

**BUENA VISTA COUNTY**  
**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1617 N. Lake Avenue

Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

Telephone: (712) 732-3096

Board of Commissioners

ROBERT ANDERSON

BOB DONAHOO

JIM HINKELDEY

BRIAN WALDSTEIN

DWIGHT YOUNG

---

**News Release:**

**Kimberly Proctor**  
**Water Quality Coordinator**  
**December 8, 2004**

## **NRCS Signs Highlight Conservation Practices**

November brought great weather, time with family, and recognitions in the Storm Lake Watershed. As part of a recognitions program for current conservation practices, three signs were installed in the watershed. As you drive on Highway 7 between Storm Lake and Alta, there is a sign located on Ken Miller's filter strip. Filter strips are important for Powell Creek because they filter sediment and nutrient run-off before it enters the creek. When planted with native grasses, they become an important habitat for wildlife. On Marina Rd. off Highway 110, Phil Redenbaugh has a unique conservation practice. A series of contour grass strips, narrow strips of grass established across the slope, reduce soil erosion. Controlling the drainage from the contour grass strips, are two waterways that flow into a wetland. The wetland is important for water quality because sediments drop out and nutrients get absorbed by growing plants, allowing only clean water to enter Storm Lake. Since the wetland was planted with a variety of native grasses, it is great habitat for wildlife. Finally, terraces are also an important conservation practice to reduce soil movement. Don Diehl has a textbook system of terraces along 610<sup>th</sup> St. The conservation sign is in the waterway that conveys the water from the field to the drainage outlet. Looking beyond, on the hillside, a series of terraces are in place. Terraces are grassed earthen ridges built along the contour. They reduce the rate of runoff, resulting in higher water quality. These are just a few of the conservation practices installed in the watershed to provide wildlife cover, prevent soil erosion, and protect Storm Lake from nutrient and sediment runoff. For more information on conservation practices, please call Kimberly Proctor at 732-3096.



Conserving Iowa's Soil & Water



Natural Resources Conservation Service

**BUFFER-WETLAND SYSTEM**

Phil Redenbaugh



Division of Soil Conservation



Buena Vista County Conservation District