



50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

And now more than ever !

Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District

*50 Years
1945 - 1995*

"Conserving Our Soil and Water"

IDA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

50TH ANNIVERSARY

PROGRAM

WELCOME	MASON GOODENOW MASTER OF CEREMONIES
INVOCATION	REVEREND BEN RAY PASTOR OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN BATTLE CREEK
MEAL	IDA COUNTY PORK PRODUCERS IDA COUNTY CATTLEMEN ASSOCIATION
INTRODUCTIONS	ROBERT CROXELL, CHAIRPERSON IDA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
GUEST SPEAKER	DALE COCHRAN IOWA SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
COMMENTS	LEROY BROWN STATE CONSERVATIONIST NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE JAMES GULLIFORD, DIRECTOR IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP
RECOGNITION OF 1994 AWARD WINNERS	ROBERT CROXELL
CLOSING COMMENTS	MASON GOODENOW

HISTORY OF SOIL CONSERVATION IN IDA COUNTY

Conservation in Ida County began over 50 years ago with the concern of excessive soil erosion. It was the Extension Service personnel that worked with the area farmers at first. It wasn't until February of 1941, four demonstrational soil conservation farms were set up in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service. These farms were the Harry Heilman farm located in Battle Township, the Hilbert Stockfleth farm located in Garfield Township, the Roy Stewart farm located in Grant township, and the Emmert Estate located in Grant township.

Informational meetings on the subject of soil conservation had been held over a period of years stressing the need for soil conservation practices. Contour schools were held for several years and a terrace demonstration was held on the Gus Shirmacher farm in Corwin Township in the fall of 1944.

In October of 1944 movement for a soil conservation district was started at a series of educational meetings held throughout the county by County Extension Director Donald H. Dodge. Petitions were circulated by twenty-one leaders throughout the county and on January 13, 1945 the district was voted in. The following men were elected commissioners: Henry Dall, Battle Creek, chairman; Edward C. Perion, Ida Grove, and J. B. Scott, Danbury. Donald H. Dodge was appointed secretary of the district. A county organization of land owners and farm operators was then established to develop and handle the soil and water problems of Ida County.

The State Certificate of Organization was issued February 19, 1945. The term of one commissioner expired every two years at which time a commissioner was publicly elected to fill the position. The three commissioners had complete charge of the district.

The law establishing Districts was amended in July of 1970 to include towns and cities. It was realized that soil and water problems existed in cities so changing the law gave the Districts the ability to provide the same assistance to all. In February 1971 the law was changed to increase the number of District Commissioners from three to five, each elected in the November general election and serving staggered 6 year terms. To further emphasize the changes in conservation the Ida County Soil Conservation District became the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District in July of 1987.

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

DALE M. COCHRAN
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE



SHIRLEY DANSKIN-WHITE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

HENRY A. WALLACE BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

February 28, 1995

Robert Croxell
Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District
104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, IA 51445

Dear Mr. Croxell,

On behalf of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship congratulations to the Ida County Soil and Water District on your Golden Anniversary. I commend you for a 50-year commitment to preserve and protect these precious resources of soil and water.

The Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District was organized at the request of local people interested in soil and water conservation. A charter was issued under the provisions of the Soil Conservation Districts' Law, Code of Iowa, Chapter 467A, on February 19, 1945.

It's great that the people of Ida County had the foresight to view the soil as a black gold worth preserving. When the soil remains in place, it is the basis of agriculture. It supports our entire economy. Excessive erosion not only depletes the soil and degrades the water, but it also jeopardizes the quality of life that makes rural Iowa such a wonderful place to raise our families. The fine work of the people of Ida County, with the leadership of the local Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, assures that successful farming remains a viable option for the families in your area. As we prepare to enter the next century, it is only fitting that we recognize the wisdom of the people who created the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District 50 years ago.

Sincerely,

Dale M. Cochran
Secretary of Agriculture

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

DALE M. COCHRAN
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE



SHIRLEY DANSKIN-WHITE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

HENRY A. WALLACE BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

January 20, 1995

Ida County Soil and Water Conservation
District Commissioners
104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, IA 51445

Dear Commissioners:

A hearty congratulations to the people of Ida County on the 50th anniversary of the Ida Soil and Water Conservation District!

As you look back over the last 50 years, you have much to be proud of. Your district has diligently addressed the soil conservation needs of your farmers and made many contributions to community needs, as well.

The agricultural landscape of Ida county provides vivid evidence of the conservation accomplishments of the district. Mile after mile of terrace systems, crop rows following the contour of the land, and hundreds of thousands of acres planted with crop residue on the surface, protect the soil from erosion and assure its long term productivity. These conservation practices are both beautiful to behold and effective erosion barriers.

Another important district contribution has been the conservation education provided for your children. Taking time to talk with children about conservation, plants important seeds that will be harvested in the future.

In the final analysis, the real value of past conservation efforts will be realized in the future. The farmers of Iowa stand poised to enter a new generation of agriculture. We will be called on to feed more and more of the world's people from fewer and fewer acres of farmland. We will face new challenges of farming compatibly with the environment. And we will need to continue to sharpen our management skills to remain profitable and successful business people.

But when you look across the landscape of Ida County, and see the success that has been achieved by your farmers and your district, it is easy to face the future confidently. The efforts of the past have laid a solid foundation for the future; both on the land and in your children. That, more than anything else, is reason to celebrate the first fifty years of soil and water conservation in Ida county.

Sincerely,

James B. Gulliford, Director
Division of Soil Conservation

JBG:cj

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

March 17, 1995

Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District
104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, IA 51445

Dear Ida County Conservationists:

It has come to my attention that you are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District, and I wish to send my congratulations on that achievement and for your valuable contributions to the agricultural community. Iowa's fertile soil and abundant waters are indeed the greatest natural resources our state has, and it is in good measure your efforts that have carried that message forward.

As one drives through the Iowa countryside today it is remarkable to note the great changes that have occurred in tillage practices over the years. New crop residue management regimes have helped farmers save tons and tons of their greatest capital, the soil. The societal benefits of keeping the soil out of our drainage ditches and our rivers and streams is also enormous. It is the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that have helped the farming community adopt proven and practical techniques to conserve soil in a way that does not effect profitability in a negative way. You should be rightfully proud of that accomplishment.

But of course this is not a time to rest on our laurels. There is much work that remains to be done, certainly enough to keep you busy for another fifty years. It is imperative that we continue on the path of wise stewardship of our land in a way that allows farm families to make a reasonable living and stay on the farm. I applaud your accomplishments in these fifty years, and encourage the continuance of your efforts in the future.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator

TH/jnm

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

3539 Southern Hills Drive
Suite 3
Sioux City IA 51106-4707
Ph. 712-276-4648

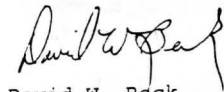
Mr. Bob Croxell
Chair
Ida Soil and Water Conservation District
104 Taylor St.
Ida Grove, IA 51445

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on 50 years of protecting Ida County's soil and water. This is a major milestone worth being proud of.

The Ida Soil and Water Conservation District has been a leader in soil and water conservation throughout western Iowa for many years. The district's sponsorship of the Little Sioux River Flood Prevention Project has been critical to the success of that project. The Commissioners have done an excellent job of working with cooperators throughout the District to educate them on the need for good soil conservation. The terraces, conservation tillage, and windbreaks visible in the district as one drives through are ample evidence of their successful program.

Good luck in your next 50 years of soil and water conservation.



David W. Beck
Area Conservationist

LYON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

301-1/2 - 1st Avenue
Rock Rapids, IA 51246
712 - 472-4021

February 23, 1995

Mr. Robert F. Croxell
District Chairperson
Ida County SWCD
104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, IA 51445-1098

Dear Mr. Croxell:

Thank you for your invitation to attend your Golden Anniversary on March 24, 1995. Unfortunately, no one from our office will be able to attend. We wish to congratulate Ida County SWCD for 50 years of dedication to soil and water conservation.

In the past I have travelled through Ida County many times. Your diligence and efforts are visible in the progress and accomplishments shown on the land.

Again congratulations; especially to you Bob.

Sincerely,

Wilbert Knobloch

Wilbert Knobloch, Chairman
Lyon County SWCD

WK:cap

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
ART RALSTON, DIRECTOR
REGION ONE
2629 200TH STREET
MOVILLE, IOWA 51039

March 15, 1995

Congratulations to Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District!

Not many years ago there was nothing but grass as far as the eye could see. Then came the plow, which started the process of soil erosion and stream degradation.

Many Ida County farmers realized something was amiss early and started the long road back to soil and water stewardship. The Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District and their farmer friends have made a lot of progress in their conservation efforts, and I'm sure they will continue for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Art Ralston

Art Ralston
Director

Courthouse
Ida Grove, Iowa
51445

IDA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

Phone
712-364-2632

Fax
712-364-2746

Joseph L. Cronin
District One

Robert R. Bumann
District Two

Jerry Ralston
District Three

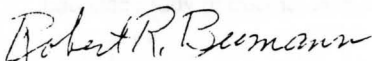
February 21, 1995

Board and Members
Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District
104 Taylor St.
Ida Grove, IA 51445

Dear Board & Members:

The Ida County Board of Supervisors would like to congratulate you on your achievements in the area of soil and water conservation during the past 50 years and hope the next 50 years will be just as rewarding.

Very truly yours,



Robert R. Bumann
Chairman

RRB:mr

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Cooperative Extension

211 Main Street
Ida Grove, IA 51445-1310
Phone: (712) 364-3003
Fax: (712) 364-3529

IDA COUNTY

February 21, 1995

Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District
104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, IA 51445

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

The Ida County Extension Service would like to congratulate you on your accomplishments over the past 50 years.

Through education, management, and technical assistance you have:

- improved the public understanding of our environment
- enhanced the benefits of our resources through proper use
- protected the resources that our agricultural communities depend on, ensuring the continued use of those resources for generations to come
- provided the skills to implement conservation practices
- encouraged long range solutions to conservation challenges

Your leadership has truly improved the quality of life in Ida County. We congratulate you on your accomplishments and look forward to your continued success.

Sincerely,

Ida County Extension Council & Staff

Tia Meyer
Paul Frankowski
Bret R. Cooney
Janice Fiske
Lorraine Johnson
Gay Rohlf
Karen Van Hatten
Sandy Ullrich

Waylene Lee
Linda Bouchard
Bret X. Vanke
Russel Olson
Cheryl Whitney

Iowa State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating
Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or handicap



Ida County Conservation Board

202 Jasper Ave. • Ida Grove, IA 51445 - 8020
Ph. (712) 364-3300

3/1/95

Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District
104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, IA 51445

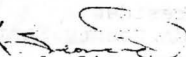
Dear Ida County SWCD Board:

The Ida County Conservation Board and staff are proud to have been served by your department over the years. We congratulate you and your staff on 50 years of dedication and hard work on conserving our environment for those who will follow.

The Ida County SWCD has continuously shown their support to the Conservation Board. Projects funded by the SWCD have ranged anywhere from providing funding for the tree planting contract at Crawford Creek Recreation Area to providing funding for terraces and silt dams on property bordering Ida County's lakes. Your staff has always been available to provide technical assistance for solving drainage problems, laying out silt dams and providing needed information on a variety of subjects important to our jobs. Through the years, we've been happy to have you as allies we can count on.

Again, we congratulate you on a very successful 50 years. This generation, as well as those yet to come will appreciate the commitment you have shown to our environment.

Sincerely,


Rhett Leonard, Director
Ida County Conservation Board

Ida County Soil Conservation District:

I will always be grateful to Marvin Volkert, Arnie Putensen, and J. Henry Brueck for hiring me way back in 1966. I needed a job and they apparently had faith in me.

Over the years there was some good times, some sad times and some hard times. A lot of changes and always lots of paper work.

Kenny Burnett was the Work Unit Conservationist. A very dedicated man. He would always dictate everything - farm plans - letters. He wasn't always popular with some people, but I liked him .

When I started, the pay was \$240.00 per month. \$10.00 less than I was getting at the Court House. My first typewriter was of course, a manual one - old, but had 2-3 years to go on it, as the State only furnished a typewriter once every 10 years. The only other office equipment I had, was an adding machine, which was just what I said, ADDING machine. Also manual and did not subtract. The next typewriter was also manual. It wasn't until a few months before I retired in January 1990, that I finally got a typewriter with correction tape and a memory.

Sad times - the District lost a newly elected commissioner - Richard Ortnier in a tractor accident. Also later, lost Dave Krsnak, Soil Conservationist, who had just transferred to Waterloo and was in the pipeline explosion. Never found as much as his wedding ring. And then we lost our office clown...Dutch Kraft. He had retired due to his health. We had a lot of laughs and good work relations, but he sure had a way of getting under my skin.

I feel I got along well with all the commissioners I worked for and with. I always took my work seriously and I think most of them was aware of that. The commissioners aren't salaried, only get mileage and meal expenses. You have to be dedicated to the cause, to be so involved like they are. Good soil conservation is important, so thank God for the volunteers and employees.

I really appreciate the chance to have worked for the Ida County Soil Conservation District - thank you.

Sincerely,

Lou Collins

Lou Collins

District Clerk 1966-1990

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABC Ag (Chris Clark)
Agnew & Soseman Insurance Agency, Inc.
American National Bank
B & B Seeding (Bob Bresnahan, Bill Ullrich)
Berne Coop Association
Cargill Hybrid Seeds (Dennis & Tamera Lansink)
D & S Associates, Inc. (Doug Soellner)
Dan Ehler Insurance Agency, Inc.
DeKalb Seed (Virdene & Deanna Otto)
Family Eye Care of Ida Grove, P.C.
Farmers Cooperative Elevator, Odebolt
Farmers Mutual Insurance (Don & Luella Buell)
First State Bank Of Ida Grove & Battle Creek
Food Locker Service, Inc.
G & M Farm Service
Glen Wood Construction, Inc.
Godbersen-Smith Construction Company, Inc.
Golden Harvest Seed (Francis & Brian Cronin)
Golden Harvest Seed (Loren L. Dittmer)
Goodburn Dirt Construction
Grell Contractors, Inc.
Heritage Bank, N.A. (Holstein)
Holstein Cooperative Elevator
Ida County Abstract Company
Ida County State Bank
Jim's Garage (James Breyfogle)
Joy Dirt Construction
King Construction
Krambeck Construction
Leonard Limousin
Lukins Construction, Ltd.
Lunzman Trenching, Inc.
Mathers Construction Company
McGuire Auction Co., Inc.
Midwest Power Systems
OK Construction (Jeff & Kysa, Francis & Durene Krohnke)
Pioneer Hybrid International (Roger & Phyllis Groth)
Pioneer Seeds (Dale & Dolores Meyer)
Richards & Son Construction
Rochau's Drive Inn
Rod's Fertilizer & Sales, Inc.
Rohlk, Kyle (Manager, Cal-Car-Arthur)
Ruser Dirt Moving (Robert & Shirley Ruser)
Schoon Construction, Inc.
Stalcup Agricultural Service, Inc.
Still, Everett & Doris
Terry Nielsen Agency
Van Houten, Alan & Barb
VoHS & Miller, Inc.
Wallace Construction, Inc.
Yockey Insurance & Travel Services

SPECIAL THANKS

American Legion	Ella Droegmiller
Grant 4-H'ers	Ida County Courier
Ida County Pioneer	Lou Collins
Ida County Cattlemen Association	
Ida County Extension Service	
Ida County Pork Producers	
Ida County Natural Resources Conservation Service	



