

Cite Blackwell For 18 Years In Soil Work

Dale Blackwell, a commissioner of the soil conservation district here since its formation 18 years ago, received two citations Wednesday evening at the annual district banquet.

Retiring after his three terms in the office, Blackwell will be succeeded by Sam Botts, Jr., previously an assistant commissioner, who was elected in the Wednesday balloting.

On hand for the banquet was Richard Prestemon of Des Moines, assistant director of the state Soil Conservation Committee, who presented Blackwell with a framed citation from that group.

Later, Blackwell received another award—this one an engraved plaque—from the Iowa chapter of the Soil Conservation Districts of America.

Blackwell, who has been treasurer for the district during all 18 years of service, will retain that post after he retires as a commissioner.

About 185 persons attended the banquet at the Bloomfield Methodist church. Clay Barnett, chairman of the district commissioners, was emcee for the program.

Awards in the soil conservation achievement contest were distributed at the close of the meeting. They went to:

Iles Heady of Davis county, who received a county award, a regional award, and the regional sweepstakes award.

Stanley Baughman, tenant, and Mrs. J. A. Baughman, landlord, who received county and regional awards.

Dale Stanley of Sigourney, the third regional winner, who was presented with that award.

Making the county awards on behalf of the Bloomfield Newspapers was Bob Norberg.

Ron Hurley, farm writer for the Register and Tribune, presented the regional awards.

Receiving district awards for outstanding work in soil conservation were Robert Boatman, Phillip Melvin, Don Walley and Charles Harsch. Harsch was unable to be at the banquet.

Among the out-of-town guests on hand for the event were Richard Wilcox of Des Moines, assistant state conservationist with the SCS; Lyall Mitchell of Fairfield, SCS area conservationist; R. B. Howarth of Keosauqua, SCS engineering aid; and Raymond Klein of Sigourney, chairman of the Keokuk county soil district, who accompanied Mr. Stanley and his wife for the awards program.

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Addressing the soil banquet audience was Dr. George Browning of Iowa State University, Ames, who said much has been accomplished in soil and water conservation, but much remains to be done.

He said that although some critics say that conservation has led to the surplus dilemma now plaguing American agriculture, the time approaches when all the ingenuity possible will be applied to the production of food to feed the ever-growing population.