



Letter from Bill Northey

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

Welcome to the initial edition of the Iowa Ag Insider, the newsletter of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. We see this newsletter as a way to keep people informed of the activities of the Department and also highlight some of the exciting things going on in Iowa agriculture in general.

If you know of events or stories that should be included in future newsletters I hope that you will share them with us so they can be included in future editions. Also, if you know of people who would enjoy receiving this newsletter I hope you will pass it on as the information on how to subscribe is on the bottom of each issue.

This is an exciting time of year in Iowa as farmers and everyone involved in agriculture gets ready to kickoff the growing season. We wish everyone a successful and safe 2013 as we get to the business of growing the crops that help power Iowa's economy and feed the people of our state and trading partners around the world. Iowa is fortunate to have such a dynamic agriculture industry and each of you play a role in helping make Iowa agriculture so successful.



Thanks for all you do!
-Bill Northey

Upcoming Events

APRIL 21-23: 85th Iowa FFA Leadership Conference

APRIL 22: Earth Day

APRIL 25: Arbor Day

APRIL 28-MAY 5: Iowa Soil & Water [Conservation](#) Week

MAY 3: Specialty Crop Block Grant application due before 4:00pm

Agriculture Leaders Dinner

Held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, in the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa. Agriculture leaders gathered together for dinner and a program, celebrating Iowa's agriculture. [See full story](#) by Rod Swoboda, Wallaces Farmer.



Governor Terry Branstad



Bill Northey thanks Orion Samuelson, Keynote Speaker, Broadcaster/Host of the U.S. Farm Report



Steven Brockshus, Iowa FFA President



FFA students mingle with Ag Leaders

**Iowa
Nutrient
Reduction
Strategy**



**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Overview:

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a science and technology-based framework to assess and reduce nutrients delivered to Iowa waters and the Gulf of Mexico. It outlines a pragmatic approach for reducing nutrient loads discharged from the state's largest wastewater treatment plants and major industries, in combination with targeted conservation practices to reduce loads from nonpoint sources such as farm fields.

As Iowa is a national and global leader in the production of food and renewable fuels, a goal of this strategy is to make Iowa an equal national and global leader in addressing the environmental and conservation needs associated with food and renewable fuels production.

Science Assessment:

The strategy uses a comprehensive scientific assessment by 23 scientists to identify the conservation practices with the highest potential for nutrient load reductions. The process involved establishing baseline conditions, reviewing practice performance, estimating load reductions from practice implementation, and estimating costs to implement practices. The outcome of this effort is a list of 21 practices that have the highest potential for reducing nutrient losses for N and P.

[find more](#)



February 2013: The Hanson Family awarded the Gary Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award

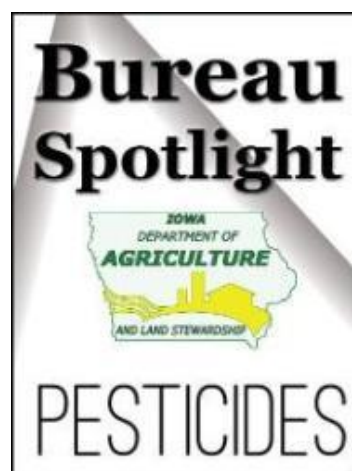
[nominate your neighbor](#)

More about the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

The Department's Pesticide Bureau facilitates the responsible and appropriate use of pesticides through regulatory programs, education, and outreach in order to protect human health and the environment and to ensure access to safe and effective pest control measures.

The Pesticide Bureau serves an educational roll as we coordinate with ISU Extension to offer statewide training and testing programs regarding safe use of pesticides through the ***Pesticide Applicator Certification and Licensing Programs***. Iowa currently has 22,042 certified private applicators, 13,426 certified commercial applicators, and 679 handlers in the state.

[read more](#)



2013 A Garden is the Way to Grow

The interest in the "2012 A Garden is the Way to Grow" initiative was overwhelming. The data collected from the feedback, proved that this initiative exceeded expectations for student participation, student exposure to new fruits and vegetables, and the desire to continue school gardens.

This year, we are offering 25 schools the opportunity to apply for the 2013 A Garden is the Way to Grow initiative. The initiative will include a wheel barrow along with other garden tools, a reflective garden sign and \$150 in funding to help you grow or start your garden. To be considered, complete the application and fax it or mail it to us by April 3, 2013.

[read more](#)



Know an Environmental Leader?

The Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards recognize the exemplary voluntary efforts of Iowa's farmers as environmental leaders committed to healthy soils and improved water quality.

Nominations are due by June 15th, 2013. Awards ceremony is held at the Iowa State Fair.

[nominate a farm leader](#)

Did you know? This was the seventh consecutive wetter than normal winter for the state.



Click [here](#) for the latest details! Planning an event of your own? Let us know!

Email jackie.suckow@iowaagriculture.gov

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