



Monroe County SWCD News

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Water Quality Initiative (Nutrient Reduction Strategy for Iowa)

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a science and technology-based framework to assess and reduce nutrients to Iowa waters and the Gulf of Mexico. It is designed to direct efforts to reduce nutrients in surface water from both point and nonpoint sources in a scientific, reasonable and cost effective manner.

The Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force was established in 1997 to coordinate activities to reduce the size, severity and duration of hypoxia in the Gulf. Hypoxia is a large area of low oxygen that can't sustain marine life. Nutrients that lead to algae growth are the main culprit. In its 2008 Action Plan, the task force called upon each of the 12 states along the Mississippi River to develop its own nutrient reduction strategy.

Working together, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences developed this proposed strategy. The Iowa strategy outlines a pragmatic approach for reducing nutrient loads discharged from the state's largest wastewater treatment plants, in combination with targeted practices designed to reduce loads from nonpoint sources such as farm fields. This is the first time such an integrated approach involving both point sources and nonpoint sources has been attempted. **ISU publication—Copyright © 1995-2014, Iowa State University of Science & Technology.** Copies of IOWA Nutrient Reduction Strategy can be found at:

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Reducing-Nutrient-Loss-Science-Shows-What-Work>



Discover the Advantages of Cover Crops



If you are looking to increase the productivity of your ground by reducing runoff and stabilizing nutrients in the soil consider **COVER CROPS**. Cover crops are typically planted after the harvest of another crop.

Using cover crops in between normal cropping seasons can help to reduce soil erosion, limit nitrogen leaching, suppress weeds and increase the soil organic matter. The benefits of the off season crops will: Improve soil health by leaving organic material to decompose, improve water infiltration by reducing soil compaction, improve water retention by protecting the soil from the effects of wind and sun, improve nutrient recycling by retaining fertilizers and releasing it back into soil and provide additional grazing and haying opportunities

If you are interested in learning more on benefits from cover crops, contact the office to determine the funding source for producers.



Miller Creek's Phase III Nutrient & Sediment Reduction Project

In March the SWCD Board applied for a Phase III project for Miller Creek. This application focuses on a Water Quality Initiative for the "Nutrient Reduction Strategy for IOWA."

Phase III will provide continuing support for sediment reducing practices while also implementing nutrient management solutions to improve soil health. Upon approval from the Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) this project will provide

opportunities over the next three years.

In Phases I & II our goal was to reduce sediment by 4,404 tons/year, benefiting 2,363 acres in which we have successfully exceed our goal by fifteen percent.



As part of our Nutrient Reduction Strategy, the SWCD will utilize: field days, water monitoring, soil grid sampling and stalk testing as key tools. These tools will not only be educational but also help to determine the effectiveness of practices implemented

or installed. Producers will be able to learn the benefits of the Fertilizer Institute's method of the 4R concept and the Iowa State's recommended SP 435 guidelines on how these voluntary efforts can greatly reduce nutrient loss. By providing incentives we hope to educate and inspire landowners and producers to continue practices aimed at reduction of nutrients.

For additional information or if you would like to sign up, please contact SWCD/NRCS office and ask for Linda.



Gullies and Ephemeral Erosion

Do you have a gully or ditch that just keeps getting deeper or wider? Or, maybe a waterway that has an erosion problem down each side of it? You may need a tile outlet terrace or basin to control that upland erosion, while the gully may need an impoundment structure, or pond to help stabilize it.

There is cost share and technical assistance available from the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District to help provide alternatives for these issues. The Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District receives money

from the State of Iowa to fund up to 50% of the estimated cost or actual cost whichever is lower. If you are interested please contact the office for more information.

There are also no-interest loans and low interest loans available through the Soil District to help cover projects. The no-interest loan can be used alongside cost share. The maximum loan amount is \$20,000 payable over ten years. The low-interest loan



can be utilized with cost share funds, or used by itself to assist in the installation of a project. The maximum amount for that can be borrowed is \$50,000. All projects must meet Natural Resources Conservation Service specifications to receive the assistance.

A soil conservation technician can visit the property to evaluate the problem and provide one or more alternatives to solve the soil erosion, or water quality issues.

Financial Report

IIM Budget- FY2013(7/1/12 thru 6/30/13)

Bonding 2 Cost Share

Beginning Obligation	\$65,744.36
Funds Spent	\$49,304.30
Funds Recalled	\$16,440.06

IA Financial Incentive (IFIP)

Beginning Obligation	\$199,160.70
FY 13 Allocation	\$114,660.00
Funds Spent	\$104,918.06
Funds Obligated	\$208,469.10
Recalled	\$433.54

Commissioner / Office Expense

FY 13 Allocation	\$2,000.00
Supplemental	\$1,100.00
Total Receipts	\$3,100.00
Commissioner /	
Mileage & Expense	\$375.18
Supplies	\$373.07
Postage	\$874.36
Advertising	\$94.50
Meeting /	
Workshop Exp., Dues	\$1,382.89
Total Expenditures	\$3,100.00

Reap Practices

Beginning Obligation	\$5,130.00
FY 13 Allocation	\$7,748.02
Funds Spent	\$8,880.00
Funds Obligated	\$3,420.00
Recalled	\$578.02

Reap Forestry & Native Grasses

Beginning Obligation	\$3,480.00
FY 13 Allocation	\$8,832.67
Funds Spent	\$5,412.00
Funds Obligated	\$6,813.00
Recalled	\$87.67



Soil & Water Conservation Week April 27th— May 4th

April 27 through May 4, join in on the fun of Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Week! The theme for this year is "Dig Deeper."

Last year, Governor Terry Branstad signed a Proclamation declaring that the last week of April and beginning of May will be recognized as "Iowa Soil & Water Conservation Week."

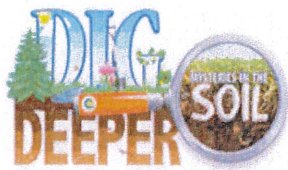
This is to bring attention to farmers, landowners and urban homeowners that work hard to protect Iowa's soil and water through conservation. **The Monroe**

County SWCD will present its annual Conservation Achievement Awards during the Soil & Water Conservation Week.

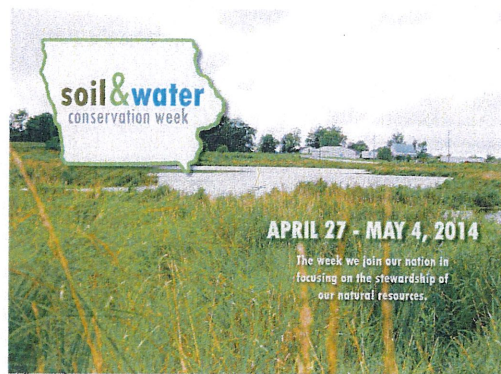
According to Iowa Agriculture, Iowa has over 600,000 acres in the CRP buffer

initiative and more than 60 active watershed and water quality projects. In Monroe County, we have helped install more than 19,12 acres of

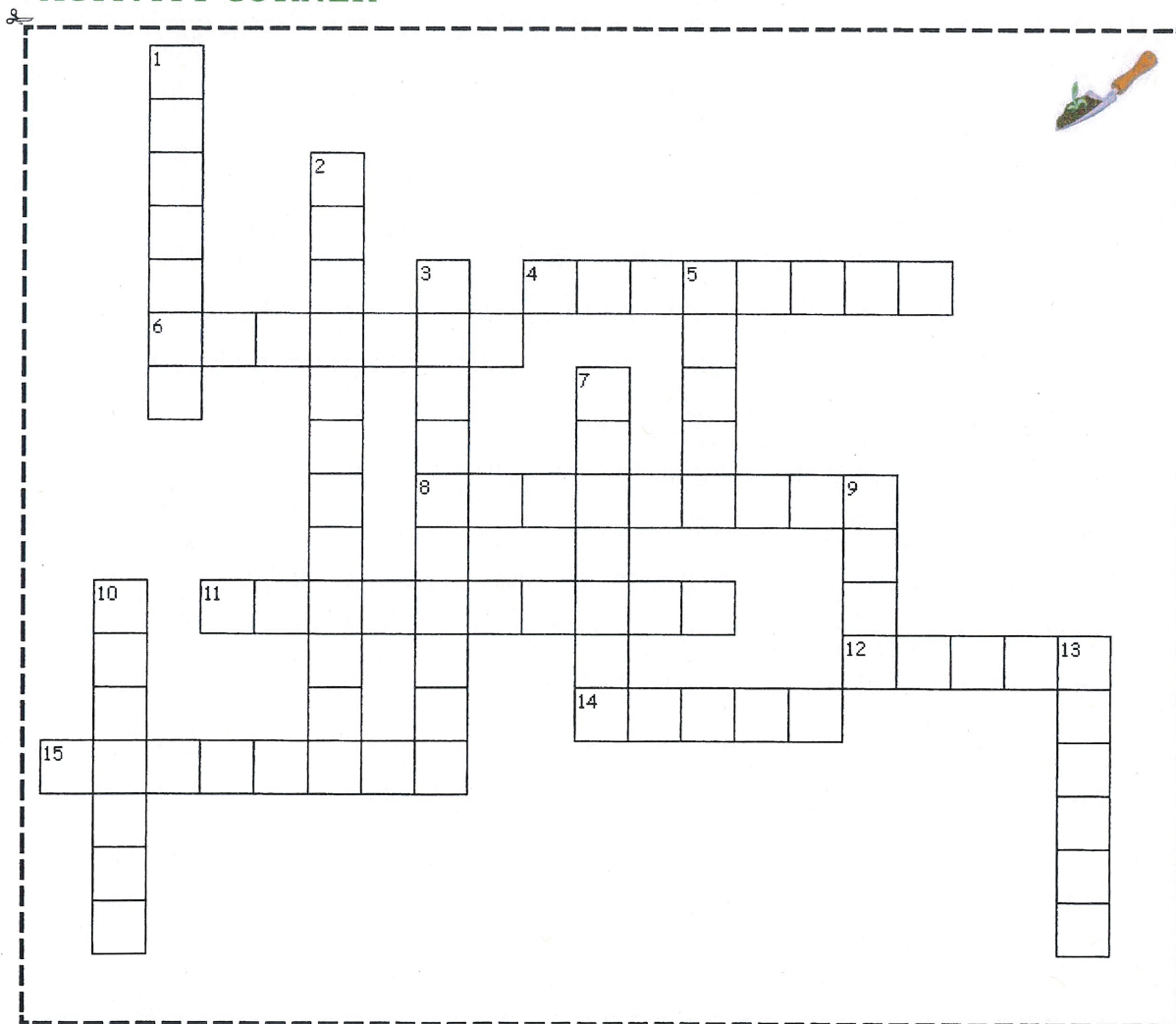
CRP on 58 different contracts over the past year alone.



Visit the White Buffalo or Pizza Hut on Highway 34 in Albion, April 27-May 4 for a free activity placemat! If you'd like to learn more, please stop into the SWCD office.



ACTIVITY CORNER



Word Bank

Flood
Silt
Soil
Farm
Conservation
Improve
Seeds
Trees
Wetlands
Habitat
Stewards
Environment
Earth
Cover Crops
Gullies
Lakes
Drainage

Protect

Streams

Leaves

management

Initiative

Resources

Watersheds

Reduce

Community

Rain

Calendar of Events



- ♦ **March 26th** - Nominations due into the SWCD office for Conservation Achievement Award
- ♦ **April 2nd** - AML Outreach @ ISU Extension Office, Albia
- ♦ **April (Date TBD)** - "Trees for 3's" (Activity for third grade students)@ Lake Miami
- ♦ **April 7th Tentative** Commissioners Meeting
- ♦ **May 1st** Farm Bureau Agricultural Day @ Monroe County Fairgrounds, Albia
- ♦ **May 5th Tentative** Commissioners Meeting

*A **HUGE** thank you goes out to our contributors: past, present and future. Without you, our community, educational activities and awards would not be possible.*

Monroe County USDA Service Center

District Personnel

Linda Shumate— SWCD Watershed Coordinator

ELYON Contract Personnel

Deborah Morgan— Clerical Specialist

IDALS-DSC Personnel

Diana Williams— State Secretary

Ronald Peterson— State Soil Conservation Technician

USDA-NRCS Staff:

Margaret Cope— District Conservationist

Stacy Wickman— Resource Conservationist

Michael Gibbs— Federal Soil Conservation Technician

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Monroe County SWCD

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