

**WEST POTTAWATTAMIE
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

305 McKenzie Ave. Suite 1 Council Bluffs, IA 51503
(712)328-2489

GOODYEAR CONSERVATION AWARD PROGRAM

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JANUARY 1, 1994 through DECEMBER 31, 1994

The following is a narrative of our district in 1994, that includes activities and accomplishments.

A no-till tour was held this year with local farmers demonstrating and describing their operations. Who also explained the benefits and setbacks they have encountered with no-till. During the tour, many questions were asked and answered. Several chemical companies sponsored the meal at the end of the tour.

The district holds a contractor meeting in winter months to maintain communication among themselves, contractors, and the staff in the office. Farm owners and operators were given recognition for their investment in conservation measures such as terraces which are not subsidized by tax dollars through state or federal cost share. With commissioner encouragement, 110,880 feet of non-cost share terraces were built in the past year.

At the annual banquet the following awards are handed out to owners and/or operators in the following categories: Izaak Walton Windbreak Awards, Landlord/Tenant, Owner/Operator, Goodyear Conservation Awards Program, Omaha World-Herald Southwest Iowa Soil Conservation Recognition Program, and the Volunteer Awards Program. In December, the Farmer Appreciation Event was held. Farmers from the county were recognized for their hard work and efforts to conserve the natural resources.

The West Pottawattamie SWCD conservation poster contest is run each year in conjunction with the Environmental Education Committee. The County Resource Planner gives a presentation to all the students to kick the contest off. All winners are recognized at the annual banquet. One hundred eighty students participated last year.

Each commissioner has supported an Annual Arbor Day Program where every first grader in fifteen district schools receives a

tree to plant. The program also includes a 20-30 minute presentation. In addition, educational brochures are handed out that explains species traits and planting instructions.

Several outdoor environmental educational field days were held at Arrowhead Park with presenters from the County Conservation Board, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and volunteers. Some topics included soils, composting, pond ecology, and wildflower identification.

The district assisted the Iowa School for the Deaf in acquainting the public to a trail that leads to five acres of wildflowers, native grasses, and red cedar trees. A wetland with a wooden bridge over it is being installed and a variety of wildflowers are planted along the pathway. Lewis Central Middle School became the second school that the district has assisted in developing an outdoor classroom. Lewis Central Middle School, in a small plots behind the school, planted corn and soybeans in the spring, then harvested it the fall. Which was done by the students and their hands, like their forefathers. Also a concept plan has been drawn up that includes enhancing an existing wetland on school grounds, planting trees, wildflowers, and native grass, and creating a butterfly garden. The district believes in promoting environmental education in or near urban areas as well as rural areas and increasing public awareness in the process.

The West Pottawattamie SWCD participated at the Union Pacific Health Fair where the groundwater flow model was demonstrated. Also on display were different plants and soil types.