



**POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

P.O. Box 216
Malcom, Iowa 50157-0216

(641) 528-2065
Assisted by

**U.S.D.A. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICES**

BUFFER INITIATIVE OPPORTUNITY

Landowners have the opportunity to sign up contour buffer strips and filter strips under the Buffer Initiative Program sponsored by the Poweshiek County SWCD and the Division of Soil Conservation.

This initiative will provide an incentive for these two practices that are not signed up through the CRP.

Applicants will receive a one-time payment of \$200.00 per acre and sign a 5 year maintenance agreement. The applicant is only obligated to the practice for 5 years, but hopefully the landowner would continue the practice beyond the maintenance agreement. Applicants will be able to hay and graze these strips while covered by the maintenance agreement. No fencing or livestock exclusion is required.

The DSC will also provide incentives for the installation of the bottomland hardwood tree initiative. There is a \$100.00 sign-up incentive plus an additional 25% cost-share for the installation of this practice. The 25% incentive covers planning, site preparation, seedlings, planting and first year maintenance. The DSC will reimburse the landowner 25% of the actual cost or \$150.00 per acre, whichever is less.

**57TH ANNUAL REPORT
2005 FISCAL YEAR**

COMMISSIONERS

Mark Kennett, Chairman
Perry McClenathan, Vice-Chairman
John Mann, Treasurer
Coleen VanDyke, Commissioner
Roger VanErsvelde, Commissioner
Ronald Clayton, Ass't. Commissioner
Mike Phillips, Ass't. Commissioner

OFFICE STAFF

Craig Hempy, D.C.
Carol Brown, District Secretary
Raymond Drewelow, Technician
Clifford Foster, Technician
Tina Cibula, Soil Conservationist
Marvin Waechter, District Employee

**RON AND JUDIE CLAYTON
CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS**

Ron & Judie Clayton were selected as both district and regional winners of the 2005 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards contest in Poweshiek County. They reside in Chester Township.

The Clayton's have shown exceptional stewardship of this land and have implemented many different practices onto this farmland. These practices include, but are not limited to, conservation cover, crop rotation, conservation tillage, contour farming, cross slope farming, field borders, grassed waterways, livestock exclusion, terracing, farmstead and feed lot windbreaks, underground outlets, water and sediment control basins and wildlife upland habitat management.

Clayton was also judged on his involvement with the Poweshiek Soil and Water Conservation District and organizations such as the Farm Bureau, Poweshiek County Cattlemen's Association and Pork Producers and the Iowa Valley Resource Development and Conservation Program.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF STATE FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005**

IFIP FUNDS

2003-04 ALLOCATION	\$82,468.83
Spent	\$82,172.76
Balance	\$296.07
2004-05 ALLOCATION	\$72,880.62
Spent	\$62,025.34
Obligated	\$10,812.50
Balance	\$42.78
2005-06 ALLOCATION	\$68,426.60
Spent	\$46,319.28
Obligated	\$12,368.35
Balance	\$9,738.97

REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASS - 06 FY

ALLOCATION	\$2,010.00
Spent	\$0
Obligated	\$1,950.00
Balance	\$60.00

REAP PRACTICES - 06 FY

ALLOCATION	\$8,041.00
Spent	\$0
Obligated	\$4,773.00
Balance	\$3,268.00

**3% LOW INTEREST LOANS
AVAILABLE TO LANDOWNERS**

A new program is now available to landowners who are interested in doing conservation work on their land. Funding is expected to be between \$3-5 million each year. This loan assistance has been made available through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, as allowed under the Clean Water Act.

The 3% Low Interest Loan can be used to match other funding sources or as a stand alone incentive to fund 100% of the actual cost.

Loans can extend up to 10 years at 3% interest and range between \$5,000.00 and \$50,000.00.

Anyone interested in this program should contact the Poweshiek County SWCD for further information.

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED

The Poweshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) received a \$10,000.00 Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship grant for further data collection in the Walnut Creek watershed. Interest in Walnut Creek began in 2003 when a 7.9 mile stretch of the creek was the subject of a previous study grant. The segment was designated as impaired, by Iowa DNR, due to habitat alterations which have resulted in limited resources for aquatic life.

The watershed study will be expanded to include the upstream section from its beginning to the impaired segment. Surveys were taken to gather landowner perceptions of water quality and impairment in Walnut Creek and gauge their interest in installing conservation practices on their land. A visual assessment of land uses, conservation practices and livestock operations was used to identify sources of sedimentation and other matter detrimental to the creek.

Iowa Valley RC&D office is assisting the SWCD by writing the 319 Watershed Protection Project Application. If successful, cost-share funds would be available to assist landowners in installing conservation practices on the highly erodible farmland.

All NRCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.