

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

All About Wetlands Field Day on June 29

WINTERSET, IOWA, June 20, 2023 –

Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) invites the public to attend the All About Wetlands Field Day on Thursday, June 29th at the Martens CREP Wetland. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the McBroom-Hargis Barn located at 1218 U.S. Highway 169 north of Winterset.

This field day will celebrate wetlands, the multi-tool of conservation practices for water quality! They act like sponges as they soak up rainwater and surface runoff, they act as filters to remove pollutants, and they provide excellent wildlife habitat for a wide variety of species. This field day will highlight the many benefits that wetlands provide and discuss the variety of programs available to landowners.

Wetlands are just one of many practices included in Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy that have proven benefits for reducing nitrogen and phosphorus loads from local waterbodies, streams and rivers, and the Gulf of Mexico. 2023 is a milestone year, as it marks the 10-year anniversary of Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The Martens CREP Wetland was chosen as the site of a bill signing re-enactment by Governor Branstad in 2013.

Speakers will include representatives from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Madison County SWCD, Iowa State University and Iowa Learning Farms, Heartland Co-op, and the local landowner.

Iowa Learning Farms will be bringing their new Marsh Madness conservation station, the newest of Iowa Learning Farms' four traveling conservation education trailers, which features 3-D models of three wetland types found in Iowa! Madison County SWCD will also have a model of Badger Creek Lake Watershed on display.

There will be an opportunity to tour the Martens CREP Wetland that was established through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in 2011 for the purpose of reducing nutrient loads to surface waters from agricultural tile drainage.

Afterward, participants can stop by a food truck for a complimentary lunch sponsored by Heartland Co-op. A few chairs will be provided, but attendees are welcome to bring a lawn chair.

This event is free and open to the public. More information is available at www.Madison-SWCD.org. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required. Attendees needing accommodations should explain when they RSVP. Attendees can RSVP by calling the Madison County SWCD at 515-462-4884 extension 3, or by sending an email to Anna.Golightly@ia.nacdnet.net.

Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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The Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was formed on October 5, 1942 to promote protection, maintenance, improvement, and wise use of the soil and water. SWCDs are the local legal subdivision of state government responsible under state law for soil and water conservation work within their boundaries. The SWCD is governed by a board of five elected commissioners.