

**IDA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

***1997
Annual Report***

104 Taylor Street
Ida Grove, Iowa 51445

Phone: 712-364-2124

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

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

Staff

Lorne Miller
District Conservationist
Jerry Sindt
Soil Conservationist
Randy Sohm
Soil Conservation Technician
Carl Lee
State Soil Conservation Technician
Arlis Bahnsen
State Secretary
Chris Jennings
Battle Creek Watershed
Groundwater Protection Project Coordinator
Carol Thomson, W.A.E.
Barbara Knudsen, W.A.E.
Larry Kielhorn
Watershed Inspector

As commissioners of your Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this 1997 Annual Report on 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 1997 Award Winners

Izaak Walton League
Windbreak Award
Loren & Kathleen Goettsch

Ida County SWCD
Scholarship Award
Tracy Lee

Ida County SWCD Poster Contest Winners

Grades K-1:
Eric Hanson, Bryce Davis,
Molly Hofmann
District Winners
Peter Hofmann, *Honorable Mention*

Grades 2-3:
Brienne Davis, Tom Hofmann
District Winners

Grades 4-6:
Morgan Hanson, McKenzie Hofmann
District Winners

Grades 7-9:
Martin J. Hofmann
District Winner

Grades 10-12:
Colin Lee
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 97

The Ida County SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District) Commissioners usually meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the district office. All meetings are open to the public. (Open Meeting Law)

JULY 1996: Lorne Miller, District Conservationist, will develop a Plan of Operations and Budget for the Battle Creek Watershed Ground Water Protection Project. Funds should become available on October, with the Project Coordinator on board after January 1, 1997. Seven Damage Survey Reports were completed by Miller with three sites being funded for debris removal through Emergency Watershed Protection Program Funds following the recent rain event. The Ida County Engineer identified 41 sites to be evaluated for emergency funds. Abundant Littel Sioux funds are available for approved conservation practices.

AUGUST: The District sponsored a booth at the Ida County Fair. Emergency Conservation Practice (ECP) funds and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds are available to repair terraces damaged during the heavy summer rains.

SEPTEMBER: Commissioners approved no-till incentive of \$10/acre for up to 100 acres for Conservation Reserve Program acres coming out of contract. Staff is attending Total Quality management training this month. Commissioners Bob Croxell, Lloyd Rickers, and Everett Still, attended the Annual Commissioners' Conference in Des Moines. Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Signup for filter strips, riparian buffer strips, shelter belts, waterways and wildlife habitats will begin September 3rd. The mutual agreement between USDA, Iowa, and the District was reviewed and approved.

OCTOBER: Commissioner Robert Croxell attended the Farm Progress Show. District waterway cost-share policies were revised to allow fall construction when all criteria is met.

NOVEMBER: Several commissioners attended the Quad States Conservation Awards Banquet at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City. The District will make a donation to the Iowa Envirothon. The Cooperative Working Agreement between the State Soil Conservation Committee, Natural Resources conservation of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners was reviewed and approved.

DECEMBER: Commissioners met with the Farm Service Agency County Committee to discuss EQIP and locally held conservation. The Annual Report of Ida County SWCD was reviewed.

JANUARY 1997: Dennis Lindgren, newly elected Commissioner, signed the oath of office and was welcomed to the board. Robert Croxell retired as commissioner after many years of service. Everett Still was elected board chairperson, Rodney Jensen vice-chairperson, and Arlis Bahnsen, State Secretary, was appointed Secretary/Treasurer. Average costs were reviewed and adjusted for conservation practices. A request was made by the District for supplemental cost-share funds.

FEBRUARY: Community and conservation leaders met to discuss conservation in Ida County. The District renewed its membership in Iowa Watersheds.

MARCH: Interviews were conducted and Christopher Jennings was selected as Project Coordinator for the Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project. Ida County processed 54 contracts for the 15th Conservation Reserve Program Signup. Commissioners attended the Spring Regional in Akron, Iowa. Scholarship and poster contest winners were selected by the Education Committee.

APRIL: All fifth graders in the county received a tree. Miller and Extension director Brett Warnke demonstrated planting techniques at each school in the county. Computer equipment was purchased for the Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project. Civil Rights policies were reviewed.

MAY: The annual 6th Grade Outdoor Classroom was held at Moorhead Park. All schools in the county were invited to participate. Ida, Cherokee, Woodbury, Plymouth, and Monona counties are working to organize a Resource Conservation and Development Area to accelerate the conservation and development of

natural resources in order to improve economic activity and enhance the environment and standard of living within the authorized RC& D area.

JUNE: Status Reviews have been completed in Ida County. Conservation Districts of Iowa 1997 resolutions were reviewed and votes were compiled.

Ida County Soil and Water Conservation District and

Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 1996-1997

October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997

Individuals Assisted	596
Conservation Systems	
Fully Applied (acres)	3,706
Conservation Tillage (acres)	2,012
Contour Farming (acres)	2,260
Farmstead Windbreaks	20
Field Borders (feet)	4,900
Terraces (feet)	198,060
Land Benefited (acres)	10,985
Grade Stabilization Structures	5
Water & Sediment Control Structures	5
Waterways (acres)	42
Conservation Reserve Program	
Applications	87
Approved	64
Environmental Quality Incentive Program	
Applications Approved	1

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT

(July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997)

1-M	\$ 3,060.00
Expenses: Printing,	
Office, Commissioner	<u>2,786.26</u>
Balance Released to State	\$273.74
3-M Cost-Share Funds (96-97)	\$ 44,455.00
Obligated & Spent	<u>44,455.00</u>
Balance in Fund	.00
REAP-Practices Funds (97)	\$ 9,345.00
Spent	<u>6,070.69</u>
Balance Released to State	3,274.31
REAP-Forestry/Native Grasses (97)	\$ 2,162.00
Spent	<u>1,946.50</u>
Balance Released to State	215.50
Little Sioux River Flood Prevention Project Funds (97)	
Obligated or Spent	\$251,652.82
Watershed Maintenance Funds	
Checking 7/01/96	\$ 1,053.85
Income	989.64
Expenses	<u>1,925.74</u>
Balance 6/30/97	117.75
Watershed Fund CD's	\$ 98,584.06
General Funds	
Checking 7/01/96	\$ 635.68
Income	6,640.07
Expenses	<u>6,187.55</u>
Balance 6/30/97	1,088.20
General Fund CD's	\$ 30,000.00