

Annual Report of The Des Moines County

Soil and Water Conservation District

Fiscal year July 1, 1987 - June 30, 1988

Expenditures of funds provided by State of Iowa for District Commissioners' Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Office Equipment and Financial Incentive Programs.

1-M FUNDS—TRAVEL, OFFICE SUPPLIES, EXPENSES & EQUIPMENT

Expenditures:

Commissioners Travel	\$908.82
Office Supply & Expense	\$486.72
Funds Released to State	\$204.46
Total allocation from State of Iowa	\$1,600.00

1987-88 STATE FINANCIAL FUNDS

Expenditures:

Terrace 2.750 lin. ft.	\$10,988.53
Unobligated funds	2,707.47
Obligated funds	2,616.50
Funds returned to State of Iowa	90.97
Total Allocation	\$13,696.00

1986-87 STATE FINANCIAL FUNDS

Expenditures:

Grade Stabilization Structure	3	\$10,789.19
Grassed Waterways 1,500		750.00
Terraces 250 ft.		167.65
Released to State of Iowa		1,897.16
Total Allocation		\$13,604.00

REVOLVING FUND

July 1, 1987-June 30, 1988

Balance, July 1, 1987 \$3,445.11

Receipts:

U.S. Treasurer - salary	\$14,980.00
Interest transfer	2,035.85
Flags	81.33
Postage	1.19
State Reimbursement	621.12
Scales	24.87
Seed	748.20
Geode RC&D	<u>382.56</u>
Total Receipts	\$18,875.12

Subtotal \$18,875.12 \$18,875.12

Disbursements:

Geode Specialties - salary	\$14,980.00
Office Furniture	383.16
Office Supplies & Expenses	187.48
Postage	220.90
IASCD dues	140.00
Subscriptions	19.97
Bank Charges	12.48
Soil Judging contest	9.74
Typewriter repair	134.40
CD investment	5,000.00
Sales tax	<u>3.15</u>
Total Disbursements	\$21,127.28

Balance, June 30, 1988 \$1,192.95

Conservation Reserve Program-An Alternative

By Lisa M. Koch, Soil Conservationist

Are you farming marginal areas that don't quite pan out at harvest time? Are you interested in establishing a natural area or wildlife habitat? The Conservation Reserve Program may be an option for you to consider.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), commonly referred to as the 10-year program, is a program available through the United States Department of Agriculture in which a producer can idle highly erodible land in exchange for an annual payment. This payment rate is determined by the producer when he/she enrolls their land into the program. This area is then stabilized and maintained as a grass seeding or tree planting. Cost-share is available to assist producers in getting cover established, which will remain for the 10 year period. Now buffer strips along watercourses are eligible for enrollment and with new regulations is the possibility that wetland and scour erosion areas (land near streams which experience out-of-bank flow) may be eligible.

If you are interested in wildlife, CRP is a good opportunity to establish a natural area. CRP land can be stabilized with a variety of plantings - such as cool season grasses, warm season grasses, trees and wildlife plant-

ings (a combination of grasses, shrubs, trees and food plots), or possibly enhanced as a wetland area. The district and soil conservationist, wildlife biologist and district forester are available to assist you in planning an area to benefit and attract species you desire.

On the national level, 28.1 million acres have been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Producers throughout the state of Iowa have enrolled 1.6 million acres, and Des Moines County producers have entered 4,413 acres since the first sign-up in March 1988.

To remain eligible for USDA benefits, producers farming highly erodible land need a conservation compliance plan by December 1989. As this deadline approaches many producers are taking a second look at CRP. Depending on characteristics of your farm, such as terrain and soil types, CRP may be a comparable alternative when writing your conservation plan.

The eighth sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program will be held February 6 through February 24 at your local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office. If you are interested in CRP, contact your local Soil Conservation Service or ASCS offices for details.

Conservation Work Has Responsibilities

By Kathy R. Baughman, Soil Conservation Technician

Do you know what is required of you when you decide to do conservation practices? When you apply for cost share funds you should discuss with your contractor and the SCS office, what the specifications of the project are and what your responsibilities will be. The Des Moines County SCS office sends a list of responsibilities to every cost share applicant when the application is mailed out. If you do not receive a list be sure to ask for a copy. Read the list and if there is anything that you do not understand or would like to clarify be sure to ask at your SCS office.

There is a ten year maintenance agreement that goes along with federal cost share funds and a 20 year agreement with state cost share funds. Remember that a good place to start with maintenance is on the uplands. Some measures that you might consider are crop residue maintenance, field borders, and contour farming. Utilize the crop residue that you have by leaving it on top of the soil to maintain the soil that would otherwise be washed away into waterways, terrace channels, or ponds.

Some things that you need to remember in maintaining your structures are:

1. Check structures after heavy rains. If you notice any cutting or washing fill those areas as soon as possible.
2. Good sod is essential to an effective waterway. To establish a vigorous sod you should fertilize.
3. Check for sediment build-up. Remove any build-up in terrace channels and replace it on top of terrace.
4. Burrowing animals can do damage. Watch for them and let them know that they should take up residence elsewhere.
5. Notice intakes and outlets of structures. Make sure that they are operating the way that they were designed to.

6. Finally, be sure to fence earth fill areas on ponds; livestock can do great damage to a dam or emergency spillway.

These are a few maintenance practices that should take little effort. Remember that the waterfall begins with a trickle. So fix it now.

If we can be of any assistance contact our office at 319-753-6221 or 1104 Derek Lincoln Drive, West Burlington, IA. 52655