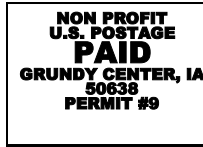


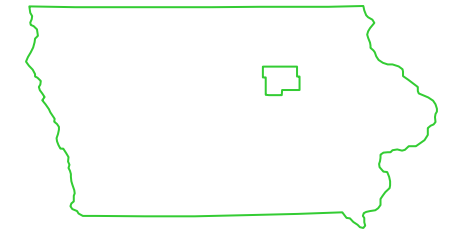
**Grundy County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

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

Forward Service Requested



Visit our website at:
www.grundyiaswcd.com



A Newsletter provided by the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District



Economics in the Field

Spring 2020

The Grundy Soil & Water Conservation District is planning another workshop on Wednesday, July 22nd at the Grundy County Fairgrounds. This workshop will start at 9 am following the Tri-County Marketing Club meeting with ISU Economist Steve Johnson which starts at 7:30 am. These two meetings are being held during the Grundy County Fair at the east end of the fairgrounds.

Speakers for this year's event include:

Wayne Fredericks - an Osage area farmer, former President of the American Soybean Assoc. He uses strip-till, no-till, and cover crops.

Tom Cotter - an Austin, MN farmer. He uses cover crops for soil health and weed control. He also grazes his cover crops.

Dean Sponheim - a Nora Springs area farmer. He grows and sells cover crops for seed, contracts with local farmers to grow for seed cover crops, custom strip tillage business, Pioneer Seed dealer, and does no-till and cover crops on his farm.

Dr. Jerry Hatfield - Lab Director and Supervisory Plant Physiologist at the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment will present on Soil Carbon and Soil Organics.

A meal will be served to all attendees following the workshop. Please RSVP to Denise Freeseaman, Conservation Assistant, at @ (319) 824-3634 Ext. 3, or email denise.freeseaman@ia.nacdnet.net so we know how many to serve for the meal. Deadline to RSVP is July 15, 2020. **If this event is cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak, we will put a notice on our website, www.grundyiaswcd.com**

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Kurt Simon, NRCS State Conservationist Pg. 4-5
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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.

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.

All programs, services and information in "Partners in Resource Management" are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status.

Periodically the newsletter will publish guest articles and editorials regarding resource management topics. The Grundy

County SWCD does not accept any liability from the use of the views, services and/or products expressed in these articles.

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

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.

WEBSITE

www.grundyiaswcd.com

COMMISSIONERS

Fred Abels (Chair)
James Kadner (Vice Chair)
Donald Davidson (Treas.)
James Everts, Steve Henze
ASSIT. COMMISSIONERS
Harvin Meyer, John Oltman

STAFF

Courtney Myers(DC)
Dan Sears (SC)
Heather Kitzman (SC)
Denise Freeseaman (CA)
Laura Bybee(BHCWS Coord.)

Scholarship Winners

Each year, the Grundy SWCD sponsors a scholarship program for students pursuing programs of study in any field of conservation or agriculture. This year's winner of a \$1,000 scholarship was Adam Hoy of Grundy Center. His scholarship application has been forwarded to the regional competition. The second place winner of a \$500 scholarship was Deidre Green of Conrad. Congratulations to both of these students!

NEED A WINDBREAK?

Windbreaks can help against prevailing winds and manage snow and reduce snow removal costs. They can also establish wildlife habitat and control erosion. Cost share assistance is available. Our staff will help you design your windbreak and suggest suitable trees and shrubs based on your location and soil type. Contact our office if you would like us to help you.

Planting Cover Crops in 2020?

Sign up for Cost Share Assistance Now!

There are programs through NRCS and IDALS that are available for you to receive cost share assistance for planting cover crops on your field. Whether you're a first time user or if you've planted cover crops before, you are eligible. There is also assistance for first time users of no-till & strip-till practices. However, there are deadlines for these programs so if you are wanting cost share assistance, please contact your local NRCS office soon. Funds are limited and available on a first come basis.

Leopold's Golden Rule states, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."



2019 Conservation Club Members

Harlan Persinger	Freese Farms	Storjohann Farms
Dick Lynch Inc.	Jim Ahrenholz	Jack & Joan Fogt
Jim & Brenda Everts	Grain Farms Inc.	Gerald Wheelock
Reformed Church of Stout	Thelma Ruter	Brickman Farm Co.
Rodney Hartman	Darwin & Janet Heltibridle	Eric & Darla Andersen
DeeGene & Linda McMartin	Wayne & Carol Aukes	John & Karen Oltman
Jim Allen	Jim & Cindy Richtsmeier	Rollin & Bernice Primus
Owen Corporation	James & June Morrison	Barbara Hupman
Margie Reynolds	Melvin & Janet Schildroth	Harvin & Esther Meyer
Mark & Dixie Schildroth	Keith Sheller	Bonnie Beving
Mike Freed	Merle & Mary Lynch	Ronald & Charlene Bloxham
Roger & Marcia Dudden	Mark & Nancy Buskohl	Jerry & Sue Green
Gallentine Land Co.	Marcia Heronimus	Fairview Farms 78 LLC
Mary Katzer	Robert & Pat Abels	Kadner Farms
Jim & Melinda Smoldt	Don & Sharon Davidson	Marilyn DeLange
Jim & Colleen Miller	Richard & Yvonne Bertram	Elmaru Farms Inc.
Wayne & Shirley Holland	Lyle & Marlene Neher	Ed Juhl
Phil & Diane Schildroth	Leon & Sharon Harms	Phil & Diane Schildroth
Ted & Kim Junker	Harlyn & Karen Riekema	Dr. & Mrs. Robert Morrison

The SWCD Commissioners would like to thank everyone who donated to the district. Your funds are used to help with the district's activities and programs in education, classroom activities, scholarship, Envirothon, field days, and Stewardship Week, etc. Remember all donations are tax

Membership Form (clip and return to our office to

2020	MEMBERSHIP	2020
GRUNDY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION CLUB		
Name _____	Donation Amount _____	
CONSERVATION CLUB MEMBER		
Address _____		

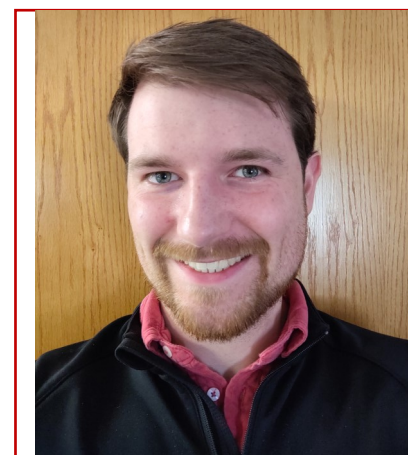


WATER ROCKS!



Water Rocks! is an award-winning statewide youth water education campaign that fosters the interplay of knowledge, caring and engagement among Iowa's youth that can lead to long-term multigenerational transformation of all Iowans. Through a combination of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and the arts, Water Rocks! challenges and inspires all Iowans towards a greater appreciation of our water resources. Water Rocks! is based on campus at Iowa State University.

The Grundy SWCD has supported the Water Rocks! for several years. This year, Water Rocks! did classroom visits at the Dike Elementary School. Students learned about pollution in our streams and rivers and what to do to help stop pollution. They also learned about bees and pollinators. They sang and danced to songs about our natural resources.



Meet Dan Sears, Soil Conservationist

Hello! My name is Dan Sears, and I am the new NRCS soil conservationist on the Waterloo Resource Team. I will be based out of Grundy County for the time being.

I graduated summa cum laude from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor of Science in zoology. I specialized in wildlife biology and conservation and minored in environmental studies. After college, I was certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist through the Wildlife Society. I got my start with NRCS as a soil conservationist for Tama County, IA in February 2019.

I grew up in Geneseo, IL, a small town east of the Quad Cities. In my spare time, I enjoy hiking, gardening, reading, board gaming, video gaming, and observing/photographing nature.



Solving Soil Compaction on Your Farm

with Jim Hoorman

Thursday, June 25, 2020

8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.

PT Grillers Event Center

24735 U Avenue

Reinbeck, IA 50669

Are you tired of fighting compaction on your farm? Do the last few wet years have you fighting ruts and ripping more than you used to? Feeling like you need more and more horsepower to get the field work done on your farm? Join the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District and Jim Hoorman to learn about why your soil is compacted and how to fix it.

Jim Hoorman is owner of Hoorman Soil Health Services in Jenera, Ohio. He has worked as an Extension educator and assistant professor for The Ohio State University, and as a National Soil Health Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Jim helped start the Putnam County Soil Health Agricultural Research Plots (SHARP) site on 9 acres growing corn, soybean, and wheat on 20 by 200 foot plots using conventional tillage, no-till, and no-till plus cover crops. Now he travels around the Midwest and the globe to teach farmers and the public about soil and soil health.

The workshop will feature information on soil structure and how compaction forms, improving water quality with soil health, making cover crops economical, and how to successfully no-till corn. The afternoon will feature a field tour and in-field Q&A with local farmers. There is an optional late afternoon session "Using Cover Crops to Adjust to Adverse Weather".

Funding for the Black Hawk Creek Watershed is provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship through Clean Water Iowa. Lunch is sponsored by the Iowa Ag Water Alliance and a grant from the National Wildlife Federation. This event is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP to the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-824-3634 ext. 3 OR emailing denise.freeseaman@ia.nacdnet.net by June 19, 2020.

If this event is cancelled or postponed due to the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak, we will put a notice on our website, www.grundyiaswcd.com



Understanding the Iowa Impaired Waters Designation

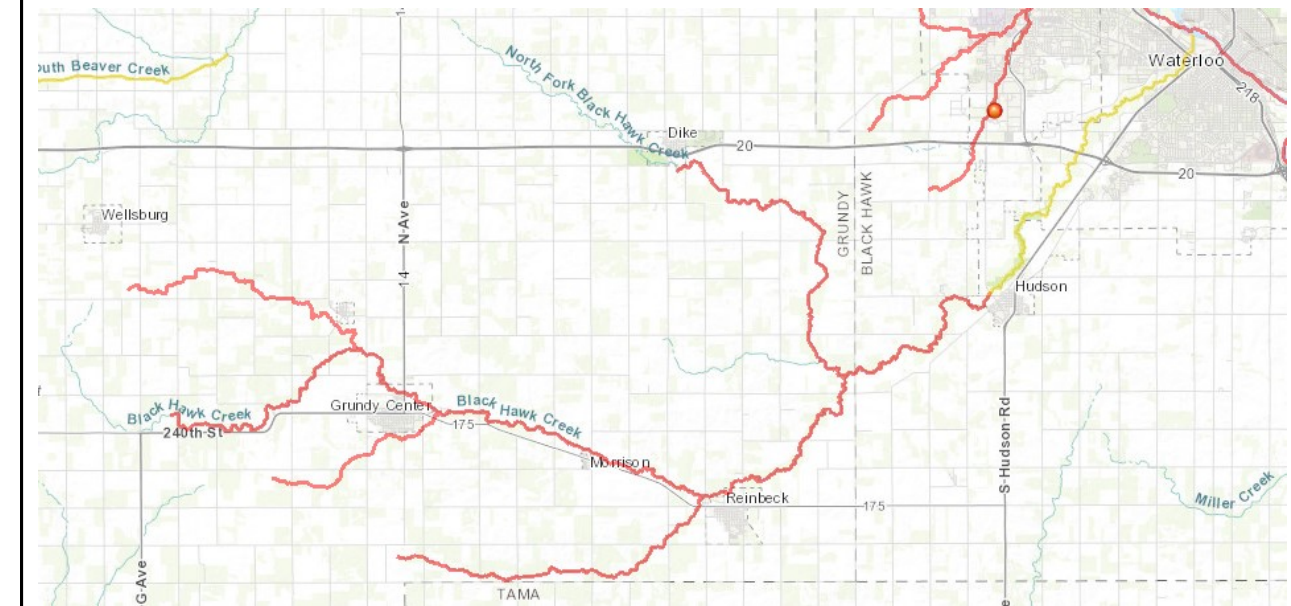
By Laura Bybee, Black Hawk Creek Watershed Project Coordinator

Streams are classified and impaired based on use. These range from recreation to habitat to human consumption and each use has its own set of impairments. For example, if a stream isn't used for drinking water it will not be listed as impaired for nitrate even if it tests over the threshold. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is responsible for assessing the stream's use and determining impairments by water sampling.

The top three impairments for rivers and streams in Iowa are indicator bacteria, biological causes and fish kills. Black Hawk Creek and its tributaries are impaired for bacteria due to its recreational classification. Recreational contact includes any activity where you could end up with water in your mouth. Activities might include swimming, wading or playing in the stream, and even fishing. The bacteria causing impairments is usually fecal bacteria which comes from a variety of sources: wildlife, septic systems, livestock and wastewater treatment plants. Sunlight does kill the bacteria so if you are worried wait a few sunny days before playing in the Black Hawk Creek.

If you are interested in learning more about impairments in the state check out <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/adbnnet/Assessments/Summary/2018> a 2018 assessment summary.

Black Hawk Creek Watershed Impaired Waters Map



Category 4 means that a total maximum daily load (TMDL) which is a written plan that calculates the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed. Some streams are not required have a written plan and those would also be category 4. The section of Black Hawk Creek that is Category 4 had a TMDL written by the DNR in 2006 for a bacterial impairment.

Category 5 means that the water is listed as impaired and required a total maximum daily load (TMDL) but it has not been completed.



NRCS Update

By Kurt Simon, State Conservationist

In December, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue signed off on the Iowa NRCS staff reorganization plan allowing us to move forward with it this year. After meeting with our staff and partners about the reorganization last year, members of our leadership team and I spent three weeks in January covering the entire state of Iowa taking questions and presenting final details about the staff structure.

The reorganization was a multi-year planning process. I sent members of our leadership team to several other states, including Oregon, Oklahoma and Indiana, to study their organizational structures. Eventually, we decided on a plan that we feel best suits Iowa NRCS and our customers.

Some key points about the new structure:

All 100 Iowa NRCS Field Offices will have a District Conservationist (DC). Two-thirds of Iowa offices were part of a Shared Management Unit, so only 34 offices had their own District Conservationist. Thirty DCs will have supervisory duties and 70 will be non-supervisory positions.

Twenty-five Resource Teams will cover four-county resource areas. A Resource Team Lead will supervise a staff of resource conservationists, soil conservationists, soil conservation technicians, civil engineering technicians, Farm Bill Specialists, and others who will work in four-county areas. The number of employees on each team will depend on the amount of workload in each four-county area. Resource Team staff will eventually be housed in a selected USDA Service Center within their four-county area.

Partner staff will continue in their coverage areas. Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), Pheasants Forever (PF), Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and other conservation partners stationed in our offices will continue to cover the same areas.

Why reorganize Field Offices?

A primary reason for a structure change is to have one District Conservationist in every NRCS Field Office. When I arrived in Iowa in 2015, one of the common themes from our conservation partners and Commissioners was a lack of daily NRCS visibility in our offices, due to Shared Management Units affecting two-thirds of our offices. We want the DCs to be the “face” of our local offices.

Another reason for the change is to have more flexibility to manage workload. Just in the past two years we have dealt with drought in Southeast Iowa and flooding in many parts of the state. To have the ability to “triage” people within our teams to locations to shift workload for emergencies will be very helpful.

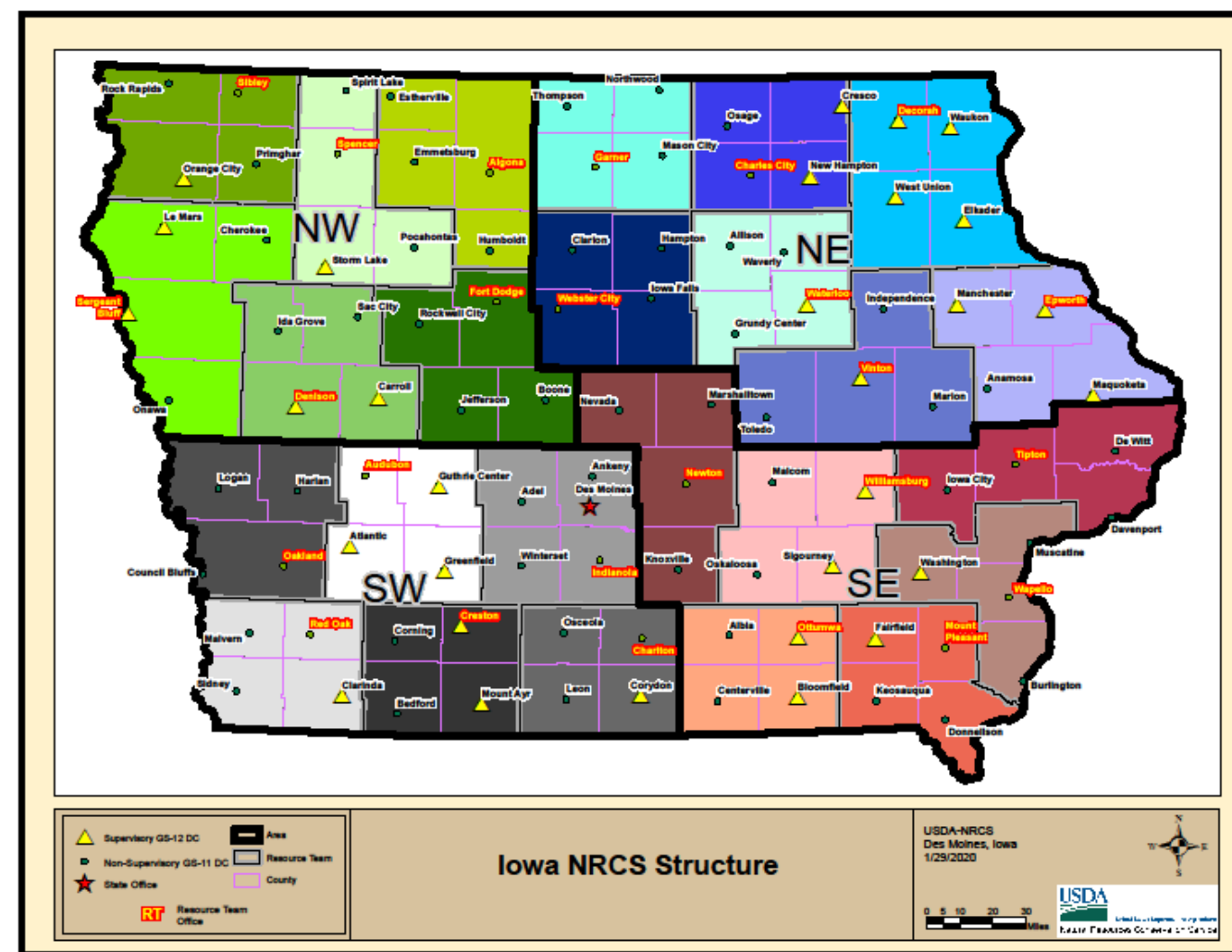
Lastly, our reorganization helps us more closely align with Federal guidelines of the 10:1 employee to supervisor ratio.

When will we see changes?

Actual physical changes to our teams will take time. The resource teams will begin working together in March, but due to office space limitations many team members will be unable to move to the resource team locations. We are looking to lease additional space in USDA Service Centers, or we will need to move to a building that can accommodate additional people. Either way, Resource Team offices will be located in the same building as our Field Office and Farm Service Agency staff. It may take more than a year in some cases to get our resource team offices fully stationed in a single location. (continued on Page 5)



NRCS Update (Cont.) Iowa NRCS Structure Map



Additional Hiring Opportunities

The staff restructuring is not due to staff reductions. In fact, we will be adding staff this year to help fill our open DC positions and many spots on the resource teams. The organizational changes are also providing many promotional opportunities for current staff and/or a chance to move to a preferred location.

We are currently hiring more than 100 soil conservationists (1 for every office), along with soil conservation technicians, resource team leads, and civil engineering technicians. Many vacancies will be announced once the reorganization begins in March. NRCS job vacancies are available on USAJobs.gov.

We will provide reorganization resources and updates on our website at www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov. If you have questions about the reorganization, please contact Jaia Fischer at 515-284-4525 or jaia.fischer@usda.gov.