

2021 CDI Annual Conference Webinars

[How Healthy Soils Can Store Carbon](#)

As a farmer, you soil test for nutrients critical to growing the best crop weather will allow. You know how productive your soils are, but do you know how healthy your soils are? Now with the increased emphasis on our climate and how working lands can capture as well as store carbon, you see an opportunity for enhancing your soil to provide resilience against weather extremes and increasing your profits on each field. Join the webinar on “How Healthy Soils Can Store Carbon” presented by Jerry Hatfield, retired USDA ARS Soil Scientist. Dr. Hatfield has a wealth of knowledge backed by years of research in soils, conservation, and carbon data.

[Women in Conservation—A Critical Link](#)

“Oh, the stories we could tell!” Tanya Meyer and Jean Eells have listened to thousands of women talk about their conservation dreams and the amazing action they have taken to make them happen. Tanya and Jean share reflections from each of their experiences on how much conservation in agriculture can gain when women get the support they crave to get problems solved. It's not as simple as “add women and stir” to standard conservation outreach, but the rewards of women's conservation programming are delightful and surprising.

[Writing an Effective Conservation Lease](#)

This may sound familiar: “The farm I inherited from my dad has many memories of my childhood and I want to pass it on to my children. I will never actually farm the land, I am just not driven to do that; but I want to protect this farm ground for the years to come. I worry about water quality and soil erosion but just don't know what I can do.” Well: There *is* something you can do! Learn about conservation leases! They may not be easy to negotiate but they are worth the time and energy invested. Chad Hertz has generations of experience in farm management and farm leases and Black Hawk SWCD Assistant Commissioner Mike Henning has written his own conservation lease. This is your chance to learn what you CAN do.

Establishing Good Pollinator Habitat

ISU Entomologist Stephen Bradbury discusses “Monarch Habitat Establishment Practices That Make Sense: Conserving Monarchs and Saving Money”. Steve informs us about the importance of establishing habitat that feeds the monarchs throughout their life cycle and how this benefits all the pollinators we rely on.

Grazing Cover Crops to Improve Soil Health

Iowa is blessed with some of the most productive soils in the world and we need to keep them productive and healthy. Our soils were built by thousands of years of prairie that supported massive herds of grazing animals. As we all work to increase the health of our soils, learn how grazing cover crops positively impacts soil health. NRCS Grazing specialists Kayla Creek and Stacy Prassis present their recommendations for cover crop mixes, timing of grazing, and the value to your operation from this important soil health practice.

Urban Agriculture—A Fresh Concept!

Food comes from the grocery store, right? Or what is a food desert? We live in Iowa where we produce food for the world? Join us to hear the stories of two Iowa women who produce food in urban settings and sometimes for different reasons. These ladies feed people, educate consumers, and try to make a living while doing all of that. Join Bonnie Riggan and Monika Owczarski as they discuss the hurdles they have crossed and the satisfaction they have received in feeding people.

Telling Your Conservation Story Effectively

Jason Johnson and Joe Hayes present “Want to tell your conservation story? Here is how to do it effectively”. Jason discusses “the creative side” of telling our conservation story: identifying topics, interviewing subjects, finding “your voice”, staying true to ‘brand’, drafting copy and editing. Joe focuses on the social media and technical side – importance of Facebook and Twitter, developing a webpage, creating electronic brochures and electronic newsletters.