



Showing cattle. Photo courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

4-H County Council sponsoring IJBBA Open Cattle Show with Two Rings of Competition on April 18

WASHINGTON - Washington County 4-H County Council will be sponsoring an Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association (IJBBA) sanctioned open cattle show on Saturday, April 18 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. This is the 17th year of hosting the event. Over the years, the show has expanded to hosting two show rings and increased prize money. Exhibitors will have the opportunity to participate in two shows on this one day at one location. There will be two judges and rings running a back-to-back schedule.

This event is open to youth of all ages up to 21. This is a great opportunity for youth to compete against youth from other counties, work more with their cattle, gain experience showing and have fun.

To exhibit at this show, there are no requirements to be a member of the IJBBA or a member of 4-H. However, members of the IJBBA will receive points. To see all IJBBA show rules visit <http://ijbba.com/rules-ijbba/>.

Pre-registration is available and encouraged at <https://tinyurl.com/SpringPreview2026> After April 1 cost per animal per ring entry fee is \$40. Make checks payable to Washington County Extension. Proceeds from this 2026 fundraising event will be used by the 4-H County Council to rebuild the county fair champion boards and

add an additional board to accommodate all of the 4-H classes at the county fair. They will also use proceeds to support their youth activities throughout the year like Jr Lock In and Clover Connection.

Check-in and day of registration is set for 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. Ring 1 will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the Ring 2 starting immediately after that first class finishes in Ring 1. Supreme Champion will receive \$350.00 and Reserve Champion will receive \$250.00 for both market and breeding animals. All 1st-3rd place in the class will have cash awards.

Health papers are required on all animals. Tattoos will be checked. If intending to show in breed division registration papers are required. Generators are recommended if fitting out of personal livestock trailers or tents, but not required as the cattle barn and wash racks will be open. A livestock supply and equipment trailer will be on the grounds. In conjunction with this event, there will be a 4-H Pancake Breakfast from 7:00-10:30 a.m. in the lower level of Dallmeyer Hall on the fairgrounds and a lunch food booth available as well.

Questions regarding registration, sponsorship or other additional questions please contact Amy Green at amygreen@iastate.edu or 319/653-4811.

2025 Annual Report Keokuk County Soil and Water Conservation District

2025 District Activities

JANUARY

Andrew J. (AJ) Neff was elected Chair and Clinton Mikesell was elected Vice Chair. Members for 2025 are Gary Bates, Donald Millikin, and David Klein. Sharon Fritchen was appointed Secretary. Donald Millikin and David Klein were appointed Co-Treasurers. Assistant Commissioners appointed are Nick Beinhart and Nick Hammes.

The District Financial Policies were reviewed and approved. The EEO, Iowa Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist and the Unfunded Cooperative Agreement Memorandum of Understanding were reviewed. The 5 Year Resource Plan was reviewed.

David Klein and Clinton Mikesell started their new four-year term as District Commissioner.

FEBRUARY

Five scholarship applications were received.

MARCH

The 2024 annual report was published in the News-Review.

Poster Contest 2025 theme is "Home Is Where the Habitat Is". The poster contest

information was given to the schools.

Created a Resolution for CDI on "Updating/Revise Necessary Job Descriptions to Allow Overtime".

APRIL

100 pin oak tree seedlings were delivered to the 5th grade students.

75 posters were completed for the annual CDI poster contest. Posters were received from Tri County and English Valleys Community schools.

Three EQIP and three CSP contracts were approved.

MAY

The Virginia F Striegel Conservation \$500.00 scholarship was awarded to Isaac Striegel. Four \$250.00 Keokuk SWCD scholarships were given to Ava Greiner, Reagan Claranhan, McKinley Chittick and Jonathan Wheeldon. Isaac's application forwarded to regional competition.

Clinton and Tracy Mikesell were nominated and submitted for the 2025 Iowa Environmental Leader award.

JUNE

The CDI Resolutions were reviewed and voted on.

Annual Site Financial visit was completed on June 5.

Eight more EQIP contracts

were approved.

JULY

IFIP 3M FY26 initial allocation of \$60,924.00 was received.

FY26 REAP Practices funding in the amount of \$9,190.35 and FY26 REAP-Forestry Practices funding in the amount of \$2,808.72 were received.

Clinton and Tracy Mikesell were selected to receive the 2025 Iowa Environmental Leader award for Keokuk County.

AUGUST

Clinton and Tracy Mikesell accepted the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader award at the Iowa State Fair on August 13.

The District treasury audit was completed.

SEPTEMBER

Received 1M funding in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Fall supplemental 3M IFIP allocation of \$182,772.00 was received.

The 45th Annual 6th Grade Tent Campout was held on September 12, with 49 students and 19 sponsors participating.

The Quad District soil judging contest was held on September 23 and host-

ed by Poweshiek County. Keokuk County results are as follows: Senior Team 1st Place - Sigourney. Rex Flynn, Sigourney placed first in the Individual Senior division and Klayton Wehr, Sigourney, placed second in the Individual Senior division.

OCTOBER

The 2025 CDI Regional and State Poster Contest winners selected were Easton Mercer, Tri-County school, was the regional Division 4 (7th - 9th grade) winner. Hailey Brackelsberg, Tri-County High School, was the regional Division 5 (10th-12th grade) winner.

The USDA government shutdown on October 1, 2025, and state employees worked at the Extension Office and the Public Library.

NOVEMBER

The USDA government shutdown ended November 12, 2025.

DECEMBER

USDA is still on a hiring freeze, no District Conservationist has been hired since Larry Stevens' retirement on December 27, 2024. Only Acting District Conservationist's from other counties have filled in.

The Keokuk County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to provide the 2025 annual report of conservation accomplishments. Conservation requires effort on the parts of many to improve our environment. Staff ready to assist you are:

District Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners

- Andrew J. (AJ) Neff, Chair.....
- East Lancaster Twp. Clinton Mikesell, Vice Chair.....
- English River T Gary Bates, Member.....
- Prairie Twp. David Klein, Member.....

- East Lancaster Twp. Donald Millikin, Member.....
- Benton Twp. Nick Beinhart, Assistant Commissioner.....
- Keota Nick Hammes, Assistant Commissioner.....
- Sigourney Field Office Personnel
- Brooke Guthrie and Mary Brand.....
- Acting District Conservationist - NRCS Sharon Fritchen.....
- Conservation Assistant - IDALS-DSCWQ Hilary Lanman.....
- State Conservation Technician - IDALS-DSCWQ Jason Gritsch..
- Private Lands Wildlife Technician - IDNR.....

2025 State FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Statewide WQI Cover Crop Acres Applied, 8,680.72 ac.....

17,104 ft..... 19 producers Summer Incentive Acres for Terraces/Basins, 35 ac.....

Commissioner/District IM Expenses

This 1M budget allows for payment of district commissioners' and assistant commissioners' expenses incurred while performing their duties. The budget also provides dollars for certain office supplies used to carry out the duties of the district. The funds are appropriated by the State Legislature. 1M FY25 Fund Allocation (July 1, 2024)..... \$3,000.00

expenses and miscellaneous expenses come out of this account. Balance (January 1, 2025)..... \$22,403.52

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- Jefferson Co 723 AC+
- Keokuk Co 38 AC+
- Mahaska Co 92 AC+
- Wapello Co 15 AC+
- Wapello Co 64 AC+
- Wapello Co 77.5 AC+
- Wapello Co 20 AC+
- Washington Co 13 AC+
- Washington Co 20 AC+
- Washington Co 17 6AC+
- Washington Co 94 AC+

BEN HARSHYNE 319.853.1162

RICH BAUGH 319.750.9273

HARLAN "HERSH" SMITH 641.931.6884

The **News-Review**

Are you missing the Recipe of the week? Become a sponsor! Contact Katie at 641-790-1841 or sales@sigourneynewsreview.com for more details.



3M Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP) Cost-Share

(Provided by the State of Iowa through June 30, 2025)

\$8,565.58	1 Approved Project.....	- 6,000.00	1 Completed paid project...
- 1,600.00	Returned to IDALS 6-30-2025.....	- 965.58	Balance 6-30-2025.....
\$0.00	SF512 Forage & Biomass Plantings Allocation (2024-2025).....	\$285,994.74	1 Approved Forage & Biomass planting.....
- 57,048.72	19 Approved Projects.....	4 Approved Forage & Biomass Incentive 2.....	- 47,672.34
- 203,050.35	19 Completed paid projects (17,104 ft).....	4 Completed Forage & Biomass plantings paid (119.89 ac).....	- 150,550.02
- 141,188.27	Balance 6-30-2025.....	2 Completed Forage & Biomass Incentive 2 paid (86.79 ac).....	- 30,723.66
\$0.00	IFIP Summer Incentive Allocation (2024-2025).....	Balance 6-30-2025.....	\$0.00
\$7,000.00	2 Completed paid Summer Incentive Acres (35 ac).....	Cover Crops Allocation (7-1-2024 to 6-30-2025)	79 WQI Statewide Cover Crops paid (8,680.72 acres).....
- 7,000.00	Balance 6-30-2025.....	\$184,262.40	4 Cedar Creek Watershed Cover Crops paid (1630.85 acres).....
\$0.00	SF 512 WQI Grade Stabilization Structures Allocation (2024-2025).....	40,771.25	6 West Fork Crooked Creek Watershed Cover crops paid (1433.1 acres).....
4 Completed paid projects (4 no).....	-176,809.50	1 Approved project.....	Total WQI Statewide/SF512 Funding paid.....
1 Approved project.....	- 51,950.00	Balance 6-30-2025.....	\$0.00
REAP Forestry Practices Allocation (F/NG) (2024-2025).....	\$4,431.33	1 Completed paid project..	1,155,330.42
Returned to IDALS 6-30-2025.....	- 2,831.33	Balance on 6-30-2025.....	\$0.00
REAP Practices (P) Allocation P (2024-2025).....	\$4,040,679.88		