistance please feel free to contact your local field office. You are also welcome to contact me at jim.gillespie@iowaagriculture.gov.



By Vince Sitzmann
Field Services Bureau Chief

In the U.S., Iowa ranks number one in the production of eggs, pork, soybeans, and corn, and number two in beef. If Iowa were a country, it would be the third largest producer of corn in the world. That's pretty amazing considering Iowa is only 36 million acres in size with only 25 million acres dedicated to row crop production. These are impressive numbers by any standards, but equally important is the conservation ethic Iowa farmers subscribe to. Farmers throughout the state spend millions of dollars annually out of their own pockets to install conservation practices on their land, which makes them leaders in conservation implementation as well as leaders in ag production.

Two years ago, Iowa unveiled the Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS). This was the first plan of its kind in the nation, aimed at reducing nutrient losses to the Gulf of Mexico. The strategy was pioneered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University, and the Iowa DNR. It incorporates the best science and research we have available and it was built for Iowa. Shortly after the Nutrient Reduction Strategy was released, implementation of the plan was launched and is known today as the Water Quality Initiative (WQI).

Over the past two years we continue to see exciting momentum for the WQI. Iowans are engaged, new partnerships are expanding, and farmers are implementing conservation practices they've never tried before. The Nutrient Research Center at ISU has been established with the purpose of pursuing a science based approach to nutrient management research. The Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance (IAWA) partnership between the Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, and the Iowa Pork Producers has been established, each committing one million dollars annually over the next five years to advance the implementation of the WQI. The Iowa Legislature has also committed 16.8 million dollars over the last two years to support conservation and water quality improvements both in special project areas and for statewide practice implementation.

We have made great strides through the voluntary approach to conservation, but we have to keep the momentum growing by exploring more and different types of conservation practices on the landscape. We have new and emerging technologies in addition to our traditional conservation practices that will improve our nutrient management efforts. I would encourage everyone to evaluate their farming operation and ask yourself if there is more you can do on your farm. Solving water quality issues is something everyone has to be a part of if we are to continue our leadership role in ag production and conservation implementation. If you are interested in learning more about the NRS or the WQI you can visit www.cleanwateriowa.org or stop into your local SWCD to learn how you can be part of this important initiative.