

Historical Information

- 1939 - Iowa passed enabling legislation (Code 467A) for soil conservation districts (SCDs) and established agency named State Soil Conservation Committee, forerunner of the DSC. 48TH General Assembly (Ch. 92, Acts 48th GA)
- 1940 to 1952- SCD's organized, clerks employed and assigned to SCD'S, soil conservation aides employed to and assigned to SCD'S.
- 1947 - First Annual Conference for SCD Commissioners held
- 1949 - Clerks first assigned to SCD's.
- 1950 - Aides first assigned to SCD's.
- 1967 - State of Iowa became involved in soil survey program in July.
- 1969 - Number of commissioners increased from 3 to 5 per SCD.
- 1970 - Agency name changed from State Soil Conservation Committee to Department of Soil Conservation. SSCC remained a board in policy-making role.
- 1970 - Cities and towns included in SCD'S and all qualified electors could vote for or be elected as SCD commissioners.
- 1971 - Six conservancy districts (CD's) as created. (Code 467D)
SCD's classified all soils and assigned soil loss limits.
Membership of SSCC expanded to 6 farmer members (one per CD); member-at-large representing cities and towns; 5 ex officio non-voting members (Iowa Department of Agriculture, Iowa Conservation Commission, Iowa Natural Resources Council, Department of Environmental Quality, and Extension Service); and 2 advisors (USDA-SCS and Iowa County Engineers Association).
- 1973 - Department of Mines and Minerals abolished and DSC Mines and Minerals Division created. Member of SSCC expanded to include member-at-large representing state's mining industry.
- 1973 - First state soil conservation cost-share program began with \$1.5 million.
- 1975 - 208 nonpoint source pollution responsibility.
July 1 law changed for commissioner elections to be a general election ballot.
- 1976 - First election of SCD commissioners at the general election in November.
- 1978 to 1980- Temporary State Land Preservation Policy Commission administratively attached to DSC. - final report to legislature in 1980.

- 1980 - Iowa Soil 2000 enacted, which included conservation folders, inter-agency water coordination, 20-year maintenance agreements on state cost-shared practices.
- 1980 - First CD board locally elected for Iowa-Cedar River CD.
- 1986 - July 1 Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship created (Department of Soil Conservation became Division of Soil Conservation and existing divisions within became bureaus—Field Services, Financial Incentives, Mines and Minerals, and Water Resource
- 1987 - Changed Soil Conservation District to Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 1989 - REAP created July 1st.
- 1996 - SWCD commissioner term changed from 6 years to 4 years.
- 2000 - Iowa Water Initiative Enacted (including Integrated Farm/Livestock Management Demonstration Program, Iowa Watershed Protection Program, Buffer Initiative to Support Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program).
- 2001 - Iowa Financial Incentive Program (Soil Conservation Cost-Share) moved from general fund appropriation to infrastructure fund in Environment First.
- 2005 - Division of Soil Conservation bureau structure changed to: Field Services (incorporating financial incentives), Mines and Minerals, and Water Resource