

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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RC&D proposes work on Fox River

A proposal was made last week to the Pathfinder's RC & D (Resource Conservation and Development) Agency for stabilization and straightening of Fox River in Davis County.

The proposal was submitted by the Davis County RC & D committee to the area agency.

Verle Arnold, conservationist with the Davis County Soil Conservation Service, said the proposal is seeking technical and financial assistance.

Arnold said a similar proposal has been submitted from Van Buren County.

While the proposal has been made Arnold said it will be some time in the future before the work will be done.

The Pathfinder's RC & D Agency is still waiting federal approval and funding to begin operation. It has been approved by Gov. Robert Ray.

Once approved, Pathfinders will work with the six-county area that compose it.

The counties are Davis, Van Buren, Jefferson, Wapello, Keokuk and Mahaska.

The Fox River project would be one of the projects Pathfinders could approve once it becomes operational.

Arnold said Fox River is meandering and the channel is moving out into farm fields. He also noted that banks are caving in at some places and there is flooding along the river.

"Some places are pretty bad," Arnold said.

He said most of the problems are east of Bloomfield.

There was also a discussion of the feasibility of acquiring Federal Crop Insurance designation for Davis County.

Davis County and Van Buren County are two of three Iowa counties that are not now approved for Federal Crop Insurance.

Anyone interested in promoting crop insurance should contact Phil Melvin.

Local officials have been told that Federal Crop Insurance is not available in Davis County because administrative funds have not been available.

But local officials said farmers could probably secure Davis County's designation by requesting it. Farmers are being advised to write their Congressmen and ask for Federal Crop Insurance designation.

Federal Crop Insurance provides coverage for farmers against a wide range of hazards to crops including hail, flood and drought.

Alice Hunter, mayor of Floris, made a presentation to the RC & D Committee on behalf of Floris in regard to excessive water drainage through the town from surrounding crop ground.

It was suggested that the town submit a proposal to the Area Council for any assistance Floris might receive.