

**Iowa Learning Farms Program
14IFLM005
Integrated Farm and Livestock Management Demonstration Program**

**Year-End
January-December 2014**

INTRODUCTION

This year brought us great successes and times of sadness. We celebrated 10 years as a program throughout the year and specifically in a June celebration. It was great to see many of the original ILF team during that celebration. We successfully started new cover crop demonstration sites this year and expanded our list of farmer partners. Unfortunately, we mourned with farmer partner Tim Smith, for the loss of his wife, and we had to say goodbye to long time farmer partner Barry Kusel, who died unexpectedly in November. This time of grief reminded us that the Iowa Learning Farms isn't about data, videos and fact sheets. It is about people and our relationships with those people. We feel very fortunate to work with such outstanding people.

Through our sister program, Water Rocks!, we are much in demand in the classroom. We continually discover new ways to engage our youth about water and soil. This summer, our student interns came to us from outside Iowa State and we were fortunate to get to work with such a high caliber of students. We continue to turn down 30-40% of the requests for classroom or community visits, mostly due to time conflicts or staffing challenges.

We completed our fourth year of webinars this year. Overall, our webinars have been viewed almost 13,000 times! The most popular webinar was one by Laura Christianson on bioreactors in our first year – over 1,000 views and counting!

Our ILF YouTube channel has quietly racked up over 122,000 views in the last decade! The ILF blog has had 9,769 views of the 117 posts written by ILF team members. The ILF Facebook page has 271 followers. The ILF newsletter has over 1,900 subscribers.

We continue to give out hundreds of copies of DVDs and printed materials each year at the various field days, events and conferences.

Our successes are due to the partnership of our farmers and the folks on our Steering Committee. Together we continue to build a Culture of Conservation and work on the means of preserving this for future generations.

--ILF Program Managers Jacqueline Comito and Matt Helmers

Field Days/Workshops= No. of Attendees	Meetings, Presentations, Conferences= No. of Attendees	Conservation Station or Classroom events=No. of Attendees	Publications/Educational Materials=Distribution	Webinars * as of 3/28/2014
March 13: North Central Cover Crop Meeting, Clarion=100 (Helmets, Moore)	Jan. 24-25: Practical Farmers of Iowa conference, Ames=80 at booth (All staff)	Jan. 21: Ames Homeschool Module Demonstration, ISU=7 (Juchems, Stevenson, Staudt, Comito)	Jan.: Op-Ed article "We're All In This Together"	January: Jacqueline Comito Live participants=24 *79 archive views
March 25: Cover Crop Workshop, Osage=49 (Helmets, Stevenson)	Jan. 28: Conservation Partnership Day, Des Moines=70 (Comito, Helmets, Staudt)	Jan. 28: STEM Night at Sawyer Elementary School, Ames=111 (Stevenson, Juchems, Evans)	Jan. <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> "ILF Marks 10th Birthday in 2014" "Cover Crop Tool compares Costs" "All of us must reduce nutrients"	February: Mark Tomer Live participants=38 *117 archive views
March 26: Cover Crop Workshop, Chariton=45 (Helmets, Juchems, Moore)	Jan. 30: Iowa Women in Natural Resources Annual Conference, Moravia=51 (Juchems)	Feb. 6: Mormon Trail Elementary School, Humeston=82 (Staudt, Evans)	Feb. <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> "Music videos tell water's story"	March: Clare Lindahl Live participants=31 *34 archive views
April 3: Poweshiek County Cover Crop Field Day, Malcom=71 (Juchems)	March 3-4: Iowa Water Conference, Ames=94 at booths (all staff)	Feb. 8: Presentation for State 4-H Volunteer Retreat, Ames=13 (Comito, Stevenson, Staudt)	March <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> "Water rocks in class" 2 internship stories: "Gaining knowledge, skills" and "Interns learn real-world know-how"	April: Rick Cruse Live participants=50 *260 archive views
April 8: Cover Crop Workshop, Arcadia=33 (Juchems, Helmets, Comito)	March 11: ISUEO Annual Conference Fun Fair, Ames=109 (Comito, Staudt, Stevenson, Juchems)	Feb. 12: South Hamilton Homeschool visit, Ellsworth=40 (Stevenson, Juchems, Evans)	April <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> "New DVD offers cover crop views"	May: Chris Anderson Live participants=26 *84 archive views
April 9: Cover Crop Workshop, Oakland=18 (Helmets, Stevenson, Brown)	April 3: ISU Extension and Outreach Professional Development Workshop, Ames=29 at booth (Comito, Helmets, Staudt, Brown, Stevenson, Moore)	Feb. 15: Third Annual Girls in Science Festival, Des Moines=278 (Staudt, Juchems, Evans)	May <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> "Film makes wetlands star of show" "Cover crops gaining fame"	June: Dan Jaynes Live participants=39 *42 archive views

June 5: Cover Crop field day, Gladbrook=49 (Moore, Staudt, Wallace)	June 3: Leopold Center Board Meeting, Armstrong Research Farm, Lewis=25 (Comito, Helmers, Staudt, Eberhard)	Feb. 18: Orange Elementary School Visit, After school STEM club, Waterloo=22 (Stevenson, Staudt)	June <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> “Attend an ILF summer field day” “Prairie strips fit with row crops”	July: Jesse Randall Live participants=22 *56 archive views
June 17: Strip-till field day, Mark Thompson farm, Badger=30 (Comito, Juchems, Eberhard)	June 11-12: Water Rocks! Teacher Summit, Ames=32 (Comito, Staudt, Helmers, Brown, Juchems, Moore, Friederich, Stevens)	Feb. 25: Cascade Elementary School, Cascade=52 (Staudt, Juchems)	July <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> “Summit spreads water message”	August: Ajay Nair Live participants=17 *190 archive views
June 19: Prairie Strips field day, Elkader=18 (Helmers, Moore, Friederich)	Sept. 3: United Suppliers Meeting, Ames=25 (Helmers)	Feb. 27: Lily Pad Learning Center Visit, Huxley=20 (Staudt)	August <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> “ILF marks 10 years of success” “Prairie strips work with water quality plan”	Sept. Tom Isenhardt Live participants=38 *107 archive views
June 19: PFI field day at Dick Sloan farm, Rowley=68 (Brown, Gotzinger)	Sept. 3-4: Conservation Districts of Iowa annual conference, West Des Moines=103 (Brown, Comito, Helmers, Staudt)	Feb. 28: Kennedy Elementary School, Dubuque=294 (Juchems, Stevenson, Evans)	September: “Incredible Wetlands” DVD mailed to all Iowa public Libraries=560	Oct: Bob Hartzler Live participants=28 *118 archive views
June 23: Strip-till field day, Tom Wagner farm, Primghar=37 (Juchems, Hunter, Benning)	Sept 12: ISU-NREM Weekly Seminar Series, Ames=38 (Comito)	March 6: Strawberry Hill Elementary School, Anamosa=89 (Comito, Staudt, Moore)	October <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> “ILF connections are multiplying”	Nov: Mary Harris Live participants=23 *146 archive views
June 25: LICA field day, Melbourne=17 (Helmers, Moore, Henrichs)	Sept. 24: Extension Energy & Environment Summit, Ames=20 (Comito, Staudt)	March 13: Central Decatur After School Visit, Leon=60 (Stevenson, Juchems)	Oct: <i>Culture of Conservation</i> video series enhanced activities booklet updated and reprinted.	Dec: Ingrid Anderson Live participants=23 *94 archive views
July 10: Prairie Strips field day, Gary Guthrie farm, Nevada=18 (Comito, Stevenson, Chott)	Oct.1-2: North Central Water Conference, Bloomington, MN=30 (Juchems, Staudt)	March 18: Clarion-Goldfield 4 th Grade, Clarion=66 (Stevenson, Moore, Evans)	November <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> “Cover crop studies find answers”	
July 31: Pasture Improvement field day, Triple C Farms, Leon=40 (Comito, Staudt)	Oct. 22: Iowa State Science Teachers Annual Conference, Ames=69 (Comito, Stevenson, Staudt)	March 25: Walcott School Visit, Walcott=126 (Juchems, Moore)	December <i>Wallaces Farmer</i> “Videos teach farmers of future”	

Aug. 19: Cover Crop/Strip-till field day, Dean Stromer farm, Klemme=111 (Comito, Juchems)	Nov. 6: Leadership Iowa presentation, Seth Watkins farm, New Market=40 (Helmers)	March 27: Homegrown Lifestyle Class, Ames=12 (Staudt)	Surveys and letters mailed on Dec. 31, 2014: (1) year-end evaluation, 10-year evaluation for (2) past field day attendees and (3) for other rural Iowans	
Sept. 9: Prairie Strips field day, Seth Watkins farm, New Market=18 (Comito, Helmers, Kirstukas, Staudt)	Nov. 18: 4-H Youth Fest, Ames=14 (Staudt)	March 27: STEM Showcase, Ames=33 (Stevenson, Juchems)		
Sept. 10: U of I Biorenewables field day, Iowa City=77 (Comito, Juchems)		April 1: Johnston Catholic Homeschool Cooperative, Johnston=43 (Staudt, Evans)		
Sept. 12: Farm Bureau Cover Crop Workshop, Williams=50 (Helmers, Stevenson)		April 15: I-35 Community School, Truro=143 (Staudt, Stevenson, Comito)		
Sept. 17: Field Day, Dennis Lundy farm, Fontanelle=36 (Juchems, Stevenson)		April 16: Taft Elementary After School Program, Humboldt=22 (Brown, Evans)		
Nov. 12: Cover Crop Workshop, Lewis=23 (Juchems)		April 21: Fourmile Creek Watershed Kick-off Event, Pleasant Hill=35 (Comito, Stevenson)		
Nov. 18: Cover Crop Mixtures Workshop, Nashua=29 (Juchems, Stevenson)		April 22: Davenport West High School, Davenport=64 (Helmers, Staudt)		
Nov. 19: Cover Crop Workshop, Kanawha=27 (Juchems, Staudt)		April 24: Young Women's Skill Building Workshop, Des Moines=13 (Comito, Juchems)		
Nov. 20: Field Day, Rob Stout farm, Washington=37 (Helmers, Comito)		April 25: Colo-Nesco Skills Day, Colo=147 (Stevenson, Evans)		

Nov. 25: Cover Crop Workshop, Truro=30 (Comito, Juchems)		April 27: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Ames=41 (Juchems, Staudt)		
		May 1: Monroe County Farm Bureau 3rd Grade Outdoor Classroom, Albia=192 (Staudt, Juchems)		
		May 2: STEM Festival, Sioux City=43 (Stevenson, Evans)		
		May 8: Sac County 6th Grade Outdoor Classroom, Sac City=124 (Comito, Staudt)		
		May 9: Palo Alto 5th Grade Outdoor Classroom, Ruthven=108 (Stevenson, Moore)		
		May 9: East Pott. 3rd Grade Outdoor Classroom, Hancock=101 (Staudt, Evans)		
		May 13: Osceola Clover Kids meeting, Osceola=33 (Stevenson, Eberhard, Henrichs)		
		May 14: Pocahontas 4 th Grade Outdoor Classroom, Pocahontas=94 (Staudt, Gotzinger, Wallace)		
		May 15: Ankeny Children's Water Festival, Ankeny=110 (Juchems, Friederich)		
		May 16: Edgewood-Colesburg 2 nd Grade Outdoor Classroom, Edgewood=70 (Comito, Staudt, Gotzinger)		

		May 17: Urban BioBlitz, La Vista, NE=73 (Moore, Juchems, Chott)		
		May 18: Easter Lake Watershed Project Kick-off, Des Moines=136 (Brown, Friederich, Eberhard, Wallace)		
		May 20: McKinley Middle School 7 th Grade Visit, Cedar Rapids=181 (Juchems, Staudt, Hunter, Chott)		
		May 22 & 23: SE Polk Middle School 7 th Grade Visit, Altoona=478 (Juchems, Moore, Staudt, Henrichs, Gotzinger, Friederich, Wallace)		
		May 29: Roosevelt Middle School 6 th Grade Visit, Dubuque=333 (Juchems, Moore, Eberhard, Hunter)		
		June 4: Marion Public Library, Marion=44 (Juchems, Gotzinger, Hunter)		
		June 7: Big Creek Lake Watershed Appreciation Day, Polk City=37 (Brown, Hunter, Gotzinger)		
		June 7: Sharon Center Superstars 4H meeting, Kalona=20 (Juchems, Eberhard)		
		June 9: ISU Climate Camp, Ames=19 (Staudt, Hunter, Chott)		
		June 10: Laurens Public Library=80 (Juchems, Chott, Hunter)		

		June 12: Kalona Public Library=32 (Gotzinger, Eberhard)		
		June 13: Allamakee Youth Adventure Camp, Harper's Ferry=37 (Moore, Friederich, Wallace)		
		June 17: Farm Bureau Teacher's Academy, Nashua=20 (Staudt, Chott, Henrichs)		
		June 18: Guttenberg Public Library=13 (Brandon, Wallace, Gotzinger)		
		June 19: Eldon Public Library=21 (Henrichs, Wallace)		
		June 20: Crawford County Water Explorer Day Camp, Yellow Smoke Park=20 (Stevenson, Chott, Eberhard)		
		June 21: Guthrie Center Farmers Market=23 (Helmers, Wallace, Henrichs)		
		June 23: Algona Public Library=25 (Gotzinger, Chott)		
		June 24: Eagle's Loft Learning Center Summer Camp, Ames=33 (Eberhard, Wallace)		
		June 25: Collins Public Library=42 (Gotzinger, Hunter)		
		June 26: Linn County Fair, Central City=127 (Moore, Gotzinger, Chott, Friederich)		
		June 27: Tipton Public Library=50 (Eberhard, Henrichs)		

		June 30: Mahaska County Science Day, Oskaloosa=18 (Stevenson, Friederich, Eberhard)		
		July 4: Star-Spangled Spectacular, Storm Lake=335 (Comito, Staudt, Chott, Henrichs)		
		July 8: Delaware County Fair, Manchester=65 (Moore, Eberhard, Henrichs)		
		July 9: West Bend Public Library=41 (Chott, Friederich)		
		July 9: Summer Camp with Science Center of Iowa, Des Moines=72 (Juchems, Staudt, Hunter)		
		July 10: Central Iowa Fair, Marshalltown=136 (Juchems, Henrichs, Hunter)		
		July 11: Olin Public Library=18 (Eberhard, Friederich)		
		July 11: Farmers Market, Mason City=21 (Stevenson, Henrichs, Wallace)		
		July 12: Webster County Fair, Webster City=53 (Moore, Hunter, Wallace)		
		July 14: Adams County Fair, Corning=83 (Eberhard, Henrichs, Hunter)		
		July 15: Washington County Fair, Washington=27 (Brown, Wallace)		

		July 15: Mahaska County Fair, Oskaloosa=107 (Juchems, Chott, Friederich)		
		July 16: Crawford County Youth Water Camp, Denison=28 (Staudt, Eberhard, Friederich)		
		July 16: Allamakee County Fair, Waukon=63 (Stevenson, Chott, Hunter)		
		July 17: Palo Alto County Fair, Emmetsburg=60 (Brown, Hunter)		
		July 17: Taylor County Fair, Bedford=25 (Moore, Stott, Wallace)		
		July 18: Buchanan County Fair, Independence=17 (Friederich, Henrichs)		
		July 18: Poweshiek County Fair, Grinnell=60 (Stevenson, Eberhard, Wallace)		
		July 19: Keokuk County 4H Expo, Sigourney=30 (Moore, Henrichs, Stott)		
		July 19: East Pottawattamie County Fair, Avoca=76 (Juchems, Chott, Friederich)		
		July 22: Union County Fair, Afton=19 (Chott, Henrichs, Wallace)		
		July 23: Cambridge Public Library=31 (Hunter, Stott)		

		July 25: Westfair, Council Bluffs= (Moore, Chott, Henrichs)		
		July 26: Mines of Spain, Dubuque=26 (Stevenson, Eberhard, Hunter)		
		July 30: Science Center Day Camps, Des Moines=59 (Juchems, Eberhard, Wallace)		
		July 31: Marshalltown Public Library=38 (Chott, Stott)		
		July 31: Fayette County Fair, West Union=170 (Stevenson, Eberhard, Henrichs)		
		Aug. 1: Clinton County Eco Day, Camanche=51 (Juchems, Moore, Hunter)		
		Aug. 7: Iowa State Fair – Day 1, Des Moines=420 (Comito, Staudt, Stevenson, Stott)		
		Aug. 8: Iowa State Fair – Day 2, Des Moines=505 (Comito, Staudt, Hunter)		
		Aug. 9: Iowa State Fair – Day 3, Des Moines=715 (Comito, Helmers, Stevenson, Brown, Stott)		
		Aug. 10: Iowa State Fair – Day 4, Des Moines=400 (Juchems, Moore, Hunter)		
		Aug. 11: Iowa State Fair – Day 5, Des Moines=319 (Moore, Hunter, Stott)		

		Aug. 12: Iowa State Fair – Day 6, Des Moines=606 (Juchems, Stevenson, Henrichs)		
		Aug. 13: Iowa State Fair – Day 7, Des Moines=412 (Comito, Helmers, Henrichs)		
		Aug. 14: Iowa State Fair – Day 8, Des Moines=286 (Juchems, Stott)		
		Aug. 15: Iowa State Fair – Day 9 Des Moines=232 (Moore, Staudt, Stevenson, Hunter)		
		Aug. 16: Iowa State Fair – Day 10, Des Moines=404 (Moore, Staudt, Stevenson, Hunter)		
		Aug. 17: Iowa State Fair – Day 11, Des Moines=150 (Brown, Juchems)		
		Aug. 28: Beaver Creek Elementary School, Johnston=108 (Staudt, Stevenson)		
		Sept. 5: BCIG Elementary School, Ida Grove=109 (Juchems, Kirstukas, Staudt)		
		Sept. 9: SE Polk Secondary Education Professional Development Training, Johnston=26 (Juchems, Stevenson)		
		Sept. 12: Odebolt-Arthur Elementary, Odebolt=81 (Juchems, Kirstukas)		

		Sept. 16: Bondurant-Farrar High School, Bondurant=40 (Staudt)		
		Sept. 19: Woodrow Wilson Intermediate School, Newton=113 (Juchems, Staudt)		
		Sept. 23: Ag-Citing Outdoor Classroom, Newell=193 (Kirstukas, Stevenson)		
		Sept. 25: St. Edmonds Middle School, Ft. Dodge=61 (Juchems, Stevenson)		
		Sept. 27: Iowa Outdoor Expo, Des Moines=174 (Brown, Stevenson, Stott)		
		Sept. 30: Hayes Elementary, Davenport=78 (Kirstukas, Stevenson)		
		Oct 1: Southeastern Community College, Keokuk=25 (Comito, Stevenson)		
		Oct. 3: Twin Cedar Elementary School, Bussey=75 (Stevenson, Kirstukas)		
		Oct. 4: Wonders of Water Girl Scouts Event, Waterloo=49 (Juchems, Kirstukas)		
		Oct. 7: Glenwood High School=108 (Juchems, Staudt)		
		Oct. 8: St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines=94 (Comito, Kirstukas)		

		Oct. 10: St. Paul's Lutheran School, Waverly=71 (Juchems, Stevenson)		
		Oct. 13: Carver Elementary, Des Moines=96 (Staudt, Stevenson, Kirstukas)		
		Oct. 14: Weber Elementary, Iowa City=63 (Juchems, Kirstukas)		
		Oct. 16: CREP Wetland Tour with Boone DMACC, Dallas County=30 (Juchems)		
		Oct. 21: Kennedy Catholic School, Davenport=93 (Juchems, Kirstukas)		
		Oct. 22: Ridgeview Middle School, Early=47 (Juchems, Kirstukas)		
		Oct. 24: Four-Mile Elementary Science Fair, Pleasant Hill=254 (Stevenson, Staudt, Kirstukas)		
		Oct. 27: DMACC Carroll campus, Phi Theta Kappa students=6 (Staudt)		
		Oct. 28: Iowa Christian Academy, Des Moines=10 (Stevenson, Kirstukas)		
		Oct. 30: Bettendorf Middle School=334 (Stevenson, Juchems, Staudt)		
		Nov. 3: Lincoln Elementary, Charles City=60 (Juchems)		

		Nov. 4: Madison Elementary School, Cedar Rapids=84 (Staudt, Kirstukas)		
		Nov. 13: South Central Calhoun Middle School, Rockwell City=134 (Stevenson, Staudt)		
		Nov. 14: Sacred Heart Elementary, Monticello=87 (Juchems, Kirstukas)		
		Nov. 19: Hampton-Dumont After School Science Club=19 (Stevenson, Kirstukas)		

Legend of projects that are interconnected to ILF grant and co-fund activities:

	Iowa Cover Crops working group (IDALS)
	Water Rocks! (IDNR)
	Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture grant
	USDA-NIFA Wetlands Project

Iowa Learning Farms grant only pays a portion of each of our five staff members' salaries. Without additional grants, we would not be able to keep our team together.

Submitted by: Drs. Jacqueline Comito, Matt Helmers, on behalf of the Iowa Learning Farms staff and faculty

OUTREACH/EDUCATION

Field Days and Workshops

JANUARY-MARCH

Two cover crop workshops were held in the first quarter of 2014. These workshops focused on cover crops as a tool within the Nutrient Reduction Strategy as part of a whole-farm conservation plan. The workshops were held in Mitchell and Lucas counties and drew an attendance of 49 and 45 respectively. Helmers also presented at the North Central Association Farm cover crop meeting and shared information about the Iowa Learning Farms.

Two cover crop workshops have been planned for April 8 and 9 in Carroll and Pottawattamie counties, with the remaining workshop to be held in July. An early cover crop field day is planned for April 3 in Poweshiek County. Field day planning for summer and fall are underway, with 14 field days in various stages of planning. Six will focus on the prairie strips (STRIPs) project, four on strip-till, one looking at cover crops for forage, one will include a bioreactor, wetland and rain garden, another will look at biofuels at the University of Iowa, and the final event is the third annual pasture walk in Decatur County.

APRIL-JUNE

Two cover crop workshops were held in this quarter, for a total of four indoor workshops held this spring. These workshops focused on cover crops as a tool within the Nutrient Reduction Strategy as part of a whole-farm conservation plan. The workshops were held in Carroll and East Pottawattamie counties and drew an attendance of 33 and 18, respectively. There was also an early field day on April 3 in Poweshiek County with 71 braving the cold weather to learn about cover crops.

June 5 marked the beginning of a busy month with a cover crop grazing field day in Tama County on the Randy Sienknecht farm near Gladbrook. On June 17, the weather forced a strip-till field day indoors hosted by farmer partner Mark Thompson. And on June 19, the weather also sent the first STRIPs field day indoors in Elkader as well as a field day at Dick Sloan's farm near Rowley. On June 23, farmer partners Tom and Jim Wagner hosted a strip-till field day at their farm near Primghar in O'Brien County. ILF partnered with the Land Improvement Contractors Association (LICA) to host a water quality field day at their demonstration farm on June 25. Overall attendance for the six field days totaled 227.

We are planning two field days in July and one in August. Planning for the remaining cover crop workshop is in the works for late summer/early fall. Fall field day planning is also underway; topics include prairie strips, strip-till, cover crops for forage, biofuels at the University of Iowa, and CREP wetland tours for community college students.

JULY-SEPTEMBER

The field days this quarter featured a variety of topics including prairie strips, pasture improvement, strip-till, cover crops and miscanthus as a biofuel source. Overall attendance totaled 347 for these seven field days this quarter.

- The field day held on July 10 at the Gary Guthrie farm in Story County featuring a pre-installation prairie strips site. We plan to continue to host field days here to show the progress of the strips in coming years.
- Farmer partner Todd Coffelt, and his brothers, held their third annual pasture walk and pasture improvement field day on July 31 in Decatur County.
- Dean Stromer, and his son Will, hosted a strip-till and cover crop field day on their farm in Hancock County on August 19.
- Seth Watkins, Taylor County, hosted a field day on cover crops and prairie strips on September 9, but the heavy thunderstorms forced the field day indoors.
- ILF partnered with the University of Iowa to host a miscanthus and biofuels field day near Iowa City on September 10.
- On September 12, ILF partnered with the Iowa Farm Bureau to host a cover crop workshop near Williams.
- The final field day of the quarter was held on September 17 in Adair County hosted by Dennis Lundy. The event focused on cover crops and no-till alfalfa following winter wheat.

More cover crop field days and workshops are in the planning stages and are anticipated for mid-November due to the later harvest. CREP wetland tours with community college students are also being planned for October.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

This quarter ILF organized a CREP wetland tour and five field days covering a variety of cover crop topics including mixtures, seeding techniques and grazing. Working the DMACC campus in Boone, 30 environmental students visited a beautiful CREP site in Dallas County on October 16. The Iowa Cover Crop Working Group co-hosted three cover crop workshops at the Armstrong, Northeast and North Central research farms. The Armstrong (Nov. 12) and Northeast (Nov. 18) workshops focused on cover crop mixtures. The attendees at the Armstrong workshop braved the cold weather to visit the mixture plots on the farm and view the highboy interseeder that the farm staff had created. Unfortunately, a prolonged freeze prevented outdoor tours at the remaining fall workshops. The November 19 workshop at the North

Central farm in Kanawha also discussed mixtures, but also discussed our ongoing cover crop seeding techniques project using the Hagie Highboy and a drill to seed the cover crops. ILF farmer partner Rob Stout hosted a cover crop and bioreactor field day at his farm on November 20. Tim Palmer, ILF farmer partner, hosted the final field day of 2014 in Truro, with a focus on cover crops used for grazing and forage in a livestock operation. Overall attendance for all five events totaled 145.

Conservation Station Fleet

JANUARY-MARCH

The Conservation Station fleet, as usual, stayed out of action over the winter. The first event scheduled for the fleet is April 21, with many more events to follow. The renovation of the Lil' Conservation Station is nearing completion and will be ready to roll by mid-April.

APRIL-JUNE

The fleet was brought out of the cold for the first event on April 21. Since then, the Big CS has made appearances at four community events and one county fair. The CS3 has been at 19 events including six school visits, seven outdoor classrooms, three teacher training events, two field days and the Leopold Center board of directors meeting. The newly renovated Lil' CS has been at three outdoor classrooms, one school visit, two community events and two field days for a total of eight events. As of June 30, 4,065 people have visited the Conservation Station fleet. The remainder of the summer is busy with 16 more county fairs and all 11 days of the Iowa State Fair.

JULY-SEPTEMBER

The quarter started out strong with a great visit to the Storm Lake Star Spangled Spectacular on July 4. The fleet was shown at fairs in the counties of Delaware, Marshall, Webster, Adams, Washington, Mahaska, Allamakee, Taylor, Palo Alto, Poweshiek, Buchanan, East Pottawattamie, Keokuk, Union, West Pottawattamie, and Fayette. The team and volunteers demonstrated the CS3 at all 11 days of the Iowa State Fair. The ILF team took the CS to the Mason City Farmers Market, the Mines of Spain State Park, Clinton County Eco Day, and the Iowa Outdoor Expo in Des Moines. The Lil' CS was featured at four field days and the Linn County League of Women Voters checked the trailer out for an event in August. The team demonstrated the rainfall simulator at six school visits this quarter.

As of September 30, the Conservation Station fleet has been seen by 6,308 people. Weather permitting, the fleet will run through the end of October or early November before being prepped for winter storage.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

The weather cooperated well enough to extend the season of the Conservation Station fleet through the first week of November, but the rain forced some school visits to be indoors. The CS3 traveled to five schools for Water Rocks! visits. The Lil' CS was checked out for the Boone County 4th Grade Outdoor Classroom and traveled to Seth Watkins' farm for a conservation farm tour.

The fleet was winterized in early November. The Big CS is receiving a mini makeover, getting a fresh coat of powder coat paint on the rainfall simulator framework to reduce rust and extend its life.

ELECTRONIC OUTREACH

Webinars

2014 Webinar participation and archived views, as of January 5, 2015 (live + archived):

January (Comito) = 131 (24+107)	May (C. Anderson) = 140 (26+114)	Sept. (Isenhart) = 223 (38+185)
February (Tomer) = 269 (38+231)	June (Jaynes) = 176 (39+137)	Oct. (Hartzler) = 144 (26+118)
March (Lindahl) = 152 (31+121)	July (Randall) = 90 (22+68)	Nov. (Harris) = 169 (23+146)
April (Cruse) = 524 (50+474)	August (Nair) = 284 (14+270)	Dec. (Gronstal-Anderson) = 117 (23+94)

2013 Webinars (live + archived):

January (Wolseth, Comito) = 443 (97+346)	May (Toigo, Cale-Finnegan) = 141 (24+117)	Sept. (Comito & Staudt) = 180 (49+131)
February (Rasmussen) = 177 (27+150)	June (Morton) = 128 (23+105)	Oct. No webinar
March (Barker) = 180 (38+142)	July (Castellano) = 331 (43+288)	Nov. (Hatfield) = 397 (21+376)
April (Larson) = 119 (33+86)	Aug. (Gillespie & Richmond) = 244 (59+185)	Dec. (Crumpton) = 152 (36+116)

2012 Webinars (live + archived):

January (Comito) = 221 (16+205)	May (Helmert) = 205 (27+178)	Sept. (Liebman) = 225 (25+200)
February (Hart) = 238 (19+219)	June (Moore) = 196 (11+185)	Oct. (Arbuckle) = 152 (16+136)
March (Laird) = 351 (26+325)	July (Anderson) = 297 (17+280)	Nov. (Kaleita) = 479 (28+451)
April (Adcock) = 198 (22+176)	August (Northey) = 186 (27+159)	Dec. (Kult) = 359 (46+313)

2011 Webinars (live + archived):

January (Comito) = 425 (30+395)

February (Anderson) = 310 (39+271)

March (Singer) = 613 (37+576)

April (Helmets) = 387 (33+354)

May (Christianson) = 1,055 (31+1024)

June (Soupir) = 260 (29+231)

July (Heaton) = 307 (13+294)

August (Cruse) = 735 (53+682)

Sept. (Cox) = 313 (25+288)

Oct. (Hanna) = 118 (11+107)

Nov. (Petersen) = 197 (15+182)

Dec. (Harr) = 179 (14+165)

E-newsletter

APRIL-JUNE

An ILF e-newsletter was sent out each month this quarter to over 1800 subscribers. The e-news goes out on the third Monday of each month. Webinar reminders went out to the same list on the morning of the webinar. The Water Rocks! e-newsletter was sent out each month as well to over 6300 subscribers on the first Wednesday of each month.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

An ILF e-newsletter was sent out each month this quarter and subscribers have risen to 1,936. The 2104 field day attendees who provided an email address have been added to the recipient list. The e-news goes out on the third Monday of each month. Webinar reminders went out to the same list on the morning of the webinar. The Water Rocks! e-newsletter was sent out each month as well to over 6,000 subscribers on the first Wednesday of each month.

Blog/Facebook

www.iowalearningfarms.wordpress.com/

JANUARY-MARCH

As of March 28, the blog has had 13,491 views of the 199 posts by ILF team members. The blog is followed by 362 people and counting. Since January 1, the number of Likes on our Facebook has grown to 247, which helps promote the blog posts and share photos from events. This additional format for outreach works well to inform others about experiences that may seem out of place in a news article. The blog is informative, sometimes humorous, and offers a personal side to why soil and water quality are important.

APRIL-JUNE

The ILF blog site and Facebook page continue to be popular and gain new followers. The blog postings also appear on the Facebook page,

which creates activity and “likes.” Since April 1, the number of Facebook “Likes” has grown to 254, which helps promote the blog. As of June 30, the blog has had 15,504 views (up 1,924) of the 220 posts by ILF team members, and is followed by 385 people (up 22).

JULY-SEPTEMBER

As of October 1, Facebook “Likes” reached 262; the blog has had 18,204 views of the 255 posts by ILF team members and is followed by 400 people. Rarely do the blog followers read only one post during their visit. For instance, on Sept. 19, there were 26 visitors to the blog site, but there were 63 page views.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Since October 1, the number of “Likes” on our Facebook page has grown to 271, which helps promote the blog posts and distribute photos from summer events. As of December 31, the blog has had 9,769 views of the 117 posts written by ILF team members. The blog is followed by 423 people and counting.

Website

The numbers below indicate how many page views and how many “unique” visitors there were on our website each month via Google Analytics.

January 2014	February 2014	March 2014
Visits: 468	Visits: 399	Visits: 427
Page Views: 623	Page Views: 553	Page Views: 602
Unique visitors: 264	Unique visitors: 234	Unique visitors: 241
New Visitors: 188 visits	New Visitors: 150 visits	New Visitors: 149 visits
Returning Visitors: 280 visits	Returning Visitors: 249 visits	Returning Visitors: 278 visits

April 2014	May 2014	June 2014
Sessions: 410	Sessions: 324	Sessions: 337
Page Views: 514	Page Views: 444	Page Views: 470
New Visitors: 173	New Visitors: 122	New Visitors: 109
Returning Visitors: 237 visits	Returning Visitors: 202	Returning Visitors: 228

July 2014	August 2014	September 2014
Sessions: 288	Sessions: 306	Sessions: 317
Page Views: 378	Page Views: 423	Page Views: 410
New Visitors: 107	New Visitors: 100	New Visitors: 139
Returning Visitors: 181 visits	Returning Visitors: 206	Returning Visitors: 178

October 2014	November 2014	December 2014
Sessions: 258	Sessions: 280	Sessions: 243
Page Views: 312	Page Views: 345	Page Views: 300
New Visitors: 132	New Visitors: 118	New Visitors: 128
Returning Visitors: 126 visits	Returning Visitors: 162	Returning Visitors: 115

Conservation Pack website:

January 2014	February 2014	March 2014
Visits: 72	Visits: 89	Visits: 60
Page views: 158	Page views: 262	Page views: 146
Unique visitors: 67	Unique visitors: 83	Unique visitors: 56
New visitors: 61 visits	New visitors: 77 visits	New visitors: 54 visits
Returning visitors: 11 visits	Returning visitors: 12 visits	Returning visitors: 6 visits

April 2014	May 2014	June 2014
Sessions: 100	Sessions: 122	Sessions: 84
Page views: 234	Page views: 236	Page views: 180
New visitors: 96	New visitors: 111	New visitors: 76
Returning visitors: 4	Returning visitors: 11	Returning visitors: 8

July 2014	August 2014	September 2014
Sessions: 104	Sessions: 83	Sessions: 96
Page views: 199	Page views: 148	Page views: 146
New visitors: 99	New visitors: 77	New visitors: 95

Returning visitors: 5	Returning visitors: 6	Returning visitors: 1
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October 2014	November 2014	December 2014
Sessions: 113	Sessions: 168	Sessions: 126
Page views: 228	Page views: 470	Page views: 155
New visitors: 109	New visitors: 159	New visitors: 116
Returning visitors: 4	Returning visitors: 9	Returning visitors: 10

YouTube activity

Subscribers to the ILF YouTube channel total 221 as of January 5, 2015.

Total Views of ILF Videos (as of 1/5/2015):

Converting Your Planter for No-Till (posted 12/11/09)	Views
Conclusion	1,514
Furrow Point Maintenance	1,471
Fertilizer Applicators	2,748
Row Cleaners	6,480
Closing Systems (Case IH)	7,644
Closing Systems	2,110
Depth Adjustment (Case IH)	4,311
Depth Adjustment	844
Seed Openers (Case IH)	4,086
Seed Openers	28,200
Intro and Leveling	12,165
Culture of Conservation Videos (posted 11/12/09)	Views
The Work of our Hands	309
Don't Call it Dirt: A Passion for Soil	16,369
A Culture of Conservation: Iowan to Iowan	369

Water is Life	3,169
We All Have a Place in the Watershed (posted 5/21/09)	629
Reclaiming Stewardship (posted 4/9/09)	218
Troubled Waters (posted 3/24/10)	Views
Play All version (posted 10/7/11)	839
Part 1: Natural Resources and Biodiversity	568
Part 2: Human Intervention & Modification	601
Part 3: Pollutants	208
Part 4: Ecological Resilience	627
Part 5: Blessed be the River	478
Conservation Station (posted 5/1/11)	Views
Promotional film for the CS	909
Cover Crop How-To (posted 7/18/11)	Views
Part I – planting	2,928
Part II – terminating	921
Implementing Grassed Waterways (posted 7/18/11)	Views
Part 1: The need for waterways	94
Part 2: Conservation practices	148
Part 3: Design considerations	292
Part 4: Waterway capacity	392
Part 5: Establishing a waterway	272
Part 6: Financial Assistance	77
Part 7: Waterway maintenance	157
Part 8: A Farmer’s Perspective	154
Manure Management and Conservation (posted 7/18/11)	Views
Part 1: Managing Manure Nutrients for Crop Growth	233

Part 2: Sampling Liquid Manure	239
Part 3: Sampling Open Lot Manure	163
Part 4: Sampling Stockpiled & Composted Manure	269
Part 5: Manure Sample Analysis	145
Part 6: The Value of Manure Nutrients	678
Part 7: Injection Equipment	2,247
Part 8: Putting It All Together	263
Play All version	913
Out to the Lakes (posted 9/29/11)	Views
Posted in its entirety	874
Land Formation in Iowa (posted 6/29/12)	Views
Animated illustration of Iowa land from past to future based on alterations	1,240
Strip-tillage Crop Management (posted 10/12/12)	Views
Part 1	3,846
Getting Started with Strip-till: Equipment	1,469
Getting Started with Strip-till: Tractor Horsepower	1,007
Getting Started with Strip-till: Soil Structure	294
Strip-till and Your Fertilizer Program	1,445
Strip-Till Recommendations	1,160
Conservation Station-Rainfall Simulator (posted 11/5/12)	Views
Matt Helmers demonstrates the RS	1399
Cover Crops: Farmer Perspectives (posted 2/4/2014)	Views
Why Grow Cover Crops?	864
Getting Started	636
Growing Cover Crop Seed	224
Grazing Cover Crops	371

OTHER OUTREACH

JANUARY-MARCH

- The new how-to DVD, “Cover Crops: Farmers Perspectives” was completed debuted at the PFI Annual Conference. During this quarter, 623 of these DVDs were distributed; 300 copies total were mailed to all county Extension, SWCD and county conservation board offices. Several SWCD county offices and watershed groups requested a total of 264 copies of both cover crop DVDs for their meetings. The remainder of the total were sent to individuals by request or given out at conference exhibit booths.
- All our other how-to DVDs, totaling 290, were either sent out to those requesting or given away at exhibit booths and workshops.
- Promotional material for March and April workshops and field day were written, designed and distributed, including news releases, flyers and postcards.
- *Wallaces Farmer* published four columns, an Op-Ed piece, a Water Rocks! feature and a cover crops article.
- ILF press releases and references to ILF were found on these media websites: *Farm News*, *Iowa Farmer Today*, *Farm Bureau Spokesman*, *AgriNews* and *Post-Bulletin*, *Des Moines Register*, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, AgWeb.com (Farm Journal website), No-tillFarmer.com, CleanWaterIowa.org, IowaAgConnection.com, KLOW.com (Forest City radio station), KWMT radio (Fort Dodge), *Wallaces Farmer*, Leopold Center, Practical Farmers of Iowa, ISU Extension and Outreach; other Iowa newspapers including *Iowa State Daily*, *Mason City Globe Gazette*, and *Missouri Valley Times News*.

APRIL-JUNE

- Promotional material for workshops and field days were written, designed and distributed, including news releases, flyers and postcards. A field day guide was printed and mailed in May.
- *Wallaces Farmer* published six articles for ILF and Water Rocks! this quarter, featuring the new cover crop DVD, an overview of the spring cover crop workshops, an announcement of the new video “Incredible Wetlands,” the awards earned from the Iowa Motion Picture Association, an article on prairie strips field days as well as an overview of the June field days.
- The Water Rocks! Summit was held June 11-12. Preparations for this event have been ongoing since last fall including selection of schools, summit agenda and activities, speakers, bus tour, meals, and take-home material creation and packaging.
- The ILF 10-Year Anniversary celebration was held on June 24 and prep work for this event involved all of the staff. They were involved with follow up reminder calls to farmer partners and agency representatives, organizing the bus tour, coordinating with venue staff for the meal, lining up speakers, creating a video and slideshow for the program; and Jackie spent a lot of extra time in the pottery studio creating ILF mugs!

- Various ILF DVDs, totaling 578, were sent out to requestors and given away at workshops and field days. This number includes 40 cover crop DVDs to Tom Kaspar for the Midwest Cover Crop Council, 40 cover crop DVDs to Melissa O'Rourke for an ISU Extension women landowners meeting, and 20 copies of both cover crop DVDs to Shane Wulf for a field day on June 30 in Black Hawk County (Miller Creek Watershed). The "Incredible Wetlands" DVD was sent to SWCD, Extension and County Conservation offices across the state (300 total).
- The organizers for the inaugural National Strip-tillage Conference requested 500 copies of the "Strip-till Crop Management" how-to DVD and the strip-tillage publication in the "It Begins With You" series to be included in conference attendee packets. These were mailed to them in June. The conference will be held in Cedar Rapids July 30-31.
- ILF news and references to ILF appeared in the following media—
 - Ag media: *Farm News*, *Iowa Farmer Today*, *Farm Bureau Spokesman*, *AgriNews*, *Dairy Herd Management*, *Wallaces Farmer*, KWMT radio (Fort Dodge), KICD radio (Spencer), *Minnesota Farm Guide*
 - Websites: CleanWaterIowa.org, No-till Farmer.com, Soilwarrior.com, Leopold Center, Practical Farmers of Iowa, ISU Extension and Outreach, Topix.net, AgProfessional.com
 - Iowa newspapers: *Des Moines Register*, *Creston News Advertiser*, *Mason City Globe Gazette*, *Newton Daily News*, *Vinton Today*, *Cedar Valley Daily Times*, *Fort Dodge Messenger*, *Tri-State Neighbor*

JULY-SEPTEMBER

- Promotional material for seven field days were written, designed and distributed, including news releases, flyers and postcards.
- *Wallaces Farmer* published four articles for ILF and Water Rocks! this quarter, including coverage of the Water Rocks! Summit, ILF 10-year celebration, the "cover crops for grazing" June 5 field day, and a prairie strips story as part of the Farm Progress Show program.
- The six ILF how-to DVDs were made available at field days and over 100 copies total were given out. The "Incredible Wetlands" DVD was sent to all Iowa public libraries in September, totaling 566.
- ILF news, and references to ILF, appeared in:
 - Ag media: *Farm News*, *Iowa Farmer Today*, *Farm Bureau Spokesman*, *Agri-News*, *Wallaces Farmer*
 - Websites: IowaView.net, Leopold Center, Practical Farmers of Iowa, ISU Extension and Outreach, Iowa Now (U of I news page), Morning Ag Clips.com
 - Iowa media: *Mason City Globe Gazette*, *Emmetsburg News*, *Osceola Sentinel Tribune*, *Creston News Advertiser*, *Cedar Valley Daily Times*, *Atlantic News Telegraph*, WQAD-TV, KWMT radio (Fort Dodge), KICD radio (Spencer)

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- Promotional material for five cover crop workshops were written, designed and distributed, including news releases, flyers and postcards.
- *Wallaces Farmer* published three articles for ILF and Water Rocks! this quarter.
- The “Incredible Wetlands” DVD was combined with the other Culture of Conservation videos to create one package of all four films. The how-to DVDs were made available at the five workshops for guests, with over 150 copies given out.
- ILF news, and references to ILF, appeared in:
 - Ag media: *Farm News, Iowa Farmer Today, Farm Bureau Spokesman, Agri-News, Wallaces Farmer*
 - Websites: Agri-View, Leopold Center, Practical Farmers of Iowa, ISU Extension and Outreach, Morning Ag Clips.com
 - Iowa media: *Tama News-Herald, Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier, Belmond Independent, Iowa City Press Citizen, Osceola Sentinel Tribune*, KMA radio, KWMT radio (Fort Dodge), KICD radio (Spencer)

ADMINISTRATION AND EVALUATION

JANUARY-MARCH

This quarter we hired our six summer interns. We had numerous excellent applications including several from other colleges and universities. Our program is being recognized as an excellent training opportunity for college students who want to pursue a career in natural resources. We also started a partnership with Grinnell College this year and one of our interns will be from Grinnell. In addition to the Grinnell student, we have a student from Drake and from the University of Georgia and three Iowa State University students. The students started their weekly training in anticipation of the beginning of their internship on May 12.

Evaluation

The **Field Day Audience Participation Report**, also completed this quarter, contains information received from questionnaires that were sent to 956 attendees from 21 ILF sponsored field days. These questionnaires were sent within three weeks of the event. The questions focus on the clarity and accessibility of the information received and inquired whether participants planned to make any changes in their land management as a result of the event. The report also lists all comments and questions by participants at the field days. A total of 435 attendees responded.

The **ILF Evaluation Report** completed this quarter consists of information received from follow-up mailed evaluation questionnaires to participants in any ILF-sponsored “field” event. The total number of responses was 408. These surveys were sent in January 2014 to see if the participants had made the changes they said they were going to make in earlier evaluations.

The **Community and Youth Outreach Report** was completed this quarter. It consists of teacher evaluations of ILF school events (in partnership with Water Rocks! program). These questionnaires were handed to the teachers at each outreach event with a return envelope to help see how these individuals perceived our educational programming. This allows us to keep track of what is connecting with the students and what needs to be adjusted according to the teachers who evaluate us. In this report we have evaluations from 61 different teachers in 30 different school districts.

APRIL-JUNE

The Iowa Learning Farms program continues to be a well-oiled machine (albeit a wet one this quarter). Helmers’ and Comito’s time were spent writing grants and seeking additional funding to help keep the program growing. This quarter, the team wrote two grant proposals to expand continue the multi-year Iowa Cover Crop Working Group cover crop project: submitted a SSCC proposal to do an economics analysis on the first five years and submitted a Leopold Center pre-proposal to expand the original project for three additional years. Additional grants submitted include partnerships with the University of Iowa and ISU CARD.

Evaluation

Comment cards were collected for the first 11 field days and workshops spanning from March to June. Evaluations for these field days and events were mailed out to 176 participants of the first six field days: 69 were returned for a 39% response rate. We expect this number to continue to rise as surveys slowly return. June was a heavy month for field days with six, so the majority of surveys will be mailed out by early July. Comment cards (attendee information) are being entered into SPSS for statistical analysis.

Through our related program Water Rocks!, we conducted 41 outreach/education events at a diversity of venues: schools, camps, churches, libraries, county fairs, etc. The fleet of Conservation Station trailers continues to be in much demand and we still turn down 30% of the requests we get because of limited time and staffing.

Ann Staudt organized and conducted a spring training session with the student interns, meeting with them each Thursday night for five weeks at the end of the spring semester. The off-campus interns participated remotely via webinar (include one intern who was spending spring semester in Guatemala). This allowed the student interns to hit the ground running immediately after completing final exams, coinciding with the peak season for school visits and outdoor classrooms. Intern training continues through the summer with a series of Lunch n' Learn seminars presented by ILF team members on a variety of topics including cover crops, soil health and building a culture of conservation.

JULY-SEPTEMBER

In August, short time ILF staffer Britt Moore left us to pursue his PhD at Iowa State. Moore was with us for nine months and was very helpful with our cover crop data collection and analysis. Alex Kirstukus was hired in September to serve as a program assistant while we figure out how we will fill the position vacated by Moore. Alex is a recent graduate of St. Olaf College in Minnesota and is an excellent addition to our team. We will conduct a search for Moore's replacement later this fall.

Matt and I continue to write grants to keep Iowa Learning Farms funded. We were pleased to have our USDA-NIFA successfully funded in September. We were asked to submit a full proposal to the Leopold Center for continued work on the long-term cover crop sites. We have also been approached by Nancy North, on behalf of Fishers and Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi, as a possible partner to a grant she is submitting to the McKnight Foundation. We will continue to explore that possibility.

Evaluation

Our third quarter always brings a lot of evaluation work. We sent 219 evaluations to those people who attended our field days this quarter and filled out a comment card. This is not the total number of people who have attended field days. To date, 479 field day evaluations have been mailed. We will send a follow up evaluation to those all those attendees in January to see if they have changed their behavior and adopting conservation practices. In addition, we will be sending a follow-evaluation in January to all of the participants in our field days since 2006. The results of this survey will be shared with the Steering Committee in March. This winter we will also be doing an analysis of all the field days over the 10 years of the Iowa Learning Farms to see examine how effective we have been in various parts of the state.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Once again, the fourth quarter was a time of transition for the Iowa Learning Farms team. We are currently in the process of hiring a new Extension Specialist to help with fieldwork and outreach and education. We have several good candidates apply for the position and we hope to have someone in place by March 1, 2015. Meanwhile, we were able to use temporary staff during this quarter to complete our workplan and to ease the burden on the remaining full-time staff.

Evaluation

We received 620 comment cards from a total of 23 field days in 2014. We did two-week evaluations of 16 field days/workshops. We had a 42% response rate to those initial evaluations. Two field days (CREP wetland and UI partnership) were not evaluated. Since the five field days held in November were late in the season, attendees were not mailed a two-week follow-up evaluation. Instead, they were mailed a year-end evaluation on November 5. An additional 485 year-end evaluations were mailed out on December 31. Year-end evaluations were sent only to the farmers/operators and landowners who attended a field day/workshop in 2014.

Two other surveys were mailed out on December 31. One went to Iowans who had attended an ILF field day within the last 10 years, excluding those who attended one in 2014. Another survey went to Iowans who were listed as rural residents through Farm & Home County Plat & Directory books. The mailing list for this survey, numbering 4000, was generated through a random selection of names from all regions across the state, many of which were counties where we had held an event. Responses from these surveys will be compiled and analyzed for feedback on ten years of Iowa Learning Farms program and also to get a better understanding of the folks who are not coming to our field days.

We also evaluate all the outreach/educational events we attend in which we play a significant role. We are processing all the evaluation materials from youth and community events including the teacher evaluations we received. The staff makes note of the following information at each event: type of event, type of audience, attendance, engagement of audience, and which staff participated. This helps us evaluate the type of events we do, our impact with those who attend, and how we adjust for the next year. It also helps to make sure we don't put too much attention on any one group, location or age. For classroom visits, each teacher receives a packet of teaching materials as well as an evaluation survey. The evaluations include how the teachers scored our presentation, what more could have been done, and if/how they plan on using the materials that we provided.

WORK WITH DEMONSTRATIONS, RESEARCH & LEVERAGED PROJECTS

Iowa Cover Crop Working Group (ICCWG)

JANUARY-MARCH

This quarter, ILF coordinated two cover crop workshops in Mitchell and Lucas counties. These events featured researchers and farmers discussing cover crops as a part of a whole-farm conservation strategy. ILF also sponsored a track at the Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) Annual Conference focusing on the Nutrient Reduction Strategy from both the researchers' and farmers' point of views. Over 200 people attended the four ILF sessions and 80 people stopped by the ILF booth.

This quarter, the "Cover Crops: Farmers Perspectives" how-to DVD was completed. It is the newest how-to video in the series and made its debut at the PFI Annual Conference. During this quarter, 623 of these DVDs were distributed; 300 copies were mailed to all county Extension (100) and SWCD (100) offices as well as all county conservation boards (100). Several SWCD county offices and Watershed Groups requested a total of 264 copies of both cover crop DVDS for their annual meetings. The remainder of the total were sent to individuals by request or given out at conference exhibit booths or workshops.

A new cover crop glossary handout was developed to help clarify some common cover crop terms. Another cover crop decision tool was developed and is available on the ILF website. This tool and accompanying handout are designed to help guide producers in calculating the amount of seed needed for a cover crop test strip based on the inputted area and seed selection. The Iowa Cover Crop Consortium continues to encourage and provide support to local offices conducting local cover crop workshops in their areas.

APRIL-JUNE

This quarter, ILF coordinated two indoor cover crop workshops in Carroll and East Pottawattamie counties. These events featured researchers and farmers discussing cover crops as a part of a whole-farm conservation strategy and drew an attendance of 33 and 18, respectively. Four additional cover crop field days were held this quarter in Poweshiek, Tama, Webster and Buchanan counties for a total attendance of 227.

The primary focus this quarter has been on the completion of fieldwork for the two established projects and planning for cover crop establishment this fall. As a result of our first quarter meeting, Dr. Bob Hartlzer published two Integrated Crop Management articles on terminating cover crops and cereal rye cover crops, allelopathy and corn.

JULY-SEPTEMBER

This quarter, the ICCWG combined to host seven cover crop field days around the state. Cover crops were the main focus of the field days and featured researchers and farmers discussing cover crops as a part of a whole-farm conservation strategy. The field days in Pocahontas, Hancock, Mills, Taylor, Montgomery, Hamilton and Adair counties drew a total attendance of 348.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

This quarter, ILF and PFI combined to host five cover crop workshops and a field day. Heavy rains this fall had delayed harvest and an early killing frost reduced the number of field days that could be held outdoors. Cover crops and cover crop mixtures were the main focus at the fall events and featured area farmers and researchers from ISU and PFI. Events were held in these counties: Pottawattamie (Nov.12), Floyd (Nov.18), Hancock (Nov. 19), Washington (Nov. 20) and Madison (Nov. 25). Total attendance was 145.

SSCC/Leopold Center Cover Crop Project

JANUARY-MARCH

On-farm demonstration work continues with nine farmer partners in Butler, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, Tama, Taylor, Washington (two farmer partners) and Webster counties. This quarter included preparation for spring infiltration testing and soil sampling to gather five-year data from six of the sites and biomass collection from all nine sites. Seven farmer partners in Greene, Butler, Guthrie, Ida, Washington (two) and Taylor counties have agreed to continue the project to demonstrate cover crops in their areas and so that we can gather longer term results.

APRIL-JUNE

On-farm demonstration work continues with nine farmer partners in Butler, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, Tama, Taylor, Washington (two) and Webster counties. This quarter we collected biomass samples from eight of the nine sites (Greene County failed to establish). Five of the sites had also reached the five-year mark of the study. At these sites (Taylor, Washington [two], Tama, Ida), soil samples were collected and water infiltration data was gathered. The biomass samples have been submitted for analysis and soil processing continues. Seven farmer partners in Greene, Butler, Guthrie, Ida, Washington and Taylor counties have agreed to continue the project to gather longer-term results and continue to demonstrate cover crops in their areas.

JULY-SEPTEMBER

On-farm demonstration work continues with nine farmer partners in Butler, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, Tama, Taylor, Washington (two partners) and Webster counties. The delayed harvest will push back the collection of yield data for most sites and may impact the seeding for those drilling following harvest. Communication lines have continued to stay open as cereal rye seed was ordered for three of the sites requesting seed and seed has been delivered to two of the three. Seven farmer partners—Greene, Butler, Guthrie, Ida, Washington (two partners) and Taylor counties—have agreed to continue the project to gather long term results and continue to demonstrate cover crops in their areas.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

On-farm demonstration work for crop year 2014 concluded with yield data from nine farmer partners in Butler, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, Tama, Taylor, and Washington. Seven farmer partners in Greene, Butler, Guthrie, Ida, Washington (two) and Taylor counties agreed to continue the project and seeded the cereal rye strips again this fall to gather longer term results and to demonstrate cover crops in their area, with funding from the Leopold Center. Seed was ordered for three sites and was delivered to two of the partners. A manuscript of the study is in the draft stages with anticipated journal submission.

National Conservation Innovation Grant

JANUARY-MARCH

This quarter, the soil samples were submitted for analysis to Agronomy Hall at ISU. The planning for spring fieldwork was the main priority for this quarter. We will be visiting each site to collect biomass and soil samples, and to install groundwater suction lysimeters. Fieldwork, in cooperation with PFI and ISU Research Farms, is set to begin in early April. The identification and recruitment of 10 farmer partners for the two-year, on-farm cover crop mixes demonstration project is nearing completion, with over half of the farmer partners identified.

APRIL-JUNE

Fieldwork began in early April with the installation of groundwater suction lysimeters and soil sampling. Work concluded the first week of May. Biomass samples of cereal rye from the mixture and single species plots going into soybeans were collected from the SW, NC, NE, and NW sites. There was no biomass at the south-central nor southeast sites. The soil has been submitted for processing; bi-weekly sampling from the lysimeters has continued due to the high June rainfall amounts. The 10 farmer partners have been identified for establishment of demonstration plots in the following counties: Cherokee, Floyd, Carroll, Muscatine, Clay, Wright, Clarke, Page, Dallas, and Washington. Coordination of pilots and ordering of seed are the next immediate steps.

JULY-SEPTEMBER

Collection of groundwater using suction lysimeters continued this quarter at the Farmer-Associated Research Farms; one more set of samples is scheduled for collection at the end of October. These sites were hand-seeded between August 26 and September 4. The 10 farmer partners have been identified and demonstration plots established by aerial seeding in the following counties: Cherokee, Floyd, Carroll, Muscatine, Clay, Wright, Clarke, Page, Dallas, and Washington. Biomass collection from each site is slated for later this fall.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Fieldwork for the year concluded with the collection of final groundwater lysimeter samples and biomass samples at the research farm sites. The farm managers submitted yield data and management notes for the 2014 crop year. Biomass sampling kits were mailed in early October to the 10 farmers managing the demonstration sites. They collected two samples per strip and mailed them back to ILF. These samples have been air-dried and are scheduled for further analysis in early 2015. Water samples were submitted in late December 2014. Next spring when the ground has thawed, we will return to the research farms to resume water sampling. Biomass samples will also be collected prior to termination.

State Conservation Innovation Grant

JANUARY-MARCH

This project is still in the primary planning stages. Three sites have been identified and are located in north central Iowa. The sites will demonstrate different seeding techniques of cover crops including seed delivered under cash crop canopy, seed broadcast above cash crop canopy, and seed soil incorporated after cash crop harvest. The sites will be established in late summer and early fall of 2014.

APRIL-JUNE

This project is still in the planning stages of coordinating equipment needs and ordering seeds. Three sites have been identified in north central Iowa to demonstrate different seeding techniques of cover crops including: seed delivered under cash crop canopy, seed broadcast above cash crop canopy, and soil incorporated seed after cash crop harvest. The sites will be established in late summer and early fall of 2014.

JULY-SEPTEMBER

The project is fully underway with the establishment of the cover crop plots at the three demonstration sites in north-central Iowa. The two treatments of pre-harvest seeding have been completed and arrangements have been made to complete the post-harvest drilling later this fall. We continue to keep communication lines open with the farm managers and farmer partner as we move forward with the project.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Above-ground biomass samples were collected on November 4th from Smith, Hagie and Kanawha locations. The samples have been air-dried and will be sorted by species before further analysis. Due to the late harvest at the Hagie site, the drilled treatment had not yet germinated before the biomass samples were collected and a then killing frost occurred. We will visit the sites again in the spring to assess the cover crop and collect samples, if needed. We continue to keep communication lines open with the farm managers and farmer partners as we move forward with the project.

Economic Exploration of Cover Crop Benefits to Crop and Livestock Systems

JULY-SEPTEMBER

ILF received a State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) grant this quarter to work on estimating the value of cover crops for both crop and livestock producers. The project results will update the “Cost of Soil Erosion to the Landowner” work started by Dr. Michael Duffy to determine a value of the soil lost to erosion. Using modeling to estimate the reduction in soil erosion from cover crops, we will be able to assign an economic benefit value to the cover crops from the reduced soil loss. The second component is to work with livestock producers to estimate feedstock value of the cover crops. Locations for the project include at least two counties from each crop reporting district as well as the nine counties where the long-term rye study partners are located, for a total of 20.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Updating is well underway of the article “The Cost of Soil Erosion to the Landowner” by Dr. Michael Duffy. The goal is to estimate the value of the soil lost to erosion using changes in CS2 ratings, yield potential and rental value. Using modeling to estimate the reduction in soil erosion from cover crops, we will be able to assign an economic benefit value to the cover crops from the reduced soil loss.

The second component is to work with livestock producers to estimate feedstock value of the cover crops. The counties in the project include at least two from each crop reporting district, as well as the nine counties where the long-term rye study are located, for a total of 20. The aim is to have preliminary results to share with the cover crop champions program in February.

Water Rocks!

JANUARY-MARCH

With Phase I of Water Rocks! having built the foundation for a highly successful youth water education program, we look forward to expanding our outreach efforts in Phase II.

Water Rocks! highlights from this quarter include:

- WR! director Jacqueline Comito was recognized with an Iowa State University CYtation Award for her outstanding leadership of the Iowa Learning Farms and Water Rocks! outreach programs.
- The Water Rocks! team was honored with 15 awards from the Iowa Motion Picture Association, recognizing excellence in a variety of programming and craft categories.
- A new documentary, “Incredible Wetlands,” was completed this quarter and premiered at the Iowa Water Conference. The 23-minute film seeks to help youth audiences better understand the importance of wetlands on the landscape, how they function, the biological diversity they house, and their role in protecting water quality here in Iowa. This quarter, 398 copies have been handed out and/or mailed.
- Two music CDs, “Dogs, Frogs and Nature Songs” and “Green,” featuring Water Rocks! songs promoting environmental awareness through music, were distributed to every public library in the state.
- Water Rocks! Summit applications were reviewed. Ten school teams were selected for the 2014 WR! Summit, representing a geographic distribution across the state of Iowa, balance of urban/rural school districts, as well as teacher participants representing a variety of grade levels.
- Geocaching: We have been working with park managers this quarter to get all Water Rocks! geocaches reapproved for 2014, as well as checking up on the existing WR! caches for maintenance purposes.

APRIL-JUNE

- Successful Water Rocks! Summit
 - o The inaugural Water Rocks! Summit, held June 11-12, 2014, was a great success! The Summit was offered as a professional development workshop for K-12 classroom teachers on a multitude of hands-on, interactive educational modules to help teach classroom lessons on water, soil, agriculture, environmental science, climate change, and more.
 - o Teachers applied for the Water Rocks! Summit in teams of 2-4, and the 10 selected schools represented a geographic distribution

across Iowa, a balance of urban/rural school districts, as well as teachers representing a variety of grade levels.

- Interns begin work in May
 - Water Rocks! and Iowa Learning Farms have seven undergraduate student interns on board this summer. This is the first year we've been able to open our internship to students outside of Iowa State University, and we are pleased to have interns of widely varied backgrounds from four different institutions: Grinnell College (1), Drake University (1), University of Georgia (1), and Iowa State University (4). Interns are instrumental in allowing us to carry out so many outreach events, including school visits, outdoor classrooms, library visits, and county fairs during the spring and summer months!
 - We also have one Ames High School student volunteering with Water Rocks! as a communications intern for the summer.
- Find us on Twitter @WaterRocksISU
 - In an effort to expand our reach, Water Rocks! is now on Twitter. With help from our social media-savvy interns, we are making a concerted effort to expand our social media outreach this summer.
- Wetlands Outreach
 - The "Incredible Wetlands" documentary was distributed via mail to county conservation boards, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach county offices, and Soil and Water Conservation District offices statewide this quarter.

JULY-SEPTEMBER

- The Water Rocks! team, with help from summer student interns, completed the following education and outreach events this quarter (many events in partnership with Iowa Learning Farms):
 - 15 youth outreach events (school visits, summer camps, library visits)
 - 4 community outreach events
 - 2 conferences (Conservation Districts of Iowa; Extension Energy and Environment Conference)
 - 16 county fairs
 - Conservation Station on site and fully staffed for 11 days of Iowa State Fair. Over 4,500 fairgoers experienced the Rainfall Simulator, Enviroscape, and most popular, "The Poo Toss" game connecting pet waste and water quality!
- With leadership from Nathan Stevenson and student intern Annie Wallace, Water Rocks!' social media presence has continued to grow, targeting our outreach to audiences on different social media platforms. A summary of Water Rocks! social media was presented by Wallace during the student internship symposium held this summer:
http://prezi.com/nahf-vviuk9k/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share
- New Water Rocks! videos are available:

- “Human Landfill” music video
- “Variable Rate Technology” spoof pharmaceutical ad
- 8 new episodes in the ever-popular “Adventures of the Conservation Pack” series
- The “Incredible Wetlands” documentary was mailed to 566 Iowa public libraries this quarter
- Geocaches were placed this quarter in four new state parks: Mines of Spain (3 caches), Lake Manawa (4), McIntosh Woods (3), and Brushy Creek (4).
- Dan Downing, Water Quality Associate with University of Missouri Extension, reported that he is using Water Rocks! materials in his outreach, and told us that ours is “the best stuff out there.” He also reported that the Columbia (MO) Public Library is using Water Rocks! materials with their talented and gifted program for 2nd graders.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

- School visits and community outreach:
 - The Water Rocks! team finished out the 2014 season with 16 school/youth outreach events this quarter.
 - Numerous requests have already been received for winter and spring 2015.
 - The Conservation Station fleet of trailers has been winterized for the season.
- Planning underway for Water Rocks! Summits:
 - Kansas City Teacher Summit (February 24-25, 2015); funded by a separate grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
 - Water Rocks! Teacher Summits at ISU (June 10-11 and June 24-25, 2015); two day professional development workshops for Iowa K-12 classroom teachers.
 - Water Rocks! Winter Summit at ISU (December 3, 2015); professional development workshop open to non-formal educators, including 4-H and Extension educators, SWCD youth outreach coordinators, watershed coordinators, naturalists, municipal/public works education personnel, STEM coordinators, and more.
- New Water Rocks! videos available:
 - “Use It Up” music video
 - “The Drinking Song” music video
 - “Dino Water” music video
 - Geocaching with the Conservation Dogs
- Strong quarter for geocaching:

- 140 new logged visits (24% of total lifetime logged visits to Water Rocks! geocaches) happening during the October–December timeframe. The nice fall weather and mild winter were welcomed by geocachers across the state.