

J. J. J.
12/14/11

2010-2011 CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

314 Lake Street
Cherokee, Iowa 51012
Phone 712-225-3769

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.

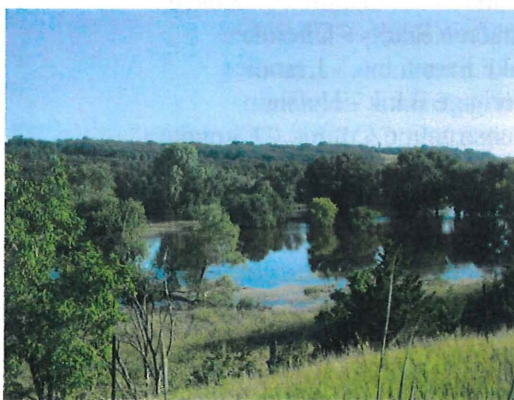
Cherokee County District Commissioners



From left to right: Jason Titcomb, Cherokee; Nathan Anderson, Aurelia; Tom Oswald, Cleghorn; Russell Winterhof, Aurelia; and Tom Bindner, Marcus. Assistant commissioners Ginger Walker, Linda Bindner, and Pam Pierce not pictured.

Conservation Tour

This year's conservation tour was held the evening of July 19th and included five stops. The first stop was in Cedar 7 at Duane and Marcia Henke's farm where participants learned more about the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The next stop was at Ray Dorr's fen site in Spring 30. Kathy Koskovich from the DNR was on hand to talk about the site which has a one-acre size fen/seep complex. From there the group headed to Brian Fulton's place in Cherokee 1 where District Forester Joe Schwartz talked about the brush management and prescribed burns that Brian has been doing on his property. Next the group headed to Afton 20 where they viewed a Seasonal High Tunnel at Scott and Debra Koch's farm. The last stop was at Gary and Alura Otto's organic bean field in Pilot 12. The Otto's are transitioning to organic production through EQIP's Organic Initiative. The group enjoyed a delicious supper at Danny's following the tour.



Fen site at Ray Dorr's.



Seasonal High Tunnel at Koch's.

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

Jason Titcomb, Chairman	Cherokee
Tom Oswald, Vice-Chair	Cleghorn
Tom Bindner, Co-Treasurer	Marcus
Nathan Anderson	Aurelia
Russell Winterhof	Aurelia

Assistant Commissioners

Linda Bindner	Marcus
Ginger Walker	Aurelia
Pam Pierce, Co-Treasurer	Cherokee

Field Office Staff

Renee Braun	District Conservationist
Julia Gubbels	Soil Conservation Tech.
Randy Jipp	State Technician
Michelle Harman	District Technician
Tracy Rasmussen	State Secretary

Renee Braun retired in October 2011 and Mike Henderson will take her place as District Conservationist in mid January. Also new to our office is Ruth Ehley who joins us as the Resource Conservationist. Ruth is stationed in O'Brien County, but she will also be working in Cherokee County. The Cherokee and Primghar field offices recently became a 2 County Management Unit

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 2010 through September 2011. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Farmers State Bank - Marcus
 First Cooperative Association - Cherokee
 Gustafson Realty - Cherokee
 Henke Farms Inc. - Larrabee
 Heritage Bank - Holstein
 Lundell Construction Co. Inc. - Cherokee
 McGuire Auction Co. Inc. - Holstein
 Sand Seed Service, Inc. - Marcus
 Schmiller Construction, Inc. - Marcus
 Stalcup Agricultural Service - Storm Lake
 Western Cherokee Mutual Insurance - Marcus

In Kind Contributions \$893.38

Financial support for program delivery
 at the District level \$6122.65

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.

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

(October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011)

Brush Management	112 ac
Conservation Cover	84 ac
Conservation Crop Rotation	7340 ac
Contour Farming	171 ac
Cover Crop	130 ac
Grade Stabilization Structure	1 no
Grassed Waterway	18.1 ac
Integrated Pest Management	267 ac
Nutrient Management	404 ac
Prescribed Burning	146 ac
Residue & Tillage Mngt, Mulch Till	4458 ac
Residue & Tillage Mngt, No-Till/Strip Till/	254 ac
Direct Seed	
Restor/Mngt of Rare & Declining Habitats	6 ac
Seasonal High Tunnel	1 no
Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility	1 no
Subsurface Drain	28,721 ft
Terrace	23,080 ft
Underground Outlet	1,936 ft
Upland Wildlife Habitat Mngt	308 ac
Waste Storage Facility	3 no
Waste Transfer	3 no
Water & Sediment Control Basin	23 no
Wetland Restoration	91 ac
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mngt	20 ac
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	400 ft

Rain Barrels For Sale

This past year the District has enlisted the help of Cherokee's Washington High School Silver Cord students to assemble and paint rain barrels. The District is selling the rain barrels to raise money for its education fund. For more information, call 225-4151.

A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it to water plants or wash your car. It provides an ample supply of free "soft water" to homeowners, containing no chlorine, lime, or calcium making it ideal for gardens, flower pots and car and window washing. Saving water not only helps the environment, it saves you money and energy. Diverting water from storm drains also decreases the impact of runoff to our streams and lakes.



Left to right: Abby Lubeck, Jennifer Davis, McKenna Mummert, Hanna Benningsdorf and Marshall Stief is down in front.

2011 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- 14 Regular Meetings
- Paid CDI Dues
- Organizational Meeting to Approve District Policies, elect officers, and establish committees
- Booth at the Cherokee County Ag Show
- Poster Contest Presentations
- Northwest Iowa Regional Envirothon (environmental competition for high schools)
- CDI Spring Regional meeting
- Reviewed scholarship applications
- District Tree Sales
- 4th Grade Poster judging
- Stewardship Week - gave Activity Sheet/Placemats to restaurants/groups
- Watershed inspections
- Poster Contest Awards Program
- Scholarships presented at Alta and Aurelia High School Awards Programs
- 4th grade posters displayed at the Sanford Museum
- Conservation Tour
- District Audit



Commissioners Tom Oswald, Tom Bindner, Russ Winterhof, and Nathan Anderson pose for a picture after putting the tree & shrub orders together.

CAN CONSERVATION WAIT?

By Jim Gillespie - Division Director for the Division of Soil Conservation

In this ever changing world and state, what does the future hold for conservation and agriculture? Commodity prices are high, land values are high, rents are high, inputs are high, and the list goes on.

But can conservation of the soil and water wait? That has to be a good question everyone should be thinking about. With more demands being placed on soil and water resources to produce more food for an ever growing population in the world and with changing technology and genetics to allow different forms of production in agriculture CONSERVATION CAN NOT WAIT.

Every land owner and farm operator should take the time to contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office to see what they can do for conservation on their land. Look at this as an opportunity to protect the land that is the basis of your farming business. Everything that comes from your operation depends on the land that you own or operate. You are left to manage your land as well as you can to be as productive as possible. But you will need the soil and water resources that you have for a long time, so protect them so they can support your operation well into the future.

Consider practices such as residue management, structural practices, and nutrient management to protect the productivity of your operation as well as protect water quality. Keep your valuable soil in place to maintain good soil quality that will enhance and maintain production. Control the water that falls on your land by reducing compaction and try to absorb as much as possible to reduce runoff. Water is valuable to production and protection, so try to use it so that it will be available when needed by the plants.

When you look at the definition of "Conservation" in the Webster's Dictionary it states "a careful preservation and protection of something: esp: planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect". That says a lot and gives us all a large responsibility.

Accept that responsibility and put CONSERVATION at the top of your business plan. Be the best land and farm operator you can be and conserve your soil and water resources so your agricultural operation will maintain itself for a long time.

STATE FUNDING

(July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

Bonding 2 Cost Share Fund

Allocation	\$ 41,164.86
Total cost-share paid	7,281.65
Total approved & pending	<u>33,881.89</u>
Recalled 6/30/11	\$ 1.32

Cost Share Fund

Carryover	\$ 22,155.10
Total cost-share paid	21,205.63
Total approved & pending	<u>949.47</u>
Balance 6/30/11	\$ 0.00

REAP Practices Fund

Allocation + carryover	\$ 31,990.78
Total cost-share paid	29,704.56
Total approved & pending	<u>2,286.22</u>
Balance 6/30/11	\$ 0.00

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Fund

Allocation	\$ 3,276.90
Total cost-share paid	2,166.05
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Recalled 6/30/11	\$ 1,110.85

Storm Damage Repairs

Allocation	\$ 2,916.75
Total cost-share paid	2,916.75
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/11	\$ 0.00

I-M Budget

(July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

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

Allocation + Supplemental	\$ 2,260.00
Expenses	\$ 2,260.00
Balance 6/30/11	\$ 0.00

Low Interest Loans

\$225,000 in low interest loans were made.

Little Sioux Flood Prevention Watershed Maintenance Funds

(July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

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

Balance carried forward	\$193,861.25
Income (Interest)	\$5,283.45
Expenses	<u>\$818.00</u>
Balance 6/30/11	\$198,326.70

General Fund (Revolving)

(July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

(For District Functions)

Balance carried forward	\$17,145.38
Income	\$16,399.91
Expenses	<u>\$13,515.52</u>
Balance 6/30/11	\$20,029.77

Ross Pinkerton Memorial Fund

(July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

Balance carried forward	\$455.00
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/11	\$455.00

FEDERAL FUNDING

EQIP Funds

(Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

(October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011)

Funded EQIP contracts in the amount of \$306,443.33.

CAFO/AFO Resource Concerns: \$216,266.75

Cropland Resource Concerns: \$42,339.75

Wildlife Resource Concerns: \$24,151.83

Organic Certified Concerns: \$16,245.00

Organic CAP Statewide: \$3840.00

CAP Plans Statewide: \$3600.00

EWP-FPE Funds

(Emergency Watershed Protection Program—Floodplain Easement)

(October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011)

Option to purchase 584.9 acres for enrollment in a permanent easement program - scheduled to close within a year.

GRP Funds

(Grassland Reserve Program)

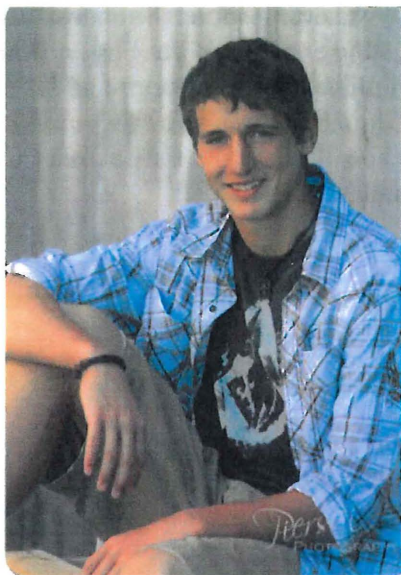
(October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011)

3 applications accepted for a total of \$84,840.00.

The Cherokee SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

District Awards Scholarships

Each year the Cherokee SWCD gives scholarships to high school seniors who will be pursuing programs of study in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Scholarship applications are judged according to leadership (service, character, and self motivation) and scholastic achievement. To apply for scholarships, students should see their guidance counselor to pick up an application form. The District forwards the top scholarship application to the Conservation Districts of Iowa regional director for a chance to compete for regional and state scholarships. Recipients of this year's District Scholarships were Brody Lichtenberg and Regan Henkel.



Brody Lichtenberg

Brody Lichtenberg from Aurelia was the recipient of a \$300.00 scholarship from the Cherokee SWCD. Brody graduated from Alta High School. His parents are Eldon and Donna Lichtenberg. In high school Brody participated in National Honor Society, FFA, Lutheran Youth Fellowship, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Football, Baseball, Track, Basketball, Student Council, Big Brother/Big Sister Program, Student Advisory Council, and Peer Mentoring. Brody's interests include farming, hunting, paint ball, collecting coins, and fishing. Brody is currently attending Iowa State University in Ames where he is studying Animal Science. His goal is to become a large animal veterinarian in Iowa.



Regan Henkel

Regan Henkel was the recipient of a \$200.00 scholarship from the Cherokee SWCD. She graduated from Aurelia High School. Regan is the daughter of Kendall and Sharon Henkel. Some of the activities Regan participated in high school include Choir, Jazz Choir, All-school play, Cheerleading, Volleyball, Track, Flags, Quiz bowl, Thespian Society, 4-H, ISU Leadership Conference, and Student Council. Regan's interests include animals (especially horses), working on Sudoku puzzles, riding and training horses, writing, and reading. Regan is currently attending Iowa State University where she is pursuing a degree in Animal Science. She plans to go on to the College of Veterinary Medicine and open a clinic that cares for small animals and horses.

Conservation Education 2011: Students Learn about Forests For People.

In 2011, the National Association of Conservation Districts again offered elementary students the opportunity to learn about conservation through a nationwide poster contest. Each year, NACD proposes a new theme. Their choice for 2011 was "Forests For People". The Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners offer the contest to all of the county's fourth grade classes. In 2011, Aurelia, Cherokee, and Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn elected to participate.

To introduce the contest, Assistant Commissioner Ginger Walker traveled to each school bearing educational hand-outs, poster board, contest rules, and a lively presentation for the kids. They discussed the ways forests and the use of forests have changed throughout history, looked at maps that show how fortunate we are in Cherokee County to still have most of the forests that the pioneers found here, and shared stories about how we personally enjoy forests. Ginger explained to them that in order for forests to be good for people, soil, water, and wildlife, forest owners need to be forest managers, watching out for invasive species, cutting some trees and planting others, and using prescribed fire.

Students produced colorful posters with the content theme illustrated by whatever inspired them most. Cherokee SWCD Commissioners rated the posters that best met the goals of the contest, voting on the top three posters from each school district. While all of the posters were displayed at the Sanford Museum in June, the top students and their families and teachers were invited to an awards reception where the winning poster for the county was also announced. This poster goes on to a regional competition for a chance at the state and national levels. The 2011 winner for Cherokee County was Nicole McLaughlin, a 4th grader at Roosevelt Elementary in Cherokee. Congratulations, Nicole!

Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn 4th Grade Poster Winners



Pictured from left to right: 2nd place winner Olivia Mohr, 3rd place winner Jazzmine Bruneau, and Commissioner Nathan Anderson. 1st place winner Cadon Remington was unavailable for the photograph.

Aurelia 4th Grade Poster Winners



Pictured left to right: 1st place winner Cali Mongan, 2nd place winner Annika Patton, 3rd place winner Emily Morse, and Commissioner Nathan Anderson.

Cherokee 4th Grade Poster Winners



Pictured from left to right:
1st place winner Nicole McLaughlin, 2nd place winner Alexa Timmerman, 3rd place winner Jake Zwiefel, and Commissioner Nathan Anderson.

Conservation Award Winners



Lucille and Duane Kent

Duane and Lucille Kent of Aurelia were chosen as the state winners for the Field Shelterbelt Award in the 2011 Izaak Walton League Windbreak Awards program for Iowa. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals for the establishment of windbreaks and to encourage the planting of additional windbreaks. On September 8th at the 65th Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners held in Des Moines, Duane and Lucille were presented with the award by Jay Samuelson, President of the Iowa Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

The Kent family planted a dual purpose shelterbelt for protection but mostly wildlife habitat. It was also planted to provide an opportunity for others to learn and to demonstrate the use of diverse plant species. It has great aesthetic values and is a part of the Kent family lifestyle of conservation, wildlife, and habitat.



Kent's Shelterbelt



Back Row: Butch, Bonnie, Brianna, Derrick, Nicky, and Dana Sleezer. Middle Row: Levi and Kaleb Sleezer. Front Row: Gavin Sleezer.

On August 15th at the Cherokee County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Sleezer, Inc. was presented with the regional Soil Conservation Award which is sponsored by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS). This program honors the farm owners and operators that treat their land with the best conservation practices, practice exceptionally good farm husbandry, and exhibit outstanding service to their community.

Sleezer, Inc. is a family farming operation located northeast of Aurelia with primary enterprises of corn, soybean, and swine production. Family members and their spouses provide a vital and specialized contribution to the corporation. Each member has an active interest in enlarging conservation stewardship within their operation, their community, and for future generations. The conservation efforts of Sleezer, Inc. are innovative, diverse, and tested. The performance of various conservation practices is fully documented for practical application and for informing the public. The farming operation energetically seeks and willingly responds to opportunities to share their conservation efforts with individuals and groups. The lessons learned provide a practical and encouraging stimulus for others to implement various conservation practices within their own realm of influence.

Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District

712-225-3769 or 712-225-4151

2011-2012 Trees For Sale

For
Spring
2012
Pickup

Deciduous Trees	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
Silver Maple	10	S	5-6'	\$30.00		
Sugar Maple	25	S	2-3'	\$49.00		
Red Oak	10	S	3-4'	\$25.00		
Hybrid Willow	25	RC	2-3'	\$45.00		
Shrubs	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
Common ChokeCherry	25	S	2-3'	\$39.00		
Cranberrybush	10	TR	2-3'	\$30.00		
Red Dogwood	10	TR	2-3'	\$20.00		
Common Purple Lilac	10	TR	2-3'	\$20.00		
Common Ninebark	10	TR	2-3'	\$23.00		
Bare-root Evergreens	Bundle	Type	Size	Price/Bundle	Quantity	Total
Concolor Fir	10	TR	7-15"	\$15.00		
White Pine	10	TR	7-15"	\$13.00		
Black Hills Spruce	10	TR	12-18"	\$19.00		
White Spruce	10	TR	7-15"	\$13.00		

Potted Evergreens		Type	Size	Price	Quantity	Total
White Pine	Sold indi- vidually	2 Gallon Potted	18-24"	\$15.00 each		
Black Hills Spruce	Sold indi- vidually	2 Gallon Potted	24-30"	\$17.00 each		
White Spruce	Sold indi- vidually	2 Gallon Potted	18-24"	\$15.00 each		

S (Seedling) TR (Transplant) RC (Rooted Cutting)

Subtotal _____
 7% Sales Tax _____
 Grand Total _____

50% Deposit _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to Cherokee County SWCD

Profit from tree sales is used for conservation education projects.

Other varieties & sizes 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.