



BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

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L. Jeanette Winegarden, VCH
H. Arnold Harting
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Marilyn Schuchhardt
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
Quinter Lichty

Newsletter

SPRING 1999

STAFF

Kurt Hoeft, Acting DC
Elaine Hammer, SCT
Julie Falcon, SC
Carol DeWolf, SEC
Larry Weigle, BSS
Tammy Schnock, WAE
Lloyd Simester, VOL

GOOD LUCK, MIKE!

After working almost nine years in Black Hawk County, Mike Webster, District Conservationist, has taken a new position as wetland specialist with NRCS effective April 26th. He is working out of the New Hampton Field Office where he will be dealing with wetland areas in seven counties.

We are sorry to see him leave, but we wish him the best in his new position and know he will do a great job there, too. John Schuler has been selected as the new DC and is from Eureka, Illinois. He is moving here with his wife and 4-year old daughter and will begin working in our office on June 21st.

FLUORESCENT RED OR PINK MARKING
FLAGS
FOR SALE AT OUR OFFICE
\$8.00/100

HOW ABOUT BUFFER STRIPS?

You are eligible and can still sign up for the continuous CRP buffer strips if you have ground adjacent to a stream. The purpose of these strips is for water quality and soil conservation as well as wildlife areas. The strips may be planted to cool or warm season grasses and can be up to 100 feet wide. Annual payments per acre are determined according to soil type. Funding or material assistance may be available from the Black Hawk County Pheasants Forever Chapter. Contact NRCS and FSA offices if you have any questions or are interested in participating in the program.

GENERAL CRP

The 18th signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) ended in excellent results for Black Hawk County. Ninety eight folks bid 2,630.6 acres and 63 contracts were accepted with 1,945.8 acres to be planted to trees and shrubs with native or cool season grasses. These contracts are effective October 1, 1999 and the participants will receive a rental payment for the next ten years. Land enrolled into CRP is environmentally sensitive land taken out of production for crop. Sign-ups usually occur once a year. If interested in the next sign-up, please stop or call.

JUST A REMINDER. . .

You need to complete a 1026 form at the FSA office prior to breaking up any new ground or doing any kind of drainage work.

EQIP

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup was earlier this spring and the response was real good. There were ten applications received in the Miller Creek Watershed and five accepted. In the statewide category, there were three applications with two being accepted. EQIP is the federal cost share program and if you have any questions about it, please contact our office.



**BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1998 ANNUAL REPORT**

1M BUDGET

July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998

Total Allocation	\$ 4,500.00
Returned to DSC	600.00
Commissioners Expenses	1,744.30
Office Supplies, postage & dues	<u>2,137.70</u>
Balance	\$ 18.00

3M BUDGET

Cost Share Ledger 1997-1998

Original Allocation	\$19,598.00
Projects Completed	15,640.92
Projects Still in Progress	<u>3,720.50</u>
Balance in Ledger	\$ 236.58

REAP Practices Ledger 1998

Original Allocation	\$11,015.00
Projects Completed	<u>2,905.04</u>
Recalled to Dept. 12/98	\$ 8,109.96

REAP Forestry Ledger 1998

Original Allocation	\$1,808.50
Projects Completed	<u>1,055.16</u>
Recalled to Dept. 12/98	\$ 753.34

COMMISSIONERS REVOLVING FUND

Balance 7/1/97	\$ 316.07
Deposit	+6,498.91
Expenditures	<u>6,362.37</u>
Balance 6/30/98	\$ 452.61

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Cooperators	19
FSA Plans Revised (Number)	8
Conservation Cover (Acres)	447
Conservation Crop Rotation (Acres)	2,864
Conservation Tillage (Acres)	2,447
Contours (Acres)	160
Filter Strips (Acres)	389
Nutrient Management (Acres)	136
Tree Planting - REAP (Acres)	33
Terraces (Feet)	8,425

Windbreaks (Acres)	8
Waterways (Acres)	36
Wildlife Wetland Habitat Mgmt (Acres)	539
Wetland Determinations	139

**HIGHLIGHTS OF 1998 DISTRICT
ACTIVITIES**

--The Krsnak-Runyan-Ward Memorial Scholarship of \$400 was awarded to Alethea Bauman of Cedar Rapids this year. She is a junior at ISU majoring in Environmental Science.

--Marsau, Haugebak, Harting and Webster attended a Commissioner Development Program on February 24 at West Union.

--The Mercantile Bank sponsored the booth for the district at the 12th Annual Hawkeye Farm Show held at the UNI dome on March 17,18, and 19. Buffer strip photos were used on the commissioners downing display.

--The district's poster contest had a 1st place winner the following divisions: Division 3 — Kelly Selk, Union Middle School, Grade 6; Division 4 — Chris Roberts, Union High, Grade 9; Division 5 — Abigail Foss, Union High, Grade 12. Harting presented each 1st place winner with a Certificate of Recognition and a \$20.00 check.

--The theme for the 1998 Soil and Water Stewardship Week was *Wonders of Wildlife* and was observed April 26- May 3. The district furnished materials to over 150 churches in Waterloo and the surrounding area.

--Winegarden, Harting, Haugebak and Webster attended the 52nd Annual Conference in Des Moines on September 2-3.

--Marsau, Winegarden, Schuchhardt, and Harting attended the Fall Regional Meeting held on Wednesday, November 25 in Manchester.

This report is published not only to show the conservation work completed, but gives us the opportunity to say thank you to everyone supporting conservation programs in the county. We especially appreciate every landowner and operator who applied a conservation practice during the past year, the local media for publicity throughout the year and everyone who helped to make our district's program a success.

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