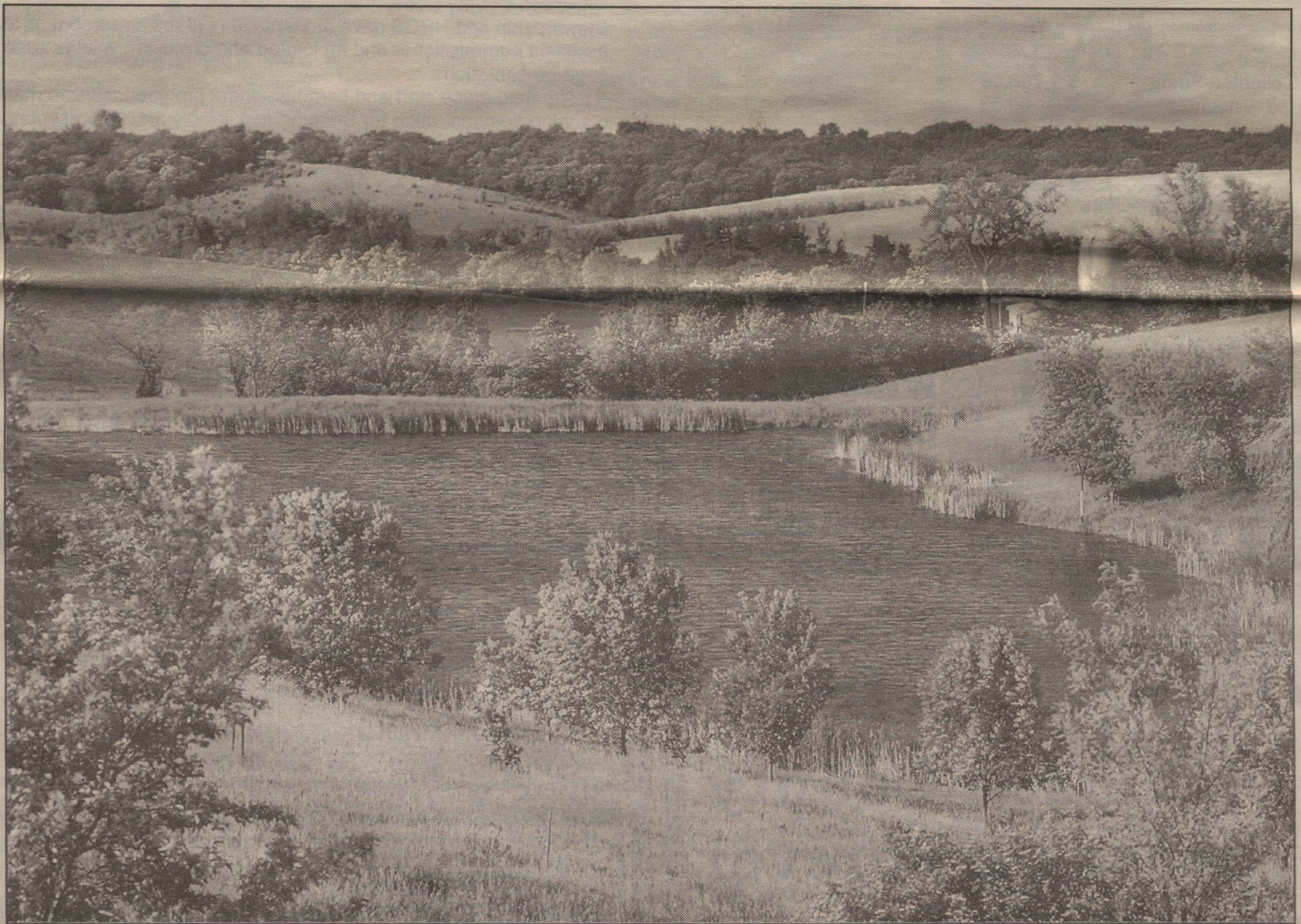


Mark Ingwersen

Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District 2001 Annual Report

Published by Lakes News Shopper (712) 338-2232



Cover Photo Courtesy NCRS

Dickinson SWCD, 2412 17th St. Spirit Lake, IA 51360
Ph. (712) 336-3782 Ext. 3 E-Mail swcd@rconnect.com

Dickinson SWCD Financial Report Fiscal Year 2001

1M Budget – District

Funds provided by the State of Iowa for printing costs, office supplies and equipment, District Commissioner's mileage and associated travel expenses

Allocation	\$ 3,000.00
Supplemental Allocations	\$ 1,185.00
Less:	
Commissioner Expenses	\$ 1,333.78
Office Supplies & Equip.	\$ 473.17
Printing	\$ 923.00
Postage	\$ 767.55
Dues	\$ 687.50

3M Budget – Iowa Financial Incentives Program

Funds provided for cost-share assistance to landowners for installing permanent soil and water conservation practices and offers 30% of the allocation for tillage incentives.

Allocation	\$15,877.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$14,589.32
Unobligated Amount	\$ 1,287.68

Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP)

	Practices
Allocation	\$ 7,288.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 4,989.73
Unobligated Amount	\$ 2,298.27

Forestry & Native Grasses

Allocation	\$ 1,849.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 1,788.68
Unobligated Amount	\$ 60.32

Iowa Great Lakes Clean Water Project

Allocation	\$52,590.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 9,603.82
Unobligated Amount	\$42,986.18

2001 Annual Report

By Carroll Oskvig
District Conservationist, NRCS

Many new opportunities came about in 2001 for the Dickinson SWCD. Many of the significant activities are listed below:

The SWCD hosted the CDI Region 2 tour, which gave us the opportunity to showcase the unique conservation areas and issues in Dickinson County.

A significant increase in WRP acreage in the county was made when three WRP applications were accepted.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds were used to establish several hundred acres of Integrated Crop Management (ICM), two sediment basins and one grass waterway.

NRCS engineers assisted DNR with the Welch Lake wetland restoration designs on 320 acres. This project will provide a significant "filter" for waters entering West Lake Okoboji.

The SWCD hosted an open house and retirement dinner for Willard Punt. This provided fellow employees the opportunity to recognize Willard for his excellent work with NRCS.

A very successful partnership with DNR provided a private lands specialist (Maury Muhm) to work with our field office staff in planning and applying conservation practices. Maury's door-to-door contacts with farmers resulted in several Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and CRP contracts.

The Dickinson County Extension Service partnered with NRCS in sponsoring an Alternative Ag-Rotation grazing workshop for producers in northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota. This meeting provided information for a core group of producers in the region to expand their use of these practices.

The SWCD sponsored an outdoor classroom for 235 6th grade students from all four school districts in the county. Staff from DNR, Dickinson County Conservation Board, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture, Land Stewardship and NRCS gave presentations at the classroom. A SWCD assistant commissioner and an injured and orphaned wildlife specialist also gave presentations.

The field office staff and commissioners provided a waste management planning demonstration for Senator Jack Kibbie and Representative Greg Stevens. This information was used in their decision-making concerning waste management legislation.

The SWCD's Help-A-Habitat grant was accepted and a coordinator was hired. Tom Koster, Assistant Commissioner, will provide assistance to the public in implementing this program in a multi-county area. (Cont. page 8)



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Priority."

Dickinson County Pheasants Forever

This past year we spent over \$50,000 on habitat; and cost shared \$27,500 with the D.N.R. for land acquisition in Dickinson County. Over 20,000 trees and shrubs were planted; and we spent an additional \$9,600 on new trees and shrubs.

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Iowa DNR Wetlands Project Under Construction

By: Chris La Rue
Wildlife Management Biologist
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Many individuals passing along Highway 86 north of Spirit Lake may have noticed some recent construction activity. Construction on the first segment of the Welch Lake Wetlands Project is underway and completed. The land acquisition from the Iowa DNR and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) on the Apple Orchard off Highway 9 to Welch Lake may be one of the most important water quality and wildlife projects for West Lake Okoboji and the Iowa Great Lakes. In 1995 the Fish and Wildlife Service purchased the first Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) portion of the Welch Lake Complex. From 1996 to 1999 several other tracts were added by Iowa DNR and FWS to protect and enhance the watershed. The final engineering has been done for some time and a drainage agreement was recently approved for DD #26 by the County Supervisors and Iowa DNR.

The current construction is taking place on the Fish and Wildlife Service's North Booth WPA Tract. When construction is completed on the Apple Orchard and the South Booth WPA Tract, **over 80 acres of wetlands** will have been added to the Welch Lake Wetlands Complex. The Welch Lake Complex all together will have a significant total of **222 wetland acres** that will protect and enhance the water quality of West Lake Okoboji. The total complex is now **over 1,000 acres** of public land. As the wetland development is completed, native prairie grasses and forbs will be established with a small portion of the area remaining in crop as development takes place. The final segment of construction should take place next spring or early summer with bids being taken this winter.

A wetlands complex of this size will provide multiple benefits for wildlife, water quality, and sediment control. A variety of different wetland

types from small to large will maintain seasonal and permanent water. These wetlands will provide a diverse mixture of vegetation and wildlife habitat. The uplands around the area will be established to a mixture of grasses and native prairie. A diversity of game and non-game migratory waterfowl and other wildlife species will be attracted to this public area for viewing or hunting. The Iowa Great Lakes continues to attract a magnitude of tourists and hunters for the great recreational opportunities. This complex will certainly help provide more recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat in the Iowa Great Lakes.

"New" Private Lands Program

By: Maury Muhm
Private Lands Wildlife Specialist
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

In the Iowa Great Lakes over the last year the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Big Sioux Wildlife Unit has been busy with development and management of public lands. A magnitude of activities has consumed much of the staff's time. One conservation effort that has been getting lots of attention is the Welch Lake Wetland Restoration Project. The new additions to this complex will add over 80 acres of new wetlands and increase the total wetland acres to 222. This project located just north of Highway 9 will be one of the most important water quality projects for West Lake Okoboji in the Great Lakes Area. As we finish construction next summer it will be a wonderful wildlife and water quality complex that will provide some more great recreational opportunities in the Iowa Great Lakes.

Over the years the DNR has always managed public lands and provided technical guidance to private landowners, SWCD/NRCS, and its partners for wildlife and conservation. As farm programs and times have changed, conservation organizations and agencies have changed to keep up with the new demand. Land stewardship

on the large or small scale from private landowners is where the real difference is made for conservation. The opportunities from new farm programs has opened some doors that can have a significant impact much like the early days of CRP.

Working with SWCD/NRCS on conservation programs and issues like; wildlife, water quality, wetlands, wetland restoration, prairie restoration, and riparian buffers will only help provide landowners the best possible service. Applying the knowledge and expertise from multiple agencies and organizations has provided some of the highest quality conservation and wildlife benefits in Dickinson County. Being a strong partner and providing the best support possible on new farm programs has stimulated the DNR to reopen a program from the past.



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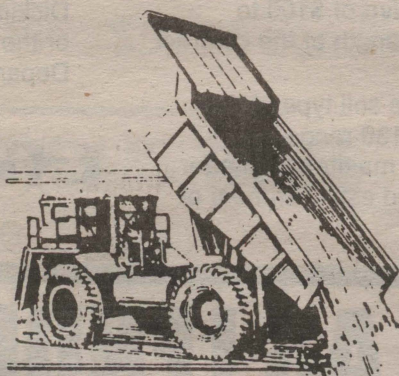
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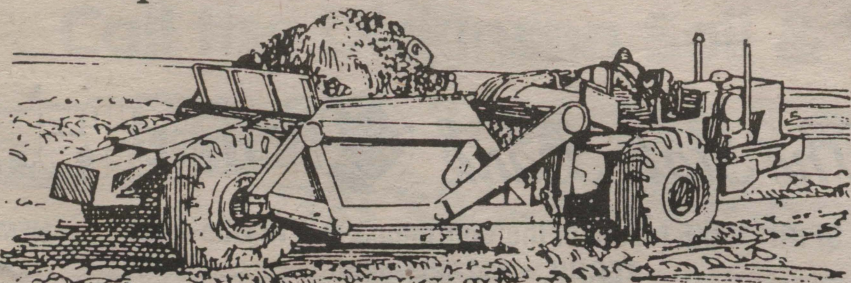
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Iowa Department of Natural Resources "New" Private Lands Program

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Bureau has initiated a Private Lands Program. Wildlife Specialist within the Private Lands Program to work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and other agencies (government and non-government) to help landowners with conservation programs that protect and enhance our soil, water, and wildlife.

Why Private Lands? Iowa ranks 47th in the nation on the percentage of land in public ownership. Therefore, the greatest potential for the protection and enhancement of our soil, water and wildlife lies on private land.

The Iowa DNR Wildlife Specialist positions were created to:

1. Promote and explain Federal and State Conservation Farm Programs to landowners.
2. Assist landowners with the planning and implementation of practices within these programs.

There has never been a better variety of Conservation Program Practices available to

landowners or greater financial incentives offered for implementing these practices. The practices offered could fulfill almost any need the landowner might have while providing financial incentives to reduce soil loss, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

Here in Dickinson County a new practice called the Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program has had a lot of interest. This program will allow landowners to enroll small wetland areas and adjacent buffers in the continuous signup of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Iowa is one of only six states allowed to participate in this program. Iowa has been allotted only 100,000 acres statewide so interested landowners need to contact the Dickinson county NRCS as soon as possible. To be eligible, the areas must have been cropped in at least 3 of the last 10 years, wetland area must be 5 acres or less, and must be defined as wetlands by USDA. Wetlands in the floodplain of perennial streams will not be eligible. Wetland restoration must not impede upstream drainage. Adjacent buffer can be three times the acreage of the wetland or an average maximum of 150 feet. The maximum enrollment of wetland and adjacent buffer is 40 acres per tract. Contract lengths can be 10-15 years in length. Rental rates are based on soil type and are the same as those available for filter strips and riparian buffers. A 20% incentive is added to the rental rate. A Signing Incentive Payment of \$10.00 per acre per year of contract is paid one time, up front. Restoration costs are 50% cost shared with an additional 40% of eligible installation costs paid as a Practice Incentive Payment, which results in up to 90% total cost share.

Whether it's wetland restoration, filter strips,

shelterbelts, or any other conservation need, the Iowa DNR, NRCS and SWCD are partners working together to help landowners protect our soil, water and wildlife.

Living Snow Fence and Field Windbreak

By: Tim Moran

Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS

Living Snow Fence offers conservation and financial incentives to Dickinson County landowners to help deal with blowing and drifting snow.

Incentives offered by the Farm Service Agency through Continuous CRP and complimented by NEW Department of Transportation (DOT) and Dickinson County Secondary Roads Department Incentives make the Living Snow Fence practice not only a much needed conservation practice but also a good financial investment.

In addition to FSA rental rates, sign-up incentives and cost-share incentives described in this article, two new incentives are offered to Dickinson County landowners.

The DOT or Dickinson County Secondary Roads Department will pay a one time payment of 50 cents per linear foot of the length of the Living Snow Fence.

Example: a 2,000 foot Living Snow Fence would receive a one-time payment of \$1,000.

Eligible areas are:

Located north and west of roads or highways managed by these organizations.

The area must have a CRP Living Snow Fence contract.

The Living Snow Fence (CP-17A), as its name implies, consists of:

- A row or rows of trees and shrubs planted in eligible row crop fields.
- Planted in a way designed to protect buildings, roads and property by blocking snow and causing it to form drifts in the area before it reaches your lane or a county road or highway.
- The rows of trees and shrubs also are used to reduce wind erosion throughout the growing season.
- In addition wildlife habitat is enhanced by using preferred species.

The CRP Living Snow Fence practice has 50% cost-share funding available plus other continuous CRP signup incentives including:

- Additional 40% practice incentive payments on eligible costs.
- A one time signup incentive of \$100 to \$150/acre based on the length of the contract (10 to 15 years).
- Rental rates based on the soil type of the offered area. (\$100 to \$130 range)

As with any tree practice, maintenance after planting is vital to the required establishment of

the Living Snow Fence practice. Landowners who wish to address snow drifting concerns and achieve many other conservation benefits in the future may consider these practices for long term effect.

Stop in at the FSA office to begin the sign-up process. Be sure to inquire about these other tree practices available through the Continuous CRP Program:

Shelterbelt Field Windbreak
Riparian Tree Buffer

And visit with the NRCS staff about Farmstead Windbreaks, REAP Field Windbreaks and County Tree Reserve Windbreaks, especially for non-ag acreages.



Wetlands and Watersheds

By: Tim Terrill

Environmental Specialist, IDALS - DSC

In the Iowa Great Lakes, wetlands are around us everywhere, even though most of them have been drained. Our topography yields toward wetlands and their natural "scrubbing" ability.

Wetlands typically contain cattails which for a micro habitat for micro-organisms. These "bugs" are what give wetlands the ability to filter out unwanted nutrients that flow into our lake. So wetlands are not just valuable because they slow down water and allow sediment to drop out. They also rely on nature to provide a habitat that produces a filtering effect.

Fifty-eight watershed and water quality protection projects are currently underway in Iowa. One of these projects is the Iowa Great Lakes Project. These projects provide funds for producers to install water quality and wildlife habitat practices.

To learn more about Iowa's Watershed and water quality protection programs, contact the Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District, or the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

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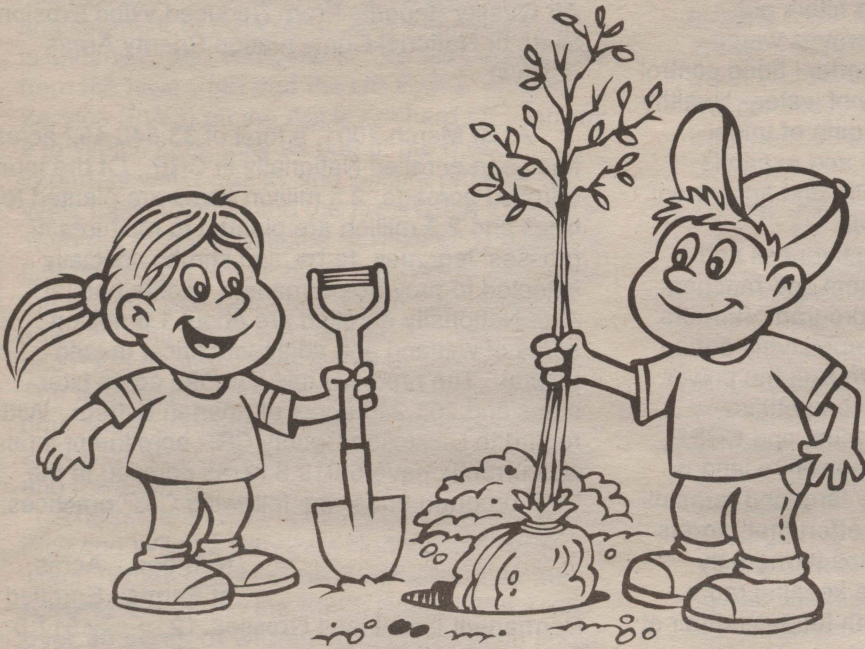
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Red Oak	3-4'	\$20.00 bundle

<u>Bundles of 25</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>
Green Ash	3-4'	\$25.00 bundle
Hackberry	2-3'	\$25.00 bundle
Silver Maple	3-4'	\$37.50 bundle
Sugar Maple	2-3'	\$50.00 bundle
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Golden Willow	18-24"	\$25.00 bundle
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Concolor Fir	7-15"	\$37.50 bundle
Eastern Red Cedar	15-18"	\$50.00 bundle

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Scotch Pine	12-15"	\$7.00 ea.
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Colorado Spruce	18-24"	\$10.00 ea.
Eastern Red Cedar	12-15"	\$7.00 ea.

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<u>Bundles of 10</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>
Common Lilac	2-3'	\$10.00 bundle
Late Bloom Lilac	2-3'	\$10.00 bundle
Amur Maple	2-3'	\$10.00 bundle
Common Ninebark	2-3'	\$15.00 bundle

<u>Bundles of 25</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>
Caragana	2-3'	\$25.00 bundle
Nanking Cherry	2-3'	\$25.00 bundle
Chokecherry	2-3'	\$25.00 bundle
Cotoneaster	2-3'	\$25.00 bundle
Cranberry Bush	18-24"	\$50.00 bundle
Redosier Dogwood	3-4'	\$25.00 bundle
Hawkeye Honeysuckle	2-3'	\$25.00 bundle
American Plum	2-3'	\$25.00 bundle

Tree and shrub stock is pre-ordered and is reserved/sold from this stock as orders are received. Please order as soon as possible for best selection and to avoid shortages.

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Farm Service Agency Annual Report

By: Larry D. Lago
County Executive Director
Farm Service Agency

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency, is the Federal Government's single largest environmental improvement program on private lands – and one of its most effective. Today, CRP is safeguarding millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion improving air quality, increasing wildlife habitat, and protecting ground surface water by reducing water runoff and sedimentation. Countless lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams are cleaner, healthier, and more useful because of CRP.

Even more impressive, CRP's success is accomplished through local voluntary partnerships between individuals and Government. Instead of mandating participation, the program uses financial incentives to encourage farmers and ranchers to voluntarily establish valuable conservation practices. Under CRP contracts, farmers are compensated for planting permanent covers of grass and trees on environmentally sensitive lands, where vegetation can improve water quality, or provide food and habitat for wildlife. This use of voluntarism helps make the CRP one of the most effective Federal conservation programs in operation today, providing environmental and economic benefits for all Americans, both on and off the farm.

In September 1996, USDA implemented efforts to enroll high-priority conservation practices through a continuous signup process. Producers have the opportunity to sign up for these practices on a continuous basis and to receive additional financial incentives. Eligible practices include filter strips, riparian buffers, grass waterways, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, living snow fences, salt-tolerant vegetation, and shallow water areas for wildlife. While in previous years the program was aimed at protecting highly erodible soil, today it also emphasizes enhancing

riparian areas and protecting wetlands and flood plains. These important areas offer diverse and unique habitats critical to many wildlife species.

Another vital part of CRP is its emphasis on the enrollment and restoration of wetlands that have been farmed. Wetlands provide important habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife – especially many threatened and endangered species. Wetland acreage also filters out pollution and sediment and improves water quality, and it serves as an important flood control mechanism by slowing the flow of water. Healthy wetlands are vital to the recharging of underground aquifers. CRP restores and expands America's wetlands for the health and enjoyment of current and future generations.

CRP emphasizes cost-effectiveness and voluntary partnership with farmers and ranchers. For most lands enrolled in the program, farmers must bid for CRP contracts competitively during "general" signup periods, maximizing the power of each dollar spent. Through competitive general signups, continuous signup, and CREP, only the most environmentally sensitive land is accepted, while less vulnerable farmland remains in production. The result is an effort that targets the most sensitive land and helps farmers by providing a stable income while keeping more productive farmland planted with food and fiber at a competitive cost.

Today, CRP accepts only the most environmentally sensitive land, yielding the greatest environmental benefits. The Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) is used to classify and rank land offered for enrollment in CRP during a general signup. Scores are based on the expected environmental improvement in soil resources, water quality, wildlife habitat, and other resource concerns during the time the land is to be enrolled in the program. Each offer submitted by a producer is assigned a point score based on its relative environmental benefits, and is compared nationally with all other offers. Offers are accepted or rejected based on the resulting ranking.

The EBI is composed of six environmental factors plus a cost factor. The six environmental factors are:

Wildlife
Water Quality
Erosion
Enduring Benefits
Air Quality Benefits From Reduced Wind Erosion
State or National Conservation Priority Areas (CPA's)

As of March 2001, a total of 33,540,452 acres has been enrolled Nationally in CRP. Of the total enrolled acreage, 2.3 million acres are planted to trees and 2.3 million are planted to mixtures of grasses, legumes, forbs, and shrubs specially selected to provide permanent wildlife habitat. Also Nationally enrolled are about 1.6 million acres of wetland and adjacent critical upland habitat. The program has 616,399 acres filter strips and 253,246 acres of riparian buffers. With regard to Dickinson County CRP enrollment totals we currently have 5,919.8 acres enrolled in the CRP program under the following CRP practices:

	Number of Farms	Acres Enrolled
Permanent Introduced Grasses	12	517.5
Permanent Native Grasses	27	702.9
Tree plantings	2	4.7
Wildlife Habitats	39	1,888.5
Field Windbreaks	4	15.2
Waterways	36	64.8
Shallow Water Areas/Wildlife	7	95.7
Grasses and Trees already established	22	524.9
Wildlife Foodplots	10	21.5
Filterstrips	47	430.9
Contour Grass Strips	9	47.8
Shelterbelts	10	12.4
Riparian Buffers	24	478.7
Wetland Restorations	18	966.4
Rare and Endangered Habitat	3	21.4
Farmable Wetlands Pilot Projects	7	126.5



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Native Grass Seed and Planting Service

By: Ginger Vietor
Native Revegetation Coordinator
Iowa Lakes RC&D

Landowners and operators enrolling in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other conservation practices will be pleased to know that the Iowa Lakes RC&D, along with DNA Farms of Emmetsburg, will continue to provide native seed ordering, seed planting, tree planting, and mowing for the region. This service works closely with the county NRCS office to ensure that participants have their CRP contract needs met by establishing quality native or introduced vegetation that provides erosion control, wildlife habitat and landscape beautification.

We continue to improve, diversify and expand our services to assist all interested landowners with establishment of native plants on farms, in residential landscapes, along lakeshores and streams and in wetlands. All of our profits are invested in advancing our abilities to perform local conservation to protect our natural resources. Each year we also donate a portion of our revenue to the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

Demand increases in the spring when we are busiest, so we encourage anyone interested in our services and anyone looking for practical information about native plants to contact Ginger at Iowa Lakes RC&D today at 712-262-2083 or email ginger.vietor@ia.usda.gov. You can also contact your county NRCS office for native planting information.

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Continuous CRP Programs

By: Sue Ehret
Conservation Aide, SWCD

We are pleased with the interest shown by area landowners for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2001. While most farmers are conservation conscious on their own, there are times when extra effort needs to be taken. At those times, we hope you think of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. We are here to help you select and plan practices that will suit your land and improve water quality, slow soil loss and improve aesthetics. Some of these practices include:

Filter strips Shelter Belts
Grassed waterways Field Windbreaks
Living Snow Fence

Riparian Tree Buffers Contour Buffer Strips
Financial incentives are administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for many of these practices.

A new practice this year is the Farmable Wetlands Practice (FWP). This practice addresses those "wet areas" in the fields and is a practical answer for many producers.

The Living Snow Fence practice is a shrub/tree planting along an approved road. This practice would lessen the need for plowing snow while improving wildlife habitat.

You may sign up anytime during the year (no signup period) for Continuous CRP practices at the Farm Service Agency.

We at the NRCS office want to thank all the producers who have applied conservation practices in the past and encourage everyone to consider a practice for the future. Feel free to stop in our office to discuss your plans. We look forward to working with you.

Working Together

By: Steve Anderson
Clean Water Alliance Coordinator, SWCD

Through the cooperative efforts of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District I have been hired Coordinator for the Clean Water Alliance. I have worked with many conservation groups such as the OPA, Lakeside Laboratory, the Dickinson County Conservation Board and the Iowa DNR. This job will mainly be to coordinate the efforts set by the Clean Water Alliance with their Long Range Plan. I will also be attending several protective association meetings and assisting the cities and the county with any water quality concerns they may have. I will also be aiding the new Water Quality Commission that was created after the historic passing of the 28E

Agreement.

Since the new Water Quality Commission was established, the Clean Water Alliance decided that they needed to update their Long Range Plan and include all of Dickinson County. With an updated Long Range Plan the Water Quality Commission will have a better idea what most of the conservation groups in the area plan to do over the next three years.

The new Long Range Plan focuses on five main goals, which are:

Goal A. Protect water resources from spill and aquatic nuisance species with adequate emergency response programs.

Goal B. Complete assessments and evaluation plans for watersheds affecting Dickinson County.

Goal C. Protect and/or preserve important water and land resource areas.

Goal D. Educate and communicate with area residents, businesses, visitors, elected officials, and Clean Water Alliance members on water quality issues.

Goal E. Coordinate activities of agencies and partners.

With this new Long Range Plan, the protective associations do have a role. The protective associations will be participating in the Long Range Plan with four objectives.

The first objective is to establish a volunteer aquatic nuisance species survey program on area lakes. This would be to protect all the lakes from things such as Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels and purple loosestrife.

The next objective would be to reduce use of excessive or unnecessary lawn fertilization. The will help reduce the algae blooms on all of our lakes.

The third objective is to assist with educating the visitors to the value of the land and water resources and make them aware of environmental risks of recreational activities. This objective is to help limit any type of pollution that enters the lakes.

The final goal is to keep local, state and federal policy makers informed of activities of the Clean Water Alliance.

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DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS-- Back row, l-r: Orville Berg, Treasurer, Center Grove Twp.; Scott Mitchell, Secretary, Diamond Lake, Twp.; Bill Northey, Superior Twp; front row: Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair, Lakeville Twp.; Mark Ingwersen, Chair, Spirit Lake Twp.
Assistant Commissioners not present: Tom Koster, Center Grove Twp.; Keith Van Kleek, Milford, Twp.; Curt Smith, Superior Twp.



SPIRIT LAKE OFFICE STAFF-- Back row, l-r: Tim Terrill, Environmental Specialist; Steve Anderson, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator; Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist; Tim Moran, Soil Conservation Technician; front row: Maxine Butler, State Secretary; Sue Ehret, Conservation Aide.

2001 Annual Report

(Continued from page 2)

Burn plans were written for several CRP producers. These plans have shown the value of burning in establishing native grasses and the need to consider safety when performing a controlled burn.

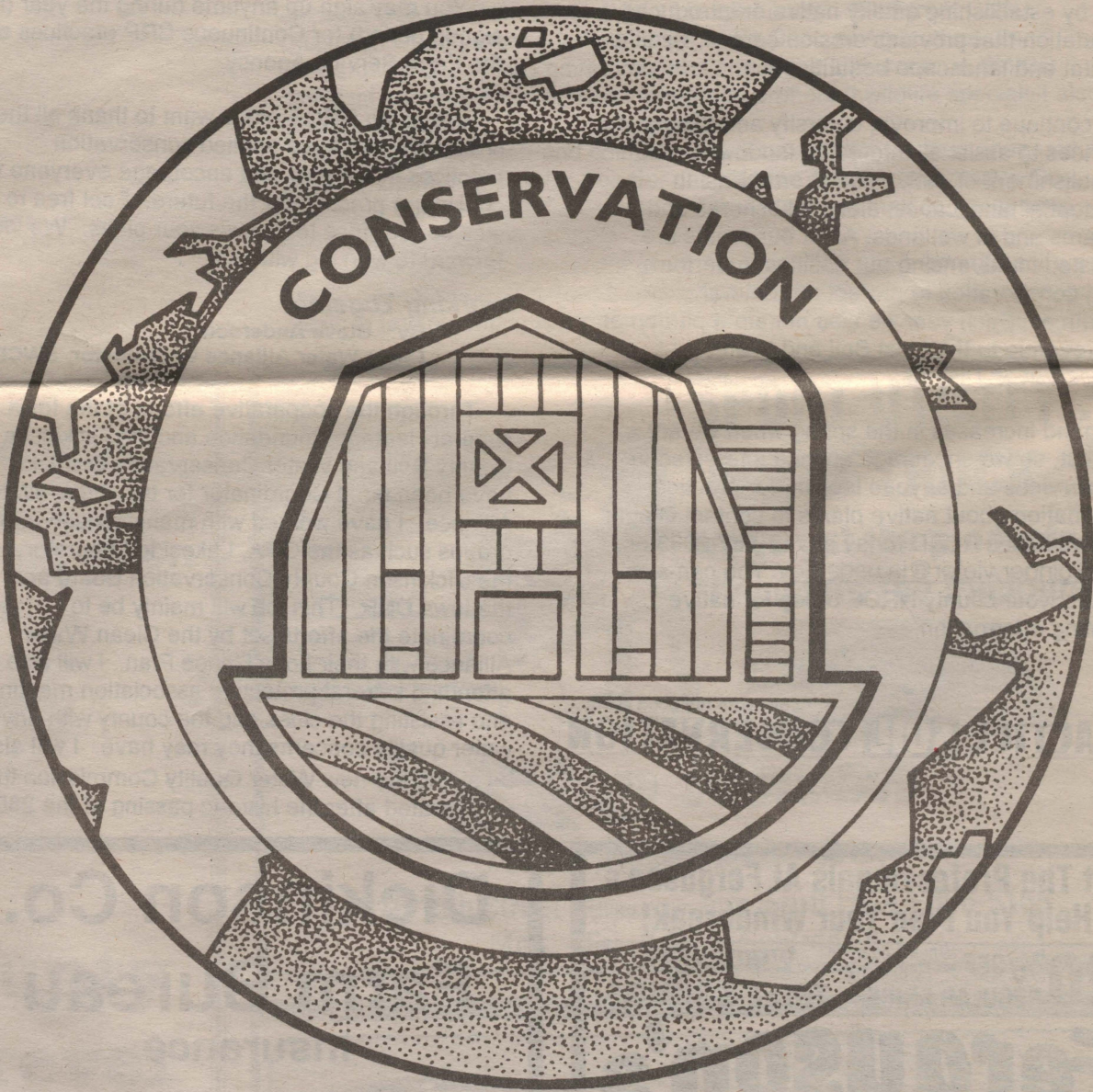
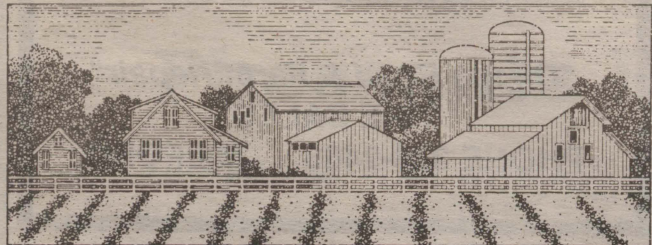
The field office staff hosted a sub-Area 1 Technician's training session. This meeting provided a way for area Technicians to compare methods used in practice design and application.

Salary contributions from Pheasants Forever, County Supervisors and municipalities have continued to assist in funding SWCD part-time positions and the Environmental Specialist.

Field office staff completed wetland certifications on over 100 tracts. This inventory will give producers information they need in making drainage plans on their land.

The Iowa Great Lakes Clean Water Project annual review included a tour showing practices and easements which were completed in 2001.

Earth Team volunteers continue to provide a significant contribution to our field office staff. Seven volunteers donated 128 hours this past year. Volunteers provided both clerical and field assistance to the field office. In addition, RSVP volunteers collated our USDA newsletter and Clean Water Project "Pools of Thought" newsletters. Our thanks to: Mike Rohlk, Jeanne Arp, the RSVP Newsletter Crew, and Tom Koster



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