

Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District
709 S. Iris Street, Suite 101
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641
319-385-2824, Ext 3

2010 Annual Report

July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

"Our mission is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment."

In Memory of **Richard D. Gholson:**

Dick Gholson was a farmer and lifelong steward of the soil.

He served on the SWCD board for 35 years as commissioner and assistant commissioner.

He was always very avid about promoting soil and water

stewardship to neighbors, farmers, coffee club members, and students in the school. Dick passed away suddenly on December 4, 2009. He will be greatly missed.



- **District Commissioners:**
Jan Anderson, Allan Barnes, Harlan Miller, Darrell Mullin, Rick Mallams.
- **Assistant commissioners:**
Chuck Allen & Rob Smith
- **IDALS DSC Staff:**
Barb Shelman, Secretary
Michael Allen, Technician
Caleb Waters, Geode Coordinator
- **NRCS Staff:**
Doug Ensminger, District Conservationist
Josh Sieren, Soil Conservationist
Randy Robb, Wetland Specialist

Conservation Districts of Iowa & Richard D. Gholson Memorial Scholarships

Nathan Lee Shelman, Waco High School, was selected to represent Henry County for the CDI Scholarship. As a result of being selected for the CDI Scholarship he was also awarded the Richard D. Gholson Memorial Scholarship of \$1000. Nathan is attending Iowa State University, Majoring in Agricultural Studies.

conservation Habits = HEALTHY HABITATS

Soil & Water Stewardship Materials purchased by the Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District were provided to New London, Mt. Pleasant, Waco and Winfield-Mt. Union School Districts. Fourteen teachers used these materials to promote soil and water conservation to their students. Posters created for the 2010 Poster Contest featured the theme “**Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats**”. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Conservation Districts of Iowa, and the Henry County SWCD co sponsor the SWCD contest. Winners of the 2010 Poster Contest were:



Waco

Alex Sabel, Saylor Rex,
Anna Hartzler, Beau Beckler
4th Grade



Kaylee Shelman & Landan Provino,
1st Grade



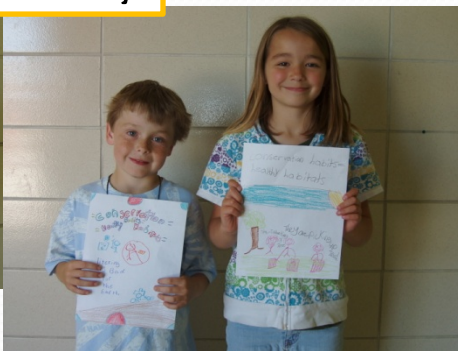
WMU

Molly Miller 1st Grade



**New London
Clark Elementary**

Rachel Carter



Cameron Raines &
Kara Krieger
2nd Grade



Salem

Sarah Clark, Cassandra Munford
& Jackie Fraise



Mt. Pleasant

Delayna Cotton &
Brynn Mills

**Mt. Pleasant
Christian School**



Janessa
Kongable
10th Grade

District Financial Report of State Funds & Accomplishments: July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

1M Budget-Operating Funds Commissioner and Office Expenses

Initial Allocation	\$2,700.00
Commissioner Expense	\$640.76
Office Expenses	\$204.17
CDI & NACD Dues	\$1150.00
Educational Materials/Awards	\$ 349.76
Postage	\$ 356.10
Total Expenditures	\$2700.79
Balance	\$ (0.79)

Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) 75% Cost-Share Funds

Practices Fund

1 Windbreak 1500 L.F. Terraces in Cedar Creek Watershed

2009 Projects Rolled Over	\$ 3,923.01
Initial Allocation	\$12,300.19
Supplemental Allocation	\$17,444.32
Total Allocations	\$33,667.52
Projects Complete & Paid	\$ 5,110.95
Funds Rolled Over to 2011	\$27,142.12
Funds Recalled as of 6-30-10	\$ 1,414.45

Forestry/Grasses Fund

3.4 Ac. Tree Planting, 2 Windbreaks 25.7 Ac. Timber Stand Improvement

2009 Projects Rolled Over	\$ 1,500.00
Initial Allocation	\$ 4,100.05
Supplemental Allocation	\$12,300.15
Funds Complete & Paid	\$ 7,576.50
Funds Rolled Over to 2010	\$10,200.00
Funds Recalled as of 6-30-10	\$ 123.70

3M Budget-State Cost-Share Funds 34,325 LF Terraces & 1 Basin Constructed

2010-Cost Share	
2009 Practices Rolled Over	\$ 47,723.92
Initial Allocation	\$ 28,403.76
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 89,593.41
Total Allocations	\$165,721.09
Projects Complete & Paid	\$103,641.26
Projects Rolled Over to 2011	\$ 60,114.72
Funds Recalled as of 6-30-10	\$ 1,965.11

2010 Storm Damage Repair Bonding Funds 55 Projects Completed

2010-Bonding Funds

Total Allocations	\$172,569.71
Projects Complete & Paid	\$ 80,975.55
Projects Rolled Over to 2011	\$ 40,064.63
Funds Recalled as of 6-30-10	\$ 51,529.53

State Revolving Fund--No-Interest 0% Loans 2 Grade Stabilization Structures Constructed

2010 Allocation	\$40,000.00
Projects Complete & Paid	\$18,622.08
Projects Rolled Over to 2011	\$20,000.00
Funds Recalled as of 6-30-2010	\$ 1,377.92

Local Watershed Protection Program (LWPP) 3% Loans: 4 Projects Completed—6.5 Ac. Waterways, 1 Planned Grazing System, 2 Basins, 1 Pond

Loan Funds Allocated	\$46,113.29
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All services and programs are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Watershed Reports

❖ Cedar Creek Watershed

The District has targeted Cedar Creek Watershed as a priority for REAP Practice funds. Landowners in this watershed can apply for 50% cost share funds to construct soil & water conservation practices on their land.

❖ Geode Watershed

Special Lakes Funding: Landowners in Lake Geode Watershed (Baltimore Twp., sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 & 36) can apply for 75% cost share funds to construct practices.

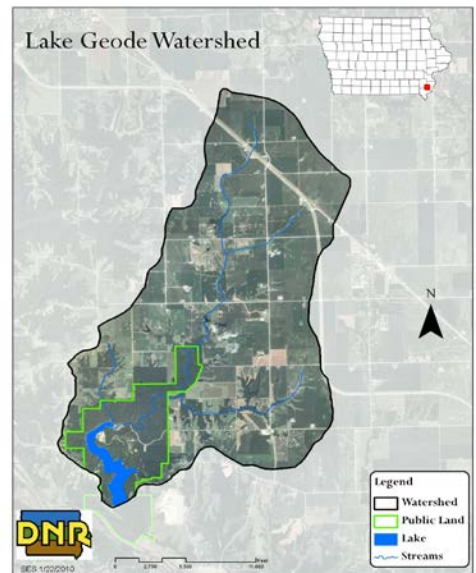
Lake Geode Watershed Assessment & Management Plan:

Plan was completed in 2008, Caleb Waters was hired as Watershed Coordinator. Watershed Protection Funds & 319 Funds were received to construct grade stabilization structures within the Park.



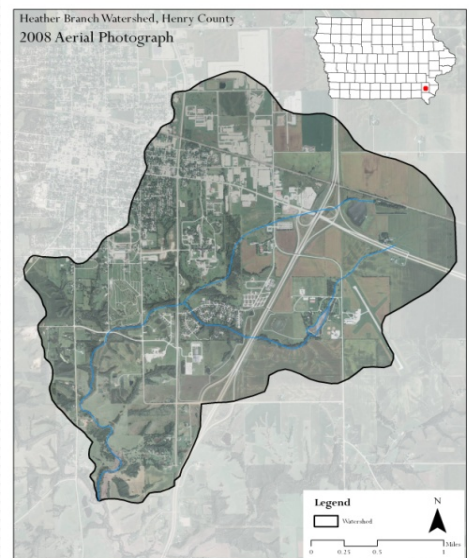
❖ Heather Branch Watershed

The District received a grant from DSC to complete a thorough assessment of the HB Watershed. From those funds, the District will be expected to complete a watershed management plan with a detailed schedule of application for trees grasses and in stream structure for application within the watershed. Funding will then be looked at to implement the practices. The watershed is being reviewed due to the high potential for human contact through town and below Old Threshers grounds.



❖ Wayland Hydrology Study

The Henry SWCD applied and received a Development Grant to inventory, assess, and develop implementation strategies for a watershed that covers 600 acres in the City of Wayland in the northwestern corner of Henry County. Approximately 50% of the watershed is urbanized land. Snyder & Associates has been selected by the Henry SWCD to conduct the study.





CAN CONSERVATION WAIT?

By Jim Gillespie,
IDALS-DSC Field Services Bureau Chief

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.

Record Breaking Year in 2010

By Rich Sims
NRCS State Conservationist



After several difficult cropping seasons with record rains and difficult growing conditions, 2010 was also a record-breaking year—but for very different reasons. The 2010 growing season began earlier than the year before, with three straight weeks of great planting weather. In fact, during the last week of April, USDA's National Ag Statistics Service reported Iowa corn planting was further along than anytime in recorded history.

This followed with a speedy harvest. Earlier planting dates led to earlier crop maturity and an early harvest. By Oct. 25, 86% of the Iowa corn crop was harvested according to the USDA. Harvest was 35 days earlier than in 2009 and 25 days ahead of the five-year average.

And harvest was less expensive because of the extremely low grain moisture. By mid-October, grain moisture averaged 14%.

Unfortunately all this great news wasn't so great for conservation.

With harvest complete in record time, this left plenty of remaining good weather to spend out in the fields---doing what I would call "recreational" tillage.

In October, my wife and I visited South Dakota. We took many county roads from Des Moines, weaving our way up to the northwest corner of Iowa. And I was surprised and disappointed by what I saw---many, many fields were tilled. And staff from across Iowa reported similar sights in all four corners of the state.

Was this recreational tillage included in the conservation plans of all these farms? Most likely not.

So what affect will this have on these operations?

Any benefits gained from previous no-till farming will be lost. Gone with one pass of the chisel. These producers will be starting from scratch to regain the soil quality benefits generated by their previous investment in no-till.

And there is the compliance issue. It's hard to believe that after such widespread tillage that more Iowa fields won't be found out of compliance. When the winter snows melt, and spring arrives, the results will reveal themselves. And so will the mandated consequences.

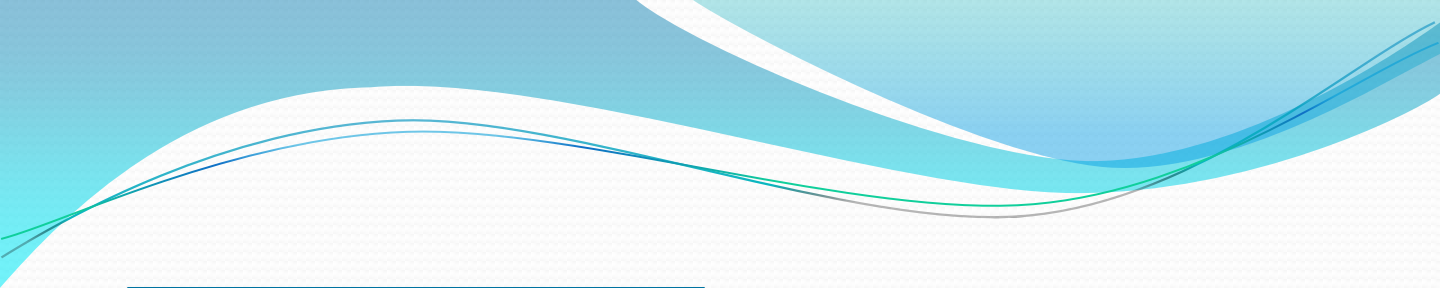
If we are fortunate to have similar crop production year in 2011, it is my hope that the tractors remain in the shed and the tillage equipment off the fields. That would be a banner year for conservation.

Soil and water conservation districts work closely with a number of local, state and federal agencies, as well as with local groups and organizations.

In particular, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services have close ties with the districts. The Division helps districts administer state and local programs, including financial incentive programs and assigns state technical and secretarial people to districts. The NRCS works through districts, providing technical soil conservationists and other natural resource specialists as well as office space for the local district.

Districts work closely with other entities including the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, USDA Farm Services Agency, USDA Rural Development, State Soil Conservation Committee, Iowa Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, county conservation boards, county boards of supervisors, drainage districts and levee districts.





Henry SWCD
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