

Regional Soil Award Winners Selected

By Glenn Cunningham

IOWA'S TOP conservation farms of the year have been selected by judging committees and honors will be accorded owners and operators of award-winning farms for their accomplishments.

This is the eleventh year of the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards program sponsored by The Register and Tribune and Iowa Farm and Home Register in co-operation with county soil conservation districts.

Frank Mendell, state conservationist in Iowa for the U. S. soil conservation service and supervisor of the program, said final judging to select sweepstakes award winning farms in nine regions is now under way.

A total of 68 county soil conservation districts entered this year's awards program and honors for regional awards go to 49 owners and operators in 23 of the state's 100 soil conservation districts.

The program is carried on in co-operation with the state soil conservation committee, state department of agriculture, state district commissioners' organization, U. S. soil conservation service, Iowa State University, and Soil Conservation Society of America.

Farms are judged on a basis of conservation needs, conservation practices applied and maintained, proper land use, efforts to halt erosion, gully control, crop utilization and community service.

The program is carried on in three divisions—Division 1 for owner-operators

or family-operated farms; Division 2 for landlord-tenant operated farms; and Division 3 for new co-operators with conservation districts since Jan. 1, 1961.

JUDGING is first carried on to select the top conservation farms in a county conservation district. Winners of honors in the home counties then compete for regional honors, usually an 11-county area.

One of the winners in each region is selected for a sweepstakes award. The district in which the sweepstakes-winning farm is located usually serves as host at a recognition banquet for all winners in the region.

Plans for this year's recognition banquets will proceed as soon as farms are selected for sweepstakes awards. Representatives of The Register and Tribune present regional awards at these events.

Four county conservation districts—Cherokee, Hancock, Warren and Davis—each had two regional winners this year. Nineteen other districts had one regional winner each.

These 19 districts are Plymouth, Shelby, Sac, Crawford, Adams, Fremont, West Pottawattamie, Benton, Emmet, Poweshiek, Marshall, Tama, Wayne, Iowa, Allamakee, Winnebago, Clayton, Jackson and Keokuk.

Regional Winners

FOLLOWING is the list of 1963 regional winners with the county soil conservation district in which the farm is located shown in parenthesis:

Region 9 (Southeast)

Div. 1—Dwight W. Millikin, Hedrick (Keokuk); Div. 2—Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Christy, Ottumwa, owners, and Don Walley, Bloomfield, operator (Davis); Div. 3—Marion Roberts, Bloomfield (Davis.)