

The art of conservation

Springtime to county students means it's time for the annual Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest. This contest is sponsored statewide by the auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. Locally, the contest is co-sponsored and cash prizes of \$15 for first place and \$10 for second place in each division are provided by Eden Mutual Insurance Company, Vinton, and the Benton SWCD Commissioners.

This year, there were entries in three of the four divisions from students county-wide. The commissioners judged entries on April 15. They scored entries on their conservation message, visual effectiveness, and universal appeal.

In Division 2 (grades 3-6) first place went to Katie Callahan, and second place was awarded to Candi Fisher. Both are students at Union Elementary in Dysart.

Division 3 (grades 7-9) winners were Erin Rempfer in first place, and Bridget Bierschenk in second place. These two are students at Central Lutheran School in Newhall.

Joanie Gorski, a student at Washington High School in Vinton was first-place winner in Division 4 (grades 10-12). Second place in this division went to Nathan Erdahl, who is a student at Union High School, LaPorte City.

The first-place winners in each division will advance to regional competition. From regional winners, statewide winners will be chosen for each division.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week features trees

"Our Treasured Trees" is the theme of Soil and Water Stewardship Week in 1992. The Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is encouraging local schools, churches, and individuals to join in the nation-wide observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, recognizing the vital role that trees and forests play in conserving soil, water, and energy resources. Soil and Water Stewardship Week is April 26 through May 3, directly following observances of Earth Week and Arbor Day.

Wayne Siela, chairman of the Benton SWCD commissioners, said he hopes Stewardship Week will encourage individuals to think about establishing and caring for trees in urban and rural areas. Trees, whether in a forest or along a city street, are a very necessary part of our lives. They help clean and cool our air, hold the soil, filter water entering rivers and streams, and provide shelter for people and wildlife. Some trees even offer medicinal value. Everyone can plant a tree, care for a seedling, or look after the mature trees around them.

Posters designed with the 1992 theme "Our Treasured Trees" were distributed to county schools by the SWCD. They feature educational activities on one side and pictorial representations of the many trees in our world on the other. County churches interested in featuring Soil and Water Stewardship Week had the opportunity to receive materials in church services from the SWCD.

No-till tour is offered

The Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioners are sponsoring a bus tour to the Jim Kinsella farm in Normal, Ill. Kinsella has been a no-till advocate for many years, and offers tours of his operation to interested farmers so they can observe close-hand, different no-till techniques. His approach to no-till has stimulated many producers in this area to use no-till systems.

The Benton SWCD will have two buses leaving for the Kinsella farm on Tuesday, June 23. One bus will leave from Washington High School parking lot in Vinton, and one bus will load up at O'Grady Chemical in Van Horne.

Reservations are being accepted now through June 9. They should be sent to the Benton SWCD, 1705 W. D Street, Vinton, 52349, and should note which loading area is preferred, and include the fee.

For further information, please contact the Benton SWCD at 472-2161, or any of the commissioners.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Benton County
808 West 9th St.
Vinton, IA 52349

Date: 4-30-92

To: Rhonda
Benton County Soil Conservation

For your information

Material you requested is enclosed

X Here's your newsarticles
and my check for the
Jim Kinsella tour. Please
have Jim call me about
the tour. Greg & Jim want
to know if they can get on
at a different location.

The Iowa State University Extension Service's purpose is to bring research based information in agriculture, home economics, youth & 4-H, and community and economic development to you. Our Benton County Office is located at 808 West 9th St. in Vinton. Please stop by or call us at phone: 472-4739 if we can help you.

Linda Engelken Fischer

Linda Engelken Fischer
Extension Agriculturist/Director

 and justice for all
The Iowa Cooperative Extension Service's programs and policies are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and handicap.