

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

SOIL
CONSERVATION
SERVICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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ASCS CONSERVATION COST-SHARING TO HELP WATER QUALITY

Local efforts to improve water quality will be getting a boost from additional conservation funding. Brian Reimer, Delaware County CED for the ASCS said that \$196,500 of cost-share funding from USDA's Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) has been earmarked for a special water quality project in the Little Turkey River watershed. In the project area, conservation practices will be used to restrict nonpoint sources of pollutants such as animal waste and farm chemicals, and to reduce heavy sediment loads in water courses and lakes.

"Agriculture producers in Delaware County portion of the Little Turkey Watershed should be alert to this project," said Reimer. "It's a good way to help solve a larger, community-wide problem. The additional cost-share allocation will give them a great opportunity to participate."

The Little Turkey River Watershed will cover over 7,000 acres of NE Delaware County. District Conservationist, Keith Krause, estimates that 41 farms will be eligible to participate. Focusing on the land draining into the Little Turkey River, the conservation treatment will reduce the siltation, chemicals, and both natural & synthetic fertilizers from entering the water.

"Conservation practices generally have important water quality benefits," said Krause, "but the special water quality project allows us to concentrate both cost-share dollars and conservation planning on this very specific water quality need."

This special cost share will enable landowners to protect their land with the implementation of conservation practices and at the same time reduce losses of topsoil, herbicides, and improve water quality.

"Any landowners participating in this special project will also be completing their conservation plan towards the conservation compliance portion of the 1985 Food Security Act and at the same time receiving cost-share for doing so," adds Krause.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources and ISU Extension Service are also participating in this program of land treatment and water quality. Jerry Hudson, Fisheries Biologist with the DNR said, "This project will not only provide upland benefits but also water quality benefits to one of the better trout streams of NE Iowa."

Additional information on the project is available from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, or the Department of Natural Resources. Reimer indicated that project funds must be obligated by December 31, 1989, and he encouraged producers wishing to participate in the water quality special project to contact the ASCS or SCS office as soon as possible.

ASCS cost-sharing effort to improve water quality

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