

Mills County

*Soil and Water
Conservation District*

**1997
Annual Report**



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS



District Commissioners Left to Right: John Jennings; Paul Hathaway, Chairman; Lynn Goos, Vice-Chairman; Ruth Stevens; Steve Roenfeldt; Albert Washburn, Assistant Commissioner. Not Pictured: Stephen McGrew, Assistant Commissioner

Dear Friends of Conservation:

In the 55 years since the organization of the Soil and Water Conservation District, many changes have occurred in the Mills County landscape. Conservation practices have helped stem the disastrous effects of heavy rainfall. Education and partnerships have spread the conservation ethic. Our work is not done. New clients surface as urban expansion and development occurs within our county lines. New generations need to be continually educated. Your donations allow us to continue to implement conservation education and awareness in the district. Please help us. You may address your check to the **Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District** and enclose it in the self-addressed envelope or bring it by our office.

Thank you for your help in protecting our future.

Paul Hathaway, Chairman
Lynn Goos, V-Chairman
Steve Roenfeldt
John Jennings

Ruth Stevens
Stephen McGrew, Assistant
Albert Washburn, Assistant

-----Financial Report-----

REVOLVING FUND

Balance on Hand
January 1, 1997 **449.51**

INCOME/DEPOSITS

Donations	\$ 1257.85
Waubonsie Creek	53829.50
BPA Copier Reimbursement	810.00
USDA-NRCS Sales Tax Refund	128.86
Money Market Fund	4537.00
1-M Reimbursement	1927.79
Ray Stevens Memorial	100.00
Golden Hills RC&D account	118.27
Dues reimbursement	250.00
M4 & M5 abstract update reimb.	125.00
TOTAL INCOME	63084.27

EXPENSES

Postage	953.61
Dues	1072.00
Office Supplies	1353.85
Subscriptions	36.00
Copier	540.00
Nelson & Rock Contracting	53829.50
Insurance	186.28
Meeting expenses	123.12
Education and Gifts	613.90
USDA-NRCS-Sales Tax	128.86
M-4 & M-5 expenses	125.00
Scholarships	1250.00
Computer/printer	2305.86
Water use permit	25.00
Commissioner Mileage	624.00
Misc.	241.24
TOTAL EXPENSES	63408.22

BALANCE AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 1997 **\$125.56**

4-\$5000.00 CD'S

MONEY MARKET FUND

Balance on Hand **\$15274.93**
January 1, 1997

DEPOSITS

Interest	\$ 335.94
1-M Expenses	505.42
Computer reimbursement	1870.42
BPA	270.00
Dues reimbursement	250.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS **\$ 2961.78**

WITHDRAWS

Gateway 2000	\$3781.00
Checking	4537.00

Balance on Hand
December 31, 1997 **\$ 9918.71**

III-M BUDGET 1997-98

Total Allocation	87,184.00
Total Spent	64,392.40
Balance 12/31/97	22,791.60

III-M BUDGET 1996-97

Total Allocation	110,567.00
Total Spent	110,567.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/97	0.00

III-M BUDGET 1995-96

Total Allocation	146,879.75
Total Spent	146,879.75
Balance on Hand 12/31/97	0.00

III - M BUDGET 1994-95

Total Allocation	127,750.46
Total Spent	127,750.46
Balance on Hand 12/31/97	0.00

REAP PRACTICES 1998

Total Allocation	8015.00
Total Spent	455.82
Balance 12/31/97	3,460.18

REAP PRACTICES 1997

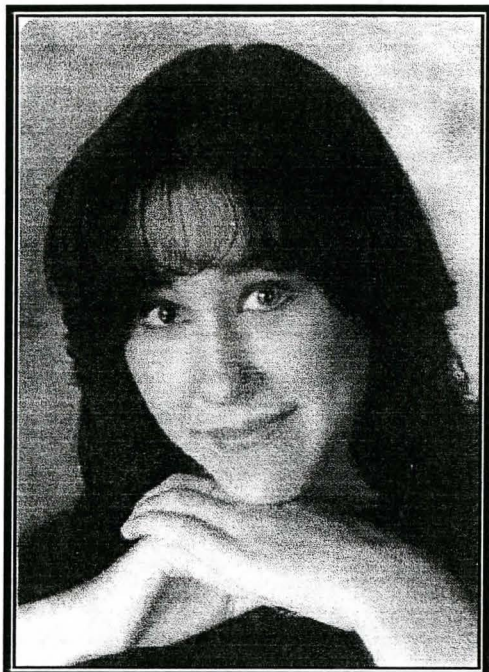
Total Allocation	2942.00
Total Spent	2942.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/97	0.00

REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES 1997

Total Allocation	789.75
Total Spent	789.75
Balance on Hand 12-31-97	0.00

43 Terrace systems installed for a total of 187,750 feet, resulting in 583 tons of soil saved on 844 acres.

1997 HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

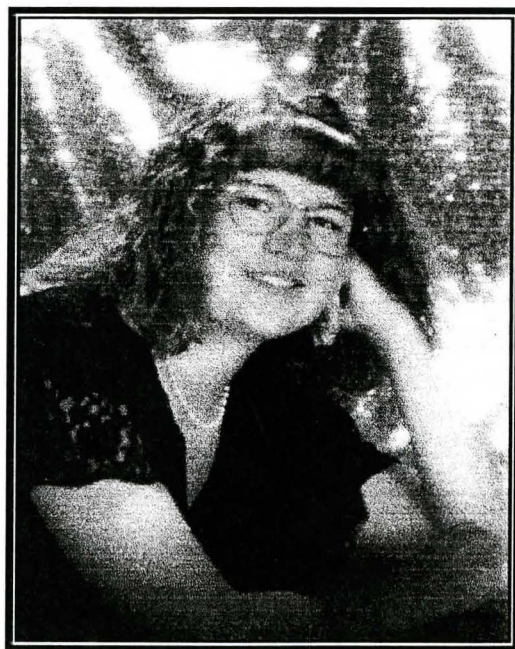


KELLY LEAHY

A 1997 graduate of Malvern High School, Kelly is the daughter of Frank and Shirley Leahy. She was active in many activities in school including band, art, chorus, speech, cheerleading and National Honor Society. Kelly graduated at the top of her class while holding down a part time job and volunteering at the public library. She is enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln majoring in communications. Kelly is concerned about the use and waste of our natural resources. She believes education is fundamental to insure the continuation of fossil fuels and pure water for future generations. We wish Kelly the best of luck in the future!

JENNIFER TACKETT

Jennifer is the daughter of Wayne and Patricia Tackett of rural Glenwood. She graduated from Glenwood High School in 1997. During that time she was active in band, chorus, speech, student government, national honor society and future homemakers. Jennifer is very active in 4-H, holding many offices at state and local levels. She is an active church member and volunteers as well as helping with the family farm and beef operation. Jennifer is concerned with the rate of urban growth in rural areas. She thinks that future generations will have to insure wise use of the land, maintaining areas for wildlife, caring for land in crop production and providing for urban needs. Jennifer will be attending the University of Northern Iowa with a major in Biotechnology.



District Activities

JANUARY

The Mills County District Commissioners and County Committee met to discuss an EQIP project for Mills county. The new RUSLE was made available for figuring soil loss. The Mills County SWCD purchased a new computer equipped for GIS. A sub-area technicians meeting was held in Shenandoah. A 4 county tillage meeting was held in Shenandoah.

FEBRUARY

A county wide meeting was held in Malvern to determine priority area for EQIP project. Commissioners attended "workshop" meeting in Red Oak. Linda Seipold attended regional Environthon contest held in Corning. Several training sessions were held in the area to review and update procedures and policies used by employees in Area 4. A four county secretary's meeting was held.

MARCH

CRP signup started March 3 and ended March 28. Bonnie Pierce and Linda Seipold were detailed to the Mt. Ayr field office to assist with the heavy work load created by a large CRP signup. An open house was held in the Malvern field office for the contractors. Spring terrace construction started. A sub-area technicians meeting was held in Red Oak.

APRIL

Dick Stille, Tom Burkhisser and Greg Mathis, held a joint meeting in the Malvern field office to discuss the Indian Creek Watershed project to be presented for EQIP funds. Rich Maaske began to work with area developers on urban conservation plans for the county. Bonnie Pierce attended a QST meeting held in Atlantic. The month was busy with spring layout in full swing. Malvern High School student, Traci Rowe spent the day in the office "shadowing" the secretary.

MAY

Jon Gallagher and Randy Cooney both environmental specialists with IDALS and Rich Maaske met with county officials to develop plans for the erosion problems in Mills County. Linda and Joni attended an Administration meeting held in Walnut. The Mills County SWCD awarded scholarships to seniors Jennifer Tackett from Glenwood Community High School and Kelly Leahy from Malvern High School. Belinda Greene's son received 2nd and 3rd degree burns on his back. She is our secretary for the SWCD.

JUNE

Bonnie and Linda started watershed inspection for the watershed areas. Dick Stille attended an area D.C. meeting in Corning. Bonnie, Rich and Linda attended Effective Facilitator Training in Des Moines for one week. Residue checks were made for the Master Corn Growers. Mills County farmer, David Seick placed third in the nation.

JULY

The district computer was loaded with a PMC map program which includes GIS computerized soils, CSR and crop yield information. This is a service offered to area farmers for their information. The fair booth was a success with a farm scene complete with conservation practices and a quiz for fairgoers to test their knowledge. Dick Stille attended a four day training session on conservation planning in Atlantic.

AUGUST

Scott Hillyer received the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award. Elizabeth Swanson received special recognition for supporting our scholarship program. Bonnie and Linda were detailed to Mt. Ayr to help with the CRP contracts being developed. Bonnie attended area coordinators meeting in Des Moines for QST. Rich, Bonnie and Linda attended a three day state technicians meeting in Marshalltown. Summer construction was winding down. A four county Technology Conference was held in Shenandoah.

SEPTEMBER

Linda was assigned as a four county computer trainer and attended two day FOCS update in Des Moines. Our fall allocation of \$52,000 was received. Summer construction was completed. Rich Maaske and Linda Seipold were elected to the Quality Steering Team and Bonnie Pierce was elected as area coordinator for the QST team. Fall construction started with heavy rains in the county the first of September. Dick attended CRP training.

OCTOBER

Rich was appointed to a committee for developing an Urban Conservation Conference to be held in February of 1998. CRP signup 16 started in October. Two public outreach meetings supporting CRP were held involving FSA, NRCS and Extension service.

NOVEMBER

The Malvern field office received an award for accomplishments in buffer strip initiative. Fall layout ended due to weather conditions. Notice of bids for two Waubensie watershed sites (M4 & M5) were mailed.

DECEMBER

Bonnie was on a team for Quality review of terrace construction in Montgomery county. Rich and Linda met Jeff Zimprich at the Glenwood State Hospital School with NRCS employees participating in two weeks training course being held at the Lied Center in Nebraska City. The group toured new developments in the Glenwood area. Dixon Construction was awarded the contract for watershed construction.

OFFICE STAFF



Office Staff Front Row: Belinda Greene, Secretary; Joni Sell, WAE; Linda Seipold, Soil Conservation Technician; Bonnie Pierce, Soil Conservation Technician Back Row: Dick Stille, District Conservationist; Rich Maaske, State Technician

OUR COST SHARE PROGRAM

Mills County administers their cost share program to assist you in applying conservation practices to the land with financial assistance. The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) finances the program with emphasis of long range conservation practices such as terraces. The REAP program is also financed by IDALS with assistance on establishing natural resources such as tree planting and windbreaks. A Soil Conservation Technician will assist you in determining the practice best suited for your problem, help with design and cost estimate.

- Sign an application at the NRCS office and receive assistance with design and cost estimate
- Sign up is taken during January and February. Drawing in March for order of cost share. Other applications may be taken during the year and considered as funds are available.
- Landowner receives notice when they are approved for cost share and contacts a contractor.
- An appointment is made with landowner and technician for layout of practice.
- Practice is installed. Bills are turned in to the office. Practice is inspected.
- Approved by the commissioners for payment. Landowner signs maintenance agreement requiring them to maintain practice for the specified period of time.

Cost Share Terraces

State Cost Share Terraces (in feet)

Asmussen, Geraldine	4600
Beattie, Brian	6650
Beier, Alfred	10200
Benton, Joe	6750
Cheney Land Corp.	8250
Costello Inc.	9100
Dalton, Charles	1350
Dunsdon, Don	800
Elkro Farms	6100
Evans, RL	2050
Glynn Farms	3550
Grisamore, Joe	2900
Hansen, Don	10900
Hansen, Leo	2950
Harmon, Richard	650
Harmon, Roger	900
Harms, Jeannie	3950
Hulse, LeRoy	1950
Hunt, William	2550
Kayton, Charles	6050
Kruse, Dean	2100
Kruse, Harold	1900
Lakin, Charles	16200
Larson, Fred	6450
M & R Farms	4550
Maher Farms	2900
McCollester, James	2250
McGinnis, Darwin	1650
McManical, Charles	6650
Nishna Botna Farms	2200
Piper, RK	5750
Rasmussen/Pulk	6800
Roefeldt, Danny	2500
Roefeldt, Steven	5300
Schroeder Inc.	7000
Shaw, Harold	1350
Techau, Fred	950
Thompson, Don	3700
Three R Farms	6700
Vestal, Charles	3850
Washburn, Albert	1450
Williams, Sheldon	3350

Non Cost Share Terraces (in feet)

Bauer, Frank	3300
Gilliland, Virginia	5600
Hansen, Don	2000
Jens, William	1750
M & R Farms	5750
Martin, Edna	750
Pulk/Rasmussen	2600
Sayers, Dean	3150
Zanders, Claire	1150

Federal Cost Share Terraces (in feet)

Head, Patricia	3050
Maher, Dorothy	1600

LTA

Bolton, Monty	4100
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Tree Planting

Mielke, Sharon	5 acres
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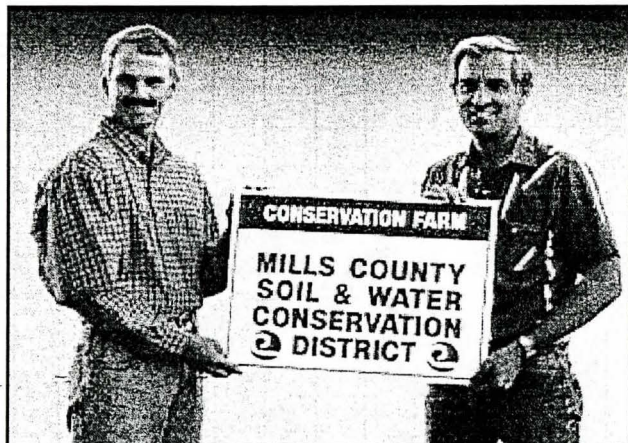
Waste Management Structure

Laughlin, Ed

Bufferstrips

Anderson, Richard	5 acres
Gillard, Archie	6 acres
Hacker, Paul	3 acres
Jennings, John	2 acres
Pontow, Peggy	7 acres
Reisner, Ron	2 acres
Slepicka, Alois	5 acres

Scott Hillyer, Conservation Farmer of the Year



Left to Right Scott Hillyer, Conservation Farmer of the Year with Paul Hathaway, Chairman Mills Co SWCD

Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to award the 1997 Conservation Farmer of the Year to Scott Hillyer of rural Imogene. Hillyer farms 680 acres in Deer Creek and Silver Creek. In addition, he has a 32 head Grade A Holstein herd. Scott started using no-till on bean ground in 1983 and on his corn ground in 1991. He combines the use of terraces and a seeding rotation to further reduce soil loss. Scott is married to Dawn Hillyer and they have a three year old son, Colden. Dawn works at the Shenandoah Post Office. Scott currently serves on the FSA County Committee. He is active in 4-H serving on Extension Council, Youth Committee and a club leader. Scott and Dawn are members of the Strahan Methodist Church. Paul Hathaway, District Chairman awarded Scott this conservation sign to be displayed at his farmstead.

MILLS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Box 190
Malvern, IA 51551-0190

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Malvern, IA 51551
Permit No. 34