

Iowa Farmer Today^{NE}

Vol. 31, No. 37

Copyright 2015

www.iowafarmertoday.com

May 16, 2015

100% REPLANT

Have confidence during planting this spring with Beck's 100% Replant Policy. If there is a need to replant a field of Beck's corn, soybeans, wheat or elite alfalfa, Beck's will furnish the seed and royalties 100% FREE.



BECK'S

Inside

VETERANS in Agriculture

A Vietnam veteran recalls how treatment of the military has changed since his time in the service

Page 10

Young LEADERS

Newly elected Iowa FFA president Michael Tupper saw his high school program gain popularity

Page 20

Testing the WATERS

Partnership
aims to improve
water quality,
relationships

By Tim Hoskins

Iowa Farmer Today

LA PORTE CITY — Living and farming upstream from Cedar Rapids, Nick Meier likes the approach Cedar Rapids has taken to work with farmers to improve water quality.

Meier, who farms in Black Hawk County, is located in the Miller Creek watershed. This feeds into the Middle Cedar River watershed, which, in turn, affects Cedar Rapids' water quality and quantity.

In January, Cedar Rapids and the Iowa Department of Agriculture announced \$2 million in funding from a USDA watershed conservation program in addition to \$2.3 million matched by area partners, according to a USDA news release.

See page 4: Partnership ***

IFT photo by Tim Hoskins

Shane Wulf, left, coordinator of the Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project, discusses water-quality issues with farmer Nick Meier. They're standing on a newly installed saturated buffer at the edge of one of Meier's fields. The project is part of the effort to improve the Middle Cedar River watershed.

Testing the Waters
article

#BXNNV1JD *****SCH 5-DIGIT 50701

IN HOME DELIVERY B / MAY 16, 2015

Iowa Farmer Today

Publisher – Terry Reilly
Associate Publisher – Becky Croy
Managing Editor – Roy Leidahl
Sales Manager – Brad Steffens

MAIN OFFICE
 800-475-6655
 or 319-398-2640
 FAX: 319-398-2696

EDITORIAL
Associate Editor – Zoe Martin
Wire Editor – Kathy Varney
Agronomy Editor – Tim Hoskins
Staff Writer – Caitlin Ellingson

FIELD OFFICES
Public Affairs Editor – Gene Lucht,
 515-964-5501
Livestock Editor – Jeff DeYoung,
 712-520-3311
Missouri Field Editor – Ben Herrold,
 660-373-2236
Illinois Field Editor – Phyllis Coulter,
 309-660-5701

news@iowafarmertoday.com

ADVERTISING/SALES E-MAIL:
 sales@iowafarmertoday.com

NATIONAL REP FIRM
 Bock & Assoc., Inc.
 (PH) 800-284-6020
 (FAX) 952-854-4752

CIRCULATION
 circulation@iowafarmertoday.com

MAILING ADDRESS:
 Iowa Farmer Today
 1065 Sierra Ct. NE, Suite B
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 52402-6585

WEB SITE:
 www.IowaFarmerToday.com



Iowa Farmer Today (USPS 002-141), is published weekly in Cedar Rapids, Iowa by Iowa Farmer Today Publications, 1065 Sierra Ct. NE, Suite B, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-6585. Subscription rate to Iowa Farmer Today is \$70 a year. Periodicals postage paid at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Iowa Farmer Today, 1065 Sierra Ct. NE, Suite B, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-6585. Copyright 2015 by Iowa Farmer Today. All rights reserved.

***Partnership From page 1

The Middle Cedar Partnership Project targets 2,417 square miles from south of Waterloo to north of Vinton in Black Hawk, Tama and Benton counties.

Meier no-tills and strip-tills his land. He has planted cover crops on his farm. He recently had a saturated buffer installed in an existing buffer along one of his fields, and also plans to install a bioreactor.

A saturated buffer is installed in the ground between a tiled field and surface water. The saturated buffer has the groundwater carried by tile lines diverted from being drained directly to the surface.

At a diverter box, the water is sent to other tile lines under the buffer. This allows uptake by the perennial plants in the buffer and denitrification in order to keep nitrate out of the surface water. Some of the diverter boxes are designed with different chambers, allowing water to drain directly to the outlet during heavy water movement.

Meier is also working with his crop consultant, Shannon Gomes, to use Adapt N, a nitrogen recommendation software. The system uses variables including soil type and weather data to estimate how much N is needed for a crop.

In addition, he variable rates his P and potash applications.

Question of the Week

This year, do you plan to start using a new soil or water conservation practice (such as strip tillage, no-till, buffers, cover crops or split application of fertilizer)?

☉ Yes ☉ No

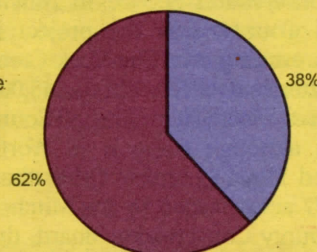
In efforts to avert new environmental regulations and to enhance profit margins, many farmers are continuing to use or are adding soil and water conservation practices in their operations. Are you trying new approaches this year?

Please vote online at iowafarmertoday.com before noon Monday, May 18. We'll publish results here next week. Thanks for participating!

Results from last week's question:

Will bird flu reduce feed demand enough to lower 2014-15 U.S. average farm prices for corn and soybeans?

- ☉ 38% said yes
- ☉ 62% said no



The Question of the Week is an unscientific poll open to all site visitors.

www.merschmanseeds.com

LIBERTY LINK

genuity
ROUNDUP READY 2 YIELD
SOYBEANS

AMERICAS

M M MERSCHMAN SEEDS

Available From

MERSCHMAN SEEDS

Turk Regennitter, CCA

General Sales Manager

319-530-8875

Your friend in the field.®

103 Avenue D • West Point, IA
1.800.848.SEED

All of these practices have one goal in mind: voluntarily improving water quality.

"We are trying to avoid regulations," Meier says, referring to other parts of the country with mandatory farming practices.

That is why he likes the city of Cedar Rapids' willingness to work with farmers upstream to improve water quality.

Steve Hershner, Cedar Rapids utilities director, says the idea of partnering with farmers is natural since part of the city's economy relies on grain processing. And, the funding is important because he knows many practices have a significant cost for farmers to implement.

Cedar Rapids' wells are positioned on the north side of the city, near the Cedar River. Water quality for the city is affected by upstream practices by farmers.

Therefore, the city of Cedar Rapids is working with farmers in five watersheds — Miller Creek, Headwaters Miller Creek, Wolf Creek, Rock Creek and Pratt Creek — that feed into

the Cedar River.

Hershner says the partnership shows various organizations have an interest in improving water quality.

The project is about water quantity as well. After the 2008 flood in Cedar Rapids, he says some of practices are aimed at improving water infiltration in the soil upstream to help with future flood mitigation.

Meier's conservation practices are part of the Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project.

Shane Wulf, project coordinator, says this is the second year for the project. Last year, cover crops were the most popular project farmers tried and many experimented with various cover crop mixes to test which worked the best on their farm.

In addition, he says a couple bioreactors have been installed.

Wulf says outreach such as field days, workshops and bus tours are an important part of this effort.

"We have to get out and get people to think," says Meier.

HUGE SPRING SAVINGS ON CABINETRY!



MC
mid continent
CABINETRY

Hurry in to receive **66% off Glaze** on all Full Overlay Door Styles! PLUS - combine with our 15-20% off select door styles for added savings! Stop in today for your cabinet needs! Offer expires 5/29/15!

COMPETITIVE PRICES • QUALITY PRODUCTS • EXPERT SERVICE



SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER CO.

Visit www.spahnandrose.com to find your nearest Spahn & Rose location!

SINCE 1904