



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACWA Supports Governor's Iowa High School Water Summit

November 8, 2007 (Urbandale, Iowa) — Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance (ACWA) is proud to announce its support for the Second Annual Governor's Iowa High School Water Summit. ACWA is a partnership of Raccoon River area ag retailers whose mission is to reduce nutrient loss — specifically nitrate — in the Raccoon River and its tributaries.

The Iowa Association of Water Agencies organizes the Summit. It's an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to research water quality and its relationship to quality of life, economic viability of communities, recreation and public health and recommend changes. The goal of the summit is to give the students an opportunity to gain the knowledge and understanding necessary to preserve and protect Iowa's water resources for today and into the future. The 2007 competition is scheduled to take place November 8, 2007 at the State Capitol in Des Moines.

Dave Coppess of Heartland Coop is President of ACWA. Coppess says that ACWA is proud to support efforts like this. "Being a part of activities like the Governor's Iowa High School Water Summit is a great opportunity for us because we get to help young people develop their environmental awareness, and we see potential in these youth leaders to contribute real solutions that lead to concrete activity."

Participating students begin with research and writing a paper on one of three provided scenarios. Students are selected for the Summit based on those papers, and they present their paper at the Summit in November. Participants will be judged on their paper and presentation.

The students will be competing for scholarships totaling \$10,000. First Place wins \$3,500, Second Place wins \$2,000, Third Place wins \$1,000, and there will be seven Honorable Mention awards of \$500 each.

After the summit, each student will be asked to complete a follow-up report or project with others in their community. Projects might include giving a presentation to elementary students or business groups, writing an article for the local newspaper, making educational fliers or posters to distribute in the community, starting a program for water monitoring, and organizing a stream cleanup day or recycling program.

For additional information, please contact ACWA at (800) 797-4322 or the Iowa Association of Water Agencies at (515) 283-8706, or go to the following web sites:

www.iowadnr.com

www.governor.state.ia.us

www.iaenvironment.org

Local ACWA Contacts:

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Farnhamville - Farmers Cooperative | *Roger Koppen | phone: 515-544-3213*

Fort Dodge - New Coop, Inc. | *Brent Bunte (phone) 515-955-2040*

Gilmore City - Pro Coop | *Jim Day | (phone) 515-373-6532*

Wall Lake - UAP | *Duane Petersen (phone) 712-664-2444*

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West Des Moines - Heartland Coop | *Dave Coppess (phone) 515-225-1334*

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