

# ALLAMAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

635 9th Street NW, Waukon, IA 52172 Phone: (563) 568-2246, ext. 3 Fax: (563) 568-3322

Volume 7

Winter - Spring 2011

Edition I

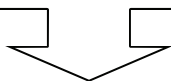
## OFFICE STAFF

LuAnn Rolling, District Conservationist  
 Jacob Groth, Soil Conservationist  
 Steve Scholtes, SC Technician  
 Barb Hanson, SC Technician  
 Tom Duvel, SC Aide  
 Sara Berges, Watershed Coordinator  
 Brady Kruger, WAE  
 Brianne Bjerke, District Employee  
 Stacy Riley, Acting Secretary

## DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Lynn Stock, Chairperson  
 Dan Bymes, Vice-Chairperson  
 Randy Kruger, Treasurer  
 Jack Knight  
 Arlyn "Butch" Fossum

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**



[www.allamakeeswcd.org](http://www.allamakeeswcd.org)

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## JOIN THE DISTRICT CONSERVATION CLUB

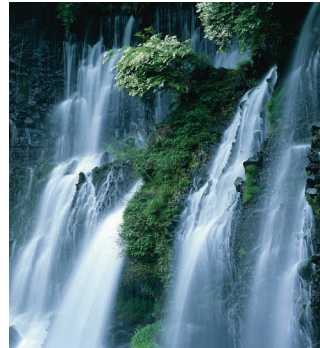


### YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Landowners and area businesses: We hope that the Allamakee County Soil and Water Conservation District can count on your support again in fiscal year 2010-2011. We thank you for your generosity in the past. For 68 years, the District has been helping you and your neighbors conserve our most valuable resources, our soil and water.

We invite you to join in the local conservation effort by becoming a Conservation Club member.

The District has no taxing authority and the commissioners volunteer their services,



which become more demanding every year. Funds for promoting soil and water conservation in our county must be raised locally through donations.

Donated dollars are used for a variety of projects including the district newsletter, scholarships, materials for the local 6th grade conservation education day, CDI and NACD

dues, cash prizes for poster contests and awards for conservation leaders.

We believe promoting soil and water conservation is everyone's job and we invite you to help. Please consider a donation today!

Categories are as follows:

**SUPPORTERS \$ 5-25**  
**SAVERS \$26-50**  
**STEWARDS \$51-UP**

**ANY \$ AMOUNT IS APPRECIATED!**

Please use the slip below when sending your donation to the SWCD office.

**PLEASE ATTACH THIS SLIP TO YOUR DONATION  
 THANK YOU!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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CHECK HERE \_\_\_\_\_ IF YOU WANT YOUR DONATION TO GO TOWARDS THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

RETURN TO:  
 Allamakee SWCD  
 635 9th Street NW  
 Waukon, IA 52172



# FY2009-2010 CONSERVATION CLUB MEMBERS

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Steve & Chris Weymiller  
Dennis & Judy Byrnes  
Dennis & Linda Eder  
Betty Amundson

## *Thank You For Your Support!*

## Stewards \$51+

Kelly & Patty Livingood	Kelly & Patty Livingood
Dean & Mary Teslow	Clarke Simmonds
Allan Bacon Family Trust	Dan & Traci Byrnes
Dave & Gail Prestemon	Leo Byrnes Family
Lee & Andrea Venteicher	Marilyn Clark
Kappy Bristol	Walter & Lorraine Teslow
Jim & Sue Dyer	Bernau Concrete LLC

Dr. & Stephanie Perkins  
Jim & Sue Dyer  
Jeff & Martha Byrnes  
Roger & Susan Schlitter  
Gary & Mary Johnson  
Larry & Maria Brummel  
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Nebendahl

Rick Winke  
Layman-Hahn Farm  
Mark & Sandra Ehrhardt  
Eugene & Barbara  
Sanderman  
Dan & Nooch White  
Hagen & Kallevangs P.C.  
Gary & Connie Tilleros

## Scholarship Fund

Calvin Snitker	Betty Decker
Freilinger Construction	Warner Enterprises
Richard & Jacqueline Gander	John & Arlene Nelson
	Tony & Liz Wille
	Bacon Concrete

Sweeney Brothers  
Ron & Angie Cooper  
Vernalene Oelberg  
Brian Dougherty  
Richard & Mary Ann Winke

## SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

The Allamakee SWCD plans to award scholarships to 2011 high school graduates. Applicants must reside in Allamakee County, and plan to study in the field of agriculture or natural resources in college. Applications can be made through Dollars for Scholars in Lansing, Postville, or Waukon.

The scholarship program is funded by donations to the district conservation club. Last year, the district awarded three scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. We have presented scholarships totally \$7500 over the last five years!



# Earth Team Volunteers

By: Steve Scholtes

For anyone who enjoys being outdoors and would like to help make a difference in the environment around them, then becoming an Earth Team Volunteer might be just the thing for you.

The Earth Team was first established in 1981 when congress passed legislation allowing the NRCS to use volunteers in all programs.

Anyone who is 14 years of age or older is eligible to join the NRCS Earth Team.

You may be able to work part-time or full-time should the workload and your supervisor require that.

Field work may consist of helping with surveys, water sampling, the layout and/or staking of conservation practices, etc. Office work may consist of things such as clerical assistance,

organizing information in files or a computer, preparing newsletters, etc.

Seasonal workloads are typically highest during the spring and fall; however; much work can still be done throughout the summer months and even through the winter. Anyone interested in becoming an Earth Team Volunteer may contact the Waukon NRCS office at 563-

568-2246. This could be a great way to experience first-hand what type of work the NRCS gets involved with. It may also be the beginning of an opening to a new career.



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## SODBUST PLANS

Submitted by: Barb Hanson, SCT

Producers bringing land into production that has not been previously cropped need to complete a sodbust plan **before** doing any ground-breaking activity. Failure to complete a sodbust plan could jeopardize farm program payments.

A sodbust plan, to tolerable soil loss levels, needs to be completed on the area being brought into production. Rotations

will be determined based on the predominant soil type of the sodbust area. The sodbust plan will include any tillage, grassed headlands, critical area seedings, and contour or strip cropping practices that would be needed to bring the area to a compliance level.

The Allamakee County SWCD Commissioners have decided that they **will not approve** sodbust plans where

the ground has been brought into production prior to completing the plan. They **will not approve** any plans if the area being sodbusted has a predominant soil with an F slope.

The Allamakee NRCS office is encouraging any producers considering sodbusting acres for the 2011 crop year to contact the office as soon as possible to complete their plans.

This will give the staff an opportunity to make any field visits to check slopes and gather any other pertinent information needed to develop the sodbust plan.



# Federal and State programs available in Allamakee County

Funding is limited for conservation programs. At this point, there are no available cost share dollars for 2011 construction/implementation. It is not too early to sign up for 2012 activities. Available practices and programs include:

## Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

### *EQIP for land treatment*

- ◆ Contour Buffer Strips
- ◆ Cover Crop
- ◆ Critical Area Planting
- ◆ Grade Stabilization Structure
- ◆ Grassed Waterway
- ◆ Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- ◆ Terrace
- ◆ Water and Sediment Control Basin

### *EQIP for livestock manure management*

- ◆ Roof Runoff Structure
- ◆ Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility

- ◆ Waste Storage Facility
- ◆ Manure Transfer
- ◆ Composting Facility

### *EQIP for pasture management*

- ◆ Access Control
- ◆ Brush Management
- ◆ Fence
- ◆ Heavy Use Protection
- ◆ Pasture and Hayland Planting
- ◆ Prescribed Grazing
- ◆ Pumping Plant
- ◆ Watering Facility
- ◆ Stream Crossing
- ◆ Spring Development

### *EQIP for forestry practices*

- ◆ Forest Site Preparation
- ◆ Forest Stand Improvement
- ◆ Prescribed Burning
- ◆ Tree/Shrub Establishment

## Federal Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- ◆ Streambank Stabilization
- ◆ Forestry Practices
- ◆ Prairie Restoration Practices

## Federal Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

This program encourages producers to improve conservation systems by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities. Acceptance into the program is based on points given for the current level of conservation and which additional activities are chosen. Producers have to enroll all the ground they operate and include any pasture they operate. There is also a CSP program for forestland.

## State Financial Incentives Program (IFIP)

- ◆ Cost-share for terraces
- ◆ Incentive for installing grass buffer strips

## State Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)

Cost-share for forestry practices

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## **Watershed Project Updates**

The Allamakee SWCD currently has two watershed projects that offer 75% cost-share for specific conservation practices. This is the third and final year for the Ludlow Creek Watershed Project. In the past two years, a total of \$159,285 in WIRB funding, \$308,174 in EQIP funding, and \$136,777 landowner dollars were spent for best management practices (BMPs). Over 35,000 feet of terraces, 77.3 acres of filter strips, 8.9 acres of pasture management, 6 grade stabilization structures, and 1 Ag waste facility were implemented. These practices are preventing an estimated 3228 tons of sediment and 4198 pounds of phosphorus from reaching Ludlow Creek annually. Chad Gilles was the coordinator for this project, but recently took a job at another office. If you have questions, please contact Sara Berges.

The Indian Springs Pond Watershed Project is entering its second year of the three year project. This watershed is unique because it has both rural and urban components. In 2010, \$4019 in WIRB funding, \$10,144 in EQIP funding, and \$4,750 landowner dollars were spent on BMPs. There are two urban practices in this watershed; rain barrels and rain gardens. Four rain barrels were installed last year. Of the available agricultural conservation practices 1900 feet of terraces, 17.6 acres of pasture management, and 1 sediment basin were installed. Several projects are planned for this year, including a rain garden in the city park. Project funding will be available through 2012, so please let us know if you are interested in a practice.

(continued from page 4) A watershed study was conducted on Waterloo Creek Watershed during the spring/fall of 2010. The study included water sampling, a landowner survey, a stream assessment, and a landcover assessment. This information will be used when applying for funding in the next year or two. There is currently no funding available for this watershed project except through traditional cost-share sources such as EQIP and state cost-share.

By: Sara Berges, Watershed Coordinator

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## **Livestock Buildings Eligible for Cost-share**

Tightening regulations on controlling manure run off from livestock operations and rising concrete and crop input costs are making deep-bedded pack confinement buildings an attractive alternative to concrete storage pits and settling basins. The two types of buildings that are getting the most attention from producers are hoop buildings and mono slope buildings. From a manure management stand point these buildings are an excellent alternative to controlling manure runoff from open lots and there are also animal health benefits that may be obtained.

In the past, treating manure runoff from an open lot has typically involved the construction of a solid settling basin or a total containment system. The solid settling basins are designed to contain manure solids that run off from a lot and then allow the liquids to flow through a vegetated channel to further filter the effluent before entering a water body. These basins can be an effective tool to contain manure, but they are very management intensive and improper management may make the manure run off situation worse. A total containment system is designed to trap all manure and storm water runoff from a feed lot and is less management intensive than a settling basin. This alternative can become very costly, especially if a large amount of rain water must be stored, because all of the manure and storm water must be contained in a concrete storage structure.

With either the solid settling basin or total containment, the livestock are still exposed to the weather and may have to deal with mud and ice during the year. This is where the buildings become a better alternative than the other options. Both the mono slope and hoop buildings are designed to function as a deep-bedded pack confinement building. With the livestock being under a roof and bedded, the manure is contained within the building and not allowed to enter surface or ground water. The livestock should also be healthier because they will not be exposed to harsh weather conditions including snow, ice, and temperature extremes. Producers may be able to manage their operation more efficiently as lots will not need to be scraped constantly, manure can be applied when conditions are fit, and daily chores may take less time.

There are cost-share funds available for producers that are interested in manure storage structures, including cost-share on buildings to eliminate or reduce open lots. To be eligible for financial assistance to construct a building through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the producer must be willing to eliminate all open lots on their operation or to reduce some of their open lots and adequately treat the remaining open lots without cost-share funds. Producers who elect to construct a building through EQIP are also eligible for low interest loans through the State of Iowa or Farm Service Agency (FSA) to finance the remaining costs associated with construction.

If funding is approved, the producer is required to hire an engineer to certify the site plan and that the building meets NRCS standards. Current DNR rules require that all manure that is produced in a confinement setting must stay under a roof, so a manure storage area should be included for manure that is scraped from around feeding and watering areas. Because Allamakee County has karst topography, most buildings will be required to have a 5" thick concrete floor and secondary containment may be required, depending on the site. A manure management plan must also be implemented as a component of every manure management system.

Although the ranking time period for funding in 2011 has passed, anyone interested in cost-share for any manure management system is encouraged to come to the NRCS office so we may work with you to develop a plan for your operation.

By: Jacob Groth



**Allamakee County Soil &  
Water Conservation District**

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## **Conservation Plans**

I would just like to remind all producers that following an approved conservation plan is still a requirement for receiving any federal farm program benefits. This would include FSA programs and federal cost-sharing/incentive programs through the NRCS.

All plans require grassed headlands instead of end rows if any tillage is done. All plans require grassed waterways. We conduct random status reviews of 10 percent of all program participants. If either of the practices above are planned and not in place, and if there are any gullies present, the producer will be determined to not be actively applying their conservation plan and will be considered "not in compliance" and ineligible for any program benefits.

If you would like to review and/or update your conservation plan, we would suggest stopping in our office or calling and we can meet you on your farm prior to spring planting. It is very important that any needed changes are documented prior to the planting of the commodity crop.

LuAnn Rolling, District Conservationist

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**All programs and services of the Allamakee County SWCD and NRCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.**