



United States Department of Agriculture

IOWA CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Fall 2018

SUMMER INTERNS: TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

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DUVAL FINDS HISTORICAL PICTURES DATING BACK TO 1930S

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NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE
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Photo by Joanne Bruce

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Iowa Conservation Team Summer Intern Video

a **Message**

from the

State Conservationist



*Kurt Simon,
State Conservationist*

As most of you know, I spent 4+ months throughout the spring/summer on a detail in Washington D.C., working with Under Secretary Bill Northey and the Farm Production and Conservation staff. It was a valuable experience for me, and I am confident that my work there will help lead to efficiencies within our agency and ultimately more conservation on the ground here in Iowa.

With that said, it's great to be back on a mostly full-time basis. In the short time since my return I was able to visit all of the Areas in September to go over the [Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey](#). It's exciting for me to see how our staff responds to the survey, and how the results compare to other states. I am happy to report that those who took the survey rated their average overall job satisfaction higher than the national average.

I was also happy to report at those meetings that, based on a recent workload analysis report, Iowa has the green light to advertise more than 100 positions over the next two years. This will get our staffing cap to 463. Only Texas will have more FTE employees!

Along with staffing updates, we have been preparing a new office structure. A national audit of our agency by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) showed our supervisor to staff ratio is currently lower than they consider necessary. OPM considers a 10:1 supervisor to staff ratio appropriate. In Iowa, our ratio is closer to 4:1. Iowa is one of a handful of states our national leadership is asking to find a "template" staff structure that lowers the supervisor to staff ratio. With our ability to hire more staff, our high level look at proposed restructuring involves:

- » closing the Area 2 office in Fort Dodge and moving those staff members to other offices;
- » eliminating the 2-county Management Unit system;
- » hiring District Conservationists for all 100 field offices, and implementing 4-county Technical Teams that will be led by a Technical Team Leader.

We heard from our conservation partners about the importance of having a DC in every office, and we feel this new staff structure will satisfy those needs and result in a good plan for getting conservation on the ground in the most efficient way possible. The proposed restructuring has not been approved, and is subject to revision by national leadership.

Sincerely,
Kurt Simon, State Conservationist

IOWA CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

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. Past issues can be found at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/people/employees/nrcs142p2_008273/.



United States Department of Agriculture

www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-284-4769



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CELEBRASIAN FESTIVAL 2018: NRCS SHOWCASES AT IOWA'S LARGEST ASIAN AMERICAN EVENT

*Submitted by Anand Hase, Asian American/Pacific
Islander Special Emphasis Program Manager*

Iowa NRCS exhibited at the 16th CelebrAsian Festival in downtown Des Moines' Western Gateway Park on May 25.

Each May the festival unites the different Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Iowa. Since its inception, CelebrAsian has become one of the year's most anticipated events and the largest Asian American event in Iowa, showcasing cultural exhibits, history, food, performance artists, sports, martial arts, and family-friendly activities. The event has more than a dozen Asian Villages where attendees can experience authentic Asian food, educational activities, and live cultural entertainment!

NRCS hosted a booth with four volunteers that rotated throughout the day. Doug Ruopp, Jean Sandstrom, Rubyana Neely, and Kathleen Woida all helped make the event possible by volunteering their time to help staff the booth. We visited with the diverse crowd about a variety of different topics, such as pollinator insects, farmers markets, butterfly gardens, urban conservation, Conservation Reserve Program, information about NRCS and career opportunities.

Towards the end of the day there were plenty of kids walking around with bee and butterfly tattoos and all ages sporting NRCS wristbands. I was able to make a contact with the Iowa Asian Alliance Executive Director which could lead to some opportunities in the future. Overall, the day went well despite running into a rain shower at the end.



Dallas County Soil Conservationist Rubyana Neely (left) and State Office Engineer Jean Sandstrom represented Iowa NRCS during CelebrAsian in May.



Anand Hase (right) is pictured with a family attending CelebrAsian at the NRCS booth on Friday, May 25 in Des Moines.

PATHWAYS TO IOWA:
**29 NRCS SUMMER INTERNS AND
 DOZENS MORE IDALS INTERNS
 SPENT SUMMER LEARNING ABOUT
 CONSERVATION**



Top Left: Humboldt Field Office Summer Intern Tim Pearson rode in a Hagie highboy with a local farmer.

Bottom Left: In Area 4, Summer Interns (L to R) Noah Heckman (IDALS Osceola), Bailey Monroe (Creston), Eli McNeas (Red Oak), Adam Scharnhorst (Clarinda) and Josh Heims (Winterset) stand atop a spoil pile during an abandoned mine reclamation tour.

Top Right: Several Area 4 (SW Iowa) summer interns visited the Indiana West Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project in Marion County.

Bottom Right: Summer interns ran the NRCS booth at the Polk County Fair. (L to R): John Baker, Adam Buseman and Joy Stone provided information about rural and urban conservation, and special watershed projects in the county.

EASEMENT TRAINING: AREA 4 HOLDS TRAINING FOR STAFF & PARTNERS

Area 4 (Southwest Iowa) held a Wetland Reserve Program/Wetland Reserve Easement training on June 26 in Fremont County for Pathways (NRCS), IDALS interns, new employees, and other staff. Twenty-five employees attended, including seven summer students.

Michelle Biodrowski, Private Lands Wetland Easement Team Specialist, discussed the rules of the program, how to apply, and a bit about monitoring.

Brian Holmes, Engineer, gave insight on the physical restoration of a site, and Matt Dollison, DNR Biologist, talked about managing a restored easement and some of the challenges it provides.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of NRCS easement programs.



PRAIRIE ID TRAINING: LAKE SHAWTEE

Area 4 (Southwest Iowa) held Prairie Plant ID Training at Lake Shawtee Wildlife Management Area in Fremont County on July 10.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Biologist Matt Dollison conducted the training.



BACK IN THE DAY

1930S CCC CONSTRUCTED TERRACES - MONONA COUNTY



When West Pottawattamie/Harrison Management Unit District Conservationist Dale Duval's father passed away in May, he found old terrace construction photos, including the one above, while cleaning at his house.

The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) hand dug these Monona County terraces on his father's farm before he owned it.

"I had always heard the stories from my grandfather and parents, but this is the first time I had seen the pictures," said Duval. "The remains of the terraces are still there but are covered with cedar trees and brush."

If you have historical Iowa NRCS pictures you would like to share in Current Developments, please forward them to Jason Johnson at jason.r.johnson@ia.usda.gov, or 210 Walnut Street, Room 693, Des Moines, IA 50309.

**EMPLOYEE
SPOTLIGHT**

**Julie
McMichael**

Title: Area Resource Soil Scientist, Area 4 - Atlantic (Beginning this Fall)

College Education:

- » Associate's Degree: Civil Engineering, 1996, North Iowa Area Community College
- » Bachelor's Degree: Agronomy, 1999, Iowa State University
- » Master's Degree: Soil Morphology and Genesis, 2003, Iowa State University (Thesis: Soil Quality in Pasture in South Central Iowa)

Career

- » 2004-2006: MLRA Soil Scientist in Storm Lake, working on the Webster County Soil Survey
- » 2006-2008: MLRA Soil Scientist in Atlantic, working on the Cass and Adams County Soil Surveys
- » 2008-2013: Area Resource Soil Scientist in Chariton (Areas 4 & 5)
- » May 2018-October 2018: State Technician in Indianola and Winterset

How did you become interested in conservation?

I love the outdoors. I didn't grow up on a farm, but spent a lot of time on my grandparents' farms growing up. We also went fishing on our vacation every summer



Julie McMichael

when I was growing up. I grew to love soil because of the science. Many people could care less about it, but it has so much to discover and still discover about how it works. I love being able to bring people that may not have cared into a discussion about it.

Why are you returning to work for NRCS?

I left to stay home with our three sons. They were very little when I left and I knew it was time to go and help them grow up. They are all in school now and I felt called to come back to soil science. There is still a story to be told about soil and generations that want to know more about what is beneath their feet. There are also those that have no idea what our offices do and I hope to be a small voice for that as well.

I am coming back to get people to start talking about soil health on their land and how to keep it going strong for the next generation.

What are some of your goals?

I want to help field office staff and producers better understand their soils. This includes:

- » helping them get a quick reference of how to look at and treat their soil better;
- » truly embracing soil health and help producers understand how NOT to be the example field we go to showing how NOT to manage their fields; and
- » assisting offices with selling soil health. Not only what we can do with conservation programs, but truly help make farmers better for the next generation.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Kids. I keep up with my three boys: Carl is 10, Elliot is 8, and Henry is 6 in October. Sometimes just keeping up with their activities is a full-time side gig.

Gardening. My husband and I are farmers market gardeners – we currently take strawberries to the Winterset Farmers Market each spring (this was our second season this year). We are working at getting our other plants going but haven't had the same successes there.

Chicken Calling. I finished in 2nd place this year at the Iowa State Fair. Search the Iowa Public Television Facebook page for more information about it.

Family

My husband, Rick, and I live in Truro with our three boys.

SPOTLIGHT VIDEO

Drake Agricultural Law Center: Iowa Landowner's Legal Guide

The Drake Ag Law Center recently developed a series of 10 videos in a series called the Iowa Landowner's Legal Guide, with assistance through an agreement with Iowa NRCS.

The Iowa Landowner's Legal Guide provides landowners information that protect it for the future and identify the responsibilities of landowners. The guide answers frequently asked questions and provides contact information for the agencies, organizations and professionals who can help landowners meet their goals.

The guide is the most recent of many legal guides written by Prof. Neil Hamilton to help farmers and landowners more successful in their practices.

Videos include:

- » Part 1 - How to Use the Landowner's Legal Guide
- » Part 2 - 10 Basic Principles of Iowa Property Law



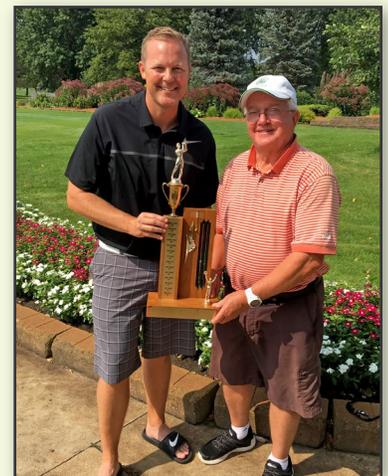
- » Part 3 - Who Else May Have an Interest
- » Part 4 - Joint Tenancy
- » Part 5 - Questions for Prospective Buyers
- » Part 6 - Fence Law and Straying Animals
- » Part 7 - Drainage Law
- » Part 8 - Land Use Law
- » Part 9 - Water Law
- » Part 10 - Environmental Law

IOWA NRCS GOLF TOURNEY: FUN DAY FOR STAFF, PARTNERS, RETIREES

Twenty-nine golfers participated in this year's Iowa NRCS 2-Person Best Shot Golf Tournament on Aug. 24 at Spring Valley Golf Course in Livermore. Resource Conservationist Brian Tumey hosted this year's event.

The team of Lynn Betts and Jason Johnson won the event with 5-under par 67. Brian Tumey and Jordan Warrington shot 4-under par 68 to finish second.

In other competition, Jim Allen won a prize for longest putt and Tom Shileny hit the longest drive.



Above: Jason Johnson and Lynn Betts won the Iowa NRCS Golf Tournament for the second time.

Far Left: Dennis Pate tees off on one of the many challenging holes at Spring Valley.

Left: Jim Allen shows off his bag of prizes after winning longest putt.



GREG TOWNLEY: CELEBRATES MILITARY RETIREMENT

Colonel Greg Townley, District Conservationist for NRCS in Malcom, retired on June 1 after 34 years of military service.

He enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1984, and received his commission in 1988 through the ROTC Simultaneous Membership Program. He graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1988. Townley later earned a Master's in Animal Science from Missouri.

In recent years, Townley took command of the 209th Regional Support Group in Kansas City and served in that capacity until September 2017. In November 2017, he deployed to Qatar with CENTCOM as the Forward Director of the Operational Contract Support Integration Cell. He returned to Iowa in March.

Ava Haun, the Veterans Special Emphasis Program Manager for Iowa NRCS says, "On behalf of NRCS and the Veterans Special Emphasis Program, I would like to congratulate Greg for 34 years of selfless service to our country! Your dedicated commitment to our country is a remarkable achievement and something to be very proud of!"



Greg Townley is pictured at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan in February 2018 in front of an office that his staff used there.

VETERANS DAY: IOWA STATE FAIR

The Iowa State Fair celebrated Veterans Day on Aug. 13. At the Ag Building, Iowa NRCS Veterans Greg Townley and Ava Haun presented information to visitors about NRCS programs and opportunities.

David Baker from ISU's Beginner Farmer Center and Steve Ferguson from the Iowa Finance Authority also presented great information to the crowd.



L-R: Greg Townley (District Conservationist, Malcom), Ava Haun (Soil Conservationist, Marshalltown), David Baker (Director, ISU Beginner Farmer Center), Steve Ferguson (Program Specialist, Iowa Ag Development Division of Iowa Finance Authority)

NOTHING COMPARES: NRCS WELL-REPRESENTED AT USDA BOOTH

About 20 Iowa NRCS staff members volunteered at the USDA booth during the Iowa State Fair, held Aug. 9-19, in Des Moines.

Nine USDA agencies partnered this year to provide information about the agricultural work the agencies provide. In the current setup, the USDA booth focuses less on the work of individual agencies and more on the entire body of work USDA provides.

Monarch butterflies were again showcased at the booth, which grows in interest among the public every year. Visitors can also play USDA Jeopardy on a

touch-screen large screen monitor or spin a wheel and answer a question for a prize.

State Public Affairs Officer Laura Crowell represented Iowa NRCS on the USDA State Fair Committee.



Marty Adkins, asst. state conservationist for partnerships, talks to State Fair visitors at the USDA booth on Aug. 17.



Betty Romero, soil conservation technician in Estherville, asks a prize question to a USDA booth visitor on Aug. 17.

POLK COUNTY URBAN TOUR: MILLER SHOWS OFF URBAN CONSERVATION PROJECTS

IDALS Urban Conservationist Paul Miller took several of the summer interns and newer employees on a tour of urban conservation practices throughout Polk County in July.

Miller, who retired earlier this year as a NRCS district conservationist, worked on many of these district and state projects over the years.

At right, Miller shows the group a bioretention cell constructed in an Ankeny residential area.



IOWA CONSERVATION TENT: PARTNERS SUPPORT RAGBRAI FOR 16TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The Iowa Conservation Team provided bananas, conservation-themed postcards and water to RAGBRAI cyclists for the 16th consecutive year in 2018.

The team of SWCS, IDALS, NRCS, and local SWCDs handed out 70 cases of bananas and 5,000 postcards from Monday, July 23 through Friday, July 27.

The Iowa Conservation Team accepts donations from riders, with proceeds going to the Iowa SWCS Chapter for scholarships and other chapter activities.

A special Thank You to the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund for contributing some postcards and Monarch Matters for providing conservation education and Milkweed seed balls.

Anna Golightly, Iowa SWCS Chapter President, led the team committee this year. Alan Lauver and Laura Crowell drove the team van during the week. Duane Miller, Mike Franklin and Lori Lewis assisted with finding tent locations prior to the event. About 30 others provided on-site and planning assistance.

A sampling of this year's postcards:



Sites from RAGBRAI XLVI



**WET & WILD:
NRCS PART OF
CONSERVATION CENTRAL**



**FARM
PROGRESS
SHOW 2018**

Iowa NRCS participated in Conservation Central at the 2018 Farm Progress Show, Aug. 28-30 in Boone, along with many other conservation partners.

The event was highlighted by a visit from US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Under Secretary Bill Northey on Wednesday, Aug. 29. The two USDA leaders toured the Conservation Central hoop building, talking to booth volunteers and stopping for pictures.

The Conservation Central partnership theme was *Get Wet. Get Wild. Get Dirty. Get Covered. Get Started.* Visitors weaved through exhibits and demonstrations and met with experts in the areas of water quality, wildlife, soil health and cover crops.

Some of the demonstrations included:

- » A cover crops plot in the Get Covered area with more than a dozen plant species.
- » The Boone SWCD soil health trailer with videos and demonstrations, as well as a rainfall simulator.
- » Soil health demonstrations in the *Get Dirty* section showed visitors how practices such as no-till and cover crops improve soil stability and water infiltration.
- » The *Get Started* area included educational materials and information about conservation planning and assistance programs.

For the third consecutive Iowa show, Conservation Central hosted Farmer Feud – a spinoff of the gameshow Family Feud – pitting teams against one another based on conservation and agriculture-oriented survey questions to Iowa farmers.



Top: Staff from NRCS and FSA posed for a group picture with Secretary Perdue and Under Secretary Northey.
Middle: Humboldt Soil Conservation Technician Doug Adams meets with a reporter from Iowa Farmer Today.
Bottom: Business Tools Specialists Garrett Fish (right) and Tamara Buitenwerf talk to Secretary Perdue and Under Secretary Northey about their roles.

CDI CONFERENCE: AWARD WINNERS FROM PAST & PRESENT

A couple familiar faces, past and present, received awards at the 2018 Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Annual Conference on Sept. 11 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines.

Retired NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Deb Vonnahme (below) received the Ken Wagner Award, given annually to an outstanding beginning soil and water conservation district commissioner of 5 years experience or less.



Jon Hubbert (below), current Iowa NRCS assistant state conservationist for programs, received the CDI President's Recognition Award from Alex Schmidt.

In addition to the awards ceremony, Schmidt announced that former USDA Farm Service Agency Executive Director John Whitaker will be the new CDI Executive Director. Whitaker replaces Linda King, who resigned earlier this year.



USDA RECOGNIZED: WORKPLACE LEADER IN EQUALITY

Submitted by Meghan Walter

On June 23, USDA received the Agriculture Influencer Award from the [Cultivating Change Foundation](#) at the 2018 Cultivating Change Summit. The award recognizes agricultural organizations and companies doing incredible work for LGBTQ+ agriculturists. Each year, the Cultivating Change Foundation honors those agricultural organizations and companies leading the movement for workplace equality for LGBTQ+ employees.

The Cultivating Change Foundation recognized the work of USDA's LGBTQ+ employee organization Equality USDA and the Special Emphasis Program Managers in making USDA employees and customers feel welcomed, connected, and affirmed in their identities. On hand to accept the award was Meghan Walter, Equality USDA President, along with six LGBTQ+ Special Emphasis Program Managers from NRCS.

Continued on next page...

USDA RECOGNIZED CONT...

USDA has been a proud, long-time partner of the Cultivating Change Summit for the last three years, with employees participating and speaking at the annual event. Thanks to the hard work of Jeremy Wood, NRCS National LGBTQ+ Special Emphasis Program Manager, NRCS established a formal partnership with Cultivating Change in support of their annual Summit. The partnership includes custom training for NRCS LGBTQ+ Special Emphasis Program Managers.

At the 2018 Summit, USDA NRCS employees were involved in many ways, including hosting an outreach booth and presenting a featured panel of employees from Oregon, Minnesota and Nevada. The panel included: Heather Emmons (Public Affairs Specialist, Nevada); Caroline Clarin (Wetlands Engineer, Minnesota); Gabriella Coughlin (Soil Scientist, Oregon); and Meghan Walter (Hydraulic Engineer, Oregon).

“One of the NRCS employees really went above and beyond at this year’s Summit. Gabriella presented a Soil Health Workshop with assistance from Neil Sass, Iowa Area 3 Agronomist, that was interactive and well received,” said Walter. “She also delivered a compelling and deeply touching Power Talk, where she invited each one of us to feel proud of who we are and those experiences that shaped us.”



Accepting the USDA award, L-R: John Hubbert, Jean Sandstrom, Katherine Brewer, Meghan Walter, Heather Emmons, Amanda McPherson, Gabriella Coughlin, and Sindra Jensen.

Many NRCS employees from several states contributed to the 2018 Cultivating Change Summit this year, including staff from Iowa, Oregon, North Carolina, Nevada, Minnesota, Nebraska, Indiana, and Georgia. In particular, the Public Affairs and Soil Sciences staffs in Iowa and Oregon went out of their way to coordinate outreach materials. Thank you to all who contribute their time and talents to make USDA an Agriculture Influencer for LGBTQ+ inclusion!

FAMILY TALENT:

NRCS EMPLOYEES & FAMILIES CONTRIBUTE TO FUN AT THE FAIR

Submitted by Judy Martinson

Who doesn't love the Iowa State Fair? Where else can you get fried anything-you-want on a stick? Many Iowa NRCS employees take it to the next level and also donate their time to participating in State Fair activities. This article highlights just a few of those individuals, but everyone who volunteers contributes to the overall success of the Fair and their work is much appreciated.

Dennis Schrodt, District Conservationist in Osceola, shared that he and his wife, Marlyce, have volunteered to work a shift at the Cattlemen's Beef Quarters at the Iowa State Fair since he became a board member of the Madison County Cattlemen's Association six years ago. Dennis said, "We usually help to clear tables and clean up the dining area but have also worked in the kitchen making Hot Beef Sundaes and helping out with a variety of other

Continued on next page...

FAMILY TALENT AT THE FAIR...

activities in the restaurant. The bulk of the work is done by volunteer county members. There are a few paid staffers who manage the business and provide guidance to the workers from across the state. Each year we look forward to meeting and working with folks from different parts of Iowa in an atmosphere that reminds me of my younger days as a restaurant employee, long before I started with the USDA."

Larrette Kolbe, District Conservationist in Storm Lake, and her family have volunteered for the first shift on the first day of the Beef Quarters at the State Fair for many years. Larrette shared that "One of the people in charge of the Beef Quarters is from Odebolt in Sac County. The Sac County Cattlemen work the first shift to help her if machines aren't working to get them working.

Each year tickets are passed out at the Sac County Fair when we are grilling and then it is decided then who works which position. It is nice to see the comrade between the families and counties working together."

Larrette has worked in several areas -dishwasher, condiments in dining area, made sandwiches, taco salads and taken orders in the express lane.

Marty Adkins, Assistant State Conservationist – Partnerships, and Dr. Kathryn Omune, daughter of Judy Martinson, a Resource Conservationist at the State Office, shared the stage with the Red Rock Retro Radio Theater during the first weekend of the Fair. Red Rock Retro Radio Theater is a local group from many walks of life who enjoy performing comedy

and music. You may watch a video of one of their State Fair musical selections at https://youtu.be/JJw_l0hKdVY. Dr. Omune has other audio clips available at <http://www.kathrynomune.com/>.

Kathy Moen is a Soil Conservationist in the Howard County office. She and her husband, Ron, live in Winneshiek County with their 2 daughters Abby and Morgan. A 4-H judge for the past sixteen years, Kathy was pleased to be asked to share her skills at the state level. Abby, 15, volunteered to help arrange 4-H projects in the 4-H building for display prior to the opening of the fair. She also had two photos advance to the state fair and advanced to the state level in the \$15 Challenge competition.



Morgan Moen, 13, had a rosemaling project on display in the 4-H building. She was honored with a winning entry for her 5210 campaign



poster at the Governor's Youth Action Awards. The Washington Prairie Peppers, a 4-H club in Winneshiek County of which Kathy is a leader and the girls belong, was also honored on August 11 at the fair for logging 3234 miles of a needed 1400 miles in an eight month food and fitness challenge marathon across the state of Iowa called the Healthy Living Club Challenge. Morgan is pictured above with Governor Reynolds and Lt. Governor Greg at the fitness challenge recognition.

Danika Schultes is the granddaughter of **Dixie Baker**, a Conservation Assistant at the Creston Field Office. Danika is a junior at Creston Community High School, where she is involved in the local FFA chapter. At the 2018 Iowa State Fair, Danika served for the second time as an FFA Grandstand Usher, working all ten days of the fair. About 100 FFA members from all across the state are involved in this program. The picture is of the ushers that were accepted from

Continued on next page...

FAMILY TALENT AT THE FAIR...



Creston. Left to right: Danika Schultes, Ali VanGelder and Laura Weis. Ushers assist around the fair in many ways, including distributing daily programs and working at grandstand events. They also help with other jobs around the fair, such as laying down the

flooring in the livestock pavilion for the Century and Heritage Farm awards. Danika shares that she “looks forward to every year at the fair. Over the course of the State Fair, the ushers get to know each other very well. I have met some of my best friends from all over the state of Iowa through this program.” Danika also has volunteered at the Creston Field Office.



Kristy York, Area Program Specialist in the Atlantic Area Office, and **Dave York**, District Conservationist in Atlantic, say that the State Fair is a big part of their lives. Kristy has been a 4-H photography judge at the State Fair for five years. The judges go in two days before the fair opens and evaluate roughly 1000 photos each year. Kristy shared that, “It is an honor to be asked and get to do this.” Kristy has been judging at the County Fair for over twenty-five years.

She said “I was an active 4H’er and that spurred into a volunteer as an adult. Dave and I are now local leaders and on County Level Committees in Cass County with the 4H organization.” Their children, Katie and Bryan, are members of the Southwest Iowa Honor Marching Band and participate in State Fair Parade every other year. The kids are traveling with the band to the Outback Bowl this season. Katie has also displayed photos through the FFA for the past two years. Kristy said that both children have had multiple projects go to State in 4-H, worked on exhibits many times, and Katie has done an Educational Presentation and the Fashion Review/ Clothing Selection contest twice.

SIMON & PERDUE



State Conservationist Kurt Simon (left) met with US Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue on Aug. 30 at the Snake Creek Wildlife Management Area near Rippey while the Secretary toured Iowa. (Photo by Darin Leach)

Changes In IOWA NRCS PERSONNEL

NAME	TITLE	NATURE OF ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE	LOCATION
Van Waus, Tara	Soil Conservation Technician	Resignation	5/25/18	Marshalltown
Mensing, Tim	Civil Engineer	Promotion	5/27/18	Atlantic Area
Geldine, Clint	District Conservationist	Transfer	5/29/18	Vinton
Guffey, Dora	Resource Conservationist	Retirement	5/31/18	Fort Dodge Area
Gertsma, James	State Wetlands Specialist	Retirement	6/1/18	Sioux City Area
Kruger, Brady	Soil Conservation Technician	Resignation	6/8/18	Waukon
McCall, Kevin	State Resource Conservationist	Reassignment	6/10/18	Des Moines
Troester, Todd	Soil Conservation Technician	Resignation	6/15/18	Newton
Pierce, Autumn	Soil Conservation Technician	Career Cond Appt	6/24/18	Cherokee
Thompson, Jacob	Civil Engineering Technician	Career Cond Appt	6/24/18	Fort Dodge Eng
Brincks, Devin	Soil Conservation Technician	Resignation	7/13/18	West Union
Vogel, Alan	Soil Conservation Technician	Resignation	7/20/18	Spencer
Foster, Clifford	Soil Conservation Technician	Retirement	7/31/18	Toledo
Porter, Lance	District Conservationist	Promotion	8/5/18	Winterset
Viles, Jeremy	District Conservationist	Promotion	8/5/18	Sac City
Vue, Pao	Wetlands Specialist	Conv to Career Appt	8/5/18	Atlantic Area
Krings, Brooklyn	Soil Conservation Technician	Resignation	8/10/18	Creston
Brunner, Darcy	Soil Conservationist	Conv to Career Appt/Name Change	8/19/18	Corning
Dixon, Joseph	District Conservationist	Promotion	8/19/18	Iowa City
Forbis, Lindsey	Soil Conservation Technician	Career Cond Appt	8/19/18	Osceola
Klingenberg, Nicholas	Civil Engineer	Conv to Career Appt	8/19/18	West Union Eng
Musselman, Aaron	Area Resource Conservationist	Promotion	8/19/18	Fairfield Area
Rague, Dylan	Soil Conservationist	Conv to Career Appt	8/19/18	Guthrie Center
Sieren, Kelsi	Soil Conservationist	Conv to Career Appt	8/19/18	Humboldt
Swales, Jacobine	Soil Conservationist	Resignation	8/31/18	DeWitt
Shafer, Wayne	District Conservationist	Retirement	9/1/18	Corydon
Cibula, Christina	District Conservationist	Reassignment	9/2/18	Vinton
Dumke, Nicholas	Soil Conservationist	Conv to Career Appt	9/2/18	Spirit Lake
Friedrich, Madison	Soil Conservationist	Conv to Career Appt	9/2/18	Onawa
Welsh, Matthew	District Conservationist	Promotion	9/2/18	Spirit Lake

Changes In IDALS-DSCWQ PERSONNEL

NAME	TITLE	NATURE OF ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE	LOCATION
Thompson, Jacob	Soil Conservation Technician	Resigned	6/22/18	Marion SWCD
Runkle, Joleen	Conservation Assistant	New Employee	7/2/18	Clay SWCD
Dykstra, Tanya	Conservation Assistant	New Employee	7/13/18	Osceola SWCD
Ewers, Joan	Conservation Assistant	Resigned	7/26/18	Cerro Gordo SWCD
Wright, Pam	Conservation Assistant	New Employee	8/10/18	Louisa SWCD
Gravel, Lee	Environmental Specialist in Water Resources Bureau	New Employee	8/24/18	Buena Vista SWCD
Johnson, Carrie	Conservation Assistant	New Employee	8/24/18	Lyon SWCD
Porter, Clark	Environmental Specialist in Water Resources Bureau	New Employee	8/24/18	Black Hawk SWCD
McBride, Marcy	Conservation Assistant	New Employee	9/10/18	Johnson SWCD
Fluckey, Steve	Soil Conservation Technician	Retirement	9/20/18	Cass SWCD
Wulf, Shane	WQI Edge-of-Field Coordinator in Water Resources Bureau	New Employee	9/21/18	Central Office

THANK YOU IOWA CONSERVATION TEAM SUMMER INTERNS!

Click the image below to watch highlights of the 2018 summer intern program.

