



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

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MASTER MATRIX ADOPTED BY 86 COUNTIES TO EVALUATE ANIMAL CONFINEMENT SITES

MEDIA CONTACT: Tammie Krausman, DNR, at (515) 281-8382.

DES MOINES—A total of 86 counties have adopted resolutions to use the master matrix, a tool for counties to evaluate proposed sites of animal confinements.

Producers in counties that file the resolutions must meet higher standards than other permitted sites. They must earn points on the master matrix by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on the environment and the community.

“For counties that adopt the master matrix, this is an opportunity to have input on site selection, the type of structures and facility management being proposed,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR animal feeding program.

The deadline for enrolling in the program was Jan. 31 for counties to use the master matrix during the next 12 months.

The number of counties voting to use the master matrix since 2003 has ranged from 85 to 87, with most of the same counties participating each year. This is the first year Marshall County has adopted the resolution.

The following 13 counties did not adopt the master matrix: Boone, Decatur, Fremont, Iowa, Jasper, Lee, Mahaska, Plymouth, Shelby, Sioux, Wapello, Warren and Washington.

Producers and citizens can obtain more information and view a map of participating counties at www.iowadnr.gov/afo/matrix.html.

Only those producers who must get a construction permit are affected by the matrix.

Writer: Karen Grimes, Charissa Kaspar

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NINE MORE COMMUNITIES JOIN RIVER CLEANUP EFFORT

MEDIA CONTACT: Brandon Harland at (515) 281-3150 or at brandon.harland@dnr.state.ia.us.

DES MOINES — Volunteers from nine more Iowa communities now have an extra helping hand in their local cleanup efforts through mini-grants from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The mini-grants, each potentially worth up to \$1,000, are being awarded by the CLEAR (Community Leaders Enhancing Area River) mini-grant program and will be put toward local events dedicated to cleaning up small bodies of water. Volunteer efforts are scheduled to begin in April and continue throughout the state until mid-August. All grant funding has been made possible by REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection), a resource investment and allocation program administered by the Iowa DNR.

Through the CLEAR mini-grant program, a total of 18 groups and individuals have been chosen for 2006. Previous grants have made possible cleanup events in communities including: Des Moines, Dixon, Elkader, Oskaloosa, Carter Lake, Sioux City, Steamboat Rock, Eldora, Council Bluffs and Boone.

All cleanups are being performed as part of a statewide initiative with IOWATER, a volunteer water monitoring program for the Iowa DNR. Visit www.iowater.net for more information on these cleanup efforts and how you can get involved.

Congratulations to the final round winners:

- Riverbend Middle School's Iowa River (Iowa Falls)
- 2007 Big Rock Volga River Cleanup (Fayette)
- Muddy Creek Watershed Coalition Cleanup Days (Coralville)
- Boone River Cleanup (Webster City)
- Minding the Maquoketa (Maquoketa)
- Middle Raccoon River Cleanup: Riverside Park-Whiterock (Carroll)
- West Fork Des Moines River Cleanup (Ruthven)
- Franklin County Iowa River Cleanup Project (Hampton)
- Jones County - Keeping our Rivers Clean Project (Center Junction)

Writer: Christopher English

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VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR SERVICE TO ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Soenen at (515) 205-8587 or at Brian.Soenen@dnr.state.ia.us.

AMES — As the DNR launched its seventh annual Water Monitoring Conference last week, a dedicated group of volunteers stood quietly in the wings, awaiting their moment in the spotlight. These volunteers, after all, were the guests of honor last Thursday evening.

IOWATER, the Iowa DNR's volunteer water quality monitoring program, presented five awards to individuals and groups who have made remarkable contributions to Iowa's natural resources. Volunteers remained modest, however, as was the case with Rick Dietz, recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award.

"I don't know what I've done to deserve it," Dietz said of the award. "I just do what I can."

Like Dietz, thousands of volunteers donate their time and services to the DNR each year.

"They say they're just 'doing what they can,' but our volunteers' contributions make a huge difference in protecting and improving Iowa's natural resources," said Brian Soenen of IOWATER. "We want to thank them for their efforts, and recognize those who go above and beyond."

To honor Iowa's volunteer leaders in water quality, the following awards were presented:

- **Don Propst** of Des Moines and his **Clean Rivers Team** received the **IOWATER Event of the Year** award for cleaning up 113 miles of the North Raccoon River and challenging Iowans to keep rivers clean, combat illegal dumping and promote water quality improvements.
- **Rick Dietz** of Ames received the **IOWATER Volunteer of the Year** award for the thousands of hours he has dedicated to improving Iowa's recreational opportunities. Rick has been known to volunteer for nearly anything and everything that's river-related – especially when it comes to his hometown stream, the Skunk River.
- **Steve Witmer**, a planning assistant for the City of Johnston, received the **IOWATER Professional of the Year** award for engaging his community in watershed efforts and providing them with opportunities to protect and improve the quality of their local stream, Beaver Creek, and its watershed.
- **Laura Cady** and the **North Cedar Middle School 6th Grade Biology Class** received the **IOWATER Classroom of the Year** award for monitoring their site on Mill Creek. By engaging her students in the monitoring of this stream, Laura fosters a

sense of stewardship in her students, many of whom take personal responsibility for the quality of this stream.

- The **North Raccoon Watershed Association** received the **IOWATER Watershed Group of the Year** award for preserving and enhancing the North Raccoon River and its watershed, striving to improve the recreational qualities of the area so Iowans can safely enjoy its numerous outdoor activities, and engaging its members in education, networking, cleanup, assessment and policy making to achieve these ends.

To learn more about volunteering with the Iowa DNR's IOWATER program, please visit www.iowater.net.

Writer: Brian Soenen

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MANURE APPLICATORS SHOULD SCHEDULE TRAINING NOW TO MEET MARCH 1 DEADLINE

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeff Prier at (712) 262-4177 or Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.

DES MOINES – Both confinement site and commercial manure applicators should schedule their annual training soon at county Extension offices to meet the March 1 certification deadline.

“Applicators need to be certified to apply manure after March first,” said Jeff Prier, coordinator of the DNR’s manure applicator certification program.

“If they’ve missed a county training session, they can still take training in an Extension office by watching a video tape, or they can get certified by taking a test at a DNR field office,” he added.

Prier said he was concerned that only about one-sixth of confinement site applicators and one-fourth of commercial applicators had taken training as of Feb. 2. “Although not all Extension offices have reported on the number of people trained, that’s still quite a bit lower than I would have anticipated this close to the deadline,” he said.

Although confinement site applicators have a three-year certificate, both confinement and commercial applicators must take training each year, unless they initially passed a test to become certified. Those confinement site applicators who missed one of the three training sessions must take a make-up test, plus attend an additional training session or test before they can renew their certificate.

The DNR offers tests, both the makeup tests and tests to become certified, at the regional field offices. To schedule a test, contact one of the following DNR field offices and make an appointment:

- Northeast Iowa, Manchester, (563) 927-2640.
- North Central Iowa, Mason City, (641) 424-4073.
- Northwest Iowa, Spencer, (712) 262-4177.

- Southwest Iowa, Atlantic, (712) 243-1934.
- South Central Iowa, Des Moines, (515) 725-0268.
- Southeast Iowa, Washington, (319) 653-2135.

A list of training sessions for confinement site applicators is available on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's (IMMAG) Web site at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/certification/07confdates.html>. More information is also available on the DNR Web site at <http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/appcert.html>.

Writer: Karen Grimes

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions in January 2007, unless otherwise noted. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

Enforcement actions, including copies of the original orders and contact information, are now available on the DNR's Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html. The web listing will begin with orders taken in 2007.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Clarke, Union Counties

- Iowa Select Farms, L.L.P., of Des Moines, agreed in a consent amendment to comply with all manure management plan requirements and pay a \$1,500 penalty. This amends a 2003 administrative order regarding manure application violations in Union County from a Clarke County confinement operation.

Crawford County

- Tyson Fresh Meats, of Denison, agreed in a consent order to obtain air quality construction permits from the DNR before beginning construction of any equipment, and to pay a \$5,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to air quality permit violations at Tyson's Denison facility. This order was taken in November 2006.

Dickinson County

- Brian Salmon, dba Mid-States Asbestos Removal, Inc., of Davis City, S.D., agreed in a consent order to pay a \$6,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to violations stemming from an asbestos abatement project at Oak Haven Care Facility in Spirit Lake.

Henry County

- Steve Walter, dba Steve Walter and Sons, of Darien, Wisc., agreed in a consent amendment to pay a \$500 penalty and \$4,500 in restitution. This amends a 2003 administrative order regarding animal feeding operations and a fish kill in Big Creek in Henry County.

Ida County

- Farmers Cooperative Company, of Ida Grove, agreed in a consent order to perform numerous operation procedures and to pay a \$5,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to resolving alleged violations of fugitive dust emission rules at the Farmers Cooperative grain facility in Ida Grove. This order was taken in December 2006.

Jefferson County

- The City of Fairfield agreed in a consent order to comply with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and pretreatment requirements, to adopt an enforcement response plan to address violations from industrial contributors, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty. The city agreed to pay \$2,500 to the DNR as a penalty and \$7,500 in a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to improve the city's wastewater system. The consent order is in regard to pretreatment violations.

Kossuth County

- Midwest Grain Processors Cooperative and Midwest Grain Processors, LLC, both of Lakota, agreed in a consent order to comply with all permit recordkeeping, reporting and operating conditions; install an air flow monitoring system; and pay a \$10,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to air quality violations at Midwest Grain Processors' Lakota facility.

Pottawattamie County

- Council Bluffs Community School District, of Council Bluffs, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$3,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to asbestos violations during a renovation project at Thomas Jefferson High School.

Rescinded Orders

The following orders have been rescinded by the DNR:

- Tim Trostel, of Clarksville: a 2004 administrative order regarding animal feeding operations is rescinded.

Writer: Jessie Brown