



ABOVE, Horace Sutton, Assistant Commissioner & long-time treasurer, on the left, and William Walker, Assistant Commissioner. LEFT: Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service Commissioners: Front row, left to right: Sherman Smith and Lloyd Schmeiser; back row: Leonard Lane and Keith Renner. Absent- Don Mathews.



Soil-saving Staff

Des Moines County Soil Conservation Service office staff includes front, from left, Kathy Baughman and Lisa Koch, conservation aides, and Dorothy Davis, state clerk. Back row, from left, are Terry Cosby, district conservationist; Mark Fehseke, soil conservationist, and Joe Skourup, conservation aide. They carry out the policies set by the district commissioners who are pictured on Page 3 and whose report is on Page 8.

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District Activities And Reports

By Dorothy Davis, District Secretary

In July of 1987, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners were Sherman Smith, Chairman; Leonard L. Lane, Vice Chairman; Lloyd Schmeiser, Keith Renner and Donald Mathews.

Assistant commissioners were Horace Sutton, Treasurer; William Walker, Roger Gay, Barbara Bonnett, Arlyn Musselman, Liz Christensen, and James Jennison. Sutton, Musselman, and Walker were appointed assistants for the calendar year 1988.

The State of Iowa allocated \$13,698 for the Financial Incentive Program (cost sharing) in Des Moines County, and another \$14,638 was set aside for the Special Lakes Program, namely, Lake Geode Watershed. In both programs, these funds are used for permanent soil conservation practices to control erosion.

Commissioners adopted a policy to evaluate each cost-share application on its own merits to determine the completion date of a project. One extension should be sufficient.

Commissioners adopted a cost estimate of \$1.90 per foot to build steep backsloped terraces. First priority for cost sharing will be given to terraces, then to water and sediment control basins and grade stabilization structures.

District dispensed all remaining funds on hand designated for multiflora rose control.

Mark Fehseke, Soil Conservation Technician, was promoted to Soil Conservationist. Mark has since transferred to the Soil Conservation Service office at Iowa City.

Lisa Koch was hired as a soil Conservation Aide. Kathy Baughman was hired as Cooperative Agreement employee.

Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the district was provided with funds for hiring personnel to help implement the 1985 Farm Bill. Geode Specialists was subsequently hired by the district to administer the bookkeeping details.

After the staff made highly erodible land determinations, group meetings for farmers having highly erodible land were held, and farmers were given information to help them make a plan in order to be in compliance with the Food Security Act. Most of the meetings were held at Southeastern Community College.

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District

Commissioners

Sherman A. Smith, Chairman

Leonard L. Lane, Vice Chairman

Keith B. Renner, Lloyd F. Schmeiser, Charles T. Nealey

Assistant Commissioners

Horace Sutton, Treasurer

William Walker, Arlyn Musselman, Jeff Bergman


Soil Commissioners and Assistants -
From left to right, back row: Horace Sutton, Bill Walker, Charles Nealey, and Leonard Lane. Front row: Sherm Smith, Keith Renner and Lloyd Schmeiser.

Annual Report Of The Des Moines County Soil 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 Supplies & Expense 486.72
Funds released to State 204.46
Total allocation from State of Iowa \$1,600.00

1987-88 STATE FINANCIAL FUNDS

Expenditures:
Terraces 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 Structures 3 \$10,789.19
Grassed Waterways 1,500 ft. 750.00
Terraces 250 ft. 167.65
Released to State of Iowa 1,897.16

Total Allocation \$13,604.00

Office Staff
Terry J. Cosby, SCS District Conservationist
Mark E. Fehseke, SCS Soil Conservationist
(Transferred to Iowa City)
Lisa M. Koch, SCS Soil Conservationist
Kathy R. Baughman, SCS Conservation Technician
Sally J. Mehaffy, SCS Conservation Aide
Joe Skoup, SCS Conservation Aide (retires, moved to Arkansas)
Dorothy E. Davis, State Clerk, District Secretary

Office Staff -
Left to right, Lisa Koch, Dorothy Davis, Kathy Baughman, Terry Cosby, and Sally Mehaffy.

District Accomplishments October 1987 - September 1988

Item/Name	No.	Acres/Ft.
New Cooperators	1	115
Individuals Assisted	1690	
Conservation Practices Applied	315	
Conservation Plans		13,078
Non-Highly Erodible Land Determinations	999	
Highly Erodible Land Determinations	686	22,365
*FSA Conservation Plans Applied	50	1,642
*FSA Approved Conservation Plans	472	15,530
Conservation Plan Alternatives Provided		527
Conservation Cover		1,269
Conservation Cropping System		315
Conservation Tillage System		2,641
Contour Farming		25
Cover & Green Manure Crop		5,135
Grade Stabilization Structures	6	
Pasture & Hayland Management		211
Pasture & Hayland Planting		467
Terraces		24,285
Water & Sediment Control Basins	2	
Subsurface Drainage (tile)		985
Underground Outlet		17,270
Reduced Erosion on Cropland		8,601
Reduced Erosion on Pasture & Hayland		299
Reduced Erosion on Woodland		299
Reduced Erosion on Wildlife Land		1,269

*Food Security Act


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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 plantings (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 1986.

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 the 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.

Are You Eligible For USDA Programs?

By Terry Cosby, District Conservationist

The 1985 Food Security Act requires farmers to protect their highly erodible land against soil erosion in exchange for most farm program benefits. There are several steps you should take to insure that you are eligible.

1. You should stop in at the Soil Conservation Service office to see if you have highly erodible land.
2. If you have highly erodible land, you should make an appointment at the SCS office to get a conservation compliance plan before 1990.
3. You should be actively applying this plan by 1995.
4. Producer should not drain wetlands to grow commodity crops.
5. Don't break out highly erodible land without an approved conservation system.

Following these simple steps will keep you eligible for farm program benefits. If you have questions and have not been contacted for a planning appointment, please stop in at the SCS office in West Burlington, Iowa.

Monitor

(Continued from page 6)

Genevieve Mellinger. Enjoying the afternoon were Jane Bazal, Lillian Burgess, Lucille Mellinger, Mary Strawhacker, Dorothy Reeb and Genevieve.

On Friday night, Feb. 3 Raymond and Dorothy Reeb visited at the home of Alfred and Wilma Wunnenberg, Burlington.

David and Patti Roelfs, and Linda Breuer enjoyed pizza supper on Sunday, Feb. 5 at the home of Raymond and Dorothy Reeb. They celebrated Raymond's birthday which was Tuesday, Feb. 7. Many more.

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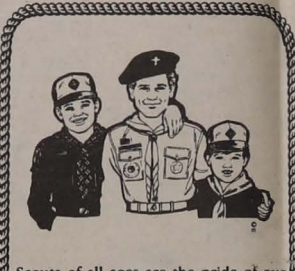
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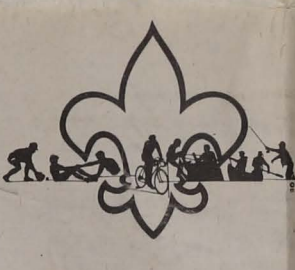
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