

BLACK HAWK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3216 Thistledown Drive, Waterloo, Iowa 50702

Telephone: 319-296-3262

2003 ANNUAL REPORT/NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE BLACK HAWK SWCD COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COMMISSIONERS:

Marilyn Schuchhardt, Chair
Jon Mixdorf, Vice Chair
Kay Kober
John Hoffman

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS:

H. Arnold Harting
Sherman Lundy
Vern Fish
Kathy Scholl
Jerry Kramer

STAFF:

Roger Erickson, Acting DC
Char White, State Secretary
Julie Falcon, Soil Con.
Elaine Hammer, Soil Con. Tech.
Larry Weigle, District Tech.
Emily Luttrell, Temp. Full Time

The Black Hawk District Commissioners wish to extend a special thank you to the 30+ individuals and businesses who became contributing members of the new Black Hawk SWCD Conservation Supporter's Club during 2003. Their donations provide necessary financial support to promote conservation and to assist our landowners, operators, teachers, students, and citizens of Black Hawk County in their efforts to learn more about and prosper from our natural resources. The following are supporters who helped make possible education opportunities in 2003:

Max and Red Leymaster	Riensch Farms, Inc.	Rod and Millie Hennings	Pat Brown
Koch Family Ltd. Partnership	Larry and Lisa Borglum	Ted and Phyllis Green	Maxine Adair
Jerry and Joann Kramer	Margaret Hemphill	Quinter and Alice Lichty	Don Childs
Joe and Mary Kay Fischbach	Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schmitz	Neal and Helen George	Warren Finch
Lisa Bartholomew, Susan Gillett	Robert Schilling	Jim and Jodi Landau	John Hoffman
Steve and Judy Fisher	Herb Ludwig Farms, Inc.	H & W Enterprises	Vern Fish
John Deere Waterloo Works	Basic Materials Corp.	Larry and Ruth Weigle	

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE FOLLOWING

2003 AWARD WINNERS FOR CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE:

- Iowa Division Izaak Walton League of America 2003 Windbreak Planting Program:
 - Newly Established Windbreak Award presented to Jim and Mary Ann Grover
 - Farmstead Windbreak Award presented to Kenneth Kass
 - 2003 Conservation Poster Award presented to Jordan L. Ludwig, Union Middle School (Grade 8)

VISITORS AND SPEAKERS PRESENT AT 2003 COMMISSIONER'S MEETINGS:

- Mary Skopec, DNR Representative, Iowa Water Monitoring presentation
- Jill Lankford, UNI Resource Coordinator, STEP (Sustainable Tourism and Environment Program)
- Curt Hoeft, Cedar Valley RC&D Coordinator (5 counties)
- Judy Martinson, Area Office Soil Conservationist - soil loss complaint information presented
- Marcy Seavey, GLOBE Project to promote an understanding of science by school students
- Leon Mosley, Urban Minority 4-H Project

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ATTENDED AND HELD BY COMMISSIONERS IN 2003:

- New Commissioner's Training in Anamosa, January 15, 2003
- Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors FY2004 funding, January 15, 2003
- Spring Regional Meeting for Region 4 in West Union, March 26, 2003
- Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors meeting to encourage Cedar Valley Rural Cooperative and Development (RC&D) membership, May 20, 2003
- Fall Region 4 Meeting in Independence, August 25, 2003
- Governor's Summit on Water Conservation held in Ames, November 2003
- 57th Annual Conference for SWCD held in Marshalltown, November 19-20, 2003
- Black Hawk Locally Led Meeting to set EQIP priorities, December 22, 2003

PROJECTS AND EVENTS IN 2003:

- Wolf Creek Watershed - tillage survey completed June 2003
- Hawkeye Farm Show Booth, February 27-28, 2003
- Land Disturbing Activities: Lowe's and Fazoli's
- LESA (Land Evaluation and Site Assessment), adopted May 22, 2003
- Seed packet sales
- 4-H "Touch the Land 2003"
- Inspection tours on buffer strips with District employee Larry Weigle
- Two Soil Loss Complaints filed
- Earth Science Week/Conservation Tour Day, held October 5, 2003

BLACK HAWK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT (July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003)

IIIM BUDGET

Cost Share Funds 01-02

Original Allocation	\$19,845.00
Obligated	\$19,705.88
Balance	\$ 139.12

Cost Share Funds 02-03

Original Allocation	\$18,925.50
Obligated	\$11,413.75
Balance	\$ 7,511.75

Cost Share Funds 03-04

Original Allocation	\$12,936.00
Obligated	\$ 2,765.00
Balance	\$10,171.00

IM BUDGET

District Funds Savings/Checking Account

Balance 7/01/02	\$2688.38
Flag sales	210.00
Donations	1,149.00
Expenditures	4,030.31
Fishkill Restitution Funds	966.60
1M Allocation	1,500.00
1M Supplemental Alloc.	405.00
Bd. of Suprs. Allocation	2,000.00
Dividends	108.72
Seed packet sales	28.00

REAP Practice Funds 2003

Original Allocation	\$3,620.25
Obligated	\$2,337.97
Balance	\$1,282.28

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, 2004:

The Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) is a new cost share program that was created in the 1995 Farm Bill. It is a program that takes local input to solve natural resource concerns. A local group in each county meets during the year to discuss resource concerns and solutions. They make recommendations to the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for ranking criteria, priorities, solutions, and cost share rates. When funds become available each year, the SWCD has a sign-up and ranks applications to fund the best ones. Applications to be ranked can be received at any time.

The Black Hawk locally led group met in December 2003 to discuss changes from last year's ranking forms and priorities. There are many ways to raise a crop, but some are better for the environment than others. In the near future, upwards of \$100,000 will be allocated to each county and rankings will follow, to fund the best practices. Stop in the NRCS/SWCD office at 3216 Thistledown Drive, Waterloo, Iowa, or call 319-296-3262 and sign an application form if you want to be considered for funding in 2004. **Now is the time to let us know if you have an interest in EQIP cost share!** The trip to your farm for an estimate is free.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

NRCS - <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov>
FSA - <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
Iowa DNR - <http://www.iowadnr.com>

TSP - <http://techreg.usda.gov>
'02 Farm Bill - <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill/>
NRCS Practice Standards - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Technical/efotg/>

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Conservation District
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February 2004

