

1984 ANNUAL REPORT

APPANOOSE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CENTERVILLE, IOWA 52544 PHONE: 856-3893

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

The Appanoose County Soil Conservation District Commissioners provided funding for a four-county conservation education camp at Red Haw State Park near Chariton. Mrs. Donna Terry of Numa and Lee Schwerdtfeger of Centerville have been instrumental in organizing this camp for grade school students from Wayne, Appanoose, Lucas and Monroe Counties. Again this year the winner of the Appanoose District essay contest placed in regional competition which consists of 13 counties. Harry Williamson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Williamson of Numa placed second with his essay on "Trees - A Neglected Resource". The District sponsored a poster contest using the theme of 50 years of soil conservation. The winners were 1st - Pat Ford, 2nd - Dennis Helleur, 3rd - Kathy Bratz tied with John Slayton. These posters were later displayed at the Iowa State Fair. College scholarships for agriculture-related study were awarded to: Eric Joe Royer, Mark Edward McGill and Bruce Kent Davis to Northeast Missouri State University at Kirksville; Mary K. Vinzant and Perry V. Daugherty to Iowa State University at Ames; Michele Lynn McGill, Indian Hills Community College at Centerville and William Anthony McGill, Indian Hills Community College at Ottumwa.

Commissioners Ron McDanel and Ron Turk were delegates to the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners annual conference in Des Moines and the regional meetings in Ottumwa. They both also helped at the Farm Progress Show in Marion.

The District Commissioners are cooperating with the Appanoose County Board of Supervisors through the Chariton Valley RC&D program in jointly planning and installing on and off road water impoundment structures.

Renewed interest has been shown in installing conservation practices in Soap Creek and Locust Creek Watersheds. A request for Soap Creek Watershed to be given a planning priority was made to the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The District Commissioners are also cooperating with the Board of Supervisors and the "Kill the Rose" Committee to help eradicate multiflora rose.

DISTRICT CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

October 1, 1983 - September 30, 1984

District Cooperators	18 No.	3,378 Ac.
Individuals and Groups Assisted	313 No.	
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	189 No.	
Resource Management System Planned and Conservation		
Planning Alternatives Provided		5,958 Ac.
Governmental Agencies Assisted	3 No.	
Conservation Tillage Systems		5,686 Ac.
Contour Farming		1,572 Ac.
Ponds	1 No.	
Grade Stabilization Structures	18 No.	
Grassed Waterways		8 Ac.
Pasture and Hayland Planting		1,261 Ac.
Contour Stripcropping		180 Ac.
Terraces		28,450 Ft.
Water and Sediment Control Basins	8 No.	
Cropland: Reduced Erosion		8,849 Ac.
Pasture and Hayland: Reduced Erosion		708 Ac.

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984

IM BUDGET

Expenditures:

Commissioners Expenses	854.41
Office Supplies & Expense	900.22
Total Expenditures	\$1,754.63

IIIM BUDGET (State Cost-Sharing Funds)

Fiscal Year 83-84 Allocation	\$89,466.00
Amount unobligated - available for cost-sharing as of 10/30/84. . .	3,619.49
Fiscal Year 84-85 Allocation	\$45,376.00
Amount unobligated - available for cost-sharing as of 10/30/84. . .	17,842.08
Fiscal Year 83-84 Revolving No-Interest Loan Fund Balance on hand	\$ 8,996.00
Fiscal Year 84-85 Revolving No-Interest Loan Fund Balance on hand	\$ 6,898.00

PERSONNEL ASSISTING DISTRICT

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Joe R. Baughman

District Conservationist

Robert D. McNeal

Soil Conservation Technician

STATE EMPLOYEES

Marilyn L. Worley

District Clerk & Treasurer

Ivan L. Wright

Engineering Aide

COMMISSIONERS

Loren Eddy, Centerville

Leon Kauzlarich, Mystic

Secretary

Ronald McDanel, Moravia

Chairman

Ronald Turk Seymour

Vice-Chairman

Kenneth Brown, Moravia

ASSISTANTS

Nick Carter, Moulton

Bill Vinzant, Mystic

SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRESS IN IOWA--FAST ENOUGH?

By Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for Iowa

USDA Soil Conservation Service

Being relatively a newcomer on the soil conservation scene in Iowa (April 1984), my concepts of the state came from my corn-belt background of my native state of Indiana, and my associations from four years of soil conservation work more recently in North Dakota.

Two facts are apparent after only a quick look at soil conservation efforts in this state: 1) the soil conservation teamwork of farmers, agencies, and groups has led to a great deal of progress in protecting the land against soil erosion, and Iowa's reputation as a soil conservation leader is well-deserved and 2) despite the progress being made, the job in Iowa is so gigantic that every effort needs to be made to continue to quicken the pace of application of soil conservation practices to the land.

Consider the fact that Iowa is ranked second in the nation in the number of acres of conservation tillage, and that more than 7 million acres of cropland are protected against soil erosion. But to offset that progress, consider that the most recent SCS national resources inventory shows that more than twice that amount, nearly 19 million acres, are eroding at amounts above "tolerable" levels. The study shows about 11 million acres are eroding at levels more than twice the tolerable amount of 5 tons per acre.

The average erosion level of 9.4 tons per acre per year on cropland is a strong signal that even more effort needs to be put into soil conservation in this state.

On the bright side, the state of Iowa continues to increase financial assistance, with more than \$8 million a year being offered in cost-share funding annually.

On the federal level, Iowans are benefitting significantly from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's plan to target funds to areas of the country with the most severe erosion problems. Three areas in Iowa have been designated as target areas, and thousands of dollars in technical help and financial cost-sharing have been allocated to those areas.

During 1985, the Soil Conservation Service and many other groups are celebrating 50 years of soil conservation in this country. The situation in Iowa is one in which we can all celebrate the progress that has been made, but also one that we can look at as a time to rededicate ourselves to the task that lies ahead.

APPANOOSE COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AGRIC. BLDG., 12th & WASH.
CENTERVILLE, IOWA 52544

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