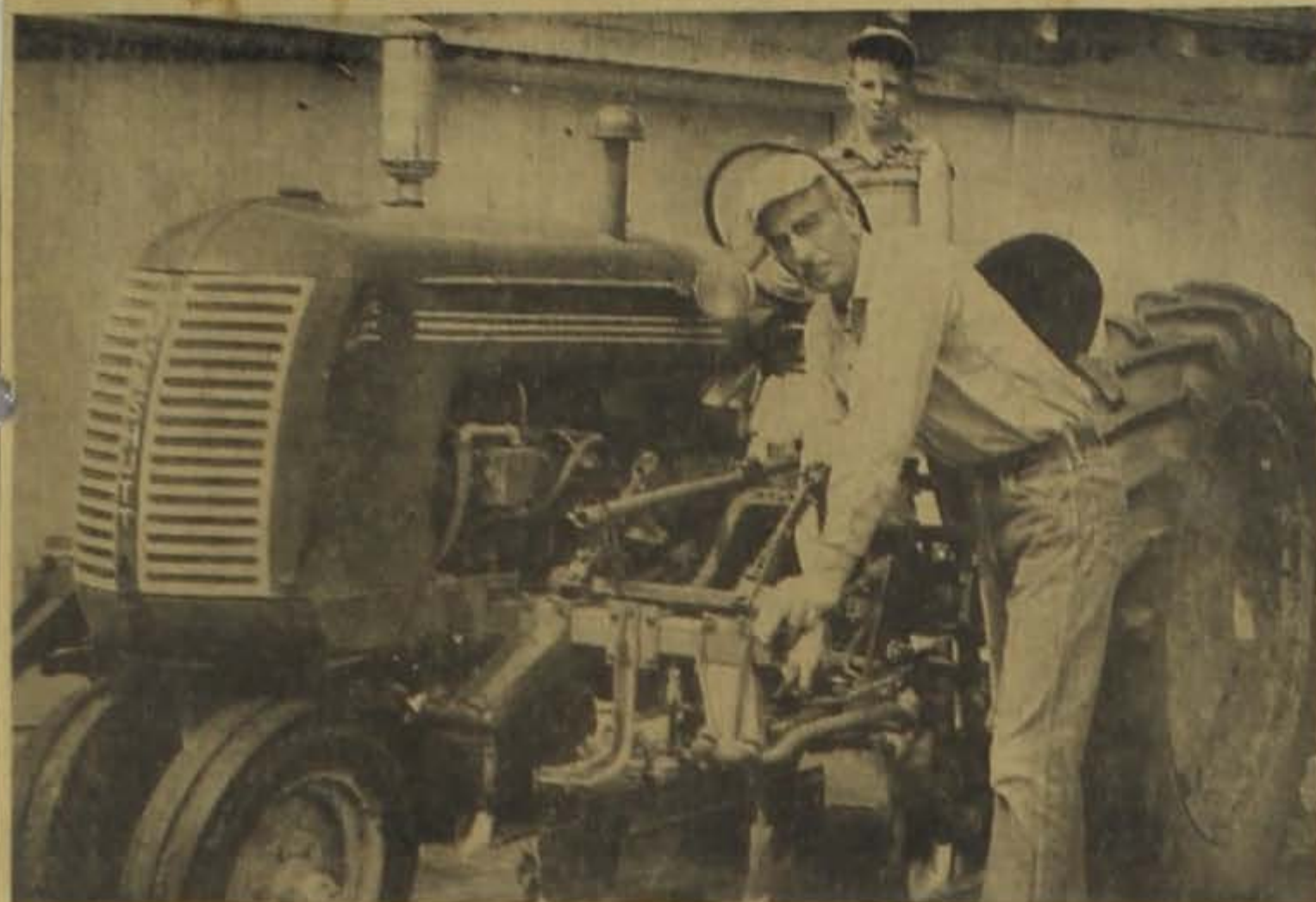


Conservation Week Focuses Light On Awards, Practices in Hardin Co.



Conservation Achievement Winners Being Recognized

Hardin county winners of the 1960 awards in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in soil and water conservation were Lee Lundy, Eldora, and Wayne Meier,

Hubbard. Meier, who operates a 288-acre farm northwest of Hubbard, is shown above with his son Bruce while adjusting a cultivator.

Special recognition is being paid Lundy and Meier this week as Soil Conservation Week is observed throughout the nation from June 19 to 26. —H-I Photo

Terraces Built By Many County Farmers to Date

The need of protecting the many acres of cropland subject to erosion has influenced many Hardin county farmers to turn to terraces as an important practice in conservation farming.

"Nearly 73 miles of terraces have been constructed on 53 farms in Hardin county to date" stated Cal Moore of the Soil Conservation Service, Eldora. "An additional 19 farms have requested terrace layout for 1960 with more requests expected as the fall terracing season nears," Moore continued.

Terraces have been constructed this spring on the following farms: Gerald Modlin, 6300 feet; Ray Youngman, New Providence, 3355 feet; Laverne Haywood-Butler farms, Whitten, 2100 feet; and John Helmich-Minnie Haas, Whitten, 3650 feet.

"Terraces surveyed this spring have all been constructed parallel to eliminate point rows between terraces," Moore stated. "The terraces are also spaced to allow an even number of rows based on 4-row equipment."

The late spring and abnormally wet season has resulted in postponing terrace construction on a number of farms. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall.

Over 150 County Farmers Request Tile Drainage Help

The abnormally high amount of rainfall and wet field conditions have had a decided effect on application of conservation practices reports Cal Moore of the Soil Conservation Service, Eldora.

Over 150 farms have requested assistance for tile drainage this spring, a sizeable increase over previous years.

"Although the demand for tilers and surveying assistance has been much greater, the amount of tile installed has remained about the same, or less," Moore stated. "The tiling contractors were unable to start field work as early this spring as usual and because of wet field conditions, tiling has progressed at a slower rate," Moore continued.

With the increased requests for work, it is expected tile installation will continue quite strong through the summer and fall.

Also showing a sizeable increase in application this spring is contouring. Nearly 100 farms have requested assistance for establishing contour lines.

In addition to wet field conditions, the higher amount of rainfall has contributed to soil erosion. The increased interest in erosion control has resulted in more requests for contouring.

The observance of Soil and Water Conservation Week in Hardin county during the week of June 19 to 26 will coincide with special recognition being given the 100 Soil Conservation

The week of June 19 to 26, set aside as Soil Conservation Week, brings special attention to Soil Conservation Achievement Awards in Hardin county.

Selected as winners of the 1960 Awards in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in Soil and Water Conservation this spring were Kenneth Meier, Hubbard, and Lee Lundy, Eldora.

Meier, who operates a 288-acre farm 31 miles northwest of Hubbard, has been active in conservation since 1948. He was elected as commissioner in the Hardin Soil Conservation District in the fall of 1952 and served for over six years. Two years of his term were as chairman.

Conservation practices installed on the Meier farm include 31 acres of strip-cropping and 40 acres of contouring. Waterways have been reshaped and seeded and over 5500 feet of tile installed. A planting of shrubs and trees beneficial to wildlife was made in 1958. Plans for 1960 include terrace construction and some additional waterway reshaping.

Meier is ably assisted with his farming operation by his wife Ginette, sons Steven and Bruce and daughter Maria. The Meier family has been active in community activities, serving as 4-H leaders and on the County Extension Council and Farm Bureau Board. Mrs. Meier served as secretary of the Women's Auxiliary of Soil Conservation Districts for two years.

Lundy has been active in the Hardin Soil Conservation District since its beginning, having signed as the 26th co-operator with the District. The District, now in its 16th year of operation, has co-operators numbering to 825.

Lundy, who operates 320 acres four miles northeast of Eldora, has installed numerous conservation practices. His conservation farm plan includes contouring, grassed waterways and headlands, tile drainage, and establishing a cropping sequence. In addition in 1959, a system of parallel terraces was installed. The three terraces were constructed an equal distance apart to eliminate short point rows and to facilitate the use of 4-row equipment.

Lundy is also primarily responsible for the installation of conservation practices on a number of other farms in the county that he owns or manages. The rolling land on these farms is contour strip-cropped or terraced to control soil erosion.

Lundy served a brief term as commissioner in the District in 1948 in the absence of a regular commissioner.

Districts in Iowa.

This special week, proclaimed by Governor Herschel C. Loveless, marks the twenty-third observance of Conservation Week.

Soil and Water Conservation Week is jointly selected by the State Soil Conservation Committee and the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts as a time when special emphasis is given to conservation in Iowa.

Iowa was completely organized into Soil Conservation Districts in 1952. Each of the local county districts is a subdivision of State government and is governed by farmer-elected commissioners.