

Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Newsletter

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District Commissioners

We the commissioners of the Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District are pleased to present this annual report of conservation resources and accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many Ida County farmers and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. We look forward to working hand in hand as we face the challenges of the future.

We would also like to thank the news media, schools, other government agencies, and other public agencies who have assisted in the promotion of soil and water conservation.

If you have any questions or would like assistance on your farm, please call or stop by the office

The Ida County SWCD Commissioners

Commissioners

Wally Johnson	Chairman	Washta
Lloyd Rickers	Vice Chair	Kiron
Alan Bennett		Galva
Roger Bumann		Ida Grove
Tom Odgaard		Ida Grove
Assistant Commissioners		
Joyce Johnson		Washta



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All programs and services of the Ida County SWCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

IZAACK WALTON WINDBREAK WINNERS



John Butcher's windbreak was chosen as the Farmstead Windbreak Winner. The windbreak consists of Concolor Fir, Colorado Blue Spruce, Black Hills Spruce, Norway Spruce, Amur Maple, Lilac and Dogwood



D I Lacey was chosen as the Newly Established Windbreak Winner. This windbreak consists of Black Hills Spruce and Redosier Dogwood.

CHALLENGES BRING OPPORTUNITIES

BY

JIM GILLEPIE, BUREAU CHIEF

Well, what can we say about what happened this past year? Who would have guessed we would have had the weather we all experienced, the damage it caused and how it impacted both rural and urban areas?

We saw record snowfall in parts of northeast Iowa and heavy rainfalls across most of the state all summer. This was the fourth wettest year on record in 135 years of recordkeeping. All but one county was declared a disaster area by either the Governor of Iowa or the President of the United States.

Damages to conservation practices totaled over \$40 million dollars. 2,284,000 acres suffered erosion of 20 tons per acre or more, and there were 636,000 acres of bottomland scouring. Numerous sites suffered infrastructure damage and homes and businesses were flooded. A lot of these damages are still out there and are in need of financial and technical resources to help repair and restore.

As a community, rural and urban, we need to think about our actions and their consequences. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and our conservation partners are committed to building a "Culture of Conservation" across the state. We all need to consider our "footprint" on the Iowa landscape. Evaluate the land use for current and future needs and wants. There is a reason a floodplain is called a floodplain; it is prone to flooding. We must all manage the land as consistently as possible to its natural capabilities. We cannot expect the land to produce more than it is reasonably able to nor should it be used in ways that do not maintain soil quality and provide conservation benefits. Consider your "hydrologic footprint"; what happens to the rainfall that lands on your property? We should try to absorb as much as possible to slow runoff to minimize flooding and improve water quality.

Contact your local soil and water conservation district to discuss these challenges and take advantage of opportunities to reduce these types of resource concerns in the future. Iowans have taken great pride in protecting the resources of this state. Let us continue to build a "Culture of Conservation" that will sustain us in the future. Thank you for what you do and what you can do!

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008 (state fiscal year)

Oct. 1, 2007—Sept. 30, 2008 (federal fiscal year)

IM BUDGET

Total Allocation	\$2,124.81
Dues	\$1500.00
Comm. Expenses	\$1738.11
Postage, etc.	\$336.65
Total Expenses	<u>\$3574.76</u>
Balance	(\$1,449.95)

REVOLVING FUND

Checking Balance June 30, 2008	\$29,001.08
General Fund CD	\$30,435.43

MAINTENANCE FUND

Checking Balance June 30, 2008	\$3,044.41
Maintenance Fund CD's	\$115,355.90

IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM**FY05-06**

Allocation	\$33,115.40
Funds spent and allocated	\$32,439.50
Balance	\$675.90

FY06-07

Allocation	\$33,634.00
Funds spent and allocated	\$32,603.95
Balance	\$1,030.05

FY07-08

Allocation	\$79,134.47
Funds obligated and spent	\$79,134.47
Balance	\$0.00

REAP**Practices**

Allocation	\$10,428.75
Funds spent and allocated	\$10,412.25
Balance released back	\$16.50

Forestry and Native Grasses

Allocation	\$3450.00
Funds spent and allocated	\$3384.55
Balance released back	\$65.45

EQIP

Funds obligated	\$163,257
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LITTLE SIOUX WATERSHED

Funds obligated and spent	\$266,913.17
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LOCAL WATER PROTECTION**PROGRAM (low interest loan)**

Funds spent	\$38,433.00
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After you eliminate all the economic, social, and political reasons for practicing soil conservation, you still have the most compelling one left; stewardship—the obligation to care for the land properly.

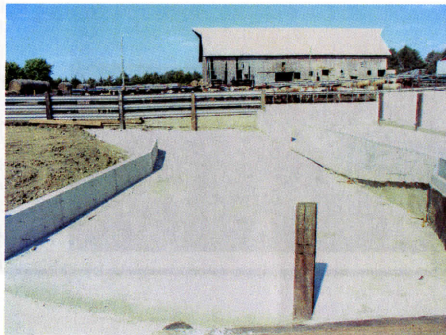
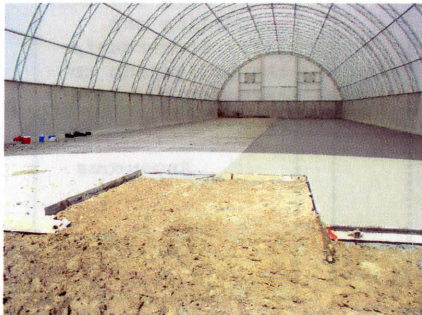
Anonymous



GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE BUILT WITH LITTLE SIOUX FUNDS IN APRIL OF 2008. BEFORE AND AFTER.



Manure composting and solid settling structures partially funded with EQIP cost share.



2008 District Activities

January

- *Election of officers held.
- *Approved new average costs.
- *\$100 donation to the Buena Vista SWCD Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop.
- *Approved 25% piggyback of state funds with EQIP funds to equal 75% cost share.
- *Commissioners attend Little Sioux Works Committee meeting.

February

- *Commissioners attend county supervisor meeting.

March

- *Donation to the area Envirothon held in Cherokee.
- *J Johnson volunteered at the Envirothon.
- *Annual report approved.
- *Commissioners attended the Spring Regional held at Rock Rapids.

April

- *J Johnson presents poster awards
- *Scholarship winner chosen.
- *District sold 4756 trees and shrubs.
- *Commissioners attend Little Sioux meeting.

May

- *Watershed inspections completed.
- *Bennett presents Daniel Borchers with a \$200.00 scholarship.
- *\$100.00 donated to the Ida/Woodbury Pasture Walk.
- *Completed repairs on East Aldrich watershed structure 47+80.

June

- *Commissioners chose Izaak Walton Windbreak Winner.s
- *Commissioners attend conductivity testing in the Battle Creek Wellhead areas.
- *Commissioners attend Ida/Woodbury Pasture Walk.

July

- *Commissioners sponsor booth at the Ida County Fair.

August

- *Commissioners host CDI Fall Regional meeting.
- *\$50.00 donation made to the Ida County Pork Producers.
- * District audit completed.

Continued on page 5

District Activities continued

September

- *Paid CDI dues.
- *Commissioners attend Little Sioux Works Committee meeting.
- *Commissioner/staff county tour and lunch.
- *Ryan Sadler appointed Assistant Commissioner.

October

- *Commissioners approve windbreak cost share limits.
- *Commissioners vote on resolutions.

November

- *Paid NACD dues.
- *Completed repairs to Crawford Creek watershed structure 4-1.
- *District Buffer Initiative Funds requested.

December

- *District Buffer Funds received.
- *Commissioners approve district tree sales program.
- *Commissioners renew nursery permit.

Tree and Shrub Program

The Ida SWCD will order hardwoods, evergreens and shrubs for all of your windbreak and tree planting needs.

Call 364-2124 to get your name on the ordering list.

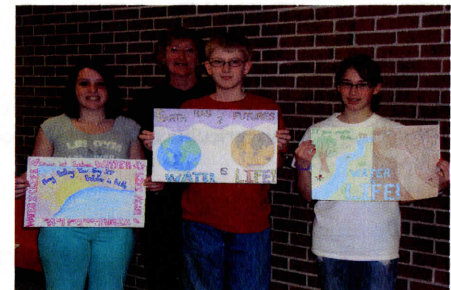


Water is Life—2008 Poster Contest Winners



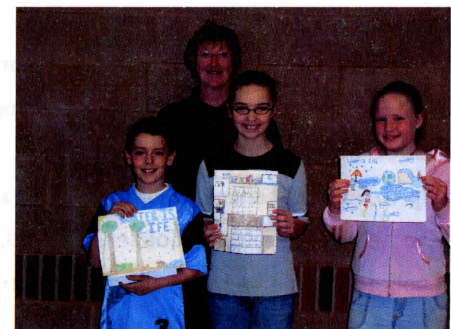
Division 3—Battle Creek-Ida Grove

Christian Thomas, Natalie Renfro, Cheyenne Wilcke



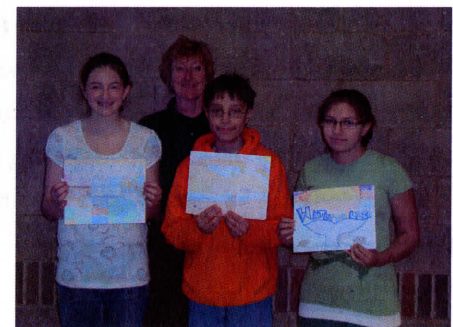
Division 4—Battle Creek-Ida Grove

Casey Ludwig, Clay Christiansen, Mariah Cates



Division 3 Winners—Galva Holstein

Logan Richard, Kaylynn Smit, Maddie Henry



Division 4 winners—Galva Holstein

Kaitlynn Madsen, Cody Kell, Melissa Brandt



Iowa Water Quality Loan Fund

The biggest contributor to water quality problems in the state of Iowa is from runoff that is polluted with sediment, chemicals, fertilizer and manure. The water quality loan fund has been set up exclusively for agricultural producers to help with these issues.

Some practices that are eligible for a low interest loan include: terraces, grade stabilization structures, water and sediment basins, hoop buildings, manure storage facilities, and prescribed grazing.

Loan Terms include:

*Loans from \$5000.00

*Terms from 10 years to 20 years for livestock facilities.

*Can fund up to 100% of actual costs or can be used in conjunction with other cost share programs.

*Applications are accepted year around.

*3% fixed rate for life of loan

*Available through a lender of your choice.

If you have questions concerning the loan program, they can be directed to Tony Toigo with the Division of Soil Conservation at 515-281-6148 or by email at tony.toigo@iowaagriculture.gov. If you would like to apply for a loan, you can contact the Ida SWCD in person or by calling 712-364-2124.

Programs Available through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Iowa Financial Incentives Program

*Up to 50% cost share to install conservation practices like terraces, water and sediment basins, waterways

*Applications can be made either in person at the Ida SWCD or on-line.

REAP Practice Funds

* Up to 50% cost share to install conservation practices like terraces, water and sediment basins and waterways

*Can only be used in the Soldier, Garfield, Crawford Creek and Pleasant Valley watersheds.

*Applications can be made either in person at the Ida SWCD or on-line.

REAP Forestry and Native Grasses Fund

*Up to 75% cost share to install windbreaks and other tree plantings.

*Applications can be made either in person at the Ida SWCD or on-line.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

*Up to 50% cost share to install conservation practices like terraces, waterways and grade stabilization structures.

*Up to 50% or \$50,000 maximum to install waste storage facilities, solid settling basins and composting facilities.

*Organic Farming Initiative for beginning or certified producers.

*Applications can be made in person to the NRCS office.

Local Water Protection Loans

*See above article

Little Sioux Funds

*Up to 75% cost share for installing terraces, grade stabilization structures and water and sediment basins

*Applications can be made in person to the NRCS office.

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Lorne Miller, District
Conservationist

Randall Sohm, Conservation
Technician

Carl Lee, Conservation
Technician

Darwin Henke, WAE and Dis-
trict Employee

Barb Knudsen, Secretary

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*"I love to think of nature as
an unlimited broadcasting
station through which God
speaks to us every hour, if we
will only tune in."*

George Washington Carver

**IDA COUNTY****CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Individuals Assisted	853
Farmstead Windbreaks	17 each
Grade Stabilization Structure	1 each
Terraces	121,534 feet
Water and Sediment Basins	10 each
Waterways	16.4 acres
EQIP Applications Approved	12 each
Prescribed Grazing	146.7 acres
Subsurface Drains	9565 feet
Conservation Plans Written (acres)	13,258 acres
Cropland with conservations applied to improve soil quality (acres)	8,777 acres
Land with conservation applied to improve water quality (acres)	8,586 acres