



# 2016 Annual Report

Story Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

This report has been prepared by the Story County Soil and Water District Commissioners for your information. We are very pleased with the conservation progress in the county over the past 68 years. We also realize our work would be impossible without the cooperation of the people of Story County.

We want to thank all the residents of the county for their efforts on behalf of soil and water conservation and we welcome your input to continue this good work.

If you have resource issues, please contact our office at 515-382-2217, Ext. 3 in Nevada, Iowa.

## Have we been ignoring Water Quality in Iowa?

*Vince Sitzmann, IDALS - DSCWQ*

Over the past couple of years we have heard a lot about water quality in Iowa. Even more so now than I can ever remember in my 18-year career with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. And rightly so. Water quality is and should be important to Iowans, all Iowans. But just because we never used to talk about water quality doesn't mean we've been ignoring it. In 1971, Iowa legislature passed the sediment control law that establishes soil loss limits for every soil type in the state, making it the first of its kind in the nation. In 1973, Iowa was the first state to appropriate state cost share funds to work with landowners to address soil erosion. In 2013, Iowa was the second state in the Mississippi River Basin to develop a nutrient reduction strategy for the entire state. Not once in the three examples listed above was the word water quality mentioned, however all of these programs have had a major impact on the Iowa's water quality.

So what's the relationship between reducing soil erosion and protecting water quality? Every ton of soil we keep in the field helps keep it out of the stream. Sediment is also a major transporter of phosphorus. If you stop the sediment you stop much of the phosphorus too. Keep in mind that reducing soil loss doesn't solve all our water quality concerns we have in the state, but it's a great start, particularly in fields that have highly erodible soils. We need to continue looking for more and better ways to address both phosphorus and nitrogen losses from our fields, but solving these issues requires multiple approaches. Some areas of the state are very susceptible to nitrogen losses while others phosphorus. Addressing water quality issues across the state will require a diverse use of management practices such as no-till and cover crops, structural practices such as terraces and waterways, and edge of field practices such as bioreactors and saturated buffers. New and emerging technologies that have yet to be refined will also be a key if we are to continue making improvements.

So have we been ignoring water quality in Iowa? No, water quality just wasn't the buzz word at the time, soil erosion was. The real question is can we do more? I believe the answer to that question will be coming soon. The governor's office, legislature, ag groups, and others have gone on record in support of additional funding for water quality. What that level of support ends up being has yet to be determined. As a lifelong Iowan, I'm looking forward to being part of the future efforts to protect our soils and continue to improve water quality in Iowa.

**ARBOR DAY TREES**

The Story SWCD distributed 850 River Birch trees to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade school children in the Ballard, Collins-Maxwell, Colo-NESCO, Roland-Story and Nevada School Districts to celebrate Arbor Day.

**Conservation and Your Operation in a Watershed**

*Jim Gillespie, IDALS-DSCWQ*

Everyone lives and works in a watershed and everyone has a responsibility to take care of the resources in that watershed. I am going to give you some simple tips on how you can assess and get help treating the resources in your watershed.

The first thing you need to do is a visual assessment of the land you own and/or operate and see if there are some issues or problems (i.e. erosion, gully's, flooding, water quality, poor seeding) that need addressed. After identifying the problem, can you determine what is causing the problem? What should or can I do to help solve the problem or do I need some technical assistance?

If you need help with these situations, there are resources available at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, ISU Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa Learning Farms and other conservation service providers. You may have other landowners and farmers in your area that host field days and do demonstrations that may help you understand what can be done. It does not make any difference if you live in town or in the country, there is great technical assistance available and there may be some financial assistance as well.

A good conservation plan with scientific technical assistance can get you started down the road to protecting your resources and concerns. If we work together on the issues in our watersheds,

**we will not only protect and improve our land and water but make sure that we are preventing any impacts on resources around us.**

**Iowa has always been a leader in conservation of our natural resources and watershed protection. Thank you for what you do, do not ever hesitate to ask for assistance and always be looking for opportunities to make improvements because we have some of the best natural resources in the world and we need to take care of them.**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY COST SHARE**

Cover Crops	1733.8 acres
Grassed Waterways	10 acres
Terraces	0
Forest Stand Improvement	5 acres
Bioreactor	1
New Strip Till	560 acres
Seasonal High Tunnels	2
Water Sediment Control Basin	0
Windbreaks	4
Wetland Restoration	85 acres
Waste Storage Structure	0
CRP New Contracts	123
CRP New Acres	2200 acres
EQIP Active Contracts	16
CSP Active Contracts	10

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016**

**These funds plus secretary assistance are provided by the State of Iowa and allocated to the District by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.**

**DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

Total Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Commissioners Expense	\$ 1,473.47
Office Expense	\$ 125.00
Dues Paid	\$ 1,625.00
Total Funds Spent	\$ 5,223.47

**FY16 IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Brought forward	\$ 0.00
Allocation	\$ 17,307.00
Spent	\$ 12,070.54
Obligated	\$ 2,212.10
Recalled by state	\$ 3,024.36

**FY16 REAP PRACTICES**

Brought forward	\$ 3,000.00
Allocation	\$ 10,061.47
Spent	\$ 4,110.46
Obligated	\$ 1,517.00
Recalled by DSC	\$ 7,434.01

**FY16 REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES**

Brought Forward	\$ 3,000.00
Total Allocation	\$ 3,357.41
Spent	\$ 6,000.00
Recalled by DSC	\$ 357.41

**COUNTY BUDGET**

**Provided by the Story County Supervisors**

FY16 Allocation	\$ 7,500.00
Funds spent in FY16	\$ 4,501.50

**DISTRICT ACCOUNTS**

<i>District checking &amp; savings 7/1/15</i>	\$11,276.80
<i>Deposits</i>	\$19,383.64
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$13,971.07
Balance 6/30/16	\$16,689.37

**COMMISSIONERS**

Steve Fales, Chairman	Franklin Township
Jerold Fitzgerald, Vice Chair	Collins Township
Sue Upchurch, Co-Treasurer	Lincoln Township
Selden Spencer, Co-Treasurer	Palestine Township
Mark Tjelmeland	Warren Township
Erwin Klaas, Asst.	Franklin Township
Jerry Radke, Asst.	Nevada Township
Mimi Wagner, Asst.	Nevada Township
Cindy Hildebrand, Asst.	Grant Township
Amber Anderson Mba, Asst.	Franklin Township
Dale Farnham, Asst.	Washington Township

**FIELD OFFICE STAFF**

Dana Holland	District Conservationist
Nicky Williams	Resource Conservationist
Hillary Olson	Soil Conservationist
Ava Haun	Soil Conservationist
Tara VanWaus	Soil Conservation Technician
Yolanda Butler	Soil Conservation Technician
Jayne Smith	Conservation Assistant

The Story County Soil and Water Conservation District (Story SWCD) meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM at the USDA Service Center.

These meetings are open to the public. If you have conservation concerns and would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact the office prior to the meeting.

The Mission Of The Story Soil And Water Conservation District Is To Promote Soil Conservation And Water Quality To Landowners, Operators, And Residents Of Story County By Providing Technical Information And Financial Assistance.

Story SWCD prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.