



Year in Review 2020

## Progress Report

### Iowa Financial Incentive Programs FY20

- \$300,075 completed projects
- Grassed Waterways: 47.5 acres
- Windbreak: 1
- Field Borders: 95.6 acres
- Urban Soil Quality Restorations: 20,000 square feet
- No-Till: 301.4 acres
- Cover Crops (WQI) planted fall 2020: 5,481 acres
- Cover Crops (WQI) planted FY14 to FY21: 17,435 acres

### Silver Creek Watershed Project

- Project funded since 2012 by EPA, IA DNR Section 319, WSPF & WIRB
- Brook Trout reintroduced in 2017 & documented natural reproduction in 2019
- \$6,614,003 in conservation practices with 140 cooperators
- Streambank Stabilization installed: 3,285 feet
- 33% of cropland in watershed area seeded to 6,067 ac. cover crops last 3 years
- 12% of the watershed seeded to native CRP on 2,446 ac. (151 contracts)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 5,468 acres
- Grassed Waterways constructed since 2012: over 30 miles
- Septic System upgrades with IA DNR Sec. 319 funding: 22
- Urban Infiltration practices completed as Soil Health Restoration: 8

### Turkey River Watershed

- WQI Implementation project began in July 2020
- Over \$1,000,000 during Demonstration Project in 2019
- Since July 2020, over \$700,000 obligated for practices
- 13% of crop acres, approx. 6,120 ac. in watershed seeded to Cover Crops
- Shallow Wetland creations in 2020: 5
- Streambank Stabilization constructed in 2019/2020: 3,840 ft
- Streambank Stabilization applications on file: 18

### Collaborative Projects with NRCS

- Grassed Waterways installed 2020: 90 projects, 30+miles
- Surveyed in 2020 for 2021 construction: 40 miles
- CSP 2020 State rankings:
  - #1 for total contracts (150 contracts totaling \$5,201,822)
  - #1 for total contract acres (57,916 ac)
- EQIP 2020 State rankings:
  - #1 for total contact dollars (\$2,919,783)
  - #3 for total contract acres (15,074 ac)

### CRP Practices Installed in 2020

- Filter Strips: 31 contracts = 207.07 acres
- Wetlands: 22 contracts = 216.95 acres
- Waterways: 54 contracts = 103.81 acres
- Tree Planting: 6 contracts = 82.2 acres
- Pollinator/Upland Habitat: 154 contracts = 1,512.21 acres
- #5 in the State for active CRP contracts



Streambank stabilization



Brown Trout sampled during electro-fishing in Stone Creek (major tributary to Turkey River)



Surveying completed Grassed Waterway



Winter Rye Cover Crop

*There are financial assistance programs available to build your conservation projects, with varying cost share rates. For more information, please call (563) 547-3040 ext. #3, or go to [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) or [www.howardswcd.org](http://www.howardswcd.org)*

## Employee Spotlight

**Neil Shaffer** was honored as the **2020 Watershed Coordinator of the Year** by the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance. Shaffer received the top honor for his multitude of contributions and steadfast dedication to improving water quality. Shaffer's leadership began when he was hired by the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District 19 years ago. When asked what he enjoys most about his work, Shaffer mentions four things. First is bringing back the trout. Second is working with dairy farmers on manure handling and nutrient management along with building waste storage. Third is seeing the improvement in soil health that follows the use of cover crops and CRP native seeding. And last but not least, Shaffer enjoys working with interns, including four last year. *(This is an excerpt of the original article; to read the full article, visit [www.iowaagwateralliance.com](http://www.iowaagwateralliance.com)).* In addition, Neil also received the **2020 Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award**. This national recognition was presented by The Soil and Water Conservation Society during their annual meeting in July. The award states "In recognition of individuals who work on the ground to provide direct and personal delivery or conservation planning and technical assistance." Neil stated he shares these awards with all the land owners and operators who have applied hundreds of conservation practices to their land, and with an amazing team of coworkers in the Cresco field office.



**Sam Franzen** graduated from Upper Iowa University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 2017. After college he worked as a watershed coordinator for the Winneshiek SWCD for three years. Sam joined our team in June 2020 as an NRCS Soil Conservationist. He said his favorite part about his job is meeting with farmers to look at areas on their farm where they want to make improvements. Sam enjoys bow hunting, fly fishing, and taking his dog Odin for long walks on short beaches.

**Jess Stevens** also joined our team in June 2020 as an NRCS Soil Conservationist. He enjoys being able to assist and work with local farmers by promoting different conservation practices. He attended Vermilion Community College in Ely, MN and achieved an AAS majoring in Watershed Science. He also achieved a BS from UW-Stevens Point, WI majoring in Water Resources, minoring in Soil Science and completing a Wetland Certification. Jess enjoys outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, canoeing, golfing and camping.



**Field Office Staff L-R:** Dalton Nelson (HSWCD), Ryan Steffen (HSWCD), Dakota Rasmusson (HSWCD), Hunter Slifka (HSWCD), Corey Brink (NRCS), Laura Ellingson (HSWCD), Neil Shaffer (HSWCD), Shannon Hurd (IDALS), Sam Franzen (NRCS), Jess Stevens (NRCS), Derek Grube (NRCS)

## 2020 Conservation Scholarships



Hope Dohlman attends Iowa State University and is majoring in Animal Science/ Pre-Veterinary Medicine.



Emily Reinhart attends Northeast Iowa Community College and majors in Ag Business and Beef Science Technology.

Scholarship information and application forms can be picked up from our office or online at: [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org) (High School seniors) or [www.howardswcd.org](http://www.howardswcd.org) (current College students)

## Attention Contractors

A list of contractors who do work or provide sales in Howard County for conservation practices is available to our customers online & in our office.

- Review your information at [www.howardswcd.org/contractors](http://www.howardswcd.org/contractors)
- Send corrections or additions to [Shannon.Hurd@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:Shannon.Hurd@ia.nacdnet.net)



**Commissioners L-R:** Bart Wilson, Harlan Hickler, Brian Hrdlicka, Kayla Sebastian, Mike Lewis  
Your locally elected Howard SWCD Commissioners provide local program guidance to solve natural resource concerns within the district. Public meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month.

# Booster Club Members FY2020

SAVERS \$25-\$49	SUSTAINERS \$50-\$99	STEWARDS \$100-\$UP
Adamec, Evelyn	Adams, Mike & Melissa	Bakken, Nancy & Rod
Brunner, Adolph & Carol Lou	Art's Milling Service Inc.	Baumann, Mark
Cannon Farms Inc.	Bronner, Brent & Patsy	Bouska, Amy
Carman, Eugene & Judy	Brush, Rick	Carroll Construction
Chapman, Harold & Julie	Christensen, Barry & Olivia	Chihak, Annette & Thomas
Christensen, Corwin & Dorene	Christensen, Steve & Rosalie	Cray, Thomas & Sheryl
Christensen, Kelly & Audrey	Dahlke, LeRoy & Janet	Dorothy Schmauss Family
Curtis Land Management	Dietzenbach, Dale & Julie	Drilling, Dorothy
Daley, Dave & Pam	Dietzenbach, James	Fend, Vic & Sharla
Dietzenbach, Dean	Dietzenbach, Kevin	Flugum, Ken & Janet
Drina, Dan	Dietzenbach, Robert	Gooder, Gary D.
Evelyn Andresen & Family	Drina, Richard	Gooder, Rosie
Ferrie, Denis	Ebertz Enterprises	Grover Farms
Flaherty, Robert	Fox, Mike & Marj	Grover, Kurt
Flugge, Beverly	Fritcher, Dave & Ruthie	Hickle, Harlan & Darlene
Franks, Richard & Yvonne	Goering, Elizabeth	Jestrab Excavating
Garmen Farm LLP	Heimerdinger, Gary & Sue	KMAX Farms LLC
Govern Farms & Homes	Hubka, Wilmer	Kruse, Bill & Pam
Grabau, Tim & Sheila	Jirak, Richard	Lane, Roger & S. Joanne
Haw, Jeff & Shirlee	Keune Farms	Ludwig Farms
Henry, Ted & Kathy	Kobliska, Joe	Mahr, Steve & Brooke
Hyberger, Ron & Donna	Larson, Gary & Joanne	Mayers Digging Co.
Kerian, Randy & Lori	Lauraine Miles Dinger Trust	Mehmert Tiling Inc.
Kruse, Dennis	Miller, Cathy	Meyer, Brandon & Alanda
L&H Nurseries LLC	Miller-Reis, Marilyn	Milz, Tom & Pat
Margaret L. Miller Irrvoc. Trust	Moser, Elaine & John	Moore Farms
Martinek, Bob	Mrachek, Mike & Joann	Murphy, Mark
McGrane Farms LLC	Myers, Gladys	Neubauer Farms
Neubauer, Lloyd	Myron, Irvin & Molly	Reicks, Ray
Pecinovsky, David & Connie	O'Byrne, John	Reis, Brandon & Jessica
Platte, Emil & Charlotte	O'Donnell & Mahoney Farms Inc.	Reis, John & Kay
Plumb, Robert & Joyce	Ollendick Farms	Reis, Ron & Marilyn
Praska, Sheldon & Mary	Prairie Ridge LLC	Riley, John & Talbott, Barbara
Reis, Jason & Jennifer	Reicks, Irven & Norma	Riley, Russ & Claudia
Roberson, John & Eileen	Rethamel, Eldred & Pat	Shatek, Tom & Pauline
Schmitt, Lavern V.	Rogne Spray	Sobolik, Jim & Sharon
Schroeder, Amy & Dan	Ruppert, Darwynn E.	Thomson, Scott & Stephanie
Shatek, Dan & Cathy	Schwade, Dale & Jeanine	Truman Rea, Nancy
Shatek, Roger & Lori	Shatek, John R.	Voyna, Al & Karen
Stevenson, Chuck & Tammy	Stark, Dean & Helen	Wacha Insurance- John J. Wacha III
Stevenson, Phyllis	Strike, Eldon & Janice	Wilson, Bart & Julie
Stevenson, Russ & Karen	Swetka, Ron & Joyce	Wolfe, James & Rockabrand, Janis
Thraener, Joe & Barb	Thiele, Trent & Kris	Zeimet, Francis
	Ullom, Bob & Becky	
	Ullom, Rick & Jane	

## 2020 Coloring Contest

The 3rd annual Coloring Contest was held for Howard County residents in PreK-6th grade. The following students were awarded a HSWCD drawstring backpack filled with conservation goodies:



Alli Burns

PreK-K category



Eleanor Ellingson

1st/2nd grade category



Lindsey Johnson

3rd/4th grade category

Entry forms can be found online at [www.howardswcd.org](http://www.howardswcd.org) and are due by May 1st

Watch your mailboxes for the **Howard Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report** in the Times Plain Dealer & TPD Extra .....coming soon!

**Total donated**

**\$8,465.00**

**Thank you!**



Howard  
**Soil & Water**  
 Conservation District

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Mission: To provide leadership and education for protecting, enhancing and utilizing the soil and water of Howard County, Iowa.

*The Howard Soil & Water Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

## Help Support Conservation in 2021

The Howard SWCD has been generously supported by its members since the district began the Booster Club in 1969. The Commissioners wish to thank all of the individuals and businesses who have generously donated over the years, and would appreciate your support again this year. You will receive a receipt for your donation. Along with standard operating costs, the following are made possible with your support:

- HSWCD Technicians and Interns
- Arbor Day Trees for Kids
- Natural Resources Day Outdoor Classroom
- Scholarships for Howard County High School seniors and current College students who pursue a degree in Conservation or Natural Resources
- Conservation Road Show of USDA and IDALS cost-shared projects in Howard Co.
- Awards for Outstanding Conservation Farmer Recognition & Coloring Contest winners

**2021 Booster Club Membership**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(as you would like it to appear in our report)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to "Howard SWCD"

**\*Please mail by June 15, 2021 to be counted as a FY21 donation**  
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Please correct my name and/or address on your mailing list  
 Please remove me from your mailing list



Levels of Support:	
Supporter	\$5 - \$24
Saver	\$25 - \$49
Sustainer	\$50 - \$99
Steward	\$100 - UP

**Thank you!**