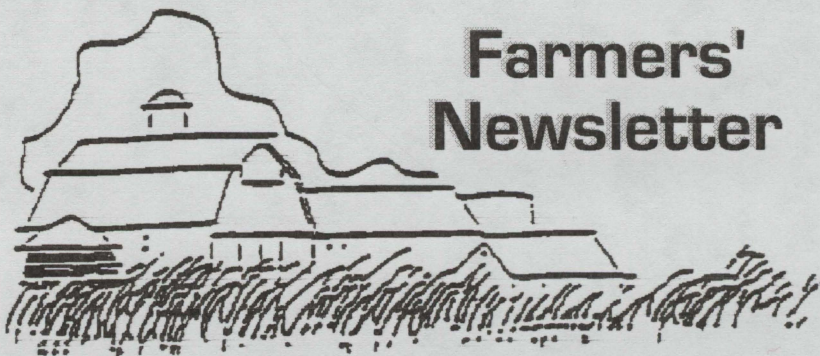


FSA Farm Service Agency Dickinson County

FSA Committee
Walter Brunsvold
Neal Delaney
Tim Hemphill



Farmers' Newsletter

Jct. Hwy. 9 & 71

Box H

Spirit Lake IA 51360

[712] 336-3782

October 22, 1996

Nominate & Vote for Farmers of Your Choice



Producers in Westport, Okoboji, Milford and Lloyd townships have the opportunity to nominate persons they feel would best serve their farm community on the FSA County Committee. Farmers in these townships who are interested

in serving as members of the County or Committee Committee or who know someone they would like to have serve, are encouraged to file a nomination petition in the FSA office by October 28, 1996. A farmer is eligible to be a committee member if they live and have farming interests in the community in which the election is being held.

Nomination petitions are available for anyone interested in serving in Westport, Okoboji, Milford or Lloyd townships by simply stopping in to the Dickinson County FSA Office or by telephoning the office at [712] 336-3782 to request we mail you a form.

The completed petitions must be returned to the Dickinson County FSA Office by October 28, 1996.

Important Dates:

- Oct. 3** - Request nomination forms from the FSA County Office and beginning nominations
- Oct 28** - Last day to file nomination forms
- Nov 18** - Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec 2** - Last day to return voted ballots
- Jan 1** - Elected committee members/ alternates take office

Commodity Loan Rates

Corn.....\$1.73
Soybeans.....\$4.76

October Commodity Loan
Interest Rate — 6.875%

Planning to do some Drainage Work?

Contact the Dickinson County FSA Office if you are considering tiling or draining any land. Before any tiling or drainage activity takes place, you must first come to our office and file a new sodbuster form. NRCS will then make a wetland determination on the area to be affected. If you tile, drain, alter or manipulate a wetland in any way, you will be in violation of swampbuster provisions. Such violations will make you ineligible for USDA benefits on all land in which you have an interest.

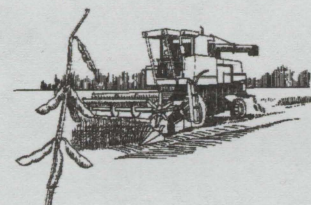
1996 Corn & Soybean Loans

One of the farm program benefits available to you through your Farm Service Agency is 9 month Commodity Credit Corporation loans. 1996 crop commodity loans are available for all crops which include: corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, wheat, barley and oats.

The Farm Service Agency provides farmers the opportunity to seal grain with Commodity Credit loans in order to obtain cash to meet financial obligations or needs while the farmer maintains ownership/title to the grain for potential future market price improvement, or other options that are related to grain ownership.

The commodity loan application process is greatly simplified from what it has been in previous years and provides for a farmer to obtain the loan proceeds in a very short period of time.

Another benefit of the commodity loan is there is no repayment penalty. The loan can be repaid at any time by simply paying principal and accrued interest as of the date of repayment. The variable interest rate charged against the loans is extremely competitive running at 6.875% for loans applied and disbursed during the month of October 1996.



FSA Newsletter

Agriculture Market Transition Act (AMTA)

Year 2 of the AMTA Program begins on October 1, 1996 and ends on September 30, 1997. This period is referred to as the "97" program year.

1997 advance PFC payments will be issued to eligible producers on either December 15, 1996 or January 15, 1997, based on a producer's request. Program regulations prohibit issuance of advance payments after January 15, 1997.

If you have not designated 1997 shares on your Contract (this is the case with all leased farms enrolled in 1996, unless there was a binding multi-year lease for the farm), you **MUST** sign a new Contract to designate the 1997 payment shares. This must be completed by January 15, 1997, to receive an advance 1997 payment.

You must notify this office of changes in your farming operation that may effect your eligibility for the PFC payments. Changes in your farming operation such as a change of owner, operator or other producer sharing in the crop, increase or decrease in the amount of land being operated, or any revision of a lease that changes the way the crops are shared will affect a producer's eligibility for payments and must be reported as soon as the change is effective.

Planting of fruits and vegetables on Contract acres will effect program benefits. Contact the Dickinson County FSA Office before you plant, or lease land for the production of fruits or vegetables.

Planning to do some Fall Tillage?

Producers must be in compliance with Highly Erodible and Wetland provisions in order to be eligible for AMTA benefits. You should review your farm's conservation plan before performing fall tillage on your highly erodible land this fall. Fall tillage could be a violation of your plan. Producers planning fall tillage on any Highly Erodible land including land coming out of CRP should contact NRCS for questions on their conservation plan, specifically, those producers who would need to have their plan changed or revised.

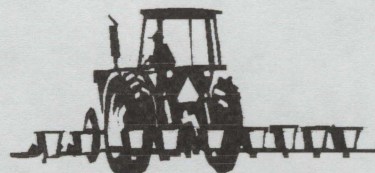
— Larry D. Lago, County Executive Director

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE



NEW PROGRAM

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is a USDA program being offered to landowners which replaces the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), Water Quality Incentives Program (WQIP) and a few other programs which were used in other parts of the US. EQIP provides flexible technical, financial and educational assistance and earmarks 50% of the money to be spent on livestock related natural resources concerns. Priority areas will be set up at the State and National level to direct input from the public by the establishment of local work groups convened by the Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners. Please feel free to contact the staff at the USDA Service Center in Spirit Lake or one of the SWCD Commissioners if you would like to assist in setting these priority areas in Dickinson County. It's important that we have a lot of public support at these local work group meetings to help our county to receive the allocation which accurately reflects our conservation needs. Data such as soils, climate, geologic features, threatened and endangered species, types of practices which could be installed or are being installed to protect major resource concerns, topography and cultural resources will be part of the assessment of these priority areas during the local work group meetings. As you can see, these broad areas of environmental data will require a lot of local input, because no one person or group could address all of these for Dickinson County.

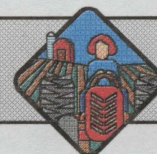


NO-TILL/RIDGE TILL/STRIP TILL INCENTIVES

Have you received a Conservation Tillage Incentive? Funds are available, as mentioned on the cover, for any producer who is implementing Conservation Tillage Practices on their land. If you have not yet received this incentive, here are the guidelines:

- ✓ This is a **one-time** incentive
- ✓ The incentive is \$10/acre with a maximum of 80 acres (**\$800**)
- ✓ You may No-Till, Ridge-till, or Strip-till, whichever is most suitable for your land

The funds are available on a first come, first served basis. Stop in today to sign-up or call the NRCS at (712) 336-2604 for more information.



Since the days, America's producers have nation's natural challenges —

They have enhanced their cropland for wildlife habitat and began using a number of practices to improve water quality. They have adopted tillage methods on millions of acres of cropland that left residues from the previous year's crop on the soil surface to protect the land from soil erosion. In the last ten years alone, they have build the most impressive record for natural resource care on agricultural land of any period in history.

The 1996 Farm Bill puts natural resources care more squarely on the shoulders of agricultural producers than previous farm bills. Your local USDA Service Center, Conservation District, and Extension Service will be there to help, as in the past. But the primary responsibility to make and

Dust Bowl agricultural met our resource convincingly.

carry out decisions to care for the land and water rests with farmers and ranchers.

We believe that voluntary conservation, with incentives, is the best approach to widespread use of conservation measures by farmers in this country. The 1996 Farm Bill offers us the opportunity to prove that. We've shown over the years that we are responsible stewards of the land and water. We need to keep demonstrating that those of us closest to the land, those of us who farm it, have the greatest stake in caring for it.

When this Farm Bill expires, we'd like to look back with satisfaction that we sustained the gains made in natural resource care over the years, and, better yet, improved on that record. It's in our hands.

Visit our home page on the Internet at:
<http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/county/dickinson.html>

IOWA WATER A DECADE OF PROGRESS

In 1997 a statewide cooperative effort of government, business, nonprofit organizations, and citizens will recognize the voluntary water protection and enhancement activities that have taken place during the past 10 years. This will be the biggest water celebration in Iowa ever!

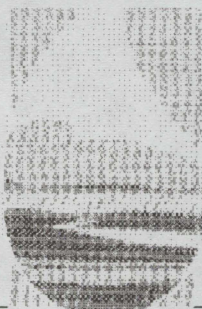
The *Year of Water* will celebrate Iowa initiatives that have led to protection and enhancement of Iowa stream, lake, watershed, and groundwater resources. Through sharing of success stories, model programs, and educational efforts, Iowans will increase their awareness of and appreciation of our unique water resources.

The landmark Groundwater Protection Act became law on July 1, 1987 and established a framework for Iowa to address water contamination and to prevent pollution from a range of sources including agricultural activities, solid waste landfills, underground storage tanks, and commercial and household hazardous waste. The impact of this law has been

multiplied by a host of voluntary initiatives throughout the state on the part of government and nonprofit organizations as well as individuals.

The celebration goals include:

- ◆ recognizing the accomplishments of Iowa citizens resulting from initiatives supported by the Groundwater Protection Act
- ◆ maintaining Iowans' enthusiasm and support for water resources throughout Iowa by sharing water protection and enhancement success stories
- ◆ identifying future opportunities to protect and enhance our water resources
- ◆ motivating Iowans to continue protecting these resources



Did you know...

...that growing a day's food for one adult takes about 1,700 gallons of water?
...that 2% of the Earth is fresh water?
...your brain is about 80% water?

For more information on the **1997 Year of Water** celebration contact the Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District office at (712) 336-2604 or visit the web site at:
<http://www.ag.iastate.edu/yearofwater/>



Really want them to own the farm someday?

Conservation tillage systems leave 30% or more crop residues, after planting, and offer the following economic and environmental benefits:



Find out how conservation tillage pays!

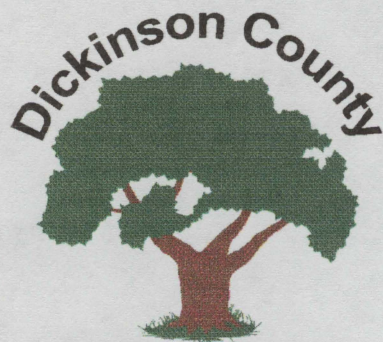
Visit the Conservation Technology
Information Center web site at
<http://www.ctic.purdue.edu>

- ✓ Reduced labor requirements - As little as one trip for planting compared to two or more tillage operations plus planting for conventional tillage.
- ✓ Time savings - On a 500-acre farm, the time savings can be as great as 225 hours or almost four 60 hour work weeks.
- ✓ Reduced machinery wear - Fewer trips save an estimated \$5 an acre on machinery wear and maintenance costs — a \$2,500 savings on a 500 -acre farm.
- ✓ Fuel savings - Save an average 3.5 gallons per acre or 1,750 gallons on a 500-acre farm.
- ✓ Reduced soil erosion - Soil erosion can be reduced by up to 90%.
- ✓ Improved surface water quality - Crop residues help hold soil particles and associated nutrients and pesticides on the field. Herbicide runoff can be cut in half on some sites.
- ✓ Improved long-term productivity - Carbon accounts for about half of the organic matter in the soil. The latest research shows the less you till, the more carbon you keep in the soil to build organic matter and promote future productivity.

***Results will vary depending on the conservation tillage system used, as well as field- and weather- specific conditions.*

USDA
Hwy 9 & 71
Spirit Lake IA 51360

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
USDA-FSA



...a quality environment