



Monroe County SWCD News

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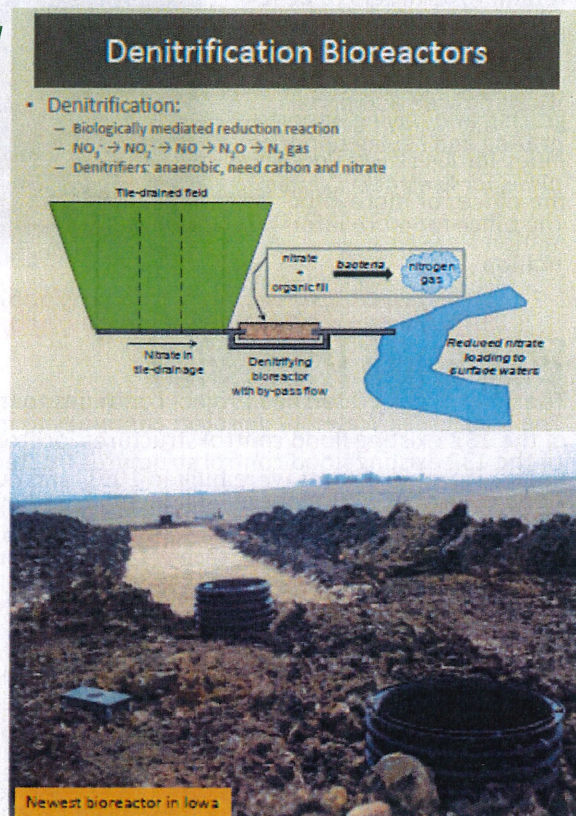
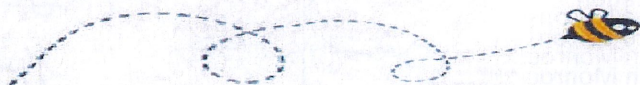
Colleen Putnam

Jim Nelson

Dave Dowdy

Denitrification Bioreactor Field Day Planned

Mid June the Monroe County SWCD will host a field day near Eddyville demonstrating an edge-of-field practice with the installation of a Denitrifying Bioreactor. Dates for this all day event will be announced closer to June. With the rising concern of nutrients entering our water sources, practices aimed toward Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy are installed to help prevent excess nutrient loss. New or existing underground tile lines are directed into a localized area filtering nitrates thru woodchips. This process converts nitrogen in the water into a gas that is released into the air keeping it out of our water. Bioreactors may be able to remove 30% to 100% of nitrates from tile water with a life expectancy of 15 to 20 years. The cost effectiveness and practicality of bioreactors will depend considerably on the topography and cost of digging the trench and obtaining woodchips.



NRCS Conservation Planning Agency, Free to Iowa Farmers



Conservation planning is the first step in managing all natural resources on your farm. Natural resources include soil, water, air, plants, or even animals, energy efficiency, and people. To protect the resources, NRCS works one-on-one with landowners to plan and install conservation practices to reduce soil erosion; improve soil health and air and water quality; create and restore wetlands; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; improve pasture and woodlands; and reduce flooding. NRCS has at least one office in every Iowa county, located at USDA Service Centers. With conveniently located offices

comes local knowledge of local resource concerns. NRCS employs soil conservationists, engineers, biologists, and specialists in grasslands and wetlands, to assist landowners through the conservation planning process. A plan is a record of a farmer's goals and decisions in managing natural resources on their land.

plans includes land use maps, soils information, inventory of resources, and engineering notes

Nutrient Management Protects Soil Health

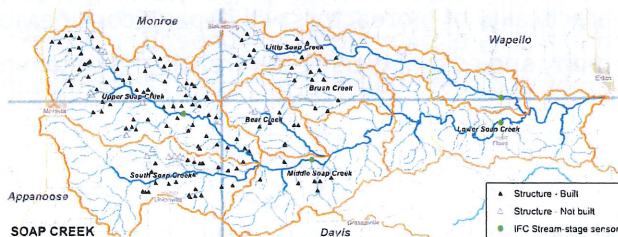
With today's volatile weather using cover crops in between normal cropping seasons can help reduce soil erosion, limit nitrogen leaching, suppress weeds and increase the soil organic matter. There are several benefits to off season cropping: It will improve soil health by leaving organic material to decompose and improve water infiltration while reducing soil compaction. It will also improve water retention by protecting the soil from the effects of wind and sun, improve nutrient recycling by retaining fertilizers to be released back into the soil and it can provide additional grazing and haying opportunities for livestock! Contact the office for more information .



<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

Soap Creek Watershed

The Soap Creek Watershed project continues to move forward, now concentrating efforts on upland treatment above some of the 132 existing flood control structures located in Appanoose, Davis, Monroe, and Wapello counties. The project's first flood control structures were built in 1991, and over the course of the next 20 years, a total of 132 flood control structures were built in the watershed. Despite the loss of PL-566 funding in 2011, the Soap Creek Watershed Board pursued new avenues of funding and in 2013, received \$450,000 in grant funds through the Iowa Flood Center. Priorities focus on upland treatment above existing flood control structures, particularly sites that have sustained damages from multiple flood events over the past 10 years. Projects including the construction of tile outlet terraces, water and sediment control basins, and grade stabilization structures have already be installed and more are planned to be constructed in 2015. So far, five of these projects are located in Monroe County.



Financial Report

IIIM Budgets- FY2014

IM Budget 2014

IA Financial Incentive (IFIP) Beginning Obligation \$208,469.10 Beginning Bal. \$433.54 FY14 Allocation \$214,550.66 Funds Spent \$163,627.92 Funds Obligated \$135,846.95 Recalled \$123,978.43 Practices Installed w/Funds Spent Grade Stabilization Structures—7 Terraces— 7,580 feet Basins—75 Summer Incentive—14 ac. Management Practices— IFIP Funds Spent \$5,100.00 Practices Installed w/Funds Spent Cover Crops—204 ac.	Reap Practices Beginning Obligation \$3,420.00 Beginning Bal. \$578.02 FY14 Allocation \$10,461.14 Funds Spent \$9,156.00 Funds Obligated \$3,960.00 Recalled \$1,343.16 Practices Installed w/Funds Spent Forest Stand Improvement— 99.8 ac. Reap Forestry & Native Grass Beginning Obligation \$68.13 Beginning Bal. \$87.67 FY14 Allocation \$3,650.85 Funds Spent \$4,175.85 Funds Obligated \$62.88 Recalled \$87.67 Practices Installed w/Funds Spent Forest Stand Improvement—27.3 ac. Tree/Shrub Establishment—4 ac.	Water Quality Initiative Funds Spent \$19,590.00 Practices Installed w/Funds Spent Cover Crops—783.6 ac. Rathbun Special Project—WSPF Funds Spent \$14,702.42 Practices Installed w/Funds Spent Terraces—6,600 feet No-Interest Loans Beginning Obligation \$10,000.00 Beginning Bal. \$0.00 FY14 Allocation \$2,000.00 Funds Spent \$0.00 Funds Obligated \$12,000.00 Recalled \$0.00	Commissioner/ Office Expense FY 14 Allocation \$2,000.00 Supplemental \$800.00 Mileage \$521.82 Supplies \$195.21 Postage \$200.00 CDI Dues \$493.61 NACD Dues \$775.00 Education Supplies \$328.09 Water Test Supplies \$256.27 Awards \$30.00
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Programs Available

Environmental Quality Incentives Programs

Provides financial and technical assistance to landowners to develop and implement conservation practices. A contract plan will help address specific natural resource concerns.

Conservation Stewardship Program

Assists agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities addressing resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance the higher the payment.

Water Quality Initiative Program

Provides a per acre incentive for producers to apply cover crops to existing crop fields. As the Nutrient Management Strategy becomes a larger part of a total planning package, producers can see incorporating this practice will improve their soils health.

Low Interest Loan Program

This program offers financial assistance when implementing practices such as terraces, basins, grade stabilizations etc. At a 3% interest rate and payments spread out over time makes conservation more affordable. These loans can be used in conjunction with State and federal programs or stand alone.

Districts Activities

The SWCD Watershed Coordinator has been researching the Cedar Creek Watershed the past two years in hopes of completing an assessment which will allow us to apply for practice funds in the future. Due to the size of the watershed and stakeholder involvement we are establishing a Watershed Management Authority (WMA) board to help facilitate activities. Cedar Creek is a large watershed composed of 14 sub-watersheds extending into five counties. The headwaters start in Lucas County and at the Appanoose - Monroe County line where it extends northward into Marion County. From there the stream outlets into the Des Moines River northeast of Bussey in Mahaska County, Iowa. The Total drainage area is 269,511 acres with 55% of the watershed in Monroe County. Lucas, Monroe and Marion County SWCD's along with stakeholders are working toward securing funds at this time for the assessment. For more information you can contact Linda Shumate at 641-932-5144 Ext. 112

Conservation Week

Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Week is an opportunity to recognize the important conservation work that has been placed on the Iowa landscape and bring attention to the ongoing work by farmers, landowners and urban residents to protect the state's soil and water resources.

April 26th—May 3rd

Conservation Week is coordinated with national Stewardship Week, which is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts. This year's Stewardship Week theme is "**Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators**" is designed to focus the nation's attention on the stewardship and importance of our natural resources.



ACTIVITY CORNER

Did you know...

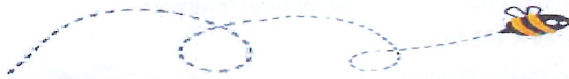
- Agriculture depends greatly on the bees for pollination. Honey bees account for 80% of all insect pollination. Without such pollination, we would see a significant decrease in the yield of fruits and vegetables.
- Honey bees are also an important part of Iowa's agri-ecosystem. IA produces an average of 3.1 million pounds of honey annually. Currently there is about 1500 beekeepers in Iowa and keep 30,000 colonies.
- Although honey bees can fly 15 miles per hour, while foraging bees have to fly about 55,000 miles to produce a pound of honey, visiting around 2 million flowers.
- Bees collect 66 lbs. of pollen per year, per hive. Pollen is the male germ cells produced by all flowering plants for fertilization and plant embryo formation.



Calendar of Events



- **April 13th— Iowa Envirothon**
- **April TBA— Trees for Threes**
- **April 15th—Private Pesticide Applicators Training**
Mahaska Co. Extension Office @ 1:30—3PM
- **April 26—May 3 “Soil & Water Conservation Week”**
- **May 6th Tentative Commissioners Meeting**
- **May 7th Farm Bureau Agricultural Day**
- **June TBA Denitrifying Bioreactor Field Day**



*A **HUGE** thank you goes out to our contributors:
past, present and future. Without you, our
community, educational activities and awards
would not be possible.*

Monroe County USDA Service Center

District Personnel

Linda Shumate— SWCD Watershed Coordinator

Joyce Bassett— District Technician

ELYON Contract Personnel

Deborah Morgan—Clerical Specialist

IDALS-DSC Personnel

Diana Williams—State Secretary

Ronald Peterson—State Soil Conservation Technician

USDA-NRCS Staff:

Margaret Cope—District Conservationist

Hannah Grimm—Soil Conservationist

Michael Gibbs—Federal Soil Conservation Technician

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Monroe County SWCD

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