

**IDA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

**1998
*Annual Report***

5973 State Highway 175
P.O. Box 237
Ida Grove, Iowa 51445

Phone: 712-364-2124

PERSONNEL

COMMISSIONERS

Alan Van Houten, Battle Creek
District Chairperson

Dennis Lindgren, Ida Grove
Vice-Chairperson

Lloyd Rickers, Kiron
Rodney Jensen, Ida Grove
Everett Still, Cushing

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Wally Johnson, Washta

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.

Larry Kielhorn
Watershed Inspector

BATTLE CREEK WATERSHED GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT

Chris Jennings, Coordinator
Peg Peters, Information Specialist

VOLUNTEERS

La Vonne Murray, Ida Grove
Myrle Nielsen, Battle Creek

As commissioners of your Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this 1998 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 1998 AWARD WINNERS

Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award

Mary Neumann, Ida Grove

Ida County SWCD Scholarship Award

Dale Friedrichsen, Holstein

Ida County SWCD Poster Contest Winners

Grades K-1: Adrienne Burk**,

Raelene Sawyer, Molly Hofmann

Grades 2-3: Bryce Davis, Eric Hanson,
Kyle Conover

Grades 4-6: Avery Burk**,

Brianne Davis, Morgan Hanson

Grades 7-9: Amybeth Hofmann,
Russell Sawyer

Grades 10-12: Malinda Burk**,
Sarah Burk, Marty Hofmann

District winners

**Regional winners, state competitors

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.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - FY 98

(July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998)

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

JULY 1997

Lorne Miller, District Conservationist, reported that 1997 status reviews have been completed. Commissioner Everett Still of Cushing was selected as Outstanding Commissioner for Region I and will be honored at the 51st Annual Conference in Des Moines. The Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project (BCWS) is in the process of forming an Advisory Committee and will hold a field day to demonstrate the proper installation of a septic tank.

AUGUST

The District sponsored a booth at the Ida County Fair. Approximately 1900 acres were successfully bid into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in Ida County during the 15th sign-up. Several Erosion Control Structures were completed during summer construction. An acting director has been appointed to organize the Sioux Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC & D) involving Ida, Plymouth, Cherokee, Woodbury, and Monona counties.

SEPTEMBER

Soil and Water Conservation Week was observed. The Repair work is completed on Site E6-1 of the Bitter Creek Watershed Structure. Lee and Sohm attended a state-wide technician meeting in Marshalltown.

OCTOBER

The 16th CRP sign-up is underway through November 14th. The Sioux Rivers RC & D application has been forwarded to Washington, DC for approval.

NOVEMBER

Twenty-seven applications (approximately 1400 acres) were processed for the 16th CRP sign-up. Some acres were shifted into the Continuous CRP sign-up. A new building to house the USDA Service Center is currently under construction west of Ida Grove with targeted date of completion in June of 1998. Commissioners and Miller attended the Little Sioux Watershed Works Committee meeting in Anthon.

DECEMBER

Miller and commissioners attended the Fall Regional meeting in Onawa. The BCWS Project conducted interviews and hired Peg Peters of Ida Grove as Information Specialist. Nels Walter Johnson of Washta, was appointed as assistant commissioner for the District.

JANUARY 1998

A dinner honoring retiring commissioner Everett Still was held. A District organizational meeting was held to elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson and to appoint the District secretary/treasurer. Abundant Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program Funds are available for conservation practices. Nels Walter Johnson was appointed by the State Soil Conservation Committee to fill the unexpired term of Still. Commissioners established that spending priorities for Little Sioux Watershed Funds continue to be terraces, water and sediment control basins, and erosion control structures. Cost-share rates for Little Sioux Watershed projects were increased from 50% to 65%, with summer construction being raised from 65% to 75%.

FEBRUARY

A contractor meeting was held in conjunction with Woodbury County. A Commissioner Development Program was attended by commissioners, state secretaries, state technicians and district conservationists. Commissioners and Miller

attended the Iowa Watershed Coalition meeting in Walnut, Iowa.

MARCH

The Sioux Rivers RC & D was officially approved by Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman. The 1997 Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Report was presented and approved for publication. Dale Friedrichsen of Holstein was selected as the receipt of the District scholarship and his application was forwarded for regional competition.

APRIL

All fifth graders in the county received a tree. Miller and Extension Director Bret Warnke demonstrated planting techniques at each school in the county. Sponsors were First State Bank, Galva Civic Club, United Bank of Iowa - Arthur, Holstein Kiwanis Club, Ida Grove American Legion, Battle Creek Lion's Club. The District committed financial support toward the purchase of updated office furnishings for the USDA Service Center.

MAY

The annual 6th Grade Outdoor Classroom was held at Moorehead Park. All schools in the county were invited to participate. Each commissioner was presented with the new Ida County Soil Survey. Kick-off meetings to introduce the survey are scheduled to begin in August. Commissioners reviewed insurance on District owned property. Ida County Pheasants Forever will match District funds to promote the Continuous CRP Program. Mary Neumann of Ida Grove was selected as the recipient of the District Izaak Walton Windbreak award for 1998. The District office was moved into the new building on highway 175 west of Ida Grove along with Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency.

JUNE

Plans are underway for an open house at

the new USDA Service Center. 1998 proposed resolutions to be presented at the Annual Conference were reviewed and votes were compiled. Status reviews for 1998 have been completed.

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

Fiscal Year 1998

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

Individuals Assisted	747
Conservation Systems Fully Applied (acres)	4,004
Conservation Tillage (acres)	2,788
Contour Farming (acres)	2,637
Farmstead Windbreaks	13
Field Borders (feet)	19,250
Terraces (feet)	151,760
Waterways (acres)	53
Land Benefited (acres)	11,336
Grade Stabilization Structures	5
Water & Sediment Control Structures	7
CRP 16th & 17th Sign-up Applications ..	63
CRP 16 (General) Contracts Approved (1203 acres)	25
CRP 17 (Continuous) Contracts Approved (402 acres)	20
Planning Grazing Systems	1

EEO STATEMENT

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DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT

(July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998)

1-M	\$ 4,000.00
Expenses: Printing,	
Office, Commissioner	<u>3,953.92</u>
Balance released to state	\$ 46.08

3-M Cost-Share Funds (97-98)	\$ 44,455.00
Obligated & spent	<u>43,280.00</u>
Balance in fund	\$ 1,175.00

REAP - Practices Funds (98)	\$ 8,015.00
Spent	<u>6,423.52</u>
Balance released to state	\$ 1,591.48

REAP - Forestry/Native Grasses (98)	\$ 1,853.77
Spent	<u>1,853.77</u>
Balance released to state	\$.00

Little Sioux River Flood Prevention Project Funds (98)	
Obligated or spent	\$ 237,734.49

Watershed Maintenance Funds	
Checking 7/01/97	\$ 117.75
Income	2,351.14
Expenses	<u>255.61</u>
Balance 6/30/98	\$ 2,213.28

Watershed Funds CD's	\$ 103,029.96
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General Funds	
Checking 7/01/97	\$ 1,088.20
Income	18,945.67
Expenses	<u>19,495.70</u>
Balance 6/30/98	\$ 538.17

General Funds CD's	\$ 30,000.00
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