

INSIDE IOWA

TODAY

News of
Interest

Friday,
March 15,
2013

Growing Tama County

By Heath Kellogg
Executive Director
Tama County



A man walks into a restaurant with a full-grown ostrich behind him. The waitress asks them for their orders. The man says, "A hamburger, fries and a coke," and turns to the ostrich, "What's yours?" "I'll have the same," says the ostrich.

A short time later the waitress returns with the order. "That will be \$9.40 please." The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change for payment.

The next day, the man and the ostrich come again and the man says, "A hamburger, fries and a coke."

The ostrich says, "I'll have the same." Again the man reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change.

This becomes routine until the two enter again. "The usual?" asks the waitress. "No, this is Friday night, so I will have a steak, baked potato and a salad," says the man. "Same," says the ostrich. Shortly the waitress brings the order and says, "That will be \$32.62." Once again the man pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table.

The waitress cannot hold back her curiosity any longer. "Excuse me, sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change in your pocket every time?" "Well," says the man, "several years ago I was cleaning the attic and found an old lamp. When I rubbed it, a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. I wished that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there."

"That's brilliant!" says the waitress. "Most people would ask for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!" "That's right. Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there," says the man.

The waitress asks, "What's with the ostrich?" The man sighs, pauses and answers, "My first wish wasn't as well thought out; I wished for a tall chick with long legs who agrees with everything I say."

The man and his ostrich are a classic example of "Think carefully about what you wish for, because you might actually get it." This phrase is an old truism that you hear all the time. In terms of our economy what do you personally want to see change? What are wishing for? You might be wishing to yourself "I've never really thought about it," or "I don't want to get involved" or worse yet "I don't have time."

It is time to think about what you want to see changed and become INVOLVED. I have found throughout the years that a wish without action results in nothing but a big plate of nothing. We are placing a greater emphasis on organizing groups of people to advance our data driven economic plan.

We have a lot of work to do, but the choice is clear: innovate or continue to stagnate. So, to become involved... contact our office and we can provide more information on how you can help. Contact us at (641) 484-3108.

Soil and Water Conservation

Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District Report

No-till, tillage and staying in conservation compliance

The term "vertical tillage" is bouncing around the media these days, but exactly what is vertical tillage?

"How does vertical tillage affect my conservation plan? Can I do vertical tillage and stay in compliance?"

Let's start with a little Soil 101.

A typical healthy soil is made up of four parts:

- 25% water
- 25% air
- 45% minerals like sand, silt, clay and rocks and
- 5% living and decaying plants and animals, or organic matter

Pores exist between and within soil aggregates and are occupied by water and air.

Macropores are soil pores, usually between aggregates, that are generally greater than 0.08 mm in diameter. They drain freely by gravity and allow easy movement of water and air. Macropores provide habitat for soil organisms, and plant roots can grow into them.

Micro-pores have diameters less than 0.08 and are usually found within structural aggregates. Suction is required to remove water from them.

"Soil structure" describes the way soil particles are aggregated. It affects water and air movement through soil, greatly influencing root growth and habitat for soil organisms.

Soil structure and macropores are vital to biological activity, water and solution flow and the cycling and storage of nutrients. A healthy, granular structure is typically associated with surface soils that contain adequate organic matter. This soil structure is characterized by loosely packed, crumbly soil aggregates and a network of macropores.

Over time, no-till increases a soil's organic matter content and thus improves its structure. No-till is more than just leaving



Dwayne and Pam Wood received the District's 2012 Urban Backyard Conservation Award. Pam's sister-in-law visited from England shortly after the Woods moved into their Toledo home in 1971. She and Pam designed the Woods' first gardens, building from the previous homeowners' bluebells and wild ginger beds, which are still established in the backyard. A pond was added in 2001. Pam and Dwayne use water from their rain barrels to water their flower beds, support flowers and vegetation with homemade willow structures, feed and water birds year-round and maintain the yard's several trees.

a field covered with residue. No-till also rebuilds and protects soil structure.

Vertical tillage is a minimum tillage method used to lightly till soil and cut up residue. It mixes and anchors some of the residue into the upper few inches of soil but can still leave large amounts of residue on the soil surface.

Still, it is not the same as

no-till.

"Why not use vertical tillage instead if it leaves good ground cover?"

Any tillage, regardless of its depth or the implement used, will undo all of the benefits of any previous no-till farming if it fractures the soil and destroys its macropores.

Even under ideal conditions, tillage increases soil drying, accelerates organic

matter decomposition and leaves slots and surfaces vulnerable to erosion. It can also reduce water infiltration, increase runoff and destroy soil organism habitat. These all limit a soil's ability to function properly.

"So what happens if my conservation plan says to no-till and I use vertical tillage instead?"

See No-till, page 2B



The Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners (left to right) are Jody Kasal, Vice Chair; Dean McKenna, Commissioner; Jan Wobeter, Commissioner; Jeff Bruene, Commissioner; Chad Mussig, Assistant Commissioner; Mike Snider, Chair

Award-winning flight



Soil & Water Stewardship Week grocery sack contest winner Rebekah Leipold of rural Buckingham and Friend of Conservation Award winner, pilot Garry Brandenburg of Albion, enjoy a flight over Tama County. Brandenburg is retired as Director of the Marshall County Conservation Board and has provided the Tama District's grand prize flights over Tama County for several years. Also pictured enjoying the flight is Rebekah's father Richard, center.

DNR brightens Union Grove Lake's future

The people of Union Grove Lake Watershed have shown decades of dedication to the lake and the land that drains into it.

This has been demonstrated by their involvement in the watershed: applying farm management practices like no-till and cover crops, installing physical practices like terraces and waterways, cooperating with assessments by granting access to streams and septic systems and volunteering such as mowing and clearing park property after the July 2011 winds.

Over the first four years of the Union Grove Lake Watershed Project, a few stakeholders have shared their perception that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR)

interest in the lake and its watershed have waned.

On the contrary, IDNR's interest has actually increased in recent years, evidenced by its involvement in the current project since before it began in April 2008.

Concerned with recent land use changes and the integrity of a wetland, the non-profit Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) purchased 116 acres of watershed property at public auction in March 2012.

INHF's plans are to sell this property to IDNR for use as a wildlife area and to re-establish and protect conservation practices on the property. A wetland structure on the site

See Lake, page 4B

No-till, continued from page 1B

Since 1995, conservation compliance has been a requirement of all USDA programs. This includes USDA loans, disaster assistance, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), emergency cost-share, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) cost-share, Conservation

Stewardship Program (CSP), livestock indemnity and more.

Any tillage not accounted for in a conservation plan may put someone out of compliance with erosion provisions and place all their USDA participation in jeopardy. "My plan says to no-till.

How do I find out if vertical tillage is an option for me?"

Check with your local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Depending upon a field's predominant soil type, a tillage change in your plan may or may not be possible.

Don Carrington, an NRCS resource conservationist in Des Moines, recommends producers check with their local NRCS office before any of the following:

• using any new tillage equipment, including tools like a Phoenix harrow

• conducting any tillage if

your conservation plan calls for no-till

• fixing small gullies on highly erodible land

"Are you saying no-till will solve all my erosion problems?"

No, no-till alone is often not enough to eliminate erosion in many places on the landscape. But a combi-

nation of complimentary practices may be needed to meet your conservation needs.

A producer's "conservation toolbox" may also include practices such as contouring, buffer strips, field borders, grassed waterways, cover crops and terraces.

LUETHJE

Auto Sales

GLADSBROOK • MARSHALLTOWN
www.luethjesales.com

1-800-535-1778

www.luethjesales.com



11 KIA OPTIMA LX GD
Full Power Alloy Wheels 17K
ONLY 74K
\$17,800
\$266/MO



11 FORD TAURUS LIMITED
Leather Seats
Chrome Wheels
1 Owner 35K
\$22,800
\$361/MO



10 CHEVY SILVERADO K1500 LTZ EXT CAB
4X4
1 Owner Heated Leather Chrome Wheels 51K
\$27,800
\$416/MO



10 CADILLAC DTS
Chrome Wheels
Hd & Cooled Leather Pwr Roof
ONLY 72K
\$21,800
\$326/MO



09 MERCURY SABLE PREMIER
1 Heated Leather Sunroof Full Power Alloy Wheels 63K
\$14,800
\$246/MO



08 FORD EXPEDITION EL LIMITED
4X4
Sunroof DVD Hd & Cooled Lthr Chrm Wheels 71K
\$27,800
\$431/MO



08 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LIMITED
TV DVD Chrome Wheels Hrd Lthr ONLY 72K
\$18,800
\$291/MO



07 CHEVY HHR LS
Local Trade
Full Power
Great MPG 76K
\$8,800
\$146/MO



03 DODGE RAM 1500 CREW SLT 4X4
Local Trade Chrome Wheels Full Power ONLY 72K
\$11,400
\$236/MO

GLADSBROOK CARS.....PRICE.....PMT/MO		
12 Buick Verano.....	\$21,800	MOS326
Leather Diamond White Alloy Wheels ONLY 10K		
11 Ford Focus SEL.....	\$16,400	MOS245
Leather Power Roof Alloy Wheels GREAT MPG 33K		
11 Chevy Camaro SS Convertible.....	\$32,800	MOS490
16 Hrd Lthr Loaded Chrome Wheels ONLY 17K		
11 Hyundai Sonata SE.....	\$20,800	MOS311
Chrome Wheels Full Power Gorgeous RED 26K		
11 Kia Optima LX GD.....	\$14,400	MOS216
Full Power Alloy Wheels 1 Owner ONLY 14K		
10 Chevy Impala LT.....	\$14,800	MOS215
Heated Leather Power Roof Alloy Wheels 50K		
10 Nissan Maxima S.....	\$18,400	MOS280
Alloy Wheels Full Power NICE CAR 71K		
10 Buick Lacrosse CX.....	\$25,800	MOS386
NAV Roof Chrome Wheels Hrd & Cooled Lthr 71K		
10 Chevy Cobalt LT.....	\$13,800	MOS222
Full Power Alloy Wheels Bright Red ONLY 49K		
10 Cadillac DTS.....	\$20,800	MOS326
White Diamond Hrd Pwr Roof Chrome Wht 62K		
09 Buick Lucerne CL.....	\$17,800	MOS276
Pearl White Heated Leather Sunroof Chrome Wheels 49K		
09 Mercury Sable Premier.....	\$14,400	MOS246
Heated Leather Sunroof Full Power Alloy Wheels 63K		
09 Pontiac G6 SE.....	\$13,800	MOS230
Pwr Roof 1 Owner Alloy Wheels ONLY 55K		
09 Chrysler Sebring Touring.....	\$12,800	MOS230
Power Roof Full Power Alloy Wheels ONLY 49K		
09 Chevy Impala LS.....	\$10,800	MOS216
Full Power Great Price Low Payment ONLY 49K		
08 Honda Accord EX V6.....	\$17,800	MOS276
Per Roof Chrome Wheels Full Power ONLY 35K		
07 Toyota Avalon Limited.....	\$17,800	MOS276
Hrd & Cooled Lthr Sunroof Alloy Wheels 66K		
07 Lexus ES 350.....	\$19,800	MOS307
Heated Leather 1 Owner Sunroof GREAT RIDE! 68K		
MARSHALLTOWN CARS.....PRICE.....PMT/MO		
11 Toyota Corolla LE.....	\$14,800	MOS221
Full Power Alloy Wheels Very Hard To Find 37K		
11 Ford Taurus Limited.....	\$22,800	MOS341
Leather Seats Chrome Wheels 1 Owner 35K		
10 Cadillac DTS.....	\$21,800	MOS326
Chrome Wheels Hrd & Cooled Lthr Pwr Roof 68K		
10 Nissan Maxima SV Prem.....	\$15,800	MOS311
Loaded Vista Roof Alloy Wheels Hrd Lthr 59K		
10 Chrysler Sebring Limited.....	\$13,400	MOS219
Heated Leather Sunroof Alloy Wheels ONLY 35K		
10 Ford Focus SEL.....	\$15,400	MOS230
1 Owner Pwr Roof Hrd Lthr GREAT MPG!! 32K		
09 Buick Lucerne CL.....	\$17,800	MOS276
Heated Leather Sunroof Alloy Wheels Full Power 61K		
09 Mazda 6s V6.....	\$14,800	MOS246
Full Power Alloy Wheels CD Fun To Drive 62K		
09 Buick Lucerne CL.....	\$17,800	MOS276
1 Owner Pwr Roof Chrome Wheels Hrd Lthr 62K		
09 Chevy Cobalt LT.....	\$12,400	MOS206
Full Power Alloy Wheels GREAT MPG ITS YELLOW 60K		
08 Ford Taurus SEL.....	\$12,800	MOS215
Hrd Lthr Pwr Roof Alloy Wheels Local Trade 63K		
08 Lincoln Town Car Signature Limited.....	\$17,800	MOS276
Heated Leather GREAT RIDE! ONLY 64K		
08 Lexus LS 460.....	\$36,800	MOS571
Heated & Cooled Seats Sunroof NICE RIDE ONLY 50K		
08 Ford Fusion SE.....	\$12,400	MOS206
Power Sunroof Full Power Alloy Wheels ONLY 62K		
08 Chevy Impala S.....	\$13,800	MOS230
Heated Leather Chrome Wheels Sunroof CLEAN!! 76K		
08 Buick Lacrosse CL.....	\$12,800	MOS213
Local Trade Hrd Leather Full Power Alloy Wheels 72K		
GLADSBROOK TRUCKS.....PRICE.....PMT/MO		
07 Hyundai Azera Limited.....	\$12,800	MOS213
Per Roof Hrd Leather Alloy Wheels Full Pwr 71K		
Local Trade Power Roof Hrd Leather Chrome Wht 78K		
06 Ford Five Hundred Limited AWD.....	\$11,800	MOS196
Power Sunroof Heated Leather Full Power ONLY 65K		
03 Buick Park Avenue.....	\$8,400	MOS174
Local Trade Full Power Leather Pearl White ONLY 75K		
GLADSBROOK TRUCKS.....PRICE.....PMT/MO		
11 Chevy K1500 Crew LT 4X4.....	\$30,800	MOS470
Pearl White Chrome Wheels Full Power 21K		
10 Ford F-150 Crew Lariat 4X4.....	\$31,800	MOS465
Heated Leather Chrome Wheels Very Clean 49K		
09 Chevy K1500 Crew LTZ 4X4.....	\$29,800	MOS462
Hrd Lthr Pwr Roof TV DVD Chrome Wheels 68K		
07 Chevy K1500 4X4 Reg Cab.....	\$17,800	MOS276
1 Owner Alloy Wheels Tow Package ONLY 36K		
07 Chevy C1500 4X2 Ext Cab.....	\$16,800	MOS260
Local Trade Alloy Wheels Remote Start ONLY 45K		
06 Chevy K1500 2-1/4 4X4 Ext Cab.....	\$17,800	MOS276
Local Trade Full Pwr Alloy White CLEAN!! ONLY 71K		
05 Dodge Dakota SLT Crew 4X4.....	\$12,800	MOS213
Full Power Chrome Wheels NICE TRUCK! 96K		
03 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew SLT 4X4.....	\$11,400	MOS236
Local Trade Chrome Wheels Full Power ONLY 92K		
GLADSBROOK SUVS.....PRICE.....PMT/MO		
11 Chevy Suburban LTZ 4X4.....	\$36,800	MOS549
Loaded Nav DVD Hrd Lthr Chrome Wheels 66K		
11 Chevy Traverse LS AWD.....	\$21,800	MOS326
1 Owner Full Power Alloy Wheels ONLY 49K		
10 Ford Edge Sport.....	\$28,495	MOS425
Chrome Wheels Hrd Leather Power Roof ONLY 24K		
10 Chevy E.....	\$19,800	MOS408
Full Power Alloy Wheels Hrd Lthr GREAT MPG ONLY 48K		
07 Pontiac G6 GT.....	\$10,800	MOS180
Power Roof Chrome Wheels NICE Local Trade 85K		
11 Chevy Traverse LS AWD.....	\$21,800	MOS326
Power Roof Full Power Alloy Wheels ONLY 76K		
07 Chevy Impala LT.....	\$12,400	MOS206
Per Roof Full Power Alloy Wheels NICE 70K		
07 Saturn Aura XE.....	\$11,400	MOS190
Full Power Alloy Wheels VERY CLEAN!! 61K		
06 Lincoln Zephyr.....	\$12,400	MOS206
Chrome Wheels Heated Leather Local Trade 78K		
05 Chrysler 300C.....	\$13,800	MOS230
Sunroof Chrome Wheels Hrd Leather ONLY 90K		
03 Pontiac Vibe.....	\$7,400	MOS123
Local Trade Full Power Low Payment ONLY 93K		
MARSHALLTOWN TRUCKS.....PRICE.....PMT/MO		
11 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Laramie 3500.....	\$30,460	MOS460
Hrd & Cooled Leather Nav Chrome Wheels 49K		
10 Chevy Silverado 1500 LTZ Ext Cab.....	\$27,800	MOS416
1 Owner Heated Leather Chrome Wheels 51K		
10 Dodge Dakota Crew Big Horn 4X4.....	\$24,000	MOS320
Alloy Wheels Full Power Tow Pkg CLEAN Truck Only 37K		
09 Toyotaundra Limited Crew Cab 4X4.....	\$32,400	MOS439
Hrd Lthr DVD NAV Chrome Wht Local Trade 47K		
07 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Big Horn 4X4.....	\$20,800	MOS322
Full Power Chrome Wheels NICE TRUCK! ONLY 48K		
05 Chevy K1500 Ext Cab.....	\$15,800	MOS276
Full Power Chrome Wheels Fog Lights ONLY 63K		
MARSHALLTOWN SUVS.....PRICE.....PMT/MO		
08 Cadillac Escalade ESV AWD.....	\$36,800	MOS571
LOADED Every Option Diamond White 61K		
GLADSBROOK WHOLESALE TO PUBLIC.....PRICE		
04 Ford Freestar Limited.....	\$9,495	
09 Dodge Ram SLT 4X4.....	\$24,495	
09 Olds Intrigue GL.....	\$24,495	
96 Park Avenue.....	\$24,495	
97 Dodge Ram Van.....	\$24,495	
93 Ford Explorer (Needs Work).....	\$995	
GLADSBROOK WHOLESALE TO PUBLIC.....PRICE		
08 GMC Yukon SLT 4X4.....	\$25,800	MOS399
Hrd Leather TV DVD Chrome Wheels NICE 91K		
08 Ford Expedition EL Limited 4X4.....	\$27,800	MOS431
Sunroof DVD Hrd & Cooled Lthr Chrm Wheels 71K		
08 Saturn Outlook XE.....	\$15,800	MOS245
Former 3rd Seat Full Power Alloy Wht ONLY 49K		
07 Chevy Suburban LT 4X4.....	\$23,800	MOS369
Loaded Nav Heated Leather Sunroof DVD 85K		
07 Ford Edge SEL Plus AWD.....	\$19,800	MOS291
Hrd Leather Power Roof Chrome Wheels 72K		
06 Lexus RX330 AWD.....	\$17,800	MOS276
Power Roof Hrd Lthr Alloy Wheels ONLY 73K		
MARSHALLTOWN VANS.....PRICE.....PMT/MO		
10 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew.....	\$19,800	MOS296
Local Trade Transit Cab Camera VERY CLEAN 41K		
10 Ford Transit Cargo Van.....	\$18,800	MOS281
09 Olds Intrigue GL.....	\$24,495	
08 Chrysler Town & Country Limited.....	\$18,800	MOS291
TV DVD Chrome Wheels Hrd Lthr ONLY 70K		
07 Honda Odyssey EX.....	\$16,800	MOS260
1 Owner Nav DVD Heated Leather Sunroof 90K		
MARSHALLTOWN WHOLESALE TO PUBLIC.....PRICE		
03 Buick Park Ave.....	\$5,995	
02 Honda Accord EX.....	\$5,995	
02 Nissan Sentra SE-R.....	\$3,995	
01 Dodge Ram 422 Ext Cab.....	\$4,995	
01 Pontiac Bonneville.....	\$4,995	
99 Ford F-150 Reg Cab Step Side.....	\$2,495	
96 Lincoln Town Car Cartier.....	\$3,495	
91 Ford Explorer.....	\$995	

AUTOCARE CENTER

CONTACT MARSHALLTOWN AT
3rd & Madison
641-753-7777 or 877-753-7778
sales@luethjesales.com

CONTACT GLADSBROOK AT
Hwy 96 & T-47, Gladbrook
641-473-2911 or 800-535-1778
sales@luethjesales.com

Rachel 641-751-0102
Se Habla Español

Sean 641-751-4759

441-751-2142

Relax. We use
CARFAX
VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

FREE
30-DAY or 1000-MILE
(whichever comes first)

POWER TRAIN WARRANTY!
(excludes "as is" Vehicles)

LUETHJE AUTO SALES
HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8-6. SAT. 8 - 3
EVEES BY APPOINTMENT

10 and newer	2.49%	72MO (less than 80K)
10 and newer	2.79%	60MO (Over 80K)
10 and newer	3.24%	72MO (Over 80K & over \$15K)
05-09	3.49%	60MO (less than 150K)
05-09	3.74%	72MO (less than 150K & over \$15K)
04 and older	5.01%	54MO (less than 150K)

ALL PAYMENTS FIGURED WITH 3-DOWN

FREE 30 DAY OR 1000 MILE (WHICHEVER COMES FIRST) POWER TRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY
(EXCLUDES VEHICLES SOLD AS-IS) *TAX, TITLE, LIC. & FEES EXTRA - PRIOR SALES & NEGOTIATIONS EXCLUDED - WITH QUALIFYING CREDIT



Tama SWCD's annual 5th Grade Outdoor Classroom began in 1974. The District hosted 169 students from four schools in May 2012. Pictured here is Jessica Manken of IDNR's Otter Creek Wildlife Management Unit teaching the wildlife unit. The 5th graders also rotated through classes on fish biology, chemicals in the environment, nature walk, forestry, soils, water quality and fishing and boating safety.



As part of its 2012 spring outreach, Tama SWCD distributed Norway spruce seedlings to 334 sixth graders in six schools. The District plans this annual event in order to help make young students more aware of their environment. In addition to the seedlings given to the sixth graders, the District also presented 130 Norway spruce seedlings to the Tama County Conservation Board. These seedlings will be planted in county parks throughout Tama County. Pictured is Tama County Conservation Board Director Bob Etzel with one of the donated seedlings.

RAGBRAI volunteers



July 26 found District and local NRCS staff hosting many of the 9,500+ RAGBRAI riders at the home of Jean Miller of rural Clutier. As part of the statewide Iowa Conservation Team, staff provided free water refills, 600 pounds of bananas, restrooms and conservation postcards to be mailed worldwide. Staff also fielded questions about Tama County and its agriculture, topography and people. The Conservation Team began in 2002 as an outreach project to educate riders about conservation and Iowa agriculture. Besides the daily "Banana Tent," the team provides permanent signage highlighting conservation practices along the bike route and daily pamphlets describing the route's geology.

Tama Soil & Water Conservation District Financial Report

Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP) - Cost Share

Original Allocation from the Division of Soil Conservation 7/1/12	\$43,013.00
Spent or obligated for Practices to date	\$26,213.80
Balance unspent as of 1/15/13	\$16,799.20

Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)

REAP Practices

Original Allocation from Division of Soil Conservation 7/1/12	\$6653.13
Spent or obligated for Practices to date	\$5765.00
Balance unspent as of 1/15/13	\$888.13

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses

Original Allocation from Division of Soil Conservation 7/1/12	2217.71
Spent or obligated for Practices to date	\$1075.50
Balance unspent as of 1/15/13	\$1142.21

Administrative Funds

Original Allocation from Division of Soil Conservation 7/1/12	\$2000.00
Postage	\$130.65
Commissioner Expenses	\$386.48
Office Expenses	\$23.98
Conservation Districts of Iowa Dues	\$300.00
Balance unspent as of 1/15/13	\$1158.88

Conservation Practices Applied to the Land

Brush Management	32 acres
Conservation Tillage	2337 acres
Cover Crop	537 acres
Critical Area Planting	12 acres
Grade Stabilization Structures	3 each
Grassed Waterways	48 acres
No Till	1606 acres
Prescribed Grazing	73 acres
Spring Development	1 each
Tree and Shrub Establishment	44 acres
Watering Facility	3 each
Wetland Restoration	47 acres
Windbreaks/Shelterbelt Establishment	18 acres
Windbreaks/Shelterbelt Restoration	12 acres

Recognizing the conservation efforts of Iowa agriculture

Appraisal & Real Estate Services Traer - 319-478-2990	Buckingham Co-Op Buckingham - 319-478-2331	Wobeter Realty Toledo - 641-484-8989	Weber's Plumbing, Heating & AC Dysart 319-476-2590
Tama/Grundy Publishing •Tama •Toledo •Traer• Dysart •Gladbrook •Reinbeck	Dr. Dori Rammelsberg, Chiropractor Dysart - 319-476-4567	Scharnweber Water Conditioning, Inc. Toledo - 641-484-3923	L. L. Owens Traer - 319-478-2710
American Family Insurance Toledo 641-484-3331	Farmers Savings Bank & Trust Traer- 319-478-2148	Tama County Mutual Insurance Association Traer - 319-478-2710	Wrage Realty Dysart -319-476-7070
OK Tire Tama- 641-484-3202	State Bank of Toledo Toledo - 641-484-2980	Tama Paperboard Tama- 641-484-2884	Tama Benton Co-op Dysart 319-476-3666
Kenkel Law Office Toledo - 641-484-8899	Goos Implement Gladbrook - 641-473-2403	Town & Country Vet Clinic Dr. Rick Cooper Dr. Christi Downs Tama- 641-484-4086	Benda Ag Service Elberon - 641-489-2946

Award winners



The District's Landlord/Tenant Award celebrates conservation on leased Tama County farms. Picture here (left to right) are operator Rick Landt and his wife Deborah of rural Garwin and landowners Mike and Melanie Nagle, rural Garwin, and Mary and Bruce Appelgate, rural Gladbrook. Rick rented his first parcel in 1977 while still a freshman in high school. He has farmed exclusively no-till since 1991 and incorporates grassed waterways, field borders and terraces on both award-winning farms. The Nagle farm also features a pond and acres in the Conservation Reserve Program.



2012 4-H projects in agriculture and natural resources were honored with monetary awards: (left to right)

Erin Filloon (Environment/Sustainability), Tyler Wrage (Environment/Sustainability), Rachael Scarf (Environment/Sustainability), Allen Heise (Agriculture/Natural Resources), Hunter Filloon (Environment/Sustainability), Rachel Kopriv (Crop Production), Amy Novotny (Crop Production). Not pictured: Tyler Marten (two projects in Agriculture/Natural Resources).



2012 Owner/Operator Award winners Doug and Jill Roberts are installing several conservation practices on their rural Garwin farms including grassed waterways, warm- and cool-season pasture seedings, stream crossings, stream live-stock exclusion, remote watering systems, rotational grazing and enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program.



Shelly and Keith Smith of rural Gladbrook were the 2012 recipients of the District's Wildlife Award. The Smiths' dedication to wildlife and natural resources include a large stream riparian corridor, tree plantings, pond and acres in the Conservation Reserve Program. Development of their riparian corridor along Little Wolf Creek began in 1987. A 2011 addition to the buffer included planting 8,500 trees.



Photo above: Bill and Crystal Petersen of rural Gladbrook moved onto the family farm in 1987 and won the district's 2012 New Windbreak Award with the recent north addition to their existing windbreak. The farmstead includes serviceberry, lilac, concolor fir, white pine, aspen, and dozens of hardwoods and fruit and shade trees. The Petersens are considering a Conservation Reserve Program shelterbelt addition to their windbreak.

Photo at right: Tama SWCD's Mature Windbreak Award went to Rod and Dawn Lorenz of rural Traer. Rod and Dawn purchased their farm in 1985 and promptly began planning a farmstead windbreak. They planted three rows of evergreens the following year, concolor fir and arbor vitae, and have gradually added over 60 more evergreens, fruit and shade trees.



Mary Lou Prusha was the District's 2012 Rural Backyard Conservation Award winner. Mary Lou moved to her rural Toledo home in 1956 and helped her husband, Floyd, with the dairy, hogs, laying hens and their 285-acre farm. Retired now, Mary Lou's passion is flower gardening and includes a number of beds that benefit pollinating insects and wildlife.

Lake, continued

from page 1B

Weather's one large factor to decreasing pheasants

West Union, IA — Pheasants, or the lack thereof, are a hot topic among many people these days, hunters, farmers, and legislators included. Everyone is looking for that one thing that is causing the demise of this once abundant game bird. Predators, weather, lack of habitat, and even the abundance of wild turkeys are some of the culprits I hear people say. The other, and probably bigger, question is what can we do to help bring back this important bird back to prominence?

Looking into the question of what happened; we find that it's not just one thing that's brought us to this point. It's actually a perfect storm of circumstances working against Mr. Ringneck. A small impact might be made on nest predation through trapping. The main thing we

very wet springs can both result in lower pheasant numbers. Those conditions also make predators more efficient at catching exposed birds or finding nests. Theories such as turkeys disturbing pheasant nests, aerial pesticide applications, and roundup ready crops creating less weedy habitat, are things that are mentioned when people discuss the pheasant's demise. They may or may not be part of the problem, but the two main factors that are proven over and over are habitat and weather.

So what factors can we control to help pheasant populations? We have no control of the weather. Not too much we can do about predators. A small impact might be made on nest predation through trapping. The main thing we

can do with Predators is minimize their effectiveness through habitat manipulation.

It's obvious by looking around a little, that we don't have the amount of tall grass and shrub habitat that pheasants need to survive tough Iowa winters on the landscape like we did 20 years ago. This is something we can control. All perennial cover is not created equal. Just because it isn't farmed or paved, doesn't mean it's good pheasant habitat. During a cold and snowy winter, a pheasant needs some specific and varying habitat types. Pheasants prefer to overwinter roost in thick, heavy cover, that provides thermal protection from the cold nights. That could be dense native grasses or perhaps cattails. In extreme conditions, that may even be

under an evergreen tree. Dense thermal cover (Switchgrass, food (corn plot), and loafing cover (plum thicket), in close proximity to each other will carry pheasants through a harsh Iowa winter. Take away any of these, or put them a half mile away from each other, and you'd better have a very mild, snow free winter to carry pheasants through to spring.

This brings us to nesting and brood rearing cover. Another cover type entirely. Hens prefer to nest in less dense stands of grass, like a native grass and flower mix, so they can see potential predators. They also need those flowers, or other broadleaved plants, for raising their chicks. A diversity of broadleaved plants attracts more insects which are vital

to a pheasant chick's survival in the first 3 weeks of its life.

In summary, providing all needed cover types on a block of land 40 acres or more will be the only way to bring pheasants back to the landscape on a significant scale. That is exactly what the Iowa DNR is doing on land it manages for upland wildlife. Unfortunately, that is less than 1 percent of Iowa. Landowners that would like to manage for pheasants and other upland wildlife land should contact their local Private Lands staff person for more information and potential cost share opportunities.

For more information or questions, contact Greg Schmitt, Iowa DNR Private Lands Biologist, 563-422-6201.

controls sediment delivery to the lake from nearly 2,900 acres. IDNR estimates this structure keeps about 1,600 tons of sediment, including over a ton of phosphorus, from reaching the lake each year.

In addition, IDNR's Lake Restoration program has placed Union Grove Lake in its budget plan, intending to begin a new round of lake restoration work within a few years. This could include dredging, installing fish habitat, improving the fishery and modifying the spillway.

Several rural stakeholders have indicated interest in applying more conservation practices with increased IDNR involvement in the watershed. To help make this possible, the local Tama Soil & Water Conservation District recently received funding for a new one-year project, hoping to make these new practices possible.