



Annual Report

of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District

The Spirit Lake Beacon

Section D

Thursday, Sept. 17



From 4 to 450 . . .

No-till system returns to Ingwersen farm

By Susan Reiser
Editor

"If you are going to try something, you might as well give it a good try. We can make it work. If it works on four acres it can work on 450. When you multiply your acres however, you multiply your problems," said Curt Ingwersen, 25, of rural Spirit Lake.

Ingwersen, and wife, Kim, were recently the recipients of one of three soil conservation awards for their work for no-till planting soybeans in corn stubble. The award was given by the Soil Conservation Service and the Dickinson County Farm Bureau.

Besides the no-till planting system, Ingwersen, who has been an independent farmer for about two years, also uses other conservation measures such as terraces and waterways. Ingwersen's father, Robert, also of rural Spirit Lake, has been a Soil Commissioner for at least 15 years and was the main push behind Curt's implementation of the no-till planting system.

EXPERIMENTED LAST YEAR

"I experimented some last year when I planted my beans in corn stubble. It worked so I decided to try it again," Ingwersen said.

Ingwersen used a John Deere Maxi-Merge regular planter with special "fluter coulters" attached.

Fluter coulters, according to Ingwersen, cut the trash residue in the row ahead of the planting unit. The planter places the seed in the old residue. To allow better emergence, Ingwersen does not pre-work the soil before planting.

A regular cultivator can be used with the no-till system. Ingwersen said that farmers may need attachments or different planters when no-tilling in cornstalks.

Ingwersen purchased the no-till attachments for his planter at a local farm implement company. The fluter coulters cost \$200 a row or \$2,400 for Ingwersen's 12-row planter.

Ingwersen said that farmers using a no-till system only need a medium-sized tractor and a good sprayer and planter.

NO CHANGE

The no-till planting system does not change the amount of chemicals a farmer uses, according to Ingwersen. He said that he used the same ration of herbicides when he planted the beans in last year's corn residue, which resulted in less weeds. Ingwersen said that the weed control in the no-till system seems to be better than conventional planting systems.

NO CULTIVATION

"I have some corn that I haven't cultivated this year. I only

cultivated once around the perimeter of the field. Last year I had a field of corn that I didn't cultivate either and that was with conventional tillage. I use herbicides that don't have to be incorporated," Ingwersen said.

Some of the advantages of the no-till system include less soil erosion, and a savings in time, fuel and machinery wear.

"No-till takes less time as far as field work is concerned. I have to take a week off and relax. We plant earlier than anyone else. We watch the weather and try to plant before a rain. We were done planting corn on April 28. Because of hail we had to replant but were done by June 10. We were done planting the beans by May 16," Ingwersen said.

In the fall, Ingwersen applies anhydrous dry fertilizer to the fields and "doesn't worry about fall plowing." He puts on the fertilizer and "goes away."

TOO EARLY TO TELL

Ingwersen said that it was "too early to tell" if his crop yields would be better because of the no-till system.

"We attended a meeting at Jefferson. Experts there indicated that no-till yields are very comparable to the conventional planting yields. We can at least expect the same yields. I'm willing to take a reduction in the

yield with the reduction of machinery, fuel and time costs," Ingwersen said.

Ingwersen said with no-till planting there is "no worry about wind erosion and little worry about water erosion" with savings in time, fuel and machinery.

"The planter moves along the crop residues and plants in the same row. The fields look trashy and aren't as nice or appealing to the eye," Ingwersen said.

BETTER MANAGEMENT

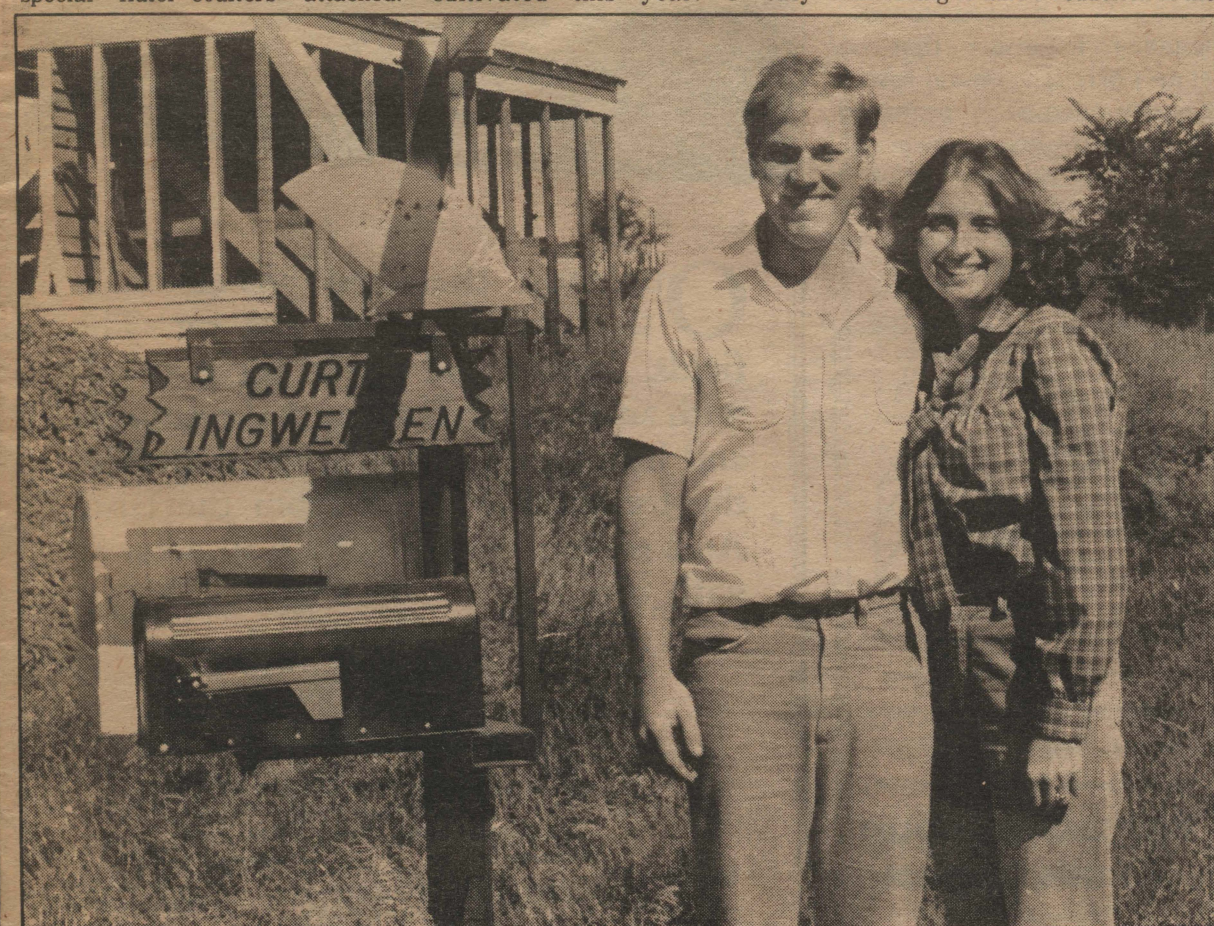
"With the no-till system, you have to have better management practices and have to watch your weed control. You have to know what weeds you have and how to control them. No-till is not for farmers whose land has a low-fertility rate. With low-fertility, they are asking for trouble. No-till won't cure all the ills of conventional planting. It takes a good manager," Ingwersen said.

"We plan to keep the no-till planting system around. We will replant beans in corn stubble next year. We may try seven inch drilled beans next year also," Ingwersen said.

Besides farming about 450 acres of land, Ingwersen raises 900 head of hogs per year in a farrow to finish hogs and feeds 35 head of cattle. Ingwersen, a graduate of Iowa State University in farm operations, is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake and the Superior Coop Junior Advisory Board. Ingwersen also enjoys piloting.

Ingwersen and District Soil Conservationist Clarence Call estimated that less than five percent of all Dickinson County farmers use this new no-till planting system.

Ingwersen and wife, Kim, reside on a farm four miles east and four and a half miles north of Spirit Lake.



CURT AND KIM INGWERSEN, of rural Spirit Lake, recently won a Soil Conservation award for their work

for no-till planting soybeans in corn stubble. Read the accompanying story for more details.



TALL CORN, planted with a no-till planter, continues its growth in an uncultivated field at the Curt Ingwersen farm, in rural Spirit Lake. Ingwersen explains his no-till system in the story above.

Protecting what we have . . .



Soil Conservation Commissioners

PICTURED ARE THE current Soil Conservation Commissioners including from left to right, front row, Andrew Hoffman, Don Schubert, and Bob Ingwersen.

Second row, from left to right, Ernest Skow, Charles Shorey, Assistant Commissioner Maurice Dougal and Assistant Commissioner Orville Berg.

Ray shares soil concerns

A Guest Editorial

By

Governor Robert D. Ray
September, 1981

I continue to share the concern of our Iowans about soil erosion. We continue to lose millions of tons of valuable topsoil each year. One soil-saving technique getting increased attention holds considerable promise.

Conservation tillage -- a method of farming that leaves crop residues on the surface after planting -- can significantly reduce soil losses to wind and water erosion. Soil conservation experts tell us that, when combined with necessary permanent practices, this type of tillage is one of the most effective means available for protecting our soil.

More than half of Iowa's row-cropped farm lands are prepared for planting in such a fashion without the use of a moldboard plow. Two-thirds of our farmers, about 85,000, have tried some form of reduced tillage.

These figures indicate what individual landowners and farm operators can do on their own initiative to combat soil erosion losses. Reduced tillage not only saves soil, but energy as well.

Iowa landowners and farmers have always recognized the need to protect our precious soil and water resources. Only in recent years has technology

allowed more extensive use of crop residue. Nearly all of the state's 22 million row-crop acres could benefit from some form of conservation tillage used in combination with other needed permanent conservation measures.

A smaller but growing number of farmers are taking the process one step further by switching to no-till -- planting their crop directly in the residue of the previous year's crop with no other preparation of the seedbed. No-till acres increased from 74,910 in 1979 to 111,636 in 1980. The number of farmers using no-till almost doubled from 801 to 1,459.

The strength of our agricultural economy always has depended on the innovative and resourceful Iowa farmer. Just 10 years ago, less than one out of six farmers had ever attempted to utilize reduced tillage systems. We owe a debt of thanks to researchers, implement manufacturers, equipment dealers, soil conservation officials, and especially to farmers themselves. Without their willingness to accept change, try new methods, and work together, the significant strides made through greater utilization of reduced tillage systems would not have been possible.

We must continue to look at measures like conservation

tillage as an alternate means of conserving our soil and water resources. The goals we have established for our "Iowa Soil 2000 Program" call for significantly reducing soil losses in the next 20 years.

Join me and Iowa's 100 soil conservation districts in saluting our conservation farmers during Soil and Water Conservation Week, September 13-19, 1981. We all need to work together to insure that our state's precious natural resources are adequately protected. With your help, Iowa will continue to lead the nation in innovative achievements for soil conservation and natural resource management.



Here in our farming community we have a special opportunity to help, through the use of soil conservation practices . . . help conserve our land, for a tomorrow bright with prosperity.

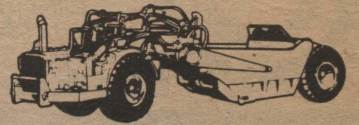
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Financial Statement 1980-1981

The SPIRIT LAKE (Ia.) BEACON
Thursday, Sept. 17, 1981 3-D

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Fiscal Year 1980 - 1981

District's IM Budget

Receipts

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee ... \$ 1,700.00

Disbursements

Commissioners' mileage, meals and hotel ... \$ 1,025.50
Office Supplies and Expense ... 485.09

Total Expenses ... **\$ 1,510.59**

Released to State Soil Conservation Committee ... \$ 189.41

District's IIM Budget

Receipts

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee ... \$12,224.00

Disbursements

Clerk's Salary ... \$10,300.00
Travel ... 2.50
Employer's Contribution to F.I.C.A. ... 652.47
Employer's Contribution to I.P.E.R.S. ... 592.25
Life Insurance Contribution ... 60.50
Disability Insurance Contribution ... 63.80

Total Disbursements ... **\$11,671.52**

Released to State Soil Conservation Committee ... \$ 552.48

IIIM Budget [State Cost-Share]

1979-1980 Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee ... \$12,000.00

Total Spent ... 2,125.71

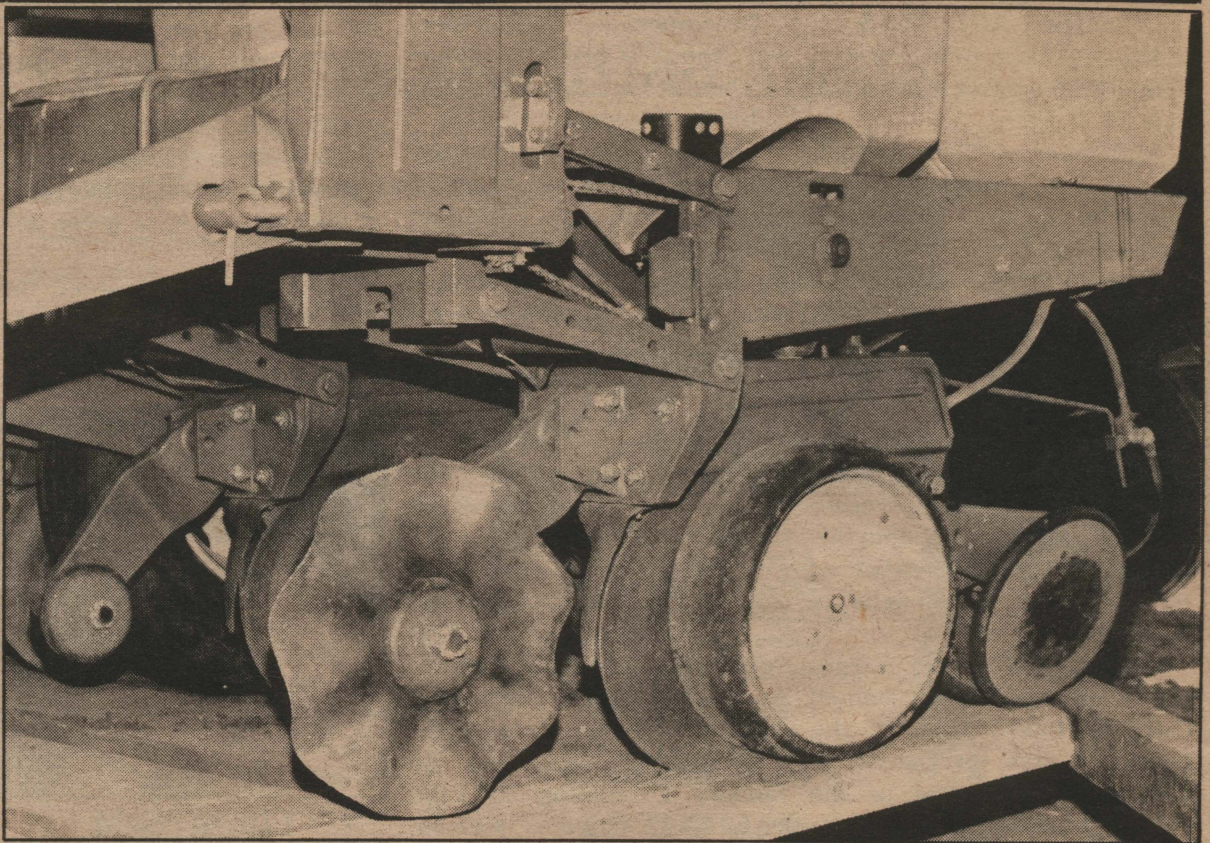
Released to State Soil Conservation Committee ... 9,874.29

1980-1981 Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee ... \$12,000.00

Total Spent ... 909.11

Total Obligated ... 9,137.50

Total Unobligated ... 1,953.39



INGWERSEN uses a John Deere Maxi-Merge regular planter with special fluter coulters attached, which are shown in this picture. The coulters cut the trash residue in the row ahead of the planting unit. (Photo by Cindy Schubert).

**Soil Conservation
Week
Sept. 13-19**

AREA PERSONNEL

Wallis R. Tonsfeldt, Area Conservationist
Lee C. White, Area Engineer
Wayne L. Eberly, Civil Engineer Technician
Judy Rathel, Area Clerk
Margaret L. Walker, Clerk-Typist (PPT)

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Robert C. Ingwersen, Chairman
Don Schubert, Vice Chairman
Andrew Hoffman
Ernest H. Skow
Charles Shorey
Orville J. Berg, Assistant Commissioner
Maurice Dougal, Assistant Commissioner



Rogers

NANCY ROGERS, of Arnolds Park, won the 1980 Dickinson County Soil Conservation District's local speech contest in October of 1980. Rogers represented the district at the regional speech contest held in Fort Dodge on Nov. 6, 1980. Read the District's activity list to find out what happened during 1980.

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District Activities July 1980 to June 1981

The SPIRIT LAKE (Ia.) BEACON
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

July — Commissioners' annual family picnic was held on July 31.

September — Clarence Call, District Conservationist; Commissioners Charles Shorey and Orville Berg; County Supervisor Leonard Stransky; Spirit Lake Mayor Max Factor; East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation President Bill Scott were in Des Moines on September 18 to attend East Okoboji Lake Watershed promotional meeting in Governor Ray's office. Also attending this meeting were representatives of the EPA and the League of Women Voters of Iowa.

October — The commissioners sponsored their annual Outdoor Classroom at the Hogsback area on October 9 with all 6th graders in the county attending. Assisting were: Marvin Larson, SCS District Conservationist, Primghar; Barb Nelson, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, Ruthven; Jim Yungclas, County Extension Director, Spirit Lake; Terri Skadland, District Conservationist, Emmet County; Doug Harr, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, Rock Rapids; Tom Neal, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, Cherokee; Jack Storkamp, District Conservationist, Rock Rapids; Clarence Call, District Conservationist, Spirit Lake; and Dennis Rustman, Soil Conservation Technician, Spirit Lake.

The district speech contest was held on October 23. Nancy Rogers of Arnolds Park won first place and represented the district at the regional contest held in Fort Dodge on November 6. Aleta Kuhlman was awarded second place.

November — Charles Shorey, Robert C. Ingwersen, Orville Berg and Ernest Skow, commissioners; Clarence Call, DC; Nancy Rogers, Mrs. Sandy Donahue and Nancy's grandfather, attended the regional commissioners' meeting and speech contest held in Fort Dodge on November 6.

Call and commissioners Charles Shorey and Orville Berg and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wollner, district award winners, attended the annual Marc Cox Awards Banquet in Sioux City on November 13.

6,950 feet of terraces were installed and recorded this month.

December — Commissioners' annual Christmas dinner was held at the Sioux Valley Log Cabin on December 11.

The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners met on Tuesday, December 16, at 10:00 a.m. with the Dickinson County Supervisors to present requests for assistance and review current conservation activities in the county.

January — Commissioners met on January 2 for their reorganization meeting at which the election of officers was held. The following officers were elected and appointed: Robert C. Ingwersen, Chairman; Don Schubert, Vice Chairman; Andrew Hoffman, Secretary; and Betty Farmer, Treasurer.

A hearing was held on January 2 relating to Land Disturbing Activities Regulations for Dickinson County Soil Conservation District.

Robert Ingwersen and Clarence Call were in Ames on January 19 to attend meeting on Iowa Soil 2000.

Ingwersen and Call attended annual Commissioners' Short Course in Ames on January 20 and 21.

Gregg Bohl, Arnolds Park teacher, attended Conservation Education Workshop on January 16 and 17 at Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Center, Ia. This activity was sponsored by the SCD.

February — A conservation tillage meeting was held at Brooks Lodge in Okoboji on February 16.

March — Robert Ingwersen, Ernest Skow, Maurice Dougal, Orville Berg and Clarence Call attended all day regional commissioners' meeting in Fort Dodge on March 12.

April — Commissioners concluded another very success-

ful tree program this month. 10,275 trees and shrubs were sold to 114 customers for farm windbreaks and wildlife areas. The commissioners again this year presented each 6th grader in the county with a green ash tree.

Commissioners awarded the 1981 Soil Conservation Scholarship to Todd Thompson of Richland Township. Todd is a



Thompson

graduate of the Terril High School this spring. Troy Ahrenstorff, Lake Park, was chosen as alternate.

Assistance was given to the Spirit Lake School in planting 625 trees in their Outdoor Classroom. Assistance was also given to 4-H'ers planting trees on the Darwin Will farm.

Meeting was held at Brooks Lodge on April 28 to distribute the advanced report for the Dickinson County Soil Survey.

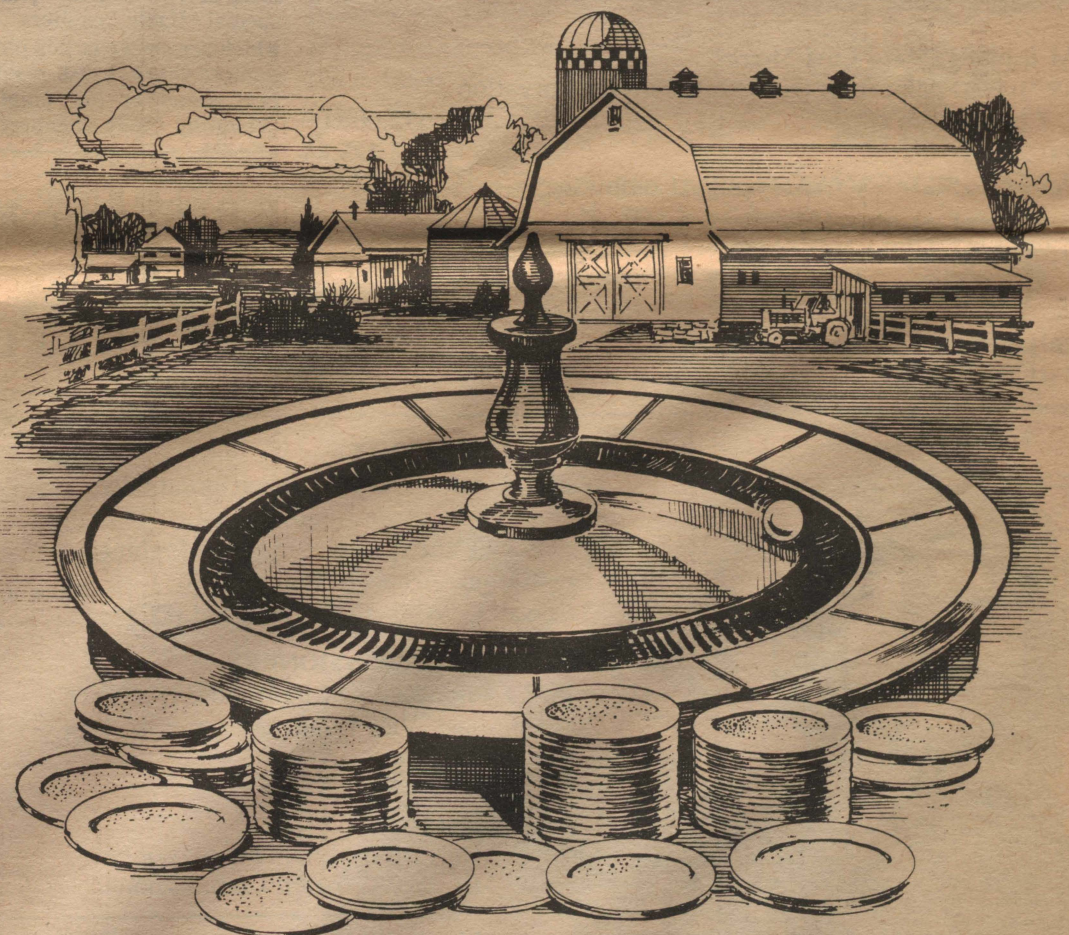
May — Soil Stewardship Week was observed May 24-31. An article on "Society's Pressure Point" was written by Rev. W. Michael Biklen of the United Methodist Church of Lake Park for all the county newspapers. 500 bulletin covers, 1,500 program inserts and 500 children's educational supplements were furnished to the county churches by the

Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

June — Two storms of consequence crossed Dickinson County this month. One was a hail storm about two miles wide which crossed the northern third of the county on June 7. Most of the soybeans and some corn were replanted as a result of hail damage. The other storm did extensive wind damage to farm buildings in the Lake Park area.

District farm winners in the annual Marc Cox Awards Contest are Curt Ingwersen, Ervin Behrens and Russel Stahly.

A twilight conservation tillage tour was held on the Maurice Dougal, Dick Taylor and Ervin Behrens farms on June 10. The tour was a cooperative effort between SCS and Extension.



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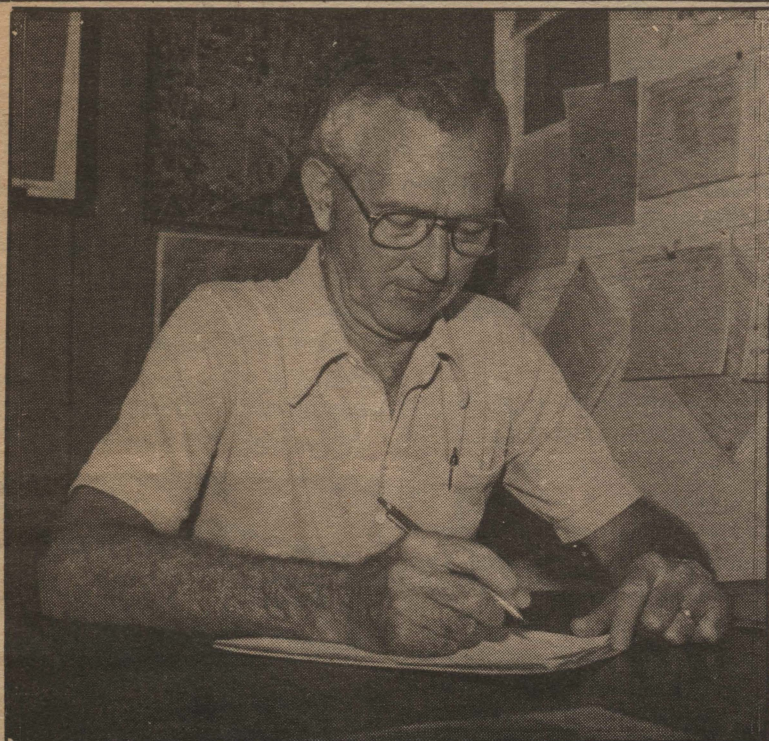
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Clarence Call
District Conservationist

SCS advocates conservation tillage

We in the Soil Conservation Service constantly preach the virtues of conservation tillage, or leaving crop residues on the surface. Our primary reason for advocating conservation tillage is its effectiveness in reducing wind and water erosion. It also has other benefits such as fuel and time savings, conserves moisture and less soil compaction. Yet many farmers are reluctant to try it because "it increases insects," "weeds too hard to control," "can't cultivate through all that trash" and "ground stays too wet and cold in the spring." All these minor problems can be easily overcome but the main reason most farmers won't try it is because it is new. This is not the traditional way of doing things. What will the neighbors (or landlord) say?

Now, if it were traditional for farmers to leave stalks over the winter and plant in them next spring, it would be different. They would tend to snicker at that yardbird across the road who plows and turns everything black over winter. Old traditions are hard to lay aside. But the old moldboard plow should be, for the most part, completely laid aside.

Sometimes farmers get the idea that we are trying to tell them how to farm. That isn't true. Farmers know how to

farm. And most of them are interested in protecting their land against erosion. With the economic situation the way it is, farmers want reasonable assurance that yields will not be cut when they switch to conservation tillage. We are sure that, with good management, farmers can use this system and maintain good yields. We are absolutely certain that the system does drastically cut losses from wind and water erosion. This is the frosting on the cake.

Isn't it worth trying to save topsoil that is worth up to \$3,000 an acre. We think so.

Tips on Conservation agencies ---

CONFUSED ABOUT CONSERVATION AGENCIES?

Have you ever been confused about which government agency does what in the field of conservation?

Conservation agencies in Iowa often cooperate on joint projects because they have similar goals in conserving natural resources. But through this cooperation some confusion may exist about what each does.

For example, if a farmer wants to build terraces to protect his land, he gets involved with more than one agency. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service gives technical help on where to put terraces and how to build them. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service or the soil conservation district provide cost-sharing funds. Soil conservation district funds come through the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Other major agencies involved in conservation are the Iowa Conservation Commission and county conservation boards. A brief description of each of these agencies may help you keep them straight.

There are 100 local soil conservation districts in Iowa -- one per county and two in Pottawattamie County. Each district is governed by five locally elected commissioners who serve without pay. The soil conservation districts set policy for local conservation projects.

County conservation boards,

another local agency, are established at the discretion of each county. The county board of supervisors appoints five persons to oversee the operation of the county conservation program and its staff. County conservation boards are authorized.

(Continued on Page 7)

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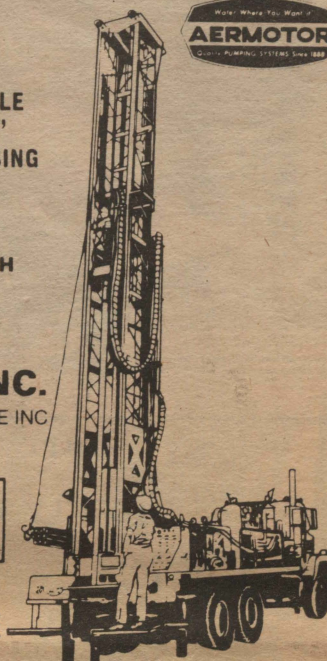
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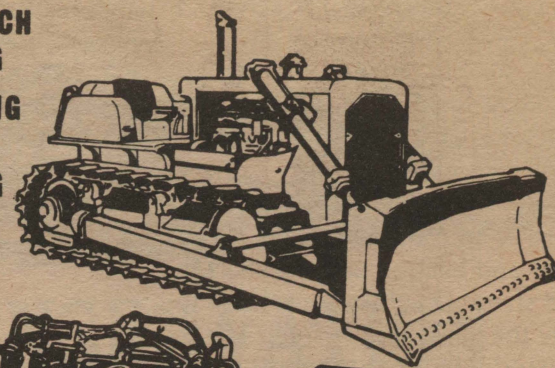
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Larry Lago

ASCS County Executive Director

Windbreaks have many benefits

There are many benefits of windbreaks. They can protect your home and farmstead against wind and blowing snow and soil. At the same time, they reduce energy needs for heating your home. Windbreaks can also reduce weight loss of livestock and provide food and shelter for wildlife. They also add beauty to a farmstead. You'll want to consider all these benefits in choosing trees and shrubs for your windbreak.

Early spring is best for planting. The trees are dormant at that time. After they have started new growth there is less chance of successful planting. When placed in the soil made moist by melting snow, the rootlets are ready to start growing as soon as the days become warm enough for plant activity.

When planting remember that protection of the roots is the most important item. Cells of

root tips of evergreens contain a resinous sap, which quickly hardens when exposed to drying conditions. Exposure of only a very few minutes is enough at times to kill or seriously damage the tree.

Get ready for the trees before they arrive so that they can be handled as quickly as possible. You may find it impossible to plant the trees within a day or so after they arrive. In that case you should place them in a "heel-in" trench. This means lining out the trees a few inches apart in a trench, and compactly covering the roots with moist soil. Dig this trench at some spot near the planting site and in the shade. It should be deep enough to accommodate the tree roots and long enough for all the trees. One side of the ditch should be sloped, and the soil piled upon the opposite side. Place the trees on the sloping

side with the roots in the trench. Heel-in only a few trees at a time. If necessary you can keep trees in this trench for several days without great danger of loss.

For more information in planning your windbreak, you may obtain technical assistance at your Soil Conservation Office.

Narrow base...

Local farmers like new terraces

**By Dennis Rustman
Soil Conservation Technician**

There is a new type of terrace becoming popular with Dickinson County farmers. It is called a narrow base terrace. This terrace has three distinct advantages over the old broad base and grassed backslope terrace:

(1) The narrow base is cheaper to construct. Both the front and back slopes are short and steep. On grass backslopes only the backslope is steep and grassed. The front slope is long and farmed - resulting in more fill. The narrow base terrace costs about 60 percent of the cost of the grass backslope terraces.

(2) The narrow base terrace is also safer to farm. There is a danger of overturn if farm machinery slips off the back of the grass backslope terrace. None of the ridge is farmed on the narrow base.

(3) The tile inlet pipe is part of

the terrace on the narrow base. Since it isn't sticking out in the cropland, this will eliminate damaging the pipe with farm machinery.

However, there is still a need for all three types of terraces in Dickinson County. The old broad base terrace can be used on slopes up to six percent if the farmer wants to farm all of the

terrace.

How much land is taken out of production by terraces? Not as much as you may think. A narrow base terrace 16 feet wide will take about an acre per half mile in length. The grass backslope takes about half this much land out of production.

Narrow base terraces have been in Iowa only two years and

are being watched closely. Their big advantage over other types of terraces is the cost. So far, they have been a big hit in Dickinson County.

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**Soil Conservation
Week Sept. 13-19**

Environmental education at Spirit Lake

The SPIRIT LAKE (Ia.) BEACON
Thursday, Sept. 17, 1981 7-D

By Clarence Call District Conservationist

Spirit Lake Schools have a new Outdoor Classroom. It's only a couple of years old and doesn't look like much yet, but we are beginning to be proud of it. It is located just east of the new elementary school. At the present time about all the area contains is trees, shrubs and grass identification plots. Eventually the "classroom" will contain a regular grassed in classroom area, a sundial, nature trail, geology wall, pond, horticulture area and many other learning aids for elementary students.

What value is an outdoor classroom? Why teach youngsters about their environment and the importance of conserving our natural resources? We have already paid dearly for this neglect of environmental education. If, beginning 50 years ago, we had taught environmental education and natural resource conservation to our youngsters,

we could have avoided our present problems of soil erosion, water and air pollution and daily waste of resources.

As soon as children enter school, they need to learn about our natural resources - in real-life situations. They need to learn how a simple terrace across a slope can check soil erosion. A project doesn't need to be complicated. Learning how to plant a tree, how to identify plants or spread wood chips on a nature trail can be a rewarding and memorable experience for many children. The values they learn at an early age will stay with them the rest of their lives.

Getting conservation on the land is important. Some time must be spent helping farmers construct terraces, waterways and dams. The time we spend with the youngsters is also well spent. That is why we believe the space and time given to the outdoor classroom area is a good investment.

We are firmly convinced that in a few short years, Spirit Lake will have the finest outdoor classroom in the state of Iowa. The area can also be used by other county schools and

organizations to further their environmental and outdoor education. It will be a very productive and fun way for the kids to study their environment.

Area Personnel

EXTENSION SERVICE

James Yungclas, County Extension Director
Holle Smith, County Extension Home Economist
Laurie Rosendahl, County Extension 4-H and Youth Leader
Evelyn Albers, Office Assistant

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

Larry Lago, County Executive Director
Ruby Caskey, Program Assistant
Pat Achenbach, Program Assistant
Cindy Lilienthal, Program Assistant

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

Clarence M. Call, District Conservationist
Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician
Betty Farmer, State Clerk

COUNTY ASCS COMMITTEE

Neal Delaney, Chairman
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FISCAL YEAR

Third Quarter 1980 [July 1 - Sept. 30]
First Three Quarters 1981 [Oct. 1 - June 30]

Conservation District Cooperators (no.) and (ac.)	9
	1,630
Conservation District Cooperators Canceled (no.) and (ac.)	2
	480
Individuals and Groups Assisted (no.)	244
Technical Services for Land Unit Conservation Planning and Application (no.)	403
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices (no.)	89
Conservation Plans (ac.)	1,095
Conservation Plans Canceled (ac.)	640
Conservation Plans Revised (ac.)	2,180
Technical Services for Area Planning (no.)	9
Governmental Resource Plans (no.)	3
Conservation Tillage System (ac.)	4,892
Contour Farming (ac.)	38
Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreak (ac.)	2
Field Windbreak (ft.)	1,150
Grassed Waterway or Outlet (ac.)	3.1
Critical Area Planting (ac.)	6
Terraces (ft.)	11,850
Subsurface Drain (ft.)	14,599
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management (ac.)	20
Windbreak Renovation (ac.)	6.4
Cropland Benefited by Application of Conservation Practice (ac.)	6,299
Pasture and Hayland Benefited by Application of Conservation Practice (ac.)	118
Wildlife Land Benefited by Application of Conservation Practice (ac.)	394
Cropland Adequately Protected (ac.)	2,844
Pasture and Hayland Adequately Protected (ac.)	118
Wildlife Land Adequately Protected (ac.)	394
Other Land Benefited by Application of Conservation Practice (ac.)	11
Other Land Adequately Protected (ac.)	11
Cropland Adequately Treated (ac.)	596
Pasture and Hayland Adequately Treated (ac.)	100
Wildlife Land Adequately Treated (ac.)	394
Other Land Adequately Treated (ac.)	11

Conservation agencies (Continued from Page 5)

ized to levy up to one mill of property tax for acquisition, development and management of county parks, museums, wildlife areas and other natural areas.

The Iowa Conservation Commission is the state agency that provides recreation areas, wildlife areas, forests and natural and cultural preserves. The commission also regulates outdoor recreation activities and helps coordinate the county conservation boards.

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, also at the state level, assists soil conservation districts with local resource management programs and allocates state financial incentive program funds. The department also administers the state's mine reclamation laws and assists conservancy districts in developing water management plans for the state's six major river basins.

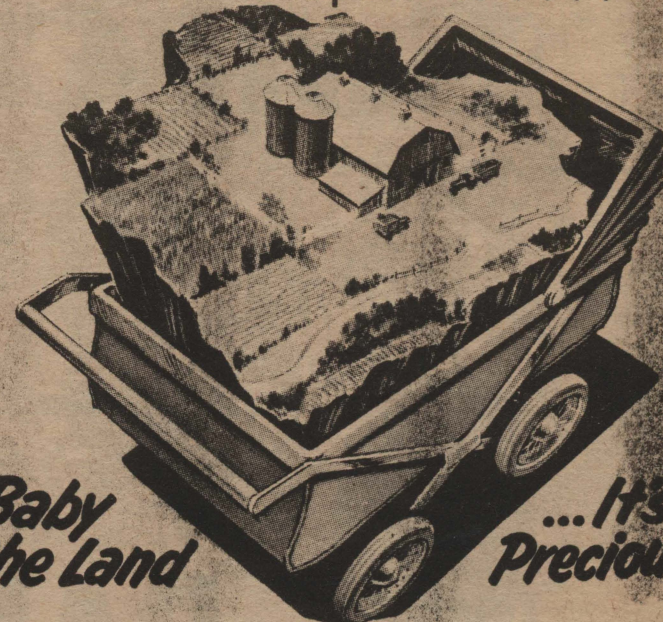
On the federal level, the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service administers most of the cost-sharing programs for soil conservation. These include federal funds for a basic cost-sharing program with farmers, forestry incentives, emergency conservation funds and special projects.

Other programs include loans and price supports, crop disaster relief, rural clean water and production adjustment. ASCS is guided at the county level by locally elected, three-member county committees.

Another USDA agency is the Soil Conservation Service. SCS provides technical assistance to

land owners and operators applying soil conservation practices. This agency is responsible for developing soil surveys, monitoring soil and water resources and organizing small watershed and flood prevention programs. SCS personnel work through the soil conservation districts.

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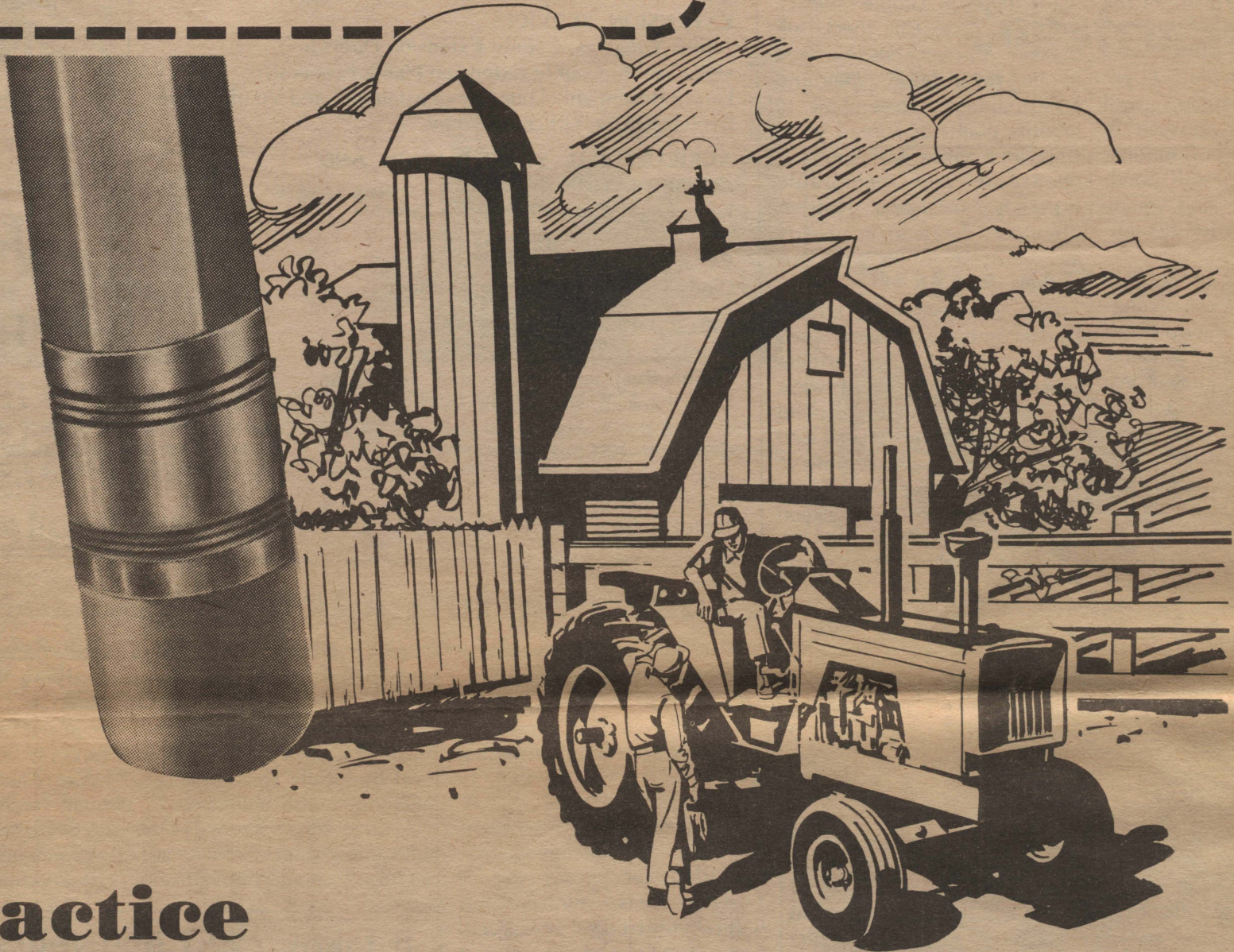
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