

BLACK HAWK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3216 Thistledown Drive, Waterloo, IA 50702

Telephone 319-296-3262

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSIONERS

Marilyn Schuchhardt, Chair
Jon Mixdorf, Vice Chairman
John Hoffman
Kay Kober
Denny Mills

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

H. Arnold Harting
John Marsau
Kathy Scholl
Sherman Lundy
Vern Fish
Jerry Kramer

STAFF

Renae Ford, D.C.
Char White, S.S.
Julie Falcon, S.C.
Elaine Hammer, S.C.T.
Larry Weigle
Emily Luttrell, TFT
Ross Ellingson, IA DNR

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2002:

- L. Jeanette Winegarden was elected as Chair of the SWCD; Marilyn Schuchhardt was elected Vice Chair of the SWCD; Jon Mixdorf was elected co-Treasurer of the SWCD; Char White was elected co-Treasurer and Secretary of the SWCD; John Marsau, Quinter Lichty and H. Arnold Harting were elected as Assistant Commissioners of the SWCD.
- Brian Schoon, INRCOG, explained to commissioners the purpose of the LESA (Land Evaluation and Assessment) project, which is a plan to help preserve agricultural ground. A letter of support for the LESA project was sent to the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors.
- A contractor's meeting was co-sponsored by the Black Hawk SWCD and NRCS on February 25, 2002.

MARCH AND APRIL 2002:

- The 15th annual Hawkeye Farm Show was held at the UNI-Dome from March 5-7, 2002.
- Commissioners inspected and evaluated the site of the soil loss complaint filed by Jim and Ann Sage. Landowners above the Sage property were notified and asked to submit consent forms to allow staff on their land.
- Commissioners Winegarden, Schuchhardt, Mixdorf, Hoffman, and Harting, District Conservationist Renae Ford and State Secretary Char White attended the Region 4 Spring Regional Meeting in Decorah on April 3, 2002, which included a tour of the Bear Creek Watershed.

MAY AND JUNE 2002:

- A layoff reduction for Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship personnel occurred on May 10, May 24 and June 7, 2002. Three 8-hour days of layoff/reduction totaling 24 hours were scheduled because of the state budget crisis.
- Emily Luttrell, began a temporary, one-year full time Soil Conservation Technician position in June 2002.
- Earth Team Volunteers from R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) assisted in collating and labeling the annual newsletter.
- Senator Tom Harkin's representatives hosted a public meeting at Hawkeye Community College on June 18th to explain the new Farm Bill, EQIP and the Conservation Security Program. District Conservationist Renae Ford attended and brought information back to commissioners.

JULY AND AUGUST 2002:

- The winner of the 2002 Soil and Water Conservation Award/Outstanding SWCD Cooperator was Lois Rieger. Ms. Rieger was presented the award at the regular Commissioner's Meeting.
- District Chair L. Jeanette Winegarden attended the NACD North Central Regional Meeting in Branson, MO from July 7-10, 2002. The region consists of eight states - Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. Attendees received leadership training and discussed issues including Third Party Vendors and TMDL's.
- Ross Ellingson replaced Bob Dolan as the Wildlife Biologist of the DNR for Black Hawk, Bremer and Buchanan counties.
- The Fall Regional Meeting was held at the Woods Edge Country Club in Edgewood, Iowa on August 26th.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2002:

- The federal government remained in continuing resolution during October 2002.
- Basic Materials Earth Science Day was on October 13th at the Raymond Quarry. Staff volunteered to work during the six-hour demonstrations.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2002:

- The local Pheasant's Forever chapter allocated \$2000.00 to the Black Hawk SWCD to continue the Buffer Strip Initiative.
- The Fish Kill Restitution Fund (FRF) proceeds of \$966.60 was allocated for staff support for the marketing of buffer strip establishment.
- The first meeting of the Locally Led Work Group took place at the Church of the Brethren in Waterloo on November 25, 2002. Twenty (20) people attended the meeting to discuss conservation concerns and practices.
- A Farm*A*Syst agreement between the Black Hawk SWCD, the Iowa Farm Bureau, Black Hawk County Corn-Soybean Growers Association, and Larry Weigle was entered into on November 1st. Mr. Weigle works with rural residents to complete farm assessments of environmental risks..

POYNER FISH KILL RESTITUTION PROJECT

Fish Kill Restitution Funds in the amount of \$966.60 were made available to the District in November 2002 as a result of the fish kill on Poyner Creek. Brian Hayes, a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Biologist, presented an overview of the fish kill to commissioners at their regular meeting in November. The DNR's recommendation for use of the funds received by the District was stream bank protection and buffer strips. The funding was used for the marketing of buffer strip establishment along Poyner Creek.

BLACK HAWK COUNTY FARM*A*SYST PROJECT

The Black Hawk County Farm Bureau, Black Hawk County Corn-Soybean Growers Association, and the Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District are the sponsors of the local Farm*A*Syst Project. These groups feel it is important for farmers and rural residents in their community to take a proactive approach to the environment and are concerned that local farmsteads may be a potential source of surface and groundwater impairments.

The Farm*A*Syst program helps farmers take a comprehensive view of their farm, evaluate on-farm risks to groundwater and surface water, and identify voluntary actions to prevent pollution. In Black Hawk County, Larry Weigle is the Farm*A*Syst contractor who makes contact with rural residents to introduce the Farm*A*Syst materials and follows up on actual implementation of the program.

The Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District serves as financial administrator of the locally led project. The project is funded with a \$2500.00 grant from the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) Nonpoint Source Pollution Information and Education County Grant Program, as well as \$300.00 from each of the organizations named above. If you are interested in a Farm*A*Syst assessment, please contact Larry Weigle at 296-3262.

WHAT IS LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION?

Locally Led Conservation is local people, with leadership from Conservation Districts, who assess natural resource conditions and needs; identify programs and other resources needed to solve these goals; develop proposals and recommendations; implement solutions; and measure their success. The Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District is the primary facilitator of the locally-led work group. Legislators, members of the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors, area council members and mayors, city Department heads, and private citizens were invited to the first locally-led meeting on November 25, 2002. Those who Attended developed a list of resource needs for Black Hawk County.

The top three (3) priorities selected by the locally led group in November 2002 were: 1) Sedimentation/Siltation, 2) Water Quality. and tied for 3) Wildlife Habitat/Surface Water Management, and Animal Waste/Hog Confinement. Please contact the SWCD Office at 296-3262 if you would like to be a part of the Locally led work group.

Black Hawk SWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. Black Hawk SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

EQIP-FARM BILL 2002

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state, and federal regulations.

State Conservationist, Leroy Brown, says, "EQIP is one of the many tools available through the new Farm Bill to help ag producers continue to care for the resources on their land. EQIP is designed to give flexibility and decision-making power to local people, who know best the resource needs in their area."

EQIP funds will help farmers install conservation practices that protect natural resources by reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and improving our wildlife habitat.

For additional information on EQIP and other conservation programs, visit the NRCS website at [http://nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill 2002/products.html](http://nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill%202002/products.html). Or, call the NRCS office at 296-3262.

I.F.I.P. FUNDS (IA Financial Incentives Program)

<u>2001-2002 Allocation</u>	\$19,845.00
Applied to Cons. Practices	19,845.00
<u>2000-2001 Allocation</u>	\$14,569.00
Applied to Cons. Practices	\$13,516.50
<u>1999-2000 Allocation</u>	\$39.072.00
Applied to Cons. Practices	\$38,282.34
(Conservation Practices include terraces and waterways which were developed on 273.6 acres for conservation.)	

REMINDERS:
Before digging or excavating, State law requires that Iowa One Call be contacted Failure to do so could result in a \$5,000 fine. You will be held liable for repairs and lost revenues if utilities are damaged Iowa One Call's toll free number is. 1-800-292-8989

***A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
Peterson Contractors, Inc., Don Schmitz &
Sons, Inc., Weichers Constructions,
and Hershberger Tiling
for their support of the District Booth
at the 2002 Hawkeye Farm Show***

District Commissioners Meetings
held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at
9:00 A.M. at the USDA Service Center
Office, Waterloo, Iowa. Meetings are
open to the public.