



Twenty Fourth Annual Report

**Des Moines County
Soil Conservation District**

Iowa

1969

Burlington Iowa Banks

We congratulate the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service on the good progress toward putting every acre to its best use and the saving of our soil, our greatest resource.

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Keep This Report

These are addresses and phone numbers of contractors and business firms throughout Des Moines County that can be of service to you.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT URGE YOU TO PATRONIZE THESE ADVERTISERS who have indicated an interest in you and your soil conservation efforts.

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FROM YOUR DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

By Chairman, Harold Yohe

Looking back over my six year term as a soil district commissioner, it is a pleasure to have been a part of so much accomplishment. This has indeed been a period of growth and improvement in our local soil and water conservation program.

Cooperation is one key word to the success of our work. We have worked with others such as educators and vo-ag people to expand the scope of our program. We have shared with other agriculture agencies in the work of the Technical Action Panel. We have worked with employment people on cooperative programs, and many others.

Promotion is a second key word for us. We have made the tile intake terrace acceptable in Des Moines County through a vigorous program of publicity and information. We have had great success in promoting conservation work through the Awards program of the Des Moines Register & Tribune and are proud of our prize winning cooperators.

A third key word is Advance. And this we intend to continue. As we have shown progress in the 1960's, we are determined to maintain and increase the good conservation work in the 1970's.

We extend a "Thank You" to all friends of soil conservation for the generous acceptance of our program and offer a challenge for even greater future accomplishments.

Chairman, Harold Yohe

DES MOINES COUNTY SCD COMMISSIONERS



L. to R. - Harold Linder, Sec., Henry Dockendorff, Harold Yohe, Chm., Rex Troute and Horace Sutton, Treasurer. These men have contributed a total of 38 years of service to the District.

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- Mediapolis Quarry - Mediapolis Ph. 394-3485

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SCD - SCS A SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Since 1935, the Soil Conservation Service has been the technical arm of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, assisting soil conservation districts. The Des Moines district has shared this service since 1946.

A normal work unit staff consists of a full time district conservationist, a full time conservation technician and part time help from specialists in engineering, soil science and management. These people are assigned to the district by the Federal Government for our help.

The District Conservationist manages the work unit assisting the district. His main job is planning - individual farms, group projects and resource plans. He also has a myriad of reporting, recording and promotional chores.

The Conservation Technician is the real contact man with the farmer. He carries out a big share of field services to cooperators in getting their conservation plans established. He follows up on plans, encouraging land users to apply conservation work. With the occasional luxury of a part-time aid to help in surveying, he spends much of his time designing practices for erosion control. But most of the time you will find him working alone, using the farmer to help get his job done.



Office Staff: Back row: Sandy Hedges, Harry Bryant
Front row: Mildred Kleinkopf, Ralph Dewey

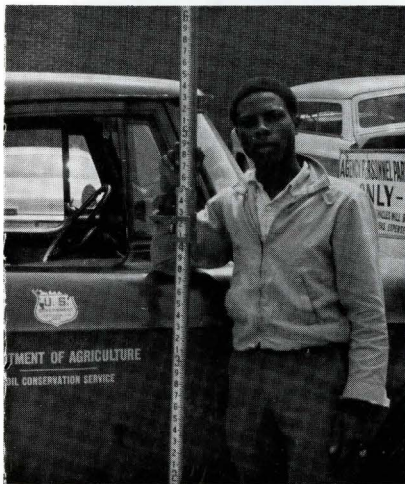
Area help is mainly in the form of engineering assistance on jobs too large for our local men to handle. With one engineer and an aid for thirteen counties, this is quite limited. Our area soil scientist does manage to provide rough soil maps for our planning needs, though he is tied down mainly on the Standard Survey in Lee County.

During 1969, John T. Baker left the district after about four years to assume duties with the Office of Inspector General USDA. Located near Chicago now, John indicates that he misses working with Des Moines district.

In July, Ralph E. Dewey was assigned as DC to the Burlington Work Unit. Ralph has 21 years of SCS experience in all parts of Iowa, and is well versed in terracing and resource development.

Harry Bryant continues as technician, providing his usual fine help to co-operators and conservation contractors. Harry and John Baker shared honors for outstanding performance in the work unit over the past two years and were awarded accordingly by SCS. Harry began the completion of his college education late in 1969, and will be moving up in SCS.

Helping with field layout in rush periods and acting as advertising manager for the district is Sandy Hedges. A special summer work training program brought Ed Wright of Parma, Missouri to help us for a couple of months. Ed returned to his native state in August for more schooling.



Conservation Aid - Ed Wright

For thirteen years, Mildred Kleinkopf has provided the district with her friendly, professional and efficient service. The district shared with Mildred as the State of Iowa honored her at a statewide meeting as the outstanding district clerk in Iowa.

DISTRICT AND SCS STAFF

Des Moines County SCD Personnel

Harold Yohe
Henry Dockendorff
Rex Trouté
Harold Linder
Horace Sutton
Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf
Sandy Hedges

Chairman, District Commissioners
Vice Chairman - District Commissioners
District Commissioner
Secretary
District Treasurer
District Clerk
Part-time conservation aid and advertising
manager

Soil Conservation Service Personnel

BURLINGTON WORK UNIT

Ralph E. Dewey	District Conservationist
John T. Baker	District Conservationist (3 months)
Harry N. Bryant	Conservation Technician
Ed Wright	Conservation Aid (2 months)

John Eckes
Margaret Dickey
L. Dale Lockridge
Marion P. Clark
Stanley R. Simmons

Area Conservationist
Area Clerk
Area Soil Scientist
Area Engineer
Engineering Technician

Bob Kemp & Son

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Theo Mohrfeld, West Point

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Dale Lockridge, our area soil scientist has obtained these soil profiles as a part of a set representing the major soils of Des Moines County. When completed, this display will be available for use by teachers and agriculture leaders of the county to help others understand facts about our soil resources.

The profiles were obtained by taking core samples of several common soils in the area. The core is then treated with a hardening solution and mounted in a permanent wooden frame for display.

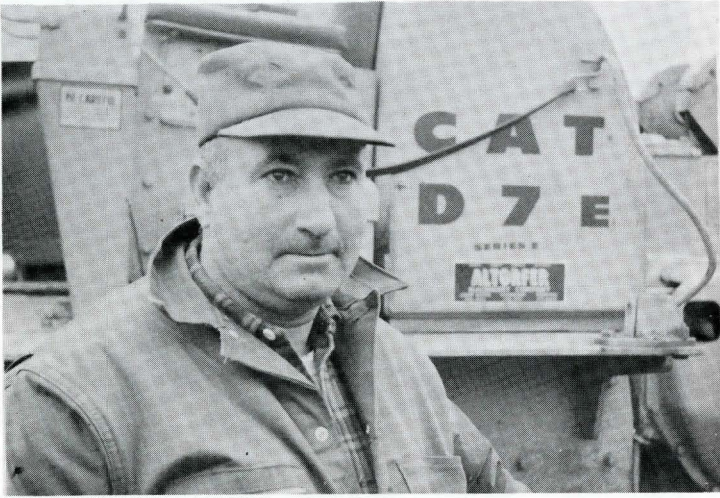
District secretary Harold Linder (right) and Treasurer Horace Sutton examine the set of profiles.

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CONSERVATION WORK

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POND BUILDING

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West Burlington

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION HELPS FINANCE CONSERVATION

One of the ways a farmer can finance soil conservation work in Des Moines County is with an FHA loan. Jack Cowen of Mt. Pleasant supervises FHA in this county with office hours each Thursday at the Federal Building in Burlington.

Farmers Home Administration encourages their borrowers to work closely with soil conservation districts. In addition to loans for conservation work. FHA makes loans for land, housing, operating and to Associations for sewer and water systems.

The district is highly pleased that FHA has chosen one of our co-operators as out-standing Farm Family for 1969 in Southeast Iowa. County FHA farmer, director Curtis Darbyshire presents the award to Mr. and Mrs. Rex Troute of Burlington. Rex is a present commissioner. Curtis a past assistant commissioner.



DES MOINES COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE



Extension is a cooperative branch of agriculture, helping where it can to augment the district through education. This office helped the district by lining up a farm pond demonstration during the summer. It is helpful in many ways of providing information material for our co-operators.

The extension staff, pictured here, is headed by county extension director, Jim Hodges. Les Schoffelman directs youth activities in Des Moines and Henry Counties.

Jane Bechtel completed half the year as extension Home Economist before resigning to become Mrs. Passmore. Franny Peck maintains the extension office as secretary.

Front row: Jane Bechtel, Franny Peck
Back row: Jim Hodges, Les Schoffelman

LANDSCAPE PLANTING

Windbreaks - Pond Plantings - Wildlife plots - Hedges

Nut --- Fruit, & Shade Trees

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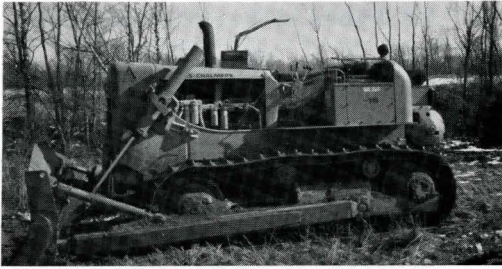
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- Diversions
- Erosion Control Dams
- Surface Drainage
- Waterways

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All work meets SCS and ACP specifications

Mediapolis, Iowa

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Des Moines County Mutual Insurance Assn.

AGENTS

Robert Dodds, Danville
Willis DeSpain, Mediapolis
Dan Scott, Burlington

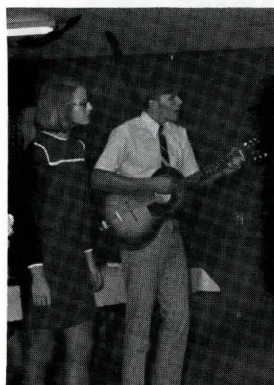
J. Kermit Eland, Mediapolis
James J. Roth, Mt. Pleasant
Jack Roth, Burlington

ANNUAL CONSERVATION AWARDS DINNER



Meeting at Danville, the group was well rewarded by hearing Sylvan T. Runkel discuss "Our Forest Communities." An outstanding conservation biologist with the Soil Conservation Service, Runkel is shown here with Chairman Harold Yohe.

On November 12, 1969, the district paid tribute to county winners in the annual soil conservation achievement awards contest.



Ted and Shirley Horn

Entertaining at the awards banquet were: Ted and Shirley Horn of Middletown, providing a musical interlude. Jack Jacobs, former conservation technician, served as master of ceremonies for the event.



Jack Jacobs

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... and THE WINNERS ARE ...



Photo From Hawkeye

Winners of the annual awards were given plaques and certificates by the district and the Des Moines Register. They are: Dr. R. E. Lofgren, of Mediapolis and his tenant, Paul Heater, Danville, and Leo Orth of Burlington. O. D. White of Burlington was also a winner, but was unable to attend.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - FISCAL 1969

<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
CONSERVATION PLANNING:		
New Cooperators	No.	51
Basic Conservation plans	No.	42
Revised Conservation plans	No.	25
Farms Serviced	No.	424
Farms Applying Practices	No.	213
Group Conservation Jobs	No.	32
APPLICATION OF PRACTICES:		
Conservation Cropping Systems	Acres	4,516
Contour Farming	Acres	891
Crop Residue Management	Acres	3,929
Diversions	L. F.	2,825
Farm Ponds	No.	13
Erosion Control Dams	No.	34
Waterways	Acres	27
Pasture Renovation	Acres	1,640
Open Drains	L. F.	17,550
Terracing	L. F.	113,930
Tile Inlet Terrace Pipes	No.	185
Drainage Tile	L. F.	238,000
Tree Planting	Acres	17
Wildlife Habitat Management	Acres	289
Land Adequately Treated	Acres	3,095
Office Callers 1113	Demonstrations 14	
Telephone Calls 616	News Items 74	

1969 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>I-M Budget</u>	<u>I-MA Budget</u>	<u>2-M Budget</u>
Commissioners Expense	\$198.20	\$ 51.04	\$
Office Supplies	46.69	152.77	
Printing	100.00		
Office Expense	62.57	129.57	
Prizes for Contests	90.96		
Demonstrations	1.58		
Released to State		1.07	
Clerical and Technical			5381.78
Travel			51.60
Released to State			176.62
	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$338.43</u>	<u>\$5610.00</u>

NEW COOPERATORS - 51

Ross Jones
DMC - Conservation Board
William Dowell
Arthur Ruschill (2)
Boyd D. White
Maurice Hutcheson (2)
Wyman Wagner
William Simmons (2)
Richard Mapel
Robert Mehaffey
Wilbur Brown
Emil Thie
Lemoyne E. Witte
Wayne Charbonneaux
Walter J. Kelly
Earl Bonar
Henry Bohlen
Marvin Lange (3)
Clyde Scherer
Gerald Miller
Gilbert Burgus
Herbert Dodds
H. A. Hatch (3)
Clifford Reif
LaVerne Lucas
Edward Kuntz
Gerald Hunt
James McLaughlin
Ben House
Max Andries
Norman Frank
Earl Orton Jr.
Dale Jacoba
Ralph Mathews (3)
Eldon Oberman
Lorraine Wasson
Clifford Sherer
Dale Hazen
Ronald Gerst
Howard Harris
Irwin Garrels
Floyd Schmitz

BASIC PLANS - 42

Albert Heckenberg
Leo Orth
George Thie (2)
DMC - Conservation Board
Clyde Scherer
B. F. Hedges
Ross Jones (4)
A. M. Wagner
J. E. Horn
Robert Jones
Virgil Landrum (3)
Clarence Miller
Max Dockendorff
Walter Senn
Harry Bryant
Everett Burkhiser
Chris Gerst (3)
L. B. Cady
Ray Robertson
Mrs. Ruby Mercer
Alvin Dockendorff
Glenn Wooldridge
Horace Robertson
Glenn Petersen
Boyd White
Mrs. Robert Graham
Schmitz Farms
Wayne Kester
Wayne Charbonneaux
Henry Bohlen
Arthur Corman
Dr. Carl Hulen
Herbert Dodds
Dale Hazen

REVISED PLANS - 25

Schrocks Farms Inc.
Walter Heckenberg
Frank Hedges
I.A.A.P. Tracts (14)
Chas. Tonkinson
Robert Fahlgren
Arne Nielsen
C. E. Pilling
Ervin Bohlen
Chris Gerst (2)
Vernon Stoller

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1969

Aside from activities and events mentioned elsewhere in this report, the district reports the following:

Ten dollars sent to the Don Williams Scholarship Fund.

Three hundred place mats furnished Boy Scout Banquet.

Distributed Soil Stewardship Week information booklets to pastors in the county.

Sponsored annual contractors meeting in February.

Commissioners and wives gathered March 10, to sort, address and mail 1900 annual reports.

John Baker and family were entertained at Danville Community Hall with an appreciation dinner as he left for his new position.

Ralph Dewey reported for duty as district conservationist.

Southeast Iowa Soil Judging Contest held October 7, in Louisa County, with assistance from this district.

Mrs. Ruth Mertens attended Fall Teachers Conservation Workshop.

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A.D.S. corrugated plastic drainage tubing is guaranteed for **100 years** when installed according to the specifications contained in the soil conservation service engineering practice standard for tile drain — Code 606.

A.D.S. tubing exceeds all of the specifications contained in Code 606.

A.D.S. tubing exceeds the specifications contained in materials release No. 619 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Federal Housing Administration.



Because IT'S LIGHTER

A coil of 4" A.D.S. tubing 250 feet long weighs only 70 pounds! One man can carry it. Compare that with the similar length of tile drain that weighs nearly **one ton!**



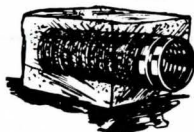
Because IT'S STRONGER

A.D.S. tubing won't shatter like tile. And because of its corrugated construction, it is stronger than straight plastic pipes. It resists imposed loads, is crush resistant and withstands rough treatment during backfilling.



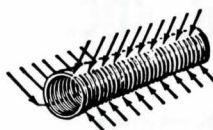
Because IT CAN'T MISALIGN

A.D.S. tubing is designed to function in sandy soils where there is ground movement. Because the piping is flexible, it shifts without fracture, never gets out of line like tile drain or straight length plastic. Greater flow capacity is possible because there is no misalignment. On 5" tubing, flow is equal to, but never less than 5" drain tile with one quarter inch joint misalignment. (According to actual tests conducted at a leading agricultural university.)



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A.D.S. tubing is made from the miracle plastic, Polyethylene. This revolutionary material is completely immune to the most acidic soil conditions and lasts indefinitely underground. A.D.S. can be laid in freezing weather without difficulty and never becomes brittle even at the lowest temperatures.



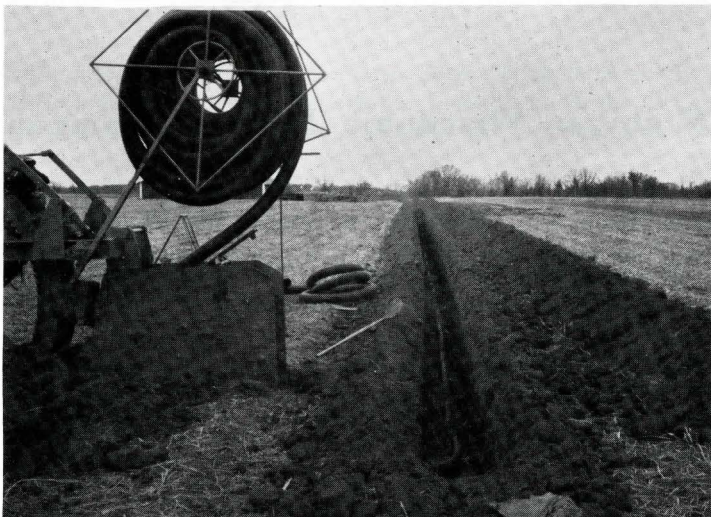
Because IT GIVES UNRESTRICTED WATER INTAKE

The slots in A.D.S. tubing are scientifically designed to give unrestricted in-flow of water. Because they are in the inner corrugations of the pipe, they don't get damaged or clogged during installation. The protection of the corrugations insures good drainage whether permeable backfill is used or not. In-flow area on 4" tubing is equal to spacing tile 3/16 of an inch apart at the joints.

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A new concept in tile drainage is the plastic drain tile. Several thousand feet of this new product have been installed in 1969. The plastic pipe is slotted to let underground water into the conduit. This product adds flexibility to the business of underground drainage in this area.

B & M Construction

(Rex Mackey)

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Dealer - ADS Plastic Tile

Backhoe

Tiling

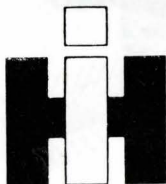
Michigan Wisconsin Pipeline Company

In the interest of public safety, protection of personnel and property. Please telephone collect one of the following, when any work is to be done near or over any of our pipelines.

K. R. Chandler, District Superintendent
Business phone: Birmingham, Iowa 698-4300
Residence phone: Fairfield, Iowa 472-2126

L. W. Harris, Division Superintendent
Business phone: Fairfield, Iowa 472-2175
Residence phone: Fairfield, Iowa 472-3180

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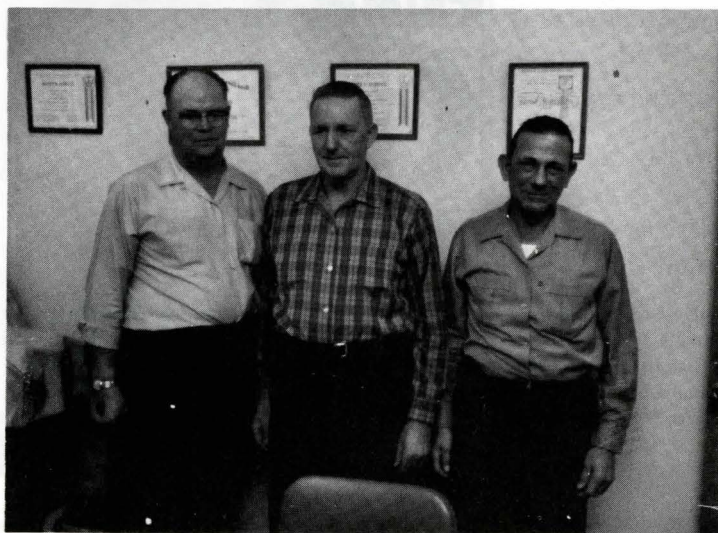
200 North 7th Street Burlington, Iowa Phone 752-2794

A. S. C. S. COOPERATES

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service cooperates closely with our district to help in financing certain conservation practices under the ACP cost sharing program. The county committee meets annually with the commissioners to share in setting up the annual program.

Chairman of ASCS, Ralph Kupferschmid reports that more than \$66,000 in cost share funds was used in Des Moines County in 1969 on 357 farms. This is more than one fourth of the farms in the county. In addition ASCS transferred nearly \$3500 to SCS and the Forest Service for technical assistance in ACP. Here are some of the results:

Practice	No. Participants	Acres Helped
Tree Planting	5	12
Livestock Ponds	8	288
Sod Waterways	12	568
Terraces	30	460
Erosion Control Dams	18	336
Field Tile	49	309
Open Drains	4	100



Art Laue, Chrm. Ralph Kupferschmid, Joe Walljasper

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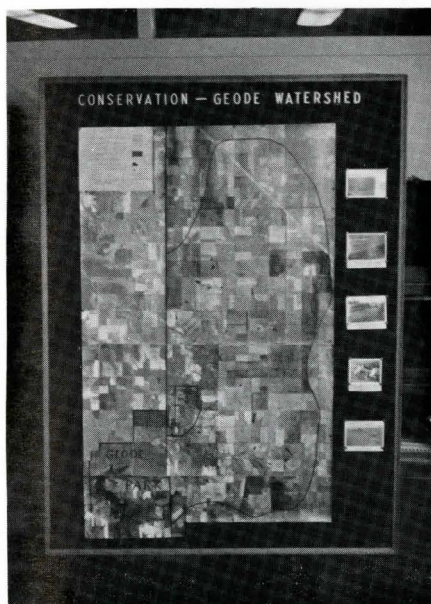
S. C. S. IS A PLANNING AGENCY

By - Ralph E. Dewey, District Conservationist

Although many jobs have been tacked onto the duties of the Soil Conservation Service over the years, our prime objective has always been and continues to be - - LAND USE PLANNING. As we come into the age of pollution prevention and great competition for land use, planning becomes more important and more involved.

The basic farm conservation plan has always been the backbone of the district program. This form of plan has undergone many changes in recent years. Today, we recognize the need to plan each acre for its most intensive use, so this means more intensive erosion control measures. In place of the crop rotations of the past, we now plan for drainage and terrace construction to allow safe, intensified cropping.

Nearly all basic plans of today include designs for tile outlet terraces. This modern innovation to an old practice makes it possible to continue to farm in straight rows, while controlling soil runoff.



The group plan is gaining in importance as we realize the importance of treating the entire watershed in conservation work. Most of these plans will involve only two or three land users who have a problem in common.

Many old mutual tile jobs, for example, may have been consummated with nothing more binding than a handshake. A new generation of owners takes over, and the fur flies when one owner tries to repair tile on the other's land.

A resource plan is being developed of the Geode Watershed in southwest Des Moines County.



Chuck Allgood

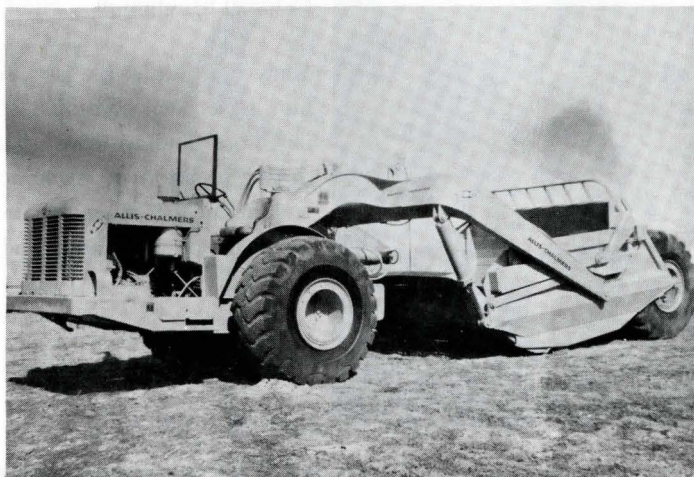
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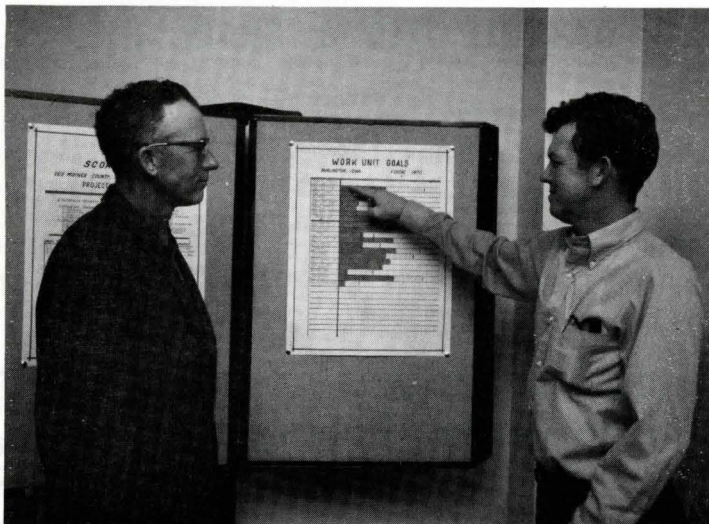
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Commissioners Henry Dockendorff and Rex Troute examine district accomplishment on the display board purchased by the district.

PLANNING (Continued)

A group enterprise agreement sets up machinery for a sound legal easement among the owners involved. With this approach, all parties feel secure that their work will not fall victim to the whims of a future owner.

The most recent advance in conservation planning is the resource inventory and evaluation. SCS now works with government units to develop land use plans over large areas and for many varied uses. The resource inventory might include soil conditions for a single or multi-county region.

Des Moines SCD has agreed to assist the State Conservation Commission on such a resource inventory on the watershed above Lake Geode. Siltation being a great problem on our lakes, we are analyzing the sources of silt, with an eye toward long range plans to control them.

As we move into the 1970's, SCS will be called upon to apply its expertise in land use management to all sorts of problems in rural and urban communities. Our planning will be with all land-users, wherever they may be.

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WHO NEEDS A STANDARD SOIL SURVEY?

Answering this poses a second question - "What is a standard soil survey?"

About fifteen years ago, SCS was given the chore of mapping soils on every acre of land in the country. This monumental task is underway in about half the counties in Iowa now, and has been completed in some.

For the first time in history, all the soil conditions of our country will be classified under the same set of rules. And every land user will have a full report of all that is known about the soil he uses.

Des Moines County has not yet been scheduled to be soil surveyed. Under the present priority system, our county is apt to be one of the last in line - around 1980 or later. But

. Several counties have moved up the line through a cooperative effort to share in expense of the program. At present a three-way split is available to pay the cost. The Soil Conservation Service and State of Iowa each pay about a third of the expense. The remainder is up to the people of the county benefitted to provide.

In many counties the Assessor and County Conference Board have approved this expense in order to provide a complete set of soil interpretations as a basis for equitable assessment. The information provided in the survey has in many cases reduced arguments over mis-assessments.



Typical soil survey of land in Des Moines County. Interpreting such a survey is a part of SCS work.

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SOIL SURVEY (Continued)

In some cases, special interest groups with responsibility for large areas of land can help defray the cost. These could be planning groups, large land holders or corporations realizing the value of knowing the limitations of their land. Surely, one of the greatest values of a standard survey is in being able to evaluate every acre of land for its capability under a variety of uses.

A real estate developer needs to know whether land can support a good sewer system - if the soil is stable enough for home building - what are the hazards of the soil. A standard survey will give him the answers.

Industry must know the suitability of soil for its purposes - will the hazards be restrictive? Expensive? A standard survey will be the answer.

Farm land owners don't wish to be penalized for their good farming practices because of out-dated assessment methods. County leaders need to know where the problems exist for long range planning and successful zoning. The standard soil survey will give the answer to these problems.

Des Moines County could conceivably begin a standard soil survey within the next three years, if internal support can be gained to handle our share of expenses. Otherwise, we will resume our place at the end of the line.

Who needs a Standard Soil Survey? - - - WE ALL DO!!!

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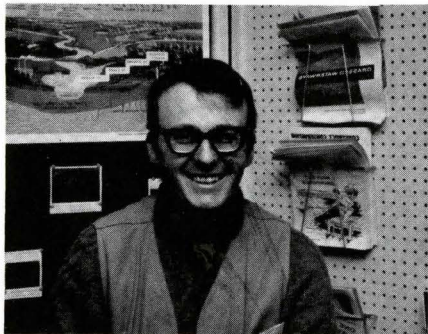
Phone 394-3191

FORESTRY IS BIG BUSINESS IN SOUTHEAST IOWA

Stanley Tate is in his second year as district forester for this area. His regular visits to the district office keep him posted on questions farmers have regarding their tree areas. His services include advice on types of trees to plant, management of timber tracts and assistance in locating markets for various types of timber products.

A lot of our soils in Des Moines County are well suited to forestry purposes, and not very suited to cropland. When these are properly managed, they can

be highly profitable, used for timber.



Federal cost sharing is available for woodland improvement practices as well as reforestation. Stan is available to help land owners make sound plans under these programs. Interested land users can request his help by contacting the Soil Conservation District Office.

TECHNICAL ACTION PANEL ON TAP

Originally set up to promote more service to rural communities through USDA, the Technical Action Panel has been changing to an outreach activity of the department. Under direction of the district conservationist in Des Moines County, this group is composed of the managers of all USDA and related agencies.

TAP saw a need last year for some means of handling dead livestock in the area. Through efforts of the group and individuals, a pick-up service has now been established to take care of the increasing problem of carcass removal.

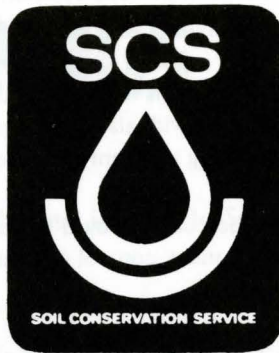
TAP has also been encouraging the county board of supervisors to act on such matters as County Planning and Zoning, control of rural sewage disposal and co-operation on the Standard Soil Survey.

Most recent brainstorm of the TAP group has been an effort to get farmers interest in raising of catfish in farm ponds in the county. With more than a hundred responses of interest in this new approach to farming, TAP is continuing its effort to gain more information for farmers in the area.



TAP members "brainstorming" the Catfish problem with interested pond owners.

.... AND HERE IT IS



This attractive new symbol has just been developed as the official symbol of the Soil Conservation Service. The trademark of the conservation program will be gaining a lot of publicity for districts as it becomes used throughout the nation.

A symbolic raindrop being captured and controlled will be used in all future information from SCS.

Des Moines County Soil Conservation District takes this opportunity to thank the contributors to this annual report. And we sincerely thank the hundreds of cooperating farmers who have helped to make our soil and water conservation program a success.

Harold Yohe

Henry Dockendorff

Rex Trout

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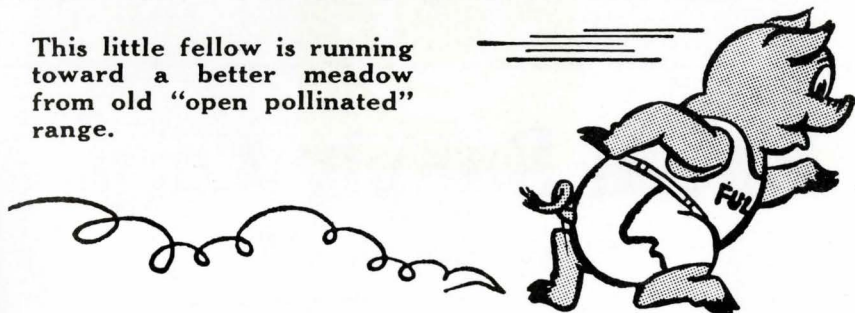
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