



Davis County Soil Conservation District

106 North Dodge St. - Bloomfield, IA 52537 - Telephone (515) 664-2600

March 13, 1985

Gary Spurgeon, Editor
Bloomfield Newspapers
207 South Madison
Bloomfield, IA 52537

Dear Gary:

This year the United States is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Soil and Water Conservation Movement. This has particular significance in Iowa because soil conservation districts of the state have worked hard over these years to establish the type of soil conservation programs that directly deal with Iowa's erosion problems and support our farmers in their efforts to establish conservation measures. While we celebrate our accomplishments in conservation, we should also recognize that the job is not complete. Over 70 percent of the needed conservation work in the state remains to be done. We are still losing over 250 million tons of soil annually from erosion, and problems still exist with flooding.

There are no other natural resources as important as soil and water, yet the President through the proposed USDA budget for next year has proposed a two-thirds reduction in SCS personnel and the elimination of funding for conservation incentive programs next year. This proposal, if approved, could undo the work that has been accomplished during these past 50 years. Iowa and the nation need a strong conservation program to protect our land and water. If we don't maintain such a program, we could someday witness problems such as Ethiopia is having. We urge citizens to let their support for conservation be known, and oppose the elimination of federal conservation programs.

Sincerely

Robert H. Boatman
Chairman
RHB:chb

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