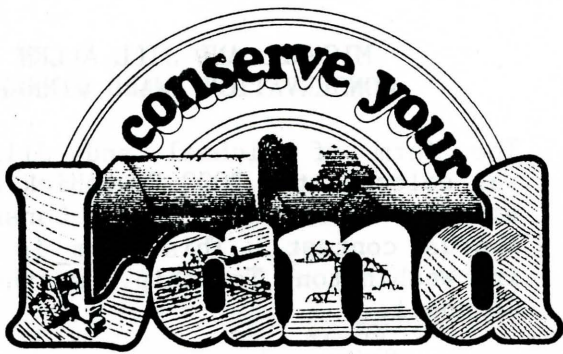




POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 216
Malcom, Iowa 50157-0216

(641) 528-2065

Assisted by

U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation
Service

COMMISSIONERS

Coleen VanDyke, Chairman
James Hansen, Vice-Chairman
Roger VanErsvelde, Treasurer
Duane Loftin, Commissioner
Bryan Beaderstadt, Commissioner
Ron Clayton, Assistant Commissioner

OFFICE STAFF

Darol Wilson, District Conservationist
Raymond Drewelow, Technician
Clifford Foster, Technician
Carol Brown, District Secretary

**52ND ANNUAL REPORT
2000 FISCAL YEAR**

THANK YOU

Thank you, Russell Winburn and Douglas Mikel, both of Grinnell, for your many years of service as Commissioners on the board of the Poweshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District. This fall, these two Commissioners decided not to seek re-election. Russ served as Commissioner beginning in 1990 and Doug began in 1992. Both of these individuals were dedicated in carrying out their duties as board members.

FOOD PLOTS FOR WILDLIFE

Food plots can benefit many types of wildlife. They serve as supplemental or emergency food supplies during extreme cold or snow in winter months, or may help wildlife get ready for winter. You can attract the wildlife you want to see on your land by choosing the food and cover they favor as their habitat.

Food plots work well in or near protected grassland or woodland areas that offer good shelter and water but are lacking an adequate supply of food. In particular, food plots are a good idea on CRP land.

Land varies in its capability to support wildlife; changes in habitat will affect species other than those that may be emphasized in any food plot plan. For help in establishing food plots and other habitat for wildlife, contact your local NRCS office.

BACKYARD CONSERVATION

Backyard ponds are typically small, sometimes no larger than 3 to 4 feet in diameter. They may be built in barrels or other patio containers. Water is effective in drawing wildlife to your backyard. It is also a natural relaxing and scenic addition that can provide interest and enjoyment.

Consider locating your backyard pond where you can see it from a deck or patio. Have it blend in with its natural surroundings. Elevate the soil around the pond slightly so that excess water will flow away from the pond, not into it. Make sure that any drainage from the pond is away from your house. Plan to landscape around the pond to provide habitat for frogs and birds that need land and water. If you plan to use a pump to recirculate water, use a filter or light the area, be sure electrical service is available. There will be less maintenance if your pond is not under trees. Most aquatic plants will grow better in full sun.

**SARAH DEJONG IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE
WINDBREAK AWARD WINNER**

A farmstead windbreak on the Sarah DeJong farm located in West Jackson Township was selected as local winner in the Izaak Walton League windbreak contest. This windbreak is an excellent example of a sound barrier and privacy fence. Scotch pine, blue spruce and Eastern red cedar make up this windbreak, along with honeysuckle shrubs.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF STATE FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000**

1-M BUDGET (2000 FY)

Total allocation:	\$3,000.00
Disbursements:	
Commissioner Expenses	\$951.74
Office Supplies & Postage	\$996.29
Printing	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$1,948.03
Released to State	\$1,051.97
Balance of Account	\$0

IFIP Funds

1998-99 Allocation	\$116,311.62
Spent	\$116,311.62
Obligated	\$0
Balance	\$0
1999-00 Allocation	\$154,829.00
Spent	\$125,990.88
Obligated	\$0
Balance	\$28,838.12
2000-01 Allocation	\$90,023.00
Spent	\$46,675.89
Obligated	\$23,690.50
Balance	\$19,656.61

All IFIP funds allocated to farmers for financial assistance on conservation projects.

REAP Forestry/Native Grass - 01 FY

Total Allocation	\$1,849.00
Spent	\$0
Obligated	\$900.00
Balance	\$949.00

REAP Practices - 01 FY

Total Allocation	\$7,288.00
Spent	\$0
Obligated	\$0
Balance	\$7,288.00

REAP program funds can be used for forestry and native grass plantings as well as windbreaks and other water and soil protection practices.

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

District winners of the 2000 Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest were as follows:

Jessica L. Plants, Brooklyn, Division 1, **Joe M. Sorensen**, Division 2, **Lacey D. Kriegel**, Division 3 and **Ryan E. Keller** Division 5.

These winners were selected by the District Commissioners from posters submitted by students in Poweshiek County, grades K-12. They advanced on to Regional competition. The theme this year was "Community Waters". The poster contest is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary.

**MICHAEL AND JILL ALLEN
CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER**

The farm of Michael and Jill Allen was selected the 2000 Poweshiek District winner in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards contest. This farm is located in Washington Township, southeast of Grinnell.

This farm is a good example of conservation practices, including terraces, water and sediment control basins, a pond and a windbreak, which provide protection from soil erosion in conjunction with sustainable growth.

The Allen's show a diversity in farming interests including beef cattle production, along with a corn-soybean rotation and permanent pasture.

SIGN UP FOR COST-SHARE

Wondering what to do this winter? This is a very good time to begin planning for those conservation practices you have been wanting to do. Visit the soil conservation office and complete a cost-share application for terraces, waterways, ponds, etc. Also, now is a good time to check into the benefits of filter strips and contour buffers. Getting your application done early allows us the opportunity to get cost estimates done and presented to the Commissioners for approval. This will also allow more time to line up a contractor before their schedules are full. We will be looking forward to visiting with you.

**HISTORY OF CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS**

In 1937, as the Dust Bowl focused attention on soil erosion, President Roosevelt sent a model law to governors recommending legislation that would allow landowners to form voluntary soil conservation districts. The legislation was adopted by Iowa's legislature in 1939 and the first conservation district was formed. By 1952, all of the land in Iowa was served by Conservation Districts.

All NRCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.