

36th Annual Report

POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 216, Malcom, Iowa 50157

1984 Fiscal Year

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS FOR 1985

Douglas Brown, Chairman
Miles Clayton, Vice-Chairman
Arlene Ford, Treasurer
Carol McCain, Secretary
Ross Mintle, Commissioner
Wallace Mathes, Commissioner
Allen Brannian, Ass't. Commissioner
Ed Hatcher, Ass't. Commissioner
Don Pederson, Ass't. Commissioner
Sandy Moffett, Ass't. Commissioner
Keith Johnson, Ass't. Commissioner

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

Carol McCain, State Clerk-Typist
Mona Bond, State Engineering Aide
Rick L. Shafer, Soil Conservationist
David W. Kudej, District Conservationist

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
John Pingry, Area Resource Cons.
David L. Nelson, Civil Engineer
Catherine N. Kaspar, Agricultural Engr.
Francis W. Vos, Civil Engr. Technician
Keith L. Hunt, Civil Engr. Technician
Jerome M. Mall, Civil Engr. Technician
Kathleen M. Ohnemus, Area Clerk



CONSERVATION TILLAGE -

AN ATTRACTIVE SOLUTION TO SOIL EROSION

Conservation tillage may not be pretty-but it's one of the most attractive solutions to the problem of soil erosion on cropland.

Presently, the erosion rates on one out of three cropland acres are high enough to threaten long-term productivity. Conservation tillage has developed into the fastest growing farming system in history.

Through conservation tillage, farmers can greatly reduce the number of times they need to work the land. They can reduce or even eliminate plowing, disking, harrowing and cultivating to control weeds. In conservation tillage systems, weeds and insects can be controlled by herbicides and insecticides.

As a result, the new crop is planted directly in the residue of the previous crop. That residue, unsightly as it may look, protects the soil from wind and water erosion and acts as a mulch to retain moisture.

In 1972, fewer than 30 million acres of U. S. cropland were under conservation tillage. During 1982, that figure topped 100 million acres--or about one-fourth of all cropland.

On most soils in the United States, conservation tillage is by far the most cost-effective approach to reducing soil erosion.

Until recently, a major deterrent to conservation tillage has been its appearance. A "trashy-looking" field was, to many, a sign of a poor farmer. But today, the residue-littered field is fast becoming the mark of an intelligent farm manager. In fact, many now say conservation tillage may well be the most significant agricultural change since the introduction of hybrid corn.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAJOR PRACTICES

PONDS (EROSION CONTROL)

Larry Minner	Ron Clayton
Cecil Cranston	Wilbur Allen

FULL FLOW STRUCTURES

Clarence Cogley	Lester Beyer
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3,900' DIVERSIONS

Laverne Morrison	Paul Van Roekel
Marvin Cordes	Ella Brannian
Lyle Root	Tom Ogle

13,800' WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS

Norman Sleeuwenhoek	Don Hudnutt
Vernon Graham	Lester Van Wyk
Robert Downer	Don Schuldt
Laverne Neitzel	Lester Beyer
Keith Craig	Harris Van Kooten
Hansen Bros.	John Schmidt
Herbert Meyer	Vincent Johnson
Howard Raffety	N & R Ranch

56,150' TERRACES

Fisher Farm	Eugene Mann
George Meeks	Grace Middlemas
Vernon Van Wyk	Leo Schott
ISU Foundation	Miles Clayton
Lowry Farm	Doyle Ver Ploeg
Raymond Watson	Parker Farm
R & B Farms	Alma Vogt
Joe Schott	Clarence Van Zee
Eileen Easton	Allen Waterbeck
Elaine Stanley	George Stoker
James Renaud	

Conservation Tillage.19,395 Ac

Contour Farming 3,278 Ac

Cropland Benefited by Application
of Conservation Practices. . . .22,906 Ac

MAJOR PRACTICES Cont'd.

Wildlife Upland Habitat

Management.392 Ac

OTHER SERVICES

Individuals & Groups Assisted. . . .381 No

Individuals & Groups Applying
Practices292 No

Conservation Plans6,431 Ac

STATE COST-SHARE

We will have state cost-share funds available for spring construction projects. Applications are now being accepted.

Terraces and permanent erosion control structures have been determined top priorities by the District Commissioners. The cost-share rate is 50%, and not to exceed the original estimate. No cost-share will be allowed on tile that extends further than 250 feet below the bottom terrace.

If you have interest in any conservation work, stop by our office for further assistance or call us at (515)-528-2065.

FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Sign-up periods for ACP annual cost-share funds will be January 15 through September 30. Cost-share will be from 50% to 75% of the cost and will not exceed \$3,500.00 per person per year. Applications may be on the following practices: long-term seeding, windbreaks, no-till, ponds, structures, waterways, terraces, wildlife food habitat, contouring and strip cropping.

Sign-up for Long Term Agreements (LTA's) will be from January 15 through April 30. LTA's may be 3 to 5 year agreements to solve a certain conservation problem on the farm.

If you are interested, stop by the office or call us at (515)-528-4115.

1984 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DISTRICT

We would like to express our appreciation to the contributors who have made donations to our program. Thanks so much!

Howard Raffety
Mrs. Howard (Inez) Sears
Gibson Savings Bank
Poweshiek Mutual Insurance Association
Earl J. Jensen
Melvin Hohl
J. B. Van Quekelberghe
Wemer Farms Inc.
Michael W. Mahaffey
Howard G. McKee
Kenneth L. Dieterich
Worthin Grattan
Ia. Land Improvement Contractors Ass'n.
Lawrence Wallis
Mrs. R. W. Harris
D. Iverson, POA for Elmer S. Iverson
Robert Malin
Robert Kimm

1984 DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS 6,755 Acres

Eldon Van Wyk	Tom Dillman
Hafkey Farms Inc.	Carol Van Wyk
Allen Waterbeck	Keith D. Berckhan
Pitman Bros.	Tom W. Teed
Edward Heishman	Patrick Allen
John Evans Trust	James Wisecarver
Dennis DeVries	Scott L. Morrow
Paul R. Hudnut	Ron Lang
Stephen Lovig	M. E. Bayer
Wesley Behounek	Doyle Ver Ploeg
ABC Farms	John Hand
Marie C. Austin	Lavern J. Morrison
Dennis Moon	Allen Brannian
Rozelle Kasal	Loren Piersel
Ray Verdeck	Lena Farnum
Bob Maring	John F. Schmidt
Robert N. Stevens	Grace M. Middlemas
W. E. Doyle	Randy Lidtka
James D. Fisk	Duane Stier

PLAN YOUR WINDBREAK NOW

Late winter is the time to plan a new windbreak or consider restoration of an old one. To get started this spring, the Soil Conservation Service offers its technical assistance to help you with the layout and design of the windbreak. This consists of a visit to your farm if necessary, or planning and measuring in the office to assist you with the proper number of trees and their placement. To help with the cost of the trees, the Poweshiek County ASCS office offers 75% cost-share on new windbreaks and 65% cost-share on wildlife habitat plantings. If you need the protection for your farmstead buildings and house, we would encourage you to come in soon.

GROUPS WHO ASSIST THE DISTRICT

1. Soil Conservation Service
2. Department of Soil Conservation
3. County ASCS
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission
6. Chemical dealers
7. State & National Association of District Commissioners
8. Grinnell Kiwanis Club
9. Newspapers
10. Radio and TV stations
11. County Board of Supervisors
12. Contractors
13. Vocational Agriculture
14. Farm equipment dealers
15. Banks
16. Public schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. FmHA
21. Professional & business personnel
22. Izaak Walton League
23. Construction equipment companies and suppliers

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS

The Commissioners conducted eleven regular business meetings and two special meetings during the year.

Commissioners attended the Short Course in January, the Spring and Fall Regional meetings and the Annual Conference in November.

A joint Contractor Meeting with Jasper County was held on February 9. 84 people attended.

A no-till Meeting was held on February 13 in Malcom. There were approximately 105 in attendance, consisting of a chemical dealer panel, a guest speaker and local chemical and fertilizer dealers. Lunch was served by the Poweshiek County Cowbells. Commissioners also attended a no-till tour in June sponsored by the Poweshiek County Extension Service.

The Commissioners inspected Diamond Lake Watershed with the Area Office and SCS. They also assisted at the State Fair with the State Soil Conservation booth.

The District Clerk, Engineering Aide and Soil Conservationist attended a three day Training Meeting at the Amanas in February. The District Clerk also attended a three day Training Meeting in Des Moines in July.

AWARDS

FERNEAU FARMS with a yield of 187.03 and MILES CLAYTON with a yield of 184.45 were the first and second place winners in the no-till planted corn District Contest. MARVIN EHRET followed a close second place with a yield of 184.39.

A windbreak on the LOIS B. WHITE farm was chosen to be entered in the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award Contest.

Wear a smile. One size fits all.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES Cont'd.

MARVIN VAN GORP was selected Poweshiek County winner of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program in the Owner-Operator Division. The awards program recognizes farmers who have done a good job of wisely using the soil on their farm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Disbursements
1-M BUDGET (1983-84)		
Allocation	\$2,800.00	
Commissioners Expense		\$1,446.32
Office Supplies		657.28
Printing		157.00
TOTAL EXPENDED		2,260.60
BALANCE	\$539.40	

3-M BUDGET (1984-85)

Allocation	\$78,164.73	
Disbursed to Landowners		\$46,281.34
Obligated		17,234.90
Unobligated		14,648.49
		\$78,164.73

CONSERVING SOIL- HALF A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

It's been 50 years since the soil conservation movement in our country really got rolling. In that time conservation strategies haven't really changed.

Many farmers in Poweshiek County have done an excellent job applying conservation systems that save the soil. Practices used today in these conservation systems still include terraces, waterways, contouring, stripcropping and crop rotations. Most recently conservation tillage has been added to the list of soil-saving practices.

We encourage Poweshiek County farmers to keep up the good soil conservation work.