

2014

**Iowa Soil and Water Conservation  
District Commissioners**

**68th Annual Conference**

*Conservation: Iowa Grown, Nationally Known*

September 3 & 4

Sheraton, West Des Moines, Iowa



**CONSERVATION:  
IOWA  
GROWN,  
NATIONALLY  
KNOWN.**

*Register Today!*



Dear Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, Assistants & Partners in Conservation,

Jane Weber, President of Conservation Districts of Iowa and Sherman Lundy, Chair of the State Soil Conservation Committee, request your attendance at the **68th Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, September 3 & 4 at the Sheraton in West Des Moines.**

The 2014 theme is *Conservation: Iowa Grown, Nationally Known*. The Conservation Districts of Iowa, State Soil Conservation Committee and partners have worked diligently to make this a valuable event to prepare you to be national leaders in conservation.

As Iowa continues its role as a **national leader in agriculture and conservation**, national and state speakers will inform attendees on the newest national and state initiatives. Leadership from the National Association of Conservation Districts will be providing attendees with an update on the National Farm Bill's policies and programs and how they relate to Iowa. Our Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey will discuss state initiatives and the important role of commissioners in their success for the state and the nation.

At this year's conference, **the voices of farmers** will be heard. Who better to advise us on strengthening our mission of soil conservation and clean water?! From Steve Groff, a farmer with 20 years of experience using cover crops to Merritt Caviness, an 18 year old Assistant Commissioner farming 500 acres, our farmer speakers will span the gamut, all outstanding in their fields! Additionally, we will provide the most recent work being done in Iowa to better know and communicate conservation information to our farmers at the Thursday panel.

**Knowledge is power!** It is knowledge that gives us the confidence to take action. We have worked hard to bring you the most current, innovative, Iowa information. This year's conference will feature talks on Soil Health, the Water Quality Initiative, new conservation practices, cover crop innovations, Emerald Ash Borer management methods, livestock practices, urban conservation, district operations and absentee landowners outreach tactics.

Do not miss this year's event! Think globally, act locally!

Jane Weber, President  
Conservation District of Iowa

Sherman Lundy, Chair  
State Soil Conservation Committee

## Conference At A Glance

### Tuesday, September 2

- Noon Registration Table Opens  
3:00 PM CDI Board and SSCC Joint & Separate Meetings

### Wednesday, September 3

- 8:00 AM Registration Table and Credentials Open  
Exhibits Open - Exhibits in Atrium & Outside  
Auction Items Accepted  
Guest Tour Departs
- 9:00 AM Conference Program & Silent Auction Begins  
Welcome from CDI & SSCC
- 9:15 AM *Iowa's role as a national leader in agriculture and conservation -*  
Speaker - Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture
- 9:45 AM Breaks & Exhibits
- 10:00 AM CDI Business Meeting
- 11:00 AM Fall Regional Meetings
- Noon Lunch and Awards  
*20 years of Cover Crops: Cover Crop Solutions-*  
Steve Groff, Pennsylvania Farmer and Founding Partner of Cover Crop Solutions
- 1:00 PM *Conservation Partnership Leadership Forum with Q & A-*  
Speakers from Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS-DSC), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa State University (ISU) & Farm Service Agency (FSA) with Moderator, Jim Gulliford, Executive Director, Soil and Water Conservation Society
- 2:00 PM Breakout Tracks Begin
- 2:50PM Break & Exhibits
- 3:10PM Breakout Tracks Continue
- 5:00 PM Breakout Tracks End  
Exhibits & Social
- 6:00 PM *Welcome -*  
Speaker - Merritt Caviness, Adair County SWCD Assistant Commissioner & FFA  
Awards Presentation
- 6:30 PM Banquet and Live Auction with Tom Bradley, B.E.S.T. Auction Services

### Thursday, September 4

- 7:00 AM Breakfast Buffet
- 7:30 AM *Partnership Round Table*
- 8:00 AM Silent Auction Ends, Checkout of Silent Auction Items
- 8:30 AM *The National Farm Bill and Iowa -*  
Speaker - Brent Van Dyke, National Association of Conservation Districts
- 9:30AM Break & Exhibits
- 10:00 AM *Listening to our Farmers: A panel to better know and serve Iowa's farmers and natural resources*
- Noon *Awards, Lunch & Conference Wrap Up -* Dennis Carney, CDI & Floyd Co. SWCD

## Special Guest Speakers

**Wednesday, September 3 & Thursday, September 4**

- Bill Northey**, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, will speak on Iowa's continued role as a national leader in agriculture and the state's new role as a national leader in conservation.
- Steve Groff**, a Pennsylvania Farmer and founding partner of Cover Crop Solutions, will share his experiences using cover crops for 20 years.
- Merritt Caviness** will welcome attendees at this year's banquet. Merritt is an 18 year old Assistant Commissioner with the Adair County SWCD and a member of the FFA who farms 500 acres of row crop.
- Brent Van Dyke**, an Officer with the National Association of Conservation Districts, will update attendees on the National Farm Bill and what it will mean to Iowa's soil and water conservation districts and farmers.



Secretary Bill Northey



Steve Groff



Merritt Caviness



Brent Van Dyke

## CDI Business Meeting Agenda

**Wednesday, September 3**

- CDI/NACD Reports
- Re-election/election of CDI Officers for 2015
- Resolutions presented and voted on
- Fall Regional Meetings - election of Regional Directors and Alternate Directors



## Speaker Panels

**Wednesday, September 3 & Thursday, September 4**

### Farmer Voices

This year we want to know what *you* want to hear from our state leaders!

**Send us your questions for the  
Conservation Partnership Leadership  
Forum!**

Email [admin@cdiowa.org](mailto:admin@cdiowa.org), call 515.289.8300, or submit questions with your registration!

We are excited to bring you insight from farmers so that we can conduct our conservation outreach and education to best communicate with them!

When you leave the panel Thursday, September 4th you will be more informed on how farmers perceive and prefer information!

## Breakout Tracks

### More from Steve Groff, Pennsylvania Farmer, Founding Partner of Cover Crop Solutions and Lunch General Session Speaker

- 2:00 PM:       ***Cover Crop Solutions***  
Steve Groff, Pennsylvania Farmer, Founding Partner of Cover Crop Solutions

### Working Together: Soil Health and the Water Quality Initiative (WQI)

- 2:00 PM:       ***Demonstrating Success: Iowa's new watershed projects***  
Matt Lechtenberg, IDALS-DSC WQI Coordinator with local Project Coordinator
- 3:10 PM:       ***New practices for nutrient reduction: STRIPS & Saturated Buffers***  
Dr. Matt Helmers & Dr. Tom Isenhardt, Iowa State University
- 4:00 PM:       ***Unlocking the Secrets of Soil Biology to Improve Soil Health***  
Rick Bednarek, State Soil Scientist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

### Innovations on the Farm: Cover Crops, Concerns and Cattle

- 2:00 PM:       ***Iowa's unwelcome guest: Emerald Ash Borer***  
Tivon Feeley, Forest Health Program Leader, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- 3:10 PM:       ***A new way to apply cover crops***  
Rachel Halbach, Agronomist, Hagie Manufacturing Company
- 4:00 PM:       ***Putting conventional livestock practices out to pasture***  
Joe Sellers, Beef Program Specialist, ISU Extension and Outreach  
Darin Sunderman, Page County Livestock Producer

### Effective District Initiatives

- 2:00 PM:       ***Urban conservation, an opportunity for Districts, residents and local businesses***  
Alex Schmidt, Johnson County SWCD Commissioner & Owner of Alex Schmidt Landscape Design, LLC
- 3:10 PM:       ***District financial and operational policies and procedures Q & A***  
Vince Sitzmann, Field Services Bureau Chief, IDALS-DSC  
Dave Dorff, Assistant Attorney General, State of Iowa  
Clare Lindahl, Executive Director, Conservation Districts of Iowa
- 4:00 PM:       ***Conducting outreach to women landowners***  
Jean Eells, Webster County SWCD Commissioner

## Exhibits

Agricultural and conservation organizations, agencies and businesses will be exhibiting inside and outside the hotel. Don't miss the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District Soil Health Trailer and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Rain Fall Simulator Outside! We are also anticipating The Van Wall Group of Perry will be bringing the John Deere 6D Series Utility Tractor the 2014 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program Farmer of the Year will get to utilize for up to 12 months or 200 hours and outdoor displays by Agri Drain. We have invited Hagie to bring their new cover crop applicator equipment as well!

## Guest Tour - Denmark Without A Passport

Elkhorn, Iowa

Wednesday, September 3rd, 8AM-4:30PM

**Velkommen** to the 2014 Guest Tour at the Danish Village in Elk Horn!

We will begin with a guided tour of the historical 1848 **Danish Windmill**, an authentic windmill built in Denmark in 1848 and imported to Elkhorn and reassembled in 1976. The windmill boasts the largest Danish import gift shop in the USA! Guests will then visit the **Bedstemor's House**, an authentic Danish home that has been restored to its original 1908 Victorian period and is on the National Register of Historic Places. At the **Museum of Danish America** where we will experience the journey of a Danish immigrant from Denmark to the United States. Explore the rich heritage of Danish Americans with the museum's 35,000 + artifacts.



We will enjoy a delicious lunch at the **Danish Inn Restaurant** over the noon hour.

After lunch, guests will have the opportunity to visit **local specialty shops** including the Egg Crate Antique Store, Vin Haus, Daisy Girl Bath & Body and Fagen Lumber & Gift Shop. Wind down the day at the **Danish Countryside Vines & Wines Farm**, a completely renovated European style barn. Learn about wine making and viticulture practices, taste local wines, browse unique items at the gift shop and relax on the balcony overlooking the vineyards.



*The guest tour will be \$25 or free with a paid 2-day guest registration. This fee covers transportation, lunch and all related fees. Vans will leave the hotel at 8AM sharp so please be near the front entrance of the hotel lobby by 7:50 AM. The tour will return to the hotel by 4:30PM. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The tour will be limited to the first 25 registered. Registration in advance is required. Please note, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is only able to pay expenses (hotel stay & conference registration) for commissioners and assistants attending the conference. If a commissioner or assistant would like to attend the guest tour rather than the conference they will have to incur the expenses.*



## Directions & Accommodation Information

From I-35N Exit 72C;  
and I-80E Exit 124;  
turn east on  
University Ave, south  
on 50th St to the  
Sheraton



**Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines**

Call 1-888-627-8043 to reserve a room. Ask for the **"SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS"** block for the special rate of \$93.00 or at [www.starwoodmeeting.com/book/soil](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/book/soil)  
**Reservations must be made by August 12th to guarantee this rate!**

## Attendee Registration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrant Name (as you'd like it on the nametag)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name (as you'd like it on the nametag)

\_\_\_\_\_  
District/Organization/Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

**SWCD Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners; please register but DO NOT SEND A CHECK, unless you are registering a guest. Payment is due at time of registration for all others planning to attend. \*DSC WILL NOT PAY THE ADDITIONAL LATE FEE FOR COMMISSIONERS REGISTERING AFTER 08/25. THE ADDITIONAL \$20 WILL BE PAID BY THE SWCD COMMISSIONER.**

	<u>Register by 08/25/14</u>	<u>Register after 08/25/14*</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<b>2 Day Conference Registration</b> _____ X \$225 (2 day) (includes all meals, materials and exhibit space) <input type="checkbox"/> Check box if you would like an exhibit booth. Information to follow. OR <b>Day 1 (September 3) Registration</b> _____ X \$165 (1 day) (includes all meals and materials) OR <b>Day 2 (September 4) Registration</b> _____ X \$100 (1 day) (includes all meals and materials) OR <b>2 Day Guest/Spouse Registration</b> _____ X \$140 (2 day) (includes all meals, breaks, social, Banquet and tour) OR <b>1 Day Guest/Spouse Registration</b> _____ X \$100 OR <b>Guest/Family Tour</b> _____ X \$25 (free with paid two day guest registration)			_____ \$  _____ \$  _____ \$  _____ \$  _____ \$  _____ \$  _____ \$
<b><u>REGISTRATION TOTALS:</u></b>			
Total Amount \$ _____			
Total number of people attending each meal:			

CHECKS, REGISTRATIONS & PAYMENTS GO TO:  
Conservation Districts of Iowa  
945 SW Ankeny Road, Ste. A  
Ankeny, Iowa 50023

**NO**  
**CANCELATIONS**  
**OR REFUNDS**  
**AFTER**  
**AUGUST 25, 2014.**

September 3 Lunch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest Tour \_\_\_\_\_  
 Banquet \_\_\_\_\_  
 September 4 Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lunch \_\_\_\_\_

I have special dietary needs

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68th Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners - September 3 & 4, 2014



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Ankeny, Iowa 50023

*2014*

## Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners 68th Annual Conference

*Conservation: Iowa Grown, Nationally Known*

September 3 & 4

Sheraton, West Des Moines, Iowa

***Don't Delay-Register Today!***

### Conference Planning Committee:

Conservation Districts of Iowa

State Soil Conservation Committee

Iowa Department of Agriculture  
and Land Stewardship - Division of  
Soil Conservation

Natural Resources Conservation  
Service

### Sponsors:

Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts &  
500 elected Commissioners



**Agri Drain**  
CORPORATION

