

## ***CRP SUCCESS STORY***

### ***AGRACEL TREE PLANTING***

In 1987, Ron Sippel and Jack Schultz walked into my office and inquired about planting trees on 132 acres of farmland near Floyd, Iowa. No one had ever planted such a large area in Iowa before. The CRP program allowed these gentlemen to plant farmland to trees as a long term investment for their children.



The planting put Floyd, Iowa on the map. The major papers and TV stations carried the story and several articles were written about the planting. 93,000 trees were planted on the 132 acres. The major species are oak, walnut, ash, white pine, Scotch pine, red pine, and white spruce.



The planting was designed to demonstrate the different species mixtures to grow high quality walnut. Travel lanes were left around each design to allow access for outdoor classrooms and forestry field days. A forestry field day is planned for the area next summer.

Timber stand improvement has been completed on all of the acres to prune and thin around the high quality walnut and oak.

In 1999, an additional 64 acres were planted to Field Windbreaks and Riparian Buffers.

Today, 18 years later, this is still one of the largest plantings in Iowa. The CRP program allowed these landowners to develop an area which is providing scenic beauty, tremendous wildlife habitat, and erosion control for the Cedar River watershed. The success of this planting has also encouraged landowners in the area to plant trees. The environment has been enhanced, the surrounding landowners have been encouraged to implement conservation practices, and the children of Ron Sippel and Jack Schultz will inherit a very unique property.



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