

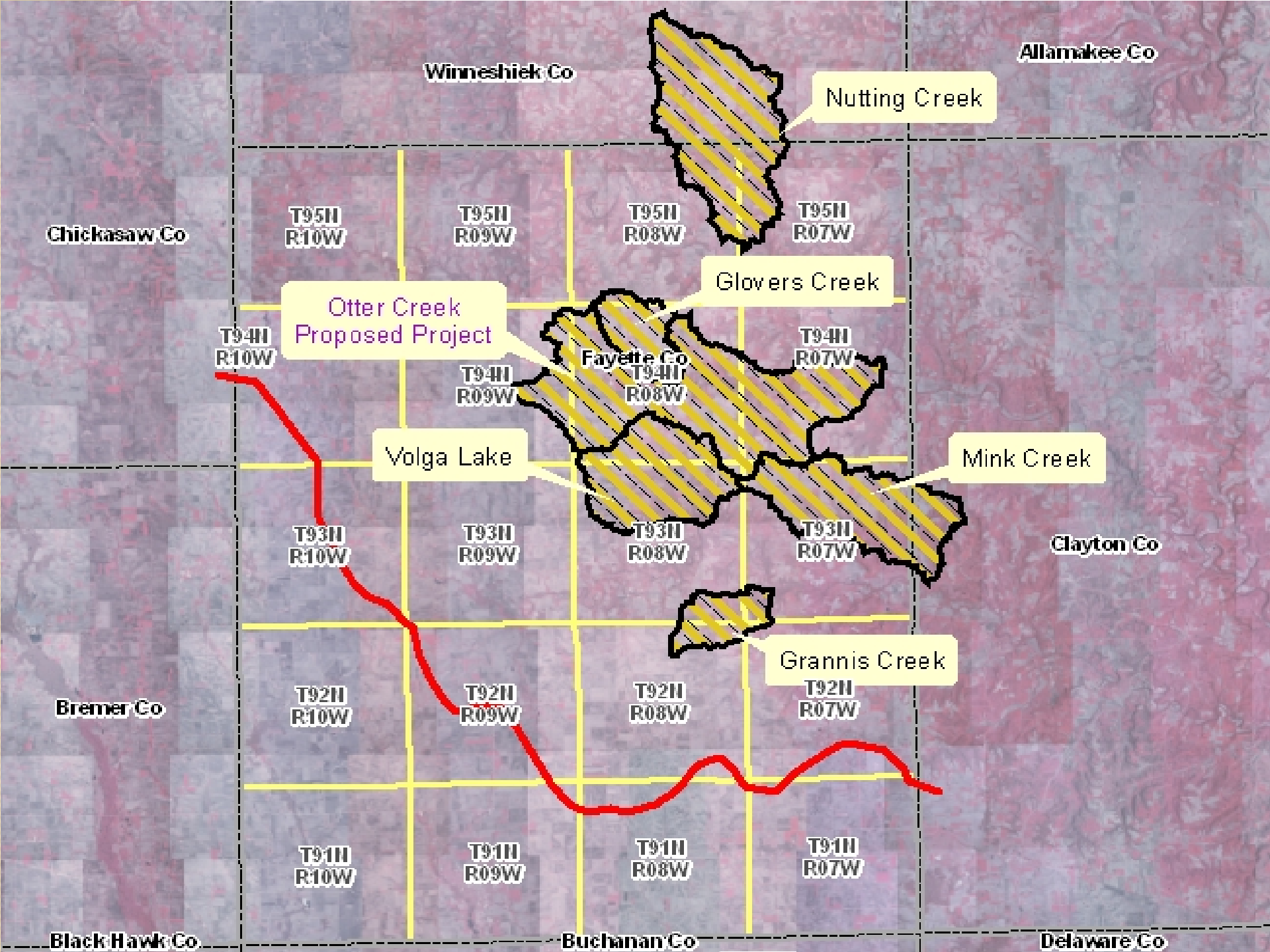
Fayette SWCD Water Quality Projects in the Turkey River Watershed

Freedom Bank - Elkader, Iowa

June 19, 2012

Fayette SWCD Water Quality Projects in the Turkey River Watershed

- Glovers Creek
 - 1990-1994
- Grannis Creek
 - 2002-2005
- Mink Creek
 - 2004-2009
- Volga Lake – POL Funds
- Nutting Creek
 - 2008-2012
- West Union Greenscape Project
 - 2010-ongoing



Winneshiek Co

Allamakee Co

Nutting Creek

Chickasaw Co

T95N
R10W

T95N
R09W

T95N
R08W

T95N
R07W

Otter Creek
Proposed Project

Grovers Creek

T94N
R10W

T94N
R09W

Fayette Co
T94N
R08W

T94N
R07W

Volga Lake

Mink Creek

T93N
R10W

T93N
R09W

T93N
R08W

T93N
R07W

Clayton Co

Bremer Co

T92N
R10W

T92N
R09W

T92N
R08W

T92N
R07W

Grannis Creek

Black Hawk Co

T91N
R10W

T91N
R09W

T91N
R08W

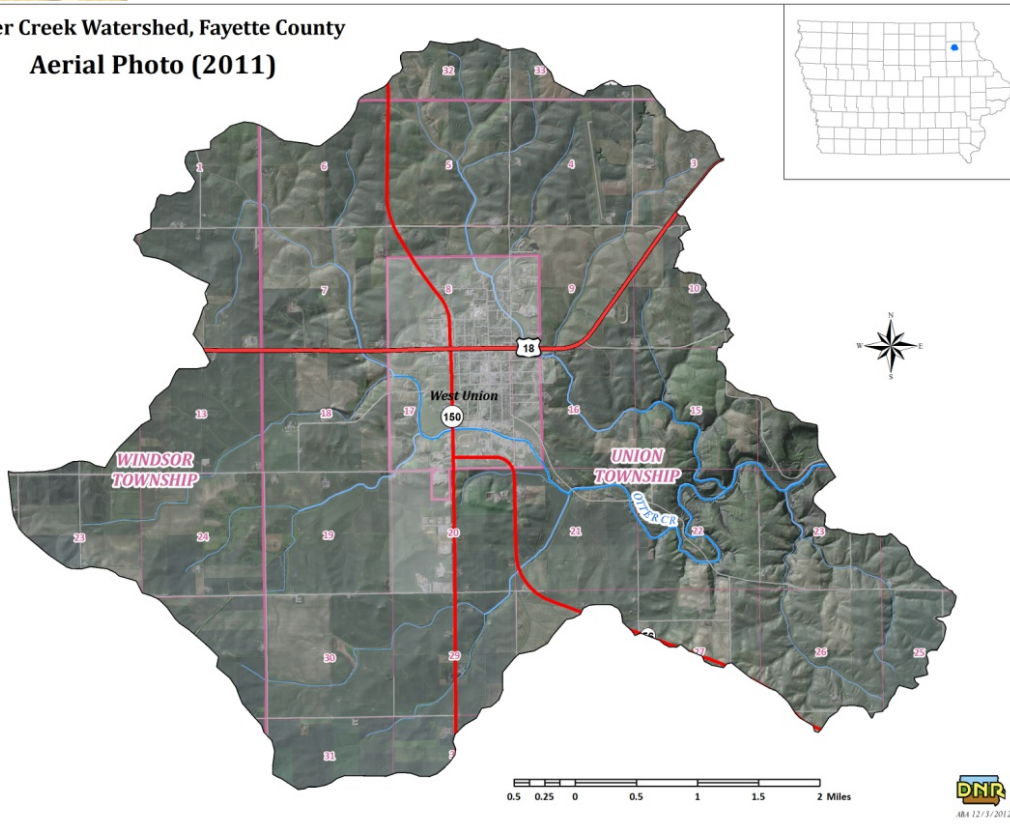
T91N
R07W

Buchanan Co

Delaware Co

Upper Otter Creek Watershed

Otter Creek Watershed, Fayette County
Aerial Photo (2011)



- 16,740 acre watershed that includes Otter and Glovers Creeks – both trout streams
- Submitted a WSPF/WPF application for funding
- The SWCD long term objective is to transition from the Upper Otter Project into a Lower Otter Project

Water Quality Monitoring

- Long term relationship with Upper Iowa University
- UIU Professor Klann and his students have monitored various streams for over 10 years



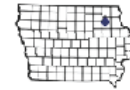
Information and Education

- All projects have had an information and education component
 - Field Days
 - Newsletters
 - Brochures
 - Fair booth displays
 - School programs

Total conservation farm in Nutting Creek

Trees and grasses key to soil conservation and water quality

Project name: Nutting Creek
Watershed size: 17,246 acres
Year began: 2008
Year Complete: Ongoing
SWCD Contact: Fayette
Phone: (563) 422-3868
Purpose: Improve water quality
Soil and Water Conservation District(s): Fayette
Other partners: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Upper Iowa University



Water in Nutting Creek (top) is being improved by landowners like Dan Burkhart (below, in shortgrass prairie planting). Burkhart also shows new hardwood trees (above) to Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner William Bennett and Nutting Creek Coordinator Carrie Davis.



Dan and Mary Burkhart's 66-acre farm near Osasian in Fayette County is packed with conservation. The couple filled a smaller acreage with trees, then needed more room.

Their retirement acreage in the Nutting Creek Watershed has conservation buffers, a filter strip, 4.4 acres of native shortgrass prairie seedings, 5 acres of walnut and oak hardwood tree plantings, bluebird houses, and timber stand improvement work.

While only 15 acres of the farm is row crop, their lease requires the tenant use soil-saving no-till farming methods. "We've seen for more than 25 years that no-till works, and there are still some people saying it won't work," Dan says. "How much time do you need to convince people it works?"

Burkhart has helped to promote the practices being used in the Nutting Creek Watershed to help improve water quality in Nutting Creek for years as county Extension Director, and now concentrates on using those practices on his new farm.

The Nutting Creek Watershed is designed to eliminate manure runoff issues on 40% of priority livestock sites and reduce sediment delivery to Nutting Creek by 30% over the life of the project. The creek has biological impairment of the water quality from elevated levels of fecal coliform and sedimentation. The project, which received its first funding in 2008, also has an information and education component. In addition to Fayette County landowners, Winnebago County landowners are also involved.

Landowner Involvement in Turkey River Watershed

- Grade stabilization structures
- Reduced tillage
- WRP and EWP Easements
- Familiar with watershed projects
- Conservation Programs
 - CRP
 - CSP
 - EQIP
 - REAP
 - WHIP
 - State-cost share