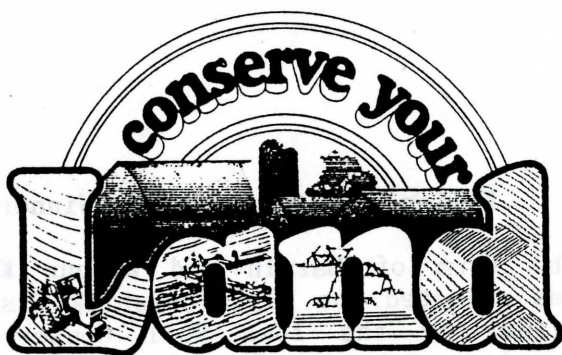




**POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

P.O. Box 216
Malcom, Iowa 50157-0216
(515) 528-2065

Assisted by
**U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation
Service**

COMMISSIONERS

Ronald Clayton, Chairman
Russell Winburn, Vice-Chairman
Douglas W. Mikel, Treasurer
Roger VanErsvelde, Commissioner
H. W. Mathes, Commissioner
Rita Baustian, Assistant Commissioner

OFFICE STAFF

David W. Kudej, District Conservationist
Clifford J. Foster, Technician
Jean Sebetka, TFT
Carol L. Brown, District Secretary

Continuous CRP Sign-up

**48TH ANNUAL REPORT
1996 FISCAL YEAR**

There is currently a continuous CRP sign-up for eligible land in Poweshiek County, according to Cliff Foster, Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS. Specific practices are eligible which address a variety of Natural Resource issues, such as water quality, wildlife, soil erosion and other environmentally sensitive issues. The following practices are currently eligible: filter strips, riparian buffers, shelter belts, living snow fences, field windbreaks, grassed waterways and shallow water areas for wildlife. Eligible areas would be cropped or considered cropped 2 of the last 5 years. For further information about program specifics, contact your local USDA offices. Poweshiek county landowners should call Farm Service Agency at 528-4115 or Natural Resources Conservation Service at 528-2065.

**Conservation Practices Revolving
Loan Program**

The State of Iowa has cost-share funding available under the Conservation Practices Revolving Loan Program.

This fund is used to provide loans at no interest to eligible landowners for constructing permanent soil conservation practices. This funding will be administered by the Division of Soil Conservation in cooperation with the Poweshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In this program, eligible landowners can borrow up to \$10,000.00 at no interest for up to a ten-year period to construct permanent soil conservation practices. To be eligible, a landowner must be able to secure the loan and be capable of repaying the loan in ten annual installments.

Conservation Work Accomplishments

October 1995 to September 1996

Cooperator Agreements.....	2,338 Ac.
Landowners Assisted.....	787 No.
Individuals & Groups	
Applying Practices.....	101 No.
HEL Positive Determinations.....	95 No.
Applied Conservation Plans.....	888 Ac.
Approved Conservation Plans.....	9,750 Ac.
Farmstead Windbreaks.....	9 Ac.
Grassed Waterways.....	55 Ac.
Terraces.....	29,750 Ft.
Tree Planting.....	3 Ac.
Water and Sediment Control	
Basins.....	156 No.
Wildlife Acres Treated.....	397 Ac.
Ponds.....	2 No.

Cost-sharing Programs

State cost-share funds will be available for practices such as terraces, water and sediment control basins and waterways for fall construction. Applications for 1997 construction should be made as soon as possible.

Cost-share funds for windbreaks and native grass plantings are available through REAP funds.

If You have an interest in any of these programs, applications are available at our office.



Backyard Stewardship

April 27 - May 4, 1997

Local congregations have joined together annually with local soil and water conservation districts to celebrate **Soil and Water Stewardship Week**. Soil and Water Stewardship Observance Materials were delivered by the District Commissioners to 26 churches throughout Poweshiek County. "Backyard Stewardship" is the theme selected for this year. The materials focus upon the responsibility of all citizens to nurture that in their immediate care. Sound conservation practices in our own backyard not only set a good example for our neighbors, but collectively do much toward meeting our national conservation goals.

Expenditure of Funds Provided by State of Iowa

1996-97 Fiscal Year

<u>1-M Budget</u>	\$2,500.00
Office Supplies	-\$18.26
Printing	-\$0
Commissioner's Expenses	-\$418.04
Released to Department	-\$700.00
Ending Balance	\$1,363.70

<u>3-M Budget 1996-97 FY</u>	\$127,665.00
Total Spent	\$95,287.21
Total Obligated	\$29,758.50
Balance	\$2,619.29

<u>REAP Practices</u>	\$9,345.00
Total Spent	\$0
Total Obligated	\$3,609.25
Balance	\$5,735.75

<u>REAP Forestry</u>	\$2,162.00
Total Spent	\$0
Total Obligated	\$2,133.00
Balance	\$29.00

Keller Farm Conservation Winner

The farm of **Marvin and Arthur Keller** was selected the 1996 Poweshiek District winner in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards contest. The family farm is located in Madison Township, north of Brooklyn. The farm is owned by Arthur Keller and operated by his son, Marvin.

The farm is a good example of a farm with a good variety of land uses and conservation practices which have been used for a long time. The farm was entered by the Poweshiek County SWCD in the Regional contest.

Poster Contest Winners

District winners of the 1996 Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest were as follows:

Allison Malmquist, Grinnell, Division 2, **Amanda Earley**, Brooklyn, Division 3, **Michelle Clayton**, Brooklyn, Division 4 and **Travis Solem**, Brooklyn, Division 5.

These winners were selected by the District Commissioners from posters submitted by students in Poweshiek County, grades K-12. They advanced on to Regional competition. The theme this year was Harmony - People and Places. The poster contest is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary.

Annual Scholarship Award

The 1996 winner of the Scholarship Award in Poweshiek County was **Michael R. Kriener**, Brooklyn, son of Robert and Susan Kriener.

Each year a winner is selected by the District Commissioners from applications received from high schools in Poweshiek County. Michael then advanced on to Regional competition.

The Scholarship Award is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary.

All programs and services of the Poweshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.