



# Crop Year 2006 Highlights

The Iowa Learning Farm's focus is on helping strong conservationist farmers teach other farmers about systems that will improve the quality of the soil and water on their farms while remaining profitable and sustainable.



The Iowa Learning Farm hosted its first Networking Workshop in March. Farmer cooperators met with ILF team members and ISU Extension crop specialists. Pictured is Bill Buman, ILF farmer cooperator from Shelby County. The workshop objective was to share conservation practices, challenges and barriers with one another.

Field Days were held on the Smeltzer Farm (top) and the Bruce Manthe farm. ILF sponsored six field days with several hundred guests in attendance.

Three of the 31 ILF farmer cooperators: Max Schmidt, Howard County; Barbara Johnson, Page County; and Bruce Manthe, Plymouth County. The cooperators are vital in demonstrating conservation practices and are also becoming involved in their communities as spokespersons for the project.



***As we enter the third year of the Iowa Learning Farm project, we come with renewed energy, excitement and a commitment to increased visibility and impacts across Iowa.***

—Jerry DeWitt, ILF project coordinator





ILF farmer cooperater Robert Pridie introduces Governor Culver to the Iowa Learning Farm project at the Conservation Districts of Iowa event in January in the Capitol Rotunda. ILF team members and farmer cooperators presented at numerous events such as this throughout the year.



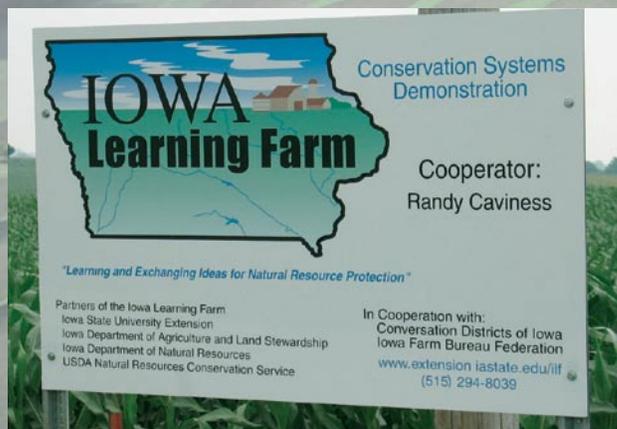
The rainfall simulator was introduced last year at the Farm Progress Show. The machine simulates the impact of raindrops to various land surfaces when it rains. It is now a fully funded water quality component to aid in research. The simulator is portable so it can travel to field days or events. Those interested in having the simulator at their event should complete the request form available at [www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/).



The ILF newsletter was recognized by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) for outstanding agronomic educational material. The newsletter earned a Certificate of Excellence at the annual ASA meeting in Indianapolis last fall.



The Iowa Learning Farm project was fully staffed by May 2007. Left to right: ILF Field Coordinator John Lundvall, Research Associate Jamie Benning, Communications Specialist Carol Brown, Postdoctoral Research Associate Ranvir Singh, and Research Associate David Correll.



Signs like this one are posted on ILF farmer cooperater demonstration plots or homesteads throughout Iowa.

***"We're trying to conserve the soil and raise awareness of water quality within our own area. . . keeping nutrients and pesticides out of the water."***

**—Rick Juchems, ILF farmer cooperater Butler County**