

**IDA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

**2003
Annual Report
7-1-02 - 6-30-03**

5973 State Highway 175
P.O. Box 237
Ida Grove, Iowa 51445

Phone: 712-364-2124

*Nels W Johnson
Arlo Schuster*

**PERSONNEL
COMMISSIONERS**

Wally Johnson, Washta
Chairperson

Lloyd Rickers, Kiron
*Vice-Chairperson
Representative,*

Sioux Rivers RC & D Board
Marc Johnson, Battle Creek
Representative,
Little Sioux Works Committee

Tom Odgaard, Ida Grove

Lynn Hare, Ida Grove

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Joyce Johnson, Washta

STAFF

Lorne Miller

District Conservationist

Jerry Sindt

Soil Conservationist

Randy Sohm

Soil Conservation Technician

Carl Lee

State Soil Conservation Technician

Arlis Bahnsen, *State Secretary*

Lorraine Johnson

Soil Conservation Technician

Darwin Henke

Soil Conservation Technician

Jerry Jensen

Watershed Inspector

VOLUNTEERS

La Vonne Murray, Ida Grove

Myrle Nielsen, Battle Creek

As commissioners of your Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this 2003 Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

**IDA COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2003 AWARD WINNERS**

Scholarship Award

Jerrold Johnson

Izaak Walton Windbreak Award

Nathan Vohs

District Conservation Poster Contest

Division 3 (Grades 4 - 6)

1st Place - Adrienne Burk

COOPERATORS

A District Cooperator is a landowner who has entered into a cooperative agreement with the District for the purpose of planning, applying, and maintaining the necessary soil and water conservation practices on his/her land.

**Thirty Years of Cost Share and Iowa's
Water Quality**

There has been a lot of attention leveled at water quality in recent years. A lot can be learned by studying our lakes, rivers, and streams; but in order to truly understand what is happening with water quality in a state like Iowa, it is necessary to turn around and look upstream. What happens on the landscape has a huge impact on the water downhill from that landscape.

Of the 157 impaired waters in Iowa on the 1998 list, well over half were included because of sedimentation problems. Keeping the soil where it belongs in not new to Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). In fact, it has been the focus of Districts for well over 60 years.

Last year during Soil & Water Conservation Week, November 16-22, we celebrated 30 years of the "first in the nation" soil conservation Financial Incentives Program. Over its lifetime, the State of Iowa has invested over \$150 million in financial incentives to assist landowners to protect their farms from the damaging effects of soil erosion. Those same landowners have invested an equal amount from their own pocketbooks, stimulating tremendous economic activity in local communities throughout Iowa.

The Division of Soil Conservation estimates that we have stopped over 18 million tons of fertile topsoil from escaping our fields in that 30 year timeframe. That is enough precious black soil to provide a six-inch layer for over 20,000 football fields. Put another way, the soil saved in the lifetime of the Financial Incentives Program would cover all four lanes of an interstate highway stretching from California to New York. Of course a good share of the lost soil may have found its way to our state's waterways, so in effect, SWCDs have been a partner in improving water quality for years.

Improving water quality isn't difficult to understand. Placing waterways, terraces, grade stabilization structures, and diversions in the right locations, save soil and preserve water quality. Reducing tillage and leaving crop residue on the soil surface improves soil quality and reduces the movement of soil as well. In the end, soil conservation work means that less sediment makes its way to the water.

We can't go wrong. By investing in soil conservation, we get the best of both worlds; we improve the productivity of our farms and keep sediment out of our water. That's a win-win scenario where everyone benefits.

Bill Ehm, Director

Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)

**DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - FY 2003
(July 1, 2002- June 30, 2003)**

The Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioners meet monthly at the district office. All meetings are open to the public. (Open Meeting Law)

JULY 2002

The District, in conjunction with Ida County Farm Bureau, sponsored conservation tours originating at the Ida County Fair grounds utilizing the Gomaco Trolley. The District also sponsored a booth at the Ida County Fair. Commissioners performed the annual

audit of District books and found them to be in order.

AUGUST

Commissioners attended the Fall Regional meeting in Calumet. Three Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications were submitted for conservation practices. Funds in the amount of \$20,066 were received (Iowa Financial Incentive Program - IFIP) for conservation practices in Ida County. The Project Agreement for a Grade Control Structure in the Westside Watershed was fully executed. M. Johnson was appointed Contracting Officer for the project. The District committed funds to payroll a District employee to assist with applying conservation on the land.

SEPTEMBER

Odgaard and Rickers attended the Hungry Canyons Alliance fall quarterly meeting in Harlan. The final report for the Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project was submitted. A Locally Led Public meeting was sponsored by the District.

OCTOBER

The District received \$20,876 in supplemental IFIP funds for conservation practices. Commissioners prioritized conservation practices in Ida County, giving terraces highest priority followed by Erosion Control Structures and waterways.

NOVEMBER

Commissioners attended the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Annual Conference in Marshalltown. The District donated items to the CDI Auxiliary auction with proceeds to be used for agricultural scholarships statewide.

DECEMBER

Commissioners and staff held their Annual Meeting and Christmas dinner. Rickers and Odgaard attended the Hungry Canyons Alliance quarterly meeting in Portsmouth. The District signed the ranking sheet and cost-share practices for EQIP. The District received supplemental REAP funds in the amount of \$4,443.75 for conservation practices.

JANUARY 2003

The District organizational meeting was held and officers were elected and appointed. Wayne Brincks, representing U.S Congressman Steve King, and Astor Boozer, ASTC-FO, were guests. Commissioners approved the 2003 average costs for terraces, increasing the average cost for C and E slopes. CDI and NACD dues were paid. Commissioners attended "New Commissioner Orientation".

FEBRUARY

The District is partnering with Ida County Farm Bureau to assist with comprehensive nutrient management and Pheasants Forever to promote CRP Buffers in Ida County. Miller, Bahnsen, and commissioners attended "Life As A Commissioner" educational module.

MARCH

The District financially supported the Regional Envirothon in Cherokee. Supplemental IFIP funds of \$18,269 were received for conservation practices. Commissioners attended the Spring Regional meeting in LeMars. Odgaard and Rickers attended the Hungry Canyons Alliance spring quarterly meeting in Walnut. A Locally Led Public meeting was sponsored by the District. Commissioners approved the 2002 District Annual Report as presented.

APRIL

Commissioners attended a rally at the Iowa State Capital about conservation funding. Odgaard and Rickers attended "Communicating For Ag" in Denison. The District sponsored a presentation at the BCIG Elementary School honoring Adrienne Burk, 2002 1st Place Division 3 winner in the National Conservation Poster Contest. U. S. Congressman Steve King and representatives from Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Conservation District Commissioners also attended.

MAY

The 2003 Izaak Walton Windbreak Award, District Scholarship, and District poster contest winners were selected.

JUNE

Rickers and Odgaard attended the Hungry Canyons Alliance quarterly meeting.

Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District and

Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2003

October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003

Individuals Assisted	1,623
Cropland Protected Against Excessive Erosion (acres)	6,882
Acres Treated with Erosion Control Measures	13,640
Farmstead Windbreaks	6
Terraces (feet)	132,535
Waterways (acres)	44
Grade Stabilization Structures	3
Water & Sediment Control Basins	11
CRP 25th & 26th Signup Applications	50
CRP 25th & 26th Signup Applications Approved (712 acres)	44
Riparian Buffer Strips (11 acres)	17
Shelter Belts	7

EEO STATEMENT

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DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT

(July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003)

1-M	\$ 1,905.00
Expenses: Printing,	
Office, Commissioner	2,535.71
Balance paid by District	\$ (630.71)

3-M Cost-Share Funds (02-03)	\$ 44,642.00
Obligated & spent	40,690.13
Recalled	\$ 3,951.87

REAP - Practices Funds (2003)	\$ 2,793.75
Spent	2,055.65
Balance released to state	\$ 738.10

REAP - Forestry/Native Grasses (2003)	\$ 1,650.00
Spent	1,572.90
Balance released to state	\$ 77.10

Little Sioux River Flood Prevention Project Funds (2003)	
Obligated or spent	\$ 411,102.77

Watershed Maintenance Funds	
Checking 7/01/02	\$ 6,327.52
Income	4,131.61
Expenses	10,266.05
Balance 6/30/03	\$ 193.08

Watershed Funds CD's	\$ 122,245.97
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General Funds	
Checking 7/01/02	\$ 11,426.60
Income	18,720.64
Expenses	21,499.11
Balance 6/30/03	\$ 8,648.13

General Funds CD's	\$ 31,335.39
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