

Henry County SWCD Leads the State as Local Water Protection Program funds exceeds a half million

Local Water Protection Program funds are administered by the Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District to landowners who are interested in constructing conservation practices on their land. The Iowa Water Quality Fund offers low interest loans for a variety of water quality projects in an effort to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides negatively impacting Iowa streams and lakes. A few examples of eligible projects are contour buffer strips, filter strips, windbreaks, grassed waterways, terrace systems, pasture and hayland plantings, grade stabilization structures, ponds, fence, waste treatment lagoons, basins, waste storage facilities or other projects shown to protect water quality. Livestock water quality projects under \$10,000 are eligible under the this loan. LWPP loans can be used as the sole funding source for water quality projects, but they can also be used to compliment other funding sources such as State or Federal Cost Share programs.

The LWPP will provide loans from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for up to 100% of the project costs. There are no limits to the number of loans a landowner may receive. Loan terms up to 10 years with an interest rate of no more than 3%. A linked deposit loan structure allows landowners to work with their personal lender. To date the Henry County SWCD has completed 35 loans to construct grade stabilization structures, ponds and terrace systems totaling \$601,660.69. Henry County leads the state in the amount of loan funds spent in the LWPP program. For further program details you may contact the Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District @ 385-2824.

Keeping sediment out of streams and lakes is essential to water quality. Preventing soil loss is also a way for you to assure long term crop production. Pictured here is Tony Tiogo, Division of Soil Conservation employee who administers the LWPP program for conservation districts and Leon Peterson who used LWPP funds to construct a pond on his property in northern Henry County.

Insert picture-Leon&Tony.jpg

