



2012 Highlights



The cover crop field day series included five events across the state for NRCS field staff and the public in March and April. Cover crops took advantage of the mild winter as this field near Malcom shows. A field day was held here on March 27 at the Joe Kriegel farm.

By the Numbers:

- 31** Field days/workshopsguests: **1,211**
- 12** Webinars.....participants: **253**
Archive views (24 webinars)..... **4,705**
- 114** Conservation Station
and youth events.....learners: **21,291**
- 9** Partner meetings/listening sessions....attendees: **75**
- 8** Conferences/presentations contacts: **494**
- 2** Publications: Watershed-based Community
Assessment Toolkit, Strip-till Video & Booklet
- 865** DVDs distributed
- 140** Water Quality books distributed
- 2,588** Field Day Guides mailed & emailed
- 12** columns in *Wallaces Farmer* (60 columns total)



ILF began a blog in April with team members posting often. The blog is accumulating followers regularly with 214.

ILF's track at the Iowa Water Conference on March 7 entitled "Iowa: 2035" included a panel representing rural and urban folks. Moderator Jacqueline Comito asked thought-provoking questions to the panel with great engagement by the nearly 60 people in attendance.



Youth Education



The CS visited kids attending Science Camp at the Science Center of Iowa on July 17 in Des Moines. The campers, preschool-8th grade, were eager to learn and enthusiastic.



Two new websites were launched this year and are resources for educators and students.

www.conservationpack.org contains music, videos, dog adventure stories and activities for kids. www.waterrocks.org features all things water quality, from the Rock Your Watershed game, to features on water experts to activities for kids.



Students from 4th grade through high school participated in a watershed activity during a visit from the ILF team. The activity shows the cumulative affect we have on local water as well as downstream.



Water rocks! is the new statewide water awareness campaign for Iowa youth being developed this year.

The newest member of the Conservation Station fleet, the CS3, hit the road this fall going to outdoor classrooms exclusively.



The Water Rocks!/ILF team visited 43 schools and school-related events in 2012, teaching 7,466 children about watersheds and water quality. Fourth graders at Fellows Elementary in Ames work on their watershed development project. It is just one of the activities that the students complete during the visit.

Farmer and Adult Education

There are currently **79** ILF farmer partners across the state. Several farmer partners each hosted one of the **26** ILF field days this year. More than **1,100** people attended an ILF field day this year.



The Badger Creek Lake Watershed field day, held on July 14, was an event to help bring awareness of water quality to the watershed residents. Attendees toured a CREP wetland, visited the Conservation Station and enjoyed a community supper. The CS had a special module in its learning lab, with historic photos of the lake and watershed.



ILF farmer partner Jerry Crew, and his son Pete, held a field day on their farm near Webb on Oct. 25. Attendees came out despite the cold temperatures. Sarah Carlson of PFI (kneeling) talks to the crowd about winter rye in a no-till situation.



A strip-till field day was held on Oct. 23 at the Bob Lynch farm. Speaker Mark Thompson demonstrates how the strip-till rig goes through the field.



A Rotational Grazing and Pasture Improvement field day was held on July 11 at the Triple C farms and hosted by Todd Coffelt. Attendees heard from experts on how to control weeds and learned from the Coffelts how they had improved their pastures.

The latest how-to video "Strip-tillage Crop Management" was completed in September. The DVD is available through ILF for free. It is also on the ILF website.



The ILF team took part in **155** events in 2012. The events included ILF field days, listening sessions, workshops, tours, conferences and Conservation Station visits—reaching out to adults and youth of all ages, from both rural and urban backgrounds.



ILF student interns Sara Sloan and Brittney Carpio visit with Breakfast on the Farm attendees about watersheds using the Enviroscope. The ILF team spoke with 250 people at the Calmar annual event on June 23.



ILF student intern Becca Meerdink gets help with the Enviroscope from a group of kids at the Iowa State Fair. Kids and adults learned about the cumulative effect of how we personally treat our natural resources. It consistently earned high marks throughout the 10 days at the fair.

The team and interns were at **23** county fairs this summer.



Visitors to the Ames Farmers Market on Aug. 25 got a sneak peak at the CS3, paid for with Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture funds. They could purchase a meal and participate in Enviroscope demonstrations about water quality and drinking water. Student intern Becca Meerdink talks to visitors about where drinking water comes from.



“Out to the Lakes” won three awards at the Iowa Motion Picture Association event on May 19. Videographer Jon Anderson, composer Ann Staudt, director Jacqueline Comito and composer Todd Stevens display the awards. Additionally, Staudt and Comito were among the 10 women honored with the Technology Association of Iowa’s Women of Innovation awards at a ceremony in November. TAI’s honorees work in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).