

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 - www.cdiowa.org

New Commissioner Training

January 13, **Ottumwa** | January 14, **Ankeny** | January 15, **Atlantic**
January 20, **Storm Lake** | January 21, **Waverly** | January 22, **Iowa City**

Training is held from 4-7 PM. Pizza will be served at each training. RSVP to Conservation Districts of Iowa at 515.289.8300 or admin@cdiowa.org by January 9th. Existing Commissioners Welcome!

2015 Commissioner Legislative Event at the Capitol in Des Moines

Thursday, January 29th, 10 AM – 3 PM

Preparatory meeting across the street from the Capitol in the Wallace Building Auditorium at 9:30 AM

RSVP to Conservation Districts of Iowa at 515.289.8300 or admin@cdiowa.org

Save the date for 2015 Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings!

Lunch Meetings (10AM-2PM): February 24, **Allamakee Co.** | February 25, **Emmett Co.** |
February 26, **West Pottawattamie Co.** | March 17, **Des Moines Co.** | March 19, **Warren Co.**

Dinner Meetings (4-8PM): February 24, **Mitchell Co.** | February 25, **Ida Co.** | February 26, **Fremont Co.** | March 17, **Scott Co.**

RSVP to the hosting District.

Registration Open!

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

Register at www.swcs.org/15IACC



Questions contact events@swcs.org
or call 515-289-2331 ext. 112



INITIATIVES OF INTEREST:

Displaying a watershed map in your SWCD Office

Henry, Lee, Van Buren and Jefferson SWCD

Submitted by: Nathan Shelman, Lower Skunk River Watershed Coordinator



The Lower Skunk River Water Quality and Soil Health Initiative supports the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and the Iowa Water Quality Initiative by working with producers within the Lower Skunk River Watershed in Henry, Lee, Van Buren, and Jefferson Counties. The project demonstrates and accelerates the adoption of conservation practice that have been proven to be most effective in reducing nitrate-N and phosphorus-P in streams to ultimately end the hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. The Lower Skunk River Water Quality and Soil Health Initiative provides cost share assistance to implement practices of namely cover crops, bioreactors, wetlands, and grassed buffers. The project will also include educational efforts of field days, newsletters, and informational meetings.

In the Henry, Lee, Van Buren and Jefferson County field offices watershed maps are on display in all shapes and sizes. With the watershed being within four counties and over 135,000 acres the first question that farmers and landowners always ask is if they are in the watershed to qualify for the practices being offered. With the watershed being so large creating a map with the watershed's drainage area along with adding the townships and sections of all four counties was a necessity. The value of having a map makes finding out if the farmer is located in the watershed easy. Having a map to show them, and being able to interact with the farmer one on one to determine if the individual is in the watershed or where she/he is located in the watershed goes along way. Many times the farmer will know the township but doesn't know the section. With not all townships and sections being part of the watershed this allows for quick process of elimination to once again determine if the farmer is in the watershed area or not. With the watershed map being so large the farmer walking into the field office can have easy access to the map and can easily find where they are located if they know the location.

Getting a map printed off was easy. All that was done was to contact the Iowa Department of Agriculture (IDALS), Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) and Water Resources Program Planner Jackie Suckow. Jackie was able to print off up to a 36 x 48 map for the watershed at no cost at all. Districts who have watersheds within their counties should have a map on hand that is large and easy to follow for educational and outreach efforts. Having a map on hand allows the landowner an easy understanding on the area of where the watershed is located and where their farm is within the watershed.



For more information on contact Nathan Shelman, Lower Skunk River Watershed Coordinator at (319) 385-2824 ext. 3 or by emailing Nathan.Shelman@ia.nacdnet.net

Dates of Importance

January 1- March 31, 2015

January 13-15 & 20-22: New Commissioner Training

January 15: Farm Bill Period 7 Report Due

January 29: Partnership Day

January 30: Scholarship applications due to SWCDs

February 17-18: Cover Crop Conference

Last Week of February & third week of March: Spring Regional Meetings

March 2-3: Iowa Water Conference

March 4: Project Coordinator's Meeting

March 6: SWCD forwards county scholarship application to CDI Regional Director

March 27: Conservation posters due to SWCDs

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