

The nation is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Soil and Water Conservation Movement, but at the same time the President's budget is recommending severe staff reductions and the elimination of federal conservation assistance programs, according to Robert Boatman, Chairman, Davis County Soil Conservation District. The elimination of funding for conservation programs would have a serious affect on Iowa's program, according to Boatman. Locally, it would mean almost total elimination of Soil Conservation Service personnel and loss of cost-share funds for conservation practices such as terraces, ponds, grassed waterways, water and soil control basins and permanent seeding.

"While Iowa is a leader in the nation in conservation, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done," says Boatman. Over 250 million tons of soil are eroded from cultivated cropland alone in the state each year, and flooding is still a major problem in some areas. In Davis County, problems include gullies, cropland erosion and the need to seed down marginal land.

"I urge the people of Davis County to voice their support for soil conservation and opposition to this budget proposal that would have a severe affect on conservation programs in the state," says Boatman.

For more information on how you can support soil and water conservation programs, contact the local Soil and Water Conservation District Office at 106 North Dodge Street in Bloomfield.