



**POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

P.O. Box 216
Malcom, Iowa 50157-0216

(641) 528-2065
Assisted by

**U.S.D.A. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICES**

COMMISSIONERS

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John Mann, Vice-Chairman
Roger VanErsvelde, Treasurer
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Erik Mottl, District Employee
Carol Brown, District Secretary

**55TH ANNUAL REPORT
2003 FISCAL YEAR**

30 YEARS OF COST-SHARE

On July 1, 2003, the state cost-share program, or the Iowa Financial Incentive Program, as it is known today, has been funded for 30 years. Iowa became the first state to appropriate state cost-share funds for conservation practices. Total dollars appropriated to the program is \$182,309,933.22. Approximately 2,500 landowners installed practices each year to protect more than 27,000 acres with terraces, waterways, structures and basins. Acres benefited per year is 40,740.

Funds are allocated directly to 100 soil and water conservation districts on the basis of each district's share of the state's most erosive cropland soils.

Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners set priorities for their use and field office staff assure the technical quality of practices built. Five elected soil and water conservation district commissioners in each soil and

water conservation district work with field office staff to prioritize conservation needs in a particular district. Any landowner in the state of Iowa, who is a cooperator with the soil and water conservation district, who meets the requirements and who enters into a voluntary agreement with the district to install and maintain an approved conservation practice, is eligible to receive 50% of the estimated or actual cost of the project, whichever is the lesser amount.

Permanent practices installed are subject to a 20-year maintenance agreement to assure their long-term, successful performance. All practices must meet USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service specifications.

Fast Fact: 1 inch of rain falling over 1 acre of land is 27,152 gallons of water!

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF STATE FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003**

1-M BUDGET (2003 FY)

Total allocation:	\$1,905.00
Disbursements:	
Commissioner Expenses	\$939.94
Office Supplies & Postage	\$832.99
Printing	\$0
Total Expenditures:	\$1,772.93
Released to State	\$132.07
Balance of Account	\$0

IFIP FUNDS

2001-02 Allocation	\$112,925.41
Spent	\$112,925.41
Obligated	\$0
Balance	\$0
2002-03 Allocation	\$51,663.47
Spent	\$44,938.47
Obligated	\$0
Balance	\$6,725.00
2003-04 Allocation	\$76,858.00
Spent	\$41,457.37
Obligated	\$32,663.25
Balance	\$2,737.38

All IFIP funds are allocated to farmers for financial assistance on conservation projects.

REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASS - 04 FY

Total Allocation	\$1,992.00
Spent	\$0
Obligated	\$0
Balance	\$1,992.00

REAP PRACTICES - 04 FY

Total Allocation	\$7,968.00
Spent	\$0
Obligated	\$0
Balance	\$7,968.00

All NRCS and SWCD programs and services are offered on nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

**PIDIMA FARM
CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER**

The Lawrence Pidima farm was selected as winner of the 2003 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program. Sons David and Daryl are operators in the farming operation.

This farm is located in Sections 3 and 4 of Lincoln Township. The combination of corn and soybeans, along with hay-meadow in the crop rotation assures a sustainable resource protection plan. This diversified operation meets all sustainable agriculture requirements to be successful.

**TIME TO PLAN FOR
A NEW WINDBREAK**

Winter is maybe slipping away, but before you forget about the bitter northwest winds freezing us to the bone, it's time to plan for a farmstead windbreak. A well-planned windbreak 30 feet tall will reduce winds to 50% of their original velocities at the leeward distances of up to 240 feet, thus cutting wind-chill.

Windbreaks not only help slow the wind, they also protect soil, conserve energy, control snow deposition, provide shelter from wind for livestock, beautify an area, and improve an area for wildlife. The primary three-row windbreak can be applied on land next to farmsteads where wind damage is likely or where the natural beauty of the trees and shrubs is wanted.

The minimum requirements for windbreaks for REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) is three rows of coniferous trees. One row of dense deciduous shrubs may be substituted for one row. The NRCS office has lists of trees that are suitable for windbreaks and can assist land-owners with decisions. Cost-share is available for windbreaks. If you are interested, contact the NRCS office at (641)-528-2065 to see if funds are available.