

Conservation update



Year in Review 2023

Silver Creek Watershed Project

Project Coordinator: Neil Shaffer

- \$9.9 million in conservation practices with 185 cooperators
- Streambank Stabilization installed: 5,117 feet
- 60.5% of cropland in watershed area seeded to 9,150 acres cover crops
- 16.1% of the watershed seeded to native CRP on 2,729 acres (188 contracts)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 4,198 acres
- Grassed Waterways constructed since 2012: 33.5 miles
- Septic System upgrades with IA DNR319 funding: 26 since 2012
- Urban Infiltration practices completed as Soil Health Restoration: 113,630 square feet

Turkey River Watershed Project

Project Coordinator: Hunter Slifka

Project Technician: Riley Wilson

- \$6,027,395 obligated & implemented conservation
- 33% of cropland in watershed seeded to nearly 15,795 acres cover crops
- 13% of watershed enrolled into CRP = 5,965 acres
- Shallow Wetland creations: 15
- Streambank Stabilization constructed: 6,621 ft
- Beginning the process on 4 new CREP Wetland sites
- 33,762 total ac. of conservation out of 62,361 ac. watershed

CRP Practices Installed in 2023

- Filter Strips: 39 contracts = 549.67 acres
- Wetlands: 9 contracts = 23.85 acres
- Waterways: 69 contracts = 180.01 acres
- Tree Planting: 33 contracts = 212.10 acres
- Pollinator/Upland Habitat: 42 contracts = 1,160.00 ac
- Contour Buffers: 23 contracts = 99.42 acres
- Totals: 215 contracts = 2,225.05 acres
- #5 in the State for active CRP contracts

Ag waste system



Iowa Financial Incentive Programs FY23

- \$765,916 completed projects, \$373,314 cost share
- Grassed Waterways: 30.9 acres
- Windbreaks: 3
- Wetland Creations: 4.6 acres
- Conservation Cover: 1.0 acre
- Soil Quality Restorations: 55,600 square feet
- No-Till/Strip Till: 202.6 acres
- Septic Systems: 2
- Cover Crops fall 2022: 9,507.0 acres
- Cover Crops fall 2023: 10,366.4 acres

Collaborative Projects with NRCS

- Grassed Waterways installed 2023: 26 projects, 13.4 miles
- Grassed Waterways ready to build in 2024: 15 projects

Howard County's State NRCS Rankings 2023

Active EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

#1 for contract dollars	\$4,338,952
#1 for total acres	12,639.6 ac.
#1 for total contracts	81

New EQIP

#1 for contract dollars	\$1,879,359
#5 for total acres	2,862 ac.
#2 for total contracts	29

Active CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

#3 for contract dollars	\$2,984,700
#6 for total acres	30,486.7ac.
#5 for total contracts	81

New CSP

#27 for contract dollars	\$275,331
#19 for total contracts	7



Stream signage



No till and Cover crops

There are financial assistance programs available for your conservation projects with varying cost share rates. For more information: visit our office, call (563) 547-3040 ext. #3, or go to www.nrcs.usda.gov or www.howardswcd.org



2023 Conservation Scholarships

The Howard Soil & Water Conservation District awards scholarships to students who pursue a college education in conservation or agriculture and demonstrate leadership and scholastic achievement. A \$500 High School Senior scholarship was awarded to Ryan Wilson, son of Jeff & Traci Wilson. Two \$500 current College student scholarships were awarded to Gabe Grabau, son of Tim & Sheila Grabau, and Mitchel Marr, son of Mike & Sherry Marr. Congratulations to these deserving students!

Scholarship application forms can be found online at www.cdiowa.org (H.S. Seniors) and www.howardswcd.org (College students)



Ryan Wilson



Gabe Grabau



Mitchel Marr

Youth Mentoring & Outreach

- 70 3rd graders received Arbor Day Trees for Kids
- Natural Resources Day Outdoor Classroom held for 5th graders
- PreK-6th grade Coloring Contest
- Howard County Conservation's Outdoor Classroom for 4th graders
- NICC Environmental Studies class tours of Lake Hendricks and other practices in Howard County
- 1 youth volunteer totaling 8 hours

For more information, or to volunteer, contact the HSWCD office at (563) 547-3040 ext. #3



Field Office Staff L-R: Soil Conservationist Jess Stevens, Conservation Engineering Technician Shereen Ries*, District Conservationist Kathy Moen, Watershed Project Technician Riley Wilson, Conservation Assistant Shannon Hurd, Watershed Project Coordinator Neil Shaffer, District Technician Laura Ellingson, Summer Intern Ryan Steffen, Watershed Project Coordinator Hunter Slifka **Four-County Resource Team*



Commissioners L-R: Bart Wilson, Chas Malek, Brian Hrdlicka, Harlan Hickle, Kayla Sebastian

Your locally elected Howard SWCD Commissioners provide program guidance to solve natural resource concerns within the district. Public meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Booster Club Members FY 2023

SAVERS \$25-\$49	SUSTAINERS \$50-\$99	STEWARDS \$100-\$UP
<p>Alden, Shirley Andera, Dale & Lynette Anderlik, Robert Art Aberly Estate Barnes, Tom & Sue Cannon Farms Inc. Carman, Eugene & Judy Chapman, Harold & Julie Daley, William & Wilma Drtina, Dan Drtina, Dave & Patti Flaherty, Bob Flugge, Beverly Garmen Farm Govern Farms & Homes-Elaine Govern Henry, Ted & Kathy Hubka, Ken & Mary Hubka, Steve Kapler Farms Klobassa, Gary & Marilyn Koliha Farms Kruse, Dennis Kuhn, Carrie Lensing, Russell M.L. Farms LLC Martinek, Bob McGrane Farms LLC Pecinovsky, David & Connie Platte, Emil & Charlotte Plumb, Robert & Joyce Polashek, Ann Reinhart, Bill Roberson, John & Eileen Schmitt, Lavern & Jan Schroeder, Amy & Dan Shimek, Elva Stevenson, Phyllis Thraenert, Joe & Barb</p>	<p>Adams, Mike & Melissa Amundson, Lois Anderson, Gene & Susie Bronner, Brent & Patsy Chihak Family Farms Christensen, Barry & Olivia Christensen, Cory & Dorene Christensen, Dan & Sue Christensen, Steve & Rosalie Daley, David & Pamela Dietzenbach, Bob Dietzenbach, Dale & Julie Dietzenbach, James Dietzenbach, Joe Donel, Inc. Ferrie, Gary & Marti Fox, Mike & Marj Franks, Richard Grabau, Tim & Sheila Heimerdinger, Gary & Sue Hopkins, Gayl & Kathy Hubka, Loraine Hughes, James & Penny Jirak, Richard & Joyce Keune Farms Kleve, Roger & Elaine Kurash, Steve & Marianne Larson, Gary & JoAnne Lauraine Miles Dinger Trust Mahr, Steve & Brooke Malek, Chuck & Kathy Martinek, Marvin & Michelle Miller-Reis, Marilyn Mrachek, Mike & Joann Mrachek, Sylvester Natvig, Allan Neubauer, Lloyd Nibaur, Francis & Peggy O'Byrne, John & Joann O'Donnell & Mahoney Farm Inc. Ollendick, Ronald & Suzanne Prairie Ridge LLC Praska, Sheldon & Mary Reicks, Irven & Norma Reis, Josh & Amy Riley, Steve & Marge Schroeder, Alice Seele, Bill & Cheryl Shatek, Roger & Lori Sobolik, Chris & Lurleen Sobolik, Dave & Robin Stark, Helen Stevenson, Carol Stevenson, Chuck & Tammy Stevenson, Gene Stevenson, Russ & Karen Sweska, Randy & Megan Truka, Joe & Jane Ullom, Bob & Becky Ullom, Rick & Jane</p>	<p>Anderson, Karen Anonymous Anonymous Art's Milling Service Inc. Bakken, Rod & Nancy Balik, Merlin & Allison Bigalk, Manley Bruening Rock Products Inc. Butz, Marlin (Butch) Carroll, Bob & Jane Carter, Richard Chihak, Thomas & Annette Christensen, Kelly & Audrey Cole's 20-Michael Baumann Conant, Ingrid Cray, Tom & Sheryl Dahlke, LeRoy & Janet Dorothy Schmauss & Family Drilling, Dorothy DRSG Partnership Drtina, Gary J. Fenci, Victor & Sharla Flugum, Ken & Janet Fritcher, Dave & Ruthie Gassett, Gary & Elaine Gingerich, Eli & Irene Gooder, Gary & Sara Gooder, Rosie Grover Farms Hagen, Rick & Sandy Hagen, Rick & Sandy Hawbaker, Eric & Tammy Hickle, Harlan & Darlene Hove, Tommie & Maggie Hovey Enterprises Inc. Hrdlicka, Brian & Josie Hruska Farms Jestrab Excavating Johnson, Patrick & Sue Kerian, Randy & Lori KK Farm KMAX Farms LLC Kruse, Bill & Pam L&H Nurseries LLC Lane, Roger & Joanne Ludwig Farms M&C Reis Dairy Mahr, Mike & Gwen MarJo Farm Holdings LLC Matthias, Rob & Lori Mayer's Digging Co. McAllister Family Farms Mehmert Tiling Inc. Meyer, Harold Miller, Cathy Milz, Tom & Pat Moore Farms Murphy Farms Neubauer Farms Inc. Ollendick Farm LLC Rea, Nancy Reicks, Ray & Linnette Reis, Brandon & Jessica Reis, Jason & Jen Reis, John & Kay Reis, Ron & Marilyn Riley, John & Talbott, Barbara Riley, Russ & Claudia Schmitt, Bryan & Betty Schwade, Dale & Jeanine Shatek, Tom & Pauline Sobolik, Jim & Sharon Sobolik, Mel & Mardell Stevens, Paul & Connie Sweska, Ron & Joyce Voyna, Al & Karen Wilson, Bart & Julie Wilson, Jerry Wolfe, James & Rockabrand, Janis</p>
SUPPORTERS \$5-\$24		
<p>Young, Patricia</p>		
<h1 style="font-family: cursive;">Thank You!</h1>		
<p>~~ Please note ~~ Categories have been updated for 2024 (see back page)</p>		
Total donated	\$13,666.00	Thank you!

2023 Coloring Contest

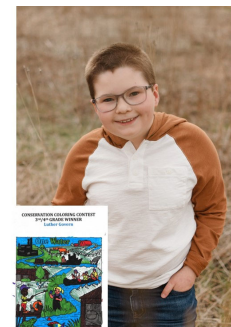
The annual Coloring Contest was held for children in PreK-6th grade. These students were awarded a HSWCD drawstring backpack filled with art supplies and conservation goodies:



Annie Riley
PreK - Kindergarten



Gabbie Gardner
1st - 2nd grade



Luther Govern
3rd - 4th grade



Lauren Baethke
5th - 6th grade

This year's entry form can be found online at:
www.howardswcd.org
and is due by May 1st



U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CRESCO, IA
52136
NON-PROFIT
PERMIT # 18

311 7th Street SW, Suite #2
Cresco, IA 52136
(563) 547-3040, ext. #3
www.howardswcd.org

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

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

Thank You for Supporting Conservation

The Howard SWCD has been generously supported by its members since 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 Agriculture
- **Awards** for Outstanding Conservation Farmers & Coloring Contest winners

2024 Booster Club Membership

Name: _____
(as you would like it to appear in our report)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ payable to "Howard SWCD"

<i>~ ~ Updated ~ ~</i>	
Levels of Support:	
Supporter	\$25 - \$49
Saver	\$50 - \$99
Sustainer	\$100 - \$149
Steward	\$150 - UP



Please mail before June 15th