



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

A Newsletter from the Dickinson County SWCD

August 1997

Plugging Abandoned Wells

As a part of the effort to protect Iowa's valuable groundwater resource, in 1987 the Iowa Legislature passed the Groundwater Protection Act. Recognizing the threat to personal safety and groundwater quality posed by abandoned wells, the law called for all abandoned wells to be plugged.

The abandoned well owner is responsible for insuring that the well is plugged according to proper procedures. Department of Natural Resources Form 542-1226 (revised 2/90) must be completed by the well owner and signed by the County Sanitarian or a registered well driller and filed with the DNR within 30 days after the well is plugged.

The costs of proper well abandonment varies depending on the size and depth of the well and methods used, however, cost-share

funds are available to assist with the proper abandonment. The funding sources include:

- ◆ **Dickinson County Sanitarian** - provides a 50% cost-share, up to \$200, these funds are subject to availability. For more information contact the Sanitarian's office at (712) 336-2770.
- ◆ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**, offers funds to USDA Program participants at a 75% cost-share rate for plugging abandoned water wells. For more information contact the NRCS office at (712) 336-2604 or the FSA office at (712) 336-3782.

For further information on well plugging, contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, your local Board of Health, County Sanitarian, or a registered well contractor in your area.

Conservation Staff

Carroll Oskvig — District Conservationist
Willard Punt — Soil Conservation Technician
John Wills — Environmental Specialist
Ann Ditsworth — State Secretary
Jim Bell — Earth Team Volunteer
Clarence Call — Earth Team Volunteer
Maurice Dougal — Earth Team Volunteer
Tom Koster — Earth Team Volunteer
Keith Van Kleek — Earth Team Volunteer
Craig Wilson — Earth Team Volunteer

Web pages to visit

Dickinson SWCD

www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/county/dickinson.html

State of Iowa

www.state.ia.us/

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.ncg.nrcs.usda.gov/

Iowa State University Extension

www.exnet.iastate.edu/

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/index.htm

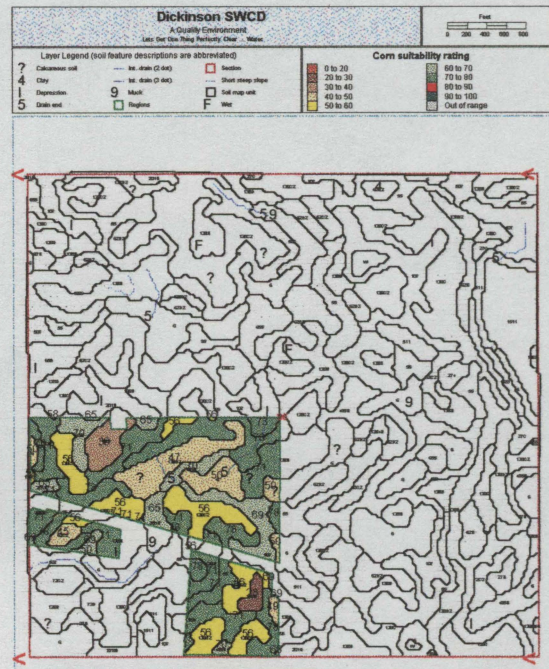
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotapes, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write Secretary of Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Global Positioning

The Dickinson SWCD has recently purchased a Global Positioning System (GPS) in hopes of improving the speed and accuracy of the conservation work done. The GPS map, at the right, was created using this system. It shows an entire section, with a measured portion highlighted. In this instance the field Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) rating is shown. The system includes a GPS receiver and Global Information System (GIS) base. The GPS receiver is taken to the field to outline the areas where conservation practices are being considered or other measurements are needed. This information is downloaded into the GIS base on the computer system. By using this system to measure areas, we can return to the original area in the field and be within 1 meter (3 feet) of where we first started, this is especially useful when checking easement boundaries.

The Dickinson SWCD will, as a secondary service, offer to make CSR maps of various fields for a fee. These maps cannot be made a priority project but will provide considerable information on your field. By knowing your field's CSR you can make a realistic, accurate yield goal and plan expenses accordingly.

The Dickinson SWCD was planning for the future by purchasing this system and is considered to be very proactive with regard to technological opportunities. We are pleased to offer this service in addition to the normal technical services available.



The highlighted area shown above would be multi-colored on an original map.

What are your plans for Fall leaves?

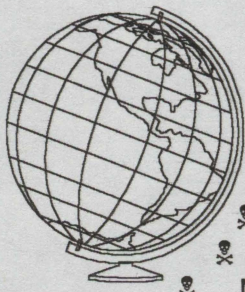
Have you considered composting?

Composting is recycling. You can reduce your amount of yard waste and reuse your yard waste in the form of compost.

Composting...

- improves soil structure & fertility
- releases valuable nutrients
- helps control weeds
- is the natural way to get rid of yard waste
- reduces your personal volume of trash
- improves your garden
- replaces the need for harsh chemical fertilizers
- saves money and water

Yard waste makes up 30% of the total solid waste generated! You are capable of composting and recycling virtually 100% of your yard waste. Contact our office for more information, & consider composting this Fall!



How long will litter last?

☒ Glass bottles	1000 yrs
☒ Leather	upto 50 yrs
☒ Cigarette butts	1-5 yrs
☒ Plastic bags	10-20 yrs
☒ Nylon fabric	30-40 yrs
☒ Aluminum cans & tabs	500 yrs
☒ Orange/banana peels	upto 2 yrs
☒ Plastic coated paper	5 yrs
☒ Plastic bottles & Styrofoam	indefinitely