

Pine Lake Watersheds Subject Of Three-County Conservation Session

Eldora's Pine Lakes were the subject for discussion at a recent meeting held at the Hardin County Savings Bank in Eldora.

The meeting was hosted by the Hardin County Soil Commissioners and included representatives from Franklin and Grundy conservation groups, as well as area and state conservation officials.

Present from Hardin county were District Conservationist Laurence Green and Commissioners Carroll Hobson, Martin Broer and Gary Walters. Grundy county was represented by District Conservationist Jerry Stork and Commissioners Ralph Moore, Russell Katzer and Larry Eslinger. From Franklin county were District Conservationist Charles Keipe and D.W. Mott. Area Conservationist Dennis Loreth and Resource Conservationist Jeff Zimprich attended from the Fort Dodge Area office of the Soil Conservation Service. James Reel, who is a watershed specialist, was the featured speaker, coming from the Office of the State Conservationist in Des Moines.

The session was held as a part of Hardin County's Annual Work Plan and sponsored with the hope of enlisting new interest in erosion control in the Pine Lake Watersheds of both Hardin and Grundy counties, according to Hobson. Franklin county representatives were present because of similar problems around Beeds Lake in Hampton.

Lower Pine Lake has many erosion control structures in place and is well protected. Most of this work was done from 1966-88. Upper Pine Lake watershed is another story, Hobson said, and is exposed in the watersheds of both Hardin and Grundy counties. Lower Pine's watershed is well-known in this area because of the Agricultural Research Service five-year study on the Ray McDowell farm. Hardin's soil commissioners hope to revive the interest and community enthusiasm which accomplished good work in the Lower Pine area, Hobson reports.

Reel advised all people of Hardin and Grundy counties to "close ranks, create a

non-profit corporation, raise local money and hope to attract grants." Reel further suggested a possible opportunity to acquire some of a special ACP fund offered through the federal government. He also suggested acquiring funds from the Soil Conservation Fund in Iowa. "All of this is available, provided the farmers and the people here support the project and provided the Pine Lakes Watersheds would qualify," Hobson reports.

Reel was explicit about the cost of dredging once a lake is full of silt. He reported the cost of dredging at \$10 per cubic foot of soil provided the conditions are ideal. A close place to put the dredged material is the critical factor in dredging. Reel said moving the soil any distance could easily double the cost of dredging. He thought the cost of dredging an unprotected (no upland treatment) lake could run into millions of dollars.

Upper Pine watershed is located in both Hardin and Grundy counties, with 54 percent located in Hardin county and 46 percent in Grundy. Loreth and Reel suggested higher user fees (for which state approval would be needed) and directed community dedication to save the lakes.

Reel recommended asking visitors to the park to help along with higher fees. He concluded by saying, "Don't put off the effort. Don't try to carry more than one big project at a time as small communities can't handle more than one expensive project at a time. Show non-believers some of the lakes in Iowa that are already destroyed."

The combined watersheds of both counties comprise approximately 8,000 acres of farmland.

Rotary Hears Hightshoe

Rotarian Deb Hightshoe, Administrator at Eldora Manor and Valley View Nursing Center, discussed residential, intermediate and long term health care during the program at the weekly meeting of the Eldora Rotary Club Tuesday noon.



'Save the soil' efforts focus on erosion

"Soil -- We Can't Grow Without It" is the theme for this year's National Wildlife Week, March 17 through 23.

The 48th annual Wildlife Week is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. Soil conservation was chosen as this year's message not only because soil is one of the nation's most important natural resources, but also because 1985 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Soil Conservation Service, part of the Department of Agriculture.

Soil provides the foundation of for the abundance of life on earth -- food, wildlife, plants and people. Yet this vital resource is disappearing at an alarming rate.

Co-chairing 1985 National Wildlife Week are Eddie Albert, actor and conservationist, and Rowlf the Dog, the piano-playing member of the Muppet family.

"In some areas of the country, we are losing as much soil now as we did during the Dust Bowl era," said Jay D. Hair, Executive Vice President of the National Wildlife Federation. "In fact, the United States loses more than six billion tons of soil each year because of erosion. This lost soil in turn pollutes our water, fouls our air and deteriorates wildlife habitat."

Erosion, which is the movement of soil by wind and water, is a natural process, but is greatly accelerated by human activity. Strip mining in Wyoming, for example, has increased erosion rates to 11 times the natural rate; sediment washing off construction sites in Maryland has caused soil losses of 100 times the natural rate. The natural processes that create and replace that lost topsoil can take 500 years to form just one inch of topsoil.

"The wise management and conservation of our soil resources are essential to all living things," said Hair of the National Wildlife Federation. "By appreciating and preserving soil today, we can conserve one of our nation's most valuable resources for tomorrow."

"For example, farmers using conservation tillage, especially no-till, leave crop residue on fields over winter, providing food and cover for wildlife."

FACTS ABOUT SOIL

- Wind causes about 2/5 of all erosion on farms and ranches.

- The United States has about 421 million acres of cropland.

- Soil scientists have identified over 70,000 kinds of soil in the United States.

- An acre of topsoil one inch deep weighs about 150 tons.

- As many as a million earthworms can live in one acre of soil.

Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the following prime contracts, General Construction, Mechanical (including plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning) and Electrical for an addition to the existing building, Eldora New Providence Community School District, Eldora, Iowa, will be received by the Eldora New Providence Community School District in the County of Hardin, State of Iowa, in the Elementary Library, 1101 10th Street, Eldora, Iowa, until October 10th, 1983, at 1:00 P.M., at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids shall be submitted as per Bid Form attached to and made a part of the Contract Documents. Bids shall be submitted to cover complete work. Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check in the amount of 5% of the bid bond in like amount.

Bids shall be addressed and delivered to the Board of Directors, Eldora New Providence Community School District, in the County of Hardin, State of Iowa, Eldora, Iowa, in sealed envelopes marked with the name of the bidder and the work for which the bid is submitted. The Contract Documents, including Specifications, Plans, Specifications and Performance and Payment Bond are on file at the Office of the Superintendent of the Schools, at the above address, and copies may be secured from the Architect, Corbett-Winter-McKee-Platt, Inc., 1415 West Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa, upon payment of \$30.00 for each set.

Upon return of any set in good condition at least 10 days prior to the bid date, the payment shall be refunded. Any bidder may also receive such refund upon returning the set in good condition within 10 days following the bid opening. There will be a \$10.00 fee for printing and handling charges.

By virtue of statutory authority, a preference will be given to products produced within the State of Iowa, and Iowa-made goods to Iowa domestic labor.

The School District reserves the right to consider the experience and responsibility of Bidders in determining which proposals it deems to be in its best interests and may defer acceptance of any bid for a period not to exceed 60 days pending necessary details. The School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

DATED this 14th day of Sept. 1983.

Eldora New Providence Comm. School District
in the County of Hardin, State of Iowa

BY: Betty Key

STREET: Invert Apple
(Index: Sept. 14, 23, 1983)

—Hardin County Index,
Friday, September 16, 1983

Precious Natural Resources

by Governor Terry Branstad

Having seen first-hand the effects of good soil management, I have always respected the idea of proper soil conservation. The ability of Iowa's conservation farmers to produce an abundant crop while protecting this valuable resource is ample evidence that the idea works.

Still Iowa's loss of this seemingly inexhaustible supply of topsoil continues to average nearly ten tons per acre per year, double the rate that soil replenishes itself. We have lost over half of our rich topsoil in the past 100 years.

Soil erosion is also a major culprit in the pollution of our rivers, lakes and streams. Sediment continues to be the state's largest single pollutant by volume. Farm chemicals are also carried piggy-back fashion from field to stream atop water transported soil particles.

This is a situation we can ill-afford, and one that state government sought to correct in 1980 with enactment of the "Iowa Soil 2000" Program. We must deal with our serious erosion problems within the next 20 years, or be faced with loss of future productivity and income depletion of our tax base and this natural resource.

Iowa has had its own state-funded, cost-share program since 1973, and we also provide technical and clerical personnel to soil conservation districts.

This year, additional funds were requested in my budget and were provided by the Legislature to meet the growing demand for the installation of permanent soil conservation practices.

As of July 1, an additional \$8.494 million became available for this year's program, up \$2.9 million from appropriations levels

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APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH CRAIG Deceased

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH CRAIG Deceased

"You are hereby notified that on the 1st day of September, 1983, the Last Will and Testament of Elizabeth Craig deceased bearing date of the 2nd day of October, 1972, was admitted to probate in the above named District Court and that Raymond L. Nance was appointed executor of said estate."

Notice is further given that any action to set aside said will be brought in the District Court of said County within six months from the date of the second publication of this notice, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against said estate shall file them with the Clerk of the above named District Court, as provided by law, duly substantiated, for allowance and unless so filed within six months from the second publication of this notice thereafter be forever barred.

Dated this 1st day of September, 1983

Raymond L. Nance
Executor of said Estate
1515 North Street
Eldora, Iowa 50227

LUNDY, BUTLER & LUNDY
Attorney(s) for said Executor(s)
1301-12th Street
Eldora, Iowa 50227

(Index: Sept. 9, 14, 1983)

Prairie Grasses Make Good Pasture, Wildlife Cover

Two hundred years ago, about 80 percent of the Iowa landscape was covered by tall, prairie grass. Although the native prairie has almost totally succumbed to the plow, some of the warm-season prairie grasses are again being used for livestock forage and wildlife cover.

Stephen Barnhart, Iowa State University extension agronomist, says prairie grasses such as switchgrass, Indiangrass and big bluestem are being used in rotational grazing systems with cool-season grasses like Kentucky bluegrass and smooth bromegrass.

Conservationists as well as livestock producers are interested in the warm-season prairie grasses, Barnhart says.

"Because they are not grazed and summer, warm-season grasses make excellent cover for wildlife and a good nesting habitat for pheasants, quail and songbirds," he says.

The Iowa Conservation Commission is continuing a cost-share program to promote planting switchgrass for wildlife habitats and livestock pastures. Provisions of the program allow the ICC to contribute nearly half the cost of establishing a switchgrass stand on cooperators' farms. In return, cooperators agree to provide good establishment management and use practices that promote good wildlife management on the land for five years. Barnhart said more

than 2,000 acres were approved in 1983 for cost share funding.

Livestock producers are interested in planting warm-season grasses because using cool-season grasses during the spring and fall, and warm-season grasses during the hot summer months is one way to reduce seasonal variation in available forage. Switchgrass is the species planted most widely in Iowa because it is established more easily than other native grasses and adapts well to available forage seeding machinery.

"As seed conditioning technology and experience with warm-season grasses increases," Barnhart says, "more use is being made of big bluestem and Indiangrass."

Shallow seed placement, a firm seedbed and weed control during the establishment year are probably the three most important steps to achieving a good initial stand of warm-season grasses. Seeding rates of five to 10 pounds of pure live seed per acre are recommended. Atrazine can be used for weed control on switchgrass and big bluestem. Supplemental nitrogen can stimulate weed competition with the grass during the first year. Where weeds have been controlled, 60 to 80 pounds of nitrogen per acre can be applied to the new seeding when the grass is at least four inches tall. Barnhart says producers should avoid close clipping or grazing during the establishment year.

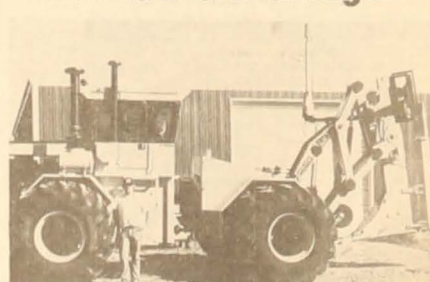
For well-established stands, he suggests annual applications of 80 to 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre. Atrazine can be used for weed control in established stands. Barnhart says care should be taken to see that the warm-season grass is never over-grazed.

Using warm-season grasses in a pasture of wildlife setting is a promising

opportunity for many livestock producers. Those interested in growing warm-season grasses should begin by seeding a small area, he recommends.

"Learn how the grasses grow and how livestock will respond to the new grazing conditions before devoting large acreages and lots of money to this new forage system," Barnhart advises.

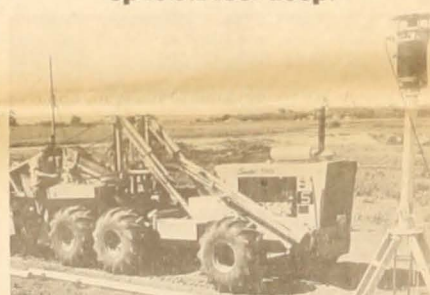
Soil Conservation Begins With Good Drainage!



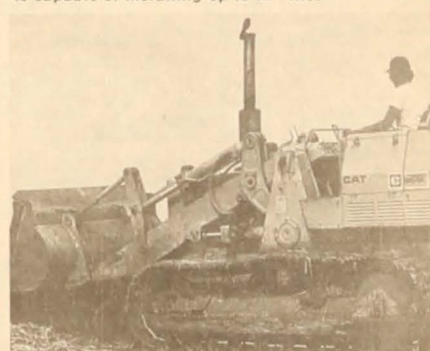
Steve McDowell shown with our trenchless tiling machine

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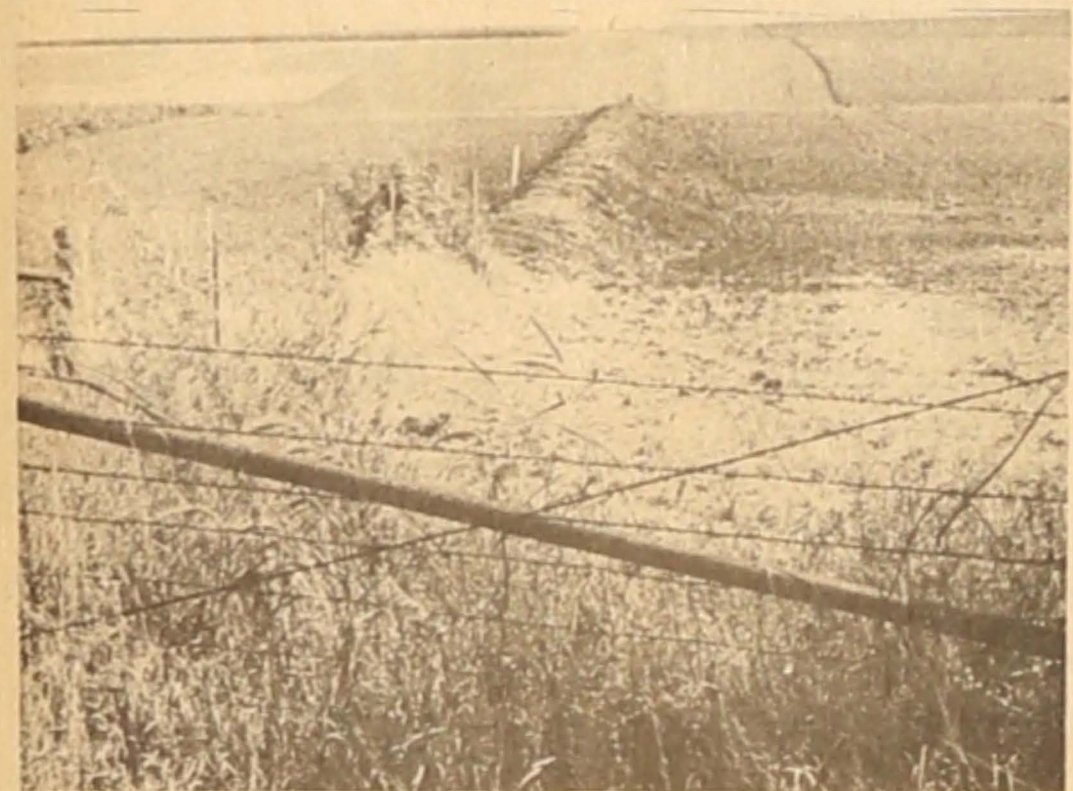
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Set Conservation Week Observance

The annual Soil and Water Conservation Week will be observed throughout the Midwest during September 18-24, and in Hardin county the summer has been a busy one for conservation work, as local soil conservation officials work with area farmers regarding their PIK acres. No till fields are again being emphasized by the SCS district, and signs [such as that in the above photo] are being placed at special plots utilizing no till this year. This soybean field is located west of Alden.

Terracing construction is also in full swing this summer, and will be continued into the fall as weather permits according to conservationists Steve Manternach, building terraces such as those shown in the bottom photo on the Dick Roll farm southeast of Eldora.

A special salute to the Soil and Water Conservation Week observance appears in today's issue of the Hardin County Index.



Eight Awards Recognize Outstanding Soil Conservation Practices In Hardin County

The Hardin County Soil Conservation District presented eight awards for soil conservation practices of the past year during a special recognition dinner and program Tuesday at Diamond's in Eldora. Three of the awards were in the Landlord-Tenant Division and went to

Roel Company, Robert Williams Owner, Jim Frevert, Farm Manager, and Wilbur "Bud" Boeke, Tenant, for conservation efforts on their farm operation west of Eldora in Pleasant township. Pictured in the left photo are, left to right: Mr. and

Mrs. Boeke, Earnest Hoffa, an employee of the local Soil Conservation District office who was honored for Distinguished and Dedicated Service; Harry Lawless of Jackson township, who received the Goodyear Conservation Award for out-

standing accomplishments in resource conservation; SCD Chairman Gary Walters, who presented the awards on behalf of the District; and Frevert.

Pictured at right are, l to r: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Frey, who received the

Isaak Walton League Windbreak Award for efforts on their farm in Eldora township; Mr. and Mrs. Keith Olson and Mr. and Mrs. Vern Grellmann, who received the 1981 New Cooperator Division Award for soil conservation

efforts on their farm south of Eldora in Eldora township.

A review of the 1981 efforts of the Hardin County Soil Conservation District can be found in their two-page annual report appearing on pages six and seven of today's Hardin County Index.