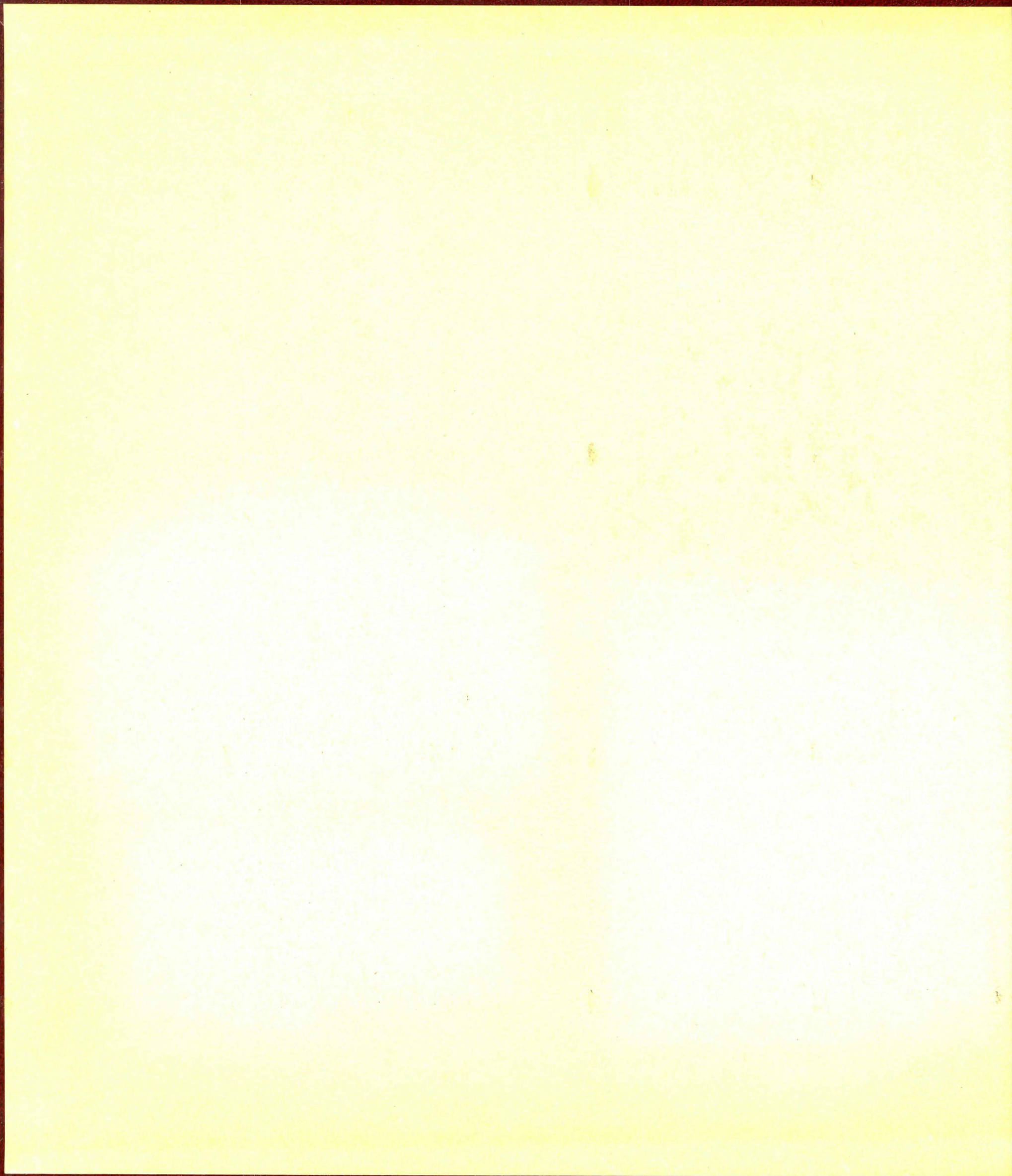


Scrap Book





HAPPINESS IS — A farmer getting three days worth of hay to his cattle before the weekend storm breaks. Farmers have

felt the frustrations of a succession of weekend storms as sub-zero weather and

wind causes livestock waterers to freeze, farm yard drives to be cleaned of drifts

for access to cattle yards and problems getting to cattle in farm fields.

Good Yields Reported With No-Till

By Alan Sieve

Planting at a slow enough planting speed, using a "rescue" herbicide and using a starter fertilizer were three predominant reasons for the success of Iowa county farmers using no-till this year, according to the results of a survey conducted by the Soil Conservation service, Williamsburg.

Iowa county farmers known to have used no-till were surveyed in December as to their practices and results, said Ted Oswald, conservation technician. He noted 63 farmers were sent questionnaires and responses were returned by 32.

The 63 farmers planted no-till on 100 farms in 1981, Oswald continued, noting that represented 8,500 acres. The use of no tillage grew 50 percent over 1980, he added, noting Iowa county ranked third in the state for the amount of no-till used. It ranks behind number one Cedar county, with 11,000 acres planted with no-till, he said.

Of the respondents, Oswald noted six were particularly successful in their no-till operations. He compiled data, listing their methods and results,

which is described below. He and soil conservationist Harry Bryant also described other success factors and noted common mistakes they also found among the survey answers.

Planting Speed

One of the common mistakes, they noted, was that farmers sometimes planted too fast, at six to eight miles per hour. Furrows didn't close, giving poor soil-seed contact; farmers had rodent or bird problems in sod ground, and had poorer germination when they planted too fast, according to Bryant and Oswald.

In a preliminary tabulation of the first 23 questionnaires returned, the survey results showed four planted at six to seven miles per hour and one at seven to eight mph.

Of ten who planted in sod ground, four had rodent or bird problems, which Oswald attributed to planting too fast. "It went hand in glove," he said.

Five of the 23 reported poor furrow closing and soil to seed contact, and eight reported they felt the percentage of germination was not as good as in

conventionally tilled fields. Both are also related to planting speed, Oswald said. Planting in fields that are too wet could also result in poor germination, Bryant added, but this was not a wet year and therefore that was probably not the cause.

The six most successful farmers planted at an average four miles per hour, they noted. Only one reported germination poorer than conventional fields.

Weed Control

Weed control is cited as the number one problem farmers will encounter in using no-till. One factor cited in the better yields achieved by the six most successful no-tillers, was that three used a "rescue" herbicide, one applied before the five-leaf stage in the plant development. Aatrex or Atrazine was cited as the rescue herbicide used.

Five of the six most successful farmers reported good early and late weed control, while one did not. Three of the six used Paraquat as a burn-down herbicide, which Bryant and Oswald strongly recommended for

beginning no-tillers, while three did not, using their usual herbicide program instead. Other herbicides used by the six in addition to, or instead of, Paraquat were: Atrazine or Aatrex, four; Lasso, three; 2-4-D, two, and Bladex, one.

Oswald recommended Lasso and Bladex if the farmer planned on planting a legume crop next year, or Lasso and Atrazine or Aatrex if they planned to plant corn next year.

One mistake they found in survey results was that a farmer used wrong herbicide, one that is to be incorporated. As herbicides are sprayed on the surface with no-till, this wouldn't take effect, Bryant noted.

Another success factor Bryant and Oswald noted they found from the survey results was the use of a starter fertilizer, applied at planting time. All of the six successful no-tillers used one, said Oswald, and he added that the other survey results showed farmers got 15 to 20 bushels per acre more by using one.

Four of the six successful no-tillers (Please turn to page 6B)

No-Till - -

(Continued from page 1B)

used an insecticide this year: three used Counter and one used Lorsban. However, Bryant said the results showed use of an insecticide did not play a significant role in the use of no-till this year.

Yields

The average yield of the six most successful no-till farmers was 139 bushels per acre, noted Oswald. Soil type would also have an effect on yield, Bryant added, noting the fields planted in no-till were probably more marginal lands. They planted a total of 320 acres. The survey did not ask soil types, he said.

Of the six, five felt their yields were comparable with conventionally tilled fields, while one felt his was worse. This was the same farmer that noted poorer weed control and germination, Oswald noted.

In the preliminary tabulation, eight felt yields were comparable, nine did not and six did not report.

One farmer reported double cropping, planting corn after the first cutting of a hay crop. Oswald noted it was interesting that he was able to do it. The farmer had a yield of 130 bushels per acre from the corn crop and estimated the value of the two crops as equal to the value of one crop.

The preliminary survey results also showed that a variety of no-till planters were used, with different type coulters. The different types had no significant effect on the outcome, said Bryant.

"They'll all do the job if they're adjusted right," he said.

Conclusions

The major conclusion Oswald and Bryant noted from the survey was that farmers would be most successful if they stuck to recommended procedures for no-till planting, as the six most successful farmers had. "Follow the tried and true method," said Oswald. "This method that they have used has shown to be the most effective in the past."

Bryant added that those wanting to try no-till also shouldn't do an entire farm at once. "It's a different management completely," he said. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation service will still offer \$10 per acre for up to 40 acres to try no-till, he added.

Beginners should plant in bean ground first, as it would be easier to rescue them if they have problems, he continued. Oswald added if farmers have questions, they should also ask people that can help, noting they could help if reached at the right time.

The most important conclusion they found in the survey, however, was that substantial erosion control could be effected with no-till, Bryant noted. One farmer would have lost 15 to 20 tons per acre; 15 to 20 times what he lost with no-till, Bryant said. "You can get the soil loss down to one ton very easily," he commented.

Actual questions and answers given by the 23 respondents in the preliminary tabulation are as follows:

Number of acres no-tilled? 945 total.
Previous crop? corn, 11; soybeans, 8; sod, 10.

Planted crop? corn, 23, soybeans, 1.
Type planter? John Deere, 6; Allis

(Continued on page 7B)

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Chalmers, 11; Kinze, 1; White, 1; Buffalo, 2; International Harvester, 1; no report, 1.

One inch coulters, two inch coulters or double disc opener? one inch, 7; two inch, 11; double disc opener, 4.

Was field customed sprayed? yes, 17; no, 6.

Was Paraquat used as a burn down? yes, 14; no, 9.

Other herbicides? Lasso, 12; Bladex, 9; Sutan, 1; Bamvel, 1; Atrazine, 5; Aatrex, 7; 2-4-D, 2; no report, 4.

Was early weed control good? yes, 15; no, 4; fair, 4.

Was late weed control good? yes, 10; no, 8; fair, 4.

Did you use a rescue herbicide treatment? yes, 6; no, 16.

Were you pleased with overall weed control on no-tilled fields? yes, 13; no, 9.

Were you pleased with overall weed control on other fields? yes, 15; no, 5; not available, 2.

Was an insecticide used? yes, 15; no, 8.

Was it effective? yes, 13; no, 2.

What insecticide used? Counter, seven; Dyfonate, one; Lorsban, two; Thimet, three; Amaze, one; not reporting, one.

Did you have a rodent/bird problem in sod ground? yes, four; no, six.

What was your planting speed? 2-3 mph, one; 3-4 mph, one; 4-5 mph, nine; 5-6 mph, six; 6-7 mph, four; 7-8 mph, one.

What condition was the soil? wet, 3; dry, 12; uneven, 3; rocky, 1; good, 7.

Did furrow close and allow good soil-seed contact? yes, 15; no, 5; fair, 3.

Do you feel the percentage of germination was worse than, as good as, or better than conventionally tilled fields? worse than, 8; as good as, 13; better than, 1; not reporting, 1.

Did you try double cropping? yes, 1; no, 22.

Yield of first crop? not reported.

Yield of second crop? 130 bushels per acre corn.

Do you feel that the total value of both crops was less than, equal to or greater than the total value of one crop? equal to.

What was your yield? 80-89, one; 90-99, two; 100-109, two; 110-119, five; 120-129, two; 130-139, two; 140-149, two; 150 plus, one; not reporting, six.

Was yield comparable to your conventional fields? yes, eight; no, nine; not available, two; not reporting, four.

Did you use a starter fertilizer? yes, 8; no, 13.

Did you side-dress anhydrous ammonia? yes, 0; no, 23.

Have you no-tilled rented ground? yes, 5; no, 16.

Do you intend on doing no-till in 1982? yes, 16; no, 2; not sure, 4.

P.7

Ross Knipfer Uses No-Till Planting Method

By Keith Allison

Growing crops without tilling the soil may seem strange to some people but many farmers in the state and elsewhere are learning what Mother Nature has known all along. She has designed her seeds to germinate and grow in numerous adverse environments.

Ross Knipfer, a rural North English farmer, recalled when he first planted using the no-till method, "I didn't think those seeds were ever going to come up."

Ross and his son David began their no-till experimentation two years ago, and this year planted all their grain with the no-till method. "A lot of people tried to discourage us from putting everything into no-till," Ross commented, "but we had great success last year."

Ross planted around 130 acres on his home farm, 140 on David's farm near Parnell, and also put in 160 acres of no-till at his father's home farm near North English. Helping in the farm operation is Knipfer's wife, Carol; daughter, Sandra, 21; and David. Also assist is Vicky, 16, a junior at English Valleys, and Darren, 12, who's a seventh-grader there.

"I've farmed here for approximately 19 years now," said Knipfer, "but I actually began on my father's farm, which is a century farm and belonged to my great-grandfather."

"We raise about 10-12 head of milk cows and also have 40-45 head of sows on the farm. My daughter Vicky does most of the milking," he added, and of the hog operation said "and normally we farrow all year long."

"There were several persons who first helped us learn about no-till planting," said Knipfer. "Larry McCallister, a neighbor, has had no-till crops several years now, and he helped quite a lot, especially telling us the 'dos and don'ts' using this conservation type tillage."

"Another person who assisted was Bob Jones, a representative for Ortho Chemicals, Williamsburg, and the Iowa county Soil Conservation commission, in addition to the SCS office personnel. I viewed several films for added research, and talked with numerous other no-tillers before attempting the new conservation type tillage," Knipfer commented. "I also subscribed to a farmers' magazine titled 'No-Till Farmer,' which gave me a lot of new ideas that first year."

"Last year we just planted my farm and David's in no-till, and not my father's farm ground, and we had a better stand in our no-till than using the conventional planting. At my dad's farm, the ground is normally wet, but it dried out and was very cloddy."

"I'm extremely happy with last year's yield, but this year looks like a so-so year," said Knipfer. "We averaged 140 bushels per acre in corn at David's farm last year, and about 125 bushels per acres here. This year we have some areas that are real good, and some equally bad areas," he commented, "so we're expecting an average of about 120-125 bushels from our corn ground."

"Part of a farmer's success with no-till depends upon your ability to choose your field. We've found out, on our farm anyway, that no-till has worked great in sod and bean ground, but not the greatest in corn stalks," commented Knipfer.

"All soils can be successfully no-tilled if you understand their nature. A wet soil in the spring is going to remain wet longer if you no-till it, so avoid the temptation of getting in early. The soil remains wet longer

because the crop residue acts as a barrier to drying. Wet soils will dry to optimum moisture conditions in most years.

"You can plant into almost any residue with no-till, but a beginner may want to break his psychological barrier by planting into a field of bean stubble. If he has a planter with disc openers, he's in business. He won't even have to use coulters if he chooses not to."

"If you are going to plant into a legume sod next year, you may want to consider spraying chemicals in the fall if you are not going to utilize the forage. This should kill deep-rooted plants such as alfalfa and give you additional broad leaf control. This will prevent spring regrowth. A burn-down herbicide will be needed to help kill the grass and weeds."

"We put on dry starter fertilizer with our new four-row Kinze (Manufacturing, Williamsburg) no-till planter that carried two boxes holding approximately 1,100 pounds of fertilizer, and applied 150-160 pounds per acre. We really haven't noticed any difference in seed corn selection, but we use a medium maturity corn in addition to some early corn — not full season corn, because it doesn't start as fast. Normally a 110-115 day growing seed will be planted along with some 105 day."

"This year we planted a little shallower over the previous year however, and had liquid nitrogen and

herbicides applied by custom sprayers. The \$10 an acre paid by the government for up to 40 acres to those farmers who wish to try no-till didn't even begin to pay for the chemicals," Knipfer laughingly noted.

As far as worm damage Knipfer said, "We had no problem with army or cut worms, but we did have a terrible time with stalk borers. They were even around the house and into my wife's flowers."

"But, I must admit that the last two years have been the worst for corn diseases for many years."

"Also, this year we've had problems with orchard grass, which the chemicals for some reason couldn't kill out. Foxtail in our beans has been heavier this year, too, for some reason. We sprayed several times last year and still didn't kill it, although we did slow it down. Next year we'll be putting on more liquid nitrogen and burn-down herbicides. Right now though, most of the burn-down chemicals aren't strong enough, and the ones that are available are either toxic or are very expensive. Right now, they're the only ones that will eliminate the weed problem."

"Proper herbicide application cannot be stressed enough when planting no-till," said Knipfer, "and you should use considerable thought and knowledge in ridding your fields of weeds."

"I'm no authority on no-till, but it's worked for us, and that's what

counts. Last year we planted all our grain with a little John Deere 1530 utility diesel tractor, and although it sounds incredible we only used 80 gallons of fuel to plant those 260 acres of ground."

"This year we had to go with a little larger tractor, because of the wetter ground conditions," Knipfer added.

"With the wet ground most of this year, we kept getting stuck. Normally it cannot get too dry to plant no-till except under sod conditions, but even then with weights on the coulters, planting can be successful."

"And planting depth is not considered a limiting factor in no-till. As long as the seeds are adequately covered, you should get a good stand. Population may suffer if seeds are exposed in the trench, but this may be a moisture problem, not a depth problem."

"I think during a wet year, as this year was, on your thin hill sides you'll have better luck disking the ground, because it dries the ground faster and also packs ground."

"Whether you use no-till to control erosion or because of economics, you're going to decrease soil erosion remarkably, and wind erosion will be virtually eliminated because crop residues serve as a protective blanket. Even with all the rain we've had this season, there are no ditches washed down, even on the hills," Knipfer pointed out.



PLEASED WITH NO-TILL SUCCESS—David Knipfer, left, and his father, Ross, right, are both pleased with the success of no-till farming

and point out that "even with all the rain we've had this season, there are no ditches washed down, even on the hills." The Knipfers, who farm near

North English and west of Parnell, have put all their ground except pastureland and oats into no-till planting and are pleased with their success.

Reclaims Land From Swamp

Doris McCartney

"Protecting the land. That's our investment."

Kenneth V. Grimm, 43, Deep River, assesses his reasons for soil conservation practices completed in August on his Iowa county farm, located two and one-half miles southwest of his farmstead.

As a result of establishing land improvements, Kenneth, the son of the Virgil Grimms, Millersburg, has been nominated as Iowa county's soil conservation service new cooperator.

Awards for all SCS winners are conferred at a fall dinner meeting.

In 1976 Grimm purchased his west farm, 160 acres, from the Louis Schultz family. Mrs. Schultz now lives in Williamsburg. Her and the late Mr. Schultz' son is Iowa Supreme Court Justice Louis Schultz, now of Iowa City, and former of Marengo. Their family had farmed here 37 years.

Soil losses in recent years were multiplying on the slightly rolling land. Grimm installed a total 6,600 feet of terraces and established a major tiling project. Of this amount 4,250 feet were established this year.

Because of tons of silt flowing onto his land from a neighboring farm, Grimm notes a five-acre swampland had built up through the central part of that tract.

The Iowa County Soil Conservation (SCS) and the Agricultural and Stabil-

ization Conservation services (ASCS) cooperated on the cost sharing program on the terraces and tiling related to that project.

However, Grimms financed the additional earth improvements which reclaimed the land.

Original estimates for the program were \$17,300; however the work was completed for less. Grimm's half of the project amounted to \$6,451. Work began in 1978.

Installed has been 4,835 feet of four-inch tile; 1,802 feet of five-inch tile; 731 feet of six-inch tile and 486 feet of eight-inch tile.

Major Benefits

"The major benefit is having 150 acres of this farm in production next year," Kenneth comments.

"Shortly after the waterway was tiled and improved, rains fell again. I've got the proof soil erosion is now cut on this farm."

He continued that soil losses were costly before the terraces were built. Silt-filled ditches were the reasons for two dry ponds being built.

One dry pond is a temporary improvement until the flow from the neighboring field is halted.

In addition, Grimm plans to add another stretch of tile through the waterway section when he can afford it.

Grimm observes, "The waterway

ran 80 rods north and south. Approximately \$3,000 was spent to develop the five acres into a farmable track." He paid that total bill.

"Not only that, but the road through this farm was hardly passable before we started all this work, during the rainy weather," Grimm adds.

"In beginning the land reclamation, we sacrificed three small ponds, no longer containing water. The ponds were not in my program, since I did not have livestock here. When Walt James, Millersburg earth moving contractor, started the work, he observed muskrats fleeing like a defeated army."

Grimm notes terraces were needed to break up the long slope and halt an erosion problem further up.

Management

Management of the land includes farming on the contour where his wife Karen had to learn some new tractor-driving skills.

While he has been using conventional tillage, Kenneth is considering minimum or no-till next year, at least on a test plot. He used a disc and chisel plow with the planting this season.

On 320 acres they are buying Grimm will harvest this fall 48 acres of soybeans and 66 acres of corn. He had 10 acres in oats and harvested hay from 13 acres this year.

Balance of the land went in to the government set aside program, including the conservation project under construction.

The soil conservation program is a milestone in their farming career. Last fall both were severely injured in a one-vehicle mishap about ten miles from home.

Karen, critically injured, had a lengthy hospital stay at Iowa City.

As a result, the couple sold most of their hogs, reducing their income. This fall, they are anticipating good crops, despite soil losses, a late planting season and other related problems.

Their son, Todd, 14, helps with farming, and they are the parents of a daughter, Nicole, 7.

Kenneth observes, "Removing waterways, adding terraces and tile and halting soil run-off all adds up to financial returns for the future of this family farm."



WORK ON PLAN—Karen and Kenneth Grimm, who farm in Dayton township, look over their conservation plan, one they have worked out with the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service. The Grimms are winners this fall in the county SCS new cooperator division. They have installed 6,600 feet

of terraces of which 4,250 feet were established this year. They have also incorporated a major tiling project into their soil conservation work. An area which had become a five-acre swampland has been reclaimed through their efforts in tiling.



LAND IS INVESTMENT—Kenneth Grimm believes that protecting their land is an investment. He and his wife Karen have been named new cooperator division winners in the county Soil Conservation Service annual awards. Land improvements have included

installing 6,600 acres of terracing and reclaiming a five-acre area that had become a virtual swampland because of silt flowing onto the land. A major tiling effort was used to reclaim the land.



LANDLORD, TENANT WINNERS — Soil conservation measures taken by August Steffen, left, and Dave Fetzer,

right, have been recognized by the Iowa country soil conservation district which has named them winners in the

district's annual* soil conservation awards contest, landlord-tenant division. In the background are terraces

built by Steffen on the land farmed by Fetzer west of Williamsburg. In addition, Fetzer no-till farms the land.

Survived Flood With Terraces, No-Till

By Alan Sieve

Dave Fetzer, rural Williamsburg, was glad the 150 acres he rents from August Steffen, Williamsburg, were terraced and planted by no-till when the July 15 rainstorm deluged the area.

The farm receiving 5.3 inches rain in less than 12 hours. He estimates he saved 30 to 40 tons of soil per acre. He had no terraces overtopped or damaged and had only a half-acre of crop lost.

His good fortune in the heavy rains this summer was due to soil conservation measures taken by he and Steffen. Those efforts have also been recognized by the Iowa country soil conservation district which has named Fetzer and Steffen winners in the district's annual soil conservation awards contest, landlord-tenant division.

Fetzer mainly credits no-till farming for saving the soil in the past rains, saying he believes it does more than terracing to save soil.

"That observation was pretty valid when I saw terraces fill up with plowed ground," he said. Although those farmers kept their topsoil on the farm and could push the soil back in place with a dirt scraper, he asks, "What did they gain?" He suggests they would

have been further ahead with no-till.

Fetzer doesn't discount terraces as a soil conservation measure, however. He notes in the summer flood, he might have lost another five tons of soil per acre without the terraces. However, he sees no-till as a more effective means of soil conservation and would consider minimum tillage (two passes over the field) or no-till (one pass) before building terraces in addition to the seven he already has on his farm.

"It saves the soil, and that's what I'm after," Fetzer said.

Started In 1979

Fetzer and Steffen started their joint soil conservation efforts in 1979 when Steffen had 1,500 feet of terraces installed, covering a 20 acre watershed. He noted he needed tiling done on the land at the time; therefore he decided it was a good time to install terraces as well. He continued there was a small ditch running down through the field to be corrected.

Steffen completed the project under a cost-share agreement with the Soil Conservation Service, which funded one-half the cost, according to district conservationist Harry Bryant. Fetzer was also consulted about the farmability of the terraced land and to make

sure no more land was taken than necessary.

The terraces are designed for a Q-10 rain, a rain of such intensity it only happens statistically every ten years. That amounts to four inches over a 24 hour period. The tile inlet terraces are designed to allow two inches to run off during that period, with two inches remaining to run off or soak in afterward.

Fetzer believes the terraces were over-sized when built, however, because they didn't overtop in the July 15 rain. Bryant disagreed, saying he thought Fetzer's use of no-till slowed down the runoff and allowed more water to soak into the soil. The terraces were designed the same as others in the county that did overflow, he said, noting Fetzer's were "one of the few that didn't."

Steffen noted the main reason he did the terracing was to save the soil, "to hold our soil on the farm."

Fetzer suggested there are also some practical benefits to the landowner in terracing: it probably makes the land more valuable and the tiling provides valuable subsurface drainage.

With no-till, he added the subsurface drainage is important to keep the soil from getting too wet, as the

residue left on the surface prevents evaporation.

No-Till Benefits

Fetzer also noted his additional benefits in using no-till. "I'm first of all doing it to save the soil," he said. "Right along with that, I'm saving nutrients."

He added there was a lot less wear on his tractor as fewer trips were made over the field, greater fuel savings resulted and a little less labor was needed.

Fetzer was also satisfied with the yields this year, his first experience with no-till. He noted it looked like his corn planted on soybean ground would have yields comparable to conventional tillage. Corn planted on corn ground appears will lose a bit on yield, but Fetzer added, "I haven't harvested it yet to know."

He added he did not use a no-till planter this year, but made modifications to his ordinary planter. "It's a lot harder on a planter to do it that way," he noted. "My planter went through about three year's wear, but I used two-thirds less fuel."

Although it may save some time in the field, Fetzer added no-till takes

(Please turn to page 17B)

Yoders Use Contours On Rolling Land

By Keith Allison

Soil conservation practices had an early beginning for the Harold Yoder family who farm in Greene township.

Since 1898 the Yoder family has been using some form of conservation on their fourth-generation farm; however, it was Harold Yoder who in 1976 first started to implement contouring, strip cropping and rotation in his fields.

A pioneer in many areas, he realized his farm of rolling hills in rural Iowa county could readily benefit from soil conservation practices. His son, John Yoder, followed in his footsteps and proudly points out the terraced land, farm pond and future conservation practices.

"Extensive tiling, terracing, contour farming and conservation tillage may not even pay for itself in my dad's lifetime," said John Yoder. "And it also may not increase the value of our land, although it probably does."

Preserve Land

"We're first of all doing it to save soil, and right along with that, we're saving nutrients, but what it all boils down to is that we're preserving the land for the next generation," he noted.

The Yoders started their soil conservation efforts through the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in 1976 through a cost-share agreement, and again in 1978 and 1980. The Yoders continued their conservation efforts through a financial incentive program through the Soil Conservation Service, which funded one-half of the cost. "Harry Bryant, district conservationist for the area, has assisted us, but Ted Oswald, North English, who's with the SCS has been our main consultant," John Yoder added.

Since their first terrace in 1976, the Yoders have built roughly 4,950 feet of terraces and 11,000 feet of waterway tile, covering their 160 acres located near Wellman.

Harold Yoder has retired from farming, but he and his wife Mildred share the home on the fourth-generation farm with their son John. He rents the 80-acre farm, and an additional 80 acres located near the home farm to John on a 50 percent crop-share basis. John Yoder also rents 60 acres from a neighbor, Orville Ruegsegger.

The Yoders also have a farrow-to-finish hog operation, using approximately 90-100 sows throughout the year. They also have about 40 head of sheep and five to six head of cattle. During the early 1950's-60's, the Yoders' primary enterprise, along with their farming operation, was the raising of turkeys.

"Because we raised all those turkeys during the 50's and 60's, the ground has a high fertility, and now we fertilize the ground with manure from the hog operation. As a matter of fact, the farrowing house and nursery are now in what was once the turkey house," John commented.

Although John has three older sisters and one older brother, he was the only member of the family to continue farming. He attended the Williamsburg school system until the eighth grade, later enrolling in the Iowa Mennonite school, graduating in 1973. "After high school I entered Goshen college, at Goshen Ind., for two years, then transferred to Iowa State University where I received my agriculture business degree in 1977."

"As early as the 1940's my dad was consulting conservation people about getting help to lay out contouring for the farm," John Yoder said. "And over the years he changed conservation practices with the changing of times.

"In the early 1940's he was one of the first to use contour farming and rotation of crops such as planting a field one year

in corn, one year oats and two years in hay."

Build Pond

Other conservation projects were to build a one-acre pond for watering cattle and reseed pastures. The approximately nine-foot deep pond was also built through the ASCS program. Additionally, another terrace with tile will be built on the home farm, to help cut off water at the top of a hill.

"This is the most destructive part of water, when it picks up momentum

going down the hill wiping out crops and carrying soil along with it," John Yoder commented. "Also, the terracing helps keep your top and bottom soils in good condition."

"Removing waterways, adding terraces and tile and halting soil run-off all adds up to financial returns for the future of this family farm," John Yoder added.

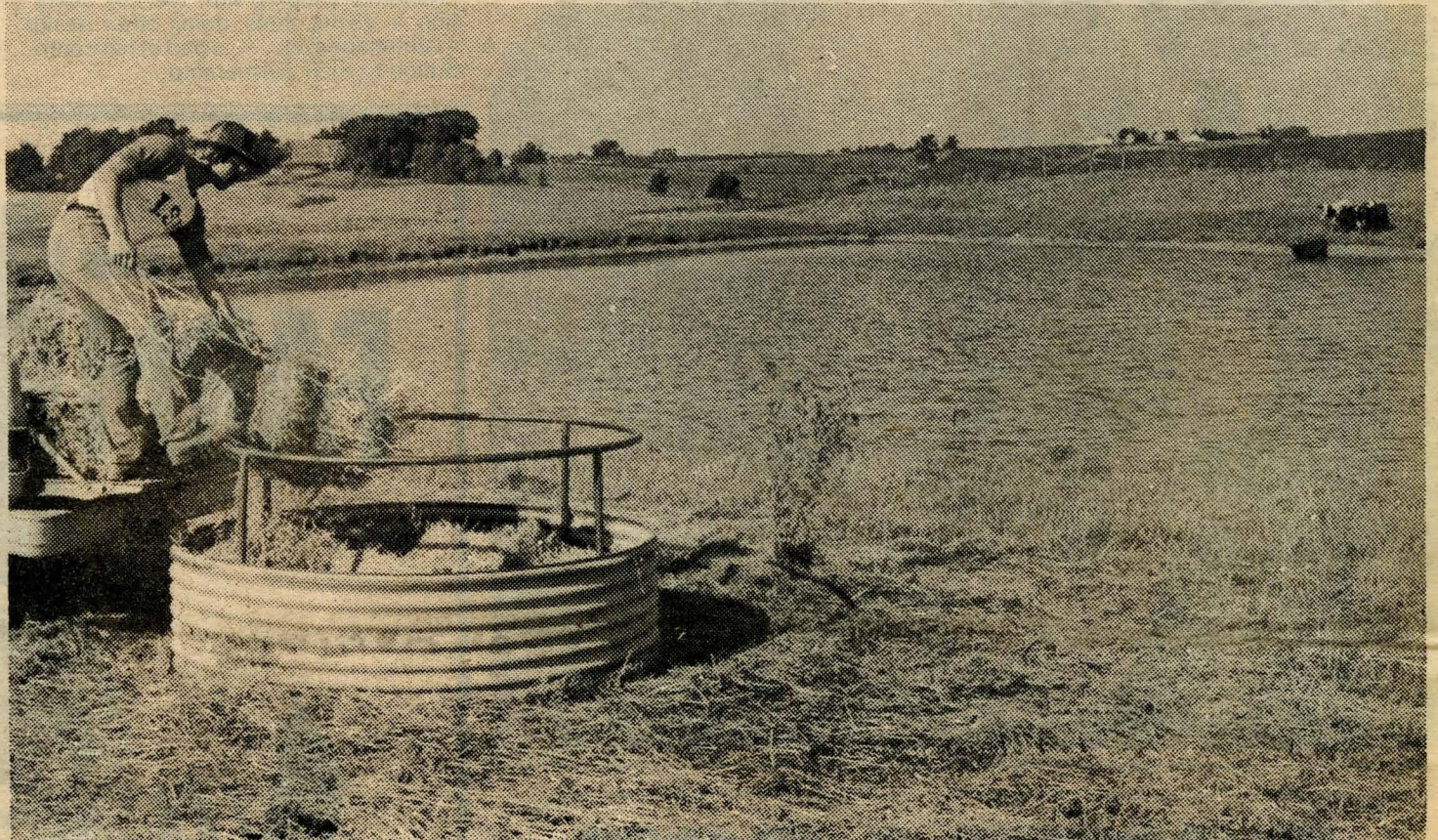
"About nine years ago we started using a chisel plow and leaving part of the previous crop residue on the surface to help reduce soil erosion. Leaving excessive amounts of crop residue can delay soil

drying and warming, which can be beneficial in excessively drained, droughty soils. Reduced soil disturbance and increased soil residue can cut evaporation losses and conserve water."

"We disc once in the spring, along with spraying herbicide, but next spring I plan to use a no-till operation on the soybean crop, and later on corn ground. At the present we incorporate a terrace and strip crop combination, with terraces at the top end of slopes."

The terraces are designed for Q-10

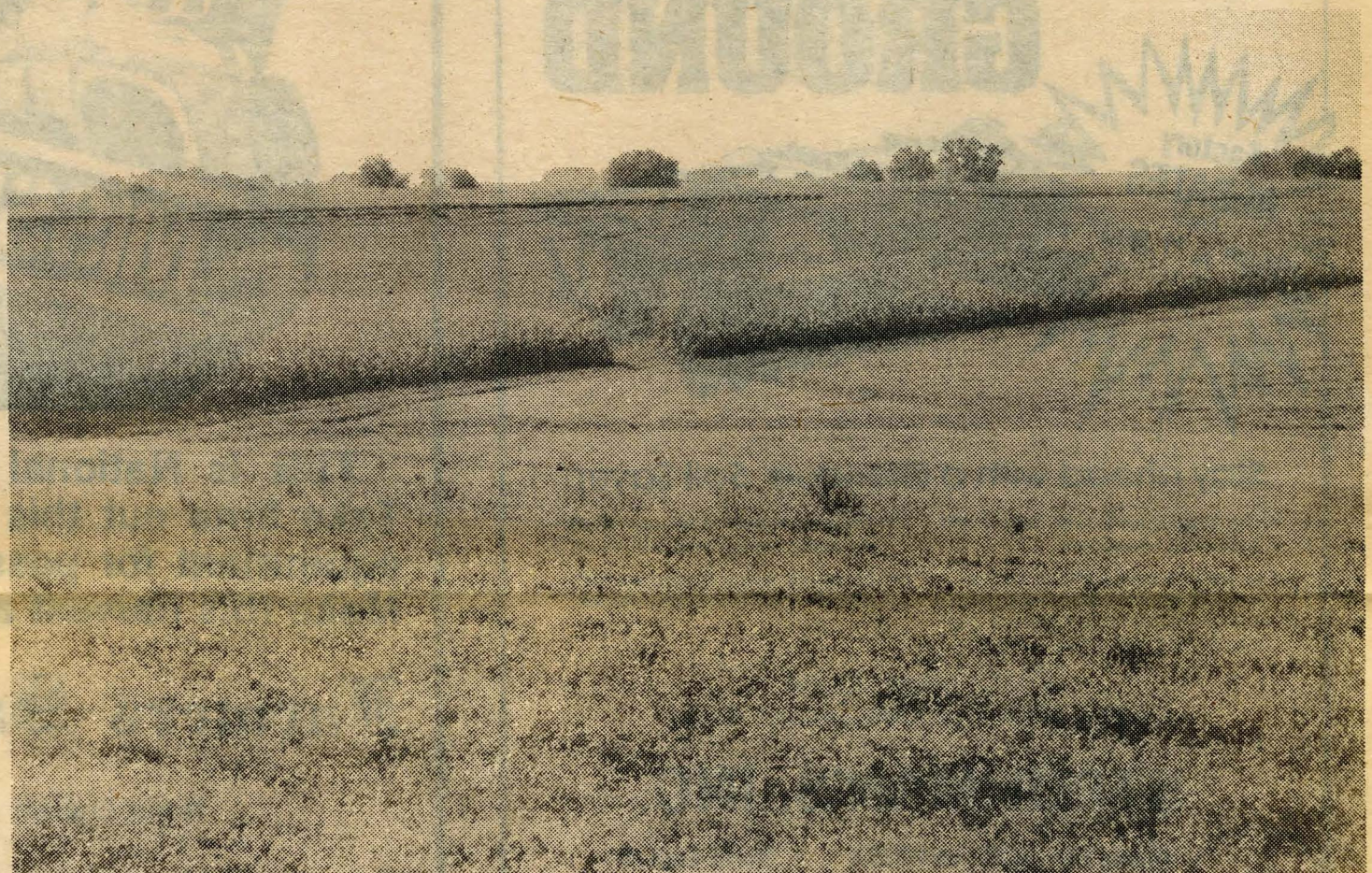
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ONE ACRE POND — The Yoders built this one-acre pond on three acres of ground in 1965, primarily to stop the water flow

from the top of the hill. John Yoder, son of the Harold Yoders, rural Wellman, is

feeding hay to calves who are grazing in the fenced-in pastureland.



FIRST TERRACE — The Yoders first built terraces on their farm in 1976, through a cost-share agreement with ASCS (Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation

Service) and later worked with the SCS (Soil Conservation Service) office in Iowa county. They built additional terraces in 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983. Plans

are to incorporate a six-year crop rotation, using a continuous crop on the top and bottom, while the side rows will be planted in oats, alfalfa and corn.

Yoders - -

(Continued from page 3)

rain, a rain of such intensity it only happens statistically every ten years. That amounts to four inches over a 24-hour period. However, the Yoders feel the terraces were oversized when built, because they didn't overflow during heavy rains in recent years.

"Future plans include continuing with the strip planting on the sides and use a continuous crop at the top and bottom, over a six-year crop rotation. In the strip section we'll use oats one year, alfalfa two years and three years of corn.

"We've been pleased with the way we've gone, and as a short-term advantage it has been easier to farm. Without the terraces we couldn't keep the slough and ditches open," John Yoder said.

"By installing terraces, we've salvaged wasteland and ditches, and although in the borrow areas it takes several years to get up to production, it's awfully hard to build a farm if it keeps washing off."

"There are several farmers in our area who are using various conservation pro-

grams on their farms, including no-till, contours and terraces," John noted. "A terrace built in 1982 laid between our land and Luella Marine's farm, operated by her son Clifford. We were both able to apply for assistance through the ASCS office and build the terrace. It made a great place to build a fence line, right on top of the built-up terrace.

"Working together we can increase the productivity of our resource base and at the same time make Iowa an even better place in which to live, work and play," John Yoder concluded.

GOOD INVESTMENT — John, left, and Harold Yoder, right, both believe that protecting their land is an investment in the future. Conservation programs used by the father and son throughout the years include contouring rolling cropland and using crop residue cover on their cropland. Since 1976 they've put in 4,950 feet of terraces and 11,000 feet of waterway tile on their farm located in Greene township near Wellman. Plans are to install another terrace and add tile on the area where they are standing.



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NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK Sept. 19-25.

FARM DEPARTMENT



National Safety Council 444 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago

Yoders Use Contours On Rolling Land

By Keith Allison

Soil conservation practices had an early beginning for the Harold Yoder family who farm in Greene township.

Since 1898 the Yoder family has been using some form of conservation on their fourth-generation farm; however, it was Harold Yoder who in 1976 first started to implement contouring, strip cropping and rotation in his fields.

A pioneer in many areas, he realized his farm of rolling hills in rural Iowa county could readily benefit from soil conservation practices. His son, John Yoder, followed in his footsteps and proudly points out the terraced land, farm pond and future conservation practices.

"Extensive tiling, terracing, contour farming and conservation tillage may not even pay for itself in my dad's lifetime," said John Yoder. "And it also may not increase the value of our land, although it probably does."

Preserve Land

"We're first of all doing it to save soil, and right along with that, we're saving nutrients, but what it all boils down to is that we're preserving the land for the next generation," he noted.

The Yoders started their soil conservation efforts through the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in 1976 through a cost-share agreement, and again in 1978 and 1980. The Yoders continued their conservation efforts through a financial incentive program through the Soil Conservation Service, which funded one-half of the cost. "Harry Bryant, district conservationist for the area, has assisted us, but Ted Oswald, North English, who's with the SCS has been our main consultant," John Yoder added.

Since their first terrace in 1976, the Yoders have built roughly 4,950 feet of terraces and 11,000 feet of waterway tile, covering their 160 acres located near Wellman.

Harold Yoder has retired from farming, but he and his wife Mildred share the home on the fourth-generation farm with their son John. He rents the 80-acre farm, and an additional 80 acres located near the home farm to John on a 50 percent crop-share basis. John Yoder also rents 60 acres from a neighbor, Orville Ruegsegger.

The Yoders also have a farrow-to-finish hog operation, using approximately 90-100 sows throughout the year. They also have about 40 head of sheep and five to six head of cattle. During the early 1950's-60's, the Yoders' primary enterprise, along with their farming operation, was the raising of turkeys.

"Because we raised all those turkeys during the 50's and 60's, the ground has a high fertility, and now we fertilize the ground with manure from the hog operation. As a matter of fact, the farrowing house and nursery are now in what was once the turkey house," John commented.

Although John has three older sisters and one older brother, he was the only member of the family to continue farming. He attended the Williamsburg school system until the eighth grade, later enrolling in the Iowa Mennonite school, graduating in 1973. "After high school I entered Goshen college, at Goshen Ind., for two years, then transferred to Iowa State University where I received my agriculture business degree in 1977."

"As early as the 1940's my dad was consulting conservation people about getting help to lay out contouring for the farm," John Yoder said. "And over the years he changed conservation practices with the changing of times."

"In the early 1940's he was one of the first to use contour farming and rotation of crops such as planting a field one year

in corn, one year oats and two years in hay."

Build Pond

Other conservation projects were to build a one-acre pond for watering cattle and reseeded pastures. The approximately nine-foot deep pond was also built through the ASCS program. Additionally, another terrace with tile will be built on the home farm, to help cut off water at the top of a hill.

"This is the most destructive part of water, when it picks up momentum

going down the hill wiping out crops and carrying soil along with it," John Yoder commented. "Also, the terracing helps keep your top and bottom soils in good condition."

"Removing waterways, adding terraces and tile and halting soil run-off all adds up to financial returns for the future of this family farm," John Yoder added.

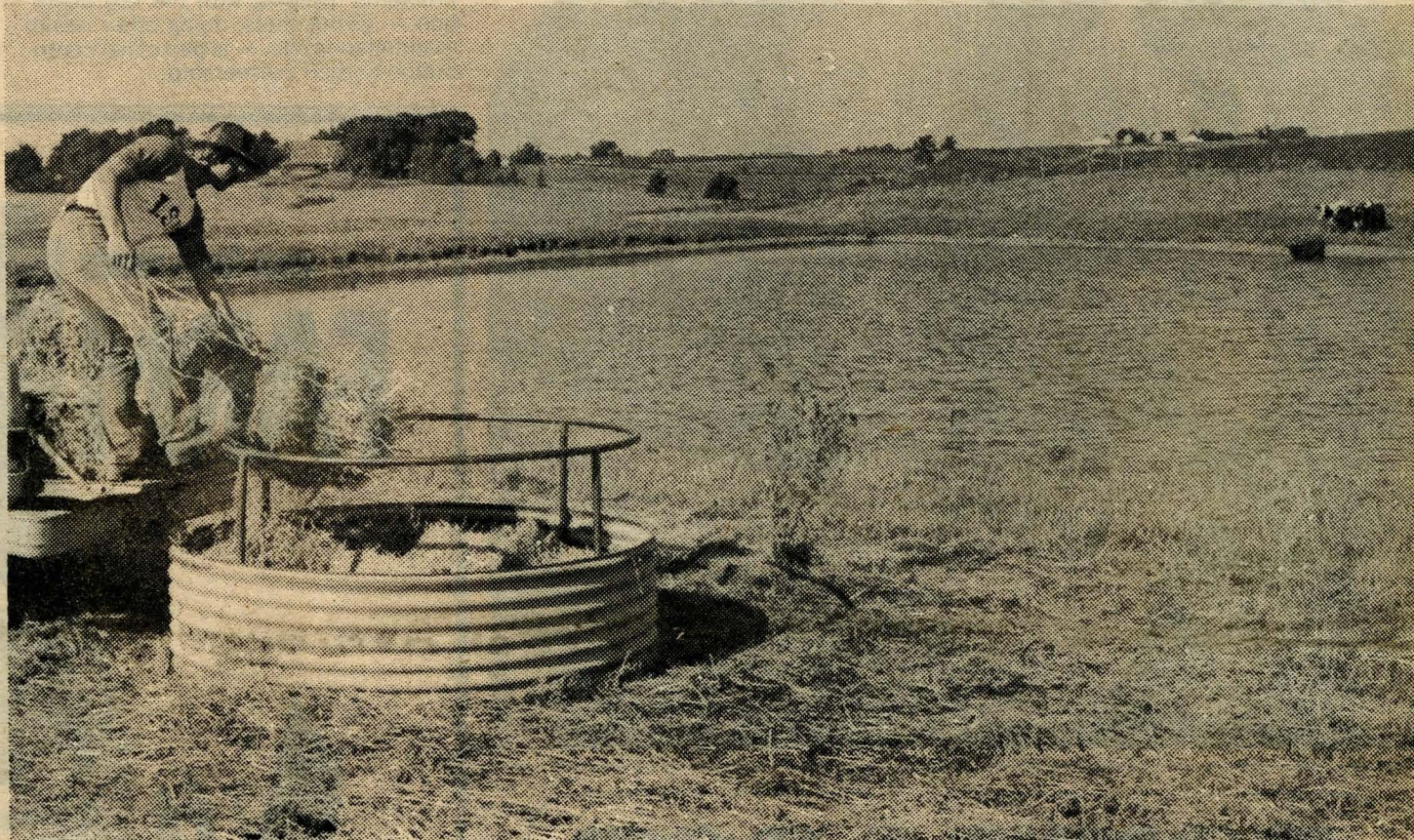
"About nine years ago we started using a chisel plow and leaving part of the previous crop residue on the surface to help reduce soil erosion. Leaving excessive amounts of crop residue can delay soil

drying and warming, which can be beneficial in excessively drained, droughty soils. Reduced soil disturbance and increased soil residue can cut evaporation losses and conserve water."

"We disc once in the spring, along with spraying herbicide, but next spring I plan to use a no-till operation on the soybean crop, and later on corn ground. At the present we incorporate a terrace and strip crop combination, with terraces at the top end of slopes."

The terraces are designed for Q-10

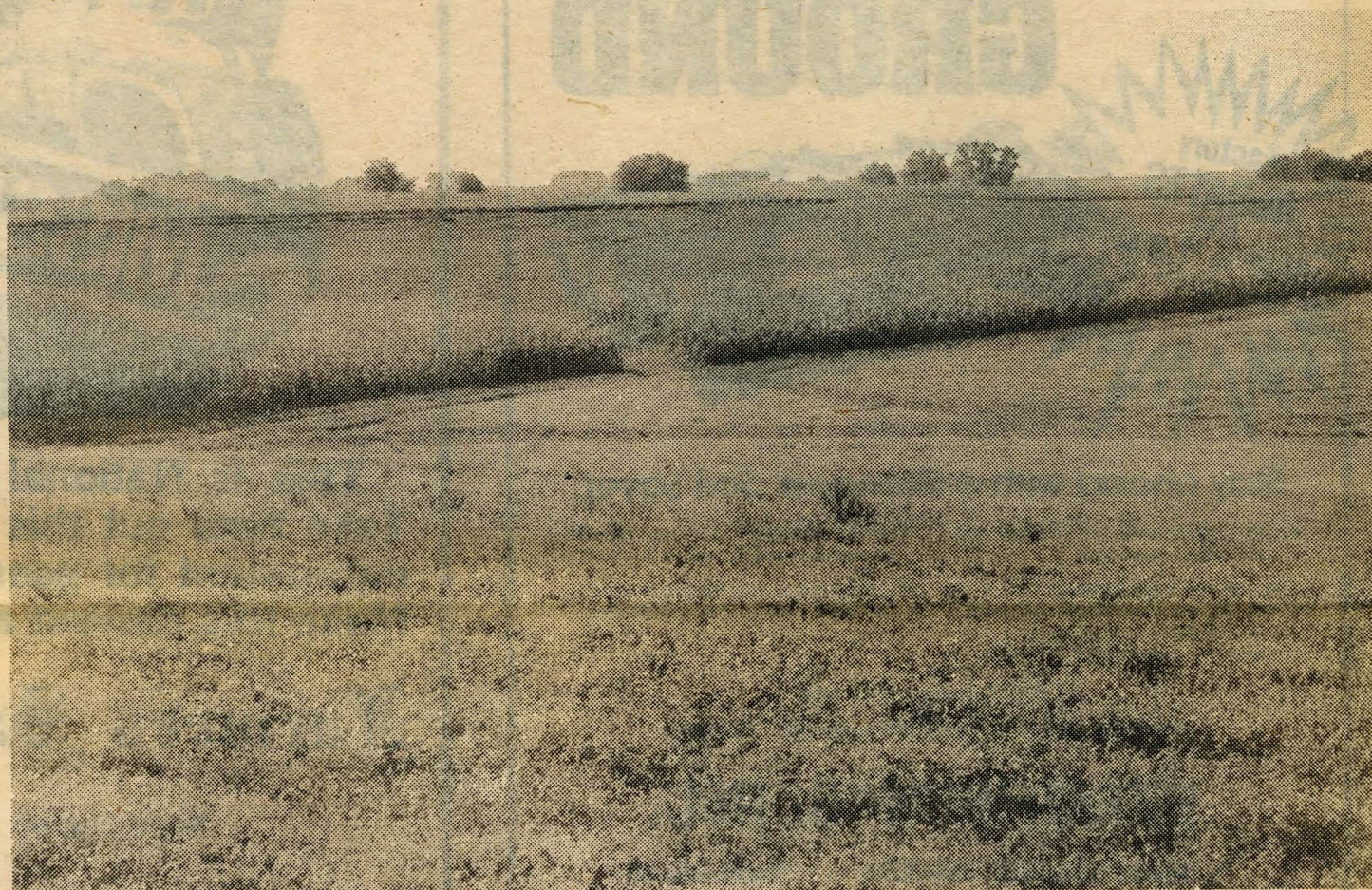
(Please turn to page 14)



ONE ACRE POND — The Yoders built this one-acre pond on three acres of ground in 1965, primarily to stop the water flow

from the top of the hill. John Yoder, son of the Harold Yoders, rural Wellman, is

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The Iowa County Farmer

The NEWSpapers of Iowa County

Thurs., Sept. 22, 1983

Marengo, Williamsburg, IA

Collingwoods Incorporate Terracing

By Alan Sieve

Although they have been contouring their farmland for better than 20 years, it has been just recently that father and son Russell E. and Russell J. Collingwood have begun a program of building terraces on the two farms they farm in partnership west of Williamsburg. Since 1978, they've constructed 5,300 feet of terraces and 14,426 feet of tile, according to Iowa County Soil Conservation district conservationist Harry Bryant, Williamsburg.

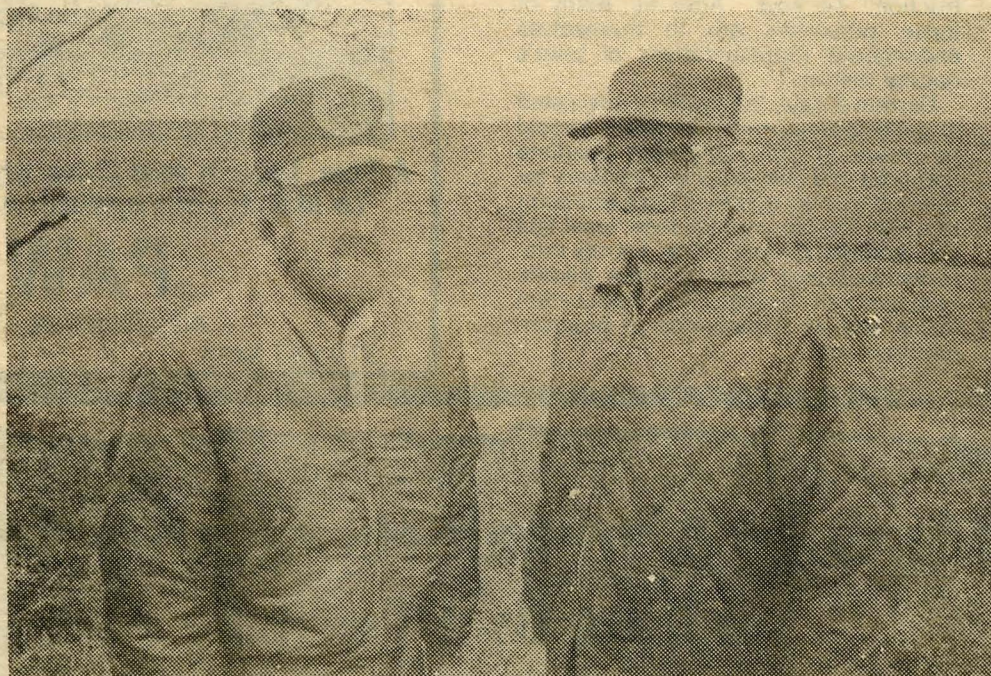
Asked why they decided to begin building terraces in 1978, Russell E. Collingwood noted there were several reasons: he and his son decided they'd gotten to the point where they could do some terrace work they'd wanted to do for 20 years; he'd become convinced of the benefit of terraces from what he'd seen other farmers do, and the government's 50 percent cost share program would help a lot.

Since 1979, they've instituted four projects on their two farms located along the IWV, one at the intersection with the C road, and the other a half mile further west. Bryant noted the Collingwoods installed 1,000 feet of terraces and 6,200 feet of tile in 1978; 2,500 feet of terraces and 4,375 feet of tile in 1979; 2,250 feet of terraces and 2,300 feet of tile in 1982, and 1,000 feet of terraces and 1,500 feet of tile in 1983.

Their first project was to control washing along a large draw running roughly north and south through their 80 acre west farm. They installed two tile lines along both sides of the draw, each about 140 rods long, and lines up lateral draws, bringing the total tile lines installed to about 400 rods. Three terraces were also installed along the east side. A neighbor, Eldon Yearian, also installed a terrace on his land to the east which also controls water coming down to the main draw.

The draw had needed erosion control for a long time, said Russell E., noting it had a six-foot gully at the lower end. It and another side draw had been bulldozed shut by a previous landowner, creating waterways, when Collingwood bought it in 1965. He added these were washing again, and one terrace they installed along the east side had to be built at least 15-foot high.

Terracing and tiling this main draw on their west farm has been the most expensive project they've undertaken, said Russell J., adding they went over the maximum amount eligible for cost share, doing a lot at their own expense. The total cost was around \$10,000, and



TERRACING PROGRAM — Father and son Russell E. and Russell J. Collingwood have begun a program of building terraces on the two farms they farm in partnership west of Williamsburg. Since

they received \$3,500 in cost share, the maximum possible then.

Work done themselves was installing the second tile line up the main draw and installing a tile line up a lateral draw to the west, which wasn't terraced until two years later. Russell E. noted tile lines aren't eligible for cost share unless terraces are installed at the same time. In subsequent projects, they've tiled and terraced one side of draws at a time, their projects being matched entirely by cost share funds.

Second through fourth projects, the latter completed this year, involved installing terraces and tiles on their east 108 acre farm. The second project involved installing four terraces and 120 rods of tile along a draw; the third involved four terraces and inlets along a draw at the east farm, and two terraces along the previously tiled draw at the west farm; the fourth involved putting three terraces with inlets along two smaller draws.

The terraces they've installed are a narrow base inverted V type which the men noted they feel is cheaper to build and maintain afterward than wide base

terraces upon which crops can be planted. 1978, they've constructed 5,300 feet of terraces and 14,426 feet of tile, according to Iowa County Soil Conservation district conservationist Harry Bryant, Williamsburg.

terraces upon which crops can be planted.

"I don't approve of terraces that you can farm eight rows on the slope," said Russell E. He continued the 25-to 30-foot-wide terraces are costlier to build, and he believes they will fill in quicker. "I think it's an expensive eight rows of corn."

He added the second set of terraces was the wider type, but since then they've gone back to the 15-foot-wide terraces. "We specify now the narrow base, or we don't go along with it," he said.

Contouring

Although it takes longer to contour his farmland, Russell E. noted, "I just can't see letting all that dirt wash away."

He began contouring on his own years ago, rather than following government specifications, by making a non-planting run around the middle of his hills in what he thought looked like a good contour, making adjustments on the rows away from the center one to eliminate as many point rows as possible. "We tried to have a close rather than a perfect contour," he noted.

By contrast, government specifications called for a perfectly flat contour, he said, regardless of the number of point rows. He added the government has relaxed its standards in the meantime to eliminate some of the point rows. That leads him to believe the government concluded more farmers would participate if they had fewer point rows to contend with. Bryant added the government also relaxed its standards to accommodate larger machinery.

The Collingwoods also used to practice rotation from corn to oats to pasture, but Russell E. explained they've expanded their corn ground, renting hay ground from neighbors, therefore they are not planting as much oats as they used to. They still rotate pastures though and need to plant an oat crop when they rotate.

That's mainly what they use oats for now, they said, noting they normally plant 15 to 20 acres in oats yearly and put 35 acres in pasture, planting corn on the balance of their 173 crop acres. They raise no beans. "The hills aren't cut out for beans," Russell E. noted.

This year however, they have 50 percent of their crop acres in the payment-in-kind (PIK) program and have seeded them in oats.

Russell E., 61, and Russell J., 35, also raise 250 to 300 hogs yearly in a farrow to finish operation, and pasture and feed out 65 to 75 steer calves for the fat cattle market.

Their future plans include terracing a long draw on the west side of their east farm within the next several years. They noted there are also other areas they'd like to construct terraces, but have no definite plans.

He adds he doesn't feel bad taking cost-share funds as he feels government policies keep food prices down. He'd rather see farmers receive prices that would enable them to afford the conservation measures without having government help, he said. "We've got to have it one way or another."

In addition to saving soil, terracing also benefits others down stream as it holds water back in big rains, he maintains. "The six inch rain last year convinced me we weren't the only ones to benefit. I'm awfully sold that the taxpayers are getting their money's worth."

"Just think what Williamsburg would have suffered" if farmers upstream didn't have the terraces that are in place, he said. "While the taxpayer is helping build them, they're getting some benefit as well."

Conservation Tillage May Be Adapted To Soil

Some form of conservation tillage can be adapted to all soil conditions and situations. Factors to consider when choosing a tillage system are erosion control and soil wetness, says Min Amemiya, Iowa State University Extension agronomist.

Conservation tillage leaves all or part of the previous crop residue on the surface to reduce soil erosion. A farmer may choose from a wide variety of conservation tillage systems and planting equipment, from something as simple as substituting a chisel plow or disk for a moldboard plow, to planting with no tillage at all, says Amemiya.

Two types of planters are designed to plant in soil that has not been tilled before planting. Strip-till systems plant the seed in a tilled strip prepared by sweeps, disk furrowers or powered rotary knives mounted ahead of the planter. The other type, called no-till, slot-till or zero tillage, places the seed in a slot made by a coulter mounted ahead of the planter.

The need for controlling water erosion increases as slopes become steeper and longer. On level to nearly level land, the need to control wind erosion must be kept in mind, the agronomist says. Erosion potential is greater following soybeans than corn because soybeans leave less residue.

Excessive amounts of crop residue can delay soil drying and warming, which can be beneficial in excessively drained, droughty soils. Reduced soil disturbance and increased soil residue evaporation losses and conserve water.

These well-drained soils, usually found on sloping uplands, have high water erosion potential. Conservation tillage is easily adapted to well-drained soils and can conserve moisture as well as soil, according to Amemiya.

Conservation tillage systems on somewhat poorly drained soils may prolong wetness, delay planting and slow early crop growth. Tillage systems that enhance soil wetness and delay drying and warming should be avoided on poorly drained soils.

Poorly drained soils, usually found on level to gently sloping land, have little water erosion potential, but can be subject to severe wind erosion. Con-

servation tillage systems can be adapted to these soils to reduce erosion by planting on ridges.

Ridge planting can overcome one of the main disadvantages of strip or slot planting on level ground. The ridge provides a firm, warm seedbed that dries quickly in the spring allowing

timely planting. When planting on the ridge, residue tends to collect in the furrow providing a stable channel for runoff water.

Tillage is only one part of crop production and must be compatible with other production factors, Amemiya says. Things to consider are fertilizer

and pesticide application, row spacing and harvesting.

The keys to success with any tillage system, Amemiya notes, are proper management of time, machinery, capital and labor and the ability to fit the system to the soil and weather conditions of the area.

Chisel Plows Need Adjustment For Best Performance

Chisel plows pull easier and leave more residue on the soil surface than moldboard plows, according to Erdal Ozkan, extension agricultural engineer at Iowa State University, Ames.

The draft of a chisel plow in most soils is less than half that of a moldboard plow per foot of width when both are working at the same depth. If improperly adjusted, however, a chisel plow may not give this advantage.

Minimum draft on a chisel plow is when the lift angle is 20 degrees between the face of the tool and horizontal. Operating a chisel plow so deeply that the upper curved part of the shanks presses down on the soil can increase draft.

Draft also increases as speed increases. High-speed operation causes breaking, pulverizing and ridging of the soil. The engineer suggests a speed of 5 miles per hour for best results in most soil conditions.

Operating a chisel plow at uniform depth is essential and relatively easy with a small, mounted implement. Keeping a wide chisel plow with folding sections level is not as easy. Check the machine frequently to see that all sections are level, Ozkan says, and make sure that hydraulic cylinders, which control operating depth, are working properly. Be sure all tires are equal size and inflated to the same pressure.

Uneven penetration from front to rear shanks may be a problem if a

chisel plow is not level. If this happens with a mounted chisel plow, extend the tractor top link to increase penetration of rear shanks; shorten the top link to increase depth of the front row of shanks. With a drawn chisel plow, raise the tongue in relation to the drawbar to increase the depth of rear shanks; lower the tongue for more penetration in front.

A chisel plow may move side to side or swing to one side in hard soil. This may be caused by the machine not being level, uneven penetration, operating too deep, soil too hard for sweeps or the shanks not equally distributed.

Poor shank arrangement may cause plugging when a chisel plow is operated on ground covered with residue. Shanks should be staggered with maximum space between them.

Improper installation of twisted shovels is another cause of plugging. Half of the shovels should be righthand and half should be lefthand. On chisels with three rows of shovels, the entire front row should turn the soil the same direction, the middle row should turn the opposite way and the rear row should be split so the shovels turn the soil toward the center of the plow.

Ozkan said most new conservation tillage chisel plows work well in spite of heavy residue because they usually have a gang of straight disk blades or coulters in front of the chisel shanks. This design usually eliminates the need for chopping or disking the residue before chiseling.

Steffen-Fetzer -

(Continued from page 1B)

more management time. "I've spent hundreds of hours researching no-till," he noted. "It takes a lot more management than conventional tillage."

He will definitely use no-till again next year. His goal is to farm entirely with no-till within two years. He adds another goal is to no-till farm without any loss in yields.

He continued although he's having problems with compacted soil now, in a few years, he thinks no-till may give it more tilth as there will be fewer trips over the field with heavy equipment. By going over the same rows, he believes the soil between the rows will maintain its tilth. He found this in researching another farmer's techniques, he added.

He has already sold his planter and will replace it with a no-till planter before next spring. He also plans to

sell his moldboard plow, replacing it mainly with a fertilizer applicator, no-till planter with mounted sprayer and "rescue" sprayer, a three-point hitch mounted sprayer to kill weeds that might appear after planting.

In addition to farming the 200 acres he rents from Steffen with no-till, he added an additional 300 acres his family farms is planted with minimum tillage, which is disked only, then planted. He also contour farms the hills wherever possible, he said.

Fetzer's operation is part of a family corporation which farms 500 acres, 200 beans and 300 corn, and farrows 4,000 hogs yearly, selling 3,000 as feeder pigs, and finishing 1,000.

Steffen, 64, is now retired from farming. He lives in Williamsburg and works for Kinze Manufacturing. He retired from farming in 1978. "I just thought I'd farmed long enough," he said. "I wanted to see how the other half of the world lived."

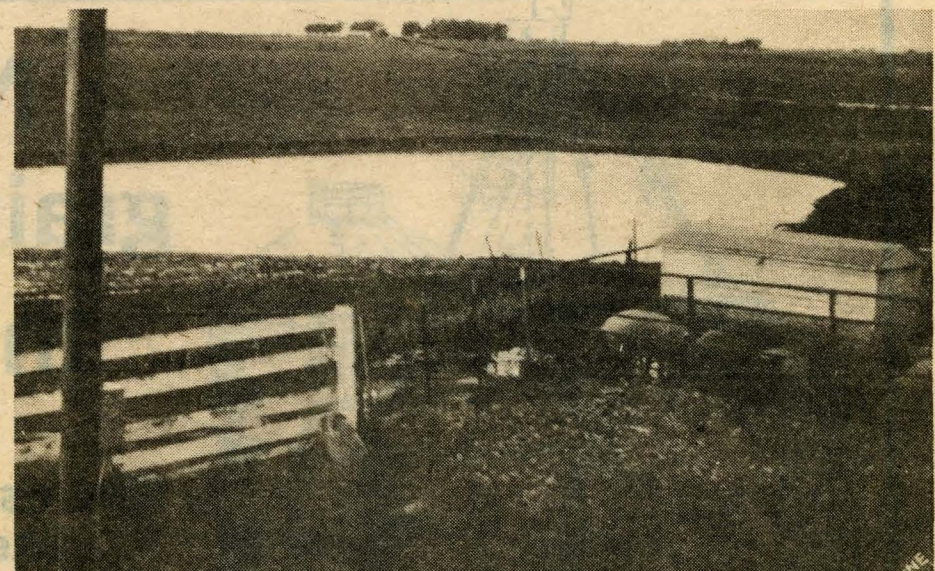
While he farmed however, Steffen noted he also followed conservation

measures, contouring the hilly land and rotating his cropland to pasture every three years.

He even started using minimum tillage in 1960, years before it became a common farming practice. Always on bean ground, he noted he just disked and planted. "I never plowed it."

"Some of the neighbors thought I was silly," he recalled, "but I figured I couldn't see plowing up that loose bean ground."

Asked if he planned any future soil conservation measures, Steffen noted, "Probably later." He said he has another 30 acres on the farm that has two big draws and a ditch down through it, which he is considering terracing. "I really believe in it," he said of the soil saving measures, adding that he also plans to require no-till in the next contract he makes with Fetzer.

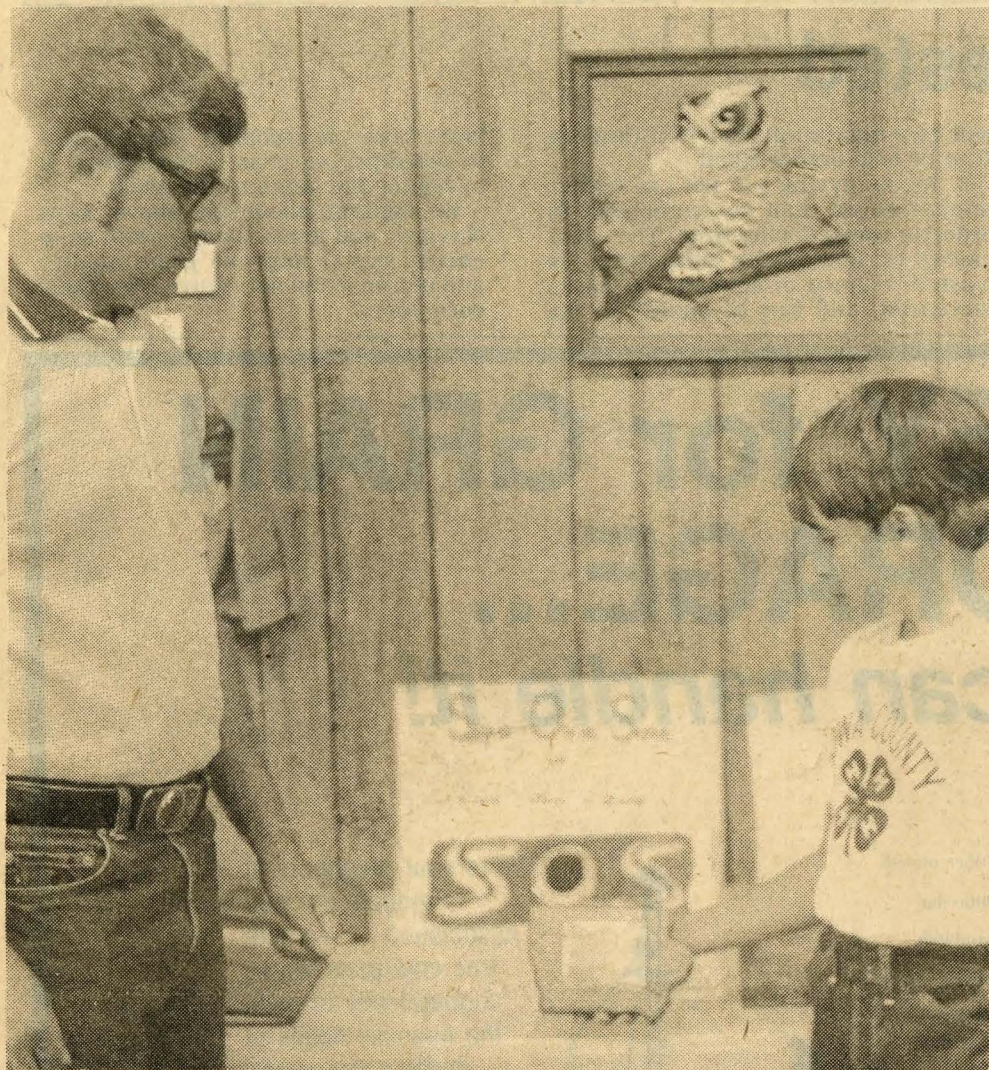


TERRACES HELD — When the July 15 rainstorm deluged the area, raining 5.3 inches on his farm in less than 12 hours, Dave Fetzer estimates he saved 30 to 40 tons of soil per acre. He had no terraces overtopped or dam-

aged and had only a half-acre of crop lost. The photo above was taken from the same angle as the large one, showing how the terraces held after the July 15 rainstorm.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE BOARD MEETS — A number of applications for soil saving program were approved at a recent meeting of the Iowa county SCS. Commissioners and personnel at the session included, left to right, front row: John Parsons, Lake Iowa, executive director; Harry Bryant, SCS conservationist; Rhonda Glandorf, secretary; Fred White, Parnell; and David McCartney, North English; back row: Ted Oswald, North English; Andy Rowe, Gregory Misbach, both Marengo; Robert Faber, Parnell; and Larry Wetjen, Marengo. Not pictured are Millen Sandersfeld, Williamsburg, staff aide; Larry Beyer, Marengo; and Doris (Mrs. David) McCartney, North English, both assistant commissioners.



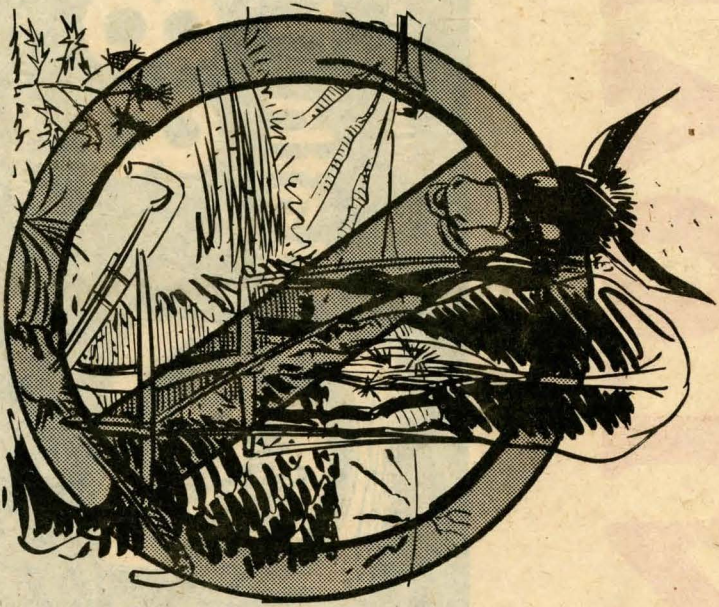


WON PLAQUE — Lyle Misbach, Hilton Happy Hustlers, won one of the awards given for soil conservation for an entry that illustrates a fact or idea related to conservation. His father, Greg Misbach, county soil conservation district commissioner, made the presentation.



ILLUSTRATES SOIL SAVING — Rand Broneman, Hilton Happy Hustlers, and Greg Misbach, Iowa county soil conservation service district commissioner, consider the three dimen-

sional project demonstrating soil saving techniques. Soil conservation service presented Lyle Misbach with a plaque and check.



"I don't believe in conservation..
.. but look who I am."

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District

Encourages You To...

SAVE: Time

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INCREASE PROFITS...

Leave your soybean
stubble alone this fall.

Soil & Water Conservation Week:
Sept. 19-26, 1982

No-Interest Loans Are Available For Conservation

Nov. - 1984

No-interest soil conservation loans are still available to owners and operators of farms if they meet Soil Conservation Service program requirements.

These loans will be processed through local lenders using tax exempt bonds purchased from the state of Iowa. Final loan details will be decided by the lending institution, said Gene Backhaus, SCS conservationist.

The loans may be used to finance the construction of permanent soil and water conservation practices or for the purchase of conservation equipment. The maximum amount of the loans that may be received is \$50,000, and there is no loan minimum. There is a \$100 application fee and a program participation fee of 2 percent or \$300, whichever is larger.

Equipment that may be purchased using this loan money includes specialized planters, cultivators and tillage equipment to be used in no-till or conservation tillage.

The Iowa county soil conservation

district must approve the application. Both new and used equipment may be purchased with used machinery needing to meet certain loan requirements. Conservation practices applied must meet the specifications of the soil conservation service, Backhaus said.

Another part of this loan program allows for this money to be used for the purchase of used conservation practices and the acquisition of farm land.

The maximum value of the bond loan will vary depending upon purchase. There is also no loan minimum for this part but there is a \$50 application fee and a program participation fee of 1 percent or \$200, whichever is larger.

For a person to find out if eligible, he/she should contact a lending institution that is participating and ask them or the soil conservation district office for information.

SCS Urges Leaving Residue In Fields

Nov. 1984

Officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are urging farmers to leave corn and soybean crop residue on top of the soil after harvest. The residues give needed topsoil protection against both wind and water erosion, according to information from the USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

"We're especially concerned about stirring soybean residues," says SCS state conservationist Mike Nethery. "There's no evidence that fall tillage of soybean land will increase yields next spring, so there is really no incentive to

stir the soil. Any stirring, even one disking or running a chisel over the land, loosens that soybean land and buries protective residue."

Nethery says a disking or chiseling of corn residues on slightly or moderately sloping land is not as critical because there should still be enough residue for good soil protection. "Still, leaving all the residues alone in the fall gives the best soil protection. With the success no-till farmers are having now, why go to extra work in the fall and take a chance on erosion?" he asks.

37th Annual Report Iowa Soil Conservation District

Williamsburg, Iowa

**DISTRICT & ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**

First row, left to right: Robert Faber, Larry Wetjen, Gregory Misbach, Fred White; second row: Andy Rowe, Larry Beyer, John Parsons, David McCartney and Doris McCartney.

**FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL**

Left to right: Millen Sandersfeld, Part-time WAE; Ted Oswald, Conservation Technician; Rhonda M. Glandorf, District Clerk; and Harry N. Bryant, District Conservationist.

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

A. Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
David L. Nelson, Civil Engineer
Catherine Kaspar, Agricultural Engineer
Francis Vos, Civil Engineer Technician
Keith Hunt, Civil Engineer Technician
Gerome Mall, Civil Engineer Technician
Kathi Ohnemus, Area Clerk

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Gregory T. Misbach, Chairman
Larry Wetjen, Vice-Chairman
Rhonda M. Glandorf, Secretary-Treasurer

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Advance Drainage Systems
Donald Baker
Beyer Farms
Harry Bryant
Certain Teed Co.
Chevron Chemical
Citizens State Bank
Clinton Culvert
Colony Market Place
Dietrich Earthmoving
Clayton Dietrich
Donald Dietrich
Elwood Implement
Bernard Elwood

Lambert Elwood
Robert Faber
Farm Service, Inc.
Farmers Savings Bank, Kalona
Farmers Savings Bank, North English
Farmers Savings Bank, Victor
Farmers Trust & Savings Bank
Dave Fetzer
Lester Fetzer
First Trust & Savings Bank
Gahring Construction
Steve Glandorf
Rudolph Hagen & Son

David Horras
Iowa County Farm Bureau
W.H. James Earth Constr.
Koehn Land, Inc.
Levine Co.
Pauline Lillie
Marengo Elevator
John Maxey
David McCartney
D. Max Miller
Rex Miller
Greg Misbach

Ronald Mohr
Morse Farm
Patrons Mutual
O'Meara Farms
Charles Pope
V.R. Points
Production Credit Association
Larry Quinlan
Lyle Riggan
Rot, Rot & Rot
St. Regis Culvert
Millen Sandersfeld

Gary Schafbuch
Security Savings Bank
Harold Sherman
Swartzendruber Lumber
Chris Swartzendruber
T.I.P.
Thermogas
United Central Bank & Trust, Kalona
United Central Bank & Trust, Marengo
Wellman Savings Bank
Delmar Wetjen
Larry Wetjen
Fred White
Roy Yoder

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES**JANUARY**

05 - Commissioners Meeting - Election of officers held. Elected were: Gregory T. Misbach, Chairman; Larry Wetjen, Vice-Chairman; Rhonda M. Glandorf, Secretary-Treasurer; Larry Beyer and Andy Rowe, Assistant Commissioners.

19 & 20 - Commissioners Short Course at Ames.
26 & 27 - Conservation Tillage Show in Cedar Rapids.

FEBRUARY

18 - Williamsburg Adult Education Class on No-Till
23 - Commissioners Meeting

MARCH

03 - Spring Regional Meeting - Iowa City
05 - No-Till Breakfast at Landmark Restaurant
08 - Conservation Tillage Show Evaluation Meeting, Marion

11 - No-Till Meeting with Extension
16 - Contractors Meeting, Commissioners Meeting
17 & 18 - Tillage Conference in Ames

23 - English Valley Adult Education Class on No-Till

25 - Kiwanis program on conservation
31 - Ag Teachers Workshop on Universal Soil Loss Equation

APRIL

06 - Soil Stewardship Meeting with Ministers of Iowa County

20 - Commissioners Meeting - Doris McCartney & John Parsons appointed as Assistant Commissioners

MAY

13 - Conservation Education - Williamsburg Voc-Ag

18 - Commissioners Meeting
21 - Conservation Education at Lake Iowa for Williamsburg 6th Grade

JUNE

15 - Commissioners Meeting
23 - Girl Scout Program at Lake Iowa

24 - Commissioners Conservation Tour
25 - Development Meeting with ASCS

29 - No-Till Tour - Farms of Dave Fetzer, Larry Wetjen and Carl Schnebke

JULY

06-08 - State Clerks' Meeting, Des Moines
20 - Commissioners Meeting

AUGUST

17 - State Fair, Des Moines
24 - Commissioners Meeting

26 - Conservation Tillage Committee Meeting, Marion

SEPTEMBER

07 - Fall Regional Meeting, Coralville
21 - Commissioners Meeting

NOVEMBER

15 - Annual Conservation Awards Banquet
17 - Tree Planting Meeting

17 - Switchgrass Cost-Share Meeting
29 & 30 - State Annual Commissioners Meeting

DECEMBER

14 - Izaak Walton League - Switchgrass Cost-Share Program
15 - Marengo Lions Club - Switchgrass Cost-Share Program

21 - Commissioners Meeting

DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS - 2,666 acres

Tom Bender
Gerald Bigbee, Sr.
Doug & Pat Hammes
Steven Heitmann
David Hocker
Melvin Hopp
Robert Lillis
Robert Pirkel

Doug Roberts
Harvey & Vernon Prizler
Norman Schade
Maynard Schlabach
Earl Schmidt
Elizabeth Stangl
Kay Tegatz
Dwain Wolter

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS - 1,140 acres

Tom Bender
Doug & Pat Hammes
Steven Heitmann
Robert Lillis
Frank Naughton

Robert Pirkel
Maynard Schlabach
Betty Stangl
Dwain Wolter

BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED - 989 acres

Larry Fuller
J.J. Kelly
John Maxey

Ted Miller
Everette Schlesselman
Glenn Wolters

ASSISTANCE GIVEN IN LAND PLANNING - 1,667 acres

Steven Heitmann
Frank Naughton
Mrs. Forrest Peters
Harvey & Vernon Prizler

Douglas Roberts
Kay Tegatz
Dan Williams
William Wyant

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major Practices	Unit	1982
Terraces	feet	49,750
Erosion Control Structures and Ponds	number	6
Waterways	acres	12.3
Windbreaks	acres	1.2
Conservation Tillage: No-Till	acres	8,500
Contour	acres	4,293

Other Services

Individuals & Groups Assisted	number	295
Individuals & Groups Applying Practices	number	204

IM BUDGET

	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS
Allocation	\$1,900.00	
Additional Allocation	165.62	
Commissioners' Expense		\$981.31
Office Supplies & Expense		893.55
Printing		190.76
TOTAL EXPENDED:		2,065.62
Released:		0.00
2M BUDGET		2,065.62
Allocation	\$12,273.00	
Clerical		9,780.00
Insurance		1,989.37
Travel		37.84
Equipment Maintenance		75.50
TOTAL EXPENDED:		11,882.71
Released:		390.29
3M BUDGET (1979-80)		12,273.00
Allocation	\$54,000.00	
Additional Allocation	10,000.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		64,000.00
Unobligated Balance		0.00
3M BUDGET (1980-81)		64,000.00
Allocation	\$75,000.00	
Additional Allocation	9,650.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		84,604.72
Funds Obligated to Farmers		0.00
Unobligated Balance (released)		45.28
3M BUDGET (1981-82)		84,650.00
Allocation	\$34,986.00	
Additional Allocation	51,450.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		77,740.48
Funds Obligated to Farmers		8,695.52
Unobligated Balance		0.00
3M BUDGET (1982-83)		86,436.00
Allocation	\$41,226.00	
Additional Allocation	31,226.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		18,225.10
Funds Obligated to Farmers		46,575.00
Unobligated Balance		7,738.90
REVOLVING FUND		72,539.00
Balance on Hand July 1, 1981	\$753.96	
Receipts—Contributions	1,899.70	
Receipts—Savings Interest	470.00	
Receipts—Reimbursement	1,253.87	
Receipts—Rental of Interseeder	10.00	
Disbursements		3,252.33
Balance on Hand June 30, 1982	1,135.20	
SAVINGS		
Savings Account		
Balance on Hand July 1, 1981	1,322.71	
Interest on Balance	94.67	
Interest on Time Certificates	810.24	
Closed Education Checking Account	19.97	
Transferred to Checking		470.00
Purchase new Time Certificate		1,000.00
Balance on Hand June 30, 1982	777.59	
Time Certificates		
5 @ \$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	

REWARD

REWARD

WANTED Soil Erosion

**CRIME: Stealing productivity of farm land
EVIDENCE AGAINST SOIL EROSION:**

1. ditches in fields
2. waterways cutting out
3. silted streams
4. other problems too numerous to mention

REWARD: 50% cost-share for terraces and dry ponds.

Waterways and erosion control structures to be considered on individual basis.

CAUTION: This problem is extremely dangerous to your farm's well being. If you come across an area where there is a strong likelihood of him being present, contact the proper authorities.

**IN IOWA COUNTY CONTACT:
Iowa County Soil Conservation District
600 Court St.
Williamsburg, Iowa
Phone 668-2359**

Should make application now for soil conservation funds

Farmers interested in building terraces or dry ponds this summer or fall should make application at the soil conservation office in Williamsburg as soon as possible.

The soil conservation district commissioners will be allocating cost-share funds in July. The rate of cost-share is 50 percent of the estimated cost of the tile and earthwork.

Terraces can reduce erosion on sloping cropland by about 50 percent and keep these waterways from washing out or filling up. It will also help to keep those high priced fertilizers and chemicals from leaving your farm.

For a soil conservation plan on part or all of your farm,

contact the soil conservation office in Williamsburg.

There is no service charge to have a soil conservation specialist come to your farm,

New face at soil conservation office

Julie Hocker, rural Williamsburg, is new clerk-typist at the soil conservation office in Williamsburg. She replaces Rhonda Glandorf who has worked in the office the past 3 years. Rhonda resigned her job to become a mother and now has twin daughters, Tia and Tara.

Julie is the wife of Dennis Hocker, who farms west of Williamsburg. They have four daughters enrolled in the Williamsburg schools. They are Sheri, age 14; Jennifer, age 11; Rachel, age 10; and Anne, age 4.

The soil conservation office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Upcoming Events

Herbicides Will Be Evaluated At Dave Fetzer Farm

Fifteen different herbicides will be evaluated at the David Fetzer farm, June 21, at 9:30 a.m.

John Creswell, area Extension agronomist, will evaluate no-till plots for effective weed and grass control. This is the third year of herbicide research in Iowa county by Creswell and Greg Breneman. The Fetzer farm is six miles

west of Williamsburg.

At 6:30 p.m. June 21, Creswell will evaluate the second year of his work in multiflora rose eradication on the David McCartney farm. Creswell has used different chemicals at different rates to try to kill multiflora rose on the McCartney farm, east of the Farm Service plant west of Millersburg.

Join the conservation tour

The Iowa County Farm Bureau women's committee is sponsoring a conservation tour Tuesday evening, June 26, beginning at 5:30.

Those planning to attend are to be in front of the Soil Conservation Service district

office in Williamsburg across from the post office.

The tour director will be Harry Bryant, Iowa county soil conservationist.

After the tour, a dutch treat style supper will be held at the Landmark Restaurant.

Anyone planning to dine there is asked to call the Farm Bureau office at 319-668-1331 to make reservations.

Multiflora Rose Is Subject For New Committee

Approximately 15,000 acres of Iowa county land are over-run with multiflora rose, according to a committee recently formed to study the problem in the county.

During a meeting called by the Iowa county board of supervisors and held Monday evening, July 9, at the Iowa county courthouse, a committee was formed of township trustees and other interested persons. The purpose of the meeting was to form a plan to combat the weed and also apply for state cost sharing funds.

Multiflora rose was originally planted in the state on the recommendation of government officials who advocated the plants use as a windbreak and natural fence. The plants have thorny vines like those of a rose and have now gotten out of control, and, according to farmers affected with the problem, are choking out other plants.

The state has allocated \$50,000 statewide in the form of cost sharing money to help eradicate the weed. As a provision of the legislation granting the money, the state will only reimburse counties for up to 25 percent of the cost of a program to deal with the weeds.

As a requirement toward receiving the cost share money, the county supervisors had to form a committee to plan a course of action to eradicate the weed and submit an application for the money to the Iowa Department of Agri-

culture. The selection of the committee last Monday was to fulfill the requirement for a committee.

The estimate of 15,000 acres infested by the weed was in response to a question on the application which asked for the total number of acres in the county which were affected by multiflora rose. The committee also estimated that 12,000 of those acres were in pasture and fencerow settings.

The committee requested \$50,000 in cost sharing money, the total amount allocated for the state. Committee chairman Ed Shima, said the county wouldn't be able to get the entire amount requested but wanted to get as much as possible. Supervisor Leonard Thys added that the state would probably prorate the funds among the applying counties.

If received, the cost sharing funds would be used to help reimburse farmers who had purchased chemicals and other supplies to combat the weed.

Harry Bryant, Soil Conservation service district conservationist, presented four guidelines for consideration by the group for the disbursement of any funds received. He proposed that a method be determined to find out what help an individual would need to combat his weed problem, suggesting that a trained person go to farmers requesting help and determine what their needs are.

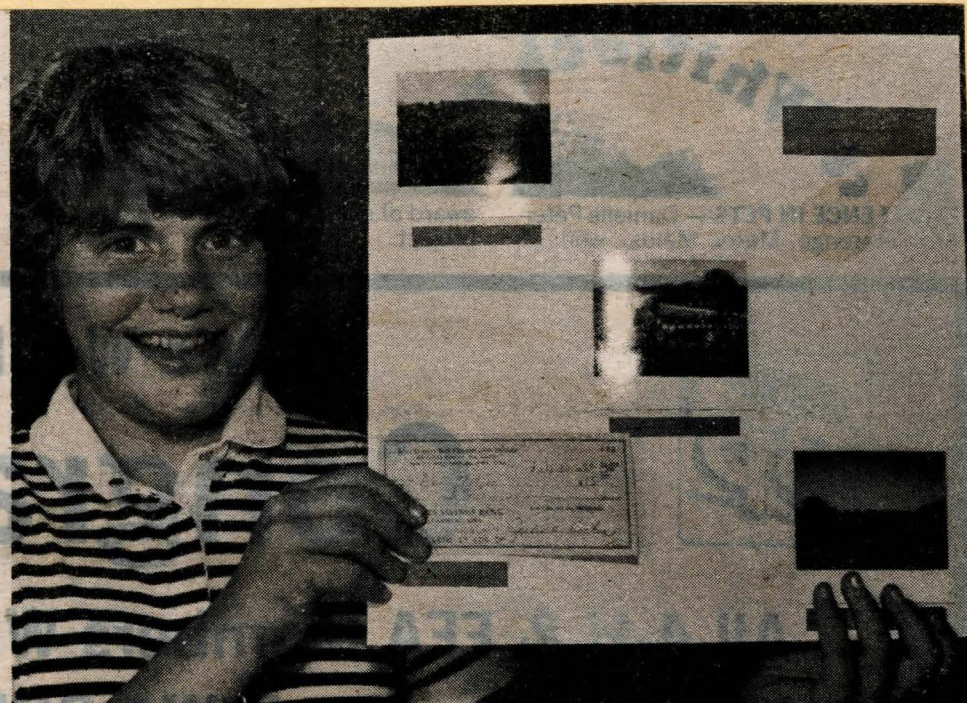
He also suggested as one of his guidelines that farmers wishing to receive money take training in the proper application methods of chemicals which would be used, also training in the proper times of the year to apply chemicals and education of the need to make followup chemical applications.

These guidelines were informally approved as starting points from which the committee can make final recommendations to the board.

Township trustees and others on the multiflora rose committee are: Shima, chairman; Lowell McKean, Iowa State University Extension service county director, secretary; and township trustees Raymond Morrison, English; Max Cronbaugh, Honey Creek; Paul Hannon, Greene; Stuart Blythe, Troy; Dean Humphrey, Dayton; Virgil Mohr, York; Laverne Weisskopf, Lincoln; Lon Bigbee, Washington; Ed Maaschmann, Hartford; John Parsons, executive director, Iowa county conservation board; Jim Sauter, board of supervisors representative; Robert Casteel, alternate member from English township; Bryant; Jim Ryan, Iowa County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee representative.

The next meeting of the committee will be when the results of the application for cost sharing funds is known, which the supervisors estimated would be in a month.

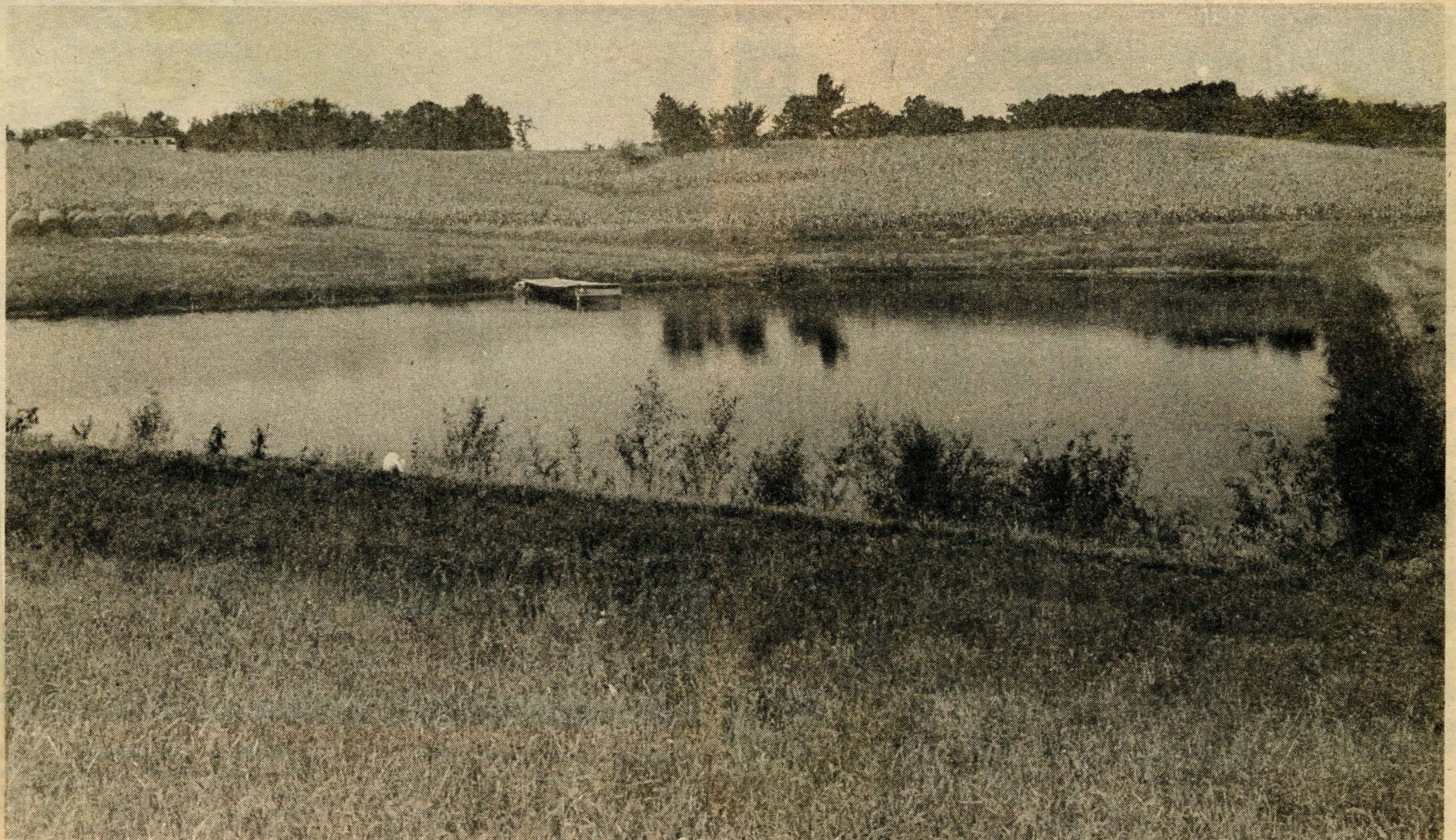
**Say You
Saw It
In The
IOWA
COUNTY
FARMER.**



JUNIOR CONSERVATION CHAMPION —
Ann Wetjen, Williamsburg Four Leaf Clovers, was junior conservation photo series champion, at the Iowa county fair.

In addition to the championship, she also won a \$15 check from the Iowa County Soil Conservation district.

P.3



POND AREA—There was one pond when Pat Hammes and his brother Doug bought the 195-acre farm about four years ago. Another one was added after-

wards, with assistance through a long-term agreement (LTA) by the government for a period of three years, with up to \$3,500 per year allowed. This

pond catches water off the hilly areas of the farm and also controls water runoff. Although there were a few old clay tile in the ground when they bought it, there

was basically nothing that was functional. Today there are also eight dry inlets that drain into tile that in turn drain into this pond.

"We Must Save Our Soil," Says Hammes

By Keith Allison

"One of the most important things for farmers today is to try and save erosion of our soil," says Pat Hammes, a rural North English farmer living in English township.

Hammes started his soil conservation efforts through the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) three years ago. Pat and his brother, Doug Hammes, who lives near Harper, purchased the farm four years ago after renting one year previous to that. "The land had been rented out a

long time," said Pat, "and nothing was ever really put back into it."

There were nine little fields on their approximately 195 acres where today there are now about three fields. "There were a few old clay tile in the ground, but basically nothing that was functional," says Pat Hammes about the farm.

"We started our conservation program with 40 acres of ground first," says Hammes. "The tree ground and hilly area needed it the most, and it was the

area where we thought we could get the most back out."

There was one farm pond on the land when they purchased it, but since then they've added another one through the LTA program. The program is a longterm agreement through the SCS providing cost shares by the government for up to \$3,500 per year. The farmer also has to match this amount. With only a small number of these programs given per year, Pat feels farmers need to get into it

now, "because the government won't be giving these out long. It's a good program," he adds.

"The ponds catch water off the hills and control the water, which is probably the main conservation practice farmers should use. We caught about two feet of runoff dirt last fall in the dry dam."

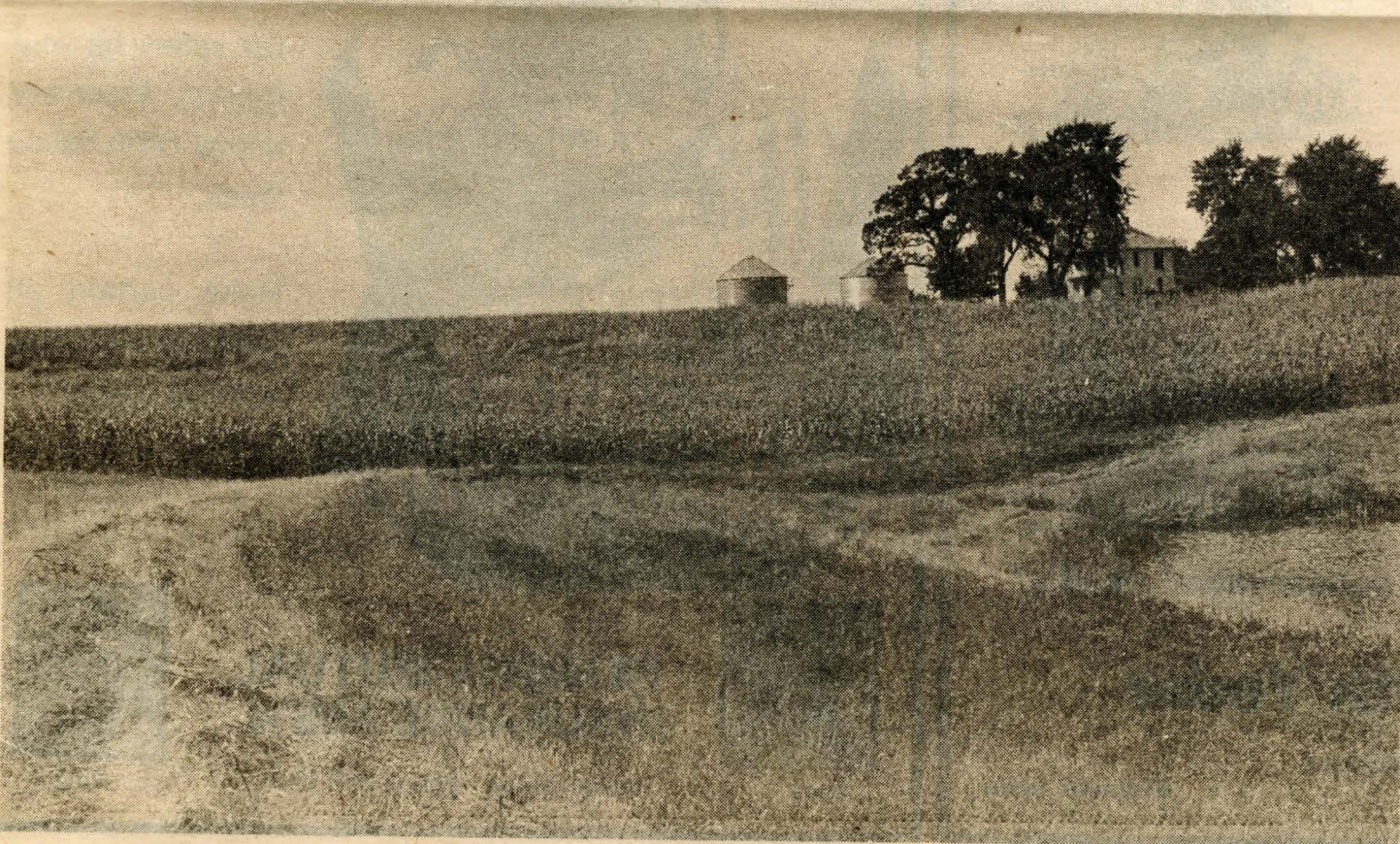
"I'd like to continue with more tiling and terracing of the ground," comments Pat, "until the whole farm is done. If more farmers would put money back into saving the ground, they'd all be better off. I sure don't want my soil going into the Mississippi river."

Use No-Till

In addition to the tiling and terracing at the farm Pat Hammes decided last winter that they were going to put the whole farm into no-till. "I went to every meeting, tillage seminars and shows that I could attend," comments Pat.

"While we learned a lot from these seminars and such, we also received a lot of good advice from fertilizer and chemical people. Everybody has his own ideas how to do it, but when it gets down to it, it's whatever you yourself feel comfortable with. And hopefully it works."

Another big help to Hammes was Ted Oswald, North English, who is conservation technician for the Iowa county (Please turn to page 11B)



TERRACING PROGRAM—The Hammes brothers are in the first year of a conservation program to help get a better return from their farm that was mostly slough and tree ground. Through the Iowa County Soil Conservation service (SCS), they improved this acreage by adding tile, terraces, dry inlets, and this year planted their whole crop ground using no-till. "One of the most important things for farmers to do today," says Pat Hammes, "is to prevent soil erosion." In commenting about no-till, he said, "Although this was our first year, our crops are the best they've ever been, and I can't say a bad thing against it."

Continued next Page

Hammes - -

(Continued from page 5B)

SCS office. "He figured up what was needed, and was always willing to help me," Hammes said. "I owe him a lot."

Another project the SCS has helped with has been putting in several dry inlets. There are four in the system west of the new pond, two north of the pond that drain into the pond and two more east that drain into tile that drains the pond. "And there's no water that goes into the pond that doesn't flow through tile," Hammes adds.

There are still a lot of wet spots and sink holes in the rest of the farm ground. Although the Hammes have put a lot of extra work into improving their farm through the use of tiling, terracing, contours and the use of ponds and dry inlets. Pat says, "It's been so much nicer and easier when planting. Hopefully we'll see more farmers using conservation practices. I like to see it, not where a farmer plows right through his sloughs."

Last year the Hammes brothers were 100 percent in the PIK (payment-in-

kind) program. "It was really the best thing we could have done," adds Pat, "because the ground was really farmed out. We've also been in the set-aside program every year."

In addition to the farm, they have a cow and calf herd with approximately 16 head of cows and calves, plus about 15 feeder calves. "We have a crossbred program using a Simmental bull. The hybrid breeds just seem to grow better," Pat feels.

Although this is their first year using no-till, Pat Hammes says crops are the best they've ever had on their ground. With the lack of rain these last few weeks, the crops just started showing a little stress, but yields still look good. Of the 195 acres of ground, approximately 90 acres is in corn, 50 acres in hay ground and the rest in pasture.

Equipment

"The most important part of using no-till," says Pat, "is using the proper type of planter to put seed in the ground. There are very few planters built at present that are capable of doing a good job," he

adds. "Personally, I used a John Deere 7000 conservation model, which was rented from a local dealer. The planter and tractor were a separate package, but I could have farmed the way I did this year with only a 90-horsepower tractor."

At present he has a small horsepower Deutz tractor, and sees no reason to buy big, expensive equipment to turn the ground all the time. He plans to continue no-tilling everything he farms.

"The less trips you make, the better it is for your ground and easier to farm," adds Pat. In planting, he used a dry starter and insecticide (40 gallons per acre) followed later by liquid nitrogen and herbicide mixture. When the corn reached about two feet tall, he sidedressed with about 15 gallons per acre of liquid nitrogen which is something he feels worked so well that he'll continue every year now.

Before he planted, he sprayed once with a herbicide and water mixture. "A seed sprayer, planter and sidedresser was all I used," commented Pat. "Also, prior to planting I had several special meetings with Crop Production Services, Keota, where my brother works. They

had several sessions for farmers who were either going to use no-till for the first time, or who had been in the program.

"One of the first things I learned was to drive slower and give the planter time to get seed in the ground. I drove about four miles per hour as opposed to seven to eight miles per hour with a regular planter."

One of the newer pieces of equipment on the market has Pat excited too. It's called a "paraplow." Basically what it does is break the soil compaction without turning the soil over." According to reports, it should be used about every three years," Hammes says.

"When I was all through planting and the hoppers and everything else were about empty, I planted six rows on the ground near the house that was used previously as a driveway. It was mostly just rock," commented Pat. "You can't tell these six rows from the rest of the field. I really can't say anything bad about no-till at this time," he adds.

"Many of my neighbors tried to talk me out of planting no-till, but now they go by my fields and say they can't believe it."

Goodmans Earn Landlord-Tenant Honor

By Doris McCartney

Starting soil conservation efforts with a community watershed project, Gene Goodman, North English, has seen gradual improvements on the land he manages.

This fall Goodman and his mother, Gayle Goodman, who lives a short distance north of his farmstead, will be awarded the landlord-tenant citation by the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service.

Since 1966, the Goodmans have been cooperators with SCS. Some 200 acres in Fillmore and Dayton townships have been farmed with a conservation plan.

Some 4,600 feet of terraces and sediment basins have been installed while another 7,800 feet of terraces and waterways were tiled.

Conservation tillage is practiced on all the cropland.

In 1981, Goodman planted 40 acres of no-till corn and is considering that practice in the future.

At 36, Goodman has spent most of his life farming. His father, the late Harold

Goodman, died while his children were still considering careers.

Goodman is renting 358 acres as a tenant from his mother; owns his own 90 acres and rents an additional 60 acres.

A college student worked part-time as a summer intern, helping this summer.

Besides, Gene receives occasional help and other encouragement from his younger brother, Don, 35, Marshalltown.

According to Gene, tiling paid off with the dry ponds this year. A heavy five- to six-inch rain fell before planting.

"The improvements were proven under such conditions," he pointed out.

With the land from level to rolling, they intend to continue installing earth improvements.

His mother comments, "Until this year, I taught school to help finance land improvements."

"Now, I've retired, and we will pause and evaluate our next projects."

Crop rotation and contouring are also practiced by Goodman.

Gazing at the crops, drying rapidly

because of late summer heat, Goodman hopes for a good harvest on the 130 acres of corn.

Balance of the land was pastured or harvested for hay.

A dairy operation claims a lot of his attention, Gene is assisted by his wife, JoGlenna and their two children, Ryan

and Renee, who attend the Deep River elementary school.

During a tour of the farm by the county SCS commissioners, Harry Bryant, county conservationist, cited their efforts, "The Goodmans have put more land into production with the new waterways, tiling and terraces."



PICKED FOR LANDLORD-TENANT HONORS — Gayle Goodman and her son, Gene Goodman, North English, will be named winners of the landlord-tenant

division at the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service awards banquet this fall. Their operation is located in Fillmore and Dayton townships, west of Millersburg.



INSPECTS DRY POND — Dan Dietrich inspects the work being done on the newest dry pond on the land he farms with

his father, Clayton Dietrich. The dry pond is a part of a total system of soil conserva-

tion on the Dietrich farm which includes terraces, strip farming and contour

planting. This new dry pond is one of 12 on the farm.

Ladora Farmer Knows Value Of Conservation

By Tim Hynds

When Clayton Dietrich and his wife Lois bought a farm southeast of Ladora, their new neighbors told them their next

stop was the poor farm — because the land they had just purchased wasn't good for anything.

That was 27 years ago.

Now Clayton Dietrich rents his farm to his son Dan, and together they farm 243 acres and don't worry that the neighbors' prophecies will come true. In fact, Clayton says, "I guess we exceeded their expectations."

Despite claiming he isn't a very good farmer, he says his success with his farm is due to the soil conservation methods that he has used on his farm for the last 25 years. As a testimonial to his dedication to soil conservation, he is being honored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service as their long-time cooperator this year.

Currently, the elder Dietrich and his son have 12 dry ponds, or sediment basins, on their land and five "wet" ponds. The two also practice contour planting, crop rotation and strip planting.

The Dietriches farm almost 250 acres but don't plant corn on more than 80 acres in any one year. He explained that they only plant the bottomlands of their

rolling farm on a regular basis, and only plant the tops of the hills in corn for two out of every five years. In the years in which no corn is planted on the hills, the land is seeded for hay which provides feed for the 25 dairy cows Dan raises on the farm. The hay also prevents water from washing soil off of the hills.

Providing hay for the dairy cattle and reducing drainage for the fields are also the purposes of border strips around the corn fields. The strips are over 100 feet wide in some places. This way, the elder Dietrich says, no land is wasted.

Dry Ponds

Already using 12 dry ponds on their land, the Dietriches hope to add nine or ten more. The dry ponds are used to help catch and hold rain water which without the ponds would rush down the hillsides and create gullies.

Clayton said that when they bought the farm the land had ditches big enough that a person could drive a cattle truck through them. That no such ditches exist today, he attributes to the use of dry ponds.

The dry ponds are tiled, and the water is channeled to a ditch leading off of the land. Any dirt which is washed off the the fields is caught in the dry ponds and can later be collected and placed back on the fields.

He recalled the only time he has had his dry ponds filled with dirt is during the year after one is built. This is normal he

SOIL CONSERVATIONISTS — Clayton Dietrich and his son Dan farm 243 acres of land southwest of Ladora. Their land consists of a number of steep hills, and for the last 25 years Clayton, and now his son Dan, had worked to conserve the soil on their land. For their efforts Clayton Dietrich is being named the longtime cooperator by the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service.



(Please turn to page 2B)

See Reverse Side

Conservation Quiz Contest Is Planned

An Iowa county conservation quiz contest will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 16, at the Iowa County Farm Bureau building, Williamsburg.

This is the first contest of one which is expected to become an annual event. It is sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service assisted by the Iowa Valley vocational agriculture department.

The contest is designed to develop an understanding of soil and water conservation, to develop leadership, and to develop the ability to appear before groups. Emphasis will be placed upon a knowledge of soil and water conservation principles.

The rules governing the contest are as follows:

- Students in grades nine through twelve may participate. A junior division will consist of freshmen and sophomores and a senior division will consist of juniors and seniors.

- The judges will designate the top two contestants in each division and awards will be given.

- **Each contestant must respond from memory to the specific questions the judges ask. Five questions will be asked each contestant. The specific questions will be determined prior to the contest by the contest chairmen.**

- A maximum of 15 minutes speaking time will be allowed for each contestant. A three-minute card will be held up for each question to help contestants gage his/her time. Each judge is to ask the same question. It is recommended that three judges be used.

- A list of questions from which those used during the contest will come shall be compiled and distributed to all interested groups.

- Points to be considered in scoring contestants are: response to questions — 100 points each — 500 points total; voice — quality, pitch, force, pronunciation — 100 points total; stage presence — appearance, poise and posture, attitude, confidence, ease before audience — 100 point total; power of expression — emphasis, directness, sincerity, communicative ability — 100 point total; general effect — extent to which answers are understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention — 100 point total. There are a total 900 points.

- **Brief comments will be returned to each contestant concerning strengths and weaknesses of the presentation.**

- The judges shall score each contestant individually and at the conclusion of the contest shall all come to a joint decision on first and second place in a respective division.

- Depending on the number of contestants competing, a separate group of judges may be used for the junior and senior divisions so that contests can be held simultaneously.

Quiz Questions

1. Should the United State government

be involved in protecting our nation's soil? If so, how should the government be involved or in what capacity?

2. Briefly explain how soil is formed.

3. When and why did an awareness of the importance of soil conservation take place?

4. What is meant by cost-sharing as related to the Soil Conservation Service?

5. What is the universal soil loss equation, and what is it used for?

6. Should soil and water conservation remain voluntary or should the government step in and enforce mandatory soil conservation laws?

7. What type of soil conservation practices might a young farmer utilize which would both conserve the operator's money and soil?

8. Should the urban tax payer help conserve the soil through taxes? Why or

why not?

9. Is there a place for the plow in the tillage program today?

10. How does the standard of living of a community relate to the productivity of the soil?

11. How serious is the soil erosion problem in Iowa?

12. What are some of the effective soil conservation practices used on farms today and briefly explain how each works.

13. What new or innovative methods could be used to tell farmers and landlords both about the importance of soil conservation and new ways to conserve soil?

14. Soil conservation may in the short run cost more money than the returns received. Explain why in the long run exactly the opposite is true in that the

initial costs are returned many times through increased returns.

15. Who does soil erosion hurt? Why?

16. Let's say farmer "A" is letting his soil erode severely and the resulting situation is damaging farmer "B's" crops and property. What can farmer "B" do to correct this situation?

17. Describe some of the benefits of no-till.

18. What is the difference between minimum tillage and no-till?

19. What new management techniques might a farmer have to adopt in switching to no-tillage?

20. Briefly explain how the popular tile inlet terrace works.

Those with questions and those who would like to enter should contact Andy Rowe, IV vocational agriculture instructor, Marengo, 642-3512 or Julie Hocker, Iowa County SCS clerk, 668-2359.

Corn Suitability Ratings Publication Is Available CSR

Farmers concerned about how to use soil productivity indexes with their county soil survey report will be interested in a new publication, says Lowell McKean, Iowa County Extension director.

The publication, Pm-1168, "Corn Suitability Ratings, An Index to Soil Productivity," describes corn suitability ratings (CSRs) and outlines how an average CSR can be calculated for a tract of land.

CSR is an index procedure developed in Iowa to rate each different kind of soil for its potential row crop productivity. The index has various uses, according to Gerald Miller, Iowa State University Extension agronomist.

CSRs can be used with soil maps

published in modern county soil survey reports to calculate an average productivity potential, he says. Average CSR indexes for various land tracts can be used to compare one tract's inherent soil productivity with another tract's productivity.

Land appraisers and farm managers can use CSRs to estimate land values, Miller says. An example worksheet and discussion of the procedure that Iowa county assessors use to equalize land based on inherent productivity is described in the publication.

For information about how to calculate and use corn suitability ratings, obtain a copy of Pm-1168, "Corn Suitability Ratings, An Index to Soil Productivity," at the Iowa County Extension office, Marengo.

ACP Allocates \$44,000 For Iowa County Farmers

An initial allocation of \$44,000 has been guaranteed to Iowa county farmers under the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's agricultural conservation program (ACP), according to Iowa county ASCS director Irene O'Meara.

This past year \$112,000 was paid to the Iowa county farmers through the ACP program, which O'Meara noted is the federal soil conservation cost-share program, not to be confused with the state-

run cost-share program, administered by the Soil Conservation Service.

The practices funded with up to 50 percent federal cost-share money in Iowa county last year were as follows, according to O'Meara:

Permanent pasture seeding (for at least six years) was funded on 42 farms, totaling 712 acres, with \$32,300 provided to participating farmers; improvements to extend the life of existing seedings, including multilora rose

eradication, were approved on 24 farms, totaling 522 acres, with \$4,100 provided; Terraces were built on 14 farms, with \$27,800 provided; windbreaks were planted on six farms, with \$1,600 provided; contour farming was funded on four farms, totaling 139 acres, with \$900 provided, and 3,300 acres of no-till planting was funded, with \$33,000 provided. The ASCS pays farmers \$10 per acre for trying no-till on up to 80 acres per farm, O'Meara noted.

Construction of one pond was funded, with \$1,800 provided; erosion control structures were funded on five farms, with \$5,700 provided; sod waterways were constructed on three farms, with \$3,200 provided, and one forest tree planting was also funded, with \$1,600 provided.

Although the initial allocation for work next year is \$44,000 in Iowa county, O'Meara noted, "We will get more

money." However, she noted they have not been promised any set amount. The basic allocation includes amounts for technical services provided by the SCS, she added.

She advised farmers to file early, as funds need to be approved before work can begin. The deadline for filing is March 15, she said.

So far, \$5,515,000 has been authorized in Iowa for the ACP, according to state ASCS director Graydon Anderson. The remainder is to be announced later.

By sharing up to 50 percent of the cost of soil conservation measures on farmland, the program is aimed at making sure the public tax dollar is buying only needed conservation beyond that which the farmer would accomplish with his own resources, ASCS information says.

The Iowa county ASC committee identifies critical conservation problems in

(Please turn to page 5B)

**YOU CAN
COUNT ON US**

ACP Funds - -

(Continued from page 4B)

the county, determines priorities for cost-sharing to obtain the maximum solutions to the problems and selects practices for the county program.

Under the ACP, farmers may apply for both annual and long term conservation agreements to correct critical soil, water and pollution problems on their land. The program also authorizes farmers to pool their resources, efforts and finances to solve mutual conservation problems, ASCS information said.

*MPC Newspaper
1-9-85*

Ag News...

Robert Faber Will Head Soil Commissioners

Robert Faber, rural Parnell, was elected chairman of the Iowa County Soil Conservation district board for 1985 at the Jan. 2, organizational meeting.

Greg Misbach, Marengo, was elected vice-chairman of the board. Other board members include Larry Wetjen, Marengo, David McCartney, North English and Fred White, Parnell. Appointed

assistant commissioners to assist in carrying out the district program for 1985 were Doris McCartney, North English; John Parsons, Ladora, and Andrew Rowe, Marengo.

Commissioners are elected on the general election ballot and serve for a six-year term. Commissioners and assistants serve without pay to direct and carry out soil conservation efforts

in the county.

White has served on the board of commissioners for 16 years. David McCartney has served 15 years as a commissioner and assistant commissioner. Misbach has served eight years; Wetjen has served six years, and Faber has served four years.

Julie A. Hocker, Williamsburg, was appointed secretary-treasurer for the District for the coming year.



Awards Made For Projects

In marking the golden anniversary of soil and water programs, the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service (SCS) presented a number of awards to area farmers Nov. 13 at Colony Market Place, South Amana.

The Clayton Dietrichs, Marengo, were recipients of the owner-operator division.

In the landlord-tenant division, Gayle Goodman and her son, Gene Goodman, both North English, were the winners. Terraces, tiling, sediment basins and putting more land back into production are improvements they have established.

Earl Schafbuch, Marengo, who planted a shelterbelt in 1968, was given the Izaak Walton league windbreak award. Schafbuch planted 64 Douglas

(Please turn to page 5B)

CITED FOR EARTH IMPROVEMENTS — Cited at the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service awards dinner were these farmers in recognition of land improvements. Left to right, front row are: Earl Schafbuch, Marengo, Izaak Walton League windbreak; Clayton Dietrich, Marengo, owner-operator division; and Gene Goodman, North English, tenant; back row: Mrs. Clayton Dietrich and Gayle Goodman, North English, landowner.

Thurs., Dec. 20, 1984

Awards - -

(Continued from page 1B)

fir, Black Hills spruce and a number of honeysuckle shrubs, which have been cared for in a cultivated area around his farmstead.

The new cooperator division winner was Pat Hammes, North English, who was unable to attend.

Commissioners Distribute Soil Folders

The Iowa County Soil Conservation district commissioners will be distributing "Soil 2000" folders to approximately 100 farmers who control about 23,000 acres of land in Iowa county.

The "Soil 2000" Program was enacted by the 1980 State Legislature and directs all soil conservation districts to prepare conservation folders for all land users by 1985 or as soon thereafter as possible. The purpose of the folder is to inform the user of the magnitude of the soil erosion problem and to reduce excessive soil erosion of agricultural lands by 40 percent by the year "2000."

The folder will contain information that the farmer can use to determine the potential erosion, the acceptable rate of erosion for his soils and alternative land treatment or conservation practices that could be used to reduce the amount of erosion.

Soil erosion rates in Iowa county average about ten tons per acre per year on sloping cropland and on some soils may be twice this amount. Ten tons per acre is double the acceptable rate of erosion or the rate that nature can replenish the soil.

Last year "Soil 2000" folders were distributed to about 50

Soil District Is Accepting Applications

The Iowa County Soil Conservation district is now accepting applications for cost-sharing on work to be done in 1985. The funds are available for terraces and planting corn or soybeans no-till for the first time.

Farmers should consider doing their conservation work on idle or hay land so the work can be done during the summer when construction costs are cheapest. Past records show that summer construction may be 25 to 50 percent less than spring or fall construction because of soil conditions.

The cost-share rate for terraces is 50 percent of the actual or estimated cost, whichever is less. The cost-sharing covers the tile system and the earthmoving. The rate of cost-share for no-fill is \$10 per acre for up to 40 acres.

Cost-share funds are also available at the ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) office for no-till, contouring, permanent seeding of hay or pastureland, terraces, erosion control structures, windbreaks and tree planting. Farmers should contact the ASCS office about their cost-share program.

Application blanks for trees from the Iowa Conservation Commission nursery are available at the soil conservation office. These trees cost \$7.60 per 100 with a minimum order of 500 trees. There are a variety of trees from which to choose. Orders should be placed as soon as possible as they usually run out of stock in most varieties by March of April.

MPC Newspaper
1-9-85

MPC Newspaper 1-16-85

Young Speakers Have Renewed Sense Of Saving Our Soil

By Doris McCartney

The young farm hopefuls were speaking the other night on soil conservation. They were the participants in the first annual Iowa county conservation quiz contest, which was held at Williamsburg.

The Stone Jar

Brian Moore, 17, Marengo, offered some details on the need to preserve soil.

Said the Iowa Valley high school senior, "Soil losses are serious in the state. Losing four tons of soil per acre, amounts to the thickness of a dime."

"Would you believe it takes 1,000 years to get that top soil back?"

In providing in-depth research with creative responses to win first place in the senior division, Moore declares the government should help protect the soil.

"What soil is in production is needed to produce food for our nation and for international trade," he explained.

"It requires two and one-half acres to support each person."

"With cities growing so fast, government needs to aid farmers for perserving the land. Programs are needed to get agriculture on its feet."

As for new innovative plans young farmers may establish, Brian urges attendance at the Eastern Iowa Tillage show at Cedar Rapids, which will be held Jan. 29 and 30 in the Five Seasons center.

Another candidate, speaking as a potential young farm tiger, was Daryl Dietrich, Williamsburg, of the Future Farmers of America chapter.

Dietrich, 17, who placed second in the senior division, said if mandatory soil conservation regulations were placed on farmers "they might kick back like a mule."

He calls for more no-till farming, saying, "A lot less money and time would be needed and would reduce labor costs."

"Dry ponds and tiling pay for their

costs rapidly. The quality of the soil is the immediate result. Minimum tillage also has definite good results."

On the subject of new and innovative soil-saving methods, Dietrich said, "The key is communication."

"For the future of America, farmers need to become informed on what programs are available at the Soil Conservation Service offices."

"Soil supports us all. We need to start the wheels turning for the benefit of all the future children," Dietrich concluded.

A total of eight contestants vied in the senior class, while 13 students, enrolled as freshmen and sophomores, were in the junior division.

Jason Dumont, 14, a Mid-Prairie freshman, Wellman, took first place in the junior division. Second-place contestant was Mike Hartz, 15, Marengo, of the Iowa Valley FFA chapter.

While the event was sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service, coordinating the program was Andrew Rowe, Marengo, instructor for the Iowa Valley vocational agricultural department. Assisting were Julie Hocker, secretary, and Harry Bryant, county conservationist, both Williamsburg.

Judges were Greg Misbach, Williamsburg, commissioner; Gene Backhaus, SCS office; and Phil Winborn, Johnson county commissioner. For the seniors, judges were Robert Faber, Parnell, chairman of county SCS; Dan Black, farmer, Oxford; and Ted Oswald, North English, SCS technician.

As for the hard changers, those who have not established soil conservation practices, Moore suggested, "Care for those hills. Save the soil."

"Rather than plowing those steep slopes, raise cattle or sheep; cultivate grapes. Maybe even grow watermelons."

You can track a number of those young speakers, who wore the blue and gold jackets and other contestants across farm fields. They know first hand about crop testing and gully washers. With the promise of another crop, they have a renewed sense of saving the soil.

Will we all be impressed by their advise?

MPC Marketguide 7

Thurs., Jan. 24, 1985

Carl Maas Is Speaker At Tillage Show

Carl Maas, rural Williamsburg, will be on the program of the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage show. The show will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 29 and 30, in the Five Seasons Center, Cedar Rapids.

Maas is one of nine farmers who will explain their tillage systems. Maas, who farms in Hilton township, will be on the program at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, discussing his experience with double cropping soybeans and wheat.

Maas has been planting fall wheat which is harvested by the first week in July. Soybeans are planted immediately after the wheat is harvested. Weather is a factor in the system, Maas said, in preparing for talk at the show.

The last two years he has no-tilled all of his soybean ground — about 175 acres. Last year he tried no-till planting

soybeans on about eight acres of corn ground and finding the results looked promising plans to do more acres this year.

Ridge till is becoming popular especially on heavier soils. Three of the speakers have used ridge planting and will discuss their field operations using ridges. They include John Lensch, Marion; Veryl Burghardt, Sumner; and Dick and Sharon Thompson, Boone. The Thompsons use no herbicides in their operation.

Sixty-three exhibits including no-till planters, spraying equipment, minimum tillage equipment and ag chemicals will be at the show.

Nutri-blast, a machine that shoots fertilizer through the residue without disturbing the soil will be the newest development featured at this year's

show. Nutri-blast is manufactured by the John Blue Company, Alabama.

Improving profits is the subject of Joel Hertz, vice-president of Hertz Farm Management, Monmouth, Ill. Hertz will discuss management techniques as related to machinery and conservation tillage.

Other speakers and exhibitors will provide information on how to successfully use conservation tillage to maximize profits and save soil too.

Also featured will be music from Anamosa and Cedar Rapids Prairie high school swing choirs and entertainment from the Ce-Mar Cloggers.

Doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30.

The show is sponsored by soil conservation districts and USDA agencies from nine counties in eastern Iowa.

Cost Share Is Available For No-Till

The Iowa County Soil Conservation district will use 10 percent of its cost-share funds for planting no-till, according to Robert Faber, district chairman.

The Department of Soil Conservation allocates \$7,700,000 annually to districts for cost-sharing with farmers doing conservation work. This year Iowa county received \$56,000 in its original allocation and can receive additional funding if there is a demand for doing construction work.

The district will follow similar rules set by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation service to keep conflicts to a minimum. The payment will be \$10 per acre, not to exceed 80 acres per

farm. The major difference is that the district will cost-share with a farmer once on each farm he operates. No farmer can receive payments from both Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation service and the district on the same farm for the same year.

All applications must be received before April 1. If there are more applications than available funds, the commissioners will establish a priority based on the amount of soil saved by no-tilling the farm.

Faber noted that further information and application forms can be obtained by contacting the district office, 600 Court street, Williamsburg.

2-21-84
Ia. Co. Farmer

The Newspapers of Iowa County

Marengo, Williamsburg, North English, IA

Davis Wins Tillage Division In Contest

When Kenneth Davis, Ladora, got serious about conservation tillage four years ago, he knew he had a lot to learn. Learn he did.

Davis is the 1984 state conservation tillage winner in the Iowa Master Corn Grower competition. His entry yielded 207.85 bushels per acre, using Pioneer™ hybrid 3377.

Davis, who farms in Pilot township north of Lake Iowa, points to several factors that he thinks contribute to his success with reduced tillage practices, including: less soil compaction; more timely field work; better fertility and chemical management; and improved soil tilth.

"After four years in a conservation tillage program, I can't really see any significant reduction in yields," Davis says. "In fact, my yields may be going up because of less soil compaction."

"I don't think I can say that my yields are going up just because I'm using no-till. But year after year we seem to have one wet spring after another, and I watch people work wet fields and continue to compact their soils."

Davis feels that he can work many of his fields sooner after a rain than many others. And he says his soil tilth is definitely improving.

His 1984 winning yield came from a field that had been in soybeans the year before. Nothing was done to the field in the fall of 1983. It was planted April 28 with 26,000 kernels per acre using a John Deere 7000 Max-Emerge planter with rows 38 inches apart. At planting time Davis also applied dry fertilizer, 175 pounds of 9-23-30, and broadcast his herbicide, one and one-half pounds of AAtrex Nine-O and two and one-half quarts Lasso. A hard rain late in April prompted him to rotary hoe the field, and he side-dressed anhydrous ammonia at the rate of 175 pounds of nitrogen when the corn was about a foot tall. Ground cover measured 54 percent May 7. No other passes were made on the field.

Fertilizer has been a special challenge for Davis, who wasn't convinced that broadcasting was the best method. Instead, he designed a special coulter and knife that allows him to band his fertilizer about 6 inches deep, about 4 inches to the side of the seed opener. "We're using less fertilizer and getting more out of it," Davis says.

Modifies Equipment

Like many farmers starting into no-till methods, Davis has made many of his own modifications to machines. He has built special spray booms behind the seed boxes to provide a more uniform herbicide application. "We're getting much better coverage than we used to with the old single tip on each row," Davis says.



TOP HONORS — Kenneth Davis, Ladora, took top honors in the corn conservation tillage division in the Iowa Master Corn and Soybean Growers contest with a

Harvest was with a John Deere 6620 sidehill Combine Oct. 22 when plant population was estimated at 22,000 plants per acre and the moisture of the corn was 21.87 percent. Most important to Davis is the fact that there is very little, if any, difference in the methods he uses on contest fields, compared to the rest of the farm.

The Davis' farming operation includes

yield of 207.85 bushels per acre. A total of 213 competed in the division which 326 had entered. They had an average yield of 152.28 bushels per acre. The

360 tillable acres with 215 acres of corn and 145 acres of soybeans. They farrow-to-finish about 1,500 hogs using confinement and non-confinement.

He started entering yield contests in 1974, before there was a no-till or conservation till category. Davis won a local corn yield contest in 1980 with a 184 bushel yield using conventional tillage methods. Since he's been entering, he had had yields ranging from 150 bushel

Iowa Corn Promotion board and the Iowa Corn Growers association plaque is given to the winner of the division.

per acre, up to his 207.85 in 1984.

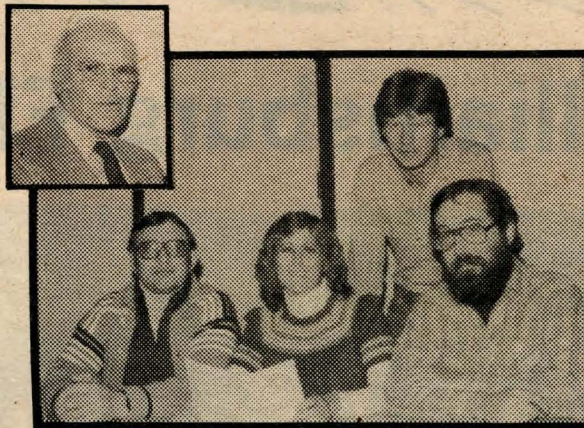
Davis and his wife, Janice, have three children: Mrs. Susan Holderness of North English is an artist and her husband, Dan, is an Iowa City engineer and they have one child, Bradley, 2; Mrs. Kathy Stochl of Williamsburg is a beautician and her husband, Jon, operates a restaurant; and their son Brian, who graduated from Kirkwood Community college, farms with his father.

38th Annual Report Iowa Soil Conservation District

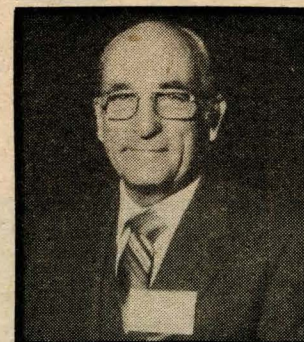
Williamsburg, Iowa
"Celebrating 50 Years of Soil Conservation Activity in 1984"



District & Assistant District Commissioners
First row, left to right: Robert Faber, Larry Wetjen, Gregory Misbach, Fred White; second row: Andy Rowe, Larry Beyer, John Parsons, David McCartney and Doris McCartney.



Field Office Personnel
Left to right: Harry N. Bryant, District Conservationist; Rhonda M. Glandorf, District Clerk; Ted Oswald, Conservation Technician; standing, Gene Backhaus, Soil Conservationist. Inset photo is Millen Sandersfeld, Part-time WAE.



Fred White, Outstanding Region 6 Commission of 1984.



Tonya Madoerin, District and Regional Soil Conservation Essay Winner.

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

A. Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
David L. Nelson, Civil Engineer
Catherine N. Kaspar, Agricultural Engineer
Francis W. Vos, Civil Engineering Technician
Keith L. Hunt, Civil Engineering Technician
Gerome Mall, Civil Engineering Technician
Kathi Ohnemus, Area Clerk

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Larry Wetjen, Chairman
Robert Faber, Vice-Chairman
Rhonda M. Glandorf, Secretary-Treasurer

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Advance Drainage Systems
Altorfer Machinery
Larry Beyer
Harry Bryant
Chevron Chemical Company
Citizens State Bank

Crane Farms
Farmers Co-op, Conroy
Farmers Co-op, Millersburg
Farmers Savings Bank, N. English
Farmers Savings Bank, Victor
Farmers Trust & Savings Bank

First Trust & Savings Bank
Levine Company
Eugene "Chick" Meade
Midwestern Culvert
Greg Misbach
Andy Rowe

St. Regis Culvert
Security Savings Bank
Sheffield Brick & Tile
United Central Bank & Trust, Marengo
Wellman Savings Bank
Larry Wetjen

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

03 - Commissioners Meeting - Election of officers held. Elected were: Larry Wetjen, Chairman; Robert Faber, Vice-Chairman; Rhonda Glandorf, Secretary-Treasurer; Larry Beyer, Doris McCartney, John Parsons and Andy Rowe, Assistant Commissioners.

18 & 19 - Commissioners Short Course at Ames.
25 & 26 - Conservation Tillage Show in Cedar Rapids

FEBRUARY

14 - Commissioners met with Board of Supervisors to request revenue-sharing funds

15 - Commissioners Meeting

23 - Contractors Meeting

MARCH

01 - No-Till Breakfast (Millersburg)

07 - No-Till Breakfast (Williamsburg)

08 - Spring Regional Meeting in Iowa City

15 - Commissioners Meeting

15 & 16 - Area Technician and Clerks Meeting - Colony Village

APRIL

19 - Commissioner's Meeting

MAY

17 - Commissioners Meeting

19 - Conservation Education at Lake Iowa for Williamsburg 6th Grade

23 - Student Trainee, Richard Fulton started training with SCS

JUNE

21 - Commissioners Meeting

22 - Conservation Tour for Farm Bureau Women

JULY

12 - Commissioners Meeting and Conservation Tour

19 - Iowa County No-Till Tour

AUGUST

16 - Commissioners Meeting

SEPTEMBER

01 - Commissioners and staff attended Kiwanis Luncheon for Wildlife/Farm film

06 - New Soil Conservationist, Gene Backhaus, started working at Williamsburg Field Office for SCS

09 - Conservation Tour with ASCS

13 - Commissioners Fall Regional Meeting in Iowa City

19 - Commissioners and staff view site of soil loss complaint; Commissioners Meeting

22 - Tri-County Soil Judging Contest at Fred White farm

OCTOBER

11 - Commissioners Meeting; Soil Conservation Essay Contest

NOVEMBER

16 - Switchgrass Meeting

17 - Annual Soil Conservation Awards Banquet

28 & 29 - Annual Conference of SCD Commissioners

DECEMBER

20 - Iowa Soil 2000 meeting in Iowa City

(Fiscal Year: October 01, 1982 thru September 30, 1983)

DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS - 3,405 acres

Steve Axmear
Stuart Blythe
Gene Cobb
Alta Ebel
Ken Faas
Evelyn Gorch
Richard Kaestner
Phil Kinsinger
Stuart & Marian Maas
Bill McKusker

Willard Meyer
Richard Peirce
Leo Rudolph
Ralph Schaefer
Dale Schafbuch
Pearl Schafbuch
David Schmidt
Jim Schweibert
Villhauer & Hummer
Anne Zavis

ASSISTANCE GIVEN IN CONSERVATION PLANNING - 4,555 acres

Steve Axmear
Gene Cobb
Russell Collingwood
Dorothy Fullmer
David Hocker
Richard Kaestner
Marian Maas

Leo McKenna
Hugh O'Meara
Richard Peirce
Roemig Farms, Inc.
David Schmidt
Doug Tvedt
Anne Zavis

LAND BENEFITED BY APPLICATION OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES - 13,609 acres

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major Practices	Unit	1983
Terraces	feet	65,850
Windbreaks	acre	6
Conservation Tillage: No-till	acre	12,375
Contour	acre	3,786

Other Services

Individuals and Groups Assisted	number	259
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	number	169

FINANCIAL REPORT: (Fiscal Year: July 01, 1982 thru June 30, 1983)

	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS
1M BUDGET		
Allocation	\$1,900.00	
Additional Allocation	225.00	
Commissioners Expense		\$1,159.76
Office Supplies & Expense		747.72
Printing		215.70
TOTAL EXPENDED		\$2,123.18
Released:		1.82
		\$2,125.00
COST-SHARING		
3M BUDGET (1981-82)		
Allocation	\$34,986.00	
Additional Allocation	54,950.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		\$88,307.92
Funds Obligated to Farmers		0
Unobligated Balance (Released)		1,628.08
		\$89,936.00
3M BUDGET (1982-83)		
Allocation	\$41,226.00	
Additional Allocation	31,313.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		\$61,790.82
Funds Obligated to Farmers		8,875.00
Unobligated Balance (Released)		1,873.18
		\$72,539.00
3M BUDGET (1983-84)		
Allocation	\$59,452.00	
Additional Allocation	47,000.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		\$50,121.25
Funds Obligated to Farmers		41,497.50
Unobligated Balance		14,833.25
		\$106,452.00
COUNTY FUNDS		
Allocation	\$20,000.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		\$14,353.74
Funds Obligated to Farmers		5,500.00
Unobligated Balance		146.26
		\$20,000.00
REVOLVING FUND		
Balance on Hand July 01, 1982	\$1,135.20	
Receipts - Contributions	954.66	
Receipts - Reimbursements	1,440.08	
Receipts - Rental of Interseeder	30.00	
Disbursements		\$2,725.58
Balance on Hand June 30, 1983	\$834.36	
SAVINGS		
Savings Account		
Balance on Hand July 1, 1982	\$415.73	
Interest on Balance	31.26	
Interest on Time Certificates	443.12	
Balance on Hand June 30, 1983	890.11	
Time Certificates		
5 @ \$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	

39th Annual Report Iowa Soil Conservation District

Williamsburg, Iowa

"Celebrating 50 Years of Soil Conservation Activity in 1984"

**District & Assistant District Commissioners**

From left (first row) are commissioner Larry Wetjen, Marengo; commissioner Robert Faber, Parnell; commissioner Greg Misbach, Marengo; assistant commissioner Andy Rowe, Marengo; (back row) assistant commissioner John Parsons, Ladora; commissioner Fred White, Parnell; commissioner David McCartney, North English; and assistant commissioner Doris McCartney, North English.

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

A. Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
John W. Pringry, Resource Conservationist
David L. Nelson, Civil Engineer
Catherine N. Kaspar, Agricultural Engineer
Francis W. Vos, Civil Engineering Technician
Keith L. Hunt, Civil Engineering Technician
Jerome Mall, Civil Engineering Technician
Kathi Ohnemus, Area Clerk

**Field Office Personnel**

From left (front row) are soil conservationist Gene Backhaus; district conservationist Harry Bryant; district clerk Julie (Mrs. Dennis) Hocker; (back row) WAE Millen Sandersfeld, Williamsburg; and conservation technician Ted Oswald, North English.

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Larry Wetjen, Chairman
Robert Faber, Vice-Chairman
Julie A. Hocker, Secretary-Treasurer
Rhonda Glandorf (Resigned June, 1984)

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Advance Drainage Systems Altorter Machinery Donald Baker Harry Bryant Colony Market Place Robert Crane Russell Collingwood and Son Dietrich Earthmoving Donald Dietrich	Elwood Brothers Farmers Coop, Conroy Steven C. Glandorf Rudolph Hagen and Son Helgeson-Ahrens Tiling David Horras Hydrocarbon Transport Pat Hammes Iowa Co. Farm Bureau	Iowa Co. Farm Service, Williamsburg W.H. James Earth Construction Kinze Manufacturing Kohn Land Levine Co., Inc. Pauline Lillie Stuart Maas Willard Maas Marengo Elev. Co.	John Maxey David McCartney Lyle Miller Max Miller Rex Miller Greg Misbach Ronald Mohr Morse Farms Midwest Culvert	O'Rourke Bros., Inc. John O'Rourke Patrons Mutual V.R. Points John Rot, Jr. Seven Villages Rest. Harold Sherman Swartzendruber Lumber & Const. Chris Swartzendruber	Douglas Twedt Delmar Wetjen Fred White Donald E. Wyant Larry Wetjen Y & K Tiling Daniel Keith Yoder Scott Zavis Millen Sandersfeld	Citizen Bank & Trust, Belle Plaine Production Credit, Williamsburg Farmers Savings Bank, Victor Wellman Savings Bank Security Savings Bank, Williamsburg First Trust & Savings, Oxford Farmers Trust & Savings Bank, Williamsburg United Central Bank & Trust, Marengo
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES**JANUARY**

Commissioners distributed "Soil 2000" folders to forty-four farmers covering 14,400 acres.

03 - Commissioners Meeting - Election of Officers. Elected were: Larry Wetjen, Chairman; Robert Faber, Vice-Chairman; Rhonda Glandorf, Secretary-Treasurer; Doris McCartney, John Parsons and Andy Rowe, Assistant Commissioners.

10 - Meeting with Supervisors to request money for cost-sharing.

17 - Commissioners and Harry Bryant attended the Annual Commissioners' Shortcourse in Ames.

31 - Eastern Iowa Tillage Show

FEBRUARY

01 - Eastern Iowa Tillage Show

01 - Harry Bryant presented Warm Season Grass Cost-Share Program at the Iowa County Cattlemen's Banquet.

07 - Contractor's Meeting

15 - Harry Bryant presented program on soils to Williamsburg High School Science Class

21 - Commissioners Meeting

MARCH

07 - Informational meeting for No-Till. Award to Jeff Maas for having top no-till yield of 164 bushels per acre.

27 - Commissioners Meeting

MAY

Distributed Soil Conservation Educational Material to Williamsburg 6th Grade

01 - Commissioners Meeting

30 - Gene Backhaus talked to Lutheran Interparish School about Soil Conservation

30 - Soil Stewardship material to churches

JUNE

12 - Commissioners Meeting

19 - Vo Ag Instructors received training in teaching soils

21 - No-till tour, David Fetzer farm

21 - Multiflora Rose Eradication - David McCartney farm

25 - County Supervisors Tour

26 - Farm Bureau Womens' Tour

JULY

17 - Commissioners Meeting

30 - Soil Conservation Art Contest for 4-H at Iowa County Fair

AUGUST

Seven Soil Conservation Ding Darling Computer Programs distributed to Iowa County Elem. Schools.

21 - Commissioners Meeting

SEPTEMBER

11 - Region Seven Fall Regional Commissioners Meeting, Iowa City

18 - Commissioners Meeting

OCTOBER

10 - Co-Sponsored Tri-County Soil Judging Contest

16 - Commissioners Meeting

NOVEMBER

13 - Annual Awards Banquet honoring award winners Clayton Dietrich, Gene Goodman, Gayle Goodman and Pat Hammes as Conservation award

winners. Earl Schafbuch as Windbreak Award Winner.

DECEMBER

11 - Commissioners Meeting

(Fiscal Year October 1, 1983 thru September 30, 1984)

DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS - 8,202 ACRES

Charles, James & John Van Otegham
Lowell A. Luhman
Don A. Lortz
G-Van-S
Eddie O'Brien
William Meyer
Mrs. W.S. Watts
Raymond Mumm Estate
Nedra Donahue
Robert Scoville
Mike and Phillip Bott
Jerry & Mary Westphal
Alan Grimm
Landco, Inc.
Tom Slaymaker
Fern Steffen
Marjorie Rush

G & M Land Ltd.
Bill DeBrower
James Timm
Marian Giebel
Lucille Williams
Dale Baack
Steven Dietrich
Ralph Miller
Jonathon Buswell
Louis R. Maschmann
Arnold Carter
Clarence Hagen
Harold Joseph
Raymond D. Blomme
Randy L. Novotney
Larry Nelson
Donald Goodman

ASSISTANCE GIVEN IN CONSERVATION PLANNING - 4,026 ACRES

James Reitzler
James Timm
Lucille Williams
William DeBrower
Nelson Hestand
Mary Watts
Lon Jennings
Stuart Blythe
Van Otegham Bros.
August Steffen
Jesse Miller

Steve Dietrich
Ray Blomme
Don Lortz
Bott Stock Farm
Harold Joseph
Clayton Dietrich
Marjorie Rush
Robert Crane
Ralph Schaefer
OCS Farms

LAND BENEFITED BY APPLICATION OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES - 10,522 ACRES SAVING 72,656 TON OF SOIL

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**Major Practices:**

	Unit	1984
Terraces	Feet	79,650
Farm and Feed Windbreak	Acres	3
Conservation Tillage System	Acres	6,615
Contour Farming	Acres	1,061
Grass Waterway	Acres	18
Sediment Control Basins	Number	26
Other Services:		
Individual and Groups Assisted	Number	278
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	Number	185

FINANCIAL REPORT**1M BUDGET (FY 1983-84)**

	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS
Allocation	\$2,500.00	
Additional Allocation	225.00	
Commissioners Expense		\$1,747.02
Office Supplies and Expense		684.96
Printing		290.20
TOTAL EXPENDED		\$2,722.18
Released to State 6-30-84		2.82
		\$2,725.00

COST-SHARING (to date - January 1, 1985)

3M BUDGET (1981-82)	
Allocation	\$34,986.00
Additional Allocations	62,450.00
Disbursed to Farmers	\$96,605.50
Funds Released to State (12-31-83)	819.23
Unobligated Balance (Released 12-31-84)	11.27
	\$97,436.00

3M BUDGET (1982-83)

Allocation	\$41,226.00
Additional Allocations	31,313.00
Disbursed to Farmers	\$70,593.28
Released to State (12-31-83)	1,873.18
Unobligated Balance (Released 12-31-84)	72.54
	\$72,539.00

3M BUDGET (1983-84)

Allocation	\$59,452.00
Additional Allocations	47,000.00
Disbursed to Farmers	\$100,447.37
Funds Obligated to Farmers	5,520.00
Unobligated Balance (Released 12-31-84)	484.63
	\$106,452.00

3M BUDGET (1984-85)

Allocation	\$63,527.00
Disbursed to Farmers	\$4,525.63
Allocated for Beginning No-Till	6,352.70
Funds Obligated to Farmers	39,742.66
Unobligated Balance	12,906.01
	\$63,527.00

COUNTY FUNDS

Allocation (1983-84)	\$20,000.00
Allocation (1984-85)	20,000.00
Disbursed to Farmers	\$28,997.12
Funds Obligated to Farmers	9,200.00
Unobligated Balance	1,802.88
	\$40,000.00

REVOLVING FUNDS

Balance on Hand (1-1-84)	\$68.52
Receipts - Contributions	1,663.06
Receipts - Reimbursements	1,365.20
Receipts - Rental of Interseeder	15.00
Disbursements	
Balance on Hand (12-31-84)	192.60
	\$2,919.18

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance on Hand (1-1-84)	\$1,124.49
Interest on Balance	79.57
Interest on Time Certificates	396.60
Disbursements	
Refund	3.46
Balance on Hand (12-31-84)	1,398.53

TIME CERTIFICATES

4 @ \$1,000.00	4,000.00
1 @ \$1,367.14	1,367.14

Cautions Farm Wives On Recreational Tillage

By Doris McCartney

In a spirit of optimism, the sixth annual Eastern Iowa tillage show prevailed in the Five Seasons center, Cedar Rapids, on two wintry days.

The Stone Jar

I heard no discouraging words during the ten hours I was there.

Billed as the world's largest show of its kind in our country, 63 exhibitors had squeezed the finest soil-saving equipment into the main floor.

Farming can't be in such a hopeless state. Some 1,850 people crowded into the show the first day.

The salesmen, experts and farmers were there to communicate on soil tending.

In a tongue-in-cheek statement, Darrell Clark, of Farmland Industries, Kansas City, Mo., suggested the farm wife might be to blame for recreational tillage.

He defined the issue: "You know, when you've been cooped up too many cold days, climbing the walls, wondering when you are safe to start working the fields, the good wife sends you out too soon.

"That causes soil compaction.

"Better stay out and not spend your time and money on such recreational tillage," he declared.

The curious were gathered around the Nutri-blast that shoots fertilizer through the residue without disturbing the soil.

A number of farmers, speaking on the afternoon and evening program, commented on the merits of Kinze equipment. Wherever you go, Kinze blue machinery is a symbol of what might have seemed to some an impossible dream.

The innovative engineer, who doesn't hold a university degree, and company president, Jon Kinzenbaw, was min-

gling with the visitors.

There are new measurements for a farm wife to study. That is the topic of ridge-till. The popular new planting technique was explained by several on the program.

Sharon Thompson, who with her husband, Dick, farms near Boone, talked about their operation. They have banned herbicides and insecticides. Manure is applied over ridges and covered immediately with planter sweeps.

Using a planter purchased in 1966, their current program has been handled the past five years.

According to Sharon, "Ridge-till is more popular north of interstate 80. Cultivation rebuilds ridges for next year. Yields have been satisfactory and improving."

Last year, the Thompsons hosted 500 farmers who came to visit their 200 test plots.

"We are finding ways to lower costs, save the soil and protect the environment," Sharon explains.

Don Hardensen, a Jones county farmer, has had his battles with quack grass. For the last 12 years he has reduced tillage; for three years he has no-tilled on soybean ground and one year had no-till in sod.

Hardensen shares credits for his farming success with his family—parents, wife Debbie, and their four-year-old daughter.

The 1983 master corn grower contest winner, Don believes in full season varieties and weed control spraying before planting.

Planting before mid-May and maintaining a timely harvest are other suggestions he is interested in trying such a system.

Agriculture is a technological intense industry. We need to be introduced to profitable methods to stay competitive.

And rather than sending our farmers out too soon each spring for that so-called recreational tillage, maybe we could lure that energy into the kitchen or bedroom—for a bit of wall painting, of course.

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Iowa Co. Farmer
3-21-85

The Iowa Co

Sprayer Workshop, No-Till Information Are March 27

A sprayer calibration workshop will be held Wednesday, March 27, 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the Farm Service parking lot, Williamsburg. John Creswell and Greg Brenneman, extension service, will be available to explain the calibration procedure and assist farmers who can bring their sprayers to the site.

Meeting will then adjourn to lunch at Middle America restaurant, Interstate 80 and highway 149 interchange.

Creswell and Brenneman will conduct a no-till meeting beginning at 1 p.m. They will cover topics requested in a recent Soil Conservation service survey.

Topics include getting better planter operations and populations, burndown versus early pre-plant, herbicide costs and rates, and insect control and compaction of soil. Questions will also be discussed.

Rick Maas Wins Soil Conservation Award

9-8-85

Rick Maas, South Amana, was first place winner in the region 7 1985 Soil Conservation contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation district commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

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

Topic of the essay contest was "Clean Water — What Is The Answer?" The contest is open to all students in grades six, seven and eight (junior division) and nine, ten, eleven and twelve (senior division). Essays are judged on originality, aptness of thought and accuracy of information. Regional contest winners were entered in a state contest from which four winners were chosen.

Supervisors Are Asked For Planting Help

The Iowa County supervisors having disapproved a \$20,000 request by the Iowa county soil conservation district for terracing several weeks ago because the supervisors didn't think that would help poor farmers, the Iowa county soil commissioners presented a new request at the supervisors' Friday, March 15, meeting: providing \$20,000 for farmers trying no-till.

Soil conservation district chairman Robert Faber, Parnell, noted that would "kill two birds with one stone" by helping to conserve soil and at the same time providing farmers with some money to help with spring planting.

Faber noted the district has used up all of the \$6,300 they had allocated for encouraging farmers to try no-till, and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has also allocated all its money for no-till, yet it still has 35 farmers who have applied for no-till funds.

Farmers who have never tried no-till would be paid \$10 per acre for up to 80 acres to try it, he said, noting the district has also prepared a list of persons who

have no-till planters and would be willing to do custom work. He added the cost to the farmer for such custom planting would be around \$7 to \$10 per acre.

Soil conservationist Gene Backhaus, Williamsburg, presented supervisors with information showing the expected soil loss with no-till on a typical farm with Ladoga soil, as compared to conventional tillage.

On a corn/beans rotation plan with straight rows, Backhaus noted soil loss would be 16 tons per acre with conventional tillage, and only eight tons with no-till. If the rows were contoured, soil loss would be eight tons with conventional tillage, but only four with no-till.

On continuous corn ground with straight rows, Backhaus' information showed soil loss would be 11 tons per acre with conventional tillage, but only two tons with no-till. On contoured rows, soil loss would be 5 tons with conventional tillage, only one ton with no-till.

Backhaus noted no-till would keep soil out of road ditches and pollutants

out of streams. In addition to saving up to 50 percent of the anticipated soil loss, it would also reduce the costs of farming.

Former supervisor Ed Shima, rural Marengo, added he'd been surprised to discover that the amount of fuel needed is much less under no-till — under one gallon per acre.

In answer to a question whether farmers would use no-till again without incentive payments, Faber noted after farmers have tried it once, they are usually willing to try it again.

Chemicals

Supervisors' chairman Perah Read expressed concern about pollution from chemicals used instead of cultivation with no-till. "It's saving the soil, but destroying the earth," she suggested.

However, soil commissioner Greg Misbach, rural Marengo, noted he has used no-till for five years, and is using the same chemicals that he used with conventional tillage. Commissioner David McCarthy added that ridge till, a form of no-till, uses less chemicals as

they are just used on the ridges and the crop can be cultivated. Faber agreed, "No-till doesn't preclude cultivation."

Backhaus added some new studies indicate that if the soil isn't turned over, dormant weed seeds aren't stirred up, and therefore over time, fewer chemicals may be needed. Misbach also noted he read a study showing that on a farm no-tilled for eight years there was a five-fold increase in earthworms.

Faber admitted that no-till was no panacea, but that it did have advantages.

Read said it would be better to pay farmers to grow legume crops to save the soil. However, Faber noted that realistically row crops are going to be planted on marginal lands, and they

should try to provide some protection for those soils.

Why Pay?

Admitting she didn't know anything about no-till, auditor Shirley Dye asked why they needed to pay farmers to try no-till if it is a better program.

"It's an incentive program to get them to try it," noted Faber, explaining its a different technique and requires a change of mind about planting. Because it's experimental the first year, he added farmers may incur some extra costs until they are familiar with it.

Supervisor Jim Sauter endorsed the idea, calling it "one small way we can

(Please turn to page 3)

Supervisors - -

(Continued from page 1)

help someone with his farming operation."

"It is a way of helping farmers currently," commented Shima, adding it just half used it continuously after first trying it, "it would be better for society in general, because of the soil saved."

Faber also questioned the supervisors' logic in turning down their previous request for cost-share money for terracing, in which the supervisors didn't think farmers who would be considering terracing this year were those who needed help. "We were a little disappointed in this reasoning, because we do not like to see a farmer broke before saving his soil," stated a letter presented the supervisors by the soil commissioners.

Read said the supervisors would take the request under advisement. Dye added that a public hearing on the board's proposed revenue sharing allocations would be Monday, April 1, at 9:15 a.m.

In other business, the supervisors:

- Again postponed action on purchasing a telephone system for the courthouse. Further consideration was postponed to Friday, April 8. The supervisors also met with representatives from American Telephone and Telegraph, and Executive, Des Moines, who clarified supervisors' questions about their equipment.
- Accepted the resignation of Dean Best, North English, from the county board of health.
- Heard Read suggest that the supervisors adopt a policy to replace anyone from appointed positions to county boards who has missed more than three meetings without first contacting the board president, informing him of the expected absence and being excused.
- Received a recommendation from insurance consultant Dave Murphy that the Iowa County Developmental Center building, Conroy be valued at \$50,000, and the contents valued at \$15,000, for insurance purposes. He also advised after talking with county engineer Don Torney, reducing the stated value of contents at the main Marengo shop to \$50,000, down from \$100,000.

Cox Finds Soil Saving With No-Till

By Doris McCartney

While rainfall was spotty this spring, Iowa county farmer John Cox retained confidence for a good harvest. He has a lot invested in no-till crops.

"I like what I've been seeing through the years with no-till corn and soybeans," he explains.

"The subsoil does not vanish so easily. We were short this year in rainfall. There were no timely rains for weed control."

In discussing problems with no-till cropping, John admits the whole program is a matter of timing.

Cox, who started the no-till program in 1973, will be recognized this fall by the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service in the landlord-tenant division for soil saving.

He farms the rented 160 acres on a cash basis. Owners are Mary (Mrs. Richard) Lacina, North English, and Loretta White, LaCrosse, Wis.

The tract is adjacent to the approximately 500 acre Cox farm.

Based on his no-till program, John and his wife, Barbara, were cited a number of years for the new cooperator award by the SCS.

A transplant from Washington county, the Cox family moved to their farm northwest of North English in the spring of 1971.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to handle this ground because the owners trust me to care for land as I do my own," John says.

"This is a no-till program with crop rotation in corn, soybeans, and alfalfa hay."

Under his direction, conservation improvements have included 2,000 feet of terraces and another 5,350 feet of terraces and waterway tile.

Timing Vital

According to Cox, "In the best interest of the rented farm, no-till has the most promise for increased yields.

"Weed control is the biggest problem when there are no timely rains after

application.

"Taking a field check on all the no-till crops, there is more moisture retained, with no-till over conventional tillage," he says.

He admits neighbors may grow concerned when rainfall is scarce in the spring, but he takes comfort in moisture that seems available with no-till cropping.

Using different combinations, John is a believer in Atrazine, Dual, Lasso, Bladex and Paraquat, a restricted-use pesticide.

"Sure it takes courage to apply Paraquat, when fields don't look great in the beginning," he says, "but with management, this plan works."

A four row Kinze planter is also vital to his program. He picks Asgrow soybeans for vigorous germination.

In contrast to crops he has planted with conventional tillage, using three passes across the field in the spring, John says corn and soybeans on the no-till ground have the advantage.

He maintains a 70-cow crossbred stock cow herd and has a farrow-to-finish hog operation.

In the past year, he has been joined by his son, Johnny, 24, in farming.

In addition, the Cox family also includes a daughter, Julie Donahue, 25, a student at Indian Hills Community college, Ottumwa; and two other sons, Jerry, a student at Calvary Bible college, Kansas City and Jim, a student at Grace Bible college, Wionana Lake, Ind.

All their children are graduates of the English Valleys high school.

Century Farm

There are more than sentimental reasons for keeping the family farm, Mary Lacina mentions.

"This is a productive farm, and Cox has increased the value with the improvements," she says.

In tracing the history of the farm, Mary recalls her great granddad,



Edward Berry, came to homestead in 1853. A small house was built on the south side of the road.

When she and her sister began school — to remain in what was then the Millersburg school district, her father moved the house to the north side of the farm.

Since 1955, Mary and Richard Lacina have called this place home. Two

years ago they began to build a new home there. They hope to complete it soon for occupancy.

The Lacinas reared a family of 11 children on the farm. They have only two daughters at home in the Deep River-Millersburg community school, Barbara and Theresa.

In the midst of rearing her large family, Mary also managed to serve as the first woman on the DR-M school board for a few years.

Active In Community

After he closes cattle gates, when chores are finished, John is off to serve on a number of boards. He has been elected to a second year as president of the Iowa County Farm Bureau.

A former Iowa County Pork Producers president, he helped start the annual summer meat promotion on interstate 80 at the Little Amana exit, a plan he originally suggested.

In addition, he is chairman of the trustees for East Iowa Bible camp, Deep River; and is a past president of Christian Farmers which has a membership in Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Poweshiek counties.

He spends times studying legislative issues that affect farming.

His interest in agriculture stretches to a mission compound in a remote Ecuador jungle, where he twice worked while on winter visits among the Shuar Indians.

Besides helping with the planting of crops, he worked on machinery repairs with missionary Frank Drown.

Being a Sunday school teacher and youth sponsor for about 12 years has also been rewarding, he says.

In tribute, girls en route to college have stopped to kiss him goodbye.

He concluded with grin, "Besides harvesting good crops and trying to handle the multitude of challenges in farming, I'm fortunate to be blessed with so many young friends."

Koehn Land, Inc. To Be Honored

By Betsy Brown

Koehn Land, Inc., North English, will be honored this fall with the owner-operator award for 1985, given annually by the Iowa county soil conservation district.

Harold Koehn started farming after leaving the service in 1946. The next year, he and his brother, Edwin, bought a small piece of land together. Today, Koehn Land, Inc. owns 825 acres of land, 340 acres in corn and 120 acres in beans. The corporation is owned and operated by Harold and Martha Koehn and son, Kevin.

The Koehns own land in four areas of English township. The farm places where Harold and Kevin live, both located southeast of Millersburg near the Pleasant Grove Church of the Brethren, are owned by them. Also an area southwest of Millersburg just across from the Deep River - Millersburg high school ball park, and the place where the Ronald Kinzlers are presently living, are part of Koehn Land, Inc.

Harold started soil conservation efforts almost 30 years ago, terracing and tiling in 1956. When he bought the farm he is now living on in 1966, he decided there was a need for an erosion pond on the land.

"There was a big gully, about 18 feet deep, so I put a pond in for recreation, such as fishing, and to help stop erosion," he explained.

In 1976, the Koehns had a stabiliza-

tion structure constructed on the land southwest of Millersburg. This is a structure that has all tiles from that land connected into it, so the excess water from the land all runs to that point. It aids conservation efforts in that it acts like a waterfall to take water from one level of a terrace to the lower level without washing a gully.

Also, on the various properties they hold, the Koehns have installed over the years, 31,000 feet of terraces; 3,000 feet of diversion terraces; 53,000 feet of waterway tile; and 2,300 feet of open drainage ditches. In addition, they have one-and-a-half acres of grassed waterway and 114 acres of pasture improvement, replacing existing pasture with grasses and legumes more suited to the soil, and providing better forage.

Maintenance

Kevin noted that the upkeep of their conservation projects has been minimal.

He said, "We just have to clean out the terraces with a bulldozer every once in a while, depending on how much rain we get."

Harold added the Soil Conservation Service gives them a lot of help by laying out the plans for each project.

"They do the technical work. Then they also help by their cost sharing program. If it meets their specifications, they will pay 50 percent of the cost,"

Harold said.

In addition to crop farming, the Koehns also raise 130 head of stock cattle and about 1,100 hogs in confinement.

Harold said the benefits to the livestock from having the erosion ponds were helpful, but the conservation efforts came first.



OWNER-OPERATOR AWARD WINNER

— Koehn Land, Inc., winner of the owner-operator soil conservation award, is owned by members of the

Harold Koehn family. They are, left to right, Kevin and Chris Koehn and Martha and Harold Koehn.

Chicago Couple Wins New Cooperator Award

by Tim Hynds

A Chicago area accountant and his wife are the winners of the new cooper-ator award, given annually by the Iowa County Soil Conservation district.

It's two down with one to go so far as soil conservation projects are concerned for Scott and Ann Zavis, Elgin, Ill. The Zavis', residents of suburban Chicago, last summer completed two of three phases of a soil conservation project on the 117-acre farm they had received following the death of Mrs. Zavis' father. Mrs. Zavis is the former Ann Himler.

"We enjoy being in the country" Scott said, adding they were "doing some good for America by conserving soil so that there will be food for our children."

The first project completed two years ago on their farm, located in English township, entailed the construction of

four terraces at the southeast corner of the farm. Tile lines and outlets were installed through their land and into adjoining land, emptying into a natural waterway.

The second project, completed last summer, saw the addition of three more terraces, this time in the southwest corner of the farm. District soil conservationist Harry Bryant noted the two-years' work on the Zavis farm entailed a total of 4,650 feet of grass backslope terraces and 3,500 feet of tile lines.

In addition, a deep drop-off in the land was contoured and one of the nearby terraces was built so as to shape the water flow near the drop-off. Zavis noted that before the contouring of the drop-off, the area used to wash every year. This year there has been "abso-

lutely zero washout" he said, adding while the plantable acreage hasn't increased on the farm, the area which had the drop-off is now productive where it hadn't been before.

"By far the largest project," the third one, is underway this summer. Five terraces, 3,500 feet in length, will be added to the seven already constructed, this time at the northeast corner of the farm. A main tile system with 1,500 feet of tile will also be installed as an outlet for the terraces, and an additional tile line will be extended above the terraces to connect to the Donald Wyant farm, allowing him to install terraces on his property.

Zavis said he has had "no difficulty in getting neighbors to go along with the soil conservation practices." Cooperation between the Zavis' and neighboring farmers has been very good, he

continued, and added that more cooperative efforts would be made "if it weren't for the poor farm economy."

In spite of the fact that the Zavis' live in Illinois, they visit the farm "seven to eight times a year, usually between Easter and Thanksgiving." The Zavis farm is currently being rented to Ralph Miller, North English, who has also agreed to use conservation tillage on the cropland.

"Scott is a big city boy," who wasn't aware of the problems associated with soil erosion nor with the services available before he and his wife acquired the farm, said Bryant, noting Scott came to the Soil Conservation Service to find what should be done.

"It's really something to see someone come out of the city and appreciate what can be done," Bryant said.

Third Place - Tie

By Jamie Harney

To find the answer to clean water, one must first know what water pollution is and why it must be stopped.

There are four basic types of water pollution: natural, thermal, sewage and industrial. Natural pollution comes from the natural environment and its elements. Man, in some cases, may also be a contributor to natural pollution. When pesticides from man's land mixes with rain water and runs into the rivers, it is man's fault. Also, when forests are misused by man, the runoff of polluted water increases.

Thermal pollution is, in short, an increase of the temperature of the water. This type of pollution is usually found where power plants and factories add high temperature materials to the water. It isn't necessarily the materials that cause the pollution, but the high temperature of it.

Sewage and industrial pollution are slightly similar, but they still hold definite differences. Sewage pollution is

made up of raw or partially treated domestic waste. The most visible form of this pollution is detergent foam, though it is far from being the most serious. A much more threatening aspect of sewage pollution is the increase in epidemics, among the whole population, caused by other kinds of this water contamination.

The meaning of industrial pollution can be understood by using its root word - industry. Industries dump waste materials into nearby rivers, lakes, etc. These materials come in many different forms and types. One of the more serious types of this pollution is toxic substances. This spoiling of the water poisons living things or changes the environment.

There are also countless other varieties of garbage that industries and manufacturers dump into the water.

Water pollution with its many characteristics, poses a deadly threat to all living things. Whether it be directly or indirectly, it affects animals, plants and

humans in some harmful way. Fish and other sea life are being killed off at an alarming rate, a rate that is almost terrifying. People are also threatened by this dangerous situation. Disease is transmitted in the drinking water in some parts of the U.S. and even coming in contact with contaminated water endangers one's health.

Obviously something needs to be done to control water pollution. Already there is governmental and state control on the amount of dumping of waste material, but something more is needed. What I believe is needed is cooperation among all people, whether they be government officials, farmers, manufacturers, etc.

Everyone contributes in some way to water pollution. If everyone is "united" in this practice, why can't we reverse the "unity" to work to our advantage? For this to happen, though, people would have to cooperate - each of us would have to give a little more effort toward protecting clean water. When clean water is preserved, so are we.

Students Win Conservation Awards For Clean Water Themes

First Place And Regional Winner

By Rick Maas

Water is so much a part of our daily lives that we take it for granted. Religious ceremonies are based on water, and waterways form political boundaries. We can't live without water, yet we continue to abuse it and misuse it. "Water is a treasure in trouble."

Demand for a healthy, clean environment has led to public concern and legislation for controlling pollutants in our lakes, streams and drinking water. The U.S. Congress has passed the federal water pollution control act amendments of 1972. Federal and state programs are to prevent, reduce and eliminate water pollution with the primary responsibility going to the state. By 1983 waters were to be swimmable and fishable. By 1985 pollutants cannot be discharged into navigable waters.

There are two types of water pollution: point and nonpoint. Point sources are end-of-pipe discharges such as those from municipal sewage plants, industries and some concentrated animal feeding operations. Point sources are treated at the source. A lot of

progress has been made in reducing point source pollution.

Nonpoint sources are much more complex and more difficult to treat. Pollution from nonpoint sources is caused by water runoff, percolation, and seepage to surface and ground waters. Nonpoint pollution comes from natural processes which cannot be completely eliminated and from human activity. This type of pollution is of great concern to Iowans for 90 percent of the land is committed to agricultural uses.

Prevention is always cheaper than treatment. Farmers must start considering future generations. As difficult as it will be, all farmers must consider more than production and profit. They need to practice preventive measures such as strip cropping, terracing, crop rotation, and nutrient, herbicide and pesticide management. A few preventive measures are already being used. They are chisel plowing and minimum tillage.

Soil erosion was controlled years ago by crop rotation. Farmers planted corn for two or three years in a field and then

seeded the field down. This also controlled pests. Farmers controlled weeds by checking his corn fields so they could be cultivated north-south and east-west and herbicides weren't used. Corn production was not as high as today, but soil conservation was practiced.

Farmers who practice good conservation need to be greatly subsidized for doing so. Subsidies should be granted for soil not eroded, crop rotation practices, terracing, permanent pastureland, permanent waterways, grassy ground cover on steep hills, and for nutrient, herbicide and pesticide management. Farmers could also be taxed if they don't practice soil conservation.

One of the most effective methods of protecting this resource for the future is through education of our youth. Conservation resource speakers must be sent into the classroom just as drug abuse speakers are. Conservation study units must be presented. Then, as adults, we can make sound conservation decisions based on our local needs.

Second Place

By Gwen Gingerich

Water is necessary for human survival; we drink it, cook in it, wash in it, even use it for recreation. Yet, of all our resources, water is the most misused. Our rivers, lakes, even our underground sources have become polluted. Traces of DDT and acid have been found in innocent spring showers.

First of all, what is causing the pollution of our water? Smog, pesticides and herbicides, oil spills, toxic waste dumps, industrial and human wastes, to name a few. A total of 2,500 oil spills take place on United States lakes and rivers in a typical year. New York alone dumps 24,000 tons of waste every day into nearby swampland. On the average

day, the United States spills 29 billion gallons of untreated sewage off its coasts. And what about other countries? We're only 1/16th of the total world population.

So what's the answer to the problem of unclean water? Preventing pollution and correcting past mistakes is the first step. We've got to quit dumping wastes into the ocean. It's not a sewage treatment plant. What happened to our lakes and bays could happen to the ocean. We should prevent oil spills, and clean them up when they do happen. Remove solid and chemical wastes from water before putting it back into lakes and rivers. Strict laws on dumping should be made and enforced. Indi-

viduals could be more conscious of their actions.

Everybody needs to work together, water pollution is a worldwide problem. We can learn from each other. For instance, Germany put catch-basins around alpine lakes to keep untreated surface water out. They pump oxygen into reservoirs to prevent stagnation. Japan closely regulates trash disposal. These things would all take large amounts of money, but isn't it worth it?

I think Franklin Roosevelt summed everything up pretty well when he said, "You can't get pure water and put sewage into the same lake. I say this on behalf of our children."



CONSERVATION WINNERS — Winners in the annual Iowa county soil conservation district's annual essay contest were: Rick Maas, seated, first place winner; Gwen Gingerich, standing at left, daughter of the Keith Gingeriches.

Williamsburg, second place winner; Jamie Harney, standing in center, daughter of Anne Harney, Parnell, and Brian Schnebbe, standing at right, son of the Carl Schnebbes, rural Marengo, third place winners.

Third Place - Tie

by Brian Schnebbe

Hi, I'm Dean the deer. I'm here to tell you about water conservation. It is a major problem in our society today. Yes, it influences us animals too.

For instance, Fred the fish had cousins in the New England states area. I said had because they died of the high acidic PH level in their lake. Also Ernie the eagle came to this game reserve because his hunting grounds have been destroyed due to the wide use of DDT in surrounding areas.

I do have to say some of you humans are very stupid! You use all of these factories that have acidic wastes. You pump it into our formerly clean rivers or let it go into our formerly clean air. This pollution causes many diseases in fish which are important links in the food chain.

You may wonder, "How does acidic exhaust affect the water?" It can be thought of as a deadly disease. It infects the atmosphere which in turn

"infects" the rain clouds. These rain clouds rain and infect the rivers and lakes. They rain acid. This infects all forms of life that come in contact with the diseased water.

At the rate you humans are polluting the water, it won't be long until most of the water is too contaminated to support even microscopic life, let alone large animals like me. Even now, millions of gallons of water are being polluted in one way or another.

Some of you humans are very smart, though. Farmers build terraces that help prevent soil erosion. This also stops the water from picking up large amounts of chemicals. A few factories have devices called "scrubbers" that help clean the air. This system uses water, but the water is then purified again. How this system works I don't know. I'm not that well educated as a deer.

Much to the disbelief of you humans, nature has never had any more water

than this, nor has it ever had any less. It will never gain more water. Since nature cannot "unpollute" the water, it is up to you humans. I think we are in trouble since all of the water in the world is in some way polluted.

In my opinion, your politicians are intelligent. Take a look at all the water conservation projects they have voted to fund. Like Hoover dam, other dams, helping pay farmers for building terraces for conservation purposes, "seeding" acidic lakes with limestone, and helping pay for water cleanup programs to name a few.

I think you humans should get laws passed requiring all manufacturing companies to install "scrubbers" in their factories. Sure, it will cost several million dollars but isn't clean air more important than money? Also, I think stricter regulations should be placed on factory owners to clean up their waste water. After all clean water is the only answer.

Third Place



Fall Tillage Erodes Soil, Fails To Help Yields

By Gene Backhaus 10-23-85

Most farmers in the state of Iowa do some type of fall tillage. In some cases it is acceptable, but is it really necessary? What does it accomplish?

According to the Soil Conservation Service, fall tillage is not necessary and only accomplishes two things. First fall tillage promotes soil erosion and secondly it provides people with a recreational activity, says Gene Backhaus, soil conservationist with the Iowa County Soil Conservation district. In tests, it has been proven that tillage during the fall of the year does nothing to enhance yields over tillage done in the spring, he says.

Calculations from the service state

that if this continues, the top soil will disappear within the next 100 years. According to the service, fall tillage causes an increased soil loss of two tons per acre.

The state average soil loss is almost 10 tons per acre, which is twice the acceptable rate. Most soils in Iowa build top soil at the rate of five tons per acre per year. These figures translate into a reduced farmland production if the soil erosion continues at this pace, greater than it can rebuild itself.

To reduce this production loss, the Soil Conservation Service urges all farm operators to reduce tillage. A minimum tillage method is suggested and

to postpone tillage operations until spring. The ultimate soil saving solution is to switch to a no-till farming system, but you must still find a way to control the water.

The benefits of the reduced tillage systems are far greater than just soil savings. You will receive fuel savings, reduced equipment wear, and a reduction in the number of man-hours needed to farm at current levels.

To find out the effect of fall tillage on a farm, interested persons should contact the Soil Conservation Service office in Williamsburg at 668-2359 or stop in at 600 Court.

SCS Will Mark 50 Years With Banquet

10-30-85

In marking 50 years of soil conservation, the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service district has slated the annual fall awards banquet for Tuesday, Nov. 19, which will be open to the public.

The event will be at Seven Villages restaurant, Amana Holiday Inn, Interstate 80, the Amana interchange, at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker is James B. Gulliford, director, Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Among those honored will be the following: longtime owner-operator, the Harold Koehn family, North English; tenant-landlord division, John Cox, Mary (Mrs. Richard) Lacina, both North

English; and Loretta White, Wisconsin; and new cooperators, Ann and Scott Zavis, Chicago, Ill. Mrs. Zavis is the former Ann Himler, North English.

Also recognized will be former county SCS commissioners.

This is the first time the awards banquet has been open to the public. Those wishing to attend should call for ticket price and to make reservations at the SCS office, telephone 668-2359, by noon Friday, Nov. 8, for the three-meal, family-style dinner. Checks are to be mailed and receipts will be the dinner ticket.

No-Till Is Easier To Harvest In Wet Fall 11-27-85

During recent wet weather which produced muddy fields, farmers have again found that no-till fields are more firm and easier to harvest, according to Gene Backhaus, soil conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. Several have reported they had no problems harvesting their no-till acres, but could not get into the fields that were planted with conventional tillage, he added, noting this points out one of several reasons why no-till row cropping

has been increasing over the last few years.

When considering expanding no-till acres next year, the problem of compaction and deep ruts left from fall harvest is a concern, he admitted. Backhaus offers the following suggestions, however:

First, if the wet spots and the ruts are localized, or only on flat areas, a farmer might consider spot chiseling or disking instead of working the entire field.

Second, if complete cultivation is necessary, the farmer should consider possible changes with the intent of no-till in subsequent years.

Changes might include using a paraplow or similar equipment for eliminating compaction and leaving residue on the surface for erosion control, changing row direction and/or contouring, applying lime and/or fertilizer on corn stalks prior to tillage, and/or switching to two-inch, straight-shank chisels.

Any questions concerning fall tillage options and soil benefits should be directed to the Soil Conservation District Office, 600 Court, Williamsburg, 668-2359.

1933 Was Memorable Year For Area Farmers

By Dean Dickel

Farmers rallied to support a colleague at a forced farm sale, where they placed a ten cent limit on bids and successfully stymied the bank's attempt to foreclose on a Watkins farmer.

No less than three banks closed their doors in the Benton/Iowa county area and some towns went without banks to serve their primarily agricultural customers for over a year until banking officials reorganized at substantial losses to their stockholders and depositors.

Programs to feed and cloth the poor of this town were reported in the local paper on a weekly basis, as the farm crisis crippled main street and left many able-bodied persons jobless.

Local governments struggled with shrinking budgets, due to lower tax collections. City and county officials had their salaries cut and the overwhelming issue in the local school board election

was how to keep the schools operating with less money.

The year was 1933 and the nation's heartland was in the grips of the "Great Depression".

The events of the day were recorded in the Belle Plaine Union's archives from that year. Those times are also recorded in the minds of the farmers and their families who struggled to hold on to a way of life that seemed to promise eternal prosperity just a few years before.

A retired Koszta farmer, Francis Schott, remembers 1933 as the year he graduated from high school. He found work that summer as a farmhand at \$30 per month, as his parents couldn't support the remaining family members. That winter, he says, most men were satisfied to live and work anywhere for room and board. "We didn't have unemployment or welfare then,"

Schott said, "if you didn't have work and a place to live they sent you to the poor farm."

In good crop years there was always husking corn by hand. "You could pick 100 bushels in a day. They paid three cents to six cents a bushel, but you had to scoop it in the crib too. They had steel scoops back then too, not these fancy aluminum ones like they have now," Schott said.

In the years to follow, Schott saw agriculture change at an alarming pace. Tractors and mechanical pickers hit the scene by the mid-thirties. Prices for the farmer's products stabilized. Schott joined the Army in 1938 and fought in World War II until his discharge in 1942. He purchased his present 320 acre farm for \$170 per acre with a 4 percent loan following the war.

Although the numbers and the names have changed, Schott said the economic crisis of the 1930's is very similar to conditions on the farm today. "It's as tough now as it ever was to make a living on the farm," Schott said. Since retiring Schott has rented his land and resisted offers to sell the land. He said a nearby farm sold for \$2,400 an acre four years ago and a similar farm this year brought only \$850 per acre.

Schott said the rush to expand farming operations in the 1970's should have been the first sign of trouble on the farm. "They were doing the same

thing in the 1920's," Schott said. The differences, he says, was markets for farm products were controlled primarily by domestic demand in the 1930's and today's low market prices are more the result of a depressed world economy. Also, farmers in the 1930's weren't saddled with costly input costs for chemicals and fuel.

Farm households managed to survive the depression in 1933 because they were more self-sufficient, according to Schott's wife Margaret. "Everyone had milk cows and chickens in those days," she says. Cash was usually reserved for buying staples like salt and flour. Francis says when corn prices dipped below ten cents per bushel in the 30's farm families burned corn instead of coal to save cash.

The human toll of the farm crisis in 1933 was inescapable. The newspaper reported on three successful suicide attempts by area farmers. One account from the April 13 issue reports on the death of a 72 year old farmer—"Despondent over financial affairs, ... took his own life by shooting himself through the stomach with a 20 gauge shotgun Friday evening in an outshed near his home."

A complete review of the 1933 newspaper issues reveals that good news did come to the area by year's end. Franklin Delano Roosevelt had been elected president a year earlier and by July of 1933 the newspaper was filled with sto-

ries about the National Recovery Act. Public works programs were putting the unemployed back to work.

In November, W. A. Geiger, Benton county agent, announced the boldest farm program of history. Hog production was cut by 25 percent and corn acreage was reduced by 20 percent. A loan rate of \$.45 per bushel was set for corn, and Benton county farmers rushed to take advantage of the program. Farmers were given an allotment for hog production and a subsidy paid

to those farmers that cut production.

In the second to last Union issue of 1933 an interview with the instructor of agriculture at Belle Plaine appears on the front page. Louis L. Falck is quoted as saying, "The Agricultural Adjustment Act is aimed to check falling farm prices and cause them to rise to a point where farmers can once again meet their obligations and again become a potential consuming portion of the nation."

The rest is history. Will it repeat itself?



LIFELONG FARMERS — Francis and Margaret Schott have both lived on the farm all their lives. Their careers started after the 1930's Depression and

ended before the current farm crisis. "God has been good to us both," Margaret said.

Jon Kinzenbaw Will Be Tillage Show Speaker

The Eastern Iowa Tillage show Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 28 and 29, at the Five Seasons Center, Cedar Rapids, will include a number of farmer and professional participants from 11 counties and Iowa State University, Ames.

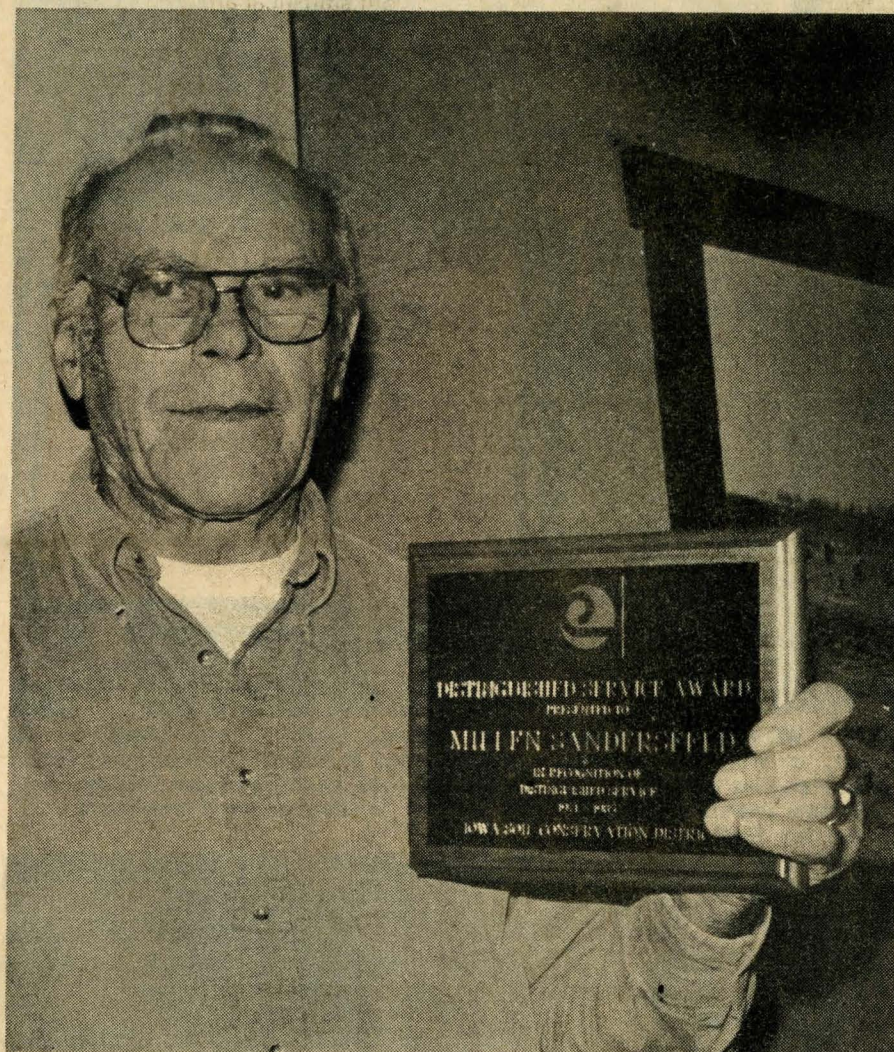
Featured speaker Tuesday evening will be Jon Kinzenbaw, president of Kinze Manufacturing, Inc., Williamsburg. Kinzenbaw is the first machinery dealer invited to speak at this agricultural seminar.

His talk is: "Development to Narrow

Rows."

David Fetzer, Williamsburg area swine producer, also has been nominated by the Iowa County Soil conservation Service commissioners as a program speaker. Fetzer will discuss "Transition to Less Tillage."

Among Iowa county residents and SCS commissioners serving on the Eastern Iowa Tillage show committees are Harry Bryant, Robert Faber, Fred White, Greg Misbach and the David McCartneys.



RETIRES AS SCS AIDE — A distinguished service award was given to Millen Sandersfeld, Williamsburg, at the Soil Conservation Service awards dinner Tuesday, Nov. 19, on behalf of

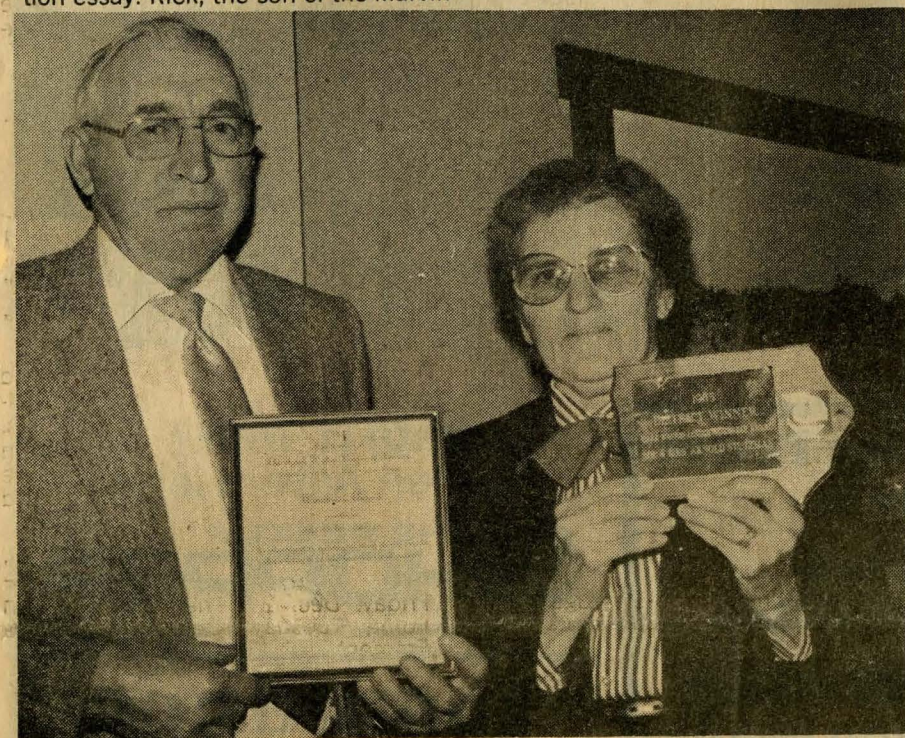
the organization. Sandersfeld, a veteran employee of the service, also played a prelude of violin music at the dinner meeting.

Awards Banquet Pictures - 11-19-85



ESSAY WON STATE AWARD — Rick Maas, a Williamsburg high school freshman, has won the county, district and state awards for his soil conservation essay. Rick, the son of the Marvin

Maas', South Amana, presented his essay at the annual Soil Conservation Service awards banquet Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Seven Villages restaurant.



CULTIVATE SHELTER BELT — The Izaak Walton League windbreak award, given at the Soil Conservation Service dinner recently, was collected by the Arnold Stutzmans, Wellman, Greene township farmers. The Norway spruce,

white pine and other trees are more than 25 feet tall. Established on a ridge as a windbreak in 1966, they also added protection around the buildings with another tree planting later.

Soil Conservation Awards Are Made

Participants in soil saving programs were given honors Tuesday night, Nov. 19, at the Soil Conservation Service banquet. The event was held at Seven Villages restaurant, I-80 at the Amana interchange, with approximately 50 in attendance.

A look at yesterday's farming programs, with a series of slides, was a highlight of the presentation of James B. Gulliford, Des Moines, director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. Gulliford spoke on the 50 years of soil conservation in the state.

Greg Misbach, Marengo, and an Iowa county commissioner, detailed soil

conservation efforts while SCS was organized during the last 40 years in Iowa county. Both his father and uncle served in the early years of Iowa county SCS.

Among farmers cited were the following for soil conservation practices:

- Owner-operator division - Koehn Land Company, Inc., North English, to Harold Koehn, his son, Kevin, and families which include Koehn's wife Martha, Christine Koehn and two daughters Kathy Koehn and Kandy Koehn Rose.
- Landlord-tenant - Mary (Mrs. Richard) Lacina, North English, and

Loretta White, LaCrosse, Wis., owners, with John Cox, North English, tenant, for a 160-acre tract.

- New cooperators - Anne (Himler) Zavis and her husband Scott Zavis, Chicago, Ill.

- Izaak Walton League windbreak - the Arnold Stutzmans, Wellman, Greene township.

- Conservation essay contest, junior division - Rick Maas, South Amana, son of the Marvin Maas', county, district and state winner.

- The distinguished service award - Millen Sandersfeld, Williamsburg, who is retiring as a SCS aide.

The meeting was chaired by Robert Fabor, Parnell.

Presentations were made by Fred White, Parnell, David McCartney, North English, and Misbach, all SCS commissioners; Ted Oswald, conservation technician; and Doris McCartney, assistant commissioner. Larry Wetjen is also a commissioner. Music was by violinist Sandersfeld.

Serving also on the SCS staff are Harry Bryant, district conservationist; Eugene Backhaus, soil conservationist; and Julie Hocker, state clerk and secretary.

Groundwater Nitrate Levels Are Reduced

Nitrate levels in groundwater were reduced about one-third when nitrogen fertilizer was treated with nitrpyrin, a bacterial growth inhibitor, Lloyd B. Owens told the American Society of Agronomy meeting in Chicago, Dec. 4.

The action of soil bacteria on nitrogen changes ammonium to nitrate, which leaches readily through the soil into groundwater. High levels of nitrate in drinking water are considered an objectionable pollutant, Owens said.

By slowing down its release as nitrate with a nitrpyrin-treatment, fertilizer nitrogen stays in the root zone longer where crops can take it up and thus leaves less to be leached to groundwater.

Owens, soil scientist with USDA's agricultural research service, North Appalachian experimental watershed research station, Coshocton, Ohio, fertilized soils, planted to corn, in two 8-foot deep lysimeters (natural soil blocks) with nitrpyrin treated- and untreated-urea fertilizer at rates of 300 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

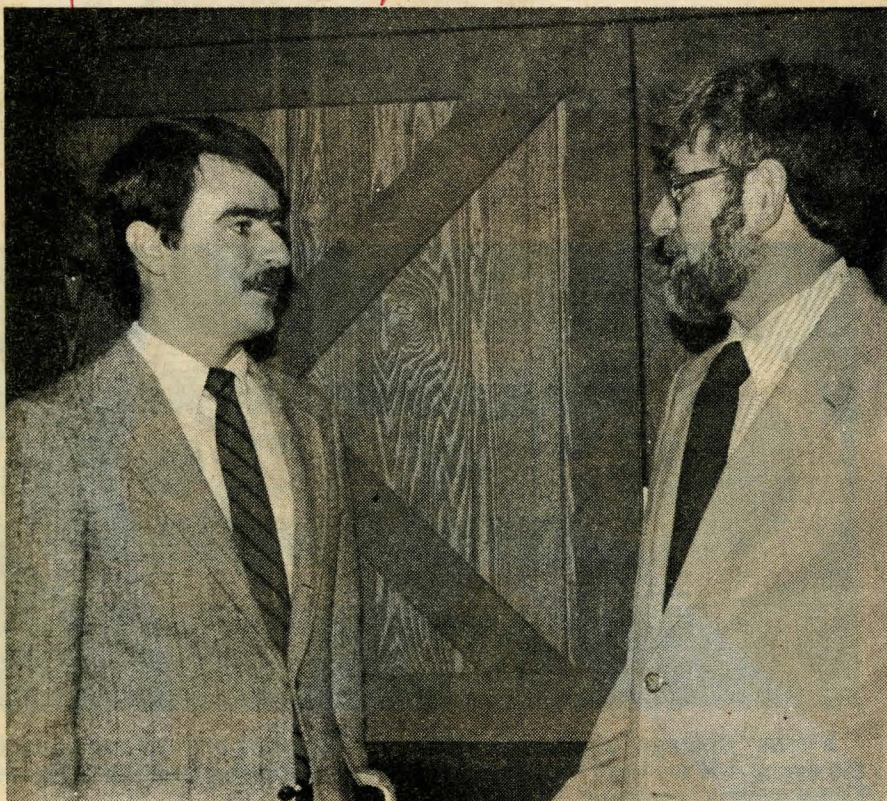
Average annual loss of nitrogen through leaching was 104 pounds per acre for the treated fertilizer compared with 143 pounds per acre for the untreated fertilizer.



CITED FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS — A host of awards were given at the Soil Conservation Service dinner Tuesday, Nov. 19, for soil-saving efforts. Among those honored were, back, Anne (Mrs. Scott) Zavis, Chicago, Ill., land owner, who with her husband received the new cooperator division award. Front row

winners are: John Cox, North English, for his tenant progress with landlords Mary (Mrs. Richard) Lacina, North English, and Loretta White, La Crosse, Wis., owners (not present); and Harold

Koehn and his son, Kevin Koehn, both North English, for the owner-operator division as Koehn Land, Inc. The banquet marked the 50th anniversary of the soil conservation program.



HIGHLIGHTED CONSERVATION EFFORTS — Speaker at the Soil Conservation Service awards dinner Nov. 19 at Seven Villages restaurant, interstate 80 at the Little Amana exit east of Willi-

amsburg, was James B. Gulliford, director of the state Soil Conservation Service. Gulliford visited with Greg Misbach, Marengo, a county SCS commissioner, on progress in the area.

Kinzenbaw Will Keynote Tillage Show

The seventh annual Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage show, titled, "Holding Our Soil," being held Jan. 28 and 29 at the Five Seasons Center, Cedar Rapids, will include speeches from three men from the Benton-Iowa county area.

The three area men speaking are Homer Showman, Atkins, and Jon Kinzenbaw and David Fetzter, both Williamsburg.

Showman, who will speak at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, will discuss, "No-till for Profit Today and Tomorrow."

Showman, who has been engaged in farming since 1977, said he realizes that everyone is in a financial pinch right now and most periodicals he reads state that it costs more in herbicides to use no-till farming.

He plans on showing that no-till does not cost more, and often costs less, which will bring about profit for farmers today. He also wants to prove to the audience that the belief that one must take a reduction in yield with no-till is false, especially in dry years, like the past summer.

"I feel on my farm, when I compare where I had disced last year and where I had not, I could see an actual difference," Showman noted. "The no-till survived the stress of a dry summer better because more moisture stays in the ground."

For farmers in the future, he says if the soil is conserved today, it will pay off tomorrow.

Showman, 31, graduated from Iowa State University, Ames, in agriculture. While working for a farmer in north central Iowa in 1975, he was first exposed to ridge-till farming.

"At a time when most experts said that could not be done, he made it work," Showman remembers.

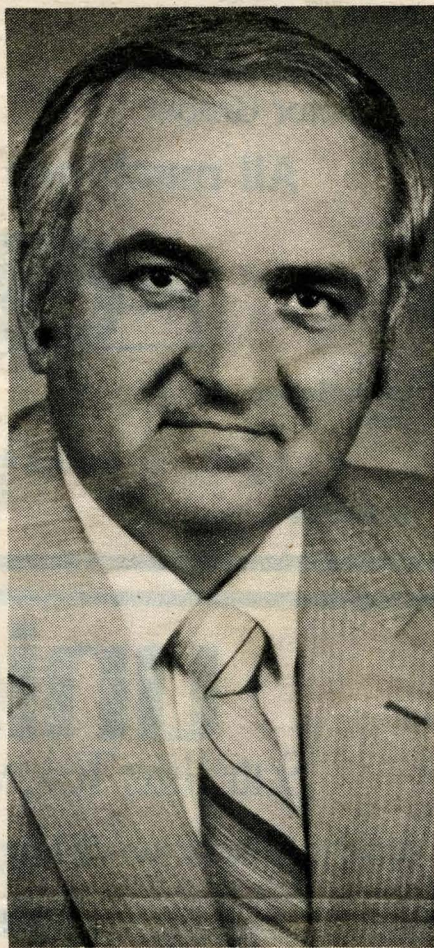
He first used minimum tillage on his own farm in 1980 then converted to no-till in 1983.

"I want to impress on farmers that if they feel it will not work to use no-till, it won't," Showman commented. "If farmers would put as much work into no-till farming as conventional farming, it would work for them."

Kinzenbaw Will Speak

The keynote speaker for the second session Tuesday will be Jon Kinzenbaw, who will speak at 7 p.m. on "The Development Stages to Narrow Rows."

Kinzenbaw said, "My presentation will show the development of certain row units and planter frames that have led us from 30 inch corn and beans to now be able to plant 10 and 15 inch



JON KINZENBAW

soybeans, with some planters that plant 30-inch corn."

Kinzenbaw, whose business is presently located at the Marengo interchange of Interstate 80, started in business welding for farmers in 1965, in a small shop between Ladora and Victor. At that time he had only \$30 to his name and started his business by borrowing money from a bank, with his father as the cosigner.

In 1969, he built a 5,000 square foot building in Ladora. By that time, the business had become Kinze Manufacturing, and he had moved from strictly a welding business to building equipment of his own design to meet the needs of farmers. He started by fabricating four-wheel drive end loaders, making a custom built wagon and designing and building a "floater" fertilizer applicator. He then moved on to doing repower work for tractors and replacing the regular motor in a John Deere tractor with a Detroit diesel engine. His business was incorporated in 1971.



DAVID FETZTER

Finally, in 1976, Kinzenbaw decided he needed more space, and moved to the present location of the business near Williamsburg. The first patented Kinze design was an adjustable furrow width plow.

Move To Less Tillage

Fetzter, a farmer for 13 years, will speak Tuesday at 3:10 p.m. on "My Transition to Less Tillage." He will discuss how he became involved in a no-till program on his farm.

His family was an early innovator of contour farming. He says his father was the best example he has had of conservation tillage. The first step, he explained, was when they took out all of the interior fencelines and opened up the land they owned.

"In 1974 my father and I parked the plow and moved most of our operation from conventional farming to no-till," he continued.

According to soil tests he has had taken, the liquid manure from his hog

operation provides most of the pre-planting fertilizer needs.

Today, Fetzter plants his corn in bean stubble from the year before, and plants beans in chopped corn stubble.

Other Exhibits

There will be 63 exhibits at the show which will feature a newly invented tractor for ridge-till farming, coulters for deep fertilizer placement, and guiding systems for planting on ridges.

One exhibitor will show a new cultivator and claims to be able to cultivate at speeds up to 12 miles per hour.

Other exhibits will include no-till drills, sprayers and new herbicides for conservation tillage.

Nine farmers, in addition to Showman and Fetzter will explain their successful tillage systems and tell how they are able to reduce costs of growing corn, soybeans and wheat.

Floyd Cornelius, Maquoketa, has ten years experience growing winter wheat. He will share his knowledge of growing this alternative crop which provides better soil protection than corn or soybeans.

Growing soybeans using no-till methods is relatively new for most farmers. Three Eastern Iowa farmers will relate their experiences with no-till soybeans. They are, Lyman Lanpher, Jones county; Tim Lehman, Johnson county, and Rob Stout, Washington county.

Other speakers and exhibitors will provide information on how to successfully use conservation tillage to maximize profits as well as save soil.

Mary Rank, former president of the Iowa County CowBelles Association, gave a \$10 beef certificate in behalf of the Iowa County CowBelles, to be given away with the other prizes throughout the day.

Music from the Independence and West Branch swing choirs will be featured during the lunch hour each day. New slide sets on soil compaction and no-till soybeans will precede the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning program sessions.

Doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The show is sponsored by Soil Conservation districts and USDA agencies from nine counties in eastern Iowa.

"Whether you are searching for ways to reduce erosion, looking for cost cutting ideas, or just want to browse around, stop on in," Haisch encouraged. "It's a free show."

Iowa 2000 Folders Will Be Distributed In Old Man's Creek Area

The Iowa County Soil Conservation district commissioners have established the third area for distribution of the Iowa Soil 2000 folders. It covers about 18,000 acres in the Old Man's creek watershed area, just above Williamsburg, to complete the area started last year.

As in the past, the commissioners

will be using the folders as an educational tool for landowners, showing them what their current soil loss is and conservation practices they can use to solve the erosion problem.

The Iowa Soil 2000 program was originally passed by the 1980 state legislature to ensure people would implement soil conservation practices

on the land. Briefly, the Iowa Soil 2000 says that by the year 2000 all land in the state of Iowa will have a conservation farm plan that brings soil loss down to acceptable levels and that a schedule of implementation will have been formed to complete necessary conservation work.

People who are to receive the Iowa

Soil 2000 folders will be notified by the mail and asked to set up a time when they can come to get their folder and discuss conservation problems with the commissioners. The tentative dates for folder distribution are Feb. 18-20 at the Soil Conservation district office, Williamsburg.

1-20-86

Farmers Share Experiences With Conservation Tillage

By Doris McCartney

An exhibitor at the seventh annual Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage show recently observed, "There's a different crowd here this year."

The Stone Jar

"They are not reaching for their checkbooks so quickly."

He nudged his companion, munching popcorn, while seated in the show auditorium.

"Know what I mean? All I hear is that they aim for maximum economic yield."

Some 60 exhibitors brought their tillage equipment, products and new technology to the winter show.

While the temperature hovered around 12 degrees one morning with a north wind, farmers funneled into the Five Seasons.

In addition to the trade show, a few farmers detailed their independent studies in farming operations at three sessions.

There were hosts of prizes, besides three \$50 bills given away. For a few hours I passed out free tickets.

One five-year veteran of no-till cropping mused, "It is tough to push the message of soil-saving projects when you are barely breaking even or trying to survive in farming."

"Such lofty aims have to be considered when you consider the soil losses for every bushel of corn or soybeans under production."

The message echoed through seminars held two afternoons and one evening. "Conservation tillage saves top soil."

"Fewer tillage passes save time, fuel, equipment costs and soil moisture."

A more stable family life is one of the bonuses another young farmer has realized with less tillage.

"Instead of more passes across the

field, in the evening, I have more meaningful time with my wife and daughter," he commented.

His statement reminded me the tillage show involves the whole family. A young farmer with wife and five children stopped at nearly every booth, checking a mini notebook she held.

Amid the crowd of some 1,850 attending that first day, the 5-year-old in the family was enjoying the outing because she had been appointed the keeper of the Frisbee given at one display.

I noted, too, a turn around in eating habits among the show visitors. Instead of munching sandwiches, many farmers took time only for an ice cone.

Quipped a machinery dealer, "Six years ago at this show, crowds of farmers whisked up to the top of the Five Seasons at noon."

"You couldn't plow through such a gathering for a table."

"Now, they all live so conservatively, not one could be counted there today."

The impact of Kinze Manufacturing, one of Iowa county's major businesses, stretches far.

Kinze corn planter boxes pop up on other machinery, an economic venture that has mutual benefits.

A cluster of women were intrigued by a new multi-rowed planter that offers a rhythmic sway for a practical purpose.

Downtown, the merchants knew where the customers had first visited by the clutch of plastic bags they clasped.

That first exhibitor, weary from waiting for a customer for his industrial type machine, with a load of technology, admitted the tillage show was a rallying event.

From a pumpkin-colored plush seat he complained, "These farmers come here with gospel meeting fervor."

"You don't see the drifters and casual shoppers here, trying to get warm on a frigid day."

Standing up to return to his trade show post he was candid, "These farmers, who have not been committed before today, leave as land stewards."

2-5-86

SCS Takes Applications

The Iowa County Soil Conservation district is taking applications at the Soil Conservation office in Williamsburg for no-till planting using state cost-share funds.

Applications should be made before March 14 to receive priority consideration. Payment will be \$10 per acre, up to 80 acres per applicant. Applicants cannot receive cost-share from both Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation district, even though it may be on different farms.

First priority consideration will be

given to first-time no-tillers, and will be based on the amount of soil saved by no-tilling. Second priority will be given to applicants who have never received cost-sharing for no-till from any source, and will be based on the amount of soil saved by no-tilling. Any remaining funds will be allocated on the amount of soil saved by using no-till. Payment will not be made for no-tilling into permanent pasture.

Application for no-till can also be made at the ASCS office for federal cost-share funds.

2-27-86

Two No-Till Meetings Are Set April 1

The Iowa County Extension Service in conjunction with the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service (SCS) will hold two no-till meetings Tuesday, April 1.

Meeting locations include:

- 10 a.m.-noon: Williamsburg city hall, north side of the town square.
- 1-3 p.m.: Dayton Center, Dayton township, five miles west of Millersburg on F52 and one and one-half miles south.

John Creswell, area crop production specialist, will present up-to-date information on factors to consider when

implementing a no-till planting system. These factors include: fertilizer placement, weed and insect control, planting rates, and soil compaction. Paul Brown, Iowa County Extension director, will present a slide program on soil compaction. A representative from the SCS will discuss the availability of cost-sharing funds for no-till farmers. A question and answer session will conclude each program.

For information contact Brown, 1099 Court Avenue, Marengo, or call 642-5504.

3-17-86

40TH ANNUAL REPORT

Iowa Soil Conservation District

Williamsburg, Iowa



District & Assistant District Commissioners

From left (first row) are commissioner Larry Wetjen, Marengo; commissioner Robert Faber, Parnell; commissioner Greg Misbach, Marengo; assistant commissioner Andy Rowe, Marengo; (back row) assistant commissioner John Parsons, Ladora; commissioner Fred White, Parnell; commissioner David McCartney, North English; and assistant commissioner Doris McCartney, North English.

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

A. Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist
John W. Pringry, Resource Conservationist
David L. Nelson, Civil Engineer
Catherine N. Kaspar, Agricultural Engineer
Francis W. Vos, Civil Engineering Technician
Keith L. Hunt, Civil Engineering Technician
Jerome Mall, Civil Engineering Technician
Kathi Ohnemus, Area Clerk



ESSAY WON STATE AWARD — Rick Maas, a Williamsburg high school freshman, has won the county, district and state awards for his soil conservation essay. Rick, the son of the Marvin Maas', South Amana, presented the essay at the annual Soil Conservation Service awards banquet, Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Seven Villages restaurant.



Field Office Personnel

From left (front row) are soil conservationist Gene Backhaus; district conservationist Harry Bryant; district clerk Julie (Mrs. Dennis) Hocker; (back row) WAE Millen Sandersfeld, Williamsburg; and conservation technician Ted Oswald, North English.

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Robert Faber, Chairman
Greg Misbach, Vice-Chairman
Julie A. Hocker, Secretary-Treasurer

We wish to thank the following people and businesses for their contributions to the financial support of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District:

Advance Drainage Systems
Altorfer Machinery
Amana Society
Donald Baker
Harry Bryant
Colony Market Place
Russell Collingwood & Son
David Dietrich
Donald Dietrich
Elwood Implement
Lambert Elwood

Robert Faber
Gahring Construction
David Horras
Hydrocarbon Transport
Iowa Co. Farm Bureau
Izaak Walton League
W.H. James Earth Const.
Koehn Land, Inc.
Levine Co., Inc.
Pauline Lillie
David McCartney

Daniel Miller
Max Miller
Rex Miller
Greg Misbach
Morse Farms
Midwest Culvert
Hugh O'Meara
Patrons Mutual
John Rot, jr.
Paul Rudin

Millen Sandersfeld
Seven Villages Rest.
Harold Sherman
Swartzendruber Lumber
& Const.
Chris Swartzendruber
T.I.P. Rural Electric
Fred White
Larry Wetjen
Daniel Keith Yoder & Son

Scott Zavis
Dennis Hocker
Farmers Savings Bank,
Kalona
Farmers Savings Bank,
Victor
Wellman Savings Bank,
Wellman
Citizens Bank & Trust,
Belle Plaine

First Interstate Bank,
Marengo
First Trust Savings Bank,
Oxford
Security Savings Bank,
Williamsburg
Farmers Trust Savings Bank,
Williamsburg
Farmers Savings Bank,
North English

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District Commissioners meet the third Tuesday of each month. In addition, a District Organizational Meeting is held the first working day in January to elect district officers. National and state dues are also paid.

JANUARY - Commissioners Annual Short Course; County Conservation Quiz Contest; Eastern Iowa Tillage Show; Assist with Adult Education Class at Marengo.

FEBRUARY - Commissioners met with farmers and distributed 68 "Soil 2000" folders, covering 18,433 acres.

MARCH - Contractors Meeting; Commissioners Spring Regional Meeting; No-Till Meeting - Award of \$50 to Ken Davis for winning state no-till yield of 207 bu/acre; Two meetings with County Supervisors; Soil Stewardship Material for area churches ordered; Distribution of Essay Contest material to area schools; Distributed to public libraries the book "Iowa Soil Conservation, 1939-1979".

APRIL - Kinze Manufacturing and Stanerson Implement donated no-till planter with tractor for rent to farmers interested in no-till. District helped schedule use of equipment.

MAY - Presented program to New Century Club; Soil Stewardship Week - distributed material to churches; Presented program to 6th graders at Lake Iowa; Presented program to Ruritans.

JUNE - Judging for 1985 District Essay Contest; Presented program to Farm Bureau Women; No-till Tour.

JULY - Conservation Awards Tour; Met with ASCS to develop cost-share program.

AUGUST - Commissioners Family Picnic; Sponsored 4-H Conservation Photo Contest at Iowa Co. Fair; Purchased Conservation Education Booklets for Williamsburg Schools.

SEPTEMBER - Commissioners Fall Regional Meeting; Presentation of District Essay Contest Awards; Tri-County Soil Judging Contest; Presented two programs to Kiwanis; Wheat As An Alternative Crop Meeting.

OCTOBER - Meeting with D.O.T. on Highway 149 work.

NOVEMBER - Annual Awards Banquet honoring award winners: Koehn Land, Inc., Mary Lacina, Loretta White, Mr. and Mrs. John Cox, Scott and Anne Zavis, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Stutzman, Rick Maas, Millen Sandersfeld.

DECEMBER - Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

(Fiscal Year 10/1/84 thru 9/30/85) DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS 6,879 acres

Leonard Steele
Ed Ficken
Kenneth Smith
Glen Meeks
Don Cronbaugh
Martha Huffman
Steven Schiebier
Ralph Albert, jr.
Dale Ranfeld
Blanche Dermody
Leo Haack

George Werner
Charles Dietrich
Stan Schmidt
FHA - Dickel Farm
FHA - Hartgrave Farm
J.P. Cunningham
Ken Davis
Don Rohrer
Tom Brown
Vena Dane
William Foubert

Gary Chipman
Dennis Hocker
Harland Muller
Frank DeBrower
Raymond Axmear
John Sturtz
Emma Baack
Laurel Haas
Dean DeBrower
O'Rourke Brothers
John O'Rourke
Ted Miller

ASSISTANCE GIVEN IN CONSERVATION PLANNING - 9,897 acres

Harley Carter
Lucy Smith
Mrs. Art Schiebier
Steve Schiebier
Fern Steffen
Eddie O'Brien
Don Goodman
Hertha Maschmann
J.P. Cunningham
Larry Dellamuth
Vilhauer/Hummer
George McCallister
Don Cronbaugh
Leo Haack
Elmer Eggert
Farmers Home
Administration

Dale Ranfeld
Mike Bot
William Rauch
Gail Steffen
Ed Ficken
Dave Williams
Don Brown
Eldon Doehrmann
Don Teggatz
Dave Bastian
William Foubert
Ray Blomme
Jon Kinzenbaw
Gary Chipman
Frank DeBrower
Vernon Fisher

Charles Pope
Dean DeBrower
Stan Schmidt
Clarence Hagen
O'Rourke Brothers
Dennis Hocker
John O'Rourke
Laurel Haas
Rebecca Disterhoft
F.E. Lyle
A.L. Garringer
Glen Meeks
Ralph Albert
Tom Hotchkiss
George Werner
Ken Davis
Vena Dane

LAND BENEFITED BY APPLICATION OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES 11,343 acres, saving 81,206 tons of soil

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Major Practices:	Unit	1985
Terraces	Feet	57,750
Farm & Feed Windbreak	Acres	8
Conservation Tillage System	Acres	9,042
Contour Farming	Acres	1,172
Grass Waterway	Acres	4
Sediment - Control Basins	Number	15
Other Services:		
Individuals & Groups Assisted	Number	306
Individuals & Groups Applying Practices	Number	212

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Disbursements
IM Budget (FY 1984-85)		
Allocation	\$2,700.00	
Commissioners Expense		\$984.05
Office Supplies		1,293.94
Printing		423.36
Total Expended		2,701.35
Additional Allocation	1.35	
Released to State (6-30-85)		-0-
Cost-Sharing (1-1-86)		
3M Budget (1983-84)		
Allocation	59,452.00	
Additional Allocations	56,250.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		114,113.53
Unobligated Balance		1,588.47
(Released to State 12-31-85)		\$115,702.00
3M Budget (1984-85)		
Allocation	\$63,527.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		51,405.07
Funds Obligated to Farmers		9,725.00
Unobligated Balance		2,396.93
(Released to State 12-31-85)		63,527.00
3M Budget (1985-86)		
Allocation	64,821.00	
Additional Allocation	28,775.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		13,864.07
Obligated for No-Till		9,359.60
Obligated to Farmers		45,517.50
Unobligated Balance		24,854.83
		93,596.00
County Funds (1983-1986)		
Total Allocations	40,000.00	
Disbursed to Farmers		38,344.17
Obligated to Farmers		1,500.00
Unobligated Balance		155.83
		40,000.00
Revolving Funds		
Balance on Hand (1-1-85)	192.60	
Transfer from Savings	200.00	
Receipts - Contributions	1,620.16	
Receipts - Reimbursements	1,888.73	
Receipts - Interseeder Rental	75.00	
Disbursements		3,566.42
Balance on Hand (12-31-85)	410.07	
Savings Account		
Balance on Hand (1-1-85)	1,398.53	
Interest on Balance	79.12	
Interest on Time Cert.	378.92	
Disbursement		200.00
Refund	2.13	
Balance on Hand (12-31-85)	1,658.70	
Time Certificates		
4 at \$1,000.00	4,000.00	
1 at \$1,517.45	1,517.45	

CRP Aims To Save Highly Erodible Soil

By Betsy Brown

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, is expected to pay farmers for taking 476,000 acres of highly erodible soil in Iowa out of production for 10 years. Although Congress has not authorized funding for the program, Iowa county extension director Paul Brown noted he expects the program will go ahead as planned.

The CRP was established as a voluntary program to help farmers prevent or control critical soil erosion now occurring on more than one-third of America's cropland, according to information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soil erosion would reduce the nation's long-term capability to produce food and fiber if left unchecked. Also, off-farm costs of dealing with sedimentation caused by soil erosion are estimated by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) at more than \$2 billion a year.

In addition, the reserve could help lower production in some agricultural commodities currently in surplus, such as corn, wheat and soybeans, according to the USDA.

Other goals of the CRP include improving water quality, creating better habitat for fish and wildlife, and providing income support for farmers.

Eligible Land

Brown said farmers can determine the eligibility of their land by going to SCS offices in Vinton or Williamsburg. He explained the offices have maps which show a soil survey of the farmers' properties.

The SCS distinguishes eight classes of land based on the risk of land damage or the difficulty of land use. In general, the lower the number class, the better the land.

Any land in classes VI, VII or VIII will be eligible for the program because it is either too steep or too shallow to farm.

Also allowed in the program is land in classes II through V, which is land that is eroding at more than twice the rate at which soil forms. Brown explained four to five tons per acre per year can be lost and the soil will maintain itself. However, he said any soil which loses 12 to 15 tons of soil per acre per year would fall in classes II through V and be eligible for the program.

Brown said the SCS will help evaluate land according to the classes eligible for the CRP. Two-thirds of a field must fit into one of the classes II through VIII for the entire field to be eligible for the CRP, he explained.

The USDA hopes to retire 40 to 45 million acres through the CRP.

Signing Up

The date to submit bids to the CRP for the 1986 year ended March 14; however Brown said anyone wanting to start the program in 1987 would have a chance to enter bids this summer. Bids will be taken for producers to start the program every year until 1990.

The bids for this year were opened last Monday, March 17, sent to the state office in Des Moines and will be passed on to Washington D.C. Brown thought it would be late March or early April before farmers would know if their bids are accepted.

To enter the program, producers must submit bids for annual rental payments to the USDA. Annual payments of up to \$50,000 per year will be made to farm owners or operators who enter a contract to convert eligible land to permanent vegetative cover. Land must have been in row crops two out of the last five years to be eligible. Also the producer must have owned the land for

three years to enter the program.

Applicants submit bids stating the rental payment they will accept to convert their highly erodible cropland to permanent vegetative cover.

Brown said the extension service would offer help to those who would like to prepare a bid for acceptance into the program. The extension office has worksheets available to help figure bids.

To make a bid, he explained the cost for the new ground cover, maintenance costs and fencing needed are added to the cost of cash crops which would be given up throughout the 10 years to determine the total cost to the producer. Then an amount would be subtracted from that total which would reflect cost savings from not needing to buy things like seed. The final total would be the bid submitted to the USDA.

Payment will be made in cash or negotiable payment-in-kind certificates. Rental payments will not affect the total amount of payments a farmer is eligible to receive through other USDA programs, Brown added.

To ease the possible effect on agriculture-related industries or businesses, not more than 25 percent of the land in any county can be bid into the program. During the contract period with the USDA, farmers may not receive commercial benefits from land in the CRP through haying, grazing, or seed or tree production.

Establishing A Cover Crop

Brown said there will also be assistance available in helping farmers establish a cover crop.

Types of cover crops producers could use on the CRP land include: (Please turn to page 5)

CRP - -

(Continued from page 3)

introduced or native grassland, woodland and wildlife areas, or a combination of those.

Some specific types of introduced grasses which could be used are smooth brome grass, Kentucky bluegrass, orchardgrass, timothy alfalfa, red clover, birdsfoot trefoil, reed canarygrass, ladino clover, red top, crown vetch, alsike clover or tall fescue. These species are most adapted to conditions in Iowa, according to the extension service.

Native grasses recommended for cover are big bluestem, indiangrass, switchgrass, little bluestem and side-oats grama.

Trees and shrubs may also be planted. Brown suggested trees may be planted for windbreak purposes, adding trees would be made available from the Iowa Conservation Commis-

sion at a low cost to producers in the program. The USDA hopes to see one-eighth of the land in the program put into trees, because it would be good for wildlife. Also conservation services hope to stock some of the areas with pheasant, turkey and quail, Brown said.

Returning To Production

If the CRP contract is broken, the producer must refund all payments plus interest to the USDA. If the land is sold, the new owner must agree to carry on the contract, or the original owner will have to refund the payments.

When a contract expires, a producer will be free to return the land to production. Under other provisions of the Food Security Act, however, the producer will not be eligible to participate in certain USDA farm or commodity programs unless he or she agrees to follow a conservation plan approved by the local soil and water conservation district.

SCS Cautions Against Farming Steep Grasslands

Farmers planning to plant corn or soybeans this spring on highly erodible grassland or woodland may want to reconsider, Soil Conservation Services say. They also caution farmers who plan to drain wetlands for crop production.

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

"The sodbuster and swampbuster provisions of the farm bill went into

effect Dec. 23, when the president signed the bill into law as the Food Security Act of 1985," says Mike Nethery, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa.

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

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

other USDA programs.

Nethery says detailed USDA rules and regulations on the provisions should be published by mid-May.

"But farmers need to know the law is in effect, and that they cannot expect to get USDA benefits if they carelessly break out established vegetative cover such as pastures, grassland, shrubs or trees for corn, soybeans or other annual crops," Nethery says.

He encourages farmers who are considering converting steep land or wetlands from grass to rowcrops to contact the local Soil Conservation Service office.

Conservation in Iowa county

The emphasis farmers are putting on conservation has changed in these economic times.

The amount of contouring diminished during the 60s and 70s, but today we are seeing contouring reestablished on many farms. Contouring will reduce erosion by about 50 percent.

Conservation tillage continues to be the biggest conservation practice being established. Along with this, we see less and less tillage leading to eventually the farmer trying no-till.

Last year about 10 percent of the farmers in Iowa county had some no-till crop, and about 10 percent of the row crop was no-till.

The reason farmers are using these two practices is because they can be done without out-of-pocket expenses to the farmer.

Conservation tillage is also increasing because of better herbicides.

Farmers are getting more confident in their management ability with no-till farming and are able to maintain good yields.

Contrary to a common belief that more herbicide must be used with no-till, with good management, proper herbicide selection and timely application, it takes no more herbicide than with any other tillage system.

Terraces are still a very effective practice to control erosion.

There is 50 percent cost-share available from both

state and federal funds. The amount of terraces being built each year is about one-half of what it was 10 years ago when terrace construction peaked at about 130,000 feet per year.

The amount of cost-share money has remained about the same throughout the past 10 years.

Federal budget cuts have already had an effect on soil conservation activities and more are expected.

Thirty SCS people are being laid off in Iowa in May. One of these, Gene Backhaus, was laid off in Iowa county.

Additional cuts are expected for the next 5 years in order to balance the federal budget.

The 1986 farm bill has a "sodbuster" provision in it that makes producers ineligible for benefits of many USDA programs and subsidies if they bring highly erodible land into cultivation, unless they do so under a conservation system approved by the local Soil Conservation District.

If highly erodible land is already being cultivated in the 1981-85 crop years, the producer will need to begin applying an approved conservation plan no later than Jan. 1, 1990, and complete its implementation by 1995.

Anyone concerned about this requirement should contact the Soil Conservation Service in Williamsburg so a conservation plan can be developed.

Letter To The Editor:

Erosion, Not Conservation Causes Pollution

To the editor:

The recent series the "Des Moines Register" ran on groundwater contamination in Iowa should leave most thinking people perplexed. No one will argue that geologists and scientists are finding nitrates, herbicides and pesticides in our drinking water. There could be discussion that these chemicals, if found in the water used for baby formula, could impair oxygen to the infant's brain. We sure don't want to use live babies for experiments.

But the idea that soil conservation (reduced tillage and terracing) may worsen groundwater contamination should be challenged.

Soil erosion is by far the worst contaminant of water there is. We are told to worry about what might happen 20-30 years down the road when what's happening now affects us, now. Road ditches fill with silt, raising your taxes to keep them clean for the next cloudburst to fill them up again. Fish in farm ponds, lakes and rivers are being killed out due to herbicide runoff, or the waters posted against eating the fish you catch.

Productivity of the soil is being reduced because of loss of topsoil due to poor soil management. Additional nitrogen application would then be necessary if the land operator wanted to maintain current yields, thus increasing potential nitrogen contamination until we find ourselves in a vicious cycle. Unprotected soil leaves itself wide open to less severe rains, where if terraces and reduced tillage

were applied, the protected soil will handle heavier rains.

Many people who don't understand minimum till and no-till, say that more herbicides need to be applied than what you would for conventional tillage. That is true in some cases, but after the next heavy rain, go out to a no-till field and a conventional field and compare the erosion. Herbicides normally attach to soil particles and when unprotected soils are eroded, the chemicals go with the soil.

We need to remember that Iowa is an agricultural state and economically everything else is secondary. If farmers are willing to try to use less chemicals, that is fine, but in every business there must be education, training and economic returns before new (or past) methods are attempted.

For the Register to suspect conservation for increased groundwater contamination is a little like the army commander killing the messenger of bad news. That is why until new ways of insect and weed control and new plant nutrients are found that make financial sense to the individual, we must encourage and in some cases demand that today's agriculture be responsible for the stewardship of our nation's first and foremost resource, its soil.

Respectfully,
T.J. Oswald
Conservation Technician
USDA-SCS

Thursday, May 8, 1986

The Iowa County Farmer

Page 11

Two Soil Conservation District Commissioners Will Be Elected

The terms of two Iowa county soil conservation district commissioners: Fred White of Parnell, Fillmore Township, and Robert Faber, Parnell, Greene Township, will expire Jan. 2, 1987. Successors will be elected at the general election Nov. 4.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which encompasses all of Iowa county including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a

resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are David McCartney, North English, English Township; Greg Misbach, Marengo, Sumner Township and Larry Wetjen, Marengo, Hilton Township; therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination peti-

tions can be obtained from the county auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Iowa County Courthouse no later than 5 p.m., Sept. 10.

Individuals elected in November will serve a term of six years commencing Jan. 2, 1987.

Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Iowa county soil conservation district office, 600 Court Street, Williamsburg, phone 668-2359.

Tour Of No-Till Fields Is Planned

Area farmers are invited to take part in a tour that will feature new technological concepts in no-till farming. According to Paul W. Brown, Iowa County Extension director, the no-till tour will be held Wednesday, July 2, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The tour will begin at the Jon Kinzenbaw farm just east of the Landmark restaurant off Interstate-80 at exit 220.

Kinzenbaw will discuss some of the innovative engineering concepts that he has utilized to plant corn no-till into corn stubble using a 24-row planter.

From the Kinzenbaw farm the tour will move to the Gary Edwards' farm, north of Marengo on V66 and five miles southwest on F15 (gravel). Edwards will discuss the experiences he has encountered drilling soybeans no-till

into corn stubble.

The tour is being co-sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service and the Iowa County Extension Service. Refreshments will be provided.

For information contact Brown at the Extension Service, Marengo, or Harry Bryant, Soil Conservation Service, Williamsburg.

6-25-86
J.T.

TERRACE FIELD DAY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5 - 10 am-3 pm

See the new style of terrace being built

LESS DIRT — LESS COST — MORE PROTECTION

Terraces will be under construction at the Rex Miller Farm on August 5 (Aug. 7 raindate) from 10 am-3 pm. Take F52 (Black Diamond) 1 1/2 mile E. of Holbrook, S. on gravel ("L" road) 5 miles or take hiway 22, 2 miles W of Wellman, N. on W21 ("L" road) 4 miles (1 mile North of Co. line.)

Sponsored by Iowa County Soil Conservation Dis

Cost-share funds are available

F.B. Spokesman
8-9-86

Iowa County Soil Conservation District has received \$47,000 to cost-share with farmers interested in conservation work. This is about \$8,000 less than the previous year due to cuts in the state budget.

The Iowa county commissioners have set about \$14,000 of the allocation aside to be

used as an incentive to do no-till planting. The balance will be used for terraces and erosion control ponds. Additional funds are available to the district if requests for cost-share exceed the allocation.

There is no limit to the amount of cost-share anyone receives for terraces and

erosion control ponds, and cost-sharing is available each year. The rate of cost-share is 50 percent of the estimated cost.

Anyone interested in terraces, erosion control ponds, or no-till should make application at the soil conservation office in Williamsburg.

Week of Aug. 18, 1986

A supplement to The Pioneer-Republican, The Journal Tribune and The North English Record

The Weekly Shopper Page 13

Federal Farm Subsidies Are Tied To Soil Conservation

Farmers who want to stay eligible for most federal farm programs will have to control soil erosion on their highly erodible land.

That provision of the Food Security Act of 1985, this year's farm bill, is not clearly understood yet by farmers, say officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"Soil conservation has been a voluntary thing in the past. This is the first time that price supports, disaster payments, loans, crop insurance and other USDA programs will be dependent on a farmer taking care of his land. We have a big job ahead of us in making sure farmers understand what's involved," says Mike Nethery, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa.

Some of the provisions are in effect now, and others are keyed to 1990 and 1995. Under the "sodbuster" provision, farmers who apply for next year's farm programs must certify that they have not broken out highly erodible land in order to produce agricultural commod-

ities since Dec. 23, 1985, unless they followed a locally-approved conservation plan. Sodbuster applies to lands where farmers did not produce a crop from 1981 through 1985.

Under the "swampbuster" rules, they must certify that they have not drained or converted wetland since that date in order to produce crops.

"The sodbuster and swampbuster regulations are in effect now, so there are many questions on them. Many, many more farmers are going to be affected by the conservation compliance provision," Nethery says. "That provision applies to anyone who is farming highly erodible land. It says that anyone farming highly erodible land has until Jan. 1, 1990 to develop and begin to apply a conservation plan, and until Jan. 1, 1995 to have it fully in effect."

SCS estimates that more than 8,000,000 acres of Iowa cropland are in the highly erodible category. Only Texas (13,900,000 acres), Kansas (10,600,000 acres), and Montana

(9,500,000 acres) have more highly erodible land. In Iowa, highly erodible land generally is that land with a slope steepness of 8 percent or higher, but some more gently sloping land with long slopes is also considered highly erodible, according to Nethery.

"In Iowa, with highly erodible land spread across the state, the compliance provision is going to mean a big workload increase for the next ten years," Nethery says. "Many of the conservation plans written in the past need to be updated or entirely redone," he says.

The conservation plans will require the landowner to reduce soil erosion to "tolerable" levels in most cases. The tolerable levels in Iowa, often referred to as "T," are generally from three to five tons of soil loss per acres per year, depending on soil type.

Interim Rules

USDA has issued interim rules on the conservation provisions. The rules were published in the June 27 Federal

Register, and were effective on that date. There is a public comment period on the rules that extends until August 26.

The rules were needed, SCS chief Wilson Scaling says, because until now, the government has in effect encouraged increased soil erosion and loss of wetlands by promoting maximum production through USDA farm subsidies.

"Many farmers have come to depend on these price supports and other USDA programs. Some have even come to regard the privilege of participating in them as an absolute right. But isn't it fair to ask a certain level of conservation performance in return for that privilege?" Scaling says.

SCS and other USDA agencies are encouraging farmers to bid highly erodible land into the conservation reserve, another program established by the 1985 farm bill. In that program, landowners are paid annual rental fees by USDA for converting highly erodible cropland to grassland or trees.



NEW TERRACES — Hugh O'Meara, rural Williamsburg, has just completed work on four new terraces, two of which

are shown above, on land he owns in English township. O'Meara has installed 13,100 feet of terraces and

23,000 feet of tile over the past ten years, and has been recognized as the recipient of the Iowa county soil conser-

vation district's owner-operator award for 1986.

O'Meara Shows Ten-Year Commitment To Controlling Soil Erosion

By Alan Sieve

A ten-year commitment to soil conservation practices, particularly terrace and tile construction, on land he owns in Dayton and English townships has earned Hugh O'Meara, rural Williamsburg, the Iowa County Conservation Service district's owner-operator award for 1986.

O'Meara noted he began constructing terraces and tile in the mid-1970s when he stepped up his corn and soybean production, as it looked economical for the long run to put land into row crops rather than to have it in grass to raise cattle.

Since about 1976, district conservationist Harry Bryant noted O'Meara has installed 13,100 feet of terraces and 23,000 feet of terrace tile on the 855 acres near North English.

In addition, Bryant said O'Meara has worked with the county on two joint conservation projects and has worked with his neighbors on three projects.

The two joint-county projects involved roads adjoining his property in English township. O'Meara contacted the county engineer in both cases to arrange to have drop inlets installed rather than regular road culverts, so that the roads serve as terraces. To protect the road surface in each of the two projects, he explained emergency overflow pipes were installed about 6 to 8 feet below the road surface.

On the first project undertaken around 1976, O'Meara noted he paid the entire cost, as he felt it was worth it in being able to farm more ground near

the roadway. Otherwise he would have had to build a similar terrace 100 feet from the road. The cost of the second project, undertaken later, was shared by both him and the county, he said.

The projects he's undertaken with his neighbors mainly consist of terraces built along property lines, either to pro-

tect his property from erosion or theirs. "That's worked both ways," he said. "Some of my neighbors have done it for me, and I've done it for them."

O'Meara noted he's done approximately the same amount of work each year since he began terracing and tiling. Although he's not doing as much

each year now as he's done in the past, he has just finished installing four new terraces this year. Those added up to 1,000 feet and incorporated 1,650 feet of tile, according to SCS records.

He added he will continue installing terraces and tiling that are still needed, although he has no special plans. "You never get totally done with conservation," he noted.

Asked what his motivation was for continuing conservation work in these economic times, he agreed the economics aren't promising as they once were, "but I feel conservation is so important to the soil."

He noted one incentive for him to continue is that the tenant who now farms the land, Duane Schaefer, is also very conservation-minded and takes good care of the terrace and tiling that's been installed. "He does an excellent job of maintenance," O'Meara said.

Schaefer also uses minimum tillage on all ground using a chisel plow on much of the ground, and just a disk on a lot of it. He never uses a conventional plow, O'Meara said.

Although he has been selected for the district's owner-operator award, O'Meara noted he got out of active grain farming about six years ago and now just raises some cattle on pasture ground.

Although he's not actively involved in grain farming and the economics aren't what they once were, O'Meara said he'll still be active in conserving the soil. "If it washes away, you can't grow anything," he concluded.

**"If it washes away,
you can't grow
anything."**

— Hugh O'Meara,
1986 Owner-Operator
Soil Conservation
Winner



John J. Cunninghams, Laverne Grimms

By Doris McCartney

A ditch was traded for a terrace on the 268 acre John J. Cunningham farm in the mid 1970's.

"That was the new approach to our conservation farming," admits Cunningham, a native of Iowa county.

As a result of that series of conservation practices, Cunningham, the land owner, and Laverne (Bud) Grimm, 58, Millersburg, tenant, were named this fall as winners of the landowner-tenant division by the Iowa County Soil Conservation service.

Winners of all divisions will be recognized at an awards dinner in November.

Improvements

The total earth improvements on the Cunningham land include: 5,800 feet of terraces, 500 feet of diversions, six and one-half acres of waterways and 13,445 feet of tile.

In addition the partnership has established crop rotation as another means of conservation.

The first terrace was started in 1976, three years after Bud Grimm began operating the acres as Cunningham's tenant.

"I confessed to Bud that my big worry was that eroding ditch," Cunningham recalls.

Grimm says, "I offered to seek help to halt that waste of topsoil."

According to the SCS, the primary purpose of a terrace system is to



LAVERNE (BUD) GRIMM AND JOHN J. CUNNINGHAM

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Traded A Ditch For A Terrace

reduce sheet erosion on cropland fields. The runoff that is caught can give a real boost in dry years and can reduce lowland flooding in wet years.

The Cunningham farm is average for the southern part of Iowa county with some rolling hills.

Grimm suggests the farm now has more than a dozen dry ponds with surface inlets. Harry Bryant, county conservationist, says these are actually the terraces.

The terraces, gradually added from 1976-1985, were designed to hold at least two inches of runoff from the contributing area. Water caught by the terraces is drained into an outlet or grassed waterway.

Where possible terraces are built parallel to each other to eliminate point rows and facilitate farming. However, Cunningham notes they do have some point rows. Regardless of that inconvenience at some places, the projects have reduced soil erosion efficiently and are great assets.

Crops

Crops produced this year include: 68 acres of corn, 40 acres of soybeans, 22 acres of oats, while the balance is in pasture and hay. Grimm harvests large hay bales.

In addition the team maintains a 50 crossbred cow herd in partnership

since nearly 50 percent of the farm is left seeded down.

Cunningham observes, "I'm following my father's advice: always leave the farm in better shape than what you had when you acquired it."

There are more than sentimental reasons for Cunningham, in his eighth decade, to maintain a farming interest here. His parents farmed on part of that land, building a home there on a portion of the land in 1904.

John and his wife Catherine farmed and raised a family here, remaining until 1963, when they moved to Sigourney. John commuted to the farm for the next eight years to farm by himself.

His son John P. Cunningham, Belle Plaine, owns a farm in Dayton township and is associated with a Waterloo bank.

Longtime Cooperator

"Farming has been my career," Cunningham comments.

"Since we aim for good crops, we are more than satisfied to have made a turnaround from that objectionable ditch."

The cost sharing with SCS and ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) has been a real benefit to the Cunningham program. He has been a longtime conservation cooperator since 1954.

As for the price of all the improve-

ments, Cunningham says he hasn't stopped to consider the bill. With the improvements, he says all the land is now farmable.

Credits Grimm

Besides the conservation investment, John credits the success of their partnership with Bud, whom he calls "a dedicated worker."

Grimm, who began as a farmhand at the age of 15, started renting land in

1960 in Keokuk county. He owns his home place, a tract in Millersburg.

Until this past year, his wife Joan has been his full-time helper in all field operations. Presently, she is employed by the University of Iowa hospitals.

A unique aspect of the Cunningham-Grimm partnership is that they operate on an oral contract year after year.

Grimm concludes, "I consider this a rare opportunity in the pressure of today's world."



SCS Names Miller New Cooperator

Rex Miller, Wellman, will receive the new cooperator award from the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service for the extensive terraces, tiling and dry pond work he has completed on 46 acres in Greene township, Iowa county, that he bought this spring. Miller installed a total of 20 dry ponds on the rough, hilly ground "to keep the soil from washing away," he explained. This amounts to 16,850 feet of terraces and 16,200 feet of tile. He plans to raise mostly corn on the acreage because it will hold the soil in place better.

Miller, 36, farms with his father, Max, 67. They have a 640-acre operation. The Millers are no strangers to conservation terracing. They started terrace work 12 years ago, and they currently have 12.5 miles of terraces installed on 560 acres. "We did some every year," said Rex.

Miller explained that the SCS surveyed and provided the plans for the terracing of the 46 acres done this year. Through the SCS the state of Iowa paid half of the \$8,000, the terrace work cost and additionally paid some of the tiling work. "Farmers do occasionally get funds for projects," Miller pointed out. "I want people to know that."

The terrace and tiling took about a month to complete once work started. "It was slowed down because of the rains," Miller said.

The Millers also practice conservation tillage, crop rotation and contouring on their steep ground. When asked if it was difficult to plan and plant corn rows around the terrace and dry pond work, Rex replied, "It's easier than trying to go over gullies and ditches."

Sept 18, 1986 Journal Tribune Blueprint For Farm Project Is Soil Conservation Plan

By Doris McCartney

Buffeted by bad news on the farm front, it is difficult to sell soil conservation to those gloomy about the whole business.

The Stone Jar

Since the nation is observing soil conservation week, we need to explain that a long-range plan is a blueprint for profit for almost any farm.

Every spring the county Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has a series of meetings, rather informal, with anyone in agriculture who want to subscribe to a plan.

The farmers who serve on the commission are unpaid volunteers. Fortunately, in our county three commissioners and one assistant commissioner hold university degrees. The other two commissioners graduated from the school of experience — out on the acres.

In a rural crisis, it is hard to sell conservation. Yet less tillage is gaining proper respect.

The SCS and ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) share their technical expertise in soil and water conservation from our back 40 to fields around the world.

Our thoughts shift back to the dry 1930's. I was just a tiny kid when dust swept the bread belt.

In China, because of a heavy population, there is no market for lawn mowers because there is no grass.

Drought and famine in Ethiopia and the Sudan in Africa remind us of problems in a land where trees have been

cut down and the woods have vanished.

The fence-to-fence farming of the 1970's destroyed vital conservation projects.

One group of the state's farmers who still can smile are those who get involved in Iowa Till. This is a program that began in 1979 when the state legislature designated that up to \$500,000 of cost share funds could be used for a conservation tillage incentive payment on a per-acre basis.

"Iowa Till" encourages groups of farmers to retain a specified amount of crop residue on the surface of the ground over winter and in the spring to reduce wind and water erosion.

Although not a permanent structural practice, Iowa Till is estimated to reduce erosion on most cropland by 50 percent.

Cost sharing is the silver lining to any permanent practices established.

One cold rainy summer day, I went with my farmer to view work in progress during a terrace field day. The rumble of earth-moving equipment was muffled in the drizzle.

While the inclement weather had stalled the project and the spectators were few, the owner and farm manager were bursting with energy and good will.

Their land was being transformed for lasting economic benefits.

I like the aims offered by the SCS: To be stewards of the soil, to preserve a heritage, to sustain and protect the land which is used for our own sustenance.

"State cost sharing for Iowa soil conservation can make this not just a hope but a reality."

Joseph Newton observes: "A duty dodged is like a debt unpaid: it is only deferred, and we must come back and settle the account at last."

Guest Editorial: Soil Erosion Costs Everyone

The fact that soil erosion in Iowa is a problem is nothing new. Iowa's thin layer of topsoil is getting thinner.

It's a farmer's problem, some say, but that idea is changing as more and more people realize that everyone is affected.

Just this year, a study called "Off-site Costs of Soil Erosion" was conducted by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in an effort to estimate the current costs of sediment problems in Iowa.

It found that flooding caused by sediment buildup in drainageways along with other repairs, costs \$13,000,000 a year.

The cost for cleaning road ditches is estimated at \$16,000,000 a year, and about \$6,000,000 annually is spent cleaning sediment from culverts and tile outlets.

Damages to recreation and fish and wildlife, including the declining use of lakes and streams by people because of sediment, were estimated at \$10,000,000 a year.

The study also estimated costs of \$1,000,000 annually to clean sediment out of or prevent it from entering municipal water supplies.

Statewide, more than \$47,000,000 in damages occur each year in Iowa from sediment. That is more than double what is currently being spent to control soil erosion in Iowa. The figure is also less than half what officials say should be spent to ease sediment problems.

Soil erosion and resulting sediment are problems for you whether you live on a farm, a small town or a city. It's your drinking water, the recreation area you want to fish in or picnic beside, or your tax money for cleaning road ditches that's involved.

Everyone is affected. That's why it's important for everyone to get involved and have a voice in working toward better conservation practices. Visit your local soil conservation district office and see what can be done to keep the topsoil in place. - Robert Faber, chairman, Iowa County Soil Conservation District

Journal Tribune - 10-1-86

IMS Wins Soil Judging Contest; IV Places Second

The Iowa Mennonite School Ag club participated in the Tri-District Soil Judging Contest at the Farm Service Plant at Millersburg, Sept. 23, taking first place overall in the senior division. The winning IMS team was composed of Jeff Boller, Bryan Kinneer and Leon Schrock.

Schrock also won the individual senior trophy with the highest score in the contest.

The Soil Judging Contest was open to students from Iowa, Washington and Johnson counties. Six other schools competed: English Valleys, Iowa Valley, Lone Tree, Mid-Prairie, Solon and Williamsburg.

In the contest, each contestant judged three different soil sites and took a written test. At each pit, 40 questions were answered pertaining to soil

features, land capability classification and productivity potential, evaluation of management practices, and suitability of soils for non-agricultural uses.

Iowa Valley placed second, behind the IMS team, in the senior division of the contest.

Lone Tree took first and second places in the junior division of 12 teams. The IMS team of Andy Blauvelt, Brad Knepp and Morgan Yoder finished fifth. Brad Knepp had the second highest score in the junior division and the fourth-highest score overall.

Other IMS participants included Ricky Faber, Chad Frey, Greg Hostetler, Marcus Hostetler, Bruce Miller, Troy Miller and Brent Yoder.

They were accompanied by agriculture teacher Mark Hostetler.

Thurs., Jan. 22, 1987

The Benton and Iowa

Water Quality, Tillage Are Among Topics

The 1987 Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show, considered one of the finest agriculture and conservation shows in the nation, will feature more variety in program speakers and exhibits when it is held Jan. 27 and 28 at Cedar Rapids Five Seasons Center.

In addition to six leading farmer speakers who will discuss their conservation tillage, the program also will feature water quality, growing hay as a cash crop, growing small grains and raising sheep. Other topics to be covered are: the effect of biotechnology, mechanization trends and how to stay eligible for USDA benefits.

Neil Harl, distinguished professor of economics at Iowa State University, will present his outlook for agriculture at the Tuesday session at 7 p.m.

Iowa's problem with groundwater quality will be addressed by George Hallberg of the Iowa Geological Survey, who lived near Marengo several years. Kay Connelly, with the Iowa State University Extension Service, will summarize some control methods to improve water quality.

Priscilla Root, farmer from Iowa county, will speak at the Wednesday morning session. Root will discuss utilizing extra forage with sheep. See article page 1.

Carl and Rosemary Eppley, who farm near Wabash, Ind., will speak at the Wednesday afternoon session. Eppley has been very successful with his ridge till system. Mrs. Eppley will talk about

managing stress.

Many of the farmer speakers will tell how they are reducing costs and inputs to maintain their farm income.

It is known that crop residues on the land have an effect on soil erosion, said Paul Brown, Iowa County Extension Service director. New research shows that wildlife population is affected by tillage methods. Louis Best, Iowa State University, will discuss how wildlife is affected by tillage. Greg Brenneman, Extension soil and water specialist, will show the latest research on how crop residue affects soil erosion.

Five eastern Iowa farmers will be explaining their individual tillage systems. They include: John Furlong, Muscatine county; David Junge, Benton county; Dennis Russell, Linn county; Terry Kroemer, Cedar County; and Jim Striegel, Keokuk county.

How will biotechnology affect agriculture and conservation tillage in the future? Walter Fehr, ISU researcher, will present the latest information on this new science.

Music will be provided before the Tuesday afternoon program session by West Delaware high school. Benton Community high school will provide music before the Wednesday afternoon session. Drawings will be held during each program session.

Doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28. Admission is free.

Weekly Shopper

10-27-86

SCS Dinner Will Be November 18

The fall conservation awards banquet, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Seven Villages restaurant, interstate 80 at the Little Amana exit, is open to the public. The dinner at 6:30 p.m. is by reservation and advance ticket sales.

Music is by the Deer Creek boys quartet of the Lower Deer Creek Mennonite church, Kalona.

Awards for soil and water conservation efforts will be given to a number of area farmers.

Iowa County Soil Conservation service commissioners are planning the event. Robert Faber, Parnell, is chairman of the commissioners.

Those seeking reservations may purchase tickets by Friday, Nov. 14, at the SCS office, Williamsburg.

Teacher of the Year gets students involved in conservation

Resource Review July 1986

"Soil scavenger hunt," quiz contest among activities

Andy Rowe, Marengo (Iowa SCD) is this year's state winner of the NACD/Deutz-Allis Conservation Teacher-of-the-Year Award.

Rowe is a vocational agriculture teacher in the Iowa Valley Community School District. He will now be in competition for the Regional Teacher-of-the-Year Award.

Of his own interest in soil and water conservation, Rowe says, "I learned firsthand the devastation the mighty rain drop can have over tilled soil. This awareness of soil erosion led me to a better understanding of how it could be controlled."

"My father was an early adopter of reduced tillage. Grass waterways were left in the drainageways as the pastures were turned. I measured many slopes to lay out contour lines which still leave their mark after some twenty years."

Rowe credits the soil conservation speech contest (now the essay contest) with helping to further develop his

personal conservation ethic. Now, he conducts a "Soil Conservation Quiz Contest" to fulfill the same function for his own students.

Rowe also challenges students with a "soil scavenger hunt": "The idea is to see which students can find the soil with the highest clay content, the darkest soil, the highest sand content soil, the soil with the most organic matter, and so on. The students then judge the samples during the next class period."

Finally, Rowe's students get involved in community education as well.

"Each student surveys their own farm and neighboring farms for soil erosion problems," Rowe explains. "They then make plans of action as to how the erosion could be controlled."

The DSC congratulates Andy Rowe for his efforts in teaching and inspiring young people in the area of soil and water conservation.

X Weekly Shopper - 1-22-87

Iowa County Soil District Elects Officers For 1987

Robert Faber, Parnell, was elected chairman of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District board for 1987 at the annual district organizational meeting held Jan. 2.

Greg Misbach, Marengo, was elected vice chairman. Other commissioners serving on the board include David McCartney, North English; Fred White, Parnell, and Larry Wetjen, Marengo. Also appointed as assistant commissioners were Doris (Mrs. David) McCartney, North English, and Andy Rowe, Marengo.

Commissioners are elected on the general election ballot and serve for a six-year term. Commissioners and assistant commissioners serve without pay to direct and carry out soil conservation efforts in the county.

White has served on the board of commissioners 18 years, David McCartney has served 17 years, Misbach 10 years, Wetjen eight years and Faber six years.

Julie A. Hocker, district clerk, also was appointed district secretary/treasurer for the coming year.

Hoang Tran Wins County, Regional SCS Essay Contest

Three Williamsburg area youths were top winners in the annual Soil Conservation Service essay contest, this year written on the theme, "Soil and Water - Our Lifeline."

Hoang Tran, a freshman at Williamsburg high school and daughter of the Dinh Trans, Conroy, was the first place winner at the county level, and had her entry go on to win the regional SCS essay contest, competing against winners from several eastern Iowa counties. As winner of the county contest, she was presented a trophy and a \$10 cash prize. As a winner at the regional contest, she was awarded a \$40 cash prize. Her essay also went on to state competition, the results of which have not yet been announced.

Carrie Thompson, also a freshman at Williamsburg high school, and the daughter of the Joe Thompsons, rural Homestead, was second place winner in the county contest, receiving a trophy and a \$7.50 cash prize.

Halley Thompson, an eighth grader at Lutheran Interparish school, and daughter of the Joe Thompsons, placed third in the contest, winning a trophy and \$5 each cash.

The youths' essays are reprinted below:

First Place Winner By Hoang Tran

Hi! I'm Busy Beaver. I'd like to share my opinion on the importance of conservation. Many people may take soil and water for granted, but I can't! It's my home, refuge, and life. Let me explain.

Last week I asked Farmer Fred about erosion and its dangers. He told me that 6.4 billion tons of soil erodes or blows away yearly. Can you imagine that? He told me that you humans insist on taking down trees, shrubs, and plants. And for what reason? To build offices, skyscrapers, and recreational centers. just to have fun!

Did you know that trees, shrubs, and plants help control the flow of water? Their stems and roots help keep soil in place. Fred said people could help by planting trees and vegetation in their yards while farmers use special methods.

What methods? Well, let me think —

mulching, stripcropping, contour farming, terracing, and crop rotation. You know what else? They're trying a new method called conservation tillage. That's when they leave last year's crop remainder out in the field. The stubbles help keep soil in place throughout the year.

Farmer Fred also told me that without soil conservation, water life could be decreased or destroyed because of pollution or silt buildup in fresh water.

I sped right down to see if Chester Catfish was okay. Whew! Chester was okay but depressed. We talked and he said that people dump chemical wastes, cans, food and other disgusting stuff into the fresh water. It pollutes and endangers lives of animals that drink it. He'd like to ask you something. How would you like something to hit you in the face when you least expect? Animals live, love and play in water.

You know, you can help conserve water! If you need to water your flowerbed or vegetable garden, do it early in the morning. Watering it in the morning will reduce the process of evaporation under the sun. Or if you prefer watering in the afternoon, cover the topsoil with straw to help keep moisture.

What I'd really like everyone to do, though, is go volunteer at your nearest wildlife or conservation service. You could help keep water clean and clear or plant trees and shrubs to help protect topsoil.

I must be going now. Can't miss my first meeting. Oh, didn't I tell you? I've just volunteered to help my service which helps your service — the Animal Society of Conservationists. Before I go, I'd like to ask you all a favor. Help out and be a number one — conserve soil and water, everyone's lifeline!

Second Place Winner By Carrie Thompson

Have you ever wondered what life would be like without fertile soil and clean water? Think about it! Many of the things in life that we take for granted are connected with soil or water in some way.

I'll bet you can't think of a food that does not contain water or where water isn't used to process it. Life would be

very difficult if we could no longer enjoy the delicious foods we have today. Some people just laugh if a person mentions that someday we may be eating and drinking chemically derived foods because we were wasteful in how we used our water, but it could happen. The outlook for the future is not good.

Being a native of Iowa and a farmer's daughter, when someone mentions water pollution, the first cause that comes to my mind is factories, but the farmers, too, are at fault. We put many different chemicals on our land and those harmful chemicals can soak into our water supply and harm humans or kill fish.

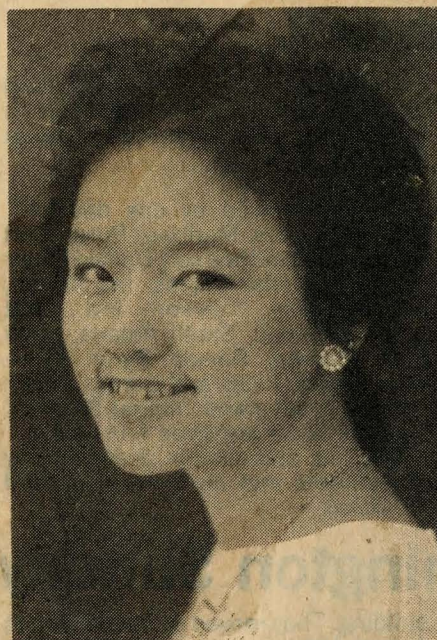
Needless to say, there is something we can do. Efforts can be made to cut down on factory pollution. When those smokestacks pollute the air with all that smoke and other chemicals, they are also polluting the water. Eventually, those chemical particles are going to reach the ground and get into our water system.

There are much better ways to get rid of factory waste than sending it out into the air through smokestacks or dumping it into rivers and streams.

Solid waste could be separated into its different chemicals and used for experimental purposes. These experiments may find a safe way to use these chemicals so they will no longer be harmful, and filters can be installed into smokestacks so the air can stay clean.

I realize that a farmer is limited to how much he can do about the chemicals that he applies to his field, but some research can be done as to how many of those chemicals he really needs to grow a healthy crop. We must show these companies how dangerous their chemicals really are and how much damage they can do. There must be some alternative that scientists have not yet discovered that will not hurt our environment.

Are you one of those people who purposely avoids gravel roads because the dust aggravates you? Have you ever thought of how precious that dust really is to our very survival on this earth? Sure, you say, that dust seems pretty vital to me when it blows in my face and gets in my eyes and mouth!



Hoang Tran
First Place Winner

The phrase "farmers feed the world" needs no explanation, and when you think about it, how are farmers to feed the world if all the fertile soil that they need is gone? Imagine how much precious topsoil the farmers are losing on a dry day when the wind comes up!

Many things can be done to prevent erosion and the loss of topsoil. Some solutions are as simple as planting grass seed in waterways and along fences, others as complex as building terraces, step-like sections of land, into hills to prevent water from washing soil to the bottom.

These water pollution and soil problems can be solved. Wisdom comes with information and if we just work to inform people of the problem, everyone can join together with one another to get it solved. Meanwhile, watch what you're dumping into that river and remember where that dust is coming from!

Third Place Winner By Halley Thompson

Do we take advantage of the soil



Carrie Thompson
Second Place Winner

around us? Will there always be good fertile soil to plant our crops in? Maybe not.

Because of leaching and erosion, our soils are being deprived of their nutrients. Therefore, the crops that are being put into these soils do not reach their full productivity.

Erosion is the wearing away of rich topsoils by water, wind, waves, and glaciers, water erosion being the most common.

Contour farming is a method used by many farmers in the world to prevent water erosion. Instead of planting the crops in straight rows uphill and down, they plant them in rows to follow the contours of the land. Also, they plant two crops instead of one, such as a strip of corn and then a strip of grass. In this way, the soil that is being washed away will be stopped as it runs through the thick grasses.

Leaching, however, is not as common of a problem. There are really no techniques to prevent it. This is when the nutrients are taken out of the soil by the sun, wind and rain.



Halley Thompson
Third Place Winner

Although farmers are usually the only people who worry about the soil, everyone should be concerned. Because without good soil, farmers would not be able to produce enough food to feed everyone in the world.

Even animals depend on soil. If they didn't have certain crops such as oats, hay and corn, they wouldn't survive either.

Water is another natural resource that is being abused. It plays a very important part in our lives. Without it nothing could survive.

But there is one problem, pollution. It is getting worse each day. Soon every thing will be contaminated by the polluted water.

Water also plays an important role on crops. They would shrivel up and die without it. But if the water is polluted, it doesn't do the crops any good. In fact, it may even harm them.

Both water and soil provide nutrients for crops. They work together as a team.

Even though they are being ruined quickly, we should still make an effort to save them.

Farm Bill Aids Conservation

Finally. The conservation farmer gets a break in a farm program. It's the conservation compliance part of the 1985 Farm Bill, and those who have taken care of their land will be ahead of the game come 1990.

Many people still don't realize it, but the bill tied United States Department of Agriculture programs to soil conservation in a way that will affect thousands of Iowa farmers.

The 1985 Farm Bill put into action what many conservation farmers had been saying for years. That is, government programs should not encourage soil erosion.

What the bill says is this: anyone who plants crops on highly erodible land needs to have a conservation plan by 1990, if he wants to remain eligible for most USDA program benefits. It also says anyone who breaks highly erodible land out of sod or trees to plant crops could be ineligible right now, and that farming wetlands can also make a farmer ineligible.

Another part of the bill says that a farmer must have soil losses on highly erodible land under control by 1995. So, the farmer with an approved conserva-

tion plan that is nearing completion is in good shape to continue to qualify for such USDA programs as price supports, disaster payments, crop insurance, storage payments and loans.

The bill is reasonable in that it gives a farmer until 1990 to develop a conservation plan, and until 1995 to get the conservation work done.

It would be a mistake for any farmer to put off the development of a plan until 1989. The plan doesn't cost anything, and by starting now you'll be in the front of the line.

From our standpoint in the soil conservation district, we're probably going to be able to give you better service now than when everyone realizes the impact of the conservation provisions. Plus, it makes farming sense to spread any costs over time.

Any farmer with sloping land should remember the 1990 and 1995 dates. On the other hand, if you get to the soil conservation office now to begin your conservation work, those dates become much less important. — Robert Faber, Chairman, Iowa County Soil Conservation District

Twilight Pasture Management, No-Till Field Meeting Is Set

Area farmers are invited to attend a Twilight Pasture Management and No-Till Field meeting that will feature new concepts in pasture management and no-till farming. According to Paul W. Brown, Iowa County Extension director, the field meeting will be held Tuesday, June 30, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will begin at an Amana pasture located just north of Upper South Amana on the west side of the road. John Creswell, area crop production specialist, and Brown will discuss grass and legume pasture fertilization, management tips to increase stocking rates, pasture renovation, weed control, and fall and spring applied musk thistle herbicide plots.

From the pasture site, the group will

travel to an Amana corn field no-till into alfalfa, located one mile south of Bill Zuber's Restaurant, Homestead. This part of the meeting will begin about 7:45 p.m. Greg Breneman, area soil, water and waste management specialist, will discuss no-till farming and conservation cross compliance, special no-till problems to consider and determining soil residue cover. Creswell will discuss fertilizer placement and provide a 1987 crop update. The field meeting is being co-sponsored by the Iowa County Soil Conservation and the Iowa County Extension Services. Refreshments will be provided.

For information contact Brown at the Extension office, 1099 Court Avenue, Marengo, call 642-5504.

Farm Bill Conservation Provisions, Penalties Are Explained

Most landowners and farmers have read or heard about the conservation segment of the 1985 Farm Bill, particularly sodbuster, swampbuster and cross-compliance provisions and the conservation reserve program. However, some may not be sure how they will be affected, and others may believe that Congress and the President will water down the law to where it will not affect their operation.

The rules have not yet changed, and they may have a tremendous and possible ruinous effect for those who want to take a chance that the rules will change.

The sodbuster program concerns those operations that intend on "busting" fields that have not been planted to a commodity crop from 1981-1985. Even if that field is in a hay or pasture rotation, the law requires that field to be planned by the Soil Conservation Service to insure a minimum soil loss.

Hancher Telephone Number Is Changed

Hancher Auditorium box office, University of Iowa campus, Iowa City, has a new local telephone number as the result of the installation of the new UI telephone system.

The new Hancher box office telephone number will be (319) 335-1160. Iowans calling the box office from outside Iowa City can continue to use the toll-free number, 1-800-HANCHER.

Without the approved plan, the landowner, renter or anybody else with a financial interest on that farm can not participate in federal programs on any ground in which they have an interest. That penalty applies only in the year the violation occurs. Sodbuster also includes timber clearing that will bring land into production.

Swampbuster provisions are called for on ground that has hydric soils (low lying bottom land or drainageways) and hydrophytic (water-loving) plants growing on those soils. This ground can not be tilled, surface-drained, or contain any other practice that improves that ground for commodity crop production. The penalty is the same as the sodbuster penalty.

Cross-compliance requires that all landowners, operators or renters who participate in federal programs obtain a soil conservation plan from the SCS that reduces soil erosion to acceptable limits. Current cropping rotations, tillage methods and soil type are used to determine soil loss through the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE). If erosion is excessive on the farm, a number of alternatives can be chosen to reduce soil loss to acceptable limits.

Sodbuster and swampbuster programs went into effect Dec. 23, 1985. Anyone falling into the guidelines mentioned above who does not have a conservation plan by the time he certifies Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service crop acres, is in violation

and will not be allowed to receive government payments.

Cross-compliance is set up in two stages. The first stage is to obtain the required conservation plan before 1990. The plan sets the schedule for completion of any soil conservation practices, structural or management, necessary to bring soil loss down to acceptable limits. The second stage is that by 1995, the plan must be implemented and completed.

The programs affected by the 1985 Food Security Act are: price and income supports, disaster payments,

Farmers Home Administration loans, Commodity Credit Corporation storage payments, storage facility loans, crop insurance and Conservation Reserve Program or ten-year conservation reserve payments.

Anyone in violation of sodbuster, swampbuster or cross-compliance, is ineligible for any and all of those programs.

Anyone with questions concerning the farm bill, or needing a farm conservation plan should contact the Soil Conservation Service, 600 Court, Williamsburg, or call 668-2359.

X Journal Trib. - 1-22-87



CITED IN SENIOR QUIZ — Winners who have appeared previously in the Soil Conservation Service-sponsored high

school quiz are, left to right: Sara Klop-ping, Iowa Valley; Bill McCune, Williamsburg, and David Guerhn, Iowa

Valley. Instructor of the two FFA chapters are Andrew Rowe, Marengo; and Michael Malloy, Williamsburg.

Week of Feb. 2, 1987

and The North English Record

La. Co Farmer - 2-4-87

How To No-Till Seminar Will Be Tuesday

The Iowa State University Extension Service in Iowa county has scheduled a No-Till How To seminar for Tuesday, Feb. 10, starting at 1:30 p.m. The seminar will be held at Kinze Manufacturing, Interstate 80, Marengo exit, according to Paul Brown, Iowa County Extension director.

Brown said, "The seminar will specifically address topics that will assist farmers in sharpening their no-till skills. Topics such as equipment needs, fertilizer and herbicide applica-

tion, weed and insect control, and crop rotations and soil types will be presented.

Speakers at the seminar will be: Greg Brenneman, ISU area soil, water and waste management specialist; John Creswell, ISU area crop production specialist; Jon Kinzenbaw, Kinze Manufacturing, and Brown.

"Now that farmers have seen the latest in no-till technology at the Eastern Iowa Tillage Show, we would like to spend our time at the seminar on how to put that technology to work," said Brenneman.

For information contact Brown at the Extension office, 1099 Court Avenue, Marengo; telephone 642-5504.

\$2 Bonus Is Offered For New CRP Sign-up

Journal Trib.
2-4-87

Farmers who want to bid to enter their highly erodible cropland into United States Department of Agriculture's ten-year Conservation Reserve Program may do so during the program's fourth sign-up period, Feb. 9-27, according to information from the USDA.

A one-time, one-year "bonus" for the 1987 crop, to be paid in the form of an increased annual rental payment, has also been announced. The bonus payment will be equal to \$2 times the farm program payment yield for corn, times the number of acres of corn base designated for enrollment in the CRP. This "bonus" will be payable in the form of generic commodity certificates when a 1987 Conservation Reserve Program contract is accepted. In subsequent years, the annual rental payment will be only that amount specified in the CRP contract.

Since a paid land diversion is in effect under the 1987 Feed Grain Program to restrain further build up of corn stocks, this rental payment is being offered to encourage highly erodible, excess corn acreage into long-term conservation use, according to the USDA.

The offer is limited to new CRP contracts beginning with the 1987 crop year. It is not retroactive for corn base acreage under CRP contracts already signed. The additional rental payment will be made at the time new 1987 CRP contracts are accepted. It will be charged against the CRP maximum payment limitation and not against other program payments.

Producers who have already enrolled in other 1987 production adjustment programs and received advance payments in cash and generic certificates may cancel their contracts and enter into the CRP. There will be no penalty, but payments already received must be refunded in cash.

During the sign-up period, producers will be given the option to enter into a CRP contract beginning with either the 1987 or 1988 crop year.

The CRP is one of the new conservation initiatives contained in the Food Security Act of 1985 designed to reduce soil erosion. Under the CRP, owners and operators of highly erodible cropland agree to cease production on the highly erodible land for a ten-year period and to devote this land to conservation uses.

Under provisions of a recent amend-

ment to the legislation authorizing the CRP, alfalfa and other multiyear grasses and legumes in rotation during the years 1981-1985, as approved by the secretary, will be considered to be "agricultural commodities" for the purpose of determining eligibility of land to be placed in the CRP.

Not more than 25 percent of the total cropland in a county may be placed in the CRP. The secretary of agriculture is authorized to waive this limit if there will be no adverse effect on the local economy. The 13 county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committees that were authorized to accept acreage into the CRP in excess of the limitation as a result of contracts entered into during the third CRP sign up may not take offers for any additional land to be placed in the CRP. Other county ASC committees expecting to exceed the limit within their county during the coming sign-up period may request a waiver supported by appropriate documentation. USDA will establish maximum acceptable rental rates after sign-up ends and bid data is evaluated.

During the first three sign-up periods, 8,916,185 acres of highly erodible cropland were accepted into the CRP.

Cost-Share Funds Available For Erosion Control Terraces

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District has received \$47,900 for cost-sharing with farmers interested in conservation work.

Cost-share projects may include terraces, erosion control ponds and no-till. Additional funds are available to the district if requests exceed the initial allocation.

There is no limit to the total amount of cost-share anyone can receive for terraces or erosion control ponds, and cost-sharing is available each year. The rate of cost-share is 50 percent of the estimated cost.

Anyone interested in doing conservation work should make application at the Iowa County Soil Conservation District office in Williamsburg.

No-Till Funds Are Designated

The Iowa County Soil Conservation district will use 10 percent of its cost-share funds for planting no-till, according to Robert Faber, district chairman. This year Iowa county received \$47,600 in its original allocation and can receive additional funding if there is a demand for doing construction work.

The 1987 no-till policy allows for a payment of \$10 per acre, up to 80 acres per operator. First priority will be given to "first-time" no-tillers. Second priority will be given to operators not having received cost-share payments from either the district or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) before. An operator will not be cost-shared at both the district and ASCS in the same year. Payment will not be made for no-tilling into permanent pasture.

The district will be taking applications until April 15. If there are more applications than available funds, the commissioners will establish a priority based on the amount of soil saved by no-tilling the farm.

Information and application forms can be obtained by contacting the district office, 600 Court Street, Williamsburg, telephone 668-2359.

Fifth Conservation Reserve Signup Period Is Announced

A fifth signup period has been announced for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The dates are July 20-31. The signup will be at Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) county offices.

The CRP is a USDA program that asks landowners to "bid in" their highly erodible cropland, and receive annual rental payments for ten years for converting the cropland to grass or trees.

The CRP has a five-year signup period. The first two years have been funded. However, the funding for the next three years must be appropriated, and USDA officials say there is no assurance on future signups.

Mike Nethery, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa, says landowners should consider all factors in making their decisions. If they are interested in a CRP contract, they should enroll in this next signup. There are no guarantees there will be another signup.

Nethery encourages landowners to use the CRP as a way to stay eligible for other USDA programs. By 1990, land users will need an approved conservation plan on highly erodible land. Soil conservation practices called for in the plan must be installed by 1995 to maintain eligibility. "The CRP is a worthwhile option to address soil saving needs on highly erodible soils," Nethery said.

The maximum acres a county can enroll in CRP is 25 percent of its cropland area. Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor and Wayne counties are getting closer to their limits and may be limiting new contracts.

Producers wishing to put land into the program can receive cost-share payments of up to 50 percent of the cost to establish a cover crop. The total amount of rental payments for any fiscal year may not exceed \$50,000, or its equivalent if in-kind payments are made.

The land that goes to CRP may not be grazed or mechanically harvested during the ten-year contract.

41ST ANNUAL REPORT

Iowa Soil Conservation District

Williamsburg, Iowa

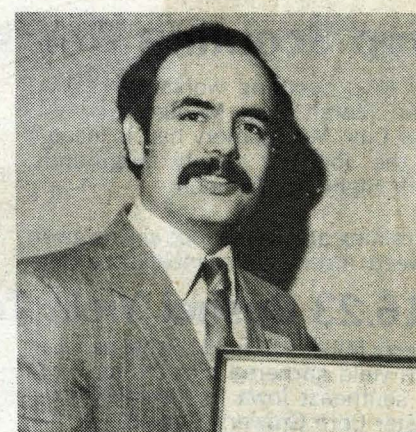


DISTRICT AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS:

Robert Faber, Chairman
Greg Misbach, Vice-Chairman
David McCartney
Larry Wetjen
Fred White
Doris McCartney - Assist With Information
Andy Rowe - Assist With Education

AREA OFFICE PERSONNEL

Lyle W. Asell, Area Conservationist
Dean L. Pettit, Resource Conservationist
Susan M. Long, Civil Engineer
Doug D. Morningstar, Civil Engineer
Kent O. Rice, Civil Engineer
Ray L. Dake, Civil Engineering Technician
Ron P. Wilson, Civil Engineering Technician
David R. Kennedy, Civil Eng. Technician
Darlene G. Lauder, Area Clerk
Suzette D. Betts, Secretary



Andy Rowe

NACD/Deutz-Allis
**Conservation
Teacher-of-
the-Year, 1986;**

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

Harry N. Bryant, District Conservationist
T.J. Oswald, Conservation Technician
Gene Backhaus, Soil Conservationist
(Transferred 8/86)
Julie A. Hocker, District Secretary/Treasurer

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Citizens Bank & Trust, Belle Plaine
Farmers Trust and Savings Bank, Williamsburg
First Trust & Savings Bank, Oxford
Farmers Savings Bank, North English
Hydrocarbon Transport
Hills Bank & Trust Co., Hills

Levine Co. Inc.
Pauline Lillie
Greg Misbach
Midwest Culvert
Paul Rudin
Security Savings Bank, Williamsburg

First Interstate Bank, Marengo
Wellman Savings Bank, Wellman
Farmers Savings Bank, Kalona
Harry N. Bryant
Dennis Hocker
John McCartney

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District Commissioners meet the third Tuesday of each month. In addition, a District Organizational Meeting is held the first working day in January to elect district officers. National and state dues are also paid.

JANUARY - Meeting with State Legislators, County and Tri-County Conservation Quiz Contests, Commissioners Annual Short Course, Eastern Iowa Tillage Show.

FEBRUARY - Contractors Meeting.

MARCH - Soil Stewardship Material Ordered for Area Churches; SCD Commissioners Spring Regional Meeting; Essay Contest Material Distributed; Program for Victor Womens Federated Club; Program for Farm Bureau.

APRIL - No-till Meetings; Program for Wellman Womens Federated Club.

MAY - Soil Stewardship Week - Material Distributed to Churches; Gene Backhaus - Released, Lack of Funds; Assisted With Conservation Field Day for 6th Grade, Lake Iowa.

JUNE - Judging for 1986 District Conservation Essay Contest; Commissioners Tour.

JULY - No-till Tour.

AUGUST - Terrace Field Day; Commissioners Family Picnic; Conservation Reserve - Information Meeting; Program for Williamsburg Kiwanis.

SEPTEMBER - SCD Commissioners Fall Regional Meeting; Tri-County Soil Judging Contest; Presentation of Conservation Essay Awards.

OCTOBER - Big Spring Basin Tour.

NOVEMBER - Fall Awards Banquet - Award Winners As Follows: Hoang Tran, First Place in District/Regional Conservation Essay Contest; Rex Miller, New Cooperator Division; Hugh O'Meara, Owner-Operator Division; John J. Cunningham and Lavern Grimm, Landlord-Tenant Division; Mr. and Mrs. John L. McGarry, Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award; Andy Rowe, 1986 State Teacher-Of-The-Year.

DECEMBER - Annual Soil Conservation District Commissioners Conference.

(Fiscal Year 10/1/85 thru 9/30/86)

DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS 6,617 acres:

Rebecca Disterhoft	Walter Portwood	Dennis Oliver
Jerry Foubert	Harold Nail	Steve Axmear
David Horras	Keith Gingerich	Irene O'Meara
Greg Misbach	Mick Gaffey	Cheryl Turner
Dale Schrock	John Gaffey	Union Bank
Rex Miller	Earl Olson	ADM Feed
Leighton Jones	Lee Border	Alden Schultz
Hazel Dolmage	Gary Edwards	Arnold Schultz, Jr.
Allan Yoder	Ila Schultz	Stevenson Brothers
Leslie Slaymaker	Dan Roberts	Dave VanDee
Harold Hudepohl	Harvey Schwarting	Richard Miller

ASSISTANCE GIVEN IN CONSERVATION PLANNING - 7,104 acres:

Ted Miller	Harold Nail	Robert Davis
Don Rohrer	Charles Hocker	Laurence Bine
Arnold Carter	John Maxey	Cheryl Turner
Gary Greiner	Allan Yoder	Union Bank & Trust
David Horras	Jim Schmucker	ADM Feed
Ralph Schaefer	Amana Society	Dennis Hocker
Harland Muller	Forrest Good	Roy Wiebold
Craig Newkirk	Irene O'Meara	Hazel & Dean Dolmage
Laurel Haas	Ed Maschmann	Ila Schultz
Dean Border	Carl Rudin	Alden Schultz
Greg Misbach	Bill Brown	Benny Vercande
Paul Miller	Harvey Schwarting	Ivan Baack
Charly Beyer	Frank DeBrower	Blanche Stoner
Lee Border	Bill Foubert	Arnold Schnebke
Gary Edwards	Jim Williams	Roemig Farms, Inc.
Wayne Formanek	Jim Parsons	Rex Miller
	Charles Wilkerson	J.C. Vercande

LAND BENEFITED BY APPLICATION OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES — 11,798 acres, saving 97,130 tons of soil

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

	Unit	1986
Terraces:	Feet	38,800
Conservation Tillage System:	Acres	6,945
Contour Farming:	Acres	143
Grade Stabilization Structure:	No.	2
Sediment & Water Control Basins:	No.	23
Individuals & Groups Assisted:	No.	376
Individuals & Groups Applying Practices:	No.	191
Iowa Soil 2000 Program	Acres	19,354
Ten Year Conservation Reserve Program	Acres	3,582

FINANCIAL REPORT

IM Budget (FY 1985-86)	Receipts	Disbursements
Allocation	\$ 2500.00	
Allocation Reduction		\$ 96.00
Commissioner Expense		1279.87
Office Supplies		889.88
Printing		150.00
Total Expended		\$ 2415.75
Released to State (6-30-86)		84.25
		\$ 2500.00

Cost-Sharing (1-1-87)

3M Budget (1984-85 Program Yr.)		
Allocation	\$ 68,517.57	
Disbursements		\$ 61,616.19
Funds Obligated		1,000.00
Unobligated Balance		5,901.38
(Released to State 12-31-86)		\$ 68,517.57

3M Budget (1985-86 Program Yr.)

Allocation	\$ 93,596.00	
Disbursements		\$ 72,488.62
Funds Obligated		17,175.00
Unobligated Balance		3,932.38
(Released to State 12-31-86)		\$ 93,596.00

3M Budget (1986-87 Program Yr.)

Allocation	\$ 47,613.00	
Disbursements		-0-
Funds Obligated		\$ 31,182.40
Unobligated Balance		16,430.60
		\$ 47,613.00

Revolving Funds

Balance (1-1-86)	\$ 410.07	
Transfer from Savings	1300.00	
Receipts - Reimbursements	1025.97	
Receipts - Contributions	631.51	
Disbursements		\$ 3190.88
Balance on Hand (1-8-87)	\$ 176.67	

Savings Account

Balance (1-1-86)	\$ 1658.70	
Interest on Balance	59.19	
Interest on Time Certificates	319.50	
Disbursements		\$ 1300.00
Balance on Hand (1-1-87)	\$ 737.39	

Time Certificates

4 @ \$1000.00	\$ 4000.00
1 @ \$1684.37	1684.37

Conservation Reserve Program Will Improve Wildlife Habitat

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has retired about 1,400,000 acres of erodible cropland in Iowa to date. "Permanent seedlings planted on CRP acres should provide long-term improvements to wildlife habitat and increase numbers of pheasants, quail and other ground nesting game and nongame birds," said Willy Suchy, upland wildlife biologist for the Department of Natural Resources.

According to Suchy, nurse crops in the initial year should be mowed as high as possible to minimize the disturbance of nesting birds. "This also will prevent too heavy a layer of mowed plant material from hampering seeding

growth," said Suchy. "Once these seedlings have been established, and on acres that already have existing grassy cover, mowing should be kept to a minimum."

Studies in Illinois and Iowa have shown that unmowed grassy areas can produce two to four times more successful nests than mowed areas for many wildlife species including pheasants, quail, partridge and many nongame birds such as the vesper sparrow. This is because less mowing causes less direct nest destruction, according to Suchy.

"Just as important is the residual cover, which consists of last year's

undisturbed growth," said Suchy "since it provides ideal nesting cover. The dead grassy material in this cover provides good concealment and adds structural support to this year's tender new growth. Also, since many wildlife species begin nesting early in the spring before much new growth has occurred, this residual cover is the only safe cover available to them."

"Mowing should only be practiced to control weeds and often just spot-mowing the problem area is all that is necessary to meet contract requirements," said Suchy. If the landowner feels he must mow the entire area, it is recommended that mowing should be

delayed at least until July 15, and ideally Aug. 1. "All mowing should be completed before September, since this will allow for some regrowth to occur before frost," said Suchy. "Raising wildlife requires proper management for maximum production."

CRP acres seeded to temporary cover for this year may be left in the field if an inspection fee is paid. Thus, acres of corn or sorghum seeded for temporary cover could provide food and cover for this winter, an added wildlife benefit. According to Suchy, this fee may be picked up by some Pheasants Forever chapter or county conservation boards for the landowners.

Journal Tribune - 8/26-87

County Farmer

*Journal Tribune
9-16-87*

Page 3

Chicago Brothers, W'burg Farmer Win Landlord-Tenant Award

By Alan Sieve

A Chicago area corporation consisting of three brothers and a Williamsburg farmer have been named the winner of the landlord-tenant award given annually by the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District.

John, Don and Al Rot, who operate a sanitation business in the Chicago area under the corporation name Rot, Rot and Rot and Williamsburg farmer Daryl Blythe were so named for their joint efforts to conserve soil on the brothers' 430 acre farm located midway between Williamsburg and Parnell.

District conservationist Harry Bryant noted after the Rots bought their farm approximately ten years ago, they began making soil conservation improvements on the land in 1978, building terraces and a large erosion control pond to prevent the washing of a hillside. Bryant continued that in the ensuing years, the Rots have constructed a total of 14,450 feet of regular terraces on the farm - nearly three miles - and 2,500 feet of diversion terraces, plus they have planted over two acres of trees and shrubs near the pond for wildlife cover.

Blythe, who was asked by John Rot to speak on the brothers' behalf, added they also may have had in mind creating a hunting spot when they created the wildlife habitat, as they have hunted the area several times in the past. However, he continued the brothers have been busy and seldom get to Iowa County.

He said 200 acres are drained by the terraces that have been constructed.

Bryant added a rough cost estimate for constructing terraces is \$650 per acre drained. "So you can see there's quite an investment there."

He added all the terracing and the construction of the pond were done with 50-50 cost share funds available from the Soil and Water Conservation Service.

"I think they just don't believe in abusing any property," Blythe added. "I know they come from a large family and have had to work hard."

Farming Practices

In farming the Rot property known as R Farms, Blythe said he uses a combination of disking and/or chisel plowing in planting the farm's 300-acre corn base, trying to match the tillage practice with the type of land involved to minimize erosion.

The farm is planted in continuous corn, and is rented partly on a crop-share basis and partly on a cash rent basis, Blythe added.

Farming around the terraces "offers some unique challenges," Blythe noted. "It takes several years to learn the best ways to blend the rows."

However, he noted the benefits are still worth the extra effort. "Undoubtedly the long term benefits will be there, because the soil will be there."

Bryant added the Rots have undertaken most of the permanent construction work needed to bring soil erosion within acceptable tolerances, as they only have one 40-acre field left to be done. "We've pretty well got them completed," he noted.

SCS, Local Districts Undergo Name Change

The Soil Conservation Service and related county conservation districts now have new names, according to Harry Bryant, district conservationist for Iowa County.

The agency will be known as the Soil and Water Conservation Service, and the local districts will be known as Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He noted this name change was mandated by the Iowa Legislature as the agencies will now be more involved with protecting ground water as well as with curbing soil erosion in the state.

*Journal Trib.
9-16-87*

The Benton/Iowa County Farmer

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The Newspapers of Iowa County/The Newspapers of Benton County

Thursday, Sept. 17, 1987

David And Carol Horras Budget Annually For Soil Improvements

By Doris McCartney

Land stewardship became a family tradition for David and Carol Horras, Williamsburg, when they started farming in 1970.

Besides their 600-acres owned and rented farming venture, they have a dairy operation, stock cow herd and aim to market 1,000 hogs annually.

"We believe in stewardship as an obligation for the privilege of farming," says David, 41. "Our goal is to leave the land in better shape than when we acquired it."

As a result, they are being recognized this fall as winners of the owner-operator division in the annual Iowa County Soil and Water Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) contest.

Along with other farm winners, the Horras' will receive the citation at a banquet in November.

"All of us have worked on these farm improvements," Dave explains. Their family also includes two sons, Greg, 18, and Jon, 12.

The couple started farming in 1970 after he had worked one year as a hired-hand for a Deep River neighbor.

David served three years in the U.S. Army, returning home after a year in Vietnam.

Both David and Carol were farm reared in the Millersburg-Deep River area. They purchased the farm at the F-52 intersection across from the Millersburg county road department site.

"Major problems we faced at first were the two main roads and a former road right-of-way which cut through the property.

"That tract was a mess. A gully, brush and a slough, for instance, caused us to take a look at the promise of conservation benefits."

Start Planning

In search of the long range conservation plan, David and Carol agreed to budget \$1,000 annually. Plans were designed at the Iowa County SCS office. Walt James, Millersburg, the contractor hired, remained with them on future projects.

"We've had Walt on our jobs until 1980 when we lease-purchased one of his scrapers," Dave continues. "That was the first - installing a surface inlet terrace."

Caught up in the soil conservation spirit, the Horras' eventually established 8,550 feet of terraces, 1,000 feet of diversion, an acre of waterway, and they manage soil-saving practices on hay and pasture acres.

A number of types of terraces have been installed: diversion, some to be farmed on one side as well as some of non-farmable design.

Work With Landlords

"Finally, we also discussed soil conservation with our landlords. If they agreed to match our \$250 improvement efforts, we could make further land improvements.

"We did that until we had to figure if there was an adequate return for our investment."

In 1980, convinced they could handle



NAMED WINNERS - With the do-it-yourself spirit, David and Carol Horras, Williamsburg, who farm near Millersburg, started building their own Soil Conservation Service designed ter-

aces in 1980. They maintain a dairy and stock cow herd and raise hogs on 600 owned and rented acres. The Iowa County Soil Conservation Service has named the couple owner-operator winners in the SCS annual contest.

another do-it-yourself project and save costs on soil building practices, Dave acquired a scraper from James, the five and one-half yard model.

"We've all run that piece of equipment, so it is not an overwhelming job," Dave adds.

Terraces have been a plus for their farming program, even short terraces, he emphasizes.

Contouring farming does not fit into their plans, because the resulting point rows would be impractical.

Minimum tillage had been the successful route for them, to cut trips across the field, trim fuel costs and result in greater labor efficiency.

A major by-product of the livestock operation is the manure which is available to be worked back into the soil.

Crop rotation is practiced on both owned and leased ground.

Dave muses it is a fact that despite their soil improvements, their corn base has not increased through the years.

He notes too, some land has been signed to the ten-year CRP (Crop Reduction Program).

When the couple completes their farm work, they push off to do custom work also.

Vacations and time off are rare with maintaining a 20-cow rolling herd. Dave is in partnership also with his mother, Helen Horras, on the stock cow herd.

Volunteers

Once he switches from chore clothing, Dave serves as chief of the Millersburg volunteer fire department, less than one mile away.

He also found time to serve one term on the Iowa County Fair Board and has been an active trustee at Community Church, Deep River.

When Carol climbs down off a tractor and finishes giving the white-glove touch to the milk house, she completes work in their kitchen, canning and freezing garden produce, or pulling pans of sweet rolls from the oven.

She also likes to sew, participate in Deep River-Millersburg school activities and has served on the Iowa County Extension Service Home Economics Advisory Committee.

David isn't shy about crediting Carol for her share of the partnership support. "I couldn't do all this without her. We would rather milk more cows and raise more livestock than have her take an off-the-farm job."

In pursuit of building soil improvements, David observes, "It has been slow and steady progress and rewarding because of family involvement."

Jorgensen Is Reelected ASA Vice President

Marlyn Jorgensen, a soybean farmer from Garrison, has been reelected vice president of the American Soybean Association. Jorgensen, who is a former Marengo resident, was elected during the Soybean Association's annual Soybean EXPO by the 39 soybean farmers who make up the Soybean Association board of directors. These farmers represent soybean farmers in the 29 states that are affiliated with the Soybean Association.

The ASA, a farmer-controlled commodity organization, conducts programs to build soybean profits for farmers through research, education and promotion.

Soil Conservation Essay Winners Are Announced

Winners have been announced in junior and senior divisions of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District's annual essay contest for upper elementary and high school students, held last spring.

Senior division winners in the essay contest, high school students, were Ryan Schade, son of the Norman Schades, rural Marengo, first place, and Gail Klopping, daughter of the Richard Kloppings, rural Marengo, second place. Both were freshmen at Iowa Valley High School at the time their essays were written.

Junior division winners, sixth through eighth grade students, were Lori Gingerich, daughter of the Gilbert Gingeriches, rural Parnell, first; Chris Montross, son of Janet Montross, Millersburg, second, and Halley Thompson, daughter of the Joe Thompsons, rural Homestead, third place. At the time their essays were written, Lori was an eighth grader at Williamsburg Junior High, Chris was a seventh grader at Deep River - Millersburg, and Halley was an eighth grader at Williamsburg.

Their essays are reprinted below.

By Ryan Schade, Marengo First Place - Senior Division

The topsoil of much Midwestern cropland is eroding at unbelievable rates.

In the last 100 years Iowa's topsoil level has dropped from 14 to 18 inches thick to only 6 to 8 inches thick today. Over 109,000,000 acres of cropland, about 47 percent, are inadequately protected against erosion. Sheet, rill and wind erosion moved approximately 1.5 billion tons of soil in 1982. If the present rate of soil erosion continues, the remaining topsoil will be gone in another 100 years.

The most effective gains being made in cropland conservation are accomplished through techniques of land management. With such modern practices as selection of proper crops, contour farming, strip cropping and cover cropping, soil erosion can be held to acceptable levels.

Land terracing is one form of soil conservation. Terraces reduce the length of long slopes by breaking them into a series of shorter slopes. They catch soil and water running down the hillsides, keeping the soil from being carried away in streams and rivers. Terraces can reduce erosion by as much as 75 percent. They are much more effective and less costly if tillage is reduced. Money is saved on the construction and maintenance of the terrace if such practices as no-till or ridge planting are used.

Slope steepness and construction costs should be considered when choosing the best terrace for your land. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Service offices can provide cost-sharing funds toward building terraces.

they are doing that only while they have soil. The past years of planting fence row to fence row on our fragile land with mortgaged machinery has brought on the current state of bankruptcy and survival of the fittest.

Will the family farmer be pushed off the land they love, only because of lack of finances? Furthermore, the financial squeeze, in which many farmers now find themselves has discouraged even conservation-minded farmers from installing expensive conservation structures. Corporate farmers could afford these structures, but are they willing to spend the money for conservation structures and take land out of production now to ensure the future of our prime farm land? In 1984, 44 percent of United States' cropland was still eroding at productivity threatening rates, with 23 percent eroding at rates more than twice what soil scientists consider tolerable.

Simply using common sense can save soil and cut down on water contamination. Rill and sheet erosion can be controlled by: contour plowing, strip cropping and grass waterways. No-till leaves important coverage on normally bare ground. It also increases the amount of organic matter in the soil, increasing the rate of soil reformation. Conservation also saves time, fuel, labor and cost, in addition to soil.

The government should enforce a long-term soil and water conservation act to ensure proper usage of our resources. Local administrative bodies would be well-equipped to tailor cost-effective conservation practices to varied geographic conditions in different parts of the country. A significant amount of erosion control ought to result, particularly in areas where farm program participation is high.

This nation must act to prevent - or at least minimize - soil erosion, with the objective of keeping soil losses within acceptable tolerance - limits for particular soil types and situations, thereby ensuring productive and sustainable agriculture and other uses of the land. Jack Berryman states in the General Farm Bill of 1985 that the increasing global demand for food, fiber and energy implies a need for a reappraisal of the United States' farm policy.

Few people realize farming is America's backbone. Without the public's support and cooperation, the government is limited. Is it a farmer's constitutional right to rob future generations of productive soil? Some contend that the current generation of farmers has no right to engage in the agronomic equivalent of deficit financing, mortgaging the future of generations to come.

Short-term actions do not ensure an end to the soil erosion problem. Damage done today can be irreversible. Soil loss has no quick fix. Short-term emergency decisions you make this year are not nearly as important as the long-term conditions you establish for the next decade and beyond.

Conservation means not only being concerned with resources we need today but also for the future. In each generation, every person's share of the world becomes smaller because of a rapidly growing population. Every morning there are about 175,000 more persons on the earth than there were the morning before. We have a real duty today to protect the soil and water so that people in the future will be able to use them. If we just let the nutrients in the soil disappear and let the water become polluted, future generations may find it difficult to produce enough food for everyone. With our growing population this could be a possibility unless we do something now to stop destroying these precious resources.

The survival of man from now on may depend on whether he repairs his damaged environment and learns how to live in harmony with nature.

By Chris Montross, Millersburg Second Place - Junior Division

A large part of the true wealth of the United States is its soil and water.

We have always had enough soil and usually enough water to grow all the food needed for ourselves and to export to foreign nations. Our soil and water sources are limited. We continue to waste these resources, diminish them and abuse them.

The topsoil of much Midwestern cropland is eroding at great rates. Half the original topsoil, six to eight inches, has been lost from Iowa's unprotected soil in 100 years of farming. At this rate the remaining six to eight inches will be gone within 100 years. Nature needs 250 to 1,000 years to build an inch of topsoil.

In a little over 100 years farming in Iowa has moved from farming with horses to farming with the most sophisticated technology in the world.

Soil erosion has always been a problem because of land lying bare, exposed to the forces of water and wind. In the days of horse farming, much was done with uphill and downhill farming which led to soil being washed away. It is even a bigger problem now because of continuous planting of corn and soybeans. Only about one-third of the land is protected.

There are five types of soil erosion taking its toll on the land:

Sheet erosion is almost invisible. Lighter soil is a sign that over the years erosion has been taking place.

Wind erosion is highly visible; we see blowing dirt.

Rill erosion happens during heavy rains when small rills form over an entire hillside making farming difficult.

Gully erosion - gullies, some of them huge, are impossible to cross with farm machinery.

Ephemeral erosion occurs in natural depressions, rain after rain. The area can usually be crossed with farm machinery.

What can be done to save the soil? The traditional erosion control practices

Gingerich Wins Regional Essay Contest

Lori Gingerich, Parnell, was first place winner in the Region Seven 1987 Soil Conservation Contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

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

The topic of the essay contest was

"Soil and Water Conservation." The contest was open to all students in grades six, seven and eight - junior division, and nine, ten and eleven and twelve - senior division. Essays were judged on originality, aptness of thought and accuracy of information. Regional contest winners also were entered in a state contest from which four winners were chosen.

Essays continued
next page

costs should be considered when choosing the best terrace for your land. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Service offices can provide cost-sharing funds toward building terraces. Most landowners are getting 50 percent cost-sharing with ASCS, SCS and state funds.

There are three types of terraces – broad base, narrow base and steep back slope. Narrow base and steep back slope terraces are used on steep slopes and broad base terraces are used on gentle slopes. One advantage of the broad base terrace is that its entire area can be farmed, but it is more expensive to build than the other terraces. Two advantages of the steep back slope and narrow base terraces are the following: They are easier to farm and less costly to build.

Contour and wind strip cropping are two methods of conserving soil. Contour strip cropping is basically alternating contoured strips of closely grown crops with strips of row crops. The length and steepness of the slopes determines the width of the strips. The average annual rate of sheet and rill erosion can be kept to under five tons per acre if a crop rotation program of three years of corn, one year of wheat and four years of alfalfa is used on a typical field. Other practices can be added to reduce the soil loss to an even lower amount per acre. When wind strip cropping, the strips are straight, uniform in width, and laid out at a right angle to the prevailing winds.

Conservation tillage leaves crop residue on the surface. This helps prevent erosion, increases infiltration, maintains or improves soil tilth, decreases evaporation, and reduces the amount of sediment reaching surface water.

No-till is the most effective form of conservation tillage for controlling erosion. A narrow slot for the seed is the only tillage made in the ground. Chemicals are used to control the weeds and insects. In the right areas no-till can produce yields equal to or higher than those for conventional tillage.

Narrow strips are tilled at planting time when using strip-tillage. In ridge-till, the seed is planted in ridges formed during the cultivation of the previous crop. Ridge-till works well in wet areas. The ridges warm up and dry out faster than level fields.

This nation must act to prevent – or at least minimize – soil erosion, with the objection of keeping soil losses within acceptable tolerance limits for particular soil types and situations, thereby ensuring productive and sustainable agriculture and other uses of land.

**By Gail Kloppping, Rural Marengo
Second Place - Senior Division**

Everyone's very existence is directly indirectly dependent on our non-renewable resource of the soil. Farmers think they are dominating nature, but

done today can be irreversible. Soil loss has no quick fix. Short-term emergency decisions you make this year are not nearly as important as the long-term conditions you establish for the next decade and beyond.

The time to act on soil and water conservation is now, while we can distinguish prime land from marginal land. If you don't resist that pressure, our children will face more unsolvable problems ten and 20 years from now than we do today. We must act before more irreversible damage is done. How much more soil will we lose before the government will take even stronger actions?

The sodbuster and swampbuster provisions are a step in the right direction, but we must follow through with more action to ensure a productive and chemical minimized way of food and fiber production for this nation and the entire world.

**By Lori Gingerich, Rural Parnell
First Place - Junior Division**

Conservation is a matter that concerns everyone. To each of us, conservation means personal responsibility for the wise use of natural resources in our homes and communities. Soil and water are some of these resources.

It is especially important for the people of my generation to be well educated about what can be done for conservation. We will be the people to be the most affected by the carelessness, or carefullness in the treatment of soil and water today.

Soil is an important natural resource that covers much of the land surface on earth. All life on earth depends on the soil as a source of food. Plants are rooted in the soil and get nutrients from it. Animals get nutrients from these plants. Without soil, life on earth would not be possible.

Soil erosion is a major concern of conservationists. It can cause permanent damage. Soil erosion is caused by improper farming and grazing. It has damaged millions of acres of soil in the United States. More than 2,000 reservoirs have filled with soil from eroded fields upstream. Every year over 500,000,000 cubic yards of such soil must be removed. Yet it requires as long as 500 years for nature to create just an inch of fertile topsoil. Erosion can wash or blow away this inch in a few years or even a few weeks.

Water is also an important resource. Man and most animals need a constant supply of water to survive. Plants also need water to grow strongly. Water also can be used to provide energy for homes and industries.

Nature has ways of conserving water, but man often upsets them. Sometimes man drains ponds, straightens streams or cuts timber. These reduce the natural storage of water and speed run-off. Sometimes also cities pollute the water by dumping toxic wastes into it.

Ephemeral erosion occurs in natural depressions, rain after rain. The area can usually be crossed with farm machinery.

What can be done to save the soil? The traditional erosion control practices of terracing and rotations are not practical in most cases because of changes in farming equipment and the shift to more cropping systems.

Turning the soil under by using a plow and then disking, harrowing and planting, promotes soil loss on sloping land. The minimum tillage system does not involve the turning of the soil, thus reducing soil loss.

Ridge planting is one of several systems available. This system differs from others in the amount of soil disturbance and the residue left on the surface. This method is also less costly because of the wear on the machinery.

Strip cropping and rotating crops is another conservation practice used. What one crop takes out of the soil another may help restore.

Agriculture is by far the biggest water consumer, using about 83 percent of the total water used. This amount increases each year through livestock handling and crop irrigation.

Water pollution is another problem. Sediment and soil nutrients runoff are causing our lakes, ponds and streams to become polluted.

Drinking water is also affected. Runoff of polluted water into water costs cities a tremendous amount of money for chemicals and processing to make it safe.

Man can exist on a gallon or so of water a day although he seldom does. In medieval times he probably used three to five gallons a day. At present in the United States, man uses about 1,500 gallons a day for his needs, comfort, recreation, cooking, food, production and industrial supply. This great usage is very important to our limited water supply.

Water management goes hand in hand with soil management. Our water supply comes as precipitation falling on the land as rain, hail or snow. The fate of the moisture depends on where it falls, the kind of soil and its cover. Falling rain erodes any raw earth surface. Bare plowed farmland, cleared areas, up-going housing developments and highway fills are very vulnerable to runoff. In cities where much of the land is paved or covered, rainwater runs off ten times faster than on unpaved land. This water cannot soak into the soil but goes down storm drains and sewer systems carrying debris and pollutants to the streams.

What is being done to save our water? Dams and reservoirs are being built to save runoff water for later use. Grasses, trees, bushes, shrubs and even weeds help break the force of raindrops and hold the soil in place.

(Please turn to page 7)

Essay Winners--

(Continued from page 3)

Certain pesticides that have been proved dangerous to animal life have been banned and many more such products are under study.

The government has a new farm program which enables a farmer to put ground in a ten-year conservation reserve. This will take 40 to 45,000,000 acres out of row production. This will save an estimated 825,000,000 tons of topsoil in the next 20 years thus protecting both water and soil.

The intent of the program is the removal of highly eroding land from production. To qualify the soil loss has to exceed five ton per acre per year. Normal loss on a sloping Iowa farm in the area is 14 to 15 ton per year.

One of the greatest problems facing us today is the protection of our land and water. The 200,000,000 tons of soil lost from Iowa's crop land each year cannot be replaced in our lifetime or our children's lifetime. Steps must be taken to stop this tragic loss.

Water management comes with both soil and water management. Throughout the world, the need for water continues to increase to guarantee man will have both the quantity and the quality to meet his needs. He is obligated to return water to streams, lakes, and oceans as clean as possible and with the least waste.

Time is running out. It is everyone's responsibility to act now.

By Halley Thompson
Rural Homestead

Third Place - Junior Division

Hi, I am one of the many earthworms

that live on the rich farmlands of Iowa. Only now, these farmlands aren't so rich. We are suffering from a long, hard drought that began in mid-April.

Each day I hear farmers talking about the bad farm economy. They are also saying that if it doesn't rain soon, the soil will lose all its nutrients and the crops won't even make it this year. It's already June and the plants are just peaking through the ground.

As I tunnel through the soil, I can see that it isn't as fertile as it should be. Without water, the soil is simply useless. Only together can water and soil make things grow. They can do nothing by themselves.

We also need to look ahead. If the soil is ruined now, what will we have for the future? That's right, nothing! No food, no job, no life.

But there are ways we can prevent this. Terracing is a good technique for keeping our soil fertile. It allows the soil to absorb water, yet keep its nutrients.

Water irrigation is another way to preserve our soil. As we learned before, soil is useless without water. With irrigation we are able to provide the soil with water at any time.

Also, the water needs to be pure. If we add impure water to the soil it will only make it worse. Chlorination, filtration and aeration are only a few of the many ways to purify water. They each involve a different process of removing the bacteria from the water.

As you can see, soil and water are a very important part of our environment. If we misuse them now, we will have nothing for the future.

2 The NEWSpapers of Iowa County, Thurs., Nov. 5, 1987

Upcoming Events

Soil, Water Commissioners' Awards Banquet Will Be November 17

Awards for soil-saving projects will be presented to a number of area farmers by the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners at a dinner Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m., at the Seven Villages Restaurant, Little Amana exit on Interstate 80.

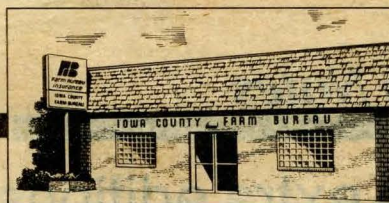
The banquet-meeting is open to the public. Advance payment for dinner tickets may be made at the SWCS office, Williamsburg, by 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 16.

Guest speaker will be Richard Bishop, superintendent of wildlife, Iowa

Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines.

Cited will be the following: landlord-tenant division - Daryl Blythe, Williamsburg, tenant, and Rot, Rot, Rot, Chicago, Ill., owners; owner-operator - the David Horras', Williamsburg, who farm near Millersburg; and new cooperators - the Van Otegham brothers - John H, James and Charles, Victor.

Izaak Walton League tree awards also will be given.



Iowa

COUNTY

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SCS to honor area farmers Nov. 17

By Doris McCartney
(public relations committee)

Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Service commissioners will honor area farmers on Nov. 17, near Williamsburg, for soil saving programs.

Cited for owner-operator soil conservation efforts will be young farmers, David and Carol Horras, rural Williamsburg, who farm near Millersburg.

The couple maintain a Holstein dairy herd, raise hogs and have a cow-calf herd while budgeting \$1,000 annually for soil conservation programs.

David claims this is a family tradition to invest their money, time and efforts as land stewards. His wife keeps the farm books, helps on all farm operations and is active

in the Deep River-Millersburg school programs.

In addition, David serves as Millersburg fire chief.

In the landlord-tenant division, Daryl Blythe, Williamsburg, tenant, and the Rots of Chicago, will be honored for long-time soil improvements on a farm in the area.

The farm is planted in continuous corn and is crop-share basis and partly cash rent. There have been unique challenges on this land, Blythe says.

The Rots have undertaken most of the permanent construction work required to bring soil erosion within acceptable tolerance as they only have one 40-acre field left to be done.

Awards also will go to new operators, the Van Otegham

Brothers, who farm in the far northwest corner of Iowa county. They are the sons of John Van Otegham, Victor.

This farm also demonstrates that joint efforts to conserve soil will have lasting effects for future generations, Harry Bryant, district conservationist says.

Serving as commissioners for Iowa county and who helped make the selections are: Robert Faber and Fred White, Parnell; Greg Misbach and Larry Wetjen, Marengo; and David McCartney, North English.

Assistant commissioners are Andy Rowe, Marengo; and myself, North English.

A tree award will also be presented to a long-time cultivator of a windbreak, offered by the Izaak Walton League, Misbach, notes.

Conservation Compliance Field Meeting Set

The Iowa State University Extension Service in Iowa County and the Iowa County Soil Conservation Service will hold a Conservation Compliance Field meeting Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Vernon Sandersfeld farm, one-half mile west of Homestead on Highway 6 and three and one-quarter miles south on W-21 (Iowa Township - Section 27) from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Farmers participating will have an opportunity to learn: the latest conservation compliance program rules; options available through conservation plans to meet program requirements; how to determine crop residue cover; and where contouring, grass waterways, field borders and terraces may be applied.

"The Sandersfelds have been very particular about soil conservation

through the years," said Paul Brown, Iowa County Extension Director. Sandersfeld, a past Iowa County Soil Conservation Service commissioner, has been actively applying conservation practices to their land. From the hilltop meeting site, participants will be able to overlook the farm with its contoured fields, grass waterways and field borders.

Speakers and topics will be: Brown, a review of the conservation provisions; Harry Bryant, district conservationist, highly erodible land determination, conservation compliance planning and alternative cropping systems; Greg Brenneman, Extension soil, water and waste management specialist, review of the Universal Soil Loss Equation and Erodibility Index, importance of crop

residue and controlling ephemeral erosion.

The conservation compliance provision of the Food Security Act of 1985 discourages the production of crops on highly erodible cropland where the land is not carefully protected from erosion. Farmers producing crops on such fields without an approved conservation system, may lose eligibility for certain U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program benefits. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Soil Conservation and Extension Services to assist farmers in remaining eligible for USDA program benefits, the men said.

No advanced registration is required. For information, contact Brown at 1099 Court Avenue, Marengo, or by dialing 642-5504.



CHECKING CROP RESIDUE — Harry Bryant, left, district conservationist, and Greg Brenneman, right, Extension Soil, Water and Waste Management Specialist, are determining the

percentage of crop residue cover in a tilled cornfield. Bryant, Brenneman and Paul Brown, Iowa County Extension director, will discuss this and other topics

at a Conservation Compliance Field meeting Oct. 28. The meeting will be held at the Vernon Sandersfeld farm in Iowa Township. — Photo by Paul Brown

SWCS, ASCS, Extension Provide Education

By Paul W. Brown

Iowa County Extension Director

Remaining eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm programs and payments is a top priority for most farmers. This is especially true today when one-third of net cash farm income is received from government payments.

In an effort to help farmers remain eligible, the Soil and Water Conservation Service (SWCS), the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), and the Iowa State University Extension Service are cooperating on an educational project in Iowa County. The purpose of this project is to inform landowners and farm operators of their responsibilities and alternatives under the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

The conservation provisions of the 1985 farm bill were designed to make the goals of the USDA farm and conservation programs more consistent. These new provisions encourage the reduction of soil erosion and the retention of wetlands, and will help reduce production of surplus commodities. The provisions are known as the Conservation Reserve, Conservation Compliance, Sodbuster and Swampbuster.

One common aspect of the Conservation Reserve, Conservation Compliance and Sodbuster provisions is that they apply to highly erodible cropland. To be considered "highly erodible land" potential erosion must be more than eight times the rate at which the soil can maintain continued productivity. For a field to be considered highly erodible, at least one-third or more of the field must be highly erodible, or the highly erodible area must be 50 acres or more. Harry Bryant, District Conservationist, estimates that nearly 250,000 acres of cropland are highly

erodible in Iowa County. A list of these highly erodible soils can be obtained from the SCS office in Williamsburg or the Extension Office in Maefengo.

Conservation Reserve

The Conservation Reserve offers producers help in retiring highly erodible cropland. The ASCS will share up to half of the cost of establishing permanent grasses, legumes, trees, windbreaks or wildlife plantings on highly erodible cropland. Under ten-year contracts, ASCS will make annual rental payments as long as the terms and conditions of the contract are met.

Nearly 18,000 acres of highly erodible land have been retired in Iowa County during previous Conservation Reserve sign-up periods. For the annual rental payment, the maximum bid per acre has been \$85.

The next sign-up period is scheduled for Feb. 1-20, 1988. The Conservation Reserve program is intended to run through 1990. However, Congress is appropriating funds annually for the program. As a result, farmers may want to consider the program for highly erodible cropland while funding is available.

Conservation Compliance

Conservation compliance applies when annually tilled crops are planted on highly erodible fields. To remain eligible for USDA program benefits, farmers must develop and be actively applying a locally-approved conservation plan for those highly erodible fields by Jan. 1, 1990. The plan must be fully implemented by Jan. 1, 1995.

Farmers are encouraged to begin

developing their conservation plans as soon as possible. During the next two years approximately 1,200 plans will have to be completed, at least four per day. Waiting until the last minute to have a plan developed may leave someone ineligible for USDA programs and payments.

In most cases, to bring soil loss levels down to tolerable limits, farmers can change cropping and management practices rather than having to build expensive permanent structures. Contouring, field borders, reduced or no-till farming, residue management or rotations are some of the relatively low cost alternatives that can help procedures stay in compliance.

One recent development under the Conservation Compliance provision is that land in capability classes VI and VII (14 percent slope or greater) will have to be in permanent cover or a long term meadow rotation. On this land, a farmer will have to consider the income generating ability of these alternatives. If the field will not net more than \$85 per acre, perhaps it would be more profitable to retire the field in the Conservation Reserve. A worksheet can be obtained at the Extension office to help make this decision.

Sodbuster

The sodbuster provision is aimed at discouraging the conversion of highly erodible land for agricultural production. Sodbuster applies if annually tilled crops are planted on a highly erodible

field that was not used for crop production during the period 1981-1985. If an individual plows out such a highly erodible field, the land must be under a conservation plan approved by the local district in order to remain eligible for USDA program benefits. If an annually tilled crop is planted without a conservation plan, the farmer will be considered out of compliance and not eligible for USDA payments.

When application is made for any USDA farm programs, a form must be signed certifying that highly erodible land has not been broken out since Dec. 23, 1985 in order to produce crops — unless done under a conservation plan.

Swampbuster

Swampbuster applies if naturally occurring wetlands are converted to cropland after Dec. 23, 1985. Wetlands consist of soils that are covered with standing water or are saturated most of the year, and that support mostly water-loving plants. The SWCS maintains a list of the kinds and combinations of soils and plants that define wetland areas.

Exceptions to the swampbuster provision include: where the conversion of wetlands was begun before Dec. 23, 1985; converted wetlands that had been created artificially; crops produced on wetlands that became dry through natural conditions; and where the SWCS has determined that the conversion has minimal effect on wetland

On Conservation Compliance

values.

When applying for any USDA farm programs, certification must be made that crops are not being produced on land that has been converted from wetlands since Dec. 23, 1985.

Options Available

As an agricultural producer, you may:

- Develop and apply a conservation plan for highly erodible fields, in coop-

eration with SWCS and the local conservation district. The plan will help reduce soil loss to levels that are technically and economically achievable. You will retain eligibility for USDA farm program benefits.

- Plant permanent cover on land where annually tilled crops cannot be grown because of excessive erosion. If one chooses this option, one may want to consider entering the land into the Conservation Reserve and planting permanent grasses, legumes, trees, wind-

breaks or wildlife cover. One still would have other USDA programs open.

- Produce crops on a highly erodible field without using a locally approved conservation system but would lose eligibility for USDA program benefits.

- Produce crops on newly converted wetlands, but lose eligibility for USDA program benefits.

For information about the conservation provisions or for conservation planning assistance, contact the SWCS office, Williamsburg. SWCS conserva-

tionists can determine if you have wetlands or highly erodible fields, and they will help prepare a locally approved conservation plan. The ASCS office, Williamsburg, has information about the effects of various conservation provisions on USDA farm programs. The Extension office, Marengo, also has publications and worksheets to help make decisions. All of the USDA staffs will help one continue to qualify.

Iowa Co. Farmer - 1/18/88

Tuesday, Jan. 26
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Wade Wagner presiding

1:00-1:30 Music by Ed-Co school
 1:30-2:00 Mark Berkland — "Soil Conservation Plans—What do we need?"
 2:00-2:20 Terry Schneider "No Till Economics"
 2:20-2:45 Steve Barnhart— "Managing CRP and Set-aside Acres"
 2:45-3:10 Dick Moore— "No Till Corn and Soybeans on the Contour"

6:45-8:45 p.m.
Dale Hansen presiding

6:45-7:00 Slide program — "Food Security Act"
 7:00-7:30 Dale Cochran—
 "Soil Conservation and Water Quality in Today's Agriculture"
 7:30-7:50 Mark Freed — "No Till and Para Plowing"
 7:50-8:15 Paul Johnson — "How Will Water Quality Laws Affect Farmers"
 8:15-8:45 John Moncreif — "Ridge Tillage Basics"

Wednesday, Jan. 27
9:45-12 Noon
Mike Williams presiding

9:45-10:00 Slide program— "Water Quality"
 10:00-10:25 Bob Furliegh — "How ASCS Relates to Conservation Tillage"
 10:25-10:45 Paul Manternach — "Ridge Till Experiences"
 10:45-11:10 Jim Baker — "Conservation Tillage and Water Quality"
 11:10-11:30 Tim Lehman — "No Till Farming for Profit"
 11:30-Noon Larry Statler— "Conservation Alternatives for Profit"

1:00-3:10 p.m.
Rich Balvanz presiding

1:00-1:30 Music by Shellsburg school
 1:30-1:55 Duane Sand — "1987 Resourceful Farming Demonstration Results"
 1:55-2:20 Jim Johnson — "Ridge Till Systems"
 2:20-2:45 Mike Duffy — "Adopting Low Input Farming Practices"
 2:45-3:10 Tom Spear — "Making Forages Pay"

Conservation show is Jan. 26 and 28 at Cedar Rapids

Conservation planning is the theme for the largest conservation show in the nation to be held at Cedar Rapids Five Seasons Center on Jan. 26 and 27.

The 1988 Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show will feature the most variety in program speakers and exhibits in its nine-year history.

In addition to six leading farmer speakers who will discuss their conservation tillage, this year's program will also feature conservation plans, conservation economics, water quality, low input farming practices, and reports of 1987 resourceful farming results.

On Tuesday, Mark Berkland, State Resource Conservationist, SCS, Des Moines, will lead off discussion of what is needed in soil conservation plans. Steve Barnhardt, ISU Extension Agronomist, will offer suggestions for managing CRP and set-aside acres. Dale Cochran, Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, will relate soil conservation and water quality in today's agriculture. Paul Johnson, State Legislator and farmer, will review how water quality

laws affect farmers. John Moncreif, Extension Soil Scientists, University of Minnesota, will offer ridge tillage basics.

The Wednesday morning program will include Bob Furliegh, state ASCS executive director, relating ASCS to conservation tillage; Jim Baker, ISU Extension Agricultural Engineer, showing implications of conservation tillage for water quality, and Larry Statler, director of the Rural Diversification Center for Kirkwood College, illustrating conservation alternatives for profit. That afternoon Duane Sand, director of Resourceful Farming Project, will report its results; Mike Duffy, ISU Extension Economist, will show implications of adopting low-input farming practices; and Jim Johnson, New Products Manager for the Hiniker Co., will report on ridge-till systems.

Six farmers will be explaining their individual tillage systems. They include: Mark Freed, Lexington, Ill.; Dick Moore, Linn County; Terry Schneider, McLean County, (Please turn to page 4)

Ia. Co. Weekly Slapper - 1/18/88

Soil, Water Conservation officers are elected

Greg Misbach, Marengo, was elected chairman of the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for 1988 at the annual district organizational meeting, Jan. 4.

Robert Faber, Parnell, was elected vice-chairman. Other commissioners include David McCartney, North English; Fred White, Parnell; and Larry Wetjen, Marengo. Also appointed as assistant commissioners for the year were Doris (Mrs. David) McCartney, North English; and Andy Rowe, Marengo.

Commissioners are elected on the general election ballot and serve for a six-year term. Commissioners and assistant commissioners serve without pay to direct and carry out soil and water conservation efforts in the county.

Fred White has served on the board of commissioners for 19 years; David McCartney, 18 years; Misbach, 11 years; Wetjen, nine years; and Faber, seven years.

Julie A. Hocker, district clerk, was also appointed district secretary/treasurer.

Conservation show--

(Continued from page 1)

Ill.; Tim Lehman, Johnson County; Paul Manternach, Benton County; and Tom Spear, Cedar County.

Music will be provided before the Tuesday afternoon program session by Ed-Co Community School. Shellsburg Community High School will provide music before the Wednesday afternoon session. Draw-

ings will be held during each program session.

Doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission is free.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, religion or national origin.



RECOGNIZED FOR ESSAYS — The Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Service, Williamsburg, honored two youth for published essays on the topic, "Soil and Water — Key to Our Future." Lori Gingerich, daughter of the Gilbert Gingeriches, Parnell, placed first in the junior division in both the

county and regional contest. Ryan Schade, son of the Norman Schades, Marengo, earned the first-place senior division in the county contest. Both read their essays at the awards banquet Nov. 17 at Seven Villages Restaurant.

Conservation efforts are recognized

Area farmers recognized for their land improvements by the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District, Williamsburg, were the David Horras', Williamsburg; the Rot Brothers, Chicago, and Daryl Blythe, Williamsburg; the Van Otegham Brothers, and the Richard Cochrans, all of Victor.

Since 1971, David Horras and his wife, Carol, Williamsburg, have budgeted \$1,000 annually for soil conservation projects. Their efforts won them the owner-operator recognition. The couple, with their two sons, farm in the Millersburg area.

In the landlord-tenant division, winners were owners, the Rot Brothers of Chicago, represented by John Rot, with tenant Daryl Blythe, Williamsburg. Longtime practices on the farm were cited for the award.

Winning the new cooperators division were the three Van Otegham brothers, James, John A. (Tony) and Charles, Victor, for improvements on an 80-acre farm. The brothers and their parents, the John Van Oteghams, were among the guests.

Recipients of the Izaak Walton League windbreak award were Richard and Joyce Cochran, Victor. Presentation was by Paul Hursh, president of the county chapter.

As winner of the first-place county and also top regional winner of an essay, Lori Gingerich spoke on "Soil and Water . . . Key to our Future." She is the daughter of the Gilbert Gingeriches, Parnell.

The senior essay winner for the county event was Ryan Schade who spoke on the subject also. He is the son of the Norman Schades, Marengo. Trophies and cash were given to the essay winners.

Iowa Wetlands was the slide presentation by Richard Bishop, chief

of that department for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

With idled farmland, Bishop mentions more acres will be restored to the wetlands. Attitudes are changing about the value of wetlands, he notes also, as poorer producing acres are taken out of production.

Bishop cited the return of the bald eagle as a real advantage to the state. Another project satisfying to sportsmen are the 8,000 to 10,000 giant Canadian geese returning each year. Farm pond nesting baskets lure geese to revived wetlands.

While Iowa's soil is valuable to the food chain, the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) plan and crop price changes have aided the wetlands program, he noted.

In Eastern Iowa, he cites Otter Creek where impoundments have been built as a vast wetlands chain. Some 10,000 acres may be seen there. Improvements were funded by sportsman dollars, he said.

Through Ducks Unlimited, it is hoped wetlands will increase in the state, he suggested.

The meeting, during which the citations were made, was chaired by Robert Faber, Parnell. Presentations made were by Greg Misbach and Larry Wetjen, both Marengo, and David McCartney, North English, all commissioners, while essay winners were announced by Doris McCartney, assistant commissioner. Fred White, Parnell, is also a commissioner, while Andrew Rose, Marengo, is an assistant commissioner.

Serving on the soil conservation staff are: Harry Bryant, conservationist; Julie Hocker, state clerk; T.J. Oswald, conservation technician; and Dennis Schrodt, assistant conservationist, while Josie Mullen is the new aid.



LANDLORD-TENANT CITED — John Rot, Chicago, owner, and Daryl Blythe, Williamsburg, conferred on soil conservation efforts following the awards banquet recently where they re-

ceived citations for their cooperative land improvements. The farm is owned by three Rot brothers of the Chicago area.



PLANTED WIND BREAK — The Richard Cochrans, Victor, who farm along Interstate 80 in Iowa county, were winners this fall of the Izaak Walton

League tree planting award, presented by Paul Hursh, Marengo. The Cochrans are cultivating the trees for both a barrier from the wind and for privacy.

Filter strips are added to ten-year CRP

Weekly
Shopper
2-8-88

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has added filter strips to land that can be placed under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), for the signup period that began Feb. 1.

Filter strips – land adjacent and parallel to streams and other bodies of water at least five acres in size – will be eligible for USDA's ten-year land retirement program. Unlike all other land enrolled in the CRP, filter strip land will not have to be highly erodible to be eligible. However, the land must be able to reduce sedimentation of the water body, and must have been planted to an agricultural commodity crop for two years from 1981 to 1985.

"Filter strips can be from 66 to 99 feet wide, and extend along a stream or lake shore," says SCS state conservationist, Mike Nethery, Des Moines. "When a farmer puts this land in grass or trees and shrubs, that ground cover can act as a filter that keeps sediment and some pesticides from reaching the water. That's the idea of a filter strip."

USDA also made a change in eligibility for CRP land planted with trees. A CRP field that is planted with trees need be only one-third highly erodible instead of the two-thirds required for other plantings. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) now can share the cost of two weed and insect control operations on land planted to trees, in addition to sharing planting expenses.

The CRP pays landowners rent every

year for ten years to idle highly erodible cropland and filter strip land. Landowners replace row crops with perennial legumes, grass, trees, shrubs or a mix of these.

In the sixth CRP signup Feb. 1 through Feb. 19, landowners will once again offer sealed bids that state their per acre price for idling the land. USDA then decides where to set the limits for bids.

"We're beginning to do some conservation planning with landowners now," Nethery says, "and some are seeing the value of the CRP. They're seeing that they may have to make some major changes for USDA'S conservation compliance rules. The CRP is a way to stop erosion on very steep land, remain eligible for USDA programs and get paid for doing it."

Nethery is urging farmers to think about the returns they're getting on their steep land, and the costs associated with protecting it to stay eligible for USDA programs in the future.

"You've probably got higher production costs, or lower returns, on this highly erodible land. Then you've got to figure out how you'll reduce erosion on it. The CRP is a very sensible option," he says.

The Soil Conservation Service determines whether land qualifies for CRP from an erosion standpoint. Farmers should contact the local ASCS office to bid highly erodible land into the Conservation Reserve.

SWCD gets additional allocation

ST
2-25-88

The Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District has received a supplemental allocation of \$23,000 for spring construction work of terraces and erosion control ponds. These funds must be used by June 30. The rate of cost-share is 50 percent of the estimated cost of the tile and earthwork.

Anyone interested in doing spring construction work should make application at the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 600 Ct. St., Williamsburg.

SWCD has limited cost-share funds

4-27-88 JT

The Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District has a limited amount of cost-share funds available for no-till. Payment at \$10 per acre will be authorized up to 80 acres per operator. Priority is given to first-time no-tillers, and second priority is given to first-time cost-share of no-till.

There is a one-time payment per farm, and the operator will not be cost-shared at both ASCS and the Soil Conservation District in the same year.

Payments are not made for no-tilling into permanent pasture.

All applications must be received at the district office at 600 Court Street, Williamsburg, by Monday, May 2.

Brown, Bryant, O'Meara explain program options

By Doris McCartney

While an icy snow covers Iowa County farmland, farmers are casting a wary eye at the next government sign-up program and attending meetings to hear late bulletins, as they plan for spring.

"What are the complex rules?" "Give me the options." These are typical questions asked about the Food Security Act of 1985. At three area meetings on the act - Feb. 1 in Marengo and Williamsburg, and Feb. 4 in North English - attendance was good, according to Paul Brown, Iowa County Extension Director.

Also participating were Irene O'Meara, ASCS county director, and two of her staff, and Harry Bryant, conservationist with the Soil and Water Conservation Service District, all Williamsburg.

Farmers who pre-registered were issued folders on their farms. Packets contained aerial photos, highly erodible land determination and information on alternative cropping systems.

In the past year, 18,362 acres (nearly the size of a county township) were signed into the ten-year

Conservation Reserve Program. There were 220 bids received at \$85 or less.

According to Brown, "The feed grain program is the only game in town. Only about five percent of Iowa County farmers decided not to participate."

The act is written to curb production of surplus crops and to preserve wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat and woodlands, Brown explained.

Drained lands converted for farming denies the farmer government benefits. This applies to all crops under production, Brown added.

He described wetlands as soils saturated most of the year, and places which support water-loving plants.

0-92 plan

O'Meara listed the four farm program options available this year: 20 percent set-aside, which means to idle 20 percent of the corn base; 20 percent plus another 10 percent paid diversion; the 0-92 program, or no program.

Farmers have from Feb. 16 until March 11 to sign for the 0-92 program. Zero-92 permits farmers to not

plant their entire corn base and still receive 92 percent of their expected deficiency payments.

O'Meara said this is the first time a farmer can earn a deficiency payment without planting corn, a plan sometimes called decoupling.

Zero-92 benefits will probably be paid partially in cash and partially in generic PIK certificates, she said.

O'Meara said an advantage of the 0-92 program is that the \$1.10 diversion payment will be guaranteed, whereas the diversion payments will not be guaranteed under other programs.

Land must be seeded by May 31.

O'Meara mentioned software was to be available by Feb. 16 to study the 0-92 program in an individual farm plan.

She added the feed grain program payment schedule, based on the maximum \$1.16 payment that could be realized, calls for \$.44 to be paid this spring, \$.28 in March 1989, and a final \$.44 in October 1989.

Greenbelts

Another new option of the conservation reserve program is the ability to include greenbelts or filter strips

in sign-up that runs through Feb. 19.

Whether or not this will be a benefit for many county farmers is uncertain. Bryant described greenbelts as land adjacent and parallel to streams and other bodies of water. These must be at least five acres in size and 66 to 100 feet in width to be eligible for the ten-year program.

Unlike all other land signed in the CRP, these strips will not have to be highly erodible to be eligible, Bryant explained.

Such strips can extend along a stream or lake, for example. As a farmer establishes grass, trees and shrubs, that cover acts as a filter to prevent sediment, he explained.

Field borders are expected to be in greater evidence with conservation farming, Bryant added.

Conservation planning is necessary with both landowners and tenants, Bryant noted.

Farmers who attended the recent meeting will receive first priority in setting up conferences for technical assistance in preparing farm program plans, Bryant said. He noted he is (Please turn to page 13)

Schrodt will be guest speaker for lkes

Dennis Schrodt of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office, Williamsburg, will be the guest speaker at the Iowa County Izaak Walton League meeting Tuesday, March 8. A short business meeting of the League will be at 7:30 p.m. with Schrodt's program scheduled to begin at approximately 8 p.m. in Williamsburg City Hall.

He will be showing short slide presentations on the World Ag Expo and on the services the SCS renders. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Options --

(Continued from page 7)

encouraging farmers to first attend one of these group meetings. More will be held after March 1.

SWCS now has to complete up to four farm plan folders daily, Bryant said. Long-range planning means farmers may remain eligible for government programs.

Brown offered a worksheet for

grain producers to compute projected payments.

A sixth CRP sign-up is taking place through Feb. 19 where landowners may offer sealed bids that state their per acre price for idling land.

USDA decides where to set the limits for bids.

Bryant admits farmers have a host of questions about the government program.



Advanced in essay contest

Two Iowa County students earned honors writing about ground water for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Jessica Yenter, Iowa Valley sophomore, re-

ceived second place in the state competition, while Neal Misbach, Williamsburg seventh grader, placed first in the junior regional contest.



EARNED NEW COOPERATOR TITLE - The VanOtegham brothers - James, John A. (Tony) and Charles, Victor, with Mrs. James VanOtegham

and Mrs. Charles VanOtegham discussed soil saving efforts made on the 80-acre farm they purchased from their father, John VanOtegham, Victor. The

brothers received awards for this division given by the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Service.



Earned Landlord-tenant honors

Dorothy Fullmer, Cedar Rapids, has rented her family farm to the Duane Tankes, Deep River, with aims to annually invest in soil and

water conservation projects. This is the second generation Tanke family to rent the Fullmer land.



Izaak Walton League windbreak winners

The John Koesters III, Williamsburg, were recognized for tree planting at the annual Iowa County

Soil and Water Conservation banquet Nov. 15.

New cooperator views practical benefits of planned soil conservation

By Doris McCartney

Terracing and tiling applied across two farms in English Township have reduced soil erosion for Steve Axmear, North English. Because of the investment and significant results, Axmear, 38, has been named by the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Service, Williamsburg, as the outstanding new cooperator.

Working with the SWCS technician on a cost-sharing program, in 1983 Axmear installed 1,500 feet of terraces and 3,865 feet of tile on a 40-acre field. Located near the dwelling where the family resides, the first major project was to fill a ditch.

In 1987 improvements on a 100-acre farm Axmear purchased from the Pete Club estate included 3,100 feet of terraces and 6,131 feet of tile.

"Actually, all improvements probably stretched further," Axmear suggests.

During this long dry summer, he had to dredge a pond.

Benefits are evident on the 40-acre tract since Axmear developed a cow-calf lot at the north end. Soil erosion has been halted.

A Simmental-Charolais cow-calf herd is a major part of his operation along with crossbred pigs. Besides farrowing, Axmear also buys feeder pigs.

Farming approximately 400 acres, Axmear is finding scanty corn yields in the canyon north of the farmstead. Crops stricken by summer's drought will be harvested as usual as well as field chopped.

The farmstead, hub of the Axmear operation, represents family roots. Steve's mother is one of the owners.

Here Steve and his wife Marvel are rearing two sons and a daughter: Corby, 16, Steven, 9, and Connie, 12.

Axmear feels there is a lot of satisfaction developing conservation practices that emphasize water quality. Closing the ditch on the first project provide a decided advantage for preserving the land.

He says, "There are long term benefits with soil conservation. Even with the 100-year drought we have to be encouraged to see past the crisis with hope."



Build terraces, close ditch

The Steve Axmears, who farm north of North English, are the Soil and Water Conservation Service's new cooperator winners this fall. Axmear

closed a ditch on a 40-acre tract and started a soil saving program on a 100-acre farm the couple bought.

Terraces are tradition on Patterson farm

By Doris McCartney

Terraces spreading across the rolling hills on farms owned by Inez Patterson are an investment for the future, according to members of the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Service District, Williamsburg.

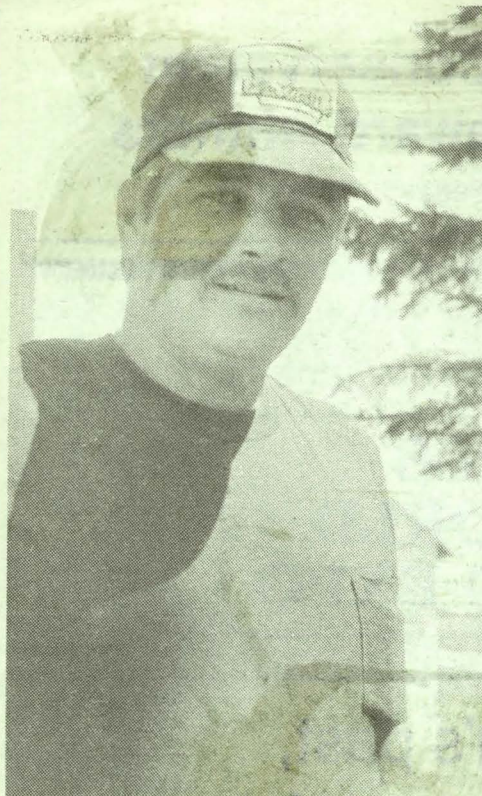
The SWCS commissioners voted this fall to name Patterson the outstanding longtime owner-operator in the contest they sponsor annually.

Patterson's farm in Greene Township

was cited with these improvements: 11,710 feet of tile and 7,900 feet of terraces.

Decades ago, her late father-in-law established the first terraces on the farms. Throughout the years, soil conservation practices have become a tradition.

A former teacher in the Deep River-Millersburg school district, Mrs. Patterson also holds a number of other degrees and consistently pursues post-graduate studies.



Owner builds conservation plan with tenant for future

By Doris McCartney

A long-range soil conservation plan has been developed by Dorothy Fullmer, owner, and Duane Tanke, tenant, since 1983 for a farm in Dayton Township. The Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Service personnel designed the projects to stop soil losses.

The Fullmer-Tanke plan has been recognized by the SWCS commissioners as the owner-tenant category winner this fall.

Fullmer, Cedar Rapids, picked Tanke, 31, Deep River, as tenant after his father had farmed the land previously.

In the last five years, the Fullmer plan for the 160-acre farm in Dayton Township

has been created with 10,550 feet of terraces and 13,492 feet of tile.

Soil saving

Each year the owner has invested approximately \$5,000 in cost-sharing practices. Contracts were handled by Walt James, Millersburg, earth improvement contractor, while other work was done by Reinhart Tiling.

"Soil saving sums up the projects," Duane Tanke declares. "It is rather rewarding for an owner to be concerned about land practices and to agree to participate."

Besides the practical advantages, Tanke has sentimental feelings for the land. He lived on the Fullmer farm 22 years.

When Tanke started farming on his own, he purchased a 20-acre farmstead across the Poweshiek County line, a few miles west. A home site, buildings for a livestock operation, a pond and pasture were the resources he purchased. He farms a total of 500 acres in Iowa County and 400 acres in Poweshiek County.

Conservation is an objective of Tanke. His crops this year included 200 acres of corn, 100 acres pasture, 50 acres hay and 50 acres soybeans. A total of 100 acres were signed to the set-aside program.

While corn planting began April 20, little rain fell before late August.

"Rain always seemed to vanish before it reached the county line," he says. Nor were there any timely rains for weed control.

He maintains a 60 cow-calf Simmental herd. Calves are preconditioned and green-tagged.

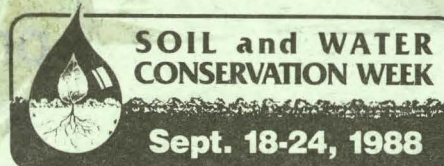
Swine production is maintained with a 30-sow crossbred herd. DeKalb boars are used. Pigs are fed out in older facilities with efficient equipment.

He established grain storage on the farmstead tract which boasts shade trees. This summer a soil erosion project increased the water level of the pond.

Tanke and his wife Tamara have three children: Chad, 5; Chandra, 3, and Chase, 16 months.

Partner in progress

Duane Tanke, Deep River, who farms 500 acres in Iowa County and another 400 acres nearby in Poweshiek County, encouraged land owner Dorothy Fullmer to invest in soil improvements. They are cited as the owner-tenant winner by the Soil and Water Conservation Service this fall.



SWCS award winners are recognized at annual banquet



Continues farm improvements

Inez Patterson, Wellman, a Greene township farmer, received the longtime owner-operator cita-

tion from the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Commission for land improvements.

By Doris McCartney

Recognition for maintaining soil-saving practices highlighted the awards banquet sponsored by the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation Service District Tuesday, Nov. 15. The event was held at the Seven Villages Restaurant, rural Williamsburg.

Named winners of the Izaak Walton League windbreak award were the John W. Koesters III, Williamsburg. The Koesters have established tree plantings on their farm in a long-term effort.

In making the award, Paul Hursh, Marengo, said "Trees offer a great number of benefits. We can expect more than wildlife to be attracted to a well planned tree planting."

In addition Hursh added trees provide lumber, firewood, improved water for the area and improvement for the land. He added before the sodbuster program and the bulldozer for commercialization, trees were established to protect the farmstead.

Recipient of the longtime owner-operator award was Inez Patterson, Wellman, a Greene Township farmer. Robert Faber, Parnell, presented Patterson the plaque and certificate.

Patterson said her late father-in-law, Charlie Patterson, built the first terraces in the area.

"We consider our family, keepers of the land." Ours are not to use nor to abuse," Patterson observed.

Winning the landlord-tenant division were Dorothy Fullmer, Cedar Rapids; and the Duane Tankes, Deep River.

In the last five years, Mrs. Fullmer has invested \$5,000 annually in soil and water improvements on the farm held in her family many years.

Tanke's father had farmed the place for decades. Since Duane began his career, he has been Fullmer's tenant on

the Dayton Township farm. Tanke farms a total of 900 acres in both Iowa and Poweshiek counties.

Fred White, Parnell, presented the Fullmer-Tanke awards.

Recipients of the new cooperator division were the Steve Axmears, North English. Larry Wetjen, Marengo, cited Axmear for improvements in his farm program. The Axmears were not present for the ceremony.

Essays titled, "Groundwater...the hidden resource," were read by the winning participants.

Jessica Yenter, Iowa Valley High School sophomore, daughter of Sharon Roberts, won first in the senior division, county and regional contests. Her entry won second on the state level.

The junior division winner, Neal Misbach, Marengo, a seventh grader at Williamsburg Junior High School, won both county and regional essay contests.

Checks and trophies were presented by Doris McCartney.

Conservation and travel in Australia were shown in a slide program given by Laurena Hammes, Keokuk County Soil and Water conservation commissioner.

Hammes, who has held that post since 1971, also teaches in the English Valleys Elementary School, North English.

Guests included area bankers and soil conservation contractors.

Soil and Water Conservation Service staff, helping to sponsor the event included: Harry Bryant, district conservationist; Anne Tackett and Dennis Schrod, conservationists; Ted Oswald, technician; Julie Hocker, state clerk, and Josie Mullen, Delmar Wetjen and Marilyn Schafbuch cooperative employees.

