

April 29, 2016

To: SWCD Conservation Assistants

From: Conservation Districts of Iowa

RE: 2016 CDI Resolutions Process and Pre-Conference Ballot

1. Please read all the instructions.
2. Put the proposed resolutions on the May/June agenda.
PLEASE MAKE SUFFICIENT COPIES FOR YOUR FIVE COMMISSIONERS AND FOR YOUR OFFICE NEEDS. GIVE EACH COMMISSIONER ONE SET BEFORE THE SWCD MEETING SO THEY CAN STUDY THE RESOLUTIONS BEFORE DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING. (You may want to color code pages.)
3. Enclosures
 - i. Information on Voting at Annual Conference (Mailing of ballots to Districts & 2016 Conference Voting Guidelines)
 - ii. Pre-Conference Voting Guidelines (please print five copies and distribute to each commissioner)
 - iii. Official Ballot (return this to CDI after tabulating commissioners' votes)
 - iv. Individual Ballot (please print five copies and distribute to each commissioner)
 - v. 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes (please print five copies and distribute to each commissioner)
 - vi. 2016 Resolution Schedule
 - vii. Voluntary Feedback Form (please print five copies and distribute to each commissioner)
4. Five proxy cards will be postal mailed to your office at a later date.

April 29, 2016

**Voting at Annual Conference:
Mailing of Ballots to Districts**

In order to expedite the resolutions process and to save cost, the pre-conference voting materials, including the voting guidelines, are being emailed to you this year. The five proxy voting cards for your commissioners for the Annual Business Meeting on August 29th in Altoona will be postal mailed to your office at a later date.

*******Please remind your commissioners that these voting cards must be presented at the business meeting if your district wishes to cast voting ballots at Annual Conference.*******

NOTE NOTE NOTE NOTE NOTE NOTE

These voting cards are NOT to be returned to the CDI office. Commissioners need to bring them to the Annual Conference.

Thanks!

Voting at Annual Conference: 2016 CDI Guidelines

1. One voting card will be sent for each eligible commissioner (5 maximum) based on payment of dues.
2. Each commissioner will complete the top portion of the voting card, "Declaration of Eligibility," if he/she is going to be present and voting at the annual conference OR the lower portion, "Grant a Proxy," if the commissioner will not be attending the annual conference and would like someone else to vote for him/her.
VOTING CARDS MUST INCLUDE THE HAND WRITTEN SIGNATURE OF THE COMMISSIONER COMPLETING IT.
3. Resolutions should be discussed so those with proxies can fairly represent the opinions of those unable to attend the annual conference.
4. **NOTE:** At the annual conference, commissioners will give their voting cards to the credential committee to receive their ballots. **DO NOT LOSE THE CARDS! YOU WILL NEED THEM TO RECEIVE ALL BALLOTS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE! NO BALLOTS WILL BE GIVEN OUT WITHOUT A COMPLETED VOTING CARD.**
5. Ballots will be used for the following:
 - a. To elect the president and the vice president
 - b. For the **FINAL** vote on all resolutions
 - c. For the **FINAL** vote on all by-law revisions
6. Ballots will not be used for the following:
 - a. To approve committee reports
 - b. For procedural issues (example: limit or extend debate, amendments, recess, etc.)
7. At the time of each vote, instructions will be given for which ballot to use and how to properly mark it.
8. The tellers will collect and tally the results of each ballot. Business will continue as the tellers work. The president will report the outcome of the vote.

...Again...PLEASE NOTE:

You must bring your Proxy Cards to the Annual Conference to receive ballots.

Pre-Conference Voting: 2016 CDI Guidelines

General Instructions

Please study each resolution carefully and duly consider each before voting. If more information is needed about specific resolutions, call the sponsoring district for information. Notification of voting results will be emailed to the SWCD office, and posted on the CDI website www.cdiowa.org by no later than July 29, 2016.

* We are not asking you to vote on the 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes during pre-conference voting. We are sending them to you at this time to review again. This was distributed and discussed at the 2016 Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings. Be prepared to vote to adopt these handbook changes during the Annual Conference Business Meeting on Monday, August 29, 2016. [See the explanation below for additional information.](#)

Eligibility for Voting:

1. Current SWCD Commissioners are eligible to vote on the ballot based on the dues paid in the previous fiscal year (2015-2016).

Requirements for Passage of Resolutions:

1. Resolutions that receive at least 60% of the votes for approval by those commissioners voting automatically will be adopted with no further action at Annual Conference.
2. Resolutions that receive at least 60% of the votes for disapproval by those commissioners voting, automatically will fail with no further action Annual Conference.
3. If a resolution does not receive the required number of votes in either the approval or disapproval category, it will be discussed or amended during the CDI Annual Conference Business Meeting on Monday, August 29, 2016.
4. A representative of the proposing district must be present at the CDI Annual Conference Business Meeting for any resolution that is to be considered for discussion/amendment at the Annual Conference Business Meeting on Monday, August 29, 2016.

April 29, 2016

Official District Ballot: 2016 Proposed Resolutions

Complete the following:

_____ SWCD Number of eligible commissioners voting _____
Name of District

Signatures of Commissioners voting and the SWCD Conservation Assistant

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

SWCD Conservation Assistant

1. After receiving the completed INDIVIDUAL BALLOTS from the eligible voting Commissioners, record the number of votes under each category for each resolution of this OFFICIAL BALLOT.
2. After recording all the votes, sign the OFFICIAL BALLOT.
3. Ask all commissioners who voted to sign this OFFICIAL BALLOT. Typed or stamped signatures are NOT valid. Scanned copies with personal signatures can be sent to CDI.
4. This OFFICIAL BALLOT must be **received** by CDI, no later than **July 1, 2016** via email to admin@cdiowa.org.

2016 Resolutions	Approve	Disapprove	Discuss/ Amend
1. Require No-Till on Land Protected by Terrace to Receive Cost Share			
2. Cover Crop through State Cost-Share			
3. Deny Cost-Share Assistance to those who Fall Till Soybean Ground			
4. Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble			
5. Water Quality Initiative Cost Share for Fall Application of Triple Superphosphate			
6. Statewide Funding for Water Quality Initiative (WQI) Practices			

April 29, 2016

7. CRP Rental Rate Calculation formula change			
8. Setting Reasonable CRP Rental Rates			
9. Limiting CRP Enrollment of Entire Farms			
10. CRP Re-Enrollment Payment Limits			
11. Allow Winter Grazing of Stockpiled Forages as an Option for Managed Grazing on CRP			
12. Incidental Grazing for Livestock Producers			
13. Reduced "T" Levels			
14. Require Conservation Compliance on Previous Crossable Gullies			
15. Change ISCAP Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to allow NHEL farmers			
16. Conservation Districts of Iowa 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes	Review, no vote until Annual Conference	Review, no vote until Annual Conference	Review, no vote until Annual Conference

Individual District Ballot: 2016 Proposed Resolutions

Remember, the section of the submitted resolution you are voting on is in the bold print; the before and after paragraphs are explanation and support of the resolution.

2016 Resolutions	Approve	Disapprove	Discuss/ Amend
1. Require No-Till on Land Protected by Terrace to Receive Cost Share			
2. Cover Crop through State Cost-Share			
3. Deny Cost-Share Assistance to those who Fall Till Soybean Ground			
4. Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble			
5. Water Quality Initiative Cost Share for Fall Application of Triple Superphosphate			
6. Statewide Funding for Water Quality Initiative (WQI) Practices			
7. CRP Rental Rate Calculation formula change			
8. Setting Reasonable CRP Rental Rates			
9. Limiting CRP Enrollment of Entire Farms			
10. CRP Re-Enrollment Payment Limits			
11. Allow Winter Grazing of Stockpiled Forages as an Option for Managed Grazing on CRP			
12. Incidental Grazing for Livestock Producers			
13. Reduced "T" Levels			
14. Require Conservation Compliance on Previous Crossable Gullies			
15. Change ISCAP Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to allow NHEL farmers			
16. Conservation Districts of Iowa 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes	Review, no vote until Annual Conference	Review, no vote until Annual Conference	Review, no vote until Annual Conference

Signed: _____
Commissioner

April 29, 2016

January through April, 2016: Districts develop resolutions following the outlined resolution process.

February 26: Deadline for resolutions to be submitted to CDI for distribution and discussion at Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings.

March 2 – March 15: Spring Regional Meetings are held. Submitted resolutions were reviewed.

April 1: Deadline for all resolutions and changes to previously submitted resolutions to be submitted.

April 29: 2016 Resolutions, pre-conference ballots and instructions sent to Districts.

June 1: Proxy cards sent to districts. Proxy voting authority can be given to one of the other five elected commissioners or to his/her duly authorized attorney-in-fact. **Proxy Cards must be presented at the CDI Annual Conference registration in order to receive additional ballots to vote on behalf of commissioners unable to attend the CDI Annual Business Meeting.**

July 1: Deadline for Pre-Annual Conference ballots to be received by CDI.

July 29: Results of Pre-Annual Conference balloting will be posted on the CDI website and sent to Districts within a month of being received.

August 29 & 30: 2016 Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts 70th Annual Conference & Business Meeting

IMPORTANT

**WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS OR
BALLOTS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE
DEADLINES.**

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

1. Require No-Till on Land Protected by Terrace to Receive Cost Share

The useful life of terraces is greatly reduced when the land is tilled after construction. The demand for cost share for terraces far outstrips available funds, and it is imperative we use them wisely. Since the useful life of a terrace is greatly increased with no-till, Clay SWCD recommends the following resolution.

Be it CDI recommends Division of Soil Conservation require the land protected by terraces be no-tilled after construction to receive state cost-share.

This will not affect those who already no-till. It will make the best use of available funds and result in reduced erosion which assists Iowa's voluntary nutrient reduction strategy. This will also produce a positive change of behavior allowing farmers to reduce or eliminate tillage.

Submitted By: Clay SWCD
Region 2
Phone: 712-262-3432

For Further Information Contact:
Jerry Crew
4475 290th Avenue
Webb, IA 51366
712-838-4464
jcrew@webbwireless.net

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

2. Cover Crop through State Cost-Share

Currently with regards to the cover crop program we are looking to promote long term goals with short term incentives. We need to allow cover crops, with an annual payment, on the same acres for multiple years.

We would like CDI to work with IDALS to rewrite the rules regarding IDALS cover crop incentive payments.

As now written IDALS cover crop is only eligible on acres never having had a cover before and only for 1 year. If you do want multiple years all the incentive is offered up front causing field checking issues for subsequent years. Also the incentive is intended to cover some of the costs, and by putting all those dollars on the front end there are no funds available to cover costs of subsequent years.

We are proposing a system that mirrors the federal EQIP program. Funds could be set aside for multiple years but only paid during the year of implementation. This would allow for multiple year plan with annual payments. We feel that the benefits of a cover crop system cannot be realized with a one-year trial. It must span over several years before the soil health benefits will begin to materialize at a significant level.

Submitted by: Allamakee SWCD
Region 4
Phone: 563-568-2246 ext. 3

For Further Information Contact:
Lynn Stock
635 9th Street NW
Waukon, IA 52172

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

3. Deny Cost-share Assistance to Those who Fall Till Soybean Ground

With the enhanced emphasis on soil and water quality, nutrient reduction would be more successful if fall tillage on highly erodible ground (HEL) was prohibited. With the equipment available today, it is not necessary to till soybean stubble at all in the fall. Unless it is protected with a cover crop, soybean stubble has the greatest risk of erosion until the new crop is established and even then the remaining residue would be in place to reduce erosion.

IDALS-DSCWQ should re-evaluate its cost-share policy and deny all cost incentive assistance to those who fall till soybean stubble on HEL ground. With reasonable conservation in mind, injection of manure and/or fertilizer and drilling cover crops would be permitted.

Explanation: We are still seeing a large amount of fall tillage. It doesn't make sense that we give a farmer cost-share assistance to put in a conservation practice like a terrace or waterway when he is intentionally tilling his ground creating unnecessary erosion. If he wants cost-share assistance for a permanent practice, he needs to be doing everything possible to prevent soil erosion on the field. This would not only promote soil health, it would be a step forward with the nutrient reduction strategy for improving the quality of the rivers and lakes of the state.

Submitted by: Sac SWCD
Region 2
Phone 712-662-7773
Email: Sacswcd@gmail.com

For Further Information Contact:
Jim Frederick
404 Morningside Drive
Sac City, IA 50583

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

4. Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble

The Purpose of the voluntary nutrient reduction strategy (NRS) adopted by Iowa is to reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in surface waters by 40%. Phosphorus loss is primary associated with soil sediment leaving the field because of tillage erosion.

Be it resolved that CDI recommends the Division of Soil Conservation deny cost share to farmers who fall till soybeans stubble. Injection of manure and commercial fertilizer is permitted.

This will significantly reduce the amount of P reaching Iowa's surface waters and reduce the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. The fall tillage does NOT allow the establishment of cover crops.

Submitted By: Clay SWCD
Region 2
Phone: 712-262-3432

For Further Information Contact:
Jerry Crew
4475 290th Avenue
Webb, IA 51366
712-838-4464
jcrew@webbwireless.net

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

5. Water Quality Initiative Cost Share for Fall Application of Triple Superphosphate

Diammonium phosphate (DAP, 18-46-0) and monoammonium phosphate (MAP, 11-52-0) are the most widely used phosphorus (P) fertilizers in Iowa. DAP applications at crop removal rates for two years of a corn/soybean rotation apply nitrogen (N) at rates of 40 to 50 lbs. N/acre, roughly one third of the N recommended for corn in this rotation. Fall application of N is normally discouraged because of the increased likelihood that it will be lost from the soil profile and contaminate groundwater. Currently, N application with P fertilizers is unavoidable since competitively priced P fertilizers that are free of N are seldom available in Iowa. Although varying fractions of fall-applied N are likely to be available and beneficial to corn during the year following application, N application for legumes such as soybean and alfalfa has little or no agronomic benefit. For purposes of improved water quality Triple Superphosphate (TSP, 0-46-0) is preferable to either DAP or MAP for fall application since it has a high P analysis but contains no N.

Currently the approved practices for cost share through the Water Quality Initiative include: Cover Crops, Nitrification Inhibitors, and No-Till/Strip-Till. We propose that the use of Triple Superphosphate for fall fertilizer applications be included as an eligible practice for cost share that could eliminate the unavoidable application of N that now results when phosphorus fertilizers currently used in Iowa are applied.

Most producers have some degree of concern about water quality and might be willing to use TSP if it was available and competitively priced. Producer and vendor awareness of the environmental benefits of using TSP may currently be too low to create such a demand shift in the market. Awareness could come quickly with education. Encouraging the use of and improving the quality of P fertilizers that contain no N, such as TSP, could realize significant progress toward the goals of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Increased demand for TSP resulting from a financial incentive should help increase its availability. Given enough time for education and experience to demonstrate environmental benefits, the financial incentive may eventually become unnecessary.

Submitted by: Mitchell SWCD
Region 3
Phone: 641-732-5504
Fax: 855-246-1546
Email: sharon.king@ia.nacdnet.net

For Further Information Contact:
Eric Jellum
1669 325th Street
Osage, IA 50461
641-220-4233
jellumfm@gmail.com

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

6. Statewide Funding for Water Quality Initiative (WQI) Practices

Water Quality is a key player in the balance of conservation. We as districts are working on a daily basis to get individuals involved to support the reduction of nutrient losses and experts over time through the adoption of water quality practices. We want to have the landowners/tenants have a positive experience.

IDALS-DSCWQ supports a change in how the State Wide Funding for WQI Practices is distributed. IDALS-DSCWQ should take the funds that are allocated to them for the practices from legislature and split them evenly amongst the 100 Districts, give the districts 2 weeks to get the funds allocated and then recall the unused funds. If there are additional funds left, put them in the group and then it will be first come first serve to get the money allocated.

Explanation: Many SWCDs are not being able to use the funds to their best ability by having a "Group Fund", by doing it this way some districts are getting a lot more funding than others. This could be the office that has more staff and the Conservation Assistants can get on the system to process the ones that need funding, but this all depends on when the funds are released. If the funds are released earlier than stated, someone always finds out and within a small amount of time the funds are all depleted before anyone has a chance at them.

The positive of changing this process, is if the districts know that they are getting in funds for their district and can really market the practices, to get landowners/tenants interested in participating and when the landowners/tenants have a positive experience it will be the districts best advertising to get new participants. The other positive is each district will have a fair chance to use all of their funds that are allocated to them and get more practices on the ground because the funds were evenly distributed.

Submitted by: Buchanan SWCD
Region 4
Phone: 319-334-4105
Fax: 855-233-1293

For Further Information Contact:
Doug Kaiser
319-327-1000
dougkaiser@unitedsuppliers.com

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

7. CRP Rental Rate Calculation formula change

CRP Rental Rate Calculation formula is outdated. We propose that the CRP Rental Rate Calculation be revised to use all soils in the application area instead of just the three with the most acres.

The Marion SWCD proposes that CDI and NACD work with the USDA to change the calculation of CRP rental rates to reflect all soils in the application area, not just the three soils with the most acres.

Explanation: CRP has been a program that has successfully converted poor producing cropland into a retired land use for 30 years. When the program started, and the local staff was working to figure soil rental rates, they used dot counters and only counting the soils with the majority of acres saved a lot of time. However, as computers have come into the workplace and are now completing the calculations of acres of each soil in an application, this is a very fast and efficient method that counts all soils. Using the top three soils, especially when there are many soils in the CRP application area can skew the CRP rental rate for or against enrollment. This has led some people to enroll better land that should be farmed for a good CRP payment while farming low producing ground, a poor land use decision. Thus the Marion SWCD proposes CRP rental payments be calculated for all soils in the application area instead of the three with the most acreage to better reflect the true value rental value of the soil. We feel this will lead to better land use decision by landowners to farm the better ground while enrolling only the poorer ground in CRP.

Submitted by: Marion SWCD
Region 6
Phone: 641.842.5314
Fax: 855.246.1545
Email: jeff.matthias@ia.usda.gov

For Further Information Contact:
Doug DeHaan
640 – 167th Pl
Otley, IA 50214
doug.g.dehaan@gmail.com

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

8. Setting Reasonable CRP Rental Rates

The current system for setting CRP rental rates has resulted in rentals being far higher than current crop rental rates. They are currently setting county rental rates for all cropland and they are higher than producers can afford to pay for crop ground.

CDI needs to pursue a change to the legislation that sets up the formula for setting CRP rental rates.

The CRP rental rates need to be evaluated more often. The current legislation only allows rentals to be adjusted with a new farm bill. There needs to be an ability to evaluate and adjust rates when economic factors change drastically and rental rates can't respond timely and fairly. The intention of the CRP program was to enroll highly sensitive areas into a vegetative cover for soil protection, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Due to the limited amount of acres in these programs we want to make sure that the acres enrolled are best suited for these programs in an effort to help conserve our natural resources and conservation dollars. At the same time we want to keep productive land available and used wisely. Enrolling productive farmland into the CRP contradicts the original goal of the program, and could potentially deny other more sensitive acres from being enrolled when acreage limits are met. The intention of the CRP program was never to set the local land rates. The local SWCD and FSA COC should have some input into the rental rates based on their personal knowledge of local soils, productivity, and targeted conservation goals.

Submitted by: Allamakee SWCD
Region 4
Phone: 563-568-2246 ext. 3

For Further Information Contact:
Lynn Stock
635 9th Street NW
Waukon, IA 52172

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

9. Limiting CRP Enrollment of Entire Farms

The CRP program was intended to improve wildlife habitat, conserve soil and improve water quality. It was not intended to harm local economies or provide the most return to landowners.

We feel that CDI needs to pursue legislation to restrict enrollment of whole farms, unless they meet the highest criteria.

Currently, through various initiatives such as HELI and some of the special DNR initiatives, whole farms are eligible for the continuous CRP program. The current erodibility level for HELI is an EI (erodibility index) of 8 or greater. In Allamakee County this encompasses the majority of our cropland, with only a few river bottoms not being eligible. This has resulted in entire farms being enrolled, often with added incentives that make the rental rates far beyond anything a farmer could pay to rent this same ground. There are often nice ridge tops that could easily be in row crop production and still control erosion that are enrolled. This will limit opportunities for economic generation from our county land base. When a landowner enrolls an entire farm in CRP, the opportunity to generate more than the rental rate is lost. If someone works the land more economic opportunity is created and more money circulates in the local economy. We gain economic opportunity and keep the ability to support ourselves more with what we have. It makes it difficult for small and beginning farmers to secure land to farm. We've all seen in the past as a high percentage of whole farm CRP stifled land opportunities for 10 to 30 years. We feel it is better to have opportunities for people to support themselves and others rather than federal programs that create minimal economic opportunity. We feel this type of CRP encourages absentee ownership and out of county ownership, social and neighborhood dysfunction.

We feel a more logical EI would be greater than 36 this would exclude Fayette D slope a highly productive soil on which we can easily control erosion with no tillage and or non-structural conservation practices that are able to withstand tillage . This would encompass the truly erodible soils.

Submitted by: Allamakee SWCD
Region 4
Phone: 563-568-2246 ext. 3

For Further Information Contact:
Lynn Stock
635 9th Street NW
Waukon, IA 52172

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

10. CRP Re-Enrollment Payment Limits

CRP ground has many environmental and wildlife benefits, however many acres across Iowa have reached their contract expiration date and have been removed for economic reasons.

CDI should ask that the State Soil Conservation Committee work with USDA to review and revise CRP re-enrollment rules to pay out only the CRP rental payment.

Most Districts are seeing a large increase in the number of acres that are being torn up as they reach their CRP expiration dates, many were tore up due to the higher grain prices. Now that the grain prices have gone down many producers are now re-enrolling these acres back into CRP. The BV SWCD does not feel that these producers should be paid again for the seeding and seedbed preparation costs for installation.

Submitted By: Buena Vista County SWCD
Region 2
Phone: 712-732-3096
Fax: 1-855-246-1551

For Further Information Contact:
Brian Waldstein
1738 430th Street
Sioux Rapids, IA 50585
712-283-2830

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

11. Allow Winter Grazing of Stockpiled Forages as an Option for Managed Grazing on CRP

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rules currently allow for Managed Grazing on CRP land during the month of April or August & September, as these are periods when livestock producers often face forage shortages. Today many producers are starting to shift towards a prescribed grazing system that incorporates stockpiled forages to reduce reliance on supplemental hay and grain feeding during winter months.

Therefore, CDI supports a resolution to allow CRP contract holders the option of utilizing managed grazing in November, December or January, if done as part of an approved Prescribed Grazing System.

Explanation: It has long been known that grazing livestock, when managed properly, can contribute to improving the land. Today, we are beginning to better understand that prescribed grazing is actually one of the best methods to achieve an improvement to soil health. Furthermore, winter feeding of hay and/or grain in confinement situations can lead to accelerated soil erosion and excessive pollutants in surface water. When animals are allowed to spread out on the land, those concerns can be reduced if not totally eliminated. The objective of this resolution is to provide landowners with the option of choosing when a managed grazing on CRP will best fit into their operation.

Submitted by: Johnson SWCD
Region 7
Phone: 319-337-2322 ext. 3

For Further Information Contact:
Nathan Moore
51 Escort Lane
Iowa City, IA 52240

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

12. Incidental Grazing of CRP for Livestock Producers

CRP is a successful program for cropland only farmers. However, current CRP rules does not allow grazing that can be utilized by diversified crop and livestock farmers. We propose to allow grazing on Environmentally Sensitive CRP after harvest of the cash crop.

The Marion SWCD proposes that CDI and NACD work with the USDA to change the livestock exclusion requirements for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program areas that are parts of larger crop fields.

Explanation: The crop will need to be a high residue crop or cover crops to qualify for gleaning. This would include field borders, turn strips, grassed waterways, contour buffer strips and Highly Erodible Land Initiative. Livestock farmers can then enroll these sensitive areas in CRP and be able to glean high residue crops/cover crops after harvest without having to fence off the CRP practices included in a larger field. An additional benefit for the CRP with this option is the improvement of soil condition and health related to the livestock action on it and the surrounding ground. The grazing period needs to be limited to 60 or 90 day maximum, but does not have to immediately follow harvest. The amount of CRP cannot be more than 25% of the total grazing acres. Hay feeding of livestock will not be allowed on areas enrolled in sensitive CRP if feeding while livestock are gleaning the residue. This would not include stream riparian buffers, filter strips, wetlands, or open creek areas. They would still require fence at the crop/CRP divide.

Submitted by: Marion SWCD
Region 6
Phone: 641.842.5314
Fax: 855.246.1545
Email: jeff.matthias@ia.usda.gov

For Further Information Contact:
Doug DeHaan
640 – 167th PI
Otley, IA 50214
doug.g.dehaan@gmail.com

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

13. Reduced "T" Levels

CDI should encourage the NRCS to write conservation plans utilizing lower "T" levels.

Explanation: It's been 30 years since a lot conservation plans have been written. It is time for some revision. 5 ton soil losses are unsustainable.

Submitted by: East Pottawattamie SWCD
Region 5
Phone: 712-249-3499
Fax: 855-233-1297

For Further Information Contact:
Dwight (Pete) Hobson
43898 Juniper Road
Oakland, IA 51560
petehob53@hotmail.com

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

14. Require Conservation Compliance on Previous Crossable Gullies

Over the past 20+ years, as larger equipment has been and is being used, it has become a nuisance for some farmers to deal with ephemeral gullies and/or grassed waterways. As a result, these ephemeral gullies are filled in with tillage and grassed waterways are eliminated and farmed through. With continued abuse, some of these ephemeral gullies have eroded to a point where they can no longer be crossed with tillage implements.

CDI should ask that the State Soil Conservation Committee work with USDA-NRCS to deem a farm out of compliance, with a temporary variance, if it had a crossable waterway or ephemeral gully in 1996 which has eroded into a non-crossable gully today. The soil survey from 1996, when conservation compliance became mandatory, should be used to determine the eligibility. To bring that farm into compliance, cost share for that practice could be allowed if approved by that county's Soil and Water Conservation District.

Explanation: Due to negligence by the operator(s) of a farm, some ephemeral gullies have turned into non-crossable ditches. Once these gullies can no longer be crossed, they are not considered crop ground and NRCS no longer looks at this ground during conservation compliance checks. In 1996, if this gully was crossable and it isn't today, this farmer should be considered out of compliance because he has not performed adequate conservation practices on the ground to prevent the gully from increasing in depth. This farmer should be required to return this gully to its pre-1996 state. Grassed waterways, terrace(s), tiling, or a combination of these (along with other conservation practices) should be installed to keep this field productive and keep the soil where it belongs. A temporary variance is necessary to give the farmer a couple seasons to get the work completed because, unfortunate for the current farmer, it could have happened due to the abuse of a previous farmer.

Submitted by: Sac SWCD
Region 2
Phone 712-662-7773
Email: Sacswcd@gmail.com

For Further Information Contact:
Jim Frederick
404 Morningside Drive
Sac City, IA 50583

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

15. Change ISCAP Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to allow NHEL farmers

Conservation of our soil and water resources is a job for all farmers regardless of whether they farm highly erodible (HEL) ground or non-highly erodible (NHEL) ground.

IDALS-DSCWQ and other committee organizations should consider changing the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award through the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program to allow farmers who farm non-highly erodible ground to be eligible for this award.

Explanation: There are many farmers in Iowa who farm NHEL ground yet they have installed terraces, waterways, do no-till/strip-till, installed filter strips, seeded cover crops, follow nutrient management plans, etc. This award should not be limited strictly to HEL farmers. NHEL ground is susceptible to erosion, just like HEL ground. With the emphasis on conservation measures to control erosion and to enhance water quality, all farmers should be eligible for this award.

Submitted by: Sac SWCD
Region 2
Phone 712-662-7773
Email: Sacswcd@gmail.com

For Further Information Contact:
Jim Frederick
404 Morningside Drive
Sac City, IA 50583

April 29, 2016

2016 CDI Proposed Resolutions

16. Conservation Districts of Iowa 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes
In December, 2015 the CDI Policy Committee members and leaders met and developed recommendations for past resolutions. These recommendations were approved by the CDI Board at the January, 2016 meeting. The recommendation was to archive resolutions five years and older unless they are pertinent to CDI's current activities.

Resolutions can be resubmitted!

The 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes are attached.

We are not asking you to vote on the 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes during pre-conference voting. We are sending them to you at this time to review again. This was distributed and discussed at the 2016 Spring Regional Commissioner Meetings. Be prepared to vote to adopt these handbook changes during the Annual Conference Business Meeting on Monday, August 29, 2016.

Submitted by: Conservation Districts of Iowa
Phone: 515.289.8300

For further information contact:
Clare Lindahl
945 SW Ankeny Road, Ste. A
Ankeny, IA 50023
clare.lindahl@cdiowa.org

Voluntary Feedback Form: 2016 Proposed Resolutions

Please consider taking time to help districts, commissioners and CDI that submitted resolutions understand concerns you have.

Resolutions	Feedback
1. Require No-Till on Land Protected by Terrace to Receive Cost Share	
2. Cover Crop through State Cost-Share	
3. Deny Cost-Share Assistance to those who Fall Till Soybean Ground	
4. Deny State Cost Share to Farmers who Fall Till Soybean Stubble	
5. Water Quality Initiative Cost Share for Fall Application of Triple Superphosphate	
6. Statewide Funding for Water Quality Initiative (WQI) Practices	
7. CRP Rental Rate Calculation formula change	
8. Setting Reasonable CRP Rental Rates	
9. Limiting CRP Enrollment of Entire Farms	

April 29, 2016

10. CRP Re-Enrollment Payment Limits	
11. Allow Winter Grazing of Stockpiled Forages as an Option for Managed Grazing on CRP	
12. Incidental Grazing for Livestock Producers	
13. Reduced "T" Levels	
14. Require Conservation Compliance on Previous Crossable Gullies	
15. Change ISCAP Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to allow NHEL farmers	
16. Conservation Districts of Iowa 2017 Proposed Policy Statement Handbook Changes	