

# CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

IOWA NRCS

SPRING 2026





## A NOTE FROM THE ACTING STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Iowa NRCS, I am honored to be serving as your Acting State Conservationist. It's hard to believe the month of May is almost over and planting season is nearly wrapped up across the state. It's been great traveling across the state and seeing so many conservation practices that align with our renewed focus on regenerative agriculture. Our conservation partnership has seen record numbers with cover crop adoption, and we recognize there is more work to be done. Having dedicated funding through the Regenerative Pilot Program will allow Iowa farmers to continue to expand their efforts.

I'm also excited about the Agency's focus to promote locally led conservation efforts. This aligns well with our agreement that we have with Conservation Districts of Iowa, providing facilitators for SWCDs who host locally led meetings and updating their 5-year Soil and Water Conservation Resource Plan. This allows our District Conservationists who are working directly with producers and local groups within their communities to really understand what's highest priority in your counties.

I also want to take a moment to thank you all for your patience while the Iowa Programs staff navigated our Farm Bill Program rollout. We've seen many challenges this year with ranking and pre-approvals, as well as learning about the impacts of our categories within each of our ranking pools. I know at the field level, you've had to continue to explain delays to your local farmers and you were ready to begin contracting as soon as the lists were released. Thank you for your continued commitment to Iowa farmers.

As we enter the summer season, I hope you are all able to take a moment and reflect on the great work you are doing. While you're driving across the countryside and enjoying Iowa's beautiful landscape, you can be proud of the conservation practices you've helped to make possible.

Sincerely,

Jaia Fischer, Acting State Conservationist

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## Current Developments

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

## Stories and Photos

Please submit your Current Developments story ideas and photos to State Public Affairs Specialist Jason Johnson at [jason.r.johnson@usda.gov](mailto:jason.r.johnson@usda.gov). Past issues can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/iowa/current-developments>.

## Iowa NRCS State Office

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**Assistant Chief Visits Iowa:** The Iowa NRCS Leadership Team met with national leadership team members Jimmy Emmons, Assistant Chief - Central Region (sitting middle), and Dave Doctorian, Acting Deputy Assistant Chief - Central Region (standing back left), during a visit to the state on April 21.

## STATE CONSERVATIONIST JON HUBBERT RETIRES

Iowa NRCS State Conservationist Jon Hubbert retired on April 30 after nearly six years in the position and more than 38 years with the agency.

Jon took the reigns from Kurt Simon in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and shortly after implementation of the Iowa office reorganization to the Resource Team concept.

Although challenging times, under Hubbert, Iowa would eventually implement record acres and funding for conservation across the state.

Throughout his career, Jon served in many capacities including Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Iowa and Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Illinois. He was a District Conservationist in Illinois for 17 years.

Jon plans to spend more time at home with his family and more time outside kayaking, hunting and fishing.



State Conservationist Jon Hubbert is presented with a glass raindrop and certificate from Assistant State Conservationist for Management and Strategy Jaia Fischer at a retirement celebration in the state office. Hubbert retired from NRCS on April 30 after more than 38 years of service.

# SPRING TRAINING: NOT JUST FOR BASEBALL

## Cultural Resources Training

Members of the Iowa NRCS Ecological Sciences team from the State Office provided Cultural Resources training to staff from Northwest Area on March 24 and 25.

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Sioux City, Dan Paulsen, and Acting Area Resource Conservationist Caleb Santiago-Vazquez set up the important training in the Sac County Field Office on March 24 and the O'Brien County Conservation Prairie Heritage Center on March 25.

Without an archeologist on staff in Iowa, local field staff are taking on more cultural resources responsibilities.

From the State Office, Acting State Resource Conservationist Patrick Chase, State Forester Bailey Yotter, Resource Conservationist Maggie Syversen and Resource Conservationist Nicky Williams provided the training.

## Terrace Training

Thirty NRCS and partner staff from across Iowa participated in Conservation for New Employees Application (CNEA) Terraces Training, March 9-13, at the ISU Extension office in Altoona.



*Iowa NRCS staff in Northwest Area take cultural resources training at the Prairie Heritage Center on March 25 in Peterson, Iowa.*

The instructors for the course included Ky Hill and Tim Mensing from Southwest Area, Jeff Lutz and Dan Mohn from Northeast Area, Mark Delperdang from Southeast Area, and Sarah Anderson from the State Office.

A CNEA training for grassed waterways is scheduled for later this year, with details to come. These trainings are essential to the NRCS mission and Farmer First initiative.



# NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

*Submitted by Rajesh Chintala,  
State Agronomist, Des Moines*

Iowa NRCS hosted two nutrient management trainings in Northwest Area on April 7-8, focusing on various topics. About 40 NRCS and partner employees attended the trainings.

The trainings in Carroll and Spencer covered:

- » N-FACT tool - presented by Rajesh Chintala, State Agronomist
- » 590 Guidance and P-Index Calculator - presented by Caleb Santiago-Vazquez, Resource Conservationist
- » RUSLE2 - presented by Jeff Reichter, Area Soil Health Specialist

Chintala said participants gained hands-on experience with key components of 590 Nutrient Management including the N-FACT tool for determining customized nitrogen recommendations for producers; the updated 590 guidance framework; the Phosphorus Index



*State Agronomist Rajesh Chintala presents information about the N-FACT tool at nutrient management training in Spencer on April 8.*

Calculator; and RUSLE2 to position field offices and partners to produce accurate, consistent nutrient management plans and support producers in the upcoming conservation planning year.

## DID YOU KNOW? PEOPLE'S GARDEN RENAMED "VOICE OF THE FARMER GARDEN"

*From Tri-State Livestock News, March 27, 2026*

The People's Garden, initiated by the Obama administration on a corner of the USDA headquarters on the National Mall, has been renamed the Voice of the Farmer Garden and will be managed this year by the Farm Journal Foundation.

Aubrey Bettencourt, (former) Chief of the USDA-NRCS, noted that 5,000 acres of farmland are lost to development every day and said the

Trump administration is committed to "keeping farmers farming" through easements and other NRCS programs. The garden will tell the story of American agriculture to people who are not close to farming, she added.

Belinda Burrier, a soybean farmer from Maryland, noted that farmland is being lost to solar farms, development and data centers. She hopes tourists get to see "a small snippet of what we do."

# HOWARD COUNTY: CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP/ SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION WEEK

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and NRCS staff celebrated Stewardship Week, aka Soil and Water Conservation Week, across Iowa, April 26 through May 3. This year's theme was "Soil. Where It All Begins."

The Howard Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) celebrated by distributing 71 potted Spruce trees for Arbor Day to third graders at the Howard-Winneshiek and Notre Dame schools. Students were given a history of Arbor Day (April 24), including the importance of trees for soil health and water quality, and instructions on how to plant and care for their trees.

The HSWCD also hosted their 47<sup>th</sup> annual Natural Resources Day Outdoor Classroom on May 7 at the Prairie's Edge Nature Center near Cresco with 99 5<sup>th</sup> graders from the Howard-Winneshiek and Notre Dame schools.

Stations included:

- » *Entomology* presented by Angela Bries from Howard County Conservation,
- » *Backyard Conservation* with Kathy Moen, NRCS District Conservationist,
- » *Bee Keeping* with volunteer Jed Becker, *Woodland Plants & Flowers* with volunteer Connie Richter, and
- » *Soil Health* presented by Alicia Sedlmayr, NRCS Soil Health Specialist and Brandon Shatek, NRCS Soil Conservationist.



*Crestwood Elementary School third graders show off their new Spruce trees donated to them by the Howard SWCD.*



*Northeast Area Soil Health Specialist Alicia Sedlmayr provides information about runoff using the rainfall simulator for local 5th graders at the Natural Resources Day Outdoor Classroom at Prairie's Edge Nature Center near Cresco.*

# TAMA COUNTY: CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP/ SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION WEEK

Submitted by Melody Bro,  
Conservation Assistant, Tama County

The Tama Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) celebrated Soil and Conservation Week by hosting a coloring contest, poster contest, delivering trees, and hosting an outdoor classroom.

- » Created by popular demand in 2025, Tama SWCD's **Preschool Coloring Contest** has become very popular. The coloring page is provided with Stewardship Week materials in NACD's Marketplace.
- » Tama SWCD delivered **northern red oak tree seedlings** to 315 6<sup>th</sup> graders in six school districts.
- » Tama SWCD's annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Classroom began as a teacher workshop in 1974. By the teachers' requests, it was soon transformed into a 5<sup>th</sup> grade event. This year, 251 students rotated through 20-minute sessions focusing on soils, wildlife, wildlife population dynamics, prairies, forestry, Lakota bison robe game, a recycling relay, water quality, and fishing and boating safety.



A sampling of preschool coloring books submitted to the Tama SWCD.



A sampling of Tama SWCD's Stewardship Week poster contest 4<sup>th</sup> grade entries.



Iowa DNR District Forester Joe Herring led student groups in forest design using different tree species, represented by colored flags, to create biodiversity. The blue grass represents a pond needing protection from sediment and other contaminants.

# COOL TO THE CORE!

*Submitted by Lori Schnoor,  
District Conservationist,  
Jackson County*

Northeast Area Resource Soil Scientist Neil Sass and Civil Engineering Technician Russ Overton used the NRCS probe truck on April 8 to dig soil cores on a dairy farm near Bellevue in Jackson County.

Sass and Overton dug for bedrock depth on a proposed ag waste facility (monoslope building) project.

District Conservationist Lori Schnoor says Overton has been assisting with this project, and oversees local animal waste projects. "Russ is a very experienced technician, and we rely on him heavily on this team," she said.

For the proposed monoslope building, Schnoor says the dairy operators are eliminating an open lot and would like to move about 300 feeder cows to the building.

"The building would be in a better location on the landscape and they will also be managing their nutrients applied to all cropland," said Schnoor.



*Northeast Area Resource Soil Scientist Neil Sass (left) and Civil Engineering Technician Russ Overton take soil cores on a proposed ag waste facility location on April 8 in Jackson County near Bellevue.*

# CONSERVATION COMPASS

Submitted by Iowa Ag Water Alliance (IAWA)

## Meet the Conservation Compass: Your Guide to Funding

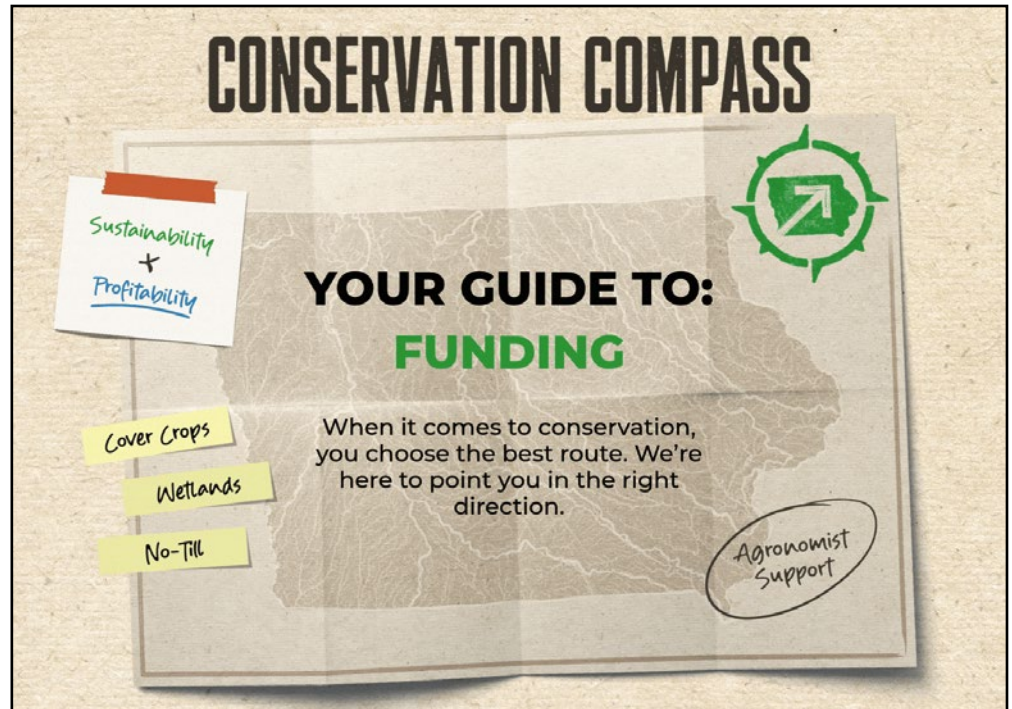
Finding cost-share for conservation once meant phone calls, some dead ends, and bouncing from website to website until you found answers (or didn't). That changes with the release of a new state-based tool called Conservation Compass.

Conservation Compass is live now and you can find it at [www.TheCompass.ag](http://www.TheCompass.ag). It's a free, easy-to-use suite of tools built to help Iowa farmers find, compare, and act on cost share programs that work for your operation.

You may have seen the old version of Conservation Compass. It was called [costsharecompare.com](http://costsharecompare.com). The new platform is easier to use, has more programs, and more ways to get connected to help.

What you can find on Conservation Compass:

- » Search for funding for cover crops, no-till, livestock, nitrogen management, prairie, and extended rotations.
- » Compare programs in one place. You can see up to three programs side by side.
- » Find help to get started and be successful. Every program page ends with a link to find a conservation agronomist.



Learn the basics. If you're new to cost-share, the Compass covers fundamentals including carbon markets and landowner conversations.

### Why is it called the Compass?

It's a cliché, but one that holds true: conservation is a journey that takes one step at a time. You're in the driver's seat and the Compass is there to point you in the right direction.

### Who is IAWA?

In 2014, the Iowa Soybean, Iowa Corn Growers, and Iowa Pork Producers associations formed the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance. They wanted to bring all stakeholders to the table, generate financial and technical assistance for Iowa's farmers, and find new resources and innovations to improve water quality.

# ROOTS, RESIDUE & RESULTS

Submitted by Casey Gathje,  
Acting District Conservationist,  
Clarke County

The Charles City Resource Team hosted a Soil Health field day on March 17, entitled **Roots, Residue, & Results: Managing Nutrients, Residue, and Cover Crops**.

Barry Fisher, retired NRCS Soil Health Team Lead, was the featured speaker along with a local Howard County farmer.

Fisher covered two topics during his presentation. One topic was *Intentional Residue Management: Improving soil health, planting, and nutrient availability*. During the presentation, he talked about the **4 Ss of planting**:

1. Every seed at the exact same depth.
2. Every seed at the exact same spacing.
3. Every seed in the exact same environment.
4. Every seedling has access to the same resources.

He went on to talk about even distribution of residue, correct down pressure, seed placement, uneven emergence, and holding residue in place while limiting the amount laying on the soil surface.

After lunch, Barry spoke on ***Intentional Management: Next Level Strategies for Soil Health***.

He said, after identifying a resource concern, one needs to address the root cause of that depletion. By observing the issues with our soil, we can take steps to improve the soil function. Soil needs protection by covering the surface and minimizing the disturbance. Then it needs to be fed. If soil biology is fed, it will improve resiliency and improve organic matter.

Fisher spoke about the importance of a plan with intentional management to help with desired outcomes. What practices can be implemented to achieve the most optimum outcomes? If these decisions are made consciously, then sticking with



A group of farmers discuss cover crops during one of the breakout sessions at the soil health field day on March 17, hosted by the Charles City Resource Team.

the plan is easier. Of course, there are things out of our control. For these, a backup plan is needed. But the intentional management will help lessen the impact of the curveballs.

Brandon Reis, a local Howard County farmer, spoke about the implementation of cover crops into his management system. He showed multiple ways he applies his cover crops in the operation and his observations over time with the diversity of the cover crops he plants. He had some fascinating estimates of the earthworms in his soil and quantified the number found to an acre. Brandon joked, he should call himself an earthworm farmer with the volume of worms in his soil instead of the grain and livestock farmer that he is.

Participants enjoyed taking an identification quiz and learning about some myths about cover crops. The NRCS/ISU fact sheets were available for these species as well.

The event concluded with discussion groups for the audience to network with one another and ask questions. The group topics included no till/strip till, cover crops, incorporating livestock, and low disturbance manure applications.

# IOWA ENVIROTHON ADDRESSES NPS POLLUTION



*Submitted by Regan Davis, Conservation Districts of Iowa*

## **Non-Point Source Pollution: It Begins at Home**

The state competition for the 2026 [Iowa Envirothon](#) took place on Monday, April 27, at Jester Park Nature Center in Granger. It was a great day filled with fun and excitement (and, thankfully, sunshine) as the teams were ready to test their knowledge of Iowa's natural resources.

The 2026 current issue was "Non-Point Source Pollution: It begins at home." Students explored how everyday actions and common practices can contribute to NPS pollution. They learned how to conduct their own NPS survey and explored NPS mitigation strategies for their oral presentation.

The day would not have been possible without the help and support of our sponsors and volunteers. We greatly appreciate their time and contributions to make the Iowa Envirothon such a wonderful event for our future leaders!



*Decorah Naturally Selected won the 15-team State Envirothon competition and will represent Iowa at the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon, July 19-25, at Mississippi State University.*



*Envirothon Volunteers: Several Iowa NRCS employees helped at the 2026 Iowa Envirothon on April 27. Volunteer positions included oral presentation judge, team guide, test runner, and room monitor.*

# FABULOUS FIELD PHOTOS!



## What's in the picture?

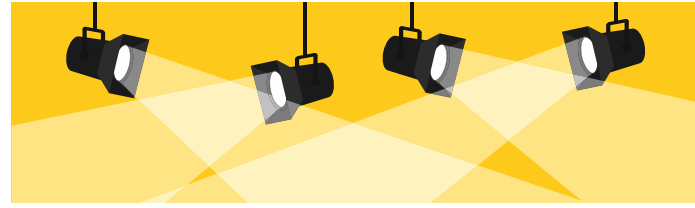


1. Highland cows graze Matt Vermeersch's Montgomery County pasture in August 2025. Vermeersch is using a virtual fencing system to save time and labor on his operation. *(Jolene Bopp, Des Moines)*
2. Clarke County Soil Conservationist Jordan Summers (middle) meets Jeff Pollard (left) and his daughter Jennifer Miler on April 16 at Pollard's farm for a story about their livestock grazing legacy. *(Jason Johnson, Des Moines)*
3. Poweshiek County farmer Joe Kriegel signs the first Regenerative Pilot Program contract in Iowa on April 23, as his sons Nicholas (left) and Jared look on. NRCS District Conservationist Beth Brand helped Joe and his sons through their RPP contract and other conservation work. *(Jason Johnson, Des Moines)*

Thank you to those who submitted photos. For the next Current Developments, submit images at: [https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nrcs\\_iowa/PA/Shared%20Documents/Photo%20Submission?csf=1&web=1&e=aKV9q](https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/nrcs_iowa/PA/Shared%20Documents/Photo%20Submission?csf=1&web=1&e=aKV9q).



## NORTHWEST AREA SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE



# ANDREW KOEHLMOOS



**Title:** District Conservationist, Primghar (O'Brien County)

**College:** South Dakota State University, 2010-2013, Degree in Agronomy

### What other jobs have you had?

- » Summer of 2009 and 2010, High School Trainee in Primghar
- » Summer of 2012, Pathways Intern in Decatur County
- » 2013-2018 Soil Conservationist in Atlantic
- » 2018-2021 Resource Conservationist in Sibley
- » 2021-2057 District Conservationist in Primghar

### Where did you grow up?

I grew up on a grain and livestock operation outside of Germantown, Iowa. We raised sheep and hogs along with corn, soybeans, oats and alfalfa. Until last year my dad was still a farrow to finish operation.

### How did you get interested in conservation?

I always knew I wanted to work in agriculture and really enjoyed the soils aspect of it. Through soil judging in high school, I was aware of what NRCS all did and thought it would be a fun career.

### What do you like most about your job?

My favorite part is seeing the transformation of farms after we have installed conservation practices.

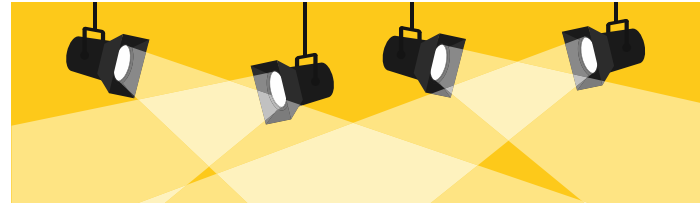
### What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I have a small sheep flock and farm. I also enjoy doing all the boy dad things with my 3 monsters. They all enjoy farming with dad and grandpa so it's always fun to take them along in the tractor.

### How about your family?

Married to my wife Ashton for 12 years. Three boys: Oliver(6), Mason (4), Lincoln(2) and another one on the way in December.

## SOUTHWEST AREA SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE



# ABIGAIL HANSEN



**Title:** District Conservationist, Greenfield (Adair County)

**College:** I graduated from Iowa State University in 2019 with Bachelor's Degrees in Agronomy and Environmental Science.

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up on my family's farm near Dallas Center where we still raise cattle, hogs, and sheep and grow corn, soybeans, and hay.

**What other positions have you had?**

I started my career as a Pathways intern in Warren County in 2017. The following year I was an intern in Linn County. After

graduation, I was assigned to Adair County as a soil conservationist. During my time as a soil conservationist in Adair County, I also was the day-to-day acting DC and acting DC over various times. In 2023, I officially became the District Conservationist in Adair County.

**How did you get interested in conservation?**

Growing up on our diverse farm really piqued my interest in agriculture and conservation. I got to see the value of farming and learned ways to make it a sustainable life. I wanted to be involved with agriculture for my career and wanted to find one that would further my knowledge about farming and conservation to be able to help on our farm. I didn't know what NRCS was growing up until I went to Iowa State and during our intern tour. NRCS was one of our stops and from there on out I knew that was the path that I wanted to go on for my career.

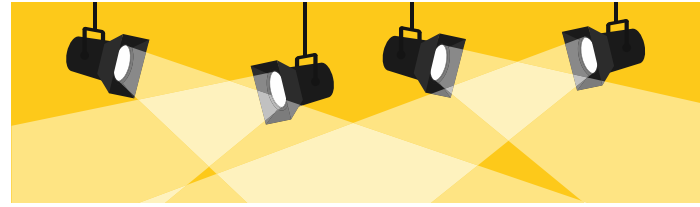
**What do you like most about your job?**

My favorite thing about my job is working with the landowners. I enjoy learning about their operations and hearing about their goals. Helping them reach their goals is what makes this job so rewarding.

**What do you enjoy away from work?**

Outside of work I enjoy playing volleyball, gardening, canning, and raising my herd of sheep. I also enjoy hanging out with my family and my dog Cecil.

## NORTHEAST AREA SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE



# LEVI SCHWARTZ



**Title:** District Conservationist, Linn County

**College:** B.S. in Forestry with Natural Resources Conservation and Restoration emphasis, Iowa State University, 2020

### Where did you grow up?

I grew up outside of Solon, Iowa, on the edge of Lake Macbride State Park. That proximity led to a lot of time spent swimming, fishing, or biking around the lake.

### What other positions have you held?

Prior to the NRCS, I interned for about a year for USACE at Saylorville Lake in Des Moines. After college, I started as a Soil Conservationist in Iowa

County in Williamsburg. I have been in my current position since July 2023.

### How did you get interested in conservation?

Most of our family vacations revolved around biking or hiking in national parks. That, combined with plenty of time hunting, piqued my interest in the outdoors. I found the forestry program after deciding that engineering was not for me, and after taking the intro class, I was hooked.

### What do you like most about your job?

After attending a career fair while trying to decide whether to switch my major to forestry, I decided I never wanted to be a park ranger or work for the NRCS. I have since done both and really enjoyed both experiences. Working with landowners and developing a relationship with them, as our solutions to their environmental problems are implemented, is very rewarding. The voluntary nature of our work surrounds us with customers and coworkers who are passionate about what they do so there is always something new to learn.

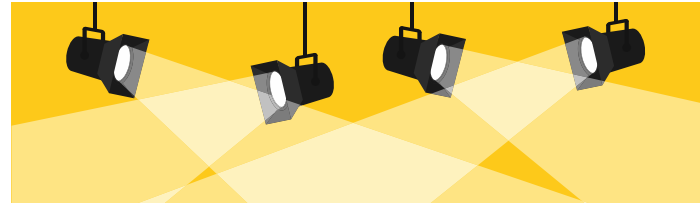
### What are your hobbies?

I enjoy trap shooting and recently dived into light gunsmithing. My wife and I like to escape up north to Wisconsin to fish, kayak, hike, and UTV. My dad restores classic cars so we try to borrow one as often as we can for weekend drives. I also take care of the critters my wife brings home – horses, chickens, & turkeys.

### Any family?

My wife, Katie, and I welcomed a baby boy to our family in September. He is somehow already 7 months old and keeps us busy.

## SOUTHEAST AREA SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE



# PARKER WERLING



**Title:** Soil Conservationist

**Location:** Williamsburg

**College:** Iowa State University for 3 ½ years with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy and minor in animal science.

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Atalissa, Iowa, with grandparents who farmed in both Cedar and Muscatine Counties, allowing me to grow up around farming and close to the Cedar

River.

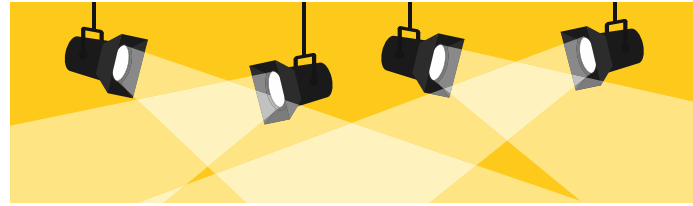
**What other positions and locations have you worked prior to this?** This is my first job with the NRCS.

**How did you get interested in conservation?** I've always liked being outside and working in nature so being able to continue through my work and helping to better it for future generations sounded like a great direction to take my career.

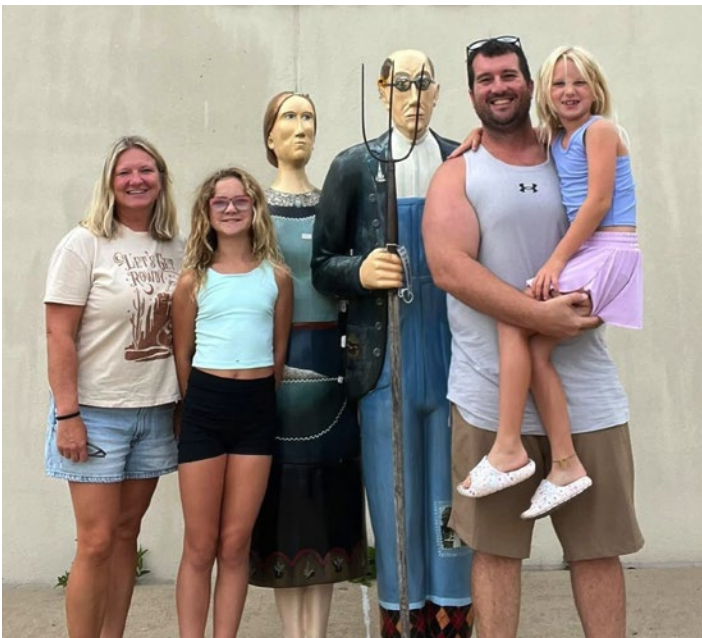
**What do you like most about your job?** My favorite part of my job is working with producers who are passionate about improving the conservation practices within their operation.

**What do you like to do in your free time?** Outside of work I enjoy camping, hiking with my dog, kayaking and fishing during the summer, as well as working in my garden.

## STATE OFFICE SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE



# PATRICK CHASE



**Title:** State Soil Scientist and Acting State Resource Conservationist, Des Moines (State Office)

**College:** Southern Illinois University at Carbondale from 2002-2006 with a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science (Business Specialization)

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up on a small family farm in western Illinois near Bushnell, where our land had been worked by three generations. With one brother to explore with, much of our childhood was spent roaming the fields, wandering along the neighboring creeks, and listening to the train horns blasting in the distance.

**What other positions have you held?** I began my career with NRCS as a Student Trainee before becoming an MLRA Soil Scientist in Plymouth, Indiana from 2006 to 2010, which included two summer details in Pinedale, Wyoming to support initial soil

mapping. I then served as a Resource Soil Scientist in Fort Dodge from 2011 to 2019, followed by five months as the State Soil Health Specialist in Des Moines. I have been the State Soil Scientist since late 2019.

**How did you get interested in conservation?** I've been around conservation-minded farming my whole life. My family always believed in using grassed waterways, stream buffers, terraces, basins, and grade stabilization structures—and they put them in on their own, without cost share or CRP, simply because it was the right way to take care of the land. I didn't know farming any other way. When I got to college, the land use classes and soil physics really helped me connect the dots, linking what I grew up seeing with the science and reasoning behind it. That's when I realized conservation was something I wanted to build a career around.

**What do you like most about your job?** Seeing the moment when something clicks for someone—the Aha moment. Watching people suddenly connect the what and the why behind our soil health demonstrations is incredibly rewarding. It's those reactions that remind me why this work matters.

**What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** I enjoy life on two wheels—these days that mostly means wrenching on and riding bicycles. I also like camping, getting out for some cross-country skiing when I can, and spending many nights and weekends watching my 2 girls practice and perform at their dance competitions.

**Any family?** I met my wife the very day I moved to Iowa, and we've now been married for 13 years. We have two daughters, Lucy and Audrey, who keep us busy—in the best way—between dance activities, stunts on the trampoline, and all the everyday adventures that come with raising two energetic girls.

# IOWA NRCS PERSONNEL CHANGES



Name	Title	Nature of Action	Effective Date	Location
Frerk, Rodney	Civil Engineering Technician	Retirement	3/20/2026	Fort Dodge RT
Hosford, Megan	Management Analyst	Name Change	3/27/2026	Des Moines
Mier, Robert	Resource Conservationist	Retirement	3/28/2026	Des Moines
Parman, Grant	Soil Conservationist	Resignation	4/3/2026	Sgt. Bluff
Lucas, Brooke	Administrative Support Spec.	Resignation	4/4/2026	Des Moines
Novey, Eric	Soil Conservationist	Resignation	4/10/2026	Waukon
Johnson, Nick	Financial Resource Specialist	Separation	4/13/2026	Des Moines
Boyea, Holly	Natural Resource Specialist	Name Change	4/21/2026	Washington
Hubbert, Jon	State Conservationist	Retirement	4/30/2026	Des Moines
Sproat, Robert	Civil Engineering Technician	Reassignment	5/3/2026	Williamsburg RT
Williams, Nichole	Management & Program Analyst	Reassignment	5/3/2026	Des Moines

RT = Resource Team



# IDALS-DSCWQ PERSONNEL CHANGES



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE &  
LAND STEWARDSHIP**

Name	Title	Nature of Action	Effective Date	Location
Grover, Holly	Conservation Assistant	New Hire	January 2026	Butler SWCD
Newton, Sarah	Conservation Assistant	New Hire	January 2026	Winnebago SWCD
Sontag, Aurora	Conservation Assistant	Resigned	January 2026	Plymouth SWCD
Bengard, Brett	Conservation Technician	Retirement	February 2026	West Pott SWCD
Esser, Shannon	Conservation Technician	New Hire	February 2026	Monroe SWCD
McLean, Sarah	Conservation Technician	New Hire	February 2026	Carroll SWCD
Uitermarkt, Jessica	Conservation Technician	New Hire	February 2026	Marion SWCD
Wenner, Lindsey	Conservation Assistant	Resigned	February 2026	Marshall SWCD
Coder, Pam	Conservation Assistant	Retirement	March 2026	Muscatine SWCD
Kiley, Steve	Conservation Technician	Retirement	March 2026	Clayton SWCD
Prichard, Randi	Conservation Technician	New Hire	March 2026	Plymouth SWCD
Shoop, Jeanette	Conservation Assistant	Retirement	March 2026	Linn SWCD