

**Iowa Learning Farms Project
11IFLM001
Integrated Farm and Livestock Management Demonstration Program**

**Year-End Report
January 1-December 31, 2010**

Many changes occurred in 2010 for Iowa Learning Farms including leadership, additional projects, greater outreach, and even a name change.

With the retirements of ILF program manager Jerry DeWitt and IDALS program manager Elaine Ilvess, Iowa Learning Farms directorship transitioned to Lois Wright Morton, interim director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture; and Jacqueline Comito and Matt Helmers undertook management of the program. Matt Lechtenberg replaced Ilvess and Todd Coffelt became the head of ILF's steering committee as Dean Lemke responsibilities at IDALS shifted.

Along with leadership changes, ILF's focus expanded to include outreach and education for new audiences in addition to the farming arena. Detailed research was reduced while outreach to these new audiences was increased. We began new projects with IDALS and DNR on strip tillage and community assessments for watershed groups. ILF also added an "s" to the word "Farm" to reflect its inclusiveness for our many participating farms.

Beginning with the forum, "A Culture of Conservation: The Tools We Need to Grow," held in January, ILF started the year off successfully, hosting an event for an audience of our peers in the conservation field. With the release of the video "Troubled Waters" in March and the Conservation Station launch in May, momentum swung toward engaging more people as we build this culture of conservation. ILF also held 11 field days and clinics, continuing to utilize traditional means of engaging farmers, which we have proved effective. As anticipated, the Conservation Station has been highly successful. Between its launch on May 20 and the end of October, it was at 50 events and over 4000 people heard the conservation message that the CS brings.

With many areas of the Midwest experiencing a setback in conservation practices, ILF staff takes the challenge of Building a Culture of Conservation seriously, but also with a creative and fun spirit. We hope our spirit is infectious.

—Jacqueline Comito, program manager

Field Days=No. in Attendance	Meetings/Presentations=No. in Attendance	Conservation Station (CS) & Rainfall Simulator (RS) Events	Publications/Educational Materials*=Distribution	Web Address/Known Links
Planter Clinic, March 30, Cedar Rapids =75	PFI Annual Conference, Jan. 8-9, 2010 unstaffed ILF display	RS: April 9, Davis SWCD Ag Day, Bloomfield = 360	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> January 2010	Smithsonian's "Dig It" exhibit, Learn More page: http://forces.si.edu/soils/06_00_00.html
June 2: ILF/PFI Cover Crop Working Group Field Day, Mark Pokorny farm, Tama County = 35	Iowa Learning Farm Forum, Jan. 13, Ames=132	RS: April 24, Floyd Co. Outdoor Family Fair, Charles City = 70	Toolkit handouts (12) for Jan. 13 workshop	
June 8: ILF Field Day, Brian Hoffman farm, Pocahontas County = 85	Luther College Oneota Film Festival, Jan. 22-23, "Culture of Conservation" films shown	RS: April 28, Adair Co. Youth Event, Greenfield = 60	Toolkit packets for Jan. 13 (150)	
June 17: ILF Field Day, Tom Vaske farm, Delaware County = 65	Conservation Partnership Day, Des Moines, Jan. 27 Comito, DeWitt staffed display	RS: May 5-7, ISU Extension Ag in the Environment Days, Eagle Grove (dropped off)	Banner, posters (7) and brochure for Legislative Partnership Day	
June 30: ILF/CIG Strip-Till Field Day, ISU NW Research Farm = 235	Watershed leadership Meetings, Ames, Feb 2 & 3 Comito, Helmers, Benning=30	RS: May 13, Iowa Children's Water Festival, DMACC, Ankeny = 2200	Winter 2010 Newsletter	
July 1: Black Hawk Watershed event, Lake View=50 (Comito, Helmers, Staudt, Benning)	CDI Region 9 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 2, Honey Creek Resort=43	RS: May 18, Maple Valley/Anthon-Oto Elementary School = 145	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> February 2010	
July 7: Walnut Creek Watershed field day, Red Oak=80 (Lundvall, Comito, Helmers, Duffy, Benning)	CDI Region 8 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 3, Mount Ayr=30	RS: May 19, Diamond Lake 5 th grade field day, Montezuma = 100	Troubled Waters booklet	
July 13: Middle West Fork of Crooked Creek Watershed meeting, Washington=30 (Benning, Comito, Andrews)	CDI Region 5 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 4, Orient=37	CS: May 20, Conservation Station Launch, Ada Hayden Park, Ames = 80	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> March 2010	

July 27: Smeltzer Trust Farm field day, Otho=120 (Comito, Lundvall, Staudt, Benning)	Iowa Water Conference, March 8-9, Ames ILF Display: Comito, Van Waus, Holmes, Lundvall, Brown staffed	RS: May 22, NRCS/SWCD Izaak Walton Youth Conservation Day, Ottumwa = 150	Handout for conferences/events re: Conservation Station and Troubled Waters	
Aug. 25: ILF Field Day, ISU Western Research Farm, Castana=80	CDI Region 1 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 10, Sioux City=38	CS: May 25, Ames High School = 400 students	Planter Clinic news release ISU Extension, Cedar Rapids-area newspapers, general ag media, NRCS offices, ISU Ext. Offices	
Aug. 26: ILF/PFI field day, Iowa Lakes Community College=83	CDI Region 2 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 11, Manson=41	CS: June 2, ILF/PFI Field Day, Clutier = 30	Planter Clinic flyer to NRCS, ISU Ext. Offices, Kirkwood campus	
	CDI Region 3 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 12, Hampton=41	CS: June 4, Loess Hills Seminar Tour = 30	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> July 2010	
	CDI Region 6 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 16, Knoxville=30	CS: June 8, ILF Field Day, Hoffman farm, Laurens = 85	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> August 2010	
	CDI Region 7 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 17, Lowden=26	CS: June 13, Mitchell SWCD Environmental Ed Day, Osage = 8	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> September 2010	
	CDI Region 4 SWCD Commissioners Listening Session, March 18, Maquoketa=36	CS: June 15, State Soil Conservation Committee summer tour, Crawfordsville = 60	August =ILF Summer Newsletter	
	March 15: Quad City Sierra Club meeting, screening of Troubled Waters, Holmes presented	CS: June 17, ILF Field Day, Vaske farm, Masonville = 65	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> October 2010	
	County Conservation Directors Conference, March 25, Des Moines Helmers & Comito=30	CS: June 18, NRCS staff, Hickory Grove Park, Story Co = 40	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> November 2010	
	March 27: Troubled Waters shown at Quad City Environmental Film Festival	CS: June 23, Hickory Grove Watershed NRCS Field Day, Hickory Grove Park =	<i>Wallaces Farmer</i> December 2010	
	March 30: No-Till Management and Planter	CS: June 24, Howard Co Fair, Cresco = 65	November =ILF Fall Newsletter	

	Clinic, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids Hanna, Van Waus, Lundvall=75			
	March 30: Delaware County NRCS/SWCD No-Till Mtg/Planter clinic, Manchester=50 Hanna and Lundvall presented	CS: June 25, Worth Co Fair, Northwood =		
	April 8, ILF Communications meeting	CS: June 26, Tuttle Lake Watershed Day, Dolliver = 100		
	April 24: Ames Clean Water Festival (Brown, Lundvall, Holmes, Helmers)	CS: June 29, Iowa Ag Educators Conference, Ankeny = 40		
	May 13: Communications team meeting	CS: June 30, ILF/CIG Field Day, NW Research Farm, Calumet = 20		
	June 10: Communications team meeting	CS: July 7, Corning Library summer youth program, Corning=45		
	June 15, Presentation to high school delegates, Iowa Agricultural Development Authority Youth Conference, Ames = 90 (Holmes)	CS: July 8, Lee Co. Fair, Donnellson=75		
	June 29, Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators Conference, Ames (Brown, Holmes)	CS: July 10, Des Moines Farmers Market=200		
	Aug. 3: Women Caring for the Land meeting, Carroll=25 (Comito, Staudt)	CS: July 14, Osceola Co. Fair, Sibley=35		
	Aug. 9: ILF Full Team meeting	CS: July 15, Madison Co. Fair, Winterset=40		
	Aug. 16: Communications team meeting	RS: July 16, Shelby Co. Fair, Harlan		
	Sept. 8-9: CDI Conference, Des Moines=150 (Comito, Helmers, Lundvall, Staudt, Brown, Andrews, Holmes)	CS: July 17, Quad Cities Farmers Market, Davenport=150		
	Sept. 13: ISU Ag Ed 327 class presentation (ag communications),	RS: July 17, Greene Co. Fair, Jefferson		

	Ames=40 (Staudt, Helmers, Comito, Andrews)			
	Sept. 20: Communications team meeting	CS: July 20, Aug. 2, 4, 5, 6, Ames Bookmobile tour=235		
	Sept. 22: Steering Committee meeting, Des Moines	CS: July 22, Grundy Co. Fair, Grundy Center=40		
	Sept. 22: Nevada Rotary club program =40 (Comito & Helmers)	CS: July 23, Ida Co. Fair, Ida Grove=50		
	Oct 8: Iowa Academy of Science ISTS Fall Conference, Ames=350 attendees	RS: July 24, Elkhart Firemen's Event=75		
	Oct. 11, ILF Communications Meeting	CS: July 27, RAGBRAI, near Britt=200		
	Oct. 27, English Valleys Community Schools=92	CS: July 29, Des Moines Co. Fair, West Burlington=70		
	Nov. 3: ILF staff at IOWATER training	CS: July 30, Warren Co. Fair, Indianola=60		
	Nov. 8, ILF Communications Team meeting	CS: Aug. 3, Cass Co. Fair, Atlantic=70		
	Nov. 19: ILF staff visited the Smithsonian's "Dig It!" exhibit in Omaha	RS: Aug. 7, Dallas County Hospital health fair, Perry=10		
	Dec. 2, Community Assessment Grant meeting with DNR (ILF staff, Bonini, Hopkins)	CS: Aug. 14, NE Engine & Power Show, Fredericksburg=25		
	Dec. 13, ILF Communications Team meeting=Adkins and Greiner were guests	CS: Aug. 21, Running Wild event, Port Louisa Natl. Wildlife Refuge, Wapello=40		
		CS: Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2, Farm Progress Show, Boone=75		
		RS: Sept. 9, Farm to Table Day, Marshalltown		
		RS: Sept. 10, Crawford County 7 th Grade Ag Day, Denison		
		RS: Sept. 14-16, Fayette Co. SWCD Education field days		
		RS: Sept. 17, West Union Elementary School		
		CS: Sept. 21, Lyon Co. 5 th grade outdoor classroom, Lake Panoja,		

		Inwood=175		
		RS: Sept. 22, Clarke County NRCS/SWCD Soil Conservation Day		
		CS: Sept. 23, Winneshiek Co. 5-7 th grade outdoor classroom, Decorah=120		
		CS: Sept. 24, Norman Borlaug Harvest Fest=230		
		CS: Sept. 26, Isaac Walton League Iowa Outdoor Expo, Des Moines=80		
		CS: Sept. 28, Nevada Public Library After-school program, Nevada=40		
		CS: Sept. 29, Northcrest Retirement Community, Ames=18		
		CS: Oct. 1, Pekin Community Schools Homecoming Field Day =300		
		CS: Oct. 5 & 7, Boone Co. 4 th grade outdoor classroom, Madrid=330		
		CS: Oct. 14, Cherokee Co 6 th Grade outdoor classroom, Silver Sioux Recreation Area=160		
		CS: Oct. 29, Outdoor Classroom with FFA, North Polk Community High School, Alleman=60		