

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



CASS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

IOWA FARM ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER AWARD



Nicholas Hunt was selected as a recipient of the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award presented to him by the Iowa Governor's Office, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources at the Iowa State Fair. This award seeks to recognize the exemplary voluntary actions of farmers that improve or protect the environment and natural resources of our state while also encouraging other farmers

to follow in their footsteps by building success upon success. This award also recognizes those that have taken steps in their farming operations to serve as local leaders in environmental stewardship on their farms, utilizing a variety of techniques and best management practices. As environmental leaders, these farmers have adopted best management practices and incorporated environmental stewardship throughout their farming operations. True stewards of the land, they recognize that improved water quality and soil sustainability reaps benefits that extend beyond their fields to reach the citizens of Iowa and beyond, and have made environmental stewardship a priority on their farms. We thank them for their efforts. Congratulations!



Inside this issue:

Commissioners Kate Beck, NRCS Technician State Revolving Fund Field Office Staff	2
Scholarship Winners Farm Practice Maintenance Tree Sales	3
Poster Contest	4
Financial Report State Revolving Loan Program Kurt Simon, NRCS New State Conservationist	5
NRCS Cover Crop Tool Women In Agriculture	6
NRCS, Planning For Water Quality Improvements	7
Soil Conservation Cost Share Report SFY15 Importance of Partnership	8
News from MLRA Soils Office	9
News from IDALS-Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality	10/11
Tree Sales Order Form	12

NORTHEY: STATEWIDE COST-SHARE AVAILABLE FOR WATER QUALITY PRACTICES

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey announced that funds are available to help farmers install nutrient reduction practices. Practices eligible for this funding were cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fertilizer. The cost share rate for first-time users of cover crops is \$25 per acre, no-till or strip till are eligible for \$10 per acre and farmers using a nitrapyrin nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer can receive \$3 per acre. Any farmer not already utilizing these practices will receive priority consideration for this assistance. Farmers that have used cover crops in the past may be eligible for \$15 per acre for cover crops. "We continue to hear from farmers interested in doing even more to limit nutrient loss and better protect water quality and these funds will help them try new voluntary science-based conservation practices on their farm," Northey said. Farmers are eligible for cost share on up to 160 acres. The funds were made available in July, but farmers can always submit applications through their local Soil and Water Conservation District office for possible future funding. Farmers were also encouraged to visit their local Soil and Water Conservation District office to inquire about additional opportunities for cost share funding through other programs offered at their local SWCDs.

Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cass County SWCD



Chair: Ray Wilson
Vice Chair: Fred Kay
Treasurer: Chase Wheatley
Co-Treasurer: Curt Behrends
Conservation Assistant: Jana Coughlin



United States Department of Agriculture

New Soil Conservation Technician joins staff

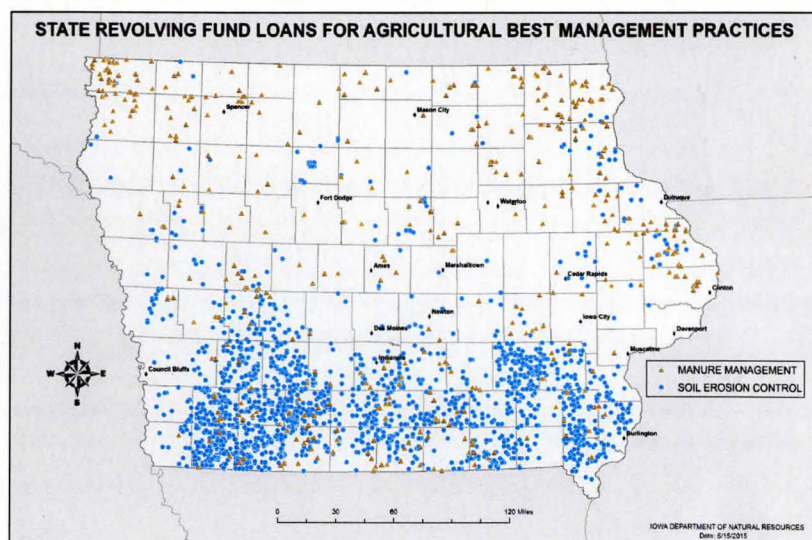
Katie is a recent graduate of Grand Valley State University, located in western Michigan. She has degrees in geology and natural resources management, and has carried out field work in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. Prior to starting work in Atlantic, she was a Soil Erosion and Stormwater Inspector for the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan. She looks forward to meeting and aiding producers and landowners in Cass County with the complex problems they are faced with.



Katie Beck

STATE REVOLVING FUND

Many farmers in Iowa install conservation practices with the help of a variety of funding programs. A larger program is the State Revolving Fund (SRF). SRF is a low interest financing option available to Iowa farmers for installing conservation practices and it's making a mark statewide. SRF is a collaboration of IDALS, Iowa Finance Authority and Iowa DNR. The program began in 2005, and has helped farmers finance over \$100 million in conservation work.. For more information about this program visit : www.iowasrf.com.



Atlantic Field Office Staff



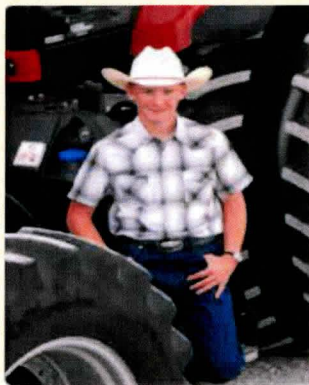
Jana Coughlin, Katie Beck, Meagan Dillon
Andrew Koehlmoos, Dave York, Steve Fluckey



2015 Scholarship Winners

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District provides scholarships to area youth in Cass County who are pursuing education in the field of agriculture or natural resources. These funds are raised each year through the tree sales program. Area students are encouraged to contact their guidance counselors or stop by the district office at 503 W. 7th Street, Atlantic for applications. Applications are due by March of each year to the district office. Scholarship winners were presented their awards at their schools class nights. Congratulations to all of these students.

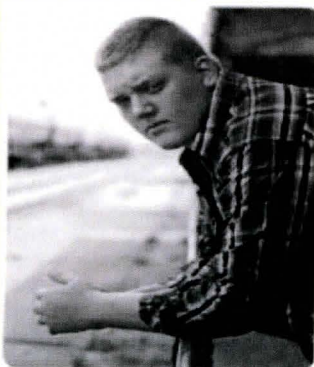
Atlantic Community Schools



Adam Freund



Karly Monson



Skyler Svoboda

Griswold Community Schools



Clay Leighton

Farm Practices Maintenance

Submitted by Steve Fluckey, State Technician

An important part of any farm operation is proper maintenance of conservation systems. With fields bare, this is the perfect time to review your farm for needed maintenance and repairs, which will help extend the lifespan of terraces, waterways, and ponds. Sediment build-up in terraces can prevent drainage and limit water storage. Soil and crop residue can also accumulate around the intakes preventing water drainage. It is important to clean out any sediment and trash. While cleaning the areas, look for any damages that may have occurred and repair them. Broken terraces can funnel runoff and cause large gullies. Cut and spray any trees that might be on the terrace using approved herbicides. This is also a great chance to reseed any spots where seeding didn't take. Also check your waterways for a build-up of sediment. If reshaping is needed, spring would be the best chance for seed establishment. Just a reminder, structures/ponds should also be checked, especially around the inlet or intake. Remove any trash or tree limbs that have accumulated. As with terraces or waterways, spot seeding may be needed until vegetation is well established. Trees and shrubs should also be cut and sprayed along the dam. Though it is okay to flash graze your structure, livestock can be harmful and should not be on it all the time. Check all fences and gates to ensure that cattle are mostly excluded. Taking time to attend to this maintenance now could prevent costly problems to conservation systems in the future. If you have questions or need assistance developing a successful maintenance plan, don't hesitate to call your local Natural Resources Conservation Office.

Tree Sales

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality provides the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District each year with Resource Enhancement and Protection funds that support practices to promote the installation of woodlands, native grasses and forbs. This program also helps fund the installation of windbreaks. Local landowners need to make application for these funds. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District also conducts an annual tree sales program in which people can purchase trees and shrubs, etc. Anyone can purchase trees and shrubs for the district. Orders are taken from fall till end of March each year and trees and shrubs arrive in mid April. The tree sales program also supports the Soil and Water Conservation District's scholarship program for Cass county school students. For more information on this program, please stop by the District office at 503 W. 7th Street or call (712)243-3180.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Cass Soil & Water Conservation District

Curt Behrends Greg Zellmer Ray Wilson Fred Kay Chase Wheatley Alan Peterson

POSTER CONTEST

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) co-sponsored the Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest. The Cass SWCD is honored to announce the following winners of the local judging done by the Cass SWCD. All students grades K-12th grade can compete in the conservation poster contest through their schools.

This years winner are as follows:

Division 2 (Grades 2-3) Lola Comes, Kelsey Pross

Division 3 (Grades 4-6) Grace Marie McCurdy, Taliya James, Bryan York

Division 4 (Grades 7-9) Grace Wright, Katie York

Division 5 (Grades 10-12) Kaylee Sharp



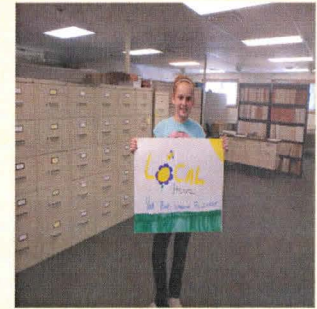
Lola Comes
1st Place
2-3 Grades



Kelsey Pross
Participant
2-3 Grades



Grace Marie McCurdy
1st Place
4-6 Grades



Taliya James
Participant
4-6 Grades



Bryan York
Participant
4-6 Grades



Grace Wright
Participant
7-9 Grades



Katie York
1st Place
7-9 Grades



Kaylee Sharp
1st Place
Grades 10-12

First Place posters were forwarded to participate at a Regional level at the Conservation Districts of Iowa. If any poster selected at Regional level the poster then competes at a State level and could be exhibited at the Conservation District of Iowa Annual Meeting held in Des Moines in September. Thanks to all who participated.

Cass Soil & Water Conservation District

Curt Behrends Greg Zellmer Ray Wilson Fred Kay Chase Wheatley Alan Peterson

**Cass County Soil & Water Conservation
Financial Report FY 15**

Revolving Funds

Balance 7/1/14	\$24,403.34
Total Deposits	\$23,965.79
Total Expenditures	<u>\$22,339.94</u>
Balance 6/30/2015	\$26,029.19

Drill Fund

Balance 7/1/14	\$7,645.87
Total Deposits	\$4,120.16
Total Expenditures	<u>\$4,019.88</u>
Balance 6/30/15	\$7,746.15

IFIP FY15

Balance	\$235,229.56
Total Obligated	\$114,753.25
Total Expended	<u>\$120,476.31</u>
Balance 6/30/15	\$0.00

REAP P FY15

Balance	\$ 35,164.04
Total Obligated	\$10,000.00
Total Expended	<u>\$24,770.79</u>
Funds Recalled	\$393.25

REAP F/NG

FY15

Balance	\$4,739.40
Total Obligated	\$1,293.87
Total Expended	<u>\$2,163.75</u>
Funds Recalled	\$1,281.78

STATE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

Iowa Finance Authority offers the state revolving loan program to eligible applicants to implement practices for animal feeding operations, waste storage facilities, deep bedded buildings or other roofed manure control structures that provide 100% confinement. Terraces, grade control and sediment control basins, pasture and hay land planting or prescribed grazing, grassed waterways, filter strips, windbreaks are also eligible under this program. The purpose of the loan program is to improve and protect Iowa's water quality. The loan assistance is facilitated through the State Revolving Fund. For more information on this program, please stop by our office. This loan can be used in conjunction with other public funds (EQIP or Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds).

TERMS OF LOANS

- * Loan amounts from \$5,000—\$500,000
- * Terms up to 15 years
- * Can fund up to 100% of eligible project costs
- * 3% fixed interest for life of the loan
- * Applications accepted anytime
- * Available through the lender of your choice
- * Can be used in conjunction with grants/cost share

Landowners can sign up for this loan at the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1, Atlantic, Iowa.



Vilsack Names Kurt Simon State Conservationist



US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of Kurt Simon as the new Iowa State Conservationist for NRCS Oct. 15, 2015. Simon has 31 years experience in conservation with USDA, most recently serving as Tennessee NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC-FO) in Knoxville. He holds degrees in wildlife management from Hocking College and agronomy from Ohio State University. Simon began his career as a Conservation District Technician in Ohio, served in field offices in West Virginia and Tennessee and at NRCS Headquarters in DC. He has served as liaison to the National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, and graduated from the NRCS Emerging Leadership Development Program through George Washington University in 2012.

Simon started leading Iowa NRCS Oct. 19, 2015.

Iowa NRCS | Current Developments | October/November 2015

Cass Soil & Water Conservation District

Curt Behrends Greg Zellmer Ray Wilson Fred Kay Chase Wheatley Alan Peterson

NRCS Cover Crop Economics Tool



Alan Lauver

Interest in cover crops is growing across Iowa and the country because of the potential benefits they offer farmers. Before a producer adds cover crops, it is important to consider the impacts cover crops may have on their operation.

NRCS has a new tool to assess the economics and focus on new costs and benefits. That knowledge is key to the decision-making process. It can improve farmers' ability to commit to using cover crops as a long-term and successful conservation solution on their farm. The [Cover Crop Economics Tool](#) is a user-friendly economic assessment tool for both short-term and long-term expected costs and benefits of incorporating cover crops into a crop rotation.

Typical cover crop costs (seed, application, termination) are captured by the tool. The tool can also account for yield loss or other costs. Potential benefits that can be quantified have been incorporated into this tool. Potential short-term benefits such as direct nutrient credits, input reductions (herbicide/insecticide/fungicide), yield increases, reduced erosion, grazing, as well as long-term benefits such as overall soil fertility, improved water storage and infiltration can be captured with user-supplied values.

This tool can also be helpful for you to work with an experienced cover crop user to develop a case study on their experience with cover crops for your county. Contact me (alan.lauver@ia.usda.gov) if you want assistance using the tool yourself or with a producer. I would also be glad to help with developing case studies.

The tool is available for download from the Iowa NRCS website at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd385824&ext=xls.

Additional resources

Cover crops economics tool demonstrations:

- [20-Minute Demo](#)
- [1-Hour Demo](#)

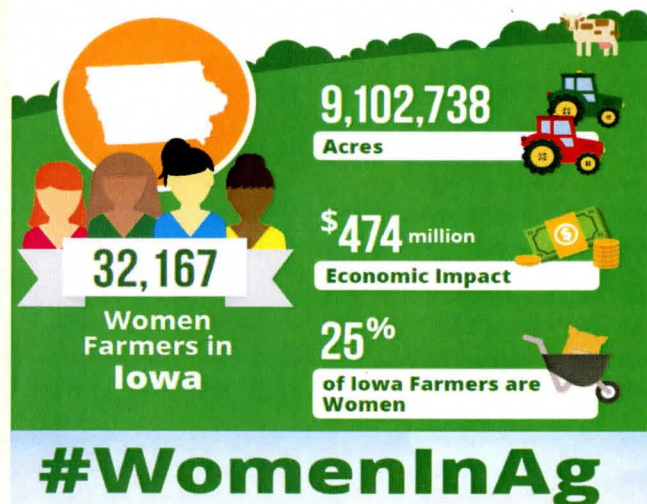
Cover Crops Tool: An Economic Decision Support Tool:

- [Fact Sheet](#)



Women in Agriculture

From the Classroom to the farm to the boardroom, women in agriculture are helping to pave the way for a better future. As leaders, it is our responsibility to make sure the next generation of women are educated, encouraged and empowered to take on the challenges of meeting the world's growing food, fuel and fiber needs. To help women in Iowa connect with other women leaders in agriculture all across the country, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a women in ag mentoring network. Join conversation by emailing AgWomen-Lead@USDA.gov or check out [#womeninag](#) on Twitter.



NRCS Planning for Water Quality Improvement



Kurt Simon,
NRCS State Conservationist

As the new State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Iowa, I feel honored to be part of the conservation TEAM in one of the most productive agricultural states in the nation. As a conservationist, I will continue the movement toward improved water quality and soil health, and more strategically planned conservation. I have 31 years of experience in conservation with USDA, most recently serving as Tennessee NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Knoxville. I take pride in the variety of positions I have held throughout the agency, including starting off as a District Technician in Ohio. I have also worked in West Virginia, South Carolina, Washington D.C., and Alabama, and served as a national liaison to the National Wild Turkey Federation and The Nature Conservancy. As you all know, there is a great deal of attention focused on improving water quality in Iowa. In addition to the already significant contributions we are making towards water quality improvement in the state, I am committed to accelerating our positive results. We can do this in several ways: Prioritize and focus our conservation planning assistance to improve the effectiveness of financial assistance investments. Conservation plans serve as a blueprint for more targeted and cost-effective approaches to addressing natural resource concerns. NRCS has documented significantly higher success rates with projects on farms when producers and our staff and partners use well-developed conservation plans as the platform for action. Continue to collaborate with state and local conservation partners to target conservation systems where they will be most effective. That means engaging our soil and water conservation districts, ag associations, and conservation organizations to prioritize project areas. Partner with organizations to promote and target wetland restoration to address water quality and habitat needs. Wetlands can filter water and buffer storm discharges, ultimately improving water quality and reducing flood risk downstream. Work with partners to deliver and strengthen regional conservation projects. Through RCPP, we are working closely with project sponsors to ensure the success of these pioneer projects in Iowa. Moving forward, we will work with sponsors to identify potential innovative and effective project concepts, and to strengthen future project proposals. There are many challenges ahead of us, and that is one reason why NRCS is transitioning into a conservation planning first approach. I look forward to assisting NRCS staff and our local offices through this transition, and continuing our efforts on Soil Health and the benefits it can bring to on-farm profitability, cleaner water, reduced soil erosion, and nutrient reductions. I look forward to visiting more of the state this winter to meet with staff and partners, and to hear about the great things we are accomplishing. I also want to know what is impeding our efforts to get more conservation on the land, and what processes can be improved or streamlined.

Stay Connected with USDA:



SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE

SFY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

COST SHARE IN 2015

TODAY
we have **34**
Technicians
and **84**
Secretaries
covering **100**
offices.
Staff work
in multiple
districts to
ensure work
gets done
across Iowa

- 1 State** contribution **\$9.8 million**
(includes cost share and administrative support)
Iowa farmer contribution **+ \$12.8 million**
Total investment **\$22.6 million**

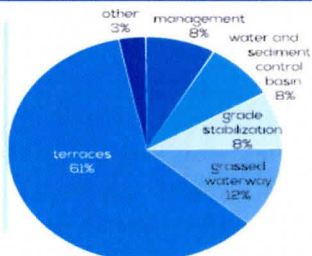
- 2 1,904 Iowa farmers** used cost share to install conservation practices.

THE IMPACT OF COST SHARE

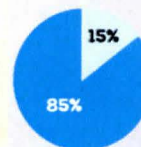
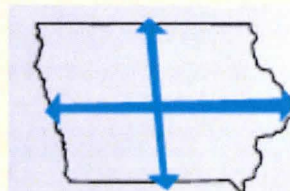
Cost Share allows **more conservation practices** to be installed

Benefits

- ▶ reduce erosion, soil loss and nutrient runoff
- ▶ improve soil health and water quality
- ▶ reduce storm water impact on private property and infrastructure



There were 55 miles of terraces installed using cost share in SFY2015, which is the Distance stretching across Iowa twice. Terraces are an effective, long term conservation practice. They trap up to 45% of the sediment and phosphorous from a field.



FUNDING

85% of the funds directly benefit the land
15% used for administration

- 3 Conservation practices** included...

Practices are installed and the soil conservation and water quality benefits begin!

Investing in soil conservation not only improves productivity on the farm by keeping soil in our fields, it also helps keep soil and nutrients out of the water.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES



TERRACES



MANAGEMENT
(COVER CROPS)



GRASSED WATERWAY



WATER AND SEDIMENT
CONTROL BASIN



GRADE STABILIZATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP

Our technicians and conservation assistants are a part of the 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which are housed within federal USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) buildings. They use federal equipment and other resources. Therefore, the partnership between IDALS, SWCD and the NRCS is critical. Other partners working together include the Conservation Districts of Iowa, USDA Farm Services Agency, USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation Committee, county conservation boards, county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other local groups.



TERRACES IN CASS COUNTY
JAN 2015

Follow us on any of these media outlets



www.iowaagriculture.gov

Staff at the Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Office in Atlantic, Iowa

Dan Pulido and John Hammerly are soil scientists at the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office in Atlantic, Iowa. The MLRA Soil Survey Office staff is responsible for making an inventory of the soil resources within their assigned areas, keeping the soil survey relevant to ever-changing needs, interpreting the soils information, making it available in a useful form, promoting the soil survey, and providing technical assistance. Soil surveys are used for community planning, solving resource development issues, and give detailed soil information to make sound land use decisions. Pulido and Hammerly provide technical support and assistance to the local Cass County Field Office as well as over 50 other county Field Offices across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri.



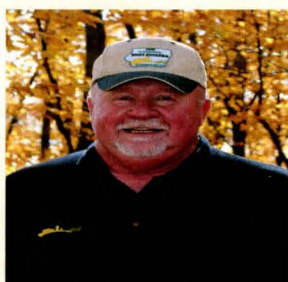
Soil Scientist and Office Leader, John Hammerly (left) Dan Pulido (right)

Soil Survey Works with Drake University to Collect Ecological Site Information

Soil scientists Dan Pulido and John Hammerly, stationed at the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office in Atlantic, Iowa are in the midst of a 5 year initiative established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop provisional Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs) across the United States by 2020. This massive project would not be possible without the close cooperation of Drake University, led by biologist Dr. Thomas Rosburg, who has been contracted to help in the creation of these ESDs. What are ecological sites? Ecological sites are a distinctive kind of land that produces different types and amounts of vegetation. ESDs are the reports that provide information, such as plant production, species composition, climate characteristics, geology, and soil properties as well as the ability to respond to management action and natural disturbance. These will be used to evaluate areas for suitable use. For example, an ESD could be used to determine whether land could be used for wetland restoration or for developing land for wildlife habitat. Gathering data is an important step in creating ESDs. Native sites with very little outside disturbances are selected before the data collection process begins. Pulido and Hammerly collect landscape, landform, and slope information at each site, in addition to gathering soil samples and recording descriptions of soil properties. After Pulido and Hammerly confirm the soils are acceptable, Rosburg collects vegetation samples, identifies plant species, and measures plant heights at each sample location. At the completion of this joint effort between Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska, these ESD reports will be released and made available on the Web Soil Survey. You can access them on the World Wide Web at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>.



John Hammerly (left) and Thomas Rosburg (right) collect vegetative growth forms and measure plant heights at an ecological site near the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt in Polk County, Iowa.



Protecting Our Resources, The Soil and Water

By James Gillespie, Division Director

Iowans continue to make continual commitments to protecting the soil and water resources of our state. It is evident by the strong partnership between the landowners, farmers, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and many other partners locally working together to address soil health and water quantity and quality. In State Fiscal Year 2015 Iowa set another record with the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (Cost Share) with a landowner/farmer contribution of \$12.8 million, a state investment of \$9.8 million with the total investment of \$22.6 million. To put in perspective what that meant in numbers for four conservation practices, it was 515 miles of terraces, 1,264 miles of waterways, 96 grade stabilization structures, and 471 water and sediment control basins. These conservation practices are effective, long term practices that trap sediment and phosphorus in the fields. This reflects a commitment of landowners and farmers making an investment with the state where they are contributing \$1.50 or more for each dollar invested by the state. The impacts of the various cost share programs offered locally is that it continues to get more conservation practices installed. The numerous benefits of these conservation practices are that it reduces erosion, soil losses and nutrient runoff. It continues to improve soil health and water quantity and quality issues. They reduce storm water impacts on public and private property and protect infrastructure. These programs help in protecting watersheds above and water quality in Iowa's publicly owned lakes. They also help local economies benefiting local communities. Your operations are businesses that depend on healthy soils, the water on your property is well managed and utilized, the nutrients are well managed for crop production, and your livestock operation is managed effectively. The challenges that go with these elements of your businesses are important to insure that you can operate effectively and profitable. When you evaluate these components of your business throughout the year and identify needs and opportunities to make improvements, please don't hesitate to stop in the field offices in your area to find out how we can help with your soil and water issues. These offices have great technical assistance and usually have financial assistance programs that can help put scientifically proven conservation practices on your land to help with improving your soil health, water quantity and water quality. Stop in any time and let us help you.



Matt Lechtenberg
Water Quality Coordinator

2015 Update on the Water Quality Initiative

The Water Quality Initiative was established during the 2013 legislative session to assist the implementation of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy which provides a road map to achieve a 45% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to our waters using an integrated approach of point (cities and industries) and non-point sources (farms and residential areas). The initiative seeks to harness the collective ability of both private and public resources and organizations to deliver a clear and consistent message to stakeholders to reduce nutrient loss and improve water quality.

In 2015, 1,800 farmers committed \$3.5 million in cost share funds to install nutrient reduction practices in each of Iowa's 99 counties. The practices that were eligible for this funding are cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer. Participants include 980 farmers using a practice for the first time and more than 830 past users that are trying cover crops again and are receiving a reduced-rate of cost share.

In addition to statewide cost share, 16 targeted Water Quality Initiative demonstration watershed projects have been funded to help implement and demonstrate water quality practices. The state has provided \$7.4 million in funding to support these projects and has leveraged an additional \$11.7 million in additional funding from partners and landowners. More than 95 organizations are participating in these projects.

In 2015, Four additional demonstration projects focused on expanding the use and innovative delivery of water quality practices beyond an individual watershed have also received funding. These projects will receive \$3.06 million in funding through the Iowa water quality initiative over the next three years and be matched by \$2.59 million in funding from other sources. These projects include projects that will focus on expanding the use of cover crops, edge of field practices such as bioreactors and saturated buffers, and usage of water quality wetlands. A second round of funding for these projects will be awarded in early 2016.

Nine Urban Conservation Water Quality Initiative Demonstration Projects have also been funded. The state has awarded \$655,194 in funding and partners and landowners participating in the projects will provide \$2.43 million to support urban conservation efforts. A second round of funding for Urban Conservation Projects will also be awarded in early 2016.

For FY2016, \$9.6 million was appropriated by the legislature to support the Water Quality Initiative. This appropriation will allow the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to continue to provide cost share, expand programs and work in targeted watersheds to achieve measurable water quality improvements.

More information about the Water Quality Initiative can be found at www.CleanWaterIowa.org.



Will Myers
Water Quality Projects Coordinator



Annual Tree Sales

Tree sales are held each year in Cass county. Anyone interested in purchasing trees and shrubs from the SWCD need to order by March 1st of each year. Landowners can apply for assistance through IDALS-DSCWQ for REAP funds to help with installing new windbreaks. Applications taken first come first served till funds are exhausted. For more information stop in the SWCD office.

Potted Evergreens	Height	Price	Quantity Ordered	Total Price		
Black Hills Spruce	2-3'	25.00				
Black Hills Spruce	3-4'	30.00				
Black Hills Spruce	5'	58.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce	2-3'	25.00				
Coloradol Blue Spruce	3-4'	30.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce	5'	60.00				
Norway Spruce	15''-24''	15.00				
Norway Spruce	2-3'	30.00				
Norway Spruce	3-4'	40.00				
Norway Spuce	5'	45.00				
Concolor Fir	15''-24''	20.00				
White Pine	2-3'	25.00				
White Pine	3-4'	30.00				
White Pine	4-5'	45.00				
Fraser Fir	3-4'	30.00				
Hybrid Willow	6'	10.00				
Bareroot	Height	Bundle Size	Price Per bundle	Bundle Ordered	Price of Singles	Singles Ordered Total Price
Northern Red Oak	3-4'S	10/bundle	27.50		2.75	
Willow, Hybrid	4-5'RC	25/bundle	62.50		2.50	
Cranberry, American	2-3'S	10/bundle	30.00		3.00	
Dogwood, Redosier	2-3'S	25/bundle	43.75		1.75	
Lilac, Common Purple	2-3'TR	10/bundle	20.00		2.00	

Don't see the variety you want? Call our office at (712)243-3180 and we will see if we can locate that species for you.

Fruit Trees/berries available upon request. Payment due at time of ordering.

Order early, our trees and shrubs sell quickly. You will receive a postcard in early April informing you of the location, date, time for Pick up of our trees.

Make your check payable to the CASS SWCD

NAME _____ SUBTOTAL _____

ADDRESS _____ 7% SALES TAX _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TOTAL AMOUNT _____

PHONE _____ DATE OF ORDER _____

Simon, NRCS Planning for Water Quality Improvement

As the new State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Iowa, I feel honored to be part of the conservation TEAM in one of the most productive agricultural states in the nation. As a conservationist, I will continue the movement toward improved water quality and soil health, and more strategically planned conservation.

I have 31 years of experience in conservation with USDA, most recently serving as Tennessee NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Knoxville. I take pride in the variety of positions I have held throughout the agency, including starting off as a District Technician in Ohio. I have also worked in West Virginia, South Carolina, Washington D.C., and Alabama, and served as a national liaison to the National Wild Turkey Federation and The Nature Conservancy.

As you all know, there is a great deal of attention focused on improving water quality in Iowa. In addition to the already significant contributions we are making towards water quality improvement in the state, I am committed to accelerating our positive results. We can do this in several ways:

- Prioritize and focus our conservation planning assistance to improve the effectiveness of financial assistance investments. Conservation plans serve as a blueprint for more targeted and cost-effective approaches to addressing natural resource concerns. NRCS has documented significantly higher success rates with projects on farms when producers and our staff and partners use well-developed conservation plans as the platform for action.
- Continue to collaborate with state and local conservation partners to target conservation systems where they will be most effective. That means engaging our soil and water conservation districts, ag associations, and conservation organizations to prioritize project areas.
- Partner with organizations to promote and target wetland restoration to address water quality and habitat needs. Wetlands can filter water and buffer storm discharges, ultimately improving water quality and reducing flood risk downstream.
- Work with partners to deliver and strengthen regional conservation projects. Through RCPP, we are working closely with project sponsors to ensure the success of these pioneer projects in Iowa. Moving forward, we will work with sponsors to identify potential innovative and effective project concepts, and to strengthen future project proposals.

There are many challenges ahead of us, and that is one reason why NRCS is transitioning into a conservation planning first approach. I look forward to assisting NRCS staff and our local offices through this transition, and continuing our efforts on Soil Health and the benefits it can bring to on-farm profitability, cleaner water, reduced soil erosion, and nutrient reductions.

I look forward to visiting more of the state this winter to meet with staff and partners, and to hear about the great things we are accomplishing. I also want to know what is impeding our efforts to get more conservation on the land, and what processes can be improved or streamlined.

Protecting Our Resources

The

Soil and Water

Iowans continue to make continual commitments to protecting the soil and water resources of our state. It is evident by the strong partnership between the landowners, farmers, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and many other partners locally working together to address soil health and water quantity and quality.

In State Fiscal Year 2015 Iowa set another record with the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (Cost Share) with a landowner/farmer contribution of \$12.8 million, a state investment of \$9.8 million with the total investment of \$22.6 million. To put in perspective what that meant in numbers for four conservation practices, it was 515 miles of terraces, 1,264 miles of waterways, 96 grade stabilization structures, and 471 water and sediment control basins. These conservation practices are effective, long term practices that trap sediment and phosphorus in the fields. This reflects a commitment of landowners and farmers making an investment with the state where they are contributing \$1.50 or more for each dollar invested by the state.

The impacts of the various cost share programs offered locally is that it continues to get more conservation practices installed. The numerous benefits of these conservation practices are that it reduces erosion, soil losses and nutrient runoff. It continues to improve soil health and water quantity and quality issues. They reduce storm water impacts on public and private property and protect infrastructure. These programs help in protecting watersheds above and water quality in Iowa's publicly owned lakes. They also help local economies benefiting local communities.

Your operations are businesses that depend on healthy soils, the water on your property is well managed and utilized, the nutrients are well managed for crop production, and your livestock operation is managed effectively. The challenges that go with these elements of your businesses are important to insure that you can operate effectively and profitable. When you evaluate these components of your business throughout the year and identify needs and opportunities to make improvements, please don't hesitate to stop in the field offices in your area to find out how we can help with your soil and water issues. These offices have great technical assistance and usually have financial assistance programs that can help put scientifically proven conservation practices on your land to help with improving your soil health, water quantity and water quality. Stop in any time and let us help you.

2015 Update on the Water Quality Initiative

The Water Quality Initiative was established during the 2013 legislative session to assist the implementation of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy which provides a road map to achieve a 45% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to our waters using an integrated approach of point (cities and industries) and non-point sources (farms and residential areas). The initiative seeks to harness the collective ability of both private and public resources and organizations to deliver a clear and consistent message to stakeholders to reduce nutrient loss and improve water quality.

In 2015, 1,800 farmers committed \$3.5 million in cost share funds to install nutrient reduction practices in each of Iowa's 99 counties. The practices that were eligible for this funding are cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer. Participants include 980 farmers using a practice for the first time and more than 830 past users that are trying cover crops again and are receiving a reduced-rate of cost share.

In addition to statewide cost share, 16 targeted Water Quality Initiative demonstration watershed projects have been funded to help implement and demonstrate water quality practices. The state has provided \$7.4 million in funding to support these projects and has leveraged an additional \$11.7 million in additional funding from partners and landowners. More than 95 organizations are participating in these projects.

In 2015, Four additional demonstration projects focused on expanding the use and innovative delivery of water quality practices beyond an individual watershed have also received funding. These projects will receive \$3.06 million in funding through the Iowa water quality initiative over the next three years and be matched by \$2.59 million in funding from other sources. These projects include projects that will focus on expanding the use of cover crops, edge of field practices such as bioreactors and saturated buffers, and usage of water quality wetlands. A second round of funding for these projects will be awarded in early 2016.

Nine Urban Conservation Water Quality Initiative Demonstration Projects have also been funded. The state has awarded \$655,194 in funding and partners and landowners participating in the projects will provide \$2.43 million to support urban conservation efforts. A second round of funding for Urban Conservation Projects will also be awarded in early 2016.

For FY2016, \$9.6 million was appropriated by the legislature to support the Water Quality Initiative. This appropriation will allow the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to continue to provide cost share, expand programs and work in targeted watersheds to achieve measurable water quality improvements.

More information about the Water Quality Initiative can be found at www.CleanWaterIowa.org.

Coughlin, Jana - NRCS-ST, Atlantic, IA

From: Beck, Katherine - NRCS, Atlantic, IA
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 9:29 AM
To: Coughlin, Jana - NRCS-ST, Atlantic, IA
Subject: Bio

Katie is a recent graduate of Grand Valley State University, located in western Michigan. She has degrees in geology and natural resources management, and has carried out field work in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. Prior to starting work in Atlantic, she was a Soil Erosion and Stormwater Inspector for the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan. She looks forward to meeting and aiding producers and landowners in Cass County with the complex problems they are faced with.

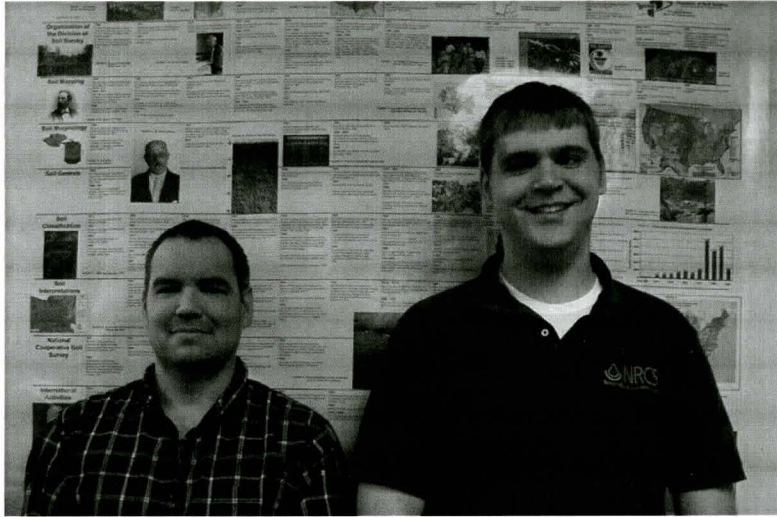
Katie Beck

Soil Conservation Technician
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Cass County



Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Meet the Staff at the Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Office in Atlantic, Iowa



Soil Scientist and Office Leader, Dan Pulido (left) and Soil Scientist, John Hammerly (right)

Dan Pulido and John Hammerly are soil scientists at the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office in Atlantic, Iowa. The MLRA Soil Survey Office staff is responsible for making an inventory of the soil resources within their assigned areas, keeping the soil survey relevant to ever-changing needs, interpreting the soils information, making it available in a useful form, promoting the soil survey, and providing technical assistance. Soil surveys are used for community planning, solving resource development issues, and give

detailed soil information to make sound land use decisions. Pulido and Hammerly provide technical support and assistance to the local Cass County Field Office as well as over 50 other county Field Offices across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri.

Atlantic Soil Survey Office Articles

Soil Survey Works with Drake University to Collect Ecological Site Information

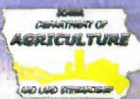
Soil scientists Dan Pulido and John Hammerly, stationed at the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office in Atlantic, Iowa are in the midst of a 5 year initiative established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop provisional Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs) across the United States by 2020. This massive project would not be possible without the close cooperation of Drake University, led by biologist Dr. Thomas Rosburg, who has been contracted to help in the creation of these ESDs.



John Hammerly (left) and Thomas Rosburg (right) collect vegetative growth forms and measure plant heights at an ecological site near the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt in Polk County, Iowa.

What are ecological sites? Ecological sites are a distinctive kind of land that produces different types and amounts of vegetation. ESDs are the reports that provide information, such as plant production, species composition, climate characteristics, geology, and soil properties as well as the ability to respond to management action and natural disturbance. These will be used to evaluate areas for suitable use. For example, an ESD could be used to determine whether land could be used for wetland restoration or for developing land for wildlife habitat. Gathering data is an important step in creating ESDs. Native sites with very little outside disturbances are selected before the data collection process begins. Pulido and Hammerly collect landscape, landform, and slope information at each site, in addition to gathering soil samples and recording descriptions of soil properties. After Pulido and Hammerly confirm the soils are acceptable, Rosburg collects vegetation samples, identifies plant species, and measures plant heights at each sample location. At the completion of this joint effort between Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska, these ESD reports will be released and made available on the Web Soil Survey. You can access them on the World Wide Web at:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>.



SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE

SFY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

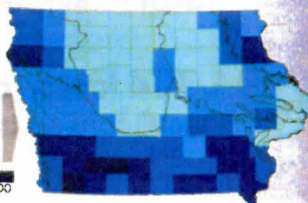
For over four decades, Iowa's conservation cost share program has encouraged the adoption of land stewardship and conservation practices that sustain agriculture and preserve our state's natural resources.

HOW COST SHARE WORKS

- 1 **Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) receives appropriation** from legislature

Diverse landscapes across Iowa directly affect the cost and type of conservation practice best for each field. Therefore, location affects the amount of funding a county needs and receives.

0-\$30,000 \$30,000 - \$50,000 \$50,000 - \$70,000 \$70,000 - \$100,000 \$100,000 - \$150,000 \$150,000 - \$250,000



- 2 **Funds are distributed** to Iowa's 100 SWCDs based on land use, soil erodibility and landowner demand.

WHAT'S A SWCD?

A SWCD is a Soil & Water Conservation District, made up of State, District, and Federal staff, plus 5 Elected Commissioners.

State staff in some field offices include:

TECHNICIANS:

Work with landowners/contractors. Provide technical support, develop surveys, create layout, and design conservation practices.

CONSERVATION ASSISTANTS:

Work with commissioners and landowners. Provide administrative support for district activities and outreach, and process cost share applications and claims.



Districts and local groups partner to host educational events in their community throughout the year.

- 3 Then, **farmers and landowners apply for cost share** by visiting their local SWCDs.

Applications are accepted year round.

Cost share can be used for both management and permanent conservation practices.



SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE

SFY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

- 4 The five Soil & Water Conservation District **Commissioners approve applications** in their own SWCD.

WHAT'S A Commissioner?

Someone elected to promote conservation in their county, helps administer state and federal programs, directs activities such as field days, water quality projects, educational meetings, contests, and award programs.



Bob Lynch,
Humboldt County
commissioner
and conservation
districts of Iowa
President Elect



- 5 Next, **farmers hire a local contractor** and get to work! Conservation practice plans are developed by staff working with landowners and local contractors.

Modern survey and design tools help in the design, customizing practices for each field.

- 6 **Practices are installed** and the soil conservation and water quality benefits begin!

Investing in soil conservation not only improves productivity on the farm by keeping soil in our fields, it also helps keep soil and nutrients out of the water.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES:



TERRACES



MANAGEMENT
(COVER CROPS)



GRASSED WATERWAY



WATER AND SEDIMENT
CONTROL BASIN



GRADE STABILIZATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

Our technicians and conservation assistants are a part of the 100 Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which are housed within federal USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) buildings. They use federal equipment and other resources. Therefore, the **partnership** between IDALS, SWCD and NRCS is critical.

Other partners working together include the Conservation Districts of Iowa, USDA Farm Services Agency, USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation Committee, county conservation boards, county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other local groups.

SFY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

THE IMPACT OF COST SHARE

- ▶ reduce erosion, soil loss and nutrient runoff
- ▶ improve soil health and water quality
- ▶ reduce storm water impact on private property and infrastructure

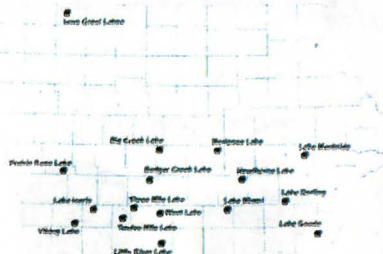
The Cost Share program was established to protect the production of Iowa's agriculture land, if originally concentrated on soil erosion, but every conservation practice installation also protects Iowa's water quality by reducing sedimentation and keeping phosphorus out of the water.



- 2 5% of each year's cost share appropriation goes towards **protecting the water quality of public-owned lakes** in Iowa.

Local SWCDs submit applications to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to become a designated lake.

This map shows which lakes have been chosen for SFY2016. Farmers living within the selected lakes' watersheds can apply for up to 75% cost share, to establish practices to protect water quality.



- 3 It's good for Iowa's economy.** Money gets reinvested in Iowa's local economies benefiting local communities.



Eagle Grove Farmer Tim Smith was awarded the 2015 Conservation Farmer of the Year. Tim implements many practices that prevent soil erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. He has installed a bioreactor, prairie strips, completed nutrient management plans, no-till and strip-till and many other practices.

SFY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

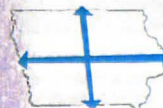
COST SHARE IN 2015

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| 1 | State contribution | \$9.8 million |
| | (includes cost share and administrative support) | |
| | Iowa farmer contribution . . . | +\$12.8 million |
| | Total investment | \$22.6 million |

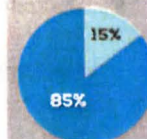
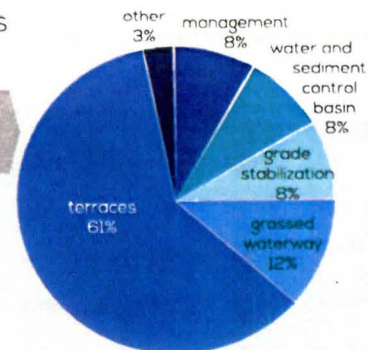
- 2 **1,904 Iowa farmers** used cost share to install conservation practices.

- 3 Conservation practices included...

Why so many terraces? Terraces are an attractive, long term conservation practice. They trap up to 15% of the sediment and phosphorus from a field.



There were 515 miles of terraces installed using cost share in SFY 2015, which is the distance stretching across Iowa twice!



FUNDING

85% of the funds
directly benefit
the land

15% used for administration



"The cost share program is a partnership between the local landowners and state to help get conservation practices on the land that prevent erosion and improve water quality. These funds are a great investment by the state, with farmers historically contributing \$150 or more for each dollar invested by the state."

- Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

2015 Annual Report

January, 2016

*Published by the Atlantic
News Telegraph*

Cass County SWCD



The Function of the Conservation District: To take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user.

Cass County SWCD Commissioners



Pictured are Commissioners (from left) Co-Treasurer Curt Behrends, Greg Zellmer, Alan Peterson, Chair Ray Wilson, Treasurer Chase Wheatley and Vice Chair Fred Kay.

Hunt selected for Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award



Nicholas Hunt was selected as a recipient of the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award presented to him by the Iowa Governor's Office, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources at the Iowa State Fair.

This award seeks to recognize the exemplary voluntary actions of farmers that improve or protect the environment and natural resources of our state while also encouraging other farmers to follow in their footsteps by building success upon success. This award also recognizes those that have taken steps in their farming operations to serve as local leaders in environmental stewardship on their farms, utilizing a variety of techniques and best management practices. As environmental leaders, these farmers have adopted best management practices and incorporated environmental stewardship throughout their farming operations. True stewards of the land, they recognize that im-

Award..... see page 2

New Soil Conservation Technician joins staff

Katie is a recent graduate of Grand Valley State University, located in western Michigan. She has degrees in geology and natural resources management, and has carried out field work in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. Prior to starting work in Atlantic, she was a Soil Erosion and Stormwater Inspector for the City of Grand Rapids, Mich. She looks forward to meeting and aiding producers and landowners in Cass County with the complex problems they are faced with.



Katie Beck



Pictured are members of the Atlantic Field Office Staff (front row, left to right) Jana Coughlin, Katie Beck and Meagan Dillon; and (back row) Andrew Koehlmoos, Dave York and Steve Fluckey.

Stay connected with USDA on social media



Northey: Statewide Cost-Share available for water quality practices

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey announced that funds are available to help farmers install nutrient reduction practices. Practices eligible for this funding were cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fertilizer. The cost share rate for first-time users of cover crops is \$25 per acre, no-till or strip till are eligible for \$10 per acre and farmers using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer can receive \$3 per acre. Any farmer not already utilizing these practices will receive priority consideration for this assistance.

Farmers that have used cover crops in the past may be eligible for \$15 per acre for cover crops. "We continue to hear from farmers interested in doing even more to limit nutrient loss and better protect water quality and these funds will help them try new voluntary science-based conservation practices on their farm," Northey said.

Farmers are eligible for cost share on up to 160 acres. The funds were made

Water.....see page 5

Award from page one

proved water quality and soil sustainability reaps benefits that extend beyond their fields to reach the citizens of Iowa and beyond, and have made environmental stewardship a priority on their farms. We thank them for their efforts. Congratulations!



PROPERTY CONNECTION REAL ESTATE

712-243-4408
LAND - HOMES - COMMERCIAL

LAND • HOMES COMMERCIAL

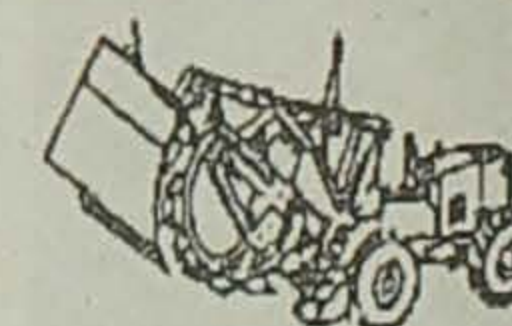
510 Poplar Street • Atlantic, IA
www.westerniowamls.com

Full Service Real Estate Company

Dennis 'Leroy' Phillips Broker/Auctioneer Cell 712-249-1606 phillips@metc.net	Diane Milner Sales Agent Cell 712-789-0580 milnerbd@netins.net	Jan Muller Sales Agent 712-249-1001	Cindy Chester Sales Agent Cell 712-301-0108	Julie May Associate Broker, ABR, GRI. 712-249-7975 Cell 402-578-4019 juliemayhomes@gmail.com www.westerniowamls.com
--	---	---	---	--

Licensed in the State of Iowa

Eshelman Trenching



Jerry Eshelman, Owner
Office 641-343-7083
Home 641-343-7929
Cell 641-221-0396

We do:
Farm Drainage
Dozer Work
All Kinds of Dirtwork
Backhoe Work
Waterway Check
Site Demolition

2015 Scholarship Winners

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District provides scholarships to area youth in Cass County who are pursuing education in the field of agriculture or natural resources. These funds are raised each year through the tree sales program. Area students are encouraged to contact their guidance counselors or stop by the district office at 503 W. 7th Street, Atlantic for applications. Applications are due by March of each year to the district office. Scholarship winners were presented their awards at their schools class nights. Congratulations to all of these students.



Adam Freund



Karly Monson



Skyler Svoboda

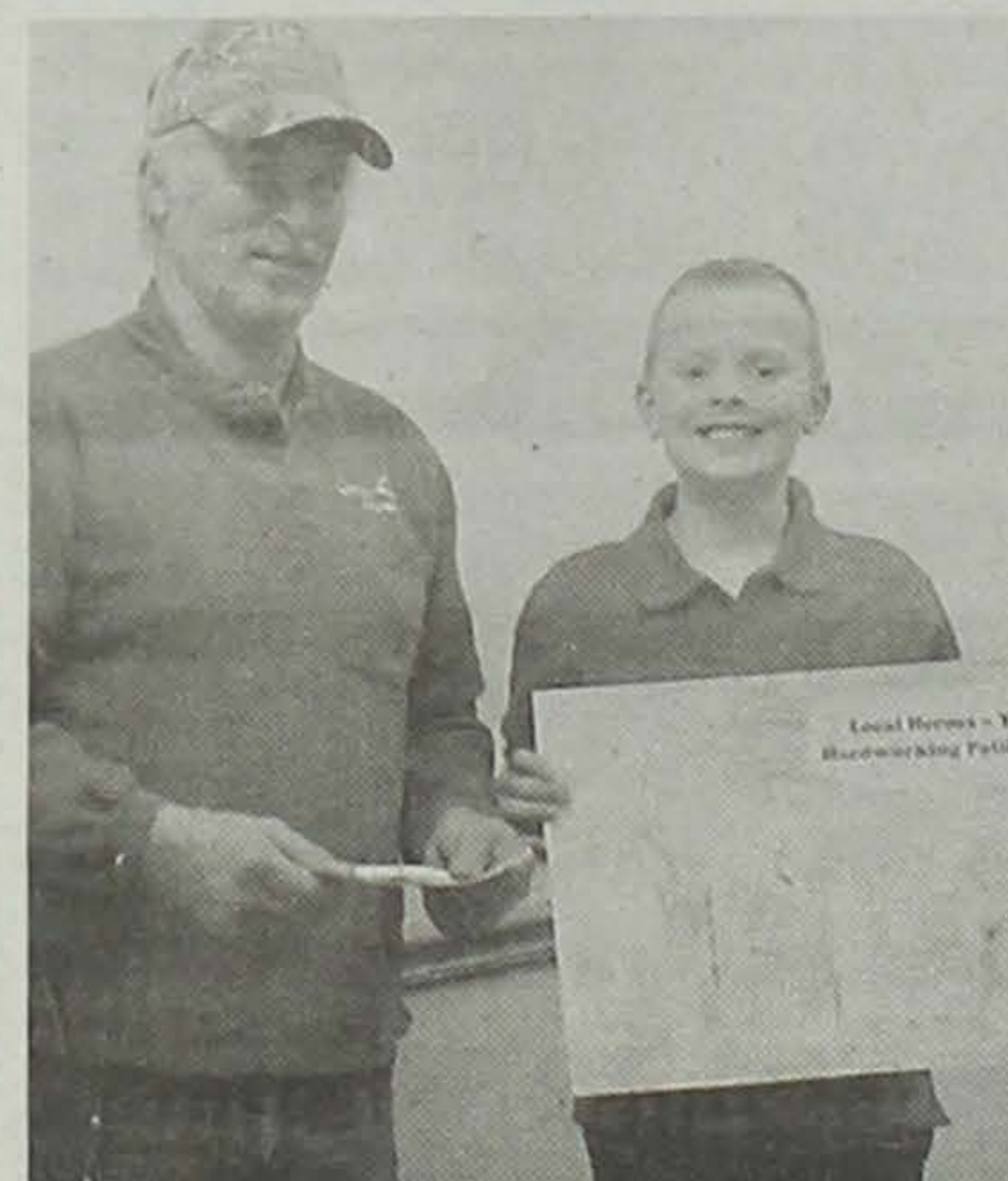


Clay Leighton

POSTER CONTEST

Grinnell Mutual Re-insurance Company and the Conservation Districts of Iowa (COI) co-sponsored the Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest. The Cass SWCD is honored to announce the following winners of the local judging done by the Cass SWCD. All students grades K-12th grade can compete in the conserva-

Postersee page 7



Some of the participants in this year's poster contest included Katie York, Bryan York, and Grace McCurdy.



Brian 243-2457 home
249-0314 cell

Chase 249-2025 cell
Travis 249-7115 cell

GARY MCNEES EXCAVATION

- Pond Cleaning
- Lagoon Cleaning
- Long Reach Excavator

100 MAIN ST. - NEW MARKET, IA 51646
(712) 542-9201

State revolving loan program

Iowa Finance Authority offers the state revolving loan program to eligible applicants to implement practices for animal feeding operations, waste storage facilities, deep bedded buildings or other roofed manure control structures that provide 100 percent confinement. Terraces, grade control and sediment control basins, pasture and hay land planting or prescribed grazing, grassed waterways, filter strips, windbreaks are also eligible under this program.

The purpose of the

Loansee page 5

Revolving Funds

Balance 7/1/14	\$24,403.34
Total Deposits	\$23,965.79
Total Expenditures	<u>\$22,339.94</u>
Balance 6/30/2015	\$26,029.19

Cass County Soil & Water Conservation Financial Report FY 15

Drill Fund

Balance 7/1/14	\$7,645.87
Total Deposits	\$4,120.16
Total Expenditures	<u>\$4,019.88</u>
Balance 6/30/15	\$7,746.15

IFIP FY15

Balance	\$235,229.56
Total Obligated	\$114,753.25
Total Expended	<u>\$120,476.31</u>
Balance 6/30/15	\$0.00

REAP P FY15

Balance	\$ 35,164.04
Total Obligated	\$10,000.00
Total Expended	<u>\$24,770.79</u>
Funds Recalled	\$393.25

REAP F/NG

FY15

Balance	\$4,739.40
Total Obligated	\$1,293.87
Total Expended	<u>\$2,163.75</u>
Funds Recalled	\$1,281.78

Stay connected with USDA on social media



Farm Practices Maintenance

Submitted by Steve Fluckey

State Technician

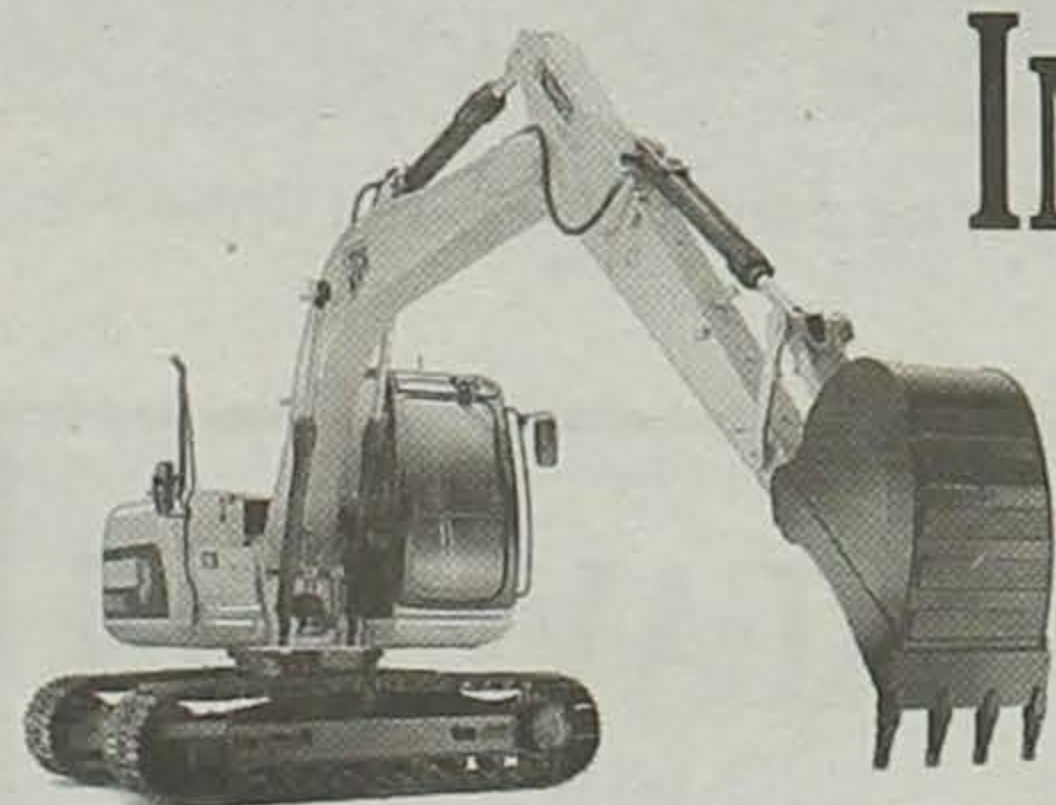
An important part of any farm operation is proper maintenance of conservation systems. With fields bare, this is the perfect time to review your farm for needed maintenance and repairs, which will help extend the lifespan of terraces, waterways, and ponds. Sediment build-up in terraces can prevent drainage and limit water storage. Soil and crop residue can also accumulate around the intakes preventing water drainage.

It is important to clean out any sediment and trash. While cleaning the areas, look for any damages that may have occurred and repair them. Broken terraces can funnel runoff and cause large gullies. Cut and spray any trees that might be on the terrace using approved herbicides. This is also a great chance to reseed any spots where seeding didn't take. Also check your waterways for a build-up of sediment. If reshaping is needed, spring would be the best chance

Farm Practices Maintenance..... see page 6

KIRCHHOFF LAND

IMPROVEMENT



Darrell Kirchhoff
Owner/Operator

Terraces • Water Ways
Tree Removal • Demolition

58946 Chicago Rd., Atlantic
712-781-2367 • 712-249-1995

NELSON LAND IMPROVEMENT



Randy Nelson
304 North Market St.
Audubon, IA 50025

- Trenching • Boring
- Bulldozing • Excavating
- Backhoe • Hauling • Demolition
- Clearing • Waterways
- Landscaping
- Deep Trenching

Phone: 712-563-9571 • Cell: 712-249-5377
Home: 712-563-3334 • nelsonli@iowatelecom.net

Tree Sales

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality provides the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District each year with Resource Enhancement and Protection funds that support practices to promote the installation of woodlands, native grasses and forbs. This program also helps fund the installation of windbreaks. Local landowners need to make application for these funds. The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District also conducts an annual tree sales program in which people can purchase trees and shrubs, etc. Anyone can purchase trees and shrubs for the district. Orders are taken from fall till end of March each year and trees and shrubs arrive in mid April. The tree sales program also supports the Soil and Water Conservation District's scholarship program for Cass county school students. For more information on this program, stop by the District office at 503 W. 7th Street or call (712)243-3180.

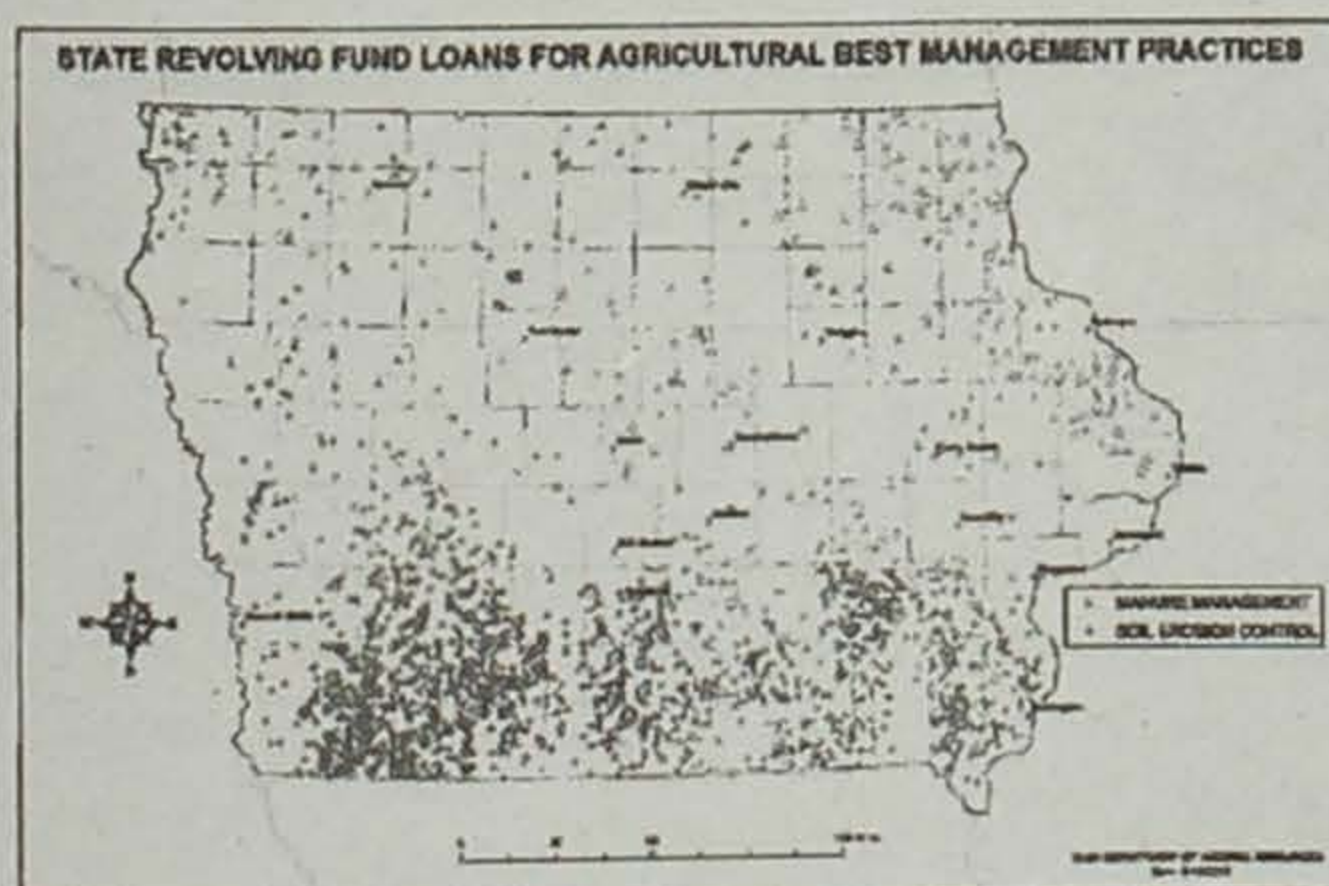
State revolving loan program

Loan From page four
loan program is to improve and protect Iowa's water quality. The loan assistance is facilitated through the State Revolving Fund. For more information on this program, please stop by our office. This loan can be used in conjunction with other public funds EQIP or Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds.

Terms of loans

- * Loan amounts from \$5,000-\$500,000
- * Terms up to 15 years
- * Can fund up to 100 percent of eligible project costs
- * 3 percent fixed interest for life of the loan
- * Applications accepted anytime
- * Available through the lender of your choice
- * Can be used in conjunction with grants/cost share

Landowners can sign up for this loan at the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District office, located at 503 West Seventh Street, Ste.1, Atlantic.



Cass County SWCD



Cass County Soil and Water Conservation
District
503 W. 7th Street, Ste 1



Annual Tree Sales

Tree sales are held each year in Cass county. Anyone interested in purchasing trees and shrubs from the SWCD need to order by March 1st of each year. Landowners can apply for assistance through IDALS-DSCWQ for REAP funds to help with installing new windbreaks. Applications taken first come first served till funds are exhausted. For more information stop in the SWCD office.

Potted Evergreens	Height	Price	Quantity Ordered	Total Price		
Black Hills Spruce	2-3'	25.00				
Black Hills Spruce	3-4'	30.00				
Black Hills Spruce	5'	58.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce	2-3'	25.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce	3-4'	30.00				
Colorado Blue Spruce	5'	60.00				
Norway Spruce	15"-24"	15.00				
Norway Spruce	2-3'	30.00				
Norway Spruce	3-4'	40.00				
Norway Spruce	5'	45.00				
Concolor Fir	15"-24"	20.00				
White Pine	2-3'	25.00				
White Pine	3-4'	30.00				
White Pine	4-5'	45.00				
Fraser Fir	3-4'	30.00				
Hybrid Willow	6'	10.00				
Bareroot	Height	Bundle Size	Price Per bundle	Bundle Ordered	Price of Singles	Singles Ordered Total Price
Northern Red Oak	3-4'S	10/bundle	27.50		2.75	
Willow, Hybrid	4-5'RC	25/bundle	62.50		2.50	
Cranberry, American	2-3'S	10/bundle	30.00		3.00	
Dogwood, Redosier	2-3'S	25/bundle	43.75		1.75	
Lilac, Common Purple	2-3'TR	10/bundle	20.00		2.00	

Don't see the variety you want? Call our office at (712)243-3180 and we will see if we can locate that species for you.

Fruit Trees/berries available upon request. Payment due at time of ordering.

Order early, our trees and shrubs sell quickly. You will receive a postcard in early April informing you of the location, date, time for Pick up of our trees.

Make your check payable to the CASS SWCD

NAME _____ SUBTOTAL _____
 ADDRESS _____ 7% SALES TAX _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TOTAL AMOUNT _____
 PHONE _____ DATE OF ORDER _____

Water Quality Practices

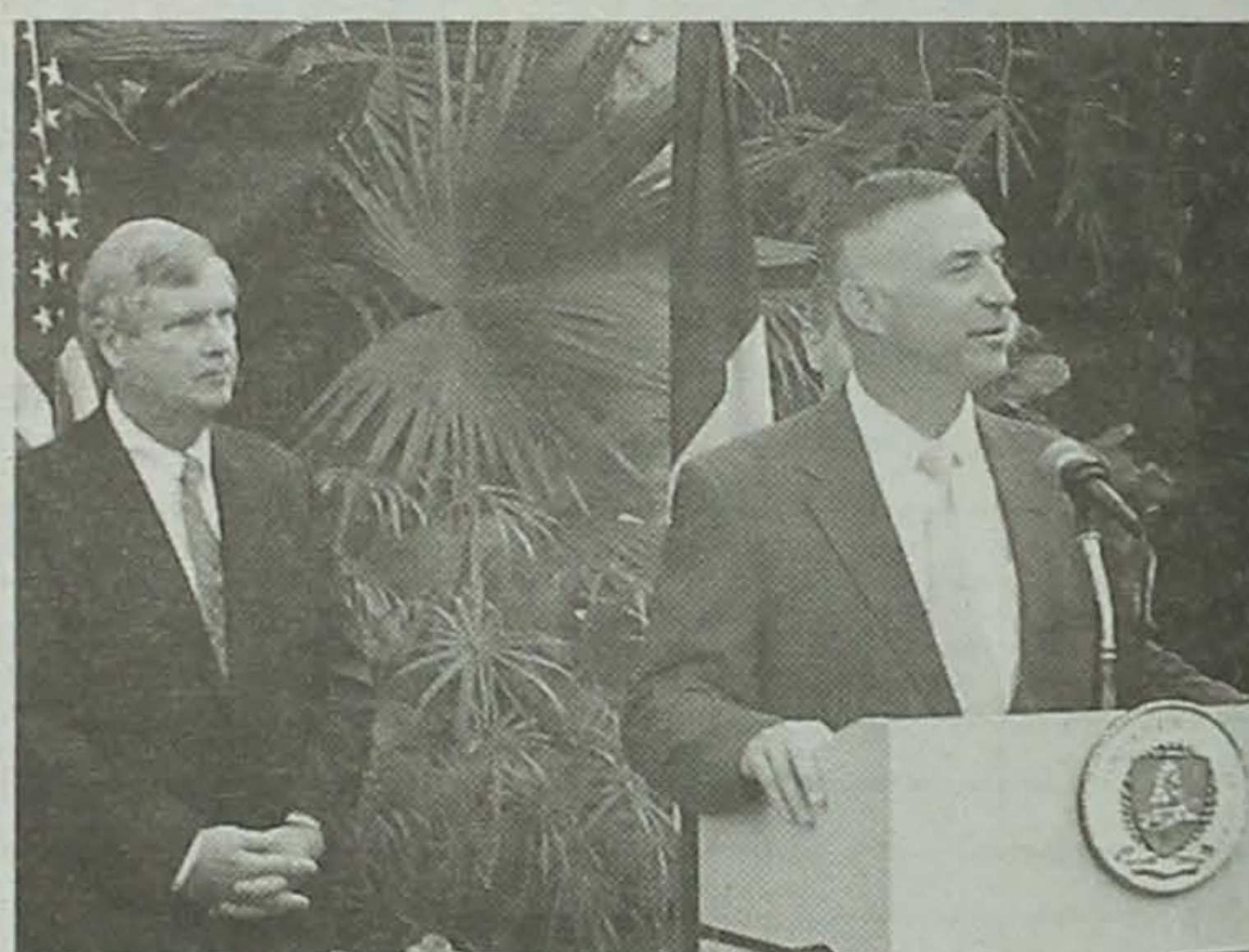
Water From page two

available in July, but farmers can always submit applications through their local Soil and Water Conservation District office for possible future funding. Farmers were also encouraged to visit their local Soil and Water Conservation District office to inquire about additional opportunities for cost share funding through other programs offered at their local SWCDs.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Vilsack Names Kurt Simon State Conservationist

US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of Kurt Simon as the new Iowa State Conservationist for NRCS Oct. 15, 2015. Simon has 31 years experience in conservation with USDA, most recently serving as Tennessee NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC-FO) in Knoxville. He holds degrees in wildlife management from Hocking College and agronomy from Ohio State University.



Simon began his career as a Conservation District Technician in

Vilsack.....see page 8

NRCS Planning for Water Quality Improvement



By Kurt Simon
NRCS State
Conservationist

As the new State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Iowa, I feel honored to be part of the conservation TEAM in one of the most productive agricultural states in the nation. As a conservationist, I will continue the movement toward improved water quality and soil health, and more strategically planned conservation.

I have 31 years of experience in conservation with USDA, most recently serving as Tennessee NRCS Assistant State

Conservationist for Field Operations in Knoxville. I take pride in the variety of positions I have held throughout the Kurt Simon, agency, including starting off as a District Technician in NRCS State Conservationist Ohio. I have also worked in West Virginia, South Carolina, Washington D.C., and Alabama, and served as a national liaison to the National Wild Turkey Federation and The Nature Conservancy. As you all know, there is a great deal of attention focused on improving water quality in Iowa.

In addition to the already significant contributions we are making towards water quality improvement in the state, I am committed to accelerating our positive results. We can do this in several ways: Prioritize and focus our conservation planning assistance to improve the effectiveness of financial assistance investments. Conservation

plans serve as a blueprint for more targeted and cost-effective approaches to addressing natural resource concerns. NRCS has documented significantly higher success rates with projects on farms when producers and our staff and partners use well-developed conservation plans as the platform for action. Continue to collaborate with state and local conservation partners to target conservation systems where they will be most effective. That means engaging our soil and water conservation districts, ag associations, and conservation organizations to prioritize project areas. Partner with organizations to promote and target wetland restoration to address water quality and habitat needs. Wetlands can filter water and buffer storm discharges, ultimately improving water quality and reducing

Simon.....see page 7

Stamp Construction L.C.

All Types of Dirt Work-Site Development
Rock-Sand-Lime-Dirt Hauling
Light-Heavy Demolition
Underground Utilities



Rob Stamp, Owner
Atlantic, IA • 712-249-1238

Southwest Iowa Tiling



Drue Kirchhoff
67859 595th St.
Griswold, IA. 51535
(712) 789-0251

Farm Practices Maintenance

Farm Practices Maintenance From page four

for seed establishment.

Just a reminder, structures/ponds should also be checked, especially around the inlet or intake. Remove any trash or tree limbs that have accumulated. As with terraces or waterways, spot seeding may be needed until vegetation is well established.

Trees and shrubs should also be cut and sprayed along the dam: Though it is okay to flash graze your structure, livestock can be harmful and should not be on it all the time.

Check all fences and gates to ensure that cattle are mostly excluded. Taking time to attend to this maintenance now could prevent costly problems to conservation systems in the future.

If you have questions or need assistance developing a successful maintenance plan, don't hesitate to call your local Natural Resources Conservation Office.

NRCS Cover Crop Economics Tool

By Alan Lauver



Alan Lauver

Interest in cover crops is growing across Iowa and the country because of the potential benefits they offer farmers. Before a producer adds cover crops, it is important to consider the impacts cover crops may have on their operation. NRCS has a new tool to assess the economics and focus on new costs and benefits.

That knowledge

is key to the decision-making process. It can improve farmers' ability to commit to using cover crops as a long-term and successful conservation solution on their farm. The Cover Crop Economics Tool, is a user-friendly economic assessment tool for both short-term and long-term expected costs and benefits of incorporating cover crops into a crop rotation.

Typical cover crop costs (seed, application, termination) are captured by the tool. The tool can also account for yield loss or other costs. Potential benefits that can be qualified have been incorporated into this tool. Potential short term benefits such as direct nutrient reductions, input reductions (herbicide/ insecticide/ fungicide), yield increases, reduced erosion, graz-

ing, as well as long term benefits such as overall soil fertility, improved water storage and infiltration can be captured with user supplied values.

This tool can also be helpful for you to work with an experienced cover crop user to develop a case study on their experience with cover crops for your county. Contact me (alan.lauver@ia.usda.gov) If you want assis-

tance using the tool yourself or with a producer. I would also be glad to help with developing case studies. The tool is available for download from the Iowa NRCS website at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wpsPA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrseprd385824&ext=xls&nrseprd385824&ext=xls

Poster Contest

Poster From page three

tion poster contest through their schools.

This year's winners are as follows: Division 2 (Grades 2-3) Lola Comes, Kelsey Pross; Division 3 (Grades 4-6) Grace Marie McCurdy, Taliya James, Bryan York; Division 4 (Grades 7-9) Grace Wright, Katie York; and Division 5 (Grades 10-12) Kaylee Sharp.

First Place posters were forwarded to participate at a Regional level at the Conservation Districts of Iowa. If any poster is selected at Regional level, the poster then competes at a State level and could be exhibited at the Conservation

District of Iowa Annual Meeting held in Des Moines in September. Thanks to all who participated.

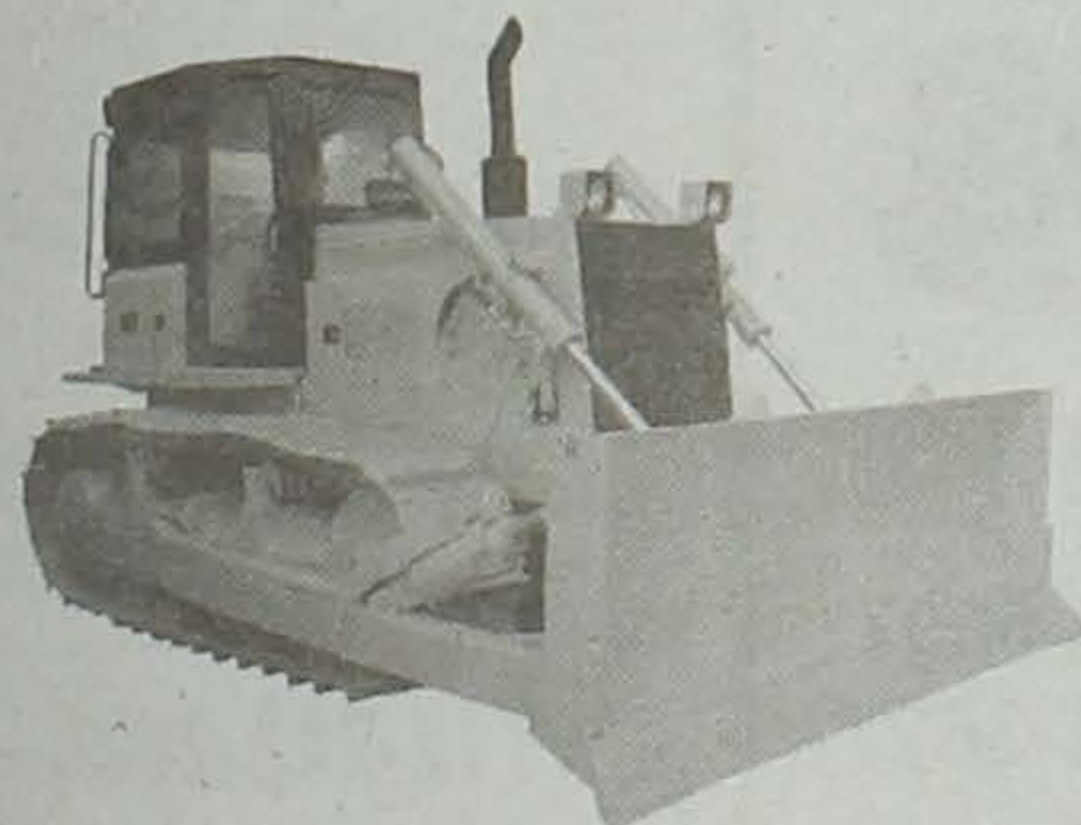


Water Quality Improvement plan

Simon From page six

flood risk downstream. Work with partners to deliver and strengthen regional conservation projects. Through RCPP, we are working closely with project sponsors to ensure the success of these pioneer projects in Iowa. Moving forward, we will work with sponsors to identify potential innovative and effective project concepts, and to strengthen future project proposals. There are many challenges ahead of us, and that is one reason why NRCS is transitioning into a conservation planning first approach. I look forward to assisting NRCS staff and our local offices through this transition, and continuing our efforts on Soil Health and the benefits it can bring to on-farm profitability, cleaner water, reduced soil erosion, and nutrient reductions. I look forward to visiting more of the state this winter to meet with staff and partners, and to hear about the great things we are accomplishing. I also want to know what is impeding our efforts to get more conservation on the land, and what processes can be improved or streamlined.

PLOWMAN EARTHMOVING



1579 105th St.
Adair, IA. 50002
(641) 740-0438

plowmanearthmoving@gmail.com

Peck Excavating

**Now Installing
Steel Drain Tile**

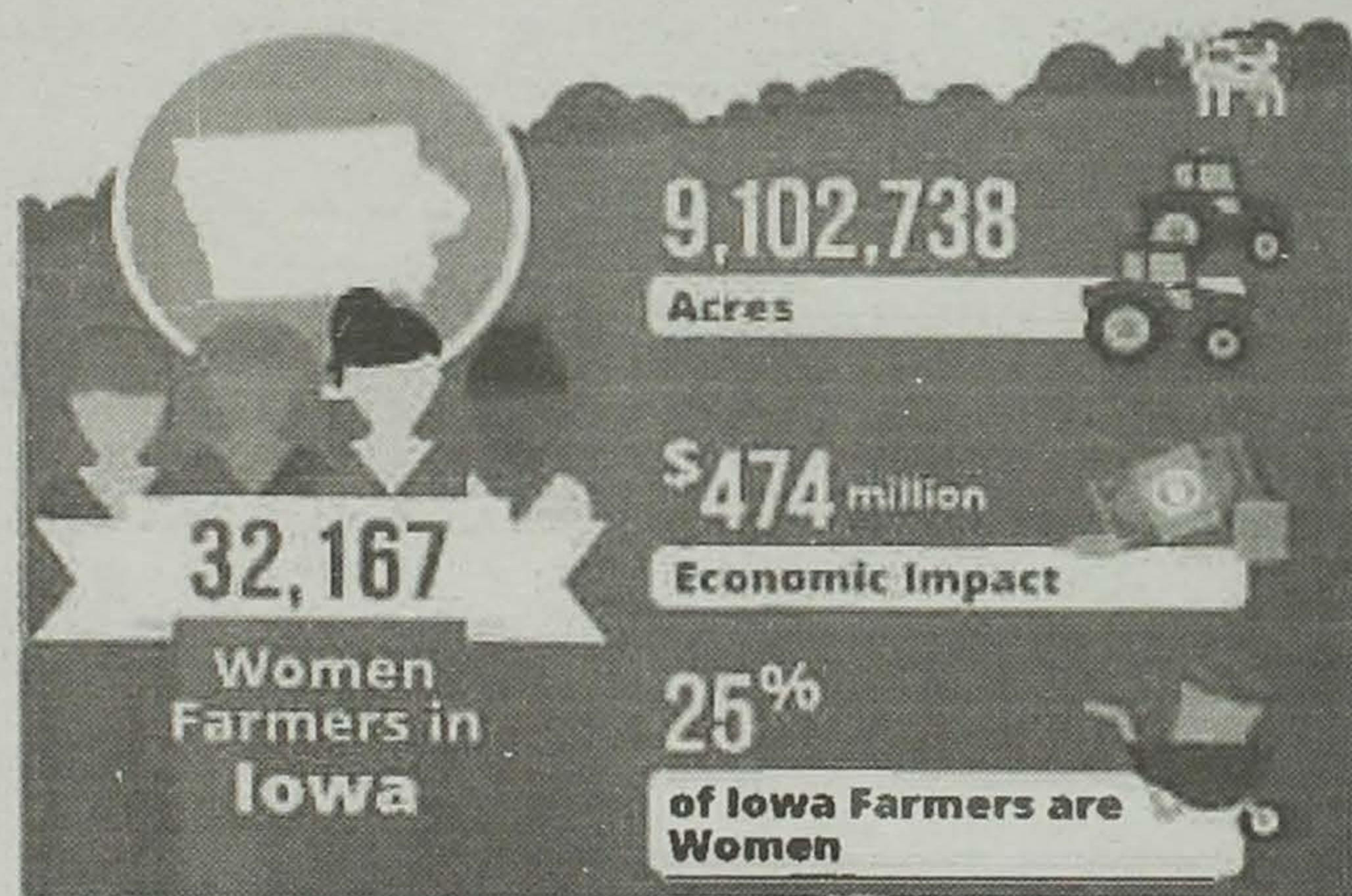
1007 LUMBER AVE. + ELLIOTT, IA. 51532
CELL: (712) 789-0707 + OFFICE: (712) 767-2617

Women in Agriculture

From the Classroom to the farm to the boardroom, women in agriculture are helping to pave the way for a better future.

As leaders, it is our responsibility to make sure the next generation of women are educated, encouraged and empowered to take on the challenges of meeting the world's growing food, fuel and fiber needs. To help women in Iowa connect with other women leaders in agriculture

all across the country, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a women in ag mentoring network. Join conversation by emailing AgWomenLead@USDA.gov or check out #WomeninAg on Twitter.



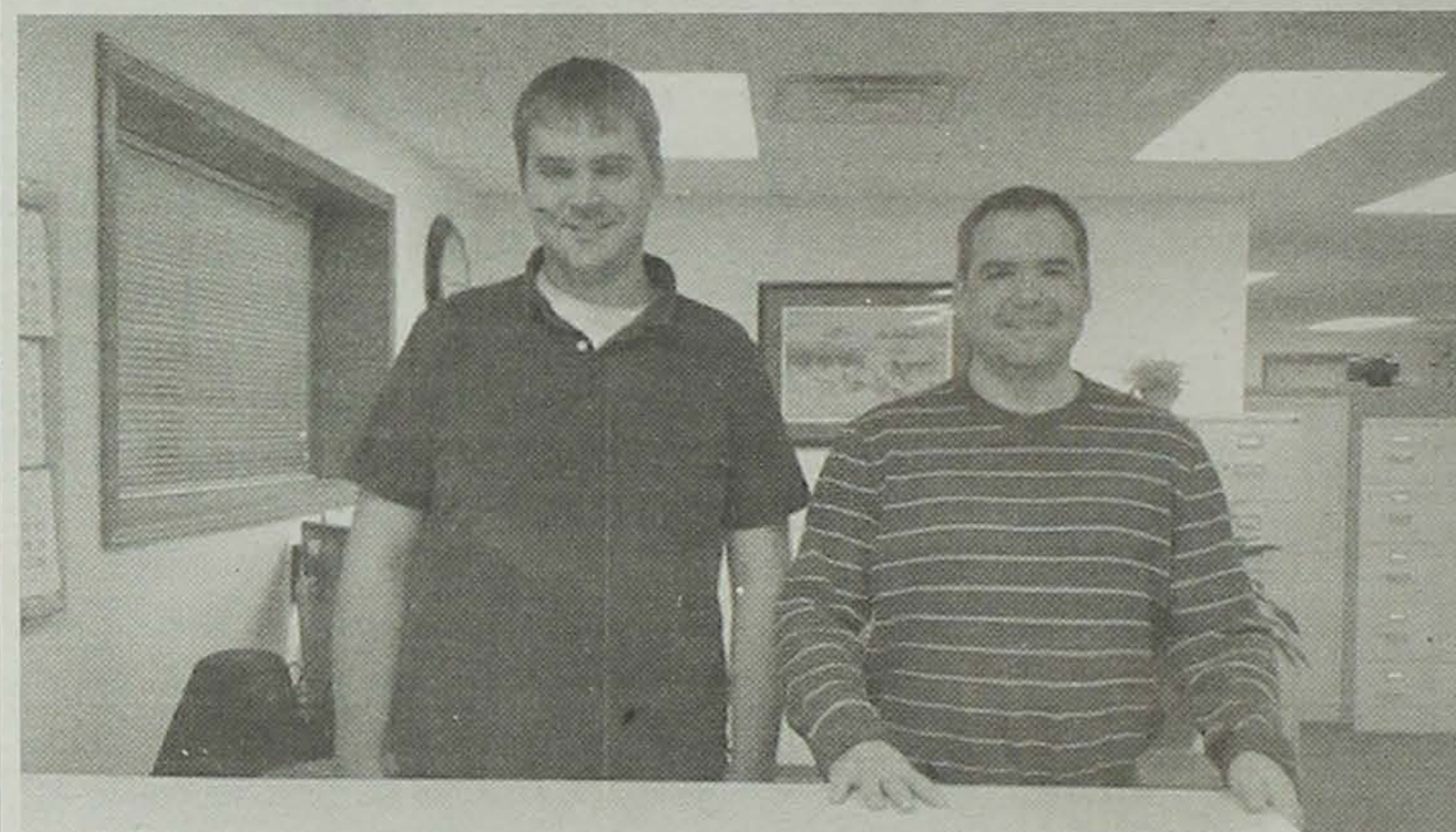
#WomenInAg

Southwest Contracting

1735 Hwy. 25
Menlo, IA. 50164
(641) 745-5509



Staff at the Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Office in Atlantic



Pictured are Soil Scientist and Office Leader, John Hammerly (left) Dan Pulido (right).

Dan Pulido and John Hammerly are soil scientists at the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office in Atlantic. The MLRA Soil Survey Office staff is responsible for making an inventory of the soil resources within their assigned areas, keeping the soil survey

relevant to ever-changing needs, interpreting the soils information, making it available in a useful form, promoting the soil survey, and providing technical assistance. Soil surveys are used for community planning, solving resource development issues, and give detailed

soil information to make sound land use decisions. Pulido and Hammerly provide technical support and assistance to the local Cass County Field Office as well as over 50 other county Field Offices across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri.

Vilsack names Simon state consevationist

Vilsack..... From page six

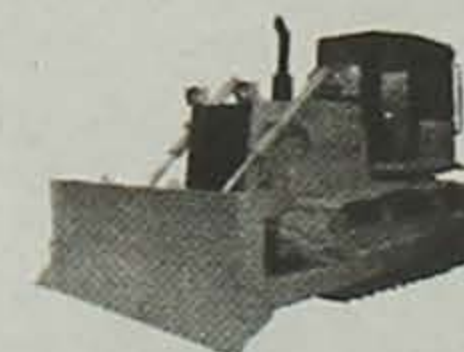
Ohio, served in field offices in West Virginia and Tennessee and at NRCS Headquarters in DC. He has served as liaison to the National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, and graduated from the NRCS Emerging Leadership Development Program through George Washington University in 2012. Simon started leading Iowa NRCS Oct. 19, 2015.

**VAIS
DOZING**
Gary Vais

Dozing and Excavating

3324 Quail Ave.
712-249-2201

Exira, IA 50076
712-762-3627



To subscribe to
the Atlantic
News Telegraph
call
712-243-2624
today!

Soil Survey Works with Drake University to Collect Ecological Site Information

Soil scientists Dan Pulido and John Hammerly, stationed at the Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office in Atlantic are in the midst of a five year initiative established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop provisional Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs) across the United States by 2020. This massive project would not be possible without the close cooperation of Drake University, led by biologist Dr. Thomas Rosburg, who has been contracted to help in the creation of these ESDs. What are ecological sites? Ecological sites are a distinctive kind of land that produces different types and amounts of vegetation. ESDs are the reports that provide information, such as plant production, species composition, climate characteristics, geology, and soil properties as well as the ability to respond to management action and natural disturbance. These will be used to evaluate areas for suitable use. For example, an ESD could be used to determine whether land could be used for

wetland restoration or for developing land for wildlife habitat. Gathering data is an important step in creating ESDs. Native sites with very little outside disturbances are selected before the data collection process begins. Pulido and Hammerly collect landscape, landform, and slope information at each site, in addition to gathering soil samples and recording descriptions of soil properties. After Pulido and Hammerly confirm the soils are acceptable, Rosburg collects vegetation samples, identifies plant species, and measures plant heights at each sample location.

At the completion of this joint effort between Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska, these ESD reports will be released and made available on the Web Soil Survey.

You can access them on the World Wide Web at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>.



John Hammerly (left) and Thomas Rosburg (right) collect vegetative growth forms and measure plant heights at an ecological site near the Chichaquo Bottoms Greenbelt in Polk County.

2015 Update on the Water Quality Initiative



Matt Lechtenberg,
Water Quality
Coordinator

The Water Quality Initiative was established during the 2013 legislative session to assist the implementation of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy which provides a road map to achieve a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to our waters using an inte-



**Will Meyers, Water
Quality Projects
Coordinator**

grated approach of point (cities and industries) and non-point sources (farms and residential areas). The initiative seeks to harness the collective ability of both private and public resources and organizations to deliver a clear and consistent message to stakeholders to reduce

nutrient loss and improve water quality.

In 2015, 1,800 farmers committed \$3.5 million in cost share funds to install nutrient reduction practices in each of Iowa's 99 counties. The practices that were eligible for this funding are cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer. Participants include 980 farmers using a practice for the first time and more than 830 past users that are trying cover crops again and are receiving a reduced-rate of cost share.

In addition to statewide cost share, 16 targeted Water Quality Initiative demonstration watershed projects have

been funded to help implement and demonstrate water quality practices. The state has provided \$7.4 million in funding to support these projects and has leveraged an additional \$11.7 million in additional funding from partners and landowners. More than 95 organizations are participating in these projects.

In 2015, four additional demonstration projects focused on expanding the use and innovative delivery of water quality practices beyond an individual watershed have also received funding. These projects will receive \$3.06 million in funding through the Iowa water quality initiative

over the next three years and be matched by \$2.59 million in funding from other sources. These projects include projects that will focus on expanding the use of cover crops, edge of field practices such as bioreactors and saturated buffers, and usage of water quality wetlands. A second round of funding for these projects will be awarded in early 2016.

Nine Urban Conservation Water Quality Initiative Demonstration Projects have also been funded. The state has awarded \$655,194 in funding and partners and landowners participating in the projects will provide \$2.43 million to sup-

port urban conservation efforts. A second round of funding for Urban Conservation Projects will also be awarded in early 2016.

For FY2016, \$9.6 million was appropriated by the legislature to support the Water Quality Initiative. This appropriation will allow the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to continue to provide cost share, expand programs and work in targeted watersheds to achieve measurable water quality improvements.

More information about the Water Quality Initiative can be found at www.CleanWaterIowa.org.

Protecting Our Resources, The Soil and Water

By James Gillespie
Division Director



Jim Gillespie

Iowans continue to make continual commit-

ments to protecting the soil and water resources of our state. It is evident by the strong partnership between the landowners, farmers, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and many other partners locally working together to address soil health and water quantity and quality.

In State Fiscal Year 2015, Iowa set another record with the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (Cost Share) with

a landowner/farmer contribution of \$12.8 million, a state investment of \$9.8 million with the total investment of \$22.6 million. To put in perspective what that meant in numbers for four conservation practices, it was 515 miles of terraces, 1,264 miles of waterways, 96 grade stabilization structures, and 471 water and sediment control basins. These conservation practices are effective, long term practices that trap sediment and phosphorus in the fields. This reflects a commitment of landowners and farmers making an investment

with the state where they are contributing \$1.50 or more for each dollar invested by the state.

The impacts of the various cost share programs offered locally is that it continues to get more conservation practices installed. The numerous benefits of these conservation practices are that it reduces erosion, soil losses and nutrient runoff. It continues to improve soil health and water quantity and quality issues. They reduce storm water impacts on public and private property and protect infrastructure. These programs help in

protecting watersheds above and water quality in Iowa's publicly owned lakes. They also help local economies benefiting local communities.

Your operations are businesses that depend on healthy soils, the water on your property is well managed and utilized, the nutrients are well managed for crop production, and your livestock operation is managed effectively. The challenges that go with these elements of your businesses are important to insure that you can operate effectively and profitably.

When you evaluate

these components of your business throughout the year and identify needs and opportunities to make improvements, please don't hesitate to stop in the field offices in your area to find out how we can help with your soil and water issues. These offices have great technical assistance and usually have financial assistance programs that can help put scientifically proven conservation practices on your land to help with improving your soil health, water quantity and water quality. Stop in any time and let us help you.

State/National News Briefs

DNR to plant over 69,000 trees thanks to Arbor Day Foundation

DES MOINES -- The Arbor Day Foundation recently partnered and through its members provided funding to the DNR's Forestry Bureau to plant 69,600 trees on Iowa's State Forest Land in 2016. Bare root tree seedlings will be planted by hand and by machine to reforest and improve diversity on 170 acres of Iowa public forest land.

"The mission of the Arbor Day Foundation is to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees," said Jeff Goerndt, DNR state forest section chief. "We are grateful for their partnership and support to help us achieve our goals for reforestation on our state forests."

A portion of the Arbor Day Foundation's programming focuses on large-scale tree plantings that will positively impact the environment, create habitat for wildlife and promote watershed restoration in our na-

tion's forests. This year, the Arbor Day Foundation has emphasized watershed restoration projects.

New York selects 50 for new outdoor conservation corps

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York has selected 50 young adults for crews to carry out conservation projects on state land.

The Excelsior Conservation Corps echoes the New Deal program of the 1930s. It will use \$1 million of state money and \$850,000 of federal AmeriCorps funding.

According to the governor's office, the 50 have been chosen from 209 applicants and include members from a Youth Works program in Albany and two military veterans.

Crews will get food, housing, monthly stipends, health insurance and college tuition help from the 10-month program administered by the Student Conservation Association.

More than 80 planned projects include trail im-

provements at Arden Height Woods in Staten Island and helping install a 500-kilowatt solar system at Robert Moses State Park on Long Island.

Agriculture secretary taps Fargo woman to advisory committee

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Federal Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has appointed a Fargo woman to serve on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

North Dakota Grain Inspection project manager Kia Mikesch is among four newly appointed members from around the country who will serve 3-year terms on the committee.

The committee advises the agriculture secretary and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration on the programs and services it delivers under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

Interested in advertising in the Atlantic News Telegraph?
Call 712-243-2624 for details!

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION COST SHARE

SFY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

COST SHARE IN 2015

1	State contribution (includes cost share and administrative support)	\$9.8 million
	Iowa farmer contribution	+\$12.8 million
	Total investment	\$22.6 million

TODAY
we have 34
Technicians
and 84
Secretaries
covering 100
offices.
Staff work
in multiple
districts to
ensure work
gets done
across Iowa

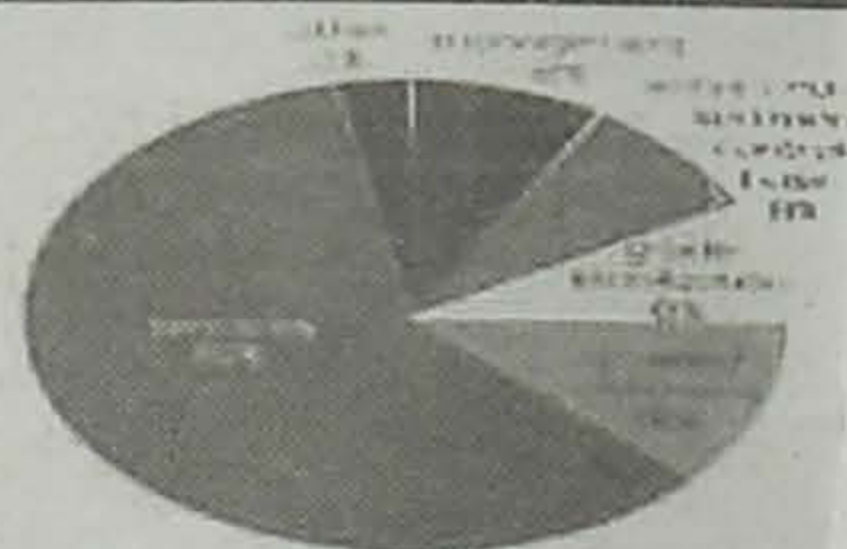
- 2 1,904 Iowa farmers used cost share to install conservation practices.

THE IMPACT OF COST SHARE

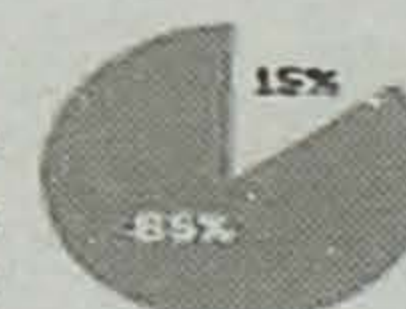
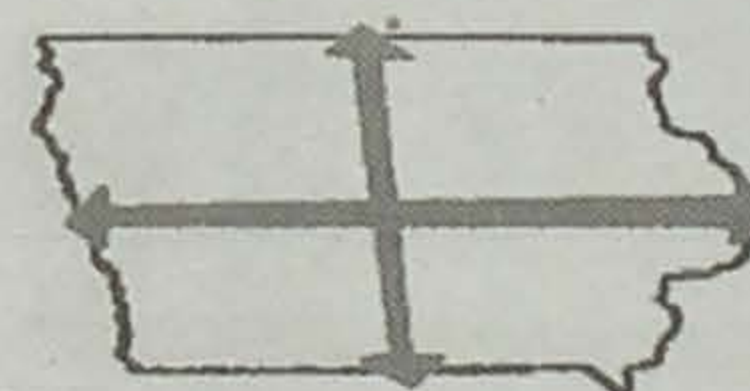
Cost Share allows more conservation practices to be installed

Benefits

- ▶ reduce erosion, soil loss and nutrient runoff
- ▶ improve soil health and water quality
- ▶ reduce storm water impact on private property and infrastructure



There were 55 miles of terraces installed using cost share in SFY2015, which is the distance stretching across Iowa twice. Terraces are an effective, long term conservation practice. They trap up to 45% of the sediment and phosphorous from a field.



FUNDING

85% of the funds directly benefit the land

15% used for administration

- 3 Conservation practices included...

Practices are installed and the soil conservation and water quality benefits begin!

Investing in soil conservation not only improves productivity on the farm by keeping soil in our fields, it also helps keep soil and nutrients out of the water.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES



TERRACES

NO-TILL
(COVER CROPS)

GRASSED WATERWAY

WATER AND SEDIMENT
CONTROL BASIN

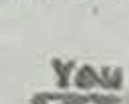
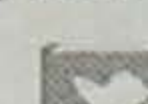
GRADE STABILIZATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP

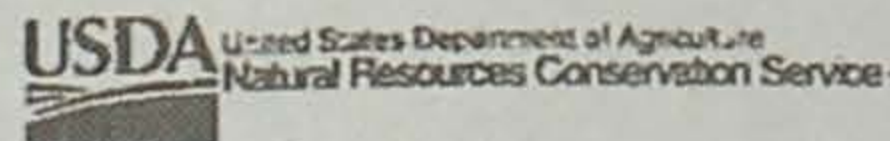
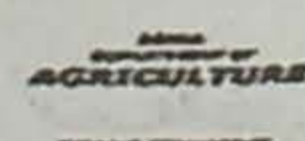
Our technicians and conservation assistants are a part of the 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which are housed within federal USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) buildings. They use federal equipment and other resources. Therefore, the partnership between IDALS, SWCD and the NRCS is critical. Other partners working together include the Conservation Districts of Iowa, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation Committee, county conservation boards, county board of supervisors, drainage districts, levee districts and other local groups.



Follow us on any of these media outlets



www.iowaagriculture.gov



Iowa receives \$97M grant for water quality, flood reduction

DES MOINES, (AP) — Iowa has received a nearly \$97 million federal grant to address the state's water quality and flood challenges, officials announced Friday.

Gov. Terry Branstad, along with state and local leaders said the state was awarded the money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in order to help speed up flood reduction and water quality efforts in Iowa's key water-

sheds over the next five years.

As a key component of the grant funding, Dubuque received \$31.5 million to assist Bee Branch Watershed homeowners in repairing flood-damaged homes, a city news release said. The city partnered with the state to apply for the federal funds.

"Dubuque is extremely grateful to receive such significant support for our resiliency and flood mitigation efforts," Dubuque Mayor Roy

Buol said. "This competition is a great example of the federal government supporting the efforts of local and state governments to address flooding issues."

Iowa is among 13 states and cities to receive the award, which is a part of the Natural Disaster Resilience Competition. The state was awarded the fourth-largest grant of any applicant.

Besides the Bee Branch Creek,

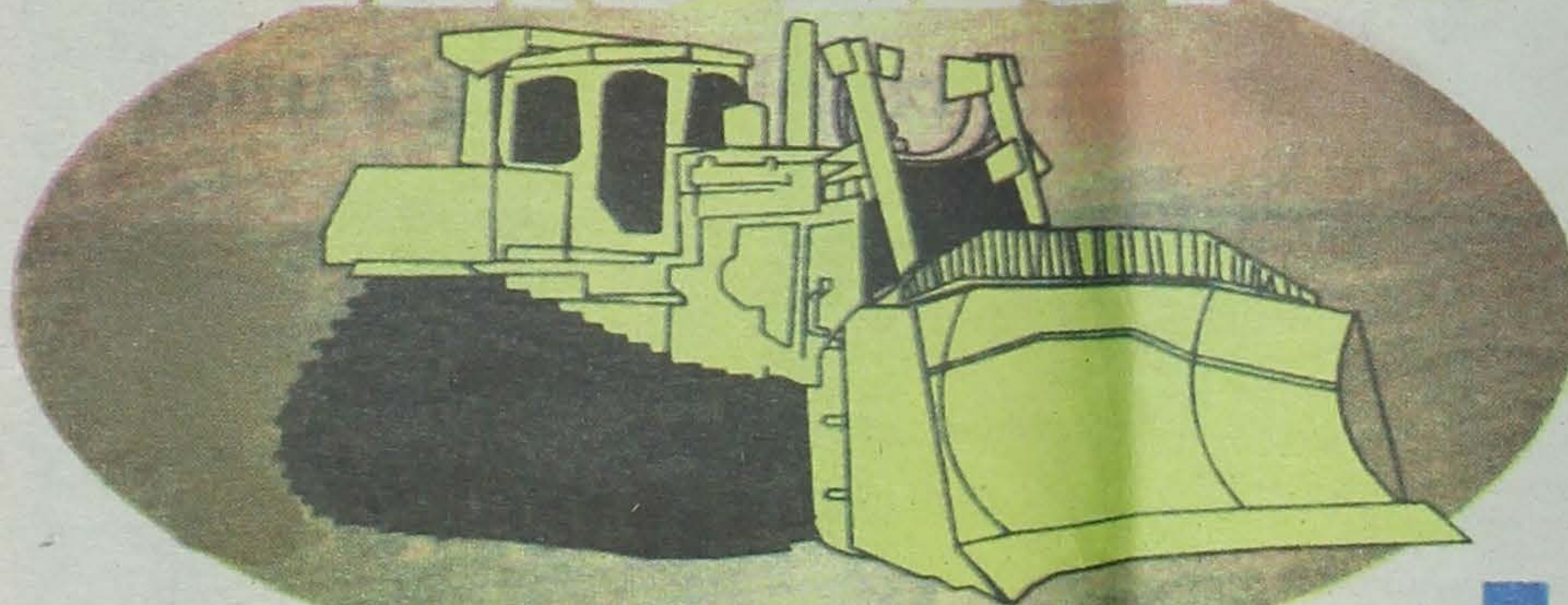
the grant will target the Clear Creek; East Nishnabotna; English River; North Raccoon River; Middle Cedar River; Upper Iowa; Upper Wapsipinicon River; and West Nishnabotna River watersheds.

"I am proud that Iowa is being recognized for our leadership in advancing innovative and data-driven flood reduction and water quality efforts," Branstad said.

Stay connected with USDA on social media



CHRIS HEUTON



EARTHMOVING LLC.

- Bulldozing
- Excavating
- Scraper Work
- Skid Loader
- Ponds/Terraces
- Dump Truck Service

712-249-7048

FREE ESTIMATES & INSURED

