

Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District Fiscal 1987

Ida County Pioneer Record
Ida Grove, Ia. Oct. 27, 1988

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Soil Conservation

ANNUAL REPORT



The Earth Team - those men and women dedicated to the premise that the thin layer of topsoil covering Ida County is worth conserving & protecting, is winning! The primary goal is that every acre of farm ground in Ida County be adequately protected by 1995 to comply with the Food Security Act of 1985.

The task is formidable, but achievable!

Your cooperation has been great, it helps make the job interesting & challenging!



EARTH TEAM PERSONNEL - First row seated - SCD commissioners, L-R: Bill Ullrich; Everett Still; vice chairman, Mason Goodenow; chairman, Robert Coxell; and Wilbur Rohik. Standing - Soil Conservation Service, State and District personnel, L-R: Jerry Sindt, SCS Soil Conservationist; Shawn

Dettman, SCS Soil Conservationist; Carl Lee, SCS Soil Conservation Technician; Lou Collins, State Clerk; Randy Sohm, SCS Conservation Technician; Jan Schug, District employee; Steve Shofly, SCS Conservation parttime aide; and Don Kauffman, SCS District Conservationist.

Terrace Cost Share

Terraces are one of the most effective conservation measures. Recognizing this, many landowners have made application for government cost-share to assist in constructing terraces on their farm. Because of the large number of applications, the district commissioners have adopted the following policy to distribute funds as fairly as possible. We ask your cooperation, patience & understanding.

IDA SCD POLICY ON COST-SHARING ON TERRACING

The Soil Conservation District commissioners have established the following guidelines they will follow in approving cost-share for terraces. The same procedures will be used with the Little Sioux terrace program.

1. Landowners who did not receive cost-share in previous year will be given preference for cost-share the current year. This rule will be relaxed if more cost-share becomes available.
2. Landowners will be approved for a maximum of 5000 feet of terraces during any one year.
3. An individual approved for one fund will not be approved for any other that year.
4. Cost-share limited to a maximum of \$1.25 per foot regardless of terrace design. Little Sioux contracts will use average cost.
5. The date of signup will be considered when other factors are equal.
6. Terrace intakes and tile will not be approved for cost-share.

JULY 1, 1987 TO JUNE 30, 1988

FINANCIAL REPORT

1M BUDGET (STATE APPROPRIATED)

Commissioners expenses, mileage, etc.....	\$1,021.53
Office supplies and expenses.....	553.30
Total expended.....	\$1,574.83

3M BUDGET (STATE APPROPRIATED)

1987-88 Allocation.....	\$54,783.00
Funds obligated for conservation practices.....	54,783.00
Unobligated funds.....	0

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION

1985-86 Allocation.....	\$23,813.00
Funds obligated.....	23,313.25
Unobligated funds.....	\$499.75

Total state allocation (1973-1988).....	\$787,128.10
Returned funds to date \$11,112.27.....	
Funds spent on conservation practices to date.....	\$776,015.83

JULY 1, 1987 TO JUNE 30, 1988 WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND

(Held in Trust by the District for maintenance of watershed structures)

Cash on hand July 1, 1987.....	\$146.81
Receipts.....	6,003.37
Interest.....	\$4,238.03
Maintenance payments.....	1,632.00
Equipment sold.....	133.34
Expenditures.....	4,111.90
Watershed repairs.....	441.56
Office expenses & equipment.....	670.34
To Hi Fi account.....	3,000.00
Cash on hand June 30, 1988.....	2,038.28
Time certificates.....	39,000.00
Money market certificates.....	20,000.00
Hi Fi account.....	\$7,671.53

JULY 1, 1987 TO JUNE 30, 1988 GENERAL FUND

Cash on hand July 1, 1987.....	\$443.52
Receipts.....	4,692.35
Tree sales.....	127.25
Sales tax collected.....	8.56
Flag sales.....	262.00
IM reimbursements.....	442.18
Equipment sold.....	266.66
Interest.....	3,085.70
From Hi Fi account.....	500.00
Expenditures.....	5,340.71
Sales tax.....	8.09
Tree purchase and expense.....	116.50
Flag purchase.....	264.37
Office supplies and expense.....	272.56
Commissioners expenses.....	724.88
State and National dues.....	1,250.00
Subscriptions/ads.....	17.50
Soil stewardship material.....	196.55
Annual report.....	159.60
Office equipment.....	1,330.66
To Hi Fi account.....	1,000.00
Cash on hand June 30, 1988.....	\$ -204.84
Hi Fi account.....	3,216.94
Time certificates.....	\$37,300.00

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Farms served.....	935
Farms applying practices.....	202
Food Security Act Plans complete.....	81,231 Ac
Seedings on CRP Acres.....	2316
Terraces - miles.....	125.0
Land adequately treated - Acres.....	8179



WINDBREAK WINNER -- Gib and Berdine Petersen stand in front of their farm windbreak which has been chosen as a district winner.

Windbreak Award Goes To Gib Petersen Family

Gib and Berdine Petersen of Ida Grove not only have benefited from a 400-foot long windbreak they planted 27 years ago, but they also have won the district conservation award for the windbreak.

Don Kauffman, district soil conservationist, announced the windbreak winner this week.

The Petersens' windbreak is located at their farm across the road from LaCasa Village in Blaine Township, Section 30, southeast of Ida Grove.

"We really enjoy it," Gib Petersen says of the windbreak. The natural protection northwest of the Petersens' country home not only stops the snow from filling the cattle yards and house yard, but it also helps the temperature in the house. "It really cuts off the wind on the house," Petersen says.

The windbreak also has

served as a haven for wildlife; the Petersens even had a pet pheasant for a time. This spring the Petersens will replace two trees which died.

Included in the winning conservation measure are one row of 17 Black Hill spruce, a back row of 21 Austrian Pine and a final row of honeysuckle. The trees tower as tall as 28 feet, Petersen estimates.

In addition to the windbreak, the Ida Grove family practices other conservation measures. Two years ago they started putting in terraces. Today, there are approximately 14,370 feet of terraces. The Petersens have 240 acres, including 180 acres in corn and beans and the rest in pasture.

Petersen and his son, Ron, who continues to live at the home place, are 50-50 on the farming. The Pe-

tersens reside in Ida Grove, having moved in 1979 after living on the farm since 1947. They built their country home in 1961. "We've replaced every building ex-

cept two," Petersen says.

Since 1962, Gib Petersen, a native of Ida Grove, has been a fulltime seed district sales manager for Lynks Seeds.



PARTY LEADER -- Wayne Dankert, who served as Ida County soil survey party leader, explains his work to an audience attending the Last Acre ceremony for the soil survey.

Final Acre - - Continued From Page 12

going to be a very, very valuable tool to the county in coming up with valuations," she told those attending the Last Acre Ceremony. Don Kauffman of Ida Grove, director of the Ida County Soil Conservation Service, wrapped up the program by standing up and quipping, "Four score and seven years ago..." He declared, "It's really quite an occurrence. Considering all that has gone down the river, it's really quite an accomplishment."

He noted that when the soil and water district was formed 44 years ago, basic information about the soils was missing. "We've looked forward to this for a long time," Kauffman said.

Kauffman added that some of the older maps from 30 years ago show three to three inches of topsoil. The new maps show less than three inches of topsoil. Even within a generation, two to three inches of soil have been lost. "That's a sad situation," he said.

Also speaking at the ceremony were Sen. Don

Doyle, D. of Sioux City and Wayne Dankert, the survey party leader.

Dankert said he would be maintaining an office in Ida County through the winter, but he said he also will be working in Monona County while continuing to reside in Ida Grove.

The party leader concluded the Last Acre Ceremony by inviting the guests outside to watch a probing of soil. As Dankert examined the soil he had probed, he announced that it was Ida silt loam, severely eroded with a nine

percent slope.

The saga of the mapping of Ida soil had just concluded its final chapter.

Congratulations

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of the Soil Survey

Pioneer Record

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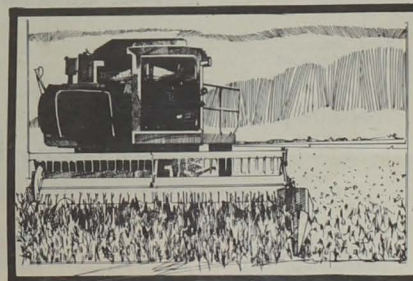
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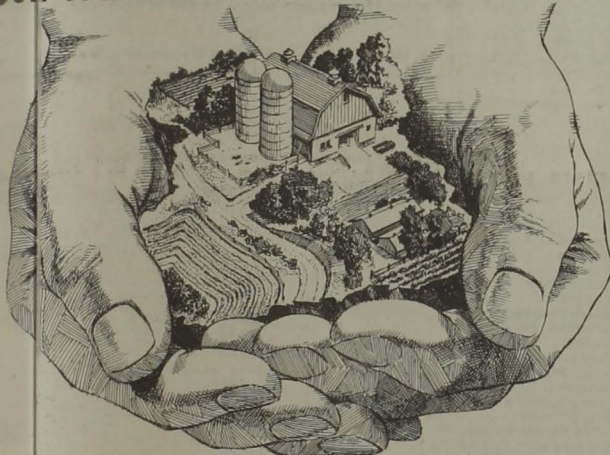
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SOIL CONSERVATION IS IN YOUR HANDS



We tend to look upon the land as an endless spring of resources. But it's not! Our valued natural assets are becoming less abundant. It's time to realize that we get from the land only what we put into it!

We must treat it with care in order to properly utilize nature's resources, rather than destroy them... preserve our countryside and

waters, rather than destroy them. And it's never too late to start doing something about it!

What we take away from the land, we can replace. How? By curbing the wasteful use of our energy sources. Recycling. Replanting. Reevaluating our needs. And most important, working together, to preserve a clean, healthy, and thriving environment. Let's start now.

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