



# DSC VOICE

## FROM THE STAFF, FOR THE STAFF

DECEMBER 2014

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE IDALS-DSC

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 5 World Soil Day
- 19 Pre-applications due for urban water quality demo projects

### JANUARY

- 13-15 New Commissioner Training (pg. 7)
- 20-22 New Commissioner Training (pg. 7)
- 28 CDI/SSCC Joint/Separate Board Mtgs
- 29 Conservation Partnership Day (pg. 7)

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Soil & Water Quality Funding Summit (pg. 3)
- 17-18 Cover Crops Iowa Conference [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)
- 29 Conservation Partnership

### FEBRUARY-MARCH:

- 9 Spring Regional Commissioner Mtgs

### MARCH

- 2-3 Iowa Water Conference <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iwc/> (pg. 2)
- 4 Project Coordinator statewide mtg
- 29 Conservation Partnership

### APRIL

- 13 Iowa Envirothon

**Questions on events?** Contact Jackie.Suckow@IowaAgriculture.gov

### CHECK OUT LOCAL EVENTS FROM:

Iowa Learning Farms

[www.extension.iastate.edu/iff](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/iff)

Practical Farmers of Iowa

[www.practicalfarmers.org](http://www.practicalfarmers.org)

Clean Water Iowa

[www.facebook.com/cleanwateriowa](https://www.facebook.com/cleanwateriowa)

Join our enewsletter list!

Email [cleanwater@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:cleanwater@iowaagriculture.gov)

TOP PHOTO:

**FALL CONSTRUCTION** This water and sediment control basin project in Fremont County will control a 60ft deep and 100ft wide classic gully/head cut. If left untreated, the gully would continue to cut uphill towards the farmstead. This project is funded by the Fremont SWCD, the Hungry Canyons Alliance,

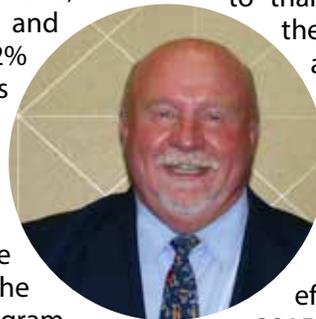
## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Jim Gillespie, DSC Director

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a "Happy and Safe Holiday Season". I want to thank you all for the work you have done this past year with all of our local, state and federal programs.

You've all stepped up and made some tremendous accomplishments working with our landowners, farmers and partners to put conservation on the land to help maintain our productivity and protect the environment.

In just the Iowa Financial Incentive Program (Cost Share) in 2014 we helped 2,382 Iowa landowners and farmers install 2,714 conservation practices (58% terraces, 13% management practices, 11% grade stabilization structures, 9% waterways 7% water and sediment basins and 2% other). Since 2008 this is the most conservation work done in any year and probably a record going back to 1973 when the cost share program started. With the help of the cost share program and contributions of landowners and farmers this shows that with our help, voluntary conservation can make positive improvements on the landscape.



We also saw more accomplishments with the Iowa Water Quality Initiative program. We saw more landowners and farmers participating and more partners helping and providing additional assistance with the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Need for additional technical assistance and some financial incentives stayed strong for practices that helped manage nutrients.

We saw more farmers implementing cover crops for the first time. There were 5 new demonstration projects selected that brought the total of demonstration projects to 13 in the 9 targeted HUC watersheds. This type of leadership by landowners and farmers is very important moving forward and shows the commitment of Iowans to strive to protect the environment and improve water quality.

These are just two examples of the things that you and our partners have accomplished this last year. So I want to thank you, the districts and their employees, USDA NRCS and all of their staff, the landowners and farmers, the contractors and other partners who helped protect Iowa's precious resources. Our challenge will be to continue these efforts moving forward in 2015, because our services are always needed and appreciated.

**-Jim Gillespie,**

Division of Soil Conservation Director



## IOWA WATER CONFERENCE

Plan Now to Attend the 2015 Iowa Water Conference

March 2-3, 2015  
Scheman Building  
ISU Campus, Ames, Iowa

**Currents and Currencies: Trends and Motivators for Better Water Management** is the theme for the 2015 Iowa Water Conference. There will certainly be something of interest for anyone involved with water in Iowa.

Plenary speaker Laura Johnson will clarify what is happening in the Lake Erie Watershed and the events

that occurred resulting in high Cyanobacteria levels in the source water for the City of Toledo in the summer of 2014.

John Royster with Big Muddy Workshop, Inc. will share his thoughts why rain water, a resource, becomes storm water, a nuisance.

Concurrent sessions are organized into several subject matter tracks including agriculture and the environment, stormwater, floodplains, watershed management and current research and technologies.

More information will be posted at: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iwc/> when available.

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT TRACK:

- Perennial easements for improved water quality: Agroforestry opportunities—Jeff Jensen
- Farmer-led efforts to implement the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy—Sean McMahon
- Nitrate export from drainage districts in the Lyons Creek Watershed—Charles Ikenberry, Keith Shilling and Chris Jones
- Conservation drainage: Innovative drainage concepts that provide win-win solutions—Chuck Brandel
- Iowa Water Quality Initiative—Targeted demonstration watershed projects—Matt Lechtenberg and Michelle Elliott

**Registration opens in January!**



**State Revolving Fund (SRF) Video** of Howard County Dairy Farmer Tim Huhe, why he used SRF loans and what it's done for his farm. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3f68HAXqxE>

## FIELD SERVICES BUREAU UPDATE

Greetings and Happy Holidays to all! I hope this message finds you and your families well. I'm a firm believer that the holiday season comes at the perfect time of year in Iowa. The presence of family and friends (in-laws included) during the holiday season always makes the looming threat of a long winter a little warmer and easier to embrace. Yes, even this year! Old Man Winter has arrived, and for most people, a bit early for their liking. On the bright side, it's not very often you get a chance to ice fish or sled on Thanksgiving.

The early onset of winter has put most SWCDs and staff a little (maybe a lot) behind schedule. Historically, the second quarter (Oct.-Dec.) is our bread and butter time where we get many of our obligated cost share funds expended. Probably not the case this year! With the late Fall, landowners were frantically working to wrap up harvest when the first arctic blast hit the state and some contractors hardly got their dozer blades dirty before the frost set in. The good news is

that not all counties are frozen out and a brief reprieve in the weather has allowed some construction to resume. For those of you that are shut down or are behind schedule, I would encourage you to make the most of the spring and summer construction seasons. Although we had an historic construction season last spring, you can never predict the weather so the summer construction period is a great way to spread the workload.

This year we will be implementing the recall of unobligated funds on December 31, 2014. This practice is not new to most of our seasoned staff as the Division did this annually a few years back. The goal is to redistribute unobligated funds sooner (December rather than June) in an effort to get the dollars on the ground in a more timely manner. Districts will need to have 75% of their existing cost share funds obligated and demonstrate they have the ability to spend the funds during the spring construction season.

As you all know, we have implemented many changes in regards to how districts manage their funds and the

secretary's role in those efforts. We have one more process that we will be implementing after January. The Field Reps in cooperation with CDI and the Accounting Bureau, will begin following up with the SWCDs to ensure that they understand the reasons why we had to implement these changes and to ensure their financial policies and procedures meet the auditors recommendations. Our goal is to follow up 1/3 of the districts each year. We will be discussing this process with the commissioners at the spring regional meetings and also emphasizing the fiduciary responsibilities of the commissioners at the upcoming new commissioner training sessions in January. We hope this effort will be beneficial for the SWCDs, commissioners, and the Department moving forward.

In closing, I want to thank-you all for your hard work and dedication to the Department and Divisions mission and I wish each and every one of you a warm and Happy Holiday season!

**-Vince Sitzmann,**  
Field Services Bureau Chief

## URBAN CONSERVATION UPDATE

A primary focus for the Urban Conservation program this year has been working with State Revolving Fund Sponsored Projects. Since the beginning of the program in 2013, \$23 million dollars has been obligated towards 39 different projects in communities across Iowa.

With the majority of these communities electing to use dollars on urban practices, Urban Conservationists have been busy working to plan and implement projects. These range from small localized urban practices to large scale streambank stabilizations in urban waterways.

The success of the program wouldn't be possible without the partnership of IDALS, Iowa DNR, and Iowa Finance Authority.

DSC recently requested applications for a new Water Quality Initiative Grant program for urban conservation



Erosive Gully Site, Kingsley



Alley Retrofit Site, Clinton

projects. The request marks the first time IDALS has allotted money specifically for urban practices. The main goal is funding urban projects that demonstrate nutrient reductions to water resources across Iowa.

Priority is planned for applicants that install high visibility practices in a timely manner that educate the public about the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Communities or Districts seeking assistance on grants are encouraged to contact an Urban Conservationist to begin the process.

Per a memo released by IDALS in

August, districts are now required to contact an Urban Conservationist for a plan review of all urban practices prior to being brought to a SWCD meeting for approval of cost share assistance.

Reviews will comprise complete design review checklists to be attached to the plan. Please feel free to contact your regional Urban Conservationist for assistance with this review.

**-Derek Namanny,**  
Urban Conservationist

## WATER RESOURCES BUREAU UPDATE

The Water Resources Bureau has refilled the vacant Environmental Specialist Senior position in the Central Office. Judie Krebsbach (pictured) has transferred into the bureau from the Mines and Minerals Bureau and will serve as the project manager for Watershed Planning and Development Grants and the CREP Field Coordinator. Judie's first day in the bureau was on October 24 and she is currently working with other CREP staff to transition into her new role with IDALS.



Requests for Applications have kept districts and project coordinators very busy over the last several weeks, with solicitations underway or completed in the Watershed Planning and Development Grant program,

the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) grant program, and the Water Quality Initiative Targeted Demonstration Grant program.

Additionally, a new Water Quality Initiative grant application is open, with project pre-proposals for Urban Demonstration projects due in December.

Attendance was strong at the four fall project coordinators' meetings held throughout the state in October and November. Meetings were held in Clayton, Adair, Hamilton, and Washington counties, giving coordinators an opportunity to discuss project concerns with DSC and DNR staff, hear presentations from coordinators and partners on current projects, and to receive updates on state and federal initiatives. I would like to thank all of the project coordinators and field staff for your participation in these meetings and

for providing constructive feedback to us on ways to operate our programs more efficiently.

In partnership with Iowa DNR and USDA-NRCS, IDALS is hosting a **Soil and Water Quality Funding Summit** on Friday, February 6, 2015 in the Wallace Building Auditorium. The event will provide an opportunity for partners to provide information on the competitive funding programs available for soil conservation and water quality in Iowa, including presentations on application and funding requirements, the role of other partners in planning and implementing projects, and opportunities for potential applicants to bring questions to our agencies and our partners. The event will run from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and will not carry a registration cost. We will follow up with additional details but mark your calendars for this important training opportunity!

**-Jake Hansen,**  
Water Resources Bureau Chief

# MINES & MINERALS BUREAU UPDATE

Janssen AML Reclamation Project  
To be continued.....

As you may recall, you were introduced to the Janssen AML reclamation project two years ago in an article printed in the DSC Voice. At the time of the article the mass grading was nearly complete thanks to an innovative contractor with specialized equipment and a stretch of good weather. Roughly 536,000 cubic yards of spoil material was re-graded as part of the effort to mitigate hazardous features left behind from past coal mining.

Moreover, the project featured an abridged version of the Carlson Natural Stream Regrade design, a.k.a. "squiggly ditch", and was the first attempted on an Iowa AML project. Similarly, a natural land form design was tried on the slopes along the north side of the stream. To the south was a more traditional design with graded terraces outletting to a rock rip-rap letdown channel.

M&M staff, the design engineer, and landowner recently met on site to examine the outcome and evaluate the design two years in.



The rest of the story.....

Efforts to mimic nature makes sense for obvious reasons. However, doing so is not as easy as it sounds. The results at the Janssen AML site are mixed, but mostly positive. The landowner, an admitted skeptic, informed our team that the squiggly ditch had been tested multiple times with large rainfall events over the past two years and had performed surprisingly well. His only concern was a perceived ponding of water directly above the site and into the county culvert.

Concerns regarding how to tie new channels and sub-channels into an existing landscape are challenging. The traditional response of terraces does shorten slope length while controlling runoff, but often require extra maintenance since the material used for construction is extremely poor. The design engineer is more optimistic with natural landform design and credits impressive results

at the Judge AML project to be the direct result of lessons learned on the Janssen site.

Overall, M&M staff recognize that natural landform design is a paradigm shift from reclamation as usual and understand that given enough time and refinement it may actually reduce the need for repair projects and lessen maintenance requirements by landowners.

Without a doubt it is a work in progress. A more comprehensive natural landform design by another consulting firm is being used at the Teach AML reclamation project and is showing great promise despite the absence of a permanent seeding which should only make performance better.

For now, we will have to wait, watch, and see.

More later....

**-Randy Cooney,**  
Environmental Specialist

## Registration Open!

A forum for innovative and successful cover crop and soil health management.

Register at [www.swcs.org/LSIACC](http://www.swcs.org/LSIACC)



Questions contact [events@swcs.org](mailto:events@swcs.org)  
or call 515-289-2331 ext. 112.



## OUTREACH UPDATE

I've spent this fall working with many of you on creating logos, posters and signs. Reminder: if you are interested in design help on something, shoot me an email and I'll let you know when I can have it done.

I've seen great outreach projects from many of you. Thank you for keeping outreach in mind as it's always a busy time for conservation.

One more reminder, it's great when I receive emails on what you've been up to in regards to local outreach. Your yearly outreach projects can be another's new local outreach tradition, so share what you're up to!

If you need some inspiration, contact me and I can help brainstorm ideas on what would be a good next step for your community.

**-Jackie Suckow,**  
Communications & Outreach Coordinator

## Q&A FROM LATEST QUALITY STEERING TEAM (QST) MEETING

**CONCERN:** Some SWCDs had concerns about bonding issues.

**ANSWER:** Jim Gillespie is working with CDI, Attorney General, and others. They are close to figuring out a bond protection service to all SWCDs.

**CONCERN:** Question about DCs not having access to FARMS.

**ANSWER:** DCs do have access to FARMS in read-only format. DC's may not know this. Secretaries could possibly train DCs. DCs can be reminded about this access during DC meetings.

**CONCERN:** Question about SWCDs checking State cost share applications annually to ensure landowners are still needing cost share. Some projects are on the books for many months and landowners sometime build them on their own or lose interest.

**ANSWER:** SWCDs are supposed to clean up files annually to make sure individuals still want/need cost share. Cost share wait times should be communicated with applicants at time of sign up.

**CONCERN:** SWCD's inability to hold conference calls (it is supposed to be NRCS only).

**ANSWER:** SWCDs should be able to use the phones for approving cost share, but not for District fundraising, etc...

**CONCERN:** Lack of organization on information/specifications on cover crops. It should be located in one location to make it easier for FO staff to locate.

**ANSWER:** NRCS updates each practice every 5 years and they are located in EFOTG and sharepoint.

**CONCERN:** Possible need for alert and lock down training because FO staff is unaware of policies and procedures for office safety.

**ANSWER:**

Can use AgLearn training for this. Its up to the FO staff because it is not mandatory at his time. FO staff should have a plan and review it as needed.

**COMMENT:** A SWCD has a terrace maintenance information (quick) sheet. It seems helpful because it has photos and has a clear description of maintenance expectations/ agreement. Many agreed that it seemed very helpful, but this sheet should not replace the formal maintenance agreement provided in NRCS practice standards.

## QST MEMBERS

If you have questions or concerns that you would like discussed and answered at the next DSC-Quality Steering Team meeting, contact one of the QST members.

### CURRENT QST MEMBERS

Jim Gillespie  
Jake Hansen  
Tarrita Spicer  
Barb Stewart  
Zach DeYoung  
Gordy Miller  
Amber Kenan  
Sharon King  
Tracy Bruun  
Sara Klindt  
Amy Bouska  
Phil Patterson  
Bobby Kuennen  
Brandon Dittman

## FALL PHOTOS



## NEW EMPLOYEES

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Rebekah Benson  
SIOUX COUNTY SWCD

Hi! My name is Rebekah. I am the new State Technician in Sioux County. I grew up on an acreage near Danbury, Iowa where I helped with the family gardens and was involved in 4-H and FFA. I attended Dorst College in Sioux Center, Iowa and graduated this past May with a degree in Environmental Science. Upon graduation I moved to Orange City where I was the IDALS intern for the Sioux County field office. I enjoy bird watching, gardening, crafting, and just spending time with my family.

Going on trips with my family and with FFA Chapter sparked my interest in learning about the environment. It was those experiences that led me towards a career in conservation; so that I might help others learn about and appreciate the environment as well. I am thankful for this new opportunity and look forward to assisting Sioux County.



Robert Gray  
PLYMOUTH COUNTY SWCD

Hi my name is Rob Gray. I was fortunate enough to grow up on a small acreage just outside of Sioux City, Iowa. It was there where I was introduced to many things in the outdoors, like hunting, fishing, and taking care of the land. My parents are hobby farmers and they taught me the responsibilities of raising livestock and growing crops on our acreage.

Since I was a kid, I have had a passion for the land, and I knew I wanted to have a career in protecting it. I went to college at Upper Iowa University for Conservation Management, where I gained valuable knowledge and experience for soil and water conservation. After college I was able to gain more valuable experience with land management and conservation with organizations like Woodbury County Conservation Board and Pheasants Forever.

Last June, I started my career as a State Soil Conservation Technician in the USDA office in Le Mars, Iowa. I feel very fortunate to have finally found a career with IDALS. I look forward to working with landowners in Plymouth County to help protect and improve their soil and water quality.



Barb Schau  
LEE COUNTY SWCD

Hi – My name is Barb Schau and I am a lifelong resident of Lee County, Iowa. I'm the new state secretary in Lee County. I was born and raised on a farm north of Montrose and when I got married I moved 20 miles north to my husband, Leon's family farm. An interesting fact, both of the family farms that I am involved in have been in the family since before Iowa became a state. My husband and I operate a row crop and cow/calf operation in northwest Lee County. I have two daughters attending college: Hannah – a senior at Iowa State and Emma – studying radiology at Indian Hills.

I attended Central Lee High School and then furthered my education at southeastern Community College in Keokuk, Iowa studying accounting. Before working for IDALS/DSC, I worked as a secretary for our local school district and for Iowa State University-Lee County office. I am also involved with several organizations with the Central Lee Schools and on the parish council of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

I enjoy being outside and fall is the best season ever. My sister and I both have large gardens, so we love to can pizza sauces, juices, jams and jellies, etc. I also enjoy sewing and baking. One of my favorite things to do is to use something old (blanket, etc.) and try to make something new from it. What I like to most of all is to spend time with my family and my extended family. For the most part, we all live within 30 miles of each other!

I am thoroughly enjoying my job at Lee County and look forward to helping with projects and their producers in our county.

## GUEST ARTICLE: SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Iowa's Source Water Protection (SWP) program is voluntary and works to assist communities in decreasing contaminant risk to their public water supply through technical planning. The Iowa DNR SWP Program coordinator assists a local Iowa community to first develop a local SWP planning team. The local SWP planning team includes, among other stakeholders, landowners/operators, conservation agencies/groups, ag retailers, water utility staff, city officials, and local citizens.



The program's goal is to protect and sustain the community's drinking water source through local ownership of their SWP project.

The state's SWP program works with the community SWP team to conduct a hydro-geological site investigation within the municipal well's capture zone. The Iowa DNR SWP coordinator utilizes the site investigation results to assist the local SWP team in developing a viable SWP action plan. The plan includes identifying the priority areas to install best management practices (BMPs). These BMPs can include but are not limited to; cover crops, wetlands, native grasses, buffers, etc. and are proven to decrease non-point source risk to water quality.

In addition, the SWP program assists in identifying resources for implementation of the SWP Plan. The SWP Plan and site

investigation report can be utilized by the local community in development of grants to obtain resources for BMP implementation. Lastly, the SWP program includes evaluation of implementation activities overtime to determine the reduction in risk due to SWP efforts.

### A local SWP project example Elliott, Iowa

In Elliott, Iowa the local SWP team met, a site investigation was conducted, a SWP plan was created, resources were identified and grants were received. As a result, a wetland was installed to aid in decreasing nitrates to the municipal wells. In addition to the SWP goal of improved water quality, the SWP planning team included other practices to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Elliott. The video below describes the Elliott Wetland Project that was completed in May, 2014.

**-Rebecca Ohrtman**

SWP program coordinator, Iowa DNR

## NEW COMMISSIONER TRAININGS

Join CDI for Commissioner Training for newly elected Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners. Existing Commissioners are encouraged to attend also!

Hosted by Conservation Districts of Iowa, State Soil Conservation Committee, IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & USDA-National Resources Conservation Service.

RSVP as soon as possible to Conservation Districts of Iowa  
admin@cdiowa.org, 515.289.8300



Pizza will be served!

### DATES

**Tuesday, January 13, 4-7 PM**

Wapello County, **Great Prairie AEA**, 2814 N. Court Street, Ottumwa

**Wednesday, January 14, 4-7 PM**

Polk County, **Soil & Water Conservation Society**, 945 SW Road, Ankeny

**Thursday, January 15, 4-7 PM**

Cass County, **Pizza Ranch**, 1512 E. 7th Street, Atlantic

**Tuesday, January 20, 4-7 PM**

Buena Vista County, **Public Library**, 609 Cayuga St, Storm Lake

**Wednesday, January 21, 4-7 PM**

Bremer County, **Pizza Ranch**, 2020 W Bremer Ave, Waverly

**Thursday, January 22, 4-7 PM**

Johnson County, **Public Library**, 123 South Linn Street, Iowa City

## 2015 PARTNERSHIP DAY



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
**Conservation Partnership Day**  
State Capital Rotunda

DES MOINES, IOWA

**January 29, 2015**

**10:00am - 3:00pm**

See the agenda, visit [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org)

For any questions, contact  
Clare Lindahl  
[Clare.Lindahl@cdiowa.org](mailto:Clare.Lindahl@cdiowa.org) or  
Jackie Suckow  
[Jackie.Suckow@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Jackie.Suckow@iowaagriculture.gov)



## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER

### Corrine Jenkins

State Secretary, Montgomery SWCD



Corrine's work ethic, dedication to conservation, and strong desire to provide excellent customer service is apparent to everyone she works with. Whether she's answering questions from a customer at the counter or on the phone, helping a co-worker look up information on a project, or assisting the SWCD commissioners with regular business or district outreach efforts; she always stays positive and is extremely knowledgeable. Corrine truly is a super secretary and the key to our office having excellent employee morale and running efficiently. Without her we would all be lost.

-Submitted by Brandon Dittman & Montgomery SWCD

NOVEMBER

### Shannon Rusk

State Technician, Ringgold SWCD



Even though Shannon has had a tremendous work load (and a few grouchy landowners), she has maintained a positive attitude and always comes to work with a smile on her face. She is a joy to work with and is very willing to learn. Shannon has been committed to learning her duties and taking on the challenge of her state technician position from day one. She has strong work ethic and applies herself well, she takes pride in her work and assisting the producers of Ringgold County protect their farmland for future generations.

-Submitted by Becky Taylor & Brandon Dittman

Everyone needs to feel appreciated.

*I can live on a good compliment for two months.*

- Mark Twain

Do you have a colleague in the office doing an outstanding job? **Show your appreciation and nominate them for EOM today!**

(EMAIL YOUR FIELD REP. THE NOM. FORM)

## WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE UPDATE

By November 17th, pre-applications for additional water quality demo projects were received and are currently being reviewed. The deadline for urban water quality demo projects is December 19th.

Secretary Northey requested \$7.5 million for the Iowa Water Quality Initiative as a part of his fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2017 budget requests on December 1.

To stay up to date on the latest on water quality in the state, subscribe to Clean Water Iowa's newsletter and visit us on Facebook and Twitter.

Know a conservation success story? Submit yours or others' to [www.cleanwateriowa.org/stories](http://www.cleanwateriowa.org/stories)

**cleanwater**  
**IOWA**  
CLEANWATERIOWA.ORG

## RETIREMENT

### Mary Adkins Lee County SWCD



Mary Adkins worked for Division of Soil Conservation from June 29, 1984 – July 7, 2014 (**30 Years**) in the Lee County Service Center.

She was well respected among her peers and the customers that she served. Mary plans on traveling and fishing with her husband in retirement.



We wish Mary the best in her retirement!

**Editor:** Jackie Suckow, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, IDALS-DSC, 515-725-2853 or [Jackie.Suckow@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Jackie.Suckow@iowaagriculture.gov)

**Contributors:** Jim Gillespie, Jerry Neppel, Vince Sitzmann, Derek Namanny, Jake Hansen, Randy Cooney, Rebecca Ohrtman, and Clare Lindahl.



The Division of Soil Conservation is responsible for state leadership in the protection and management of soil, water and mineral resources, assisting soil and water conservation districts and private landowners to meet their agricultural and environmental protection needs.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

