

Personnel During 2001**COMMISSIONERS**

Todd D Heckenberg, Chairperson
W Donald Lounsbury, Vice-Chairperson
Frank C Hedges
Ronald D Snyder
Jeff S Bergman

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Arlin L. Musselman
Bradley J. Weiss
Barb Anderson
Jeremy Cochran
Scott Salisbury
George Marzeck Sr. (until May)

OFFICE STAFF

Terrance O Rudolph, District Conservationist
Debra A Nace, Soil Conservation Technician (through October)
John J Horan, Soil Conservation Technician
Janie L. Grimes, State & District Secretary
Margaret McLachlan, District Employee
Tom R Birkenstock, District Employee (January - March)

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)

Bruce W Trautman, Area Conservationist
Shawn R LaVay, Resource Soil Scientist
Sue M Long, Civil Engineer
Nicholas R Schaefer, Civil Engineering Technician
Kerry K Richards, Computer Specialist
Suzette D Betts, Administrative Management Assistant
Darlene G Lauder, Area Secretary



Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District 56th Annual Report

Local farmers chosen for conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners selected five local farmers in 2001 as District winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and other awards.

Brook Beckman, Danville, was chosen as the winner in Division III for becoming a new soil conservation district cooperator after January 1, 2000. Brook was selected based on the terraces he has completed on his farm in Danville Township.

Vera Miller, Mountain Home, Arkansas, and Bill Tucker, New London, were selected as winners in Division II.

This division is for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord. This farm, located in Pleasant Grove Township, was selected for the extensive establishment of terraces. Filterstrips have also been applied through Continuous CRP.

Holly Wagner, Danville, was selected as the winner in Division I. This division is for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

Holly was chosen because of his farming practices that control soil erosion such as terraces, grassed waterways, filterstrips, tree plantings, field borders and a farm pond in Danville Township.

Additionally, the District chose Steve Nunnikhoven, Mediapolis, as a local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. Steve has completed many acres of timber stand improvement and tree planting on his 65 acre farm in Huron Township. An awards supper will be held this spring.



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are Jeff Bergman (Union Township), Ron Snyder (Burlington), Todd Heckenberg (Benton Township), Frank Hedges (Huron Township), and Donald Lounsbury (Pleasant Grove Township).

Volunteers construct riparian buffer



Local volunteers contributed approximately 75 hours constructing a riparian buffer along Flint Creek in April 2001.

On April 21, 2001, a crew of approximately 40 volunteers planted 1,350 white pine, bald cypress, swamp white oak, red cedar, serviceberry, redosier dogwood, shellbark hickory, pecan, and burr oak trees along Flint Creek in Tama Township to construct a riparian buffer.

A riparian buffer is a zone consisting of trees, shrubs and grass along a body of water. The buffer filters sediment and pollutants entering the water. The riparian buffer also benefits wildlife habitat.

Among those helping with the riparian buffer were members of local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Burlington and West Burlington High School Students, Trees Forever, County Conservation Department and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

If you would be interested in constructing a riparian buffer along a creek, please contact the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES DURING 2001

- January**
- Election of Officers for 2001 resulted as follows: Chairperson - Todd Heckenberg; Vice Chairperson - Donald Lounsbury.
 - Appointments for 2001 resulted as follows: Secretary - Janie Grimes; Treasurer - Grimes; Co-Treasurer - Bergman; Assistant Commissioners - Arlyn Musselman, Brad Weiss; RC&D Executive Board - Don Lounsbury, Frank Hedges, Flint Creek Advisory Board - Heckenberg; County RC&D Board - Bergman; REAP - Bergman; Education Committee - Heckenberg, Weiss; Fund Raising Committee - Hedges, Ron Snyder; Marketing Committee - Bergman, Musselman; Agreements Committee - Lounsbury, Heckenberg; Contest Committee - Snyder; Special Programs Committee - Bergman, Lounsbury; Legislative Committee - Hedges; Urban Conservation Committee - Snyder.
 - CDI and NACD dues were paid.
 - Heckenberg and Snyder attended Commissioner Training in Fairfield on January 18.
 - Debra Nace attended an Ag Summit in Ames on January 12.
 - Nace did a presentation at Sunnyday Preschool on January 22 and 23.
 - Statewide EQIP sign up ended January 26.

February

- Annual Report was printed in Des Moines County News.
- Civil Rights were reviewed.
- Miss Quad EQIP sign up began February 20.
- Jeremy Cochran, Scott Salisbury, Barbara Anderson, and George Marzeck Sr. were appointed Assistant Commissioners.
- A \$700 donation was given to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for a scholarship.
- The District hosted a booth at John Deere Days at Hassenfritz Implement for the promotion of buffers on February 8.
- Nace, Terrance Rudolph, and Grimes attended an All Employee Award Meeting on February 22 in Iowa City.

March

- The District hosted two 206 Yellow Spring Project meetings for landowners on March 6.
- Miss Quad EQIP sign up ended March 30.
- The District hosted a booth at Danville Ag Days on March 24.
- A survey was mailed to all landowners in the Flint Creek watershed.

April

- Soil and Water Stewardship week was April 29 - May 6.
- Snyder attended the Spring Regional Meeting in Ottumwa on April 2.
- Nace gave a presentation at an outdoor classroom at Starr's Cave on April 19.
- Diosha Johnson, North Hill second grade student, received 1st place in the poster contest. Her poster was sent on for regional competition.

May

- One application from Des Moines County was approved for Miss Quad EQIP funds.
- Brook Beckman, Holly Wagner, Vera Miller and Bill Tucker were selected as local winners of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Other nominations for various awards were Steve Nunnikhoven - Woodland Owner of the Year; and Heckenberg - Ken Wagner Award.
- Five applications from Des Moines County were approved for Statewide EQIP funds.
- The District received a soil loss complaint and conducted a tour/review of the site.
- A damage assessment report was completed due to the heavy rains received of May 14.
- Nace gave a presentation at an outdoor classroom at Starr's Cave on May 16.

June

- Snyder and Hedges were appointed to conduct an annual audit of the District books.
- Yearly status reviews were conducted the first week of June.
- A female landowner survey was completed.

July

- One application from Des Moines County was approved for EQIP forestry funds.
- Rudolph and McLachlan attended a Sub Area Meeting on July 26 at Oakland Mills.
- Nace attended IOWATER training in Cedar Falls on July 19.

August

- Two additional applications from Des Moines County were approved for statewide EQIP funds.
- Snyder and Hedges completed the annual audit of the District books.
- Snyder attended the Fall Regional Meeting in Mt. Pleasant on August 27.

September

- An additional application from Des Moines County was approved for EQIP forestry funds.
- The District received \$3,000 for the Buffer Initiative.
- The monthly meeting was held at Starr's Cave Nature Center.

October

- Nace's last day was October 30.
- Rudolph completed Conservation Planning Certification.
- Rudolph worked with Notre Dame High School concerning native plant restoration in an Outdoor Classroom.

December

- Statewide EQIP sign up was held until December 28.

Booths sponsored to raise awareness to buffer program



District Conservationist Terrance Rudolph watches over the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District booth during John Deere Days at Hassenfritz Implement.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored two booths during 2001. The first was in February during John Deere Days at Hassenfritz Implement near Mediapolis. The second booth was hosted during March at Danville Ag Days located just west of Danville. This gave the SWCD the opportunity to market the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program to a wide variety of farmers and urban residents.

Continuous CRP is a program to install conservation buffers along

streams, lakes, drainage ditches, or other bodies of water. Conservation buffers are strips of land in permanent vegetation that helps landowners reduce pollution. The following practices are included in continuous CRP: filterstrips, riparian buffer strips, shallow water areas, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, grassed waterways, living snow fences, contour grass strips and farmable wetlands.

If you are interested in Continuous CRP or have any questions, please call the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001

	Amount	Unit
New District Cooperators on 760 acres	7	No.
Individuals or Groups Assisted	2,051	No.
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	26	Acres
Terraces Constructed	24,080	Ft.
Water & Sediment Control Basin Constructed	5	No.
Woodland Improvement	19	Acres
Tree Plantings Completed	17	Acres
CRP Established	1,000	Acres
Field Windbreak Established	2	Acres
Riparian Forest Buffers Established	21	Acres
Filter Strips Established	347	Acres
Shallow Water Areas Established	20	Acres
Grade Stabilization Structure Completed	1	No.
CRP Contracts Completed	64	No.
EQIP Contracts Completed	2	No.

NRCS web information

Are you connected to the Internet? Any information about NRCS programs can be found on their web site. The national site is www.nrcs.usda.gov and the Iowa site is www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov. The site also includes links to other government agencies. Check it out!



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EQIP



A parabolic waterway was constructed in Washington Township using EQIP funds.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is the federal cost-share program that replaced the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) in 1996 under the new farm bill. The purpose of EQIP is to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to develop and

implement conservation plans that address specific natural resource concerns.

EQIP is aimed at treating all natural resources on a tract of land — soil, water, air, plants and animals. Landowners look at the entire farm, rather than treating just one re-

source. EQIP contracts usually have several components and run for five to ten years. Since EQIP began, the Des Moines County SWCD has had 29 applications approved.

If you have any questions or are interested in EQIP, please call the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

District donates scholarship



Scholarship Recipients: Richard Edmunds, Charlie Ford, Erik Krekel, Mark Carlisle, Justin Schulte, James Whitcomb, Kyle Buckert, Jesse Logan, Marcus McCabe, Jesse Wooldridge, Casey Diehl.

Des Moines SWCD Budget

July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001 Expenditures of funds provided by State of Iowa for Commissioner's Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP), Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) and Public Owned Lakes (POL).

1M Budget & Operating Expenses

Allocation	\$3,000.00
Commissioners Expense	624.55
Office Expense (includes postage, subscriptions & booths)	1,625.45
Printing	150.00
CD Dues	325.00
NACD Dues	275.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 2000-01

Allocation	\$780.00
Site Prep. For Natural Regeneration, incomplete	780.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 2000-01

Allocation	\$4,174.50
Tree Planting, 3.0 acres completed	\$1,095.00
Timber Stand Improvement, 18.9 acres completed	1,417.50
Site Prep. for Natural Regeneration, incomplete	1,662.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 1999-00

Allocation	\$6,451.00
Timber Stand Improvement, 18.0 ac completed	600.00
Field Windbreak, 6 ac complete	151.00
Transferred to 2000-01 funds	5,700.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 1999-00

Allocation	\$4,404.50
Riparian Buffer, 20.4 ac completed	1,892.00
Transferred to 2000-02 funds	2,512.50
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 1998-99

Allocation	\$5,454.32
Tree Planting, 6.3 ac completed	2,048.07
Timber Stand Improvement, 63.5 ac completed	3,416.25
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 1998-99

Allocation	\$3,307.50
Tree Planting, 9.8 ac completed	3,307.50
Balance	-0-

IFIP 2000-01

Allocation	\$88,466.00
Terraces, 11680 ft completed	30,517.72
Terraces, incomplete	28,909.00
Grassed Waterways, 7060 ft completed	6,031.48
Grassed Waterways, incomplete	2,662.50
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 4 completed	5,308.77
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	4,088.50
Grade Stabilization Structure, 1 completed	3,350.00
Balance	\$7,598.03

IFIP 1999-00

Allocation	\$107,465.87
Terraces, 22715 ft completed	71,255.28
Terraces, incomplete	24,289.50
Grassed Waterways, 6400 ft completed	6,558.92
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 4 completed	3,170.17
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	2,192.00
Balance	-0-

IFIP 1998-99

Allocation	\$32,198.95
Terraces, 8425 ft completed	24,458.82
Terraces, incomplete	1,388.13
Grassed Waterways, 7940 ft completed	6,352.00
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2000-01

Allocation	\$14,216.25
Terraces, incomplete	14,216.25
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 1999-00

Allocation	\$28,831.36
Terraces, 7200 ft completed	28,831.36
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 1998-99

Allocation	\$6,210.68
Terraces, 1825 ft completed	6,210.68
Balance	-0-

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District donated \$700 to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for the 2001-2002 school year.

The Foundation was established to assist students enrolled in agricultural programs at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington.

Other organizations who made contributions towards the 2001-2002 scholarship fund were Bank of Stronghurst, BASF, Country Cars II, Curt Thomas Memorial Scholarship, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Griffin LLC, Novartis, Raritan State Bank, and Twomey Company.

Recipients of 2001-2002 Tri-State Agriculture Education Foundation Scholarships were Richard Edmunds, Charlie Ford, Erik Krekel, Mark Carlisle, Justin Schulte, James Whitcomb, Kyle Buckert, Jesse Logan, Marcus McCabe, Jesse Wooldridge, and Casey Diehl.

Excessive erosion and compliance plans



Do you have a conservation compliance plan? If so, are you following the conservation plan? Many people assume conservation plans are no longer required, but in order to receive USDA benefits, a compliance plan must be in place and followed.

On May 14, 2001, the county received approxi-

mately 2.75" of rain in a very short period. The picture shows the amount of erosion that can occur due to a heavy rain if little or no residue is left in a field to slow down the water. Excessive erosion can also occur during winter if you use fall tillage. Erosion does not only happen on Highly Erodible Land (HEL), Non Highly Erodible Land (NHEL) is just as susceptible to severe erosion.

Severe erosion can be eliminated with the right conservation plan. Although conservation compliance plans are not required on NHEL ground, if you are worried about soil loss and erosion, a plan can be developed to alleviate this problem.

Now is the time to review and/or revise your conservation plan. Please contact the NRCS office at 319-753-6221 to schedule an appointment.

Backyard conservation tip sheets



The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has ten Backyard Conservation Tip Sheets for anyone who is interested.

The tip sheets are free and include Composting, Backyard Pond, Tree Planting, Terraces, Mulching, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Wetland, Wildlife Habitat and Water Conservation, The Backyard Pond, Wildlife

Habitat, Composting and Mulching tip sheets are also available in Spanish.

Additionally, the Des Moines SWCD has a 27-page color book that highlights the ten conservation activities found in the tip sheets.

If you are interested in receiving these tip sheets or book, please contact the office at 319-753-6221.

Get free conservation and natural resources photos online

By a simple "point and click," anyone with Internet access can download free conservation-related images from a new web site at photo.nrcs.usda.gov. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed the site, which currently contains about 2,000 images.

The website contains more than 600 images from Iowa NRCS. You can link to the photography from the Iowa NRCS homepage at www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov.

The photos are organized in a database that allows users to search for images using key categories like buffers, conservation tillage, water quality and wildlife. In all, there are 54 categories of photos from 30 states. In the future, every state should be represented in the photo catalog. Every photo contains a caption, a credit line, location and name of the photographer.

The photos are available in two formats: JPEGs, which are primarily used for the Internet, and TIFFs, which are high-quality images used in four-color press printing by a press. The image files vary in size from 400K to 17 MB.

The TIFF images will take longer to download than the JPEGs. Actual download times will vary based on traffic at the site, compression of your modem and the performance of your Internet connection.

"We hope the site will be used by school teachers, children, magazine editors, web designers, and other partners," said Terrance Rudolph, District Conservationist for the USDA NRCS in Des Moines County. "Any

time these photos are used, it will help us share the important story of good land stewardship."

The images could be used in many different ways: newsletters, brochures, web sites, school lessons, presentations and post cards. Every image is free. However NRCS does request that if an image is published, the following photo credit line is used: Photo by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS is a federal agency with USDA. It provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people voluntarily conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment.

Spring landscaping products available

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a variety of landscaping products for sale through a Conservation Products Brochure.

The brochure includes trees, bat and butterfly houses, wildflower seeds, strawberry plants, daylilies, ferns, ground cover plants, grapevines, blackberries, blueberries, and mushrooms.

Call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221 for a free brochure.

REVOLVING FUNDS ACCOUNT

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD regular checking account from July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001

Balance on Hand July 1, 2000 \$4,168.68

Receipts:	
Miscellaneous Sales	\$12.00
Checking Account Interest	49.94
Brochure Commission	72.99
Donations	80.00
Dues Reimbursement	600.00
1M Reimbursement	1,931.25
IDALS Watershed Grant	2,584.18
TOTAL	\$5,330.36

Disbursements:	
Postage	\$601.50
Checking Account Service Charge	24.00
Office Supplies & Expenses	546.28
Scholarships	925.00
Booths & Expenses	281.75
Awards & Gifts	299.07
Commissioner Travel	639.85
Printing Charges	150.00
Plat Books	100.00
Dues	1,200.00
Dut Scales	100.00
206 Expenses	63.30
Subscriptions/Memberships	195.97
Environment Donation	25.00
Film Processing	22.96
IDALS Watershed Grant	2,584.18
TOTAL	\$7,758.86

Balance on Hand, June 30, 2001 \$1,740.18

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD special projects/payroll account from July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001

Balance on Hand July 1, 2000 \$12,984.40

Receipts:	
Account Interest	\$165.97
Pheasants Forever	3,000.00
IDALS Buffer Funds	5,000.00
Watershed Development Grant	1,415.82
Co-Op Funds	9,010.40
TOTAL	\$18,592.19

Expenditures:	
Workman's Comp Insurance	\$259.50
Federal Tax	3,314.24
State of Iowa - Tax	341.00
IPERS	426.10
Unemployment Insurance	11.03
Help Wanted Ads	35.83
Payroll	9,861.21
TOTAL	\$14,251.91

Balance on Hand, June 30, 2001 \$17,324.68



By Lisa Tyner, Area Grassland Specialist

Top Ten Reasons to Add Legumes to your Pastures

1. Lower Nitrogen Costs
 - Legumes have the ability to obtain nitrogen from the atmosphere and fix it in the nodules on the roots.
 - The amount of nitrogen fixed varies depending on species, stand density, soil fertility, weather, and the amount of leaf surface on the legumes.
 - The range is 60-200 pounds per acre per year.

2. Improved Forage Quality
 - Forage quality of legumes is generally higher than that of most grasses at the same stage of maturity.
 - Legumes are generally higher in crude protein, digestibility and mineral content and are digested quicker than most grasses.

3. Better Growth Distribution
 - The addition of legumes to pastures often extends the grazing season and fills voids in grass monocultures.
 - Some legumes can furnish quality grazing during summer months, when cool-season pastures are less productive.

4. Increased Forage Yield
 - The total yield from grass/legume mixtures is usually increased over straight grass pastures.
 - Studies show that red clover grown with tall fescue pastures produces more total yield than tall fescue fertilized with 150 pounds N/acre.

5. Reduced Risk
 - Mixtures of grasses and legumes constitute a lower risk than a pure stand of either.
 - Mixed stands are less susceptible to devastation from disease, insects, and adverse weather.

6. Added Benefits
 - Legumes can improve soil tilth by creating deep root channels, which also improves soil drainage and the amount of air that is in the soil.

7. Environmental Acceptance
 - Because of the legume plant's ability to "fix" nitrogen through Rhizobium bacteria, legumes provide a natural, slow-release nitrogen.
 - Because of their flowering habit, legumes furnish pollen and nectar for the honeybees.

8. Reduced Animal Toxicity
 - Growing legumes with tall fescue is the number one strategy used to combat endophyte problems associated with tall fescue.
 - Grass tetany problems can also be greatly reduced with legumes in the diet.

9. Aesthetic
 - Legumes provide color and diversity to grass meadows and pastures.

10. And the number one reason to add legumes to your pastures ...
 - Increased profit potential! More milk production, higher weaning weights, higher average daily gains, and higher reproductive efficiency are common, when legumes make up a significant portion of the forage mix.

Legumes are agronomically, environmentally friendly, and economically advantageous.

Adapted from an article in "Management Intensive Grazing in the Ozarks"

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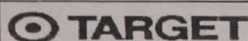
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