

KOSSUTH
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
F.Y. 92 ANNUAL REPORT



KOSSUTH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Wendell Christensen, chairman.....	Wesley
Kenneth Brones, vice-chairman.....	Swea City
James F. Antoine.....	Bancroft
Robert Deal.....	Algona
Kent Seely.....	Algona

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

John Simpson.....	Whittemore
Leon Laird.....	Algona
John Ley.....	Algona
John Sleper, Jr.....	Titonka
Amy Ahrends.....	Bancroft

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

William A. Gast.....	District Conservationist
John E. Skilling.....	Conservation Technician
Carolyn Marshall.....	State Secretary
Connie Zittritsch.....	WAE

-- CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS --

July 1, 1991 - June 30, 1992

Individuals assisted.....	869
Individuals applying a conservation practice.....	138
Conservation plans prepared.....	8,354 ac.
Determinations completed on tracts with no highly erodible fields.....	88
Determinations completed on tracts with highly erodible fields (number).....	4
Determinations completed on tracts with highly erodible fields (acres).....	42 ac.
HEL tracts with revised conservation plan (ac.).....	1,390 ac.
Conservation Cover (CRP).....	106 ac.
Conservation Tillage Systems.....	4,652 ac.
Contour Farming.....	919 ac.
Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreaks.....	9 ac.
Field Windbreaks.....	2,375 ft.
Field Borders.....	6,000 ft.
Grassed Waterways.....	8 ac.
Waste Storage Structure.....	6
Water and Sediment Control Basins.....	11
Cropland Acres Treated.....	7,796 ac.

-- FINANCIAL STATEMENT --

STATE FUNDS

1-M ACCOUNT

Allocation received on 7/1/91		\$ 2,009.00
Disbursements		
Commissioners Travel Expenses	\$1,057.88	
Office Supplies and Expenses	<u>951.12</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>2,009.00</u>
Balance in account on 6/30/92.....		\$ 0.00

3-M ACCOUNT

90-91 Allocation received		\$34,790.00
Funds spent		-2,623.73
Funds obligated, project not completed		-3,050.00
Funds recalled by DSC		<u>-27,490.00</u>
Unobligated balance in account on 6/30/92.....		\$ 1,626.27
91-92 Allocation received		\$23,665.00
Funds spent		-6,123.80
Funds obligated, project not completed		<u>-5,100.00</u>
Unobligated balance in account on 6/30/92.....		\$12,441.20

REAP-PRACTICE FUNDS:

90-91 Allocation received		\$27,280.00
Funds spent		-1,790.41
Funds recalled by DSC		<u>-25,489.59</u>
Unobligated balance in account on 6/30/92.....		\$ 0.00
91-92 Allocation received		\$ 6,342.00
Funds spent		<u>-5,710.56</u>
Unobligated balance in account on 6/30/92.....		\$ 631.44

REAP-FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES FUND:

90-91 Allocation received		\$10,415.00
Funds spent		-7,322.51
Funds recalled by DSC		<u>-3,092.49</u>
Unobligated balance in account on 6/30/92.....		\$ 0.00
91-92 Allocation received		\$ 1,634.00
Funds spent		<u>-1,243.38</u>
Unobligated balance in account.....		\$ 390.62

DISTRICT FUNDS

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT:

Balance in account on 7/1/91	\$31,702.46
Interest earned	+ 1,243.35
Transfer from IDS investment	+20,000.00
Transfer to passbook savings	- 1,363.42
Transfer to revolving account	- 598.07
Balance in account on 6/30/92.....	\$50,984.32

IDS INVESTMENT:

Balance in account on 7/1/91	\$20,000.00
Interest earned	+1,584.95
Transfer to passbook savings	-1,584.95
Transfer to certificate of deposit	-20,000.00
Balance in account on 6/30/92.....	\$ 0.00

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance in account on 7/1/91	\$ 277.18
Transfer from IDS Investment (interest)	+1,584.95
Transfer to District Revolving Account	-3,180.00
Transfer from Certificate of Deposit	+1,363.42
Reimbursement from SCS, equipment maintenance	+ 524.80
Interest earned	29.76
Balance in account on 6/30/92.....	\$ 600.11

REVOLVING ACCOUNT

Balance in account on 7/1/91	\$ 458.39
Deposits	
Transfer from savings/CD account	3,778.07
Reimbursement -- office supp/exp	858.99
Reimbursement -- equipment maint.	164.80
Sale of flags and intakes	78.01
Total Deposits	4,879.87
Expenses	
Dues	1,097.00
Education program	882.36
Postage	861.52
Equipment, maintenance	689.60
Annual dinner/comm mtg expense	549.27
Plaques, awards, recognitions	210.56
Trees for 3's program	169.13
Office supplies and expenses	143.68
Telephone	121.16
Subscriptions	76.92
Sales Tax	4.40
Total Expenses	4,805.55
Balance in account on 6/30/92.....	\$ 532.71

- DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS -

JULY

The commissioners developed their 1-M Budget & Spending Plan and approved the District Work Plan.

A letter requesting drainage district was mailed to land owners and operators of cropland in the south half of Kossuth County containing potential wetlands as determined by the SCS Wetland Inventory Team. In an effort to answer questions and assist producers in completing the drainage system worksheets, three informational meetings were held.

Amy Ahrends, Kossuth Co. Naturalist, developed conservation education program boxes for use in Kossuth schools. The district donated \$225 to purchase books relating to soil, water, and wildlife conservation.

Seven of 14 bids submitted for the 11th CRP sign-up were accepted.

AUGUST

The SWCD adopted a supplemental memorandum of understanding with USDA ASCS.

SEPTEMBER

"Farming Highly Erodible Land" newsletter was mailed to all FSA participants stressing the importance of contacting SCS for any needed clarification of FSA plans.

Noel Krantz was selected as the county winner of the Izaak Walton League windbreak award. Members of the local chapter assisted as contest judges.

OCTOBER

Annual membership dues to the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America were paid.

NOVEMBER

The commissioners gave final approval to the Soil & Water Resource Conservation Plan.

Commissioners and staff attended a leadership development training session in Algona.

DECEMBER

The district's annual appreciation dinner was held at Sarah's Restaurant in Algona.

A follow-up newsletter was mailed to all landowners and operators who farm highly erodible land. The newsletter addressed conservation tillage and residue requirements.

JANUARY

At the organizational meeting on January 2, officers for the district were elected: Wendell Christensen, chairman; Kenneth Brones, vice-chairman. Carolyn Marshall was appointed sec./treas. John Simpson, John Ley, John Sleper, Amy Ahrends, and Leon Laird were appointed as assistant commissioners.

Memorandums of understanding between the SWCD and various governmental agencies and groups were reviewed.

Christensen attended the annual conference of the Ia. Association of Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners.

Christensen, Deal, and Brones attended Commissioners' Annual Short Course in Ames.

National Association dues in the amount of \$550 were paid.

The Kossuth FSA Implementation Team met in Algona. The group was formed as a part of the state-wide effort to

help farmers apply the conservation practices in their FSA plans.

FEBRUARY

Five "Lines on the Land" education packets were purchased for use in Kossuth middle schools.

Seely attend the Algona FFA Chapter's "Friends of the FFA" banquet to present the local chapter a \$300 scholarship to help defray expenses to the national soils judging contest.

A newsletter dealing with spring tillage methods and water quality issues was mailed to all landowners and operators.

The District awarded plaques to each winner in the conservation tillage division of the Master Corn and Soybeans Growers' contests. Gerald Girres of Bode was the recipient of both awards.

A tillage meeting was held at Bancroft for FSA participants. SCS and ISU Extension conducted the program to assist producers in making the needed tillage changes to comply with their HEL plans.

MARCH

Christensen attended the REAP Assembly in Forest City. He was elected as area representative at the REAP Congress in Des Moines.

Clint and David Metzger, students at Algona Middle School, presented their science fair projects at the commissioners' meeting. Their projects were named the outstanding entries in the conservation division of their science fair.

IASWCDC dues in the amount of \$500 were paid.

John Simpson and Kevin Benson were selected as the Kossuth entry for the

owner/tenant division of the Ia. Soil Conservation Awards Program.

The spring issue of "Conservation Comments for Contractors" was mailed to all contractors doing earthwork and tiling in the county.

Christensen attended the Spring Regional Commissioners' meeting at Rockwell City.

The District donated \$25 to each middle school which had a soil & water division in their science fair. The funds were used for prizes and related contest costs.

APRIL

The 12th annual "Trees for 3's" outdoor classroom was held for 335 Kossuth Co. third graders. Each student was given an Amur maple seedling to plant.

Several area farmers are included in the Neighbor to Neighbor Tillage Directory. These individuals are willing to visit with other farmers about their successful conservation tillage operations (no till, ridge till, mulch till). Copies of the directory are available at the district office.

MAY

Church bulletin covers were made available to all county churches in observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

A Soils Outdoor Classroom was conducted for 8th graders. The students learned about soil and how it erodes and viewed some conservation practices on the land.

The district awarded certificates and cash prizes to winners in the conservation poster contest. First, second, and third place winners in the K-2 division were Mark Bonnstetter, Sylvia Weber, and Alisha Meyer. Kris Gifford, Prentice Valvick, and Chelshe

Merron took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place honors in the 3-5 grade division. Fifty-three students participated in the contest.

JUNE

Three of 13 bids submitted for the 12th CRP sign up were accepted.

Two informational meetings on the Wetland Reserve Program were held in Bancroft and Algona. ASCS personnel participated in the program.

Virginia Seaberg, Wesley, volunteered 15 hours in F.Y. 92 to assist in updating cooperator files.