

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Dan Stipes spoke to Club members about his work for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Dan is Supervisor of the South West Regional Office of the Environmental Services Division of DNR which is located at Atlantic, IA. Dan noted the other divisions of DNR are Conservation and Recreation and Management Services. The Environmental Services Division follows the national Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations that pertain to IA. Dan explained that there are nine on his staff assigned to cover nineteen counties of southwest IA. They respond to complaints received at the rate of about one per day and they inspect facilities for adherence to environmental laws. Dan stated there are six major areas that they focus on. They inspect landfills (there are 28 permitted). They inspect public water supplies and waste water treatment (about 220 cities). They check air quality emissions at hundreds of sites. They inspect underground storage facilities (about 450). And they inspect numerous animal-feeding operations. Mainly their work is technical assistance, Dan explained, with only 1% of work requiring enforcement of laws. They do site inspections to evaluate environmental plans for construction and are involved with testing polluted waterways and lakes in IA. Dan said he loves to work in the environmental conservation field and feels the work of the IA DNR is conserving and enhancing the natural resources in IA.