

"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is the earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."

—Henry David Thoreau

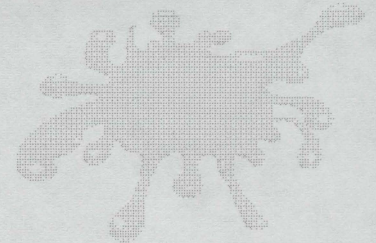
Pools of Thought

Insert

Fall 1996

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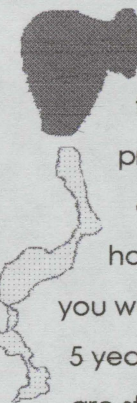
Project Accomplishments and Activities



The Iowa Great Lakes Clean Water Project has had a tremendous year. We could list accomplishments for this entire page, but we are just going to hit the highlights of the year. Some of the greatest accomplishments were done this year by the farmers of the watershed. Several of these farmers are finishing their last year of the Water Quality Incentive Project, one of the best projects to date. Many times these farmers completely changed their farming practices in order to participate in WQIP. Grassed waterways were

built on Big Spirit and East Lake Okoboji. The waterways protect the Iowa Great Lakes. Because of the tremendous ruts and gullies that were forming, a great savings of equipment maintenance and repair costs will be achieved. We are once again looking for a banner year to construct conservation practices in the watershed especially because grassed waterways are going to be an acceptable practice for CRP, which is explained further in the newsletter. This year the MAX

Program is a huge part of the project and we are currently offering some terrific bonuses for you to participate in it. The MAX draws information about your farming practices and can then show how profitable you were based on a 5 year average. We are still accepting applications to participate in this program, please contact John Wills, MAX coordinator, at (712) 336-2604 if you are interested.



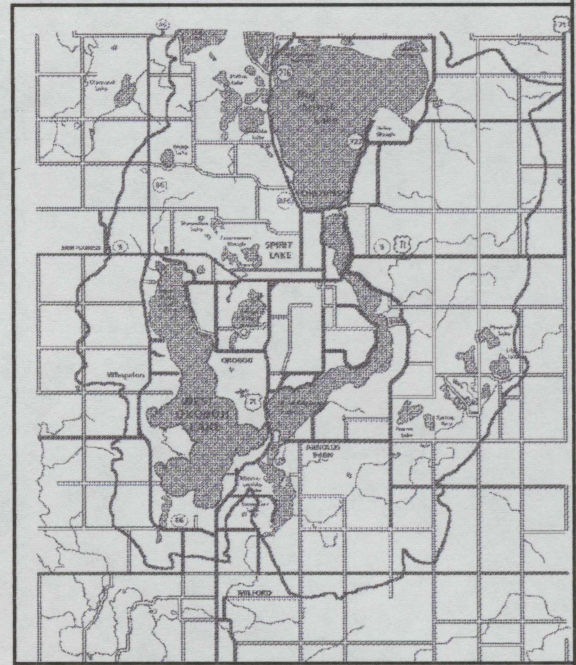
LETS GET ONE THING PERFECTLY CLEAR...WATER!

The Iowa Great Lakes continues to have success after success protecting the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed through voluntary methods. The project uses voluntary methods to work with landowners, farmers, and urban people to improve the water quality of the Iowa Great Lakes.

Many of the projects that have been completed to date have been on farm ground. In the future the project will concentrate about 50% of the time in the urban sector. Many of the projects that will be done on urban ground include; storm sewer stenciling, construction site erosion control, business awareness, and environmental friendly to the lake lawns.

The Dickinson SWCD, the projects sponsor, is very involved with the protection of the Iowa Great Lakes. In fact, the District is one of the main forces which keep the project going and give direction to the project.

The Iowa Great Lakes Clean Water Project is funded from many sources. But the major funding comes from two main places; 1. EPA section 319 funds and 2. Resource Enhancement and Protection Funds (REAP). The interesting thing is that both of these funds come from tax dollars that you pay in. These tax dollars come back to the Iowa Great Lakes Area and are used to protect our lakes. The dollars are spent to help farmers and landowners offset the cost of conservation practices and then are probably spent in the area to purchase equipment, seed, and other items. The project is very important to the area for many reasons.



The Iowa Great Lakes Watershed is outlined above, notice that the water drains from a considerable distance into the Lakes. This illustrates the need for both rural and urban cooperation within the watershed to preserve water quality.

CRP — Continuous Sign-up now available

As of September 4, 1996 a continuous sign-up of certain CRP practices began. The purpose of the continuous sign-up is to provide management flexibility to farmers to implement certain conservation practices on their cropland. Land will be automatically accepted into the program provided the acreage and producer meet certain eligibility requirements.

To be eligible for the continuous sign-up in CRP, the land that is physically and legally capable of being cropped must have been termed 'planted to an agriculture commodity' in any 2 of the 5 1992-1996 crop years. Practices that are eligible for the continuous sign-up include:

- * field windbreaks
- * filter strips
- * grassed waterways
- * living snowfences
- * riparian buffers
- * shelter belts
- * shallow water areas for wildlife

To be an eligible participant, landowners must have owned the acreage, or operators must have leased the acreage, for one year before offering the acreage for CRP. The payment rates will be based on the local prevailing cash equivalent rental rates and will be posted in the FSA office. In many instances an additional incentive is offered. This is an outstanding conservation program; not only will you be able to build a grassed waterway to make your land more productive, you will also receive a 'rental payment' for the next 10 years. Come in for more info, CRP has numerous options!