

WATERLOO CREEK WATERSHED

AUGUST 2013

BOB JOACHIM JOINS WATERSHED PROJECT



Bob Joachim has more than 30 years of experience with the NRCS in Iowa and Minnesota.

In July, Bob Joachim began working as a Project Technician for the watershed. He works out of the NRCS offices in Waukon and Caledonia. Bob grew up on a dairy farm near Waverly, Iowa. He has more than 30 years of experience working for the NRCS in Iowa and Minnesota.

Bob's extensive professional experience allows him to provide a consistent approach to the survey and design of conservation practices in both states. He has already made several contacts throughout the watershed, and would be hap-

py to meet with you on your farm to discuss existing and/or potential practices. Bob is familiar with the watershed and practices needed to address resource concerns in the watershed.

Bob is ready to help producers assess their property and can complete a survey, design, and cost estimate for appropriate practices. He may be contacted at 563-568-2246 ext. 3 in Iowa or 507-724-5261 in Minnesota, or by email at Robert.Joachim@ia.nacdnet.net. Bob is looking forward to hearing from you!

RECENT PASTURE WALK A SUCCESS

On July 31, Dave Schulte hosted a pasture walk on his property near Dorchester. It was well-attended and provided an opportunity for fellow producers to observe and discuss different pasture management strategies.

The walk was sponsored by Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI).

The following topics were discussed: pasture and timber management, forage, nutrients, paddocks, and cost-share incentives. Speakers included Dave Asche,

Iowa DNR district forester, Jim Ranum, former NRCS grazing specialist, Denise Schwab, ISU Extension beef specialist, LuAnn

Rolling, Iowa NRCS district conservationist, and Margaret Dunn, PFI livestock coordinator.



Jim Ranum, former NRCS grazing specialist, discusses paddock management on Dave Schulte's beef pasture near Dorchester.

OCTOBER 19TH DEADLINE FOR EQIP APPLICATIONS

The deadline for next year's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) allocation is quickly approaching. If you are interested in signing up, applications must be completed no later than October 19th to be eligible for the first round of funding.

In Iowa, EQIP funds will be paired with the Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB) grant to provide up to 75% cost-share for terraces, water and sediment control basins, and grade stabilization structures (ponds).

Minnesota landowners are encouraged to contact the NRCS office in Caledonia at 507-724-5261 to inquire about current EQIP rates for specific conservation practices.



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Conservation District



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**If your mailing information is incorrect or
you know of a landowner we are missing,
please contact us!**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

ALLAMAKEESWCD.ORG

All programs and services of the Allamakee County SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or disability.

The NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

POSSIBLE NEW WIRB FUNDS FOR IOWA

The Allamakee SWCD (SWCD) has learned of a possible new funding allocation through the Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB).

In August 2012, the SWCD was awarded a two-year grant through the WIRB for terraces, water and sediment control basins, and grade stabilization structures (ponds). Funding through this grant will end in early 2015.

If a new request for applications is announced, the SWCD is considering submitting an application for the following practices: **agricultural waste structures, streambank stabilization, and pasture management**. However, an application will only be submitted if landowners are identified for practices beforehand.

If there is no interest, an application will not be submitted. If you are interested in any of these practices, please contact us immediately and we will meet with you on your farm to conduct an assessment.

According to their website, the WIRB was established in 2005 by the Iowa Legislature to provide grants to watershed and water quality projects. The WIRB is comprised of representatives from agriculture, drinking water and wastewater utilities, environmental organizations, agribusiness, the conservation community along with two state senators and two state representatives.

The WIRB is administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship—Division of Soil Conservation.

BMPs UPDATE

Several Best Management Practices (BMPs) are scheduled to be constructed this fall in the watershed.

In Iowa, 3150 feet of terraces, one water and sediment control basin, and two ponds are scheduled construction this fall. Two additional ponds are scheduled to be probed next month, with a tentative construction date of next spring. Surveys, designs, and cost estimates have been completed for four more landowners. Throughout this summer, several on-site visits have been done to assess potential BMPs.

In Minnesota, 300 acres of cover crops will be planted this year. For a complete update on BMPs in Minnesota, please contact the NRCS office in Caledonia at 507-724-5261.