

Hardin County Soil Conservation District

9—Hardin County Index, Friday, February 1, 1980

Five Commissioners Direct operations of Hardin Soil District



Gary Walters
[Chairman]



Martin Broer
[Vice Chairman]



Jim Tidman
[Treasurer]



Carroll Hobson



Caleb Knutson

Progress in soil conservation

by Gary D. Walters, chairman, Hardin S.C.D.

Due to ideal weather conditions, construction on permanent structures made great headway during 1980. We allocated over \$50,000.00 for terraces and other structures, but could have used more funds because some projects were short of the 50% cost share allowed by the Hardin County Soil Conservation District. During the fall we saw an increase of conservation tillage on corn stubble in Hardin County. Many soybean fields were not tilled and others had only an anhydrous application on them. Far too many fields that were in soybeans were disked, chisel plowed, and mold-board plowed. The resulting wind erosion is horrendous, amounting to thousands of tons of topsoil lost forever. Clean mold-board plowed corn stubble fields have incurred serious losses of topsoil by wind erosion, also.

The Iowa Soil 2000 Law was passed in 1980, which, if funds are available, will put more conservation on the land. The law enables the SCD's to issue a conservation plan and folder for every farm by the year 1985. It is hoped that by 1990, all farmers will have begun soil conservation practices on their land. If they have not begun, the SCD Commissioners will determine if farms are losing more than 5 tons of topsoil per acre. Then, if the soil loss is in excess of 5 tons per acre, the farmer will be notified that he must comply to the soil loss limit. After 3 years, 1993, if the farmer is in violation, then mandatory action will be filed against him.

Presently, the commissioners can act if siltation is damaging others in the county. We would prefer, that action could be handled

between adjoining landowners, but we can be called upon to see that the damage is remedied.

During 1980, we saw the State Conservation Commission re-classify Upper Pine Lake as under 100 acres, thus outlawing outboard motors. Many farmers have built terraces in the Pine Lake Watershed, while others have done nothing during the last 20 years. Many of the original terraces, have not been maintained properly and have little or no water storing capacity. Some farmers in the Pine Lake Watershed, continue to mold-board plow the fragile Fayette soils, which contribute to sedimentation of both Pine Lakes. We find this intolerable! We will be working more closely with the State Soil Conservation Commission to identify these acres with excessive soil erosion! With Iowa cost share at 75% in the Pine Lake Watershed, it seems to us that, anyone, that believes in the future of agriculture and the beauty recreational value of Pine Lake State Park, should be able to do his share!

We urge all citizens of Hardin County to write and talk to your State and Federal Legislators, requesting that they support soil and water conservation funding for cost share, research, and work forces.

We invite your donations for our conservation club membership, so that we may continue our educational materials to schools, our bank displays, our booth at the Hardin County Fair, and our speech contest.

LET'S ALL MAKE SOIL EROSION SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE!!



SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE PERSONNEL — Front row, left to right: Val Gerdes, Soil Conservationist; Steve Manternach, District Conservationist; and Melinda Schwarek, Clerk. Back row, left to right: Fred Rosenkrans, Conservation Aide [part-time] and Earnest Hoffa, Engineering Aide.

Financial Report

(July 1, 1979 - June 30, 1980)

FINANCIAL REPORT (July 1, 1979 - June 30, 1980)	
IM Budget - District Allocation	1,800.00
Expenses:	
Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	649.91
Office Supplies	129.42
Printing	82.50
Prizes for Contests	11.00
Rental for Meeting Hall	22.00
Office Expense	499.26
Total	1,430.07
Released back to State	379.93
Balance	.00
IM Budget - District Allocation	25,435.00
State Clerk & State Aide Salary Expense	24,894.33
Travel	30.41
Equipment Maintenance	85.85
Released back to State	624.41
Balance	.00
IM Budget - 1979-80 Allocation	35,000.00
Supplemental Allocation	4,200.00
Total Allocation	40,200.00
Amount Expended	35,456.77
Amount Obligated	4,180.00
Amount Returned to State	563.23
Balance Unobligated	.00
REVOLVING ACCOUNT July 1, 1979 Balance	150.75
Interest earned on CD	41.53
Total on hand	1,541.52

Receipts:	
State Comptroller-Supplies	909.06
Flags Sold	9.27
Disbursement:	
Office Supplies	699.82
June 30, 1980 Balance	369.25

CONSERVATION CLUB ACCOUNT July 1, 1979 Balance	962.73
Receipts:	
Contributions	782.56
Disbursements:	
Copier Maintenance Agreement	252.22
Soil Stewardship Material	157.48
NACD Dues	275.00
IASCD Dues	150.00
Miscellaneous & Office Expense	199.83
Total	1,064.53
June 30, 1980 Balance	560.76

EMPLOYEE'S ACCOUNT December 17, 1979 - County Funding	4,000.00
Disbursements:	
Soil Conservation Service Re-	
imbursement	1,500.00
Checks	1.33
Total	2,358.16
Balance	1,641.84
Certificate of Deposit	
Interest earned on CD	41.53
Total on hand	1,541.52

Wind breaks have many advantages

by Val Gerdes, Soil Conservationist

Wish I had even a nicker for every time a farmer or farm wife has told me, "We need more trees in this area, the wind just blows all the time." It seems typical that these people complain very well, yet seldom try to remedy the situation by planting trees.

The best way to reduce the wind around your farm or home is to plant and maintain a good windbreak. A windbreak is part of total farm management plan. The Hardin Soil Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service are involved in helping farmers and landowners develop conservation plans that work for you. Wind erosion control is the main benefit of a windbreak, however, there can be many other benefits.

A row of trees and shrubs can reduce stress on livestock in open pens, cut down on heating costs and reduce the amount of snow that piles up in the yards. In a storm, the wildlife seeks protection there. This is important to fox and pheasant populations.

In the summer, well placed trees are the most efficient air conditioners. Again, both livestock and families can benefit from the shade and protection of your windbreak.

When fields are worked and the dust starts to blow, a windbreak is a real treat; no dust on clean clothes and cars, less damage to paint, sidings and machinery. All this adds up to money and time that is saved.

I think spring and fall are my favorite seasons to enjoy windbreaks. With proper selections of the types of trees, there can be beautiful displays of spring blooms and fall color. Wild black cherry, aspen, hard maple, oaks, lindens and a variety of shrubs can be combined in almost any windbreak. With the new varieties of bush cherries, plums, and other fruits, an additional harvest of fruits and nuts could be available in a well managed windbreak.

With more people seeking to reduce heating costs, firewood may soon be a premium commodity. A windbreak combination woodlot may be your answer, with good planning and management this can be accomplished. Fast growing species like poplar, willow, and silver maple are mixed with green ash, hard maple and oaks. Timber production may be another way to use an odd area. Walnut and black cherry are considered for this purpose.

There are a variety of combinations of trees and shrubs available. Please consider your purpose, the effect you want and the soil types. The ASCS will aid you in financing of your windbreak and the Soil Conservation Service will help you plan your windbreak as part of your total conservation plan. Now the time to be planning for planting your windbreak this spring. Remember - the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.



Stanley and Neva Granzow have won the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award in Hardin County. Pictured is their windbreak, located in Section 3 of Pleasant Township. Windbreaks are

a very important part of a farm energy saving program. A well planned windbreak can reduce wind velocity up to 75% and reduce your snow drifting problem.

Trees and shrubs vital to conservation effort

by Val Gerdes, Soil Conservationist

Like our soil, trees are a vital resource. Their uses and value are as varied as the different species. They are a source of wood, wood products, paper, fuel, and beauty.

The Hardin Soil Conservation District, with other Districts and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) are interested in trees and shrubs for control of erosion and wildlife habitat.

As was emphasized by Governor Ray's 1980 Plant Iowa Program, Iowa's woodlands are dwindling at a very rapid rate. Iowa had 7 million acres of woodlands in the late 1800's which has been reduced to 1.5 acres in the late 1970's.

Consider on a more local scale, the number of farm woodlots and windbreaks that have been cleared in your neighborhood. How many acres of timber have been changed to pastures, field housing developments, or roads.

The SCS and the Hardin Soil Conservation

District work with landowners and farmers to manage woodlands in the best way possible. Often, farmers with special management or disease problems, are referred to the District Forester.

The SCS provides assistance for farmers on planning windbreaks and wildlife habitat as part of a total conservation plan for the farm. Windbreaks are used both around farmsteads and livestock units, and around fields and orchards where topsoil and tender crops need protection from cold and draughty winds or storms.

Wildlife areas are used in odd areas such as along deserted railroad right of ways, or areas of non-farmable land. The main reason for providing wildlife habitat are to increase and protect desirable wildlife such as pheasants, partridge, fox and squirrels.

Fed up with wind and water erosion? Did you ever want to try no-till, but never had the right planter? If there is enough interest, the Hardin SCD will make arrangements for you to rent a no-till planter. Fill out the following coupon and mail to the Soil Conservation District Office, P.O. Box 108, Eldora.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF ACRES YOU WISH TO TRY NO-TILL ON _____

CROP TO BE PLANTED _____



Wind erosion is severe in Hardin County. This field in the southeast 1/4 of section 12 in Eldora Township will lose an average of 10 ton per acre per year. Fall plowing causes wind erosion.

Scenes like this can occur every year and will continue to occur every year until action is taken to stop it. Will this action come in the form of laws or will farmers wake up and take action before it is too late?

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