

Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District
709 S. Iris Street, Suite 101
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641
319-385-2824, Ext 3

2012 Annual Report

July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

"Our mission is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment."



Vince Sitzmann
selected as IDALS
Division of Soil
Conservation Field
Services Bureau Chief



See page 5

- **District Commissioners:**
Jan Anderson, Allan Barnes, Harlan Miller, Darrell Mullin, Rick Mallams.
- **Assistant commissioners:**
Chuck Allen & Rob Smith, Ross Tweedy, Jeff Olson
- **IDALS DSC Staff:**
Barb Shelman, Secretary
Michael Allen, Technician
Caleb Waters, Geode Coordinator
- **NRCS Staff:**
Doug Ensminger, District Conservationist
Josh Sieren, Soil Conservationist
Dale Schmeiser, Soil Conservation Technician



2012 SWCD Poster Contest Winners

Soil & Water Stewardship Materials purchased by the Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District were provided to New London, Mt. Pleasant, Waco and Winfield-Mt. Union School Districts. Nine teachers used these materials to promote soil and water conservation to their students. Posters created for the 2012 Poster Contest featured the theme **"Soil to Spoon"**. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Conservation Districts of Iowa, and the Henry County SWCD co sponsor the SWCD contest. Winners of the 2012 Poster Contest were:



**Ella Cole-1st Place
Grades K -1st and
1st Place Regional winner**



**Katie Leichty &
Lauren Koot
Grades K - 1st**



**Garrett Conway 2nd Place &
Dustin Nehring, 1st Place
Grades 2 - 3**



**Larry Heitmeier
1st Place
Grades 4 - 6**



**Blake Bentler, 2nd Place
Claire Holtkamp, Honorable
Mention Grades 4 - 6**



**Katherin Bird
Grades 7 - 9
1st Place**



**Alisa Worth 2nd Place
Katherin Bird 1st Place
Grades 7 - 9**



District Financial Report of State Funds & Accomplishments: July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Budget-Operating Funds

Commissioner and Office Expenses

Total Allocations	\$2,750.00
Commissioner Meeting Expense	\$653.99
Office Expenses	\$124.33
CDI & NACD Dues	\$1,150.00
Educational Materials/Awards	\$ 599.49
Postage	\$ 222.71
Total Expenditures	\$2,750.52
Balance	\$ (0.52)

REAP

Resource Enhancement And Protection 75% Cost-Share Funds

Cedar Creek Priority Watershed Practices Fund 9,450 L.F. Terraces & 1 Basin

2011 Projects Rolled Over	\$11,290.00
Initial Allocation	\$ 7,429.14
Supplemental Allocation	\$22,287.42
Total Allocations	\$41,006.56
Projects Complete & Paid	\$27,491.85
Funds Rolled Over to 2012	\$12,167.11
Unobligated funds	\$1,347.60

Forestry/Grasses Fund Timber Stand Improvement 105.6 ac. 1 Windbreak

2011 Projects Rolled Over	\$7,809.60
Initial Allocation	\$2,476.38
Supplemental Allocation	\$7,429.14
Total Allocations	\$17,715.12
Funds Complete & Paid	\$14,172.00
Funds Rolled Over to 2012	\$3,510.00
Unobligated funds	\$33.12

Local Watershed Protection Program (LWPP) 3% Loans: 4 Projects Completed; 6,100 L.F. Terraces

Loan Funds Allocated	\$37,341.23
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State Cost-Share Funds

Terraces 33,200 L.F.

2012-Cost Share

2011 Practices Rolled Over	\$2,160.00
Initial Allocation	\$ 24,891.71
Supplemental Allocation	\$74,675.12
Total Allocations	\$99,566.83
Projects Complete & Paid	\$86,084.94
Projects Rolled Over to 2012	\$15,005.00
Unobligated Funds	\$636.89

State Bonding 2 Cost-Share Funds

Terraces 32,863 L.F

2011-Bonding 2 Funds

2010 Practices Rolled Over	\$33,600.00
Initial Allocation	\$16,095.60
Supplemental Allocation	\$67,688.55
Total Allocations	\$117,384.15
Projects Complete & Paid	\$95,600.39
Projects Rolled Over to 2011	\$21,078.76
Unobligated funds	\$705.00

2012 Storm Damage Repair Bonding Funds 42 Projects Repaired

2012-Storm Damage Repair

Total Allocations	\$69,730.80
Projects Complete & Paid	\$67,576.44
Projects Rolled Over to 2013	\$2,154.36

State Revolving Fund--No-Interest 0% Loans 3 Grade Stabilization Structures Constructed

2012 Allocations	\$56,200.00
Projects Complete & Paid	\$28,729.60
Projects Rolled Over to 2013	\$26,200.00
Funds Recalled as of 6-30-2012	\$0.00

All services and programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

Watershed Reports

❖ Cedar Creek Watershed

The District has targeted Cedar Creek Watershed as a priority for REAP Practice funds. Landowners in this watershed can apply for 50% cost share funds to construct soil & water conservation practices on their land. See the REAP-Practice funds above for practices completed in this Watershed in FY12.

❖ Geode Watershed

Special Lakes Funding: Landowners in Lake Geode Watershed (Baltimore Twp., sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36) can apply for 75% cost share funds to construct practices.

FY2012 Lake Geode Public Owned Lakes:

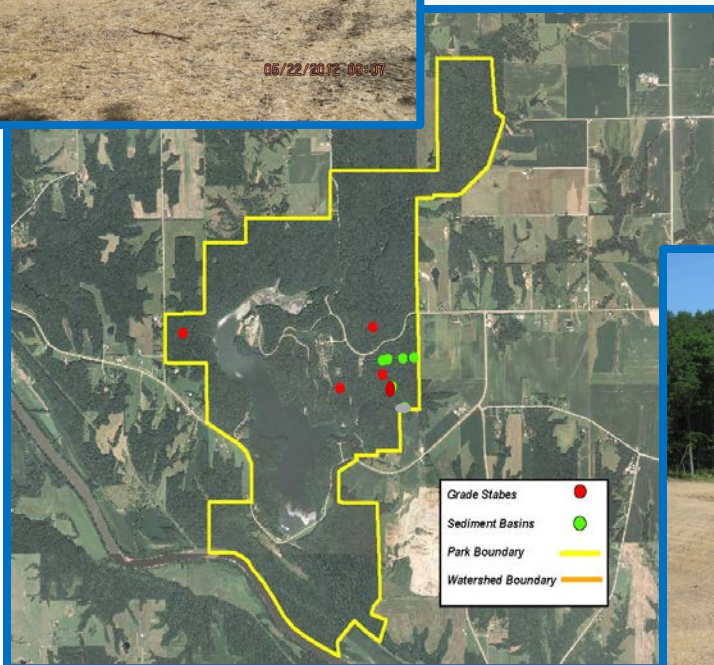
Six projects were completed in Henry County with Special Lakes Funds; 7,850 L. F. of terraces were installed totaling \$31,093.95 in cost share funding.



Terraces on the Mike Prehm property, located in the Lake Geode Watershed



Lake Geode Park Structures:
In 2012 5 grade stabilization structures and 4 sediment basins were constructed within the park boundaries. These structures “catch” surface water run-off.





Why Should Iowan's be National Leaders in Soil Water Conservation?

By Vince Sitzmann,
Bureau Chief

- 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 Reduction 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.

Soil and water conservation districts work closely with a number of local, state and federal agencies, as well as with local groups and organizations. In particular, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services have close ties with the districts. The Division helps districts administer state and local programs, including financial incentive programs and assigns state technical and secretarial people to districts. The NRCS works through districts, providing technical soil conservationists and other natural resource specialists as well as office space for the local district. Districts work closely with other entities including the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, USDA Farm Services Agency, USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation Committee, Iowa Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, county conservation boards, county boards of supervisors, drainage districts and levee districts.



A Message from the: State Conservationist, Jay Mar

Meeting the Conservation Challenge

What does it take to be a successful conservation farmer in today's world? Well, let me see: you need to be a scientist, a business manager, an innovator, an educator, and an observer.

I cannot emphasize how much I admire these folks; they truly are the heartbeat of rural America. As I interact with our Iowa conservation leaders I continue to learn the many opportunities to sustain agriculture with conservation practices.

Bob Lynch, of Humboldt County, and Mark Thompson, of Webster County, are longtime strip-till and no-till farmers who share common successes when they talk about their operations. They talk about building the organic matter in their soils, increasing soil infiltration and water holding capacity, reducing unnecessary fuel and fertilizer input costs by reducing tillage operations and placing fertilizer where it is readily accessible to the plant and not susceptible to runoff.

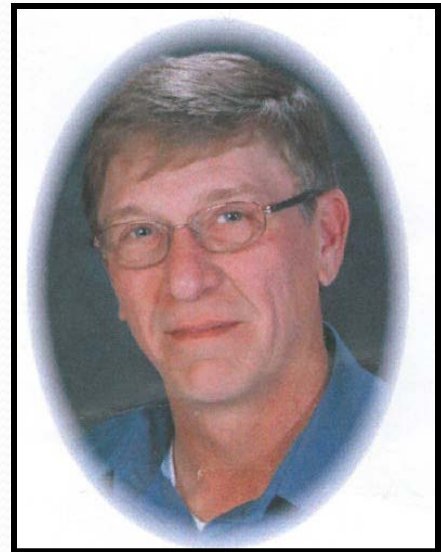
They report increased yields while cutting input costs by as much as 60% ... guess the "proof is in the pudding."

Kelly Tobin, well respected conservation commissioner and no-till farmer, is incorporating diverse cover crops into his operation. Kelly says no-till and cover crops actually go hand in hand as good tools to help producers achieve their conservation and production goals; increasing yields even during drought years. He also sees opportunities for cover crops as forage for livestock. As in all agricultural systems, Kelly emphasizes that the key to success is good management.

Across the state, producers are filling conference and meeting rooms, interested in soil health and cover crops. As one young farm couple stated ... "it just makes sense."

One thing is for certain, there will be challenges ahead as we develop seeding strategies and diverse cover crop mixes that will successfully fit the needs of our Iowa agriculture. But as we all know... an innovative farmer will not think twice about modifying a piece of machinery to get it done. I feel that our Iowa conservation leaders are more than ready to meet the "Conservation Challenge"... are you?

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In Memory

Darrell Lee Mullin
Henry SWCD Commissioner
passed away August 25, 2012.



Chairman Allan Barnes presents Jan Anderson with a certificate of recognition for her 15 years of service to the District and her last term in office.



Women &
Beginning
Farmers in
Agriculture
Network
Meeting held
at Jerry's
Restaurant