

Howard Long, Chairman
Gerald E. Mayne
Richard Francois
Richard J. Ide
Phillip L. South

Robert D. Loudon
Gary E. Van Gelder
Thomas G. Braymen
Steven W. Fluckey

January 16, 1986

Rep. Don Avenson
30 Maplewood Drive
Oelwein, Iowa 50662

Dear Mr. Avenson:

We are aghast at the remarks you recently made at the state convention of the Iowa Farm Bureau as reported in the January 4, 1986 issue of the Iowa Farmer Today newspaper. Your statements that the "cost-share program isn't used much anymore", "farmers no longer have any money for soil projects," and is used now only by "rich doctors and lawyers" indicate you really don't know what is going on with the program. In Union County during the past 5½ years we have had a total of 276 applications for the cost-share program to install conservation work of improvements. Of this total 3 were doctors and lawyers of which 2 used the cost-share program and 1 used the no-interest loan program (the no-interest loan will be repaid in full to the State of Iowa).

We offer the following information to better inform you of the facts as they exist in Union Co. This information is a brief summary of our state cost-share ledger for the last 5½ years.

Fiscal Year	Cost-Share \$ Spent	Terraces	Structures	Diversions	Grassed Waterways	Water & Sed. Control Basins	Appl. Serviced
1980-81	\$50,000.00	\$28,903.33	\$ 4,602.30	\$ 354.04	\$ 983.21	\$15,157.12	38
1981-82	68,175.79	33,717.40	11,894.78	465.00	1,518.42	20,580.19	38
1982-83	62,589.07	34,298.74	7,842.60	840.12	1,007.21	18,600.40	46
1983-84	90,076.54	53,181.71	2,527.30	-	300.52	34,067.01	62
1984-85	* 82,640.76	51,243.31	8,275.06	-	6,408.60	16,713.79	59
1985-86(6 mo. **)	49,291.51	31,295.12	10,799.21	1,288.51	1,926.58	3,982.09	33

* \$92,797.91 total allocation for 1984-85. The balance of \$10,157.15 has been obligated but not spent.

**\$148,164.00 total allocation for 1985-86. \$66,548.70 (besides the above) has been obligated but not spent partly because of adverse weather conditions. The rest will be obligated this year.

The above chart indicates there is a viable program in Union Co. - a program that addresses different land uses, a program that encompasses the county as a whole, not isolated areas or one land use area. Also, I want you to know there has never been enough cost-share dollars to fund the total cost-share requests in our county.

Now you have some facts about the soil conservation cost-share program in Union County. The program and the farmers using it deserve your informed support, not false and misleading statements such as appeared in Iowa Farmer Today. The state cost-share program is an essential part of Iowa agriculture and should be strengthened rather than unjustly criticized.

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