



# Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 71st Annual Report



**2016 Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners**  
Jason Hinson and Bob Hinson, standing; Brian Messer, Don Lounsbury, June Morgan (Assistant) and Maureen Hutchcroft, seated. Jeff Burgess, not pictured.

## Conservation Practices Cost Share Funds Available

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for state cost share to install conservation practices on privately owned agricultural land.

The program offers cost share for conservation practices such as terraces,

water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, windbreaks, tree plantings, timber stand improvements and pasture plantings.

If having any questions or interest in applying for cost share, stop in the NRCS/SWCD office at 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington, or call 319-753-6221, Ext. 3.

## Limited Cover Crop Cost Share Available

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District is encouraging producers wanting to plant cover crops in the fall of 2017 to plan ahead and stop in the office prior to June 30, to sign up for cost share. Funding is limited.

In 2016, there were approximately 3,500 acres of cover crops planted in Des Moines County with cost share assistance. The benefits of planting cover crops are numerous—reduce soil erosion, limit nitrogen leaching, suppress weeds, increase soil organic matter, improve overall soil health, reduce pests, reduce soil compaction, improve yield potential over time, increase water infiltration, and add grazing potential.

Common cover crops used in the county include winter-hardy plants like rye. Most cover crops are seeded with a drill after harvest but a few have been aerially applied during the late summer.

For more information or to sign up, stop in the office at 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington.

## Soil And Water District Cover Crop Field Day

Almost 90 people attended a cover crop field day hosted by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the Lake Geode Watershed Project in November at Southeastern Community College (SCC), West Burlington.

The topics covered during the field day included cover crop varieties, application methods, cost share opportunities and grazing. Speakers included NRCS/SWCD personnel, testimonials from local farmers, Green Valley Seed representatives and SCC Ag Department instructors.

Partners for the field day were Green Valley Seed, Iowa Farm Bureau, SCC, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Tri-Oak Foods and Casey's.



**2016 Des Moines County SWCD Office Staff**  
(L-R): Drew DeLang, District Conservationist; Jami Grimes, State Conservation Assistant; Caleb Waters, Geode Watershed Coordinator; Shiloh Bradley, State Conservationist; and Kindra Bradley, State Conservation Technician. Not pictured, Erica Yost, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, and Mindy Strader, Summer Intern.

## SWCD FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016:

Checking General Account  
Balance, July 1, 2015 \$ 10,741.69

**Receipts:**  
Seed Sales \$130,086.17  
Rain Barrel Sales 224.70  
Cookbook Sales 60.00  
Bluebird Boxes Sales 210.50  
Checking Account Interest 7.49  
IM Reimbursement 2,150.00  
Contractor/Pollinator Meeting Reimbursement 61.20  
TOTAL \$132,800.06

**Expenditures:**  
Postage \$ 100.00  
Sales Tax 8,807.00  
Rain Barrels 47.00  
Commissioner Travel 1,103.42  
Poster Contest Prizes 110.00  
PF Seed 120,624.50  
Dues 1,150.00  
Sympathy/Get Well Expressions 100.00  
Office Supplies 70.01  
Contractor's Meeting 62.71  
Pollinator Workshop 22.40  
PF Banquet Sponsor 500.00  
Bluebird Box Supplies 242.36  
Farmers Market 239.30  
Envirotech 50.00  
TOTAL \$133,228.70

Balance, June 30, 2016 \$ 10,313.05

Special Projects/Payroll Account  
Balance, July 1, 2015 \$36,741.31

**Receipts:**  
Account Interest \$ 11.87  
FB Program 12,380.00  
Intern Program 3,744.00  
TOTAL \$16,135.87

**Expenditures:**  
Payroll \$ 4,384.36  
PF FB Biologist 2,500.00  
Taxes/IPERS 3,186.94  
Fingerprint charge 20.00  
TOTAL \$10,091.30

Balance, June 30, 2016 \$42,785.88

Geode Watershed Account  
Balance, July 1, 2015 \$ 2,420.81

**Receipts:**  
Account Interest \$ 1.79  
IDALS - payroll & supplies 66,997.02  
Transfer from payroll for taxes 2,586.03  
TOTAL \$69,584.84

**Expenditures:**  
Payroll \$35,412.42  
Taxes, IPERS, payroll fees 28,164.86  
Conferences/training 766.68  
Postage 2.94  
Supplies 740.66  
The Vernon Company - hats 450.83  
Printing 140.68  
TOTAL \$65,679.07

Balance, June 30, 2016 \$ 6,326.58



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# Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 71st Annual Report

## We All Need Trees

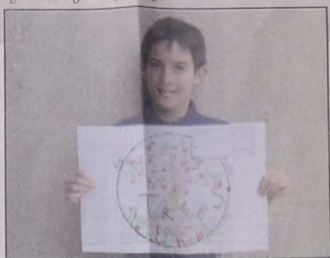
The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa, sponsored the annual poster contest for all students in the county.

The 2016 theme was *We All Need Trees*. Trees are essential for the survival of humans and other living organisms. Through photosynthesis, trees convert the carbon dioxide that mammals exhale into oxygen that we then breathe in. Although all plants perform photosynthesis, trees convert the most carbon dioxide to oxygen due to their large size.

The contest consists of five divisions—Division 1 is kindergarten and first grades; Division 2 is second and third grades; Division 3 is fourth through sixth grades; Division 4 is seventh through ninth grades; and Division 5 is tenth through twelfth grades. Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.



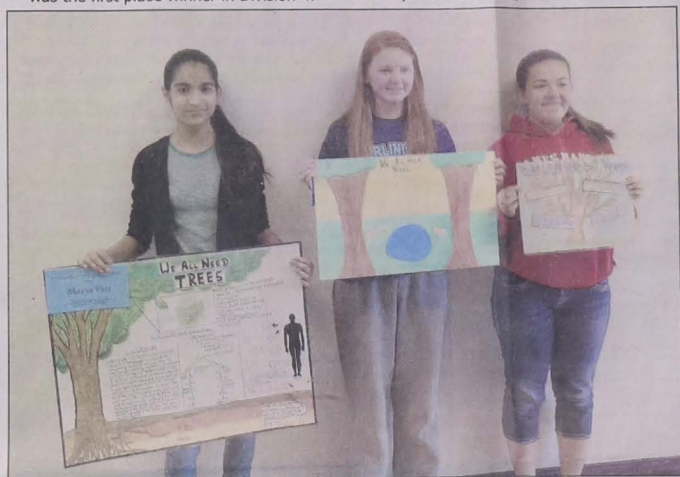
Lauren Willson, Burlington High School, was the first place winner in Division 4.



Division 3 first place winner from Sunnyside Elementary was Elia Subacchi.



Winners from West Burlington High School in Division 4 were Kaden Johnson, second, and Kaylee Pratt, third.



Winners from Burlington High School were Bhavya Vats, Division 4 Honorable Mention; Anna Johnson, Division 5 first place; and Lauryn Hanson, Division 4 Honorable Mention.

### Des Moines SWCD Financial Report Of State Funds July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

#### Budget & Operating Funds

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Allocation                     | \$ 2,150.00 |
| Commissioners Expense                | \$ 1,123.31 |
| Office Expenses, Meeting Room Rental | \$ 158.67   |
| CDI & NACD Dues                      | \$ 925.00   |
| Balance                              | \$ (56.98)  |

#### REAP PRACTICES

Tree Planting – 7.8 acres  
Grassed Waterways (Knotty Creek priority watershed) – 0.3 acres

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Allocation & Carry Over | \$14,038.72 |
| Projects Completed      | \$ 4,287.50 |
| Transferred to FY17     | \$ 9,233.87 |
| Funds Recalled          | \$ 517.35   |

#### REAP FORESTRY & NATIVE GRASSES

Timber Stand Improvement – 15 acres

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Allocation & Carry Over | \$ 5,181.41 |
| Projects Completed      | \$ 1,800.00 |
| Transferred to FY17     | \$ 2,520.00 |
| Funds Recalled          | \$ 861.41   |

#### COST SHARE

Terraces – 7,565 feet  
Cover Crops – 160 acres  
Grassed Waterways – 3 acres

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Allocation & Carry Over | \$44,494.67 |
| Projects Completed      | \$33,978.30 |
| Transferred to FY17     | \$ 9,971.50 |
| Funds Recalled          | \$ 544.87   |

#### LAKE GEODE – PUBLIC OWNED LAKES, WSPF, 319

Cover Crops – 319 acres  
Terraces – 1,940 feet  
Septic System Upgrades – 2 no.

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Funds Paid in Des Moines County | \$26,794.37 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|

#### WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

Cover Crops – 1,538.9 acres

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Funds Paid in Des Moines County | \$31,170.65 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|

## Burlington's De La Rosa Awarded SWCD Scholarship

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District honored a local high school senior with a scholarship in 2016. This scholarship is sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Rhiannon De La Rosa, graduate of Burlington High School, was the recipient chosen. Rhiannon is the daughter of Ramonda and Jennifer De La Rosa. She is currently attending the University of Arkansas.

Rhiannon 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.

### 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 2016 include:

- Papa Murphy's—pizza gift certificates to give as honorable mention prizes for the poster contest.
- Casey's General Store—refreshments for the cover crop field day.
- Mediapolis News—prints our Annual Report every year.
- Morning Sun Community Center—meeting space for the contractors' meeting.
- SCC—meeting space for a cover crop field day.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District thanks each and every one of you! Those wanting to make a donation should call the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

### Breuer Agency, Inc.

650 Main St/PO Box 32 (319) 394-3323  
Mediapolis, IA 52637 (319) 394-9466 (Fax)  
breuer1@mepotelco.net (319) 750-7161 (Cell)

#### Kevan Mellinger, Licensed Agent

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### Crop Production Services—Mediapolis

419 Wapello Street North  
PO Box 506  
Mediapolis • Iowa

319-394-3900 (office) • 319-394-3998 (fax)

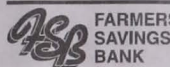


Morning Sun, IA • (319) 868-7586

### Geode Forestry Inc.

- Timber Sales
- Tree Planting
- Forest Management
- Consulting

1923 - 140th Street • P.O. Box 86 • Swedesburg  
(319) 254-2232  
www.geodeforestry.com



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### FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES



Vince King

319-394-3805 office

103 Wapello St.

Mediapolis, IA 52637

vincent.king@fbfs.com

