

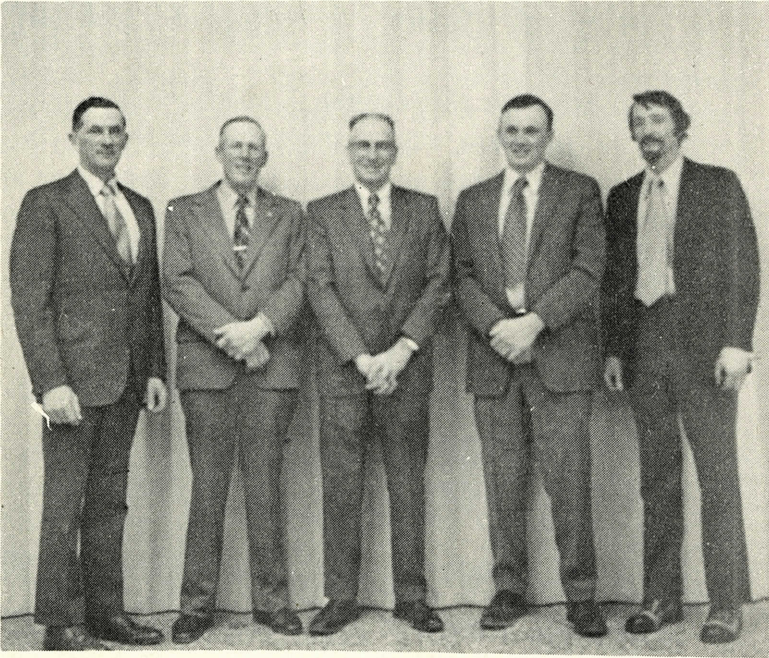
1974

ANNUAL REPORT

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FOREWORD

By William Davidson II

On behalf of the commissioners we want to wish the people in Cedar County a very happy new year. We also want to thank all those progressive merchants and contractors who made this annual report possible. These people are the ones who make it possible for the commissioners to carry on with educational programs such as sending teachers to work camps, soil judging, speech and poster contests. We think these programs are important.

This has been quite a year! The big rains in May caused a lot of soil loss in Cedar county. A lot of this loss could have been avoided if we would have used some kind of conservation practices such as mulch tillage, terraces, no-till planters, and strip cropping. We should be considering some of these practices in our own operations.

Have you ever asked yourself the question, why do I plow? Think about it. Write down the advantages on a piece of paper - then write down all those disadvantages. Plowing generally is not necessary. Ask a person in your area that is using a chisel, disc, or even a no-till planter, how it works. Try it on a few acres of your own land and see for yourself that it does work. You not only save time, labor and fuel, but you will save your soil and the fertilizer you put on it. This is what is important.

Mother Nature took thousands of years to make our soils, and if we stand idly by it is only going to take a few years more to lose it all!

The Cedar County Soil Conservation office is here for one reason, and that is to serve and help you. Stop in and say hello.

Cover Picture

Cedar County District Commissioners - left to right Darrell Brown, Willard Eiler, Elmer Wilke, Ken Mather and Bill Davidson II, chairman.



Assistant commissioners - Robert Severin, Massillon township,
Jeanette Ruprecht, Springfield township.



S.C.S. Office Staff - Jeff Anliker, Hilda Carey, Clarence Beyer.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS 1974

January

Commissioners Darrell Brown, Ken Mather, and district conservationist, Jeff Anliker, attended the annual short course at Ames.

Contractor's news letter was sent to all contractors in the county.

Clarence Beyer worked with FHA on soil suitability and comprehensive water and sewer plan for the town of Rochester.

Jeff Anliker gave presentation at crop clinics in Tipton and West Branch.

Clarence Beyer and Hilda Carey attended a day area meeting in Washington. Beyer received a certificate of merit for outstanding work done in 1973.

A list of teachers were appointed for one-year terms on the education committee.

February

District annual meeting and election held. Darrell Brown and Elmer Wilke re-elected for 6-year terms. Approximately 90 people attended.

Election of 1974 officers was held: William Davidson, II was elected chairman, Ken Muller as secretary, and Hilda Carey, treasurer.

Jeff Anliker worked with board of supervisors and zoning board updating Cedar's zoning rules.

March

Four commissioners and Jeff Anliker attended the Regional Commissioners meeting in Amana.

Commissioners purchased 10# Emerald Crownvetch to use in seeding road bank ditches at Cedar Bluff.

Jeff Anliker and Bill Davidson met with Lowden school board and Lowden park board on site for outdoor classroom.

A contractor's meeting was held for tilers and earth movers who do work in the county. Eighteen attended.

Robert Severin, Massillon township, and Jeanette Ruprecht, Springfield township, were appointed assistant commissioners.

April

Bill Davidson, Ken Mather, and Jeff Anliker attended the Last Acre Ceremony at the George Nopoulos farm.

Over 150 students helped with planting the Lowden outdoor classroom.

Underground utility lines inventory and map of county made. A copy sent to each contractor.

May

Commissioner Darrell Brown and Clarence Beyer, technician, attended County Planning Commission and Organizational meeting. Brown elected to represent the district.

Conservation tillage plot held on Bill Davidson farm.

Soil Stewardship booklets distributed to all churches in the county.

June

Commissioners, with help from SCS and Extension, held a tour of tile outlet terraces and conservation tillage for county businessmen.

District sponsored 3 teachers to Eldridge to attend Teachers Conservation Camp. They were Linda Hamann, Gwen Groharing, and Muriel Barnett.

Darrell Brown nominated as outstanding commissioner.

Clarence Beyer spent two weeks in Lincoln, Nebraska on training.

July

Over 30 people from Cedar and Muscatine counties attended tile outlet terrace and no-till planting tour sponsored by the district, SCS, and Extension.

Darrell Brown named Region 7 outstanding commissioner.

Three commissioners and wives, Jeff Anliker and Hilda Carey attended Regional commissioners meeting at Amana.

George Nopoulos and Ed Daufeldt, Jeanette Ruprecht won regional honors in the Register & Tribune Contest.

Long term agreement for Helen and Roger Reynolds was prepared.

August

Thirty persons attended the Yankee-Lizard watershed meeting in Lowden. Four directors were selected to direct activities.

Commissioners displayed a booth at county fair.

September

Jeff Anliker, Elmer Wilke, Bill Davidson II, and Hilda Carey attended the annual conference for commissioners at Fort Dodge.

Education committee workshop held with 26 teachers from all school districts attending.

October

Annual soil judging contest held with 35 students participating. West Branch received a plaque for winning the contest.

Jeff Anliker was transferred to Ottumwa. Clarence Beyer appointed acting district conservationist until a replacement was found.

Jeanette Ruprecht attended teachers conservation workshop at Strawberry Point.



The Cedar County Education Committee judged over 300 posters - over-all winners in the county were: Julie Ebers, Clarence, 1st; Shanna Steinke, Bennett, 2nd; and Janice Anderson, West Branch, 3rd.

November

Commissioners built a 4' x 8' sign to be moved from farm to farm where tile outlet terraces are being installed.

Register & Tribune awards dinner held in Washington honoring George Nopoulos, Ed Daufeldt, and Jeanette Ruprecht. Several commissioners and wives attended.

December

Commissioners and Clarence Beyer attended the Area 8 planning meeting at Maquoketa.

Commissioners approved Memorandum of Understanding with the other districts of Region 8 planning commission. Darrell Brown appointed as delegate and Bob Severin as alternate.

Poster contest sponsored by Cedar County Farm Bureau Environmental Committee and Soil Conservation Education Committee. Three hundred entries including 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. Over-all county winner was Julie Ebers, Clarence-Lowden school.

Advertising was sold for the annual report.

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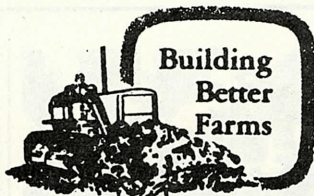
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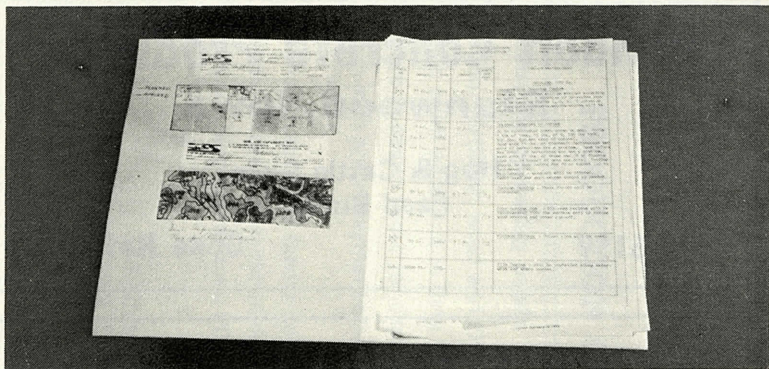


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A conservation plan with the land use map (upper left), the soil map (lower left) and the narrative portion including soil descriptions, land use capabilities, and recommendations.

LAND USE

by Clarence Beyer, Conservation Technician

Already we're asking where did the surplus grain of the 1950's and 1960's go. It wasn't dumped in the ocean, it wasn't burned or destroyed. Most of it was used as food. This nation reached the 100 million mark in 1915, the 200 million mark in 1968 and will reach the 300 million mark about the year 2000. World population is expanding at the same rate and is now well into the billions.

In addition to population growth, there are other changes. Neither in Iowa nor in the nation is there a vast area of unsettled land for development. The frontier is gone. I believe in Iowa there are only 3 small areas of native prairie left.

Between 1945 and 1969 the total land in farms in Iowa declined by 2.6%. This is the equivalent of more than 1,300 square miles; an area equal to two average size Iowa counties.

This concerns me, but something of greater concern is the fact that in Cedar county we have been farming a little over 125 years and during that time we have lost $\frac{1}{2}$ of our valuable topsoil. Our topsoil was determined to be 7 to 14" thick when white men came to this area. The soil scientists have completed a soil survey for all lands in Cedar county and topsoil depth now varies from 3 to 9 inches. The S.C.S. is not against all-out production, but we don't believe it should be at the expense of future generations. I think you will agree it was a sickening sight last spring to drive through the countryside and see the erosion.

The S.C.S. has the knowledge to reduce soil loss to minimums that will let us produce for many generations. **LET'S USE IT NOT ABUSE IT.**

Conservation Resource Planning

**By Jeff Anliker, District Conservationist
USDA, Soil Conservation Service**

The Cedar County Soil Conservation District program has changed considerably over the past two years. The District commissioners have become more informed and involved in overall direction and planning to accomplish their conservation goals.

Some steps the commissioners have taken are:

1. Pick priority areas and practices for state cost-share funds and personnel. They are encouraging the group approach to problems such as the Lowden Watershed area and the West Branch Watershed area. More conservation can be accomplished by a group than by scattered individuals.

2. Working with city and county government.

- a. Using soil information for site selection and development of the West Branch School District.

- b. Technical assistance for the drainage of the Tipton School football field and tile outlet terraces for the Tipton FFA field plots.

- c. Using soil information as a basis for rezoning land so that soil is used within its capabilities.

3. Increase the information and education of conservation and ecology in the Cedar County School system.

- a. Cosponsoring the Environmental Poster Contest with the Farm Bureau Environmental Committee for 3rd - 6th grades, plus special education classes.

- b. The annual soil judging contest for FFA clubs.

- c. Furnish ideas, trees, shrubs, and grasses for outdoor classroom plantings for use by schools.

- d. Sponsor local and state-wide teacher workshops so instructors can become familiar with and gain confidence in teaching conservation both in and out of the classroom.

4. The District also handles complaints which are submitted under the Iowa Conservancy Law. The law concerns damage to property from erosion and the resulting sedimentation of adjoining landowners.

5. Encouraging the increased use of conservation tillage and tile outlet terraces by having demonstration plots and holding conservation tours.

The present Cedar county commissioners have done an outstanding job the past two years. I feel they will continue to do a good job in the future. The people of Cedar County can be proud and trust their judgment.

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SOIL SURVEY

**By Neal Williamson, Soil Scientist
USDA, Soil Conservation Service**

The detailed soil survey in Cedar County has been completed. The final acres were mapped in the north-eastern part of the county in the Dinsdale-Klinger and Fayette-Downs association. We concluded the final field work in April of 1974.

The last acres' ceremony was held April 18, 1974 on the George Nopoulos farm. It included the three agencies that were financially involved in getting the survey done. The Federal Government (Soil Conservation Service), the State Government (State Extension Service), and the County (Tax Assessor). Representing the Federal Government for the Soil Conservation Service was Mr. Wilson T. Moon, State Conservationist; representing the State was Dr. John Pesek of the Iowa Cooperative Extension Service; and one representative for the county was the tax assessor, Henry Busching. Also representing the county was the County Extension Director, Mr. Kenneth Muller, and the Cedar county district commissioners. Also representing the soil conservation service on a county base was the district conservationist, Jeff Anliker, and the soil survey crew, Ed Schermerhorn, Neal Williamson and Howard Bright.

There were comments, progress reports, uses, and recommendations made on and for the soil survey report. The ceremony was a great success, bringing to a close the soil survey work in Cedar County.

We would like to express our appreciation to the farmers, landowners, and urban residents of Cedar county for helping to make the soil survey a successful one.

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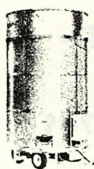
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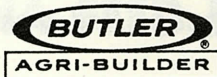
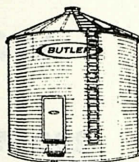
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| 2. Michael Moore | 25. Philip Hall |
| 3. Alberta Read | 26. Thomas Bailey |
| 4. William Furnish | 27. Robert Rehmke |
| 5. Robert Regennitter | 28. Robert L. Turner |
| 6. Harold Leazer | 29. Cedar Lakes, by E.J. Compton |
| 7. Lonnie Walton | 30. Mrs. Norman Hartwig |
| 8. Hazel Hughes (2 farms) | 31. William Schroeder, Jr. |
| 9. Raymond Voelkers | 32. Duane Buttleman |
| 10. Roy Ellerhoff | 33. Harry Mauseth |
| 11. Lowden City Park Board, by Wilbert Wenndt, President | 34. Larry Beaver |
| 12. Clarence-Lowden Community School, by Jerry Gallagher, Superintendent | 35. Richard Fry |
| 13. Dean Pettit | 36. Mearle Jackson |
| 14. John Wentz | 37. Jack Lovetinsky |
| 15. Russell Emrich | 38. Arnold Rochau |
| 16. Larry Glick | 39. Jack Reeve |
| 17. Fred Rodenberger, c/o Doane Agricultural Service | 40. Gary Kline |
| 18. Merton Burnett | 41. Gale Gates |
| 19. Miles Williams Estate, by David Luett, Farm Manager | 42. Bryce Healy |
| 20. Gary Suchomel | 43. Merle Bentrott |
| 21. Gordon Collier | 44. Lloyd Thien |
| 22. Ralph Duffe | 45. Carl Haesemeyer (2 farms) |
| 23. Henry DeWulf | 46. Wilbert Wenndt |
| | 47. Dick Maske |
| | 48. Durwood Dircks |
| | 49. Norman Kroemer |
| | 50. Dean Moore |
| | 51. Tom Barnhart |



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| 2. Robert Wilkins | 16. Alex Frost |
| 3. Marjorie & Eloise Laubscher | 17. Darrell Penningroth |
| 4. Richard Palmer | 18. Roger & Helen Reynolds |
| 5. Gale Maurer (2 farms) | 19. Penningroth Farms, Inc. |
| 6. Melvin Duffe | 20. Ralph Phelps |
| 7. Mrs. J.E. Walton | 21. Johnson & Cigledy |
| 8. Raymond Kroemer | 22. Bernice Kinsey |
| 9. Wayne Ralfs | 23. E.W. Penningroth |
| 10. J.H. O'Connor | 24. Herb Townsend |
| 11. Howard Bates | 25. Wild Country |
| 12. Richard Pelzer | 26. Stanley Maurer |
| 13. Robert Wilkins, Jr. | 27. Everett Crees |
| 14. Dean Pettit | 28. Michael Moore |

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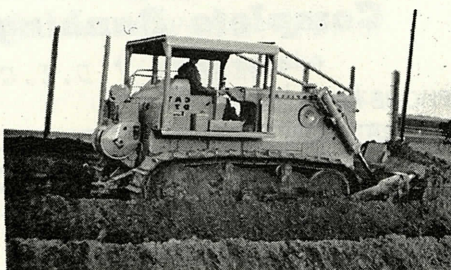
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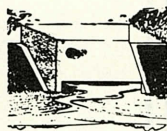
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County Committee:

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Richard J. Pelzer, Vice Chairman
Forest Johnson, Member

County Executive Director:

Donald M. Conrad

Clerks:

Betty E. Morris
Marjean A. Mente

We feel the farmers in Cedar County will be gearing to all out production again in 1975 as they did in 1974. With more land under intense cultivation the need for more and better conservation practices is very much needed.

This year pointed up the need for erosion control work more than any year of recent history. Our agency A. S. C. S. has made many low yield payments because of the abnormal year, late spring, flooding and early freeze. Many of these conditions also create erosion control problems. As we return to a more normal year in 1975, we hope low yield payments are a thing of the past but conservation control measures for soil erosion are on the increase.

We feel it is our responsibility to keep you informed on all programs we administer so you can take advantage of them if you qualify. Our reason for being here is service to the Cedar County farmer.

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National Association Sponsoring Trips Abroad

The National Association of Conservation Districts is sponsoring a series of trips abroad. Among these is a tour of Europe and Russia in late August or early September of this year. Don Williams, past district conservationist, has been asked to host this tour. Those taking this trip will observe conservation practices and farming methods practiced in England, Holland, Russia and other European countries. These tours have been tax exempt for anyone actively engaged in farming. For more information contact the Tipton Soil Conservation District Office or Don Williams, P. O. Box 149, Tipton, Iowa. Phone 886-6531.

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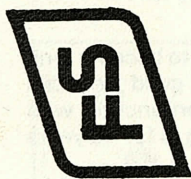
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Farmers Home Administration

Kenneth D. Dunn, County Supervisor
David E. Sander, Assistant County Supervisor
Kathryn S. Koch, County Office Assistant

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: Hugh Doty, Wilton; Robert Laucamp, Tipton; and Chester Vincent, West Branch.

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.

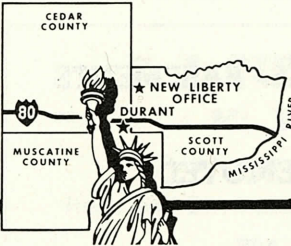
Soil & Water Loans: These loans are made to finance soil and water conservation practices such as ponds, dams, erosion control structures, wells and other items consistent with good farming practices.

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 8:00 to 5:00.



Commissioner Bill Davidson, center, presenting Register & Tribune conservation award to Ed Daufeldt, left, and George Nopoulos, right.



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I-M BUDGET

Commissioner's Expense	\$376.71
Office Supplies	372.43
Prizes for Contest	21.75
Meeting Expenses	4.42
Office Expense	303.99
TOTAL	1,079.30

II-M BUDGET

Salary - Clerk	\$5,924.00
State Retirement	207.35
Health Insurance	179.95
Federal Retirement (Social Security)	346.56
Life Insurance	36.00
Travel	16.00
Equipment	677.47
TOTAL	\$7,387.33

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Erosion in the Lowden area May 1974.



A good example of conservation tillage. This was in the Lowden area. Picture was taken same day as the flood picture found above. We estimated 5,000 lbs. of residue left on the surface. Ground slope on this field varied from 5 to 20% - runoff was carrying very little silt.

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EXTENSION SERVICE

Kenneth D. Muller
County Extension Director

Is "Voluntary Conservation" of our soil working? People that care and have an incentive usually do the best job at a task that needs to be done. Ownership and use of land is everybody's concern because what we do with land affects the owner, his neighbor and the whole society. The effects also reach far into the future.

Soil erosion was the worst it has been in Cedar county and Iowa in the past twenty-five years. Most of this was because of the timing of excess rainfall at planting time. However, soil loss with intensive cropping has been going on every year at too rapid a rate to make 1974 an exception and simply remember it as the big "gully washer."

If voluntary conservation is to work, new involvement is needed including land owners, tenants, city people, youth, and watershed groups to establish a higher priority for soil loss control.

The development of a conservation plan for a particular farm should be done with specific objectives in mind. Each farm with its operator offers a unique situation and can best solve its soil loss problem voluntarily, if it is recognized as a problem.

The Extension Office will continue to assist the Soil Conservation Service and to make reducing soil loss a top priority.

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ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY

The following indicates the accomplishments for the 1974 Fiscal Year and totals to date.

		To Date
Contour Farming	4,762 Acres	67,552 Acres
Strip Cropping		3,937 Acres
Conservation Cropping System	7,094 Acres	109,060 Acres
Minimum Tillage	6,936 Acres	57,321 Acres
Structures & Ponds	4	205
Grassed Waterways	59 Acres	1,058 Acres
Tile Drainage	144,917 Ft.	5,924,041 Ft.
Detailed Soil Surveys	57,600 Acres	369,803 Acres
Pasture Planting	829 Acres	10,200 Acres
Wildlife Area	718 Acres	1,852 Acres
Land Adequately Treated	5,114 Acres	67,421 Acres
Windbreaks & Tree Planting	56 Acres	269 Acres
Tile Outlet Terrace	18,096 Ft.	41,406 Ft.
Lagoons & Holding Ponds	6	14

"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."



Donald Pfeiffer, wildlife biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, stands among three native grasses found along county roadsides. These grasses which are resistant to herbicides are good for waterways. They are left to right - Indiangrass, Switchgrass, and Big Bluestem.

Wildlife Management Biologist

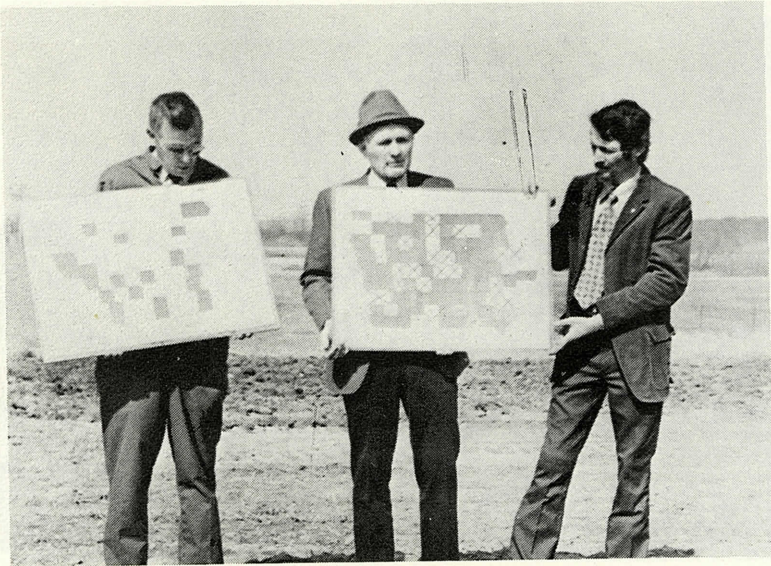
By Donald Pfeiffer

The specific duties of the Wildlife Management Biologist include wildlife management and habitat improvement on both private and public lands. Surveys of wildlife populations are conducted periodically to monitor the surplus by which hunting and trapping seasons are set.

The heavy rains during the Spring of 1974 and reduced nesting cover contributed to a 60% decline in the number of pheasants in Cedar County. Pheasants can recover in 1975 if the nesting cover is available and secure from skunk and raccoon predation.

Anyone wishing assistance in the planting of habitat for wildlife can contact me through the Soil Conservation Service office.

A new program assigned to the biologist in 1974 is the approval of farm ponds for a fish stocking. If you have a new pond or wish to restock an old pond, contact me. The deadline for 1975 fish stocking is March 1.



A "last acre" ceremony held in Cedar county to recognize the completion of a new soil survey. Left to right, Ed Schermerhorn, soil scientist; Wilson Moon, state conservationist; and Bill Davidson II, Stanwood, district commissioner.

DISTRICT FORESTER

By Ed Gardiner

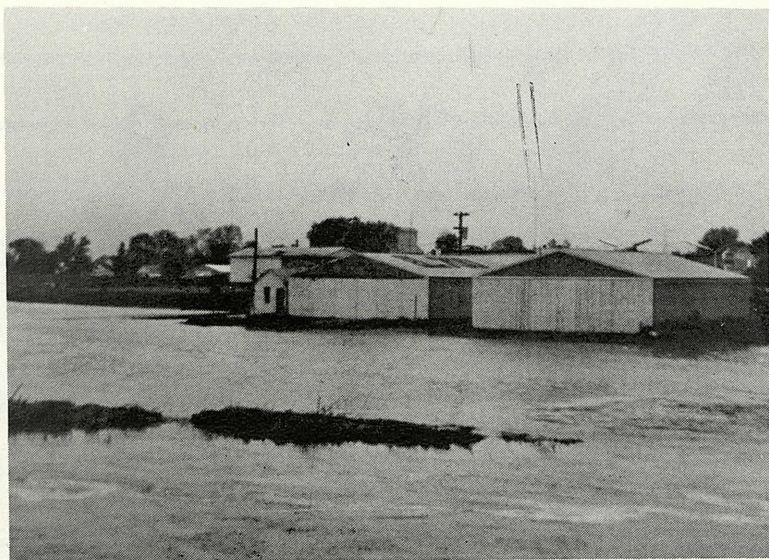
The Iowa Conservation Commission employs a forester to work with those people in Cedar County that want to preserve their woodland by managing it. Managing a timbered area may involve harvesting mature and over mature trees, replanting areas that have been cleared but from a proper land use should be put back to trees, and thinning and pruning young forest stands.

The District Forester's office is in Anamosa. The address is Box 46, Anamosa, 52205 and the phone number is 319-462-2768. Requests for assistance can be made directly to the forester or through the Soil Conservation District, the ASCS office or the Extension Service.

In 1974 the forester worked with four Cedar County land owners that are managing their timber as a crop. On these four farms 282,000 board feet was marked and sold for \$22,000.

In 1974, 18 acres of trees were planted for reforestation, wildlife habitat, and erosion control.

Ed Gardiner
District Forester



Lowden Airport 1974. If you look closely you can see the high water mark approximately 3' up on the hanger door.

TERRACES

**By C. L. Beyer, Conservation Technician
USDA Soil Conservation Service**

In checking through our 1973 annual report, I find Cedar county farmers had installed 80 acres of waterways. In 1974 a total of 59 acres were installed. This is a substantial decrease. Some farmers are using a temporary cover such as milo, corn or sudex. A few farmers have attempted to establish native grasses which are somewhat tolerant to herbicides. In general, Cedar county farmers are fighting a losing battle trying to establish and maintain waterways.

We feel we could eliminate $1/2$ to $2/3$ of the existing waterways and still control erosion. How? By tile outlet terraces. Tile outlet terraces proved to be very effective in controlling erosion in Cedar county in 1974 and they are being accepted faster than what our present manpower can stake and design them. Remember, our present terraces are designed for big equipment, are parallel and spaced 120, 180 or 240 feet apart. This spacing can even be increased by those farmers using conservation tillage. Terraces are being built on most soil types found in Cedar county. If you are having trouble with your waterway or an erosion problem check with us - terraces can help solve it.



Bill Davidson, commissioner, presenting individual soil judging trophies to Dan Ditzler, Tipton, center, and John Sander, Clarence, right.



Clarence-Lowden high school Voc. Ag. students judging soil types at contest held on the Paul Gardner farm.



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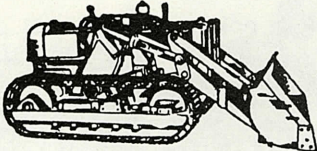
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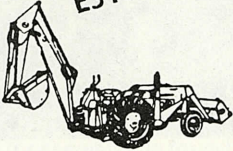


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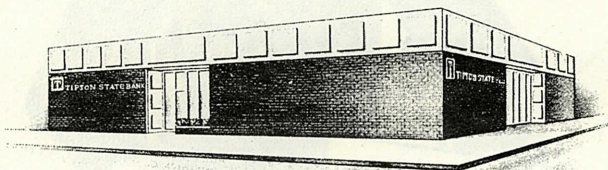


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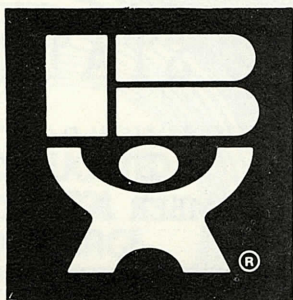
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Don Barnhart, West Branch, inspecting an outlet for his terrace system which he completed in the summer.

STATE COST-SHARE FUNDS

by Hilda Carey, Clerk

The State of Iowa has shown leadership and responsibility in setting aside funds to help local farmers conserve Iowa's number one resource - SOIL.

The district commissioners in each district are in charge of these funds and such funds must be used for practices that control erosion. Cedar county district commissioners have placed priorities on tile outlet terraces especially in the West Branch and Lowden watersheds.

In 1974, six farmers received cost-sharing for tile outlet terraces. Several other farmers have funds obligated to them but due to shortage of materials and contractors, these jobs won't be completed until 1975. If you plan to install terraces in 1975 or 1976, sign up at your local district office.



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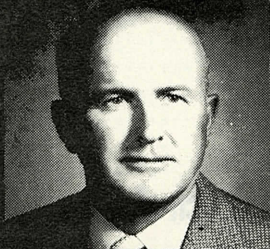
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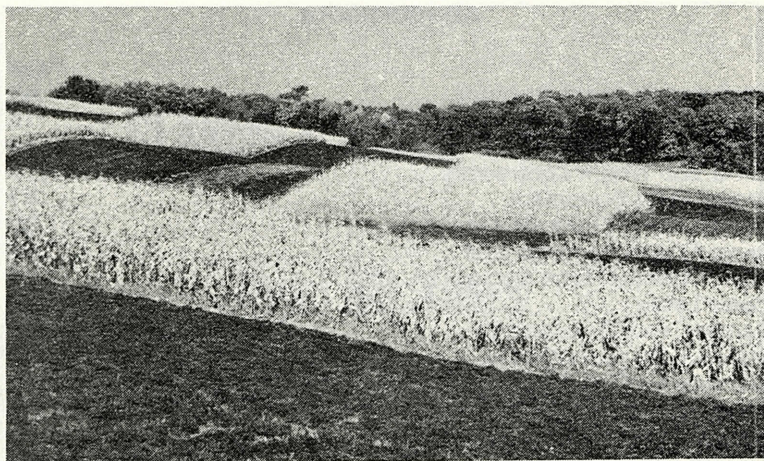
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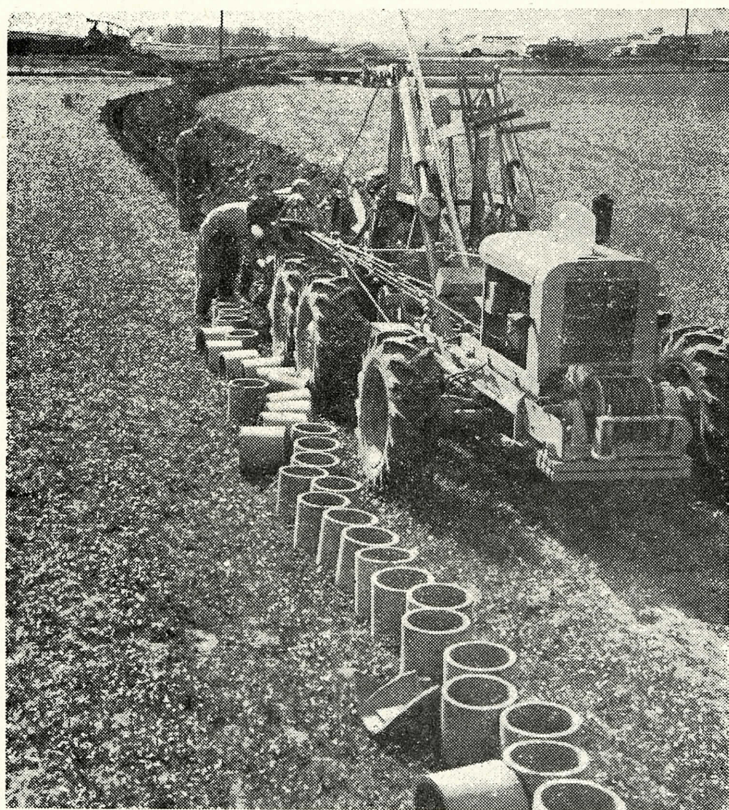
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Strip cropping is very effective in controlling erosion on land not suited for terraces.

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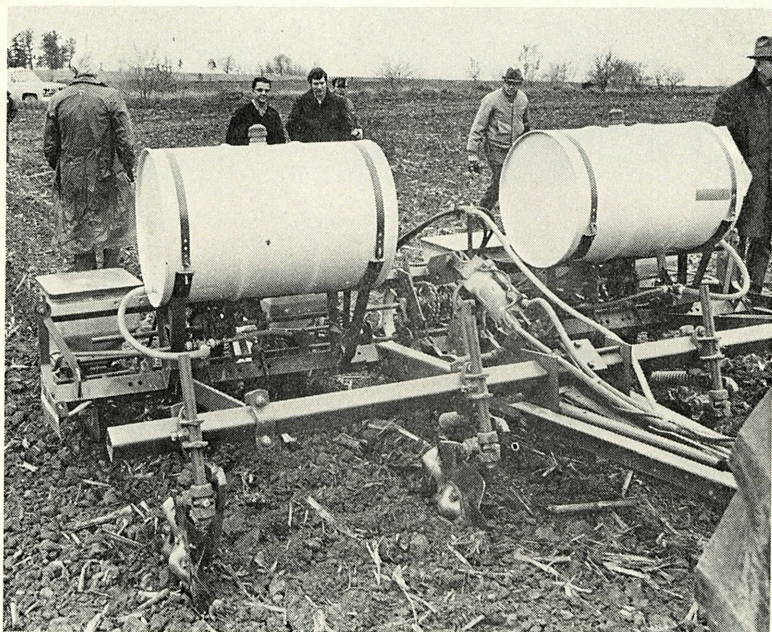
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This is a no-till planter being used at the conservation tillage plot held on the Bill Davidson farm.