

MILLS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

44TH ANNUAL REPORT

1986

We, the Commissioners of the Mills County Soil Conservation District, are proud to present our annual report for your information. As Commissioners, we are charged with the restoration and conservation of this county's resources, but it is you, the landowner and landuser we look to for support, ideas and action to make the duties of our job reality.

We would like to thank all those whose contribution of time and money have enabled us to carry out a successful program: soil conservation cooperators, conservation contractors, and businesses. We also wish to thank the following organizations for their support this past year: Department of Soil Conservation and State Committee; Soil Conservation Service; Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; Iowa Conservation Commission; Mills Co. Extension Service; Mills Co. Board of Supervisors and many others. A special thanks goes to our local newspapers for their support.

Soil Conservation is the art and science of using land according to its capabilities and treating it according to its needs, to keep the soil permanently productive. The Mills County Soil Conservation District stands ready to help landusers in meeting this objective by assisting them with any conservation problem.

COMMISSIONERS

Paul Hathaway, Chairman
Steve Roenfeldt, Vice-Chairman
John A. Paul
Albert Washburn
Lynn Goos

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Richard Biermann
Joe Wearin
John Jennings

DISTRICT REVOLVING FUND

Balance on hand 7-1-85	\$ 850.32
EXPENSES:	
Janitor & trash haul	238.62
Dues & Subscriptions	365.95
Postage	710.97
Film & Developing	9.87
Office supplies & Equipment	977.04
Contests	279.20
Mtg. expenses & Education	244.80
Photostat rental	521.00
Insurance	142.00
Soil Stewardship material	22.39
Gifts & memorials	37.63
Cook books (sold)	105.00
Furniture painting	241.00
DEPOSITS	
Janitor & photostat reimb.	516.00
I-M reimbursement	1343.52
Donations	1573.63
Furniture repainting reimb.	241.00
Postage reimbursement (mule cr.)	32.20
Balance on hand 6-30-86	661.20

I-M BUDGET - State funds

Allocation	\$2211.00
Commissioner mileage	\$ 931.95
Office supp. & exp.	1279.05
Balance 6-30-86	0.00
COST-SHARE BUDGETS	
84/85	
Total allocation	\$180,374.73
Unobligated funds	0.00
Applications approved	86
Terraces installed (feet)	363,400
Acres benefited	1,794
85/86	
Total allocation	\$213,047.24
Unobligated funds	14,865.19
Applications approved	68
Terraces installed (feet)	332,075
Acres benefited	1,396

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Dick Stille, District Conservationist
Gary Smith, Soil Conservationist
Lane Collins, Soil Conservationist
Leo VanFosson, Soil Cons. Tech. (retired 2-86)
Rich Maaske, State Engineering Aide
Ruth Stevens, State Clerk

AREA OFFICE STAFF

Erwin O. Aust, Area Conservationist
Russell Kurth, Resource Conservationist
Richard Birchmier, Area Engineer
Bonnie Weller, Area Clerk

FIELD OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the 1985/86 Fiscal year 274 personal contacts were made with landowners and tenants, with 170 landowners applying one or more practices. Alternatives were given on 16,840 acres with an additional 6,435 acres planned to tolerable soil loss limits. Conservation tillage was reported on 4,767 acres and 19,306 acres of contouring were reported. A total of 614,395 feet or 116.36 miles of terraces were built (16,061 feet of tile was incorporated in the terraces). A total of 19,306 ac. of cropland was improved this year in Mills County.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Rich Maaske named Department of Soil Conservation Employee for the Month of June
- Two no-till tours held
- JeanMarie Bakehouse was first place winner in district essay contest
- Indian Creek Watershed application was started
- Moved into new building October 1st -- Open house held Oct. 23rd.
- Albert Washburn attended the IASDCD annual conference
- 206 folders (41,543 ac.) for Iowa Soils 2000 were completed and mailed.
- Purchased Monroe RL-614 copier
- Project Agreement for site 5 Tinkle Branch was signed
- Leo VanFosson, Soil Conservation Technician for 30 yrs. retired. Open House held.
- Received 92 applications for cost-share for 1986
- Annual Painting Contest held

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This fall may look discouraging for many Mills County farmers. They will be faced with a shortage of storage, the possibility of \$1.25 a bushel corn and the chance of being denied future USDA program benefits by the sodbuster/swampbuster regulations of the 1985 Farm Bill.

The best solution for all of these worries right now is the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This program pays farmers to get away from the headaches associated with corn production and grow grass or trees. Eligibility is based mainly on whether your land is highly erodible and has been cropped 2 out of the last 5 years.

So, if you are tired of worrying about what the price of corn will be, or where to get storage, just contact your local ASCS or SCS office to see if you are eligible for the CRP.

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OUR TELEPHONE NUMBER HAS BEEN CHANGED TO -- 712-624-8606