



A CONSERVATION SUCCESS

"CELEBRATING 50 YEARS"

New name, same service

By LEO PETERSON,
District Conservationist

In this 50th Anniversary year of the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District it seems appropriate to celebrate the partnerships that have made the program successful. The District's accomplishments would not have been as many without the working relationships and cooperation with landowners, farm operators, organizations, agribusiness, units of government, and agencies.

One very close partner with the District is the USDA Soil Conservation Service, recently renamed and now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The new agency was authorized as part of USDA's reorganization in October by Secretary Mike Espy.

On February 4, 1944 the Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District was officially organized. At that time the USDA Soil Conservation Service entered into a memorandum of understanding with the new District to provide technical assistance to the District Board in carrying out its program and to District Cooperators in putting soil conservation practices on the land.

Will the USDA Reorganization and newly named Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) change this relationship?

Probably not. More than two-thirds of the land in this country is privately owned. Those private landowners are the key to our environmental well-being. The



DISTRICT STAFF: Front row (from left) Ann Northey, office secretary; Dairde Braband, conservation aide; Damarys Mortenson, soil conservationist; Second row (from left) John Wills, environmental specialist; Dave Kohlhasse, conservation technician and Leo Preston, district conservationist.

unique and effective working relationship established between the federal government and those landowners, as well as the partnership with the conservation district will continue.

The new name does more accurately identify the work being done. While the agency has focused on soil conservation for the past 60 years, it has also been the key federal agency to offer technical help on private lands for improvement to water, wildlife habitat, woodlands, grasslands, and other resources connected to the land.

The new Natural Resources Conservation Service will continue to have responsibilities for all programs of the former Soil

Conservation Service, in addition, several other programs have been transferred to the new agency.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service in partnership

with the Dickinson SWCD will increasingly look to the wise use of all resources as the team helps private landowners on a voluntary basis.



HONORING AREA FARMERS: Area farmers attending the celebration received a complimentary pewter ornament thanking them for caring for soil and water resources.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank-you on Farmers Appreciation Day to the area farmers who use our services.

Thank-you!

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CESS STORY EARS"

1993-1994 Accomplishments

515	Individuals & Groups Assisted
409	Individuals & Groups Applying Practices
5723 Acres	Resource Management Systems Planned
6213 Acres	Conservation Systems Applied
7818	Cropland Acres Treated
39148	Tons of Soil saved
30	Grassed Waterways installed (47 Acres)
11	Farmstead Windbreaks installed
1	Wetlands Restored (43 Acres)
	Conservation Easements entered (62.7 Acres)

Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Farmer cooperation at high level in county

BY DOUG HARR, DNR
Wildlife Biologist

In light of the Dickinson County SWCD's "Farmer Appreciation" Recognition and the agency's long service to agricultural conservation, it's appropriate that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources also take note of local accomplishments. Working in close cooperation with Dickinson SWCD, Iowa DNR has been able to foster improved relationships with and service to area farmers. This has allowed improved respect by the agency for agriculture's needs, and by farmers for the Cooperative role DNR can play with the SWCD in seeing that on-farm conservation needs are met.

Especially over the past decade, DNR has come to rely upon

expertise of the local SWCD staff in order to pursue DNR's goals of improved habitat for fish and wildlife. This has resulted in Wildlife Bureau staff being put in touch with farmers who have interests in natural resource conservation, and finding means by which the landowner and agency can find solutions to common problems. Wetland restoration may be the most recent and best example of what can be accomplished when the SWCD, DNR and farmers work together. On-farm restored wetlands can help the landowner meet requirements of the National Food Security Act (the "Farm Bill"), protect water resources in the Iowa Great Lakes, Little Sioux and Des Moines rivers, and concurrently provide

excellent habitat for ducks, shorebirds, muskrats, pheasants and other wildlife.

Relatively new programs offered through the Clean Water Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service take these benefits even further. Now, easements often can be placed upon restored or natural wetlands and surrounding grasslands, in order to even better serve water and wildlife resources. Easements are simply devices by which the rights to certain land use (such as draining of filling wetlands) are purchased, while the owner retains title and most other rights to the property. In return, the owner receives a one-time cash payment based upon a percentage of the property's appraised value. Through such devices, it is now

possible for a landowner to take troublesome areas out of production, solve conservation problems and be paid for it.

This and other programs are forging new relationships between agriculture and conservation interests in Dickinson County, a record which is setting an example for the rest of Iowa to follow. It is also a record for which local farmers and other residents may be justly proud. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources salutes Dickinson County SWCD and hard-working farmers for their willingness to put behind the outdated perceptions and move forward to create a better environment for everyone. DNR looks forward to continuing this new cooperative venture.



IOWA GREAT LAKES CLEAN WATER PROJECT: John Wills shows Tom Brekke and his daughter, Amanda a map of the clean water project. Education is a very important part of the project, and Wills can provide almost any information needed to get started in the project. Next year's goals include urban pollution education, improve farmer relations and to involve the project more to protect area lakes.

JOHN DEERE



Congratulations to you:

Dickinson County
Conservation Farms.

Here's to another 50 years.



GOOD DEALS... AND A GOOD DEAL MORE



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STANT COMMISSIONERS: Above are the current stants for the Dickinson County Soil and Water on left: Chris Hoffman, Keith Van Kleek, Jared

Herbert, Tim Hemphill, Orville Berg, Mark Ingwersen and Maurice Dougal. Van Kleek and Dougal are assistant commissioners. These commissioners are elected for six-year terms at general elections. (Photos by Sue Laue)

DICKINSON COUNTY FARMERS

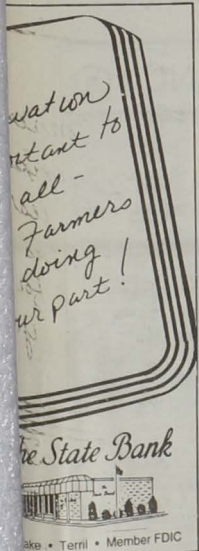
We
support
your
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Keep up the
Good Job



Farm Bureau

Dickinson County Farm Bureau



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