

Nathan Anderson 12/16/14

2013-2014 CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

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

What Does it Mean to Put Conservation on the Land?

By Jim Gillespie,

**Director of Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land
Stewardship: Division of Soil Conservation**

I believe that we have some of the best farmers and ranchers in the world right here in Iowa. We also have some of the best soils that make Iowa an agricultural leader. These two things are very important to Iowans and people worldwide. We need to continue to work together to help preserve them.

When using the land for agricultural production, we must have a plan to protect the resources needed to make the operation successful and the land sustainable. When conservation practices are needed, we are here to provide the best technical assistance and financial assistance if available, to put them in place. This will insure that the soil stays healthy and productive and our waters are protected for use by crops, livestock and people. We need to protect the soil from erosion and degradation and prevent sediment and nutrients from reaching the water.

Exemplified by the progress shown at the local, state and federal levels, Iowa has always been a leader in conservation efforts. Now our challenge is that we need to do more. With agriculture always changing, we need to be willing to change with it. Putting conservation on the land should always be one of our biggest priorities as we go forward. We should all be the best stewards of the land and resources that we can be. Conservation should be part of everyone's farm or business plan and we should work together to implement that plan.

Many have heard the new buzz phrase, "CONSERVATION MAY BE VOLUNTARY, BUT IT IS NOT OPTIONAL". I believe that we can achieve soil quality, safe food and clean water by working together voluntarily to put the best conservation practices on the land. For the best assistance in continuing conservation implementation, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

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: Tom Bindner, Marcus; Nathan Anderson, Aurelia, Russell Winterhof, Aurelia; Gary Otto, Cherokee; and Brian Mugge, Cleghorn. Assistant commissioners Scott Osborn, Linda Bindner, and Pam Pierce not pictured.

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

Nathan Anderson, Chairman	Aurelia
Russell Winterhof, Vice-Chair	Aurelia
Tom Bindner, Co-Treasurer	Marcus
Brian Mugge	Cleghorn
Gary Otto, Co-Treasurer	Cherokee

Assistant Commissioners

Linda Bindner	Marcus
Scott Osborn	Cherokee
Pam Pierce	Cherokee

Field Office Staff

Michael Henderson	District Conservationist
Justin Boersma	Soil Conservationist
Julia Gubbels	Soil Conservation Tech.
Tracy Rasmussen	State/District Secretary
Giles Munden	Watershed Coordinator
Amy Crouch	TNC Member



Back row (left to right): Giles Munden, Michael Henderson, and Amy Crouch. Front row (left to right): Julia Gubbels and Tracy Rasmussen.

Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District And Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014)

Brush Management	39 acres
Conservation Crop Rotation	296 acres
Cover Crop	1058 acres
Critical Area Planting	3 acres
Grassed Waterway	14 acres
Integrated Pest Management	130 acres
Nutrient Management	345 acres
Prescribed Burning	34 acres
Prescribed Grazing	29 acres
Residue & Tillage Mngt, No Till	79 acres
Residue & Tillage Mngt, Reduced Till	986 acres
Subsurface Drain	3059 ft
Terrace	20,515 ft
Underground Outlet	10,227 ft
Water & Sediment Control Basin	7 no

2014 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- 15 Regular Meetings
- Organizational Meeting to Approve District Policies, elect officers, and establish committees
- Conservation Partnership Legislative Day
- Booth at the Cherokee County Ag Show
- Poster Contest Presentations
- CDI Spring Regional meeting
- Northwest Iowa Regional Envirothon (environmental competition for high schools)
- Reviewed scholarship applications
- District Tree Sales
- 4th Grade Poster judging
- Stewardship Week - gave Activity Sheet/Placemats to restaurants/groups & held conservation photo contest.
- Watershed inspections
- Scholarship presented at MMC High School Awards Program
- 4th grade posters displayed at the Sanford Museum
- Paid CDI Dues
- Conservation Tour
- District Audit
- CDI Annual Conference
- 6th grade Science Field Day
- New commissioners elected
- Sent out Annual Report & Contribution Letter

Conservation Tour

The Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its annual Conservation Tour on Monday evening, July 14th. Around 40 people participated in the tour this year, which began at the Cherokee USDA Service Center at 4:30 p.m. After introductions the group headed to Steve Nelson's pasture in Sheridan 1 where they listened to Steve talk about how he does rotational grazing with his cattle. The next stop was at Tom Mayer's grassed waterway in Amherst 27. District Conservationist Mike Henderson talked about the benefits of waterways and how they work. From there, participants headed to Mike and Eva Henderson's farm in Amherst 31 where they viewed a seasonal high tunnel full of a wide variety of impressive looking vegetables and fruits. Eva answered lots of questions about the high tunnel and how she gets her plants started. At the same site participants viewed a windbreak, two different sizes of rain barrels, a rain garden, and brush removal with goats. Next the group traveled to Amherst 28 where they viewed Ben Mayer's confined beef finishing barn and heard about planting triticale as a cover crop from James Mayer. The last stop was at Eric Nelson's no till field in Amherst 17. Afterwards the group dined at Pizza Ranch in Marcus courtesy of the Cherokee SWCD.



Steve Nelson talks about Rotational Grazing



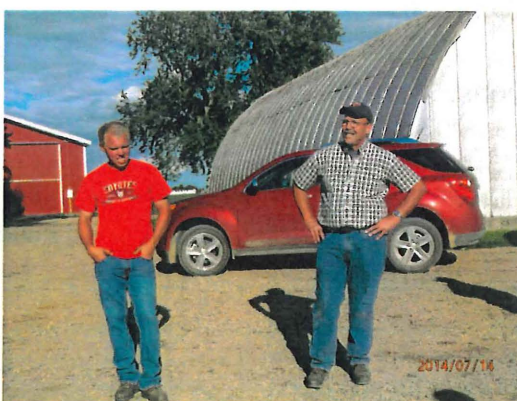
Mike & Eva Henderson talk about their Seasonal High Tunnel



Seasonal High Tunnel at Henderson's



Rain Garden at Henderson's



Ben Mayer & James Mayer talk about Ben's confined beef finishing barn & cover crops



Mike Henderson talks about waterways at Mayer's

STATE FUNDING

(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

Cost Share Funds are used to provide up to 50% cost share for installing practices such as waterways, terraces, and water & sediment control basins. Management Practice Funds are used to provide a one time incentive payment to try no-till, strip-till, or planting cover crops. REAP Funds are used to provide up to 75% cost share for planting windbreaks.

Cost Share Fund

Allocation + Carryover	\$ 75,946.04
Supplemental Received	10,901.00
Transferred to Management	1,808.96
Total cost-share paid	61,913.95
Total approved & pending	<u>23,124.13</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$ 0.00

Cost Share - Management Practices

Transferred from cost share	\$ 3,467.00
Total cost-share paid	3,467.00
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$ 0.00

REAP Practices Fund

Allocation + carryover	\$ 17,124.08
Total cost-share paid	8,376.36
Total approved & pending	<u>8,747.72</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$ 0.00

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Fund

Allocation + carryover	\$ 3,283.22
Total cost-share paid	2,718.45
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Recalled 6/30/14	\$ 564.77

Gere Creek WIRB Grant

Allocation	\$ 239,942.00
Total cost-share paid	0.00
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Balanced 6/30/14	\$ 239,942.00

Commissioner Expense Fund

(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

These are funds appropriated by the legislature to reimburse commissioners for traveling expenses as well as pay for district office expenses.

Allocation + Supplemental	\$ 2,350.00
Expenses	<u>2,350.00</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$ 0.00

Extra commissioner expenses of \$622.26 incurred, but not reimb.

FEDERAL FUNDING

(October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014)

Funded EQIP contracts in the amount of \$500,168.39

Funded CSP contracts in the amount of \$127,186.00

Little Sioux Flood Prevention

Watershed Maintenance Funds

(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

These funds were collected from the original landowners in the Little Sioux Watershed many years ago. These funds are used to pay for repairs, maintenance, and inspection of existing watershed structures.

Balance carried forward	\$188,589.34
Income (Interest)	\$2,361.56
Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$190,950.90

General Fund (Revolving)

(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

These funds are generated through tree sales, donations, and coop agreements. They are used to pay District expenses that are not covered by 1M Funds and to hire employees.

Balance carried forward	\$17,013.29
Income	\$63,690.43
Expenses	<u>\$37,652.05</u>
Balance 6/30/14	\$43,051.67

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 2013 through September 2014. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Tom & Linda Bindner - Marcus
Cherokee State Bank - Cherokee
Mike & Pam Cronin - Cleghorn
Farmers State Bank - Marcus
Duane & Lucille Kent - Aurelia
Lawrence R. Anderson Rev. Trust - Aurelia
Lundell Construction Co. Inc. - Cherokee
McGuire Auction Co. Inc. - Holstein
Tom & Susanne Oswald - Cleghorn
Sand Seed Service, Inc. - Marcus
Schmillen Construction, Inc. - Marcus

In Kind Contributions \$1552.15
Financial support for program delivery \$74,773.94

District Awards Scholarships

Each year the Cherokee SWCD gives one or more scholarships to high school seniors who will be pursuing programs of study in any field of conservation or agriculture . Scholarship applications are judged according to scholastic achievement, involvement, leadership, character, career, and conservation message. 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.

This year Heather Hoefling from Marcus was the recipient of a \$500.00 scholarship from the Cherokee SWCD. Heather graduated from Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn High School in May. Her parents are Robert and Lori Hoefling. In high school Heather's activities included Band, Volleyball, Cross Country, Basketball, Track, Softball, Dance Team, Speech, and School Play. Heather was also Class President for 4 years. Her hobbies include baking, knitting, and doing crafts. Heather is currently studying Agricultural Engineering at Iowa State University in Ames.

If you know of any high school seniors residing in Cherokee County who are planning to pursue programs of study in agriculture or conservation please encourage them to apply for the District's 2015 scholarships. For more information they should talk to their guidance counselor or call our office at 225-4151. This year's application deadline is January 30, 2015.



Heather Hoefling

Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cherokee SWCD
314 Lake Street
Cherokee, IA 51012
Phone: 712-225-4151 or 225-3769
Fax: 855-233-1296

Contact us about any of your conservation concerns.



The Cherokee SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Conservation Education 2014: Students Learn About Soil

In the spring 4th grade students from Cherokee County's elementary schools had an opportunity to participate in the Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District's poster contest.

The theme of this year's contest was "DIG DEEPER – Mysteries in the Soil". Mike Henderson, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Laura Kohn, Cherokee County Naturalist, spent time in each 4th grade classroom explaining the poster contest, as well as conducting a short program on what the soil is all about. The students helped 'build' a soil from the bedrock to the surface. The importance, inhabitants, and complexity of each soil layer was discussed as it was put into place. Earthworms, mycorrhiza, bacteria, nematodes and many more organisms live in the soil. They break down organic material and increase the availability of nutrients for growing plants. The surface of the soil is the most active and the most susceptible to damage. Strategies to protect the soil from damage and to feed the soil community were discussed. The students helped come up with ideas about how we can protect the soil. Each of us has a responsibility to protect our soil for generations to come. We cannot live without productive soil.

The first, second, and third place winners from each school received cash prizes, ribbons, and certificates from the Cherokee SWCD.

Posters were judged on the following criteria: conservation message – 50%, visual effectiveness – 30%, universal appeal – 10%, and originality – 10%.

From Aurelia the winners were Caela Kruger – First Place, Zachary Erpelding – Second Place, and Simon Carlson – Third Place. Cherokee's winners were Alexis Pingel – 1st place, Rylee Bezoni – 2nd place, and Winter Claussen – 3rd place. From MMC the winners were DeLani Doeden – 1st place, Michael Welch – 2nd place, and Anna Paulsrud – 3rd place. River Valley's winners were Trinity Fuhrman – 1st place, Heidi Taylor – 2nd place, and Jacob Towne – 3rd place.

Alexis Pingel's poster was chosen as the overall winner for Cherokee County and was sent to the Conservation Districts of Iowa Regional Director for the regional competition. She also won at the regional level and received a \$35.00 check from Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

All of the students' posters were on display at the Sanford Museum during the month of June.

Aurelia 4th Grade Poster Winners



From left to right: Caela Kruger (1st), Zachary Erpelding (2nd), Simon Carlson (3rd), and their teacher Mrs. Kate Westphal.

Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn 4th Grade Poster Winners



From left to right: DeLani Doeden (1st), Michael Welch (2nd), and Anna Paulsrud (3rd).

Cherokee 4th Grade Poster Winners

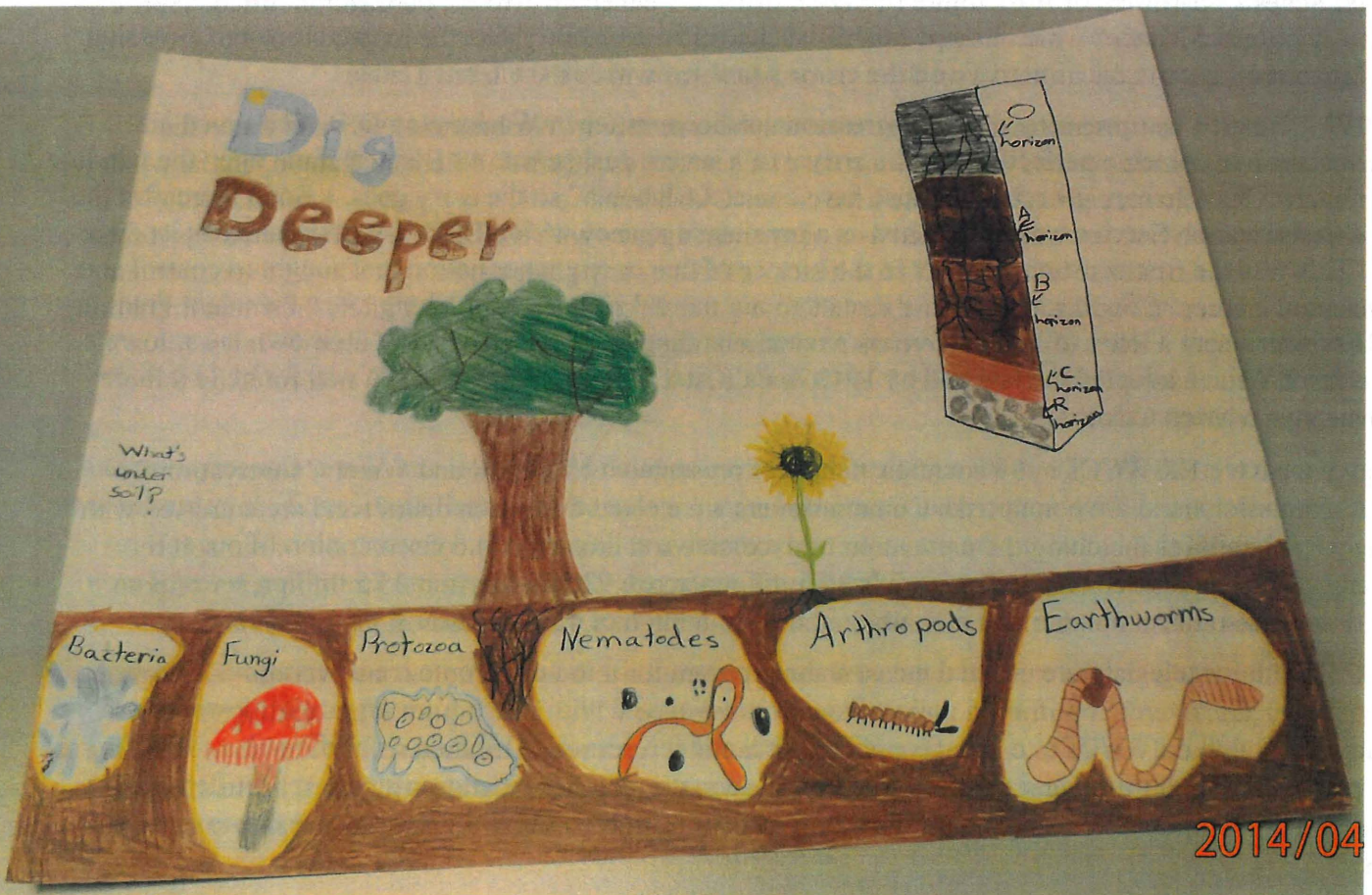


From left to right: Winter Claussen (3rd), Rylee Bezoni (2nd), and Alexis Pingel (1st).

River Valley 4th Grade Poster Winners



From left to right: Trinity Fuhrman (1st), Heidi Taylor (2nd), and Jacob Towne (3rd). District Watershed Coordinator Patrick Kohn in back.



Alexis Pingel's poster was the Division 3 - Grades 4-6 Region 1 Conservation Poster Contest Winner.

Conservation Photo Contest Held

The Cherokee Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held a photo contest during Soil and Water Conservation Week which was April 27 – May 4. Teagan Stevenson (age 13) won in the under 18 division with her photograph of some terraces on Hwy 31.

Julie French, of Meriden, won in the over 18 division with her photograph of Leo's Pond near Meriden. This is the first pond that her late father-in-law Leo built starting in the 1940's. There are five ponds now in a 14 acre registered wildlife area with thousands of trees planted by Leo over the years. Julie took the picture after the Memorial Day Flood in 2013 after the water calmed down.

Julie was selected as the overall county winner and she received from the SWCD a gift certificate for a one night's stay in a Martin's Access cabin.

The District Commissioners would like to thank all the participants for entering the contest.



Chairman Nathan Anderson presents Julie French with her award.

A history Lesson on Soil Conservation

By Vince Sitzmann, Field Services Bureau Chief - IDALS/Division of Soil Conservation

Hugh Hammond Bennett, otherwise known as the “father of soil conservation” was a soil surveyor with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 1928 Bennett co-wrote a publication, titled, “Soil Erosion: A National Menace” which helped establish scientific credibility about the repercussions of erosion and inspired others to take initiative on the erosion problems within the United States.

In 1937, Bennett was presenting to a congressional subcommittee in Washington D.C. and timed his presentation to coincide perfectly with the arrival of a severe dust storm. As Bennett flung open the window he shouted “Gentleman, get ready because here comes Oklahoma” so the story goes. Soon thereafter the Soil Conservation Service was established as a permanent agency within USDA, with Bennett as its director. This was the first constitutional act in the history of this or any other nation that sought to control and prevent soil erosion, flooding, and other threats to our natural resources. Not long after, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent a letter to all the governors recommending that each state adopt their own laws. Iowa's Governor Wilson adopted the law and by 1940 Iowa's first Soil and Water District was formed by three townships in Marion County.

Today we have 100 SWCDs in 99 counties, that are represented by 500 Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners. Five nonpartisan Commissioners are elected from each district and are entrusted with many responsibilities including the prevention of excessive soil erosion and conservation of our soil resources. No small task considering Iowa has 36 million acres, 92,300 farms and 25 million acres of crop land. Iowa also ranks number one nationally in the production of corn, soybeans, pork and chicken.

In 1973, the Iowa legislature enacted the cost share program for to help promote conservation. Throughout the past 40 years, over 254 million dollars have been leveraged with funds from private landowners and farmers through the SWCDs to conserve and protect our soil resources. Hundreds of thousands of acres are now protected with no-till and strip till, terraces, waterways, grade stabilization structures, buffers, cover crops, and other practices that save millions of tons of soil from washing off our fields and into our waterways.

Who could have imagined that one man's passion for soil conservation, along with a little dust in the wind in the 1930's, could have spurred a conservation ethic that spans the world and touches each and every acre of our farms?

Dear Soil & Water Conservationist:

For over 70 years the Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District has been helping producers conserve two of our most valuable resources, our soil and water. We believe that soil and water conservation is an easy task that everyone can do and we need your help. We invite you to join our local conservation efforts by becoming a Conservation Club Member for 2015. All Conservation Club funds collected are used specifically for projects like: scholarship awards for high school seniors, conservation education materials, 4th grade poster contest prizes and materials, and our yearly Conservation Tour in which the public views newly implemented conservation practices. We also provide technical assistance in the local office by paying for part-time employees.

As Iowans, we all share similar concerns for soil and water quality as well as protecting these resources for future generations. Iowa is faced with challenges that will impact conservation programs. By donating to the Cherokee SWCD, we can continue to promote, educate, and implement these important conservation practices. Any support you can give to the SWCD is greatly appreciated. And remember, your contribution **IS tax deductible**. If you would like to make a contribution, please complete the membership form below and mail it with your donation, made payable to the Cherokee SWCD.

With Sincere Thanks,
Cherokee SWCD Commissioners

Please make your donation payable to:
Cherokee SWCD



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Name: _____

Address: _____

Cherokee SWCD
314 Lake Street
Cherokee, IA 51012
712-225-3769

Levels of Support

Soil & Water Supporter	\$20 - \$49.00	Soil & Water Saver	\$50 - \$99.00
Soil & Water Steward	\$100 - \$149.00	Soil & Water Sustainer	\$150.00 and above

Donation enclosed: _____ **Any Amount Welcome**





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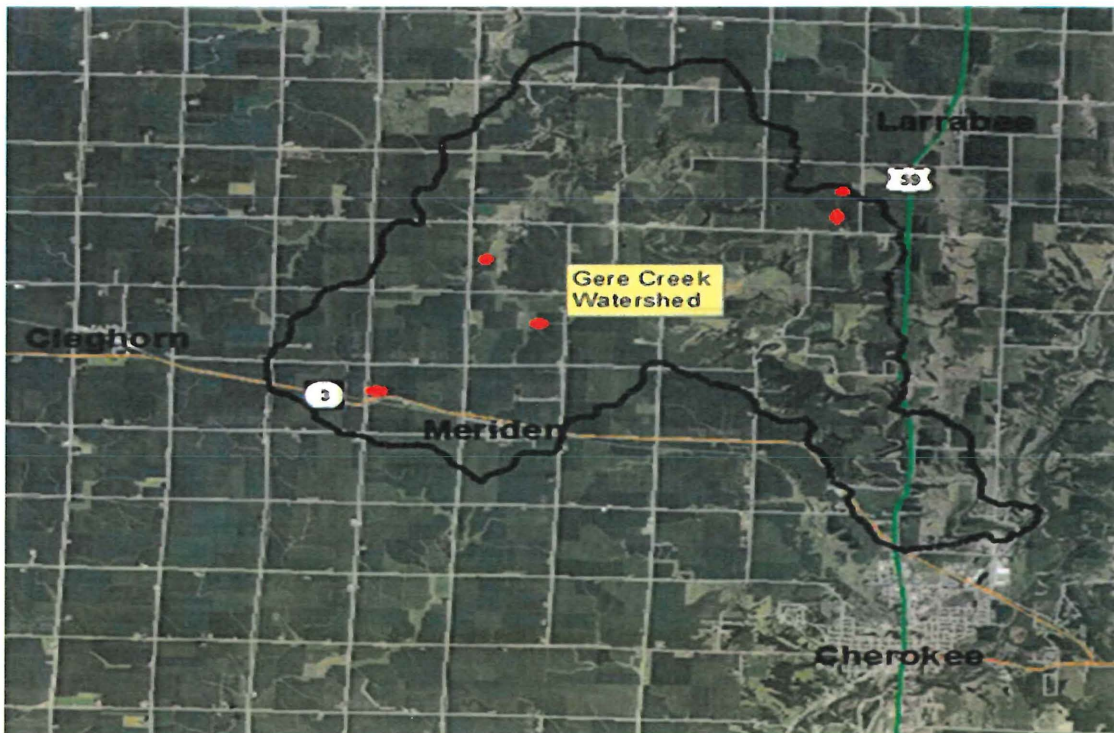
Gere Creek Watershed WIRB Grant

In November of 2013, the Cherokee SWCD was approved for a Watershed Improvement grant for Gere Creek. The Gere Creek watershed is right Northwest of Cherokee, and includes 17,590 acres with Gere Creek and the lower reaches of Mill Creek. This three year grant will fund \$299,942 of cost share for conservation practices to improve the water quality flowing through the watershed, while reducing sediment and nutrient loss. Conservation practices that would be funded are: terraces, waterways, water and sediment control basins, cover crops, improved grazing management and much more.

With this grant, the local community will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the watershed. This may include enjoying the scenery at Creekfest, enjoying the landscape while canoeing and float tubing, or fishing their favorite spot along the creek. Along with improving the landscape and water quality, we help conserve the natural resources and maintain or improve the economic sustainability and success of local agriculture. Even though this grant doesn't fund every conservation practice available to producers, the Cherokee SWCD is glad to help any producer with planning and installing conservation practices through other programs.

Landowners and producers interested in certain conservation practices in the watershed would be eligible for up to 75% cost share on most practices, and up to 100% cost share on new acres of cover crops and reduced tillage through the Gere Creek funding. However, there are other programs that landowners and producers can apply for to get funding for the conservation practice of interest if funding is depleted.

For further information, please contact the Cherokee Soil and Water Conservation District, or the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office at (712) 225-4151 or (712) 225-3769.



Practices Installed during the fall of 2014

2014-2015 Tree Price List

Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District

314 Lake Street, Cherokee, IA 51012 PH: (712) 225-4151 or
FAX: (855) 233-1296 EMAIL: Tracy.Rasmussen@ia.nacdnet.net

Species	Size	Type	Trees Per Bundle	Price Per Tree	Price Per Bundle or Pot	No. of Bundles	No. of Trees	Total Price
If you are looking for a species not listed below, give us a call. Other varieties may be available.								
Deciduous Trees								
Male Cottonwood (seedless)	4-5'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$2.70	\$67.50			
Silver Maple	5-6'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$3.70	\$37.00			
Bur Oak	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$2.00	\$20.00			
Red Oak	3-4'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$2.70	\$27.00			
Hybrid Willow	3-4'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$2.32	\$58.00			
Shrubs								
Nanking Cherry	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$1.84	\$46.00			
Nannyberry	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$2.20	\$55.00			
Common Chokecherry	2-3'	Seedling	Bundles of 25	\$1.84	\$46.00			
American Cranberrybush	2-3'	Transplant	Bundles of 10	\$3.20	\$32.00			
Redosier Dogwood	2-3'	Transplant	Bundles of 10	\$2.30	\$23.00			
Common Purple Lilac	2-3'	Transplant	Bundles of 10	\$2.30	\$23.00			
Amur Maple	2-3'	Transplant	Bundles of 10	\$2.90	\$29.00			
Common Ninebark	2-3'	Transplant	Bundles of 10	\$2.60	\$26.00			
American Plum	3-4'	Seedling	Bundles of 10	\$2.00	\$20.00			
Evergreens								
White Pine (2 Gal)	18-24"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$16.00		NA		
Black Hills Spruce (2 Gal)	24-30"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$18.00		NA		
White Spruce (2 Gal)	18-24"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$16.00		NA		
Colorado Spruce (2 Gal)	18-24"	Potted	Any Quantity	\$16.00		NA		
Special Order	Size	Type	Trees Per Bundle	Price Per Tree	Price Per Bundle or Pot	No. of Bundles	No. of Trees	Total Price

All Orders Subject to Availability!

50% Deposit Required on all orders.

Please make checks payable to Cherokee SWCD

No survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices.

Trees will be available the first or second week in April for pickup.

SUB TOTAL	
7% STATE & LOCAL OPTION TAX	
GRAND TOTAL	
CASH/CHECK#	
AMOUNT PAID	
BALANCE DUE	

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Profit from tree sales is used for conservation education projects (4th grade poster contest, scholarships for high school seniors, and yearly conservation tour)

