

Cedar County

Oil & Water Conservation District

NEWSLETTER

1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

TREE SALES CAMPAIGN

Cedar SWCD tree seedling sales campaign is underway. Please read enclosed flyer. Please order at your earliest convenience as supplies are limited.

For more information on species or other questions please stop by the SWCD office or call 886-6214. Trees can be used for any purpose (ie; windbreak-shade-ornamental).

Funds generated from the tree sales is used for education and information activities in Cedar County.

MATHER & MAYS ELECTED

Randy Mather, of rural West Branch, won his first 6-year term as Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner. Randy and his wife, Tami, farm over 400 ac. in Springdale and Iowa Townships. Conservation practices that Randy uses in his farming operation include contour farming, conservation tillage, grassed waterways, and CRP.

Rita Mays, of rural Wilton, won her first 6-year term as Cedar SWCD Commissioner. Rita and her husband, Mark, farm over 300 acres in Farmington Township using a ridge-till system. Rita and Mark have been active members in the Practical Farmers of Iowa organization.

Congratulations to Randy and Rita. They will take their oath of office in January at the regular commissioner meeting.

Robert Niermeyer and Millicent Zenishek are stepping down as commissioners. We thank both Robert and Millie for their promotion of soil conservation and time committed to the Cedar SWCD.

NEW SOIL CONSERVATIONIST

Starting December 14, Doug Ensminger will join the Tipton SCS staff as a Soil Conservationist.

Doug has worked in Clark County Missouri, Scott, and Des Moines counties in Iowa since starting with SCS in 1987. He was raised on a farm near Farmington, Iowa, and is a graduate of Northeast Missouri University. He has recently married.

Stop in to meet Doug. He is looking forward to working with Cedar County owners and operators to apply your plans.

Volume 55
Oct/Nov/Dec 1992

RESIDUE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE "Planning for More Profit"

Sponsored by the Iowa Soybean Association this conference is designed to provide producers with tools and information needed to learn how to utilize residue management techniques, and how to implement them while maintaining or increasing profitability.

The conference is scheduled for December 16, 1992, at Iowa State University, Stephens Auditorium, in Ames.

Agenda and registration forms are available at the SCS office.

1993 PLANNED PRACTICES

SCS will be sending out reminders in mid December to farm operators that have practices scheduled for 1993.

All practices scheduled prior to 1993 should be completed in order to be actively applying your plan.

Please review your plan to see when practices are scheduled. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact our office.

FIELD STATUS REVIEWS

Starting December 1 the SCS office staff will begin conducting Field Status Reviews on all Highly Erodible Land that has practices scheduled for 1993.

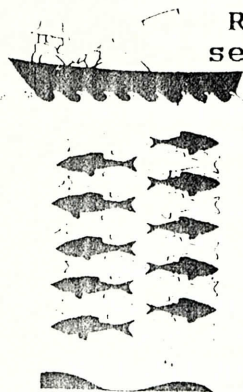
All producers will be notified by the SCS giving the date, time, and location of the appointment. Producers are asked but not required to be present at the status review.

The Field Status Review is aimed to clarify conservation plans by explaining and informing them of scheduled practices and cropping systems chosen by operators.

Retiring after 32 year of
service with ISU Extension

APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE for KEN MULLER

Cedar Co. Extension
Agriculturist/Director
Sunday, November 29
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Program at 3:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Hall
209 Mulberry
Tipton, IA



All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Cedar SWCD is sponsoring a scholarship competition for senior students living in Cedar County that are planning to further their education in agricultural or environmental related fields.

Two \$200 scholarships will be awarded. For applications and information contact Melanie at 886-6214 or stop in the SWCD office.

YIELD CONTEST RESULTS

1992 no-till soybean yield contest results include:

Doug Schroeder	60.10 bu/acre
Robert Regennitter	58.47
Melvin Klein	57.75
Harry Driscoll	57.22
Kevin Hartwig	54.71
George Driscoll	51.98

Cedar SWCD sponsors the contest. Participants will be honored at the Annual Banquet in the Spring.

BIG INCREASE IN NO-TILL IN 92

The number of acres planted with no tillage increased dramatically in the 1992 crop year both in Cedar County and in Iowa. This was shown in the results of the Conservation Technology Information Center tillage survey which is completed each year.

About 11% of corn and beans in Cedar County were no-tilled in 1992, which represents more than a 200% increase over 1991. State-wide, the use of no-till nearly tripled over 1991 for both corn and soybeans. This is a continuation of a trend that started a few years ago.

No-till appears to be increasing at an equal rate on HEL and non-HEL land. This would seem to indicate that economics is the most important reason for the increase that's taking place.

Other types of conservation tillage also showed a big increase. In Cedar county two thirds of the soybean stubble was either no-tilled or planted with very little tillage. 15 million acres in Iowa was planted with some type of residue management this year.

COST-SHARE

Cedar SWCD is accepting applications for some temporary and permanent soil conservation practices, tree planting, no-till, and windbreaks.

Due to increased interest in cost-share assistance Cedar SWCD Commissioners will hold all no-till and windbreak applications until February to set policies and a priority system for approval.

Please stop by the SWCD office to sign up or call for more info.

STATE NURSERY ORDER FORMS

Cedar SWCD has State Nursery tree order forms available. Trees from the DNR State Nursery are to be used for reforestation and wildlife habitat purposes only.

GET JOB EXPERIENCE AND HELP ENVIRONMENT

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Cedar County needs a volunteer to measure drainage areas for grassed waterways. The hours are flexible, and most of the work would be in the office.

SCS helps farmers in the county apply soil conserving practices on the land. They also help land-owners improve water quality and work with students to learn about soil and water conservation.

If you are interested in this position, or think you have something to offer SCS with other volunteer activities, contact Kurt Hoeft in the Cedar County SCS office. Call 886-6214 between 7:30 am and 5:00 pm.

WINDBREAK AWARD

This year's recipient of the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award is Herbert Sander of Lowden.

The Sander's 3-row windbreak was planted in 1981 and consists of a row of honeysuckle, arborvitae, and douglas fir.

The Sander's received assistance from ASCS on cost-share and SCS provided the technical help. This windbreak will protect the homestead for many years while providing wildlife habitat cover.

Judging was completed by Clarence Beyer, retired SCS Technician.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

NonProfit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Tipton, Iowa
Permit No. 5



1993 Tree Seedling Order Form

CEDAR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1201 North Avenue, Tipton, IA 52772
(319)886-6214

Tree seedlings are hardy, bare root stock and will be ready for you to pick up and plant in mid-April. TREES ARE SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25 ONLY (except for the native nut tree package). Supplies are limited. Orders will be taken until March 1, 1993. No guarantee can be given for these seedlings, except that the trees will be in good condition when they are distributed in April.

CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER, PAYABLE TO: CEDAR S.W.C.D.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

SPECIES	SIZE	BUNDLES ORDERED	COST/ BUNDLE	AMOUNT
AMERICAN ARBORVITAE	12-18"	_____	\$50.00	_____
WHITE PINE	12-18"	_____	\$35.00	_____
BLUE SPRUCE	12-18"	_____	\$35.00	_____
RED PINE	12-18"	_____	\$50.00	_____
SCOTCH PINE	18-24"	_____	\$40.00	_____
NORWAY SPRUCE	18-24"	_____	\$40.00	_____
GREEN ASH	2-3'	_____	\$30.00	_____
PIN OAK	2-3'	_____	\$50.00	_____
RED OAK	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
WALNUT	2-3'	_____	\$30.00	_____
LILAC	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
NATIVE NUT TREE PACKAGE	(#pkgs)	_____	\$40.00	_____
3 Butternut	2-3'			
3 Hazelnut	12-18"			
3 Thomas Walnut	2-3'			
<u>3 Northern Pecan</u>	2-3'			
(12 TREES)				

TREE ORDER TOTAL _____

ADD 5% SALES TAX _____

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE _____

=====

The wonder of trees . . .



Of all the plants, trees are the most useful in reversing the atmospheric buildup of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning that is at the heart of the concerns over possible future global climate change.

One tree has the cooling effect of 5 air conditioners.

For every ton of wood produced in a wooded area, 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide are used up and 900 pounds of oxygen are released.

One acre of trees provides fresh, clean oxygen for 7 people and will scrub clean the air polluted by 8 cars operated for 12 hours.

An acre of forest, with all its layers of leaves, twigs, branches, underbrush and soil litter, may have four times as much surface area as an acre of bare soil. That means more area for a raindrop to hit, or cling to, or roll gently down, on its way from sky to soil.

The average adult California redwood, living as it does in a foggy, rainy climate, releases some five hundred gallons of water a day back to the atmosphere.

According to the United Nations, almost 40% of Central America's forests were lost between 1950 and 1980. During that same period, Africa lost 23% and the Himalayan watershed suffered a 40% reduction. Today those losses continue at an estimated rate of some 37 million acres of forest each year.

Steel and concrete—the major modern substitutes for wood—are vastly more energy-intensive to produce, create significantly more greenhouse gasses to threaten our future with global warming, and constitute a far greater hazard to the environment than do products made from wood.

Current surveys indicate that there are at least 116 million acres of marginal crop and pasture land in the U.S. that is suitable for conversion to forest. About 24 million acres of this land would be more profitable producing standard forest products than in its current marginal usage.

Research has shown that hospital patients recuperating in a room with a view of trees will heal faster, use less pain-killing drugs, and complain less about post-operative ailments than their counterparts recuperating in a room with only an inside view.

Every American city of any size creates a "heat island" where the center of the city is about 3 to 10 degrees hotter than the surrounding countryside. Each degree Fahrenheit imposes a 2% energy cost penalty on every consumer. Urban tree plantings can help decrease the "heat island" effect.

Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing
breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair.
Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

—Joyce Kilmer

"The tree which moves some to tears
of joy is in the eyes of others only a
green thing which stands in the way."

—William Blake

"Let the farmer forevermore be honored in his calling; for they who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God."

—Thomas Jefferson

If current trends continue, there will be a net loss of 28 million acres of forestland in the United States over the next 50 years.

—Projection by the
U.S. Department of
Agriculture



Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 886-6214 Ext.3 - Fall 2000

WEED CONTROL ON FILTER STRIPS

We have had many questions regarding mowing CRP native grass plantings, particularly in filter strips. Mowing or spraying for weed control is essential during the establishment period. While switch grass **will** germinate and sprout the first summer, it often takes two growing seasons for the stand to really show. Broadleaf weed pressure during this time will slow the establishment of the switch grass stand and sometimes smother it.

have seen switch grass filter strips here in the county come on strong and seed out the very first summer, but others are struggling in year three. It is still true that mowing CRP is not allowed after establishment, except with FSA approval, but it is needed during the first couple of years to reduce broadleaf competition. We recommend the following establishment and maintenance procedures.

Year #1 - The first summer after planting, native grasses should be **clipped no shorter than 8 inches at least three times and up to six times**. A good clipping schedule would be June 1, July 1, and August 1. No clipping should be done after mid August to allow the area to produce enough vegetation to provide winter cover for wildlife.

Year #2 - The cool season grasses and weeds will begin growing in April and will be ready to clip by mid May. At this time the switch grass will just be starting to emerge. **Clipping no shorter than 8 inches at least three times** the second growing season is recommended. Using the 1st of June, July and August as a guideline will give the switch grass the maximum sunlight exposure, control weeds and allow the growth of needed winter cover.

Year #3 - Burning in the spring is highly recommended. The switch grass or other native warm season species will greatly benefit from a prescribed prairie burn. You need to request a Burn Plan from NRCS if you choose to use fire as a maintenance tool on CRP. Using a burn for weed control will

stimulate the native plants while reducing competition from cool season grasses and weeds.

By the third summer the CRP should be established and mowing/clipping should cease, except for spot treatment of weeds. These may be sprayed or clipped before the primary nesting season. If weeds are still threatening the native grasses, you may request permission to clip or spray between August 1-15th. Mowing should never be done after mid August and cosmetic or fall mowing is not permitted.

Year #4 - Native grasses on CRP acreage are now well established and should not be mowed without permission at any time. Burning should be used every other year, but consideration should be given to only burning part of the area in the same year. Always use a Burn Plan in consultation with NRCS.

CRP PAYMENTS

Lately we have been processing paperwork for FSA to make cost-share payments on CRP. In some cases we are finding that we do not have a signed seeding plan saying the seeding is completed or a soil test on the area. We are unable to process the cost-share until we have both of these in our files.

Also even though you may have elected to do your CRP project without cost-share we are in need of you signing the seeding plan after the seeding is completed. A soil test is also needed and FSA needs a copy of the bills for the seed. If these are not received your yearly payment may be held up until they are.

If you have any questions please give our office a call.

PASTURE WALK

Lee and Tara Kurtenbach will be hosting a pasture walk at their farm on Sept. 6th at 12:30 pm. ISU Extension, Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District are sponsoring the walk and will provide refreshments. The Kurtenbachs milk jerseys on their farm located between Lisbon and Mechanicsville on Hwy 30.

Come see the managed intensive grazing operation including paddock fences, waterlines and accessories, and a gravity flow system from a newly built shallow pond. Great way to learn more about setting up and using a paddock grazing system. If you have wondered how to make it work, this is the place to be on Sept. 6th!

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2000

Mike and Clarence Lodge own and operated 280 acres in Springdale Twp. They received the Landlord/tenant award for their soil and water conservation practices and land stewardship. Corn, beans, alfalfa and organic beans and range chickens are among the products that they raise. Contour farming, contour bufferstrips, no-till, grassed waterways, filterstrips and farmstead windbreak have been applied on the farm.

Devin and Laura Schroeder are new owners of 80 acres in Springfield. They received the new cooperators award for their recent application of 13 acres of contour bufferstrips, 6 acres of filterstrips and numerous grassed waterways. In addition, a no-till corn-bean rotation is used on the contour.

Steve Skay received the owner-operator award on his 120 acre farm in Gower Twp. Steve has applied nearly 17 acres of filterstrips and contour bufferstrips over the past year. He uses a high residue management system in his operation.

STAFF CHANGES AT NRCS

By Brenda Turley

I have recently joined the permanent staff in the Tipton Office. For the past six years I have worked as a temporary employee doing a variety of things and learning a lot. Some of you I have met during field visits for windbreaks, or trudging out with Judy to survey a waterway...and occasionally falling in a hole. (People, my height can easily be lost in these situations.) I helped with CRP sign-up and tried to explain the EBI points system. Most recently I have been promoting Cont. CRP Buffers. My husband, Kevin and I moved to the Mechanicsville area from Cedar Rapids six years ago. We have two married daughters and our son Steve is a senior at North Cedar. Kevin works at Fastenal in Cedar Rapids. While we are not farmers, my family farms in Benton county and been SWCD Commissioners.

I will continue to serve you in my new position as Soil Conservation Technician. Terri Parry, who joined the permanent staff last summer, and I are excited to be able to work together in a job-sharing position.

FSA INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Topics to be covered:

LDP's, CRP, Loans, Sheep Program, Pork Referendum, and Other Program Changes

Monday Sept. 11th 9:00am.

West Branch Community Building

Wednesday Sept. 13th 9:00 am.

Firststar Bank Tipton

Wednesday Sept. 13th 1:30 pm.

Bridge Comm. Bank Mechanicsville

Thursday Sept 14th 7:00 pm.

Clarence Coop - Clarence

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Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

Volume 56

Jan/Feb/Mar 1993

DISTRICT RECEIVES HONOR AWARD

Cedar SWCD won the Goodyear Honor District Award for the third year in a row. The award was presented at the SWCD Annual Conference in Des Moines November 30. Commissioner Robert Niermeyer accepted the award at the banquet.

WINDBREAKS

Contact the SCS office for assistance on species, spacing, and design of windbreaks. 75% cost-share is available from ASCS and SWCD. Plan now for your spring planting!

COST-SHARE

State cost-share is available for first and second time farm owners/operators no-tilling in 1993. Application should be made before March 9, at the SWCD office in Tipton. Funds are limited!

REAP COST-SHARE

State REAP cost-share is available for windbreaks, tree planting, native grass planting, and animal waste control systems. Stop by the SWCD office for more information.

POSTER CONTEST

Cedar SWCD Environmental Education Committee is sponsoring a poster contest. The contest is open to students in grades 4-8. This year's theme is "Soil & Water Conservation". Posters must be submitted by March 31, 1993. Cash prizes and two \$50 savings bonds will be awarded to top winners. For more information call 886-6214.

NEW WATERWAY POLICY

Many of the compliance plans have grassed waterways or critical area planting scheduled to treat ephemeral gully erosion. The following is new Iowa SCS policy in the treatment of ephemeral gullies.

0-6 acres drainage areas can be called critical area planting and only require the gully area to be seeded to grass.

6-10 ac. drainage areas maybe either a critical area planting or a grassed waterway depending on your rotation or tillage system.

Drainage areas larger than 10 acres will be called grassed waterways. Grassed waterways need to meet SCS specifications.

As we follow up with landusers we will be revising the conservation plans to meet this criteria.

1993 CEDAR SWCD COMMISSIONERS

Randall Shauli, Stanwood
Richard Kreinbring, Bennett
Michael Walter, Tipton
Rita Mays, Wilton
Randy Mather, West Branch

NO-TILL CORN YIELD CONTEST RESULTS

Robert Niermeyer	202.11 bu/ac
Broadview Acres	193.09
Kevin Hartwig	176.94
Don Driscoll	174.19
Robert Regennitter	165.04

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

Cedar County Senior High School students furthering their education in agriculture or environment should submit scholarships on or before February 1, 1993, to be eligible for scholarship competition. For more information call 886-6214.

TEACHERS HONORED

Two teachers were honored at the Iowa Soil Conservation Award Program in Des Moines for their outstanding efforts on creating a favorable climate for conservation education and motivation of students to practice conservation.

Margaret Sadeghpour, was chosen as the outstanding elementary teacher for Iowa. She teaches 4,5,&6 grade science at Lincoln Community School in Mechanicsville.

Terry Chapman, son of Keith & Alma Chapman of Tipton, is a vocational instructor in Monticello was chosen as the outstanding high school educator.

TREE SALES

Cedar SWCD tree sales campaign is well underway! Order your trees today by completing the back side of the newsletter or call 886-6214. Orders must be made by March 1, 1993.

I&A NO-TILL CONFERENCE

February 16, 1993
Iowa State University
Stephens Auditorium
Ames, Iowa

This conference will present the latest procedures and innovations to assist farmers and landowners in converting to no-till or refining present systems. As an addition, this year's conference will feature an expanded no-till equipment products trade show. For more information contact the Iowa Soybean Association or phone (515)223-1423.

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WALNUT	2-3'	_____	\$30.00	_____
LILAC	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
NATIVE NUT TREE PACKAGE	(#pkgs) _____		\$40.00	_____
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3 Hazelnut	12-18"			
3 Thomas Walnut	2-3'			
3 Northern Pecan	2-3'			
(12 TREES)				

TREE ORDER TOTAL _____

ADD 5% SALES TAX _____

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE _____

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Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3 - Summer 2001
Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Jan Nelson

Sugar Creek Watershed Cost-Share Sign-up Announcement June 18- July 6

This winter, the staff at the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District met with over one hundred producers along the creeks and tributaries of the Sugar Creek Watershed. We talked about the programs that were currently available to install conservation practices. We also listened to folks as they talked about programs they wanted the District to make available in the future. Many of you asked for cost-share for Integrated Crop Management (ICM), which hasn't been available in the past. In response, the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District pursued funding to cost-share this practice and has been approved for \$63,000 to apply ICM and related practices.

Integrated Crop Management refers to the economical and wise use of nutrients and pesticides to improve profitability while benefiting the environment. It may include GPS **grid soil sampling** for more precise application of nutrients, plant samplings in order to determine nutrient availability, crop scouting to monitor pests for determining best pest control strategies, and other agronomic practices.

Our first signup in April brought in over \$28,000 of applications. If you think you may be eligible, stop by the NRCS office to apply. Second signup applications will be approved based on an environmental ranking. We may be reached at **886-6214, ext. 3**.

Who is eligible?

- Producers within one-half mile of the creek or its tributaries are eligible and should complete an application at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the USDA Service Center in Tipton. The enclosed map shows the creeks and tributaries.

What is the Sugar Creek Watershed?

- The Watershed is 71,000 acres lying between the towns of Clarence, Tipton, Bennet and Wilton, lying inside Cedar County.

What cost-share practices are available?

- **Integrated Crop Management:** \$10/ac the first year, \$4/ac for year 2 and 3, for a total of **\$18 per acre** over the lifetime of the contract. Recipients will be paid the incentive at the end of each crop year upon completing the ICM practices for that year.
- **Pasture Management** \$20/acre to set up 5 paddocks for rotational grazing.
- **Waste Facilities:** Up to 75% cost-share to install storage facilities on existing operations with SWCD approval.
- **Grassed Waterways:** 50% cost-share to shape and seed waterways.
- **Outlet Structures:** 50% cost-share to construct structures for stabilizing gullies.
- **Basins:** 50% cost-share to construct basins for controlling water and erosion.

STOP FIGHTING THE WET SPOTS

The Farmable Wetlands CRP sign-up is underway. If you have crop ground that includes farmed or prior converted wetlands you may want to enroll in this new program. FSA will offer 10 to 15 year contracts, a sign up bonus of \$100/ac for 10 year and \$150/ac for 15 year contracts. A 50% cost share and additional cost share of 40% of eligible installation expense and the annual rental rate will include a 20% bonus. Stop in to see if your trouble spot will qualify for CRP. Wetland restoration under CRP, not only solves a cropping problem, but will increase wildlife habitat, improve water quality and help control run off.

STATE COST SHARE AVAILABLE

With all the rain that we have had this spring people are finding new erosion problems that they did not have before. Now is the time to be looking at those problems to see what can be done to solve them. Maybe a waterway or sediment basin is needed or a terrace system with tile. The district has 50% cost share money available for practices to solve those erosion problems. Just call our office at 563-886-6214 ext 3 or visit us at our office at 205 West South St. in Tipton.

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners awarded a \$500 college scholarship to Sean Driscoll. Sean will be attending Kirkwood Comm. College pursuing his education in agricultural related fields. Sean is the son of Jean Driscoll and the late George Driscoll of Mechanicsville.

2001 AWARD WINNERS

John Rummelhart is the winner of the new cooperators award. John lives in Iowa City and has a farm by Cedar Bluff.

Bob and Marie Flockhart are the winners of the owner/operators award. The Flockhart's farm near Tipton.

NEW EMPLOYEES

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Nathaniel Umphrey, I hail from Van Buren County in Iowa. I have come to Cedar County as an Americorps service personnel to deal with private land ecology and wild life habitat. As a self-proclaimed outdoor enthusiast and conservationist I enjoy hunting and fishing as well as many other outdoor activities. My main concern in Cedar County is assessing the local CRP contracts and helping landowners maintain these tracts and improve the wildlife habitat within those areas. I am also attempting to organize large burn efforts on such contract lands as well. If anyone has any questions or concerns I could help them with please contact me at the service center.

Hello, my name is Ron Shepers, I've been at the Cedar County Natural Resources Conservation Service since April, assisting with the Sugar Creek watershed assessment and doing residue checks in the county. I'm originally from Clinton County and moved to Cedar a little over a year ago. I was raised on a farm and am familiar with rural concerns. I enjoy working with and getting to know you all.

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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Commissioners held twelve regular meetings. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month.
- Election of officers held and assistant commissioners appointed.
- 2000 IM budget spending plan was approved.
- Commissioners reviewed the Memo-Of-Understanding with FSA and NRCS.
- Sponsored poster contest, scholarship awards, field days, 3rd grade students with shrubs, tree sales, and soil stewardship materials.
- Donated to the Cedar Conservation Board to purchase a water flow model.
- Commissioners attended the Fall and Regional Meetings.
- Commissioners, Cedar Wapsi Pheasants Forever and NRCS entered an agreement toward promoting Continuous CRP.
- State and National Dues were paid.
- Signs were given to District award winners in recognition of soil stewardship.

- Funding for buffer staff and burn equipment.

The District partnered with the Cedar Wapsi Pheasants Forever Chapter, State Pheasants Forever, Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS), IDNR, NRCS, and FSA to promote buffers in Cedar County. Many of these partners provided funds to hire promotions staff. The District utilized \$10,150.00 in Calendar Year 2000 for buffer promotion staff.

The District applied and received an Americorps position in the fall of 2000 to assist producers in managing their native prairie plantings and grassed waterways. The position is a result of the Districts partnership with the Cedar Wapsi Pheasants Forever Chapter and the Cedar County Conservation Board to establish native prairie.

All SWCD and NRCS programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age martial status, or handicap.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District

205 West South; Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772
319-886-6214 ext.3



ANNUAL REPORT

1999-2000

As District Commissioners of the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation programs.

Commissioners

Kevin Kelly.....Chairperson
Cliff Bowie.....Vice Chairperson
Richard Kreinbring, Michael E Moes Jr. and Michael Walter

Assistant Commissioners

Joel Brown, Rob Glick, Steve Leazer, Jerry Long, Rita Mays, Janet Nelson, and Rhonda Schultz

Field Office Staff

Mark Fehseke.....Dist. Conservationist
Judy Hagan.....Technician
Terri Parry.....Technician
Brenda Turley.....Technician
Lora Schmidt.....State Secretary
Wendell Wanek.....Buffer Promotional
Robert Flockhart.....Buffer Promotional
Tony Hauptert.....Americorp

Volunteers

Matt Starr.....High School senior
Michelle A' chik.....High School senior

Nolan Mente.....High School senior
Bryce Raines.....High School senior

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2000 - DECEMBER 31, 2000

Grassed waterways.....20 ac.
Grade Stab. Structure.....3
Contour Bufferstrips.....87 ac.
Filterstrips.....337 ac.
Riparian Forested Buffer.....66 ac.
'00 Rotational Grazing.....507 ac.
Rotational Grazing in progress.....1768 ac.
Tree planting.....75 ac.
Windbreaks.....12 ac.
'00 Continuous CRP Practices.....600 ac.
'00 General CRP.....900 ac.
Cumulative Continuous CRP.....2941 ac.
Cumulative Gen. & Cont. CRP.....11,800 ac.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The District sponsors a Poster Contest for 5th grade students, scholarship award for seniors, and donates trees to 3rd graders in Cedar County.

Poster Contest

Theme of the 2000 contest was "Community Waters". **Winners:**

Jenna Brokaw - Overall - receiving a \$50 Savings Bond
Kellie Brown - 1st place - receiving \$10 gift certificate from the local Chamber.
Students are from North Cedar Mechanicsville.

Scholarship Award Winners:

Jacyln Oldham
Sarah Licht
Jamie Reichert

Each received a \$200 scholarship.
3rd Grade Students received 425 pink lilac shrubs in observance of Arbor Day.
Monies made from the annual tree sales are put back into the community by way of the programs listed above. Other programs are: soil stewardship literature and field days.

Conservation Award Winners:

Mike Lodge and Clarence Lodge.....
Landlord/tenant - Springdale township
Steve Skay.....owner/operator
Gower township
Devon and Laura Schroeder.....
New cooperator - Fairfield township

Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award

Glen Waters - Springdale township

SWCD FUNDS PROVIDED BY IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

1M Allocation.....\$4500.00
Commissioner Expense.....\$ 903.37
Office Supplies & Dues.....3655.78
Total.....\$4559.15

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (State Cost Share Funding)

98-99 Allocated.....\$42,282.00
98-99 Spent.....34,111.58
99-00 Allocated.....47,633.00
99-00 Spent.....45,301.46
00-01 Allocated.....47,633.00

Resource Enhancement and Protection

'00 Allocation.....\$13,809.75
'00 Spent.....11,384.82
'01 Allocation.....10,342.82

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District

NEWSLETTER

1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

Volume 57

New Extension Materials Available

ISU continues to provide educational materials for crop and livestock producers throughout Iowa. Some new information produced includes: Safe Farm leaflets involving chemicals and other on-farm safety issues; "Soil Testing to Optimize Nitrogen Management for Corn" PM-1521; free "Weed Management Guides for 1993"; and "Weed Management in Conservation Tillage".

A video on the new atrazine law is also available from the Cedar County Extension Service office.

Trees To Students

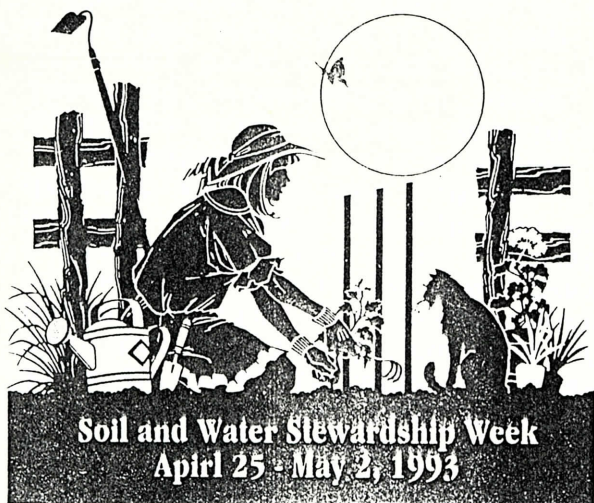
Cedar SWCD is providing Red Oak tree seedlings to each 3rd grade student in Cedar County in April. Red Oak is Iowa's state tree. This project is held in conjunction with Arbor Day and Environmental Education.

Contour Gauges Available

The District has contour gauges to assist farmers in laying out contour lines. The gauges mount on the window of your pickup or tractor. Gauges are FREE TO USE to anyone wanting to layout their own contour lines. A \$30 deposit is required.

Interseeder Available

Interested in improving your pasture with Birdsfoot Trefoil, Crown Vetch, or Alfalfa? Cedar SWCD has a pasture interseeder available for landusers to rent at \$15/day. Contact Cedar SWCD Commissioner Randall Shaull at 886-2407 for more information.



April-May 1993

FFA Chapter Available For Residue Checks

Members of the Tipton FFA Chapter will assist the Cedar SWCD with field checks. FFA members will be given certain sections of the county to work with. They will measure the amount of residue remaining after planting on fields with tillage scheduled for 1993 and prior. These measurements will be recorded and given to SCS to update operator's file.

Cedar SWCD appreciates cooperation of all owners and operators checked by the FFA members.

Look Before You Plant!

Planting direction on your conservation plan can make the difference between no-till, mulch-till, and hay in rotation. Cedar County producers will be applying over 25,000 acres of contour and cross-slope planting this spring. If you operate a portion of these acres and haven't checked into your potential row direction, now is the time to do so.

Contouring is planting in such a manner that crop row grade does not exceed 2% slope over at least 80% of the field and may not exceed 4% over 25% of the flow length. Areas that flow into waterways should not exceed 3% row grade in 100 feet.

If your field does not lend itself to contouring, you may still get some credit for cross-slope farming. Cross slope farming may allow as much as 5% grade in the row.

If you are not sure which is planned in your operation, review your FSA conservation plan or contact SCS.

Job sheets on contouring is also available. By: Doug Ensminger, S.C.

The Right Attitude Will Make or Break You

"The only thing that keeps farmers from being successful with no-till is attitude," says George Driscoll of Mechanicsville. "If you are convinced it will work, it will. If you are convinced it won't work, it won't." -excerpt taken from March 1993 No-Till Neighbors newsletter

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Waterways

Heavy rains during the past year have been hard on waterways in the county. When you consider reshaping your waterways please consider the following: the width and depth of a waterway is determined by the drainage area for that waterway. If a waterway is made too small then the water will run out of its banks creating gullies down the sides of the original waterway. If a waterway is too wide the water may not run fast enough and may deposit silt in the middle.

Any waterways with 6 acres drainage area or less should be at least 20' wide and 0.8' deep. Any waterway over 6 acres should be at least 30' wide and 1.0' deep.

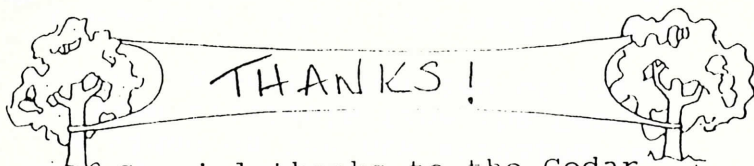
The shape of a waterway is also important. Two common shapes of waterways are parabolic and trapezoidal. A parabolic waterway is shaped in a half moon with a round bottom. The trapezoidal waterway has shaped side slopes and a flat bottom.

Iowa's One Call Law

Last fall, the Iowa Legislature passed a new law relating to excavation activities and underground utilities. The law is referred to as the "one-call law".

All construction activities which include any type of excavation are covered by this law.

Normal farming operations are exempt from the one-call requirement, but excludes chisel plowing, sub-soiling, or ripping more than 15 inches in depth, drain tile excavating, terracing, digging or driving a post in a new location other than replacing a post while repairing a fence in its existing location, and similar operation. Phone 1-800-292-8989 for more information.



Special thanks to the Cedar County Sportmen's Club for their donation to the District to help sponsor tree planting projects in the county.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

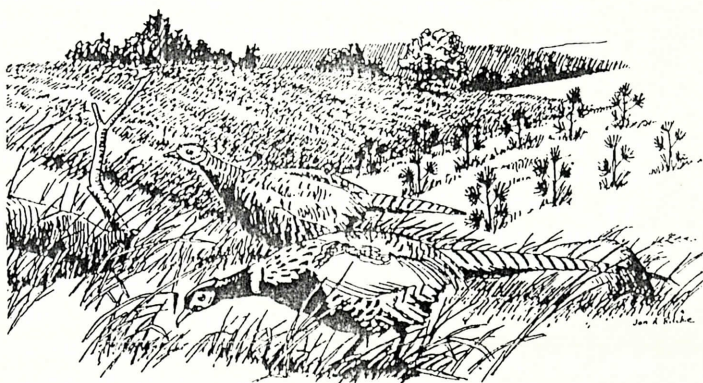


Conservation Awards

Cedar SWCD participates in the Iowa Soil & Water Conservation Awards Program each year. The District selects outstanding cooperators for awards in three divisions: New Cooperator, Landlord/Tenant, and Owner/Operator.

Awards recipients for 1992 include: Jim Lieser, Mechanicsville, for the New Cooperator Award; Rudolph Proesch & Roland Buck, Lowden, for the Landlord-Tenant Award; Broadview Acres & Paul Friis, West Branch, for the Owner-Operator Award and overall county winner.

Other award recipients recognized during the past year include: Herbert Sander for the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award; Margaret Sadeghpour for the Environmental Educator Award; Millicent Zenishek for 6-year service award as District Commissioner, and Robert Niermeyer for 12-year service award as District Commissioner.



Wildlife Habitat Assistance

The Cedar-Wapsi Pheasants Forever Chapter is sponsoring tree planting projects again this year.

The groups are making available 3,000 bare-root tree and shrub seedlings to be used for WILDLIFE PURPOSES ONLY.

Seedlings available include: White Pine, Red Pine, Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce and White Spruce.

Anyone interested in establishing or adding to a wildlife habitat should call 886-2890 or 886-6214 for more details or to be included in the project.

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Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3 - October 2001

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Jan Nelson

CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER

John Rummelhart of Cedar Bluff was awarded the NEW COOPERATOR AWARD by the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District for 2001. John has been developing the farm for wildlife while continuing to use the best ground for crops.

A shallow water wildlife area was constructed near the creek to catch 50 acres of drainage and filter it before the water goes on to the creek. Shallow water areas are part of the continuous sign-up CRP program. The purpose of this area is to develop a water source for wildlife, hold the run off long enough for the natural cleansing of wetland plants and microbes to take place and create a wetland community.

John also is planting trees along Baldwin Creek under the CRP riparian program. These trees will help to remove nutrients from the subsurface flow, increasing water quality while providing habitat. Riparian areas may be placed under CRP a contract either on crop or pasture ground. A field windbreak has been established on the north end of the

farm to further the winter cover and habitat as well as protect crops from the wind.

TILING WETLANDS

If you are planning to tile this fall, request a wetland determination from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Tiling/drainage wetlands can make you ineligible for USDA program benefits. So, ask for assistance now. We can determine if tiling would cause drainage and help you remain eligible for benefits.

HARROW VS. NOTILL

Before the combine gets rolling, take a look at your HEL plan. Residue management begins with harvest. Spreading residue evenly behind the combine is essential in creating good spring field conditions for notill. If your plan calls for notill, then keep in mind that harrowing is a tillage tool and should not be used where notill is planned. Harrows are tillage implements. Fields that are harrowed are considered tilled.

GOT A FALL PROJECT???

The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District is ready to serve you. The District obligated over \$165,000 of cost share funds in the past year for worthy projects in the county. If you would like assistance on a project, give us a call or stop by the office. Our staff can provide surveys and designs as well as guidance in financial assistance.

PLANNING TO BURN???

With the fall approaching it is time to think of next years approaching burn and planting season. With this we should be preparing for the spring by thinking of our food plots for wildlife, that means placement, variety, and disturbance for wildlife. Burn planning is best done in late fall and winter so when the conditions arise to burn we can burn on

that day in the late winter and spring. Please make an appointment this winter to get your burn plan and be ready to enhance your grassland. Remember just because there may not be much small game this fall we could have a bumper crop of ring-necks next fall with a little planning, preparation, cover and help from Mother Nature. We here at the Cedar County SWCD are ready to help you with your wildlife planning and implementation throughout the year, please give us a call at 886-6214 ext. 3 for all of your wildlife and conservation assistance needs.

REMEMBER!!!!

CEDAR SWCD will be selling bare root tree seedlings. Don't forget to order and support our fund raising efforts. Orders will be taken starting January 2002 until April 2002. Look for your order form in January.

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

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**Cedar County FSA Office
205 W. South St., Suite 3
Tipton, IA. 52772**

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

Volume 59
August-September 1993

CONSERVATION PLANNER

- * CHECK YOUR CONSERVATION PLAN for 1994 tillage practices.
- * FALL SEEDING PERIOD - August 1 to September 20 for cool season grasses and legumes. TEMPORARY COVER of rye or wheat should be seeded to protect areas after September 20 at a 1-2 bushels/acre rate.
- * PROTECT CORN SILAGE FIELDS with a cover crop of rye or wheat at 1-2 bu/ac. rate. (Check to make sure your conservation plan has corn silage planned.)
- * Complete any fall TILLAGE ON THE CONTOUR OR ACROSS THE SLOPE.
- * Sign up until October 13, 1993, for EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS at ASCS. 64% cost-share is available to REPAIR RAIN DAMAGED CONSERVATION PRACTICES.

NEW ANIMAL WASTE COST-SHARE AVAILABLE

In the 1993 Iowa legislative session, a new organic nutrient management program was established to provide financial assistance for the establishment of livestock waste management systems, to facilitate the proper utilization of livestock waste as a nutrient source, and protect water resources from livestock waste runoff.

New livestock operations and expansions are eligible for these program funds. Again the installed practices must meet SCS technical specifications, the development and implementation of a livestock waste system management plan will be required; and the project must be approved prior to construction. The cost-share rate for the program is 50%, and the program has a limit of \$7500 per qualified participant.

Contact the District office for additional details.

IFIP PROGRAM COST-SHARE FUNDS

Cedar SWCD received \$37,585 for fiscal year 1994 Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP) cost-share projects. \$11,275.50 of the total funds can be used for temporary cost-share projects (ie; no-till, stripcropping, contouring). The remainder of the funds are to be used for permanent soil conservation practices (ie; terraces, diversions, grade stabilization structures, water & sediment control basins). Anyone interested in the IFIP projects and cost-share rates should contact the SWCD office.

REAP COST-SHARE FUNDS

Cedar SWCD is ready to allocate 1994 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act funding. The District received \$5,586 for Forestry/Native Grass projects and \$22,935 for REAP Practices (ie; tree plantings, farmstead and field windbreaks, native grass plantings, and planned grazing systems). PLANS SHOULD BE MADE NOW FOR SPRING OF '94 TREE PLANTINGS. Apply for cost-share now!

CEDAR SWCD NO-TILL YIELD CONTESTS

Cedar SWCD will again sponsor no-till corn and soybean yield contests. There is no entry fee; and \$25/\$15/\$10 cash awards will be given for top corn and soybean yields. For assistance in yield checks call the SCS office (886-6214) several days prior to harvest.

CEDAR SWCD GRAND AWARD WINNER

The Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District is a grand award winner in the 46th Annual Goodyear/NACD Conservation Awards Program. District Chairman Mike Walter and his wife, Kathy, will attend the grand awards ceremony at Scottsdale, Arizona, in December.

The Goodyear/NACD Conservation Awards emphasizes the concepts of planning for service; organizing to give that service; and evaluation of district services. Cedar SWCD won the grand award in 1986 also, and has been recognized as an honor district in 1990 and 1991.

BUNCH TRANSFERS

Clarence Bunch, Soil Conservationist in Tipton since February 1992, has accepted a promotion to Clinton County.

Clarence will be assisting landusers in Clinton County on applying their FSA/FACTA Conservation Plans. Clarence's last day in Tipton will be October 1.

We have appreciated Clarence's assistance in developing and implementing soil conservation plans in Cedar County. We wish him success in his new position in DeWitt.

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A Forestry Field Day will be held at the Steve Nash property on October 19, 1993, at 1:00 p.m. The Nash farm is located 1-1/2 miles north of I-80 on Garfield Avenue (Cedar Valley Road) then 1/2 mile east.

Topics that forestry experts will discuss are: establishing successful tree plantations (species selection, designing the plantation, selecting planting stock, preparing the site, controlling competition), training and pruning young trees, and thinning plantations.

Anyone interested in tree planting is encouraged to attend.

CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

The District Commissioners nominated soil conservation award winners for 1993. The following award winners will be recognized at the annual awards banquet in February.

Cooperator Award	Who	Township
OWNER-OPERATOR DIVISION	PHIL PUFFER	PIONEER
NEW COOPERATOR DIVISION	LEE KURTENBACH	PIONEER
LANDLORD/TENANT DIVISION	RAIE REEVES TRUST AND STEVE BOCKWOLDT	FARMINGTON

REVIEW YOUR PLAN

Have you reviewed your conservation plan lately? Now is a good time to check your conservation plan to see which fields are scheduled for conservation tillage next year and what amounts of residue you will need to leave after planting. This may include anything from 30% residue to no-till. If you are anticipating doing any fall tillage this year, we recommend that you look over your conservation plan before you start.

TILLAGE SURVEY RESULTS

Results of the 1993 Conservation Tillage Survey of all cropland in Cedar County are: 20% of the corn was no-tilled; 24% of the soybeans planted was no-tilled; 19% of the corn planted has over 30% residue ground cover after planting; 32% of soybeans planted had over 30% residue ground cover after planting.

IOWA NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Soil Conservation Service office has received numerous calls concerning noxious weeds on farms. The following is a list of primary and secondary noxious weeds in Iowa. Primary noxious weeds: buckthorn, bull thistle, canada thistle, field bindweed, hoary cress, horsenettle, leafy spurge, multiple perennial sowthistle, quackgrass, russian knapweed, tall thistle. Secondary noxious weeds: buckhorn plantain, cocklebur, wild sunflower, curly dock, poison hemlock, puncturevine, red sorrel, smooth dock, teasel, velvetleaf, wild carrot, wild mustard, multiflora rose.

For information on cultural and chemical control of noxious weeds, refer to the Iowa State University Extension Bulletin PM-601 Weed Control Guide at the Extension Service office.

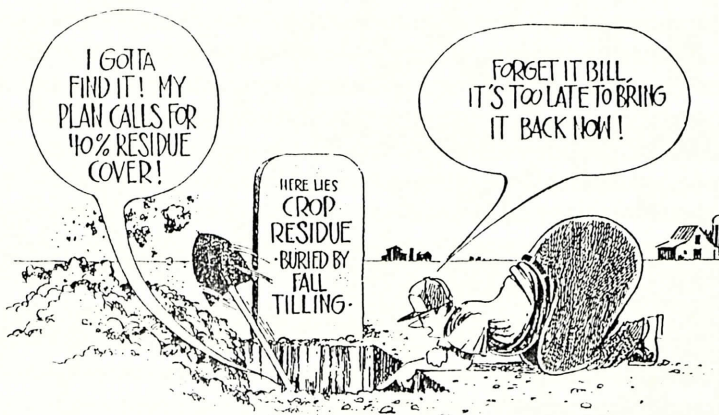
RURAL CONCERN HOTLINE

1-800-447-1985 is a Confidential Toll Free Hotline for all Iowans who want to discuss their problems.

ADDRESS UPDATE

If the address label on your newsletter is incorrect please call the SWCD office with address corrections at (319)886-6214.

Thank you for your assistance.



**Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

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Tipton, Iowa
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Commissioners held eleven regular meetings. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month.
- Election of officers held and assistant commissioners appointed.
- 2001 IM budget spending plan was approved.
- Commissioners reviewed the Memo-Of-Understanding with FSA and NRCS.
- Sponsored poster contest, scholarship awards, field days, 3rd grade students with shrubs, tree sales, and soil stewardship materials.
- Commissioners attended the Fall and Regional Meetings.
- State and National Dues were paid.
- Signs were given to District award winners in recognition of soil stewardship.

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Many of the faces you saw over the past year were new. Some of those new faces volunteered their time to assist the District in protecting our natural resources. The District hired others in an effort to add staff and cost-share for areas that needed special attention.

Sugar Creek Watershed was one of those areas where the District sought special funding to assist producers in applying conservation practices. In addition to extra staff, the District provided \$53,000 of EQIP cost-share to producers in Sugar Creek. Mud Creek in Southeast Cedar Co., Scott and Muscatine Counties was another watershed where extra staff and funding was made available for conservation work.

The District along with its partners, Cedar-Wapsi Pheasants Forever, Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Service provided over \$12,000 to promote buffers. Buffers are essential for good surface water quality and wildlife habitat in Cedar County.

Wildlife management was another resource that the District emphasized in 2001. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources provided an AmeriCorps member, a Wildlife Biologist, to the District in its effort to assist producers in managing wildlife.

If you see a new face in the office or in the field, give them a warm greeting. We believe their addition to our team will be an asset to you in protecting the natural resources.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District



2000-2001
ANNUAL REPORT
205 West South; Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

319-886-6214 ext.3

As District Commissioners of the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation programs.

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Terri Parry.....Technician
Brenda Turley.....Technician
Lora Schmidt.....State Secretary
Robert Flockhart.....Buffer Promotional
Ron Schepers.....Buffer Promotional
Steve Leazer.....Buffer Promotional
Michele Marchik.....Buffer Promotional
Nathaniel Umphrey.....Americorp

Volunteers

Todd Smith.....High School senior
Quincy Schott.....High School senior

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2001 - DECEMBER 31, 2001

Grassed waterways.....26 ac.
Grade Stab. Structure.....15
Contour Bufferstrips..... 52 ac.
Filterstrips.....412 ac.
Riparian Forested Buffer.....18 ac.
'01 Rotational Grazing.....74 ac.
Rotational Grazing in progress.....2000 ac.
Tree planting.....24 ac.
Windbreaks.....3730 ft.
'01 Continuous CRP Practices..... 510 ac.
Cumulative Continuous CRP.....2900 ac.
Cumulative Gen. & Cont. CRP.....11,241 ac.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The District sponsors a Poster Contest for 5th grade students, scholarship award for seniors, and donates trees to 3rd graders in Cedar County.

Poster Contest

Theme of the 2001 contest was "Habitat for Humanity". **Winners:**

Joe Gruemmer - Overall - receiving a \$50 Savings Bond - Durant

Jessica Roesger and Michael Daniel - 1st place - receiving \$10 gift certificate from the local Chamber - Durant

Justin Doser - 1st place - receiving \$10 gift certificate from the local Chamber - Mechanicsville.

Theresa Feigen - 1st place - receiving \$10 gift certificate from the local Chamber - Lowden

Scholarship Award Winner:

Sean Driscoll - received a \$500 scholarship.
3rd Grade Students received 325 dogwood shrubs in observance of Arbor Day.

Monies made from the annual tree sales are put back into the community by way of the programs listed above. Other programs are: soil stewardship literature and field days.

Conservation Award Winners:

Robert and Marie
Flockhart.....owner/operator
Center E township
John Rummelhart.....
New cooperators - Cass township

Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award
Blanche Sisler- Red Oak township

SWCD FUNDS PROVIDED BY IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

1M Allocation 7-1.....\$1500.00
Commissioner Expense.....\$ 352.08
Office Supplies \$445.40
Balance.....\$ 702.52

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (State Cost Share Funding)

99-00 Allocated\$47,633.00
99-00 Supplemental 1,000.00
99-00 Spent.....\$48,633.00
00-01 Allocated.....\$47,633.00
00-01 Spent.....\$47,246.97
01-02 Allocated.....\$47,628.00
01-02 Spent.....\$47,092.00

Resource Enhancement and Protection

'02 Allocation.....\$8,533.00
'02 Spent..... 2,489.98
'01 Allocation.....10,342.82

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3 - Feb 2002

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Jan Nelson

2002 TREE SALES

Help support your community!!! Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District is selling hardy bare root tree seedlings. Money from this fund raising sale helps the District support local scholarships, educational programs, poster contest, conservation awards and other community projects. Orders will be accepted until April 2002. Tree delivery will be in mid to late April. **ORDER FORMS ARE ENCLOSED.**

FOOD PLOTS & WILDLIFE PREPERATIONS

With spring approaching wildlife enthusiasts should be thinking of food plots for wildlife, that means placement, variety, and disturbance for wildlife. With this Pheasants Forever and our office is ready to assist persons with seed and green browse food plots. Persons with abandoned pasture, old brome CRP or other areas in need of diversification can contact us on the availability of legume introduction into grass areas. With this there is financial assistance to plant ten acre areas or smaller into legumes and forbs.

Burn planning is best done in winter and early spring so when the conditions arise to burn, you can burn on that day. Please make an appointment with our biologist to get your burn plan and be ready to enhance your grassland; the list has grown long so an appointment will be necessary to assure a burn plan is obtained. Remember now the time to protect and enhance our wildlife resource for generations to come. We here at the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation are ready to help you with your wildlife planning and implementation throughout the year. Please give us a call at 886-6214 ext 3. For all of your wildlife and conservation assistance needs.

CONSERVATION PRACTICES COST MONEY... NEED MONEY?

Got a project that you want to do this year, but were told we're out of money? Well the District has already obligated all of its cost-share funds, but lets look at securing funds through EQIP. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program is a federal cost-share program that the Tipton FSA and NRCS

offices have used to fund projects on nearly 40 tracts of land over the past few years.

Projects like: Grassed Waterways & associated Tile, Integrated Crop Management, Organic Farming, Waste Management Facilities, Pasture Management, Pasture Renovation, Spring Development, Wells and Pumping Stations for livestock watering systems, Troughs, Travel Lanes for Livestock, and Ponds have all been funded right here in Cedar County.

Applied before? Got no money? Try again.

Persistency has "panned-out" in the end for most applicants.

You can sign up now. All you have to do is contact the NRCS office. We'll develop a plan and crank out a ranking for your project. We'll do our best to get your project funded. Best of all, we'll do the leg work!

SEED THOSE WATERWAYS!

Lots of grassed waterways were shaped last fall under various cost-share programs. For those that still need to be seeded, here are some helpful hints:

- The best time to seed a waterway was yesterday...don't put it off. However, since the ground is frozen, be ready to seed them at oat planting time.
- The less tillage one does to prepare the soil, the better. Tillage loosens the soil leaving it "ripe" for erosion. We've all seen the gullies that have cut down to the level of the disk blade. If you must till, cultipack. Better yet, just no-till it.
- Seed a mix of 15 # of brome and 10# of fescue per acre on well drained sites. Add 1 or 2 # of perennial rye and a bushel and a half of oats for quick cover.
- Seed 10# of reed canary grass per acre on very wet sites. Add the rye & oats.

If erosion develops, deal with it immediately.

Sometimes, one can regain control by applying a little TLC. Hand seed with perennial rye, brome, and oats. Getting real grass (not foxtail) growing in the gully can stop the erosion and capture sediment, which will tend to "fill-in" the cut. Also, one may want to install a well placed fabric check(s), which is good for stopping cuts. If you haven't used a fabric check before, we'll show you how they work.

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

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SCHOLARSHIPS

High school seniors intending to further their education, while pursuing fields in agricultural and environmental science have until February 22 to participate in the Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District scholarship program. The District will award one \$500 scholarship to qualified high school seniors. Application and information are available from the district office at 205 W South Ste 2 in Tipton.

CREATING A PROFIT IN A POTHOLE

Fields with areas that will not drain, areas that have already been determined to be wetland, and pools created to catch tile water or previously drained wetlands, may be eligible for CRP enrollment. We have programs to create or enhance shallow water for wildlife and surround that pool with a native grass buffer. You would receive the rental rate, plus a 20% bonus and cost share on the installation as well as a signing incentive. If you have been frustrated by prevented planting, replanting, and low yield from this type of crop ground problems give us a call or stop in the office.



Vernon Voss standing on newly constructed wetland south of his farmstead sect 22 of Inland Twnshp. The wetland was constructed last summer and has already begun to attract significant wildlife; the site can be viewed from Washington Ave.

FSA REMINDERS

CRP Extensions

It has been announced that there will not be a CRP signup this year. Producers that have contracts that will be expiring, will have the opportunity to extend the contract one year. This will also include producers that did a one year extension last year. The request for the extension should be made by May 31.

CRP Continuous Signup

Producers may sign up at any time for continuous practices. These include filter strips and riparian buffers along bodies of water, contour buffer strips, windbreaks and several other practices.

CCC GRAIN LOANS

There have been several reports of grain going out of condition with the widely fluctuating temperatures this winter. Grain that is under loan must be maintained in good condition. Check all bins carefully.

VISIT FSA's WEBSITE - www.fsa.usda.gov

Farm Service Agency has redesigned website with producers in mind. A producer can now get LDP rates and expanded program information directly from this site. Producers can download FSA forms and return the completed forms by fax at 886-2254, provided you have a fax signature on file at the county office.

2002 AMTA PAYMENTS

Producers that are enrolled in the 7 year, AMTA programs, must designate when they wish to receive their 2002 payment. They may choose to receive all the payment at one time or 2 separate payments.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 18-----Office Closed - President's Day
April 1-----Deadline for Spouse to request to be separate "person" for payment limitation purposes
April 2-----Deadline to Request Loan or LDP on 2000 crop year Wheat or Small Grains
May 27-----Memorial Day - Office Closed
May 31-----Deadline to request a one-year extension on CRP contracts expiring September 30,
May 31-----Deadline to Request Loan or LDP on 2000 Crop Year Corn or Soybeans
June 30-----Final date to report crop acreage

REVIEW YOUR PLAN FOR 1994

The Soil Conservation Service has been issued a variance for tillage on flat areas that suffered water ponding during the past growing season. This does not provide a variance for whole field tilling.

If your conservation plan calls for 40% residue after planting next spring, that is what will be expected if checked. If you have completed tillage on HEL land and are not sure if it will meet conservation plan requirements, feel free to call us for an appointment to review your plans. Eligibility for program benefits can still be maintained if you have done some excessive tillage. Contouring, cross-slope planting, buffer strips, and long term rotations may continue your eligibility.

FIELD BORDERS AND WATERWAYS REQUIRED

There will not be any set-a-side for 1994. This does not mean that the waterways and field borders are not required. Waterways will still be required where ephemeral gullies occur and field borders are required on slopes of 5% or greater where contour or cross-slope farming is planned.

RUSLE ON HOLD UNTIL SUMMER OF '94

The new Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) will undergo some fine-tuning before it will be released to USDA SCS field offices.

SCS had originally planned to release RUSLE for use by field offices in October but next summer now looks more likely.

USDA Agricultural Research Service and SCS officials found that RUSLE calculations of erosion on no-till and conventionally tilled cropland were inconsistent with actual field measurements and the climate data bases for counties with multiple weather stations were not uniformly constructed.

SCS field offices will continue to use the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) until RUSLE undergoes the necessary adjustments, recalculations, reviews, reconstruction and validation.

NEW VIDEO

The Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District has a new no-till video available. The video features Mechanicsville producer George Driscoll. George discusses his techniques for successful no-till corn and soybeans. Stop by the office to check out the video. Funding for the video was provided by the Dupont Corporation.

FARMAID

Iowa State University Extension is offering the FARMAID program at no charge. FARMAID utilizes trained Extension associates who use a computer program to help analyze the impact of alternative farm business arrangements. The alternatives can be anything from debt restructuring to an expansion to a liquidation.

All of the FARMAID associates are farmers. This means they have seen a variety of situations, they can empathize with the farm family and they can help offer suggestions, alternatives and other sources of information.

Contact the Cedar County Extension office for the name and phone number for the associate to contact.

CONSERVATION PLANNER FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

Inspect all conservation practices to be sure they are operating properly. Report completed practices to SCS, discuss conservation plan changes, and identify practices to be installed next year. Complete records for this year and start recordkeeping system for next year. Arrange with contractors to install this spring's practices. Plan rotational grazing layout including fencing and watering facilities. Modify spring planting equipment to leave more residues.

FIELDS ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

Carmen Fields, Soil Conservation Aid, has accepted a new job at Twin States Engineering & Chemical Company near Tipton. Carmen has enjoyed working with the farmers in Cedar County and is excited about starting her new position.

Tipton field office staff wishes to commend Carmen for all her help during the past two years. Wishing you the best, Carmen!

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

COST-SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR NO-TILL

\$10 per acre cost-share may be available for owners and operators planning to no-till in 1994. District Commissioners allocate cost-share with priority on first-time no-tillers on highly erodible land. Sign up soon! Funds are limited!

DISTRICT TREE SALES CAMPAIGN

Cedar SWCD announces their 1994 Tree Sales Program. Please review the enclosed price and description list and place your order at your earliest convenience. Supplies are limited!

STATE FOREST NURSERY TREES AVAILABLE

Contact the SCS office to get a copy of the State Forest Nursery Tree Application form and cost list. The State Forest Nursery stock must be planted and used for establishing or improving existing forest, erosion control, and game or water conservation.

ISU EXTENSION NEWS

The following is available from the Extension office in Tipton: 1993 Yield Data; Cedar County Corn Growers Variety Plot Results; ISU Iowa Corn Yield Test; ISU Iowa Soybean Yield Test.

STORED MANURE IS LIKE MONEY IN THE BANK

Livestock producers who want to increase profits and protect the environment should develop a system that allows them to store manure until conditions are right for applying it to fields.

The type of manure storage structure a farmer uses depends upon the farmer's livestock operation, animal waste management system, and planned field application. There are several options, including an earthen storage pond, above or below ground tank, a pit underneath a confinement facility, or a sheltered concrete slab area.

SCS will work with farmers in the county to help them determine the proper type, size, and location of their manure storage structures.

Cost-share assistance up to 50% may be available for animal waste control structures.

WINDBREAK ESTABLISHMENT

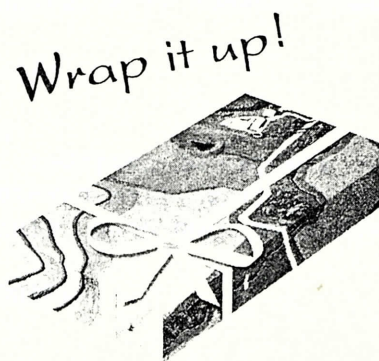
A successful windbreak planting depends on proper establishment and care during the first few years after planting. Time spent in site preparation, weed control, and replanting is repaid many times. Take no shortcuts in the planning and establishment of your windbreak.

Windbreaks are an investment in the future value of your property. Each windbreak system is unique and your windbreak should be designed for your site and objectives. Your local SCS office can provide help in designing and installing your windbreak.

State REAP cost-share is available for windbreaks, tree planting, native grass planting, and animal waste control systems. Contact the SWCD office for information.

ANSWERING MACHINE

SCS has installed an answering machine. If you call the office on weekends, after hours, or while office staff is in the field, please leave your name, number, and message and someone will return your call.



Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

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Tipton, Iowa
Permit No. 5



1994 Tree Seedling Order Form

Cedar Soil & Water
Conservation District1201 North Avenue, Tipton, IA 52772
(319) 886-6214

Tree seedlings are hardy, bare-root stock and will be ready for you to pick up and plant in mid-April. TREES ARE SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25 ONLY (except for the native nut tree package). Supplies are limited. Orders will be taken until March 1, 1994. No guarantee can be given for these seedlings, except that the trees will be in good condition when they are distributed in April.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER, PAYABLE TO: Cedar S.W.C.D.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

SPECIES	SIZE	BUNDLES ORDERED	COST/ BUNDLE	AMOUNT
AMERICAN ARBORVITAE	12-18"	_____	\$55.00	_____
AMERICAN ARBORVITAE	18-24"	_____	\$70.00	_____
SCOTCH PINE	18-24"	_____	\$40.00	_____
WHITE PINE	12-18"	_____	\$35.00	_____
BLUE SPRUCE	12-18"	_____	\$35.00	_____
NORWAY SPRUCE	18-24"	_____	\$40.00	_____
GREEN ASH	2-3'	_____	\$30.00	_____
PIN OAK	2-3'	_____	\$55.00	_____
RED OAK	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
WALNUT	2-3'	_____	\$30.00	_____
LILAC	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
NATIVE NUT TREE PACKAGE (pkgs)		_____	\$40.00	_____
3 Butternut	2-3'			
3 Hazelnut	6-12"			
3 Walnut	2-3'			
2 Northern Pecan	6-12"			
(11 trees)				

TREE ORDER TOTAL _____

ADD 5% SALES TAX _____

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE _____

see reverse side for descriptions of trees

AMERICAN ARBORVITAE - moderate growth rate; height 40-50'; crown spread 10-20'; shallow roots that are very fibrous and wide spreading; native; excellent for windbreaks and wildlife.

SCOTCH PINE - rapid growth rate; height 60-100'; crown spread 30-50'; taproot wide-spreading and somewhat fibrous; often used for Christmas trees and windbreaks.

WHITE PINE - rapid growth rate; height 80-100'; crown spread 50-80'; several large roots spread and outward and downward; native; used in windbreaks.

BLUE SPRUCE - slower growth rate; height 50-100'; crown spread 20-30'; taproot; used extensively in farmstead windbreaks and horticultural plantings because of color; excellent for birds.

NORWAY SPRUCE - rapid growth rate; height 80-100+'; crown spread 20-35'; deep spreading fibrous roots; trees often found in old groves on farms; ideal for windbreak and has a long life; very good for wildlife because of high seed food value.

GREEN ASH - moderate growth rate; height 30-60'; shallow fibrous roots; native.

PIN OAK - slower growth rate; height 50-75'; fibrous tap root; native; excellent for birds and wildlife; products: pulpwood, sawlogs, usually sold in mixture with Red Oak.

RED OAK - rapid growth rate; height 60-80'; deep and fibrous root system; native; excellent for wildlife products: sawlogs, veneer, flooring, and numerous other products.

WALNUT - rapid growth rate; height 70-100+'; large deep root system; highly prized for wood products.

LILAC - moderate growth; large shrub with bright green foliage and extremely fragrant flowers in May; nice; easy to grow.

NATIVE NUT TREE PACKAGE - gets more popular every year. These native American nut trees offer shade, delicious nuts, and eventually valuable logs. Nut trees enhance any wildlife habitat. The obvious added advantage of nut trees is their delicious and nutritious fruits.

American Hazelnut - this plant is more of a shrub than a tree, growing to about 10 feet tall. It is often used within shelter belts and is best known for its nuts which are also called "filberts".

Northern Pecan - will grow to 70-100' in height. Grows tall and straight with a uniform, symmetrical, broadly crown. The nut, though smaller than the southern pecan, is delicious.

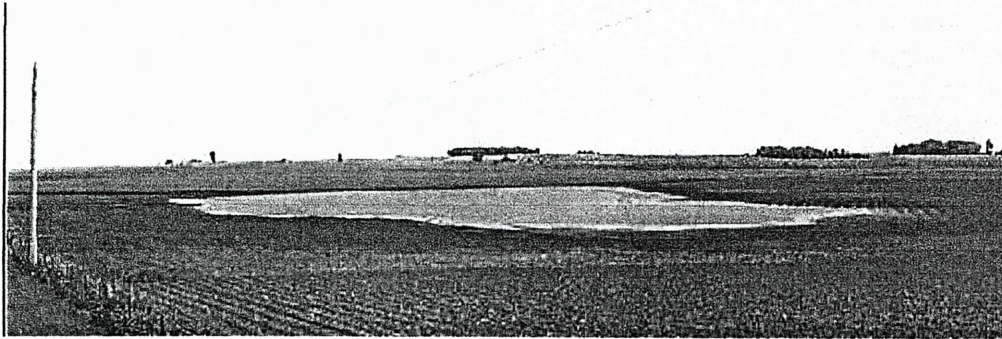
Butternut - transplant well, bear fruit at a young age and have the ability to succeed in poor soils. Butternut wood is sometimes referred to as white walnut. Its satiny, warm-colored, warpless and enduring quality makes it a favorite of interior decorators and wood carvers.

Black Walnut - most valuable of Midwestern hardwood species. Rich chocolate-brown heartwood is of superior quality and value. Walnut nutmeats are highly nutritious.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3 - Summer 2002

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Jan Nelson



FARMABLE WETLANDS PROGRAM

Do you have wet farmland that you can't farm one, two or three years out of every five? Whenever you get stuck in the wet areas do you feel like giving up and letting the ducks have it? Do you enjoy wildlife? Would you like to help improve water quality, filter sediment, reduce soil erosion, and reduce flooding? Would you like to be adequately compensated to restore and protect wetlands? If so you may want to consider the FWP program.

For land to be eligible for this program, it must have been cropped or considered cropped in at least 3 of the past 10 years, and physically and legally capable of being cropped. The wetland area must be wetlands, farmed wetlands, or prior converted cropland of 5 acres or less in size, and not located in the floodplain of a perennial stream. The adjacent buffers around the wetland can not exceed 3 times the wetland acres or the maximum buffer width of 150 feet from the wetland edge, whichever is greater. The minimum buffer width is 30 feet. A conservation plan for enrolled acres will be developed NRCS. Wetland hydrology will need to be restored as technically feasible. Wetland restoration cannot impede upstream drainage from adjacent land. After expiration of the contract drainage may be restored to conditions that existed at time of enrollment. Vegetative cover must be established on the buffer area.

Wetlands help control pollution. They trap excess nutrients and chemical contaminants, and in some cases break them down into harmless substances. Studies at the Leopold Center for the study of sustainable agriculture at Iowa State University showed that a one-acre wetland could effectively purify the nitrate runoff from about 100 acres of cropland.

If you have land eligible for FWP or other CRP programs such as shallow water for wildlife (CP-9) and filterstrips can be used to restore wetlands and improve the environment. All programs have 50 to 90% cost share on improvements and rental payments from \$130 to \$220 per acre. Stop in the office and inquire about eligibility and financial benefits.

NEW STAFF

Hello, I'm Tom Furlong the new soil conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Cedar County. My wife and I own and operate a 550 acre farm in Muscatine county which has included a cow/calf operation until this year. To accomplish my soil conservation goals on our farm I have been involved in using various soil conservation practices including no-till, waterways, buffer strips, contours, water control basins and CRP.

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

I am a strong believer in the value of soil conservation and that it is an investment that pays long term dividends. Whether we are landowners or tenants we should strive to leave the land in better condition than when we received it. There are a variety of programs and practices that are available to control soil erosion and increase wildlife habitat. I look forward to working with each of you to accomplish your goals.

CORRECTION

In our Annual Report I made an error on one of our award winners. I erroneously had Blanche Sisler as the winner of our Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award. Alecia Meyers was the winner of the award. Congratulations Alecia!! Please accept my apologies.

NEW FARM BILL

The new Farm Bill earmarks a great deal more funding for conservation than we have ever seen before. Though final details are still in the making, most producers will want to realize the following: The program funding for conservation work will be a great opportunity for them for cost-sharing practices and for future incentives. AND to be eligible, the producer will need to develop a conservation plan for their land units. Producers interested in cost share should stop by the office or call 886-6214 ext.3 to apply.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE FSA OFFICE

There is a major change for LDPS. Producers that have lost beneficial interest in their crops may now request an LDP. This includes producers on non-participating farms, overruns on certified and **measured** LDPs and late filed LDPs where the producers still has crop ownership. This does not include loans. The deadline to file will be 30 days after the rules are published in the Federal Register.

The FSA office is currently working on planted acres of program crops for the last 4 years, which may be used to update crop bases. When completed the results will be mailed to all owners and operators. When you receive the notice of planted acres, **carefully read the letter for further information**. When enough information is available for the new farm bill, meetings will be conducted throughout the county.



VOLUNTEERS

Each year we are lucky enough to get high school volunteers. This year we got twin brothers; Quincy and Wesley Schott. We had Quincy the first semester of the year. Quincy was involved in an outdoor project of making signs for our native grass areas in the backyard at the office. Quincy made signs for our native grass areas. Time ran out on Quincy to finish all the signs for the backyard; but lucky enough the second semester we got Wesley. We found out Wesley was just as handy. Wesley finished signs for our four different evergreens. Stop in to see the great job these boys did. Quincy and Wesley parents are Ken and Laura Schott of Tipton. The office staff greatly appreciated the work done by Quincy & Wesley.

Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

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MAY 2 1994

Agricultural
Stabilization and
Conservation Service

Cedar County ASCS Office
P.O. Box 404
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Office Hours
8:00am-4:30pm
Mon.- Fri.

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Mel Hansen
Bill Elijah
Jim Dodds

OFFICE PERSONNEL:

Pat Christensen, Ginny DeWulf,
Nancy Ford, Jeff Meier,
Dev Ohrt, Renee Schultz,
Lynda Sturdy

CERTIFY 1994 CROP ACREAGE

Farm operators are reminded that an accurate report of planted and growing crop acreage on the ASCS-578, Crop Report, is required to be made at your local ASCS office by June 30, 1994. ALL CROPS growing on the farm including pasture, hay, practices required in the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO), acreages of fruits and vegetables as well as the customary crops of corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, and wheat must be reported.

For 1994, the crop report for program crops will finalize the producers intention to participate in the 1994 Feed Grain Program. Failure to certify crop acreage will mean a producer has voluntarily violated the CCC-477, Intention to Participate. After June 30, 1994, a voluntarily violated CCC-477 subjects the producer to payment of liquidated damages as well as refund of advance payments plus an interest penalty.

An accurate crop report is necessary to maintain program benefits. These benefits include deficiency payments, planted and considered planted credit (P & CP) and CRP payments. Failure to timely and accurately report crop acreage will result in a loss of some or all program benefits.

Also, in order to remain eligible for USDA benefits, producers are responsible for following the Conservation Plan of Operation for their farm(s) as well as maintaining compliance with wetland conservation regulations.

Finally, those producers with CRP acreage also must certify by the final crop reporting date of June 30, 1994.

Remember, crop acreage on reports on ASCS Form 578 are due by June 30, 1994. If you are unsure of planted acreage, ASCS has a variety of measurement service options available to insure your accurate acreage report.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ACP)

The ACP is a cost-share program that stresses solving soil, water, and pollution problems on agricultural land. It emphasizes the completion of lasting conservation and environmental practices to solve these problems in order to protect and improve the Nation's land and water resources. Sign-up is currently in progress.

Farmers may be eligible for cost-share help up to 75 percent for conservation, water quality, and pollution abatement measures on agricultural land. The ASC County Committee may approve practices only after being assured that cost-shares will be used to carry out enduring soil and water conservation measures, which the farmers would not perform without assistance.

ASCS administers the program - SCS and the DNR District Foresters provide technical service. The program annual agreements and long-term agreements are for 3 to 10 years.

Producers who are prevented from planting crops or who have crops fail, because of natural disaster conditions, must timely file ASCS form 574 to maintain eligibility for any program benefits on these crop acres.

For prevented planting credit the operator must:

- file ASCS Form 574 within 15 days after the final planting date for the crop. The final planting dates are for: Corn - June 5, 1994, Soybeans and Grain Sorghum - June 15, 1994 and all spring seeded Small Grains - April 30, 1994.
- have attempted to plant the crop up to the final planting date.
- not have later planted acreage of the same crop in the same program crop year.

For failed acreage credit, the operator must file ASCS Form 574 within 15 days after the date the abnormal condition occurred or was obvious. Notify the County Office before destroying any failed acreage, a spot-check could be required prior to destruction. To be eligible to file, the crop must have failed:

- before the ending planting date and the producer was prevented from replanting the crop before the ending planting date for the failed crop
- after the ending planting date.

CHANGES IN FARMING OPERATION

Producers are reminded to immediately notify the County Office when there is a change in the farming operation. Changes that are not timely reported may cause producers to be ineligible for program payments.

If land ownership, operator, or lease terms have changed after enrollment in a program, producers should notify the ASCS County Office immediately

Deficiency payments must be divided in the same manner as producers share in the risk of production of the crop. For example, a landlord who received cash rent is not eligible for any deficiency payment, or if a landlord receives a share of the crop, then he/she must also receive a share of the deficiency payment for the farm. If the shares on program contracts do not accurately reflect each producers risk, because of a change in the farming operation, producers should immediately contact the local ASCS Office to revise the contract.

The CCC-477, Contract must be revised by the earlier of:

- (1) 15 days after the County Office is notified of the change
- (2) The date the crop is harvested
- (3) December 31, 1994

If a change in the farming operation results in how crops are shared and the contract is not revised by the above deadline, one or more producers will be ineligible for program benefits for the crop.

The final loan availability date for Oats, Barley, and Wheat ended on March 31, 1994.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA, Office of Communications at 202-720-5881 (voice) or 202-720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 20250, or call 202-720-7327 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The final date to submit production evidence is MAY 27, 1994. Producers who applied by the March 4th deadline have until May 27, 1994 to submit final production. This includes sales evidence if the crop was grade number 4 or poorer and the price was discounted beyond the reductions already applied because of low quality.

Alan D. Schmidt

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3 - November 2003

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Randy Rouse

HEL COMPLIANCE

Harvest is nearly over, but before you drag out that tillage implement, take a look at your Conservation Plan. Is fall tillage a part of the plan on all of your fields? The HEL Compliance Provision of the past farm bill is still in place so, it's a good idea to blow off the dust from that plan and evaluate your system. Were there any ephemeral gullies that you noticed while combining? A grassed waterway or sediment basin may be the answer in controlling erosion where runoff concentrates. Its imperative that ephemeral gullies are controlled. Remember, if you included field borders in your plan, you shouldn't plant end rows.

Swampbuster

Remember, if you plan to tile....have you requested a wetland determination? Wetlands can exist on cropland too, so request a wetland determination from the NRCS if you plan on tiling.

Rotational Grazing in Cedar County

This summer, I met with most of the 16 folks receiving EQIP cost share to establish rotational grazing systems.

Overwhelmingly, our owners were really glad that they divided their pastures into 5 or more paddocks. They felt it was a natural addition to their management system. Pastures remained lush even in a drought year, more grass was available to the herd, and most importantly, the livestock love the fresh grass! Paddock fencing was not a drain on their time or finances.

The EQIP cost-share program and the Grassland Reserve Program are available to assist folks interested in managing their pastures.

2003 EQIP FUNDING

In 2003 Cedar County received \$110,000 of money for EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) funding. This program is used to fund projects that are scheduled to be done over the next few years. Project types that were approved were grassed waterways, animal waste holding facilities, and MIG (managed intensive grazing) systems. Applications for this funding were taken and ranked according to the practices being applied. 20 applications were received. Funding was available to approve 5 of these applications. Applications not approved were then routed to the state cost-share program and many of them were approved for funding.

If you are interested in EQIP funding, applications are taken at any time at the NRCS office.

IFIP COST SHARE FUNDS

The Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District has received its fiscal year 2003 cost share funds. These funds are very limited and the demand has been high each year. Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds are available for terraces, diversions, grade stabilization structures, water & sediment control basins.

Supplemental funding is available to the Districts on conditions requiring projects being completed as soon as possible. We are trying to tighten up the start time and completion time to be able to apply for the funding. Anyone interested in cost share should contact the office.

**Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Cedar County Senior High School students furthering their education in agriculture or environment should submit the resumes by January 31st to be eligible for competition. For more information call 563-886-6214 ext. 3.

REAP COST SHARE

State cost share is available for windbreaks, treeplanting, native grass planting and timber stand improvement. Stop by the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District office to apply.

TREE SALES

Cedar SWCD tree sales campaign will be starting in January. If you would like to receive an order form, please call the office at 886-6214 ext.3.

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

Volume 61

May-June 1994

STAFF CHANGES

The Tipton Field Office has had several staff changes:

Melanie Schott, District secretary is now working for the Department of Human Services in Davenport. Her job title is Income Maintenance worker. Melanie served as District secretary since August 1981. We wish her the best of luck in her new career.

Lora Schmidt will be replacing Melanie as District Secretary which has been filled as part-time. I will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. I have worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Scott County for 3 years. I live in Durant with my husband and two children. My husband, Gary, works in Cedar Rapids and my children, Jennifer and Michael, both attend college in the Quad Cities. I enjoy working outdoors and traveling with my husband. I am anxious to meet all the farmers in the county.

Brenda Turley, from Mechanicsville, is volunteering a couple days each week. She has been completing windbreak checks for the District.

Eloise Manning, from Tipton, is our new Green Thumb employee. Eloise works 20 hours each week assisting the District with phone calls, waiting counter and computer items.

Doug Ensminger - Soil Conservationist, has been the acting District Conservationist in Mt. Pleasant since April 15.

THE MAX IS BACK!!

The MAX Program will again be conducted in 1994! Currently we are looking for interested farmers in Cedar County who would like to be participants.

The MAX Program is an outstanding program that allows farmers to compare "bottomline" profitability of mulch tillage, no-till, ridge-till, and conventional tillage systems.

This year Monsanto will be the new National sponsor along with Successful Farming and CTIC.

If you are interested in "entering" a field in the MAX Program or would like further information contact the District office.

The District office also has a 24 page report on the 1993 MAX Program Results available.

CEDAR SWCD NO-TILL YIELD CONTESTS

Cedar SWCD will again sponsor no-till corn and soybean yield contests. There is no entry fee; and \$25/\$15/\$10 cash awards will be given for top corn and soybean yields.

Notice!!! The Iowa Masters contest has a no-till corn and soybean contest for 1994. Contact Extension Service to have your no-till verified and entry rules.

PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

All producers are encouraged to stop by the SCS office and certify the conservation practices you have applied this spring. The ideal time to do this is when you certify your planted acres at ASCS. We recommend you document your residue measurements, contour farming, and waterways on an ASCS photo. We will put it in your tract file for future reference. Bring the photo to our office and we will put it in your tract file for future reference.

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners selected Denise Dykstra from Wilton and Randy Hennings from Bennett High School for the 1994 Scholarship Winners. Denise and Randy received certificates at graduation ceremonies for \$200 towards college in an agricultural or environmental related fields.

POSTER CONTEST

"Soil & Water Conservation" was the 1994 theme for the District's Annual Poster Contest. Winners selected include: Ariel Reed, Nick Hermiston, and Jackee Meyer from Bennett; Shea Stamp, Jennifer Meyer and Shane McMullen from Lincoln; Kathryn Fiegen, Anthony Armstrong and Dustin Tharp from Clarence-Lowden. Overall winners selected were Ashley Elijah from Clarence-Lowden and Cassie Ford from Lincoln received \$50 Savings Bonds. Top posters will be displayed at the Iowa State Fair.

CONSERVATION AWARDS

District Commissioners will aerial view farms in Cedar County and will make their selection for the Iowa Conservation Awards Program in early June. If you have a farm you would like nominate please contact the District office. The three award divisions are: owner/operator, landlord/tenant, and new cooperator.

CONSERVATION PLANNER

Scout hay fields for pests and disease and apply nutrients and pest control according to recommendations.
Conduct late spring nitrogen test.
Complete split application of nitrogen fertilizer.
Report planted acres to ASCS by local deadline.
Scout pastures and perform needed management such as clipping and weed control.
Scout fields for pests and disease.

LIMESTONE BLUFFS RC&D

The Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation and Development Area was recently funded by the Soil Conservation Service.

Counties in the Limestone Bluffs RC&D Area are Cedar, Clinton, Jones, Jackson and Delaware.

The RC&D program helps communities improve their economies and quality of life through the wise use and development of natural resources.

Recent projects the RC&D has assisted with in Cedar County are a grant request for funding for Floral Hall and funding for a Cottonwood Bridge to be installed in Cedar County

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 9 - SE Iowa Research Farm spring Field Day -
Crawfordsville 2:30 and 6:30 tour.

July 26 - Sustainable Ag Tour

Sept 7 - Cedar Co. Corn-soybean Growers Field Day (1
1/2 mile east of Clarence on T30).

**Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

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Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3 - Winter 2003

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Randy Rouse

What is an RMS Plan?

Why should I want one for my farm?

One of the goals of the NRCS is to work with landowners and operators in developing a Resource Management System (RMS) Plan on as many acres as possible. A Resource Management System (RMS) can be defined as a comprehensive conservation plan addressing all resources (soil, water, air, plants and animals). The RMS Plan will assist producers in managing a productive operation that improves the land and contributes to a healthy environment.

Some of the questions that the RMS Plan will address:

- Are tillage practices and residue levels appropriate?
- Are grassed waterways, filters and buffers where needed?
- Do you have recent soil tests, appropriate fertility levels and application rates?
- Are herbicides and insecticides applied judiciously?
- Do you need a manure management plan?
- Are there water or air pollution concerns?
- Are the crops and livestock suitable for your land?
- Are there adequate wildlife areas?

One of the provisions of the new farm bill (with the details still being written) is to reward farmers for good conservation practices. A RMS Plan will help you analyze your operation and qualify you for these payments. I encourage you to give our office a call and schedule an appointment for a field visit to assist you in developing a plan for your farm.

As always, this will leave the land in better condition than when you received it. Tom Furlong, soil conservationist

IOWA FORAGE & GRASSLAND AWARD

The Iowa Forage & Grassland Council presented their Livestock Award to Jim Ahrens on November 26th at their annual meeting in West Des Moines. Jim owns and operates a farm in Cedar County with 73 acres of pasture. His cow-calf herd is rotated daily through a combination of permanent and temporary paddocks. He retains his calves and rotates them as a separate herd in his Managed Intensive Grazing System. Many of his yearlings are marketed as grass fed beef.

Jim has been a generous partner to the Cedar County SWCD over the years. He has hosted many pasture walks, installed a series of waterlines to improve utilization, and recently seeded 12 acres of warm season grasses to prepare for late summer grazing.



NEW STAFF

Hi, I'm Steve Leazer, the new soil conservationist technician. This is a shared position with another employee, so I am in the office half the week. I own and operate a crop and livestock farm with my dad, raising corn, beans, oats, alfalfa, dairy cattle and hogs. We have been involved with many conservation practices over the years that include waterways, minimum tillage, no till, manure containment structures and buffer strips. I'll be able to help with waterways, buffers, wetlands and windbreaks. So, come in and we'll see what can be done on your farm.

SUGAR CREEK FUNDS

Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District has received \$19,225 in funding from the Division of Soil Conservation for projects in the Sugar Creek Watershed. The projects will be cost shared through the Watershed Protection Funds at 75%. Anyone interested in cost share please stop by the office. Sugar Creek was listed as an impaired watershed by the DNR and has received special funding for conservation work over the last three years.

FSA NEWS

Direct and Counter Cyclical signup is going very slow. Only about 20% of the farms are enrolled. Complexity of the program is probably the main reason for the delay. April 1 is the final date to elect base and yield options. Producers should review their base options first. If option 4 (4-year planting average) is selected, then corn production records should be provided to FSA. If any of the other options are used only the soybean production records are needed. FSA has a listing of LDPs and loans for all producers for each of the four years (1998 - 2001) that may be used for production records. Producers that sold more bushels than they LDP'd or placed under loan may want to use their own settlement sheets. If production records are not provided for soybean, a 30 bushel yield will be assigned.

County Committee Election

Bill Elijah was elected from LAA 3, which is made up of the northern 1/3 of the county. Richard Tenley was elected first alternate and Glenda Lawson is the second alternate. At the organizational meeting Jim Dodds was elected chairman of the committee for 2003. Bill Elijah was elected vice chairman and Steve Bockwoldt is the member. Glenda Lawson will serve as the advisor.

Conservation Reserve Program

There will probably be a whole field CRP signup this year. It appears the signup may not be until sometime this summer. Continuous signup for critical areas is ongoing under the current rules.

Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Commissioners held eleven regular meetings. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month.
- Election of officers held and assistant commissioners appointed.
- 2002 IM budget spending plan was approved.
- Commissioners reviewed the Memo-Of-Understanding with FSA and NRCS.
- Sponsored poster contest, scholarship awards, field days, 3rd grade students with shrubs, tree sales, and soil stewardship materials.
- Commissioners attended the Regional Meeting.
- State and National Dues were paid.
- Signs were given to District award winners in recognition of soil stewardship.

The District saw an enormous amount of interest in conservation application over the past year. Producers installed over 300% waterways and basins, 200% contour bufferstrips, 375% riparian forested buffers, 600% rotational grazing systems, 175% tree plantings, 300% windbreaks, and 300% wetlands than last year. That's a lot of conservation on the land!

Just as noteworthy, the District took in nearly \$700,000 worth of cost-share application in 2002 under the Environmental

Quality Incentive Program. Though the funding fell far short of the cost-share requested in 2002, the new farm bill is legislated to meet a greater demand for conservation than ever before. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Conservation Security Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, are all Farm Bill programs that are legislated to address the many resource concerns across the county.

We are fortunate to have added two new NRCS staff over the past 6 months. Tom Furlong began with us as a soil conservationist in June. He is busy assisting producers in developing resource management system plans. These plans address all the resources on the farm rather than simply addressing soil erosion. Addressing the soil, water, air, plants, and animals on a whole farm basis leads to best solutions for the environment and the pocket book. Steve Leazer started last December promoting buffers and then was selected for a soil conservation technician half time position in August. Steve is already surveying and designing grassed waterways that protect both the soil from erosion and our surface waters from sediment.

Thanks to our many customers who have placed their time and money into protecting the county's resources. Each of you has made a significant contribution to the natural resources for the present as well as the future.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District



2001-2002
ANNUAL REPORT
205 West South; Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

319-886-6214 ext.3

As District Commissioners of the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation programs.

Commissioners

Cliff Bowie.....Chairperson
Rob Glick.....Vice Chairperson
Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes and Janet Nelson

Assistant Commissioners

Joel Brown, Jerry Long, Rhonda Schultz and Randy Rouse

Field Office Staff

Mark Fehseke.....Dist. Conservationist
Judy Hagan.....Technician
Terri Parry.....Technician
Brenda Turley.....Technician
Steve Leazer.....Technician
Tom Furlong.....Soil Conservationist
Lora Schmidt.....State Secretary
Steve Leazer.....Buffer Promotional
Nathaniel Umphrey.....Americorp

Volunteers

Wesley Schott.....High School senior
Todd Smith.....High School senior
Brandon Ford.....High School senior

Kyle Voss.....High School senior

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2002 - DECEMBER 31, 2002

Grassed waterways.....87 ac.
Grade Stab. Structure.....10
Contour Bufferstrips.....123 ac.
Filterstrips.....451 ac.
Riparian Forested Buffer.....68 ac.
Rotational Grazing.....428 ac.
Tree planting.....42 ac.
Windbreaks.....12,000 ft.
Continuous CRP Practices..... 648 ac.
Cumulative Continuous CRP.....3548 ac.
Cumulative Gen. & Cont. CRP.....11,889 ac.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The District sponsors a Poster Contest for 5th grade students, scholarship award for seniors, and donates trees to 3rd graders in Cedar County.

Poster Contest

Kirstie Reissen - Overall - receiving a \$50 Savings Bond - Durant
Danyel Meinert - 1st place - receiving \$10 gift certificate from the local Chamber - Durant

Scholarship Award Winner:

Tara Cain - received a \$500 scholarship.
3rd Grade Students received 345 red bud shrubs in observance of Arbor Day.
Monies made from the annual tree sales are put back into the community by way of the programs listed above. Other programs: soil stewardship literature and field days.

Conservation Award Winners:

Brooks & Nancy Haesemeyer
.....owner/operator-Pioneer township
Fred Kaufmann and Mike Kaufmann.....
Landlord/tenant- Sugar Creek township

Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award

Randall Sander- Massillon township

SWCD FUNDS PROVIDED BY IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

1M Allocation 7-1.....\$1500.00
Commissioner Expense.....\$ 193.82
Office Supplies \$193.19
Balance.....\$1112.99

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (State Cost Share Funding)

00-01 Allocated.....\$47633.00
00-01 Spent.....\$45,579.51
01-02 Allocated.....\$47,628.00
01-02 Spent.....\$47,239.82
02-03 Allocated\$18,522.00
02-03 Spent.....\$18,522.00

Resource Enhancement and Protection

'03 Allocation.....\$2924.99
'03 Spent..... 2,489.98

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

STAFF CHANGES

Kurt Hoeft, District Conservationist in Cedar County since November of 1983, has transferred to the Waverly Field Office in Bremer County. Kurt started his new duties in that office on August 8th. Kurt will also be joining in the family farming operation in Floyd County. We wish Kurt the best of luck with his new venture.

IFIP COST-SHARE FUNDS

The Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District has received its fiscal year 1995 cost-share funds. These funds are limited and the demand is high each year. The funds are allocated to applicants on a practice priority and first-come/first-served basis. Applications are accepted all year and allocated based on availability.

Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds are available for terraces, water & sediment control basins, and grade stabilization structures.

Anyone interested in the IFIP projects and cost-share rates should contact the SWCD office.

REAP COST-SHARE FUNDS

The Cedar SWCD is taking applications for the 1995 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act funding. REAP funding is used for Forestry/Native Grass projects and REAP Practices (ie; tree plantings, farmstead and field windbreaks, native grass plantings, and planned grazing systems). Plans should be made now for Springs of '95 TREE PLANTINGS. Apply for cost-share now!

ORGANIC NUTRIENT WASTE

Livestock operations and expansions are eligible for these program funds. Again the installed practices must meet SCS technical specifications, the development and implementation of a livestock waste system management plan will be required; and the project must be approved prior to construction. Existing systems have priority over new systems. This years allocation to the District is \$11,221.00.

CEDAR SWCD NO-TILL YIELD CONTESTS

Cedar SWCD will again sponsor a no-till corn and soybean yield contest. There is no entry fee and \$25/\$15/\$10 cash awards will be given for top corn and soybean yields. Anyone interested should contact the SWCD office. Entries done for the No-till Masters Contest will be accepted for this contest.

WATERWAY FIELD DAY

A waterway field day has been scheduled for Sept. 15th, at 1:00 p.m. at the John Clapp farm 5 miles south of Mechanicsville. Robert Herring, tenant on the farm, will demonstrate the Hurricane ditcher that he purchased jointly with another farmer this spring. Also present will be a representative from Construction Materials, Inc. out of Cedar Rapids, that will discuss different erosion control materials.

Waterways to look at include ones that Robert did this spring with the Hurricane and one reshaped by a contractor this spring. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

NO-TILL FIELD DAY

A No-till Field Day for area farmers will be held on the Robert Regennitter's farm, 300th Street, Atalissa, Sept. 6, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Anyone is invited to attend. Robert Regennitter indicated that tents will provide shelter for any inclement weather.

According to Jerry Long, Cedar County Extension Director, Extension specialists Virgil Schmitt, Iowa State University Field Crops Specialist and Greg Brenneman, ISU Agricultural Engineer will present and discuss "Are you ready for no-till?", and "Pest management strategies (weeds, insects and diseases)". Dr. Dan Johnson, Plant Breeder, Lynks Seeds will discuss what to look for in a hybrid when considering no-till.

CEDAR COUNTY CORN AND SOYBEAN FIELD DAY

11th Annual Cedar County Corn and Soybean Variety Plot Field Day, will be on Sept. 7th. 3:00 p.m. and continues through dark.

The location has been changed to north of Highway 30, east of Clarence. The plots can be found by taking 140th Street east of Oxford Junction Road about 1 and 1/4 mile. Corn and soybean plots are just south of the farm buildings. This farm is operated by Terry Kroemer.

The corn varieties were planted no-till into soybean stubble. Soybeans were planted into fall-chiseled corn ground with a no-till unit planter. Clarence Coop was in charge of the herbicide program for both crops.

A "free" pork meal will be served to field day attendees at 5:00 p.m. Following the meal will be corn and soybean discussions by association representatives. During the day there will be time to visit with agricultural businesses and seed variety representatives.

Over \$700 worth of door prizes will be awarded in addition to the grand prize of a color TV. And there's more...many of your friends will be at the field day and you will have an opportunity to visit with them!

Come and visit the exhibitors and the variety plots and have a good time!!!

SOIL PRACTICES LOAN PROGRAM

The 1994 legislative session has established a new Soil Loan Program. The act included an appropriation of \$500,000. This appropriation is to establish an interest-free loan program, making funds available to landowners for any required matching contribution to the federal Emergency Conservation Program for the repair of permanent soil and water conservation practices. Loan funds shall only be used by persons who receive assistance under ECP to restore a practice to its condition prior to the flood damage which occurred in 1993.

Funds will be allocated by the Division of Soil Conservation on a first come first served basis. Applications for the program are to be made through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. All practices need to be approved by the commissioners and the technical staff has to inspect the practice to determine if the repair meets eligibility requirements.

Landowners have until June 1, 1995 to complete the project. A 20 year maintenance agreement is required.

Loan funds are to be used in combination with USDA-ASCS, Emergency Conservation Program funds to pay up to 100% of the cost of repair. Each loan made shall be for a period not to exceed 5 years. Loans shall be paid back to the loan fund in equal yearly installments due March 1 of each year the loan is in effect.

If you have any questions or are interested in the program contact the SWCD office.

Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District

1201 North Avenue
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205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3 - Winter 2004

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Randy Rouse

SOIL SURVEYS

Soil surveys are now available by the District on CD form. The District is selling them for \$10. each.

TREE SALES CAMPAIGN

Cedar SWCD tree seedling sales campaign is underway. Please read enclosed flyer. supplies are limited, so please order at your earliest convenience. Funds generated from the tree sales is used for educational and information activities in Cedar County.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Cedar SWCD is sponsoring a scholarship competition for senior students living in Cedar County that are planning to further their education in agricultural or environmental related fields.

One \$500 scholarship will be awarded. For more information please contact the SWCD office at 886-6214 x 3.

COST SHARE

Cedar SWCD is accepting applications for some temporary and permanent soil conservation practices, tree planting and windbreaks.

Due to increased interest in cost share assistance the Cedar SWCD will be able to apply for supplemental funding thru the state. There are requirements that the District must satisfy to qualify for funding. We have meet the requirements of allocating the funding and finishing the projects in a more timely manner which has made us eligible.

THE EQIP ALTERNATIVE

If you are planning to do one or more of the following practices in the next few years, EQIP may be the program for you!

- Waterways
- Basins
- Terraces
- Waste Storage Facility
- Ponds
- Tree Planting

- Rotational Grazing with/without
Fencing
Pasture Planting
Watering Facilities

All practices have 50% cost share with up to 4 years to get the practice(s) finished.

Last year, Cedar County was allocated in excess of \$109,000. for this program. The breakdown went as follows:

- Waterways - 48%
- Rotational Grazing - 20%
- Waste Storage Facility - 18%
- Other practices - 14%

Our allocation is different every year depending on the needs of each county. We are continually taking applications in anticipation of the next sign-up. For more information on these and other practices, stop by the NRCS office the next time you are in Tipton.

CEDAR COUNTY SNAPSHOT

In May of 2003 Cedar County participated in its first "Snapshot" data collection of streams in Cedar County. This first collection was considered the start of a baseline and plans are being made to do it again in 2004 to get more data. Also participating were Scott, Muscatine, and Clinton counties and the Wapsi.

Testing was done on 36 pre picked sites in Cedar County. Field testing was done on water temp, nitrite, nitrate, dissolved oxygen, chloride, and transparency. Lab testing was done on samples collected from the sites for fecal bacteria, E. coli bacteria, nitrate+nitrite, ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorus, and 17 of the sites were checked for atrazine, metolachlor, desethyl atrazine, cyanazine, acetochlor, simazine, Dimethenamid. Lab testing for nitrate-N concentrations showed them slightly higher concentration with the standard being <10 mg/l and Cedars coming out at 11 mg/l. Fecal and E. coli bacteria levels were similar to those detected in other snapshots and lower than levels present in streams statewide. Testing on dissolved oxygen showed that Cedar County was 8-10 mg/l which made it above the set standards of >5 mg/l.

Copies of the results of the Cedar County test can be obtained from the NRCS office in Tipton.

LOCAL WORK GROUP

The Local Work Group met January 8th to discuss local resource concerns in Cedar County.

The following is a summary of the resource concerns:

Rank	# of points	# of dots	Resource Concern
1.	21	8	Water/Phosphorous
2.	15	5	Habitat/Buffering
3.	12	3	Whole Systems
4.	11	5	Forestry
5.	10	3	Deer Pop-excessive
6.	8	2	Money
7.	6	4	Nutrient Mgt. Ed.
8.	6	3	Soil
9.	6	2	Frequency of testing
water quality			
10.	5	2	HEL Compliance
11.	4	1	County Roadside
Management-need diversity			
12.	2	1	Septic outleting
13.	2	1	Invasive Species
14.	2	1	Rotational Grazing
15.	0	0	NRCS followup on
applied practices			
16.	0	0	Fully funding Reap

These resource concerns will be utilized by the SWCD in making resource decisions for the 2004 cost share year..

WETLAND ENTHUSIASTS & LANDOWNERS

USDA has expanded its wetland restoration practices to include bottomland timber restoration, cropped wetlands, prior converted wetlands, pastureland wetlands, farmable wetlands and shallow water areas.

There is federal funding to help restore or develop these areas if the soil is hydric. Some practices also offer bonus on base payment rates. Stop in or call 886-6214 to see if you qualify.

The Integrated Farm Management Program In Mud Creek Watershed

The Mud Creek Water Quality Project has received funds for an Integrated Farm and Livestock Management Program to address the agricultural issues that are thought to cause impairment of Mud Creek. Nutrient management training of producers and certified crop consultants is lead by Virgil Schmitt, ISU Crop Specialist. The focus is on soil sampling, and the placement of P& K fertilizers on corn/beans with reference to sampling results.

Pest management will incorporate crop walks with an ISU field specialist to help identify crop pests. Training will include the proper care of plants and application of the appropriate herbicides and insecticides.

Pasture management includes pasture walks and training sessions in rotational grazing. Producers will help develop a pasture management plan with paddocks. Additional demonstrations and training may include soil testing for nutrient analysis, pasture planting of warm season grasses or legumes, installation and use of alternative watering systems, fencing off the riparian corridor for flash grazing and maintenance of heavy use crossings.

Manure management education includes field demonstrations, associated day activities, classes to increase understanding and awareness of manure management, nutrient management and proper land application of manure. Demonstrations will incorporate manure nutrient analysis, manure nutrient availability to crops, application equipment and containment structures.

For scheduled activities call 563/263-7944 or e-mail matt.mcandrew@ia.usda.gov.

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30 Years of Cost Share and Iowa's Water Quality

There has been a lot of attention leveled at water quality in recent years. A lot can be learned by studying our lakes, rivers and streams; but in order to truly understand what is happening with water quality in a state like Iowa, it is necessary to turn around and look upstream. What happens on the landscape has a huge impact on the water downhill from that landscape. Of the 157 impaired waters in Iowa on the 1998 list, well over half were included because of sedimentation problems. Keeping the soil where it belongs is not new to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). In fact, it has been the focus of Districts for well over 60 years.

This year during Soil and Water Conservation Week, November 16-22, we are celebrating 30 years of the "first in the nation" soil conservation Financial Incentives Program. Over its lifetime, the State of Iowa has invested over \$150 million in financial incentives to assist landowners to protect their farms from the damaging effects of soil erosion. Those same landowners have invested an equal amount from their own pocketbooks, stimulating tremendous economic activity in local communities throughout Iowa.

The Division of Soil Conservation estimates that we have stopped over 18 million tons of fertile topsoil from escaping our fields in that 30 year timeframe. That is enough precious black soil to provide a six-inch layer for over 20,000 football fields. Put another

way, the soil saved in the lifetime of the Financial Incentives Program would cover all four lanes of an interstate highway stretching from California to New York. Of course a good share of the lost soil may have found its way to our state's waterways, so in effect, SWCDs have been a partner in improving water quality for years.

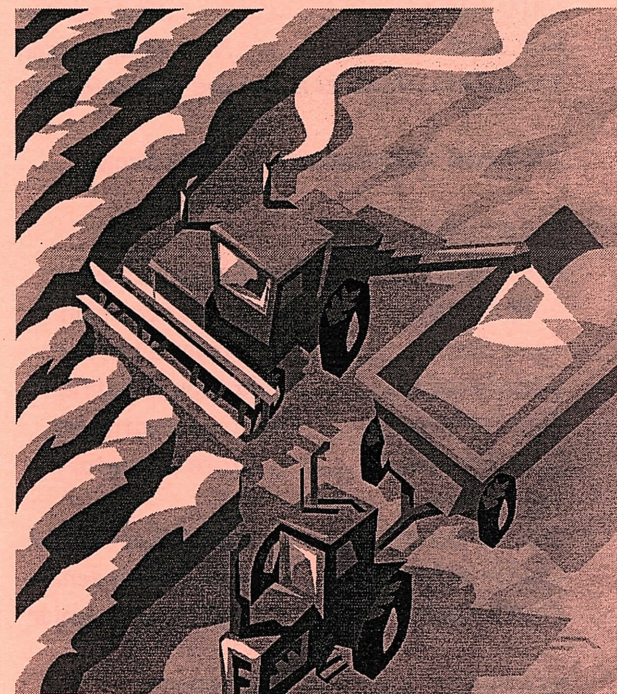
Improving water quality isn't difficult to understand. Placing waterways, terraces, grade stabilization structures, and diversions in the right locations, save soil and preserve water quality. Reducing tillage and leaving crop residue on the soil surface improve soil quality and reduce the movement of soil as well. In the end, soil conservation work means that less sediment makes its way to the water.

We can't go wrong. By investing in soil conservation, we get the best of both worlds: we improve the productivity of our farms and keep sediment out of our water. That's a win-win scenario where everyone benefits.

Thanks to our many customers who have placed their time and money into protecting the county's resources. Each of you has made a significant contribution to the natural resources for the present as well as the future.

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District



2003
ANNUAL REPORT
205 West South; Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

319-886-6214 ext

As District Commissioners of the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation programs.

Commissioners

Cliff Bowie.....Chairperson
Rob Glick.....Vice Chairperson
Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes and Randy Rouse

Assistant Commissioner - Joel Brown

Field Office Staff

Mark Fehseke.....Dist. Conservationist
Judy Hagan.....Technician
Terri Parry.....Technician & buffer
Steve Leazer.....Technician & Buffer
Tom Furlong.....Soil Conservationist
Lora Schmidt.....State Secretary

Volunteers

Wesley Schott.....High School senior
Quincy Schott.....High School senior
Zarick Kuehl.....High School senior

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2003 - DECEMBER 31, 2003

Conservation planning on cropland...10,650 ac.
Conservation planning on pastureland...307 ac.
Grassed waterways.....50 ac.
Grade Stab. Structure.....7
Contour Bufferstrips.....100 ac.
Filter Strips.....225 ac.

Wetlands.....39 ac.
Riparian Forested Buffer.....30 ac.
Rotational Grazing.....24 ac.
Tree planting.....40 ac.
Windbreaks.....3,400 ft.
Continuous CRP Practices.....330 ac.
Cumulative Continuous CRP.....3878 ac.
Cumulative Gen. & Cont. CRP.....12,613 ac.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The District sponsors a scholarship award for seniors, envirothon, soil stewardship, poster contest and donates trees to 3rd graders in Cedar County.

Scholarship Award Winner:

Alana McNutt - received a \$500 scholarship.
3rd Grade Students received 280 serviceberry shrubs in observance of Arbor Day.

Monies made from the annual tree sales are put back into the community by way of the programs listed above. Other programs: field days.

Conservation Award Winners:

Brad Dircks.....owner/operator
Tony Baltes.....New Cooperator
Steve Maurer and Larry Hansen.....Landlord/tenant

SWCD FUNDS PROVIDED BY IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

1M Allocation 7-1.....\$1500.00
Commissioner Expense.....\$ 525.00
Office Supplies\$ 65.00
Balance.....\$ 920.00

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (State Cost Share Funding)

00-01 Allocated.....\$47633.00
00-01 Spent.....\$45,579.51
01-02 Allocated.....\$47,628.00
01-02 Spent.....\$47,239.82
02-03 Allocated\$18,522.00
02-03 Spent.....\$18,522.00
03-04 Allocated.....\$31,046.00
03-04 Spent.....\$31,046.00

Resource Enhancement and Protection

'03 Allocation.....\$7,968.00
'03 Spent.....\$2,541.02

Forestry and Native Grasses

'03 Allocation.....\$1,992.00
'03 EQUIP

Allocation/obligated.....\$109,397

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Commissioners held eleven regular meetings. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month.
- Election of officers held and assistant commissioners appointed.
- 2003 IM budget spending plan was approved.
- Commissioners reviewed the Memo-Of-Understanding with FSA and NRCS.
- Sponsored poster contest, scholarship awards, envirothon, field days, 3rd grade students with shrubs, tree sales, and soil stewardship materials.
- Commissioners attended the Annual Conference.
- State and National Dues were paid.
- Signs were given to District award winners in recognition of soil stewardship.
- Snapshot of water quality conducted May 14, 2003.

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

VOL 63
DEC 94

SCS IS NAMED NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service has changed its name to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The new agency was authorized as part of USDA's reorganization in October by Agriculture Secretary, Mike Espy.

The new Natural Resources Conservation Service will continue to have responsibility for all the programs of the former Soil Conservation Service plus a few added programs.

NEW DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

We welcome Mark Fehseke (Fay-za-ke) as the new District Conservationist for Cedar County. He replaces Kurt Hoeft who left in August.

Mark has been employed by SCS for 13 years, serving as a technician in Des Moines County and a soil conservationist in Johnson County. He is originally from Des Moines County, and grew up in the family "mink ranching" business. He recieved a degree in Agronomy from Northeast Missouri State University. After college Mark joined the Peace Corp, working as a soil conservationist in Tunisia, North Africa.

Returning to Iowa, Mark started working for SCS. Mark is married, his wife, Marquerite works in Iowa City for the school system. Stop in the office and say hello to Mark.

TREE SALES CAMPAIGN

Cedar SWCD tree seedling sales campaign is underway. Please see the enclosed tree order form for information on the trees. Supplies are limited, so don't wait to place you order.

For more information or questions please stop by the SWCD office or call 886-6214. Trees can be used for any purpose(ie; windbreak-shade-ornamental).

Funds generated from the tree sales are used for education and information activities in Cedar County.



CONSERVATION AWARDS

Cedar SWCD participates in the Iowa Soil & Water Conservation Awards Program each year. The District selects outstanding cooperators for awards in three divisions: New Cooperator, Landlord/Tenant, and Owner/Operator.

Award recipients for 1994 include: Gary Barlett Cedar Rapids, for the new cooperator award; Rob Grimm & Art Stoll, Wilton, for the Landlord/Tenant Award; and Jerry Agne, Tipton, for the Owner/Operator.

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

**RICHARD KREINBRING REELECTED
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER**

Richard Kreinbring, rural Bennett, won his second six year term as a SWCD Commissioner in the November elections.

Richard and his wife Kathy farm in the Springfield township area.

Congratulations, Richard, on your reelection to the Soil & Water Conservation District board.

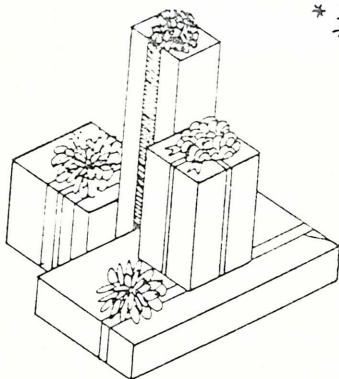
94 NO-TILL CONTEST RESULTS

CORN YIELDS

Robert Regennitter	214.51
Keith Feuerbach	204.32
Vic Kimberling	201.07
Greg Thein	199.99
Philip Hermiston	192.56
Kevin Hartwig	188.34
Duane Stonerook	188.11
Gene McAtee	185.57

SOYBEAN YIELDS

Philip Hermiston	77.05
George Driscoll	73.41
Bob Regennitter	68.54



DONATION FROM THE CEDAR SWCD

We placed our dill on auction at Harmels. The drill sold for \$425 with the proceeds being donated to the Cedar-Wapsi chapter of Pheasants Forever. We know this donation will be put to good use. The SWCD would like to thank Harmel Implement Inc. for donating their commission as well.

**1994 CEDAR-WAPSI PHEASANTS
FOREVER HABITAT PROGRAM**

Trees:

3000 cedar trees and shrubs to be given away free of charge to landusers wanting to improve habitat.

Wildlife Food Plots:

Set-aside:

Pay \$30 per acre up to 5 acres for landusers to plant food plot on ACR. Supply corn or sorghum. Must leave for two years.

Other areas:

Pay \$15 per acre up to three acres for landusers to plant food plot on other areas. Supply seed. Must leave for 2 years.

Wildlife Plantings:

Cool Season or Switchgrass:

Pay \$30 per acres up to 5 acres to establish brome-alfalfa or switch grass wildlife area. Must maintain for habitat for 5 years.

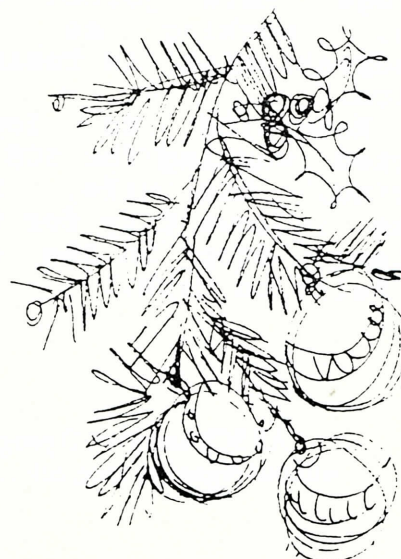
Mixed Warm Season Grasses-

Bluestem/Indian/Switch Pay \$50 per acre up to 5 years. Must be maintained for 5 years.

Special Projects:

Fund special projects that chairman feels will benefit habitat and Pheasants Forever for chapter.

Contact: Jeff Meier at 452-3965 home; 886-6061 work or Rick Rouse at 886-6930 work.

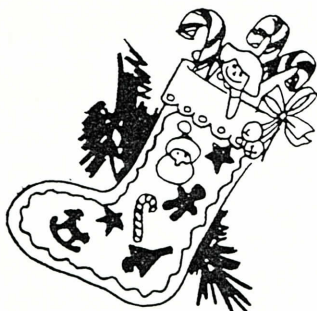


Season's

Greetings

POSTER CONTEST

This is the fifth anniversary of the National Conservation Poster Contest. Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade are encouraged to enter. Posters may be created at school, home or club meetings. Any combination of paint, crayon, markers, etc. may be used to create a poster no larger than 24 x 36 and must be submitted by March 31, 1995. The poster theme this year is "The Living Waters." Cash prizes and two \$50 Savings Bonds will be awarded to the winners. For more information call our office 886-6214.



REAP COST SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE

The REAP allocation for 1995 has been received. The allocation for this year was less than prior years therefore the District Commissioners have set new policies and priorities to disburse the funds.

A priority has been set for tree planting, timber stand improvement, site preparation for natural regeneration, farmstead windbreak, and planned grazing systems.

Applications are being accepted through December 30th, 1994 for the 1995 spring and fall planting. All applications will be ranked prior to approval.

Stop in the SWCD office to apply.



GREAT WINTER PROJECTS

Looking for an exciting winter crop? A family learning activity or a tasty treat? The District is now making available a new catalog featuring **Mushroom Pots**. Anyone can grow gourmet mushrooms indoors, with very little care required.

The Conservation District Store catalog also offers three different kits: bird and bat houses; and bird feeders. These kits are easy to assemble and come with information about birds or bats.

Another item available are **tree mats**. They block out weeds not the water! The tree mat is covered with more than 400 tiny funnel-shaped holes. These funnels channel almost every drop of water through to the soil. In fact, no other mat lets as much water and oxygen to the tree roots while reducing evaporation from the soil. No maintenance involved..can be used with blowers and it lasts up to 4 years. There's no competition from weeds. Roots get the water they need!

Parents, teachers and youth group leaders will want to consider these fun conservation activities. Stop by or call the office to pick up one of our catalogs.

Residue protects the soil by absorbing the pounding effect of raindrops and filtering run-off as it moves across the hillside. Each stalk acts like a miniature dam, slowing down run-off and collecting suspended soil. The higher the percent of ground cover the greater the protection.

Measuring residue can really help in maintaining the desired level of ground cover. Run one or two passes with the implement and then measure the residue. Adjustments can then be made prior to tilling the entire field. Keeping in mind the desired percent of ground cover and knowing the level each implement is leaving will produce the results one is looking for.

This management technique is helping many farmers in Cedar County maintain good ground cover. Measuring residue is easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Ask SCS or a neighbor if a demonstration is needed.



FARMER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE

Cedar County Conservation Farmer Appreciation Open House was held at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office (formerly SCS) in Tipton.

The farmers in this county have made very impressive progress in conservation of our resources. Everyone deserves some words of thanks.

The SWCD Commissioners along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service would like to personally thank Cedar County farmers for their efforts.

We are now taking applications for EWRP. Landowners can retire flood-prone land if it was flooded in 1993 and incurred damages. Landowners entering into an easement with the EWRP will be paid \$837 per acre. Wetlands provide habitat for wildlife, hydrology benefits, and enjoyment to those who love the outdoors. The landowner can receive up to 100% of the cost of restoring wetland habitat. The deadline for applying for this program is December 30th.



RABBITS, SNOW, & ICE

If you have planted any deciduous trees or evergreens the last 5 years this could be a bad year for damage to those trees. The snow & ice, if it persists for any length of time, will cause rabbits to eat & kill trees they normally will not eat.

Deciduous trees can be saved by wrapping the trunk. Paper feed sacks work real well and deteriorate after a year or two.

Conifers up to 8'tall, especially those in windbreaks, can also be killed. Reducing the rabbit population and checking trees frequently seems to work the best. Fences work well if only a few trees are involved. Rabbit repellants do not seem to work when rabbits get real hungry and this year we have a large population of rabbits.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3 - Summer 2004

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Randy Rouse

\$\$ COST-SHARE \$\$

\$227,000 WAS OBLIGATED TO FARMERS IN 2004 FOR CONSERVATION IN CEDAR COUNTY. These funds came from the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Division of Soil Conservation State cost-share program. The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District uses these funds to build grassed waterways and associated tile, ag waste facilities, terraces, grazing systems, grade stabilization structures, and livestock watering ponds. Nearly \$500,000 of conservation work will be done over the next few years as a result of this year's funding. Previously, Cedar County obligated \$140,000 in 2003 and \$50,000 in 2002 for conservation. The large increase in available cost-share is a result of an emphasis in the 2002 Farm Bill to assist more producers in conserving their land, to help folks meet HEL Compliance issues and to reduce the need for future regulations. Funding in 2005 may exceed this past year. Producers interested in cost-share should visit the NRCS staff in Tipton.

DON'T TILL THOSE NEWLY SHAPED WATERWAYS!!!

Seeding waterways without tilling the excavated waterway first really reduces ephemeral gully erosion during the establishment of a newly shaped waterway. Disking several inches deep loosens the soil and increases the chance of cutting. Drill 15# of brome, 10# of fescue and 5# of perennial ryegrass directly into waterways. Hard ground may not be the best seed bed, but it works and is far less erosive.

Fabric checks are another defense being used to reduce cutting in the establishment phase of newly shaped waterways. Fabric checks are made from 36 inch geotextile fabric. A trench

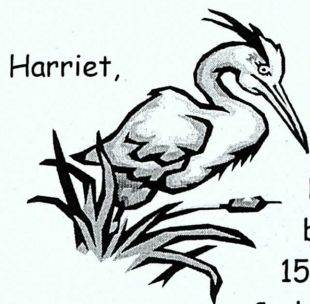
is cut 18 inches deep across the width of the waterway. The fabric is placed in the trench so that one-half of the width lies in the trench and the other half is allowed to lay on top of the ground after the trench is filled in. No staples or posts are needed. Depending on the slope, fabric checks are spaced between 50 feet and 100 feet apart. When runoff does occur, cuts tend to be shallower or nonexistent.



Spring 2004 Snapshot

Farmers and local residents volunteered on May 19th to take a snapshot of water quality in Cedar County. The volunteers measured pH, phosphorous, nitrogen, and dissolved oxygen on creeks and streams throughout Cedar County. This is done on the same day to create a "snapshot" of our local surface water quality. This helps the SWCD better understand where to direct cost-share dollars in the future. Results will be finalized later in the summer.





Harriet, the Heron is paying \$ Big Bucks \$ for your wet fields. Don't delay! Huge rent being paid annually in 10 or 15 year contracts. Cash bonus of \$100 to \$150/acre for just signing up! Don't miss out on this... Take that wet spot and turn it into cash!!!

CEDAR COUNTY SOIL SURVEY UPDATE

The Cedar County Board of Supervisors voted and approved funding for a Soil Survey update in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Iowa State University, and the Division of Soil Conservation Iowa Department of Agriculture. The cost of the survey is \$486,822 with Cedar Counties portion being \$162,274. The field work for the survey will be done by the soil scientist from the NRCS. These scientists are Ryan Dermody, Mark La Van, Sam Steckly, and Jason Steele. Field work in Cedar Co. will continue until fall 2008.

EPHEMERAL GULLY EROSION

Ephemeral gully erosion is one of the greatest challenges farmers face in conserving their land in Cedar County. Ephemeral gullies are a result of concentrated runoff which cut channels that must be tilled shut prior to planting crops. HEL farmland experiencing ephemeral gully erosion is not in compliance with the provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill which can jeopardize USDA benefits.

Cedar County SWCD recognizes the importance of assisting producers in reshaping grassed waterways and are providing cost-share for shaping the waterway and associated tile. Typically, this means adding one 4 inch tile along wetter waterways if no tile exists, or replacement of existing tile that is shallow and subject to damage during construction. Associated tile does not include field tile to improve yields. The intent of the SWCD is simply to make good waterways.

TREE SALES

The Cedar SWCD greatly appreciates all the past and present sales that come in from the tree sales. Monies made from these sales are put back into the community by way of scholarships, trees for 3rd graders, conservation awards, field days, poster contest and other programs.

POSTER CONTEST WINNER

"The Living Soil" was the theme for the District's Annual Poster contest. Students from area schools participated in designing a poster that fits the conservation theme. Caitlin Boyle from Tipton Elementary was awarded a \$50 worth of Chamber dollars. Caitlin is the daughter of Mike and Teresa Boyle of Tipton.

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners awarded a \$500 college scholarship to Travis Schmidt. Travis will be attending Drake University pursuing his education in agricultural related fields. Travis is the son of Robert and Cheryl Schmidt of Clarence.

NonProfit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Tipton, Iowa
Permit NO. 5

Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

CEDAR COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 1995

Farm Service
Agency

Cedar County FSA Office
P.O. Box 404
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Office Hours
8:00am-4:30pm
Mon.- Fri.

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Mel Hansen
Bill Elijah
Jim Dodds

OFFICE PERSONNEL:

Pat Christensen, Ginny DeWulf,
Jeff Meier, Renee Schultz
Lynda Sturdy

REPAYMENT OF 1995 ADVANCE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

It appears likely that the 1995 corn and grain sorghum advance deficiency payments will not be earned. This does not apply to participants in the 0/85 program because those payments are guaranteed. Producers who received advance payments for 1995 corn or grain sorghum should be aware that these payments may have to be refunded during 1996 because of the high market prices. Anyone wishing to refund the payment within the 1995 tax year should call the county office for information before December 29, 1995.

1996 FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

As of this newsletter the provisions of the 1996 program have not been determined. Congress is still working on it. Although there is a good possibility that there will be no Set-Aside acres in 1996 and there could be an increase in non paid Flex Acres, the final exact provisions have not been published.

WOOL AND LAMBS

You have until January 31, 1996 to turn in your wool and unshorn lamb receipts for the 1995 calendar year. This is the final year for the wool subsidy program, so don't miss out on the final opportunity to receive your wool payment.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE

A reminder for those of you with FCIC, you are required to give notice to your agent as soon as a loss or damage is discovered, not later than 15 days after the end of the insurance period, which ends Dec. 10. therefore, the final date to notify your agent of any loss is December 25th.

Also a reminder that you are required to report your 1995 production for Actual Proven History purposes. You can do this at any time between now and spring. Producers are encouraged to consider purchasing insurance coverage greater than the minimum (CAT) level of Federal Crop Insurance, as this is your only protection from a disaster.

PRICE SUPPORT

Producers wishing to place corn or beans under loan are reminded to call the office and request a lien search. The county loan rate for corn is \$1.86 and beans is \$4.93. Producers wanting a loan after the first of the year should call the office by December 27.

EMERGENCY LOANS

Farm operators who suffered losses related to heat and humidity between July 7, and July 17, 1995 may be eligible for physical loss assistance. To be eligible producers would have to provide evidence of a loss and be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources. Applications are due in the Cedar County FSA office by 5-28-96.

BEGINNING FARMER DOWNPAYMENT PROGRAM

Funds are available to beginning farmers who don't own ground and have farmed less than 10 years. This program requires applicants to put 10% down with FSA financing up to 30% at 4% over a 10 year period. Outside financing is needed for the balance with a maximum purchase price of \$250,000.

OPERATING LOANS

Producers needing 1996 operating funds that cannot obtain financing elsewhere can apply at the FSA office in Tipton. These applications need to be made as soon as possible due to a shortage of funds. Funding is also available for purchase of livestock and machinery.

PLANNING TO BUILD AN AG-WASTE STORAGE FACILITY?

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THIS YEAR: Any producer that has been contemplating putting in an ag-waste system needs to stop in the office and sign up for cost share. Cost share funds are available to build concrete pits, earthen pits, solid settling basins, and other structures that collect and store ag-waste. Systems existing prior to January 1, 1993 are eligible for assistance.

The district cost shares up to 50% of the cost of the project. Funds are available through the Cedar County Conservation District until December 31, 1995.

ALAN D. SCHMIDT
CED CEDAR CO. FSA

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

USDA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
CONSOLIDATED FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Cedar County CFSA Office
P.O. Box 404
TIPTON, IA 52772

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit no. 4

1996 Tree Seedling Order Form

Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District 1201 North Avenue, Tipton, IA 52772 (319) 886-6214

Tree seedlings are hardy, bare-root stock and will be ready for you to pick up and plant in mid-April. TREES ARE SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25 ONLY (except for the packages). Supplies are limited. Orders will be taken until March 1, 1996. No guarantee can be given for these seedlings, except that the trees will be in good condition when they are distributed in April.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER, PAYABLE TO: Cedar S.W.C.D.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

SPECIES	SIZE	BUNDLES ORDERED	COST/ BUNDLE	AMOUNT
RED CEDAR	18-24"	_____	\$55.00	_____
AMERICAN ARBORVITAE	12-18"	_____	\$55.00	_____
BLUE SPRUCE	12-18"	_____	\$35.00	_____
NORWAY SPRUCE	18-24"	_____	\$40.00	_____
SCOTCH PINE	18-24"	_____	\$40.00	_____
WHITE PINE	12-18"	_____	\$35.00	_____

WE ARE ALSO OFFERING INDIVIDUAL JUMBO EVERGREEN TREES. THIS TREES WILL RANGE FROM 18-30" IN HEIGHT. THE TREES AVAILABLE ARE:

BLUE SPRUCE	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
WHITE SPRUCE	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
NORWAY SPRUCE	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
WHITE PINE	_____	\$ 6.00	_____

WHITE ASH	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
HACKBERRY	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
LILAC	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
RED OAK	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
BUR OAK	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
PIN OAK	2-3'	_____	\$40.00	_____
WHITE OAK	8-20"	_____	\$30.00	_____
WALNUT	2-3'	_____	\$30.00	_____

SHADE TREE PACKAGE 2-3' _____ \$45.00
3 Pin Oak, 3 White Oak (8-20"), 3 Red Oak, 3 Bur Oak, and 3 White Ash
All trees are 2-3' in height except the White Oak (15 trees)

WILDLIFE FOOD PACKAGE 2-3' _____ \$25.00
3 Black Cherry, 3 Domestic Apple, 3 Iowa Peach and 3 Bur Oak (12 trees)

TREE ORDER TOTAL _____

ADD 5% SALES TAX _____

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE _____

AMERICAN ARBORVITAE - moderate growth rate; height 40-50'; excellent for windbreaks and wildlife; shallow roots that are very fibrous and wide spreading; native.

BLUE SPRUCE - slower growth rate; height 50-100'; taproot; used extensively in farmstead windbreaks and horticultural plantings because of color; excellent for birds.

NORWAY SPRUCE - rapid growth rate; height 80-100+'; ideal for windbreak and has a long life; very good for wildlife because of high seed food value; deep spreading fibrous roots.

SCOTCH PINE - rapid growth rate; height 60-100'; used in windbreaks; taproot wide-spreading and somewhat fibrous.

WHITE PINE - rapid growth rate; height 80-100'; used in windbreaks; several large roots spread outward and downward; native.

WHITE ASH - rapid growth rate; height 70-80'; shallow to deep fibrous wide-spreading roots.

HACKBERRY - rapid growth rate; height 30-130'; deep fibrous wide-spreading roots.

LILAC - moderate growth; large shrub with bright green foliage and extremely fragrant flowers in May; nice; easy to grow.

RED OAK - rapid growth rate, height 60-80'; deep and fibrous root system; excellent for wildlife products: sawlogs, veneer, floorings, and numerous other products.

BUR OAK - slow growth rate, height 70-80'; very deep taproot; deep root system.

PIN OAK - slow growth rate, height 50-75'; taproot more fibrous than other oaks.

WHITE OAK - moderate growth rate, height 50-90'; deep taproot with few laterals.

WALNUT - rapid growth rate; height 70-100+'; large deep root system; highly prized for wood products.

BLACK CHERRY - moderate growth rate, height 50-70'; fibrous, spreading, relatively shallow; poisonous to livestock in wilting stage.

DOMESTIC APPLE - medium growth rate; good to fair soil; apples loved by all animals.

IOWA PEACH - fast growth rate; good to fair soil; large quantities of sweet white peaches for animals and people.

WHO'S WHO

Marty Adkins	Water Resource Planning Staff Leader, NRCS
Rich Balvanz	Farm Director, WMT Radio, Cedar Rapids
Steve Barnhart	ISU Extension Agronomist, Forages
Michael Duffy	ISU Extension Economist, Farm Management
Jim Fawcett	ISU Extension Crop Specialist
Brian Freed	Agronomic Consultant, Asgrow Seed Company
Larry Glick	Farmer, Cedar County
Mark Hanna	ISU Extension Ag Engineer
Dale Hansen	Farm Director, KWWL-TV, Waterloo
David Johnson	Research Plant Pathologist, University of Minnesota
Don Keiper	Farmer, Linn County
Von Kettlesen	Farm Director, KOEL Radio, Oelwein
Jeff Lorimor	ISU Extension Ag Engineer
Randy Mather	Farmer, Cedar County
Kirk Siegle	Farmer, Louisa County
Richard Siegle	Farmer, Louisa County
Bob Soukup	Midwest Area Director, FSA
Steve Tubbs	Farmer, Clinton County
Wade Wagner	Farm Director, KGAN-TV, Cedar Rapids
David Wright	Product Development Argonomist, Ciba Seeds
Doran Zumbach	Farmer, Delaware County

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL

EASTERN IOWA

CONSERVATION

TILLAGE SHOW

Residue Management
for Conservation and Profit



January 23 - January 24, 1996
Five Seasons Center
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Recipient of the National Conservation Merit Award

PROGRAM

EXHIBITS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1996

Session I	Presiding - Rich Balvanz
1:00 p.m.	Manure Management for the 21st Century Jeff Lorimor
1:40 p.m.	Bacteria for Biological Weed Control David Johnson
2:20 p.m.	No-Tilling Heavy Soils Richard & Kirk Siegle
2:40 p.m.	No-Till Beans, Zone-Till Corn Randy Mather

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1996

Session II	Presiding - Wade Wagner
7:00 p.m.	Evaluating New Technologies for Profitability Michael Duffy
7:40 p.m.	Fine Tuning with GPS Yield Monitoring Don Keiper
8:00 p.m.	High Speed Cultivation Mark Hanna
8:30 p.m.	New Uses for Native Grasses Steve Barnhart

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1996

Session III	Presiding - Dale Hansen
10:00 a.m.	Maximizer Bt Corn Performance in 1995 David Wright
10:30 a.m.	CRP Utilization Options Steve Tubbs
11:00 a.m.	Ridge Till Experiences Doran Zumbach
11:30 a.m.	Roundup Ready Beans Brian Freed

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1996

Session IV	Presiding - Von Kettlesen
1:00 p.m.	Conservation and Farm Bill Issues Bob Soukup
1:30 p.m.	12 Years of No-Till Experience Larry Glick
2:00 p.m.	CRP: Where is it Headed? Marty Adkins
2:30 p.m.	Waterhemp - Managing Herbicide Resistant Weeds Jim Fawcett

PLANTERS
AG CHEMICALS
TILLAGE EQUIPMENT
SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

-FREE ADMISSION-

DOORS OPEN:

January 23 - 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
January 24 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SPONSORED BY THESE USDA AGENCIES:

Farm Service Agency
Iowa State University Extension Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Soil and Water Conservation Districts

of the following counties:

Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Iowa, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Muscatine, Scott and Washington.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Ia 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext.3

Winter 2005

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Randy Rouse

Ass't Commissioners: Joan Blundall, Joel Brown and Dave Meyer

REAP COST-SHARE

State REAP cost-share is available for windbreaks, tree planting, timber stand improvement and native grass planting. Stop by the office for more information.

ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS – FOUR YEAR TERMS

Mike Moes, Jr. of rural Tipton farms in Red Oak township. Mike flies the District Board for their annual conservation awards.

Rob Glick of rural Tipton farms and raises livestock in Cass township.

Randy Rouse lives in Mechanicsville and is an insurance agent.

CEDAR-WAPSI PHEASANTS FOREVER BANQUET

Mark your calendars for March 12. The PF banquet will be held at the American Legion in Oxford Junction. The chapter plans to have another great year. The local chapter is currently pursuing a land acquisition for wildlife habitat. For more information contact Jeff Meier @ USDA Service Center or Rick Rouse @ the Cedar County Conservation Board at the Court House.

SOIL SURVEYS

The current soil surveys are available by the District on CD form. The District is selling them for \$10 each.

CSP-CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

Hopefully, the CSP will become available to one or more watersheds in Cedar County in the next few years. Though this has not yet materialized, producers should be aware that the assessment for CSP eligibility includes meeting tolerable soil loss levels and having a positive soil quality condition. These evaluations are calculated by taking into account the most recent 2 years of crop history and tillage history. Producers wanting to qualify for CSP want to avoid exceeding tolerable soil losses levels and scoring poorly for soil quality. A long term notiller who hasn't tilled for many years but, chooses to till one year out of those two years being evaluated could find themselves with soil losses above tolerable levels and a poor score for soil quality. Understanding the evaluation period includes just the most recent two years of history is extremely important if you plan to qualify for the CSP.

EQUIP-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM & IFIP-IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District received and approved \$209,000 of EQIP and \$31,000 of IFIP funding for cost-share practices in Fiscal Year 2004. Similar funding is expected for 2005. Livestock waste facilities, grassed waterways, terraces, nutrient management, pasture practices, ponds, and forestry practices are eligible practices. The first EQIP sign-up ended in December but producers interested in cost-share may still apply. Visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the USDA Service Center in Tipton.

FALL 2004 SNAPSHOT

The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored a snapshot on October 20th to monitor the local streams in Cedar County. Streams were sampled for ammonia, chloride, bacteria, pH, phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. The snapshot is conducted by local volunteers interested in water quality. 12 adults and 6 students volunteered in the snapshot this fall. Folks interested in water monitoring can receive training from IOWATER, which is a citizen-based volunteer water monitoring program. It is a direct result of the interest of Iowa's people in improving the quality of our water resources. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District at the USDA Service Center in Tipton.

MARK FEHSEKE SAYS GOODBYE TO THE FOLKS IN CEDAR COUNTY

I have accepted a District Conservationist position in Corydon, Wayne County, Iowa. Wayne Co. lies on the Iowa-Missouri State line and is one county east of I-35. As many of you know, I have had an interest in pasture and grasslands for a number of years. Wayne County with its grasslands will offer many opportunities to work with graziers.

Working in Cedar County has been a great experience for me. I so appreciated your hospitality over the years. Many of you have become friends in our common cause of conserving our natural resources. You have befriended me and given me encouragement that made the past 10 years in Cedar County truly special. There will be an Open House on Tuesday, January 25 from 11:00 am. to 2:00 pm. Stop by.

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Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Cedar County

Oil & Water Conservation District



1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

March/April 96

MAKE OUR DRINKING WATER SAFE

Good health is important to us all! Keeping our food and water pure is one way to help ensure good health.

Some food -- an orange, for example -- has natural barriers against contamination. As long as the rind covers the orange, dirt and bacteria are kept out. But, once the rind is damaged or removed, the likelihood of contamination increases.

Similarly, the water we pump from our wells is protected by a "rind" of topsoil, clay and other natural materials. These prevent silt, bacteria, viruses and even some kinds of chemicals from getting into our water supply.

Abandoned wells not only have the potential of groundwater contamination, they also can cause injury or death to adults, children and animals.

A recent survey indicates there are at least 35,000 abandoned wells in Iowa -- A source of potential groundwater contamination. The large number of abandoned farmsteads suggests there may be many more.

In 1990, there were nearly 225,000 inhabited farmsteads in Iowa and most had at least one well. Today, only half of those farmsteads are still occupied.

Iowa law says that all abandoned wells must be plugged by the year 2000.

If you have or know of an abandoned well, contact the Cedar County Environmental Office in the Cedar County Courthouse. They can offer you assistance and financial help to pay for part or possibly all of the expense, and help to make our drinking water safe.

1996 CEDAR-WAPSI PHEASANTS FOREVER HABITAT PROGRAM

Trees:

3000 cedar trees and shrubs to be given away free of charge to landusers wanting to improve habitat.

Wildlife Food Plots:

Pay \$40 per acre up to 5 acres for landusers to plant food plot on any land. Supply corn or sorghum. Must leave for two years.

Mixed Warm Season Grasses:

Bluestem/Indian/Switch

Pay \$50 per acre up to 2 years. Must be maintained for 2 years on land other than CRP.

Special Projects:

Fund special projects that chairman feels will benefit habitat and Pheasants Forever for chapter.

Contact: Jeff Meier at 452-3965 home, 886-6061 work; or Rick Rouse at 886-6930 work.



POSTER CONTEST

"Harmony-People and Places was the theme for the District's Annual Poster Contest. Students from area schools participated in designing a poster that fits the conservation theme. Travis Cook from North Cedar-Mechanicsville and Greg Hulse from North Cedar-Lowden were awarded \$50 Savings Bonds as 1st place winners. Their posters will be exhibited at the Iowa State Fair.

Winners in second place were awarded a \$5.00 check from the District. They were: Kyle Worby and Andrea Gross from North Cedar-Mechanicsville; Laci Gritton and Joeli Anderson from North Cedar-Lowden.

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners award two \$200 college scholarships. These are awarded to county seniors that will be pursuing an education in agricultural or environmental related fields. This year's winners were Jeff Kreinbring and Mark Farrington. Jeff, the son of Richard and Kathy Kreinbring of Bennett, will be attending the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co. majoring in engineering. Mark, the son of Gordon and Wanda Farrington of Mechanicsville, will be attending Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids majoring in Ag. Production Management.

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

BEGINNING FARMER DOWNPAYMENT PROGRAM

Funds are available to beginning farmers who don't own ground and have farmed less than 10 years. This program requires applicants to put 10% down with FSA financing up to 30% at 4% over a 10 year period. Outside financing is needed for the balance with a maximum purchase price of \$250,000.

OPERATING LOANS

Producers needing 1996 operating funds that cannot obtain financing elsewhere can apply at the FSA office in Tipton. These applications need to be made as soon as possible due to a shortage of funds. Funding is also available for purchase of livestock and machinery.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE (CAT)

Producers with CAT coverage that was purchased through the Cedar County FSA Office are reminded that they have until April 29, 1996 to report their 1995 crop production for APH purposes. As of this newsletter Federal Crop Insurance is still required if you intend to receive USDA benefits.

JODI KOFRON

We would like to announce the addition of a new employee to the staff of the Cedar County Farm Service Agency. Jodi Kofron began work as a program assistant on February 5, 1996. Jodi had been employed by the old Farmers Home Administration in Muscatine before transferring to Tipton.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

Foreign investors that hold land in Cedar County are reminded of the requirement to file a form ASCS 153 with the county office within 90 days of the land transaction. The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 requires that foreign investors report land sales or acquisitions and changes from agriculture to non-agriculture land to the local County Office.

SALES OF GRAIN UNDER LOAN TO CCC

Producers are reminded that grain under loan at the county office must be repaid before moving grain from the farm. If a producer needs the proceeds from the sale of the grain to repay the loan then a marketing authorization needs to be requested before the grain is moved from the farm. When a marketing authorization is issued to a grain buyer the producer will have either 15 or 30 days to move the grain to a buyer. The buyer will issue a check to the producer and and CCC which will be presented to the County Office for payment of the loan. Monies over and above principal and interest will be refunded to the producer at that time.

1996 FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

As of this newsletter congress is still working on provisions for a new Farm Bill. It looks like the new Freedom to Farm concept will be passed but nothing is for sure until it is signed by President Clinton. When the provisions of the new farm bill are settled we will send another newsletter with the specific items farmers need to make sign-up decisions.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

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WHAT'S NEXT FOR EXPIRING CRP LAND

DATE: MARCH 29, 1996

TIME: 8:30 A.M. - NOON

LOCATION: CEDAR CO COURT HOUSE
BIG ROOM IN BASEMENT

SPEAKERS:

DAVID DUKES, Farmer, Bedford, Iowa

CRP research plots that Dukes has conducted show surprising results on what to do and not to do when cropping ex-CRP land.

BEV BROWN, Farmer, Cedar County, Iowa

Intensive grazing results that will work on ex-CRP land

THIS INFORMATIONAL MEETING WILL PROVIDE:

How to convert CRP sod to cropland

How to make pasture profitable on ex-CRP land

Long list of alternatives for conservation plans on ex-CRP land

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

CRP contract owners/operators - This will prepare you to write your conservation plan.

NO-TILL farmers - tried and proven recipe for no-tilling sod

ANYONE - who may be farming ex-CRP land in the future.

CEDAR COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

This meeting will attempt to address very important issues for land coming out of the 10 year reserve.

What can we do with CRP land when the contract expires?
How do we handle a 10 year old stand of sod?
How do we deal with all of those gopher mounds?
What limitations are there in preparing these acres?
What options can we use in our conservation plan?

We think this meeting will go a long way in answering many of these questions. Maybe not all...but we believe having you there, will help us bring out these questions and answers.

Certainly, if you own CRP, this will be our best chance to get a conservation plan underway. We will focus some time looking at and providing options for writing your conservation plan.

If you are a no-tiller, I'd really like you to be there. No-tilling into this CRP has such merit, for obvious reasons. The results of David Dukes studies will convince you of the potential and great opportunity these untilled acres have to offer. And maybe you are already accomplished in no-tilling into sod. Having you there to add to the discussion and to help others resolve questions will add to the success of converting CRP in Cedar County.

Likewise, if you have cattle or have interest in converting CRP to pastureland...this meeting is for you...plus your attendance will add greatly to the discussion. Bev Brown has an intensive grazing rotation system established here in Cedar County. There's no reason why these acres should have to be cropped, if we have the skills to pasture this land efficiently. If this is your interest, I'd sure appreciate you attending.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 with coffee, donuts and introduction. David Dukes will speak between 9 and 11. Bev Brown will speak from 11 to noon.

Obviously, I think this meeting will be excellent, but only if you are there. Hope to see you.

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South St, Suite 2; Tipton, IA 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext. 3

Winter 2006

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Kevin Kelly, Michael Moes Jr. and Randy Rouse
Ass't Commissioners: Joan Blundall, Joel Brown and Dave Meyer

New District Conservationist

Hello Cedar County! My name is Teresa Reed, and I am the new District Conservationist here; I started in June 2005. It's been a pleasure working with the farmers and landowners in this area. I grew up on a farm in Clinton County near Delmar, on land that my father still farms. I graduated from Maquoketa High School, then attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to earn a degree in Soil & Crop Science. I worked for NRCS offices in Iowa and Wisconsin while in college, and after graduation, Wisconsin NRCS hired me on full time. I worked in several counties (Grant, Fond du Lac, Dodge, Green Lake, and Dunn) as a Soil Conservationist before becoming the

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist for the southeastern 17 counties in Wisconsin. In that position I trained my coworkers in the use of NRCS-specific computer programs. After seven years in Wisconsin, the opportunity arose for me to move back to eastern Iowa, and I'm very glad I took it. It's great to be in Cedar County, and I look forward to a long career of working with landowners here.



CSP

NRCS has a new program to reward farmers who are practicing good conservation and land management. It's called the Conservation Security Program, and certain eligible watersheds are chosen to have a sign up each year. Cedar County does *not* have any open watersheds this year. The two watersheds in Cedar County are the Lower Wapsipinicon and the Lower Cedar, so you can figure out which watershed you're in and then look for information relating to it. The important thing to remember about CSP is that it pays for what's been done in the past – so get prepared now. We don't have a watershed this year, which makes 2006 the perfect opportunity for Cedar County farmers to *get prepared* for this program. Anyone who "shares in the risk of producing the crop or livestock" is eligible to apply for CSP. The basic eligibility requirements are: have ISU-based soil tests on all your fields within the last 5 years, be applying nutrients and pesticides according to a plan, and have a positive Soil Conditioning Index (SCI). The SCI is a fairly new idea; it goes beyond the idea of tolerable soil loss ("t") and really looks at soil health. SCI is a measure of how much organic matter you're leaving in the soil with your crop rotation. Using more tillage and planting crops that don't leave much residue (i.e. soybeans) means more organic matter is destroyed, which can make the SCI drop to a negative number. Crop rotations that use the least amount of tillage and the most amount of perennial crops (i.e. alfalfa) have the highest SCI scores. Higher SCI scores equal higher payments! Be conscious of this when you're thinking of getting out the chisel plow this year – do you really need to be doing that "recreational" tillage? It could harm your bottom line.

CSP is a voluntary program, with the motto of "Reward the best, Motivate the rest". Cropland and pastureland are eligible for payment under this program. Rates are variable depending on how much of your operation you choose to enroll, and what good conservation practices you have on your land. We'd like to see *many* Cedar County farms be eligible for the program when it comes into our area. Stop by and talk to Teresa to find out what you can do to be ready for the Conservation Security Program.

On the web at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp2006.html>

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

EQIP

We're currently taking applications for the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This is a continuous sign up program, which means you can stop by the office and sign an application any time of year, with ranking/contracting periods interspersed throughout the year. **The cut off date for this ranking period will be January 20, 2006.** We will be ranking and funding applications after that. You need to have your application signed before 1/20/06 in order to be considered for funding for the 2006 sign up.

Practices that you can sign up for include: organic farming incentive, comprehensive nutrient management plan, waste storage facility, diversion, sediment basin, terraces, waterways, pond for livestock water, grade stabilization structure, pasture fencing, prescribed grazing system, livestock water well, and others. Cost share rates are 50% of the cost of the project, up to a pre-set maximum amount.

We anticipate an allocation of more than \$200,000 for Cedar County projects. If you're interested in a prescribed grazing system, drilling a new well for livestock water, fixing a blown out waterway – come in and sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program today!

On the web at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/cedareqip.html>

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Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District

2005 ANNUAL REPORT 205 W South; Ste 2 Tipton, Iowa 52772

563-886-6214 ext.3

As District Commissioners of the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation programs.

Commissioners

Randy Rouse.....Chairperson
Rob Glick.....Vice Chairperson
Cliff Bowie, Kevin Kelly and Michael Moes

Assistant Commissioners - Joel Brown,
Joan Blundall
Dave Meyer

Field Office Staff

Teresa Reed.....Dist. Conservationist
Judy Hagan.....Technician
Terri Parry.....Technician & buffer
Steve Leazer.....Technician
Lora Schmidt.....State Secretary
Mark Hanson.....Buffer Staff
Brad Srider.....Buffer Staff

Volunteers

Brad Stiff.....High School student

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2005 - DEC. 31, 2005

Grassed waterways.....57.7 ac.
Filterstrips.....165 ac.
Wetlands.....68.8 ac.
Riparian Forested Buffer.....27ac.
Timber Stand Improvement.....73 ac.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The District sponsors a scholarship award for seniors, envirothon for high school students, 5th grade poster contest and donates trees to 3rd graders in Cedar County.

\$500 Scholarship Award Winner:

This year's winner was Haley Peden, daughter of Harvey and Joetta Peden of Atalissa. Haley is attending Iowa State this fall for undergrad in animal science and master in Veterinary medicine.

3rd Grade Students received 300 American Cranberry shrubs in observance of Arbor Day. These shrubs were offered to the schools in Cedar County.

Profits from the annual tree sales are put back into the community by way of the programs listed above as well as promoting conservation - field days.

Conservation Award Winners:

Freeman Kaufmann
Steve and Harry Kaufmann.....owner/operator
Craig Rosenow and Kevin Kuehllandlord/tenant
Glen and Cora Pedersen.....windbreak

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (State Cost Share Funding)

02-03 Allocated\$18,522.00
02-03 Supplemental\$6725.00
02-03 Spent.....\$25,247.00
03-04 Allocated.....\$31,046.00
03-04 Spent.....\$31,046.00

04-05 Allocated.....	\$31,046.00
04-05 Spent.....	\$30,417.81
05-06 Allocated.....	\$31,046.00
05-06 Spent.....	\$22,471.25

Resource Enhancement and Protection

'05 Allocation.....	\$7,940.00
'05 Spent.....	\$5,272.50

Forestry and Native Grasses

'05 Allocation.....	\$1,985.00
'05 Spent.....	\$1,875.00

1 M Expenses

Allocation.....	\$2500.00
Allocation Spent.....	\$2500.00

'05 EQUIP

Allocation/obligated.....	\$189,000
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Commissioners held eleven regular meetings. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month@ the USDA Service Center Conference Room.
- Election of officers held and assistant commissioners appointed at the January meeting.
- Commissioners reviewed the Memo-Of-Understanding with FSA and NRCS.
- Sponsored poster contest, scholarship awards, envirothon, 3rd grade students with shrubs, and tree sales.
- Commissioners flew over the county to determine the conservation award winners.
- Three Commissioners and one Assistant Commissioner attended the Annual Conference in Ames.
- State and National Dues were paid.
- Signs were given to District award winners in recognition of conservation stewardship.
- Hosted the Fall Regional Commissioner meeting in August at the Cedar Valley Golf Course.
- IoWater Snapshot of water quality conducted May 9th and October 19th.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors intending to further their education, while pursuing programs of study in any field of agriculture, environmental science, or natural resources have until **February 24, 2006** to participate in the scholarship program. Seniors need to be residents in Cedar County to be eligible to apply to the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District. The District will award one \$500 scholarship.

ENVIROTHON

This year the Cedar Soil & Water Conservation district sponsored Bennett High School to attend the envirothon. The school entered two teams for the competition. The competition covers five categories: soils, forestry, wildlife, ecology and environmental issues. The students are challenged to use their knowledge and critical thinking skills to conduct hands-on investigations, solve real-life scenarios and answer written questions.

WHAT'S NEW!

Low interest loan for the installation of conservation practices! Landowners now, have the opportunity to receive a low interest loan (up to 3% interest) for the installation of soil and water conservation practices. The loan amount may be from \$5000-\$50,000 and may be for up to ten years. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is providing approximately \$3,000,000 this year and funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, please contact our office at 563-886-6214 x 3.

Thanks to our many customers who have placed their time and money into protecting the county's resources. Each of you has made a significant contribution to the natural resources for the present as well as the future.

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

Aug/Sept 1995

AG-WASTE COST-SHARE

Cedar County livestock producers are finding cost-share a real incentive in their efforts to build ag-waste storage structures. The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District cost-shared five structures with producers since 1994. Many of these sites were completed for less than \$10,000. The District cost-shares up to 50% of the project.

Funds for the 1996 fiscal year are now available. Producers may apply at the NRCS office in Tipton. Staff will assess the site and provide cost estimates. The Cedar County SWCD Board evaluates applications at their monthly meeting.

RIVER BOTTOM LAND PLACED IN EASEMENTS

Seven Cedar County farmers placed over 560 acres of river bottom into the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP). Flooded in 1993, these farmers chose to return their cropland to wetlands and forest for a payment of \$837 per acre. This land remains in the landowners' possession and returns to pre-farming conditions. It may be used for hunting and other recreational purposes.

Another sign-up for the EWRP has begun. Landowners are eligible if their farmland was flooded in 1993 and has a hydrologic characteristic.

Interested farmers in Cedar County should visit with the staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Tipton. The Staff will be happy to answer questions and assess eligibility.

REAP COST-SHARE FUNDS

The Cedar SWCD is taking applications for the 1996 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act funding. REAP funding is used for forestry/Native Grass projects and REAP practices (ie; tree plantings, farmstead and field windbreaks, native grass plantings, and planned grazing systems). Plans should be made not for Spring of '96 tree plantings. Apply for cost-share now!

IFIP COST-SHARE FUNDS

The Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District has received fiscal year 1996 cost-share funds. These funds are limited and the demand is high each year. Applications are accepted through out the year and funds are allocated based on availability.

Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds are available for terraces, water & sediment control basins, and grade stabilization structures.

Anyone interested in the IFIP projects and cost-share rates should contact the SWCD at the NRCS office.

CEDAR SWCD NO-TILL YIELD CONTESTS

The Cedar SWCD will again sponsor a no-till yield contest. Awards will be given in the corn division and the soybean division. Awards will consist of \$25/\$15/\$10 cash awards. The contest is held similar to that of the Master Contest except that residue measurements are not required. There is no entry fee and any no-tiller is eligible to enter. Visit the SWCD at the NRCS office to enter or get further information.

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year the Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners award two \$200 college scholarships. These are awarded to county seniors that will be pursuing an education in agricultural or environmental related fields. This year's winners were Michael Yearous and Teresa Mathias. Michael, the son of Dennis and Barbara Yearous of Mechanicsville will be attending Northwest Missouri and majoring in wildlife biology or environmental studies. Theresa, the daughter of Randy and Nancy Mathias of Tipton will be attending Iowa State and majoring in agricultural engineering.

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

The Cedar County Committee, in consultation with the Conservation Review Group, have developed an ACP program for 1996. Those practices included, with a brief description are as follows:

SL-1 PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ESTABLISHMENT

\$34.53 per acre for Cool Season Grasses. \$33.66 per acre for Warm Season Grasses. Soil test required. 5 year maintenance after year established.

SL-2 PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER IMPROVEMENT

\$24.89 per acre for Cool Season Grasses. \$33.66 per acre for Warm Season Grasses. Soil test required. 5 year maintenance after year established.

SL-4 TERRACE SYSTEMS

Flat rates established for earthwork and/or underground outlets. 10 year maintenance.

SL-5 DIVERSIONS

Flat rates established for the cost of earthwork, necessary pipes and tubes. Necessary leveling and fence removal. 10 year maintenance.

SL-6 GRAZING LAND PROTECTION

Flat rates for installing pipelines, wells, dams, etc. for livestock water. 10 year maintenance.

SL-7 FIELD WINDBREAK RESTORATION OR ESTABLISHMENT

\$13.50 per tree and 1.275 per shrub. No-cost-sharing will be allowed for fencing, seeding, or labor. 10 year maintenance.

SL-9 FARMSTEAD AND FEEDLOT WINDBREAK

\$13.50 per tree and \$1.275 per shrub. No cost-sharing will be allowed for fencing, seeding or labor. 10 year maintenance.

SL-11 PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ON CRITICAL AREAS

\$34.53 per acre for Cool Season Grasses. \$33.66 per acre for Warm Season Grasses. Soil test required. 5 year maintenance.

WP-1 SEDIMENT, RETENTION, EROSION OR WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES

75% of the cost of eligible structures. 10 year maintenance.

WP-3 SOD WATERWAYS

\$1.08 per ft for Earthmoving. 72¢ per ft for 5" tile. .9450¢ per ft for 6" tile. \$1.35 per ft for 8" tile. .60¢ per ft for 4" tile. \$2.13 per ft for 10" tile. \$27.14 per acre for seeding. \$52.31 per acre for fertilizer. Flat rates for matting. 10 year maintenance.

WP-4 ANIMAL WASTE CONTROL FACILITIES

75% of the cost to prevent pollution of water or land by animal waste. 10 year maintenance.

WL-1 PERMANENT WILDLIFE HABITAT

75% of the cost. 10 year maintenance.

WL-2 SHALLOW WATER AREAS FOR WILDLIFE

75% of the cost. 10 year maintenance.

Your application for cost-sharing must be on file and approved before the work is started. Your request for cost-sharing or the filing of an application must be done at the FSA office, 1201 North Ave, P.O. Box 404, Tipton, IA 52772. Phone: (319)886-6061.

THE PERCENTAGE COST-SHARE LEVELS OF ALL THE PRACTICES WILL BE LIMITED TO A PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE COST NOT TO EXCEED \$3500.00 PER PERSON PER PROGRAM YEAR.

**Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

1201 North Avenue
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Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South St, Suite 2; Tipton, IA 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext. 3

Winter 2007

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Michael Moes, Randy Rouse and Tom Schott
Ass't Commissioners: Joan Blundall, Joel Brown and Dave Meyer

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

December 31, 2006 marks the last day of Kevin Kelly's SWCD commissioner career. He has served Cedar County as an elected district commissioner since 1999. Prior to that he helped out as an assistant commissioner for four years. Thank you for all your years of service, Kevin!

January 1, 2007, Tom Schott started as commissioner. Tom farms about 700 acres in Cedar County using a strip tillage system. Tom is married to Lori and they have three children. Tom actually spent a few summers in the early '80s working for the Soil Conservation Service (precursor to the NRCS). Welcome to the board, Tom!

IOWATER

By David Meyer, Ass't Commissioner

Created in 1998, IOWATER is an organization of citizen volunteers dedicated to the protection and improvement of fresh water in Iowa. IOWATER is a partnership effort with the Iowa DNR, Conservation Districts of Iowa, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, University Hygienic Laboratory and many other educational and environmental organizations. The trained IOWATER volunteers monitor fresh water quality monthly at hundreds of sites statewide. These sites include the most humble country streams all the way up to the mighty Mississippi & Missouri Rivers.

The data collected by this monitoring includes biological and physical assessments, stream habitat and chemical assessments. The chemical/physical assessments include observations such as water transparency and air and water temperature, stream depth and velocity. Chemical field tests measure pH, nitrites, nitrates, phosphate, chloride and dissolved oxygen. These tests indicate the level of pollutants and the relative health of the stream.

Twice a year - once in the spring and once in the fall - IOWATER volunteers take "snapshots". In Cedar County, the snapshot is a coordinated monitoring effort (all sites sampled on the same day) testing water quality at 43 sites around the county. Last fall, 14 volunteers plus over 50 school children from West Branch (as part of a field day) took part in the snapshot. In addition to the usual field testing, two samples were taken at each site and forwarded to the University Hygienic Laboratory at the Oakdale campus in Iowa City to test for E.coli bacteria and chemicals. The test results were good in some cases and poor in others. This indicates that we need to focus conservation and education resources in those watersheds that need them and see that healthy streams continue to be healthy. All of these results and others across Iowa can be accessed by going to the IOWATER website at www.iowater.net.

Anyone can become an IOWATER monitor by taking a one-day training session. These sessions are scheduled around the state, once per year. Testing equipment and training materials are provided free of charge and monitors can pick their own sites that are near and dear to them. Of course, anyone can volunteer to help monitor just by getting in contact with IOWATER through the web site. Volunteers are always welcome. Their participation is greatly appreciated and the data collected is very important.

Is Your Conservation Plan Up-To-Date?

Remember, everyone who receives federal farm program benefits is *required* to be following an approved conservation plan. Many plans in our files date back to the early 90s...crop rotations, tillage practices, and (in many cases) operators have changed since then, so stop into the NRCS office to make sure you are in compliance on HEL land you farm. In addition to checking the soil loss equation to determine sheet and rill erosion, you must have all gully erosion controlled. This means make sure your grassed waterways are in place and functioning like they should be.

And don't forget to file a wetland determination request before you install new drainage tile, remove trees, or fill in or "level off" low areas. Wetland compliance is also required by the Farm Bill.

EQIP – On the web at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/cedareqip.html>

We're currently taking applications for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This is a continuous sign up program, which means you can stop by the office and sign an application any time of year, with ranking/contracting periods interspersed throughout the year.

Practices that you can sign up for include: organic farming incentive, comprehensive nutrient management plan, waste storage facility (existing facilities only), diversion, sediment basin, terraces, waterways, pond for livestock water, grade stabilization structure, pasture fencing, prescribed grazing system, livestock water well, and others. Cost shares have changed; this year we are using the state Average Cost (AC) for all projects.

Conservation Conversation

So the corn price is up this year. Everybody's excited, planning to plant lots of corn in 2007 in order to fulfill their contracts for \$3.90 corn. Farm rents are up, seed sales are up, and everything looks to be a *great* year. Everything except...CONSERVATION. What happens when a field that has been no-till corn and beans for 8 years gets put into second year corn? "Everybody" knows you can't do corn on corn r till, so you break out the chisel plow and rip up that nice loamy soil for the first time in a long time. Do you know what you do to the soil when you chisel plow? You ruin the structure that soil has been forming. Suddenly infiltration is down and runoff is up, which leads to increased soil erosion. Sure, you *seem* to get a good crop off freshly worked ground, but that's a good crop this year at the expense of soil health in the long term. The reason worked ground smells the way it does is it's releasing carbon. You've heard this before. Do you know why it releases carbon when you till it? That's because all the bacteria and micro-organisms that live in the soil get to take a big breath of fresh oxygen. They start reproducing like crazy, which in turn creates more of these little bugs to breathe out carbon dioxide. They work on the crop residue that you turn under, digesting it and using it up. The reason this is bad is because it reduces the organic material in the soil. When you get a soil test done, one of the options you can test for is Soil Organic Matter. This is the measurement of the non-mineral content of your soil. (Mineral components are sand, silt and clay) Organic matter holds water, provides nutrients, and gives soil structure. If you reduce the organic matter in your soil, you're left with the mineral components, which can't hold onto water as well so it either runs off or infiltrates down below the root zone very quickly – carrying nutrients with it. This is not conducive to growing a good crop year after year in the long term.

I just want you to think over these things. Mull it over for a few weeks. Think about doing some test plots of corn on corn no-till to try it out for yourself. I can't tell you what's best for your operation; all I can tell you is what's best for the land and what you must do to stay in compliance. It's nice when those things can mesh with your operation! If you want to discuss it, stop in the office and we'll chat. There's been an awful lot of RECREATIONAL TILLAGE going on this year, especially since the weather's been so nice. Remember that compliance status reviews are randomly selected every year – 5% of all tracts in the county are picked. Make sure you don't have to worry...update your conservation plan before changir your rotation or altering your tillage practices.

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap

CEDAR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

205 W South Street, Suite 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772
563-886-6214 ext. 3

As District Commissioners of the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation programs.

Commissioners

Cliff Bowie, Kevin Kelly, and Michael Moes
Rob Glick.....Vice Chairperson
Randy Rouse.....Chairperson

Assistant Commissioners

Joel Brown, Joan Blundall, Dave Meyer

Field Office Staff

Teresa Reed.....District Conservationist
Judy Hagan.....Technician
Terri Parry.....Technician
Steve Leazer.....Technician
Lora Schmidt.....State Secretary

Volunteer

Nick Samuelson.....High School student

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS JANUARY 1, 2006 - DEC. 31, 2006

Grassed waterways.....	29.2 ac
Filterstrips.....	35.4 ac
Wetlands.....	34.0 ac
Timber Stand Improvement.....	16.5 ac
Tree Planting.....	16.0 ac
Quail/Wild Bird Habitat.....	20.0 ac
No-till farming.....	4,527 ac
Mulch till farming.....	1,978 ac
Contour farming.....	748 ac
Prescribed grazing.....	476 ac

18 DISTRICT COST SHARE APPLICATIONS were approved for funding for waterways, tree plantings, timber stand improvement, and native grass plantings.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Scholarships, Soil Stewardship for churches, and trees for third graders

The District sponsors a scholarship award for seniors in Cedar County who are interested in attending college or technical school and completing studies in an agricultural field.

The scholarship winner for 2006 was Lyle Corbett. Lyle is the son of Sandy and Mike Corbett of Tipton. Lyle is attending Kirkwood Community College this fall for beef production. Congratulations and best of luck to Lyle!

The district also donated soil stewardship materials to county churches for Soil Stewardship Week April 30-May 7, 2006. This year's theme was Waterwise, and materials included a litany for the church to use in Sunday services, as well as several different children's activity books for Pre-K to grade 3. Churches who chose to receive this litany were West Branch Friends Church, Zion United Church of Christ in Lowden, First Presbyterian in Mechanicsville, Clarence United Methodist, First United Methodist of Tipton, St. John's United Church of Christ in Clarence, and Cedar Street Baptist in Tipton.

Each year the district also provides a tree or shrub for Cedar County third graders to take home and plant for Arbor Day. This year 270 American Arborvitae were distributed to all the elementary schools in Cedar County.

All of these programs are sponsored with money earned by the annual tree sale that the district has done for over 20 years. This is one way for Cedar County residents to put money back into the community as well as get an environmental benefit from the trees you purchase. The tree sale is the only fundraiser the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District does. THANK YOU to all who have purchased trees from the district; your support means these educational programs can continue.

Conservation Award Winners:

Gary & Sharon Ciha.....Owner/Operator

Gary and Sharon own and operate more than one thousand acres of cropland in Pioneer and Linn townships. They use no till practices, have built and maintained many acres of waterways, and have several ponds for gully stabilization and recreation.

Phillip Hargrave & Curt Jensen.....Landlord/Tenant

Flip and Curt are operating a managed grazing system on about 600 acres of grass that Flip owns. They have installed many feet of permanent fencing and several wells for stock water so they can utilize the grass more efficiently.

Joe & Amy Lehman.....New Cooperator

Joe and Amy have converted 84 acres of steeply sloping cropland into intensively managed pasture to produce show cattle. Joe has installed many feet of permanent fencing, with plans to install a livestock watering system with a pipeline from the main well. This is a good system of land management for a new cooperator.

Harry & Marcia Driscoll.....Isaac Walton Windbreak Award

Harry and Marcia planted 52 trees and 103 shrubs in 1982, with technical assistance from the district. The trees have been maintained well and are now serving their full potential as a windbreak for the farm house.

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (State Cost Share Funding)

03-04 Allocated.....	\$31,046.00
03-04 Spent.....	\$30,676.61
04-05 Allocated.....	\$31,046.00
04-05 Spent.....	\$30,821.34
05-06 Allocated.....	\$31,046.00
05-06 Spent.....	\$30,371.27
06-07 Allocated.....	\$31,046.00
06-07 Spent.....	\$13,233.51

Resource Enhancement and Protection

'06 Allocation.....	\$9,528.25
'06 Spent.....	\$8,669.02

Forestry and Native Grasses

'06 Allocation.....	\$2,010.00
'06 Spent.....	\$1,815.00

1 M Expenses

Allocation.....	\$2000.00
Spent.....	\$2000.00

'06 EQUIP

Funds obligated.....	\$113,601.00
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COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors intending to further their education while pursuing programs of study in any field of agriculture, environmental science, or natural resources have until **February 16, 2007** to participate in the scholarship program. Seniors must reside in Cedar County to be eligible to apply to the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The District will award one \$500 scholarship.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Commissioners held eleven regular meetings. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the USDA Service Center Conference Room.
- Officers were elected and assistant commissioners were appointed at the January meeting.
- Commissioners reviewed the Memorandum-Of-Understanding with FSA and NRCS.
- Sponsored poster contest, scholarship awards, trees for 3rd grade students, and held a tree sale.
- Commissioners flew over the county to view the conservation award winners' operations.
- Two Commissioners attended the Annual Conference in Ames.
- State and National Dues were paid.
- Signs (to be displayed on the farm) were given to District award winners in recognition of conservation stewardship.
- Commissioners were updated on the progress of the Cedar County Soil Survey update currently under way by NRCS Soil Scientists. The Survey is anticipated to be published electronically in 2008.
- One Commissioner attended the Fall Regional meeting hosted by Wapello County SWCD.
- Limestone Bluffs RC&D is sponsoring a grazing project to try to connect cattle producers with grass through existing pastures or expiring CRP contracts. Cedar is in the RC&D project area.
- IoWater Snapshot of water quality conducted May 8th and September 26th. Eighteen people volunteered their time to assist in this valuable data collection.

WHAT'S NEW!

Low interest loan for the installation of conservation practices! Landowners now, have the opportunity to receive a low interest loan (currently 3% interest) for the installation of soil and water conservation practices. The loan amount may be from \$5,000-\$50,000 and may be for up to ten years. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is providing approximately \$1,950,000 this year and funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, please contact our office at 563-886-6214 x 3.

USDA PROGRAMS PROVIDED WITH DISTRICT ASSISTANCE

EQIP – 11 Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts worth over \$113,000 were approved for waterways, intensive rotational grazing, grade stabilization structures, livestock watering systems, and ponds.

WHIP – 2 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program contracts worth over \$12,000 approved for native grass establishment, brush management, and wetland restoration. **This is the first time any Cedar County applicants have ever been approved for this program, which is a state-wide ranking! Congrats!

CRP – 42 new Conservation Reserve Program contracts were approved to start in 2006 for whole-field native grass establishment and tree plantings, as well as for filter strip and riparian buffers along creeks.

Additionally, 192 CRP contracts were re-enrolled or extended this year for contracts that will expire in 2007-2010.

CTA – Conservation Technical Assistance is any non cost-shared work done with producers – for example, conservation plans written for Farm Bill Compliance or soil loss calculations done for manure management plans. We wrote more than 8,000 acres of plans in 2006.

If you farm Highly Erodible Land, make sure your conservation plan is up-to-date!

*Thanks to our many cooperators who
have placed their time and money
into protecting the county's resources.
Each of you has made a significant
contribution to conserving natural
resources for the present as well as
the future.*

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or marital status, or handicap.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER?

As a commissioner, you'll help guide soil and water conservation programs in the county, and will have the opportunity to influence state and national conservation programs. Your involvement will include establishing conservation priorities, resolving soil loss complaints, establishing acceptable soil loss limits, approving soil conservation plans, and assisting in the management of district funds.

Contact the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District at (563) 886-6214 ext. 3 for more information.

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Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

2007 TREE ORDER FORM

CEDAR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

205 WEST SOUTH; STE 2, TIPTON, IOWA 52772
(563)886-6214 ext. 3

TREE SEEDLINGS ARE HARDY, BARE-ROOT STOCK AND WILL BE READY TO PICK UP AND PLANT ON APRIL 20th, 2007. PICK UP SITE WILL BE AT THE CEDAR COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS AT THE 4-H BUILDING. TREES ARE SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25 ONLY, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED. NO GUARANTEE CAN BE GIVEN FOR THESE SEEDLINGS, EXCEPT THAT THE TREES WILL BE IN GOOD CONDITION WHEN THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED. **ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL MARCH 21st 2007.**

SPECIES	SIZE	BUNDLES ORDERED	COST/ BUNDLE	AMOUNT
THE FOLLOWING TREES AND SHRUBS ARE AVAILABLE IN BUNDLES OF 25.				
AMER. ARBORVITAE	12-18"	_____	60.00	_____
NORWAY SPRUCE	12-18"	_____	45.00	_____
WHITE PINE	12-18"	_____	45.00	_____
BLUE SPRUCE	12-18"	_____	45.00	_____
WHITE SPRUCE	12-18"	_____	45.00	_____
RED CEDAR	12-18"	_____	45.00	_____
RED OSIER DOGWOOD	18-24"	_____	30.00	_____
COMMON LILAC	18-24"	_____	40.00	_____
RED MAPLE	2-3'	_____	50.00	_____
WALNUT	18-24"	_____	45.00	_____
WE ARE ALSO OFFERING INDIVIDUAL TREES. THE TREES AVAILABLE ARE:				
NORWAY SPRUCE	2-3'	_____	8.00	_____
WHITE PINE	2-3'	_____	8.00	_____
VARIOUS PACKAGES AVAILABLE				
MIXED TREE PACKAGE	various sizes	_____	65.00	_____
Includes 3 N. Pecan, 3 Shellbark Hickory, 3 Hazelnut, 3 Butternut, 3 Walnut				
NATIVE OAK TREE PACKAGE	various sizes	_____	65.00	_____
Includes 3 bur oak, 3 white oak, 3 red oak, 3 pin oak, 3 swamp white oak				
EVERGREEN PACKAGE	8-18"	_____	60.00	_____
Includes 5 white pine, 5 blue spruce and 5 norway spruce				
WILDLIFE PACKAGE	various sizes	_____	55.00	_____
Includes 3 arrowwood, 3 hazelnut, 3 Amer. Plum, 3 red osier dogwood, and 3 Amer. Cranberry				
PLANTSKYDD – deer and rabbit repellant to protect your tree seedlings				
1 quart spray bottle – treats approx. 100 1 ft high plants		_____	22.00	_____
1 pound powder concentrate – treats 200-300 1 ft. high plants		_____	25.00	_____
2.2 # powder concentrate – treats 440 – 660 1 ft. high plants		_____	40.00	_____
1.3 gal. ready to use – treats 400-600 1 ft. high plants		_____	55.00	_____

TREE ORDER TOTAL _____

ADD 7% SALES TAX _____

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE _____

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER, PAYABLE TO: CEDAR S.W.C.D.

The Cedar SWCD greatly appreciates all the past and present sales that come in. Monies made from these sales are put back into the community by way of scholarships, trees for 3rd graders, soil stewardship literature, conservation awards, field days, poster contest and other programs.

DESCRIPTION OF TREES

- AMERICAN ARBORVITAE** - moderate growth rate; height 40-50'; also known as "Northern White Cedar"; native; excellent choice for 1-row windbreaks.
- AMERICAN CRANBERRY** - Does best on good soils. Fruit is a red berry that persists through winter and is sought by cedar waxwing and other birds. Shade tolerant shrub.
- AMERICAN PLUM** - A thicket-forming small tree. White blossoms; plum-red tangy fruit. Eaten by birds.
- ARROWWOOD** - Hardy shrub that prefers well drained soils. White flowers in late May to early June, with bluish black berries in fall.
- BLUE SPRUCE** - slower growth rate; height 50-100'; used extensively in farmstead windbreaks and ornamental plantings due to color which varies from green to hues of blue, excellent for birds.
- BUR OAK** - A vigorous grower. Adaptable to most soils. Acorns provide excellent wildlife food.
- BUTTERNUT** - Also known as White Walnut, valuable for wildlife.
- HAZELNUT** - Adaptable shrub good for wildlife food and cover. Prefers well drained soils.
- LILAC** - moderate growth; large shrub with bright green foliage and extremely fragrant flowers in May.
- NORWAY SPRUCE** - rapid growth rate; height 80-100+'; ideal for windbreak and has a long life; very good for wildlife because of high seed food value.
- PECAN** - Prefers deep, moist, well-drained soil. Provide a good food for wildlife. Yellow fall color.
- PIN OAK** - Red fall leaves that often persist on the tree through the winter. Commonly grows on moist sites but does well in wetter areas. Planted as ornamental for its shape.
- RED MAPLE** - Medium size tree and fast growing. Has brilliant red leaves in the fall.
- RED CEDAR** - Adapts to most sites - moderately dry to moist, full sun to partial shade. Very drought resistant.
- RED OAK** - One of the faster growing oaks. Valuable for wildlife and endures cold. Well-drained bottom uplands.
- RED OSIER DOGWOOD** - Attractive red stems. These stems contrast nicely with evergreen rows in windbreaks, especially with winter snow.
- SHELLBARK HICKORY** - Nuts are edible and provide a good food source for wildlife. Large tree with straight trunk and narrow rounded crown, and large leaves. Resembles Shagbark but much larger nut.
- SUGAR MAPLE** - Referred to as hard maple.
- SWAMP WHITE OAK** - Among the hardiest of the oaks. Adaptable to most soils, yet grows best in wet, swampy, soils.
- WALNUT** - Does best on rich, deep, fertile, well-drained soils. Requires full sun. Regarded for top quality lumber.
- WHITE PINE** - rapid growth rate; height 80-100'; crown spread 50-80'; native; long, soft needles. used in windbreaks.
- WHITE SPRUCE** - Used in windbreaks and mixed plantings. More deer resistant than other conifers.
- WHITE OAK** - Does best on slightly moist to well-drained sites. Valuable wood products tree.

**If you have any questions, or require further information on your tree order,
please contact Lora at 563-886-6214 x3.**

Other Vendors:

Cascade Forestry; Cascade, Iowa; 1-800-596-9437
Kelly Tree Farm; Clarence, Iowa; 1-877-340-4300
L & G Forestry; Burlington, Iowa; 319-754-8839
Louis Licht; Iowa City, Iowa; 319-665-3547
Scotch Grove Nursery; Scotch Grove, Iowa; 319-465-3985
State Nursery; 1-800-865-2477

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

Nov/Dec 95

COST-SHARE FUNDS

The Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District has received fiscal year 1996 cost-share funds. Applications are accepted through out the year and funds are allocated based on availability.

Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP) funds are available for terraces, water & sediment control basins, and grade stabilization structures.

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act funding is used for farmstead and field windbreaks, treeplanting, native grass plantings, and planned grazing systems.

Anyone interested in the projects and cost-share rates should contact the SWCD at the NRCS office.

CONSERVATION AWARDS

Each year the Cedar SWCD participates in the Iowa Soil & Water Conservation Awards Program. The Commissioners recognize outstanding District Cooperators in the following three divisions, New Cooperator, Landlord/Tenant, and Owner/Operator.

David Owens from Cedar Rapids was chosen for the new cooperator award. David owns a 200 acre farm in Pioneer Township which he recently seeded for use in a dairy operation.

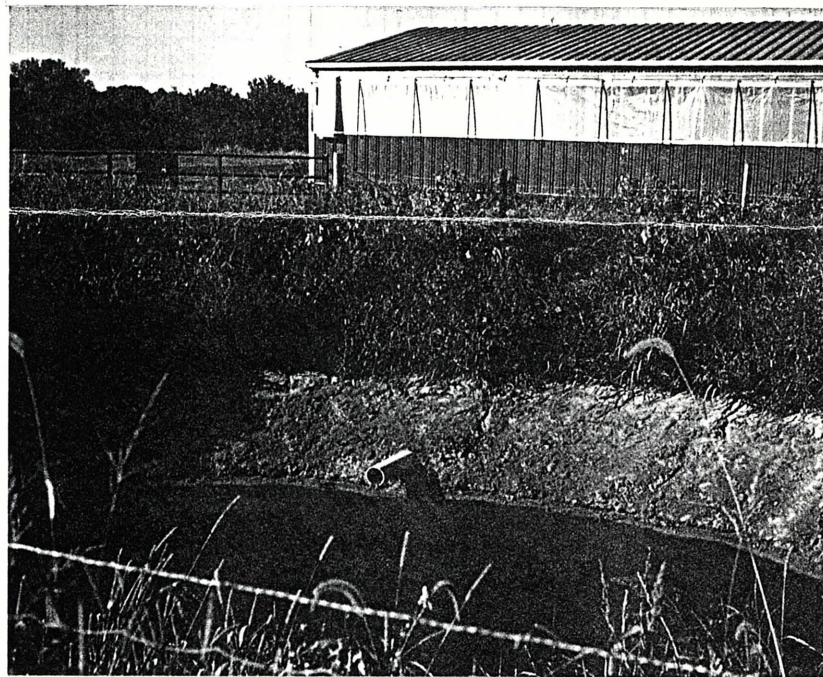
Bev Brown of West Branch received the Owner/Operator Award. Bev farms 340 acre in Gower Township which she contours, uses a crop rotation, minimum tills, and strip crops to control erosion. She also has a cow-calf herd that utilize the hay and pasture ground on the farm.

Helen Reynolds, Lake Shore, Minnesota and Mark Mays of Wilton were chosen for the Landlord/Tenant Award. Mark and Rita, operate the Reynolds farm. They rotate oats-beans-corn on 13 foot strips in a low-chemical system. Mark raises cattle and runs a furrow to finish hog operation on the farm.

AG-WASTE COST-SHARE

Cedar County livestock producers are finding cost-share a real incentive in their efforts to build ag-waste storage structures. Producers have installed earthen and fully enclosed concrete pits for storing ag-waste. Many sites are completed for as little as \$5,000. The District cost-shares up to 50% of the project.

Funds for the 1996 fiscal year are now available. Producers may apply at the NRCS office in Tipton. Staff will assess the site and provide cost estimates. The Cedar County SWCD Board evaluates applications at their monthly meeting.



Earthen Pit

TREE SALES CAMPAIGN

Cedar SWCD tree seedling sales campaign is underway. Please see the enclosed tree order form for information on the trees. Supplies are limited, so don't wait to place your order.

For more information or questions please stop by the SWCD office or call 886-6214. Trees can be used for any purpose (ie; windbreak-shade-ornamental).

Funds generated from the tree sales are used for education and information activities in Cedar County.

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

1995 CROP LOANS

For 1995, loans for high moisture, or cracked, rolled, or crimped corn will be available as well as farm-stored certified and measured loans and

warehouse loans. High moisture loans can be sealed at 100% of the certified quantity, adjusted for moisture (sample will be required) and 75% of the loan rate. Example:

Measured or Certified quantity:	=	10000 bu.	
Moisture content	=	22.5%	
Excess Moisture reduction in quantity =		$22.5 - 15.5 - 7.0 \times 1.3 = 9.1$	$100.0 - 9.1 = 90.9\%$
		$10000 \text{ bu} \times 90.9\% = 9090$	

Reduced loan quantity x 75% of \$1.86 = \$1.40. 9090 bu. x \$1.40 = \$12,726.00.

For cracked, rolled or crimped corn, the loan rate will be 70% of \$1.86 (\$1.30) if the commodity can be measured and 52.5% of \$1.86 (\$.98) if the commodity cannot be measured. The loan quantity will be 100% of the quantity certified by the producer. Neither high moisture loans or cracked, rolled or crimped loans can be delivered or forfeited to CCC.

For ALL 1995 loans, producers will need a current UCC-1 (Financing Statement). If there has been any changes in address or marital status, a new UCC-1 will have to be filed (this does not include 911 address changes). Signed lien waivers, as needed, will be required. Only liens filed with the Secretary of State or written landlord requests will require lien waivers. An up-to-date lien search must be done prior to each new loan disbursement. The loan service fees for 1995 are the lesser of \$45.00 for each loan plus \$3.00 for each additional bin, or 1/2 of 1% of the gross loan amount. NEW for 1995: CCC is no longer deducting the corn check-off fee from any corn loans.

C

OMMITTEE

E

LECTION

Nomination petitions have been received in the County Office for the upcoming County Committee Election. The County Election is divided into 3 Local Administrative Areas (LAA's), based on township boundaries. Eligible voters will vote for a representative from their LAA.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters between November 24 and December 4. All ballots must be postmarked or returned to the County Office by December 5, 1995.

Alan D. Schmidt
ALAN D. SCHMIDT
ACTING CED CEDAR CO FSA

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

**Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

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Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South St, Suite 2; Tipton, IA 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext. 3 Winter 2008

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Michael Moes, Randy Rouse and Tom Schott
Ass't Commissioners: Joan Blundall, Joel Brown and Dave Meyer

SECRETARY NORTHEY ENCOURAGES FARMERS TO USE NEW ONLINE OPTION TO MANAGE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to take advantage of the new FARMS (Financial and Reports Management System) website, which allows you to sign-up for and manage participation in many of the conservation programs offered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

This new web program is designed to make it easier for farmers to register and get conservation practices on the ground. There remains a great demand for filter strips, grass-waterways, and other projects that reduce runoff and improve water quality. This website will help ensure those projects happen.

Farmers can visit <https://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS/> to learn more about the programs offered and even apply for assistance. If you have previously received assistance, you can use the site to monitor the status of your projects.

In addition to making it more convenient to make inquiries and apply for assistance, the new program is designed to increase the responsiveness to requests for cost-share assistance and, as a result, speed up the processing of payments for landowners.

Your Soil and Water Conservation District and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will also realize benefits of the program. They will be more responsive to requests, have faster and less costly processing of payments, be able to better gauge demand for conservation measures, as well as track the progress of application of soil conservation and water quality measures on the agriculture landscape.

When you are out in the combine and running grain carts or scouting your fields in the spring, take a good look at your land and see if any areas could benefit from additional conservation practices. This new program will allow you to quickly apply when and where it's convenient to you to address problem areas.

Iowa farmers are great stewards of the land and this new resource will help you continue that tradition.

Cedar SWCD Conservation Award Winners:

Jamie & Kelly Nabb.....Owner/Operator

Jamie and Kelly own and operate 170 acres in Massillon Township. They custom raise dairy heifers utilizing pasture and alfalfa. The dairy heifers arrive on their farm at 8 weeks of age and return to the home farm short-bred following artificial insemination. The Nabbs also grow corn and beans using conservation tillage.

Phyllis & Duane Baker and Keith Hartwig.....Landlord/Tenant

Phyllis and Duane have shaped and seeded 5.5 acres of grassed waterways on their 80 acre farm in Springfield Township in the past three years. Their operator, Keith Hartwig, farms using no till practices.

Richard & Sigrun Schluter.....Isaac Walton Windbreak Award

Butch planted 52 trees 1987 and an additional 32 in 1988, with technical assistance from the district. Butch mentioned the fact that he planted the trees during the drought year, and had to haul water to them all year. They survived well as a result of all his hard work! The trees are now serving their full potential as a windbreak for the farm house.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors intending to further their education by pursuing programs of study in any field of agriculture, environmental science, or natural resources have until **February 15, 2008** to participate in the scholarship program. Seniors must reside in Cedar County to be eligible to apply for the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The District will award one \$500 scholarship.

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Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

CEDAR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

205 W South Street, Suite 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772
563-886-6214 ext. 3

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Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Mike Moes, Randy Rouse and Tom Schott
Rob Glick.....Vice Chairperson
Mike Moes.....Chairperson

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Field Office Staff

Teresa Reed.....District Conservationist
Judy Hagan.....Technician
Terri Parry.....Technician
Steve Leazer.....Technician
Lora Schmidt.....State Secretary

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS JANUARY 1, 2007 - DEC. 31, 2007

Grassed waterways.....	38.4 ac
Filterstrips.....	33.3 ac
Riparian Buffers.....	8.5 ac
Contour Buffers.....	15.4 ac
Timber Stand Improvement.....	8.5 ac
Tree Planting.....	5.0 ac
Quail/Wild Bird Habitat.....	16.8 ac
No-till farming.....	1,094 ac
Mulch till farming.....	3,425 ac
Prescribed grazing.....	654 ac

18 DISTRICT COST SHARE APPLICATIONS were approved for funding for waterways, tree plantings, timber stand improvement, and native grass plantings.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Scholarships, Soil Stewardship for churches, and trees for third graders

Each year the district also provides a tree or shrub for Cedar County third graders to take home and plant for Arbor Day. This year 265 Red Maple were distributed to all the elementary schools in Cedar County.

The district also donated soil stewardship materials to county churches for Soil Stewardship Week April 29-May 6, 2007. This year's theme was Today is the Day to be a part of Conservation's Power, and materials included a litany for the church to use in Sunday services, as well as several different children's activity books for Pre-K to grade 3. Churches who chose to receive this litany were Zion United Church of Christ in Lowden, First Presbyterian in Mechanicsville, Clarence United Methodist, First United Methodist of Tipton, United Church of Christ of Tipton and Gloria Dei Lutheran of Durant.

The District sponsors a scholarship award for seniors in Cedar County who are interested in attending college or technical school and completing studies in an agricultural field.

The scholarship winner for 2007 was **Chris Pelzer**. Chris is the son of Mary and James Pelzer of Tipton. Chris is attending Iowa State this fall for Environmental Science. Congratulations and best of luck to Chris!

All of these programs are sponsored with money earned by the annual tree sale that the district has done for over 20 years. This is one way for Cedar County residents to put money back into the community as well as get an environmental benefit from the trees you purchase. The tree sale is the only fundraiser the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District does. THANK YOU to all who have purchased trees from the district; your support means these educational programs can continue.

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (State Cost Share Funding)

08 Allocation.....	\$71,270.44
Spent.....	\$3,981.26
Obligated.....	\$20,974.28

Resource Enhancement and Protection

'07 Allocation.....	\$7,369.29
'07 Spent.....	\$2,636.21
'08 Allocation.....	\$12,618.75
'08 Obligated.....	\$2100.00

Forestry and Native Grasses

'07 Allocation.....	\$2,456.43
'07 Spent.....	\$2,456.43
'08 Allocation.....	\$3,576.00
'08 Spent.....	\$1,271.95
'08 Obligated.....	\$2,193.75

1 M Expenses

Allocation.....	\$2100.00
Spent.....	\$2100.00

'07 EQIP

Funds obligated.....\$13,315.00

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Commissioners held eleven regular meetings. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the USDA Service Center Conference Room.
- Officers were elected and assistant commissioners were appointed at the January meeting.
- Commissioners reviewed the Memorandum-Of-Understanding with FSA and NRCS.
- Sponsored scholarship awards, soil stewardship materials to churches, trees for 3rd grade students, and held a tree sale.
- Commissioners flew over the county to view the conservation award winners' operations.
- One Commissioner attended the Annual Conference in Ames.
- State and National Dues were paid.
- Signs (to be displayed on the farm) were given to District award winners in recognition of conservation stewardship.
- Two Commissioners attended the Fall Regional meeting hosted by Scott County SWCD.
- Tom Schott attended the Commissioner Orientation in Washington on January 17.
- IoWater Snapshot of water quality conducted April 24th and October 3rd. Eleven people volunteered their time to assist in this valuable data collection.

Thanks to our many cooperators who have placed their time and money into protecting the county's resources. Each of you has made a significant contribution to conserving natural resources for the present as well as the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) - - A new program, EQIP is established to assist crop and livestock producers deal with environmental and conservation improvement on the farm.

Cedar County has received funding for the interim EQIP which will expire September 30, 1996. Requests for cost-share will be accepted and administered using ACP policies and procedures.

The following are practices available in Cedar County:

- SL-1 PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ESTABLISHMENT
- SL-2 PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER IMPROVEMENT
- SL-4 TERRACE SYSTEMS
- SL-5 DIVERSIONS
- SL-6 GRAZING LAND PROTECTION
- SL-7 FIELD WINDBREAK
- SL-9 FARMSTEAD WINDBREAK
- SL-11 PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ON CRITICAL AREAS
- WP-1 SEDIMENT, RETENTION, EROSION OR WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE
- WP-2 STREAM PROTECTION
- WP-3 SOD WATERWAYS
- WP-4 ANIMAL WASTE CONTROL FACILITIES
- WP-7 RIPARIAN BUFFER STRIPS
- WP-9 AGRICULTURAL COMPOSTING FACILITIES
- WL-1 WILDLIFE HABITAT
- WL-2 SHALLOW WATER AREAS

Your application for cost-sharing must be on file and approved before the work is started. Your request for cost-sharing or the filing of an application must be done at the FSA office.

AMTA Sign-up Extended

The July 12 final date to enroll in the 7-year AMTA Program has been extended until August 1, 1996. There will be no opportunity to enroll after August 1, 1996. Please contact this office immediately for an appointment to enroll. 886-6061

1996 AWARD WINNERS

Gary Thomas is the winner of the New Cooperator Conservation Award. Even though Gary works full time in town, he has taken the extra effort to put in a windbreak, manage 5 acres of timber, and plant buffer strips, field borders, and waterways. He also planted 4.3 acres of prairie grass to improve the wildlife habitat in that area. Gary has done a good job following his conservation plan and applying the conservation practices on his land.

Robert Meinholdt and Gary Chapman are the winners of the Landlord/Tenant Conservation Award. Together they have done a nice job of incorporating contour buffer strips, waterways and field borders for erosion control on their land. Future planning is evident as a young farmstead windbreak is growing behind the old windbreak to ensure wind protection for the house and barnyard for many years to come.

Cedarcrest Farm, owned by Neal and Craig Smith, are the winners of the Owner/Operator Conservation Award. Both father and son work hard to run their 240 ewe operation. In addition to cropland, they have approximately 75 acres of hay and pasture at the home place. They also have a nice farmstead windbreak which protects the house, barnyard, and sheep pens. They mow everything to give the farm a neat, uniform appearance.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Krall are the winners of the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award. The Kralls put in their windbreak in 1975 to thicken and expand the existing windbreak that was there when they moved to their home in 1974. Since then, the trees have matured and provided beauty, wildlife habitat, and wind protection for their farm.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

**EARLY CRP RELEASE and HAYGROUND
CONVERSION - Management
Suggestions**

No-Till Planting In Spring
Killed Sod.

1. DON'T, if you're not prepared
Don't risk a sure income
for a high risk cropping
situation

Use that last contract year
to prepare your fields, and
yourself!

2. DON'T plow

A well managed no-till
program can be just as
successful as tillage, while
maintaining the good soil
qualities.

Consider the long term
impact of tillage vs. no-till.

3. DON'T try minimum tillage
(chisel plow or heavy disk)

Shallow tillage in heavy
sod and layers of residue just
makes an expensive mess

Planting through undis-
turbed surface residue, above
firm, moist soil is not a
problem

4. DON'T attempt to kill warm
season grasses in the spring
with herbicide

Manage warm season residue
by harvesting forage and grazing

Kill warm season grasses by
applying herbicide in the hot
summer

5. Use early release for CRP to
prepare fields for no-tilling
crops next year

Fall killing sod will
increase yields, planting
options, and your success rate

Harvest a forage crop to
reduce excessive residue

Apply low rate herbicide in
the fall to condition root mass
for planting

Level rough areas over a
long period of time, lightly
disking in the late spring and
late fall after the burn down is
applied

6. Spring killing cool season
grasses and legumes for no-till

Mow only if residue is too
tall to spray, then leaving 10"
to 20" of standing stubble

Spray when all cover is
vigorously growing 6" to 12"
tall

Use full label rates of
herbicide sprayed with high
pressure

Double apply herbicide in
two back-to-back 1/2 rate trips

7. Plant soybeans, not corn, in
spring killed sod

Soybeans are the most
suitable, and successful crop in
these conditions

Use State-of-the-Art
soybeans, if available

Plant deep with aggressive,
narrow row, no-till drill

Plan a post-emerge weed
management program

**REAP COST SHARE
FUNDS AVAILABLE**

The District will be
recieving their REAP allocation
for 1997 soon. The cost share
is available for windbreaks,
tree planting, and native grass
plantings. Applications are
being accepted for the 1997
spring planting. All
applications will be ranked
prior to approval. Plans should
be made now for spring of '97.
Stop in the SWCD office to
apply.

1995 Deficiency Overpayment

Producers that enter into
the Ag Market Transition Act
(AMTA) by signing Form CCC-478
"Production Flexibility
Contract" agree to have their
PFC payments automatically
reduced to satisfy outstanding
deficiency overpayment amounts.
1996 final PFC payments, issued
September 30, 1996 will be
automatically reduced for wheat,
barley, oats, and cotton
deficiency overpayments. 1997
advance PFC payments will be
automatically reduced for corn
deficiency overpayments.
Interest will not accrue on
overpayment amounts offset from
PFC payments.

**Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

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Tipton, Iowa
Permit No. 5



Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South St, Suite 2; Tipton, IA 52772; Phone 563-886-6214 Ext. 3 Winter 2009

Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Michael Moes, Randy Rouse and Tom Schott
Ass't Commissioners: Joel Brown and Dave Meyer

Cost Share Money Available Through Cedar County SWCD

The Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District has cost share money available for spring work on waterways, terraces, grade stabilization structures and other practices. With the rainy spring we had and the late fall harvest, producers didn't have a chance to see the damage done on their fields. With the amount of snow already received this winter and the runoff we will have from that snow, waterways and other practices that were in need of maintenance will undoubtedly be in need of work this spring. 50% cost share money can help you get this job done with less out of pocket expense. Call 563-886-6214 ext 3 for more information on this program or to get signed up. The sooner you come in the better chance you will have to get money for spring or fall work.

We also have cost share through the REAP program with 75% cost share available on tree planting, timber stand improvement and windbreaks. Windbreaks don't just happen overnight. They take years to truly become effective so I encourage you to inquire with our staff to help you plan that windbreak you've been putting off for years. It's no easy job digging those holes, planting the trees and shrubs, and then keeping them watered so they thrive; so it's best to obtain the free technical advice we offer to recommend species of trees and shrubs, and the spacing needed between each.

Cedar SWCD Conservation Award Winners:

Nolan and Julie Ford.....Owner/Operator

This award is given to a farmer who operates land that he or she owns. Our award winner this year owns some of his land, but also rents more. Nolan grazes cattle and farms more than 1,500 acres using a considerable amount of no-till, but what really caught our eye is Nolan's attention to ephemeral gully control. Nolan is very conscientious about keeping his grassed waterways maintained, and re-shapes and seeds them when they are no longer functioning to their full capacity. Keep up the good work, Nolan!

Ken and Sandy Leach.....Isaac Walton Windbreak Award

Ken planted 285 trees and shrubs in 1985 with technical assistance from the district. This was an amazing amount of work – not only to plant them, but to keep them watered and healthy! Ken has continued to add more trees to his farmstead as well. The trees are now serving their full potential as a windbreak for the farm house, and they look great!

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors intending to further their education by pursuing programs of study in any field of agriculture, environmental science, or natural resources have until **February 16, 2009** to participate in the scholarship program. Seniors must reside in Cedar County to be eligible to apply for the Cedar County SWCD scholarship.

The District will award one \$500 scholarship.

All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER?

As a commissioner, you'll help guide soil and water conservation programs in the county, and will have the opportunity to influence state and national conservation programs. Your involvement will include establishing conservation priorities, resolving soil loss complaints, establishing acceptable soil loss limits, approving soil conservation plans, and assisting in the management of district funds.

Contact the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District at (563) 886-6214 ext. 3 for more information.

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Permit NO. 5

Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W. South Street Ste 2
Tipton IA 52772
Address Service Requested

CEDAR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

205 W South Street, Suite 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772
563-886-6214 ext. 3

As District Commissioners of the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. The District is always ready to assist you with any conservation programs.

Commissioners

Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Mike Moes, Randy Rouse and Tom Schott
Rob Glick.....Vice Chairperson
Cliff Bowie.....Chairperson

Assistant Commissioners

Joel Brown and Dave Meyer

Field Office Staff

Teresa Reed.....District Conservationist
Judy Hagan.....Technician
Terri Parry.....Technician
Lora Schmidt.....State Secretary
Adam Pelzer.....volunteer
Curtis Kuehl.....volunteer

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS JANUARY 1, 2008 - DEC. 31, 2008

Grassed waterways.....	20.4 ac
Filterstrips.....	48.7 ac
Riparian Buffers.....	7.4 ac
Contour Buffers.....	11.2 ac
Timber Stand Improvement.....	5.0 ac
Tree Planting.....	8.3 ac
Quail/Wild Bird Habitat.....	46.8 ac
No-till farming.....	3,366 ac
Mulch till farming.....	1,134 ac
Prescribed grazing.....	153 ac

42 DISTRICT COST SHARE APPLICATIONS were approved for funding for waterways, tree plantings, timber stand improvement, and native grass plantings.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Scholarships, Soil Stewardship for churches, and trees for third graders

Each year the district also provides a tree or shrub for Cedar County third graders to take home and plant for Arbor Day. This year 275 White Spruce were distributed to all the elementary schools in Cedar County.

The district also donated soil stewardship materials to county churches for Soil Stewardship Week April 24-May 4, 2008. This year's theme was Water is Life, and materials included a litany for the church to use in Sunday services, as well as several different children's activity books for Pre-K to grade 3. Churches who chose to receive this litany were Zion United Church of Christ in Lowden, First Presbyterian in Mechanicsville, Clarence United Methodist, First United Methodist of Tipton, St. John's UCC of Clarence, Cedar Street Baptist of Tipton and Gloria Dei Lutheran of Durant.

The District sponsors a scholarship award for seniors in Cedar County who are interested in attending college or technical school and completing studies in an agricultural field.

The scholarship winner for 2008 was **Holland Wilson**. Holland is the daughter of David and Janice Wilson of Bennett. Holland is attending Kirkwood Community College this fall. Congratulations and best of luck to Holland!

All of these programs are sponsored with money earned by the annual tree sale that the district has done for over 20 years. This is one way for Cedar County residents to put money back into the community as well as get an environmental benefit from the trees you purchase. The tree sale is the only fundraiser the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District does. THANK YOU to all who have purchased trees from the district; your support means these educational programs can continue.

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (State Cost Share Funding)

09 Allocation.....	\$39,819.30
Spent.....	\$5,872.61
Obligated.....	\$8,505.69

Resource Enhancement and Protection

'09 Allocation.....	\$19,294.47
Spent.....	\$6,266.21
Obligated.....	\$750.00

Forestry and Native Grasses

'09 Allocation.....	\$3,576.00
Spent.....	\$1,271.95
Obligated.....	\$2,193.75

1 M Expenses

Allocation.....	\$3,000.00
Spent.....	\$1,304.08

'08 EQIP (NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

Funds obligated.....	\$72,282.00
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'08 WHIP (NRCS' Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program)

Funds obligated.....	\$4,256.00
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Commissioners held eleven regular meetings. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the USDA Service Center Conference Room.
- Officers were elected and assistant commissioners were appointed at the January meeting.
- Commissioners reviewed the Memorandum-Of-Understanding with FSA and NRCS.
- Sponsored scholarship awards, soil stewardship materials to churches, trees for 3rd grade students, and held a tree sale.
- Commissioners flew over the county to view the conservation award winners' operations.
- One Commissioner attended the Annual Conference in Ames.
- State and National Dues were paid.
- Signs (to be displayed on the farm) were given to District award winners in recognition of conservation stewardship.
- loWater Snapshot of water quality conducted May 14th and September 22nd. Forty plus sites were visited. Many people volunteered their time to assist in this valuable data collection.

Thanks to our many cooperators who have placed their time and money into protecting the county's resources. Each of you has made a significant contribution to conserving natural resources for the present as well as the future.

Support Conservation in 2009

The Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) needs your support with a Cooperator Club beginning in 2009. For more than 50 years, the District has been helping you and your neighbors conserve our very valuable natural resources. We now invite you to join in the effort.

The District has no taxing authority, so funds for promoting soil & water conservation in our county must be raised through fundraisers and/or donations. As you may know, the District currently holds an annual bare root tree sale to help raise funds.

The district has supported the following activities in past years:

- Scholarship award, \$500 to local high school graduate
- Stewardship materials to local churches
- Trees to 3rd grade students in cedar county
- State and National dues to conservation associations

We as District Commissioners are glad to serve our community without salary because we see conservation of our natural resources making our community a better place in which to live. Since the need for funding is always a concern, the purpose of this letter is to ask for contributions to help in the cost of running your Soil & Water Conservation District.

We invite you to become a partner with us by making a tax deductible donation to the Cedar SWCD. A contributors list will be printed in our annual newsletter in January.

The following levels of support have been established for 2009:

SOIL & WATER SUPPORTER	\$ 5.00 - \$24.00
SOIL & WATER SAVER	\$25.00 - \$49.00
SOIL & WATER STEWARD	\$50.00 - \$ UP

With the **SOIL & WATER STEWARD** donation you will receive a \$20.00 voucher to purchase up to a 4 foot potted tree of your choice from a local vender.

With Sincere Thanks,

THE CEDAR COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Commissioners: Cliff Bowie, Rob Glick, Mike Moes, Randy Rouse, and Tom Schott

Assistant Commissioners: Joel Brown and Dave Meyer

-----Detach Here-----

CEDAR SWCD CONSERVATION DONATION FORM

NAME _____ AMOUNT _____

ADDRESS _____

9/96

To be eligible to put 1996 crop year grain under loan, you must be in compliance with your conservation plan on all farms that you have an interest in. You must be on a production flexibility contract to plant corn, and you must have certified your acres to be eligible for both corn and soybeans. You will be required to have a current UCC-1 form (Financing Statement) signed with both husband and wife's signatures. If your marital status or address (other than 911 addresses) have changed since your last UCC-1, you will need to file a new one. A lien search at the Sec'y. of State's office will be done prior to each loan disbursement. Signed, dated & appropriately marked lien waivers are required from any lien holder who appears on the lien search, or who has notified the county office of a current lien, before a loan can be disbursed.

Warehouse, farm-stored measured, farm-stored certified & high moisture loans, & LDP's are all available for 1996. All loans will mature 9 months after the month in which the loan is disbursed (disburse in October/matures July). The interest rate will be 1% above C.C.C.'s effective interest rate for the month the loan is disbursed. All interest rates are adjusted on Jan.1, 1997.

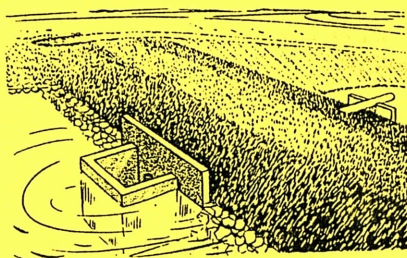
Loan measurement fees (\$15.00 for 1st bin and \$2.00 for each additional bin at the same location) and loan service fees (the smaller of \$45.00 for each loan plus \$3.00 for each bin or warehouse receipt over 1, or 1/2 of 1% times the gross loan amount) remain the same as last year. The producer is responsible for maintaining the quantity and quality of grain under loan. C.C.C. will not assume losses for any reason. The 1996 Cedar County loan rates are \$1.86 for Corn and \$4.95 for soybeans. The last day to seal 1996 grain is May 31, 1997.

CEDAR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION IS PUT ON THE LAND IN CEDAR COUNTY

In 1996, landusers used cost-share money to install 29 windbreaks, 3 tree plantings, 5 prairie grass plantings, 30 waterways, 5 ponds, 4 animal waste storage facilities, 19 filter strips along streams and 500 acres of wetlands on the Cedar River bottom.

More work is planned. If you have a practice on the back burner, we can help. Cost-share dollars are available through the following programs:



IFIP-Iowa Financial Incentive Program

Funds are available and applications are being accepted by the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District. Over \$50,000 is available to build terraces, basins, ponds, and weir notches. The cost-share rate is 50% with no cap limit and a 20 year maintenance agreement. Contact the NRCS office.

REAP-Resource Enhancement And Protection

Funds are available again this year for farmstead windbreaks, treeplantings, timberstand improvement work and prairie establishment. This is a 75% cost-share program with a twenty year maintenance agreement. Applications for the 1996-97 planting season are being accepted at the NRCS office. Please contact NRCS at 886-6214.

CEDAR COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 1996

Farm Service
Agency

Cedar County FSA Office
P.O. Box 404
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Office Hours
8:00am-4:30pm
Mon.- Fri.

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Steve Bockwoldt
Jim Dodds
Bill Elijah
Dustin Svoboda, Ag Credit Manager

OFFICE PERSONNEL:

Pat Christensen, Ginny DeWulf,
Ron Hougas, Jodi Kofron
Jeff Meier, Glenda Schroeder
Renee Schultz, Pam Spear
Lynda Sturdy

FSA EMERGENCY LOANS

State Executive Director Tom Grau announced that farm operators who have suffered major crop production and/or physical losses caused by Severe Storms & Flooding for disaster applicable for your county(ies) may be eligible for credit assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Applications for assistance should be completed at the Cedar County office located at 1201 N. Ave, Tipton, Iowa. (319) 886-6008.

The Farm Service Agency may make Emergency Loans to eligible farmers which will enable them to return to their normal operations if they sustained qualifying losses resulting from the natural disaster. Physical loss loans may be made to eligible farmers to enable them to repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the farming operation. Examples of property commonly affected include; essential farm buildings, fixtures to the real estate, livestock, or loss to planted and unplanted crops. The actual physical loss for destroyed crops is the cost of cleaning debris, preparing land for replanting, seed, fertilizer and other expenses necessary to reestablish the crops. The applicant must provide an itemized list of all the claimed expenses incurred.

Applicants must be unable to obtain credit from other usual sources to qualify for Farm Service Agency Ag Credit assistance. The interest rate for the emergency loans is 3.75%. Each applicant applying for credit will be given equal consideration without regard to race, creed, color, marital status or national origin.

Most of the disaster loans may be for up to seven years: however, if the loan is secured only on crops, it must be repaid when the next crop year's income is received. Loans to replace fixtures to the real estate may be scheduled for repayment up to 40 years. Applications are due by February 24, 1997.

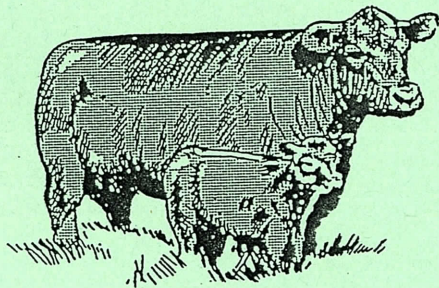
USDA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Cedar County FSA Office
P.O. Box 404
TIPTON, IA 52772

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit no. 4

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FSA-ELIGIBLE?

An applicant has to meet several criteria to be eligible for FSA programs. The FSA county committee will determine whether you're eligible and whether you meet the definition of a beginning farmer.

The eligibility criteria are: (1) you must have the legal capacity to incur obligations; (2) you have to be a United States citizen; (3) you must have sufficient education and 3 years farming experience in managing and operating a farm; (4) you must not be able to get the credit you need elsewhere; and, (5) you must be the owner-operator or tenant-operator, after the loan is closed, of a family-sized farm.

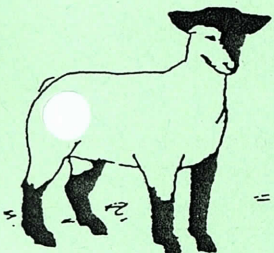


HOW ABOUT REPAYMENT?

The schedule for repaying the loan will be worked out with the FSA Agriculture Credit Manager. Payments will be tailored to the type of project for which the loan was made.

FSA will help complete the application.

Farm Service Agency
1201 North Avenue
P.O. Box 404
Tipton, IA 52772
319-886-6008



YOUTH PROJECT LOANS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to individual rural youths who are 10 through 20 years of age to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

WHAT MAY LOANS BE USED FOR?

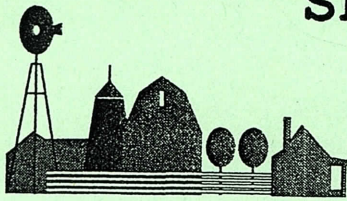
1. Buy Animals, Equipment, and supplies.
2. Buy, rent, or repair needed tools and equipment.
3. Pay operating expenses for running the project.

WHAT IS THE INTEREST RATE?

The interest rate for these loans is determined periodically, based on the cost of money to the Government. However, when a loan is made, the interest rate for that loan will not change. Current rate as of 9-1-96 is 7%.

FARM

SERVICE



AGENCY

Farm Ownership Loans

WHAT IS A BEGINNING FARMER?

A beginning farmer is defined as having at least 3 years but not more than 10 years farming experience. The county committee will determine eligibility and decide experience.

WHY ARE SPECIAL PROGRAMS NEEDED FOR BEGINNING FARMERS?

There is a growing concern about the future of agriculture and rural communities. Fewer young people are entering agriculture, and, older farmers who own most of the farmland in Iowa must soon begin transferring this land and other farm assets. Unless young beginning farm families are ready and able to take over these farms, much of the land will be further concentrated in the hands of fewer larger farms and rural communities will continue to suffer. Beginning farmers have special needs that FSA was created to help meet. These new programs should increase the assistance given beginning farmers with credit and training.

10-30-60 BEGINNING FARMER DOWN PAYMENT LOANS

- Available to beginning farmers only.
- Applicant must have equity for 10% down on purchase.
- FSA loans up to 30% at 4% interest fully amortized in 10 years.
- Bank or other lender makes 30 year amortized loan on 60% of purchase.
- Land purchase limited to a maximum of \$250,000.
- Current land ownership limited to no more than 25% of County Average farm size.
- Bank or other lender may not balloon in less than 10 years.
- Targeted funds available.
- Certified appraisal required for all FO Loans.

50-50 PARTICIPATION LOAN FOR LAND PURCHASE

- FSA can loan up to 50% at 4% interest on a 40 year amortization.
- No down payment required.
- FSA takes 2nd lien on land.
- FSA participation limited to \$200,000, subject to funding availability.
- No restriction on relative sales within the family.
- Lender may loan 60% or more of the total purchase price and use a FSA guarantee on the loan.
- Borrower is expected to move to Commercial Credit in 7-10 years.
- Eligible applicant of any age may participate.

"REGULAR" FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

- Finance up to 100% of the land's purchase price.
- Term of the loan can be up to 40 years.
- The interest rate can be either the "regular" rate or the "limited resource" rate.
- Not available for refinancing of current debt.
- FSA loan limit of \$200,000.
- Funding for this loan program has been extremely limited in the past.
- Eligible applicant may currently have an FO loan 10 years or less.
- Eligible applicant of any age may participate.

FSA Committee Election

Nominate and Vote for Farmers of your choice

Important Dates

- Oct. 3 Request nomination forms from the FSA county office, and begin nominations.
- Oct. 28 Last day to file nomination forms.
- Nov. 18 Ballots mailed to eligible voters.
- Dec. 2 Last day to return voted ballots.
- Jan. 1 Elected committee members/alternates take office.

You and Your Committees

County FSA committees administer FSA farm programs at county and area levels. County FSA committees elected by eligible producers.

Vote

The election of responsible agricultural producers is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. Farm programs administered by county FSA committees include:

- commodity price support loans and payments;
- establishment of allotments, yields, and marketing quotas;
- farmer loans;
- conservation programs;
- incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities;
- other farm disaster assistance.

In addition, county FSA committees hire County Executive Directors.

Who Can Vote

Farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers, of legal voting age, can vote if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program. Check with your FSA office for voting requirements.

Nominations

A petition form signed by the nominee is needed to nominate a farmer-candidate. A form includes a state-

ment that the candidate agrees to serve if elected.

Nomination forms must be received by the county office by October 28.

Almost anyone eligible to take part in a county FSA program may be a candidate for the committee.

Don't Miss Out on Voting

The 1996 election will end December 2. Ballots will be mailed to voters by November 18 and must be returned or postmarked by December 2.

Voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 will be eligible to nominate and vote for their representative. These townships would include Dayton, Fremont, Linn, Massillon, Pioneer and Springfield.

Alan D. Schmidt CED

FCIC CAT INSURANCE

Producers with CAT insurance thru Farm Service Agency for 1996 are reminded that they need to transfer their policy to a private insurance agent. If you do not transfer the policy it will be assigned on a random basis to a private company. A list of local agents is available at the FSA office. To remain eligible for USDA benefits you must maintain at least the CAT level of insurance OR have signed a written waiver that waives eligibility for emergency crop loss assistance.

SHEEP REFERENDUM

On October 1, 1996 the Department of Agriculture will conduct a second referendum on the sheep and wool promotion, research, education and information order. In person voting will take place in the Cedar County Extension Office, Tipton, Iowa. To be eligible to vote in this referendum, you must have been a "person" engaged in the production, feeding, or importation of sheep or sheep products during calendar year 1994.



Conservation Reserve Program

Continuous CRP Signup Beginning September 4, 1996

Authorization

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) implemented by Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Overview

The purpose of continuous signup is to provide management flexibility to farmers and ranchers to implement certain conservation practices on their cropland.

Acreage will be automatically accepted into the program provided the acreage and producer meet certain eligibility requirements at a per acre rental rate not to exceed CCC's maximum payment amount. The continuous signup process does not have a competitive bidding process; however, producers may elect to receive an amount less than the maximum payment rate.

Start Date

Continuous signup will begin September 4, 1996, at local FSA offices and is intended to be available indefinitely.

Eligible Acreage

Eligible land for enrollment in CRP includes cropland that has been planted or considered planted to an

agricultural commodity in any 2 of the 5 crop years 1992 through 1996 that is physically and legally capable of being cropped.

The acreage must also be determined eligible and suitable by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for any of the following practices:

- filter strips,
- riparian buffers,
- shelter belts,
- living snow fences,
- field windbreaks,
- grassed waterways,
- salt tolerant vegetation, and
- shallow water areas for wildlife.

Further, acreage within an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated wellhead protection area is also eligible.

Eligible Producers

To be an eligible participant, landowners must have owned the acreage, or operators must have leased the acreage, for one year before offering the acreage for CRP. Any combination of continuously leasing and owning the acreage by the same producer for one year would also be eligible.

Payment Rates

Maximum payment rates, which are based on site specific soil productivity and local prevailing cash equivalent rental rates, will be posted in the local FSA office. An additional incentive may also be made available for acreage that will be established exclusively to filter strips, riparian

buffers, field windbreaks, and grassed waterways and for acreage located within an EPA designated wellhead protection area. A per acre payment rate may be added for maintenance of eligible practices.

Cost-Share Payments

In addition to the payments described above, CCC will pay up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing a permanent cover.

Contract Effective Date

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. Producers may defer the effective date for up to six months.

Cooperating Agencies

Additional information on the CRP is available from local FSA, NRCS, the State Cooperative Extension Services, State Forestry agencies, and local conservation districts.

Length of Contracts

Contract shall be not be less than 10 nor more than 15 years in duration.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-2791.

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Agriculture Market Transaction Act (AMTA)

Year 2 of the AMTA Program begins on October 1, 1996 and ends on September 30, 1997. This period is referred to as the "97" program year.

1997 advance PFC payments will be issued to eligible producers on either December 15, 1996 or January 15, 1997, based on a producer's request. Program regulations prohibit issuance of advance payments after January 15, 1997.

If you have not designated 1997 shares on your Contract (this is the case with all leased farms enrolled in 1996, unless there was a binding multi-year lease for the farm), you **MUST** sign a new Contract to designate the 1997 payment shares. This must be completed by January 15, 1997, to receive an advance 1997 payment.

You must notify this office of changes in your farming operation that may effect your eligibility for the PFC payments. Changes in your farming operation such as a change of owner, operator, or other producer sharing in the crop, increase or decrease in the amount of land being operated, or any revision of a lease that changes the way the crops are shared will affect a producers eligibility for payments and must be reported as soon as the change is effective.

Planting of fruits and vegetables on Contract acres will effect program benefits. Contact this Office before you plant, or lease land for the production of fruits or vegetables.

AMTA Enrollment for Land Coming Out of CRP

The 1996 Farm Bill provided no land could be accepted into the AMTA program after August 1, 1996. However, an **exception**

Repayment of 1995 Advance Deficiency Payment

The 1996 Act requires unearned 1995 advance deficiency payments must be offset from Production Flexibility Contracts (PFC) payments. The overpayment for wheat, barley, and oats, will be offset from the final 1996 payment in September of 1996. The 1995 overpayment for corn and grain sorghum will be offset from the advance 1997 PFC payment (December 15, 1996 or January 15, 1997). Producers may request in writing to have the offset taken from an earlier PFC payment. Producers may also repay the 1995 overpayment at anytime. The repayment must be received by December 1, 1996, to avoid being offset from the December 15, 1996, advance payment or January 3, 1997, to avoid being offset from the January 15, 1997, advance payment.

Early Release From CRP

CRP participants who entered into a CRP contract may terminate the contract at any time, on all or part of the acreage, if the contract has been in effect five years. Requests approved October 1, 1996, and later will be released from the CRP 60 days after the date of the request.

State and Wool Referendum

Ballots will be counted on October 16, 1996, at 10:00 A.M. in the FSA Office. The public may observe the ballot counting, but will not be privy to the count itself, or to any information contained in the ballot material.

AMTA Enrollment for Land Coming Out of CRP (Continued)

provides land, on which a CRP Contract is terminated after August 1, 1996, may be enrolled for the remaining years of the AMTA program.

The date the CRP-1 ends, determines when the land may be enrolled in AMTA:

- A. If the CRP-1 terminated after August 1, 1996, but prior to October 1, 1996, it may be enrolled in AMTA between October 1, 1996 and November 30, 1996. If this land is not enrolled in AMTA by November 30, 1996 it will not be eligible for participation in AMTA. Producers would receive full or prorated (depending on the date the CRP-1 was terminated) CRP payments for 1996 and full PFC payments beginning in 1997.
- B. If the CRP-1 is terminated on or after October 1, 1996, but on or before August 1, 1997, the following two options are available for enrolling this land in AMTA:
 1. The land may be enrolled in AMTA from the time the CRP-1 is terminated through August 1, 1997 and the producer has the option of receiving either:
 - (a) A prorated CRP payment for fiscal year 1997 or
 - (b) The full PFC payment for 1997
 2. The land may be enrolled in AMTA between October 1, 1997, and November 30, 1997, and the producer would be eligible for a prorated fiscal year 1997 CRP payment and the full PFC payment beginning in fiscal year 1998.
- C. If the CRP-1 is terminated after August 1, 1997, but prior to October 1, 1997, the land may be enrolled in AMTA only between October 1, 1997 and November 30, 1997. The producer would be eligible for a full or prorated (depending on the date the CRP-1 was terminated) 1997 CRP payment and PFC payments beginning with fiscal year 1998.

Changes in Farming Operation

Producers are reminded to immediately notify the County Office when there is a change in the farming operation. Changes not timely reported may cause producers to be ineligible for program payments. Producers are eligible for program benefits based on their risk in producing crops on a farm (i.e. on a cash rented farm only the operator is eligible for payment). If ownership or lease arrangements change after sign up for the Market Transition Program, producers should immediately notify the County Office to maintain program eligibility.

Miscellaneous Items

Due to the passage of the 1996 Farm Bill, the following are changes from previous Bills:

- Dairy Refund and Wool/Mohair programs have been eliminated
- There will be no loan extensions or loan reserve available. Also, honey loans, rye loans, and purchase agreements are not available.
- The interest rate applicable to the loan will be the rate charged by the Treasury plus 1 percent.

Lien Searches:

A lien search shall be performed in the Iowa Secretary of State's Office after the loan request is filed and before the loan is approved.

Lien Waivers

If applicable, the producer shall obtain lien waiver(s) prior to loan approval.

Financing Statements

To protect CCC's security interest for all farm-stored loans, a financing statement will be filed with the Iowa Secretary of State's Office.

1996 Loan Rates for Cedar County

The farm-stored loan rate of the county where the commodity is stored will be used for loan making purposes. For warehouse-stored loans, the loan rate will be determined by where the grain was deposited.

The following table contains 1996 loan rates:

Corn	\$ <u>1.86</u>	bu.
Soybeans	\$ <u>4.95</u>	bu.
Wheat	\$ <u>2.74</u>	bu.
Oats	\$ <u>1.00</u>	bu.

Direct Deposit

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 mandates Federal payments to a producer who becomes first eligible for that type of payment after September 1, 1996, shall be made by electronic funds transfer or direct deposit. For those unfamiliar with direct deposit, it is a free FSA service that allows producers to receive payments electronically deposited into their bank account. Direct deposit may be used for all payments except setoffs, assignments, and joint checks. The form needed to elect direct deposit is available at the county office.

Payment will be in the producer's account within 3 workdays after the county office transmits the payment record. Depending on the program payment, a Payment Disbursement Transaction Statement will be mailed to the producer which verifies electronic payment. Direct deposit is a safe and economical method of issuing payments and it will virtually eliminate lost, stolen, or destroyed checks.

Signature Authority for Spouses

A husband and wife:

- can sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office.
- cannot sign ASCS-211, Power of Attorney, or ASCS-211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife, on behalf of the other.

Exception - Spouses must have an ASCS-211 or ASCS-211-1 on file, or sign personally for the following programs:

- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easements
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) easements
- claim settlements, such as promissory notes.

Ag Credit

Changes to the FSA Ag Credit provisions in the most recent farm bill were extensive. Following is a synopsis of changes in each area.

Loan Making

Operating loans are now limited to current producers without previous debt forgiveness. However, producers whom received a write down and FSA continued with their debt can receive 1-year operating loans. The bill also limits the number of years a producer can receive direct operation loans to six years. The period a borrower may receive guaranteed operating loans or a combination of direct and guaranteed loans will not exceed fifteen years. Farm ownership loans may only be made to those producers that have farmed for at least three years and: (1) are a beginning farmer; (2) have had less than ten years of FO loans outstanding; or (3) have never received a farm ownership loan from FSA. Also, farm ownership loans may no longer be made to refinance debt.

Servicing

Leaseback/Buyback has been eliminated from 1951-S Instruction, however the Dwelling Retention provision remained intact. Write downs will trigger at a cash flow margin of 110%, and each producer may receive only one lifetime write down. Buyouts of loans under 1951-S will only be approved at fair market value less prior liens rather than the net recovery figure.

Property Management

All inventory will be advertised within 15 days of acquisition and offered to a beginning farmer no later than 75 days from acquisition. If there are no qualified beginning farmer applications, property will be sold within 105 days of acquisition by means of public sale.

FSA-468 Notice of Determined Acreage

15% of farms participating in the AMTA program or with FSA-578 Acreage Reports on file for 1996 will be selected for spot check. These farms will have acreage measured by aerial slide to determine acres. FSA-468 Notice of Determined Acres will notify the producer of the determined acres and of the effect, if any, the spot check may have on the program eligibility of a crop.

Conservation Compliance

Producers must be in compliance with Highly Erodible and Wetland provisions in order to be eligible for AMTA benefits. If a producer agreed to a conservation plan with NRCS and established eligibility for 1996 benefits, it is necessary for the plan to be implemented within the next year to enable the producer to retain the 1996 payment and continue to be eligible for future years benefits.

Loan Service Fees

For the 1996 crop year loans, the loan service fee will be computed as the smaller of:

Farm-stored:

- \$45.00 per loan, plus \$3.00 per structure over 1 or
- 1/2 of 1% times the gross loan amount.

Warehouse-stored:

- \$45.00 per loan, plus \$3.00 per receipt over 1 or
- 1/2 of 1% times the gross loan amount.

C E D A R C O U N T Y F S A N E W S L E T T E R
D E C E M B E R 1 9 9 6

Farm Service
Agency

Cedar County FSA Office
P.O. Box 404
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Office Hours
8:00am-4:30pm
Mon.- Fri.

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Steve Bockwoldt
Jim Dodds
Bill Elijah
Dustin Svoboda, Ag Credit Manager

OFFICE PERSONNEL:

Pat Christensen, Ginny DeWulf,
Ron Hougas, Jodi Kofron
Jeff Meier, Glenda Schroeder
Renee Schultz, Pam Spear
Lynda Sturdy

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

New rules for the CRP are being developed and should be out in early 1997. At this time, we don't have any definite dates for the upcoming general CRP sign-up. When this information is made available to us, we'll pass it on to you.

ELECTION:

Ballots were sent to voters in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3 (Dayton, Fremont, Linn, Massillon, Pioneer and Springfield townships) to elect a representative to the Cedar County Farm Service Agency Committee. Ballots were counted and tabulated on December 6th and William Elijah was re-elected to represent LAA #3 on the County Committee. Richard Tenley is 1st Alternate COC and Community Chairperson, Glenda Lawson is 2nd Alternate COC and Community Vice-Chairperson and James Sawyer Jr. is CMC member. We would like to thank all those who participated in the election process.

AMTA PROGRAM

Farmers are reminded to update their 7-year program contracts. New contracts will need to be signed if there has been a change in the farming operation or if the farm is rented or crop-shared on a yearly basis. For advance payments to be issued in January, producers must submit signatures and documents by January 15, 1997. The payment rates are the same as those estimated in April, 1996 - the advance rate is 29.5¢ and the final payment to be received September 30, 1997 will be 16.5¢.

1995 OVERPAYMENTS

Producers wishing to repay their 1995 unearned deficiency payment for tax purposes, may do so by personal check by the end of December. If this overpayment isn't repaid prior to issuing the January checks, that amount will be offset from the January advance.

REAP - Resource Enhancement And Protection

Funds are available again this year for farmstead windbreaks, treeplantings, timberstand improvement work and prairie establishment. This is a 75% cost-share program with a twenty year maintenance agreement. Applications for the 96-97 planting season are being accepted at the SWCD office. Please contact us at 886-6214.

TREE SALES CAMPAIGN

Planning for the '97 Tree Sale is underway. Last winter's ice storms caused many trees to die and the cool spring/summer provided the appropriate environment for diseases to spread. These diseases are not a nursery stock problem, rather an environmental effect. There are certain trees and shrubs more resistant to these diseases. We have decided to make some changes this year in the stock that we offer in order to provide you with a larger variety and smaller amounts to be purchased. Supplies are limited, so don't wait to place your order.

For more information or questions please stop by the SWCD office or call 886-6214.

96 NO-TILL RESULTS

Corn Yields	
Randy Kay	198.64
Keith Feuerbach	185.21
Bob Regennitter	184.14
Vic Kimberling	178.99
Soybeans Yields	
Kevin Hartwig	60.71
Bob Regennitter	55.52
Harry Driscoll	52.89

POSTER CONTEST

Cedar SWCD is sponsoring a poster contest. The contest is open to students in grades 4th and 5th. This year's theme is "Backyard Stewardship. Posters must be submitted by February 28. Cash prizes and two \$50 savings bonds will be awarded to top winners. For more information call 886-6214.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Cedar SWCD is sponsoring a scholarship competition for senior students living in Cedar County that are planning to further their education in agricultural or environmental related fields.

Two \$200 scholarships will be awarded. Applications are due in the office February 28. For applications and information contact the SWCD office at 886-6214.

NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Michael Walter, rural Tipton, won his second term as a SWCD Commissioner in the November elections.

Michael has two children; Andrea and Jason. Michael owns a farm in the Cass township area.

Michael Moes, Jr., rural Tipton, won his first four year term as a SWCD Commissioner. Michael replaced Randall Shaul in June '95.

Michael and his wife Elaine have a farm in the Red Oak township area.

Michael and Elaine have three children; Stephanie, Arron and Melissa.

CEDAR COUNTY FARMER WINS FALL REGIONAL

Neal and Craig Smith of Fremont Township won the 1996 Regional Soil and Water Conservation Award for their soil stewardship. The Smiths were presented with the (12 county) Regional award December 3rd at the Commissioners' Fall Regional in Little Amana. The Cedar County SWCD selected the Smiths as the overall winners in their 1996 annual conservation awards program. The Smiths are using contouring, residue cover, grassed waterways, a weir notch, field borders, pasture & hayland management, and a farmstead windbreak on their farm. It's quite an honor and we're very pleased to have them represent the good soil stewardship that makes Cedar County such a great place to live. Congratulations to the Smiths!

1997 Tree Seedling Order Form

**Cedar Soil & Water
Conservation District**
1201 North Avenue, Tipton, IA 52772
(319) 886-6214

Tree seedlings are hardy, bare-root stock and will be ready for you to pick up and plant in mid-April. Supplies are limited. Orders will be taken until March 15, 1997. No guarantee can be given for these seedlings, except that the trees will be in good condition when they are distributed in April.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER, PAYABLE TO: Cedar S.W.C.D.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25 ONLY (except for the packages).

SPECIES	SIZE	BUNDLES ORDERED	COST/ BUNDLE	AMOUNT
AMERICAN ARBORVITAE	12-18"	_____	\$55.00	_____
BLUE SPRUCE	12-18"	_____	\$35.00	_____
NORWAY SPRUCE	18-24"	_____	\$40.00	_____
SCOTCH PINE	18-24"	_____	\$40.00	_____
WHITE PINE	12-18"	_____	\$35.00	_____

WE ARE ALSO OFFERING INDIVIDUAL JUMBO EVERGREEN TREES. THESE TREES WILL RANGE FROM 18-30" IN HEIGHT. THE TREES AVAILABLE ARE:

BLUE SPRUCE	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
RED CEDAR	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
NORWAY SPRUCE	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
WHITE PINE	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
TECHNY ARBORVITAE	_____	\$ 6.00	_____

THESE TREES ARE SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 5 ONLY (except for the packages).

RED BUD	12-18"	_____	\$10.00	_____
WHITE ASH	2-3'	_____	\$10.00	_____
RED OAK	2-3'	_____	\$10.00	_____
PIN OAK	2-3'	_____	\$10.00	_____
RED MAPLE	2-3'	_____	\$10.00	_____
BLACK WALNUT	2-3'	_____	\$10.00	_____

LILAC	2-3'	_____	\$10.00	_____
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	2-3'	_____	\$10.00	_____
HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY	5-18"	_____	\$10.00	_____

SHADE TREE PACKAGE	2-3'	_____	\$45.00	_____
3 Pin Oak, 3 Hackberry, 3 Red Oak, and 3 White Ash				

WILDLIFE FOOD PACKAGE	3-4'	_____	\$25.00	_____
3 Black Walnut, 3 Domestic Apple, 3 Iowa Peach, and 3 Bur Oak				

TREE ORDER TOTAL _____

ADD 5% SALES TAX _____

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE _____

AMERICAN ARBORVITAE - moderate growth rate; height 40-50'; excellent for windbreaks and wildlife; shallow roots that are very fibrous and wide spreading; native.

TECHNY ARBORVITAE - This cultivar is the most resistant to winter and drought damage and is the Arborvitae of choice for tougher conditions.

BLUE SPRUCE - slower growth rate; height 50-100'; taproot; used extensively in farmstead windbreaks and horticultural plantings because of color; excellent for birds.

NORWAY SPRUCE - rapid growth rate; height 80-100+'; ideal for windbreak and has a long life; very good for wildlife because of high seed food value; deep spreading fibrous roots.

SCOTCH PINE - rapid growth rate; height 60-100'; used in windbreaks; taproot wide-spreading and somewhat fibrous.

WHITE PINE - rapid growth rate; height 80-100'; used in windbreaks; several large roots spread outward and downward; native.

RED CEDAR - Used in windbreaks, wildlife plantings or mix in your reforestation planting. Tends to grow slower.

WHITE ASH - rapid growth rate; height 70-80'; shallow to deep fibrous wide-spreading roots.

HACKBERRY - rapid growth; height 30-130'; deep fibrous wide-spreading roots.

RED OAK - rapid growth rate, height 60-80'; deep and fibrous root system; excellent for wildlife products: sawlogs, veneer, floorings, and numerous other products.

BUR OAK - slow growth, height 70-80'; very deep taproot; deep root system.

PIN OAK - slow growth, height 50-75'; taproot more fibrous than other oaks.

RED MAPLE - Foliage in the fall is brilliant. Characteristics are a blend of silver maple and sugar maple.

BLACK WALNUT - rapid growth rate; height 70-100+'; large deep root system; highly prized for wood products.

RED BUD - A small tree planted as an ornamental but indigenous to much of the Eastern forests. Has beautiful spring blossoms.

LILAC - moderate growth; large shrub with bright green foliage and extremely fragrant flowers in May; nice; easy to grow.

DOMESTIC APPLE - medium growth; good to fair soil; apples loved by all animals.

IOWA PEACH - fast growth rate; good to fair soil; large quantities of sweet white peaches for animals and people.

REDOSIER DOGWOOD - If used as the shrub row in windbreaks, the red colored stems contrast nicely with evergreen rows, especially with winter snow.

HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY - Fruit is a red berry that persists through winter and is sought by cedar waxwings and other birds. About 8 feet in height.

WHO'S WHO

Rich Balvanz	Farm Director, WMT Radio, Cedar Rapids
Ed Berry	USDA Entomologist, Nat'l. Soil Tilth Lab, Ames
Mike DeFelice	Chemical Technology Specialist, Pioneer Hi-Bred
David Dukes	Farmer, Taylor County
Gary Edwards	Farmer, Linn County
Dale Farnham	ISU Extension Agronomist
Dick Fawcett	Farm Journal Staff Environment Specialist
Dale Hansen	Farm Director, KWWL-TV, Waterloo
Charles Hocker	Farmer, Iowa County
Ben Hunsberger	Farmer, Fayette County
Tom Kaspar	USDA Plant Physiologist, Nat'l. Soil Tilth Lab, Ames
Von Kettlesen	Koel Radio Oelwein
Dave Lubben	Farmer, Jones County
Bob Mortensen	ISU Ag Specialist
Dennis Pate	Assistant State Conservationist - NRCS
Marlin Rice	ISU Extension Entomologist
Homer Showman	Farmer, Benton County
Rick Swanson	Farmer, Poweshiek County
Wade Wagner	Farm Director, KGAN-TV, Cedar Rapids
Dick Wolkowski	Extension Soil Scientist, U of Wisconsin-Madison

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL

EASTERN IOWA

CONSERVATION

TILLAGE SHOW

Residue Management for
Conservation and Profit



January 14 - January 15, 1997
Five Seasons Center
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Recipient of National Conservation Merit Award

PROGRAM

EXHIBITS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1997

Session I	Presiding - Max Molleston
1:00 p.m.	USDA Conservation Programs for 1997 Dennis Pate
1:30 p.m.	Soil Sampling for Precision Farming Dick Wolkowski
2:10 p.m.	Converting CRP to Row Crops Rick Swanson
2:30 p.m.	Herbicide Resistant Crops Mike DeFelice

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1997

Session II	Presiding - Wade Wagner
6:30 p.m.	Earthworms-Improving Soil Tilth Ed Berry
7:10 p.m.	Is Precision Farming For You? Gary Edwards
7:30 p.m.	Management Intensive Grazing Dave Lubben
7:50 p.m.	Improving Water Quality with Filter Strips Dick Fawcett

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1997

Session III	Presiding - Rich Balvanz
10:00 a.m.	Narrow Row Corn Dale Farnham
10:40 a.m.	Fall Strip Tillage Homer Showman
11:00 a.m.	Economics of No-till Soybeans Charles Hocker
11:20 a.m.	Corn Planter Attachment Effects on Soil and Residue Tom Kaspar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1995

Session IV	Presiding - Dale Hansen
1:00 p.m.	CRP No-till Experiences David Dukes
1:40 p.m.	Zone Tillage Ben Hunsberger
2:00 p.m.	Biotechnology for Insect Management Marlin Rice
2:35 p.m.	Does GPS Pay? Bob Mortensen

**PLANTERS
AG CHEMICALS
TILLAGE EQUIPMENT
SPRAYING EQUIPMENT**

-FREE ADMISSION-

DOORS OPEN:

January 14 -10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
January 15 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**SPONSORED BY THESE USDA
AGENCIES:**

Farm Service Agency

Iowa State University Extension Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil and Water Conservation Districts
of the following counties:

Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Iowa, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Muscatine, Scott and Washington.

Sponsors do not endorse products displayed nor criticize products not displayed. Opinions expressed during the presentations are those of the presenters and not necessarily of the sponsors.

THE NEW CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

This program focuses on environmental priority areas. Its a lot different than the old program where whole fields were enrolled. In the new CRP, producers can enroll grassed waterways, field windbreaks, farmstead windbreaks, and filterstrips along streams. The sign-up period is continuous.

To meet eligibility criteria, you must have owned the land for at least one year and the land must be considered cropland 2 out of the last 5 years.

Interested producers should visit the FSA and NRCS offices. The eligibility criteria will be determined and then a bid cap will

be computed. The bid cap is based on the CSR of the soil type, the maintenance rate, and any bonus that is available for the proposed practice (at the present time, a 10 to 20 percent bonus is being offered for some of the eligible practices). The producer places their bid knowing the bid cap.

Producers that have land accepted into the CRP are given a payment which is made for a period of 10 to 15 years depending on the practice. The total payment may be small, but usually the rate per acre is much higher than what we have seen in the past. Yet, no easements are involved. So, its a great way to apply conservation and maintain income.

FILTERSTRIPS ALONG STREAMS

Cropland adjacent to creeks, rivers, and open ditches can be enrolled into the CRP program. Its a fantastic way to handle problem areas along unstable banks. Typically, a 66 to 99 foot strip of grass is seeded along the stream. In some cases, trees and shrubs can be added to the seeding. A 20% bonus is being offered for this practice also. The payment acres are limited to just the cropland

seeded down, so the total acres taken out of production are small. The goal is to eliminate problem areas along banks, filter runoff before it drains into the stream, while maintaining good income. The new CRP program does just that.

GRASSED WATERWAYS

The CRP program is ideal for producers who want to reshape grassed waterways that meet the eligibility criteria. Not only is he/she eligible for cost-share for up to 50% of the costs of building the waterway to NRCS specifications, but will also receive the annual CRP payment. At the present time there is a 20% bonus that is paid each year of the contract. So, most producers are seeing their bid caps set above \$150 per acre (some are significantly higher).

FARMSTEAD AND FIELD WINDBREAKS

The CRP program can be used to establish farmstead windbreaks on cropland. The producer can receive up to 50% cost-share for establishing the windbreak and also receive an annual CRP payment for a period of 10 to 15 years.

The same is true for field windbreaks, but at the present time a 20% bonus is added to the bid cap.

LIVING SNOW FENCES

Living Snow Fences can be planted to protect lanes and roads from drifting snow. Grasses, shrubs, and trees can be used.

Grazing and mowing (once seeding is established) is not permitted on most of these practices. However, grassed waterways may be mowed after July 15 for maintenance reasons. Also, the County Committee may approve incidental grazing on grassed waterways on a case by case basis. However, there is a 50% reduction to the annual payment on that year.

A lot of grassed waterways and filterstrips have already been accepted into the CRP. It appears that there will be a need for custom operators that would be interested in providing seeding services. Interested operators including those with no-till drills are encouraged to contact the NRCS office.

There may be another CRP program developed in the future. It could resemble the old CRP program, but its still under

debate. We will have to wait awhile longer for its arrival.

FORAGE AND ANIMAL HEALTH SHOW
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
January 30, 1997
St. Mary's Hall
Tipton, Iowa
by the
**EASTERN IOWA HAY
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

The Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association (EIHPA) invites livestock and hay producers to their 1997 Trade Show on January 30.

Speakers include:

Tony Harvey, Dairy Specialist,
ISU

Ron Irvin, Beef Specialist,
ISU

Wayne Maddy, Clinton Co.,
Forage and Animal Health

Important information on nutrition and hay production will be presented. Both the hay and livestock producer will want to hear these presentations and take the opportunity to ask questions. In addition, booths will be provided by nutrition, implement, and veterinary suppliers to assist you in the latest product lines in the industry.

Plan to attend! There will be hot coffee in the morning and a great meal(lunch) is planned which will satisfy any January appetite. And it is all included with the \$10 (EIHPA) membership fee (its a bargain!). So, plan to come. Registration is from 9:30 to 10:15.

**LANDOWNERS WHO HAVE
EXPIRING CRP CONTRACTS
ON HEL LAND:**

If you have HEL land that will no longer be in the CRP... you need to write a conservation plan that meets the FSA compliance provision of the farm bill. If you have already written a plan, read no further. If you haven't, give the NRCS office a call and we'll help you develop a plan (sometimes you can write the plan over the phone). Landowners and producers need to keep in mind that its something that needs to be done before planting season.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

The new WRP program is being offered on a continuous sign-up. Cropland and pastureland may be enrolled into this program if wetlands can be restored.

Three options are available:

1. Permanent easements: Landowners are offered 100% of the appraised value of the eligible land.

2. 30 year easements: Landowners are offered 75% of the appraised value of the eligible land.

3. Restoration cost-share agreements: No easement is filed. No land payment is paid. Landowners are paid 75% of the cost of restoring wetlands.

Eligible lands for the WRP include: cropped wetlands, drained crop fields that are restorable, and drained pastures that are restorable.

The WRP program is a good alternative for landowners looking for an alternative to farming an area that is habitually wet.

A NEW FACE IN THE OFFICE

We feel very fortunate to announce the addition of a new member to our staff at the Cedar County SWCD. Kathy Walter started this fall as a Soil Conservation Technician. She will be (and already is) learning the skills to assist landowners in applying waterways, ponds, terraces, and other conservation practices. Having an additional person available to design practices is exciting to all of us. If you get the chance, please stop by and say hello!

**Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772

NonProfit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

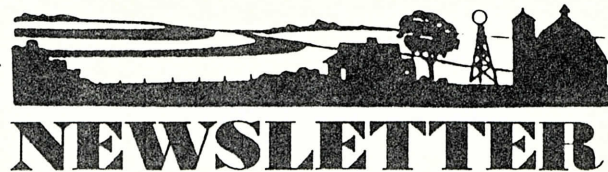
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Tipton, Iowa
Permit No. 5



Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



NEWSLETTER

1201 N. Avenue, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

WINDBREAK CLINIC

Time: 10:00 to 12:00
Date: February 13, 1997
Place: Extension Office
Address: 120 E. 5th St.; Tipton

Tired of the winter winds chilling you to the bone? You can't change the weather, but you sure can block the wind. If Old Man Winter has taken his toll, then join us at our Windbreak Clinic.

We'll be talking about everything including what species are most suitable to Cedar County, how to locate a windbreak for best results, planting instructions and proper care and maintenance for your windbreak. We'll also talk about funding sources that may help defray establishment costs.

Speakers are Paul Wray from the ISU Extension Office, Kevin Kelly from Kelly Tree Farm and Mark Hseke from the Cedar SWCD Office.

There's no cost. We'll have fresh donuts and hot coffee! Hope to see you there.

CEDAR-WAPSI

PHEASANTS FOREVER BANQUET

Mark your calendars for March 15th! The PF banquet will be held at HiWay Gardens in Stanwood. The meal will be served at 7:00 pm, the doors open at 5:30. Tickets are \$35 for the membership dinner and \$15 for the spouse dinner.

The chapter has been hard at work since the last banquet. Cost-share was provided to landowners establishing 75 acres of prairie grass seedings. 3500 trees and shrubs were passed out to local landowners for wildlife habitat. Over \$400 was donated to schools for outdoor classrooms.

Yet one of the greatest accomplishments that the PF chapter achieved in 1996 is the purchase of 60 ac. of land that will be managed by the Cedar County Conservation Board! Pheasant and other wildlife cover (and food plots) will be established. Hunting will be allowed on nearly 60 acres.

Thanks to all those that contribute to the Cedar-Wapsi PF Chapter. Your donations really payed off. For more information call Jeff at 319-452-3965.

ANIMAL NUTRIENT MEETING

The ISU Extension will hold a workshop for producers on Managing Manure Nutrients. It will be held Feb. 12th at 1:00 at the Cedar County Extension Office. No fee. Reservations should be made by calling 886-2157.

February 97

WINDBREAK COST-SHARE

If planting a windbreak this spring is on your mind, you may want to check out these cost-share programs:

REAP program

This cost-share program is funded through the Cedar SWCD office. Folks wanting a windbreak around their farmsteads are most generally eligible for this cost-share program. Up to 75% of the costs can be reimbursed to approved applicants. Contact the office at 886-6214 for details.

CRP program

The CRP program offers landowners with cropland an opportunity to cost-share two different types of windbreaks and be paid an annual payment for 10 to 15 years. The annual rental rate is based on the CSR of the soil. Rental rates range from \$69 to \$181 per acre. So, the applicant receives an annual payment as well as reimbursed for a portion of the cost of the trees. For specific information, contact the FSA or NRCS office. The following will help answer general questions.

Farmstead windbreaks can be established on cropland through the CRP program. Up to 50% of the costs can be reimbursed to the applicant.

Field windbreaks can also be established on cropland. The cost-share rates are similar, but the annual rental rate includes a 20% bonus for the life of the contract. This is a great opportunity for someone wanting to plant trees for wind control and wildlife.

DRAINAGE AND THE 1996 FARM BILL

The 1996 Farm Bill maintained the Swampbuster Provision that has been with us since 1985. There are a some minor differences, but wetland protection is still tied to program benefits.

What should you do if your planning to do drainage work (such as tiling, ditching, uprooting trees, etc.) on your farm in the future? Contact the NRCS office well in advance of the work. The NRCS will conduct a wetland determination for you. Knowing if wetlands exist in the work area is essential for making the best drainage decision.

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 9 7

Farm Service
AgencyCedar County FSA Office
P.O. Box 404
Tipton, IA. 52772Office Hours
8:00am-4:30pm
Mon. - Fri.

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Steve Bockwoldt
Jim Dodds
Bill Elijah
Dustan Svoboda, Ag Credit Manager
Richard Kleppe, CED

OFFICE PERSONNEL:

Pat Christensen, Ginny DeWu
Ron Hougas, Jeff Meier,
Renee Schultz, Pam Spear,
Glenda Schroeder

NEW CED FOR CEDAR COUNTY

Richard Kleppe assumed the position of FSA County Executive Director in Cedar County on January 21. He was previously CED in Keokuk County for eight and one half years. Richard first started working for ASCS in the Cedar County office and farmed in Cedar County many years before joining ASCS in 1987.

CHECK CONDITION OF STORED GRAIN

We are receiving several reports of grain going out of condition. Due to these reports, we will be increasing our spot checks on grain under loan for both condition and quantity. Remember, grain quality is your responsibility. Check it regularly.

CRP CONTINUOUS SIGNUP

Persons wishing to enroll certain critically sensitive areas may do so at any time. There have been a few changes since prior signups. Producers must have owned or operated the land for one year prior to enrollment. The land must have been cropped two years during 1992 thru 1996. The only practices eligible for continuous sign up are: filter strips, riparian buffers, shelter belts, living snow fences, field windbreaks, grassed waterways, and shallow water areas for wildlife.

FSA will take the application, review cropping history and determine owner/operator qualifications. NRCS will determine the types of soil, soil predominance and establish the bid cap. Certain practices also will be eligible for a 20% bonus. Eligible producers bidding eligible land at or below the bid cap will be accepted. This will not be a competitive bid.

DAIRY REFUND

Dairy producers whose production during 1996 was less than 1995 are eligible for an assessment refund. Bring the required documents from your milk buyer to the FSA office. The refund will be for January, February, March and April. Deadline for application is March 17.

NEW OWNERS OR OPERATORS

Anytime there is a change in a farming operation such as land purchases, changing tenants, changes from crop share to cash rent, etc. this change should be reported to the FSA office. This year some leases were not in place in time to receive the January 15 advance payment. When a new lease is arranged, report it to the FSA office so the total payment for 1997 may be issued in September.

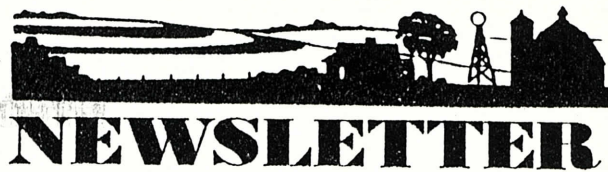
THANKS & GOOD LUCK

We would like to thank Lynda Sturdy and Jodi Kofron for their years of service to Cedar County FSA and its producers. The county committee and staff wish them well in their future endeavors.

**Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District**1201 North Avenue
Tipton, IA 52772NonProfit Org.
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Permit No. 5

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



NEWSLETTER

205 West South; Ste 2, Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

Aug/Sept 97

CONVERTING LAND FROM THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

If you have a field that will be converted from the Conservation Reserve Program (10 year set aside) to cropland in 1998, you probably need a conservation plan. Land that is Highly Erodible must be planned to acceptable soil loss limits in order for the producer to remain eligible for program benefits.

There are many options that you may want to consider. If contouring is feasible on your land, you should plan on attending the Bufferstrip Field Day.

Options that can be used to convert this land varies. If no-till is planned, it is recommended that you mow the sod after August 1st. This will reduce the thatch for better coverage of the burn down. Also, some regrowth is desirable before spraying. For more information check-out our No-till videos which are available for home viewing.

Most conversion methods can be used as long as soil losses are maintained at acceptable levels. Your staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service can assist you in writing the plan.

LOCAL FARMER APPLIES AN ALUMINUM WEIR NOTCH

Roscoe Millet decided to eliminate a nuisance on his farm this summer. He had a gully that was 4 foot deep and advancing into his pasture. It wasn't only a nuisance, but a real hazard for him and his operators. So, he visited with Judy Hagan, a soil conservation technician at the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District to see what method was best for eliminating the gully. After a survey and some number crunching, Roscoe decided to install an aluminum wier notch structure at the fenceline.

Aluminum wier notches are fabricated at the manufacturer. The structure is delivered in several sections depending on the size. The sections are bolted together on the farm and set in concrete. A small berm is built to

direct the runoff in heavy rains through the notch.

These kind of structures are often eligible for State cost-share funds from the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District. Roscoe was approved for 50% cost-share on his structure. The cost-share helps landusers install quality practices that will last for many years.

Other practices that are cost-shared through the District include terraces, grassed waterways, grassed chutes, ponds, windbreaks, and tree plantings. There are eligibility criteria that must be met. Applications can be made at the Natural Resources Conservation Service located at the USDA Service Center in Tipton.

FIRST ANNUAL CEDAR COUNTY HAY CONTEST

The Cedar County Hay Producers held a hay contest at the Cedar County Fair this year. Contestants brought small square bails in two divisions. Winners of the alfalfa hay division were Cedarcrest Farm - 1st place and George Driscoll - 2nd place. Winners of the mixed hay division were Bob Davidson - 1st place and Cedarcrest Farm - 2nd place. Contestants were awarded ribbons. They also received some terrific prizes including several bags of alfalfa seed, a gift certificate for \$200, gloves, twine, and clips. A special thanks to our sponsors who helped make our first annual contest a success.

Clarance Coop
Davis Farm Equip Co.
Dekalb - Craig Schroder
Hargrave Co. Inc.
Liqui-Grow Fertilizer
Northrup King - Kevin Kiehl
Pioneer HiBred International Inc. - Bob Diercks
Thiesens Farm & Home of Tipton
Maddy Nutrition Corp. of Clinton
Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association

Look for next years contest at the Cedar County Fair!

CONTOUR BUFFERSTRIPS:

Can you afford to have them?

You've seen them around. One or two strips of grass that curve around the slope within the crop field. They look nice and they break up the steeper slopes, but if you're like many farmers, you don't need the hay. So, how can you afford to have contour bufferstrips seeded down on your farm?

The new Conservation Reserve Program has the answer. This is a new and very different program from the one we've known over the years. Here's how it works:

A rental rate is computed based on the corn suitability rating of the land that is taken out of production. We tell you the rental rate up front. No guess work on your part. If you like the rental rate that we offer and the layout of the bufferstrip, you simply sign a 10 year contract. Your application never leaves the county. Its reviewed and approved right here locally.

So, why should you consider contour bufferstrips on your farm? There's quite a few reasons. One is that the payments being made are very attractive. Here are some other reasons to consider:

- * Field borders are eligible under this program if they are attached to the bufferstrip. So, not only are you paid on the bufferstrip, but you are paid on the field border as well. That's a nice feature.

- * They reduce soil erosion. Contour bufferstrips can cut soil losses by as much as 30%. Runoff is absorbed as it flows across the grass strip. The soil in the cropland immediately below the strip experiences less runoff and less cutting. A good contour bufferstrip can make your conservation plan more flexible.

- * In most layouts, the bufferstrips will take out the steeper slopes. So, the remaining field is flatter to farm.

- * Bufferstrips filter sediment and chemicals from runoff during high rainfall. This is good for the cropland and the streams below.

- * Upland game birds benefit from the grass strips year round.

They're good for nesting and winter cover.

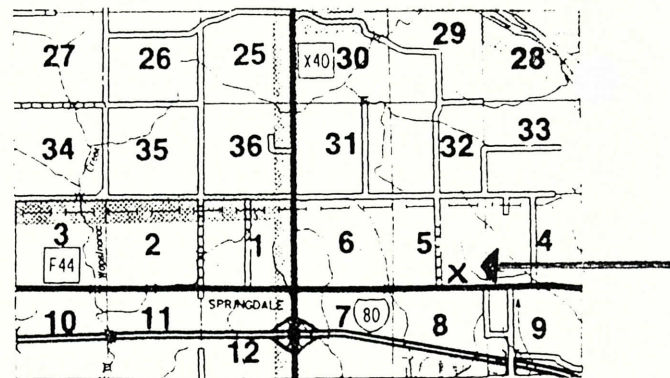
If contour bufferstrips have a place on your farm, give us a call at 886-6214 or stop by the NRCS in the new USDA Service Center. Attend the FIELD DAY on August 26. It will be a great chance to see how this practice is being used in Cedar County.

CONTOUR BUFFERSTRIP FIELD DAY

The Cedar SWCD is hosting a field day on August 26. We'll meet at the Ken & Jan Mather farmstead at 6:30 PM. We will be looking at the contour bufferstrips on the Cliff Bowie and the Anders Mather farm. It will be an opportunity to discuss this practice and how to fit it into the new Conservation Reserve Program.

Ken & Jan Mather farmstead is located on F44 two miles east of the Springdale corner on the north side of the road.

Watch for the FIELD DAY signs. Refreshments provided!



FSA SEEKS TO UPDATE VOTER LIST

Wives who share in the farming operation, such as name on land deed, are eligible voters and should notify the FSA office to update their records. In the past, FSA has only required one producer's name per family for program participations, and this resulted in people to not be on the list of eligible voters and not receiving nomination forms or ballots.

The election is held Nov. 17 to Dec. 1. Nominations must be received by Oct. 27. Ballots will be mailed by Nov. 17. Call the FSA office at 886-6061 for more info.



Tipton, IA 52772
201 North Avenue

Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District

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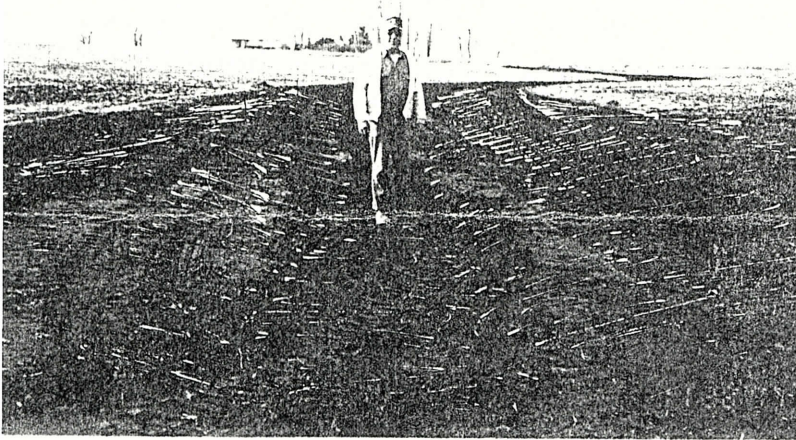
Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District

NEWSLETTER

205 West South; Ste 2, Tipton, IA 52772 Phone 886-6214

DEC 97/JAN 98



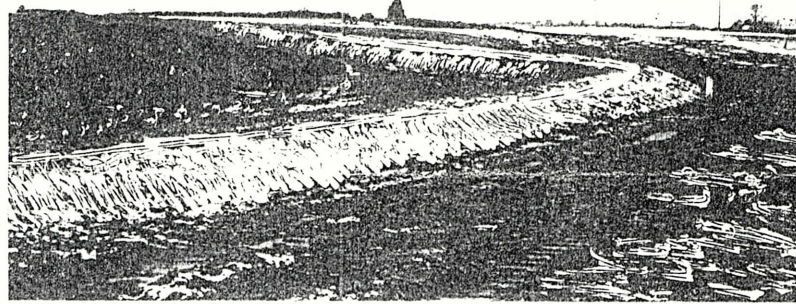
Gary Ciha in his newly shaped grassed waterway

Gary Ciha contacted the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District to reestablish one of his grassed waterways. The "parabolic shape" of the waterway needed to be reconstructed to convey the runoff safely from the field. "Gary's waterway is designed to handle a five inch rain in a 24 hour period." Mark Fehseke, DC at the Tipton Field Office explains. "A properly shaped and seeded waterway will convey runoff without eroding away the sod even when rainfalls up to five inches occur. This meets the needs of most sites quite adequately."

The problem we see with older waterways is due to siltation that causes loss of capacity in the waterway. The first signs of an aging waterway are those ruts that bear along the edges of the grass.

There's really only one thing that can be done and that's reconstruction of the "parabolic" shape that is so important in a grassed waterway.

Edith Fulwider also requested assistance from the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District. She too had waterway concerns, but took a different approach to resolving them.



Terrace construction on Edith Fulwider's farm

Edith was looking for a more maintenance-free answer to her waterway concerns and is constructing a top terrace to reduce the need for waterways. Some landscapes need multiple waterways seeded across a hillside. Terraces become an excellent alternative to seeding multiple waterways.

The idea behind constructing a "top" terrace on a hillside is based on the need to catch the majority of runoff before it concentrates in the waterway. If more terraces below that top terrace is needed later, they can be added. Getting the top terrace established is critical in reducing runoff and in many cases catches 50% or more of the area draining down the hillside. That's important when waterways are hard to hold or maintenance is a factor.

The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District is proud to offer farmers financial assistance through its District cost share program. Cost sharable practices include grassed waterways, terraces, weir notches, grass chutes and other structures that will reduce erosion and improve Cedar County's soil resource. Our soil has always been highly productive and will continue to be so with the good care that farmers give to the land.

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.



F A R M S E R V I C E A G E N C Y N E W S L E T T E R

PAYMENT LIMITATION

Most programs administered by our office are subject to payment limitation rules and regulations. Some of the annual payment limits are: AMTA - \$40,000, CRP - \$50,000, & EQIP - \$10,000. Producers are required to notify the County Office of any changes in the farming operation which would affect a "person", "actively engaged in farming", cash rent tenant, or foreign person determination. Spouses may be considered separate "persons" for payment limitation purposes if this determination is requested and applicable requirements are met. All determinations are subject to year end reviews.



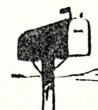
PRICE SUPPORT

Price support loans are available until May 31. The sealing rate for corn is \$1.86 and \$5.27 for soybeans. Permission to sell the grain must be requested before movement. Feeders must repay the grain before feeding. Penalties are very high for those not following these rules. COC may also require future loans to be on warehouse receipts.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Jim Dodds has been reelected to serve 3 years on the county committee. First alternate - Dean Jedlicka; second alternate - Laura Schott and CMC member - Ron Schott. A big "thank you" to all persons participating in the election.



DIRECT DEPOSITS

Direct deposits are available for all CCC payments. All payments issued after January 1, 1999, will be issued by direct deposit, unless the producer certifies they do not have a bank account. To avoid delays in payments, producers must notify our office any time there is a change in their bank status, such as a name change for producer or bank.



EARLY RELEASE CRP

Producers wishing to early release CRP must request at least 60 days in advance. Certain practices, steeper slopes and land enrolled less than 5 years are not eligible. Land that was enrolled after January 1, 1995, is not eligible.



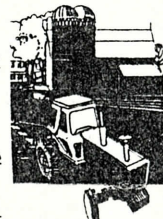
ENROLLING CRP BASE REDUCTION IN AMTA

Producers that had CRP expire September 30, 1997, have until the earlier of: when a reconstitution is requested, date enrolled in AMTA or April 3, if advanced payment not requested, to reinstate their base reduction. If the bases are not protected at that time they will be lost permanently.



FARM LOAN PROGRAM

FSA's guaranteed and direct loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. Often, these are beginning farmers who can't qualify for conventional loans because they have insufficient net worth or too few assets. In other cases, these are farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disaster, or have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations. FSA also makes Youth Project loans, Farm Ownership loans and Emergency loans to those eligible and meeting loan requirements. Contact FSA for details.



FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

Farm reconstitutions, combining and/or dividing, farms must be requested before the advanced payment is issued. After the payment is issued the farm can not be reconned; but a successor-in-inter will be used to complete the year.



Important dates:

- Dec. 15 - Dec. AMTA payments issued
- Dec. 25 & 26 and Jan. 1 - Office Closed - Holidays
- Jan. 1 - Price Support interest adjusted for balance of year
- Jan. 15 - Jan. AMTA payments issued

Richard Kleppe
Richard Kleppe - CED Cedar County FSA

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



THE STAFF AT USDA SERVICE CENTER WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE THE VERY MERRIES" CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

205 W South; Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772; Phone 886-6214 ext 202

FEB/MAR 98

CONSERVATION DISTRICT MAKES COST-SHARE AVAILABLE

The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District has various funding sources for cost-share projects. The following article describes the various types of cost-share that is available. Contact the Conservation District at 886-6214 ext. 202 for more information.

INTENSIVE GRAZING SYSTEMS

The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting applications from producers planning to set up intensive grazing systems. Items that are cost-shareable include water lines to paddocks, interior paddock fences, nose pumps and pasture plantings.

WATERWAYS AND TERRACES

Cost-share is available for constructing grassed waterways and terraces. Cost-share rates of up to 50% are available.

WINDBREAKS/TREES

Cost-share is available for farmstead windbreaks, tree plantings and timber stand improvement projects. Up to 75% cost-share is available. Spring is on its way! Now is the time to start planning for planting trees.

BUFFER STRIPS

The Conservation Reserve Program, administered through the Farm Service Agency, pays landusers to set aside environmentally sensitive areas. This program pays landowners an annual payment for 10 to 15 years depending on the practice. It also cost-shares the establishment of the vegetation used in the practice. The annual payment is based on the CSR rating of the land. Applicants may sign up anytime. Land that has been cropped 2 out of the last 5 years is eligible. Since it is a noncompetitive program, applications are accepted automatically if the site qualifies. A definition of each practice is listed:

Filterstrips - a strip of switchgrass planted along a stream. The width may range between 66 and 99 feet. Only cropland is eligible.
Riparian Forest Buffers- a strip of trees and switchgrass planted along a stream. The width of the buffer may range between 100 and 150 feet. Cropland and marginal pastureland are eligible.

Contour Buffer Strips- a strip of grass that lies on the contour to reduce erosion and filter sediments. Only cropland is eligible.

Windbreaks- a conifer tree planting along a farmstead or field edge. Only cropland is eligible.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

Cropland (and in some cases pastureland) can be enrolled into the wetland reserve program. There are three options available for enrolling land into this program. Landowners along the Cedar and Wapsipinicon Rivers have already enrolled nearly 700 acres to date.
Permanent easements: The landowner is offered 100% of the appraised dollar value. The Natural Resources Conservation Service pays 100% of the costs of establishing wetland practices on the site. A wetland easement "buys out" the cropping rights to the land while the landowner maintains ownership. The residual value of the land is very marketable.

30 year easements: The landowner is offered 75% of the appraised dollar value for 30 year easements. 75% of the costs of establishing wetland practices on the site is paid for by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Restoration cost-share agreements: The landowner enters into a long term agreement of 10 years or longer and is paid 75% of the costs of restoring the wetland. No easement is recorded. This option works well for someone who wants to restore a wetland on their property, but isn't interested in an easement.

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP

Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring a scholarship competition for senior students living in Cedar County that are planning to further their education in agricultural or environmental related fields.

Two \$200 scholarships will be awarded. Deadline is Feb. 20. For applications and information call 886-6214 ext 130.

PHEASANTS FOREVER BANQUET

The Cedar-Wapsi Pheasant Forever banquet will be held on March 28th at the Hi-Way Gardens, Stanwood. The chapter plans to have another great year. Plans to enhance pheasant and other bird habitat include cost-sharing switchgrass on land throughout Cedar County.

Pheasants Forever is a great place to volunteer. The local chapter purchases land and helps private landowners establish plantings to improve wildlife habitat. For more information, contact Jeff Meier, at 886-6061 ext. 112 for details.

CRP NESTING SEASON

The nesting season for CRP will be May 15 thru August 1. Producers must request PRIOR permission to mow or spray to control weeds. This is for spot control and does not include the whole field.

FSA ADJUSTING TRACT DATA

It appears FSA may be tracking parcels of land by tracts and not farm numbers in the future. Producers with several tracts, will be receiving a letter in early March showing their tract data. After receiving the letter, there will only be one opportunity to correct this data. Watch closely for that letter. An example: two tracts, one highly productive and one with lower quality land, that may have been pasture. Bases may be split equally among the two tracts. The producer may wish the highly productive land to have a higher base.

EIHPA ANNUAL MEETING AND SEMINAR

February 5th, 1998
Buzzy's Tap in Welton, Iowa

"Marketing Hay" will be our subject at the '98 Annual Meeting. Le good marketing techniques from speakers who will give a short presentation on their experiences. This will be followed by a moderated panel discussion to answer your questions.

Hay Marketing Panel:

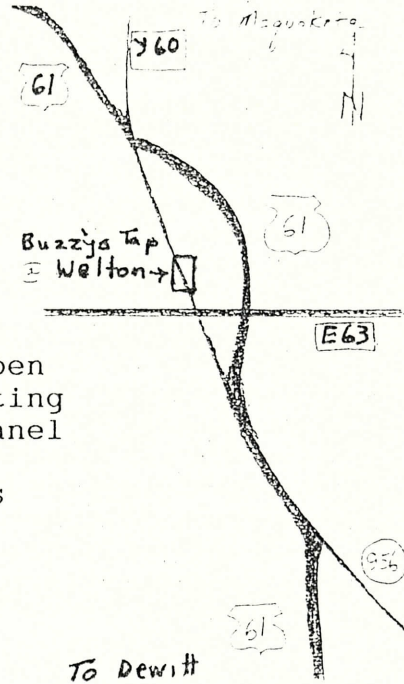
Jay Van Wert - Producer/Broker
Jay's Hay Company: New Hampton, IA

Don Klindt - Producer/Broker
Scott County, IA

Ron Tombaugh - Producer/broker
Manville, IL

Tony Harvey - ISU Dairy/Beef/Forage Specialist, will be the moderator

Of course, a great meal will be provided with each paid membership, guaranteed to satisfy your winter appetite! Door prizes will be awarded. 1998 memberships are \$45 and can be renewed at the door. See you on the 5th!



9:30 am Doors open
10 am Hay Marketing
Speakers and Panel
12 pm Lunch
1:45 Door Prizes



205 W South; Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Soil & Water Conservation District
County

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CEDAR COUNTY USDA
SERVICE CENTER NEWSLETTER
MAY 1998

Farm Service
Agency

Cedar County
USDA Service Center
205 West South St.
Tipton, IA. 52772

Natural Resources &
Conservation Service

Office Hours - 8:am to 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday
Closed - May 25 - Memorial Day and July 3 - Independence Day

CHANGES IN HOW FARM RECORDS ARE MAINTAINED

The Farm Service Agency has recently updated the way farm crop records are maintained. The farm's total acres in the Production Flexibility Program and the payment yields for the farm have not changed. However, this data is now maintained for each tract of land on the farm.

A tract consists of contiguous land that is under one ownership. The new records provide farm owners and operators with more detailed and readily available information for each tract of land on the farm. The tract information represents contract acres and yield for each crop that would be applicable to that tract if a request is ever made to divide the tract from the rest of the farm.

In late April, a letter was mailed to all owners and operators of farms with more than one tract to inform them how FSA has distributed these acres among the tracts on a farm. Various records available in the county office were used to distribute acres to each tract. We believe the methods used to distribute these acres are accurate, based on the available historic information we have for each farm. If you believe the acreage or yield data are not correct for your farm, you have until June 12, 1998, to request the County Committee review the data for your farm. Your request must be in writing and must contain specific reasons why you believe the information is incorrect. We urge you to carefully review the information in the April letter. If a written request for review is not filed by June 12, 1998, the acres and yields associated with each tract are considered final with no further options for review.

CHANGES IN FARMING OPERATIONS

Producers are reminded to immediately notify the County Office when there is a change in the farming operation. Changes not reported timely may result in a producer being ineligible for farm program payments. If ownership or lease arrangements change on a farm enrolled in the Production Flexibility Contract (PFC), producers are to notify the County Office within 30 days. A PFC contract must be revised on or before August 1, 1998, to change the 1998 shares for producers presently on the contract or to add a new producer for the 1998 payment.

DIVIDING CONTRACT ACRES WHEN SELLING PART OF THE FARM

If you are contemplating selling a portion of the farm, or selling whole farm to two or more buyers, you are urged to contact the county office before completing the sale. In many cases, you may be able to designate how contract acreage (crop bases) will be divided. You must make this designation before the sale is completed or formulas established in the federal regulations will be used to divide the bases.

CROP INSURANCE PREVENTED PLANTING UPDATE

The prevented planting coverage has been improved for 1998. Coverage for coarse grains, has been increased from 50 to 60 percent of yield guarantee with the option for farmers to increase their prevented planting coverage to 65 or 70 percent. Farmers will now be paid on a per-acre basis for the acreage they were prevented from planting. Substitute crops are no longer allowed, except for cover crops that will not be harvested.

Possible prevented planting losses must be reported to your crop insurance company by the acreage reporting date. Farmers need to contact their crop insurance agent to learn about other changes in prevented planting coverage.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

Landowners who enter into contracts under EQIP sign 5-10 year contracts. Practices and plans are to treat the land to a sustainable level for the primary resource concerns. Cedar County was not included in one of the 52 approved areas for 1998. However, we are eligible for the statewide resource concerns: livestock manure management, soil erosion, grazing lands, and water quality. Sign-up for EQIP continues thru May 15, 1998.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The 1996 Act continued NAP for crops for which multiple peril insurance coverage is not available in the county. NAP payments are made to eligible producers when the expected "area" yield is less than 65% of normal and individual crop losses are in excess of 50 percent of the approved yield. To be eligible for this assistance, producers must: timely report planted acreage each year, keep verifiable records of actual production for the current and past years (the level of assistance is based on the producer's actual production history for prior years). Timely report crop losses or conditions that prevent planting of the crop. A notice of loss must be filed before the acreage is destroyed or devoted to another use. The notice of loss must be filed as soon as a loss is apparent and before the damaged crop is harvested, or otherwise destroyed or before the acreage is planted to another crop. You must:

- be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland compliance regulations
- complete applicable "person" determination forms
- timely request payments by completing form FCI-74 if losses exceed 50 percent and the area loss requirements are met
- certify they do not have gross income in excess of \$2 million
- if you qualified for NAP assistance in a prior year, you must continue to provide production records in subsequent years to maintain an Actual Production History (APH) for the crop. This APH will be used to establish eligibility if you apply for assistance on that crop in future years. The APH information must be submitted no later than June 30, following the year of harvest.

EXPIRED CRP LAND BEING CROPPED

Producers who will be cropping former CRP acres must follow a conservation plan if the expired CRP field is on highly erodible land in order to be eligible for USDA benefits.

WITH THE LATE SPRING, WE SOMETIMES ARE TIRED AND RUSHED.
TAKE THE TIME TO BE CAREFUL AND HAVE A SAFE PLANTING SEASON.

PRIMARY NESTING SEASON/CRP

The primary nesting season for Iowa is May 15 thru Aug 1. Producers are NOT allowed to mow or spray weed infested CRP acreages during these dates without authorization from the County Committee in consultation with NRCS. The control of weeds is only authorized on the affected area during the primary nesting season, and permission must be requested in advance. Cosmetic or periodic mowing is NOT allowed at any time on CRP acres.

CONTINUOUS CRP SIGN UP 17

For sign up 17, thru June 30, 1998, acreage that was enrolled in CRP that expired on September 30, 1997, which does not meet the requirement to be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity, may be re-offered for enrollment, if all other eligibility requirements are met. This will primarily affect land eligibility for continuous sign up of waterways.

Land that meets all eligibility requirements for continuous CRP may be enrolled through September 30, 1998.

ACREAGE CERTIFICATION/CROP DATA COLLECTION

Producers are required to file an acreage report by the final reporting date (June 30) for the following benefits: AMTA program when fruits and vegetables are produced on the farm, Price Support loans and loan deficiency programs, CRP acres and NAP (Non-insured Assistance Program) crops. County offices will accept acreage reports from all producers who wish to report their crop acreage for any purpose.

FINAL LOAN AVAILABILITY DATE

June 1, 1998, is the final date to obtain a CCC loan on 1997-crop corn and soybeans. The interest rate for May 1998 is 6.375%.

STORABILITY OF LOAN COLLATERAL

As warmer weather approaches, producers are reminded to check the condition of their farm-stored grain. If there is evidence of spoilage, contact our office for guidance. Producers are responsible for dockage.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

A new cost-share program is available for landowners wanting to plant SHELTERBELTS. Shelterbelts are composed of 8 to 14 rows of shrubs and trees to reduce effects of wind and snow. Shelterbelts provide wildlife habitat, livestock shelter, and moisture conservation for crops. Interested persons should contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 886-6006 ext 202. Landowners are eligible for 75% cost share.

Richard Kleppe - CED

Dustan Svoboda - ACM

Mark Fehseke - DC

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District

205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

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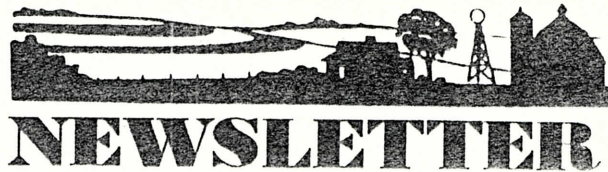
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Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



W South Ste 2; Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

July/Aug 98

Grass Strips Promoted in Cedar County

Grass strips are appearing in cropland along streams and across hillsides throughout Cedar County. Many of them are part of the Continuous CRP sign-up. The CRP pays farmers an annual payment for 10 to 15 years to seed filterstrips along creeks and contour bufferstrips on sloping hillsides.

The Continuous CRP doesn't work like the regular sign-up. Farmers are told up front what the rental rate will be paid to them if they choose to sign up. And there's no guess work to determine if they will be accepted. If the area is eligible, the farmer simply enters into a contract for the program. So, there's no guess work involved.

The grass strips reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. Recognizing these traits in grass strips, the DNR, Pheasants Forever and the Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District pooled their funding to promote the Continuous CRP program in Cedar County. The promotion will primarily focus on assisting producers in determining whether they have land eligible for strips. Letters are sent to the producer if it is likely that their land will qualify for the program. The letter explains the options that are feasible and lists the approximate rental rate that one could receive on the strip. It also includes a map that depicts the proposed placement of the strip(s). If they are interested in more information, a technician from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will come out to their farm to discuss the site and answer questions about the program. The special funding for this promotion will end in September, so producers are encouraged to contact the NRCS soon at 886-6214 for one-on-one assistance.

To Mow or not to Mow

Mowing CRP land isn't always against the rules. Certainly an established CRP field that NRCS has considered good cover should not be mowed during the nesting season which is between May 15 and August 1. Yet, there are times when mowing is essential and required.

Noxious weeds like thistles must be controlled. That is required in the CRP contract. So, when noxious weeds exist, spot mowing and spraying may be necessary even if it is during the nesting season. A producer that needs to mow or spray should contact the FSA office at 886-6061 or the NRCS office at 886-6214. Sites will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Approval from the FSA County Committee must be given before work begins.

What about severe cases? Yes, it is possible to be given permission to mow or spray entire fields. Weeds should never be allowed to get out of hand. It is the responsibility of the producer to keep CRP land clean from noxious weeds. It's required. Contact the NRCS or FSA before beginning work.

Newly seeded CRP is altogether different. One must ensure that young grasses are given the best environment to establish. Monitor routinely. New seedings may need to be mowed the first year or two (or three). Oats should never be allowed to head out. It defeats the purpose of the nurse crop when they are allowed to use the moisture from the new seeding. Weeds such as Giant Ragweed and other broad leaf weeds shade-out new seedings. Rule of thumb: Mow the first year once per month with a flail type mower (never a sickle-type) to control weeds in the establishment period. If the seeding is switchgrass, do NOT mow shorter than 8 inches high. Mowing shorter can kill young and mature switchgrass. Permission to mow or spray is automatic. You do not need to contact FSA or NRCS for permission if the seeding is in the establishment period.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
RESTORES FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS ON RIVERS IN IOWA**

The WRP is a USDA program that producers can use to restore wetlands on floodplain cropland. The USDA pays the producer the appraised value of the land in exchange for an easement that retires the land from cropping. As much as 25% of the area may consist of noncropland and still be part of the easement payment. The restoration work may include earthwork to construct shallow water areas, tree plantings and prairie grass plantings. NRCS pays for 100 percent of the restoration and easement costs. It's a good alternative for producers frustrated with flooding and crop damages.

Cedar County have over 670 acres of floodplains already under easement through the Wetland Reserve Program and Emergency Wetland Reserve Program. The EWRP was especially designed to help landowners recover from damages caused by the great flood of 1993. Both programs have been used to restore wetland values important for water quality. Wetlands act as "bladders" for both our ground and surface waters. Rain is captured in to low lying areas where it undergoes physical and biological processes that clean contaminants from the water. Iowa lost more than 90 percent of its wetlands in the past century. Restoring wetlands is important for Iowa's environment.

The Wetland Reserve Program continues to be funded. Producers apply at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office by completing an application and ranking form. The applicant is not obligated until he or she agrees to the appraised easement offer.

Wetlands can be developed on the upland via the Conservation Reserve Program. It includes a practice that landowners can use to create shallow water areas on up to five acres of upland cropland. It pays for 50% of the cost of building a small dam for storing shallow water. It also pays a ten year rental payment for the area taken out of production. Once the ten years has expired, the producer can return the site to its former condition for farming. Creating a wetland to filter sediments from runoff can effectively improve water quality. This program is especially attractive since it is part of the Continuous Signup under the Conservation Reserve Program.



Wetland on Cedar River Bottom
Estate of Edward F. Rate



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205 W South Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Cost-share for Conservation Practices

The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District has cost-share funding available for producers wanting to construct conservation practices. The District will consider applications for grassed waterways, terraces, weir notches, chutes and other grade stabilization structures that will control erosion. Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 886-6214.

Soil Conservation Technician Position

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has opened a vacancy in the Tipton Field Office for a soil conservation technician. If interested, call (319) 886-6214 for details. 205 W South Ste 2 Tipton, Iowa 52772

CEDAR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWSLETTER

July 1998

DIRECT DEPOSITS

Direct deposits are required this fall for 1998 price support loans and LDP's. Direct deposits are required for ALL USDA payments, including PFC, after Jan. 1, 1999. If the producer certifies they do not have a bank account or price support loans are issued as joint payments, then payments may be issued by check. To avoid delays in payments producers must notify the FSA office any time there is a change in their bank status, such as a name change or change in the account for producer or bank. Direct deposit forms can be picked up at the FSA Office any time.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Producers wishing to early release CRP must request the release at least 60 days in advance. Certain practices, and steeper slopes are not eligible for early release. Land must have been in CRP 5 years.

Producers that have CRP expire September 30, 1998, have until the later of: when a reconstitution is requested, date enrolled in AMTA or November 30 to reinstate their base reduction. If the bases are not protected at that time they will be lost permanently.

CRP payments will be issued shortly after October 1, 1998.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

Muscatine and Johnson Counties have been declared Presidential Designated disaster counties. Since Cedar County is an adjoining county, Emergency Loans may be available to eligible producers. To qualify, there must be a 30% loss of production and commercial credit must not be available.

Check with FSA on availability of Beginning Farmer Loans and Youth Loans.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) covers all commercial crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. Area of loss must cover: a county, 320,000 acres or \$80 million of crops. This area must have a 35% loss. Some crops covered are: alfalfa & forage, fruits, vegetables, fish, floriculture, nursery crops, Christmas trees, sod and seeds. Payment rate is 60% of market rate. Producers must: have 50% loss, timely filed acreage report (June 30, 1998), file notice of loss within 15 days of loss, request appraisal before destroying, provide prior years production records, notify FSA prior to commingling crops from different units. Contact FSA for more details.

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

Most programs administered by our office are subject to payment limitation rules and regulations. Some of the annual payment limits are: AMTA - \$40,000, CRP - \$50,000, EQIP - \$10,000, NAP - \$100,000 and Loan Deficiency Payments or Marketing Loan Gains - \$75,000. Producers are required to notify the County Office of any changes in the farming operation which would affect a "person", "actively engaged in farming", cash rent tenant, or foreign person determination. All determinations are subject to year end reviews, to verify the farming was done as stated. Spouses may be considered separate "persons" for payment limitation purposes if this determination is requested and applicable requirements are met.

**INFORMATION ON LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP's)
AND MARKET LOAN REPAYMENTS**

The low market prices for wheat have made LDP's & market loan repayments available. If prices continue to decline, other crops may become eligible.

LDP's are payments to producers who, although eligible to obtain a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) price support loan, agree to forgo the loan in return for a payment on the eligible commodity. The LDP rate is based on the amount that the county loan rate, where the grain is stored, exceeds the posted county price. The county loan rate and daily posted county price are available at the local FSA office. For program crops (corn, oats, and wheat) the grain must be produced on a participating farm and the producer must be at risk. Soybeans are eligible on non-participating farms if the conservation plan of operation is being followed.

The producer must have a beneficial interest in the crop at the time of application.

Ground corn and silage are not eligible. Corn test weight must be 52 pounds or better and soybeans must be 49 pounds or better. Grain must not have been previously pledged as collateral for price support loans or LDP's.

LDP's must be requested before March 31, 1999, for oats and wheat and May 31, 1999, for corn and soybeans.

1998 Loan Rates		Posted County Price (PCP) -July 23 *
Corn	\$1.86	\$2.07
Soybeans	5.27	5.90
Oats	1.08	1.11

* The Posted County Price fluctuates daily, roughly following the markets.

Wheat PCP price is based on type of wheat. PCP's are also used for oats.

There are four types of LDP's:

1. Certified LDP with a later sale.
 - Price based on date certification is completed and approved
 - Production evidence, (NOT SCALE TICKETS), must include producers name, crop year, commodity, date of delivery, gross and net bushels, date of sale, signature of buyer and proof of payment from the buyer such as settlement records
 - Production records must be provided to the county office after the sale
2. Measured LDP
 - Must be harvested grain
 - Producer pays for measurement service and grain is used for seed or
 - If sold, may use measured amount or what was delivered.
3. Field Direct LDP's
 - Producer must sign a CCC-709, Direct Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement, for a portion or all of expected production
 - Grain must go directly to market from field, only exception is drying
 - Prices will be determined each day grain is delivered
4. Warehouse stored LDP
 - Warehouse receipt will be copied for evidence
 - Rate will be county posted price the date application is approved

Producers selling directly from the field should check PCP before harvest. Livestock feeders will need records of total production. Check with our office before feeding. Also, production from separate farms must be verified.

MARKET LOAN REPAYMENTS

Sealed grain may be repaid at the LESSER of the following: principal plus interest or the CCC-determined value multiplied times the quantity being repaid. All sales and production evidence must be completed on or before May 31, 2000. The repayment rate may be locked in on the date approved by CCC, if the repayment rate is not locked in the rate will be the date repayment is received in the office.

Producers must retain beneficial interest in the crop by having control of the commodity, have the risk in case of loss and maintain title to the crop. Contract sales must be reviewed by the County Office.

GRAIN UNDER LOAN

Producers are responsible for condition of the grain at all times. Permission to sell sealed grain must be requested before movement of the grain. Feeders must purchase the grain before feeding. Penalties are very high for those not following these rules. COC may also require future loans to be on warehouse receipts.

Important dates: Aug. 15 - End of nesting season in Iowa
Sept. 7 - Office Closed - Labor Day
Sept. 15- Final PFC payments issued

Richard Kleppe - County Executive Director
Dustan Svoboda - Farm Loan Manager

**CEDAR COUNTY
CORN AND SOYBEAN EXPO***

TRADE SHOW

PRECISION FARMING

FARMER PANEL & DISCUSSION

BIO-TECH SEED OPPORTUNITIES

LEGAL ISSUES OF GRAIN CONTRACTS

**PRECISION FARMING - GPS AND VARIABLE
RATE TECHNOLOGY**

SPECIALTY GRAIN MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

**WMT LIVE BROADCAST & POWER LUNCHEON
&
ISU SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1998 - 8:30 AM
CEDAR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS - TIPTON
(luncheon cost \$5)**

*** SPONSORED BY CEDAR COUNTY CORN AND SOYBEAN
GROWERS in cooperation with Cedar County Extension.**

CEDAR COUNTY CORN AND SOYBEAN EXPO
Cedar County Fairgrounds - Tipton, August 26th, 1998

8:30 am **TRADE SHOW OPENS**

9:30 am **OPPORTUNITIES IN BIO-TECH SEEDS-** Denny Soloman, Optimum
Quality Grains

**OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LOCAL SPECIALTY GRAIN
MARKETS** - Mark Heckman, Gringer Feeds, Iowa City

LEGAL ISSUES WITH CONTRACTING - Eric Tabor & Steve
Moline, Attorney General's Office, Des Moines

10:30 - **BREAK**
10:45 am

10:45 am **DISCUSSION PANEL** - Moderator, Dan Zinkand, Iowa Farmer Today,
Cedar Rapids

John Black - Feeder of High Oil Corn
Chad Mostaert - High Oil Corn Grower
Denny Soloman
Mark Heckman
Eric Tabor

11:30 am **Lunch - WMT LIVE BROADCAST - POWER LUNCH**

12:00 noon **Climatologist** - Elwynn Taylor, ISU

12:30 pm **Power Lunch** (continued)

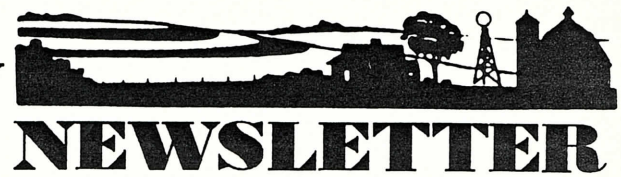
1:00 pm **PRECISION FARMING** - Brad Buchanan, Crop Tech, Ely
(is it for me and my operation?)
- Yield Monitors
- GPS (why is it important?)
- Grid Soil Sampling

1:45 pm **PRECISION FARMING** - Brad Buchanan, Crop Tech, Ely
(Beyond Yield Maps)
- Variable Rate Technology
- Fertilizer
- Lime
- Manure
- Herbicide
- The Next Step With this Technology?
- What is Coming?

Contact the Cedar County Extension Office for further information (319-886-6157).

Cedar County

Soil & Water Conservation District



205 W South Ste 2; Tipton, Iowa 52772
319-886-6214

Jan 99

NEW CRP OPTION FOR CROPLAND WITHIN 2000' OF A PUBLIC WELLHEAD

This CRP program allows cropland to be of any soil type and slope. Farmers with land near wellheads can call 886-6214 for information.

FILTERSTRIPS AND BUFFERSTRIPS

This winter will be a good time to visit about contour bufferstrips and filterstrips along creeks and how they could be used on your farm. To date, 1500 acres of these strips have been placed into the CRP program in Cedar County.

This is a noncompetitive CRP program, so the annual payment is based on established soil rental rates. There is no guess work in placing an offer! The rental rate is provided to the applicant before he/she enters into the contract.

If you are interested as to whether you have land that is eligible for this program, call NRCS at 886-6214.

ESTABLISHING SWITCHGRASS

Switchgrass seeding options:

NOTILL DRILL
switchgrass seed no deeper than 1/2 inch. Drill switchgrass as early as possible in the spring. Late March seedings usually do quite well.

TILLED SOILS should be drilled or broadcast keeping seed no deeper than 1/2 inch. It is imperative that a cultipacker is used to pack the soil for a successful seeding. The best seedings in '98 were cultipacked five times to firm the seed bed. **CULTIPACK!!!** It will hasten the germination of switchgrass which will reduce weed pressures sooner in the planting.

FROST SEEDING is another option. Rates must be increased by 50%, but this

method can be used from late January to early March. Broadcast on frozen ground just before or after a light snow (let the present snow melt away first). Use this method on untilled crop residue where flood waters are not likely to occur.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The '99 sign-up will begin on Jan. 25th and run until Feb. 5th. EQIP is a program to provide financial incentives to farmers for managed intensive grazing, organic farming, animal waste systems, pest management systems and other conservation practices. Applications are completed at the NRCS office and are ranked on a state-wide basis. Though funding is limited, we had three applicants receive cost-share for managed intensive grazing systems last year.

Producers interested in this program may call 886-6214 even before the sign-up period begins to discuss their projects.

STATE COST-SHARE AVAILABLE

Each year the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District administers cost-share dollars for reshaping waterways, building terraces, constructing weir notches and chutes, planting trees and windbreaks. The District Board reviews application for tree plantings and windbreaks in their February meeting. Applicants should call 886-6214 or visit the NRCS office to discuss their projects.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE STILL CRITICAL

Conservation compliance, HEL fields, residue management, grassed waterways, and many other conservation terms have

All SCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

had a far greater meaning than mere words to producers maintaining eligibility for farm program benefits. Those words have meant risk, investments, and change in most producer's operations. All of that commitment to conservation work has been critical. Not just for maintaining farm program benefits, though that continues to be a high priority to most producers. But, more importantly, because the fertility and productivity of the soil is truly important to most farmers.

Is residue management still required on HEL fields? YES. Most conservation plans have been written for continuous corn and corn-bean rotations which need a blanket of residue to protect the soil from erosion. The amount of residue depends on the soil type, slope, and other applied practices (such as contouring) to control sheet erosion. Grassed waterways and field borders protect the fields from gully erosion. And protecting the soil from erosion is what conservation compliance is all about. Maintaining planned and applied practices keeps the soil productive and the producer eligible for program benefits. Maintenance of conservation practices remains critical for meeting conservation compliance.

**LOREN EHLERS
JOINS NRCS STAFF**

My name is Loren Ehlers and on October 11, 1998, I joined the Cedar County Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Conservation Technician. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is not new to me. Previously I worked part-time with the NRCS in Sioux City, Ia. That experience has provided me with the opportunity to provide the necessary services to you, the customer.

I come from a family farm near Merville in Northwest Iowa. Most of our agricultural production was corn and alfalfa. We also have a cow-calf herd.

I received my Bachelor of Science degree from South Dakota State University with a major in Agricultural Business and a minor in Agronomy, graduating in December 1996.

Farming and agriculture is ever-changing and I am looking forward to the challenges that are ahead. Currently I am in trainee status so most of my duties will be to learn as much as I can to aid you. Part of my duties also includes the initial installation of contour buffers strips and waterways. I hope in the future we can learn together and help to conserve some of the best soil in the country for tomorrow's generation.

**FSA NONINSURED CROP DISASTER
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

NAP is for crops which MPCCI coverage is not available. Payments are made to eligible producers when the expected "area" yield is less than 65% of normal and individual crop losses are in excess of 50% of the approved yield. To be eligible for this assistance, producers must: timely report planted acreage, keep verifiable records of actual production for the current and past years. Timely report crop losses or conditions that prevent planting of the crop. FSA must be notified of a loss before the acreage is destroyed or devoted to another use. The notice of loss must be filed as soon as a loss is apparent and before the damaged crop is harvested, or otherwise destroyed or before the acreage is planted to another crop. You must:

- be in compliance with HEL and WC regulations
- complete applicable "person" determination forms
- timely request payments by completing FCI-74 if losses exceed 50% and the area loss requirements are met
- certify gross income of less than \$2 million
- if you qualified for NAP assistance in a prior year, you must provide production records in subsequent years to maintain an APH for the crop. The APH information must be submitted no later than June 30, following the year of harvest.

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Soil & Water Conservation District**

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Oil & Water Conservation District



205 W South St.; Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

July 99

WEED CONTROL ON CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Yes!! You can (and must) control weeds on CRP. Conservation Reserve Program seedings have been looking quite good this year. However, there have been some sites that have weed patches that need mowing/spraying. Below are the **rules** that you can follow to control weeds.

ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD: Mowing and spraying is permissible and expected in the first year(s)* after planting the conservation reserve program cover. Mowing and spraying can be done even during the nesting season. Though this is not good for nesting birds and animals, it may be required in order to successfully establish desired CRP cover.

A well established stand is the best recipe for trouble free Conservation Reserve Program and good nesting cover.

*Establishment period may extend beyond the first year if the desired cover has not become competitive enough to maintain its presence in the stand. Natural Resource Conservation Service notifies the Conservation Reserve Program participant when the stand is considered established.

ESTABLISHED STANDS: Once Natural Resource Conservation Service has determined the stand to be established, the CRP acres should not be mowed/sprayed between May 15th and August 1st. However, spot mowing/spraying can still be done with County Committee approval. Request permission to do so at the Farm Service Agency. The CRP participant is required to control weeds, so permission is normally granted.

Spot mowing/spraying prior to May 15th and after August 1st is permissible without County Committee approval. However, it should be done as a "spot" treatment rather than "whole field" mowing. This ensures cover for birds and other wildlife throughout the winter and spring.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM STATUS REVIEWS

If you happen to see one of our Ford Rangers out on your Conservation Reserve Program ground, its just Status Review time again. A status review must be done on all CRP 13 and newer signups. During a status review we visit each field and identify the grasses and legumes found on the Conservation Reserve Program ground. We also check for weeds. A status review sheet is filled out with our findings and any need for additional technical services will be noted. We will mail you a copy to keep and a copy to sign and return to us. We have several hundred reviews to do this year. If you would like to go along with us on the review of your Conservation Reserve Program ground, please call the office at 886-6214.

ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS FOR DROWNED-OUT CROP GROUND

Drowned-out cropland can sometimes be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program for the Wetland Reserve Program. These can be economical solutions to habitual wet spots. We have recognized the need to get these options into farmers' hands. So, we are having an informational meeting on July 15th at 9:00 am. at the Courthouse Blue Room.

Join us and find out if there is an economical solution for your crop ground that has had too much water. Refreshments will be provided.

BRINGING CONSERVATION FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE TO YOUR BACKYARD

The nation's farmers have worked at protecting soil and water resources for more than 60 years, but, in the past ten years, progress has been remarkable. The time has come to share these successful conservation practices with non-farm neighbors.

In taking those stories to the city, this project will encourage urban people to use some of the same soil conservation, water quality wildlife

habitat and natural resource protection practices farmers have been installing.

Bringing Conservation from the Countryside to Your Backyard is a project with several components. Backyard conservation practices outlined in this project are easy and most are inexpensive. Activities can be done by individuals and families, and many practices can be adapted to community gardens, schools and other public places.

By participating in backyard conservation, urban people will feel good about positive contributions to the environment and get a better understanding of conservation on all land.

If you would like more information on the Backyard Conservation project just call our office at 886-6214 ext.3.

TECHNIQUES FOR WEED CONTROL

The following is a general guideline for controlling weeds on CRP: Oats should be clipped before the seed heads develop. Spot mow tall weeds like ragweed to prevent shading of conservation cover. Mow 8" high or higher for switchgrass, prairie grass and forbs. Cool season species such as brome and clover should not be mowed shorter than 4" high. These minimum heights are necessary to maintain plant vigor. Weeds that are 12" and shorter need not be mowed unless seeding is only a few inches tall and you believe that shading is a problem. Never use a sickle mower. Flail type mowers are essential for keeping the seeding from being "matted out". Thistles and other noxious weeds must be controlled. Mow and/or spray these weeds before seeds are produced.

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

FSA EMERGENCY LOANS

State Executive Director Robert T. Soukup announced that farm operators who have suffered major crop production and/or physical losses caused by severe storms, flooding hail and tornadoes from May 16, 1999 through May 29, 1999 for Cedar, Muscatine and Scott counties, may be eligible for FSA Emergency loans.

The Farm Service Agency may make Emergency Loans to eligible farmers which will enable them to return to their normal operations if they sustained qualifying losses resulting from natural disasters. Physical loss loans may be made to eligible farmers to enable them to repair or replace damaged or destroyed physical property essential to the success of the farming operation.

Applicants must be unable to obtain credit from other usual sources to qualify for the Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Programs assistance. The interest rate for the emergency loans is 3.75%. Applications for assistance should be completed at the Cedar county FSA office located at 205 West South St. , Tipton, Iowa.



Cedar County
Soil & Water Conservation District
205 W South St., Ste 2
Tipton, Iowa 52772

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Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

205 West South Ste 2; Tipton, Iowa 52772 Phone 886-6214

Nov '99

FARMERS ARE URGED TO SAVE SOIL, MOISTURE THIS FALL

This year's early harvest and dry conditions make it possible for farmers to till their land, but conservationists say there are some good reasons to hold off on tillage this fall.

The dry weather put this year's harvest at least a week ahead of the five year average. However, the state is short on subsoil moisture.

"Tilling the land speeds evaporation of soil moisture and also exposes top soil to erosion" says Mark Fehseke, District Conservationist at the Tipton Natural Resources Conservation Service. For economic and environmental reasons, NRCS is asking farmers to resist the urge to till this fall.

Six out of the nine Iowa crop reporting districts have subsoil moisture that is at least 67 percent short or very short, according to Iowa Agricultural Statistics. The worst conditions are in the northwest and central crop reporting districts which show subsoil moisture at 85% short to very short.

Every year the Extension Service pulls subsoil moisture samples at a farm near Bennett to determine soil moisture going into winter. "Those samples will be pulled in November" notes Jerry Long, Cedar County Extension Director. "We don't have that data yet, but we can assume Cedar's subsoil moisture may be as much as 80% short."

A State University Extension Climatologist Elwynn Taylor said if rains don't materialize, the state's subsoil moisture will be well behind normal come next spring. Below normal precipitation is forecasted through March 2000.

Farmers can preserve what subsoil moisture is still left by practicing conservation tillage and

avoiding fall field work. Conservation tillage research conducted shows that a 30% residue cover reduces evaporation potential by 30%. An 80% residue cover, consistent with no-till, reduces evaporation potential by 42%.

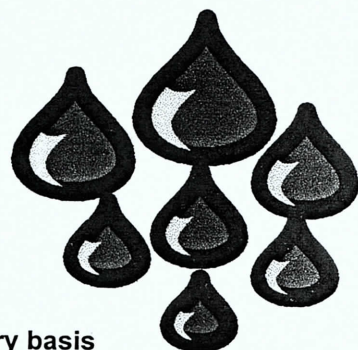
Conservation tillage reduces soil moisture evaporation and improves filtration of any precipitation we might receive during this preseason. Any tillage this fall will reduce the subsoil moisture available next summer.

"Not tilling soybean ground is especially beneficial. We've never seen any research that shows yield advantages to tilling soybean land in the fall. And that land can really blow or wash if its tilled" said State Conservationist Leroy Brown.

Conservationists also point to the need for wise use of fertilizer. Farmers applying fertilizer this fall run the risk of nutrient loss through leaching and runoff. Waiting to apply fertilizer closer to planting will minimize losses.

If it's not possible to wait, we recommend fall applying when soil temperature at the four-inch depth stays below 50 degrees. Applying realistic amounts of anhydrous ammonia, when soil temperature is most ideal, will protect inputs. Farmers should consider using a nitrogen inhibitor to help nitrogen in the soil until spring. Farmers who apply nitrogen wisely will save money and help keep excess nitrogen out of the water supplies, conservationist point out.

Farmers needing assistance with adopting conservation tillage or reducing fall fertilizer loss should contact the NRCS office at 886-6214 ext 3.



TERRI PARRY JOINS STAFF

Terri joined the Cedar County Natural Resources Conservation Service on Sept. 13. She has been a part-time employee for 8 years. I have worked in the Tipton office for the last 4 years and have also worked in Johnson and Muscatine Counties. My husband, Lyle and I farm in Muscatine and Cedar Counties.

REAP COST-SHARE

75% cost-share is available under the Resource Enhancement and Protection program for windbreaks. REAP cost-share is available for windbreaks, tree planting, native grass plantings, planned grazing systems and reforestation. Stop by the SWCD to apply.

PLANT A TREE IN THE MILLENNIUM

What a better way to celebrate the new millennium than to plant trees in the year 2000. The Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District will be selling tree seedlings and shrubs again this year to help raise money for scholarships, soil stewardship conservation awards, literature, field days, poster contests and trees for 3rd graders. The tree order forms are available by contacting the District office at 886-6214. This year the deadline is March 1. Quantities are limited, so order early!! SEE ENCLOSED PRICE LIST.

STATE COST SHARE

\$\$\$\$ of state cost share funds are once again available through the District. 50% cost share funding can be obtained to do waterways, terraces, and structures. These practices can be done at any time of the year that the ground isn't frozen. Anyone interested in doing a project should contact the office before the project is started. Projects already started will not qualify for cost share.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

CHANGE IN CCC LOAN BUY BACK

Producers that have grain under CCC loans will now be able to "lock in" the County Posted Price for 60 days or 14 days before maturity. After the 60 days the option will expire and those bushels may only be repaid at the current PCP rate. Bushels may be "locked in" for the whole loan or any portion of the loan. This options does not apply to grain not under loan. If you have questions call the FSA Office at 886-6061, EXT 2.

PRODUCTION FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM BY 2000

Letters will be sent in the near future explaining options for advance payment for the 2000 year program. It will be similar to last year that payments may be issued for 100% or for 2 payment of 50% each. Producers may designate the months they wish to receive payments. As in 1999, all owners must sign the PFC contract or the tenants must provide a copy of the current years cash lease contract.

CRP ENROLLMENT

There will be another Conservation Reserve Program signup Jan. 18 through Feb. 11. This will be a general signup for fields or parts of a field that do not qualify for priority areas. The bidding will be competitive, as in the past. Environmental priorities will determine the ranking of offers.

CONTINUOUS CRP ENROLLMENT

High priority areas such as filter strips and riparian areas along bodies of water, contour buffer strips, shallow water, windbreaks and areas may be enrolled at any time during the year. These are not competitive bids and any areas that qualify will be accepted if the producers agrees with the calculated rental rate.



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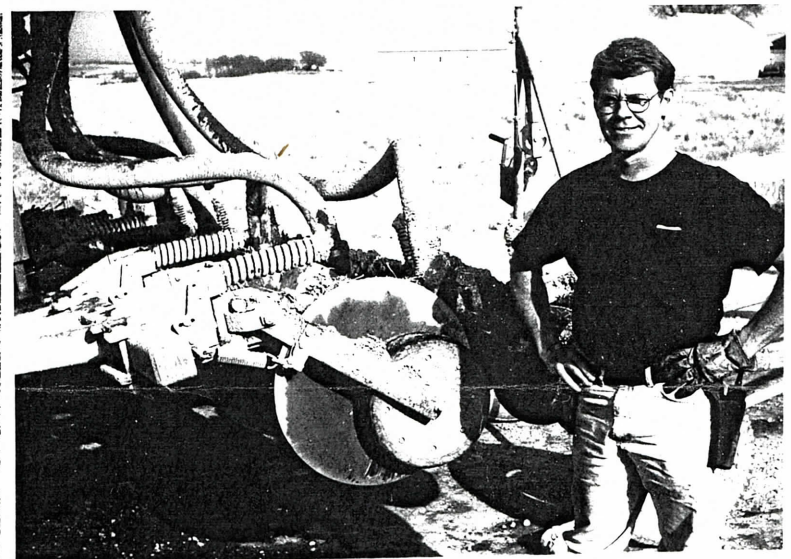
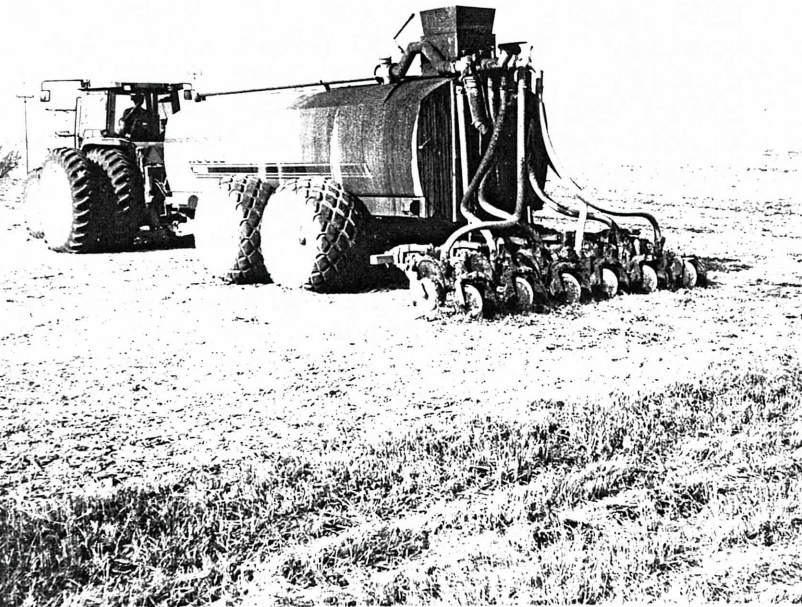
205 W. South Ste.2, Tipton, IA 52772
Phone: (319)886-6214 ext. 3

Jan. 2000

INJECTING MANURE and CONTROLLING ODOR and EROSION

Injection of liquid manure is very effective in controlling odors and protecting water quality. In the past, injection manure has created a problem with soil erosion because of more tillage and less residue. Putting the manure on top of the ground has created odor problems.

John Black, Randy Pedersen, and Curt Friis have addressed this problem with their new Yetter Avenger Slurry Applicator. The system consists of 6-30" applicators and a 6000 gallon Houle wagon. They modified the applicator by reversing the coulter and bearings to get a good seal and help maintain crop residue on the surface. They shortened the drop tubes, installed a screen and a site gauge to cut the strawy material which also helped ensure equal delivery to the knives. The Houle slurry wagon came with a hydraulic bar for adding pressure to keep the knives in the ground.



With this system the residue disturbance is minimal and the air is free of odor. Also the ground is left so that no-tilling into the bean stubble will be no problem next spring.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

EQIP is a program to provide financial incentives to farmers for managed intensive grazing, organic farming, animal waste systems, pest management systems and other conservation practices. Applications are completed at the NRCS or the FSA office and are ranked on a state-wide basis. Though funding is limited, we had ten applicants receive cost-share for managed intensive grazing systems over the past two years.

Producers interested in this program may call 886-6214 to discuss their projects.

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP

Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring a scholarship competition for senior students living in Cedar County that are planning to further their education in agricultural or environmental related fields.

There are \$500 worth of scholarships to be awarded. Deadline is February 18. For applications and information call 886-6214 ext 101.

TREE SALES CAMPAIGN

Cedar SWCD tree seedling sales campaign is underway. Supplies are limited, so don't wait to place your order.

Funds generated from the tree sales are used for educational and informational activities in Cedar County.

For more information or questions please stop by the SWCD office or call 886-6214.

TOO SHORT?

There have been many filter strips planted in the last two years. Mowing or burning is part of establishing warm season grasses. But mowing is only needed to control noxious weeds-mainly giant ragweed and thistles. You need NOT mow foxtail as it is not a noxious weed and also acts as a cover crop to prevent other weeds from getting a start. If you are mowing to control weeds-mow at least EIGHT inches high, and preferably 12-18 inches high. Mowing warm season grasses TOO SHORT will kill them because they need to leaf out to continue to grow. Also, DO NOT mow after Sept 1st as it does not help the seeding. Most weeds have already gone to seed and the grasses are preparing to go dormant for the winter. Mowing after Sept. 1st is NOT permissible under CRP.

**WHOLE FIELD
CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM
Jan. 18 thru Feb. 11, 2000**

Whole or partial fields will be able to be bid into CRP during this period of time. Areas need to have HEL soils on them in order to qualify. Some flood plain sites also qualify. This is an opportunity to rebid expiring or expired CRP and to enroll new land. People with fields currently in CRP should check with FSA to see if it is expiring in the fall of 2000. Now is the time to get those areas rebid. Its also an opportunity to enroll steep and less productive hillsides where the majority of the field is of a high CSR. Its a great way to improve overall productivity and maintain income on all acres.

Appointments will be accepted in the NRCS office to discuss the options for bidding.

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