

1977
Annual Report

**CEDAR COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Phone 886-6214

TIPTON, IOWA



1872

1978

106 YEARS



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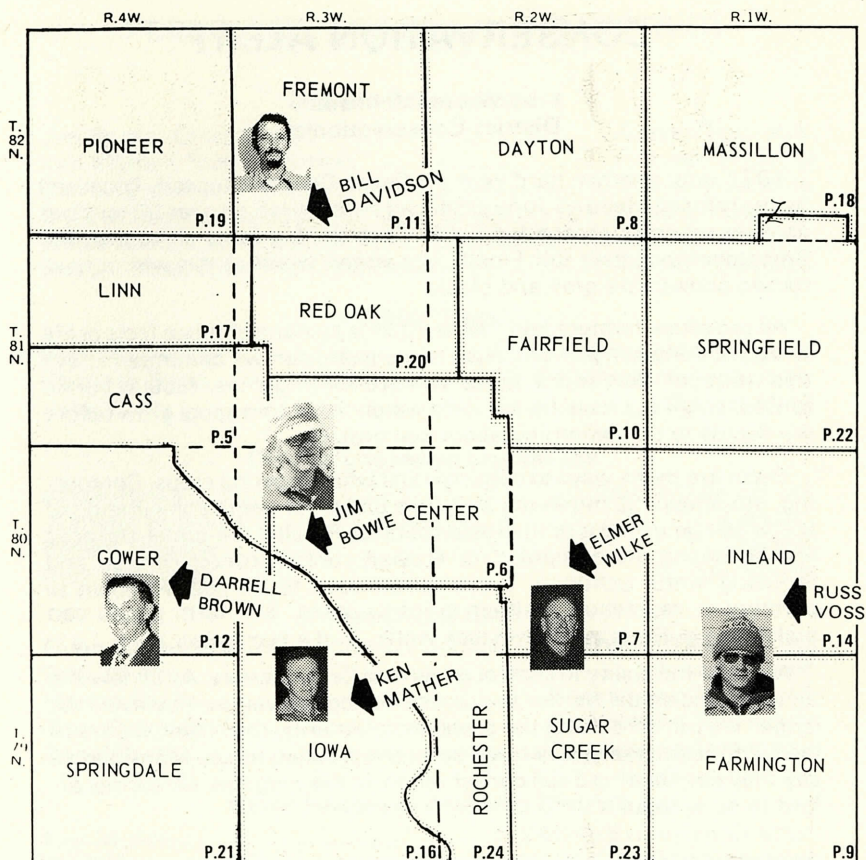


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We, the Commissioners of Cedar County, would like to express our thanks to all the individuals and organizations who helped make this report possible. We could not give a complete report such as this without the financial support we receive from them.

There will be many problems in the future with soil erosion and water pollution. Our Cedar County Soil Conservation office staff, Warren Johnson, Clarence Beyer, and the District Commissioners, are always ready to help with your problems.

Elmer Wilke, chairman

Cover Picture

Windbreaks are a very popular practice in Cedar County. A well managed windbreak can cut wind velocity 30 to 70%.

CONSERVATION ALERT

by Warren Johnson
District Conservationist

1977 was another hard year on Cedar County's topsoil. Localized heavy rains in May and June produced severe erosion over 50 tons per acre on several unprotected fields. Then the big rains of August and September took their toll. Finally, the strong winds of this winter have turned snowbanks gray and black.

All too often, farmers feel that erosion is just one of those facts of life which nothing can prevent. How many years can we continue to have this attitude? How many times will we fill in gullies, rebuild buried fences, clean out road ditches, and watch those thin spots grow before we decide to do something about soil erosion.

There are many ways to conserve soil while growing crops. Contouring, stripcropping, minimum and zero tillage, or some combination of these will go a long way in erosion control. Parallel tile-outlet-terraces are becoming more popular for erosion control, runoff control, and reducing water pollution. Some areas need to be seeded down to permanent vegetation - either grass or trees, and farm ponds can stabilize a gully, provide livestock water, and a recreation area.

We have the ability to control erosion in Cedar County. As of now it is up to the individual farmer to practice soil conservation. However, the longer we put off solving the problem voluntarily, the closer we are to laws and restrictions which will solve the problem for us. Many people say they cannot afford soil conservation. In the long run, we cannot afford to be without it.

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PHONE 893-2272

72

BENNETT, IOWA

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

District Commissioners

Jim Bowie, Chairman Center Township
 Ken Mather, Vice Chairman Iowa Township
 Darrell Brown Gower Township
 Bill Davidson Freemont Township
 Elmer Wilke Rochester Township
 Russell Voss, Assistant Commissioner Inland Township

Office Staff

Warren Johnson District Conservationist
 Clarence Beyer Conservation Technician
 Hilda Carey District Clerk

District Education Committee

Alison Heins Scattergood School
 Jeanette Ruprecht Lowden
 Marnell Scheeper Lowden
 Ruth Detweiler Springdale

Area Office Staff

Eldon Weber Area Conservationist
 Tom Brown Area Engineer
 Marion Ebert Engineering Technician
 Stan Simmons Engineering Technician
 Ron Wilson Engineering Technician

Other Personnel Assisting District

Ken Muller County Extension Director
 Ed Gardiner District Forester
 Don Pfeiffer Wildlife Biologist

MONTZ IMPLEMENT COMPANY

BushHog
 StanHoist
 Farmall Tractors

SALES



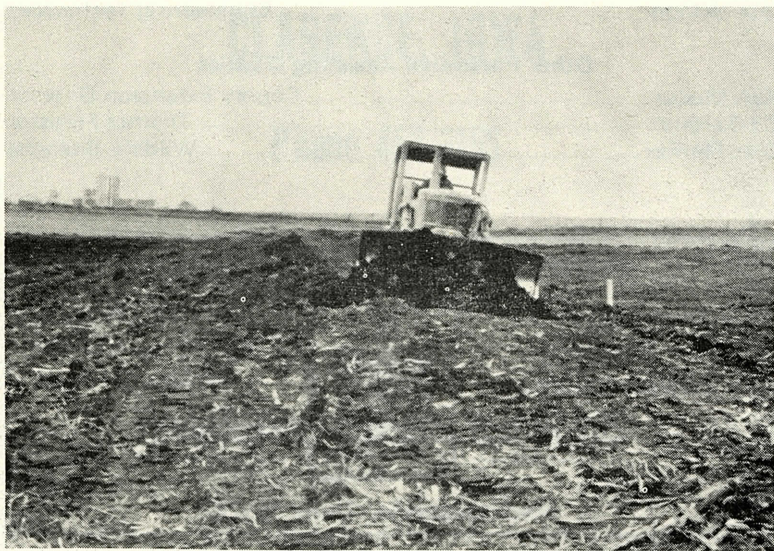
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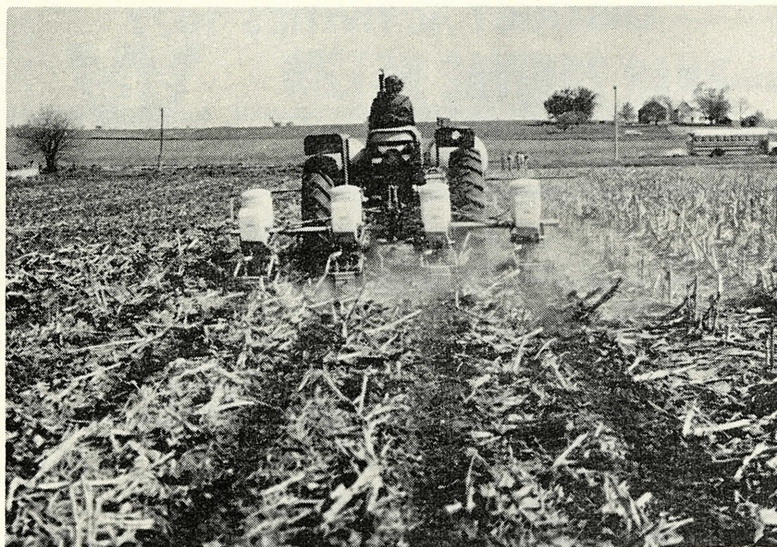
SERVICE

Mechanicsville, Iowa 52306



Parallel tile outlet terrace under construction on Warren Claney farm. Terraces do an effective job of controlling water runoff and keeping soil on the farm.





Conservation tillage is Cedar County's most popular erosion control practice. Above: Richard Jensen plants corn crop in one trip over the field with Buffalo till planter. Below: A stop on a tillage tour at the Agne farm looking at no-till corn planted in alfalfa sod.



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES 1977

January:

James Bowie, former assistant commissioner, succeeded Willard Eiler whose 6-year term expired.

Commissioners met with Board of Supervisors to discuss revising county zoning ordinance in regard to residential building in rural areas.

February:

Commissioners elected to sponsor a no-till yield contest to promote no-till farming.

Commissioners prepared a list of recommendations to present to Board of Supervisors for their consideration in upgrading the existing zoning ordinance.

A questionnaire was sent to 70 farmers to ask their input on non-point pollution programs.

March:

Twenty people attended the contractors meeting.

Warren Johnson, Clarence Beyer, two commissioners and one assistant attended a Senate Agricultural Committee Hearing on soil conservation.

Russell Voss appointed as assistant commissioner.

April:

A copy of annual report and one of District's Long Range Program was placed in Cedar County Historical Society's Tri-Centennial Vault. This vault will be opened in year 2076.

Approximately 2300 copies of the district's annual report were mailed to owners and operators.

May:

Two hundred fifty "BAN THE PLOW - SAVE SOIL" bumper stickers were ordered for handouts.

Teacher's Environmental Workshop sponsored by the District Education Committee was held. Seven teachers and nine students attended.

June:

Two twilight minimum tillage tours held with approximately 50 people attending. A 20 minute film was shown at the conclusion of each tour.

Melanie Schott was hired as part-time emergency appointment.

District paid tuition for two teachers to attend Teachers's Conservation Camp at Linn-Mar.

July:

Darrell Brown, Jim Bowie, and William Davidson were appointed to serve on the Land Preservation Commission. District Resource Inventory was reviewed.

Johnson and two commissioners attended the July quarterly meeting of Miss-Ma-Wap-Ce Organization.

August:

District Commissioners and ASCS Co. Committee and SCS staff went on a tour of conservation practices to review work that has been involved in cost-sharing program.

Herb Hinkhouse submitted an application for the Izaak Walton League windbreak award.

September:

Johnson and Rural Development Committee developed a Conservation Alert newsletter to point out practices that can be used to reduce erosion.

Elmer Wilke, Warren Johnson, Darrell Brown, Jim Bowie and Bill Davidson attended the Farm Progress Show at Washington to help at the SCD tent and terrace construction site.

October:

Annual soil judging contest was held. Forty-two students participated. A plaque was given to the top individual from each school.

District speech contest held with 6 students participating. The winner represented the county at the Regional contest.

November:

Warren Johnson, Darrell Brown, Jim Bowie, Bill Davidson, and Hilda Carey attended Regional commissioners meeting at Seven Villages.

Warren Johnson, Bill Davidson and Hilda Carey attended the annual conference for district commissioners and clerk's meeting in Fort Dodge.

December:

Commissioners sold advertising for the 1977 annual report.

Plans to complete district's display board was finalized.

Commissioners made plans to sponsor a banquet for the participants in the no-till yield contest. Awards to be given for the highest yields.

The Commissioners of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District urge you to patronize the advertisers in this report, who have indicated an interest in you and your soil conservation effort.

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Tipton, Iowa 52772

CEDAR COUNTY ASCS

County Committee..... Richard J. Pelzer, Chairman
Forest W. Johnson, Vice-Chairman
David Ferguson, Member
County Executive Director..... Donald M. Conrad
Clerks Betty E. Morris
Marjean A. Mente
Lynda L. Harden

As the soil conservation service are publishing their 1977 annual report it will give us an opportunity to list the practices which are available for the 1978 year and the priority that is given to each practice. When a choice has to be made as to what practice we will cost share, the high priority practice comes first, followed by medium and low.

They are as follows:

HIGH:

PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ESTABLISHMENT
PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER IMPROVEMENT
TERRACE SYSTEMS
WINDBREAK RESTORATION OR ESTABLISHMENT
CONSERVATION TILLAGE SYSTEM-NO TILLAGE
PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ON CRITICAL AREAS
WATER IMPOUNDMENT RESERVOIRS
EROSION, OR WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES
SOD WATERWAYS
FOREST TREE PLANTATIONS
FOREST TREE STAND IMPROVEMENT

MEDIUM:

STRIPCROPPING SYSTEMS
DIVERSIONS
GRAZING LAND PROTECTION

LOW:

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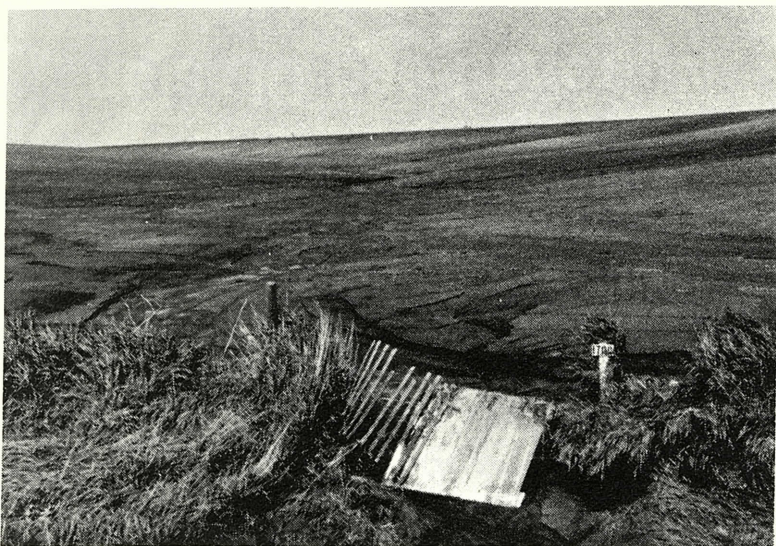
Our Creator has entrusted the good soil to us. Take the best possible care of it because it must last as long as man inhabits the earth.



Strongest Rural Bank in Iowa

1875

1978



Heavy rains and no conservation practices can have disastrous effects. Soil losses from these fields were probably in excess of 50 tons per acre. How long can we afford to let this continue?



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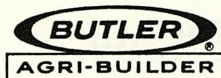
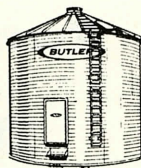
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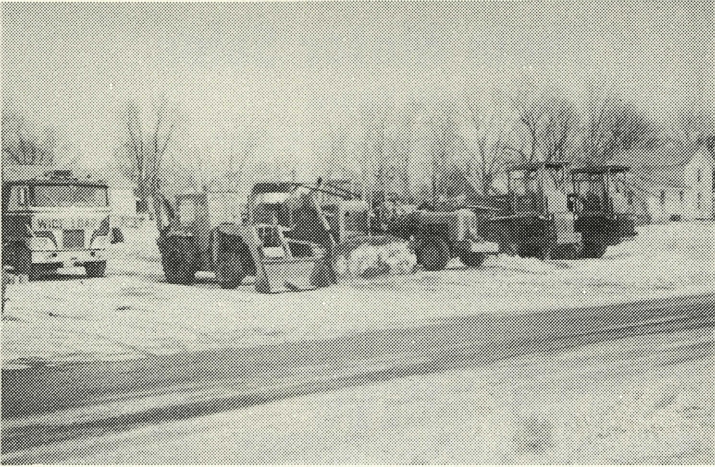


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RESOURCE CONSERVATION PLANS AND REVISIONS FOR 1977

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Grayne Nicolaus | 24. Randall Shaul |
| 2. Mrs. Robert Reichert | 25. Freeman Kaufmann |
| 3. Wayne Tank | 26. Richard Elijah |
| 4. John Wright | 27. Brown Farms, Inc. |
| 5. Freeman Kaufmann | 28. Howard McClellan |
| 6. William Lilienthal | 29. Raldo Horman |
| 7. Roscoe Nash | 30. Waters Brothers |
| 8. Hilbert Marolf | 31. Alan Hoffman |
| 9. Elmer Belitz | 32. Lee Timmerman |
| 10. William Davidson, II | 33. Robert Asquith |
| 11. Ronald Weih | 34. William Furnish |
| 12. Paul Friis | 35. R. C. Shumaker |
| 13. Robert Levsen | 36. Warren Claney |
| 14. Cedar Co. Historical Society | 37. Wayne Frederick |
| 15. Hasselbusch & Emmons | 38. Robert Schott |
| 16. Duane Dotson | 39. Harold Barnhart |
| 17. Edward Kofron | 40. Frank Dvorak |
| 18. Kevin Hartwig | 41. Dennis Driscoll |
| 19. Robert Joslin | 42. Dale Slach |
| 20. Robert Severin | 43. Richard F. Shumaker |
| 21. William Barnhart | 44. Pioneer Central Division |
| 22. Glen Hollingsworth | 45. Walter Hansen |
| 23. Liberty Porkers | 46. Robert Severin |

DISTRICT COOPERATORS FOR 1977

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Richard Elijah | 15. Robert Joslin |
| 2. Jerry Marolf | 16. Tom Bena |
| 3. Glen Hollingsworth | 17. Jack Crowley |
| 4. Dale Slach | 18. James Barclay |
| 5. Barry Langley | 19. R. F. Shumaker |
| 6. Cleo Pederson | 20. Douglas Badtram |
| 7. Kevin Hartwig | 21. Frank Malone |
| 8. Richard Mensing | 22. Steve Eiler |
| 9. Andre Seligman | 23. Larry Ballenger |
| 10. William Elijah | 24. Robert Langley |
| 11. Lee Timmerman | 25. Mike Kaufmann |
| 12. Edward Kofron | 26. John Christian Miller |
| 13. R. C. Shumaker | 27. Pioneer Central Division |
| 14. Dennis Driscoll | |

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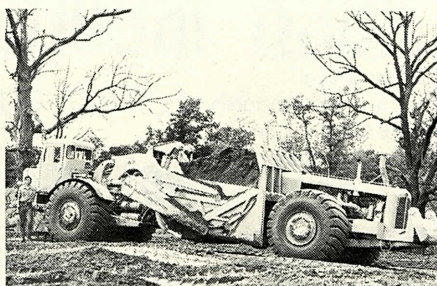
Stanwood-Olin, Iowa

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1892-1977

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TIPTON, IOWA

CONSERVATION

by Clarence Beyer

There has been many changes in agriculture in the last 25 years. When I first came to this country, nearly every farm had a rotation with 25 to 40% of the cropland in grass. There were still several farms with bluegrass pastures. Most of the farms were, what today would be called a small farm - 120 to 160 acres. Nearly every farmer had 10 to 20 cows, either dairy or beef. (There were six creameries in this county.) Most farms had 10 to 20 sows or about that number of sheep. There were still several farms with flocks of chickens, also M Farmalls, A John Deeres and U Minneapolis Molines were quite popular. These were in the 50 horse power range and were considered big tractors. All of that has been changed - today, the farms are considerably larger, 240 to 300 acres with several exceeding 750 acres. The machinery is considerably bigger, 8 and 12 row planters are common, combines are all self-propelled and able to harvest large acreages in a short time. Tractors are in the 100 to 150 horsepower range. We now have few dairy herds, few flocks of chickens and although we still have a large number of hogs, these are being raised in confinement and on a small number of farms.

All of those changes have helped reduce the price of food and have meant better living conditions, but we are making sacrifices to do this. Today, the blue grass pastures are gone, our forest land has been reduced, and the total amount of our valuable topsoil has also been reduced. We now have less than one-half of the topsoil left that was here when our forefathers started tilling this land.

A recent critical area survey in this county states in 2 areas (total 35,000 acres) the topsoil will be completely gone in 25 years. In other areas totaling about 70,000 acres, the topsoil will be gone in 50 years. On the remainder of the county under present conditions, the topsoil will last approximately 100 years. Is this what we want? I don't feel it is. How do we stop the excessive erosion? Legislation? Farmers fear and resist restrictions. Education? This is not the answer. We all know that erosion is excessive and we have the technical knowledge to control erosion. What we don't know is how to get each individual landowner to care for his land and to see that erosion is not excessive on his farm.

One further comment, for what it's worth, we do have more horses today in Cedar county than we had 25 years ago.

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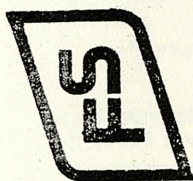


Cedar County Farm Bureau

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Farmers Home Administration

Kenneth D. Dunn, County Supervisor
Leslie Cox, Assistant Emergency Loan Supervisor
Bonnie K. Stolte, County Office Assistant
Kimberly Rochau, County Office Clerk

The Farmers Home Administration is the rural credit branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Loans are made for many worthwhile purposes. All loans are made to rural families who are unable to get conventional financing. The loans are set up for repayment according to the families' ability to repay.

A three man County Committee reviews applications for loans to determine loan eligibility. The County Committee members are Chester Vincent, West Branch; John Sauer, Mechanicsville; and Kenneth Pasvogel, Tipton.

Some of the loans FmHA makes are described as follows:

Farm Operating Loans: Loans are made to qualified applicants to purchase livestock, machinery, and operating expenses. Debts can be refinanced if collateral is given. There is a \$50,000 maximum of this loan type. Many young men have been "Scratch Starters" with this loan. This is a 7 year loan which enables a farm family to spread out its overhead and get a good start in farming.

Farm Ownership Loans: Loans are made to tenants to become land owners and operators. The applicant must be in a good financial situation to get his loan. These loans are made in conjunction with loans with other long term lenders. The maximum loan is for 40 years with a total real estate indebtedness of \$225,000.

Emergency Loans: These loans are made to a farmer when a natural disaster strikes such as wind, hail, blight, and drought. These are made to keep the family on the farm and give him operating credit at a reduced interest rate and suitable terms. A substantial loss must have been suffered to get this type of credit.

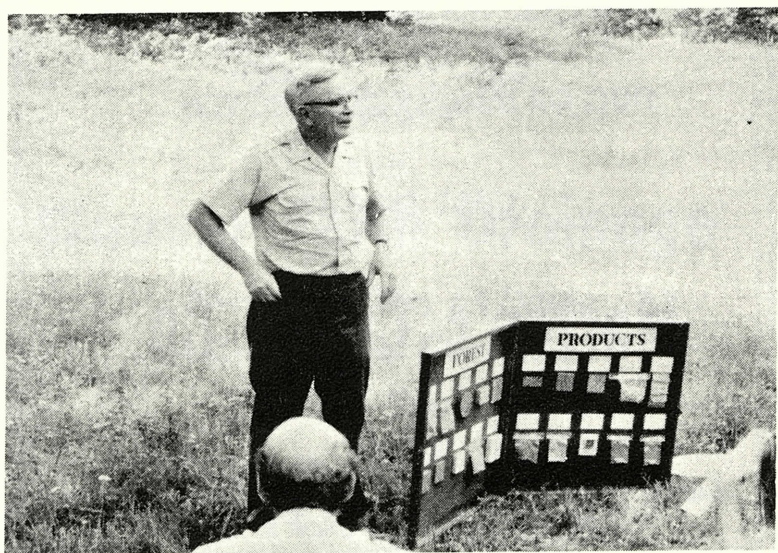
Soil & Water Loans: These loans are made to finance soil and water conservation practices such as ponds, dams, erosion control structures, wells and other items consistent with good farming practices.

Rural Housing: Loans are made to build new homes or upgrade existing homes. Facility loans are made for grain storage, improved farm water systems, and livestock production facilities.

The Cedar County Office is located in Tipton in the USDA Building. Office hours are each Monday from 9:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:00.



In May, the District Education Committee sponsored a Teachers Environmental workshop. Above Dr. Paul Christiansen, a biologist from Cornell college describes the native grasses and wild flowers found at Rochester cemetery. Below Ed Gardiner, District Forester discusses the importance of trees and our environment.



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**EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY
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1976-77 FISCAL YEAR**

I-M BUDGET

Commissioners' Expense.....	\$589.34
Office Supplies	150.44
Prizes for Contest	62.84
Meeting Expenses	23.25
Office Expense	341.74

TOTAL \$1167.61

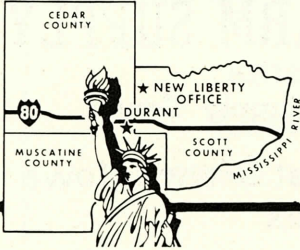
II-M BUDGET

Salary - Clerk	
regular and part-time.....	\$8291.04
State Retirement	381.75
Health Insurance	280.00
Federal Retirement (Social Security)	485.03
Life Insurance	36.00
Travel	52.90
Equipment.....	98.50

TOTAL \$9677.26

III-M BUDGET

Allocation July 1, 1976.....	\$39,000.00
Amount disbursed as of	
12/31/77.....	19,331.96
Amount obligated	9,659.50
Released to Department	
12/31/77.....	10,008.54



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OF TIPTON

Tipton, Iowa

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ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY

The following indicates the District's accomplishments reported for the 1977 Fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1977.

Tile Outlet Terraces	49,972 Ft.
Water Control Basins	6
Minimum Tillage -	5934 Acres
Grassed Waterway	8.0 Acres
Tile Drainage	51,486 Ft.
Pasture & Hayland Adequately Treated	343 Acres
Windbreaks & Tree Planting	10 Acres
Cropland Adequately Treated	953 Acres
Agricultural Waste Systems	6
Ponds	1

We feel that either directly or indirectly we are influencing the conservation thinking of every citizen in the county. If we continue to do so, our natural resources will be preserved.

Farmers Grain & Lumber Co.

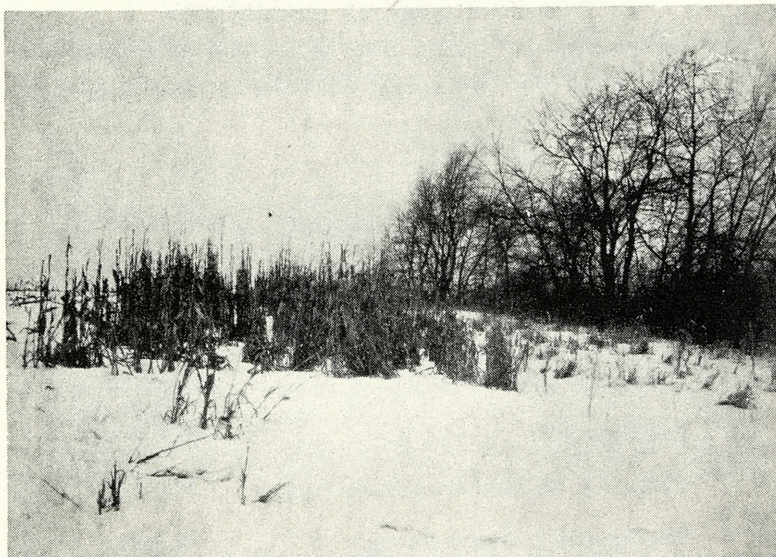
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Corn left standing adjacent to brushy cover will insure adequate winter food for most wildlife species.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST

by Donald Pfeiffer

A wildlife management biologist is assigned to Cedar County to assist individuals in improving wildlife habitat on their land.

Wildlife numbers serve as a good barometer of the environment. Economic conditions are forcing a reduction in the usual waste areas on the farm. Approximately 2,000 acres of wildlife cover was lost in Cedar County alone in 1977. As the habitat diversity is reduced, so will the animal diversity and number be reduced.

Secure nesting cover is the limiting habitat type for wildlife in Cedar County. A drive across most of the county in January and February will reveal the hardships that the animals have obtaining protection from winter storms and more so, the lack of grassland that will hide the pheasant hen as she attempts to nest in May and June. An alfalfa-grass mixture is the preferred cover for nesting pheasants, rabbits and ground nesting songbirds.

Requests for the stocking of fish in farm ponds are handled by the wildlife biologist. If you are interested in stocking bass, bluegill and catfish, contact me. Your pond must be inspected and request approved by July 15.

DISTRICT FORESTER

By Ed Gardiner

Cedar County's inventory of timberland has been depleted down to 15,000 acres and most of this is along the Cedar and Wapsipinicon rivers. Unfortunately much of the land that has been cleared should still have the trees on it to protect it from erosion and rapid runoff.

Older civilizations such as China, Korea and the middle east that cleared their timber centuries ago have thousand of acres of non-productive eroded hilly land. Once cleared and eroded, it's hard to get land back to a productive timber growing status.

People are planting trees in Cedar County. In 1977, there were 35,000 trees planted on 69 acres for reforestation.

For those landowners that want to keep their land in timber or those landowners that want to reforest there is some help. The ASCS committee for Cedar County has included two forest practices for cost sharing in their annual program. One is tree planting, this would be reforestation involving at least one acre. The other practice is timber stand improvement which involves thinning and pruning young stands and possibly fencing timberland to keep livestock out.

The District Forester is an employee of the Iowa Conservation Commission and provides the technical assistance for the above mentioned programs. The forester will provide timberland management and marketing help to anyone that wants to preserve their timberland. Also, the conservation commission maintains the State Forest Nursery at Ames which produces trees for reforestation, wildlife and erosion control.



Eight year old walnut plantation southeast of Lisbon.



On Jan. 7, the District held its zero-till contest awards banquet to honor the participants. Pictured from left are Warren Johnson, district conservationist, George Driscoll, Wayne Fredericks, Jerry Agne, Jim Bowie, and Bob Jones, from Ortho Chemical Company.

DISTRICT SPONSORS ZERO-TILL CONTEST

In 1977, the Cedar Soil Conservation District sponsored a no-till yield contest. The contest rules were similar to those of the Masters Corn Growers Contest. The rule was that the fields could not be plowed, disced, or chiseled before planting. The zero-tillage idea has a lot of erosion control potential for Cedar county and the contest was one way of promoting the idea.

There were at least 12 farmers in the county that planted some no-till last year. Of the seven official contest entries, the Agne Brothers of Tipton, took first place with 170 bu. per acre. Their 40-acre field of corn was planted into alfalfa sod. Ken and Jim Madson of West Branch placed second with 156 bu. per acre of corn in bluegrass sod. Third place went to Wayne Frederick of Springdale who grew 146 bu. per acre of corn following corn.

This coming year, Chevron Chemical Company, will be leasing a no-till planter from Orange Country in Tipton. This planter will be available free of charge to anyone wishing to try some no-till in 1978. If you are interested in using this planter, contact the Soil Conservation District, or Orange Country in Tipton.



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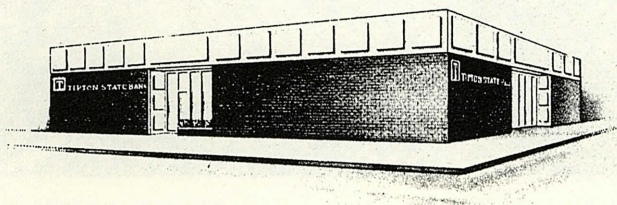
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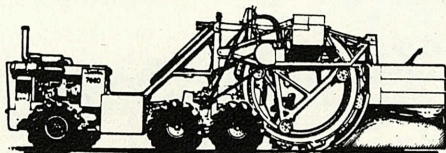
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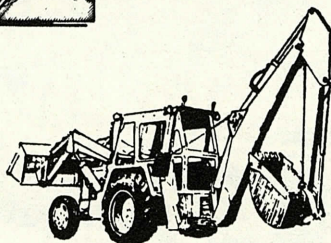


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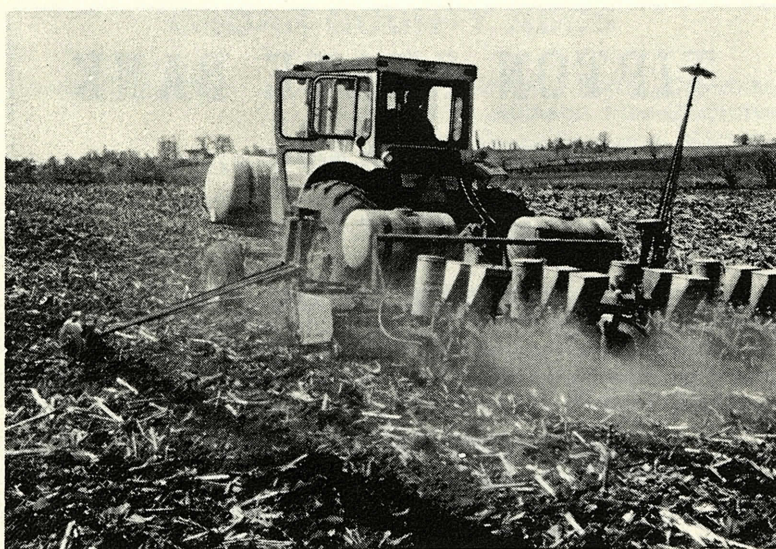
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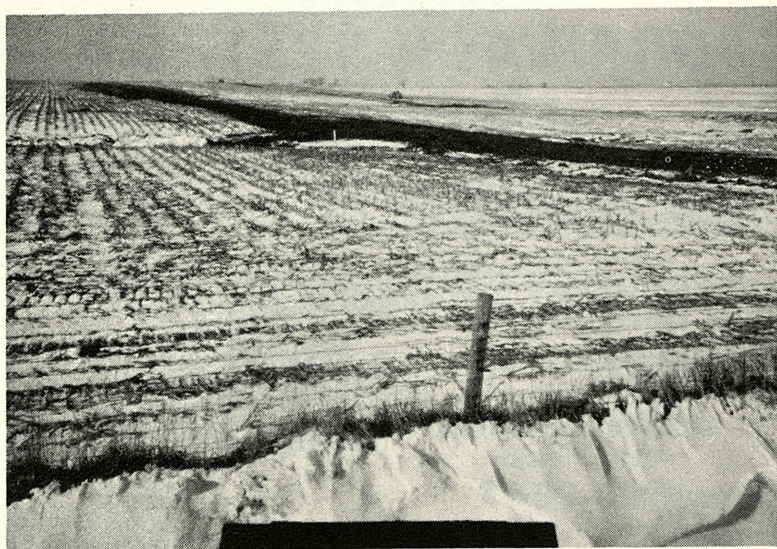
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LAND USE

Kenneth D. Muller
County Extension Director

We are in an era of growing concern over the preservation and proper utilization of our land, water and energy resources. The need for sound management practices is crucial to the future well-being of our county and state on these issues.

In the past, agricultural land was considered as "open space" or "undeveloped property." However, just recently the view toward agricultural land has changed on the part of both farmers and urban dwellers.

In the past, land use decisions mainly were determined in the market place, but the disappearance of the frontier that provided room to move and for growth is creating pressure for a change in the control of land use.

The Land Preservation Policy Act, as passed by the 67th Iowa General Assembly, was intended to get local input and clear perspective on the issues before more rules and regulations are written.

Temporary land preservation hearings were well attended in Cedar County. Getting past the emotional and reactionary stage is part of the process to get at basic issues involved in land use.

The chief concern expressed by people was limiting soil loss. Soil loss is a problem but is not considered one of the basic land use issues. However, it relates a deep feeling by both farm and urban people that we have not maintained a balance in short run economic goals over the long run need to preserve the one best resource we have wherever it exists, especially as they see it used for farming. Many people indicated a need for more mandatory methods to accomplish the goal of limiting soil loss.

Problems arising from pollutants, odor, noise, safety, hunger, needed services, economic losses, organizational boundaries will continue to bring forth conflicting issues in preserving agricultural land for food, siting of facilities, protecting critical areas, protecting property rights, transportation, housing, recreational and industrial needs.

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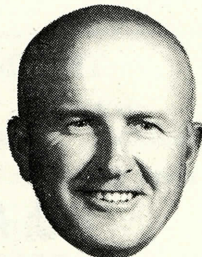
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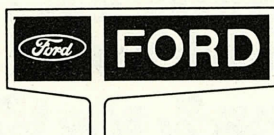
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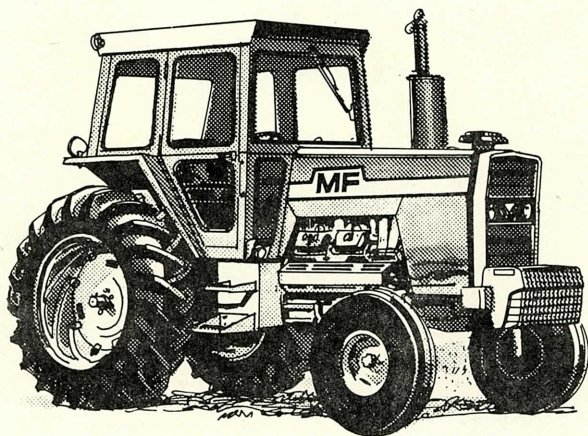
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