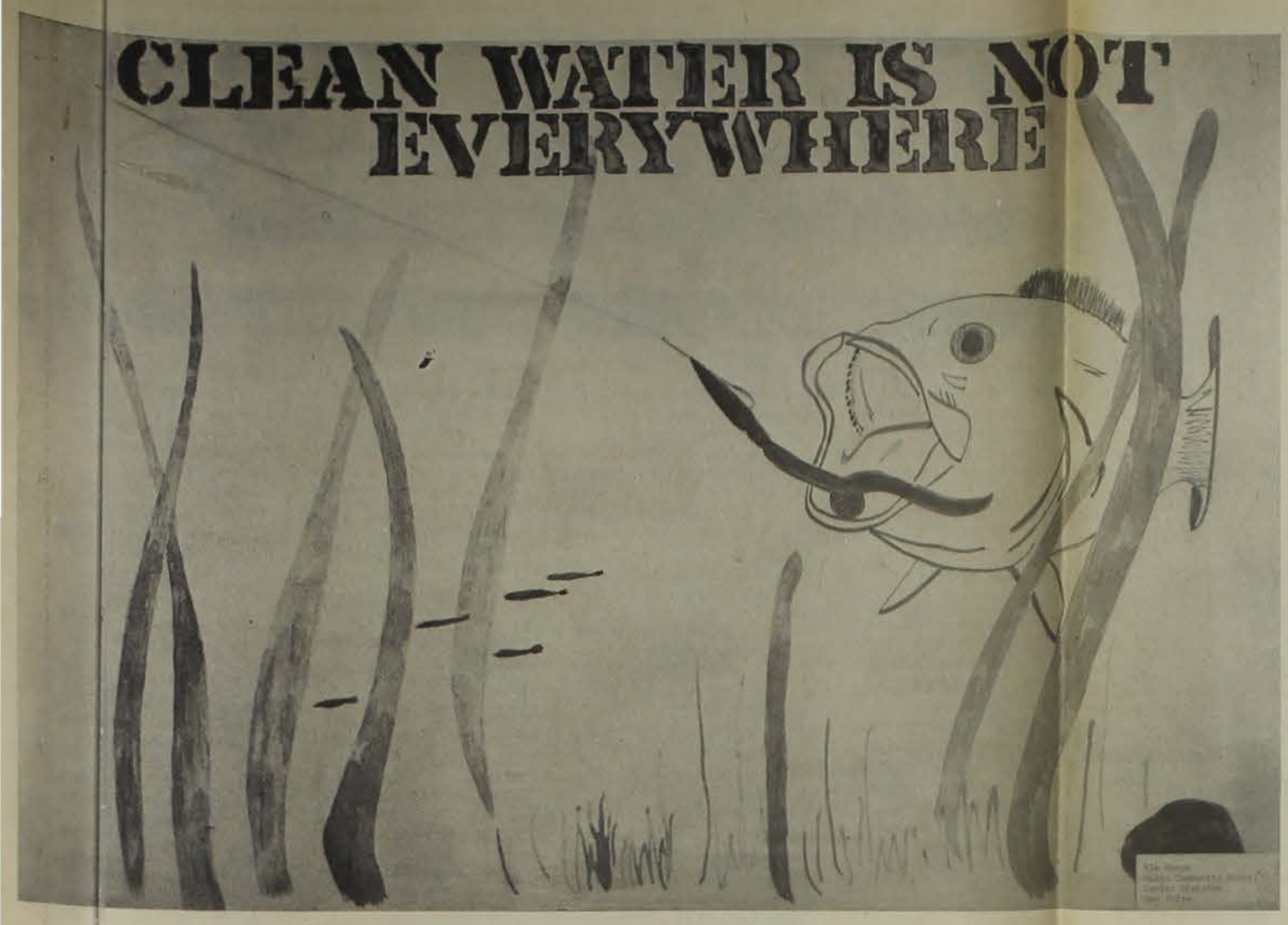


Ida County

Soil Conservation

District

1977

Annual Report

Forward

Here is the report of our activities within the Ida County Soil Conservation District for the past fiscal year.

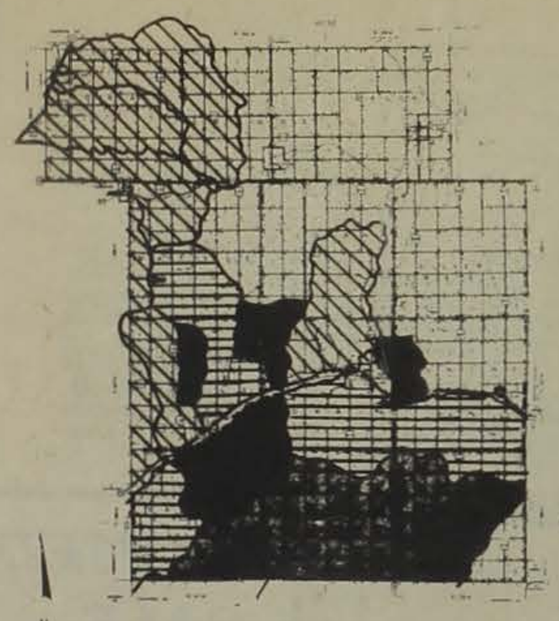
Considerable work was accomplished during fiscal year 1977. It is heartening to see how concerned landowners are in regard to caring for their land.

We offer our sincere thanks for the assistance and cooperation provided by various people and organizations during the past year. The job certainly requires many hands, and we appreciate your help.

The Ida County Soil Conservation Commissioners
and Assistants

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

IDA COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IOWA



District Commissioners

Ralph Johnson	Holstein	Chairman
Helen Dausel	Battle Creek	Commissioner
Birdelle Knudsen	Ida Grove	Commissioner
George Hartley	Battle Creek	Commissioner, Effect. 1-5-77
Lister Vohs	Galva	Commissioner, Effect. 1-5-77
Leonard Ernst	Ida Grove	Commissioner, Retired 1-5-77
John Higgins	Galva	Commissioner, Retired 1-5-77
Henry J. Brueck	Ida Grove	Assistant Commissioner

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

USDA - Soil Conservation Service Personnel

Donald G. Kauffman	District Conservationist
Clarence [Dutch] Kraft	Soil Conservation Technician

Iowa Department of Soil Conservation
[Iowa Merit System] Personnel

Luella Collins	Clerk Typist
Randall Sohm	State Conservation Aide

Soil Conservation Service Personnel
Sioux City

Wallis R. Tonsfeldt	Area Conservationist
Richard Hall	Civil Engineer
Lee White	Civil Engineer - Watersheds
Wayne Ducommun	Civil Engineer - Watersheds

Financial Report

July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977

1M Budget [State Appropriated]
Commissioners Expenses

Commissioners expenses, mileage, etc.	$ 469.29
Office supplies	156.75
Printing	261.50
Prizes for contests	53.82
Rental for meetings	15.00
Materials for demonstrations	69.26
Office expenses	336.36
Meeting expenses	206.16
Total expended	$1,568.14

2M Budget [State Appropriated]
Personnel

Clerk's salary, Insurance, Ipers, etc.	$ 9,155.18
State Aide's salary, Insurance, Ipers, etc.	10,359.04
Clerk's mileage, expenses	123.82
State Aide's mileage, expenses	13.70
Total expended	$19,651.74

3M Budget [State Appropriated]
Cost Sharing Conservation Work

1976-77 Allocation		$55,045.85
Funds obligated for Conservation practices	$54,235.59	
Unobligated funds		$ 810.26

WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND
Held in Trust by the District for
Maintenance of Watershed Structures

Cash on Hand, July 1, 1976		$ 96.47
Receipts		4,156.96
Interest	$1,622.03	
Maintenance payments	$2,534.93	
Expenditures		1,816.58
To Pass Book Savings		1,700.00
Cash on Hand, June 30, 1977		736.85
Time Certificate	$29,995.25	
Pass book savings, July 1, 1976		609.82
Interest		52.06
From checking		1,700.00
60 day loan to general fund	$2,000.00	
Pass book savings, June 30, 1977		361.88

GENERAL FUND

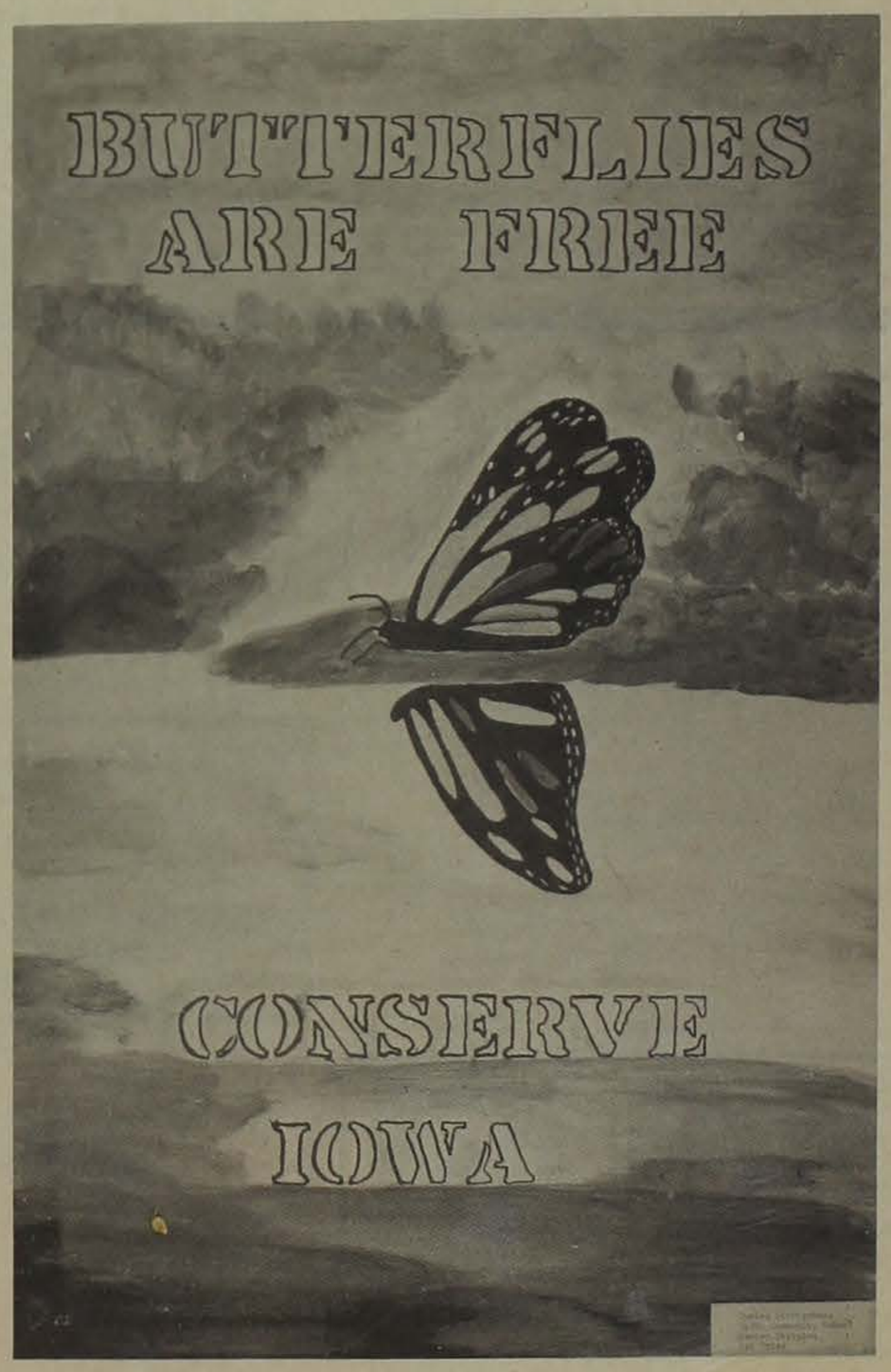
Cash on Hand, July 1, 1976		$ 497.30
Receipts		10,314.51
Loans: General Pass Book	3800.00	
Maintenance Pass Book	2000.00	
Tree Sales	1351.84	
1M Reimbursement	3162.67	
Expenditures		9,772.82
3% Sales tax	220.04	
Tree Purchase & Expenses	5977.29	
Donations	76.00	
Office Supplies	59.99	
Office Expense	193.16	
Contest Prizes	236.82	
Commissioners Expense	55.47	
State Dues	100.00	
National Dues	100.00	
Outdoor Classrooms	43.34	
Teachers Conservation Camp	100.00	
Subscriptions	22.75	
Fair Booth Materials	69.26	
Postmaster	101.72	
Soil Stewardship Materials	89.60	
Annual Report	197.80	
Award Banquet	129.58	
Time Certificate	2000.00	
Cash on Hand, June 30, 1977		$1,038.99
Pass Book Savings		$ 160.60

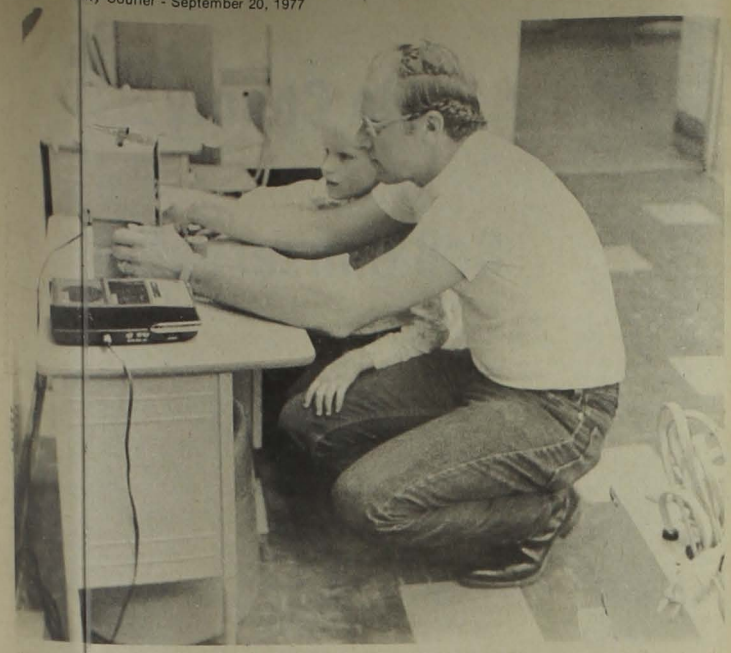
District Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 1977*

New District Cooperators	38
Conservation Plans Prepared	36
Contour Layout	420 Acres
Farmstead Windbreak	5.6 Acres
Grassed Waterways	60.8 Acres
Terraces	23.8 Miles
Subsurface drain tile	15.9 miles
Erosion Control Structures [not Watershed]	3

* During the past year, the federal government changed fiscal year periods from July 1 thru June 30 to October 1 thru Sept. 30. Therefore the above figures cover the transition period and the new fiscal year, July 1, 1976 to September 30, 1977.





Father's day

Ida Grove first graders are studying the alphabet and Thursday, Sept. 15 was "F is for Fathers" day. Fathers joined their children for lunch in the school cafeteria and were later taken on tours of the classrooms. Jayson Lansink shows his father, Merle Lansink, a tape machine used in his class. [Courier photo]

American economy uses topsoil just like energy

The social and economic patterns that lead to energy shortages for the American people are appearing with regard to values topsoil on the nation's farms.

It would be a fair comparison to say that American farmers are mining topsoil for crop production just as other natural resources have been mined for energy.

The mining of topsoil for crops has often been as wasteful as energy mining techniques once were, before the days when energy conservation was popular.

In general, half of Iowa's topsoil has been lost on unprotected sloping acres in only about 100 years of active farming. If the present rate of loss continues, the remaining soil will be gone in less than another 100 years.

The diminishing reserves of oil and natural gas, and to a lesser extent coal, will be replaced by nuclear power, solar energy and other exotic systems by the year 2000.

Many of Iowa's farmers are energy conscious now, but they have yet to apply the same kind of thinking to their farming operations and soil conservation.

There are more similarities between energy and soil problems. First, the United States is one of the world's biggest producer and consumer of both food and energy.

With only six percent of the world's population, American farmers feed Americans so well that half of them are officially listed as overweight by their family doctors, and we still export enough food to feed half the world.

Second, this country is also the greatest waster of both food and energy. The energy waste situation is beginning to turn around, but food waste is still critical.

In addition, American farmers "waste" topsoil in their efforts to grow huge crops of grain every year.

Topsoil is wasted by farming up and down hills, exposing topsoil to heavy rains and wind, clearing areas of protective covering during construction in urban areas, and many other ways.

Electricity can be saved by setting the thermostat higher in summer and lower in winter, and turning off lights when they are not needed.

Farmers can save topsoil by doing less clean plowing and leaving more crop residue on the soil surface. This also saves on farming expenses, as well as saving topsoil.

Long-term investments are needed in the conservation of both energy and topsoil. A home may require several thousand dollars worth of insulation, weather stripping and storm windows, but everybody knows this cost can be recovered in seven to 10 years.

The same thing applies to topsoil conservation, such as tile outlet terraces and farm ponds, but they take longer to pay for themselves.

The solution to energy and soil conservation problems are both critical and complicated. There is no ready, cheap answer to either problem.

The present approach to energy problems is the search for alternate energy sources, while at the same time conserving what traditional energy sources we still have left.

There is no alternate topsoil source, so the emphasis here has to be on conservation. The present level of federal assistance funding, however, is not high enough at this time to develop topsoil protection practices on all of Iowa's farmland before it disappears in the next 100 years.

Energy and topsoil conservation are both national problems that need immediate attention. So far, energy has enjoyed all the attention, but the same attention must be applied to soil conservation immediately to avert another natural disaster.

The biggest change that must be made is in American lifestyle. People must realize that they cannot continue to consume raw materials of any kind without facing a future where these vital raw materials do not exist.