



ANNUAL REPORT 1990

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SWCD

DISTRICT BUDGET REPORTS 1989-90

1-m Budget (Commissioners and office expense)	
Total Allocation	\$ 3,590.00
Office Supplies and Printing	\$ 1,850.85
Commissioners Mileage & Expense	\$ 912.55
Release to DSC	\$ 826.60
3-m Cost-Share (1987-88)	
Total Allocation	\$173,035.98
Total Spent	\$173,010.97
Release to DSC	\$ 25.01
(Ledger is closed)	
3-m Cost-Share (1988-89)	
Total Allocation	\$121,100.05
Total Spent	\$121,052.75
Released to DSC	\$ 7.30
Balance Unobligated	\$ 40.00
Total Expenditures	\$121,100.05
3-m Cost Share (1989-90)	
Total Allocation	\$ 64,512.00
Total Spent	\$ 42,669.21
Funds Obligated/work not complete	\$ 20,000.00
Released to DSC	\$ 4.79
Balance Unobligated	\$ 1,838.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 64,512.00
REAP Allocation terraces	\$ 13,095.00
County Allocation Received 1990	\$ 12,500.00

COMMISSIONERS

Charles Angeroth - Chm.
Mark Schnepel - V. Chm.
Clint Goos - Comm.
Dan McGinn - Comm.
Gary Geise - Comm.
Mike Dea - Asst. Comm.

DISTRICT PERSONNEL 1990

Lyle C. Peterson - D.C.
Sharon Chamberlain - S.C.
Dale DuVal - S.C.
Ed Marshall - S.C.T.
Greg Mathis - C.R.P.
Dawn Brittain - Sec.
John Krieger - S.T.
Greg Hollins - W.A.E.
Julie Rhoades - W.A.E.
Marshall Delavan - Vol.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

12 regular meetings and 7 special meetings were held during 1990.

January - Dawn Brittain, District Secretary appointed representative in the Job Training Partnership Program. Commissioners elected officers for the upcoming year. Charles Angeroth, Chairman, Mark Schnepel, Vice Chairman, Dan McGinn, Treasurer, and Dawn Brittain, Secretary.

February - Commissioners select winner in the Annual Scholarship Award. 1990 winner is Karen Brich of Neola. Charles Kain of Crescent is appointed new watershed inspector. Bid let for site 10-1 North Pigeon Watershed, \$168,942.52.

March - District Annual Awards Banquet held at UMBA Hall in Underwood, IA. Poster winners given subscription to "Iowa Conservationist." District became a member of the National Arbor Day Foundation. All employees meeting in Des Moines. Mosquito Creek accepted as designated REAP Watershed.

April - Annual report distributed. REAP Windbreak-tree planting requests approved.

May - Approved Long Term Agreements (LTA's). Hoffschneider Management Company becomes a sustaining member.

June - No-till tour.

July - Commissioners Annual picnic in Treynor. Approved summer applicants for cost-share. Held the first targeted landowners meeting, 65 people attended.

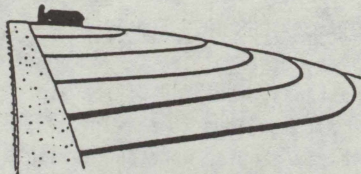
August - Meetings were set up for distribution of Soil Survey books. Approved applicants for fall cost-share funds.

September - Held meetings to distribute soil survey books. Temporary employee, Greg Hollins, terminated due to funding limitations.

October - County starts construction on Monkey Mountain Soil Loss Complaint. Ernie Fuhs is selected to receive award for teacher of the year. The second targeted landowners meeting was held. Windbreak questionnaire sent to selected landowners.

November - Commissioners appointed Mike Dea as an assistant commissioner. Ernie Fuhs received state teacher award and Mark Schnepel received the Ken Wagner award at the Annual Conference.

December - Held District Annual Christmas dinner at the Rose in Treynor, IA. Reviewed terrace priority point system. John Krieger State technical transferring to Story County.



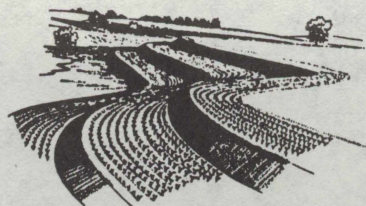
FIELD BORDERS ENCOURAGED

by Ed Marshall

Field borders are a strip of perennial vegetation established at edges of crop fields. The purpose of field borders is to control erosion and protect edges of fields that are used as "turnrows" or travel lanes for farm machinery.

Field borders should be at least 16 1/2 feet in width. If used for turn strips, width is determined by the requirements of the machinery to be used. For FSA compliance field borders have to be installed on slopes 5% and greater. After field borders are established mowing of them should be delayed until after July 1 to allow ground nesting birds to leave their nests.

Serious consideration should be given to field borders to incorporate them into your total resource management system.



1990 TERRACE FUNDING

The West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District received \$175,055.00 in cost-share funds from Iowa and \$12,500.00 from the county in 1990. These funds were used exclusively to construct terraces.

Cost-share rates were 50 percent. Terrace applications were approved on a point system and we didn't have enough money to service all applications. We noted a significant increase in landowners who constructed terraces without cost-sharing. Total terraces constructed in 1990 were approximately 90 miles.



NO-TILL SOLUTION

by Commissioner Gary Geise

No-till can be a viable solution or a part of the solution to our soil loss, water quality, and ASCS compliance problems. This practice may not work for everyone but for many farmers there is some part of the no-till approach that can be used to improve the practices being used.

All the equipment to try no-till can be rented or you can have the work custom done. Visit with neighbors who are using it and go to meetings and test plots put on by reliable groups.

Try it, you might like it!

COUNTY COST-SHARE

by Greg Mathis

In addition to federal and state cost-share programs, the County Board of Supervisors provide \$12,500 annually for county cost-share terraces in West Pottawattamie County. To be eligible for county cost-share, proposed terraces must be planned for cropland directly above county roads where they will help prevent roadside ditch siltation.

Roadside ditch siltation costs the county several thousand dollars each year when silt-filled ditches must be cleaned out to restore sufficient capacity for drainage.

"Prevention is almost always more cost effective than the cure", explains Wayne Bryant, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors. "So the idea is to keep the topsoil on the field where it belongs and out of the road ditches."

Terraces are ideal for reducing roadside ditch siltation. In this county because of the deep loess soils, level terraces store the water from heavy rains until it can be absorbed into the ground; what silt there is settles out in the terrace channel and never reaches the road ditch.

Since funding is limited, priority for county cost-share goes to problem areas where frequent county road ditch clean out is required. If you farm above one of these problem areas and think you may be eligible for county cost-share, stop by the office and fill out a cost-share application.

EARTH TEAM IS A WINNER

by Marshall Delavan

If you have some spare time and would like to invest it in a rewarding way, consider joining the Earth Team. The Earth Team is a group of people who volunteer their time to assist conservation districts in saving the soil.

Volunteers can get involved in educational and informational projects such as contests, tours, presentations, photography, writing news articles and the list goes on. Put your talents to work. No formal education or experience is required to be a volunteer, just a desire to help save our soil. For more information on joining the Earth Team, call the office at 328-2489, stop by the office, or call 1-800 -THE SOIL.

ASCS REPORT

The West Pottawattamie County Committee approved 35 applications for the 1990 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). The allocation was \$57,677.00.

The Long Term Agreement allocation was \$10,500.00. Two applications were approved. These agreements are for a minimum of three years.

Total cropland acres bid into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was 6,125 acres. This is including our last sign-ups through number nine.

NON-COST-SHARE TERRACES IN 1990

by Ed Marshall

Terracing without cost-share is increasing each year. During the last construction season 66 landowners installed 152,981 feet of terraces without cost-share assistance. These terraces are installed to the same standards and specification as cost-share terraces.

We commend these landowners and the West Pottawattamie SWCD presented each with a plaque at the Annual Awards Banquet this spring. In addition each landowner picks up 0.3 point a year when applying for state cost-share.

NO-TILL CONTEST

by Dale DuVal

The no-till yield contest for corn and soybean was again sponsored by the West Pottawattamie SWCD. The entries had to follow the Iowa Master Contest rules and meet no-till requirements. The 1990 winner in the no-till corn division was Robert Adkins & Sons of Council Bluffs with a yield of 193.76 bushels per acre.

The no-till soybean contest was won by Todd Goos with a yield of 46.89 bushels per acre. If you are interested in entering the District's no-till contest, please contact the ECS office in the spring before planting.

ARBOR DAY BRINGS TREE PLANTING

by Greg Mathis

Last April the West Pottawattamie SWCD office staff delivered 1,060 green Ash saplings to nineteen elementary schools. Twenty to thirty minutes were spent with each first grade class teaching them about Arbor Day, how to plant, and how to care for their tree. Midwest Walnut Company of Council Bluffs donated the trees.



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PERMIT 170
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501