

Governor Proclaims June 7-14 Soil And Water Conservation Week

June 7 to 14 has been proclaimed Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa by Gov. Hershey.

THIS MARKS the state's 22nd observance of conservation week. Prior to 1955, "Water" was not included in the week's title.

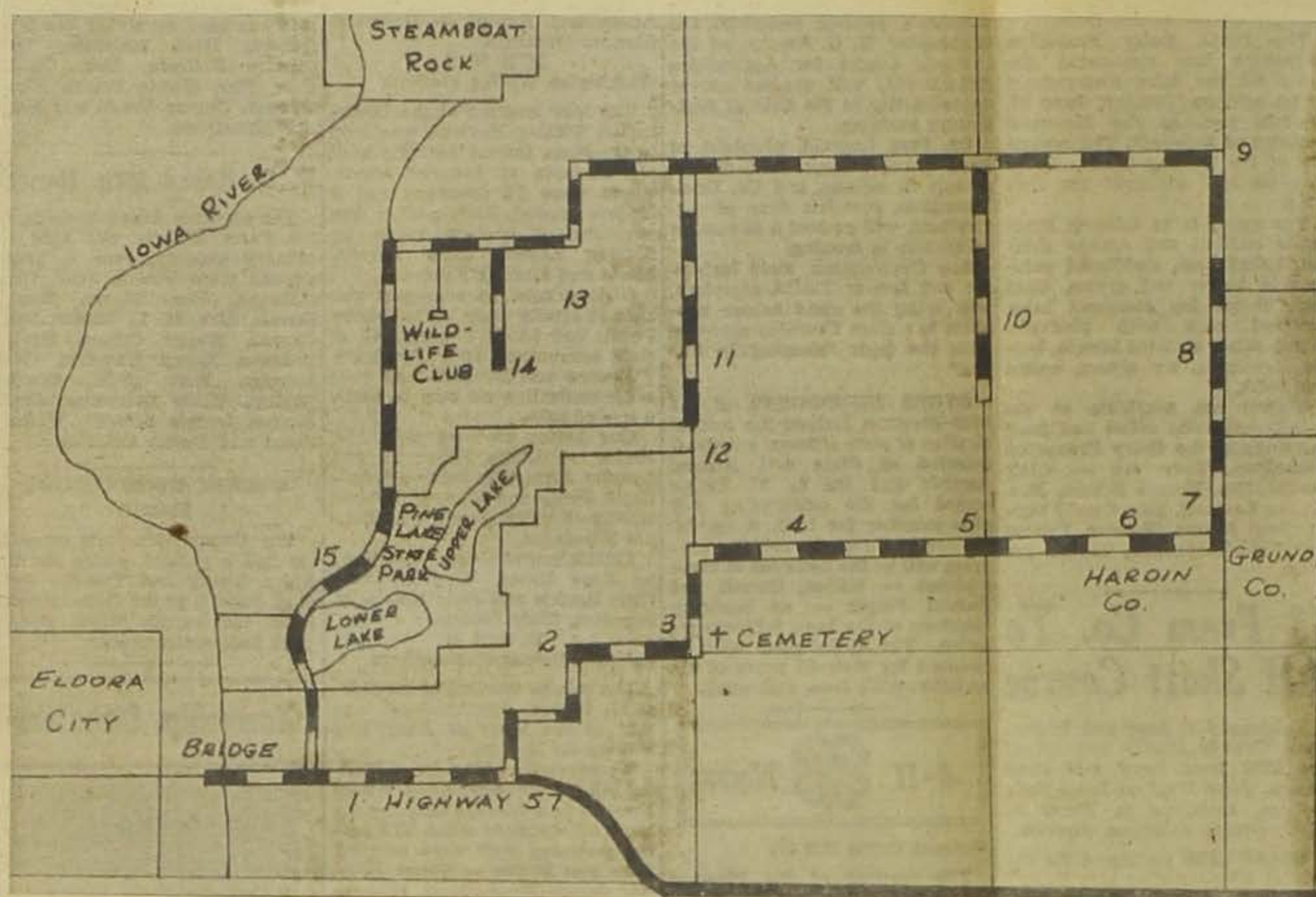
Soil and Water Conservation week is jointly selected by the state Soil Conservation committee and the state Association of Soil Conservation Districts as a time when special emphasis is given to conservation in Iowa.

Iowa was completely organized by 1952 into local soil conservation districts which coincide with county boundaries. The only exception to this is Pottawattamie county, where there are two local districts. Each of the local county districts is a subdivision of state government and is governed by farmer-elected commissioners.

The state Soil Conservation committee is made up of five farmers, Secretary of Agriculture Clyde Spry, Director of Extension Floyd Andre and Advisor Frank Mendell.

THE COMMITTEE is responsible for administration of the soil districts law and has general supervision of the soil and water conservation program in Iowa. The committee also administers state funds provided by the state legislature to assist in the soil and water conservation program.

"Drive-It-Yourself" Tour Of Pine Lake Watershed



This Is Soil Conservation Week



Bernard Reece, New Providence, is shown cultivating corn on the contour on the R. R. Clappitt farm south of New Providence.



Ernest Barz, Eldora, is shown using a rotary hoe on a terraced corn field. Terraces are low ridges on the contour used to reduce the length of slopes. The terraces slow the runoff water and divert it into grassed waterways.

The week of June 7 to 14, set aside as Soil Conservation week, brings special attention to earlier conservation work done in Hardin county.

ERNEST BARZ, operating a 160

acre farm 4 miles east of Eldora, owned by his father, O. H. Barz, continues on with conservation

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Want to take a pleasant drive in the country and learn something about the job some of the farmers in the Pine Lake Watershed are doing to maintain their soil and its fertility?

A "Drive-It-Yourself" Soil Conservation tour of the area has been planned by the Hardin Soil Conservation District, according to Cal Moore, Hardin county soil conservationist.

The tour was arranged so that town residents and local farmers can get an idea of what their farming neighbors are doing.

The "Drive-It-Yourself" tour can be taken any day at your leisure, with the aid of the accompanying map. The tour is about 15 miles long. Moore said he believes it is the first time this type of tour has been arranged in Hardin county.

The route was planned to include scenic areas of the lake watershed and to show examples of work farmers are doing to save and build up soil fertility in crop production. The route also goes past several areas on which land improvements could be made.

The tour covers the west half of the nearly 10,000 acre watershed in Hardin and Grundy counties. The area has been of significant interest since the recent appropriation of the \$93,500 by the state legislature to enlarge the Upper Lake from 72 to 106 acres.

A requirement that 75 per cent of the land in the watershed be under a conservation program was one of the provisions of the appropriation. Eighty per cent of the watershed land in both Hardin and Grundy counties has now been signed under the Soil Conservation District program.

Here are the points of interest:

The tour starts at the bridge east of Eldora. Continue on east of Eldora on highway 57 1 1/4 miles to the curve, turn left.

Point 1 — Terraces and grassed waterways on the Ed Wiesner

farm. Point 2 — Terraces on the Guy Norris 46 acres. Point 3 — Strip cropping, contouring and grassed waterways on the Lewis Crosser farm. Point 4 — Contouring on the Ivan DeWitt farm may be observed on the north side of the road. Point 5 — Newly established contouring on the Henry Peters farm can be seen west of the buildings.

Point 6 — Contouring with contour field divisions on the Dick Freese farm. Point 7 — Contouring and new grassed waterways on the M. Q. Reynolds farm operated by Don Balvanz. Point 8 — Newly constructed parallel terraces and waterways in the oats field of the Balvanz farm. Point 9 — Terraces, contouring and grassed waterways in the oats field of the Balvanz farm. Point 10 — Parallel terraces and contour field boundary on the Lee Lundy farm operated by Marilyn Ellers.

Point 11 — Strip cropping, grassed waterways and contouring can be observed on the Joe Beach farm. Point 12 — New bridge under construction over Pine Creek. The bridge will be a 55 foot prestressed concrete structure. Point 13 — Strip cropping on the Bill Schunemann farm east of the road. Point 14 — Strip cropping on the John Snapp farm. Point 15 — Contouring on the Butler farms operated by Paul Primus. The contouring is north of the Country Club Golf Course.

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practices started by his father in 1940.

Over 1 mile of terraces, 2 acres of woodland wildlife planting were completed and waterway construction and contour farming started during the early '40's through assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corp.

An additional 1 1/2 miles of terraces have been constructed by Ernest Barz since his operating the farm. Additional tile drainage work and waterway reshaping has also been completed. All cropland not terraced is farmed on the contour in the Barz farming operation.

Barz was selected as a winner this spring of one of the 1959 Soil Conservation Achievement awards in Hardin SCD for his outstanding job in conservation.

Barz is assisted in his farming operation by his wife, Minnie, and his son, Melvin, who will be in the seventh grade this fall. The Barzs have two daughters, Lois, 8, and Diane, 6, and a younger son, Bruce, 1 1/2.

Barz has been active on the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation township committee in Eldora township and attended the Veteran's and adult farmer classes in Eldora.

INCREASED crop and pasture production has been the result of farming the conservation way for Bernard Reece of New Providence, one of the award winners in the Hardin Soil Conservation District Annual Conservation Achievement program this spring. Reece, operator of the R. R. Clappitt farm 3 miles southeast of New Providence, has, through his sound conservation program, seen sizable increase in yields by controlling soil erosion and restoring fertility.

FEATURES of the plan on the 256 acre farm include a system of terraces, grassed waterways and headlands, contouring, pasture renovation and establishing a cropping sequence.

One mile of terraces have been built on the farm with more planned for construction. Over 20 acres of timber pasture has been converted to productive pasture by renovation to a mixture including birdsfoot trefoil; 250 rods of tile has also been installed to drain wet areas.

A registered herd of 75 Milking Shorthorns constitute the major part of the livestock program. An additional 75 registered Shorthorns of the original herd are on the farm operated by Harry Clappitt.

The Clappitt farms hold the record as the oldest, continuous exhibitor in the Iowa State fair in all breeds. Cattle have been shown at the state fair since 1915.

Recently, visitors from two foreign countries, Senora Juana de Campion of Argentina, owner of a large ranch in Argentina with 7,000 Milking Shorthorns, and Paavo Kajanoja, chief of the Division of Animal Husbandry on the Board of Agriculture in Finland, toured the farm. Also a dairy judging class from Iowa State College conducted judging trials on the Reece farm.

Reece is ably assisted with the dairy operation and farming by his wife, Mabel, and sons, Keith, Earl and Linn. Keith and Earl are students at Iowa State College and Linn will be in the fifth grade at New Providence Community school.

THE REECE farm has been used for conservation tours to show other farmers and interested groups the good results of shifting to conservation farming. Reece served as commissioner for 6

Terracing Becoming Important Practice

Farmers of Hardin county recognizing terraces as one of most important practices in conservation farming.

"TERRACE construction during the spring of 1959 has already topped the record of any previous year's 'total' says Cal Moore, conservationist in Hardin county. "Over 11 miles of terraces have been built on 13 farms this year Moore stated.

In 1958 nearly 11 miles were constructed as compared to miles in 1957.

Terraces are now built low and broader to handle 4 times equipment compared to terraces of several years ago, and on many of the farms, terraces are now constructed parallel or as near parallel as possible to eliminate the short row areas, Moore continued.

Some 16,000 feet of terraces were constructed on the M. Reynolds farm operated by Dr. Balvanz northeast of Eldora. L. Lundy, east of Eldora constructed over 2,000 feet on the home farm in addition to nearly 7,500 feet on the farm operated by Marilyn Ellers. All were constructed by Triple R Construction, Wellsburg.

Wendell Clappitt, New Providence, installed nearly 2,000 feet on the farm operated by Dwayne Shaver; R. A. Scott, Eldora, built 2,800 feet of terraces and diversions on the farm operated by Charles Steinfeldt. Fred Rash north of New Providence constructed approximately 4,000 feet. The terraces were built by Shor Construction, Eldora.

Terraces were built on three farms with tractors and plows. The Eldora FFA Chapter constructed nearly 4,400 feet on the Otto Jeske farm, Eldora; Gerald Modlin built nearly 3,300 feet on his farm east of Eldora; and John Hellmich, Union, constructed approximately 2,000 feet on the Minnie Haas farm.

Some 7,600 feet were installed on the Walter Norman farm south of Union with a dozer and road patrol operated by Trowbridge Construction of Marshalltown.

JESSE MANN installed 770 feet on the Joe Mann farm north

of Steamboat Rock; Joe Beach, Eldora, constructed 4,150 feet; and Ivan Jaspers, Eldora, constructed over 1,400 feet. All were constructed by Triple R Construction, Wellsburg.