

**IDA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

***1996
Annual Report***

104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, Iowa 51445

Phone: 712-364-2124

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

Lloyd Rickers, Kiron
District Chairperson
Alan Van Houten, Battle Creek
Vice-Chairperson
Robert Croxell, Holstein
Rodney Jensen, Ida Grove
Everett Still, Cushing

Staff

Lorne Miller
District Conservationist
Jerry Sindt
Soil Conservationist
Randy Sohm
Soil Conservation Technician
Carl Lee, *State Soil Conservation Technician*
Arlis Bahnsen
State Secretary
Carol Thomson, W.A.E.
Barbara Knudsen, W.A.E.
Ron Winterhof, W.A.E.
Larry Kielhorn
Watershed Inspector

As commissioners of your Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this 1996 Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District 1996 Soil Conservation Awards

Program Winners

Quad States Conservation Awards
Progress Award
Spotts Farms, Inc.

District Conservation Award
Calvin & Verdeen Luft

District/Area I Community Conservation Award
First Presbyterian Youth Ministries

Wildlife Habitat Award
Rich & Sue Smith

District/Area I Agribusiness Conservation Award
Lunzman Nursery
Keith Lunzman

Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award
Dale Meyer & Sons

Ida County SWCD Scholarship Award
Joseph Wittrock

Ida County SWCD Poster Contest Winners

Grade K-1:
Eric Hanson, Peter Hofmann,
Kyle Conover - District Winners

Grades 2-3:
Morgan Hanson, Brandon Burk,
Eric Conover - District Winners

Grades 4-6:
McKenzie Hofmann - District Winner

Grades 7-9:
Collin Lee - District/Regional Winner
Sarah Burk, Amybeth Hofmann
District Winners

Grades 10-12:
Christy Hofmann - District/Regional Winner

COOPERATORS

A District Cooperator is a landowner who has entered into a cooperative agreement with the district for the purpose of planning, applying, and maintaining the necessary soil and water conservation practices on his/her land.

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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - FY 1996

The Ida County SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District) Commissioners meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the district office. All meetings are open to the public. (Open Meeting Law.)

JULY 1995: Neil Stockfleth, District Conservationist, attended a meeting in Des Moines to discuss modifications to the application for the Battle Creek Watershed Ground Water Protection Project grant. Status review field visits have been completed. Up to \$300,000 in Little Sioux Funds needs to be obligated by October 1st. Several Erosion Control Structures are currently being constructed in the county. Plans for the Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District fair booth were finalized.

AUGUST: Stockfleth reported on the progress of the Bitter Creek Watershed Project and other Erosion Control Structures in the county.

SEPTEMBER: Stockfleth reported that the 13th

Conservation Reserve Program signup is currently taking place. 651,000 acres nationwide will be accepted, with special emphasis on Environmental Priority Acres. Five acres have been offered by Robert & Isabella Smith for a wildlife mitigation site. County representatives were selected to meet with USDA Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman in Sioux City. The focus of the meeting was USDA reorganization. Commissioners Bob Croxell, Lloyd Rickers, and Everett Still, and Stockfleth attended the Annual Commissioners' Conference in Des Moines.

OCTOBER: Stockfleth reported that fall terrace layout and watershed maintenance repair work is underway. Stockfleth and Jerry Sindt, Soil Conservationist, have been selected to assist in training Area I staff in the new computer program Field Office Computer System or "FOCS" over the next two months. The Bitter Creek Watershed project has been completed. Insurance was purchased to cover up to \$10,000 in District owned property.

NOVEMBER: The Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program has received \$3,000,000 in funds for Fiscal Year 1996. Districts involved in the Little Sioux Watershed Program need to obligate funds for structures and terraces. The Westside Watershed in Douglas Township is being considered for completion. The district will draft a letter to congressmen to encourage that the Natural Resources Conservation Service remain a separate entity in the USDA.

DECEMBER: The District annual meeting was held at the Haye Loft in Wall Lake.

JANUARY 1996: The Ida Grove Natural Resources Conservation Service was recognized for superior accomplishments at the Area I Awards Meeting in Cherokee. A District organizational meeting was held. Rickers was elected Chairperson and Alan Van Houten was elected Vice Chairperson of the District. Arlis Bahnsen, State Secretary, was appointed District Secretary/Treasurer. Stockfleth participated in a presentation on the Battle Creek Watershed Ground Water Protection Project at the Water Quality Workshop in Ames. Van Houten and Sindt attended the Agriculture & Environment Conference in Ames. Stockfleth and several area farmers attended a CRP meeting at Dordt College in Sioux Center.

FEBRUARY: Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District participated in the Ida County Sales Expo held at the Skate Palace. A joint contractors' meeting was held with Woodbury and Monona Counties. A noon meal was served. Still, Croxell and Stockfleth attended a REAP Assembly meeting in Correctionville. The District Annual Plan of Work was reviewed and approved. An Education Committee consisting of Ella Droegmiller, LaVonne Murray, and Merle Nielsen was established to judge scholarship applications and posters entered in the poster contest. The District became a member of Iowa Watersheds.

MARCH: Sheila Cox, Soil Conservationist from Plymouth County, was named Acting District Conservationist for Ida County due to Stockfleth's transfer to Woodbury County. Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District cosponsored a four county CRP meeting in Danbury. Speakers outlined techniques used for farming early released acres. The Education Committee selected district scholarship and poster contest winners. Stockfleth, Croxell, Still and Rickers attended the Regional Commissioner Meeting in Rock Rapids. Ida County Conservation Award winners F.E. Hughes Trust, with Dan Kriener, Farm Manager of Firstar Bank in Sioux City, and Jon Burk, tenant, and Nels Walter Johnson were selected as regional conservation award winners and recognized at a luncheon at the Regional meeting in Sioux Center. Sindt attended a workshop in Harlan on CRP early release. One year extensions of existing contracts has been approved. A farewell dinner was held for Stockfleth at the Fireside Restaurant in Anthon.

APRIL: The Project Agreement between the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the Battle Creek Watershed Ground Water Protection Project grant was reviewed and signed by District Commissioners. All fifth graders in the county received a tree and Cox demonstrated planting techniques at each school in the county.

MAY: The annual 6th Grade Outdoor Classroom was held at Moorehead Park. All schools in the county were invited to participate. Carl Lee and Arlis Bahnsen attended a State Employee meeting in Des Moines.

JUNE: Lorne Miller became the District Conservationist for Ida County on June 10th. Miller

surveyed recent damage from heavy rains. Larry Kielhorn, Watershed Inspector, will check all watershed sites for damage. After serving 14 years as Ida County Commissioner, Croxell's term will expire in January. He does not plan to seek another term. Conservation practices on CRP land can be applied with cost-share 90 days prior to the contract expiring. Commissioners and staff took a tour of Ida County to look at structures and terrace projects.

Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 1995-1996

October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

Individuals Assisted (tracts)	889
Individuals Applying Practices (tracts)	125
Conservation Systems	
Fully Applied (acres)	3,237
Conservation Tillage (acres)	1,964
Contour Farming (acres)	2,277
Farmstead Windbreaks (feet)	2,886
Field Borders (feet)	80,905
Terraces (feet)	215,236
Cropland Treated (acres)	7,299

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT

(July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996)

1-M		\$ 3,780.00
Expenses: Printing,		
Office, Commissioner		<u>3,276.02</u>
Balance Released to State		\$ 503.98
3-M Cost-Share Funds (95-96)		\$44,157.00
Obligated & Spent		<u>\$34,836.25</u>
Balance in Fund		\$9,320.75
REAP-Practices Funds (96)		\$11,538.00
Obligated & Spent		<u>8,554.10</u>
Balance Released to State		2,983.90
REAP - Forestry/Native Grasses (96)		\$ 2,693.00
Obligated & Spent		<u>2,440.54</u>
Balance Released to State		\$ 252.46
Organic Nutrient Management Program Funds (96)		\$ 16,566.00
Obligated & Spent		<u>.00</u>
Balance Released to State		\$ 16,566.00
Little Sioux River Flood Prevention Project Funds (96)		
Obligated or Spent		\$ 337,097.71
Watershed Maintenance Funds		
Savings 7/01/95		\$ 2,832.72
Income	\$ 13.45	
Expense	<u>2,846.17</u>	
Balance 6/30/96		.00
		(closed account)
Checking 7/01/95		\$ 2,208.80
Income	13,922.26	
Expenses	<u>15,077.21</u>	
Balance 6/30/96		1,053.85
Watershed Fund CD's		\$ 93,084.96
General Funds		
Savings 7/01/95		\$ 319.19
Income	\$.00	
Expense	<u>319.19</u>	
Balance 6/30/96		.00
		(closed account)
Checking 7/01/95		\$ 20,888.64
Income	244,979.68	(238,016.91 Bitter Creek Water Shed)
Expenses	265,232.64	(259,800.41 Bitter Creek Water Shed)
Balance 6/30/96		\$ 635.68
General Fund CD's		\$ 31,300.00
(Operating note \$1,300.00 due 3/27/97 against CD)		