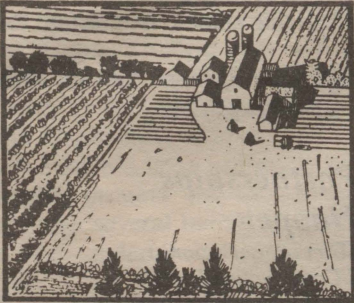


Conservation

PROTECTS OUR GOOD EARTH



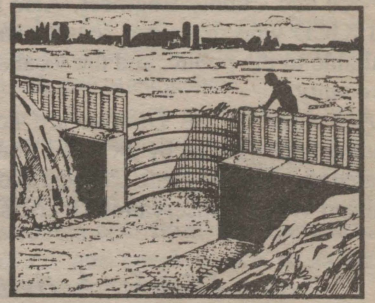
CROP ROTATIONS



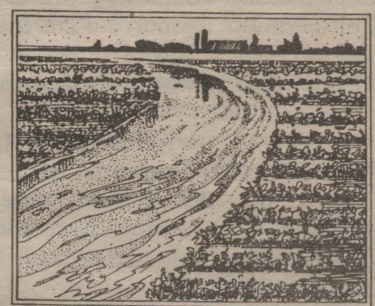
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CONTOUR FARMING



DROP STRUCTURE



GRASSED WATERWAYS



REFORESTING

DICKINSON COUNTY

Soil and Water

Conservation District

Annual Report 1991-1992

FOREWARD

Dickinson County SWCD Commissioners present this 1992 Annual Report, with appreciation to the landowners who have worked closely with the District staff to accomplish another successful year of conservation.

We, the Commissioners of the District, also would like to acknowledge the many organizations for their cooperation in the conservation effort in Dickinson County: ASCS, County Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, DNR, County Board of Supervisors, County Newspapers, Contractors, State of Iowa, Iowa State University Extension Service and County Engineer. Also radio stations KUOO and KICD who make our regular and special news items available to the public, and the local soil districts bordering the county.

Activities of the District are accomplished through funding appropriated by the Iowa State Legislature, and allocated through the State Conservation Committee to Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

District Activities

JULY 1991

NACD North Central Regional Meeting in Des Moines, IA; attended by Orville Berg.

Commissioner's Summer Picnic at Cutty's.
Conservation Resource Plan made available to the Public.

RC&D video viewed by the Commissioners.

AUGUST 1991

Water Protection Project 1st Annual Review.
"Lines on the Land" videos purchased by Commissioners for county schools and libraries.

Orville Berg elected for "Outstanding SWCD Commissioner" Award.

SEPTEMBER 1991

Outdoor Classroom held at Hogsback area.
Fall Regional Meeting in Pocahontas attended by Orville Berg, Tim Hemphill and Mark Ingwersen.
Water Testing Kits purchased for Okoboji Schools.
Toxic Clean-Up Day Donation Designated.

OCTOBER 1991

Introduction of Karmin Blunt; Natural Heritage Foundation staff employee.

"Wealth in the Wetlands" videos purchased by the Commissioners for county schools and libraries.

"Conservation Catalog for the 90's" made available to the public.

NOVEMBER 1991

Satellite Down Link Program at Dickinson County Extension Office.

Clean Water Alliance articles will be published in Spirit Lake Beacon.

"Farming with Residues" guide made available to the public.

DECEMBER 1991

Commissioner's Christmas Party at Black coach.

IDALS annual conference in Des Moines attended by Orville Berg, Tim Hemphill, Mark Ingwersen and Leo Preston.

JANUARY 1992

Election of Officers; Mark Ingwersen, Chairman; Chris Hoffman, Vice-Chairman; Tim Hemphill, Secretary.

Short Course in Ames attended by Orville Berg and Mark Ingwersen.

Wetland Restoration Challenge Grant application sent in to U.S. Fish & Wildlife.

FEBRUARY 1992

NACD National Convention in Reno, Nevada attended by Orville Berg.

Challenge Grant through U.S. Fish & Wildlife is approved.

MARCH 1992

Spring Regional Meeting at Rockwell City attended by Orville Berg, Mark Ingwersen, Roger McGinnis and Leo Preston.

NACD Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, IN attended by Orville Berg.

Five County Contractors' meeting held in Spencer.
IASWCDC Scholarship Applications Submitted.

First 5-County (Palo Alto, Emmet, Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson) Iowa Lakes RC&D meeting held in Spencer.

Commissioners recommit their pledge of \$200 to Toxic Clean-Up Day.

APRIL 1992

Soil & Stewardship Week (April 26-May 3) Materials donated to churches, libraries and schools.

District Trees Distributed to Co-operators.

Trees given to 6th Grade students in Dickinson County.

Iowa Lakes RC&D meeting in Spencer.

Clean Water Project brochure available to the public.

MAX Program initiated.

NACD Conservation Education Materials made available by District.

MAY 1992

Water Protection Project 2nd Annual Review.

Clean Water Project visual slide show for Maritime Museum in progress.

RCA Funds received.

Wetland Reserve Brochures available.

Iowa Lakes RC&D meeting in Spencer.

Wetland Reserve Sign-up May 18-29.

JUNE 1992

Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Approved Nationally as a Conservation Priority Area for CRP.

Iowa Lakes RC&D meeting in Spencer.

"Straight Talk" conservation plans/compliance video viewed by Commissioners.

IGL Wetland Restoration Project presented by DNR.

The Case Against Fall Tillage

More and more Dickinson County farmers are deciding against any tillage in the fall. Particularly on soybean stubble, there is no evidence that fall tillage increases yields.

There are a number of advantages of no-tillage in the fall, however:

--Leaving residues untouched in the fall keeps options wide open for no-till, till plant, etc. the next spring.

--Residues prevent wind erosion in the winter, keeping the countryside beautiful and soil in the fields, rather than in road ditches.

--Turn livestock into corn-stalks for extra feed.

--Residues provide some food and shelter for wildlife.

--Snow caught by standing stubble is moisture for next year's crop.

--With no fall tillage, both time and fuel are saved, reducing the fall workload and expenses.

Conservation Partnerships

Make Things Happen

By Leo Preston, District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service

As many articles in this annual report point out, the last year has been one of progress and accomplishment in the Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District. These achievements could not have been attained without the support and involvement of our conservation partners.

Because of the unique landscape of the county, our program must be very diverse and comprehensive to encourage the wise use of the nature resources. This would not be possible without the working partnerships and volunteers to help with the effort. From the individual who works the land to the teacher in the school and everyone in between, much is being done. The individuals and groups are too numerous to list and many go unnoticed, but you know who you are and should take much satisfaction from your efforts. Thank you. YOU make a difference.

Most encouraging to me is the new way of looking at conservation that many are taking. No longer is resource conservation just putting practices on the land, it is also putting an attitude and approach in the mind. An attitude and approach that results in well thought out actions that consider the current and future impact on the nature resources. This is progress.

As we look to the coming year many opportunities and challenges await the Dickinson SWCD. We hope to assist the schools in furthering their efforts of teaching resource conservation by drawing a nucleus of educators together to identify needs and find ways to address those needs. Our water quality efforts and projects will continue to be a priority. Another important emphasis will be to work closely with farmers to insure they are aware of and are able to apply their resource conservation plans that need to be in place for compliance with farm program eligibility.

A year of cooperation and working together as conservation partners is past and another is beginning. As the Soil Conservation Service continues to assist the Dickinson Soil and Water conservation District, we look forward to working together with you to make things happen.

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RESTORATION OF WETLANDS--The restoration of wetlands in "critical" drainage areas of the lakes watershed has been one of the initiatives of the Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation Districts Clean Water Project.

The small but very important restored wetlands will act as filters to intercept soil run-off and trap phosphorous, nitrogen, and other contaminants before they enter our lakes.



They also provide landscape diversity, wildlife habitat, and help stabilize lake levels throughout the year.

These restored wetlands in the lakes watershed are protected through perpetual conservation easements in cooperation with the property landowner. The landowner retains ownership but agrees to protect these areas forever.

Clean Water Alliance For The Iowa Great Lakes

by Karmin Blunt, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and other members of the Clean Water Alliance have worked together on many projects to protect and enhance the water quality in the Iowa Great Lakes.

Protecting and restoring wetlands and surrounding upland has been one of our areas of focus. In 1992 alone, we have permanently protected over 500 acres of land in critical drainage areas around the lakes. These areas help to trap and filter out sediments and pollutants before they enter the water. They also provide habitat for wildlife and recreational areas for birdwatching, hunting, and fishing.

In addition to landscape restoration and protection, we are also implementing various educational programs to teach local residents and visitors about the fragile ecology of the lakes region and how they can become involved in the protection of this natural resource.

The Urban Clean Lakes Program began last spring and was designed to help homeowners realize that what is done on their relatively small pieces of land can have a substantial impact on the quality of the lake water. By practicing simple procedures such as using low-phosphorus fertilizers and following proper application recommendations, a great deal of nutrient run-off can be prevented from entering the water body.

We are also currently in the process of developing two additional educational programs. One is a visual program to be shown at the Iowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum. This slide presentation will be the cornerstone of the Alliance's educational efforts and will address soil and water conservation, fertilizer and pesticide reduction, and the importance of wetlands and grassy uplands. The other educational program deals with the prevention of the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil and Zebra Mussels. Signs will be placed at all lake access points and literature on this potential problem will be available to the public.

These are just a few of the projects that Alliance members have been together working on. Public and private contributions and continuous partnerships between Alliance members are essential to the success of protecting the lakes for future generations.

The Alliance members and supporting organizations include: Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; Coors 2000 Program; Dickinson County Conservation Board; Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District; Dickinson County Board of Supervisors; Ducks Unlimited; East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation; E.T. Meredith Foundation; Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; Iowa State University Extension Service; Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission; Okoboji Protective Association; Okoboji Yacht Club; Pheasants Forever; Spirit Lake Protective Association; University of Okoboji Foundation; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

For additional information on the Clean Water Alliance activities, contact the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation at (712) 336-0774.

1992 Brings Many New Activities

by David W. Beck

Area Conservationist
SCS - USDA

The past year has been an exciting and challenging year for the Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District. The commissioners and staff have undertaken a variety of new activities and programs to assist the people within the District to protect and enhance their soil, water, and related resources.

One brand new program for the District is the Water Quality Incentives Program (WQIP) for the Iowa Great Lakes. The WQIP is a program created by the 1990 Farm Bill, which provides for locally planned projects to be developed to solve water quality problems through voluntary incentives rather than regulations. The project application was recently approved by USDA at the national level. Depending on the specific need of their land and how it affects the project's objectives, farmers within the Great Lakes watershed will be able to enter into long-term agreements with USDA to implement best management practices. These include nutrient and pesticide manage-

ment, buffer strips, contour farming, and several other actions which will reduce agriculture's impact on the Great Lakes' water quality. At the same time, they will protect the soil resource and help maintain farm profitability. Technical assistance is provided by the Soil Conservation Service and the Iowa Division of Soil Conservation. Financial assistance is provided by ASCS.

Other new activities in the District include the conservation Reserve Program special area, the formation of the Iowa Lakes Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, and the District's role in many of the Clean Water Alliance's activities. It is readily apparent that the Dickinson SWCD is a true leader in natural resource conservation. It is with great pride that the Soil Conservation Service provides assistance to the district in these, and many other programs. We look forward to many more years of our partnership with the Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District.

All programs and services of the Soil Conservation Service are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Straight Talk About Your Conservation Plan

This 15 minute video tape gives straight answers to tough compliance questions. In the video conversations between USDA Soil conservation Service Chief Bill Richards and four farmers answer many of the tough questions growers ask about conservation compliance. Richards tackles issues such as flexibility, changing plans, working with SCS field personnel and understanding the appeal system.

A consistent theme in their discussion was the desire to keep farm operations profitable, compliance plans flexible and conservation methods effective.

Straight Talk was produced by the National Corn Growers Association in cooperation with the SCS, NACD, Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC), American Soybean Association (ASA), and the National Cotton Council (NCC).

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Spirit Lake, Iowa
Phone 336-3260

Lake Park Lumber

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Phone 832-3581

CLEAN WATER PROJECT FOR THE IOWA GREAT LAKES

Protecting Water Quality through Landscape Restoration and Education

For decades the Iowa Great Lakes area has fascinated outdoor enthusiasts. Swimming, fishing, boating and other recreational activities at "the Lakes" attract over one million vacationers each year from several states and are enjoyed by permanent residents as well.

The economic, environmental and recreational viability of the Iowa Great Lakes region revolves around water quality. We need to work together to protect and enhance that basic, vital resource.

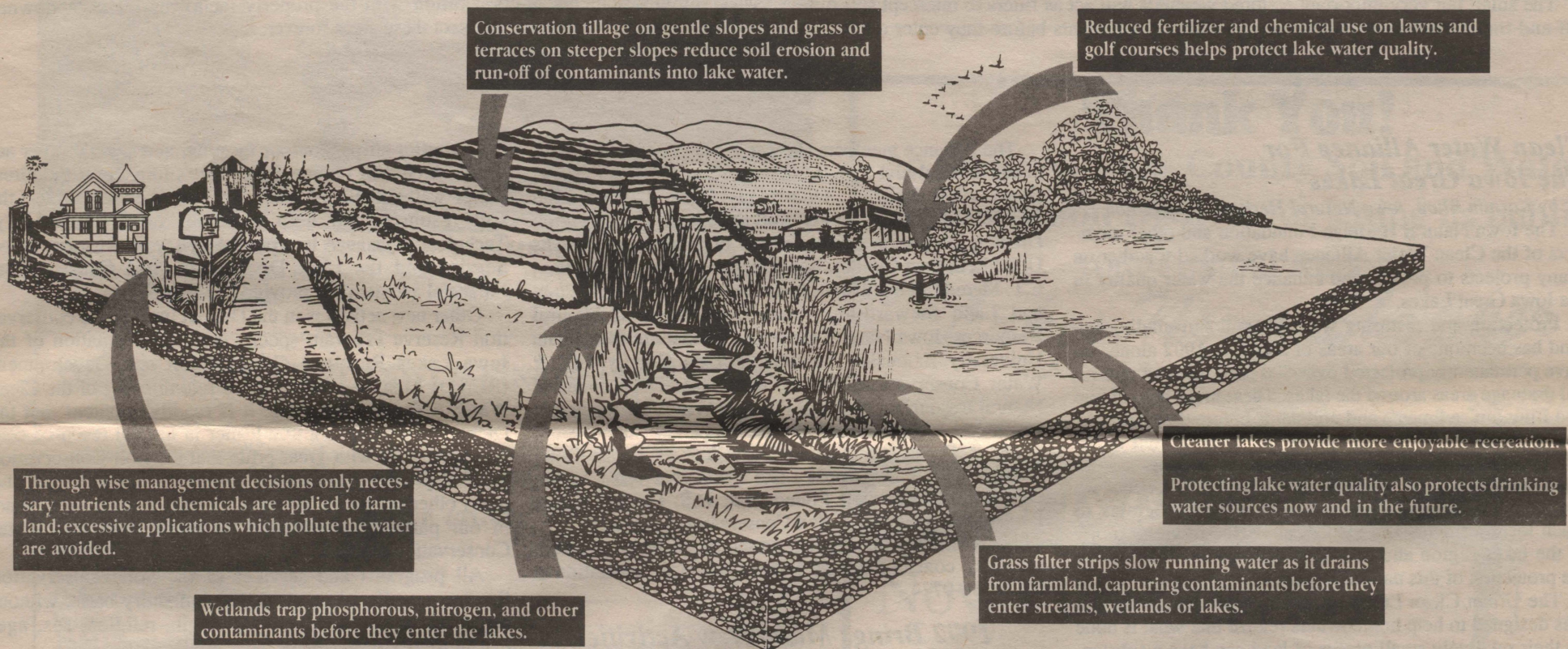
A primary concern is "algal blooms" – algae growth which seasonally causes the lake water to look green and may produce an odor. Algal blooms can be caused by

phosphorous in the water which drains into the lakes from surrounding residential and agricultural land. This run-off can also bring sediment and chemicals which degrade the lakes.

Fortunately lake conditions can be improved. The Clean Water Alliance for the Iowa Great Lakes is an action group of individuals and agricultural, recreational and environmental groups dedicated to protecting the Iowa Great Lakes through a wide range of special efforts. To help reduce pollution and ensure clean water, the Alliance focuses resources and expertise on landscape restoration and protection as well as information and assistance to landowners within the watershed.

The goal of the Alliance and its Clean Water Project for the Iowa Great Lakes is to enhance lake water quality for the near future and protect it in the long term. A project such as this requires time, cooperation and a great deal of public support.

Public and private contributions and continuous partnerships are essential to the success of this project. This support is rapidly building because the Iowa Great Lakes are a treasure worth protecting. People who have enjoyed these glacial lakes and the prairie pothole region of Iowa are joining the Alliance as partners for clean water.



Before You Plant Your Windbreak....

Consider the many benefits of windbreaks. They can protect your home and farmstead against wind and blowing snow and soil. At the same time they reduce energy needs for heating your home by as much as 30 percent, windbreaks can also reduce weight loss of livestock, and provide food and shelter for wildlife. Windbreaks provide privacy and landscape interest year round.

The height and density of the trees in the windbreak determines how much protection, although low, branching deciduous trees and shrubs can also significantly reduce wind speed and are a good choice in certain situations.

As a general guide for placement, windbreaks reduce wind velocity for a distance about 10 times the height of the trees, with maximum wind reduction at 2 to 5 times the windbreak height.

With any windbreak, it is important to keep weeds and grass out, with cultivation, herbicides or landscape material to reduce competition for water and nutrients. The

Dickinson County SWCD Commissioners offer landscape material as part of their yearly tree and shrub sales to cooperators.

For assistance or information in planning your windbreak or wildlife planting, please contact the Soil Conservation office in Spirit Lake. Cost-sharing will again be available for farmstead/field windbreaks and wildlife areas. To receive cost-sharing on your windbreak, you must receive technical assistance in planning your windbreak. David Kohlhaase, SCS technician is available by appointment to help cooperators in Dickinson County.

Improve Wildlife Through Conservation Farming

Soil and water conservation practices give conservation farms distinctive patterns of trees, shrubs, grass, cultivated crops, and water areas that make good wildlife habitat.

Wildlife must have food and a place to live. Food, cover,

and water for wildlife are by-products of soil and water conservation practices. That is why stripcropping, hedges, windbreaks, field borders, ponds, and many other conservation practices are signs of good hunting and fishing.

Establish Field Borders

End rows running up and down the hill could be twice as susceptible to soil erosion than those rows planted across the slope. The best way to stop that erosion is to seed those end rows down to grass or legumes, a conservation practice known to many farmers as field borders.

Field borders provide a turning area for farm equipment while stopping erosion that would otherwise occur on end rows. The grass or legume covered area may be eligible for setaside acreage. Check with ASCS for more details on setaside. See your local SCS office if you need more specific information on establishing field borders.

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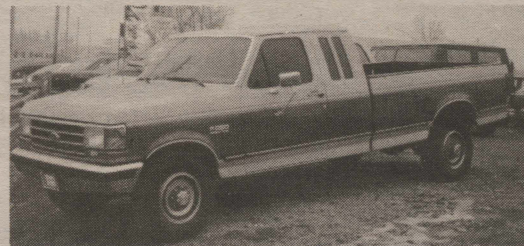
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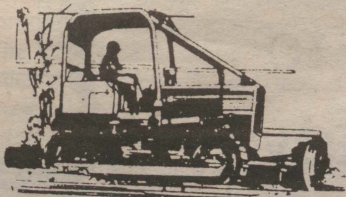
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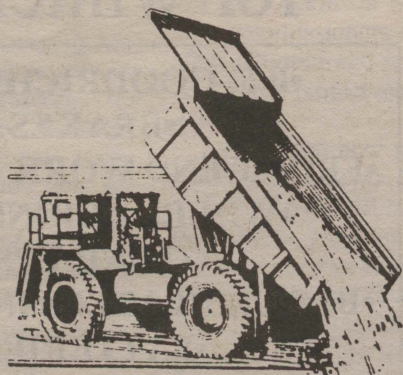
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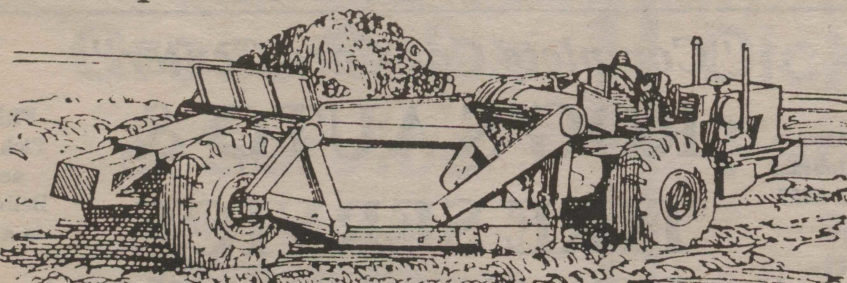
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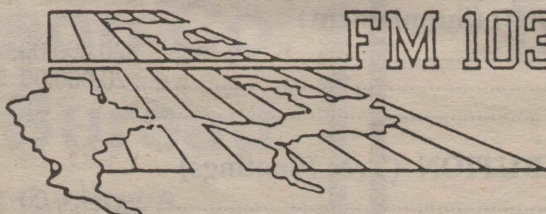
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SOIL CONSERVATION STAFF: Front row, left to right: Leo Preston, David Kohlhaase. Back row: Damarys Maya, Jo Groves, Dierdre Braband. Not pictured is Roger McGinnis.



SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Front row, left to right--Orville J. Berg, Tim Hemphill, Jared Herbert. Back row: Chris Hoffman, Mark Ingwersen, Maurice Dougal.

DICKINSON COUNTY SWCD FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 1992

Expenditures of funds provided by the State of Iowa for District Commissioner's Expenses, Office Supplies & Expenses, and Office Equipment.

DISTRICT 1M FUNDS BUDGET (91-92)

Allocation from State	\$1,992.00
Commissioner Expenses	1,189.59
Office Supplies & Expenses	508.42
Printing	293.99
Total Expenditures	1,992.00
Released to DSC	-0-

3M BUDGET - IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The 3M Budget provides cost-share assistance to landowners for installing permanent soil and water conservation practices.

1991-1992 Allocation	\$17,749.00
Amount Obligated or Spent	5,235.40
Unobligated Amount	12,513.60

REAP (Resource Enhancement & Protection Practices)

1991-1992 Allocation	\$ 6,342.00
Amount Obligated or Spent	4,259.74
Unobligated Amount	2,082.26

REAP (Forestry/Native Grasses)

1991-1992 Allocation	\$ 1,634.00
Amount Obligated or Spent	1,356.42
Unobligated Amount	277.58

WATER PROTECTION FUND

1991-1992 Allocation	\$20,000.00
Amount Obligated or Spent	20,000.00
Unobligated Amount	-0-

WATER PROTECTION FUND (Supplement)

1992-1992 Allocation	\$20,000.00
Amount Obligated or Spent	20,000.00
Unobligated Amount	-0-

COUNTY FUNDS CONTRIBUTION (Tree Plantings)

1992 Allocation	500.00
Amount Obligated or Spent	395.41
Balance Carried for 1993	104.59

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Office Address:
Jct. Highway 9 & 71 RR Box 5783
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
(712) 336-2604

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS:

(Elected for a 6-year term at general elections)

Mark Ingwersen, Chairman	Superior Township
Chris Hoffman, Vice-Chair	Lakeville Township
Tim Hemphill, Secretary	Okoboji Township
Orville J. Berg	Center Grove Township
Jared Herbert	Silver Lake Township
Maurice Dougal (Assistant Commissioner)	Westport Township
Karmin Blunt (Assistant Commissioner)	Center Grove Township

SPIRIT LAKE FIELD OFFICE STAFF:

Leo J. Preston, SCS District Conservationist	Field Office, Spirit Lake
David L. Kohlhaase, SCS Technician	Field Office, Spirit Lake
Roger McGinnis, Environmental Specialist	Field Office, Spirit Lake
Jo Groves, District Secretary	Field Office, Spirit Lake
Deirdre Braband, WAE	Field Office, Spirit Lake
Peggy Curry, EARTH TEAM Volunteer	Field Office, Spirit Lake
Clarence Call, EARTH TEAM Volunteer	Field Office, Spirit Lake

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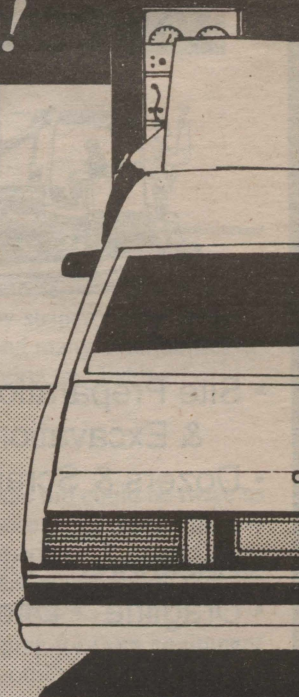
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ASCS Programs Promoted

Since the 1930s, USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service has actively promoted the wise use of our land and water in partnership with Farmers through cost shared conservation programs. These programs look to the best long-term use of the county's agricultural lands and the waters that flow through them.

Conservation practices to prevent soil loss and water pollution have public benefits that justify cost sharing and technical assistance by the Federal government. These practices are not immediately profitable to the individual farmer or rancher, but help all of the general public by maintaining the productivity of agriculture. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers a number of programs to help rural land owners and operators conserve the soil, maintain the fertility of the land, keep the water of the streams and lakes clear and usable and promote a flourishing wildlife.

This past year has been extremely exciting for ASCS and especially farmers and landowners in Dickinson County whereby several initiatives for new conservation programs were undertaken by your Dickinson County ASCS office.

In conjunction with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) an application for priority designation for Conservation Reserve Program signups was submitted and approved for the watershed of the Iowa Great Lakes. This application was approved by the Iowa State ASCS Committee and the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. and provided special consideration for approval of CRP bids submitted in the last CRP bid application period whereby the land offered was physically located within the watershed of the Iowa Great Lakes.

Another conservation program was applied for that provides both financial and technical assistance to farmers to enhance water quality by obtaining a source reduction of agricultural pollutants. This program is called the Water Quality Incentive Project, again for the Iowa Great Lakes watershed area. Several federal agencies were involved in formulating the application that was recently approved. Those involved were ASCS, SCS and Cooperative Extension Service. Water quality Incentive Projects funded by this program provide incentive payments to producers so they can modify management systems to reduce agricultural non point source pollution while maintaining the economic viability of the farm operation. \$88,000 has been allocated to Dickinson County for this program.

An entirely new program identified as the Wetland Reserve Program was introduced in 1992 to area landowners whereby eligible land could be offered for wetland restoration and receive payment from the Department of Agriculture. Though this program received a lot of initial interest no land was actually offered in the sign up period of the Wetland Reserve Program.

The Conservation Reserve Program continues to receive interest from area landowners and operators. A 1992 signup generated added interest and 7 additional acceptable CRP bids were received.

Certainly the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) is the primary means for ASCS to help county farmers to carry out conservation and environmental practices. The program is designed to solve soil, water and related resource problems through cost sharing. ACP assistance is available to install a variety of soil saving practice including terraces, grass cover, sod waterways and other measures to control erosion. These practices also help farmers reduce sediment, chemicals and livestock waste that contaminate streams and lakes. Cost sharing is provided to install or construct needed conservation practices to landowners/operators who could not or would not establish the practices selected by farmer-elected County ASC Committee persons from a list approved by the Iowa State ASC Committee and the Secretary of Agriculture. The county ASC Committee approves the practices only after being assured that cost-shares will be used to carry out en-

during soil and water conservation measures.

ASCS administers various other conservation programs and they are conducted in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies and conservation organizations. If anyone would like to take advantage of any of these voluntary programs including cost sharing, please contact the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office at 712-336-3782.

--Larry Lago
ASCS Executive Director

Iowa DNR Makes Progress With Wetland and Shelterbelt Developments

by Doug Harr, DNR Wildlife Biologist

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources continued to make headway in wildlife habitat restoration projects during 1992. Working in close cooperation with the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District, private landowners received funding or assistance with restoration of four wetlands and two major windbreak establishment projects.

Wetlands continue to be a top priority with DNR wildlife officials, especially in Dickinson County. The county is dotted with drained marsh basins, which, with a little planning and engineering, can often be readily restored to their near-original conditions. For landowners with a desire to convert poorly drained croplands, including CRP, pastures or other suitable areas into marshes, for the purposes of wildlife habitat, erosion control, water conservation and other such purposes, DNR has a no-cost program available to landowners. Upon landowner request, DNR will conduct a feasibility study to determine if wetland restoration is possible. If so, the landowner simply signs a 10-20 year maintenance agreement, and DNR will restore the wetland, using monies provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the SWCD's Clean Water Project which can offer a one-time cash payment to landowners willing to permanently preserve either natural or restored wetlands on their farms.

Iowa DNR also continues offering a cost-share program paying up to 75% of the cost of establishing 8-row or larger windbreaks on local farms or acreages. In addition, if ACP cost-share monies are available through the local ASCS office, then DNR and ASCS funds may be combined, paying up to 90% of windbreak establishment costs. Information on applying for either the wetland restoration or windbreak establishment programs may be obtained by contacting DNR area wildlife staff or the Dickinson County SWCD office.

In 1992, DNR restored four wetlands on private lands and picked up most of the tab on two large windbreak projects in the county. Planning was also begun for several more wetland restoration projects, for which the actual work will likely be completed in 1993.

Iowa DNR has established a close working relationship with the Dickinson SWCD. This healthy partnership can offer the agencies' combined powers to better serve wildlife habitat and other conservation needs on the farm. It makes for a program that works in the farmers' interests while improving our natural environment.

Introducing Damarys Maya

My name is Damarys Maya. I am a Soil Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, U.S.D.A., in Spirit Lake, effective September 28, 1992.

I am from Puerto Rico, which is a small island in the Caribbean. Mayaguez is my home town, and is where I attended the University of Puerto Rico. I have a bachelor degree in Agricultural Science.

My new position is an adventure and a challenge for me. I am looking forward to my SCS training, meeting people, and learning the American culture.

"Our Treasured Trees" Is Theme Of Soil & Water Stewardship Week

APRIL 26 - MAY 3, 1992

The purpose of Soil and Water Stewardship Week is to create a larger awareness of our responsibilities for stewardship of the natural resources that sustain us all. Stewardship observances can also draw public attention to local resource problems, and efforts being made in the community to help solve them.

In our country, the decision to set aside a week each year to acknowledge the gift of soil and all the bountiful resources associated with it has met an evident need for a great many people. The week--now known as Soil and Water Stewardship Week--has become a special time to remind all people that these gifts warrant their best in creative conservation and considerate management.

The Dickinson County SWCD, which works throughout the year on soil and water conservation measures, provided church bulletin covers, program inserts, and children's educational supplements were provided free to the churches in the county. The Commissioners also furnished literature, educational materials, posters and speakers that describe how people are dependent upon and interact with trees.

Outdoor Classroom Is A Huge Success

The annual sixth grade outdoor classroom September 17th had 200-plus participants. Each year, during the fall, the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Soil Conservation Service sponsor the outdoor classroom. The classroom is held at the Kettleston-Hogsback area, west of Spirit Lake. This area provides facilities for indoor classrooms and a variety of outdoor situations. What makes the annual event such a success is the location and all the people that are involved.

The instructors included volunteers, paid speakers, District staff and Department of Natural Resources employees. This year the program included presentations on Orphan and Injured Wildlife, Soil Conservation, and Indian Lore. Hands on adventures included a Nature Trail and Upland Wildlife, Wildlife Birds and Hunting Dogs, Fish and Fisheries, Wild Geese, and a new segment was featured on the Iowa Great Lakes (water quality).

The day was filled with education, entertainment, fun and a beautiful setting. The children and everyone involved enjoyed the day very much.

Conservation Catalog for the 1990s

A new 20 page, fully illustrated publication is now available to Dickinson County farmers to help them make conservation choices.

The "Conservation Catalog for the 1990s" explains 19 soil conservation practices in detail. It also lists 18 conservation systems that meet conservation compliance requirements in Iowa.

There are photographs and explanations of all practices listed. Some of our SCS specifications are outlined and there are tips on how to install and use the practices.

The catalog is intended to show alternative conservation practices and systems, to offer choices to producers who are looking for a change in their conservation plans.

The catalog and other helpful conservation materials are available at the Soil Conservation Office in Spirit Lake.

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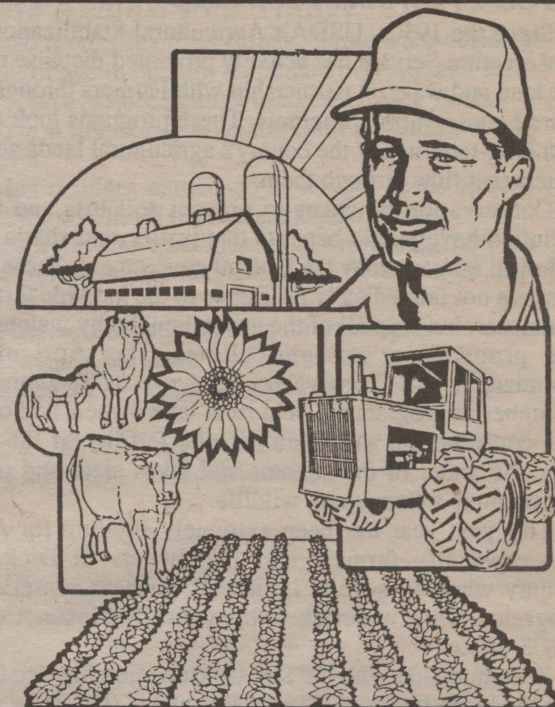
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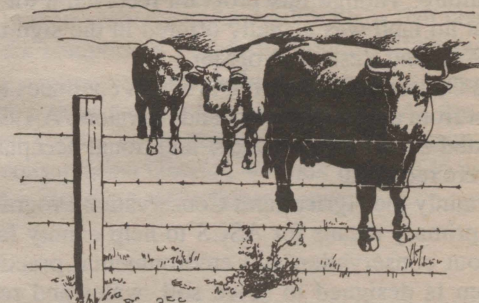
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