

# IDA SWCD 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

## District Commissioners

We the commissioners of the Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District are pleased to present this annual report of conservation resources and accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many Ida County farmers and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. We look forward to working hand in hand as we face the challenges of the future.

We would like to thank the news media, schools, and other government and public agencies who have assisted in the promotion of soil and water conservation.

If you have any questions or would like assistance with conservation on your farm, please call or stop by the office.

The Ida County SWCD Commissioners



Front Row: Lloyd Rickers, Wally Johnson, Tom Odgaard ; Back Row: Lorne Miller, District Conservationist, Joyce Johnson, Roger Bumann, Barb Knudsen, Marty Boyle. Missing from photo: Ryan Sadler

### Commissioners

|               |       |           |
|---------------|-------|-----------|
| Wally Johnson | Chair | Washta    |
| Lloyd Rickers | Vice  | Kiron     |
| Tom Odgaard   |       | Ida Grove |
| Roger Bumann  |       | Ida Grove |
| Marty Boyle   |       | Holstein  |

### Assistant Commissioners

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Joyce Johnson | Washta    |
| Ryan Sadler   | Ida Grove |

|                                      |   |
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### Inside this issue:

All programs and services of the Ida County SWCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

**Financial Report****July 1, 2008—June 30, 2009 (State Fiscal Year)****Oct. 1, 2008—Sept. 30, 2009 (Federal Fiscal Year)**1M Funds

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Total Allocation         | \$3000.00 |
| Supplemental             | \$ 6.80   |
| Dues                     | \$1600.00 |
| Commissioner Expenses    | \$1207.35 |
| Postage, Fair Booth, etc | \$ 224.89 |
| Balance                  | (\$25.44) |

Revolving Funds

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Checking Balance June 30, 2009 | \$ 8483.46  |
| Total Certificates of Deposit  | \$60,435.43 |

Maintenance Fund

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Checking Balance June 30, 2009 | \$4084.17    |
| Total Certificates of Deposit  | \$112,876.68 |

Iowa Financial Incentive Program

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance         | \$ 31,245.45 |
| Allocation                | \$ 57,186.41 |
| Funds Spent and Obligated | \$ 88,280.33 |
| Balance released back     | \$ 151.53    |

REAP Practices

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Allocation                | \$11,978.11 |
| Supplemental              | \$13,721.72 |
| Funds Obligated and Spent | \$25,414.21 |
| Balance released back     | \$ 285.62   |

REAP Forestry and Native Grasses

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Allocation                | \$3997.65 |
| Funds Obligated and Spent | \$3952.89 |
| Balance released back     | \$ 44.76  |

After you eliminate  
all the economic,  
social, and political  
reasons for  
practicing soil  
conservation, you  
still have the most  
compelling one left;  
Stewardship-the  
obligation to care of  
the land properly.  
Anonymous

EQIP

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Funds obligated | \$103,747 |
|-----------------|-----------|

Little Sioux Watershed

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Funds Obligated | \$251,630.25 |
| Funds Spent     | \$140,802.67 |



Grade Stabilization Structure built with Little Sioux Funds in July of 2008. Before and after.



## AWARDS



Bill and Pat Wellendorf of Ida Grove were chosen to receive the Wildlife Enhancement Award. The Wellendorf's have taken a piece of land and created one of the first working wetlands in Ida County. It includes two small ponds with water control structures; stop logs to fluctuate the water level. They have enhanced the area by adding native grass filter strips, trees and numerous other conservation practices, including terraces, waterways and residue management on cropland to protect the area.



Lynn Davis, Galva-Holstein K-12 art instructor and Cathi Taylor, Battle Creek-Ida Grove K-6 art instructor were each awarded the Conservation in Education Award. They have been instrumental in the success of the districts poster contest.

## 2009 District Activities

Held 12 regular monthly meetings

### January

- \*Election of Officers held
- \*\$40 donation to the area Envirothon

### February

- \*Applied for Farm Bill VII funds
- \*Commissioners approved district policy
- \*Commissioners approved average costs
- \*Commissioners established tree and shrub prices

### March

- \*\$100 donation to the Galva-Holstein fourth graders
- \*Commissioners attended spring regional in Ashton
- \*Scholarship winner chosen
- \*Commissioners attend Little Sioux Works meeting
- \*Marty Boyle appointed as assistant commissioner

### April

- \*J Johnson presents poster awards
- \*District sold 5943 trees and shrubs
- \*SSCC appoints Marty Boyle to fill commissioner vacancy

### May

- \*Watershed inspections completed

### June

- \*Commissioners received the DVD series "A Culture of Conservation"

### July

- \*Commissioners sponsor booth at the Ida County Fair

### August

- \*Commissioners attend fall regional in Cleghorn
- \*\$25 donation to the IWILL Foundation
- \*Approved Cooperative Working Agreement between NRCS, IDALS and district
- \*Approved 75% cost share for IJOBS storm damage funds

### September

- \*Paid CDI dues
- \*Commissioners/staff county tour and lunch
- \*District audit completed
- \*Awards presented (see page 3)

### October

- \*Commissioners vote on resolutions
- \*Commissioners attend REAP meeting

### November

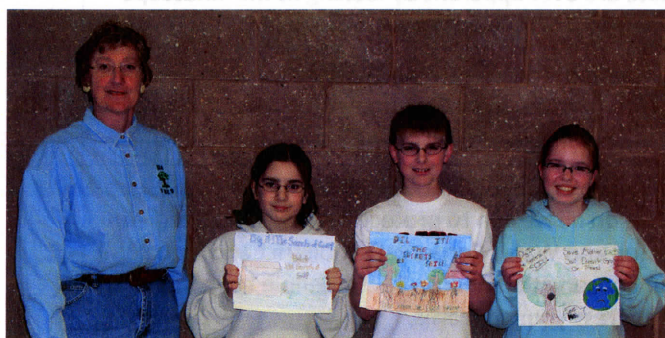
- \*Paid NACD dues
- \*\$75 donation to CDI scholarship program

### December

- \*Commissioners renew nursery certificate
- \*Commissioners attended Secretary of Ag Bill Northey town meeting



## Poster Contest

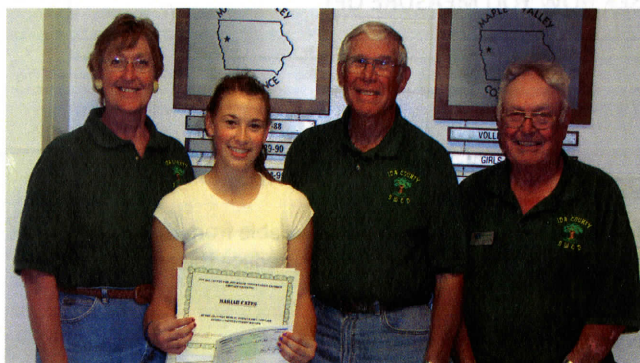


### Dig IT! The Secrets of Soil

Winners of this years poster contest were: Courtney Carstens, Jonah Kistenmacher, and Lauren Franken from Galva-Holstein. (photo on left)

Winners from Battle Creek-Ida Grove were: (front row) Mariah Cates, Megan Schoenherr and Natalie Renfro and (back row) Olivia Freese, Partker Rasmussen, and Erin Hallenbeck.

Joyce Johnson presented the students with monetary awards on April 21st.



Mariah Cates was chosen as the regional poster winner for Division 4 (Grades 7-9). She was presented with a \$35 check from the Grinnell Reinsurance Company.

"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in."

George Washington Carver

### SWCD SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Anthony Volkert, a senior at River Valley High School, was chosen to receive a \$250 scholarship to help further his education. He is planning on attending South Dakota State University in Brookings and majoring in agricultural business and animal science.

## How Do I Measure Up?

By James Gillespie, Bureau Chief

Iowa's have faced a lot of challenges this past year, but have stepped up to confront those challenges and taken conservation to heart. Protecting the soil and water of this state are ever apparent by looking at the landscape and water quality.

Over 95% of this land is in private ownership and most of it is used for some form of agricultural production. The balance is in urban, roads, utilities and infrastructure that keep our people and commodities moving. All of these things are needed because I don't think there are many other states or parts of the country that rely on all of their land and its resources to do this.

That is why it is so important that all of us (rural and urban) alike do all we can to protect the soil and water. You all have tremendous resources available to you locally in your Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist you with your conservation needs. These people have both the technical assistance and financial opportunities that can help address your concerns.

Your district has over 50 years of expertise in working with soil and water resources and the sound technical solutions to resource concerns. If you have a conservation plan, it is a great time to review it to see if it still addresses all of the resource concerns and your land use objectives. If you don't have a plan or can not find yours, contact the local office for assistance.

As you begin this next year, (2010), take some time to walk around your property, looking at your land use decisions, and are there some conservation needs that need to be addressed. Do you have erosion occurring and is that sediment leaving your property? Have you identified your land with the watershed that you live in, and are you having any impact on that watershed from your land?

If you had to evaluate your own resource issues, how would you say I'm doing? What would your peers think of what I'm doing? Am I doing all I can to protect the soil and water, while maintaining the productivity and use of my property? **EVALUATE YOURSELF AND YOUR LAND USE TO SEE HOW YOU MEASURE UP!**

## Low Interest Loan Program

The Ida County SWCD is again offering low interest loans to area landowners. This program is made available from the Iowa Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation and is targeted at water quality projects in an effort to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides negatively impacting streams and lakes.

- Terraces, waste storage facilities, grade control structures, waterways and other practices are eligible
- 3% fixed loan rate with terms up to 10 years
- Loans from \$5000 to \$50,000
- Linked deposit loan structure allows you to work with your lending institution
- New animal waste structures or projects involving concentrated animal feeding operations are not eligible
- Call our office at 712-364-2124 or stop in for an application or with questions



**Programs Available through the  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
and the Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Iowa Financial Incentives Program**

- \*Up to 50% cost share to install conservation practices like terraces, water and sediment basins, waterways

**REAP Practice Funds**

- \* Up to 50% cost share to install conservation practices like terraces, water and sediment basins, waterways
- \*Can only be used in the Soldier, Garfield, Crawford Creek and Pleasant Valley watersheds.

**REAP Forestry and Native Grasses Fund**

- \*Up to 75% cost share to install windbreaks and other tree plantings.

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**

- \*Up to 50% cost share to install conservation practices like terraces, waterways, grade stabilization structures.
- \*Up to 50% or \$50,000 maximum to install waste storage facilities, solid settling basins ,composting facilities.
- \*Organic Farming Initiative for beginning or certified producers.
- \*Applicants can sign-up on a continuous basis

**Local Water Protection Loans**

- \*Applications accepted year around
- \*3% fixed rate for life of loan
- \*Available through a lender of your choice
- \*Practices eligible: terraces, hoop buildings, manure storage facilities, waterways, grade control structures

**Little Sioux Funds**

- \*Up to 75% cost share for installing terraces, grade stabilization structures and water and sediment basins

**Conservation Stewardship Program**

- \*Eligible applicants can sign-up on a continuous basis where NRCS ranks applications for funding
- \*Applicants current and proposed conservation practices are entered into the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT)
- \*The conservation performance estimated by the CMT will be used to rank the applications
- \*Payment is based upon a land use payment rate per performance point established for the ranking period

Please evaluate your farms and if you find resource concerns that need addressed, any of the above programs may be of help to you. Stop by the NRCS office at 5973 State Hwy 175 or call us at 712-364-2124 and our staff will be able to fit you with a program that will address all of your resource concerns.



**IDA SWCD/NRCS**  
**5973 STATE HWY 175**  
**IDA GROVE, IA 51445**  
**PH: 712-364-2124**  
Email:  
barbara.knudsen@ia.nacdn.net

Field Office Staff

Lorne Miller, District Conservationist  
Randall Sohm, Conservation Technician  
Carl Lee, State Technician  
Darwin Henke, WAE and District Employee  
Barb Knudsen, Secretary

**Tree and Shrub Program**

The Ida SWCD will order hardwoods, evergreens and shrubs for all of your tree planting needs.

Call us at 364-2124 or stop in to place your tree order.



**Ida County Conservation Accomplishments**

|                                                             |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Individuals Assisted                                        | 761          |
| Farmstead Windbreaks                                        | 3 each       |
| Grade Stabilization Structures                              | 2 each       |
| Terraces                                                    | 113,320 feet |
| Water and Sediment Basins                                   | 27 each      |
| Waterways                                                   | 26 acres     |
| EQIP Applications Approved                                  | 8 each       |
| Prescribed Grazing                                          | 224 acres    |
| Subsurface Drains                                           | 18,062 feet  |
| Conservation Plans Written                                  | 16,375 acres |
| Cropland with conservations applied to improve soil quality | 10,399 acres |
| Land with conservation applied to improve water quality     | 10,568 acres |
| CNMP Written                                                | 3 each       |
| CNMP Applied                                                | 3 each       |

x *Nels W Johnson*