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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 2004

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FARM BUREAU TEAM UP TO REDUCE EROSION AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN NORTHEAST IOWA

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources along with the Iowa Farm Bureau and Winneshiek County Farm Bureau have been working together to reduce erosion and improve water quality in the Trout Run Watershed. The groups teamed up with Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) to encourage and assist landowners to reforest highly erodible cropland through the program.

The Trout Run Reforestation Project successfully enrolled 42 acres into the program with the goals of reducing erosion, conserving soil, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat and heightening area landowner interest and involvement in water quality management. The Farm Bureau and DNR both agree on the benefits proper soil conservation and improved water quality can have on the state of Iowa. The groups also agree that continued efforts to protect watersheds and water quality need to be targeted. The reforestation of 42 highly erodible acres through the Trout Run Reforestation Project is a big step toward improving water quality, but there are still a number of water quality issues to address in the Upper Iowa River Watershed. Rick Robinson, Environmental Policy Advisor at Iowa Farm Bureau Federation states, "This is an example of how different organizations and agencies can work together to target limited resources on specific problem areas. More of this type of effort will be needed in the future if we are going to be successful in dealing with our complex water quality issues."

For more information on the Trout Run Reforestation Project, please contact Forestry Coordinator Richard Kittelson at the Northeast Iowa RC&D office at (563) 864-7112 or by e-mail at kittelson@netins.net.

This project has been funded in part by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Non-point Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act). The project was also funded through the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Division of the USDA Forest Service and the McKnight Foundation.