

35th Annual Report

POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 216, Malcom, Iowa 50157

1983 Fiscal Year

NO-TILL - PRACTICAL EROSION CONTROL

Soil erosion is still a big problem in Poweshiek County. On many sloping fields soil is being carried downhill by rainwater at a rate more than 3 times which is acceptable for long-term crop production.

Most of the soil does not erode and cause ditches in fields that you can see. It moves in a rather uniform layer that is not easily seen. Thus, most people do not realize how much soil is leaving their sloping land unless they see it collect in one spot.

Conservation tillage, especially no-till planting, is one practice that can be used on cropland to greatly reduce soil loss without spending additional money. It should be used with contouring, planting around the hill. Other practices such as terraces or a cropping system including hay, may be needed on long or steep slopes.

The more crop residue that is left on the soil surface at planting time, the less erosion will occur. The best choice is to no-till plant, leaving all crop residue on the surface at planting time.

Yields with no-till are about the same as with most other systems used in the county. In 1983, no-till corn yielded over 150 bushels per acre on two farms.

More farmers than ever are using no-till to save soil, fuel, labor and long-term equipment investment.

No-till is the practical choice to reduce soil erosion.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS FOR 1984

Miles Clayton, Chairman
Doug Brown, Vice-Chairman
Arlene Ford, Treasurer
Carol McCain, Secretary
Loren Roorda, Commissioner
Ross Mintle, Commissioner
Wallace Mathes, Ass't. Commissioner
Ed Hatcher, Ass't. Commissioner
Sandy Moffett, Ass't. Commissioner
Allen Brannian, Ass't. Commissioner
Don Pederson, Ass't. Commissioner

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

Carol McCain, State Clerk-Typist
Mona Bond, State Engineering Aide
Rick L. Shafer, Soil Conservationist
David W. Kudej, District Conservationist

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
John Pingry, Area Resource Cons.
David L. Nelson, Civil Engineer
Catherine N. Kaspar, Agricultural Engr.
Francis W. Vos, Civil Engr. Technician
Keith L. Hunt, Civil Engr. Technician
Jerome M. Mall, Civil Engr. Technician
Kathleen M. Ohnemus, Area Clerk



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAJOR PRACTICES

2 GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

Maynard McLain Paul Clapp

41,800' TERRACES

Marvin Campbell	Loanna Bloethe
Fisk Bros.	Elmer Nelson
Marvin Ehret	Oran Watson
Eileen Easton	Raffety Farms
Molison Farm	Lawrence Wallis
Don McKee	Elaine Stanley
Dale Robbins	Meigs Farm
Tracy Lidtka	Ron Clayton
Ron Clayton	Monty De Jong
Chief Alfa	Tom Ogle

18,500' WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS

Henry Rosburg	Oran Watson
Gordon Lewis	Vince Johnson
Dale Robbins	Leo Schott
Dr. Combs	Earl Jensen
Tony Kriegel	James Van Arkel
George Meeks	

Conservation Tillage.17,384 Ac

Contour Farming983 Ac

Cropland Benefited by Application
of Conservation Practices. . .18,054 Ac

Pasture & Hayland Benefited by
Application of Conservation
Practices1,792 Ac

Cropland Adequately Protected. . 1,998 Ac

OTHER SERVICES

Individuals & Groups Assisted. . .316 No

Individuals & Groups Applying
Practices240 No

Conservation Plans6,430 Ac

RICK SHAFER JOINS SCS

Rick Shafer, Soil Conservationist, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, joined the SCS staff in Malcom on November 28, 1983. Shafer comes to Malcom with over a years experience working in the Maquoketa Field Office.

Rick will assist the Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District in all phases of the soil conservation program. He will help plan and apply soil conservation practices that are needed to control erosion to acceptable rates.

STATE COST-SHARE

We will have state cost-share funds available for spring construction projects. Applications are now being accepted.

Terraces and permanent erosion control structures have been determined top priorities by the District Commissioners. The cost-share rate is 50%, and not to exceed the original estimate. No cost-share will be allowed on tile that extends further than 250 feet below the bottom terrace.

If you have interest in any conservation work, stop by our office for further assistance or call us at (515)-528-2065.

NO-TILL COST-SHARE

\$5,000.00 is available for landowners wanting to try some no-till planting in 1984. Cost-sharing will be limited to \$10 per acre, not to exceed 40 acres, and owners or operators who have previously received cost-share payment are ineligible.

FEDERAL COST-SHARE

The ASCS Office will have a sign-up period from February 1st to April 30th. This sign-up is for federal ASCS cost-share on conservation practices.

If you are interested, stop by the office or call (515)-528-4115.

1983 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DISTRICT

We would like to express our appreciation to the contributors who have made donations to our program. Thanks so much!

Melvin Hohl
Keith Davis
Poweshiek Mutual Insurance Association
Wemer Farms, Inc.
Mrs. H. E. Crowder
Mrs. R. W. Harris
Edward L. Peak
Gibson Savings Bank
Mrs. Howard (Inez) Sears
T.I.P. Rural Electric
Madill Farm (Verna Boland)
Cargill, Inc.
Earl Jensen
Charles E. Johnston
Arlo Taylor
Doane-Western
Doane-Western (Meigs Farm)
Doane-Western (June Farm)
Doane-Western (Shifflett Farm)
Doane-Western (Eyestone Farm)
Doane-Western (Fisher Farm)
Kenneth L. Dieterich
William Bernstein Trust
Donald Pederson
Federal Land Bank of Marshalltown

NO-INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM

The Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District has an allocation of \$11,695.00 in available loan funds.

To be eligible, a landowner must have a net worth of less than \$300,000.00, be able to secure the loan, and be capable of repaying the loan in equal annual installments.

The District is now taking applications for no-interest loans for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices.

If you are interested, or want more information, contact the Soil Conservation Office at (515)-528-2065.

1983 DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS 6,154 Acres

Russ Johnson	Floyd Postma
Larry Hartwig	Helen L. Walraven
Terry Stephen	Elmer L. Nelson
Duane Larsen	John C. Hardeman
Jack Bros.	Alfred Byers
Marvin Hicks	Ron Peck
Bruce Roorda	Steve Hay
David DeVilder	Richard Carmichael
Alice Harter	Marty Cummings
Charles Ranfeld	Roger L. Steffen
Gary Hanchett	Phillip S. Grier
Jerry Chedester	H. Wm. Armstrong
Harlan Kluber	N & R Ranch
Keith W. Bailey	Harriett Taylor
Vernon L. Koehn	Elmer S. Iverson
Don Smith	Lester Van Wyk
Allen & Meyer Farm	Kenneth C. Clayton
Jack L. Lang	Robert Slagle
Alma A. Vogt	
	Grinnell Treatment Plant
	Poweshiek County Conservation Board

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Disbursements
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1-M BUDGET (1982-83)

Allocation	\$2,700.00	
Commissioners Expense		\$1,624.59
Office Supplies		\$675.88
Office Expense		\$87.06
Printing		\$285.22
TOTAL EXPENDED		\$2,672.75
BALANCE	\$27.25	

3-M BUDGET (1983-84)

Allocation	\$97,205.00	
Disbursed to Landowners		\$50,384.57
Obligated		\$31,766.00
Unobligated		\$15,054.43
		\$97,205.00

3-M BUDGET (1983-84 No-till)

Unobligated	\$5,000.00
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS

The Commissioners conducted twelve regular meetings and one special meeting during the year.

Commissioners attended the Short Course in January, the Spring and Fall Regional meetings and the Annual Conference in November.

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors was attended by the Commissioners to request revenue sharing funds for cost-share projects.

A joint Contractor Meeting with Jasper County was held on February 10th. 85 people attended.

A No-till Meeting was held on February 23rd. The District offered three rental planters for spring use. There were approximately 121 in attendance, consisting of a farmer panel, guest speakers, implement dealers and local chemical and fertilizer dealers. Lunch was served by the Poweshiek County Cowbells. A tour was also given on July 20th. Five farm plots were shown. Interest in no-till has increased considerably over 1982.

The District Clerk and Engineering Aide attended a three day Training Meeting at the Amanas on March 15-17th.

AWARDS

ALLEN WATERBECK with a yield of 153.09 and FERNEAU FARMS with a yield of 150.72 were the first and second place winners in the no-till planted corn District Contest.

A windbreak on the WILLIAM NAGEL farm was chosen to be entered in the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award Contest.

LOANNA BLOETHE was selected as the winner in the Landlord-Tenant Division. Tenants on the farm are VIRTUS and OSCAR CORDES. DAVID LEE KING was selected as the winner in the Family Operated Division.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES CONT'D.

OTHER EVENTS

In observance of Soil Stewardship Week which was May 8th through 15th, the Commissioners sponsored a Ministerial Breakfast. Ministers from churches throughout the county attended. Approximately 3000 inserts and other Soil Stewardship materials were distributed. A slide set entitled "Living Waters" was shown.

The Commissioners sponsored a booth at the County Fair. A conservation display, complete with thunder and lightening sound effects, was on display. Commissioners also helped with a booth at the State Fair sponsored by the Department of Soil Conservation.

GROUPS WHO ASSIST THE DISTRICT

1. Soil Conservation Service
2. Department of Soil Conservation
3. County ASCS
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission
6. Chemical dealers
7. State & National Association of District Commissioners
8. Grinnell Kiwanis Club
9. Newspapers
10. Radio and TV stations
11. County Board of Supervisors
12. Contractors
13. Vocational Agriculture
14. Farm equipment dealers
15. Banks
16. Public schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. FmHA
21. Professional & business personnel
22. Izaak Walton League
23. Construction equipment companies and suppliers



Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District

P. O. BOX 216

* MALCOM, IOWA 50157

* Phone (515) 528-2065

Dear Cooperators and Friends:

As you receive this letter, many of you will be making plans for your 1984 crop year. We hope you will again consider the wise use of your soil in making your 1984 plans.

The Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District is in the process of setting goals for the coming year. We feel that 1983 was a good year for soil conservation practices because our records show that we constructed 60,300 feet of terraces and water and sediment control basins, 2 grade stabilization structures, 37 acres of grassed waterways and 17,384 acres of conservation tillage. These conservation practices will conserve soil and water for the use of future generations and insure for them the good life that we have enjoyed.

As commissioners it is our duty to keep conservation practices before the eyes of the public and to help train our young people in these practices. We feel that we do a good job in this area with our educational booklets, soil stewardship materials, scholarships to conservation workshops and classes, our essay contest and many other educational programs. In order to continue to carry on and expand these programs, we need your voluntary financial support since we have no taxing or bonding authority.

Hopefully, you will see fit to lend your support to this worthy cause this year. Your contributions will be put to good use. Kindly make your check payable to the Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District and mail it to P.O. Box 216, Malcom, Iowa, 50157. If you wish, you may leave your contribution at the office in the USDA Building in Malcom.

We are thankful for the good soil that we have in our part of the state which is so basic for our food and fiber and for the good life that we all enjoy. Allow us to thank you in advance for whatever contribution you may see fit to make for the continuation of our programs.

Sincerely,

Miles Clayton, Chairman
POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Doug Brown
R. R. 4
Grinnell

Miles Clayton
R. R.
Brooklyn

Arlene Ford
R. R. 2
Brooklyn

Ross Mintle
R. R. 1
Malcom

Loren Roorda
R. R.
Montezuma

Poweshiek Soil Conservation District
P.O. Box 216
Malcom, Iowa 50157

1984
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Malcom, Iowa
Permit No. 3

POWESHIEK SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MAILING LABEL

2100000000

FOR THE YEAR 1984 TO BE PAID FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOIL AND WATER
BY THE DISTRICT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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