

IDA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1995 Annual Report

104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, Iowa 51445

Phone: 712-364-2124

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

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

Staff

Neil Stockfleth,
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 1995 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

1995 Soil Conservation Awards Program Winners

Soil Conservation Awards Program for Iowa

Owner-Operator: Nels Walter & Joyce Johnson

Landlord-Tenant: Bob & Esther Seibert

Glenn & Rita Goodenow

New Cooperator

Kevin & Jane Kastner

Quad States Conservation Awards

Progress Award:

Don and Norma Spotts

Ray and Susan Drey (Operators)

Mark and Bridget Drey (Operators)

District/ Area Conservation Award:

Robert Bumann

District/Area Community

Conservation Award

Ida County Pheasants Forever

Wildlife Habitat Award

Doug & Vicki Linman

Farm Management Conservation Award

F.E. Hughes Trust, Owner

Dan Kriener, Firststar Farm Management,
Manager

John & Linda Burk, Operators

Isaac Walton League Windbreak Award

Don Bergman

Ida County SWCD Scholarship Award

Kim Sindt

Ida County

SWCD Poster Contest Winners

Grade K-1:

Brandon Burk, Tom Hofmann,

Jordan Whitney - District Winners

Grades 2-3:

Morgan Hanson - District & Regional Winner

Judd Thomson, Lisa Peters

District Winners

Grades 4-6:

Amy Beth Hofmann,

Morgan Thomson, Mark Peters

District Winners

Grades 7-9:

Collin Lee - District/Regional Winner

Sara Burk, Aaron Goodenow

District Winners

Grades 10-12:

Christy Hofmann - District/Regional Winner

Ched Hofmann - District 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 1995

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: The Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District hired Larry Kielhorn of Holstein as Watershed Inspector after Chet Challman's retirement. District Conservationist Neil Stockfleth reported that \$800,000 in Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program Funds are available for conservation practice cost-share. Plans were made for the Ida County Fair booth. The District has received funding for organic nutrient waste management system engineering cost-share and a cooperative employee.

AUGUST: Stockfleth presented the Watershed Operation and Maintenance Inspection Report. Barbara Knudsen of Ida Grove was hired by the District as a cooperative employee. Volunteer

Ella Droege is working on a historical report of the district happenings for the 50th Anniversary Banquet to be held in March 1995. Commissioners Bob Croxell and Everett Still attended the Iowa State Fair. Commissioners and County Committee members signed a cooperative Memo of Understanding.

SEPTEMBER: Stockfleth reported that \$85,000 in terrace cost-share contracts, and \$110,000 in erosion control structure contracts have been submitted by Ida County for approval through the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program. Commissioners Still, Croxell, and Lloyd Rickers attended the Annual Commissioner's Meeting in Des Moines. Croxell was re-elected Alternate Director for Region 1 of the Iowa Association of Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners.

OCTOBER: Stockfleth reported on the progress of the USDA reorganization. Soil Conservation Service will become Natural Resources Conservation Service. District Commissioners increased terrace footage limits on cost-share contracts from 7,500 feet to 10,000 feet, and will consider requests over 10,000 feet per contract on an individual basis. Commissioners also approved a 65% cost-share rate for terraces built during the summer incentive period of June 15th to September 15th, 1995.

NOVEMBER: Limited Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program Cost-Share Funds will be available in Fiscal Year 1995. Commissioners Croxell, Still, and their wives attended the Quad States Conservation Award Banquet at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City. Croxell reported on a regional director's meeting he attended in Des Moines. State Representative Jim Meyer made a presentation on the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program, and the Organic Nutrient Management Program Funds (ONMP). The District drafted a letter to legislators supporting the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program funding.

DECEMBER: The District annual meeting was held at the Fireside Restaurant in Anthon. Stockfleth reported that 50% of the shallow wells in Ida County are contaminated with coliform bacteria or high nitrate levels. It was the consensus of the board that the District should support projects to clean up shallow wells and to encourage support for a rural water system.

JANUARY: An organizational meeting was held. Robert Croxell was elected Chairperson and Lloyd Rickers was elected Vice Chairperson of the District. Arlis Bahnsen, State Secretary, was appointed District Secretary/Treasurer. Croxell attended the Forestry Short Course in Ames, and also attended an Open House and luncheon with Iowa legislators at the Wallace State Building in Des Moines. The District Annual Plan of Work was completed. An informational meeting about Conservation Reserve Program acres was co-sponsored by the Ida, Crawford, Woodbury and Monona Counties in Mapleton. Approximately 200 farmers attended. Staff members, Carl Lee & Jerry Sindt, and Commissioner Van Houten attended the Intensive Grazing Management Workshop at Dordt College in Sheldon. Cathy Graves, Iowa Department of Agriculture Field Representative addressed the board.

FEBRUARY: The annual contractors' meeting was held, with a noon meal served. The Bitter Creek Watershed Structure Bid Letting was held, with bids submitted from Goodburn Dirt Construction, Mathers Construction, Anderson Construction, and Joy Dirt Construction. The contract was awarded to Joy Dirt Construction of Cushing with low bid of \$235,460.35. Dave Beck, Area Conservationist, addressed the board. Sindt & Stockfleth reported on rural water meetings they attended.

MARCH: The District Board reviewed the Memo of Understanding on Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights between the District and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Commissioners attended the Spring Regional meeting in Hartley. Commissioners met with county Board of Supervisors. A banquet was held at the Ida Grove Skate Palace to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Dale Cochran, State Conservationist Leroy Brown, State Division of Soil Conservation Director James Gulliford, Area Conservationist Dave Beck were among the honored guests. Approximately 200 attended. Poster contest winners were selected. A no-till incentive of \$10/acre for up to 50 acres was approved.

APRIL: Annual watershed inspection was completed, and necessary maintenance and repairs have been scheduled. Approximately 170 fifth graders in the county received a tree, and a demonstration on how to plant trees was given at each elementary 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. Conservation Reserve Program contract holders were allowed to withdraw CRP acres following certain guidelines from May 15th-June 2nd. County conservation award winners were selected.

JUNE: A copy of the application for a grant to fund the Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project was reviewed by commissioners. Kimberly Sindt of Holstein was selected to receive the District scholarship. The District drafted a letter to be sent to legislators encouraging support of Natural Resources Conservation Service Program funding.

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

Fiscal Year 1994-95

October 1, 1994 - September 30, 1995

Individuals Assisted (tracts)	605
Individuals Applying Practices (tracts)	268
Conservation Systems Fully Applied (acres)	17,823
Conservation Tillage (acres)	9,310
Contour Farming (acres)	4,001
Farmstead Windbreaks (acres)	15
Field Borders (feet)	376,565
Terraces (feet)	552,360
Cropland Treated (acres)	18,549

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT

(July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995)

1-M	\$ 3,700.00
Expenses: Printing,	
Office, Commissioner	<u>3,524.69</u>
Balance Released to State	\$ 175.31
3-M Cost-Share Funds (94-95)	\$40,718.00
Obligated & Spent	<u>\$40,718.00</u>
Balance Released to State	\$.00
3M Cost-Share Funds (92-93)	
Supplemental	\$ 29,750.00
Obligated & Spent	<u>29,020.00</u>
Balance in Fund	730.00
REAP - Practices Funds (95)	\$ 6,266.00
Obligated & Spent	<u>5,559.35</u>
Balance Released to State	\$ 706.65
REAP - Forestry/Native Grasses (95)	\$3,048.55
Obligated & Spent	<u>3,042.23</u>
Balance Released to State	\$ 6.32
Organic Nutrient Management Program Funds (95)	\$ 11,221.00
Obligated & Spent	<u>.00</u>
Balance Released to State	\$ 11,221.00
Little Sioux River Flood Prevention Project Funds (95)	\$298,011.10
Obligated & Spent	<u>254,434.42</u>
Contracts Cancelled	\$ 43,576.68
Watershed Maintenance Funds (Savings) 7/01/94	\$ 7,744.02
Income	\$ 88.70
Expense	<u>5,000.00</u>
Balance 6/30/95	\$ 2,832.72
Checking 7/01/94	\$ 1,280.19
Income	\$3,106.44
Expenses	<u>2,177.83</u>
Balance 6/30/95	2,208.80
Watershed Fund CD's	\$ 89,981.18
General Funds	
Savings 7/01/94	\$ 319.19
Income	\$.00
Expense	<u>.00</u>
Balance 6/30/95	\$ 319.19
Checking 7/01/94	\$ 14.06
Income	\$ 30,308.77
Expenses	<u>2,434.19</u>
Balance 6/30/95	\$ 20,888.64
General Fund CD's	\$ 31,300.00