

# DSC DISPATCH

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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)



## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR:

As we close out 2012, there are things we will never forget about this year. We had a mild winter, followed by plenty of subsoil moisture to get crops off to a good start. In fact, we were ready to start planting in March, when we normally don't plant until April. Crops did get off to a great start; trees budded early as well as the first cuttings of hay. Then, it stopped raining across all of Iowa. We suffered through some hot days. In some cases it effected pollination, pod setting and future cuttings of hay. We were in an extreme drought. Crop yields this fall varied drastically within the fields and even within the same rows. Hay and feed for livestock is in short supply. Some ponds and wetlands have completely dried up. In areas, construction was limited and even stopped because soil compaction could not be achieved.

As I am writing this, I know that those same drought conditions still exist. If these conditions continue into 2013, probably until next spring, we will be faced with more construction and plant and animal production issues. We need to work together with all of our partners to help our landowners, farmers and urban residents address their conservation issues.

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Chuck Gipp, Iowa State University Dr. John Lawrence and Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey announced the release of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy for public comment on Monday November 19, 2012. This strategy is a science and technology based approach to help Iowans evaluate and look at opportunities to improve water quality by voluntarily improving nutrient management and still remain productive from a business standpoint. It is important that all landowners, farmers and urban residents review this strategy and see what they can do. Public comments are

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## DECEMBER

- 5 World Soil Day**
- 12 Ray Archuleta Training**  
*Public Service Bldg., Ankeny*
- 13-14 Cover Crops: Practical Strategies for Your Farm Conference**  
*Prairie Meadows, Altoona*  
<http://www.swcs.org/>
- 14 WIRB Application Due**
- 19 Summer Intern Applications Due**

## JANUARY

- 4 Comment Period Ends for Nutrient Reduction Strategy**
- 13-15 Iowa LICA Convention**  
*Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines*
- 22 Conservation Partnership Day**  
*Capitol Rotunda, Des Moines*

## FEBRUARY

## MARCH

- Regional Envirothon Competitions**
- 4-5 Iowa Water Conference**  
*Iowa State University, Ames*  
[www.aep.iastate.edu/iwc/](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iwc/)
- 6 Project Coordinator Meeting**  
*(tentative)*
- 18 Water Day**  
*Capitol Rotunda, Des Moines*
- 17-23 National Ag Week**
- 19 National Ag Day**
- 22 World Water Day**

## APRIL

- 15 State Envirothon Competition**  
<http://www.cdiowa.org/>
- 28- May 5**  
**Iowa Soil & Water Conservation Week**

## MAY

- 9 Iowa Children's Water Festival**  
*DMAcc Campus, Ankeny*  
<http://www.iowachildrenewaterfest.org/>

*Cover Photo: aerial photo taken over the North Thompson Watershed mid Oct. 2012*

*Continued from page 1...*

encouraged until January 4, 2013, at [www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu](http://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu).

If you have specific questions related to information in the strategy, contact us at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation at (515)281-5851.

I want to thank the districts, the staff in the field offices, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, other partners, landowners, farmers and urban residents for their conservation work this year. Protecting the valuable natural resources of Iowa is important to all of us and those that will follow. We will continue to provide the best services possible to all of our customers to maintain soil quality and health and improve water quality.

-Jim Gillespie, DSC Director



## DON'T FORGET

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is offering three scholarships for students and working conservation professionals. Find details and eligibility requirements at: [http://www.swcs.org/en/members\\_only/index.cfm?nodeID=11399&audienceID=1](http://www.swcs.org/en/members_only/index.cfm?nodeID=11399&audienceID=1)

Request for posters for the 2013 Iowa Water Conference will be announced in December. Plan now to showcase your water quality watershed project!

If you'd like to share the date of a local event, email us and we can upload the details onto the Facebook Event's page and tweet about it prior to the date!

## SPRING REGIONALS

February 26  
Region 2 --- 10:00AM-2:00PM  
Region 1 --- 4:00PM-8:00PM

February 27  
Region 5 --- 10:00AM-2:00PM  
Region 8 --- 4:00PM-8:00PM

March 11  
Region 9 --- 10:00AM-2:00PM  
Region 7 --- 4:00PM-8:00PM

March 12  
Region 4 --- 10:00AM-2:00PM  
Region 3 --- 4:00PM-8:00PM

March 13  
Region 6 --- 10:00AM-2:00PM

Mark your calendars  
for the Spring Regional  
in your area!



# Annual Conservation Districts of Iowa Conference

The 66th Annual CDI Conference was held in West Des Moines on September 5-6, 2012



This year's event offered the commissioners who attended reports from conservation agencies and organizations, research results on the success of conservation practices, opportunities to speak directly with other commissioners, legislative updates and the ability to recommend policy changes that best implement conservation.

## Highlights from this year's event!

- Over 200 attendees
- Over 20 speakers from government agencies, non profit organizations & private entities
- Opportunities for commissioners to receive reports from and speak directly to partners in conservation, including DSC, NRCS, FSA, IDNR, ISU, CDI & NACD during partnership forum, question and answer session & breakfast roundtable discussion
- 15 vendors with indoor and outdoor displays of products, projects and programs
- Four Resolutions passed at conference
- REAP funds for urban practices (69% in favor)
- SWCD's partner with government for cost share for urban stormwater practices (77% in favor)
- Include urban stormwater as a water quality concern (66% in favor)
- 26 individuals, districts & and businesses recognized for their contribution to conservation
- 5 poster contest winners on display
- \$10,500 generated from the auction! BIG THANKS to all the districts for their donated items!
- Additional conference photos available at [www.flickr.com/photos/cdiowa](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cdiowa)

-Clare Lindahl, Executive Director of CDI

## 2012 CDI Annual Conference IN PHOTOS



1/Carol County SWCD  
2/Attendees view items to be auctioned  
3/Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey addresses attendees  
4/Live Auction with Auctioneer, Eldon Troester  
5/Randy Cooney, DSC & Laura Crowell, NRCS chat in the exhibitor area  
6/Exhibitor area at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines

In next issue...  
Photos from Conservation Partnership Day



See what others are doing across the state!

# Banquets & Events

## Jackson County



## Dubuque & Delaware County Legislative Day



## Tama County Annual Banquet



## Ringgold County Awards Banquet



## Audubon 70th Anniversary & Awards Banquet

# 2013 Conservation Partnership Day

Help us have every county represented at the 2013 Iowa Conservation Partnership Day

***Conservation Partnerships: Ready for the Future***

**Tuesday, January 22nd, 9:30am-3pm**  
**Capitol Rotunda, Des Moines**



We need commissioners and assistant commissioners to attend 2013 Iowa Conservation Partnership Day!

We know times are tough and there is a need to be responsible with our state dollars. However, Iowa is **leading the nation in agriculture** and **trailing the nation in conservation**.

Iowa is #1 in the production of corn, soybeans, hogs and eggs while also ranking in the top 10 states for cattle and sheep production. Iowa is 47th in the nation in state conservation funding with less than 1% of the state budgets supporting conservation efforts.

Also, with many of our legislators coming from urban areas, there is a need to inform them of the conservation work being done by farmers and to show efforts districts are undertaking in the urban areas as well.

## Agenda

**9:30-10AM**.....Preparatory Meeting at Wallace Building  
**10:30AM-2PM**.....2013 Iowa Conservation Partnership Day Event  
**2:30-3PM**.....Post Event Meeting at Wallace Building

## Attendance Information

To **RSVP** to the event, contact Clare Lindahl, Executive Director with Conservation Districts of Iowa, 515.758.3880, [clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org](mailto:clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org).

*"Two years ago was my first time attending an Iowa Conservation Partnership Day Event. I thought it would be intimidating to speak with legislators but it ended up being a great opportunity to talk to them about the conservation work being done by districts. The briefing in the morning allowed me to choose a topic that was important to our district and feel informed and comfortable talking to legislators about it."*

-Mike Koch, Madison County SWCD Commissioner

*"Last year's increase in funding for conservation was a direct result of commissioner outreach to legislators before and after the 2012 Iowa Conservation Partnership Day."*

-Jim Obradovich, CDI Lobbyist at 2012 CDI Annual Conference

-Clare Lindahl, Executive Director of CDI



# Janssen AML Reclamation Project

The Janssen AML reclamation project was publicly bid on August 15, 2012 with a construction contract awarded to C.J. Moyna & Sons, Inc. from Elkader, Iowa. Bids were extremely competitive as demonstrated by a \$1/cubic yard unit price for excavation. The project involves slightly over 536,000 cubic yards.

**The slightly modified concept incorporates a more natural stream segment and the Janssen site is the first AML project in Iowa to include the design.**

The first-time AML project contractor mobilized to the Mahaska County site on September 17th, where clearing and site preparation began immediately. The combination of the aforementioned unit price for dirt work, a new design concept incorporating squiggly ditches and a moderately tight deadline for the quantity of work to be completed created a "perfect storm" of sorts.

With the always unpredictable weather in the driver's seat, efficiency is paramount. Enter super-sized and specialized equipment. Five custom quad-track scrappers are moving between 15 and 16 thousand yards per day quickly mitigating the enormous highwall and spoil piles. Modified Caterpillar™ articulating dump trucks were retro-fitted with tracks and pull beefy 35 yard scrappers. The contractor holds patent rights for several other innovations as well.

A GPS controlled dozer is able to create with precision; the meanders for the squiggly ditches which are part of the natural stream regrade design. The slightly modified concept incorporates a more natural stream segment and the Janssen site is the first AML project in Iowa to include the design.

The project is currently a week to ten days ahead of schedule and the rough grading will be completed prior to first of December. Weather permitting, lime and mulch will be applied and allowed to "bake" over the winter months. Finish grading and the permanent seeding is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2013.

*To be continued...*

-Randy Cooney, Environmental Specialist AML, DSC



Rock outcrop, shows perspective of size



Rock outcrop, shows perspective of size



Squiggly Ditch

# FACEBOOK

Check out these Facebook pages!

Adams County Soil & Water Conservation District

Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Howard County Soil & Water Conservation District

Johnson County Soil & Water

Conservation District

Lake Geode Watershed

Mitchell County Soil & Water Cons. District

Pottawattamie County Soil & Water Cons. District

Taylor County Soil & Water Conservation District

Tete des Morts Creek Watershed



Social media is a great, user-friendly, interactive mean to collaborate and reach out to the communities we live in *and* each other in the division. Skeptical? Check out the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Facebook Page in addition to the ones listed to the left.

Find upcoming events in your area, articles, photos and more!



## We are connected

### Join the conversations



facebook

[www.facebook.com/IowaDeptofAg](http://www.facebook.com/IowaDeptofAg)



twitter

[www.twitter.com/iadeptag](http://www.twitter.com/iadeptag)



flickr

[www.flickr.com/photos/iowaagriculture/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/iowaagriculture/)



You Tube

[www.youtube.com/user/IDALS1](http://www.youtube.com/user/IDALS1)

## Summer Internships

2013 Summer Intern **applications** are due on **December 19!**

### INTERN REQUIREMENTS

- The intern must be enrolled in college or recent graduate majoring in a field of study related to agriculture, conservation, engineering, construction trades, GIS, communications, public relations or urban planning
- A significant portion of the intern's time must be spent working on CRP related items
- Interns will be required to attend one intern meeting to discuss the Partnership
- Interns will be required to complete a special project for the District such as hosting a field day or informational meeting, organizing an outreach event or other approved activity
- Interns will be required to develop a "wrap up" presentation for the commissioners outlining their experiences as an intern

### POSITION DUTIES

- Types of work activities are up to each SWCD to decide, but it should be a diversified set of activities that supports the mission of DSC, SWCDs and supporting partners.
- Examples might include: practice layout and check-out, conservation planning, mapping, landowner contacts, news articles, water monitoring, urban conservation, resource inventory and others

## 2012 Farm Progress Show IN PHOTOS



1/New Space 2/??  
3/Students test their knowledge on the Wheel of Conservation 4/The Horse Whisperer 5/Boone County SWCD



# Soil Loss Limit Revisions

## *Soil Loss Limit Revision Public Hearings On-going State-wide*

By Iowa code, IDALS-DSC along with all 100 SWCDs are required to hold public hearings to discuss changes in District-wide soil loss limits. IDALS-DSC has contracted with NRCS to develop the soil loss limit revisions and NRCS will be represented at each public hearing 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 Commissioners, staff, or the public have will be addressed by the attending soil scientist.

NRCS will use the revised soil loss limits in each District for conservation planning purposes. 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. Last year roughly one-third of the Districts in the State held public meetings, this will occur again this year followed by an equal number of Districts next year which will bring all 100 SWCDs up to date with this requirement. If anyone has any questions about soil loss limit revisions please contact with your Field Representative.

Thanks for all your hard work facilitating soil and water conservation at the local level. We ALL appreciate your efforts.

-Brandon Dittman, Field Rep., NW Iowa, DSC

## MEET THE NEW STATE CONSERVATIONIST

### Jay T. Mar

State Conservationist Jay T. Mar, who joined the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Iowa this October, brings a strong belief in partnership building and a deep dedication to serving people.

Mar, who also held the top NRCS conservation job in Connecticut, is a native of Minot, ND. He grew up on farms in the White Earth Valley and Red River Valley. He began his conservation career planting trees for the Ward County Soil Conservation District in North Dakota, where he also served as a soil conservationist and district conservationist.

During his 30-year career, Mar also worked for NRCS in Wyoming and Delaware. In addition, he enjoyed the opportunity to serve on a USDA Conservation Technology Exchange team in Denmark.

"I am excited to work and partner with the many

great people and organizations in Iowa who care about conservation," said Mar. "Getting more conservation on the ground and delivering the Farm Bill to our customers will be top priorities for me."

He graduated from North Dakota State University where he earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Range—Botany and Wildlife—Zoology.

Mar is married to his high school sweetheart, Linda. They have three grown sons: Aaron, a teacher in Guatemala; Nathan, a Nuclear Engineer in Minnesota; and Ryan, a NRCS Range Conservationist in Wyoming. The Mars enjoy fishing, hunting, camping, and family time.

-Laura Crowell, State Public Affairs Specialist, NRCS





# URBAN CONSERVATION UPDATE



Derek Namanny is the new urban conservationist working out of our Spirit Lake Field Office. He replaces Steve Anderson who took another job on September 4. Derek had been the Project Coordinator for the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Project. He gained experience with urban work as part of his project so he can hit the ground running.

A 3 credit course on Rain Gardens was rolled out at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids this past semester. It was offered as part of the Ag & Natural Resources Program. Amy Bouska and Kate Gianninni from the Johnson SWCD were instrumental in getting this course into the Kirkwood curriculum. Kirkwood is interested in developing additional course work and offering an Urban Conservation Certificate as part of a degree program.

Training on restoring the health of urban soils will be offered on December 12 in Ankeny. NRCS's Ray Archuleta will conduct the training at the Public Service Building, 220 West 1st Street, from 12:45 – 4:00. Archuleta is a conservation agronomist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Greensboro, NC. He specializes in soil quality and soil health. He will provide training on how restoring soil health helps decrease compaction, increase porosity and organic matter, break down nutrients to make them available to plants, and retain more water in the landscape. See the IDALS website for more information.

Look for a new program to be rolled out early next calendar year. Sponsored projects will soon be a significant new source of funding for municipalities to do water quality projects. Sponsored projects will allow cities that use SRF loans for waste water upgrades to keep a significant part of interest payments to use for water quality work. For every million dollars borrowed, a city would be able to use about \$100,000 for water quality work. This new program will make about \$15 million dollars per year available for water quality projects. An RFP is anticipated in late January for the first round of applications.

Dubuque piloted the Sponsored Project program. Their project is 42 green alleys that will feature permeable pavement.

-Wayne Peterson, Ex. Officer, Urban Cons.

Water Resources  
Bureau  
Update

## Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Important

### A note from Secretary Northey:

The release for public comment of Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a very important beginning step towards long-term water quality improvement in Iowa. The collaboration between point sources and non-point sources is unprecedented and will be key to our success.

The strategy studied several science-based management practices, including cover crops, wetlands, and nitrogen application timing, and looked at their impact on food production, farm profits, and water qual-

ity. Iowa farmers know the importance of protecting the land and water and have shown increasing willingness to voluntarily implement management practices to improve Iowa's water quality and downstream waters.

The full report, additional information and place for comments can be found at [www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu](http://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu). Comments can be posted until January 4, 2013.

The November 19, 2012 release can be found at <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/press/2012press/press111912.asp>.

SEPTEMBER



## Jana Coughlin

### Secretary, Cass SWCD

*Pictured with the Commissioners of Cass County*

OCTOBER



## Mines & Minerals Bureau Central Office

*Pictured: back row Jim Gillespie, Wally Greenlees, Todd Coffelt, Randy Cooney, Bobby Kuennen, front row Dharmvir Bhatnagar, Mary Baker, Judy Krebsbach, Susan Kozak, and Mike Bourland*

*Thanks for all your hard work!*

## Employees OF THE Month

NOVEMBER



## Rhonda Saunders

### Secretary, Benton SWCD

*Pictured back row, left to right: Jim Brown, Rhonda Saunders, Vince Sitzmann, Robert Ritscher, Russ Lindberg, from row: Dean Schminke, Virginia Moser, and Hank Wehrman*

NRCS  
Program  
Spotlight

## Missouri River Basin Initiative (MRBI)

MRBI is a NRCS program. DSC is a partner in the project.

### New Mississippi River Basin Projects Selected in Iowa

DES MOINES, IOWA, JUNE 19, 2012—Iowa will receive funding for six new projects to help landowners and producers within the Mississippi River Basin voluntarily implement conservation and management practices on their land. These practices will help prevent, control and trap nutrient runoff from agricultural land.

Five of Iowa's projects will be funded through the USDA's Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), which receives funding from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Following are the CCPI funded projects in Iowa that begin this year:

- Upper Cedar Watershed Project – This watershed is located in Floyd and Chickasaw counties. The project will receive more than \$1.4 million over a four-year period.
- Lytle Creek Project – This watershed is located in Jackson and Dubuque counties. The four-year project will receive \$1.25 million from a partnership between the Jackson and Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation Districts and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Lindsey-Honey Creek Watershed Project – This watershed is located in Delaware and Clayton counties in the Maquoketa River Basin. The project will receive nearly \$3.5 million over a three-year period.
- Putnam County Headwaters Locust Creek and West Locust Creek – These watersheds are located in north central Missouri and a portion of Wayne County in Iowa. The five-year project will utilize nearly \$1.8 million through federal and nonfederal funding.

- North Raccoon River Partnership – This watershed is located in Buena Vista, Pocahontas and Clay counties. The project will receive \$1.5 million over a four-year period.

The sixth project is funded through the Wetlands Restoration and Enhancement Program (WREP). The North Raccoon River Wetland Initiative includes portions of eight west-central Iowa counties. Funds will be used to acquire and restore 1,020 acres of permanent and/or 30-year Wetlands Reserve Program easements.

Under the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide financial and technical assistance for these projects. Partner organizations will contribute additional financial resources.

The MRBI will help NRCS and its partners expand their capacity to improve water quality throughout the basin. CCPI will use a conservation systems approach to manage nitrogen and phosphorus, which will minimize runoff and reduce downstream nutrient loading. WREP will encourage strategic placement of wetland restoration projects.

More information about Iowa's MRBI projects is available at: [www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/MRBI.html](http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/MRBI.html)

-Dave Brommel, EQIP Coordinator, 515-323-2608

-Monica Monk, WRP Coordinator, 515-323-2637



# National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML P) Conference Overview

The 34th Annual NAAML P Conference was held in Des Moines on September 23-26, 2012

The 34th annual conference for the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs welcomed travelers from across the nation for a taste of Midwestern hospitality. The Iowa AML program's motto: "Reclamation for the Next Generation: Partnering for Success" was reinforced throughout the event from the hospitality, during the technical sessions, and highlighted in the tours.

Opening remarks highlighted the success in the Iowa AML program that is built on partnerships working together to do more. Local priorities and decision making through Soil and Water Conservation Districts was reinforced by Jim Gillespie, Director of the Division of Soil Conservation. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, highlighted agriculture's role in Iowa and the world, focusing on technology and resourcefulness of various ag sectors in meeting the world's demand for food, fuel and fiber. Director Pizarchik rounded off the plenary session acknowledging the need for States and Tribes to reinforce the partnership to address priority features as we move forward.

Experienced professionals from States, Tribes, the private sector, and federal government shared 46 excellent presentations with conference attendees. Topics ranging from LiDAR, natural stream re-grade, GIS, and numerous other topics provided attendees learning opportunities of how to improve what they do. And, maybe even not to do what has already been deemed "unsuccessful"!

Monday evening's Awards Banquet showcased the 2012 award winning projects, highlighting the true success of partnership demonstrated by each of the projects. It was an honor to host the conference and share with Iowans how reclamation is performed across the United States.

Highlighting mining in Iowa, three tours offered a view of Iowa's coal mining heritage, today's limestone industry, and the initial effort to incorporate



natural stream re-grade techniques into Iowa's reclamation program. The timing of the conference offered guests excellent fall colors on trees, an overview of the harvest, and the opportunity to meet many of the partners involved in the reclamation progress. The day of tours was topped off by an excellent venue offering some down time to catch up with friends. An excellent meal

along the water was complimented by great music at the Embassy Club West.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors and exhibitors of the 34th Annual Conference. It was an honor to host the 34th annual NAAML P conference, and we are looking forward to attending the 35th!



Presentations from the conference are available at:  
<https://docs.google.com/folder/d/0BxdOpKMII8iiRDczeTRjMGxZcFE/edit>

Photos of the conference can be found on flickr at:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/2012naamlp/>

# DSC's Newest Employees

“After 3 years without a secretary we were given an opportunity to hire one. With over 30 applications, it was narrowed down to 8; I was given the opportunity to participate in the interviewing process. In turn, we selected who we believed to be the top 3 candidates. Anyone of these would have been good. I for one believe that we made a terrific choose in Gina Parker which in given time will be the backbone of our district.”

- Owen Sylvester Chairperson, Clayton SWCD Commissioner

“Our new technician is helping to serve customers in a more timely manner. Others were run ragged trying to keep up with contractors during the busy spring and fall seasons when his position was vacant. He has taken some of the pressure off the rest of the staff by picking up various tasks.”

- Sheila O'Riley, Secretary of Adams and Taylor SWCD

“Lori's position is critical to Field Office Operations and SWCD activities. Her experience and expertise is of great value not only to our office but also to the training of the new secretaries in the sub-area. She is often the first point of contact for the public. Her knowledge of programs helps keep the public informed and our office efficient as she knows how to steer those contacts to other staff members. We are excited and grateful to have Lori back full time in our office.”

- Aaron Anderson, District Conservationist, Fayette SWCD

## Chase Crill Adams County Soil Technician

Hello! My name is Chase Crill, and I am the Soil Technician in the Adams County SWCD. I was born and raised on a farm near Corning (in Adams County). I grew up working on the farm doing livestock chores and helping with harvest.

After high school I worked for an electrical company in Corning for 4 summers, and after college I was immediately employed as an Operator at Poet Bio-refining, an ethanol plant near Corning. I later was hired as a District Technician by the Adams SWCD and as a WAE by the NRCS, and 2 years later hired as the Soil Technician.

I graduated from Corning High School then from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Studies and a minor in Agronomy.

I enjoy hunting, fishing, golfing, and being with friends and family. I have a fiancé and dog named “Dog”, and we reside in the country near Corning.

I look forward to continue assisting producers in the county with conservation practices and working with the great staff in both Adams and Taylor County. I also look forward to meeting new people and being a part of a great agency. Feel free to contact me at any time.

Chase Crill  
Soil Conservation Technician  
IDALS - DSC  
2243 Loomis Ave Ste 2  
Corning, IA 50841  
641-322-3116  
chase.crill@ia.nacdnet.net



## Ross Frederiksen Sioux County Soil Technician

Hello! My name is Ross Frederiksen, and I am the new Soil Conservation Technician in the Orange City Field Office. Growing up in Storm Lake, I have been around water quality issues and different projects my entire life. My Mom is an Aid at the Storm Lake Middle School, and my Dad has operated the lab for the City of Storm Lake's Wastewater Treatment Facility (Veolia



Water) for many years. This also sparked an interest in water quality, which led me to a B.S. degree from Iowa State University, majoring in Animal Ecology (Fisheries Option) with a Business minor.

Previously, I have experience with the Iowa and Minnesota DNR in Fisheries Management, conducting routine surveys and analyses. Prior to joining the Orange

City staff, I was located in the Storm Lake Field Office as an MRBI Project Coordinator. This was a positive experience and made me want to pursue a career in soil conservation.

My hobbies include hunting, fishing, golfing, and training my Vizsla, Tess. I also enjoy smoking food throughout the year.

I am looking forward to working with producers in Sioux County and expanding my knowledge on soil conservation. If I can be of assistance in any way, feel free to contact me!

Ross Frederiksen  
Soil Conservation Technician  
Orange City Field Office, IDALS - DSC  
712-737-2253 x3  
ross.frederiksen@ia.nacdnet.net

Check out **Iowa CREP News'** newest issue:  
[www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/CREP.asp](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/waterResources/CREP.asp)



## ...DSC's Newest Employees continued

### Barbara McDonald

#### Marion County Soil Technician

Hi, my name is Barb McDonald. I was born and raised in Iowa. I graduated from Madrid High School. I have three wonderful boys that are all grown up and starting lives of their own. My oldest has given me the gift of a grandson that is now two years old.



I graduated from DMACC Boone campus with an associate's degree in Civil Engineering Technologies, from there I went on to work for Polk county Engineers office doing design work and construction inspection. I then decided I would work full time at farming with my late husband, and raise my children. We did row crops, hay, cow/ calf and bred heifers, along with the few goats, sheep, horses and pigs.

In April of 2009 I started working as a district employee for the Marion County SWCD. I was mainly working with CRP but then soon starting working on layout and designing terraces, basins and waterway.

Some of my favorite things to do in my free time are spending time with my family, fishing, camping, walking, gardening or just about anything that keeps me outdoors.

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### Leslie Osweiler

#### Iowa County State Secretary

Hi! My name is Leslie Osweiler and I am the new state secretary in Iowa County! I was previously employed as the Iowa County District Technician. I am excited and so thankful for this opportunity!

I was born in Iowa and raised on a hog/grain farm in Keokuk County. After high school, I received my associate's degree from AIB College of Business and transferred to Iowa State University and graduated with my bachelor's degree. Following college I moved to Colorado and worked in the golf industry.

In my free time I enjoy attending Iowa Hawkeye football games, Newton Speedway races, traveling, boating in the summer, and most of all spending time with my family and friends.

I look forward to serving the Iowa SWCD as their new secretary.



### Gina Parker

#### Clayton County State Secretary

Hello! My name is Gina Parker. I am the new State Secretary in the Elkader Field Office. I attended Union Community Schools in La Porte City, IA and graduated from Upper Iowa University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. I grew up in Washburn with my parents and four older brothers.

My husband, Jeremy, and I live on an acreage in Clayton County with our 2 year old son Wyatt and Chocolate Lab, Bailey. We are definitely an outdoors family, enjoying time spent deer hunting, fishing and boating on the Mississippi, gardening and trail riding on my horse, Lacey. I've also developed a guilty pleasure of antiques!

Prior to this position, I worked during college at a bank in the Trust Department and most recently in the Business Office at a critical access hospital. I serve as Secretary on the Kids Kampus Community Childcare Board, a non-profit daycare center Wyatt attends in Guttenberg.

I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work for IDALS. I find conservation efforts fascinating and am excited to be a part of the team!

Please feel free to contact me at the information below:

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IDALS/DSC State Secretary  
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### Rebecca Pankow

#### Winneshiek County State Secretary

Hi. I am Rebecca Pankow, Winneshiek County SWCD's newest State Secretary. A little about myself...

I graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Agronomy, with an environmental emphasis. I currently live in Decorah with my husband of ten years, our five year old daughter and our two vizsla dogs. Hobbies of mine include sewing and family time.

For the past nine years, I worked as a district employee. I am excited for this new position as Winneshiek's secretary and look forward to making a difference in my community.



# Project Coordinator Meetings

hosted by regional coordinators

## Northeast Iowa Project Coordinators Meeting

OCTOBER 2 • RICEVILLE • NEAR LAKE HENDRICKS WATERSHED

The 17 project coordinators in attendance enjoyed agency updates from IDALS, DNR and NRCS, and a series of presentations on phosphorus. How is phosphorus generated & transported, and how it impacts water quality in both streams and lakes. After a nice lunch, we acknowledged Mike Freiburger (and poked a little fun at him), who plans to retire this winter after many years of dedicated service.

Later, we visited several water quality practices implemented by the Howard SWCD as we toured the Lake Hendricks watershed. The practices included 2 bioreactors attached to a couple tile lines as well as several small ponds and wetlands, all designed to intercept and reduce nutrient-laden runoff that previously entered the lake untreated. As the lake continues to improve, so will the recreational interests of local residents for this very unique resource.

-Jeff Tisl, Regional Coordinator, IDALS-DSC



## Southeast Iowa Project Coordinators Meeting

OCTOBER 3 • KNOXVILLE

On October 3rd, Twelve Watershed Project Coordinators from counties scattered throughout Southeast Iowa met in Knoxville for their annual fall meeting. They were accompanied by Twelve IDALS-DSC and DNR agency partners from Des Moines.

In addition to normal programmatic updates, a strong focus of the fall meeting is to provide an opportunity for the watershed coordinators and agency staffers to get out in the field together to see and discuss conservation practices that benefit water quality and quantity. Thanks to Terry McNeely of the Competine Creek Watershed Project in Marion County for hosting! The group toured an urban stormwater infiltration practice at Mercy Hospital in Knoxville and a tour of a stormwater wetland followed a presentation by the 3M Corporation's Environmental Engineer. Both practices were located in the Competine Watershed.

-James Martin, Regional Coordinator, IDALS-DSC



### Northwest Project Coordinators Meeting

OCTOBER 9 • Okoboji • Dickinson County Conservation Board Nature Center

The Northwest Iowa Project Coordinators meeting was held on October 9 at the Dickinson County Conservation Board Nature Center in Okoboji. In addition to Project Coordinators, DSC Central Office Staff and DNR Watershed Improvement Staff were in attendance. Presenters included AnnMarie Krmpotich of the US Fish and Wildlife Service that provided attendees with an overview of the “Partners for Wildlife” program which focuses upon wildlife habitat development and improvement primarily in the Des Moines Lobe landform but also includes portions of the Little Sioux Watershed. Stan Buman of AGREN Corporation provided an overview of several conservation planning software tools such as: PondBuilder, WetlandBuilder, as well as a demonstration of the upcoming GIS-based RUSLE2 calculator. A discussion of how these tools might be utilized by Project Coordinators during the planning and implementation of watershed projects.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the Silver Lake Watershed where Project Coordinator, Catherine Sereg, and watershed producer, Jared Herbert, showed attendees a recent cover crop aerial seeding. The group then toured a crop field site where waterways were no longer functioning and sediment basins were planned to resolve erosion issues. Finally, the group toured an urban conservation site where a discussion of the practice was held by then Iowa Great Lakes Project Coordinator, Derek Namanny. Derek has since moved on to become the Urban Conservationist in Dickinson County, leaving the Iowa Great Lakes position vacant.

-Bob Waters, Regional Coordinator, IDALS-DSC



### Raccoon/Des Moines Basin Project Coordinators Meeting

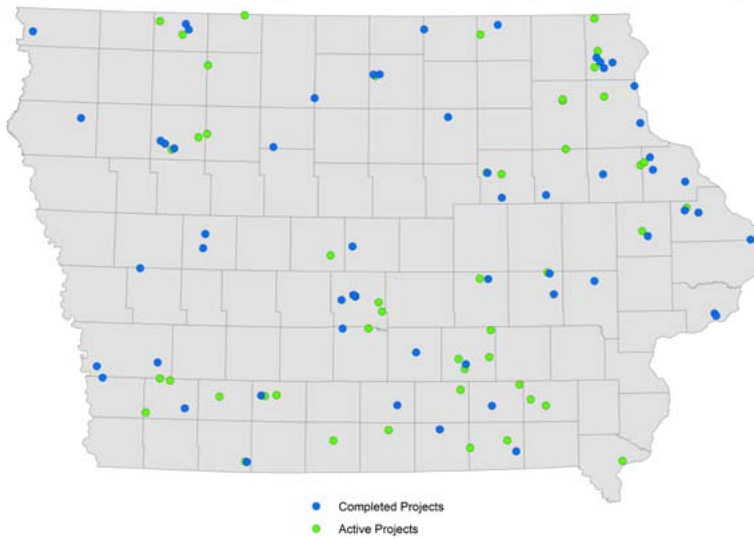
OCTOBER 10 • Clear Lake

The Raccoon/Des Moines Basin Project Coordinators meeting was held in Clear Lake on October 10, 2012. Some of the highlights were the presentation on Nitrogen by John Holmes, ISU Extension and David Knoll's tour of the conservation practices in the town of Clear Lake. John Olson and Jason Palmer from Iowa Department of Natural Resources lead the presentation on Biological Impairments. At the end of the day participants had the opportunity to “shock” fish, a demonstration of a fish sampling technique.



# WIRB Update

## WIRB Funded Projects 2005-2012 (October 2012)



WIRB Applications are due December 14th, 2012.  
The next project selection meeting will be in February 2013.  
For more information or questions, contact Jerry Neppel at 515-281-3599.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS:** 63  
**ACTIVE PROJECTS:** 54

For more information on the Watershed Improvement Review Board, visit:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/IWIRB.asp>

## New Approaches to Soil and Water Management Workshop

Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

Event  
Spotlight

The Sac and Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation Districts are teaming up with ISU Extension to present "New Approaches to Soil and Water Management Workshop".

This workshop will provide information for agribusinesses, agronomists, and farmers on practices to improve soil and water quality. The goal is a clearer understanding of how these practices work and the benefits they bring to crop production and beyond.

The workshop will be held Friday, December 21st at the St. Bernard Parish Center, 206 2nd Avenue in Breda from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Attendees can receive 2.5 soil and water management CCA credits for attending this meeting.

Agenda items are:

Statewide Nutrient Reduction Strategy: Science Assessment – Matt Helmers, associate professor, Ag & Biosystems Engineering, ISU

The New CSR2 – Lee Burras, Professor, Agronomy, Iowa State University

Making Cover Crops Work – Sarah Carlson, research and policy director, Practical Farmers of Iowa

Registration must be made by December 17th. There is a \$35 registration fee. Registrations can be made online at [www.aep.iastate.edu/swm](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/swm), by fax (515)294-1311, or by mail ANR Program Services, 2102 Agronomy Hall, Ames, IA 50011. Go to <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/swm/brochure.pdf> for the application form.

Contact Sac County SWCD at 712-662-7773 or Mark Licht, Extension Field Agronomist at 515-382-6551 for more information.

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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.

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