

# Conservation Districts of Iowa

Informing, educating and leading Iowans through our local soil and water conservation districts to conserve our natural resources

945 SW Ankeny Road, Suite A - Ankeny, Iowa 50023 - 515.289.8300 - [admin@cdiowa.org](mailto:admin@cdiowa.org) - [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org)

## Spring Regional Meeting information online @ [www.cdiowa.org](http://www.cdiowa.org)

214 Commissioners/Assistant Commissioners & 84 Field Office Staff represented 74 Districts at the 2015 Commissioner Spring Regional Meetings!

Attendance Report | Meeting Notes | Presentations  
available online!

## 2015 Awards Information Available!

Visit CDI's website for this year's award information and nomination/application forms. Take advantage of this opportunity to tell your county's conservation story and recognize individuals who are making outstanding contributions to soil conservation and water quality!

### Here are some 2015 Award **Highlights**:

\* The Van Wall Group of Perry will be donating up to 12 months or 200 hours use of a John Deere 6D Series Utility Tractor for the **Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program (ISCAP) Farmer of the Year** again this year!

\* The **Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award** celebrates its fourth year in 2015! A joint effort of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources to recognize the exemplary voluntary efforts of Iowa's farmers as environmental leaders committed to healthy soils and improved water quality.

\* The Soil and Water Conservation District that receives the **Conservation Districts of Iowa Outstanding Watershed Award** gets \$800. Don't miss this opportunity to submit your watershed project for consideration.



**Left:** Image of the 2014 Farmer of the Year with the John Deere 6D Series Utility Tractor.

**Right:** Recipients of an Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award in 2014.

**Nominate/Apply Today!**



## INITIATIVES OF INTEREST:

### **CDI's visit to Washington D.C. Conservation Districts of Iowa**

Earlier this month, Robert Lynch (CDI VP), Clare Lindahl (CDI Executive Director), Tim Palmer (NACD NC Executive Board Member, Madison SWCD Commissioner & SSCC Member) and Jay Mar (NRCS State Conservationist) visited Washington D.C. for the NACD Legislative Event.

We met with legislative staff for Congressman David Loebsack, Rod Blum and Steve King and Senator Joni Ernst. Congressman David Young actually had his staff bring us into a room in the Capitol so he could step out of session to speak with us. We met with Senator Chuck Grassley as well. On our way home in the airport, we spotted Congressman King. He ended up being on the same plane as us and we were able to speak with him extensively as we waited to board.

We explained the importance of Farm Bill and 319 funding to Iowa and emphasized the need to secure funds for federal staff and partnership agreements that allow for federal dollars to employ District staff. We explained the demand for programs such as EQIP and CRP and asked for support of recently proposed funding for watershed structures.

We expressed that the efficiency of our Iowa partnership is government at its best! We were able to learn from other states during receptions and tour the NACD Office.



Visit

<http://cdiowa.org/conservation-districts-of-iowa/programs/policy/national>  
for a **full report** and **more pictures**.

## Dates of Importance

*April 1- June 30, 2015*

**April 10:** Resolutions Due

**April 10:** CDI announces state scholarship winners

**April 13:** Iowa Envirothon State Competition at Springbrook State Park

**April 15:** Farm Bill Period 8 Report Due

**April 15:** Hugh Hammond Bennett's Birthday



**April 22:** Administrative Professional's Day

**April 24:** 2015 Resolutions, pre conference ballots and instructions sent to SWCDs

**April 26- May 3:** Soil and Water Conservation Week

**May 15:** Deadline for SWCDs to submit local poster winners to CDI Regional Directors

**June 15:** Conservation Farmer of the Year and Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards Due

**June 22:** CDI & SSCC Board Meetings

**June 23:** Summer Tour in Northeast, Iowa

**June 23:** Most conservation awards due, exceptions Conservation Farmer of the Year and Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards due June 15

**Next CDI Bulletin, July 1, 2015**