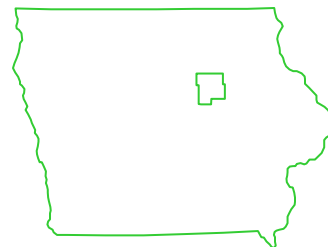


Visit our website at:
www.grundyiaswcd.com



Newsletter provided by the Grundy County Soil Water Conservation District

Prioritize Cover Crops Following Harvest

With harvest running two weeks later than average producers that are considering planting cover crops may need to identify where they can get the most bang for their buck. For harvested soybeans, that may mean seeding cereal rye on the drainageways that could be most susceptible to gully erosion, often called ephemeral gullies. Seed at least 75 pounds per acre.

Following corn harvest, focus on seeding those areas where high traffic occurred, where end rows are subject to erosion, and the drainageways that carry too much runoff from snowmelt to not be protected. Using cereal rye will help break up compaction and start early enough next spring to help curb soil erosion. Again, because you are planting late in the season, seed 75 pounds per acre.

Finally, livestock producers may find cover crops like cereal rye or triticale to fill an early spring feed need. Try to plant the rye or triticale on a portion of the field that won't be gleaned through part of the winter. Select varieties known to take off quickly in the spring. You'll get early soil erosion control with the livestock feed bonus. Plant two bushels per acre.

We suggest livestock producers seed rye where the cows graze stalks. The cows work in the seed and it comes up quicker in the spring when the stalks are gone. You can seed the majority of the field away from the bale ring and water.

Fall 2019

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The staff in Grundy Center urges you to call first before you come in. There may be times when no one is in the office due to field work or meetings.

TREE SALE TIME

Our tree sale last year was a great success. Thanks to all who purchased from us. We are again offering for sale this year potted conifers, bare-root shrubs, and trees. Order your trees now for Spring. The order form is inserted in this newsletter. We have trees for cost-share projects such as windbreaks, and riparian buffers. If you need some trees to fill in your existing windbreak, take a look at our listing.

You may mail your order to the Grundy SWCD at 805 W. 4th St., Grundy Center 50638 or stop by the USDA office before November 26, 2019. Orders placed after this date may not be guaranteed due to limited supply and there are no survival guarantees on stock at these prices.

The proceeds provide funds for district programs, field days, and educational materials.



**Grundy Soil & Water Conservation District
Financial Report
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

District Funds

Beginning Balance	\$18,559.65
*Income- DSCWQ 1M Funds	\$ 3,775.00
Conservation Club Donations	\$ 3,795.78
Board of Supervisors	\$ 4,000.00
Tree Sales	\$ 6,522.26
Mule/trailer sale	\$ 4,450.00
Interest	<u>\$ 12.46</u>

Total Income **\$22,555.50**

Expenses– Dues/subscriptions	\$ 1,900.00
Commissioner Mileage/Exp.	\$ 1,245.05
Tree Sales expense	\$ 3,308.87
Newsletter/printing	\$ 2,523.32
Postage	\$ 985.65
Field Day & Meetings	\$ 2,034.20
Mule/trailer expenses	\$ 492.12
Advertising	\$ 84.24
Outdoor classroom	\$ 193.28
Office Supplies	\$ 30.02
Parade float expenses	\$ 968.84
Sales Tax	\$ 351.00
Shirts	\$ 25.00
Nursery certificate	\$ 25.00
ISU Foundation-Water Rocks	\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>\$ 208.39</u>

Total Expenses **\$15,374.98**

Ending Balance **\$25,740.17**

Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$23,886.83
Interest	\$ 20.74
Transfer to CD	<u>-\$20,000.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 3,903.26

Certificate of Deposit \$20,000.00

District Employee Account

Beginning Balance	\$51,493.07
Income-IDALS Intern funds	\$ 1,872.00
Farm Bill Allocations	\$ 3,794.40
Interest	<u>\$ 26.70</u>
Total Income	\$ 5,693.10
Expenses- Payroll & Taxes	\$21,825.38
Transfer to CD	\$20,000.00
Check Printing/bank fees	\$ 40.70
Accountant Fees	<u>\$ 250.00</u>

Total Expenses **\$42,116.08**

Ending Balance **\$15,070.09**

Certificate of Deposit \$20,000.00

State Cost Share

Grundy County has been given allocations for use in cost sharing on permanent soil and water conservation practices. Following is a breakdown of FY2019 practices for which certifications have been submitted to the Iowa Dept. of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality for payment, obligated, and paid.

Iowa Financial Incentive Program

FY 2019 Allocation	\$18,785.00
Prior years obligated funds	\$11,025.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ 2,184.00
Recalled by DSC	\$27,626.00
Balance 6/30/2019	\$.00

REAP Practice

FY 2019 Allocation	\$ 5,822.73
Prior years obligated funds	\$.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ 4,171.56
Recalled by DSC	\$ 1,651.17
Balance 6/30/2019	\$.00

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses

FY 2019 Allocation	\$ 1,940.91
Prior years obligated funds	\$ 720.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ 2,220.00
Recalled by DSC	\$ 440.91
Balance 6/30/2019	\$.00

Gordon & Evelyn Davidson Scholarship Fund**

Beginning Balance	\$10,193.06
Interest	\$ 127.25
Ending Balance	\$10,320.31

Petty Cash

Beginning Balance	\$ 27.47
Income-tree sales	\$ 203.88
Expenses-transfer to ckg.	-140.00
office supplies/postage	<u>\$ -71.35</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 20.00

*1M funds are provided by the State of Iowa and allocated to the District by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Division of Soil Conservation. These can only be used for dues, mileage, office supplies, newsletter, postage, field days, meetings, workshops, and stewardship expenses

**The Davidson Scholarship Fund was set up to use the interest earned for scholarships for students going into the fields of agriculture or nursing. Minimum scholarship amount will be \$500.00.



What is the value of healthy soil?

Soil health is a combination of physical, chemical and biological properties impacting the function and productivity of the soil. Several of these properties directly affect your farm's net return.

Soil organic matter directly impacts water infiltration rates, soil aggregate stability and soil structure. It can also impact compaction, which can affect your farm's net return.

While it is difficult to place a monetary value on any one of these properties, it may be possible to provide an estimate of the economic value of two by-products of healthy soil: the availability of water and maintenance of soil nutrients.

More water for plant growth

Healthy soils impact the amount of water available for plant growth by improving infiltration of precipitation and the ability of



Conservation planning with NRCS can help you decide which adjustments are best for your operation to improve soil health.

the soil to store precipitation; in other words, the soil available water holding capacity. In the short-term, water infiltration (water entering the soil) can be effectively influenced by managing residue and reducing tillage. Studies have shown that the amount of water entering the soil can be increased up to 2.5 inches per hour by maintaining crop residues on the soil surface.



Interested in Cost Share Assistance? Plan Ahead

If you are interested in cost share assistance to address a natural resource concern on your farm, plan at least six months in advance. Potential cost share sources, either through State cost share or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), have limited funding available. While both programs accept applications year-round, EQIP has batching deadlines to consider applications for funding. All EQIP applications received by a set deadline are ranked and selected for funding based on the ranking score. State cost share applications are funded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Additionally, this advanced timeframe allows for better conversations about your goals and objectives on your farm. If any practices need designed (waterways, grade stabilization structures), NRCS needs time to survey and design the appropriate practice. Structural practices need a design before you are considered for funding. This way, you will know what will work for your site as well as the estimated cost and potential financial assistance.

It is important for you to know that if you are interested in cost share assistance, projects cannot start until the funding has been approved. If the project starts before cost share is approved, the project will NOT be eligible for cost share.

Questions about potential cost share? Please call the office at 319-824-3634, ext 3.

Nicky Williams, District Conservationist

For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century he is beginning to realize that, in order to survive, he must protect it.

Jacques-Yves Cousteau

Grundy County Accomplishments 2019

Conservation Practice	Amount Applied
No-till	3,167 ac.
Cover Crops	3,955 ac.
Forage and Biomass Planting	16.1 ac.
Water well	1 no.

The 2019 Stewardship theme is

“Life in the Soil, Dig Deeper”

For several years now, the Grundy SWCD has recognized Soil Stewardship Week by providing local churches with bulletins, litanies, and church leader guides to all Grundy County churches who request the materials.



4th Grade Foresters

Message from Nicky Williams

The Grundy SWCD teamed up again with Greenbelt Bank to show 4th grade students in the county how to plant trees. Each student was given a Burr Oak tree to take home and plant themselves. We would like to thank Calkins Nature Center and the staff at Grundy NRCS office for showing the students the proper steps to planting trees and how to take care of them. Always remember to call 811 Iowa One Call before you do any planting.

I am excited to welcome the new District Conservationist, Courtney Myers, to Grundy County. Currently, I am the District Conservationist in both Grundy and Hardin counties and will continue to cover both counties. Courtney will cover only Grundy County, so she will be able to focus her efforts on Grundy County's needs and will be your primary contact for your conservation needs. I am working with Courtney to introduce her to farmers, landowners, partners, and the county. I encourage you to stop by the office and introduce yourself to Courtney.



New District Conservationist-Courtney Myers

My name is Courtney Myers and I became the District Conservationist in Grundy Center on September 30, 2019. My husband, Dave, and I are both originally from Grundy Center, and I am happy to be back working in the area! My parents are Don and Sharon Davidson, and they live on the family farm southwest of Grundy Center. I have three kids- Porter (age 10), Marshall (age 7), and Eleanor (age 3) and we live in Cedar Falls. In my spare time, I run, garden, cook from scratch, and cheer on the Cyclones.

I graduated from Iowa State University in 2005 and began my career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Burlington, Iowa. My husband and I lived and worked in Dubuque for ten years, where I learned a wide variety about livestock farms, longer crop rotations, wildlife habitat development, and the challenges Northeast Iowa faces with improving water quality.

My husband's job with John Deere brought us back to the area in 2018, and I spent a year working in Black Hawk county. It's neat to be working in an area - the Middle Cedar Watershed- that has such focus on voluntary water quality improvements. I hope to get Grundy County contributing to those efforts as well!

My interests are driven by human health and the health of our small farms. I am more than happy to visit your farm and assess your soil health, using the various tools and tests we have available. I am also very interested in improving nutrient management on farms, finding ways to improve nitrogen efficiency, adopt precision application, and reduce overall nutrient use in your operation. Stop in and say "hi" when you sign up for farm programs this winter!



Soil Health Workshop at the Grundy County Fair

The Grundy SWCD held a soil health workshop at the fair On July 17th. Speakers this year were Brian Dougherty, ISU Ext. Engineer(upper right) speaking about Edge of Field Practices, Lisa Schulte Moore, ISU Professor (middle left) speaking about Prairie Strips, Mark Thompson, Sunderman Farm Mgmt. (middle right), speaking about soil health practices and farm leases, Paul Miller, IDALS Urban Conservationist (lower right), speaking about urban conservation, and Mike Luebbers, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician (bottom left), gave some hands on learning about soil health.



The Grundy SWCD would like to thank all who attended the workshop and to PT Grillers for the food and the Grundy County Fair Board for allowing us to have this workshop each year.





Meet Our New Watershed Project Coordinator

Laura Bybee



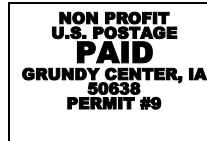
Laura Bybee grew up in Northern IL on a farrow to finish hog farm and grain operation. Today her dad and brother farm 2500 acres of corn and soybeans in Winnebago and Ogle County IL. She has grandparents on both sides of the family that are still very involved in farming. Laura attended Coe College (Cedar Rapids, IA) and graduated with a Chemistry degree in 2016. While at Coe she was a pole vaulter on the track team and worked in a water quality lab for 3 summers. During those summers Laura helped with projects for Indian Creek Watershed (Linn County) and Lime Creek Watershed (Buchanan County). Her experiences working in water quality led her to pursue a master's degree in Soil Science (University-Wisconsin Madison) to help farmers implement conservation practices. After finishing her master's, Laura started as the Watershed Project Coordinator on August 19. When not working Laura enjoys long-distance backpacking, crocheting and spending time outdoors.

The Grundy County SWCD received a Water Quality Initiative grant to plan water quality improvement projects in Black Hawk Creek Watershed. Over 85% of the watershed is ag land. The watershed has a drainage area of 217,000 acres, which is mostly in Grundy County with portions in Black Hawk County and Tama County. Black Hawk Creek drains into the Cedar River and is part of the Middle Cedar, a priority watershed in Iowa. This project is specifically designed to target nutrient reduction practices to advance Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy goals of reducing 41% of the total nitrogen and 29% of the total phosphorus from nonpoint sources. The project will focus on a combination of edge-of-field practices and in-field soil health practices to advance nutrient reduction goals. Edge-of-field practices include prairie strips, controlled drainage, saturated buffers, wetlands including oxbows and bioreactors. In-field soil health practices include nitrogen management, no-till/strip-till and cover crops. Educational events about implementing practices on your farm will take place throughout the next year. Join us for an event or stop in to the office. We would love to talk to you.



Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District

Return Service Requested



805 West Fourth Street Ste. 2
Grundy Center, Iowa 50638-1069
Phone: (319) 824-3634, ext. 3



The "Partners in Resource Management" newsletter is provided free to owners and operators of land in Grundy County, Iowa, and others interested with issues involving resource management.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits the discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20259-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Send questions or comments to:

Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District
805 West Fourth Street, STE 2
Grundy Center, IA 50638-1069
Phone: (319) 824-3634, ext. 3
Office Hours: 8:00 to 4:30, M-F

Reminder....

Please call the office to make sure someone is available before you come. Since some of the staff is shared with another county or may be in the field, there are times when no one is in the office.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide leadership to people regarding technical, educational, and financial assistance that conserves natural resources.

COMMISSIONERS

Fred Abels (Chairman)
Jim Kadner (Vice Chairman)
Don Davidson (Treasurer)
Jim Everts
Steve Henze

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Harvin Meyer John Oltman

STAFF

Courtney Myers (DC)
Nicky Williams (DC)
Jim Allen (SC)
Denise Freeseaman
(Conservation Asst.)
Heather Kitzman (SC)
Laura Bybee,
(BHC Project Coordinator)

The Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has already donated to the SWCD Conservation Club this year. To date, we currently have 55 members who have donated a total of 3,420.78! We would also like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued support. We appreciate the support of all of our members!

Donated funds are used to for a variety of projects to promote and educate conservation programs such as educational material for school, stewardship materials, scholarships for a high school seniors, poster contest, Appreciation banquet and Awards program, and conservation programs and tours in the county, field days, along with our newsletter.

If you have not already donated to the Grundy SWCD Conservation Club, you can send or drop off a donation to our office at 805 W. 4th St., Ste 2, Grundy Center, IA 50638. Make your check payable to Grundy SWCD. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you all for your continuing support of conservation in our county.

Each year, the Grundy SWCD selects windbreak to submit for the state Izaak Walton windbreak award. There are three windbreak categories, Newly Established (2-5 years of age), Farmstead (at least 5 years old), and Field Shelterbelt. (at least 5 years old)

The windbreak award winner for 2019 are:

Farmstead Windbreak– Matt & Pam Shoup of Reinbeck

Congratulations to our award winner!