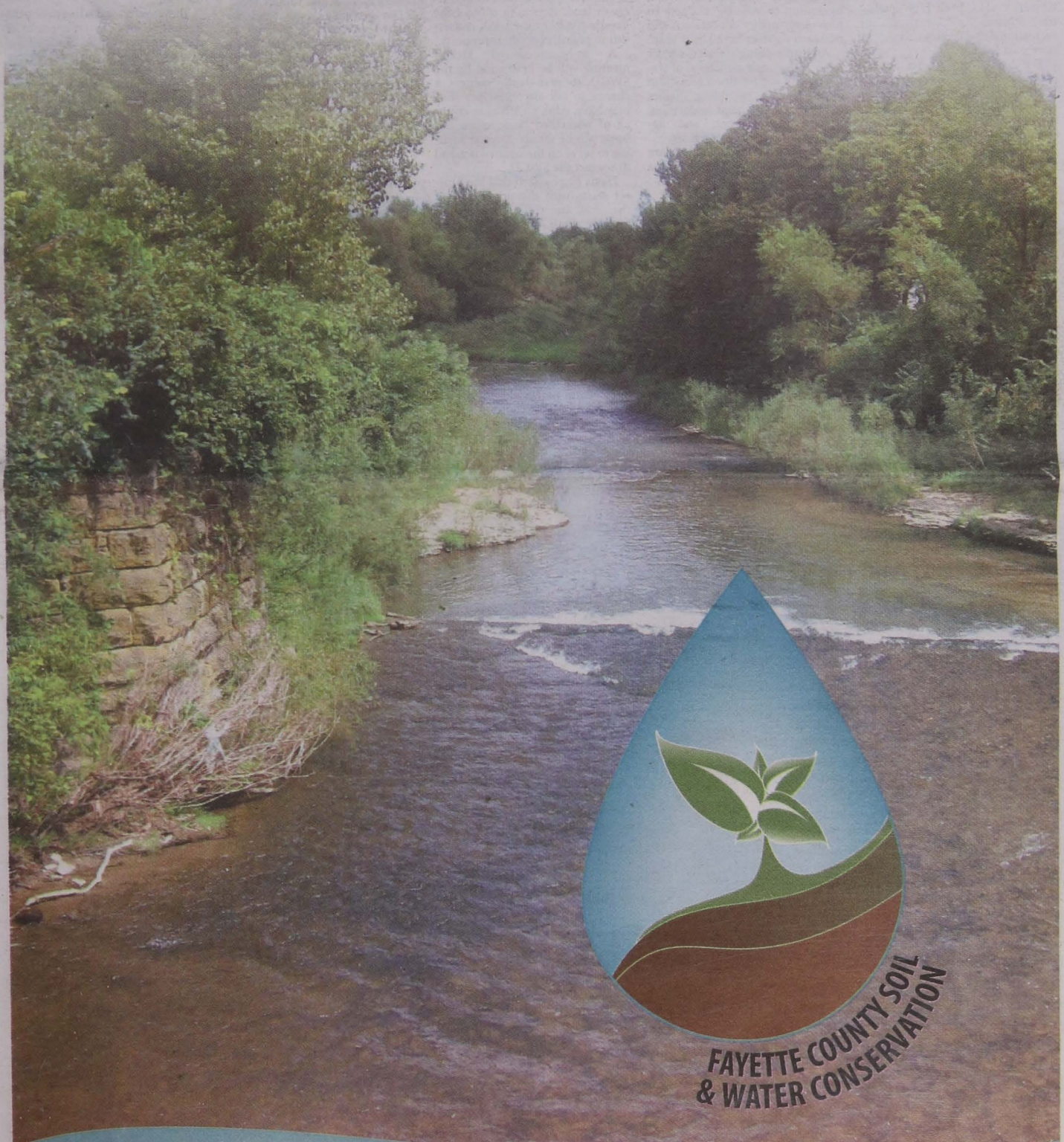


2012

Postal Customer
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Union, IA 52175
Permit No. 120

2012 - FAYETTE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT



FAYETTE COUNTY SOIL
& WATER CONSERVATION

Otter Creek, Elgin, IA

Otter Creek Watershed covers 30,000 acres

After a year of planning, Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has received a \$100,000 grant to carry forward with its water quality project for the Upper Otter Creek Watershed.

The Upper Otter Creek Watershed covers 16,740 acres of predominantly rural agricultural land that drains into Otter and Glovers creeks, both high-quality trout streams that have significant recreational and economic value to northeast Iowa.

The 2011 Trout Angler Survey conducted by the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources recorded 15,280 angler trips during the 2011 season for both Otter and Glovers trout streams.

Carrie Davis, Upper Otter Creek Project coordinator, explained that

the SWCD previously utilized a \$5,000 Watershed Development and Planning Grant to conduct water quality monitoring, complete watershed assessments, gather background information, conduct stakeholder surveys, and meet with Otter Creek residents to determine the feasibility of a watershed project on the upper portion of the local trout stream.

Davis said that the majority of new monies will be utilized in providing further educational and outreach services in the next year.

Any remaining funds will be used in the implementation of water quality and/or flood reduction improvements, including further development of grass waterways, pasture management, and ag-wastewater structure practices.

Davis, who graduated from North Fayette in 1999 and Winona

State in 2003 with degrees in environmental science and geology, said "This is my fourth project in 10 years, but it is the first that has a urban component with both West Union and Elgin affected."

She added, "We will be addressing conservation practices and opportunities for all land uses, including crop, pasture and timberland."

The first step for either landowners or land users is to contact the Fayette SWCD to discuss conservation practices on their property.

A to-be-announced kickoff meeting will be held soon by the SWCD to give land-owners a chance to ask any questions they may have. Also, an advisory council of watershed landowners and users will be set up. Anyone wishing to serve on the council is asked to contact the SWCD.

Davis emphasized that the project starts with the upper half of the creek and will transition into the lower half. The total acres are 30,000.

The Otter Creek Watershed consists of crop, pasture, timber and urban areas. Located from west of West Union to its confluence with the Turkey River in Elgin, Otter Creek is classified as a high quality, cold-water stream.

The current two-year project focuses on the portion of the local watershed that lies upstream of the intersection of Hazel and Hornet roads east of West Union.

While Fayette County SWCD will actually receive its most recent grant funding in 2013, Davis noted that the local SWCD intends to apply for additional grant funding for the project in 2014.

"After addressing the issues

related to the upper portion of Otter Creek, the longtime goal is to continually move downstream with the project all the way to the Turkey River in Elgin," Davis reported.

Fayette SWCD began working on watershed projects in 1989 in Glovers Creek. Additional area watershed projects include Nutting, Upper Maquoketa, Grannis Creek, Ensign Hollow, and Mink Creek.

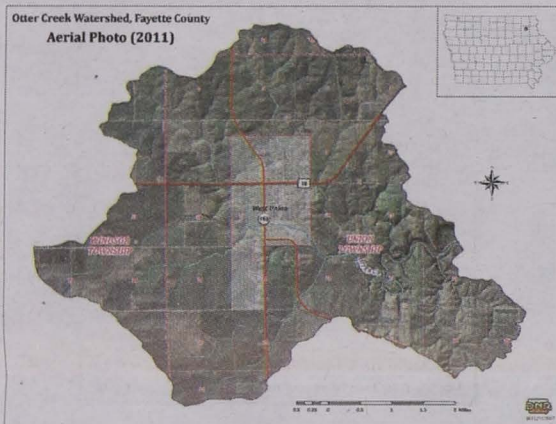
Davis explained that all watershed projects help landowners use conservation practices to retain soil in the fields, and keep soil, nutrients and bacteria out of the waterways, benefitting people, wildlife, and the environment as a whole.

During its recent announcement, the Watershed Improvement

Review Board approved 12 applications totaling \$946,952 in grants to support similar watershed projects.

The grant funds will be matched by recipients, who will provide over \$7.1 million in funding from the local communities to support these projects. As a result, \$8.1 million will be going to improve priority watersheds throughout the state.

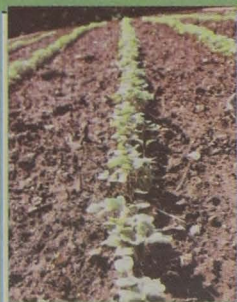
The Watershed Improvement Review Board is comprised of representatives from agriculture, drinking water and wastewater utilities, environmental organizations, agribusiness, and the conservation community, along with two state senators and two state representatives.



For the past 10 years Carrie Davis of West Union has been project coordinator for the Fayette County SWCD. She is currently involved in her fourth big project, the Otter Creek Watershed, covering 30,000 acres of soil and water. The 1999 North Fayette graduate has always been in love with the outdoors. In her job she wants to make a difference in soil and water quality, something she has been around her entire life.

Tabloid
designed
and printed
by
The Fayette
County Union

From Spring Planting to Fall Harvest



Viafield is proud to support the conservation efforts of area farmers and land owners. Your hard work will help benefit our agricultural community, while preserving Iowa's unique ecological heritage.



Conservation Makes A Difference



Toll Free
1-888-788-7671
www.viafield.com

Area locations: Clermont • Randalia • Sumner • Arlington
Maynard • Winthrop • Volga • Lamont • Elgin

Identification Statement

The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Report

Published by the Fayette SWCD,
Hwy. 150, 120 N. Industrial Pkwy.,
West Union, IA 52175.
Issue No. 14

Good food has a great story.

ONEOTA COMMUNITY FOOD COOPERATIVE

312 West Water Street • Decorah
563-382-4666 • www.oneotacoop.com

EVERYONE CAN SHOP - EVERYONE WELCOME - NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

Woodland Owner of Year is J. Oldfather

The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation Woodland Owner of the Year is Joyce Oldfather of West Union.

Oldfather owns 120 acres of woodland. Her conservation efforts began in 1998 with weed tree removal on 12 acres.

In 2006 another 32 acres saw tree release before another nine acres of tree release occurred in 2010.

A conservationist said, "Joyce is every interested in helping wildlife. She has more than 65 acres of CRP ground that could easily be farmed, but she decided to keep it for wildlife cover."

"She then planted evergreens along a fence line for wildlife habitat. It's clear that all her woodland management promote a better life for wildlife of all sorts."

EQIP Signup Continues for Fayette County Ag Producers

Signup continues for Fayette County agricultural producers to receive financial and technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a voluntary program for farmers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

EQIP applications are accepted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), located at the USDA Service Center, 120 N. Industrial Pkwy #2. Through the 2008 Farm Bill, NRCS provides financial incentives to producers to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers meet environmental regulations.

Conservation plans must be developed for the entire area included in an EQIP contract. NRCS provides technical assistance and financial payments to producers who apply practices based on conservation plans. EQIP practices include, but are not limited to: grassed waterways, waste storage facilities, grade stabilization structures, terraces, sediment basins, no-till and pasture management practices.

Fayette County District Conservationist Aaron Anderson says EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis. Cutoff dates to rank applications are set and advertised periodically as funds become available. Anderson says early applications allow for more thorough conservation planning. "If you apply early, a conservation plan can be developed to identify all natural resource concerns and treatment options," he says. "Early application also ensures that all eligibility issues are in order."

Historically underserved clients, such as socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, will receive special consideration for EQIP funding.

For more information or to apply for an EQIP contract, visit the West Union USDA Service Center, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or call 563-422-3868 Ext. 3.

Open Woodland Management Funds Available!

Open Woodlands by definition are between 25%-60% canopy cover. This is a slightly more closed canopy than a Savanna. Open Woodlands are becoming increasingly rare in Iowa and support many important species. Some of the more recognizable species include wild turkeys and red-headed woodpeckers. Turkeys love to use open woodlands for feeding, nesting, and often roost in the large oak trees that are common. Open woodlands also support rare species such as Olympia Marble butterfly and Bewick's wren!

The process of plant succession threatens open woodlands. As the forest canopy closes in, it becomes less desirable to many of these species. A couple of the ways to establish or maintain an open woodland is by heavy "weeding" of your woods of undesirable tree species, creating shelterwood cuts or conducting prescribed burns in your woodlands. All of these conservation actions will help create open woodland by reducing the canopy cover, creating space, and putting sunlight on the woodland floor for wildflowers and native shrubs.

Do you remember when it was common practice to burn woodlots every few years? This practice has gone by the wayside since the arrival of Smokey Bear and the fear of forest fires. The truth is...woodland fires are very low in intensity here in Iowa. You wouldn't put a prescribed fire through your Walnut woods, but Oak timbers were "built" for an occasional fire event. Even fire with flame heights of 10 inches can set back undesirable woody vegetation such as Multiflora Rose and Prickly Ash.



The Iowa DNR has a State Wildlife Grant (SWG) that will provide cost sharing for landowners to create or maintain open woodland habitats. This includes cost share for prescribed burning, thinning, shelterwood cuts, clearing goat prairies, firebreak construction, invasive species control and more! The first step in the pro-

cess is to meet with Adam Rodenberg and a DNR District Forester, such as Jason Walker or Greg Heidebrink. Please contact Adam, with the Iowa DNR out of the West Union NRCS office, for more details. Adam.Rodenberg@dnr.iowa.gov (563) 422-3868.

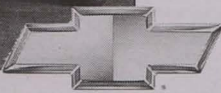
WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
OUR LOCAL CONSERVATIONISTS!

**Citizens
Savings Bank**

Spillville • 101 Church St. • 563-562-3674
Ft. Atkinson • 104 4th St. NW • 563-534-7211

Your locally owned bank since 1908 **FDIC**

SHOP ALL THREE MAJOR TRUCK BRANDS...IN ONE LOCATION!



RAM

**Brown's salutes our
conservationists for their hard work!**

Your Hometown Dealer

Brown's
Sales & Leasing

Elkader
563-245-2505
800-747-2505

HOURS
Mon. 8-8
Tue. 8-5:30
Wed. 8-5:30
Thur. 8-8
Fri. 8-5:30
Sat. 8-3

www.browns-elk.com

**Hertz Farm
Management**
is proud to support our
area conservationists.
**Thank you for all
your hard work!**

Hertz
Farm Management, Inc.
Caring for You and Your Farm™
Waterloo, Iowa
319-234-1949

Otter Creek Watershed covers 30,000 acres

After a year of planning, Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has received a \$100,000 grant to carry forward with its water quality project for the Upper Otter Creek Watershed.

The Upper Otter Creek Watershed covers 16,740 acres of predominantly rural agricultural land that drains into Otter and Glovers creeks, both high-quality trout streams that have significant recreational and economic value to northeast Iowa.

The 2011 Trout Angler Survey conducted by the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources recorded 15,280 angler trips during the 2011 season for both Otter and Glovers trout streams.

Carrie Davis, Upper Otter Creek Project coordinator, explained that

the SWCD previously utilized a \$5,000 Watershed Development and Planning Grant to conduct water quality monitoring, complete watershed assessments, gather background information, conduct stakeholder surveys, and meet with Otter Creek residents to determine the feasibility of a watershed project on the upper portion of the local trout stream.

Davis said that the majority of new monies will be utilized in providing further educational and outreach services in the next year.

Any remaining funds will be used in the implementation of water quality and/or flood reduction improvements, including further development of grass waterways, pasture management, and ag-wastewater structure practices.

Davis, who graduated from North Fayette in 1999 and Winona

State in 2003 with degrees in environmental science and geology, said "This is my fourth project in 10 years, but it is the first that has a urban component with both West Union and Elgin affected."

She added, "We will be addressing conservation practices and opportunities for all land uses, including crop, pasture and timberland."

The first step for either landowners or land users is to contact the Fayette SWCD to discuss conservation practices on their property.

A to-be-announced kickoff meeting will be held soon by the SWCD to give land-owners a chance to ask any questions they may have. Also, an advisory council of watershed landowners and users will be set up. Anyone wishing to serve on the council is asked to contact the SWCD.

Davis emphasized that the project starts with the upper half of the creek and will transition into the lower half. The total acres are 30,000.

The Otter Creek Watershed consists of crop, pasture, timber and urban areas. Located from west of West Union to its confluence with the Turkey River in Elgin, Otter Creek is classified as a high quality, cold-water stream.

The current two-year project focuses on the portion of the local watershed that lies upstream of the intersection of Hazel and Hornet roads east of West Union.

While Fayette County SWCD will actually receive its most recent grant funding in 2013, Davis noted that the local SWCD intends to apply for additional grant funding for the project in 2014.

"After addressing the issues

related to the upper portion of Otter Creek, the longtime goal is to continually move downstream with the project all the way to the Turkey River in Elgin," Davis reported.

Fayette SWCD began working on watershed projects in 1989 in Glovers Creek. Additional area watershed projects include Nutting, Upper Maquoketa, Grannis Creek, Ensign Hollow, and Mink Creek.

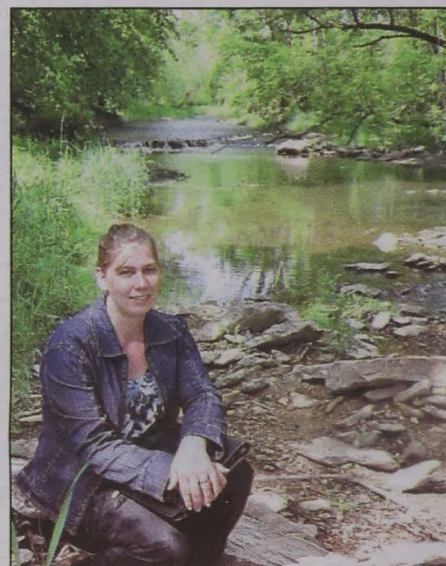
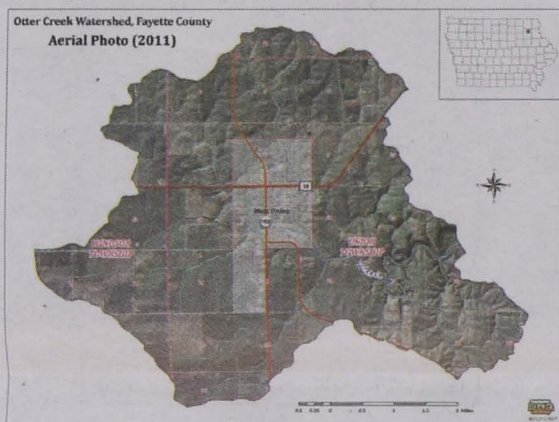
Davis explained that all watershed projects help landowners use conservation practices to retain soil in the fields, and keep soil, nutrients and bacteria out of the waterways, benefiting people, wildlife, and the environment as a whole.

During its recent announcement, the Watershed Improvement

Review Board approved 12 applications totaling \$946,952 in grants to support similar watershed projects.

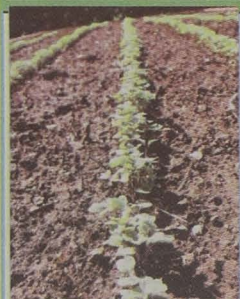
The grant funds will be matched by recipients, who will provide over \$7.1 million in funding from the local communities to support these projects. As a result, \$8.1 million will be going to improve priority watersheds throughout the state.

The Watershed Improvement Review Board is comprised of representatives from agriculture, drinking water and wastewater utilities, environmental organizations, agribusiness, and the conservation community, along with two state senators and two state representatives.



For the past 10 years Carrie Davis of West Union has been project coordinator for the Fayette County SWCD. She is currently involved in her fourth big project, the Otter Creek Watershed, covering 30,000 acres of soil and water. The 1999 North Fayette graduate has always been in love with the outdoors. In her job she wants to make a difference in soil and water quality, something she has been around her entire life.

From Spring Planting to Fall Harvest



Viafield is proud to support the conservation efforts of area farmers and land owners. Your hard work will help benefit our agricultural community, while preserving Iowa's unique ecological heritage.



Tabloid designed and printed by The Fayette County Union

Conservation Makes A Difference



Toll Free
1-888-788-7671
www.viafield.com

Area locations: Clermont • Randalia • Sumner • Arlington
Maynard • Winthrop • Volga • Lamont • Elgin

Identification Statement The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Report

Published by the Fayette SWCD,
Hwy. 150, 120 N. Industrial Pkwy.,
West Union, IA 52175.
Issue No. 14

Good food has a great story.

ONEOTA COMMUNITY FOOD COOPERATIVE

Summer Hours (Apr-Oct)
Monday-Saturday 8:00 am - 8:30 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Winter Hours (Nov-Mar)
Monday-Saturday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Water Street Cafe

312 West Water Street • Decorah
563-382-4666 • www.oneotacoop.com

EVERYONE CAN SHOP • EVERYONE WELCOME • NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

Woodland Owner of Year is J. Oldfather

The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation Woodland Owner of the Year is Joyce Oldfather of West Union.

Oldfather owns 120 acres of woodland. Her conservation efforts began in 1998 with weed tree removal on 12 acres.

In 2006 another 32 acres saw tree release before another nine acres of tree release occurred in 2010.

A conservationist said, "Joyce is every interested in helping wildlife. She has more than 65 acres of CRP ground that could easily be farmed, but she decided to keep it for wildlife cover."

"She then planted evergreens along a fence line for wildlife habitat. It's clear that all her woodland management promote a better life for wildlife of all sorts."

EQIP Signup Continues for Fayette County Ag Producers

Signup continues for Fayette County agricultural producers to receive financial and technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a voluntary program for farmers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

EQIP applications are accepted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), located at the USDA Service Center, 120 N. Industrial Pkwy #2. Through the 2008 Farm Bill, NRCS provides financial incentives to producers to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers meet environmental regulations.

Conservation plans must be developed for the entire area included in an EQIP contract. NRCS provides technical assistance and financial payments to producers who apply practices based on conservation plans. EQIP practices include, but are not limited to: grassed waterways, waste storage facilities, grade stabilization structures, terraces, sediment basins, no-till and pasture management practices.

Fayette County District Conservationist Aaron Anderson says EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis. Cutoff dates to rank applications are set and advertised periodically as funds become available. Anderson says early applications allow for more thorough conservation planning. "If you apply early, a conservation plan can be developed to identify all natural resource concerns and treatment options," he says. "Early application also ensures that all eligibility issues are in order."

Historically underserved clients, such as socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, will receive special consideration for EQIP funding.

For more information or to apply for an EQIP contract, visit the West Union USDA Service Center, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or call 563-422-3868 Ext. 3.

Open Woodland Management Funds Available!

Open Woodlands by definition are between 25%-60% canopy cover. This is a slightly more closed canopy than a Savanna. Open Woodlands are becoming increasingly rare in Iowa and support many important species. Some of the more recognizable species include wild turkeys and red-headed woodpeckers. Turkeys love to use open woodlands for feeding, nesting, and often roost in the large oak trees that are common. Open woodlands also support rare species such as Olympia Marble butterfly and Bewick's wren!

The process of plant succession threatens open woodlands. As the forest canopy closes in, it becomes less desirable to many of these species. A couple of the ways to establish or maintain an open woodland is by heavy "weeding" of your woods of undesirable tree species, creating shelterwood cuts or conducting prescribed burns in your woodlands. All of these conservation actions will help create open woodland by reducing the canopy cover, creating space, and putting sunlight on the woodland floor for wildflowers and native shrubs.

Do you remember when it was common practice to burn woodlots every few years? This practice has gone by the wayside since the arrival of Smokey Bear and the fear of forest fires. The truth is...woodland fires are very low in intensity here in Iowa. You wouldn't put a prescribed fire through your Walnut woods, but Oak timbers were "built" for an occasional fire event. Even fire with flame heights of 10 inches can set back undesirable woody vegetation such as Multiflora Rose and Prickly Ash.



The Iowa DNR has a State Wildlife Grant (SWG) that will provide cost sharing for landowners to create or maintain open woodland habitats. This includes cost share for prescribed burning, thinning, shelterwood cuts, clearing goat prairies, firebreak construction, invasive species control and more! The first step in the pro-

cess is to meet with Adam Rodenberg and a DNR District Forester, such as Jason Walker or Greg Heidebrink.

Please contact Adam, with the Iowa DNR out of the West Union NRCS office, for more details. Adam.Rodenberg@dnr.iowa.gov (563) 422-3868.

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
OUR LOCAL CONSERVATIONISTS!

**SB Citizens
Savings Bank**

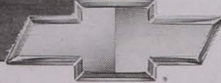
Spillville • 101 Church St. • 563-562-3674

Ft. Atkinson • 104 4th St. NW • 563-534-7211

Your locally owned bank since 1908



SHOP ALL THREE MAJOR TRUCK BRANDS...IN ONE LOCATION!



RAM

**Brown's salutes our
conservationists for their hard work!**

Your Hometown Dealer

Brown's
Sales & Leasing

Elkader
563-245-2505
800-747-2505

HOURS
Mon. 8-8
Tue. 8-5:30
Wed. 8-5:30
Thur. 8-8
Fri. 8-5:30
Sat. 8-3

www.browns-elm.com

**Hertz Farm
Management**
is proud to support our
area conservationists.
**Thank you for all
your hard work!**

Hertz
Farm Management, Inc.
Caring for You and Your Farm™
Waterloo, Iowa
319-234-1949

Forest Filters

By Greg Heidebrink, District Forester

As a forester in northeast Iowa I get to work with many different types of people. This is one of my favorite things about my job. One day I may be looking at a pastured timber, trying to find a way to get the most out of the pasture ground while also trying to protect the best timber ground on the property. On another day I may be working with a landowner who wants to improve wildlife habitat on their property for better hunting. Some days I work with landowners that are interested in managing their property for lumber production. I once worked with a rock climber who had bought a timber with a steep rock wall. He bought the timber for the wall, but he also wanted to see what he could do to improve his timber resource. You never know what you are going to get into on a site visit.

The common thread with all of the landowners above is that they value their forest resource. These people own their woodlands for many different reasons; bird watching, mushroom hunting, hiking, wildlife habitat, lumber production, aesthetics, tourism, and so much more. Their forests are very important to them for all of these reasons, but there is another reason that we often times over look. Our forests are some of the best filters we have, especially in our landscape dominated by agriculture. Forests have the highest infiltration rate of any other type of vegetation. This is due to the amount of cover on the forest floor. The vegetation stops pounding rain from directly impacting the soil causing the natural gaps in the soil to close. The plants in the forest also help keep the soil porous due to root action. The more rain water we can get into the soil, the more filtering we will have. This infiltration also reduces runoff and flooding.

Our forests filter pollutants and carbon dioxide from the air, and filter sediment and pollutants from our rain water. They filter our rain water by slowing the velocity of the water allowing it to slowly infiltrate the soil where the tree roots and organic matter can filter out nutrients and other pollutants. For example, if you drink a glass of water in New York City, most of this water was filtered through a forest in the northern part of the state. Large urban communities have figured out that the water quality from these sources is much cleaner and thus cheaper to treat.

Please do not take this the wrong way, our crop fields are also a very important resource. We have some of the most fertile and productive soil in the world! My concern is that we seem to have lost sight of some of the things we have learned from the past. Our farming practices are much better than they were during the Dust Bowl, but I am seeing many conservation practices being removed. This includes removing filter strips, riparian forest buffers, and large tracts of forest. I recently heard of another 80 acres of forest land that is being cleared for agricultural purposes. This concerns me a great deal.

At settlement Iowa had over 5 million acres of forest land. By the 1970's, according to the Forest Service's inventory data (FIAI data), we were down to approximately 1.5 million acres. Since that time, we have been steadily growing to a high of over 3 million acres in 2009. According to FIAI data, we lost over 40,000 acres of forest land between 2009 and 2011. I would venture a guess that we have lost at least that much or more since 2011.

I think that it is important for us to really take a look at that piece of timber and see what it is actually doing for us before we decide to bulldoze it out. This is a precious resource that we have. It helps filter our water, clean our air, protects our soil, builds our homes, and provides habitat and recreational opportunities. Once this resource is gone, it can be very hard to get back!

Fayette SWCD Foundation

By William Bennett, Chairman

The Fayette Soil and Water District commissioners have formed a nonprofit foundation to help fund activities and operations of the district. The commissioners were concerned with declining state and federal funding that the state might decide to take the money raised here in Fayette County and use it some where else in the state. Another concern was without having a 501 (c)3 foundation; the people donating money would not be able to deduct contributions on their taxes. The forming of the Fayette SWCD Foundation eliminates those concerns.

The Fayette SWCD Foundation board of directors is set up so the five elected district commissioners serve on the board, and they appoint two additional board members. The seven member board of directors decides on how to raise funds and how to use funds to support the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District activities.

The Foundation's board of directors agreed to help fund district employees, the third grade field days, supporting Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), purchase of equipment and technology to improve the office staff's workload, other field days, and education programs for people of all ages.

In 2013, the Fayette SWCD Foundation has taken over the district tree sales program and the campaign for Fayette SWCD Supporter Club. Commissioners and staff will continue to be involved as their time allows. USDA Earth Team volunteers will also be utilized.

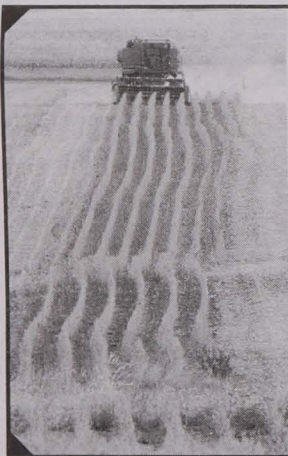
The District's fund raising has been vital to office operations. The District was able to hire two employees in the West Union Field Office. Without these funds, we would not be able to bring several million dollars into Fayette County for conservation implementation and practice application to protect the soil and water in the county and reduce the flooding on the streams and rivers of the area. We are in the process of adding a third district employee to the staff to better serve the needs of the people in the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District.

General CRP Signup to be held May 20

The Farm Service Agency will conduct a four week General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the largest voluntary, private-land conservation program. It helps farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation purposes. CRP assists in creating new wildlife habitat, enhancing water, soil, and air quality through a variety of covers that can be established on the offered land.

Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis and that often provide additional financial assistance.

Submitted by
Jesse Wegner, CED, FSA



CROP INSURANCE OF NORTHEAST IOWA, LLC

CHRIS STRONG
CELL (563) 419-1723

JIM FUHRMAN
CELL (563) 880-0767

MARY SCHMITT-HEMESATH
CELL (563) 380-0021

19103 DOGWOOD ROAD
ELGIN, IOWA 52141
(563) 426-1045



Serving area landowners for 118 Years!

Maynard Savings Bank is proud
of it's long partnership with area
landowners and is proud to
support their conservation efforts.

MSB Maynard Savings Bank

~ Since 1895 ~
Maynard - 563-637-2289
Hazleton - 319-636-2431

EARTH MOVING SPECIALISTS



**Schedule
your 2013
Projects
Today!**

Les Lauer & Sons
Excavating & Grading
West Union • 422-5430
Serving this area since 1948!



**Proud to salute Iowa's
Conservationists!**

~ Great Place to Market Your Milk Since 1906 ~

Wapsie Valley Creamery, Inc.

300 10th Street NE, Independence
319-334-7193

**FAYETTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JULY 1, 2011 through JUNE 30, 2012**

District Revolving Fund

Beginning Balance \$ 2,102.58

Receipts

Money Market Transfers – IM Funds 2,750.00
Money Market Transfers 38,707.69

Total Receipts \$41,457.69

TOTAL \$43,560.27

Expenses

Ameri Corp Agreement 2,812.50
ATV 761.00
Checks Printed 13.45
Developmental Grant 269.21
Donations 5,750.00
Education 12,469.31
Houg Property 2,256.00
IM Commissioner 2,000.78
IM Office 749.22
Meeting Expense 359.30
Office Supplies 1,753.08
Postage 3,685.00
Sales Tax 371.00
SWCD Foundation 750.00
Tree Expense 3,278.62
Water Quality Monitoring 5,500.00

Total Expenses \$ 42,778.47

Ending Balance 6/30/12 \$ 781.80

**FAYETTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JULY 1, 2011 through JUNE 30, 2012**

Watershed Account

Beginning Balance \$ 4,882.76

Receipts

Money Market Transfers 4,000.00
Nutting Creek Section 319 Funding 49,760.00

Total Receipts \$53,760.00

TOTAL \$58,642.76

Expenses

Accounting Services 362.50
Health 3,846.00
Office Supplies 5.90
Payroll 32,890.00
State Unemployment 56.13
Transfer to Payroll Savings (fed taxes) 9,406.02
Transfer to Payroll Savings (IPERS) 5,788.24
Transfer to Payroll Savings (state taxes) 2,112.00
Travel/Training 262.00
Unused Nutting Creek 2nd Year Funds 1,732.71

Total Expenses \$56,461.50

Ending Balance 6/30/12 \$ 2,181.26

**FAYETTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JULY 1, 2011 through JUNE 30, 2012**

Money Market Savings

Beginning Balance \$ 54,803.21

Receipts

Farm Bill 11 Funds – CDI 2,637.00
Farm Bill 11 Funds – IDALS 135.00
Farm Bill 12 Funds – IDALS 3,838.50
IM Allocation & Supplemental 2,750.00
Interest 570.67
Greenhouse Donation 3,050.00
Meeting Room Reimbursement 75.00
Nutting Creek Advanced Payments 58,760.00
Nutting Creek Office Reimbursement 176.00
Otter Creek Developmental Grant 750.00
Soils Disk 5.35
Supervisors 4,000.00
Supporter Club 10,862.05
Tree Sales 5,887.35
Water Quality Monitoring 2,500.00

Total Receipts \$ 95,996.92

TOTAL \$150,800.13

Expenses

IM Transfers to Checking 2,750.00
Transfers to Checking 37,057.69
Transfers to Technical Account 1,000.00
Transfers to Watershed Account 53,760.00

Total Expenses \$ 94,567.69

Ending Balance 6/30/12 \$ 56,232.44

**FAYETTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JULY 1, 2011 through JUNE 30, 2012**

Technical Account

Beginning Balance \$ 1,024.10

Receipts

Transfers from Money Market Account 1,000.00

Total Receipts \$ 1,000.00

TOTAL \$ 2,024.10

Expenses

Accounting Services 37.50
Bank Charge 8.78
Federal Taxes 77.11
IPERS 51.05
Payroll 305.00
State Taxes 137.00
State Unemployment 4.53

Total Expenses \$ 620.97

Ending Balance 6/30/12 \$ 1,403.13

Call today to
schedule your spring
construction projects!

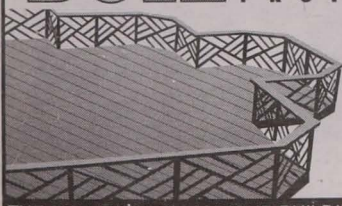


**Soil & Water
Conservation
Benefits Us All
THANK YOU!**

**OSSIAN LUMBER
COMPANY**

203 E. Main, Ossian
563-532-9165

SOIL CONSERVATION
PROFITS EVERYONE



**Do your part to support
soil & water conservation
by choosing an eco-friendly
composite wood in your next
house project!**

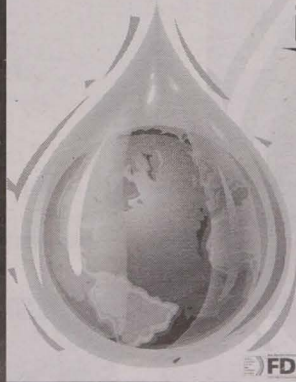
We have every material
necessary for remodeling,
repairing and building.

THE SOLUTION TO ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS

FAYETTE LUMBER CO.

Phone & Fax: (563) 425-3517
206 King St. • Fayette, IA 52142

Conservation:
it benefits us all



Kerndt
BROTHERS
Savings Bank

Your Financial Family Since 1856

Cedar Rapids (319) 378-8100

Clermont (563) 423-5267

Harpers Ferry (563) 586-2166

Lansing

(563) 538-4231 or (800) 577-5272

West Union

(563) 422-6072 or (800) 568-4235



www.kerndtbrothers.com



**FAYETTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JULY 1, 2011 through JUNE 30, 2012**

CD 4

Beginning Balance	\$ 25,000.00
Receipts	
Interest	404.76
Total Receipts	\$ 404.76
Ending Balance 6/30/12	\$ 25,404.76

CD 5

Beginning Balance	\$ 25,000.00
Receipts	
Interest	415.06
Total Receipts	\$ 415.06
Ending Balance 6/30/12	\$ 25,415.06

CD 6

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,184.58
Receipts	
Interest	61.01
Total Receipts	\$ 4,245.59
Ending Balance 6/30/12	\$ 4,245.59

**FAYETTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JULY 1, 2010 through JUNE 30, 2011**

Payroll Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 1.43
Receipts	
Transfers from Technical Acct	265.16
Transfers from Watershed Acct	17,306.26
Interest	1.77
Total Receipts	\$ 17,573.19
TOTAL	\$ 17,574.62
Expenses	
Federal Taxes	9,483.13
IPERS	5,839.29
State Taxes	2,249.00
Total Expenses	\$ 17,571.42
Ending Balance 6/30/12	\$ 3.20

**FINANCIAL REPORT
OF STATE FUNDS
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012**

IM Budget Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 750.00
Commissioner Expenses	\$ 2,000.78
Office Expenses	\$ 749.22

FY 2012

State Cost-Share Allocation	\$ 54,533.32
Obligated	\$ 23,768.85
Spent	\$ 30,569.56
Balance	\$ 194.91

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Allocation	\$ 7,429.14
Supplemental	\$ 2,476.38
Obligated	\$ 2,412.00
Spent	\$ 7,425.00
Balance	\$ 68.52

REAP Practices Allocation	\$ 7,429.14
Supplemental	\$ 316.38
Obligated	\$ 7,634.81
Spent	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$ 110.71

Nutting Creek 319 Funds	
Obligated	\$ 0.00
Spent	\$ 19,660.73
Balance	\$ 0.00

Nutting WSPF Funds	
Obligated	\$ 0.00
Spent	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$ 0.00

**We are proud to
recognize your
conservation
efforts!**

Citizens Savings Bank



See us for all your financial needs:
Debit Cards - Credit Cards - Savings Plans
Loans - IRA's - Checking

563-427-3255 - Hawkeye, Iowa
csbank@netins.net



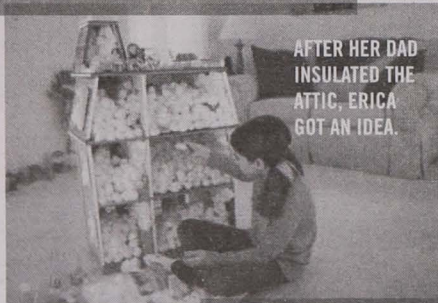
Quality Service since 1947

**ZUPKE
SAND & GRAVEL**

17963 150th Street
Randallia, IA 52164

563-428-4444 • 800-242-1987

Find out how your local electric cooperative can help you
lead by example at TogetherWeSave.com.



**AFTER HER DAD
INSULATED THE
ATTIC, ERICA
GOT AN IDEA.**

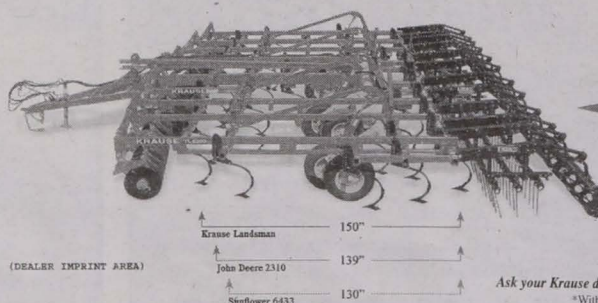
**ALLAMAKEE
CLAYTON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your "Excellence Energy" Cooperative

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Maximum Residue Thru-put

The Krause TL 6200 LANDSMAN® soil finisher is designed specifically to manage high-yielding Bt corn residue and prepare a superior seed bed. With 150-inch front-to-rear shank spacing, it provides more residue clearance than competitive models. Choose from sizes up to 45' wide to match the efficiency of high-speed planting operations.



NEW

24/7®

**Dual Range
Conditioner**

Patented Dual Range Conditioner features constant down pressure for optimum conditions or "float" position for higher soil moisture operation.

24/7® Time harrows feature quick, wrenchless time angle adjustments for optimum agronomic performance in each field.

Ask your Krause dealer about special low-rate financing*

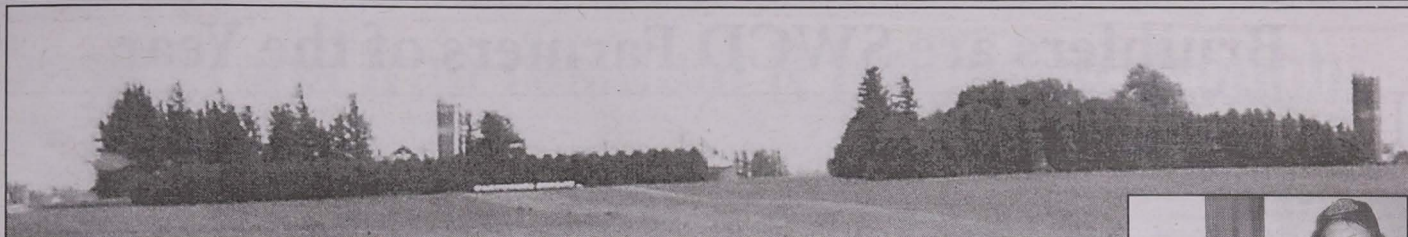
*With approved credit from Krause Agri-Finance™
See your Krause dealer for eligibility requirements

Franzen Sales & Service

2724 State Hwy. 24, Fort Atkinson, IA • 563-534-2724

www.krauseco.com





Lusson farm windbreak

Lusson 2012 Farmstead Windbreak award winner

The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation Farmstead Windbreak award winner is William Lusson of Waucoma. The award is sponsored by the Izaak Walton League.

It was many years ago when William and Irma Mae Lusson moved into their house on their Waucoma farm on 29362 South Ave. There were two rows of evergreen trees on the north and a few on the west side of the farmstead.

William's dad Joseph Lusson had planted the trees but they were not enough as wind and snow from the north and west blew across the hills and onto the farmstead.

In the last 1980s the Lussons decided to better protect the homestead from the elements and planted a row of arborvitae on the inside of the old windbreak to help make it denser.

They then planted a new windbreak across the road on the west side of the building site.

William remembered, "The first two years were the hardest. They were dry, and we thought we may to replant the trees."

But the couple watered the trees for two years. The first year they

used a tank on a hay rack to water the trees one by one.

The second year they used a tank and trickle tubing to water half the trees. Some trees got wind burned. So the couple pruned them to get growth back. It was just what the doctor ordered because the trees flourished.

The windbreak is now made up of a row of arborvitae on the windward or west side. The middle row is blue spruce. The inside row is again arborvitae.

The arborvitae were planted 10 feet apart in a row and 20 feet between rows.

The blue spruce were spaced out 20 feet apart in a row and 20 feet between rows.

The Lussons received assistance from the local field office and now the trees are 25 feet high.

William said, "We should have planted them in rows 25 feet apart because they are now touching each other."

The Lussons know windbreaks

are a valuable asset on farms and ranches. They reduce wind velocity and in turn reduce heating costs of the farm home, which stays warmer.

The farm's buildings and feedlots are also protected. In turn, animal health is improved and feed energy requirements are reduced saving money again.

The windbreaks also serve as shelter for all sorts of wildlife when needed during harsh winters or hot summers.



Commissioner Dave Drilling (right) presented the annual Windbreak Award to William Lusson of Waucoma.

Fayette County Farm Service Agency Updates

By Jesse Wegner, CED, FSA

• Signup for 2013 DCP / ACRE programs are underway. The DCP sign-up period will end on August 2, 2013 and ACRE sign-up will end on June 3, 2013.

• If you have recently sold/purchased land, are in the process of changing your current farm ownership to an Entity or Trust, or are currently dealing with an Estate, you **MUST** notify your local FSA Office so your farm records can be updated. It is very important that your farm records reflect accurate information to retain full eligibility for FSA programs. Your courthouse records need to match your FSA farm records. **A copy of the recorded deed is required to change ownership records.** Operator/tenant changes on your farm, if known, can also be reported at this time.

• Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) are low interest loans available to producers of eligible commodities. The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program includes but is not limited to new storage bins, wet holding bins, new concrete foundations, new permanently affixed grain handling and drying equipment, new equipment to improve, maintain, or monitor the quality of stored grain, silage bunkers, and hay storage structures. Interest rates for February approved loans 7-year 1.250%, 10-year 1.875%, 12-year 2.125%.

We can meet all your bedding & landscaping needs!

• Sawdust • Mulch



563-422-3012 • 11720 210th St. • West Union

BECAUSE IT MATTERS.

That's why we support the soil and water conservation efforts of our area farmers.

Postville Farmers Co-Op Society

563-864-7234

"We want to earn YOUR business!"

We're here to help your farm run smoothly

Electric Motor Repairing & Rewinding with "On-the-Farm" Service!

- Power Tools
- Starters
- Alternators
- New & Used Motors
- Generators
- V-Belts
- Repairing all brands of corn dryers!

Electric Motor Shop

During Business Hours

After Business Hours

563-864-7351 or 563-864-3012

12637 Hwy. 18 • Postville, IA • Ted or Susan Hughes

Don Rausch & Sons Construction

We can help take care of your on-the-farm and around-the-farm construction needs!

We are proud to assist in the efforts toward proper soil conservation and protecting our resources for the future.

Ponds • Terraces

Site Preparation

Grading • Excavating

Call for more information on how we can help you!

563-534-7356

Fort Atkinson



Dillon Law, PC
Patrick B. Dillon

209 E. 1st Street, Sumner

patdillon@50674law.com - www.50674law.com

563-578-1850

**Agricultural Law, Taxation & Tax Preparation,
Estate Planning, Real Estate and Bankruptcy**

Bruihlers are SWCD Farmers of the Year

John and Deb Bruhler of Hawkeye have been named the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation Farmers of the Year.

The couple practice what they preach having attended nine national no-till conferences and one in Canada. Twice John has taken leadership roles in panel and discussion sessions.

It isn't unusual to find visitors in the Bruhler fields as they share both the successes and failures of their management. The guest might be a local farmer wanting to see up close what is happening or someone outside of agriculture interested in learning about farming.

Many of the practices of no-till and cover crops John and Deb have tried have been done along highways and paved roads. These practices then become the topic at the elevator and coffee shop with ever increasing awareness of something different going on at this farm.

John's farming roots started in the 1980s and has no-tilled from the start. A close neighbor of his encouraged him to try planting soybeans into corn residue.

He used what was even then an antique John Deere two-row 290 planter behind a Ford 9-N tractor. Yields for a beginning farmer weren't exceptional, but he saw the advantages of no-till and has farmed that way ever since.

Over the years things have changed that have made no-till less challenging than when John began. Roundup ready crops, better planters, and seed genetics have only made things easier.

No-tilling allowed the Bruihlers to farm while working full time for the post office. Deb plants their beans using the 10' JD 750 drill they purchased many years ago.

John's great grandfather homesteaded in the Hawkeye area, and they continue to farm land that has been in the family over 115 years. Their son, Tim lives on the farm just south of Hawkeye and helps when he has time away from his job as an agronomist for ServiTech.

The Bruihlers no-till all of their acres. Some fields have had no tillage for about 15 years. The saving in time and fuel have allowed them to farm just over 1000 acres without outside help.

They do hire their combining done as well as some spraying, but most field work is done by either John, Deb, or their son. John explained, "We are using less than 1000 gallons of fuel a year, and that includes the fuel we use for non-field farm work. It does not include fuel used for the custom combining. Occasionally we hire some tillage done



John and Deb Bruhler of Hawkeye

to prepare for long term no-till."

Even with no-till the family has experienced some minor erosion than what they feel is acceptable. Waterways have helped, along with buffer strips, as they continue to seek ways to slow down soil loss.

For three years now the Bruihlers have been using cover crops. Some things have not worked well, including fall seeding of clovers, turnips, radishes, and peas as there just isn't enough time to get them established before winter.

In the fall of 2010, they planted a field to cereal rye which was harvested as grain. July 2011 provided an opportunity to plant some cover crops that established and flourished with the earlier planting date.

In early November 2011, a light disking to knock down the stalks was done, and then they planted 105 acres to rye as a cover crop after corn. Later that spring that field was sprayed with Roundup and Authority several days before Deb drilled in soybeans.

The rye was almost in the boot stage when it was sprayed and formed a mat that should prevent erosion from any rain event. The Bruhler's are excited to see the results and plan to continue using rye ahead of beans. At 40# of rye/acre broadcast with fertilizer the cost is less than \$7/acre.

John is hesitant to use the rye cover crop ahead of corn due to the allopathic effect of the rye on corn. He tried seeding red clover in March 2011 ahead of corn, but once again the short growing season prevented it from the growth he felt would justify the expense.

They plan to try oats broadcast with their regular fertilizer application onto bean stubble to see if there will be enough growth to provide some erosion control the following spring.

John and Deb have experimented with strip till in the past, and felt that the results didn't justify the equipment and time required over their current no-till practices. In the spring they had 140 acres of corn on corn custom stripped to give it another test.

The Bruihlers have used waterways and buffer strips on their farms. This year is the first year for them to have row shut offs on their planter. This technology allows the planter units to individually shut off when the planter crosses a waterway or into the headlands using a GPS signal. They are excited about this technology and are less hesitant to increase the number of waterways and grass strips because of it.

All of the family's corn is side dressed with UAN in June. About 25 units of nitrogen are applied as start-

er with the planter and the balance side dressed. Soil samples are taken just a few days before side dressing and those results are used to determine the amount of nitrogen to be applied.

Fall stalk testing is done as well to determine how accurate their nitrogen program was. By side dressing they are cutting their applied nitrogen to .7# or less of actual N per bushel of corn.

They grid sample fields and at a variable rate apply phosphate and potash accordingly. The Bruihlers do not have livestock but purchase manure when available and adjust their application of commercial fertilizer accordingly.

John and Deb have several tracts of land that includes woods and tim-

ber. John remembers him and his brothers planting several acres of pines on his father's farm near the Fayette County farm when he was in grade school in the 1960s. Those trees are now a forest and harbor turkeys, pheasants, and deer.

John and Deb have continued that tradition and it hasn't been uncommon for them to plant 500 or more trees in the spring. They have worked with state foresters in drafting timber stand management plans for these tracts that they own.

The Bruihlers have left their land better than when they first saw it. That is true for any soil conservationist, and another Fayette County rural landscape is the recipient of that dedication.



Bruhler land near Hawkeye

Baker Concrete
can handle all of your
concrete and earth
moving needs.

- Site Preparation
- Excavation
- Foundation
- Landscaping
- Sidewalks
- Driveways

**Moving
Mountains
for our
Customers**



BAKER
Concrete & Excavating

Clermont
563-423-5000
Waverly
319-352-2193

**Our future depends on
what we do today!**

Clean water is a necessity for our future

- State Licensed Well Contractor • Goulds & Sta-Rite Pumps •
- Free Estimates • Serving the Area since 1979 •

Erickson Pump Service, Inc.

- 800-269-1698 • 563-245-1698 • 563-245-1684 •

Elkader

Cover crops trap residual N following drought



Cover crops will scavenge residual N and recycle it through their plant biomass. When cover crops decompose next year, some of the N taken up by the cover crops will be released for use by the next cash crop, and some will go toward building soil organic matter.

By Jason Johnson, Public Affairs Specialist, USDA-NRCS, Des Moines

This is the perfect year to plant cover crops in Iowa, according to soils and agronomy experts with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Besides the obvious negative impact on crop yields, the drought will leave residual nitrate in the soil at harvest time, potentially allowing nitrate to leach out the bottom of the root zone.

If more typical precipitation returns in November through April, the amounts of nitrate lost will be much larger this year than usual, leading to nutrient loading to local waters and eventually to the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico.

That's how cover crops can help. Cover crops will scavenge residual N and recycle it through their plant biomass, says Iowa NRCS State Agronomist Barb Stewart. She says as cover crops decompose next year, some of the N taken up by the cover crops will be released for use by the next cash crop, and some will go towards building soil organic matter.

"Fall-planted cover crops would be a good investment this year, to benefit both their own farms and regional water quality," says Stewart.

The best N-scavenging cover crops include oats, cereal rye, or annual ryegrass mixed with oilseed radish. If a farmer is interested in fall grazing, then turnips or crimson clover could be mixed with the oats and cereal rye.

Stewart says cover crops will help farmers recoup part of their fertilizer N investment from last season, and will improve soil organic matter and soil biological activity.

"Cover crops will also be very useful after soybeans for adding organic matter and trapping N released by decomposing soybean residues," she continued.

National soils guru Ray Archuleta recently spoke to six farmer groups in four days throughout Iowa. One of Archuleta's key messages to farmers is to add living roots to the soil during more months of the year to increase organic matter and improve soil health. Along with eliminating tillage activities, Archuleta touted legume cover crops as natural fertilizers and grasses as scavengers of nutrients often lost after harvest or during winter.

"Diversity above ground improves diversity below ground, which helps create healthy productive soils," says Archuleta. "Cover crops should be an integral part of a cropping system. They help improve soil health by developing an ecosystem that sustains and nourishes plants, soil microbes and beneficial insects."

Besides helping to restore soil health, cover crops also protect soil against erosive heavy rains and strong winds. They can provide livestock producers with additional grazing or haying opportunities, and winter food and cover for birds and other wildlife.

Producers are encouraged to check with their crop insurance providers to be sure planting cover crops does not adversely affect crop insurance coverage. Additionally, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) considers grazing of certain varieties of cover crops as harvesting.

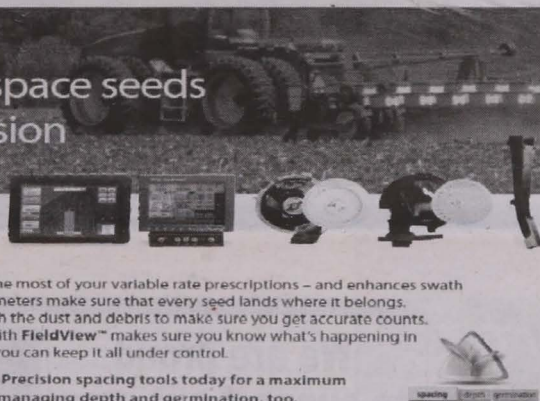
If you are interested in planting cover crops, visit your local NRCS office for more information on the best solution for you. Federal, state or local financial assistance may be available.

It pays to space seeds with Precision

With precise spacing at planting, you'll make more money at harvest.

20/20 RowFlow™ makes the most of your variable rate prescriptions – and enhances swath control. eSet™ and vSet™ meters make sure that every seed lands where it belongs. WaveVision™ sees through the dust and debris to make sure you get accurate counts. And 20/20 SeedSense™ with FieldView™ makes sure you know what's happening in the trench at all times, so you can keep it all under control.

Come in and secure your Precision spacing tools today for a maximum yield this fall. Ask about managing depth and germination, too.



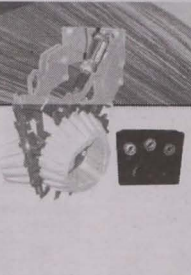
Swept away

CleanSweep™ will dazzle you with fast, precise row cleaner control.

It makes it easy to sweep away trash and create a seedbed that fosters uniform germination. Set the cab-mounted controller so you're moving the residue but not the soil. As field conditions change, you can adjust your cleaners on the fly.

You get air cylinders, a controller, and an air compressor and tank. (Or you can use 20/20 AirForce® as an air source.)

Let us show you how CleanSweep clears the path to maximum population and a bigger yield. You'll be swept away.



Holthaus Precision Planting, LLC.

Steve & Molly Holthaus

1732 125th Street

Ossian, IA 52161

563.419.0707 or 563.532.8935

holthausprecisionplanting@hotmail.com

We handle a full line of planter and tillage accessories including:

- Martin® and Yetter Row Cleaners and Closing Wheels
- Schaffert Liquid Fertilizer Equipment
- Seed Disc Openers, Pre-cut Row Unit Drive Chains and other Row Unit Components
- SmartBox® installation and insecticide accessories

Equipment for Sale:

2013 John Deere 1750 6-Row Conservation Planter: Liquid fertilizer, 1.6 bu. boxes with insecticide
-Planter is new and can be set up to the buyers options and specifications

8200 Krause 32' Disk

2008 John Deere 1750 8-Row Dry Fertilizer, vacuum, row cleaners, and e-Set meters

It's good to know your neighbors.



We understand your insurance needs because we live and work here, too.

Call our office today for friendly, local service and insurance protection you can depend on.

GRINNELL MUTUAL
REINSURANCE SINCE 1909
A Policy of Working Together

Woodard Insurance Service Co.

114 S. Vine St., West Union, Iowa • 563-422-3831
Dick Woodard 563-422-5777 • cell 563-380-8882
www.woodard-insurance.com

Educational Field Day

Each year the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosts the annual Educational Field Day. In the three-day event, 14 schools make their way to the Dick Jensen farm outside of West Union. Those 476 students plus their teachers and helpers receive a fun-filled education at the six stations which include trees, wildlife, pond, soils, erosion, and bees. The transportation to the event and a light meal are provided by the SWCD thanks to the donations from the supporter club. Thanks to everyone who supports the SWCD's educational efforts.

Valley students
learn about
soils



Summer students learn about fish

WE CAN DO IT ALL...

with conservation always in mind!

Concrete Foundations • Wall Pours
Slab Foundation Pours • Patios • Sidewalks
Driveways • Commercial Work & MORE!

**Robinson Construction
& Custom Telebelting**

Gary Robinson • Hawkeye • 563-428-4600



Students learning about tree rings

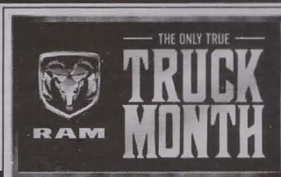
*We are proud to support
Soil and Water
Conservationists!*



(319) 283-4371
or (800) 498-4371
"Proud To Be Your
John Deere Dealer"

www.hubcityimp.com

**We are proud
to support our area
conservationists!**



2013 Ram 1500

TORKELSON'S



www.torkelsonmotors.com

ELGIN
800-779-0035
563-426-5505

WAUKON
800-779-0092
563-568-4587

Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram are registered trademarks of Chrysler Group LLC.

NASA and the Iowa Flood Center Selects Turkey River Watershed for a Precipitation Study

On January 31st, the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority (TRWMA) Board of Directors ignored the winter weather conditions and met in Postville for a planning meeting to kick off their efforts in the Turkey River Watershed. TRWMA Board members and citizens attending the meeting were excited to hear that NASA and the Iowa Flood Center have selected the Turkey River Watershed for a national precipitation study this spring. The Iowa Flood Center (IFC) will be collaborating with NASA in the spring of 2013 on IFloods – a project to enhance the understanding of precipitation events worldwide. The Turkey River Watershed has been selected as the study area for a uniform deployment of ~20 rain gauges with soil moisture probes and the placement of two Iowa Flood Center Mobile Weather Radars. Larry Weber, Director of the Iowa Flood Center noted, "The complexity of the Turkey River Watershed is of interest to us in Iowa as well as the entire nation. NASAs work will help us better understand how radar images are related to actual rainfall so that we can better predict rainfall amounts and flood events."

The Iowa Economic Development Authority selected the Turkey River Watershed as one of three watersheds in Iowa to develop a watershed flood reduction plan that could be used as a model for other Iowa watersheds and watersheds nationwide that are looking to reduce the economic and environmental impacts of flooding. The Turkey River Watershed is the largest of the three watersheds in Iowa selected for this honor. Immediately following that selection, the IFC selected the TRW in June, as one of four watersheds in Iowa, to complete hydrologic modeling and flood prevention planning. One of the criteria for IFC projects was that the watershed have an active watershed authority. At the January 31st meeting Larry Weber, with the Iowa Flood Center, announced that they will be selecting three of the four watersheds in February to move forward with implementing their recommendations. Should the Turkey River Watershed be selected, the TRWMA will work with the Iowa Flood Center during the spring to select a smaller sub-watershed within the TRW to implement practices.

Northeast Iowa RC&D Director Lora Friest noted, "The development of the Turkey River Watershed Authority has opened many doors for us. We were approved to be a model watershed in Iowa to develop a watershed-wide plan, we were selected by the IFC for hydrologic modeling and now NASA has selected us for their rainfall project. We are also hopeful that one of our sub-watersheds will be selected by the IFC for implementation. All the state and national attention is great but as we move forward the real work will come down to the landowners, communities and counties participating. We have to keep our feet on the ground and work together to come up with a sound plan for watershed-wide flood reduction that everyone wants to implement." Northeast Iowa RC&D is facilitating the planning process.

The January 31st meetings started with an update to the TRWMA Board from the Iowa Flood Center. Six Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) also presented information to the TRWMA regarding their watershed projects and the known public interest within their counties. The TRWMA will use the information from the SWCDs as well as other input to prioritize and recommend sub-watersheds to the Iowa Flood Center for implementation of flood reduction practices. TRWMA Board Chair Rod Marlatt noted "although the Iowa Flood Center might only be selecting one sub-watershed to implement test strategies, this is not a contest. This is just one tool for the watershed. We can all collaborate and work together with other programs to make those other sub watershed projects happen. The TRWMA will work to help all seven SWCDs and participating cities to implement in more projects in the future."

Informational public meetings will be held over the next few months to introduce the project to local producers and residents, answer questions and gather input.

For more information about the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority visit www.turkeyriver.org

Why should Iowan's Strive to be national leaders in Soil and Water Conservation?

By Vince Sitzmann

By definition, Conservation means to protect, preserve, manage, or care for a valued resource. To quote the great Franklin D. Roosevelt "The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself" Simply put, Iowa is blessed with some of the richest soils in the world. Add an adequate supply of fresh water and this fragile natural resource allows farmers to produce food that spans the globe, nourishing people from every continent in the world. In fact, Iowa's rich soils enables farmers to produce more hogs, corn, soybeans, eggs and ethanol than any other state in the US.

In 1973, Iowa became the first state in the nation to fund a cost share program to support soil conservation efforts on our private lands. Since that time, countless state and federal programs have been initiated and implemented on a voluntary basis by landowners who spend millions of dollars annually to protect their soil and keep it out of the water. In November of 2012, a new effort was launched in Iowa to reduce nutrient loading to Iowa's waters as well as the Gulf of Mexico. This effort is called the Nutrient Re-

duction Strategy. The strategy was developed by Iowa State University, the IDNR, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and is supported by the major Ag groups around the state. This plan is based on sound science and the implementation of voluntary conservation practices.

Why voluntary? I for one believe landowners are in the best position to determine which practices work best on their farms and in their farming operations. Iowa is a very diverse state, and regulatory policies lack flexibility needed to implement the best practice in the best location in an efficient and cost effective manner. Having said that, it's important that landowners step up to the plate and learn what they can do to address runoff from their farms and take the next step and implement these practices. Success in implementing the Strategy is critical if landowners want to continue making all their own management decisions on their land. The voluntary approach will be under the watchful eye of many around the nation and it's important that everyone do their part to reduce nutrient losses to our



lakes, rivers, and streams. In closing, as one of the world leaders in production agriculture, we as Iowans should continue to be national leaders in conservation.

If you would like to view the webinar or read the most current version of Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy it can be found at www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu. If you have any questions about the strategy or conservation practices you can implement on your farm, feel free to contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for technical or potential financial assistance.

Summary of Conservation Practices Applied

Summary of Conservation Practices	Applied
Access Control (472) (ac)	472
Brush Management (314) (ac)	22
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - Written (102) (no)	2
Conservation Cover (327) (ac)	123
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)	3,354
Contour Buffer Strips (332) (ac)	9
Contour Farming (330) (ac)	5,626
Cover Crop (340) (ac)	197
Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)	177
Fence (382) (ft)	13,568
Filter Strip (393) (ac)	2
Forage and Biomass Planting (512) (ac)	90
Forest Management Plan - Written (106) (no)	3
Forest Stand Improvement (666) (ac)	158
Grassed Waterway (412) (ac)	27
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (595) (ac)	298
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	1,061
Prescribed Burning (338) (ac)	41
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	68
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345) (ac)	929
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329) (ac)	1,529
Stripcropping (585) (ac)	328
Terrace (600) (ft)	16,245
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)	94
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) (ac)	52
Underground Outlet (620) (ft)	8,895
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)	547
Waste Storage Facility (313) (no)	2
Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) (no)	16
Wetland Creation (658) (ac)	6
Wetland Restoration (657) (ac)	40
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (ac)	6
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) (ft)	1,086
Conservation System Plans (no)	172
Conservation System Acres (ac)	15,182

New Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts	5
New Environmental Quality Incentives Program Contracts (EQIP)	42
Payments on 94 existing CSP contracts	\$908,171
Payments on 35 existing EQIP contracts	\$166,189
Payments on 7 existing WHIP contracts	\$13,740



Together, we'll create a blueprint to guide your financial life.

Create your financial plan with Northwestern Mutual. From business planning to estate planning and retirement planning, together we'll design a personalized plan to help you achieve financial security. Who's helping you build your financial future?



Sharon Orr
Financial Advisor
(563) 425-4144
sharonorr.com

Northwestern Mutual
Insurance / Investments / Ideas

© 2013 Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI (NM) (life and disability insurance, annuities) and its subsidiaries, Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC (NMIS) (securities), a subsidiary of NM, broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, and member of FINRA and SIPC. Sharon Orr is a Registered Representative of NM Insurance Agency(s) of NM. Sharon Orr is a Registered Representative(s) and Investment Advisor Representative(s) of NMIS.



The Fayette County SWCD Commissioners govern 465,000 acres of county soil and water. Their decisions preserve water quality and the prevent soil erosion throughout the county. (L to r) Paul Hoeger, Maynard; Dave Drilling, Waucoma; Rod Marlatt, Elgin; Rozann Dalenbach, Arlington; Bill Bennett, Elgin; Dick Jensen, Elgin. Seen on Dick's lap is his grandson Johnathan Oakland. Absent: Assistant Commissioners Judy Bennett, William Dalenbach, Deb Dessel, Rhonda Drilling, Phyllis Hoeger, Dorothy Jensen, and Joyce Trotter.



ORDERS MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
MARCH 31, 2013

All bare root stock sold in bundles of 25

All stock will be strictly top quality. Notify us as soon as possible of any shortage or if any stock is in poor condition. **There is no survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices.** Due to limited availability of some varieties, PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!!!!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ IA Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Cell: _____
E-Mail: _____

For Office Use Only

ORDER NO: _____

Date Paid: _____ Amount: _____
Check #: _____ Cash: _____
Received By: _____

Order Form

The following varieties are sold in bundles of 25.
Minimum order: 1 bundle

Bare root Trees	Price	Qty	Cost
American Cranberry 18"-24"	\$45.00		
American Hazelnut 18"-24"	\$45.00		
Black Cherry 18"-24"	\$45.00		
Black Walnut 18"-24"	\$45.00		
Butternut 18"-24"	\$50.00		
Com. Purple Lilac 18"-24"	\$45.00		
Northern Red Oak 18"-24"	\$45.00		
Red Osier Dogwood 18"-24"	\$45.00		
Swamp White Oak 18"-24"	\$45.00		
Bareroot Conifers			
American Arborvitae 12"-18"	\$50.00		
Norway Spruce 7-15"	\$50.00		

Container Stock	Price	Qty	Cost
1 gallon containers			
Norway Spruce 15"-18"	\$15.00		
White Pine 15"-18"	\$15.00		
2 gallon container			
American Arborvitae 18-24"	\$25.00		

SUBTOTAL	
7% Sales Tax	
TOTAL	

TERMS: Full payment is required at the time the order is placed. The trees will be available for pickup mid-April, our office will contact you when they are available. Checks are payable to:

FAYETTE SWCD FOUNDATION



RETURN TO:
Fayette SWCD Foundation
4748 60th St
Arlington IA 50606
Phone: 563-633-5165



Megan Kalb

Megan Kalb Scholarship winner SWCD

Megan Kalb of Aurora is the 2012 scholarship winner for the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Her parents are Mary Lou and Matthew Kalb, Aurora.

At Oelwein High School she was in many activities and sports. She served as captain of the basketball team.

She plans to attend Iowa State University to become an animal ecologist and do research on animals. She hopes her studies will give wildlife a brighter future throughout the world.

She said, "I have always loved animals and the chance to be outdoors. Science in school has always been a favorite class, so I hope to study animals further in college."

Conserving Soil and Water for our future.



FARM • HOME • GEOTHERMAL • MUNICIPAL • INDUSTRIAL

FREE ESTIMATES!
800-568-4449

- State-of-the-Art Equipment
- Highly Trained & Skilled Personnel
- Highest Standard of Construction
- All Wells are Pressure Grouted
- State Certified Drillers and Installers

Shawver

WELL COMPANY, INC.

An Employee Owned Corporation

CELEBRATING
76 YEARS!

"Drilling for your Well Being!"

www.shawverwell.com

Responsible farming is in our hands...



...practicing soil and water
conservation today will greatly
benefit our future generations.

Diversity
Coatings

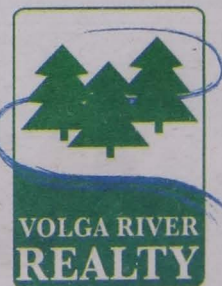
Dwane Koch • 563-380-1724

www.diversitycoatings.com



60 Acres, South of Wadena

60 acres with Brush Creek running through the middle. Lots of walnut and oak trees. About 13 acres in CRP. 43 acres in Forest Reserve. Outstanding hunting and fishing with trout stocked further up Brush Creek. Plenty of room for a cabin or building site.



Jeff Bradley - Broker
146 S. Main Street
FAYETTE
www.fayettere.com
email: jeff@hawkeyetel.com
CALL JEFF: 563-419-7900

Socially Unacceptable

By Richard Jensen,
SWCD Commissioner

It's that time again to contribute an article for our SWCD Annual Report. I realize I am risking ridicule from some readers and that's okay. What I don't want to do is offend somebody or alienate anybody from becoming more respectful of their landscape. As a confessed habitual defender of the land, I am baffled why many feel little or no value for land beyond its economic value.

Conservation is the responsibility to understand and preserve the capacity of the land to renew itself for the benefit of self and future generations. Only soil in good health can accomplish this vital renewal. The technique and practice used in crop production will radically affect the quality and most definitely the quantity of this soil. By and large the actions, attitudes, and implements used by a farmer in growing a crop will testify to what value he places on his land. Decent land use will preserve the fertility, integrity, stability, and profitability of any land. If you are operating contrary to this truism, it is wrong.

Take a drive through Fayette County and you will be astonished at how many bits of new land have been discovered since grain prices have improved. These undeveloped specks of habitat soon are decimated as the discoverer only appreciates land that contributes to their wal-

let. This has been the norm for a long time. The problem is we have so few of these relics of our heritage remaining. How much money is the last kangaroo mouse on earth worth? Is it worthless or is it priceless? As long as self interest dictates the land use philosophy, we will witness more signs of nature in rebellion: abnormal weather, floods, droughts, storms, and an unhealthy habitat for all life.

Perhaps my regard for the value of land is broader than yours, but I

am encouraged by a growing base of farmers who take conservation seriously. It is not difficult to identify those stewards of the land from the abusers of the land by taking a drive through the county. Give some praise to those who understand proper land treatment. Encourage those who treat the land as though it was the adversary and feels not obligation towards it. Like graffiti on a public monument deliberate waste of our natural resources is socially unacceptable.

Specialty crops grant applications accepted

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey has announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is accepting grant applications for the Specialty Crop Block Grant program. The grants are available to support projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in Iowa.

The Department is tentatively scheduled to receive approximately \$271,000 in grant funding through the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, which is run by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. This funding is contingent on the federal funds being made available to the Department.

Grant awards will be considered up to a maximum of \$24,000 and projects can have a duration of up to 30 months.

Specialty crops that are eligible under this program are fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. Both fresh and processed specialty crops are eligible.

Proposals must be received by IDALS on or before 4 p.m. Friday, May 3.

For more information, visit the IDALS Specialty Crop Block Grant program at the Department's website at www.IowaAgriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/specialtyCropGrant.asp.

Turkey River Watershed Management Authority to hold Public Informational Meetings in March and April

The Turkey River Watershed has been selected by the Iowa Flood Center and the Iowa Economic Development Authority to be one of three model watersheds in Iowa that will develop a plan for reduction of floodwater and improved water quality. Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) will assist with the development of the plan. Lora Friest, Northeast Iowa RC&D Executive Director stated, "This honor sets the stage for landowners and communities throughout the watershed to work together to show the Nation how we can evaluate and solve major issues."

The Turkey River Watershed Management Authority (TRWMA) was recently formed by 23 communities, 5 counties and 7 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). Rod Marlatt, TRWMA Chair stated, "we recognize that we have had millions of dollars in flood damage to private and public property in the Turkey River Watershed and public and private partners can only reduce flooding and improve water quality by working together. Rural landowners and community members, county government and private citizens all have a role to play."

The Turkey River Watershed Management Authority members encourage you to attend a public meeting to learn more, provide input and show your support. Upcoming meetings will be held at the following:

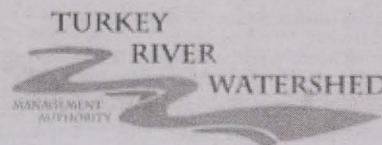
March 7 Elkader, County Office Building, 7:00 p.m.

March 14 Cresco, Cresco Bank & Trust, 7:00 p.m.

March 21 West Union, Tap't Out, 7:00 p.m.

April 4 Calmar, Wilder Auditorium-NICC Business Center, 7:00 p.m.

Please go to www.turkeyriver.org to learn more about this exciting project and keep updated on future meetings. We value your input, collaboration and voluntary participation.



Make NAPA your first stop when looking for parts!

Quality parts, filters, accessories, tools & supplies for Cars, Trucks, Farm Equipment, Imports and MORE!

FILTER SALE COMING IN MARCH

NAPA Auto Parts

112 E. Elm, West Union • 563-422-3896



Farm Insurance can be tough to plow through...

Before you start planing this year, it's a good idea to review your farm insurance coverage to ensure your farming operation is properly covered.

Let our knowledgeable, friendly staff help you find coverage to fit your individual protection needs!

FARMUTUAL
Insurance for Town and Farm
A POLICY OF WORKING TOGETHER.

Kelly & Miller Insurance

144 S. Main, Fayette • 563-425-4569
Lisa Kelly • Lyle Miller

We dig deeper...

C · H · E · A · P · E · R!

Talk to us about your soil conservation plans!

See us for all your

TILING - TERRACING - PONDS - WATERWAYS

DOUG EGELAND TILING

1761 Sand Road, Ossian • 563-532-9369

37 Years Experience - LICA Member

Farming is your livelihood, and it's our business to help protect that.

Farm/Ranch Business Insurance Crop Business Succession

I make it simple to help you select the coverage that's right for you today and provide options for the future of your growing operation.



Francis Olson
600 Hwy 18 W Ste 1
West Union, IA
563-422-5299

Call today to see how I make insurance simple.



FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Insurance • Investments

Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC*, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company**, Western Agricultural Insurance Company**, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company** West Des Moines, IA. *Affiliates **Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services PC044-ML-1 (2-12)

Protect Program Eligibility Before Working Areas of Farm

Jesse Wegner, County Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), reminds landowners and operators that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and wetland provisions are required.

"Some producers may have decided to break out new land, clear trees, and other activities to bring land into production, including what was Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage," said Wegner. "This land needs to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for farm program benefits now or in the future."

Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded to follow tillage, crop residue, rotation, and conservation practice requirements as specified in their compliance plans. Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance.

Persons who produce an agricultural commodity on a field(s) where highly erodible land is predominate, are ineligible for benefits under the Highly Erodible Land Provisions (HELCP) unless it has been determined by NRCS that a conservation system is being actively applied. This conservation system must be adequate for highly erodible land and will be based on the local NRCS technical guide.

Conservationists with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) warn producers to be cautious about wetland provisions when installing tile, clearing trees, or completing other land altering measures.

"Farmers and land managers need to protect their farm program benefits by first checking with their local office for a wetland determination prior to working in wet portions of their farms," said Aaron Anderson, District Conservationist for Fayette County NRCS.

To maintain eligibility, USDA participants must certify that they have not produced crops on wetlands converted after December 23, 1985, and that they did not convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after November 28, 1990.

Any activity that alters natural wetlands, making the production of an agricultural commodity or forage crop more possible is prohibited. These conversion activities may include:

- Filling
- Draining (surface ditching or subsurface tiling)
- Land leveling
- Clearing woody vegetation where stumps are removed
- Diverting run-off water from a wetland (i.e. building a diversion)

If found in violation, farmers would lose eligibility for USDA programs. For more information, please visit your local USDA Service Center.

Aaron Anderson is new district conservationist for Fayette County

It was August 2012 when Aaron Anderson became the new NRCS district conservationist serving the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District. The county has more than 465,000 acres of soil and water.

Anderson said, "When I came to Fayette County, there was a history of good, sound conservation work already in place. My job is to make sure practices stay in place and to improve areas that need improving."

Anderson's door at the NRCS office is always open to private landowners and land users who wish to improve their landscapes, whether it be waterways, terraces, sediment basins, ponds, or filter strips.

He added, "I grew up on a farm near Lawler, where my parents were good stewards of the land. I learned from them, and it's always been something I've been interested in."

The 32-year-old Anderson is a 1999 graduate of New Hampton. He went on to Iowa State University where he earned his college degree in 2004. He then served as an intern with NRCS in Rockwell City and Mt. Airy.

He worked fulltime in

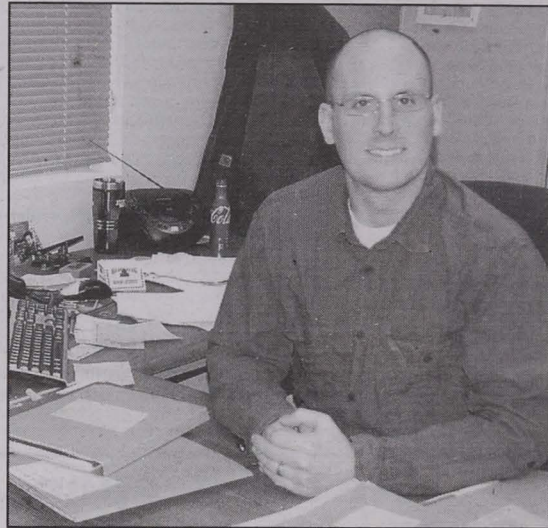
Butler, Franklin, and Grundy counties before settling in here.

He and his wife, Kristin, and their two sons, Trice, 4, and Quinn, 2, reside in Fredericksburg.

Anderson ended, "Right now, we are involved in the Otter Creek Watershed project. We are assisting landowners/operators seeking either technical or financial assis-

tance in a wide area that affects urban areas of West Union and Elgin.

"We hope more landowners come in to visit. We all have something in common, and that is to preserve and conserve our natural resources and improve the environment."



Aaron Anderson is the new NRCS District conservationist. He assists land owners/operators daily in good sound conservation work.

**We've been lending a hand
to farmers for decades...
...yielding strong protection.**

FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION FAYETTE, IOWA

A&J Petersburg Agency
Decorah, Iowa
563-382-3627

Doug Beier
Independence, Iowa
319-334-6066

Brown-Lane Insurance
Independence, Iowa
319-334-2534

Butikofer Insurance, LLC
Elgin, Iowa
563-425-5306

Independence Insurance Services
Independence, Iowa
563-334-4991

Kelly & Miller Insurance
Fayette, Iowa
563-425-4569

Nuss Insurance Agency
Hawkeye, Iowa
563-427-3419

Insurance Associates of Lawler
Lawler, Iowa
563-238-5131

Smith Insurance, LLC
Lamont, Iowa
563-382-3627

Smith-D&L Insurance
Independence, Iowa
563-334-6066

Sorg Insurance Agency
Independence, Iowa
563-334-7089

Steve Brentner
Rowley, Iowa
563-938-2262

Vogel Insurance Agency
Oelwein, Iowa
319-283-1836

Wegner Insurance
Sumner, Iowa
563-578-8076

**Farmers Mutual
Insurance Association**
135 S. Main, Fayette • 563 425-4176

FARMUTUAL
Insurance for Town and Farm
A POLICY OF WORKING TOGETHER.

The Goulds GS Submersible... The Toughest Pump in the World!



- Muscles of cast stainless.
- Guts of space-age thermo-plastics.
- World class performance.
- AND environmentally friendly for a safe water supply.

**Put a Goulds GS
Submersible at the
bottom of your
well and your water
worries are over!**



Sold and installed
only by your Goulds
Professional Dealer.



GOULDS PUMPS

BECKER HARDWARE
HEATING ELECTRICAL PLUMBING
101 W. Main St.
Ossian
563-532-9120

Serving all of Northeast Iowa for over 125 years!
FOUR Licensed Installers 24-Hour Pump Service!

West Union Green Pilot Project serving as model of sustainability

By Mike Van Sickle
Editor
Fayette County Union

State, national, and even international officials continue to utilize the West Union Green Pilot Streetscape venture as a model for new, community-based sustainability standards.

In April 2012, members of the Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (IWIRB) held its monthly meeting in West Union. In addition to its regular agenda, board members were provided an update of the local Streetscape Project. Of special interest to the five board members in attendance was the porous paver system, to which the organization contributed \$500,000.

"As a Green Pilot Community, we are trying to help create the best ('green') practices available and create a model that any community could follow," explained Robin Bostrom, Main Street West Union executive director. "We've (community) been working really hard to keep the project moving on."



The installation of porous pavers north of the Elm and Vine intersection in West Union began in September 2012. (Mike Van Sickle photo)

A piece of the environmental benefit

Project engineer Jon Biederman explains that the overall drainage system for the West Union Green Pilot Streetscape street and sidewalk system is more than just the pavers on the sidewalk and street surface.

Rainwater hits the pavers and drains through the joints between individual pavers. The joints are approximately 3/8" wide and filled with crushed stone chips, which acts as a filter for dirt and debris.

Upon draining through the paver joints, the rainwater enters a crushed stone chip setting bed of between 1- and 2-inch thick and then into the larger crushed stone base. The crushed stone base varies from 3- to 5-feet in thickness, depending upon the location within the street and is clean with minimal fines.

This crushed stone has approximately 40 percent voids, which can be used to store runoff. Some of this rainwater will be infiltrated into the native soils below the crushed stone, with the infiltration rate dependent upon the soil type.

Water, which is not infiltrated, travels downhill through the crushed stone and is ultimately collected in small diameter drain lines and discharged to natural drainage ways. This water is cooled and pollutants are removed as it moves through the crushed stone, resulting in a more environmentally friendly discharge.

Noting that "pretty streets aren't going to solve our problems," Bostrom explained that the project does provide guiding principles for the future of the entire community.

Questioning how other communities could afford such a project if funding sources are no longer made available at the federal and/or state levels, IWIRB member Mark Rosenbury of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa asked what the chances are for other communities to replicate such a project.

Bostrom noted that due to West Union being both a Main Street and Green Pilot community, this was able to be a top-of-the-line project. She explained that other communities could carry forth with similar projects on a smaller scale.

At the same time, Jon Biederman of TeKippe Engineering explained that this is the first such project the West Union firm has been associated with. With the expertise

GREEN PILOT PROJECT
See Page 16



PRECISION THAT PAYS

Tailor your guidance solution to best fit your needs using New Holland Precision Land Management (PLM™). Choose from a wide range of accuracy options that offer industry-leading precision and reliability. Receive precise sub-inch accuracy using RTK with year-over-year repeatability. Start saving time, working more comfortably and getting more out of every season using PLM™ guidance solutions.

FEWER SKIPS AND OVERLAPS - LESS TIME, FUEL AND INPUTS
MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVITY - WORK EASILY IN DARK, DUST OR FOG
LESS OPERATOR FATIGUE - WORK LONGER AND MORE EFFICIENTLY
LESS COMPACTION - CONSISTENT TRAFFIC PATTERNS



Baumler Implements, Inc.
1306 Highway 150 South
West Union, IA 52175
(563) 422-3835
www.baumlerimplements.com

© 2012 CNH America LLC. New Holland is a registered trademark of CNH America LLC.

WEST UNION TRUCK & TRAILER REPAIR

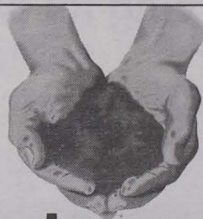
• OIL CHANGES
• D.O.T. INSPECTION
• TIRE REPAIR
• BRAKES
LARGE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT REPAIR



HWY 18 E.
West Union, Iowa 563-422-9335

Soil Conservation

Protects Your Land & Investment



and so does Adequate Insurance

See Your Nearest Agent:

Michael Insurance Agency
West Union • (563) 422-6081
michaelinsurance@qwestoffice.net

A&J Petersburg Agency
Decorah • (563) 382-3627
agency@ajpetersburg.com

Hintz-Ziegler-Miller Agency
Oelwein • (563) 283-1555
lyle@hzml.com

Kerndt Brothers Agency
Lansing • (563) 538-4207
kbia@kerndtbrothers.com

NMI Agency
Decorah • (563) 382-9695
norwegian1871@norwegianmutual.net

Bushman Insurance
Ossian • (563) 562-9207
bushmaninsurance@mchsi.com

Kelly & Miller Agency
Fayette • (563) 425-4569
kellymillerins@iowatelecom.net

Don Anderson Agency
Cresco • (563) 883-8012
donanderson@harmonytel.net

CIA Insurance Agency
Cresco • (563) 547-2382
ciainfo@ciains.biz

Leslie White Agency
Clermont • (563) 423-5913
insure@acegroup.cc

FARMUTUAL Insurance

Decorah Office

Jim Clarke, Manager • Steve Hildebrand, Adjuster
Judy Ehler, April Hamilton & Charity Kuboushek - Agents



NORWEGIAN MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOC.

119 East Water - DECORAH - 563-382-9695

GREEN PILOT PROJECT Continued

gained from the local project, the engineers are now taking similar ideas to their other clients in northeast Iowa.

When questioned on the city's experiences with reporting to the state and federal officials, Bostrom replied that it has gone "fairly smooth" after the creation of a spreadsheet by City Administrator Bob Vagts.

"The communication and assistance provided by the regional governments has also been phenomenal," she added.

"All of the participating agencies have been very good to work with," agreed Bill Ziegler, Fayette County Economic Development/West Union Chamber of Commerce director.

Rosenbury acknowledged that the board members had witnessed first-hand the porous pavers at work. The state official explained that while staying in the community overnight, the board members stepped out to watch the rainfall quickly disappear into the pavers.

"This is quite a project. It is extremely impressive," he added, while touring the downtown construction site.

In addition to Rosenbury, IWIRB members attending the West Union meeting were Jolee Belzung, Iowa Association of Water Agencies; Robert Ballou, Iowa Soybean Association; Jane Weber, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Iowa; and professional administrator Jerry Neppel, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship.

State and

International renown

Later, Jeff Geerts, Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) special projects manager, and Tim Waddell, division administrator with the IEDA Community Development Division, were scheduled to offer the local project additional recognition when they provided a tour to Andrew Earles of Wright Water Engineers and Bill Wenk of Wenk Associates.

Wright Water Engineers and Wenk Associates have been hired by International District Energy Association (IDEA) to conduct sustainable stormwater management trainings for engineers in Iowa.

In spite of the ongoing sights and sounds of the downtown construction in August 2012, "beautiful" was a word frequently repeated by Iowa's Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Director Debi Durham as she toured the local project for the first time.

From a demonstration of the porous paver/storm water removal system to a tour of the downtown Civic Plaza and geothermal well field; the former bus barn's proposed multifamily housing unit, a rain garden and a green roof, Durham expressed her delight in the project.

Durham noted she recently received a phone call from Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, who was elated to report from a conference in Germany that the subject of the West Union project had come up during a presentation.

"It is a great undertaking. It is the right thing to do," said Durham, stressing the importance of storm water management and green initiatives. "This is the type of thing we have to do while working with communities, farmers and landowners throughout Iowa.

"This entire project is a great community incubator. If you can do it here, we should be able to do it anywhere," she closed.

See more Green Pilot Project photos on Page 17



GREEN PLAN™ SOLUTIONS

Enhanced
Farm
Profitability

Trusted
Team

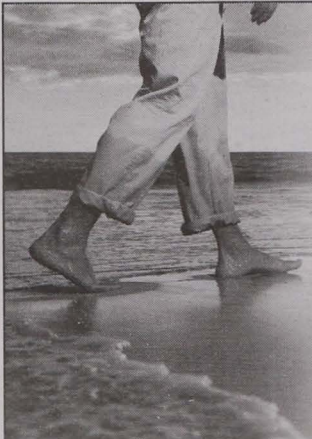
Agronomic
Expertise

Local
Information
Based
Solutions



AgVantage FS

563-422-6023
300 West Franklin, West Union



CONSERVATION MATTERS TO ALL OF US.

FAUSER

ENERGY RESOURCES

Elgin, Iowa
(563) 426-5811 • (800) 328-7371
www.fauserenergy.com



Iowa's Economic Development Authority Director Debi Durham was joined by Jeff Geerts, special projects' manager of Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), and other state officials in examining the success of a rain garden in downtown West Union last summer. (Mike Van Sickle photo)



As state and local officials observed in April 2012, West Union Utilities Department employees (foreground, l-r) Andy Larson, Scott Johansen, and (at fire hydrant) Mike Moser demonstrated the speed in which the porous pavers in the Green Pilot Streetscape Project absorb water. (Mike Van Sickle photo)



This green roof is located on the West Union Chamber of Commerce building in downtown West Union. (Mike Van Sickle photo)



**We are proud to salute
our area conservationists!**



**See Roger Craig
for all your auto needs!**

Check us out on the Web!
www.decorahchev.com

Serving NE Iowa, Southern Minnesota, and Wisconsin



1815 State Hwy. 9 E.
Decorah, IA
**563-382-3619 or
800-319-3619**

For all your earth moving needs!

Waterways • Driveways • Ponds • Terraces • Roads
Water & Sewer • Site work • Basements • Septic Systems
Demolition Trucking



GRANGER CONSTRUCTION INC.

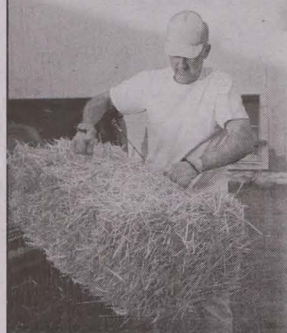
563-422-3598 • West Union, IA • Late Model Equipment with Experienced Operators!

A family tradition for 60 years!

FARMERS

Iowa's Greatest Natural Resource

FreedomBank salutes Iowa farm families,
and looks forward to working with you.
We appreciate your importance to the economy
and understand your business needs.



FreedomBank
YOUR Community. YOUR Finances. YOUR STYLE.

Elkader Monona Postville
245-2522 539-2015 864-7441

www.myfreedomaccount.com

Member FDIC

Soil & Water Conservation District Supporter Club

The Fayette SWCD would like to thank all the people of Fayette County and beyond that have made contributions to the supporter club for 2012. Our programs are made possible by your continued support and conservation efforts.

Supporters

Janice Balk, Charles Baumler, Donald Blaker, Kevin Bouska, Stanley Boyer, Ruth Brooks, Inez Brown, Roger Buhr, Mabel Burrack Est., Robert Campbell, Kim Conrad, Kenton Cowles, Robert Cowles, Vern Dietzenbach, Tom Durnan, Don Durscher, Paul Fox, Helen Franzen, Willys/Leanne Fritz, Dorothy Gilmer, Diane Granger, Bernadine Granneman, Charles Gray, Peter Greco, William Gregory, Willis Grundmeyer, Dale Halverson, Heying Farms Inc., Howard Hildebrand, Jim Hurley, Paula Johnson, Iva Jean Kaune, Steve Kennon, Samuel Koehler, EB Kunkle, Duane/Edie Langerman, Keith Lansing, Herman Lenz, Kim Livingston, Janita Loftus, Harry/Mary Ann Martin, Howard Meaney, Ralph Moellers, James Morf, Stanley Ney, Tim Nuss, Joyce Oldfather, Mary Polk, Harold Popenhagen, Rausch Family Inc., Tim Recker, Clair Reid, Dan Roffman, Sean Salisburg, Anna Mae Schlatter, Dale Schrader, Lois Schuchmann, Robert Scott, Robert Smith, Norma Springer, Lester Steffens, Donna Story, Carolyn Szymkus, Nick/Marilyn Teig, Top Deck Holsteins, Jack Treloar, Renee Voshell, Berniece Walsh, Roberta Warner, Watercress Run LLC, Anna Wenger, Jeffrey Wheeler, Gloria Whitcher, Eleanor Wingert, Vera Winter, David Wireman, Susan Wolf, Joe Wood, Margaret Wynthein.

Savers

Ronald Abbott, John R. Adams, Paul Adams, Jon

Andersen, Lane/Liz Ash, Shirley Bagenstos, Joe Bahe, David Baier, Steve/Mary Ann Baker, Bassett Pheasant Ridge, Irvin Bateman, Brad Baumgartner, Floyd Baumgartner, Don Baumler, Ron Beermann, Ken Blockhus, Paul/Chris Bodensteiner, David Boess, Barbara Born, Bowling Hearty Hudson, Jann Bowlus, Ron Boyer, Gary/Janice Brownell, Brownell Inc., Veryl Burghardt, C & W Farms, Bruce Cannon, Dan/Darcy Connelly, Betty Cook, Ron Corbin, Steve Crider, Sidney Crowe, D & J Pumping Inc., David/Terri Derflinger, Dennis DeSotel, Stanley Diebel, Kenneth F. Diemer, Patrick Duffy, Easton's Water Conditioning, Richard Egan, Joe Ernst, Dan/Melissa Fagle, Sue Fette, Jeryl Fink, Rollin Fink, First State Bank-Sumner, Four Strong Ltd., Edward Franzen, Keith Franzen, Paul Franzen, Donna Frieden, Kenneth F. Friedly, Don Gableman, Gertrude M. Bowling Farm Ptnshp., Gary/Carol Gibbs, Gladys Anderson FLP, Gary Goedecken, Gary Grimm, Ed/Bobbie Gross, Loren Gross, Gumm Farms LLC, Norbert Hackman, Barbara Hagalie, Gary Halva, Brian Harper, Harrison Farm, Tom Hayes, Lois Heck, Ron Hemesath, Robert Hemesath, Lavon Henn, Suzanne Henn, Harry Henry, Heraty Hudson Farm Acct., Hearty Hudson McKenna, William Hogan, Phyllis Holmstrom, Richard Holt, Neal Horns, Mark Imoehl, Dave Irvine, Kyle Jacobsen, Philip James, Robert Johnston, Norman Jones, Bill/Joann Kauten, Lynn/Bev Kelck, Greg Kilcher, Leslie A. Kleppe, Ron Koester, L & H Ranch Inc., LaGracia & Sons, Leslie R. Lauer & Sons Inc., Evelyn Lockard, Kevin Lockard, Sarah Lopez, Anita Lundberg, Robert Margroff, Gary Matthias, Dwight Maurer, Matt/Janell McElree, Marion

McIntosh, Kenneth F. Meyer, Scot Michelson, Marilyn Mihall, Jason Moellers, Jeffrey Moellers, Meg Moellering, Don/Marilyn Mueller, Thomas Murphy, Gordon Murray-John, David Naffziger, Millard Nelson Jr., Merrill Nerem, Northeast IA Appraisal, Joseph/Sharil Ogle, Rosemary Oldenburg, Joe/Karla Organist, David Palas, Harry Pape, Darwin Peterson, Gene Pleggenkuhle, David Pleggenkuhle, Clarence Pleggenkuhle, Donald Pliester, Roy Post, Steve/Helen Potratz, Ilo Mae Rau, Karel Rawson, Penny Reed, Sam Ridenour, Larry Riley, Doug/Marilyn Roberts, Florence Robinson, Raoland Rienschke Farm, Stephen Rourke, Dale Rueber, Dean Rueber, Daryl Ruff, Dean Ruff, Willis Ruff, George Schaefer, Keith Schlatter, Melvin Schlatter, Edmund Schmitt, Ernie/Lana Schmitt, Fred Schneider, Jim Schneider, John Schrader, Craig Seedorff, Marilyn Seedorff, Eugene Sieck, Bob/Chris Smith, Charles Smith, Maury Smith, George Steinbronn, Floyd Stensland, TeKippe Engineering, Gayle Tellin, Town & Country Real Estate, Ed Traeger, Robert Traeger, Don/Mary Treloar,

Varykino Inc., Ward Collision, Joe Wingert, Roger Winter, Dan Winter Jr., Dick Woodard.

Stewards

Margaret Addy, Shane Anderson, Jerry Bayness, Jim Beeghly, Berk LLC, Eric Boehm, Debra Bruhler, Don Buhr, Chensvold Farms, Bill Claassen, Bill/Jill Clark, Jerry Cole, Mike Corkery, John Cunningham, Hugh Curtis, Lyn Darnell, Divine Acres, Earl/Kathleen Drilling, DRM Family Ptnshp., David Egan, First National Bank-West Union, Jack Frey, Glass Farms Inc., Halstead Brothers, Roger/Connie Halverson, Bert Henderson, Paul Hoeger, JDF Farms, Richard Jensen, Charles Kerns, Verna Kerns, Richard

Sustainers

Alan/Judy Albrecht, Luann Berthel, Tim Burrack, Jerry Cole, Daniel Forsyth, Randy Helgerson, Margaret Jespersen, John Kalb, Pete Kalb, Barry/Kris Kamm, Robert McMillan, McMillan Bros., Mary Nagle, Nutri-Hose Inc., Dan Rosburg, Rick/Joyce Trotter.

Benefactors

William/Judy Bennett, Dave Drilling, Collin Jensen, Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank, Mark/Denise Nelson, Shiloh Farms.

Over 40 years of soil conservation and excavation experience!

- Excavating (All Types)
- Demolition
- Water & Sewer
- Terraces
- Waterways
- Ponds

SZABO 152 S. West Street
Postville
563-864-7515
Construction Company, Inc. Julia Szabo, President



Optimum

AQUAmax

Minimize Risk & Maximize Productivity

Provide top-end yield potential under optimal growing conditions and improve yield stability under drought stress.



PIONEER BRAND PRODUCTS

Schroeder Feed & Seed

213 W. Wilbur, Hawkeye • 563-427-5310

\$3.00 Prescriptions!
Free Delivery and Mailing!

Proud to support the SWCD.
We salute the efforts of area conservationists!

Scott Pharmacy
FAYETTE • www.scottrx.com
563-425-4530
800-246-0024

Health Mart PHARMACY

WE HAVE HARDWARE FOR ALL YOUR SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS!

Glidden **GLIDDEN® DUO™**
PAINT + PRIMER AND PAINT SUPPLIES

M **XACT**
WINDOWS AND DOORS WINDOWS AND DOORS
XACT VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS BY METAL INDUSTRIES

Viafield
Growing Opportunity.

VALLEY PAINT & HARDWARE
807 Mill St.
Clermont
563-423-5296

Mon.-Fri.
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m. - noon



Staff at the Fayette County SWCD field office assists the public daily. (L to r) Aaron Anderson, NRCS district conservationist; Carrie Davis, district watershed coordinator; Lori Kohlmeier, IDALS state secretary; Tamara Buitenwerf, NRCS soil conservationist; Ray Drewelow and LaVonne Koch, NRCS technicians. Absent was Adam Rodenberg, DNR wildlife specialist.

Wetlands Reserve program applications due March 15

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Des Moines has announced Friday, March 15, as the next cutoff date to submit applications for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), which helps Iowa landowners restore agricultural land to natural wetlands.

WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible private landowners and tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. WRP is a continuous signup program, although NRCS periodically makes funding selections as program funding allows.

During fiscal year 2012, NRCS enrolled ease-

ments on nearly 5,000 acres across Iowa at a value exceeding \$21 million. Over the past 20 years, close to 160,000 acres have been restored or are in the process of being restored to wetlands in Iowa through WRP and similar federal programs.

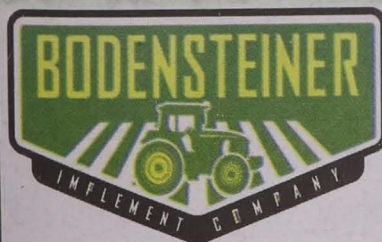
Wetlands provide habitat for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and limited recreational activities.

To apply or to find out more about WRP eligibility and enrollment options, visit your local USDA Service Center or go online to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/WRP.html.



Water... You can't grow without it.

Check out our equipment to help you conserve water and care for your soil. Visit your friends at Bodensteiner Implement for more information.



JOHN DEERE

Cascade - 563-852-3203
Clermont - 563-423-5206
Cresco - 563-547-2152
Decorah - 563-382-2961
Dyersville - 563-875-2724
Elkader - 563-245-2470
Monticello - 319-465-3515
New Hampton - 641-394-3061
Waukon - 563-568-3463



At First State Bank, we salute our conservationists! Stop in and visit with Kevin Converse in Fayette or Richard Lauers in Sumner about options available for your home, farm or conservation needs!



**FIRST
STATE
BANK**

1150 W. 1st St.
Sumner
(563) 578-3312
or 866-578-3314

200 S. Main
Fayette
(563) 425-3395
or 866-578-0008



www.fsbsumner.com

Member
FDIC

"Helping your
dreams come true"

SOIL CONSERVATION

PROFITS EVERYONE

BANK 1ST Helping You...

• Throughout your lifetime

West Union ~ St. Lucas

We look forward to 'Helping You' with specialized products to assist your agri-business and/or farming operation!



Brian Reichter
Senior Loan Officer

Brent Tapper
Commercial / Ag Loan Officer

Mark Moser
Senior Commercial / Ag Loan Officer

Join us in recognizing the importance of farm families throughout NE Iowa.

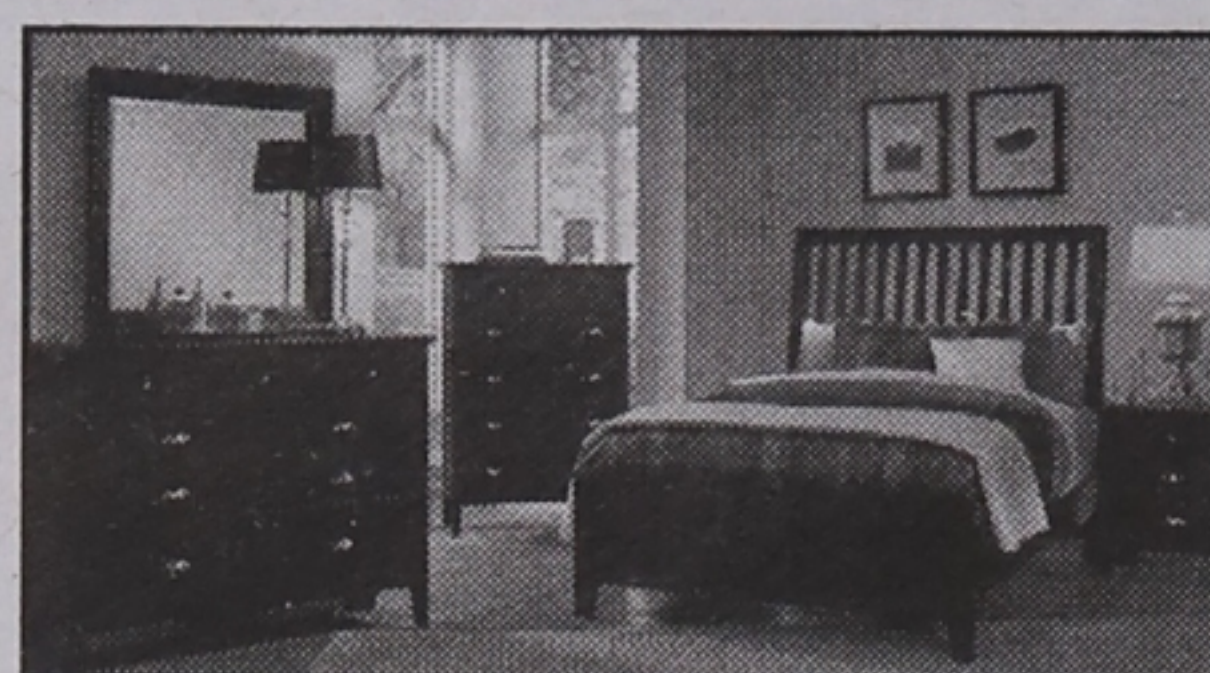
BANK 1ST Helping You...

www.bank1stia.com
563-422-3883

West Union ~ St. Lucas



Local Ownership ~ Local Decisions



Through its "One for One" program, Vaughan-Bassett contributed 150,000 tree seedlings.

The planting of these maple, oak, ash, pine, poplar and applewood trees allows the replacement of every tree used in the production of the company's bedroom suites.

Promoting sustainability...one tree at a time!

Shop Local!

For more information on the One for One program, please visit www.Vaughan-Bassett.com

Come check out our Vaughan-Bassett products!

Dessel-Roach

FURNITURE & FLOORS

611 West Bradford, West Union, IA 52175

422-3419 • 422-5302

Your Complete Service Center

- Tires: auto, lt. truck, farm & commercial
- Alignment
- Hitches
- Struts & Shocks
- Brakes & Exhaust
- Transmission service
- Fuel injection cleaning
- Trailer Hookups & More



All the top brand name tires... KELLIE TIRES

GOODYEAR

DUNLOP

OTITAN

Firestone

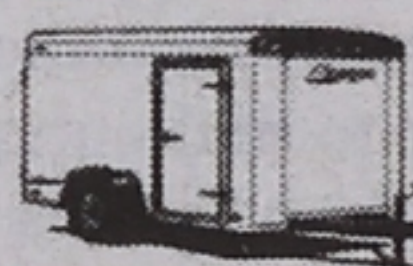
COMPLETE TRAILER SALES & SERVICE

Enclosed, Car, Flatbed, Stock, Utility & More!



*Large inventory of trailer parts in stock

\$20.00 OFF
Installation of B&W Hitch
expires 4/1/13
AVALON TIRE & SERVICE CENTER



Avalon Tire & Service Center Inc.

10-20th St. SE
Oelwein, IA
(Next to K-Mart)
(319) 283-4040

**Buy 10...
Get 1 FREE!**

Kent minerals provide proper levels of highly bioavailable sources of calcium, phosphorus, trace minerals, and vitamins.

Unionland Feed & Supply

108 S. Walnut Street, West Union, IA



563-422-5022

www.kentfeeds.com • 1-866-647-1212