Scrap Book

Soil Conservation District Hearing In Spirit Lake, Wednes., Dec. 22

On next Wed. afternoon, Dec. 22nd, a hearing on establishing a soil conservation district in Dickinson County will be held before the State Soil Conservation District Committee. The meeting will be held in the county court room beginning at 1:30 o'clock. This hearing is of vital importance to every farmer, landowner and business and professional person in Dickinson county. Information on the district set-up and what it can do will be given and everybody will be given an opportunity to express his judgment and ask questions.

Work in soil conservation in Dickinson county during the last two years has proved to be so effective that most people feel it should be made permanent in this county. Nearly everyone is acquainted with the results of contouring in increasing yields, of pasture improvement in producing more feed from pastures and of grass waterways on gully control. Establishing a soil conservation district is the means set up by the law to put soil conservation work in any area upon a permanent basis.

There are now nearly 1000 soil conservation districts in 45 out of the 48 states. In Iowa 34 counties have organized districts and 5 more have circulated petitions and 15 additional counties have started some work on organizing districts. This shows the importance other states and other counties in Iowa place on district organization in getting the job of soil conservation done.

According to the Iowa law petitions signed by at least 20% of the land owners requesting a hearing and election on establishing a soil conservation district must be sent to the State Committee. In Dickinson county 35% of the landowners signed the petitions. The State Comm. then calls a public hearing on the question of the need for a district. This the hearing called on next Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd, in the county court room in Spirit Lake. If the State Committee is impressed at this hearing that a district should be organized, it will call an election. At this election the Iowa law permits only land owners to vote. If at least 65% of those who vote, favor the organization of a district, a district will be established.

According to the Iowa law no soil conservation district may vote taxes, levy special assessments, issue bonds, and going into a soil conservation program cannot be made compulsory. A district governing body of three commissioners will be elected to form the policy of the district.

Members of the State Soil Conservation District Committee who plan to be in Spirit Lake for the hearing, or have their representatives present are Chris H. Jensen, chairman, of Audobon; Clark F. Huntley of Chariton; Earl Elijah, R K. Bliss, Director of Extension, Iowa State College; Harry D. Linn, State Secretary of Agriculture; Frank H. Mendell, of Ames, adviser to the committee, and Clyd Spry, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and Secretary to the committee.

Everyone interested directly or indirectly in Dickinson county is urged to attend the hearing in the county court room in Spirit Lake, next Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd., beginning at 1:30 o'clock

To Hold Co. Soil Election On Saturday

1-13-44

ALL LAND OWNERS ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE ON DISTRICT

The election on establishing a Soil Conservation District in Dickinson County to be held in polling places in every township, on next Saturday afternoon, January 15th from one to four o'clock.

The following are the polling places: Coleman's Insurance office in Terril; Town Hall in Milford; Consolidated school in Superior; A. A. A. Hall in Spirit Lake; Town Hall in Lake Park; Von Sprecken's Hardware and Implement Store in Montgomery; Okoboji Consolidated school; North Superior Township Consolidated school; Excelsior township Consolidated school; Westport township Center school; and Lakeville Twp. Center school. Voters may vote at any convenient polling place and each landowner has one vote. (The Iowa law allows only landowners to vote. In case of joint ownership only one party may vote. Husband may vote in place of wife if she owns land and vice versa.) At the election for establishing a soil conservation district voters will vote for three commissioners, who constitute the governing body of the district, to develop and direct the district soil conservation program and work plan. Nomination papers have been completed for the following Dickinson county residents as candidates for commissioners: J. Justin Rogers of Superior township; Floyd Woodley of Center Grove township; J. H. Graff of Lakeville township; H. G. Shafer of Silver Lake township; Ira B. Sternberg of Milford township; N. J. Williams of Okobopi township, and R. B. Taylor of Westport township.

According to law no soil conservation district in Iowa may vote taxes, levy special assessments, and issue bonds, and nobody can be compelled to go into any kind of a soil conservation program. Also 65% of the landowners who vote must vote favorably before a district can be established. But a district is necessary to obtain assistance of public agencies in effective, sound and profitable soil conservation work.

The soil conservation district, therefore, will play a vital and necessary part in the war food production program to be administered by the A. A. A. Payments by A. A. A. in 1944 will be made only to farmers who earn them by following such conservation practices as contouring, contour strip cropping, fertilizing and liming, doing pasture improvement work, etc. Dickinson county farmers who have followed contouring state that it increases yields materially and reduces cost of production including time, power and labor, and helps save soil and moisture. In 1943 contouring increased corn yields on 61 fields in Iowa by an average of nearly 6 bushels, soybean yields on 38 fields by over 2 bushels and oats yields on 18 fields by over 5 bushels per acre. A number of Dickinson county farmers said that their contoured corn was their best.

The soil conservation district through its commissioners can obtain the necessary assistance to farmers in establishing these practices. If such assistance is available, more farmers will be inclined to adopt these practices and earn payments offered, and help in attaining the food production goal. Lime and fertilizers will be greatly limited in quantity and farmers will have to adopt other practices in order to earn all the payments to which they are entitled.

Thirty-five counties in Iowa now have organized soil conservation districts and many more districts are in process of being organized. In the United States as a whole there are now over 1000 districts and the number is rapidly increasing. Soil conservation districts will play a vital role in war food production, in post war programs, in producing permanently abundant food supplies and in the maintenance of soil resources, the foundation of a profitable and prosperous agriculture. Leading Dickinson county farmers have said that the people have everything to gain and nothing to lose by organizing a soil conservation district. The district will be beneficial to land and farmers in a a number of ways, and landowners should make it a point to vote at their most convenient voting place next Saturday afternoon, January 15th between one and four o'clock.

FACSIMILE BALLOT

To be voted upon in the State Soil Conservation Referendum Election to be held in Dickinson County, Iowa, Jan. 15, 1944.

Carried 90%

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF IOWA

OFFICIAL BALLOT

January 15, 1944

REFERENDUM ON CREATION OF PROPOSED DICKINSON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Insert an X mark in the square before the proposition which you favor.

209 ☐ **FOR creation of a Soil Conservation District of the lands below described and lying in the County of Dickinson.**

24 ☐ **AGAINST creation of a Soil Conservation District of the lands below described and lying in the County of Dickinson.**

The boundaries of the proposed Soil Conservation District are as follows:

All land within the boundaries of Dickinson County, Iowa exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.

ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS OF PROPOSED DICKINSON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Insert an X mark in the square before three names to indicate your preference.

FOR COMMISSIONERS OF DICKINSON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(Vote for Three)

122 ☐ **JOE GRAFF, Spirit Lake**

70 ☐ **J. J. ROGERS, Spirit Lake**

124 ☐ **HADLEY SHAFER, Lake Park**

73 ☐ **I. B. STERNBERG, Milford**

99 ☐ **R. B. TALYOR, Milford**

93 ☐ **N. J. WILLIAMS, Milford**

74 ☐ **FLOYD WOODLEY, Milford**

Soil Conservation District Referendum January 15

L. L. Beacom 1644

VOTING PLACES OPEN FROM 1:00 P. M. TO 4:00 P. M. SATURDAY

On Saturday afternoon, January 15th from one to four o'clock the third, final and most important step in organizing a soil conservation district in Dickinson county will be taken at the referendum to be held in convenient polling places in all townships of the county. Every owner of land in Dickinson county is entitled to one vote, (the Iowa law specifies that only landowners including joint owners may vote) and should keep the date and the hours of the referendum in mind. The district organization can be defeated easily if not enough land owners vote to put it over. A defeat at the election would nullify all the former steps already taken and the work of getting petitions signed, and a hearing planned and called will have to be done over again when another effort to organize a soil conservation district is made. After the large petition sign-up and the fine public hearing no one wants to see the referendum fail. Failure in this step would be a serious set back to soil conservation work in the county.

According to the Iowa law before a soil conservation district may be established at least 65% of the landowners who vote must vote favoring the organization. It should be emphasized again that the Iowa law specifically states that no soil conservation district may vote taxes, levy special assessments or issue bonds and that no person can be compelled to go into a soil conservation program. Participation in a soil conservation program is voluntary.

The soil conservation district setup has been explained repeatedly in the local papers and other publications, in frequent meetings all over the county, at the time of the petition sign-up and at the public hearing in the county court room in Spirit Lake, on December 22nd. It should be quite familiar to every one.

The soil conservation district is a local cooperative organization to initiate, develop and carry out a soil conservation program and work plan. A district is necessary by law in order to obtain assistance of public agencies in establishing sound and effective soil conservation practices and in making surveys necessary for control of water run-off and prevention of overflow. Also, a soil conservation district will play a vital part in a permanent post war program of saving our soil resources, our basic wealth. The people of Dickinson county have everything to gain and nothing to lose by organizing a soil conservation district.

Thirty five counties in Iowa already have organized soil conservation districts and about 1000 districts have been organized in the United States.

At the referendum on the afternoon of January 15th the voters will elect three commissioners to constitute the district governing body. This body has the responsibility of developing a soil conservation program and work plan and decides what public assistance is necessary to carry out the program, and makes the request for such assistance.

Nomination papers have been completed for the following Dickinson county residents as candidates for commissioners: J. Justin Rogers, Superior township; Floyd Woodley, Center Grove township; J. H. Graff, Lakeville township; H. G. Shafer, Silver Lake township; Ira B. Sternberg, Milford township; N. J. Williams, Okoboji township, and R. B. Taylor, Westport township.

The polling places are as follows: Town hall, Lake Park; Excelsior Consolidated School; Westport township Center School; Okoboji Consolidated School; Town Hall Milford; Colemans Insurance office Terril; Superior Consolidated school AAA Hall, Spirit Lake; Von Sprecken Hardware and Implement Store, Montgomery, and Lakeville Township Center School. Those wishing absentee voters ballots should apply at the county auditors office before the referendum.

It should be made clear that voters may vote at any polling place most convenient to them. Remember the referendum and polling places on Saturday afternoon, January 15th from one to four o'clock.

TWO COUNTIES TO VOTE ON SOIL DISTRICTS COMING SATURDAY

Both Dickinson and Jackson counties will vote on the question of making rural areas state soil conservation districts Saturday of this week, Jan. 15th.

If the proposition carries in both counties the state will have 37 districts in which approved soil conservation practices will be carried out.

In addition to Dickinson and Jackson counties Warren county has also petitioned for the establishing of a district. Only land owners vote in the establishing of these districts, and they are so established without expense or the availability of any assessments.

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SOIL CONSERVATION DIST.

State Soil Conservation Committee of Iowa

Notice of hearing upon organization of proposed Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, Embracing Land Lying in Dickinson County.

Whereas, on the 18th day of November, 1943, there was duly filed in the office of the State Soil Conservation Committee at Des Moines, Iowa, a petition signed by 25 or more landowners who represent 20 per cent or more of the owners of land within the limits of the territory proposed to be organized into a district, pursuant to the provisions of the Soil Conservation Districts Law, Chapter 125.1, Code of Iowa, 1939, requesting the establishment of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, and

Whereas, the lands described by said petition and other lands which will be considered for inclusion in said district are located in Dickinson County, described substantially as follows:

All the land lying within the boundaries of Dickinson County.

Now, therefore, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held pursuant to the said petition, on the question of the desirability and necessity in the interest of the health, safety and public welfare of the creation of such district; on the question of the appropriate boundaries to be assigned to such district; upon the propriety of the petition and other proceedings taken under the said law; and upon all questions relative to such inquiries. The said public hearing will be held by the State Soil Conservation Committee in the county of Dickinson on the 22nd day of December, 1943, beginning at 1:30 p m. o'clock at the Court Room in Court House in Spirit Lake.

All owners of any lands lying within the limits of the above described territory, and all other interested parties are invited to attend and will be given opportunity to be heard at the time and place hereinbefore specified.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.

By Chris H. Jensen, Chairman.

49-2t

WORST THIEF OF ALL IS HE WHO ROBS SOIL OF ITS FERTILITY

(Des Moines Register)

Paul Johnson sends a publication of his as county agent at Denison, Ia., on the subject of erosion and saving the soil and writes: "This isn't as great a problem in good old Martin county, as it is here."

Perhaps not, but it is still a menacing problem even in exceptionally favored Martin county. History proves that as rises or falls the soil's fertility, so rises or falls civilization itself.

That our own region is subject to "washing away" has been forced to attention with the floodlike rains of the present season. Untold tons of precious top soil have been washed down the corn rows to the lower places.

In some places the soil thus moved from where most needed to where least needed has completely buried grain and corn more than knee high. Soil which it has taken centuries to build is gone in a few hours.

Down in Paul's county they are taking to contour cultivation to save the dwindling soil. I's high time we did so here also.

Away back in the 1880's, when we lived on an Iowa farm, father had a lot of concern about soil erosion, although the farm we worked was a rented one. He firmly implanted the belief in the mind of at least one of his sons that the worst thief of all thieves is the robber of the soil, and we are ashamed to disclose that we have some thieves of that sort thriving right now here in Martin county. They are wrestling the last possible penny of profit from deteriorating acres and let the devil take generations of tomorrow.

Anyhow, in those boyhood days we plowed with a wooden-beamed walking plow, cutting a twelve-inch furrow and powered by old Chet and Charlie, two sturdy farm horses. Father insisted that we plow around and around the field as the turned soil then held water better than if the furrows ran up and down hill and soil did not "wash" so readilly. A neighbor across the road always began the plowing in the center of his square fields, back furrowing around and around, the finest plowing he have ever seen, and there was no erosion in his fields.

He who robs the soil robs all future generations. There can be no greater criminal. —A. M. Nelson, Fairmont Daily Sentinel, Fairmont, Minn.

The heavy rain last June washed about an inch of fertile top soil off this 10% sloping corn field on a farm located about 2 miles northwest of Spirit Lake, Iowa.

(8-26-43)

LOCAL FARMERS INTERVIEWED BY STATION WNAX

8-26-43

Dedication of America's tallest radio tower will take place on September 4th at W. N. A. X., Yankton and Sioux City, Iowa. The tower is dedicated to Mid west farmers and stands 927 feet high. On the day of dedication typical mid-west farmers will be honored, and many special awards will be given. One of the most outstanding awards will be a Massey-Harris tractor. It is expected governors from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota will be present as will also seven senators from mid-west states.

A representative from W.N.A.X. George B. German, inquiring reporter from W.N.A.X. has been in the county the past week interviewing farmers who will broadcast from the station at a later date.

Eight Dickinson county farmers were interviewed and their recorded interviews will be broadcast from the station during the coming weeks. Two of the interviews have already been heard, C. E. Griffith on Tuesday and Enos Fairchild today.

The following will be heard on the dates given at 12:50 p. m. until 1 p. m.

Joe H. Graff, Monday, August 30, 1943.

Ralph N. Tritle, Tuesday, August 31, 1943.

Tracy Estes, Wednesday, September 1, 1943.

George A. Mayou, Thursday, September 2, 1943.

H. R. Shaffer, Friday, September 3, 1943.

Roy Kannenberg, Monday, September 6, 1943.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

January 20, 1944

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF IOWA

Spirit Lake Beacon

NOTICE OF RESULT OF REFERENDUM AND ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS OF PROPOSED DICKINSON SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

To all persons interested: notice is hereby given:

That the tabulations set out below give a full, correct and true report of the results of a referendum had on the proposition of the creation of the proposed Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, and the election of three commissioners for the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District held on the 15th day of January, 1944.

(a) Number voting in favor of the creation of said Soil Conservation District 209.

(b) Number voting against creation of said Soil Conservation District 24.

(c) Total votes cast in referendum 233.

(d) Votes Cast for Commissioners

Names of Candidates	No. of Votes
H. G. Shafer	124
Joe Graff	122
R. B. Taylor	99
N. J. Williams	93
Ira Sternberg	82
Floyd Woodley	74
J. J. Rogers	70

H. G. Shafer, Joe Graff and R. B. Taylor being the three candidates who received the largest number of votes, were declared the elected commissioners for said district.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.

By Chris H. Jensen, Chairman.

Dated this 20th day of January, 1944.

8.91 Inches Rain During Month of June

HEAVY RAINS JUNE 24 AND 27 CAUSE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE IN COUNTY

Spirit Lake, Dickinson county, and the all of Northwest Iowa and Southern Minnesota suffered considerable damage to crops, roads bridges, etc. from the heavy rainfall Thursday and Sunday, when a total of 5.81 inches fell to swell the total for the month to 8.91 inches of water. The Thursday night storm was almost of cloudburst proportions and was accompanied by an electric display that would do credit to an old fashioned Fourth of July celebration.

The rain started falling Thursday night about 9 p. m. and continued almost steadily until 7 o'clock the next morning flooding basements in many Spirit Lake homes and in the outlaying vicinity. West of Spirit Lake in the George, Sheldon and Rock Rapids area, much damage resulted from a heavy windstorm, the new hangar being blown down at th Sheldon airport and many planes damaged. In the George area, telephone and electric service was disrupted and crews from the local light company are still working there this week in an endeavor to repair the damage done when trees broke lines, etc.

According to a sample survey taken by the local personnel of the Soil Conservation Service the flood damage by recent rains to crops in Dickinson county is estimated to be as follows: 2160 acres of corn, 3640 acres of pasture, 930 acres of soybeans, 410 acres of hay, 200 acres of small grain and over 100 acres of potatoes. This is about three times the estimated flood damage to crops in 1942. The reader should bear in mind that these are preliminary estimates from a sample survey only.

Water pouring down from Minnesota into lowlands just north of the highway grade leading from Crandalls lodge to the Minnewaukon state park at head of big Spirit Lake, threatened to take out the grade and it was necessary to carry in rock to rip rap the side of the grade. The water stood three feet deep on the Minnesota side of the grade, and local conservation men called Fred Schwob, state conservation director here the first of the week to look over the situation. The water raced under the grade bridge where the conservation commission has large paddle wheels to keep the fish from going into Minnesota waters, and tore out the middle wheel, making it necessary to string a triangular shaped net on the south side of the bridge to hold the fish back. The foot bridge in the state park there stood in the center of a veritable lake, with the approaches to the bridge under water a block on each side of the bridge.

Residents of Spirit Lake estimated that the lake level of Spirit Lake stood at its highest in 25 years. It was thought that the recent two rains of Thursday and Sunday brought a raise of about 12 inches of water in the lake level. The water is estimated to have raised around 20 to 22 inches since early in May this year. Although the water is not yet going through the Orleans run from Spirit Lake to East Okoboji, all that would be necessary to make it start running would be removal of a little of the dirt that forms a dam at the north end of the run just west of the Orleans Boat House.

Docks that were put in this spring and summer at Orleans were mostly under water this week, with residents waiting for a wind to go down Tuesday so they could raise them again. Fishing was exceptionally good on the south side docks Tuesday and boatmen report there that people fishing off the docks stood barefoot on the docks the waves washing over their feet. Good catches of bass and pike were reported.

R. A. Furman, county engineer reported that most of the culverts on the county roads were washed out by the flooded fields, and drainage districts were not adequate to handle the quantities of water now standing in the fields.

The H & S Roofing company who were called to Spirit Lake to repair some roofs, reported this week they had been tendered roofing contracts at George, Iowa which would take their entire crews three months to rebuild and repair.

SPIRIT LAKE BEACON

Soil Conservation Pays In Fertil Areas

July 29 1943

Some people in the more fertile areas, in northwestern Iowa, often ask why soil conservation work is being carried on in their areas where so much top soil is still left. They feel that no such work is needed where they live. They are inclined to wonder why the efforts of soil conservation are not confined solely to the critical agricultural areas where soil has been almost ruined for further production by exploitation and erosion.

Conservation really implies something to conserve. Why wait until most or all of the soil fertility is gone. Where land is ruined of its productive power, there is little or no fertility left to conserve. Rebuilding such land is reclamation. Isn't it wise to "lock the barn door before the horse is stolen" or to be 50 years ahead rather than 50 years behind in our work in soil conservation. People in depleted soil areas now regret having delayed soil conservation so long.

We who are fortunate enough to live in one of the most fertile areas of the world have much to conserve. If we do not make a continuous effort to conserve our fertile top soil on these sloping fields around here, it will be gone forever one of these days as certainly as the rains come and the winds blow.

Erosion already has narrowed the film of top soil on much of this sloping land by half or more. It doesn't require many heavy rains such as we had the latter part of June, washing over an inch of top soil from many sloping corn and soybean fields, to strip the land of its permanent productive power.

The table below showing the effect of depth of top soil alone upon corn yields tells far better than words why it pays to conserve soil. The figures in this table are averages of corn yields for certain depths of soil on 100 to 170 fields, obtained within recent years by the Iowa, Missouri and Indiana Experiment Stations in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Similar information has been obtained in other states.

Depth of top soil in inches	Number of fields	Yield of corn bushels per acre	Increase in yield bushels per acre	Increase in yield Percentage
0-2	130	35.7		
3-4	129	47.7	12.0	33.6
5-6	157	54.8	7.1	14.9
7-8	170	62.4	7.6	13.9
9-10	137	70.0	7.6	12.2
11-12	135	75.3	5.3	7.6
13-+	106	77.6	2.3	3.1

These figures point out what every farmer observes on his farm every year, that crop yields are not as high on the thin light colored spots in his field as on the black fertile areas.

The reader can see readily that the increases in crop yields are significant as the depth of top soil increases. The differences in corn yield of 35.7 bushels per acre were 0 to 2 inches of top soil remain and 77.6 bushels per acre where top soil is 13 inches deep is 41.9 bushels per acre, or an increase in yield of 117.4 percent. This difference in yield itself is still 6.2 bushels more than the yield on the thinest areas.

It is interesting too that as top soil becomes deeper therate of increase in crop yields diminishes, and after reaching a certain limit there is no significant increase in crop yields as depth of top soil increases. This shows that it does not pay to let good top soil accumulate in the low lying acreas to a depth of 4 to 6 feet and letting it become thinner and thinner on the large sloping areas.

On converting these differences in production into differences of income, and then capitalization these income differences at a reasonable rate of interest into land value differences the reader should be thoroughly convinced that it really pays now as well as in the future, to conserve all of our rich resources in northwestern Iowa.

These facts also show clearly what plenty of top soil will do toward meeting war production goals without increasing labor and equipment demands.

Approve Soil Conservation Dist. In County

June 24, 1943

WAR BOARD AND FARM BUREAU PASS MOTIONS TO ENCOURAGE SERVICE

The Dickinson County War Board at its regular meeting last Saturday evening unanimously approved a motion to encourage and cooperate in the organization and establishment of a soil conservation district in Dickinson county." The motion stated that the district should embrace the whole of Dickinson county. A similar motion was passed unanimously by the County Farm Bureau Board at its regular monthly meeting on last February 15th. Also the Soils Committee of the County Farm Bureau approved a similar motion at its meeting on last April 21st.

The soil conservation district has been explained at nearly all of the township Farm Bureau meetings, and directors have appointed committees to carry on further educational and organizational work in the townships.

The action of these bodies in favor of a soil conservation district was taken in the interest of substantial increased food production by maintaining soil fertility. The districts already established have made a material contribution in that direction.

Soils experts say that contour farming alone on sloping land, a very important conservation practice, should be applied on at least 5 million acres of corn and soybeans in Iowa. If this single conserving practice were carried out on this scale, Iowa could produce about 30 million bushels more feed.

It is estimated that over 30,000 acres of sloping land planted to corn and soybeans in Dickinson county this year could be contoured. This would mean nearly 200,000 additional bushels of feed as the county's contribution to increased production.

Under the Iowa law to establish a soil conservation district petitions must be signed by at least 20 per cent, preferably 30 per cent, of the land owners within the boundaries of the proposed district. These petitions are reviewed by the members of the Soil Conservation Committee who are appointed by the Governor for a term of years. The State Committee then sets a date for a hearing to be held usually in the county court room. At this meeting land owners present arguments for or against a district, and data are presented showing the need for assistance in soil conservation work.

If as a result of the hearing the State Committee decides there is need for a soil conservation district, it sets a date for an election. At this election if 65 percent of the land-owners who vote, cast affirmative votes, the district may be legally organized. At this same election three commissioners are elected to constitute the district governing body.

The State Committee has funds appropriated by the legislature to be used in carrying on its work in connection with the organization and setting up of soil conservation districts.

Under the Iowa law soil conservation district cannot vote taxes, special assessments and cannot issue bonds. Participation in a soil conservation program is voluntary on the part of the individual.

The district governing body may request assistance, equipment and labor if available of such federal agencies as AAA, Farm Security Administration, Soil Conservation Service, etc.; such state government agencies as Department of Agriculture and Extension Service; and of the county government.

There are now 32 soil conservation districts in Iowa, and 30 of these are on a county wide basis. Between 10 and 15 more counties have already taken steps to organize districts within their boundaries.

In the United States 45 out of the 48 states have now passed soil conservation districts laws. The states not as yet having passed such laws are 3 New England states where industry is more important than agriculture, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. There are about 860 soil conservation districts in the United States including nearly 500 million acres on 2,301,000 farms. The entire state of Alabama is included in soil conservation districts.

Soil conservation districts put the soil conservation program on a permanent and democratic basis. The policy of the Federal Government now is to give assistance in soil conservation, only, with a very few exceptions, to soil conservation districts.

The people of Dickinson county have everything to gain by establishing a soil conservation district.

PLANS BEING COMPLETED FOR SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK

June 17, 1943

Soil Conservation Week in Iowa, June 21 to 26, as proclaimed by Gov. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, places special emphasis on getting all farmers, business men, landowners and others acquainted with the practices that will produce maximum amounts of the needed crops of corn, soybeans, grain, hay and pasture with a minimum of permanent soil damage.

County Extension Director Louis Rank says that attention in Dickinson County has been directed toward the practices of contouring and phosphating.

...ersons are at least partly familiar with contouring and sometimes think that it is the only type of soil conservation work that might be carried on. Phases of the complete program that are essential to maximum production and soil conservation that are being given major stress now, however, include also seed harvesting liming, phosphating, better crop rotations, pasture improvement and drainage.

The Governor, in his proclamation, stated that, "Erosion is a serious problem in Iowa, and affects some portions of almost every county in the state. In times of increased demands for food production it can become much more serious unless plans for proper control measures and good land use and soil conserving practices are adopted." He cites, for example, that "Contour farming should be applied on at least five million acres of corn and soybean ground in Iowa. If this were done, Iowa could produce about 30 million bushels more feed for the 'Food for Freedom' effort, through the application of this singe soil conserving practice."

Studies conducted last year to determine the effect of contouring on the yield of corn and soybeans showed that the practice increased the average yield of corn 6.2 bushels per acre over plots in the same field run up-and-down hill. For soybeans the increase per acre by contouring averaged 3.2 bushels.

Bankers know that soil erosion and depletion destroy the basic collateral of the nation. Some years ago Oklahoma farmers employed engineers to hold erosion-control schools in each county and encouraged farmers to borrow terracing machinery.

Last year, Leon McDonald, assistant State conservationist of SCS, talked with Hugh Harrell, president of the Oklahoma bankers, who had noticed that farmers in the districts were paying off mortgages. Now the State Bankers Association gives a handsome framed certificate of award to farmers belonging to soil-conservation districts who complete their own programs or erosion control. Not just "one of those things," the certificates often hang on the parlor wall to prove that the farmer "has shown his love for the land by using it properly and establishing the necessary conservation practices, thereby maintaining the fertility and increasing the productivity of his farm.

There are now 858 soil-conservation districts under the laws of 45 states. Nearly half a billion acres are included in the 2,301,000 farms located within district boundaries. In 1937, Arkansas passed the first law allowing farmers to form districts; now all states except New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut have such laws. Deleware and Rhode Island passed their enabling acts just recently.

Thirty-two soil conservation districts have already been organized in Iowa on a county wide basis, and 15 additional counties are now taking steps toward organizing districts within their boundaries.

Referendum for Soil Cons. Dist Was Granted

Spirit Lake Beacon Dec. 23, 1943

LAND OWNERS TO VOTE ON DISTRICT AT EARLY DATE

On Wednesday afternoon the public hearing on establishing a soil conservation district in Dickinson county was held before the State Soil Conservation Committee, all of whom were either present or had representatives here. Over 125 county residents were present besides visitors from adjoining counties and from Minnesota. Arguments for and against the district were called for.

Information on the damage to agricultural land, our basic wealth in Dickinson county, by wind and water erosion, and to the enormous wealth in our lakes which are silting up at an appalling rate, and on the need for soil conservation practices as contouring, grass waterways, gully control, etc., was presented so forcefully by Dickinson county residents that the State Committee was convinced that a soil conservation district is needed and desired.

A soil conservation district enables the people to work cooperatively on a program to conserve soil and water resources. The responsibility and government of such a program rests in the hands of the local people and is not administered by any remote governmental agency. Governmental agencies only give assistance.

The State Committee decided to grant a referendum to the landowners on the question of establishing a soil conservation district. The date and polling places for this referendum will be announced later.

Soil Conservation District to Be Established in County

S. L. Beacon Sept 16, 1943

Meeting of Landowners Called to Consider the Organization of a Soil Conservation District in Dickinson County, In AAA Hall Spirit Lake, Sept. 23rd at 8:30 P. M.

Soil conservation work with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture has proceeded successfully in Dickinson and Emmet counties for about one and one-half years. Many farmers have been benefitted by assistance received in the way of improved farm plans designed to conserve soil productivity, and crop yields have been increased by contouring, by good crop rotations including a legume and by pasture improvement. It is realized that much more of this type of work needs to be done here.

However, assistance to farmers here up to this time has been restricted and is on a temporary basis. Many Dickinson county farmers, business and professional and other people, feel that demonstrations of soil conservation practices already established have so thoroughly proved their worth that a county wide effort should now be made to extend assistance in establishing soil conservation practices over the county and to make it permanent.

As the situation now stands assistance in this area will be terminated within a few months. The reason for this is that farmers in other areas are urgently requesting such assistance.

The soil conservation program now makes the organization of soil conservation districts under the Iowa law necessary in order that assistance in soil conservation work may be made available and extended over the county on a permanent basis.

The Dickinson County Farm Bureau Board, the County War Board and a number of the Commercial Clubs have gone on record urging and offering assistance in the organization and establishment of a soil conservation district in Dickison county.

According to the Iowa law petitions to the State Soil Conservation Committee appointed by the ovenor and confirmed by the Senate requesting that a district be authorized, must be signed by at least 20 per cent, preferable 30 per cent, of all owners of land in the county.

When the petitions are found satisfactory upon examination by the State committee it will call a county wide hearing, usually held in the county court room, and at this hearing presided over by a member of the State committee, arguments for or against a district and information on the physical characteristics of the land justifying a district, may be presented.

If as a result of the hearing the State Committee decides that a district is justified it will call for an election at which only land owners may vote. If at least 65 per cent of those who vote, vote affirmatively, the State Committee may declare the district legally established. At this same election three local farmers will be elected to the district governing body.

According to the Iowa law no soil conservation district may vote taxes, levy special assessments or issue bonds, and all participation in soil conservation program is voluntary.

Forty-five states have passed soil conservation districts laws and there are about 1000 soil conservation districts in the United States. One-third of the counties in Iowa have already organized soil conservation districts within their boundaries, and more have taken preliminary steps toward organizing districts.

A soil conservation district will not only enable farmers to work cooperatively in saving their soil, but will assist the community and State Conservation Commission in saving the lakes which are a most valuable asset not only to this state but to the community and county. By establishing a soil conservation district the people of Dickinson county have everything to gain and nothing at all to lose.

To bring the issue of establishing a soil conservation district for Dickinson county before the people, a county wide meeting of landowners is called by Mr. Louis Rank, County Extension Director, to be held in the AAA hall at Spirit Lake on September 23rd at 8:30 p. m. This meeting is held especially for township committees chosen to take care of the petitions and carry the information to the people in the townships. But this meeting is not restricted to these committees. All landowners and others are invited to be present as this is a matter in which all landowners, renters, business and professional people will be vitally interested.

First Presbyterian Church
The Friendly Church
George Cox, Pastor

Sunday School 10 a. m.

Morning Worship is at eleven a. m. We are observing Soil Conservation Sunday. Sermon theme: "God's Footstool."

Everybody welcome!

Lake Park high school boys receiving instructions by high school instructor on how to lay out contour lines with a level, at the demonstration held on the H. G. Shafer farm.
Left to right, Donald Christ, Lincoln Miller, high school principal, Cecil Zahren and Arnold Sinning. Donald Christ is assisting on the farm, Cecil Zahren and Arnold Sinning are in the Army.

Many Favor Soil Conservation District in Dickinson County

PETITION NOW BEING CIRCULATED ASKING FOR ELECTION ON ISSUE

Over 70 men and women from all parts of the County attended the meeting at the AAA hall last Thursday evening to consider the organization of a soil conservation district in Dickinson County in order to extend soil conservation work to all parts of the County where needed and to make it permanent. In order to make this work available to farmers on a permanent basis, a soil conservation district is a legal necessity. Otherwise it will be transferred to areas where districts already have been established. A soil conservation district cannot vote taxes and special assessments, cannot issue bonds, and participation in a soil conservation program is voluntary.

Keen interest was shown at this meeting in soil conservation work. Sixteen farmers present who are contouring spoke of its benefits to their land and crops. They are, Joe Graff, Ora Gregory, Hadley Shafer, Merle Bohn, Ed Blackert, Fay Lynn, Floyd Woodley, Wayne Estes, Harry Heikens, Nile Wells, Joe Fricke, Carl Sievers, George Mayou, James Milholin, O. W. Fischer, and J. Justin Rogers. The district set-up was explained. Two sound movie reels "Save the Soil" and "The Land" were shown.

It was agreed that Dickinson County has so much at stake in its soil and its lakes that every effort should be made to conserve these vital resources and that a soil conservation district be organized.

It was agreed that the boundary of the district shall be the boundary of Dickinson County, because every township has erodible land needing soil conservation practices. It was agreed also that the district be called the "Dickinson County Soil Conservation District."

Three committeemen in each township are now circulating petitions for landowner's signatures. The Iowa law requires the signatures of at least 20%. The State Soil Conservation Committee prefers 30 to 35%, because it is significant of the interest shown in soil conservation work.

The signed petitions should be returned to the Farm Bureau Office by October 9th. When the petitions are properly certified they will be sent to the State Soil Conservation Committee at the State Capitol in Des Moines for examination and approval.

A public hearing then will be called the latter part of November. after corn husking.

JOE GRAFF CONSTRUCTING SOIL CONTOUR SERVICE

On Tuesday morning with the help of the local soil conservation service personel, Joe Graff began construction of 2500 feet of terraces on the field along Highway No. 9 in the northwest corner of his farm located in section 6 in Lakeville township. The so-called "Island Method" or "Step-in-System" is being used, and the work is being done with a 2-bottom tractor plow.

Mr. Louis Rank, County Extension Director, says that these are the first terraces constructed in this part of Northwestren Iowa, and as need for more effective erosion control becomes apparent, more terraces will be constructed. Terraces give all but perfect control of runoff and erosion.

He says too that Joe will be glad to have anyone come out to see him build his terraces. He urges farmers and landowners to look these terraces over and get an idea of the real purpose and value in erosion control.

Attended Hearing Here

Those from Minnesota attending the soil conservation district hearing in Spirit Lake on Wednesday were M A. Thorcinnson, Extension Conservationist of University farm; Mr. Ingebritzen, District Extension Director, University farm, both of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul; Roy E. Bennett, Assistant State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, St. Paul; George V. Bowers, District Conservationist of Marshall, and Edward Fredrickson a citizen of Iceland and a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF IOWA NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ON CREATION O F PROPOSED DICKINSON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, EMBRACING LANDS LYING IN THE COUNTY OF DICKINSON, IN THE STATE OF IOWA, AND ALSO ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PROPOSED DISTRICT.

To all owners of lands lying within the proposed Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, comprising the territory described as follows:

All lands within the boundaries of Dickinson County, Iowa, exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of January, 1944, between the hours of 1:00 P. M. and 4:00 P. M., a referendum will be held in the said territory upon the proposition of the creation of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District as a governmental subdivision and a public body, corporate and politic, under the provisions of the Soil Conservation Districts Law of this State, and at the same time and at the same places an election will be held for the election of three commissioners for the proposed Dickinson County Soil Conservation District.

All owners of lands lying within the above-mentioned territory are eligible to vote.

Polling places for the referendum and election are as follows:

Town Hall in Lake Park.

Excelsior Consolidated School building.

Center School in Westport township.

Okoboji Consolidated School building.

Town Hall in Milford.

Superior School in Superior.

North Superior School.

AAA Hall in Spirit Lake

Center School in Lakeville township.

Von Sprecken Hardware and Implement Store in Montgomery.

Coleman Insurance Office in Terril.

Eligible voters residing within the district shall cast their ballots at one of the polling places. Eligible voters not residing in the district, or who will be absent from the district on the day of the referendum and election may apply in person or in writing to the county auditor at Spirit Lake, Iowa, for absentee ballots. Each applicant for an absentee ballot shall state his name, residence, location and acreage of land owned or possessed, and interest therein.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.

By Chris Jensen, Chairman.

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Soil Conservation District Hearing In Spirit Lake, Wednes., Dec. 22

On next Wed. afternoon, Dec. 22nd, a hearing on establishing a soil conservation district in Dickinson County will be held before the State Soil Conservation District Committee. The meeting will be held in the county court room beginning at 1:30 o'clock. This hearing is of vital importance to every farmer, landowner and business and professional person in Dickinson county. Information on the district set-up and what it can do will be given and everybody will be given an opportunity to express his judgment and ask questions.

Work in soil conservation in Dickinson county during the last two years has proved to be so effective that most people feel it should be made permanent in this county. Nearly everyone is acquainted with the results of contouring in increasing yields, of pasture improvement in producing more feed from pastures and of grass waterways on gully control. Establishing a soil conservation district is the means set up by the law to put soil conservation work in any area upon a permanent basis.

There are now nearly 1000 soil conservation districts in 45 out of the 48 states. In Iowa 34 counties have organized districts and 5 more have circulated petitions and 15 additional counties have started some work on organizing districts. This shows the importance other states and other counties in Iowa place on district organization in getting the job of soil conservation done.

According to the Iowa law petitions signed by at least 20% of the land owners requesting a hearing and election on establishing a soil conservation district must be sent to the State Committee. In Dickinson county 35% of the landowners signed the petitions. The State Comm. then calls a public hearing on the question of the need for a district. This the hearing called on next Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd, in the county court room in Spirit Lake. If the State Committee is impressed at this hearing that a district should be organized, it will call an election. At this election the Iowa law permits only land owners to vote. If at least 65% of those who vote, favor the organization of a district, a district will be established.

According to the Iowa law no soil conservation district may vote taxes, levy special assessments, issue bonds, and going into a soil conservation program cannot be made compulsory. A district governing body of three commissioners will be elected to form the policy of the district.

Members of the State Soil Conservation District Committee who plan to be in Spirit Lake for the hearing, or have their representatives present are Chris H. Jensen, chairman, of Audobon; Clark A. Huntley of Chariton; Earl Elijah, R K. Bliss, Director of Extension, Iowa State College; Harry D. Linn, State Secretary of Agriculture; Frank H. Mendell, of Ames, adviser to the committee, and Clyd Spry, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and Secretary to the committee.

Everyone interested directly or indirectly in Dickinson county is urged to attend the hearing in the county court room in Spirit Lake, next Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd., beginning at 1:30 o'clock

MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE MEN VISITED COUNTY

On Tuesday representatives of agriculture agencies of Cottonwood county, Minn. visited Spirit Lake and Dickinson county to look over our soil conservation work done here. Their purpose was to get an idea of the pattern of work suitable to their area. They were particularly interested in getting contouring and terracing started there. They looked over the contoured fields on the farms of Merle Bohn, Ed Blackert and Joe Graff. They were particularly interested in the terraces Joe Graff built on his farm last fall.

Those in the party were J. S. Siewert of Windom, County AAA Chariman, Robert Remick of Windom and Hans M. Johnson of Storden member of county AAA committee. Herman Vossen, of Windom, County Agent and Norman E. Boyce of Storden, Soil Conservation Service They also visited Mr. Rank and the AAA offices here.

ALSO SELECTED THREE DIRECTORS AT THE SPECIAL ELECTION ON SATURDAY

Dickinson county land owners voted for the establishment of the county as a soil conservation district at a special election held on Saturday.

The unofficial tabulation of the election shows 234 votes were cast with 210 as favorable and 24 against.

The official tabulation will come from the state office, where the ballots were sent.

Land owners in every township in the county participated in the election. The referendum carried in every township in the county.

The three directors elected were:

H. G. Shafer, of Silver Lake township, with 124 votes.

J. H. Graff, of Excelsior township, with 122 votes.

R. B. Taylor, of Westport township, with 99 votes.

Dickinson county is the thirty-seventh county in Iowa to vote for the establishment of a soil conservation district.

We are all vitally interested in the future agriculture of Dickinson County and wish to

Invite You to Attend

The Special

Soil Conservation District Hearing

which will be held by the State Soil Conservation Committee in

SPIRIT LAKE

Wed. December 22

at 1:30 p. m. in the Court Room of the Court House

Your families are invited to visit the many business houses and look over the elaborate Holiday Displays while you are attending the hearing.

Spirit Lake Commercial Club

By the Agricultural Committee

Soil Conservation Commissioners Hold Monthly Meeting

The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, R. B. Taylor, chairman; J. H. Graff and H. G. Shafer held their regular monthly meeting in the town hall of Lake Park last Thursday evening, July 27, 1944.

Notification was received by the commissioners that their district program and the work plan were received by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Memoranda of Understanding were signed by the proper authorities, which procedure assigns assistance to the district.

The commissioners voted to adopt the following policy with reference to assistance given to farmers:

That hereafter in consideration of the assistance given, the farmer in turn will sign a farmer-district cooperative agreement to follow a good land use and soil management plan on his farm. The commissioners take the position that the purpose of all assistance given by public agencies is the conservation of soil and the maintenance and even increase of its productivity, and therefore all assistance given should aid in accomplishing that objective. If farmers follow soil depleting practices it nullifies the benefits of the assistance given.

Seventy applications for assistance in good land use embracing 15,000 acres have been received and approved. But the commissioners will request the farmer to sign a farmer-district, cooperative agreement before further assistance will be given.

Assistance during the last three months period has been given 22 farmers who agreed to sign farmer-district cooperative agreements for good land use plans, embracing over 5,000 acres.

Are you going to will your children a worn-out farm? Encourage conservation by attending the District hearing December 22.

50 County Farmers Contoured In Year 1944

THOUSANDS OF ACRES NOW UNDER CONTOUR THROUGHOUT COUNTY

About 50 farmers in Dickinson county having sloping crop land reported having contoured in 1944 about 1000 acres of corn and soybeans and between 600 and 700 acres of oats. In view of the fact that two years ago only 4 farmers in the county for the first time did conturing on less than 100 acres of sloping cropland, this is a remarkable increase, and a strong indication of the ever increasing number of farmers who are convinced that planting, cultivating and harvesting crops on the level contour of sloping land is a sound and profitable practice.

According to authorities at Ames contoured fields under test in Iowa in 1944 outyielded up-and-down hill plantings by an average of nearly 7 bushels per acre for corn, nearly 2 bushels per acre for soybeans and over 6 bushels per acre for oats.

Dickinson county AAA committeemen estimate that not more than 5 per cent of the intertilled crops planted on sloping land was in soybeans, because farmers in general are reluctant to plant soybeans on sloping land in that they induce soil washing. If, then we assume that 95% of the intertilled crops contoured on sloping land, or 950 acres, was planted to corn, contouring alone increased corn production by nearly 7000 bushels over up-and-down hill planting, a very fine total crop from 100 acres of land. An increase of 7 bushels per acre yield is a substantial increase of 13% of the state average yield of 54 bushels per acre.

In like manner, contouring increased oat production by nearly 4000 bushels over up-and-down hill planting. If all sloping crop land in the county suitable for contour were contoured in 1944, total crop production would have been substantially higher, without additional cost and effort, and with far less wastage of fertile top soil. The Ames people predict that in the future the difference in yields in favor of contoured sloping fields over up-and-down hill planted fields will become wider and wider, due to the fact that up-and-down hill planted fields are losing far more fertile top soil.

In 1945 the need for increased food production will be great. Manpower will be scarce, and essential farm machinery will be rationed. There will not be enough commercial fertilizers to go around. Planting crops on the contour on sloping land will contribute very materially in increasing crop production with no extra requirements on manpower, machinery, fuel and fertilizers. In fact, many farmers claim that requirements of manpower and fuel for contouring is less than for up-and-down hill planting, and that contouring is easier on machinery.

If anyone desires assistance in laying out contour lines on his farm, he should contact the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Office, the County Extension Office or the County AAA office, all in Spirit Lake. Anyone of the district commissioners, R. B. Taylor, H. G. Shafer and J. H. Graff will be able to give information about the district soil conservation program.

SOIL CONSERVATION TOPIC STUDY FOR RURAL SCHOOLS

The regular meeting of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District commissioners was held in the town hall in Lake Park Thursday afternoon, Dec. 28.

Three applications for assistance were approved, and also one cooperative agreement was approved and signed. This agreement involved good land use through good crop rotation system, and a complete drainage plan.

Loren Smiley, the county school superintendent, was present by invitation and discussed district commission assistance to the rural schools in bringing soil conservation information to teachers and pupils. As a result of this discussion, a schedule of meetings in the schools has been drafted, in which motion pictures or slides illustrate soil conservation methods will be shown. Also arrangements were made to assist the 4-H clubs in their March meeting, which will be devoted to soil conservation. The topic of the Little Sioux water-shed was discussed, and it was proposed that the survey of the Little Sioux made by government engineers some years ago, be continued up through Clay, Osceola, Dickinson counties in Iowa, and Jackson county in Minnesota.

The commissioners are anxious to assist farmers in developing good soil conservation practices and programs on their farms.

They are: R. B. Taylor, Milford, chairman; H. G. Shafer, Milford, and J. H. Graff, Spirit Lake; John Himmel, Spirit Lake, local representative to the soil co[illegible]rvation service; and George Bo[illegible]e, secretary.

[illegible]ext meeting will be Jan. 25. Anyone who would like to meet with the commissioners is welcome to come to the meeting.

40 Fields Under Contour Program This Year

June 10, 1943
Spirit Lake
Iowa

MANY FARMERS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF NEW SET-UP

Forty fields on 23 farms in Dickinson County have been put in on the contour this spring. This comprises nearly 600 acres in all, over 300 acres in corn, 50 acres in soybeans, 150 acres in oats and 75 acres in flax.

Contour farming conserves soil and moisture, increases yields, and farmers have found that less power and time are required when farming on the contour. The important thing to consider is that the productive power of the soil is maintained and even increased by this practice, and increased production of food during the war is accomplished.

These demonstrations of contour farming are open to inspection by everybody and it is hoped that the people of Dickinson County will make an effort to see these demonstrations this spring and summer. Heavy rains already this spring have demonstrated the effectiveness of contour farming over up-and-down hill cultivation. The water run off and soil washing was not nearly so severe on contoured sloping fields as on those farmed up-and-down hill.

The following farmers are contouring this year: H. G. Shafer, Silver Lake Township; George A. Mayou, Fay Lynn, Cecil R. Sherk, Joe Fricke, Grant Clark, Diamond Lake Township; Ed H. Blackert, Merle Bohn, Wayne Estes, Spirit Lake Township; Conrad Brekke, H. J. Anderson and L. R. Rogers, Superior Township; Nile H. Wells, Floyd Woodley, Carl H. Sievers, O. W. Fischer, James Milholim, Center Grove Township; Joe Graff, Charles Pieper, LeRoy Bush, Lakeville Township; Wm. Warnecke, Ora M. Gregory, Excelsior Township; Pat Ryan, Okoboji Township; and Harry Heikens, Jr., Milford Township.

Mr. Roy E. Bennett, Assistant State Conservationist of St. Paul, Minn, Mr. George V. Bowers, District Conservationist of Marshall, Minn. and Mr. Norman E. Boyce, Project Conservationist of Storden, Minn., all of the Soil Conservation Service were in Spirit Lake and Dickinson County Thursday and Friday of last week, to look over the soil conservation work being carried on in this project area.

They were particularly impressed with the ease and skill farmers here are contouring effectively somewhat irregular and difficult terrain.

Soil Conservation Men In County This Week

6-10-43
Spirit Lake Beacon

Mr. Harry H. Gardner, Chief Division of Agronomy, Mr. E. A. Zack, Field Specialist, and Mr. H. H. Morse, Project Plans Division, all of the Regional Office No. 3 Soil Conservation Service, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mr. Frank H. Mendell, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, and Mr. Lester Clapp of the Extension Service of Iowa State College both of Ames; Carl R. Fritzsche, District Conservationist of Sioux City, were in Dickinson and Emmet counties Wednesday and Thursday to look over the program and work of Soil Conservation in this area. Their purpose of this visit was to appraise the peculiar problems here and to give assistance in ways and means of increasing the effectiveness of the work already started here.

Mr. Frank H. Mendell, Assistant State Conservationist of Ames, spoke at the noon luncheon of the Rotary Club on some problems in Soil Conservation and some methods employed in their solution.

SPIRIT LAKE BEACON, SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA
January 14, 1943

Four-Point Soil Conservation Program

ADOPTED FOR MEETING 1943 WARTIME PRODUCTION GOALS IN DICKINSON COUNTY

The four-point program adopted at the county meeting held in the Farm Bureau Office on December 18th to discuss the conservation practices to be stressed for the 1943 wartime production goals included the following:

1. Contour farming and grassed waterways.
2. Pasture improvement which includes thorough discing, reseeding, application of fertilizer in the early spring, controlled livestock grazing, and mowing weeds during the bloom stage in the summer.
3. Plowing under good growths of green manure crops and other crop residues to furnish much needed organic matter for the soil.
4. Control of weeds by using clean seed, good cultivation and good crop rotations, mowing pastures, and spraying.

This is a sound, long-time soil and farm management program, and is especially suitable in this wartime emergency. The result of this program is to increase production, decrease cost of production, save farm labor, time and use of equipment.

There four important practices will be discussed separately in four short articles in which they are explained and their importance stressed.

Contour farming will be taken up here and the other practices will follow in later articles. Contour or level farming on sloping land is becoming more and more the established practice by farmers. Thousands of farmers have adopted it as a permanent practice, and every year more and more farmers are practicing contour farming on their farms. Farmers who are following contour farming as a regular practice have found it to be practical, sound and profitable. Nearly all farmers who have ever tried it say they will not go back to the old way of straight up-and-down hill farming. Contour farming is rapidly becoming the regular and standard practice on all sloping land.

In the meeting, the farmers who planted corn on the contour in 1942 stated that contouring was responsible for more than a 10-bushel per acre increase in corn yield. Again each one said that farming on the contour was easier than up-and-down hill farming, and it saved power, labor and time. They also stated that it prevented water run-off and soil washing, and saved their soil for abundant future production. Also some of these farmers were able to reduce the number of field operations. Difficulty in contouring is more imaginary than real, these farmers stated. The farmers in Dickinson County who practiced contouring in 1942 are Joe Graff, Joe Fricke, Merle Bohn and Carl Sievers.

Over in Harrison county, farmers who contoured corn on 18,000 acres of land in 1942 estimated an increased yield from 6 to 15 bushels per acre. Over in Woodbury county 60 farmers out of about 100 who contoured corn in 1941 reported increased yields averaging more than 9 bushels per acre, and nearly all the remainder report some increase in yield. Increase in yields from 20 to 40 bushels of corn per acre due to contouring have frequently been reported and increases between 10 and 20 bushels per acre are very common.

It was brought out in the meeting that there are about 80,000 acres of crop land suitable for contouring in Dickinson county. In conserving this 80,000 acres of crop land for permanent production, contour cultivation has a definite and important place. It was estimated that about 26,000 acres of the sloping land will be planted to corn in 1943.

Assuming that all this corn would be planted on the contour and that contouring would be responsible for the very conservative yield increase of 5 bushels per acre, at least 130,000 additional bushels of corn could be raised in Dickinson county next year without extra labor, power and other equipment. It was also brought out that by average feeding practices this extra corn would feed out 4333, 250-pound additional hogs or 1,082,500 additional pounds of pork for our soldiers and allies. Converting this additional pork into money at current prices would bring in an additional $130,000 income to Dickinson county farmers with which to purchase war bonds, and would therefore help Dickinson county citizens to meet their quota of war bond purchases. This would be the case because contouring entails no additional expense, on the contrary, it has proved to be cheaper than the usual practice. Similarly increased yields of soybeans, oats, flax and other crops are being obtained by contour farming. Merle Bohn of Spirit Lake obtained a soybean yield of 22 bushels per acre on an eroded sloping field by drilling the beans on the contour. Joe Graff found it very important to plow sloping land on the contour preparatory to planting corn the following spring. No dead furrows are running up-and-down hill to start gullies.

Most rolling fields have ravines or draws where water tends to concentrate. If plowed and distributed, gullies will form so they cannot be safely crossed with machinery. These draws should be seeded and left permanently in grass. Contour farming and grassed waterways go together. A.A.A soil building payments of $1.50 per acre will be paid in 1943 to farmers planting corn, soybeans, or other intertilled crops, and 50 cents per acre for seeding small grain crops, all on the contour. Also 75 cents per 100 linear feet of grassed waterways established will be paid.

Most farmers will need some assistance in establishing contour lines. This assistance will be available without charge to every farmer in the county who wants to do contouring next year. Farmers who want such assistance should get in touch with either Mr. Louis Rank, County Extension Director, or one of the township A.A.A committeemen.

JOHN HIMMEL,
Soil Conservationist
Office opposite Post Office in Spirit Lake, telephone 34.

Demonstrations of Contouring Next Week

Spirit Lake Beacon 4-23-43

LARGE ATTENDANCE & MUCH INTEREST IN DEMONSTRATION HELD

The following schedule of demonstrations in methods of laying out contour lines for contour farming on sloping land will be held throughout Dickinson County next week. Everyone interested is invited to attend.

Monday, April 26, at 1:30 p. m. on the Pat Ryan farm in Okoboji township.

Tuesday, April 27, at 9:30 a. m. on the Ed H. Blackert farm in Spirit Lake township. The boys in the class in Agriculture in the Spirit Lake High School plan to attend this demonstration.

Tuesday, April 27, at 1:30 p. m. on the George A. Mayou farm in Diamond Lake township.

Wednesday, April 28, at 1:30 p. m. on the Floyd Woodley farm in Center Grove township. Boys of the Arnolds Park High School plan to attend this demonstration.

Thursday, April 29, at 9:30 a. m. on the H. G. Shafer farm in Silver Lake township. Boys of the Lake Park High School plan to attend this demonstration.

Friday, April 30, at 1:30 p. m. on the Harry Heikens, Jr., farm in the Southeastern part of Milford township.

Farmers and others interested in methods of laying out contour lines for contour farming on sloping land are urged to attend the demonstration most convenient for them.

Contour farming has a very important place in increasing production today and in a permanent Agriculture. This practice conserves moisture and soil fertility. It increases yields and reduces cost of production in saving time, labor, machinery and power.

SPIRIT LAKE BEACON, SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 11-19-42

Highest Corn Yield On Contoured Field

Joe Graff and neighbors who assisted him in husking his corn, estimated between 75 and 80 bushels per acre for the field planted to corn on the contour last spring. This is the field that caught the curious interest of the people of Dickinson County this last summer.

Joe said that this is more corn than he ever raised before on this field, and out-yielded the corn grown on his other large field by over 15 bushels per acre. Long time resident neighbors said that this is more corn than they had ever seen raised before on this field.

The slope ranges in most places between seven and twenty per cent, and in many places top soil has worn thin by serious erosion in previous years. This field shows the effects of heavy cropping in the many years before Joe came to this farm.

Joe estimated that contouring increased the yield at least twenty bushels of corn per acre. On the thinner areas where one ordinarily would expect a thin stand with only nubbins there was a surprisingly full stand with fair sized ears.

During the heavy rains last summer very little erosion occurred on this field. The rows and the tillage operations in level curves around the hill checked water run off. On other fields with similar soil types and conditions of slope and erosion where corn was planted and tillage operations ran up and down hill, tons and tons of valuable top soil washed away. This serious soil washing reduced crop yields on these slopes very materially.

Joe did not harrow after corn planting and cultivated the corn on this field only twice. It was relatively free from weeds. Eliminating one harrowing and one cultivation saved time, labor, and motor fuel as well as did operating machinery on the level. Joe said he rarely had to stop and shift gears and travel on low speed.

He said he found corn husking on the contour with a mechanical picker very easy. He said had he gone straight up and down some of those hills his tractor could never have pulled the load. Had he planted his rows straight in either direction he would have had to travel long distances in the field up hill at low speed, thus consuming much extra time and power. He said the time and power gained by contour farming far outweighs that lost by the few point rows that happen to occur. Then, too, one gains by producing better yields of crops and by saving one's soil which represents capital investment derived from hard earned savings. Joe said, too, that following the curved rows did not move the elevator on the corn-picker far enough in either direction from a line directly over the wagon being loaded with corn. He said where curves are quite sharp it is an easy matter to stop the elevator temporarily, until it and the wagon line up again.

SPIRIT LAKE BEACON, SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA
January 21, 1943

Joe H. Graff plows rolling field on contour to prevent erosion and save soil.

SPIRIT LAKE BEACON, SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA. 10-29-42

Joe H. Graff Plows Rolling Field on Contour To Prevent Erosion and Save Soil

Scenes of fall plowing rolling land on the contour on the Joe H. Graff farm about 6 miles west of Spirit Lake on Highway No. 9.

Joe H. Graff, who lives about six miles west of Spirit Lake along highway No. 9 is pioneering in the adoption of farming practices that

middle of the field is where Joe plowed in an uncrossable gully in a draw caused within three years of up and down hill farming. H

NEW and USED MACHINERY

New Case Combine
New Case 2-bottom 16" Tractor Plow.
New Case Manure Spreader.
New Case Wagon Truck
New Allis-Chalmers 2-bottom 16" Tractor Plow.
New Case 6-foot Mower

Used Allis-Chalmers WC

Saturday, N

At Club Congress

PIG CLU

ANNU

received word from Mrs. Joseph D. Dempsie, that he is still located in England, and recently was reunited with a friend, Mr. Sievers of Storm Lake. The two young men were together at Fort Snelling, Minn., and went across together, but for a time were separated in August. They recently spent a week end together when they visited points on the English Channel.

SPIRIT LAKE BEACON
SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA
AUGUST 13, 1942

Erosion Control Around Lakes Being Studied

FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY MEN MAKE SURVEY THIS WEEK

On Tuesday afternoon, August 10th a meeting of all public agencies was held in the local office of the soil conservation service for the purpose of discussing ways and means of assisting the local people in solving some of the major problems affecting the wealth and income of this area studded with lakes and recreational grounds.

The major problems discussed were sheet and gully erosion, and silting of the lakes. Studies indicate that in 1916 East Lake Okoboji was approximately 23 feet deep. Estimates today indicate the deepest point is between 11 and 18 feet. At this rate of silting it will be only another decade until East Okoboji will become a swamp or marsh where mosquitos are bred. The shallower a body of water the more rapidly is its rate of filling up accelerated. Think what it will do to the beach property and camp sites along this lake. It will not be long until this property will have no value.

Silting in West Okoboji while not serious has become a nuisance at various beaches. Summer residents complain of tons and tons of silt coming down from adjacent cultivated fields during heavy rains, making the water along the beach muddy for days afterwards. Also there is complaint of drains clogging thereby causing overflow on the lawns of summer homes.

Many gullies flowing into the lakes drain large watersheds of farming land for miles. These drainage ways carry tons and tons of silt washed down from cultivated sloping fields and overgrazed pastures.

This silt is fertile top soil of inestimable value in agricultural production. It is real capital out there over the land, but when washed into gullies and the lakes it is actually destroyed and what is worse, it becomes a means of depreciating and destroying additional capital invested in and around the lakes. This loss runs into dollars with six figures.

Methods or erosion control and silt preyention are economical and have proven profitable to every farmer who has tried them. In fact, they have enabled hundreds of struggling farmers get back on their feet. Effective erosion con- are contour, or level ill, farming; contour ; grass waterways in ing; good crop rota- ng several years of ully control by trees and where necessary sture improvement and rol, and lakebank pro- ugh vegetable plant- me construction work too expensive.

ssion centered around riousness of the prob- rosion and silting; and butions each of the ncies could make in as- e citizens of Dickinson preserving the wealth resources at their dis- should remember that ess prosperity of the com- in Dickinson county de- on the preservation of al and the lake and wild- rces of these regions.

nd means of making con- s:

earch by Lakeside Labora- ected by the University of

uction by Extension Serv- A. State Conservation Com- Lakeside Laboratory Per- and Soil Conservation e.

enefit payments by AAA for onservation Practices.

Appropriations by State gh Conservation Commission keside protection.

Assistance to farmers by all c agencies in adopting and ing out erosion practices, and lishing wildlife refuges on rwise waste areas on their s, and in over-all good farm agement plans.

Coordinating all our efforts he best advantage so that the ximum amount of good can be omplished.

t is hoped that this meeting will followed at some later date by al groups of residents, farmers d businessmen to discuss these oblems so vital to their own in- ests, and point out ways and eans public agencies can assist em in solving these problems ost effectively.

Those present at the meeting and e public agencies they repre- nted are as follows:

Louis Rank, County Agent, Spirt Lake, Iowa Extension Service, Chairman of meeting.

A. L. Beverly, Chairman Dickinson Agricultural Conservation Association and Chairman of U.S.D.A. War Board, Arnolds Park.

Dr. R. L. King, Local Director of University of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Milford, Iowa.

Dr. Theo. L. Jahn, Research Division, University of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Milford, Iowa.

Bruce Stiles, Chief of Fish and Game Division, State Conservation Commission, Des Moines.

Frank Starr, Conservation Officer, Milford.

Rae Sjostrom, Conservation Officer, Spirit Lake, Secretary of meeting.

Clark E. Jacoby, Drainage Engineer, Soil Conservation Service, Regional Office, Milwaukee.

Warren E. Chase, Chief of Wild Life Division, Soil Conservation Service, Regional office, Milwaukee

Albert E. Dodge, Assistant Manager of Soil Conservation Services Nurseries, Ames.

Carl R. Fritzche of the Woodbury county Soil Conservation District, Sioux City.

Harold A. Hall, Soil Conservation Service, Spirit Lake.

John P. Himmel, Soil Conservation Service, Spirit Lake.

August 13, 1942.

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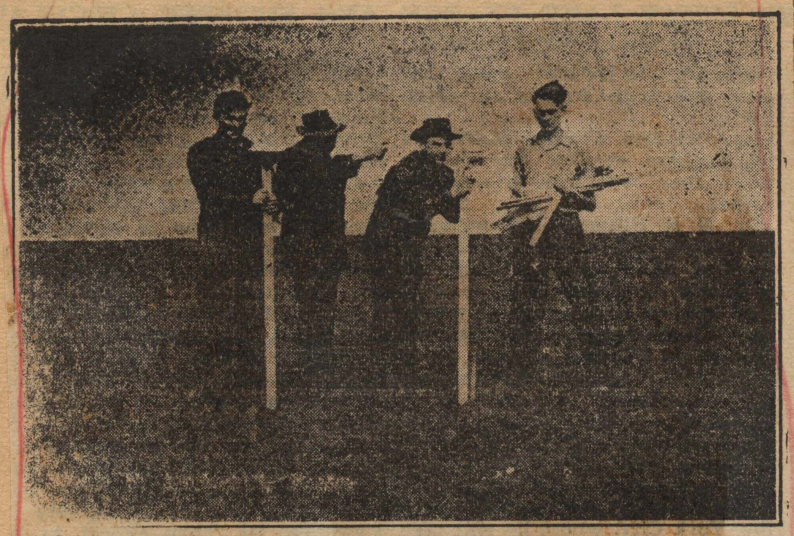


Lake Park High School boys receiving instructions by instructor in laying out contour lines with an ordinary carpenter's level. The soil conservation district hearing in the county court room in Spirit Lake next Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd is in the interest of better public schools and educational opportunities..

The Methodist Church June 24
Spirit Lake, Iowa
J. E. Feller, Minister

In his parable of the soils Jesus brought a two-fold lesson on conservation—conservation of the soil and conservation of the soul. In a day when erosion is seriously threatening our heritage of soil and character we do well to consider again the modern lessons of this ancient parable. By action of the Church Board we are observing Soil Conservation Week at the service of Worship this coming Sunday.

Church School 10:00 a. m.

Divine Worship 11:00 a. m.

Sermon, "Conservation—Soil and Soul."

Youth Fellowship 7:00 p. m.

The group will meet at the church and will continue the topic 'Democracy in the Home,' The subject for this Sunday evening is 'How do we use our Bibles?"

Superior Methodist Church
Rev. C. K. Hudson, Minister

Morniung Worship at 10 a. m.

Sunday School 11 a. m.

The pastor will have a special message in observance of Soil Conservation Week, "Faithful to God's Gift."

The Ladies society will meet Thursday, July 1 with Mrs. Charles Tatman.

Arnolds Park Methoydist Church
Rev. C. K. Hudson

Sunday School 10 a. m.

Morning Worship 11 a. m.

The pastor will have a special message in observance of Soil Conservation Week, "Faithful to God's Gift.".

CONTOURING EFFECTIVE IN RECENT HEAVY RAINS

The losses of top soil due to the the intense rains of last Thursday night and Sunday amply showed the need of soil conservation practices on sloping clutivated land. The local personnel of the Soil Conservation Service took measurements of soil losses due to Thursday night rain alone on corn fields cultivated up and down hill.

Here are some of the figures. On a 7% slope the top soil loss was .96 inches; 9% slope, .86 inches; 10% slope 1.25; 13% and 14 per cent slopes 1.14 inches. On the average this amounted to 1.07 inches of top soil washed away. At this rate less than twelve such rains will remove all of the top soil 12 inches deep which required nearly 850 years for nature to build up.

The severest erosion on contoured fields of corn was found on a long 20% sloping field where both rains of Thursday night and Sunday removed only .2 an inch from a small portion of the field.

Thus soil loss on up and down hill cultivated fields was over 500% more due to Thursday night's rain than on contoured cultivated fields much steeper due to both Thursday night's and Sunday rains.

These measurements were taken in various parts of the county.

The next day ground where corn was cultivated up and down hill was hard and dry showing that most of the water ran off, but where corn was cultivated on the contour the ground was soft and moist showing much of the water soaked into the soil.

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SOIL CONSERVATION DIST.

State Soil Conservation Committee of Iowa

Notice of hearing upon organization of proposed Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, Embracing Land Lying in Dickinson County.

Whereas, on the 18th day of November, 1943, there was duly filed in the office of the State Soil Conservation Committee at Des Moines, Iowa, a petition signed by 25 or more landowners who represent 20 per cent or more of the owners of land within the limits of the territory proposed to be organized into a district, pursuant to the provisions of the Soil Conservation Districts Law, Chapter 125.1, Code of Iowa, 1939, requesting the establishment of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, and

Whereas, the lands described by said petition and other lands which will be considered for inclusion in said district are located in Dickinson County, described substantially as follows:

All the land lying within the boundaries of Dickinson County.

Now, therefore, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held pursuant to the said petition, on the question of the desirability and necessity in the interest of the health, safety and public welfare of the creation of such district; on the question of the appropriate boundaries to be assigned to such district; upon the propriety of the petition and other proceedings taken under the said law; and upon all questions relative to such inquiries. The said public hearing will be held by the State Soil Conservation Committee in the county of Dickinson on the 22nd day of December, 1943, beginning at 1:30 p m. o'clock at the Court Room in Court House in Spirit Lake.

All owners of any lands lying within the limits of the above described territory, and all other interested parties are invited to attend and will be given opportunity to be heard at the time and place hereinbefore specified.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.

By Chris H. Jensen, Chairman.

49-2t

Contour farming provides more feed for livestock, increases farm income. You surely want to leave a fertile farm for your son. The soil conservation district hearing in Spirit Lake on next Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd is in the interest of a permanent and prosperous agriculture.

PROCLAMATION

Iowa has a tremendous responsibility in the nation's food producing program and calls for the maximum use of our soil and water resources. It presents a challenge to every person to use our land resources in a manner that will produce maximum amounts of the needed crops of corn, soybeans, grain, hay and pasture with a minimum of permanent soil damage.

Erosion is a serious problem in Iowa, and affects some portion of almost every county of the state. In times of increased demands for food production it can become much more serious unless plans for proper control measures and good land use and soil conserving practices are adopted.

Contour farming should be applied on at least five million acres of corn and soybean ground in Iowa. If this were done, Iowa could produce about 30,000,000 bushels more feed for the "Food for Freedom" effort, through the application of this single soil conserving practice.

Soil conservation districts have been established in 32 counties under the Iowa law; thirteen of these during the calnedar year of 1942. In addition nearly every county has participated in a large way in the study and adoption of some soil sonservation practices These organizations, working with the State Soil Conservation Committee, the Soil Conservation Service the Extension Service of Iowa State College, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and other groups and agencies are helping farmers meet this challenge.

Especially during Soil Conservation Week, and generally throughout the year, Iowa citizens are urged to observe the fertile fields of our fair state, the ravages of soil erosion and the inroads being made upon the fertility of the soil through indiscriminate use of land. They are urged to talk with farmers using good soil conservation practices and to consult with soil conservation authorities to the end that ultmate production will be achieved and our wealth in the soil may be maintained.

THEREFORE, I Bourke B. Hickenlooper, Governor, hereby designate and proclaim the week of June 21 to 26, 1943 as

Iowa Soil Conservation Week

I earnestly urge all Iowa people to join in this worthy movement, to give assistance in every possible way to this soil care, and to unite in doing all things needful for the expansion of Iowa's magnificent production plant.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Iowa. Done at Des Moines, this 28th day of May, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-three of the State of Iowa the Ninety-seventh, and of the Independence of the United States the One Hundred and Sixty-seventh.

B. B. HICKENLOOPER,
Governor.

Louie Rank To Quit As County Agent

WILL TAKE SECRETARYSHIP OF NATIONAL FARM LOAN ASS'N.

Dickinson County Extension Agent Louie Rank has tendered his resignation to the Dickinson County Farm Bureau to become effective following the Club Congress show September 1 and 2, to accept the secretary-treasurership of the National Farm Loan association of Clay and Dickinson counties.

Mr. Rank will succeed Pete Schneckloth of Spencer, who has resigned effective September 1st. The office covering the two counties has been at Spencer, and the change will mean the eventual moving of the Rank family to Spencer.

Mr. Rank has held the position of county agent for the past twelve years, during which there has been much advancement in both the Farm Bureau and the boys and girls 4-H club work in Dickinson county. The Farm Bureau was almost at its lowest ebb with between 200 and 300 members upon Mr. Rank's arrival and has been advanced to close to 700 this year at a much higher membership fee.

The Dickinson county permanent 4-H club grounds has been made a reality under Mr. Rank's leadership, and while the improvements have not as yet all been completed, the present layout is almost free from encumbrance, and plans have been perfected for further development at the end of the war.

Mr. and Mrs. Rank and family have won many warm friends in Spirit Lake and throughout Dickinson county who will regret their departure from the county.

Terracing Fields Helpful to

Dickinson County Farmer First to Try Latest Crop Protector

Advantages to farmers, both in soil conservation and in avoiding flood damage, will result from terracing and contouring rolling farm lands, declared Carl Fritzsche, area supervisor of the government soil conservation district with headquarters here.

As an example of one farmer's success with soil conservation practices Mr. Fritzsche told of the experiences of Joe H. Graff of Dickinson county. Mr. Graff owns a 320-acre livestock farm which is located along the Little Sioux river on highway 9, between Spirit Lake and Lake Park. Assisted by soil technicians he constructed 2,500 feet of terraces with a two-bottom farm plow and tractor in September, 1943. These terraces are the first and only terraces constructed on a farm in northwestern Iowa, and they had a good tryout this spring during the heavy rains, said Mr. Fritzsche.

Mr. Graff stated that had it not been for his terraces the heavy rains would have washed out so much of his corn making it necessary to replant. The terraces protected the sloping cornfields from damage by wind and water. Surrounding fields which were not terraced but were planted up and down the slopes, were eroded and gullied. Corn growing in the fields which had not been contoured or terraced was damaged by wind-blown sand and dirt, cutting it badly. But on the terraced and contoured fields extra moisture had been held which seeped into the ground keeping it moist. No wind, dirt or sand damaged the crop.

In addition to his terraces, Mr. Graff contours his farm land. He said that he has found that contouring saves time, power, equipment and increases crop yields by having soil and moisture. Mr. Graff is one of the commissioners of the Dickinson county soil conservation district.

Contouring Increases Yields

—Photo by Soil Conservation Service.

This is John W. Smith of Lyons, Neb., shown in his contoured corn field last fall. He says that conservation farming increases crop yields, saves soils, requires less power, and reduces the consumption of tractor fuel.

Serious gullying and loss of soil on a 10% sloping corn field farmed up and down hill on a farm in Diamond Lake Township during heavy rain in June 1943. Come to the soil conservation district hearing in Spirit Lake on next Wednesday, December 22nd and learn what contouring can do prevent such extravagent soil wastage as shown in this picture.

Contour Work Booth Shown At Club Show

In view of the severe erosion damage to sloping land in Dickinson county by melting snow and ice in the early spring and the heavy rains during the past few years, the Soil Conservation District Commissioners have decided to place greater emphasis on contour farming as an effective measure of erosion control. What makes this menace of erosion so serious is that it is affecting some of our most productive land. For example, one farmer who observed the Soil Conservation District exhibit at the 4-H Club Congress said that serious erosion took place on one of his fields in corn with long slopes not over 3 per cent, or 3 feet rise in 100 feet. This is one of the most productive fields on his farm, because drainage is sufficient, without water concentration as on more flat land, to stimulate good growth of crops. This farmer then said that if farmers don't do something effective to stop erosion, within the next ten years a high percentage of our good land will cease to produce.

These facts led the district commissioners to make the theme of the Soil Conservation District exhibit at the 4-H Club Congress "Contour Farming to Control Erosion." The purpose was to portray the destructive effect on land of up and down hill tillage and the conserving effect of contour farming. All the pictures on the walls of the booth were taken in Dickinson county Some showed erosion and washing out of crops where farming was done up and down hill. Other pictures showed farming on the contour and how it prevented erosion.

One farmer who saw the exhibit said that he has been observing the increase in contour farming in areas where it is needed by good and prosperous farmers. Many large farm operators are farming all their land now on the contour.

Farmers who do custom work with machinery combining grain and husking corn complain that gullies in fields caused by erosion do more damage to machinery and make custom work more costly than any other one or a combination of causes.

Drilling corn is no longer a barrier to contouring because more and more farmers are choosing to drill corn because of its profitableness.

Contour farming has proved its value in saving soil fertility and moisture, in increasing crop yields, in saving power, time and machinery so completely that the commissioners have decided to make it the chief point of attack to the erosion problem in the future. Of no minor importance is wind erosion which is also taking a heavy toll of our best land on the more level as well as our more rolling areas. Better crop rotations including legumes and grasses are needed to anchor the soil.

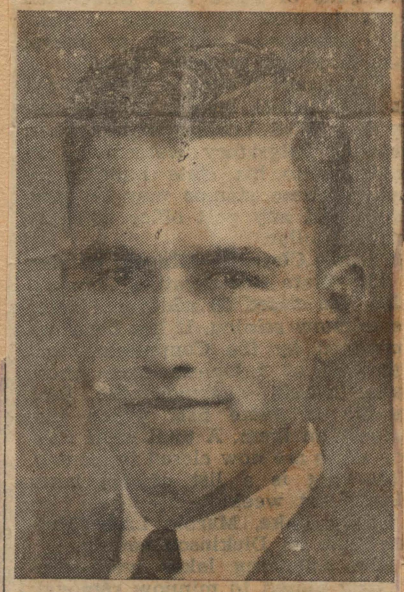
Farmers who have had experience in contour farming endorse it as a sound and economic practice.

Farms Wanted 61

WANTED TO RENT—Good ¼ or ½ section. Experienced contour farmer, with good machinery. Can move in with trailer house. Write Gilbert Persinger, Hornick, Ia.

Furnished Rooms for Rent 62

Geo. Boehmke New Dickinson County Agent



GEORGE BOEHMKE

George Boehmke of Ventura has been elected as County Extension director for Dickinson county to succeed Louis Rank, resigned. Mr. Boehmke graduated from the Iowa State college in January 1943, and has since been employed as County 4-H club agent in Tama county. Mr. Boehmke was active in 4-H club work in his home county of Cerro Gordo, and was a member of the college livestock judging team at Iowa State college. He will start his work in Dickinson county on September 15th.

Farm women in Dickinson county are interested in saving the soil to save their homes and standard of living. Here are three farm women in Center Grove Township receiving instructions in the use of a level for laying out contour lines. Women are cordially invited to attend the soil conservation district hearing in the county court room in Spirit Lake December 22nd. at 1:30 o'clock.

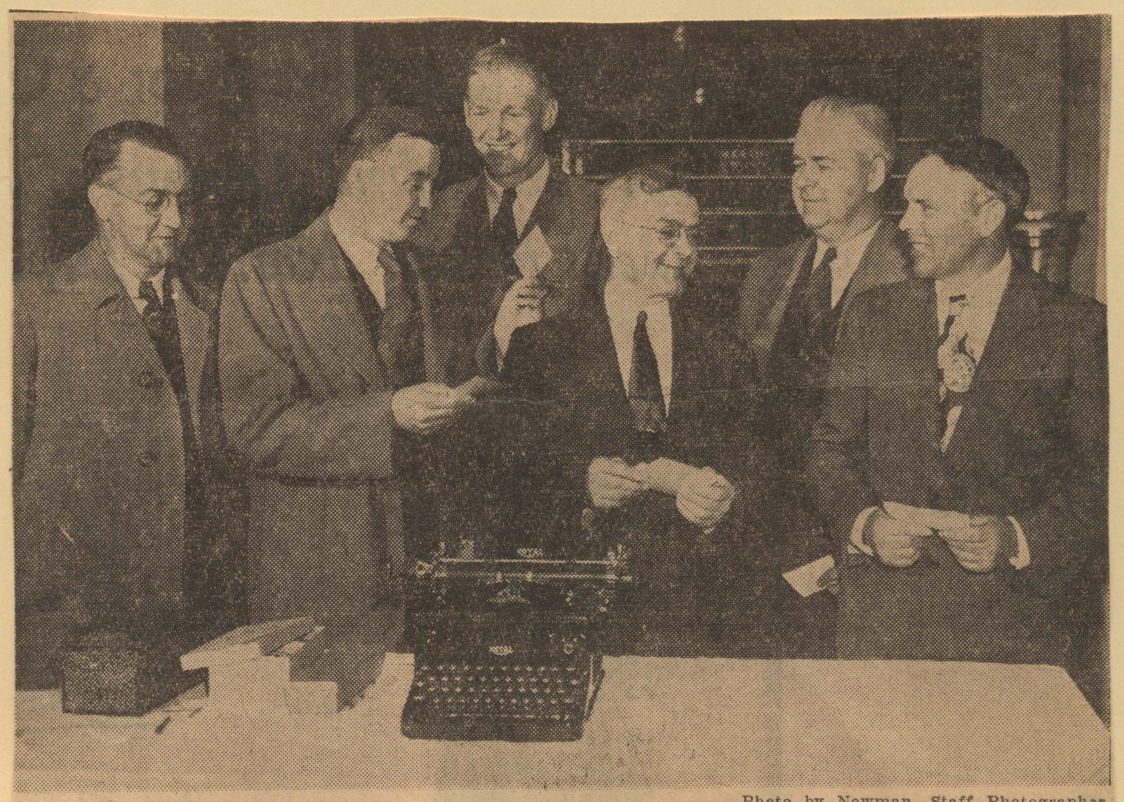


Photo by Newman, Staff Photographer

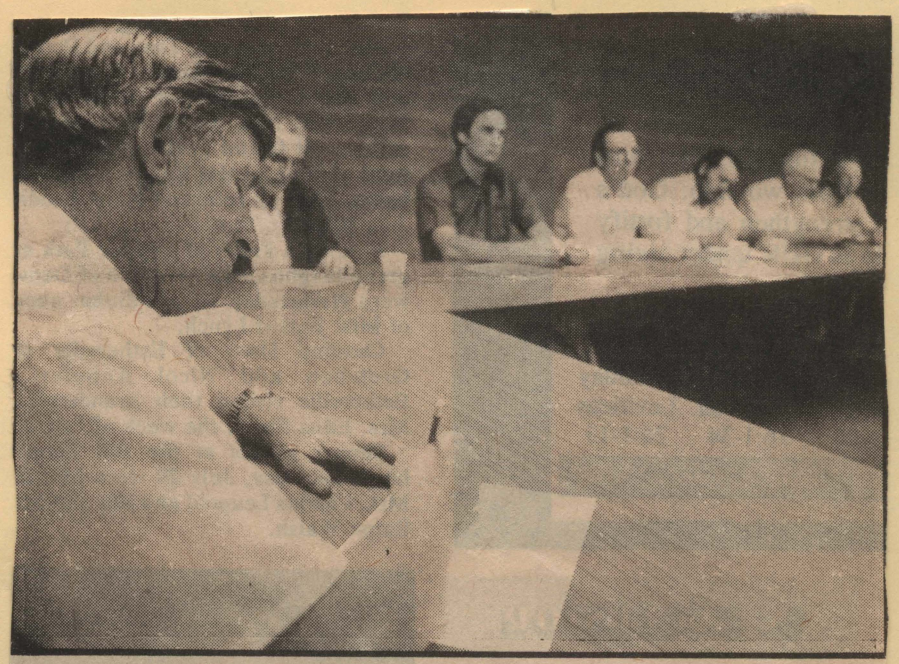
SOIL CONSERVATION MEN—Six men who attended the Recognition day activities here Tuesday in connection with the 1948 permanent agriculture program of the Journal-Tribune publications and the Chamber of Commerce are shown above. From left to right are Roger Lathrop, soil conservationist from Primghar; Lyle Fogelman of Sutherland, Don Miller of Paullina, R. B. Taylor of Milford, George G. Rohwer of Paullina and C. E. Watson of Milford.

R. B. Taylor buys 1st $5 book of Queen votes from A. Johnson, Jr.

The following applications for assistance were approved: V. A. Goodell and C. P. Walker of Silver Lake township; Joe Bruns of Center Grove township; Harold Case, of Superior township and Herman Johnson of Richland township.

The Commissioners made plans to give assistance to the 4-H clubs of the county in their March program wihch deals with Soil Conservation. A number of township Farm Bureaus also will make soil conservation the chief subject of their March meetings, particularly Richland, Superior and Diamond Lake townships.

Mr. Betts of Des Moines, assistant branch manager of the J. I. Case company will present colored moving pictures with a sountd projector, showing the destruction to soil by erosion and soil conservation practices which prevent it, at four township Farm Bureau and 4-H club meetings on March 13, 14, 15 and 16. The public is invited to any and all of these meetings



EARL BOLES of rural Milford was one of 17 persons attending a public meeting Aug. 3 in Milford regarding conservation programs. Hosted by the Soil Conservation District, the meeting included the completion of surveys about what type of conservation programs should be offered in the future. Incentives to encourage conservation tillage, contour farming, strip-cropping, vegetative cover, waterways, diversions, terraces, water control basins and grade stabilization structures included: cost-sharing, long-term low-interest loans, investment tax credit, property tax credit or income tax credit. Pros and cons of these possible incentives were discussed, with agreement not being reached on any item. It was also noted by some that the farmer is being blamed for more than his share of pollution. The input from this meeting will be combined with information from similar meetings held throughout the state to provide a basis conservation legislation. County soil conservationist Clarence Call also discussed The Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977.

SCS-74 Rev. 1-58

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Date of issue 10-19-69

Sent by Walt Thoreson

S. C. D. Dickinson

Stationed at Spirit Lake, Iowa

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- (Other) ☐
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- (Other) ☒
- Editorial ☐
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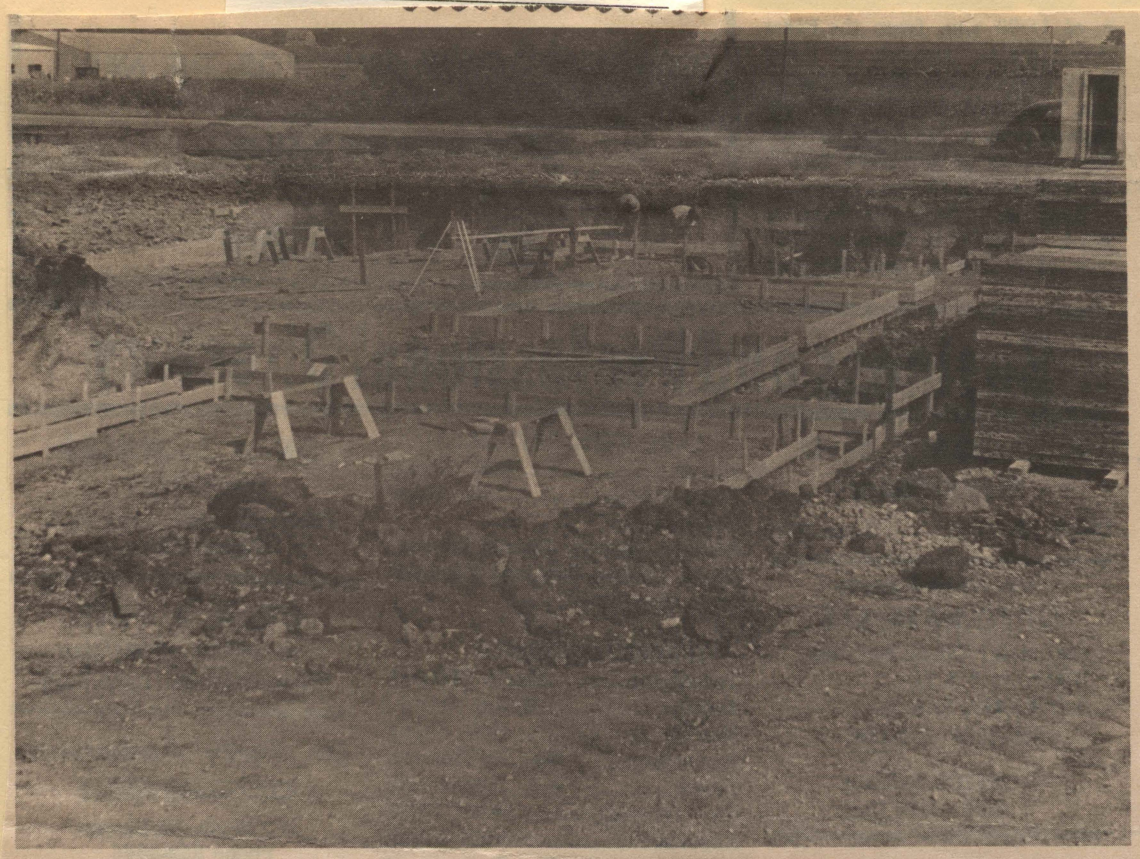

FOOTINGS — are being formed by the Spencer Construction Co. workman at the site for the new water treatment plant for Lake Park. The going has been a little slow because of the intricate detail for foundations for the clarifier, and sand filters, and the maze of underground piping for the building. **(NEWS PHOTO)**

DAM CONSTRUCTION — at the west end of the lake is proceeding rapidly and should be finished in another week. The 48-inch pipe pictured above runs through the base of the dam, from the standpipe in the background which is the overflow that will maintain the level of the dam. The dam will be nine feet above the top of the standpipe, and will be 14 feet wide at the top and 100 feet wide at the bottom. A drawdown valve is located behind the standpipe and has an inlet about 50 feet to the west so that the pond can be drained down at any time. The dam is about 500 yards west of north-south road at the extreme west end of the lake.

(NEWS PHOTO)

Soil Conservation Meeting Held at Lake Park Feb. 22

3-1-45 (2 L.B.)

The Dickinson County Soil District Commissioners, R. B. Taylor, Chairman; H. G. Shafer and J. H. Graff, held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday afternoon, February 22, 1945, in the Lake Park Town Hall. Carl Fritzsche, District Conservationist from Sioux City and John Himmel of the Spirit Lake district office, were present. George Boehnke, County Extension Director and Secretary to the Commissioners, was unable to be present.

The commission voted to pay toward the sound motion picture projector being purchased by the County Farm Bureau, the sum of $25.00 out of the prize fund received from the Soil Conservation exhibit at the 4-H Club Congress last September. This projector will be very helpful in Soil Conservation education.

The Commissioners also voted to purchase 250 letterheads, envelopes and postage for district uses.

The regular meeting of March 22 will be devoted largely to discussion of the survey of the Little Sioux river watershed made by federal engineers under the Flood Control Act of 1936. Clyde Spry, assistant State Secretary of Agriculture; Frank Mendell, State Conservationist at Ames; County Extension Directors of Clay and Osceola counties and of Jackson county, Minnesota and their county soils committees, plan to be present at this meeting which will be held in Spirit Lake.

Farmer-District Cooperative Agreements providing for good and profitable land use were entered into with Claude Northey of Lakeville township and Fay Lynn and Kenneth Grant of Diamond Lake township.

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Van Heusen Gift Certificate

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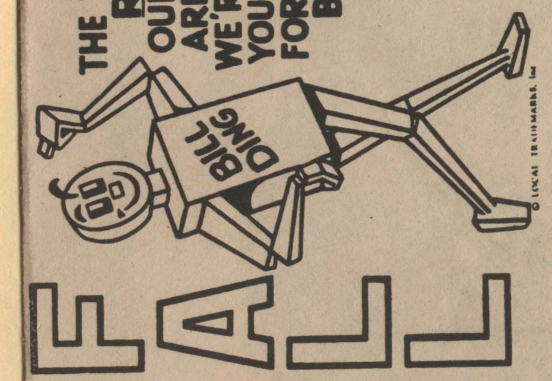
Rath® Feed

ARNOLD GRAIN & FEED, INC.
LAKE PARK, IOWA



SEE US FOR YOUR FALL BUILDING NEEDS

Lake Park Lumber

SCS–74 Rev. 1–58

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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S. C. D. Dickinson

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(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

53 of 72 Farms Cooperating In Silver Lake Watershed Area

The continued interest in soil erosion, and silt control into Silver Lake is indeed a commendable accomplishment, according to Walter Thoreson of the Agriculture Department of the Soil Conservation Service. "Few watersheds in this area of the state have made as much progress in this short period of time. Our hope is that in another two-year period we'll see very little, if any, top soil going into Silver Lake."

The structure on the west end of Silver Lake takes care of a watershed of 2,358 acres and should eliminate silting from the west. The dam is comprised of 20,043 cubic yards of dirt. Sixteen feet of 48 inch pipe riser and 116 feet of 36 inch pipe barrel (outlet pipe). A draw down pipe with valve is also included. An emergency spillway on the north side of the structure is a safety factor in case of a heavy downpour of rain, and will handle an eight inch deluge or more in twenty-four hours.

The purpose of the dam is to prevent silt and pollution from entering Silver Lake and also to be used for a rearing pond by the State Conservation Commission. The pond size will be nine and one-half acres. Approximately forty acres in pasture will be converted into wild life area. The Harris-Lake Park FFA will be doing the planting of shrubs and trees for the wild life area.

The entire Silver Lake Watershed comprises approximately 15,000 acres which include farms in Osceola and Dickinson Counties. There are 72 farms of which 53 are Soil Conservation District Cooperators comprising 11,000 acres. 15 farms are terracing, 28 are contouring, and 24 farms with established waterways.

The dam was built on land leased from Mr. and Mrs. Clay-

(Continued on Page 5)

WATERSHED...

(Continued from page 1)

ton Arnold for a twenty-five year period to the State Conservation Commission at no charge.

The construction was paid on a cost share basis with the State Conservation Commission contributing $6,000, Federal ACP $500, Lake Park Utilities Board $3,000, and $1,000 by the Silver Lake Improvement Corporation through dues and donations from the citizens of Lake Park.

ICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR SPIRIT LAKE AND DICKINSON COUNTY, IOWA 15¢ PER COPY THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1971

Conference Board Files For County Soil Survey

SHOWS TEST FOR CALCIUM—Wayne Dankert, party head, shows a gathering of officials how a test for calcium is conducted on a soil sample. Dankert and two other soil scientists will be in Dickinson County classifying and helping map soils. The demonstration took place after a First Acre Ceremony that marked the state of a Standard Soil Survey in Dickinson County. From left (kneeling): Ron Reckner, soil scientist; Leonard Stransky, county supervisor; Duane Curry, ASCS director; Dankert, soil scientist and party head; Jim Yungclas, extension director; and Tom Underwood, assistant assessor. Standing are Soil District Commissioners Bob Ingwersen, Ernie Skow and Chuck Shorey.

Standard Soil Survey Starts In County

Local, State and Federal officials gathered at Marble Beach State Park on April 14 to officially signal the beginning of the Standard Soil Survey in Dickinson County.

Jim Yunclas, Dickinson County Extension Director presiding over the ceremony, asked several individuals for comments regarding their involvement in the Survey. Leonard Stransky, representing the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors, commented about funding of the project from County, State and Federal governments. He received some of the information in the last survey from 1924 and noted the value of the new survey for the assessor's office and in establishing capability of the land. Ernest Skow, representing County Soil Conservation District, said they were very pleased with the cooperation received from local officials in being willing to cooperate with making the survey. He also noted he had received comments from State Representative, Ingwer Hansen and Don Spencer and Senator Irvin Bergman commenting the value of the survey.

Clayton Hodgen, Agriculture Representative for U.S. Congressman Berkley Bedell, gave a statement sent by Representative Bedell, affirming the importance of our land resources and the importance of maintaining it.

Representing Iowa State University were Dr. John Pesek, Head of the Agronomy Department, Dr. William Oshwald, Assistant Dean of Extension and Tom Fenton, Professor of Soils.

Commenting on behalf of the Soil Conservation Service were Leon Foderberg, Resource Conservationist, John Woster, Soil Scientist and Gilbert Landtiser, State Soil Scientist. They noted the importance of the soil survey in developing conservation practices for the land. Also they mentioned there are very few counties in the state who haven't soil surveys completed or planned soon.

Jerry Norland, member of the State S.C.S. board, noted the entire State should have new soil surveys by 1986. He said presently eight counties have not submitted agreements for surveys.

Following comments regarding the soil survey Wayne Dankert, Party Leader for the project, introduced his assistants Larry Hansen and Ron Reckner who will be doing the survey in Dickinson County. They demonstrated how the soils are classified and mapped. Dankert noted the field work to complete the survey will take about three years.

OFFER LAKES AID PROPOSALS

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

SPIRIT LAKE, IA. — Recommendations of plans for the improvement and preservation of lakes East Okoboji, Minnewashta and Upper and Lower Gar were presented to the board of directors of the East Okoboji Improvement Corporation recently by Clarence Call, head of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Service, and Ed Purdy, member of the corporation board who has been undertaking a study of dredging of the lakes.

Call recommended the erection of earthen dams at the inlet to East Okoboji as an effective method of preventing silt from surrounding farm lands entering the water. He indicated the possibility that federal and state funds may be available.

The advisability of dredging the navigational channels of the four lakes has been under study for some time. Purdy reported that the State Conservation Commission has funds earmarked for dredging purposes.

He said, however, that priority will be given to areas which present the greatest need. It is not known whether the project here would receive prime consideration.

Leslie Licklider, Cherokee, a member of the State Conservation Commission, will attend the next meeting of the corporation scheduled for Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the State fish hatchery. He will outline the commission's position on dredging as well as other matters pertaining to the lakes here. He will be available to answer questions posed by those in attendance.

A soil survey is upcoming for Dickinson County - - but is probably four or five years away.

At a special meeting of the Dickinson County Conference Board last Thursday, a "letter of intent" was drafted stating the county desires to enter into an agreement with the Iowa Soil Conservation Commission to conduct the special soil survey.

The Conference Board is composed of the three-man board of supervisors, county board of education (five), and 11 mayors of county municipalities. Assessor Elwood Cook is clerk.

Cook said the cost of the survey would be approximately $115,500, and financing is a cooperative effort with local, state and federal funds divided equally to meet the cost. Dickinson County's share would amount to about $38,000, and Cook stated this would be realized through special assessment over a four-year period to start when the survey begins.

"With the present surveys in progress, actual field work on the Dickinson County project will probably not start before 1975," the assessor remarked.

* * * * * *

Minoru Amemiya, agronomist from Iowa State University, told the Conference Board and other interested individuals from county agencies and groups at a meeting Dec. 7, 1970: "A soil survey is a recording of basic soil facts for a particular area. This includes maps drawn on aerial photographs showing each kind of soil and a report describing precisely the characteristics of each. It gives specific information and suggestions about the best use of each soil for crops, pasture or trees. Included, too, is information on yielding capacity of the soils and their engineering characteristics."

Amemiya emphasized that the soil surveys were valuable to many people and were used for purposes other than making farm conservation plans. He stated a few specific examples: engineering in road construction, land appraisal for credit purposes, tax assessments and equalization, fertilizer and chemical dealers for proper chemical recommendations and potential markets, zoning and planning commissions for land use development, investors in determining soundness of proposed investments in land.

* * * * * *

Amemiya stated the last soil survey for Dickinson County was completed in 1920. He said since this time much information has been learned about various soils in the area that were not included in the original survey. The original survey included about 20 different soil characteristics mapped in units of 40 acres or larger.

It was pointed out a new soil survey would involve approximately 150 various soil characteristics mapped in units down to 2 acres in area. Also a new study would include the slope of the land and the degree of erosion of the soil.

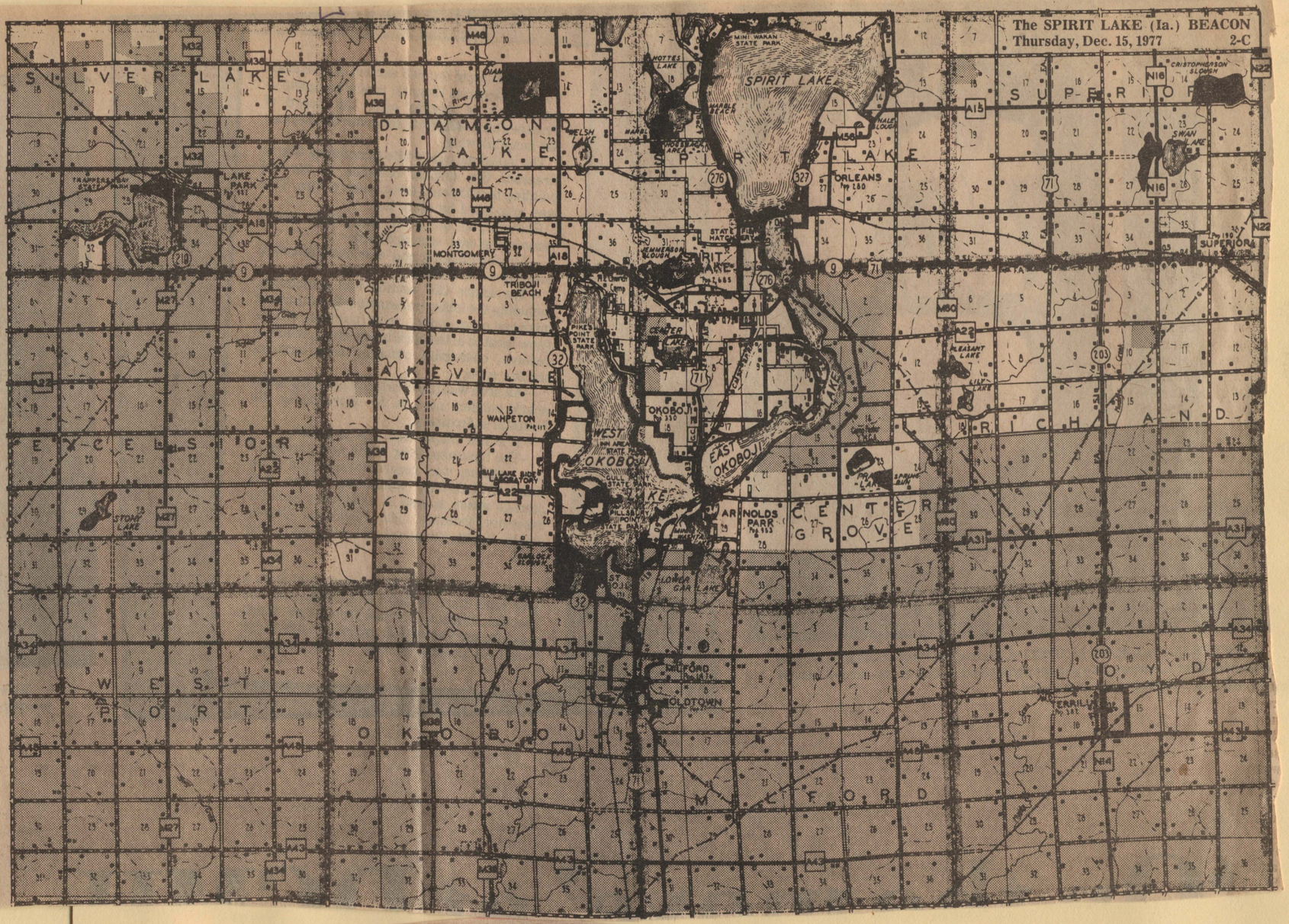
Wilson Moon, state conservationist for the Conservation Service, discussed the overall progress of soil surveys in the state. He pointed out that presently there are 30 counties with new soil surveys completed, 19 counties with surveys in progress and 16 counties scheduled to begin new soil surveys.

Weather halts soil surveying; scientists note summer progress

Field work associated with the soil survey in Dickinson County has ended for the year because of weather conditions and this year's mapping is now being inked. Soil scientists mapped Lloyd Township and the south half of Richland Township during spring and early summer. Since then they have mapped the majority of Excelsior and Silver Lake Townships. Also completed were portions of extreme western Diamond Lake and Lakeville Townships. By the end of next year, the survey crew plans to have the soils of Dickinson County mapped except for a part of Superior Township.

Soil maps can be seen at the Soil Conservation Service Office in Spirit Lake. The men will individually explain soil maps and discuss specific management problems.

12-15-77



The Spirit Lake Beacon Thursday, August 26, 1976 3

Specialists to review Dickinson soil survey

An initial field review of the soil survey of Dickinson County will be held Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, according to Wayne Dankert, soil survey party leader.

The review party plans to look at the soils that have been classified and mapped in the county, comparing them with similar soils in other Iowa counties. Because most soil areas are in corn or soybeans in most cases, a hand probe will be used to remove soil cores from selected areas of soils usually adjacent to a road.

Farm owners or operators who see the review party vehicles parked on the road adjacent to their farm are welcome to stop and ask about the soil they are examining. Most farm owners or operators will receive an explanatory cord if the review party plans to look at a soil on their farm.

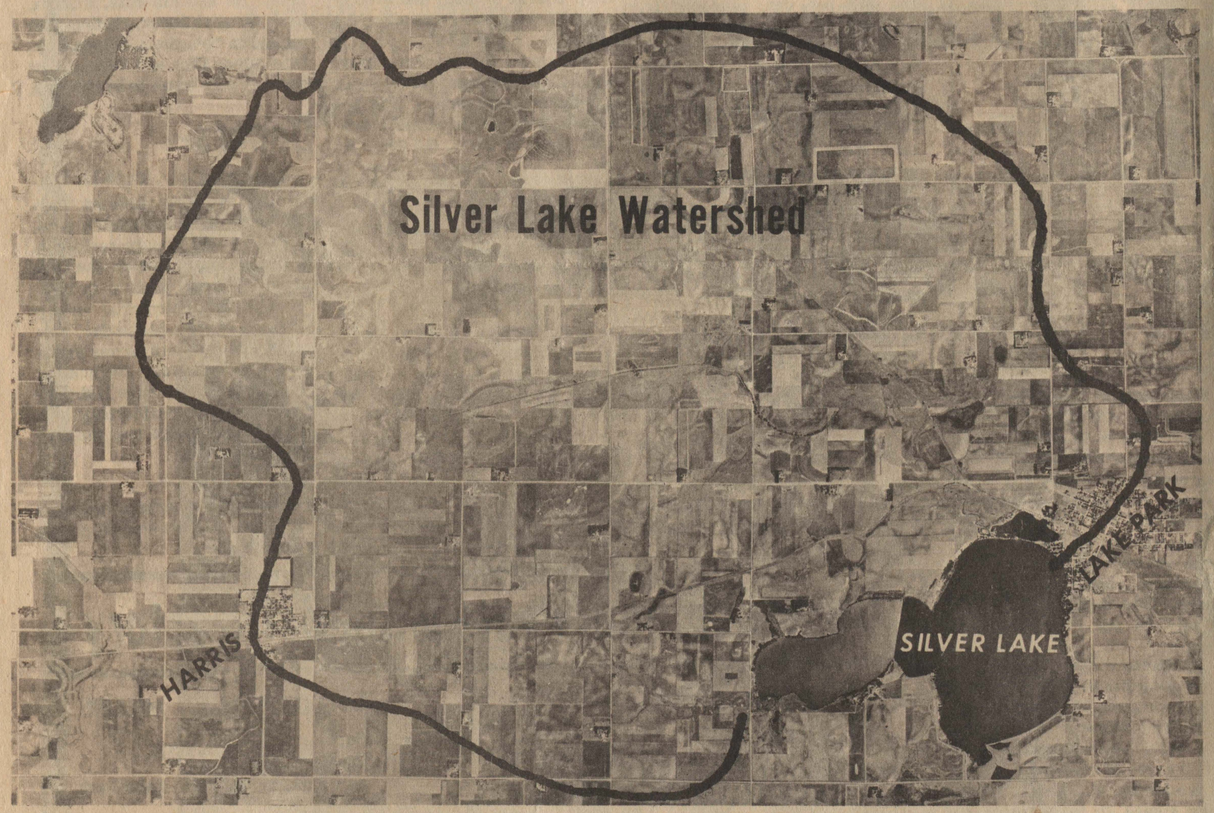
In addition to the county soil survey party those participating in the review will be John Worster, SCS, and Dr. Tom Fenton, Iowa State University, Ames; Gilbert Landtiser, SCS, Des Moines; and Louie Buller, SCS, Lincoln, Neb.

The Lake Park News

Your Home-Town Newspaper — the ONLY Newspaper in the World That Cares Two Whoops About Lake Park and Community

VOLUME 77 | LAKE PARK, DICKINSON COUNTY, IOWA, 51347, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1968 | NUMBER 29

95% Land in Watershed Under Conservation Practices



SILVER LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT — The Silver Lake Watershed District, which encompasses 12,727 acres to the north and west of Silver Lake, currently has nearly 95 per cent (or 12,000 acres) of the total area involved in the process of having farm land under a soil conservation program within the next few years. Of the 66 landowners involved, 58 are cooperators with the Soil Conservation Service program and many of the conservation practices are already in use. The watershed district is now one year old, and the entire program set up by the SCS offices will be a continuing program to help control the siltation of Silver Lake.

Nearly 95 per cent of the total watershed area within the Silver Lake Watershed District is currently signed up to assist in controlling the siltation of Silver Lake, it was announced this week by Don McKinney, chairman of the Soil Conservation Committee of the Silver Lake Improvement organization.

McKinney noted that of the total 12,727 acres within the Silver Lake Watershed District, nearly 12,000 acres are signed up for conservation measures, and of the 66 landowners within the district, 58 are cooperators with the program.

On March 13, 1967, the Silver Lake Watershed was established,

Review of Watershed Activities During Year

* *

and at that time, approximately 70 per cent of the landowners within the district were cooperators with the Soil Conservation Service program.

During the past year, watershed directors proposed a "Special project" for the watershed whereby Agricultural Conservation Practice (ACP) payments would assist area farmers in defraying costs of installing conservation practices on their farms. Under the proposed program, ACP payments would have amounted to 80 per cent and the State Conservation Commission would provide an additional 10 per cent for a total of 90 percent to be paid for by state and federal funds. However, at the present time, the proposal has been rejected. According to McKinney, no reason was given for the rejection.

However, in January, funds for development of conservation practices was made available to property owners under an agreement signed by the District Soil Commissioners and the State Conservation Commission. Under this agreement, farmers or landowners in an organized watershed district pay 15 per cent of conservation practices costs, and ACP payments and money from the State Conservation Commission pays the remaining 85 percent. On this cost-share basis, the cost of a single structure cannot exceed $2,500.

Several weeks ago, a meeting of members of the watershed district was held, with about 40 persons attending. William Blahauviez, chairman of the committee, noted that the purpose of the session was to explain the newly signed agreement on conservation. Members of the State Con-

(Continued on Page 2)

LUNCH PROGRAM SHORT

Hemphill Is Appointed to School Board

Bill Hemphill was administered the oath of office as a new member of the Harris-Lake Park Community Schools board of education at the regular monthly meeting of the board Monday mor-

get coal enough to keep warm.

We were given to understand on Wednesday that another brick building would be erected here this summer. Our informant was little shy about saying what the building would be used for.

The electors voted $800 a school house tax last Monday.

Oyster supper to-morrow night 25 cents.

NEWS OF THE STATE

Starting April 1, it will be much easier for Iowans to become eligible for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) benefits. On the strength of an applicant's signature, he will begin drawing assistance within a few days. This is the same procedure now being used in programs for old age assistance, aid to the blind and disabled and medical assistance.

Under the old method a person applying for ADC was required to show proof of age, residence and eligibility before he could be certified for assistance. Robert Hyde, chief of planning for the Department of Social Welfare, said, he always considered "that attitude an infringement on human dignity."

Verification often took the allowable maximum of 90 days, he observed, Now with the declaration process, the maximum time allowed for verification is 15 days and Hyde says most applicants will begin receiving aid within two or three days.

FREEZE

Maurice A. Harmon, Iowa's newly appointed director of social services, would like to see a two-year delay in the implementation of the federal "freeze" order on Aid to Dependent Children case. The new regulation, aimed at curbing state-supported illegitimacy among welfare mothers, is scheduled to go into effect July 1. Harmon thinks the states need more time to prepare for the financial implications that will result from the regulation.

The new law freezes federal reimbursement of payments to abandoned or unwed mothers at its current level. The restriction is a reaction by Congress to the unmarried welfare mother who continues to bear children.

However, the freeze order will affect payments to the other mothers on ADC who are widowed, divorced, separated or whose husbands are in prison. The effect of the law in Iowa could mean a reduction in all ADC payments by $31.25 a case starting this July.

LIQUOR

Another countrywide referendum has been held on liquor-by-the-drink. And the voters of Lucas county have voted 1,685 to 1,298 to go "wet." In a similar election five years ago Lucas County voted dry, 1,370 to 1,179.

The liquor election was the fourth in the state this year. In the others, Mahaska and Madison voted wet and Lyon County voted to remain dry, although the result of that election is being contested.

FEED GRAIN

Fred R. McLain, Chairman of the Iowa ASC State Committee reports that 78,792 Iowa farmers have signed intentions to participate in the Agriculture Department's voluntary 1968 feed grain program. These farmers intend to divert 2,576,429 acres from corn and grain sorghum production, or 19% of the state's total feed grain base.

A year ago, 91,110 Iowa farmers said they planned on diverting 1,757,602 acres. "Although there are 800,000 more acres intended for diversion now than at the corresponding time last year, the farmers who stay out and overplant their bases can easily wipe out any benefit gained," asserted McLain.

Watershed--

(Continued from Page 1)

servation Commission were present to explain the facts of the cost-share program. Members of SSC present Everett Pierce, supervisor of erosion control; Orville Johnson, water safety officer; Lewis Boers, water supervisor and Harold Johnson, district game manager.

Since its conception a year ago, the Silver Lake Watershed Committee has noted many accomplishments toward controlling the silt flow into Silver Lake. Of the 66 landowners within the watershed area, 58 are cooperators and represent nearly 90 per cent of the landowners. All but 800 acres of the 12,727 acres within the district either have or will have conservation practices within the next few years. This represents approximately 94 per cent of the land area.

Practices which have all ready been established include: 17 miles of terraces, 50 acres of waterways, 16 areas of wildlife refuge, one gully control structure and 3,000 acres of contouring.

In addition, nine new members have signed up for terraces and a 22-foot gully control structure has been proposed at the west end of Silver Lake on the C.E. Arnold farm. If approved, the area will serve as a game reserve and create a 7 to 9 acre pond.

Lunch--

(Continued from Page 1)

reimbursements, $4,264.40 and other income, $16.80. Total income amounted to $26,403.20 and total cash available was listed as $26,993.79.

Expenses as of March 1, 1968 were broken down as follows: food, $20,312.22; labor, $7,993.81; equipment and repairs,

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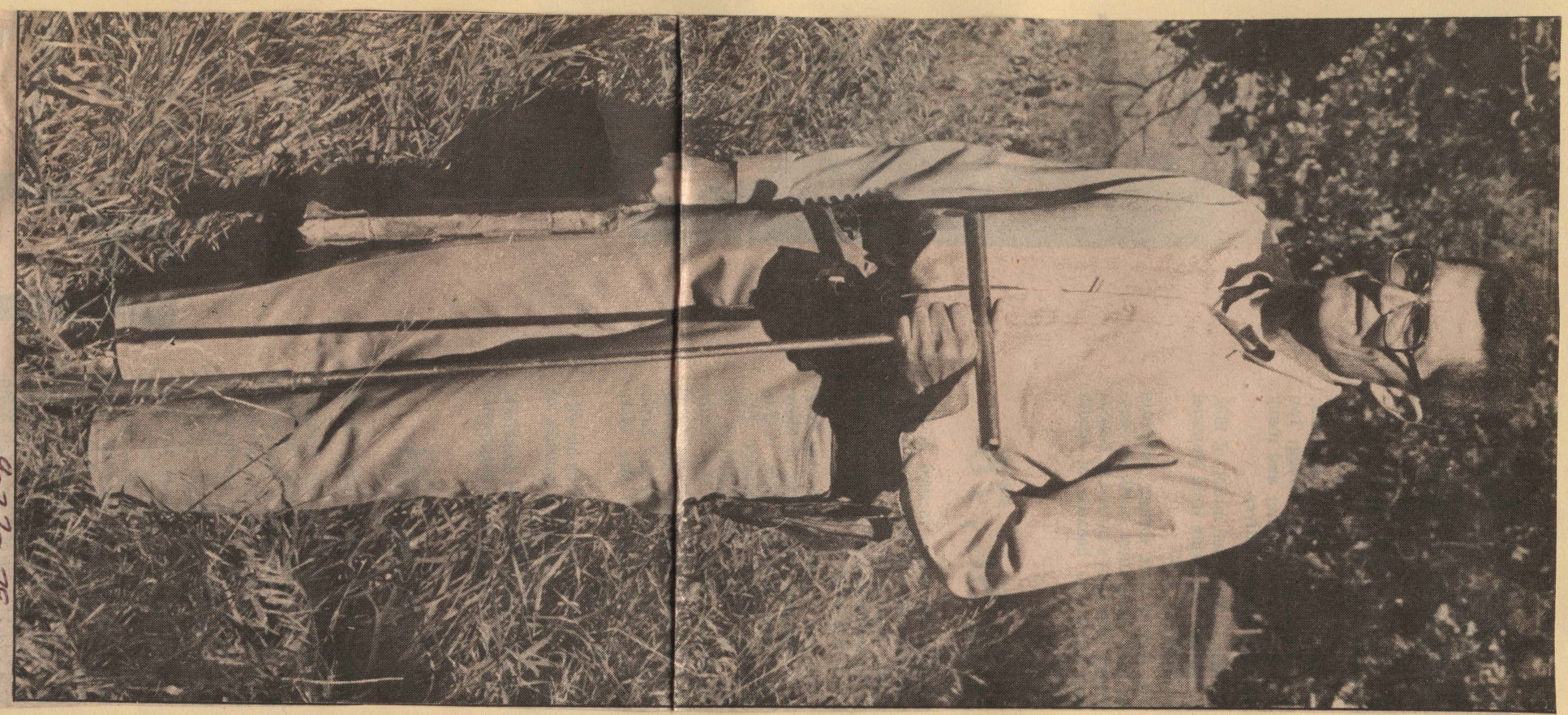
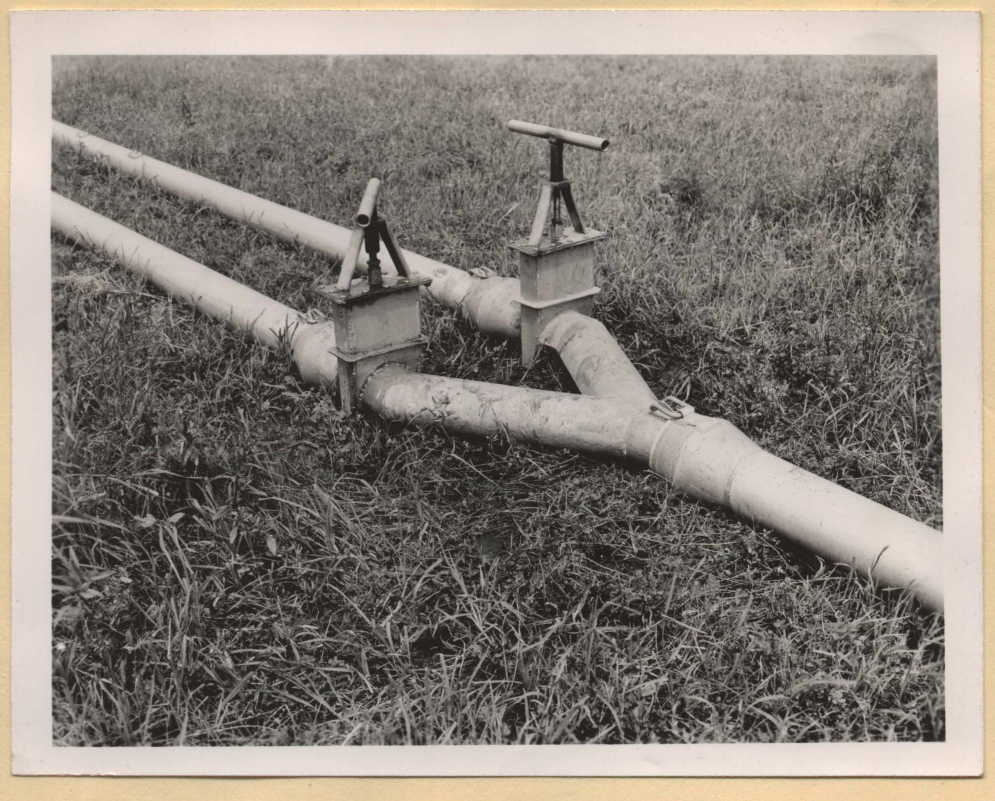


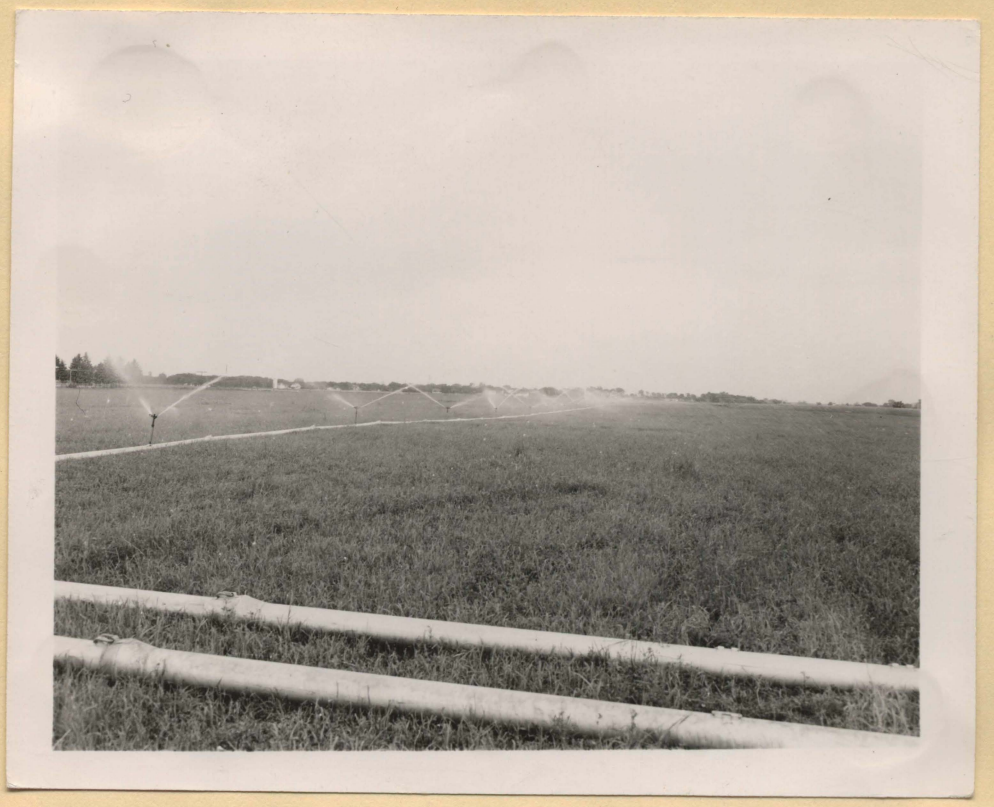
9-27-79

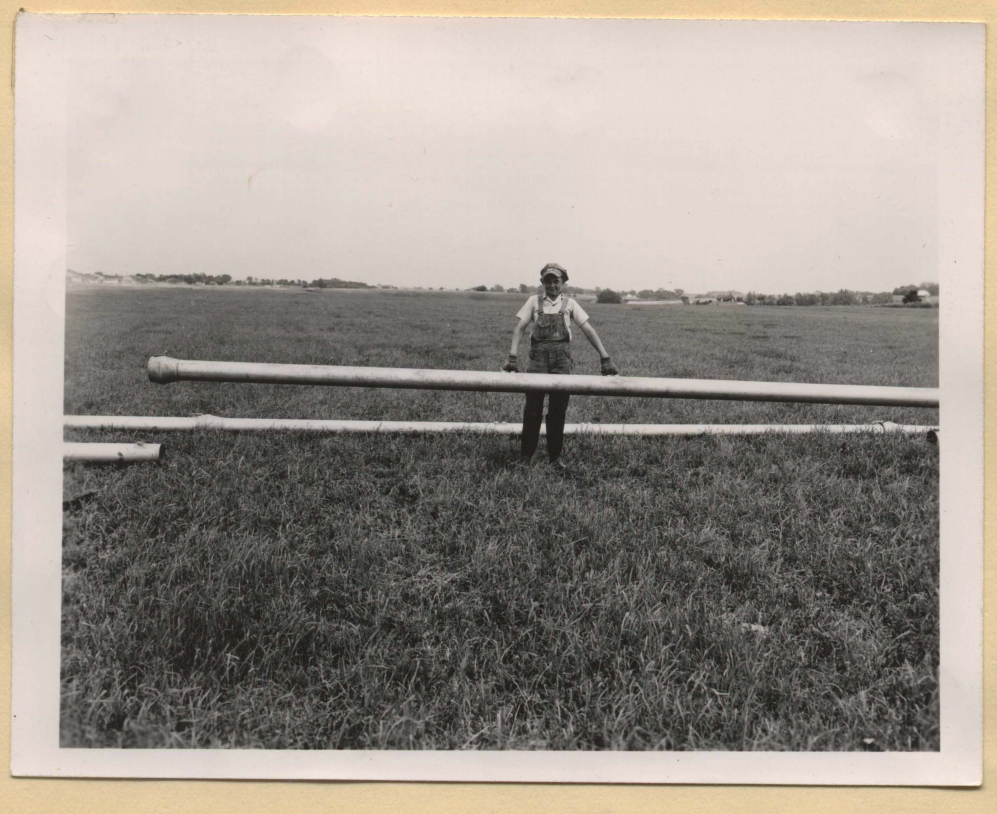
WAYNE DANKERT, party leader of the Dickinson County soil survey, demonstrated methods for taking soil samples at the "Last Acre" ceremony held last week. The ceremony signified the completion of a survey of soil types throughout the county. As a result of the survey county officials will be able to advise residents as to the best use for their land and also the proper methods of farming their land.

9-27-79

DICKINSON COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT JIM YUNGCLAS addressed officials from Iowa State University, state conservationist, and county officials at the "Last Acre" ceremony last week. The ceremony represented the completion of a countywide soil survey that will make available to all residents information concerning the make-up of their soil. This information will be useful in determining how land should be farmed and if it should be farmed.







Walter Weiss
4113 N. Larkin
Milwaukee 11, Wis.

Walt - Here is a copy of what went to Successful Farming to day 10-26-52. The draft sent them isn't a top job of typing but it is not smeared with carbon paper erasure. I had a note from Successful saying they wanted to see the article so off it went. If they return same I'll send it to Country Gent. Im returning one set of pictures
W Weiss

Hang on to picture negatives

By- Walter Thoreson & Walter Weiss -

Irrigation is no longer an experiment with Clem Dust, owner-operator of 160 acres of land near Milford, in Dickinson County, Iowa. With 90 acres of the 160 underlaid with sand and gravel at 12 to 36 inches, Clem has made irrigation a regular part of his farming operations.

Only twice in the past 19 years, according to Mr Dust has there been enough or proper distribution of rainfall for the crops on his farm.

A 30 bushel per acre corn yield on alfalfa ground in 1948- one of Iowa's best corn years- convinced Mr Dust that more water at critical periods was what his crops must have, particularly on the land underlaid with sand and gravel. Corn, oats, pasture and hayland have been irrigated over the past four years. At each irrigation, regardless of the crop, two inches of water is applied.

In 1949 Mr Dust irrigated 18 acres of corn and 14 acres of alfalfa. The 18 acres of corn which was irrigated twice

went 90 bushels per acre. This was an increase of 50 to 60 bushels per acre over the 1948 yield. The first irrigation was at laying-by time and the second at tasseling time. The 14 acres of alfalfa produced 50 to 60 percent more hay because of the irrigation.

In 1950 the irrigated oats on the Dust farm yielded 90 bushels per acre. This was an increase of 40 bushels per acre over oats not irrigated. Because of an early frost in 1950 th irrigated corn was not too good.

~~Because of the~~ With an abundance of rainfall in 1951 no irrigating was necessary on the Dust farm.

80 to 90 acres of corn, oats, hay and pasture was irrigated in 1952. The two inches of water applied on the oats through one irrigation the last of May resulted in an average yield of 90 bushels per acre, when the Dickinson County average was 30 to 35 bushels per acre. The 1952 corn on the light soil was irrigated only once, at tasseling time, and produced an average of 105 bushels per acre. Prior to irrigation 40 bushels per acre was considered a very good yield on this land. On some heavier bottomland soil along the creek that was not irrigated the corn averaged 60 bushels per acre in 1952.

The irrigating equipment on the Dust farm consists of 4930 feet of aluminum pipe. The pipe comes in 20 foot sections and ranges in size from 3 to 6 inches in diameter. The main and the first 15 or 16 sections of the laterals are 6 inches in diameter. The addational laterals are 5, 4, and 3 inches in size and are connected in that order.

There is enough pipe to reach approximately 160 rods with the laterals. The two shut off valve system is necessary in order that one lateral can be sprinkling while the other one is shut off so the pipe can be moved to a new setting and visa versa.

A 5 inch pump operated with a gas engine which will deliver 800 to 900 gallons of water per minute is used. The water is pumped from the creek which runs through the farm. The ¼ inch sprinklers used will s rinkle and area 80 feet wide. With this equipment , three hours is required to apply the two inches of water at any one setting.

Mr Dust, a cooperator with the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District uses phosphate fertilizer on his new seedings but as a rule has not used commerical fertilizer on his corn. With the moisture problems pretty well solved, Clem plans to try fertilizer on all the crops grown and in greater amounts per acre.

Cecil, the 12 year old son of Mr. & Mrs. Clem Dust more or less has taken over the irrigation job on the farm. He can and has done the whole job of irrigating alone.

The equipment which was purchased in 1949 at a cost of $7500 dollars has paid for itself the three crop seasons used. Mr Dust feels that he is conservative when he states that yield increases through irrigation have averaged 50 bushels on corn, 40 bushels on oats, 50 to 60 percent more hay and pasture carrying capacity doubled.

Shortage of hay, pasture or grain because of lack of moisture

are a thing of the past because it rains when the sunshines on the Olem Dust farm.

10-24-68

ENDORSE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD — Members of the board of directors of the Silver Lake Improvement Corporation unanimously endorsed the proposed County Conservation board and urged all area residents to vote "Yes" for the porposal on the general election ballot Novembe 5. Attending the meeting were, seated from left, Walt Thorenson, work conservationist for SCS; Moen, area conservationist for SCS, Don McKinney, Al Myrick, Mayor Paul Thorn and Dr. B.A. I ce. Standing are Allen Arnold , Carl Gochanuer, Milt Thieman and Maynard Johnson. ews Photo)

Best Conservation Program Winners In County Named

Winners of the Sioux City Permanent Agriculture Program in Dickinson County were announced this week by Walter Thoreson, Dickinson County Soil Conservationist.

Farms judged as having the best soil conservation programs in the county were those of Ed Wollner (Lloyd Township) and Neal Eakin (Diamond Lake Township) and Jim Long (Excelsior Township). These farms will now compete in the area contest, which includes all of Northwest Iowa. This annual event is sponsored by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and Sioux City Journal and Tribune.

Judges for this year's contest were: William J. Johnson, Milford; Ernest Skow, Lake Park; Claire Champine, Spirit Lake. Judging was by air with Robert Ingwerson, district commissioner, as the pilot.

Commission Move to Slow Siltation, Pollution....

State Watershed Aid Offer

Funds for development of conservation practices on the watersheds of six natural lakes in the Iowa Great Lakes Region are available to property owners under an agreement with the State Conservation Commission signed last week.

These state funds under the new "memorandum of understanding" are in addition to and supplement the Federal Agricultural Conservation payment on approved conservation practices established by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District.

The agreement was entered into by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District and the State Conservation Commission at a meeting Jan. 18. Present were District Chairman Ernest Skow, Commissioners Andrew Hoffman, Robert Fitzpatrick, Robert Ingwersen; the State Conservation Commission was represented by Everett Pierce, and Conservation Officer Mike Ashby; also present were Extension Director Doyle Gorden, U.S. Soil Conservationists Walter Thoreson and Adolph Ladegaard.

Land within the watersheds of Silver, Big Spirit, East Okoboji, West Okoboji, Upper and Lower Gar and Minnewashta Lakes, is eligible for the supplemental funds.

These incentive payments are designed to speed up conservation programs to prevent siltation and pollution entering these state-owned lakes. Farmers (district cooperators) can apply for this cost-share through the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District.

In other routine business, the district board approve nine basic farm plans for Edward Heikens (three farms), John Webster Cory Raymond Holle, Mervin Miller, U.L.C. Synod in Iowa, William Boettcher and LeRoy Welle. A sistance grants also wer approved for Welle, in Okobo Township, and Donald Gruhn i Superior Township.

1-25-68

BIG STEP FORWARD—A memorandum of understanding was worked out by this group of conservationists last week whereby funds will be made available to farmers on watershed areas, of natural lakes to develop conservation practices. Seated from left are Conservation District Commissioners Robert Fitzpatrick and Andrew Hoffman, Clerk Beverly Beers, Adolph Ladegaard of the SCS, Commissioners Robert Ingwersen and Chairman Ernest Skow. Standing from left are Everett Pierce of the State Conservation Commission, Conservation Officer Mike Ashby, Extension Service Director Doyle Gorden and Walter Thoreson of the SCS. (Beacon Photo)

10-24-68

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LARRY HANSON, SOIL SCIENTIST, recently completed 30 years of service as a federal employee. Hanson is shown at right receiving a 30 year service award certificate from Wayne Dankert, survey party leader. Hanson received his B.S. degree from Kansas State University and has classified and mapped soils in Kansas, Montana and Iowa. In Iowa, he has worked on progressive soil surveys in Clay, Woodbury, Plymouth, Lyon and O'Brien counties and is currently assigned to the Dickinson County Soil Survey.

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61 were in the business
and 25 in residential; more
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the drivers involved 104
residents of the county, 51
from out of county; 114 were
and 41 were female.

llar damage resulting from
ccidents totaled $23,379, not
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ologist Takes diana Position

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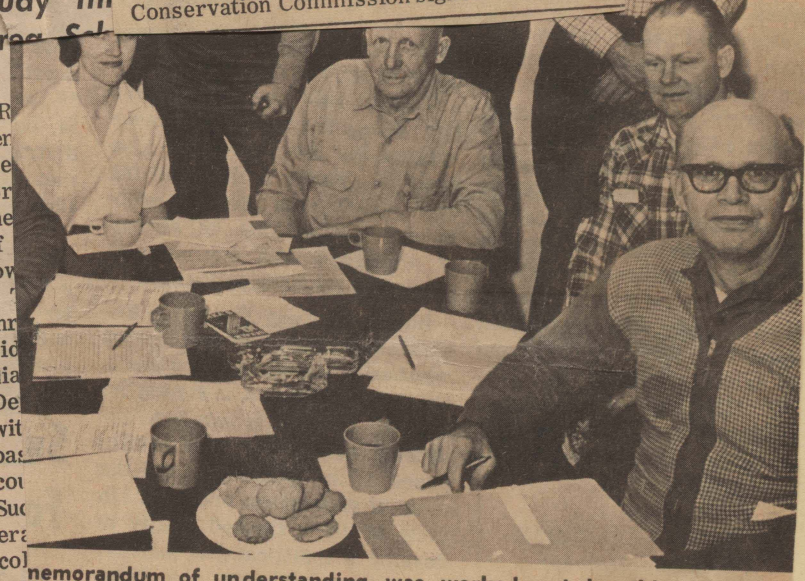

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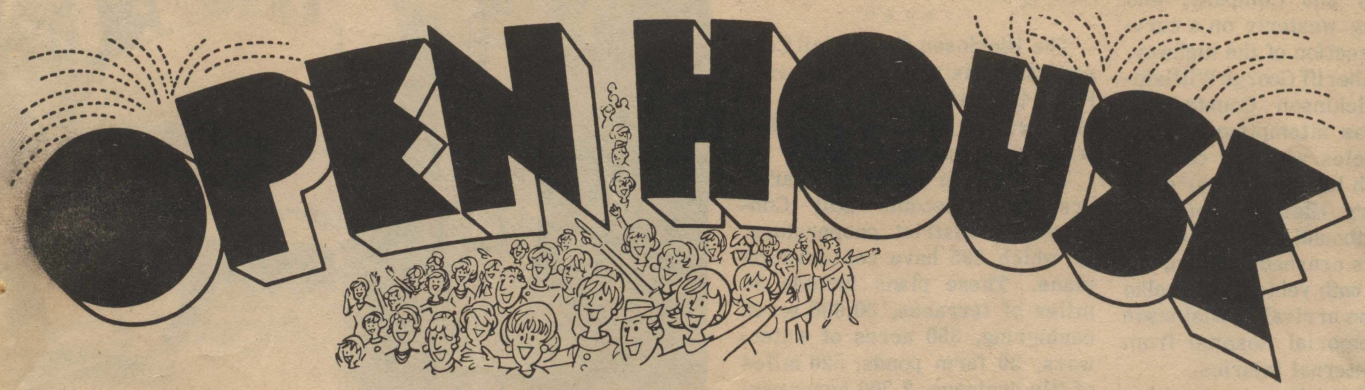
REALTY K

YOU are cordially invited to attend the big



of the Completely Remodeled

DICKINSON COUNTY A.S.C.S. and S.C.S.

OFFICES IN SPIRIT LAKE

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

10 A.M.
TO 3 P.M.

FREE! COFFEE and COOKIES

Conservationists Visit County

Soil Conservationists View County Projects

A large congregation of soil conservationists and other interested persons visited the Lakes Area last Thursday as part of a helicopter tour of soil conservation projects throughout Northwest Iowa.

The visiting dignitaries included members of the State Soil Conservation Committee, the State Soil Conservation Service staff, and area SCS Director Wally Tonsfeldt of Sioux City.

Primary focus of the Lakes Area tour was an inspection via automobile of a feedlot pollution control facility at the farm of Mrs. Glen Hall near Big Spirit Lake.

Clarence Call of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Service explained to the gathering what instigated the construction of the facility and how it functioned.

The feedlot had been one of several in the area which contributed to pollution of area lakes through runoff from the cattle feedlot. At the request of Mrs. Hall, the Soil Conservation Service designed a diversion system which prevented the feedlot runoff into Spirit Lake.

"It isn't an elaborate system at all," Call stated to the group. "It is very simple but very adequate and we like it very much."

Call explained that originally a small pond between the feedlot and lake was the gathering point for the runoff, and the pond would subsequently flush into Big Spirit Lake. Now, he explained, the feedlot runoff follows the diversion system, flows into holding ponds, and is taken care of through evaporation and seepage into the ground.

Federal aid paid for $1,200 or 80 percent of the project which was undertaken in 1972. The remainder came from Mrs. Hall.

The feedlot originally handled up to 500 head of cattle and Call assured the gathering that the diversion system could handle that many head without difficulty.

Call praised Mrs. Hall for her efforts in working to control the feedlot runoff.

Following the tour of the Hall feedlot, the group returned to the helicopter landing site at Vacation Village, where Larry Ross explained his solar water heating system in use there.

The gathering then boarded the helicopter to tour other sites of concern in the Lakes Area.

Included in the agenda for the aerial tour was Lighthouse Point Condominiums, site of extensive soil erosion during development of the complex in 1972. Call explained to the group the erosion controlling efforts—seeding, grading, construction of a holding pond—which were undertaken at the advise of the SCS.

Terracing at the Don Schubert farm near East Lake Okoboji was viewed. Eight new parallel terraces have been constructed there.

The dredging sites on Upper Gar and East Okoboji Lakes were also viewed from the air.

The draining of marshland for conversion to farmland in Minnesota just above Big Spirit Lake was the final fly-over inspection site in this area.

Following the Lakes Area tour, the congregation continued on to Lyon County, Haywarden and Plymouth County for further inspections.

In Lyon County the group viewed structures at the Pioneer Watershed project. In Haywarden, the gathering was to visit a revamped gravel pit which has been converted into a recreation area. The group then visited three watershed areas in Plymouth County.

CITED FOR SERVICE - Robert Fitzpatrick (right) of Milford received a Distinguished Service Award from the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District for eight continuous years of distinguished service. Fitzpatrick also received a Certificate of Award from the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. The present chairman of the Dickinson County SCD, Ernest Skow (left) of Lake Park, presented the awards at the last regular meeting of the group.

11-18-76

SUSAN FITCHETT PLACES 4TH IN REGIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION SPEECH CONTEST

Winners in the Dickinson County District Speech Contest held at the Soil Conservation Office in Spirit Lake on Oct. 28 included (l-r): Susan Fitchett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Fitchett of Milford, first place; Tammy Tuttle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Tuttle, second place; and David Eckard, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Eckard of Spirit Lake, third.

The 1976 topic was "Soil Conservation - Lifeline to Continued Prosperity". Susan advanced to the regional contest in Fort Dodge on Nov. 8 and placed fourth of 12 in regional competition.

Dickinson County

Terraces, windbreaks are conservation tools

By Mike Gill
Journal staff writer

The hillsides and slopes along the roadways in Dickinson County, Iowa, are marked by an ever-increasing amount of terraces and windbreaks. Farmers here are recognizing the fact that the quality of farming depends on the area's soil, water and natural resource quality.

And most are making strong efforts to slow the tide of erosion.

"At least 60 percent of our farmers are using some type of conservation method," says Clarence Call, district conservationist in Spirit Lake, Iowa. "Farmers here have traditionally plowed to break up the soil, but that's beginning to change. A lot of people seem opposed to trying something new, but we're getting more and more interest every year."

The soil in Clay County is a variety of Nicolett, Webster and Clarion types and much of the land is clay-type soil. Farmers here have traditionally plowed in the fall months.

"I sense a different attitude coming. People's view of soil conservation has changed considerably, although there still is a stigma about soil conservation.

"Some of our younger people are especially interested in conservation tillage. They know they're saving time and soil. It's a combination of things."

Terraces and conservation tillage farming have been the chief methods operators in Dickinson County have been using to block soil and water erosion. The three area winners featured in Dickinson County are among 31 honorees in the annual Marc Cox Conservation program. They were selected by a special area panel and will be cited at the annual awards banquet in March.

Roger Heikens checks the heighth of ridges after knifing in anhydrous after the harvest. (SCS photos)

Roger Heikens

Roger Heikens has been practicing no-till and ridge-planting for 15 years. The land he farms near Spencer is not steep enough to warrant terracing but he has held the ground with a good no-till system.

Heikens leans to the no-till system for several reasons. He can plant earlier on wet soils by planting on ridges. He cultivates twice to build up the ridges. Heikens also farms with the ridges and never crosses them with machinery. He has a 36-inch row spacing system and tries to chop corn stalks in the fall. Soybean stubble is never touched.

"Personally, I feel no-till is as economically feasable as any type of farming," says Heikens, who farms 400 acres of his own and rents 240 from his father. "I've been no-till planting since 1966 and it's been a continuing project for our family. I became interested mainly because of my father. A few years ago, he went to a no-till demonstration and came back with a lot of good ideas. It seemed like the right thing to do.

"We've been using no-till ever since then."

Heikens says his yields have turned out very well. He averaged more than 160 bushels of corn per acre of in 1982 and was near the county average in last fall's drought-ridden harvest.

"If I thought I wasn't getting good yields, I wouldn't keep going with no-till. It's been a good system for me."

Ridge planting has been the hub of his conservation program. "I feel it's hard to beat for controlling soil erosion."

Heikens is involved in the Northwest Iowa Ridge-Runners Club, a group of ridge planting farmers from the Primghar-Hartley area. Heikens says its a chance to meet with other conservationists to exchange ideas and trade information.

Bob and Jared Herbert

Bob Herbert and his son Jared own and operate three farms in Dickinson County. Four years ago, they purchased a 141-acre farm and have since installed terraces, waterways and buffer strips.

"We've always felt strongly about conservation and this farm was in such poor shape that we felt a variety of conservation was the way to improve it. We've seeded some real critical areas and have built terraces and grassed waterways," says Jared. "This year we built a 1,500-foot terrace and we could see the difference right away. The erosion has really slowed down. We haven't used a plow since we bought the place."

Jared said many of the hillsides were laced with small gullies. The grassed waterways helped check the expansion of gullies and worked well with the terraces and conservation tillage system. It did, however, require some careful maintenance to work properly.

The Herberts farm on fairly steep hills, so conservation is almost a must to check water runoffs.

Jared says he will continue to support conservation efforts. "We think it makes a lot of sense to continue to use it. The benefits far outweigh the negatives."

John McCann

John McCann of Spirit Lake and Jim McCann of Hoopeston, Ill., own a small farm near East Okoboji Lake. Water quality is a prime concern if the land continues to turn out high yields. They use conservation tillage as a method of eliminating erosion.

The land is farmed by Dean Stover of Spirit Lake, Iowa.

John McCann started his terrace system about three years ago. He realized he was losing valuable topsoil by both rill and gully erosion then shifted to a grassed backslope terrace system in 1979.

McCann built six terraces on the grassed backslope system, then switched to a narrow base this year with the installation of a 900-foot terrace for his seventh terrace.

"I hope this last terrace will help solve the erosion problem," says McCann. "We've had quite an erosion problem here and we've had to do something to slow it down. This seemed to be the best system."

In addition to terracing, McCann said Stover doesn't plow the land and a chisel-disc method of conservation tillage is being used.

"Conservation is important on this farm because it is in the watershed of Lake Okoboji. These soil conservation methods help keep the sediment out of the lake," McCann said.

John McCann inspects new narrow base terrace and intakes. A grassed backslope is the background.

Bob and Jared Herbert look over recently constructed narrow base terrace.

Windbreaks save fuel, break monotony

by Susan Fitchett

Windbreaks are used to break up the monotony of the plains and are as old as the settlers, according to Clarence Call, district conservationist.

According to Call, a well planned windbreak can save up to 20 percent on fuel and the cattle gain better if the feedlot is located behind a windbreak.

The Agricultural Stablization and Conservation Service, ASCS, pays 75 percent of the cost if a farmer wants to start a new windbreak or renovate an old windbreak, Call said. The Soil Conservation Service, SCS, is responsible for the technical part of the practice.

Certain varieties of trees in the windbreaks are recommended. The ASCS requires a certain number of rows for a windbreak, also.

"A person can get by with one row of shrubs and two rows of evergreens. When no evergreens are used, the ASCS requires five rows of trees," Call said.

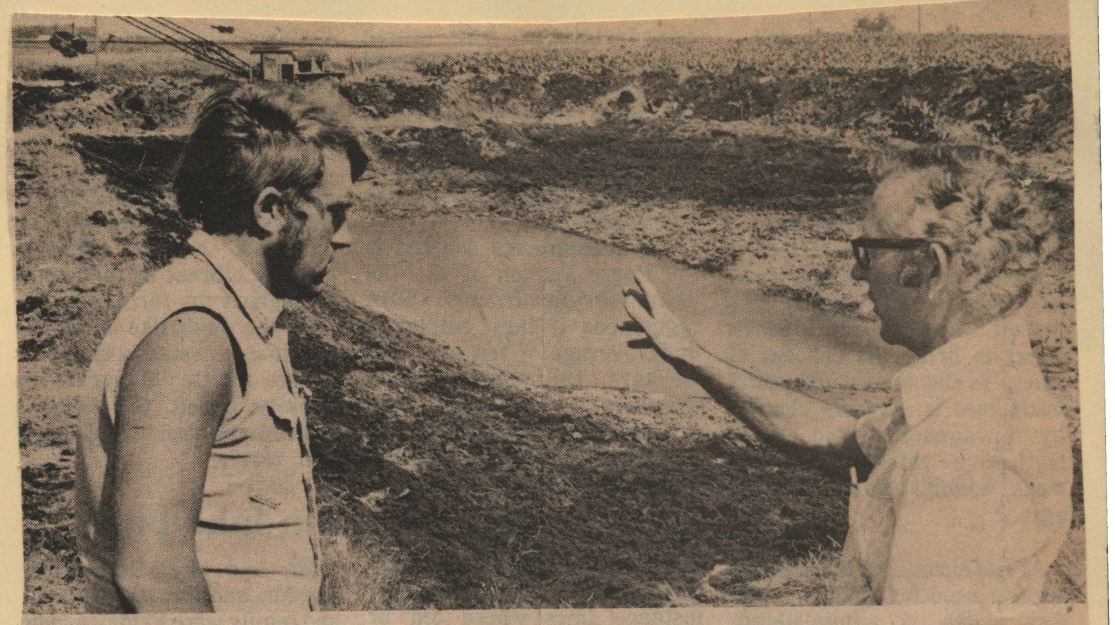
Call said that the SCS "endorses this program heartily and feels there is a need for more trees in northwest Iowa."

Call said that windbreaks should be kept clean the first year or two. Later, grass can be planted or the area can be utilized as a garden.

If interested in planting a new windbreak or renovating an old one, contact the ASCS or SCS office in Spirit Lake.

6-21-79

PICTURED is the windbreak on the Bob Elser farm, rural Lake Park. Elser planted the windbreak under the ASCS program. Rows of shrubs and evergreens were used and the grass was seeded. Another local farmer, Maurice Dougal, used evergreens and trees but uses the area in between for gardening purposes.



CRAIG SCHMELING of rural Milford listens as Clarence Call of the Soil Conservation Service describes some of the advantages of constructing a 'pit pond.' Built by John Kooiker Const. of Hull for about $1,500, with the federal goverment to cost-share about $750, the recent-completed pit pond on Schmeling's farm will provide ample water for his 300-head of hogs and possibly 100-head of cattle. See story.

7-22-76

New 'pit pond' fills at Schmeling farm

Water for livestock on the Craig Schmeling farm isn't expected to be a problem in the future, following the recent construction of a 'pit pond' on his farm southwest of Milford.

Schmeling's livestock operation had been limited in the past because of a lack of water and was considering a new well until he talked to Clarence Call, Dickinson County's district Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

That's when he learned about a 'pit pond,' how it could be used, and how the federal government could contribute up to 50 percent of the total cost.

Application was made for ASCS funds, through its ACP (Agricultural Conservation Program) and SCS crews staked out the area and will later certify the completed pond. Up to $750 will be cost-shared with Schmeling.

Schmeling's 'pit pond' is the fourth to be built in Dickinson County during recent years. Others are on the Ernie Skow farm, Lewis Jones farm, and Berg Bros. property. There are also some older pit ponds in the county, Call added.

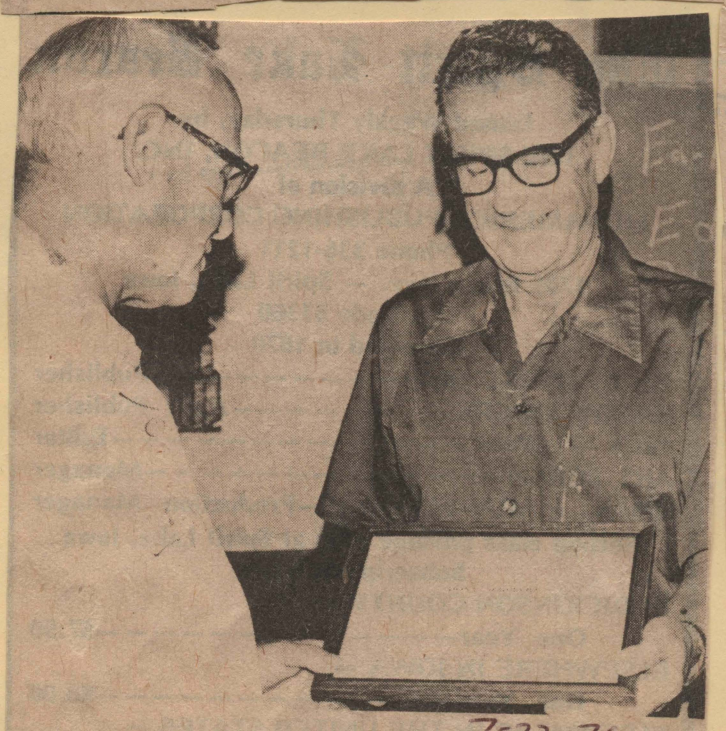
Schmeling's pit pond is an excavated area 160 x 65-ft., with gradually sloping sides and a 50 x 10-ft. flat bottom. It is about 14-ft. deep. Excavated dirt or 'spoil' is placed around the pond to form a levy to prevent outside runoff.

The spoil bank will be seeded.

Almost immediately the pond started to fill with clear, cold water and was expected to fill to the clay-line within a few days. A 3-ft. tile in the bottom connects with a pit in the spoil bank. A submersible pump is lowered into the connecting tube and pumps water the 800-ft. to Schmeling's farmstead.

Call said most water from pit ponds is pure enough for drinking. Schmeling said he plans to use the water one month for livestock and then have it tested for drinking purity.

The district conservationist also pointed out that the pit pond can also be used for recreation — fishing, swimming. Pit ponds are very versatile and a good water conservation facility. The big disadvantage is that they're still a pond and therefore present some dangers.



E. Okoboji Corp. cites Schubert

7-22-76

Don Schubert [right] was prresented a certificate of commendation from the East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corp. during the group's 9th annual meeting attended by about 50 persons Saturday night at the Holiday Inn. The Dickinson County farmer was cited for his exemplary and outstanding service to conservation by constructing about two miles of terraces on his farm in the Francis Cites area.

Soil Conservation Tab preview . . .

9-20-79

THIS PANORAMIC VIEW of the Iowa coutryside is the result of an aerial photograph. The land in the foreground gives an example of the good soil conservation methods practiced by Orville Berg of rural Spirit Lake. You can see the contour strip cropping that he employs. This photo and many others will be featured in the upcoming Conservation tabloid published by the Beacon.

6-19-80

Farmer of the Week

Edna, Ernie and grandson, Billie

by Susan Reiser

"I don't think farm corporations will take over. The future lies with the family farm. If the family unit can operate as a team then they can compete with a large operation," said 59-year-old Ernie Skow, this week's farmer of the week.

Skow, a Lake Park resident, started farming when he was "big enough to walk." He purchased 480 acres of land in 1939 in Excelsior township, south of Stoney Lake. Skow's father, Hans, helped him farm the land. Along with the land, Skow raised 60 stock cows.

Currently, Skow farms 160 acres of land two miles west and six miles south of Lake Park and raises 60 head of stock cows. He says that he farms the 160 acres of land "for my own benefit and to keep my hand in farming."

FUTURE LOOKS GOOD

"I intend to farm as long as I feed good. We are on a small scale so we can enjoy ourselves. My wife is a big part of the operation. She was a city girl yet she enjoys the farm life," Skow said.

"I wasn't born on the farm but I was raised on the farm. If I could have a choice now, knowing what I already know, I would still choose farming. I like the freedom of expression. We do our own work and see our own results. The ultimate responsibility of farming is ours...whether we like it or not," Skow said.

Skow uses several soil conservation techniques in his farming including terracing, contouring, keeping wildlife areas, farm ponds, and he even has two acres that has never been plowed or tilled.

PRICES IN SLUMP

"The prices are in a slump. I don't forsee any great change in the short run. I am not sure politics or any action outside of our group can help us. We have to solve our problems by ourselves. I would like to see more conservation methods used. I have seen lots of silt wash down into the river. I would like to see more minimum tillage used," Skow said.

Skow's family includes wife, Edna; and children, Rob and Rick of California and Tam of Arnolds Park. Skow is a member of the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake, Dickinson County Farm Bureau, the Dickinson County Cattlemen's Association, the Lake Park Odd Fellows Lodge and is a member of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Board.

When Skow isn't busy he enjoys tinkering, gardening, fishing, and visiting garage sales. Skow was born in Hartley but grew up on a farm near Stoney Lake. He attended the Excelsior School.

"Looking as you get older, you look to the next generation and try to set up things for them. They might want some nice and clean fertile area to look at," Skow said.

Farmer of the Week

Orville Berg and Terry Morrow

by Susan Reiser

"I'm my own boss and that is worth a lot to me. Farming is satisfying work," said 32-year-old Terry Morrow, this week's farmer of the week.

Morrow, a rural Lake Park farmer, began his farming career in 1973 with 510 acres of land, 50 cows, 50 calves, 100 head of fat cattle, and 20 sows producing approximately 350 hogs per year for market.

Today, Morrow, working in a rental agreement and livestock crop share lease with Orville Berg, farm landlord, farms 403 acres of land consisting of hay pasture, lots, waterways, 60 acres of beans and 170 acres of corn in Diamond Lake township.

In the livestock department, Morrow feeds 50 calves and raises 120 sows which market approximately 1,500 hogs per year.

"I plan in the future to stay farming. I plan to expand to produce more hogs and more food for people. I'm a farmer because I enjoy producing food for people. I enjoy farming or I wouldn't be here. I worked other places but farming is a business where I can build equity," Morrow said.

MORE CORPORATIONS

"If the government tends to stay in the farming industry there will be more corporation farms, and less family farming. Over the long run, with the current hog prices, you could make a living. We need prices that are a fair profit over the costs we incur to allow us to live," Morrow said.

One of the disadvantages of farming, according to Morrow, is government meddling.

"The government is meddling in grain, meat prices, supply and demand controls, etc. This is one of the biggest disadvantages I find in farming," Morrow said.

"I'm optimistic about the country. No matter how bad things are we can always bail out. The grain prices right now are adequate.

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

Morrow and Berg use special conservation techniques to aid them in farming including parallel contour strips, waterways, etc.

"We plan to use more conservation methods in the future. We believe in less waste. We haven't used a moldboard plow on this farm since 1972," Berg said.

Morrow grew up in the Lake Park area and was graduated from the Harris-Lake Park High School in 1966. He attended Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville and received a A.A. degree in distributive studies in 1968.

When Morrow isn't busy farming, he enjoys hunting, water skiing, and snow skiing. He is a member of the Dickinson County Farm Bureau, the Lake Park Methodist Church and the Dickinson County Pork Producers.

The Morrow family includes, wife, Debbie; and son Nicholas, age 2.

"I would rather be in business than be a laborer. I am a leader not a follower," Morrow said.

SENIOR DIVISION. Soil Commissioner Robert Ingwersen presents Roger Froendt, Tammy Leader and Rod Langel, all of Milford, with first, second and third place awards for their entries in the county soil conservation essay contest. Froendt is the son of Mel and Dora Froendt of Milford, Leader is the daughter of Dorman and Janet Leader of Milford and Langel is the son of Earl and Joan Langel of Milford. (Photo by Jay Mohr)

11-13-80

Farmer of the Week

by Jay Mohr
Feature Writer

It's often been said that farmers always have so many irons in the fire that they don't know which one to take care of first. Well Maurice Dougal, 57 of Lake Park, has quite a few in the fire, but he has his priorities.

Dougal and his wife, Louise, are members of several organizations including the Farm Bureau and Pork Producers as well as being enthusiastic members of the Little Sioux Lutheran Church.

Dougal is on the board of Directors for the Everly-Hartly-Royal Co-op and is an assistant soil commissioner for Dickinson County. The most recent activity he has undertaken has been his election to the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors. That office is one of his main priorities. One other is his 400 acre farm nine miles south of Lake Park.

One might ask how a farmer with that many acres can remain active in so many clubs and organizations and still remain a good farmer. Well, the secret is experience, and perhaps a good hired hand.

Dougal has been farming since 1948, when he rented a 160 acre farm near Everly. While there, he also raised cattle and hogs. Later he moved to the farm where he currently resides and farms. Any farmer will tell you that 32 years in the business is bound to teach you a few shortcuts as well as many other things.

One thing you do have to remember though. Dougal has, in his opinion, one of the best hired hands he could find, his wife.

"When it's time to get the fields ready for harvest, she breaks the ground and I plant," Dougal said. "She takes better care of the machinery than any other person I've had work for me."

That has to be important to Dougal, especially since one of his mainstays is farming. This past year the 400 acre farm was divided into 300 acres of row crops and the balance in hay and pasture.

Last year, Dougal was raising hogs, about 500 head per year, but when the markets got bad he got out of the business. Now he farms his land and will be playing the role of a Dickinson County supervisor, two jobs he believes will fit well together.

"Neither is a full time job for me, so together they should work fairly well," he said.

Dougal is also an amateur radio operator, commonly referred to as a ham operator. He became interested in that while he was in the Air Force with the weather service before he started farming. He likes to tinker with it simply because he enjoys the people he meets over the air.

"If I'm lonely, no matter what time it is I can go down to the basement and talk to some operator somewhere," Dougal said.

"It's easy to spot a ham radio operator from a distance," he added. "They always have the tallest towers in the the area."

Despite his interests outside the farm, Dougal stresses that he is a farmer first.

"I guess I've always been a farmer first because that's all I ever wanted to be," he said. "I was a farm kid to begin with."

Dougal is concerned about the future of farming, especially for the younger men and women just starting out. He believes that it just isn't possible for them to start out anymore the way he did.

When he left the service, he worked for a short period of time before he was able to rent a farm and buy some equipment. Now, Dougal believes that any young farmer starting out must have a father or brother in the business that can help him. Otherwise, the high cost of farming keeps him out.

Dougal said that farming is pretty good right now, because the markets are up, but that was caused by some bad experiences other farmers received.

"The markets are at a profitable level right now," he said. "But they are there at another farmer's expense. Weather conditions for some were bad and were a major factor in the higher prices.

"Hail and other weather conditions have been really hard on some farmers, especially the younger ones."

As for Dougal, well this year's crop was pretty good and even if it wasn't, you could tell he wouldn't leave farming.

"I was a farmer first and always wanted to be a farmer."

Louise and Maurice Dougal

Distinguished Dairymen For 1980

Andrew Hoffman of Lake Park was named one of five Iowa Distinguished Dairymen for 1980 during the Iowa Dairy Convention's noon luncheon at the Hotel Savery in Des Moines Dec. 13.

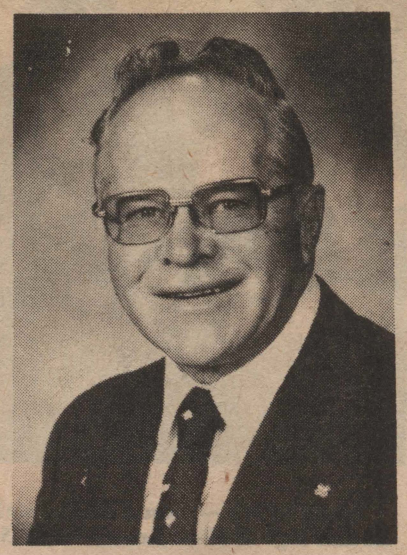
The dairymen were honored for their service to the dairy industry and their communities and for the performance of their herds.

Starting with one heifer won in 4-H work, Hoffman has developed a superb registered Holstein herd of 30 cows averaging 17,057 pounds of milk and 644 pounds of fat, with 12 previous years more than 500 pounds of fat.

Hoffman's breeding program has involved outstanding sires for production and type, mostly from Curtiss Breeding Industries, Inc., keeping semen in his own jug. He serves as his own inseminator. Regular pregnancy checks, routine vaccination programs and dry cow treatment maintain the herd's health.

The Hoffman farming operation includes 165 acres owned and 240 acres rented. Alfalfa plus some permanent pasture provide summer forage, with crimped high quality hay and hay silage for winter forage.

Hoffman shows and classifies regularly, consigns to state and regional sales and advertises routinely. He has hosted many judging workouts for area youth, serves as dairy superintendent at the county fair and participates on the state Holstein association as a director and member of the sale committee. He formerly served on the show committee and chaired the 1977 State Holstein Convention at Okoboji.



For several years, Hoffman has served on the advisory committee of Iowa Lakes Community College. He has also been a 4-H leader for 20 years, past chairman and for 16 years a district commissioner of SCS and a county fair board member among many other activities.

He has received the Holstein Progressive Breeder's Award the last three years, the 4-H Alumni Award, the 20-year 4-H Leadership Award and SCS Distinguished Leadership Award.

Andrew and Lorene Hoffman have two children. Chris is a senior in dairy science at Iowa State University and Robin, 16, attends special education classes.

Hoffman and the other 1980 recipients (Forrest Hatfield of Leon, Dwayne Moon of Luana, Marvin Schlitzer of Dubuque, and Everett Sollien of Mabel, Minn.) join an elite group of 90 Iowa dairymen who have previously received the award since its presentation became an annual event in 1964.

The Iowa Distinguished Dairyman Award is sponsored by the Iowa State University Cooperative Extension Service, the Midland United Dairy Industry Association and the Cedar Rapids Gazette.

in north-central and northwest Iowa was blown considerably.

In the spring, they disc once or twice, depending on the amount of residue left on the soil surface. Instead of working to get a clean tilled field, they make sure they don't overwork the soil and bury crop residues.

This provides extra erosion control with the crop rotation system. The Elsers keep 150 of their 680 acres in alfalfa for haylage. When they change from alfalfa to rowcrop, they take three cuttings and spray the alfalfa, and are ready for corn the next year.

"This system works well on the type of topography we have," says John Elser. "Erosion from both wind and water is reduced considerably. Our rolling land with the short, choppy slopes can't be contoured or terraced well.

"You don't always have to plow. Some guys do, but they still get the same yields we do. I can't see hauling all this expensive fertilizer out and then letting the soil blow off," adds Bob Elser.

The two are quick to admit to some disadvantages, tho. The system is easier to manage than a no-till planting system, but takes more skill than the regular system. They cultivate the crop twice with a conventional cultivator.

"With a diversified setup like the Elsers have, soil conservation is a practical option as well as a good idea," says Jim Yungclas, county extension director. "The alfalfa in the rotation helps in their cattle operation, and no-plow tillage or reduced tillage isn't a drastic change, but it does save the soil."—**Clarence Call, district conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Spirit Lake, Iowa.**

Wallaces Farmer
March 11, 1977

These farmers haven't plowed in nine years

"IT'S BEEN 9 years since we have used the moldboard plow," say John and Bob Elser, Dickinson county, Iowa. During that time, their yields have compared favorably with neighboring farmers using conventional tillage systems.

The Elsers stopped using the moldboard because they "couldn't see the sense in giving the topsoil away." They now use a chisel plow and offset disc, in a system they term "middle of the road" tillage.

They don't no-till, or plant right back in the old rows each year with no tilling of the soils. On the other hand, they don't bury all the residue either by fall plowing.

The Elsers leave cornstalks in the field for their cattle as much as needed, and then try to chisel the rest of the corn ground before winter. They also chisel their bean ground in the fall.

This system leaves residue on the soil surface for over winter protection against wind erosion. Last winter, for instance, Elsers didn't have a problem with blowing soil, when fall plowed land

Old farm machinery. . .

Three men were presented plaques honoring the work they had done to preserve county farm land. The Dickinson County Farm Bureau presented awards to [l to r] Leo Parks, Jr., Blaine Hoien, and David Leith. Shown with those honored is Farm Bureau President Rodney Graham.

7-19-79

AMBASSADORS VISITED the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office recently in honor of their new location. Both offices are in the office complex at the junction of Highways 9 and 71, across from McQuay's. In the photo are: At table, Andy Hoffman (chairman of Soil Conservation Board), Neil Delaney, Don Schubert and Don Gruhn. Second row, Elsie Wetzeler, Barb Zimmerman, Jo Lynn Krie, Cindy Lillienthal, Ruby Caskey and Betty Farmer. Back row, Norm Meinking, Pat Achenbach, Dennis Rustman, Loren Hovland, Tom Tourville, Bob Ingwersen, Vinton Arnold, Clarence Call, Larry Lago and Art Caskey.

3-4-71

CONSERVATIONIST CONGRATULATED - - - Clarence Call, recently appointed Dickinson County Soil Conservation District director, received a Spirit Lake Ambassador cake Friday morning - - the goodwill club welcoming the official to the county. From left: Bob Ingwersen, Spirit Lake, commissioner; Jack Bedell; Charles Shorey, Spirit Lake, commissioner; Mrs. Ken Farmer, state SCS clerk; Ernie Skow, Lake Park, commissioner; Call; Harry Smithers; Adolph Ladegaard, soil technician; Wayne Vallie; Jim Yungclas, county extension director and commission secretary; Art Lorch.

New SCS Chief Nam
List Accomplishm

NEW SCS CHIEF — Clarence M. Call (seated) has been appointed district conservationist for Dickinson County—assuming his duties last week. On the left is Mrs. Kenneth Farmer, state clerk in the county Soil Conservation Service office. Adolph Ladegaard (right) is starting his twenty-third year with SCS, and is now a soil conservation technician.

DAVID DOUDNA (left) receives a $300 scholarship certificate from the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, represented by Commissioner Andy Hoffman (right). The son of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Doudna, Spirit Lake, Doudna will be a sophomore in fish and wildlife management at South Dakota State University. All Dickinson County students studying any phase of conservation were allowed to apply. Hoffman said no government funds were used to award this first annual scholarship. The District Commissioners raised the monies through a local tree sales activity.

Commissioners offer $300 scholarship

4-8-82

The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners will present a $300 scholarship in 1982 to some deserving student. This is the fifth annual conservation scholarship the commissioners have given, with two scholarships given for two of those four years.

Applicants must reside in Dickinson County and plan to enroll in college or continue their education in some phase of agriculture or conservation. You can secure application blanks from your high school counselor or from the Soil Conservation Office, junction of Highways 9 and 71 west of Spirit Lake, phone 336-2604.

Deadline for making application is April 20, 1982. Students who are now in college and are enrolled in an agricultural oriented field may also apply. District Commissioners are Don Schubert, Chairman, Charles Shorey, Andrew Hoffman, Robert C. Ingwersen and Ernest H. Skow.

New SCS Chief Named; List Accomplishments

NEW SCS CHIEF — Clarence M. Call (seated) has been appointed district conservationist for Dickinson County—assuming his duties last week. On the left is Mrs. Kenneth Farmer, state clerk in the county Soil Conservation Service office. Adolph Ladegaard (right) is starting his twenty-third year with SCS, and is now a soil conservation technician.

Clarence M. Call, 47, has been appointed district conservationist for Dickinson County, and assumed his new duties last week. He succeeds the late Walter Thoreson, who died July 13, 1970.

Call will serve as administrator of soil conservation practices in the county and his office is located at 914 Lake St. in Spirit Lake. Other members of the county Soil Conservation Service (SCS) staff are: Adolph Ladegaard, soil conservation technician; Mrs. Kenneth Farmer, state clerk.

A native of Ava, Mo., Call graduated from high school in that community. He then served two years with the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, several months in the South Pacific Theatre of War. After discharge from service, he farmed three years in western Kansas.

In 1949, Call enrolled at Kansas State University in Manhattan, graduating in 1953 with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture. He was first employed by the SCS in 1956 at Oakley, Kans. as a soil scientist - - a post he held until 1960. From 1960 until 1968, Call was in the banking and insurance business at Almena, Kans.

He rejoined the SCS in January of 1970, assigned to Iowa City as a soil scientist - - the position he held until being named this county's district conservationist. Call is a member of the Masons and Shriners, and served as Chamber of Commerce secretary in Almena.

Married to the former Jane Snyder of Almena, the couple has four children; Christine, 13; John, 11; Elizabeth, 10; David, 8. The family is residing at the former Don Stearns farmstead, located on the west side of Big Spirit Lake.

* * * * * *

A total of 27 new cooperators were added to the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District rolls during 1970, according to the agency's annual report to be distributed in the near future.

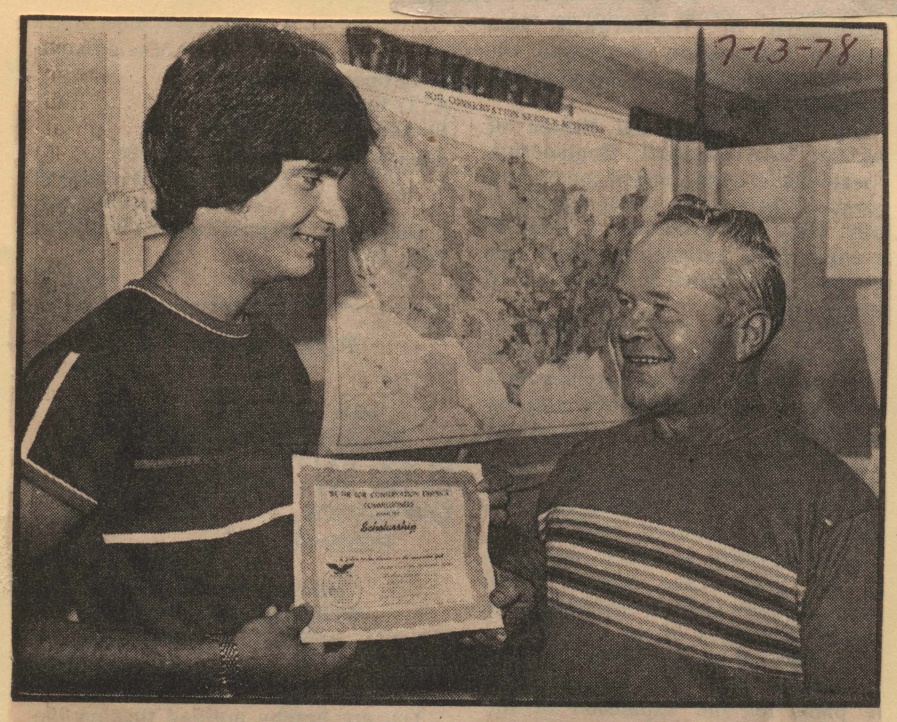
Other accomplishments of the county SCS last year include: preparing 25 new basic farm plans; 146 acres of contouring; 18.2 acres of windbreaks; 3.7 acres of grassed waterways; 989 acres of minimum tillage; 3,050 feet of mains and laterals; 131 acres of pasture plantings; 1,868 feet of pipeline for livestock watering; 680 feet of terraces; 136,200 feet of tile; six acres of wildlife area established.

The Dickinson County ASC Committee approved cost-share payments in the amount of $25,147 for completion of soil and water conservation practices included in the above listing.

In addition, the SCS purchased 200 conservation booklets on pollution which were distributed to schools in the county. Two 4-H youths - - Sanford Gruhn and Bruce Bruns - - attended Conservation Camp last summer, sponsored by the district commissioners.

A total of 7,075 trees were sold to county farmers, and 350 small green ash trees given to sixth grade students.

Robert Ingwersen of Spirit Lake is chairman of the district commission. Other commissioners are: Robert Fitzpatrick, Milford; Ernest Skow, Lake Park; Gerald Mayou, Spirit Lake; Charles Shorey, Spirit Lake; Claire Champine, Spirit Lake. Extension Director Jim Yungclas serves as secretary.



DAVID DOUDNA (left) receives a $300 scholarship certificate from the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District, represented by Commissioner Andy Hoffman (right). The son of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Doudna, Spirit Lake, Doudna will be a sophomore in fish and wildlife management at South Dakota State University. All Dickinson County students studying any phase of conservation were allowed to apply. Hoffman said no government funds were used to award this first annual scholarship. The District Commissioners raised the monies through a local tree sales activity.

Commissione... $300 scholars...

The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners will present a $300 scholarship in 1982 to some deserving student. This is the fifth annual conservation scholarship the commissioners have given, with two scholarships given for two of those four years.

Applicants must reside in Dickinson County and plan to enroll in college or continue their education in some phase of agriculture or conservation. You can...

KEN MAY of Spirit Lake, at right, recently was presented a scholarship check by Robert Ingwersen, Spirit Lake, on behalf of the Soil Conservation Service. May plans to attend Iowa State University and major in pre-veterinary coursework.

SPEAK TO COMMISSIONERS — Karen Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Taylor of Milford, and Dean Eckard, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Eckard of Spirit Lake were guests of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners last Thursday evening at their regular monthly meeting. Karen and Dean gave a report on their activities at the 4-H Conservation Camp at Madrid, held July 21 - 26. The District Commissioners contributed part of the tuition fee for the youths to attend the workshop.

GORDON LEADER of Milford, at right, is presented a college scholarship check by the Soil Conservation Service. The check is being presented by Andrew Hoffman of Lake Park. Leader plans to attend Iowa State University and major in agricultural education.

SCS AWARD — Robert Ingwersen (right) chairman of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, is shown presenting Claire Champine, (center) teacher in the Spirit Lake School, with a Soil Conservation achievement award for his outstanding contribution to soil conservation through education in the schools of Dickinson County. Wally Tonsfeldt (left), Area Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, was present for the presentation at the commissioners' regular monthly meeting Nov. 19 at the SCS office in Spirit Lake. The contest is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

2-71

CONSERVATIONISTS DELUXE — Johnnie Jahn (center) is showing District Conservationist Clarence Call the IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD he received recently for accomplishments on his farm east of Lake Park — farmed by Andrew Hoffman (left), former Dickinson County Soil Conservation Commissioner. Jahn presently resides in Spirit Lake.

5-9-74

CITED FOR SERVICE - Robert Fitzpatrick (right) of Milford received a Distinguished Service Award from the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District for eight continuous years of distinguished service. Fitzpatrick also received a Certificate of Award from the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. The present chairman of the Dickinson County SCD, Ernest Skow (left) of Lake Park, presented the awards at the last regular meeting of the group.

Milford Teacher To Conservation Education Session

10-3-68

Mrs. Al Erdman, a Milford elementary school teacher, will be among 150 teachers from throughout Iowa who will gather Oct. 4 and 5 at the 4-H Camp near Luther for the annual Iowa Conservation Education Workshop. Theme of this year's conference will be "Effective Conservation Teaching - How and Why." Keynote speaker will be Paul F. Johnston, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

A symposium Friday afternoon on "How I Teach Conservation" will feature Miss Margaret Black, Professor Emeritus, Drake University; Dr. Paul Joslin, Drake University; Donald Maze, Marshalltown Community College; and Dr. Elmer W. Hertel, Wartburg College.

A soil conservation field trip will be conducted in the late afternoon by Ernest Behn, Work Unit Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Boone. The evening session of Oct. 4 will feature Greg Glass, Dundee, 1968 State winner of the Soil Conservation District Conservation Speech Contest. Frederic Leopold of Burlington, will present a program on the "Nesting Habits of the Wood Duck." James McGuire, Editor of the Iowa Farm and Home Register, will present the nine outstanding conservation teachers who were selected in their regions for making outstanding contributions to education in soil and water conservation.

Saturday morning, Oct. 5, will feature field trips on ecology and geology.

The conference, ending Saturday noon, will be summarized by James Hamilton, Storm Lake, Chairman of Commissioners, State Conservation Commission.

The two-day conference is sponsored by the Iowa Conservation Education Council, State Department of Public Instruction, State Conservation Commission, and the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

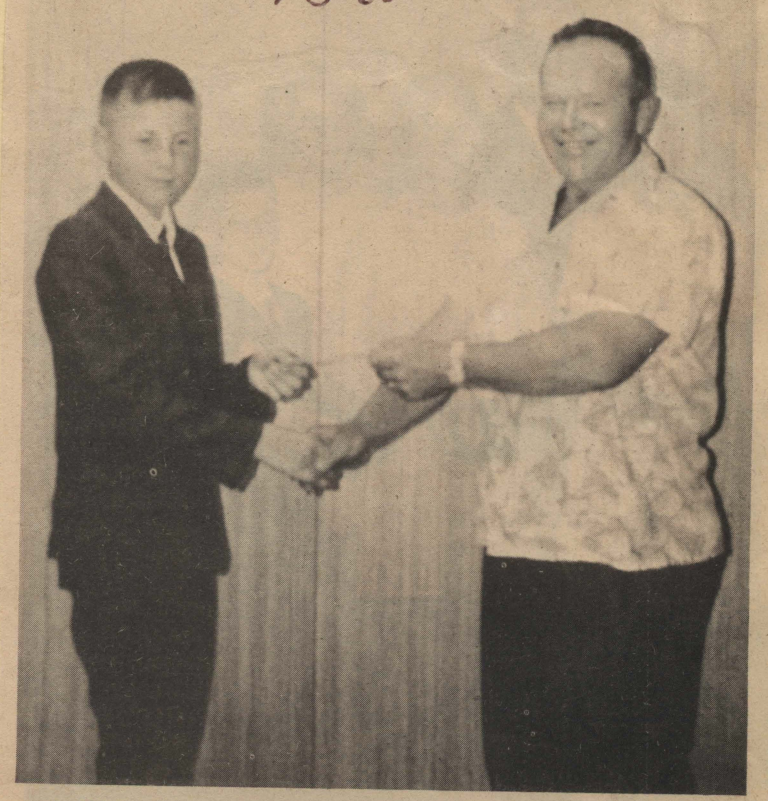
4-13-72

RECEIVES 'ECO' AWARD - - This week's recipient of the "Project ECO" award, a citation presented each week by a SLHS biology class to an area individual for contributions to ecology, is Bob Ingwersen, local farmer. Ingwersen has installed terraces, rotates crops and practices minimum tillage on his farm, and is also a longtime member of the SCS Commission. From left: Jim Cox, Peggy Wolf, Ingwersen, Sara Evans.

JUNIOR DIVISION. Craig Krummen of Lake Park is presented with the first place award for the junior division of the Dickinson County Mutual and Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Soil Conservation Essay Contest by Andrew Hoffman, soil conservation commissioner. Krummen is the son of Steve and Jennifer Krummen of Lake Park. (Photo by Jay Mohr)

FIVE STUDENTS AT Milford High School were winners in the 1983 Soil Conservation Essay Contest, sponsored by the Dickinson County Mutual Insurance Association and the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District. High school winners included, front row, Kelly Langel, Theresa Taylor, Brent Krueger, Treven Hesebeck and Curt Smith. Back row, Norm Meinking, manager of Dickinson County Mutual Insurance, Jim Rohlfsen, Dickinson County Mutual agent in Milford, and Charles Shorey, Dickinson County Soil Commissioner. See story for further details. (Photo by Karen Schroeder)

7-3-68



A $10 CASH AWARD was presented to Joey Bruns by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners at a Speech Contest held at the Soil Conservation Office June 27. In his speech entitled "Soil Our Important Legacy" he pointed out our great need for conserving the soil for future generations. Joey is 13 years old and will be in the eighth grade this fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bruns of rural route, Spirit Lake, Joey will now go on to compete in the regional contest to be held July 18 at the Court House in Pocahontas.

Deceased.

Probate No. 7809

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

O ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN HE ESTATE OF WALTER R. AWSON, Deceased:

You are hereby notified that on the 9th day of October, 1979, the last will nd testament of Walter R. Lawson, eceased, bearing date of the 21st day of une, 1972, and codicils dated 2/15/75, /8/75, 8/29/75, 10/2/78 and 4/24/79 ere admitted to probate in the above amed court and that Alice M. Larson, haron J. Swenning and John Swenning, ere appointed executors of said estate.

Any action to set aside said will must e brought in the district court of said ounty within six months from the date f the second publication of this notice, r thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons ndebted to said estate are requested to nake immediate payment to the ndersigned, and creditors having laims against said estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance; and unless so filed within six months from the second publication of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) such claim shall thereafter be forever barred.

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CITY OF ARNOL...
REGULAR COUNCI...
October 3, 1...

The Council of Arno...
regular session on O...
Present were Mayor ...
Councilmen James ...
Jensen, Bob Rickman ...
and Dennis Foster. A...
Wilma Snell, Isabelle M...
Kelly and Ralph Murr...

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"CLEAN WATER — What... title chosen for the 1985 ... Contest. This contest was op... residents of Dickinson Coun... Soil Conservation District ... Auxiliary of the Iowa Associ... District Commissioners a... Reinsurance Company are s... Dickinson County Mutu... provided the prize money fo... place received $15, second $... grade students from Milford ... the junior division. They ar... Mr. and Mrs. John Adams,

...lowered the premium.

Nearly all your personal insurance needs are covered in a single policy by the AID Personal Pak — auto, home, boat, motorcycle, recreational vehicle — and for less premium than the total of the individual AID coverages.

What's more, you can pay your Personal Pak premium with single monthly payments under AID's Flexible Payment Plan. Only a one dollar service fee is charged if less than the total balance due is paid.

Ask us about Personal Pak. It's a money-saving combination.

M-H-R Insurance
Dickinson County Mutual

Meinking Hovland Rohlfsen insurance

Spirit Lake 336-1262

Milford 338-2654

AID INSURANCE SERVICES

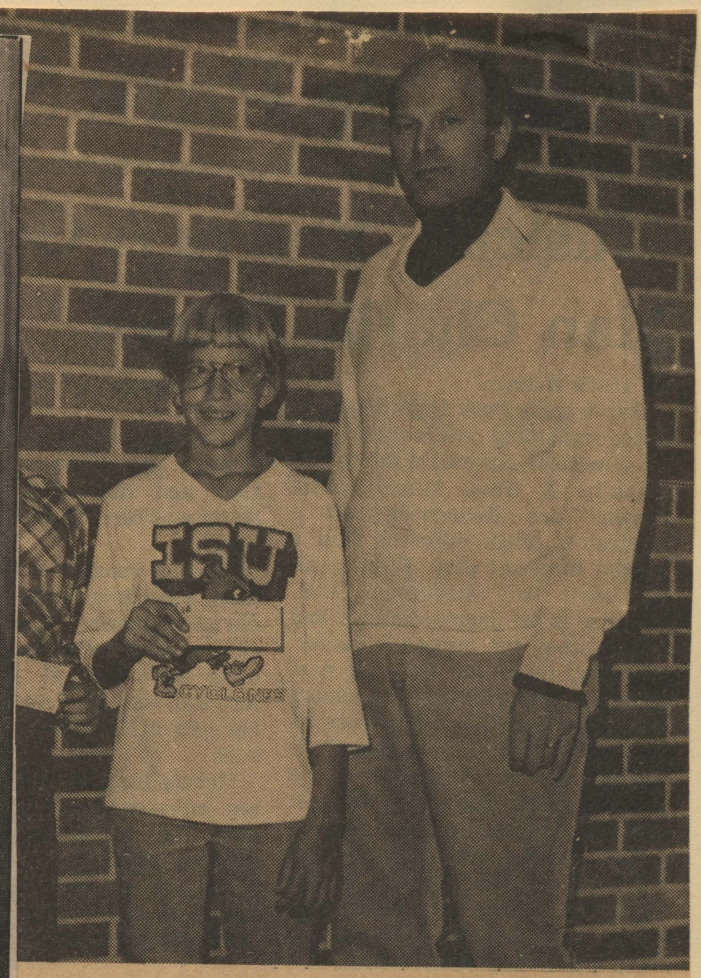
AID Insurance Company
Allied Life Insurance Company
AMCO Insurance Company
Des Moines, Iowa 50304

THREE STUDENTS FROM the Milford 6th grade class were winners in the junior division of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Essay contest. The title of this year's essay contest was "How Soil And Water Conservation Affects Our Future." Shawn Nicol, was the overall winner in the junior division and his essay will be entered in regional competition. Shown left to right is Jenny Arms, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Arms, who placed 3rd and was presented with a check for $3.00, Danny Bockman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Bockman, 2nd with a $5.00 check and Shawn Nicol, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Nicol, who placed 1st and received $17.00 Shown presenting the checks to the students is Soil Conservation Commissioner, Orville Berg. [Photo by Rita Klosterman] 1982

BEST SPEAKERS - - These three Dickinson County boys placed in the Soil Conservation Service speech contest held last Thursday night at the SCS office in Spirit Lake. From left: Ron Schmidt, Spirit Lake, second; Mike Brower, Spirit Lake, first; Chris Hoffman, Lake Park, third; Ernest Skow, Lake Park, chairman of the Dickinson County SCS committee. Topic for the 1974 contest was "Land Use Policy - -A Pattern for Prosperity." Young Brower will not compete at the regional contest in June or July.

11-1-79

SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS in the local Soil Conservation Service competition were: (l-r) First Place, Doug Nielsen, Milford; Second Place, Mike Clark, Milford; and Third Place, Ted Schumacher, Milford. Nielsen will advance to regional competition in Fort Dodge with his speech on "conservation tillage." All speeches were under the general category "save our soil" (SOS).



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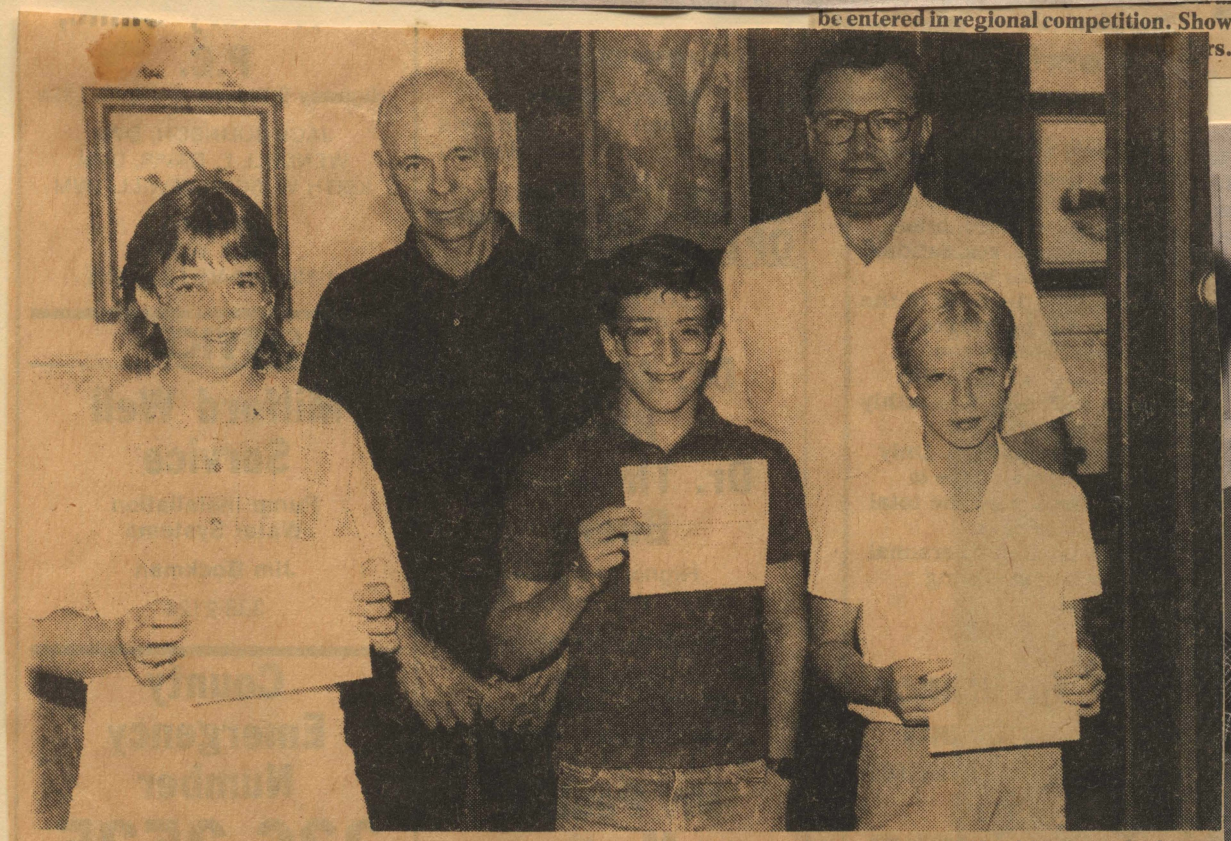
1982



"CLEAN WATER — What is the Answer?" was the title chosen for the 1985 Soil Conservation Essay Contest. This contest was open to all students who are residents of Dickinson County. The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District along with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company are sponsors of this contest. The Dickinson County Mutual Insurance Company provided the prize money for the district contest. First place received $15, second $10 and third $5. Three sixth grade students from Milford were chosen as winners in the junior division. They are Julie Adams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, first place; Jeff Galbraith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Galbraith, second place; and Heidi Schoning, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Schoning, third. They are pictured above receiving their checks from Jim Rohlfsen, right, of the Dickinson County Mutual Insurance Company. Also pictured with the winners is Chas. Shorey, left, Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioner. Julie's essay will now be entered in the regional contest with Regional judging to be completed by Aug. 15. Regional contest winners will be submitted to the state contest which will be completed by Oct. 1. State winners will be invited to read their essays at the Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Cedar Rapids on Dec. 2-3. (Photo by Karen Schroeder)

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hursday night at the SCS office in Spirit Lake. From left: Ron Schmidt,
Brower, Spirit Lake, first; Chris Hoffman, Lake Park, third; Ernest Skow,
he Dickinson County SCS committee. Topic for the 1974 contest was "Land
r Prosperity." Young Brower will not compete at the regional contest in

AREA SCHOOL NEWS

11-10-83

SEVERAL STUDENTS IN THE Milford elementary grades took places in the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Essay Contest. Winners included, front row, Shawn Nicol, Paul Parsons, Robin Duncan and Aaron Sloan. Shown also in the front row is Norm Meinking, manager of Dickinson County Mutual Insurance, who is presenting a winner's check to Nicol. Back row, Charles Shorey, Dickinson County Soil Commissioner, and Jim Rohlfsen, Dickinson County Mutual agent. See story for further details. (Photo by Karen Schroeder)

Many win in essay contest

Again this year the Dickinson County Mutual Insurance Association and the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners sponsored the 1983 Soil Conservation Essay Contest. The title chosen for this year's essay was "HELP—Help Enforce Land Preservation."

This contest was open to all students who were residents of Dickinson County. There were two divisions — the junior division for grades 6, 7 and 8 — and the senior division for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.

One winner in the junior division and one winner in the senior division was selected from the district. These essays were then entered in the regional competition. Winners on the regional level will then be entered for state competition.

The Dickinson County Mutual Insurance Association provided all the prize money for the district contest this year. Winners and the prize money they received are as follows: 11th grade: Curt Smith, 1st, $15; Theresa Taylor, 2nd, $10; 10th grade: Brent Krueger, 1st, $15; Treven Hesebeck, 2nd, $10; Kelly Langel, 3rd, $5; 7th grade: Shawn Nicol, 1st, $15; 6th grade: Paul Parsons, 1st, $15; Robin Duncan, 2nd, $10; Aaron Sloan, 3rd, $5. Curt Smith's and Shawn Nicol's essays were entered in the regional competition. Winners in the regional competition will be announced later.

We wish to thank the Dickinson County Mutual Insurance Association for helping defray the cost of this contest and for their interest in soil conservation.

3-4-65

SCS PROMOTION—The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District commissioners are sponsoring a tree planting program for the youth of the county by presenting each sixth grader with a concolor fir tree to plant. The promotion was kicked off Thursday at a regular meeting of the commissioners when three local sixth graders were guests at the SCS office in Spirit Lake. Front row, left to right: Lyn Ross, Mike Chozen, Robert Hanson, Commissioner Andy Hoffman. Back row, from left: Bob Ingwerson, secretary; Charles Farmer, elementary principal; Bob Herbert, Ernest Skow; and Soil Conservationist Walter Thoreson. (Beacon Photo)

4-27-78

THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT of Dickinson County recently presented each of the 200 sixth graders attending schools in Dickinson County with a green ash tree. Representing the sixth graders at Spirit Lake were (l-r): Karl Kischer (one of four 6th grade teachers at Spirit Lake), Andy Resch (Mrs. Rick's class), Dan Rodawig (Mr. Ingvall), Jeff Jones (Mrs. Krieger), Susan McClure (Mr. Kischer), Jodi Palmer (Mr. Kischer), and Charles Shorey, SCD commissioner who made the presentation. This was the 17th year in a row that the SCD commissioners have provided the free trees. The project was initiated at Spirit Lake Schools. Kischer said he's heard from some former students who planted the trees 16 or 17 years ago and now have good-sized trees at their homes.

4-29-65

SIXTH GRADERS — pic
their instructor Art Schuma
and caring for at a location of

WEATHER BALLOONS — being sent a
week by the First and Second Grades in Har
photo shows their teacher Colleen Marquar
two letters they received from their earlie

'JOHNNY FIRSEED'—Robert Ingwerson, secretary of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District commission, is pictured presenting two local sixth graders with concolor fir trees the pair can plant at their discretion. The commission is distributing over 250 of the trees to sixth grade students throughout the county to promote soil conservation. It is hoped the project can be an annual affair. Receiving the trees are Jeff Munster and Kathy McNeill. Sixth grade science instructor Jerry Ingvall (left) appears to approve of the presents. (Beacon Photo)

GREEN ASH TREES GIVEN TO SIX
Forty-three sixth graders received green
Dickinson County Soil Conservation Dist
tree is one of the most beautiful shad

edicke's mother, Mrs. Lillie Carlson Des Moines passed away Friday rning at the Iowa Methodist Hospital es Moines. Her funeral was Monday Fort Dodge.

haron and Susan Stone, Scott mer, Mike Thiner, Connie McCord Sandra Balezet were confirmed day morning during the church vices. There was a coffee hour owing the services. Lucille Carter, Frances Faulkender, Ardelle lkender and Daisy Bensene were kitchen hostesses.

Kelley Kramer tied for fifth place for "Most Unique" car at the Cub Scout ewood Derby races Monday night in lford.

There will be a May breakfast at the storia United Methodist Church nday, April 30 from 8:00 o'clock to 0. There will be juice, rolls, coffee d May baskets. Because of the breakt there will be no Sunday school.

Mr. and Mrs. Meryl Smith took as ir guests to Crescent Beach for per Mr. and Mrs. Otto Pollson of rtley Sunday.

Mrs. Daisy Bensene attended a rning brunch Friday in the home of s. Anna Nattress in Spencer. mplementing Mrs. Opal Bensene and s. Mildred Pierson on their birthday. the afternoon Anna and Daisy visited atives and friends at the St. Luke's rsing Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kimball of irit Lake were guests in the home of

4-29-65

SIXTH GRADERS — picking up Green Ash trees from their instructor Art Schumacher that they will be planting and caring for at a location of their choice. This is an annual project of the County ASC office in an attempt to build up our tree population in the area.

[NEWS PHOTO]

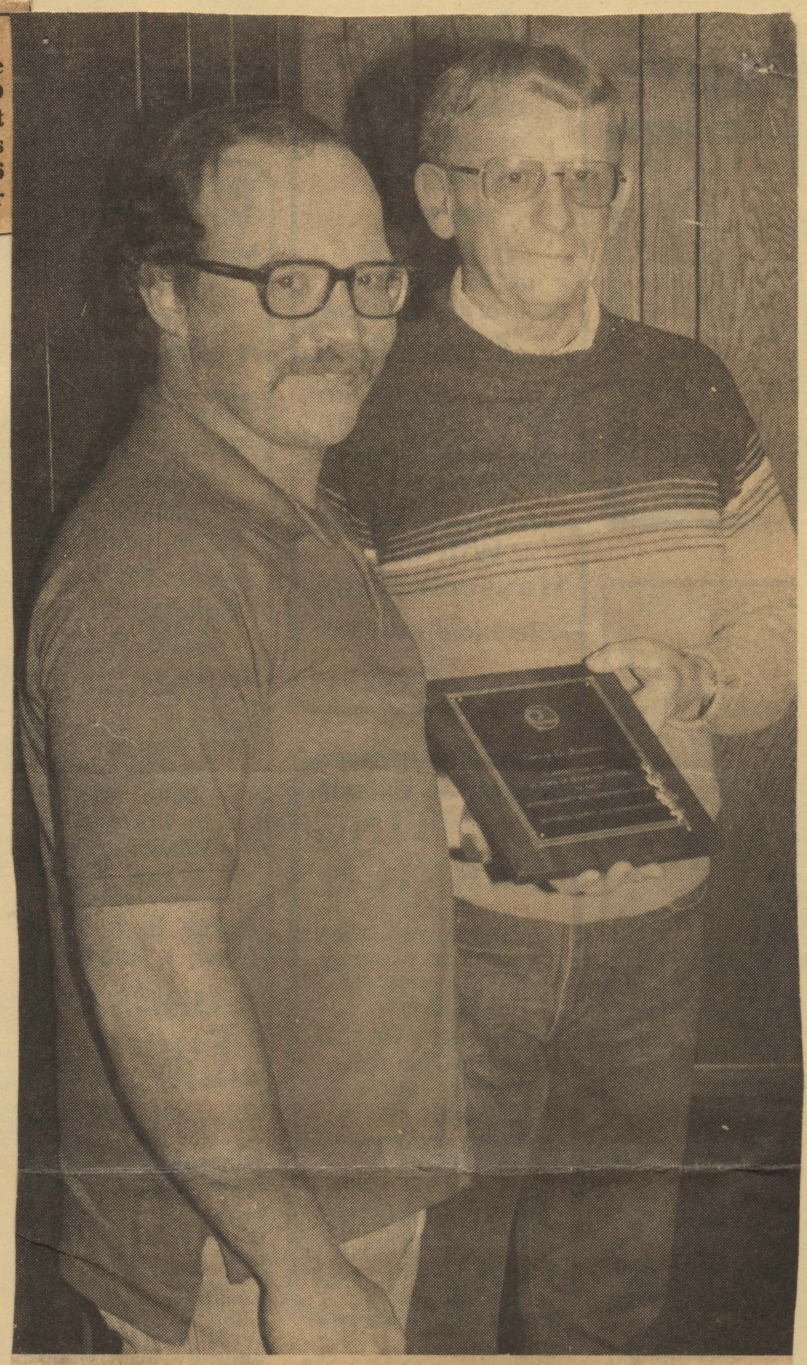
...n, secretary of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation ...ng two local sixth graders with concolor fir trees the pair ...sion is distributing over 250 of the trees to sixth grade stu... ...soil conservation. It is hoped the project can be an annual ...er and Kathy McNeill. Sixth grade science instructor Jerry ... presents.

(Beacon Photo)

GREEN ASH TREES GIVEN TO SIXTH GRADERS — Forty-three sixth graders received green ash trees from the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District. The green ash tree is one of the most beautiful shade trees in Iowa. A handsome round-headed tree, one of the hardiest, most rugged to be found. All of the sixth graders wish to thank the Soil Conservation for the trees they received.

THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT of Dickinson County recently presented each of the 200 sixth graders attending schools in Dickinson County with a green ash tree. Representing the sixth graders at Spirit Lake were (l-r): Karl Kischer (one of four 6th grade teachers at Spirit Lake), Andy Resch (Mrs. Rick's class), Dan Rodawig (Mr. Ingvall), Jeff Jones (Mrs. Krieger), Susan McClure (Mr. Kischer), Jodi Palmer (Mr. Kischer), and Charles Shorey, SCD commissioner who made the presentation. This was the 17th year in a row that the SCD commissioners have provided the free trees. The project was initiated at Spirit Lake Schools. Kischer said he's heard from some former students who planted the trees 16 or 17 years ago and now have good-sized trees at their homes.

DICKINSON COUNTY SOIL Commissioners honored Charles Shorey, left, last week. Shorey, currently chairman of the group, is retiring from the commission after 16 years of service. Presenting him with a plaque is Orville Berg, right, also a commissioner.



SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN Dennis Rustman (right), who has served Dickinson County the past 15 years, was given a recognition plaque by Chris Hoffman (left), chairman of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District commissioners recently. Rustman is being transferred to Forest City, Ark. His final day on the job in the county was March 16, and he will begin his new job March 30.

SIXTH GRADE student
given green ash trees
Commission in observanc
commission is shown with
[Photo by Julie Bockman

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Board agenda items wil
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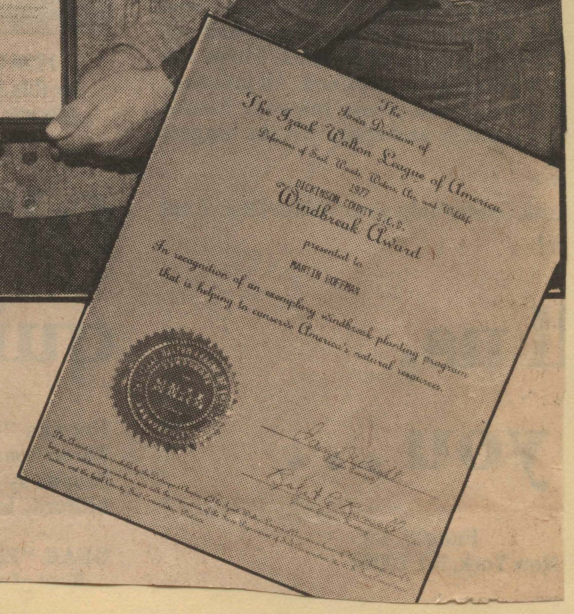
2. Review of Efficiency
3. Agency-wide Training
All interested persons a

3-2-78

MARTIN HOFFMAN (2nd from right) receives an Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award for his 'outstanding windbreak planting program.' The certificate was presented recently by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District. From left to right are: Andy Hoffman (SCD chairman), Ernie Skow, Martin Hoffman, and Chuck Shorey. Skow and Shorey are members of the county SCD commission.



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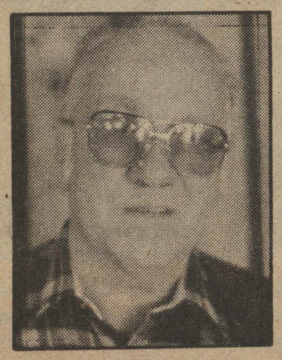


LLOYD GRONEMEYER
Sales
336-4928

5-2-85

SIXTH GRADE students in schools throughout Dickinson County were given green ash trees by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Commission in observance of Arbor Day 1985. Charles Schroeder of the commission is shown with students Jennifer Kathman and Kenny Ihnen. [Photo by Julie Bockman].

3-2-78

ARTIN HOFFMAN (2nd from right) receives an Walton League Windbreak Award for his 'out-ing windbreak planting program.' The certificate resented recently by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District. From left to right are: Andy Hoffman (SCD chairman), Ernie Skow, Martin Hoffman, embers of the

WINNERS WERE NAMED for the $300 scholarships given to two area graduates by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Commission on Thursday, June 21. Recipients were 17-year-old Rod Nelson, center left, of Milford, son of Edwin and Marlene Nelson, and 18-year-old Brian Dingel, center right, of Lake Park, son of Don and Pat Dingel. Selection for the scholarship was based upon the recipient's high school record, activities in general, and their goals. Students applied for the scholarship. Presenting the scholarships to the two are Orville Berg, left, vice chairman of the Soil Commission, and Charles Shorey, right, member of the commission. (Photo by Karen Schroeder)

AFTER ROLLS AND MILK, sixth graders split up into seven groups and went to their respective stations. This group from Spirit Lake started out by seeing a slide presentation on erosion and pollution. The slides were narrated by Clarence Call, district conservationist from Spirit Lake.

MIKE BRANDUP, district forester of the Iowa Conservation Commission, instructed these students from Milford and Arnolds Park on forestry. Here he explains why leaves change color in the fall.

Dickinson County's 6th graders meet Mother Nature

Dickinson County's sixth graders got some first-hand experience last week with the outdoors. The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District sponsored a day of outdoor classrooms at the Kettleson-Hogsback area just west of Big Spirit Lake.

There were seven different stations at which the students spent 25 minutes each. At each station a soil conservationist or wildlife biologist instructed the youngsters on what they were seeing.

Approximately 230 sixth graders from six schools in the county participated in the nature study.

TOM NEAL OF CHEROKEE, wildlife biologist, instructs these students from Spirit Lake in the upland wildlife to be found around the Lakes Region.

MILFORD SIXTH GRADERS learn about soils from the ground up as Ron Reckner of Spirit Lake explains information to them.

SIXTH GRADERS FROM TERRIL'S public school and Sixth Day Adventist school joined in the nature classroom on Tuesday morning.

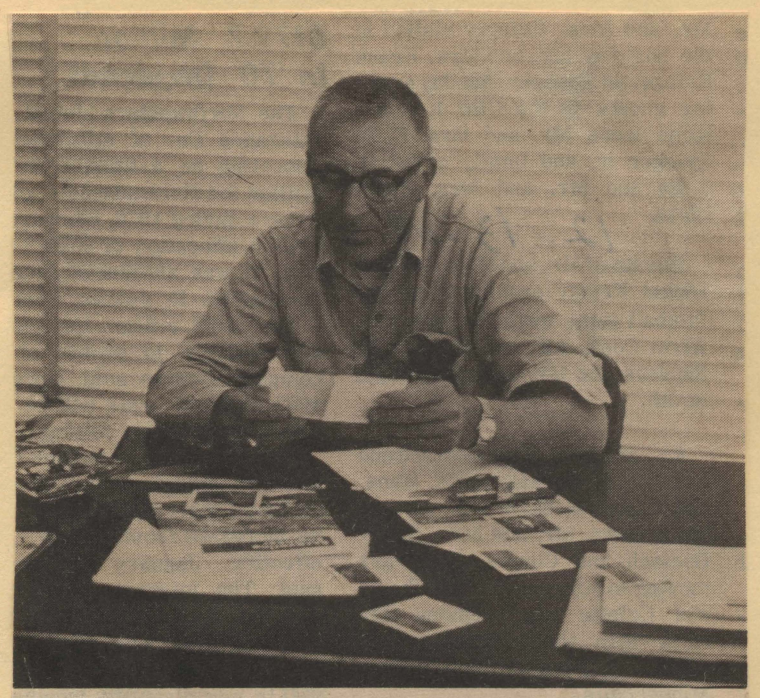
ONE OF THE STATIONS along the way for the students dealt with agronomy and conservation practices. Roger Mussetter, district conservationist from Spencer, was in charge of that stop.

AFTER COVERING THE NATURE TRAIL at the Kettleson-Hogsback area, this group from Spirit Lake went on to the next station on upland wildlife.

photos by Dave Bakke

ERNEST SKOW presents a book on soil conservation to Lake Park City Librarian Valarie Gochnauer. Skow is a member of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Commissioners. (Photo by Jay Mohr)

4-4-85



SCS CHIEF CITED — Walt Thoreson, District Conservationist in Dickinson County, was presented a certificate of merit and $250 cash award recently for outstanding work with watersheds contributing to East Okoboji Lake and to Silver Lake. The award was given by Wilson T. Moon, state conservationist, and presented by Wallis R. Tonsfeldt, area conservationist, at a meeting of soil conservation personnel at Sioux City. 12-13-69

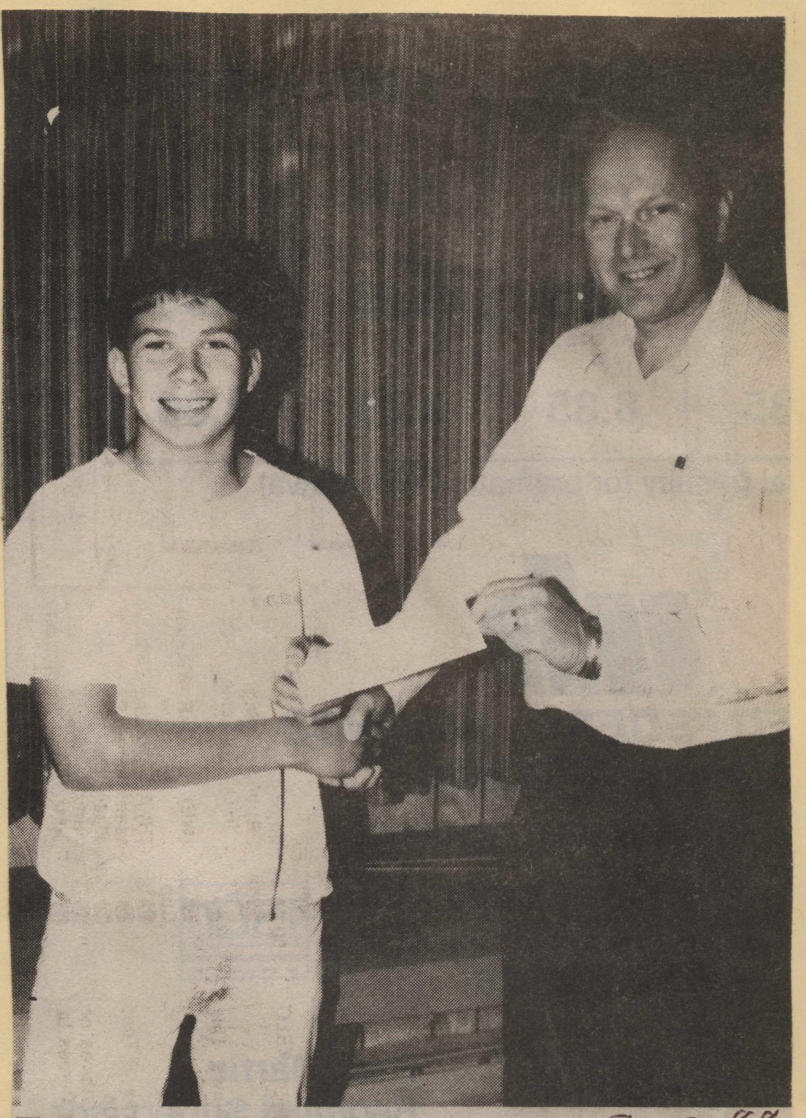
A NUMBER OF TREES were donated to the H-LP Sixth Grade Class by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Service. Each sixth grader at H-LP will be asked to take the trees home and plant them. Above, Superintendent Quentin Reifenrath accepts one of the trees from Soil Conservationist Jared Herbert. (Photo by Jay Mohr) 4-4-85

ROD LANGEL, of Milford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Langel, received a $300 scholarship from the Dickinson County Soil District Commissioners this past week. Langel will be attending Iowa State University. Commissioner Ernest Skow, of Lake Park, is shown presenting Langel the scholarship certificate. Applicants must plan to enroll in college or continue their education in some phase of agriculture or conservation to be eligible for the scholarship.(Photo by Cindy Schubert)

7-7-83

THE DICKINSON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS presented a $300 scholarship to Terri Thorn, left, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Thorn, of Arnolds Park. Terri will be attending South Dakota State at Brookings this fall. Commissioner Ernest Skow, of Lake Park, is shown presenting the scholarship. Applicants must plan to enroll in college or continue their education in some phase of agriculture or conservation to be eligible for the scholarship.(Photo by Cindy Schubert)

7-7-83



Regional essay winner

9-22-88

Curt Lilienthal, Spirit Lake, is presented with a $40 first place prize by Regional Soil Conservation District Commissioner Orville Berg. Lilienthal earned first place in the Region 2 Soil Conservation Essay Contest with an essay entitled "Groundwater, The Hidden Resource." The contest was sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. (Photo by Jay Mohr)

DICKINSON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS presented 250 trees to all sixth graders in Dickinson County. Shown receiving the trees for the Spirit Lake sixth graders are front row, left to right, Janie Hawn, Donna Longmore, Lori Thompson, and Shelly Dean. Second row, left to right, Mike Resch, Commissioner Orville Berg, Commissioner Ernest Skow, Greg Dean, John Barbee, and Philip Fuentez. (Photo by Susan Reiser).

MEMBERS OF THE Milford sixth grade were presented with their very own trees on Friday, April 27, compliments of the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Commission. The trees were distributed to the students and were taken home to be planted. The Soil Conservation Commission has been distributing trees for all Dickinson County sixth graders for over 20 years. Shown above are, kneeling, Doug Bjorklund, sixth grader, and Charles Shorey of the Soil Conservation Commission. Standing, Amy Rassler, Lance Hoffman, Rick Wittrock and Ben Wehrspann, sixth graders. (Photo by Karen Schroeder)

Conservation program boosts wildlife habitat

Wildlife in Dickinson County is receiving a shot in the arm because area farmers are using the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP.)

"We have 14,000 acres in Dickinson County in the CRP program and a large percentage of that is within 10 miles of the lakes," said Clarence Call, district conservationist. "It not only contributes to wildlife but also water quality, improving all types of water sports and fish habitat."

The CRP is a contract between the government and owners and operators to enroll highly erodible cropland in programs to conserve and improve soil and water resources, according to Call. Contracts provide annual rental payments to owners and operators in exchange for retiring land to grass or trees for 10 years.

The CRP has not only benefited naturalists and hunters in Dickinson County, but also in the rest of the state. There has never been a better time for wildlife in Iowa than right now, according to officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA.)

"In addition to improved state programs, the USDA's CRP is providing long-term habitat for wildlife," said Mike Nethery, state conservationist for USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS.)

"The program offers a unique opportunity to provide excellent wildlife habitat for an extended period," according to Bill Welker, SCS biologist. "It takes about three years for grassed to provide food and shelter at a level that will benefit deer, pheasants and other wildlife. That's why CRP land is ideal. It locks in the grass seeding for 10 years, which gives the grass time to become established."

Land should contain a mixture of tall and short grassed, according to Call. A combination of alfalfa and brome grass makes a good mix. Also, a mixture of native grassed provide a good cover for ground nesting birds such as pheasants and partridge.

Call added that many song birds (non-game birds) such as red-winged blackbirds, western meadowlarks and vespar sparrows, also benefit by the CRP. The tall grassed protect the nesting birds from flying predators. During winter, even after an ice storm, the tall grassed provide shelter from windchills and snowdrifts.

"Grasses provide food for many birds and animals," Call explained. "Different insects, for example, are attracted to different grasses and legumes. These insects provide protein for young birds. Seeds and other plant materials are important food for older birds."

Because of the drought, hay was harvested from some CRP land in 1988. Welker said there should not have been a big loss in nesting birds even with the hay cutting.

"The peak nesting time is early to mid-June in southern Iowa and mid to late-June in the northern part of the state. The loss would have been higher if haying was allowed three weeks earlier."

Welker said the dry weather was actually better for nesting. Even with protection form the grass, rain can flood the nests. The dry weather allowed the birds to next and the grasses protected them from the hot sun.

The CRP is part of the 1985 food security act, which contains several other provisions that help wildlife. The conservation compliance provision requires landowners to protect their land with conservation practices to receive most USDA benefits. Many landowners are installing grass buffer strips and field borders. These areas will be permanently grassed and will provide nesting cover and food for pheasants and partridge.

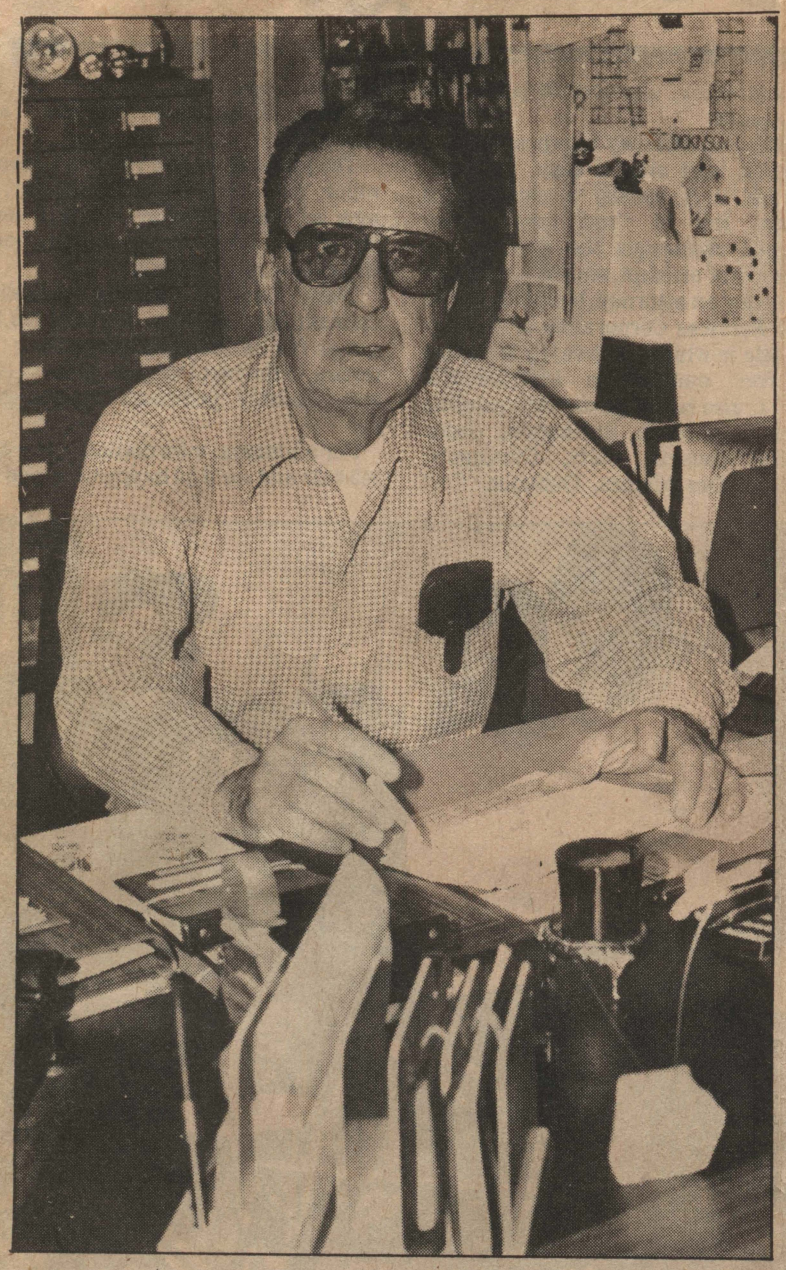
Call said the swampbuster provision also benefits wildlife. It protects existing wetland areas across the state. Many years ago, Iowa had about 7 million acres of wetlands, but today there are less than 28,000 acres. These wet areas provide a variety of food and cover for animals, including deer, pheasants and muskrats.

Waterfowl and songbirds that have been reduced in numbers in may areas of the state will have nesting grounds and will return as well, according to Welker.

The sodbusting provision discourages landowners from plowing pasture land or other grassland to grow crops unless they have written conservation plans for the land.

"The CRP has the major role in increasing our wildlife habitat for the next several years," Call said. "Along with other conservation provisions, it should help a good deal to protect the soil and we should see the benefits to wildlife as well."

Farmer of the Week



Don Schubert

5-15-80

by Susan Reiser

From selling men's clothes to managing farms. One rural Spirit Lake man is involved in farming yet doesn't drive a tractor or plant an acre of corn.

"The future of farming is very good. The productive world is going to have to be fed. We can do it," said Don Schubert, this week's farmer of the week.

Schubert, 63, is manager of Schubert Farms, which consists of two farms, 250 acres in rural Spirit Lake, and about 250 acres in rural Luverne, Minn.

As manager of Schubert Farms, Schubert is concerned about certain farming techniques used by Dean and Merlin Stover, share crop renters of the 250 acres.

Schubert said that he stresses the use of soil conservation and crop rotation with corn, bean and oats. He also insists upon a clean field with no weeds and using standard chemicals to raise a good crop.

"The only way to have a farm is to share expenses and to share profits. This way is very fair for the person that farms it. We raise seed oats and certified soybean seed. An inspector for Iowa State University inspects the seed so the field has to be kept clean," Schubert said.

"It's so much fun working together. If you get 100 bushels of corn, you put the expenses in. I take out my share and the farmer takes out his share and everybody is happy. When there is a crop failure, both the farmer and I take one half of it," Schubert said.

At the Spirit Lake farm, Stover plants about 40 acres of oats, 40 acres of corn, 130 acres of soybeans and the balance is planted into alfalfa hay. On the Spirit Lake farm there is about one and a half miles of terraces that carry the water to tiling, to a holding pond, and eventually into the lake.

PRICES OF CROPS

"The prices of crops should be higher. I think they will be. I started selling corn for the farm last November and received an average of $2.50 per bushel. We had turmoil in Russia and Iran. These markets will straighten around. I look for $2.50 corn and $6 to $6.50 per bushel for beans," Schubert said.

"When I bought this farm in 1973, I received $1 a bushel for corn and $2.25 per bushel for beans. Of course, now things are higher. The prices can't be too high or the consumers will be priced out of the business. When the prices are too low, the farmer prices himself out of business too. Every year can't or isn't a good year. That's what makes farming interesting," Schubert said.

Schubert was born in Everly, moved and was graduated from Sanborn High School in 1934. Schubert said that in 1934 he was "lucky to have nickels in his pocket" and that he didn't feel that his father could afford to send him to college.

He followed in his fathers footsteps and purchased a men's clothing store in Paullina in 1938. Later, Schubert opened more stores in Laurens, Remsen and Primghar. In 1960 he sold the stores to his brother-in-law and store manager and moved to rural Spirit Lake in 1954.

"Both of my grandparents were farmers. I used to spend lots of time on the farm. Most of my customers were also farmers," Schubert said.

"The only way a young person can afford to get into farming is to fall into the footsteps of their parents. This system works good. I hate to see young people get over extended in debts. Two heads are better than one if the young people are guided by older people who give good free advice," Schubert said.

When Schubert isn't busy managing the farms, he enjoys fishing, hunting and yardwork. He is a Commissioner on the Soil Conservation Commission, one of the founders of the Lakes Art Center, and a member of the Dickinson County Farm Bureau.

The Schubert family includes wife, Helen; and children Julie Hedberg of Blue Earth, Minn.,; and Mark of Omaha.

PICTURED ABOVE are the winners in the 1988 junior division Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District Essay Contest. The topic for this contest was "Groundwater--The Hidden Resource." Co-sponsor of the contest was the Dickinson County Mutual Insurance Company. Jim Rohlfsen, representing Dickinson County Mutual Insurance, and Orville Berg, Dickinson County Soil Conservation Commissioner, prresented Dawn Moritz, left, Dayna Enderson, second from left, and Jill Dotson, center, with prize money for placing third, second and first, respectively in the contest. Jill's essay has been entered in the regional competition. (Photo by Doris Welle) 9-12-

Ivan Simpson. . .

Learning, cutting production costs each year with slot-tillage

By Susan Reiser
Editor

Farmers who use no-til planting can learn something new about the system each year, according to Ivan Simpson, a rural Spirit Lake farmer.

Simpson is currently in his first year of using a no-til plainting system with a slot-tillage planter. Simpson slot-tilled approximately 180 acres of corn ground this year.

Slot tillage is planting in a slot without disturbing the soil anymore than necessary. A disc opener or ripple or fluter coulter opens the seed slot ahead of the planter. The planting is done in a furrow that is a slot.

COSTS CUT

"If you're looking for a way to cut production costs, you should try slot-tillage. With my particular operation, I hire a lot of labor. I combined the beans in this field last fall and planted it to corn this spring. In a normal year, a farmer could save three trips across the field by using slot-tillage," Simpson said.

While planting the corn this year, Simpson was also applying dry or starter fertilizer using 180 pounds of 15-40-40 two inches beside and two inches below the planter and 95 units of liquid nitrogren behind the rows.

Next year, Simpson said he plans to apply the herbicide with the liquid nitrogen while planting thus eliminating a trip. He said that he's still in his "first year of learning." Simpson's corn ground was cultivated once to further his belief that "soil should be stirred once to aerate and break the crust."

In addition to saving time, fuel and machinery costs, Simpson said that he believes this no-til system will produce better yields which benefit the farmer and the landlord.

Edna Swanson, of Spirit Lake, is Simpson's landlord on a 60-acre farm planted with slot-tillage. The farm is located near Vick's Corner. She said that the "corn crop looks good" and that she has faith in her tenant.

"The nice part of this system is that you only need a medium sized tractor with 80 to 100 horse. Initially you do have an investment in a good planter. But this system keeps the topsoil where it is supposed to be," Simpson said.

"The reason we advocate this system is for soil saving. Farmers may do it for time and fuel cost savings. We think it is a valuable system for soil conservation because it leaves crop residues on the surface to protect the soil against water and wind erosion," said Clarence Call, District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service.

Additional information about no-til planting systems can be obtained by calling the Soil Conservation Service at 336-2604.

IVAN SIMPSON, a rural Spirit Lake farmer, planted about 180 acres of corn ground this year with a slot-tillage system. Simpson explains the system in the story above. Pictured left to right, as they examine the corn ground, are Greg Michelson, Simpson's assistant; District Conservationist Clarence Call; Edna Swanson, Simpson's landlord; and Simpson. (Photo by Susan Reiser).

ag report

9-15-88

CRP program protects lakes

Clarence Call, Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Conservationist scans a few of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Acres which surround the Iowa Great Lakes Region. The acres help improve water-runoff quality into the lakes, thereby improving fish habitat, while conserving the soil. Dickinson County boasts over 14,000 acres in the CRP program. (Photo by Jay Mohr)

TREE GIVEAWAY. The Dickinson County Soil Conservation Commission conducted their annual Sixth Grade Tree Giveaway in Spirit Lake last Friday. The commissioners give away trees every year to sixth graders in their efforts to keep Dickinson County green and promote conservation. Pictured above are (front left) Nikay Dennert, Patty Wingert, Lynne Roseberry and Nichole Kane. (middle left) Keith Johnson and Clint Fodness. (back left) Assistant Commissioner Orville Berg, Brian Radtke, Robbie Soat and Commissioner Chuck Shorey. (Photo by Jay Mohr)

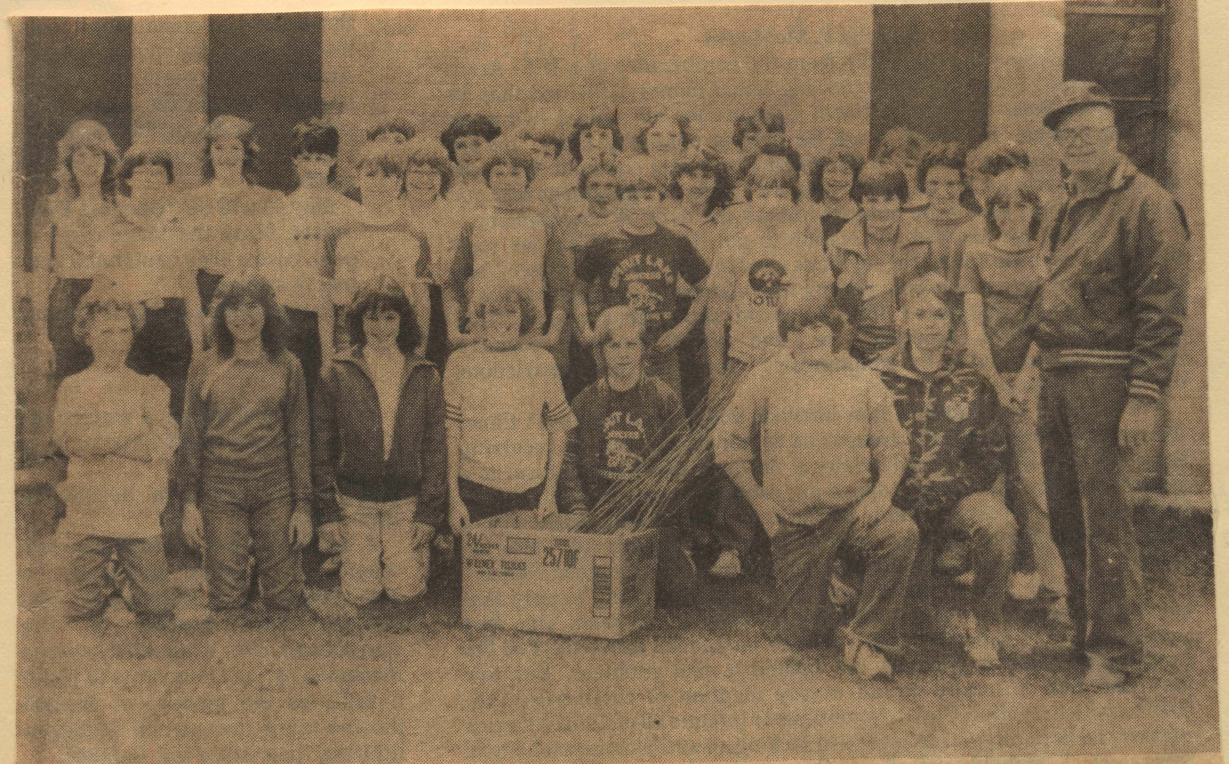
Spirit Lake Beacon - April 23, 1987

THE DICKINSON COUNTY Soil Conservation District again presented each sixth grader in the county with a green ash tree, a 22 year-old custom. Dickinson County Soil Conservation District commissioners are: Chris Hoffman, Lake Park; Orville Berg, Spirit Lake; Bob Ingwersen, Spirit Lake; Jared Herbert, Lake Park and Tim Hemphill, Milford. (Above) Berg presents sixth grader Ben Peters with a tree while science instructor Jerry Ingval, Jennifer Voss, Cory Edmunds, Amy Munson and science instructor Tom Corcoran look on. (Photo by Jay Mohr)

TREES PRESENTED — The Dickinson County Soil District Commissioners presented every sixth grade student in the county with a green ash tree last week. This is done every year. Shown above is Chas. Shorey, commissioner, presenting trees to students at Milford. Also shown are Kim Clar, Lori Cable, Brad Knoblauch and Terry Miller. Dickinson County Commissioners are: Andrew Hoffman, Lake Park; Chas. Shorey, Spirit Lake; Robert Ingwersen, Spirit Lake; Orville J. Berg, Spirit Lake; and Ernest H. Skow, Lake Park. Assistant Commissioners are: Maurice Dougal, Lake Park; and Chris Hoffman, Lake Park. (Photo by Julie Bockman)

ALL SPIRIT LAKE SIXTH GRADERS received a free tree from the ASCS office last week to be planted in the student's yards at home.

1979



SIXTH GRADERS — are shown receiving a free Green Ash tree from Ernest Skow representing the District Soil Conservation Commission. This is an annual event to sixth graders. They are asked to plant the tree either at home or some other good location to help keep Iowa green.

5-5-83

SIXTH GRADERS — are shown receiving green ash trees which they will plant at their own discretion. This is an annual presentation by the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Commission. Presenting the trees to the class is Commissioner Chris Hoffman.

May 1972

SCIENTIST CITED - - Milbert Krohn, head of the Spirit Lake High School science department, was awarded last week's "Project ECO" certificate for his work with region protective associations, continuing efforts to reduce pollution of lakes, and his extensive studies of the area. From left: Jodi Willard, Jim Cox, Krohn, Kris Heitkamp, student science teacher. The award is presented weekly by the fifth period biology class of Ray Beal.

1972

RECEIVES 'ECO' AWARD - - This week's recipient of the "Project ECO" award, a citation presented each week by a SLHS biology class to an area individual for contributions to ecology, is Bob Ingwersen, local farmer. Ingwersen has installed terraces, rotates crops and practices minimum tillage on his farm, and is also a longtime member of the SCS Commission. From left: Jim Cox, Peggy Wolf, Ingwersen, Sara Evans.