

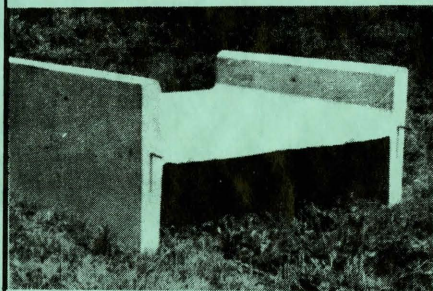


***POWESHIEK COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT***

1973

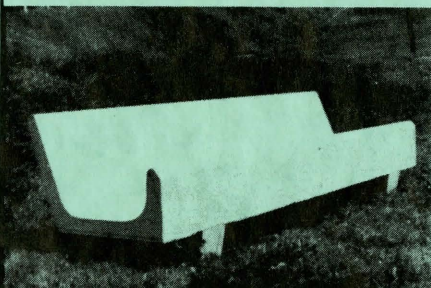
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Groups Who Assist the District

1. Soil Conservation Service
2. State Soil Conservation Committee
3. County A S C S (RECP Program)
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission
6. Federal Fish & Wildlife Service
7. State & National Assn. of District Commissioners
8. Grinnell Kiwanis Club
9. Newspapers
10. Radio & TV Stations
11. County Board of Supervisors
12. Earth Contractors
13. Vocational Agriculture
14. 4-H Clubs
15. Boy Scouts
16. Public Schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. F H A
21. Professional & Business personnell
22. Izaak Walton League
23. N F O



SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE—Andrew Conn, Jr., Conservation Technician; Charlene Mitchell, State Clerk; Virgil B. Edwards, District Conservationist.



SOIL SCIENTISTS—[L to R] Douglas Oelmann; Lorne Nestrud, Party Chief; and Elmer Harvey.



COMMISSIONERS—Seated: [L to R] Lauren Wright, Mrs. Keith (Gloria) Brannian, Commissioner and Mrs. Robert (Helen) Renaud, Assistant Commissioner. Standing: [L to R] Charles Fenner, Commissioner Miles Clayton, Chairman, Carl Boget, Commissioner and Ken Christiansen, Assistant Commissioner.

District Commissioners wish to extend a special thanks to the Area personnel for their assistance which includes: A. Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist; Marvin Parmer, Civil Engineer; Francis W. Fos, Civil Engineer Technician; Wilma D. Kimball, Area Clerk and Rodric Howarth, Watershed Inspector.

Lauren Wright, Commissioner

The farmer, more than ever before, has many keys at his disposal with which he can open doors to more successful farming. A good soil fertility program has proved to be one of the most valuable keys on the 'key ring' of any successful farmer.

Ever since the first Iowa farmer applied lime and fertilizer to a corn field, they have improved the yields year by year. Looking back 30 years, we felt if we could yield 100 bushels of corn per acre that would be a miracle. Today we are looking at 200 bushels per acre, and we are just around the corner from 225 bushels and we feel the completion will be here in our lifetime. We must realize fertilizers alone didn't turn the tide for larger yields. Improved seed varieties and herbicides along with our rich soils helped accomplish this goal.

Even with our technicology in improving our crop yields, many farmers still fail to use their soil fertility keys to unlock the doors to higher yields and greater profits.

We are disappointed in our land users in the way they care for their number one resource which is 'soil'.

If we are to continue to produce one tenth of our country's food supply, then, we should stop and inventory our way of farming and see if we are protecting the soil as well as we should.

Every land user should have a conservation plan at hand and program his farm according to the soil capability and by using top seed, herbicides and fertilizers, great profits will be at hand for years to come.

Our SCS Technicians will be very happy to assist you in developing a conservation plan. Feel free to visit your Soil Conservation District Office.

Gloria Brannian, Assistant Chairman

Down through the ages man has seldom stopped to consider himself as an integral part of his environment. Only now, in the face of waste and destruction is he beginning to realize his standard of living. He must create for himself a strong relationship with his total environment. Not until this relationship has been adopted that man will take conservation as a basic part of his land use development.

Man should have the understanding and knowledge that no matter where he lives, he is dependent upon the land and associated natural resources for adequate food, clothing and shelter, together with a policy of wise use of these resources.

Conservation is many things. It includes preservation, protection, reproduction, restoration, utilization, together with improved and sustained yield production. It involves research, cooperation and planning. In reality, conservation is good citizenship applied to the wise use of natural resources.

Helen Renaud, Assistant Commissioner

It is nice to know there are many different days recognized to remind people of the great need to keep our environment clean and not pollute. Such days are "Earth Days", "Soils Conservation Week", "Soil Stewardship Week", "Keep America Beautiful Day" and etc.

The problem of sedimentation is also a part of the overall problem of man with his environment. Soil and water erosion do affect everyone, rural and urban alike. If we studied our problem seriously we would find sedimentation has both direct and indirect effects.

The soil loosened by wind and rain and moved away presents a considerable effect on the growing of crops and effecting future crops. It will take hundreds of years to restore 1 inch of top soil. This waste will have effect on our future, whether it will be needed for crops, recreation or just natural beauty. Scientists indicate that 3.5 billion tons of good top soil leaves the land in United States each year.

It is time for all of us to be more concerned of the waste we are contributing. Whether we are short of our natural resources in these times of crisis or not, enough has happened to concern all of us of what it could be like in the future.

Charles Fenner, Commissioner

Changes in the concept of soil conservation farm plans are desirable so that the plans may take into account the social-economic factors that are so important in determining how land is used.

The appraisal of the physical situation on the farm must be matched by an appraisal of various aspects of the farm business. Then it becomes possible to determine how much of the financial responsibility for erosion control a particular farmer can be expected to assume and the point at which outside assistance is necessary.

Achievements in the field of electronic data processing and improvements in farm budgeting techniques make it possible to give serious consideration to the more detailed planning required by this proposal.

Our technicians are using all the latest techniques available to incorporate the necessary conservation practices needed to solve the erosion problems at hand.

Where there is a choice of practices the most economical one is always suggested. For free guidance visit your District Office and consult your Soil Conservation Technicians.

Miles Clayton, Chairman

Most people agree that conservation of soil and water is necessary. They want to continue to eat well and to have raw materials for industry. They agree that conservation of our basic resources is as important to the city man as to the farmer because soil and water provide both city and

country people with the necessities and many of the luxuries of life.

Most people recognize that soil conservation offers the only practical means of increasing population. In 1930, the United States had 3.4 acres of cropland per person. By 1947 acres of cropland per person had dropped to 2.8 acres. Our population is still increasing, while the amount of good land is decreasing. There will be less land today without an adequate conservation program. We may soon find that we do not have enough land to support us at our present standard of living.

There are many endeavors that we are concerned about in Poweshiek County. We have had tremendous support from the Federal Government the past few years. Diamond Lake Watershed, which was started 14 years ago, will have over one hundred thousand dollars that was spent on the watershed alone. The past ten years over a million dollars has been allocated to the county for conservation cost-share. Even though REAP money was held up for 1973, which we will be spending in '74, they are monies which are very helpful in supporting conservation practices.

We are very fortunate to receive \$16,600 which was appropriated by the State Legislature in 1973 for Conservation Cost Share. The District Commissioners have the authority to administer this money to our farmers. We are continuing to search for better ways in motivating our farmers. We are continuing to search for better ways in motivating our people to do a better job in protecting our resources. For the first time in 1974 we have a system that will cost share 75% to the farmer for most major conservation practices. If support like this keeps coming our way, we feel that our people will strive to apply conservation to their land for a more profitable income.

Carl Boget, Commissioner

Every living thing needs soil and water to survive. When you have been out working very hard and begin to get that thirsty feeling and that gnawing hunger pain, with nothing available to satisfy either, you get the idea of how dependent we are on water and food and how satisfying it is to live in the land of plenty.

Since civilization came into being, people have more or less cultivated the earth for their food supply and as the people population grew, more land was needed to furnish supplies.

Our modern techniques have helped to supply an abundance of food on less acres of land. Secretary of Agriculture, Earl E. Butz, stated "Farmers are asked to increase food production in 1974, which will bring more land into production. By bringing more land into production there will be lands that should stay into grass, taking out for crops."

Our technicians are available to assist farmers in applying conservation practices to prevent access soil erosion. You are asked to contact your SCS technicians for help.

Ken Christiansen, Assistant Commissioner

Iowa has about one fourth of all the prime agricultural land in the United States. As a result of this, the soil of our state is one of this nation's most precious resources and must be guarded carefully. In addition to this, water pollution deriving from agriculture is by-product of erosion. Herbicides, insecticides and fertilizer are useful to the farmer if they stay on the land but can pose a serious problem if they get into lakes and streams. Since all these chemicals tend to adhere to soil particles, they rarely are carried off the land except as by-product of soil erosion.

For all these reasons soil erosion remains Iowa's number one environmental problem. A recent study has estimated that about a million acres of Iowa soils with a slope of 4% or more is in danger of losing much of its fertility in the next 30 years due to erosion. In addition, another 5-6 million acres are losing soil at rates well above 10 tons per acre per year. Proper conservation practices can reduce this amazingly. In one extensive study in western Iowa, done in 1972, it was found that erosion losses could be reduced from an average of 30 tons per acre of unimproved land to less than one ton per year on either grass covered or terraced watershed.

Extension Service

The Extension Service is the educational arm of Iowa State University. Its purpose is to bring the results of studies and research conducted at Iowa State University to the people in the county. The assistance of the Extension Service is available to all the people of the county, both rural and urban; without regard to race, color or religion.

The cooperative Extension Service is set up so that Iowa State University at Ames and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperate in the educational endeavor.

The educational program has been modernized to include work with the low income groups. Keith Vincent is the present representative in the Expanded Nutrition Program. His work is in Jasper and Poweshiek Counties. He works in the area of better diets and counseling.

The County Extension Council, made up of one representative elected from each township and the city of Grinnell, together with the committees on agricultural production, home economics, 4-H, community development, and public affairs, plan a yearly program to suit the educational needs of the people of the county.

The Extension Director, Charles Wengert, Home Economist, Kathryn Wemer, and 4-H and Youth Leader, David Wagner, have had training at Iowa State University and are approved and recommended for positions in the counties by the State Extension Staff. With the help of specialists and supervisors from this staff, they are responsible for the planning and execution of the county program.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

The Poweshiek County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers the farm programs in the county.

ASCS is unique in that locally elected committeemen determine the policy for administration of public funds.

All provisions of the various programs are carried out by regularly employed personnel who administer the program policies established by the elected committeemen.

Processing of Price Support Loans, administering the Feed Grain program, providing loans for on-farm storage and dryers, providing measurement for farmers participating in farm programs and Rural Environmental Conservation Program are part of the programs for which ASCS has responsibility.

The Poweshiek County ASC Committee consists of Melvin Kasal, chairman, Evan Johnston, vice chairman, and Lloyd McBride, regular member.



ASCS PERSONNEL—Front Row: [L to R] Mary Van Gorp - Price Support and Frances Schiesselman, Administrative and RECP. Second Row: [L to R] Roger Johannes - Production Adjustment. Gordon Braley - County Executive Director.

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District Conservationist Viewpoints

Basic to continued social, economic and personal development in all areas of human endeavor is recognition and acceptance by each citizen of his responsibility for rational use and proper care of the entire natural physical environment.

Personal commitment for intelligent use and management of natural resources depends on an appreciation of man's interdependence with his environment and understanding of realistic principles of natural resource use. Such appreciation and understanding usually is taught at a very young age.

When we travel around this county and see so many abuses the land is getting, sometimes it makes us wonder. With all the confusion that went on in 1973, we are happy to discuss the progress that was made here in Poweshiek County.

We are happy to announce that we are on the last leg in completing the Diamond Lake Watershed project.

We were quite busy all year in helping many different industrial organizations in solving erosion problems. Even though we didn't have Federal Funds to help solve erosion problems, farmers continue to work on their own. We were very happy to receive State Cost Share Funds in July to continue the great task of protecting our resources.

A tremendous increase in the use of conservation tillage occurred in 1973. New tillage machines seem to be very popular in Poweshiek County. The new tile outlet terraces are catching on also.

We received several requests from Industrial organizations. We worked with city and industrial development as a cooperative effort to solve erosion problems.

Our educational effort was highly accepted by our school system. We had conservation tours for our administrators, for which we had a very good turnout. In turn we were able to get more children available for conservation tours.

We would like to thank P A C E for their great support in our educational effort.

Conservation Technician Comments

By Andrew Conn, Technician

With the passage of the Soil Conservancy Bill by the State Legislature and was funded in July 1973, it is quite understandable that the money would be used to cost share for the major conservation practices.

We feel there is only one conservation practice that can be put on the

field with intensified cropping and keep the soil loss less than one ton per acre. We call them tile out seeded back terraces.

Soil types, depth and percent of slope are the key to terrace layout and operation.

We know the soil is the most important factor in any farming operation. Almost any soil can be terraced but not recommended, due to type and percent slope. Each soil has its limitations.

Any terrace system that is installed of this type must satisfy three major requirements:

1. The system must accomplish erosion control. Sediment trap efficiently of a tile intake is 99 percent resulting in soil losses as low as 0.1 to 0.65 tons per acre per year.
2. The system must be highly farmable. All terraces are staked parallel and spaced to match 4-6-8 row equipment. The row pattern for the entire piece of land is of prime importance.
3. The system must improve with time. The process of topography improvement incorporated into the design of each system allows for planned soil movement leading to eventual flattening or 'benching' and a sharp reduction in slope.

Gain More in '74 and Sell Through N.F.O.



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**POWESHIEK COUNTY
NATIONAL FARMERS ORGANIZATION**

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- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
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| 2. Anthony Kriegel | 26. W.C. Mollison |
| 3. Maynard McClain | 27. Grinnell Reinsurance |
| 4. Maynard McClain | 28. John Pfitsch |
| 5. Maynard McClain | 29. Very Henry |
| 6. Lyle Johnson | 30. Margaret Clark |
| 7. Laverne Loftin | 31. Robert B. Kline |
| 8. Charles Wacha | 32. Marvin Cummings |
| 9. Gerald Grosenbach | 33. Robert Wagner |
| 10. A.H. Tindle | 34. Farmhand Manufacturing |
| 11. Roger Gritsch | 35. Wenco Manufacturing |
| 12. John Rens | 36. Glen Thompson |
| 13. Nora Gordon | 37. L. Thompson |
| 14. Max Ryan | 38. Robintech Inc. |
| 15. Henry DeBondt | 39. Stadiums Unlimited |
| 16. Conrad DeBondt | 40. Roger Roland |
| 17. Donna Winburn | 41. James Arendt |
| 18. Sheldon Figland | 42. Jerry Renbarger |
| 19. Dennis Taylor | 43. Larry Phipps |
| 20. Dan Dawley | 44. Rae Van Roekle |
| 21. Lyle and Larry Sanders | 45. R.C. Seeland |
| 22. Clarence Van Wyk | 46. Walter Oltrogee |
| 23. Clarence Van Zee | 47. Thomas Byers |
| 24. Poweshiek County Landfill | |

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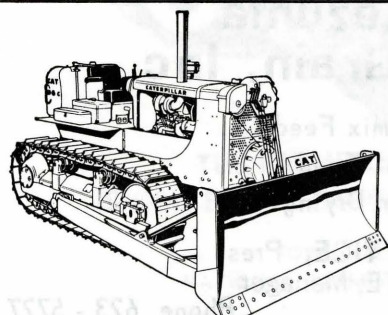
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Accomplishment Summary for 1973

	NO	UNIT OF MEASURE
New District Cooperators	47	5,387 Ac.
Basic Conservation Plans	34	5,517 Ac.
Group Plans Prepared	7	
Contour Farming		25 Ac.
Strip Cropping		345 Ac.
Grassed Waterway		17 Ac.
Wildlife Habitat Development		182 Ac.
Ponds Built	1	
Terrace & Diversions		6,080 L.Ft.
Gully Control Structures	1	
Water Control St. (for tile outlet terrace)	19	
Tile Drains		879,918 L.Ft.
Minimum Tillage		59,699 Ac.
Tree Planting		10 Ac.
Technical Assistance to Land Owners	296	
Technical Services to Land Owners	665	
Referrals Serviced	48	



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Basic Conservation Plans for 1973

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| 2. Don Schuldt | 20. Ava Klinzman |
| 3. Henry Bru | 21. Clarence Van Wyk |
| 4. Russell Talbert | 22. Jerry Dawley |
| 5. Eugene Mann | 23. Frank Herbrandt |
| 6. John Jordan | 24. Wilmer Smith |
| 7. Poweshiek County Boy Scouts | 25. Grinnell Reinsurance |
| 8. W.C. Mollison | 26. Anthony Kriegel |
| 9. Bernard Hotchkin | 27. B.O. Combs |
| 10. W.C. Mollison | 28. Russell McVay |
| 11. Stewart Bucheneau | 29. County Conservation Board |
| 12. John Haggerty | 30. Carl Orr |
| 13. Bertram Combs | 31. Carl Orr |
| 14. Gordon Haworth | 32. Edward Nikkel |
| 15. Roger Jeffrey | 33. Richard Van Dorn |
| 16. Lavanche Kahler | 34. Poweshiek County Landfill |
| 17. Vernon Newport | |
| 18. Earl DeBruyn | |

Revised Conservation Plans for 1973

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Elmer Iverson | 5. Donald Peterson |
| 2. Henry Bru | 6. W.C. Mollison |
| 3. R.W. Gropper | 7. Janet Wilkins |
| 4. Donald Peterson | |

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1957 - Arthur Bloome, Janet Wilkins, Calvin Korn, Paul DeJong

1958 - Lawrence Wallis, Forrest Read, Keith Davis, Gilbert Phipps

1959 - Alvin and Don Schuldt, Louis Newkirk, Paul Hudnutt

1960 - Waldo and Harold McLennathan, Bebedict Peterson, Milferd Neuhaus, Elmer Urfer

1961 - James Van Arkle, Mrs. Harold Evans, Vern Brooke, George Morrison

1962 - *David Anthony, Louis Newkirk, Edward Henry, Philip C. Eichhorn

1963 - *Ed Lowe, *Roger Sampson, Bryon Goldwaite, Marvin Montgomery, George Houser

1964 - *Melvin Price, Julia Vogt, Wesley Meyers, Lauren Wright

1965 - Arlo Taylor, Henry Rolffs, Elizabeth Revyuk Estate, Frank and Madaleine Herbrandt

1966 - Eugene Merck, *Philip Lamb, *Charles DePauw, Arnout Dunnick

1967 - Marion Palmer, E.L. York Estate, Earl Heishman, Charles Fenner

1968 - Ralph Phillips, *Richard Seeland, *Charles Fenner, Donald Brau

1969 - Patricia Waterbury, Leonard Thys, Sylvan VeVerka, Raymond Cadden

1970 - *Clarence Van Wyk, C.R. McLain, Howard Johnston, Raymond Gregory, John Thompson

1971 - Richard Widmer, George Morrison

1972 - Robert Renaud, Dorothy and Royce Renaud, Arnout Dunnick

1973 - Farrell Seihl

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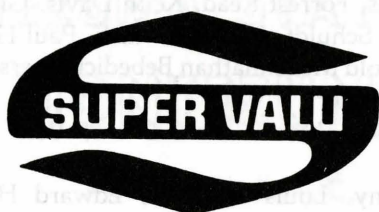
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Expenditure of Funds Provided by The State of Iowa 1972 - 1973 Fiscal Year

I-M BUDGET

\$700.00

Additional L-M Budget

\$200.00

Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	\$425.26
Office Expense	213.66
Office Supplies	120.01
Meeting Expense	141.07

Total 900.00

0

II-M BUDGET

\$7,089.00

Gross Earnings (Clerk & Technician)	\$6,218.78
State Retirement	217.18
Federal	347.09
Health	144.00
Clerks Travel	90.26
Equipment	35.00
Life Insurance	36.69

Total 7,089.00

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SPRING BLIZZARD: Will be remembered for many years. 1973 spring blizzard April 9th, 4 days later shows some of the results. In picture above shows Carl Bogart, commissioner and farmer; and Andrew Conn, Jr. Technician; looking over grain bin from a snow drift. The snow drift was estimated to be over 10 feet tall.

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Wildlife in Poweshiek County

Poweshiek County has been endowed with some fine wildlife areas. In certain areas in the county, especially in the southwest part, fine timber stands abound with white-tailed deer, furbearers and upland game. These areas are important to all of us for their wildlife, timber, and scenic values. We should be concerned about maintaining these wild areas and managing them wisely for the benefit of future generations.

At the same time, however, there are many areas in Poweshiek County that are lacking some of these good cover types. So what can we do about dwindling wildlife populations? To start with, creating better living conditions for wildlife does not mean doing a lot of extra or "peculiar" things that will make your farm look different from your neighbor's land across the fence.

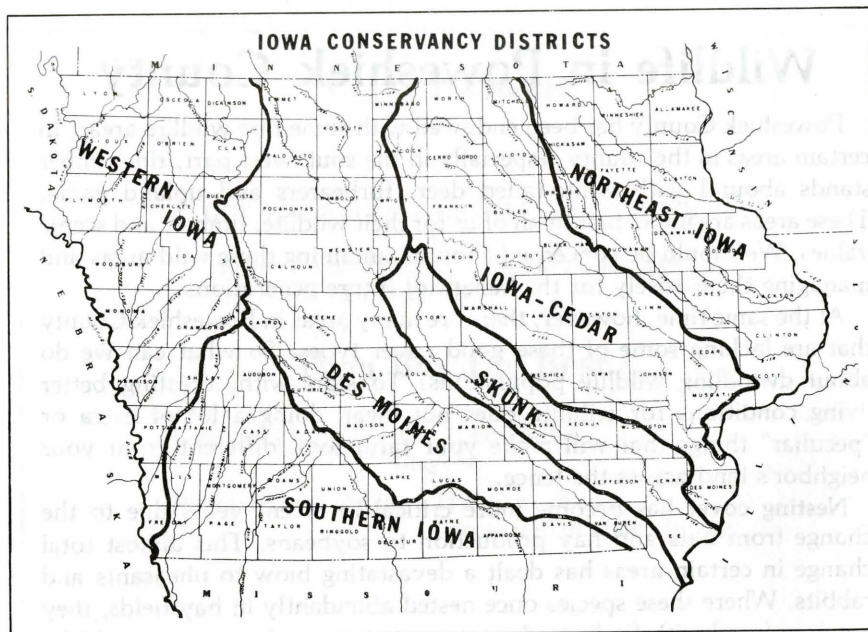
Nesting cover has become more critical in recent years due to the change from oats and hay production to soybeans. This almost total change in certain areas has dealt a devastating blow to pheasants and rabbits. Where these species once nested abundantly in hay fields, they are now faced with finding adequate nesting cover in narrow roadsides or along ditches. This situation will become even more critical in 1974 because there will be no "set-aside" program. These "retired" acres have provided nesting cover for the past several years and will be sorely missed by pheasants and other wildlife.

By planting at least part of his cropland to oats this year, a farmer will be able to offset in part the loss of the retired acres and help provide some nesting areas. Even though oats is not as desirable as alfalfa-bromeagrass for nesting, it is used by pheasants and can become very important if no other type of nesting cover is available.

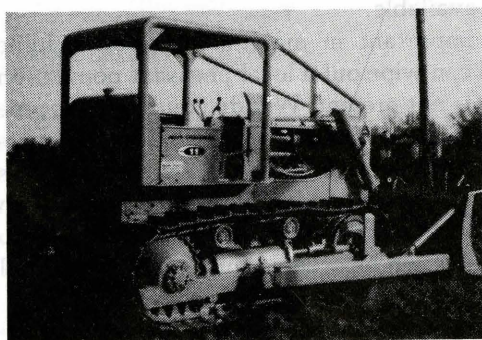
Winter cover is also very important in maintaining good wildlife populations. An Iowa blizzard can wipe out a local pheasant population in a few days if adequate cover is not present. Woody cover such as pine trees, shrubs, or hardwood trees are a necessity for bringing pheasants through a bad snowstorm. These areas can be provided by planting trees and shrubs in odd corners, around ponds, along ditchbanks, in farmstead windbreaks, and in other places where it is not economical to farm. These tree and shrub species can be ordered through the local Soil Conservation District office or by writing to me.

In most cases these simple suggestions I have mentioned can be followed on any Iowa farm without interfering with the farming operation. If you have any desire to improve the environment on your farm for wildlife, contact me directly at 203 West High Street, Toledo, Iowa or through the Soil Conservation District office.

Bob Kurtt
Wildlife Biologist



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Poweshiek County Forestry Program 1973

In March of 1973, former District Forester Roy Hatcher assumed the duties of Protection/Utilization Forester for the State of Iowa. This job includes the "Smokey Bear" program, tree insect and disease protection, timber utilization, and it includes the Excess Federal Property Program which makes excess military vehicles available to rural fire departments. Three such vehicles, including Jeeps and 2-1/2 ton trucks, are presently in Poweshiek County towns.

The spring of 1973 saw 9,250 State Forest Nursery seedlings delivered for planting throughout Poweshiek County. The most frequently planted species were the wildlife shrubs and wildlife packets. The second landowner preference was for evergreens for general aesthetics with a possibility of some Christmas tree harvest. A small amount of black walnut was planted for future lumber or veneer production. Least often planted trees included the native oaks.

Forestry can show strong economic returns. Net return per acre per year for black walnut can exceed \$200 per year, though requiring 50 to 70 years to realize. Planting Christmas trees at a rate of 1200 per acre and harvesting 200 per year at \$5 each will show a gross return of \$1,000 per acre per year. (Harvesting 200 per year would be a 6 year growing cycle with 1200 trees.) Costs to deduct from this gross figure would include planting costs, labor for mowing, weeding, spraying, shearing, advertising and labor for the time involved in selling the trees.

Good timber management begins with the exclusion of livestock. Livestock tramples seedlings, compact the soil, and destroy tree feeder roots (90% of a tree's feeder roots are located within the top 12" of soil.) Soil compaction and root destruction will reduce tree growth rate by three-fourths, also subjecting the tree to an increase in insect and disease problems. Compaction is evidenced by "mounds" of soil at the base of the tree—the ground slopes abnormally down and away from the tree. It is also in evidence where you see exposed roots. These exposed roots, primarily at the base of the tree, provide entry points for wood-chewing insects. For this reason, pastured trees are more apt to be hollow than are non-pastured trees.

Following livestock exclusion, good timber management includes work on timber stand improvement and harvest. Weed trees, crowded trees and deformed trees should be removed to allow healthier trees to grow. And trees should be harvested when they are mature to make use of a renewable resource.

Assistance in timber management can be obtained by contacting any of your local Government Offices, or by writing direct to the District Forester, Iowa Conservation Commission.

Bob Hibbs
District Forester

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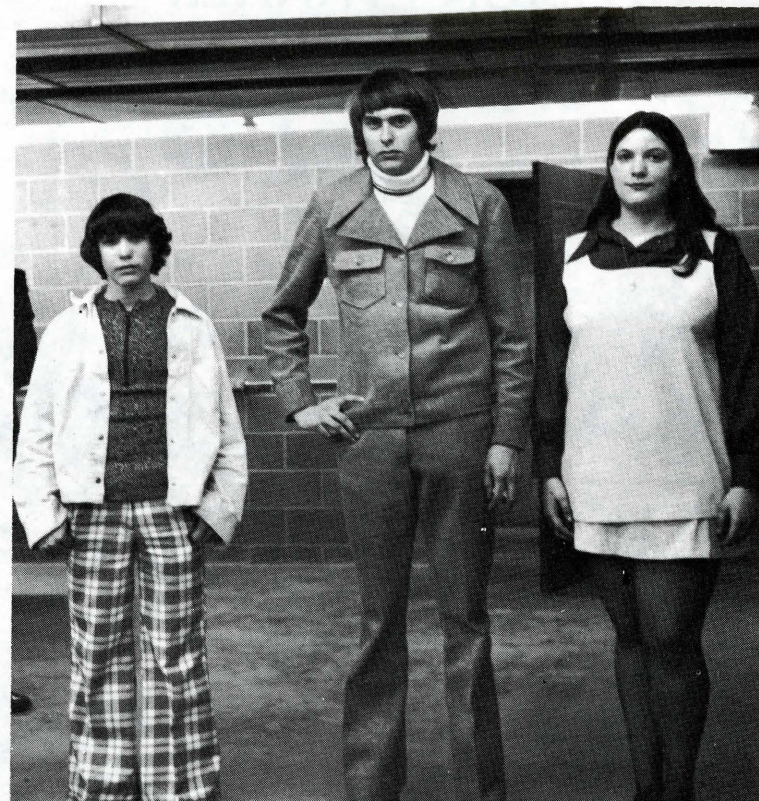
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The 1973 winners of the Conservation Speech contest were Doug Brouwer of Montezuma, Randall Peterson of Montezuma and Ruth Davis of Malcom. Miss Davis represented Poweshiek County at the Regional Contest.

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DIVISION 1 WINNER



Division 1 Winner [Owner-Operator] Class in the County Conservation Achievement Awards Contest is the Farrel Siehl Family of Rural Grinnell. Shown are Mr. and Mrs. Siehl.

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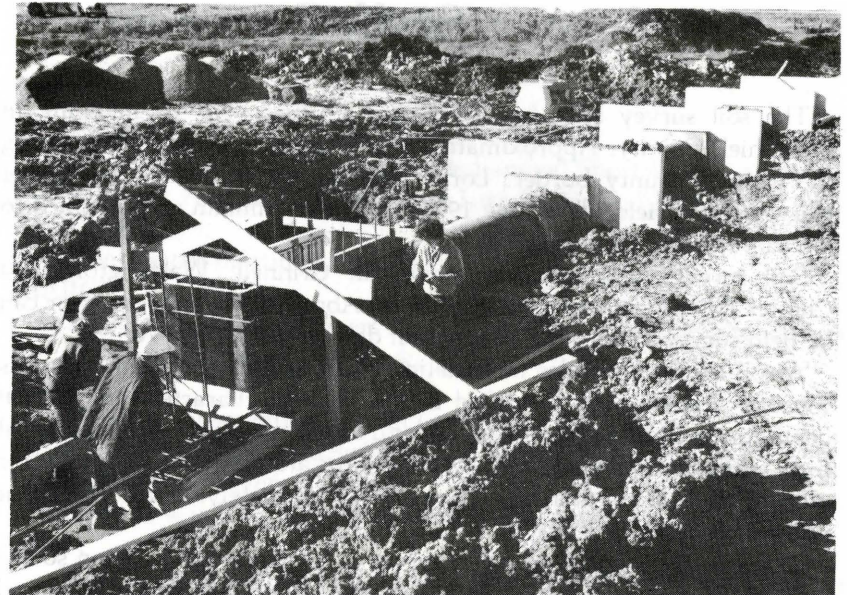
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Diamond Lake Watershed structure C-14 shows Bob Owens Construction Company from Newton, Iowa, setting 140 feet of 36" reinforcement concrete pressure pipe diagram which will be used to connect a 3 x 9 drop inlet box to discharge overflow water. Upon completion of structure there will be 24,028 cubic yards of dirt moved which will impound 8 acres of water. Structure is built to keep sediment out of Diamond Lake.

Soil Survey Staff Comments

The soil survey staff has completed its first year of mapping in Poweshiek County. Approximately 35,000 acres were completed along the western county border. Lorne Nestrud, Party Leader and Elmer Harvey began field work June 1973. Douglas Oelmann was assigned to the survey crew January 1974.

Soil surveys will continue mainly in Grinnell, Washington, and Chester Townships the first half of 1974. About 100,000 acres a year can be field surveyed with the completion date set for July 1976.

A soil survey provides information as to where each kind of soil is located. The soils are identified in the field by characteristics such as depth, texture (amounts of clay, silt and clay), color and parent material from which the soil is formed. Aerial photos are used as a base map for plotting the soil boundaries. There are approximately 40 soil types that occur in Poweshiek County.

The primary purpose of a soil survey is to obtain information so the land can be used according to its capabilities. Each soil type can be placed into one of 8 broad capability classes based on their limitations, risk of damage, and the way they respond to treatment. When a conservation plan is assembled for a particular farm, soils information and recommendations for conservation practices are included in the planning package. Other uses of soil survey information include wildlife management, land evaluation, engineering properties, woodland management and recreation.

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District Highlights for 1973

JANUARY:

Commissioners and Clerk attended annual Short Course at Ames.
Contract Awarded for Diamond Lake Watershed Project.

FEBRUARY:

Contractors meeting was held.

MARCH:

Region VII Commissioners meeting at Colony Village attended by the Commissioners and Clerk.

APRIL:

County Conservation Speech Contest at SCS Office.
Outdoor Classroom developed at Grinnell High School.
2500 Annual Reports mailed.
Election was held for two new commissioners.

MAY:

Carl Boget & Lauren Wright were sworn in as new commissioners for 6 year term.
Standard Soil Survey started.

JUNE:

Held Conservation Achievement Award tour to pick Conservation Award Farm.
Farrell Siehl was winner of Conservation Achievement Award, Division 1 for Poweshiek County.
Teachers Conservation Camp held at Cedar Falls with Mrs. Harriet McKee designated as our teacher representative.

JULY:

Regional Speech Contest held at Amana Colony with Ruth Davis representing Poweshiek County.
County Supervisors meet with commissioners.

AUGUST:

Cost Share Program implemented \$16,600.00
Long Range Program was approved for the district.
Report on Teachers Conservation Camp.

SEPTEMBER:

Commissioners & Clerk attended Commissioners Conference at Des Moines.
Teachers toured Watershed site.
Kiwanis Award Dinner.
Lavonne Byers Vos, state clerk transferred to Polk County.
Charlene Mitchell took over the duties of State Clerk for Poweshiek County.

OCTOBER:

New Cooperators and Conservation Plans approved.
Report from State Conference at Des Moines.

NOVEMBER:

Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist and Dick Wilcox, Research Conservationist attended commissioners meeting to discuss cost-sharing.

DECEMBER:

Christmas Party at Dickey's Prairie Home Restaurant #1, Malcom.
Soil Scientist attended commissioners meeting.



KRUSMAN IMPT.

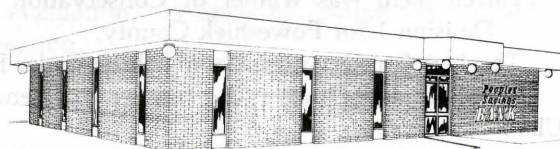
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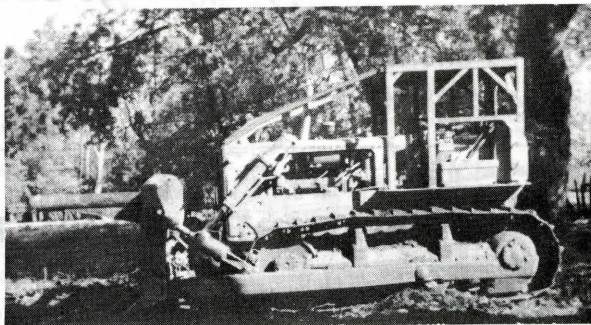
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