

# IOWA CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

OCTOBER 2014



## Natural Resources Conservation Service

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## A Message from the: **State Conservationist**



*Jay Mar,*  
State Conservationist

### **Happy New Year!**

As we close out Fiscal Year 2014 I want to thank all of you for all your hard work, and for making a challenging year into a successful year. We began with a government shutdown, the sun setting on the old Farm Bill and, of course, transitioning into the new Farm Bill, with the subsequent late allocation of program funding.

And yet, you stepped up to the challenge. You met or exceeded your goals. You proved that you are indeed hard working, resilient, and able to persevere against the odds – you made “Iowa shine”.

As we open the doors of FY2015, we begin with the implementation of the “Iowa NRCS 5-Year Strategic Plan” which will create a pathway to technical excellence. It focuses on our core purpose of science-based technical assistance through comprehensive conservation planning.

Our future emulates a quote provide by the *Father of Conservation*: “We cannot depend on windshield surveys and office planning to carry out a job of the complexity and magnitude of safeguarding our farmland and controlling floods.”  
– Hugh Hammond Bennett, 1959

RISK – “The will to do ... The Heart to dare”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay F. Mar".

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**Current Developments is a product of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Des Moines, Iowa, published bimonthly by the Iowa NRCS Public Affairs Staff in cooperation with NRCS and partner agency employees from across the state.**

### **Current Developments Stories and Photos**

Please submit your Current Developments story ideas and photos to State Public Affairs Specialist Laura Crowell at [laura.crowell@ia.usda.gov](mailto:laura.crowell@ia.usda.gov).

Past issues can be found at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/ia/people/employees/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_008273](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/ia/people/employees/?cid=nrcs142p2_008273)



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## Fair Time: Clarke County Shows Off Survey Equipment

Submitted by Dennis Schrod, District Conservationist, Clarke County

The Osceola Field Office partnered with the Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District to participate in the STEM tent at Clarke County Fair in July.

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It focuses on encouraging students to discover innovative ways to solve problems.

At right, Soil Conservation Technician Aaron Sickels shows some interested participants how to use surveying equipment.

More information about STEM is available at <https://scstemhub.drake.edu/nrcs/main/ia/soils/health/>.



## 3rd Grade Field Day: Features New NRCS Rainfall Simulator

The Osceola Field Office, along with Marc Zucco, Area 4 Resource Soil Scientist, participated in the Clarke County Farm Bureau's seventh annual 3rd Grade Field Day on September 17.

More than 140 students from the Clarke and Murray Community School Districts participated in this year's event held at the Clarke County Fairgrounds in Osceola.

The students rotated among seven learning stations, including a new NRCS Rainfall Simulator which demonstrates the erosion and runoff potential of local soils with various covers and treatments, along with an impervious surface (roofing shingles).

Four FFA students from the Clarke Community High School were trained on the intricacies of the simulator, enabling them to engage the students

in discussions about erosion, flooding and water quality. The other stations at the field day included representatives from the local coops, ISU Extension, a turkey hatchery, and the local implement dealership. The Clarke County Cattlemen provided lunch for the group.



## Soil Health On Wheels: Boone SWCD Innovation Grant Becomes Reality

Boone Soil and Water Conservation District unveiled its new soil health trailer at the Farm Progress Show near Boone, Aug. 26-28, outside the Conservation Central building.



Through the NRCS-administered Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program, Boone SWCD applied for and received matching funds to develop the educational trailer.

The CIG program stimulates the development and adoption of innovative conservation ideas and technologies, leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are used to award competitive grants to non-governmental organizations.

The new mobile outreach lab will help educate central Iowa's agricultural community about soil health-improving technologies and practices.

The trailer includes a large television monitor to show soil health videos, a testing area for infiltration and other demonstrations, a blown-up view of living soil, and lists 5 major keys to improving soil health.

Below, Boone SWCD showed off their new soil health trailer in the Pufferbilly Days Parade Sept. 6, 2014 in Boone. The celebration is named after Boone's history with railroads.



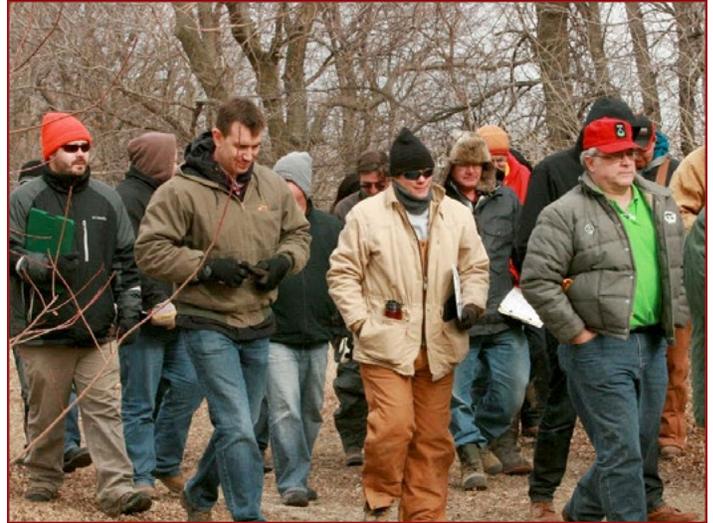
## TSP Training: Iowa, Nebraska NRCS Provided Week Long Course

Submitted by Judy Martinson

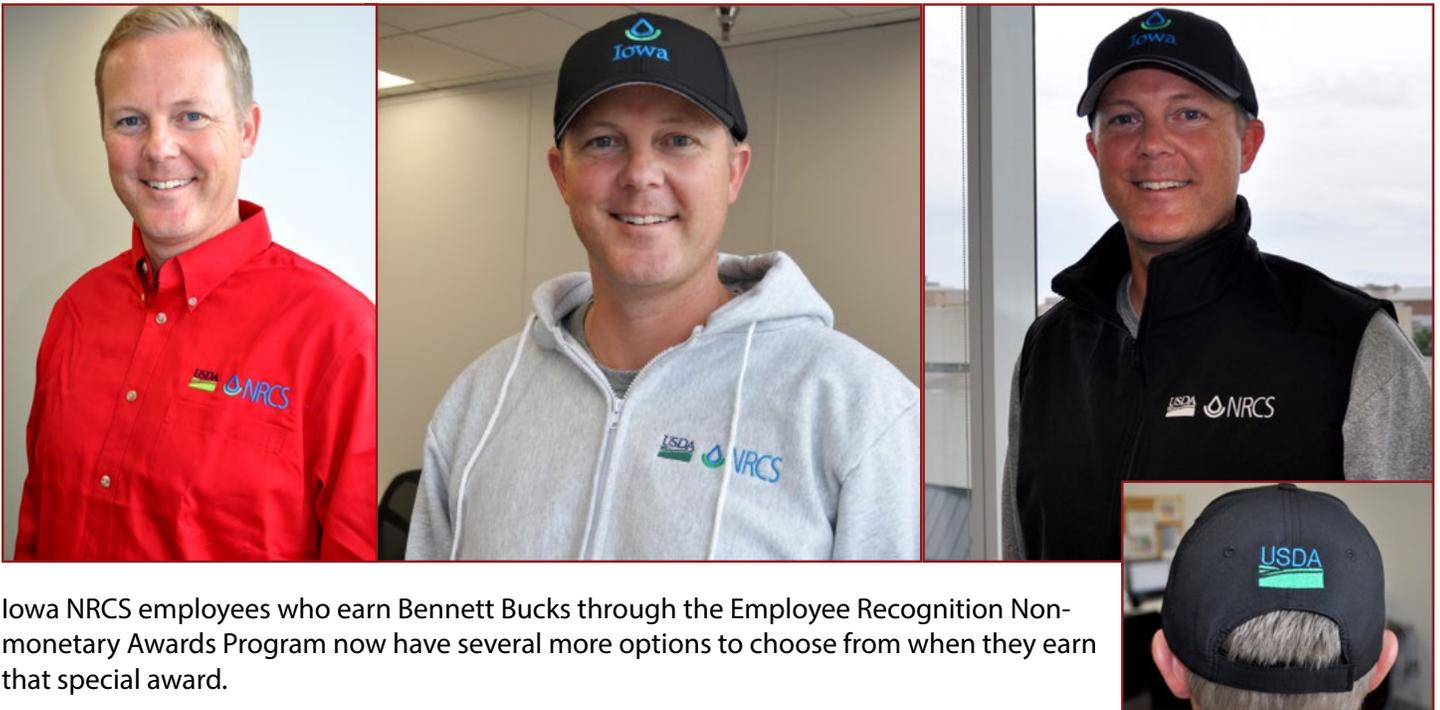
TSPN, a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organized by and for Technical Service Providers (TSPs), and Heartland Regional Water Quality Initiative played host in April to 30 participants from around the nation who attended Iowa NRCS conservation planning training in Denison. Conservation Planning, Part II is a required course for TSPs who certify in CAP CNMP (102) and is very helpful to planners of other disciplines who aspire for a better understanding of NRCS planning methodologies.

Judy Martinson, Iowa NRCS Technical Service Provider Coordinator, and Renee Hancock, the Nebraska NRCS Technical Service Provider Coordinator, co-facilitated the week long course along with Joe Lally, who represented Heartland Regional Water Quality Initiative.

For additional information, contact Judy Martinson at 515-323-2229 or email her at [Judy.Martinson@ia.usda.gov](mailto:Judy.Martinson@ia.usda.gov).



## Bennett Bucks: New Options for Award Winners



Iowa NRCS employees who earn Bennett Bucks through the Employee Recognition Non-monetary Awards Program now have several more options to choose from when they earn that special award.

Stylish hats, dress shirts, polos, sweatshirts, coats, vests, and even gloves are now available - all with the USDA-NRCS logo. The newest arrivals were ordered through Land's End® and L.L. Bean®.

A catalog with available options will be updated soon to be viewed on the Iowa NRCS Sharepoint at: [https://ems-team.usda.gov/sites/NRCS\\_Iowa/admin/hr/Employee%20Recognition/Forms/AllItems.aspx](https://ems-team.usda.gov/sites/NRCS_Iowa/admin/hr/Employee%20Recognition/Forms/AllItems.aspx).

## Honorary Iowa Member: Crowell Receives CDI Award

Laura Crowell, state public affairs specialist for Iowa NRCS, received the Conservation Districts of Iowa Honorary Member Award on September 3, 2014 at the 68th Annual Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commissioners Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines.

Recently, more has been asked of Iowa's farmers and we are seeing farmers across the state rise to this challenge. This is a result of an increase in outreach and education efforts. Clare Lindahl, executive director for CDI, says Crowell has raised the bar and brought increased and higher quality outreach and education support, materials and efforts to Iowa.

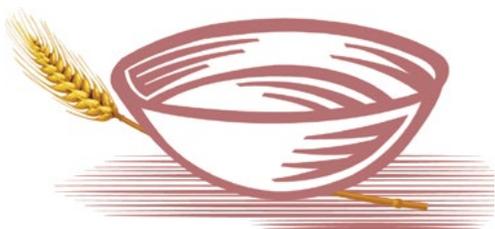
"Laura's efforts have led the Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Health campaign to spread across the state like wildfire," says Lindahl. "Under



*Crowell (right) received her Honorary CDI Member award with Jackie Suckow with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.*

Laura's guidance, the Soil Health campaign has engaged and excited Districts, farmers and others in everything from cover crops to earthworms."

## Helping Out: USDA Campaign to Feed Families Successful Again



### feds feed families

This summer, Federal employees came together to nourish communities nationally. USDA, once again, led the Feds Feed Families campaign, which ran June 1 through Aug. 27, 2014. All Federal agencies, including Iowa NRCS, participated.

Iowa NRCS Civil Engineer Jean Sandstrom and Physical Science Technician Cynthia Page coordi-

nated the Feds Feed Families effort for Iowa NRCS. They reported that Iowa NRCS collected nearly 4,000 lbs. of food for people in need, plus 116 lbs. of pet food.

"Thanks to our area coordinators - Dan Paulsen, Patrick Chase, Kurt Hoeft, Joni Schwery, and Jason Steele," said Sandstrom. "Your efforts were much appreciated."

The Area 3 office in West Union donated 800 lbs., leading the way for Iowa NRCS. The Wapello Field Office in Ottumwa donated 556 lbs.

The donations from the Feds Feed Families Food Drive are especially

important, because they come at a time of year when donations traditionally decline.

Since the campaign began in 2009, Federal workers have donated and collected 24.1 million pounds of food and other non-perishable items to support families at risk of hunger across America.

Last year, nearly 9 million pounds of food were collected. Agencies were encouraged this year to set their own goals again and beat their previous best!

## Back In the Day



This edition of "Back in the Day" features pictures from the 1980s in southern Iowa.

The picture above on the left was taken by Lynn Betts of now retired District Conservationist Keith Edwards, who was inspecting an orchardgrass-brome-grass-legume seeding on CRP land in Clarke County in October 1987.

The image to the right is current Black Hawk County Soil Conservationist Julie Falcon in 1980, working with



farmer Jack Henning in Wapello County.

"I believe we were discussing terraces for his farm near Blakesburg," says Falcon.

If you have a "Back in the Day" picture you would like to contribute, please mail it to Jason Johnson or Laura Crowell in the state office, or scan and e-mail a high resolution version to [laura.crowell@ia.usda.gov](mailto:laura.crowell@ia.usda.gov).

### HR Corner

#### Phased Retirement

OPM issued its final rules on the Phased Retirement option on Aug. 7, 2014. They will become effective on Nov. 6, 2014. This new law al-

lows full-time employees to work part-time schedules while beginning to draw retirement benefits.

This new retirement tool will allow managers to better provide unique mentoring opportunities for employees while increasing access to the decades of institutional knowledge and experience that retirees can provide.

The employees will spend 20 percent of their time in mentoring activities to facilitate the transfer

of their knowledge and skills to other employees within the agency. Each agency will have the flexibility to implement the mentoring component in a way that is best for the agency and employees.

NRCS is finalizing its plan for implementing the Phased Retirement option. Only after NRCS's plan has been approved will employees be able to submit applications, starting Nov. 6, 2014.

To learn more about Phased Retirement, go to the Human Resources webpage on the Iowa NRCS website: [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ia/people/employees/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_008283](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ia/people/employees/?cid=nrcs142p2_008283).

## Employee Spotlight: Chris Knudsen



**Title:** Human Resources Officer (HRO)

**College Education:**

- » 1978-79, attended Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in Ankeny, Architectural Drafting
- » 1984-86, returned to DMACC to pursue B.A. degree
- » 1986-88, attended Grand View University, B.A. 1988

**NRCS Career:** Chris began his NRCS career Oct. 9 1979, as an Engineering Draftsman on the Watershed Planning Staff at the State Office in Des Moines.

"Times were tough for finding a job back then. We were going through a similar recession," he said. "I can remember learning there was a job opening at the Soil Conservation Service, and thinking 'what was that? Never heard of it,' and no one I knew had ever heard of us either. I grew up in the city and had never stepped foot on a farm in my life. My only contact with a cow was in the meat section of the grocery store."

After five years of winter surveying and many uncomfortable farm experiences, he realized that his calling was a nice "cushy" job in a climate controlled office. "In reality, the itch to return to college and obtain a degree was always in my mind," he said. "I did not keep that to myself and sought out the advice of most of my coworkers on the Planning Staff. After all, they all had degrees."

**Human Resources:** After a year attending college (working part-time) his supervisor, Dean Glenn, a Civil Engineer, told him that if he wanted a degree in business then he should be working on the Administrative Staff. Glenn arranged a meeting with the State Administrative Officer, who coincidentally on his last day before retirement, said, "Why not?," and he was reassigned to an Administrative Assistant position.

Upon completion of his education in 1988, he began as a GS-5 Human

Resources Assistant. "I was fortunate to work with some very skilled and knowledgeable Human Resources Assistants and Specialists," he said. "The AMAs were also great teachers and remain so to employees in the HR field."

Chris received several promotions within the HR staff. In 1995, the perfect storm for opportunities opened. When NRCS established the Regional Office structure, "the HR Officer went to the West Regional Office in California, others retired through early out opportunities," he said, "and an HR staff of seven people was reduced to only two employees! I became the HRO during the time when FSA/NRCS and RD were talking about converging staffs into one administrative office."

**Favorite Memory:** "My most memorable moment is when the HR Staff decided to play a joke on me at a State Office Employee Recognition meeting. I was responsible for ensuring that the Employee Award Certificates arrived at the meeting for Leroy Brown, STC, to present to the State Office employees. I ride the bus, and was complaining about how I was going to have to come all the way down to the State Office to pick them up in the morning then go to the meeting. Connie Bishop offered to take them home with her and she would deliver them the next morning. I remember telling her they had to be there. The next morning I arrived at the meeting and Connie informed me that she forgot the certificates. Anyone who knew Mr. Brown knew that he would not be happy. After several minutes of panic I finally mustered up the courage to go tell him there were no awards to present. After I told him, he told me that they were under the table, upon which I replied, 'I don't know what's under the table but they're not the certificates.' Then, the staff noticed that I was talking to Leroy and knew I was telling him what happened. Trish Mootz came running up and said, 'It was a joke, Chris.' I was so embarrassed that I had a moment of temporary



*Chris Knudsen*

insanity and placed my hands around her throat, in front of Leroy. It is the only time in which I saw Leroy laugh. He kept coming over to our table and telling the staff how much he enjoyed their joke."

**Memorable Person:** "Everyone is memorable, so I could not mention them all," he said, "but Demitrice Boozer is my most memorable supervisor. She is full of personality and she and I could have some of the best conversations (disagreements) and still come out of it friends."

**Retirement:** "When I started my career it seemed that most people retired when they were 55 years-old, and to me that seemed really old," he said. "To my surprise 55 is not that old, since I will reach that age next year."

Chris says he plans to retire next May 2. "Trish (Mootz) bought me a countdown clock and programmed it for that day," he said. "It is the perfect time, since we should be well into the implementation of the newest Administrative Transformation."

## Spotlight Video: Soil Microbes and Plants



In Season Two's premier of The Science of Soil Health video series, Ohio State University's Jim Hoorman explains the incredible symbiotic relationship between soil microbes and plants.

"A typical plant will give up from 25-45 percent of its total carbohydrate reserves to feed those microbes," he says. In return, microbes provide nutrients and water to the plants.

Hoorman says he tells farmers, "Microbes are just soluble bags of fertilizer." So what do plants know that we don't? Watch this three-minute video and find out. **It's science you can really dig!**



## Conservation Innovation: 7 New Grants Selected for Iowa Projects

Researching innovative ways to market grass-fed livestock and improve nutrient reduction highlight the seven Iowa 2014 projects selected through USDA's Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the CIG program through the 2014 Farm Bill. The CIG requires a 50/50 match between NRCS and the applicant. Each state can select proposals intended to stimulate the development and adoption of new conservation approaches, in conjunction with agricultural production.

### State CIGs

Iowa NRCS is providing \$463,042 to the projects, which range from 1-3 years in length. Grant recipients are all non-governmental organizations partnering with other organizations to help them complete their goals. Below is a list of Iowa's new CIG projects:

- » Pathfinders Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. to find ways to "Increase Markets for Grass Fed Beef Producers in Southern Iowa." (**\$75,000 through Aug. 31, 2017**)
- » Iowa State University is receiving a CIG to "Extend Field Scale 4-R Nutrient Management to Watershed Scale Outcomes." (**\$74,865 through Dec. 31, 2016**)



*Illinois NRCS State Conservationist Ivan Dozier (left) and Iowa NRCS State Conservationist Jay Mar (right) attended the national CIG announcement in Milan, IL in September, which featured Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.*

- » Iowa League of Cities to develop "Nutrient Trading through the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy's Technology-Based Standards." (**\$74,310 through Aug. 31, 2015**)
- » The Nature Conservancy to find "Economic and Ecological Benefits of Sustainable Grazing in the Little Sioux Watershed." (**\$58,092 through Sept. 1, 2017**)
- » Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. for the "Demonstration of the Rapid Land Cover Mapper Tool as a Method of Systematically Quantifying the Engagement of Landowners and Adoption of Conservation Practices." (**\$75,000 through Aug. 31, 2017**)
- » Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Inc., for "Marketing Northeast Iowa's Grass Fed Livestock." (**\$40,000 through Aug. 31, 2017**)
- » The Nature Conservancy for "Adapting Oxbow Restorations for the Topeka Shiner to provide Nutrient Processing and Water Storage." (**\$75,000 through Aug. 31, 2017**).

## Farm Progress Show: Conservation Central Plays the Feud

The game show, "Farmer Feud", was a highlight at this year's Farm Progress Show for Conservation Central, Aug. 26-28 in Boone.

The show, based off the popular "Family Feud", featured such match ups as the Iowa Corn Growers against the Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa NRCS and IDALS-

DSC, and Hagie Manufacturing against Van Wall Equipment.

Farmers across the state answered survey questions at CDI's spring regional meetings. Questions ranged from, "What is the most popular conservation practice in Iowa?" to "What is a farmer's favorite color?"

The show also included celebrity hosts, which included Chuck Gipp, executive director for the Iowa DNR; Elaine Kub, grain market expert from South Dakota; Frank Holdmeyer, executive director for Farm Progress Companies; and Randy Cooney, with the Mines and Minerals Division at IDALS.

**1** Public Affairs Specialist Jason Johnson (left) emceed Farmer Feud. Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Director Jim Gillespie captained the IDALS-DSC team Aug. 26 against NRCS.

**2** Grain Market Expert Elaine Kub hosted one of four shows during the Farm Progress Show. The game below featured Iowa NRCS (left) against IDALS-DSC (right). The Iowa NRCS team won, taking the points on four of the five questions. Nicky Williams captained the team of Paul Miller, Helen Leavenworth, Dave Brommel and Kevin Kordick.

Photos by Frank Holdmeyer, Executive Director for Farm Progress Companies



## Seeing Is Believing: Especially When it Comes to Soil Health



One of the primary messages of the NRCS soil health campaign is that soil is full of life. And the microorganisms living in the soil play key roles in plant health and productivity.

Through new, high-powered microscopes and digital cameras, Iowa NRCS can show producers the hidden creatures in their soil and how different farming practices can boost soil health.

Iowa NRCS Geologist Kathy Woida is our self-taught “microscope specialist.” “When Rick (Bednarek) approached me about learning to use the microscope to identify soil microorganisms I said, ‘I’m into dead stuff!’” she explained.

But for the last six months she’s studied and sought out expertise from Iowa State University and other specialists to learn how to best prep soil samples and identify microbes.

“Healthy soil is pretty lively,” she said.

Woida has captured images of tiny, fast-moving soil microbes through a Leica light-transmitting microscope which provides up to 1000x magnification. Many of the organisms she is trying to find are only 1/100 the width of a piece of paper. She also has to search quickly as microbes only live for a few minutes under the high intensity light.



Bacteria-feeding nematode in no-till soil with cover crop (400X magnif.)

She’s studied the length of the “mycorrhizal fungi” which are the white, fibrous systems that increase roots’ ability to tap into nearby nutrients. Woida’s preliminary results show that soil from a native prairie contains 8-10 times more fungi than newer no-till systems.

“While this is purely observational, it does indicate that tillage systems and other soil conservation practices have strong correlation to very important soil health factors that can boost plant performance,” said Rick Bednarek, Iowa NRCS state soil scientist.

NRCS employees can view videos and images of some of the Woida’s soil microbes discoveries at: [Service\\_Center/NRCS\\_statewide\\_shared/430\\_SOI\\_Soil\\_Survey/Soil Health/Microbe videos & jpgs.](#)

## FWP: 2014 Professional Development Conference

The FWP hosted the 2014 Professional Development Conference on August 14 in Marshalltown. Over 100 NRCS and partner employees attended.

The morning started with a warm welcome from Jay Mar, Iowa NRCS State Conservationist, and a video greeting from Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds. Brenda Clark Hamilton then presented on Customer Service Skills. She gave a fresh perspective on some basic customer service skills, which included tips on phone etiquette, building rapport, body language, and listening skills. She also covered the “do’s and don’ts” of working with upset customers. She was a fun and interactive speaker

with several valuable insights to customer service.

After lunch, Deadra Stanton presented on managing change. The room was full of laughter while Deadra gave real-life examples on how to handle change and persevere through life’s obstacles. She reminded the audience to take a step back and look at the big picture to put some of life’s smaller challenges in perspective.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the conference happen, especially the FWP Committee and Jay Mar, as well as everyone that attended the conference. I am looking forward to next year’s conference. I hope to see you there!

## WiN: Organization Opportunity for NRCS Women

Did you know that NRCS has a National Organization for Women? WiN, or Women in NRCS, was organized in 2012. The mission of WiN is “to provide women with training, opportunities, and mentoring to develop into their fullest professional potential.” Their vision is “high performing, diverse, innovative, and motivated female employees who transform the workplace.”

WiN conducts professional development training, promotes access and increases program participation for female farmers, identifies and works to resolve barriers of female employees, and provides scholarships for higher education.

For more information, please visit their website: [www.winnrcs.org/](http://www.winnrcs.org/).

## ERS Report: Characteristics of Women Farm Operators and Their Farms

The USDA Economic Research Service released a report in April 2013 about the “Characteristics of Women Farm Operators and Their Farms,” by Robert Hoppe and Penni Korb. This report found that “the share of U.S. farms operated by women nearly tripled over the past three decades, from 5% in 1978 to 14% by 2007.”

farmers to 1 million. Most secondary women farm operators (96 percent) were on farms whose principal operator was a man, generally the woman’s husband.

The following is interesting information from the report.

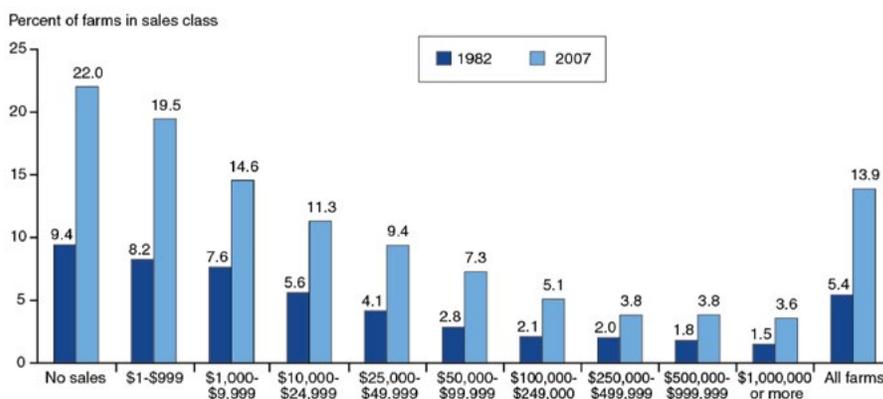
- » Women-operated farms increased in all sales classes. Between 1982 and 2007, the number of women-operated farms grew from 121,600 to 306,200, with increases in all sales classes.
- » Most women-operated farms are very small. Since 1982, a majority of women-operated farms have had annual sales of less than \$10,000.
- » Five percent of women-operated farms (15,400 farms) had sales of \$100,000 or more in 2007. Most of these farms specialized in grains and oilseeds, specialty crops, poultry and eggs, beef cattle, or dairy.
- » Nearly half of farms operated by women specialized in grazing livestock. In 2007, 45 percent of women-operated farms specialized in raising beef cattle other than in feedlots (23 percent), horses and other equines (17 percent), or sheep and goats (6 percent).
- » Women-operated farms specializing in poultry, specialty crops, grains, or dairy had the most sales. Although these farms totaled only 21 percent of women-operated farms, they generated 72 percent of sales from all women’s farms.
- » Counting secondary operators increases the number of women

This information can be useful to plan outreach for female producers. Organizations such as Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) and Women, Land and Legacy (WLL) provide opportunities to reach women in the agriculture sector. Programs that offer financial assistance for grazing and specialty crop practices can be emphasized, such as EQIP. While agriculture is still dominated by men, women are significantly increasing their involvement.

The study was conducted using data from the Census of Agriculture (data from 1978 – 2007) and the Agriculture Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

To view the full report, go to <http://ers.usda.gov/media/1093194/eib111.pdf>.

Share of farms and ranches operated by women in each sales class, 1982 and 2007  
Women operators increased their share of farms and ranches in all sales classes



Note: Sales classes are expressed in constant 2007 dollars, using the Producer Price Index (PPI) for farm products to adjust for price changes. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, compiled from the 1982 and 2007 Censuses of Agriculture.

## Administrative Transformation Update: National Travel Services

All “help-desk” type GovTrip and travel questions should be directed to the National Travel Services Team through the Travel Support Help Desk. Iowa NRCS’ administrative services staff may no longer provide this type of assistance.

Here are the steps for requesting assistance:

- » Go to <https://itsm.sc.egov.usda.gov/>
- » Select NRCS Travel Support icon
- » Employee information will automatically populate based on eAuth
- » Select your region
- » Division list will be available based on selected region, select the Division.
- » Request Category
- » After updating the information required for the Category, click on submit.

The following chart describes the type of assistance available:

Request Category	Category Description
Profile Setup	New Employee or invitational traveler needs to set up in GovTrip
Name Change	Employee needs official name change in GovTrip
Employee Routing Change	Employee going to be on a detail or is traveling for another state/division at the other state/division’s cost; or a transfer of station
Travel Card Resolution	Travel card mailed to an incorrect address; Employee inadvertently threw out the card, requesting a replacement card
Cancelation Notice	Employee receives a cancelation notice from SATO or a GovTrip stating that the airline reservation is canceled
Rejects	Employee receives GovTrip reject email such as for Rejects due to Budget Exceeds, User ID locked; misc. rejects
Travel Card Requests	Government Travel card for employee traveling 5 times or more a calendar year; or Closing the government travel card when employee leaves NRCS, or travels less than 5 times a year or wants to voluntarily give up the card
New Routing List	Division/Organization change requiring establishment of a new routing list
Update Routing List	Changes to the approval authority on an existing routing list
General Transfer of Station	General Transfer of Station (Relocation) questions
General Temporary Duty Travel	General Temporary Duty Travel questions
Emergency Travel Request	When employee calls the toll-free number for emergency travel assistance. (This category is used only by the Fiscal Technician to log emergency travel requests.)

### Other National Travel Team Resources include:

Emergency Assistance: 855-344-4793 (8 am to 8 pm ET)

SATO: 866-530-0067 (8 pm to 8 am) AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

More information about the National Travel Team and other Administrative Transformation resources can be found on the Iowa NRCS SharePoint site under Administrative Transformation.

## Changes In: Iowa NRCS Personnel

### *In order of Effective Date*

Name	Title	Nature of Action	Effective Date	Location
Seago, Jeff	Soil Conservationist	Resignation	7/31/14	Elkader
Breuer Lauterbach, Teresa	Administrative Management Assistant	Resignation	8/1/14	Fairfield Area Office
Gehrig, Chris	Soil Conservation Technician	New Hire	8/10/14	Primghar
Nieland, Jennifer	Soil Conservation Technician	New Hire	8/10/14	Epworth
Kragel, Jackie	Soil Conservationist	Conv. to Career Cond. Appt.	8/10/14	Algona
Carrington, Don	Resource Conservationist	Reassignment	8/10/14	State Office - Des Moines
Turner, Jennifer	Soil Conservationist	Promotion	8/24/14	Maquoketa
Haun, Ava	Soil Conservationist	Conv. to Career Cond. Appt.	9/7/14	Harlan
Chafa, Christine	District Conservationist	Promotion	9/7/14	Sergeant Bluff
Spire, Seth	Soil Conservationist	Reassignment	9/7/14	Sidney
Leavenworth, Helen	Soil Conservationist	Promotion	9/21/14	Elkader
Monk, Monica	Easement Programs Coordinator	Retirement	9/21/14	State Office - Des Moines

## Changes In: IDALS-Division of Soil Conservation Personnel

IDALS-DSC reports no personnel changes between 8/1/14 - 9/30/14