

Water in Tama County Annual Report



Wetland Area North of Traer

Photos provided

areas you're tired of farming thinking about restoring a field that has been drained? By our office and ask about any different wetland problems available! Also, feel free to contact NRCS Wetland Specialist Mike Webster in the Newtown Field Office (641-394-1234) or email: mike.webster@usda.gov for additional information.

*Continuous CRP Shallow Water (CP-9) * Create a new water wetland (6-18" deep), up to 10 acres per tract. * Contract length is 10 years. Area must be cropland.

*Continuous CRP Farmable Wetland Pilot (CP27/28) - 1 cropland areas (5 acres or more) that are wetland or prior

restored back to wetland. Can also enroll a grass buffer around the wetland (up to 3 times the wetland size or up to 150 whichever is greater). Not eligible if site is within 100-year floodplain. CRP contract length is 10-15 years and pays 20 percent bonus + signing incentive. Great for those small wet nuisance areas such as peat beds.

*Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) - Eligible areas are cropland and associated non-cropland that can be restored to wetland. Area must have some drainage manipulation (tilling, ditching, diking, etc.) done in past in order to be eligible. NRCS purchases a permanent easement from the landowner at the appraised land value, or a 30-year easement at

value. Landowner maintains ownership with restrictions on future land use (no haying, grazing, farming, etc.). Unique areas such as "Fens" are also eligible provided there has been some manipulation/drainage. Good option for larger wet areas such as floodplains or bottomlands.

*Floodplain Easement Program (EWP-FPE) - Similar to WRP except goal is to restore floodplains. Eligible areas are cropland and non-cropland areas that are subject to frequent flooding and flood damages. NRCS purchases a permanent easement (30 year easement is not an option in EWP-FPE) from the landowner at the appraised land value. Landowner maintains ownership with restrictions on future land use (no haying, grazing, farming, etc.). Good option for larger areas along major streams that flood frequently.

Planning on doing any tiling or drainage or tiling???

Before completing any tiling or other drainage activities, please make sure you stop by our office to discuss swampbuster rules and regulations, and request a certified wetland determination (if one has not been done already). Remember, violation of the swampbuster provisions can result in loss of "ALL" USDA Benefits!



New Farm Bill and conservation in Tama County

By Jim Allen,
District Conservationist

The 2002 Farm Bill represents the single most significant commitment of resources toward conservation on private lands in our nation's history. The benefits will all be voluntary and include cost-share for the establishment of conservation practices, land rental, incentive payments and technical assistance. The programs that are expected to be popular in Tama County will be the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and the Wetland Conservation Security Program (CSP). Funding limits have increased for all of these programs and we are looking forward to more participation.

The CRP has been reauthorized through 2007. One of the biggest changes to the CRP is the eligibility requirements for participation. The previous Farm Bill allowed enrollment if the land was cropped 2 of the past 5 years. The new Farm Bill requires the land to already have a crop history record in 4 of the 6

years prior to May 2002. This means if it wasn't cropped in 4 of the last 6 years as of May 2002, it will NOT be eligible at all during the Farm Bill period.

Funding for EQIP has increased from 1.3 billion in the last Farm Bill to 9 billion with the 2002 Farm Bill. The cost share ranges from 60-70 percent for the establishment of practices, with possible eligibility of 90 percent limited resource farmers and beginning farmers. Total cost share and incentive payments have been increased to \$450,000 per individual or entity over the life of the Farm Bill, before it was only \$50,000. Priority Areas are no longer required, however, the locally led work group may determine areas of greater importance throughout the county, possibly directing more funds to these areas.

WHIP provides cost sharing for people who own or control land and want to develop and improve wildlife habitat. Contracts will range between 5-10 years in length, depending on the practice, and limited to \$25,000. Based on the habitat, each application must meet eligibility

requirements for the following: Woodlands, Grassland, Riparian, Fen or Education. The funding has increased tremendously with the 2002 Farm Bill providing \$700 Million, compared to \$50M with the 1996 Farm Bill.

The new program we are planning to implement is the CSP, possibly beginning in the spring of 2003. This is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance for the conservation, protection, and improvement of soil, water, air, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on private lands. The program provides payments for producers who practice good stewardship on their agricultural lands and incentives for those who want to do more.

An inventory will be conducted to identify resource concerns and determine the extent of conservation treatment that is being applied and maintained on the producer's land. Payments will include a base payment determined by the treatment level, maintenance payments for currently applied conservation practices, and enhanced payments for exceptional conservation efforts.

District Activities FY 2002

JULY 2001 -

Held a free watermelon feed at the Tama County Fair.

Funding received from Ducks Unlimited and RC&D for the Wetland Field Day scheduled for Aug. 10 and 11. The District contributed \$100 for the Trees Forever field day that was held July 26.

Pheasants Forever contributed \$2,000 for the buffer program. The District matched the funding amount.

AUGUST 2001 -

Wetland Restoration Field Days were held Aug. 10 and 11.

The Native grass no-till drill note was paid.

The Regional CDI meeting was attended by Dan Bruene and Jody Kasal.

The District purchased a banner with the District logo and name.

SEPTEMBER 2001 -

Individuals from the Wolf Creek Watershed group attended the meeting.

OCTOBER 2001 -

SWCD approved support for tuition cost for two teachers to attend the Food, Land and People workshop.

SWCD approved funding of \$50 for a team from Tama County to attend the Environment competition.

NOVEMBER 2001 -

\$50 savings bonds were awarded 4-H members that participated in the Agriculture and Natural Resource projects at the Tama County Fair.

DECEMBER 2001 -

The annual report will again be submitted in the Tama County news supplement in all local newspapers. This report reaches 6,000 homes with no cost to the district.

The District voted to con-

tinue having the Grocery Sack Recycling Contest for grades three through five.

The Envirothon will be held at Hawkeye Community College.

Highbush Cranberry shrubs will be given to all sixth-grade Tama County students.

The District purchased an answering machine for the office, due to the lack of adequate staffing.

JANUARY 2002 -

Wolf Creek Watershed report was received by Jim Allen, District Conservationist. This watershed includes 222,213 acres.

John Weber has volunteered to be a member of the RC&D board. He will be representing the District as an assistant commissioner.

FEBRUARY 2002 -

Contractors meeting will be held Feb. 27 at the Nature Center.

The district's annual audit was held.

MARCH 2002 -

A pre-proposal report on the Wolf Creek Watershed was submitted by Jim Allen.

CDI spring regional meeting will be held in Tama County at the Civic Center.

Contractors annual meeting was held Feb. 27 with 42 attending.

Roger Platt will be retiring April 1, 2002.

400 shrubs will be distributed during the week of Arbor Day to 376 sixth-grade students.

APRIL 2002 -

An IOWA WATER informational meeting will be held at Otter Creek Lake Park Nature Center on May 29.

An informational meeting will be held on April 24 to provide information on pre-

scribed burns. The District will provide prescribed burn assistance at a cost of \$4 per acre with a minimum fee of \$50.

The District will purchase a laptop computer, GPS system and color printer for the office.

Trees and shrubs that were sold by the District will be sorted on April 9 and distributed on the next day. These are being sorted at Dostal Construction.

MAY 2002 -

A newsletter is being sent to all landowners regarding the Otter Creek Water Quality project.

A draft of the final report for the Otter Creek Water Quality project has been submitted.

The Wolf Creek Water Quality proposal was sent. There were 44 applications.

Conservation Award nominees were selected.

Pond sites at the Sac and Fox will be constructed this summer.

The team from Northwood Kensett was the first place award winner at the annual Envirothon competition held at Hawkeye Community College.

JUNE 2002 -

The Wolf Creek Project Coalition Committee sent a letter to the legislative representatives to request the funding of the Wolf Creek Water Quality project.

The conservation awards banquet will be held Nov. 20.

Free Watermelon Feed will again be held at the Tama County Fair on July 21.

The District will participate in the Ag in the Park which will be held at the Dysart Park.

700 CRP status reviews have been completed since January. There are 400 that are left to be completed.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

By Jason Gritsch,
DNR Wildlife Specialist

The USDA's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program helps landowners to enhance and develop wildlife habitat on their property. The Natural Resources Conservation Service works with landowners to develop wildlife habitat plans and provides cost share to implement wildlife habitat management practices.

The WHIP program in Iowa targets three main habitat types: woodlands, grasslands and riparian areas and fens. Under The

WHIP program landowners will receive 75 percent cost-share for implementing practices such as planting native vegetation, enhancing woodlands and streambank restoration.

Contracts last between 5 and 10 years depending upon the practices installed. There is a \$25,000 cost share limit per contract.

Eligible Practices:

Brush Management
Forest Stand Improvement
Prescribed Burning
Tree and Shrub Establishment
Upland Wildlife Habitat

Management
Pasture and Hayland Planting
Prescribed Grazing
Fencing For Livestock Exclusion

Conservation Cover
Critical Area Planting
Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Wetland Restoration and Enhancement

Lands currently enrolled in CRP are not eligible for WHIP funds. If you have any questions, stop into the NRCS office in Toledo or contact Jason Gritsch Wildlife Specialist at 641-484-8153.

"What it means to be a Commissioner for the Tama Soil and Water Conservation District"



By Jeff Bruene
Becoming a soil commissioner is an important job to me.

My family has always been involved and concerned about preserving the stewardship of the land and has passed this appreciation on to me. Each generation is only on this earth for a short period of time, borrowing the use of the land, and it is a must that we each do our part to care for and preserve the land for future generations. I look forward to being a soil commissioner to help make this generation more aware of this beautiful land we live on.

By Jody Kasal:
Being a commissioner of the Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District is



voluntary, and I receive much in return other than monetary reward. I learn conservation practices that I am able to incorporate in my farming operation. I was already performing a lot of these practices, but after touring Tama County, I was able to see how I could improve or enhance some practices. For example, with a minimal amount of maintenance the life of the waterways on my farm will be extended by many years. When I toured Tama County, the differences in well maintained waterways versus others were apparent. The best reward is meeting the knowledgeable and friendly people of Tama County.

I participated in the final phase of the Otter Creek Watershed Project, and felt that past and present commissioners, along with the landowners of the Otter Creek Watershed, did make a difference

in a very beautiful and useful park. I personally enjoy using the park and its facilities.

It is important that I participate in an organization that promotes conservation practices that improve or maintain our precious natural resources. I believe it is unfair for this generation to mine or destroy these natural resources and leave our children and grandchildren to clean up our misuse of natural resources.



By David Beane:

As a soil and water commissioner I have become more aware of the way that I farm. I

am now watching the way that we spray and mow around waterways to protect them, grassed headlands are maintained where needed, contouring and maintaining of residue on sloping soils and pasture rotation of cows.

One of the duties of commissioners is education. The outdoor classroom for elementary students to show them how to protect the soil and water is one project. Another enjoyable part of this job is going around the county to pick winners for our conservation awards banquet. We see most farms that are doing a good job of conserving soil and water but there are also some problems, so we need to keep working to improve these.

By Stan Dostal:

Getting involved in soil conservation started long before I became a district commissioner seven years ago. I felt it was my duty to keep the land in as good of shape or better for my

children or grandchildren found it.

Serving as a commissioner, I know the role and responsibility to provide leadership for local conservation efforts. Being responsible for initiating and carrying out district conservation programs in coordination with other group Commissioners need strategies to cope with various types of conflicts they encounter in their work. These conflicts may include differences between landowners over soil loss complaints. The district commissioners need to have good relationships with local legislators to support local goals.

Over the years I have seen some interesting, rewarding, and educational programs, such as the grocery sack decorating contest, 5th grade outdoor class day at the Otter Creek Lake, and the Environment for the high school students. Another is the buffer initiative serving as a filtering device before water enters a main stream. These buffers also serve as wildlife habitat. The wetland restoration is another good program. The water is held on the land while it is being filtered into the soil. The district's tree sale program has encouraged more tree plantings. The backyard conservation programs have been of interest to the rural and urban conservationist. These are a few of the many programs provided by the soil and water conservation district. These programs are not just for landowners. Some of these programs are for the youth as well as urban dwellers.

We need to protect our farmland. An average 666,000 acres of prime farmland is converted to nonagricultural uses each year. This amounts to more than 70 acres per hour. Paved areas generate 16 times more runoff than open lands.

Iowa is a leader when it comes to soil and water conservation. Soil conservation does not just happen, it takes effort.

Conservation compliance is required

You are required to follow a conservation plan that controls sheet and rill erosion and ephemeral gully erosion on HEL land. Ignoring your conservation plan could cause you to lose your federal farm program payments from FSA.

Cost share is available to install many conservation practices. You may sign up for cost-share at the NRCS office.

The most common problems causing compliance violations are:

- Grassed waterways that have not been installed or properly maintained.
- Excess tillage resulting in inadequate ground cover.
- Crop rotation scheduled with meadow and FSA cropping history showing only corn & soybeans.
- Straight row farming rather than contouring.
- Grassed headlands that are not established or have end rows planted parallel with them.

DO NOT RISK LOSING YOUR FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM SUBSIDY PAYMENTS.

Tama SWCD tree sales



The Tama Soil and Water Conservation District will again be selling trees, shrubs, nut tree, shade tree and wildlife shrub packages. These trees need to be purchased in bundles of 25.

Can't use that many trees or shrubs? Perhaps you have a neighbor or a friend that would like to split a bundle with you.

These trees and shrubs are bare-root seedlings anywhere from 6 to 24 inches tall.

Order blanks can be obtained at the NRCS office located at 203 W. High St., Toledo.

The income from these trees and shrubs enable the District to have the Annual Outdoor Classroom, sponsor the grocery sack recycling contest, provide conservation education booklets to elementary students, Arbor Tree distribution to all 6th grade students in Tama County, sponsor the Environment held annually at the Hawkeye Community College, hold a Conservation Awards Banquet in the fall, etc.

If you need more information call the office at 641-484-2702.

Projects Completed For Tama County

- Grassed Waterways - 83 ac.
- Grade Stabilization Ponds - 4
- Grade Stabilization Structures - 5
- Animal Waste - 1
- Terraces - 3,160 ft.
- Water & Sediment Control Basins - 12
- Wetlands - (CRP-9 & 23) 22

E.Q.I.P.

By Soil Conservation Technician, Chester Worden

EQIP stands for Environmental Quality Incentive Program. It is a federally funded cost-share program, administered by the NRCS with bills being processed and paid through FSA. Cost-share incentives are given to land owners/operators to help them do proper land and livestock management practices to reduce soil erosion, keep our water clean and improve wildlife. It has been used some in the past four years, but Congress put more emphasis on it in the 2000 Farm Bill.

Most past federal conservation programs are mandated to be basically the same all over the United States. EQIP was set up so each county has a locally led group to set county conservation priorities within the federal guidelines and rules. Tama County EQIP group consists of Jim Allen, NRCS District Conservationist chairman. Other members are Tama County Soil & Water Commissioners - Dave Beane, Stan Dostal, Jody Kasal, Rollee Hanes, Jeff Bruene and Nancy Havran, secretary. Gene Long, FSA director, FSA Committee members - Jim Hines, George Edell and Sharon Early; Bob Elzel, Tama County Conservation director; Carolyn Adolphs and Jim Little, Conservation Board members. Also on the Committee are DNR representatives Rick Tine, Wildlife; Bob Hibbs, Forestry; Jason Gritch, Buffers; Tony Jesina of Farm Credit and State Senator Lance Horbach. Members from Tama County Agricultural Organizations are Dave Meggers of Pheasants Forever, Dave Calderwood of Pork Producers and Lance Wauters of Beef Producers.

This Committee has met, set county priorities and cost-share amounts and sent this proposal to the NRCS State Office for possible approval. After this approval is given and Congress appropriates EQIP funds for this fiscal year, then some of the 314 current applications in our office can be funded. It is taking longer to get funds this first year of the new Farm Bill. Hopefully that will be made easier and faster in the future.

Two other items are different about EQIP. Larger projects may be able to be done all at once as there aren't many limits on amount per producer like we have on the State Cost-Share Program. Multiple practices are spread over a three-year plan with Conservation Contracts between the government and producers used. The

other different item is that ranking system is used for each application to show how the application helps with improving water quality, soil erosion & wildlife. Some of the ranking criteria for water quality is application quality are proper manure storage and fertilizer and chemical management. Priority is also put on certain areas where the streams and lakes are already polluted more. Pasture practices that use rotational paddock grazing and keeping cattle out of streams are also encouraged for water quality. If a producer sets aside a small acreage for wildlife, that increases your points. The more soil conservation practices a farmer uses and if the practices include the entire tract gives more points for soil erosion. This ranking system helps put the money where it does the most good environmentally.

The Tama County EQIP Practices based on percent of cost-share are: Streambank Stabilization, Wetland Creation, Terraces, Ponds, Gully Control, Structures, Grassed Waterways, Water & Sediment Control, Basins, Pasture & Hayland Plantings, Grass Filter Strips, Riparian Tree Buffers, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Tree Planting and Manure Storage Facilities. Cost-share ranges are between 75 and 25 percent. Practices cost-shared on a per acre basis are: No-Till/Strip Till/Ridge Till, Contour Stripcropping, Grazing Plans, Nutrient & Pest Management and Manure Management Application Systems.

If you think you might qualify for EQIP cost-share, applications are available at the Tama County NRCS Office. If EQIP isn't for you, the office staff can help decide if other programs are better suited for your conservation needs.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Jason Gritch.

Soil and Water Conservation Practices Benefit Generations To Come!



IOWA STATE EXTENSION OFFICE STAFF: Left to right, Bonnie Murty, office assistant; Ann Smith, county extension education director and Linn Farley, food and nutrition program assistant. Not pictured: Jackie Skala, 4-H coordinator.

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641-499-2142 or

Dave Meggers 319-478-8650 to coordinate

Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

November 20 at the Otter Creek Lake Park Nature Center

The conservation award recipients were honored with a banquet and entertainment



CONSERVATION TEACHER AWARD/MIKE SPOPEC: Mike is a Biology teacher at the North Tama High School. His approach to conservation education has been to infuse it into the curriculum through the activities and materials that he has obtained in classes and workshops. He has tried to include as many of the hands-on activities as possible. He looks for real world applications that can be used by the students to give more meaning to the work that they are doing. Mike has served as a reviewer of the IOWATER Secondary Educator's Module that was reviewed in December of 2001. He has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 304 in Traer for the past three years. During the past three years Mike stated that his Advanced Biology class has participated in the IOWATER program. The students have been monitoring Wolf Creek close to Traer. The data that they collect has been entered into the state IOWATER on-line database. In addition to the data being submitted to the IOWATER site, the students prepare a project that is presented to the North Tama County Community School Board. Mike and his wife, Cindy, have two children, Andrea and Aaron. Both children are attending North Tama Schools.



CONSERVATION TILLAGE AWARD/MARK DENGELER: The Dengler farm consists of 590 acres. Mark uses no-till on nearly all of the bean and commercial corn acres. He uses minimum till on the seed corn acres. Mark and Sandy have three children: Rachel, Derrick and Sean. The Dengler family also have a dog by the name of Bailey, "The Wonder Dog". Mark's interests are watching his kids participate in all types of activities. Mark belongs to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Tama County Cyclone Club and the North Tama Booster Club.



In the picture: Left to right Kathy Weber, John Weber & Jean Miller

LANDLORD/TENANT AWARD/JOHN & KATHY WEBER: John stated that he and his wife, Kathy, have been farming in northern Tama County since they graduated from Iowa State in 1971. They purchased their first farm in 1973 and have built their operation around a combination of owned and rented land. They raise commercial corn, seed corn and soybeans. Along with their row crop operation they feed out about 9,000 head of hogs per year.

LANDLORD/TENANT AWARD/ JEAN MILLER: Jean and her husband moved to this farm in 1979. The 120 acres is a Century Farm and is jointly owned by her sister, Jo Shannon. John Weber began custom farming in 1996 and renting the ground in 1997. Both Jean's husband, Art, and her late dad, Harry Kosnar were strong advocates of using conservation in farming. "So when John brought up the subject of these conservation projects, it seemed the way to go." Jean has four children: Tracy Miller, Connie married to Rick Neilson, Carol Miller, and son, John Miller. Jean also has three grandchildren, Erick, Brynn and Courtney Neilson of Wildwood, Mo. Jean's husband, Art, passed away in October 1999.



WILDLIFE AWARD/TONY HAYEK: Tony lived on the farm all of his life. Barb and Tony were married in 1979. They have 4 children: Christina, Stan, Shellina and Janelle. Tony came from a family of 12 children. Family has always been a top priority for Tony. Tony's interests/hobbies were hunting, fishing, cattle shows, youth group activities, camping, playing sports in the front yard and basketball home court. He hunted his first beef cows in 1978 and sold the dairy herd. He farmed until 1996 and became a certified blaster. He kept the cattle and operated a Hunting Preserve, where pheasant, chukar and quail are available. Tony belonged to the following organizations: Clutter Cowboys and Cowgirls 4-H leader, Immaculate Encounter Christ weekend as Advisor, Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Tama County Cattlemen (past director), American Gelbvieh Tama County member and past board member, Iowa Gelbvieh Association past president, Catholic Order of Foresters, K&D member. "Tony planted trees every year, not 100 - it was thousands. He totally loved the soil and practiced minimum tillage as much as possible. His love of wildlife has 1/2 of the farm in CRP. He also has three ponds and a wetland on the farm. There is an 80-acre field with buffer strips. He was a blaster for financial reasons, but anyone knows his love was in the family farm where he lived his entire life. Tony died June 16, 2002 at his favorite place (one of the ponds) on his most favorite day of the year, Father's Day.



FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD/LOREN DOSTAL: Loren Dostal is this year's Friend of Conservation Award recipient. Loren has provided a building for the District's annual tree sales that is held annually in the spring and for the seed sales that the District held two years ago. Loren enjoys fishing, family activities and downhill skiing. Loren is owner of the general construction and excavating company named Dostal Construction. Loren and Sara have three boys: Trace in sixth grade, Zach a second grader and Jacob age 2. The Dostals are members of St. Patrick's Church.

Services offered by Tama County SWCD

- Prairie Planting
- Drill: \$26/acre, plus \$50 Setup & Delivery Fee
- Broadcast Seeding
- Terrace Seeding
- Pasture, CRP and Hayland Seeding with Drill \$26/acre, plus \$50 Setup and Delivery Fee. Will also Broadcast seed.
- Grassed Waterway Seeding: Drill/Broadcast, plus \$50 Setup and Delivery Fee.

The District also does Prescribed Burns at \$5.00 per acre with a minimum fee of \$50.00.

If you would like to purchase native grass, wildflower seed, just call the District Office at (641-484-2702) and it can be ordered for you.



NEW COOPERATOR/ GENE FORMANEK: The farm, consisting of 255 acres, was purchased in 1995. Gene and his wife moved to the farm in 1996. Gene and his wife have been married for 30 years on this date. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Gene's interests/hobbies are fishing, hunting and football. The organizations that Gene belongs to are: Legion, Knights, NRA, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants forever.

More Conservation Awards on page 4C

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Friday - 8:30-6:00





RURAL BACKYARD CONSERVATION AWARD/DARRELL AND LAVONNE KRAFKA: The Krafkas are interested in gardening, maintaining their residence with green plants and flowers, feeding and watching birds and fishing. ("When they have the time.") They also enjoy volunteering one day a week at the Veterans Hospital in Iowa City. Darrell is retired from farming and works for the Belle Plaine School District. LaVonne is co-owner of The Cottage, a consignment shop, in Belle Plaine.



ESTABLISHED WINDBREAK AWARD/KEITH & SHELLEY SMITH: Keith and Shelley have been selected as the District's Windbreak Award recipients. This windbreak was planted in 1997 and consists of Blue Spruce and Austrees. Keith is a farmer and enjoys hunting, fishing and family time at their pond. He is a member of the Farm Bureau and vice president of the Tama/Grundy Cyclone Club. Keith and Shelley have two daughters, Keisha, age 12 and Tia, age 10. Both daughters are attending Gladbrook/Reinbeck Schools.



URBAN BACKYARD CONSERVATION AWARD/JIM & ELAINE MCANDREWS: Jim and Elaine have a backyard that borders the nature trail in Dysart. Many individuals have enjoyed the beauty of their yard. Elaine is an interior designer for Smulckoff's in Cedar Rapids. Jim has his own painting company. They have four daughters: Kim, Karmen, Kamie and Kelly.



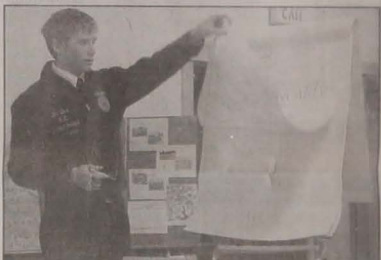
BUFFER INITIATIVE AWARD/LARRY AND JEAN VEST: Larry and Jean have lived at this farm for 44 plus years. The contour buffers were installed in 2000. The Vests have always contoured and used conservation tillage for the past 22 years. Absent from the picture is Larry. He was unable to attend the banquet.



OWNER/OPERATOR AWARD/RANDY & JUDY WELTON: Randy and Judy have lived on the farm for 30 years. They farm 2200 acres with 800 acres in corn and 700 acres in beans. The balance of the acres are in hay and pasture to run 220 head of beef cows and 40 head of bred heifers. All soybeans are no-tilled into cornstalks or hay ground. 80% of the corn is no-tilled into bean stubble with the balance minimum-tilled. They have installed several feet of grassback terraces and waterways. Some of the grass backs were installed in 1974. Crops are planted on the contour where possible. The Weltons have three children: Andrea, Stephanie and Lindsey. They also have 2 grandchildren. The Weltons have a small herd of registered Angus cattle. They also enjoy traveling. Organizations that Randy is a member of include: Tama County Farm Bureau, Tama County Cattlemen's board and board member of the Grace Believers Church of Toledo. Randy received the Wes Furrer Conservation Award in 1991 for outstanding efforts in soil conservation. This award was sponsored by the Farmers National Company, Richard C. Hahn, President and CEO.



THE UNION HIGH SCHOOL FFA MEMBERS (pictured above and below) provided the entertainment for the Conservation Awards Banquet. Their skit qualified for the National FFA competition. The skit was about water quality issues. Each individual in the skit portrayed people that would be involved in such an issue.



GROCERY SACK ARTWORK: The first place award winners present in this photo were given a free airplane ride over Tama County compliments of pilots Jeff Else and Jim Pippert. They also were recognized at the Conservation Awards Banquet and given a T-shirt with a transfer of their art work that was done on a grocery sack. The individuals pictured left to right: Zane Oldbear, Sac & Fox School; Cameron Wagner, North Tama School and Rachel Bearden, Gladbrook Elementary.

Tama County Publishing

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COURT

TAMA COUNTY MAGISTRATE

These cases appeared before Magistrate John Willett in the Tama County Magistrate Court Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Deborah Ann Youngbear, 52, Toledo, pleaded guilty to the charges of failure to obey stop sign and failure to prove ownership against liability.

The charges were filed Nov. 18 at 4:53 p.m. at Fee Street and 1st Avenue in Toledo by Toledo Police Officer William Heber.

Youngbear was fined \$285 with \$85.50 surcharge, plus \$30 court costs.

Michelle S. Goodman, 20

These cases appeared before Magistrate Ann Kuhter in the Tama County Magistrate Court Friday, Dec. 20.

Gaylen Morgan, 52, Tama, failed to appear on the charges open container and interfere with official acts.

The charges were filed at 22 at 1:36 a.m. at Meskwah Road in Tama County by Tama County Deputy Wesley Sebelk.

The court issued a conditional judgement and the defendant was fined \$350 with \$105 surcharge plus \$40 court costs and \$

Native prairie restorations

By Mark Pokorny,
District Employee

Prairie plantings have many positive benefits to wildlife, the land and us. Native grasses, including switchgrass, have a deep root system that keeps soil loss to a minimum. The tall grass makes excellent habitat cover for a variety of wildlife. These are excellent areas for hunting and other types of natural recreation that can be enjoyed for years to come.

Many landowners are hesitant about using native grasses in their CRP fields. You hear of failed seedings, thin stands, expensive seed and all the weeds. Understanding establishment and management should overcome these misconceptions.

Successful seeding can be done at different times of the year. Traditional spring seeding is probably the most common that comes to mind. Late fall seeding appears to give a wider variety of species an equal start, especially when wildflowers are used in the mix. Frost seeding in late winter or early spring can be done with good success as well.

Site preparation is a very important step in getting prairie species established. A firm seedbed is needed for all planting methods. Planting depth of a quarter-inch deep with some seed variety is not ideal. If planting into existing CRP or sod, it is best if you can keep the residue to a minimum. By mowing off in late summer, letting the grass grow back and spraying with a burn-down herbicide prior to a killing frost, will give you the best results for an ideal seedbed in a no-till seeding. Seeding can then be done in late fall or spring with a no-till drill. The Tama SWCD has a native no-till drill available to do this service.

Controlling weeds the first two years after seeding is also very important. Native grasses do not germinate until early summer when it gets warm. That is why they are sometimes called "warm season grasses". Many of the early grasses, or "cool season grasses", and broadleaf weeds are already growing before the native grasses even begin to emerge. They need sun light to grow. That is why it is critical to mow these areas off to a 6-inch stubble early and often to keep the weeds in check. This will also keep the fodder to a minimum and prevent smothering out newly germinating native plants. Mowing at least 3 times the first year would be ideal. The stand should be evaluated the second year to determine if mowing is necessary.

Mowing once or twice is usually the case. There are chemicals that are labeled for many prairie plant species. This could be a good alternative if you have severe weed pressure or if mowing is not practical for you. Make sure your seeding plan is a chemically tolerant mix. It may take 2-5 years for a prairie to become fully established.

Periodic management of an established prairie by doing a controlled burn will stimulate new plant growth and ensure a good stand. Burning helps to

warm the ground and reduces the amount of plant litter that can smother emerging plants. Burning will also help weeds and volunteer trees in check. Burning will

benefit the site the most if it is done in late April or early May. Please contact our office to develop a burn plan prior to performing a burn.

Getting a tall grass prairie takes some effort. Planning and management are the keys to having a successful prairie restoration. Good Luck!

Sac and Fox complete construction

By Larry Jones, NRCS
Soil Conservation Technician

Construction has been completed on four grade stabilization structures located in the timbered area of the south farm. These were built as a solution to a soil loss complaint that was filed against the tribe in 1993. The severe erosion occurring in the gullies on the south farm led to excessive sediment deposition in the drainage ditches and road ditches downstream.

In 1993 the tribe worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a plan to slow and impound water to solve the gully erosion problem. The plan included four grade stabilization structures, or ponds, which were surveyed and designed by the NRCS. The tribe was also approved by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) Division of Soil Conservation to receive cost share money to install the structures.

The construction began Sept. 5 and was completed Nov. 15, 2002. As a result, the ponds will provide over 4.0 acres of surface water, which will reduce the gully erosion and improve habitat for wildlife. It is a goal of the Natural Resources Department to stock the ponds with fish at the appropriate time. We will also plant some shrubs and trees in the areas that were cleared to build the ponds, as well as install some trails to allow full use of the area.

During new road construction

on the settlement a wetland was required to be relocated. This was accomplished by excavating the site and moving the soil from the existing wetland to the new location, which was approximately 200 feet away. The vegetation has successfully returned to the wetland and it is functioning as designed.

The tribe developed one EQIP contract and one WHIP contract in 2002. The EQIP money will be used to install 6.1 acres of grassed waterways on farmland, and the WHIP money is planned for some shallow water area excavation and seeding the area to attract waterfowl.



Marshalltown Construction Center staff, left to right, Greg Davidson, Jean Aftel, and Dan Petrie



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TAMA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Treasurer's Report for FY 2002
July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002

IM Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$1,500.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 920.00
Commissioner Expenses	\$ 956.40
CDI & NACD Dues	\$ 700.00
Office Supplies & Printing	\$ 450.58
Recalled	\$ -0-

III-M State Cost Share Budgets

2001-2002 Allocation =	\$59,535.00
Obligated =	\$58,460.22
Ending Balance =	\$ 1,074.78

2000-2001 Allocation =	\$81,534.93
Obligated =	\$80,186.09
Ending Bal. =	\$ 1,074.78

1999-2000 Allocation =	\$134,098.06
Obligated =	\$130,690.89
Ending Bal. =	\$ 3,407.17

REAP-F Allocation =	\$6,806.00
Obligated =	\$4,121.53
Recalled	\$2,684.47
Ending Bal.	\$ -0-

REAP-F Allocation =	\$1727.00
Obligated =	\$1701.75
Recalled	\$ 25.00
Ending Bal	\$ -0-

District Employee Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$10,417.31
Expenses	\$22,514.16
Income	\$16,189.26
Ending Balance	\$ 4,092.41

Certificate of Deposit	\$5,606.19
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1999 Jeep Cherokee Sport Was \$13,966 NOW \$12,766* CD + Homelink!	2000 Ram 2500 4x4 SLT Was \$17,966 NOW \$16,766* V10 + Only 35K!	2001 Ram 2500 4x4 SLT Was \$24,966 NOW \$24,266* Cummins Quad Cab!	1998 Dodge Ram 1500 Was \$14,966 NOW \$13,966* SLT Loaded + 360 CID!	2001 Dakota Quad Cab Was \$17,966 NOW \$16,766* SLT 2 Wheeler!
2000 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport Was \$7,966 NOW \$6,966* Factory Used Program	1998 Saturn SL2 Sedan Was \$20,966 NOW \$20,766* Low Miles + Factory Overhaul!	2000 Ram 2500 4x4 SLT Was \$20,966 NOW \$20,766* V10 Quad Cab - only 16K!	2002 Ram 1500 SLT Was \$24,966 NOW \$24,766* Quad Cab - Great Options!	2000 Ford F150 XL Was \$15,966 NOW \$14,966* Sport Cab 4x4

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