

Awards are presented recently for soil and water conservation contributions

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Dale M. Cochran has congratulated 28 Iowans who were honored for their contributions to soil and water conservation efforts in Iowa. Topping the list of recipients is Laurena Hammes of Sigourney, who was selected as the 1993 Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner. The awards were presented during the 47th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners (IASWCDC) November 30 and December 1 in Ames.

"Iowa is recognized as a national leader in soil conservation efforts because of the commitment and dedication of individuals like these who devote countless hours to the preservation and protection of Iowa's natural resources," said Cochran.

"I congratulate each of this year's soil and water conservation award winners, and thank them for their dedication."

A science and math teacher at the English Valley Community Schools for more than 30 years, Hammes is credited with developing numerous conservation education programs. During 17 years as a Keokuk County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner, Hammes coordinated the development of an outdoor classroom at Belva Deer County Park. This is now recognized as one of the finest outdoor classrooms in the state. Hammes also has encouraged her students and fellow teachers to plant more than 10,000 trees throughout Keokuk County.

The Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner Award is jointly sponsored by the IASWCDC and *Wallaces Farmer* magazine.

The Ken Wagner Award, recognizing outstanding young soil and water conservation commissioners, was presented to Michael Norland of Cylinder. Norland was accredited with leading by example, practicing conservation tillage and installing two grassed waterways on his northern Iowa farm. Norland also has been active in the Palo Alto County Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD's) tree sales program and conservation education activities at schools in the district.

The IASWCDC honored Keith Elliott of Lamoni (Ringgold SWCD) with the 1993 Watershed Achievement Award. He was recognized for his 30-plus years on the West Fork of Big Creek Watershed Committee.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's (IDALS) Division of Soil Conservation recognized two former members of the State Soil Conservation Committee for their distinguished service. Ken Kassel of Ayrshire and John Miller of Cedar Falls were honored for their long-term contributions of time, energy and leadership to soil and water conservation programs.

Kassel and Miller also were among five recipients of honorary lifetime memberships in the IASWCDC. Also honored were Orville Berg of Okoboji (Dickinson SWCD), Dan Bruene of Gladbrook (Tama SWCD) and Earl Kizzier of Sioux City (Woodbury SWCD).

Other awards presented during the two-day meeting included:

The Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award:

Farmstead Division—John Koschmeder, Riceville (Howard SWCD)

Field Shelter Belt Division—Lavonne Lauck and Herman Wehrspan, Whittemore (Palo Alto SWCD)

Newly Established Windbreak—Victor and Evelyn Knudtson, Lake Mills (Worth SWCD)

The Woodland Owner-of-the-Year Award: (sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources)—John Vogel, Oelwein (Fayette SWCD)

The NACD-Zeneca Ag Products Conservation Education Awards

Elementary Teacher of the Year—Deb Dessel, West Union (Fayette SWCD)

Secondary Teacher of the Year—Sherm Rhoten, Oakland (East Pottawattamie SWCD)

IASWCDC Auxiliary Scholarships

\$500 Scholarship—Robert Rubsam, Ocheyedan (Osceola SWCD)

\$300 Scholarship—Mathew Oliver, Long Grove (Scott SWCD)

\$200 Scholarship—Cory Nydene, Storm Lake (Buena Vista SWCD)

IASWCDC Auxiliary Poster Contest

Grades K-1—Jenna Skophammer, Ft. Dodge (Webster SWCD)

Grades 2-3—Katie Wagner, Newton (Jasper SWCD)

Grades 4-6—Nicole Kramer, Fort Madison (Lee SWCD)

Grades 7-9—James McDonald, Preston (Clinton SWCD)

Grades 10-12—Ted Butler, Charter Oak (Crawford SWCD)

Oak (Crawford SWCD)

Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program (ISCAP Award)

Teacher Division—Gale Brown, Neola (West Pottawattamie SWCD), and Lowell Wiele, Chariton (Lucas SWCD)

Farmer Division—Jeff and Michelle Reints, Shell Rock (Butler SWCD)

Goodyear Soil Conservation Awards

Northern Iowa Division: Grand Award—Linn SWCD; Honor Awards—Black Hawk SWCD and Sioux SWCD

Southern Iowa Division: Grand Award—Cedar SWCD; Honor Awards—East Pottawattamie SWCD and Union SWCD



Jack Howells (left) with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, presented the 1993 Goodyear Soil Conservation Award, Honor Award, Northern Iowa Division, to the Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) during the 47th Annual Meeting for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners of Iowa in Ames on December 1. Accepting on behalf of the SWCD were (left to right): Mike Webster, Jeanette Winegarden, Quinter Lichty, Janeen Seehase, and Arnold Harting.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Conservation Award is presented to districts in recognition of their outstanding conservation service.



J. Kelly Tobin (second from right), president of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners (IASWCDC), bestowed Honorary Lifetime Memberships to the IASWCDC upon (left to right): John Miller of Cedar Falls, Earl Kizzier of Sioux City, Ken Kassel of Ayrshire, Dan Bruene of Gladbrook, and Orville Berg of Okoboji, during the 47th Annual Meeting for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners of Iowa in Ames on December 1. The Honorary memberships are bestowed upon individuals who have had a significant influence on the Iowa soil and water conservation program and contributed to its growth.



John Miller (left) of Cedar Falls, and Ken Kassel (right) of Ayrshire received Division of Soil Conservation Awards during the 47th Annual Meeting for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners of Iowa in Ames on December 1. Miller and Kassel were recognized for their long-term contributions of time, energy, and leadership to soil and water conservation programs. Linda Appelgate (center), chairperson of the State Soil Conservation Committee, presented the awards.