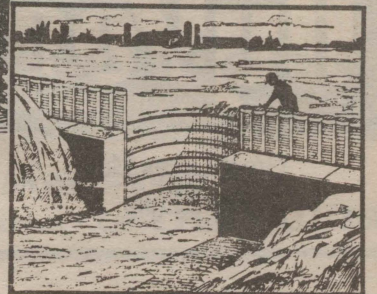
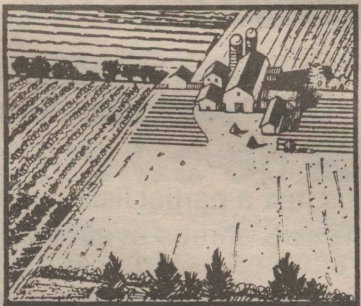
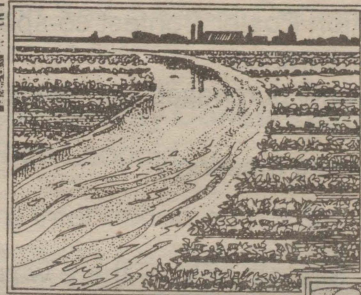


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DICKINSON COUNTY Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Report 1996 - 1997

Published by Lakes News Shopper, Ph. 338-2232

Mark Arguensen

1997 Highlights

January

- ☆ Election of Officers:
Keith Van Kleek, Chair
Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair
Tim Hemphill, Secretary
Orville Berg, Treasurer
- ☆ Lance Heikens re-appointed as Assistant Commissioner
- ☆ Clean Water Alliance Meeting
- ☆ Ann Ditsworth selected to serve on Area Quality Steering Team (QST)
- ☆ District updated website with assistance of NRCS State staff (www.ia.nrcs.gov/county/dickinson.html)
- ☆ District newsletter published
- ☆ EQIP Core Group meeting
- ☆ Clean Water Project newsletter published

February

- ☆ Conservation Poster Contest co-sponsored by SWCD and MHR Insurance
- ☆ Envirosearch© purchased with assistance from a Farm Bureau Grant
- ☆ EQIP Partners meeting

March

- ☆ 15th CRP Sign-up held — there was strong interest in re-bidding ground for this program
- ☆ District selected 1st Dickinson SWCD Scholarship recipient, Noah Wehrspann. Noah received a \$500 scholarship and was advanced to the State level with the potential of receiving additional awards
- ☆ IA Envirothon attended by 2 teams from the Terril School, sponsored by the SWCD

- ☆ Clean Water Alliance Meeting
- ☆ District Newsletter published
- ☆ Spring Regional Attended by Tim Hemphill, Keith Van Kleek and Mark Ingwersen
- ☆ Assisted with Northwest Iowa Tillage Expo

April

- ☆ Commissioner provided a Green Ash tree for every interested 6th grade student in the County
- ☆ Environmental Education Committee provided special materials to emphasize conservation awareness and held an Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration at Kenue Park for 1,200 students from all schools in Dickinson County
- ☆ District recognized its vital volunteers during National Volunteer Week. They included: Jim Bell, Spirit Lake; Keith Van Kleek, Terril; Maurice Dougal, Lake Park; and the many members of the R.S.V.P. who assist with the bi-monthly newsletter mailings
- ☆ Commissioners nominated Jeff Ashland for the Pheasants Forever Conservation Farmer Award
- ☆ Clean Water Alliance meeting
- ☆ Clean Water Project newsletter published

May

- ☆ District co-sponsored Shore Patrol '97 — the Middle School event that included students and staff from the Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji, and Spirit Lake Schools
- ☆ Assisted with Okoboji 3RD & 4TH grade Outdoor Classroom
- ☆ District Newsletter published
- ☆ Cultural Resources Training attended by John Wills



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Bundles of 25

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Scotch Pine (15-18")	\$7.00 each

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June

- ☆ Commissioners provided 'tuition assistance' to Cari Dillehay, H-LP and Jarrod Wallace, Spirit Lake to attend the 17th annual Iowa Agricultural Youth Institute in Ames
- ☆ Clean Water Alliance meeting
- ☆ Silver Lake Clean Water Project application submitted

July

- ☆ Submitted the Iowa Great Lakes, Silver Lake and Little Sioux River Watersheds as Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Priority Areas
- ☆ Clean Water Project newsletter published
- ☆ Project Coordinator meeting attended by John Wills

August

- ☆ The Clean Water Project along with the District sponsored Water Fest '97 — a family fun/educational event held at Emerson Bay State Park
- ☆ District Newsletter published

September

- ☆ Mark Ingwersen attends Iowa Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners Annual Meeting in Des Moines
- ☆ Outdoor Technologies Group (Berkley's) donates a rod & reel package for the Annual Conference Scholarship Auction
- ☆ District sponsored and organized the Annual 6th grade Outdoor Classroom held at Kettleson Hogsback Area
- ☆ Clean Water Project Annual Review

October

- ☆ Environmental Education Committee meeting
- ☆ Clean Water Alliance meeting
- ☆ National Resources Inventory completed
- ☆ 16th CRP Sign-up started October 14

- ☆ District promoted the "Thank You" project in the Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji and Spirit Lake Schools

November

- ☆ 16th CRP Sign-up completed November 14
- ☆ ICM training attended by Carroll Oskvig
- ☆ MAX Coordinator meeting attended by John Wills

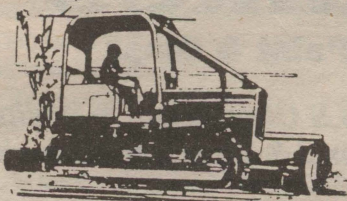
December

- ☆ 1998 District Tree Sale begins

1997 Fiscal Year Accomplishments

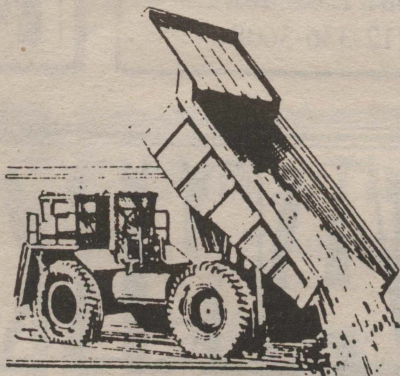
- 15 Farmstead/field windbreaks installed
- 11 Grassed waterways installed
- 7 No-Till Incentives made
- 9 CRP Incentives made
- 30 acres of Wetlands Restored
- 20 acres in Conservation Easements
- 350 acres of Continuous Sign-up CRP

Practice Conservation –

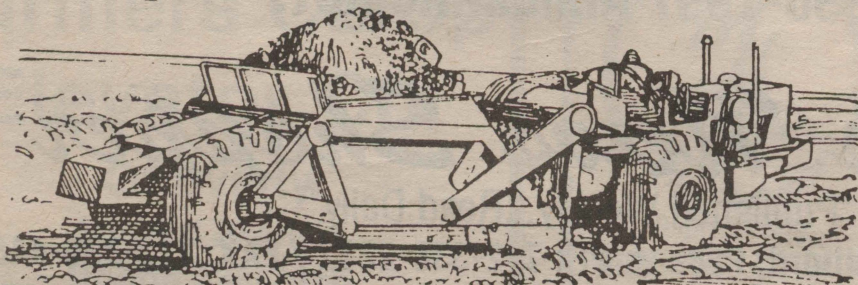


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Dickinson SWCD Financial Report

Fiscal Year 1997

1M Budget — District

Expenditures of funds provided by the State of Iowa for District Commissioner's mileage, meals, and hotel expenses; office supplies and equipment.

Allocation	\$ 2,500.00
Supplemental Allocation	\$ 2,099.00
Commissioner Expenses	\$ 3,839.00
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$ 520.99
Printing	\$ 239.00
Returned to State	\$.01

3M Budget — Iowa Financial Incentives Program

The 3M Budget provides cost-share assistance to landowners for installing permanent soil and water conservation practices and offers 30% of the allocation for tillage incentives.

Allocation	\$ 13,678.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 6,497.00
Unobligated Amount	\$ 7,181.00

REAP (Resource Enhancement & Protection)

Allocation	\$ 9,345.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 2,232.29
Unobligated Amount	\$ 7,112.71

REAP (Forestry & Native Grasses)

Allocation	\$ 2,162.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 1,517.90
Unobligated Amount	\$ 644.10

REAP (IA Great Lakes Clean Water Project)

Allocation	\$ 70,000.00
Amount Obligated/Spent	\$ 69,960.00
Unobligated Amount	\$ 40.00

Purpose...

Government interest in better management of our natural resources began during the Depression with Franklin D. Roosevelt's conservation programs. Since that time a great deal of concern for soil and water conservation has come about, from the Dust Bowl Days of the '30s to Flood of 1993, the District has played a significant part along the way. The Soil and Water Conservation District is in its 53rd year of service and is available to help solve resource management challenges, so whether you live in the city or county and are a landowner or not, you are invited to contact our office for assistance in conservation related practices.

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1997 -- It's Been A Very Good Year

John Willis, Project Coordinator

The past year has been a very busy one. The Iowa Great Lakes Clean Water Project has seen many great things happen over the last year. Wetlands have been built, conservation easements have been completed, waterways have been constructed, and many successful demonstration projects were shown.

The most memorable events to take place this year included WaterFest '97, the storm sewer stenciling kick-off, and our Environmental Friendly to the lakes lawns program. These programs were geared toward the urban population as the urban areas are contributors of runoff pollution.

Numerous agricultural 'runoff-reducing projects' have been completed this year. Wetlands have been restored and ponds have been built. Grassed waterways have been established in key areas. In just two projects over 300 tons of sediment were saved from reaching the lakes.

We will continue to use innovative techniques to impact agricultural pollution and improve the environment. A new approach to pasture management, Rotational Grazing, will be installed within the next year. This project will include a 5-paddock pasture and an innovative cattle waterer which will extract water from the county main.

Our biggest disappointment for the year was the Spring CRP sign-up. Many producers in the watershed signed up for CRP, but few were accepted. In fact, over 225 applications were made in the county and only 14 were accepted. We are encouraged that some changes were made in the program this Fall and we think we will have better success in this sign up.

Each year of the project has been different and we continue to make adjustments and improvements. We will continue to move forward in positive ways so we can look back and say, 'yes 1998 was a very good year.'

Dickinson SWCD Forestry Program

Trees for Kids program

Each year in the Spring, all interested 6th grade students in the County are presented with a Green Ash tree by the District Commissioners. This 'environmental gift' is a follow-up to the Outdoor Classroom where the importance of trees is emphasized to the students. This program has been in existence for more than 20 years and many parents have beautiful reminders of their child's sixth year in school living in their front yards or windbreaks.

Windbreak cost-share programs

Funds are available from the State and Local governments for cooperators who receive technical assistance in planning their windbreaks. The trees and shrubs used in the windbreaks can be purchased from any source the applicant chooses, but the amount of reimbursement per tree/shrub is limited according to the State's cost-share guidelines. Another option for new windbreaks is the Continuous Sign-up CRP, you will want to sign-up prior to planting or purchasing your trees/shrubs to be sure of your eligibility for this program. If you are considering adding a new windbreak to your farmstead, field or acreage contact our office at (712) 336-2604 for more information.

Many Incentive Programs Offer Wildlife Benefits

Doug Harr, DNR Wildlife Biologist

In order to make wildlife habitat more widely available on private lands, many of today's USDA farm program practices, in addition to other agencies' programs, offer incentives for landowners to set aside critical areas for wildlife. Here's a sampling of what is available:

General sign-up applicants for the new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will find that several practices, such as the Wetlands Restoration Practice (CP23) of the Permanent Wildlife Habitat Practice (CP4D), will yield some of the highest ranking scores possible, thereby increasing chances for acceptance into the new program. CRP today is based heavily upon an "Environmental Benefits Index," and wildlife habitat practices such as those mentioned tend to score highly in this index.

Continuous sign-up CRP applicants can do much for wildlife with small-scale practices which cost little to install or maintain. Buffer strips along streams, waterways, and wetlands offer great benefit to wildlife and help reduce siltation or pollution of our valuable surface waters. Acceptance into these CRP practices is almost assured for every applicant, as long as USDA funding is available. Additional advantages lie in the fact that no bidding is required and contract lengths can extend to 15 years, thus assuring a more stable habitat base for wildlife, plus longer-term assured income for producers.

Few Dickinson County landowners have yet to apply for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), but restoring wetlands under this program also provide extensive wildlife benefits. The practice differs from CRP in that instead of annual payments, producers are offered 10-year, 30-year, or permanent easements on contract areas. Thirty-year and permanent easements offer a one-time, lump-sum payment based upon a percentage of the land's appraised value. Covered acres include both restored wetlands and surrounding upland buffers. Restoration sometimes can be paid by Ducks Unlimited, a private conservation organization.

If greater control of the land is desired by the landowner, producers may wish to investigate USDA's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). This cost-share program, which bears some relationship to the old ACP program, has just been announced and will be administered through local Soil & Water Conservation District offices. Contracts may be shorter than CRP or WRP, and may offer a small annual rental payment. Check with the Dickinson SWCD for more information. The program will be applicable to restoration of aquatic habitats and to adjacent streambanks or uplands.

Iowa DNR's cost-shared Shelterbelt Program is geared to any rural landowner who desires a good windbreak around farmstead or acreage. The practice calls for 8-14 row plantings, but pays up to 75% of establishment costs. If piggy-backed upon other cost-share programs or private funding sources, payment may reach 90%. The large planting design provides maximum protection for homes, barns, feedlots, not to mention excellent winter cover for pheasants, songbirds, and other wildlife.

These programs and more beneficial wildlife practices can be explained by the Dickinson SWCD staff, at the USDA - NRCS office in Spirit Lake or by the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau Biologist. The agencies are proud to work cooperatively to find the habitat practices most beneficial for wildlife and friendly to the pocketbook.

1997 SWCD 6th Grade Outdoor Classroom

On September 12, the Annual Outdoor Classroom was held for 220 sixth grade students from the schools in Dickinson County. This event is organized and sponsored by the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District and is held at the Kettleson-Hogsback Area, just west of Big Spirit Lake. This area provides a variety of outdoor settings as well as indoor classrooms in the event of rain. The unique geological features of the area and environmentally focused speakers are what makes the annual event such a success.

This year's program included hands-on adventures including a Nature Walk with Tim Waltz and Matt McKim as guides, a Wetlands exploration with John Willis using the Enviroscape® model, viewing the Wild Geese with Doug Harr, determining the age and species of trees with Willard Punt and Ned DeBoer, and checking soil textures with Clarence Call, Tom Koster and Carroll Oskvig. Students also had the opportunity to explore the Water Cycle with Kathleen Leopold, to identify safety hazards on farms with assistance from Joy Janachovsky, Ann Ditsworth shared ways to dispose of waste by composting rather than landfilling and DJ Ortman illustrated the care and protection of both domestic and wild animals with some of her own 'pets.'

This year's event was 'new -and-improved' thanks to comments from the 6th Grade Teachers. The District strives to provide a quality learning experience and with the input of educators it becomes a reality. We look forward to working with the Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji, Spirit Lake, and Terril Schools again next year for the 20th Annual 6th Grade Outdoor Classroom!

Accomplishments...

Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist

The Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District had many accomplishments in assisting cooperators in 1997 as mentioned earlier in the report. In addition to those, three USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program priority area applications were submitted for 1998. These included applications for Iowa Great Lakes watershed, Little Sioux River watershed and the Silver Lake watershed (working in conjunction with the Osceola SWCD). A group made up of the Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners, County Committee members of the Farm Service Agency, along with FSA, NRCS and SWCD staff reviewed public and outside agency input prior to submitting these applications.

A 319 Water Quality Project application was submitted to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Iowa Department of Natural Resources for the Silver Lake Watershed. This 1998 application was a joint effort of the Dickinson and Osceola Conservation Districts.

We give special thanks to our Earth Team Volunteers. Individual volunteers donated a total of 916 hours during 1997 and include: Jim Bell, Clarence Call, Maurice Dougal, Tom Koster, Keith Van Kleek, and Craig Wilson. Members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) also provided valuable assistance by working 12 hours during the year.

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Why Wetlands?

John Willis, Project Coordinator

Many times I'm asked by people, why does the project concentrate on restoring wetlands? The simple answer is, because wetlands are good at what they do! When looking at protecting the Iowa Great Lakes for the long term, what better way to do it than by restoring drained wetlands or marginal farm ground in key areas. Wetlands, when restored properly and in the right places, can remove up to 90% of the pollutants that water carries with it.

Wetlands are well known as very efficient filters of pollution. A wetland works by funneling water into the wetland through natural drainage. Then the wetland simply holds that water for a period of time. Sometimes the wetland will hold the water for 1 week or more. Since, in many instances, wetlands are small the water will slow or stop and the sediment and other pollution can settle out onto the bottom of the wetland.

Does this mean that we will eventually fill in the wetlands from the sediment? The answer is probably. Those wetlands would have eventually filled in anyway, the filling in is just accelerated. But, we are protecting the Iowa Great Lakes and at the same time providing other uses. With today's farmer, though, the amount of sedimentation and other pollution into a wetland is not a large amount.

Some of the other benefits that we can derive from a wetland are: increased wildlife habitat, flood reduction, food production (a pilot project is underway in the area to produce crayfish in small wetlands), recreation, and many other uses.

If you would like to learn more about wetlands and their uses, contact me at 712-336-2604, or stop in at the NRCS office in Spirit Lake.

Dickinson Farm Service Agency Report

Larry Lago, County Executive Director

This past year we have seen numerous changes in conservation programs and their effects on Dickinson County producers. As a result of the passage of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, the long standing Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) has been replaced by the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

EQIP was established to assist crop and livestock producers with educational and financial assistance to make environmental and conservation improvements on the farm. A competitive offer/priority setting will be used to maximize environmental benefits per dollar expended under the EQIP program. If you are interested in this program be sure to stop in at the USDA Service Center before beginning the construction work.

CRP has a renewed effort to achieve a fuller potential of government - farmer conservation partnerships. Only the most environmentally sensitive land, yield the greatest environmental benefits, is to be accepted into the program. In Dickinson County 9,691 acres of land that was previously enrolled in CRP had contracts expire in 1997 and an additional 2,923 acres will expire in 1998. During the March general sign-up, 10,491 acres were offered with only 834 acres being accepted under contract. Farmers may also consider the 'Continuous CRP Signup' as an opportunity to enroll conservation practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, shelter belts, windbreaks, living snow fences, grass waterways, and shallow water areas for wildlife. For additional information on these programs please contact the FSA office at (712) 336-3782 or the NRCS office at (712) 336-2604.

With all that the 1996 Farm Bill has to offer and the desires of our current farmers for more comprehensive conservation system, I am excited about being involved in conservation as we go into the 21st Century. I look forward to meeting many of the people of Dickinson County and hope that my assistance in technical aspects of your conservation practices result in an effective practice that you are satisfied with and happy to use.

Farmers and Conservation Groups Team Up for Conservation

Leroy Brown, State Conservationist

An excellent partnership now exists between Iowa's landowners and conservation groups and agencies. It's one that has great potential to protect and enhance natural resources on private lands in the state.

There was a tendency in the past to go to one program for the technical or financial help for a resource problem. But with the federal, state and private programs available now to protect natural resources, producers have an opportunity to look at many options as they plan resource improvements on the farm.

We ask our field office conservationists to look at all these programs, including the 1996 farm bill conservation programs, and use a mix of them to help a producer.

For instance, very steep land, waterways, field borders and land along a stream may be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program; some tough to farm, wet land nearby may be eligible for the Wetland Reserve Program; the Environmental Quality Incentives Program cost-share program or state cost-share may help with a manure management plan or in building terraces; and the new Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) may boost wildlife habitat on the farm at little cost to the producer.

The flexibility in programs and in the conservation rules of the 1996 Farm Bill is what farmers wanted. Each farmer's challenge now is to take the new conservation programs and make the most of them to voluntarily build the resources on their land to make them the best they can.

We are asking people to get involved locally in looking at priorities and programs to make the most of federal, state and private funds. It's called locally led conservation. Conservation district leaders are holding meetings and trying to get people together at the local level.

The thought is to get as much input as possible from local residents, both farm and non-farm, to guide conservationists in solving resource problems. Here are some of the new conservation programs and what they offer:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) This program focuses assistance to locally-identified conservation priority areas or areas where agricultural improvements will help meet water quality goals. High priority is given to areas where State or local governments offer financial or technical assistance and where agricultural improvements will help meet water quality and other environmental objectives. All EQIP activities must be carried out according to a conservation plan.

EQIP offers 5 to 10 year contracts that provide incentive payments and cost-sharing for conservation practices. Cost sharing may pay up to 75% of the costs of certain conservation practices, such as grassed waterways, filter strips, manure management facilities, capping abandoned wells, and other practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area.

Incentive payments may be made to encourage a producer to perform land management practices such as nutrient management, manure management, integrate pest management, and wildlife habitat management. Incentive payments can be up to 100% of the producer's cost, for up to 3 years. These are paid at a flat rate.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) The farm bill allows up to 36.4 million acres to be enrolled at any one time in CRP. New enrollments can replace expired or terminated contracts, and contracts that have been in effect for at least five years and made before 1995 may be terminated on certain acres after giving written notice. Lands with high environmental values are not eligible for early release.

There is also a continuous sign-up on land that will contain conservation buffer practices. USDA is leading a conservation buffer initiative to encourage the use of grass and tree buffer strips. A conservation buffer strip is an area or strip of land maintained in permanent vegetation to help control pollutants and manage other environmental problems. Examples of conservation practices that serve as buffers include filter strips, riparian (streamside) forest buffers, contour buffer strips, field borders, windbreaks and shelterbelts. Other practices considered as buffers or closely associated to them are hedgerow plantings, grassed waterways and streambank protection measures.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) The WRP, which helps fund restoration of wetlands on croplands, will have an enrollment of 975,000 acres. The revised WRP requires that one-third of total program acres be enrolled in permanent easements, one-third in 30-year easements, and one-third in restoration only cost-share agreements.

You can choose the category to enter. No new permanent easements may be enrolled until at least 75,000 acres of temporary easements have entered the program.

In addition to purchasing easements for the land, the WRP provides landowners with 75 - 100% cost-sharing for permanent easements, 50-75% for 30 year easements, and 50-75% for restoration cost-share agreements. Cost-sharing will help pay for restoration.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) USDA provides technical and financial assistance for the initial planning and establishment of wildlife habitat development practices. In addition, if the landowner agrees, State wildlife agencies or private organizations may also provide expertise or additional funding to help complete a project.

The plan, made in consultation with the local conservation district, describes the landowner's goals for improving wildlife habitat, includes a list of practices and schedule for installing them, and details the steps necessary to maintain the habitat for the life of the agreement. Under a cost-share agreement, the landowner agrees to maintain the practices and allow USDA or its agent access to monitor the effectiveness of the practices. USDA agrees to provide technical assistance and pay up to 75% of the cost of installing the wildlife habitat practices.

Willard Punt Reports...

Hello, I'm Willard Punt, I recently joined the Dickinson County USDA Team as the Conservation Technician. With regard to returning to the Technician position, its almost like moving into a new culture for me. I started when our major role seemed to be converting pastures and sloughs to cropland by constructing grassed waterways and improving drainage with tile. At the same time building level terraces around the hills with plows, whirlwind plows and conveyor belts mounted beside a diskplow blade just in front of the one rear wheel of a small utility tractor. No transporting of soil at all in a direction parallel with the terrace. This of course meant sharp curves in the draws. There was no thought given to sod-busting or conversion of wetlands in the low areas. By the early sixties there was as much concern for saving water and getting proper distribution on the uplands to improve crop production as there was for saving soil. Consequently the locally managed offices became Soil and Water Conservation Districts. There was a rapid decrease in wildlife population with this overly intense emphasis on increasing the production of cash crops and feed grains. Pheasants as I recall were one of the main concerns in NW Iowa. The concern very soon advanced to the point that every conservation plan we developed was expected to give consideration to the protection of nesting birds, especially pheasants.

I left the Soil Conservation Service in 1978 to become a full-time farmer. This departure was before both the 1985 and the 1990 Farm Bills. My return falls during the implementation of the 1996 Farm Bill and our name has changed from Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. I would like to quote the publication "The 1996 Farm Bill ~ Leading conservation into the 21st century"

Local participation a key

The 1996 Farm Bill is built on the foundation of local participation, flexibility, good science and common sense. Conservation programs give more flexibility and decision-making power to farmers and ranchers without compromising environmental protection.

The 1996 Farm Bill offers technical and financial help to producers through several new conservation programs and streamlined existing programs.

With all that the 1996 Farm Bill has to offer and the desires of our current farmers for more comprehensive conservation system, I am excited about being involved in conservation as we go into the 21st Century. I look forward to meeting many of the people of Dickinson County and hope that my assistance in technical aspects of your conservation practices result in an effective practice that you are satisfied with and happy to use.





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Environmental Education Committee

Vision:
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In the fall of 1996 the EEC met to establish its goals and projects for the year. They were as follows:

Goals

- ☆ Emphasize that the numerous opportunities for environmental learning can be used in all disciplines (science/math/English/health/etc.)
- ☆ Increase awareness of the environment through media involvement and coverage
- ☆ Build coalitions — seek elected officials' endorsements and support

Projects

- ☆ Envirothon — encourage high school students from each school in the County to participate
- ☆ Recycling — assist in the promotion of recycling programs in schools
- ☆ Shore Patrol — assist schools with this establish clean-up program; provide sponsors for refreshments and press releases for the media

In addition to these goals and projects which the Committee accomplished/completed, a special celebration for Earth Day and Arbor Day was held at Kenue Park which involved over 1200 students!

The Environmental Education Committee is made up of 2-3 Teachers from each school district in Dickinson County. Those currently serving on the Committee include:

Harris-Lake Park

John Nelson and Kari Pingle

Okobojo

Owen Primavera, Becky Steen, and Marcia Swanson

Spirit Lake

Kathy Kleen and Eileen Nation

Terril

Marc Benedict and Fran Cerny

There are also 'staff' representatives on the Committee who dedicate time to promoting the EEC Vision in the Schools and Communities in Dickinson County. They are:

Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District

Ann Ditsworth

Dickinson County Conservation Board

Rich Leopold

For more information on the Environmental Education Committee you may contact Ann at (712) 336-2604 or Rich (712) 338-4238 or visit our website at www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/county/dickinson.html

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Spirit Lake, Iowa
Phone 336-3260



SPIRIT LAKE FIELD OFFICE STAFF — Front row, left to right: Willard Punt, Technician; Carroll Oskvig, District Conservationist; Ann Ditsworth, State Secretary. Back row, left to right: Jim Bell, Earth Team Volunteer; John Wills, Project Director.



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS — Front row, left to right: Keith Van Kleeck, Chair, Lloyd Township; Lance Heikens, Silver Lake Township. Back row, left to right: Tim Hemphill, Okoboji Township; Orville Berg, Center Grove Township; Mark Ingwersen, Superior Township. Not pictured: Chris Hoffman, Lakeville Township.



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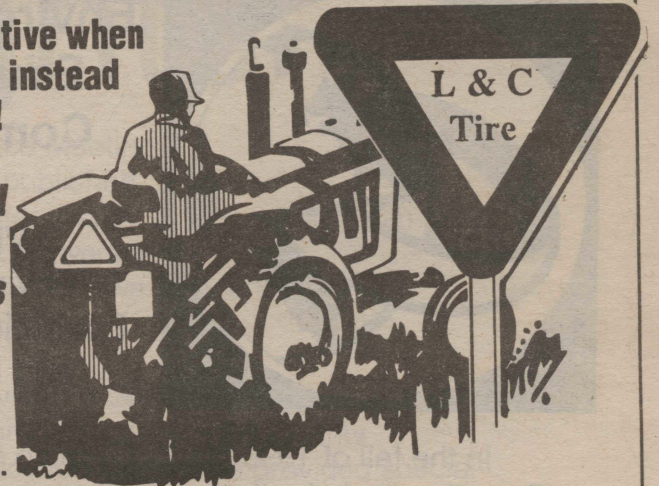
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