

POWESHIEK COUNTY

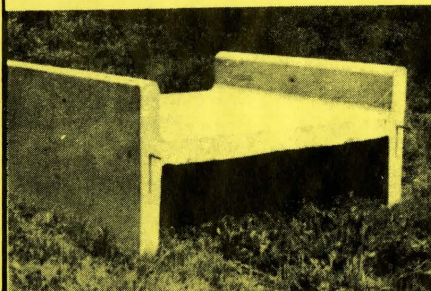


SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

1974

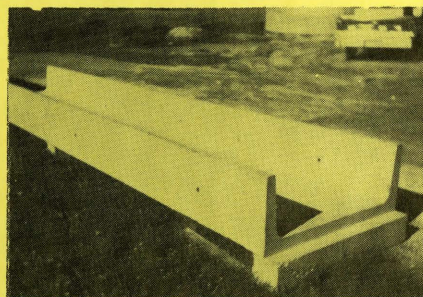
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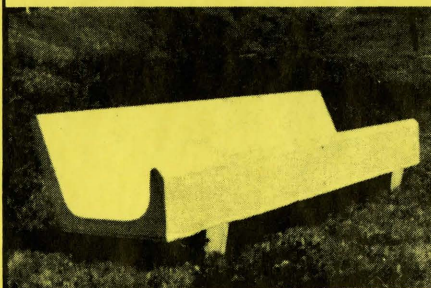


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Groups Who Assist the District

1. Soil Conservation Service
2. State Soil Conservation Committee
3. County A S C S (RECP Program)
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission
6. Federal Fish & Wildlife Service
7. State & National Assn. of District Commissioners
8. Grinnell Kiwanis Club
9. Newspapers
10. Radio & TV Stations
11. County Board of Supervisors
12. Contractors
13. Vocational Agriculture
14. 4-H Clubs
15. Boy Scouts
16. Public Schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. F H A
21. Professional & Business personnel
22. Izaak Walton League
23. N F O



[L to R] SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE—Andrew Conn, Jr., Conservation Technician; Jane Rutherford, Clerk, Protom; Virgil B. Edwards, District Conservationist.



SOIL SCIENTISTS—[L to R] Douglas Oelmann; Lorne Nestrud, Party Chief; and Elmer Harvey.

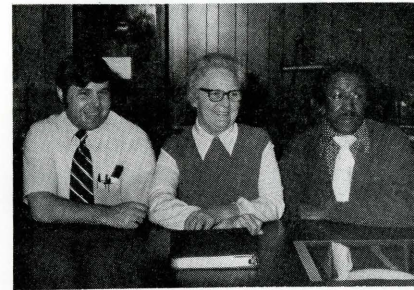


COMMISSIONERS—Seated: [L to R] Lauren Wright, Mrs. Keith (Gloria) Brannian, Commissioner and Mrs. Robert (Helen) Renaud, Assistant Commissioner. Standing: [L to R] Charles Fenner, Commissioner Miles Clayton, Chairman, Carl Boget, Commissioner and Ken Christiansen, Assistant Commissioner.

District Commissioners wish to extend a special thanks to the Area personnel for their assistance which includes: A. Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist; Marvin Parmer, Civil Engineer; Francis W. Vos, Civil Engineer Technician; Wilma D. Kimball, Area Clerk.

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Areas Of Concentration

The wise use of land for all human purposes has been at the core of the Conservation District movement since its inception. It is the opinion of this association throughout the United States that we are guiding our work more closely on land-related problems in the decades ahead. Furthermore, as critical problems are singled out for attention, it is essential that the extent of District participation in programs designed to help solve these problems must be defined rather exactly.

Upon consideration of the nature and extent of resource problems facing the nation today, the legislative authorities possessed by Conservation Districts and the expertise and experience available through districts and our cooperating agencies, the Committee has suggested that in the decades ahead the governing officials of Conservation Districts concentrate their efforts in the following fields in order to protect and develop our land and other natural resources for sustained use:

The prevention and control of non-point source pollution. This includes the prevention of soil erosion and the control of pollution from sediment, storm water run-off, pesticides and herbicides, fertilizer nutrients and animal wastes.

We as District Commissioners will seek the widest possible authority in this field consistent with conditions and organizational arrangements prevailing in our state. We feel we should be responsible for reviewing and approving conservation and sediment control plans upon which regulatory actions are based.

Comprehensive resource management on a watershed basis. We are happy to announce the completion of Diamond Lake Watershed last September which our organization helped sponsor. We are very pleased with the support we received from our people. We are sure there will be further conservation practices applied within the watershed in the future. We are looking in other areas of the county for other potential watershed projects.

The improvement of the management of private, non-industrial forest lands. We are promoting and providing educational and technical assistance along with cost-share to improve and increase the acreage of forest land. We are happy to have been chosen a Forestry Incentive Area, which assists 75% of cost to improve and increase acres of forest land through the RECP program.

The incorporation of conservation and environmental education in our school curriculums. This includes instruction about all natural resources in both classroom and outdoor education. We are promoting this endeavor. We have been providing technical assistance in materials helpful to reach this objective and we will continue to do so.

Land use planning: we are participating fully in land use decision making process and we will make available resource inventories, soils information and interpretations as well as other technical assistance when requested. We are geared to support growth in our county by helping to preserve our natural resources.

Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District

Miles Clayton, Chairman

Charles Fenner, Commissioner

Lauren Wright, Commissioner

Carl Boget, Commissioner

Mrs. Keith (Gloria) Brannian, Commissioner

Mrs. Robert (Helen) Renaud, Asst. Commissioner

Kenneth Christiansen, Asst. Commissioner

During the past few years one of our favorite activities has been working with Poweshiek County young people through Conservation education. It's always fun and rewarding, whether the group involves Grade Schools, Junior High or Senior High students.

Some may ask why work with youth when they aren't making decisions? The answer is because today's youth will make tomorrow's resource management decisions. Certainly better decisions and wise use of our resources will result if these future leaders are well trained in proper resource management.

One of our best conservation education tools is the slide presentation given in the classroom with follow-up on a conservation tour by our District Conservationist - this seems to really "turn them on", according to our D.C. We have several sites around the county that can be used for outdoor classrooms on private land as well as county owned land.

We started an outdoor classroom at Grinnell Senior High but did not get off the ground due to lack of interest by the right people.

We have the Fox Farm, south of Diamond Lake area which is well suited for outdoor study and would be available for any school or organization if we could motivate the County Conservation Board.

The reason for this motivation which we as commissioners have is because we believe in education of our natural resources.

Mrs. Gloria Brannian
District Commissioner

Editor's note: Mrs. Brannian is retiring after serving six years on the Poweshiek County Soil Conservation Board as Asst. Commissioner for 2 years and 4 years as an elected Commissioner.

District Conservationist Highlights

Looking back at 1974 activities and conservation, progress doesn't seem to be too impressive when we think of soil loss. As you know, soil erosion in the spring of 1974 in Iowa was the worst it had been in nearly 25 years, according to some scientists.

Some of our reports show that about 5-1/2 million acres of the state's 20.7 million acres of corn and soybean land suffered severe erosion (more than 10 tons an acre). The report shows that 1.1 million acres were flooded; 570,000 acres of cropland could not produce a crop because of severe erosion or flooding and another 1.5 million acres of cropland was expected to yield no better than half a crop.

More than a third of the state was declared a disaster area because of floods which contributed soil loss. In some areas up to 50 tons an acre were not uncommon, there were some areas reported up to 200 tons an acre.

Our rainstorms came in May and June when fields were worked up for planting - this is the worst time of year for heavy rain storms. We checked some fields and found as much as 12 inches of top soil had covered a bean crop along waterways that should have been grassed.

Straight row farming suffered the worst soil loss. Besides soil loss, seed, fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides were also lost and deposited into our rivers and lakes.

Despite the devastating soil losses, there were signs of encouragement. In Poweshiek County there are 40 or more conservation tillage (no-till-type machines) being used. Farmers who left good cover of cornstalks and other crop residues on the surface stopped erosion on gently sloping land.

We checked some terraces and found in some areas 4 inches of soil had moved around the terrace intakes which lessens the water holding capacity of the terrace.

We got a tremendous response from our farmers - they were aware of the soil loss and were concerned in using conservation measures to prevent this occurrence from happening again.

Farmers are encouraged to increase their crop acreage again this year. We are encouraging farmers to think conservation if they are to increase acreage. Use conservation tillage and farm on the contour. Land that's not suited for cropland put it back to grass or hay crop.

We are here to serve our cooperators. Give us a call or drop in and visit us.

Virgil B. Edwards,
District Conservationist

Agricultural Stabilization And Conservation Service

The Poweshiek County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers the farm programs in the county.

ASCS is unique in that locally elected committeemen determine the policy for administration of public funds.

All provisions of the various programs are carried out by regularly employed personnel who administer the program policies established by the elected committeemen.

Processing of Price Support Loans, administering the Feed Grain program, providing loans for on-farm storage and dryers, and providing information and funds for farmers participating in the Rural Environmental Conservation Program which includes Long Term Conservation Agreements and Forestry Incentive Plans are some of the programs for which ASCS has responsibility.

The Poweshiek County ASC Committee consists of Melvin Kasal, chairman, Lloyd McBride, Vice Chairman, and Warren Dee, regular member.



ASCS PERSONNEL—Front Row: [L to R] Mary Van Gorp - Price Support and Frances Schlesselman, Administrative and RECP. Second Row: [L to R] Gordon Braley - County Executive Director, Roger Johannes, Production Management.

Conservation Award Winners



Conservation Award winners for 1974 are Mr. and Mrs. Ross Mintle who live 7 miles north of Malcom on Highway #63, in Sheridan Township. The Mintles own and operate 160 acres.

Terraces, contour strip cropping, maintaining good grass waterways along with providing places for wildlife habitat are practices which the Mintles have been following for many years.

Besides practicing good conservation the Mintles found time to participate in many community affairs like being a Grange member for 32 years. Mr. Mintle is the Master of Sheridan Grange 1973-74 and is a member of the Elks Club. He has served as a member of the Poweshiek Mutual Insurance Association board and a member of the Malcom Farmer's Cooperative, as well as on the Farmers Home Administrative Board. Mr. Mintle has also served on the Township Committee of the ASCS and served 12 years on the County School Board. Mrs. Mintle has served with the neighborhood WAW in Chester, Grant and Sheridan Townships.

The Mintles are members of the Grinnell Methodist Church. They have raised four children, Mrs. Marvin (Mary) Shotwell, Dennis and Steve Mintle all of Evergreen, Colorado, and Michael Mintle of Malcom and they have 11 grandchildren.

The Grinnell Kiwanis Club honored the Mintles at a special Recognition Luncheon in September of 1974.

The Soil Conservation Awards Program is an annual event sponsored jointly by the Des Moines Register and Tribune, Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners, State Soil Conservation Committee, Iowa State University, Extension Service, State Department of Agriculture, Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, Iowa Conservation Education Council and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. There are three different categories that winners can be picked from but only one category was picked. This program is for any family that is practicing good soil and water conservation on their land.

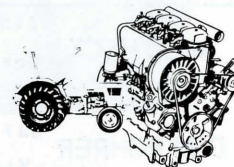
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Picture on cover: An erosion control structure and contour strip cropping in background. Farm is owned by Royce and Dorothy Renaud and farmed by Robert Renaud. The Renaud families are District Cooperators and recipients of the 1972 Conservation Award in Landlord and Tenant Division.

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ENG MEMORANDUM IOWA 13 - states erosion control measures such as terraces, diversions and temporary seeding and mulching should be encouraged under PL-46 programs, (local, federal and state cost-share), as needed to control erosion and downstream pollution during construction and to enhance the establishment and maintenance of permanent vegetation.

Permanent seeding and/or sodding operations will be carried out as soon as feasible after grading work is completed. Necessary repair of areas damaged following completion of grading work will be accomplished prior to seeding and sodding operations.

We are pleased with the cooperation we received from cooperators this past year in getting our structures seeded, fertilized and mulched. Last year's experience proved that this operation is essential to keep soil in place until a grass crop can establish itself.



Picture shows Al Meacham, Cooperator, on tractor spreading straw over recently built structure after has been seeded. Al lives in Washington Township, Section 4, 4 miles south of Grinnell.



Fertilizing and seeding soon after construction is essential. To support good plant growth it normally takes double the recommended amount of fertilizer on areas where all top soil has been taken away.

Miles Clayton, Commissioner and Cooperator is seen seeding his structure shortly after construction. Andrew Conn, SCS Technician, is checking seeding to assure good seed coverage.

Think 30



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Friends of the Soil Honor Roll

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 - 1950 - Albert Pleshek
 - 1952 - Myron and Richard Sears
 - 1953 - George Norden, A. L. Leydens, Elmer Dunnick, Kenneth L. Dieterich
 - 1954 - Wayne Reams, Harry Edelen, Arnold Bastian
 - 1955 - Lewis Schultz, Earl Fowler, Robert McWilliams, Dean McWilliams
 - 1956 - Gerrit Septer, Jean Cavell, Miles Clayton, Raymond Vogt
 - 1957 - Arthur Bloome, Janet Wilkins, Calvin Korn, Paul DeJong
 - 1958 - Lawrence Wallis, Forrest Read, Keith Davis, Gilbert Phipps
 - 1959 - Alvin and Don Schuldt, Louis Newkirk, Paul Hudnutt
 - 1960 - Waldo and Harold McLenathan, Bebedict Peterson, Milferd Neuhaus, Elmer Urfer
 - 1961 - James Van Arkle, Mrs. Harold Evans, Vern Brooke, George Morrison
 - 1962 - David Anthony*, Louis Newkirk, Edward Henry, Philip C. Eichhorn
 - 1963 - Ed Lowe*, Roger Sampson*, Bryon Goldwaite, Marvin Montgomery, George Houser
 - 1964 - Melvin Price*, Julia Vogt, Wesley Meyers, Lauren Wright
 - 1965 - Arlo Taylor, Henry Rolffs, Elizabeth Revyuk Estate, Frank and Madeleine Herbrandt
 - 1966 - Eugene Merck, Philip Lamb*, Charles De Pauw*, Arnout Dunnick
 - 1967 - Marion Palmer, E. L. York Estate, Earl Heishman, Charles Fenner
 - 1968 - Ralph Phillips, Richard Seeland*, Charles Fenner*, Donald Brau
 - 1969 - Patricia Waterbury, Leonard Thys, Sylvan VeVerka, Raymond Cadden
 - 1970 - Clarence Van Wyk*, C. R. McLain, Howard Johnson, Raymond Gregory, John Thompson
 - 1971 - Richard Widmer, George Morrison
 - 1972 - Robert Renaud, Dorothy and Royce Renaud, Arnout Dunnick
 - 1973 - Farrell Seihl
 - 1974 - Ross Mintle
- *Region VII Sweepstakes Winners also.

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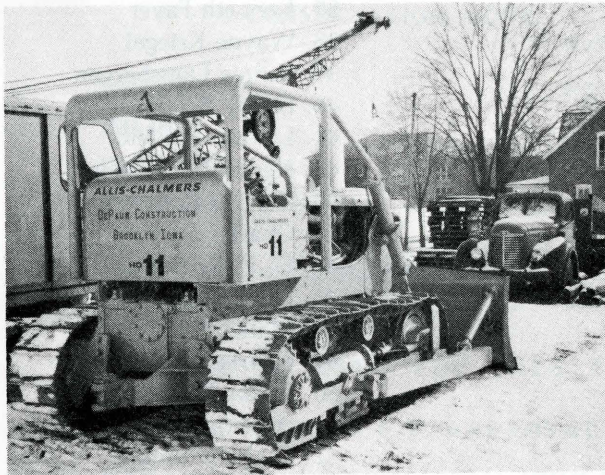
Searsboro: 593-2211

Sully: 594-3740

New District Cooperators for 1974

1. Melvin Kasel
2. Vernon Van Wyk
3. George Paul
4. Richard Steinke
5. Charles Lusher
6. C. E. Long
7. Charles De Pauw
8. Richard Lusby
9. Eugene Arment
10. LaVerne Hanssen
11. Donald Read
12. Cam Dhooge
13. Donald Sarver
14. Bill Tinkle
15. Russell Winburn
16. Clarence Scobee
17. Dr. W. H. Bower
18. Gysbert Braaksma
19. Wayne Sterk
20. John VanderWeerd
21. Don Gould
22. Wade Shifflett
23. Shirley Hostens
24. Norman Nikkel
25. Ronald Lowry
26. Irene Mackin
27. Madeline Harris
28. Curtis Ferneau
29. Larry Criswell
30. Sylvan Veverka
31. Dan Dawley
32. Raymond Powell
33. Tri County Feeder Pig Corp.
34. David King
35. Dale Hall
36. Russell Adkins
37. Kenneth Fayer
38. Wayne Kriegel
39. Bennie Dunsbergen
40. LeRoy Brubaker
41. LaVern Ranfeld
42. Herman Schroder
43. Marvin Root
44. Charles Papesh
45. G. P. Rockwell
46. Larry Huff
47. Mabel Keller
49. Charles Goodrich
50. Julian DeGeeter
51. Annetta Latcham
52. Carl Cummings
53. George Jones
54. John Johnston
56. Robert Henning
57. Howard Grieder
58. Don Huedepohl
59. James Eichhorn
60. L. R. Emmert
61. L. R. Emmert
62. L. R. Emmert
63. Glenn Dexter
64. Duane Tiefenthaler
65. Gerald Devine
66. Frederick Everette
67. Esther Everette
68. Ray Tokel
69. Wayne Haworth
70. Fred Van Renterghem
71. J. M. Campbell
72. Charles Arnaman
73. Karen Goldhizen
74. Don McKee

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Basic Conservation Plans for 1974

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Leslie Steele | 10. Eldon Speas |
| 2. Clarence Van Zee | 11. LaVerne Hanssen |
| 3. Vernon Van Wyk | 12. George Paul |
| 4. Charles Lusher | 13. Lyle Johnson |
| 5. Afton Gause | 14. Larry Criswell |
| 6. Richard Steinke | 15. Glenn Thompson |
| 7. Charlie Seaton | 16. Richard Woodworth |
| 8. Gerald Grosenbach | 17. Rae Van Roekel |
| 9. Donald McKee | 18. Charles De Pauw |

Revised Conservation Plans for 1974

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Frank Helm | 5. Cornie Sterk |
| 2. Robert Haworth | 6. Donald McKee |
| 3. Ed Hudnutt | 7. Fred McKee |
| 4. Lyle & Larry Sanders | |

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Accomplishment Summary for 1974

	NO	UNIT OF MEASURE
New District Cooperators	74	13,489 Ac.
Basic Conservation Plans	18	2,966 Ac.
Revised Conservation Plans	7	1,597 Ac.
Group Plans Prepared	3	
Strip Cropping		67 Ac.
Grassed Waterway		24.6 Ac.
Wildlife Habitat Development		10.5 Ac.
Ponds Built	2	
Terraces		8,530 L. Ft.
Diversions		1,550 L. Ft.
Gully Control Structures	9	
Water Control Structure (for tile outlet terrace) ..	23	
Tile Drains		322,525 L. Ft.
Tree Planting		10 Ac.
Pasture and Hayland Planting		248 Ac.
Disposal Lagoon	1	
Mulching		7 Ac.
Critical Area Planting		9 Ac.



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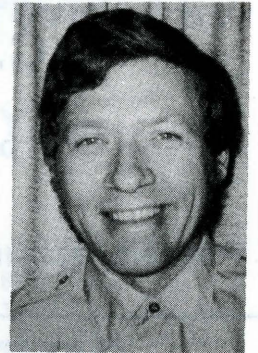
Barnes City, Iowa

Technical Assistance On Wildlife Management

"If you would just stock some pheasants around my place....," or "If you would just close the pheasant season for a year or two..."

These are typical expressions of concerned citizens in many areas when a discussion of declining pheasant populations arises.

Unfortunately these techniques by themselves have never resulted in a permanent increase in pheasant populations. Artificial stocking programs were used extensively by most game and fish departments 25 to 50 years ago in the hope that man could beat Mother Nature at her own game.



Game farms produced and released thousands of game birds each year, but few of these birds survived long enough to produce offspring of their own. Stocking programs usually failed because the existing remnants of wildlife cover were already saturated with the maximum number of wild birds that the area could support.

Improvement of existing wildlife cover has proven far more productive than the release of additional brood stock.

Most forms of wildlife, including pheasants, are capable of producing large numbers of offspring every year - providing suitable habitat is available. Farmers who really want to see more pheasants and other wildlife around their farms must protect existing wildlife cover, modify current farming practices and develop areas specifically for wildlife. More undisturbed nesting cover and winter cover are two important needs of wildlife that should be improved in this area.

Wildlife Biologists assist landowners on planting trees, shrubs and cover crops beneficial to wildlife, and are also involved with research necessary to learn more about the needs of wildlife. We also speak to all types of adult and youth groups, and even help city residents attract birds and wildlife to their backyards. If you are a landowner interested in obtaining technical assistance for increasing wildlife on your land, or desire information on farm pond stocking, contact me.

If you are a teacher or group leader, I will be glad to present programs on a large variety of topics relating to wildlife management, current projects of interest in this area and opportunities in the field of wildlife conservation. I can also help design plantings for your yard which will benefit wildlife. Do you have another question relating to wildlife in anyway? Get in touch with me and I will assist you in the best way I can. You can also reach me through the SCS, ASCS, or county extension office in your area. For free technical assistance write to me at the USDA Building, 203 West High Street, Toledo, Iowa 52342.

Bob Kurtt

Wildlife Management Biologist

23 Iowa Conservation Commission

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Expenditure of Funds Provided by State of Iowa 1973 - 1974 Fiscal Year

I-M BUDGET		\$1200.00
Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	\$520.88	
Office Expense	472.19	
Office Supplies	40.66	
Printing	23.50	1,057.23
	Balance	\$ 142.77

II-M BUDGET		\$10,725.00
Gross Earnings (Clerk & Technicians)	\$5,479.51	
State Retirement	191.78	
Federal	320.55	
Health	180.00	
Clerk's Travel	76.88	
Equipment	57.00	
Life Insurance	33.00	6,338.72
	Balance	\$ 4,386.28

III-M BUDGET [State Cost-Share Funds]		\$23,400.00
Amount approved and disbursed		
for conservation practices	\$ 1,926.50	
Amount approved pending completion	18,556.52	20,483.02
	Balance	\$ 2,916.98

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Poweshiek County Forestry Program 1974

In 1974, there were 8,200 tree and shrub seedlings delivered to Poweshiek County for reforestation and wildlife benefits. This is down slightly from the 9,250 planted in 1973. More tree planting is necessary in Poweshiek County, and should be considered in future years. The eight-county Marshalltown forestry district has averaged 200,000 seedlings per year for the last two years, which is an average of 25,000 seedlings per county.

Spring and summer insect and disease requests remain similar year to year. The most prevalent disease problem since a slackening of interest in Dutch elm disease is needle blight of Austrian pine. Also affected are Norway (red) pine, and Scotch pine. Spider mites on spruce or cedar are not infrequent insect problems. Anthracnose (leaf blight) was common on sycamore, maples, and some of the oaks in 1974, and should be expected again in 1975. In addition, instances of tree damage from herbicides or fertilizers could be seen. Livestock damage to mature trees and tree seedlings remains the number one problem in Poweshiek County.

Fall and winter timber harvest remains constant, with walnut still in high demand. However, with a slow economy both here and abroad, prices for export quality veneer trees have dropped. The domestic market has held steady or made slight advances.

The Excess Federal Property Program, administered by the Forestry Section of the Iowa Conservation Commission, continues to make excess military vehicles available to rural fire departments. Montezuma and Deep River have vehicles obtained through this program, and could provide information to other towns needing additional equipment.

Forestry and good forest management can show strong economic and aesthetic returns. For assistance, contact your District Forester through your SCS, ASCS, or County Extension Office, or write direct to:

Bob Hibbs
District Forester
Box 681
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158



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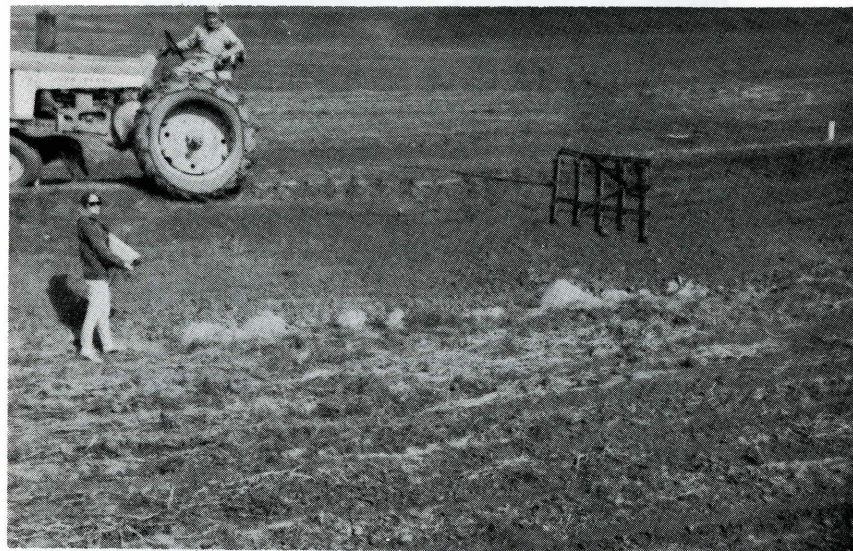
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Tile outlet terraces are effective soil and water conservation practices for use on intensively row cropping and is normally built on the better productive soils which range in percent slopes from 5 to 11 percent in Poweshiek County. As machinery has become larger terraces have been designed to fit the large machines and narrow row width. Many times the new parallel seeded backslope terraces with tile outlets can be built in a way that a lot of kinks and curves can be eliminated thereby doing away with many of the point rows that have created farming problems in the past.

These new terraces alone may not bring the soil loss within its capability, conservation tillage may be needed to help keep soil in place.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haworth are shown seeding the back slopes of their terrace system, Spring 1974. The Haworths built 5330 feet on their 160 farm. Mr. and Mrs. Haworth live in Jackson Township, Sec. 26, 3-1/2 miles northeast of Barnes City.

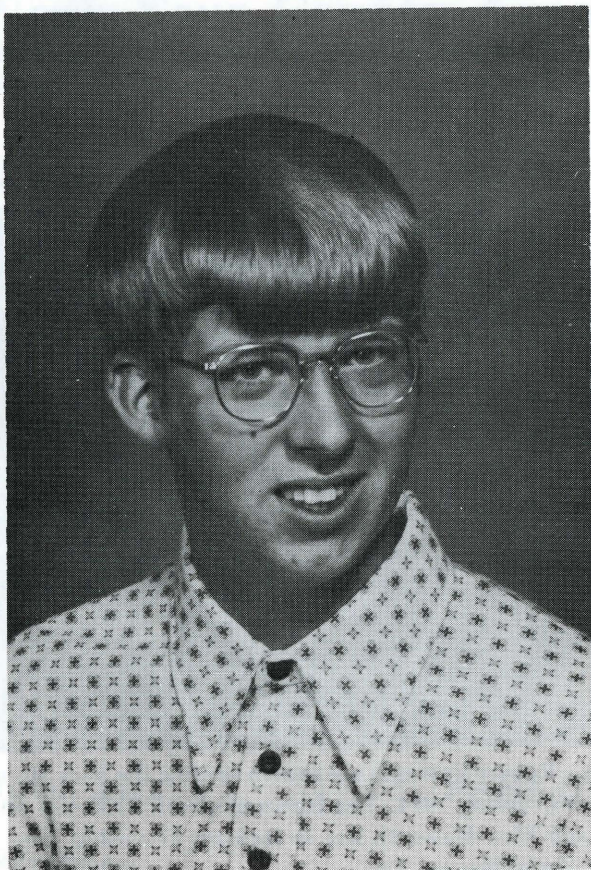
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Gene Edelen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Edelen, RR 3, Grinnell, represented Poweshiek County in the Regional Speech Contest conducted in July. The contest is co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, and the subject was "Land Use Policy — A Pattern for Prosperity". Gene attends Grinnell Senior High where he is a member of the Varsity Choir and FFA. He has received awards during 1974 in 4-H in Bicycle, Merit, Photography and Citizenship. He is also enrolled in the Baby Beef Project.

State Cost-Share

The Iowa General Assembly enacted legislation in July 1973 to provide funds to share the cost of installing permanent soil and water conservation practices on agricultural land. The Cost-Share funds are appropriated to the State Department of Soil Conservation. These funds are administered locally by County Soil Conservation Districts.

The first owner to complete a practice and receive cost-share assistance under this program in Poweshiek County was Edward Peak.

The picture shows Charlene Mitchell, District Clerk, presenting check to Edward Peak, Cooperator. Ed owns several farms in Poweshiek and Jasper counties. He is aware of how important it is to keep the soil at home and he plans to build more terraces in the future.



1974 Annual Report

Soil Survey Staff Comments

The Soil Survey Party has completed 102,560 acres that covers most of the western tier of townships. The party consists of Lorne Nestrud, party leader, assisted by Elmer Harvey and D. Oelmann.

Soil surveys will continue mainly on the upland flat areas that extends from west to east until July. After July soil surveys will be in the southwest and south central part of the county. We hope to exceed 100,000 acres for 1975.

Soil scientists probe and study to determine various soil types, ground slopes and degree of erosion. A soil survey provides basic facts for management of soils for most efficient and profitable production and urban development.

Nearly all problems connected with the use of land for any purpose — for farming, for building structures, establishment of industry, highway design and railroads — are closely connected with the properties and qualities of the soil.

Detailed study of the soils — in the field and laboratory — has given the soil scientist much valuable information as to the character of soil problems so that proper design and management can be used.

There are many kinds of questions that the soil scientist can answer when he has made a survey of the soil resources of a given area such as:

What soils will shrink and swell under a foundation or a cement slab?

How rapidly does this soil erode?

What trees will grow in this soil?

Conservation planning is knowing where to keep grass or trees, what soils are best suited for cultivation, etc. With a soil survey the proper guidance is available to achieve the best answers to soil problems.

The kinds of soils also greatly influence the placing and building of recreational facilities such as tennis courts, golf courses, ball parks, camp grounds, and fish ponds.

Other uses of soil survey information include wildlife management, land evaluation and assessments, and many other engineering uses.

by Lorne M. Nestrud

The Poweshiek County Standard Soil Survey began in 1973. Not much got done that first year, only 30,000 acres surveyed. Today 102,560 acres have been surveyed. Field review is essential each year to keep in tune with the latest information available to Soil Scientists. Field Review consists of Soil Scientists from Iowa State University and SCS State advisors to look at difficult soils and together solve the identity. Sometimes further study is needed at the laboratory in Ames to clarify soil class.

The picture shows Soil Scientists looking at a particular profile located in Grant Township during field review last summer.



District Highlights for 1974

JANUARY:

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend annual Short Course, Ames.

FEBRUARY:

Helen Renaud and Ken Christiansen appointed Assistant Commissioners.

Annual contractors meeting.

MARCH:

Region VII Commissioners Meeting at Colony Village, Poweshiek SCD Commissioners and Clerk attend.

ASCS Staff and Committeemen meet with SCD Commissioners.

APRIL:

County Conservation Speech Contest, Malcom SCD Office.

Art Poster Contest in local schools.

MAY:

Soil Stewardship Week.

Teachers Workshop at Diamond Lake.

JUNE:

Conservation Achievement Award tour to select award farm.

Ross Mintle winner of Conservation Achievement Award, Division 1, Poweshiek County.

Mrs. Mary Ferguson, Elementary teacher in Montezuma school, attends Teachers Conservation Camp, North Scott Community School, Eldridge, Iowa.

JULY:

First Long Term Agreement signed with Frank Helm.

Regional Speech Contest at Amana Colony, Gene Edelen the Poweshiek County entrant.

AUGUST:

First state Cost-Share payment to Ed Peak.

Report from Mrs. Mary Ferguson on Teachers Conservation Camp.

SCD staff conduct 4-farm tour demonstrating 4 different farming operations to members of Chamber of Commerce.

SEPTEMBER:

Commissioners and Clerk attend Commissioners Conference, Ft. Dodge.

Kiwanis Award Luncheon for Ross Mintle.

Soil Conservation Week.

Diamond Lake Watershed project completed.

ASCS Committeemen meet with SCD Commissioners.

OCTOBER:

Report from State Conference at Ft. Dodge.

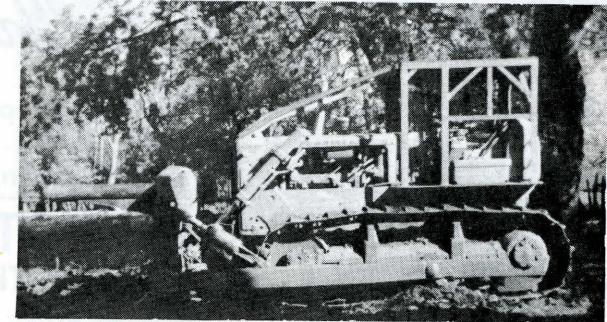
DECEMBER:

Area meeting in Newton, District Conservationist and Technician attend.

SCD Staff and families Christmas Party, Carnforth Inn.

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Long Term Agreements

Under Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP) is a new concept of Long-Term Agreements (LTA) developed for controlling soil erosion on farmland. A Long-Term Agreement is a contract with the Federal Government where the landowner is agreeing to have the soil erosion on his farm at a tolerable limit by the end of the agreement. LTA's offer the farmer the option of planning and applying conservation practices with cost-sharing over a period of 3-10 years.

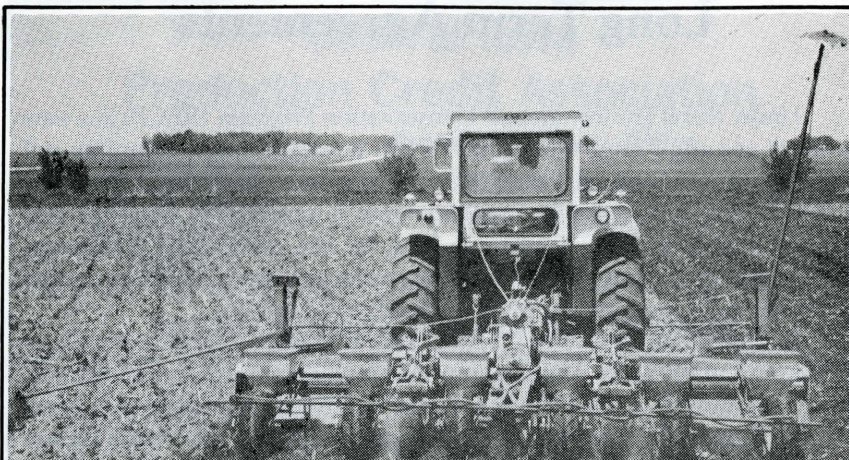
Several advantages of an LTA is that it insures Federal Cost-Share funds for conservation whether or not farm programs change in the next few years and the whole farm is programmed for conservation measures.

As long as we have a state Cost-Share program it allows the farmer to receive another 25 percent which leaves the farmer 25 percent of the total Cost-Share to pay.

LTA's also help the landowner to plan on how he will pay his share of costs and allow him to line up a contractor ahead of the planned work.



Signer of the first long-term conservation agreement in Poweshiek County were Frank and Carol Helm of Montezuma. Mr. and Mrs. Helm are shown standing in the front yard of their home three miles north of Montezuma with their three sons, Steve, Doug and Bradley. The agreement is part of the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program of ASCS. Mr. and Mrs. Helm own 164 acres.



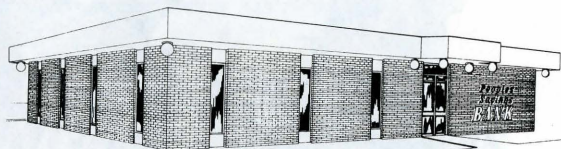
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Farmers Home Administration

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

Individual Homeownership Loans:

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

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

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

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

Repair and Rehabilitation Housing Loans:

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

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

Conditional Commitments to Builders:

Purpose: To encourage quantity building in rural areas.

For: Public agencies or nonprofit corporations.

Farm Ownership Loans:

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

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

Farm Operating Loans:

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

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

Farm Emergency Loans:

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

For: Eligible farmers, ranchers and oyster planters.

Soil and Water Conservation Loans:

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

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

Byron Witt
Supervisor



Farmers Home Administration Personnel:

Left to right: Janice Reinig and Karlene Foreman, Clerks Nick Leuschen & Byron Witt, Supervisor.

Extension Service

The Extension Service is the educational arm of Iowa State University. Its purpose is to bring the results of studies and research conducted at Iowa State University to the people in the county. The assistance of the Extension Service is available to all the people of the county, both rural and urban; without regard to race, color or religion.

The cooperative Extension Service is set up so Iowa State University at Ames and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperate in the educational endeavor.

The educational program has been modernized to include work with the low income groups. Keith Vincent is the present representative in the Expanded Nutrition Program. He works in Jasper and Poweshiek Counties in the areas of better diets and counseling.

The County Extension Council, made up of one representative elected from each township and the city of Grinnell, together with committees on agricultural production, home economics, 4-H, community development, and public affairs, plan a yearly program to suit the educational needs of the people of the county.

The County Extension Director, Charles Wenger; Home Economist, Kathryn Wemer; and 4-H and Youth Leader, David Wagner, have had training at Iowa State University and are approved and recommended for positions in the county by the State Extension Staff. With the help of specialists and supervisors from this staff, we are responsible for the planning and execution of the county program.

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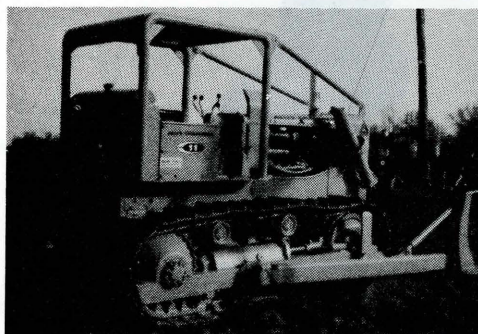
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