

County Soil Conservation District

1982 financial report & accomplishments

IM Budget - District Allocation		2,200.00	Conservation Club Account		
Expenses			July 1, 1981 Balance		484.09
Commissioners Mileage, Meals, Hotel	936.19		Receipts		
Office Supplies & Expense	1,224.36		Contributions	488.00	
Printing	11.03		Flags sold	20.00	
Total	2,171.58		Miscellaneous	49.36	
Released back to State	28.42		Total	557.36	
Balance on hand 06/30/82		0.00	Disbursements		
IIM Budget - District Allocation		31,032.32	NACD Dues	150.00	
State Clerk & State Aide Expense	28,597.93		IASCD Dues	150.00	
Equipment	1,063.32		Memorials	70.00	
Released back to State	1,371.07		Copier repair	92.38	
Balance on hand 06/81/82		0.00	Soil Stewardship Week	94.70	
IIIM Budget Cost Share Program - July 1, 1981 - June 30, 1982			Fairs & Expos	52.50	
Allocation		68,762.12	Awards Programs	29.56	
Obligated or Spent	68,762.12		Flags	59.71	
Balance Unobligated		0.00	Meeting expense	27.43	
Revolving Account			Total	726.20	
July 1, 1981 Balance		382.37	June 30, 1982 Balance		315.17
Receipts			Employees Account		
State Comptroller	1,218.07		County Funds used for Technical Assistance	2,840.08	
Disbursement			Farms Contacted	344 No.	
Office Supplies	1,308.86		Individuals & Groups Applying Practices	155 No.	
June 30, 1982 Balance		291.58	Conservation Plans	3,580 Ac.	
			Contouring	178 Ac.	
			Windbreaks	15 Ac.	
			Grade Stabilization Structure	3 No.	
			Grassed Waterways	10 Ac.	
			Parallel Terraces	46,124 Ft.	
			Sediment and Water Control Structure	9,250 Ft.	
			Cropland Benefited	11,293 Ac.	
			Cropland Soil Loss Reduced To 5/Ton/Acre	8,399 Ac.	

Research shows good reason to reduce tillage

In the past you may have had good reasons for not trying conservation tillage. Research conducted the last two years shows good reasons why you should try leaving more crop residue on the soil surface after planting.

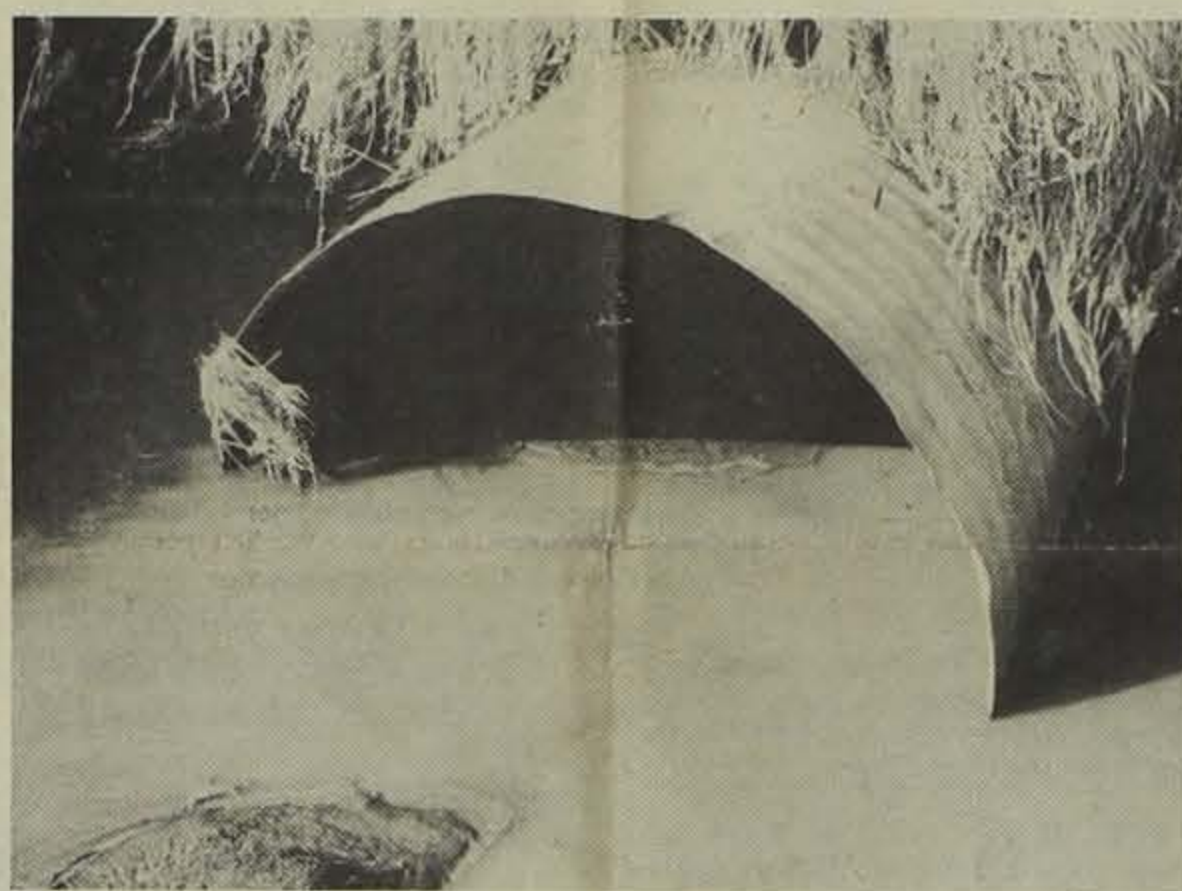
In a paper presented to A.S.A.E. (American Society of Agriculture Engineers), T.S. Colvin and D.C. Erbach showed that soybeans grown in heavy corn residue yielded as well as beans grown in plowed ground. Colvin and Erbach compared solid seeded soybeans to beans planted in 30" rows. They concluded that "The solid seeding of soybeans through corn residue (up to 74% residue cover) is an acceptable soybean production method." They also concluded that the rate of canopy development and yield are not measurably different with reduced tillage than they are with plowing.

Reduced yields have always been a concern with leaving a crop residue. But those who have used conservation tillage however find that yields are about the same as plowing. And this research proves it.

The number one reason for using conservation tillage has been erosion control. But how much of a reduction can you expect?

J.M. Laflen and T.S. Colvin studied crop canopy and crop residue effects on soil erosion. They showed that soil erosion was 50% greater on the average for corn grown after soybeans than for soybeans grown after corn. No-till corn after soybeans can leave enough residue to reduce soil erosion greatly. In their study soil erosion averaged 38% less than that of moldboard plowing. No-till beans after corn had a much greater effect. Soil loss was reduced 89% from that of plowing.

These reductions are the most important reasons for reducing tillage. If a soil was losing topsoil at the rate of 1" in 12 years under a moldboard plow, you could make the same 1" of topsoil last over 50 years with no-till.



Culverts filled with silt are a constant road maintenance problem. Many of your tax dollars are spent each year to clean road ditches that are plugged with silt caused by erosion. Instead of spending money to clean ditches, wouldn't it be better to invest money in conservation practices to prevent erosion?

1982 conservation tillage tour.....



Those who attended the conservation tillage tour this year saw a variety of tillage systems. Shown above is Ken Reece explaining how his planter works.



Pictured here is a field of no-till corn shown on the conservation tillage tour. Martin Broer had planted his corn directly into soybean stubble without any prior tillage.



Soil Conservation District Chairman Gary Walters encourages you to pledge some acres of reduced tillage.

Join untillage club campaign

by Gary Walters, Chairman
Hardin Soil Conservation District

Pledge some acres of reduced tillage (no-till, till plant, conservation tillage) and you become eligible for one of ten five-gallon cans of preemergence herbicide. The drawing for the winners will be held on May 15, 1983, and the residue will be measured in your fields shortly thereafter. If there is adequate residue left after planting in your field you will receive a certificate for the herbicide. Bumper stickers are available when you sign up (while the supply lasts).

With over 90% of the soybean stubble untilled in the fall of 1982, there are excellent opportunities for farmers to try no-till or till-planting this spring. The PIK program will allow plenty of time to try these methods on more acres.

Three implement dealers in Hardin County have no-till planters available for rent this spring. They are Benton and Higgins, Alden; Pine Lake Implement, Eldora; and Hauser Implement, Whitten. Contact them now and reserve the planters for your no-till acres this spring. The SCD Office has a list of farmers who no-till also.

The wet fall of 1982 will benefit soil conservation

Wet soils and heavy rains on frozen ground usually means severe soil losses. Cornstalks were plowed and soybean stubble was disked or chiseled last fall and you probably losing more soil than normal. However the wet weather and delayed harvest also meant that many farmers couldn't get their fall tillage done. "This is a blessing in disguise. All that crop residue left did more for controlling wind and water erosion than anything else," says Steve Manternach, District Conservationist. "The residue protected the soil and prevented what could have been the worst fall for soil erosion."

Estimates show that 97% of the bean ground wasn't touched and 70% of the cornstalks were not plowed. Even more soil can be saved this spring if most of the crop residue is left on top.

On soybean stubble going to corn we would like to see more farmers try no-till. Cornstalks spring disking will still leave adequate residue if you keep the number of diskings to a minimum.

If you don't have a planter that will plant no-till see your local implement dealer. Many of them will have no-till planters that you can rent. If you participate in the reduced acres program you should have a lot more time to experiment with no-till.

Farmers who reduce tillage and sign a pledge card could even win free herbicide for next year. All these reasons could mean a good year for conservation tillage and soil conservation.

Tips on leaving adequate crop residue for the PIK program

by Gary Walters, Chairman
Hardin Soil Conservation District

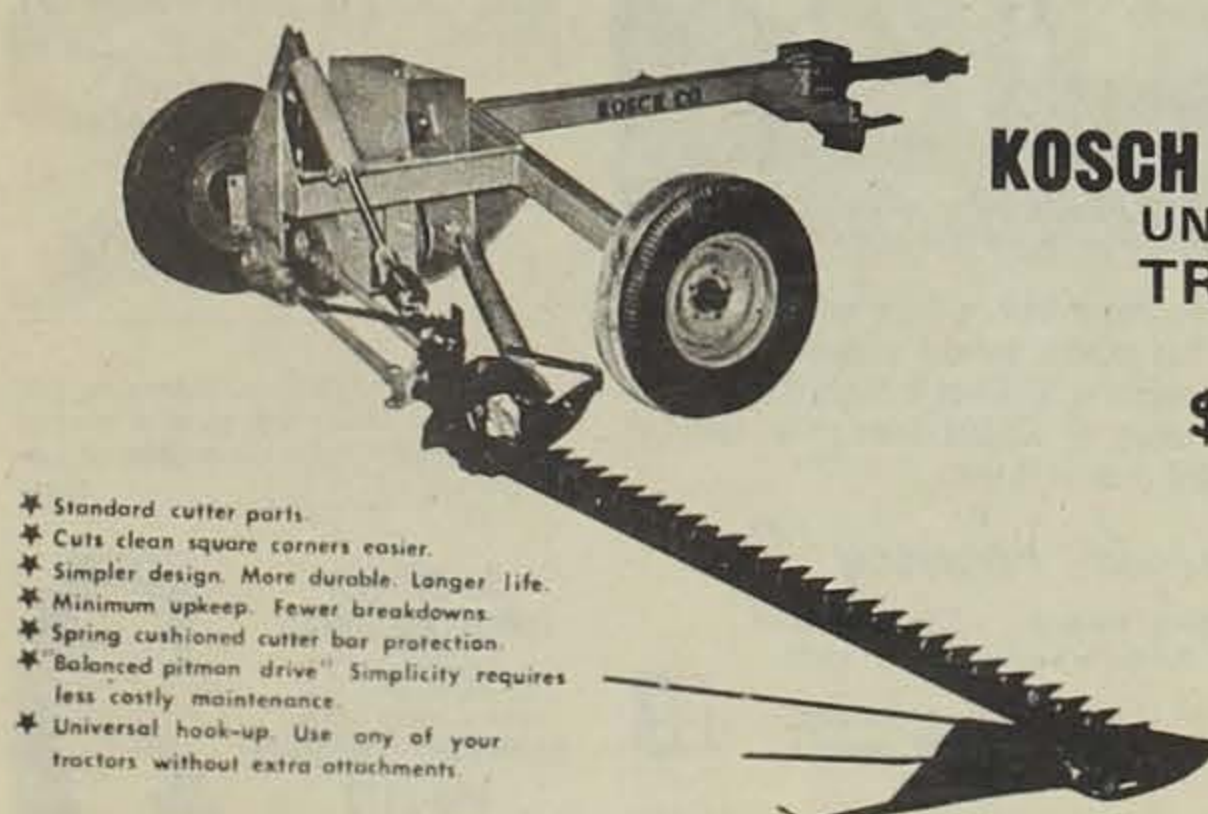
The ground cover options for those who participate in the farm program this year include leaving last year's crop residue on the soil surface. Those who are considering leaving crop residue should consider the following:

1. Corn stalks that were fall chiseled will probably have about 50% cover this spring. So if you make any tillage trips to kill weeds this summer you'll probably cover too much residue. These acres should be seeded to cover crop.
2. If your corn stalks were untouched after harvest last fall you probably have good ground cover this spring. If the stalks were grazed or if residue was removed by any other means, your residue cover will be much less.

Untouched corn stalks may provide adequate cover throughout this next year. Tillage is limited to one light disking. Once you till the land to kill the weeds you not only reduce residue cover but you also will stimulate additional weed growth. This will mean additional weed control measures such as spraying or additional tillage. Any other tillage will reduce your ground cover and will again mean violation of the ground cover requirement.

To avoid violating ground cover requirements we strongly suggest you seed a cover crop to help control weeds.

The Staff and the Commissioners of the Hardin County Soil Conservation District will be monitoring the crop residue and the cover crops on the PIK Program acres. We feel that the Hardin County ASCS Committee should be notified of abuses such as excessive soil erosion on set aside acres. We will not hesitate to inform the ASCS of violations. The non-crop acres of PIK are for Conservation Use - Not Abuse.



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