

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper *Adair Valley Times*Where published *Vinton Iowa*Date of issue *March 6, 1978*Sent by *Lloyd Peters*S. C. D. *Benton*Stationed at *Vinton Iowa*

CLASSIFICATION: *B1* - Weekly column ☒
 Story (SCS) ☐
 (Other) ☐
 Feature (SCS) ☐
 (Other) ☐
 Editorial ☐
 Advertisement ☐
 Cons. picture ☐

8 Times, Vinton, Iowa, March 6, 1978

News and Views



...from your

Soil Conservation District

The United States' annual loss of five million acres of rural land to non-agricultural use is a special concern during this year's celebration of Soil Stewardship Week April 30-May 7, Henry Lyphout, chairman of the Benton County Soil Conservation District announced today.

This year's Soil Stewardship Week theme, "Compelling Ventures," also stresses the importance of controlling water pollution caused by run-off from unprotected farms, roadsides, and construction sites, Lyphout added.

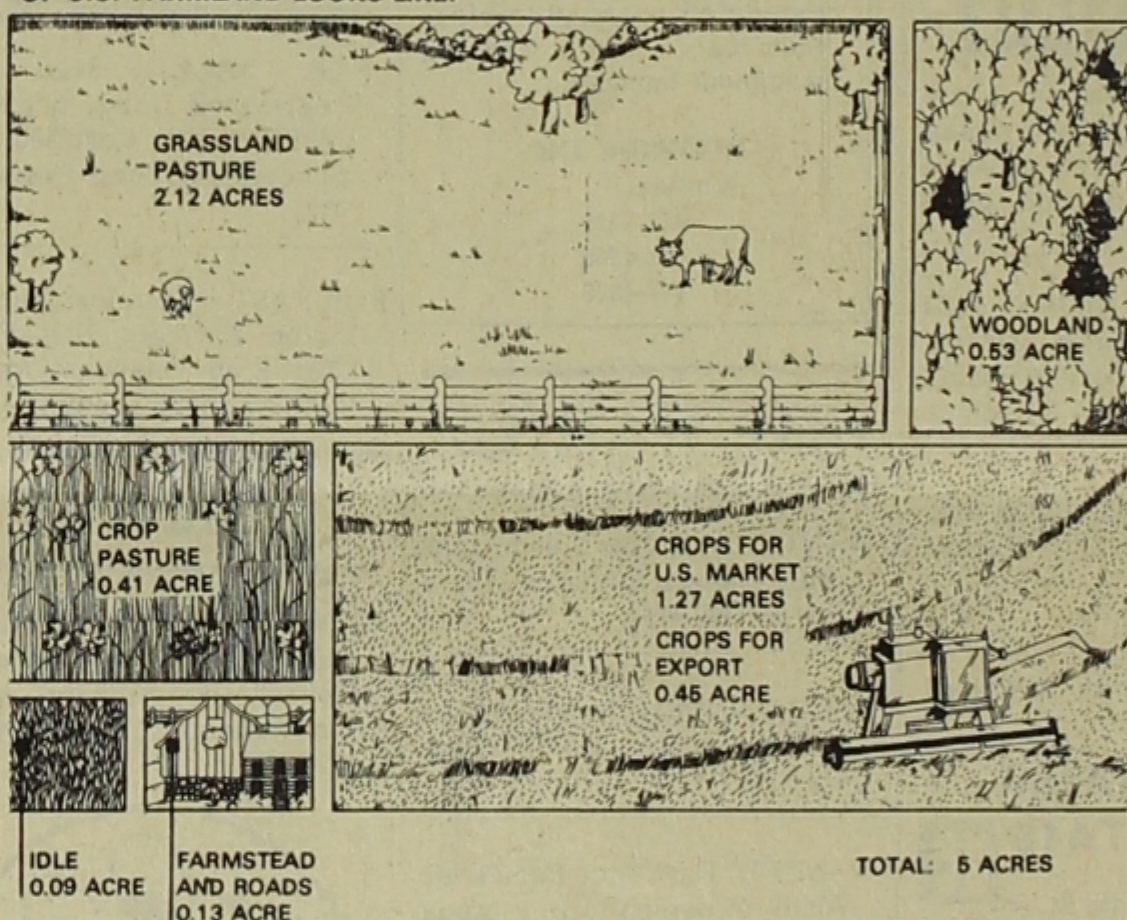
Soil Stewardship Week is a nationwide observance which emphasizes man's responsibility to protect and conserve soil; water; and other natural resources. Traditionally, churches and local citizen's groups participate.

"Nearly 3,000 conservation districts throughout the U. S. will focus their attention upon conserving and preserving America's best farmlands during this 21st annual observance of Soil Stewardship Week," Lyphout

said. "The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that of the five million acres annually lost to agriculture, nearly one million acres are classed as 'prime' land — the best and most productive land we have. We are encouraging the preservation of these top-quality farmlands for farming rather than their indiscriminate use for housing developments, highways, shopping centers, and the like."

Twenty-three churches participated in Soil Stewardship Week in Benton County last year. We are hoping that at least this many will use the materials again this year.

The 1978 Soil Stewardship Week reference booklet, "Compelling Ventures," and related materials are available free of charge to local churches and community groups through the Benton County Soil Conservation District. The publications were prepared by the National Association of Conservation Districts. If you church or citizen's group is interested, call the district office at 472-2161.

HERE IS WHAT THE AVERAGE 5 ACRES
OF U.S. FARMLAND LOOKS LIKE:

Our country is blessed with a good agricultural climate, ample resources distributed from one end of the nation to the other, and a large acreage of good farmland.

But these assets are not growing. Population is.

Fifty years ago, there was an average of more than 100 acres of cropland per person in the United States. There is now just over a billion acres of farmland in the United States. That is an average of 5 acres

per person. So, each of us depends on 5 acres of land for our food and some of our clothing and lumber.

If we are going to maintain our affluence — or increase it — we must somehow make our farm acreage more productive to keep up with the growth in population. Good soil conservation practices are one way to make our land more productive, and without these practices, the productivity goes down over the years.