

TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



The Earth is the Lord's . . .

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1976

SERVING AGRICULTURE



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District Commissioners: left to right, front row; Welby Dixon and Harold Higgins. Left to right, back row; Harry Scurr, Ken Bruene, both district commissioners, Forrest Hill, assistant commissioner and Robert Fontinel, district commissioner. Not pictured—District Commissioner Larry L. Lorenzen.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VIEWPOINTS

The winter's been long,
 Conditions real dry.
 When the wind comes up
 The soil does fly.
 Spring is getting near,
 Rains should soon begin.
 Those who have built terraces,
 Will be glad they are in.
 If you don't like terraces,
 Strip crop a little.
 It will help a lot,
 To keep your Farm Fertile.

District Commissioner, Welby Dixon

[cont. on page 2]

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VIEWPOINTS

[cont. from page 1]

Soil conservation should be the first thing on a farmers mind when he makes his crop plans for the coming year. All his other inputs to his crop can be purchased but our top soil is a God given asset that can not be replaced in ones life time. We should do our utmost to use the services of the office staff to help in the problems which arise with heavy rains or in this particular year with wind erosion.

Larry L. Lorenzen

If an Amishman farms in a way that causes the soil to lose its fertility, it is considered in some church districts to be as sinful as adultery or theft. He who robs the soil of its fertility sins against God's man. The Amish believe that each of them is a steward entrusted with the use of the soil. They intend to leave it in the same shape when they are done with it as when they start. This is good philosophy for all of us who work the soil to have. If we accept the fact that we are temporary and the soil is a resource that we must leave for the future generations to use, the first step to wise land use would be made.

Ecclesiastes 1:4

"One generation passeth away and another generation cometh
but earth abideth forever."

The earth may abide forever but

The condition of the earth

The productive capacity of the soil

The standard of living of the people

The future hopes of our descendents is dependent upon how
we handle the "Earth."

Kenneth Bruene, Chairman,
Tama Co. SCD Commissioners

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Accomplishments

FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976

July 1, 1975		June 30, 1976
	(Unit)	(Amount)
District Cooperators	No.	34
Conservation Plan	No.	34
Plans Revised	No.	10

PRACTICES APPLIED

Farm Services Provided	No.	760
Farms Applying Practices	No.	173
Conservation Cropping System	Ac.	3,525
Contour Farming	Ac.	1,239
Critical Area Planting	Ac.	93
Crop Residue Use	Ac.	1,566
Pond	No.	1
Grade Stabilization Structure	No.	1
Minimum Tillage	Ac.	3,271
Pasture and Hayland Management	Ac.	438
Pasture and Hayland Planting	Ac.	164
Pipeline	Lin. Ft.	305
Structure for Water Control	No.	170
Terrace Parallel	Lin. Ft.	141,320
Tile Drain	Ft.	287,471
Land Adequately Treated	Ac.	1,785
Grassed Waterway	Ac.	93
Windbreak	Ac.	2.9
ACP Referral	No.	103

State Budget Of The Tama County Soil Conservation District

Commissioners Mileage	\$	629.44
Office Supplies	\$	136.14
Office Expense	\$	272.11
Prizes for Contest	\$	102.51
Meeting Expense	\$	52.19

2M BUDGET

State Clerk and Conservation Aide	\$19,600.00
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3M BUDGET

Allocation	\$34,000.00
25 Agreements were approved	\$32,448.94
Balance	\$ 1,551.06

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Bob Kurtt
Wildlife Management Biologist
Iowa Conservation Commission

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN TAMA COUNTY

Major work emphasis for the Wildlife Biologist is on the establishment and improvement of wildlife habitat and populations on public and private lands in the county. Also included is field level research and management work on specific projects or areas using accepted scientific techniques.

A major area of responsibility in Tama County is the planning and implementing of wildlife management practices on State-owned wildlife areas within the county. This presently involves three areas, including the largest area which is Otter Creek Marsh near Chelsea, comprising some 3,360 acres. The management of this large wetland area is primarily directed toward waterfowl (ducks and geese), although portions of the area are specifically managed for upland wildlife such as pheasants, rabbits and deer.

Another major work assignment is the promoting of wildlife habitat improvement on public and private lands. This is extension-type work requiring considerable contacts with individual farmers, farm managers, farm organizations, SCS and ASCS personnel, county conservation boards, and any other local groups interested in wildlife conservation.

Carrying out relatively independent investigations is another responsibility in the county. Involved here is the collection of various types of biological data, such as conducting population surveys and harvest inventories relating to the different wildlife species. Examples are

[cont. on page 7]

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN TAMA COUNTY

[cont. from page 6]

pheasant spring crowing counts, August pheasant roadside counts, weekly waterfowl inventories, duck bag checks, deer harvest survey, etc. These and other biological data are assembled, analyzed and preliminary reports and recommendations are prepared.

Presenting informational and educational programs relating to wildlife management and conservation is another important responsibility. This includes conducting lectures and programs for all types of adult and youth groups, including schools, on a large variety of topics relating to wildlife conservation.

Other responsibilities include the conducting of land acquisition investigations for future wildlife areas, the supervision of a wildlife technician, worker, and seasonal help at Otter Creek Marsh, and cooperation with other biologists and conservation officers on projects requiring special assistance or teamwork.

Conservation is our business . . . **MAKE IT YOURS.**

Robert Kurtt, Wildlife Biologist
Otter Creek Wildlife Unit

203 W. High Street, Toledo, Iowa 52342

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VICE PRES.....	Ron Koster	VOTING DEL.....	Raynard Delfs
SECRETARY.....	Roger Greve	WOMEN'S CHM ..	Mrs. Ernest Herink

Office Staff

OFFICE MGR.....	Mrs. Joanne Yuska
OFFICE ASSISTANT.....	Mrs. Cindy Shurtleff
REGIONAL MGR.....	Ron Asher

OFFICE PHONE 515-484-3361, TOLEDO, IOWA

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- Workmans Comp. -

INSURANCE PERSONNEL

Keith Lau, C.L.U., Agcy. Mgr. — Phone 515-484-4160
Fritz Bearden, C.U. — Chester Bearden, C.U.

Tom Overman, C.U. — Bob Jacobi, C.U.



Conservation tillage is one of the fastest and more profitable ways of cutting soil losses on cropland. We are vitally interested in erosion losses and very concerned about a too common practice of up and down hill farming. The above picture illustrates fall chisel plowing up and down hill that can increase soil losses because the tillage marks make a path for the water to cut down the hill. This loss can be prevented without any expense simply by going across the slope and probably at a fuel savings, too. In most cases, across the slope farming cut losses in half and in this case, we think it would be more!

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What Is The Tama County Extension Service?

"Extension Service" is the term which is commonly used when people refer to the Tama County Extension Office and activities associated with it.

"Extension" has been around for a long time—longer than almost any of the dozens of other agencies now operating at the county level and which have some State, Regional or Federal ties.

Iowa's Cooperative Extension Service is an integral part of the Land Grant College System (Iowa State University) and dates back to 1913 when the Iowa Farm Aid Association law was passed and 1914 when the Federal Smith-Lever Act was passed in Congress.

So here is a program which has been operating continually for almost 65 years to provide the link by which the findings of research are taken to the people. The program now operates under the "County Agricultural Extension Law" which was passed in 1955 by the 56th General Assembly. This act, which has been amended more than once, established "county extension districts" and transferred responsibility for conducting the extension program at the county level to elected "County Extension Councils."

In Tama County 21 persons serve on the county council. (One for each township) Some are town residents and some are country folks.

Simply stated, the County Extension program is the result of a three way partnership between the County Extension Council, Iowa State University, and U.S.D.A.. Local, State and Federal funding are combined to make the program possible.

Every County in Iowa has a County Extension Office. The only functions of Extension is to provide informal educational programs which meet needs and interests of people—on farms, in towns—wherever they may be.

The programs embrace all facets of community and family life and include planned activities in such areas as youth (4-H and other youth programs), Agriculture (Soils, crops, livestock, farm management, etc.), Community Resource Development (county and local government, public affairs education in numerous areas) and Family living (Foods and nutrition, housing, health and safety, etc.)

Many people utilize the Extension Office as an "information bank." Many folks call or visit the office for information dealing with almost every kind of problem encountered in their business activity, everyday family living or community life.

The County Extension Service, through its educational activity over the years, has been a prime force in the organization and establishment of various groups such as the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, the

[cont. on page 12]

WHAT IS THE TAMA COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE?

[cont. from page 11]

County Fair Association, various commodity groups, and even the County Farm Bureau in its infancy, when it was organized specifically to act as the local sponsoring organization for the Extension Program.

"County Agents" promoted the formation of Soil Conservation Districts, carried out the educational work leading to Brucellosis and Hog Cholera eradications and coordinated the earliest programs of AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Act—the old ever-normal grainary program) which led to the present day A.S.C.S. program.

One of the important current educational efforts is the pesticide applicators' seminars being conducted to help insure safe use of pesticides by farm operators so that farmers and consumers can continue to receive the benefits of abundant production through wise use of chemicals and so that all pesticides will not be arbitrarily banned.

The professional staff now employed in the Extension Office includes Dick Pulse, C.E.D., Lorine Matters, E.H.E., and Martha Tushaus, C.E.Y.D. Other employees include Beverly Zimmerman, Mary Zurkowski, Eleanor Downs, and Rose Wayne, Nutrition aides who work under supervision of Lorine Matters, and the Office Assistants, Joyce Klenk, full time and Kathi Kupka, part time. Behind the scenes, but in great numbers are many local citizens who serve as volunteers and committee members, council members, etc., in carrying out the total program.

Phone number at the office is 515-484-2703. "Extension" is for you but will only benefit directly if you participate in Extension programs or request assistance.

Dick Pulse,
County Extension Director

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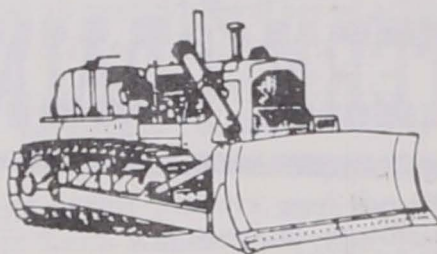


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Cropland increases complicates protecting soil as hay or oat land is converted to cropland, the soil becomes much more erosive.

For example, in 1960 12.6 million acres of corn and 2.6 million acres of soybeans were planted. There were 7.7 million acres of hay and oats.

Estimates in 1976, on the other hand, show 13.4 million acres of corn and 6.8 million acres of soybeans.

The 5 million acres of converted land are likely to have severe erosion problems.



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Tama County Conservation Board

County Conservation Boards have been in existence since 1955. At present there are 97 County Conservation Boards out of the 99 Iowa counties.

A County Conservation Board is consisted of five board members. Members are appointed by the County Board of Supervisors for a five year term. Members of the Tama County Conservation Board are: Richard Hoskey of Toledo, Dr. H. E. Jewell of Tama, Richard Beecher of Traer, Ed Hix of Dysart, and I. H. Wentzien of Gladbrook. The primary function of a board member is to work toward making and maintaining recreation and education facilities and programs of outdoor education for the people of the county. The Tama County Conservation Board also has an Executive Secretary: Doug Danielsen, who is the Resident Officer at Otter Creek Lake and Park. The primary duty of the Executive Secretary is to work as a chief advisor to the board members and follow through with the plans and acts of them. Also work with the budget, take meeting minutes, keep files and records, and to inform the board of all happenings in regards to county conservation.

The Tama County Conservation Board maintains six areas throughout the county.

1. Otter Creek Lake and Park, 274 acres, 68 acre lake, has camping, fishing, swimming, picnicing, and nature areas. Catfish are raised and stocked into the lake each year. These fish are fed daily with a measured amount of food. Last year 4000 catfish were raised and the year before 3800. The fish are released in early October. When the fish are brought to the lake in early June, they will weigh approximately 18 fish per pound. When released they will weigh approximately 3 fish per pound. The catfish raising program at Otter Creek Lake has been very successful. Other fish in the lake are largemouth bass, crappie, blue-gill, red-ear, and bullhead. Successful fishing at the lake has been increasing every year.

2. T.F. Clark Park, located north-east of Traer is a very popular, widely used 24 acre park with camping, picnicing, nature area and fishing in Wolf Creek. Camping has been increasing at the park the past couple of years.

3. Duffus Boat Landing located 2 miles west of Chelsea. This area is along the Iowa River and has a concrete boat landing and room for parking and camping. The area is very heavily used.

4. Manatts Landing is on the south edge of Tama with the same facilities as Duffus Landing.

5. Lohberger Memorial Park is an undeveloped 6 acre area that is heavily timbered. A small pond is located at the park. Lohberger Memorial Park is located 7 miles NW of Toledo.

6. Marie Hladik Wayside area will be under new development this

[cont. on page 21]

TAMA COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

[cont. from page 20]

spring and summer along Highway 63, north of Toledo approximately 5 miles. This area will serve as a wayside rest area with picnic tables and latrines. There will also be an area left for natural wildlife cover along the south edge of the area.

The Tama County Conservation Board has been looking into other small tracts of land for various purposes and future planning. The board has been doing many things to help with recreation and education of the outdoors for the past years and will continue to do so.

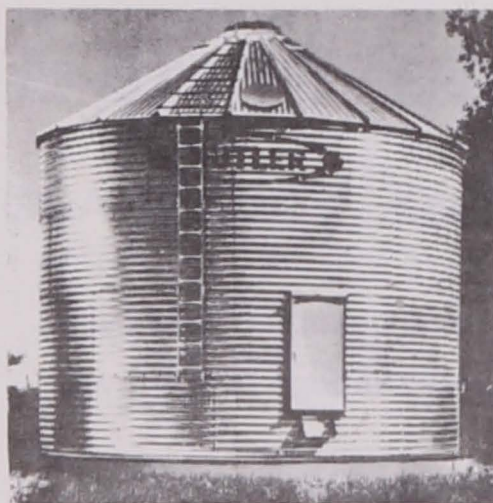
The Tama County Conservation Board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Otter Creek Lake and Park.

Tama County Conservation Board

By Doug Danielsen

Executive Secretary/Park Officer

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Marion Miller
Harlan Ziegenhorn
Donald Behounek
George Nemitz
Ralph Sievers
Dennis Podhajsky
John Broeker

John Weber
Royce Hutton
Steve Baumeier
Roy Staker
Lyle White
Elmer Martens
John Holmes (2)
Roland Degner
Harold Cessford
Gordon Powell
James Garrison
Craig Earley
Henry Bottema
Warren McElhinney
Melvin Dostal
Raymond Hineman

BASIC FARM PLANS

For The Fiscal Year Of 1976

Richard Rubenbauer
Roslie Dostal
Roy Staker
George Kadrmas
Russell Lyon
Jerry Busch
Curtis Ohrt
Ward Handorf
Roland Degner
Warren McElhinney
Dean Hansen
Steve Baumeier
Robert Podhajsky
Royce Hutton
Evelyn Voegel
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Dale Renner
Robert Backen
H. R. Allaben
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Elmer Martens
William Tessau
Gilbert Sonksen
Tom Kubik
Ralph Sievers
Karl Wiebensohn
Marion Miller
Harry Scurr
Jim Garrison
Wayne Baumeier

Revision Of Basic Farm Plans

For The Fiscal Year Of 1976

Floyd Prusha
Neil Rowe
Rest Farm
Dean Sams
Ray Ryan

Mike Musel
Dr. Gordon Kruger
Robert Schrier
Otis Hilmer
Harold Beichley

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION



Farm Home Administration Personnel:

Left to right: Byron Witt, Supervisor, Janice Reinig and Karlene Foreman, Clerks, Norm Lanning, Assistant Supervisor.

Farmers Home Administration, as agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, makes loans to farmers, families of low and moderate income and rural communities. This general purpose credit service contributes in a variety of ways to the vitality and expansion of the rural economy. It provides financial assistance for the development of essential public services and the growth of rural communities. The programs that would be most commonly used in Tama County are as follows:

Individual Homeownership Loans:

Purpose: To buy, build, improve or relocate homes or farm service buildings; to buy building sites; to refinance certain debts.

For: Low to moderate income families who will occupy homes in rural areas. **Rental and Cooperative Housing Loans.**

Purpose: To build, buy, improve or repair rental or cooperatively owned houses or apartments for independent living by senior citizens and low to moderate income families.

For: Nonprofit corporations, cooperatives, municipal bodies, individuals, partnerships and corporations.

Repair and Rehabilitation Housing Loans:

[cont. on page 26]

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

[cont. from page 25]

Purpose: To make minor repairs for safety or to remove health hazards.

For: Very low income owner-occupants who cannot qualify for housing loans but do have repayment capability.

Conditional Commitments to Builders:

Purpose: To encourage quantity building in rural areas.

For: Public agencies or nonprofit corporations.

Farm Ownership Loans:

Purpose: To buy land; refinance debts; construct, repair or improve buildings; improve farmland; develop water facilities and establish farm-based business enterprises to supplement farming income.

For: Qualified persons who will get a substantial share of their income from farming.

Farm Operating Loans:

Purpose: To buy livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fertilizer, birds or supplies for farm and home operations; refinance debts or pay interest on them; pay depreciation on equipment; make minor real estate improvements; improve forest lands; establish non-farm enterprises to supplement farm income.

For: Eligible operators of not larger-than-family farms. Farm Emergency Loans:

Purpose: For operating or living expenses and to replace livestock and equipment needed to restore normal operations after severe loss from natural disaster. Repairs to homes, essential farm buildings and related facilities are included.

For: Eligible farmers, ranchers and oyster planters.

Soil and Water Conservation Loans:

Purpose: To finance land and water development measures, forestation, drainage of farm land, irrigation, pasture improvement and related land and water use adjustments.

For: An eligible owner, tenant, leaseholder, partnership or corporation.

Byron Witt Supervisor

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PHOTOGRAPHY



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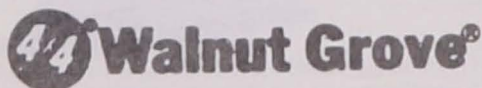
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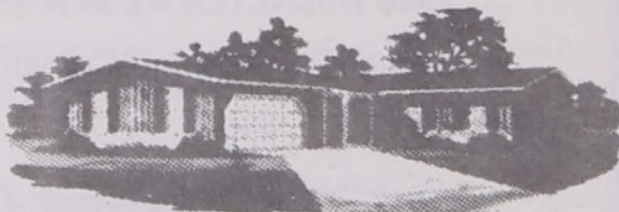
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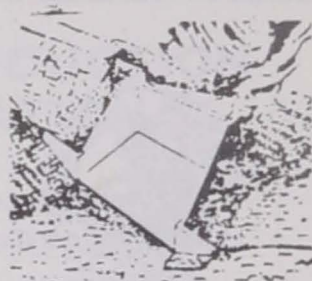
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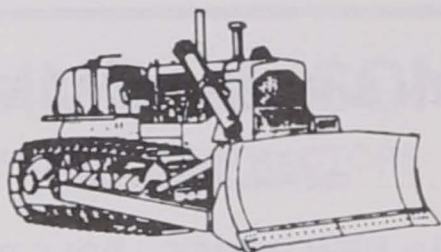
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Frequently it is beneficial to look back in order that one might recognize areas to be improved in the future. With that in mind, the following is a listing of the major areas of accomplishment within the Marshalltown Forestry District.

State Nursery seedlings ordered, by county (numbers of orders in parenthesis): Benton, 26,700, (17); Black Hawk, 56,900, (40); Buchanan, 24,000, (21); Iowa, 38,000, (25); Grundy, 13,000, (10); Jasper, 22,200, (35); Marshall, 19,800, (35); Poweshiek, 13,000, (10); Tama, 12,700, (14); Total: 226,300, (207). All totals include seedlings for County Conservation Board areas. Benton and Tama County totals include seedlings ordered by the Wildlife Biologist for State land. The Iowa County total includes 19,000 seedlings planted by the Amana Society.

Only two forest landowners, one in Marshall County and one in Buchanan County, took advantage of federal cost-share payments for timber stand improvement. The work consisted primarily of removal of weed trees and elimination of deformed trees. Acreage treated totaled 45 acres. By my own estimate, roughly 80% of Iowa's woodlands are pastured. In order to perpetuate the forest resource, protection of existing timber and improvement of that timber must increase in the future.

Eight landowners currently have 7,342 board feet of walnut on the District Forester's, "Timber for Sale" listing. Another 52 thousand bd. ft. of mixed species is also on this listing, which is maintained and distributed to selected buyers throughout the winter months.

To promote better forest management in Iowa, thirty-six programs were presented. This included tree planting meetings, service club talks, and outdoor classrooms for school students. Thirty-five radio programs were made, over one-half of which were regularly scheduled Izaak Walton League broadcasts in Marshall County. Fourteen articles appeared in newspapers around the entire district. The Marshalltown District was also responsible for the 1976 State Fair display. One additional paper was published in the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science, 82: 3-4, May 1976.

It is hoped that timber protection and improvement will increase in future years. More effort will also have to be directed towards increasing the amount of tree planting, particularly in Tama and Poweshiek Counties. With this as a review of the past for a plan for the future, I would like to thank the staff of the Soil Conservation Service and the landowners with whom I have worked in the past year.

Bob Hibbs, District Forester
Box 681, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

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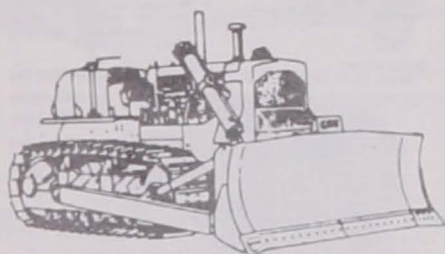
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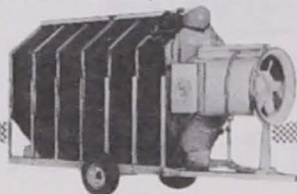
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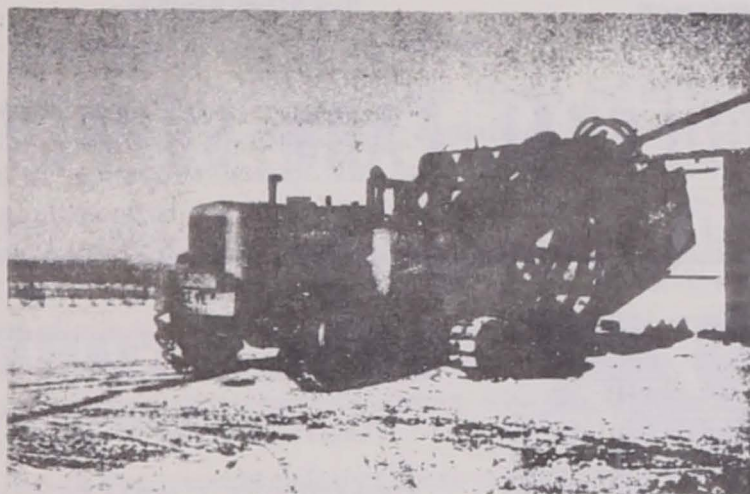
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FUNCTIONS OF A SANITARIAN

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Tama County Sanitarian

The enforcing of County and State Health regulations plus the education of the public to why these regulations are needed is a major concern of the county sanitarian. The improvement of our environment is a form of preventive medicine and through these improvements the general living conditions and health of our community can be improved.

In Tama County there are regulations to be followed in the installation of private wells and private sewage disposal systems. These regulations are meant to protect the homeowner as well as friends and neighbors from poorly constructed systems, which may cause disease and health nuisances.

The Health Department enforces these regulations and keeps records on all new systems through the issuance of a permit. Therefore, a permit must be obtained from the Health Department before a private sewage disposal system or well can be installed or repaired.

Collecting of water samples is a function of the sanitarian. Persons wanting to have their wells sampled should contact my office.

All new wells are required to have a sample taken after being chlorinated. This is very important because new wells can be a source of disease if they are not chlorinated properly. Also, it is important to test for nitrates because in high concentrations they can cause cyanosis which may lead to death.

Regulations governing Mobile Home Parks are very important because of the close living conditions that exist. A Mobile Home Park is considered to be any site upon which two or more occupied mobile homes are harbored. All Mobile Home Parks must be registered with the County and State Health Departments. To operate, they must have a current license which is renewed once a year pending an inspection.

The handling of health nuisances is the most diverse area of the Health Department. They are handled on a complaint basis. Conditions that exist which may be injurious to health should be brought to the attention of this department.

Some areas which are included under environmental health are solid waste disposal such as garbage and rubbish, swimming pools and natural bathing areas, food protection and preparation, mosquito control, roach control, rodent control, housing and camps.

For more information, contact me at the Tama County Health Department, 129 West High Street, Toledo, Iowa 52342. Phone: 515-484-4788.

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ASCS by Russell Lyon

Last December the County Development Group met to select the 1977 Tama County A.C. Program practices, as we do each year. The Development Group is composed of County ASCS Commiteemen, Soil District Commissioners, County Extension Director, District Forester, Conservation Commission Wildlife Biologist, FmHA Director, along with County ASCS Executive Director and SCS District Conservationist and Technician.

The question of how much conservation had been accomplished in Tama County during 1976 came up in the discussion. SCS mentioned that they supervised building 25 miles of tile inlet terraces. We estimate 60 acres are protected by each mile of terrace so these 25 miles of terrace protect 1,500 acres of cropland. The latest Census reports 352,000 acres of cropland in Tama County. Perhaps 25% of the cropland is over 10% slope or less than 3% slope and terraces are not recommended. That leaves about 264,000 acres that should be terraced. At 1,500 acres per year, it will take 176 years to protect Tama County land with terraces. That is over three generations.

The Development Group agreed that to increase the amount of terraces built per year, it will require more SCS personnel, more contractors and additional cost-share funds—both State and Federal.

They also agree that farmers can install several other conservation measures until they can arrange for terraces if this is their ultimate goal. Practices such as Conservation or Minimum Tillage done on the contour, Conventional Tillage on the contour or contour stripcropping, increasing the grass and/or legumes in the rotation. These all help keep the top soil on the slope instead of down in the waterway.

Oh, yes! Land over 10% slope can be protected by contour stripcropping, conservation tillage and grass in the rotation.

ACP funds allocated to Tama County in 1977 is \$92,000, an increase of \$6,300 over 1976. Practices are about the same as 1976, with the addition of a new practice called Conservation Tillage.

The Conservation Tillage practice is designed to encourage farmers to try a minimum or no till cultural system on row crops.

Tama County farmers would use considerable more cost share money if it were available and if contractors were available to do the work. We had over 60 applications in 1976 that were not approved for lack of funds. How many more would sign requests if funds were available?

If you have conservation work planned for 1977, stop by the office, maybe we can help you with the cost. We are in the USDA Building, across the street from the Post Office in Toledo.

The County Committee is: Lester Dostal, Chairman, Howard Township; Ray Ryan, Vice Chairman, Salt Creek Township; Joe Hess,

[cont. on page 45]

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

[cont. from page 44]

Member, Oneida Township; Employees are: Russell Lyon, County Executive Director; Betty Thompson and Fern Dowd, Clerks; Carroll Wegner, Appraiser and Performance and Field Asst.

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The Role Of A Conservation Officer

As the role of a Conservation Officer assumes increasing importance and responsibility in an environmentally enlightened society, the duties and image of the officer have changed. Gone is the image of the "game warden," a man who only patrolled the fields and streams in pursuit of game and fish violators. These men were to be avoided—at least that was the popular image.

Today, the Conservation Officer is also a peace officer. He has changed to a neatly uniformed, highly trained knowledgeable law officer, dedicated to one of the most important services in government, that of protecting our natural resources, while simultaneously ensuring that everyone receives an equal opportunity to enjoy those resources. He still checks fishing and hunting licenses, but this is just a portion of his everyday duties.

Law enforcement isn't the only responsibility of today's Conservation Officer. He has an equal responsibility to explain the laws and to instruct how to comply with them. Today's officer must be trained in everything from law enforcement to human behavior. Academy training is a mandatory for a new officer. In addition to numerous courses on law enforcement, first aid, communications, hunter safety and human relations, he is constantly reviewing the facets of the laws he enforces.

Conservation Officers make many appearances before clubs, fraternal orders, church groups and school classes—before a wide range of citizenry of all ages and sexes—to gain public support through public understanding. He mans information booths at major sports, vacation and travel shows. When requested, he teaches classes on the various aspects of conservation, from hunter safety to the importance of wildlife management.

By putting emphasis on public education, the officer can spend less time monitoring violations committed in ignorance, and can concentrate on the small percentage of those who violate the law in greed or for personal gain. As these professional violators learn new methods every day, the modern Conservation Officer must continue to adopt and utilize the latest methods and equipment to keep one step ahead of them.

The officer must possess a wealth of knowledge. Not only must he know and understand every law he enforces, he must know his territory thoroughly and record game populations and areas most productive for sportsmen. His presence in the area acts as a deterrent to would-be violators.

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Recognized as "Friends of Conservation" in March 1977 were: Bob Malin, former employee of the Tama County office for 21 years and recently transferred to Poweshiek County; Bill Christensen, publisher of The Toledo Chronicle; Shirley Franklin, former chairman of the Conservation Education Committee and Ferd Kvidera, reporter for the Traer Star-Clipper. They received certificates of appreciation from district chairman Ken Bruene who thanked them for their help in promoting sound conservation practices in Tama County.

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The Levine Company, Inc.	Des Moines	36
Gethmann Construction, Inc.	Gladbrook	37
Harold Carr	Dysart	39
Rockford Brick and Tile Co.	Rockford	43

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Custer Implement & Hardware	Tama	45
Sienknecht Implement Co.	Clutier	46

BANKS

Clutier State Bank	Clutier	7
Farmers Savings Bank	Garwin	15
State Bank	Gladbrook	19
Citizens Savings Bank	Gilman-LeGrand	22
First Community Bank & Trust	Traer	32
Farmers Savings Bank	Traer	39
Dysart State Bank	Dysart	43
Chelsea Savings Bank	Chelsea	45
The State Bank of Toledo	Toledo	Inside Front Cover

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Farmers Lumber Co., Inc.	Dysart	15
Farmers Lumber Co.	Traer	15
Bacon Construction, Inc.	Tama	19
McClure Agri-Systems	Tama	21
Spahn & Rose Lumber Co.	Tama	31
McClure Agri-Systems	Tama	36
Mid-Iowa Lumber	Toledo	42

TRUCKING	ADDRESS	PAGE
Gerald W. Eernisse	Toledo	27
Arp Truck Line	Gladbrook	29
Dolezal Trucking	Toledo	35

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Continental Grain Co.	Pickering	3
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Lincoln Co-Op Co.	Lincoln	10
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Evergreen Hatchery, Inc.	Dysart	13
Ottile Seed Farms	Marshalltown	15
Tama-Benton Cooperative Co.	Dysart	26
Walnut Grove	Grinnell	27
Wiecks Feed & Livestock	Dysart-Clutier	29
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.	Des Moines-Toledo	34
Funk Seeds International	Traer	38
Garwin Lumber Company	Garwin	38
Werner Grain & Feed	Tama-Toledo	38
Dolezal Farm Supply	Toledo	40
Pippert's Grain	Gladbrook	40
Chelsea Feed Mill	Chelsea	42
Terra Eastern Corporation	Vinton	Inside Back Cover
Farm Bureau Service Co.	Toledo	Back Cover

INSURANCE AND LOANS

The McKinney Agency	Gladbrook	19
Central Iowa Production Credit Assn.	Traer	28
Farmers Mutual Insurance Assn.	Traer	29
Bohemian Mutual Insurance Assn.	Tama	31
Twin Cities Insurance	Toledo	34
Land Bank Farm Loans	Marshalltown	42
Marshalltown Savings & Loan	Toledo-Marshalltown	43
L.L. Owens & Associates	Traer	45
Tama County Mutual Insurance Assn.	Traer	47

MISCELLANEOUS

Lennon Hill Tire Service	Tama, Traer	5
Belle Plaine Nursery	Belle Plaine	8
Lyon Jersey	Traer	9
Tama County Farm Bureau	Toledo	9
Iowa Electric Light & Power	Toledo	18
Wrede's DX	Garwin	19
Wentzien Hardware Co.	Gladbrook	27
Kenneth Bruene, Photography	Gladbrook	27
Weitzell Saw Mill	Tama	28
Wick Homes, Robert Fontinel	Tama	28
Tama Livestock Auction	Tama	29
OK Tire Store	Tama	40
Tama County Publishing Co., Inc.	Toledo	40

Conservation Field Day

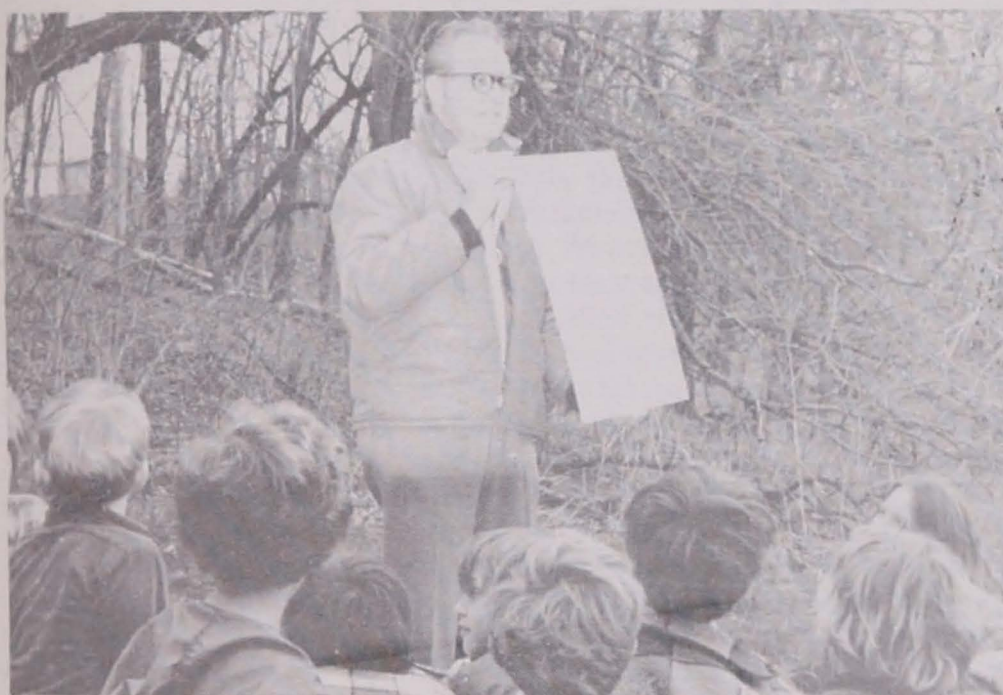
Each year in late April or early May The Tama County Conservation Education Committee and the Tama County Soil Conservation District host all fifth graders at a conservation field day held at Otter Creek Lake Park. The day is spent studying various aspects of nature. Following are a few photos of the instructors, topics and some of the fifth graders attending.



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District Soil Conservationist



Gress Rogers . . . Insect World
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Bob Hibbs . . . Iowa Forest
District Forester

Soil Conservation District

by Ted Hall

The Soil Conservation District has the responsibility of leadership in coordinating the soil and water conservation activities in the county. The District, governed by 5 representatives elected by the qualified voters in the county are concerned with promoting land conserving practices, helping fund the cost of the work and assuring the cooperator his work is well designed and properly built.

The District was organized in 1942 and has promoted the kind of practices most needed by farmers such as contouring, crop rotations, grass waterways, ponds, stripcropping and other methods to fit the problems of the times. The latest methods include conservation tillage and tile outlet terraces as the acres of row crop increase and grassland decreases.

During the last 4 years the District administered funds for some approved conservation practices as authorized by the Iowa Legislature. The practices approved were those that were rather expensive to the landowner and provided enduring benefits to the land and provided downstream protection.

The District works closely with the Soil Conservation Service, who provides the technical assistance in applying the needed conservation measures to the land. The SCS offers the land user the natural resource planning information to help him best manage his land. In many cases the SCS designs and assists in construction of the more sophisticated projects.

The rewards to the District Commissioner is satisfaction of making a contribution to the future welfare of our nation since they serve without pay. In most cases, actual expenses for meals and travel are covered.

There is no charge for information and services applied through the soil conservation district. We hope the interest for conservation and the demand for cost-sharing funds continue in the county.

The office is located in the USDA Building off the south west corner of the Court House in Toledo. The Federal SCS staff consists of District Conservationist Ted Hall and Soil Conservation Technician Paul Bruns. Audrey Wheeler is the District Clerk, an employee of the District and the State of Iowa.

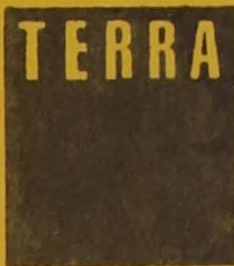
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