

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE

1994

ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSIONERS

John M. Dea
District Chairman

Dan McGinn
Vice Chairman

Randy Williams
Commissioner

Mark Schnepel
Commissioner

Clint Goos
Commissioner

Robert M. Jensen
Assistant Commissioner

Gary Geise
Assistant Commissioner

OFFICE STAFF

Lyle C. Peterson
District Conservationist

Lois Crawford
Soil Conservation Technician

Tom Bottoms
Soil Conservation Technician

Dawn R. Brittain
District Secretary

Nancy Schnepel
WAE Employee

Michelle Zimmerman
County Resource Planner

A MOVE TOWARDS THE FUTURE WITH NEW RESEARCH

The West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District had the opportunity this year to work with Agricultural Research Service Scientist Phil Heilman. Mr. Heilman is developing a multiobjective computer program that will enable land users and land use advisors to compare various resource management systems; evaluating the environmental impacts of each system increment and the economic returns associated with each variation.

The District supplied the needed soil data base and the landowners associated with the tracts that had the particular soils that were identified. This information was made possible by a local computer routine developed by Lois Crawford, Soil Conservation Technician in our office.

Mr. Heilman then supplied the questionnaire and the District mailed them to 116 selected farmers in the district. Our return rate exceeded 50%; from this information and correlated with the Deep Loess Research farm at Treynor, Mr. Heilman will build the computer program data base.

Once the program is perfected and distributed you will be able to sit down with agricultural advisors and compare incremental inputs of many farming options and compare the economics of these items. This will be very similar to the way you now use the Universal Soil Loss Equation to compare resource management systems and their effect on soil erosion.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced not only changes USDA programs but changes names as well. The office everyone had come to know as the Soil Conservation Service will now be known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). However the Soil and Water Conservation District or (SWCD) name will remain the same.

3-M BUDGET STATE COST-SHARE

By Dawn R. Brittain

94-1M Budget (commissioners expense and office supplies).

Allocation	\$2,500.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 700.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 200.00
TOTAL	\$3,400.00

Commissioner Expense	\$ 781.47
Office Supply Expense	\$2,086.76

TOTAL \$2,868.23

94-State & National Dues \$ 500.00

TOTAL OF ALL EXPENSES \$3,368.23

Released to (DSC) Division of Soil Conservation. \$ 31.77

94-1M Balance \$ -0-

3 - M BUDGET STATE COST-SHARE

1991-92 LEDGER

Total Allocation	\$125,765.42
Total Spent	\$122,562.15
Released to DSC	\$ 83.92
Balance Unobligated	\$ -0-
Balance Obligated	\$ 3,119.35

1992-93 LEDGER

Total Allocation	\$104,940.00
Total Spent	\$ 93,221.33
Released to DSC	\$ -0-
Balance Unobligated	\$ 6,206.90
Balance Obligated	\$ 5,511.77

1993-94 LEDGER

Total Allocation	\$112,510.00
Total Spent	\$104,374.59
Released to DSC	\$ -0-
Balance Unobligated	\$ 2,109.02
Balance Obligated	\$ 6,026.39

1994-95 LEDGER

Total Allocation	\$107,522.00
Total Spent	\$ 16,714.38
Released to DSC	\$ -0-
Balance Unobligated	\$ 16,731.13
Balance Obligated	\$ 74,076.49

COUNTY LOCAL OPTION TAX

County local option tax passed in the area of Pottawattamie County. This will mean additional cost-share funds available thru the West Pottawattamie SWCD. These funds will be used for erosion control practices, but these practices must provide off-site benefits to the county road system. This is the same criteria that has been used for county cost-share funds in past years.

If you have questions concerning eligible sites for the use of county cost-share funds please stop at the district office for additional information.

94-ORGANIC NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Total Allocation	\$8,640.00
Total Spent	\$4,320.00
Released to DSC	\$4,320.00
Balance Unobligated	\$ -0-
Balance Obligated	\$ -0-

94-REAP PRACTICES (Mosquito Creek Watershed).

Total Allocation	\$22,935.00
Total Spent	\$18,912.60
Released to DSC	\$ 4,022.40
Balance Unobligated	\$ -0-
Balance Obligated	\$ -0-

94-REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES

Total Allocation	\$5,586.00
Total Spent	\$2,377.23
Released to DSC	\$3,208.77
Balance Unobligated	\$ -0-
Balance Obligated	\$ -0-

94-COUNTY COST-SHARE FUNDS

Total Allocation	\$10,000.00
Total Spent	\$ 8,598.87
Released to County	\$ 1,401.30
Balance Unobligated	\$ -0-
Balance Obligated	\$ -0-

94-NO-INTEREST LOAN FUNDS

Total Allocation	\$16,120.00
Total Spent	\$16,120.00
Released to DSC	\$ -0-
Balance Unobligated	\$ -0-
Balance Obligated	\$ -0-

1994 PRACTICES APPLIED

33,500 Acres of Conservation Tillage
1,137,000 Feet of Field Borders
125 Acres of Buffer Strips
285 New District Cooperators
26,200 Acres of Contouring
100 Acres of Waterways
26 Acres of CRP Ground
2,148 Tracts
2 Windbreaks
111,000 Feet of Non-Cost-Share Terraces
535,500 Feet of New Terraces
160,410 Acres of HEL Ground in approved FSA plans.

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DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Dawn R. Brittain

JANUARY

Board organization for 1994. Chairman, John M. Dea, Vice Chairman, Dan McGinn, Secretary and Treasurer, Dawn Brittain. Held regular board meeting. District purchased a 12 month CD to get a better return on reserve funds.

FEBRUARY

Held board meeting. Held annual contractors meeting with over 50 people in attendance. Commissioners sponsor the Lewis Central outdoor class room. Received spring allocation in the amount of \$27,232.00. Approved spring cost-share funds.

MARCH

Held district Annual Awards Banquet and Fiftieth Anniversary celebration. Nominated Molly K. Burns for the 1994 Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary Scholarship Award.

Commissioners attend regional meeting. Held regular board meeting.

APRIL

Regular board meeting was held. Presentation on Arbor Day was given to District first grade students. Each first grade student received a tree. Discussed plan of work.

MAY

Regular board meeting was held. First commission check thru the "Habipak" program was received.

JUNE

Held annual No-Till tour with over 100 people in attendance. Received \$16,120 No-Interest Loan funds. Approved applicants for No-Interest Loan funds. Received 1995 cost-share funds in the amount of \$37,585.00. Received 1-M supplemental allocation of \$200.00. Commissioners discussed resolutions and signed the official ballot. Michelle Zimmerman, County Resource Planner and Dawn Brittain, District Secretary with commissioners Mike Dea, Clint Goos, and Mark Schnepel selected district award winners. Winners include: 1994 Izaak Walton Windbreak Award Gary & Diane Forristall, David & Linda Jennings. The 1994 Landlord/Tenant Division Winner Beatrice Briggs & Doloris Mauer - Landowners; Larry Ploen - Tenant. Owner/Operator Division, Bill Stupfell.

JULY

Approved applicants for summer cost-share funds. Held annual commissioners picnic at the Treynor park. Annual plan of work was given to the commissioners for their review. Discussed the district CD. Updated summer cost-share policy.

AUGUST

Randy Williams from Crescent, IA was appointed as an assistant commissioner. Discussed county budget for FY-95. Organic Nutrient Management funds received \$11,221.00. Held regular board meeting.

SEPTEMBER

Chairman Mike Dea discussed the 47th annual conference with commissioners. Commissioners discussed and completed a questionnaire from IASWCDC for the 1995 farm bill. 1-M supplemental allocation was received in the amount of \$700.00. Received allocation for REAP Forestry in the amount of \$1,464.00 and REAP Practices in the amount of \$6,266.00. Applications were approved for both REAP Forestry and REAP Practices.

OCTOBER

Regular board meeting was held. Many emergency watershed program repairs have been completed on county road sites with funds provided by SCS.

NOVEMBER

Discussed annual short course on Forestry to be held in January. Held regular board meeting.

DECEMBER

Held district annual Christmas dinner. Held annual awards banquet and farmer appreciation program, 150 farmers and members of the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce attended this event sponsored locally by grain elevators, federal crop insurance agencies and farm management firms. Greg Mathis will join the Oakland field office on December 12th, 1994.

DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

The West Pottawattamie County Soil and Water Conservation District meets the last Wednesday of each month, (winter meetings are held in the morning and the balance of the year meetings are held in the evenings.) All meetings are held at the District Office at 305 McKenzie Ave., Suite 1, Council Bluffs, IA. All SWCD meetings are open to the public.

LEWIS CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

By Michelle Zimmerman

The first phase has begun! The Lewis Central Middle School Outdoor Classroom teachers are developing two different areas of study that will be available on school property. The first phase of the outdoor classroom was started last spring, when the 7th graders planted several varieties of corn and soybeans in plots behind the school. In September (at the first Agricultural Appreciation Harvest Day) student activities centered on harvesting the crops, which included picking the corn and soybean crop the old fashion way, by hand. Other activities included shelling corn (by hand), grinding it into cornmeal, making foods using the corn products, drawing a still life of the farm scene, and plotting an acre of ground.

Farm Service Coop representatives were on hand to provide agricultural information on farm management practices. A special feature of the Farm Service Coop was demonstrating a tractor with a dry fertilizer spreader cart and also a Big-A-Floater. Students also toured an actual harvesting operation on a local farmstead and a local grain elevator.

The second phase of the Lewis Central Middle School Outdoor Classroom is also in motion. The main objective of the second phase is to expand and enhance a small wetland area in the channels of existing terraces on this property. The impact would be for the students to be exposed and identify some of the plants, algae, and wildlife that is associated with a wetland. The outdoor classroom provides students with a "hands on" experience to an avenue of study that reinforces text book study.

NORTH PIGEON WATERSHED

By Lyle C. Peterson

1994 was a milestone year in North Pigeon Watershed. Final work on Site M was completed during the summer. This dam is built on three adjoining landowners; Dan Hansen, Ron Larsen Jr, and Arlon Bertelsen.

The completion of this structure signals the completion of North Pigeon Watershed. This is the last dam that was planned to be built with PL-566 funds.

North Pigeon Watershed and Indian Creek Watershed, which is immediately north of Council Bluffs, join the growing list of projects where the planned federal participation is complete.

"HABIPAK"

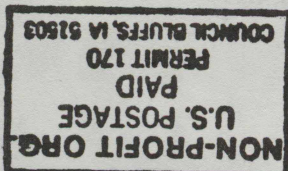
By Michelle Zimmerman

The District is sponsoring a seedling tree program called "Habipak". "Habipak" are packets of seedling trees selected for their hardiness and popularity in the region. Homeowner, wildlife, flowering shrubs, and evergreen "Habipak" are available. They may be purchased in packets of 15 or 25 plants.

The one to two foot plants are shipped via United Parcel Service directly to the purchaser at the approximate time for planting and care instructions are included. The packets sell for \$20 and \$25 dollars.

Also available from the District are: Mushroom Pots, Morel Habitat Kits, Supertube Treeshelters, Beneficial Insects (insect control the natural way), and Vispore Tree mats directly to the purchaser.

If you are interested in the seedling trees, shrubs, or any of the other items for your property please call (712) 328-2489 or stop by the office to pick-up a brochure and an order blank.



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