

Annual Report 2007

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Newspaper Associations
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Agriculture

Inside- Scholar

Atlantic Farm Celebrating

Serving Cass, Shelby, Guthrie, Audubon and Pottawattamie

March, 2008

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Cass Cou

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(Top left) Turkey Creek Watershed Site 4-2 is located on land owned by Hunt Land L.C. (Nick Hunt) in Grove 19 and backs water onto the Randy Baxter property in Section 20. The structure is 64' wide from concrete to concrete and is 30' wide from wall to wall. The tile outlet shown in the center is 4' off ground level. It has a normal permanent pool of 0.9 and was constructed with federal funds administered through the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District.

(Top right) Turkey Creek Site 10-17 is located on The E & F Farm Corp. property (Alan Fridov) in Section 7 of Union Farm Corp. property (Alan Fridov) in Section 7 of Union



02/26/2008 10:19 pm



2007 Annual Report



Inside- Scholarships -see page 3

March, 2008

Atlantic Farm Monthly

Celebrating Soil Conservation

Serving Cass, Shelby, Guthrie, Audubon and Pottawattamie Counties for over 130 years.

Vol. 47 - No.3

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Cass County Watersheds

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(Top right) Turkey Creek Site 10-17 is located on The E & F Farm Corp. property (Alan Friday) in Section 7 of Union Township and has barely 0.1 acre of permanent pool. All structures were built for grade control of existing gullies.



(Middle left) Turkey Creek Site 10-28 was a recently completed watershed structure on the Scot Sudmann property. Donated easements from Sudmann and Jeff Hansen were obtained to build this grade stabilization structure.



(Middle right) This beautiful structure was built on the Chuck Edwards property in Grove 1 with a donated easement from Edwards and the Bob Vernon family. Located in the Troublesome Creek Watershed, this site is known as 10-1.



(Bottom right) This is another shot of Troublesome Creek Watershed Site 10-1 on the Chuck Edwards property. The Church of the Latter Day Saints

at Highway 71 and 83 is shown in the background.

We thank those landowners for donating easements so the grade stabilization structures could be built. Property tax exemption is allowed for structures of this size through the Cass County Assessor's Office and must be applied for annually by February 1.

While federal funds are used to build the structures, they are contracted locally by the Cass

County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Cass County Board of Supervisors. An inspector is hired annually to inspect the sites and report to the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners on their condition. Any repairs that need to be made are done so through the Flood and Erosion Control Fund authorized by the Cass County Board of Supervisors.

Calendar of Events

January

Greg Zellmer was administered the oath of office for a four-year term as an SWCD commissioner.

Ray Wilson was re-elected Chairman, Mike Hall Vice-Chairman, Connie Esbeck, Secretary and Connie Esbeck and Fred Kay, Co-Treasurers.

Zellmer and Esbeck attended a meeting hosted by CDI for new commissioners but also included all those currently serving as commissioners.

Cost-share rates were discussed for the 2007 construction season.

A Project Agreement for Troublesome Creek Watershed Sites 21 and 28 was signed.

Tim Mensing, Engineer, will fill the vacancy

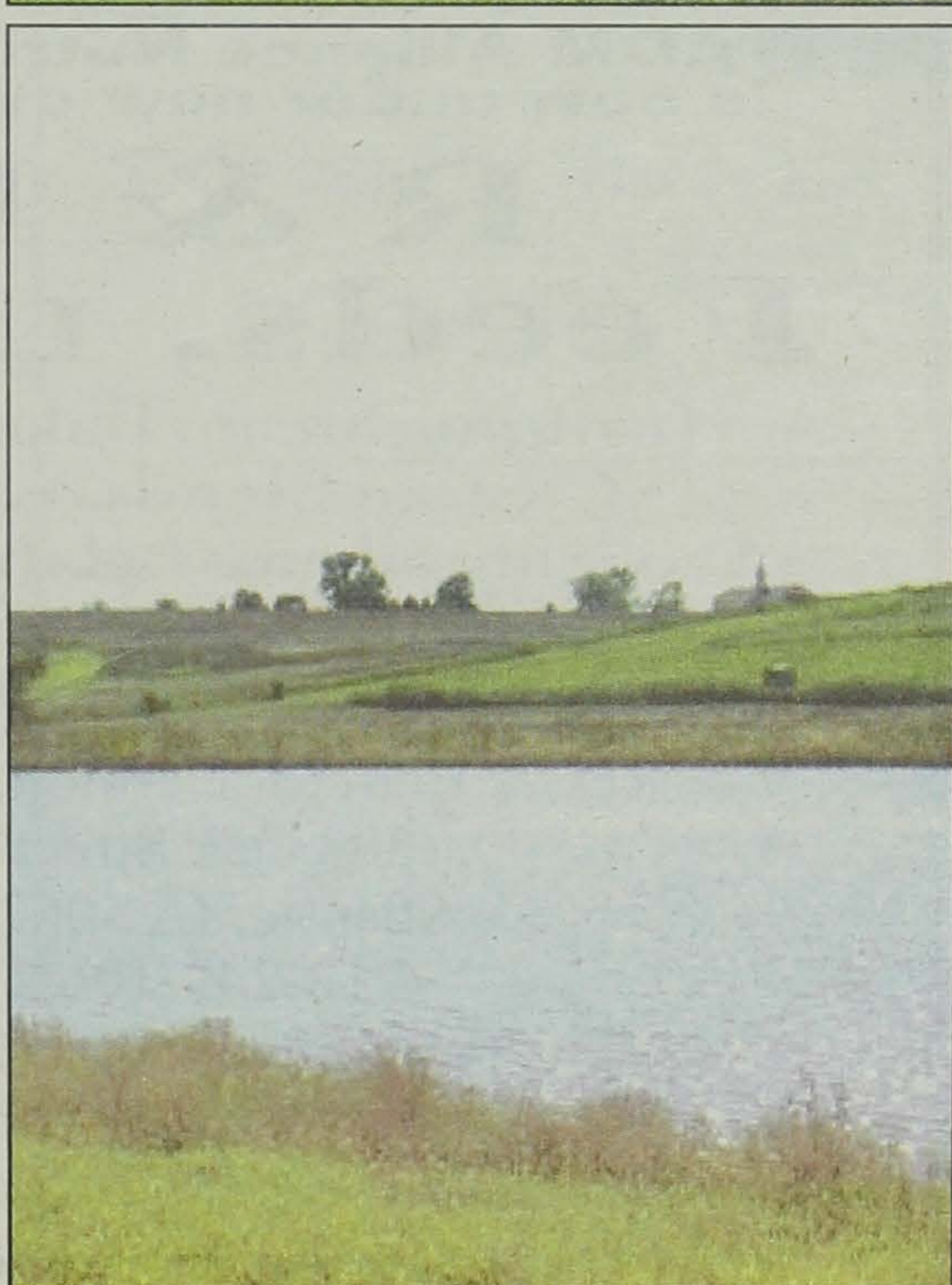
created by Ron Petersen's retirement. Tim comes from the Creston Engineering Office.

Commissioners review Memo of Understanding and E.E.O. at their January meeting.

Commissioners traded in their Great Plains drill for a new one.

Ray Wilson, Commissioner; Connie Esbeck, Secretary; Jeff Sporrer, Soil Conservationist; and Duane Orgies, Watershed Inspector, attended an Iowa Watersheds meeting in Atlantic.

Calendar see page 2



Calendar *continued from page one*

February

Commissioners approved a bill for \$598.75 for two intakes, backhoe labor, tile & connection for Crooked Creek Watershed Site 4C to be paid from the Rural Services Fund.

Commissioners voted to share expenses with Adair County to host a training workshop for teams in the two counties participating in the Envirothon contest. They also voted to donate \$50 to Fremont County for regional competition.

Commissioners approved property tax exemption on 879.58 acres in Cass County under the following categories: 1) Watershed structure; 2) Rivers/Streams/Open Prairie/Forest Cover; and 3) Wildlife Habitat. Applications for Forest Reserve and Wetlands exemptions are covered through the Department of Natural Resources.

\$300 scholarships were awarded to Amy Williamson (CAM Community Schools) and Spencer Funk (Griswold Community Schools). Scholarships are presented to individuals at Class Night in the respective schools by commissioners.

March

Interviews were conducted for the drill and technicians positions open. Kenny Karstens hired as drill operator replacing Dennis Hockenberry who had quit at the end of the year. Scott Breach & Dennis Hockenberry were hired as District employees.

Commissioners donated \$100 to help defray repairs at the NACD headquarters building in Washington D.C.

No commissioners attended the Spring Regional Meeting

held in Audubon.

April

Technical assistance funds became available to continue with Turkey Creek Sites 21 & 28. It is anticipated that "Invitations to Bid" will go out in May with a bid opening in June and construction in July.

Preliminary plans being made for the Cass County Fair.

A retirement open house is being planned for Gary Wolfe's retirement.

Dean Downer was nominated by the District as an outstanding Iowa conservationist for 2007.

May

Commissioner gave Esbeck the approval to purchase handouts for the county fair in July.

Gary Wolfe's retirement open house was held in the conference room on May 31 from 1-3 PM.

Technicians assess structural damage and debris deposition caused by heavy rainfalls in the county.

Esbeck attends training for the new FARMS program which goes into effect July 1, 2007. This is the new cost-share accounting program.

All practices under the Farm Bill V contract have been completed.

June

An application was submitted for funding for District employees under the Farm Bill VI program to assign in the design of CRP waterways.

Duane Orgies, Watershed Inspector, attended the annual Crooked Creek Watershed meeting in Exira.

Technical and financial assistance was requested through NRCS in obtaining quotes and

inspect reseeding of the areas where the seeding failed on Turkey Creek Site 10-18.

Technical and financial assistance was also requested from NRCS to obtain quotes and inspect raising the outlet pipe for Site 10-26 due to a maintenance concern.

Commissioners approved a bill for \$1,084.79 for the annual inspection of all sites in three watersheds.

The District committed \$100 toward the mailing of the brochure "Cass County Women, Land and Legacy" which was mailed to all women landowner/operators associated with Cass County.

The commissioners approved payment of \$725 for 2007-08 CDI dues.

Steve Fluckey, State Technician, transferred from the Corning Field Office to the Atlantic Field Office effective June 29. He replaced Gary Wolfe who retired in May.

July

Duane Orgies attended the Troublesome Creek Watershed meeting in Anita.

Esbeck provided each commissioner with a fiscal year report of the drill fund and revolving fund for their review. Zellmer and Hall will complete the audit prior to the August meeting.

The District received a confirmation that Farm VI funds for \$4,062 were approved. The funds are used to payroll District employees.

Commissioners were introduced to the new FARMS generated reporting showing applications on file that are waiting Board approval.

August

No bids were received for the reseeding of Turkey Creek Site 10-18 (Alan Friday).

Rip rap is being hauled to stabilize the berm on Turkey Creek Watershed Site 59D1 (Bob Jones) near Anita.

Mayor Jerry Putnam, Griswold, met with the Board to express previous and recent flooding concerns to the City of Griswold. He reported Griswold has been the victim of four 100-year storms over a period of 7-8 years. Jeff Zimprich, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, explained the P.L. 566 program indicating the State Office could identify where sites are needed to control flooding. Because of prime farmland involved, a private landowner asked if structures could be built to temporarily retain the water. By motion, the commissioners approved to pursue working with the City of Griswold and the Board of Supervisors in applying for a grant from the Division of Soil Conservation for a watershed assessment study.

Overgrazing on specific watershed structures continues to be a concern.

O & M tile repair work for Turkey Creek Site 10-26 (Kopp/Hansen) has been completed. This was to replace tile that was damaged when a new entry way was made to enter the site prior to construction.

Sporrer reported he is working on CRP contracts that are expiring and going back into a crop rotation on 800 acres in the county.

September

Connie Esbeck and Bob Waters, Regional Coordinator, IDALS, along with Griswold Mayor Jerry Putnam, met with the Cass County Board of Supervisors asking for their support in submitting a letter to IDALS requesting grant funds for an assessment of flooding concerns for the City of Griswold.

FARM Bill VI was modified to include adding filter strip design which added additional funding for District employee, Scott Breach.

O&M bills for Turkey Creek Site 10-26 (Hansen & Kopp) was approved for a total of \$647.00. Other O&M bills relating to watershed inspection were approved and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for payment.

Tony Toigo, Program Planner, IDALS, was on hand to explain and answer questions regarding the Local Water Protection Program (Low interest loan).

October

Bob Waters, completed writing the grant application for the City of Griswold which was submitted prior to the deadline.

O&M bills were approved for Crooked Creek Watershed Site 13C (Glenn Olsen) for broken tile repair in the amount of

\$2682.62 and for Turkey Creek Site 59D1 (Robert Jones) to rip-rap the berm and open draw-down tube in the amount of \$8,140. All bills forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for payment.

Commissioners completed their resolutions form. The results were tabulated and distributed to each commissioner to review prior to annual conference.

Chairman Ray Wilson will be the only commissioner attending annual conference.

Approval was made to pay \$775 for 2008 dues to the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Jeff Zimprich attended the meeting and told of changes being made where one district conservationist will supervise two field offices. Since Cass County has been without a district conservationist since July, 2006, it will be the first one to share management with Audubon County.

November

No meeting held in November.

December

Chairman Wilson gave a brief report on the annual conference held in Ames.

Commissioner/staff Christmas party was discussed and it will be held January 7, 2008.

O&M bills were approved as follows: Crooked Creek Site 3C (Dale Pauley) for follow-up inspection \$42.60 and Turkey Creek Site 16-3 (French/Hansen) for fence repair \$180. Bills were forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for payment.

A decision was made that the District will not participate in the CDI scholarship but rather continue giving their own scholarships annually.

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officials from
the Cass
County Soil
Conservation
Office**

Senior Scholarship Recipients

After awarding seven scholarships to Cass County graduating seniors in 2006, the number of applications was down and only two scholarships were awarded in 2007.

Amy Williamson, one of five children and the daughter of David and Julie Williamson, of rural Wiota, received one of the scholarships awarded during Class Night at CAM High School in Anita.

During her four years of high school, Amy participated in basketball, volleyball, track and field, vocal, band, speech, newspaper editor, boomerang team teach and boy's basketball statistician. She served as vice-president of her senior class, junior class representative to Student Council, National Honor

Society, and Quill and Scroll.

Williamson states, "The activity that has helped me most in choosing my career has been being involved in the food and nutrition project area of 4-H. I have always loved to cook, but being in 4-H has really helped me open up my options for a career in developing food products for human consumption. I want to better utilize Iowa's resources to improve the food quality in our country as well as in other countries."

Williamson has chosen to attend Iowa State University in Ames to pursue her chosen career.

Spencer Funk, a 2007 graduate of Griswold Community High School, was the second recipient of a \$300 scholarship

awarded by the Cass County SWCD. He has two brothers and is the son of Mark and Diane Fund of Cumberland.

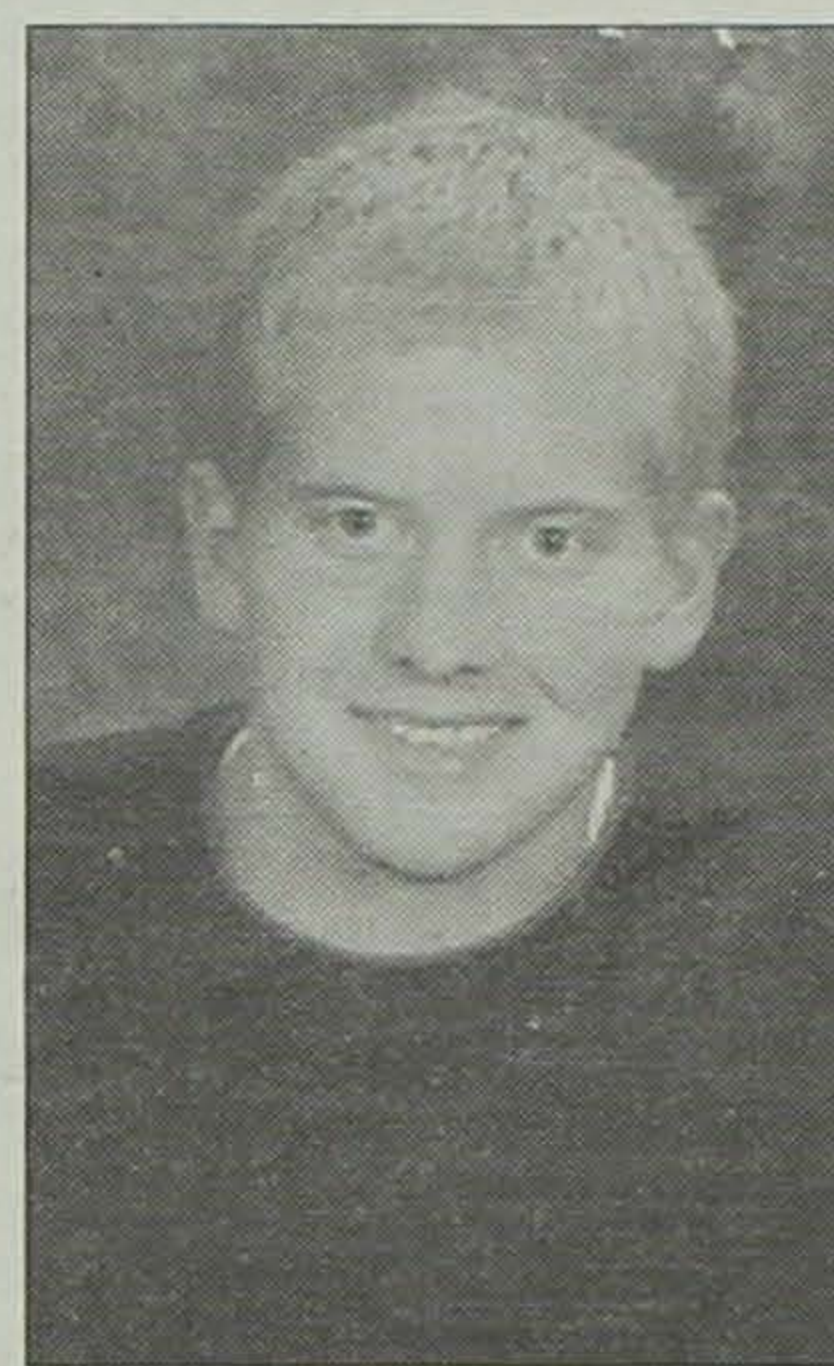
Funk participated in football and basketball and served as secretary for his local FFA chapter and a teacher's aide. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. Hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, and working on the family farm.

His involvement in cattle stimulated his interest in pursuing a career as a large animal veterinarian in Southwest Iowa. Because of this early interest in livestock, he was able to take college prep courses and college classes while still in high school.

Funk also chose Iowa State University to pursue his career.



Amy Williamson



Spencer Funk

Cass County S.W.C.D. District Tree Sales Program

**SUBMITTED BY
CONNIE S. ESBECK**

Before starting on this article, I read through last year's article I had written which emphasized the March 1 snow storm that dumped 16" of snow in our area. Fortunately, that has not happened again at the time of this article, but it seems we have had several more storms which have included some ice and some bitter cold weather. As I travel to and from work or around the state, I can't help but notice where beautiful windbreaks are already planted and benefiting the farmstead or feedlots. I also notice farmsteads at the top of a hill with absolutely no protection from the north and west winds and all I can think of is brrrrrrrrrr. I'm glad I don't live there. But again, there are farmsteads on level ground that gives me the same feeling of no cold winter wind protection. Windbreaks don't just happen overnight. They take years to truly become effective so I encourage you to inquire with our staff to help you plan that windbreak you've been putting off for years. It's no easy job digging those holes, planting the trees and shrubs and then keeping them watered based on the amount of rainfall we receive for any given year, so it's best to obtain the Free service we offer to recommend trees and shrubs and the spacing needed between each which will suit your program.

Seventy-five percent cost-share through the REAP program has been available for years and continues to be available. You can receive up to \$1,200 (your share) per year to install a windbreak according to N.R.C.S. specs.

The Cass County S.W.C.D. started the tree sales program in 2001. It does not limit anyone from purchasing the bareroot stock or potted trees just because you do not "own" the ground on which you want to plant the trees/shrubs. Each year since we started the program, we have added something new to give you, our customers, a better selection of trees and shrubs. Our bareroot stock consists of seedlings and transplants ranging from \$1.50- \$2.25 each. These are sold in bundles of five

and ten, depending on the species. Potted and container grown trees range from \$15.00 for trees 18-24" tall up to \$20 each for potted or container grown trees up to 24-30", also depending on the species. The trees will be delivered and ready for you to pick up on April 8 so we urge you to stop in the office at 503 West Seventh Street or call 243-3180 for further information. A 50 percent deposit is required the day the order is placed for orders over \$100 with the balance due the day the trees

are picked up. For orders less than \$100, 100 percent must be paid when the order is placed. Proceeds from the trees sales are used to enhance our education program. A few of them are 1) Scholarships to graduating seniors from Cass County; 2) Sixth grade field day and 3) sponsor teams to participate in the Envirothon Contest held annually, as well as other educational activities. We are offering up to three scholarships again in 2008 and sponsored two

Envirothon teams in 2007.

Any inventory of stock left by April 8 may be seen at the Cass County Fair Grounds and purchased that day, but to guarantee your order, please stop in the office as soon as possible and place an order.

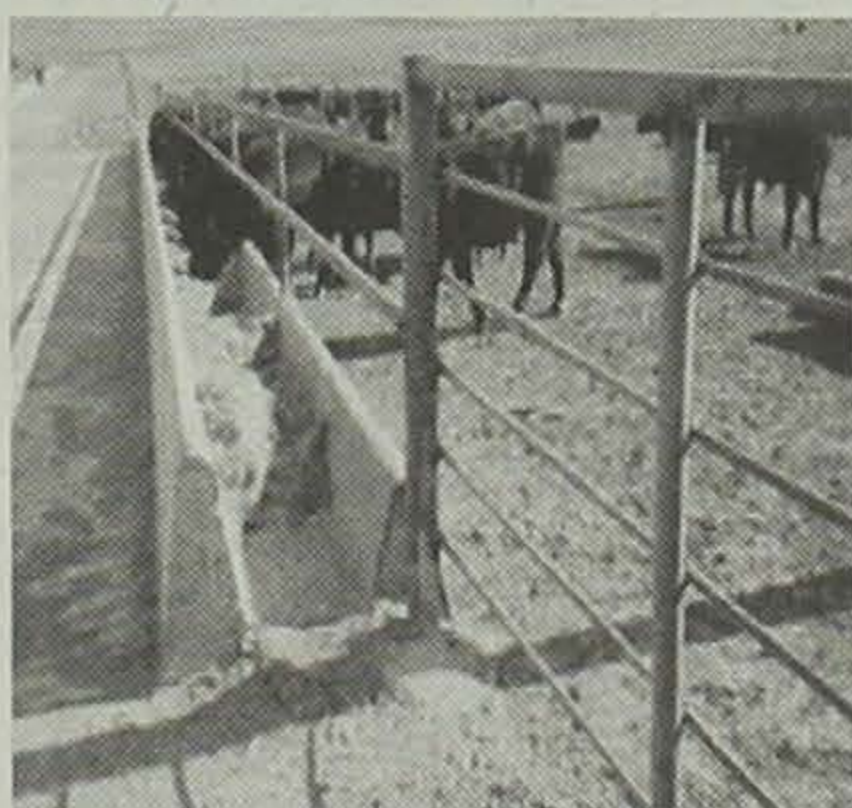
As mentioned above, the cost-share rate for an eligible windbreak is 75 percent up to your share of \$1,200. Check with the staff for more information on eligibility.

HORIZON EQUIPMENT

Manning 800-458-4431
Audubon 800-432-1610
Adair 800-443-3242
Avoca 800-524-9140
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- 77 Acres, M/L: Located 3 miles S.E. of Massena. Appr. 67.5 acres in CRP, expires 2009. No buildings. \$2975 per acre.
- 128 Acres, M/L: Located 2 miles S.W. of Massena. Appr. 115 acres in CRP, expires 2008. Good conversion potential to crop land when contract expires. \$2725 per acre.
- 79.29 Acres, M/L: Located 9 miles southeast of Glenwood on blacktop road. 90% tillable. 70 CSR. \$5000 per acre.
- 96.77 Acres, M/L: Located 9 miles southeast of Glenwood on blacktop road. 92% tillable. 69 CSR. \$4650 per acre.
- 40 Acres, M/L: Located 9 1/2 miles southeast of Glenwood on blacktop road. 85% tillable. 66 CSR. Excellent building site. \$4500 per acre.

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Low interest loans available for conservation practices

Low interest loans under the State's LLWP ("Local Water Protection Program"), with a current interest rate of 3 percent, are providing funds to landowners throughout Iowa, who want to install conservation projects on their farm. This program is becoming more and more popular in Cass County. This funding opportunity was announced by

the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) in 2005.

Landowners may borrow 100 percent of the funds needed for an intended project, or, if they are receiving cost-share assistance they may borrow the balance through the new program. The program may be used in

combination with any of the state or federal cost-share programs described in the following paragraph. The loan amount may be from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and may be for up to ten years. Anyone interested should contact the staff at the local Cass County S.W.C.D. office at 503 West Seventh Street, Suite 1, Atlantic.

In Cass County these loans have been used in combination with EQIP projects, state cost-share projects, as well as several projects where no cost-share was involved. In these cases the landowner borrowed the entire project cost. Conservation projects may include grade stabilization structures, terrace systems, prescribed grazing sys-

tems, grassed waterways and waste management projects. Loans may be paid back over a ten year period. Producers must work with their local bank to administer the loan. Fourteen of such loans have been processed in 2007.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Exactly what is EQIP? The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is the heart of NRCS conservation programs. With more federal funding provided in the 2002 Farm Bill, EQIP is the primary tool for private landowners who want to put soil and water conservation on the ground in the Midwest and across the nation.

How does it work? EQIP provides technical assistance and cost-share payments to producers. EQIP plan of operations are developed with producers and conservation staff.

Plans that are selected and funded receive cost-share-money to help turn that plan into a reality. The NRCS goal is to help landowners protect soil and water resources and EQIP funds are dedicated to putting dollars in the hands of those individuals. Cost-share rates vary from state to state, but in Iowa it is approximately 50% of the cost of the conservation practice.

EQIP addresses natural resource issues associated with livestock operations and agricultural production. Funds are directed toward operations and projects that offer the greatest environmental benefit.

How can EQIP help your operation and your land? EQIP can help with the following practices:

- * Terraces
- * Nutrient management plans
- * Designs and plans for animal waste management structures
- * Fencing materials and designs
- * Forest stand improvement, thinning
- * Grazing management plans and materials
- * Grassed waterways
- * Plans and seed for buffers and filter strips
- * Pest management

Is EQIP for you? If you have natural resource

concerns on your land and are interest in making a commitment to conservation, EQIP could be the answer. NRCS resource professionals are here to help you make the best conservation plan for your land. EQIP could provide the funds you need to make it happen. Is EQIP your natural resource solution? Contact your local NRCS office and find out! You can also visit the NRCS website <http://ia.nrcs.usda.gov>

Thousands of dollars have been pumped into Cass County through the EQIP program and a variety of conservation practices has been applied. In 2007, the following practices were applied through 26 contracts of Cass County producers:

- * Fences 35,300 Ft.
- * Heavy Use Areas 17 No.
- * Ponds 2 No.
- * Pasture & Hayland Planting 168 Ac.
- * Prescribed Grazing 934 Ac.
- * Sediment Basins 3 No.
- * Terraces 85,500 Ft.
- * Tile 13,486 Ft.

2007 Envirothon Workshop held

Cass County and Adair County co-host the workshop annually to prepare students for District competition. The workshop was held at the Legion Hall in Massena for students from the CAM Community Schools and Orient-Macksburg Community Schools. The District sponsored two FFA teams in 2007 at a cost of \$65/team. The soil and water conservation district also donates funding for state competition.

No-Interest Revolving Loans

The Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District takes applications for the Conservation Practices Revolving Loan Funds throughout the year but funding for approved applications does not become available until after March 1 of each year.

The funds are to be used to provide loans at no interest to eligible landowners for constructing permanent soil conservation practices such as terraces, grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures to name a few.

In this program eligible landowners can borrow up to \$10,000 at no interest for up to ten years. To be eligible a landowner must be able to secure the loan, and be capable of repaying the loan in a maximum of ten annual installments. This type loan has been useful for producers when all cost-share funds under other programs has been spent or obligated. For more information, please contact the District office.

Cass County Fair

Each year the Cass County SWCD Commissioners sponsor a booth at the Cass County Fair. Chip clips and pizza cutters were given to many who stopped by the booth to inquire about conservation practices or just pick up some brochure available to them. The younger children enjoyed the temporary (conservation) tattoos that were placed on them if they wished. In addition, a drawing was held each day for an 18-24 inch potted evergreen tree. Winners of the trees William D. Kennedy, Anita; Marilyn Miller, Lewis; Rachel Bierbaum, Griswold; and Lloyd E. Pedersen, Atlantic. Children, ages 15 and younger, had the opportunity to guess how many pieces of candy were contained in a sealed jar. The person guessing the closest without going over was the winner. The winners of the candy were Kray Havens, Atlantic; Tara Wales, Cumberland; Debra Potter, Atlantic; and Luke Frisbie, Walnut.



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2007 Accomplishments

Period Covers F.Y. 2007
(July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007)

Terraces Honor Roll

Name	Footage
Scot Sudmann	5,850
Scot Sudmann	4,700
Midwest Dairy	2,500
Midwest Dairy	5,600
Ronald Denney	700
Glen A. Dinkla	2,650
Tom Eilts	1,350
John (Jack) Bell	2,500
Fred Boswell	2,244
Michael J. Tibken	3,700
Randy Baxter	5,750
Gerald Lappe	950
Joe W. Maynes	5,900
James Tibken	2,450
Glenn-Ellen Farms Inc.	1,950
Dagney Knudsen	900
Mildred Weber Clark	1,850
Duane McFadden	3,100
Elizabeth McLaren	2,400
Donna McLaren	1,600
Billy Russell	2,850
Walter McCurdy, Jr.	1,400
Kathie Mailander	1,150
Dale Kuehl	1,600
ALMARK, Inc.	13,450
John M. Thielen	1,850
Alan Robinson	7,600
Duane Brown	11,200
Gerald Mortensen	5,650

Gary Huff	129.3
HRM Land and Cattle	41.0
Oliver McFadden	30.0
Steve Drevett	97.2
Rick Wheatley	23.3

Windbreak

Name	Acres
Three Rivers Land Co.	0.1
Three Rivers Land Co.	0.7
Marjorie Emma Sothman (Rescue Treatment)	7.0
Drue Kirchhoff	0.1
Roger Warne	0.2
Roger Warne	1.6
Richard Woodward	0.1
Karen Williams	0.7
Margaret Magill	9.5 (Tree Planting)

Leo Robinson	12.3
Meridith Family Farms	33.4
Randall Pauley	3.8
Ronnie Paulsen	27.9
Royal Bierbaum	8.8
Shirley Acker Trust	3.0
Todd Pellett	17.6
Valley View Corp.	1.0

Grassed Waterways

Name	Acres
BI-KAP Farms	21.9
Brent and John Bierbaum	6.1
Dale Pauley	3.8
Delbert Westphalen	2.7
John and James Kilworth	1.6
Pleasant Twp.	11.0
Randall Pauley	4.6

Conservation Cover

	Acres
Dustin and Darby McLaren	8.5

EQIP Ponds

Name	No.
John Bagshaw	1
Mike McDermott	1

Filter Strips

	Acres
BI-KAP Farms	17.4
Brent and John Bierbaum	7.6
Darlene Euker Rev. Tr.	10.1
Delbert Westphalen	6.0
Eldon Turner	3.2
Herb Hansen	12.6
Jack Drake	0.5
John and James Kilworth	22.6

Pasture and Hayland Planting

Name	Acres
John Bagshaw	36.4
Daryl Schrier	40.0

Accomplishments

Covers Fiscal Year 2007
(July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007)

Terraces	19.9 miles
Pond	2 each
Grassed Waterway	51.7 acres
Windbreak and Tree Planting	11.9 acres
Conservation Cover	8.5 acres
Pasture and Hayland Planting	397.2 acres
Filter Strips	187.8 acres

Contributions

The Cass District did not solicit contributions during this fiscal year; however, those who wish to do so voluntarily are certainly welcome. The funding is earmarked to support the Envirothon Workshop and Regional Contest, field day for elementary students, scholarship for graduating seniors and anything else covered under education program for Cass County youth.

Great Plains Drill

One year ago the District traded in their Great Plains Drill and purchased a new one which saw its first season in 2007. The drill rent remains the same at \$10/acre with a \$50 non-refundable deposit required at the time of application. Kenneth Karstens was hired to replace Dennis Hockenberry after he decided to discontinue that job. Although designed for native grasses, the drill works equally well in seeding cool season grasses. With a continuous sign-up for contour buffer strips and filter strips, the drill is always in demand during the spring. More information may be obtained by calling the SWCD office at 712-243-3180.

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Jim Skartvedt
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How to make sure grubs don't destroy your lawn

(NewsUSA) - What are grubs?

White grubs are the larval stage of beetles and are the most widespread turf grass pests in the United States. In fact, there are a number of different types of grubs that can damage your lawn. A single grub is usually less than 1 inch in length and usually curled into a C-shape when exposed. However, just 10 grubs in a square foot of grass can permanently damage a healthy lawn because grubs feed on grass roots. In fact, there may be several types of grubs within a single patch of infested grass.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans spend \$156 million each year replacing the lawns that grubs destroy. And if you add up the total loss grubs cause throughout their lifecycle, the USDA estimates a staggering \$460 million a year in damage.

Have grubs invaded your lawn? Here are some ways to tell if you have grubs in your lawn:

* There are irregular brown patches in your lawn that don't go away with watering.

* You can easily pull up

infested sections of your lawn like a rug.

* There are a large number of birds in your yard. Birds eat grubs.

* Evidence of moles, skunks, or raccoons, which feed on grubs, is apparent.

You can fight back. Bayer Advanced Lawn Season-Long Grub Control, containing the proprietary active ingredient Merit, is proven to kill more grubs - guaranteed. It works effectively against all the common grub types that are found in lawns. Simply apply and water in to form a protective zone in the soil against grubs all season long with a single application.

But if your lawn is already under attack by an active grub infestation, Bayer Advanced Lawn 24-Hour Grub Control provides quick relief. It contains the proprietary active ingredient Dylox, which works faster than any other grub killer on the market. In fact, grubs usually stop feeding and start to die within 24 hours. It also kills sod webworms, mole crickets and cutworms.

You can learn more about caring for your lawn and garden

and about discounts on various Bayer Advanced products by visiting www.bayeradvanced.com or by calling 1-877-BAYERAL.

Seven steps to a spectacular lawn

(NewsUSA) - If you want to have a lush, green lawn, think of it as similar to getting your body ready for beach season.

If you want washboard abs come July, you better start working out a lot earlier than that. Likewise, to have a lawn that's the envy of the neighborhood, you've got to be its personal trainer and break a little sweat.

Follow these seven steps to a spectacular lawn:

1. Soil testing: Good lawn care starts with calling an agricultural extension agent to perform a soil test. "The easiest thing people can do is take soil samples from two to three different sections of their lawn and have their local university analyze the results," says Bob Richardson, a soil scientist in Oklahoma. "They can tell you exactly what nutrients your lawn needs and in what amounts."

2. Aerating: Roots require oxygen to absorb nutrients and water. As lawns age or sustain heavy traffic, soil compaction can result. Compaction reduces the amount of air within the soil, resulting in poor top growth and lawn deterioration. Aeration benefits your lawn by increasing water, nutrient and oxygen movement in the soil. It also helps improve rooting and prevents runoff.

Until now, aeration was hard work: expensive, time-consuming and messy. But there is a new liquid aeration product that sprays on your lawn with a hose end sprayer. LazyMan Liquid Soil Aerator covers 100 percent of your lawn, is chemical-free and adds nutrients to the soil. There's no mess to clean up and you won't break a sweat applying it.

3. Mowing and raking: How often you mow your lawn depends on the type of grass and how quickly it grows. A good rule of thumb is the "1/3 Rule." Never mow more than 1/3 of your leaf blade off at one time.

Raking not only removes dead leaves and debris, it helps control thatch. Leaves and dead grass block air and sun and ultimately damage the grass. For an easy spray-on dethatcher, try the

Lawn see page 7

Annual Report-2007 Budget and Finance

I-M Budget

(Office Supplies/Expenses/Commissioners Expenses)
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Fiscal Year 2006 Allocation.....	\$2,136.41
Commissioners Mileage/Expenses*	\$715.36
Office supplies/expenses	\$1,578.19
Association Dues	\$2,650.00
Total Expenditures	\$4,943.55
*Any amount over allocation was paid from District's Revolving Fund	

District's Revolving Fund

(Period Covers from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007)

Balance on hand July 1, 2006.....	\$13,308.04
Receipts:	
I-M Reimbursement.....	\$2,136.41
Tree Sales.....	\$12,378.90
Watersheds.....	\$418,062.61
Miscellaneous	\$7,082.93
Contributions.....	\$7
Total Receipts.....	\$452,975.89

Expenditures:

Commissioners Mileage and Expenses	\$715.36
Postage	\$789.79
Fair Booth.....	\$132.62
Office Supplies/Expenses/Education/Misc.....	\$9,753.23
Association Dues.....	\$2,650.00
Trees/Shrubs.....	\$10,169.24
Watersheds.....	\$418,114.27
Total Expenditures.....	\$442,324.51
Balance on hand June 30, 2007.....	\$10,651.38

Grass Drill Fund

Balance on hand July 1, 2006.....	\$14,128.35
.....	\$2,146.00
Total Receipts	\$16,274.35
New Great Plains Drill after trade in.....	\$11,000.00
Payroll District Employee via Bd. of Supr.....	\$1,000.00
Drill Repairs and Insurance Expenses.....	\$452.46
Insurance	\$432.00
Total Expenditures	\$12,884.46
Balance on hand June 30, 2007.....	\$3,389.89

III-M Budget

Conservation Practices

III-M Budget 2006-2007 Allocation.....	\$89,920.29
(Period covers July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007)	
Cost-share warrants paid.....	\$72,720.29
Obligated Expenditures	\$17,200.00
.....	\$89,920.29
Balance of Unobligated 2003-04 Funds	\$0.00

REAP -P (Practices)

2006-2007 Allocation	\$3,014.24
Cost share warrant paid.....	\$3,014.24
Balance of Unobligated REAP-Practice Fund	\$0.00

REAP-F (Forestry/Native Grass)

2006-2007 Allocation	\$4,830.51
Cost share warrants paid.....	\$4,830.51
Balance of Unobligated REAP-Forestry/Native Grass Funds.....	\$0.00

FARMS (Financial and Reporting Management System)

(Period Covers July 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008)	
2007-2008 Allocation.....	\$150,559.27
Cost share warrants paid.....	\$30,000.00
.....	\$94,852.75
.....	\$124,852.75
Balance of Unobligated FARMS Funding	\$25,706.52

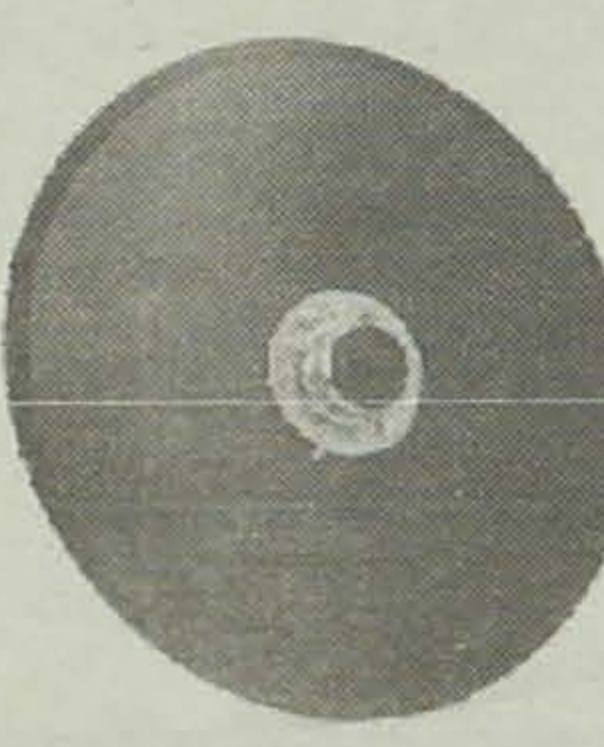
REAP -P (Practices)

2007-2008 Allocation (Period covers 7/01/07-1/31/08)	\$17,269.00
Obligated Expenditures.....	\$10,975.00
Balance of Unobligated REAP-Practice Fund	\$6,294.00

REAP-F (Forestry/Native Grass)

2007-2008 Allocation (Period covers 7/01/07-1/31/08)	\$10,247.17
Obligated Expenditures.....	\$7,047.17
Balance of Unobligated REAP-Forestry/Native Grass Funds.....	\$3,200.00

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Underwater Forests provide new sources of eco-friendly wood

(NewsUSA) - You may have seen this sight on a walk around your local lake: The withered tips of flooded trees poking up like toothpicks in the water. In towns across the country, forests both large and small are sometimes left behind in reservoirs created by hydroelectric dams. According to timber industry experts, millions of acres of forests are hidden right beneath our noses or, rather, right beneath our oars.

"The potential is huge when you consider the fact that there are hundreds of dams in the U.S. and thousands more all around the world where these forests remain underwater and undeveloped," said Sheridan Westgarde, president and chief executive officer of the Valor Corp., formerly Aquatic Cellulose, a company that designs and builds technologies for underwater work and construction.

According to Valor officials, there are a number of public misconceptions about

underwater wood, namely the notion that the quality of the wood has been degraded. Many

Lawns

continued from page six

100 percent organic LazyMan Liquid Lawn Dethatcher.

4. Watering: The type of grass will determine watering frequency. Most grasses require a 1-inch watering about once a week, along with one deep watering. For best germination, newly seeded lawns should be watered every day.

5. Weed whacking and bug busting: Watch for insects, weeds and any colored patches on your grass. If you notice insect damage, spray with an all-purpose lawn insecticide. All weeds should be pulled immediately to prevent them from seeding and spreading.

6. Feeding and fertilizing: Grass craves periodic feeding. It is best to meet this need with a "slow release" fertilizer, which releases nutrients over time rather than all at once. One option is LazyMan Liquid Lawn Fertilizer, which enhances plant growth and root formation and reduces water and heat stress.

7. Overseeding: If your lawn is riddled with bare patches, you may need to apply grass seed to fill them in. This is commonly known as "overseeding." Research online for the seed appropriate for your region of the country.

For more information on lawn care, visit www.outsidepride.com.



do not realize that water can actually preserve wood, protecting it from exposure to wind, sun and insects. In fact, in cold, deep waters, wood can remain in pristine condition indefinitely.

What this means, Westgarde says, is that these acres of non-living forests can provide a new, eco-friendly source of quality wood to help reduce dependence on living forests.

In the past, accessing flooded timber was a time-consuming

and potentially dangerous task, often involving human divers and other manual methods. But now there is a way for technology to do all the work.

Valor has developed Tiger-Lynk, a robotic manipulator system featuring an enormous hydraulic arm that can cut and recover trees at depths up to 136 feet. The arm can lift more than 5,100 pounds, meaning that it can easily lift logs or even entire timbers out of the water without

a crane or diver assistance.

The arm is just one of several components that can be mounted on a vessel, barge or nearly any other type of platform, depending on the job. With its unique capabilities and a new level of mobility, Valor's technology could provide the timber industry with a cost-effective way to recover underwater forest resources on a large scale - something that has eluded the industry for decades, Westgarde

says.

The Aquatic Robot-120, Valor's newest machine, is scheduled for production this year and will be available for sale or lease to a variety of industries, including energy and civil engineering, in addition to timber.

For more information, visit www.valorenergy.com or call 503-502-5104.

4-H News

Cass Coed Clan 4-H Club News

BY JT BAKER
Secretary/Reporter

The regular meeting of the Cass Coed Clan 4-H club was held on March 4 at the club house in Lewis. The meeting

was called to order by President Teresa Berry at 7 pm. Roll call was "What Is Your Favorite Spring Activity". Pledges were led by Sarah Masker. Old business was Share The Fun. Our club did very well with a lot of winners. Kasey Cook had a

4-H News
see page 8

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Cass County SWCD Commissioners

Pictured at left are the Cass County SWCD Commissioners (front row, left to right) Fred Kay and Greg Zellmer; and (back row) Terry Hoskins and Ray Wilson. Not pictured Mike Hall.

Photo contributed



4-H News

continued from page seven

dance routine w/ a blue, Andrew Leazenby piano solo w/ a blue, Sarah Masker with a solo, purple and Haley and Kelsi Schmidt go on to state fair. We discussed the YC2 lock-in at the YMCA held on Feb. 16 and 17, which had a good turn out. Sarah Masker did a pet day at the Allen House. We all brought are cookies for the Bloodmobile in Griswold this week.

New business is Mardi Gras this Sunday March 9 at 2-4 p.m. at the Cass County Community Center, and our club is in charge of the cake walk. We are to bring three cakes each. We talked about the Rabbit Workshop to be held on March 11, and discussed the 4-H Endowment Pancake Supper to be held on March 13. We have the second shift and Jordie Johnson, Gustin Swagle, Kasey Cook are the helpers. We also talked about the upcoming weigh-ins for swine, and sheep, and tagging feeder calves. We talked about the Farm Monthly Spotlight and the club members asked Deb Baker to check with the ISU Extension Office to see if we could for April. A presentation was given by Kasey Cook on her "Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies. Kasey was our host for the meeting so we all got to sample her cookies. They were very good.

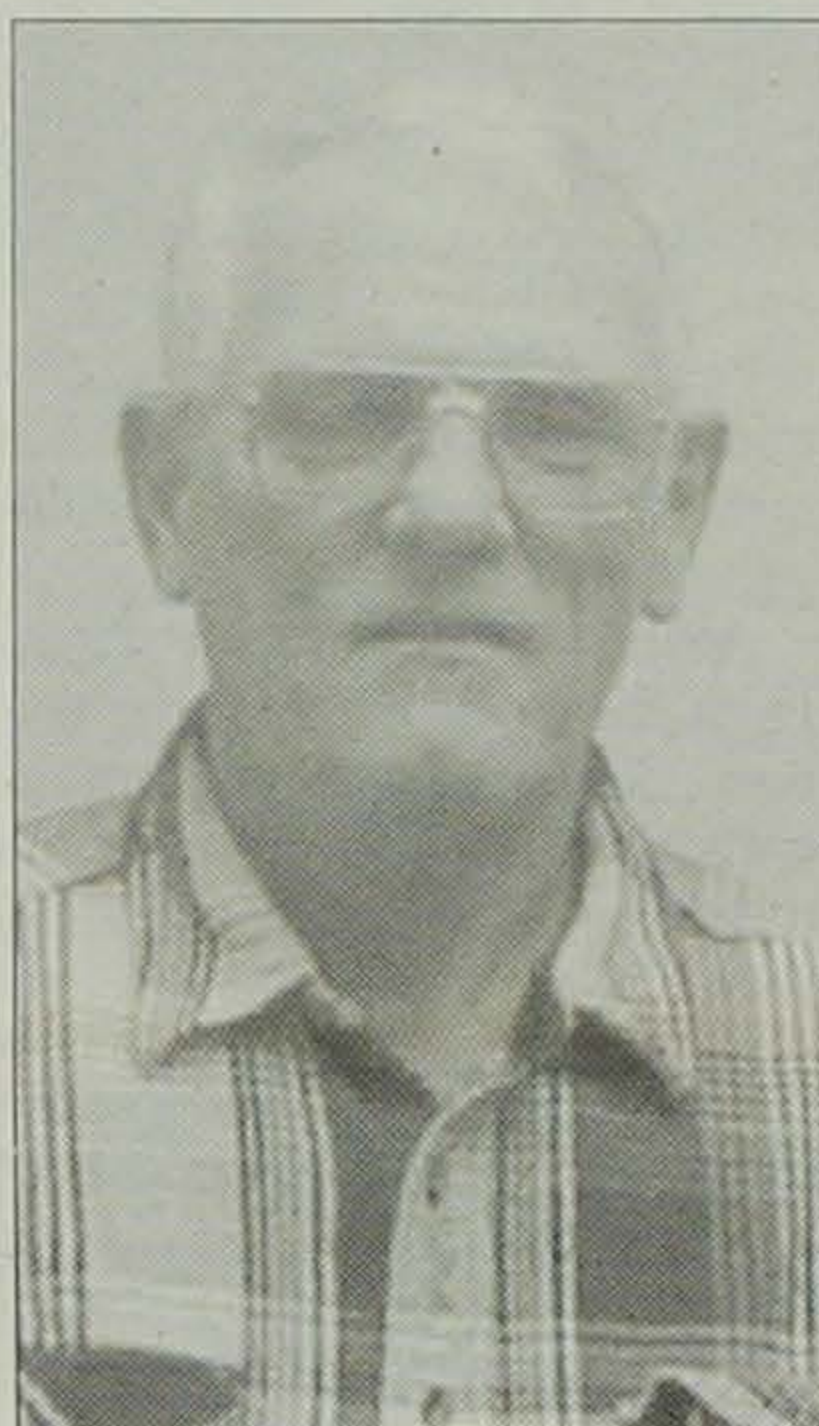
The next meeting will be held on April 1 at the club house and JT Baker is the host.

Make the News Telegraph your news choice!

Retirement

(Pictured at right) State Technician Gary Wolfe retired from the SWCD in June of 2007.

Photo contributed



SWCD Staff Members

Pictured are SWCD Staff members (above left to right) Steve Fluckey, State Technician; Jeff Sporrer, Soil Conservationist; Connie S. Esbeck, State Secretary; Scott Breach, District Employee; and (right-absent when picture was taken) Randall Larsen, Federal Technician.

Photos contributed



Poetry Corner

Two Thousand and Eight

BY SUSAN HANSEN
Kimballton

Will folks remember come November the farmer's plight as they fuss or fight?

Can't people even see where we would be without the farmer's meat?

Republicans and Democrats eat.

Ode 2 B Funny

BY GRACE RASMUSSEN
Manilla

It's a pity I'm not witty for humor is actually the greatest demand you see The bloke who makes with the joke has a full deck of credit cards He'll never be caught broke I've had to learn that to earn coin of the realm one must drop a single thought of a Grecian urn

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