



### Cost Share Opportunities

**Cover crop- \$30 per acre. (Cover crop can be chopped or grazed.)**

**No Till- \$15 per acre**

**Terrace, Grass Waterways, and Water and Sediment Control Basins–  
Up to 75% cost share.**

If you have any questions or would like us to look at a proposed project give us a call or stop by the NRCS Office.

**Tom Brockett**

**319-753-6221 Ext 3**

### **Conservation Partners:**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

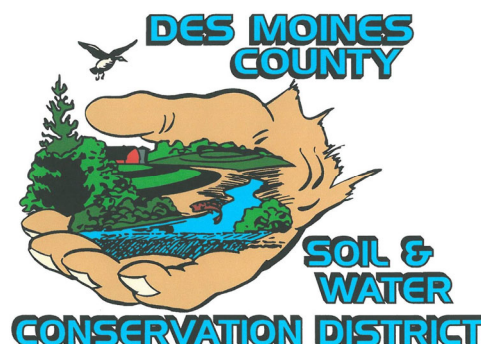
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Funding provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality and by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Non-point Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act).

Equal Opportunity Employer



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE &  
LAND STEWARDSHIP**



## **Big Hollow Watershed Newsletter**



DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
3625 FLINT RIDGE DRIVE  
BURLINGTON IA 52601  
(319) 237-3968  
thomas.brockett@usda.gov

### **News:**

**December 2024**

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District held a Fall Field day at Hinson Farms in Kingston. NRCS Area Soil Scientist Jason Steele and NRCS Area Soil Health Specialist J.D. Hollingworth spoke about their farming operations and how they utilize cover crops and rotational grazing to improve soil health. We would like to thank the Hinson family again for letting us use their shop for this event.



### **Other News:**

- ♦ **303 Acres of the 500 acre goal of cover crops have been planted in the Big Hollow Watershed.**
- ♦ **A terrace project was recently completed on the south side of the lake on row crop ground.**
- ♦ **A meeting was held at Big Hollow with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers , The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, NRCS, Des Moines County Conservation, and the Big Hollow Watershed Coordinator for a proposed wetland in the park.**



## County Conversation Big Hollow News



Following the retirement of 33-year department veteran Pat Rogge, we converted the Park Ranger residence at Big Hollow into a public rental cabin. The 3-bedroom 2-bathroom “Ranger House” is now available for friends and families to rent for a memorable getaway to one of the region’s best outdoor recreation destinations.



As part of our ongoing efforts to improve water quality in Big Hollow Lake, we built two new sediment ponds west of the campground to capture runoff that was previously entering the lake. The ponds were 90% paid for with funds from a state fish habitat grant.

In October, Watershed Coordinator Tom Brockett, went to Iowa State University Watershed Academy for training. Tom was one of 39 students that spent two days in the classroom. The training was largely led by Shane Wulf, Wetlands Project Manager, and Dr. Casey Judge, Geographic Information Systems Coordinator, both with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Shane discussed the different programs in Iowa that can fund wetlands such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the Water Quality Initiative, and why the state is focused on nutrient reduction wetlands. Shane also discussed the process of getting a wetland on the ground including engineering, permitting, archeology, easements, construction, and maintenance. Dr. Judge reviewed the key pieces of information she needs in order to evaluate a potential wetland site. She discussed some of the hazards or issues often found at sites that make them incompatible with wetlands, and some tools that can be used to investigate sites. The class then visited two wetlands, one that is in a Iowa State University study and one that is currently under construction.

