

# Bringing Back Wetlands

## Celebrating 165,000 Acres

July 9, 2013 | 6 p.m.

1466 Timber Ave | Charles City, IA

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Wetlands used to dominate much of the Iowa landscape, serving as nature's sponge helping recycle nutrients, recharge groundwater and reduce flooding. Early pioneers had reported more than 200 prairie pothole wetlands per square mile in northern Iowa. By the 1980's, we lost 95 percent of our original wetland acres and the benefits they provide. Iowa landowners began restoring and protecting wetlands more than 20 years ago through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Iowa ranks 10th in the nation in the number of WRP acres.

This summer Iowa landowners will reach the milestone of enrolling 165,000 acres in various USDA wetland restoration financial assistance programs including WRP, Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program and Emergency Watershed Protection Program-Flood Plain Easements. USDA in Iowa has invested more than \$300 million in wetland restoration easements since the 1990's.

These acres play key roles in supporting our state's efforts to reduce nutrient loading of Iowa's rivers and streams as well as reducing the potential for flooding. Wetlands also provide habitat for the majority of Iowa's endangered species.

Please join NRCS, local landowners, and the Floyd County Soil and Water Conservation District as we celebrate this landmark accomplishment. In addition to opening comments from NRCS State Conservationist Jay Mar, several landowners will discuss their decisions to restore wetlands on their farm, and how it's benefited their operations. This event is held in conjunction with a Conservation Buffers Field Day sponsored by Trees Forever, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Pheasants Forever and the Floyd County NRCS office. Light refreshments will be served.

**When:** Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 6:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Jung and Savage Family Farms  
1466 Timber Ave. • Charles City

**Directions:** From Charles City take County Road T64 (Shadow Ave.) north to County Road B33 (155th St.). Turn right and take the next left/north on Timber Ave. Go about a mile north and the Jung and Savage Farms are on the right, 1466 Timber Ave.