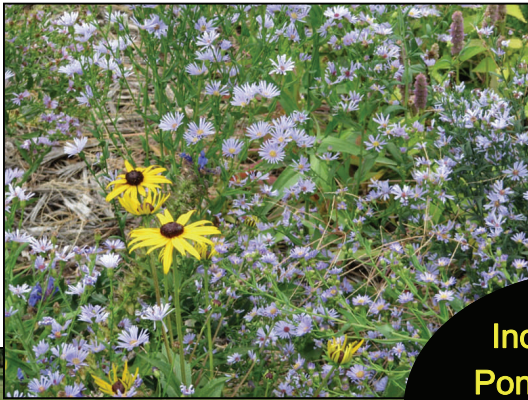


Allamakee County SWCD Annual Report

2010-2011



Indian Springs
Pond Watershed
Project
Rain Garden



Rain Garden

This rain garden is located in the Waukon City Park. It is planted with two native grass species and twelve wildflowers. The rain garden was planted in May 2011. Most of the plants grew very well this year. A few of the species take a little longer to get established and should be visible next year.

A rain garden is a depressional area landscaped with perennial flowers and native vegetation. It is designed to have water temporarily pond and then infiltrate into the ground within 24 hours rather than runoff into a storm drain or water body. The plants also absorb nutrients and filter the water. Rain gardens are located to intercept runoff. They are placed in areas where soils have good percolation rates, not swampy areas where water sits for several days. Rain gardens add beauty and habitat to a yard and help to improve water quality by trapping sediment, fertilizers, and other pollutants. They help to improve water quality by capturing the water and allowing it to infiltrate rather than runoff.

The Year in Review

by Lynn Stock, Chairman

We have completed another successful year of conservation in the Allamakee Soil and Water Conservation District. With the current economic climate we were fortunate to have received close to our 2011 state cost share dollars for both terraces and forestry practices. These programs still play a vital part in the overall conservation efforts in our county. We always have a long list of applicants that we are unable to fund. These funds are typically allocated based on the date of sign-up. We encourage producers to sign up as soon as possible since we cannot guarantee funding. Our 2012 funding was allocated by August and we hope to receive some supplemental funding, although there are no guarantees that the state will allocate any more funds.

In addition to the state cost share program Allamakee County received federal dollars of \$507,314 in the EQIP program \$48,028 in the WHIP program and \$291,394 in the CSP program. These dollars are used for terraces, livestock buildings to replace open lots, manure storage, streambank stabilization and many more practices.

We continue to pursue special funding for watershed projects. We are wrapping up a very successful project on Ludlow Creek and are completing year 2 of Indian Springs. Both of these projects allow us to increase the cost share amount, often by combining watershed funds with federal funds, to 75 percent of the total cost. The Indian Springs project is funded by the WIRB, Watershed Improvement Review Board, and it is the first time we have worked with a watershed that was partially urban, encompassing part of Waukon that includes the industrial park and most of the city park. The goals of this project are to minimize the amount of stormwater runoff from the city of Waukon into the Indian Springs Pond, reduce the amount of sediment and nutrient loading in the stream through pasture management and cropland conservation practices, and to educate the public on how urban and rural residents can impact water quality.

Continued on pg 2

continued

In response to a request from the landowners in Minnesota and Iowa to look at the flooding issues on Waterloo Creek we have applied for several grants that would allow us to further study this watershed and possibly receive some cost share funds in the future. We have continued to conduct water sampling so we now have two years of data. We are working closely with the Bee/Duck Creek Watershed group in Minnesota (the stream is not called Waterloo Creek until it enters Iowa) to have a successful overall effort that treats the stream in both states.

Looking at the needed budget restraints our country faces, I would like to urge every operator to act responsibly to protect the resources we have been given. Future population growth will require more from each acre, and we must do a better job caring for and improving our farms and soils. As more of our farms become rental properties to the highest bidder, improvements to soil quality and preservation take on less importance and concern. Operators need to look beyond just the application of N, P, K, S and Z for soil fertility and productivity. The use of cover crops, no-till, high-residue farming practices and manure management are all opportunities to raise organic levels, increase water infiltration rates and minimize soil erosion losses. In practice, more acres can be protected at a fraction of the cost to the taxpayer and ensure future productivity. I encourage both operators and land owners to get involved in protecting the soil, the neighborhoods and the communities where they operate. The future productivity and livelihood of farming depends on your current practices.

The Allamakee County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are elected on the general ballot, on a non-partisan basis to administer and direct the conservation programs in our County. We serve 4 year terms and are not compensated for our time. We are proud of the conservation effort that producers in our County expend and enjoy working with them to accelerate and enhance the activities they are doing. We understand that progress is only made through the voluntary efforts of the people that are utilizing the land and water resources. We would encourage people to let us know where we can improve our efforts. Please share your ideas with myself or the other Commissioners; Dan Byrnes, Jack Knight, Arlyn (Butch) Fossum, and Randy Kruger.

Final Year of Ludlow Creek Watershed Project

by Sara Berges

The Ludlow Creek Watershed Project, funded by the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB), is nearing the end of the final year of the three-year duration. The Ludlow Creek Watershed, formerly known as No-Name, is a 9,827 acre sub-watershed of the Yellow River that is located in the western half of Ludlow township and the northwest corner of Post township in Allamakee County. The remaining 20% of the watershed lies in Frankville township in Winneshiek County. Ludlow Creek is a fragile and unique watershed because it contains an estimated 1,188 sinkholes and depressions within its boundaries. There may be more sinkholes per acre within the Ludlow Creek watershed than any other watershed in Iowa. This unique topography creates difficult challenges when it comes to improving and sustaining water quality within the watershed. Rain water run-off carrying sediment and animal waste can flow into these sinkholes and depressions, travel varying distances underground, and re-emerge unfiltered into Ludlow Creek.

The focus of the Ludlow Creek Watershed Project was to address these water quality challenges by providing funding and technical assistance to landowners that are interested in implementing conservation practices. These practices aim to benefit landowner's agricultural production while reducing soil loss, animal waste run-off, and the impacts sinkholes have on the water quality in Ludlow Creek.

Since the project started in 2009, 37,260 feet of terraces, seven grade stabilization structures, one manure storage facility, 77.3 acres of filter strips, and 8.9 acres of pasture management have been implemented in the Ludlow Creek Watershed at the writing of this report. Thus far, a total of \$311,914.03 federal EQIP dollars, \$190,448.56 project dollars, and \$136,776.98 landowner dollars have been spent. These installed conservation practices will prevent an estimated 2,896 tons of sediment from entering Ludlow Creek and sinkholes in the watershed each year. We thank all of the landowners who participated in the project by installing conservation practices to improve Ludlow Creek.

District Commissioners

Lynn Stock, Chairman
Dan Byrnes, Vice Chair
Randy Kruger, Treasurer
Arlyn Fossum
Jack Knight

District Staff

Sara Berges
Jim Ranum

IDALS-DSC Staff

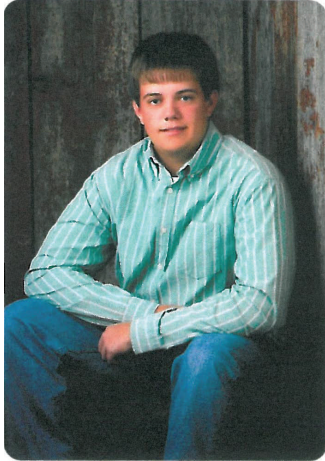
Brianne Bjerke

NRCS Staff

LuAnn Rolling, DC Tom Duvel, CA
Jacob Groth, SC
Steve Scholtes, CT
Barb Hanson, CT

Allamakee SWCD Awards Scholarships

The Allamakee SWCD awarded three \$500 scholarships in conjunction with Allamakee Dollars for Scholars. The recipients were Nikki Schulte and Jared Winkie of Waukon and Jaylen Cooper of Lansing. To be eligible for the scholarships, the applicants must be enrolling in an agricultural or natural resource based major. The SWCD was able to present these scholarships due to the generous donations that we receive from members of the conservation club.



Staff Changes at the Waukon Field Office

The staff at the NRCS /Allamakee County SWCD office has gone through a lot of changes during the last year. Jim Ranum retired from his full-time conservation duties with NRCS in January. He is now employed part-time for the district working on grass-land conservation practices such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and grazing management. Chad Gilles, the Ludlow Creek Watershed coordinator, has taken a position with the Howard County SWCD as their watershed coordinator. Justin Boersma, the Waterloo Creek Watershed Technician/WAE, has taken a position with the Anamosa NRCS office as their soil conservationist. Matt Welsh took over working on the Waterloo Creek plan after Justin left and has now taken on a position in Epworth coordinating Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) projects. All of these employees were a tremendous asset to the soil and water conservation effort in Allamakee County.

The past year has also included a few additions to the Waukon field office staff. In December 2010 Brady Kruger was hired as an NRCS WAE employee. Brady has been working on Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and helping with conservation planning, and nutrient management. Brienne Bjerke joined the staff in February 2011 as a District Employee. Brienne helps with the secretarial work and in the field and assisting with laying out contour lines, buffer strips, and waterways..

Office Staff

(left to right) Front row: Brienne Bjerke, State Secretary; Sara Berges, District Watershed Coordinator; LuAnn Rolling, District Conservationist; Barb Hanson, Soil Conservation Technician

Back Row: Steve Scholtes, Soil Conservation Technician; Tom Duvel, Conservation Aide; Jacob Groth, Soil Conservationist



**Allamakee County Soil
& Water
Conservation District
FY-11 – July 2010—June 2011
Report on Annual Use of District
Funds**

<u>Ludlow Creek Watershed (WIRB)</u>	
<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$159,455.85
Allocated	\$103,652.00
Obligated	\$87,293.10
Expended	\$81,592.72
Balance	\$94,222.03

<u>Indian Springs Watershed (WIRB)</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$36,233.88
Allocated	\$47,600.00
Obligated	\$2,717.50
Expended	\$25,686.80
Balance	\$55,429.58

<u>Norfolk Creek (WIRB Grant)</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$67,531.46
Allocation	\$0.00
Obligated	\$0.00
Expended	\$67,531.46
Balance	\$0.00

<u>Waterloo Creek</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$12,890.60
Allocation	\$0.00
Obligated	\$0.00
Expended	\$12,890.60
Balance	\$0.00

<u>Yellow River Direct Drain (WIRB)</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$8,059.42
Allocation	\$0.00
Obligated	\$0.00
Expended	\$0.00
Balance	\$8,059.42

<u>Revolving Acct.</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$4,442.62
Income	
Conservation Club Donation	\$3,882.00
Award Supper	\$177.00
Treasurer State of IA	\$20.00
CDI Donation	\$2,205.50
Total Income	\$6,305.54

Expenses	
Commissioner Expenses	\$128.31
Advertising	\$38.00
Awards Supper	\$362.96
Website	\$444.73
Postage	\$353.06
Conservation Ed. Day	\$192.99
Newsletter	\$453.38
Transfer to Payroll	\$2,326.50
Scholarships	\$1,500.00
Total Expense	\$5,799.93
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$4,948.23</u>

<u>District Employee Funds</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$12,590.65
<u>Income</u>	
Indian Springs Project	\$13,600.00
Indian Springs Salary	\$34,000.00
Ludlow Creek Project	\$66,600.00
Ludlow Creek Salary	\$37,052.00
Interest	\$98.11
Transfer from WSB Money Market	\$254,275.00
Farm Bill Clerical & Technical	\$12,358.80
Miscellaneous	\$6,578.00
Total Receipts	\$424,561.91

Expenses	
Commissioners Buffers	\$1,980.00
Fed Taxes	\$16,426.74
Hagen & Kallevang	\$1,007.60
IA Taxes	\$3,126.00
Indian Springs Project	\$2,623.83
IPERS	\$9,083.15
Ludlow Project	\$123,254.11
Service Charge + Tax	\$5.35
Transfer to WSB Money Market	\$142,152.00
Transfer to 1M	\$2,810.00
Trout Unlimited	\$50.00
Wages Paid	\$60,504.30
Waterloo Creek	\$316.81
Postage	\$405.35
Unemployment	\$65.64
Total Expenses	\$432,115.97
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$5,036.59</u>

<u>1M Funds</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$0.00
Deposit	\$2,810.00

Expenses	
CDI Dues	\$900.00
Commissioner's Mileage	\$183.30
Regional Conference	\$12.00
NACD Dues	\$100.00
Newsletter Printing	\$242.32
Rite Price Office Supply	\$47.38
Postage	\$390.00
USPS Bulk Mailing Permit	\$185.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>

<u>Money Market WSB</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$179,183.51
Interest	\$1,612.81
Deposits (from Payroll)	\$182,152.00
Payment (to Payroll)	-\$254,275.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$108,673.32</u>

<u>Money Market NASB</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$172,573.69
Interest	\$2,069.48
Transfer to WSB Money Market	-\$40,000.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$134,643.17</u>

SWCD Website

The Allamakee County Soil & Water Conservation District is now online! Check us out at allamakeeswcd.org. Learn more about cost-share assistance, conservation practices, and the watershed projects that we have available. You can read the annual report and newsletter, learn about local conservation efforts, and see when our next meeting will be. Check back often because we will be changing articles, adding more pictures, and giving information on program sign-up dates and deadlines.

Introducing Brianne Bjerke, New State Secretary

My name is Brianne Bjerke and I am the new State Secretary for the Allamakee County office. I started here in February of this year as a district employee. I previously helped at the office with the secretarial work, water sampling, and also out in the fields, assisting with laying out contours, buffer strips, and waterways. My current job is as secretary for both the Allamakee and Winneshiek County office, and so my time is split between the offices.

I grew up on a farm in Decorah, Iowa. I received an Associate's Degree in Agricultural Business and Animal Science from Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar. I am glad to have the opportunity to be able to work in the agricultural field and meet other people in the area.



Indian Springs Pond Watershed *By Sara Berges*

The Indian Springs Pond Watershed Project is near the end of the second year of the three-year water quality project funded by the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB). The goal of this project is to improve the water quality of Paint Creek and the Indian Springs Pond, located in the Waukon city park. The Indian Springs Watershed is approximately 1300 acres and is comprised of the western and southern boundaries of the city of Waukon as well as several agricultural fields. The practices funded through this project are terraces, sediment basins, pasture management, filter strips, rain gardens, and rain barrels.

Since the project started in 2010, 2,300 feet of terrace, two sediment basins, and 17.6 acres of prescribed grazing have been completed. Several urban practices have also been installed including five rain barrels and one rain garden. The rain garden is located in the Waukon City Park and is north of the Thompson Shelter. The urban practices focus on capturing storm water and storing it for future use or allowing it to infiltrate rather than run off.

The Waukon 6th grade Conservation Club has helped in the watershed this year. The students helped measure several different water quality parameters in the pond using IOWATER test kits. While sampling, they verified the shallow depth of the pond near the dock by jumping in and were surprised to find that the water only came up to their waists. They also learned about rain gardens by helping to plant the rain garden in the park.

In the last year of the project, we expect to install more conservation practices. We will also be installing educational signs throughout the park with information on karst topography, conservation practices, urban conservation, watersheds and more. A few rain barrels will be installed at the Thompson Shelter to show the community how they work and how much water they can collect.

Landowners in the watershed have one more year to take advantage of this grant opportunity to receive up to 75% cost-share on these conservation practices. If you live or farm within the Indian Springs Pond Watershed and are interested in any of these practices, please contact me at the Allamakee SWCD at 563-568-2246.

Introducing Brady Kruger, Federal Part-time Employee

My name is Brady Kruger and I am a WAE part-time employee with the Allamakee County NRCS. I started in January of this year as a conservation technician. I have performed several different tasks since I started, but most of my time has been devoted to the Conservation Stewardship Program.

I grew up southwest of Waukon and graduated from Waukon Senior High in 2006. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in 2010 from Iowa State University with a major in Agricultural Studies and a minor in Agronomy.

My main occupation is farming with my father, Randy Kruger, which I do full-time in the busy spring and fall seasons. During the summer months, I also work for Dave Heitman at Heitman Crop Services as a crop consultant. I work at the NRCS office mostly during the winter months while also working on the farm.

I now live near our farmstead SW of Waukon with my fiancé, Brookelyn Conway, and our daughter, Brielle. Brookelyn will be starting the nursing program in Calmar this coming year.

I am very happy to have found a part-time job in my hometown that deals with such important issues. I have always considered conservation to be essential which is why I appreciate the opportunity to work at this office. I look forward to working with new and familiar faces from my home county and helping them achieve their conservation goals.

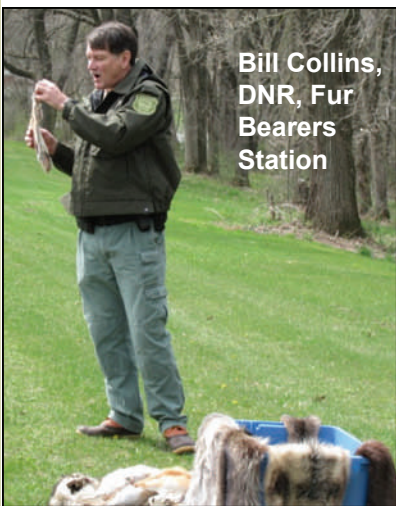


Conservation Education Day

The Allamakee SWCD sponsored the 35th annual Conservation Education Day on May 5, 2011 for the county sixth-grade students. The event was held at the Waukon city park. The day was successful and the weather cooperated. We hope the students learned many concepts about conservation and had fun at the same time.

The students learned many different reasons why conservation is important and different ways to conserve our natural resources. The instructors and the stations were as follows: Watersheds and Water Quality, Sara Berges and Russ Hagen, Allamakee SWCD; Native Animals, Larry Stott, Waukon Sixth Grade Teacher; Fur Bearers, DNR officer, Bill Collins, Waukon; Archaeology, Dennis Kirschbaum, Effigy Mounds; Tree Planting, DNR Forester, Bruce Blair Elkader; Soils, LuAnn Rolling, Jacob Groth, Steve Scholtes and Tom Duvel, Allamakee NRCS; and Fish Identification, Bill Kalishek, IDNR Fisheries, Decorah.

Bruce Blair furnished trees for the students to plant during his session. The students were each given a spruce tree to take home and plant on their own. The district also furnished the lunches for the staff and instructors. Brianne Bjerke, District Employee, organized the event and served the lunches.



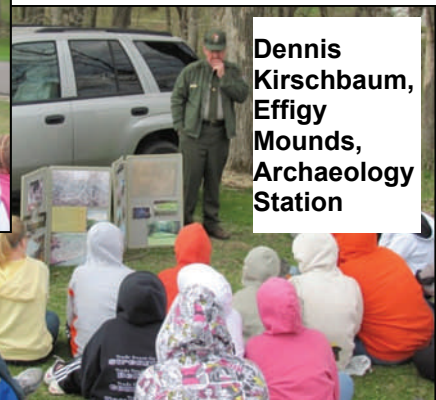
**Bill Collins,
DNR, Fur
Bearers
Station**



**Bruce Blair, DNR Forester, Tree
Planting Station**



**Bill Kalishek, DNR
Fisheries, Fish
Identification Station**



**Dennis
Kirschbaum,
Effigy
Mounds,
Archaeology
Station**



**Larry Stott, Waukon 6th grade
teacher, Native Animals Station**



Russ Hagen, Volunteer, Watershed Station



**Steve Scholtes & Tom Duvel, NRCS, Soil
Conservation Station**

The buffer initiative program provides an incentive for contour buffer strips, filter strips, and field borders to be installed. Field borders cannot exceed 60 feet in width and are only eligible when installed in conjunction with contour buffer strips. This initiative provides funding for installation of these practices, and they are not enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CCRP)

Applicants will receive a one-time payment of \$200.00 per acre and are required to sign a five (5) year maintenance agreement. The applicant is only obligated to the practice for five (5) years, but would be encouraged to continue the practice beyond the maintenance agreement. Applicants will be able to hay and graze the strips while under the maintenance agreement. No fencing or live-stock exclusion is required.

If any producers are interested in this opportunity, an application must be completed at the local NRCS/SWCD office. The staff will complete the practice estimate and acres for the application. The application must be approved/denied by the local SWCD Commissioners. If approved the landowner will be notified and the staff will complete lay out according to standards and specifications. Landowner will seed practices, and when completed, notify the local NRCS/SWCD office. The practice must be certified before payment can be made. Funding is available on a first-come, first-serve basis from a statewide pool of funding, so producer's are encouraged to sign-up at this time for spring 2012 funding.

Producer's should be aware that the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP/CCRP) still offers enrollment for grassed waterways, contour buffer strips, shelterbelts, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration, habitat buffers for upland bird, and more. Information on these practices and funding can be obtained at the local NRCS/SWCD office.

Submitted by: Barb Hanson, SCT

DSC Funding Report

Financial account of funds provided to the Allamakee County SWCD from the Iowa Legislature through programs administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS-DSC).

<i>2011 Bonding Cost-Share</i>		Allocation	\$0.00
Allocation	\$68,786.64	Obligated	\$0.00
Slippage	\$27,109.81	Expended	\$0.00
Obligated	\$95828.70	Balance	\$8,059.42
Unobligated	\$67.75		
<i>FARMS Regular Account</i>		<i>Ludlow Creek Watershed (WIRB Grant)</i>	
Beginning Obligation	\$12,165.50	Beginning Balance	\$159,455.85
Allocations	\$0.00	Allocated	\$103,652.00
Obligated	\$0.00	Obligated	\$87,293.10
Expended	\$11,507.28	Expended	\$81,592.72
Unobligated	\$658.22	Balance	\$94,222.03
<i>FARMS REAP-P</i>		<i>Indian Springs Watershed (WIRB Grant)</i>	
Allocations	\$9,827.53	Beginning Balance	\$36,233.88
Supplemental	\$7,024.26	Allocated	\$47,600.00
Slippage	\$7,496.66	Obligated	\$2,717.50
Obligated	\$24319.53	Expended	\$25,686.80
Unobligated	\$28.92	Balance	\$55,429.58
<i>FARMS REAP-F</i>		<i>Norfolk Creek (WIRB Grant)</i>	
Allocations	\$3,276.90	Beginning Balance	\$67,531.46
Supplemental	\$9,650.10	Allocation	\$0.00
Slippage	\$18756.28	Obligated	\$0.00
Obligated	\$31,666.40	Expended	\$67,531.46
Unobligated	\$16.88	Balance	\$0.00
<i>Buffer Initiatives- \$200/acre</i>		<i>Waterloo Creek</i>	
Gary White	3.3 ac	Beginning Balance	\$12,890.60
Brad Yohe	1.8 ac	Allocation	\$0.00
Mark Lamborn	4.8 ac	Obligated	\$0.00
Total	9.9 ac	Expended	\$12,890.60
		Balance	\$0.00
<u>Special Projects (WIRB Funded):</u>			
Yellow River Direct Drain (WIRB Grant)			
Beginning Balance	\$8,059.42		

PRACTICES/PROJECTS COMPLETED FY10 July 2010—June 2011

State Cost Share - Terraces

Dan Byrnes	600 ft.
Kevin Bentien	1750 ft.
Wayne Weber	2125 ft.
Robert Keehner	2775 ft.
John Borkenhagen	2725 ft.
Nelson Converse	550 ft.
Dennis Grove	1800 ft.
Regancrest Farms	4675 ft.
David Prestemon	100 ft.
Thomas Mellick	3200 ft.
Glenn Griffin	2650 ft.
Terry Mohs	850 ft.
Virgil & Roger Thorstenson	1350 ft.
Steven Johanningmeier	225 ft.
Tim Dohrmann	225 ft.
John Ruff	725 ft.
Thomas Berns	1825 ft.
Jacqueline Everett	1700 ft.
McNally Partnership	2250 ft.
TOTAL	29,375 ft.

REAP-P

David Smith	7.1 acres
Jeffrey Huinker	1.5 acres
Angie Freilinger-Mohs	9.0 acres
Dean Meyer-Tree/Shrub Est.	7.1 acres
Ryan Lutze-TSI	6.6 acres
Lee Venteicher-TSI	25.5 acres
Basil-Jack Libbey-Site Prep.	29.0 acres
David Weymiller-TSI	50.0 acres
David Weymiller-TSI	37.0 acres
David Weymiller-Tree Planting	5.0 acres
Pete Kiel-TSI	5.8 acres
Randy Kruger-Windbreak	1.0 acres
TOTAL	184.6 acres

REAP-F

Miller Lansing Trust	12.5 acres
Dean Meyer-Tree Est.	12.4 acres
Eugene Sweeney-Tree Est.	3.0 acres
Merle Lockwood-TSI	47.0 acres
Kevin McCormick-Windbreak	1.0 acre
David Weymiller-Tree Est.	5.7 acres
David Weymiller-Tree Planting	5.7 acres
TOTAL	87.3 acres

Ludlow Creek Project

Randy Kruger-Terraces	4100 ft.
Dave Dull-Terraces	1150 ft.
Steve Enyart- Terraces	1675 ft.
Tony Halverson- Grade Stab.	1
Ken Kiesau- Terraces	1700 ft.
Ken Kiesau- Terraces	4,660 ft.
Darrel Crawford-Terraces	8600 ft.
Byron Kent Schultz-Terraces	3100 ft.
Don Elsbernd-Filter Strip	18.1 acres
Maury Regan-Filter Strips	39.8 acres
James Duvel-Filter Strips	15.8 acres
Gary White-Filter Strips	3.6 acres
James Duvel-Filter Strips	4.7 acres

Chuck Duvel-Grade Stab.	1
Gary White-Grade Stab.	1
Todd Snitker-Ag. Waste	1

Indian Springs Project

Tony Baxter-Terrace	300ft
Tony Baxter-Sediment Basin	1
Bruce Palmer-Rain Barrel	1
Brad Winkie-Watering Facility	1
Brad Winkie- Prescribed Grazing	17.6 acres
Jan Brandsmeier-Rain Barrel	1

Buffer Initiative- \$200/acre

Scott Ness	2.8 acres
Eric Weymiller	8.4 acres
Kerry Troendle	8.6 acres
Gav-N-View Farms	6.4 acres
Gav-N-View Farms	10.4 acres
Kerry Troendle	8.6 acres
Gregg Bulman	4.7 acres
Erik Helgerson	6.5 acres
Brad Berns	10.9 acres
Rudolph Hesla	3.1 acres
Maury Regan	6.5 acres
TOTAL	76.9 acres

Commissioners' Buffer Initiative- \$200/ac.

Mark Lamborn	4.8 acres
Brad Yohe	1.8 acres
Gary White	3.3 acres
TOTAL	9.9 acres

IJOBS-CRP

Ray & Rose Zoll	4.9 acres
David Hahn	5.9 acres
Eugene Sweeney	15.0 acres
Claire Heck	3.5 acres
Chris Harvey	4.4 acres
Chris Harvey	10.5 acres
TOTAL	44.2 acres

IDALS-DSC Mission Statement

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.

Allamakee SWCD Mission Statement

The mission of the Allamakee County Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide local leadership in the advancement of the protection and enhancement of the natural resources of Allamakee County by providing technical, education, and financial assistance to the public by using all available resources.

Waterloo Creek Watershed Study

By Sara Berges

The Waterloo Creek Watershed Study has continued in 2011 with water sampling to monitor water quality. The Waterloo Creek Watershed is a 31,000 acre watershed located in both Minnesota and Iowa. Bee and Duck Creeks, in southern Houston County (MN), enter Iowa and form Waterloo Creek.

Water sampling was started in the watershed in the spring of 2010. Water quality parameters that are being tested include turbidity (cloudiness), chloride, nitrate, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, temperature, flow, and *E. coli* levels. Waterloo Creek is listed on the impaired waters list for a bacterial impairment although is listed as a High Quality Cold Water Stream in Iowa.

A grant application has been submitted for a DNR Planning Grant to continue water quality monitoring. If we are awarded this grant, it will allow us to gather more background information on water quality and provide us with a better understanding of issues in the watershed that need to be addressed. All of this will be used to pursue grant funding for a future project that will focus on the installation of conservation practices. The goals of future projects will be to protect this high-quality stream by installing conservation practices in strategic areas that will best utilize limited funds. Many funding sources are reducing the amount of dollars set aside for water quality improvement projects which makes obtaining grants even more difficult than before. For future updates on the progress of this watershed study and future projects, keep checking the district website.

Federal Programs Available for Conservation Practices

By LuAnn Rolling

There are currently several programs available for installing conservation practices. They include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

The EQIP program is offered on a competitive basis with each application receiving a ranking score based on environmental factors. These include physical location of the practice, the potential of that practice to impact the environment and national, state, and local priorities. There is not a county pool of funds so each application is being ranked compared to other applications across the entire state. Practices included for Allamakee County included terraces, forestry practices, livestock manure management systems and pasture practices.

The livestock manure systems may include total containment, such as a manure storage tank or a new building that replaces open feedlots. In order to be eligible for the highest cost share rates for a new building, the producer must be eliminating all of their open lots at this facility. The building has to be entirely roofed with no outside access for the animals. The entire floor of the building must be concrete and any outside manure stacking must also be roofed. Also, all of the animals have to currently be at this location (not expansions or new enterprises) to be eligible. Producers need to obtain their own engineer for design, construction inspection, and certification of the building. If the building is located in karst terrain, characterized by shallow bedrock and/or sinkholes, the building must also have secondary containment constructed around it to prevent any possible runoff in the event of an emergency.

The pasture practices include rotational grazing which may include fencing, planting, watering systems and lane improvements. The watering systems may include installing a fountain, a pumping plant, a pond or fortifying access to a limited area on a stream or a pond.

The WHIP program is also offered on a statewide competitive basis. The WHIP practices include streambank stabilization, forestry practices, and prairie plantings. Most WHIP approvals in Allamakee County have been for streambank stabilization. This practice involves stabilizing the streambank at its current location utilizing rock and grading the bank back to a flatter grade. The NRCS will assist landowners with survey, design and installation of the practice and with obtaining all necessary permits from the Iowa DNR and from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The CSP program involves completing an extensive tool to determine the amount of past conservation activity and involves completing new activities. The payment is on either cropland, pastureland or forest. All applications are ranked on a statewide basis.

(Continued from page 9) There is a continuous sign-up for all three of the programs listed above. At a specified date, the applications are all gathered and ranked and funding is allocated. The typical time for EQIP and WHIP has been January/February. If a producer is interested in signing up for either of these program they need to be contacting the NRCS office as soon as possible so cost estimates can be prepared. The funding for the EQIP and WHIP program is on a flat rate basis which typically comes out to approximately 50% of the total cost. The CSP program dates will be announced before the next deadline.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES PROCESS TO RESOLVE DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS OF HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Tony West today announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Conservation Club Donors – FY 2010-2011

Supporters \$5-\$25

Doug Mullen
John & Arlene Nelson
Lloyd Dehning
Charles Cota
Cyril & Shirley Larkin
Doug Little
Gaylord & Ruby Schoh
Mark & Deb Palmer
Terry & Diane Osterle
Dr. Louis B. Bray
Kathleen Regan
Gary Galema
Tony & Liz Willie
Don & Sharon McCormick
Pat & Debra McGeough
John Larkin
Beverly Platten
Eleanor O'neill
Oswald & Carol Goettler
George & Jean Huffly
Dennis & Barbara Nubendahl
Mary Ellen &
Mary Catherine McGuire
Walter & Lorraine Teslow
John & Jane Gadow
Earl Goodman
Mary Flatin
Gerald Cline

Soil Savers \$26-\$50

Walter Hagen Trust
Charles & Doris Berns
Gaylen & Harry Fruechte
Dennis & Judy Byrnes
Clark & Susan Kerndt
Miles & Susan Schulte
Bruening Rock Products INC
Randy & Lois Dickson
David & Rhonda Bahr
Robert & Diane Schulte
Dennis & Linda Eder
Joe & Inez Gallagher
Tim Enyart
Neal & Florence Cohen
Erma Swenson
Clayton & Adele Monserud

Stewards \$51+

Brad & Linda Winkie
New Albin Savings Bank
Stan Straate
Allan L. Bacon Family Trust
Clark Kilpatrick
Steve & Christine Weymiller
Gary & Diane Koschmeder
Randy & Cheryl Brenton
Larry & Jane Lamborn
Curtis Lundy

Leigh Ann Layman & David
Hahn
Lee & Andrea Venteicher

Scholarship Fund

Brad & Linda Winkie
Dan & Traci Berns
Ronald * Therese Snitker
Bob & Dave Stilwell
Hagen & Kallevang PC
Rick & Debbie Moose
Herb & Ann Dehli
Velma Huebner
Greg A. Palmer
Warner Enterprises
Gary & Connie Tilleras
Roger & Susan Schlitter
Steve & Donna Story
Roger & Dianna Dickson
Vernalene Oelberg
Sweeney Real Estate
Freilinger Construction
Elmo & Sheri Hagen
Barb & Phil Salstrom
John Ieschensky
Dr. Steven & Stephanie
Perkins
Dean & Mary Teslow
Eugene & Barbara Sanderman
Thomas McDowell Family
Larry & Connie Barthel Ron &
Neal & Florence Cohen
Greg & Pam Kerndt

Angela Cooper
Ralph & Theresa Lyons
Todd & Jan Sokup
Jim & Sue Dyer
Julie Wood
Bryan Iwen
Betty Decker
Don Piche