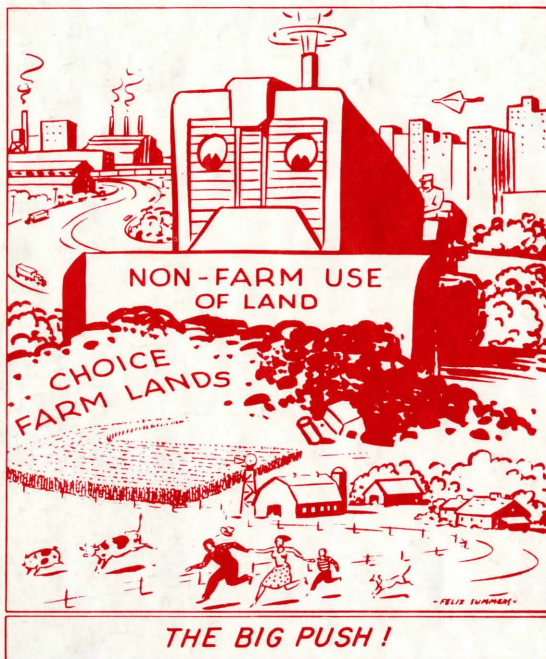


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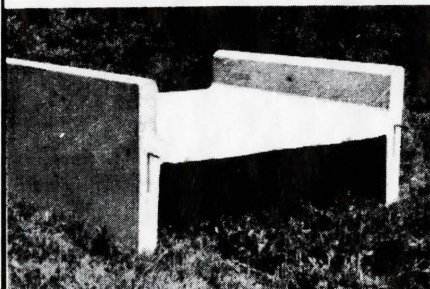
POWESHIEK COUNTY



Soil Conservation District Annual Report 1977

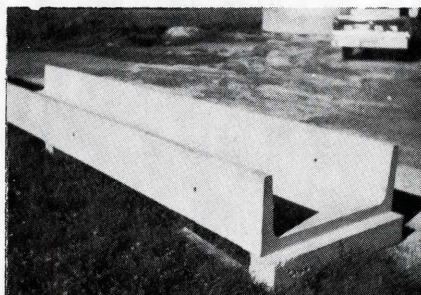
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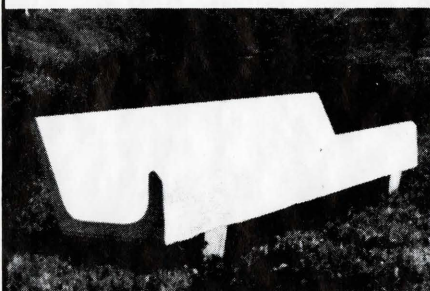
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Groups Who Assist the District

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

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE- (L to R): Ed Fenner, Soil Conservation Technician (WAE), Carol McCain, clerk, David W. Kudej, District Conservationist, and Robert Malin, Engineering Aide II.



COMMISSIONERS-
Seated: (L to R) Charles Fenner, Chairman and Lauren Wright, Commissioner. Standing: (L to R) Mrs. Robert (Helen) Renaud, Commissioner, Loren Roorda, Commissioner and Miles Clayton, Commissioner. Absent: 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 Palmer, Civil Engineer; Francis W. Vos, Civil Engineer Technician; Wilma D. Kimball, Area Clerk.

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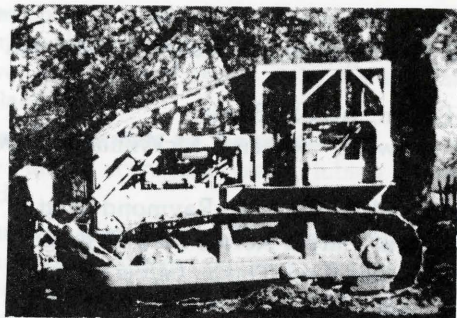


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Warm Season Grasses for Summer Grazing

Native, warm season grasses once grazed by wild buffalo in Iowa are making a comeback.

They are called warm season grasses because peak production is reached during the hot summer months of July and August. Switchgrass, Indiangrass, and big bluestem are being tested by a growing number of cattle producers as a possible solution to midyear pasture shortages.

The grasses green up late in May and are in full production by early July. Bromegrass, orchardgrass, and other cool season grasses taper off at this time.

Farmers are trying the grasses mostly on a small —a little over 1000 acres have been seeded, much of it last year. While most are still cautious in using the grasses, they like what they've seen so far.

Management is critical. In fact, they are not recommended to farmers who tend to overgraze.

Native grasses have to be allowed to build food reserves in their roots, so they shouldn't be grazed closer than 10 to 12 inches above the ground. This means taking only half the plant (by weight); it may be tempting to graze more, but it could ruin your stand and yield the following year.

Actually, following the take half, leave half principle for warm season grasses in July and August produces as much usable forage as cool season grasses do early and late in the growing season. If you turn cattle into pasture about July 1, as recommended, the grass should be about 1½ to 2 feet tall.

Experience is limited on the best ratio of cool season to warm season grass pastures; most farmers trying them say it takes 30% to 40% as many warm season grass acres as cool season for balanced pasture production. You could expect to graze 2 or 3 mature cows per acre on warm season grasses in the summer with proper management.

Weeds can be a problem in getting a stand established. Farmers have found the grasses get off to a good start if they use a herbicide in mid-May to control competing growth. If they don't control weeds in the establishment year, it usually takes another year before the grasses are ready to graze.

Fertilizer helps on established stands, if it's used in late May when the warm season grasses can best use it. Warm season grasses respond to nitrogen as do cool season grasses.

Warm season grasses aren't a sure cure for pasture problems, and aren't designed to take the place of cool season grasses. They can help level forage production thru the grazing season. Instead of feast in June and famine in August, integration of the 2 types of pasture plants can give cattle a steady diet all season.

David W. Kudej
District Conservationist

Agricultural Stabilization And Conservation Service

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

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 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) are some of the programs for which ASCS has responsibility. Their office phone number is 528-4115.

The Poweshiek County ASC Committee consists of Evan Johnston, chairman, Jack Grier, Vice Chairman, and Ernest Swanson, regular member.



ASCS PERSONNEL-(L to R) Frances Schlesselman, Administrative and ACP, Gordon Braley, County Executive Director, and Roger Johannes, Production Adjustment and Price Support.



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| 2. Ned Vande Stouwe | 33. Ed Peak, Jr. |
| 3. Dennis Latcham | 34. Daniel Lee Parmley |
| 4. Vincent E. Johnson II | 35. Hansen Bros. |
| 5. Virgil E. Adams | 36. Chief Alfalfa, Inc. |
| 6. Russell Dale Winburn | 37. Roger D. Roland |
| 7. Bernadette A. Manly | 38. Gemignani & Paulson |
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| 10. Carl E. Altemeier | 41. George Graham |
| 11. J. Ray Lang | 42. Glen Dillman |
| 12. Ray C. Tokle | 43. Leo E. Sonka, Jr. |
| 13. L. L. Brown | 44. F.W. Tomasek |
| 14. Floyd Doty | 45. Duane L. Loftin |
| 15. Ellsworth Hudnutt | 46. Manly E. Lillie |
| 16. Lyle D. Root | 47. William A. Terbell |
| 17. Ellery W. Vermace | 48. Robert F. Timm |
| 18. Claire Wemer | 49. Larry & Roger Loftin |
| 19. Anthony A. Kriegel | 50. Farrell Johnson |
| 20. Homer L. McDonough | 51. Iona Johnson |
| 21. Maynard Hutchinson | 52. Daniel L. Parmley |
| 22. Frank D. Helm | 53. Gerald Devine |
| 23. S.W.P.N. Farms | 54. Dennis Latcham |
| 24. Gordon Braley | 55. Craig A. Bloethe |
| 25. Mrs. Naomi Johannes | 56. Warren Dee |
| 26. W. B. Hoyt | 57. Raffety Farms |
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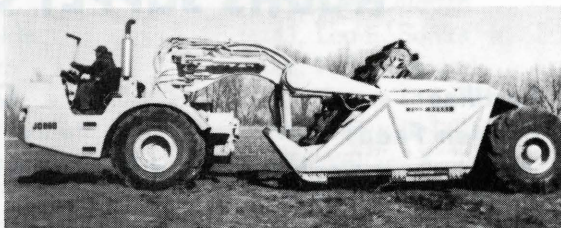
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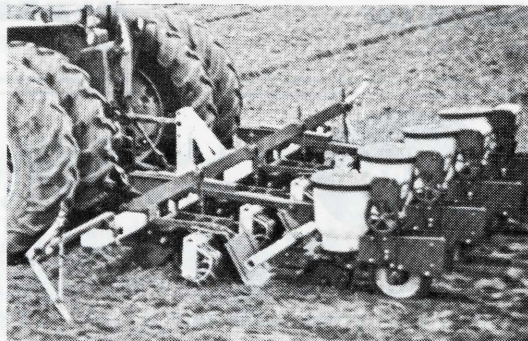


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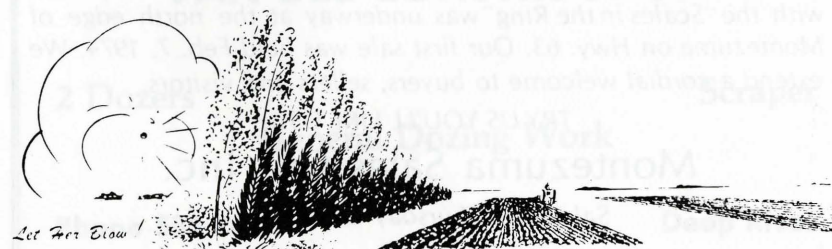
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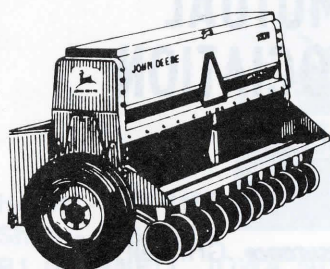
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1-M BUDGET	\$1330.00
Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	674.61
Office Supplies	131.59
Printing	0.00
Prizes for Contests	15.00
Rental for Meeting Halls	4.00
Office Expense	342.33
Meeting Expense	106.94
Total Expended for Fiscal Year	\$1274.47
2-M BUDGET	\$15,011.26
Technical & Clerical Gross Earnings	12,335.00
District Share of Federal Retirement	721.60
District Share of State Retirement	432.40
Life Insurance	11.55
Clerical Travel	39.45
Equipment	46.00
Total Expended for Fiscal Year	\$13,586.00
3-M BUDGET (State Cost-Share Funds)	
Allocation to district	\$38,000.00
Total unobligated Funds	227.72



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Many people refuse to accept wood as a realistic form of fuel. Others remember the first half of the twentieth century, and know of the work involved in cutting, hauling, and splitting firewood. But wood, unlike natural gas and fuel oil, is a renewable resource — it can be cut today, grown again, and cut once more by the next generation of Americans.

There are several types of woodburning devices. The fireplace comes to mind first, but is a notorious loser of heat. Benjamin Franklin conceded that even the most efficient fireplace with doors and circulated air yields only 17% of the heat available in wood. Franklin stoves or "fireboxes" of the potbelly type can raise this percentage to around thirty percent. Airtight parlor stoves such as the Ashley, Riteway, Downdrafter, or Defiant can increase woodburning efficiency to 50-60% (*Popular Science*, Nov. '77). Woodburning fireboxes that connect to existing furnaces would also fit within this range of efficiency.

To burn wood on a perpetual basis requires proper forest management. Native Iowa hardwoods can reseed and regrow themselves if the timber is protected from grazing. Young trees do not stand a chance of growing when they are constantly being eaten and trampled by livestock.

The 7,600 acres of woodland in Poweshiek County are capable of producing one cord of wood per acre per year forever. Good, intensive management could probably double this production. But even without such intensive management, one cord per acre could provide winter heat for 1,520 families of four, living in 1200 square foot homes. This estimate is based upon a usage of five cords per heating season, utilizing an efficient stove rather than a fireplace.

For further information on wood fuel, woodburning stoves, or proper forest management, contact your local SCD or District Forester.

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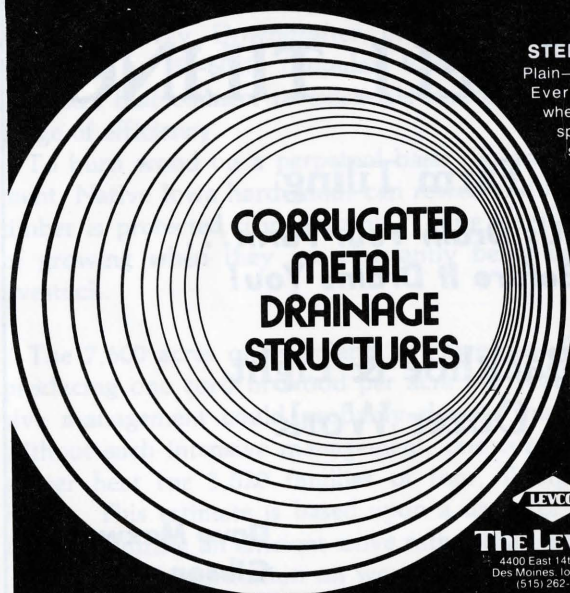
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Jon Allen, Grinnell
Mike Simmons, Montezuma

ED RASMUSSEN, Agency Manager

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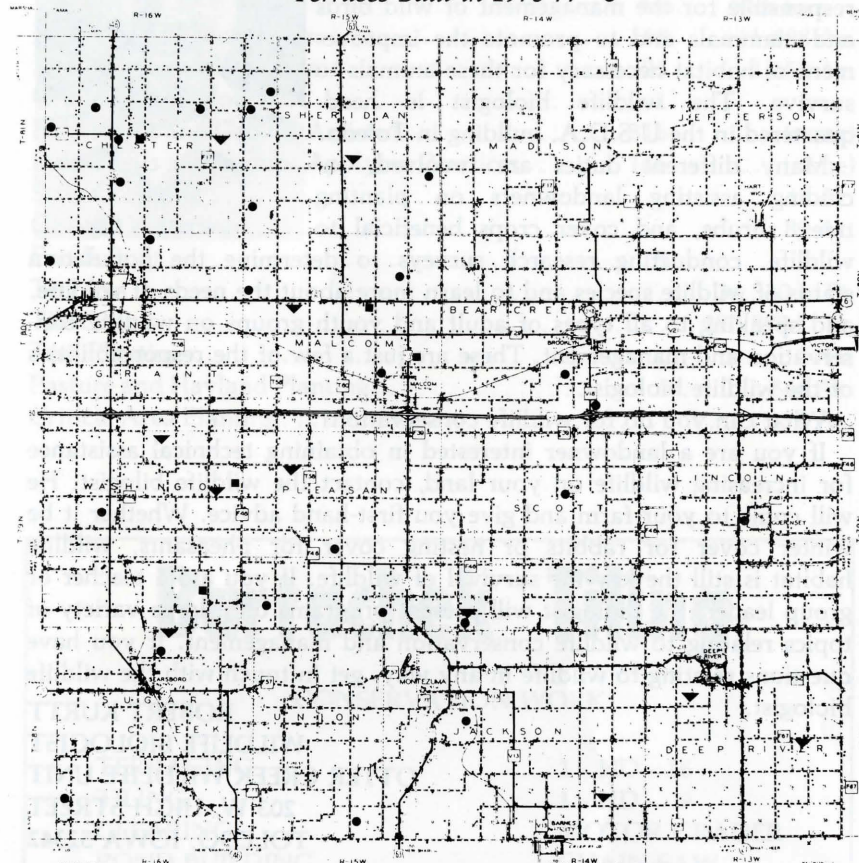
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FARM BUREAU LIFE

FARM BUREAU MUTUAL

TERRACE JOBS IN POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT IOWA

- Terraces Built in 1974-75 ■
- Terraces Built in 1975-76 ▼
- Terraces Built in 1976-77 ●



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Wildlife Conservation

The Otter Creek Wildlife Management Unit is comprised of the following five counties in east-central Iowa: Grundy, Marshall, Tama, Poweshiek and Iowa. Wildlife personnel are responsible for the management of wild birds and mammals and to promote the improvement of habitat necessary for these animals to survive. The wildlife biologist is headquartered in the U.S.D.A. building in Toledo.

Many different duties are involved, including assisting landowners on planting trees, shrubs, and cover crops beneficial to wildlife, conducting research surveys to determine the population status of wildlife species and to learn more about the needs of wildlife, and speaking to all types of adult and youth groups on wildlife conservation and management. These are just a few of the responsibilities of the wildlife biologist.

What can you do for wildlife conservation?

If you are a landowner interested in obtaining technical assistance for increasing wildlife on your land, contact the wildlife biologist. He will come to your farm and give you first-hand advice. Whether it be winter cover for rabbits or nesting cover for pheasants, wildlife habitat is still the key for survival of wildlife. If you are a teacher or group leader, the biologist will present programs on a large variety of topics relating to wildlife conservation and management. If you have questions relating to wildlife in any way, get in touch with the wildlife biologist.

ROBERT KURTZ
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
OTTER CREEK WILDLIFE UNIT
203 W. HIGH STREET
TOLEDO, IOWA 52342

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Accomplishment Summary for 10-1-76 to 9-30-77

	No.	Unit Of Measure
New District Cooperators	58	.. 11,888 Ac.
Basic Conservation Plans	25	... 4,552 Ac.
Group Plans Prepared	1	
Individuals and Groups Assisted	316	 (none)
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	166	 (none)
Strip Cropping		45 Ac.
Grassed Waterway		89 Ac.
Ponds Built	5	
Terraces		34,330 L. Ft.
Tile Drains		290,873 L. Ft.
Tree Planting		2 Ac.
Pasture and Hayland Planting		846 Ac.
Critical Area Planting		4 Ac.

Bartachek Tiling

CONSERVATION WORK

TERRACING	1 - HD - 16
TILING	1 - HD - 9
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Caution On Mercury Vapor and Metal Halide Lamps

Mercury vapor and metal halide lamps are highly efficient, energy-saving lamps, but if they are broken they may give off dangerous ultraviolet radiation. A number of instances have been reported of persons being injured after exposure to ultraviolet radiation from a broken lamp. The Food and Drug Administration is developing a standard to help prevent future injuries. In the interim, FDA is seeking to alert the public to the hazards from broken mercury vapor and metal halide lamps.

Mercury vapor lamps are widely used to light large indoor areas like gymnasiums, factories, department stores, and banks, as well as outdoor areas like highways, parks, and sports fields. They are also sold for home use to light yards, patios, and driveways.

There are at least two types of mercury vapor bulbs on the market which shut off when the globe is broken.

If you are not using lamps with a shut-off device, consider replacing them with those that have the safety feature or purchase a protective shield designed to fit over the lamp reflector. Such shields are made of special glass or hard plastic which absorbs ultraviolet radiation and helps protect the lamp from flying objects. Shields are available for most fixture sizes.

If you are planning to buy a mercury vapor or metal halide lamp look for lamps that have the shut-off device or look for totally enclosed lighting fixtures with protective shields over the base of the fixture.

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A good pasture improvement program on the Wm. Kuntz farm. There is need for pasture improvement on 12,000 acres of Poweshiek County land.

Services Available From The Extension Office

by Charles S. Wengert,
County Extension Director

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 to people in the county. The assistance of the Extension Service is available to all people of the county, both rural and urban.

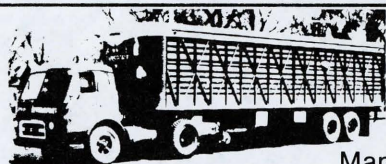
The cooperative Extension Service is set up so that Iowa State University at Ames and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperate in the educational endeavor.

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 Extension Director, Home Economist, and 4-H and Youth Leader have had training at Iowa State University and are approved and recommended for positions in the counties by the state Extension Staff. With the help of specialists and supervisors from this staff, they are responsible for the planning and execution of the county program.

Extension Staff Members are Charles S. Wengert, County Extension Director; Deborah Van Arkel, Extension Home Economist; Donald L. Buzzingham, Jr., Extension 4-H and Youth Leader; Phyllis Sheetz, office assistant; and Jon Benda, CETA aide.

Extension Council Members are: Phil Heishman, Chairman; Elwood Burlingame, Vice-Chairman; Melvin Hohl, Treasurer; Janet Van Ervelde, Secretary; Mrs. Roger Gritsch; Mark Hendrickson; Mrs. William Warwick; Douglas Brown; Mrs. Phil Evans; William Nolte; Marvin Cordes; Mrs. Ed Eichhorn; Ed Watkins; Stanley Gray; Larry Sanders; Wayne Farnum; and Charles Lusher.



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District Highlights For

January

District Conservationist attended area Woodland Training meeting in Ankeny.

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend Short Course at Ames.

February

Annual Contractors meeting.

District Conservationist attended Area meeting in Newton on terrace specifications.

March

District Conservationist attended training session in Des Moines on training new employees.

Commissioners and District Conservationist attended Spring Regional meeting at the Amanas.

April

April 30-May 7 — Soil Stewardship Week.

May

District Conservationist guides 5th grade classes for Field Day at Diamond Lake.

Commissioners and District Conservationist hold Conservation Tour.

June

District Conservationist attends Rural Water meeting at ASCS.

District has last Acre Ceremony at Diamond Lake.

July

District Conservationist attends No-Till field day at Williamsburg.

August

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend Disaster meeting at ASCS.

September

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend Farm Progress meeting in Kalona.

September 11-17 is Soil Conservation Week.

October

District Conservationist gave a talk to Grinnell Vo-Ag class.

November

Commissioners and District Conservationist attended Regional meeting at Amanas.

Commissioners and District Conservationist attended Rural Development meeting at ASCS.

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend State SCD Conference.

December

Commissioners and office staff attend Christmas party at Victor.

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.

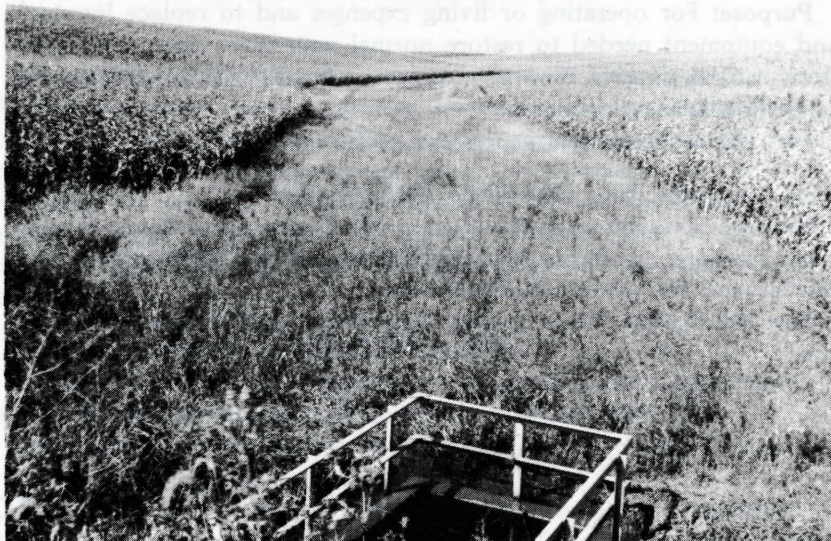
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION LOANS:

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





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