



Section B
March 22, 1995
Ida Grove, Iowa 51445

Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District 1945-1995

50 Years of Conserving Our Soil and Water

A special edition to the Ida County Courier

Ida County's soil district takes shape in 1945

Conservation in Ida County began more than 50 years ago with concern about excessive soil erosion. Iowa State University Extension Service personnel worked with area farmers at first.

County Extension Director Donald H. Dodge. Petitions were circulated by 21 leaders throughout the county and on Jan. 13, 1945 the district was voted in.

The following men were elected commissioners: Henry Dall, Battle Creek; chairman; Edward C. Perion, Ida Grove; and J. B. Scott, Danbury. Donald H. Dodge was appointed secretary of the district. A county organization of land owners and farm operators was then established to develop and handle the soil and water problems of Ida County.

Another objective was to provide assistance to landowners and operators in planning their fields. This assistance assures conservation and proper soil management in order to maintain and build fertility, control erosion, conserve moisture and put each acre to the use to which it is best adapted.

Other objectives included providing soil surveys, technical assistance for soil and farm management, flood control, promoting wildlife habitat, enjoyment of the outdoors, and long range planning for all these objectives.

The District also encouraged cooperative action between all organizations, agencies, groups and individuals handling problems of soil, water and land use.

The law establishing districts was amended in July 1970 to include towns and cities. It was realized that soil and water problems existed in cities so changing the law gave the districts the ability to provide the same assistance to all.

In February 1971 the law was changed to increase the number of district commissioners from three to five, each elected in the November general election and serving staggered six year terms. To further emphasize the changes in conservation, the Ida County Soil Conservation District became the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District in July 1987.

On Feb. 19, 1995 the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District officially celebrated 50 years of assisting its residents. The commissioners will be celebrating this 50th anniversary all year.

The State Certificate of Organization was issued Feb. 19, 1945. The term of one commissioner expired every two years a

which time a commissioner was publicly elected to fill the position. The three commissioners had complete charge of the district.

The purpose of the Ida County Soil Conservation District is to aid

the people of Ida County with their soil and water conservation problems. The district was born on the philosophy of helping the people help themselves with these problems.

A list of district objectives included making available educational materials and providing assistance which was to bring about a clear understanding of the soil, water, and related difficulties of the district.

Celebrating 50 years of conservation—

Dale Cochran is speaker at anniversary banquet

The Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a banquet this Friday, March 24, 6:30 p.m. at Skate Palace in Ida Grove.

Dinner will be catered by the Ida County Pork Producers and the Ida County Cattlemen's Association. Tickets are \$7.50 each and reservations may be made by calling the SWCD office at 364-2124.

Advance tickets are also available from Lloyd Rickers, Robert Croxell, Everett Stull, Alan Van Houten or Rodney Jensen.

Friday's program will begin with a welcome by emcee Mason Goodenow of Battle Creek, with invocation by the Rev. Ben Ray of the First Presbyterian Church in Battle Creek. Introductions by Bob Croxell, chairman of the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District, will follow the meal.

The featured speaker will be Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Dale Cochran, who is serving his ninth year in that capacity. His post culminates a career of more than 30 years of farming and public service, including 22 years as a member of the Iowa House of Representatives.

Cochran became the first Democrat in more than 50 years to be reelected as secretary of agriculture in 1990 and was elected to a third term in 1994.

During his legislative career, he established the nation's first state soil conservation cost share program in 1972. He was also instrumental in establishing farmer medi-

ation and mortgage foreclosure moratorium programs. As a legislator, Cochran served four years each as speaker of the House, minority floor leader and chair of the House Agriculture Committee.

In his current post he reorganized the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to aggressively promote Iowa's farm commodities and value-added products. He established a marketing divi-

sion; Agricultural Diversification and International Trade Bureau; and an Office of Renewable Fuels and Co-Products.

Cochran is past president of the Midwestern Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the Mid-America International Agriculture Council. He is a former board member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Cochran earned his BA degree in agriculture from Iowa State University, is a former farm editor, county Extension youth assistant and county Extension director. He is a lifetime member of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.

Cochran has received numerous honors, including the National Agri-Marketing Association's Friend of Agriculture Award, FFA Distinguished Service Award, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture Alumni Award of Merit, Iowa Agricultural Law Hall of Fame, and Friend of Extension Award.

He and his wife Jeannene have three married daughters.

Cochran's talk will be followed by comments from Leroy Brown, state conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and James Gulliford, director of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Croxell will recognize 1994 award winners, before Goodenow's closing comments.



Dale Cochran

Transformations are numerous—

Ag production has changed the face of Ida County farms

The last 120 years of agricultural production has dramatically changed the face of Ida County. The waving expanses of prairie grass, the rounded valley floors, and the meandering streams and marshes have been transformed.

Today we see a continuous acreage of corn and soybeans, gullied draws and straightened and deepened creeks and streams.

The land turned by the breaking plow was among some of the most productive known to man. Deep, rich topsoil had formed under countless years of tallgrass prairie. These fertile loess derived soils proved to be very erosive. Clean tillage methods promoted tremendous losses of topsoil, in some places exposing the less productive subsoil layer.

Runoff from unprotected slopes

concentrated in valleys, cutting deep gullies which carried away great amounts of soil and damaged fields, roads and farmsteads. Straightened creeks ran faster and cut deeper, lowering water tables and causing damage to stream banks and road crossings.

Sounds pretty ominous, doesn't it? Ida County farmers of the early 1900s recognized these things as problems which needed immediate attention. They organized a soil conservation district, which was established in February 1945.

The district commissioners cooperated with the USDA Soil Conservation Service to develop long range plans to protect the farmland in Ida County. The conservation district's programs were designed to reduce erosion and other damages which result from exces-

sive runoff.

The district commissioners and the Extension Service conducted information and demonstration projects to show farmers methods to control erosion and increase productivity. Crop rotations which included meadow, contouring and grass buffer strips were some of the early practices used on Ida County farms.

As the years passed and change came to the rural community, additional practices were implemented. Terraces and strip cropping were used effectively to stop runoff. Conservation tillage, which leaves large amounts of crop residue on the soil surface after planting, has become widespread in recent years.

Terraces have gone through several evolutions in the county. The

(continued on page B2)

1946 through 1995—

A tally of past commissioners

Following is a tally of the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners over the past 50 years.

1946—Henry Dall, chairman, Battle Creek; Edwin C. Perion, Ida Grove; J. B. Scott, Danbury

1947—Henry Dall, Chr. Battle

Creek; Edwin C. Perion, Ida Grove; Ross E. Baumann, Cushing

1948—Henry Dall, Chr. Battle Creek; Edwin C. Perion, Ida Grove; Ross E. Baumann, Cushing; Ray D. Bresnahan, treasurer

1949—Ross E. Baumann Chr. Cushing; Henry Dall Battle Creek;

H. L. Elk Galva; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove

1950—Ross E. Baumann Chr. Cushing; Henry Dall Battle Creek; H. L. Elk Galva; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove

1951—Ross E. Baumann Chr. Cushing; Henry Dall Battle Creek; H. L. Elk Galva Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove

1952—Ross Baumann Chr. Cushing; Henry Dall Battle Creek; H. L. Elk Galva; David Bruce Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove

1953—H. L. Elk Chr. Galva; W. F. Burrow Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove

1954—H. L. Elk Chr. Galva; W. F. Burrow Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove

1955—W. F. Burrow Chr. Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow Battle Creek; C. C. Challman Galva; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove

1956—W. F. Burrow Chr. Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow Battle Creek; C. C. Challman Galva; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove; Arnold Putensen Sec. Holstein

1957—C. C. Challman Chr. Galva; Wm. Rossow Battle Creek; W. F. Burrow Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove; Arnold Putensen Sec. Holstein

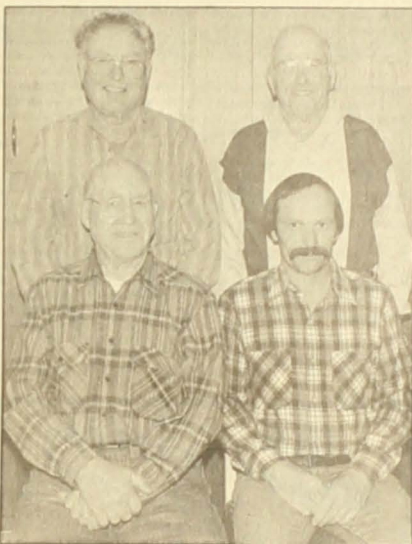
1958—C. C. Challman Chr. Galva; Wm. Rossow Battle Creek; W. F. Burrow Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove; Arnold Putensen Sec. Holstein

1959—Chester Challman Chr. Galva; W. F. Burrow Battle Creek; Wm. Rossow Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove; Arnold Putensen Sec. Holstein

1960—Wm. Rossow Chr. Battle Creek; W. F. Burrow Battle Creek; Henry Bruce Battle Creek; Ray Bresnahan Treia, Ida Grove; Arnold Putensen Sec. Holstein

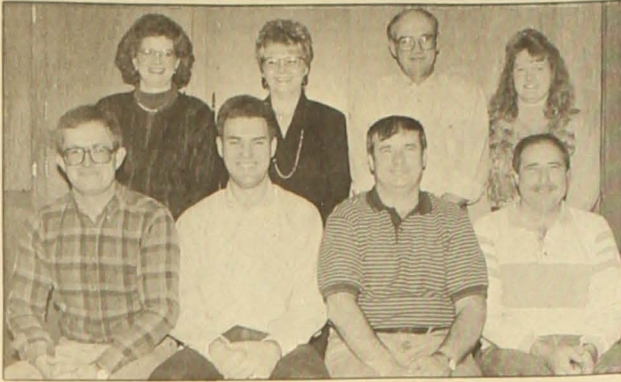
1961—Wm. Rossow Chr. Battle Creek; W. F. Burrow Battle

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Conservation commission

Five area men head up the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service) Commission. They are, front from left, Bob Croxell of Holstein and Rod Jensen of Ida Grove. In back, Lloyd Rickers of Kiron and Everett Stull of Cushing. Alan Van Houten of Battle Creek is also a commissioner. (Courier photo by John Montgomery)



Natural resources

For the past 50 years, Ida County farmers have depended upon help from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) when it came to conserving their farms' topsoil. Lending a helping hand to farmers today are, from left, Randy Sohm, soil conservation techni-

cian; Neil Stockfleth, district conservationist; Jerry Sindt, soil conservationist; and Carl Lee, soil conservation technician. In back, Carol Thomson, soil conservation technician; Arlis Bahnsen, state secretary; Ron Winterhof, soil conservation aide; and Barb Knudsen, soil conservation aide. (Courier photo by John Montgomery)

Eight employees currently serve the Ida County district

Following are profiles of the Ida County Soil Conservation District's current employees.

Neil Stockfleth, district conservationist, and wife Beth live in Sergeant Bluff. They have two children, Nathan, 7, and Kristen, 5. Neil has been employed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service since 1987. He worked in the Sioux City and Anthon Field Offices before transferring to Ida Grove in April 1994.

Jerry Sindt has been with the NRCS (formerly SCS) since 1987, working in the Ida Grove Field Office as a soil conservationist. Jerry and his family live on the Sindt Family Century Farm in Battle Township near Holstein. His family includes his wife Kathy, son Anthony, 21 of Spirit Lake, and daughters Kimberly, 17, and Paige, 13, at home.

Randy Sohm, conservation technician, and wife Susie, live

northwest of Mapleton. They have five children. Becky, 22, of Iowa City, Kathi and Kristi, 20, of Sioux City, Frank, 15, and Molly, 12, at home. Randy was employed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in January 1974 and transferred to the Natural Resource Conservation Service in 1979.

Carl Lee, state conservation technician, has been with the NRCS for nine years, the last five of which have been working for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Carl and his wife Gaylene live south of Battle Creek. They have two children Traci, 16 and Collin, 13.

Arlis Bahnsen, state secretary, and husband, John, farm southwest of Schleswig.

They have four children. Travis, 25, of Lincoln, Neb.; Brandee Schultz, 22, of Omaha, Neb.; Gina, 20, of Vermillion, S.D.; and Dustin, 17, at home.

Arlis was employed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in March 1990.

Barb Knudsen, soil conservation aide, and husband, Cordell, farm southeast of Ida Grove. Barb began work in September 1994 and is employed by the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Carol Thomson, soil conservation aide, and husband Terry live north of Arthur. They have three children, daughters Morgan, 12, Meghan, 11, and a son Judd, 9. They farm, and have a cow/calf operation. Carol was employed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in September 1990.

Ron Winterhof, soil conservation aide, and wife Jan live north of Ida Grove. They have one daughter, Christine Wunschel of Arthur and have one granddaughter and grandson. Ron was employed by the NRCS in April 1993.



Terracing

More than 12 million feet of terracing has been completed in Ida County since 1946.

Here, a contractor works on a terrace in Ida County in 1968.

As district director/conservationist— Kauffman heads the SCS for more than 25 years

By MIKE THORNHILL

Prior to his retirement in January 1994, Don Kauffman of Ida Grove served the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District for more than half of the organization's 50 years.

Kauffman served as director/district conservationist for Ida County for nearly 26 years.

During that time a variety of programs were offered to area farmers to help them control excess soil erosion.

Kauffman pointed to the Little Sioux program and the Food Security Act of 1985 as two of the more important efforts.

The Little Sioux program was authorized by the United States Congress in 1946.

Kauffman said the first evidence of the program in Ida County came when two watershed projects were constructed east of Ida Grove.

The Little Sioux program continued to provide funding for other watersheds in the years that followed.

Kauffman noted in more recent years the funding emphasis from the Little Sioux program has gone into land treatment.

"That is the reason we were able to build so many terraces in Ida County. A good share of the money came from the Little Sioux pro-

gram," said Kauffman.

The Food Security Act of 1985 required farmers to develop conservation plans for their farms if they wanted to participate in the various government assistance programs.

Kauffman said the act influenced a majority of farmers in the county to do conservation work.

Another law that influenced the conservation effort in Ida County was the conservancy law passed in the early 1970s.

Kauffman said the law gave a farmer the right to file a complaint with the conservation district against a neighboring farmer if that neighbor, through poor farm practices, was allowing soil to deposit on the complaining farmer's land.

Overall, Kauffman said the conservation service programs have been a big success in Ida County.

He said the success is due to money received via the Little Sioux program and because Ida County is a small county.

"It all depends on money," noted Kauffman. "Ida County was in a situation where it could get a lot of money. The fact Ida County is a small county allowed us to concentrate our work in a small area. We got a lot done because of those factors."

Despite the success of conservation programs in Ida County,

Kauffman said there is still plenty to do.

"Even though farmers are supposedly very near to being in compliance with the deadlines set by the Food Security Act of 1985 there is still work to do in terms of adding additional terraces," noted Kauffman.

"There has been a big push toward no-till farming," said Kauffman. "That alone isn't going to solve the problem. It depends on how much emphasis farmers put on it and how successful it is."

If farmers find out over a period of time they're not getting good weed control and crop yields they'll abandon no-till. Then they will go back to more tillage and they'll need more terraces as a control feature."

Kauffman noted funding for conservation programs is supposedly going to be reduced by the Department of Agriculture. If it is, Kauffman noted it will have an effect on the conservation efforts of farmers.

"Our job isn't done yet," said Kauffman. "It will depend on what direction some of these things take in the future. It will be interesting to see what happens in the next five to 10 years."



Active conservationist

Don Kauffman of Ida Grove spent a good part of his working years directing the activities of the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District. Kauffman retired in January 1994 after 26 years with the local district. Kauffman now

spends part of his retirement overseeing his Christmas tree farm on the west edge of Ida Grove. Kauffman estimates he has planted between 4,000 and 5,000 trees on the farm. (Courier photo by Mike Thornhill)

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Crawford Creek Recreation Area once first of its kind

The Crawford Creek Recreation Area three and a half miles south of Battle Creek was only a dream when landowners, farm operators, and Soil Conservation Service personnel held the first organizational meetings in March 1965.

Today Crawford Creek, with all its beauty and history, is a reality bringing enjoyment and pleasure to all who travel through its gates. The only one of its kind in the Little Sioux Watershed Flood Prevention Project area, Crawford Creek provides its visitors camping, boating, fishing and swimming.

In March 1965 local landowners, farmers, SCS personnel and other interested parties were invited to many informational meetings. Discussions dealt with the financial cost of the project, cost sharing op-

portunities, land treatment needs of the surrounding area, along with objectives and rewards of the project.

For the next seven to nine years much planning and preparation took place. Twelve drop inlet detention structures, three drop inlet full flow structures, and four inlets on culverts, and the main lake structure were planned. In January 1974 final approval was given to the watershed lake and recreation area. The total cost of the lake was estimated at \$833,240.

The whole watershed project involved 55 landowners and 8,300 acres. The lake and recreation area was centered on four landowners and included 247 acres.

Construction of the structures above the dam were started in July 1975. In the spring of 1976 con-

struction work on the lake itself started.

In August 1976 construction had to stop due to the finding of an archaeological site. A team of archaeologists spent several days searching for prehistoric buffalo bones. Work was able to resume after evidence concluded this was a prehistoric site and not an unusual finding in this area.

By fall 1976 the lake project was completed. It took several more years for the entire recreation area to be completed. In 1981 the park was officially dedicated.

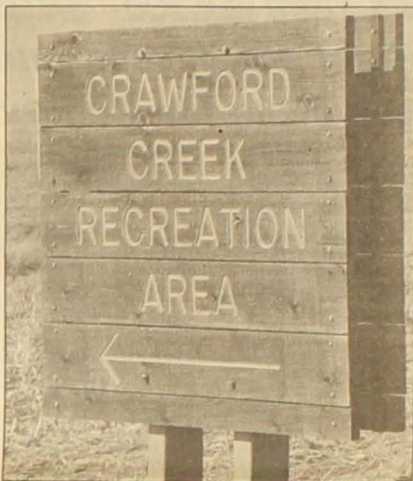
Today area residents are able to enjoy all the benefits this project has created: wildlife, camping, swimming, boating, picnicking, fishing and the beauty of nature.



Park development

Above, Crawford Creek Recreation Area as it appeared before it was officially dedicated in 1981. Below left, today Crawford Creek is a

popular camping, fishing and picnicking spot for Ida County residents and the surrounding area.



Outdoor classroom

The Ida County Soil Conservation Service participates in an outdoor classroom for area students during the 1970's at Moorehead Park.

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Third Generation of Soil Conservation

Brueck travels the globe teaching conservation

By JOHN MONTGOMERY

Retired farmer Dave Brueck has travelled all over the globe teaching conservation methods he learned while growing up and living near Battle Creek.

Although he had witnessed the effects of erosion first hand while still in high school, it was while serving in the Navy during World War II that Brueck began to become a conservationist. He was stationed at three different coastal areas in China during the war and was able to see what long-term erosion damage can do to the land.

After earning a degree from Iowa State University in agriculture engineering, he returned home in 1949 to the farm his grandfather settled in 1880 southeast of Battle Creek to work with his brother, Henry.

It was there he began to put to use conservation methods he learned not only at college, but also from the Soil Conservation Service and his family.

He became one of the first farmers in the county to use contour strip farming—planting different crops like corn, alfalfa and oats in 84-foot-wide strips and following the lay of the land—at his family homestead in an attempt to curb the damage caused by erosion.

Terracing would also have helped stem the erosion damage, Brueck said, but strip farming was a lot less expensive.

Although those methods might seem normal today, they were relatively new ideas at the time. Farmers typically plowed in a square around their fields at that time, he said.

To further help conserve the soil and water, Brueck said his brother installed a device behind the cultivator that built a little dam in the rows to hold back the water.



Global conservationist

Dave Brueck of Ida Grove looks over terraced farmland near the Kirkholm Watershed that his brother, Henry, helped build about a mile north of Highway 175 on M25. Brueck, who has travelled all over the globe teaching con-

Brueck's conservation tactics earned him three awards from 1949 to 1952 from the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce.

In 1952, his uncle, Henry Dall, a commissioner and founding member of the SCS in Ida County, died and the SCS asked Brueck fill the remainder of his uncle's term.

Most of the county's farmers became involved with soil conservation by receiving help from the SCS and its conservationist, Kenneth Burnett, according to Brueck. Burnett was very active with the farmers and commissioners, Brueck said, and helped the farmers with a lot of technical help.

Congress and the SCS also helped the county get its first watershed project in the early 1950s, the Kirkholm Watershed. Brueck's brother, Henry, helped build the watershed, located about a mile north or Highway 175 on M25.

During the 1950s, Brueck said contour strip farming began to gain in popularity, especially in the hilly areas, even though some farmers thought it was a nuisance.

One of the drawbacks was that a farmer would end up with both very long and very short rows of crops. But the practice won converts and helped pave the way for terracing to become more widely accepted.

Brueck said his production went up after he began using the methods. He said the area experienced a few years of little rain, but the conservation methods helped him retain valuable moisture and soil.

Although he quit farming and moved out of Iowa in 1960, agriculture continued to play a very large part in his life.

As a representative of the FMC Corp., the Northern Trust Bank in Chicago and the United Nations, he travelled all over the world to help teach conservation methods to the world's farmers in countries like Russia, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Lebanon, Iran and Jordan.

Erosion damage was so bad in some places, said Brueck, that the soil had been totally washed away, all the way down to bedrock.

Brueck earned his master's degree in business and economics from the University of Arizona before he left America in 1960.

When he returned to the U.S., he taught at Arizona, at Southern Methodist University in Texas and at ISU, and worked as an ISU Extension specialist before retiring in Ida Grove.

Conservation thinking in agriculture has changed over the years, according to Brueck, and will continue to change in the future.

In the past, he said, farmers rotated corn, oats, hay and pasture crops in an attempt to control erosion. The large livestock economy in the county at that time meant farmers had to grow their own feed for the animals, said Brueck.

Now, he said, farmers rotate corn and soybeans and few farms have a large number of livestock.

Even with the various conservation tactics employed today, farmers also have to leave crop residue in the fields to curb erosion, he said.

One of the radical changes in conservation Brueck said he has seen in the last 20 years is the government's subsidy programs encouraging farmers to have only two crops—corn and soybeans—and few if any livestock.

He said the agriculture industry

would be better off if more livestock were brought back to farms.

"Some of the farm programs in the last 20 years have actually discouraged conservation by calling for two crop farming instead of more livestock," according to Brueck.

"If we get more livestock back in the area—particularly cattle—and can make them pay, we can control

erosion," he said, since livestock would make farmers rotate hay and grass with corn and soybeans.

"I would hope we could have farm programs that encouraged soil conservation and made it feasible," he added.

Future conservation plans may be weakened if farm subsidies are cut, warns Brueck, because the agricul-

tural industry will suffer without them. Conservation will help in the long run, he said, but it is up to the government to help.

"A lot of it is going to depend on government encouragement," according to Brueck. "When people become economically pressed, they can't afford to farm in ways to save or conserve farm land."

Many have served Ida County's SCS during the past 50 years

Following is a summary of Ida County Soil Conservation Service employees over the years.

1946—Donald H. Dodge, Extension Director; Kenneth H. Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Robert B. Hollins, Conservation Aide.

1947—Donald Dodge, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Robert B. Hollins, Conservation Aide; Albert M. Murphy, Conservation Aide.

1948—Bruce W. Marcus, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Albert Murphy Jr., Conservation Aide.

1949—Bruce W. Marcus, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Joseph E. Clarey Jr., Soil Conservationist; Albert Murphy Jr., Conservation Aide.

1950—Paul Petersen, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Joseph E. Clarey Jr., Soil Conservationist; Albert Murphy Jr., Conservation Aide.

1951—Paul Petersen, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Bruce Marcus, Soil Conservationist; Willard Roenke, Conservation Aide; George Witters, Conservation Aide.

1952—Paul Petersen, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Bruce Marcus, Soil Conservationist; Willard Roenke, Conservation Aide; George Witters, Conservation Aide.

1953—Paul Petersen, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Bruce Marcus, Soil Conservationist; George Witters, Conservation Aide; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide.

1954—Don Vogel, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Bruce Marcus, Soil Conservationist; George Witters, Conservation Aide; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide.

1955—Lynn Flissommon, Extension Director; Kenneth Burnett, Soil Conservationist; Bruce Marcus, Soil Conservationist; George Witters, Conservation Aide; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide; Shirley Gates, State Clerk.

1956—Kenneth Burnett, Supervisory Soil Conservationist; Bruce Marcus, Soil Conservationist; George Witters, Conservation Aide; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide; Sandra Thornhill, State Clerk.

1957—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; Harold Godown, Soil Conservationist; George Witters, Conservation Aide; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide; Gladys Thornhill, State Clerk.

1958—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; Harold Godown, Soil Conservationist; George Witters, Conservation Aide; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide; Gladys Thornhill, State Clerk.

1959—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; George Witters, Conservation Aide; Dale Mills, Conservation Aide; Gladys Thornhill, State Clerk.

1960—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; George Witters, Conservation Aide; Gladys Thornhill, State Clerk.

1961—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide; Gladys Thornhill, State Clerk.

1962—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide; Don Goodnow, Conservation Aide; Gladys Thornhill, State Clerk.

1963—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; Charles Bodholdt, Conservation Aide; Dpe Goodnow, Conservation Technician; Gladys Thornhill, State Clerk.

1964—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; Don Goodnow, Conservation Technician; Clarence Kraft, Conservation Aide; Alice Turin, District Clerk.

1965—Kenneth Burnett, Work Unit Conservationist; Don Goodnow, Conservation Technician; Clarence Kraft, Conservation Aide; Alice Turin, District Clerk.

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2003—Donald Kauffman, District Conservationist; Karen Bumann, Soil Conservationist; Tony Rinkler, Soil Conservationist; Clarence Kraft, Soil Conservation Technician; Randy Sohm, Soil Conservation Technician; Lou Collins, State Clerk.

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Highlights from 1933 to today— Ida's Soil Conservation Service keeps growing

1933—The US Soil Erosion Service was established.

1934-42—38 CCC Camps were assigned to the SCS in Iowa to assist in erosion control and drainage problems.

1935—The US government replaced the Soil Erosion Service with the Soil Conservation Service.

1937—President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote to state governors encouraging state passage of standard soil district laws.

1940—The first countywide district to be formed in Iowa was the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District.

1941—Extension personnel promoted soil conservation by using four farms to demonstrate contouring, crop rotating, and liming.

1944—Extension personnel held a terrace demonstration on the Gus Shirmacher farm (Corwin 9). Educational meetings were held throughout the county to promote the formation of a conservation district.

1945—On Jan. 13, a county election was held and district formation was approved. Henry Dall of Battle Creek, Edward Perion of Ida Grove and J.B. Scott of Danbury were elected as first commissioners. They applied to the State of Iowa to be formally recognized. On Feb. 19 a state certificate of organization was issued to Ida County.

1946—First three cooperators agreements approved were with Ray Brenahan, H.H. Boughton and James Stephan. Work was completed on the development of Ida County watersheds utilizing Little Sioux Flood-Plain Programs. Perion was the first watershed to be given priority. There were nine landowners involved.

1947—Kirkholm watershed approved.

The first three farms selected to represent Ida County in an area awards program co-sponsored by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Sioux City Journal-Tribune were Robert Smith, of Maple Township, and Carl Huth and Marvin Volkert of Douglas Township.

On Aug. 1 the SCS moved into the basement of the Post Office.

1948—Kirkholm watershed work approved and started.

1950—A terrace demonstration was held on the Albert Bird farm (Corwin 4). One mile of terraces was built with 120 people attending.

1952—The district promoted conservation with a fair booth.

1955—10 years after organizing, 364 land owners had signed cooperator agreements. A terrace building contest was held in Cherokee County. It was co-sponsored by the district and local implement dealers. About 350 people were in attendance.

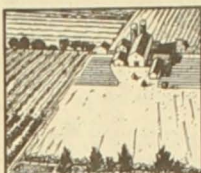
1957—The commissioners held conservation bus tours for area clergy and Farm Bureau ladies. The commissioners sponsored Mrs. Bodholdts and Myrtle Brandt to a teachers' conservation camp at Spring Brook State Park.

1958—Ida County was featured in the Soil and Water Magazine.

1959—The Ida County District was named area winner in the Sioux City Awards program.

1960—Pleasant Valley watershed priority approved. A parallel terrace demonstration was held on the Bernard Collins farm (Garfield 27).

1966—Quad Valley watershed approved for construction priority. An Earthen dam was built at Moorhead Park with SCS technical assistance.



1968—On April 30, the commissioners co-sponsored a minimum tillage demonstration on the George Hoffman farm. A harvest demonstration was also held later that year. (Logan 32) In July a farmer-businessman tour was held. Four busloads toured conservation practices in Ida County.

1970—The district celebrates its 25th anniversary with a banquet.

1971—The State Soil Conservation Committee toured conservation practices in Ida County. The number of commissioners increased from three to five. They were also elected during the November general election. The state legislature passed the Iowa Conservancy Law.

1972—The SCS office moved from the post office to the basement of the Main Street building and is located with FmHA.

The commissioners established the Ida County soil loss limits to comply with Conservancy Law. Ida County clergy were given air tours of the county.

1979—The district contributes \$9,500 to the conservation board for the planting of trees in the Crawford Creek Recreation Area.

1980—Iowa 2000 program first discussed.

1981—The board of supervisors approved an allocation of \$5,000 to build terraces. Crawford Creek dedication held. Iowa-till program approved by district for the Galva-Schaller Watershed. The SCS office co-locates at the current location with FmHA and ASCS.

1982—On May 4 the district co-sponsored a conservation tillage demonstration on the George Hoffman farm (Logan 32). A high residue cultivator demonstration was held on June 8. The district purchased books on conservation for area libraries.

1983—The district, along with the assessors office, convinced the county to begin the comprehensive soil survey process. The commissioners hosted a soil stewardship breakfast for area clergy. On Sept. 8, the district sponsored a no-till tour of three local farms.

The district promoted the Iowa 2000 program, which established the goal of five ton/acre/year soil loss on all farms in Ida County.

1984—The commissioners hosted a luncheon and tour of farms and watersheds for J. Michael Nethery, state conservationist for Iowa. "First Acre" ceremony was held to kick off the beginning of the soil survey mapping.

1985—The commissioners, along with the conservation board, purchase a tree planter available to all land owners. The district sponsored air tours for area clergy to promote soil stewardship. 1985 Food Security Act was passed by the U.S. Congress, beginning many changes in "voluntary conservation."

1986—First CRP contracts approved by the SCS.

1987—The Ida County Soil Conservation District became the Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District.

1988—The district sponsored the "Final Acre" ceremony, marking the completion of the soil survey mapping.

1991—A no-till seeder, available to area landowners, was jointly purchased by the district and Pheasants Forever.

1992—Robert Croxell received the Region 1 Outstanding Commissioners Award. District co-sponsored a no-till soybean planting demonstration on the Alan Bennett farm.

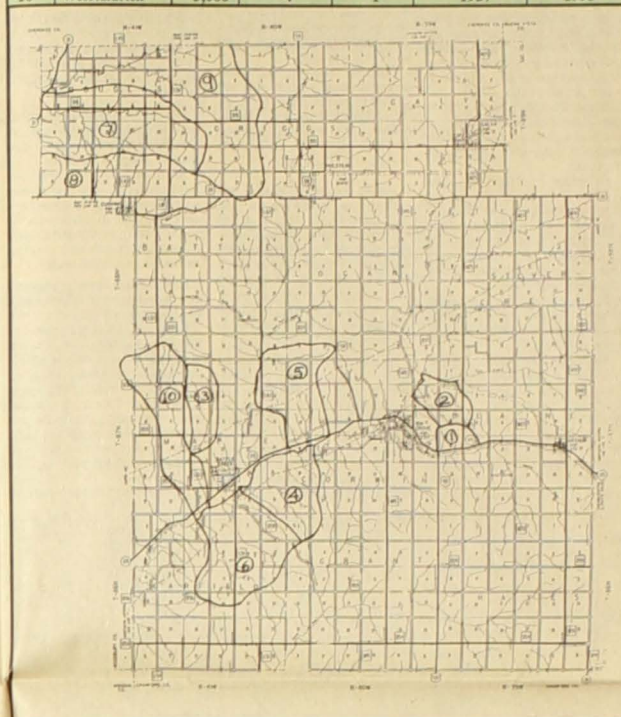
1993—Everett Still received the Outstanding Commissioner Award for Region 1.

1994—A no-till bean planting demonstration on the Glenn Goodenow farm was co-sponsored by the district. The Soil Conservation Service became the Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of USDA reorganization.

1995—Ida County district celebrates 50th Anniversary with a banquet. Dale Cochran is featured speaker.

WATERSHED PROGRESS

Map No.	Name of Watershed	Acres With-In	Total No. Structures	No. of Ponds	Date of Organization	Date of Completion
1	Kirkholm	818	18	3	1946	1949
2	Perion	2,030	7	4	1946	1949
3	East Aldrich	1,852	8	3	1953	1956
4	Pleasant Valley	3,664	20	9	1958	1965
5	Quad Valley	4,681	18	3	1960	1969
6	Crawford Creek	8,300	15	13	1965	1976
7	Bitter Creek	11,000	5	5	1952	1995
8	West Side	1,800	3	3	1973	1985
9	A.F.M.S.C.S.	17,700	1	0	1980	1987
10	West Aldrich	5,000	4	1	1957	1993



Grant-Hayes Special Project required cooperation in 1967

The Grant-Hayes Special Project was set up in 1967 by the Ida County Soil Conservation District, the Ida County Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service and interested landowners. It includes a 3,605 acre tributary draining into the Soldier River in Grant and Hayes Townships.

The farmers involved were Richard and Irvin Bumann, Clint Rallsback, Roger Corrie, Ray Hargens, Christensen Brothers, Eugene Gosch, Erwin Schug,

Henshel Sheer, Floyd Konrady, Russell Wood, Roy Stewart, Gunnar Johnson and Ray Bumann, Sr.

During 1967 and 1968, the farmers completed over eight miles of terraces, five concrete grade stabilization structures and extensive waterway work. The waterways involved over 120,000 cubic yards of earthwork, 12,708 feet of five-inch tile, 22,194 feet of six-inch tile, 11,675 feet of eight-inch tile and 3,550 feet of 10 inch tile.

The project was financed by the farmers involved and with cost-share assistance through the Agriculture Conservation Program. The Ida County ASCS Committee first approved the project and then sent it to the state ASCS Committee for its approval and appropriation of funds.

The project represents how cooperation and concern for conservation can get a large project done. The participants, especially the farmers, are to be commended.

The Soil and Water Conservation District



Would like to recognize and thank all land stewards for the conservation work accomplished over the last 50 years. With your cooperation, we've been able to protect the natural resources in Ida County.

Robert Croxell, Everett Still, Lloyd Rickers, Alan VanHouten and Rodney Jensen

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