

# Story County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report 2017

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### **OUR MISSION**



To promote soil conservation and water quality to landowners, operators and residents of Story County by providing technical information and financial assistance.

The Story County Soil and Water Conservation District is a part of the broader Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa. These organizations were established to promote conservation opportunities in the county and to support Iowa NRCS efforts.

The Story SWCD focuses on conservation, education and awareness. Our goals include:

- Increase the adoption of conservation practices to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and improve wildlife habitat
- Support and administer federal and state conservation programs
- Foster collaboration with other groups
- Improve commissioner development

### **DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS**

### Jim Gillespie, Former IDALS-DSCWQ Director

A lot of Soil and Water Conservation Districts are celebrating their 75th Anniversaries around the state. What great accomplishments they have to share with the farmers and landowners in their counties. It is definitely something they should be proud of and take time to reflect on what has been done.

It is a time to think back to when the district was organized and why. We were just coming out of a serious economic depression and were in the midst of World War II. The Iowa Experiment Station, now Iowa State University Extension had done a study that showed that we had eroded 25% of our top soil on average across the state. Something needed to be done to stop this erosion

and start improving our agriculture management in order to reverse this unstainable degradation. Iowa has been blessed with some of the richest soils in the world and they have been very productive.

Along came the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that started organizing in 1940 and the last district organized in 1952. The leadership of those first commissioners that set the stage for how the districts could help farmers, landowners, and everyone in the county and the state took off. If you fly over the state on a clear day, look out the window of the plane or as you drive around the state you will see the practices (marks on the land) that the districts have help those farmers, landowners and others install to protect and improve all of our natural resources. Isn't it is a beautiful tapestry to behold? That leadership by the districts and the commissioners and field office staff continue to this day and I believe our for-fathers and mothers would be proud of what has been done.

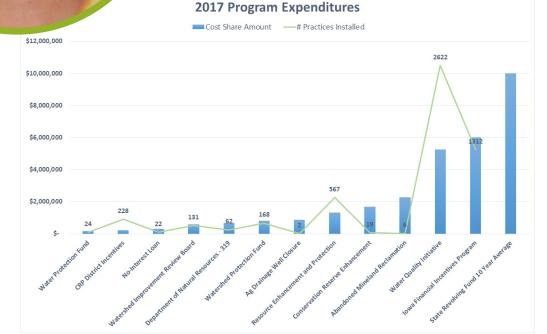
Is our job done? I don't think so. We continue to utilize and need those precious resources every day and will into the future. We should be of a mindset that we are going to be in an ever improving process for those resources. More than just protecting them but making them better.

Your and my challenges are what can we do every day to improve our soil health and water quality? So what are we (there is no "I" in team) going to do to take care of the resources we have been blessed with and how are we going to make them better for those who will follow us, like those who organized the Soil and Water Conservation Districts years ago? I believe they were thinking about us and this great state when they organized the districts. We can't let them down!

### **BUREAU CHIEF NOTES**

### Vince Sitzmann, IDALS-DSCWQ Field Services Bureau Chief

State Fiscal Year 2017 was another successful year for getting conservation on the ground. Staff was able to complete lots of plans, surveys and designs, and Mother Nature chipped in, which made for productive spring and fall construction seasons. Each year, when the state fiscal year wraps up, we evaluate our programs and find out what kind of a year it's been; and each year, when the evaluation is complete, I'm always surprised at how much money is spent on conservation. I'm not just talking about how much money the state contributes through our programs, I'm talking about your investment in conservation.Even when margins are as tight as they are today, the demand for conservation outweighs supply.



The dollars reflected above represent the state's contribution to our programs only, not the landowners share. Keep in mind that these figures only represent a small portion of the overall investment in conservation across the state. The graph does not take into account any federal programs such as CRP or EQIP, nor does it take into account the work that is done by private landowners without state or federal assistance.

I want to take a moment to highlight the State Revolving Fund (SRF) in the bar chart above as it is our most popular program in terms of funding utilized by landowners. SRF is a loan program that can fund 100% of a practice or can be used in conjunction with other state or federal programs. Farmers are borrowing an average of \$10 million annually to install conservation practices on their farms. These low-interest loans can be used for a number of different conservation practices; however our most common include terraces, ponds and livestock facilities. Loan amounts can range from \$5,000 to \$500,000 and must be paid back over a 10-year period.

If you have been thinking about installing a practice on your farm I would encourage you to stop into your local Soil and Water Conservation District office and talk to the staff. As always, thank you for your conservation and land stewardship efforts.

### **MEET THE COMMISSIONERS**



Jerald Fitzgerald Commissioner

Jerold Fitzgerald is the current chair of the Story SWCD. His focus has long been on water quality and keeping nutrients in the soil and out of streams. He has worked in agricultural retail for 30 years, making recommendations to producers regarding fertilizer needs, chemicals, and lime in a wide variety of soil management practices. He and his wife Pat for 38 years and have two sons.



Selden Spencer Commissioner

Selden Spencer has lived in Huxley, IA since 1990, when he came to work as a physician at McFarland Clinic. He has been interested in environmental issues, specifically in regards to water quality, since 2000. He first ran for Story SWCD Commissioner in 2014 and currently serves as co-treasurer for the organization.



Mark Tjelmeland Commissioner

Mark Tjelmeland is in his 8th year as a Soil & Water Commissioner. He farms near McCallsburg with his wife Connie and son John. Fifty percent of the farm is a 3-year organic rotation of corn, oats, and hay. The remainder is a non-organic corn and soybean rotation. Some farm conservation practices include CRP, grassed waterways, permanent hay strips, and side dressing nitrogen on corn after nitrate tests.



Sue Upchurch Commissioner

Sue Upchurch lives in Zearing, Iowa. She, her husband, and son operate a cattle feedyard and corn-soybean rotation operation. They typically put cover crops on about 20 percent of the farmland. She is in her second term as a Story SWCD Commissioner and currently serves as co-treasurer.



Matt Woods Commissioner

Matt is an lowa native currently living in Collins. He graduated in 2002 with a B.A. in biology from Simpson College and worked for Pioneer (DuPont) from 2002-2013. He currently works as an Agricultural Specialist for the Department of Agronomy at lowa State University. His conservation interest areas include diversified crop rotations, reduction of farming inputs using sustainability practices, and strategic use of native prairie for in-field nutrient retention.



Erwin Klaas Assistant Commissioner

Erv retired in 1999 as a wildlife biologist with the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. He is a founding member of Prairie Rivers of Iowa and continues to serve on the board. Erv received his B.S. in wildlife conservation from the University of Missouri, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in zoology from Kansas University. He worked at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Iowa Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit at Iowa State University, where he is a Professor Emeritus.

### **MEET THE COMMISSIONERS**



Alisha Bower Assistant Commissioner

Alisha is the Midwest Cover Crop Associate at Practical Farmers of Iowa, where her work supports cover crops and small grains programs. She grew up on a small farm in Wisconsin and has degrees from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Alisha previously served as Project Coordinator at the Integrated Pest Management Institute of North America, where she collected on-farm data from diversified organic vegetable operations.



Jerry Radke Assistant Commissioner

Jerry retired as a soil scientist with the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA after 35 years of service. He received his B.S. and PhD in soil physics from the University of Wisconsin and his M.S. in soil physics and mathematics from Iowa State University. Jerry served as a Story SWCD Commissioner for 12 years. Upon stepping down, he took on the role of Assistant Commisioner in 2013. He lives in Nevada with his wife, Susan.



**Cindy Hildebrand** Assistant Commissioner

Cindy and her husband Roger live near Ames. They own and manage permanently-protected Story County land with original prairie and oak savanna areas, along with restored prairie and wetlands. Cindy is a former volunteer conservation lobbyist at the State Capitol. She has been working on prairie restoration, biodiversity protection, water quality, and lowa land use issues for 36 years.



### Mimi Wagner Assistant Commissioner

Mimi received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in landscape architecture from lowa State University. She worked as a practicing landscape architect in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Mimi joined the landscape architecture faculty at ISU in 1999, where she currently serves as an Associate Professor. She teaches courses and studios related to ecological design and the social theories of sustainability.



Dale Farnham Assistant Commissioner

Dale grew up on a farm near Gowrie. He holds a B.S. in Agribusiness Managment from Arizona State University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Crop Production & Physiology from Iowa State University. He has previously worked for Webster Co. Extension, the ISU Dept. of Agronomy, Monsanto Inc., and Farmers Mutual Hail Insurcance Company of Iowa. He is currently co-owner of Farham Aviation Services, LLC in Boone. In 2017, Dale was appointed to his 2nd term on the State Soil Conservation Committee.



### Amber Anderson Assistant Commissioner

Amber's interest in soils started at a young age, growing up on a farm in northwest lowa. She received her B.S. in Agronomy and Plant Health & Protection and her M.S. in Sustainable Agriculture, both from Iowa State University. After graduation, Amber worked for a number of nonprofits, including the Iowa Farmer's Union. She returned to ISU in 2014 and currently teaches courses in soil science and world food issues.

### **MEET THE STAFF**



Dana Holland District Conservationist

Dana is a West Bend native who received his B.S. in Earth Science/Agonomy from Iowa State University in 1981. He has been a NRCS District Conservationist for 28 years, serving Hamilton, Story, and Marshall Counties. He currently maintains shared management of both Marshall and Story Counties. Soil health and water quality remain his primary focus in assisting landowners with improving environmental stewardship.



Hillary Olson Soil Conservationist

Hillary was raised on a small row-crop and livestock farm in Story County. She graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Animal Science and a M.S. in Soil Science. She has worked in multiple counties for the NRCS since 2006 and has been in the Nevada office since 2014. She and her husband have a cow-calf herd and row-crop farm. They have three kids, Owen (6), Brady (3) and Grace (1).



Tara VanWaus Soil Technician

Tara graduated from Iowa State University in 2006 with a B.A. in Landscape Architecture. After college, she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer for 26 months under the Linking Income, Food, & Environment (LIFE) program in Shukwe Village, North-western Province, Zambia. This experience inspired her to pursue a career in conserving natural resources. She began working for NRCS in 2011 and lives near Colo with her husband, Brett.



Ava Haun Resource Conservationist

Ava is a North Carolina native who spent much of her life on a dairy farm. After high school, she joined the U.S. Army and spent 6 years as an Apache Helicopter Mechanic. She earned a B.S. in Agricultural Systems Technologies from Iowa State University. Ava started with NRCS as an intern in Boone and Greene Counties, and joined NRCS fulltime in 2014. She currently serves as a soil conservationist in Marshall and Story Counties.



Kristi Hartwell Clerical Specialist

Kristi is an ELYON contracted employee and has been working in both Story & Marshall County NRCS Field Offices for 2.5 years as a clerical specialist. When not at work she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She resides in Montour with her two sons Klayton and Koleton.



Jayne Smith Conservation Assistant

Jayne and her family have lived in Boone, IA since 1996. She has worked for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality for the past 13 years. She assists producers to improve soil health and water quality through conservation practices and state cost-share opportunities in both Boone and Story County.

# **2017 PRACTICES**

### **COST-SHARE**

#### County, State, and Federal Levels

- **County** Funding at the county level comes from the Story County Board of Supervisors. The baseline funding is used for both cost-share of conservation practices and support of our partners' education and outreach efforts in the county.
- **State** Funding at the state level comes from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship budget and administered statewide to all of the counties annually. These programs are explained below.
- **Federal** Funding from the federal level comes from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) budget. The funding is primarily used for conservation practice implementation.

### PRACTICES FUNDED:

- Grassed waterway (1) Channels that are used to divert water to a stable outlet at a controllable, non-erosive pace. These specially-shaped channels are seeded to grass and often feature a structure at the base to stabilize the waterway. The grass protects from gully erosion and traps sediment and nutrients in the runoff water.
- Cover Crops (2, total of 100.38 acres) Plants that protect the soil during the off-season of row crop plantings. Benefits include reduced soil erosion, improved water quality of drainage water, and increased organic matter.

### WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

- Established during the 2013 legislative session to assist in implementing the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. This strategy provides ways to reach a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus in Iowa waters using approaches that include point and non-point sources working together to improve water quality.
- Practices include cover crops, no-till, strip-till and nitrogen inhibitors. Interest remains high for these practices among farmers and landowners across the state.

### 2017 STORY SWCD PRACTICES:

• Cover Crops (15; total acres = 1921.54). See above for information about cover crops.

#### REAP (RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION)

vegetation, historical resources, public land management,

city parks and open space, soil and water enhancement,

• State program that invests in the enhancement and protection of the state's natural and cultural resources

• Funds go into 8 different programs,

including conservation education, roadside

county conservation and state open space.



#### REAP WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PRACTICES

- Provide cost-share to landowners for practices that protect water quality by identifying and preventing off-site sediment, nutrient, and livestock waste pollution problems.
- SWCDs set priorities for these practices that include traditional erosion control practices, tree plantings, forestry and native grasses, buffers, streambank stabilization, livestock waste management, and individual agricultural drainage well closures.

#### 2017 STORY SWCD PRACTICES UNDER FORESTRY AND NATIVE GRASSES:

- Windbreak (1) A single row or more of trees and shrubs in lines that protect areas from wind. Benefits include reduced wind erosion, protection for crops and plants from wind damage, improved irrigation efficiency, increased carbon storage in biomass and soils, and food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators.
- Forest Stand Improvement (1) Eliminating selected trees and vegetation to promote desired forest conditions and/or achieve improvements in the local ecosystem.
  Benefits include improved forest health and productivity, reduced damage from pests and stress, alteration of the quantity, quality, and timing of water yields, increased or maintained levels of carbon storage, restore or maintain natural plant communities, and improved wildlife and pollinator habitats

#### REAP WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROJECTS

- Bring landowners and other partners within a watershed together to protect the state's water resources from point and non-point sources of contamination
- Goal is to target and prevent off-site sediment, nutrient and livestock waste pollution
- SWCDs set priorities for practices to fund including terraces, waterways, erosion control structures, along with other conservation practices
- Funding for technical assistance within the project may also be provided

### 2017 STORY SWCD PRACTICES:

• **Pasture and Hayland Planting (1)** – Establishment of native or introduced forage species applied on cropland, hayland, pastureland, or other agricultural lands where forage production is planned. Benefits include reduced soil erosion, improved water quality, improved or maintained levels of livestock nutrition and health, providing forage for livestock and/or wildlife and providing wildlife with food and shelter.

# **CONSERVATION AWARDS**



Sue Upchurch Commissioner

Mark Tjelmeland Commissioner

**Steven L. Fales Conservation Award** 

The Steven L. Fales Conservation Award honors our late friend and colleague, Dr. Steven L. Fales (March 14, 1947-April 24, 2017).

Dr. Fales devoted much of his life to environmental conservation. He served as department chair in the Department of Agronomy at Iowa State University, and later as the biomass research coordinator of the Bioeconomy Institute. Upon retirement, he became a commissioner for the Story County Soil and Water Conservation District, where he served as chair for four years.

Steve was a gifted leader who had a knack for bringing diverse groups of people together to engage in developing innovative solutions to a number of issues. To honor his work, we have established the Steven L. Fales Conservation Award. Congratulations to our 2017 recipients:

Car Mar Farms c/o Randy Hertz Danny Harrison L&N Fausch Inc. c/o Craig Fausch John Pitt Brian Sampson Mark Tjernagel William Tucker Michael Wright Gerlach Farms Inc. c/o Kevin Gerlach Paul Mens Kyle Mens Gene Rouse Randall Collings David Swensen David Anderson Patrick Murken Stock & Crop c/o Harley Osborn Kendal & Sue Upchurch Seth Upchurch Craig Whitaker Kevin Cooper Couser Custom Company Glen Dutler Pearson's Farm LLC Brent Larson Mark Tjelmeland Shain Birchmier Jeremy Buck Dennis Cairns Greenfield Farms Inc. c/o Tim Couser David Eggers Theodore Frandson Charles S. Helland Michael L. Helland Paul Hertz Trust c/o Randy Hertz Dean Metzger James Owen Okland Brothers c/o John Okland Danny Remsburg Roger Thompson James Harrison Bradley Johnson Ben Johnson Jeff Metzger Eugene C. Mohr Jim Penney W.C. Partnership Beau Romsey Kimberley Farms Inc. Jeffery Longnecker

# **ARBOR DAY PROJECT**

In honor of Arbor Day, the Story SWCD distributes trees to local 3rd and 4th graders in Story County. This year, 815 white oak trees were given to students in the Ballard, Collins-Maxwell, Colo-NESCO, Roland-Story, and Nevada School Districts. The students were sent with instructions on how to care for the tree so they can watch it grow for years to come.



THANK

# IN THE NEWS



### Letter: Soil conservation improves water quality

Posted April 4, 2017 Ames Tribune Opinion Section

Despite the recent legal decision against the Des Moines Water Works, Iowa's water is still polluted and getting worse. How do we fix this problem? Who is responsible?

Each of us can help but the bulk of the problem is from industrial agriculture. It is the owner of an "operation" that must accept final responsibility for the pollution of Iowa waters, whether they are on the farm, in a condo in Arizona, or in some boardroom in Chicago.

The owners, through persuasion or legislative rules, must be brought to a conservation mentality and practice. A mindset that would value increased biomass as much as increased yield. The obsession with maximal yield will never allow for practices which might preserve or even enhance our gift of topsoil.

A mining mentality will continue to tear, destroy, pollute and wash away our topsoil into our waters and thereby foul them.

With carrot or stick we must try to promote and elevate the best practices of soil and water conservation to all land owners if we want to restore our water quality.

— Selden Spencer, Huxley

### The Des Moines Register

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

### Lawsuit or not, lowa's water is still polluted

Published April 6, 2017 Des Moines Register Opinion Section

Despite the recent legal decision against the Des Moines Water Works, Iowa's water is still polluted and getting worse. How do we fix this problem? Who is responsible?

Each of us can help, but the bulk of the problem is from industrial agriculture. It is the owner of an "operation" that must accept final responsibility for the pollution of Iowa waters. Whether the owners are on the farm, in a condo in Arizona or in some boardroom in Chicago. The owners, through persuasion or legislative rules, must be brought to a conservation mentality and practice — a mindset that would value increased biomass as much as increased yield.

The obsession with maximal yield will never allow for practices that might preserve or even enhance our gift of topsoil. A mining mentality will continue to tear, destroy, pollute and wash away our topsoil into our waters and thereby foul them. With carrot or stick we must try to promote and elevate the best practices of soil and water conservation to all landowners if we want to restore our water quality.

— Selden Spencer, Huxley

# IN THE NEWS



### Letter: Now is the time to plan cover crops

Posted August 31, 2017 Ames Tribune Opinion Section

The State Fair is over, and the schools have started. Now is the wait before the harvest. The time before combines rove the land taking up the bounty of corn and soybeans.

This is precisely the time to plan and execute a cover crop program. Your cover crop will get started and hold the soil once the crop is harvested.

Your cover crop will hold your soil through the winter cold and into the spring thaw and rain.

Your cover crop will hold your soil and prevent it from running off into the nearest ditch or stream.

Your cover crop will take a step toward keeping our streams and waters clean. Cover crops can help.

There are air and machine application options.

There are even programs to defray the expense. There is expertise at every co-op, the USDA and many other organizations.

Now is the time to plan to apply cover crops; time to plan for some green fields through the winter.

This is better for all of us than the barren black tilled fields we will see so often this winter. Blackened tilled fields that will just lose more precious Iowa soils in the spring.

— Selden Spencer, Ames

# Nevada Journal

### Zearing Couple Honored

Posted October 5, 2017 Nevada Iowa Journal News



Photo courtesy of Nevada Iowa Journal

Sue and Kendall Upchurch receive their award for outstanding efforts in conservation on their farm near Zearing. The Upchurches were nominated by the Story County Soil and Water Commission and received their award at the Iowa State Fair. Sue and Kendall are pictured in the center, surrounded by state officials.

### About the Award

The Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award is 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.

It recognizes those who have taken steps in their farming operations that improve or protect the environment and natural resources of our state while also serving as local leaders to encourage other farmers to follow in their footsteps by building success upon success.

As environmental leaders, these farmers have adopted best management practices and incorporated environmental stewardship throughout their farming operations. True stewards of the land, they recognize that improved water quality and soil sustainability reaps benefits that extend beyond their fields to reach the citizens of Iowa and beyond, and have made environmental stewardship a priority on their farms.

# **2017 PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Story County Conservation (SCC)**



Story County Conservation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all Story County citizens by wisely managing our natural resources, by providing recreational and leisure opportunities, and by educating citizens to be wise caretakes of our natural environment. SCC manages

over 3000 acres of parks and natural areas and takes an active role in developing and managing wildlife habitat, including assistance to private landowners.

### Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI)



CDI is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Commissions in Iowa. CDI focuses on augmenting the work of the 100 local conservation districts by

providing programs and services that helps each individual district perform at is most effective levels.

### **Iowa State University Extension**



Iowa State University Extension (ISUE) is responsible for providing leadership for the educational programs of the USDA. Field specialists

### Extension and Outreach

are located throughout the state, and a county extension education director that serves as the local contact for Soil and Water Conservation Districts is located in all 99 counties.

### NRCS



The Natural Resource **Conservation Service** (NRCS) is the technical agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that helps land owners and

operators on a voluntary basis to write conservation plans and apply conservation practices to the land. They provide financial assistance, develop soil surveys, monitor soil and water resources, and assist with conservation compliance.

### **IDALS**

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality (IDALS-DSCWQ) is responsible for the administrative functions of soil and water conservation



laws. Staff members advise and assist with local resource management programs, allocate state financial incentive program funds, and provides assistance to landowners in reducing non-point source pollution and the protection of groundwater quality.

### PRAIRIE RIVERS OF IOWA

Prairie Rivers of Iowa's mission is to promote economic development through the restoration and conservation of



lowa's cultural and natural resources.

### **Iowa DNR**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is the state agency that administers parks, lakes, recreation and wildlife areas, forests, natural and cultural preserves and the associated user facilities and services.



They help coordinate the activities of County Conservation Boards and are responsible for coordinating statewide water pollution abatement and water quality management programs funded by the EPA.

### NACD

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is the nonprofit organization that represents America's 3000 conservation districts and 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. NACD's mission is to serve conservation districts by



providing national leadership and unified voice for natural resource conservation.

# **SCSWCD IN ACTION**



### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

These funds plus secretary assistance are provided by the State of Iowa and allocated to the District by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

### **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

Total Allocation	\$2,000.00
Commissioners Expense	\$1,593.33
Office Expense	
Dues Paid	\$1,625.00
Total Funds Spent	\$5,293.15

#### FY17 IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Brought Forward	\$0.00
Allocation	\$17,206.00
Spent	\$9,170.75
Óbligated	
Recalled by State	

### **FY17 REAP PRACTICES**

Brought Forward	\$0.00
Allocation	\$10,091.41
Spent	\$1,600.00
Obligated	
Recalled by DSC	

#### **FY17 REAP FORESTERY/NATIVE GRASSES**

Brought Forward	\$382.28
Total Allocation	
Spent	\$1,117.72
Obligated	
Recalled by DSC	-

### **COUNTY BUDGET**

#### Provided by the Story County Supervisors

FY17 Allocation	.\$7,500.00
Funds Spent in FY17	.\$4,713.00

#### **DISTRICT ACCOUNTS**

District Checking & Savings 7/1/16	\$16,689.37
Deposits	\$33,527.99
Disbursements	
Balance 6/30/17	\$17,567.15

The Story County Soil and Water Conservation District (Story SWCD) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM at the USDA Service Center. These meetings are open to the public. If you have conservation concerns and would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact the office prior to the meeting.

Story SWCD prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.



We would like to thank all Story County residents for their efforts on behalf of soil and water conservation. Without your cooperation, our work would be impossible.

We welcome your input in helping us continue this great work. If you have any questions, suggestions or resource issues, please contact our office at: (515) 382-2217, Ext.3 in Nevada, Iowa



This report has been prepared by Prairie Rivers of Iowa, in partnership with the Story County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners

Support provided by Story County Board of Supervisors