

Officials mark conservation week

DES MOINES — Soil and Water Conservation Week runs through May 1, state agriculture officials announced.

The week is an opportunity to recognize the important conservation practices placed on Iowa's landscape and bring attention to the ongoing work by farmers, landowners and urban residents to protect the state's soil and water resources, officials said.

On Monday, Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds are scheduled to visit Iowa State University to receive updates on the work being done by the Nutrient Research Center. Branstad also will sign a proclamation recognizing April 24 through May 1 as Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Week at



Bill Northey



Branstad

ISU's cover crop research site.

On Wednesday, Branstad will receive an update on the Benton/Tama and Miller Creek Iowa Water Quality Initiative demonstration projects and review water quality practices there. The event will be held at the John Weber farm, 3213 Iowa Highway 8, Dysart.

Branstad then will visit a site of a tree planting on the Jim and Jody Kerns farm just south of Edgewood in Delaware

County. Kerns is the Tree Farming and Forestry representative on the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The farm is located on County Road C7X, about one-half mile east of Iowa Highway 3.

Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Week is in coordination with the National Stewardship

Week, sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts. This year's Stewardship Week theme is "We All Need Trees."

More information about the activities for Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa can be found at www.iowaagriculture.gov/conservationweek.asp.

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CLOSED ASCENSION DAY, MAY 5