

## Introducing Justin Hahn

My name is Justin Hahn, I am the new Natural Recourse Specialist in Grundy Center. I grew up in Cedar Falls IA, spending a lot of time outdoors in woods and in creeks. I have always loved nature and wildlife and spending time outdoors in general. I have lived in several states over the years and had the chance to enjoy wildlife in several environments and ecosystems. I spend my free time outdoors hiking, canoeing, walking our dog through the woods and fishing.

I'm married with a son and enjoy spending time with my family. We like to play board games and watch movies as a family. We like to travel and learn about new places and its history. We also like to cook together and try new restaurants. I'm excited to be here and help people conserve our natural resources.

## Scholarship Opportunities

The Grundy County SWCD will have two scholarship opportunities available this fall. One \$1,000.00 scholarship for a High school Senior majoring in any field of Agriculture or Conservation. A second \$1,250.00 scholarship will be awarded to one High School senior or collage student enrolled in the 2025/2026 Academic year, with a major in any Agriculture or life science major. For more Information email Meghan at [Meghan.koch@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:Meghan.koch@ia.nacdnet.net) Or call us at 319-824-3634.

## Award Winner



Pictured are Steve Henze and Joan Meester, they received a Environmental Leader award at the Iowa State Fair. If you see them make sure to congratulate them on a well deserved award!

# Innovative Saturated Waterway Removes Nitrates

Adapted from a story published in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, September 6, 2024

Grundy County Farmer and retired Environmental Specialist, Clark Porter, has volunteered his land for a study in an innovative new practice, a saturated waterway. Over the last decade, to address nutrient losses, Porter has planted cover crops, converted to 100% no-till, installed filter strips and saturated buffers on his land near Reinbeck. Porter met a researcher from the University of Iowa, State Geologist Keith Schilling, and decided to try Schilling's idea on a functional Iowa crop farm.

Scientists have known for years that saturating sediments in drainageway reduces the nitrates in the groundwater. The challenge with this practice, though, is learning to how safely saturate the soil and still provide protection from erosion and allow for normal farming opportunities. The researchers, through a partnership between the University of Iowa and Iowa State University, have developed a "stair-stepping" technique that slows water as it flows through the drainage tile underneath the grassed waterway. The water goes through "check dams" that control the force of the water as it moves downhill. The system is meant to be passive, but in times when field operations need to be done, it can be over-ridden by removing the gates in a control box.

Despite a very wet spring, Porter did not notice any damage done to the waterway with scouring or field equipment. The site is being monitored by staff from ISU's Iowa Learning Farms to test the water quality from beginning to end in the system.

Right: Researchers monitor water quality test wells on the farm located south of Reinbeck on W Avenue.



## SWCD Prairie Remnant Rejuvenated With Late Spring Burn



Former Fairfield Creamery Site— situated at the northeast corner of 120th St. and T Ave. east of Stout.

The Grundy Soil & Water Conservation District owns a 0.25 acre prairie in Fairfield Township that is thought to be a potential remnant prairie. It has been overtaken with snakegrass and brome. In order to rejuvenate the native species present, a late spring burn was prescribed. On April 15, 2024, volunteer commissioners Steve Henze and Don Davidson were able to complete the burn that successfully suppressed the brome grass and allowed natives to bloom.

An inventory of species this summer was conducted by District Intern, Ethan Meyer, and this is what he found:

**Natives:** Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Black Eyed Susan, Milkweed, Rattlesnake Master, Saw Tooth Sunflower, Canada Goldenrod, and Elderberry

**Nuisance plants :** Equisetum, Stinging Nettle, Ragweed, and Hedge Bindweed

**Non native species:** Brome Grass, Wild Parsnip, Queen Ann's Lace, Alfalfa, and Yellow Sweet Clover



# FY2024 Accomplishments & SWCD Financials

## State Cost Share Programs

### Iowa Financial Incentives Program: Cost Share

- SFY24 Allocation \$18,223.00
- Recalled \$16,441.00
- Spent/Obligated \$1,782.00
- Balance June, 30 2024 \$0 .0

### Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: Forestry/Native Grasses

- SFY23 Obligated Carryover \$1,600.00
- SFY24 Allocation \$2,590.53
- Recalled \$600.53
- Spent/Obligated \$3,590.00
- Balance June, 30 2024 \$0 .0

### Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: Practices

- SFY23 Obligated Carryover \$4,430.00
- SFY24 Allocation \$7,789.12
- Recalled \$10,619.12
- Spent/Obligated \$1,600.00
- Balance June, 30 2024 \$0 .0

### Practices Applied to the Land From all Cost-share Sources

- Cover Crop **13,022.31ac**
- No-Till/Strip Till **160 ac**
- Windbreaks **2**

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT Grundy Soil & Water Conservation District State Fiscal Year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
Commissioners Expense Income	\$ 2,750.00
BHCWS 24	\$ 69,852.74
Grundy Co Supervisors Allocation	\$ 4,000.00
Black Hawk Creek Travel Training	\$ 521.60
Black Hawk Creek Info/Ed	\$ 611.75
Black Hawk Creek Supplies	\$ 330.00
Black Hawk Creek Water Monitoring	
Black Hawk CPA Fees/LattaHarris	
Transfers	\$ 38,209.27
Interest	\$ 14.00
BHCWS 21 WQI	\$ 21,606.00
Conservation Club	\$ 3,680.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,834.30
Tree Sales	\$ 6,896.41
Voided checks	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 153,306.07</b>

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
Commissioner Expenses	\$ 6,645.24
Prior FY Commissioner Expenses	
480 employee	\$ 4,996.70
Bank Service Fees	
CPA Fees	\$ 3,262.49
Donations	\$ 468.48
Dues Not Comm Eligible	
ISU Foundation - Water Rocks	\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,940.64
Sales Tax	\$ 309.90
Scholarships	\$ 1,500.00
Subscriptions	
Tree Sales	\$ 3,542.88
Water Monitoring Equipment	
Black Hawk Creek Info/Ed	\$ 566.75
Black Hawk Creek Supplies	\$ 775.40
Black Hawk Creek Water Monitoring	
Black Hawk Watershed Payroll	\$ 46,854.25
Black Hawk Creek Travel/Training	\$ 523.40
Payroll taxes/contributions	\$ 29,986.98
Voided Checks	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 102,373.11</b>

Beginning balance July 1, 2023	\$ 11,301.22
Receipts	\$ 153,306.07
Total Receipts	\$ 164,607.29
Less Total Expenditures	\$ 102,373.11
Balance June 30, 2024	<b>\$ 62,234.18</b>

# 2023 Conservation Club Members

**Triple E Farms**

**Grundy Center Garden Club**

**Richard & Yvonne Bertram**

**Jon & Theresa Keninger**

**James Everts**

**Rosemary Sicard**

**Clark Porter**

**Karl Strohbehm Farms**

**Russell Proffit**

**Jeff Freshwater**

**Kevin & Marie Fiscus**

**Dr. Robert and Anne Morrison**

**Dennis & Sheila Harms**

**Elmaur Farms, Inc**

**Darwin & Janet Heltibridle**

**Don Davidson**

**Richard Bertram**

**Jon & Teresa Kenninger**

**Harlen Persinger**

**Mike & Karen Freed**

**Kruger Farms Inc**

**Laura Brown**

**Marcia Heronimus**

**Shellstead Farm**

**Ronald Bloxham**

**Mike Lovell**

**James Smoldt**

**Charles Smoldt**

**Brickman Farm Co.**

**Storjohann Farms**

**Bonnie Beving**

**Jerry & Sue Green**

**Linda McMartin**

**Phil & Diane Schildroth**

**Scott Steinfadt**

**James Ahrenholz**

**Harlyn & Karen Riekema**

**Mary Katzer**

**John Oltman**

**Esther Meyer**

**Foxdale Farms Ltd.**

**Mark & Dixie Schildroth**

**Robert & Darla Whitmire**

**Greg & Brenda Shine**

**Noel & Dottie Rewerts**

**Beth Thompson**

**Gallentine Land Co.**

**James Morrison**

**Martin & Jeanette Broer**

**Kadner Farms Inc.**

**Frazer Farms LLC**

**Thelma Ruter**

**Vernon & Grant Johnson**

**Jean & James Doorley**

**Melvin & Janet Schildroth**

**William Janssen**

**D&K Sents**

**Joe Walton**

**Russ Miller**

**Neher Acres Inc**

**Tama SWCD**

**Justin & Kimberly Lynch**

**K&A Acres**

**Dave & Sara Riley**

**August & Rita Geisinger**

**Jack Zern**

**Diane Husak**

**Brian Kirkdorffer**

**Wayne Aukes**

**Barb Rose**

**Brad & Lynn Ohrt**

**Grain Farms Inc**

**Jim & Cindy Richtsmeier**

**Edward & Gayl Juhl**

**Donald McCaw**

**Mark Buskohl**

**Owen Corporation**

**Katharyn Bine**

**Wayne Holland**

**Stephen Blair**

**Jack Fogt**

**Ted & Kim Junker**

# \*Women Land And Legacy\*

**\*SAVE THE DATES \***

**Women, Land, & Legacy Winter Virtual Lunch & Learn Series:**

**Farm Finances**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024 12PM-1PM**

**Ag Decision Maker – Ann Johanns Extension Program Specialist**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024 12PM-PM**

**Farm financial overview– Joseph Lensing ISUEO Farm**

**Business Management Specialist**

**Tuesday January 14, 2025 12PM–1PM**

**2025 Farm Economics & Tax Considerations- Alexis**

**Stevens ISUEO Farm Business Management Specialist**

**RSVP to Jenna at [jenna.curran@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:jenna.curran@ia.nacdnet.net) to get the Link! The link to access the recording will be distributed on district websites and the WLL Facebook page. Call our off ice if you would like more information about this virtual event.**



**On July 23rd our Grundy, Black Hawk, Butler, & Bremer WLL chapters held our first event at Engelbrecht Flower Farm. We had a wonderful turnout and learned so much! A huge thank you to Trish and her family for having us! We are excited to plan more events like this in the future! Stay tuned!**





# Grundy County Fair Biologicals Workshop

On Thursday, July 18, 2024, the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District, in collaboration with Practical Farmers of Iowa, held a Biologicals workshop at the Grundy County Fair. There were 3 speakers that spoke at the event, each giving their own perspective and knowledge on the products that they have been using/ selling.



Pictured is  
Ryan Gibbs



Pictured above is Kyle Schnell



**\*FYI\***

To protect trees from deer damage, consider these methods:

- **Individual Protection:** Use tree tubes, cages, or other barriers to shield individual trees.
- **Fencing:** Surround larger plantings with high-tensile, electric, or barbed wire fencing.
- **Disturbance:** Employ lights, sounds, or other unusual activities to deter deer.

**Repellents:** Apply commercial repellents, dryer sheets, or human-like scents.

For optimal protection, **combine multiple strategies.**



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

## Commissioners

*Fred Abels: Chair*

*John Oltman: Vice Chair*

*Don Davidson: Treasurer*

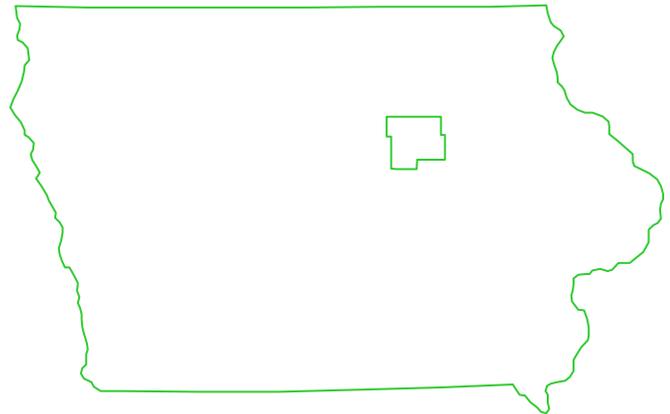
*James Everts: Co treasurer*

*Steve Henze*

## Assistant Commissioners

*Crystal Davis*

*Hartley Meyer*



## Staff

*Courtney Myers (District Conservationist)*

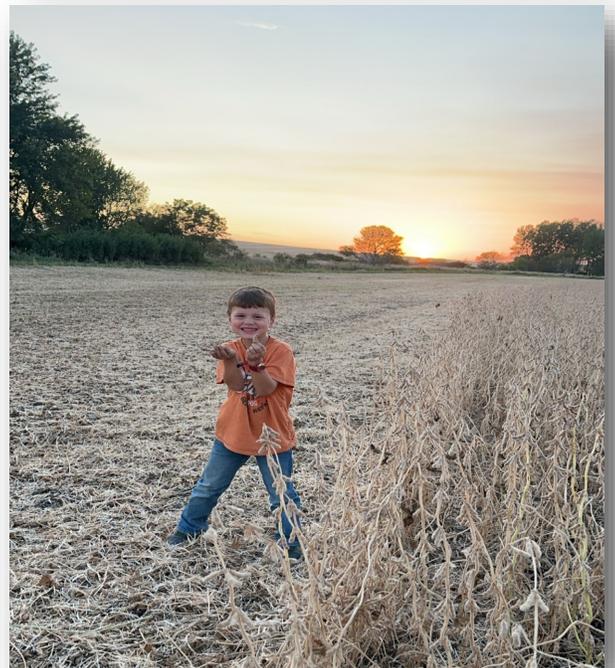
*Meghan Koch (Conservation Assistant)*

*Hunter Filloon (Soil Conservation technician)*

*Heather Kitzman (Team Resource Conservationist)*

*Faith Luce (BHCW Project Coordinator)*

**Wishing everyone a safe  
and bountiful Harvest!!**



Grundy County Soil and  
Water Conservation District  
805 W 4th Street, STE #2  
Grundy Center, IA 50638

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## 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.*

