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Conservationist J. Ross Oliver Being Honored

J. Ross Oliver, retiring Area Conservationist of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service at Mason City, will be honored Saturday, Jan. 25, at a banquet to be held at the Holiday Inn, Mason City.

The Eldora Chamber of Commerce will present Oliver with an award honoring him for his activities in the field of conservation, particularly in the Eldora area.

Making the presentation in behalf of the Eldora Chamber will be C. O. Rubow. Others representing the Eldora Chamber at the banquet will be Ken Brock, president, Bruce Froning, vice president, Mrs. Richard Stone, secretary, and Harold Dettbarn.

Oliver has been area conservationist of a 12-county area in north central Iowa (including Hardin) since March 1953. He is completing a career of over 33 years in soil and water conservation work.

Oliver joined the service as a technical foreman in the CCC Camp at Winterset in May 1935, and later that year was named junior agricultural engineer at Winterset. He has served as soil conservationist at McGregor and district conservationist at Greenfield before being named area conservationist at Mason City.

He was honored by the Soil Conservation Service with the Outstanding Performance Award in 1966. Oliver is president of the Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, assuming the office January 1, 1969. Oliver's last day of duty was January 10. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver plan to remain in Mason City.

Oliver had been the Area Conservationist for Hardin county since 1953 until his retirement.