

# DSC Dispatch

Volume 5

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A quarterly publication by the Division of Soil Conservation



**Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship**

Wallace Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

[www.iowaagriculture.gov](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov)

## From the Director



Welcome! In the wake of Iowa Soil and Water Conservation week, I want to take a few moments to say thank you to each and every one of you that helped spread the word, joined in, or even organized one of the many events. It was joint effort that definitely saw us Iowans doing our part to focus on the stewardship of our natural resources. From the urban conservation showcase in Scott county to the Madison County farmer that was willing to talk about his conservation ethic on the news - there are true stewards all across our state. This was the first year that Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Week had been celebrated in conjunction with National Stewardship Week - I think it's a trend that will continue.

Though the official week is over, I think it's important that we recognize the importance of making this an on-going effort. We should highlight conservation successes in Iowa at every opportunity.

As we move into the summer months, I encourage everyone to get out and participate in the many field days scheduled throughout June, July and August. You can visit an abandoned mine land reclamation site (see page 3), tour some of our nitrate reduction wetlands, and with our Iowa Learning Farms team, learn more about residue management and participate in a pasture walk. See the ILF events page ([www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/events](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/events)) for details.

*Jim Gillespie*  
Director



### Budget

Have a look at the numbers!



### Summer Interns

New faces in 24 SWCDs this summer!



### SRF

Learn more about the low-interest loan program.



### IDALS Feature

It's all about feed and fertilizer this quarter!

# Dates to Remember

## JUNE

- 1 - Century/Heritage Farm Apps Due
- 2 - Big Creek Lake Watershed Appreciation Field Day, Polk City
- 5 - SWIM Wkshp Registration Deadline
- 5 - ILF Strip Till Field Day, Breda
- 8 - WIRB Teleconference
- 12 - Western Iowa No-Till Field Day, Carsten's Farmstead, near Shelby
- 13 - Goff 3 Mine Reclamation Field Day, near Knoxville
- 14 - ILF No-Till Field Day, Waverly
- 14 - Tour of Flood Control Structures in Soap Creek Watershed
- 16 - SWCS Iowa Chapter Summer Mtg
- 20 - Little Storm Lake Project Completion Event, Storm Lake
- 20 - ILF No-Till & Cover Crop Field Day, near Manning
- 20 - ILF Webinar
- 21 - ILF Strip-Till Corn & No-Till Soybean Mgmt Field Day, Osage
- 23 - ILF Patch-Burn Grazing Field Day, near Kellerton

## JULY

- 7-14 - Project AWARE, Iowa River
- 10 - ILF CREP Wetland Tour, near Colo
- 11 - ILF Pasture Walk, near Leon
- 12 - ILF CREP Wetland Tour, near Milford
- 14 - Badger Creek Lake CREP Wetland Tour & BBQ, Winterset
- 17-19 - SWIM Workshop, Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Center
- 18 - ILF Webinar
- 22 - 25 - SWCS International Annual Conference, Ft. Worth, TX
- 22-28 - RAGBRAI Conservation Tent Across Iowa
- 24 - ILF CREP Wetland Tour, near Graettinger

## AUGUST

- 8 - WIRB Meeting, Ankeny
- 9-19 - Iowa State Fair
- 15 - ILF Webinar
- 24 - Cedar River Coalition Field Day
- 28-30 - 2012 Farm Progress Show, Boone

## SEPTEMBER

- 5-9 - SWCD Commissioners Annual Conference, Des Moines
- 12-17 - 2012 NASDA Annual Meeting, Des Moines
- 23-26 - NAAMLPA Annual Conference, Des Moines

# Budget News

After a late adjournment, we have our numbers!

The Iowa Legislature adjourned the 2012 legislative session on xxxxx and sent an appropriation bill to the Governor for signature. The Governor has thirty days to sign the bill.

The appropriation bill provided several increases for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and the Division of Soil Conservation (DSC). Increases from last year's funding include:

IDALS Administration (whole department)	\$584,020
Soil Conservation Administration	\$550,000
Agriculture Drainage Wells	\$550,000
Cost Share	\$350,000
Agricultural Drainage Wells	\$1,000,000
Watershed Improvement Review Board	\$1,000,000
Loess Hills Development and Conservation	\$50,000

**Fund Key:** *General - Environment First - Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure*

All other programs received the same funding as last year. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Director.

## Water Quality Test Kits Now Available to Livestock Farmers

Easy, quick and confidential!

A coalition of commodity groups, educational and public agencies has joined to provide practical and affordable materials and water test kits for farmers.

The test kits can be checked out at about 20 Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offices. Find the location nearest you on the IMMAG website at [www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/smallfeedlotsdairy.html](http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/smallfeedlotsdairy.html).

A free video and fact sheet on how to test the waters are available on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's (IMMAG) and Iowa Department of Natural Resources' websites at [www.iowadnr.gov/afo/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/).

Demonstrations of the kits and discussion of the materials will be covered during field days of small cattle yards planned for this summer and fall. Dates for those field days will be posted to the IMMAG website.

The time to inspect and test is during or shortly after a rainfall, when water is running off the cattle yard. If a farmer discovers a problem, the new publications can steer the farmer to affordable solutions to control and contain manure runoff in "Small Open Beef Feedlots in Iowa – a producer guide." A similar manual with design and management tools for dairy farmers will be available soon.

Educational and testing materials are part of the Water Quality Initiative for Small Iowa Beef and Dairy Feedlot Operations, a two-year plan to provide resources for farmers with small or mid-sized open lots. Partners in the project include the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa State Dairy Association, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which has provided partial funding through a Section 319 grant.



# AML Field Day June 13<sup>th</sup>

Learn about the reclamation process

Ever wondered what abandoned mine land reclamation is all about? Now is your chance to find out! On **Wednesday, June 13, 2012 from 10 am – 1 pm**, a field day will be held at the Goff Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project near Knoxville in Marion County. A hayrack tour of the project will allow observation of both during and completed aspects of the reclamation process. The field day will also include partners' exhibits, lunch, and the opportunity to learn more about the unique partnership between private landowners, local conservation groups, and various government agencies who are working together to reclaim this site and others.

The Goff AML Reclamation Project consists of 200 acres of priority features such as dangerous highwalls, hazardous water bodies, and clogged stream lands that were disturbed by unregulated surface coal mining during the 1950's. These conditions have resulted in serious water quality concerns because of high sediment loads and acid mine drainage caused by acidic runoff. Goff Creek, formed within the abandoned mine land site, feeds into English Creek and then into the Des Moines River.

Reclamation of the site will:

- 1) improve water quality by reducing sediment
- 2) eliminate acid mine drainage
- 3) restore hazardous features to approximate pre-mining conditions.

The Goff AML Reclamation Project is a partnership between conservation groups, landowners, and local, state, and federal agencies, including the Red Rock Environmental Education Fund, the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, Pheasants Forever, Kinder-Morgan Pipeline Company, Iowa Pathfinder Heartland Resource Conservation and Development, Iowa Learning Farm, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, Department of Interior.

For more information, please call Randy Cooney in the Mines and Minerals Bureau at 515-281-3476.

# 2012 Summer Interns

SWCDs get an extra set of hands

This summer, 24 Soil and Water Conservation Districts will have an extra set of hands on deck.

While the majority of these interns will be focused on District activities, seven of these positions will also work with the mine reclamation program. These seven include:

Allison Vincent – Marion County  
Shaniel Smith – Appanoose County  
Casey Judge – Monroe County  
Hannah Swaim – Davis County  
Lanessa Baker – Wapello County  
Erika Lyon – Mahaska County

We welcome all 24 interns as they begin their duties!

## New Scholarship Fund

"Egg Money" fund established at WFAN

The "Mother's Egg Money" scholarship fund has been established at Women, Food and Agriculture Network with the passing of Mildred Crim, an Iowa farm woman and rural school teacher (1916-2011), whose daughter, Jean Crim Eells, has been a longtime WFAN member and colleague.

"Egg money" - the term to describe cash brought in by farm women who sold eggs or butter which in provided clothing and care for their families - had the stigma of being an insignificant amount, and yet during the Great Depression it accounted for as much as 40% of the farm economy.

This fund will provide scholarship each year for women seeking to learn more about soil and water conservation through conferences and courses to help them stay current on the best ways to care for their land.

*To make your tax-deductible donation, send your check made out to WFAN to PO Box 611, Ames, IA, 50100. To donate online, visit [www.wfan.org](http://www.wfan.org), click "Donate." Please add "Egg Money" in the comment box or memo.*

## SWIM Workshop

Still time to register - deadline is June 5th!

The Stream and Watershed Integrated Management (SWIM) workshop is designed to train individuals who work with stream/watershed principles and practices. The workshop seeks to:



1. *Provide the scientific basis for understanding streams, stream corridors, and watershed functions*
2. *Identify Best Management Practices for streams, stream corridors, and watersheds*
3. *Provide access to the tools of assessment of these functions where feasible*

For more info, contact Jacklyn Gautsch, 319-335-1761, or visit: [www.iowadnr.gov/Education/ForProfessionals/StreamWatershedMgmt.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Education/ForProfessionals/StreamWatershedMgmt.aspx)





# In Pictures: Iowa Soil & Water Conservation Week

In 2012, this annual event was celebrated in conjunction with national Stewardship Week. Throughout the week, Iowans joined the nation in focusing on the stewardship of our natural resources. Here's a look at what went on:



1. Governor Brandstad, Kelly Tobin and CDI President Jim Frederick with the freshly-pressed 2012 Proclamation.
2. Channel 13 films Madison SWCD Commissioner Mike Koch for a soil conservation-themed segment that aired during the week. Missed it? See it here: <http://whotv.com/2012/05/02/saving-soil-farmers-use-conservation-practices/>
3. Bioretention cell demonstration in the parking lot of Davenport Public Works.
4. Sixth grader Rebekah Leipold won \$10 and a plane ride with her winning artistry during Tama SWCD's grocery sack decorating contest, themed "Soil to Spoon" in honor of the week! Congrats, Rebekah!
5. Lake Rathbun Protectors and event hosts Kevin & Lori Luedtke get a photo on their farm with IDALS-DSC Director Jim Gillespie, Rathbun Land & Water Alliance President John Glenn, Lt. Governor Reynolds, Governor Brandstad, IDALS-DSC Environmental Specialist Velvet Buckingham, & IDALS Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Jay Johnson.
6. The crowd gathered at the Luedtke's - well over 100 were present at the Governor's event.
7. A crowd gets a demo of the rainfall simulator, an integral part of Iowa Learning Farm's mobile Conservation Station.



***Thanks to all that joined in!***



# Soil Loss Limit Revisions

Public hearings held across the state

IDALS-DSC, along with all 100 SWCDs, is required to hold public hearings to discuss changes in District-wide soil loss limits. This requirement driven by Iowa code is supposed to occur every 5 years; it's been much longer than that since these hearings have been conducted in most Districts. At the public hearings, folks who wish to address the District Commissioners with their input or have questions about revised limits are welcome to do so.

IDALS-DSC has contracted with NRCS to develop the soil loss limit revisions and NRCS will be represented at each meeting by a member of the State Soil Scientist's staff. The soil scientist will provide a synopsis of why some soil loss limits have been revised since the last time the approved limits were established. Any questions the public or Commissioners/staff in attendance may have will be addressed by the attending soil scientist.

NRCS will use the revised soil loss limits in each District for conservation planning purposes whether the District Commissioners approve the revisions or not. All customers who have an existing conservation plan will be grandfathered allowing them to keep the previously approved soil loss limits for RUSLE 2 calculations used to derive their plans. Customers who request new conservation plans will have their plans created using the revised loss limits.

District Commissioners will use the revised soil loss limits when investigating soil loss complaints. Roughly one-third of the Districts in the State will be holding public meetings this year, followed by an equal number of Districts in years 2 and 3 until all 100 SWCDs are up to date with this requirement.

Those with questions about soil loss limit revisions, are encouraged to talk with a District that has completed or is currently involved with this process.

Thanks for all your hard work facilitating soil and water conservation at the local level. - **Brandon Dittman, Western Iowa Field Rep**



## Employees<sup>OF</sup> THE Month

High fives all around for these IDALS stars!

### MARCH



**Doug Jarr**

Technician, Wapello SWCD

### APRIL



**Hope Faris**

Secretary, Appanoose SWCD

*Pictured with Vince Sitzmann, IDALS-DSC  
Field Services Bureau Chief*

### MAY



**Carl Lee**

Technician, Ida SWCD

# Meet the SSCC!

The DSC is administered in accordance with policies established by the SSCC - but how much do you really know about them?! Here's your chance...



**Dale Farnham**  
Cities & Towns

I was raised on a corn, soybean & livestock farm north of Gowrie, IA, and am a 4th generation farmer/agriculturalist. I received a BS in Agribusiness Management and farmed with family before working with Motorola, Inc. in Arizona. I later received a MS and a PhD in Agronomy, Crop Production & Physiology and worked for ISU and Monsanto. I'm now with Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa in West Des Moines, as Assistant Vice President and Head of Research and Development. I have lived in Ames for the past 12 years, and am married with two children at Ames High.

Most recently, from my work as Extension Agronomist at ISU and as Technology Development Manager with Monsanto, I helped promote conservation tillage practices and methods to enhance yields and reduce crop production costs. All too often, however, I witnessed practices that resulted in large losses of topsoil and irreparable damage to croplands.

My priority is to enhance the awareness of each and every local soil and water conservation district with the members, duties, and responsibilities of the SSCC.

As the "Cities & Towns" rep, I have concerns for reducing the erosion potential on construction sites; drainage issues (increased run-off as a result of greater areas covered with concrete or asphalt; water contamination from yard fertilizers and chemicals); surface water contamination from wildlife (increased waterfowl).

While on the SSCC, I look forward to gaining a better understanding of current DSC programs; helping implement necessary programs where they can do the most good; building partnerships and networking with key, influential people to achieve a common "conservation" goal.

Every Iowan should be interested in the SSCC because issues related to Iowa's soil and water impact all of Iowa's citizens, whether it be directly or indirectly. My intent is to visit as many of the 100 SWCDs in Iowa that I can over the next six years, beginning with the more urban districts.

Outside of the SSCC, you'll find me attending Ames High sporting events, woodworking or flying around Iowa and the U.S. - I am an instrument-rated commercial pilot and own a 1968 Beechcraft V35A Bonanza.



**Harold Whipple**  
South Central Iowa

I was born and raised on small farms in southern Iowa. I graduated from Iowa State University majoring in Agriculture Business. For over 30 years, I worked in the banking industry and retired in 1995. My wife, Kay, and I live on a small farm north of Lacona. We have a number of acres of native prairie. We have opened our farm to the public, and had over 300 people tour the farm in 2011.

I received a baptism into conservation at an early age. I was the youngest of 7 children in my family and quite a bit younger than my next older sibling. When I was 10, my dad bought the first and only farm that he would ever own. It was a rolling 160 acres in Wapello County. The first thing that he did was to enlist the help of the Soil Conservation Service. I got see and was involved of some of the most intense soil conservation practices available in the early 1950's. Both my dad and SCS people took the time to explain what they were doing and why. These experiences have stuck with me all my life, and I only hope that I can give back a small part of some of the conservation ethic that I was taught at that time.

I really have two main priorities: 1) let more people know what the SSCC is and what it does 2) improve the communication between The SSCC and SWCDs.

One of my main concerns is the slow adoption of minimum tillage. With the concentration of land ownership we may be seeing some reduction of good soil conservation practices due to the size of the farming operations.

I most look forward to being with people that have a true passion for conservation. People with that passion truly understand the importance of conserving our natural resources and using them wisely.

The SSCC is one part of overall soil conservation effort. We need all of the organizations that make up the conservation effort are needed for the effort to be successful. how that food and water is procured.

Even outside of the SSCC, you'll probably going to a meeting somewhere. When time permits, I enjoy working in my wood shop, and working with the prairie.



**Jean Eells**  
North Central Iowa

I began my first term of service on the SSCC in 2003. I operate a private business called E Resources Group. I share farmland with siblings and am someone who fits the demographic of half the landowners in Iowa - female.

Prior to being asked to serve my first term in 2003, I had served on several boards having to do with natural resource issues and had been a locally elected commissioner since 1997.

Since our conservation programs are all voluntary, I'm interested in outreach messages to foster uptake of conservation programs. Although most of our programs are designed for and marketed to producers, I think landowners can influence conservation participation if they're well informed and motivated so I'm always looking for a new angle to try. My interest in messaging includes outreach to legislators who have an important role in the mix of funding sources that support conservation in Iowa.

The landform in the part of the state I represent is the prairie pothole region. Drainage issues affect the expression of conservation, or lack of, in our area. We've always had more tillage in this area for a variety of reasons, so promoting no-till or strip-till is not particularly easy.

I enjoy the interactions with all these folks as conservation professionals. They each bring forward perspectives that I would not otherwise get to hear - it's like condensing a library of books into several short abstracts each month. It's not possible for any one person to know and consider all the possible situations and conditions that impact our work so I am honored to have the privilege of listening to this condensed library every month we meet.

## Next issue:

*Hear from the Mining Industry Representative, Sherman Lundy, and the Northeast Region Representative, Charles McCullough!*

For more about the SSCC, visit  
[www.iowaagriculture.gov/soilConservationCommittee.asp](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/soilConservationCommittee.asp)



# Featured DSC Program

## State Revolving Fund: Low-Interest Loans



### *Low-cost financing for water quality and storm water projects.*

The DSC administers three State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) programs through its local Soil and Water Conservation Districts - the Local Water Protection Program (LWPP), Livestock Water Quality Program (LWQP), and the Storm Water BMP program. The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) acts as the financial agent. These loans feature several common loan terms designed to encourage investment in Iowa's water:

#### **LOAN TERMS**

- Loan amounts start at \$5,000
- Can fund up to 100% of actual costs, no up-front cash required
- 3% fixed interest for the life of the loan
- Applications accepted anytime
- Available through the lender of your choice

### Local Water Protection Program

The Local Water Protection Program (LWPP) offers low-interest loans through participating lenders to Iowa landowners for projects to control the runoff of sediment, nutrients, pesticides or other nonpoint source pollutants from entering Iowa waters.

#### **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

*All projects eligible for State Cost Share/IFIP, REAP & EQIP are eligible:*

- Terraces
- Grade stabilization structures
- Water & sediment control basins

#### **ADDITIONAL LOAN TERMS**

- Loan terms up to 10 years
- \$500,000 cap per borrower



**Terraces in Adams county, constructed with financing from the SRF Local Water Protection Program.**

### Livestock Water Quality Program

The Livestock Water Quality Program (LWQP) offers low-interest loans through participating lenders to Iowa livestock producers for projects to prevent, minimize or eliminate non-point source pollution of Iowa's rivers and streams from animal feeding operations.

#### **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

*All projects eligible for State Cost Share/IFIP, REAP & EQIP are eligible:*

- Hoop buildings
- Manure storage structures
- Prescribed grazing

#### **ADDITIONAL LOAN TERMS**

- Loan terms up to 15 years
- \$500,000 cap per borrower



**In Appanoose county, this feedlot was converted from an open lot to a roofed facility to eliminate manure runoff, with financing through the SRF LWQP.**

### Storm Water BMP Program

The Storm Water BMP loan program offers low-interest loans for projects to control storm water runoff, offering an incentive for installing infiltration-based storm water quality practices. These loans are available specifically to assist and encourage developers and cities to address nonpoint source pollution of Iowa streams and lakes.

#### **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

- Detention basins
- Grassed waterways
- Infiltration practices
- Pervious paving systems
- Ponds or wetland systems
- Soil quality restoration
- Other practices that are shown to improve or protect water quality

#### **ADDITIONAL LOAN TERMS**

- Loan terms up to 20 years
- No loan cap



**Storm water detention pond in Johnson County, financed through the SRF Storm Water BMP loan program.**

#### **To apply:**

Contact your local SWCD. Find contact info at:  
<https://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS/index.php/districtMap>

#### **For more information:**

Tony Toigo, IDALS-DSC  
[tony.toigo@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:tony.toigo@iowaagriculture.gov)  
515.281.6148  
[www.iowaSRF.com](http://www.iowaSRF.com)

## Feed & Fertilizer Bureau

*Did you know Iowa manufactured nearly 14 million tons of feed in commercial mills last year?*

**Mission:** Serving consumers by promoting an honest, equitable marketplace, and to encourage integrity in Agriculture and Industry through education and regulation

The Feed and Fertilizer Bureau's responsibility is to protect the consumer by regulating the industry to affirm a safe product is distributed in Iowa, ensure Iowans receive a quality agricultural product, and ensure the industry is in compliance with state and federal regulations. Here's a look at the work of this Bureau:

### FERTILIZER

The Bureau regulated 3,157,910 tons of fertilizer last year, from:

- 3089 commercial fertilizer dealers licensed in Iowa
- 716 out-of-state commercial fertilizer dealers licensed in Iowa

Inspections were conducted at 849 anhydrous ammonia sites in Iowa, including:

- 1229 storage tanks
- 21,838 nurse tanks

During these inspections, 855 fertilizer samples were collected for analysis. The bureau reviews all new installations of fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia sites and conducts audits on anhydrous ammonia facilities to ensure compliance with EPA regulations - extending to on-farm storage of fertilizers as well as commercial dealers.

### FEED

Iowa manufactured 13,760,017 tons of feed in commercial feed mills last year, from 2338 licensed commercial feed dealers, of which 922 are in Iowa. They will license:

- 102 feed ingredient brokers
- 933 feed distributors
- 473 custom formula mixers
- 1027 feed manufacturers

There are also 290 pet food companies licensed, with 6127 pet products registered in Iowa. On-farm mixers are not required to license in Iowa or report their tonnage. Almost 1,500 feed samples were collected for analysis last year, with samples analyzed for label guarantee compliance, prohibited material, and adulteration.

Each year, 100 BSE/GMP inspections are conducted on state licensed feed manufacturers and 51 federal licensed feed manufacturers. 360 BSE inspections occur at feed manufacturers, feed retail dealers, dairy farms, and on-farm feed mixers. Investigators conduct 25 tissue residue investigations each year.

### LIME

Agricultural lime distributed in Iowa is regulated by the Bureau. Currently, 108 lime companies are licensed with 388 quarries and 396 piles recorded. Inspectors collect samples and submit for analysis of the Effective Calcium Carbonate equivalent as required by Iowa Code.

### EGGS

Effective July 2012, the Bureau will regulate Chapter 196 IAC for egg handlers in Iowa. According to information obtained from the Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals, there are currently 109 locations licensed, which are required to be licensed and inspected annually to comply with Iowa Administrative Code and USDA. IDALS inspectors and investigators will be certified by USDA to conduct these inspections.



### Bureau Organization

#### 3 Staff in Des Moines

- Bureau Chief
- Program Planner
- Administrative Assistant

#### 10 Field Staff

- 7 Ag Products Inspectors
- 3 Ag Compliance investigators

For more info, contact:  
**Kevin Klommhaus**, Bureau Chief  
[feedandfertilizer@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:feedandfertilizer@iowaagriculture.gov)  
[www.iowaagriculture.gov/feedandfertilizer.asp](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/feedandfertilizer.asp)





## 811 - Another Reminder!

Don't compromise safety - call before you dig.

811 - we mentioned this in the last Dispatch. In light of recent incidents across the state, we mention it again to stress the importance of using Iowa One Call. Here's another reminder from Northern Natural Gas representative, Dan Maschka:

Recent pipeline incidents here in Iowa show how critical it is to utilize the Iowa One Call Center before every excavation project. Workers have been badly injured and risk losing their lives because they did not call before they started a digging project.

The process is even easier now than ever before. Dial 8-1-1 two business days before you need to dig. You will be connected to the state one call center. The center will establish a one call ticket which notifies utility representatives to set up a time to have them come out and mark their utilities.

To clear up a common misconception regarding rural excavation activities, Iowa law **does** require a one call for any rural digging project more than fifteen inches in depth such as chisel plowing, sub-soiling, ripping, drain tile installation, building waterways and terracing to name a few.

The law **does not** require a one call for "normal" farming operations which means plowing, cultivation, planting, harvesting and similar operations to most farmers.

In Iowa, besides using 811, you may also dial toll free 1-800-292-8989. Either number will reach the state one call center to begin the one call process. Be prepared to provide basic information such as when and where you plan to dig and very specific driving directions to the dig site. The one call representative will walk you through the process in only a few minutes. The call and utility marking services are free!

-Dan Maschka, Northern Natural Gas

## Let's Connect.

IDALS is on twitter, facebook, flickr & You Tube. Join us.

That's right - we're connected. In case you haven't yet become our friend on facebook or followed us on twitter, we encourage you to. Upcoming events, in-the-field shots, and news releases are posted on both twitter & facebook; while on flickr and You Tube, you can find photos and videos relative to everything we do.

We're asking you to join our conversations. The links to the right will take you directly to our pages. Have a browse and tell us what you think!

## REMINDERS

### P&P Manual Updates

Updates were last made in April 2012. Remember, you can print off the individual updates - just select the specific page #s to print!

## IMPORTANT DATES

### JUNE 30

- ES, Technician & Secretary Reports Due
- Reload Iowa Reports Due
- Farm Bill XII Reports Due
- MRBI Reports Due

### JULY 20

- Final FY12 Commissioner Expense Reports Due



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The Division of Soil Conservation is responsible for state leadership in the protection and management of soil, water and mineral resources, assisting soil and water conservation districts and private landowners to meet their agricultural and environmental protection needs.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.