

# 2007-2008 CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

*Tom E. Oswald* 12/03/08

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The Commissioners of the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. We hope our cooperative working relations continue as we work to protect our natural resources. The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation problem you may have.

Along with the landowners and operators in the county, we would like to thank the government agencies, news media, schools, businesses, and individuals that have assisted in the promotion and application of soil and water conservation.

*Cherokee County District Commissioners*



**District Commissioners**

**Back row from L-R: Randy Husman, Aurelia; Joe Hueser, Marcus; Tom Oswald, Cleghorn; Tom Bindner, Marcus; and Linda Bindner, Marcus (Assistant Commissioner). Front row L-R: Pam Pierce, Cherokee and Ginger Walker, Aurelia (Assistant Commissioner).**

## Recent Changes In State Programs

- As of July 1, 2008, maintenance agreements on new waterways will be 10 years instead of 20 years.
- The maximum amount a landowner can receive per year of REAP cost share for a windbreak increased from \$1200 to \$1500.
- The State dropped their per unit limits on REAP cost share of \$2.25/shrub and \$15.00/tree. Each District can set their own limits.  
For Cherokee County - the max we will pay per shrub is \$3.75 (75% of a \$5.00 shrub) and the max we will pay per tree is \$22.50 (75% of a \$30.00 tree).
- The Low Interest Loan Program has been expanded to cover a wider variety of projects including Animal Feeding Operations. For more info see the article on page 3.



**This Grade Stab. Structure was one of the stops on our Conservation Tour.**

## PERSONNEL

### Commissioners

|                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Tom Oswald, Chairman</b>      | <b>Cleghorn</b> |
| <b>Randy Husman, Vice-Chair</b>  | <b>Aurelia</b>  |
| <b>Pam Pierce, Co-Treasurer</b>  | <b>Cherokee</b> |
| <b>Tom Bindner, Co-Treasurer</b> | <b>Marcus</b>   |
| <b>Joe Hueser</b>                | <b>Marcus</b>   |

### Assistant Commissioners

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Linda Bindner</b> | <b>Marcus</b>  |
| <b>Ginger Walker</b> | <b>Aurelia</b> |

### Field Office Staff

|                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Renee Braun</b>       | <b>District Conservationist</b> |
| <b>Julia Gubbels</b>     | <b>Soil Conservation Tech.</b>  |
| <b>Randy Jipp</b>        | <b>State Technician</b>         |
| <b>Michelle Harman</b>   | <b>District Technician</b>      |
| <b>Tracy Rasmussen</b>   | <b>State Secretary</b>          |
| <b>Charlie Blackburn</b> | <b>AmeriCorps Employee</b>      |



Back row left to right: Julia Gubbels, Michelle Harman, and Renee Braun. Front row left to right: Tracy Rasmussen & Randy Jipp.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are the primary source for financing educational and promotional activities. We would like to thank the following contributors who donated money from October 2007 through September 2008. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Bruce & Donna Amundson - Larrabee**  
**Larry & Sheryl Carlson - Alta**  
**Mike & Pam Cronin - Cleghorn**  
**Farmers State Bank - Marcus**  
**First Cooperative Association - Cherokee**  
**Gustafson Realty - Cherokee**  
**Lundell Construction Co. Inc. - Cherokee**  
**McGuire Auction Co. Inc. - Holstein**  
**Sand Seed Service, Inc. - Marcus**  
**Stalcup Ag Service - Storm Lake**  
**Western Cherokee Mutual Insurance - Marcus**

**In Kind Contributions \$1689.50**  
**Financial support for program delivery \$20,000**  
**at the District level.**

## Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District And Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments

(October 1, 2007– September 30, 2008)

|                                                            |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Brush Management                                           | 39 ac     |
| CNMP                                                       | 4 no      |
| Conservation Cover                                         | 186 ac    |
| Conservation Crop Rotation                                 | 7843 ac   |
| Contour Farming                                            | 2127 ac   |
| Early Successional Habitat Dev/Mgt                         | 4 ac      |
| Field Border                                               | 3151 ft   |
| Filter Strip                                               | 25 ac     |
| Forage Harvest Management                                  | 4 ac      |
| Grassed Waterway                                           | 39 ac     |
| Nutrient Management                                        | 599 ac    |
| Pasture & Hay Planting                                     | 19 ac     |
| Pest Management                                            | 599 ac    |
| Prescribed Burning                                         | 120 ac    |
| Residue & Tillage Mngt, Mulch Till                         | 7815 ac   |
| Residue & Tillage Mngt, No-Till/Strip Till/<br>Direct Seed | 3549 ac   |
| Restor/Mngt of Rare & Declining Habitats                   | 26 ac     |
| Subsurface Drain                                           | 54,632 ft |
| Terrace                                                    | 36,705 ft |
| Tree/Shrub Establishment                                   | 1 ac      |
| Underground Outlet                                         | 1117 ft   |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Mngt                               | 90 ac     |
| Waste Storage Facility                                     | 4 no      |
| Water & Sediment Control Basin                             | 3 no      |



AmeriCorps employee Charlie Blackburn gives a presentation to Cherokee County 6th graders at an Outdoor Classroom held at Silver Sioux Park.

# Iowa Water Quality Loan Fund

**If you're thinking about doing a water quality project you may want to look into the State Revolving Fund (SRF). Loan funds are specifically intended to assist in installing practices that control runoff of sediments, nutrients, pesticides or other non-point source pollutants into waters of the state.**

**Funding is available for up to 100% of the project costs. Incentives range from \$5000 for water quality practices with terms up to 10 years at no more than 3% interest. Applications are accepted on a first come - first serve basis throughout the year by Soil & Water Conservation Districts.**

**A linked deposit loan structure will be established with a participating lender. Lenders can sign up to be participating lenders at [www.ifaprograms.com](http://www.ifaprograms.com). The linked deposit enables the lender to offer the loan at 3%, it does not guarantee the loan. A linked deposit loan works as follows: The DSC financial agent, which is the Iowa Finance Authority in this case, deposits funds in an account with a participating lender. Iowa Finance Authority agrees to receive a zero percent rate of return on that deposit - which allows the lender to provide a loan to the applicant at 3%.**

**Questions concerning the loan program can be directed to Tony Toigo with the Division of Soil Conservation at (515) 281-6148 or by e-mail at [tony.toigo@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:tony.toigo@iowaagriculture.gov).**

**The water pollution control facilities considered eligible for assistance include: contour buffer strips, diversion, fence, field border, field windbreak, filter strip (with trees, shrubs), filter strip (waste treatment), water and sediment control basin, grade stabilization structure, grassed waterway, pasture and hayland planting, planned grazing system, pond, riparian forest buffer, sediment basin, terrace, underground outlets, manure storage structures, solid settling basins, composters, lagoons (including fencing), portions of feeding floors or loafing areas used for waste collection, water and sediment control basins, vegetative filters or buffers, surface water diversion structures (above open lots), agitation or transfer pumps. Roofed manure storage structures if manure is stored exclusively in dry form and the production site has open lot reduction as a result of the project. Replacement animal feeding operations where an existing animal feeding operation is eliminated to prevent a water quality impairment or mitigate a documented impairment. Engineering or technical service fees associated with the aforementioned practices are also eligible.**



**2008 Conservation Poster Contest**  
**"Water is Life"**

***Aurelia 4th Grade***

**Kate Westphal & Mary Ann DePuma, Teachers**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Aleynah Hendrix**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Abigail Anderson**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Alexia Gerdes**



**4th Grade Aurelia winners from left to right: Aleynah Hendrix, Abigail Anderson, and Alexia Gerdes.**

***Cherokee 4th Grade***

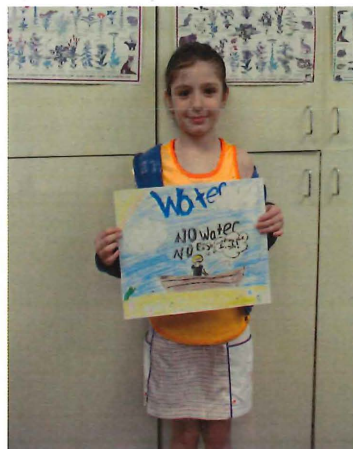
**Vicki Freed, Kim Miller,**

**Meribeth Adams, and Jim Shima, Teachers**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bailey Gaydo**

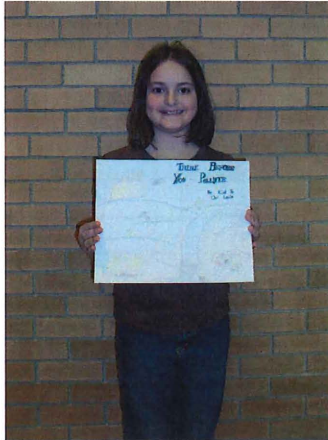
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Alyssa Gotto**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Elizabeth Herrera**



**4th Grade Cherokee Winners from Left to Right: Bailey Gaydo, Alyssa Gotto, and Elizabeth Herrera.**

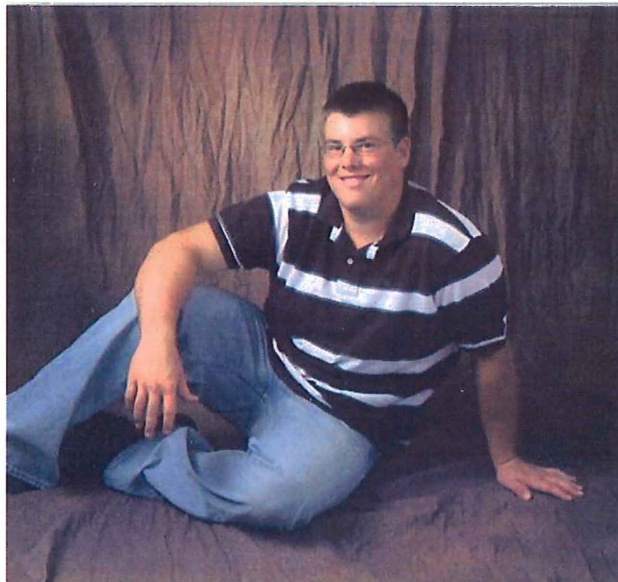
**Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn 4th Grade**  
**Jan Brown and Missy Utesch, Teachers**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Taylor Johnston**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Brooklyn Treinen**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Marissa Moats**



**4th Grade Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn winners from left to right: Taylor Johnston, Brooklyn Treinen, and Marissa Moats.**

## **Scholarship Awarded**

**The winner of this year's \$500.00 District Scholarship was Luke Dreckman. Luke is the son of Doug and Barb Dreckman of Marcus. He has one brother and one sister. While in high school Luke participated in Golf, Football, Wrestling, Leadership Team, and Student Body. Luke has done a lot of volunteer work including collecting food for the needy, raising money for cancer patients, organizing a memorial hunting tournament, and participating in the Siouxland Sleepout For The Homeless. Luke enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, and snowmobiling. Luke is currently attending Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville. He is planning to become a Conservationist for the State of Iowa.**



**Luke Dreckman**

# Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District

## 2008-2009 Trees For Sale

| Deciduous Trees      | Bundle | Type | Size  | Price/Bundle | Quantity | Total |
|----------------------|--------|------|-------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Arrowwood            | 10     | S    | 2-3'  | \$20.75      |          |       |
| River Birch          | 25     | S    | 2-3'  | \$44.50      |          |       |
| Silver Maple         | 25     | S    | 3-4'  | \$43.00      |          |       |
| Sugar Maple          | 25     | S    | 2-3'  | \$49.00      |          |       |
| Bur Oak              | 10     | S    | 2-3'  | \$16.50      |          |       |
| Red Oak              | 25     | S    | 2-3'  | \$44.50      |          |       |
| Black Walnut         | 25     | S    | 2-3'  | \$44.00      |          |       |
| Hybrid Willow        | 25     | S    | 2-3'  | \$45.00      |          |       |
|                      |        |      |       |              |          |       |
| Shrubs               | Bundle | Type | Size  | Price/Bundle | Quantity | Total |
| ChokeCherry          | 25     | S    | 2-3'  | \$37.00      |          |       |
| American Cranberry   | 10     | TR   | 2-3'  | \$31.00      |          |       |
| Red Dogwood          | 10     | TR   | 2-3'  | \$19.00      |          |       |
| ElderBerry           | 25     | S    | 2-3'  | \$41.00      |          |       |
| Villosa Lilac        | 10     | S    | 2-3'  | \$16.50      |          |       |
| NannyBerry           | 10     | S    | 2-3'  | \$22.50      |          |       |
| Ninebark             | 10     | TR   | 2-3'  | \$23.00      |          |       |
| American Plum        | 25     | S    | 2-3'  | \$42.00      |          |       |
|                      |        |      |       |              |          |       |
| Bare-root Evergreens | Bundle | Type | Size  | Price/Bundle | Quantity | Total |
| Concolor Fir         | 10     | TR   | 7-15" | \$15.75      |          |       |
| Ponderosa Pine       | 10     | TR   | 7-15" | \$12.00      |          |       |
| Black Hills Spruce   | 10     | TR   | 8-12" | \$14.00      |          |       |
| Norway Spruce        | 10     | TR   | 7-15" | \$13.00      |          |       |
|                      |        |      |       |              |          |       |

**S (Seedling) - TR (Transplant)**

***Profit from tree sales is used for conservation education projects***

**Other varieties may be available upon request - please give us a call**

**No survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices.**

All orders are subject to availability, quantities are limited; please be sure to order early to insure your best selection.

For an order form give us a call at 712-225-4151 or stop by our office at 314 Lake Street in Cherokee.

**We Have REAP Cost Share Available For Windbreaks!**

## 2008 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

### January

- \* Officers were elected: Tom Oswald, Chair; Randy Husman, Vice-Chair; Pamela Pierce and Tom Bindner, Co-treasurers; and Tracy Rasmussen, Secretary.
- \* Ginger Walker and Linda Bindner were reappointed Assistant Commissioners.
- \* Committee representatives were appointed.
- \* District Cost-Share Policies, Average Costs, and No-Till Incentive Program were approved.
- \* Randy Husman attended the Little Sioux Works Committee meeting.
- \* Field office staff attended Ash Borer workshop.

### February

- \* Assistant Commissioner Ginger Walker visited the Aurelia, Cherokee, and MMC schools to go over the poster contest. She also did a presentation on this year's theme - "Water is Life".

### March

- \* The Cherokee SWCD hosted the Northwest Iowa Regional Envirothon which is an environmental competition for high schools.
- \* Tom Oswald, Tom Bindner, Randy Husman, and Tracy Rasmussen attended the Spring Regional at Rock Rapids.
- \* Scholarship applications were reviewed and posters judged.
- \* A work session was held during the commissioner's meeting.

### April

- \* District tree sales profit benefited the Education Fund.
- \* Poster Contest Banquet was held at the Cherokee Community Center. Certificates were presented to all the participants and winners from each school received cash awards, ribbons, and certificates.
- \* Randy Husman, Tom & Linda Bindner, and Renee Braun attended a Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting.

### May

- \* Soil Stewardship Week (April 27 - May 3) was observed by supplying conservation placemats to three restaurants in Cherokee County.
- \* Watershed inspections were completed.
- \* Scholarship was presented to Luke Dreckman.

### June

- \* 4<sup>th</sup> grade posters were on display at the Sanford Museum.
- \* Paid for FFA Soil Judging program at NCC.
- \* An application for a Developmental Grant was submitted for the assessment of the city of Cherokee.

### July

- \* Conservation Tour was held.
- \* Received new state cost share funds.
- \* District paid CDI dues.

### August

- \* Tom Bindner and Renee Braun attended Fall Regionals in Ida Grove.
- \* District Audit was performed.
- \* District had an entry in the Marcus Fair Parade.
- \* Set REAP District limits per tree and shrub.

### September

- \* Field Office employees attended Area 1 All Employee Meeting in Aurelia.
- \* AmeriCorps employee Charlie Blackburn started his job working in Cherokee and O'Brien counties.
- \* The District received \$23,642.13 in State supplemental cost share funds.

### October

- \* Tree order forms were sent out.
- \* The District received \$28,252.65 in REAP Practice Supplemental funds.
- \* AmeriCorps employee Charlie Blackburn assisted with Cherokee's Outdoor Classroom at Silver Sioux Park.

### November

- \* Tom Oswald and Tom Bindner were re-elected as commissioners and Jason Titcomb was elected to his first term as commissioner.
- \* Tom and Linda Bindner attended the CDI Annual Conference in Ames.

### December

- \* Contribution letters & Annual Reports were sent out.
- \* Bid retiring commissioner Pam Pierce farewell.



Conservation Tour participants look at a unique Solar Pump Project.

## STATE FUNDING

(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

### IFIP 2007-08 Fund (Cost-Sharing)

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Allocation + supplemental  | \$ 58,316.81 |
| Allocated from previous yr | 39,011.75    |
| Total cost-share paid      | 52,468.79    |
| Total approved & pending   | 44,859.77    |
| Balance 6/30/08            | \$ 0.00      |

### REAP Practices Fund 2008

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Allocation               | \$ 10,728.00    |
| Total cost-share paid    | 2,395.20        |
| Total approved & pending | <u>8,073.75</u> |
| Returned to DSC 6/30/08  | \$ 259.05       |

### REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Fund 2008

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Allocation               | \$ 3,576.00    |
| Total cost-share paid    | 1,335.14       |
| Total approved & pending | <u>1116.68</u> |
| Returned to DSC 6/30/08  | \$ 1,124.18    |

\* The funds listed above are restricted to particular farm practices or land treatments.

### I-M Budget

(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

(Funds appropriated by the legislature to reimburse commissioners for traveling expenses as well as pay for district office supplies)

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Allocation      | \$ 2,124.81 |
| Expenses        | \$ 2,124.81 |
| Balance 6/30/08 | \$ 0.00     |

### Local Water Protection Program

\$38,629.08 in low interest loans were made.

Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cherokee SWCD

314 Lake Street

Cherokee, IA 51012

Phone: 712-225-4151 or 225-3769

Fax: 712-225-6090

Contact us about any of your conservation concerns.

## Little Sioux Flood Prevention Watershed Maintenance Funds

(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

(Funds collected in prior years to be used for maintaining existing structures in the county)

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance carried forward | \$ 175,213.35   |
| Income (Interest)       | \$7,460.30      |
| Expenses                | <u>\$749.98</u> |
| Balance 6/30/08         | \$181,923.67    |

### General Fund (Revolving)

(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

(For District Functions)

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Balance carried forward | \$13,829.53        |
| Income                  | \$39,421.92        |
| Expenses                | <u>\$22,686.60</u> |
| Balance 6/30/08         | \$30,564.85        |

### Education Fund

(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Balance carried forward | \$116.26         |
| Income                  | \$1670.00        |
| Expenses                | <u>\$1739.25</u> |
| Balance 6/30/08         | \$47.01          |

## FEDERAL FUNDING

### Little Sioux Funds

(October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)

These funds were obligated by the federal government for projects in the Little Sioux Watershed area which is nearly all of the county. \$112,772.19 was approved for Structures, Terraces, and a County Road Structure.

### EQIP Funds

(October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)

Funded EQIP contracts in the amount of \$451,321.40 . \$414,887 for Livestock, \$16,786.40 for Soil & Water, and \$19,648 for Wildlife.

### WHIP Funds

(October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)

Funded WHIP contracts in the amount of \$42,572 .00.

**The Cherokee SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.**