

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 66th Annual Report



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2011 Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners were: Front L-R: Maureen Hutchcroft and Don Lounsbury. Back: Bob Hinson, Jeff Burgess, and Ron Snyder.

Personnel During 2011

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Hutchcroft, Chairperson
Don Lounsbury, Vice-Chairperson

Jeff Burgess

Robert Hinson

Ronald Snyder

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Bradley Weiss

BURLINGTON FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Drew DeLang, District Conservationist

Shiloh Bradley, Resource Conservationist

Kindra Bradley, Soil Conservation Technician

Caleb Waters, Geode Watershed Coordinator

Casey Berghold, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (started October)

Rachel Weiss, District Employee (May - July)

Stephanie Smith, Summer Intern (June - August)

Jamie Grimes, State & District Secretary

The following are expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD checking accounts from July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011:

REVOLVING FUNDS ACCOUNT

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2010 \$4,035.90

	Receipts:
Miscellaneous Sales	\$ 23.25
Rain Barrel Sales	4,326.00
Cookbook Sales	101.87
CD Sales	70.00
Checking Account Interest	29.56
1M Reimbursement	2,160.00
IJOBS - Flint Creek Hydrology Study	55,616.00
TOTAL	\$62,326.68

	Disbursements:
Postage	\$ 205.20
Sales Tax	177.00
Rain Barrels	2,823.20
Commissioner Travel	1,002.87
Poster Contest Prizes	285.00
Fair Booth Expenses	39.43
Dues	1,150.00
Sympathy/Get Well Expressions	57.10
Scholarships	400.00
IJOBS - Flint Creek Hydrology Study	30,780.00
Office Supplies	161.64
Contractor's Meeting	131.62
Advertising	36.48
Environthon	115.00
TOTAL	\$37,364.54
Balance On Hand, June 30, 2011	\$28,998.04

Preparing for the Future

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Director of the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation. I look forward to working with everyone, and am eager to build on the theme for this year's soil and water conservation efforts in "Preparing for the Future."

I have been involved with agriculture and the environment my whole life. I grew up on a farm in western Iowa, went to high school and junior college in Creston, Iowa, received my degree in Vocational Agriculture at Northwest Missouri State University and taught Vocational Agriculture for the Earlham Community School District in Earlham, Iowa for four years before I came to work for the Department of Soil Conservation in 1983. In 1987, the Department of Soil Conservation became a part of the Iowa Department of Agriculture, and the name was changed to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. In total, I have worked with soil and water conservation issues for over 28 years; first as Field Representative in western Iowa, then serving as Bureau Chief for Field Services. In December of 2011, the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey offered me the opportunity to serve as the Director of the Division of Soil Conservation and I gladly accepted.

I am pleased to have this opportunity, and want to help our state continually improve and build upon the legacy of soil and water conservation efforts we have achieved thus far. Iowa has always been a leader in conservation efforts, and been looked at by other states and nationally for direction. This has only been accomplished through the efforts of a lot of dedicated people. We have had strong partnerships with all of our Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for over 60 years; these partnerships have done a lot for conservation. As always, we will continue to foster partnerships with other federal, state and local partners to provide the best opportunities for Iowans to put get conservation on the land.

None of this would have been possible without farmers and landowners willing to protect the land through implementation of conservation practices. These practices have maintained productivity of our land, and kept soil and nutrients out of the water.

In my new role, I want to help our staff, commissioners and other partners to help all of our customers protect the soil and water of Iowa. We will need to continue working together as the future brings increased demands placed on our state's resources. It is important that we do everything we can to keep Iowa as productive as possible if we are going to help feed an ever growing population. We can all work together to do just that in a sustainable way.

I look forward to the future because I see Iowa's future being bright and even more important in the global economy. Thank you all for everything you do! *Casey Berghold*

2011 DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	Amount	Unit
Terraces Constructed	21,205	Feet
Grassed Waterways Established	4	Acres
Tree Planting Completed	3	Acres
Timber Stand Improvement Completed	24	Acres
Windbreaks Established	1	Acres
Filter Strips Established	8	Acres
Livestock Watering Facilities Established	4	Each
Watering Pipeline Established	4,000	Feet
Season High Tunnel System Installed	1	Each
CRP Contracts Completed	56	Each
CRP Contracts Acres	316	Acres
EQIP Contracts Completed	9	Each
Conservation Plans Developed	5,748	Acres

NEW EMPLOYEE - BERGTHOLD



Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever announce the hiring of a new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Casey Berghold, to cover Des Moines, Lee, Louisa, and Van Buren Counties. As a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Berghold works in partnership with USDA-NRCS and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to provide technical assistance to private landowners—through one-on-one consulting—regarding the benefits of conservation programs (such as the Conservation Reserve Program).

Berghold is a native of Northeast Missouri and holds a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a MS in Biology from Tennessee Technological University. Following the completion of his master's degree, he worked for two years as a biologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, after which he relocated to Southeast Iowa in 2010. While in Iowa, he has worked for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State University as a biological aide. He also served as an Earth Team Volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Now, as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Berghold assists private landowners with improving wildlife habitat on their lands. If you are interested in improving wildlife habitat on your farm, Berghold will likely be able to help.

"The job of a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist is to serve as a one-stop-shop for landowners looking for technical, programmatic, or financial assistance with managing wildlife habitat on their private lands," Berghold stated. "Some landowners want to improve hunting, others enjoy watching wildlife, and yet others simply want to find a way to earn money from, while protecting, marginal or highly erodible farmland."

The new position is a result of Pheasants Forever's Reload Iowa effort, a statewide initiative to improve 1 million acres of wildlife habitat on private and public land in the state. Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Pheasants Forever Chapters in the four counties in which Berghold is working, provided financial support for the position through the Reload Iowa campaign. As a result, landowners in the above counties can call on Berghold to conduct site visits and develop wildlife management plans free of charge.

For those who reside or own land outside of Des Moines, Lee, Louisa, and Van Buren counties; Pheasants Forever now employs 11 other Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists throughout the state and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources employs Private Lands Biologists and Wildlife Specialists that offer similar services.

If you are interested in improving your property for wildlife and would like assistance or if you need contact information for a biologist that covers another county, please contact Casey Berghold at (573) 823-0675 or by email at cberghold@pheasantsforever.org.

Thanks for Your Help

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision that relies heavily on donations, whether it is cash donations from landowners or product donations from businesses. Businesses donating goods or services to the SWCD during 2011 include:

Vista Bakery - cookies for various meetings.
Pizza Hut - personal pan pizza gift certificates to give as honorable mention prizes for the poster contest.

Mediapolis News - prints our Annual Report every year.

Lake Geode Park Manager Ulf Konig - meeting space at the park office for various meetings concerning Lake Geode watershed.

Des Moines County Fair Board - booth space at the county fair.

Standard of Beaverdale - cash donation for Agren software.

Elder Implement - cash donation for Agren software.

Darwin Campbell Bulldozing - cash donation for Agren software.

Aldo Leopold Pheasants Forever - cash sponsorship for a CRP Mid-Contract Management meeting.

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District thanks each and every one of you! If you would like to make a donation, please call the SWCD at 319-753-6221.



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MHS Team Competes at Envirothon

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a team of students from Mediapolis High School who participated in the Southeast Iowa Regional Envirothon competition held in Iowa City in March 2011.

The MHS team placed eighth in the regional competition and 15th overall in Iowa which allowed them to advance to the state competition held at Springbrook State Park. State competition was held April 18 where the top three teams went on to national competition in Canada.

Team members Caleb Nelson, Blake Hubbard, Garrett Rupe, Brody Reis, and Kellie Kuenzler competed against multiple teams from Decorah, Keota, Muscatine, Riceville, Wapello, Bellevue, and Maquoketa. The group was coached by NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Kindra Bradley and MHS Science teacher Stacey Rector.

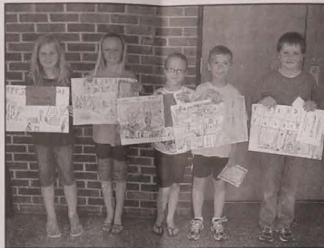
The Envirothon is a team competition for high school students. In the field and classroom, teams of five students are challenged to use their knowledge and critical thinking skills to conduct hands-on investigations, solve real-life scenarios and answer written questions about Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife and Soils. Envirothon 2011.



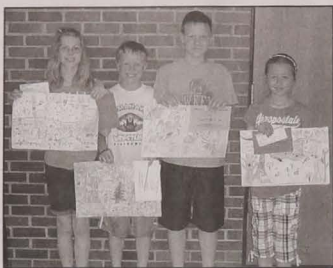
The 2011 Envirothon team from Mediapolis High School: Caleb Nelson, Brody Reis, Kellie Kuenzler, Garrett Rupe and Blake Hubbard.



Division 1 winners from Mediapolis Elementary were Mallory Martin, 1st; Katie Carter, Honorable Mention; Emilie Rhum, 3rd; Chelsey Stoller, 2nd; and Dawson Delzell, Honorable Mention.



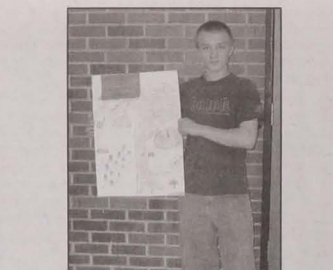
Division 2 winners from Mediapolis Elementary were Olivia Moehle, 1st; Sarah Coates, Honorable Mention; Izabel Vincent, 2nd; Drew Zurmuehlen, Honorable Mention; and Tyler Schneider, 3rd.



Division 3 winners from Mediapolis were Kyrja Johnson, 2nd; Cayu Massner, 3rd; Justin Massner, Honorable Mention; and Maggie Myers, 1st.



Division 3 Honorable Mention winner from Blackhawk Elementary was Benedict Rozario.



Division 4 winner from Mediapolis High School was Brady Banwart, 2nd.



First place winner in Division 4 was Ana Sanchez from Burlington High School.



Division 5 winners from Mediapolis High School were Kori McLaughlin, Honorable Mention; Lindsey Maddox, 3rd; Kendra Keitzer, 2nd; and Bryce Wexell, Honorable Mention.



Division 5 first place winner was Elizabeth Linneman from Burlington High School.

Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa, sponsored the annual poster contest for all students in the county. The 2011 theme was "Forests for People: More Than You Can Imagine". The contest consists of five divisions - Division 1 is kindergarten and 1st grades; Division 2 is 2nd and 3rd grades; Division 3 is 4th - 6th grades; Division 4 is 7th - 9th grades; and Division 5 is 10th - 12th grades. Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal. Additionally, each first place winner was submitted for regional competition.

Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship Recipients

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District honored a local high school senior with a scholarship in 2011. This scholarship is sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Cody Belknap of Mediapolis High School was the recipient chosen. He is the son of Michael and Annette Belknap. Cody is currently attending Iowa State University. Additionally, Cody's information was forwarded for Regional competition where his application was judged against up to 12 additional individuals. Cody was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. In order to be eligible, the student must be planning to attend college to pursue programs of study in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Criteria considered in judging the applications included scholastic achievement, need and leadership, which include service, character and self-motivation.

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