

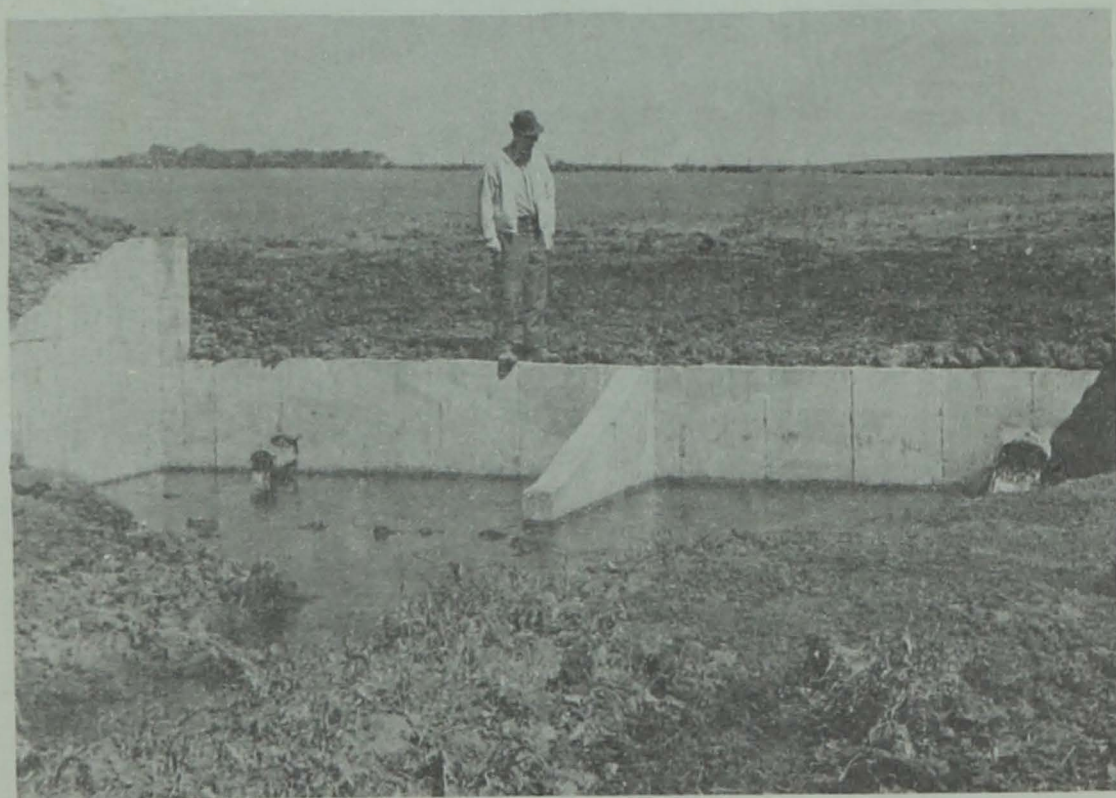
1969

TWENTY - SEVENTH *Annual Report*

TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TOLEDO, IOWA

PHONE 484-2702

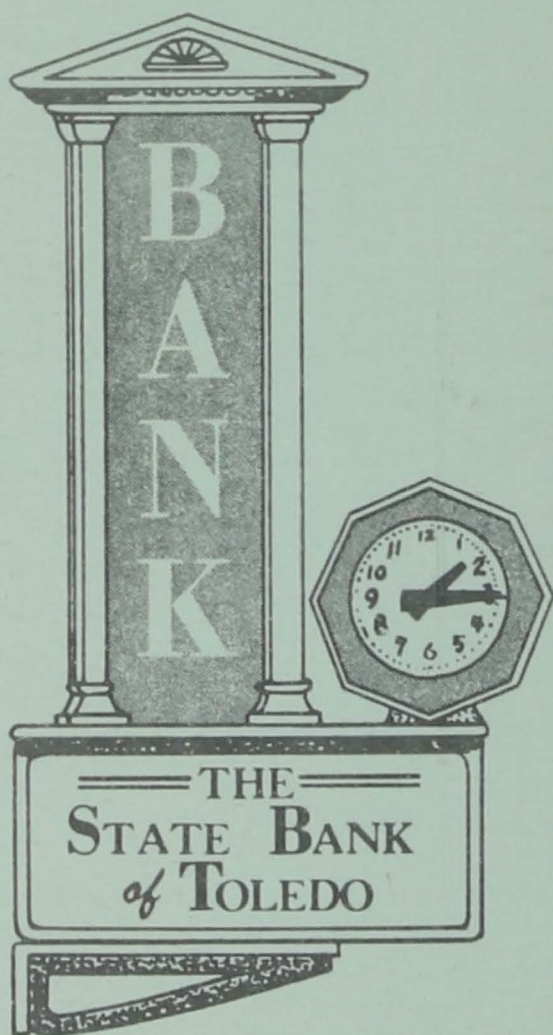


Grade stabilization structure on Melvin Kupka farm in Clark Township.

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Seated left to right are District Commissioners Joe Lyon, Harold Higgins, Lester Lenhart. Standing left to right are assistant Commissioners Robert Wiese, Harry Scurr and Welby Dixon.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER VIEWPOINTS

Years such as 1969, our rainfall was way above normal. Contouring, stripcropping and terraces more than paid for the extra effort, especially on the more rolling land. Tons and tons of our good black topsoil was washed from the slopes to the lowlands and streams which no doubt will never be replaced.

It's a shame to have this happen to our good Tama County farms as I consider this county to be one of the top counties in producing beef, pork and grains in the state.

According to statistics we will be short of food for the population we will have in the next few years that lie ahead of us. So let's stop and think and work together and do something about our soil and water resources before it is too late.

Assistant Commissioner - Welby Dixon

Soil conservation is for the Birds, yes that is certainly true, but fortunately it is also a benefit to animals and most important of all it is a definite benefit to humans as well. In the decade of the 70's, one can be certain that pollution of all kinds will receive attention. We country residents like to think that pollution is a problem for Los Angeles or Chicago but be assured that it is a problem in Iowa as well. Not smog, perhaps, but erosion of our soil into our streams and lakes and the resulting silting and contamination are our responsibility. This can be controlled by proper farming methods. The Soil Conservation District stands ready to help you develop a soil-saving program, call on them.

Commissioner - Joe Lyon

In view of the pollution that surrounds us, it is a challenge for the present and future to the people of this country. For example the Union Grove Lake area -- a lake will be saved with the combined efforts of federal and state agencies, and farmers working and planning together.

The farmers should be praised for the practices completed in this area. We know the battle is not won, but with combined efforts we will succeed.

Commissioner - Lester Lenhart

Today such terms as Human environment, pollution control and preservation of natural resources are constantly being brought to our attention through all agents of the news media. We must remember that soil and water are our basic natural resources and if they are not protected and preserved, we have failed in the protection of all other natural resources.

Only 36% of the cropland in the United States is adequately treated for soil and water conservation. 22% of the remaining cropland needs terraces, stripcropping and diversions to reduce water and wind erosion.

These figures furnished by the U.S.D.A. points up the fact that much more soil conservation work remains to be done if production of food and fibre is to keep pace with the increase in population and urban expansion.

Commissioner - Harold Higgins

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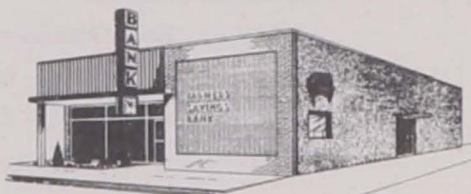
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1969

July 1, 1968 - June 30, 1969

	(UNIT)	(AMOUNT)
New Cooperators	No.	55
Basic Farm Plans	No.	44
Revised Farm Plans	No.	19
Farms Serviced	No.	407
Sod Waterways	Ac.	49
Farm Ponds	No.	19
Grade Stabilization Structure	No.	16
Contour Farming	Ac.	1,834
Stripcropping	Ac.	1,094
Terraces	Lin.Ft.	5,550
Diversion Terrace	Lin.Ft.	3,300
Tile Drainage	Lin.Ft.	128,223
Open Drainage	Lin.Ft.	9,810

State Budget of the Tama County Soil Conservation District

1M & 1M-A BUDGET

Commissioners Mileage	\$ 61.19
Office Supplies	143.84
Office Expense	727.04
Prizes	166.77
Meeting Expenses	195.51

2M BUDGET

State Clerk and Planner Aide	\$9,903.00
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DIAL 478-2225

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MEN'S APPAREL

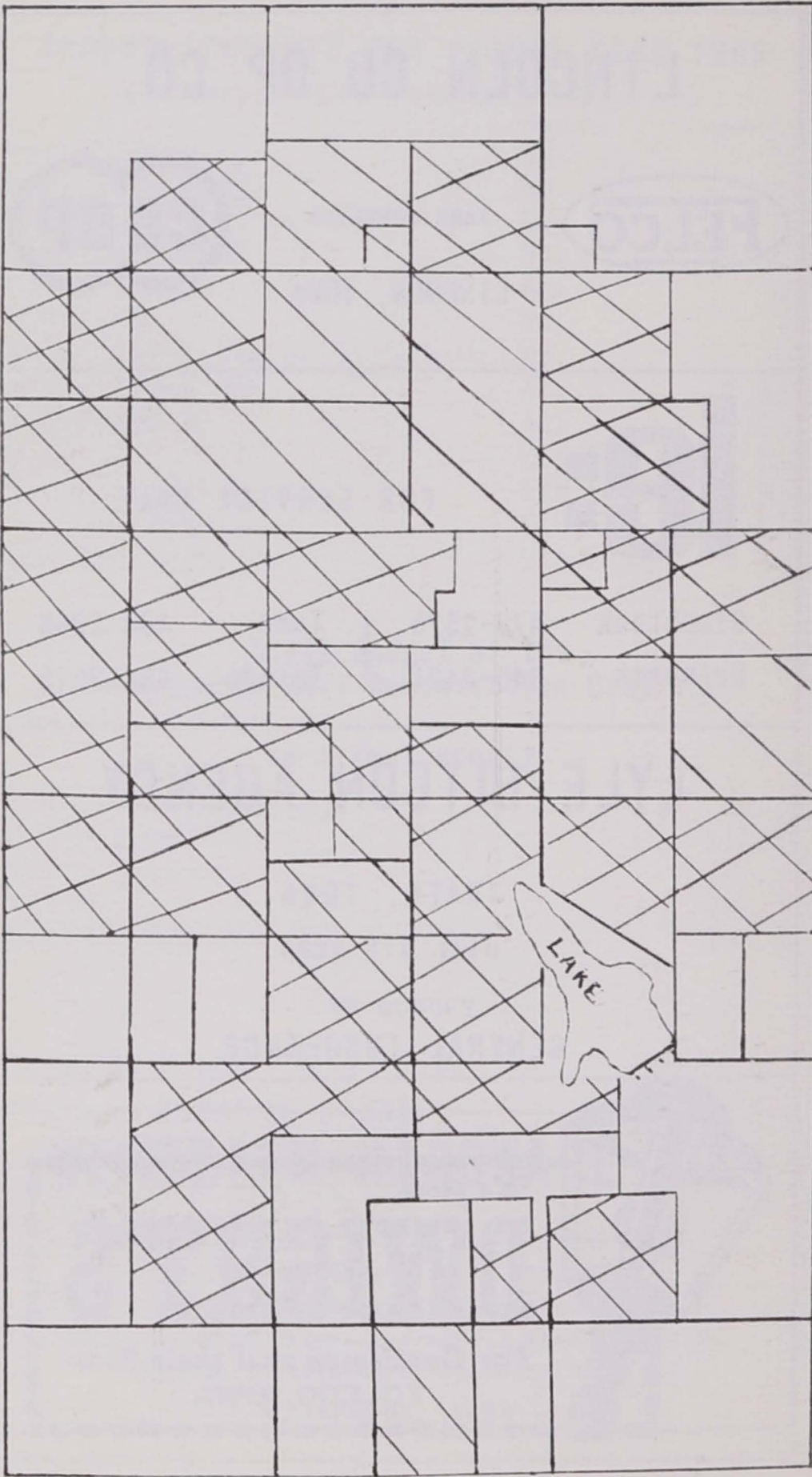


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TOLEDO, IOWA

UNION GROVE LAKE WATERSHED



Farms Planned are marked XXXXXX

District Cooperators are marked \\\

LAND CLASSES IN UNION GROVE LAKE WATERSHED

CLASS	ACRES
I	1920
II	1980
III	1200
IV	450
V	450

Class I - Suitable for cultivation with simple practice.

Class II - Suitable for cultivation with simple and complex practices.

Class III - Suitable for cultivation with complex or intensive practices.

Class IV - Not suitable for intensive cultivation.

Class V - Not suitable for cultivation.

SUMMARY OF NEEDED SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN WATERSHED AREA

	<u>NEEDED</u>	<u>DONE</u>
Contour farming	4,250 acres	800 acres
Contour stripcropping	1,650 acres	90 acres
Terraces	160,000 lin. ft.	9,400 lin. ft.
Sodwaterways	88 acres	30 acres
Structures	21	7
Tile drainage	140,000 lin. ft.	50,000 lin. ft.
Pasture improvement	500 acres	156 acres
Timber improvement and planting	150 acres	7 acres

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ACTION FOR 1969

JANUARY -

An award luncheon was held at Dick's restaurant in Toledo for the winners in the 1968 Register and Tribune Conservation achievement contest. The winners were Charles Balloun, Toledo and Kenneth Bruene, Gladbrook. The district commissioners entered the Goodyear Company award contest and named Charles Balloun as outstanding conservation farmer.

FEBRUARY -

A meeting with all the farmers in the Union Grove Lake watershed area was held at Gladbrook. A fine turnout was present at this meeting and the outlook was good for getting conservation work done in the area. Soil Conservation speech contest material was sent to all schools in the county.

MARCH -

Soil Stewardship material was ordered for use in the churches in Tama County.

APRIL -

Soil Stewardship material was distributed to the churches requesting the information.

MAY -

The commissioners purchased soil monolith boards for the display of soil borings. These borings are on display in the District office and may be used by the school for educational purposes. Mrs. Heinle, Toledo elementary teacher, attended conservation camp at Springbrook State Park with tuition paid by the Tama County SCD.

JUNE -

Winner of the District Soil Conservation speech contest was Wayne Dvorak of rural Clutier. Wayne is a student at the Dysart-Geneseo school. District winners in the Register and Tribune contest were announced. Dean Vint was winner in the new cooperator division, Garland Hopper, winner in the owner-operator division and Mrs. Edythe Hill in the conservation teacher division.

JULY -

Wayne Dvorak represented the Tama SCD in a regional speech contest held at Amana, Iowa.

AUGUST -

The commissioners provided a display at the Gladbrook Corn Carnival. This display was centered on the work to be done in the Union Grove Lake watershed. 500 "Dennis the Menace and Dirt" comic books were distributed at the booth and a 10 lb. ham was given away to the person guessing the number of miles of terraces needed in the Union Grove Lake watershed. This ham was won by Vincent Sienknecht of Gladbrook. A planning picnic was held at the Tama park with commissioners, past commissioners, office staff and their families in attendance.

SEPTEMBER -

Commissioners Harold Higgins and Lester Lenhart attended the Annual Conference of Soil Conservation District Commissioners held in Des Moines. The Tama District was named runner-up in the Goodyear Conservation achievement contest. The District purchased 500 conservation workbooks and ball point pens to be distributed to the schools in Tama County to be used in the 6th grade.

OCTOBER -

Mrs. Edythe Hill, teacher at Geneseo school, attended a conservation teachers workshop at Luther, Iowa. The Soil Conservation District provided the tuition for this workshop. Dean Vint, was selected a regional winner in the Register and Tribune Achievement Awards Contest in a twelve county area.

NOVEMBER -

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company presented award plaques to Harold Higgins, Lester Lenhart, Joe Lyon and Charles Balloun for outstanding work in soil and water conservation in the Tama SCD.

DECEMBER -

Commissioners compiled material for publishing of annual report to be sent to all farmers in Tama County.

DIAL 478-2601

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BASIC FARM PLANS FOR FISCAL YEAR OF 1969

DeSchamp-Carson-Hunter

Eldorado Ranch

Lyon, Lyon, Lyon

Willard Balfour

Howard Davis

R. E. Sawyer

Purdy Trust (Ken Fischer)

Purdy Trust (Roger Winklepleck)

Purdy Trust (Leland Clausen)

Purdy Trust (Rudy Brezina)

Elmer Starck (2)

Gary Hoskey

Gary Lamb

Jerry Harris

Oris Hinegardner

Alfred Thomsen

Dean Vint (2)

Jess Arends (5)

Merle Frundle

Charles Balloun

Leland Sealock

Paul Kaufman

Irwin Dowd

Otto Hansen

Jay Paxton (2)

Ruth Wentzien

William Biley

Darwin Lynch

McKerral Farm

Charles Plett

Rodney Spiecher

Ward Handorf

Leland Sealock

Fritz Fulster

Lester Beichley

Heinz Fulster

Carl Duft

REVISIONS OF BASIC FARM PLANS FOR FISCAL YEAR OF 1969

Charles Balloun

William & Lester Lenhart

Ralph Weitzel

Joe Boriskey

Irwin Dowd

Gerald Carson

Leonard Cooper

Dr. C. W. Maplethorpe

Bud Hopper

Ed Stayskal

Rowe Cory (2)

Harold Read

Tama County Home

Martin Bruene

Gary Benda

Harold Wright

Glen Drury

LaVern Asmussen

NEW COOPERATORS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 1969

Lyon, Lyon, Lyon
 Ruth Wentzien
 William Dean
 Hertz Farm Mgt. (Leland Claussen)
 Roger Winkelpleck
 Rudolph Brezina
 Kenneth Fischer
 Roger Sawyer (2)
 Milvoy Suchy
 Wilford Johnston
 Harold Mason
 Willis Houston
 LeRoy Hoskey
 Erwin Bohnstengel
 Thomas Lovig
 Charles Kaufman
 Phillip Galloway
 Jon Ebersole
 Clifford Feisel
 Claude Gillette
 Louie J. Breja
 Ward Handorf
 Willis Dowden
 Dean Vint
 D. D. Davis
 Lester Beichley

Fritz Fulster
 Walter Gethmann
 Arnold Brandt
 C. Kenneth Frey
 L. S. Appelgate
 Charles Balloun
 Marvin Willer
 Louis Paustian
 William B. Smith
 Ward Patterson
 David Houston
 Leland Sealock
 Rudy Havran
 Stanley Dostal
 Glen Dillman
 Harold Tegt
 Ross Von Spreecken
 Ralph M. Smouse
 Roger Platt
 A. J. Wentzien
 Garry Anderson
 Martin O. Brauns
 John Kopsa
 Otis Hilmer (2)
 Adolph Bruene
 William Elmore (2)

CHAS. A. GARY

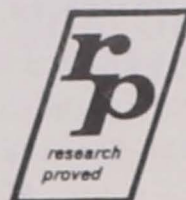
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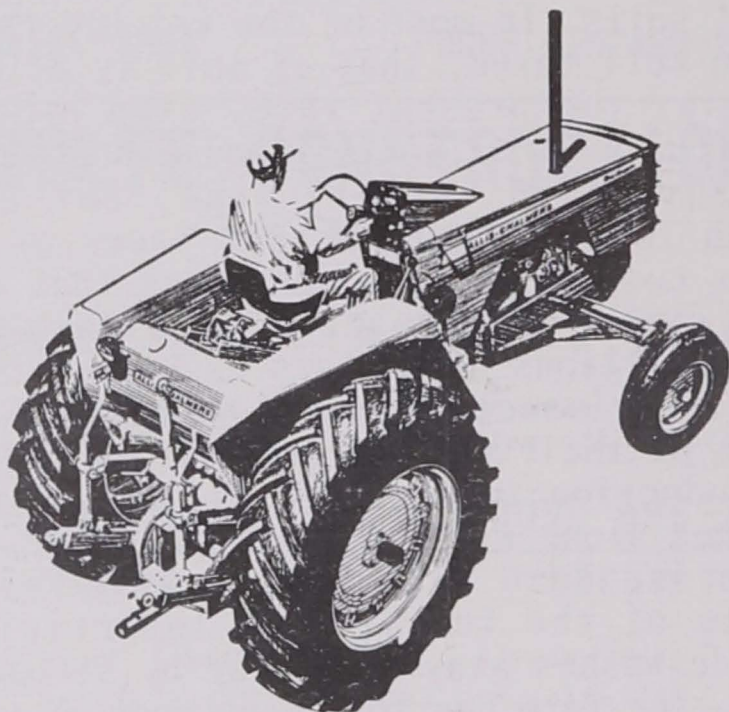
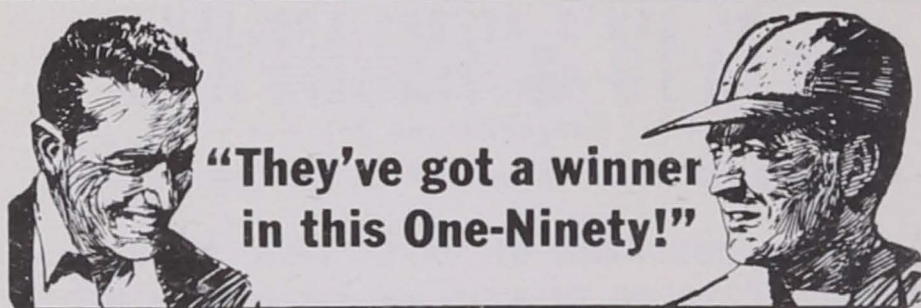
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"WE CAN'T AFFORD EROSION"

by John P. McCleary
Soil Conservation Service

Many thousands of words have been written about the ravages of erosion of our natural resources and most prominently the erosion of our nations' soils. In most of the writing the point has been well taken, that if soil is allowed to deplete at the present rate, crop production will be cut by the lack of good productive topsoil. Now, this is very true, but another approach to this problem that faces us is the enormous cost in dollars and cents that erosion brings with its ugly path. The farmers are spending billions of dollars each year to apply fertilizer, insecticide and herbicides to the topsoils on their particular farms to bring maximum production to their acres. If a chance 2" rain comes along with the soil laid bare and the rows up and down hill this topsoil with the majority of the fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide washes away to a near by stream, lake or pond. The farm has lost many tons of valuable topsoil and the streams have gained unwanted silt with fertilizers to stimulate growth of algae that rob the lakes and streams of oxygen to promote fish growth. How long can this waste of soils and nutrients go on? Not long, when the profit in farming is at the narrow margin it is today. Replacing the productive topsoil will take more and more fertilizer, so costs will continue to rise.

We have many good conservation farmers who are not letting this happen, but to maintain a sound agricultural economy in this county we must have more people conserving our most precious natural resource, our soil.



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Seated: Fern Dowd, A.C.P. Clerk; Merle Cavanaugh, Chairman County ASCS Committee; Albert Kaufman, Member County Committee.

Standing: Russell Lyon, Office Manager; Lyle Moeller, Member County Committee.

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Berleen Dostal, Teacher Mrs. Forrest Hill and Lewis Beck of Geneseo Elementary School were the county winners in the Soil Conservation workbook contest. Berleen was awarded a transistor radio and Lewis was awarded a fishing rod and reel.

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AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

by Russell Lyon
Office Manager, A.S.C.S.

1969 was an unusual year for ACP. Spring was too wet to do the usual work. Seedings were delayed and some were accomplished, earth moving was slowed almost to a standstill and tiling was difficult. The ACP work actually completed was below normal all year. Total cost-shares earned was \$89,000 compared with 1968 earnings of \$110,000.

Heavy rains, and floods caused considerable damage to conservation practices. The County ASC Committee requested emergency funds to restore conservation measures damaged by the excess water. The request was approved in August in the amount of \$22,000. Cost-share rates under this emergency program was 80% of the cost. This money was for the restoration of the usual practices in the handbook such as waterways, waterway tile, terraces, drainage ditches, permanent seedings, erosion structures and ponds. In addition cost-shares were available for repair of dikes. Cost-shares earned during 1969 for the emergency practices was \$14,000.

The County Committee has requested extension of the emergency program for 1970. They feel there will be an increased use in the spring if the weather will cooperate.

Many people who are familiar with Union Grove Lake have been concerned over the years with the amount of siltation into the lake. The Lake Park Holding Corporation, Soil Conservation

Service, State Conservation Commission and the ASCS County Committee along with others have worked to increase the soil conserving measures carried out on farms in the lake watershed. Several farmers in the area started conservation measures on their farms in 1969 and received ACP cost-shares. The County Committee agreed to approve all requests coming from the farms in the lake watershed. The County Committee along with the ACP Development group have designated the lake watershed area as a special project for 1970. \$15,000 has been set aside for the project. All eligible cost-share requests will be approved at the regular cost-share rates, usually 50% of the cost. The State Conservation Commission has indicated a willingness to pay 35% of the cost on permanent conservation projects such as structures and terraces installed in the watershed. This combined ASCS and Conservation Commission cost-shares will amount to 85% and the farmers will pay 15% of the cost.

According to recent news releases the Lake will be drained and improvement work done this year. We hope farmers in the watershed will establish adequate conservation measures on their farms so a repeat of the draining process will not be necessary in ten years or so. I am sure the top soil is more valuable on their farms than at the bottom of Union Grove Lake.

TAMA COUNTY MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

L. L. OWENS, SECRETARY

o

TRAER, IOWA

DIAL 478-2601



This photograph shows the erosion that occurred this year with up and down hill farming. Many tons of soil were lost on this field as well as the fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide that was contained in the topsoil.

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B. B. Bennett who was our Soil Conservation Service Technician for the Tama County Soil Conservation District from 1966 through October 1969. Mr. Bennett passed away on October 27, 1969.

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 Dysart, Phone 476-5736

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"MONEY DOES GROW ON TREES"

by Roy Hatcher, District Forester

You have often heard the saying, "Money Doesn't Grow on Trees". Actually, this statement is not necessarily true. Trees of value that are growing into a useful, marketable forest product literally have money growing on them. Many people do not realize how valuable our trees are. In Iowa, over 98% of our forest lands are owned by private individuals, mostly farm land owners. Many of these woodlands are not producing to their capacity the amount of forest products they should be producing just because the owner is unaware as to how to properly manage the woods. With proper management these woodlands can in many cases provide additional income to the farming operation through the harvest of valuable forest products such as lumber, veneer, cooperage, posts, fuelwood and many other forest products.

There are 30,000 acres of land in Tama County that are classified as commercial forest land, capable of producing some type of forest product. Several sawmills operate within the county, creating markets for these woodland products. There is a great potential for the sale of forest products from Tama County.

Timber production is not accomplished in one growing season, as are other farm crops. It takes many years of management to produce a forest product. Management needs to start in the early years of the timber and be carried through the final harvest. Trees of high value, such as black walnut, need to be pruned in order to develop the higher quality veneer tree in their early years. A veneer black walnut can be worth 8 times the value of a lumber quality walnut. Undesirable trees and diseased trees need to be removed in order to allow the better quality trees to grow faster with less competition. The

Federal Government has a cost-share program under ACP to help a woodland owner do this type of timber management.

Because the majority of the woodland owners do not have the technical knowledge of forest management there is available to them the services of a professional forester, The District Forester of the Iowa Conservation Commission. He will provide to the woodland owner free technical advise on how to manage and harvest his woodland. The forester for Tama County is Roy G. Hatcher of Marshalltown. He can be contacted direct by writing to him at Box 681, Marshalltown, 50158, or contacting him through the Tama County Soil Conservation District office in Toledo. He can also provide assistance to land owners who have non-productive land that they might want to plant to trees or wildlife cover. Federal cost-share programs are also available for this type of work.

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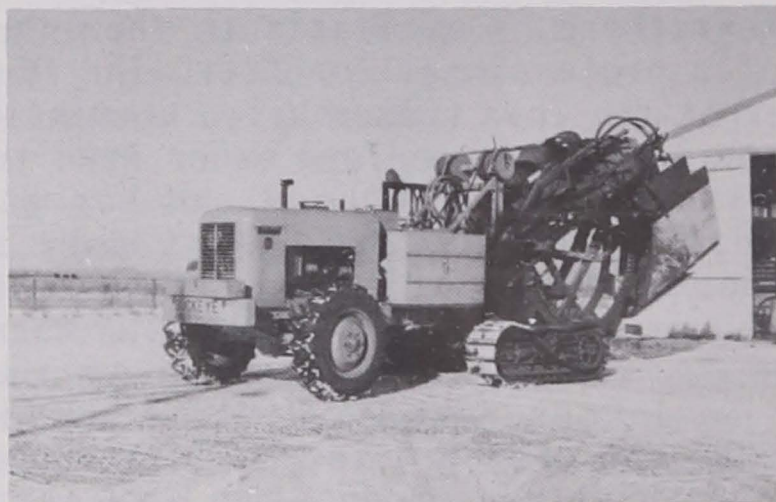
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GRAIN - RATH FEEDS - SEED

HAROLD CARR

PHONE 476-7583

DYSART, IOWA

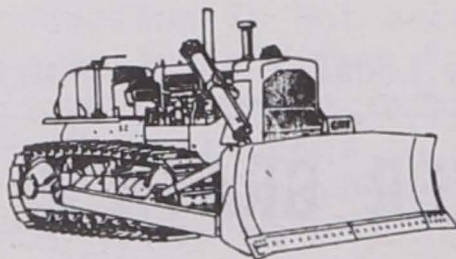


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Dean Vint, left, is shown receiving a certificate of achievement from SCD Commissioner Lester Lenhart. Mr. Vint was a regional winner in 12 county area for his outstanding work in soil and water conservation on the farm he operates for Clara & Martha Bartley of Butler Pa.

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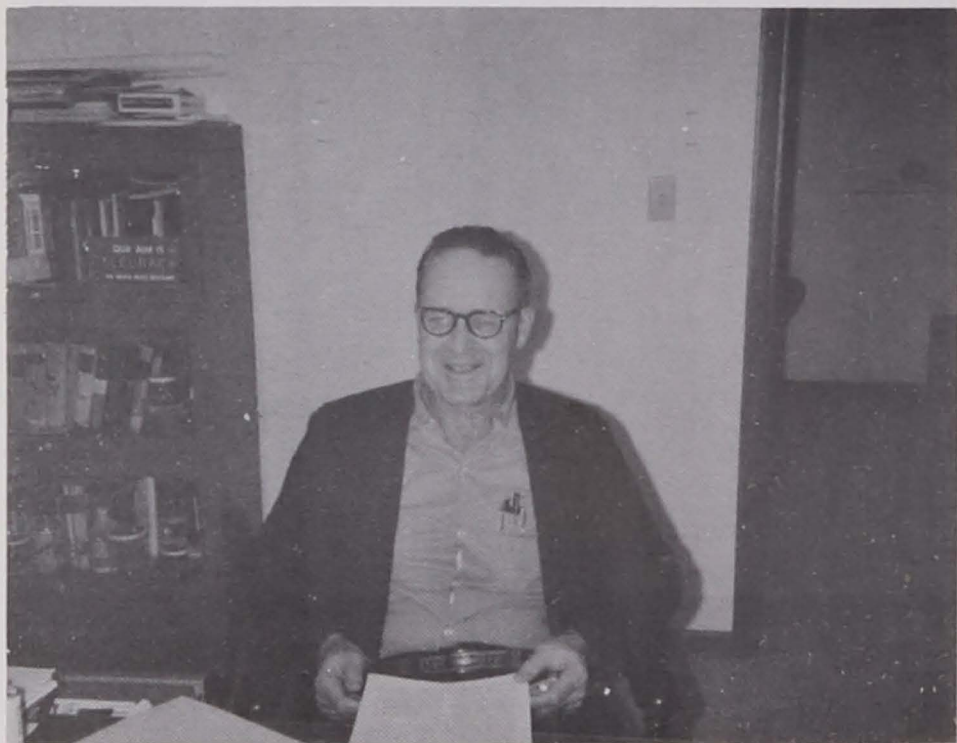
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WHAT IS A SOIL TEST?

by G. Gress Rogers, County Extension Director

Some people believe that soil tests measure the total amounts of specific nutrients in the soil. This isn't true. Not all of the nutrients in the total supply are in a form readily usable by plants. So there's little relationship between the total amount of nutrients in a soil and the amount of nutrients that plants can get from that same soil.

What, then, do soil tests measure? Basically, present soil-testing methods measure a part of the total nutrient supply that is related to what plants can take from the soil.

A "low" soil-test value for a particular nutrient means that plants won't get enough of that nutrient to produce the highest yields possible for the prevailing soil and climatic

conditions. The nutrient deficiency can be corrected by adding fertilizer containing that nutrient. That amount of the nutrient that needs to be added for a given soil-test value is determined by the fertilizer-rate experiments that have been conducted in the field, with the crop growing on a specific soil with the same soil-test value.

NOTE OF CAUTION....

Subtracting the numerical soil-test value obtained in a chemical laboratory from the total nutrients known to be contained in a given crop yield doesn't indicate actual fertilizer needs. Chemically extracted nutrients don't reflect the exact amount of nutrients that plant roots will take up during an entire growing season. Also, a soil sample usually represents only the surface 6 inches, while plant roots may penetrate 3-5 or more feet of soil. Hence, the difference between a numerical soil-test value and total nutrient needs is not a valid estimate of fertilizer needs.

Remember also that soil-test values apply only for the depth of soil sampled. The top 6 inches of two different soils, for example, may have the same test value for a given nutrient. In soil A, however, four successive 6-inch depths below the surface 6 inches may test the same as the surface 6 inches, while the corresponding 6-inch depths of soil B may have much lower test values than the surface soil. Thus, soil B has less total available nutrients in the top 30 inches than does Soil A.

Field calibration compensates for the differences in the total available nutrients in two such types of soils that have the same surface test levels. The crop response to fertilizer rates in the field experiments on each soil type will indicate the appropriate fertilizer rates needed for each soil regardless of the nutrients

status of the subsoil. This point emphasizes once again the importance of adequate field calibration if reliable fertilizer recommendations are to be made from soil tests.

Soil tests can be made in several ways some are better than others. Fully as important as the methods of testing, however, is how well fertilizer recommendations based on soil-test results are related to actual crop responses in the field.

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Broad base parallel terrace constructed on the Neil Rowe farm in Spring Creek twp. in the fall of 1969. This terrace system gives complete protection to this field from excessive soil loss.



Diversion terrace constructed on the Ward Handorf farm located in the Union Grove Lake watershed area. This terrace was constructed in the fall of 1969.



View of Union Grove Lake and State Park. This aerial photograph also shows some of the farmland that drains into the lake.

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The Tama County Soil Conservation District was runner-up in the Goodyear Tire Company Soil Conservation Achievement awards program. Shown in picture above left to right is: Goodyear representative; Harold Higgins, chairman Tama County SCD; Charles Balloun, outstanding conservation farmer; and Lester Lenhart, Commissioner.

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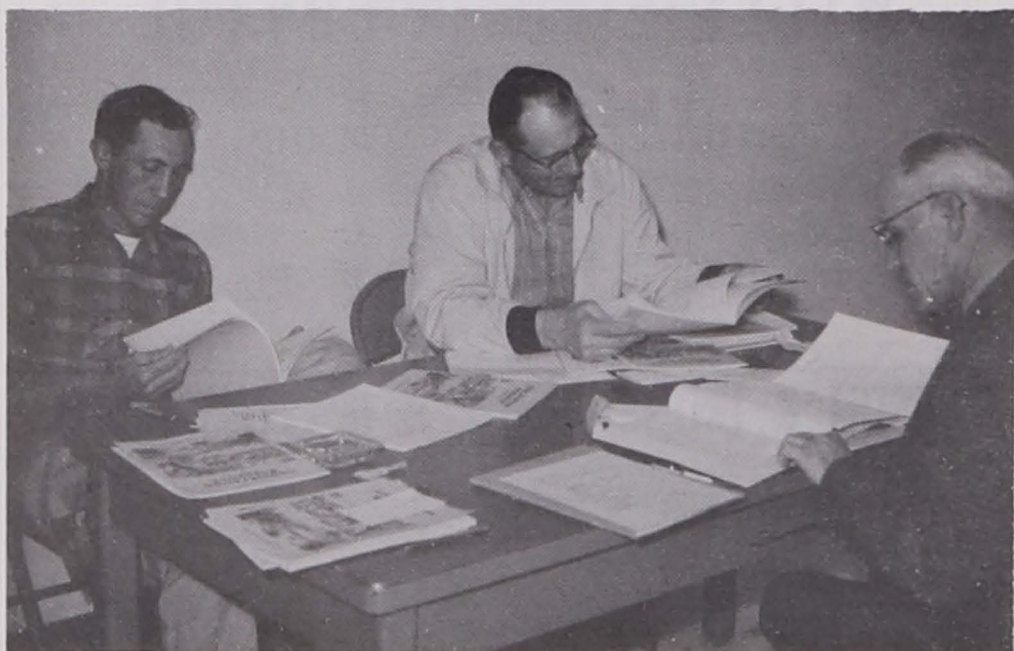


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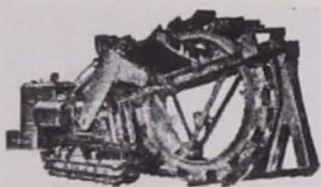
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CONSERVATION WORKBOOKS

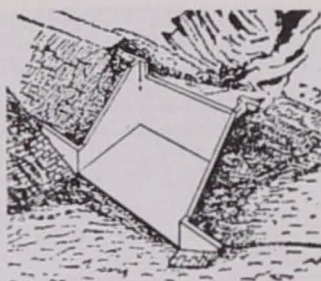
Each year the Tama County Soil Conservation District provides for all interested schools in the county soil conservation workbooks. These workbooks are used in 6th grade science classes. After completion the workbooks are returned to the District office and reviewed by the Commissioners. In 1969, 500 books were delivered to Traer, Montour, Geneseo, Tama, Chelsea, Gladbrook, Clutier and Dysart. Prizes given to outstanding workbooks were presented to Debbie Schroeder, Tama Elementary, Kevin Kurth, Mary Linville, Kevin Rinnan, Barbara Bearden, Tom Appelgate, Jenifer Nelson, Gaylord Bear and Kim Pates, Montour Elementary; Mark Dvorak, Lorie Jane Rayman, Clutier Elementary; Lewis Beck, Berleen Dostal, Geneseo Elementary. The Commissioners again this year wish to extend their congratulations to teachers and students for their outstanding work in the conservation workbook program.



Seated left to right are commissioners Joe Lyon, Lester Lenhart and Harold Higgins judging the Soil Conservation workbooks from the 6th grade students in Tama County schools.



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Mrs. Edythe Hill is shown receiving a certificate of achievement for her work in teaching conservation in her class room at the Geneseo school. Harold Higgins, chairman of the SCD, is shown presenting the certificate.

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This photograph shows the use of contour stripcropping on the Dean Mauderer farm in Buckingham township. This farm is completely protected from erosion by the use of this system.

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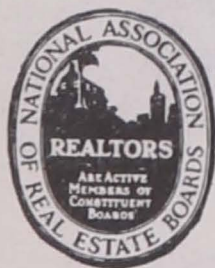
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Wayne Dvorak, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albin Dvorak of rural Clutier was district winner in the soil conservation speech contest. Wayne was a ninth grade student at Dysart school.

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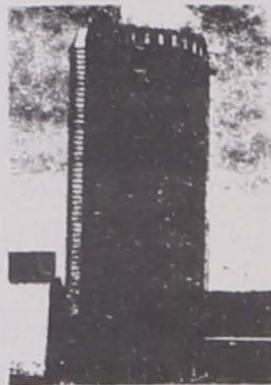
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Charles Wiener	Montour	41
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Wolfe Construction	Garwin	14
The Levine Co. Inc.	Des Moines	33
Sheffield Brick & Tile Co.	Sheffield	21
Hinegardner Fishery	Montour	41
Bob McCoy	Montour	41
Van Norden Construction	Belle Plaine	45
Lester Schade	Gladbrook	46
Bacon Construction	Tama	23
Rockford Brick & Tile	Rockford	Inside back cover
Hummel & Sons	Vinton	37
Max "Skip" Harrah	Garwin	14

FARM IMPLEMENTS

Toledo Tractor	Toledo	33
Gibson & Irons	Toledo	35
Wentzien Hardware Co.	Gladbrook	6
Kosnar Implement	Dysart	16
Ray Holst Inc.	Traer	3
Custer Implement	Tama	38
Sienknecht Imp. Co.	Clutier	44
J.W. Musel & Sons	Chelsea	5
Beem Implement Co.	Toledo	42
Lorensen & Beale	Garwin	14

BANKS

Tama State Bank	Tama	30
State Bank of Toledo	Toledo	Inside front cover
State Bank	Gladbrook	46
Clutier State Bank	Clutier	4
Farmers Savings Bank	Garwin	40
Dysart State Bank	Dysart	3
Chelsea Savings Bank	Chelsea	44
Citizens Savings Bank	Gilman	43
Farmers Savings Bank	Traer	5
The Community Bank & Trust	Traer	38

SEED - FEED - FERTILIZER	ADDRESS	PAGE
+Farm Service	Toledo	Back Cover
Charles A. Gary	Toledo	13
Pippert Grain & Milling	Gladbrook	46
Farmers Coop.	Gilman	39
Poweshiek Pellets Inc.	Grinnell	43
Custom Farm Services	Gilman	40
Tama-Benton Coop.	Dysart	33
Weicks	Dysart	14
Karr Feed & Fertilizer	Traer	23
Tama Hatchery	Tama	41
Werner Feed & Grain	Tama	25
Jacks Milling Co.	Tama	43
Clutier Grain & Feed Inc.	Clutier	44
Chelsea Feed Mill	Chelsea	23
Fronings Inc. Elevator	Chelsea	5
Funk Bros. Seed Corn	Belle Plaine	34
Willer Ag. Service	Toledo	35
Pioneer Corn Co.	Toledo	18
Lincoln Coop. Co.	Lincoln	7
Klinefelter Feeds	Gladbrook	30

LUMBER YARDS

Spahn & Rose Lbr.	Tama	5
Farmers Lumber	Traer	3
Farmers Lumber	Dysart	33
Springer Lumber	Toledo	45
Garwin Lumber Co.	Garwin	35

INSURANCE COMPANIES

Dirks & Klies	Toledo	39
Owens, Owens & Rottler	Traer	11
Farmers Mutual Ins.	Traer	32
Tama Co. Mutual Ins. Assn.	Traer	20
F.C. Earley Agency	Traer	40
Bohemian Mutual	Tama	23
Twin Cities Insurance	Toledo	27
Lyle Bitcon Agency	Traer	7

MISCELLANEOUS

Tama Co. Farm Bureau	Toledo	22
LeRoy Thomsen, Vinton Silos	Toledo	42
O.K. Tire	Tama	43
Federal Land Bank Loans	Marshalltown	44
Hill Oil Co.	Tama	32
Traer Sales Co.	Traer	46
Iowa Farmers Union	Toledo	25
Dwight's	Toledo	7
Iowa Electric Light & Power	Toledo	7

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