

BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3216 THISTLEDOWN DRIVE • WATERLOO, IOWA 50702 • PHONE (319) 296-3262

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

L. Jeanette Winegarden, VCH
H. Arnold Harting
Marvin Haugebak
John Marsau, CH
Jon Mixdorf

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Quinter Lichty

STAFF

Mike Webster, DC
Elaine Hammer, SC Tech
Carol DeWolf, Secretary
Tammy Schnock, WAE
Julie Saathoff, WAE

JULIE FALCON, SC
LARRY WEIGLE, BUFF
STRIP SP

LEO SIMESTER, VOL

Newsletter

BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1997 ANNUAL REPORT

1M BUDGET

July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997

Total Allocation	\$ 3,750.00
Commissioners Expenses	1,421.71
Office Supplies, postage & dues	<u>2,328.29</u>
Balance	\$.00

3M BUDGET

Cost Share Ledger 1995-1996

Original Allocation	\$16,983.00
Projects Completed	13,723.91
Project Still in Progress	<u>2,013.25</u>
Recalled to Dept. 12/96	1,245.84

REAP Practices Ledger 1996

Original Allocation	\$11,538.00
Projects Completed	<u>7,349.20</u>
Recalled to Dept. 12/96	\$ 4,188.80

REAP Forestry Ledger 1995

Original Allocation	\$2,693.00
Projects Completed	<u>1,907.58</u>
Recalled to Dept. 12/96	\$ 785.42

COMMISSIONERS REVOLVING FUND

Balance 7/1/95	\$ 529.28
Deposit	6,705.24
Expenditures	<u>6,896.14</u>
Balance 6/30/96	\$ 338.38

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Cooperators	25
Conservation Cover (Acres)	331
Conservation Cropping System (Acres)	6,307
Conservation Tillage (Acres)	5,710
Contour Stripcropping (Acres)	26
Contours (Acres)	158
Critical Area Planting (Acres)	19
Filter Strips (Acres)	280
Highly Erodible Land Determinations (No.)	55
Sediment Basins (No.)	4
Subsurface Drain (Feet)	16,311
Terraces (Feet)	9,550
Waste Utilization (Acres)	366
Waterways (Acres)	126
Wetland Acres Restored (Acres)	34
Windbreaks (Acres)	13
Wildlife Upland Habitat Mgmt (Acres)	231
Wildlife Wetland Habitat Mgmt (Acres)	34
Wetland Determinations	230

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1997 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

--The commissioners fifth Urban Erosion Seminar was held at the Best Western Starlite Village on February 12.

--Winegarden, Marsau, Haugebak and Harting attended the Region 4 Spring Regional Meeting held on March 7th in Lamont, Iowa.

--The Mercantile Bank again sponsored the district's booth at the Hawkeye Farm Show that was held at the UNI dome on March 11, 12, and 13. A downing display depicting buffer strips was used in the booth.

--*Backyard Stewardship* was the theme for the 1997 Soil and Water Stewardship Week observed April 27 - May 4. The district furnished materials to over 150 churches in Waterloo and the surrounding area.

--For the 1997 Soil & Water Conservation Poster Contest, the commissioners chose Erin Dirks, Union Middle School; Sarah Greiner, Dike-New Hartford Community School; and Dusty Bengston, Union High School as first place winners.

--The 10th anniversary of the Cedar River Festival was held July 13 at the Rotary Reserve and the commissioners had a booth there again this year.

--Quinter Lichty, Assistant Commissioner, was selected as the regional winner for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and went on to be chosen as the state's winner of the highest level of the Farmer Division.

--The 38th annual conference for the Black Hawk County Conservation Board was held September 20th at the Rotary Reserve and the district was at the expo as an exhibitor.

--The commissioners had a booth in the Flower and Garden Building on September 16-19 at the National Cattle Congress Exposition. The Buffer Strip Initiative display was used with handouts.

--Dusty Bengston was the first place winner in Region 4, Division 5 of the 1997 Soil & Water Conservation Poster Contest.

--Marsau, Winegarden, Haugebak, Harting, Mixdorf and Webster attended the Fall Regional Meeting held on Tuesday, December 3 at Luther College in Decorah.

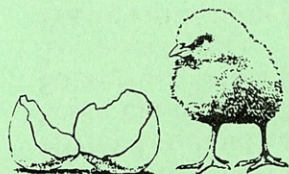
This report is published not only to show the conservation work completed, but gives us the opportunity to say thank you to everyone supporting conservation programs in the county. We especially appreciate every landowner and operator who applied a conservation practice during the past year, the local media for publicity throughout the year and everyone who helped to make our district's program a success.



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S P R I N G



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SIGN-UP STARTING FOR COST-SHARE FUNDS

April 6 begins the 1998 application period for cost-share funds under the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and continues until May 15th. The total amount of cost-share available this year is \$36,000. Persons who own or operate land in the Miller Creek Watershed may sign up for cost-share assistance at the FSA office in Waterloo. NRCS staff will meet with producers to develop five or ten year resource management plans, depending on the needs of each farm.

Funds may be used for numerous practices such as grass waterways, terraces, grade stabilization structures, capping abandoned wells, farmstead windbreaks, tree plantings, wetland restoration and pasture management to mention a few.

Persons in Black Hawk County who **do not** own or operate land in the Miller Creek Watershed can apply for statewide funds at the local FSA office to address natural resource concerns including soil conservation, water quality, manure and nutrient management. After the signup ends, there will be an evaluation of the applications and producers approved for cost-share will then be notified.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY BLACK HAWK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) have a resolution process that is an excellent opportunity to bring issues before the membership, provide direction for the Board of Directors, relay grass roots issues to the State Legislation, present concerns to NRCS and present Iowa issues to the U.S. Congress.

Each district is encouraged to send any concerns to the resolutions committee in the form of a resolution by May 1st. They are compiled, sent to each district and voted on by the commissioners on an official ballot that is sent in by July 15.

The Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners submitted two resolutions to be considered this year:
(1.) CDI support a change in the U.S. tax code to allow deductibility for permanent conservation practices to landowners who cash rent their land.
(2.) CDI will undertake the project of providing the service of selling a conservation farm sign to the districts and as a result will not only be able

to realize financial help for their programs, but will create a much needed service to the districts.

Resolutions that receive at least 60% of the votes for approval by those commissioners voting, automatically will be adopted with no further action at the Annual Conference. Also, resolutions that receive at least 60% of the votes for disapproval, automatically will fail. The rest of the resolutions will be brought to the Annual Conference for further discussion or amendment.

**FLUORESCENT RED OR PINK
MARKING FLAGS
FOR SALE AT OUR OFFICE
\$8.00/100**

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOIL & WATER STEWARDSHIP POSTER CONTEST WINNERS!

Posters created for the 1998 Soil and Water Conservation District's annual poster contest featured the theme "Wonders of Wildlife".

The contest is co-sponsored by the Auxiliary of the Conservation Districts of Iowa and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and all students in Iowa from kindergarten through 12th grade were eligible to enter. In Black Hawk County, Union Community Schools submitted posters this year and they were judged by the commissioners with a winner chosen in each division submitted.

Division 3 - 1st place - Kelli Selk, Grade 6
2nd place - Jamie Bagenstos, Grade 6
Division 4 - 1st place - Chris Roberts, Grade 9
Division 5 - 1st place - Abigail Foss, Grade 10
2nd place - Chad Fisher, Grade 12

Commissioner H. Arnold Harting made the presentations. Each 1st place winner received a Certificate of Recognition, a \$20.00 check and their posters will be sent to the regional competition. The 2nd place winners received a Certificate of Recognition and a \$5.00 check. Congratulations to the winners and the district looks forward to having more posters and more winners next year.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at 202/720-2600. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340(voice) or 202/720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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