

TAMA COUNTY TODAY

Countywide
News of
Interest

Thursday,
January 17, 2002

For the DYSART REPORTER, TAMA NEWS-HERALD, TRAER STAR-CLIPPER

Conserving Soil & Water in Tama County - 2001 Annual Report



Wetland restoration project huge success

By Jim Allen,
District Conservationist

Tama Soil and Water Conserva-
tion District.

Working under the guidance of staff from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 20 acres of farmland was changed dramatically over a two-day period in August. Contractors who were members of LICA operated backhoes, excavators, and dozers to create a diverse wetland complex on the Ogden property.

Ogden enrolled 267 acres into the Wetlands Reserve Program

recently. Under easement with the USDA, the Wetlands Reserve Program plan for the Ogden property included earthen dikes, water-level control structures, native prairie restoration, and oak savannah tree planting. This work will be completed by private contractors hired by the Ogdens, who will work under the direction of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Neighboring lands already enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve

Program will benefit from wetland restoration work on the Ogden property, Jim Allen, District Conservationist for the NRCS, explained that the earthen dikes would create significantly more wetlands than what existed prior to enrollment into the WRP. Engineers planned improvements based upon topographic surveys of two adjoining landowners, plus the Ogden property. "It's a win-win situation for all landowners," stated Allen. "These wetland restora-

tions are great for all kinds of wetland wildlife, from crayfish and frogs to ducks and geese."

The Dolly Ogden wetland restoration effort showcased the changes that are occurring nationwide with the Wetlands Reserve Program, with greater emphasis being placed on de-leveling the floodplain topography. Historically, NRCS looked to place earthen dikes across old remnant channels, and wetlands were created from soil pushed up from near the dikes. "We are

looking at more excavations and placing the spoil in a more random fashion around each excavation. By designing the excavations with flat side slopes around the islands or edges, creating two or three distinct water depths within the excavated area, and varying the shape of the excavations, the wetland complex created is significantly better in abating downstream flooding, filtering surface water, and providing wetland wildlife habitat," stated Allen.

District activities for fiscal year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001

JULY

The District voted to participate in the Tama County Fair by having a display booth and providing a Free Watermelon Feed. The District will participate in the Buffer Achievement Awards contest.

Three commissioners terms will end. They are: Dennis Emke, Stan Dostal and Dennis Wieben.

A tour of the Union Grove Watershed with NRCS student trainees was sponsored by the District.

A date of May 16, 2001 was announced for the Outdoor Classroom for Tama County students.

AUGUST

The Otter Creek 319/Water Quality Project manager, Cheryl Pansegrau, has vacated the position. A memo for the Buffer Initiative to support the CRP program was reviewed by the District. It was decided to submit an application using the option that would give a bonus to individuals that sign up contour buffers in the CRP program.

A motion to approve the purchase of a native grass no-till drill was tabled until an operator could be found.

The District voted to approve giving an award to 4-H students

that submit a conservation project for the fair.

SEPTEMBER

A Co-Op agreement with Linn and Benton counties was approved.

It was approved to support two educators from Tama County to participate in the Food, Land & People workshops at a cost of \$75.00 per participant.

OCTOBER

Plans for the Conservation Awards banquet were finalized.

The District will purchase a Great Plains native grass, no-till drill from Southard Implement. The District received \$2,500.00 from the Turkey Federation and \$5,000.00 from the Division of Soil Conservation towards the purchase of a drill.

The District also voted to approve the sale of native grass seed and forbs.

The District will again provide a tree or shrub for every 6th grade student in Tama County.

NOVEMBER

The District approved the application for the Iowa Watershed Protection Development grant for Deer Creek Watershed. The District approved the Supplement to the Project Agreement between Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conser-

vation, SWCD, NRCS for the Otter Creek Lake Water Quality project.

The District will seek funding assistance from the Tama County Board of Supervisors in January.

DECEMBER

It was reported that the Otter Creek/319 Project Coordinator position is still vacant.

Rollie Haynes was approved as a District Commissioner for the next four years due to "failure to elect".

The Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the USDA to allow the use of the postage machine was approved.

A contribution letter request will be mailed with the newsletter in March. A letter of resignation for the RC&D board was received from Don Meeklen.

JANUARY

Andy Chyma was hired to do the drilling of CRP acres for the District.

Election of Offices was held and are as follows: Chairman, Dan Bruene; Vice-Chairman, David Beane; Secretary/Treasurer, Nancy Havan and Assistant Treasurer, Jody Kasal. Assistant Commissioners were appointed and are as follows: Dennis Emke, Cathy Wieck, Andy Chyma, Melody Bro and Karen Stahlecker.

It was decided to discontinue the sale of wildflowers by the District due to more activity by the District Secretary in the scheduling of the drill, seed sales and tree sales.

FEBRUARY

A 319/WFP Project Coordinator has been hired by the name of Theresa Gibson. She will be working on the CRP Buffer program. Funding for this position has been received by Pheasants Forever, Division of Soil Conservation, NRCS and the District.

David Beane has been selected for the second term as a District representative for the RC&D board of directors.

It was decided that the District would again provide a free watermelon feed at the Tama County Fair in the summer of 2001.

The District will be meeting with the Tama County Engineer on February 1 to increase the Engineer's office awareness of the monies that have been saved by the construction of culvert risers in Tama County.

It was decided to have a field day in the summer of 2001 to showcase some of the CRP, WRP, etc. projects that have been completed in Tama County.

On Jan. 12 Andy Chyma and Jim Allen attended a workshop on seeding native grasses using different methods at the Neal Smith Prairie Refuge.

MARCH

Distribution of the CRP seed will be March 30.

Insurance was purchased for the drill.

Trisha Wilson was selected at the District's Scholarship Award recipient.

The District and Tama County Conservation Board will partner to apply for a mini grant for an Enviro-Scape.

The Contractor's meeting was held on February 21 with 40 people attending. LICA indicated that they would like to help sponsor a wetland field day to showcase CRP, WRP and new work being done.

Trees Forever and Pheasants Forever will meet with the District Conservationist to plan a field day to showcase plantings that have been completed for the riparian buffer program.

APRIL

The Buffers IV agreement was approved with the District

matching \$2,000.00

The trees will be picked up on April 23 at Cascade Forest Nursery. The trees will be sorted that day and can be picked up on April 24th at Dostal Construction.

The Envirothon competition was held at Hawkeye Community College on March 28. Cathy Wieck, Assistant Commissioner, assisted in the competition along with Myrna Dostal, Stan Dostal and Nancy Havan. The state competition will be held at Guthrie Center on April 23.

May 16 will be the date of the Outdoor Classroom.

MAY

Commissioner Kasal and the District Secretary will select someone to make a sign for the Otter Creek Water Quality Project.

Conservation Award nominees were selected and the winners will be selected by the District Commissioners and the District Conservationist on May 31.

Wetland Restoration Field Days will be held Aug. 10 and 11.

JUNE

The resignation of Karen Stahlecker for the RC&D board was accepted. Tama County Farm Bureau awarded the District \$400.00 in grant money.



The Art Of Teaching

photos provided

Above, in May, Tim Meyer taught Outdoor Classroom students a class in trees. Below, Outdoor Classroom students proudly display their decorated litter barrel to be used at Otter Creek Lake Park for trash. Several other litter barrels were also decorated.



New position created

by Larry E. Jones,
Soil Conservationist

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa

has been made and was signed on Sept. 10, 2001.

Larry E. Jones began duty on Sept. 24 as a Soil Conservationist located at the Sac & Fox Settlement to assist the Tribe in the development and implementation of plans for

natural resource protection, enhancement, and restoration on Settlement lands.

Jones will also mentor and train a local tribal conservationist, assist in developing an integrated resource management plan, and serve as the liaison between the NRCS and the Sac and Fox Tribe.

Tama County SWCD 2001 educational activities

by Cathy Wieck

The Tama County SWCD Commissioners maintain an ambitious educational program for Tama County students.

Educational materials developed by NACD were distributed to the schools for all students in the third and fourth grades. These quality materials consisted of colorful booklets which carried out the year's environmental theme which was "Earth, Habitat for Mankind."

The annual Outdoor Classroom Day was held at the Otter Creek Lake Park on May 16 with over 200 fifth grade students and their teachers in attendance. Classes in a number of conservation areas were conducted by area experts. The eight different classes were attended in a round robin arrangement. A litter barrel decorating contest was also held with a number of colorful entries.

During the Arbor Day season, the District provided a tree for each sixth grade student in the county. These were delivered to each school, along with the tree's description and planting instructions. The 2001 variety chosen was Ninebark.

The Conservation Grocery Sack contest was held again in 2001 with a record number of entries. Local grocery stores provided large paper grocery sacks for third, fourth, and fifth graders. The students decorated the sacks carrying out the theme, "Earth, Habitat for Mankind." The winning artists in each grade at each school received \$5, and two students received airplane rides over Tama County. Those who enjoyed the plane rides were Emily Hast and Ian Halverson.

Tama County SWCD Commissioners also coordinated and helped staff the Northeast Iowa Envirothon competition held at Hawkeye Community College

on March 28 where eleven teams from northeast Iowa competed. The Envirothon is a competition for teams of five high school students who are tested in four different environmental areas: forestry, soils, wildlife, and aquatics. The competition in Waterloo was won by a team from Grundy Center High School. The top sixteen teams in the state competed at Springbrook State Park at Guthrie Center. The winning team in the state was from Linn Mar High School. Two volunteers from Tama County also helped staff the Iowa Envirothon.

Each year the SWCD awards a scholarship to a Tama County High School Senior that is pursuing a study in an agriculture related field. After the scholarship award recipient is chosen their application is then forwarded on to the Conservation Districts in Iowa for a chance at the Regional and State Scholarship award.



Field Day Girls

photo provided

These little girls attended the Wetland Field Days that were held last August. From left to right are Whitney, Jamie and Kelsey Pokorny.

No-till drill purchased by the district

by Jody Kasal,
Commissioner

The Tama Soil & Water Conservation District purchased a 10 ft no-till native grass drill this year.

The Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, and the

Iowa Department of Land Stewardship assisted the District with additional funding for the drill.

The District's Commissioners felt, with the large amount of Native Grasses that were needing to be seeded, it would be an additional service that the District wanted to offer.

As a result, the drill has

been used to establish approximately 863 acres of new native grasses and wildflowers within Tama County this past year.

Do you need native grass seed? The Tama SWCD can supply the seed you need. Just call the office at 641-484-2702 to get your seed ordered.

Caution... to producers and landowners

Lose your benefits due to practices on highly erodible land.

The Commissioners of Tama County Soil & Water Conservation District are greatly concerned about tillage practices to highly erodible lands within our county. The amount of fall tillage that has been completed

throughout the county could reduce the required amount of residue on the land that is required.

Don't get caught not following your conservation plan! Yes!!!!!! You must still have an approved plan and be applying your plan on highly erodible land to receive your benefits from the government.

If you are not sure what your conservation plan requires and would like help growing conservation on your land contact NRCS at 641-484-2702.

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Opening grain prices on Jan. 11, 2002: Central Counties Co-op, Traer, corn \$1.84, beans \$4.08; Tama Benton Co-op, Dysart, corn \$1.83, beans \$3.93; Werner's Grain and Feed, Tama, corn \$1.86, beans \$4.05.

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First year as a SWCD Commissioner

by **Rollie Haynes,**
Tama SWCD Commissioner

My first year as a commissioner on the Tama SWCD has been an interesting experience. Having been raised on a farm and involved in the agriculture industry all my life, I was very surprised to learn about the role of the Tama SWCD.

The efforts of the office personnel and the commissioners to improve the environment are to be appreciated by all. The many

ways they work together with area schools and farmers to educate people and help farmers improve their conservation practices are numerous. They work together to improve water quality, control erosion and improve wildlife habitat. These just name a few of the activities that are conducted by the SWCD.

The SWCD sold grass seed to help control erosion in waterways, buffer strips and headlands. Also native grass seed was sold to help improve wildlife

habitat and for wetland restoration.

The SWCD has educational programs for the area schools. Every year the SWCD gives bare-root trees or shrubs to all 6th grade students in Tama County. The District likes to focus on helping the younger population understand the environment and to know what it takes to maintain and improve it.

I am looking forward to learning more in my next three years as a Commissioner.

Continuous conservation reserve program (CCRP)-good for the land and you

by **Mark Pokorny,**
District Employee

Several continuous CCRP programs exist to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat. They are becoming more popular with farmers and landowners across the country. You can sign up any time. The process is quite simple to gain approval into CCRP compared to traditional CRP.

Most practices require cropping history two of the last five years to be eligible. One exception is the Marginal Pastureland riparian tree buffer program. It does allow acceptance without cropping history along a stream to be planted to trees in a 180 ft. wide buffer. Rental rates are lower than cropped areas.

Grass and riparian filters along streams require a perennial flowing stream to be eligible. Gullies and waterways are not eligible. They can be up to 120 ft. wide maximum for grass filters and 180 ft. wide for riparian filters. Rental rates range from about \$140 to \$190 per acre.

Shallow water areas are best suited on bottom ground, where water can be maintained for a longer period of time. Shallow water areas can be up to 10 acres in size, with 30% of the area excavated to a 1 ft. depth.

The remaining area would be seeded down. The entire area has many benefits to several types of wildlife. Rental rates range in the \$90 to \$140 category.

Contour grass buffer strips are usually 30 ft. wide strips used on steeper slopes to help reduce soil erosion. The rental rates on contour buffers, as well as grass waterways and shelter belts vary depending on your soil types.

There are very attractive signing bonuses available on almost all of these practices. They are paid up front when your contract is final.

They range from \$100 to \$150 per acre depending on the length of your contract. Contracts can vary from 10 to 15 years depending on the practice. These and all CCRP practices also have 90% cost share rates to assist the implementation of these practices. Extra assistance may also be available from other partners in the Buffer Initiative.

About the Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development corporation

by **David Beane,**
Tama SWCD Commissioner

The Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a six county, non profit corporation whose objectives are to improve the quality of life and enhance resources as well as improve harmony between rural and urban people of Poweshiek, Tama, Benton, Iowa, Linn and Johnson counties.

The RC&D directors are made up of one Supervisor and

one appointee and one Soil and Water Conservation Commissioner and an appointee.

There are four people on staff and they are involved in the following projects: Land stewardship program which provides education and demonstrations of native plant inventories, burn plans for native grasses and forests and wetland mitigation.

They also have been developing with other partners an Iowa River Corridor Book that will build a greater sense of place and heritage among the people of the

Iowa River corridor.

There will be 50,000 copies printed for distribution throughout the six counties.

There have been funds received from Iowa DOT to develop the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway plan from the Amas to Montour.

There are also grants written for funding from private and government sources for urban watershed plans, daycare center recreational facilities, conferences and non traditional farming programs.

Correcting gully problems with ponds, gabion chutes, and culvert risers

by **Roger Platt,**
Soil Conservation Technician,
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

All three of these conservation practices fall in the category of gully control structures.

All three practices are usually cost-share eligible under different programs funded through the Tama Soil and Water Conservation District or USDA offices.

All three practices serve to correct gully problems in different situations.

Ponds are used where gullies exist in open field or timber areas. They control the gully by blocking the runoff water flow and covering

the area with water. Ponds provide multiple conservation benefits including gully control, water quality improvements, wildlife and fish habitats and livestock watering.

Gabion chutes are used primarily to control the gully or drop-off at the outlet end of a grassed waterway. They are made with rock filled gabion baskets placed on a shaped out chute. They are very versatile as to where they can be used and fairly cost-effective. This would explain the large number (60 to 70) that have been installed in Tama County.

Where there is a gully or drop-off at the outlet of a grassway at a road ditch, and if there is a corrugated metal culvert under the road, then you might select a culvert-riser

structure. These are fabricated corrugated metal that attach directly to the existing road culvert. This eliminates the drop-off and stabilizes the waterway outlet and also provides tile outlets if needed. These are very cost effective and are used when both the landowner and the county receive benefits. Tama County Engineer's approval is necessary. Natural Resources Conservation Service completes the design and the Tama Soil and Water Conservation District handle cost-share funding.

So if you have gully or drop-off problems, contact the Toledo field Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for more information.



Winning Flyers

photos provided

Grocery Sack Recycling Contest was won by two students, Emily Hast from Dysart Elementary and Ian Halverson (below) from the Sac & Fox School. They both received a free airplane ride over Tama County. Jeff Else was the pilot for Ian and Jim Pippert was the pilot for Emily (above). There were 256 participants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS COMPLETED BY NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE & TAMA SWCD

Fiscal Year October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001

Resource Management Systems Applied on Cropland	10,480 ac.
Erosion Control Measures Applied	8,741 ac.
Nutrient Management Systems Applied	530 ac.
Waste Management Systems Applied	4
Pest Management Systems Applied	370 ac.
Wetlands Created, Restored or Enhanced	8,991 ac.
Wildlife Habitat Mgmt Applied	8,866 ac.
Trees & Shrub Estab. Applied	271 ac.
Buffers Applied	2,685 ac.
Tillage and Residue Management Systems Applied	2,154 ac.

IFIP 3M (State Cost Share)	1M Fund
FY 01/02	
Original Allocation	\$59,535.00
Spent to Date	\$59,025.92
Ending Balance	\$ 509.08
	Original Allocation
	\$1,500.00
	Ending Balance
	\$ 355.89

FY 00/01	
Original Allocation	\$59,541.00
Spent to Date	\$56,661.78
Ending Balance	\$2,879.22

FY 00/99	
Original Allocation	\$98,009.00
Spent to Date	\$94,718.00
Ending Balance	\$3,291.00

FY 98/99	
Original Allocation	\$ 105,603.00
Spent to Date	\$ 105,266.00
Ending Balance	\$ 337.00
REAP-P 2002	
Original Allocation	\$ 6,806.00
Spent to Date	\$ 6,401.53
Ending Balance	\$ 404.47
REAP-F 2002	
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Spent to Date	\$ 1,586.25
Ending Balance	\$ 140.75



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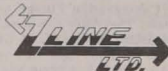
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The Otter Creek Lake Project

By Judie Krebsbach,
Environmental Specialist

The Otter Creek Lake Project has received an extension for one year. The final end date for the project is now June 30, 2002. The time will be used to complete work in progress and write a Final Report that details all the activities and accomplishments of the Project. The landowners and producers in the watershed are commended for their commitment to improving and protecting Otter Creek Lake, while improving their soil and economic viability for the future.

Practices that have been installed included 4.9 acres grassed waterways, 4 water and sediment control basins, 200 feet of terraces, and 1 grade stabilization structure. These practices reduced sediment entering the lake by an average of 6.6 tons per year for each acre treated. A total of 395 tons of sediment have not entered the lake this year that would have if these practices had not been installed. This amount will continue each year that the practices remain in place. Sediment entering the lake will be further reduced by practices waiting for installation, which include 3.5 acres of grassed waterways, 5 water and sediment basins, and 1 grade stabilization structure, and by the acres enrolled in CRP.

Water quality is directly related to the condition of the soil, as is the economy of agriculture. Soil is the place where the crop is made. If it slowly leaves, the effects are not readily seen, but the cost of production increases as the resource base disappears. It has been estimated that it costs \$8.24 to replace the nutrients and organic matter lost with one ton of soil. That does not include the price of the topsoil. Topsoil bought by the truckload or the bag can be costly. If you are losing an average of 10 ton per year per acre (a 10-ton tandem truck load of top soil hauled off each acre each year) that's \$65,920 worth of nutrients and organic matter plus the 800 tons of top soil on 80 acres.

And where does all this soil go? Most soil lost enters our streams and lakes, degrading their quality. Soil loss in Tama County is primarily due to water erosion. Although we can not stop erosion, our actions effect the rate. The condition of the

soil regulates how water flows and what moves with it.

It is important to remember that "Soil is the fundamental entity for all living and non-living things. It, like the human race, comes in variable colors, shapes, structures, and textures. If it is treated, it will disintegrate and fall short of supporting the living and non-living things. So, handle it with care and respect."

Watershed Quiz

Answer these multiple-choice questions and test your Watershed IQ.

1. A watershed is defined as:
 - a. a building that stores water
 - b. all the land area that drains to a given point in a water body
 - c. a new way of organizing environmental agencies
2. What is the main source of motor oil contamination in our rivers, lakes, and bays?
 - a. individuals who improperly dump their car's motor oil
 - b. discharges from oil refineries
 - c. oil spills from ships and offshore wells
3. No-till farming systems, which leave the greatest amount of residue on the soil surface, reduce erosion by as much as (what) percent of that occurring from cleanly tilled systems.
 - a. 25
 - b. 80
 - c. 95

4. How much land in a watershed is taken up by a stream buffer network that extends a distance of 100 feet from either side of the stream?
 - a. 25 percent
 - b. 5 percent
 - c. 0 percent, nobody is going to ever take my land

5. How many gallons of water fall on one acre of land during a one-inch rainfall?
 - a. 27,000 gallons
 - b. enough to flood my basement

c. 45,000 gallons

6. What fraction of the total water supply on the planet is available for use by humans?
 - a. 0.1 percent
 - b. all of it
 - c. 25 percent

7. What well-known American said, "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water"?
 - a. Will Rogers
 - b. Mark Twain
 - c. Ben Franklin

8. What type of pollution poses the greatest threat to rivers and streams?
 - a. municipal garbage
 - b. precipitation running off of farm fields, roads, parking lots, and lawns (non-point source)
 - c. waste dumped by factories (point source)

9. According to United States Geological Survey (USGS) figures, groundwater provides an estimated (what) percent of drinking water for America's rural population.
 - a. 29
 - b. 49
 - c. 99

10. How much money do American water utilities spend annually to make tap water fit to drink?
 - a. \$22 million
 - b. \$222 million
 - c. \$22 billion

Answers: b, a, c, b, a, a, c, b, c.
More questions and information about watersheds can be found on these web sites:

<http://www.ctic.purdue.edu> Conservation Technology Information Center
<http://cwp.org> Clean Water Action Plan
<http://epa.gov/owow> Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
<http://rivernetwork.org> River Network

Why Native Grasses?

By Chester Worden,
Soil Conservation
Technician

The purpose of this article is to help you understand why the USDA now asks for Native Grass mixes like Big Bluestem, Indiangrass and Little Bluestem on CRP land instead of only cool season grasses like brome grass. I seeded 5 to 12 years ago. I posed this question to two people who aren't NRCS employees and I will also add my thoughts toward the end of this article.

Jim Chizek, farmer and agribusiness person, started with switchgrass in 1990 even before the government asked him to. He has also planted several mixed native grass plots of three to five native grass varieties. He stated, "Native mixes are better for winter wildlife cover than brome. They are best for brooding and nesting and easier to hunt in than straight switch. I also see a lot more song birds and butterflies near my natives than in the brome."

Terri Rogers, Natural Resources Management Instructor at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo gave me these reasons: "Native mixes will help a lot more with a variety of wildlife and has more biodiversity than a straight brome or a switch stand." Terri also stated that the rainfall infiltration rate is much greater on an established native grass stand than others. This helps with soil stability. Restoration of landscape like we had in pioneer days is another advantage according to Terri.

Now for my thoughts. There isn't any doubt that native mixes are better for wildlife. Having the title of Soil Conservationist behind my name, I look at this carefully also. I have found that a sod forming grass like brome grass is needed in draws where water moves; but that probably is the only place native grass roots timothy. Now I'm seeing the advantages of Native Grasses.

This proves to me that there is room for both grasses.

Look for the lines

by Stanley Dostal,
Tama Soil and Water
Conservation District
Commissioner

A turn of the plow accompanied by an unfortunate turn of events created the nation's worst environmental disaster, which has come to be known as "The Dust Bowl."

This single event, which happened less than 70 years ago, made us realize that our life-sustaining land must also be nurtured and sustained. As a nation, we came to realize that an investment in our

soil was an investment in our future.

In the relatively short time the land has been farmed in the United States, many of our most productive soils have lost more than half their topsoil and, with it, productivity. Some highly erodible soils have lost topsoil at rates 50 times faster than the soil can replenish itself. On the average, it takes nature 500 to 1,000 years to build an inch of topsoil.

"The Dust Bowl" was the beginning of the modern conservation movement, creating agencies like the Soil Conservation Service (Today this is called the Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS) that worked with the individual farmers and ranchers to protect their land.

Lines are all around us — lines made by nature and lines made by people. Looking at those lines tell you much about the way we live. On the land, lines are a record of land ownership, field boundaries, cropping patterns, and natural forces. The lines we see on the land are a result of neglect or they are lines, which are a result of actions by conservation farmers to care for the land. The NRCS will help make a conservation plan that is suitable for your farm.

To help us understand these lines of the land, let's compare conservation practices with things we are familiar with:

Conservation tillage — Crop residues spread across the surface of a field could be compared to the cheese sprinkled over a pizza.

Contour farming — If you've ever put a coat into a cyclone or funnel type of wishing well and watched the

coils, they can't be seeded together in a mix but they can be used where each is best. Natives for wildlife and brome grass in draws only. I have also learned through experience not to be afraid of seeding natives. They can and are being successfully grown. They take longer to establish; but once established, they pretty well take care of themselves. You can't judge native grass stands the first two years; but after the third year they will smother out weeds, are good for wildlife, hold the soil in place and will not take as much of the nitrogen out of the soil as brome grass does.

I figure if I have learned to raise natives, anyone can. I am not quite old enough to remember the pioneer prairies; but do remember when brome grass and orchard grass were introduced in the 40s. They were so much better for hay and pasture than blue grass and timothy. Now I'm seeing the advantages of Native Grasses.

coin go around and around the funnel, you know the concept of contouring.

Crop rotation — A farm with crop rotation looks like a quilt; each patch of the quilt represents a different crop.

Contour Strip Cropping — The stripes on a waving American flag and contour strip cropping have a similar appearance.

Field borders — A field border used on all sides of a field looks like a picture frame.

Terraces — Terraces catch water much like eave spouts on a house.

Grass waterway — A grass waterway works like a water slide to safely carry concentrated flowing water from a field.

Contour buffer strips — Contour buffer strips look like the narrow rings of a dartboard or the white stripes on a football.

Water and Sediment control basins — A small dam across drainage way, waterway and sediment control basins are similar to the dams beavers build across small streams.

Filter strips — Filter strips filter sediment and other contaminants from water. Compare it to the lint filter on a clothes dryer.

Windbreaks — Windbreaks work like any barrier to block the wind.

Multiple rows of trees are as effective as building or other man-made barriers.

Tree and shrub plantings — In a sea of corn and soybeans, tree and shrub plantings are an island of food and shelter for wildlife.

The lines on our land should always be the signs of stewardship, care and dedication — not results of neglect.

Scholarship Award recipient



Tricia Wilson

Trisha Wilson, daughter of Dennis and Jean Wilson of rural Traer, is this year's Scholarship Award recipient. Trisha's entry was also awarded the Regional Scholarship with the Conservation Districts in Iowa. Trisha is currently attending Iowa State University.



photo provided

Tillage Award

Conservation Tillage Award: Jeff and Cheryl Bruene met while attending Iowa State. They have two sons: Douglas, a junior at Gladbrook Reinbeck High School and David, in fifth grade at Gladbrook Elementary School. Jeff's interests include: "old farm machinery and cars, woodworking, fixing anything and everything using what they have." Jeff is a grain and livestock farmer. Cheryl is an interior designer at Frederick's Furniture in Grundy Center. Organizations that Jeff and Cheryl belong to include: Gladbrook Lions Club, Farm Bureau, Tama County Pork Producers, leader for Wolf Creek Whirlwinds, 4-H Club and youth group leader at United Methodist Church. Jeff farms 990 acres. Most of the land has been farmed by the family for 50 to 60 years. The Bruenes moved to their present home in 1997 when Jeff's parents retired and moved to Gladbrook. Jeff uses minimum till and no-till farming. He started farming in 1979.

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Conservation Award recipients

New Cooperator Award: Roger Shadden has installed 1,000 ft. of waterways and 2,200 ft. of narrow based terraces on his 160 acre farm. Future plans on his farm call for more terraces, waterways and a gully control structure. Randy Nekola is the operator of the Shadden farm.

Wild Turkey Federation - Tama County Toms -The Wild Turkey Federation contributed

\$2,500.00 towards the District's purchase of a native grass no-till drill. David Draiser is the Chairman for the newly organized local chapter named Tama County Toms.

Wildlife Award went to Dale and JoAnn Fisher. The Fishers have been married for 42 years. Their children are: Shelly who is married to Doug Yancek and Eric who is married to his wife, Julie.

The Fishers have three grandchildren: Katelyn, Drew and Tyler. Dale's interests and hobbies are hunting, fishing and managing farms for wildlife. Dale owns and manages a hunting lodge. Dale belongs to NAGA, Pheasants Forever, NRA, National Trappers Association and the American Legion.

Photos were unavailable for publication.

Tama SWCD offering trees and shrubs

The Tama SWCD is again offering trees and shrubs for sale this spring with a deadline date for ordering of March 15.

The trees and shrubs will be sold in bundles of 25. Perhaps you have someone

you would like to share a bundle with. The trees and shrubs are bareroot.

We also have wildlife shrub packages, shade tree packages and native nut tree packages. These packages consist of 15 (trees or shrubs)

in a package.

Order blanks are available at the USDA Service Center Building at 203 W. High St., Toledo, IA. If you would like to have an order blank mailed to you call 641-484-2702.

Ten free flowering trees from Arbor Day Foundation

Ten free flowering trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during January 2002.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The ten trees are two White Flowering Dogwood, two Flowering Crabapples, two Washington Hawthorns, and two American Redbuds.

"These compact trees are selected for planting in large

or small space," John Rosenow, the Foundation's president, said. "They will give your home the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers and also provide winter berries and nesting sites for songbirds."

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between February 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, *Arbor Day*, and *The Tree Book* with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 2002.



photos provided

Conservation Award Winner

Urban Backyard Conservation Award went to Tom and Phyllis Holven. The Holvens have four children, Rebecca Alexander, Russell Holven, Douglas Holven and April Graveman. They have 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Tom makes shelves, decorative woodwork for the family and makes decorative stepping stones, metal plant holders and arches for the garden. Phyllis enjoys working in the garden, sewing decorative things, ceramics and reading. The Holvens enjoy sharing their garden and flowers with others.

Tom is currently employed as a school bus driver. He is retired from John Deere where he was a machinist. Phyllis is retired from Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo where she was a cashier. Tom is a member of the Masons, American Legion and DAV. Both are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Read
Tama County Today
weekly!

TAMA COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT

These cases appeared before Magistrate Ann Kuhter in the Tama County Magistrate Court Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2001.

Eric Dwayne Moore, 36, Toledo, pled guilty to the charges of public intoxication and interference with official acts.

The charges were filed Nov. 18 at 8:05 p.m. at 1008 Prospect Dr., Toledo, by Toledo Reserve Officer Dan Johnson.

Moore was fined \$100 with \$30 surcharge, plus \$50 court costs.

Amanda Castillo, 20, Tama, pled guilty to various charges of traffic violations, including: driving while license suspended (non-payment of fines), excessive speed (41-25), defective and/or unauthorized muffler system and driving while license suspended.

The first charge of DWLS was filed Nov 18 at highways 63 and 30 in Toledo by Toledo Police Officer Bob Kendall. The additional charges were filed Nov. 21 at Broadway and Grand streets in Toledo by Tama Reserve Officer Dan Johnson.

Castillo was fined \$550, with \$165 surcharge, plus \$80 court costs.

Marian Lisa Roberts, 33, Tama, entered a plea of innocent to the charge of domestic assault.

The charge was filed Nov. 21 at 10:30 p.m., in Tama County by Tama County Deputy Craig Karr.

The defendant is to have no contact (of any nature) with the victim or be on or adjacent to the residence or

employment of victim.

A trial date was set for Jan. 25, 2002.

Linda Gail Snow, 50, Tama, entered a plea of innocent to the charge of interference with official acts.

The charge was filed May 26 at 11:35 a.m. at 1695-340th St., in Tama County by Tama County Deputy Trevor Killian.

A trial date was set for Feb. 27, 2002.

Eldon Bennett, 57, Toledo, entered a plea of innocent to the charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

The charge was filed Nov. 20 at 9 a.m. at 2369-360th St., in Tama County by Tama County Deputy Brad Rhoads.

A trial date was set for April 24, 2002.

Nathan Robert Taylor, 19, Toledo, pled guilty to the charge of driving while license suspended, habitual violator.

The charge was filed Nov. 9 at 10:15 a.m. at Subway on Highway 30 in Toledo, by Toledo Police Officer Ben Anderson.

Taylor was fined \$250 with \$75 surcharge, plus \$25 court costs.

John Benda, 20, Elberon, entered a plea of innocent to the charge of excessive speed (39-25).

The charge was filed Nov. 17 at 11:16 p.m. at 5th and Hall streets in Tama by Tama Police Officer Vern Jefferson.

A trial date was set for Jan. 30, 2002.

Richard Neely, 37, Gladbrook, entered a plea of innocent to the charge of excessive speed (50-35).

The charge was filed Nov. 10 at

2:30 p.m. east of Gladbrook on Highway 96, by Tama County Reserve Deputy Kevin Hintermeister.

A trial date was set for April 24, 2002.

FINES

Nichole Cathcart, Grinnell, 65-55, \$41.

Jared Fetter, Chelsea, defective muffler, \$28.

Marshall Dubbert, Windsor Hts, 45-35, \$41.

Orval Erdem, Ames, 67-55, \$54.

Debra Hanns, Tama, 35-25, \$41.

Jeffery Obrien, Cedar Rapids, 67-55, \$54.

Gloria Ramirez Perez, Toledo, no child restraint, and failure to obey stop sign, \$60.50.

Ashley Mathews, Conrad, no valid fishing license, \$54.

Mark Shambaugh, Ottawa, Ill., no proof of annual inspection displayed unit 2, \$47.50.

Nicholas Feigl, Ames, 78-55, \$77.40.

Gina McKeag-Hall, Grinnell, 35-25, \$41.

Joshua Park, Toledo, 65-55, \$41.

Bret Flynn, Toledo, 69-55, \$54.

Rita Eichhorn, Clutier, 70-55, \$67.

John Dellinger, Des Moines, 75-

55, \$67.

Trinidad Martinez, Tama, 45-35, \$41, and no valid drivers license, \$145.

Laura Miller, Cedar Rapids, 65-55, \$41.

Kristine Gabriel, Tama, 35-25, \$41.

Linda King, Garwin, 50-35, \$54.

Nancy Buckley, Tama, seatbelt, \$47.50.

Salaik Sarin, Waterloo, 68-55, \$54.

Jason Lee Evin, LaPorte City, 65-55, \$41.

Dean Benda, Elberon, no retroflect SHT/reflexretlect, \$47.50.

Brenton Stull, Elberon, no proof of annual inspection, \$47.50, over reg. wt. by 24.900 #, \$353.

Mitchell Anderson, Mt. Pleasant, 55-45, \$41.

Melissa Mayer, Tama, failure to give change of address, \$28, operating a vehicle with expired license, \$54, and failure to obey stop sign, \$60.50.

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We Salute the Tama County Soil & Water Conservation District and the conservation efforts of the landowners in Tama County

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2000 F150 Supercab Lariat 4x4, 37,000 miles	\$23,975*

2001 Ford Focus SE	\$13,475*
2001 Ford Escort SE	\$10,975*
2001 Ford Explorer Sport, 4x4	\$19,975*
2001 Mercury Sable LS, 4dr	\$14,975*
2001 Ford Taurus SES, 4dr	\$14,975*
2000 Ford Focus	\$11,975*
2001 Ford F150 Supercow, 4x4, XLT	\$28,975*
2000 Ford F150 Supercab, 4x4, XLT	\$22,975*
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