

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

IDA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JULY 1, 1990 - JUNE 30, 1991

STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISTRICT EXPENSES

1990-91 Allocations:	\$ 3,150.00
Expenditures:	
Commissioners' expenses	\$ 955.15
Office supplies & expenses	469.10
Printing & printed material	644.23
NACD dues	<u>500.00</u>
	2,568.48
Total returned to state	<u>\$ 581.52</u>

STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR COST-SHARE

<u>1989-90 Additional Allocations</u>	21,838.00
Funds obligated for conservation	<u>20,865.00</u>
Unobligated funds	\$ 973.00
 <u>1990-91 Allocation</u>	 69,579.00
Funds obligated for conservation	<u>69,579.00</u>
Unobligated funds	.00
 <u>Additional Allocation</u>	 69,230.35
Funds obligated for conservation	<u>69,129.64</u>
Overobligated funds	100.71
 <u>1990-91 REAP Practices Allocation</u>	 27,280.00
Funds obligated for conservation	<u>27,500.00</u>
Overobligated funds	(220.00)
 <u>1990-91 REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Allocation</u>	 10,415.00
Funds obligated for windbreaks	<u>10,531.75</u>
Overobligated funds	(116.75)
 <u>1990-91 Public-Owned Lakes Allocations</u>	
<u>MOOREHEAD</u>	26,606.00
Funds obligated for conservation	<u>26,606.00</u>
Unobligated funds	.00
 <u>CRAWFORD CREEK</u>	 26,606.00
Funds obligated for conservation	<u>26,402.03</u>
Unobligated funds	203.97
 <u>TOTAL STATE ALLOCATIONS 1973-1991</u>	 1,295,205.05
Recalled to date (Voluntary funds)	11,496.22
Recalled to date (REAP funds)	<u>9,331.00</u>
Funds spent on conservation practices	<u>\$1,274,377.83</u>

GENERAL FUND

Cash on hand, July 1, 1990		\$ 536.22
Receipts:		
Flag sales	\$ 144.00	
Level sales	76.92	
Tree sales	155.21	
Sales tax collected	8.84	
1M reimbursements	1,484.53	
USDA reimbursements	738.49	
Interest from CDs	2,909.45	
Transfer from HiFi	<u>6,000.00</u>	
Total income		11,517.44
Expenditures:		
No-Till Drill	6,000.00	
Commissioners' expenses	370.66	
Office & kitchen	794.57	
Equipment purchase	448.10	
Equipment repair	458.42	
Newsletter & annual report	1,027.90	
Soil stewardship material	132.08	
Prizes & awards	104.28	
Flag purchase	82.15	
Taxes paid	19.01	
Tree purchase	166.00	
Dues/publications	<u>1,083.95</u>	
Total Expenditures		10,687.12
Cash on hand, June 30, 1991		<u>\$ 1,366.54</u>
<u>HiFi Account</u>		
Cash on hand, July 1, 1990		\$ 2,045.04
Interest added		<u>92.91</u>
Cash on hand, June 30, 1991		<u>\$ 2,137.95</u>
Time Certificates		<u>\$37,300.00</u>

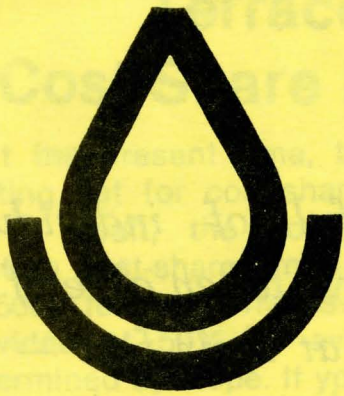
WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND

(Held in trust by the District for maintenance
of watershed structures)

Cash on hand, July 1, 1990		\$ 1,188.89
Receipts:		
Interest	3,809.30	
Maintenance payments	<u>1,829.40</u>	
Total income		5,638.70
Expenditures:		
Abstract & recorder fees	145.00	
Watershed repair	1,018.92	
Total expenditures		<u>1,163.92</u>
Cash on hand, June 30, 1991		<u>\$5,663.67</u>
<u>HiFi Account</u>		
Cash on hand, July 1, 1990		\$17,302.16
Interest added		945.13
Transfer to General Fund		<u>6000.00*</u>
Cash on hand, June 30, 1991		<u>\$12,247.29</u>
*\$6,000 will be repaid to HiFi Maintenance Fund from General Fund CD when it matures.		
Time Certificate		<u>\$37,000.00</u>
Money Market Certificates		<u>\$22,000.00</u>

1990 FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INDIVIDUAL FARMER CONTACTS	549
FARMERS APPLYING PRACTICES	310
TERRACE CONTRACTS COMPLETED	150
FSA PLANS COMPLETED	8,491 Acres
LAND TREATED OR BENEFITED	12,393 Acres
CONTOUR FARMING	18,742 Acres
TERRACES	149.2 Miles



Challenges In Conservation

Newsletter of the Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District

Chairman's Comments...

We are happy to provide you this copy of our first conservation newsletter. We hope and expect that it will be one of many quarterly newsletters. As your elected officials, we feel it is important that we have a direct line of communication during the five year implementation period of the Food Security Act.

Completely treating approximately 195,000 Highly Erodible Acres (along with many other borderline areas) will be a monumental task, but **not an impossible one!!!** We have already accomplished much more conservation in the last three years than we ever dreamed possible! Anything is possible if we **think** we can!

So, let's get on with the job. We have no time to waste!

Wilbur Rohlk, Chairman

Wetland Alert!!

What is a "wetland"? It's an area that is naturally wet or swampy during times of normal precipitation. You probably won't be able to farm it without tile. Since the vast majority of wetlands have already been drained or tiled and farmed long before 1985, there aren't many left. The 1985 Food Security Act addresses the problem of disappearing wetlands by discouraging tiling or draining these areas. **Converting these areas to cropland can make you ineligible for all types of Federal Government financial assistance.** If you plan to plow or convert any wet area this spring, **check with the Soil Conservation Service Office first.** If the area is classified wetland, it wouldn't pay to convert it.

CHECK WITH US FIRST.

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

BULK THIRD CLASS
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Ida Grove, IA

District Commissioners

Wilbur Rohlk, Chairman
Everett Still
Robert Croxell
Daniel Snyder
Marelle Knudsen

Staff

Donald Kauffman, District Conservationist
Randy Sohm, Soil Conservation Technician
Jerry Sindt, Soil Conservationist
Shawn Dettmann, Soil Conservationist
Steve Sholty, WAE/technician
Carl Lee, State Technician
Arlis Bahnsen, Clerk

Assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

Coming Events...

April 22 20th Anniversary, Earth Day

April 24 Regular SCD Meeting, 8 p.m.

April 27 Arbor Day

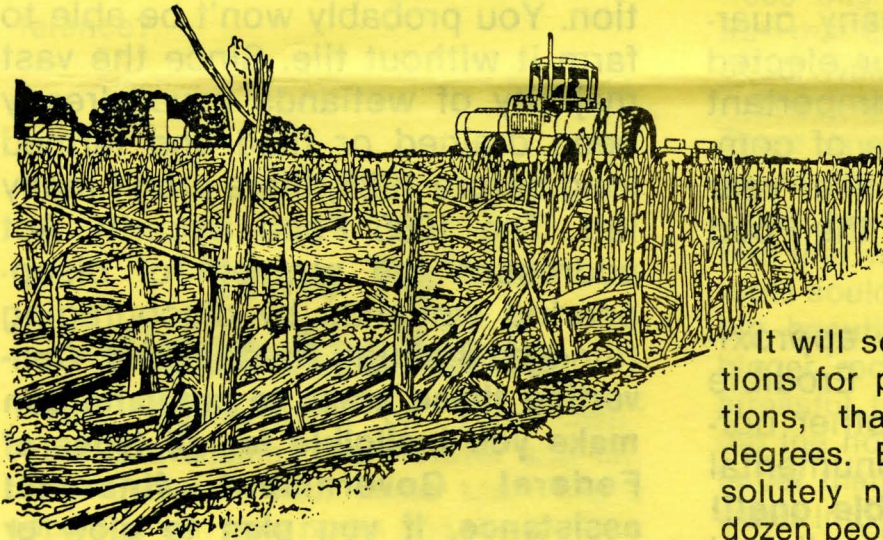
April 29 - May 5 Soil Stewardship Week

May 8 6th Outdoor Classroom

May 8 Tri-State Tillage Field Day

May 22 Regular SCD Meeting, 8 p.m.

"A handful of individuals have always taken care of the resources at their feet — not always because it was fashionable but because it was right"



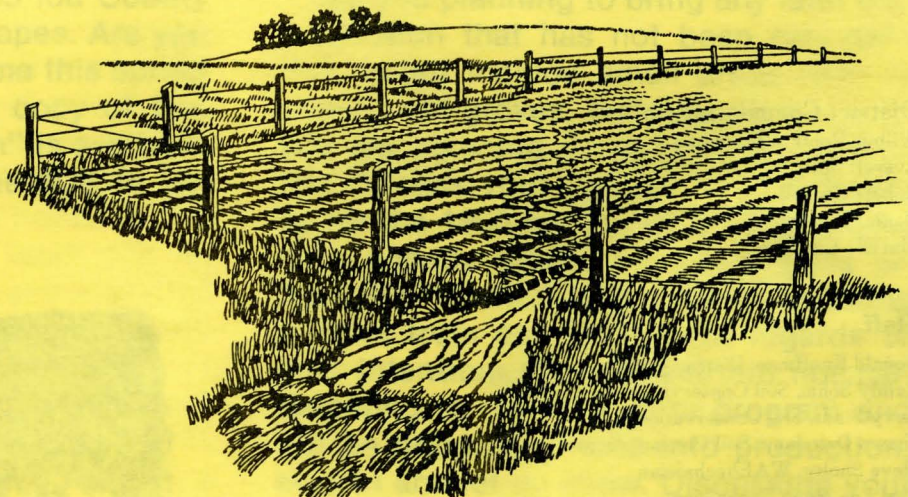
How Much Tillage?

It will soon be time to make preparations for planting crops. In most situations, that means tillage in varying degrees. But how much tillage is absolutely necessary? If you talked to a dozen people, you would get 12 different answers. From a conservation standpoint, we believe that the less tillage you do, the better it is. Every tillage pass allows more moisture to evaporate. Can we afford that? And, can we afford the soil losses associated with "clean" tillage?

We hope that you will keep your tillage passes to a minimum; the least necessary to get the seed and fertilizer in the ground. In the end, you will save fuel, soil, and water. We can help you practice **conservation tillage, no-till, or ridge till.**

Meet Arlis Bahnsen...

On March 7th, Arlis Bahnsen became the new District Clerk/Secretary. She lives on a farm southwest of Schleswig with her husband, John, and their four children. Travis is a sophomore at Wayne State College; Brandee is a junior and Gina is a freshman at Schleswig High School; and Dustin is in Schleswig Middle School. Arlis' hobbies are walking, reading, skiing, and boating.



Terrace Cost-Share Policy

At the present time, there is a **long** waiting list for cost-share for terraces. As a result, the commissioners are limiting cost-share funds to a maximum of 5000 feet of terraces. All funds are provided at 50% of average cost as determined by slope. If you wish to build terraces and do not have an application on file, do so immediately. The longer you wait, the longer it will be.

Terrace Construction During Summer

An ideal time to build terraces is summer after the crops are in. The contractors are less busy and the ground is in better condition. Consider planting some oats if you don't have enough set-aside acres to build them on.

We will lay the terraces this spring so you can locate set aside accordingly.

So think about summer terraces - it's the best way to beat the spring and fall rush.

Terrace Seeding Options

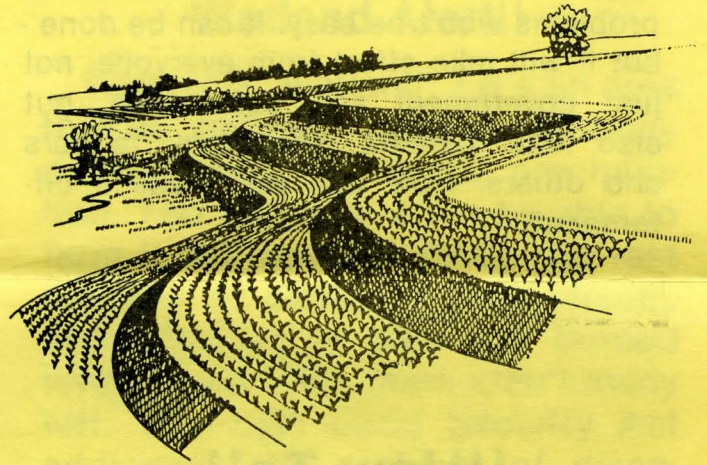
There are various ways of getting the terraces seeded. Some farmers rig up a broadcast seeder so it throws seed only one way. Some of the dirt contractors have a seeder rigged up on their equipment and will do it when they finish building the terraces. Third, Eldon Krambeck, Sr. of Galva, has a tractor rigged up with a broadcast seeder. He charges \$.03 per foot and you provide the seed. He can be contacted at Galva at 282-4726. Also, Farm Supply Co. of Ida Grove will seed them too. Their number is 364-3021.

What Shall I Seed?

Smooth brome grass has always been the best grass to seed terraces with because it is cheap and well adapted. Recently, however, switchgrass has become very competitive price-wise. In fact, Pheasants Forever will provide you enough FREE seed to seed 5000 feet. Contact Rhett Leonard at Moorehead Park. Phone 364-3300.

Terrace Layout

Out SCS staff members pride themselves on laying out many miles of terraces and keeping ahead of contractors. It takes good scheduling and lots of hustle! You can help us much if you will be available to help us lay the terraces out. This would help us immensely. By helping, you begin to appreciate how terraces are actually done and we both benefit.



REAP Resource Enhancement and Protection Program

REAP is a new program established by the Iowa legislature effective July 1, 1989. It includes many different programs to benefit and improve the environment throughout the state of Iowa. The Water Resource Fund is specifically for use by Soil Conservation Districts. It can be used for a variety of conventional conservation practices, to be determined by the local SCS commissioners. The commissioners have approved farm windbreaks and shelterbelts for cost-sharing for 1990. They are accepting applications for windbreaks with the following limits: 75% cost-share based on a maximum of a \$20.00 tree and a \$2.00 shrub. Replacements due to death loss will not be approved.

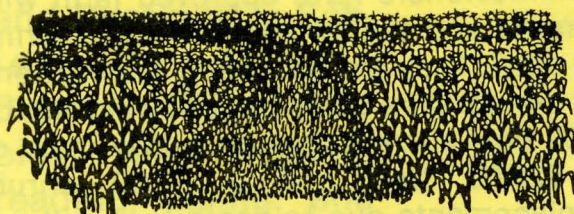
Think Globally Act Locally

April 22, 1990 marks the 20th anniversary of "Earth Day". We've come a long way since the first observance of Earth Day 20 years ago. There are more environmental laws than ever before, and we've made real progress. But there is so much more to do. Making the changes needed to solve our environmental problems won't be easy. It can be done - but it will take effort from everyone: not just government and businesses, but also kids, parents, educators, farmers and others. How will you make a difference?

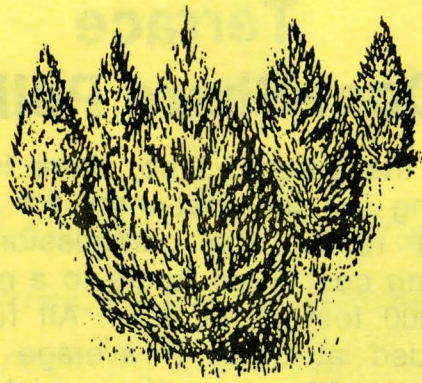
"How To" Video Available

The "Conservation on Your Own" video is available. The elevator and fertilizer dealer in your home town has a copy you can take home and watch. This VCR tape has information that you can use to implement your FSA conservation plan. It gives information on contour lines, buffer strips, and stripcropping systems. It gives you information on planning and proper layout of these practices. The video also shows the proper way of measuring residue and the equipment necessary to do this. Each FSA plan has a Resource Management System that calls for a certain amount of residue left on the surface after planting. Do you remember what your plan calls for? Are you sure what you have left after planting. Watching this part of the video and doing the necessary measurements this spring will answer these questions.

These videos have been available for a couple of months. So far 35 Ida County farmers have watched the tapes. Are you one that has? If not, take time this spring before field work starts. A copy of this "Conservation on Your Own" is available in your home town or at the SCS or Extension Office in Ida Grove.



GRASS WATERWAYS



Spring Tree Planting

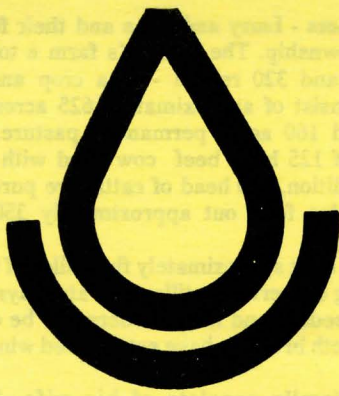
Are you going to be planting some trees this spring? If so we have some tips that can increase your trees chance of survival.

The first step is to buy quality stock. There are a number of reputable nurseries in the area that have excellent stock. Always ask to see the roots of the tree that you are going to purchase. The roots should be full and healthy looking. A big beautiful tree needs to have even bigger roots to sustain it through the stressful first year. The next step is to dig the hole. The hole needs to be 25% larger than the root system. Never pour water into the bottom of the hole before planting as it can leave air pockets after it drains away. Fill the hole gradually and tamp constantly.

The final step is to mulch around the tree. You should mulch a circle that extends just past the drip line of the tree. The mulch needs to be 6-8 inches deep. Mulch can consist of corn cobs, wood chips or straw. Mulch helps the tree compete against sod and holds water closer to the roots.

Sodbusting This Spring?

Are you planning to bring any land into production that has not been cropped? This might include small areas next to creeks, old groves, building sites, etc. If you are planning on doing this, stop in and discuss your options. If you signed up for the 1990 farm program you should have already stated your intentions on the "1026" form. You should be receiving a letter from our office with regards to your intentions. Even if you are not participating in the 1990 farm program and will be bringing ground into production, stop in and let us know. Discussing your options, before you do it is the best first step.



Challenges In Conservation

Newsletter of the Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District

Third Quarter - July 1990

WINDBREAK SURVEYS

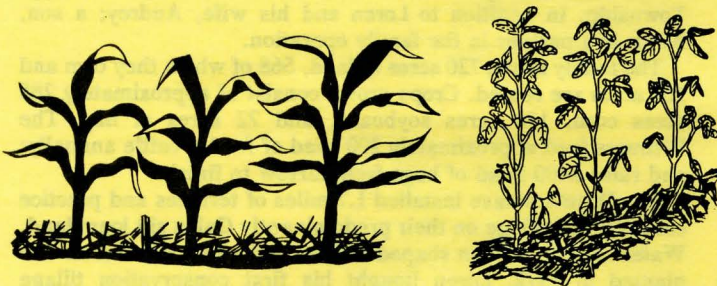
Recently the Extension Service mailed a windbreak survey to many of you. Some of those surveys have been returned, **but have you returned yours?** We ask that you take a few minutes and complete the survey. The information you provide can be very helpful.

THANKS A LOT!

CONSERVATION TILLAGE REALITY OR MIRAGE?

The Soil Conservation Service staff completed a field survey at planting time of conservation tillage being used in Ida County. The chart below shows the results.

CROP	NO TILL OR RIDGE TILL	Crop Residue - % - Acres of each			TOTAL AC.
		30% OR MORE	15-30%	15% OR LESS	
Corn	3800	15,200	41,000	59,700	119,700
Soybeans	1100	12,000	41,000	18,000	72,100
Total	4900	27,200	82,000	77,700	191,800
% in each	2.6%	14.2%	42.7%	40.5%	100%



These figures are disturbing because 95 percent of all FSA conservation plans have conservation tillage as part of the plan! Conservation tillage is defined as having **at least** 30 percent residue cover. This year only 14 percent of the Ida County cropland met the 30 percent standard!

Farm operators and owners need to be aware of how each tillage tool affects residue. If your residue left at planting time is not adequate, you need to decide what you need to do to correct it. Check your conservation plan and make an effort to meet that implementation deadline.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?

Don Kauffman
District Conservationist

Excessive rains during the past ten weeks have generated much comment - pro and con - on the value of terraces and other conservation practices. I would like to add my comments on the subject, hoping they might put the situation in the proper perspective.

First of all, much of the rain has come in quick, intense showers or cloudbursts, which have resulted in much of the rain running off instead of soaking in. If all these rains - even five inches - would come over 24 hours, damage would have been minor. Our terraces are designed to handle three inches of runoff in 24 hours. Obviously, many areas exceeded that several times.

The actual number of terraces that failed is a small percentage of our total miles. Most of them trapped both the water and sediment and kept it from entering road ditches, streams, and ponds. Most of the terraces that failed were less than 12 months old. The silt deposited in terrace channels is positive evidence that we are losing soil much faster than we realize.

The second observation is that crop residue on the surface definitely was beneficial. When water concentrated in rills or waterways, the residue was cleaned off, but overall the residue was very beneficial.

After the rains, it was very obvious where grassed waterways

are needed; the water wrote the message very clearly. In many cases, a grassed waterway was not present or was filled with silt, in which case you had two ditches. In either case, it became obvious that a stable, seeded waterway was needed.

In summary, the severe rains we have recently had have caused much damage, but would have caused much more if conservation practices had not been present. The conservation practices present once again supported the old adage, "Conservation doesn't cost; it pays!"



Commissioners observe silt deposition. Left to right: Bob Croxell, Wilbur Rohlk, Morelle Knudsen, Everett Still.

TREE PLANTING ON CRP ACRES

Landowners with ground in the Conservation Reserve Program have a second chance to plant trees on part of that land, as a result of a recent change in CRP rules. The Department of Agriculture will now permit landowners to plant trees and shrubs into existing grass seedings.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is also encouraging tree planting by including a special provision in the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP). Landowners can receive 75 percent cost-share for establishing a tree planting. The area must be at least two acres in size and can include most all adapted trees and shrubs, excluding fruit trees and ornamentals.

The REAP tree planting program is administered by the Soil Conservation District and interested people should contact the District Office for additional details. Plans should be started now if you are considering a planting for Spring 1991.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS NEEDED

Publishing a newsletter is a new and relatively expensive undertaking. The Soil Conservation District is fortunate to have the cooperation of the Ida County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. At the present time, we are "Piggy-backing" our newsletter with theirs, thereby eliminating the postage expense of 1600 newsletters.

The printing cost, however, is still several hundred dollars for each issue. We are, therefore, soliciting contributions from readers to help underwrite this project. Five, ten, or twenty-five dollar contributions would be greatly appreciated.

We also would appreciate your comments about the newsletter. Are we missing something? Are we over emphasizing something? We'd appreciate your comments.

The District Commissioners

TERRACE REPAIR COST-SHARE?

Many of you who have reported terrace breaks have asked if there will be cost-share funds to help repair the terraces. Under the present conditions, the answer is "No". Here's why.

There has never been any provision for repairing terraces built with Little Sioux or State cost-share funds, since both agencies expect the farmer to maintain the terraces, either 10 or 20 years. ASCS will only repair terraces built with ASCS funds, and damage to ASCS-built terraces was not widespread enough to be considered a "disaster". In the majority of situations, there were from two to six breaks, which would cost \$300 or less to repair. The costs of administering a program providing \$150 or less cost-share is not practical.

We would hope and expect that you would repair your terraces to protect your investment. They were very effective this year and will continue to be in the future if maintained properly.



Left to right: Shawn Dettmann, Steve Sholty.

MOVIN' ON

SHAWN DETTMANN, Soil Conservationist on the Ida Grove staff since September 1987, will be transferring to the Sioux City field office, effective July 30, 1990.

Prior to coming to Ida Grove, Shawn graduated from Iowa State University in May 1987 and then served with a crop consulting firm prior to joining the Soil Conservation Service.

While at Ida Grove, Shawn has been involved with FSA planning and application and most all other phases of work. He spent considerable time on the computer, making the Ida Grove Office staff more efficient and productive.

Although **STEVE SHOLTY**, Soil Conservation Technician has not been a permanent employee, he has worked nearly full time at the Ida Grove office since June 1987. He assisted with terrace layout, Highly Erodible Land determinations, and computer entry. He has become a valuable and reliable member of our staff.

Steve is also a full-time (weekend) farmer and practices what he preaches. He has purchased a Caterpillar tractor and built terraces on his own, in addition to the those built by commercial contractor previously.

Steve will become a permanent Soil Conservation Technician at the Cherokee field office starting August 12, 1990.

We will really miss **Shawn and Steve**. They have been a very important part of the team that tackled FSA workload the past three years. Good luck, fellows!

VOLKERT, DITTMER FAMILIES

NAMED CONSERVATION WINNERS

Two family farm units have been named 1990 conservation winners by the Ida County Soil and Water District Commissioners.



Volkert Brothers. Left to right: Lane and wife Lori, Janet and husband, Larry.

The **Volkert Brothers - Larry and Lane** and their families are winners in Battle Township. The Volkert's farm a total of 1240 acres - 920 owned and 320 rented - in a crop and livestock operation. Crops consist of approximately 625 acres corn, 320 acres soybeans, and 160 acres permanent pasture. Livestock operations consist of 125 head beef cow herd with the calves being fed out. In addition, 800 head of cattle are purchased and fed. The Volkerts also feed out approximately 3500 head of feeder pigs annually.

The Volkerts have built approximately five miles of terraces, in addition to practicing conservation tillage. Waterways have been shaped, tiled, and seeded; and field borders will be established in the near future. Both brothers have established windbreaks on their home units.

Lane Volkert's family consists of his wife, Lori; twin daughters, Ann and Jann, 16; and daughter, Juli, 11.

Larry Volkert's family consists of his wife, Janet; daughters, Audra, 18; Ashley, 4, and niece Reyna Campbell, 16.



Dittmer Family. Left to right: Loren, Kent, and Audrey Dittmer.

The next family is the **Loren Dittmer Family** of Griggs Township. In addition to Loren and his wife, Audrey; a son, Kent, is a partner in the family operation.

The family farms 720 acres of land, 568 of which they own and 152 acres are rented. Crops grown consist of approximately 285 acres corn, 130 acres soybeans, and 22 acres of hay. The Dittmers feed approximately 200 head of feeder cattle annually; and raise 2400 head of hogs from farrow to finish.

The Dittmers have installed 1.7 miles of terraces and practice conservation tillage on their predominantly Galva silt loam land. Waterways have been shaped and seeded and a windbreak was planted in 1972. Loren bought his first conservation tillage planter in 1978.

The Soil Conservation District congratulates these winners!

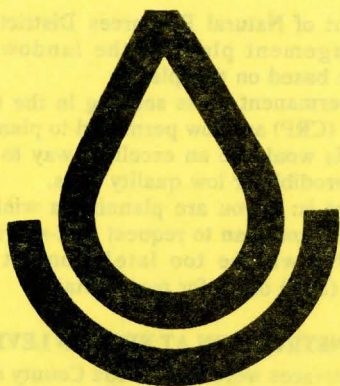
ATTENTION FARMERS. . .

All farmers are supposed to meet compliance by 1995, so we must put terraces in. The Soil Conservation District Committee has set guidelines for the different slopes - C, D, and E - maximum, not minimum. We have contractors working in Ida County putting in terraces for 10 to 15 cents a foot less, saving \$400 to \$600 for 5000 feet of terraces. I urge all farmers to get two or three written bids on each job. All terraces have to meet Soil Conservation Service specifications. This is tax money we are spending, yours and mine, so help yourself "save".

-Everett Still

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Water Conservation District
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Challenges In Conservation

Newsletter of the Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District

Fourth Quarter - November 1990

COMMISSIONERS

Wilbur Rohlk, Chairperson - Ida Grove
Daniel Snyder, Vice-Chairperson - Arthur
Robert Croxell - Holstein
Marelle Knudsen - Ida Grove
Everett Still - Cushing

Lou Collins, Dist. Sec./Treas. to January 1990
George Hartley, Temporary Dist. Sec./Treas.
Arlis Bahnsen, Dist. Sec./Treas., March 1990

PERSONNEL

STAFF

Donald G. Kauffman, Dist. Cons. - SCS
Jerry S. Sindt, Soil Cons. - SCS
Randall F. Sohm, Soil Cons. Tech. - SCS
Carl S. Lee, Soil Cons. Tech. - IDALS
Shawn Dettmann, Soil Cons. - SCS
Transferred to Woodbury County, July 1990
Steve Sholty, Soil Cons. Tech. part-time - SCS
Transferred to Cherokee County, August 1990
Lou Collins, Dist. Clerk to January 1990 - IDALS
Mike Jensen, Soil Cons. Tech. part-time - SCS
Arlis Bahnsen, Dist. Sec. - IDALS

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT IDA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT JULY 1, 1989 - JUNE 30, 1990

IM BUDGET (STATE APPROPRIATED)

1989-90 Allocations:	\$ 3,150.00
Expenditures:	
Commissioners' expenses	\$1,347.73
Office supplies & expenses	601.70
Printing & printed material	345.77
NACD dues	500.00
	<u>2,795.20</u>
Total returned to state	\$ 354.80
3M BUDGET (STATE APPROPRIATIONS)	
1988-89 Additional Allocations	18,915.00
Funds obligated	18,560.45
Unobligated funds (returned)	\$ 354.55
1989-90 Allocation	56,899.00
Funds obligated for conservation	56,899.00
Unobligated funds	.00
Additional Allocation	56,806.19
Funds obligated for conservation	56,875.75
Overobligated funds	(69.56)
REAP Allocation	13,095.00
Funds obligated for windbreaks	10,989.18
Unobligated funds	2,105.82
TOTAL STATE ALLOCATIONS	
1973-1990	1,043,650.70
Returned to date	11,641.62
Funds spent on conservation practices	<u>\$1,032,009.08</u>

GENERAL FUND

Cash on hand, July 1, 1989	\$ 327.05
Receipts:	
Flag sales	\$ 168.00
Level sales	153.84
Tree sales	170.00
Equipment sale	25.00
Sales tax collected	12.84

1M reimbursements	1,745.29
USDA reimbursements	147.45
Miscellaneous reimbursements	16.00
Interest	2,691.66
Transfer from savings	1,500.00
Close Co-op account	2.71
	<u>6,632.79</u>

Expenditures:	
Commissioners' expenses	197.63
Office expenses	1,678.81
Equipment purchase	1,020.00
Equipment repair	563.04
Newsletter & annual report	430.10
Soil stewardship material	153.87
Prizes and awards	121.80
Level purchase	495.00
Sales tax paid	12.42
Tree purchase	164.00
Dues/publications	1,586.95
	<u>6,423.62</u>

Cash on hand, June 30, 1990	\$ 536.22
HiFi Account	\$ 2,045.04
Time Certificates	\$37,300.00

WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND

(Held in trust by the District

for maintenance of watershed structures)

Cash on hand, July 1, 1989	\$ 697.63
Receipts:	
Interest	\$4,122.65
Maintenance payments	1,429.40
	<u>5,552.05</u>
Expenditures:	
Office expense	30.00
Watershed repair	1,030.79
Transfer to savings	4,000.00
	<u>5,060.79</u>

Cash on hand, June 30, 1990	\$ 1,188.89
HiFi Account	\$17,302.16
Time Certificate	37,000.00
Money Market Certificates	22,000.00

WETLANDS

The Wetland determination process began about a year and a half ago with a trained team of Soil Conservation Service personnel reviewing ASCS slides and cropping history of all Ida County land. The Ida County staff will be completing the determination process by early January. After this process, most landowners will be receiving material concerning potential wetlands on their property.

This material will include information on additional documentation that might be necessary concerning past cropping records, tiling, and shaping of wet areas. It will also include options you might have on any of these areas. Please review this information and contact our office with any questions you might have.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Are you planning to comply with the conservation provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act? While there is some uncertainty about future participation, we recommend that you plan on participation and then you will be in compliance in case you want to participate. If you do not participate for several years, and then want to come back to the program, your conservation plan must be totally implemented **prior** to participation.

We encourage you to **study** your conservation plan this winter so that you will know what practices are planned for each year. If there are questions about crop residue or other matters, we'll be glad to help you. Set aside some time to study your plan thoroughly and contact us.

WINDBREAK APPLICANT ALERT!

Planning to start a windbreak for next spring? If so, the following information is very important!

During past years, windbreak applicants were asked to wait to sign up for cost-share until **after** January 1st. Now applicants are being asked to sign up **before** January 1st. The reason for this change is because of a change in programs. Windbreaks and tree planting of all kinds will now be funded with the Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) Program, administered by the Soil Conservation District instead of the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). Interested persons should contact the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office.

The State of Iowa is placing strong emphasis on tree planting. Therefore, they are providing favorable cost-share (75%) for all types of tree plantings. Land owners may also make management improvements in existing tree stands. In those

cases, the Department of Natural Resources District Forester will prepare a management plan for the landowner, and cost-sharing would be based on this plan.

Landowners with permanent grass seeding in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are now permitted to plant trees on the seeded areas. This would be an excellent way to establish trees on particularly erodible or low quality sites.

The important point is: if you are planning a windbreak or forest planting for 1991 and plan to request cost-sharing, **do so now**. January 1, 1991 will be too late! Contact the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office for more details.

TERRACE CONSTRUCTION AT RECORD LEVELS

Over 149 miles of terraces were built in Ida County during the year ended September 30, 1990, according to Soil Conservation Service personnel at Ida Grove. The main incentive for terrace construction is to comply with conservation requirements established by the Food Security Act of 1985, according to Don Kauffman, District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service.

"At the present rate, we should theoretically complete all the terraces needed for compliance with the 1985 Food Security Act," says Kauffman, "but there are many factors that will influence the future rate of construction. An important factor will be the Feed Grain Program; if it doesn't provide enough incentive for farmers to participate, conservation compliance will suffer. On the other hand, if the Feed Grain Program provides the incentives to participate, conservation compliance will be high. The amount of Set-aside acres called for in the Feed Grain Program can also help conservation compliance if enough acres are set-aside to provide a place to build terraces during the summer months. It is difficult to build enough terraces during two months in the spring and two months in the fall."

Landowners who plan to build terraces during 1991 should consider the possibility of building on Set-aside acres. We encourage landowners to contact the Soil Conservation Service staff to see if it is feasible.

1990 FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

10-1-89 to 9-30-90

INDIVIDUAL FARMER CONTACTS	549
FARMERS APPLYING PRACTICES	310
TERRACE CONTRACTS COMPLETED	150
FSA PLANS COMPLETED	8,491 Acres
LAND TREATED OR BENEFITED	12,393 Acres
CONTOUR FARMING	18,742 Acres
TERRACES	149.2 Miles

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

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