

**Subject:** Water Quality

**Story subject:** American Farm Bureau seeks to turn farmers and others into “watershed heroes,” by encouraging their efforts to reduce the potential for agricultural related pollution of streams and rivers.

**TRT:** 1:42

**Suggested lead:** Farmers are taking the initiative in solving water pollution problems linked to agriculture. Stewart Truelsen reports from eastern Iowa where the American Farm Bureau is training “watershed heroes.”

**Suggested supers:**

- Jim Porterfield  
American Farm Bureau  
@ :25
- Nancy Erickson  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
@ :45
- Wendell Shauman  
Illinois Farmer  
@ 1:25
- Stewart Truelsen reporting  
@ 1:30

**Additional information:** Shauman is a corn and soybean farmer from Kirkwood, IL



**Watershed Heroes**  
**Stewart Truelsen reporting**  
**June 22, 2000**

<p>Close-up of soil probe pulled from ground/  medium shot of soil probers/  Team bent over tape measure counting residue/  Top of sprinkler, close-up/  Earthworm counters/  Close-up/  Wider shot of whole experiment/  Close-up of plants hit by water/</p>	<p>VO/  THEY PROBED THE GROUND TO TAKE SOIL SAMPLES. THEY MEASURED THE CROP RESIDUE LEFT ON THE SURFACE, AND EVEN TOOK A COUNT OF EARTHWORMS. THEY SIMULATED RAINFALL TO CHECK FOR RUNOFF THAT WOULD OCCUR IN A STORM.</p>
<p>Porterfield and woman in field/  Two guys digging hole/  Low angle shot of group tramping through field/ Stream and bank/</p>	<p>IT'S ALL PART OF FIELD TRAINING FOR FARMERS AND OTHERS WHO WANT TO BECOME HEROES, WATERSHED HEROES THAT IS.</p>
<p><b>Jim Porterfield</b>  <b>American Farm Bureau</b></p>	<p>SOT/  ANYBODY THAT'S OUT HERE WORKING ON WATER QUALITY, TO ME IS A HERO. PARTICULARLY IF THEY GO BACK HOME TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH THE THINGS THEY LEARNED HERE TODAY.</p>
<p>Marker in field/  Planter/  Close-up/  Nancy Erickson and her team,/</p>	<p>VO/  SIXTY PLOTS WERE MARKED AFTER SPRING PLANTING. DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES AND TREATMENTS WILL BE TRIED ON THE PLOTS, WHICH WERE ASSIGNED TO TEAMS FROM A NUMBER OF STATES.</p>
<p>Team members enter frame walking away from camera down rows of corn, 1:11:55   <b>Nancy Erickson</b>  <b>Illinois Farm Bureau</b></p>	<p>SOT/  I THINK THAT FARMERS WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE FOR THE FUTURE AND THAT ALSO THEY ARE ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, WATER QUALITY ISSUES, SOIL CONSERVATION</p>
<p>Group listening to speaker standing next to tree buffer/  speaker/</p>	<p>VO/  TEAMS LEARNED ABOUT PLANTING HYBRID-POPLAR TREE BUFFERS TO KEEP SOIL AND FERTILIZER</p>

<p>Walking through buffer/  Low angle of tree/  Long shot of tree line /</p>	<p>FROM MOVING OFF FIELDS. THESE FAST GROWING TREES COULD ALSO BE HARVESTED AS A CROP.</p>
<p>Group on bank /  Jetting willows /  Pump by water /</p>	<p>THEY SAW A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR PLANTING WILLOWS ALONG GRASSY STREAMBANKS TO INTERCEPT POLLUTANTS. .</p>
<p>Back to shot above, jetting /  Willows in ground /  Speaker talking to group about jetting/   pan along river to bridge/</p>	<p>FARMERS WOULD LIKE TO DO THESE THINGS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS WITH INCENTIVES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.   BUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IS CONTEMPLATING TOUGH NEW RULES ALONG RIVERS AND STREAMS.</p>
<p><b>Wendell Shauman</b>  <b>Illinois Farmer</b></p>	<p>SOT/  THERE ARE SOME RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT COULD BE IMPOSED UPON US THAT DON'T PARTICULARLY HAVE ANY LOGIC OR ANY PARTICULAR SCIENCE BEHIND THEM AND THAT'S A REAL FRUSTRATION.</p>
<p>Porterfield and man in field/ or pull out of shot of table and staff member at table   Two people comparing soil to chart/ close-up of chart and sample/   Low angle corn plants, teams, sky background/</p>	<p>VO/  SOME THINK WATER POLLUTION LINKED TO AGRICULTURE IS WAY OVERSTATED BY EPA. EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, THE ENVIRONMENT COULD STILL USE WATERSHED HEROES. STEWART TRUELSEN, AMANA, IOWA.</p>