

Mailing addresses

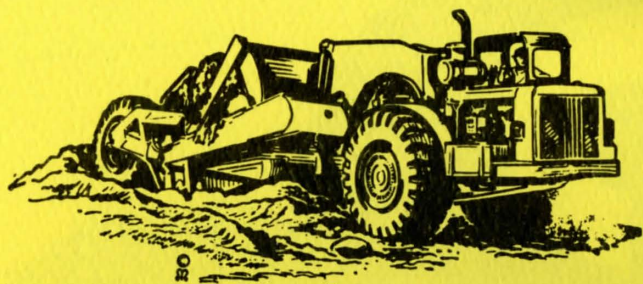


LEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**THIRTY-FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT
1977**

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FOREWORD

NONPOINT POLLUTION AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

By Chairman Raymond Lang

If the average American were asked to describe the sources of pollution that degrade the nation's waters, he most likely would point to industrial effluent dumped into our rivers by manufacturing plants or untreated municipal sewage poured into our lakes and streams by communities. In reality a large percent of our streams' pollutants come from agricultural and silvicultural runoff, acid mine drainage, urban runoff, and sedimentation from construction sites.¹

This large percent of pollutants is called 'non-point' pollution - that is; it is pollutants which originate over a large, undefined area.

During the past year, the Lee County Soil Conservation District Commissioners have become actively involved in identifying and inventorying sources of non-point pollution. Our heavily farmed uplands and steep, sloping pasture and timberlands DO contribute to the pollution of our nation's waters. Our methods of management of these lands DO reflect on the amount of pollutants which finally arrive at downstream sediment areas.

It is my opinion that unless concerned landowners and operators elect to control excessive runoff (of damaging pollutants) through their own efforts, federal and state legislation will dictate the controls we are unwilling to apply. We now have numerous programs designed to assist landowners and operators in the voluntary application of conservation practices. I sincerely hope these programs will be used to the fullest extent to control the unnecessary destruction of this valuable natural resource - OUR SOIL.

1 - Journal of Soil And Water Conservation, Volume 31, Number 6

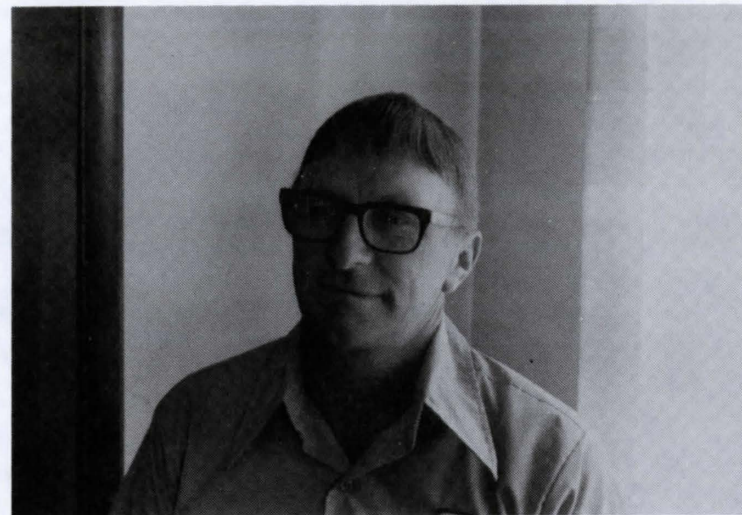




Dale Slaughter of Rural Farmington placed first in the District Soil Conservation Speech contest, held October 25, 1976 at Donnellson. Other entries were (l to r) seated, Kathy Linnenbrink, Julie Umthum, Debbie Fedler; standing (l to r) Dale Hunold, Wesley Johnson and Dale Slaughter. This contest is opened to all Iowa School Students in Grades 7 through 12.



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R. Paul Steffensmeier of rural Donnellson farms 240 acres in northern Lee County. His conservation program and conservation plan was entered in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Paul also received State Recognition of his conservation program as Regional winner in this contest.

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Contouring is still an effective conservation practice. Properly used, it is economical and effective in controlling erosion on gently sloping lands. The contouring shown above is being done on the J. J. Nichting farm near St. Paul.

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Forestry Improvement Program (FIP) is a conservation incentive program under the direction of the Iowa Conservation Commission, Forestry Division. Stan Tate, District Forester for the Lee County Soil Conservation District heads up this program. He may be contacted at Box 62, Wapello, Iowa 52653, telephone Wapello 523-8319.



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Conservation farm ponds received much interest during the dry periods of 1976. Jay Tweedy views his livestock watering pond as a economic advantage to his farming program. The pond also serves for recreation and fishing.



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Conservation Education is a major effort of the District Commissioners. The Ft. Madison 5th grade toured Walter Fullenkamp's farm to view crops and conservation practices. Terraces, contour, waterway and tile drainage were observed.



Schools of the Lee County area participate in soil judging contests. These contests are held on a four county basis. The students rate soils in such categories as texture, slope, erodibility, and crop production.

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**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FURNISHED
THE DISTRICT BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSERVATION
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976**

1M BUDGET

Allocation July 1, 1975 \$1130.00
Commissioners Expense \$ 746.84
Office expense \$ 399.54
Printing \$ 49.80
Materials for Demonstration . \$ 23.07
Office Expenses \$ 151.43
Additional Allocation \$ 250.00
Total Expenses \$1370.68
Released to State \$ 9.32

2M BUDGET

Allocation July 1, 1975 . \$17,500.00
Personal Salaries \$15,631.02
Travel \$ 430.72
Life Insurance \$ 72.00
Disability Insurance ... \$ 92.90
FICA \$ 914.40
IPERS \$ 547.09
Health Insurance \$ 420.86
Total Expended ... \$18,108.99

3M BUDGET

Total 73-74 funds
Allocated - \$15,600.00
Unobligated Balance - None

Total Long Term 74-75 funds
Allocated - \$1500.00
Unobligated Balance - \$1158.29
Released to State - \$1158.29

Total 74-75 funds
Allocated - \$14,100.00
Unobligated - \$331.41
Released to State \$3361.41

Total 76-77 funds
Allocated - \$25,000.00
Unobligated - \$4042.35

FIELD OFFICE PERSONNEL

State Personnel
Isabelle Campbell, District Clerk
Douglas DeRosear, Conservation Aide

USDA - SCD PERSONNEL

Herbert Davison, District Conservationist

AREA SCS PERSONNEL ASSISTING DISTRICT

Eldon Weber, Area Conservationist

Margaret Dickey, Area Clerk

Tom Brown, Area Engineer

Stanley Simmons, Engineering Technician

James Seaholm, Soil Scientist

OTHER AGENCIES

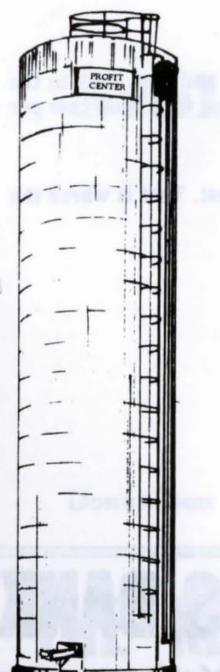
Stanley Tate, District Forester

Art Roseland, Wildlife Management Biologist

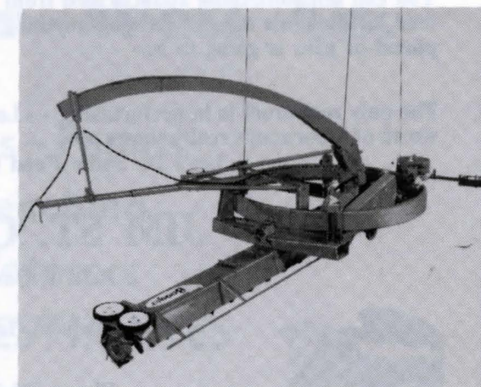
Glen Randau, ASCS Office Manager

Robert Dowling, Extension Director

Leo Fuhr and Robert Scoville, FHA



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CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Soil Conservation Service, in assisting the Lee County Soil Conservation District in 1976 reports the following accomplishments for fiscal year 1976 (7-1-75 to 6-30-76).

The following conservation measures were installed in fiscal 1976.

Contour Farming	880 acres
Critical Area Planting	42 acres
Crop Residue Use	385 acres
Diversions	6,780 feet
Livestock Ponds	16
Minimum Tillage	493 acres
Pasture Improvement	370 acres
Drainage Ditching	5,900 feet
Tile Outlet Terraces	143,900 feet
Drainage tile	106,218 feet
Wildlife Management	99 acres

The following services were accomplished during fiscal year 1976:

New Cooperators	36
Conservation Plans (New & Revised)	40
Recipients Technical Assistance	201
Recipients Applying one or more Practices	123
Inventories and Evaluations-Individuals	12
Groups Assisted	20
Group Plans Prepared	4
Units of Government Assisted	5
Resource Plans Prepared	2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The District Commissioners wish to commend the agencies, groups and organizations that helped make these accomplishments possible. The conservation contractors of Lee County must be complimented for their cooperation and workmanship.

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Severe sheet erosion was experienced during an abnormally severe rain in April. Damaging silt eroded into county road ditches. Nearly 100% of the terrace systems installed in recent years overtopped during this rain. However, only about 7 systems suffered damage.

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The district co-sponsored a Forest Management Field Day on October 26. Approximately 70 participants took part in the one day seminar held at Shimek Forest. Management of existing timber plus a review of suitable soil types was featured.

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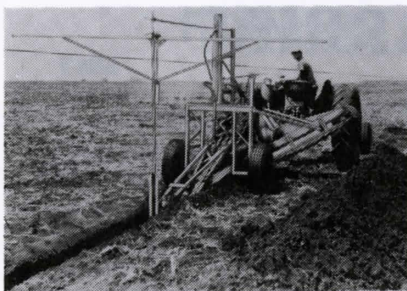
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Students of the Central Community School System enjoyed an Outdoor Resource Field Day held at Rodeo Park, Ft. Madison, Iowa. District personnel assisted this worthwhile project in the fields of soils and rock identification.



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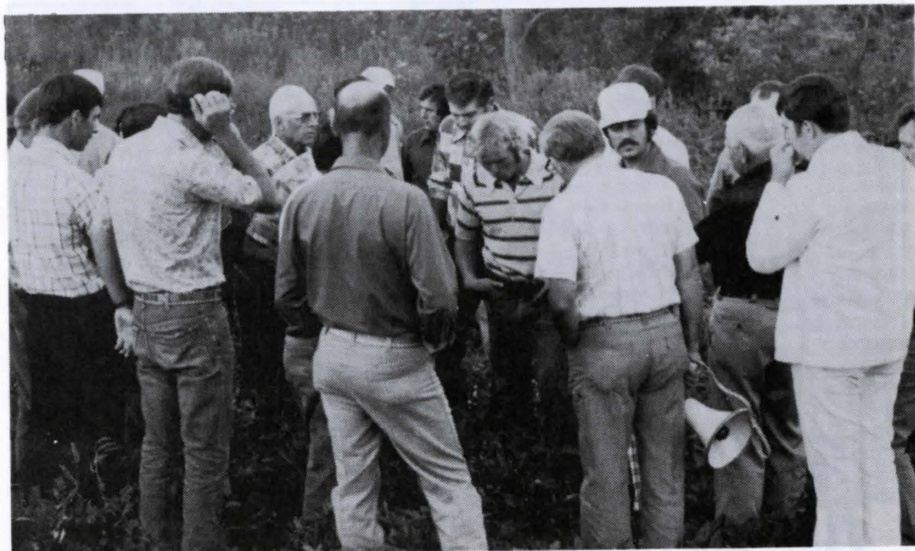
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 Bob Moeller Asst. Mgr.



Dean Pettit, (left) of the Fairfield Office was appointed Resource Planning Coordinator covering Lee County. This program is designed to investigate, catalogue and effectively control Non-Point Pollution sources.

Gene Fraise is chairman of Lee County and represents Skunk River Conservancy District. James Hawkins, represents Des Moines River conservancy District.



Pasture Renovation established by the inter-seeding method was the subject of a Twilight Tour held on Jim Wheeler farm rural West Point. This method which employs the use of chemical retardants to control competition until new seedings become established.

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Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Assisting Commissioners serving Lee County are shown above. Front row (l to r) Raymond Lang, John Sander (Chm) Merle Hasenclever, back row (l to r) James Hawkins, Charles Burk, Wes Weber and Herbert Blacksmith.

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The Evening Democrat

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