

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District

1701 SOUTH B STREET, ALBIA, IA 52531 – 641.932.5144

2005 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

John Frieden, District Conservationist
Clint Maddix, AmeriCorps Biologist

Michael Gibbs, Soil Conservation Technician
Stacy Schlader, Soil Conservation Technician
Diana Williams, State Secretary

Ronald Peterson, State Technician
Jo Runnells, District Buffer Technician

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Soil and Water Conservation District is comprised of 5 publicly elected commissioners and 4 assistant commissioners that have the goal of conserving soil and water resources.

Monroe County Commissioners

Mervin McDanel, Chairman
Albert Tangie, Vice Chairman
Susan Ammons, Commissioner
Robert Henderson, Commissioner
Don Niebuhr, Commissioner
Colleen Putnam, Assistant
Marvin Wirtjes, Assistant
Helen Sinclair, Assistant
George Mackey, Assistant

If you are interested in volunteering for the SWCD contact the District at 641-932-5144.

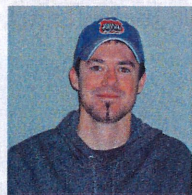
New Albia NRCS Employees

Stacy Schlader
NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

Stacy is a graduate of Iowa State University with a major in Forestry. Stacy has worked for the Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, AmeriCorps and the NRCS-Pocahontas Field Office in Northwest Iowa. Stacy will assist landowners with their soil and water conservation concerns.



Stacy Schlader



Clint Maddix

Clint Maddix
AmeriCorps Biologist

Clint is a graduate of Upper Iowa University with majors in both Conservation Management and Life Sciences. He has previously worked for the Johnson County Conservation Board and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Clint is now working for the DNR out of the Albia Field Office. Clint will help coordinate the Quail Buffer Initiative – CP33 for Monroe County.

State Cost Share

State cost share funds are available each year for the installation of soil and water conservation practices. Funding is provided through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation. State Cost share provides up to 50% cost share on approved practices. Previous cost share funds were spent on Water & Sediment Control Basins, Terraces, Ponds, Timber Stand Improvement Tree Plantings, and Grazing Systems.

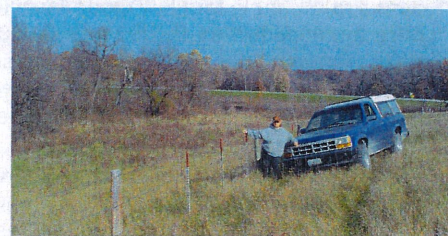
Inquire at the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District – USDA NRCS to sign up for cost share funding.



Timber Stand Improvement with Monroe County Landowner, Colleen Putnam (2nd from left), assisted by Clint Maddix (Left, AmeriCorps Biologist), Don Niebuhr (2nd from right, Monroe County Commissioner), and Duane Bedford (Right, Iowa DNR District Forester)

Environmental Qualities Incentives Program – EQIP

The EQIP program is a voluntary program that provides assistance to producers to address resources concerns on their land, including soil, water, and air. EQIP in Monroe County offers 50% cost share on approved practices county wide and 75% cost share on practices located within the Rathbun Watershed. Monroe County EQIP dollars have previously been spent on grazing systems, pasture and hayland plantings, fencing for grazing systems, grade stabilization structures, terraces and basins. Applications are accepted through a continuous sign-up period. The local office will announce a deadline date for ranking current year applications. For more information or to signup, please stop by the local USDA-NRCS field office.



District Buffer Technician, Jo Runnells, stands along side a CRP Riparian Buffer Strip.

CRP

In 2005, 373.3 acres were enrolled into the Continuous Signup of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). These acres were enrolled into the Buffer Strip, Filter Strip, Marginal Pastureland, and Wetland Restoration Practices. Continuous CRP is a voluntary program to enroll crop and/or pasture ground for a 10 to 15 year contract. Applications are accepted throughout the year, prorated after October 1 of each year. CRP offers an annual rental payment for the land that is enrolled in the program and cost share is available to complete the practice up to 90%. Signup Incentive Payments are also available for selected practices. Contact the local USDA Service Center for available practices and program requirements.

Conservation Security Program

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) "Rewards the Best and Motivates the Rest". CSP is a program that rewards producers who have been stewards of the land and the program offers incentives to keep the conservation efforts a priority. The signup for CSP is watershed based. Each year priority watersheds will be chosen at the national level for each state. The chosen Iowa watersheds for fiscal year 2006 include the South Skunk River Watershed, Middle Iowa River Watershed, and Grant-Little Maquoketa River Watershed.

"Get Ready, Get Set, Get In CSP" Tips:

- Keep good production records.
- Maintain and improve soil quality.
- Talk to producers who have participated in CSP.
- Attend CSP informational meetings.
- Be prepared for the announcement of a watershed in your area.
- Get more information. Contact your local NRCS office or check out www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Local Water Protection Programs – Low Interest Loans

The Local Water Protection Program (LWPP) is a new source of low-cost financing available to landowners. This opportunity is available specifically to assist and encourage landowners to address non-point source pollution of Iowa streams and lakes.

- *Applications are accepted at anytime throughout the year.
- *No up front cash is required. Quick loan processing and loan repayment terms let you get your project done now.
- *Interest rates are well below other financing sources, interest rate is 3%.
- *Loans are available for \$5,000 to \$50,000 for repayment of loan up to 10 years.
- *LWPP loan can be used with other cost share to pay for your share of the project.
- *The applicant must be the landowner where the practice will take place.

Practices that may qualify for loan approval are but not limited to:

- Terraces, grade stabilizations structures and sediment basins
- Waste storage facilities/structures
- Pasture and hayland plantings
- Grassed waterways and filter strips
- Field borders, windbreaks, and riparian buffers



State Technician, Ronald Peterson, stands in front of a structure completed with LWPP.

For more information about LWPP, please inquire at the local NRCS office.

CP33 Wildlife Habitat for Upland Birds (Quail)

Upland habitat buffers are field borders planted around crop fields to provide food and cover for quail, upland game birds and other wildlife species. Buffers around crop fields can provide critical nesting and brood rearing cover. The habitat buffers can be located either around the entire perimeter of the field or along one or more sides of the field but at a minimum they must be located wherever runoff enters or leaves the field. The field to be buffered must have a cropping history of 4 out of 6 years between 1996 and 2001. The buffered area has a native grass and forb seeding requirement.



CP33 Highlights:

- An annual rental payment will be paid on contract acres. The rental payment is the weighted average of the three predominate soils.
- The buffer width can be a 30 foot minimum with a maximum average width of 120 feet.
- 50% cost share plus additional 40% practice incentive payment.
- Sign-incentive payment equal to \$100 per acre.
- 10 year contract.

For additional information on the CP33 Wildlife Habitat Buffer Practice, please visit Clint Maddix, AmeriCorps Biologist at the Albia NRCS Office or call 641-932-5144.

Special Wildlife in Monroe County

Monroe County is the home of 1 species of concern, 3 threatened species at the state level and 4 endangered species at the state level with one being federally endangered.

An endangered species (fish, plant life, or wildlife) is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range and the species is protected by law.

A threatened species means a species that is likely to become endangered in the future and the species is protected by law.

Species of special concern means that problems of status or distribution are likely. These species are not protected by law, but may be protected in regards to hunting, fishing, and collecting.

Species of concern: Broom Sedge (plant); Threatened Species: False Hellebore (plant), Slender Glass Lizard (reptile), and Southern Bog Lemming (mammal); Endangered Species: Indiana Bat (federally protected, mammal), Spotted Skunk (mammal), Ground Pine (plant), and Pale Green Orchid (plant).

Reaping the benefits of conservation in Monroe County



Newly restored CRP Wetland in Monroe County.

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