

The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is a deep red color with a textured surface. A large, thin gold rectangular border frames the central area. Inside this border, there are twelve gold starburst or sunburst patterns arranged in a grid-like fashion. In the center of the cover, there is a smaller rectangular box with a double gold border. Inside this box, the words "SCRAP BOOK" are printed in a gold, stylized, sans-serif font. The spine of the book is visible on the left side, showing a dark cord or thread binding.

SCRAP BOOK

for approving or disapproving erosion control plans referred to the district in conjunction with the issuance of certain building permits.

A copy of these proposed rules may be obtained at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Office, 14B 2nd Ave. West, Albia, Iowa.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at the District Office, 14B 2nd Ave. West, 1:30 p.m., January 2, 1981, at which time an explanation of the rules will be made and opportunity will be given for those affected to be heard for or against the proposed rules.

COMMISSIONERS OF
MONROE COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
By: Ollie Kaldenberg,
Chairman

Dec. 16, 1980

Dec. 23-80

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

on
Rules for Considering Erosion Control
Plans for Land Disturbing Activities
in Development Areas, Monroe County
Soil Conservation District

Under authority set forth in Chapter
467A, Code of Iowa, 1981, the Com-
missioners of Monroe County Soil Con-
servation District, have proposed rules

SCS proposing erosion control development plans

Rules for the consideration of erosion control plans in development areas are being developed by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District and will be the subject of a hearing Friday, Jan. 2 at 1:30 p.m.

The hearing at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office at 14B Second Ave. W., will be to receive comments from those affected and from interested members of the public. All comments will be considered prior to adoption of the final version of the rules.

Erosion control plans in development areas must be approved by the soil conservation district prior to the issuance of building permits for land disturbing activities. This is a new requirement of Chapter 467A of the Code of Iowa and is effective Jan. 1. The new law was enacted by the 68th Iowa General Assembly earlier this year.

Land disturbing activities are defined as land changes — clearing, grading, excavating — which may result in soil erosion from wind and water.

This activity, done in conjunction with a project that requires a building permit, must have an approved erosion control plan on file with the district. Single-family residences or areas of fewer than 10,000 square feet are not affected by the requirement.

The regulations being proposed will govern how these erosion control plans, required by law, are to be submitted, reviewed and approved.

Copies of the proposed rules are available at the local SCS office. Those who cannot attend may file written comments. Copies of the rules have been mailed to all county and municipal officials who issue building permits.

11-11-80

12-11-80



Receive award

The farming operation of Mr. and Mrs. Don Teno (right) of Albia was named the Region 9 winner in the Iowa soil conservation awards program Dec. 2 during the 34th annual conference for soil conservation district commissioners in Cedar Rapids. The Tenos received a plaque from Harold Anderson, Iowa Farm Bureau director of environmental and local affairs, for their excellence in soil conservation work.

Attention Landowners RESTRICTIONS ON STATE COST-SHARING FOR SOIL CONSERVATION MEASURES

After January 1, 1981, State cost-share assistance for soil conservation practices offered by the Monroe County Soil Conservation District will be restricted on certain lands. The District Commissioners will be limited to approving state cost-sharing at one-half the normal rate for lands which have not been plowed or used for growing row crops between January 1, 1966 and January 1, 1981.

The cost-sharing condition is a requirement of Section 14 of House File 2561, an Act of the 68th Iowa General Assembly, 1980 Session. This notice is to satisfy the requirements of Section 17 of the act.

2-3-81

3-12-81

Can apply Friday for cost-share conservation funds

Applications for state soil conservation cost-share funds will be accepted starting Friday.

Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County SCD pointed out that sign-up for cost-share can be done anytime, but encouraged landowners who are planning work for 1981, to sign-up before March 2.

This will insure that applications will be considered at the first review on March 19. Priority practices include terraces and erosion control structures. Applications for cost-share funds will be taken at the district office located at 14B Second Ave. West.

The cost-share program is the responsibility of the District Commissioners which include Kaldenberg, Bob McGinnis, Albert Etcher, Raymond Vance and W.F. McGrath.

Soil conservation district banquet Monday, March 23

Monroe County Soil Conservation District banquet will be held Monday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

Awards will be given for art posters and conservation awards to outstanding conservation farmers in Monroe County. Music will be provided by a 4-H club of Cedar.

Tickets may be purchased at the district office, 14B Second Ave. West or from the following district commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, Raymond Vance, Albert Etcher, Bob McGinnis and Bill McGrath; and assistant commissioners: Mardyll Albertson, Steve Crall, Lloyd Clark, Orlo DeBruin, Herman Leffler Jr., Bob Putnam and Ed Mahoney.

Cost of the tickets is \$4.15 each.



See project work

Land owners in the area, members of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, staff members, and Jack Lagrod, SCS engineer from Creston, toured the three debris basins constructed in the Miami Lake watershed this summer at a cost of \$155,028.55. The group saw the three debris basins on the farms of Duane Chance, Delbert Love and one on the farms of

Ray Gardner, Terry Romp and Mary Ammons. William McGrath, chairman of the four-county RC&D project, explained the work of the committee in conservation and development and the interest in this project. The group held a luncheon at Rathbun House following the tour of the debris basins.

Letter-to-editor

Commends newspaper

Your newspaper staff is to be commended for the special soil conservation supplement in your Sept. 18, 1980, issue. Too often newspapers focus on events which report what was bad today or our troubled world, and I commend your effort for presenting a progress report on soil and water resource management to your readers.

I commend Albert Etcher, Dewayne Johnson, Ollie Kaldenberg, William McGrath and Raymond Vance for their many non-paid hours of effort in developing a program reflective of your community's needs. This is effective grassroots government. I also commend the staff members in the district—state clerk Carol Presley and federal Soil Conservation Service personnel John Frieden, Roy Campbell and John Botts. They are the people who implement the program.

The cooperation and support of the soil conservation district program by people in your community is evident.

Respectfully,
Lawrence G. Vance
Director
Iowa Department
of Soil Conservation

10-21-80

11-18-80

SCS taking inventory of county resources

In the next two years, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service will continue to examine "sample units" of land in the county as part of its national resources inventory.

"We're looking at a total of about 60 sample units in the county that have been randomly selected," says John Frieden, SCS district conservationist. "On each of those 160-acre units, we sample three points."

Frieden says 109 different information items are being recorded. They include such things as soil type, whether the land is prime farmland, cropping history, water and wind erosion potential, and conservation practices being used. Other information being recorded includes the present type of land use, the condition of the land, and extent of

conservation treatment needed to control soil erosion.

"We've studied the land and made inventories before," says Frieden. "It's a little like a professional sports team. You come back each season with mostly the same players, but you evaluate them to see how they've changed, and you make adjustments. Our evaluations may not be every year, but SCS is in the inventory and monitoring business now to stay. It will be a part of our job to keep up with how our resources are changing."

But Frieden stressed that the ongoing study was not accurate enough to be reliable on the county level. "It would be too costly to sample enough points for statistically reliable information locally. It will be reliable on a regional

or statewide level, though, and we may be able to make some judgments about our resources locally. None of the information gathered identifies any landowners; it's strictly a resource accounting study."

The SCS goal is to get 40 percent of the field work finished this year, and to complete the work in 1982. The results will be computerized nationally through a laboratory at Iowa State University and presented to Congress.

"The plan is to repeat the inventory every five years, and use the information to help guide voluntary conservation programs nationwide," says Frieden. The Resources Conservation Act of 1977 calls for a continual appraisal of natural resources.

First RAMP project in county let today

Central Paving Corp. of Indianola was the apparent low bidder in an opening this morning on a 24-acre reclamation project under the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP) for Monroe County, site of a great many abandoned mines.

Central's bid was \$95,587.60 with less than \$300 separating the three low bidders on the project.

The project covers the reclamation of 17 acres of land on the James M. Hollinrake farm and 7 acres of land on the Gerald L. Wynn farm, both in Section 8 in Union Township, three and a half miles west of Lovilia.

Similar projects—a total of four in the state—have been completed in Marion, Wapello and Mahaska counties and a fifth project is in completion in Wapello County and another is in progress.

In addition to the work being done by the contractor the land owner is obligated to complete certain work—either do it himself or have it done—and must care for the land under stringent regulations for three years after the last cost-sharing on the project.

Roger Hirschman of Des Moines, representing the Soil Conservation Service, commented that the program is financed under a federal tax on presently mined coal. He added that the bids of the nine contractors will be checked and the contracts signed. Work is expected to begin shortly.

Central Paving representatives said they hoped to move equipment from the project in Wapello County directly to the new RAMP project in Monroe County.

RAMP reclamation bids

Sterling-McLaren Construction Co., Inc. Shenandoah	\$113,643.30
Cashett and Sons, Corp. Red Oak	106,196.18
Bill Jeffries, Inc. Russell	95,870.06
Saxton, Inc. Leon	117,141.60
J. P. Strother Construction Co., Inc. Ottumwa	114,026.56
Steger-Heiderscheit Construction Co. Epworth	101,079.80
Keith E. Kent, Inc. Lucas	95,812.80
Ideker, Inc. Mound City, Mo.	153,143.64
Central Paving Corp. Indianola	95,587.60

Conservationists point out that there are 1.1 million acres of abandoned surface-mined coal lands in the United States and Monroe and surrounding counties have their share, left over from the days when Iowa-mined coal fueled the generating plants, the railroads and heated most of the buildings in town and country.

Though the RAMP program is financed through an assessment of 10 cents to 35 cents per ton on coal currently

mined, the mining companies currently in operation are responsible for their own reclamation projects.

Current law limits the amount a single landowner can receive in financing for reclamation of up to 320 acres.

Pasture, woodland and range are among the uses allowed for restored land. It can also be reclaimed for cropland, non-commercial recreation and wildlife.

June
4,
1981

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Major effort to create Giant Canadian flock at Rathbun



by Mike Augspurger

Approximately 1,700 Giant Canadian geese were moved to a new home near the Southfork area at Rathbun Lake last week.

The geese, transported by semi-trailer from Toronto, Canada in 20 hours, are a project of the R.C.&D. in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, the Iowa Conservation Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

According to Wildlife Biologist Jack Coffey of rural Russell, the project is a continuation of two in southern Iowa. The geese relocation program involves transporting Giant Canadians to southern Iowa in hopes that they will develop nesting grounds.

Projects are currently underway in the Corn Area near Russell and the Lake area project near Corning. Another state project is located north of Guthrie Center.

"This is the first time we used geese from the Canada area. The ICC has used Iowa birds in the past," Coffey said.

The geese transported were located in an amusement park area in Toronto.

"The geese were there long before the city. Since the city has built around the birds, the residents wish to get rid of some of them. In Toronto, the thousands of Giant Canadians are a nuisance," Coffey said.

Coffey and six other persons



Giant Canadian Geese take their first steps in their new home.

assisted Canadian officials in "corralling" the geese on Lake Ontario last week.

Approximately 2,000 birds were banded, tagged and wings were clipped. Canadian officials took approximately 500 birds and goslings, giving the ICC the remaining gaggle.

The birds were transported to Iowa by a semi-trailer in approximately 20 hours.

"We were only at the border for an hour," Coffey said. "It was a long

time, but the birds had to be checked by both American and Canadian veterinarians."

The arrival of the geese at the nesting site was a spectacle.

Approximately 100 were in the group that included conservation officials, members of the Regional Planning Commission, county supervisors, corps of engineer members, soil conservation service personnel, the media, wives and interested persons.

A shout went up when the semi appeared as young and old alike stretched necks to gaze at the hundreds of birds inside.

The driver geared his rig up a slippery incline and was able to drive directly into the nesting area. The ramps were quickly fastened to the trailer and the task of unloading the honkers began.

Men climbed inside the trailer to push the geese towards the door as others pulled them from the door.

The geese quickly found the direction of the water.

In small gaggles, they plunged in, doused their bodies and quenched their thirst in their new American water refuge.

Children gathered feathers which fell on the ground while workmen unloaded the semi-trailer in approximately 20 minutes.

The Giant Canadian Goose nesting program has been successful in two southern Iowa areas.

Harold Garner of Russell, a Conservation Technician with the Rathbun Wildlife Unit, said the survival rate for the Colyn and Southfork projects currently underway has been good.

"We turned approximately 270 geese into this nesting area last year. This spring we counted 225 birds in the area," Garner said.

Richard Bishop, an Iowa Conservation Commission Wildlife Research Supervisor in Des Moines, said the new Canadians may have some difficulty hiding from humans.

"These birds have lived in an amusement park for years and are not disturbed by human activity. We must provide protection for the birds until they are more frightened of humans," he said.

Canadian officials were eager to get rid of the birds, Bishop said.

"They have no hunting seasons on Giant Canadians, therefore, they do not control the number. As far as some officials are concerned, the goose problem in Toronto has gone out of control," Bishop said.

Canadian officials gave the geese to the Iowa officials and the only expense was to transport the birds to Rathbun Lake. The R.C.&D paid the bill.

William McGrath, chairman of the four-county commission, said the day was unique.

"All the various governmental agencies and governing boards of four counties working together on a project is unique in itself. It was a beautiful day and this action will

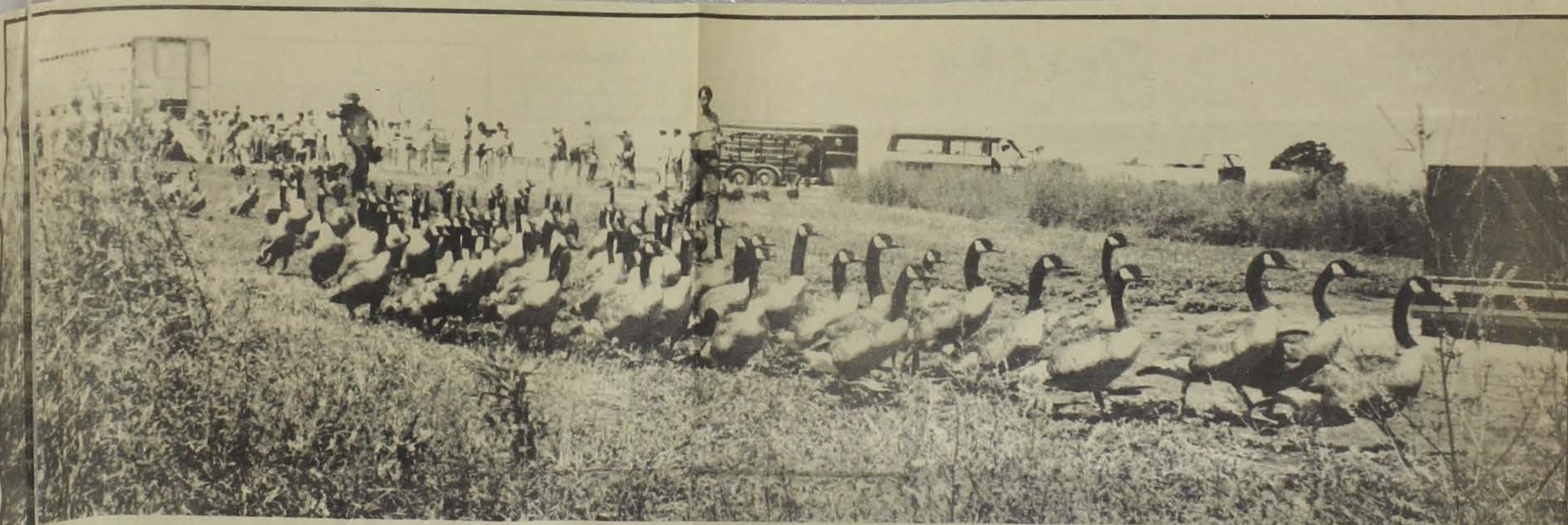


Workmen unloading Giant Canadians.

hopefully benefit others for generations to come," he said.

The geese will nest on floating nests rather than more permanent structures used in the past. According to Coffey this will prevent less damage during flooding or winter.

Assisting Coffey on the Canadian trip were Biologist Art Roselen of Wapello, R.C.&D. board member John Sellers, Jr., of Millerton, Frank Tony of Centerville, and conservation workers Dennis Proctor and Howard Eakins of Centerville.



Is this a goose-step?

Major effort to create Giant Canadian flock at Rathbun Lake. (Story Page 6)

Last acre ceremony held at Lake Miami

In a symbolic ceremony this morning at Lake Miami the last of the 278,400 acres in Monroe County was completed in a three and one-half year soil survey in the 12 townships.

Started in October 1977, the three soil scientists involved in the soil survey have made nearly 30,000 probes, armed with aerial photos which helped them locate the boundaries where the various soil types change.

The four soil scientists are Douglas Oelmann, the party leader; Gary Lindgren, Jeff Talsky and John Hemple. Oelmann has been completing the work here while the others have moved on to other soil survey work: Talsky to Knoxville, Hemple to Red Oak, Lindgren to Decatur County (though he'll continue living in Albia) and Oehlmann now to Des Moines.

Others taking part in the ceremony at Lake Miami included Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District; Gary M. Peterson, county extension director; John Frieden, district soil conservationist; William J. Brune, field repre-

sentative for the State Department of Soil Conservation; and Dr. John Pesek, head of the Agronomy Department at Iowa State University. Each related his agency's role in the survey.

Dr. Gerald Miller, extension agronomist at Iowa State, and Al Seim, area extension crop production specialist, spoke on the uses of the survey.

Information gathered in the survey will be published in a soil survey report which will be available in approximately three years.

The soil survey project identified 41 soil series in the county with each soil type identified by name. Each soil mapping unit was broken down and identified by its soil series, the texture of the plow layer, the slope class and the erosion class.

Each parcel of land was classified then according to the land capability with the conservation practices needed on each parcel and the type of tillage recommended.

Class I land has few if any limitations and can be used for continued cropping. Monroe County has few acres of this

class of land. This land is level.

Class II land may be used in the same way but it may be hampered by slight erosion or wetness. This land has a 2 to 4 percent slope.

Class III land can also be used for continuous cropping with precautions and the use of mechanical practices. This class has a 5 to 9 percent slope.

Class IV land is used primarily for hay and pasture. This land has a 9 to 14 percent slope.

Class V land may be used for pasture. It has a 14 to 18 percent slope.

Class VI land with an 18 to 25 percent slope and may be used for pasture.

Class VII land has slopes in excess of 25 percent and is usable only for timber and for wild life.

As part of the soil survey work, soil samples were submitted for analysis.

John Frieden, district soil conservationist, pointed out that field sheets are available now in the county and that they'll be used by farmers to determine the best usage of the land and the best conservation practices applicable.

9-10-81

Notice of Public Hearing
on
Rules for Certain Land Disturbing Activities on Nonagricultural and Construction Sites
Monroe County Soil Conservation District
Under authority set forth in Chapter 467A, Code of Iowa 1981 (amended by Senate File 262, 69th Iowa General Assembly, 1981 session), the commissioners of Monroe County Soil Conservation District have proposed rules for filing affidavits related to erosion control in conjunction with certain land disturbing activities on nonagricultural and construction sites.
A copy of these proposed rules may be obtained at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office, 14B 2nd Ave. West, Albia, Iowa.
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at Soil Conservation District Office, 14B 2nd Ave. West, Albia, Ia. 7:30 P.M., September 24, 1981, at which time an explanation of the proposed rules will be made and opportunity to comment on the proposed rules will be provided.
COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
By: Ollie Kaldenberg
Chairman
Sept. 10, 1981

July 7, 1981

IOWA STORM DAMAGE MOUNTS INTO MILLIONS

REGISTER PHOTO BY LISA KRUIDENIER



27 bridges gone; crop loss is high

Weekend rains punish roads, wash away soil

By DON MUHM and CAROL PITTS
Register Staff Writers

One of the heaviest rainstorms in recorded state history destroyed millions of dollars worth of roads, bridges, crops and farmland in southern Iowa, officials said Monday.

At least 27 bridges were washed out and 58 others were damaged by the weekend deluge, which claimed the lives of three persons. And officials said they expected to find more destruction as they complete countywide inspections.

Among the damage reports Monday were these:

- Officials in five storm-hit counties took the first steps toward seeking disaster designations, which would open the door for special government financial assistance and loans. Two of those counties asked for the same designation last month.

- Crop damage in Wayne County alone approached \$8 million, a figure that includes \$60,000 worth of hay that washed away.

- The rain claimed soil losses of 30 to 50 tons of soil per acre in Lucas County.

- More than 40,000 tons of rock will be relaid to replace gravel washed away by floodwaters.

On top of all of that, Monday's heat caused two paved roads in Warren County to buckle. "We certainly didn't need this problem on top of all the others," said Bob Sandy, Warren County engineer.

Engineers in Wayne and Monroe counties estimated damage at more than \$1 million in each county. "Seven bridges have just disappeared," said Wayne County Engineer Rolley Glasgow. "They're probably halfway to New Orleans by now."

He said most of the bridges will be replaced, but possibly not for months. In Monroe County, however, engineer Wendell Folkerts said two of the seven washed-out bridges won't be replaced because the county has no money. "We're going to try to abandon the roads," he said.

Nick Konrady, Lucas County

WEATHER

Please turn to Page 3A



Buster and Irene Wolf

Wolf home floats 1/4 mile downstream

Shortly after 11 o'clock Friday evening Irene Wolf had been up stirring about and she heard water gushing and she guessed that the water in Cedar Creek, running between their home and the railroad track on the west, was rising in its bank.

But with the rainfall coming as it did she wasn't surprised. So Irene Wolf went back to bed.

Catherine Irene Wolf, 61, and her brother, Raymond "Buster" Wolf, 63, have rented that one-story home in Melrose for 29 years and there had been rains before and the creek has risen a few feet in previous years.

But shortly after 1 a.m. Saturday morning Irene and Buster realized that the creek was rising much more rapidly than they thought and they got up and dressed but by then the water was rising

so rapidly they couldn't make any effort to get out.

The raging stream coming into the home upset a freezer and it was this that Buster grabbed, hanging on spread-eagled and helping to support Irene on his knees. She in the meantime had grabbed onto the top of the door jam to help support her weight.

Buster, as he recalls the three hours they spent in the water-filled house early Saturday morning, doesn't recall being conscious of the house being carried downstream.

Irene remembers seeing a light in the apartment of George Miskimins and

The Wolfs

—Continued on Page 2



Anna Comer

Water to neck as she awaits rescue

Asleep in the bedroom of her one-story home on Shamrock Street, Anna Comer, 85, awoke early Saturday morning to the sound of water gushing under her bed.

Stepping out of her bed she found that the water was knee-high and the Melrose woman went out into the kitchen to find something to stand on.

Telling her story from her bed in the Monroe County Hospital a bare 24-hours after her ordeal she related in a relatively strong voice the story of the Melrose flood and her efforts at self-preservation.

As she went into the kitchen to seek something on which to stand the water rushing through the house overturned the refrigerator in front of her.

Turning around, still seeking some-

thing to stand on, she remembered to turn on all of the lights she could find. "I thought if I turned the lights on someone will see me."

What she didn't know at that time was that rescuers had already come and gone. They had checked the house earlier, couldn't get any response to their calls and assumed she wasn't in the home. So they headed on up the street checking on the other homes in the flood's path.

But returning again downstream—east on Shamrock Street that evening—they saw the lights in the house. Annie

Anna Comer

—Continued on Page 2



Rescue workers await ambulance for Buster and Irene Wolf

The Monroe County News

Vol. 96 No. 28

Albia, Iowa 52531 Tuesday, July 7, 1981

2 Sections

23 Melrose residents are rescued as flood waters hit community

By ROBERT W. LARSON

Melrose, Iowa's Little Bid of Ireland, had planned for months on welcoming the high school graduates from the classes 1949 through 1959, but the community certainly hadn't planned on staging the stirring drama that it did the wee small hours Saturday, July 6.

But drama it was as the rain-swollen Cedar Creek developed more than a half of middle-aged spread until it reached from the Burlington Northern track to Shamrock Street and on up the hill a bit.

In the process the swirling stream knocked several homes from their foundations, scattered fertilizer carts and autos like pieces of wood, upset a high water storage tank and tipped a fertilizer tank and forced the rescue of 23 residents of Melrose.

Rain, which began early Friday, continued into the night, but it wasn't until about 1:50 a.m. Saturday when several youths knocked on the door of Bill Dier, Melrose fire chief and head of the town's rescue unit, to tell him the water was over the railroad track and the Ed Knowles family was trapped in the tavern known as Ed's Place.

As Dier tells it the members of the Melrose Rescue Squad were alerted and

on the job within minutes. In the meantime, someone had called the Monroe County sheriff's office shortly after 1:30 a.m. Several of the deputies had been working in the rain for hours at that time trying to get a pontoon boat off U.S. 34, not far from the Melrose intersection. The boat had slipped off its carrier.

By 2 a.m. the massive rescue effort was underway in Melrose.

The Melrose rescue unit had put together a strong rope, about the size of a ski rope, in an attempt to rescue the Knowles family. And Dier had gotten his boat into the water in the rescue attempt. But the rescue rope caught his propeller and Dier and his boat were swept downstream.

Two Iowa conservation officers went to his rescue and their boat capsized and it was when the Albia Rescue Squad arrived with its boat and more powerful motor that the rescue work began to smooth out.

Three Iowa conservation officers—Ed

Nelson and Ray Seay from the Rathbun Lake patrol and Rick Schultz of Russell—helped in the boats as several of the units started a house-by-house check up and down Shamrock Street and up and down Kells Avenue.

By 3 a.m. Saturday water down Shamrock Street was 7 to 9 feet deep, depending upon where the measurement was taken. Annie Comer, 85, was rescued from her home as she was standing in water up to her chin in the living room of the one-story frame house, swept from its foundation by the current.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Knowles and their daughter and a friend, who had been trapped in the downstairs of Ed's Place, knocked a hole in the wall and climbed the stairway to the second floor of their building, waiting until the larger motor

23 are rescued

—Continued on Page 2

Rescuers

The early Saturday morning rescue effort in the Melrose flood was a team effort, according to William Dier, chief of the Melrose Fire Department.

Assisting in the rescue efforts were the Albia Rescue Squad which had nine men in Melrose addition to the rescue boat. Three men of the unit remained in the Albia station to take care of calls received.

Three Iowa State Troopers, three Iowa State Conservation officers, four men from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, men from the Appanoose County patrol, one from the Monroe County conservation service and Geyer Ambulance Service teamed up in the night-long rescue effort.

The rescued

A number of the Melrose residents were able to get out of their homes and onto higher land before they were trapped by the rising water.

Members of the Melrose Rescue Squad, recapping their busy morning, listed the following as taken out by rescuers:

Raymond (Buster) Wolf
Catherine Irene Wolf
Anna Comer
Paul Ripperger
Mr. and Mrs. Osmond Ripperger
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Knowles, Jeff and Ryan
Rachel Colben
Agnes Smith
Irene Sinclair
Margaret Bischo
Kathleen Bominger and three children
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Knowles and Terri
Jollena Dicks
Norma Harper



Ed Knowles gets an assist ashore

People

County flood damage total is \$1,638,000

Torrential rains Friday night and Saturday caused severe flooding throughout Monroe County and caused damage estimated at \$1,638,000, the Monroe County Emergency Board estimated following a tour of the county Monday.

Approximately half of the damage—a total of \$805,000, was to crops throughout Monroe County. Heavy rains caused excessive flooding in Cedar Creek, Whites Creek, North Cedar Creek, Soap Creek, Millers Creek, Grays Creek, North Avery, Middle Avery and South Avery.

The county emergency board gave the following estimates of acres of crop damage in the county:

Corn	4,400 acres
Soybeans	2,800 acres
Oats	900 acres

Wheat 100 acres
Hay 900 acres

Corn damage was estimated at \$300,000 and soybean damage at \$375,000.

The emergency board consists of Ron Parker of the Monroe County ASCS office; John Frieden of the Soil Conservation Service; David Dowdy, director of the Farmers Home Administration; and Gary Peterson, county extension director.

In addition to the crop damage, the flooding caused approximately \$172,000 in damage to homes and mobile homes; \$250,000 to the cafe, post office, taverns, and fertilizer plant in Melrose; \$36,000 to plant and equipment, cars and pickups; \$75,000 to cropland not listed previously and \$300,000 to personal property including household goods as well as the fertilizers in the Kaiser

Agricultural Chemical plant in Melrose.

The estimate in the city of Melrose totaled \$758,000 according to the county emergency board.

The county emergency board has recommended to the Iowa Emergency Board in the Federal Building in Des Moines that Monroe County be declared a disaster area because of the excessive flooding over the weekend.

A declaration of disaster would make low interest loans available to the farmers affected and other funds may be made available to repair fences, water gaps and conservation damage.

Melrose residents who had damage to their homes may be eligible for five percent interest to repair or replace their damaged property under the Rural Home Emergency Loan program.

23 are rescued

boat could be brought into place and a ladder secured so they could make their way down from their second-floor refuge.

Bill Duer and those who were with him when his boat was swept downstream had gotten their boat tied to the end of the Kaiser building and had made their way over the roof and down to relative safety again.

Duer and Dennis Carr, Monroe County sheriff, were supervising a house-to-house search and in the end, 23 persons were evacuated from their homes. Several maintained they'd be o.k. and they waited out the flood in their residences.

As rescuers made their house-to-house check they were conscious that the home of Catherine Irene Wolf and her brother, Raymond "Buster" Wolf, had been swept downstream. But they had lost sight of the home and hadn't much hope of being able to find the pair alive.

But as the rain lessened the house was sighted on the Burlington Northern tracks, then it shifted a little and was resting in a cornfield as strong search-

lights helped illuminate the scene.

Once more the rescue boat went out, carried downstream by the current, until it reached the Wolf home. Doors and windows were all under water. But one of the rescuers, who wondered out loud, "I wonder where those people are" got a response and within minutes the window in the door and storm door were broken, the brother and sister brought out underwater through the broken panes.

Within 15 minutes, the two were ashore and loaded into a waiting ambulance, on their way to the Monroe County Hospital.

Finally at 4:40 a.m., after checking with other members of the Melrose Rescue Unit, Bill Duer said with some assurance, "I think we've got everybody out."

The rescue project was complete. The Melrose and Albia rescue units; the three Iowa conservation officers; Iowa State Troopers Patrick Egan, James Hoven and Nick Durian; Carr and deputy sheriffs Ron Yarkosky, Michael Lawrence and Michael Berrier; Wayne Sheston of Centerville, a member of the

staff of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation; Jess Welt, manager of the park at Miami Lake, had all helped in the rescue attempts.

And the water by mid-afternoon Saturday, had fallen as rapidly as it had risen. Residents of the affected homes had taken up carpets, tossed out mattresses, removed the home furnishings, and Shamrock Street on Saturday afternoon looked as though Melrose was having a gigantic yard sale.

The clean-up work will be continuing for weeks and months.

And the Melrose class reunion was held as scheduled Saturday afternoon.

But the rainfall—which ranged from six to nine inches according to estimates—had created the worst flood in Melrose since the flood in 1917, according to some of the older residents of the community.

But community residents were thankful that the property damage—estimated at \$500,000 by Mayor Parley Batten—was no more than that and that no lives had been lost in the flooding and in the powerful, swirling current.

Buster and Irene Wolf

realized as the light faded in the distance that the house was being borne on the rain-swollen waters of Cedar Creek.

But neither realized how far the home had been carried downstream until hospital visitors late Saturday in the Monroe County Hospital told them the house had been swept downstream about a quarter of a mile.

At first it came to rest on the Burlington Northern tracks but a bit later another strong current carried it off the track and it came to rest in the cornfield adjoining the double BN track at that point.

But three hours is a long time to hang on for your life. And Irene was fearful of the outcome and repeated over and over, "Oh, Buster, we'll never see each other again." But Buster's reply didn't change. "Hang on. If we have faith we'll make it." And they did.

Rescue workers didn't have much hope of finding the couple. They had seen the home swept downstream and for a while during the rescue efforts, the driving rain kept them from even seeing where the home had come to rest.

In the meantime there were other homes to be checked and other people to be accounted for. But shortly after 4 o'clock that morning with a strong searchlight scanning the area, the house was spotted and a rescue team was off in the boat in one more rescue attempt in the swollen stream.

Irene and Buster were aware of the rescue attempt when they heard a voice

outside wondering out loud to another occupant of the boat, "I wonder where those people are."

Then it was that the brother and sister found voices to respond, "We're just inside the kitchen door."

The fact was that the kitchen door was practically under water and the water within the house was within a foot of the ceiling just didn't seem much of a deterrent.

The rescuers broke the glass in the storm door and in the kitchen door, then pulled Buster down under the water, out the opening and into the boat.

He recalls that he "just got a face full of water" and the rescuers put him face down in the boat and he lost some of that.

Irene, who had been hanging onto the door jam for nearly three hours, had to have her hands forced off the jam and then she was taken under the water, out through the broken pane, and into the rescue boat.

They were vaguely conscious of friends—voices they knew—talking to them while the motor craft chugged its way across the swollen Cedar Creek.

Bill Duer, Vincent Feehan, Mike Murphy and others they recognized were there—barely.

Within moments they were in an ambulance headed for the Monroe County Hospital. Buster had a pretty fair night's sleep Saturday night but Irene slept in fits and starts as she relived the ordeal of less than 24 hours before.

"I'm lucky. I sure thank God I'm alive because I sure didn't think we were going to make it," she tells visitors. And Sunday they were informed that their dog, Buffy, too, survived the flood. He was in the house with them and sometime Saturday Pat Dinneen and a brother saw the dog swimming in the water and went out to rescue him.

Irene and Buster both have a touch of pneumonia and when that's cleared up they'll be able to get up and get out and home. But home? The structure which has been their home for 29 years is no more. So they'll find a new home.

In the meantime they're simply grateful to be alive.

Rathbun Lake crest Thursday

Rathbun Lake is expected to crest at 917.8 feet Thursday, putting the lake level nearly 14 feet above the normal pool elevation of 904 feet.

Robert Hyatt, lake manager for the U.S. Corps of Engineers, said that the outlet was closed Friday to protect property downstream which also had a heavy rainfall.

Rathbun Lake crews were busy Monday barricading roads which were closed because of the rising water levels. Hyatt said that lake personnel started moving some people to higher ground Saturday morning as the lake level started rising appreciably.

There were 93,500 visitors at Rathbun Lake over the July 4th weekend, despite the heavy rainfall in the area Friday and through Friday night.

Anna Comer

Comer was up to her neck in the water and she was hanging onto one of the living room draperies to give herself support.

Some time later she saw some flashlights and she heard voices outside of her living room window. She made out what one of the men was saying, "Annie we're coming in after you. Turn your head the other way so you won't get cut by the glass when we break the window."

The next thing she felt was a strong pair of hands, reaching under her arms and lifting her into the boat. She had a hazy memory of being put into the ambulance. And she remembers, gratefully, the names of the men who came back when they saw the lights in her home—R.D. Curran, Vincent Feehan, Bill Murphy and Ron Yarkosky, deputy sheriff.

What she didn't realize at the time was that her home had been swept off its foundation and into a giant elm tree in her front yard—the only thing which kept her home from being swept down-

stream by the racing current.

Nor did she realize that in being swept from its foundation, the force had broken the house loose from the propane gas tank and from the water main. Rescue workers, checking on the property after it became light Saturday morning, smelled the gas and got that turned off. And they saw the water spouting roof high and got to the cut-off valve and turned off that unnecessary water spout.

Sunday, Mrs. Comer, concerned about getting back home, still hadn't been told that she can't return. Her home is a total loss. So other arrangements are being made by her family.

As with some of the other survivors of the Melrose flood, she's developed pneumonia and is being kept in the hospital for a few days until that's gone. But Annie Comer is thankful to be alive and thinks perhaps that's little enough to be concerned with after spending nearly two hours in the water hoping the rescuers would see the lights and find her.

Mail in Melrose gets delivered

Pauline McDowell, clerk at the Melrose Post Office, commented Monday that "we're operating out of a tackle box and a brown envelope but the mail was delivered."

The Melrose office had more than three feet of water in its lobby and records in a safe and in several file cabinets were water soaked as was the supply of stamps. Officials of the Ottumwa Sectional Center were providing equipment and Melrose personnel were busy cleaning the office Monday.

Carriers made their rounds Monday and city residents were able to pick up their mail in the office, Robert Tierney is the Melrose postmaster.

Deaths

Cal X. Repp
Cal X. Repp, 71, of Anaheim, Calif., died there July 1.

He was born in Monroe County on Dec. 25, 1909, the son of Victor and Sarah Parker Repp. He had been employed by the Maytag Co. in Newton. In 1977, he moved to California to make his home with a niece, Mary Conley.

On Jan. 13, 1931, he married Ellen Conley. She died Sept. 17, 1977.

Survivors include two sisters, Alice Morgan and Icyell Kellogg, both of Albia; and two brothers, Carl Repp of Newton and John Repp of California.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Erle; and two sisters, Fern and Ollie.

The funeral will be 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church with the Rev. Philip Cardenzana officiating. Burial will be in Newton Memorial Park Cemetery.

A rosary will be 7 p.m. today (Tuesday) at Humeston-Gilbert Funeral Home.

Bertha Nelson
Bertha Nelson, 63, of 615 W. Washington St. in Centerville died July 1 at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Centerville.

She was born in Albia on Aug. 13, 1917, the daughter of Thomas and Mae Harper Breese. She was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Centerville.

On Jan. 6, 1940, she married Carroll Fletcher. He preceded her in death. On March 20, 1967, she married Henry Nelson. He also preceded her in death.

Survivors include one son, LeRoy Fletcher of Unionville; one daughter, Nina "Sue" McGee of Rockford, Ill.; five grandchildren; and three sisters, Mabel Coady of Albia, Faye Reynolds of Des Moines and Opal Squires of Highland, Calif.

The funeral was 2 p.m. Friday at Johnson Funeral Home in Centerville with the Rev. William F. Radant officiating. Burial was in Hanes Cemetery.

A memorial has been established to the cancer fund.

Ruby Jones
Ruby D. Jones, 72, of Mystic Route 1 died July 1 at Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines.

She was born in Monroe County on Oct. 1, 1909, the daughter of L.L. and L. Summers Hayworth. She was a member of Walnut Homesteaders Club.

In 1932, she married Everett Jones at Unionville, Mo. He survives.

Other survivors include four sons, Richard of Walnut City, Robert at home, James of Minnesota and Everett Jr. serving with the U.S. Navy; two daughters, Sandra Cordell of Maxwell and Alice Jones of Lancaster, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four sisters, Opal Fillman and Pearl Hall, both of Des Moines, Vera Peterson of Lovilia and Maxine Martin of Martinsdale; and four brothers, Roy Hayworth of Albia, Glen and Joe Hayworth, both of Des Moines, and Sylvester Hayworth of Martinsdale.

The funeral was 1:30 p.m. Friday at Duley Funeral Home in Centerville. Burial was in Elgin Cemetery north of Mystic.

Keith Blumer
Keith Blumer, 71, of Blakesburg died July 1 at the Ottumwa Hospital in Ottumwa.

He was born in Appanoose County on Sept. 11, 1909, the son of William S. and Gladys M. Rainey Blumer. He was a farmer and construction worker and had lived in the Blakesburg area for the past 9 years. He had lived in Blakesburg for 12 years. He attended the Blakesburg Christian Church and was currently serving on the Blakesburg City Council.

On Feb. 14, 1937, he married Glenora Derby. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Edward L. Blumer of Fairfax and Karl K. Blumer of Cedar Rapids; one daughter, Twila J. Brittain of Blakesburg; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; four brothers, LeRoy, Clyde and Curtis, all of Ottumwa, and Martin of LaVerne, Calif.; and one sister, Edith Moore of Ottumwa.

He was preceded in death by two brothers and one sister.

The funeral will be 3 p.m. Wednesday at Knedler Funeral Home in Blakesburg with Donald Plum and Jim Pickett officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, south of Ottumwa.

VANDALISM—
Rodney Hughes reported to police that his house at 1222 Benton Ave. E. had been entered. A bathroom mirror and a window were broken.

JUVENILES—
Albia police arrested two juveniles and charged them with exploding fireworks without a permit. One of the juveniles was also charged with violating the city curfew ordinance.

GUEST—
The Wall Lake Alumni Banquet had a rare guest when it was held recently. Jessie Baker, who graduated from Wall Lake 81 years ago, was there. She will be 100 years old in October.

The Wall Lake Blade

WEATHER—
By Ed Steinbach
Official Weather Observer

	High	Low	Precip.
July 2	83	66	None
July 3	83	67	None
July 4	77	68	3.70
July 5	85	66	.72
July 6	86	68	None
July 7	66	66	

HOSPITAL—
Admissions
July 2, 1981
Roy E. Morgan, 664 N. A
Icile Carter, Rt. 3
Grace Veach, Albia Manor
July 3, 1981
Fairy Tarbell, 307 B Ave. W.
Elizabeth Stevenson, 1118 S. Clinton
Catherine Peterson, Lovilia
July 4, 1981
Mrs. Harold Brink, Rt. 3
Anna Comer, Melrose
Catherine Wolf, Melrose
Raymond Wolf, Melrose
Mrs. William Gutcher, Rt. 3
Mrs. Paul Wignall, Rt. 3
July 5, 1981
Mrs. Philip White, Lovilia
Barbara Robinson, Moravia
Catherine Scovel, Rt. 3
July 6, 1981
Mrs. Ray Lahart, Rt. 2
Jessie Bricker, 217 N. 7th
Mrs. Webb Mullins, Moravia
Mrs. Forrest Karr, 610 4th Ave. E.
Mrs. Paul Benell, Moravia
Discharges
July 2, 1981
Amanda Jones, Knoxville
Ralph Kirtley, Bussey
Gerald Conner, Lovilia
Marnie Grim, Bussey
July 3, 1981
Ricky Little, Albia
Michele Maddison, Albia
Harry Davis, Albia
July 4, 1981
Mrs. Ed Heriford and daughter, Albia
Mrs. Paul Reeves, Bussey
July 5, 1981
Catherine Peterson, Lovilia
Harland Boyd, Oskaloosa
Roy Morgan, Albia
Fairy Tarbell, Albia, transferred to Des Moines General
July 6, 1981
Frank Kristof, Albia
Flo Tyrrel, Albia

DEATHS—
July 1, Cal X. Repp, 71, of Anaheim, Calif., and formerly of Albia, at Anaheim, Calif.
July 1, Bertha Nelson, 63, of 615 W. Washington St. in Centerville at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Centerville.
July 1, Ruby D. Jones, 72, of Mystic Route 1, at Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines.
July 2, Sherri Lyn Henderson, 21, of Des Moines and formerly of Albia, found murdered in Des Moines.
July 6, Keith Blumer, 71, of Blakesburg, at the Ottumwa Hospital, Ottumwa.

Newsletters are missed Sunday at Little League
To the editor:
Sunday's observance of Had Kausalik's 25th year of service to Monroe County Little League was enjoyed by many little league players, past, present and future, managers and coaches (old and new), parents, family, friends, Mayor Bernard Carr and Father Philip Cardenzana.

How memorable the occasion could have been for everyone had the local newspaper been represented for pictures and even a small write-up of the event. We are sure the paper was aware of the time, date and location as that information was published earlier in the paper. We realize coverage was needed for the local flood damage, but for 25 years of service to an organization that has in some way or another helped the majority of Monroe County's youth, surely some publicity was deserved. Perhaps better staff availability over the weekend would assure us someone could cover the news.

Sue Shroyer
Denise Dye
Stephen M. Shroyer
Mary Beadle
Ron and Cora Leshen

(Editor's note: We hope the Little League fans will read the story and see the picture on Page 8 of today's News. The Albia NEWSpapers regret that plans to cover the program Sunday did not materialize as planned. Grace Buol, our news editor, was out of town for the weekend and Robert W. Larson, editor and publisher, was taking pictures and covering the various phases of the flood story. We must of necessity set our own priorities and this time it was the story of the flood. But the Albia NEWSpapers are indebted to Had Kausalik for the help he has given us in covering Little League baseball over the past 25 years. His assistance has made possible the extensive coverage we have given Little League baseball over the past quarter century, a coverage which has included reports on approximately 1,500 games plus scores of many more minor league games.)

almanac

BIRTHS—
June 26, Daughter, Anne Eannine, to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dais of Des Moines. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 1/2 oz. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Monte Robnett, Albia; Bill Davis Oskaloosa; and Mrs. Tom Hamblin Nebraska. Great-grandparents are Mrs. Luella Kearney and Mrs. Lois Davis, both of Albia.

June 26, Daughter, Trist Amelia, to DeWayne and Aura Lee Entinger of Winsted, Minn. She weighed 8 lbs. 3 3/4 oz. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Edmund James of Des Moines and Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Entinger of Winsted, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence James of Albia are great-grandparents.

July 4, Daughter to M. and Mrs. Harold Brink, Rt. 3, Albia, at the Monroe County Hospital. She weighed 7 lbs. 15 1/2 oz. Grandparents are Levi and Doris Shilling, Rt. 3, Albia and Beulah Rose of Coal Valley, Ill.

July 6, Daughter, Hol Marie, to John and Tammie Angran of Fall Brook, Calif. She weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. Grandparents are Joe and Pat Angran of Albia and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hall of Lovilia. Great-grandparents are Joe and Marge Nucko and Tony and Joan Angran, all of Albia.

RESCUE CALLS—
July 2, to 664 N. A St. at 29 p.m., Roy Morgan taken to Monroe County Hospital.
July 4, to Melrose at 1:30 a.m., assisted with flood rescue until 6:30 a.m.
July 4, Tod Peterson taken from Melrose to Monroe County Hospital at 2:50 a.m.
July 4, from 11:50 a.m. to 1 p.m., checked flood conditions at Hiteman
July 4, at Albia City Reservoir from 8:15 to 10:14 p.m., fireworks display.

Bulletins

Steve Delaney was being airlifted to a hospital at Rochester, Minn., at 1 p.m. today following an accident at 10:20 a.m. miles west of Albia on U.S. 34. Delaney, 24, of Melrose Route 2 was the driver of a pickup pulling a stock trailer which was struck from behind by a semitractor trailer. Details of the accident were not available at press time. Delaney was transported by the Air Care helicopter from University Hospitals in Iowa City.

Gov. Robert D. Ray this morning (Tuesday) signed a declaration designating Monroe county as a disaster area. Other counties included in the designation include Warren, Clarke, Lucas, Wayne and Appanoose Counties. A declaration makes these counties eligible for state assistance in areas affected by the rain and flood damage.

The Monroe County News

(USPS 356-3)
Published Every Tuesday

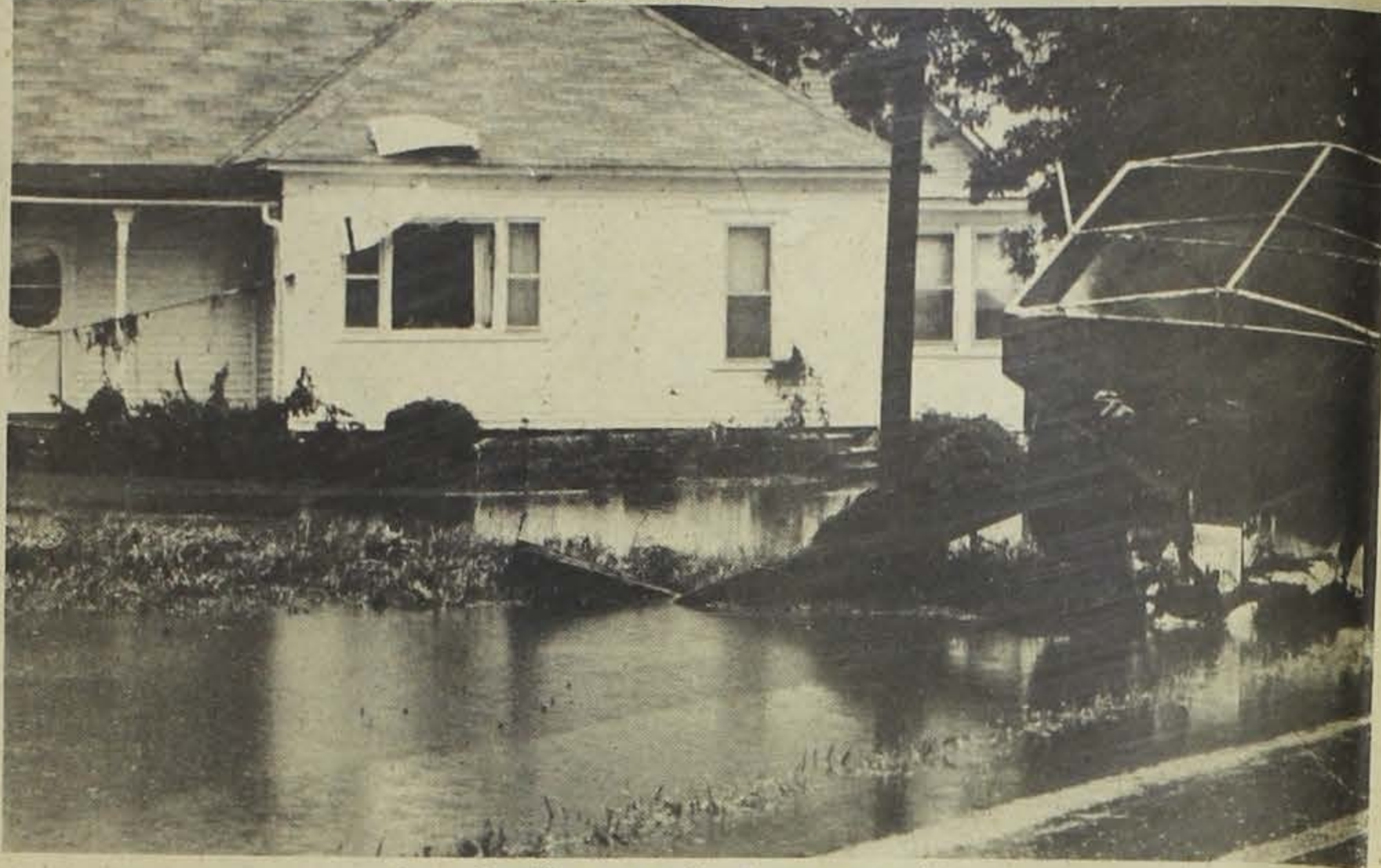
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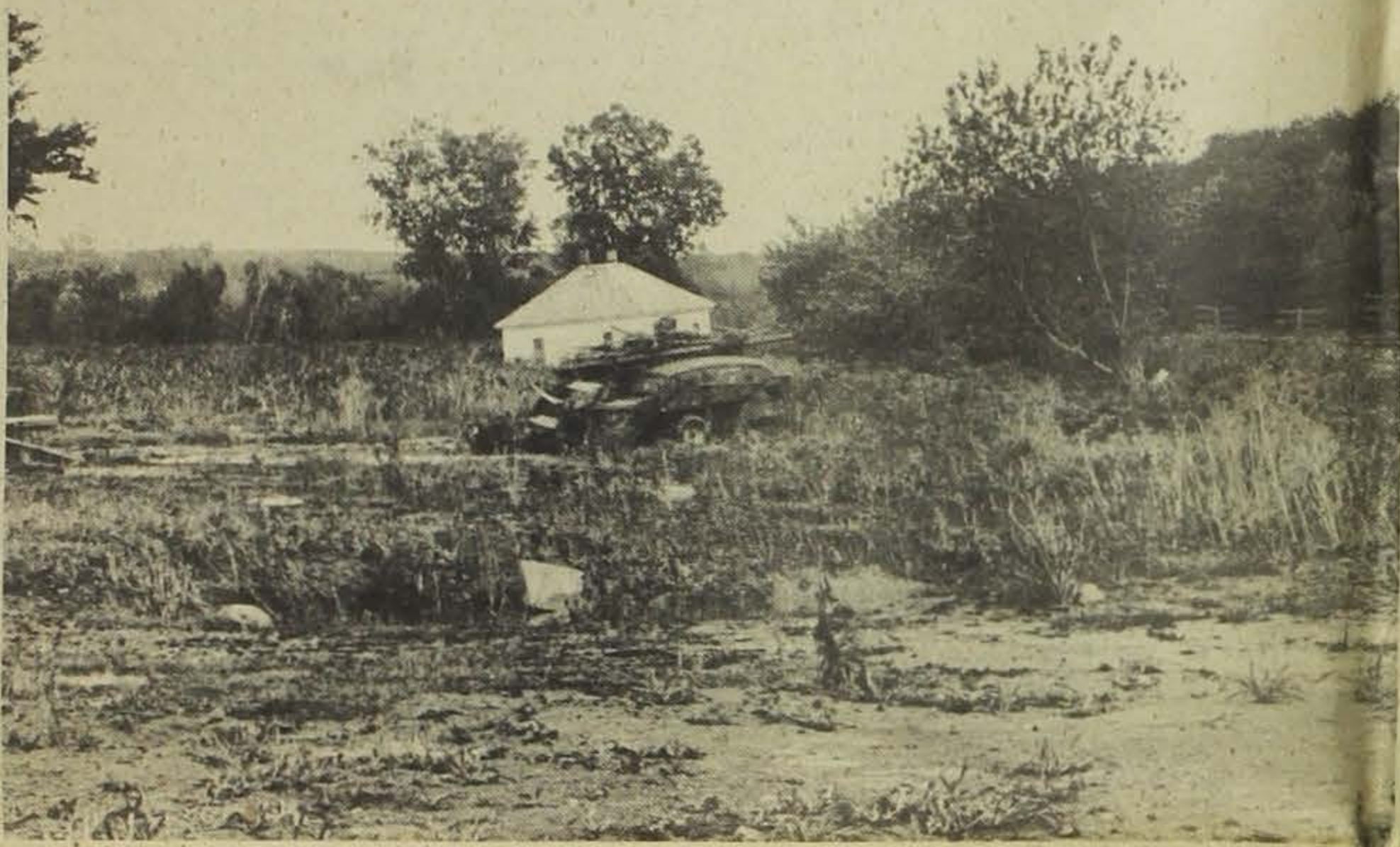
Lost fertilizer cart in Comer yard



Osmond Ripperger home in Melrose



Agnes S



Wolf home after water receded



Sheriff Dennis Carr and Deputy Michael Lawrence

What a way to celebrate!

If Monroe County residents choose they would not have chosen the torrential and the flooding in the western part of the county any way to observe the Fourth of July.

The damage to crops and damages to homes and businesses in the Melrose area total \$1,638,000. Damages to roads in the county and to culverts totaled \$1,020,000. In addition Burlington Railroad crews are busy repairing over 48 track washed out between Albia and Osceola.

The story of the flooding misery and the high water at Rathbun Lake is told in 14 stories and in 22 pictures in this issue of The County News.



Water going down in Melrose



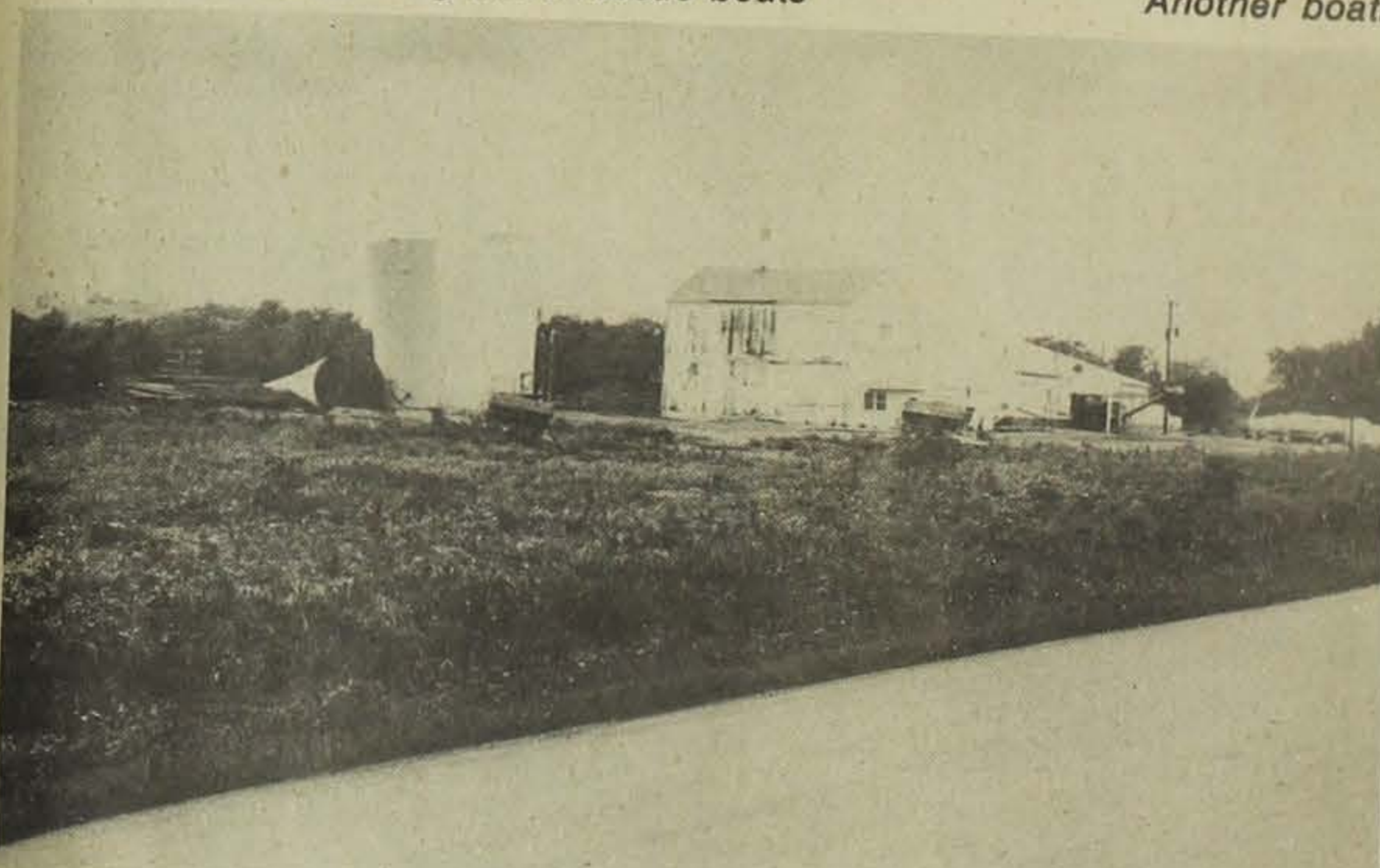
They're awaiting more rescue boats



Another boatload of residents pulled ashore



Tony Judge and Patrick Dinneen boating



Damaged tanks at Kaiser plant



ome in Melrose



Agnes Smith home gets an airing



Rescue workers keep victims warm

What a way to celebrate!

If Monroe County residents had a choice they would not have chosen the torrential rains and the flooding in the western part of the county as a fitting way to observe the Fourth of July.

The damage to crops, the damages to homes and businesses in the Monroe area totaled \$1,638,000. Damages to roads in the county, bridges and culverts totaled \$1,820,000. In addition, the Iowa Northern Railroad crews are busy repairing over 100 miles of track washed out between Albia and Osceola.

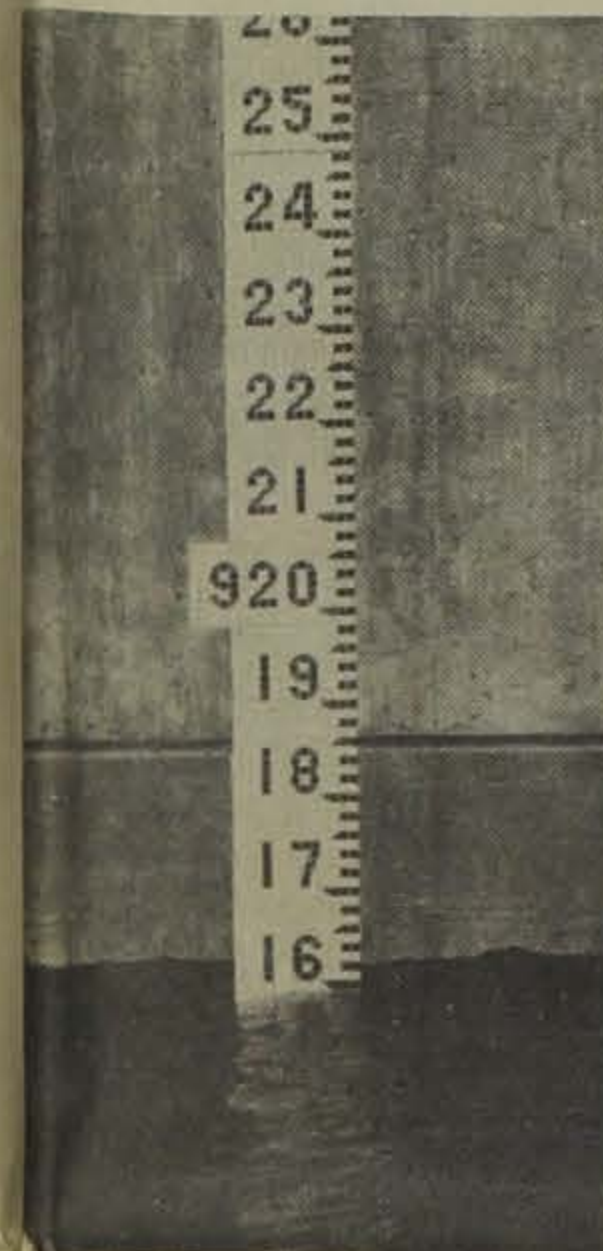
The story of the flooding in the county and the high water at Rathbun Lake is told in 22 pictures in this issue of The Monroe County News.



Iowa Southern cuts power



Burlington Northern tracks under water



Lake up 12 feet



End of the road at Rathbun Lake

Lawrence



Another boatload rescued pulled ashore



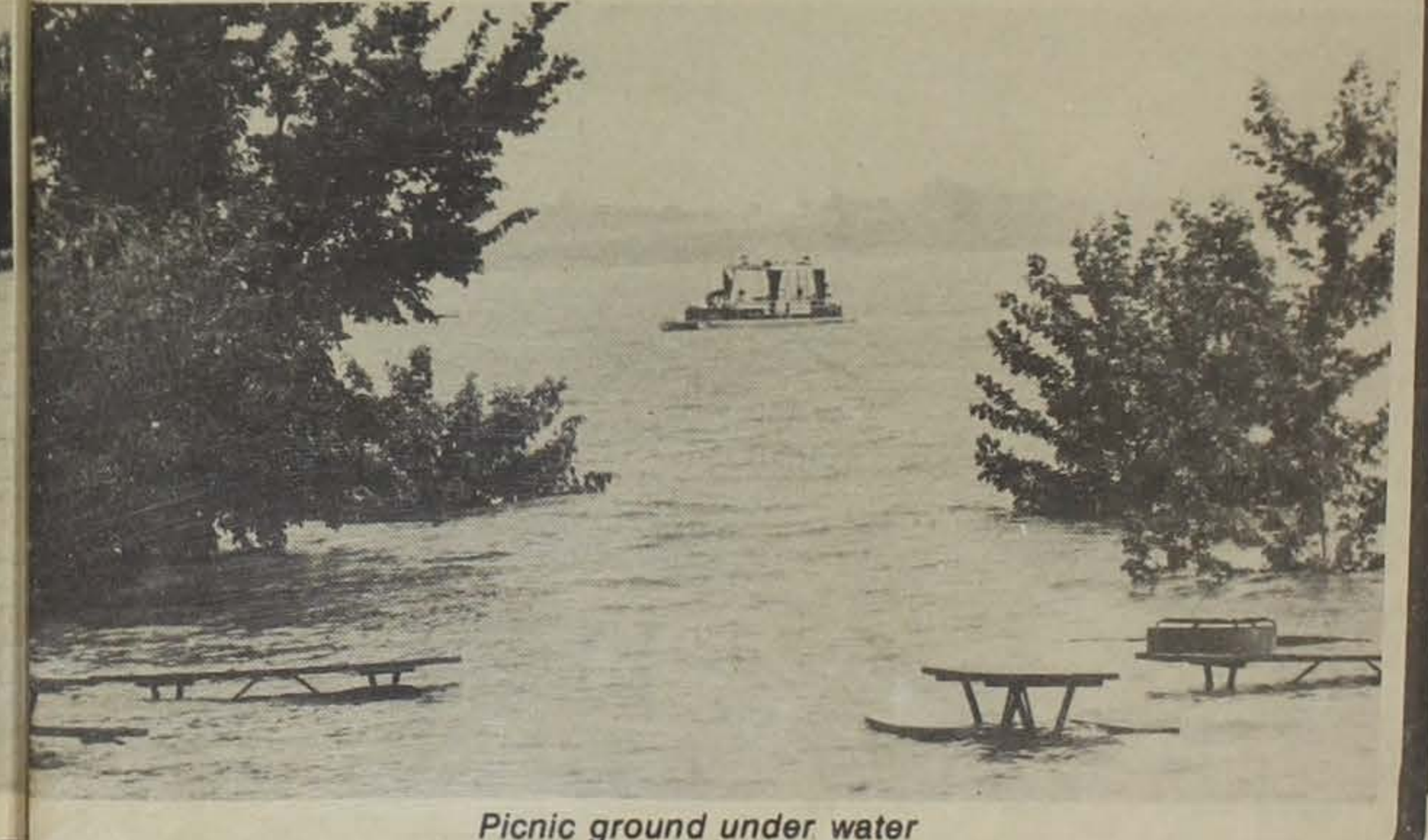
Plenty of campers at Rathbun



Kaiser plant



Flooding along Hiteman road



Picnic ground under water

Former Albia woman is homicide victim



Sherri Henderson

The body of Sherri Lyn Henderson, 21, of Des Moines and formerly of Albia, was discovered Thursday morning in a clump of bushes near a road close to the Des Moines River in Des Moines.

Dr. R.C. Wooters, Polk County medical examiner, said that Miss Henderson had been stabbed as many as 20 times and strangled. He listed the cause of death as strangulation and excessive bleeding. Wooters said that some of the stab wounds were inflicted before death and some after death.

Two Des Moines men have been arrested in connection with the death and charged with first degree murder. They are Paul Cleveland Campbell, 28, and Malroy Alonzo Cunningham. Bond was set at \$500,000 for each of the men.

Miss Henderson was born Feb. 11, 1960, in Mesa, Ariz., the daughter of Lester and Beverly Breese Henderson. She attended Albia schools and had lived and worked in Des Moines for the past year.

Surviving are her mother, Beverly Summers of Albia; her father, Lester Henderson of Mesa, Ariz., two sisters, Lori Henderson and Murenda Summers, both of Albia; three brothers, Jason, Lance and James Summers, all of Albia; and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Clell Brees and Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Henderson, all of Albia.

The funeral was 1 p.m. Monday at Humeston-Gilbert Funeral Home with the Rev. Cliff Bennett officiating. Burial was in Oak View Cemetery.

\$1,020,000 county road flood damage

Heavy rainfall and flooding over the past weekend caused damages totaling \$1,020,000 to county roads and bridges, Wendell Folkerts, Monroe County engineer, said this morning.

Most of the damage was to bridges and culverts located in the three western townships in Monroe County—Jackson, Wayne and Cedar—and were caused by flooding of branches of the Cedar, English and Whites Creeks.

Folkerts said that four bridges were washed out or need extensive repair. These include one bridge a mile north of Hiteman, the Blackstone bridge west of Lovilia, a bridge in Wayne Township on the Monroe-Lucas County Line and another in Cedar Township in the Stephens Forest area.

Five bridges in the county were washed out either at one end or the other. Two culverts were completely washed out. There were four road washouts in the county.

Folkerts earlier today (Tuesday) completed the inspection of the county roads and bridges except for those which are still inaccessible because they are located on mud or dirt roads and this will be inspected as soon as the roads dry out.

Folkerts estimated that \$40,000 to \$50,000 of dirt and rock will be needed for road and culvert repair.

Rescuers rescued

In the kaleidoscope of events in the early morning hours Saturday in Melrose the would-be rescuers often had to be rescued themselves as boats, motors, and manpower were often helpless in the swiftly moving current.

John McGee attempted to rescue the Ed Knowles family from Ed's Place but the McGee pickup truck was swept up in the current and a few moments later McGee had to be rescued, clinging to the top of his pickup.

Bill Duer, chief of the Melrose Rescue Squad; Pat Egan of Centerville, Iowa State Trooper; and Rick Schultz, conservation officer from Russell, attempted to reach Ed's Place but their boat got away and they were in turn rescued, clinging to a tree top.

Moments later they succeeded in rescuing the Knowles family.

One boat of the Iowa Conservation Commission was sunk but later recovered.

First date: literally flood of memories

Tod Peterson and Amy Conway will have vivid memories of their first date and the memories will probably be with them for the next 50 years.

Tod, 16-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Peterson, 516 N. Eighth St., was taking Amy Conway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Conway, Rt. 2, Albia, home shortly after midnight Friday.

They were driving west on Shamrock Street when they saw a three foot wall of water coming down the street and through the yards. The water grounded the truck and Peterson and his date, unable to open the doors, rolled down the windows and got out.

They were able to get the pickup into neutral and push it into a yard and they got to the Agnes Smith home. Ten minutes later Peterson saw the truck starting downstream and he got outside and managed to nudge it enough to avoid a collision with a Monte Carlo which had been swept into the current.

But by then he couldn't make it back to land until he grabbed a garden hose which several neighbors had tossed to him. Amy in the meantime had gotten

out the back of the Smith home, run around the post office and joined Tod at the foot of Erin Lane where rescue efforts were beginning.

Tod was in the Bill Duer boat which attempted the first rescue of the Ed Knowles family before the boat was stalled and drifted downstream. Peterson made it back to shore and then with a rope tied around his waist tried to make it back to the Duer boat to help the others ashore.

But in the process he hurt his right knee, bruising his knee-cap and was pulled from the water by the Albia Rescue Squad.

Tod and Amy, who accompanied him, were brought into the Monroe County Hospital by ambulance and there his leg was X-rayed and he was treated and released.

He was one of four flood victims brought into the hospital early Saturday morning. The three others—Irene and Buster Wolf and Anna Comer—were all admitted.

Agnes Smith, with whom they had first taken refuge, was later evacuated by boat from her home.

BN Railroad repairs 48.7 miles of track

Burlington Northern Railroad crews are working this week on the repair of 48.7 miles of track which suffered heavy damage in the July 4th weekend rains and flooding.

Sam Zimmerman, division superintendent for the BN in Ottumwa, said that the first damage came about 10 p.m. Friday and work gangs and work trains have been working on track repair since that time. The damage extended from a point two and a half miles west of Albia nearly to Osceola in Clarke County.

The westbound track was open to Halpin, about two and a half miles west of Albia, at 1:15 p.m. Monday. From there the trains crossed over to the eastbound track. The first train went over the repaired tracks at 2:30 p.m. Monday.

Trains over the track are running at reduced speeds of 5 to 10 miles an hour, depending upon the rock settling. Zimmerman said that it will be approximately a month before the ballast will be compacted so that trains can resume their normal speeds over both the east and westbound tracks.

Burlington Northern personnel hope to have both the westbound and eastbound lines open by Thursday evening. Ordinarily the tracks carry 18 to 20

trains a day.

Officials of Amtrak have been operating the passenger trains over new routes as the Burlington Northern tracks were washed out. Some weekend trains were routed through Missouri while Sunday and Monday the Amtrak trains—two daily through Iowa—were being routed over the east-west North Western Railway main line.

Zimmerman said that the Burlington Northern track will be open so that the westbound Amtrak will be able to use the track through Albia tonight (Tuesday), though he did not know when that decision will be made by Amtrak officials.

Carleton D. Beh submits low bid on city bonds

Carleton D. Beh Co. of Des Moines submitted the low bid for interest to purchase \$795,000 in general obligation bonds to be issued by the Albia City Council.

The council is issuing the bonds to pay for the recent paving project. Of the amount, \$777,000 is for street improvements and \$18,000 is for changes in water lines made in connection with the paving project.

Beh's bid included interest charges of \$758,549 for the 15-year period for an interest rate of 10.366 percent. Other bids were received from Becker and Cornie of Des Moines, \$786,532 at a rate of 10.749 percent; and Dain Bosworth of Davenport, \$799,35 at a rate of 10.924 percent.

The council also awarded contracts for the rehabilitation of two houses.

The bid of Duke Home Improvement Co. for \$15,330 was accepted for the Wilma Freshwater home at 116 N. Third St. Other bids were Taylor Construction of Eddyville, \$21,182; B & S Construction of Albia, \$18,673; Noe Construction of Eddyville, \$18,769; and Terry Anderson Construction of Oskaloosa, \$16,061.

Noe Construction was awarded the contract for rehabing the Robert Bradley home at 422 S. 10th St. The bid was \$7,523. Other bids were: Taylor Construction, \$10,137; B & S, \$10,650; Duke Home Improvement, \$9,735; and Anderson, \$8,726.

Pictures

Finished 8x10 inch black and white glossy prints of the Melrose and Rathbun pictures can be ordered at the Albia Newspapers office for \$3 each.

In ordering please enclose money and designate picture desired. Allow three weeks for delivery. Specify if pictures are to be mailed or whether they will be picked up.

Check water supply for contamination

Persons who are using water from wells or a private source should have this water checked for contamination following the flooding in the area this past weekend.

Persons having questions on the checking can contact Al Ackerman, Iowa Department of Health, Phone 281-4938, in Des Moines.

Homes having municipal water services or served by the Rathbun Rural Water Association can assume their water has been treated and is safe.

Rainfall

Officially the rainfall in Albia over the weekend was 4.42 inches. Of this 3.70 inches was measured in the 24 hours ending at 7 a.m. Saturday and .72 inches measured in the 24 hours ending at 7 a.m. Sunday.

Unofficially rainfall in the western parts of Monroe County was estimated anywhere from six to eight inches. Most of the rain gauges, which measure five inches of rainfall, were overflowing.

FOR SALE



NEW LISTING: 203 3rd Ave. West—Good income property, 2 apartments. \$25,000.



Ruth & Mike Peterson residence, 115 Benton Ave. West.

2 apts., dwelling located 1 block from square. Apartments are large and spacious and readily rentable due to their excellent condition and location. Dwelling is insulated and has hot water heat.



Loretta McNiff Home—Melrose. 2-bedroom, large kitchen, shower, gas heat, 3 yr. old roof, Rusco storm windows. Immediate possession. One of the nicer small homes around. Low 20's.

Building Lots on North 9th St.

John Schleier Agency, Inc.

John and Phil Schleier, Realtors
13 Benton Ave. E. Phone 932-7163

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HOME • FARMS • COMMERCIAL

Establish flood relief funding

A flood relief fund for the victims of the flooding at Melrose has been established at the Melrose Fire Station with Mary Scieszinski, city clerk, and Rosella Vestal heading the fund raising efforts.

Four families in the community are homeless because of the flooding.

In commenting on the establishment of the flood relief fund the co-chairpersons expressed the thanks of the Melrose Community to all who aided in the saving of lives in the flood Friday night and early Saturday.

Mail contributions to the fund may be sent to Flood Relief Fund, Melrose Betterment Council, c/o Mary Scieszinski, city clerk, Melrose, Iowa 52569.

ARREST—

Brian Fugate, 24, of 216 A Ave. W. was arrested in Melrose Sunday afternoon on a warrant issued in Appanoose County charging him with failure to appear. He was released after posting a \$50 bond.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Iowa Fuel & Minerals makes public notice that it has applied to the State Office of Mines and Minerals Des Moines, Iowa, for re-permitting its permits #1, 2, 3, and WP-1. The area affected is located in the Albia and Melcher, Iowa Quad, Monroe Co. T73N R18-19W, Sec. 1-6 and Marion Co. T74N R18-19W, Sec. 31-23. Application to re-permit #1, 2, 3, and WP-1 is available for public inspection by contacting Iowa Fuel & Minerals, mine site, RR Lovilia, Iowa.
June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 1981

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Media coverage

Melrose was on the news coast to coast as the result of the flooding Saturday.

Two Des Moines television stations, the Ottumwa-Kirkville station and a Cedar Rapids station all covered the flood as did metropolitan and area newspapers and the wire services.

JoAnn Coop, who operates the communications board at the Monroe County Law Center, was startled to get a call shortly after 3 p.m. Saturday from a reporter for CBS News in New York.

Mrs. Coop, who was on duty from 11 p.m. Friday night to 7 a.m. Saturday morning handled nearly 100 radio calls, mostly of them flood related, in addition to monitoring radio traffic on several other channels.



Helen Tierney and her brother, John Comer, carry items from the home of their mother, Annie Comer, 86, Monday in Melrose. Annie Comer is still hospitalized after she was trapped in the house for two hours when it was

knocked off its foundation during last weekend's flooding. At lower right in photo is the edge of the foundation, showing how far the house was moved. The structure was filled with four feet of water.

10 inches of rain in one week reported

WEATHER

Continued from Page One

engineer, said 23,000 tons of gravel are needed, at a cost of about \$210,900. Some roads were reduced to one-way traffic because of damage to culverts.

"There's a lot of silt out of the farmers' fields in the ditches," he said. "It will take a while to get the ditches ditched out again. That's a whole year's work there."

The two largest washed-out bridges were in Warren County. Sandy said one bridge, built around 1890, was 250 feet long; the other, built in 1910, was 175 feet. Replacements will cost one-quarter million dollars, he said.

Sandy said he knows of 12 other bridges that have been undermined because dirt supporting the structure has been washed away. Five sections of road have been closed to all traffic, he said.

James Connell, engineer in Clarke County, said at least six bridges were ruined there. "We don't know all the damage yet — we've been unable to get underneath the bridges to look," he said.

Connell said he's located 16 bridges in need of repair. "And these are relatively new bridges — they're about 15 years old," he said.

Bridge damage in Clarke County will be a minimum of \$250,000, he said, but repairs won't be completed for months.

Meanwhile, repairs continued Monday on sections of Burlington Northern track used by Amtrak trains, and a spokesman said the work would be completed today. The two Amtrak trains that pass daily through Iowa continued to use the east-west North Western Railway main line on Monday.

Special Aid

Meanwhile, disaster committees in four counties — Appanoose, Monroe, Lucas and Wayne — voted Monday to seek special aid assistance, and officials in a fifth county, Clarke, plan to wait before making a decision about such help.

Losses to crops and personal property were estimated in the millions, with the farming towns of Melrose and Mystic reported to be hardest hit.

"We had an unofficial 5 inches to 12 inches of rain last Friday," said Dennis Reger, Lucas County soil conservationist. "This caused a significant number of terraces to overtop, or to have siltation."

Doyle Hampton, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service director in Appanoose County, said areas of the county got up to 4 inches of rain last Monday only to be clobbered by a 5- to 7-inch rain on Friday.

"That's something like 10 to 11 inches of rain in less than a week," Hampton said.

Officially, rainfall totals were in the 6-inch to 7-inch category, while county agricultural officials Monday said the "unofficial rainfall" totals went as high as 10 inches in one area in Wayne County, and 13 inches in neighboring Lucas County.

Second Request

For several of the southern Iowa counties, the rainstorm prompted the second disaster request in a month. Both Clarke and Wayne counties (hit by hailstorms on June 7) had made similar requests earlier.

However, Ron Snyder, a soil conservation official in Decatur County, said that a disaster designation would not be sought there again. The rains caused serious soil losses in some fields, he said, but not enough to cause a second disaster designation request.

Here is a preliminary damage report on the other storm-hit counties:

• APPANOOSE — Corn damage: 5,250 acres, with a 75 percent yield loss totaling an estimated \$1.18 million. Soybean damage: 8,400 acres with a 90 percent estimated yield loss for a total loss of \$1.7 million. The town of Mystic had property damage of nearly \$100,000, with damage to 10 homes, a mobile home and one business.

• CLARKE — County disaster committee will meet Thursday. Early reports from county soil conservation office indicate 8,000 to 10,000 acres of bottomland flooded, with major damage in Squaw Creek and Whitebreast Creek watersheds. Official rainfall in Osceola was more than 6 inches in a 6-hour period, regarded as a "hundred-year" rain. Soil erosion was severe, with relatively new terraces silted full and soil losses of 100 tons per acre estimated by conservationist Keith Edwards.

• DECATUR — No disaster request will be made as a result of the latest storm, which dumped

2.5 to 6 inches of rain in areas of the county. About 3,000 to 4,000 acres of land were flooded, with serious erosion in unprotected fields lacking conservation practices or conservation tillage.

• LUCAS — Significant damage in two major watersheds, the Chariton River and Whitebreast Creek basins, as a result of a storm that dumped an unofficial 5 to 12 inches of rain. Conservationist Dennis Reger estimates soil losses of 30 tons to 50 tons per acre, with significant damage to soybeans and corn crops. County disaster committee will seek emergency cost-share funds to repair soil conservation practices, and emergency loan money.

• MONROE — Disaster committee reported extensive losses to crops and to personal property, particularly in the Melrose community. Corn damage: 4,400 acres with a 25 percent loss to yields; estimated loss of \$300,000. Soybean damage: 2,800 acres with a 60 percent yield loss possible; estimated loss of \$375,000. Oats damage: 900 acres with an 85 percent yield loss; estimated loss of \$70,000. Losses also of \$17,000 to wheat and \$43,000 to hay. The Melrose community had two homes destroyed, eight dwellings with major damage and a dozen homes with minor damage. Losses of about \$500,000, according to early estimates.

• WAYNE — Crop damages from the Friday night storm were not as great as the early June storm, which caused an estimated \$3.8 million damage each to the corn and soybean crop. Losses this time were nearly \$100,000 for the corn crop and nearly \$300,000 for the county's soybean crop.

Rains help overall rating on corn, beans

Iowa's corn and soybeans continue to show improvement, thanks in part to the same recent rain systems that have brought damaging rains to some regions of the state.

The Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Service said Monday that 34 percent of the Iowa corn crop of 14.2 million acres is now rated as excellent, with 53 percent good, 11 percent fair, 1 percent poor and 1 percent very poor.

The state's soybean crop is rated 17 percent excellent, 61 percent good, 18 percent fair, 3 percent poor and 1 percent very poor.

The agency said that while many areas received good rains last week, the parched west-central and central areas of Iowa got only moderate to heavy rains while some dry counties had only light rains.

Still, the statewide soil moisture situation continues to improve, with topsoil moisture rated at 18 percent surplus, 71 percent adequate and 11 percent short.

Subsoil moisture is reported at 7

percent surplus, 59 percent adequate and 34 percent short.

Iowa State University officials said Monday that crop prospects are good in nearly three-fourths of the state, with adequate soil moisture to "pull through a drought situation."

However, the ISU specialists noted that some parts of the state could still wind up with poor crops without sufficient rainfall the balance of the growing season.

REGISTER PHOTO BY LISA KRUIDENIER

7-9-81

Soil and water conservation week set Sept. 13-19

Soil and Water Conservation Week in Iowa will be Sept. 13-19, reports Min Amemiya, extension agronomist at Iowa State University.

This observation, held annually for more than 40 years, emphasizes the special efforts being made to conserve soil and water, two of Iowa's most precious resources. Over the years the problems of soil conservation have increased because of changes in Iowa's agriculture. For example, more row crops are being planted.

Soil and water conservation are not problems of farmers alone, Amemiya says. These resources play an important role in the overall prosperity of every Iowan. What a farmer does to conserve resources also affects the non-farm population through economics and improved environmental quality.

Amemiya warns that advanced technology masks some of the damage caused by erosion. Increased crop yields due to advancements in hybrids and machinery cause an attitude of complacency, but the problems of erosion continue to grow.

The specialist says conservation tillage is the most effective and economical method of controlling soil and water erosion. In addition to the conservation benefits, conservation tillage offers fuel and time savings.

Iowans need to continue to strive for development of conservation practices that preserve these resources, Amemiya says, noting that the conservation practices must also be environmentally sound and economical for farmers to use.

Land disturbing rules hearing here Sept. 24

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District is proposing rules for certain land disturbing activities on nonagricultural and construction sites.

A hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 24, at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Office in Albia to receive comments from those affected and other interested members of the public. The Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners will consider all comments received at the hearing prior to adopting the final version of the rules.

Chapter 467A.64, Code of Iowa 1981, was amended by Senate File 262 of the 69th Iowa General Assembly, 1981 session. The law no longer requires the filing of erosion control plans for review and approval by soil conservation district commissioners. Effective Oct. 1, the law requires that, before land disturbing activities occur, the land disturber must sign an affidavit stating that he will comply with established soil loss limits.

Land disturbing activities are defined as land changes—clearing, grading,

excavating—which may result in soil erosion from wind and water. In most cases, single family residences or areas of less than 25,000 square feet are exempt. Senate File 262 lists the various exemptions allowed.

Copies of the law and rules proposed by the soil conservation district commissioners are available for review at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Office, 14-B Sec. Ave. West. Interested persons who cannot attend the hearing may file written comments with the district.

Timber rattlesnakes found near county line

Timber rattlesnakes have been found in the western part of Monroe County.

It provided evidence that south central Iowa, which has been considered by most people to be free of poisonous reptiles, now harbors them, at least to some degree.

Three rattlers were found by Leo Duree of Chariton while working on the reclamation of a rural abandoned mine west of Lovilia. One snake was 45 inches long, another 46 inches and the third was 32 inches long. They were found July 14, July 24 and Sept. 1 without any particular search, leading to the belief that there are undoubtedly others in the area.

Duree says that people had told him that rattlesnakes were at the site but confesses he doubted the story.

"Finding them made me a believer," he said.

The snakes were found around old foundations on the Wynn and Hollinrake farms where Duree has been working since June.



Leo Duree holds the 46" long dead rattlesnake

9-10-81 →

11-26-81

Will attend states soils meeting

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gardner and family, Rt. 5, Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, and John Frieden, district supervisors, will attend the annual soils convention in Des Moines Monday and Tuesday.

The Gardner family was the winner of the county and the Region 9 Soil Conservation Award. The state-winner will be named at the banquet Monday night.

The convention is the annual affair of the Iowa Association of Soils District Commissioners.

Dec. 3, 81

Switchgrass cost-sharing available in Monroe County

Monroe County farmers will be able to get cost-sharing on the planting of switchgrass starting in 1982. The program started in seven counties in the 1980-81 years and is available in 11 additional counties in 1982 and 1983.

Switchgrass is a tall (3 to 5 foot) warm-season native prairie grass once common in Iowa. It can supply excellent forage for cattle during the hot summer months when cool-season grasses such as bluegrass, orchard grass and fescue are dormant.

Once established and properly managed, a stand of switchgrass will last indefinitely.

Advocates of the use of switchgrass point out that it can be extremely valuable to cattlemen as warm-season livestock forage. A pasture rotation system which incorporates both cool-season forage and switchgrass is more efficient. Cattle can be removed from exhausted cool-season pastures in late June, placed on switchgrass during July and August, then returned to cool-season pastures in the fall, thus allowing continuous grazing through the growing season.

Funds for the cost-sharing program come from the sale of Wildlife Habitat Stamps.

Information on the program can be obtained from the Soil Conservation Service office.

Dec. 3-81

Corn and soybeans under no-till plan get cost-sharing

Monroe County farmers who will be using no-till planting on their 1982 corn and soybean crops may be eligible for cost-sharing payments.

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District has started accepting applications and they'll be approved on a first-come, first-served basis, according to Ollie Kaldenberg, district chairman. The deadline for applications is March 1.

Farmers who received cost-sharing for no-till in a prior year or are approved for no-till cost-sharing from the ASCS are not eligible for the program under the soil conservation district.

Kaldenberg added that there may be exceptions under this rule and commissioners will make the final decisions.

Farmers will be paid \$10 per acre with the payment for a single applicant not to exceed pay for a 40-acre plot.

An early sign-up is urged because funds are limited and the early sign-up will allow more time to develop the no-till plans and schedule any custom work.

Applications may be made at the Monroe County Soil Conservation office, 14B Second Ave. West.

Dec. 3-81

Invite comments on RCA program

Reduced agricultural productive capacity and increased production costs face the U.S. unless the critical soil and water conservation problems are met, John Frieden, district conservationist, said today in commenting on the results of the study made under the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (RCA).

Frieden pointed out that the study shows that:

—One-third of America's cropland is eroding faster than the soil can rebuild itself through natural processes. Unless corrective actions are taken, this acreage of excessively eroding land will increase further.

—Floods threaten human life, cropland and other property, livestock and crops in upstream watersheds and this damage will be increasing.

—Depletion of ground water threatens the continuation of

irrigated agriculture in extensive areas of the west.

—Deterioration of water quality may limit the use of water for irrigation, municipal and industrial supply, fish and wildlife habitat and for other purposes.

The survey is the result of a study of non-federal natural resources with much of the data coming from on-site examinations. In Iowa about 4,700 sample points provided information for the national summary. The information gathered included data on land uses, soils erosion, prime farmland, cropping sequences and crop residue treatment.

The report also indicated that the demand for food and fiber produced in the U.S. will increase while technological advances in agricultural production will decrease.

Under the RCA program, the highest national priority will be in reducing soil erosion to maintain the

long-term productivity of agricultural land. The second priority is the reduction of flood damages in upstream areas.

Other priorities include the conservation of water and improving water supply and quality, community-related conservation, improving fish and wildlife habitat and increase the use of organic waste.

Frieden pointed out that the public has participated in the findings under the study and that they're now invited to make their comments on the proposals which emphasize a redirection of existing conservation programs and greater cooperation among local, state and federal governmental agencies.

A summary leaflet on the program is available from the Soil Conservation District office and comments may be mailed by Jan. 15 and sent to the SCS state conservationist.

Dec-3-81



Award winner

The farming operation of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gardner (center) and Mr. and Mrs. Tim Gardner (right) of Albia was named the Region 9 winner in the Iowa soil conservation awards program Tuesday during the 35th annual conference for soil conservation commis-

sioners in Des Moines. The Gardners received a plaque from Harold Anderson, Iowa Farm Bureau director of environmental and local affairs, as the regional winner.

8-14-81



Last acre plaque

Ollie Kaldenberg and John Frieden recently presented a plaque to Kay McGee honoring her husband, the late William McGee. The plaque dedicated the last acre ceremony to McGee, a former commissioner of the Monroe County Soil Conservation Service. The last acre ceremony marked the completion of a three and one-half year soil survey of all of the types of soil in 278,400 acres of Monroe County. The completed survey shows 40 soil series identified in the county with 95 soil mapping series found.

6-18-81

Completed county soil survey has many uses

The completed soil survey of Monroe County has the potential for a large number of agricultural and non-agricultural uses, according to Gerald Miller, extension agronomist, Iowa State University.

The completed soil survey is a comprehensive inventory of all of the soil resources of the county. The soil survey is based on the characteristics of the soils as they occur on the land. Since each soil type is defined according to its characteristics, interpretation can be made as to how soils will react to different types and levels of management. Therefore, the soil survey is not only an inventory of soil resources, but also includes ratings, limitations, and potentials for many uses for each soil type in the inventory.

The farmer can use the soil survey to obtain specific information for planning crop production systems. For example, the soil survey report is useful for planning herbicide application rates, irrigation rates, tillage systems, and soil testing programs. For each soil type in the soil inventory, information is

presented for the range of organic matter, range of soil pH, the presence or absence of lime, the amount of sand, silt, and clay, and the available water holding capacity. The availability of phosphorus and potassium is also given. Also, farmers can use the soil survey to plan and develop a soil and water conservation plan.

Engineers, land developers, realtors, and home builders can find answers to the limitations and potentials of the soil. The soil survey report rates each soil type for road fill and highway location, for foundation suitability, for sources of topsoil, sand, and gravel, for septic tank disposal fields, and for sewage lagoons. Other information presented in the soil survey which is important for non-agricultural uses includes depth to water table, natural internal drainage of the soil, and potential of the soil to being flooded.

Other groups which use the soil survey report, include land appraisers, banks and land credit agencies, oil and gas companies, public officials, and planning groups.

2-4-82

Conservation tillage day set Feb. 11

A conservation tillage day for farmers in Monroe and Lucas counties will be held at the American Legion Hall in Albia.

Sponsored by the Soil Conservation Districts in the two counties, the day's events will focus on conserving soil today and preserving productivity for tomorrow.

The event is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. with a free lunch served at 11:45 a.m.

At 1 p.m., Dan Stadtmueller, a farmer from Monticello, will speak on "Erosion Control! Good Yields! No-Till!"

Other topics deal with herbicides, spraying and hybrids and varieties.

A panel of farmers will discuss the pros and cons of no-till and there will be a question and answer session.

1-5-82

Cost-sharing applications are accepted

Farmers who wish to make applications for state soil conservation cost-sharing funds can do so starting Thursday at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office, 14B Second Ave. W.

Ollie Kaldenberg, district chairman, encouraged landowners who are planning 1982 work to sign up before Feb. 21. This will insure that applications are considered at the first review meeting on Feb. 23.

A supplemental allocation will be received by the district for work completed by May 31 and applications for work to be completed before this date will receive priority approval.

Also being given priority approval are applications for summer construction to be completed before Sept. 15, though the summer work can not be started until the regular 1982 allocation is received July 1.

Priority practices include terraces, no-till and erosion control structures. No-till applications must be received by March 1.

Administering the cost-share program are the district commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, William G. McGrath, Bob McGinnis, Albert Etcher and Raymond Vance.

Don Teno named soil conservation regional winner

Don Teno of Route 3 has been named regional winner in the Iowa Soil Conservation awards program. He was the owner-operator winner in Region 9 which includes 13 counties.

Teno farms 380 acres northeast of Albia in Pleasant Township. Conservation practices accomplished by Teno include contouring, waterways, terracing, farm ponds, pasture renovation, pasture planting and tile drains.

In making the selection, the judging committee gave consideration to general farm appearance, weed control, fences, efforts to control solid wastes, and wildlife areas.

Teno is an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, and has served as financial secretary. He is now serving on the FHA board, Monroe County Extension Council and will be on the Fair Board for three years.

He has partnership in MO-CO-10 hog operation. He has entered the Master Corn Growers Contest and placed first in 1978 and second in 1979.

His wife, Janice, has served on St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society and belongs to the Albia Booster Club. She helps with the farm operation.

The Tenos have three children. David Paul is a 1977 graduate of Albia Community High School and will be a senior at Iowa State University in Ames where he is majoring in agronomy.

Teresa Anne is a 1979 graduate of ACHS where she was active in sports including basketball. She will be a sophomore at the University of Iowa in Iowa City majoring in liberal arts.

Chris Marie is a 1980 graduate of ACHS where she was active in softball and basketball. She will be attending Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, majoring in horse husbandry.



Don Teno

Teno winner of regional soils award

Don Teno of Albia was one of the nine regional award winners honored this noon by the Iowa Farm Bureau as winners for their excellence in adequately treating farmland against erosion.

Teno has a varied program for protecting the soil on its 380-acre farm northeast of Albia. He has renovated 243 acres of pasture, built four farm ponds and two gully erosion control structures. He has also established five acres of grass waterways, contour plants 120 acres and has 76 acres protected by terraces. His yields rate well in master corn growers contests. Teno is also active in many community affairs.

Teno, Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the county commissioners, and John Frieden, SCS planner, attended the luncheon. Harold Anderson, director of environmental and local affairs, Iowa Farm Bureau, presented the awards during the 34th annual conference for soil conservation district commissioners in Cedar Rapids.

The regional winners are: Region 1, Roland Jensen of Ida Grove; Region 2, William Salton of Ayrshire; Region 3, Jerry Ouverson of Fertile; Region 4, Robert Shaffer of Rowley; Region 5, Alban and Declan Gross of Earling; Region 6, Andrew Farms of Jefferson, James O. and James H. Andrew; Region 7, Ross and Steve Mintle of Grinnell; Region 8, Don Williams of Villisca; and Region 9, Don Teno of Albia.

Don Williams of Villisca was also named the outstanding soil conservation cooperator for 1980. He received an award from the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

The state and regional winners were named after being selected by their individual soil conservation districts to compete in the regional competition. The awards program is jointly conducted by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

6-5-80

Severe damage to 24% of county crop acres

Slightly more than 24 percent of the total crop acreage in Monroe County was severely damaged in the heavy rainfalls earlier this week, rainfalls which were measured at an official seven inches in Albia but which totaled 10 to 12 inches in some parts of the county.

This assessment of the damage in the county was made Wednesday by John Frieden, district conservationist; John Botts, soil conservation technician; and Ron Parker, manager of the Agricultural Stabilization and Soil Conservation office in Albia.

The survey team estimated that 33,000 acres of the 136,000 cropland acres in Monroe County was severely damaged or in other words, suffered a loss of over 15 tons per acre. Another 74,000 acres suffered moderate damage or a loss of up to 15 tons per acre or 3/15 inches of

Rathbun crest

Heavy rains in the Rathbun Lake area and upstream from the lake have caused the lake to rise to 910.25 feet above sea level according to figures from the Corps of Engineers this morning.

The Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers has predicted that the lake will crest at 910.95 feet above sea level. This is almost seven feet above the normal pool elevation of 904 feet.

The Rathbun Lake area had little damage outside of a few trees blown down, corps personnel said.

topsoil. The balance of 29,000 acres was slightly damaged or suffered a loss of up to 5 tons per acre and up to 1/16 inches of topsoil.

Frieden said that most of the cropland in Monroe County has six to eight inches of topsoil remaining. He pointed out that in making the assessment the conservation team took into consideration the percentage of land which had conservation treatment and also surveyed the damage in relation to the soil conservation district resource survey.

Frieden pointed out that "there was a considerable amount of sheet and rill

erosion and in some fields there were ditches a foot to a foot and a half deep. This rain really showed the value of conservation tillage. There was little damage in fields which had the minimum of 55 percent of cover by residue left in the field."

Frieden also reported that the three dams under construction above Miami Lake suffered damages in the heavy rain and he said the project will probably have a week's delay. Some pipe which was already installed was washed out and some water was impounded and the structure will have to be drained before work can resume.

There was some damage to terraces and other conservation procedures on some of the farms, basically to conservation practices which had been completed during the past year. Frieden said the group estimated about \$200 average damage to each of 200 farms involved and said that application is being made for a \$40,000 emergency repair fund to care for these damages.

March 16, 1982

Soil Conservation District banquet Monday, Mar. 29

Monroe County Soil Conservation District banquet will be held Monday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

Awards will be given for art posters and conservation farmers in Monroe County. Square dancing by the Wildrose Cloggers and a film will be provided for the evening's entertainment.

Tickets at \$3.40 each may be purchased at the District Office, 14B Second Ave. W. or from the following district commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, Raymond Vance, Albert Etcher, Bob McGinnis and Bill McGrath; and assistant commissioners: Mardyl Albertson, Steve Crall, Lloyd Clark, Orlo DeBruin, Bob Putnam, Ed Mahoney and DeWayne Johnson.

4-1-82



Service award

John Frieden, Soil Conservation Service district conservationist, congratulates John Botts, soil conservation technician. Botts was honored for outstanding service.

5-6-82



Arbor Day

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District continued its tradition of giving trees to area third graders in observance of Arbor Day. Trees were handed out to third grade students in Albia, Blakesburg, Moravia,

Eddyville, Lovilia and Melrose. The third graders at Grant Elementary planted a tree on the school grounds. Watching the tree planting was Carol Presley, district clerk of the Soil Conservation Service.

4-1-82



Commissioner

Albert Etcher was presented with the outstanding commissioner award. Etcher has served as a commissioner for over 13 years and has attended over 90 percent of the monthly meetings during that time.

3-9-82

Cost-share for no-till available

The commissioners for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District report that cost-share funds are still available for no-till farming.

Applications for the practice can be made at the District Office in Albia until March 26. Rules governing the program will be discussed at the time of application, however the commissioners are looking for first time users of the practice.

The cost-share program provides a \$10 per acre incentive payment up to a 40 acre maximum approved.

The State Cost-share program is the responsibility of the following elected commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, Albert Etcher, William F. McGrath, Ray Vance and Bob McGinnis.

4-23-82

Soil Conservation District banquet Monday, Mar. 29

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Surprise party

John Brunow, Appanoose County auditor, presented William F. McGrath with a cake. The cake was designed to represent the four counties of the Chariton Valley RC&D with Rathbun Lake in the center. It proclaimed the Chariton Valley as the home of Bill McGrath. McGrath was honored at a surprise party Thursday at the Albia Country club.

McGrath honored Thursday

William F. McGrath of Melrose was honored at a surprise party Thursday evening at the Albia Country Club. McGrath resigned as chairman of the Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development executive board after serving 10 years.

Ollie Kaldenberg, RC&D executive board member and Region 9 director of Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District commissioners, served as master of ceremonies.

Others attending to pay tribute to McGrath were William J. Brune, Soil Conservation Service state conservationist; John Humphrey, district director for Farmers Home Administration; Dennis Reger and John Frieden, Soil Conservation Service district conservationists; Jack Colley, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Conservation Commission; Ralph Goode, chairman of the Rathbun Regional Water Association; Gordon Cooper, president of the Rathbun Lake Association; Chuck McCarty, Chariton Valley RC&D coordinator; and a number of relatives, friends and neighbors.

McGrath has served on the Monroe County Board of Supervisors, the Iowa Department of Transportation and is currently chairman of Iowa Railway Finance Commission. He has also been active on a number of other area boards.

RC&D is a four-county organization serving Monroe, Lucas, Wayne and Appanoose counties.



Service award

Chuck McCarty, coordinator for the RC&D, presented a plaque to William F. McGrath for his 10 years of service as chairman of the Chariton Valley RC&D executive board.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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APR. 8 1982



District awards

Receiving Soil Conservation District awards were John Lawless, new cooperator; Ronald Goode, owner-

operator; and John Slagter and Steve Strasko, landlord-tenant.

Name poster winners—

Soil Conservation awards presented

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District awards banquet was held Monday night at Trinity United Methodist Church with 143 persons in attendance.

Awards were presented by the Soil Conservation District to Ronald Goode, owner-operator; John Slagter and Steve Strasko, landlord-tenant; John Lawless, new cooperator; the Monroe County Board of Supervisors, sweepstakes award; and Albert Etcher, 1981 outstanding commissioner.

Mardyll Albertson announced the results of the art poster contest and presented checks to the winners.

The Albia Rotary Club presented awards to George Teno Sr. and H.W. "Bill" Henderson.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the Wildrose Cloggers of Knoxville.

Owner-operator

Ronald Goode was the recipient of the owner-operator award. He farms 440 acres in Urbana Township. His diversified farming operation includes continuous row cropping, rotation cropping, pasture and hayland production.

Goode also has a hog farrowing operation and maintains a cow/calf herd.

He is completing his conservation plan which includes the installation of tile-outlet-terraces, contour farming and conservation tillage.

Goode recently revised his conservation plan to include the conservation practice necessary for soil erosion control.

Landlord-tenant

Winning the landlord-tenant awards were John Slagter and Steve Strasko.

Slagter has 252 acres under conservation agreement. A conservation plan was completed in 1968 and Slagter is carrying it out with the assistance of tenant Steve Strasko.

Conservation practices completed include: tile-outlet-terraces, contour farming and an erosion control structure.

New cooperator

John Lawless was the winner of the new cooperator award.

Lawless farms 240 acres in Jackson Township. He recently completed his conservation plan which includes the installation of tile-outlet-terraces and erosion control structures. He practices no-till and appears to be doing it very successfully.

Lawless also manages a cow/calf herd and practices good pasture management.

Sweepstakes award

The sweepstakes award was presented to the Monroe County Board of Supervisors. Over the past 10 years, the board has supported the following projects:

—The Monroe County roadside stabilization project of 25 miles of critical area seeding.

—The Lake Miami critical area treatment project of three sediment and debris basins.

—The Monroe County road structure project.

—The board has provided cost-share money for tile-outlet-terraces above roads which have a sediment clean-out problem.

—Funds have also been provided for a part-time conservation aid.

Outstanding commissioner

Albert Etcher, a Soil Conservation District commissioner for 13 years, was presented the outstanding commissioner award.

Etcher farms 962 acres with 345 acres of corn and 617 acres in hay and pasture. He and his son, Don, maintain a 120-

head dairy herd and feed 60 head of cattle. Farm headquarters are located west of Lovilia in Union Township.

Conservation practices include terraces, diversion tile drains, erosion structures and ponds. The Etchers do contouring and have adequately protected approximately 900 acres.

Etcher has been very active as a commissioner and has attended over 90 percent of the monthly meetings. He has helped administer over \$300,000 in state cost-share funds.

Rotary awards

George Teno Sr. and H.W. "Bill" Henderson were the recipients of awards presented by the Albia Rotary Club.

Teno farms 206 acres in Bluff Creek Township with 114 acres in crops and 81 acres in pasture. He and his wife, Helen, bought the farm in 1965.

The farm had been rented for a number of years and was in need of rehabilitation. Teno started his conservation work in 1967 with the construction of a farm pond, pasture improvement terraces and grassed waterways. He has continued improvements through the years and now has 6,000 feet of terraces. Teno has managed to establish and maintain good grassed waterways.

His livestock operation consists of finishing 400 head of hogs per year and 50 beef cows.

Henderson and his son Rick, farm 903 acres in Mantua Township.

They built their first tile-outlet-terrace in 1977. Since that time, they have constructed 11,700 feet of terraces and contoured 233 acres.

They have 500 acres of improved seeding on pastures. All pastures are clipped yearly to control weeds. There are 12 farm ponds to furnish water for the 220-head cow herd.

The calves are fed to finished grade in their own feedlot utilizing corn and hay silage.

Poster contest

Winners of the art poster contest awards were announced and presented with checks.

The overall winners were Scott Tibbals, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Tibbals of Route 2; Molly McGee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter McGee of Melrose Route 1; and Terry Braun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Braun of 304 N. 10th St.

Winners of the awards by grades were: Kindergarten: Lupe Coronado, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lupe Coronado.

First grade: Jeannine Hamilton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hamilton of Route 5.

Second grade: John Bain, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bain of Route 5.

Third grade: Tracy Braun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Braun of 304 N. 10th St.

Fourth grade: Joe Ceglar, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ceglar of Route 5.

Fifth grade: Kerry Bettis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leland Bettis of Route 5.

Sixth grade: Kerry Stewart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stewart of Route 5.

Seventh grade: Tony Sinclair, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Sinclair of Melrose Route 1.

Eighth grade: Marla Main, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Main of Route 2.

EMD winner: Terry Abbas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Abbas of Melrose Route 1.

EMD winner: Aaron Quinn, son of Graham Quinn of 316 A Ave. W.

Wildlife winner: Julie Sinnott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Sinnott of Melrose Route 2.

Special soil conservation winner: Heather Murphy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Elkin of Melrose.



Rotary awards

The Albia Rotary Club presented soil conservation district awards to George Teno Sr. and H.W. "Bill" Henderson.

Pictures on Back side also →

PEOPLE



Grade winners

Top winners for grades kindergarten through eighth were, from left to right: (front row) Lupe Coronado, kindergarten; Jeannine Hamilton, first grade; John Bain, second grade; Tracy Braun, third grade; (back

row) Joe Ceglar, fourth grade; Kerry Bettis, fifth grade; Kerry Stewart, sixth grade; Tony Sinclair, seventh grade; and Marla Main, eighth grade. Each received a check for \$6.



Special awards

Special award winners in the art poster contest were presented checks at the annual awards banquet Monday night. They were Terry Abbas, Grant EMD; Julie Sinnott, wildlife winner; and Heather Murphy, special soil conservation award. Not pictured is Aaron Quinn, Lincoln EMD winner.



Overall winners

Overall winners in the soil conservation art poster contest were Scott Tibbals, Molly McGee and Terry Braun. They each received a \$12 check.

Krabers attend IAEI meeting in Iowa City

Mr. and Mrs. Don Kraber Jr. of Kraber Electric Company, Albia, attended the 44th annual meeting for the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) for 1979 held March 3-4-5 at the Ironmen Inn in Iowa City.

A panel of national experts consisting of representatives from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), Underwriters Laboratories (UL), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and Electrical Testing Laboratories (ETL), were in attendance to answer questions from the inspectors on maintenance and installation personnel Continuing Education Units, which are nationally recognized units of measurement and rewarding education and training were earned for completion of the seminar.

The Iowa Chapter of the IAEI now totals 236 members representing various branches of the electrical and allied industries. The objects of the Association are to cooperate in the formulation of standards for the safe installation and use of electrical materials, to secure and promote uniform administrative ordinances and inspection methods and promote closer cooperation between inspectors, the electrical industry, and the public.

PEPHSI Workshop set in 4 locations

A workshop to discuss the physical education and movement needs of "special" elementary and second grade students will be held on April 5 and 6 in four locations in Area XV.

The workshop is entitled PEPHSI Physical Education Programs for Handicapped Students in Iowa and is an outgrowth of a three year study by the Iowa Department of Public Instruction, Drake University and Iowa State University.

Speakers for the inservice are Bev Kukowski, PEPHSI project coordinator and physical education faculty member of Drake University; Deborah Dear, an itinerant adapted physical education instructor for the Des Moines Public Schools; and Angie Andersson, recreational therapist at Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines.

Their topics will include physical education evaluation of children with special needs, modification of equipment, sports skills for the handicapped, use of music and rhythmic movement and practical solutions for application in the classroom setting.

The workshop will be held in four locations in Area XV so that as many physical educators, activity center personnel, music instructors, special education teachers, therapists, school nurses, school administrators as possible attend. Locations are: April 5, 8 to 11 a.m. at Sigourney South Elementary School, Sigourney; April 5, 4 to 8:30 a.m. at Fairfield Junior High School, Fairfield; April 6, 8 to 11:30 a.m. at Franklin Gym, Ottumwa; and April 6, 4 to 8:30 a.m. at Central Elementary School, Central.

WHERE'S IT LOCATED?

The location of beef muscles on a carcass is a clue to tenderness, explains the National Live Stock and Board. In general, the more tender muscles are suspension muscles and are not used in movement and have little connective tissue. These are muscles from the rib, short loin and loin sections. Less tender muscles used in locomotion and have more connective tissue. These muscles are in the chuck, brisket, foreshank and round sections.

Studded tires now illegal

Iowans must remove studded snow tires from all vehicles traveling on Iowa's public streets and highways by April 1, according to the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Studded snow tires are legal in Iowa from Nov. 1 to April 1.

After midnight, March 31, law enforcement officers began issuing traffic citations to motorists operating vehicles with studded tires. The maximum penalty for violating this law is 30 days in jail or a \$100 fine.

Hog farmers fined \$3,713 for polluting

By DAVE BROWN

Register Staff Writer

An Albia hog confinement operation was assessed fines and penalties of \$3,713.50 Friday after one of its owners entered guilty pleas for the firm to 200 pollution charges filed last month.

Monroe County District Associate Judge Antonio Capaldo said he fined Deer Run Farms Inc. the maximum of \$100 on each of the first five charges and \$10 each for the other 195 counts.

In addition, the company was ordered to pay \$1,000 in liquidated damages for 200 killed fish and \$263.50 in other court costs, he said.

The charges were filed by Conservation Officer Mike Runyan, who estimated that as many as 4,000 fish — mostly bullheads and sunfish — were killed when waste from the farm polluted Middle Avery Creek, a small stream just southeast of Albia.

"Worst Mess"

Runyan, who called it "probably the worst mess I've had on a stream," said the hog waste was being illegally pumped from a holding pit on the farm through a tile into a field, from which it flowed into the stream.

The incident is also being investigated by the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality. Mike Murphy, a DEQ lawyer, said the results of the investigation will be referred to the attorney general's office for possible prosecution, if the DEQ Commission agrees.

Capaldo said the fines levied Friday were the result of a plea bargaining agreement between the farm's owners and the county attorney's office.

He said he approved the agreement because he was told the farm had begun efforts to ensure that the pollution would not occur again. To fine the company the maximum on all 200 charges, he said, "would have been exorbitant."

Albia Owners

State corporation records list the officers of Deer Run farms as Ralph Goode, Harold Mick and Loren Hardinger, all Albia businessmen. Capaldo said Mick appeared in court Friday to enter the guilty pleas.

Hardinger is the Republican candidate for the Iowa Legislature in House District 67.

9-23-82

Cost-share program to start switchgrass

The Iowa Conservation Commission (ICC) is offering a switchgrass cost-sharing program in selected counties over the next five years as a demonstration of alternative grazing. To participate, farmers must sign a five-year agreement specifying management of the switchgrass stand, says Jeff Joens, wildlife management assistant for the ICC.

In the first year participants can receive 50 percent of establishment cost; maximum reimbursement for establishment cost is \$60 per acre. The second year 50 percent of maintenance costs will be reimbursed; maximum reimbursement for maintenance is \$15 per acre. The ICC will be spending \$100,000 in 1983 on the program with funds coming from the sale of wildlife habitat stamps purchased by all resident and non-resident hunters and trappers.

"We are excited about the program because it provides us the opportunity to work with individual Iowa landowners in establishing a wildlife habitat that economically benefits their farm-

ing operations," Joens says.

Switchgrass is a warm season forage that grows best during hot periods in July and August when many cool-season grasses are dormant. Switchgrass provides a forage comparable to the cool-season brome grass. Farmers can graze all summer in complementing their cool-season pasture with a few acres of switchgrass. In addition to being a good cattle forage, switchgrass provides excellent wildlife habitat and helps reduce soil erosion.

Counties eligible for cost-sharing in 1983 are: Appanoose, Audubon, Buchanan, Carroll, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Harrison, Henry, Iowa, Jasper, Lee, Lyon, Mahaska, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Plymouth, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Shelby, Sioux and Wapello.

Farmers can apply until April 1, 1983, for planting in spring 1983. Interested persons should contact the area wildlife management biologist or the local USDA Soil Conservation Service representative.

11-25-82

Lawless wins essay contest

Julie Lawless of Albia was first place winner in the Region 9 1982 Soil Conservation Contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

Julie received a \$40 cash award for the first place entry in the junior division.

Topic of the essay contest was "How Soil and Water Conservation Affects Our Future." The contest is open to all students in grades six, seven and eight (junior division) and nine, 10, 11, 12 (senior division).

Essays are judged on originality, aptness of thought and accuracy of information. Regional contest winners were entered in a state contest from which four winners were chosen.

1-11-83

Cost-sharing applications available

Farmers who wish to make applications for state soil conservation cost-sharing funds can do so immediately at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Office, 14B Second Ave. West.

Ollie Kaldenberg, district chairman, encouraged landowners who are planning 1983 work to sign up before Feb. 1. This will insure that applications are considered at the first review meeting in February.

Farmers agreeing to do summer construction will be given priority approval by the commissioners. Summer construction is from July 1 to Sept. 15.

Priority practices include terraces, and erosion control structures.

Administering the cost-share program are the district commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, William McGrath, Bob McGinnis, Albert Etcher and Raymond Vance.

9-9-82

No-till progress show is Sept. 15

A no-till progress show will be held Wednesday, Sept. 15, from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., three and a half miles north of Millerton Corner on the Wayne-Lucas county line on the west side of Iowa 14. Signs will direct interested persons to the show.

Different equipment will be demonstrated. It will include no-till planters, cultivators, no-till drills, and sprayers.

No-till planters to be demonstrated will include the following models: John Deere 7,000; Allis Chalmers; Kinze; Hiniker; International Harvester "Early Riser"; and White.

Babbalo, Dakon and Hiniker brand cultivators will be demonstrated at the show.

Haybuster, Moore, Marlis and Dakon no-till drills will be demonstrated.

Two types of sprayers, the home-made (pull type) and the ground plane (spinners) will be demonstrated.

Farm owners and industry representatives will be on hand to answer questions. The show is being sponsored by the Lucas, Decatur, Clarke, Monroe, Appanoose and Wayne Soil Conservation Districts.

In case of rain the show will be held Sept. 22.



Essay winner

Julie Lawless of Albia won first place in the Region 9 1982 Soil Conservation Contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co. Ollie Kaldenberg, District Soil Commissioner, presented a certificate and a \$40 check to Miss Lawless for her winning essay. The topic of the essay contest was "How Soil and Water Conservation Affects our Future."

Supervisors will not grant tax exemptions to wetlands

The Monroe County Board of Supervisors Monday adopted a resolution to not grant tax-exempt status to wetlands. The action followed a public hearing at which there were no oral or written objections.

The resolution, which is effective beginning July 1, will not grant tax-exempt status to wetlands, recreational lakes, forest covers, rivers and streams, river and stream banks and open prairies.

The Board of Supervisors will grant tax-exempt status to any tract of land qualifying as a forest reservation as defined in Chapter 161 of the Iowa Code.

Raymond Vance, chairman of the board, said the supervisors adopted the resolution because the board has determined that there is an urgent and genuine need for tax revenues in the county.

The law gives the Board of Super-

visors in each county the authority and discretion to make annual designations of wetlands for tax-exempt status.

The supervisors signed a contract with Calhoun-Briston Associates for engineering services to submit an application for block grant funding to repair flood damage to secondary roads. John Calhoun met with the board to discuss the application for funding under the eminent threat funding category.

The cost of the contract is not to exceed \$2,000.

Melrose Mayor Gene Parks met with

the supervisors to request county funds to be used as matching funds for a grant to do curb and gutter work in Melrose.

Parks was advised to put the request in writing and submit it for consideration at the public hearing on county revenue sharing funds. The public hearing is set for 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 14.

In other business, the supervisors signed an addendum to the secondary roads employees contract. The addendum, previously approved by the local union, calls for a freeze on wages through the end of contract which is June 30, 1984.

Dec. 28, 1983



Maintenance inspection

Dams built in 1980 to stop water runoff and erosion above Lake Miami were inspected Monday by members of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors, Soil Conservation Commission and County Conservation Commission. From left, John Freiden, District Soil Conservationist, Wendell Folkerts, Monroe County Engineer and a member of the County Conservation

Commission, George Klobnak and James Crall, members of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors, walk along the top of one of the dams which were built with federal, state and local dollars to protect Lake Miami from siltation. Considering the torrential rains this summer, the two structures inspected were in good shape.

Soil Conservation banquet Monday

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District banquet will be held Monday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Awards will be given for art posters and conservation farmers in Monroe County. The Moravia High School Swing Choir and a film will be provided for the evening's entertainment. Tickets at \$3.85 each may be purchased at the District Office, 14 B Second Ave. W. or from the following district commissioners: Ollie Kaldenbe, g. Bob McGinnis, Albert Etcher, Ray Vance and Bill McGrath; Assistant Commissioners: Mardyl Albertson, Steve Crall, Lloyd Clark, Orlo DeBruin, Bob Putnam, Ed Mahoney and DeWayne Johnson.

March 17, 83

March 24, 1983

Second-place essay says soil conservation needed

By MOLLY McGEE

Special efforts are now being made to save the soil of our county. Over a period of many years, problems of soil erosion have increased because of changes in our agriculture.

Before the prairies and timber were cleared for agriculture production, we had 12 to 16 inches of topsoil. This was nearly 100 years ago. Now we only have 3 to 8 inches of topsoil. This means that we are losing nearly 13 tons per acre. All caused by erosion, wind, heavy rainfall, grading and excavating. Now the conservation has new programs which work to help reduce erosion.

For sloping land, terraces and contour planting can be an improvement to farm land. On the very hilly ground, seeding and converting to hay or pasture. Some of the gullies or small ditches should be planted with bromegrass or other grass seed depending on the soil type. If small washouts are not taken care of they just get to be larger and cost more to repair.

Strip cropping, crop rotation, terraces with tile outlets, no-till farming, landscaping and ponds are just a few of the ways we can help stop erosion. The government will pay a percentage of the cost for many of these conservation programs.

The wise use of soil and water

resources should be part of every land owner as he makes plans for his yearly crop production. If current rates of soil erosion continues and we don't do something, the day will come when our country may not be able to produce the food and fiber needed for our country as well as other parts of the world.

Start by checking our farm programs. Call your local SCS office. Learn from the people who are trained and are "saving our soil." It's not just a program for the farms and ranchers, it is for everyone who owns land in town or rural areas.

So let's all start now for the future generations—like our forefathers before us. In our love for the soil and land, first we must save the soil.

March 24, 1983

First-place conservation essay says don't waste our natural resources

By JULIE LAWLESS

As a 6th grader, I think that saving the soil is one of the most important jobs that we face.

Erosion is like a cancer, it just keeps eating away at our land. Statistics show that we lose more than nine tons of soil per acre per year. People keep talking about a nuclear war, but if we don't start saving the soil we are already in a war against erosion and it's winning.

We are wasting a resource that cannot be replaced. We are going to have to convince people that all aspects of soil conservation must be taken seriously.

Farmers need to put more faith in our soil conservation services and work with them. They should plan tile inlet terraces on slopes to slow down runoff,

seed down the hills for pastures or hay and real steep slopes to trees for wildlife and to replenish our wood supplies.

I also think no-till farming is one of the best answers we have for the farmer. It saves time, fuel and most of all the soil. The yields are just as good or better than the conventional way. For those we can't convince to plant no-till we should stress contour or strip farming or our many methods of soil conservation—if people would just use them.

As a farm girl, I think that God gave us a beautiful productive planet so that we can provide food and fiber for all the people of the world. We owe Him, ourselves and all future generations to preserve the land and all the things in it, to the best of our ability.

March 23 1983



Outstanding conservationists

From left, Vernon DeTar, new cooperator; Ollie Kaldenberg, outstanding achievement; Dave Teno, landlord/tenant; Herman Leffer Jr., owner/operator; and Jack Langford, outstanding achievement. Not pictured are Joe Parenza, landlord/tenant; and Raymond Vance, district commissioner.

Soil conservation awards to Monroe County farmers

About 150 people were present at the Trinity United Methodist Church for the annual Monroe County Soil Conservation Banquet held Monday night.

Awards for outstanding work in conservation were announced following the banquet and entertainment by the Moravia High School swing choir.

Raymond Vance was named the 1982 Outstanding District Commissioner. Vance has served as a commissioner for 10 years and was vice chairman in 1980 and 1981. He and his family, which includes his wife Merrily and four children, farm 945 acres in Urbana Township. He developed a Conservation Plan in 1966 which includes good pasture management, erosion control structures, tile-outlet-terraces, ponds and contour strip cropping.

Vance's community activities include being a member of the Monroe County Land Use Committee, vice chairman of the RC&D Steering Committee, Lions Club member, chairman of the Rural Rental Housing Project at Blakesburg, chairman of the Blakesburg Development Corp., former chairman of the Monroe County Extension Council and former vice chairman of the Rathbun Rural Water Association.

Presently Vance is the chairman of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors. He actively supports the RC&D road structure program and encouraged county participation in providing funds to the district for soil conservation.

Herman Leffer Jr. received the Outstanding Owner-Operator award. Leffer became a district cooperator in 1952 with 120 acres he owned in Urbana Township. Since that time he has added an additional 210 acres to his farming operation.

He uses 224 acres as cropland and the remainder as pasture and hay ground. He has built 8,750 feet of terrace and farms 40 acres on contour. His major livestock operation is hogs raised in confinement.

The Outstanding Landlord-Tenant award went to Joe Parenza and Dave Teno. Parenza owns 413 acres in Jackson Township and the land is farmed by Teno. Since 1979, they have constructed 7,100 feet of tile-outlet-terraces, protecting 120 acres from severe erosion. In addition to mechanical practices, they are moving rapidly toward less tillage to further reduce soil loss.

This year's Outstanding New Cooperator award went to Vernon DeTar. DeTar became a district cooperator in 1978. He and his family farm 340 acres in Troy Township, utilizing the farm for a livestock operation.

DeTar has 53 acres of land cropped to a corn-corn-oats-meadow-meadow-meadow rotation with 5,400 feet of tile-outlet-terraces to reduce the soil loss to two tons per acre. The remainder of his farm is reseeded for pasture, which a large portion is improved seeding.

Each year the Albia Rotary Club gives special awards to a person who has made outstanding contributions to soil conservation work.

The first 1982 recipient of the award was Jack Langford, a Civil Engineer with the Soil Conservation Service at Creston. He was recommended for the

award for his work and dedication to the Monroe County RC&D Road Structure Program.

Ollie Kaldenberg was the second winner of the Outstanding Achievement award given by the Rotary Club. Kaldenberg has a long and impressive record of public service to the Soil Conservation District.

He started in 1963 as an assistant district commissioner and was elected in 1964 as a commissioner. He served as treasurer for the district in 1966-67 and was elected chairman of the commissioners in 1968. He holds that office today. Kaldenberg has also served at the regional and state levels in district

commissioner work.

Along with his local, regional and state work, he is a member of the RC&D Steering Committee, is on the RC&D Executive Board for the four-county Chariton Valley RC&D Project. He has long been a district cooperator and has 8,000 feet of terrace on the sloping land of his 240-acre Bluff Creek Township farm. He also uses improved seeding for his pasture land and other soil saving measures to round a good resource management plan for his farm.

The annual Soil Conservation Poster Contest winners were also announced. Pictures of the winners will appear in Thursday's Union-Republican.

April 7, 1983

Conservation youth leadership program planned

The County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts and Cooperative Extension Service will be co-sponsoring the Youth Leadership Conservation Program this summer. The statewide program is developed for high school students who are interested in conservation. Two sessions will be offered: June 20-23, which will be held at the Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center, and August 1-4, to be held at the State 4-H Center near Madrid.

Various conservation careers and topics to be covered include: geology, soils, wildlife, forestry and waters. Participants will be actively involved in field techniques associated with these careers. College scholarships will be awarded based on results of a written examination given at the end of the program.

A maximum of 50 students will be allowed to attend each session. The cost of the four-day and three-night program is \$50. High school students interested in attending the Youth Leadership Conservation Program should contact Janet Jenkins of the County Conservation Board at 932-2560, or Ollie Kaldenberg of the Soil Conservation District at 932-2008, or Joann McDonald of the Cooperative Extension Office at 932-5612, for further information.

April 18, 1983

Soil Stewardship Week set for May 8-15

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District will join the nationwide celebration of Soil Stewardship Week to take place on May 8-15, according to an announcement by Ollie Kaldenberg. The theme of this year's celebration is "Living Waters."

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has sponsored Soil Stewardship Week since 1955, in cooperation with the nation's nearly 3,000 soil and water conservation districts.

"If our water management practices in the past have been adequate, we may ignore the rising population, the increased industrialization and expanded

irrigation, all of which require more water from our reservoirs," cites NACD in the 16-page Soil Stewardship Week booklet. "One of our more compelling social and economic needs is for a full appreciation of the true value of our abundant supply of water. It is time to think seriously about conservation, pollution, priority usage and our dependence upon it."

Informative material on the Soil Stewardship Week theme is distributed each year through local conservation districts to clergymen, lay leaders, churches, civic and educational organizations and to individuals participating in observance.

June 9, 1983



For 38 years of service

Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioner's president Ollie Kaldenberg present John Botts with a plaque for his 38½ years of service to soil conservation in Monroe County. Botts was honored last week at a reception.

May 26 1983

12-22-83



Wildlife habitat

Two Monroe County 4-H clubs helped the Monroe County Soil Conservation District last week by planting Red Pine, Jack Pine, Cardinal Autumn Olive and Russian Olive trees around five area ponds. The ponds were located on farms of Kenny Huber, Lloyd Clark, Marvin Wehrman, Mark Bettis and Mike Holmes. The ponds are all fenced to protect the new plantings and to create wildlife areas. Pictured are members of the Troy Troopers.

They include from left, Mary Kay Ammons, Angie Ammons, Troy Amoss, Rick Flattery, John Frieden (District Conservationist) and Mark McCarty. The Weller Champions also helped with the planting. Members who helped included James "Ed" Crall, the club's leader, Kenny Crall, Danny Crall, Chad Crall, Pat Beary, Mike Welch and Dave McDonough. Funding was provided through the SC District, board of supervisors and CR&D.

Soil Conservation funds available

According to Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, there are still funds available for doing soil conservation work.

Kaldenberg stated that because of several cancellations this fall, more money is on hand for conservation practices such as the outlet terraces and erosion control structures for the upcoming spring and summer construction seasons. As in the past, priority will be given to applicants who are willing to complete a practice during the summer months.

Cost-sharing is made available to landowners at 50 percent of the estimated or actual cost of the project, whichever is the lesser of the two.

Kaldenberg urges all landowners who are considering work for the 1984 season to be sure to visit the district office and sign up for the cost-share funds while they're still available. The office is located one block south and west from the southwest corner of the Albia square at 14-B Second Ave. West.

Kaldenberg expresses his sincere appreciation to the many individuals who, with the help of cost-share funds, adequately treated with soil conservation practices more than 3,000 acres of land in Monroe County during 1983.

may 19, 1983

9-23-83

John Botts retires after 38½ years with SCS in Albia

When five o'clock rolls around today, it will mark the end of the 38½-year career of Soil Conservation Technician John Botts. Botts will retire after his long career in the SCS, all in the same office in Albia.

Botts, 65, began working for the SCS on Dec. 4, 1944. The SCS was only 10 years old at the time and still in its infant stages. Botts came in as a soil conservation aide and later earned the title of technician.

Even though soil conservation work in many ways has gone through a revolution of change, Botts says the problems and solutions to soil erosion are still the same. "When it rains the water comes down hills and brings the soil with it," he said. "To stop it you have to slow or stop the runoff."

Botts said practices used today such as contouring, the building of ponds and erosion control structures, terracing and tiling were practices used back when he started in the SCS, although today's technology has improved those practices greatly. He said the biggest change is the move toward minimum tillage and no-till farming.

"When I came in, farmers were coming out of the Depression where they were trying to recoup by farming everything," he said. "Then the war was on and everything was production oriented. Our first job was to get more guys seeding the

rougher ground and getting them to stop farming the hills. So much of it was an educational process back then."

Botts' main duties for the past several years have been to practically apply soil conservation practices. He works directly with taking the conservation plans and putting them into terraces, tile, ponds, windbreaks, etc.

"I think most guys today are aware of the need for conservation and would like to do something about their problems," he said. "Cost is such a big factor today. You get into the technical application of soil conservation practices and it gets expensive. That's why we push minimum tillage and no-till so hard. It is the cheapest way to get the most soil protected. But no one practice is going to do the job alone."

Botts has been active in the community for the years he has lived in Albia. A graduate of Davis County (Bloomfield) High School, Botts is a member of the Albia Rotary Club and the First Christian Church and did stints as a Boy Scout leader and church youth leader when his two children were growing up.

Now the grandfather of four, Botts is looking forward to spending more time with his woodworking hobby and his family.

"I've always said I had the best



John Botts

government job in the world," he said. "Even better than the president. I've been outside and active with people for 38½ years without the worry you have with a lot of jobs."

An open house in honor of Botts' years with the SCS is being planned. See the ad in today's Union-Republican for the details.



Ron Peterson

Peterson is new state aide

Effective Friday, Sept. 23, Ron Peterson, a native of rural Plano, will begin work in Albia as a Soil Conservation State Aide. Peterson has been with the Monroe County Soil Conservation Service as a WAE part-time employee since earlier this summer.

Peterson will function as a conservation technician, surveying, designing and laying out conservation practices. Peterson, 23, is a graduate of Seymour High School.

District Conservationist John Frieden said that this is the first state aide Monroe County has had. He added that the district commissioners will be interviewing to fill the WAE part-time position vacated by Peterson.

1-26-84

No-interest loan applications for soil conservation

Participating soil conservation districts are now taking applications for no-interest loans for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices.

Landowners can borrow up to \$10,000 at no interest for up to a 10-year period. Loan funds received may not be used in combination with any other public cost-sharing or incentive program for soil and water conservation practices.

To be eligible, a landowner must have a net worth less than \$300,000, be able to secure the loan and be capable of repaying the loan in equal annual installments.

Legislation passed in the 1983 Session of the 70th Iowa General Assembly authorized the program and provided \$1 million for this year and next.

As announced, the program will allow each district a minimum of \$5,398 in available loan funds. Monroe County has been allocated \$6,297.

Participating lending institutions in Albia include First Financial Savings and Loan, Peoples National Bank and Trust Co. and First Iowa State Bank.

The sign-up period began Wednesday, Jan. 25, and will end Feb. 21. Application forms and procedures are available at local county soil conservation district offices.

1-26-84

Cost-sharing applications are accepted

Farmers who wish to make applications for state soil conservation cost-sharing funds can do so starting Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Office, 14-B Second Ave. West.

Ollie Kaldenberg, district chairman, encouraged landowners who are planning 1984 work to sign up before Feb. 21. This will insure that applications are considered at the first review meeting on Feb. 23.

Priority approval is being given to applicants who agree to complete their project during the summer months between July 1-Sept. 15. Farmers are encouraged to participate in the ASCS set-aside program and seed the areas that are planned for terrace construction. An alternative to this would be to temporarily seed the area of construction instead of the whole field.

Approvals will also be based on whether or not the practice will benefit a public facility, reduce soil loss to a tolerable limit of five tons/ac/year and whether or not the applicant has received a cost-share payment in a prior year.

Priority practices include terraces and erosion control structures.

Administering the cost-share program are the district commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, William McGrath, Bob McGinnis, Ray Vance and Albert Etcher.

Youth leadership programs offered in two sessions

The County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts and Cooperative Extension Service will be co-sponsoring the Youth Leadership Conservation Program this summer. The statewide program is developed for high school students who are interested in conservation. Two sessions will be offered: June 25-28, 1984 which will be held at the State 4-H Center near Madrid, and August 6-9, 1984 to be held at the Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center.

Various conservation careers and topics to be covered include: geology, soils, wildlife, forestry and waters. Participants will be actively involved in field techniques associated with these careers. College scholarships will be awarded based on results of a written examination given at the end of the program.

A maximum of 50 students will be allowed to attend each session. The

cost of the four-day and three-night program is \$55. High school students interested in attending the Youth Leadership Conservation Program should contact Janet Jenkins, 932-2560, of the County Conservation Board, or Ron Peterson of the Soil Conservation District at 932-5076, 14B Second Ave. West, Albia, or Joann McDonald of the Cooperative Extension Office at 107 E. Benton, Albia, 932-5612 for further information.

4-5-84

Albia Union-Republic

Vol. 121 No. 12

Editorial on Back Side

Albia, Iowa 52531

Thursday, March 22, 1984

County conservationists receive achievement awards

Annual Monroe County Soil Conservation District awards were presented at Monday's SCD banquet held at the Trinity United Methodist Church. Awards for poster contest winners, essay winners, Albia Rotary Club awards and district awards were among those given.

Wendell Folkerts, Monroe County Engineer, and Mardyll Albertson, a member of the district commissioners, received the Rotary Outstanding Contribution Awards for their service to the soil conservation district program.

Folkerts is very much involved with planning and implementing road stabilization structures which are replacing bridges throughout the county while creating wildlife habitats. Mrs. Albertson heads up the poster and essay contests each year as part of her duties as a district commissioner.

Five awards were presented at the district level. The Owner-Operator Award was presented to Earl Albertson, who owns and operates 473 acres in Troy Township. Albertson became a district cooperator in 1957 and developed a conservation plan which he has followed since then. To reduce soil loss, Albertson has installed tile-outlet-terraces, grassed waterways, contour row patterns, a conservation cropping system, erosion control structures,

ponds and has set aside 15 acres for wildlife habitat.

In addition to raising corn, soybeans and hay, Albertson's operation includes a cow-calf herd and hog operation.

The Landlord-Tenant Award was presented to Agnes Gergely and John Strasko. Strasko rents the 120-acre Gergely farm in Bluff Creek Township. Soil conservation has always been a part of the Gergely farm beginning with the signing of a cooperative agreement and conservation plan in 1948, four years after the Monroe County SCD was established.

After George Gergely died, Mrs. Gergely has continued to work the farm. With the help of her daughter, Rita, and cooperation from Strasko, Mrs. Gergely is well on her way to completing all the soil conservation practices needed on the farm. Practices include tile-outlet-terraces, grassed waterways, contour farming, crop rotation, conservation tillage and a wildlife planting.

Randy Rozenboom was awarded the New Cooperator Award. A new cooperator is someone who has recently signed a cooperative agreement with the SCD to develop and implement a soil conservation plan.

Rozenboom owns and operates 80 acres in Bluff Creek Township and also rents and custom farms 920

acres. Rozenboom also operates a grain trucking business, a custom combining and haying business, and is a soil conservation contractor for bulldozing and tiling.

Rozenboom became a district cooperator in 1982 and completed his conservation plan in 1983. Since that time, he has installed 1,500 feet of tile-outlet-terrace, 2,100 feet of tile, 57 acres of contour row patterns and practices conservation tillage.

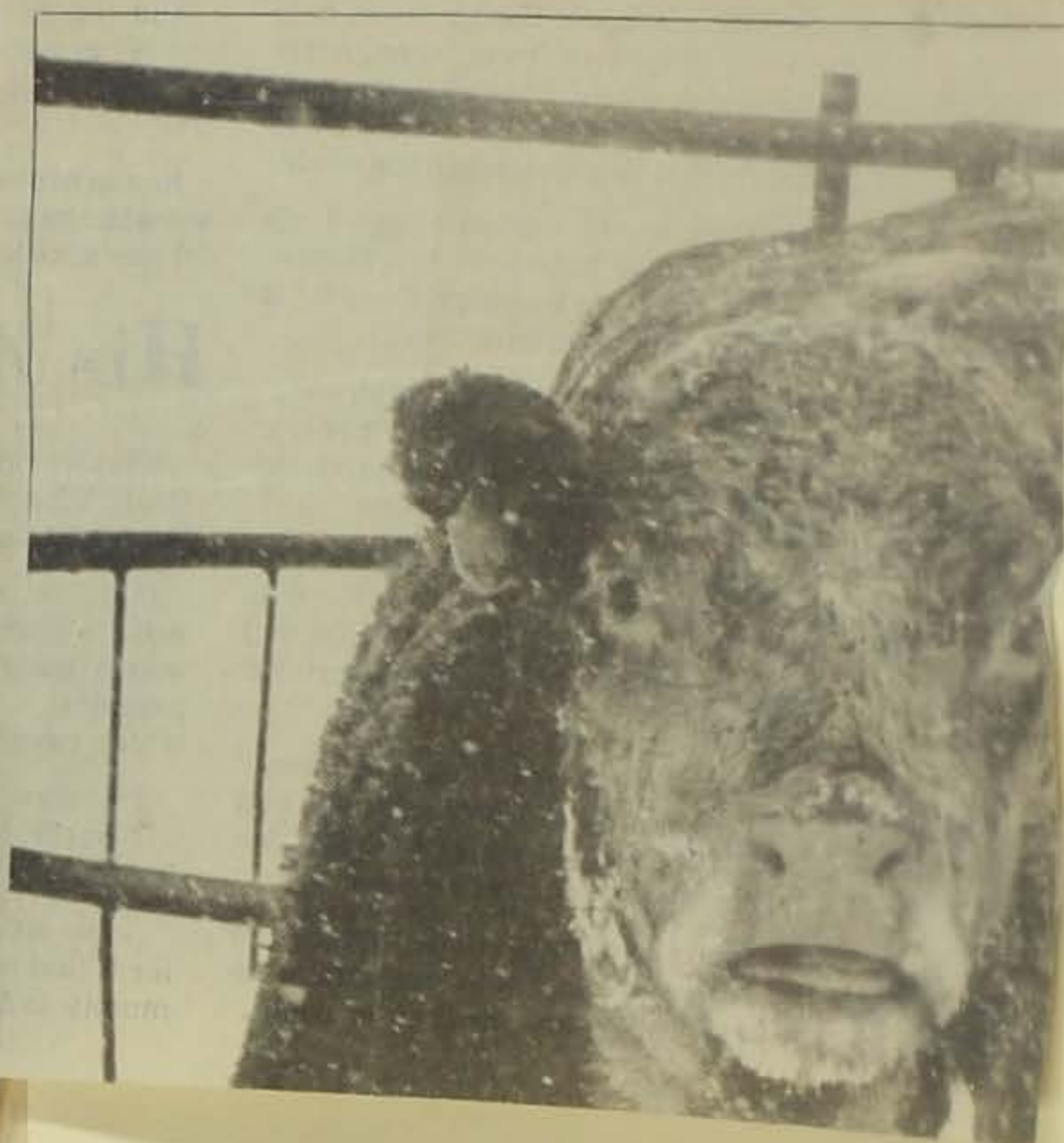
The 1983 Pasture Management Award was presented to Ed Crall, who owns and operates 671 acres in Troy and Guilford townships. The majority of the farm is seeded to pasture and hayland which supports his 105-head cow-calf herd. Crall keeps all of his calves and buys additional calves to feedout.

Crall's pasture management techniques include fencing and adequate water to allow rotational grazing, annual weed control and adequate fertilization and liming for maximum production.

The alfalfa-brome hayfields are chopped with the last cutting hay for winter feed. Conservation practices in-

Awards

—Continued on Page 6



Soil Award winners

Award winners from left, Rita Gergely, Randy Rozenboom, Mrs. Agnes Gergely, Earl Albertson, Ed Yarkosky and Ed Crall.

June 28, 1984



Dan Snyder

New SCS soil trainee

Dan Snyder, a senior at Northeast Missouri State University, is serving this summer as a Soil Conservation Service Trainee under District Conservationist John Frieden.

Snyder is from Richland, Iowa, and is majoring in agricultural business at NEMSU. He plans to begin training as a district conservationist upon graduation from college.

Snyder started work in mid-May and will work through the end of August. He is involved in all aspects of SCS work.

Two soil district seats up for re-election

The terms of two Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Raymond Vance of Blakesburg-Urbana Township and Wm. F. McGrath of Melrose-Jackson Township, will expire at noon on Jan. 1, 1985. Successors will be elected at the general election on Nov. 6, 1984.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Monroe County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Ollie Kaldenberg of Albia-Troy, Bob McGinnis of Albia-Monore,

and Albert Etcher of Lovilia, Union; therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Monroe County Courthouse no later than 5 p.m. on Sept. 12, 1984.

Individuals elected in Novem-

ber 1984 will serve a term of six years commencing Jan. 1, 1985. Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office, 14 B Second Avenue West, 932-5076.



New aide

Jake Scott, 27, began work as a state aide in the Monroe County SCS office July 13. Originally from Bloomfield, Scott has been with the Soil Conservation Service for several years. He and his wife and three children live in Drakesville.

SCS encourages farmers not to till soybeans

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District is making a concerted effort to encourage farmers not to till soybean ground this fall. According to county Soil Conservationist John Frieden, there are two reasons for the effort.

"First of all we are encouraging farmers not to till soybean ground this fall because we'd like them to try planting no-till on that bean ground next spring. The easiest way to get into a no-till system is to plant into soybean stubble," he said.

"Secondly, stubble left on soybean ground will prevent against wind and water erosion through the winter and into the spring, even though farmers end up using conventional planting methods."

Part of the effort to encour-

age farmers to let soybean ground go non-tilled is a telephone campaign done by Albia 7th and 8th graders. About 20 students contacted 150 farmers. The soil conservation district is also offering prizes for signing up and agreeing not to till soybean ground. Thirteen area agribusinesses donated prizes.

Frieden said that so far 75 farmers have signed up and that farmers have until the end of November to stop in at the SCS office in Albia and make the agreement. On Dec. 1, the drawing for prizes will be held.

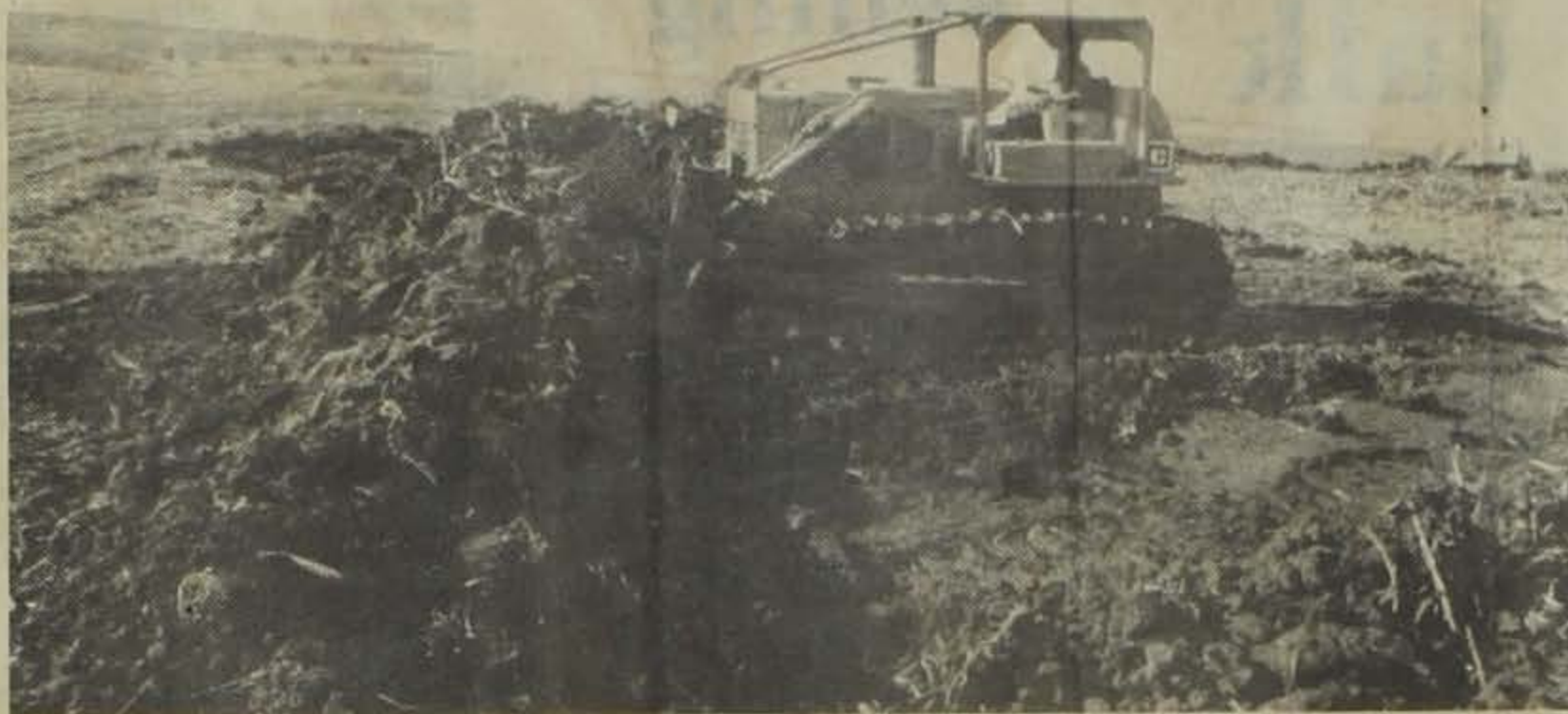
Prizes and the donors include: Road atlas, Ray Vance, DeKalb Seed dealer; log chain, hitch pin, slow-moving vehicle sign, Baker's Feed and Grain; caps, belt buckle, Coltrain Equip-

ment; two sweatshirts, two sets of glasses (four to a set), Romerman Feed and Grain; two pair gloves, six quarts of oil, one gallon anti-freeze, one gallon windshield washer fluid, rat-killer packets, Moravia Farm Service; 50 pounds lawn fertilizer, 2½ gallons oil, one gallon anti-freeze, #144 rust inhibitor, Lovilia Farm Service; two toy Ford 7700 tractors, two 1984 Hesston rodeo buckles, GB Equipmet; two toy tractors, six J.D. winter caps, Henderson Implement; one grease gun, Goode's Seed and Feed; McCubbin Seed hats, The Country Mill; 50 pounds of Purina Field and Farm Dog Chow, 20 pounds Kent cat food, Newell Elevator; one gallon 2-4-D, Kaiser-Melrose; 12 Soil Service hats, Soil Services.

Nov. 1, 1984

1-8-84

March 14, 85



Terrace work

A dozer builds new narrow-based terraces on the ^{chuck} Larry Hindman farm east of Albia. The narrow-based terrace is quickly becoming popular in Monroe County because it costs only half of what a traditional broad-based terrace cost. The county soil conservation district is encouraging farmers to investigate the advantage of narrow-based terraces this fall while work can still be done.

Application for rose at SCC office

Farmers may apply for Multi-Flora Rose cost-share funding through the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office in Albia.

Applications were taken starting Jan. 1 and all completed applications must be in by March 1. No applications will be approved unless receipts are dated after the application dates.

Chemicals must be applied by June 1. Attached to each request for funding must be an aerial photo with the area to be treated specifically identified. Spot checking will be done on a timely basis by the county weed commissioner. Applicator license numbers must be included on the application.

Applications will be approved on a pro-rated basis up to 50 percent with a maximum of \$75. Only those chemicals listed as effective and used as recommended in Iowa State Bulletin #PM 863 reprinted May, 1983 will be approved. Cost sharing will be for reimbursement on the cost of the chemicals only.

January 31, 1985

DeBruin makes use of SCS no-interest loan

Orlo DeBruin received the first Monroe County no-interest soil conservation loan provided by the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. DeBruin used the loan funds to construct a grade stabilization structure.

DeBruin applied for the no-interest loan on Feb. 1, 1984, shortly after Monroe County received the allocation. He was approved to receive the no-interest loan money on Feb. 23, 1984, after a panel of applicants were reviewed by the district commissioners. The structure was finished in October.

The application process for no-interest loan began with signing an application form at the Soil Conservation District office. A conservation plan and cost estimate are developed for the soil conservation project of each applicant. The plans and estimates from all applicants are reviewed by the district soil conservation commissioners. They prioritize the applications. The first priority landowner and his lending institution determine his eligibility for the loan. Eligible landowners may borrow up to \$10,000 at no interest.

The loan recipient must have a net worth of less than \$300,000 and be capable of repaying the

loan in equal annual installments in 10 years.

Any landowner interested in a no-interest soil conservation loan should submit an application at the District Soil Conservation office. The district will receive \$10,300 for no-interest loans this year. More funds are available if applications exceed this amount.

1-3-85

Need to dismantle Stockman's brain - not soil service

The proposal to dismantle the Soil Conservation Service in cutting the federal budget has to be the most lame-brained, ill-conceived, head-in-the-sand, stupid proposal to come out of the White House in 50 years.

The Soil Conservation Service is one of the few parts of U.S. ag policy that approaches problems in agriculture with long-term, sensible, cost-saving solutions. Even the American Farm Bureau, which has pushed for years to

get the government out of agriculture, supports the work of the Soil Conservation Service.

David Stockman's attempt to kill the SCS and still ominous threat to cut the SCS budget by 80 percent isn't radical. It's ridiculous.

The Soil Conservation Service is farmer-directed and because of that meets farmer needs better than just about any other federal ag program. Large farmers and small farmers and

any farmer in between benefit from SCS funding.

Besides its record of success, the SCS is this nation's "assurance" policy that in 50 years there will still be soil to grow crops, trees and woodlands to enjoy, water to drink and land that is still productive.

David Stockman needs to be kicked in the head for suggesting the demise of the Soil Conservation Service. We'll even provide the boot.

States suffer from wind erosion

Wind erosion damaged more land in the Great Plains in the last two months of 1984 than during any comparable period since the mid-1950s.

Peter C. Myers, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, said that reports from the 10-state area indicate wind damage on more than three million acres during November and December 1984—compared with about 800,000 acres in November and December 1983. Myers also said that windblown soil particles destroyed crops or cover on 106,000 acres of land not damaged.

"We're off to a very bad start this season," said Myers. "And that's especially disturbing when you realize that last year was the third worst wind erosion year in the 50 years we've been keeping records in the region."

Soil conservationists consider land to be damaged when the effects of wind erosion are apparent to the eye—which means an annual rate of about 15 tons per acre. When such damage becomes visible, however, the erosion rate already is three to 10 times higher than most soils can withstand without damage to their productive capacity.

Much of the damage resulted from a dry fall that led some farmers to delay planting and caused spotty germination and slow growth of wheat, alternate freezing and thawing that broke down clods and left the soil susceptible to further damage, and the strongest winds in the last 10 years.

Of the land damaged, 52 percent was cropland, 47 percent was rangeland and one percent was other land.

Wyoming alone accounted for more than half of the damaged acres—1.55 million acres—more than 75 times as much as was damaged in the state during November and December 1983. The damage was caused mainly by unusually high winds and a lack of constant snow cover.

Kansas, Montana and North Dakota reported more than six times as much land damaged

this season than last. Only Colorado, New Mexico and Texas reported fewer acres damaged; higher than normal autumn rainfall in these three states helped keep damage low.

As of January 1, nearly 14 million acres in the Great Plains were inadequately protected and therefore susceptible to wind erosion, six percent less than at the same time a year ago but still well above normal for this time of year.

Some farmers in all 10 states used emergency tillage, which roughens the surface of the soil to make it less susceptible to wind damage, as a preventive measure. Nearly 80 percent of the 500,000 acres treated with emergency tillage in November and December were in Texas.

Myers said the Soil Conservation Service technicians are ready to advise farmers in use of emergency tillage and other temporary measures to reduce wind damage. He also said, however, that the best conservation practices in the Great Plains require long-term planning and installation. They include measures that maintain plant cover or residue on the surface of the soil. Wind strips (long, narrow fields of tall grasses alternating with fields of cropland) and field windbreaks also help reduce wind erosion.

Each year, the Soil Conservation Service compiles wind erosion data for 541 counties in the Great Plains. Reports cover the seven-month period November through May, when winds normally are highest and the soils are driest. Under these conditions, wind erosion is more severe than during summer and early fall. The agency issues wind damage reports after the second, fourth and seventh months of the wind erosion season.

Following is a state-by-state summary of wind damages during November and December 1984, compared to damages during the same period a year earlier.

Counties Reporting (Number)	Nov.-Dec. 1984 (Acres)	Nov.-Dec. 1983 (Acres)
Colorado	37	28,600
Kansas	105	12,100
Montana	40	711,200
Nebraska	21	63,100
New Mexico	19	4,200
North Dakota	53	328,100
Oklahoma	30	114,000
South Dakota	66	91,300
Texas	147	121,000
Wyoming	23	1,551,100
541	3,024,700	816,100

March 19, 1985

Wildlife Week celebrates importance of the soil

This year, National Wildlife Week holds special significance for Iowans. Being celebrated March 17-23, the week features soil and its importance.

"In Iowa, I think we have a special understanding of what

the soil means to us," said Jim Murphy, president of the Iowa Wildlife Federation. "We're happy to see this year's national theme of 'Soil—We Can't Grow Without It.'"

Murphy said the Iowa Wildlife

Federation (IWF) is distributing 15,000 educational packets to Iowa schools. The packets include background information on soils, a glossary, a 16-picture poster, learning activities for all grade levels, and an educator's guide.

The IWF is also sponsoring a poster contest on the importance of soil. National Wildlife Week, sponsored by the NWF and state affiliates, began in 1938 by proclamation of President Franklin Roosevelt. "Since that time, we've intended for it to be an occasion for more public education on important natural resource concerns," said Murphy. "This year's theme is especially appropriate because it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) by President Roosevelt," said Murphy.

SCS helped develop the educational materials for this year's packet, and is helping tie National Wildlife Week to soil conservation educational efforts.

"We know landowners make the decisions on the land that affect wildlife habitat and wildlife," said John Frieden, District Conservationist for SCS in Monroe County. "Soil Conservation and wildlife go hand in hand. A good soil conservationist is usually a promoter and provider for wildlife, too. We see the tie of the two in our daily work, and we're delighted the wildlife federation has chosen to feature soils this year."

SCS has place in U.S. agriculture

The nation is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Soil and Water Conservation Movement, but at the same time the President's budget is recommending severe staff reductions and the elimination of federal conservation assistance programs, according to Ollie Kaldenberg, Chairman, Monroe County Conservation District.

The elimination of funding for conservation programs would have a serious affect on Iowa's program, according to Kaldenberg. Locally, it would mean almost total elimination of Soil Conservation Service personnel and loss of cost-share funds for conservation practices such as terraces, ponds, seedings, no-till and erosion control structures.

"While Iowa is a leader in the nation in conservation, there is

still a lot of work that needs to be done," said Kaldenberg. Over 250 million tons of soil are eroded from cultivated cropland alone in the state each year, and flooding is still a major problem in some areas. In Monroe County, problems include sheet,

rill and gully erosion.

"I urge the people of Monroe County to voice their support for soil conservation and opposition to this budget proposal that would have a severe affect on conservation programs in the state," said Kaldenberg.

Cyclical nature changes agriculture

By DEAN, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Iowa State University

Agriculture is a cyclical industry, and we are in the depths of a cycle that is more damaging than any that Iowa agriculture has experienced in 50 years. The difficulties confronting many people in the agricultural sector and our rural communities are enormous and must not be underestimated. At the same time, it is imperative to recognize that there will be an up side to this cycle. Iowa has the strength to recover and prosper.

In agriculture our natural strengths are our soils and climate. In addition we have production systems second to none, and our location, at a midpoint among major metropolitan areas and transportation networks, is a significant competitive advantage.

But as important as any of these assets is a resource that has gained in strength in these difficult times. Harmonious, productive relationships among leaders in the public and private sectors have characterized Iowa since the pioneers who settled here began working toward their vision of the future. During our current difficulties, outstanding new leaders have emerged throughout the state. They have joined a community of people whose energy, intelligence and public spirit are paving the way to a more dynamic, vigorous agriculture.

This expanding community of Iowa agricultural leaders is working together for the general good of our state. They play many roles to enable and encourage the exploration of options and the answering of questions such as: How can we minimize the impact of the current financial stress in agriculture? How can we diversify crop and livestock production? Should Iowa farmers raise amaranth or crambe? Should we raise poultry rather than sending our grain to poultry farmers in the Southeast? Should we expand our sheep industry? How can we resolve the problems that contribute to the decline of Iowa's beef industry?

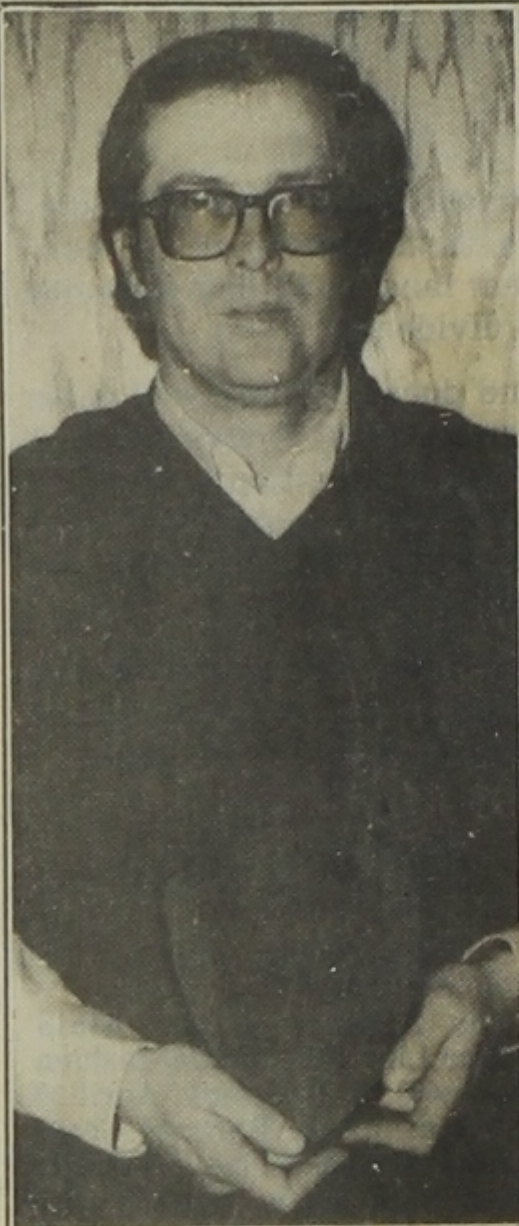
What new or modified crop and animal products can Iowa manufacture for domestic and export markets? How can market systems, including transportation and other support systems, be improved? How can the new tools of biotechnology be used to benefit agriculture and the Iowa economy? How can we maintain the strength of rural communities?

None of the people who are working to see that such questions get answered has a crystal ball, but they know one thing about Iowa agriculture 20 years from now: It will be different than Iowa agriculture today. Their goal is to shape changes to the benefit of our state, to remove barriers to growth and create an environment in which we can maximize our advantages in soil, climate, location and agricultural expertise.

When promising opportunities are identified, Iowans have the capacity to respond. Ninety-five percent of Iowa farms are owned by individuals, families or partnerships, and the state has a wealth of successful businesses, large and small. That heritage gives Iowa immense managerial strength.

A complex of external forces is working against many of the state's best managers now, but these people are fighting back. Instinctively, they know that no system is static. It is dynamic and progressive or it is on the decline. Decline has never been acceptable to Iowans, and that heritage fuels the efforts that will carry us out of our current difficulties.

March 21, 1985



Dave Teno



Hazel and Marty Crall



Melissa DeMoss



Dave Paxton

Conservation awards

Clockwise, Hazel and Marty Crall, Jim Crall memorial; Dave Paxton, Rotary Award; Melissa DeMoss, Rotary Award; Dave Teno, Landlord-Tenant Award. Complete details on all the Soil Conservation awards on Page 6.

March 21, 1985

Essay winner writes about water quality

By JULIE LAWLESS

Clean water—what is the answer?

As an eighth grader I am concerned with the water pollution in the world today. It can no longer be taken for granted nor can we consider this resource unlimited. Clean, unpolluted water is essential for the balance of nature to thrive and survive. Water pollution is the result of "so-called" progress as population and industry expands. It has become a threat to the balance of nature and must become a concern of all to correct it before it destroys us.

The water that is used in home and industry comes from rivers, streams, ponds, lakes and underground sources. Usually the pollution in this water is caused by the solid and liquid wastes from homes and factories. Weed killers and pesticides sprayed on crops also cause pollution. Rain washes these chemicals from crops and soil and it flows into a body of water. Pollution also comes from wastes that get into the air. Smoke and chemical fumes go into the air and are carried to the earth by rain.

Besides solid and liquid wastes there are household wastes such as soaps, detergents, grease and dirt. These wastes are called sewage and contain bacteria or viruses, some which cause disease.

As population and industry grows there needs to be strong measures enacted to insure a clean water supply. Treatment and control of all wastes is the only answer to water pollution problems.

Waste water treatment plants must be improved so that they will be able to remove the impurities from city sewage wastes.

We need to identify water quality problems and pollution sources.

As a farm girl, I feel that farmers must be more concerned with the control of the run-off of fertilizers, pesticides and topsoil into our water supplies. They need to use the best management techniques to reduce pollution.

Clean water is everyone's responsibility. We must stop thinking of ourselves and work together, be informed, alert and involved. If everybody does a little bit for pollution the end result will be a lot done rather than too little, too late.

March 21, 1985

Tree research could aid farmers

By DAVE PAXTON

Robert Bush and his research team at Northwest Missouri State University may put a sizeable amount of money in farmers' pockets in a few years. If the research he is doing on fast growing trees is successful in the climate of the Midwest, farmers may be planting and harvesting trees for a cash crop almost like corn or soybeans.

Bush, a pilot, conservationist, educator and scientist, was the guest speaker at Monday's Monroe County Soil Conservation District banquet and shared enthusiastically with the crowd the work he has done at MWNSU.

Bush said for too long the American farmer has looked at woodlands as an enemy, overgrazing and killing woods or bulldozing it to clear ground for pasture and row crop. But he contends that woodlands offer a tremendous opportunity for an alternative cash crop for farmers, offers the best protection for highly erodible soil, and may be a partial solution to lowering the nation's dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels.

"For too long we have looked to someone else to solve our energy problems," said Bush. "But we must never forget the lesson of the 70's. We can't let third world nations control our country through oil pricing."

Bush also said that Midwest farmers shouldn't forget the fact that eastern U.S. politicians don't understand agriculture. "When agriculture is in hard times, the country isn't far behind," he said. "Agriculture is the source of new wealth. Farmers work with the soil and water to create new wealth and the basis for that wealth is the land, timber and oceans."

At NWMSU, a school of 5,000 students, Bush said university leaders began to realize in the late 1970's that energy costs were causing a critical financial problem for the school. A committee was established to find an alternate energy system.

The committee looked at coal, but had concerns over high sulfur Missouri coal and the potential acid rain problem and also studied electricity (nuclear power) and natural gas.

When the committee first looked at using wood as an energy source, they looked around their region and found mostly poorly managed timber areas filled with "junk" trees. But while looking into the junk trees, the committee found woodchips. Woodchips from junk trees had the potential to lower the university's energy bill while creating numerous jobs in the local community.

Research into heating systems to utilize wood continued along with a renewed interest in woodland management said Bush. "Once we got into woodland management we wanted to find a feasible way for farmers to manage their timber without cost to the farmer," said Bush. Bush went on to say that they came up with three basic plans for woodland management, giving a farmer or woodland owner immediate cashflow, intermediate return and long-term return.

By going into a timber with a professional forester and cutting out junk trees for woodchips (which created immediate cashflow), a new vigorous tree was created. Bush said by opening the canopy every few years, trees were able to grow faster and become more valuable.

The long-term benefit will be saw logs and veneer logs worth up to \$4,000 apiece.

Bush and his team uses a hydraulic three-wheeled vehicle to shear up to 16-inch diameter trees.

The intermediate timber management plan Bush and his team came up with was planting different varieties of soft pyle, poplar, elm and locust, harvestable in six to 10 years. "In that length of time we will have a nice sized log for making woodchips or burning in home heating units," said Bush. "At the same time we have established excellent wildlife habitat."

But there is even a shorter payback for woodland management the NWMSU committee discovered. Research is well underway for what Bush calls "woodgrass," an incredibly fast growing Siberian Poplar tree. "A lot of foresters have trouble with this tree," said Bush, "and

our research is far from complete. But we are very much encouraged by what we have seen so far."

Woodgrass, or the Siberian Poplar tree, is planted in high concentrations (from 50,000-80,000 trees per acre in the Midwest to 150,000 trees per acre in Oregon where rain is more plentiful) and harvested every eight to 10 months.

"There are several tremendous aspects to this tree," he said. "First of all, a farmer can cut this tree any time of the year. He can gain a cash crop each year, but isn't bound to a fall

harvest. The tree grows back from its own stump and probably needs replanted every 15 years or so. It grows well on marginal land, can be mechanically planted and harvested with existing equipment and will yield 40 to 50 wet tons per year. It also cuts soil losses on marginal ground to 1 to 1½ tons per acre."

Bush added that the trees do not produce a berry or seed like Multiflora Rose, making it easy to control. Another positive aspect of the tree is its conversion into methane gas. He said research has shown it has the

highest methane conversion rate of any biomass product.

"A crop like woodgrass places the farmer in the energy harvest business, rather than in the commodity market," said Bush. "It could give a farmer greater flexibility and diversity in production."

"What we're talking about is planning for a reasonable system for our children to survive," he said. "The bottom line is figuring out how to survive in our environment without destroying it or it destroying us."

4-18-85

Public meeting set for Soap Creek watershed

A public meeting on Soap Creek watershed will be held May 7 at the Blakesburg Community Building. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain public comment and to explain planning procedures.

Soap Creek watershed is authorized by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 566). Soap Creek watershed consists of 161,955 acres and is located in Appanoose, Davis, Monroe and Wapello counties.

Problems in Soap Creek watershed include cropland, flooding, bottom land scouring and road and bridge damage. Proposed project measures include flood control structures, grade stabilization structures and sediment and water control drains.

Specialists from the Soil Conservation Service and the Iowa Conservation Commission will be at the meeting. Following the meeting this group and interested citizens will tour the

watershed.

The group will then conduct a scoping meeting. They will determine which issues are to be studied, the intensity of each study, and who will study them.

Individuals and groups that have comments regarding this project may present them to the environmental evaluation team on May 7. You may also mail them to SCS District Conservationist John Frieden at 148 Second Ave. West, Albia, Iowa or call 515-932-5076.



Volunteer's award

Governor Terry Branstad presents Melissa DeMoss with the Governor's Volunteer Award for her work as a Monroe County Soil Conservation Service volunteer. Melissa was involved with a telephone campaign contacting farmers about the use of minimum and no-till farming.

may 2, 1985

SCS celebrates 50 years of service

April 27, 1985 marked the Golden Anniversary of the Soil Conservation Service—a milestone in a voluntary conservation movement that has involved more than two million farmers, ranchers and other land users.

"SCS can be proud of what it has done," said Peter Myers, chief of the agency. "It has helped to reduce soil erosion, conserve water, reduce flooding improve rangeland and protect other natural resources. Today, two out of every five acres of farmland are adequately protected against soil erosion."

In the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, more than 694 farmers are cooperators with the district. "Our farmers have steadily applied the more expensive practices like terraces and ponds, and they've also picked up on the management practices like conservation tillage and no-till," said John Frieden, District Conservationist for SCS. Nationwide, farmers used conservation tillage on 29 percent of the cropland in 1984. The figure is 24 percent in Monroe County.

"I'd be the first to say that we have a long way to go yet in getting soil losses in the county under control," said Frieden. "But I also think we need to pay tribute to the farmers who have done that job, or most of it, on

their land." Frieden also feels the unique local, state and federal partnership in soil conservation has promoted soil conservation in Iowa. "More than ever, as we look to the next 50 years, it will take a team effort," he said.

Everyone in the United States has benefited from the protection of soil productivity and a cleaner environment, said Myers. "It's time for celebration as we observe 50 years of soil conservation and it's time for renewed commitment as we look ahead."

Multi-flora rose checks are ready

Multi-flora rose checks can now be picked up at the Monroe County Soil Conservation Service office in Albia. The money will be used to control the spread of multi-flora rose in the county.

The SCS also has money available for soil conservation work this summer and fall. Farmers with possible projects are encouraged to visit with SCS personnel and have them do a cost estimate.

According to District Conservationist John Frieden, 50 percent cost-share money is available for projects which include terraces, erosion control ponds, diversions, grassed waterways, pasture and hayland planting, critical area planting, field windbreaks, grass strips, underground outlets and water and sediment control basins.

Those practices all require a 20-year maintenance agreement.

Frieden said that in earth moving work such as terraces, sediment basins, fields do have to be completely disturbed. He said the project can be worked so that fields are disturbed to insure the least amount of disruption.

No-till funds for 1986 available

Farmers interested in no-tilling their crops this spring are urged to sign up for a no-till payment by Jan. 22 at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District Office in Albia.

Fields qualifying for the payment can earn up to \$10 per acre with a 40-acre maximum per applicant. Special state funds are being made available to Soil Conservation districts over the entire state but each district

must have their fund requests submitted by Jan. 27 in order to receive an allocation from the state.

In addition to no-till, farmers planning spring construction of terraces and ponds are also urged to apply for the special funds. These practices are eligible for 50 percent cost-share assistance. For further information, please stop by the office or call 932-5076.

Conservation Reserve sign-up March 3-14

Monroe County farmers can start signing up for the new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) March 3-14, however, planning should begin now. Monroe County has about 90,000 acres that would be eligible for the long-term measure to idle cropland. The land will be seeded to grass or planted to trees and kept out of crop production for 10 years.

In return for taking land out of production, the government will pay an annual fee and assist with half of the establishment costs. The rental fee will be determined on a bid basis. If this idea appeals to you, start planning today.

First you will need to know if your land will qualify and which parcels you want to bid into the CRP. Generally cropland that is in classes VI, VII and VIII (steepplands) and cropland that is in classes II through V and that is eroding at three times the

tolerable rate is eligible. The Soil Conservation Service can help you determine which lands are eligible.

Next you'll need to know what price to bid in order to make the CRP worthwhile. Iowa State University economist William Edwards has put together a worksheet to help you determine a break-even price. Your local extension service has those and will be able to work the worksheet with you.

The benefits from the CRP program include reduced soil and water erosion, improved water quality and some guaranteed income for the next 10 years off land that previously gave variable yield. If enough people sign into the program it will improve grain prices by lowering the supply. For more information about the Conservation Reserve Program contact the ASCS office.

Warn of sodbuster and swampbuster provisions

Farmers planning to plant corn or soybeans this spring on highly erodible grassland or woodland may want to reconsider, USDA officials say.

They also caution farmers who plan to drain wetlands for crop production.

The reason: the 1985 Farm Bill included "sodbuster" and "swampbuster" provisions that could make a farmer ineligible for other USDA benefits for 1986 and future years if he converts wetlands or highly erodible grassland or woodland to cropland.

The sodbuster and swampbuster provisions of the

Farm Bill went into effect last Dec. 23, when the President signed the bill into law as the Food Security Act of 1985," says Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa.

"There hasn't been much publicity about the details of how the provisions will be administered because USDA has been struggling to get feed grain, conservation reserve, and other programs running," Nethery says.

"They just haven't been able to get the rules in place. But the law is there, and anyone who converts highly erodible land or wetlands to cropland after Dec. 23, 1985, could be subject to forfeiting USDA program benefits for 1986 and beyond," he adds.

However, if the highly erodible land is farmed under a soil conservation plan and soil losses are adequately controlled, the farmer would be eligible for other USDA programs.

Nethery says detailed USDA rules and regulations on the provisions should be published by mid-May. "Since we don't know the rules, such as the exact definition of highly erodible land, we can't give specific information to a farmer on what would make him ineligible for benefits under the law," he says.

"But farmers need to know the law is in effect, and that they cannot expect to get USDA benefits if they carelessly break out established vegetative cover such as pastures, grassland, shrubs or trees for corn, soybeans or other annual crops," Nethery says.

He encourages farmers who are considering converting steep land or wetlands from grass to rowcrops to contact their local Soil Conservation Service office.

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Albia, Iowa 52531

Thursday, December 12, 1985

Soil program could become reality

With the good possibility of a new long-term Conservation Reserve program much like the Soil Bank of the early 1960s passing Congress, the Monroe County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and Soil Conservation Service are alerting farmers and encouraging them to get preliminary work done.

John Frieden, Monroe County District soil conservationist, and Mike Stenerson, Monroe County ASCS director, will be working jointly if and when the Conservation Reserve program is passed by Congress.

The program calls for farmers to take "highly erodible" land out of crop production for a 10-year period and plant it with soil-conserving grasses or trees. The cost of the program is being

estimated at \$11 billion to take 25 million acres out of production.

Payments to farmers would be made on an annual basis and farmers would bid land into the program, as they did with the Payment-in-Kind program.

The big difference in this program as opposed to programs of set-aside acres in the past is that land which qualifies must be approved by the ASCS. The ASCS will use the Soil Conservation Service to determine "highly erodible" land.

The bill is still being debated and such things as grazing rights, harvest of grass crops, types of vegetation and others have not been established.

However, Frieden and Stenerson have been told by their superiors that the bill will, in all

likelihood, pass and be implemented sometime this winter, perhaps in late February or early March.

Stenerson said the bill being debated calls for a payment limit of \$50,000 per farmer and that the payment for the Conservation Reserve will have nothing to do with any other ASCS programs.

"This is a very positive soil conservation effort," said Frieden. "If the bill is passed as it is being discussed now, farmers will be able to use the reserve on their most erodible land. We will be able to set up strip-cropping and contour-farming programs to make the best use of their best land and control erosion on their poorer land."

The first step in preparing for

the implementation of the Conservation Reserve at the local level was to hold a task force meeting. That meeting, held Dec. 4, identified suppliers of grass-legume seeds and nursery stock, developed a list of suppliers of seeding and tree planting equipment and established estimates of the number of sign-up contracts and acres likely to be in the program—around 400 in Monroe County.

The meeting also estimated the number total acres in the county that meet the erosion criteria and began developing strategies on how to inform landusers on the Conservation Reserve.

Frieden said between 25,000 and 30,000 acres in Monroe County will be eligible, which

would account for 25 percent of the cropland in the county.

One of the main problems faced by Frieden and Stenerson is to put together a sign-up program in a relatively short time once the bill is passed. For this reason, they are encouraging farmers to begin coming into the ASCS and SCS offices now to start identifying land that will qualify under the program.

"We're looking at a 10-day sign-up period sometime in late February or March, and there's no way we'll be able to effectively deal with our farmers unless most of the work in identifying their highly erodible land has been completed," said Stenerson.

In order to provide assistance to farmers for determining highly erodible land, the Soil

Conservation Service will hold a series of five workshops every Thursday from 1-4 p.m. during the month of January, said Frieden.

The workshops will consist of a slide presentation on soil erosion and information determining land capability classification using the Soil Survey Report and figuring soil losses using the Universal Soil Loss Equation on designated farm fields.

According to Frieden, the intent of the workshops will be to provide information which may be helpful to farmers when applying for the Conservation Reserve program when it becomes available.

Both Frieden and Stenerson encouraged farmers to begin visiting their offices now to get a jump on the program.

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Albia, Iowa 52531

Thursday, December 12, 1985

on Back side also

Editorial

Good conservation reserve plan

If the Congress ever gets around to passing the 1986 Farm Bill, there is a part of the bill which contains perhaps the most positive conservation legislation in the past 20 years.

The Conservation Reserve is still being discussed, as is the rest of the Farm Bill, but most people familiar with politics in the nation's capital feel it will pass.

Basically the bill allows farmers to be paid for setting aside cropland - no new idea. But the exciting part of the program is in the identification of what land is placed in reserve and the length of time it is set aside.

The program calls for the local Soil Conservation Service to determine "highly erodible" land using a stan-

dard equation. The SCS will also be used to help farmers establish conservation plans using the Conservation Reserve to take the most highly erodible land out of production, while letting farmers make the best use of their most highly productive and least erodible land.

If the reserve works as it should, we will see strip cropping across the nation, new contour practices, hills planted back to grasslands and new woodlands growing.

The idea behind the program is not only to take cropland out of production, but to protect marginal soils for an extended period—10 years—while improving that marginal land with grass and tree plantings. The idea that a far-

mer could take land out of production, get paid for it, then turn around and place that land in a forest reserve and receive a property tax break has to be appealing. There are other provisions of the program being talked about that would allow a farmer to make use of forage crops off the reserve land. That would be a benefit to Southern Iowa farmers.

The program would also benefit wildlife conservation efforts as well as help control agriculture runoff, improve water quality and cut down on sheet and rill erosion, aside from cutting grain surpluses.

The program looks good. Let's hope the Congress passes it and our nation's farmers take full advantage of it.

It's Your

Soil conservationists fear loss of identity, threat to programs in state reorganization

By Dale Johnson

Iowa's soil conservation leaders at the state and county levels came out strongly last week opposing reorganization of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation into a department of natural resources.

Firm positions were taken on the issue by the eight-member state soil conservation committee, which oversees Iowa's conservation effort and cost-share funds, and the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

"If we get shoved into a big agency, we'll get buried," stated John Miller of Cedar Falls, chairman of the state soil conservation committee.

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad has proposed that the department be reorganized within the Iowa Department of Agriculture. However, others would like to see conservation aligned in a department of natural resources with the Iowa Department of Water, Air and Waste Management, the Iowa Geological Survey and the Iowa Conservation Commission.

"It's a difficult issue because soil conservation programs are people-to-people programs. You don't put soil conservation on the land with computers or mirrors," said Jim Gulliford, director of the department.

"Also, it seems like everytime we turn around, our workload is increasing. Just look at the farm program with the soil conservation reserve and sodbuster provisions. Now is not the time to reduce our staff," he said. The staff consists of about 25 employees in Des Moines, plus 70 technicians and 101 clerks in field offices.

The fear is that conservation staff would be easy targets for

employee reductions and program areas to cut funds.

Linda Bindner of Marcus, secretary of the 500-member district commissioners' association, agreed the department needs its own identity. The group adopted a position statement during its annual short course for district commissioners in Ames last week.

Effective operation

"We've worked hard to keep a streamlined cost-effective program going," he added. The department has a \$13.5 million budget, \$8.5 million of which is used to cost-share with farm operators and owners in establishing permanent conservation practices. Administrative costs, he said, are 5 percent of the budget.

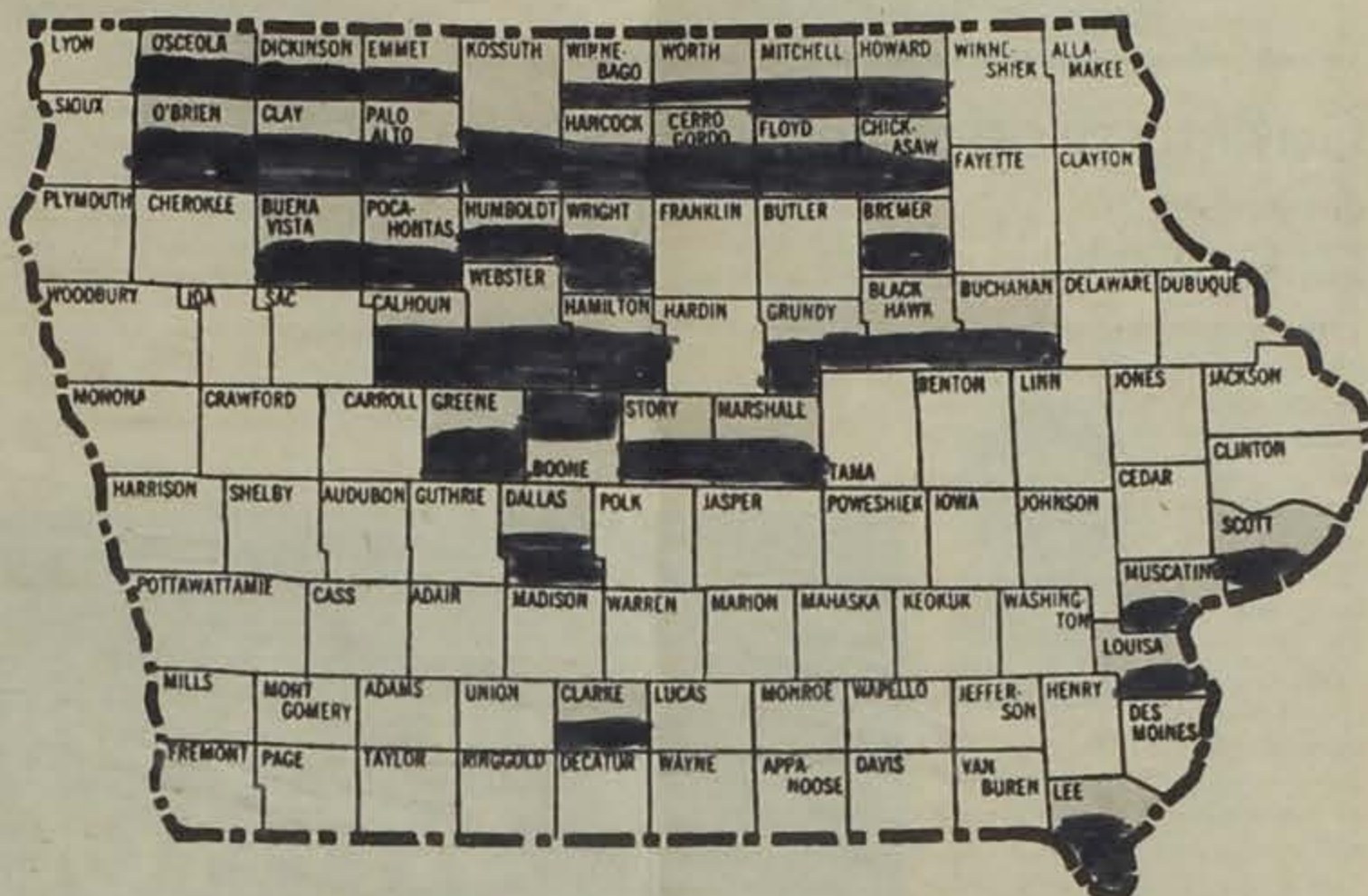
Already, the Iowa Soil 2000 program, launched with great fanfare in 1980, is underfunded and threatened by budget cuts, Gulliford said. The program is aimed at getting folders containing soil losses on each farm to landowners. Individualized plans to stop excessive erosion are then prepared.

"One of its goals was to work with absentee landlords in getting conservation on the land," he said. "I'm pleased to see these out-of-state people sending money to Iowa to do conservation work."

Gulliford said that less than 10 percent of the \$8.5 million in cost-share funds goes to absentee landlords, so saving \$2 million by making them ineligible is untrue.

Ag department

However, preserving the department as a separate entity may be difficult. If it must reorganize, the state committee and local officials feel it should



This map shows the 36 soil conservation districts which will be affected by state budget reductions. The shaded counties will have their staff positions cut to three-fourths time. Woodbury county will lose one full-time employee.

be put in with the Iowa Department of Agriculture.

Farm Bureau supports such a move if the department cannot retain its identity and structure, said Dick Harris, IFBF director of public policy.

"Reducing soil losses to 'T' (levels of allowable soil losses) is an ag objective and activity, not fish and wildlife," Gulliford said. He also points to the Iowa Code, which charges farmers with protecting their land against erosion and that is why the department exists.

Bindner said the association wants soil conservation within a unit of government "respon-

sive to the people affected by soil and water conservation programs. Landowners and farmers more readily will accept policies and programs that are a part of a division of the Iowa Department of Agriculture."

The state conservation committee also wants to maintain the current number of field personnel during the downsizing of Iowa government, as well as funding for conservation programs, conservancy districts and mine and mineral activities.

Field reductions

Gulliford said the threat of staff reductions is already real.

An ordered 3.85 percent budget cut means the department would have to cut \$520,000, or 10 full-time employees. The state committee last week approved a contingency plan to meet that goal, but that plan will not be activated unless the Legislature refuses to appropriate funds for staff.

Should that occur, clerks and technicians in 36 soil conservation districts will have their hours and pay reduced by one-fourth, Gulliford said. Woodbury would lose one employee. The districts were selected based upon several factors, including conservation needs.

Des Moines site for first national direct ag marketing conference

"The great exchange," the first full-scale national conference for direct marketing, is scheduled for March 12-14 at the Des Moines Convention Center in Des Moines.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to meet with direct marketers and program coordinators from across the nation and review programs that other states have implemented to encourage the direct marketing of agricultural products.

"The great exchange" will feature a series of informative seminars and workshops.

Sessions will include: identifying market opportunities and determining regional demands; resources to aid direct

markets, integrating direct marketing into agriculture, production scheduling for direct marketing, sales to retail buyers and institutional markets and examples of successful farmers' markets, roadside stands, U-pick operations and farm trails.

"The great exchange" is designed for individuals involved in program development on a regional or state basis through state government, trade associations and grower interest groups.

Further information about the program, registration and the trade show is available from: National Direct Marketing Conference, Iowa Department of Agriculture, Wallace Building, Des Moines, IA 50319, phone 545-281-4953.



Beef royalty

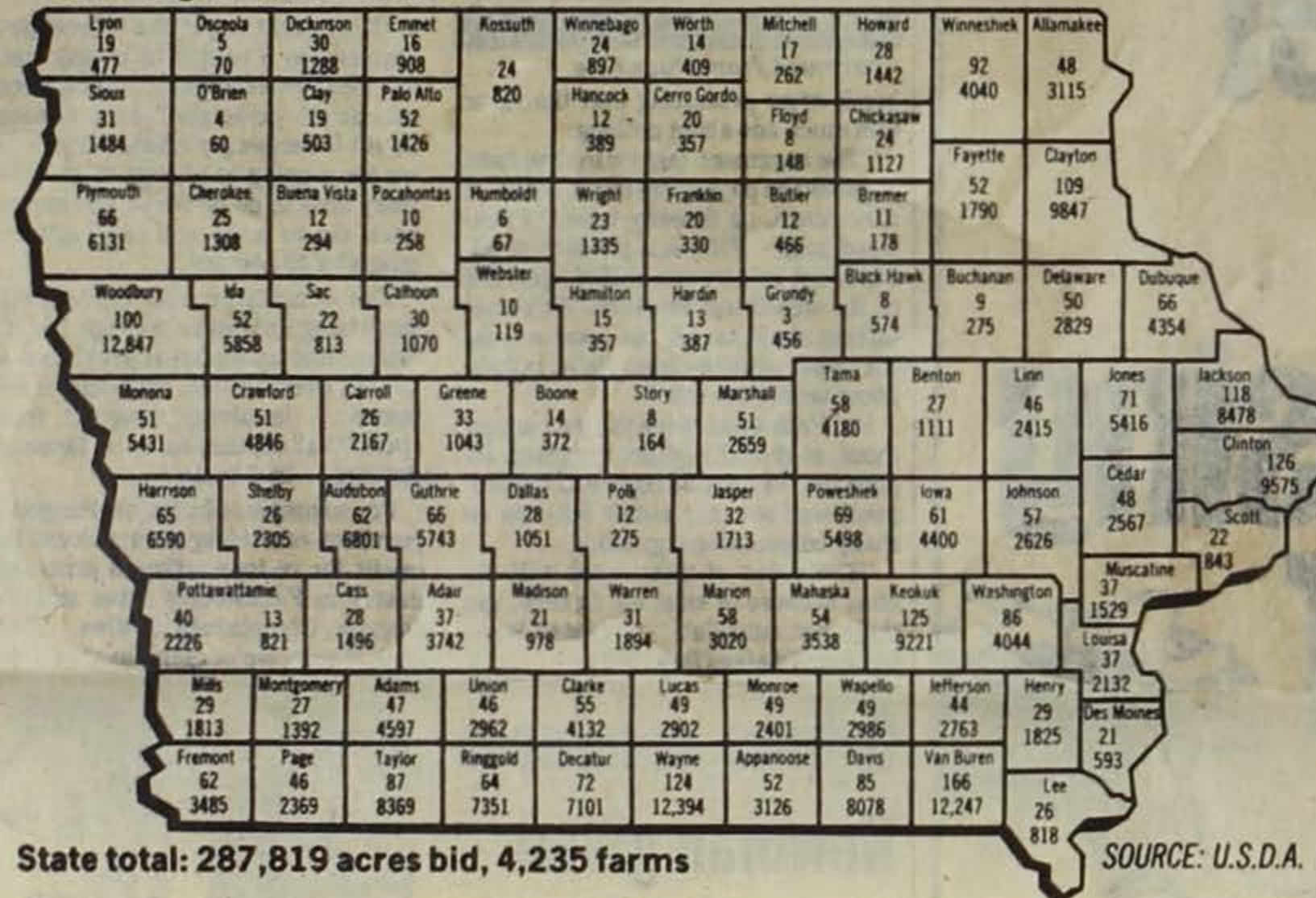
Kendra Schweer of Readlyn (center) was named 1986 Iowa beef queen in coronation ceremonies at the Iowa Cattlemen's Association convention in Des Moines Jan. 21. Schweer is the daughter of Ron and Shirley Schweer. Crowned as the two 1986 Iowa beef princesses were Venessa Kuhlmann (right) and Patty Huegerich (left). Kuhlmann is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kuhlmann of Charter Oak and Huegerich is the daughter of Marvin and Betty Huegerich of Carroll. The newly-crowned queen and princesses will promote the image of Iowa beef and the cattle industry in Iowa and throughout the nation. — Photo by Darryl Jahn.

REGISTER MAP BY LOREN DOPPENBERG

Iowa Conservation Reserve Signup

Top figure: Number of farms submitting bids

Bottom figure: Acres of land bid



State total: 287,819 acres bid, 4,235 farms

SOURCE: U.S.D.A.

Six million acres in state designated highly erodible

SOIL

Continued from Page One

first major multi-year cropland retirement program to be made available in several years. Provisions establishing the reserve were a part of the 1985 farm bill.

In Iowa, seven counties received 100 or more bids. They are Van Buren (166), Clinton (126), Keokuk (125), Wayne (124), Jackson (118), Clayton (109) and Woodbury (100).

Woodbury County farmers offered to idle the most land — 12,847 acres. Wayne County was second with 12,394 acres, while Van Buren was in third with 12,247 acres.

The smallest number of farmer bids came in Grundy County, where only three were submitted. Other counties with fewer than 10 bids were O'Brien (4), Osceola (5), Humboldt (6), Floyd, Black Hawk and Story, all with eight bids, followed by Buchanan, with nine. The smallest amount of acreage was in O'Brien, where only 60 acres was submitted, followed by Humboldt, with 67 acres.

Iowa led the Corn Belt States in total bids submitted, with 4,235. Missouri led in the amount of land offered, 316,154 acres, followed by Iowa with 287,819 acres. Here are the bids for some other major farm states: Minnesota — 3,303 bids, 274,000 acres; Nebraska — 2,153 bids, 226,515 acres; Illinois — 2,618 bids, 219,700 acres; Kansas — 2,100 bids, 174,000 acres, and Indiana — 1,481 bids, 61,900 acres.

After the U.S. Department of Agriculture determines which bids will be accepted, a second round of bids will be accepted with a new enrollment period for farmers and land-owners by early summer. Annual enrollments will be held through 1990 in this program, with a goal of removing 40 million to 45 million acres of erodible cropland from production.

Conservation reserve sign-up begins in county

By DAVE PAXTON

Monroe County District Soil Conservationist John Frieden won't mask his excitement for the new soil conservation reserve program. He voices the views of conservationists and most farm groups in calling the new program "landmark legislation."

"The program does two very important things," he said Wednesday, one day into the two-week sign-up period. "First, it takes the most highly erodible ground out of production for an extended period of time. If we get the kind of participation expected nationwide, the soil that will be saved could fill rail cars circling the earth three times."

"The second thing it does is give farmers a 10-year guaranteed income. The land which will be taken out of production is low producing anyway. There is no guarantee like it in agriculture," Frieden added.

Frieden is also convinced this program, unlike others that have been used, could benefit southern Iowa farmers as much or more than farmers in other parts of the state.

"Because of our soil types and the kind of rolling land we have down here, a great percentage of our acres will be eligible for the reserve program," he said. "The possibility exists here for a farmer to put his entire farm in the reserve and earn the maximum \$50,000 per year payment."

The catch to the program is the farmer putting together a bid that will make him at least break even and hopefully make a profit on the reserve. "It depends on a farmer's land payments, insurance costs, interest and so forth," Frieden said.

"The Extension Service is providing farmers with a worksheet to establish an economic assessment of the land they hope to put in the reserve. The worksheet should help them get an idea of what the bottom line payment they need to cover their costs is and then submit a bid for to make the reserve profitable."

Bids will be accepted or rejected on the basis of other bids in a particular area. However, even if a bid is rejected, a farmer can re-submit a bid about every three or four months over a three-year sign-up period.

"The farmer must realize he has to submit a bid he is willing to live with for 10 years," said Frieden.

Not any piece of land will be eligible for the reserve. That is where the Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) will become actively involved.

The ASCS will first determine the cropping history of a certain field or farm. During the period of time between 1981 and 1985, the field had to have been cropped two out of the five years.

After that, the SCS will go to work to determine if the ground is considered highly erodible. The SCS will use soil classifications from the latest Soil Survey to make the determination.

All soil types are classified according to suitability for row crop—particularly corn. The higher the rating, the more suitable the soil is to permanent pasture, hay ground, woodlands, etc. The lower the number, the better the ground is for raising corn, soybeans and other row crops.

Only soil classes 6-8 are being

considered for highly erodible classification, unless the soil loss in a particular field containing class 2-4 soil is three times the tolerable soil loss.

The "T" factor or tolerable soil loss factor is based on the loss of soil in tons per acre. Those losses range from two to five tons per acre, so soil classes in the two to four range would have to be losing four to 15 tons per acre per year to qualify.

Because most individual fields contain more than one soil type, two-thirds of the fields must meet the requirements to be considered highly erodible and eligible for the reserve.

There is no limit to the number of acres any one farmer can place in the reserve, but a farmer cannot receive more than \$50,000 each year.

Once a bid is submitted and accepted, the farmer signs the contract and the SCS will develop a 10-year conservation plan that the farmer must follow. The plan will be for the reserve land only and will include stipulations on types of seeding and exclusion of livestock. The SCS will verify the establishment of the seeding to the ASCS and the ASCS will ensure compliance.

Frieden said in seeding down and in reserve, a farmer will have a choice of native grasses, cool season grasses or trees.

A farmer cannot harvest any part of the land in reserve for the 10-year period, but he could lease the land for hunting purposes.

The sign-up period for the conservation reserve is March 3-14. All bids must be received by the SCS by 5 p.m. Friday, March 14, regardless of postmark.

Soil banquet Monday night at Trinity

The Monroe County Soil Conservation District Banquet will be held Monday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Awards will be given for art posters and conservation farmers in Monroe County. James Kersten from Iowa Development Commission will be the speaker. Music will be provided by the Alpha & Omega Singers women's octet.

Tickets at \$4 may be purchased at the district office, 14-B Second Ave. W., Albia, or from the following commissioners: Ollie Kaldenberg, Bob McGinnis, Albert Etcher, John Lawless and Mike Beary; assistant commissioners: Mardyll Albertson, Orlo DeBruin, Ed Mahoney, Steve Crall, Lloyd Clark, Ray Vance, Bob Putnam and DeWayne Johnson.

Multi-flora rose cost-share deadline nears

John Koffman, chairman of the Monroe County Multi-Flora Rose Committee, reminds all landowners in the county of the availability of cost-share funds for multi-flora rose control.

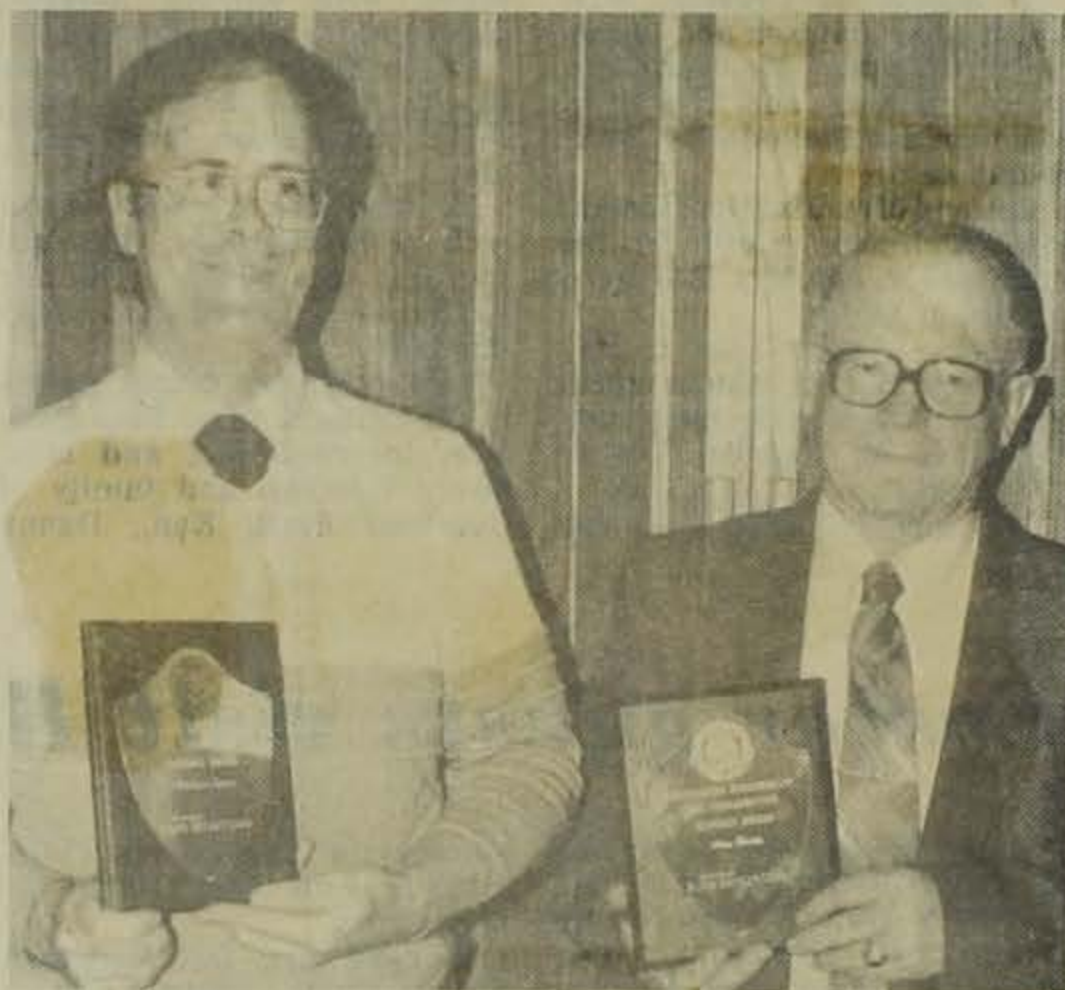
Koffman said sign-up for the funds has been limited and that applications will now be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis until the funds are spent. The cost-share rate will be 50 percent of the requested amount of chemical. All chemical receipts must be returned to the Soil Conservation District office before June 1.

If you have any questions concerning the program, contact the Soil Conservation District office at 14B 2nd Ave. West or call 932-5076.



Soil District Awards

Receiving the owner-operator award for 1985 was Garon Cady, right. He farms 188 acres and has a cow-calf, row crop and hay and pasture operation. He became a cooperator in 1974 and since then has implemented a resource management system which includes crop-meadow rotation, contour farming, conservation tillage and tile-outlet-terraces. Also receiving the owner-operator award was Don Tibbals, left. He and his family have a 415-acre dairy farm and became cooperators in 1979. He uses tile-outlet-terraces, contour farming and no-till corn and soybean planting. The new cooperator award was given to John Beary, center. He became a cooperator in 1983 and has implemented tile-outlet-terraces, no-till and erosion control structures on his 300-acre farm.



Rotary conservation awards

The Albia Rotary Club presented two merit awards at Monday's soil conservation banquet to two men making significant contributions to the soil conservation. Dick James, a teacher at the Albia Middle School, has taught science for 14 years and is a tireless advocate of conservation. His class instruction includes topics such as soil conservation, Bald Eagle preservation and acid rain. He is also the organizer of the Rathbun Outdoor Education Day. Don Bettis, right, has assisted the conservation district in its Erosion Productivity Study. He, along with several other farmers, donated land to test the relationship between soil loss, soil productivity and conservation.

SCS terms set to expire

The terms of three Monroe County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Bob McGinnis of Albia, Monroe Township, Albert Etcher of Lovilia, Union Township, and Michael Beary of Lovilia, Cedar Township, will expire at noon on Jan. 2, 1987. Successors will be elected at the general election on Nov. 4, 1986.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Monroe County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Ollie Kaldenberg of Albia, Troy Township and John A. Lawless of Melrose, Jackson Township; therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained for the county auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the county auditor at the Monroe County Courthouse no later than 5 p.m. on Sept. 10, 1986.

Individuals elected in November, 1986 will serve a term of six years commencing Jan. 2, 1987. Soil Conservation District Commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Monroe County Conservation District office, 14B 2nd Ave. West, Albia, Iowa — 932-5076.

April 3, 1986

Only two bids accepted in reserve program

A program that looked like a real benefit to Monroe County farmers, for all practical purposes has fizzled. The Conservation reserve program, developed to take highly erodible soil out of production, went through its first round of bidding and only two farms totalling 132 acres were accepted.

The program called for land to be taken out of production for 10 years, planted to grass or trees and then farmers being paid on a per acre basis. Each farmer had to offer a cash bid.

The highest bid accepted in Monroe County was \$65 per acre. Farmers do have a chance to bid again, during a two-week period in May.

Monroe County ASCS Director Mike Stenerson said part of the reason so few farmers had bids accepted was due to a change in rules midstream. "A lot of farmers just didn't think it was worth the hassle to resubmit bids," said Stenerson. He also said bids were accepted on the basis of a higher price per acre

in northern Iowa and a lower price per acre in southern Iowa. "Some of the land types offered for the reserve down here would have been accepted in northern Iowa," he said.

There were a total of 49 bids for 2,401 acres in Monroe County. Most of the accepted bids throughout the state tended to be around lakes and streams where water quality and siltation is a concern, said Stenerson.

April 8, 1986



Planting time

Jearld Scott, engineering aid for the soil conservation district, presents Scotch pine and choke cherry trees to Mary Coram's third grade at Kendall School.



Middle School winners

Winning posters from the middle school were drawn by, from left, row 1, Sarah Marqueson, Debbie Beary and Paige Cosgrove; row 2, Margie McCarty, Tracy Braun and Kelly Simmons.



Poster winners

Elementary soil conservation poster winners were honored Monday night at the Soil Conservation Banquet. From left, row 1, Kris Popson, Sarah Stangl and Emily Olum; row 2, Bruce Graham, Mandy Schwartz, Cindy Kendall, Quentin Williamson and Olaf Peterson.

April 8, 1986

Soil Conservation poster winners



Overall winners

The two top soil conservation award prizes went to Mark Lahart, right, and Stacy Grimes.

aug 7, 1986

Soil Conservation Reserve enters new sign-up period

Another round in the Soil Conservation Reserve sign-up is now in progress according to the district soil conservation office in Albia.

According to District Conservationist John Frieden, ceiling bids are coming in right around \$70 per acre. "This is a very reasonable amount of money to receive over a 10-year period on land that is considered highly erodible," said Frieden.

Frieden said one of the concerns of farmers is that if they enter the reserve, they will lose corn base acres. "They're right in a way," said Frieden, "but by

1990, when the Sodbuster and Swampbuster regulations go into effect, almost 75 percent of Monroe County cropland will be affected and farmers will lose corn base acres anyway."

Under the reserve, a farmer must seed down land or plant it in trees for a 10-year period. The only monetary benefit, other than the accepted per acre payment, he can derive is renting it for hunting purposes.

Anyone interested in the reserve should contact the soil conservation district office in Albia.

Aug 7, 1986

Attractive CRP rules may benefit Iowa farms

The next sign-up period for the 10-year soil Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been set for Aug. 4-15 at county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offices. This sign-up is a continuation of 1987 contract bids.

According to Stephen Barnhart, Iowa State University Extension agronomist, much more Iowa cropland is potentially eligible during this period due to some newly revised eligibility rules.

A Soil Conservation Service (SCS) representative will evaluate the land capability class and calculate the average soil loss during the crop years 1981 to 1985 as in the previous sign-ups; however, lower average soil loss limits and existing gully erosion will now also be considered in determining field eligibility.

As in the past, fields are potentially eligible if: 1) they

were cropped two of the years 1981 to 1985, 2) the land has been owned since Jan. 1, 1985, and 3) in land capability classes VI, VII, or VIII or cropland with greater than average soil loss level of 3.5 T (3.5 times the tolerable soil loss limit).

Fields between 2 T and 3.5 T will now be classified "questionable" at the ASCS desk at sign-up. If the producer's bid is tentatively accepted by ASCS, the SCS will make a field determination of final eligibility in the questionable cases.

Bids for fields with greater than 3.0 will be taken. Also bids will now be taken for fields with 2 T or greater average soil loss with evidence of permanent or temporary gully erosion.

aug 7, 1986

\$23,000 remains in cost-share funds

The Monroe County District Soil Conservation Commission are reminding farmers that state cost-share funds for soil conservation practices are now available. Monroe County has about \$23,000 in cost-share money to distribute.

The money can be used for the traditional practices of terracing and constructing erosion control structures, but money is also available for management practices.

The SCS will pay \$6 per acre for contouring, \$15 per acre for contour strip cropping, \$10 per acre for no-till and will pay up to

50 percent of the cost to establish permanent pasture and hay ground.

"A farmer can combine practices such as no-till and contour strip cropping to gain a payment of up to \$25 per acre in some cases," said District Conservationist John Frieden. "This is a substantial amount considering today's farm economy."

Frieden said 30 percent of the allocated cost-share funds have been set aside for management practices or about \$7,200.

Farmers should contact the Soil Conservation Service office in Albia to sign up.

aug 7, 1986

Federal farm subsidies tied to soil conservation

Farmers who want to stay eligible for most federal farm programs will have to control soil erosion on their highly erodible land.

That provision of the Food Security Act of 1985, this year's farm bill, is not clearly understood yet by farmers, say officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"Soil conservation has been a voluntary thing in the past. This is the first time that price supports, disaster payments, loans, crop insurance and other USDA programs will be dependent on a farmer taking care of his land. We have a big job ahead of us in making sure farmers understand what's involved," said Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa.

Some of the provisions are in effect now, and others are keyed to 1990 and 1995. Under the "Sodbuster" provision, farmers who apply for next year's farm programs must certify that they have not broken out highly erodible land in order to produce agricultural commodities since Dec. 23, 1985, unless they followed a locally approved conservation plan. Sodbuster applies to lands where farmers did not produce a crop from 1981 through 1985.

Under the "Swampbuster" rules, they must certify that they have not drained or converted wetlands since that date in order to produce crops.

"The Sodbuster and Swampbuster regulations are in

effect now, so there are many questions on them. But many more Monroe County farmers are going to be affected by the Conservation Compliance Provision," said Ollie Kaldenberg, chairman of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District. "That provision applies to anyone who is farming highly erodible land. It says that anyone farming highly erodible land has until Jan. 1, 1990 to develop and begin to apply a conservation plan, and until Jan. 1, 1995, to have it fully in effect."

SCS estimates that more than 78 percent of the cropland acres of Monroe County are in the highly erodible category. In Iowa, highly erodible land generally is that land with a slope steepness of eight percent or higher, but some more gently sloping land with long slope is also considered highly erodible, according to the Nethery.

The conservation plans will require the landowner to reduce soil erosion to "tolerable" levels in most cases. The tolerable levels in Iowa, often referred to as "T," are generally from three to five tons of soil loss per acre per year, depending on soil type.

USDA has issued interim rules on the conservation provisions. The rules were published in the June 27 Federal Register, and were effective on that date. There is a public comment period on the rules that extends until Aug. 26.

The rules were needed, SCS Chief Wilson Scaling says, because until now, the government has in effect encouraged increased soil erosion and loss of wetlands by promoting maximum production through USDA farm subsidies.

"Many farmers have come to depend on these price supports and other USDA programs. Some have even come to regard the privilege of participating in them as an absolute right. But isn't it fair to ask a certain level of conservation performance in return for that privilege?" Scaling says.

SCS and other USDA agencies are encouraging farmers to bid highly erodible land into the conservation reserve, another program established by the 1985 Farm Bill. In that program, landowners are paid annual rental fees by USDA for converting highly erodible cropland to grassland or trees. USDA is conducting another sign-up for the 1987 program at local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices from Aug. 4-15.

"We're still working with interim rules, but we want to do the best we can to be sure farmers understand what's being required for conservation compliance," Nethery says. "We know this is coming, and the last thing we want is 50,000 farmers on our doorstep in 1989, asking for a conservation plan so they can remain eligible for other USDA programs."

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Two Sections



Well it's Max!

It was no wild "moose" chase when Dave Paxton and Dave Dinneen of the Albia NEWSpapers staff headed west on Highway 34 after learning that Maxwell the Moose had been sighted seven miles west of Albia Thursday. Sure enough, Bob Heffron, Bernard Crall, Tim Crall and a few other neighboring farmers were waiting in a four-wheel-drive pickup to take the two photographers to the moose. Minutes before the photographers arrived, the crew of farmers had been watching the moose from a distance of about 50 feet. He had moved though, and once the pickup crested a small hill, the large Minnesota native was within about 100 yards. Unfortunately, before the pickup could stop and the photographers could get set up, a neighboring German Shepard bounded over a hill and began to chase Maxwell. The moose bolted, stepped a fence like an Olympic high hurdler and was gone into thick timber. Paxton and Dinneen were able to come up with these somewhat blurred shots of Iowa's most charming celebrity. By the way, he's obviously not crossing Lake Rathbun, as was earlier reported.

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Swear in

Six elected county officials were sworn in Monday during ceremonies in the Monroe County Courtroom. District Court Judge James Jenkins, left, swore in Annette J. Scieszinski, county attorney; Helen Sinclair, board of supervisors; Bob McGinnis, soil conservation commission; Ruth Morgan, county treasurer; Mary Lou Rinehart, county recorder; and Bob Smith, Monroe County Hospital board. The six were elected to office in November. Other county officials elected but unable to attend the ceremonies were hospital trustees Sue Delaney and Charlene Wilson and soil commissioners Michael Beary and Ed Mahoney. Sheriff Jack E. Baker was also elected but was sworn in when he took office last year.

Applications available for rose control

Fifty percent cost-share money is now available for multi-flora rose control at the Monroe County Soil Conservation District office in Albia.

Applications for cost-share will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Approvals will be made on a pro-rated basis up to 50 percent with a maximum of \$75.

Only those chemicals listed as effective and used as recommended in Iowa State Bulletin PM 863 reprinted May 1983 will be approved. All applicants must have a current applicators license for restricted chemicals.

Cost-sharing will be for reimbursement of the cost of chemicals only.

9-25-86

Soil commissioners present awards at annual banquet

The Monroe County District Soil Commissioners presented their annual awards for outstanding service to conservation Monday night at the annual soil conservation banquet. The banquet was held at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Children in the Albia Community School District were also presented awards for competing in the annual soil conservation poster contest.

The Albia Rotary Club annually presents outstanding service awards to individuals working toward soil conservation. This year's awards went to Larry Bettis and Dorothy Flanigan.

Since 1973, the Monroe County Soil Conservation District has been giving trees and shrubs to third grade students in the Albia school system. Over 1,000 trees have been planted in the yards and farmsteads of Monroe County. Bettis was recognized for his efforts in assisting the district with

the program.

Last year, due to heavy rains, the new paving on the east county line road was undercut and safe passage for vehicles on the new road was seriously jeopardized.

As a result of the damage, a series of meetings took place between the county, the Soil Conservation Service and Mrs. Flanigan. The result was a plan which included several soil conservation practices to save the road.

The whole plan hinged on being able to implement the practices as needed on Mrs. Flanigan's land. She agreed to the plan and the county's new paving was saved.

District commissioners presented three awards at the banquet. Albin Walberg received the Owner Award. Walberg owns 120 acres in Wayne Township. Although retired from farming, Walberg continues his concern for the land. Last year he

began a terrace project that will be completed this year, helping protect all of his cropland from erosion.

In addition to the terraces, the farmer who rents Walberg's farm uses conservation tillage and a conservation cropping system which includes the use of meadow.

Marvin Kness received the New Cooperator Award. Kness owns 170 acres in Troy Township. Severe erosion problems were present when the farm was purchased in 1986. Since then, Kness has completely terraced the cropland and will be constructing an erosion control dam this year.

In addition, Kness will be putting the farm into a long-term seeding which will include native warm season grasses.

The final award presented went to Albert Etcher. Etcher retired as a Soil District Commissioner in 1986 after serving in that capacity for 20 years.

Kaldenberg named treasurer of soil group

The Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners (IASCDC) announced the results of their election held at the 40th Annual Conference on Dec. 1-2.

Glenn Burrows, Brandon, was elected president of the association. He will serve a two-year term. Burrows has been active in IASDC activities since 1974. He has held posts as a regional director and secretary.

Ollie Kaldenberg, Albia, was re-elected to the position as treasurer of IASDC. Kaldenberg has served the Monroe District as soil commissioner for 16 years.

Norm Kading, Casey, was elected vice president; Dan Bruene, Gladbrook, was elected as secretary.

The IASDC is a non-profit voluntary organization which represents the interests of soil conservation district commissioners in the state of Iowa. The association's primary purpose is to promote soil and water conservation. Its goal is to protect Iowa's land resource while utilizing it to full capacity without excessive soil loss.

IASDC is governed by 500 district commissioners who are elected by eligible voters in their respective districts. IASDC provides assistance to the individual districts through ongoing educational programs and fundraising activities.

4-2-87

Farm programs discussed at Tuesday meeting

The Monroe County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) will hold an informational meeting Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Albia to discuss various federal farm programs.

FmHA topics of discussion will include beginning farmer loans, guaranteed farm loans and an update on loan activity. SCS topics will include a filmstrip on the Food Security Act, the Conservation Reserve Program, conservation compliance and the Sodbuster/Swampbuster act.

The main ASCS topic will be the 1988 Feed Grain Program.

2-16-88

9-6-90

ATV seed/sprayer for rent

The Monroe Soil and Water Conservation District has for rent an A.T.V. (All Terrain Vehicle) with a seeder and spraying attachment.

The machine can be used for spot spraying on CRP acres and seeding areas such as waterways, field borders, pond dams and terrace backslopes. The machine has the advantage of accessing those hard to get to areas and being able to seed an area when conditions are too wet for conventional equipment. The Commissioners feel the use of the machine can be a real asset to helping farmers accomplish some of the Conservation practices they have agreed to do under their Food Security Act Plans.

The machine is available now for rent at \$25/day. For rental details call 932-5144 or stop by the Soil District Office at 14B 2nd Ave. West in Albia.

Soap Creek watershed project gets go-ahead

A plan has been developed that proposes 154 small flood control dams in the Soap Creek Watershed area. Cost of the project, which involves parts of Appanoose, Davis, Monroe and Wapello counties, is projected at \$6.5 million.

The Soap Creek Watershed Board and the USDA Soil Conservation Service estimate 800 farms will be involved, either because small flood control dams are needed or because the farms are being flooded. About 14,150 acres of land along Soap Creek are being damaged under current conditions.

The Soil Conservation Service and the Soap Creek Watershed Board intend to carry out the project. The Watershed board is made up of the Boards of Supervisors and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of the four-county area.

A public meeting has been scheduled for April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Hall in Moravia to

explain the project and get public comments.

Detailed planning for Soap Creek began about three years ago. The Watershed Board is encouraging public comment on its draft plan at the meeting, either in writing or orally.

3-15-88

Think twice before plowing

By Lorie Altheide
Soil Conservationist

Early harvest might tempt Monroe County farmers to do some extra tillage this fall. However, farmers are encouraged to think twice before sinking the plow into the ground. Fall plowing buries most the residue left from corn and soybean crops. This clean tillage leaves the soil susceptible to erosion by wind and water.

Wind blows across the bare surface, picking up soil. Heavy rains hit hard against the unprotected soil and loosens the soil so it can be eroded down even slight slopes. In its new location it is likely to be a nuisance, a hazard, an unwelcome

environmental change, or an expensive cleanup job.

Farmers should refer to their conservation plans to assure enough residue will remain after planting. Just one trip with a chisel plow and disking twice will leave less than 20 percent residue cover on a cornfield. This is not enough residue to meet the required amount of at least 30 percent for conservation tillage.

If farmers have questions concerning residue requirements for their conservation plans or think they may need to revise their plan they should contact their Soil Conservation Service Office.

11-15-90

Funding available for landowner tree planting

Landowners interested in tree planting, reforestation, woodland enhancement and farmstead and field windbreaks can apply for 75 percent cost-share funds at the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office. Funding is through the Resources Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP).

Tree planting - cost/share 75 percent of actual costs for site preparation, seedling stock, planting and weed control up to \$365/acre. The minimum signup is three acres.

Timber stand improvement - cost/share 75 percent of actual costs for forest thinning, pruning of trees, or releasing young seedlings up to \$75/acre. The minimum signup is five acres.

Site preparation for natural regeneration - cost/share 75 percent of actual costs to enhance natural regeneration of logged or grazed woodlands through vegetation management or mechanical means. Elimination of undesirable vegetation or site

scarification would be examples eligible. The maximum payment is \$120/acre. The minimum signup is three acres.

Rescue treatments - cost/share 75 percent of actual costs for (1) establishment of vegetative cover to control weeds (\$60/acre max), (2) rodent control in tree plantings (\$15/acre max), (3) replanting (\$365/acre max), and (4) deer control (\$24/acre max). The minimum signup is three acres of a three to 30 year old planting in need of improvement.

Farmstead and field windbreak - 75 percent of actual cost, not to exceed \$12/tree and \$2.25/shrub. Fencing - actual cost not to exceed \$8/rod (excluding boundary and road fences). Total cost-share establishment, restoration and fencing, not to exceed \$700/windbreak.

Interested landowners should apply for specific practices before Dec. 31, 1990.

12-13-90

Manage those farm ponds 3-1991

By Lori Altheide

Soil Conservation Service

Farm ponds serve a variety of purposes, including erosion control, water for livestock, fish production, wildlife habitat, recreation, and landscape improvement. A pond, no matter how well planned and built, must be adequately maintained if its intended uses are to be met throughout its expected life. Lack of maintenance can cause severe damage to dams and spillways and may cause structures to fail completely. To prevent costly repairs, inspect your pond periodically and perform the needed maintenance. The following is a list of measures to carry out for adequate maintenance.

- Exclude livestock. Fence the entire area including the dam, lower toe, emergency spillway, and pool area.

- Watch emergency spillway for cutting of ditches. Fill, re-seed and fertilize any washouts.

- Keep gophers and muskrats out of any part of the dam and spillway.

- Keep trash away from inlet. Pipe inlet and trash rack should be inspected and kept free of trash. Don't stand in the pool area while

unplugging the pipe because suction is very powerful and may cause drowning.

- Control upland soil loss. If a change for the worse not originally anticipated in part of the watershed results in a soil erosion problem for the pond, a sediment basin could possibly be built to protect the pond from siltation.

- Check for wave action when pond gets up to inlet elevation. If wave action is a problem football size stone rip rap should be placed along the dam or other affected areas several feet above and below the waterline.

- Watch for leak or seepage. Proper construction methods will help eliminate problems later. Keep buoys, long poles, and other safety equipment near pond during the summer and winter.

- Stocking of fish. Bass, bluegill, and catfish - keep it in balance. If problems occur call the wildlife biologist.

- Control aquatic vegetation. When it covers 20 percent or more of the pond. (Stop by the SCS office for "Iowa's Farm Ponds" pamphlet.)

- Maintain dense sod. Fertilize seeding annually with nitrogen (60

lbs.) spring or fall.

- Divert barnyard drainage. Drainage from barn lots, feed yards, bedding ground, outhouses, septic tanks, or other sources of contamination should be diverted. This is especially important where supply is to be used for harvesting fish and wildlife development or recreation.

- Trees should not be allowed to grow within 30 feet of the toe of any fill or any of the spillways.

ATV for spring seeding available 3-19-91

The Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District has available an A.T.V. (All Terrain Vehicle) with a seeder and spraying attachment.

The machine can be used for spot spraying on CRP acres and seeding areas such as waterways, field borders, pond dams and terrace backslopes. The machine has the advantage of accessing those hard to get to areas and being able to seed an area when conditions are too wet for conventional equipment. The commissioners feel the use of the machine can be a real asset to helping farmers accomplish some of the conservation practices they have agreed to do under their Food Security Act Plans.

The machine is available now for rent. For details call 932-5144 or stop by the Soil District Office at 14B 2nd Ave West in Albia.

Check conservation plans 3-28-91

DES MOINES -- Producers who farm highly erodible land in Iowa should be taking a close look at their conservation compliance plans this spring to make sure they understand what their conservation responsibilities are. That's the message the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is sending to farmers statewide this spring.

"It's critical for farmers to get a very clear understanding with the local SCS office of what their plan is all about because USDA will be treating the plan like a contract. That includes applying soil conservation measures according to the schedule in the plan," says Bill Richards, SCS Chief.

Richards adds, "A producer who has highly erodible land certifies each year that he or she is applying a conservation plan when he or she takes part in USDA programs. The American people have asked producers to take care of their land in exchange for USDA benefits. It's a reasonable request, and it's the responsibility of the producer to be sure it's done."

In Iowa, about 70,000 farmers have conservation compliance plans that outline how they are going to reduce erosion on their land. When they signed their plan, producers agreed to a specific schedule for applying each conservation practice. Although the 1985 Farm Bill speci-

fied producers have until 1995 to totally apply their plan, it also says the plans are implemented on schedule.

"This is the year to make sure the conservation plan is workable and to get a clear picture of what's in it," says Jeff Vonk, State Conservationist for SCS in Iowa. He's concerned that many farmers may think they have until 1995 to do their conservation work for conservation compliance. But farmers could be found to be not actively applying their plans and be out of compliance this year for not following their schedule.

Vonk is urging Iowa farmers to look at their conservation plans, and get into their local SCS office if they have any questions or concerns. The SCS will continue to work with farmers this year to help them understand their conservation plan. The SCS says it's key for farmers to know what conservation work needs to be done, and where each practice will be applied and when, so they can comply with the conservation provisions of the 1985 and 1990 farm bills.

"We want to help, but it's the farmer's responsibility to get the conservation on the land on schedule," Vonk says.

Dennis Pate, assistant state conservationist for operations for SCS in Iowa, says some practices scheduled for this year can be rescheduled for 1992 if the plan was unclear. "There

will still be flexibility in a plan," says Pate. "One conservation practice can be substituted for another as long as the level of erosion control is maintained."

The earlier this year a farmer maps out conservation work, the more options will be available, SCS officials say. The same is true for substitutions over the long term.

"The producer who scheduled all his or her conservation work for 1993 and 1994 will have few alternatives when the time comes to put those practices on the land. On the other hand, the producer who has a well planned step-by-step approach to implementing a plan can really take full advantage of the flexibility of substituting practices," advises Vonk.

Each year in Iowa SCS will randomly check five percent of the approximately 130,000 tracts of land that have conservation plans written on them. This "status review" is done to see that the conservation plan is being followed.

"We're definitely interested in working with all farmers who want our help to stay in compliance," Richards says, "but we won't sacrifice quality in conservation practices. And I can't emphasize enough that it's the producer's responsibility to be sure the conservation plan is being followed on schedule."

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Soil Conservation Service

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Manage those farm ponds 3-1991

By Lori Altheide

Soil Conservation Service

Farm ponds serve a variety of purposes, including erosion control, water for livestock, fish production, wildlife habitat, recreation, and landscape improvement. A pond, no matter how well planned and built, must be adequately maintained if its intended uses are to be met throughout its expected life. Lack of maintenance can cause severe damage to dams and spillways and may cause structures to fail completely. To prevent costly repairs, inspect your pond periodically and perform the needed maintenance. The following is a list of measures to carry out for adequate maintenance.

- Exclude livestock. Fence the entire area including the dam, lower toe, emergency spillway, and pool area.

- Watch emergency spillway for cutting of ditches. Fill, re-seed and fertilize any washouts.

- Keep gophers and muskrats out of any part of the dam and spillway.

- Keep trash away from inlet. Pipe inlet and trash rack should be inspected and kept free of trash. Don't stand in the pool area while

unplugging the pipe because suction is very powerful and may cause drowning.

- Control upland soil loss. If a change for the worse not originally anticipated in part of the watershed results in a soil erosion problem for the pond, a sediment basin could possibly be built to protect the pond from siltation.

- Check for wave action when pond gets up to inlet elevation. If wave action is a problem football size stone rip rap should be placed along the dam or other affected areas several feet above and below the waterline.

- Watch for leak or seepage. Proper construction methods will help eliminate problems later. Keep buoys, long poles, and other safety equipment near pond during the summer and winter.

- Stocking of fish. Bass, bluegill, and catfish - keep it in balance. If problems occur call the wildlife biologist.

- Control aquatic vegetation. When it covers 20 percent or more of the pond. (Stop by the SCS office for "Iowa's Farm Ponds" pamphlet.)

- Maintain dense sod. Fertilize seeding annually with nitrogen (60

lbs.) spring or fall.

- Divert barnyard drainage. Drainage from barn lots, feed yards, bedding ground, outhouses, septic tanks, or other sources of contamination should be diverted. This is especially important where supply is to be used for harvesting fish and wildlife development or recreation.

- Trees should not be allowed to grow within 30 feet of the toe of any fill or any of the spillways.

ATV for spring seeding available 2-19-91

The Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District has available an A.T.V. (All Terrain Vehicle) with a seeder and spraying attachment.

The machine can be used for spot spraying on CRP acres and seeding areas such as waterways, field borders, pond dams and terrace backslopes. The machine has the advantage of accessing those hard to get to areas and being able to seed an area when conditions are too wet for conventional equipment. The commissioners feel the use of the machine can be a real asset to helping farmers accomplish some of the conservation practices they have agreed to do under their Food Security Act Plans.

The machine is available now for rent. For details call 932-5144 or stop by the Soil District Office at 14B 2nd Ave West in Albia.

Check conservation plans 3-28-91

DES MOINES -- Producers who farm highly erodible land in Iowa should be taking a close look at their conservation compliance plans this spring to make sure they understand what their conservation responsibilities are. That's the message the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is sending to farmers statewide this spring.

"It's critical for farmers to get a very clear understanding with the local SCS office of what their plan is all about because USDA will be treating the plan like a contract. That includes applying soil conservation measures according to the schedule in the plan," says Bill Richards, SCS Chief.

Richards adds, "A producer who has highly erodible land certifies each year that he or she is applying a conservation plan when he or she takes part in USDA programs. The American people have asked producers to take care of their land in exchange for USDA benefits. It's a reasonable request, and it's the responsibility of the producer to be sure it's done."

In Iowa, about 70,000 farmers have conservation compliance plans that outline how they are going to reduce erosion on their land. When they signed their plan, producers agreed to a specific schedule for applying each conservation practice. Although the 1985 Farm Bill speci-

fied producers have until 1995 to totally apply their plan, it also says the plans are implemented on schedule.

"This is the year to make sure the conservation plan is workable and to get a clear picture of what's in it," says Jeff Vonk, State Conservationist for SCS in Iowa. He's concerned that many farmers may think they have until 1995 to do their conservation work for conservation compliance. But farmers could be found to be not actively applying their plans and be out of compliance this year for not following their schedule.

Vonk is urging Iowa farmers to look at their conservation plans, and get into their local SCS office if they have any questions or concerns. The SCS will continue to work with farmers this year to help them understand their conservation plan. The SCS says it's key for farmers to know what conservation work needs to be done, and where each practice will be applied and when, so they can comply with the conservation provisions of the 1985 and 1990 farm bills.

"We want to help, but it's the farmer's responsibility to get the conservation on the land on schedule," Vonk says.

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Soap Creek project bids to be let

Harvey Downing, Chairman of the Soap Creek Watershed Board, reports that the Watershed Board has let its first contract for eight flood retarding dams. All eight structures are located in Appanoose County, northeast of Unionville. The contract was awarded to Kevin Kento Construction of Lucas, with a bid of \$610,794.50. Kent plans to start construction in about three weeks.

Plans are underway for letting a second contract in mid-summer for an additional four structures. Three of these structures will be located in Appanoose County and one in Monroe County.

Soap Creek Watershed is located in Appanoose, Davis, Monroe, and

Wapello Counties in southeastern Iowa. The drainage area is 162,000 acres and includes approximately 800 farms. Major problems are in the 14,150 acre flood plain where floodwater and sediment cause damage to roads, crops, pasture, bridges, and farmland.

Construction of the 154 floodwater retarding dams will control flow from about 33 percent of the watershed. The dams will reduce agricultural damages by 71 percent and non-agricultural damages by 74 percent annually. Road and bridge maintenance costs and flood damages will be reduced at 100 locations and flood damages will be reduced at 27 private farm roads and crossings.

Project costs is estimates to be \$6.5 million which is shared by the Soil Conservation Service and the local sponsors. SCS will pay the costs of construction. The local sponsors are responsible for acquiring landrights for construction. Operations and maintenance costs for the 50-year life span of the project will be provided by the sponsors.

Sponsors for the watershed include the Boards of Supervisors and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Appanoose, Davis, Monroe, and Wapello counties. The Soap Creek Watershed Board consists of a representative from each sponsor and will conduct the business of the watershed.

Iowa farmers second in conservation tillage

DES MOINES -- Iowa farmers are ranked second in the nation in their use of conservation tillage according to figures from a 1990 tillage survey.

Iowa's total of 7.3 million acres of conservation tillage is second only to Illinois, with 8.4 million acres. Iowa's conservation tilled acres account for 7 percent of the nation's total, according to data gathered cooperatively by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Conservation Technology Information Center in West Lafayette, Indiana, for 1990.

Conservation tillage is the practice of planting crops while leaving at least 30 percent of the previous year's crop residue on the soil surface.

Iowa showed some increases in all areas of conservation tillage over the 1989 survey. Figures were down last year because many farmers, concerned with herbicide carryover due to the drought in 1988, tilled the ground.

"Iowa is back on track now and we hope to be leading the way in 1991," says Jeffrey Vonk, State Conservationist for the SCS in Iowa. "Many farmers used more conservation tillage methods in 1990 because

they've seen the benefits it has to offer and because they are beginning to apply the scheduled practices in their conservation compliance plans," says Vonk.

Barb Stewart, a soil conservationist for SCS adds, "When all the conservation plans have been applied, Iowa's figures will nearly double. By 1995 Iowa's total acreage of conservation tillage should be close to 12 million."

In 1990 Iowa led the nation in mulch-till acreage with 6.3 million acres. Iowa's 624,409 no-till acres ranked eighth in the nation, up from 13th place last year. In the ridge-till category Iowa is ranked third with 357,902 acres.

Within Iowa, counties with the most acreage of conservation tillage on corn were Franklin, 99,073; Pottawattamie, 93,300; Fayette, 93,000; and Boone, 83,640.

County mulch-till acreage figures for corn were topped by Franklin, 84,988; Fayette, 83,000; Boone, 73,603; and Pottawattamie, 70,504.

Leading counties and acres in no-till corn were Pottawattamie, 22,760.

Free seed corn for wildlife food plots

3-28-91

Cedar Creek chapter of Pheasants Forever in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Resources and Soil Conservation Service will be distributing free corn and/or grain sorghum seed to landowners interested in establishing winter food plots for wildlife.

The seed must be planted to benefit wildlife such as pheasants, songbird and deer.

To further promote these food plots, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) is permitting food plots to be planted on annual set-aside (ACR) and conservation reserve program (CRP) acres this year.

"This could be an inexpensive way of providing much needed winter food and cover for wildlife while still meeting ASCS requirements for set-aside," said Steve Zaputil, Pheasants

Forever Chapter President.

Landowners interested in planting corn or grain sorghum on set-aside should contact their local ASCS or Soil Conservation Service office for details.

Those persons obtaining free seed will be required to sign a waiver indicating the crop will not be harvested for grain and will remain standing through March 22, 1992.

Cedar Creek Pheasants Forever has once again purchased switch grass seed for the establishment of nesting habitat and erosion control.

This seed is free to landowners in the county on a first come basis. Interested persons should inquire at Falvey Lumber in Albia. Last year 20 area landowners participated in the food plot/native grass program in the county.



Courier photo by Chris Steinbach

FIELD DAY: Lloyd Clark, left, and Tom Mock measure residue cover in a field south of Albia Wednesday. Forage seedlings were planted in the field with a no-till drill at a conservation demonstration field day.

Farmers, students attend field day on conservation

By CHRIS STEINBACH
Courier staff writer

ALBIA — Farmers and high school agriculture students Wednesday discussed dirt — or, more importantly, soil conservation.

About 30 people attended the first Conservation Compliance Field Day on the Belzer and Tangie farms south of Albia.

The Monroe County Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service and Albia High School FFA Chapter organized the field day.

Participants watched a no-till planting demonstration of forage seedlings and measured the residue cover in the seeded soybean ground on Gary Belzer's farm.

Albia High School FFA chapter members also measured residue cover in test plots of various tilling methods on the Belzer farm.

John Anderson, the chapter's instructor, estimated that ground in the test plots sloped as much as 12 percent.

Ground in the no-till test plots met conservation compliance requirements for residue cover, he said.

Expense is one drawback keeping Southern Iowa farmers from experimenting with no-till drills, Anderson said.

Belzer said ground in the test plots was seeded with a no-till drill April 2.

After receiving .4 inches of rain Monday night, Belzer said the ground was "a little wet and not the ideal condition" for no-till drilling seedlings.

Organizers said Wednesday's activities were planned to "present information farmers can use on their farms."



Conservation field day

The Albia FFA Chapter, along with the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, ASCS and Extension Service sponsored a conservation field day last Wednesday to help farmers with their compliance to their conservation plans. Those plans are part of the federal Food and Security Acts and compliance is necessary to receive government farm payments. This was the first field day held in the state and representatives from "The Wallaces Farmer," WHO radio and other statewide media were present to cover the event. The field day was held at the Belzer farm on the Airport Road. The FFA helped organize and direct the event.



Factors presented to figure conservation plan

Many conservation plans require specific amounts of residue after planting. To ensure that the desired amount of residue is left after planting, it is important to know how to estimate residue amounts. Crop residues are an important tool in reducing erosion from row-cropped land. Residues protect the soil surface from the beating action of falling raindrops. Residue also slows the rate of surface water runoff increasing soil infiltration and therefore reducing soil erosion. The critical time to

maintain good residue cover is during the spring until crop canopy covers the soil. Residue cover can vary depending upon climate, soil type and tillage speed. Major variation in cover, however can be predicted by tillage type, number of tillage operations and the previous crop.

A rough estimate of the residue cover remaining after using a tillage and planting system can be obtained by multiplying the percentages shown in the following table for each individual operation.

Percentage of Pretilage Residue Tillage Tool	Cover Remaining on Soil Surface	Remaining CoverFactor
		CORN SOYBEANS
After Harvest	.90-.95	.80-.90
Plow	.02-.07	.00-.02
Chisel (Twisted Shank)	.40-.50	.10-.20
Disk (Off-Set, Deep)	.25-.40	.10-.20
Para Plow	.65-.75	.35-.45
Chisel (Straight Shanks)	.50-.60	.30-.40
Disk (Tandem, Shallow)	.65-.75	.25-.35
Anhydrous Applicator	.75-.85	.45-.55
Field Cultivator	.80-.90	.55-.65
Plant	.80-.90	.80-.90*
Till-plant	.55-.65	.55-.65*
Over Winter Decomposition	.80-.90	.70-.80

*When these are the only operations where soil is disturbed, multiply by .75.

For example assume a tillage and planting system with three operations: (1) anhydrous application (2) disking, shallow and tandem; and (3) planting. Assume the original post harvest residue cover following a corn crop is 95 percent as shown by the following calculations:

Initial	Weathering factor	Spring residue cover
.95	X .90	= .85

Following tillage and planting the remaining residue cover would be about 13 percent based on the following calculations:

Spring Residue	Anhydrous Application	Disk	Plant	Final Residue Cover
.85	X .80	X .70	X .90	= .43%

Consider this method to be a rough estimate since the many variables involved prevent a precise prediction. However, the values in the table can be useful in planning tillage operations based on how much residue will remain for specific operations.

Farmers have a choice: grass or gullies

Almost every farm has at least one - a natural drainageway that tends to erode. But fortunately for farmers, they don't have to accept the scars inflicted by flowing water. They can choose between grass or gullies.

John Frieden, district conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS), says grassed waterways are an excellent method of correcting gully problems and preventing new gullies from forming in natural drainageway areas.

Grassed waterways are created by grading and shaping a natural drainageway to form a smooth, bowl-shaped channel. This area is seeded to sod-forming grasses.

"Runoff water that flows down the drainageway flows across the grass rather than tearing away soil and forming a large gully," Frieden says. "An outlet is often installed at the base of the drainageway to stabilize the waterway and prevent a new gully from forming."

Frieden explains the grass cover protects the drainageway from gully erosion and acts as a filter, absorbing

some of the chemicals and nutrients in runoff water. He says the vegetation also provides cover for small birds and animals.

SCS provides assistance to farmers who would like to solve their gully problems. SCS conservationists and technicians help farmers plan conservation systems and also prepare designs and specifications.

Some things SCS will look for include a proper outlet for surface runoff at the bottom of the waterway, the possible need for tile drainage to help establish vegetation in the waterway, and whether other soil conservation measures will be needed to prevent siltation.

Frieden says that grassed waterways require only a few "courtesies" to help keep them in good shape. These "courtesies" include: lifting farm implements out of the ground and shutting off spray equipment when crossing them; not using them as roadways; fertilizing them as needed; periodic mowing; and avoiding planting end rows along their edges.

Wetlands make a good thing better

In their natural state wetlands are an excellent means for protecting the environment and providing habitat for wildlife, but the USDA Soil Conservation Service says many can be made even better.

John Frieden, SCS district conservationist, says most wetland enhancement work includes building small structures that add water to or regulate water levels in an existing wetland.

To build the structures, subsurface and surface drains and tiles are plugged, and concrete and earthen structures - usually dikes or embankments - are built a trap water.

Frieden says these practices maintain a predetermined water level in an existing wetland. Frieden says adjustable outlets allow the landowner to fluctuate the water level during different seasons.

Wetland enhancement also includes planting native wetland vegetation if plant populations need to be supplemented.

Frieden says wetlands provide a wide variety of benefits.

"Wetlands filter nutrients, chemicals, and sediment before water infiltrates into ground water supplies, they provide habitat for waterfowl and many other species of wildlife and they add beauty and value to a farm," Frieden says.

For more information about wetlands or about how to enhance a wetland, contact the SCS office.

3-10-94

Conservation auxiliary ³⁻¹⁰⁻⁹⁴ has three scholarships

The Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary is offering three scholarships on the state level to graduating seniors this year.

The scholarships on the state level will be given in the amounts of \$600, \$400 and \$300. They may be used for either college or vocational schools.

Criteria considered includes service, character, leadership, scholastic achievement and need.

Applications should be submitted to the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District Office for students in the Albia Community School District. The district will select one application to be submitted to the regional level of competition. This application will be sent to the Iowa association regional director for this area. Each regional director will submit one application to the auxiliary for selection of the state monetary awards.

High school seniors should have their applications to the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation district office no later than March 15.

The amount of the award will be paid directly to the school the recipient attends. Payment will be made in two installments with the first at the beginning of the school term and the second at the mid-point of the recipient's first year.

Recognition will be given at the Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners in 1994.

Low profits breaking

tee meeting. The meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at Kells Library at 7:30 p.m.

Some projects have already been

The Wetlands Reserve Program and the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program both purchase permanent easements from landowners and offer government cost-share funds to restore wet croplands to wetlands.

Signups are being taken at local offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service through Friday, March 11.

"We want to be sure producers know about these two programs," says ASCS State Executive Director Tom Grau. "The programs can help with farm income on difficult to farm areas, and they also have environmental benefits for water quality, waterfowl and wildlife, and flood corridors.

The WRP is more adapted to all types of wetlands and the EWRP is meant to restore wetlands along river bottoms. "A producer doesn't have to worry about that distinction right now, though, because this is a joint signup," says Jeff Vonk, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service. Vonk says the ASCS and SCS will provide guidance on the two programs to potential participants to guide them to the program for which their land qualifies.

Planting trees for Earth Day

The Monroe County Soil Conservation Commission presented two varieties of seedling trees to third graders in the Albia Community School District last week in observance of Earth Day. Soil Commissioner Susan Ammons is pictured in the Grant School classroom after presenting the trees to students. Students took the seedlings home where they were planted.



April 29, 93

3-1-94

SCS warns against tearing up soil protection

DES MOINES, IA -- Any farmers thinking about tearing up grassed conservation practices and planting them to corn because of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's zero percent set-aside program for 1994 should think a little longer, conservationists in Iowa say.

"There's the possibility of making a small profit on the corn, but on marginal land, that's not a sure thing," says Jeff Vonk, State Conservationist for the USDA's Soil Conservation Service in Iowa. "And there are a number of downsides, not the least of which is the real possibility of becoming ineligible for USDA program benefits -- including disaster payments -- because of not actively applying a conservation plan on highly erodible land."

In response to low corn reserves, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced a zero set-aside corn acreage reduction program for 1994 late in November. Compared to last year's 10 percent setaside, the move was made to encourage more corn production. Conservationists and conservation-minded farmers alike were alarmed about a return to fencerow to fencerow farming.

Much of the concern was that many Iowa farmers have planted field borders, grassed waterways, contour buffer strips, and other eroding areas to grass as part of their conservation compliance plans. Those grassed conservation areas were designated as setaside

land, and without that incentive, conservationists fear, the grass could be plowed under to plant the ground to corn in 1994.

"We would urge farmers to take a close look at the economics of leaving the areas in grass, or establishing the areas in grass as part of their conservation plan schedule, versus planting them to corn," Vonk says. With a zero set-aside, those acres could be harvested.

"We would encourage producers to report the grassed areas as conservation use (CU) acres. As such, they could be grazed or harvested for forage," says Tom Grau, State Executive Director for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. However, Grau cautions producers in the 0-85 option that they are restricted from haying or grazing CU for Pay acres.

Conservationists maintain that corn yields on these marginally productive grassed areas will likely be down, expenses will be higher, and there will likely be reseeding costs involved when the area goes back to set-aside.

"We've had a number of farmers tell us that yields on end rows or office in Des Moines."

"Combine that with the likelihood of costly gully erosion, loss of wildlife habitat, possible loss of government payments, and the fact that you lose travel lanes around the field, and I don't think it makes economic or environmental sense to put these areas in corn," Zimprich says.

As a general rule, farmers will

not lose base acres or have reduced deficiency payments if they leave these waterways, field borders and other set-aside areas in grass instead of planting them to corn. That's the case if at least 85 percent of the base acres are planted to corn and if the producer stays in the feed grain program and reports the acres currently in set-aside as CU acres to ASCS.

These same grassed areas will be eligible for set-aside in 1995 if there is an acreage reduction program.

"Most farmers don't have a lot of acres tied up in grass in these conservation practices," Vonk says. "I'd expect a farmer with 320 acres of corn to have fewer than 10 acres in grass for waterways and field borders. At best, he could look for profits of \$40 an acre, or \$400 in total, by planting those grass acres to corn. That profit could easily be consumed by costs of reseeding

grass in 1995. My question is, considering the extensive risk and the benefits you would throw away, is it worth it to anyone to plant those areas to corn for that kind of money?" he asks.

