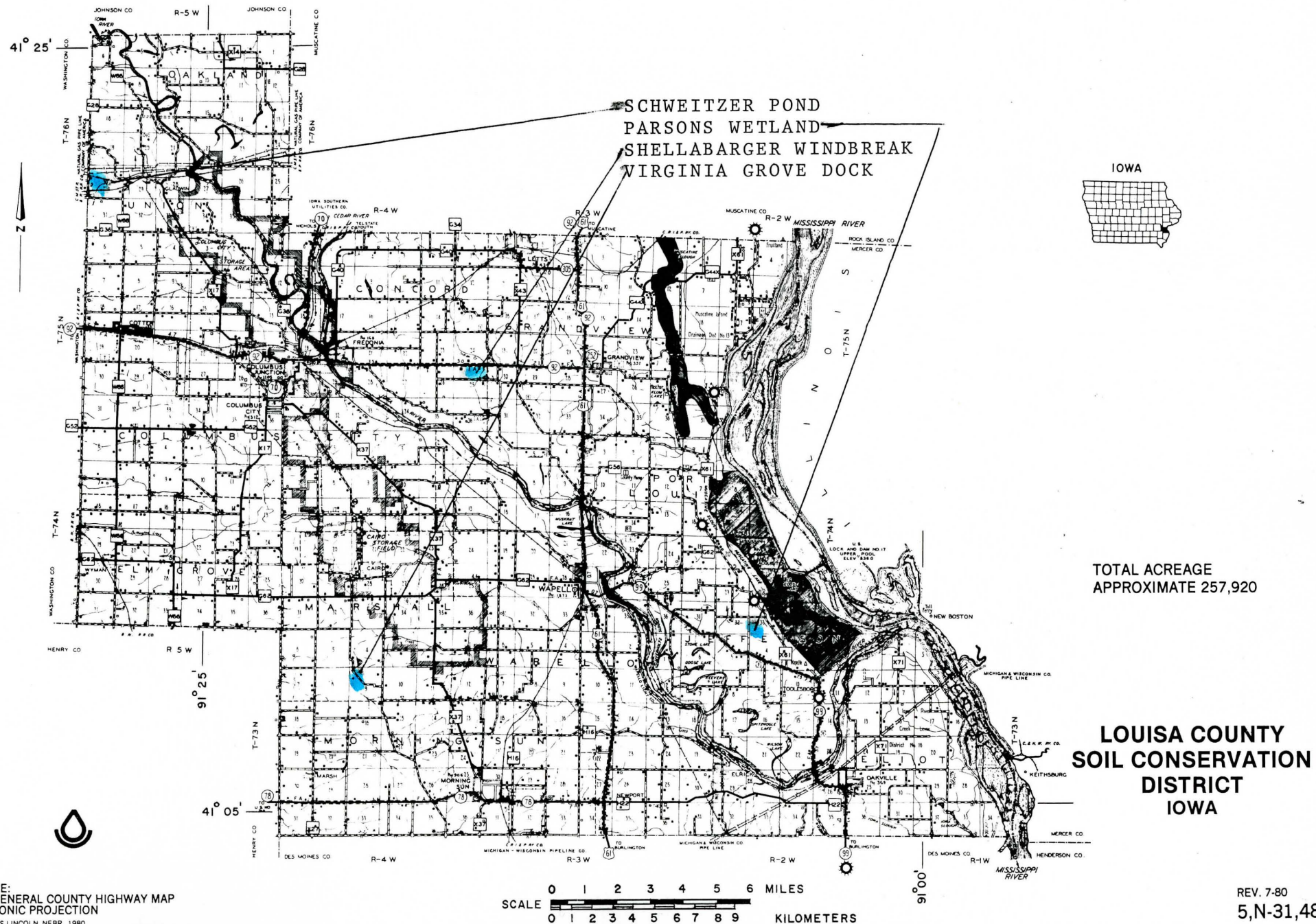


LOUISA COUNTY WELCOMES YOU !

Once again Louisa County has had an eventful year. New projects, new people, and new challenges. We have tried to show them to you with this booklet. As an office we look forward to all types of diversity each and everyday we open our office doors. We have been challenged and are confident we have met that challenge.



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Iowa

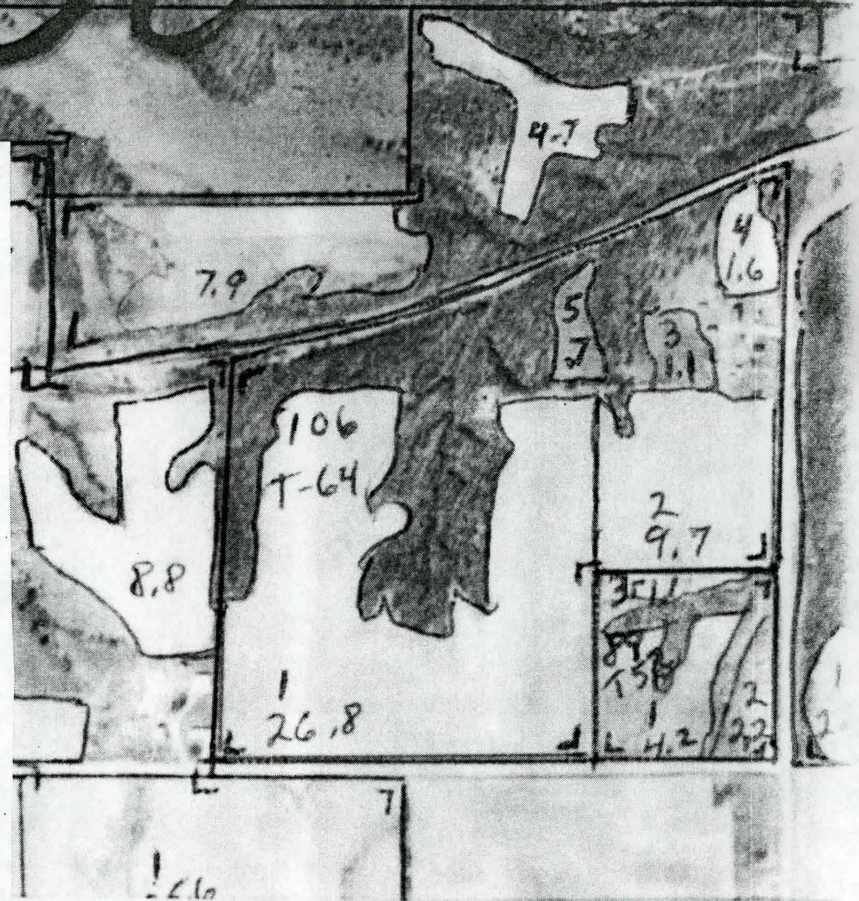
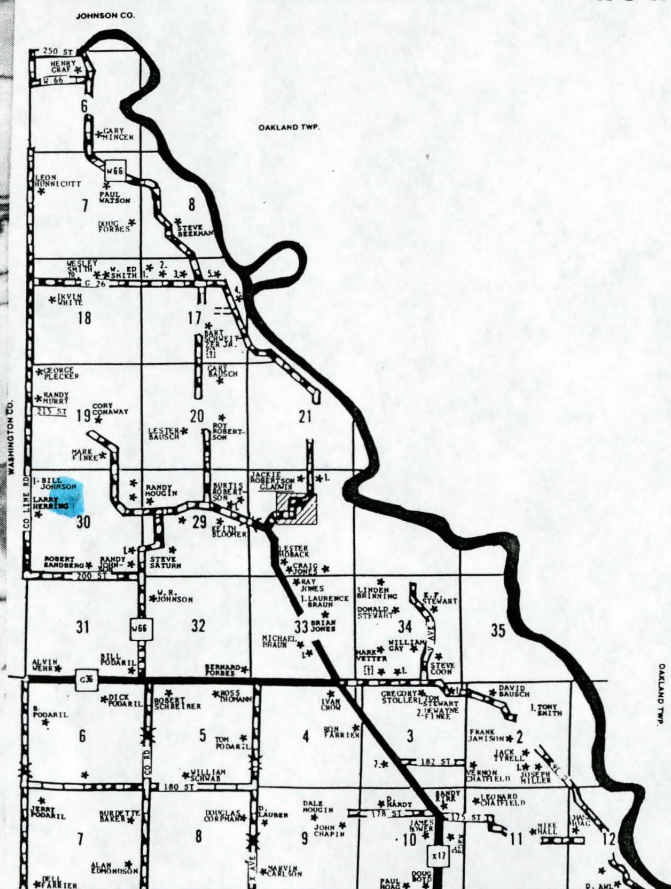


WINDBREAKS FOR ALL SEASONS AND ALL REASONS

Windbreaks have traditionally been used to protect soil, plants, animals, and people from adverse winds. The term is almost interchangeable with shelterbelt. NRCS considers a windbreak/shelterbelt to be a linear planting of trees or shrubs established for environmental purposes. The purpose for establishing a windbreak include a variety of reasons for different people. This past spring NRCS helped a landowner design this windbreak for his farmstead. An added incentive was REAP dollars were used to defray some of the cost.

Landowners recognize the value of a farmstead windbreak. Some of the benefits can be easily translated into dollars such as a 10 to 30 percent reduction in energy costs, increased property values, reduced snow removal, lower feed costs for livestock, and less physical wind damage to buildings. Other benefits are what we traditionally think of including: reduction in wind erosion, protecting growing plants, providing wildlife habitat, providing a tree or shrub, providing living screens, and improving aesthetics overall. If you think this is something you might be interested in, contact the office and we can take a look at your project.





DUISA CO.

A-2

SCHWEITZER POND

This site was a perfect place for a pond. It is bordered by crp and is abundant with hardwood trees. In addition to the wonderful aesthetics that are provided by the structure, it is doing an excellent job of controlling classic gully erosion and sediment retention. The site is a wonderful recreation area as the fish are added and the wildlife discover it. It would in the future, serve as a wonderful home building site as well.





T-73-74-N

R-2-3-W

3
195.3
NHSL

4.3 NHSL

5
8.1 NHSL

1942
T-1075

2
1.6
NHSL

7
27.0 NHSL

T-1642
T-1113

12
38.4
NHSL

509
T-1122

454
T-1074

3
35.2 NHSL

NOT TO SCALE (1990 FLIGHT) LOUISA COUNTY - CROP YEAR

M-10

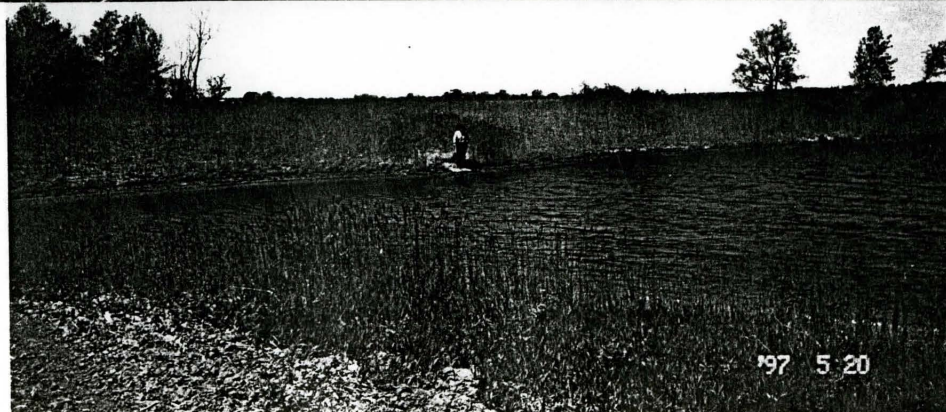
Jefferson

What is a Wetland?

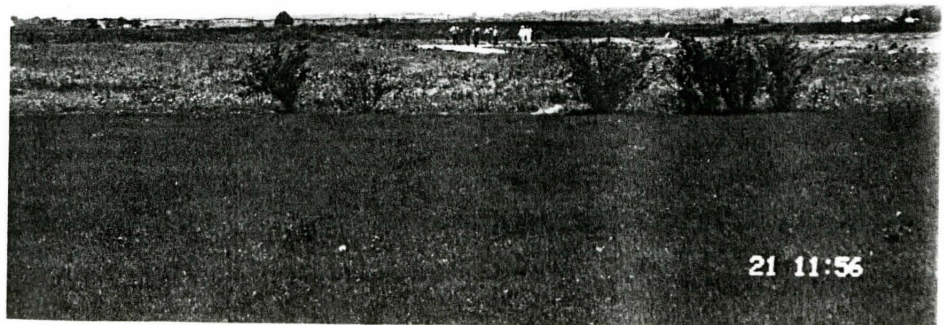
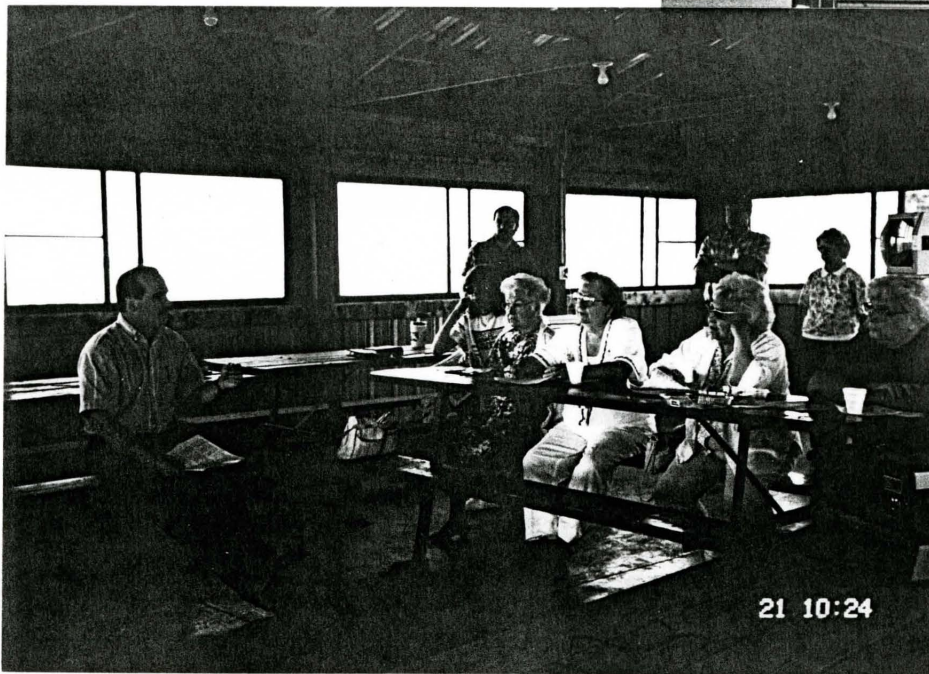
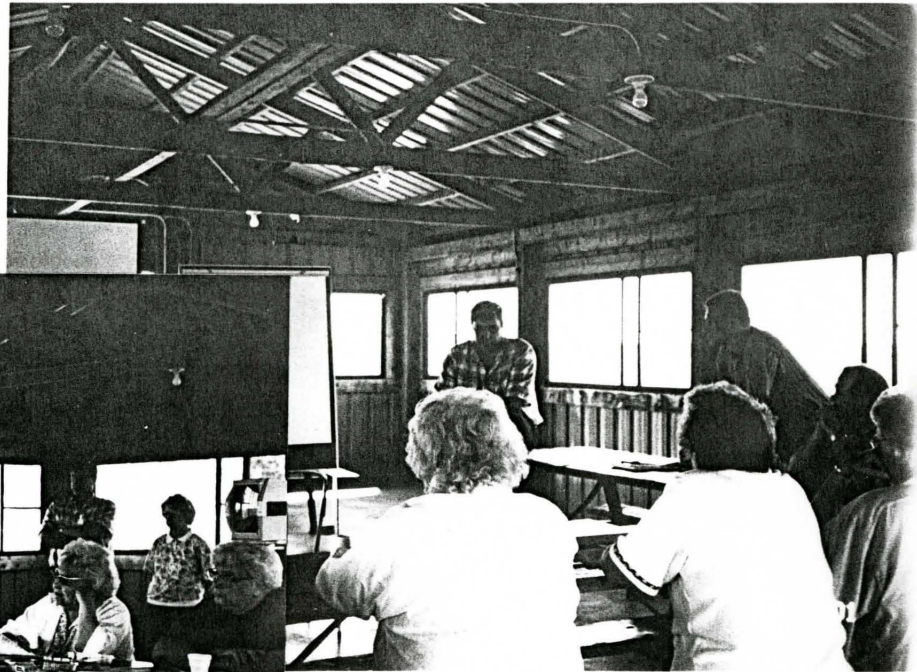
According to Webster's Dictionary, a wetland is land or areas containing much soil moisture.

In late summer of 1996 this wetland was constructed on a Louisa County farm by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The purpose of the structure is two fold. It helped reduce soil loss and at the same time brought aesthetic benefits to the area. When we reported it for our recordkeeping, we reported that it benefitted 8 acres and reduced soil loss from 18 tons down to 2 tons after construction. But to some of us a wetland has added benefits. Those include: improved water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding of streams and rivers, supply critical wildlife habitat, and furnish educational, scientific, recreational, and aesthetic benefits for people.

If this is something you might like to add to your farm or acreage, contact our office and we'll take a look and see if it is a viable project. There are financial incentives for a project such as this and personal rewards for years to come. Maybe someday the definition in Webster's will include the benefits and enjoyment a wetland can produce.



On June 18, 1997 Louisa County NRCS held the first Wetland Informational Meeting aimed towards Women. Topics covered included, What Makes a Wetland, Benefits of a Wetland, WRP Program, and the possibility of funding from FWS. Speakers came from DNR, The Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS Area Office, Wetland Restoration Specialists, and field office personnel. The meeting was held at the city park in Wapello, where wetlands were constructed as part of the city's waste treatment plan. A tour was taken of the area to explain the function and benefits of the wetland cells. Plant ID was an added bonus to the tour. A lunch concluded the meeting. Brats were served along with lots of good information and company. Hopefully, this will be an annual event.

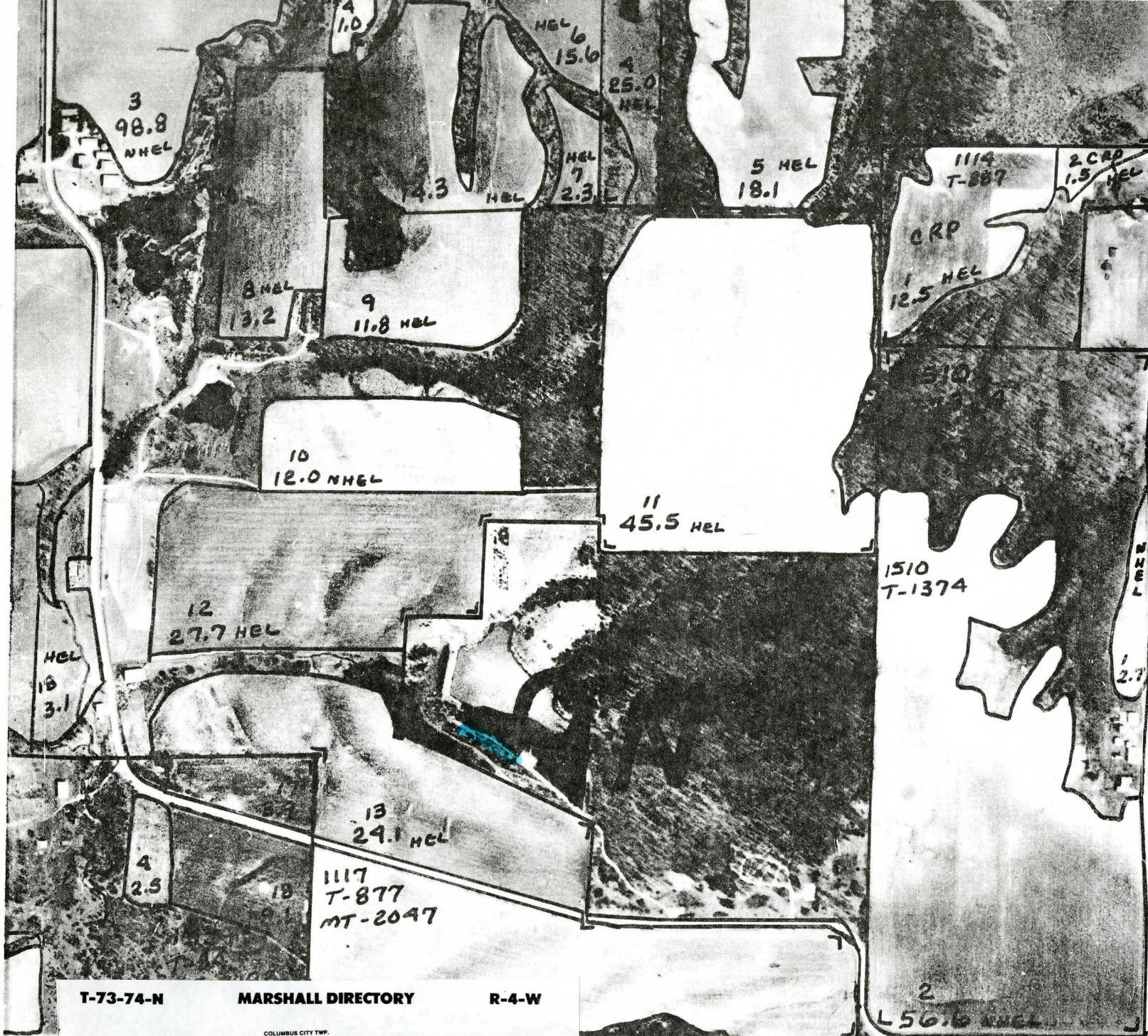


ONLY ONCE EVERY 17 YEARS

Recently most of us heard about or had some first hand encounters with the 17 year cicadas. The 17 year cicada spends most of its life span underground. Cicadas measure about one and a half inches long, have iridescent wings and somewhat bulging red-orange eyes. Cicadas are defenseless. They do not bite or sting. Cicadas are usually found on vegetation, particularly on trees. The female cicada lays her eggs on tree limbs. Once the eggs hatch, they fall to the ground and the baby cicada burrow into the ground where they stay for seventeen years. There they suck the sap of the tree roots for nourishment. The cicada can count annual cycles, and when seventeen years have passed, they burrow back out to the surface. The loud "metallic whining sound" is transmitted by the male cicada to attract female cicada. This sound can be heard a quarter of a mile away. The female cicada can lay anywhere between 500 and 1,000 eggs. These hatch within a few weeks. The cicadas die two weeks after they emerge from the ground. Therefore, they must mate and produce offspring within their two-week life above ground.

Pictured here are the 17 year cicadas. They were brought to us by Bill Ohde, Wildlife Biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



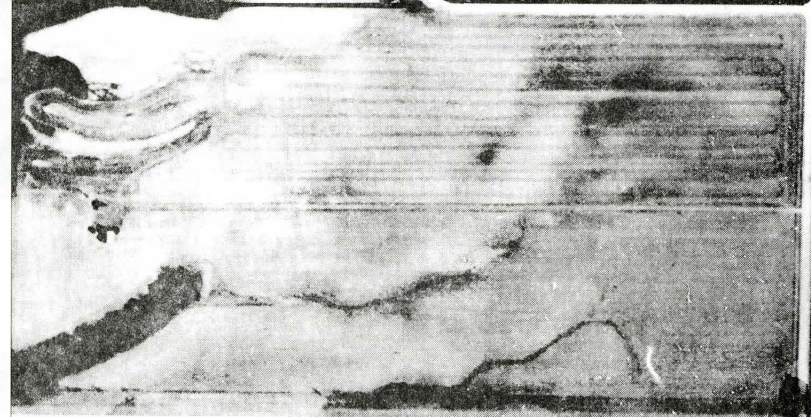
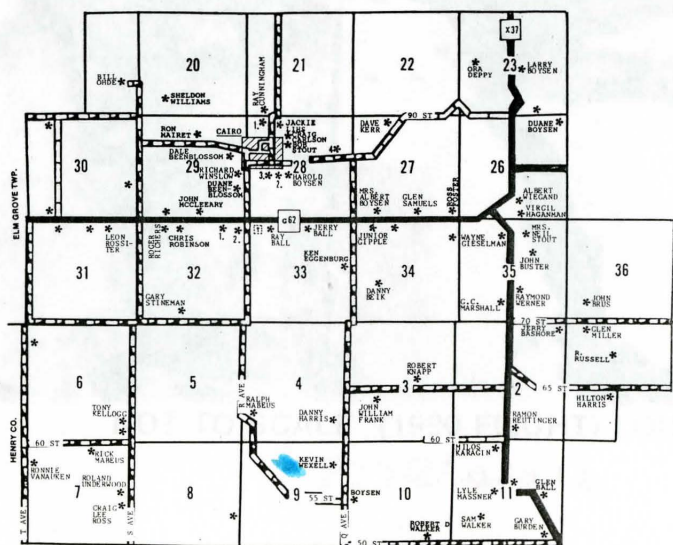


T-73-74-N

MARSHALL DIRECTORY

R-4-W

COLUMBUS CITY TWP.



COUNTY - CROP YEAR

F-10

DOCK FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED CONSTRUCTED

A dock was recently constructed at county park Virginia Grove. The park is located about 8 miles west of Wapello. The park had a pond for years that was somewhat unaccessible and this structure was needed badly. NRCS staff did the survey work for the project and assisted as needed. The finished project is quite lovely and ready for public use.





WHAT? COMMISSIONERS
DON'T GET COST SHARE
FIRST?

WHAT, MORE RECONS!!!



PAY RAISES
FOR EVERYONE!!

OH MY GOODNESS!!!!
NRCS DESIGNED THIS???



I'M DOING MORE
UNNECESSARY WORK,
WITH LESS PLANNING,
LESS INTELLIGENCE,
AND LESS GUILT.

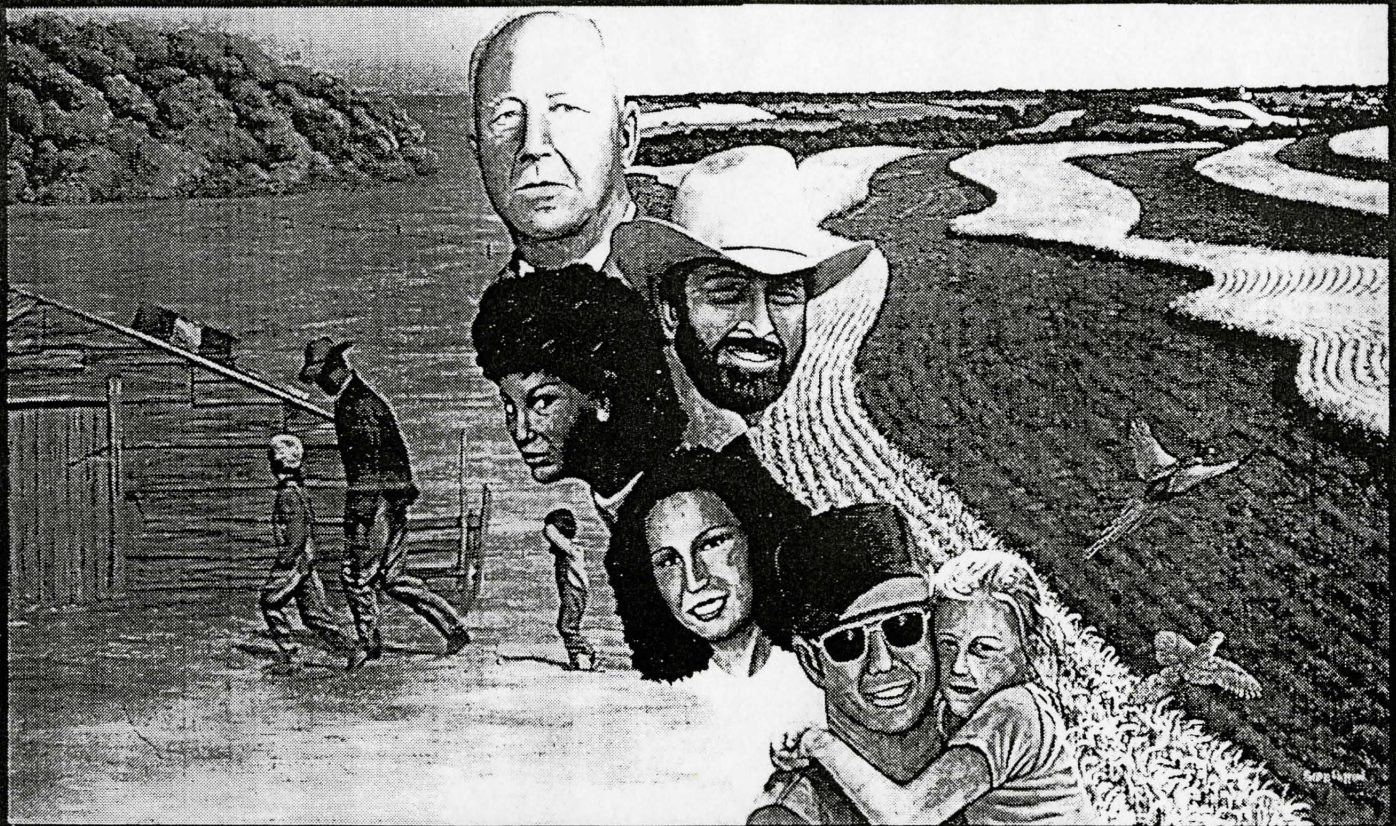


ALL IN A
DAY'S
WORK !!!

Welcome to Beautiful Southeast Iowa

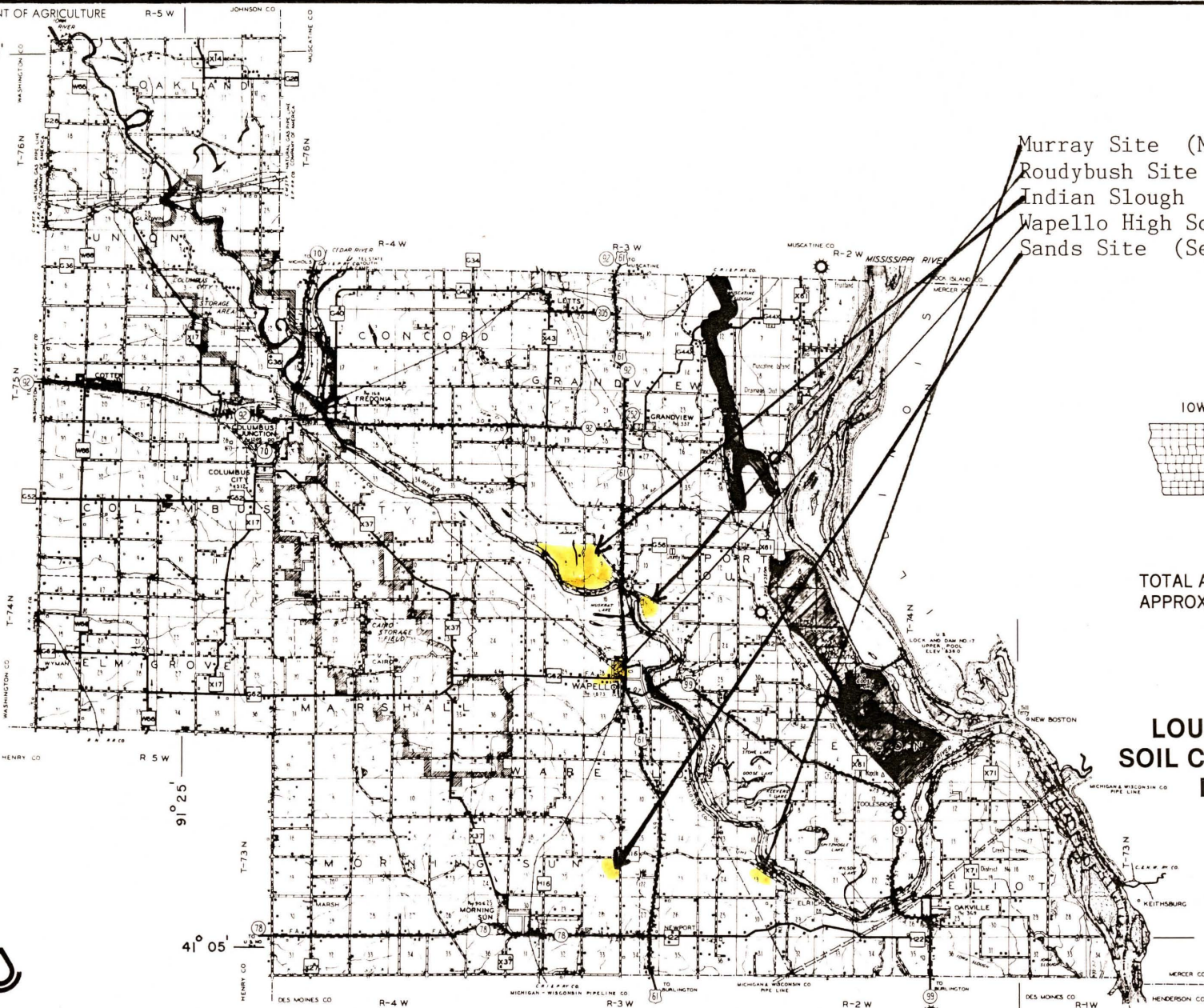
I believe and know NRCS as a whole has a lot of great projects and the potential to keep on developing them.

Please open the doors to an exciting tour of Louisa County. As you will discover Louisa County has a variety of exciting projects.



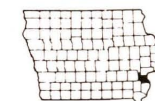
Building on the past for an even better future

41° 25'



Murray Site (MW)
Roudybush Site (WRP)
Indian Slough
Wapello High School
Sands Site (Sed. Basin)

IOWA



TOTAL ACREAGE
APPROXIMATE 257,920

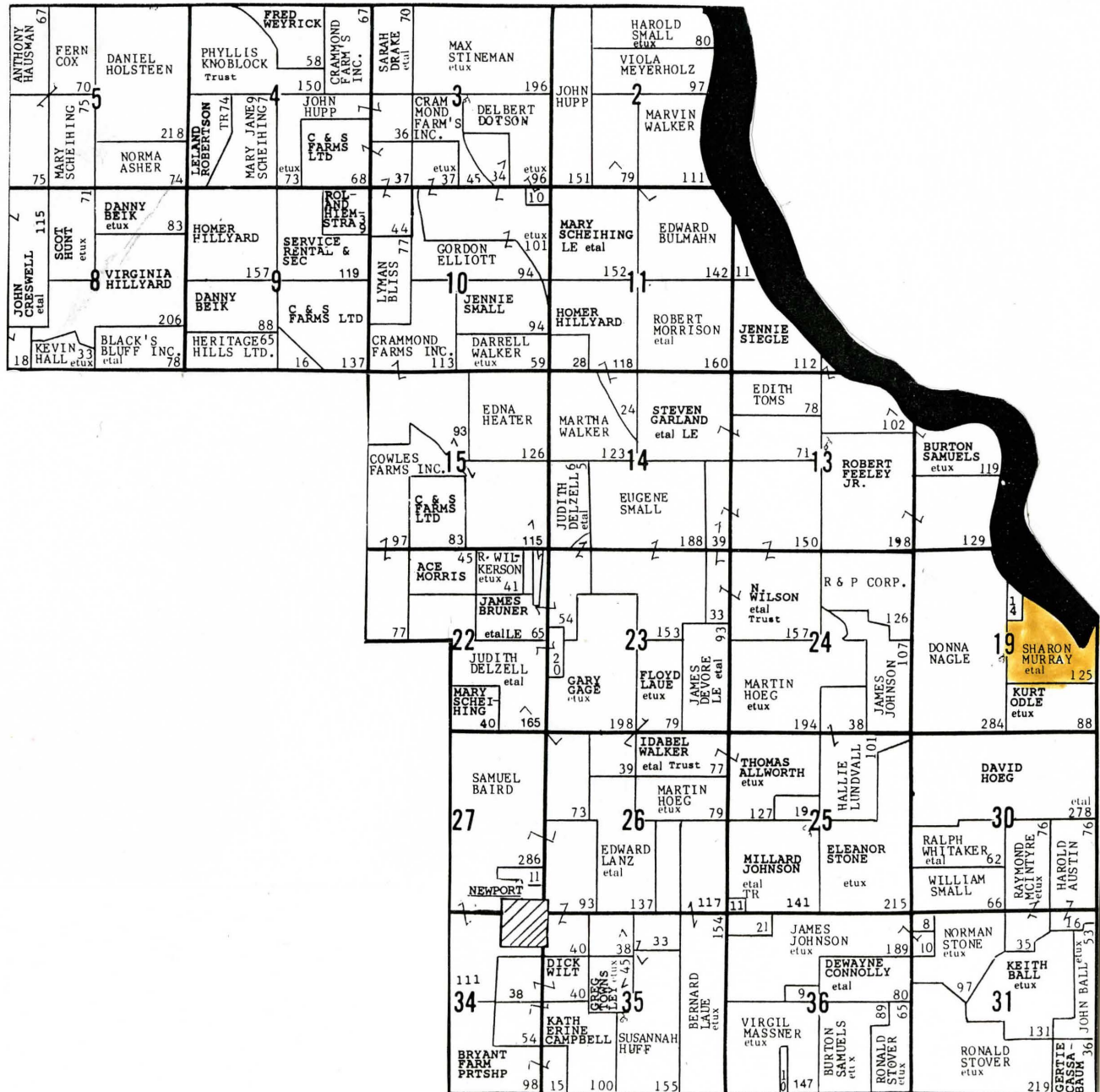
**LOUISA COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
IOWA**

TRAUTMAN TOUR:

MURRAY MITIGATED WETLAND SITE:

This site was used to resolve a Corp of Engineer violation in Columbus Junction. Robert Schlutz misunderstood his permit and proceeded with further construction. He phoned this office for assistance and we were able to match him with the Murray site. Fish and Wildlife refused two sites before we went directly to the Corp. They had the Interior Department approve this location. Looks better than the original site. The mitigated site is a definite plus for the area. It is a half a mile from the Iowa River and was formerly CRP ground seeded to switchgrass. The wetland is surrounded by 90 acres of CRP still in switchgrass as is the wetland.

Note: This office keeps a list of people interested in constructing wetlands for mitigated sites.





NOT TO SCALE (1990 FLIGHT) LOUISA COUNTY - CROP YEAR _____

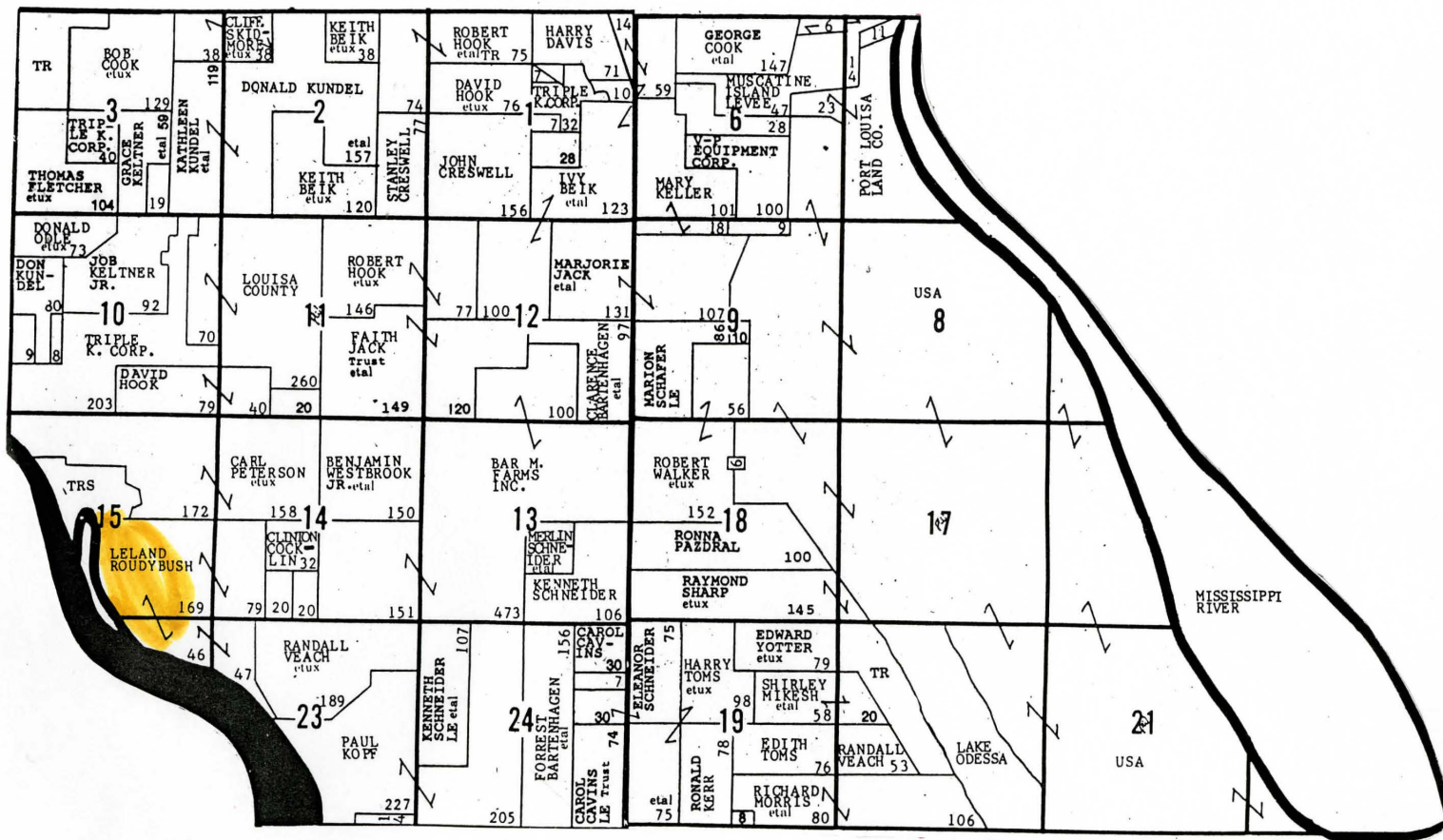
J. Wapello

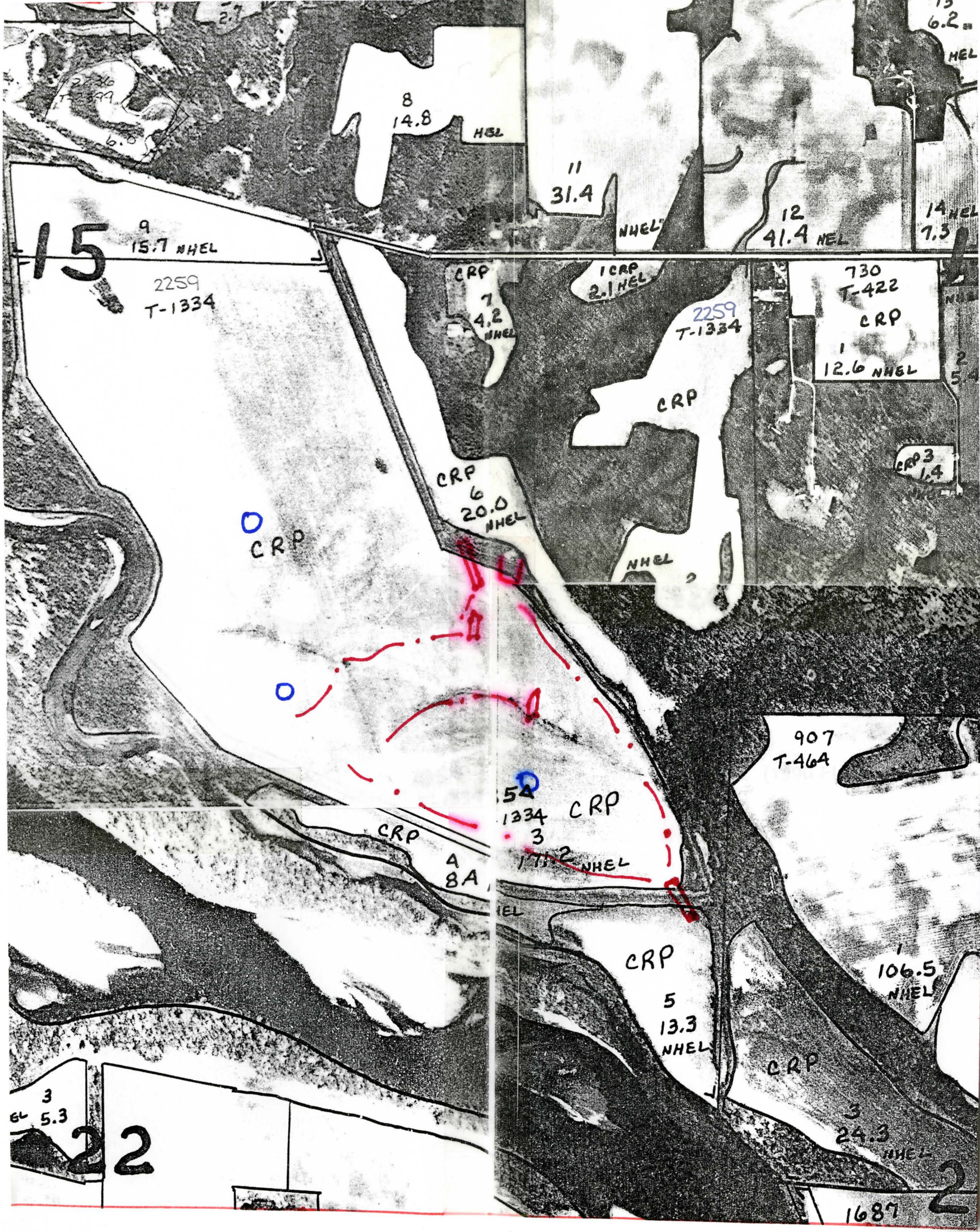
L-12

TRAUTMAN TOUR:

ROUDYBUSH WRP RESTORATION:

This is a floodplain that was completely inundated by the "93" flood. The levee was repaired in "94". The owner was contacted about the reserve program. Plans were developed by the local N.R.C.S. people. Additional land was purchased by the Iowa Heritage Foundation from a neighbor to help limit construction costs. When the waterline is at the top of the principal all land will covered^{be} with water. Islands have been constructed for rest and nest of migratory waterfowl. After construction of the inlet and outlet, the Heritage Foundation restricted the creek so that normal water flow would pass through the W.R.P. area.





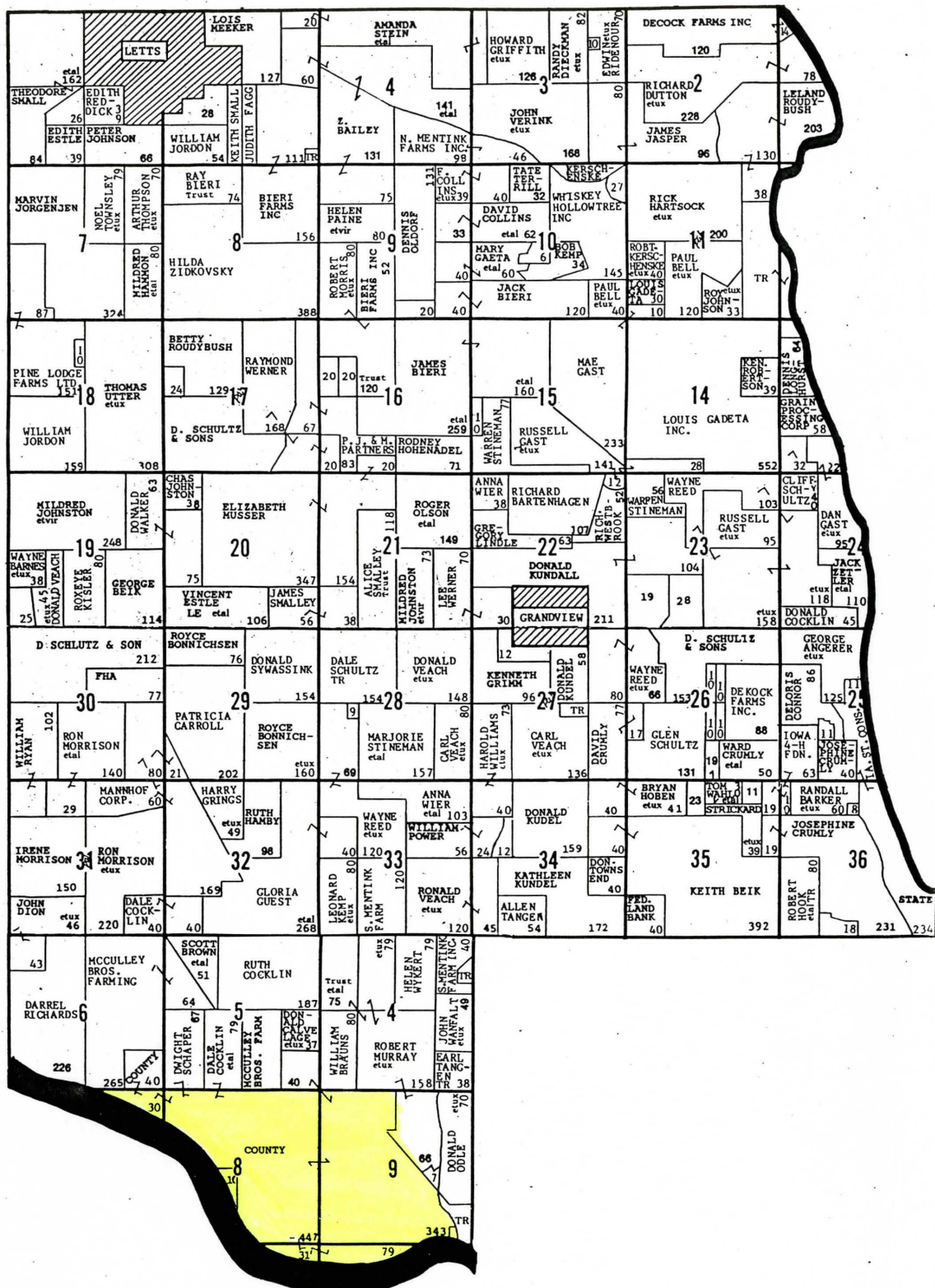
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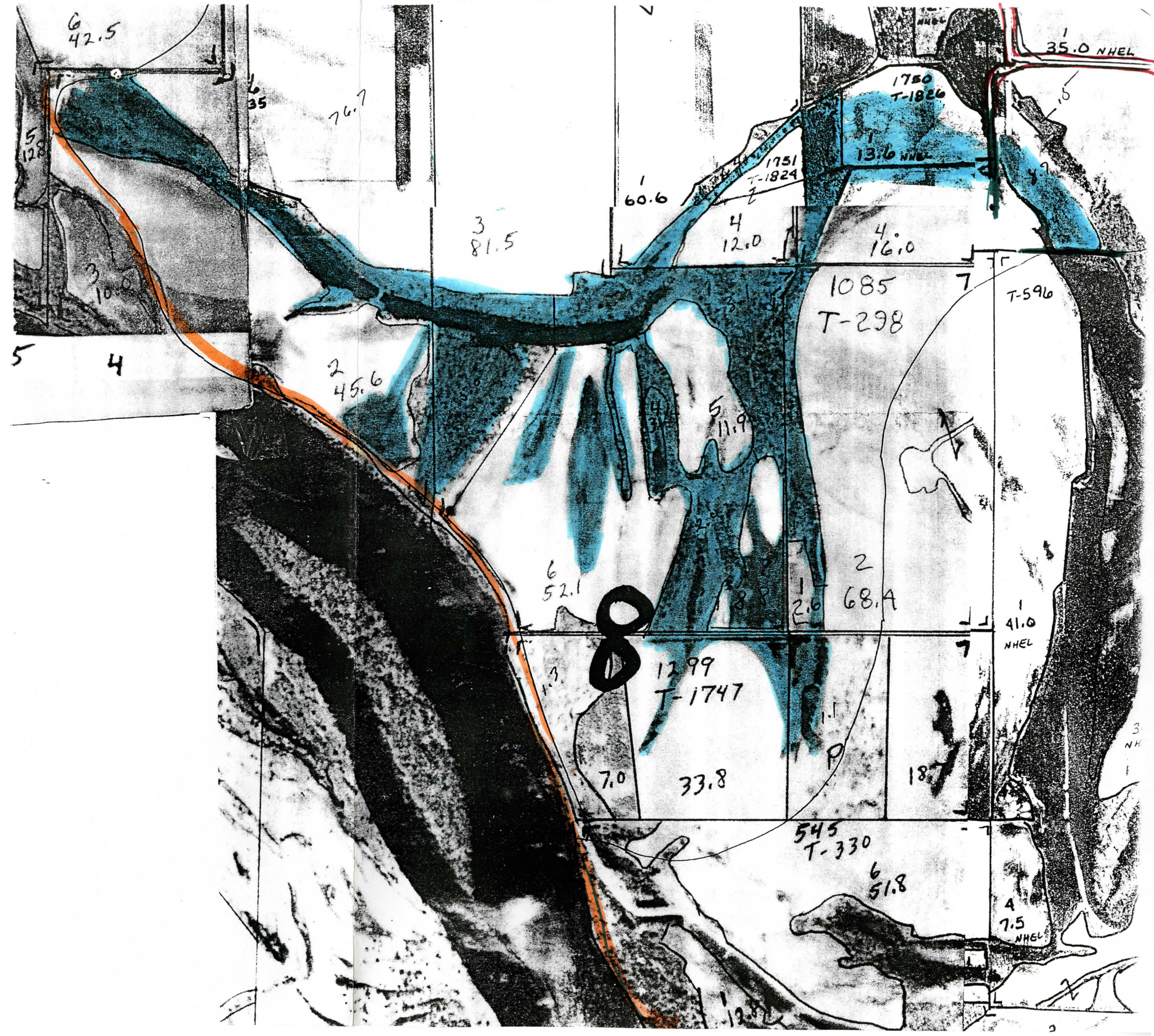
INDIAN SLOUGH:

This property is owned by Louisa County. It is being developed for public use. The Department of Transportation was in need of some previously converted land to replace wetlands being filled by road construction. They contacted N.R.C.S. for assistance. We in turn worked with the conservation director who had contacted us about road problems at the public area. The board of supervisors had refused to spend much money for a road construction access to the park. A brilliant idea of combining the two projects developed. N.R.C.S. again developed a wetland plan and used the road as the dam. The culvert was raised about three feet. An additional structure was added downstream to gain additional wetland acres needed to meet the Corps requirements. This site has been used by more people, educators and recreators, in one year than had been used in its entire existence*.

* Norman Stone

Placed picture of outdoor classroom at Indian Slough





WAPELLO HIGH SCHOOL:

The map shows the following locations and victims:

- Top Left:** KERRY LONG, GARRY MOSER, BILL FINLEY, MIKE DRAZFAL, PAUL GROUWINKEL, LYLE SHORT, MERLE BALL, DELBERT FINLEY, LESTER BARRICK, JACK SAMUELS.
- Top Center:** 1. CHARLES KERR, 2. RICHARD KERR.
- Center:** CLIFFORD GERTH, MUSKRAT LAKE, KEITH ZIEGENHORN, FRANK HANSON, KEITH ROBBINS, DEAN BROCKWAY, TROY BOULTON, JOHN H. KORN, DAVID YAKLE, FRED WEYBICK JR., KEITH SAMUELS, RON LAGERQUIST, DANNY YAKLE.
- Bottom Left:** BILL BRAUNS JR., TONY HOUSMAN, M. GRIMM, TIM ROBINS, DEAN PARISH, RONALD STOUT, FLOYD REIF.
- Center Right:** 1. ORVAL SCHMEISER, WAYNE RYAN, 2. RANDY STEPHENS HOUSING DEV., MRS. KATHRYN HALL, KEITH TRAFLET, MARY BAKER, CHARLES LAUGHLIN, JERRY BOCKES, LAVERNE ASH, WAPELLO.
- Bottom Right:** DONALD PURDY, R.V. WINTER, JEFF HAMMOND, ROBERT, 1. FRED.

The map also shows major roads like I-94, I-69, and I-494, and various numbered sections (7, 12, 13, 17, 16, 20, 21, 22, 24, 19, 25, 30, 29, 28, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35).



NOT TO SCALE (1990 FLIGHT) LOUISA COUNTY - CROP YEAR

N. Capello

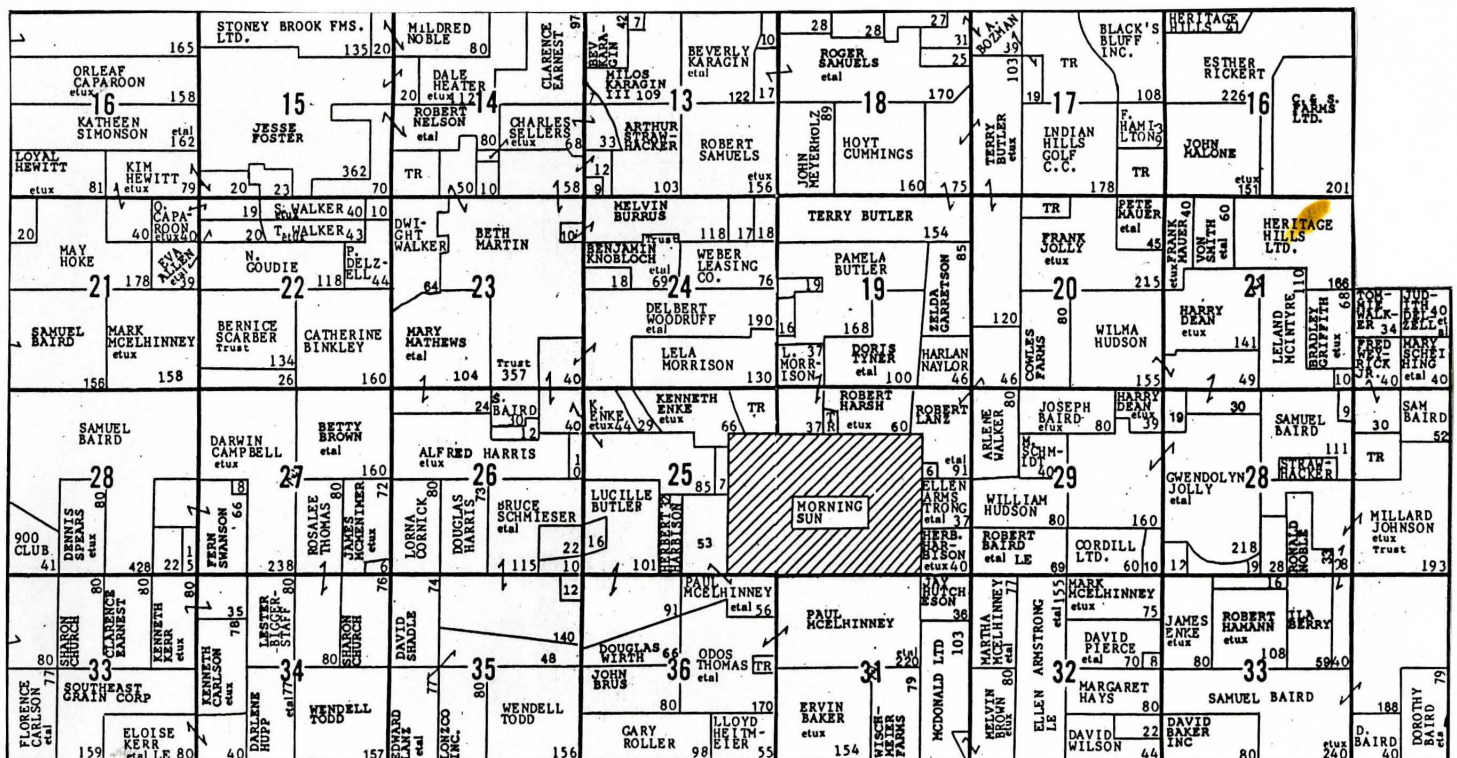
Section
21

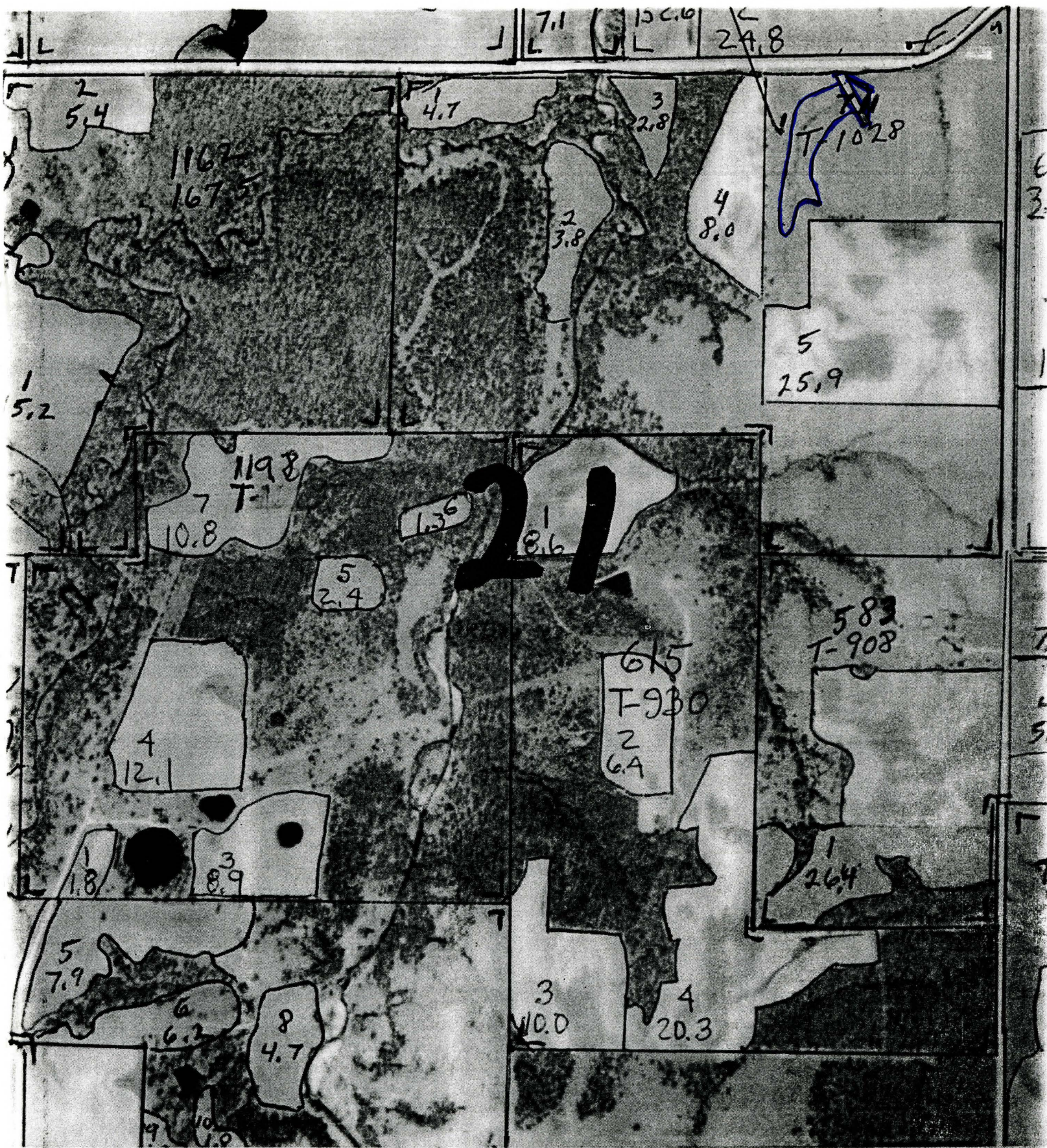
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4

J-9

SANDS SITE:

This site was used to control existing classic gullies. Some added benefits include sediment retention, recreation, and will control over the road flow during storms. Fish and wildlife will flourish in the area with the presence of grasses and food plots. An excellent building site for a future home.





NOT TO SCALE (1983 FLIGHT) LOUISA CO.

E-8

6

Education Program

The Louisa SWCD used some of their education funds as well as donations from Monsanto and TREC to develop two classroom presentations for the county. Each program is a 2-day session.

The Save Our Soil program is being presented to Louisa County 5th graders. It includes an introductory visit from The Soil Creature and a second presentation of hands-on soil experiments. In addition, teachers are supplied with a booklet of classroom activities and background information.

The Keep Our Water Clean program is being presented to Louisa County 7th and 8th graders (one grade level per school). In the first visit students learn the causes & effects of water pollution through a watershed model. In the second visit, the students come up with ways to keep the water supply clean in The Watershed model. In addition, teachers are supplied with a booklet of classroom activities and background information.

The watershed program uses the Enviroscope Model of a watershed. It is a model which demonstrates soil and water pollution on the land (urban & rural).

Students reached in 95-96 school year:

7th and 8th	- 290
5th	- 158

Two assistant commissioners developed the program. The District now funds the program which is presented by the Louisa County Conservation Board to each section of grades that request it.

It costs the District approximately \$1,100.00/yr. to reach all county 5th, 7th and 8th graders.

Well, these are some of the projects in Louisa County that have been accomplished in the past year to year and a half.

All these projects have benefitted Louisa County in one way or another. Some will be used extensively, and some used very little. This ranges from mitigated wetlands for the private individual to the wetland areas that all can enjoy. Louisa County is and continues to be very interested in developing and protecting all our natural resources to enjoy current and future outdoor activities. The office has and continues to work on very diverse projects. All these sites benefit all of us either on a private or public level, but most of all on an environmental level.

Hope you enjoyed the tour !
NRCS Staff



Connie Ramirez

Norman Stone

Gail Swails

Janet Williams



Geode Specialty Growers' Association

Agri Life Line

GEODE SPECIALTY GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

WHAT IT STANDS FOR.

Sometimes we take things for granted and forget why they started in the first place. Do you remember that Geode Specialty Growers' Association is here for you? To sustain the profitability of agriculture thru diversification, marketing, research, promotion, information and educational projects?

Iowa has become complacent in some ways, building a dependence upon a highly mechanized, government supported ag base, of corn and soybeans. GSGA sees the need to once again promote self-sufficiency and labor intensive cropping as a way to strengthen our agricultural economy. We see real possibilities for profitable diversification in the production of fruit, vegetables, and other specialty crops such as Shiitake mushroom cultivation and amaranth.

Since its inception, GSGA has conducted Shiitake mushroom seminars, introduced Shiitake mushrooms to the public via radio, television, videos, books, newsletters, and bulletins.

GSGA has developed and made available a Soil Assessment manual of 28 alternative crops which provides technical and practical information to enable a potential specialty grower to make an informed decision about opportunities in alternative agriculture.

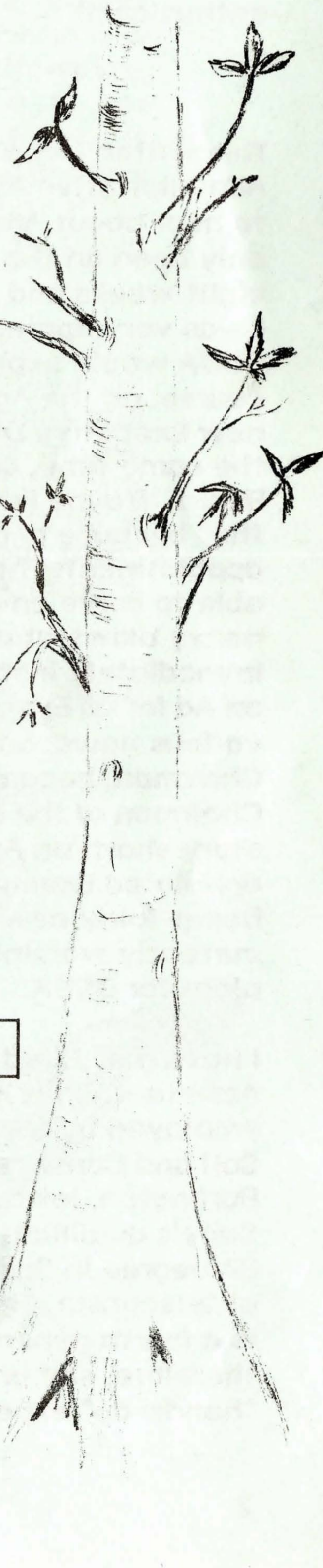
GSGA proudly takes credit for recently establishing a Tri-State Shiitake Mushroom Producers Division. The Division's new project is to establish a processing plant for Shiitake Mushrooms in this area, thereby realizing it is not how diversified a product you can produce, but how diversified you are in the market place.

GSGA is now in the process of undertaking its own Back To The Future (A Return to Traditional Crops) Project. Back To The Future will bring together commercial processors and consumers to stimulate interest in commercial production of specialty crops. Landowners will be contracted for a commitment of five to ten acres of land to grow fruits, vegetables, and small grains.

GSGA understands that in this current age of awareness for soil and water conservation, and the present need for self-reliance as opposed to government subsidization, there is definitely a place for agricultural diversification.

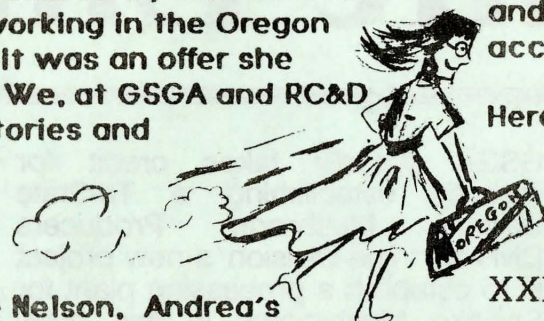
INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GSGA....

By now, I'm sure you are all aware we lost Andrea (former GSGA Executive Director). Our adventurous ex-director was offered a position after her own heart, working in the Oregon Legislature, and it was an offer she couldn't refuse. We, at GSGA and RC&D miss her great stories and enthusiasm!



This writer, Irene Nelson, Andrea's Administrative Assistant, was stunned to hear about Andrea's departure. I had only been on the job approximately eight weeks and

I was very apprehensive about what GSGA would expect from me. First, of course, on the Agenda was to hire a new Executive Director. Also, about the same time, our Chairman of the Board, Wayne Fuhlbrugge advised us that because of new job appointments, he would no longer be able to serve on the GSGA Board. Two heavy blows at once! The Board immediately instructed me to put an Ad for an Executive Director in various newspapers. Stan Tate, Vice Chairman, became Stan Tate, Acting Chairman of the Board. To make a long story short, on April 10th, I was appointed Executive Director for GSGA. Being fairly new in this position, I am currently working on outlining future plans for GSGA.

I have also hired as my Administrative Assistant, Sally Mehaffy, formerly employed by the Des Moines County Soil and Conservation District in Burlington, Iowa. I am excited about Sally's qualifications. Sally has a BA degree in Speech from the University of Wisconsin. Her husband is a fourth generation Iowa farmer, therefore, she brings to GSGA "hands-on" experience. Sally is also

knowledgeable in assisting and advising land-users of farm program benefits and alternatives. She has had experience in radio and TV as a continuity director, writer and production director. I feel that Sally and I working together can accomplish much for GSGA.

Here's to a great future for GSGA!

Irene Nelson
Executive Director

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3, 1989 - Income Diversification Conference, 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M., John Wood Community College, Quincy, IL Telephone (217) 285-4114

June 3-4, 1989 - Herb Fest (the second largest in the nation) Herb Hollow, E. Otto, NY 14729 FREE -10 A.M. - 5 P.M. daily, rain or shine. Telephone (716) 257-5105.

June 21-23, 1989 - Small or Limited Resource Farmer's Regional Conference (NC, VA, TN and KY). North Carolina A&T University, Greensboro, NC. Contact - Dana Froe, OAE-USDA, Room 1226 S. Bldg. Washington, DC 20250. Telephone 1-800-543-1289.

June 25-29, 1989 - National Association for the Specialty Food Trade. 35th Annual Intern'l Fancy Food and Confection Show, Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA. Contact Ron Tanner, 215 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003. Telephone (212) 505-1770

July 22-25, 1989 - HERBS 89, Int'l Herb Growers and Marketing Assoc. 4th Annual Conference, Red Lion Inn, San Jose, CA. Contact: Maureen Buehrle, Exec. Dir., P.O. Box 281, Silver Springs, PA 17575. Telephone (717) 684-9756.

July 25-27, 1989 - Small or Limited Resource Farmer's Regional Conference (GA, SC, and AL). Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, GA. Contact - Dana Froe, OAE-USDA, Room 1226 S. Bldg., Washington, DC 20250 Telephone 1-800-543-1289.

AMARANTH

A NEW CASH CROP FOR MIDWEST FARMERS

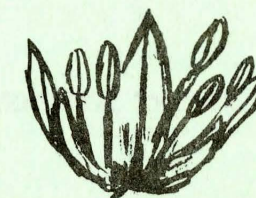
Amaranth could very well be an appropriate alternative crop for the Midwest should drought conditions continue as some predictions indicate. Amaranth is a broadleaf grain, which can be milled into a protein-rich flour supplement. Even if an annual rainfall were only 10 inches, an amaranth crop would have no problem.

Also, the rainfall wouldn't have to be consistent. Two inches one month, followed by a dry month, then another two inches, and amaranth would grow.

Other advantages of amaranth are its high yield per acre and the fact that the plant is edible either by humans or livestock.

This type of a amaranth is of a variety that came out of Mexico and was developed by the Aztec Indians, not to be confused with Pigweed, which has little value because of its low yield rate.

Amaranth has a high future market potential. It has a high content of amino-acid lysine which is an essential protein building block needed by the human body. Bakers and bakeries can incorporate it into bread and get a balanced protein.



It is high in fiber and low in fat. It can be sprouted, popped, puffed, and flaked. It can be used whole or as a thickening agent. However, because it lacks gluten, it is not suitable as a flour substitute, but it would give you a complete balanced protein if eaten three times a day in bread. It could replace meat intake.

The way of alternative crops in the Midwest is slow. We continue to believe that corn and soybeans will make it forever. Because of the increase of climatic and environmental changes, there is a need for change. That change must be to alternative crops. Amaranth is just one alternative.

For information regarding other alternative crops call or write:

Geode Specialty Growers
Association
3002-A Winegard Drive
Burlington, Iowa 52601
319-753-6143



CANOLA — The Perfect Alternative

Canada's canola has caught the eye of Great Lakes area vegetable growers who are appraising the potential of this seedy member of the turnip family. Canadian canola seed in such products as Puritan cooking oil is already being consumed in the United States, according to Dr. Jack Ferris of the Michigan State University Department of Agricultural Economics. "It's low in saturated fats. It's marketable. There seems to be a growing interest in using canola oil not only in the food industry but in the fast food industry," Dr. Ferris said. "Our only problem is quality. U.S. grown canola was not meeting the standards established in Canada," he added. Researchers believe a cool climate is the key, and they've turned to farmers in Michigan's chilly Upper Peninsula for the answer. Canola's seed production is high — 1,800 pounds per acre — at 80 cents a pound it outperforms even soybeans. One researcher estimates that canola can cash in at a \$291 per acre profit, compared with \$200 an acre for soybeans, he said. There is a ready market for canola oil and for the crushed seed as a feed supplement for cattle. Western Canadians have been growing the mustard-like winter crop for years, crushing its tiny round seeds into cooking oils and protein additives for cattle feed. "The only skepticism is since the bulk of the canola is grown and processed in Canada, unless the trade agreements are worked out, the U.S. producers could be at a disadvantage."

Archer Daniels Midland Co., Inc., is one of Canada's largest canola processors. Only one of the company's plants in Ontario, actually is crushing the grain now said Don Wright with the company's grain marketing department. "ADM is devoting more and more of its resources to canola processing at the expense of soybeans as the low-fat crop catches on," Mr. Wright said. "We've had canola for some time. It's used in Canada for margarines, cooking oils, salad oils and the like. But when I came here two years ago, ADM had only six or eight suppliers of it," Mr. Wright said. "Now I have a source list of 20 to 25 people. I think it's really coming along." Kentucky and Illinois are the chief producers of canola in the United States. Kentucky growers planted about 2,000 acres of canola in 1987, then 8,000 acres as it caught on in 1988, according to a study by the University of Kentucky. Farmers in Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio and Michigan so far have only dabbled in the crop, however, with canola's low cholesterol and the nation's health awareness, the potential is there. Canola typically is planted in the fall and harvested in early summer, leaving farms enough time to put in soybeans the rest of the growing season.

POTPOURRI

IS SMALL BETTER?

Diversified small farms may, in fact, be one of the best places to look for the new ideas needed to return farming to health. Small farms produce only a tiny fraction of the major commodity crops, and they don't therefore, add to our debilitating agricultural surpluses nor to our national debt, since they are largely unsubsidized. They provide fresh, healthful, sometimes unusual foods, which the farmers often distribute directly to consumers or to produce markets. Small farmers, just as Thomas Jefferson would wish, tend to own their farm acreage rather than to rent it. They pollute less with agricultural chemicals and cause less erosion with farm machinery. Their farms are an aesthetic asset, especially when near metropolitan areas. And they improve local economies in all regions.

(Charles E. Little "Capital Ideas",
Harrowsmith, July/August 1987)

SURGE IRRIGATION

By alternating water between sets of 10 or 20 rows, the method gives water time to soak in. Result: the same yield from less water. Contact:

Bobby A. Stewart, USDA-ARS
Conservation & Production Research
Laborator
P.O. Drawer 10
Bushland, TX 79012.
Telephone (806) 378-5724.

EXOTIC LIVESTOCK

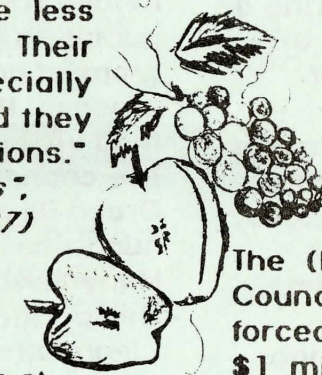
Ostriches, llamas, water buffaloes, and where's the beefalo?

These and several others are found in the January, 1989, "A Small-Scale Agriculture Alternative; Exotic Livestock." For a copy, Contact - Bud Kerr, USDA-CSRS, OSSA, Suite 342-D, Washington, D.C. 20251-2200.

SEED LONGEVITY

Longevity of well-stored seeds of common vegetables is different. Some examples:

- 1 year - Sweet corn, onion, okra, parsnip, parsley
- 2 year - Beet, pepper, leek
- 3 year - Bean, carrot, lettuce, pea, spinach, tomato
- 4 year - Cabbage, radish, squash, turnip, pumpkin, kale
- 5 year - Cucumber, watermelon, muskmelon, endive



APPLES AND GRAPES ..TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT

The (NRDC) Natural Resources Defense Council's recent attack on apples has forced the apple industry to spend over \$1 million dollars to rebuild the safe, wholesome apple image. The International Apple Institute has spent money it didn't have to respond to allegations about apple safety. The disruption of the fruit market and consumer confidence became worse when cyanide was found in two Chilean grapes. This was intentional sabotage and not at all related to pesticide residues. The saboteurs wanted tampering to be found, and therefore, reportedly tipped off the Federal Drug Administration. The estimated total loss which includes destruction of fruit, shipment interruptions, etc., is thought to be over \$200 million dollars.

ECOLOGICAL ETHICS ARE NEEDED

By Robert R. Burchett
Lee County Conservation Board

I read with interest the articles and letters concerning the Green Bay Irrigation Project. Many individuals have contacted me in outrage. Mike Pieper explained the project and corrected some arithmetic calculations for me. Many emotions are tied to the project, some of which include greed, perhaps jealousy, concern for the environment and nostalgia. Use of our resources must be examined logically, not emotionally.

In reality, this single project is somewhat inconsequential. A few trees, perhaps hundreds were bulldozed. In comparison to the 100,000 acres or more of timber lost in Lee County since settlement in the name of agricultural advancement, this clearing is hardly noticeable. Extracting a few thousand gallons of water from Lake Cooper's 31,000 acres and millions of gallons can hardly be deemed earth shattering. Using this water surely makes good business sense and possibly brings higher profits for the farmer who irrigates. After all, isn't higher profits what this country is founded on? ... I think not.

No project can be examined in isolation. Each action causes a reaction. The trees lost in Green Bay combined with the osage orange fence row bulldozed along the Sharon Blacktop and the brushy thicket that once was home to a covey of quail cleared along Charleston Road begin to equate substantial ecological damage.

If this project is successful, other farms in Green Bay will surely seek to adapt the technology and withdraw water for their use. Water is soon to be supplied to other rural residents from the Mississippi via an agreement between the Rathbun Rural Water Association and Fort Madison. These new ideas, coupled with the existing needs for navigation water, electrical generation, sewage treatment and a place for fish and wildlife, dictate serious consideration of any water diversion project.

Contrary to popular belief and practice, water is our most valuable commodity. We simply can't live without it. If you don't believe this, ask a man dying of thirst what he would rather have: a drink of water, a bag of gold or a tankful of gas.

I believe the controversy over this project is simply a public reaction to an agricultural system out of balance, totally dependent on technology and petroleum inputs and operating with total disregard for natural systems.

Many years ago, and still remembered by many who contacted me, Green Bay Township was a rich marsh environment. This marsh environment, and the periodic flooding that maintained it, created some of the most fertile soils in Iowa. Of course, drainage was necessary for successful farming. The landowners in the bottoms funded the necessary ditches, dikes and pumps to make the marsh yield bumper crops of corn and soybeans. In the process, they have created one immense field virtually devoid of natural organism. The change has been gradual, but drastic. Green Bay is simply one township of hundreds similarly impacted in Iowa. Many Iowans, including those opposed to this project, believe this trend toward clean farming has gone too far. Many believe a meadowlark trilling from a fence post or bass striking a spinner bait are more valuable than another bushel of corn piled in the bin waiting for a market that doesn't exist.

In 1948, Aldo Leopold set a guideline for balancing art and science when he wrote, "Examine each question in terms of what is ethical and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

We must begin to assess projects based on what is best for the water, air and soil our life depends on, not solely on how big the net return will be. After all, a dead rich man is just as dead as a dead poor man.

SHIITAKE RECIPES

Shiitake and Sausage Saute

Approximate Preparation Time: 30 Minutes

Makes 4 servings. Shiitake and sausage complement each other. This is also a very quick and satisfying dish for lunch or light supper. Serve over toast or warmed croissants.

1/2 Cup sliced onions mixed with
1/2 teaspoon crushed garlic
3 tablespoons butter
1/2 pound Polish sausage, sliced
1 pound shiitake mushroom caps.
Salt

1. In the skillet, saute the onions and garlic in the butter for one minute.
2. Add the sausage, and lower the heat so that some of the fat is drawn out of the sausage.
3. Add the mushrooms, turn up the heat again, and saute until the caps are tender, about 5 minutes. Salt to taste.

Shiitake Sauce

Approximate Preparation Time: 45 minutes
Makes 2 Cups

Sauce made from dried shiitake is distinctly smoky. This character makes it one of the heartier mushrooms in terms of flavor, appropriate for many meat dishes. It is also excellent for smoked fish.

1 ounce dried shiitake
3 cups water
1 1/3 teaspoons sugar
1 1/3 teaspoons salt
1 1/3 teaspoons soy sauce (this is less than for other dried mushrooms)
1 1/2 tablespoons arrowroot mixed with 1/4 cup water



SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS STORAGE AND HANDLING

Lately GSGA has been receiving numerous phone calls from mushroom producers telling us about their logs yielding high quantities of mushrooms. With this in mind, we thought it a good time to review Shiitake mushroom storage and handling.

The mushrooms will keep up to 10 days when sealed in tight plastic. However, they may be loosely wrapped with a moist towel, placed in a brown paper bag or left in the opened original bag in the refrigerator up to 2 to 4 weeks. Prevent condensation in any container used to avoid moldy mushrooms. Periodically take a dry paper towel and wipe the bottom of the container. Do not let moisture accumulate. Before eating, wipe mushrooms with a moist towel. Do not rinse or soak in water. The stems may be used for flavor, but are usually removed because they are very fibrous. (Cont'd on Page 11..)

RESOURCES: BOOKS & HANDBOOKS & GUIDES



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Please use the order form in this issue when ordering.

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each book ordered.

Thank you!

Is Shiitake Farming For You?

by Rick Kerrigan

Emphasizes the economics of growing methods \$4.00

Shiitake Sampler

by Janet Bratkovic

50 favorite shiitake recipes \$5.00

The Herb Book

by John Lust

Soothe your nerves, cure your cough, color your fabric, spice
your sauce \$5.95

Cultivation of Shiitake

by Gary Leatham

Examines the potential of the industry \$1.50
(No \$1.00 postage charge)

Spotlighting Alternative Crops

by Sam Steele

How to select, produce, and market profitable alternative
crops \$2.00

Shiitake Mushroom Marketing Guide Review

From the Forest Resources Center with support of the NE
Area Foundation, Patricia Melville & Ann Potter - easy to
read, complete with worksheets and supplements. Covers
marketing, overview, assessments, distribution, packaging,
pricing, promotion & personal selling. \$30.00

Shiitake Growers' Handbook

(The Art & Science of Mushroom Cultivation)

New scientific methods to improve the cultivation of wood-
inhabiting fungi, particularly shiitake. \$29.95

Growing Shiitake In A Continental Climate

by M. Kozak & J. Krawczyk

Contains information on log selection, inoculation proce-
dures, laying yard and moisture control. Very useful for
anyone growing Shiitake in our nation's interior \$7.95

FOR YOUR ORDERING CONVENIENCE

	Fruiting Temperature	Soaking Temperature	Time To First Fruit	Natural Fruiting Season
COLD WEATHER FRUITING STRAINS				
SPAWN:				
Snowcap	45-77		12 mos.	Spring & Fall
CW25	47-68	40-70	12 mos.	Early to late spring Middle to late fall
Flowering	41-65	40-60	6-12 mos.	Early to mid spring Late fall
RA32E	45-70	40-60	18 mos.	Early to late spring Middle to late fall
WARM WEATHER FRUITING STRAINS				
SPAWN:				
WW44	50-70	55-72	14 mos.	Summer thru mid fall
Sleeping Spring	50-82	45-70	6-12 mos.	Late spring thru early fall
WW70	50-77	48-75	14 mos.	Mid spring thru mid fall
V-3	50-80		6 mos.	
WR46	50-75	50-75	6 mos.	Mid spring to mid fall
Westwind	50-80	50-75	6 mos.	Mid spring thru mid fall

NEW SPAWN PRICES:

All spawn strains are available
as sawdust spawn. Sawdust spawn
costs less, gives faster spawn run
in the log and inoculation can be
mechanized. Do not allow spawn
to dry out during inoculation. In-
oculation sites must be covered
with wax. Each bag contains ap-
proximately 4 lbs. of spawn and
inoculates 10-20 logs, 4-6 inches
in diameter, 40 inches long.

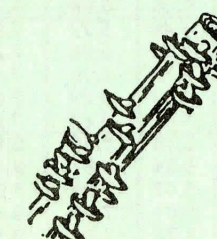
SAWDUST SPAWN

PLUG SPAWN

1-10 BAGS	\$20.00	500	\$16.95
11-99 BAGS	\$18.00	2,000-10,000	\$32.00/1,000
100+ BAGS	\$13.50	11,000-100,000	\$22.00/1,000
1,000+ BAGS	BY QUOTE	100,000	BY QUOTE

PLUG SPAWN PRICING

1,000 Plugs will inoculate 10-
20 logs, 4"-6" in diameter, 40
inches long. Plug spawn is pro-
duced on 5/16"X3/4" dowels.



GROUND SERVICE UPS - ZONE CHART					
Zip Code Prefix	UPS Zone	Zip Code Prefix	UPS Zone	Zip Code Prefix	UPS Zone
010-016	5	306	5	504-505	3
017-031	6	307	4	506-508	2
032-034	5	308-310	5	510-516	3
035	6	311	4	520	2
036-037	5	312-328	5	521	3
038-049	6	329-336	6	522-528	2
050-054	5	337-338	5	530-537	3
055	6	339	6	538	2
056-58	5	342	6	539-544	3
059	6	350-359	4	545	4
060-089	5	360-361	5	546-547	3
		362	4	548	4
100-149	5	363-368	5	549-555	3
150-154	4	369-393	4	556-558	4
155	5	394-396	5	559-561	3
156	4	397-399	4	562-576	4
157-159	5			577	5
160-165	4	400-418	4	580-582	4
166-199	5	420	3	583	5
200-241	5	421-422	4	584	4
242-243	4	423-424	3	585-593	5
244-245	5	425-459	4	594-599	6
246-248	4	460-469	3		
249	5	470-471	4	600-609	3
250-253	4	472	3	610-627	2
254	5	473	4	628-629	3
255-266	4	474-479	3	630-635	2
267-286	5	480-489	4	636-645	3
287-289	4	490-491	3	646	2
290-299	5	492	4	647-649	3
		493-495	3	650-652	2
300-303	4	496-499	4	653-668	3
304	5			669-679	4
305	4	500-503	2	680-686	3
				687-693	4
				700-709	5
				710-712	4
				713-714	5
				716-732	4
				733	5
				734-749	4
				750-753	5
				754-756	4
				757-761	5
				762-763	4
				764-784	5
				785	6
				786-797	5
				798-799	6
				800-831	5
				832-864	6
				865-878	5
				879-880	6
				881-884	5
				890-893	6
				894-897	7
				898	6
				900-961	7
				970-978	7
				979	6
				980-986	7
				988-989	7
				990-992	6
				993	7
				994	6

IT'S EASY TO FIGURE YOUR UPS SHIPPING

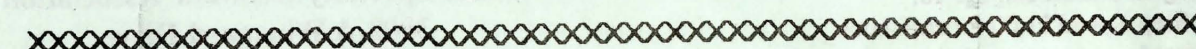
1. To determine your zone, take the first three digits of your zip code.
2. Locate your zone number on the Ground Service Zone Chart.
3. Add together the weight of products (except for books) on the order form. For any fraction of a pound over the weight shown, take the next higher rate.
4. Check across the chart from weight through zone—this is the amount of shipping.
5. Add the total amount of shipping to the bill. Remember to add \$1.00 to the cost for each book ordered.
6. If you do not calculate your shipping, we will do it for you and we'll have to charge you COD costs.



Zones Weight Not To Exceed	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Zones Weight Not To Exceed	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 lb.	1.47	1.59	1.75	1.83	1.91	2.01	2.10	36 lb.	4.65	5.87	7.59	9.33	11.71	14.21	16.87
2 lb.	1.48	1.61	1.96	2.08	2.25	2.41	2.60	37 lb.	4.74	6.01	7.77	9.54	12.00	14.58	17.30
3 lb.	1.56	1.75	2.13	2.31	2.55	2.80	3.05	38 lb.	4.83	6.13	7.94	9.77	12.30	14.93	17.73
4 lb.	1.64	1.89	2.31	2.49	2.81	3.12	3.46	39 lb.	4.91	6.26	8.13	9.98	12.58	15.29	18.16
5 lb.	1.73	1.98	2.40	2.63	3.01	3.39	3.79	40 lb.	5.00	6.38	8.29	10.21	12.86	15.65	18.58
6 lb.	1.82	2.05	2.49	2.74	3.14	3.58	4.04	41 lb.	5.08	6.52	8.46	10.43	13.15	16.01	19.02
7 lb.	1.90	2.12	2.59	2.86	3.32	3.82	4.32	42 lb.	5.17	6.65	8.64	10.65	13.44	16.36	19.45
8 lb.	1.99	2.18	2.70	3.08	3.61	4.16	4.74	43 lb.	5.25	6.77	8.81	10.87	13.73	16.72	19.88
9 lb.	2.09	2.31	2.87	3.29	3.90	4.51	5.17	44 lb.	5.34	6.92	8.99	11.09	14.02	17.07	20.31
10 lb.	2.17	2.43	3.03	3.50	4.17	4.87	5.58	45 lb.	5.42	7.04	9.16	11.31	14.30	17.43	20.74
11 lb.	2.27	2.57	3.20	3.74	4.45	5.22	6.02	46 lb.	5.51	7.17	9.34	11.54	14.59	17.79	21.17
12 lb.	2.38	2.71	3.37	3.95	4.74	5.56	6.44	47 lb.	5.60	7.31	9.51	11.75	14.88	18.15	21.60
13 lb.	2.46	2.83	3.54	4.17	5.03	5.93	6.86	48 lb.	5.68	7.43	9.68	11.98	15.17	18.50	22.03
14 lb.	2.51	2.96	3.73	4.38	5.31	6.27	7.29	49 lb.	5.77	7.56	9.86	12.19	15.46	18.87	22.46
15 lb.	2.59	3.08	3.89	4.60	5.58	6.63	7.71	50 lb.	5.85	7.69	10.02	12.42	15.74	19.21	22.89
16 lb.	2.67	3.21	4.06	4.83	5.88	6.98	8.14	51 lb.	5.89	7.73	10.07	12.48	15.81	19.31	23.01
17 lb.	2.74	3.34	4.23	5.04	6.16	7.33	8.56	52 lb.	5.92	7.76	10.12	12.53	15.88	19.40	23.11
18 lb.	2.84	3.46	4.40	5.26	6.44	7.68	8.98	53 lb.	5.95	7.79	10.18	12.59	15.96	19.49	23.21
19 lb.	2.97	3.60	4.57	5.47	6.73	8.04	9.41	54 lb.	5.98	7.82	10.22	12.65	16.03	19.58	23.32
20 lb.	3.12	3.73	4.74	5.69	7.01	8.38	9.83	55 lb.	6.01	7.85	10.26	12.71	16.10	19.69	23.43
21 lb.	3.27	3.86	4.92	5.92	7.29	8.74	10.26	56 lb.	6.05	7.88	10.31	12.76	16.17	19.78	23.53
22 lb.	3.37	3.99	5.09	6.13	7.57	9.09	10.68	57 lb.	6.08	7.92	10.35	12.81	16.24	19.87	23.64
23 lb.	3.47	4.11	5.26	6.35	7.86	9.44	11.10	58 lb.	6.11	7.95	10.39	12.87	16.31	19.96	23.74
24 lb.	3.56	4.24	5.43	6.56	8.15	9.79	11.53	59 lb.	6.14	7.99	10.44	12.92	16.39	20.05	23.85
25 lb.	3.66	4.36	5.59	6.78	8.42	10.15	11.95	60 lb.	6.17	8.02	10.48	12.98	16.45	20.15	23.97
26 lb.	3.76	4.49	5.77	7.01	8.71	10.49	12.38	61 lb.	6.21	8.05	10.52	13.04	16.53	20.24	24.07
27 lb.	3.85	4.63	5.95	7.22	8.99	10.85	12.81	62 lb.	6.24	8.09	10.58	13.10	16.60	20.33	24.17
28 lb.	3.95	4.75	6.12	7.44	9.28	11.20	13.22	63 lb.	6.27	8.12	10.62	13.15	16.67	20.42	24.29
29 lb.	4.04	4.89	6.29	7.66	9.56	11.55	13.66	64 lb.	6.30	8.16	10.66	13.20	16.74	20.52	24.39
30 lb.	4.14	5.02	6.47	7.90	9.88	11.94	14.13	65 lb.	6.33	8.19	10.71	13.26	16.82	20.61	24.49
31 lb.	4.23	5.18	6.68	8.16	10.20	12.32	14.60	66 lb.	6.37	8.22	10.75	13.32	16.89	20.70	24.60
32 lb.	4.31	5.34	6.87	8.42	10.52	12.71	15.07	67 lb.	6.40	8.25	10.79	13.38	16.96	20.80	24.71
33 lb.	4.40	5.47	7.08	8.66	10.84	13.10	15.54	68 lb.	6.43	8.28	10.84	13.43	17.03	20.89	24.81
34 lb.	4.48	5.61	7.26	8.87	11.14	13.48	16.01	69 lb.	6.46	8.31	10.88	13.50	17.10	20.99	24.92
35 lb.	4.57	5.73	7.42	9.10	11.43	13.87	16.43	70 lb.	6.49	8.34	10.92	13.55	17.16	21.08	25.03

(SHIITAKE- Storage and Handling: continued from Page 7)

There are many ways to include Shiitake in your daily diet; salads, soups, fried, grilled baked or eaten raw. Mushrooms have a delicate flavor that is easily overwhelmed by spices, stocks, acids, etc. Shiitake can be used in the preparations that go into the making of dishes. Add to purees, catsup, butter, and to liquid preparations, including sauces and extracts. One shouldn't forget the nutritional value of Shiitake. It is a source of protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals, such as phosphorus, iron and calcium, is low in sodium and fat and contains no cholesterol. Therapeutic effects of the Shiitake are: (1) Eritadenin - helps control and lower cholesterol and plays a role in assisting to increase sexual powers and accelerate recovery from fatigue (2) Lentinan - induces interferon which is a body's natural cancer fighter. The consuming of Shiitake mushrooms will help to guarantee strong, healthy, newborn babies, and has been found helpful in diabetes, stomach and liver ailments, rheumatism, gout, high blood pressure, heart disease, arteriosclerosis and aids. Any way you eat Shiitake, you will be sure to find it a new and exciting experience to your taste buds!!!!



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A BEGINNING

This is the District's first quarterly newsletter. The purpose of the letter is to inform you of the assistance, cost share availability and programs that may effect your operation.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Service is part of our name. The Soil Conservation Service exists to serve you. We will provide you with the assistance to find permanent solutions to erosion control. This assistance is free of charge. Permanent practices can be costly, but do provide a permanent solution to erosion problems.

However, other cultural practices can be used to reduce erosion such as contouring, strip cropping, or conservation tillage.

TEMPORARY PRACTICES

The commissioners will allocate 30% of their cost-share budget for temporary practices. The following payments will be allowed for first time users only. For no-till planting \$10/ac. up to 40 ac. For contouring, \$6/ac. up to 80 acres. For contour strip cropping, \$15/ac. up to 80 ac. The practice must be maintained for a 5 year period. The deadline for signup is Feb. 1, 1989.

WECIP

A wind Erosion Control Incentive Program has recently been approved for La. Co. The program is designed to protect county, state roads, and right of ways from sediments deposited by wind erosion. The program provides an upfront \$30/acre payment to maintain 50% crop residue on the surface after planting. This practice is eligible for those acres 40 rods from the road.

This practice must be maintained for five years. Some tillage operations that would qualify include: No-till corn into bean stubble, ridge till corn stalks, disk once & field cultivate corn stalks. Interested participants should immediately contact the District Office.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Our commissioners are listed in the heading of this newsletter. They are volunteers that serve without pay. Commissioners are dedicated to providing the direction for the protection of our soil & water resources. Commissioners are responsible for setting the priorities for cost-share projects, approval of cost-sharing for conservation practices, approval of Food Security Act conservation plans and your sounding board for conservation in La.Co.

SOIL SURVEY

The Louisa Soil Survey is available. If you are an absentee landowner, send us \$2.00 for postage and we will mail your copy. The Soil Survey is a collection of all the soil maps of La. Co. Each soil type is described and the potential and limitations of your soils are explained. The corn suitability or CSR rating of all soils from 100 to 5. 100 being the most productive and 5 being the least productive. The CSR rating can compare your farm's productivity with another farm. This can be helpful in renting farm land, in appraising farms or in buying land.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

The conservation compliance provisions benefits producers & their communities by helping insure the sustained productivity of highly erodible croplands now being cropped. Highly erodible croplands have at least one-third of the field with slopes greater than 5%. To continue to be eligible for USDA benefits producers must have developed a conservation plan on the highly erodible cropland by Jan. 1, 1990. The producer

should be actively applying & must have the conservation system in use by Jan. 1, 1995.

CONSERVATION PLANNING

Conservation planning for conservation compliance is moving along very well. Through Sept. 30th we have developed conservation plans on 31,085 acres. We have 68% of the 46,000 acres of highly erodible cropland acres completed. This means that we will meet the deadlines established for us by the 1985 Farm Bill. We appreciate the cooperative attitude of the people we have worked with to date. We are looking forward to working with the rest of the county's producers in the next few months. I have been told that I will be detailed out to surrounding counties that have more highly erodible acres than Louisa Co. to help them complete their workload. This means that if you should wait until the last minute to get your conservation plan developed; there may not be staff available to help you. The program is not going to go away. You might as well get your plan before Jan. 1st.

COST-SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE

State cost-share funds are available from the Division of Soil & Water Stewardship. Terraces are the commissioners priority. These funds have a costshare rate of 50% of the total cost. Cost-shareable items include earthwork, tile, intakes, and outlet pipes. Sign up at the district office.



LOUISA CO. SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
514 ISETT ST. WAPELLO, IA
PHONE: 319-523-6411

COMMISSIONERS:

Olin Jennings, Chairman
Lee Roudybush
Martin Hoeg
Ramon Reutinger
Tom Utter
Mike Braun, Asst. Comm.

STAFF:

Randy Phelan, D.C.
Todd Meyer, S.C.
Norman Stone, Tech.
Gail Swails, D.E.
Janet Williams, Clerk

TEMPORARY PRACTICES

Cost-share is available for cultural practices through the Soil & Water Conservation District. The deadline for sign-up is February 1, 1989. This cost-share is an incentive to start practicing contouring & no-till farming. Some producers have scheduled contouring & no-till in their conservation plan. This is an incentive to start practicing your conservation plan. \$6/Ac. is allowed for contouring. \$15/Ac. is allowed for strip cropping. These practices must be maintained for a 5 year period. \$10/Ac. is allowed for first time no-tillers.

TERRACE COST-SHARE

THE SCD Commissioners still have 50% cost-share available for terrace construction. The cost-share includes the earthwork, the riser, outlet and tile from the riser to the nearest outlet. Building one or possibly two terraces on each hillside is an economically feasible way of increasing row crop in your rotation.

For example if you are farming Clinton Silt Loam (80C2) soil across slope your rotation would be CCOM with 30% residue after planting. With terraces & the same tillage practice, a CCB rotation could be used.

Terraces provide greater returns when built on 3-9% land. The steeper slopes (10-20%) do not increase the amount of row crop in your plan. Therefore terracing this steeper land is not economically feasible.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Conservation planning is 81% complete. We will now be making field visits to those farms we have completed planning. This will let us review the plan and determine if we have the field borders and waterways properly placed. If you wish to meet with us on your farm to review your plan, contact the office for an appointment. We have contacted all producers twice giving them the opportunity to develop a plan. If you have missed your appointment please call the office for an appointment.

SMART NITROGEN FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT FOR GROWERS

The following Nitrogen Fact Sheet was produced by the Conservation Technology Information Center. Nitrogen is the most limiting nutrient to plant growth for several crops and is critical to agricultural crop production. Yet research suggests that average crop

uptake of nitrogen fertilizer is only around 50%.

This means that about half of the nitrogen fertilizer we apply is not being directly used to support crop growth. Instead, it is going into soil organic matter or is being lost to the environment through various processes including volatilization, denitrification, surface run-off and leaching.

Nitrogen lost through leaching surface run-off often turns up as nitrate in ground and surface waters. Public concern is growing as nitrate levels exceeding national health standards for drinking water are detected in an increasing number of drinking water supplies.

Improved management of nitrogen fertilizer is one way to reduce the risk of further nitrate contamination of potential drinking water supplies. Improving the efficiency of nitrogen utilization makes good sense economically and environmentally.

Match your type of nitrogen fertilizer with a complementary application method. Consider timing of application and other management practices when making fertilization decisions.

Use ammonium forms of nitrogen when the potential for loss is high. Split nitrogen applications by plant growth stages, and side-dress to maximize crop uptake of nitrogen fertilizer. Use nitrification inhibitors when nitrogen is applied well ahead of crop uptake or when leaching potential is high. Incorporate broadcast nitrogen forms such as urea, UAN and manure into the soil. Inject or band nitrogen under most forms of conservation tillage to prevent tie-up in the surface residue and to minimize volatilization losses.

Time nitrogen application to maximize crop uptake. Consider side-dress, mid-season nitrogen applications on coarse textured soils or in wetter areas where the potential for loss is high.

Avoid overuse of nitrogen fertilizer - apply only as much as your crop needs. Establish realistic yield goals for each field based upon past yields.

Be aware of how your nitrogen fertilization program is affected when making and carrying out other farm management decisions.

NO-TILL ADVISORY BOARD IN PLANNING STAGES

We are looking for persons from each township who are experienced in no-till or ridge till to serve on a Tillage Advisory Board for Louisa Co. These individuals would provide our office with an outlet for new users of no-till/ridge till to approach with questions and concerns. The board would meet twice per year and would develop a handbook to distribute to new users with information on chemical usage, machinery options, and other valuable info. If you are interested in service on this board, please contact Todd at the office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Office will be closed on the following holidays:

Dec. 26

Jan. 2, 16

Regular office hours are:

Mon. to Thur.: 7:30 to 5:00

Fri.: 7:30 to 4:30.

OUR STAFF SENDS YOU BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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CONSERVATION PLANS & SIGNATURE SHEETS

Conservation planning has been moving along very well with 90% of highly erodible plans completed. But just a word of caution. The conservation plan that we developed with you will remain in our files until we have the signature of both the owner and operator on the signature sheet agreeing to the plan. Without the signatures the plan is not valid and will not be forwarded to the ASCS.

The Soil Conservation Service Staff will be glad to further explain the plan to both the owner & operator. The SCS staff will also be making field visits to fine tune plans and properly locate the field borders and waterways during the next couple of years.

Farm programs affected by conservation compliance include: crop support payments, storage loans, federal crop insurance, Farmers Home Administration loans, conservation reserve program, and many other USDA programs.

Also note that if you operate one farm with a conservation plan and are in the farm program, you must have a plan on any other highly erodible farm even if you are not in the program on that farm.

The signature sheet must be in the SCS office by 12/31/89 or

you will be ineligible for 1990 federal programs.

CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS

For those of you who attended our conservation planning meetings, you will remember that we discussed alternative cropping systems for slopes over 9%. The alternative system was designed to reduce the financial hardship for individuals farming mostly highly erodible fields.

The alternative system was a no-till continuous corn or a corn-bean with a winter cover crop of rye sown on the beans and farmed across the slope, or an equivalent soil loss of one of the above systems.

In April, the alternative system was applied to all slopes. The alternative system also included a corn-bean rotation on a true contour. The soil loss level allowed was 7 tons/ac/yr - tolerable soil loss level.

This change may affect producers that planned before April on mostly 5-9% slopes. If you wish to have your plan evaluated, set up an appointment and we will work with you to revise your plan.

Again a word of caution! The alternative system is a controversial subject. There is a move to eliminate the alternative systems in the 1990 Farm Bill. In other words, develop

and implement plans to "T". "T" or the tolerable soil loss is that amount of erosion that can occur & still maintain the soil in a productive state. For most soils in Louisa Co. the "T" level is 5 tons/ac/yr. Before you automatically revise your plan, first see if you can live with it planned to the "T" level. Your soil and your children will thank you.

FSA COMPLIANCE

As I have stated in my planning & soil survey meetings, I have a concern of the perception of the highly erodible label. The highly erodible land (HEL) label pertains only to FSA compliance planning. The HEL label does not truly address soil loss. A highly erodible field is any field that has at least one third of its area over 5% slope regardless of the conservation practices that are present.

There are still a large number of not highly erodible (NHEL) fields that have soil loss above the tolerable level or "T". The soil loss on these fields is not being addressed by FSA planning. These fields as well as fields planned to alternative systems may have soil losses that are reducing your soils productivity.

Fields with alternative systems or NHEL fields above the "T" level will not be eligible for state cost-share programs after the year 2000. These fields may also be subject to the Iowa Soil Loss Complaint Law.

It is my recommendation that you plan all your fields to the "T" level to maintain your soils productivity. If you feel that you cannot afford to farm to the "T" level. You should strongly consider the Conservation Reserve Program. If you farm

your highly erodible fields and cannot consistently net \$105.00 per acre, you should enroll your field into the CRP.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM - EXPANDS

The CRP has been expanded to include farmed wetlands or areas subject to scour erosion. The objective is to protect and preserve wetlands or stream areas while improving water quality and creating wildlife habitat. The next sign up will be around August. Remember CRP serves as your conservation plan and keeps your eligibility for farm programs.

RANDY'S FARWELL ADDRESS

March 26, 1989, I assume responsibilities as District Conservationist at Orange City, in Sioux County, Iowa.

I have mixed feelings about my transfer. Even with a 60% completion rate, Sioux Co. has more acres of highly erodible land left to plan than Louisa Co. had highly erodible acres. Sioux Co. also builds more terraces in one year than Lo. Co. would build in ten years. But that is the challenge.

A transfer to Orange City is a transfer to my home area. My mother-in-law's poor health is a factor in our decision to move.

I have enjoyed working with producers and local agencies. Groundwork has been laid for the county to have a strong forestry wildlife, and recreational program for the future. I foresee that these steps will be the start of a timber industry that will provide jobs and boost the economy.

LOUISA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
Ramon Reutinger
Martin Hoeg
Olin Jennings
Tom Utter
Mike Braun, Asst. Comm.

Staff:

Wendell B. Jones, Dist. Cons.
Norman Stone, Technician
Janet Williams, Clerk
Gail Swails, Cons. Aide

NEW DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Wendell B. Jones is our new District Conservationist. He transferred to Louisa county from neighboring Johnson county. Wendell is a native of Walnut Grove Mississippi but has lived in Iowa for the past six years. He began work with the SCS in 1980. Stop in and meet Wendell and help welcome him to Louisa County.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

SCHEDULE YOUR CONSERVATION PLAN APPOINTMENT TODAY!!

The December 31, 1989 deadline will be here before you know it! This is an important date to all landowners or operators who do not yet have a conservation plan on land they operate or are affiliated with. If you don't have a plan, or if you're not sure that you have a conservation plan, contact our office immediately. If you don't have a plan, you need to schedule an appointment **NOW** to help insure future eligibility for USDA benefits.

HAVE YOU PURCHASED OR RENTED NEW FARMLAND LATELY?

If you have recently purchased or rented new farmland, you should check with the SCS office staff to find out whether or not the farm has highly erodible land. If the farm has highly erodible land, you will need an approved conservation plan by January 1, 1990 to stay eligible for USDA program benefits.

Some tracts of land may already have a conservation plan that was developed by a former landuser. You may use the existing plan if desired, or you may revise the plan to suit your particular needs. In any event, make sure you find out all you can about the new land you'll be farming next year because the potential impact of non-compliance could be very costly.

COST-SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CONSERVATION WORK.

50% and 75% cost-share funds are now available for the construction of approved conservation practices. If you are considering some type of conservation work, stop by the ASCS or the SCS office for more information on eligible practices. Contact the SCS office to obtain an evaluation and cost estimate of the proposed project.

TREES

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH PLANTING TREES ON 10 ACRES OR MORE?

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 Issue 3
Fall 1990

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
Ramon Reutinger
Martin Hoeg
Olin Jennings
Tom Utter

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WINDBREAKS

While the dry conditions of 1988 & 1989 are still buried in our minds, lets focus in on some of the problems and examine a few solutions. Dry conditions seem to breed strong winds. There were days that "black-outs" were not uncommon in fields and across highways, not only causing hazardous driving and extensive crop drainage, but creating soil losses that will take years to rebuild. Most of you are familiar with conservation tillage and no-till, but what other factors cause soil to move with the winds? How about the removal of a fence or hedge row. That's right, the unsheltered distance across a field allows wind to move soil with full force. There are not nearly as many windbreaks or fence rows in the country as there were some years ago. It may be time for us to reconsider the added value that living structures contribute to the environment. Field and feedlot windbreaks do not cost much to establish for the benefits received. Some of these include the retained snow cover for additional moisture, beauty to the surrounding area, wildlife habitat, dollars in heating bills, and of course, soil loss protection. Both types of windbreaks may be planted

to various types of trees and shrubs. They may be elaborate with several rows, or they may only contain one row of a thick hardy tree, such as an eastern red cedar. The types of trees planted will depend on your soil type and condition, or location.

This part of the letter is what you may want to hear. There may be cost share available to establish such windbreaks. The percentage depends on which type you establish. Now is the best time to replace those old boxelder and locust growing in your fence row with something for you and your kids or grandkids to enjoy. If you are interested in a field or farmstead windbreak stop in at your local soil conservation district office for a plan and estimate.

COST SHARE THROUGH REAP ON FIELD & FARMSTEAD WINDBREAKS

FARMSTEAD WINDBREAKS

Farmstead windbreaks can have 75% cost share on the actual cost, not to exceed \$12/tree and \$2.25/shrub. The total cost share for establishment, restoration & fencing, not to exceed \$700 per windbreak.

FIELD WINDBREAKS

Field windbreaks can have 75% cost share on the actual cost, not to exceed \$12/tree and \$2.25/shrub. The \$700 maximum does not apply to field windbreaks.

TREES TREES & MORE TREES

Your Conservation District has trees for sale! The other side of this newsletter has the order form and details. This is the first of what we hope is an annual event. Any profits will be used for conservation education.

All SCS services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

TREE SEEDLING SALE - 1991

The Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District's first annual tree sale has started and we are taking orders. Be sure to send your order in early to be assured of getting your choice. If the variety you choose is sold out, you may order a different variety or we will refund your money. You must order at least 10 seedlings of one variety. Orders will be taken until February 28, 1991. Seedlings will arrive the first part of April, 1991. You will be contacted when they arrive and you will be responsible for picking them up at the area designated within 3 days. If you have any questions, please call the SWCD office at 523-6411. Profits will be used to promote soil and water conservation education in Louisa County.

Variety	Size	Price
French Blue Scotch Pine	10-15"	\$1.00
Eastern White Pine	8-12"	1.00
Colorado Blue Spruce	9-12"	1.00
Norway Spruce	9-12"	1.00
Black Walnut, Regular	12-18"	1.00
Northern Red Oak	18-24"	1.00

MINIMUM ORDER: 10 of ONE VARIETY

Send payment and order blank to: Louisa County SWCD
514 Isett
Wapello, IA 52653

Make Checks payable to Louisa County SWCD

Detach Here

ORDER BLANK FOR 1991 TREE SEEDLINGS

Name: _____

Phone: 414-781-2280

Address:

Variety	HOW MANY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
		SUBTOTAL	
		TAX	
		TOTAL	

Upon notification, I agree to pick up my order at the designated area.

Signature

Date _____

**LOUISA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER**

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
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Staff:

Wendell B. Jones, Dist. Cons.
Norman Stone, Technician
Janet Williams, Clerk
Gail Swails, Cons. Aide

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TREES

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH PLANTING TREES ON 10 ACRES OR MORE?

Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development has a tree planting information team ready to help you get the information you need.

The Geode Turn-Key program will handle all of the details for tree planting and maintenance for the first 5 years. Five different contract and cost options are available. Contracts can include the establishment of the permanent seeding, mowing, herbicide application, purchase of tree seedlings, and planting of the trees. The Turn-Key program provides custom services to take you as a landowner or operator through the process of establishing the plantation and initial management to insure a successful planting.

Cost-share is available for tree planting through the ASCS office.

Iowa is a major exporter of walnut and oak veneer logs. Economic studies by the Dept. of Natural Resources indicate that forestry can make an excellent investment with potential for returns equal to or above Certificates of Deposit, GINNY MAEs, and bonds. Hardwood trees grown under intensive management in mixed stands have the capability to generate income that far exceeds traditional row crops of corn and soybeans.

For more information please contact Geode Wonderland RC&D, the District Forester, or the Soil Conservation District Office.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

SIGNATURE SHEETS ARE NECESSARY

Landowners who have developed a FSA compliance plan with the SCS office need to be reminded that in order for the plan to be considered valid, SCS must have the plan's signature sheets returned with operator and owner signatures.

PLAN YOUR FARM



FARM YOUR PLAN



Soil Conservation District Comm. meet the third Monday evening of each month.

All programs and services of USDA are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

**LOUISIANA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 2 Issue 2
Fall 1990

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
Ramon Reutinger
Martin Hoeg
Olin Jennings
Tom Utter

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**START PLANNING NOW FOR NEXT
YEARS CONSERVATION TILLAGE**

Now is the time to start making plans and decisions about conservation tillage. Residue management shouldn't be left to chance. By planning ahead, appropriate residue levels can be obtained and the proper herbicides can usually be selected based on the anticipated residue levels and weed pressures.

The first thing to consider is whether the benefits expected from fall tillage necessitates doing any tillage at all in the fall. Some common reasons given for fall tillage are to increase the intake of water, to save time in spring, to eliminate compaction, to incorporate fertilizer, and to prevent clods the following spring.

It is generally accepted that in certain soil types or situations one or more of the above mentioned benefits may be obtained. However, this does not necessarily mean that yields or profit will automatically increase with fall tillage.

In looking at the benefits of fall tillage, the disadvantages should also be weighed. The biggest one being that the field is more

susceptible to erosion by water and wind in fall and early spring due to loosened soil and less residue cover. Another often overlooked disadvantage is that compaction can actually be increased by more trips over the field.

Even when using reduced fall tillage, the type of tillage implements used can make a difference in the remaining residue. Twisted shank chisels **bury** up to 60% existing residue compared to straight shank chisels which bury up to 40%. Each pass with a tandem disk **eliminates** approximately 35% residue; an offset disk - 75%.

Factors to consider in planning for reduced tillage systems include:
a.) The type of tillage implement to be used - some of the newer deep tillage implements **leave** 65-80% of the existing residue. b.) The number of passes that will be performed with each implement - the less the better. c.) What operations can be eliminated or substituted that will still allow an opportunity for the expected benefit - for example, if you do fall tillage so that you don't have clods, maybe no-till could be used instead.

The first step towards a **planned** reduced tillage system is to learn how to estimate remaining crop residues with various tillage operations, and to learn how to measure crop residues. Information on both is available at the SCS office.

**PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR RESIDUE
TRIALS.**

The SWCD commissioners would like to develop some local information for use by producers on various tillage implements used in the

county and the amount of residue they commonly leave. If you would like to participate by having residue measured on your farm after each tillage operation, please contact the SCS office before harvest.

REAP - NEW COST SHARE FUNDING FOR THE COUNTY

The Soil and Water Conservation District has the new responsibility for administering the Forestry and Native Grasses Account and the Soil and Water Conservation Account under REAP.

REAP is an acronym for a new state program called Resource Enhancement and Protection. The main thrust of the program at the district level is to promote tree and native grass plantings and management, and to improve water quality.

REAP funds through the SWCD may be used to pay landowners up to 75% of the cost for tree planting, native grass planting, timber stand improvement projects, field and farmstead windbreak establishment, critical area seedings, and pasture and hayland planting.

An incentive payment of \$15/acre for Contour Stripcropping is also allowed under REAP.

REAP funding allows for 50% cost sharing for practices such as terraces and water and sediment control basins. At this time those funds are only available to landowners in the Whiskey Hollow watershed.

TOUR TO AGRONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a bus tour to the Agronomic development Center in Lexington, Illinois, on September 11.

The Center is known for extensive research on plots that have been in 14 consecutive years of no-till using a corn-soybean rotation.

The latest in no-till concepts are examined and discussed including herbicides and the importance of earthworms. Many have reported that information from the Center is the most comprehensive data ever offered in this area.

Persons interested in attending this tour should contact the SCS Office in Wapello ASAP as reservations will be filled on a first come first served basis.

There is no cost to attend this tour and a noon meal will be provided.

HOW TO BECOME A COMMISSIONER IN LOUISA SWCD

Any eligible voter living in Louisa County can be a candidate. Iowa law states that only one commissioner can serve from any township. Each candidate must obtain a nominating petition from the County Auditor, to be signed by at least 25 eligible voters, & file the petition with the auditor by 5 p.m. on Aug. 29.

file c.

**LOUISA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 2 Issue 1

Spring 1990

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman

Ramon Reutinger

Martin Hoeg

Olin Jennings

Tom Utter

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NEW STAFF ON BOARD

Larry Honts of Muscatine will be assisting the district in upcoming months with the layout of conservation practices in the field. Larry has prior experience with the SCS in Muscatine county and he has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Louisa Co.

Leslie "Joe" Everett of rural Wapello has recently joined the SCS staff as a volunteer. Joe will be primarily responsible for performing CRP seeding checks this spring and summer.

There are other volunteer opportunities available at the SCS. If you or someone you know are interested in doing some volunteer work, contact our office.

CRP SEEDING MAINTENANCE

CRP acres must be maintained to insure that noxious weeds are controlled and that a vigorous stand is maintained for the duration of the ten year contract.

During the establishment year of brome/alfalfa seedings, the oats companion crop must be clipped

Staff:

Wendell B. Jones, Dist. Cons.

Norman Stone, Technician

Janet Williams, Clerk

Julie Ohde, Asst. Commissioner

Mike Braun, Asst. Commissioner

+ + + + +

at the time of head emergence to promote growth of new cover. Another clipping in late August-early September has also proven beneficial to many first year seedings.

On established stands of brome, orchardgrass, and/or alfalfa, annual mowing is not needed unless weeds are a problem. If that is the case, clip or apply herbicides to control noxious weeds and other undesirable plants. Do not mow until after July 15 to promote wildlife habitat.

On both newly seeded and second year stands of switchgrass, care must be taken not to mow the switchgrass plants below the height of six inches. If weed competition is not severe, it is best not to mow these stands at all. Many noxious broadleaf weeds can be controlled by the application of 2,4-D at the recommended rate. If you feel that heavy foxtail or other weeds are a problem in your stand, and that you may need to mow, contact the SCS office for guidance.

When mowing all CRP acres it is important not to use a mower that will lay the cut vegetation

down on the seeding and prohibit sunlight and air from reaching the plants underneath.

Remember, it is a requirement that noxious weeds be controlled in all cases on CRP. There are no exceptions. If you need a list of plants that are considered to be noxious weeds, contact the SCS office.

GRASS WATERWAYS & BORDERS

Where curves in contour lines are too sharp to farm, grass turn strips may be needed to turn on. Depressions where water concentrates and runs off the field should also be seeded to grass. It's important with a contour system that runoff water is safely carried from the field. Contour rows should enter waterway areas nearly on the level, but with a slight grade down hill to direct the water to the waterway.

You never want to plant crop rows up and down the side of the waterway. The same is true at the ends of the field. You defeat the purpose of contouring if you plant end rows up and down hill. Instead, use a grassed field border as a turn row at the ends. These areas often qualify as set aside acreage, and make good travel lanes. They're also good cover for wildlife.

A video tape, "Conservation on Your Own" explains eight conservation practices, including how to lay out waterways and field borders. Borrow a copy from your local SCS District Office.

SWITCHGRASS - A GOOD CHOICE FOR SEEDING WATERWAYS AND FIELD BORDERS.

Switchgrass is a perennial native grass that offers some advantages for many of the common problems associated with waterway and field border seedings. Probably its most desirable trait is its resistance to the herbicide Atrazine. A mature stand of switchgrass can actually benefit from a direct application of up to 4 lbs./ac active ingredient. This can be a tremendous advantage in fields where this herbicide is used.

Another advantage of switchgrass is its ability to thrive in a wide range of soil types including the wet saturated soils commonly found in many waterways. Reeds canarygrass is often used in these situations but is not always the best choice due to its excessively dense vegetation that greatly restricts the flow of water and causes accelerated sediment deposition, thus reducing the useful life of the waterway.

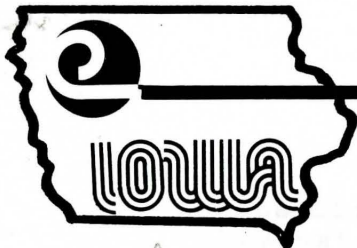
The recommended deadline for seeding switchgrass is June 1.

For more information on switchgrass and/or waterway establishment and maintenance contact our office.

NO-TILL TOUR SCHEDULED

A no-till clinic/tour will be held on June 6, 1990 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Bob Utter farm located three miles east of Columbus Junction On Highway 92. More information on this tour will be forthcoming.

Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners



1121
Rural Route 2, Box 84
Gladbrook, IA 50635
(515)473-2338

*Agenda
8/19
New Buson - b.*

TO: Chairpersons of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: Dan Bruene, President, Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners *DB*

RE: Informational Letter for the Governor

DATE: July 15, 1991

This year we have witnessed some of the worst soil erosion and pollution of our waters the state has seen. It seems that, after all of the work that has been done to protect these valuable resources, we continue to see these types of things still happening.

We have an opportunity to point out some of the districts' resource protection concerns when the IASWCDC and the SSCC meet with the Governor in his office to sign the proclamation prior to Soil and Water Conservation Week, September 9-15, 1991.

I want each district to send the IDALS, Division of Soil Conservation, a one-page letter explaining the resource problems that your district will be facing. Tell about the problems you have and possibly give some suggestions on ways these problems should be addressed. Please review the letter at your next commissioners' meeting and have all five commissioners sign it. Send the letter to the Division by ~~August 30~~, 1991. *by 8-26*

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort. We plan to bind all of the letters and hand deliver them to the Governor personally. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

LTRGOV.DB

File
vsc/ dsc/leg

Rough Draft

Sent
signed
Copy

8-20-91

Louisa Soil & Water
Conservation District

514 Isett
Wapello, IA 52653

Phone
523-6411

August 19, 1991

Governor Branstad
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Honorable Terry Branstad:

The past three years we have accomplished much in the way of soil conservation in Louisa County. We have witnessed more acres of cropland being no-tilled than ever before. Trees ^{are} being planted on highly erodible cropland at rates we would have never imagined possible five years ago. The farmers of Louisa County have been working hard to conserve Iowa's most valuable resource...its soil.

We believe this accelerated level of conservation would not have been possible without the funding of such programs as REAP and IFIP (state cost share). The State of Iowa sent a clear message to the farmers on the importance of soil conservation when it increased funding for these programs.

The Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners of Louisa County are concerned with the message being sent to the farmers today. With the reduction in REAP and the Division of Soil Conservation's budget you are telling the best farmers in the world that soil conservation is a luxury to be cut at the first sign of budget woes. The farmers of Louisa County have shown over the last three years that they are willing to accept the challenges that come with conserving the soil. We ask that you show the same courage and innovativeness as Iowa's farmers by restoring funding to the programs that have made the great strides in conservation possible.

Sincerely,

Louisa County SWCD Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush
Chairman of Louisa SWCD

Martin Hoeg Vice Chairman

Olin Jennings

Tom Utter

Mike Braun



LOUISIANA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

LOUISIANA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
Vol. 3 Issue 4 Fall-1991

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
Martin Hoeg
Olin Jennings
Tom Utter
Mike Braun

Staff:

Shawn Beltramm, Dist. Cons.
Norman Stone, Technician
Janet Williams, Secretary
Gail Swails, Conservation Aide

+++++

Status Reviews Discussed

A status review is a comparison of what was planned to what has been applied according to the schedule in the compliance plan. SCS will conduct the status review on the farm at a time when they can best determine if the practices scheduled in a plan are complete.

Status reviews can be thought of as progress checks. They are done to ensure that farmers are following their plan according to the schedule they agreed to. Farmers certify they are following their plan each time they sign up for USDA program benefits on the Form AD-1026 at ASCS.

IMPORTANT!

1991 will be the only year a producer can reschedule practices for next year, and only if the plan is unclear and he/she didn't understand the plan. If the plan contained contradictory statements or the practices are not clearly identified on the plan map, practices may be rescheduled to 1992.

This rescheduling can take place during a status review, but SCS advises all plan holders to make sure they understand their plan.

After 1991 if a practice is scheduled, the producer must do one of two things:

- *apply the practice as scheduled
- *substitute another practice on the same land that will provide at least as much erosion control as originally planned.

Rescheduling a practice to a later year without any progress in the scheduled year isn't an option. DOING CONSERVATION WORK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IS AN OPTION AND IS ENCOURAGED.

The earlier in the year a producer decides on a substitute practice, the more options will be available. Producers who substitute practices before they receive a status review will be scheduled for follow-up assistance to help them apply the practice,

but they won't be selected automatically the next year for a status review. However, they may be part of the random selection.

What to expect during a status review?

*SCS will contact the producer and ask for an appointment for a field review.

*In 1991, if the producer says he/she hasn't followed the plan because it isn't understandable, SCS will work with the producer to make the plan clear and understandable.

A conservationist will work with the producer to reschedule any practices to 1992 that the producer isn't able to apply in 1991. The producer will be determined to be actively applying the plan and will be reviewed again in 1992.

IT'S THE PRODUCER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND HIS/HER PLAN BEFORE 1992.

SCS will conduct a field review to determine:

- that the original highly erodible and wetland determinations are correct.
- that practices scheduled in the plan are applied according to schedule
- that practices already in place are properly maintained
- there are no swampbuster, sodbuster, or CFP violations.

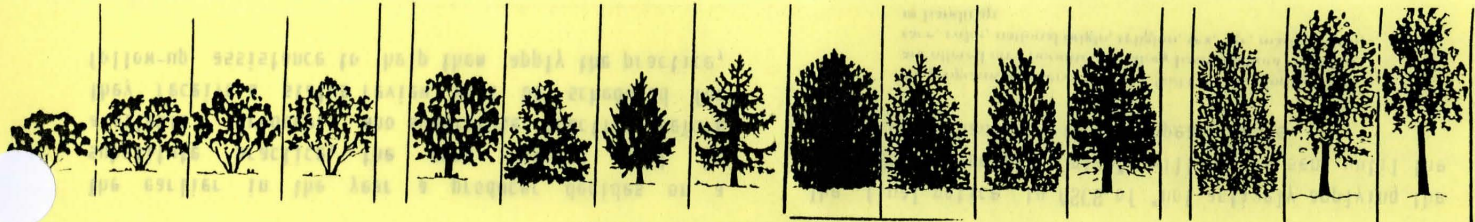
What happens after the status review?

If the producer has all practices applied on schedule according to SCS specifications and is maintaining practices after they are applied, he/she is considered to be "actively applying" the plan.

What happens if a producer is found "not actively applying" the plan?

SCS will inform the person by letter that SCS has determined that he/she is not actively applying the approved conservation plan. A copy of the letter will go to the soil and water conservation district. SCS will inform the person of appeal rights and that SCS will inform ASCS that the person is not actively applying the approved conservation plan. This report will also be made to FmHA for FmHA borrowers and to FCIC for FCIC participants.

The final notice to ASCS of "not actively applying the approved conservation plan" will not be sent until the person has exhausted his/her appeal rights.



1992 TREE SEEDLING SALE

The Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District's first annual tree sale has started and we are taking orders. Be sure to send your order in early to be assured of getting your choice. If the variety you choose is sold out, you may order a different variety or we will refund your money. You must order at least 10 seedlings of one variety. Orders will be taken until February 28, 1992. Seedlings will arrive the first part of April, 1992. You will be contacted when they arrive and you will be responsible for picking them up at the area designated within 2 days. If you have any questions, please call the SWCD office at 523-6411. Profits will be used to promote soil and water conservation education in Louisa County.

Variety	Size	Price
East Anglia Scotch Pine	6-12"	\$1.00
Austrian Pine	6-12"	1.00
Colorado Blue Spruce	8-12"	1.00
Eastern White Pine	8-12"	1.00
Black Walnut, Regular	12-18"	1.00
Ped Oak	18-24"	1.00
Hanking Cherry	12-18"	1.00
Common Purple Lilac	12-18"	1.00
Rododier Dogwood	12-18"	1.00

MINIMUM ORDER: 10 of ONE VARIETY

Send payment and order blank to: Louisa County SWCD
514 Issett
Wapello, IA 52653

Make Checks payable to Louisa County SWCD

Detach Here

ORDER BLANK FOR 1991 TREE SEEDLINGS

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Variety	HOW MANY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL

TOTAL: _____

Upon notification, I agree to pick up my order at the designated area.

Signature _____

Date _____

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 Issue 2
July - 1991

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
Martin Hoeg
Olin Jennings
Tom Utter
Mike Braun

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NEW DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Shawn Dettmann is District Conservationist for Louisa County. He is a graduate of Iowa State University. He has been with SCS for several years and transferred here from Sioux City. Stop in and meet Shawn.



FARM VISITS

The SCS office staff will be visiting many farms this year to check on progress in implementing compliance plans. A certain percentage of farms must be visited each year. We will be checking the need for field borders and waterways as well as whether the planned rotations, tillage, and other practices are being used.

We will also be checking CRP seedings. Many of last year's seedings were questionable and will be checked again this year.

Staff:

Shawn Dettmann, Dist. Cons.
Norman Stone, Technician
Janet Williams, Secretary
Gail Swails, Conservation Aide

+++++

CRP BONUS ALERT!!

Extend your CRP income for an additional 5 years by planting trees.

If you have a rough field that really isn't paying its way...

If you want to do something for your grandchildren...

If you want to increase the value and beauty of your farm...

Professional crews are available; 75% cost-sharing is available. It couldn't be cheaper, easier, or more simple.

Act Now! The signup ends July 19.

Contact the Soil Conservation Service for further information. The phone number is 523-6411.

NEW REVISION POLICY.....

Bill Richards, the new chief of the Soil Conservation Service, has implemented a new policy on plan revisions. The key change is: **scheduled practices must be applied in the year they are scheduled.** In the past, our

understanding was that practices could be rescheduled for implementation at a later date - as long as a change was made before a person was found to be out of compliance for not applying a scheduled practice.

Now a person must install practices as scheduled or install an alternative practice that will reduce erosion potentials to the same level as would have been achieved if the scheduled practice(s) had been installed.

There is an exception to the new revision policy in 1991. If your conservation plan is unclear and you did not understand the plan, you can reschedule any '91 practices back to '92. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact us. We will schedule an appointment to review your plan with you. We will help you make any additions, corrections, or revisions needed. We will also answer any questions and clear up any misunderstandings.

It is important to review plans early in the year. If you realize in January that there may be some problems with scheduled practices, we'll have some time to look at options. Please don't let it go until December, and then come in to find out what can be done about those practices you didn't get installed this year. There's probably not much we can do at that stage.

The new revision policy is designed to prevent a huge pile up of work at the end of the implementation period. The Commissioners of the Louisa SWCD recognized this was a potential problem with the past policy on revisions. We realize the farmers need to be steadily applying practices. We know

that farmers must do all they can each year to apply their plans.

But we also feel that the flexibility that was promised during the development of plans should be honored....at least until we have done a field follow-up (or status review) with each farmer.

If you find the revision policy causes you problems, please let us know. We will pass your concerns on and ensure that our staff does what they can to help you implement your plans and stay in compliance. The key, though, is to make sure you have done all you can to take care of your conservation needs. If you've done that, there are always possibilities. If you haven't, our options become limited.

DISASTER LOANS

Farmers Home Administration has emergency loans available to producers with a qualifying loss on their corn acres. For more information, stop by the FmHA Office at 113 Lake Park Blvd., Muscatine, IA 52761 or call 263-8322.

Soil Conservation District Commissioners meet the third Monday evening of each month.

All programs and services of USDA are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

Take Pride in America -- Save Our Soil



LOUISA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 Issue 3
September - 1991

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
Martin Hoeg
Olin Jennings
Tom Utter
Mike Braun

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What are Soil & Water Conservation Districts?

Soil & Water Conservation Districts are legal subdivisions of state government. In Iowa they usually cover one county.

The District is governed by a five member board made up of local people elected to a six year term through the general election.

District Commissioners meet once per month and their responsibilities include: allocation of State cost-share money, influencing state and national conservation programs and promoting conservation in the community with a variety of service projects and educational activities.

In Iowa the USDA - Soil Conservation Service works very closely with the District in the role of technical advisor.

Your District Commissioners are Lee Roudybush, Chairman; Tom Utter, Olin Jennings, Martin Hoeg, and Mike Braun. The commissioners serve without salary.

All programs and services of the Soil Conservation Service are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Staff:

Shawn Dettmann, Dist. Cons.
Norman Stone, Technician
Janet Williams, Secretary
Gail Swails, Conservation Aide

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Trees don't cost they....

A tree is worth \$196,250 according to Professor T.M. Das of the University of Calcutta. A tree living for 50 years will generate \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, control soil erosion and increase soil fertility to the tune of \$31,250. This figure does not include the value of the fruits, lumber or beauty derived from trees. Just another sensible reason to plant a tree.

ANNUAL TREE SALES UNDERWAY

The District has expanded its tree sales program to include shrubs as well as trees. The following varieties are available: Scotch Pine, Austrian Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, White Pine, Black Walnut, Red Oak, Nanking Cherry, Purple Lilac, Rodosier Dogwood..

An order form is included with this newsletter. Order as soon as possible while selection is at its best. The trees will arrive the first part of April in 1992.



1992 TREE SEEDLING SALE

The Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District's first annual tree sale has started and we are taking orders. Be sure to send your order in early to be assured of getting your choice. If the variety you choose is sold out, you may order a different variety or we will refund your money. You must order at least 10 seedlings of one variety. Orders will be taken until February 28, 1992. Seedlings will arrive the first part of April, 1992. You will be contacted when they arrive and you will be responsible for picking them up at the area designated within 2 days. If you have any questions, please call the SWCD office at 523-6411. Profits will be used to promote soil and water conservation education in Louisa County.

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514 Isett
Wapello, IA 52653

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Detach Here

ORDER BLANK FOR 1991 TREE SEEDLINGS

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Variety	HOW MANY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL

TOTAL: _____

Upon notification, I agree to pick up my order at the designated area.

Signature _____

Date _____

LOUISA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 Issue 1

Spring 1991

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
Martin Hoeg
Olin Jennings
Tom Utter
Mike Braun

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OPERATION WETLAND STORM

As we get into "Operation Wetland Storm", the Soil Conservation Service office is sending out wetland determinations. Those receiving wetland determinations are asked if they wish to prove drainage of wetland areas marked on their determinations. The first option a producer has on doing anything on wetland determinations is to not participate in Government Programs such as CCC payments, Federal Crop Ins., or FmHA Loans. If the producer wishes to participate in Government Programs, the drainage worksheet must be filled out to verify drainage. The SCS staff is mailing out all determinations which we do not have drainage records for in the SCS office. Questions that come out in the first part of "Operation Wetland Storm".

Question: What if I don't have drainage records for the wetland area?

Answer: A drainage system worksheet is sent with each determination. If this worksheet can be filled out to show adequately Prior Converted. If the area cannot be shown to be adequately drained then it will be called a Farmed Wetland. A Farmed Wetland can still be farmed but additional tile may not be installed.

Question: Can I maintain existing tile in a Farmed Wetland?

Answer: Yes, drainage can be maintained at the same capacity and same depth of original tile.

Question: What if I have areas of Non-Cropland, can I drain it and raise row crops?

Answer: Not if you want to stay in compliance with Government Programs. Non-Crop area cannot be drained, but can be farmed to stay in compliance.

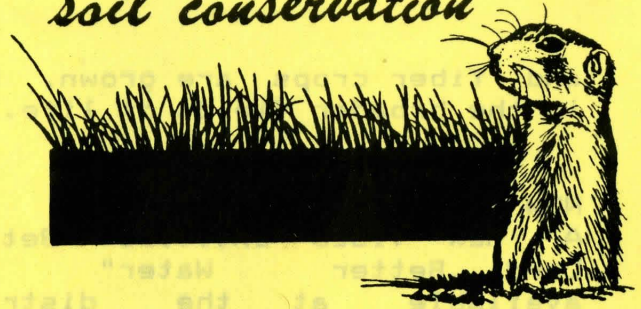
Question: Are there any other regulations on drainage?

Answer: Yes, the Army Corp of Engineers and Department of Natural Resources require permits for repair, maintenance, and added tile of Farmed Wetland, Wetland, Non-Cropped wetland areas. Check with the 'Corp' and 'DNR' before tiling Farmed Wetland and Non-Cropped areas.

Question: What does ASCS have to do with all this Wetland Determination?

Answer: ASCS has each producer fill out a 1026 form each year to indicate if they plan sodbusting or swampbusting, this is the producers opportunity to find out if land alteration may jepordize compliance with Government Programs. Be sure to fill the 1026 form out properly.

What's up in
soil conservation



Staff:

Margaret A. Cope, Dist. Cons.
Norman Stone, Technician
Janet Williams, Secretary
Gail Swails, Clerical
Kim Wildermuth, Clerical

+ + + + +

NEW FACE IN THE OFFICE

Margaret Cope is filling in as District Conservationist until a permanent person can be hired. Wendell Jones, former D.C., has accepted a position in Washington County. Stop in and meet Margaret. She has a farm background and a degree from Northeast Missouri State University in Agri-Business.

MULTIFLORA ROSE COST SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE

Limited funds remain available for the eradication of multiflora rose. Up to 50% on the cost of chemicals used on multiflora rose can be applied for at the Soil Conservation District Office, 514 Isett, Wapello.

SOIL & WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK

April 28 - May 5 is Soil & Water Stewardship Week. The theme this year is AS YOU SOW. Materials have been distributed to the local churches by the local District to remind the community that everyone can help care for our earth's environment.

By taking positive environmental steps--as simple as planting a tree or reducing pesticide use--every person can be a sower, not just in the fields where food



and fiber crops are grown, but in the broader fields of life.

NEW VIDEO AVAILABLE

A new video entitled "Better Land...Better Water" is available at the district office. The six-part program explains how individuals can contribute to resource conservation for a better environment. The video is instructional in nature with basic how-to information for plugging an abandoned well, testing soil for nitrates, planting a tree, planting a farmstead windbreak, getting grasses growing, and using filter strips to safeguard streams.

The video tape, "Conservation on Your Own" is still available also. It explains eight conservation practices, including how to lay out contour lines.

These and other educational tapes are available upon request from the local soil and water conservation district office.

DISTRICT TREE SALES A SUCCESS

The district sold six varieties of trees to earn funds to use on their conservation education projects. This is the first year the district has sold trees and approximately 2,750 trees were sold.

STATUS REVIEWS

The Soil Conservation Service will soon be conducting the yearly 5% spot check of county producers Food Security Act Conservation plans.

The spot check will consist of an SCS employee visiting with the producer to look over the FSA plan to be sure the producer

understands what is expected of them. We will also look at the farm to see if items scheduled have been applied and to update things that have been applied since the last look or when the plan was made. At that time, we can also give some technical assistance on any problem area you may have questions about.

COST SHARING AVAILABLE FOR FIRST TIME NO-TILL PRACTICES

The District still has funds available for the temporary practice of no-till for producers who are trying no-till for the first time. Up to 40 acres can be cost-shared at \$10 per acre. The practice must be done for two years. If interested come in and sign up as soon as possible. Funds are limited.

Funds available can also be used for other temporary practices such as contours, contour stripcropping.

JUST A REMINDER ---

If you received and have not returned your wetland worksheet it is due by May 15. If you need help please call 523-6411 for an appointment or stop in when you are in Wapello.

Soil. Conservation District Commissioners meet the third Monday evening of each month.

All programs and services of USDA are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

Vol. 4 Issue 1

Winter 1992

OVERCOMING NO-TILL PROBLEMS

Points to consider before converting fields to no-till include compaction, drainage, fertility and residue management. Greg Brennaman and Jim Fawcett of the Cedar Rapids Area Extension Office have prepared a summary of problems that can be prevented by planning ahead.

No-till is usually more successful on soils that are well drained. If tiling or surface drainage is necessary, be certain to contact your SCS office regarding "wetland" designations. Usually, fields that are sloping enough to require crop residue management to stay in farm programs will have adequate drainage.

Compaction may be a problem left over from previous years when the soil had been worked while wet, or harvesting was completed during wet periods. Overworking the soil has also been known to cause compaction. Compacted soil will restrict root growth which in turn affects the vigor of the plant. If this is a problem it may be necessary to use a deep tillage tool in the fall to break up the compacted layer. If needed, a harrow or leveling tool could be pulled behind to leave the field ready to plant.

Another problem is the concentration of crop residue. Residue should be spread evenly over the field. For wide combines in a soybean field, consider using a chaff spreader along with the normal straw spreader. This will also provide the best protection for erosion. Most of the time chopping or shredding cornstalks will not be necessary.

Before starting a no-till system, it is desirable to have medium or higher phosphorous levels in the soil. Also lime should be added if pH is below 6.0. If soil tests show lower levels these should be incorporated the previous fall with any trip needed to break up compaction. Moderate amounts of fertilizer can be applied with planter attachments.

Even though the field may not be perfect for no-tilling, most problems can be avoided with proper management and preparation beforehand.



CONSERVATION COST SHARE

Do you have a conservation project that would qualify for cost-share? Priority in projects have changed in the past few years. Due to public pressure, environmental laws have equalized the importance of a diversified farm plan. These may include ag-related windbreaks, no-till, terraces, permanent pasture seedings, streambank protection (not car bodies), and wetland restoration. The list goes on.

There are different sources of funds available. Fish and Wildlife Service may have funds to restore and create wetlands. Federal monies may also be available through your local ASCS for a wide variety of projects. State and local funds could be sought through your county Soil Conservation Service, County Conservation Board, or the Department of Natural Resources. These practices may include, but are not limited to, wildlife habitat, tree plantings, or sediment retention structures.

Now the bad news. Not every project is funded. The many applications are reviewed and the ones that have the most merit are selected for cost-share. The good news is that you can receive technical assistance, at no cost, even though you are not receiving financial aid. We, at the Louisa County SCS, are capable and willing to help with any questions you have. Stop in and see us for help in planning your conservation and environmental practices.

JUST A REMINDER -

Expanded office hours on Mondays to better serve the public. Louisa County SCS Office will be open: *Mondays*

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

DISTRICT TREE SALES A SUCCESS

The district sold nine varieties of trees to earn funds for conservation education projects. This is the second year the district has sold trees and about 3,000 trees have been sold.



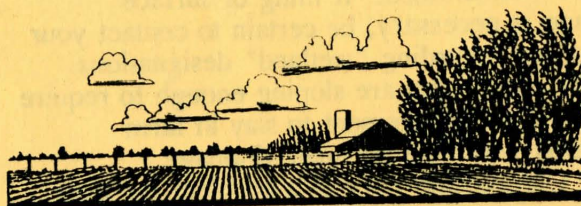
STATUS REVIEWS

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The spot check will consist of an SCS employee visiting with the producer to look over the FSA plan to be sure the producer understands what is expected of them. We will also look at the farm to see if items scheduled have been applied and to update things that have been applied since the last look or when the plan was made.

75% COST SHARE FOR SHELTER BELTS

Cooperators will receive 75% of the cost of shelter belt establishment not to exceed \$1600, if planted according to DNR planting specifications. Expansion of existing shelter belt to at least 8 rows will be at 75% of the actual cost not to exceed \$200 per row. A 14 row shelterbelt is the maximum size that will be costshared. Additional assistance, such as planting, may be available from county conservation groups like Pheasants Forever, etc. Stop by the SCS office in Wapello to pick up an application.



*All programs and services of
USDA are available to everyone without
regard to race, color, sex, age,
handicap, or national origin.*

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush, Chairman
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Gail Swails, Soil Technician

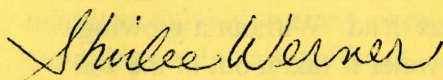
*Soil Conservation District Commissioners meet the third
Monday evening of each month.*

AG EXTENSION UPDATE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1993

This newsletter contains more articles from the Extension Ag Field Specialists serving Louisa County. We hope you will find the information useful. If you have any questions or concerns where they can be of assistance, contact the Louisa County Extension Office and we will put you in touch with them.

Sincerely



Shirlee Werner
Louisa County Extension
Education Director

SW/sl

WATER QUALITY FOR SWINE PRODUCTION

By Larry McMullen
Extension Field Specialist / Swine

Water is the least expensive nutrient in swine production and is often the most overlooked nutrient of the diet. Water is an absolute necessity for swine production, and quality water is required for maximum performance. Poor quality water will result in reduced water intake; thereby giving decreased feed intake which results in lowered gain and feed efficiency.

Water requirements for swine vary depending on the season and diet. Water intake is usually 2 to 2.5 times the feed intake. As an example, a 100 lb. pig consuming 4 pounds of

feed will drink approximately 1 gallon (8.3 lbs) of water. Of course the type of diet, environmental temperature, and health status will affect the amount consumed. The following is an estimate of the daily water consumption of swine:

BODY WEIGHT (POUNDS)	WATER CONSUMED (GALLONS)
25	0.4
50	0.6
75	0.9
100	1.0
150	1.3
200	1.7
250	2.0
300	2.1
400	2.3
Gestating Sows and Gilts	3.6 - 4.5
Lactating Sows and Gilts	4.8 - 6.0

Be sure your water supply system can deliver the volume needed to all animals. As a rule of thumb, taking into account waste, season of year etc., the unit supply needs per pig per day capacity will be: Nursery - 1 gallon, Grower - 1 to 2 gallons, Finishing 3 to 5 gallons, Gestation - 6 gallons, and Farrowing - 8 gallons.

The most common water quality concerns will be highly mineralized water, high nitrogen content, and bacterial contamination. Water contamination with certain bacteria, nitrates, sulfates, pesticides, heavy metals, and other toxic materials can directly cause a health hazard with their toxic effects. More commonly though, hardness, iron, hydrogen sulfide, and/or

decaying organic material adversely affect the taste and smell of the water which in turn lowers daily intake and weight gains.

When the total soluble salt level (ions of calcium, magnesium, sodium, bicarbonate, chloride, and sulfate) is high pigs can develop a diarrhea. Sulfates can also give the water a bitter taste. Iron in high levels generally do not pose a health hazard because the iron from natural sources is poorly absorbed by the pig.

Swine are quite tolerant of high levels of nitrate in their drinking water and under practical conditions nitrates should not cause a health problem. Nitrates are highly soluble and usually enter the water supply by leaching from applied nitrogen fertilizers or run-off from feedlots. High levels of nitrates may cause a problem in cattle or sheep because the nitrate is reduced by bacteria in the rumen to nitrite which is highly toxic to all animals. Since pigs are simple stomached animals, the relatively non toxic nitrates are absorbed before they are reduced to the toxic nitrite by the bacteria in the large intestine.

Coliform bacteria level is an indicator of fecal contamination and indicate the general sanitary quality of the water and the extent of the pollution from outside sources. Acceptable standards for allowable bacteria for livestock vary between agencies; however, the Environmental Protection Agency has set 5000 coliforms per 100 ml of water. Other agencies suggest no limits. Well chlorination should be considered if high levels of bacteria are present.

Younger pigs are more adversely affected by contaminated water than adult swine and may be more sensitive to taste and smell of the water. Clean, non-contaminated water is desired for all ages of swine. If you suspect that a water quality problem is a concern in your swine production unit, the water should be tested and corrective measures taken. Water is a major nutrient that will effect swine profitability.

For information on water testing laboratories, please contact the Louisa County Extension Office (523-2371) or me directly at the Jones County Extension Office (462-2791).

SHOULD I TILL THIS FALL?

By Greg Brenneman

ISU Extension Ag Engineering Specialist

Concerns about soil compaction, poor soil structure, and fields flooded this summer have many producers asking if tillage should be done this fall and if so, what kind of tillage. With a wet harvest last fall, and crops being "mudded in" this spring, concerns about soil compaction are certainly justified. Also, with the excessive rains this summer, many soils are "puddled", or lacking in soil structure at the surface. In some cases fields were flooded and were left with no soil structure at the surface.

Given these conditions, questions are coming in on whether tillage would be beneficial with soils still being relatively wet. In a nutshell, the answer is a qualified "maybe", if the tillage is kept relatively shallow.

Even though we had a relatively dry October, this came after most of the corn and soybean crop was dead. Without a growing crop, very little water is taken out of the soil below 4-6 inches. Thus the soils at deeper depths remain wet and not very suitable for tillage. Most deep tillage tools cannot effectively fracture soil from the cutting point to the surface under wet conditions. Instead soil will flow around the point creating a slot in the soil with compacted sidewalls which are more harmful than beneficial. Under these soil conditions, deep tillage is not recommended.

Much of the damage that has been done to the soil through compaction, flooding, or soil puddling is relatively shallow. The compaction from spring operations probably does penetrate more than 6-8 inches deep since most axle loads are less than 10 tons. However, the compaction zones are still deeper than the depth of secondary tillage. This results in poor crop growth patterns in these wheel tracked areas. In a demonstration field near Ames, the field was driven over twice with a 7.5 ton axle load prior to being tilled with a field cultivator. The effect of compaction could be seen on the crop throughout the growing season, but compaction could not be found with a soil penetrometer below 8 inches. While this compaction can

have a significant impact on crops, it is easier to deal with than deeper compaction. Also the over wintering forces, of freezing and thawing as well as wetting and drying can relieve much of this problem before next spring.

Even though there is a lot of concern about soil compaction this fall, much of the problem appears to be in the surface layers of soil. Natural processes may remove much or all of the problem before the spring of 1994. If tillage was normally planned for this fall, it may be well advised to till only the shallow layer of poorly structured soil.

FORAGE QUALITY CONCERNS

By Byron M. Leu, Livestock Field Specialist

The extremely wet weather conditions of 1993 have created numerous problems for beef producers throughout southeast Iowa. During late winter and early spring, excess moisture and moderate temperatures contributed to one of the muddiest calving seasons on record. These conditions led to a significant increase in death loss, animal and producer stress, feed cost, scours, and numerous other problems which contributed to the spring's frustrations.

As the excessive rainfall continued during the summer months, new concerns regarding the beef cow herd have emerged. Hay quality and cow condition for the 1993-94 winter months highlighted these concerns. The majority of hay harvested this summer has been mature and/or rained on, which likely will lead to low quality forages for winter feeding.

To assist producers in evaluating their hay quality, the ISU Extension Service has scheduled the Mobile Forage Testing Unit for several days in December and January. This will give producers an opportunity to have their hay tested at a minimal cost and to evaluate the winter feeding plan. Scheduling of this testing unit and program details have not been finalized, but following are the tentative dates and locations:

Dec. 17	Lee County (Donnellson)
Dec. 20	Mahaska County (Oskaloosa)
Jan. 11	Washington County (Brighton area)

Currently, several hay sampling projects are underway to evaluate forage--quality including testing for cooperators in the CHIPS program and a statewide effort sponsored by the ISU Extension Service. Preliminary results indicate that hay quality has been negatively impacted, resulting in forages lower in protein, energy, and relative feed value than from "average" nutrient values of other years.

The ranges of the preliminary sample results vary tremendously due to harvest conditions. Averages for crude protein were 9.7% for grass hay (34 samples) and 11.9% for grass-legume hay (35 samples). Energy values were 48.9% TDN for the grass samples and 50.2% TDN for the mixed hay. Normal expectations would be in the 10-14% crude protein range and in the mid-50's for TDN values.

What does all this mean for the 1993-94 cow-calf season? A lot of variation in quality exists, so it is strongly recommended that beef producers test their hay lots for nutrient quality. The producer can then evaluate the body condition of the cows being fed and build a cost effective ration that fits the feedstuffs and production phase of the cows.

Almost any mature grass hay harvested in 1993 will likely require some supplemental energy added to the cow ration. Ear corn, shelled corn, and corn silage are good sources of energy. Protein supplementation may or may not be necessary dependent on the nutrient analysis of the feeds being utilized and the production stage of the cows.

Alternative feeds such as corn gluten feed may also be considered to supplement and stretch hay supplies. This feed typically has a 17-21% protein level and has an energy value 75-80% the value of corn. If cost competitive this product can fit very well in many beef cow rations which utilize lower quality forages.

Further information will be available at the Louisa County Extension Office as details and testing specifics are finalized.

TAX CONSIDERATION ON THE ACREAGE OR SMALL FARM

By Harry Tucker, Farm Management Specialist

People may have popular reasons for "living in the country"; feeling of open space, children have learning experiences, therapeutic physical labor. Economics enter into decisions to move to the small farm sometimes; profits from enterprises helping pay for the farm, depreciation & other expense enhancing living standards, personal pleasure activity operated as a business.

To take tax deductions on farm activities, you must operate the farm for a profit. The operation is presumed to be carried on for profit if it produced a profit in at least 3 of the last 5 tax years. In Iowa, legitimate farm activities, seldom questioned, are corn, soybeans, hogs & cattle. Other farm activities, horses, windmills, walnut trees, are not quite "as Iowa" & require caution, good intentions, & attention to paper detail.

Intentions & background are important. You operate your farm in a business-like manner. The time & effort you spend on farming indicates you intend to make it profitable. Your losses are because of abnormal circumstances or are normal in a start-up phase. You, or your advisors, have the knowledge to carry on a successful business. You have made a profit in similar activities in the past. A paper trail is very important. If rented land or buildings are involved, write & sign a reasonable lease. At all times, keep current, accurate & detailed records of all cash in & all cash out. A written narrative of your annual farming plan adds good appearance. Following a year of losses, a written narrative of the changes you have prescribed is a good addition.

Appearance of earnestness is important. Full disclosure is much stronger than sloppy effort to detail which takes on the appearance of a "tax scam." The best idea is to not leave anything open to questioning.

PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION

By Jim Jensen, Crops Field Specialist

The State Legislature amended the Iowa Pesticide Act in 1993 so that private pesticide applicators now have a choice on how to renew their certification. They are:

- 1 Private applicators may recertify by passing an exam every three years or,
2. They may recertify by attending a 2-hour continuing instructional course every year.

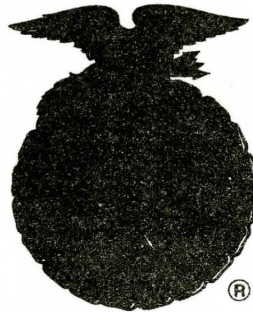
To renew your certification by taking and passing the exam, testing will be offered from 9 - 3:00 p.m. on December 15 in Mt. Pleasant at the First Star Bank and on December 16 from 9-3:00 p.m. at the City Hall Community Room in Mediapolis. After passing the exam a fee of \$15.00 must be paid to obtain your certification card.

Or you may renew your certification by attending an approved 2-hour course each year prior to April 15 of every year following the year your certification expires. For example, you must attend an approved course before April 15, 1994 to renew your certification that expires this year. To avoid taking the exam when your certification expires again on December 31, 1996, you must have also attended a 2-hour continuing instructional course prior to April 15, 1995 and prior to April 15, 1996. If you miss a year you will be required to take the exam to maintain your certification.

The Extension Service is conducting continuing instructional courses for applicators wishing to renew their certification through instruction. They will be held on December 15 from 7-9 p.m. at the Southeast Iowa Research Farm near Crawfordsville and on January 19, 1994 from 1:30 -3:30 at the Briggs Civic Center in Wapello.

National FFA Organization

*The National Organization
Students*



*of Agricultural Education
Founded in 1928*

Wapello Chapter

*This citation is presented to **LOUISA COUNTY SCS**
as a token of appreciation for encouragement, cooperation, and assistance
given the FFA in helping them to accomplish outstanding achievements in
agriculture, leadership, citizenship, and community development.*

Given this 30th day of March 19 93

Lance Whitaker

President

Irvin Meier

Advisor

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5 Issue 1
Fall - 1993

Commissioners:

Mike Braun, Chairman
Lee Roudybush, V Chairman
Martin Hoeg
Olin Jennings
Tom Utter

+ + + + +

FALL TILLAGE TIPS

If residue cover is a part of your conservation plan, make sure you know how much residue you have. Measure after each tillage operation until you're comfortable with residue level estimates. Consider keeping a written record of your residue estimates.

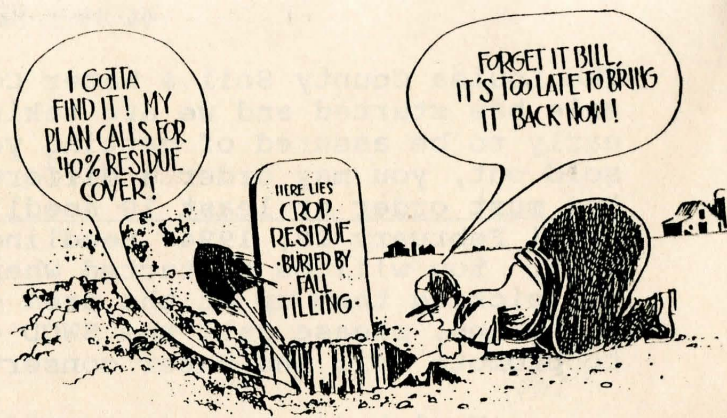
Performing tillage operations at slower speeds leaves more residue on the surface. Tilling when soils are too wet buries valuable residue.

COMBATING THE FALLOW SYNDROME

When soil is flooded for a long period of time, the beneficial microbes and bacteria in the soil are killed. Until these are reestablished, plants will have a very difficult time. This is why any type of cover crop such as rye or oats is recommended. 1 to 1 1/2 bushels per acre will help to rejuvenate the soil in preparation for planting next spring.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

There is a law that requires you to call before you dig. In Iowa, call 1-800-292-8989.



Staff:

Shawn Dettmann, Dist. Cons.
Norman Stone, Technician
Janet Williams, Secretary
Gail Swails, Conservation Aide

+ + + + +

WATERWAYS

Heavy rains during the past year have been very hard on waterways in the county. When you consider reshaping your waterways, consider that the width and depth of a waterway is determined by the drainage area for that waterway. If a waterway is too small, then the water will run down the side of the waterway and create gullies down the sides of the original waterway. If a waterway is too wide, the water will move too slowly and deposit silt in the middle.

Waterways with drainage areas of 6 acres or less should be at least 20' wide and 0.8' deep. Waterways with drainage areas over 6 acres should be at least 30' wide and 1.0' deep.

ANNUAL TREE SALES UNDERWAY

The District is taking orders for tree seedlings and shrubs to be delivered next spring. The order form is on the back of this sheet. Tubex tree shelters are also available through the District.

*All programs and services of
USDA are available to everyone without
regard to race, color, sex, age,
handicap, or national origin.*



United States
Department of Agriculture

Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to

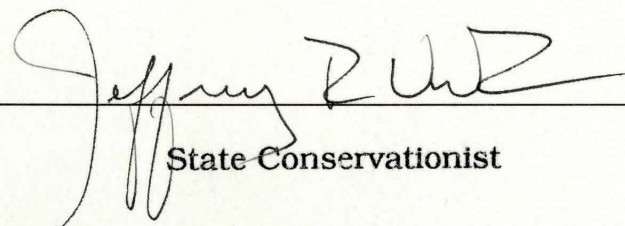
Wapello Field Office

for

Exemplary efforts in carrying out the
Wetlands Reserve Program in a timely,
technically sound manner while continuing to
meet Farm Bill and other field office priorities.

Date

December 4, 1992



State Conservationist

Dec agenda

11 cor. a.
NOV 20 1996

Louisa-Muscatine Athletic Booster Club, Inc.

Louisa-Muscatine Community Schools

Supporting Student Athletes from Letts, Grandview, Fruitland & Muscatine, Iowa

Dear Community Members,

As many of you know, the L-M Athletic Booster Club has been raising money for an all-weather track for L-M High School. We feel this track will improve our school facilities, and benefit our community members by providing a pleasant atmosphere for exercise and fitness.

We have already earned over \$90,000 toward the project cost of \$140,000. With your additional support, we will be able to meet our goal to have our new track finished for the '97-98 school year. Sponsorship levels will be displayed on a plaque at the new facility and your name can be added to the list for as little as \$25!

If you have already made a contribution, thank you! If you haven't and are able to contribute now or would consider a future pledge to be paid by March 1, 1997, please return the sponsorship form below to:

L-M Athletic Booster Club
6702 McIntire Road
Muscatine, IA 52761

The L-M Booster Club appreciates your consideration and support!

_____ \$1000	Diamond Community Sponsor
_____ \$500	Golden Community Sponsor
_____ \$250	Silver Community Sponsor
_____ \$100	Bronze Community Sponsor
_____ \$50	Community Sponsor
_____ \$25	Honorable Mention

_____ Contribution Enclosed

_____ Pledge to be paid by 3/1/97

X Can not help at this time

Louisa SWCD Name(s) to be on plaque

Sent in
12-23-96

L-M ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB INC
L-M HIGH SCHOOL
LETTS IA 52754

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 3
LETTS, IA 52754

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
514 ISETT
WAPELLO, IA 52653

8-95
File Copy

LOUISA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Commissioners:

Tom Utter, Chairman
Lee Roudybush, V Chairman
Martin Hoeg
Mike Braun
David Shull

Staff:

Shawn Dettmann, DC
Norman Stone, Technician
Gail Swails, Technician
Janet Williams, Secretary
Sun Lensgraf, JTPA worker



WHAT YOUR SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DOES

--Allocates State cost share dollars

--Sponsors or co-sponsors the following activities:

- a booth at the Louisa County Fair.
- Soil Judging Contest for area FFA's.
- Halloween Hike at Virginia Grove for area children.
- Contractor's Meeting to bring current information to our local county contractors.
- helped with an outdoor classroom for 6th graders.
- developed educational lesson plan units on soil & water conservation for area classroom presentations.
- provided soil stewardship materials for local churches and libraries, if requested.
- Rotational Grazing Workshop for cattle producers.

HAY PROBE AVAILABLE

HEY...The District has purchased a Hay Probe for any livestock or forage producer in the county to use. The ONLY way to know if your forage has sufficient protein and total digestive nutrients is to have it tested. The probe can be picked up at the local NRCS office, 514 Isett, Wapello. A small deposit is required.

DISTRICT IS 50 YEARS OLD

The Louisa County Soil Conservation District was organized in April 1945. The purpose for which the organization was set up was to provide ways and means where farmers, through cooperative action, could effect erosion control, drainage, and land use studies to soils within the district. The organization provides methods of demonstrating that land ownership and operation carries with it the obligation to leave the land in a condition which will secure a more permanent agriculture.

WHEN ORGANIZED

In the fall of 1944 the Farm Bureau Soils Committee of Louisa County met at the call of chairman, Ray Bieri. Members of the committee were Ray Bieri, D.H. Christianson, Marion Schafer, F. Max Schomberg, H.N.P. Small, James D. Helmick, and County Extension Director, Russell L. Sawyer. Two small things were decided at that meeting. First, to recommend to the Louisa Farm Bureau Board that proceedings be started for the organization of a Soil Conservation District; and second, to ask the township AAA committeemen to assist by circulating petitions during their fall canvas. The canvas resulted in a 30% sign up for a district. The state committee returned a favorable report.

A referendum was held at Wapello, April 7, 1945. Ninety-three and one half percent of those voting favored the district organization and the following men were elected district commissioners: Sam Diehl for a six year term, J.D. Helmick for four years, and Kenneth Wiederrecht for two year term. At the first meeting Mr. Diehl was elected chairman, Russell L. Sawyer, County Extension Director, was elected secretary, and Louisa County became the 55th county to be organized in Iowa.

Louisa County was one of the early counties to be settled in Iowa. The pioneers cleared the rolling lands first and practiced no definite crop rotation. The flat ground soils were not farmed extensively until the clay tile industry was established. The result was heavy erosion on the rougher parts of the county. After about 100 years it is estimated that 44% of our upland soils were seriously eroded. The run off has been hastened by the removal of the timber, and the sand lands and bottom lands have been subject to overflow. Recognizing that to overcome these conditions of retarding the run off, checking wind erosion, and draining the lowlands required county wide education, group action, and technical aid.

UPCOMING EVENT

GRAZING TOUR

The District in cooperation with the Shared Visions Group will sponsor a rotation grazing tour on Tom Utter's farm August 21, 1995 at 6:00 p.m.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING WORKSHOP

Eight Louisa Co. Landowners attended the 3 day Management Intensive Grazing Seminar at the Univ of MO. Forage System Research Center August 9-11. The District paid the registration fees for this informative meeting.

DISTRICT SALES PROGRAM

Having trouble finding a unique gift idea? Look no further! The district has a lot of products that we would love to sell to you.

Consider a Mushroom Growing kit: Varieties include: Morel, Shiitake, Hericum, and Pleurotus. Imagine mushrooms grown at home. What a splendid idea.

Think about Perennials: Daylilies, Ferns, including Christmas ferns, Maidenhair, and Royal ferns, Trailing Periwinkle, Japanese Spurge, Purple Wintercreeper, English Ivy, Creeping Lily, Lilyturf, and Grapevines. Priced at competitive prices for priceless beauty and enjoyment.

For the bird lover we have Hummingbird Feeder kits. All in one, this package includes a special blend of wildflower seeds guaranteed to attract hummingbirds and a special hummingbird feeder with nectar to greet them as they arrive year after year.

Wildflower Seed is available in a wide variety and can be enjoyed year after year with little or no maintenance.

Ever heard of Beneficial Insects? Well there is such a thing and we have them available for you. The Praying Mantis takes care of all types of pests in your garden and is a wonder to watch work. Also, Ladybug Beetles are nature's control for aphids and other soft bodied pests. Imagine your neighbors envy at your pest free garden.

Supertube Treeshelters and Vispore Tree Mats are still available for your own tree plantings as well as for gift giving to the one person who has everything.

Windchimes, finely tuned windchimes. Relax and enjoy the pleasant sounds of each breeze as nature sends these windchimes into a song. A very unique gift idea for yourself or someone special.

And don't forget the District's annual tree sales. A variety of seedlings are always available to enhance and benefit your property for a small investment of time and money. We also have marker flags available.

So if not for yourself, remember parents, grandparents, inlaws, teachers, friends, newlyweds, memorials, and countless others who might enjoy any or all of our unique gift ideas. Stop by the office for additional information.



SUMMER EMPLOYEE

There is a new face at NRCS office through the JTPA Summer Youth Program. My name is Sunny Lensgraf. I live here in Wapello. I first started this job June 19. I do a lot of different tasks. Most of my job reflects on clerical duties. A few times I have went out with Shawn and looked at area farmland. He had pointed out things to me I had very little knowledge of. I have been learning new things everyday. I think the employees here enjoy taking the time to help me and answer my questions when it is needed. They all are very friendly and considerate. I am going to miss them all a great deal. I will be leaving the NRCS August 4. That is when the program ends. I will never forget any of them, and what they have done for me. Most of all I will never forget the things they have taught me. Thanks guys!

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

Shawn Dettmann has been selected for the Wetland Restoration Specialist position. This position will be housed in Mt. Pleasant. The District will miss Shawn but we wish him the best as he furthers his career.

All programs and services of the Louisa SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Louisa Soil & Water
Conservation District
514 Isett
Wapello, IA 52653

LOUISA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Commissioners:

Tom Utter, Chairman
Lee Roudybush, V Chairman
Martin Hoeg
Mike Braun
David Shull

Staff:

Connie Ramirez, DC
Norman Stone, Technician
Gail Swails, Technician
Janet Williams, Secretary



Dec. 1995

NEW DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST IN LOUISA COUNTY

NRCS, a new name and now a new face. Louisa County is happy to introduce their new District Conservationist, Connie Ramirez. Connie officially took over the helm on November 13, 1995, however, due to conflicts in computer training and meetings, didn't arrive on the local scene until the 17th. Since that time she has been busy organizing her office, while trying to remember the names and faces of each and every one of you that have been in the office so far.

Connie comes to Louisa County from the Jefferson County Office in Fairfield, where she performed the duties of a Soil Conservationist. Prior to that she was the Soil Conservationist in Davis County located in Bloomfield.

Connie received her degree in Animal Science from the University of Texas A & M-Kingsville at Kingsville, Texas. She came to Iowa in 1992. Connie still wonders why she left the mild winters of Texas. We know it is just for the experience of winter field work in subfreezing temperatures in Iowa.

We invite each and everyone of you to stop by the office and welcome Connie to Louisa County and to show her the hospitality of our local people. WELCOME CONNIE, GLAD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD!

WETLAND RESTORATION MONEY AVAILABLE

Three-quarters of the wetlands remaining in the United States are privately owned. Wetlands are vital to both wildlife and people. Millions of birds, mammals and other animals depend on wetlands for food and shelter. Wetlands benefit people by recharging ground water supplies, filtering pollutants, providing irrigation water and reducing the impact of flood events.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in partnership with thousands of private landowners, private organizations and State agencies has protected and restored wetland habitat and associated uplands across the United States. The Partners for Wildlife program administered by the Service, offers cost-share money to individuals or organizations interested in restoring wetlands on private lands.

In Louisa County 9 wetlands have been restored over the past several years, ranging from .5 acres to over 300 acres in size. The Service can assist with costs by supplying money for dirt work or materials (culvert, water control structures) towards the completion of each project. The Partner may contribute cash, material, equipment or in-kind services. The land is left in private ownership.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture assists the Service with planning the wetland restoration. In addition, the Farm Service Agency (formerly ASCS) often has some money available to defray costs and assist with cost-sharing.

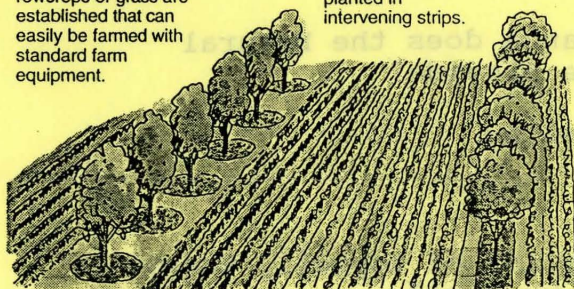
If you are interested in restoring a wetland on your property, have questions about the cost-sharing program, or just general inquiries about Partners For Wildlife, contact the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Wapello District, at 523-6982.

Alley Cropping

Alley Cropping is an agroforestry concept that uses strips of trees or shrubs, with crops grown in the alleys between the strips. The trees may include valuable hardwood species, such as nut trees, or trees desirable for wood products.

- Parallel strips of rowcrops or grass are established that can easily be farmed with standard farm equipment.

- Trees or shrubs are planted in intervening strips.



- Grass beyond the root zone will help control erosion.

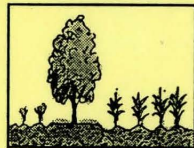
- The area around each tree should be kept free of weeds and grass.

Benefits of Alley Cropping



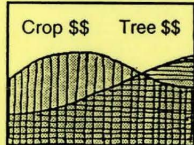
• Reduce Water & Wind Erosion

Tree, shrub, and other roots in the tree strips hold soil and lessen the danger of erosion. The strips of perennial vegetation slow surface runoff and absorb rainfall, allowing water to percolate into the soil rather than rapidly moving downslope.



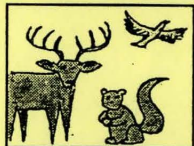
• Improve Crop Production

Alley cropping increases crop yields by reducing wind erosion and modifying the microclimate. This retains soil moisture and reduces the effects of drying winds. Some species fix nitrogen in the root zone, reducing the use of commercial fertilizer.



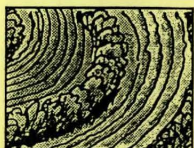
• Supplemental Income

Agricultural crops grown between tree/shrub rows provide short-term return from the land during the early years when the longer-term nut or wood crop is establishing itself.



• Wildlife Habitat & Corridors

A tree or shrub strip provides wildlife with valuable cover and protection, and can serve as a travel corridor to aid wildlife movement through your land.



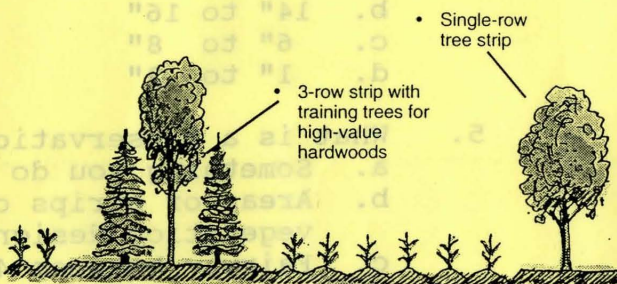
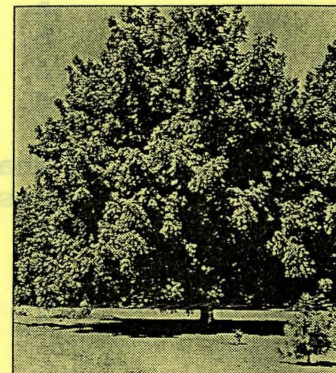
• Aesthetic Diversity

Especially in areas of the country where trees are not common, tree strips can provide natural beauty and diversity to the landscape.

Considerations in Alley Cropping

• Species to Plant

Some studies indicate that the good returns for alley cropping are obtained with high value trees such as black walnut, a tree valuable both for its nuts and its attractive wood. Other commercially desirable species include oaks, paulownia, native pecan, and ashes. Planting more than one species in the strips reduces risk from diseases and insects. Including conifers in the strips provides cover for wildlife and helps train high-value hardwoods into straighter trees with more desirable lumber qualities. Your local Soil Conservation Service office can provide soil maps and assistance to help you match tree species to your soil type.



• Width of Tree Strips

Most alley cropping uses a single row of trees in each tree/shrub strip, although strips that include training trees for high-value hardwoods may have three or more rows. Initial widths for tree strips will range from 10 to 30 feet. As the tree crop matures, strip widths usually increase and trees are thinned to accommodate the developing tree crowns.

• Space Between Strips

Widths of the rowcrop strips are determined by machinery width, sunlight needs of the intercrop plants, and desirable slope distances to control soil erosion. Sufficient room must be allowed in crop strips to provide for movement of planting, weed-control, and harvesting equipment. Generally, rowcrop strips are the same width for their entire length in order to provide for maximum efficiency in using farm equipment.



• Orientation of Strips

Place the tree strips on the contour to control water erosion, or perpendicular to prevailing troublesome winds. Avoid a layout that may shade out a crop needing full or near-full sunlight.

CONSERVATION QUIZ

1. What situation led to the soil movement in the 1930's?
 - a. Fear of famine
 - b. The Dust Bowl
 - c. The depression and unemployment
 - d. Record floods
2. What kind of practices does the Conservation District cost-share on as an aide to farmers?
 - a. Filter strips
 - b. Terraces
 - c. Ponds
 - d. Well-plugging
3. What type of technical assistance does the Natural Resources Conservation Service provide?
 - a. Measuring service
 - b. Planning, surveying, designing
 - c. Certification
 - d. Recipes
4. 100 Years ago there was 14" to 16" of topsoil, today how many inches of topsoil do we have?
 - a. 20" to 25"
 - b. 14" to 16"
 - c. 6" to 8"
 - d. 1" to 2"
5. What is a conservation bufferstrip?
 - a. Something you do at a party
 - b. Areas or strips of land maintained in permanent vegetation designed to intercept pollutants.
 - c. Fairway between 4th and 5th hole.
 - d. A furrow plowed between fields.

All SCS programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

LOUISA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
514 ISETT
WAPELLO, IA 52653

STONEY BROOK FARMS LTD ET AL.
720 S 5TH ST
WAPELLO IA 52653-1462

Backyard Stewardship

April 27 - May 4, 1997



DISTRICT SALES PROGRAM

Having trouble finding a unique gift idea? Look no further! The district has a lot of products that we would love to sell to you.

Consider a Mushroom Growing kit: Varieties include: Morel, Shiitake, Hericum, and Pleurotus. Imagine mushrooms grown at home. What a splendid idea.

Think about Perennials: Daylilies, Ferns, including Christmas ferns, Maidenhair, and Royal ferns, Trailing Periwinkle, Japanese Spurge, Purple Wintercreeper, English Ivy, Creeping Lily, Lilyturf, and Grapevines. Priced at competitive prices for priceless beauty and enjoyment.

For the bird lover we have Hummingbird Feeder kits. All in one, this package includes a special blend of wildflower seeds guaranteed to attract hummingbirds and a special hummingbird feeder with nectar to greet them as they arrive year after year.

Wildflower Seed is available in a wide variety and can be enjoyed year after year with little or no maintenance.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

With the 1996 Farm Bill a new program was brought to life. It replaces several existing USDA programs: The Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), the Great Plains Conservation Program, the Colorado Salinity Program, and the Agricultural Water Quality Incentives Program. EQIP provides technical, financial, and educational assistance on a voluntary basis to producers who enter 5- to 10-year contracts to help them address natural resource concerns and comply with federal and state environmental laws. It establishes **priority areas** and practices where significant water, soil and related natural resource concerns exist. These priority areas will be developed by NRCS with input from the local work group. The local work group consists of all of you our clientele, our partners, and the organizations in the county. The local NRCS held 3 public meetings in various locations in the county to identify local issues/concerns/areas that need to be dealt with and are important to the local community, the county and to you as producers. Though, these meetings were successful we are asking for further input from those unable to attend the meetings. Please take time to fill out the attached survey and return back to this office before **February 24, 1997**. All comments and concerns will be taken into consideration when developing these priority areas. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

LOUISA SWCD SURVEY

514 Isett

Wapello, IA 52653

319-523-6411

1. Please rate the FIVE most important issues or areas facing our community in the next decade. Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important and 5, the least.

☐ animal waste	☐ riparian corridors
☐ flooding	☐ soil erosion
☐ agricultural sustainability	☐ water quality
☐ agricultural productivity	☐ storm water management
☐ forestry	☐ threatened/endangered species
☐ grazing lands	☐ urban water pollution
☐ irrigation/water management	☐ water availability
☐ nutrient management	☐ wetlands
☐ pesticide management	☐ wildlife
☐ urban land use	☐ recreation
☐ other (please specify) _____	

2. Check the FOUR customer groups you think the Conservation District should make the most intense effort to reach with information, products or services.

☐ agribusiness	☐ state and local politicians
☐ businesses community	☐ planners
☐ part-time farmers/ranchers	☐ recreational users
☐ commodity groups	☐ schools
☐ developers	☐ timber producers
☐ environmental groups	☐ foresters
☐ full-time farmers/ranchers	☐ urban/suburban citizens
☐ federal and state agencies	☐ minority farmers/ranchers
☐ other (please specify) _____	

3. Check the FIVE most important products, programs or services the Conservation District can provide you.

☐ agricultural waste mgmt.	☐ forestry programs
☐ cost-share programs	☐ information (e.g.databases)
☐ conservation planning	☐ outdoor recreation assistance
☐ develop/maintain standards	☐ resource inventories
☐ educational programs	☐ soil survey & soil information
☐ engineering design	☐ recreation opportunities
☐ erosion & sediment control	☐ wildlife management
☐ flood prevention	☐ rural development assistance
☐ Other _____	

4. What specific areas of our community do you think are most in need of natural resource conservation assistance?

5. Please share any additional thoughts or comments in the space below or attach a separate sheet.

Thank you for sharing your opinions with us. Please mail or fax your completed survey to the address listed on the front.

Bistate Crop Clinic

February 20, 1997

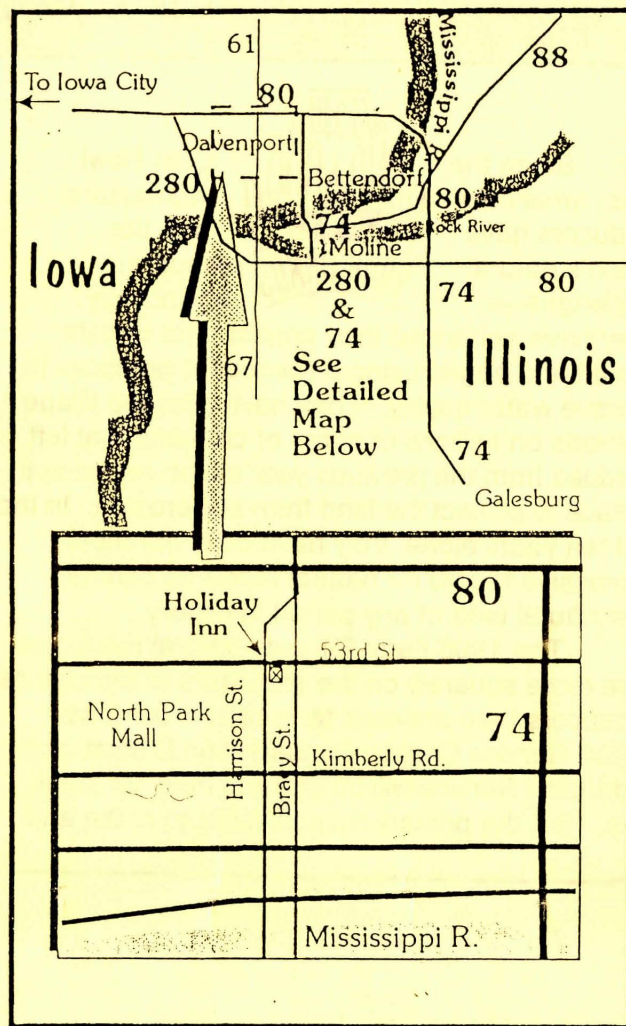
Davenport Holiday Inn
5202 Brady St.
Davenport, Iowa

- 8:00 **Registration & Exhibits**
- 8:25 **Introduction and Overview**
Mr. Virgil Schmitt, Crop Specialist*
- 8:30 **Fertility Management in Reduced Tillage**
Dr. Robert Hoelt, Extension Agronomist#
- 9:20 **The Big Three in Tillage**
Mr. David Feltes, IPM Extension Educator#
- 10:10 **Break & Exhibits**
- 10:20 **Is Narrow Corn For You?**
Dr. Dale Farnham, Extension Agronomist*
- 11:10 **Disease Management in Reduced Tillage**
Dr. Gary Munkvold, Extension Plant Pathologist*
- 12:00 **Lunch Buffet & Exhibits**
- 1:00 **Weed Management in Reduced Tillage**
Dr. Marshall McGlamery, Extension Agronomist#
- 1:50 **Creating a Healthy Soil**
Dr. Michelle Wunder, Dept. of Nat. Res. #
- 2:40 **Farmer Panel—Perspectives on Tillage**
Mr. Warren Hadley, Cambridge, IL
Mr. Dave DeSmith, Geneseo, IL
Mr. Francis Childs, Manchester, IA
Mr. Allen Falk, Hillsdale, IL
Moderator: Mr. Steve Hollister, Resource
Conservationist, USDA NRCS
- 3:30 **Adjourn**

* Iowa State University

University of Illinois

CCA Credit Available



For information on weather cancellations listen to

WGEN FM 104.9 Geneseo
WRMJ FM 102.3 Aledo
WOC AM 1420 Quad Cities
WMT AM 600 Cedar Rapids

or call your local extension office.



1997 Bistate Crop Clinic

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

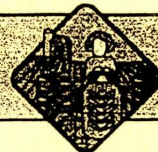
\$20.00 per person (includes lunch buffet & refreshments); \$25.00 at the door.

Please mail this registration with check by February 14 to:

Scott County Extension
875 Tanglefoot, Suite B
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Phone (319) 250-7577

Make checks payable to:
Scott County Extension



Since the days, America's producers have nation's natural challenges —

They have enhanced their cropland for wildlife habitat and began using a number of practices to improve water quality. They have adopted tillage methods on millions of acres of cropland that left residues from the previous year's crop on the soil surface to protect the land from soil erosion. In the last ten years alone, they have build the most impressive record for natural resource care on agricultural land of any period in history.

The 1996 Farm Bill puts natural resources care more squarely on the shoulders of agricultural producers than previous farm bills. Your local USDA Service Center, Conservation District, and Extension Service will be there to help, as in the past. But the primary responsibility to make and

Dust Bowl agricultural met our resource convincingly.

carry out decisions to care for the land and water rests with farmers and ranchers.

We believe that voluntary conservation, with incentives, is the best approach to widespread use of conservation measures by farmers in this country. The 1996 Farm Bill offers us the opportunity to prove that. We've shown over the years that we are responsible stewards of the land and water. We need to keep demonstrating that those of us closest to the land, those of us who farm it, have the greatest stake in caring for it.

When this Farm Bill expires, we'd like to look back with satisfaction that we sustained the gains made in natural resource care over the years, and, better yet, improved on that record. It's in our hands.

LOUISA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PHONE 319-523-6411
514 ISETT
WAPELLO IA 52653-1225

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
WAPELLO IA
PERMIT NO 23

Sent
2/3/97

file C

S.E. IOWA CRP

Demonstration Plot



FIELD DAY

LEO VITTETOE FARM

Thursday, August 14, 1997

3:00 pm

Rain Date August 21, 1997

Sponsored By:

Soil & Water
Conservation Districts
Counties of

HENRY

JEFFERSON

JOHNSON

LOUISA

KEOKUK

IOWA

WASHINGTON

Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter
Natural Resources Conservation Service
514 Isett
Wapello, Iowa 52653
319-523-6411

Commissioners:

Lee Roudybush
Martin Hoeg
Tom Utter
Mike Braun
David Shull

Staff:

Connie Ramirez, District Conservationist
Michelle Maderak, Soil Conservationist
Norman Stone, Technician
Gail Swails, Technician
Janet Williams, Secretary

The Earth Team

The Earth Team is a volunteer program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. By becoming a volunteer with your local NRCS, you will work with the local office employees and the local conservation district. Volunteers work indoors and outdoors; part-time or full-time. Volunteers help keep offices organized by helping with filing updates and assisting with computer report updates. Volunteers are also used to help with field layout and surveying. No experience is needed, as a volunteer you receive training and experience on the job. Volunteers get recognized for their hours worked. There is no pay, but you can get valuable training and satisfaction from the help that you give. If you would like to become an Earth Team Volunteer, or if you would like some information, contact the local Soil and Water Conservation District/NRCS office at 319-523-6411.

Looking Forward to EQIP '98

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and the Louisa County Committee, working with local work groups, identified priority concerns for the county. Based on those concerns, the committee and the commissioners have chosen Whiskey Hollow Watershed as the priority area to submit for potential EQIP funding in 1998. A 4 county partnership was developed to submit an application. The 4 counties included Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines and Lee. Each county selected a watershed along the Mississippi River as part of their priority area.



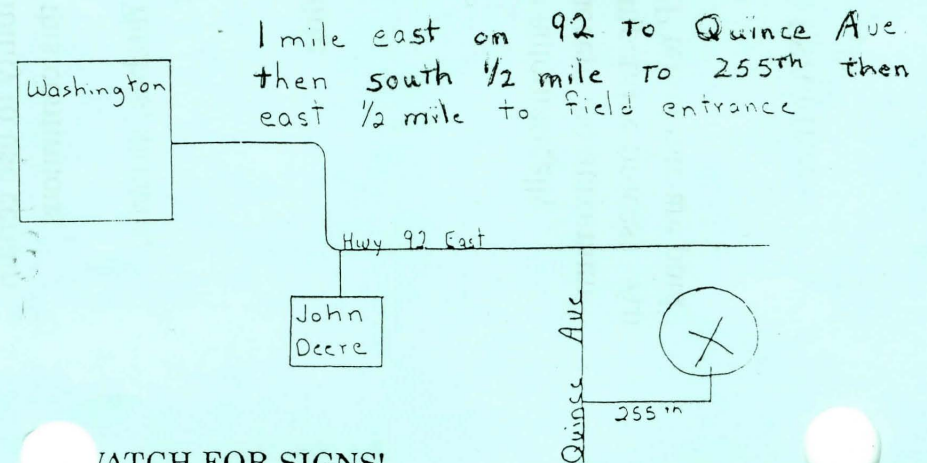
Building Partners for Tomorrow

Features:

- Bufferstrips as a viable practice in agriculture today.
- Critical areas seeded and profitable
- Soil condition after 10 years of grass
- Can we successfully no till into heavy residue?
- Getting expiring 10 year contracts back into CRP
- How to get CRP land back into production
- Direct seeded alfalfa into Brome
- New Liberty resistant Corn & Beans
- Round up ready beans
- Biological farming using reduced rates of fertilizer and chemicals.

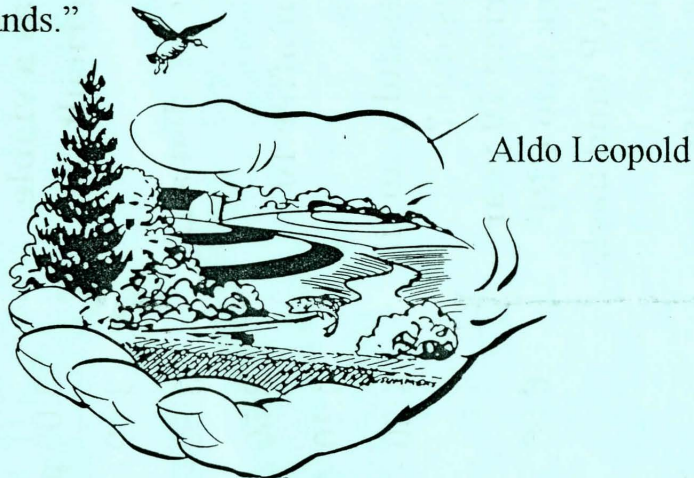
SCHEDULE

3:00 p.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Mike Roberts
3:10 - 3:30	State Conservationist	Leroy Brown
3:30 - 3:50	CRP Future	Tony Maxwell
3:50 - 4:10	Round Up Report	Monsanto Rep.
4:10 - 4:30	Liberty Report	AgrEvo Rep.
4:30 - 4:50	Reduced Chemical & Fertilizer	Biological Rep.
4:50 - 5:50	No till Progress	David Dukes
6:00	Tour of Plots and Pork BBQ	



WATCH FOR SIGNS!

"Conservation means harmony between men and land. When land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land; when both end up better by reason of their partnership, we have conservation. When one or the other grows poorer we do not.... It is the individual farmer who will weave the greater part of the rug on which America stands."



CRP CONTINUOUS SIGN-UP

The purpose of the continuous signup is to allow farmers flexibility to use certain conservation practices on their land. Eligible practices under this continuous sign-up are:

- *filter strips - along drainage ditches, streams, pond, wetlands
- *grassed waterways
- *riparian buffers
- *shallow water areas for wildlife
- *field windbreaks
- *shelter belts
- *contour buffer strips

Areas meeting requirements of these conservation buffers are automatically accepted into the CRP, assuming the landowner is willing to accept the maximum rental rate allowed. Producers do not need to go through a competitive process. An additional incentive of 20% or 10% over the going county CRP rental rate are paid for many of the continuous sign-up practices.

Louisa County producers may sign up for CRP in the Wapello FSA office or contact the NRCS office for further information.

Independent Advice — Industry Cooperation

An important distinction of independent crop consultants is that they do not sell products nor participate in the actual purchase of products: these responsibilities are left to you. An independent consultant will make site specific recommendations for your farm and your situation.

These professional services are conducted on a fee basis, and are not subsidized by the sale of fertilizer or pesticide products. This independence from product sales provides you with the assurance that recommendations are made with your best interests in mind.

While product use recommendations that are made independently of product sales are important to your business, the products themselves are also an essential part of production agriculture. In order to maintain a favorable working knowledge of products and their intended usage, IICCA encourages cooperation with ag related industries.

In this interest, IICCA maintains a sustaining membership category for companies that manufacture and/or distribute products that may be used by the clients we serve. Sustaining members and their representatives are listed at the right.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Agribusinesses that support IICCA

Abbott Labs	
Ron Nietfeld	515-964-5378
Agr Evo USA Co.	
Robert Condon	515-252-9891
Rick Mohan	515-254-9143
American Cyanamid	
David Raemisch	515-224-0202
Mark Risley	515-224-0202
Asgrow	
Mark Baxa	515-733-2484
Brian Meese	515-854-2246
Bayer	
Kevin Bown	319-268-1152
Doug Silver	515-270-6868
Cargill	
Bob Streit	515-576-4410
Ciba	
John Cantwell	515-673-3217
Dallas Miller	515-223-6217
Dekalb	
Chuck Kolbet	319-927-6531
Jim McDermott	712-262-8785
DowElanco	
Samuel Ferguson	800-446-1883
Dupont Ag Products	
Tom Koranek	515-221-9718
Gail Marik	402-986-1650
Elk Atochem North America, Inc.	
Tony Estes	813-863-2925
Doug Green	515-251-3987
FMC Corporation	
Richard Porter	515-965-1708
Golden Harvest	
Todd Claussen	800-584-9304
Rich Lee	319-846-2642
Lynks Seeds	
Craig Klinefelter	800-798-2676
Jay Stidham	800-798-2676
Midwest Laboratories, Inc.	
Kevin Heck	402-334-7770
Ken Pohlman	402-334-7770
Monsanto	
Vern Jungling	319-364-5253
Emilio Oyarzabel	515-278-2101
MVTL Labs, Inc.	
Brent Peterson	800-362-0855
Northrup King Company	
Dean Grundman	515-232-5410
Fran Marier	319-629-5656
Pioneer Hi-Bred	
Tom Hall	800-258-2628
Brent Wilson	515-964-3530
Valent	
Sam Booker	515-221-9872
Scott Mitchell	319-373-3170
Wilson Seeds, Inc.	
Pat Donahue	712-755-3841
Jerry F. Strissel	800-747-1200

Postage

To:

Iowa Independent
Crop Consultants
Association



Printed on recycled paper.



Iowa Independent Crop Consultants Association

IICCA

1996
Membership Directory

WAR - 7 1997

What an Independent Crop Consultant Can Do For YOU

Crop consulting
can improve your profitability
by providing sound recommendations
specifically for your farm.

This may include intensive soil sampling in order to determine nutrient availability. It may include timely crop scouting to monitor crop growth and development and to evaluate pest infestations as they occur. The incidence and magnitude of weed and pest problems can be objectively evaluated for economic injury levels and treatment thresholds to determine the best control strategies. Such strategies are based on the integration of best management practices such as crop rotations, resistant varieties, type and timing of cultural practices, selective pesticide application, etc.

It is important to remember that independent crop consultants do not sell products and do not make product purchase decisions; these responsibilities are left to you. An independent consultant will make site - specific recommendations for your farm, independent of product sales bias.

Each consulting firm also operates independently of other consulting firms, so specific programs may vary. Some consulting firms offer additional services such as infrared photography, tillage management, expert witness, record keeping, and other informational services.

VOTING MEMBERS: Possess the minimum of four year degree and four years of independent experience or the equivalent.
Adhere to a professional Code of Ethics. Do not derive any income from the sale of products.

					Crop Scouting	Soil Testing	Nitrate Sampling	Manure Mgt.	Contract Research	Other
Robert Ascherman	Ascherman Associates, Inc.	2921 Beverly Drive	Des Moines, IA 50322	515-276-7371	x	x	x	x	x	x
Martin Augustin	Brookside Labs	713 East 17th St.	Spencer, IA 51301	712-262-3990	x	x	x	x	x	x
Donald Breuker	Breuker Management Service	107 S. Marshall, Box 107	Rock Rapids, IA 51246	712-472-3553	x	x	x			x
Ellen Broesder	Central Inc.	1204 360th St.	Bancroft, IA 50517	515-562-2269	x	x	x	x		x
Christopher Clark	ABC-Ag	6020 Hwy 175	Ida Grove, IA 51445	712-364-2424	x	x	x	x		x
Kay Connelly	C8MP LTD.	2919 Lovejoy Drive	Cedar Falls, IA 50613	319-266-7648	x	x	x	x		x
Dan Easton	Easton Agri Consulting, Inc.	2699 Highway 141	Bagley, IA 50026	515-427-5268	x	x	x	x	x	x
Dan Eklund	Eklund Ag Consulting	906 Park Circle P.O. Box 35	Huxley, IA 50124	515-597-2873	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mike Elson	Agro Plus Consulting	P.O. Box 638	Ft. Calhoun, NE 68023	402-468-4028	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lee Folkerts	C8MP Ltd	17849 220th Steet	Allison, IA 50602	515-775-3410	x	x	x	x		
Shannon Gomes	Cedar Basin Crop Consulting	208 Rainbow Drive	Waverly, IA 50677	319-352-1227	x	x	x	x	x	x
John Harker	Terra Pro Consulting	605 East 13th St.	Spencer, IA 51301	712-262-7822		x	x	x		x
Charlie Hartwell	PMC Crop Consulting	4025 Madison Ave.	Lincoln, NE 68504	800-851-9238	x	x	x	x	x	x
Janis Imel	Imel Corp Consulting	1000 3rd Ave. South	Clear Lake, IA 50428	515-357-3755	x	x	x	x		
Jay D. Johnson	Prairie Crop Pro-Tech	2975 110th St.	Bearman, IA 50609	515-366-3607	x	x	x	x		x
Chad Kruse	Smidt Crop Management	P.O. Box 594	Greene, IA 50636	515-823-4817	x	x	x	x		x
Randall Law	Centrol Inc.	403 19th St.	Clear Lake, IA 50428	515-562-2269	x	x	x	x		x
Wayne McClintock	Centrol Inc.	1626 Timber Ave.	Charles City, IA 50616	515-228-7054	x	x	x	x	x	x
Michael McNeill	Ag Advisory, Ltd.	P.O. Box 716	Algona, IA 50511	515-295-5513	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wesley McQuown	Ag Technology, Inc.	2212 33rd Terrace	St. Joseph, MO 64506	816-233-7252		x	x	x		
Robert Miller	Crop Guard, Inc.	340 River Road	Glenville, MN 56036	507-448-3439	x	x	x	x		
Stan Schaaf	Schaaf Consulting, Ltd.	RR 1 Box 47	Villisca, IA 50864	712-826-3210		x	x	x		x
Thomas Smidt	Smidt Crop Management	303 N. 2nd St., P.O. Box 594	Greene, IA 50636	515-823-4817	x	x	x	x		x
Hal Tucker	Tucker Consulting	904 Walnut Street	Storm Lake, IA 50588	712-732-3030	x	x	x	x	x	x

PROVISIONAL MEMBERS: Similar to VOTING, but do not yet meet minimum qualifications for education and/or experience.

Richard Drilling	Heartland Crop Pro-Tech	508 N. Linn Ave.	New Hampton, IA 50659	515-394-4525	x	x	x	x		
Dan Nielsen	Crop Guard, Inc.	340 River Road	Glenville, MN 56036	507-448-3439	x	x	x	x		
Ted Pitzenberger	4-County Crop Advisory	1145 300th Street	Dougherty, IA 50433	515-794-3341	x	x	x	x		
Ron Thomas	Crop Probe	P.O. Box 250	Prenston, IA 52069	800-666-5482	x	x	x	x		
Ralph von Qualen	ACTS, Inc.	17434 Noble Ave.	Carroll, IA 51401	712-792-3966	x	x	x	x	x	

AFFILIATE MEMBERS: Supporting members whose income may be related to activities other than consulting.

Grant Mangold	Ag/Inovator	712-296-3615	Richard Pinstad	Iowa Testing Labs	515-448-4741	Walter Armstrong	Monsanto	515-228-2073
Mark Wuebker	Asgrow	712-243-3081	Rich Pope	ISU Extension	515-294-1101	Kevin Kuhn	NRCS	712-732-9586
Brad Buchanan	Crop Tech, Inc.	319-848-7424	Susan Brown	ISU Ext. Agronomy	515-294-1923	Paul Carter	Pioneer Hi-Bred	515-224-6915
George Kadrmas	Dekalb	319-396-1630	Wendy Wintersteen	ISU Ext. Entomology	515-294-1101	Adda Sayers	Pioneer Hi-Bred	515-270-3394
Scott Svoboda	Dekalb	712-243-5250	Tish Ireland	LGI, Inc.	515-836-4444	Ivan Wikner	Pioneer Hi-Bred	515-276-2633

LOUISA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1997 TREE SEEDLING & SHRUB SALE

The Louisa County SWCD's 7th annual tree sale has started. Please order at least 10 of any one variety. Orders will be taken until February 28, 1997. Seedlings will arrive in April, 1997. We will contact you when they arrive and you will need to pick them up right away to assure the seedlings success. Questions can be answered by calling 523-6411. Profits will be used to promote soil and water conservation education in Louisa County.

Variety	Size	Price
Silver Maple	3'-4'	10/\$10.00
Red Oak	3'-4'	10/\$10.00
Black Walnut	2'-3'	10/\$10.00
Colorado Blue Spruce	12"-18"	10/\$10.00
Eastern White Pine	9"-12"	10/\$10.00
Butternut	12"-18"	10/\$10.00

Shrubs:

Common Lilac	18"-24"	10/\$10.00
Nanking Cherry	2'- 3'	10/\$10.00
Red Osier Dogwood	3'- 4'	10/\$10.00

MINIMUM ORDER: 10 of ONE VARIETY

Tree Shelter Tubes in various sizes are available and price per tube varies with number ordered. Call for price quotes or to have a list sent to you.

Send payment and order blank to: Louisa County SWCD
514 Isett
Wapello, IA 52653

Make Checks payable to Louisa County SWCD
Detach Here

ORDER BLANK FOR 1997 TREE & SHRUB SEEDLINGS

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Address: _____

Variety	HOW MANY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

TOTAL | _____

Upon notification, I agree to pick up my order at the designated area.

Signature _____

Date _____

There is no survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices except that seedlings will be good quality when they are picked up within 2 days of arrival.

LOUISA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1997 SUPERTUBE SHELTER, STAKE, & VIS-PORE TREE MAT SALE

Tree Shelters are twin-walled polypropylene tubes inserted over tree seedlings and attached to a stake. The tree shelters are made to photodegrade after 5-7 years. Each tree shelter acts as a "mini-green house" over the tree seedling.

Tree Shelters:

- Enhance survival of seedlings
- Accelerate growth rates
- Offer protection from deer and rodents
- Shield the seedlings from drying winds and herbicide spray

TUBE SIZE	QUANTITIY				
	4-20	21-48	49-52	76-100	101+
2'	\$1.80	\$1.70	\$1.60	\$1.50	Call
4'	2.60	2.50	2.40	2.30	Call
5'	3.10	2.95	2.85	2.75	Call

- Above prices include bird netting
- Order in multiples of 4

WHITE OAK HARDWOOD STAKES

SIZE	COST
2'	\$.55
3'	.65
4'	.85

VIS-PORE TREE MATS (keep weeds away from seedlings)

30" x 30" SIZE \$.80 EA. INCLUDES 5 STAPLES

- Tree shelters, stakes, mats can be picked up at NRCS Office in Wapello.
- Proceeds will be used to promote soil & water conservation in Louisa County

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Address: _____

ITEM	HOW MANY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
TOTAL COST			\$ _____

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION
SERVICE

514 ISETT ST.
WAPELLO, IA 52653-1225

Icon Agenda 2/96
for SWED Info

Info

January 12, 1996

Steve Harris
134 Green Meadow Drive
Washington, Iowa 52353

Dear Mr. Harris:

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has approved the design of a dam for you in the NW 1/4 Sec. 31, T 76 N, R 5 W, as designed by Pathfinders RC&D ET staff. Due to the dam's height (31.5) and storage capacity (61.88 acre-feet to the Emergency Spillway), it falls within the size category in which potential downstream damage should be considered in the event the dam should fail. NRCS is cooperating with the National Safety of Dams Act, and this inventory is a method of monitoring and evaluating dams that could cause problems should failure occur.

An evaluation was made of the area below your dam that could be flooded should a sudden failure occur. This evaluation indicated that the flooded area would affect only a secondary county road, fences, timber and cropland. The estimated width and length of the flooded or impact area is 250 feet and 4800 feet respectively. For this reason, it was assigned a class (a) or low hazard rating. The design of the dam and emergency spillway was based on this classification. If future development should occur downstream of the dam or should another dam be built upstream, hazard classification could change abruptly. You need to be aware of this, so that you might alert future developers to the hazards that could occur. This is your responsibility.

NRCS stands ready to help you or your private engineer evaluate the potential impact area that a sudden failure of your dam could have on downstream development, should any occur.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, which is the state agency responsible for dam safety, and to the Louisa County Conservation District for their information.

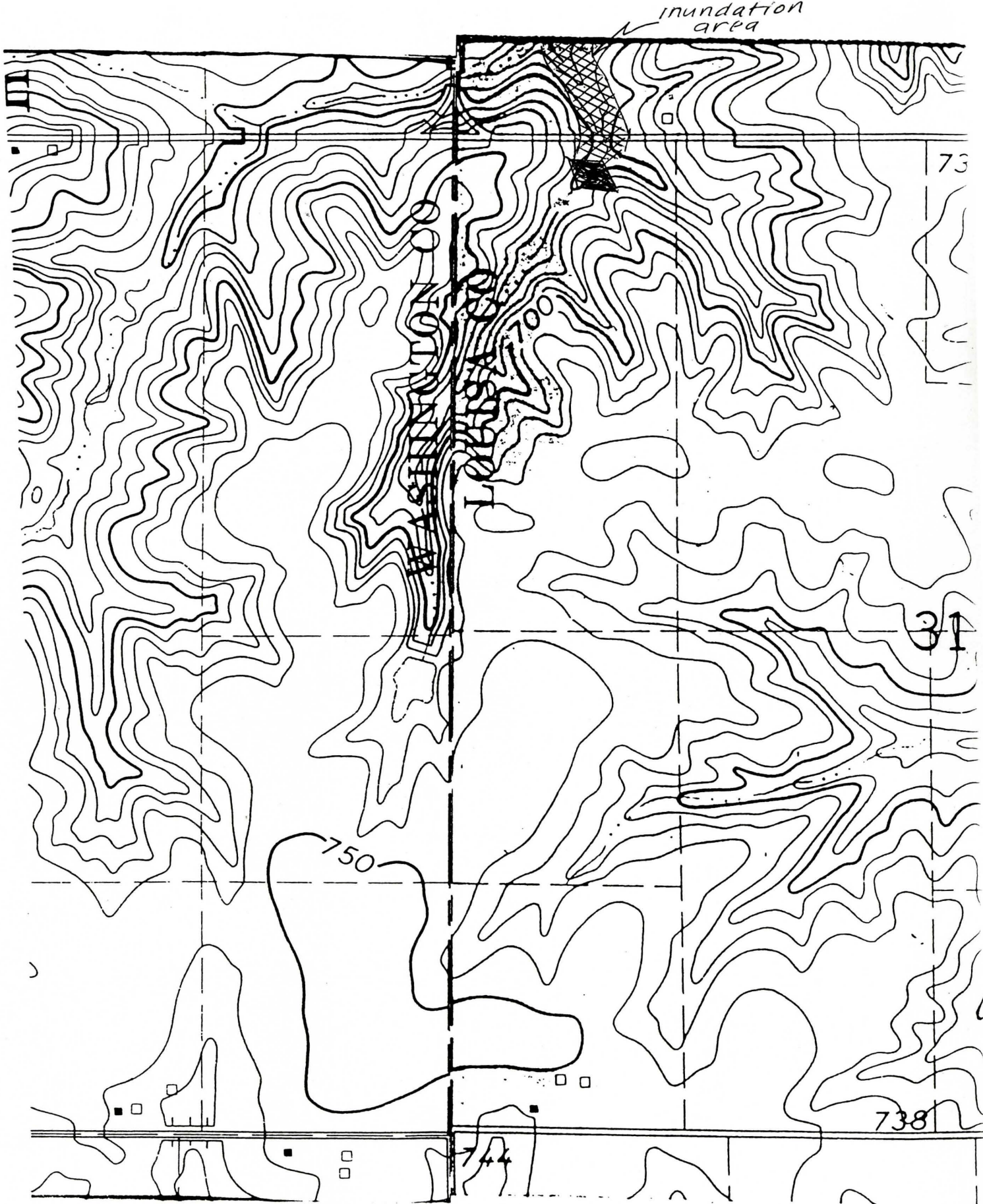
If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Connie Ramirez
District Conservationist

cc: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa
Bruce Trautman, Area Conservationist, Fairfield, Iowa
Louisa County Conservation District, Wapello, Iowa



Steve Harris

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

The Wetland Reserve Program has been renewed once again with the 1996 Farm Bill. It offers an opportunity to landowners to restore eligible cropland acres to wetlands. It emphasizes the restoration of habitat for wildlife and migratory birds. Wetlands are diverse and fascinating ecosystems that offer an abundance of benefits to the natural resources and to landowners. They regulate water flow by detaining storm flows for short periods thus reducing flood peaks, trap nutrients, sediments and add beauty to the landscape. Wetlands also provide many wildlife components such as breeding grounds, nesting sites and other critical habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species. They also make great hunting area.

The program has made significant changes. It now offers participants three options: 1) permanent easements, 2) non-permanent (30 years) easements, and 3) 10 year restoration cost-share agreements. Previously WRP only offered permanent easements. It is also a continuous sign-up instead of a designated sign-up. The Enrollment Process is as follows:

- * Interested landowners apply at local NRCS offices or cooperating groups.

- * The landowner and NRCS complete a site ranking worksheet.

- * The landowner and NRCS or a private consultant draft a plan to restore the easement area, which includes restoration practices, necessary structures, estimated costs, and future use of the area.

- * The NRCS State Office ranks all Iowa applications periodically.

- * The NRCS State Conservationist notifies landowners who submitted applications whether or not they were selected.

- * On lands with tentatively accepted easements, a certified appraiser establishes the value for the land offered for WRP.

- * The landowner is offered the appraised dollar value for permanent easements or 75 percent of the appraised value for non-permanent easements accepted into the program.

- * NRCS works through a closing agent, usually a local attorney, to develop and record the easement.

- * Restoration begins.

An information brochure is available at the NRCS Office. If you have any questions you may also contact us at 319-523-6411.



Conservation Reserve Program: Staying in or coming out?

There are currently 2.2 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in Iowa, for which the federal government pays \$172 million in annual rental payments. The 10 year contracts that cover these CRP acres began to expire in 1995. Two thirds of these acres will expire by the end of 1997. It is estimated that 65% of these acres will revert back to crop production.

Land owners have many choices available to them when their land comes out of CRP. Do they keep their land in CRP or do they put the land back into production? Do they put their land back into crop production or do they try an income-producing alternative such as grazing? The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) can work out the alternatives with landowners to come up with the best solution, for both the environment and landowner.

The 1996 Farm Bill includes provisions that allow for continuous enrollment and for re-enrollment in CRP of the most environmentally sensitive areas, including waterways and filterstrips that meet CRP eligibility requirements. Regardless of the decision the land owner makes, a conservation plan may be needed to participate in USDA programs.



1997 TREE SEEDLING SALE

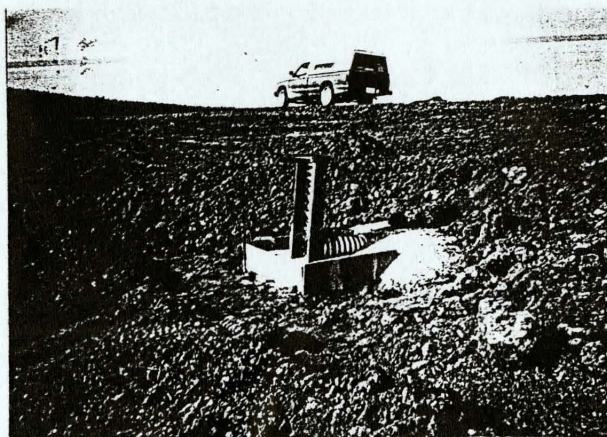
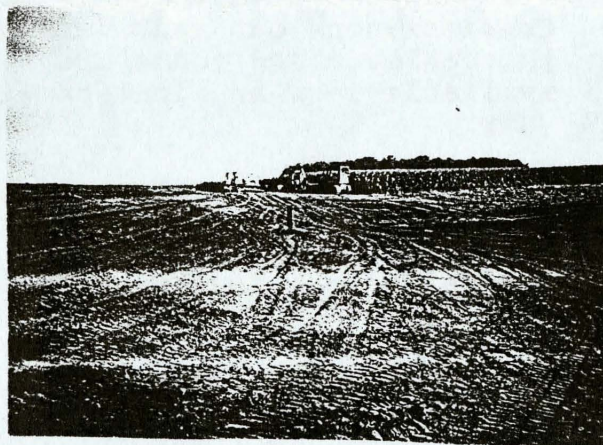
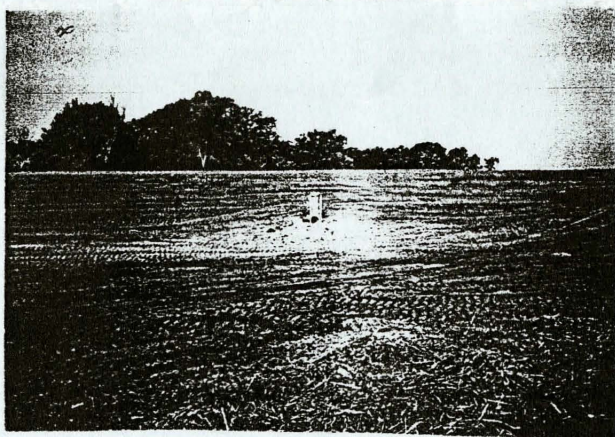
The District is selling tree and shrub seedlings until Feb. 28, 1997. Order early to be sure the variety you want is available. You will find an order form for seedlings and tree shelters in this newsletter. Profits from the seedling sale are used to promote conservation education in Louisa County.

What is a Wetland?

According to Webster's Dictionary, a wetland is land or areas containing much soil moisture.

In late summer of 1996 this wetland was constructed on a Louisa County farm by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The purpose of the structure is two fold. It helped reduce soil loss and at the same time brought aesthetic benefits to the area. When we reported it for our recordkeeping, we reported that it benefitted 8 acres and reduced soil loss from 18 tons down to 2 tons after construction. But to some of us a wetland has added benefits. Those include: improved water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding of streams and rivers, supply critical wildlife habitat, and furnish educational, scientific, recreational, and aesthetic benefits for people.

If this is something you might like to add to your farm or acreage, contact our office and we'll take a look and see if it is a viable project. There are financial incentives for a project such as this and personal rewards for years to come. Maybe someday the definition in Webster's will include the benefits and enjoyment a wetland can produce.



Langwood Acquisition Project

Dear Al,

Yes, I want to help! Enclosed is my gift to help acquire Langwood and continue the momentum to develop an outstanding residential, environmental education facility in our area.

☐ \$1000

☐ \$500

☐ \$250

☐ \$100

☐ Other _____

I Wish To Pledge _____ Quarterly

☐ Beginning _____. Please Bill Me.

☐ Please send me more information about the Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation and how I can help support its other environmental and conservation efforts

☐ My company will match my gift.
Contact _____
(contact person)
at _____
(company) (telephone)

☐ Please add me to the Louisa County Conservation Board Newsletter so I can stay informed about progress at Langwood and other conservation programs.

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____, State: ____ Zip: _____

Donation Made In Memory Of: _____ Challenge To Others: Please Describe On Separate Page

Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation

Thank you for your support
Box 123*

Wapello, IA 52653

319-523-8381

DEC 10 1999



LCCB Newsletter

Louisa County Conservation Board

Winter 1999-2000
Volume 13 Issue 4

Place of Opportunity

"Shhhh. Look up there." I point my hand toward a weathered wood railing on an old rifle range platform. The 12 children in my group all turn to look in the direction I am pointing. Then they see it. A magnificent great horned owl, perched only 50 feet away looking right at us. "Cooool," says one of the kids.

"What kind of bird is it?" asks another. I quietly explain it is a great horned owl which is the largest owl found in Iowa. As I give some other facts about owls another child asks, "Is it real?" It sits so perfectly still, they begin to wonder. "Yes," I whisper, "Just watch." And then, after a few minutes, the raptor turns its head slightly to the north. The kids gasp — it is really alive.

Down by the pond, a five-year old tightly grips a fishing pole. She watches her bobber intensely, waiting...waiting. Her line tenses, the bobber plunges beneath the water. "I got a bite!" she exclaims. She reels the line and watches her bobber move towards her, closer, and closer. Finally the bobber is pulled out of the water and beneath it she sees the shimmering scales of a bluegill. "I got a fish! I got a fish!" It is the first fish she has ever caught. The look in her eyes is one of pride, amazement and pure joy.

These stories describe just two occurrences from last year's summer day camps at Langwood 4-H Reserve. They

demonstrate how childhood experiences with nature can have an impact on a person's life.

I feel fortunate to have a job that enables me to touch the lives of youth and offer them experiences they may not get anywhere else. Langwood has given our environmental education program the opportunity to offer new types of extended programs such as day camps. Extended programs offer kids more time to experience the outdoors, providing moments that will not be matched anywhere else.

Langwood still seems to be a place undiscovered by many people in southeast Iowa. Parents attending school field trips have seen the value in Langwood. I have heard comments such as, "This place is really beautiful. I had no idea it was here," or "Can families rent this camp to use?" To which I happily reply, "YES!"

Our vision for Langwood is to continue expanding its capabilities to provide great experiences for people. Many of us take our childhood interactions with nature for granted. Many youth today are not finding these experiences on their own, but with places like Langwood, we can begin filling in the gaps.

DDE

Langwood Plans Unveiled

The Langwood Planning Committee and the Louisa County Conservation Board are finally ready to release the conceptual site plans for the Langwood project. The actual siting for the proposed facilities on the Langwood property has not yet been determined.

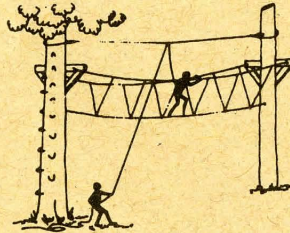
The plans include a building with the central area made up of a reception area, exhibit area, office space, dining area, kitchen, laboratory and meeting space. The "wings" of the building include bedroom and restroom facilities to accommodate about 100 individuals overnight.

Other features of the site will include outdoor education and recreation areas and a high ropes course.

Naturally, all aspects of the project will be phased in as fundraising is done. Call Detra at the LCCB for more information.

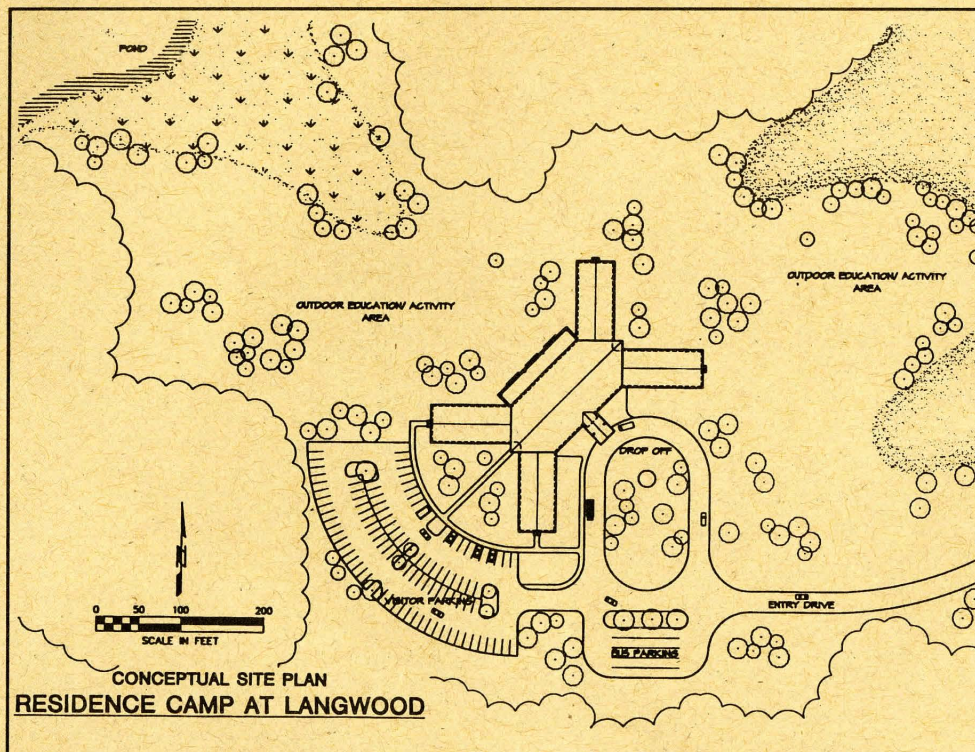
High Ropes Coming

Plans are underway to get a high ropes course developed at Langwood Reserve. What is a high ropes course? It is a course designed to offer groups and individuals the opportunity to safely participate in a series of activities involving mental, physical, and emotional risk taking. It consists of ropes, cables, and poles combined in ways to simulate challenges that might be found in a natural setting.



Ropes courses are an excellent way to work on communication skills, teamwork, and problem solving. They are effective for many ages, from school-aged youth to corporate adults.

We expect the ropes course to help the environmental education staff at the LCCB reach even more audiences and improve lives.



Thank-you Donors!

A special "thanks" to everyone who has made a donation to the Langwood Project. We are getting close to securing the funds needed for acquiring the property from the Iowa 4-H Foundation. That will allow us to move to the next phase of the project.

Benefactor - \$1000+

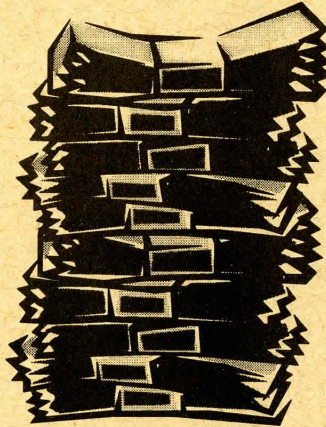
Stoney Brook Farms, Ltd. (A.J. & Dorothy Boysen)
Mid American Energy Company

Patron - \$500 - \$999

Schlutz Enterprises
State Bank of Wapello

Sponsor - \$100 - \$499

William & Charlene Aspelmeier
Robert & Phyllis Barnes
Alfred C. Bohling, Jr.
A.C. & Helen Bohling
Brian and Kristie Cummings
Boy Scouts Troop #167
Shawn Dettmann & Detra Dettmann-Easler
Broders Excavating (Jack & Jo Ann Broders)
Delzell Bros., Inc.
Ed and Margaret Hicklin (In Memory of Burton E. Allworth)
Mike and Joan Hodges
Steve & Karen Jacobson
Duane & Jeanne Johnson
Warren & Connie Lewis
Shirlee Werner
Donald & Teresa Wilson
Vision Center, P.C.



Sponsor - \$100 - \$499 *continued...*

John and Betty McCulley
Glen and Mary Jo Mente
Olson Farms (Jeff & Gayle Olson)
Gloria Newell
Jim and Cindy Pease
Shirley Pfeifer
Robert Schafer (In Memory of Marian L. Schafer)
Frantz & Mary Silberger
Max Schomberg
Winfield Contractors

Supporter - Up to \$99

Van & Vicky Bell
Howard and Patricia Coil
Robert & Cathy Cowles
Larry & Pat Dessner
Eleanor Jones
William Matthews
Larry & Karen Minnis
Orr Electric
Jim & Laurie Rudisill
Jay Schweitzer
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Small
Wayne Souer
Sam and Karen Stapp
Elmer & Lynette Thomas

Don't See Your Name?

If you haven't yet taken the time to give a donation to the Langwood project, please do so now! Return the enclosed pledge card and help us continue making progress. Remember, any donation made by December 31st is deductible from this year's taxes!

We still need about \$8100 to meet our goal of \$55,000, the amount needed to acquire Langwood. We've set a deadline of March 1, 2000 to have all the acquisition funds raised. New contributions are urgently needed to meet this goal.

Once Langwood is acquired, several major improvements are planned that will boost environmental education, tourism and economic development in the county and surrounding region.

Upcoming Events

LCCB programs are open to people of all abilities. If you have special needs, please contact us in advance so we can make any necessary arrangements.

NEW!

Winter Day Camps

9 a.m. - Noon

Langwood 4-H Reserve

Cost: \$5/person

Registration Deadline: Dec 22

Tuesday, December 28

Ages 5 & 6

Wednesday, December 29

Ages 7 & 8

Thursday, December 30

Ages 9 & 10

We are continuing to expand our programming at Langwood! The summer day camps have been such a hit we've decided to offer some winter day camp programs during the holiday break. Each camp will feature outdoor and indoor nature activities as well as crafts and games.

We'll warm up from the outdoor fun with the wood-burning stove and hot chocolate.

Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. Participation is limited to 10 individuals per camp. Contact Detra for more information.

For more information about any of these programs, contact the Louisa County Conservation Board:

Phone: 523-8381

Email: lccb@lccb.org

Check out our new website at:

www.lccb.org

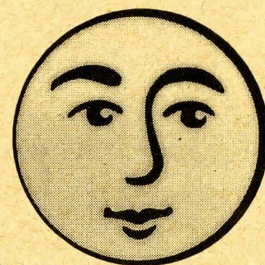
Full Moon Hike

Thursday, January 20

6:30 p.m.

Langwood 4-H Reserve

Cost: \$1/person



Come howl at the moon with LCCB naturalist Detra Dettmann-Easler. We'll explore the winter woodlands in the dark using our night vision. The trail will be fairly easy-going, so bring the whole family!

Following the hike we'll warm up in the lodge with a fire and hot chocolate. Pre-registration is not required for this program.

Preschoolers + Parents

Saturday, January 29

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Langwood Reserve

Cost: \$3/preschooler

Register by January 26

NEW!

Join naturalist Detra Dettmann-Easler for a morning of fun exploring nature. We'll be busy indoors and outdoors taking in many hands-on activities for parents to enjoy through the eyes of their child.

Children ages 3-5 are welcome to attend, but must be accompanied by an adult. Accompanying adults do not have to be parents. We welcome grandparents, aunts, uncles, or even a good friend.

Pre-registration is required for this program, and participation is limited to 15 preschoolers. Call Detra at the LCCB for more information.

Upcoming Events

Cross Country Skiing

Saturday, February 5

Saturday, February 12 (back up)

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Langwood Reserve

Ski rental: \$5

Facility fee: \$1

Registration Deadline: Feb. 2

It's time once again to hope for snow so we can ski! Whether you are a beginner or a pro, come join us for an afternoon of fun! Experienced skiers will be on hand to assist those first-timers.

Bring your own skis or you can rent equipment for just \$5. All participants are asked to pay \$1 to go towards Langwood. Bring a non-disposable mug to warm up with some hot chocolate.



For more information or to register, call Katie at the LCCB.

Nest Box Building

Thursday, February 17

7:00 p.m.

Langwood Reserve

Cost: \$6/bluebird kit

\$11/wood duck kit

Participants at this workshop will make nest boxes from pre-cut, pre-drilled kits. A brief program on nest box placement and care will be given, followed by the box building.



Bluebird box kits will be available for \$6 each and wood duck box kits for \$11 each. Participants should bring a hammer, plus Phillips and straight screwdrivers.

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY
FEBRUARY 26**

Backyard Habitat

Monday, February 28

Briggs Civic Center, Wapello

7:00 p.m.

Whether your backyard is a small city lot or five acres, you can provide habitat for a variety of animals. Find out how, at this program led by Julie Ohde. Through slides, video and handouts, she will present information on how to provide food, water and shelter to attract different wildlife species.

The program is cosponsored by the LCCB and the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District as part of the "Backyard Conservation" program.

There will also be handouts on backyard conservation topics including ponds, mulching, pest control, tree planting and composting.



**Call Us!
523-8381**

We are available
to speak to your
group on a variety
of topics.

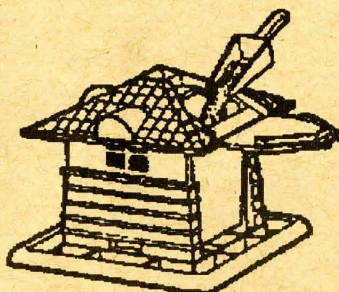
Find out what we
have to offer you!

Good-Bye, Tom

LCCB Resource Conservationist Tom Wahl is leaving his position in December. Tom's new job will be with the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District to promote conservation buffers on private land.

Tom came to work for the LCCB in the fall of 1986. Tom worked as the operations supervisor from 1986 to the spring of 1998 when his position changed to resource conservationist.

This past year Tom has worked with several landowners on tree plantings as well as seeding native vegetation along Louisa County roadsides. Tom's expertise will be missed! Thank-you, Tom!



Bird Feeders For Sale

The Langwood Fundraising Committee is selling a limited number of bird feeders at only \$8 each. These quality feeders are manufactured in the U.S. by Rubbermaid. The feeder is easily filled through a hinged roof panel and can accommodate a variety of seeds. They are made from recycled plastic and can be suspended or pole-mounted.

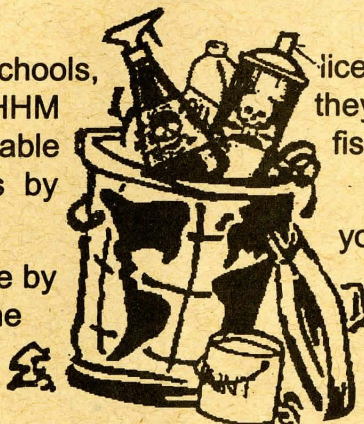
All proceeds will go toward the effort to raise funds for the purchase of Langwood 4-H Reserve. Supplies are limited — call to reserve your feeder today or stop by the LCCB office to buy one. Feeders will also be for sale at all LCCB programs.

Student-Produced Video

Students at Wapello High School are learning about video production, water pollution and household hazardous materials (HHM's). Art, health and chemistry classes are teaming up to produce a video on HHM's.

The video will be shown at schools, on local cable and at HHM programs. It will also be available for check out at local libraries by March.

This project is made possible by a HHM Education grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



Langwood Fishing Permits

Fishing permits are available for the five-acre pond at Langwood 4-H Reserve. Permits are just \$5 each and allow licensed anglers to fish from September 1 through April 30.

Children who do not need a fishing license, do not need a permit. However, they must be with an adult who has a fishing license and Langwood permit.

Langwood is a great place for youth just learning to fish. The pond is stocked with bluegill, bass, and catfish. For more information, call or stop by the conservation board office.

"The mission of the Louisa County Conservation Board is to provide an appreciation of Louisa County's natural resources through environmental education and recreation; and to manage our parks and natural areas for present and future generations."

Adopted November 3, 1999

New Naturalist

Naturalist Deb Krohn left the LCCB in October to take a job with the Muscatine County Conservation Board. Deb worked for Louisa County for over two years assisting with field trips, classroom programs, and coordinating the Summer Recreation program in four Louisa County communities.

Deb added a real spark to our program and she will be missed. We thank Deb for all her hard work at the LCCB!

The naturalist's position is currently vacant but Katie Dalton of Wapello has been serving as a naturalist intern this fall. Katie has a degree in Animal Ecology-Wildlife from Iowa State University and has been working at the waterfowl check station with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Odessa Wildlife Unit.

Katie loves the outdoors and is an avid hunter. She was broken into the naturalist field by assisting with field trips and classroom programs this fall. She plans to take on more projects this winter and spring, including the construction of a bird viewing blind at Langwood Reserve.

You can meet Katie at the cross country skiing program (assuming we get enough snow, of course!)

Thank You



Thanks to all who helped with the Halloween Hike this year: Kathy & Lisa Wilkerson; Hannah, Linda & Lyle Short; Janet & Jim Williams; Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District; Keith & Norma Bloomer; Trailblazers 4-H Club; Louisa County 5th Graders; Shooting Stars 4-H Club; Megan & Shane Mairet; Judy, Kristy & Kelsey Dameron; Grace & Lindsey Finley; Jerrica Frieden; Kathy Henke; Eva Fletcher; Rick, Patti & Annie Gordon; Amy Rossow; Julie Beenblossom; Nick Ohde; Shawn Dettmann; Deb Krohn; Amy Spencer; Girl Scout Troop #231; Cindy Wagg; and Kathy Dice.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped at the "Duck Hunting with Grandpa" field trip: Brad Moss, Jack Parsons, Brock Allworth and Bill Aspelmeier.

Conservation Calendar

December 28	Winter Day Camp
December 28	LCCB Board Meeting
December 29	Winter Day Camp
December 30	Winter Day Camp
January 20	Full Moon Hike
January 25	LCCB Board Meeting
January 29	Preschoolers Plus Parents
February 5	Cross Country Skiing
February 12	Cross Country Skiing (backup)
February 17	Nest Box Building
February 28	Backyard Habitat
February 29	LCCB Board Meeting

LCCB Board meetings are generally held the last *Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m at the Louisa County Heritage Museum, but are subject to change. Call the LCCB for further information.

*Note: This a change. Meetings used to be held the first Wednesday of the month.



Board Members

Lee Harris.....Morning Sun
Gene Murray.....Wapello
David Schweitzer.....Columbus Junction
Greg Terry.....Wapello
Wayne Ryan.....Wapello

LCCB Staff

Jim Rudisill.....Executive Director
Tom Wahl.....Resource Conservationist
Julie Ohde.....Environmental Ed. Coordinator
Detra Dettmann-Easler....Camp & Program Director
Katie Dalton.....Intern Naturalist
Frank Williams.....Park Ranger
Wilbur Hartsock.....Conservation Aide
Betty Perkins.....Office Manager
Cleva Baird.....Assistant Office Manager

LCCB Office at:

Louisa County Heritage Museum
609 James L. Hodges Avenue
P.O. Box 261
Wapello, IA 52653
(319) 523-8381
lccb@lccb.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

To get on the mailing list for this FREE
newsletter, contact the LCCB.

Edited by: Detra Dettmann-Easler
and Julie Ohde

The Louisa County Conservation Board's
programs and facilities are consistent with
pertinent federal and state laws and regulations
on non-discrimination regarding race, color,
national origin, religion, sex, age, and
handicap.

For those who cannot read the size of print in this publication, a larger
print version of the text is available by contacting the LCCB at (319)
523-8381.

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*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who
can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."*

—from Rachel Carson's THE SENSE OF WONDER

LOUISA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1999

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE:

Producers must remain in compliance with the Highly Erodible and Wetland provisions in order to be eligible for any program benefits or services. Be sure you review your Conservation Plan that you developed with the NRCS office to maintain compliance with the Sodbuster/Swampbuster regulations. If you plan on draining, filling, or tiling be sure to check this intended activity out with the NRCS Office before you begin.

This is the best way to make sure your drainage activities are not subject to any Swampbuster regulations. Check out the effects of your farming intentions ahead of time to avoid loss of program benefits later!

EXPIRING CRP

If you are a landowner with ground under an expiring CRP contract, you have many options.

The Continuous CRP may appeal to producers who would like to receive payments on part of their land, and farm the rest. The portion that would remain in CRP would be part of a bufferstrip system. This is an area of land maintained in permanent

vegetation. Examples of this would be:

- * Riparian forest buffers.
- * Grass filter strips.
- * Grassed waterways.
- * Field windbreaks.
- * Living snow fences.
- * Shallow water areas.
- * Shelterbelts.
- * Contour bufferstrips.

Some expiring CRP ground may lend itself to total crop production. No-till would most likely be the best way to go for the producer who chooses this option. Many farmers have had good luck no-tilling soybeans into CRP ground the first year, followed by corn the next year.

Producers that would like to row-crop expiring CRP acres should stop in and go over the farm's conservation plan. It can then be determined what, if any, tillage practices are allowed to stay in compliance.

THINK CONSERVATION TILLAGE IN 2000!

NRCS tillage surveys have shown that residue levels are dropping!! Therefore, a higher percentage of

precious topsoil, a nonrenewable resource, is exposed to the erosive powers of water and wind. Whether you have HEL (Highly Erodible Land) or NHEL (Non Highly Erodible Land) on your farm, conservation tillage can help make your land sustainably productive for future farming generations.

Conservation tillage is defined as a tillage and planting system that leaves at least 30% of the soil surface covered by the previous year's crop residue. The three main types of conservation tillage are Minimal-till, No-till, and Ridge-till. Conservation tillage works well with Continuous CRP practices such as, grassed waterways, contour grass strips with field borders, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Ask about what an estimated Continuous CRP payment on your land may be worth. Some filterstrips have been earning up to \$175+/acre.

Contouring, No-till planting, and installing an occasional contour grass strip, could help reduce rainfall runoff significantly. Hopefully, by increasing residue levels and changing row patterns, more topsoil can be left on the field where everyone wants it and out of our water supplies.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE DOWN

Conservation and farm group leaders are concerned about an apparent drop in the use of soil-saving reduced tillage methods in Iowa. Preliminary results from the

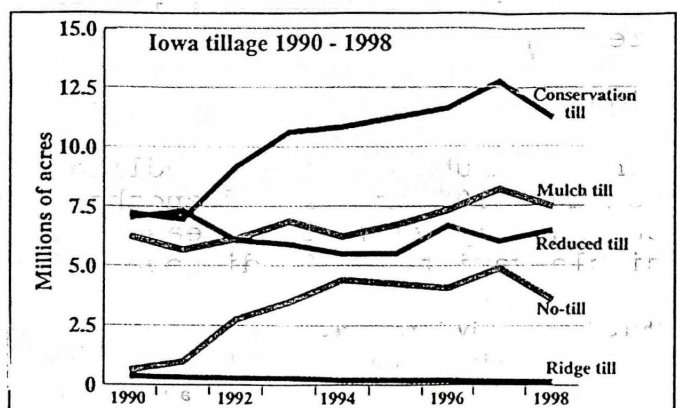
1998 conservation tillage survey show a 25% decline in total conservation methods and a 12% decline in total conservation tillage from 1997.

It appears this decline in crop residue management was across the state. Our concern is that we let farmers know that this has happened, and that we do all we can to urge them to leave crop on the soil surface this fall after fall harvest.

The decline in conservation tillage can be attributed to a long, dry fall which provides the time and opportunity to till farm fields after harvest. Other reasons given for more tillage include: a cool, wet spring, compaction problems, and less attention to conservation compliance. We have valid answers to each of the reasons for more tillage.

* 25% reduction from 1997 in no-till corn and soybeans, from 4.8 million acres in 1997 to 3.6 million acres in 1998. No-till was used on 16% of corn and soybeans in 1998.

* Counties with the highest no-till percentage are in southern Iowa. All but 2 of the counties with 25% or more no-till are south of, or include I-80.

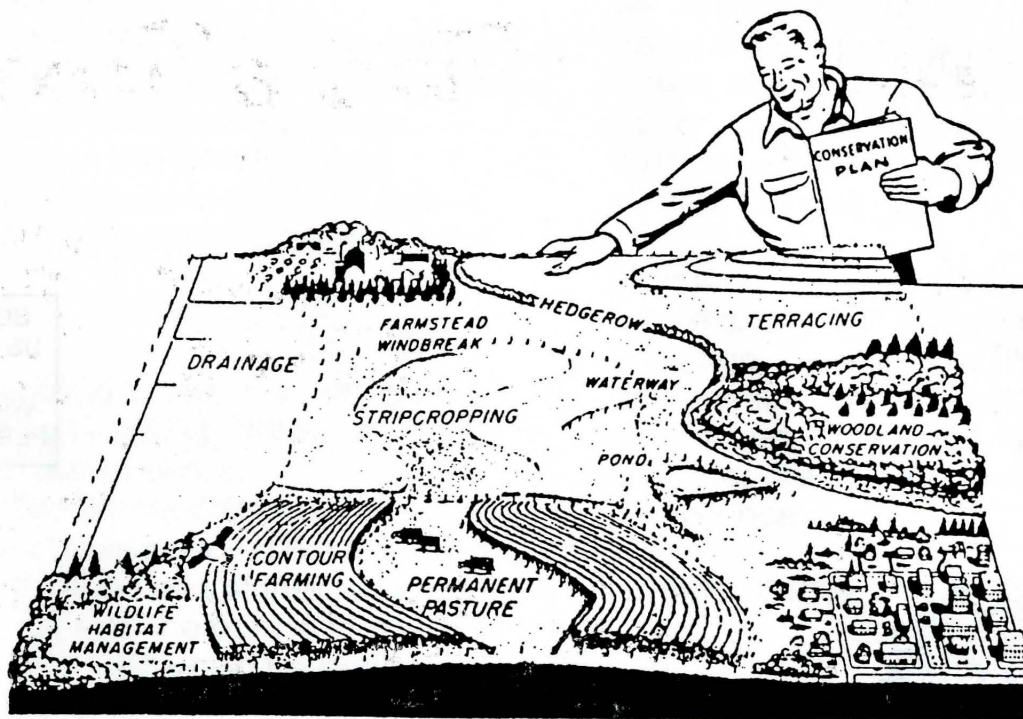


NEW SIGN UP INFORMATION

The 2000 General CRP sign up will be held during a 4-week period beginning January 18th and ending February 11th, 2000 in the USDA local Service Centers. According to the Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, "This is an opportunity for farmers and landowners to participate in a cost-effective, voluntary program to improve their land, water, and wildlife resources and lock in a multiyear payment

based on local rates. It is also an opportunity for participants with contracts expiring next fall to make new contract offers."

The USDA will continue to evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers on Environmental Benefits Index (EBI), which is based on the potential environmental benefits gained from enrolling land in and participating in the CRP program.



A dozen ways to leave more residue

- 1** Follow a crop rotation sequence with high residue producing crops. Soybeans don't provide the same kind of protection as corn, for example. Also, high yields give more residues.
- 2** Wait until spring for tillage operations. This is most important on low residue producing crops such as soybeans. Fall tilled soybean ground is very vulnerable to wind erosion in late winter and early spring.
- 3** Reduce the number of tillage passes. In most cases, this is as important as the type of tillage performed.
- 4** Plant rye or wheat as winter cover crops. This is a good option when you are growing low-residue crops such as soybeans or corn silage.
- 5** Set chisels and disks to work shallower. Tilling deeper buries more residue.
- 6** Stop using the moldboard plow.
- 7** Drive slower on tillage operations. Driving faster throws more soil and covers more residue.
- 8** Use straight points and sweeps on chisel plows instead of twisted points. Twisted points may bury 20% more residue.
- 9** No-till drill soybeans instead of planting them in a prepared seedbed. No-till drilling keeps more residue on the soil surface, and generally produces a quicker canopy.
- 10** Convert to a no-till system. No-till disturbs residue only in the row.
- 11** A straighter alignment of disk blades buries less residue.
- 12** Strive for even distribution of residue from a combine at harvest. Also, leave residue size as large as possible. Smaller residue particles, such as chopped soybean residue will decompose more quickly and be buried more easily.

All programs and services of Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District are available to everyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

**LOUISA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
PHONE 319-523-6411
514 ISETT
WAPELLO IA 52653-1225

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Did you know . . .

. . . an acre of trees can remove about 13 tons of dust and gases every year from the surrounding environment?



Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District

514 Isett

Wapello, IA 52653

Phone: 319-523-6411

No-till Benefits

Have you ever thought about all the changes in farming in the last 60 years? There have been many, many advances, one of the major changes being no-till.

No-till is not an earth shattering, revolutionary idea, but it has greatly changed the face of farming in the United States and in Iowa. It has several benefits and very few drawbacks.

The benefits have been widely publicized for many years. No tillage operations are required prior to planting. This reduces the amount of money spent on fuel, time on the equipment (both in maintenance and the actual operations), and smaller equipment with less horse power is required. Additionally, this conserves the ground moisture. I know, you are saying that the spring time ground moisture has not been an issue in the last 10 years or more. We have been fortunate enough to have adequate moisture in the recent past, but when a drier spring comes around, the added moisture will give your crops a good start. And, let us not forget the soil conserving results. Leaving residue on the surface reduces both wind and water erosion that the soil would otherwise be subjected to from fall to the following spring. With the heavy rainfalls in spring, this result of no-till can actually save tons of soil on an individual farm annually. The reduced wind erosion will help keep the soil in your field, instead of creating the black snow drifts in the road side ditches

Disadvantages to no-tilling are the soil is more moist longer, remains cooler later in the spring and increased chemical control of weeds, pest and diseases is required. With more moist soil, the possibility of subjecting the soil to compacting when the heavy machinery drives over the land does exist. Cooler soil will require later planting, which can be dealt with by the use of the different varieties and maturity dates of various modern crops. Current chemicals are becoming more and more accurate at reducing the life of the chemical outside of the growing season, with smaller amounts required to treat problem areas. A good crop rotation with variety change can also assist in reducing this problem.

Many farmers find the tradition of a plowed field difficult to overcome. The 'trash' is an unsightly eyesore. The only way to overcome this issue is by looking at the reasoning behind the practices. When I see a no-tilled field, I think it is a very beautiful sight. In fact, one of my favorite views in Louisa county is driving north on Highway 61, coming down onto the harvested flood plain from the bluffs, driving to Wapello. The harvested fields, the beautiful river valley, gorgeous forested areas--it is natural resource conservation at its best!

LOUISA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
10th ANNUAL 2000 TREE SEEDLING & SHRUB SALE

Please order at least 10 of any one variety. Orders will be taken until February 28, 2000. Seedlings will arrive in April, 2000. We will contact you when they arrive and you will need to pick them up right away to assure the seedlings success. Questions can be answered by calling 523-6411. Profits will be used to promote soil and water conservation in Louisa County.

Name: _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Address: _____

***Bare Root Seedlings:** (MINIMUM ORDER: 10 of ONE VARIETY)

Variety	Size	Price	Quantity	Cost
Silver Maple	3'-4'	10/\$12.00	_____	_____
Green Ash	3'-4'	10/\$12.00	_____	_____
Red Oak	2'-3'	10/\$15.00	_____	_____
Colorado Blue Spruce	8"-12"	10/\$12.00	_____	_____
Eastern White Pine	8"-12"	10/\$12.00	_____	_____

***Shrubs:**

Common Lilac	18"-24"	10/\$10.00	_____	_____
Red Osier Dogwood	18"-24"	10/\$10.00	_____	_____
Nanking Cherry	18"-24"	10/\$10.00	_____	_____

Potted Seedlings: (No Minimum Order)

Chinese Chestnut	12"-18"	\$4.00 Ea.	_____	_____
Northern Pecan	4"- 8"	\$4.00 Ea.	_____	_____
Paw Paw	6"-12"	\$4.00 Ea.	_____	_____
Pinyon Pine	2"- 4"	\$4.00 Ea.	_____	_____
Korean Nut Pine	2"- 4"	\$4.00 EA.	_____	_____

Bare Root seedlings: (No Minimum Order)

Persimmon	12"-18"	\$2.00 EA.	_____	_____
Ginkgo	8"-12"	\$2.00 EA	_____	_____

Tree Shelter	4 Ft.	\$2.60 Ea.	_____	_____
Wood Stake	4 Ft.	\$1.15 Ea.	_____	_____

5% Sales Tax + _____

TOTAL COST \$ _____

Make Checks payable to Louisa County SWCD

Send payment and order blank to: Louisa County SWCD

514 Isett

Wapello, IA 52653

Upon notification, I agree to pick up my order at the designated area.

Signature _____

Date _____

*These shrubs and tree seedlings are suitable for CRP plantings. If you need 100 or more of another variety and if we can obtain them from our nursery we will. Please call us. On orders of 100 or more of a single variety a 10% discount will be given.

There is no survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices except that seedlings will be good quality when they are picked up within 2 days of arrival.

All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital, status or handicap.

Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Division of Soil Conservation
Conservation Incentives Programs

Eligible Practices	IFIP		No Interest Loan	REAP PRACTICES	
	Voluntary	Public Owned Lakes		Forestry & Native Veg	Practices
Tillage					
No-Till	\$10/ac max				
Ridge-Till	\$10/ac max				
Strip-Till	\$10/ac max				
Temporary					
Contour Farming	\$6/ac				
Field Borders	50% up to \$25/ac				50% up to \$25/ac
Filter Strips	50% up to \$25/ac				50% up to \$25/ac
Strip-crop, contour	50% up to \$25/ac				50% up to \$25/ac
Permanent					
Critical Area Plant	50%	75%	100% ♦		*50%
Diversion	50%	75%	100% ♦		*50%
Field Windbreak	50%	75%	100% ♦		
Grade Stab Struct	50%	75%	100% ♦		*50%
Grassed Waterway	50%	75%	100% ♦		*50%
Past & Hay Plant	50%	75%	100% ♦		*50%
Terrace	50%	75%	100% ♦		*50%
Underground outlet	50%	75%	100% ♦		*50%
Water & Sed Cntrl Basin	50%	75%	100% ♦		*50%
Forestry & Native Grasses					
Conservation Cover				75%	75%
Farmstead Windbreak				*75%	*75%
Field Windbreak				*75%	*75%
Planned Grazing System				*75%	*75%
Rescue Treatment				*75%	*75%
Riparian Forest Buffer				*75%	*75%
Site Prep Natural Regeneration				*75%	*75%
Timber Stand Improve				*75%	*75%
Tree Planting				*75%	*75%
OTHER PRACTICES					
Ag Drain Well/plug & cistern removal					50% \$500 max
Animal Waste Mgt Sys					50%
Tile Outlet from plug ag drainage to suitable, legal outlet					50% \$2,000 max
Restored or constructed wetlands in buffer systems					50%
Bioengineering for stabilization of banks along waterways					50%

Revised 12/1/00

♦ Loan for 100% of cost, \$10,000 maximum
* Other restrictions apply, see Chap. 12 administrative rules for REAP, cost share guidelines

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/Division of Soil Conservation
Administered Water Quality Projects
The following practices have been funded for projects conducted by SWCDs:

PracticeName	Units
Agricultural Drainage Well Plugging & Cistern Removal	No
Alternative Livestock Watering System	No
Band Spraying	acre
CRP Incentive	acre
Conservation Cover	acre
Conservation Easement	acre
Conservation Tillage System	acre
Contour Farming	acre
Cover and Green Manure Crop	acre
Critical Area Planting	acre
Diversion	ft
Fencing	ft
Field Border	ft
Filter Strip	acre
Grade Stabilization Structure	No
Grassed Waterway	acre
Grasses & Legumes in Rotation	acre
Integrated Crop Management (ICM)	acre
Land Acquisition	acre
Late Spring Nitrate Test	acre
Lined Waterway or Outlet	ft
Livestock Exclusion	acre
No-Till	acre
No-Till / Contour Planting	acre
Nutrient Management	
Nutrient and Pest Management	acre
Pasture and Hayland Management	acre
Pasture and Hayland Planting	acre
Planned Grazing Systems	acre
Pond	No
Record Keeping for CHIPS Program	cows
Ridge-Till	acre
Riparian Buffer Strip	acre
Sediment Basin	No
Seeding Incentive	acre
Sinkhole Protection	No
Spring Development	No
Stream Crossing	No
Streambank Protection	ft
Strip-Till	acre
Stripcropping, Contour	acre
Stripcropping, Contour / Reduced Tillage	acre
Structure for Water Control	No
Terrace	ft
Tile Outlet from Plugged Agricultural Drainage Well to a Suitable Legal Outlet	ft
Timber Stand Improvement	acre
Tree Planting	acre
Waste Management System	No
Waste Storage Pond	No
Waste Storage Structure	No
Waste Treatment Lagoon	No
Waste Utilization	acre
Water and Sediment Control Basin	No
Weed Management Plot	acre
Well Closure	No
Wetlands Development or Restoration	acre
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management	acre
Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management	acre
Woodland Improvement	acre

Note: The cost-share rates or incentive payments for the above practices are determined by mutual agreement between the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the sponsoring agencies.

Project practices are supported in part or in total by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/Division of Soil Conservation through funds of the Water Protection Fund or the Watershed Protection Fund, or by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Technical assistance is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service.



TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA
Plant a Tree



LOUISA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
10th ANNUAL 2000 TREE SEEDLING & SHRUB SALE

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Wood Stake	4 Ft.	\$1.15 Ea.	_____	_____

5% Sales Tax + _____

TOTAL COST \$ _____

Make Checks payable to Louisa County SWCD

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Wapello, IA 52653

Upon notification, I agree to pick up my order at the designated area.

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Date _____

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State Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald approves \$1 million for midwest grain processors ethanol plant

State Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald announced that \$1 million in Linked Investments for Tomorrow (LIFT) funds has been approved for Midwest Grain Processors Cooperative (MGP). MGP will be a farmer-owned cooperative, which will build a corn-based grain processing facility to produce ethanol. Up to 1,000 Iowa farmers could be eligible to receive assistance throughout the LIFT Value-Added Agriculture program.

We will be able to provide low interest loans to farmers who will have a stake in this ethanol plant," Fitzgerald stated. "I am excited to work with the farmers in Iowa on this project. It helps not only the farmers involved, but all Iowans as we expand our ethanol production."

Through LIFT, an eligible borrower works with his/her normal financial institution lending process. For qualified loans, the state treasurer will place a Certificate of Deposit in the lending institution for three percent below the current treasury bill rate. The lending institution can charge no more than four percent above that. "The loans for these participants are at 6% for the month of March," Fitzgerald stated. "This reduced rate will help lower monthly payments for these farmers, which may increase the opportunity to become a shareholder."

To learn more about the LIFT Value-Added Agriculture program, visit State Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald's website at www.treasurer.state.ia.us. You can also email the treasurer at lift@tos.state.ia.us; phone the office at 515-281-3287 or contact the office through the mail at Michael L. Fitzgerald, State Treasurer, Capitol Building, Des Moines IA 50319.

Work is much more fun than
fun.

—Noel Coward

4-4-01

6 Agriculture News

Farm Credit Services of America reports first quarter 2001 financial results ^{5/23/01}

Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica), the region's largest agricultural lender, reported its results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2001. FCSAmerica reported net income for the first quarter of 2001 at \$24.3 million, compared to \$22.5 million for the same quarter of 2000. FCSAmerica's positive net income results were due primarily to an increase in net interest income for the first quarter of 2001 which resulted from increased loan volume.

Since year end, the Association increased its loan volume by \$144 million. Volume increased in both the commercial and real estate portfolios. The strong first quarter results showed an increase in new lending activity that resulted from FCSAmerica's retail offices which primarily serves independent farmers and ranchers.

The quality of FCSAmerica's portfolio remains strong in light of the challenges facing various segments of production agriculture. "Our strong portfolio is a result of several factors," explained Doug Stark, chief credit officer of FCSAmerica. "The quality of our new loan growth, along with improvements in cattle and swine industry profitability, has actually resulted in a slight increase in the overall quality of our portfolio." Stark added, "Although we continue to see

very low cash farm prices in the grain segment, a good production year for most producers, improved risk management practices and strong government program support shielded most producers from significant financial challenges."

"The first quarter was an incredible start to an exciting year," stated Jack Webster, president and chief executive officer of FCSAmerica. "We are very pleased to have been able to achieve this level of earnings. We are confident that we will be able to sustain this momentum and increase our loan volume and earnings during a time when we are reinvesting in corporate-wide building renovation, technology and new products and services."

Farm Credit Services of America, with assets of more than \$5.9 billion, provides credit and insurance services to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, and rural residents in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Ottumwa will host pond management seminar ^{5/23/01}

Ponds with good water quality bring joy and satisfaction to their owners in the way of fishing, swimming, boating, livestock watering and wildlife habitat. However, many ponds have problems with their sediment level, too much aquatic life, and a variety of other problems.

This seminar is designed to help you understand the many factors that affect your satisfaction with your existing or planned pond. Experts will share with you:

- Site selection and pond construction
- How important sediment control is to your pond's health and steps you can take to control it
- How to maintain a good balance of aquatic vegetation in your pond
- What fish do well in small ponds and population rates
- Other wildlife benefits of having a pond on your property.

This seminar will be offered Tuesday, June 5, 2001, from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. at Pioneer Ridge Park south of Ottumwa on Hwy. 63 and will include a fish dinner. Pre-registration is required. Contact the Wapello County Extension Office at 641-682-5491 for more information and to register. The \$10 registration fee will cover the cost of the meal and all handouts.

Nov. 1, 2001

Wapello Republican

Conservation Reserve Program: It's your soil, keep it where it is!

The 24th CRP signup is underway. Many different practices are offered. The Louisa Co. rental rates vary from \$78 - \$197 per acre per year with the average being about \$160! Many of the practices also have a \$100 to \$150 per acre signup incentive bonus paid up front. Cost share is available through FSA for 50 percent of the cost to establish the practice! Currently, an additional 40 percent cost share is available as a practice incentive bonus. Bottom line — You could have very little money invested in a lucrative CRP contract. The continuous signup includes:

Filter Strips: 20' to 120' wide grass strips along perennial and seasonal streams and bodies of water or wetlands. Great for

wildlife cover.

Riparian Buffer: Similar to Filter Strips except they can be 35' to 180' wide and trees and/or shrubs are added. Riparian Buffers can be used on pastureland as well.

Shallow Water Area for Wildlife: This practice can be up to 10 acres. Excellent for wet spots or prevented planting areas.

Contour Buffet Strips: 15' to 30' wide grass strips established along hillside slopes to slow down and absorb runoff. In many cases they are as effective as terraces and much less costly. Provides excellent cover for wildlife.

Waterways: You can use CRP to establish waterways in

your crop fields to reduce your soil loss.

Crosswind Trap Sites: Strips of grass across wind blown soils to reduce wind erosion.

Field Windbreaks: Similar to Crosswind Trap Strips except trees and/or shrubs are used in conjunction with grasses.

Living Snow Fence: Strips of native grasses, trees and/or shrubs to serve as a natural snow fence protecting roads, lanes and buildings.

If you are interested in signing up you can do so at the Farm Service Agency in Wapello. If you have any questions or would like more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 319-523-6411.

3/28/01
Field Day





Gazette 3-7-01

Forestry group offers cost-share on tree planting

The Forestry Incentive Program (FIP) will be taking applications until March 15, 2001. Funds are available to help with tree planting and timber stand improvement practices. Do you have timberland that needs improvement? Is there an area that you would like to plant to trees? If so you may be interested in applying for the Forestry Incentive Program. This is a federal program that helps landowners do forestry projects. This program provides 65% of the eligible cost of your project.

Funds are limited so if these practices are of interest to you stop in and discuss them with one of the NRCS technicians or the District Forester. You can sign an application and be on the list for approval as soon as you have an approved plan.

More information on the above program or answers to questions are also welcome by telephone at 523-6411.

Gift will assist planting efforts

Representatives from several organizations met June 2 to officially donate more than \$5,500 to the Louisa County Conservation Board (LCCB) for the purchase of a Deutz 9006 tractor.

The Louisa County Longbeards, the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), donated \$3,500. On hand for the presentation of the check were Mark Creery, regional NWTf director; and local members Ken Moyers, Shane Lathrop and Charles Kerr.

Several representatives from the Louisa County Pheasants Forever chapter, which donated \$1,000, also attended the ceremony. Those members included Dick Grimm, Chad Grimm, Ken Purdy, Ron Cutkomp and Mike Todd. Seth Todd was a representative for the Ringnecks, the organization's youth group.

Representing the Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation, which

donated \$1,000, was Jim Rudisill.

Representatives from the Louisa County Conservation Board were board members Gene Murray, Lee Harris and

Doug Brown; and park ranger Frank Williams.

Murray said the LCCB will use the tractor to assist in native grass plantings and other field work.

Persons interested in renting the equipment for wildlife habitat plantings and other habitat improvement or native grass seedings can contact the LCCB at 523-8381.



Investment corporation helps agricultural producers

4-4-01

More than 1,000 Iowa farm families are expected to become part owners of Iowa value-added processing businesses receiving investments or commitments the past year by the Iowa Agricultural Finance Corporation (IAFC), according to its just-released annual report. The ventures include a new organic bakery, a pork-processing operation and a commitment to a beef processing plant, all partially owned by producers. Together these businesses are creating new ag value-added growth in Iowa through IAFC's assistance. IAFC is a private venture capital fund, started with a \$25 million loan from the state of Iowa - an economic development product of the 1998 state legislature. IAFC placed over \$17 million in investments and commitments last year. It has raised an additional \$18 million from private institutional investors through its tecTERRA Food Capital Fund. The tecTERRA Fund now has \$43 million under management. IAFC's co-general partner, Cybus Capital Advisors of Des Moines, is the Fund's investment advisor and manager. A volunteer board of nine directors, made up of Iowa ag-industry leaders, governs the IAFC and approves investments by the Fund.

IAFC's Chairman, Duane Acker of Atlantic and a former USDA assistant secretary, said, "IAFC is delivering on the promise envisioned by Iowa political leaders when they conceived of a privately operated fund whose investments in targeted industries would be based strictly on business judgment." Acker is an experienced ag value-added entrepreneur through his leadership of Southwest Iowa Egg Cooperative. Acker and his fellow IAFC directors serve without compensation.

Rudi's Bakery will soon begin operations in a new bakery in North Liberty. Rudi's bakes organic breads for national distribution through stores like Whole Foods

and others. Iowa organic growers are eligible to buy into Rudi's through a producer network as a result of tecTERRA's investment.

"The tecTERRA fund tries to create opportunities for Iowa producers looking to participate in supply-chain relationships. These ventures offer Iowa producers the means to add value and share in the benefits," said Leslie Miller, Knoxville, IAFC treasurer. "IAFC is a new endeavor, but we're seeking promising businesses being funded, with more deals in the pipeline." Miller is an ag lender at the Iowa State Savings Bank in Knoxville.

Sioux-Preme Packing is a leading processor of specialty pork, reared and processed in Iowa to meet the demands of high-end pork customers in Asia and North America. Select specialty pork producers raise hogs for Sioux-Preme and participate in ownership of the company as a result of tecTERRA's investment. The result is expanded production and processing of high-value, non-commodity hogs in Iowa.

The details on each portfolio venture and IAFC's marketing efforts through tecTERRA are presented in its recently released 2000 Annual Report.

Additional investments by tecTERRA Fund, some in biotechnology and some involving producer groups and processors are anticipated in months ahead. Investment returns are expected to allow repayment of the state loan and a record of good return to private investors. A track record of success will attract continuing investments in Iowa's food, fiber and biotechnology industries. In the meantime, participating producers will receive a return on their ownership shares in these businesses and the benefits of enhanced demand for Iowa agricultural products.

Wapello's Meier named Outstanding Agricultural Education Instructor

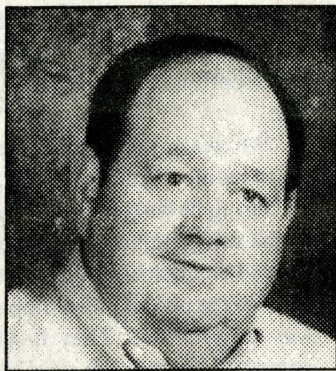
WAPELLO – Irvin Meier, Wapello High School's agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor, has been named recipient of the State of Iowa Outstanding Agricultural Education Instructor Award.

Meier received the award at the Iowa Agricultural Education Conference in Ames, June 24-27. The award is presented to an agricultural education instructor who is "at the highest pinnacle of their profession."

The award recognizes leadership in civic, community, agriculture/agribusiness and professional activities.

Hagie Manufacturing sponsors the award through the Iowa FFA Foundation.

Meier was an agriculture and FFA advisor at Dysart-Geneseo



from 1974-1989, worked as a crop production specialist at Tama-Benton Coop in Dysart from 1989-92, and has been on the staff at Wapello High School since 1992.

Meier has received a number of professional awards, and has been a fixture in school and community events, but is most proud

of student and department accomplishments. They include:

- One national officer candidate, five Iowa FFA officers, and eight district officers

- Eighteen state champion FFA Skills CDE teams and over 40 more teams placing in the top five in the state

- Eighteen leadership speaking contest teams and individuals have advanced to state level competition

- Northeast District Star Farmer

- Fifty-eight Iowa FFA Degree recipients, and eight American FFA degree recipients

- Ten state winners in Iowa FFA proficiency awards

- One Central Region FFA Proficiency Award winner

- Nine national ranking in the

National Chapter Safety Program

- Six national rankings in the National Chapter Awards program

- Four champion or reserve champion market animals at the Iowa State Fair

- Twelve breed champions at the Iowa State Fair

Meier has, over the years, used his interest in computers to develop applications for agricultural education. A number of his databases and programs are used at the state level for FFA competitions and programs.

Most recently, and perhaps most visibly, the Wapello-Mediapolis FFA Rodeo, which has become a fixture at Chief Wapello Days, has continued to prosper during his tenure.

Landowner field day planned

*Louisa County Conservation
Reserve Program*

*Enhancement Field Day set
for March 28*

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District, Louisa Pheasants Forever and the Natural Resources Conservation Service is hosting a field day.

This hands-on workshop is being offered to anyone wanting to improve the quality of their CRP or grasslands for wildlife habitat, native vegetation diversity or just more information on the CRP program. Come find out how to enroll in the Continuous CRP Program.

The meeting will be at the Bill Martin farm in the morning and the Wendell Piper farm in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided, please make a reservation for the lunch. The morning session will be from 9:30 to noon and the afternoon session from 1:00 to 3:30. Participants can observe the SWCD's new Viccon Broadcast Seeder in operation and learn about management and maintenance of native plantings using burning, mowing or herbicide treatments. Species selection and wildlife habitat enhancement, selection and management of trees and shrubs and other topics related to grass plantings will be discussed.

For more information on location contact the NRCS office at 319-523-6411.

3/24/01

Louisa County CRP enhancement field day Wednesday, March 28

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District, Louisa Pheasants Forever and the Natural Resources Conservation Service is hosting a field day on Wednesday, March 28.

This hands-on workshop is being offered to anyone wanting to improve the quality of their CRP or grasslands for wildlife habitat, native vegetation diversity or just more information on the CRP program. Come find out how to enroll in the continuous CRP program.

The meeting will be held at the Bill Martin farm in the morning and the Wendell Piper farm in the afternoon. Lunch will be provid-

ed, so please make reservations for the luncheon. The morning session will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The afternoon session will be from 1-3:30 p.m. Participants can observe the SWCDs new Viccon Broadcast Seeder in operation and learn about management and maintenance of native plantings using burning, mowing or herbicide treatments. Species selection and wildlife habitat enhancement, selection and management of trees and shrubs and other topics related to grass plantings will also be discussed.

For more information on the locations, please contact the NRCS office at 319-523-6411.

5/23/01
**Seed available for
wildlife food plots**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has short season corn, sunflower, and grain sorghum seed available for persons wishing to plant wildlife food plots on private property. The seed is available at the district office at Lake Darling State Park, 3 miles west of Brighton on Highway 92. Office hours are M-T-Th-F, 8 to 4:30. You may call Ruthann Stacy or Donald Pfeiffer to reserve your seed in advance at 319-694-2430.

The seed will be provided as long as the limited supply lasts. Plan on 2.25 acres per 43 lb. bag of corn, and 4 acres per 50 lb. bag of grain sorghum. The sunflowers can be broadcast seeded at 5 lbs. per acre or mixed with the other seed to provide fall seed for migrating birds.

Wildlife food plots can be planted on conservation reserve or wetland reserve acres to provide a variety of food for wildlife species. Corn and grain sorghum provides food for the winter months once the grain crops are harvested on adjoining areas. Wildlife food plots offer the outdoor recreationist the opportunity to observe more wildlife.

5/23/01
**New forestry
program
announced**

The sign-up period for a new forestry program has been announced. From May 14 through June 15, landowners will be able to apply for cost-sharing under a program called EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program).

Landowners in Louisa, Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Washington, Jefferson and Keokuk Counties will be able to apply for up to 75% cost-sharing to complete forestry projects such as timber stand improvement, tree plantings and fencing for forest and stream protection.

To sign up for cost sharing, and to request technical assistance from professional foresters, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office for an application.

Col. Gazette
3-7-01

New spreader seeder available for CPR acres

A new spreader seeder will be available this spring for CPR seedings thanks to Louisa County Pheasants Forever and the Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). This seeder is manufactured by Vicon, and will spread native seed mixes as well as non-natives. The Vicon will fit on a tractor equipped with a three point hitch and is driven by the PTO. Some calibration will be necessary depending on what type of seed mix is used. The Vicon can be rented from the SWCD for \$8.00 an acre for non-Pheasants Forever members or \$5.00 an acre for Pheasants Forever members. A \$15.00 a day fee will be charged for every day after the first day of rental.

For more information, please contact the Louisa County NRCS Field Office (319)523-6411.

Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture to speak at Louisa County Corn and Soybean Assn. annual meeting

Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge will be the featured speaker at the Louisa County Corn and Soybean Association annual meeting on Saturday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sombrero restaurant in Grandview.

"Area corn and soybean producers and other interested producers are invited to attend our annual meeting and dinner and to hear Secretary Judge give an update on several of Iowa's agricultural issues," says Warren Kemper, co-chairman of the Louisa County Corn and Soybean Association.

Judge, a native of Albia, was



Judge

elected secretary of agriculture in 1998. She is the first woman to serve in this position. Prior to this, she served in the Iowa senate. She was first elected to the senate in 1992. In 1996, she won re-election with 62 percent of the vote. During her career in the senate, she served as the ranking member of senate agriculture committee and served on the natural resources and ways and means committees. She was an active member of Iowa's rural health advisory board and the committee on health care reform. In 1996, she was elected assistant minority leader of the Iowa senate.

At this upcoming meeting, Judge will update the group on a number of agricultural issues including: Starlink, mad cow disease, ethanol, biodiesel, the state's budget and adding value to Iowa products. She will also take ques-

tions for participants about these topics and others.

The Louisa County Corn and Soybean Association annual meeting is free to members of the Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA) and Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) and other agricultural interested guests. Current ICGA/ISA members will receive free \$5 ethanol certificates. For more information, call Warren Kemper at 319-523-2805 or Bill Brauns at 319-523-3462.

New spreader seeder available for CRP acres

A new spreader seeder will be available this spring for CRP seedings thanks to Louisa County Pheasants Forever and the Louisa

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). This seeder is manufactured by Vicor and will spread native seed mixes, as well as non-natives. The Vicor will fit on a tractor equipped with a three point hitch and is driven by the PTO. Some calibration will be necessary depending on what type of seed mix is used. The Vicor can be rented from the SWCD for \$8 an acre for non-Pheasant's Forever members, or \$5 an acre if you are a Pheasant's Forever member. A fee of \$15 per day will be charged for every day after the first day of rental. For more information, please contact the Louisa County NRCS field office at 319-523-6411.

Soil and Water Conservation

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet **November 14, 2002, at 4:30 p.m.** at the NRCS Office in Wapello. For more information please contact the office at 514 Isett, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Soil and Water Commissioners

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet **October 10, 2002, at 4:30 p.m.** at the NRCS Office in Wapello. For more information please contact the office at 514 Isett, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Louisa Soil and Water Commission to meet

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet **September 17, 2002, at 4:30 p.m.** at the NRCS Office in Wapello. A tour of a few county projects will be followed by the business meeting. For more information please contact the office at 514 Isett, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Louisa Soil and Water to meet

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet **April 10, 2002, at 4:30 p.m.** at the NRCS Office in Wapello. For more information please contact the office at 514 Isett, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Soil, water commissioners set meeting

WAPELLO – The Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, at Johnnie B's Restaurant. For more information, contact the office at 514 Isett St., or phone 523-6411.

Wap. Rep. 12/13/01

Speaker available

12/6/01
Wag. Rep.

WAPELLO – Naturalists from the Louisa County Conservation Board are available to present “Water In Your Backyard,” a program designed to educate adults about water pollution. This fun, interactive and educational program is available free of charge to any adult group in the Louisa County area. For more information or to request the program please call Kathy Dice at 319-523-8381.

New USDA option for wetlands to help Iowa landowners pocketbooks and natural resources

Legislation for a new pilot initiative for wetlands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has recently been passed by Congress and signed by the President. Iowa is one of just six states selected for the U.S. Department of Agriculture pilot.

Iowa landowners will soon be able to enroll small wetland areas and adjacent buffers in the continuous signup of CRP. Landowners may be able to earn financial incentives while improving soil and water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat. Incentives include competitive soil rental rates plus 20 percent bonus, signup payments, and cost-share funds for restoration.

USDA has placed an acreage cap on the program. The total number of acres that can be entered into the program within the six states in the pilot is 500,000 acres. In addition, the most acres each state can enter is 150,000 acres. "There will, no doubt, be tough competition for these acres," says Leroy Brown, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the USDA agency that will jointly administer the pilot initiative with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Brown says that the Iowa NRCS and FSA want to make sure that Iowa landowners have all of the resources

needed to make informed decisions and be ready to enroll eligible acres as soon as the signup begins. "We want to assure that every Iowa landowner who is interested in and eligible for the program, has an opportunity to enroll in the program," says Brown.

Final rules are expected out later this spring. Landowners will be able to sign up at the local USDA Service Centers following the official announcement of the program by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. In the meantime, Brown encourages landowners to contact their local USDA Service Centers for more details on this new and unique opportunity today.

Program Specifics. Although the final rules aren't out yet, the program will probably look and function much like the current CRP, says Mark Lindflott, biologist for the NRCS. "We are expecting rental rates and incentive payments to be similar to those currently used for riparian buffers and filter strips in the continuous CRP. Contracts will likely be 10-15 years in length," says Lindflott. Incidental (after-harvest) grazing will probably be allowed as part of gleaning adjacent cropland, but will include a payment reduction, says Lindflott. No grazing will be allowed May 15 -

August 1.

Eligibility. The legislation requires eligible wetlands to have been cropped in at least 3 of the past 10 years. Wetlands in the floodplain or a perennial stream will not be eligible. Wetlands must be 5 acres or less and to be defined as wetlands by USDA.

Adjacent buffers are not to exceed three times the area of the cropped wetland (15 acres) or the current width limit (150 feet) on either side, whichever is greater. Currently no minimum buffer width is required. The maximum acres per tract for enrolled wetland and adjacent buffers is 40 acres.

Some degree of hydrology restoration will be required, as determined technically feasible by NRCS. Vegetative cover must be established and restoration cannot impede upstream drainage. USDA cost share for restoration activities is currently available.

Other states in the pilot program include Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

More information on the above program or answers to questions are also welcome by telephone at 523-6411.

Wildlife habitat incentive program ^{3/7/01}

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) passed as part of the 1996 Farm Bill and began implementation in Iowa in 1998.

WHIP is a voluntary program for landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private land. WHIP provides technical assistance and cost-share payments to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

The objective of WHIP is to provide program participants informational and educational support regarding wildlife habitat needs and foster a positive public attitude towards wildlife, wildlife habitat and land stewardship.

USDA and the participant enter into a cost-share agreement for wildlife habitat development. This agreement

generally lasts from 5 to 10 years. Under this agreement, the landowner agrees to install and maintain the WHIP practices and allow NRCS to monitor the effectiveness of the practice. USDA agrees to provide technical assistance and pay up to 75% of the cost of installing the wildlife habitat practices.

Eligible participants include those who own or have control of the land under consideration. Land not eligible for WHIP includes federal land and land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

For more information, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 319-523-6411.



The National Organization of Agriculture Students



CENTRAL LEE CHAPTER

2642 Highway 218
Donnellson, IA 52625

Janet Williams,

October 2, 2002

We appreciate all of the work
you did at the Sub-district soil contest,
on September 26, 2002. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Angela Leggett

Central Lee FFA Representative

The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth**
and career success through agricultural education.



The National Organization of Agriculture Students



CENTRAL LEE CHAPTER

2642 Highway 218

Donnellson, IA 52625

Dear Mary Boysen,

Oct. 2, 2002

We appreciate all of the work you did at the Sub-districts Soil Contest on September 26, 2002. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Meta Truch
Central Lee FFA Representative

The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

Christmas Gift Ideas

WAPELLO – Seeking a gift for that person who has everything? Not sure of the correct size or color, make or model? Try the gift of a living tree.

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering trees for sale now for planting this spring. Profits from the tree sales go for conservation education and practices in Louisa County.

These living gifts can beautify a home, provide summer shade or winter wind protection. Many of the species offered also provide food for people and wildlife. Bare root tree seedlings available this season include pin and red oak, silver maple, hickory, ash, sycamore, red cedar, blue spruce, white pine, and bald cypress.

These trees are sold in bundles of 10 and range in price from \$12 to \$15 per bundle. Shrubs this year include Nanking cherry, American plum, red bud, blackberry, redosier dogwood and common lilac. Like the trees, the shrubs are sold in bundles of 10, but cost only \$10 per bundle. Call for specifics as to their height.

This year the LCSWCD is also offering potted northern pecan and spice bush trees for sale at \$6 and \$5 each, respectively. Bare rooted pawpaws are available for \$6. Four-foot tree shelters are available for young trees at \$2.75 each and stakes for attaching to the shelters for \$1.50 each.

For more information or to order your trees call the LCSWCD at (319)523-6411. Or stop by their office at 514 Isett in Wapello.

The perfect Christmas gift available from LCCS

12/18 Col.
2002 Gazette

Seeking a gift for that person who has everything? Not sure of the correct size or color, make or model? You should try the gift of a living tree. The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering trees for sale now for planting this spring.

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This year the LCSWCD is also offering potted northern pecan and spice bush trees for sale at \$6 and \$5 each, respectively. Bare rooted pawpaws are available for \$6. Four-foot tall tree shelters are available for your young tree at \$2.75 each and stakes for attaching to the shelters for \$1.50 each.

For more information or to order your trees call the LCSWCD at (319)523-6411. Or stop by their office at 514 Isett in Wapello, Iowa.

Conservation Reserve Program: It's your soil, keep it where it is!

The 24th CRP signup is underway. Many different practices are offered. The Louisa Co. rental rates vary from \$78 - \$197 per acre per year with the average being about \$160! Many of the practices also have a \$100 to \$150 per acre signup incentive bonus paid up front. Cost share is available through FSA for 50 percent of the cost to establish the practice! Currently, an additional 40 percent cost share is available as a practice incentive bonus. Bottom line — You could have very little money invested in a lucrative CRP contract. The continuous signup includes:

Filter Strips: 20' to 120' wide grass strips along perennial and seasonal streams and bodies of water or wetlands. Great for

wildlife cover.

Riparian Buffer: Similar to Filter Strips except they can be 35' to 180' wide and trees and/or shrubs are added. Riparian Buffers can be used on pastureland as well.

Shallow Water Area for Wildlife: This practice can be up to 10 acres. Excellent for wet spots or prevented planting areas.

Contour Buffet Strips: 15' to 30' wide grass strips established along hillside slopes to slow down and absorb runoff. In many cases they are as effective as terraces and much less costly. Provides excellent cover for wildlife.

Waterways: You can use CRP to establish waterways in

your crop fields to reduce your soil loss.

Crosswind Trap Sites: Strips of grass across wind blown soils to reduce wind erosion.

Field Windbreaks: Similar to Crosswind Trap Strips except trees and/or shrubs are used in conjunction with grasses.

Living Snow Fence: Strips of native grasses, trees and/or shrubs to serve as a natural snow fence protecting roads, lanes and buildings.

If you are interested in signing up you can do so at the Farm Service Agency in Wapello. If you have any questions or would like more information contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 319-523-6411.

JUL 09 2001

Current Developments

Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dear NRCS employees,

This is an exciting time for conservation and the NRCS. There is more talk than ever in the political arena about conservation issues, including increased funding, as well as making conservation a significant component of the next Farm Bill. I am optimistic about the future of conservation, here in Iowa and across the nation.

With new opportunities, also come new challenges. The question for us now is—if and when funding is increased for conservation programs in Iowa, will we be ready? There are several actions that we can take to be prepared for possible changes.

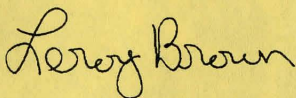
First, we will complete the planning certification process that we began this spring. The process will ensure our employees have the knowledge and tools needed to help farmers plan for soil protection, water quality and other resource concerns. Certification will help us polish up on our planning and professionalism, which will ultimately help our productivity.

Secondly, we must continue to work closely with our sponsors and partners at the state and the local level. Effective locally-led conservation will continue to be the key in implementing conservation practices and systems that meet local needs. We have done an excellent job of building strong partnerships in the past—let's strive to continue this positive trend.

Thirdly, we should continue to cultivate new relationships with people that share our interests and goals. Many people are interested in conservation—let's find common ground and work together. We must each look for opportunities to develop new partnerships, bring skilled individuals on board as employees and involve people as Earth Team Volunteers.

Finally, we need to work hard, work smart, and work together. I encourage you to discuss with your local partners the possibility of more conservation funding and a greater workload, and to brainstorm strategies that you could use to spread the word to farmers and get the added work done together.

The future of conservation looks very bright, and I look forward to facing the new opportunities and challenges together.



Leroy Brown
State Conservationist

June 2001

USDA NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Statewide Private Lands Conservation Tour Held June 5

More than 90 members of legislative staffs, and leaders of conservation organizations, water utilities, and other groups attended a Private Lands Conservation Tour June 5 in Greene County.

Conservation-minded farmers in the Raccoon River Watershed, which furnishes Des Moines its drinking water, showed the group what they have been doing to take care of the land and water on an afternoon bus tour.

Farmers talked about their water quality monitoring work, their conservation accomplishments, and their attitudes toward stewardship.

Presentations by representatives from Des Moines Water Works, ISU, DSC, local SWCDs, NRCS, and other groups focused on the challenges that nitrogen and other pollutants are causing in water supplies, as well as possible solutions. Conservation farmers were also commended for their efforts to care for the land and water in Iowa.

The tour, which went through Dallas and Greene Counties along the Raccoon River, was sponsored by the NRCS State Technical Committee, the Des Moines Water Works and the Greene Soil and Water Conservation District.

Tour participants saw grass filter strips, terraces, wildlife habitat, conservation tillage, farm ponds, no-till, riparian buffers, restored wetlands, farmstead windbreaks, and other practices. At the final tour stop, the group celebrated a milestone: the restoration of 100,000 acres of wetlands in Iowa.

The tour brought together a very diverse group of people to discuss some common resource challenges. Look for stories in *Successful Farming*, *Farm Bureau Spokesman*, *Wallaces Farmer*, *The Des Moines Register*, as well as FOX 17 TV, WHO radio, and Farm Bureau radio.

Career Powerpoint Presentation Available

Written by Dora Guffey, Federal Women's Program Manager

A powerpoint presentation is available for employees to use when talking to high school or college students about career opportunities with NRCS. This presentation was developed, but would also be a good tool to use locally. There is a script that goes with the powerpoint presentation, which can be used in its entirety, or tweaked to fit your local needs.

A copy of the presentation is located in each Area Office and the State Office. Contact your Assistant State Conservation (Field Operations) or Administrative Management Assistant (AMA) for a copy. You will need a laptop computer with a CD drive and an In-Focus portable projector to be able to use the presentation. The presentation is too large to e-mail, so please contact your area office to make arrangements for using the presentation and/or the related equipment. The presentation was developed in Area 4 by Margaret Henderson, Administrative

Management Assistant, and Jeff Zimprich, Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations). We thank them for their efforts toward this project and for making it available for others to use.

100,000 Acres of Wetlands Restoration

As part of the efforts to celebrate wetlands restoration and draw public attention to the benefits of wetlands, the Iowa NRCS has produced a series of 75 large wetlands restoration signs.

The signs will be installed over the next few months. The wetland sites selected to receive signs are located near highly traveled roads, or are high profile sites. Our goal is to increase visibility for wetlands and the conservation partnership.

The first sign was installed at the Bristol Wildlife Area in Greene County, and was unveiled at the Private Lands Conservation Tour June 5. Special thanks to Kevin Kordick, District Conservationist, and the entire staff in the Jefferson Field Office for being the first to install one of these signs. Insight gained from their experience will be useful as the other signs are installed in the the next few months.

This is a prime opportunity to highlight wetlands, as well as the conservation partnership and achievements in your local community. Consider inviting partners involved in the easement restoration to come out to the site for a group photo by the sign. Encourage your local media to come too and get a picture. A small write up with the picture in your local newspaper would be a great success.



Pictured at the celebration of 100,000 acres of restored wetlands, from left to right: Lyle Asell, Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Kevin Kordick, NRCS; Bruce Mountain, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; Bill Bennett, Conservation Districts of Iowa; Leroy Brown, NRCS; Jim Gulliford, IDALS-DSC; Dan Towers, Greene County Conservation Board; Alan Frederick, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District; Derryl McLaren, Farm Service Agency; Jim Munson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Iowa AgrAbility—People with Disabilities Can Remain in Farming

Written by Trish Dunfee, NRCS Disabilities Program Manager

Agricultural production is one of the nation's most hazardous occupations. Each year hundreds of thousands of people working in agriculture experience injuries that limit their ability to perform essential farm tasks. For many of these individuals, the presence of a disability jeopardizes their rural and agricultural futures. Yet, with some assistance, the majority of disabled agricultural workers can continue to earn their livelihoods in agriculture and participate fully in rural community life.

The AgrAbility Project was created to assist people with disabilities employed in agriculture. It links cooperative extension services with nonprofit disability service organizations to provide practical education and assistance that promotes independence in agricultural production and rural living. The AgrAbility Project has emerged as one of rural America's most valuable and cost-effective resources.

In Iowa, AgrAbility is known as the Easter Seals Iowa's FaRM (Farm Family Rehabilitation Management) program. It is just one of 10 programs that annually assist more than 7,000 Iowans with disabilities. Through recreation, vocational training and employment, respite services, assistive technology and rehabilitation services for farmers, Easter Seals helps people with disabilities in every Iowa county achieve greater independence and enhance the quality of life in their communities.

Here is one farmer's story. Darwin Hofmeister is a small grain and livestock farmer near Ackley. He was involved in a combine accident and lost the use of his left arm. With the help of Iowa AgrAbility, he is able to do about 90 percent of what he did before. He states, "An AgrAbility staff person provided positive mental support, the names of other farmers with disabilities and the offer to help wherever possible to make my transition back into farming if that was what I wanted to do."

For more information on Iowa's AgrAbility Project contact Tricia Dunfee, Disability Employment Program Manager, at 515-284-4587.

Iowa Environmental Awards Highlight Excellence

Applications are now available for the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards, Iowa's most prestigious environmental honor.

Award areas include an overall environmental excellence award, as well as categories for energy efficiency/renewable energy, water quality, waste management, air quality and habitat development.

Eligible candidates include communities and local governments, large and small business, public and private institutions, agricultural groups, service groups and youth organizations.

The awards are coordinated by the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the

Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

Applications are due September 28 and awards will be presented in December. For more information visit the DNR's website, www.state.ia.us/dnr or contact Bob Castelline at ph: 515.281.0879, email: bob.castelline@dnr.state.ia.us

National NRCS Photo Gallery—Just Point and Click

By a simple "point and click," you and everyone else with Internet access can now download free conservation-related images from a new web site. The website, which was developed by the NRCS, contains more than 1,500 high-quality images.

Iowa NRCS has been heavily involved in this project, which began about two years ago. Colleen Schneider, (was in Iowa, now in West Regional Office), Lynn Betts, and Laura Greiner have all been part of a core team, which also includes NRCS staff from the Conservation Communications Staff in Washington D.C. as well as the staff from the Information Technology Center in Fort Collins.

The photo gallery is a searchable database that stores photographic images. Users can search for images using key categories like buffers, conservation tillage, water quality, wetlands, and wildlife. The database contains valuable information about each image, including caption, credit line, location and photographer.

The database contains 1,544 images, organized in 54 categories. Thirty states have contributed photos to the library, and nearly half (700) of the images are from Iowa.

The photos are available to download in two formats: JPEGs, which are primarily used for the Internet, and TIFFs, which are high-quality images used in four-color process printing by a press. The image files vary in size from 400K to 17 MB.

NRCS hopes the site will be used by school teachers, children, conservation districts, magazine editors, web designers and other partners.

The images could be used in many different ways: newsletters, brochures, web-sites, school lessons, presentations and post cards. Every image is free. However NRCS does request that if an image is published, the following photo credit line is used: Photo by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Any time these photos are used, it helps us share the important story of good land stewardship. And the word is getting out—in May alone, the website had an average of 5,493 hits per day. There were 1,896 visitors (403 of those came back more than once) from 20 different states and 20 different countries. Top users include EPA, Iowa DOT, the states of MN, IA, IN, CA, Iowa State University, Purdue University, Chico State in California, AOL members, and Excalibur Group (A Time Warner Company).

Exact instructions for the easy-to-use search methods can be found at the web site: photogallery.usda.nrcs.gov

Iowa Wildlife Habitat to be Featured Nationally

Progress continues on the production of a national high-definition video/multimedia show being produced this year. The dramatic gains in wildlife habitat in the United States will be featured in the show, which will have an Iowa flavor. Iowa will be one of three states with landowner interviews and habitat shot on high definition video. Riparian buffers and filter strips that line Bear Creek in Story County will be shown. Slides of wildlife habitat and landowners who are working with NRCS to improve habitat in Cass and Montgomery Counties will also be used.

The NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute is leading the effort, cooperating with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, several wildlife groups, farm groups and others. In addition to the Iowa material, video from Montana and Mississippi, as well as images from six other states will mix with original music, surround sound and landowner testimonies to show the wealth of wildlife habitat established on America's private lands. Final products will include a nine minute show, a DVD of the show, and supporting print materials.

Sponsors plan to show the new production at the Congressional Sports Caucus, national and state meetings of wildlife and farm groups, and other meetings. Iowa wildlife photographers Roger Hill of Roland and Don Poggensee of Ida Grove are contributing wildlife and habitat images to the show. The multimedia show's producer is located in Des Moines, and the Iowa NRCS Information Staff and field staff are helping with the show, which is expected to be released by November.

Small Farm/Small Scale Conservation Booklet

NRCS is producing a full color pamphlet on small scale/small farm conservation later this year. The pamphlet will be aimed at people with small farms, specialty crops, or those with a need for small scale, low-cost conservation practices. The booklet is expected to be most heavily used in areas other than the Midwest, where many of the fields and conservation practices are on a larger scale.

Nicaragua, A Great Adventure

Written by Damarys Mortenson, District Conservationist, Osage, and Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager

I have to admit that the prospect of traveling to a third world country was a daunting one at first. For me, venturing into Canada would qualify as a foreign experience. However, it was a great opportunity to travel to Nicaragua. I was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of the USDA team members to assess the Hurricane Mitch damage in the countryside.

I left Iowa to enter a great adventure. Hey! I love a challenge. We got into Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, by 8:30 a.m., Sunday morning March 12, 2000. They already had someone waiting for us and we headed directly to the hotel. The next day we had a meeting with the Director of the USDA Hurricane Mitch Reconstruction Project, who was an NRCS employee detailed for two years to Nicaragua.

The group assignment was to assess the damage of Hurricane Mitch in one of the five watersheds selected as priority areas. Because of my bilingual gift, I was chosen to be the team leader for one of the two groups. This became a very important responsibility.

My group was very diverse in many aspects. We had different professional disciplines and different backgrounds. Our group had an engineer, agronomist, forester, geologist and a hydrologist. Each one of us had a task to do and we all developed deep respect for each other. This made a lot of difference when we came to develop our final report.

We visited the different areas with local organization and assessed the damage of the hurricane. We visited villages and towns and talked to a lot of people. We gave recommendations to the local agencies and made a lot of friends.

Nicaragua has a lot of beautiful natural resources and the capacity to produce many different crops on their semi-tropical climate. Their soils are of volcanic origin and very fertile. The people were very friendly, always offering us food, especially coffee or juice. We had wonderful breakfasts each morning with a lot of tropical fruits to eat.

I had the opportunity to go back eight months later to work—this time at the USDA offices in Managua. At that time I set priority areas with the information given in the reports of the five assessment teams. It was a great advantage to have been part of one of the teams. I also worked with a million-dollar grant and used NRCS technical specifications for the conservation practices we wanted to target. In other words, I was like an EQIP program manager, agronomist and administrator all at the same time.

After a month traveling the countryside and being in different parts of Nicaragua in March and another month in November of 2000, I learned to appreciate what we have here at home. This trip was an eye-opening experience for me personally and professionally. As an NRCS employee, I value what we do and the knowledge we have. This was the time I realized that I have the best job in the world.

Women's Equality Day Program to Be Held August 29

The NRCS Federal Women's Program (FWP) Committee will present a program on August 29 in honor of Women's Equality Day, which is August 26. The event will be held in Ames from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon and will be broadcast throughout the state via the ICN. The program will feature Dorothy Schweider, retired ISU professor, who will present information on Women's History. The FWP Committee is in the process of confirming the other speakers, who promise to be entertaining and informational. A brown bag lunch (bring your own) will be offered at Rieman Gardens afterwards for those who attend the event live in Ames. Stay tuned, as more details will follow soon!

Risking

Written by Patty Hansen, submitted by Teresa Synder Thomas, District Conservationist, Boone, and Area 2 FWP Representative

Two seeds lay side by side in the fertile spring soil. The first seed said, "I want to grow! I want to send my roots deep into the soil beneath me, and thrust my sprouts through the earth's crust above me... I want to unfurl my tender buds like banners to announce the arrival of spring... I want to feel the warmth of the sun on my face and the blessing of the morning dew on my petals!" And so she grew.

The second seed said, "I am afraid. If I send my roots into the ground below, I don't know what I will encounter in the dark. If I push my way through the hard soil above me I may damage my delicate sprouts... What if I let my buds open and a snail tries to eat them? And if I were to open my blossoms, a small child may pull me from the ground. No, it is much better for me to wait until it is safe." And so she waited.

A yard hen scratching around in the early spring ground for food found the waiting seed and promptly ate it.

MORAL OF THE STORY: Those of us who refuse to risk and grow get swallowed up by life.

Retiree News

Retiree News items submitted by Maralee Sarasio

Ron Snyder, retired Geode RC&D Coordinator, is recovering from surgery in early May. He is doing well and looking forward to escorting his daughter down the aisle at her wedding. Cards can be sent to him at 949 N. Central, Burlington, IA 52601.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Johnnie Pearson who passed away on June 4. Johnnie worked in the contract section and retired in 1987. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to Eva and family at Box 86, Prairie City, IA 50288.

Eileen Bliss, long time area clerk at the Area 3 office (when it was in Mason City), passed away recently of leukemia. She had been living in Scottsdale, Arizona, the last few years.

Norris Gates passed away on March 24, 2001. He retired as a soil conservation technician from the Shenandoah Field Office in 1980. His wife, Bea, lives at

303 E Pioneer Ave, Shenandoah, IA 51601.

Also, many of you knew Earl Cosby during the years he worked in various locations in Iowa. His last position in Iowa was that of area conservationist at West Union before becoming state conservationist in Wisconsin. He then moved to the same position in Georgia. Earl passed away on March 10. His wife's address is 1101 Laurel Pointe, Bogart, GA 30622.

John and Wilma Maddy enjoyed a visit from their grandson, Paul, of Seattle. They make the effort to be with us nearly every week at breakfast (retiree breakfasts, Wednesday mornings).

Loren and Alma Elliott of Mesa, Arizona, and Paul and Marion Jacobson of Sand Pint, Idaho were visitors at our breakfast recently. Also, we welcomed Doris Danielson, Bernie Runkel and Shirley Hughes.

Marge Miller served as tour director for 34 people on another trip to Australia and New Zealand in March. As she was returning, Larry and Sharon Davis were arriving there to visit their family.

When this past winter became too cold and retirees no longer wanted to shovel snow, they took off for warmer places. Oh the pleasures of retirement! Joe and Sharon Ausan and Deane Glen were in Florida; Jan Schmidt in Hawaii; Sam and Ruth Shreve in California; Don and Joyce Frevert attended Elderhostels in the Galveston-Corpus Christi area and visited their daughter; Rosie and Bob Gaudette went to Myrtle Beach.

Bev and Darhol Miller, along with their daughter and family, spent several days of school spring vacation at the Mall of America. Chuck and Phyllis Fisher have been in California visiting their son. Bill and Karen Welker did something fun. They are fans of a great Canadian flugel-horn player, Guido Basso. Whenever possible they attend his concerts and did so recently in Fargo, North Dakota.

Other happenings include Volney and Margaret Smith moving into a new townhouse in Waukee. Dennis Peterson, his grandsons, cousins and uncle, and Jack and I enjoyed the Indy 500. Our group has attended the race numerous times and are always ready to go again next year. Deane Glen is planning on riding in RAGBRAI. Our gardener, Dewey Bondurant, is busy planning and preparing his entries for the State Fair.

The Association of Retired SCS employees (ARACSE) issued the 2001 directory. In it is a listing of Conservation Statesmen. Once you reach age 83, you are recognized as a Statesman. The list included 11 from Iowa: Dale Barker, Iowa City; Ernest Behn, Boone; Harold Dean, Sac City; J. Ivan-Fredregill, Adel; John Maddy, Des Moines; William Matthews, Wapello; Franklin Mullen, Washington; Lorne Nestrud, Newton; George Osterson, Fort Dodge; Theresa Shady, Des Moines; Carl Zimmerman, Corning. There are at least three more that I know of to be added. They are Howard Hughes, James Fluke and Elinor Canwright Diehl all of Des Moines. There may be others. If you were 83 by January 1, 2001, you are eligible to have your name added this year. Let me know so you can be honored.

We continue to encourage those of you who are retired and not members of ARSCSE to join. Officers of the orga-

nization work hard to keep it going and new retirees are needed. If you have let your membership lapse, you are encouraged to rejoin. The newsletter is a means of keeping in touch with retirees from other states. You probably say to yourselves that you don't know those people. Well, I don't know many of them either, but I do like to read about what other people in other states and the Washington area have been doing. Each year there is an ARSCSE get-together during the Soil and Water Conservation Society meeting. This year it is in Myrtle Beach on August 7.

Our weekly breakfasts continue at the Holiday Inn, I-80 and Merle Hay Road, at 8:30 a.m. Join us.

One last item, watch the September issue of *Current Developments*. The notice for the Christmas Party will be attached. It will be in Ames on December 4.

Let me hear from you about your activities and those of other retirees you may know. I need your address changes and your news. Before long, it will be time to start planning our 2002 Statewide Reunion. How time flies when you are RETIRED!

Maralee Sarasio
1809 Evergreen Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50320
phone 515.288.7665.

Personnel Actions

Linda M. Wells was reassigned from Ames Soils Office to State Office, September 2000.

John E. Biar transferred from Bureau of Land Management, Idaho to GS-12, Soil Conservationist, State Office, November 19, 2000.

Ronda L. Hathcock was reassigned from Logan FO to GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Audubon FO, November 19, 2000.

Larette L. Kolbe was reassigned from Pocahontas FO to GS-9, Soil Conservationist, Storm Lake FO, November 19, 2000.

Alan D. Lauver was reassigned from NRCS, Ohio to GS-12, Agricultural Economist, State Office, November 19, 2000.

Morris N. Lobrecht was promoted from Civil Engineer, State Office to NRCS, Texas, November 19, 2000.

Todd D. Perdew was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6, Soil Conservation Technician, Mt. Ayr FO, November 19, 2000.

Pedro Ramos, Jr. was promoted from District Conservationist, Onawa FO to NRCS, Renton, Washington.

Deanna M. Rohrer was converted to a career-conditional appointment, GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Fort Dodge FO, November 19, 2000.

Dave A. Bedlan was reassigned from Soil Conservation Technician, Malcom FO to GS-5, Soil Conservationist, Clarinda FO, December 3, 2000.

Craig D. Chapman was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6, Soil Conservation Technician, Ankeny FO, December 3, 2000.

Craig G. Hempy career-conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Newton FO, December 3, 2000.

Christopher D. Hogge career-conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Donnellson FO, December 3, 2000.

Patricia D. Lowery was promoted from GS-6 to GS-7, Soil Conservation Technician, Chariton FO, December 3, 2000.

Rita C. Marshall was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6, Secretary, Burlington RC&D Office, December 3, 2000.

Nicholas R. Schaefer was promoted from GS-6 to GS-7, Civil Engineering Technician, Fairfield AO, December 3, 2000.

Robert C. Strief career-conditional appointment, GS-5, Soil Conservation Technician, Sac City FO, December 3, 2000.

Terry L. Gleaves career-conditional appointment, GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Oakland FO, December 3, 2000.

Ronda L. Hathcock was promoted from GS-4 to GS-5, Soil Conservation Technician, Audubon FO, December 3, 2000.

Scott A. Mellinger was reassigned from Food Safety and Inspection Service to GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Mt. Pleasant FO, December 3, 2000.

Sandra D. Phillips career-conditional appointment GS-5, Soil Conservation Technician, Clarinda FO, December 3, 2000.

Rebecca L. Weinberger was promoted from GS-5 to GS-7, Soil Conservationist, Decorah FO, December 3, 2000.

John D. Schuler was reassigned from District Conservationist, Waterloo FO to District Conservationist, Martinsville, Illinois, November 19, 2000.

Steven D. Allen started a career-conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Corydon FO, December 17, 2000.

Stephen A. Jerkins started a career-conditional appointment as GS-5, Soil Conservation Technician, Iowa City FO, December 17, 2000.

Eric A. Lorenz was promoted from Civil Engineer, State Office to NRCS, Ft. Worth, Texas, December 17, 2000.

Linda L. Mathers was promoted from Financial Analyst, Food Safety and Inspection Service to GS-11, Budget Officer, State Office, December 17, 2000.

Dennis J. Meggers was promoted from Civil Engineering Technician at NRCS in Missouri to GS-8, Civil Engineering Technician, Manchester Engineering Office, December 17, 2000.

Lucas M. Zaiger career-conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Logan FO, December 17, 2000.

Warren L. Angus career-conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Bedford FO, December 31, 2000.

Dennis M. Barrick was promoted from GS-7, Soil Conservation Technician, Nevada FO to GS-8, Civil Engineering Technician, Ankeny FO, December 31, 2000.

Troy D. Faust was promoted from GS-4 to GS-5, Soil Conservation Technician, Mason City FO, December 31, 2000.

Brian W. Holmes was promoted from GS-7 to GS-9, Civil Engineer, Red Oak FO, December 31, 2000.

Laurie C. Humpal started a conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Davenport FO, December 31, 2000.

Jeremy T. Johannsen was reassigned from NRCS, South Dakota to GS-7, Soil Conservationist, Thompson FO, December 31, 2000.

Jason E. Steele career-conditional appointment as GS-7, Soil Scientist, Washington SO, December 31, 2000.

Matthew A. Ward temporary appointment as GS-7, Soil Conservationist, Red Oak FO, December 31, 2000.

Timothy J. Van Pelt resigned as Student Trainee, Atlantic Engineering Office, January 10, 2001.

Ineabelle M. Hein resigned as Soil Conservationist, Ankeny FO, January 12, 2001.

Tracy A. Clerk was promoted from GS-7 to GS-9, Civil Engineer, Williamsburg Project Office, January 14, 2001.

Wesley J. Fuemmeler was reassigned from Biologist, State Office to NRCS, Moberly, Missouri, January 14, 2001.

Brian R. Hillers was promoted from GS-7, Soil Conservationist, Bloomfield FO to GS-9, Soil Conservationist, Manchester FO, January 14, 2001.

Dawn A. Maldonado was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6, Secretary (OA), State Office, January 14, 2001.

Linda Wells was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6 Secretary (OA), State Office, January 14, 2001.

Donald R. McGregor career conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Indianola FO, January 14, 2001.

Robert L. Moser was promoted from GS-9 to GS-11, District Conservationist, Humboldt FO, January 14, 2001.

Kathy A. Schneider was promoted from GS-7, Soil Conservationist, Denison FO, to GS-9, District Conservationist, Onawa FO, January 14, 2001.

Acacia M. Bender was converted from Student Trainee to GS-5, Soil Scientist, Waverly Soils Office, January 28, 2001.

Renae P. Ford was promoted from GS-9, Soil Conservationist, Algona FO to GS-11, District Conservationist, Waterloo FO, January 28, 2001.

Christa A. Perkins was promoted from NRCS-Illinois to GS-12, RC&D Coordinator, Geode Burlington RC&D, January 28, 2001.

Richard R. Tremain was reassigned from Army-Iowa to GS-9, Public Affairs Specialist, Ankeny FO, January 28, 2001.

Curtis L. Washburn career-conditional appointment, GS-7, Civil Engineer, Fort Dodge AO, January 28, 2001.

Lynna M. Miller was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6, Soil Conservation Technician, Denison FO, February 11, 2001.

William O'Donnell was promoted from NRCS, Nevada to GS-13, Assistant State Conservationist (FO), West Union AO, February 11, 2001.

Melinda L. Barch was reassigned from Soil Conservationist, Ottumwa FO to NRCS, Rolla, Missouri, February 25, 2001.

Steven M. Gilbert was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6, Soil Conservation Technician, Boone FO, February 25, 2001.

Linda S. Pomerlee was reassigned from District Conservationist, Council Bluffs to NRCS, Woodstown, New Jersey, February 25, 2001.

Marcus C. Hill was transferred from Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Colorado to Fiscal Technician, Financial Management Staff, State Office, February 25, 2001.

Carolyn E. Christian was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6 Secretary (OA), M&M Divide RC&D Office, March 11, 2001.

John T. Davison was reassigned from Maquoketa FO to GS-6, Soil Conservation Technician, DeWitt FO, March 11, 2001.

Mark V. Schmidt was reassigned from DeWitt FO to GS-7, Soil Conservation Technician, Maquoketa FO, March 11, 2001.

James T. Cooper was reassigned from Chariton Valley RC&D Office to GS-12, RC&D Coordinator, Prairie Rivers RC&D Office, March 11, 2001.

Craig C. Scott was promoted from GS-7 to GS-8, Civil Engineering Technician, Centerville Engineering Office, March 11, 2001.

Brenda S. Tenold Moretz resigned from Soil Conservation Technician, Northwood FO, March 12, 2001.

Charles E. Kiepe retired as District Conservationist, Hampton FO, March 31, 2001.

Deanna S. Bowers transferred from Anamosa FO to U.S. Postal Service, April 6, 2001.

David L. Schneider transferred from Atlantic AO to NRCS, Illinois, April 8, 2001.

Raymond H. Frana was reassigned from Greenfield FO to GS-5, Soil Conservation Technician, Creston FO, April 22, 2001.

George L. Sherrard was reassigned from District Conservationist, Rock Rapids FO to Soil Conservationist, Bloomfield FO, April 22, 2001.

Jeremy D. Thilges was promoted from GS-5 to GS-6, Soil Conservation Technician, Emmetsburg FO, April 22, 2001.

Willard E. Punt retired as Soil Conservation Technician, Spirit Lake FO, May 3, 2001.

Jennifer A. Welch resigned as Soil Conservationist, Boone FO, May 4, 2001.

Donald R. McGregor was transferred from Indianola FO to Forest Service, Oregon, May 6, 2001.

Matthew S. Seidl was promoted from GS-7 to GS-9, Civil Engineer, State Office, May 6, 2001.

Theresa E. Gibson resigned as Soil Conservation Technician, Toledo FO, May 17, 2001.

Dave A. Bedlan was promoted from GS-5 to GS-7, Soil Conservationist, Clarinda FO, May 20, 2001.

Margaret P. Henderson was promoted from GS-6 to GS-7, Area Management Assistant, Atlantic AO, May 20, 2001.

Tim K. Moran career-conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Spirit Lake FO, May 20, 2001.

Consuelo Ramirez transferred from Wapello FO to NRCS, Arizona, May 20, 2001.

Jerry G. Sindt was reassigned from Storm Lake FO to GS-9, Soil Conservationist, Ida Grove FO, May 20, 2001.

Mark J. Starnes was removed as GS-5, Soil Conservation Technician, Garner FO, May 20, 2001.

Danielle D. Whaley (formerly Eneks) was converted from Student Trainee, Leon FO to career-conditional, GS-5, Soil Conservationist, Carroll FO, May 20, 2001.

Shaun D. Holcomb career-conditional appointment as GS-4, Soil Conservation Technician, Malcom FO, May 28, 2001.

Randy M. Plathe resigned as Soil Conservation Technician, Orange City FO, June 1, 2001.

Kenneth E. Barrett, Jr. resigned as Soil Conservationist, Marshalltown FO, May 29, 2001.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center a 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*Seeking a gift for the person
who has everything?*

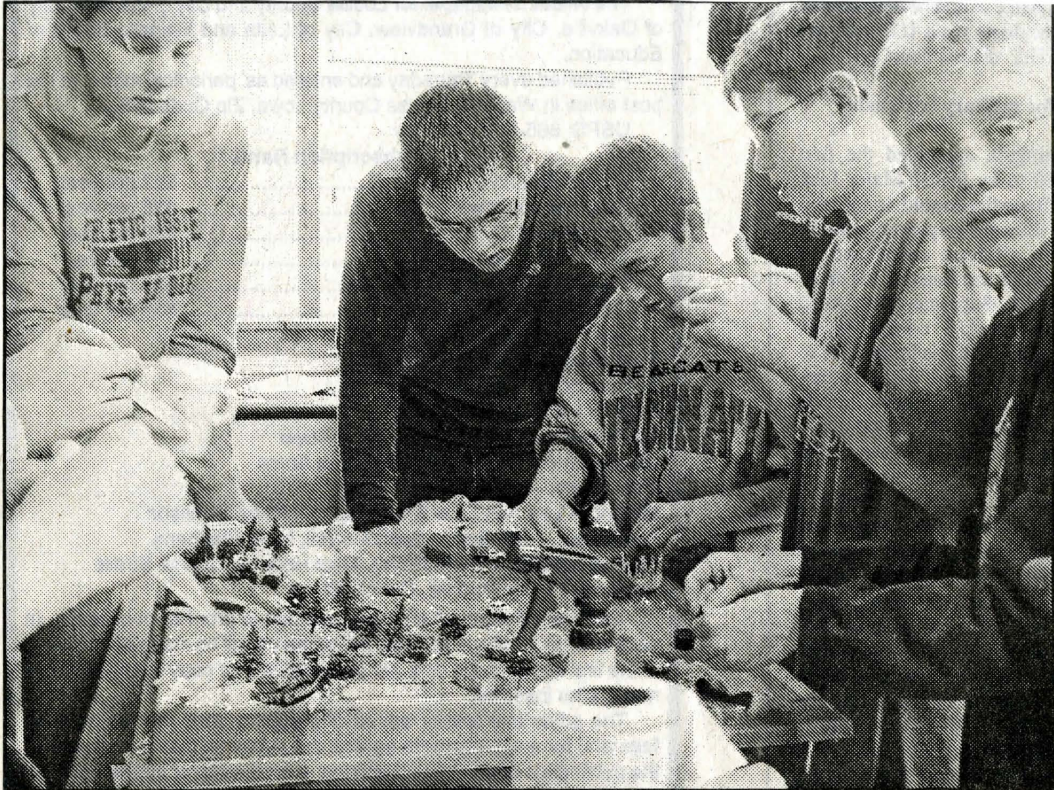
GIVE THE GIFT OF TREES

Bare root tree seedlings that will be available this season include pin and red oak, silver maple, hickory, ash, sycamore, red cedar, blue spruce, white pine and bald cypress. Trees sold in bundles of 10 priced from \$12 to \$15 per bundle

Shrubs include: nanking cherry, American plum, red bud, blackberry, redosier dogwood and common lilac. Sold in bundles of 10 at \$10 per bundle

Also offered, potted northern pecan and spice bush trees at \$6 and \$5 each, Bare rooted pawpaws at \$6, four-foot tall tree shelters are available for \$2.75 each and stakes for attaching to the shelters for \$1.50

**For more information or to order your trees call the
The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District
at 319-523-6411.**



Keep that water clean!

Kent Johnson's 8th grade science class applies solutions to water pollution problems to a plastic landscape model. The class was learning about non-point water pollution from naturalist Kathy Dice of the Louisa County Conservation Board. Funds for this program were provided by the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.

Meeting will use landscape model to explore water pollution

**By Kathy Dice/Naturalist
Louisa County Conservation
Board**

WAPELLO – Do problems such as pollution, mismanagement, and greed leave you frustrated and angry? You have a chance to put yourself in control and solve some of the world's problems for one evening. Come to the Briggs Civic Center from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 7, for a night of solutions. We will be using an Enviroscape plastic landscape model to explore how water becomes polluted and what we can do to stop it.

Participants will apply examples of soil, manure, diesel oil, pesticides and fertilizers to the model to show how pollutants come from dog kennels, flower gardens, construction sites, pastures, yards and farm fields. We then try our hand at preventing water pollution by

applying conservation practices, regulations and education programs to the community. This is a chance for you and your family to become city council members, foresters, ranchers, or even golf course managers. Test your management skills to maintain profitability while preventing water pollution. Professionals will be on hand for advice and consultation.

This free program is provided by a grant from the Iowa Farm Bureau and with help from the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and the Louisa County Conservation Board. This program is recommended for adults, teenagers and preteens accompanied by an adult.

For more information call Kathy Dice at the Louisa County Conservation Board at 523-8381.

Subject: More Wetland Chili-Dippn' (De-leveling)

Date: Thu, 2 Aug 2001 09:27:55 -0500

From: "Doug Morningstar" <Douglas.Morningstar@ia.usda.gov>

Organization: USDA - NRCS

To: "All Email" <allemail@iafairfie2.fsc.usda.gov>

Hi Everyone,

Just another note to you all about another opportunity to see the de-leveling concept in real life.

Norm Stone and Randy Robb and Ted Oswald have worked on a site in Louisa County that is near perfect for implementing the de-leveling work. I hesitate to use the phrase 'near perfect', but at this time this is just what we think we want. Norm has worked long and hard with two good contractors to de-level about 40 acres on the Iowa River floodplain. Mark Jensen and Jim Ayen were out there on Tuesday 7-31-01 and really liked what they saw.

Please call Randy Robb (Area Engineering staff included) to set up a personalized tour of the site, he will be glad to do it. As Randy has written to me, "I think the site is soooo good, and understanding the concept is sooooo important, I would take whatever time it took to go over and show folks around".

So there you have it folks. If you are near Louisa county please go look at this site. Also, if you have contractors lined up to do this type of work you might try to bring them along too.

The construction is nearing completion, so you may not see dozers working.

Also, Margaret Cope and her staff in Centerville have a nice de-leveling site under construction. I haven't talk to her or the landowner about giving tours but you may want to talk to her if you are in the SW corner of the area.

Please call me if you have any questions on plan/concept drawings for these jobs or if you want my opinion on survey needs before and during construction.

Doug Morningstar
Civil Engineer

Douglas D. Morningstar <Douglas.Morningstar@ia.usda.gov> Civil Engineer USDA - NRCS

The perfect Christmas gift available from LCCS

12/18 Col.
2602 Gazette

Seeking a gift for that person who has everything? Not sure of the correct size or color, make or model? You should try the gift of a living tree. The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering trees for sale now for planting this spring.

Profits from the tree sales go for conservation education and practices in Louisa County. These living gifts can beautify a home, provide summer shade or winter wind protection. Many of the species offered also provide food for people and wildlife.

Bare root tree seedlings that will be available this season include pin and red oak, silver maple, hickory, ash, sycamore, red cedar, blue spruce, white pine, and bald cypress. These trees are sold in bundles of 10 and range in price from \$12 to \$15 per bundle. Shrubs this year include nanking cherry, American plum, red bud, blackberry, redosier dogwood and common lilac. Like the trees, these are sold in bundles of 10 but cost only \$10 per bundle. Call for specifics as to their height.

This year the LCSWCD is also offering potted northern pecan and spice bush trees for sale at \$6 and \$5 each, respectively. Bare rooted pawpaws are available for \$6. Four-foot tall tree shelters are available for your young tree at \$2.75 each and stakes for attaching to the shelters for \$1.50 each.

For more information or to order your trees call the LCSWCD at (319)523-6411. Or stop by their office at 514 Isett in Wapello, Iowa.



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

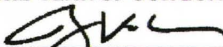
- WHEREAS,** OCTOBER 18, 2002, IS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT; AND
- WHEREAS,** BOTH THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE MOVED FORWARD TOWARD THE GOAL OF PROVIDING FISHABLE AND SWIMMABLE WATER FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE STATE OF IOWA HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS RESOLVE TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE WATERS OF THIS STATE AND NATION THROUGH ENACTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY STATUTES; AND
- WHEREAS,** IOWA HAS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY WHILE SUSTAINING OUR SOIL RESOURCES THROUGH THE 2000 WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE; AND
- WHEREAS,** IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL CITIZENS TO PROTECT OUR WATER RESOURCES; AND
- WHEREAS,** IOWA'S FARMERS AND LANDUSERS HAVE A STRONG HISTORY OF VOLUNTARILY IMPLEMENTING MEASURES ON THE LAND AND ARE EAGER TO EMBRACE NEW METHODS OF PROTECTING OUR LAND AND WATER RESOURCES; AND
- WHEREAS,** IOWA'S SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS STAND POISED TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM OCTOBER 14 - 20, 2002, AS

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION WEEK

IN IOWA AND CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT OUR GREAT STATE AS AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER TIME, TALENT, AND LEADERSHIP TO PROTECTING OUR PREVIOUS SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 30TH OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWO.



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR



ATTEST:



CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

by J. Klaassen, Deputy

REAP cost-share funds available

*Louisa county
residents eligible*

Do you have timberland that needs improvement? Would a windbreak improve your landscaping as well as cut your utility bills in the future? Are there acres you would like to see seeded to grasses? If so you may be interested in applying for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program. You can put in your application at your Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District. Your land must be in Louisa County, and you must produce food or fiber.

Practices that are eligible are Tree Planting, Timber Stand Improvement, Farmstead Windbreak, Field Windbreak, Planned Grazing System, Conservation Cover, Critical Area Planting, Strip-Cropping (wind), Filter Strips, Contour Strip - Cropping, Riparian Forest Buffer, Restored or Constructed Wetlands in Buffer Systems, and Bioengineering for Stabilization of Banks Along Waterways.

Cost-Share is available from 25% to 75% depending on the practice. Funds are limited so if any of these practices are of interest to you stop in and discuss them with one of the NRCS technicians or the District Forester. You can sign an application and be on the list for approval by the District Commissioners as soon as you have an approved plan.

More information on the above program or answers to questions are also welcome by telephoning the Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District office 523-6411.

Col Gazette 2/2001

News to grow on - by Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge

Ag Secretary announces signing of Soil and Water Conservation Proclamation by Governor Vilsack

Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge announced that Governor Vilsack has signed a proclamation proclaiming the week of November 18-24, 2001 as Soil and Water Conservation Week.

Secretary Judge commented, "It's fitting, at harvest time, to re-affirm our commitment to improving and protecting our water and soil for future generations." Iowa's Ag Leader continued, "As citizens, we are aware of the need for improving water and soil quality. Iowa producers work diligently to improve soil condition, and reduce soil erosion and ag chemical run-off in our lakes and streams. They should be applauded for their continuing efforts."

The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is working hard to protect our water and control erosion of our prized farmland. The Soil Conservation Division, partnering with Soil and Conservation Districts across Iowa, is working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement clean water measures and protect Iowa's resources while at the same time maintaining the best food production system in the world.

One of the most important water conservation initiatives, is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This water quality partnership of the Iowa Department of Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the USDA is a huge step in improving water quality in Iowa.

Iowa CREP provides incentives to landowners to voluntarily establish wetlands for water quality improvement. The program is designed to reduce the movement of nitrate and other agricultural chemicals from croplands to streams and rivers.

In addition, the Iowa Department of Agriculture is administering a Buffer Strip Initiative Program to protect soil against erosion. Grass buffer strips can reduce soil erosion by more than 50%. In addition, buffer strips can remove nitrates and some agricultural chemicals before they enter our waters.

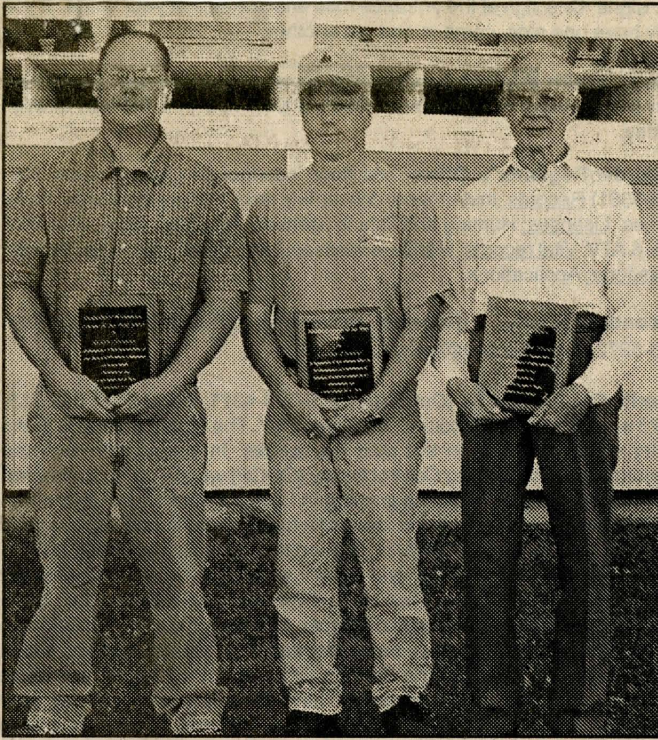
Iowa communities, soil conservation officers, and groups such as Pheasants Forever are working together to educate Iowa landowners of the benefits of building buffers. They are also informing landowners of the financial assistance that is available



Patty Judge

to them when they voluntarily choose to construct buffers. To date, hundreds of watershed projects are either completed, in progress, or in the planning stages.

To apply or find out more about these, and other worthwhile programs, contact the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Soil and Conservation Division at 515-281-5851 or log on to our web site at: www.state.ia.us/agriculture.



Awarded plaques during the Louisa County Fair by the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District for their conservation practices are, from left, Scott Heater, Dave Pierce and John Dykstra.

Soil and Water honors three area farmers

COLUMBUS JUNCTION – The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District presented the following awards at the Louisa County Fair on Thursday, July 24.

Scott Heater received the Shelterbelt/Windbreak Owner of the Year award.

Heater has an established shelterbelt that was planted in the early 1980s. It consists of three rows of white pines and two rows of shrubs. The shelterbelt has been excluded from livestock with a perimeter fence. The shelterbelt provides protection from wind and snow for his cow/calf operation and also his farmstead. Heater has seen an increase in wildlife around the farmstead. More recently he has established two new shelterbelts north of the original one. He has received REAP and CRP cost share to help him establish these shelterbelts. His farmstead is located about three miles south of Wapello on the west side of U.S. Highway 61.

David Pierce won the Woodland Owner of the Year award.

Pierce owns about 300 acres

east of Morning Sun. He has owned the farm since 1980. In the early 1980s he and his Carol began planting Christmas trees on part of their farm. They have been selling Christmas trees since the late '80s and early '90's.

On other parts of their farm they have established mixed hard woods. On existing timbers areas they have completed many acres of Timber Stand Improvement. They have worked closely with Stan Tate, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' District Forester, in writing timber stewardship management plans. Part of Pierce's farm has been enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and has been established to mixed native hardwoods. He has received REAP and CRP cost share to help establish some of these trees.

John Dykstra was presented the Wildlife Habitat Owner of the Year award. He and wife Geri own 160 acres called Pine Hill Farm located west of Wapello about six miles on the west side of X37. They have

Awards

Continued from Page 1

owned their farm for nearly 50 years.

Of the 160-acre farm about 50 acres have been devoted to permanent wildlife habitat. Some of the wildlife habitat practices that have been established include: A 10-acre wetland, one farm pond, native grass planting, farmstead windbreak,

Continued on Page 3

2/7/02 Wap. Rep.

Soil and Water Conservation District report available

WAPELLO – The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District 2001 Annual Report is available at the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Office (NRCS Office), 514 Isett St.

Those unable to stop by the office, but would like a copy, may request it by mail or by calling 319-523-6411.

Soil and Water Conservation District Scholarship available

LOUISA COUNTY – The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a scholarship available to Louisa County high school seniors who will be continuing their education at the college level in any field of natural resources or agriculture. The recipient of the \$250 local award will also be entered into competition for scholarships at the state level in the amounts of \$800, \$400 and \$200.

Applications are available through high school guidance counselors and are due in the Louisa County SWCD office by February 28. The local scholarship is made possible through the SWCD's environmental education program which is funded by tree sales to the public.

For more information contact Janet Williams at 523-6411 or Julie Ohde at 523-8381.

It's time to order trees for spring planting

WAPELLO – Spring is coming and so is tree planting time.

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is selling bare-root tree and shrub seedlings for planting in April.

Funds from the sale of these trees help fund conservation projects in Louisa County. These trees provide beauty, shelter and food for both wildlife and humans.

Tree varieties include Oaks, Silver Maple, Hickory, Ash, Cedar, White Pine, and Bald Cypress in bundles of 10 trees for

\$12. Blue Spruce is available in bundles of 10 for \$15.

Shrubs include Nanking Cherry, Plum, Hazelnut, Red Bud, Witch hazel, Ninebark, Dogwood, and Lilac in bundles of 10 for \$10-\$12. A discount is available for orders of more than 100 trees. Sizes vary from tiny 6-inch hickories to 3-foot tall lilacs.

If you have any questions about the trees or would like to place an order, call the Louisa County SWCD at (319) 523-6411.

2/02
Wap. Rep.

Wet soils vulnerable to compaction

AMES, Iowa — A stubborn pattern of wet weather has presented Iowa farmers with a number of challenges to accomplishing fieldwork. But Iowa State University Extension Agronomist Mahdi Al-Kaisi and Extension agricultural engineer Mark Hanna say farmers need to do a risk assessment before heading out to the field.

"The decision to be in the field should consider the possibility of damage to the soil, and when soil moisture exceeds field capacity, there is increased potential for creating soil compaction, particularly at topsoil depths," said Al-Kaisi. "The impact of soil compaction is significant because the soil's physical and chemical properties — such as infiltration rate, bulk density and nutrient availability — can be altered."

Farmers are tempted to work wet soil for the potential benefits. Planting has to be done, and cultivation helps break up crusted soils and "darkens" the soil's surface and (speeds warming and drying of the soil surface). But Al-Kaisi and Hanna say the potential for soil compaction is at its highest when the soil is just dry enough to work without getting stuck.

Checking soil moisture takes just a few seconds/minutes. Probing the top 3 to 4 feet with a hand soil probe to assess the field's

soil moisture conditions is time well spent. Or, Check the soil moisture status by try pushing a ribbon of soil from between the thumb and index finger. If it breaks off within an inch or two, the potential for creating compaction is less. However, if the ribbon stretches out to 4 or 5 inches, it's still too wet. Another method is to make a ball of soil 2 inches in diameter and toss it into the air. If it hangs together until it lands, it has a lot of cohesiveness, and is probably too wet to work.

Al-Kaisi and Hanna also have concerns about planting and replanting in wet soils.

If conditions are too wet, producers could smear the seed furrow sidewall, a form of soil compaction that makes it difficult for root systems to move laterally," Hanna said. "Also check the planter's press wheels and keep the pressure slight by lightening the tension on the downspring mechanism."

Lighter tractor axle weights lessen the likelihood of soil compaction. Because field opera-

tions like planting, rotary hoeing and cultivating require less horsepower, if a choice in tractor size exists, now is the time to use the smaller tractor.

Farmers should watch the calendar, watch the weather and know the soil conditions. "Every day that passes makes it more tempting to get in the field and work at the first opportunity, but producers should consider implications for soil compaction as opposed to delayed field operations," said Al-Kaisi.

Way Ref Nov 14, 2002

Wetland projects nearing completion north of Wapello

WAPELLO – Two major wetland projects north of Wapello are nearing completion. Both sites are owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and have Wetland Reserve Program permanent easements through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Both properties were enrolled into the WRP program in 1993 by private landowners and have since been purchased by the IDNR.

River Construction was awarded the federal contract, through the competitive bid process, to do wetland restoration work on the two sites. Work began in September 2002, and is scheduled to be completed in late November or early December.

According to project inspector Norman Stone, "working conditions have been excellent and rain days have been very

limited."

Most of the work that is being done is called deleveling. Deleveling is a technique used to increase shallow water ponding areas, increase water quality, and provide flood storage when the Iowa River gets out of its banks. These shallow water areas warm up quicker in the spring and provide seasonal forage for shorebirds, waterfowl, and other wildlife species. These types of wetlands have the potential to produce significant amounts of protein-rich invertebrates for migrating birds. Habitat mounds and nesting islands are also constructed on both sites.

Both sites are visible from the road. One site is on the east side of U.S. Highway 61 immediately north of Wapello and the other is located 1.5 miles east of Highway 61 on 112th street on the south side of the road.



Wapello-Jordie Beeding, owner of River Construction Company, is pictured working on the wetlands restoration projects north of Wapello.



Thank You!

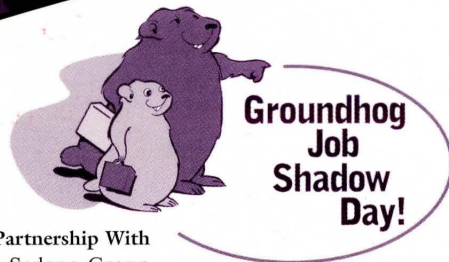
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Drewe DeLang
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514 Isett St
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Streator Area Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Louisa and Muscatine Counties
Wednesday, January 30, 2002

Rock Island, Scott, and Henry Counties
Friday, February 1, 2002

Moline Schools
Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Illinois Valley
Tuesday, February 19, 2002



Soil conservation: A dirty business

As you will no doubt recall from last month's column, I am a newly elected Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioner. As such, I recently have been im-mersed in agricultural and wildlife issues utterly foreign to squeamish, pampered socialites like me.

But that's changing. Ev-ery day brings a new learning experience.

Here's an example. One of the other commissioners - Ed - asked me if I ever noticed that when geese are migrating, one side of their "V" formation is usually longer than the other side.

"Why, yes," I responded, "Why is that?"

"There are more geese on that side," he said.

At my first official meeting in January, I was chided for not knowing exactly where Shueyville is. "You should get out of the city more often," I was told.

Having been born and raised in Iowa City, I admittedly seldom stray off of the turf grass or concrete. Once you get past the city limits ... well, it's dirty out there.

There really has been no reason for me to venture into the wilds of the Iowa countryside. The air smells funny. The bathrooms are rather far apart. I could get bitten by a rabid gopher.

Unfortunately, the rural areas are where most of the soil and water have chosen to locate. I guess I'll have to buy a pair of wing tip boots and take my chances.

In case you don't know what conservation district commissioners do, we are the guys (and gals) to call when you encounter rampant soil erosion or water quality problems due to runoff into creeks and rivers.

We'll pester the living heck out of the perpetrators and offer to share in the cost of rectifying the problem. We can issue citations if necessary.

I haven't had to shoot anybody yet, but I'm still hopeful.

My job description says I must spend 27 percent of my time explaining that John-son County Soil and Water Conservation District Com-missioners actually have nothing to do with the similarly named Johnson County Conservation Board. We like them well enough, but our duties are



Dave Parsons
Writers Group

RECEIVED APR 10 2003

named Johnson County Conservation Board. We like them just enough, but our duties are completely separate and different.

The Johnson County Conservation Board manages nine public areas ranging from the the quarter acre Sutliff Access to the 1,082 acre F.W. Kent Park. This in-cludes several native prair-ies and parks.

Don't make me tell you again.

I've been trying to convince the Conservation Board to change its name to something less likely to be confused with that Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District - such as Def Leppard, for instance - but that name was taken.

But back to business. You probably don't think about it much, but you live in a watershed. Most of the water that falls on your back yard is going to end up in a creek or river somewhere.

Johnson County has a number of whimsically named creeks, such as Crooked, Dirty Face, Hack-eyes Slough, Picayune, Old Mans, Old Womans and West Hoosier. There are also two Deer Creeks.

Lest you think life is dull in the soil and water conservation business, I had an e-mail forwarded to me from Jean Eels, former environmental education coordinator of the Hamilton County Conservation Board.

She was thinking of placing signage on every creek in Hamilton County, as we have begun to do in John-son.

But she had to think twice when she remembered Hamilton County has a Long Dick Creek.

I believe I can speak for everyone in Johnson County when I say that this situation is unacceptable. Our county should be second to none with regard to creeks having racy and suggestive names.

Coincidentally, conservation district commissioners systematically are locating and helping landowners attach names to small creeks on their properties, in the belief that people will be a little more careful about what kind of runoff is flowing into "their" creek.

If you have an unnamed creek running through your property, I want to hear from you. I'll help you dream up a name that will make the people in the Long Dick Creek watershed blush like prissy schoolmarms.

It's our civic duty.

Dave Parsons is a Coralville businessman and a member of the Writers Group, a corps of local residents who write regular opinion columns for the Press-Citizen.

Let us know what you think of this column...

1/30/03
Col. Gazette

Saturday, February 8th

Open House and Dedication of Louisa County Habitat for Humanity Home for Lezlie Lerner - Saturday February 8- 2:00 P.M. at 106 Fulton Drive, Columbus Junction.

Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report available

The Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District 2002 Annual Report is available at the Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Office (NRCS Office), 514 Isett, Wapello, IA 52653. If you are unable to stop by the office and would like a copy you can request it by mail or by calling 319-523-6411.

Deaton's Columbus Bowl to host blood pressure checks

Deaton's Columbus Bowl will be hosting blood pressure, blood sugar and SpO2 checks on February 11th from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. This is a Free community service sponsored by the Morning Sun Care Center. There will also be offered a Total Cholesterol Count. Free will donation will be accepted for this test to help cover the cost of the testing strips. Everyone Welcome.

City Council to hold regular meeting

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular council meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2003, at 5:00 P.M. at the City Hall where they will open up the bidding process for the 1997 squad car.

Columbus High School to host mobile blood drive

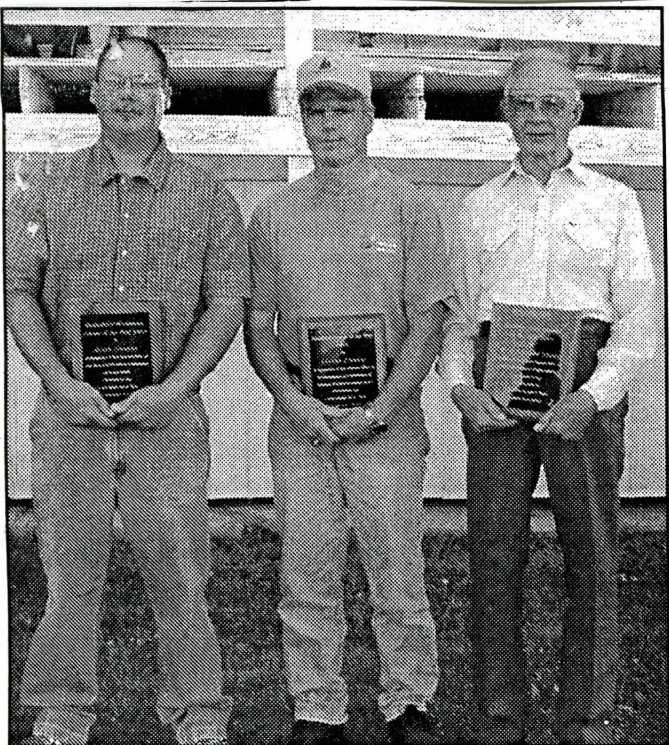
The Columbus Community High School will be hosting a mobile blood drive for the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center on Tuesday, February 25 starting at 7:00 a.m. to Noon. The goal for the drive is 75 units. For more information, or to sign up, call Chuck Reighard at 319-728-2231. Walk-ins welcome.

Girl Scout Troop to host collection for area homeless shelter

Girl Scout 43 will be holding a collection for the area homeless shelter at Economart on Friday afternoon, January 31 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday morning, February 1, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's committee seeks photos for Anniversary book

St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Columbus Junction will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of a Catholic Church in the Columbus Community this spring. A book detailing the history of the church is being organized. Anyone who would like to share any photos of the Church, activities at the Church, or people of the Church are



Awarded plaques during the Louisa County Fair by the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District for their conservation practices are, from left, Scott Heater, Dave Pierce and John Dykstra.

Soil and Water honors three area farmers

COLUMBUS JUNCTION – The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District presented the following awards at the Louisa County Fair on Thursday, July 24.

Scott Heater received the Shelterbelt/Windbreak Owner of the Year award.

Heater has an established shelterbelt that was planted in the early 1980s. It consists of three rows of white pines and two rows of shrubs. The shelterbelt has been excluded from livestock with a perimeter fence. The shelterbelt provides protection from wind and snow for his cow/calf operation and also his farmstead. Heater has seen an increase in wildlife around the farmstead. More recently he has established two new shelterbelts north of the original one. He has received REAP and CRP cost share to help him establish these shelterbelts. His farmstead is located about three miles south of Wapello on the west side of U.S. Highway 61.

David Pierce won the Woodland Owner of the Year award.

Pierce owns about 300 acres

east of Morning Sun. He has owned the farm since 1980. In the early 1980s he and his Carol began planting Christmas trees on part of their farm. They have been selling Christmas trees since the late '80s and early '90's.

On other parts of their farm they have established mixed hard woods. On existing timbers areas they have completed many acres of Timber Stand Improvement. They have worked closely with Stan Tate, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' District Forester, in writing timber stewardship management plans. Part of Pierce's farm has been enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and has been established to mixed native hardwoods. He has received REAP and CRP cost share to help establish some of these trees.

John Dykstra was presented the Wildlife Habitat Owner of the Year award. He and wife Geri own 160 acres called Pine Hill Farm located west of Wapello about six miles on the west side of X37. They have

Continued on Page 3

3-31-03
Way. Rep.

Book highlights rural success

'Renewing' includes a look at southeast Iowa

By **JIM RUDISILL**
for *The Hawk Eye*

From Spirit Lake to Wapello, from Shenandoah to Decorah, "Renewing the Countryside: Iowa" profiles 38 Iowa individuals, families or businesses that successfully have challenged the notion that the state's rural communities are dying.

Published earlier this year by a partnership of conservation and rural development organizations, the collection of stories about Iowa's rural entrepreneurs is the second in a series on rural revitalization. The first publication focused on Minnesota.

Three efforts centered in southeast Iowa are featured in the new Iowa publication.

The chapter "Van Buren rising: The historic Villages of Van Buren County" not only provides a quick history on the role the Des Moines River played in the development of Iowa, but also highlights how a small group of Iowa towns were able to band together to create one of the most successful tourist attractions in the state.

Bentonsport resident Bill Pinty explained it's a model other small towns should try to follow.



Jerry DeWitt/from "Renewing the Countryside: Iowa"

Grandview's Tom Wahl, a member of the Southeast Iowa Nut Growers Association is among the southeast Iowans profiled in a new book, "Renewing the Countryside: Iowa."

"Many small towns have a uniqueness about them, but you can just hear them gasping their last breaths. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all our small towns could be thriving little places?" he asked.

Francis Thicke, who operates Radiance Dairy of Fairfield with

his wife Susan, agreed.

Radiance Dairy produces all-organic products and markets its milk only in the Fairfield area. They have resisted marketing it on a regional scale because they want to focus on local service and maintain product quality.

See *Renewing* page 5D

Renewing

Continued from page 1D

"It takes a quantum leap to serve a regional market," Thicke explained.

However, for another group of southeast Iowans, regional and even wider markets are viewed differently.

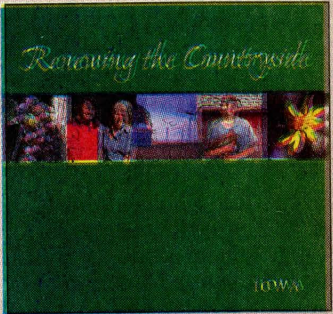
The Southeast Iowa Nut Growers Association is a loose-knit organization of about 25 landowners who have been growing chestnuts, pecans and other perennials for the past several years.

"We think woody agriculture will be one of the solutions for rural Iowa," Winfield resident John Wittrig reports in the book.

Wittrig, a retired psychologist, and his wife Betty planted around 300 chestnuts in 1993 and are now harvesting several hundred pounds of nuts. Eventually, they hope to earn between \$4000-\$6000 per acre from their trees.

Tom Wahl, a Grandview member of the association, said the outlook for chestnuts and other nut production is good. He said demand in the United States now requires about 40 million pounds of nuts to be imported from Europe or Korea.

"(The imports) tend to be low quality," he said, adding production in the U.S. is not expected to meet the demand for several



"Renewing the Countryside: Iowa" comes in hard or soft cover and can be ordered online at <http://store.rtcmarket.org>; by e-mail, rtc@iatp.org; or by calling 866-378-0587. A companion 2004 calendar is also available.

years.

Currently, the southeast growers are focusing on regional markets in this area, but eventually hope to expand to larger areas of the country.

In a review of the book, Christie Vilsack, wife of Gov. Tom Vilsack, praised that confident attitude and the spark it is providing to Iowa's rural areas.

"People willing to change and willing to work hard can reclaim and revitalize the countryside," she wrote.

Jim Rudisill is a regular contributor to *The Hawk Eye* and had his work featured in "Renewing the Countryside."

Louisa Co. Fair 2003 Commissions
 DC DeLong & Award winners in front of Grandstand
 Scot Heater, David Pierce John Dykstra



2003
 Louisa Co. SWCD Awards:
 Scott Heater - windbreak
 David Pierce - Woodland Owner of the year Award
 John Dykstra - Wildlife Habitat Award

Booth Visitors

County Fair 2003

1. Sonjia Allen

Tattoo

2. CHANIS McConahay

Tattoo

3. CAREY RUTT

4. JIM HOWELL

5. JANET UTTER + 2 neices

6. RALPH DOCKMAN

7. Karen Castillo

Tattoo

8. Jim Howell

9. Man

Coin purse

10. Judy Stout + 2 grandch

11. Aaron Allen

12. 2 women from the archery class

13. woman next door

14. 2 girls

1. Boy

coin purse.

2. Women

Backyard Conservat

woman/man

BYC

3. Lillian Fottkamp

319-728-2348

wants chiecy seed - small amount (102)??

~~Bill Edwards wants copy of~~ Done
~~Native Prairie sheet - Sundance~~

6. Karen Castillo

Tattoo

8. Jim Howell

9. Man

coin purse

10. Judy Stout + 2 grandch

11. Karen Allen

12. 2 women from the archery class

13. woman next door

14. 2 girls

Database of farm subsidies creating buzz among farmers

IA Farmer Today 12/2/01

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Around coffee shops, dinner tables and Internet chat rooms, the hottest topic for farmers isn't the weather or their crops. It's the cash they have been getting from the government.

A database of 2.5 million farmers and landowners who have received farm subsidies is available online for the first time through a Web site operated by the Environmental Working Group, an advocacy organization that compiled the numbers from government records.

LISTS OF recipients also were compiled by The Associated Press and published in newspapers around the country this fall.

"The numbers are right, for crying out loud. The effect was astonishing on the farming com-

"Guys are sensitive about how big their farms are. They will talk about their prostate operation, but they don't want to talk about their numbers."

John Phipps
Illinois farmer

munity," said John Phipps, who grows corn and soybeans near Chrisman, Ill.

Phipps, who received \$320,575 over the past five years, including \$147,656 in 2000, says the records have forced farmers to confront how much government money they — and their neighbors, relatives and landowners — are getting. He thinks the subsidies are excessive and have fostered dependence on the government.

"Guys are sensitive about how big their farms are," he said. "They will talk about their

prostate operation, but they don't want to talk about their numbers."

USDA Secretary Ann Veneman says she has logged on to the Environmental Working Group's Web site and looked up recipients. Sen. Richard Lugar, an Indiana Republican who is critical of existing farm programs, has repeatedly promoted the site during meetings of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The numbers also have been hot topics this fall at meetings of farm organizations.

Congress is in the middle of an extensive revision of farm and conservation programs that will expire next year.

The Environmental Working Group has argued for years farm spending is skewed to a small number of large grain and cotton farms and more money should be put into a conservation program.

The database "opened up the farm bill debate to a lot more media attention than there would have been otherwise," said Ken Cook, the group's president. "That provided us the opportunity in that debate to make our case."

There have been 7 million searches of the Web site, initiated by 140,000 different users, since it was opened to the public Nov. 6, according to Cook's group.

Some 3,600 different computers at the USDA have logged on to the site.

FOR YEARS, the department refused to release the names of subsidy recipients, citing privacy concerns. The Washington Post sued the department to force their disclosure and a judge decided in 1996 that the names were public records. The Clinton administration did not appeal.

Cook's group "has angered farmers by invading their privacy in disclosing financial informa-

tion," the American Farm Bureau Federation's Lynne Finnerty wrote in a recent organization newsletter.

"Attacking farmers, large or small, is not the answer to environmental problems."

It remains to be seen whether the data significantly affect the congressional debate over farm policy.

AN IMPORTANT issue is whether to raise or lower limits on subsidies that individual farmers or landowners can collect. Under a Senate bill, farms still could collect crop subsidies in unlimited amounts, and could get an additional \$200,000 in payments annually in two other income-support programs.

The Bush administration has been largely silent on the issue of payment limits but has argued strenuously too much money is going to large farms that need it the least.

"It's hard to tell about the impact" of the data, Veneman said. "I don't see it in Congress."

On the Net:
The Environmental Working Group's subsidy site:
www.ewg.org/farm.

Agriculture Department:
www.usda.gov.

American Farm Bureau Federation: www.fb.org

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Annual FFA Banquet

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Ribeye Steaks

Baked Potato

Vegetable, Salad, Rolls

Dessert

Milk, Coffee or Pop

1998-99 Officers:

President	Carrie Townsley
Vice President	Josh Hoeg
Secretary	Jessica Heater
Treasurer	Julie Beenblossom
Reporters	Jenna Hawk
	Chris Newton
Sentinel	Willie Souer

1999-2000 Officers:

President	Chris Newton
Vice President	Willie Souer
Secretary	Marshall Holtkamp
Treasurer	Megan Foor
Reporters	Valerie Vineyard
	Jenny Ball
Sentinel	Liz Vineyard

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Earnest Insurance	Star Agri-businessman
Dekalb Company	Dekalb Award
State Farm Insurance	Scholarship Awards

SKILLS CONTEST AWARDS

Wapello Jack & Jill	Farm Management CDE
Sub Station	Dairy Products CDE
Wapello Food Center	Meats CDE
Louisa County NRCS	Soils CDE
Benjamin's Apothecary	Nursery/Landscape CDE

OTHER AWARDS

F & M Bank, Oakville	Chapter Officer Pins
State Bank of Wapello	2 Retiring Officer Plaques
Small Auction & Real Estate	Retiring Officer Plaque
Farmers Elevator	Retiring Officer Plaque
State Farm Insurance	Retiring Officer Plaque
Iowa State Bank	Greenhand Officers
	Conduct of Meetings State Pins

Program

Welcome	Carrie Townsley
Invocation	Elizabeth Vineyard
Dinner	Louisa County Cattlemen, FCCLA, and Cooks
Opening Ceremonies	Conduct of Meetings
Introduction of Special Guests	Willie Souer Joe Bowman
Conventions	Jessica Heater
Career Development Leadership Events	Travis Eversmeyer Marc Carlson
Scholarship Awards	Bryan Ball Aaron Black
Skills CDE Awards	Marshall Holtkamp Tyler McCulloch Luke Molle
Introduction of Guest Speaker	Jenna Hawk

Guest Speaker	Ryan Foor
Proficiency Awards	Scott Strawhacker Bryan Kuntz
Certificates of Appreciation	Dalerie Vineyard Mason Mathews
Honorary Chapter Degree	Josh Hoeg Chad Ball
Greenhand & Chapter FFA Awards	Jessica Heater Jenna Hawk
Star Awards	Mr. Meier
Honoring Parents	Officers
Installation of Officers	Retiring Officers
Retiring Officer	New President
Remarks	New President
Closing Ceremonies	New Officers

FFA Motto

Learning to do

Doing to learn

Earning to live

Living to serve

The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.



NRCS - 1

I want to thank you
for sponsoring the soil
pins at our FFA Banquet.
I really appreciate it. Thanks
again.

Tyler McEach

FFA competes in soil judging

By Norma Montoya

FFA Sub District soil judging was held in Wapello on September 31.

The Columbus FFA took 3 teams to Wapello to compete. Team one consisted of Michael Jones, Michael Stout, and Brady Grimm. That team of individuals placed 31st out of 33 teams.

Team two consisted of Norma Montoya, Molly Edmondson, Jennifer Hammons, and Jennifer Sands. They received 22nd overall.

Team three consisted of Alberto Whitlatch, Junior Castillo, and Philip Mincks. They received 21st overall.

Overall individual placings were 15th out of 118 was Jeniffer Hammons; 61st and 62nd were Junior Castillo and Alberto Whitlatch. 73rd Michael Stout, 82nd Philip Mincks, 93rd Molly Edmondson, 99th Brady Grimm, 106th Jennifer Sands, 111th Norma Montoya, and 112th was Michael Jones.

Alberto Whitlatch said, "It was very cold, but I give it 2 thumbs up."

Norma Montoya said, "It was a fun time and there were cool people there." Miss Lewis said, "The food was good, and I feel that we judged well."

Sponsored by SWCD.

10/22/03 Cal. Gazette



The National Organization of Agriculture Students



WAPELLO FFA

501 Buchanan Street
Wapello, Iowa 52653
319-523-3241 (Office)
317-523-4408 (Fax)
wapelloffa@wapello.k12.ia.us

Mary Boysen and Louisa SWCD,

Thank you for your cooperation with both the Louisa County and South Sub-district FFA Soils Judging Contests. Your financial support of these two activities is much appreciated. The pop and candy bars provided a very special reward to the students. Also, the awards you provide are much better than provided at our other contests.

The contest was very educational and all of my students benefited greatly. Your cooperation in training the Wapello Ag Ed students is greatly appreciated. People like you make running a successful Ag and FFA program much easier.

Also thank you for all that you do all year round. Often times I forget to say thank you. I really appreciate your efforts.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Irv Meier".

Irv Meier
Ag Education Teacher
Wapello Community Schools

The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

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*Thank
You*

Louisa County Soils and Water
Conservation Board,

Thank you for sponsoring our
Soils team. Thank you very
much, it was greatly
appreciated.

Steven

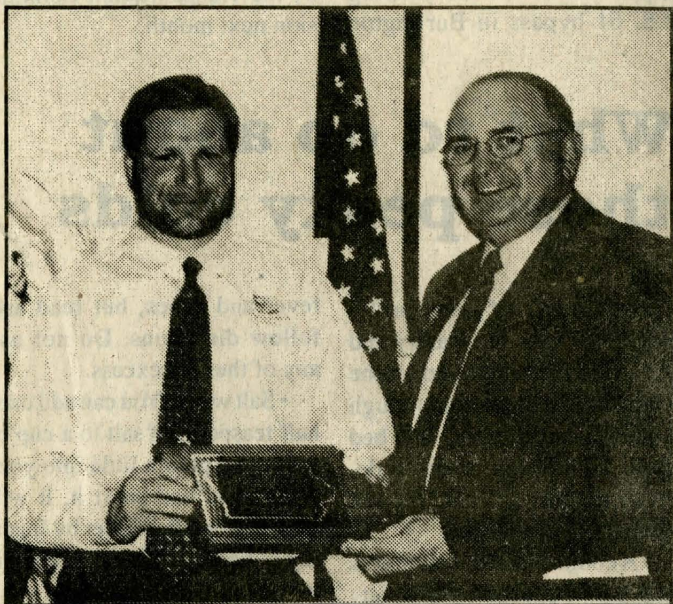

Nicole
Mott

2003

**The Wapello FFA Chapter
would like to thank you
for all your time and the
work you have put in to
help this organization.
We really appreciate it,
greatly.**

Thanks Again

The FFA Thanks You Again



Greg Wagner, left, of Columbus Junction receives a plaque naming him the recipient of the State of Iowa Ken Wagner Award, presented annually to one of Iowa's outstanding young commissioners. Making the presentation is Conservation Districts of Iowa representative Jack Sullivan.

Wagner receives state conservation award

COLUMBUS JUNCTION – rector of the Region 7 Conservation Districts of Iowa Association.

Wagner, Columbus Junction, recently received the State of Iowa Ken Wagner Award at the Conservation Districts of Iowa Annual Conference.

The award is presented annually to one of Iowa's outstanding young commissioners.

Wagner is vice chairman of the local Soil and Water Conservation District and alternate di-

He serves on a number of committees in the local district.

Conservation practices on the Wagner farm include contour buffer strips, wetlands, ponds, terraces, windbreaks, waterways, headlands, and no-till agriculture.

He manages his acres for wildlife and soil and water conservation.

Soil and Water conservation District honors Greg Wagner



The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner, Greg Wagner, received the State of Iowa Ken Wagner Award at the Conservation District of Iowa Annual Conference. This award is presented annually to one of Iowa's outstanding young commissioners.

Greg Wagner is Vice Chairperson of the local Soil and Water Conservation District and Alternate Di-

rector of the Region 7 Conservation Districts of Iowa Association. He serves on many committees of the local District.

Practices on the Wagner farm include contour buffer strips, wetland, ponds, terraces, windbreaks, waterways, headlands, and no-till. He manages his acres for wildlife and soil and water quality conservation.

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@ J Agenda



Louisa County Conservation Board

Box 261, 609 James L. Hodges Avenue
Wapello, IA 52653
319.523.8381 (Phone) 319.523.8249 (Fax)
lccb@lccb.org (Email) www.lccb.org

Board Members

Doug Brown
Gene Murray
Dave Schweitzer
Greg Terry
Kathy Vance

September 30, 2003

Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation
District Commissioners
514 Isett Street
Wapello, Iowa 52653

We want to thank you again for your generous donation for the HazChem Collection Day that was held Saturday, September 20th. Pictured are a few of our volunteers unloading some hazardous chemicals.



During the HazChem day we handled 2,329 pounds of waste from 28 households and farms. We collected and safely disposed of 1,800 pounds of unusable pesticides including 921 pounds of banned chemicals such as Chlordane, Tordan, and DDT along with and 40 pounds of caustic chemicals.

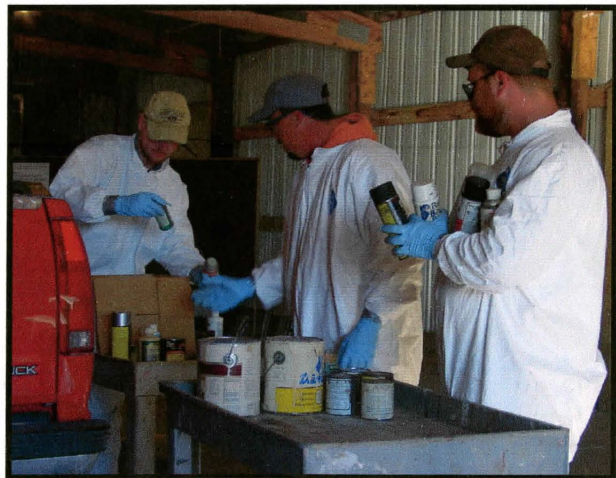
Your donation allowed us to open this collection day to farms. During the day, we also collected around \$400 from farmers to help cover the high cost of disposal of the farm chemicals.

Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

Kathy Dice

Kathy Dice
Naturalist





*One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the
opportunity to say Thank You
and to wish you the very best for the New Year.*

OSENBAUGH GRASS SEEDS
JOHN, CAROL & STAFF

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to John Osenbaugh, written over the printed name.A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Kim, written to the right of the main signature.

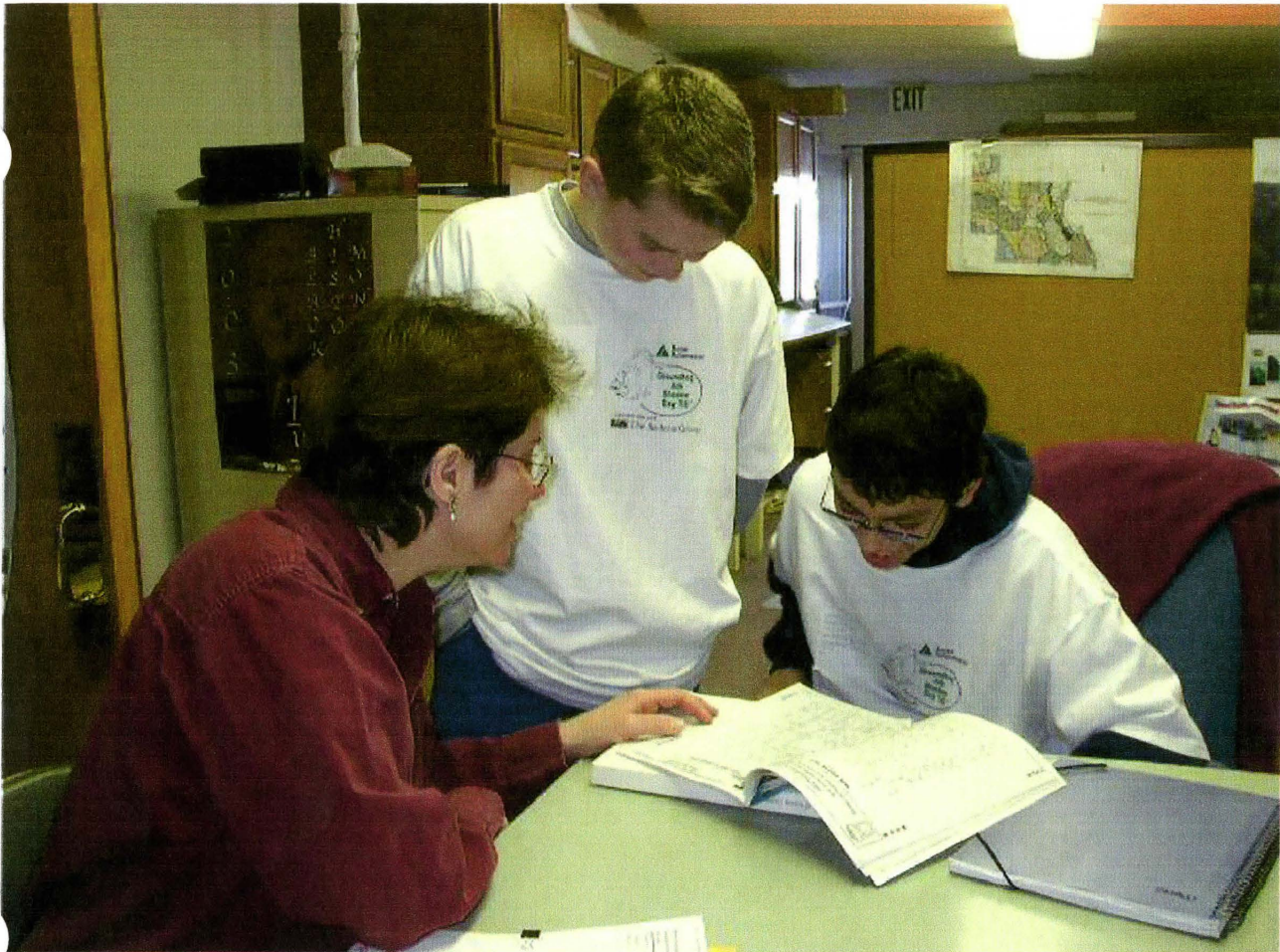
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Design: T.V. Allen / FS Art Libraries
Made in USA
1056



Feb-2003 Job
Shadow Day

Chris Lousias
w/

Alex Buffington + David Ruiz
Way. Comm. School



Feb 2003 Job
Shadow Day

Chris Lousias with Alex Buffington
& David Ruiz from Wagello
Comm. School



Kate Dion

13023 M Avenue

Columbus Junction

Iowa

52738

Phone: 319-728-7376

Email: katerose33@hotmail.com

Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District
514 Isett
Wapello, Iowa 52653

June 12, 2003

To the Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District:

I would like to take the opportunity to write a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation Scholarship I received. This is a wonderful gift, and I am so grateful that it was made possible by your Conservation District.

This fall I will be attending Iowa State University. I plan to major in Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary Medicine. After receiving my degree, I plan to enter the School of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. After becoming a licensed veterinarian I would either like to work in a practice or veterinary research. Although I am undecided on which of the two options I will pursue, I am sure Iowa State University can help me with this decision.

Once again, thank you for making this scholarship possible.

Sincerely,

Kate Dion

*-You are never given a
without also being
given the power to make
it true.-*

Richard Bach

12/03
COTI

Thank
you

Your thoughtfulness
meant so much.

Thank you for the beautiful
flower arrangement for our
50th open house

Lee & Doris Harris

+ 481337 +



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FY '03

Louisa Co Chairperson of SWCD
Mary Boysen with group - after
receiving Region 7 Outstanding
Commissioner Award @ Annual
Conference 2001

Louisa County Soil & Water
~~Conservation District is offering~~

Trees and Shrubs for Sale

For planting this spring



Sold in bundles of 10

10 Trees

\$12-\$15

10 Shrubs \$10

Call the LCSWCD at 523-6411 or stop by their office at
514 Isett in Wapello for more information or to order
or e-mail: Janet.williams@ia.usda.gov

12/25/03 Wap. Republican
\$29.40

Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District to meet

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet October 9, 2003, at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. For more information please contact the office at 514 Isett, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

10/2/03 Col. Gazette

Post-
poned to
10/14



Mary Boyser receiving plaque
for Region 7 Outstanding Comm.
Award FY 2002 Annual
Conference 2001.



Fy 2002

Mary Boysen accepting -

Region 9 Outstanding Commissioner
Award

Annual Conference 2001

FROM LOUISA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
514 ISETT
WAPELLO, IA 52653
PHONE: 319-523-6411
FAX: 319-523-3605

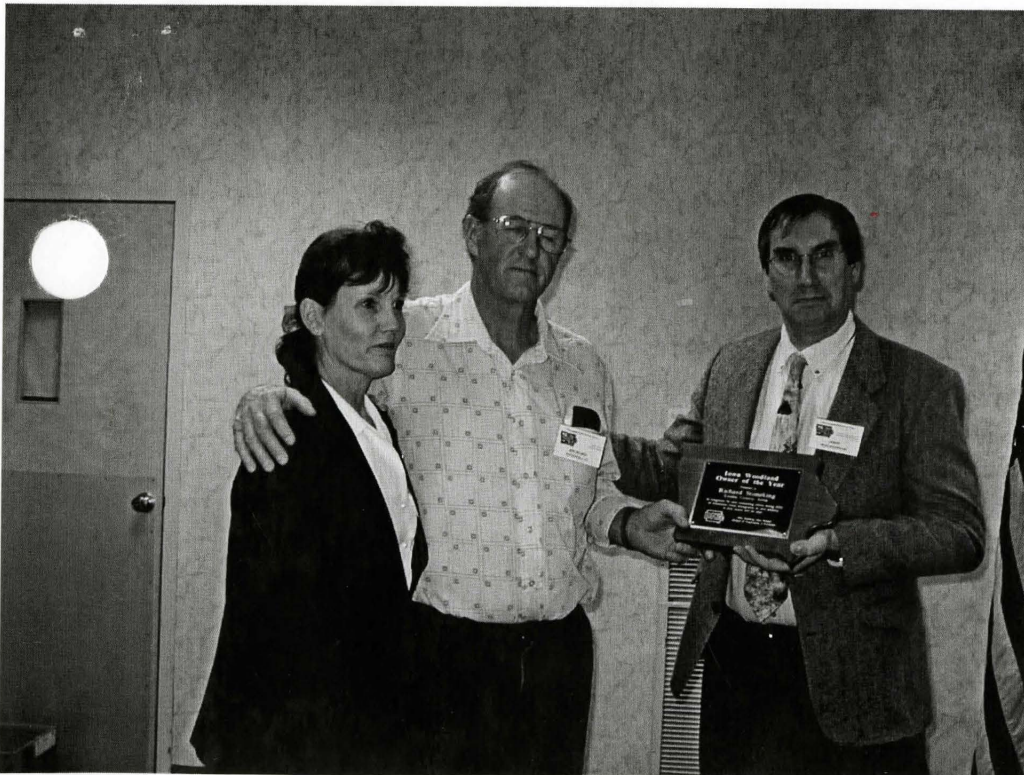
DATE: 1/27/03

NEWS RELEASE

RICHARD STONEKING NAMED WOODLAND OWNER OF THE YEAR

Louisa County landowner Richard Stoneking was named Woodland Owner of the Year at the Conservation Districts of Iowa Annual Conference. This award is presented to one landowner in the State each year.

On his 186 acre farm located northwest of Columbus Junction Richard has planted 100 acres of trees and 30 acres of native grasses and food plots. The remaining acres are in existing trees. The Conservation Reserve Program and the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program were available for some financial assistance on Stoneking's woodland projects.



Introduce Commissioners

Mary Boysen (Chairman)

Lee Harris

Sam Willson

Michelle Reese

Greg Wagner

Awards

*Presented at the Louisa Co. Fair
Thurs. July 24, 2003*

***Shelterbelt/Windbreak owner of the year award Scott Heater**

Mid 80's Scott has an established Shelterbelt that was planted in the early 90's. It consists of 3 rows of White Pines and 2 rows of shrubs. The Shelterbelt has been excluded from livestock with a perimeter fence. The Shelterbelt provides protection from wind and snow for his cow/calf operation and also his farmstead. Scott has seen an increase in wildlife around the farmstead. More recently Scott has established 2 new Shelterbelts north of the original one. Scott has received REAP and CRP cost share to help him establish these Shelterbelts. Scott's farmstead is located approx. 3 miles south of Wapello on the west side of Hwy. 61. Thanks!

*a sincere thank you to the
Commissioners and staff of
the Louisa County Soil and Water
Conservation District for the
recognition given us at the
Louisa County Fair.*

*A. Miesler
5
9/03
Mr and Mrs John Dykstra*

RECEIVED JUL 30 2003

Co. Gazette 9/11/03

Soil & Water Commission to meet

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet September 11, 2003, at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. For more information please contact the office at 514 Isett, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.



Columbus FFA Chapter

•1004 Colton Street • Columbus Junction, Iowa • 52738 •

October 21, 2003

Mary Boysen, Chairman
Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners
514 Isett
Wapello, IA 52653

Dear Mrs. Mary Boysen,

The Columbus FFA Chapter would like to thank you for your involvement in the south sub-district soils judging contest that was held September 30, 2003. With the support of organizations like yours, Career Development Events are made possible for FFA members. Thank you for helping in working towards our goals.

Sincerely,

Michael Yerington
Columbus FFA Secretary

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Support dinosaur reintroduction

As a native Iowan, I hate to admit that I don't know an ag drainage well from a hole in the ground.

Until recently, this has not been a problem. But as a newly-elected Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner, it's something of a handicap. Not to mention that my new title extends across two business cards.

More than 92 percent of Iowa's land is devoted to agriculture. I find this amazing, because I rarely encounter farm products that are not frozen, canned or shrink-wrapped.

Fortunately, there are orientations designed for the agriculture-impaired like myself. Among other things, I have discovered that the farming industry is filled with nice people who can be very tactful and polite while informing me that I am an idiot.

I recently met a commissioner from Louisa County, which borders Johnson on the southeast edge, as I came to find out. He said offhandedly that there are no stoplights in Louisa County.

I could not believe it. To

**Dave
Parsons**

**Writers
Group**



me, stoplights are everywhere.

I spend hours every day immobile in front of them. I see them in my sleep. They are the bane of my existence.

Just what's out there?

Lest I might think Louisa is a backward county, the commissioner was quick to concede that there are indeed blinking yellow lights at a couple of major intersections.

With a population of about 12,300, Louisa is a small-to-medium size county in Iowa (Johnson has 111,000 people). Iowa's smallest population county — Adams — has about 4,400. I don't know where Adams is, but you have to wonder if they have paved roads. For all I know, there

are still dinosaurs roaming over there.

I suppose I shouldn't be too flip about low-population counties, because chances are that they are primarily farmland. Nowadays, I'm nuts about farmland. Not to mention wildlife.

Part of my training included a seminar about the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program. Its most visible activity has been the reintroduction of non-game species such as otters, peregrine falcons and trumpeter swans to Iowa's habitats.

More than 85 percent of the funding for this program comes from the Fish and Wildlife fund Chickadee Checkoff on your state income tax return (line 59a.). You can earmark a portion of your tax refund (or add a tax-deductible payment) for this worthy cause.

Every Midwestern state has a similar program, but none is as poorly funded as Iowa's. Fewer than 3 percent of all tax filers in Johnson County check the box, which consistently ranks us higher than any other county in the state, believe it or not.

Johnson County has

Online

■ **For an archive of past Writer's Group columns, go online to www.press-citizen.com/opinion/writersgroup/**

about half as many taxpayers as Linn, but actually contributes more dollars to the checkoff. Statewide participation averages less than 1 percent overall, down from a high of 6 percent in the 1980s.

Many other checkoffs

Similarly, legislative spending on conservation in Iowa has been reduced 42 percent over the past three years, and now accounts for less than 1 cent of each Iowa tax dollar.

The Iowa Environmental Council has initiated a 2 cent campaign to highlight the importance of increasing the public funding for conservation in Iowa to 2 percent of the annual budget. If you make a donation to any candidate for state representative or senator, add 2 cents

to the amount; that will stand out on their donor sheets and underscore your support for conservation efforts.

As long as you're feeling generous, kick a little into the Corn Dog checkoff as well (line 59b.). The money goes to improving property on the Iowa State Fairgrounds. If you haven't been to the fair in a while, you're missing out.

One more thing: Line 59c is the Keep Iowa Beautiful checkoff. Any funds you donate go to a nonprofit organization dedicated to sponsoring cleanup projects and eliminating littering in our state.

Paying taxes is no fun, but if you participate in the checkoffs you can at least feel good about where some of the money is going.

Especially the Wildlife Diversity Program, even though it may be responsible for those dinosaurs in Adams County.

Dave Parsons is a businessman. He is a member of the Writers Group, a corps of local residents who write regular opinion columns for the Press-Citizen.

Reaching new heights



Scott Morgan/The Hawk Eye

Jane Maddy-Vasquez of Bettendorf looks for her next hand hold Saturday while on the high ropes course at the Louisa County Conservation Area during a Women in the Wilderness program. Participants also took part in canoeing, target shooting and trap shooting during the day-long event.

TACKLING FEARS

Program offers women a chance to try new activities

By KILEY MILLER
kmiller@thehawkeye.com

GRANDVIEW — Lynette Stephenson was afraid of kayaks. Rene Patterson hated heights.

They both tackled their fears Saturday at Women in the Outdoors, a National Wild Turkey Federation event at Langwood Education Center.

Sponsored by the Louisa County Conservation Board, the program drew 34 women from throughout the area and as far as Indianola for a day-long introduction to everything from canoeing to wild edibles to archery, taught by both men and women.

"I wish more women would do it," said Patterson, a Columbus Junction resident but a California native. "It's the camaraderie, nature, friendship and being active."

Patterson attended an all-night, all-women campout



Scott Morgan/The Hawk Eye

Rene Patterson of Columbus Junction reacts after reaching the ground Saturday after completing an event on the high ropes course at the Louisa County Conservation Area during a Women in the Wilderness program. Patterson overcame her fear of heights to complete the challenge.

sponsored by the conservation board four years ago. She was new to the area then, and eight

months pregnant.

That's when she met
See Fears page 11A▶



Scott Morgan/The Hawk Eye

A group of women are instructed on target shooting Saturday by Doug Brown, a volunteer and competition target shooter, at the Louisa County Conservation Area during a Women in the Wilderness program.

Fears

Continued from page 1A

Stephenson, a student and patient advocate in Iowa City. The two have been friends ever since.

On Saturday, they signed up for the same activities. Canoeing and kayaking so Stephenson could get over that mettlesome fear of drowning. And the high-ropes course because the very idea of it scared the daylight out of Patterson.

A need for friendships like the one shared by Patterson and Stephenson are part of the draw for Women in the Outdoors, one organizer said.

"Women want to connect with like-minded women," said Vaness

Oden, who works for the National Wild Turkey Federation, promoting women's events throughout Iowa and Nebraska.

A typical Women in the Outdoors participant is 39 years old, married and a professional, Oden said.

"A lot of women feel that this is a great way to build self-esteem and get rid of stress," said Oden. "And most people feel that the outdoors is a level playing field."

Katherine Lodge of Geneseo, Ill., took archery lessons from Oden. A lover of the outdoors, she simply was looking for an introduction to an activity that had captivated her for a while.

"I'd be interested in doing a little bit of bowhunting," Lodge said. "It seems like a great way to get out there and enjoy the outdoors,

whether you see an animal or not."

The day started with an ice-breaker game. The women tried to get signatures from others in the group who had done a number of unusual things in the outdoors, from seeing the Northern Lights to identifying animal scat on the trail.

One block required the signature of a woman who had run naked through the woods.

"They had a hard time with that one," said Julie Ohde, the conservation board executive director. "One woman said, 'I haven't run naked in the woods, but I have turkey hunted naked.'"

Ohde said the conservation board decided to host the event to encourage women to enjoy nature

and to take advantage of some available resources.

"Because the Turkey Federation sponsors the event, it was a way for us to make our money go further," she said. "Besides, it's fun."

Fun was the name of the game for Stephenson and Patterson, who after only a couple of hours had already planned a family canoeing trip.

Stephenson's only disappointment was that she was missing out on pistol shooting. The class had filled up before she registered.

"I've asked guys to teach me how to shoot a gun and they don't want to teach me," she said. "They don't want me to know how. These women will teach me."

T

A

H

N

K

S

Dear Louisa County Soil and Water
Conservation District Members,

I would like to thank you for
honoring me as your Teacher of
the Year for 2002. I believe
strongly in the importance of
environmental education and
am honored to receive an award
for my work in such an
important area. Thank you.

A

L O T

Sincerely,
Karen Minnis



www.hallmark.com

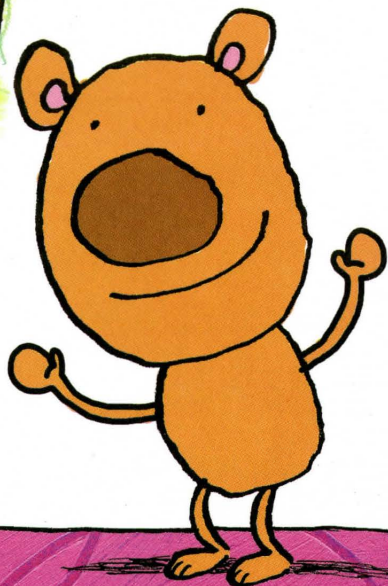


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THANKS

from the
Bottom
OF my
BUTT.



Thanks Drew for hiring
me + giving me a chance
to see the outdoors in a
new way.

Janet for taking me under
her wing ☺

Norm for putting up with
me + my ice cream stops ☺

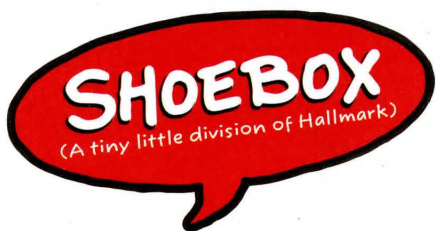
Chris — well just being
Chris

I enjoyed myself so much
& feel I learned a lot, &
wish I could've stayed ☺

(IT'S A LOT BIGGER
Than my heart.)

Keep in touch!

Betty



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www.shoebox.com



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Washington High School

Washington Agronomy Class
313 S 4th Ave
PO Box 271
Washington IA 52353

10-2003

Dear Mrs. Janet Williams,

Our FFA Chapter greatly appreciates your help with the Sub-district Soil contest. You did an excellent job organizing the meal and test. We are thankful that you volunteered your time for this event.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Brandon Bishop and the
Washington Agronomy Class.

313 S. 4th Ave.
Washington, Iowa
319-653-2143



Washington High School

Dear, Mrs. Mary Boysen

Thank you for providing the pop and candy for soils contestants. Also thanks for sponsoring the contest and paying for digging of the pits and the awards. This experience helped me in many different ways.

Thanks Again

Brayton Turner and The Washington
FFA

313 S. 4th Ave.
Washington, Iowa
319-653-2143

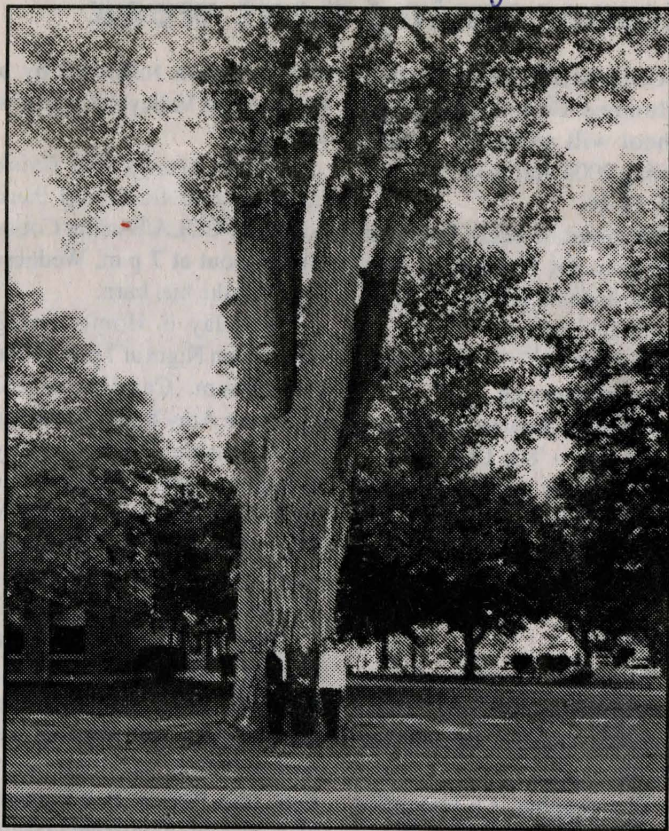
***Woodland Owner of the year**
David Pierce

David Pierce owns apporx. 300 acres east of Morning Sun. He has owned the farm since 1980. In the early 1980's David and his wife Carol started planting Christmas trees on part of their farm. They have been selling Christmas trees since the late 80's and early 90's. On other parts of there farm they have established mixed hard woods. On existing timbers areas they have completed many acres of Timber Stand Improvement. They have worked closely with Stan Tate the DNR District Forester in writing timber stewardship management plans. Part of David's farm has been enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and he has been established to mixed native hardwoods. He has received REAP and CRP cost share to help establish some of these trees. Thanks!

***Wildlife Habitat owner of the year**
John Dykstra

John's and his wife Geri own 160 acres called Pine Hill Farm. It is located west of Wapello approx. 6 miles on the west side of X37. They have owned there farm for approx. 50 years. Of the 160 acres farm approx. 50 acres have been devoted to permanent wildlife habitat. Some of the wildlife habitat practices that have been established include: 10 acre wetland, 1 farm pond, native grass planting, farmstead windbreak, field windbreaks, contour buffer strips, timber stand improvement, tree plantings, and nesting islands. John maintains woodduck and bluebird boxes on his property. John has received cost share and technical assistance form the Soil and Water conservation District to help establish some of these practices. John and his wife enjoy taking walks around the farm and enjoy watching the wildlife. Thanks!

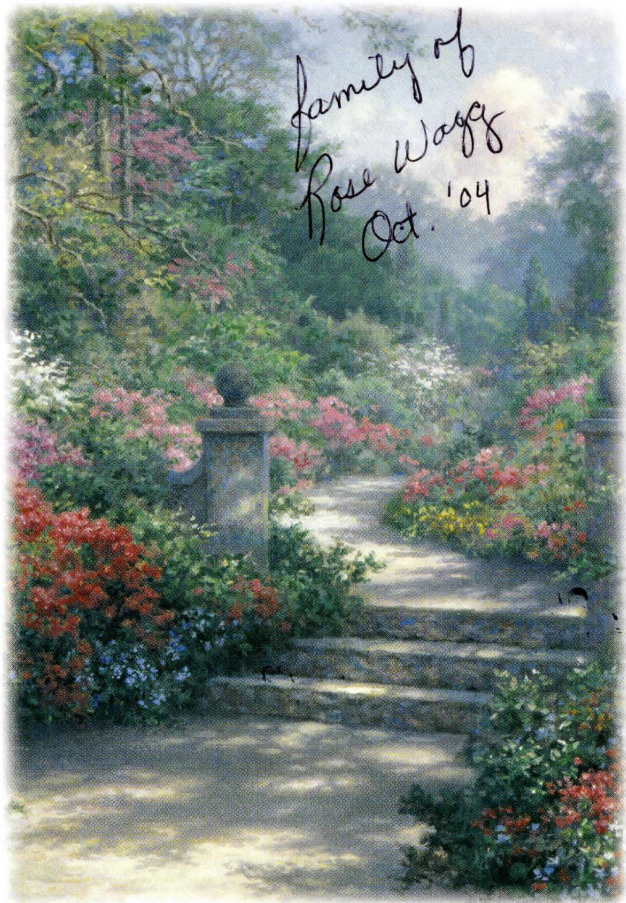
Oct 7, 2004
Wapello Rep.



Big tree

The cottonwood tree on the north side of the Louisa County Courthouse lawn is one of the largest in the state of Iowa. In fact, efforts are underway to determine if the tree is the largest in the state. Standing at the base of this huge tree are left to right, county officials Sylvia Belzer (Auditor), Vicki Frank (first deputy Treasurer) and Jean Brauns (Recorder).

family of
Rose Wager
Oct. '04



Debra, Janet, Kris, Chris, Duane,
Michelle, Mary, Sam, Lee & Greg

RECEIVED OCT 31 2004

We would like to thank
you for the beautiful
peace Lilly you sent in
my Mother's memory. Your
generosity & thoughtfulness
is greatly appreciated. We will
miss her alot but know
she's in a better place.

Karen & Norman & Family
Carric & Noel & Family
Doug & Debbie & Family
Tom & Brenda & Family
The Family of Rosemarie Webb

We have lost someone
very special ...
Thank you for
sharing our grief.



2004 Conservation
Award Recipients

Conservationists honored

COLUMBUS JUNCTION – Junior Gipple was named Wildlife Habitat Owner of the Year by the Louisa County Soil and Water Commission District during the Louisa County Fair last week.

Gipple's farm is located about seven miles west of Wapello. He terraces, has a pond, uses diversion, waterways conservation tillage, plans trees and shrubs and native grass and also uses filter strips.

He has a nice cabin on the farm overlooking the pond. He puts wood duck boxes and generally rears several broods of woodies every year and in the last couple years a Kestral has taken up residence in one of the wood duck boxes. He also lets church groups and 4-H groups enjoy his property.

Other awards:

- Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year (owner & operator) Don Kundel (owner) and Rick Wilson (operator).

Their farms are located southeast of Grandview. They practice conservation tillage on 1,000 acres; contour farming on 280 acres; grassed waterways on 10 acres; terrace 5,000 feet; have three farm ponds; filter strips on 8 acres; wildlife habitat development on 125 acres; wetland habitat on 40 acres; woodland management on 50 acres; and



Louisa County Conservationists were honored at the Louisa County Fair. Pictured above are, left to right, Rick Willson, Don Kundel, Dave Schweitzer, Junior Gipple and Ed Grimmer.

tree planting on 37 acres.

Don and Rick have been farming together since the late 1980s. They are very conscious in making good sound conservation decisions for the ground.

- Woodland Owner of the Year (Ed Grimmer)

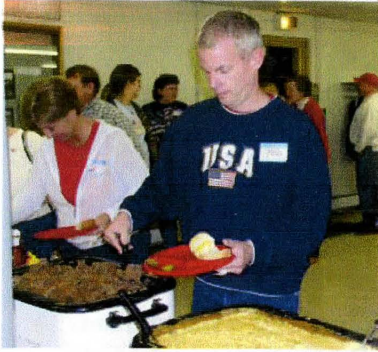
Ed Grimmer's 600-acre farm is located 4 miles west of Columbus City along the White Way. Most of the ground has

been enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Grimmer began planting trees in the late 1980s. He has planted 120 acres to trees and shrubs and has done Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) on 80 acres. He has worked closely with Stan Tate, DNR Forester. There are three farm ponds on the property. Long Creek runs through the center of the property. Ed

planted Walnuts, Red and White Oaks, White Pine, Scotch Pine, Red Pine, Norway Spruce and a variety of shrubs. He used some trees tubes in his original planting to stimulate growth. He maintained his tree planting by using some herbicide and mowing. The property is abundant with wildlife. Ed is a Master Woodland Manager. He has not

Continued on page 3

8-504
Wap Rep



Wapello County Tree Sale Wrap-up

The 2004 SWCD tree sales is now complete. Trees were available for sale from January 1 to March 14, with pick up of trees scheduled for April 16. Trees offered this year available in bundles of 25 were green ash, red oak, Colorado blue spruce and white pine. We also offered 4 specialty bundles which included 15 trees of various species. Shade Tree package: 3 each sugar maple, white oak, red oak, red maple and swamp white oak; Wildlife package: 3 each serviceberry, American cranberry, American plum, red osier dogwood and hazelnut; Evergreen package: 5 each white pine, Colorado blue spruce and Norway spruce; Nut Tree package: 3 each northern pecan, shagbark hickory, hazelnut, butternut and black walnut. This year we sold 116 bundles to 59 customers, totaling 2710 seedlings. Tree sale profits are used to promote conservation in Wapello County.

Submitted by Irene Whitson



In Remembrance



Mary Williams worked for the Louisa County SWCD and NRCS as

an Earth Team Volunteer for 4 years. She worked one day a week and dedicated 1526 hours of time for conservation. She kept the folders filed and was instrumental in getting materials ready for all the Conservation board meetings.

Mary hardly ever took a break. She made a mean orange cupcake too. She was the mother-in-law of State Secretary Janet Williams. She passed away on April 3, 2004, she had worked on March 29, 2004. Her death was unexpected. She enjoyed a long healthy life. She died on her 85th birthday.

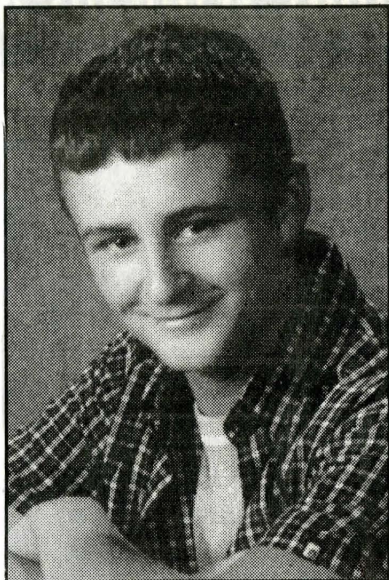
Vision Statement

To lead in the promotion, protection, enhancement and stewardship of Iowa's natural resources, for present and future generations, by providing high quality service to diverse communities through teamwork, partnership building, and innovative techniques.

Mission Statement

To encourage a customer focused approach by empowering employees to develop solutions that will result in continuously improving the way we deliver conservation to the land.

County Soil and Water Conservation District awards two scholarships



Matt Shutt

April 04

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District recently awarded two scholarships to area high school seniors. The \$350 scholarship winners are Matt Shutt of Wapello and Jennifer Hammons of Columbus Junction.

Shutt is a senior at Wapello High School and plans to attend Southeastern Community College followed by Iowa State University where he plans to major in wildlife biology.

Hammons will graduate in May from Columbus Community High School



Jennifer Hammons

and plans to attend either the University of Iowa or Iowa State with the goal of becoming a biotech engineer. In addition to the local award, Hammons will also compete at the regional level for scholarships from the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.

Funding for the local scholarship and other education projects is made possible through trees sales by the soil and water conservation district.

Numbers don't lie: Farmers improving the environment

Farmers are often unfairly criticized for their stewardship of the environment. Some people are quick to blame them for real and perceived problems, and, unfortunately, farmers are often slow to respond. While there are some bad actors, the majority of farmers take their commitment to protecting the environment seriously and the latest number support their efforts.

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, farmers nationwide created nearly 132,000 acres of wetlands between 1997 and 2002. Most of the increase occurred in the Corn Belt and Delta States where farmers have created, maintained or enhanced numerous wetlands through various wetlands and conservation programs.

This is a staggering number and reverses an historical trend that saw a decline in the development of these critical areas. During a 20-year span (1954 to 1974), about 400,000 acres of wetlands were lost nationally each year. Today, 36,000 more acres of wetlands are created than lost annually.

In Iowa, farmers put 57,490 acres under restored wetlands and floodplain easement be-

tween 1997-2003. Iowa has 125,715 acres of restored wetlands, according to the NRCS. Iowa ranks fourth nationally in number of acres of wetlands behind Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

But that's not the only positive environmental story involving farmers and the NRCS. U.S. Ag Secretary Ann Veneman said that this year, conservation practices were applied on more than 4 million acres of cropland while comprehensive resource management systems have been implemented on 6.7 million acres of cropland and nearly 12 million acres of grazing land.

In addition, farmers have planted nearly 260 million trees and shrubs on 403,000 acres, installed 477,000 acres of conservation buffers to protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat and improved irrigation water management on nearly 2 million acres. The latter effort alone conserved 5.9 million acre-inches of water.

So the next time you hear someone critical of farmers and their relationship to clean air, soil and water, tell them that the environment's best friend is a farm family. The numbers don't lie. Neither should you.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

1805 W Jefferson Ave.
Suite 2
Fairfield, IA 52556-4236
(641) 472 - 8411

RECEIVED DEC 17 2004

12/15/04

Mary Boysen, Chairperson
514 Isett
Wapello IA 52653

Dear Mary:

I wanted to congratulate you on the fine annual report from your Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District. The report gave an excellent accounting of your District's accomplishments this past year. Keep up the great work!!

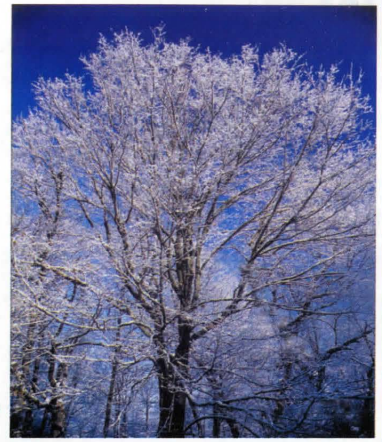
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BT", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Trautman
Asst. State Conservationist(FO)

Cc: Drew DeLang

PREMIERE
ISSUE!

Midwest

Woodlands
& Prairies®*A journal dedicated to the wise management of natural resources.**Winter 2004*

For love and money

Woodlands' charms spark rising demand



Avowed tree huggers Carol and Ron Fullenkamp figure in the growing attraction of woodlands.

Ron Fullenkamp shows off one of his walnut trees as a farmer might a prized herd bull.

"This baby has 32 feet of clear trunk," he says. "In 10 years it should be worth \$5,000, and in another 10 years, at least \$10,000." But Fullenkamp's warm feeling for that walnut isn't only about money. "It's just a beautiful tree," he says. "I've loved trees all of my life."

Ron owns and operates Fullenkamp Insurance in the southeast Iowa town of West Point. But he disappears into his timber every chance he gets. He and his wife, Carol, have devoted a good part of their lives to improving the 140 acres of woodland they own near West Point. They freely open their woods to visitors to help promote stewardship.

Their timber showcases thinning techniques that let in more light to allow the best trees to grow faster. Visitors also see how the Fullenkamps are reforesting a piece of land with plantings of oak, walnut, and ash.

The Iowa Tree Farm System named the Fullenkamps Tree Farmers of the Year in 2002.

As their seedlings turn cropland back into its original forest, the Fullenkamps are watching an equally dramatic transformation taking place in the demand for woodland.

"Some timber near here sold for \$750 an acre about 10 years ago," Ron says. "I thought it was pretty high at

Continued on page 3

*A journal dedicated to the wise
management of natural resources*

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Why this journal

Dear Friends,

During a long career in agricultural journalism I came to appreciate the science and technology that farmers and ranchers bring to bear in raising crops and livestock.

But I confess that I didn't carry that attitude over to my trees when I acquired 80 acres of mixed woodland and prairie here in the Yellow River Valley of northeast Iowa.

What's to know about timber? Benvign neglect seemed like a sensible course, followed by calling up a logger. The strategy wasn't unheard of in these parts.

Then I started going to forestry field days. I found a dedicated force of public and private forestry professionals dispensing rather intricate concepts to small but equally dedicated groups of land owners. It's a world that by and large exists under the radar of the general media or even the agricultural press.

I knew there was such a thing as tree farming. I'd seen those green-and-white "Tree Farm" signs. But I didn't know how complicated that managing a woodland could be. Or how fascinating. Or how relevant.

It gradually dawned on me that whether we realize it or not, those of us who own woodlands and prairies are the custodians of critically important natural resources.

If you need convincing, talk to the prairie people. They almost make you want to kiss the ground you walk on.

They remind us that our land, whether it's just a few acres or hundreds, holds the soil, cleanses the water, recycles nutrients, provides habitat for wildlife, and nurtures the spirit with its beauty.

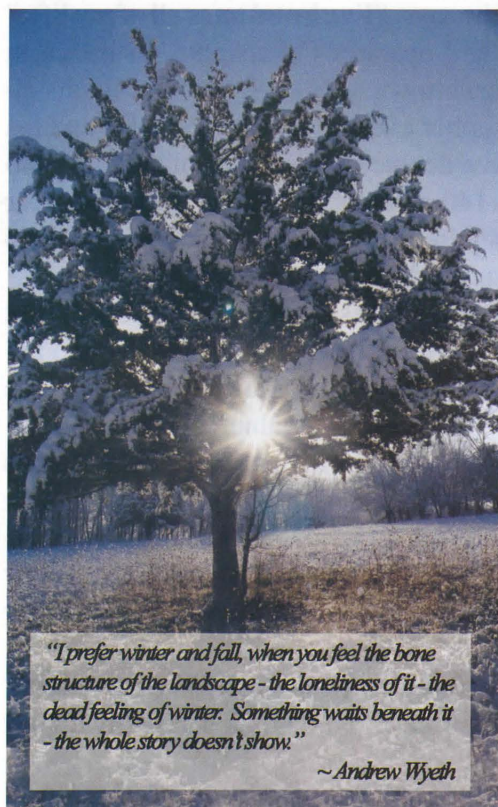
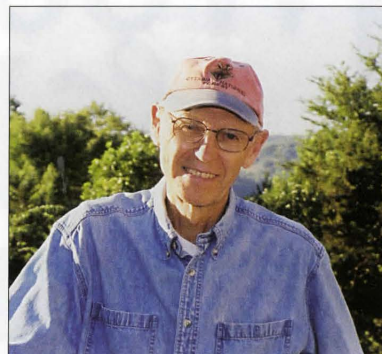
Did I mention direct economic impact? Even in Iowa, the forest and forest products industry generates an estimated \$1 billion a year in economic activity.

We don't rate many headlines, but we woodland and prairie folk are a big deal and getting bigger. There are more things happening in our part of the universe than you can shake a stick at.

To help bring them to light, we introduce this journal, *Midwest Woodlands & Prairies*.

I hope you will stay with us as we add our voice to the cause of wise management of natural resources. We share goals with any number of fine forestry, prairie, and conservation organizations. But we are not affiliated with them. As an independent journal, *Midwest Woodlands & Prairies* might play a similar tune but with a different fiddle. We hope to provide useful information from a fresh perspective that will help you care for your land. And we'll have a few laughs along the way.

~ Rollie Henkes, Wood River Farm, Monona, Ia.



"I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it - the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it - the whole story doesn't show."

~ Andrew Wyeth

Checkmate

A rural homeowner wrote to a mail-order house as follows:

"Please send me one of the gasoline engines you show on page 642. If it's any good, I'll send you a check."

In time he received the following reply: Please send check. If it's any good, we'll send the engine."

Decision

Wife: "Do you want something to eat?"

Husband: "What are the choices?"

Wife: "Yes or no."

Parting shot

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

When we try to extract anything, we find it hitched to something else.

~ John Muir

Continued from page 1

the time, but now that land would probably bring at least \$1,500 an acre."

You hear a similar story throughout the Midwest as buyers bid up prices of woodland. What's driving the demand? Observers see various forces at work, if not a Fullenkamp-like dedication to forest improvement.

"Nature lovers and hunters," says Duane Scheffert, with Key-Stone Real

Estate in the northeast Iowa town of Monona. "Not too many years ago, people valued woodland more like cropland," he says, "that is, on basis of its income potential from the trees. Woods were going for \$200 to \$400 an acre back then. Northeast Iowa, with its wooded hills and streams, is now a hot spot for recreational property. We're seeing some parcels selling for \$2,000 an acre on up."

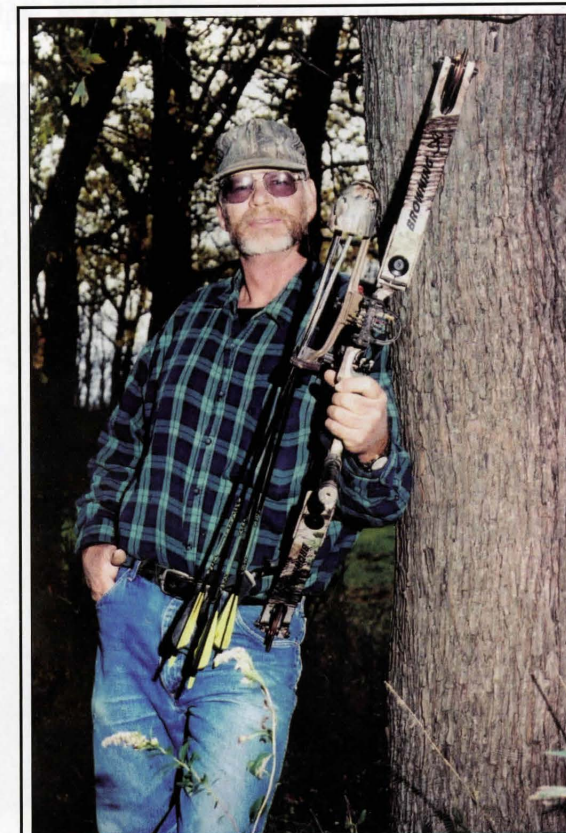
In the '80s in Minnesota's lake country you could have bought all the wooded land you wanted for \$50 to \$100 an acre, according to Brian Hanson, with Northern Lights Realty in Walker, Minn. Today, 40-acre parcels with mature trees are bringing \$2,000 or more an acre. More and more people are looking for retreats off the lakes, Hanson says. He cites the high taxes on lake front properties as one reason. Prices as high as \$2,500 per foot of lake frontage are also making woodland look like a good deal, according to Hanson.

Dave Schweitzer, a dedicated hunter, considers a day in the woods a success even though he might never pull the trigger or let an arrow fly. Just observing nature does it for him. "More and more people want a chunk of this world for their own to enjoy," he says.

Schweitzer, who lives in Columbus Junction in southeast Iowa, has been investing in area land since the early '70s, buying a mix of tillable land and what he calls "rough ground," or timber and pasture. Despite rising prices, he thinks rough ground is still a good investment. "I'm always looking," he says.

Diversifying their retirement portfolio entered into John and Catherine Mack's decision to buy 50 acres of timber near Central City, Ia. "We've tried to calculate the annual volume of wood growth as part of our long-term financial plan," says John, who himself is a financial consultant for AXA Advisors in

Continued on next page



Dave Schweitzer: "People want a chunk of this world for their own to enjoy."

Continued from preceding page

Cedar Rapids. "Some walnuts on the property could be very nice trees in 20 years," he says.

Meanwhile, the Macks are reaping other benefits as their sons, David, 16, and Dan, 14, cut and sell firewood. "Setting up the business has been a great

learning experience for them, and it has put some money in their pockets" their dad says.

"The family loves coming out here," he adds. "Timber is one of those assets you can enjoy while it appreciates in value."

If it weren't for marriage, men and women would have to fight with total strangers.



John, David, and Dan Mack: Appreciating an appreciating asset.

Minnesota forest land study shows higher prices, smaller parcels

In 2002, the average sale price of forest land in Minnesota topped \$1,000 per acre for the first time, according to a new University of Minnesota study. In contrast, the state's forest land sold for an average of just over \$200 per acre in 1989.

A strong wood-products market accounts for some of the rise, reports Michael A. Kilgore, assistant professor of natural resource economics in the Department of Forest Resources at the university.

In addition, he says, people are buying up Minnesota's forest land for hunting and other types of recreation, as well as for a place to build their "home in the woods."

The study also revealed that Minnesota's private

forests are being broken up into smaller ownership tracts. In 1989, the average size of woodland that sold in Minnesota was 72 acres. By 2002, the average had declined to 57 acres. The increasing parcelization of Minnesota's private forests has important economic, social, and ecological implications, Kilgore says.

Meanwhile, the state's larger forest parcels, those greater than 200 acres, have historically sold for about half the per-acre price of tracts between 20 and 40 acres. In 2002, the median price of forest-land tracts above 200 acres was \$439 per acre, while the median price of 20- to 40-acre tracts was \$793 per acre.

Kilgore can be reached at (612) 624-6298 for more information on Minnesota's forest-land price trends.

Consider a wetland

This option for problem areas soaks up runoff and creates a haven for wildlife

Thinking about building a pond? Don't overlook a wetland, says Iowa DNR private lands biologist Kevin Andersen.

Ponds have their place, Andersen says. But creating a wetland might make sense on many of those problem areas where poor drainage limits crop production.

Wetlands are cheaper to build than ponds, he says. You have to move a lot less dirt.

Less dirt but more biological diversity results.

Andersen likens wetlands to a kind of Grand Central Station for wildlife. He says many of the creatures on your farm will visit it from time to time—not just

waterfowl, but deer, turkey, pheasant, fur bearing animals, non-game species, amphibians, and a raft of birds.

Wetlands also foster a huge diversity of plant life, especially when you mesh a wetland with a prairie planting as the upland component.

Wetlands once covered 2 to 4 million acres of what is now Iowa. They formed an integral part of the landscape, sponging up runoff and adding to biological diversity. Today, they've dwindled to 1 percent of the landscape.

Andersen spent seven years helping to build wetlands in the pothole region of north-central Iowa. Then

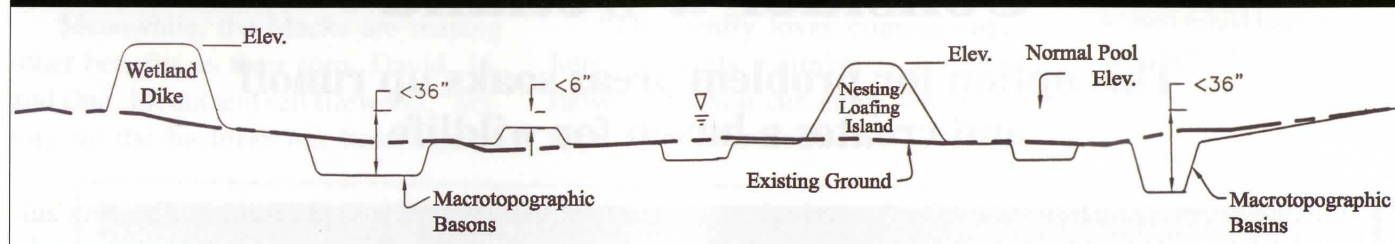
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Photo: Carl Kurtz

Typical cross section of a constructed wetland

(not to scale)



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Iowa DNR called him to southeast Iowa. Constructed wetlands were relatively unknown in the area, but the NRCS had several projects that qualified for cost-share assistance.

From the NRCS field office in Fairfield, Andersen began working with landowners and contractors. He left dozer operators scratching their heads when he pulled out his plans for a wetland. They said, "Whoa! We're used to building dikes for ponds."

Andersen said, "Go play around with the dozer and a scraper and dig some holes, and build islands with the spoil."

Working with Andersen, contractors built 42 wetlands in Jefferson County in less than two years.

"You have to be patient," Andersen told visitors at a field day last summer as they stood at the edge of recently constructed wetland on the Tracht Conservation Farm near Fairfield. "It could be five years or more before the area looks like a true wetland. But that's what this area was years ago before it was cropped."

"This corner of the field was always wet," Andersen continued. "It has an impermeable soil we call a hydric soil. Native plants will gradually come back as we restore the wetland. Though it was built only a year ago, we're already seeing sedges and cattails coming in."

The prairie component on the 10-acre site covers about 7 acres. Here Andersen planted a mix of native grasses such as big bluestem, little bluestem, sideoats gramma, and Indian grass. He included Canada wild rye, a cool-season grass, to provide more

nesting cover. He added prairie flowers such as black eyed Susan, partridge pea, yellow coneflower and pale purple coneflower.

"We like to have a range of blooming flowers in the



Kevin Andersen describes a wetland-in-the-making at a field day near Fairfield, Ia.

mix," Andersen said. "They're great cover for ground-nesting birds such as quail and pheasant. Blooms from May to September mean insects for the chicks."

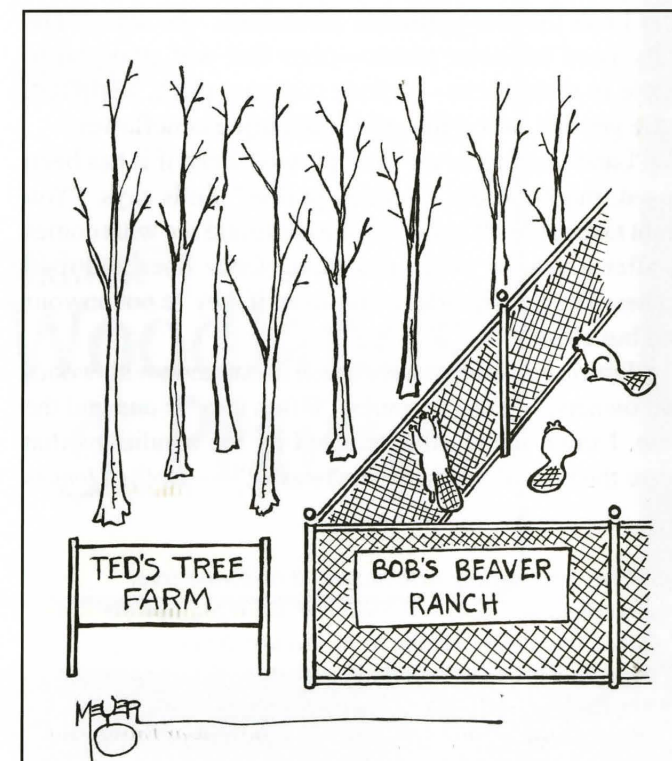
"You'll likely see stuff like button weed and rag-weed at first, but they don't mean a failure," Andersen went on. "The prairie plants are putting down roots. They don't start coming into their own until about the third year."

The continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) can provide financial assistance for wetlands. It's like the regular CRP in that you receive an annual rental rate on the acres you set aside for a wetland. However, you don't have to bid the land in on a competitive basis. A rating scale determines the rental rate, and you can apply any time. Cost-share funds help with construction. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) offers similar assistance in some areas.

These programs come and go, depending on funding. "I tell landowners to get their name in at their local NRCS office so they're ready for the next go-around," Andersen says.

"My grandfather and father drained wetlands, and I can understand why," he continues. "They were farmers and needed to grow crops to support their families. But now it's nice to see landowners restoring some of that land to its original state. It still leaves plenty of good land for farming."

~ Rollie Henkes



CALENDAR

Exotic and Invasive Species Workshop

Feb. 12 - Jester Park Lodge, Granger, Ia.

Workshop is part of a new comprehensive state-wide attack on invaders of Iowa's woodlands, grasslands and waters, from garlic mustard to purple loosestrife. Organizers invite attendance of anyone interested in joining the campaign against these pests. Experts representing the Iowa Invasive Species Working Group will discuss strategies. Workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is \$20 per person; \$25 at the door. For more information: John Walkowiak, Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Bldg., 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319. (515) 242 5966. john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us

The Woodland School Winter Forestry Conference

Feb. 21 - Kalahari Convention Center Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Conference tackles a number of financial issues in forestry, to wit: How can land owners work together on timber harvests and other forestry projects? Are woodland-owner cooperatives a good idea? How might forest certification affect lumber markets? For more information: Sarah Hultine, Woodland School, The Aldo Leopold Foundation, P.O. Box 77, Baraboo, WI 53913. (608)355-0279. tours@aldoleopold.org

Woodland Stewardship Conferences

March 13 - Sinsinawa Mound Center, Sinsinawa, Wis.

March 27 - Grand Theater, Keokuk, Ia.

A pair of conferences designed for woodland owners and managers featuring multiple workshops by experts on a wide variety of forestry subjects from chain saws to wildlife. Registration runs \$35 per person or \$30 for each additional family member. Registration is limited. Download registration material at <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/est/fep.html>. Or contact Extension Forestry, 253 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011. (515) 294-1168. phw@iastate.edu.

Master Woodland Manager Program

May 13, 27, June 3, 10, and 17.

Program includes 32 hours of intensive training for the more advanced woodland operator. This spring's program emanates from the Iowa counties of Polk and Warren. Specific location to be announced. The fee is \$30, or \$45 for couples. Class size is limited to 30. For more information: Paul Wray, Extension Forestry, 253 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011. (515) 294-1168. phw@iastate.edu.

Saving what's left of native prairie

Advocates warn against planting over hidden remnants

Be careful where you plant trees, say prairie enthusiasts. You might be planting over a priceless antique. By that they mean a remnant of the tallgrass prairie.

"If you find a prairie remnant that's never been plowed, you have an absolute treasure," declares Cindy Hildebrand of Ames, Ia. "It represents an ecosystem that's thousands of years old, and one that's almost impossible to replicate in less than a few centuries."

"Discovering just a few native prairie plants on or near your land would be like hitting the jackpot on the Antiques

Ready advice

Big brother: "This ointment the doctor gave me for my poison oak makes my arm smart.

Little brother: "In that case rub some on your head."

Road Show," adds Jean Eells of Webster City, Ia.

Eells and Hildebrand belong to the Iowa Prairie Network, one of several ad-

vocacy groups in the Midwest dedicated to identifying and nurturing what little is left of native prairie. (Web site: www.iowaprairienetwork.org.)

A tiny slice, perhaps one-tenth of one percent, of Iowa's original prairie has been identified in sites such as old cemeteries and prairie preserves. Advocates believe that many other remnants lie hidden in fence rows, along roadsides, beneath cool-season pastures, under brush and cedars, and in odd corners of so-called marginal land. They say these vestiges are continuously at risk of being dug up, paved over, grazed down, or planted over by uninformed land users. They claim even conservation-minded woodland owners have unwittingly planted trees smack dab in the middle of ground that harbored prairie remnants.

Advocates promote proper reconstruction of prairies through reseeding, but they say this effort can't duplicate the original. That's why they're so interested in identifying remnants and nursing them back to health.

Apart from their sheer beauty and other aesthetic appeals, these unique natural systems offer pragmatic environmental benefits, including soil building, carbon sequestration, and providing wildlife habitat.

Prairies are especially good at protecting and improving water quality, Eells says. "Prairie grasses and flowers sink incredibly deep roots, forming a porous matrix," she

explains. "Bluegrass or brome grass doesn't hold a candle to a functioning native prairie when it comes to soaking up water and preventing runoff."

Native prairie, as part of the native-plant industry, can even generate direct income. A good market exists for seed of remnant prairie plants. The medicinal properties of prairie plants are being explored. Some specialists are looking at prairies' potential as part of a pasture rotation.

Government cost-sharing programs such as WHIP, are beginning to help landowners with prairie restoration.

Prairie remnants survive in many parts of the Midwest, according to experts, even in some heavily forested areas such as northeast Iowa, where they might have been part of an oak savanna or on some sunny knob.

Soils maps interpreted by soil specialists can help individuals spot prairie remnants. Conservation agencies might also help, along with local prairie volunteers.

You can also do your own leg work. "Look for 'tip-off' plants," Eells says. "They include grey-headed cone-flower, ironweed, wild rose, saw-tooth sunflower, Canada wild rye, and horse mint, also called bee balm. These are what I call the less-particular indicators," she says. "The really good indicator plants—ones that will stop prairie people in their tracks—include compass plant, leadplant, bottle gentian, wood lily, and pale purple coneflower.

"Land that has never been plowed, even if it has been grazed, might harbor a hidden prairie," Eells says. "You might take cattle off a portion of pasture and see what comes up after a year or two. Look along fence lines and road ditches. They might offer a clue even if they're not on your land but close to it.

"Prairie enthusiasts have much in common with woodland owners," Eells continues. "Often they're one and the same. I think we're all fascinated by the conditions that create the best of whatever we're after." ~ Rollie Henkes

There is no trifling with nature; it is always true, dignified, and just; it is always in the right, and the faults and errors belong to us. Nature defies incompetence, but reveals its secrets to the competent, the truthful, the pure.

~ Johann van Goethe

Dear Reader,

Some systems renew themselves naturally. Unfortunately this journal isn't one of them.

To keep receiving Midwest Woodlands & Prairies, please fill out this coupon and return it in the envelope with your remittance.

Thanks for your support. We hope to make it worth your while.

~ Rollie Henkes

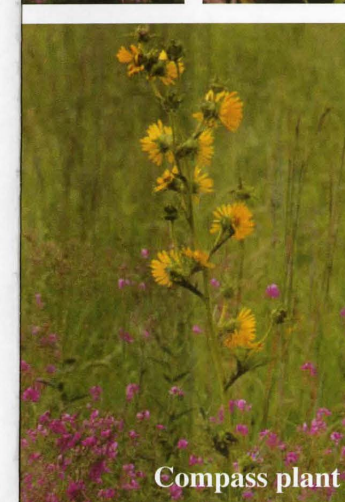
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Photos: Carl Kurtz

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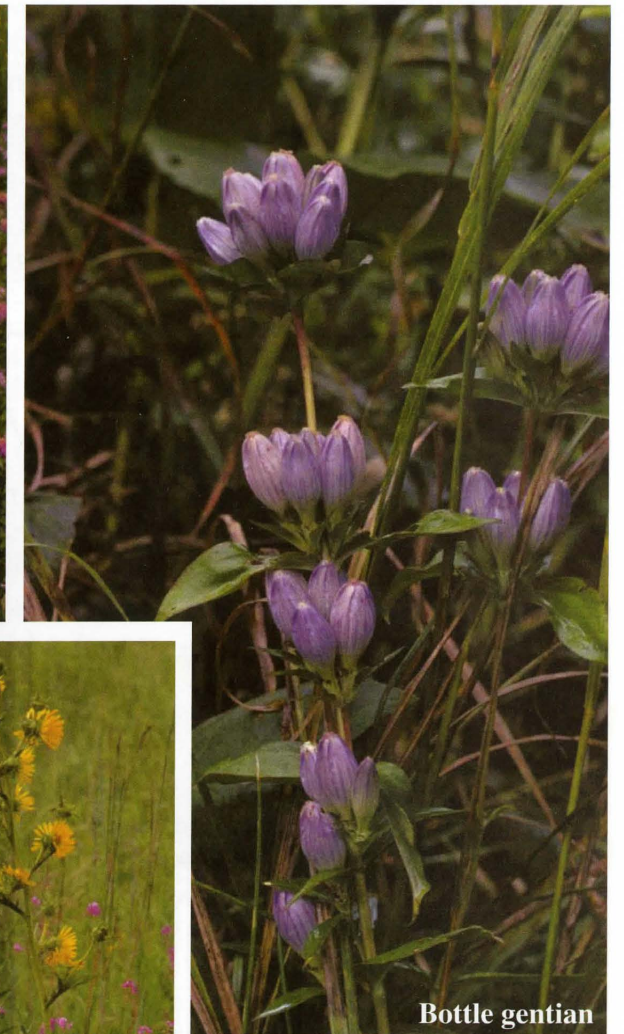
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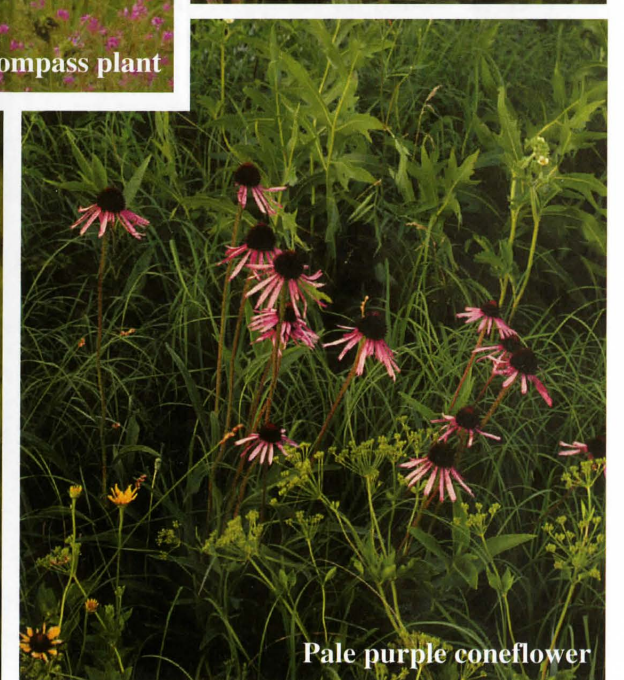
Compass plant



Wood lily



Bottle gentian



Pale purple coneflower

PROFILE

From radishes to red oak: Kevin Sand's unlikely journey to forestry leadership

Kevin Sand liked to dig in the dirt and plant things as a way to relax. He maintained as many as three gardens to relieve stress as a medical intern in Rockford, Ill.

Then one thing led to another.

He began to plant fruit trees. Then as a family physician in Decorah, Ia., he blew off steam by planting hardwoods—thousands of hardwoods. He planted them on parcels of woodlands that he and his wife, Leslie, had begun to acquire.

Before long, Sand found himself on the leading edge of forestry practices. In cooperation with One-Stop Forestry, a consulting forestry service, he helped pioneer direct seeding of hardwoods. Instead of planting seedlings, they scattered bushels of oak, ash, and black walnut seed.

Then he wound up joining Prairie's Edge Sustainable Woods Cooperative, one of the new woodland-owners groups springing up in the Midwest. Organizers formed the co-ops to promote environmentally responsible forestry practices while helping landowners capture a greater share of the wealth generated by their timber. In the past six years, nine of the so-called sustainable woods cooperatives have taken root in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Sand steps down this year as the first president of Prairie's Edge. "I didn't know I was going to get so involved," he says.

Sand traces his own roots to Iowa soil. He has happy memories of going out to his grandparent's farm south of Decorah as a boy. Back in Decorah years later as a physician, he and Leslie bought a wooded parcel that had been part of that farm. They picked up three other parcels of timber over the years to bring their total holdings to nearly 100 acres.



Kevin and Leslie Sand relax in their woods near Decorah, Ia.

Leslie, who was raised in Cedar Rapids, met her future husband while both were biology students at Luther College in Decorah. She now works as a pediatric physical therapist in Decorah. They have two children. Jennifer, 23, attends Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

Rob, 21, goes to Brown University in Providence, R.I.

Prairie's Edge grew to 79 members during Sand's tenure as president. Together, they own more than 9,000 acres of timber in northeast Iowa. This gives the co-op an excellent base for moving ahead with its business plan, according to Sand.

The past few months, trained volunteers have been surveying members' standing timber using quick-cruise techniques. "By this spring," Sand says, "we hope to have a complete inventory of members' timber with respect to species

*Practice safe speech.
Use a conundrum.*

and board feet. This data base could be invaluable in bringing buyers and sellers together to help members do a better job of marketing their timber."

The co-op also plans to coordinate management services for members, such as tree planting, thinning, road building, controlling invasive species, and whatever else members want done. Networking at field days and other educational events remains another major focus.

"It's all about improving the health and profitability of our woodlands through group effort," Sand says.

Sand still has trouble explaining how a pastime of gardening led to the leadership of a woodland cooperative. "You never know where life will take you," he says.

~ Rollie Henkes

Roots of a revolution in reforestation

On a November day in 1993, volunteers shoveled bushels of acorns and ash and black walnut seed out the back of a wagon onto corn stubble that had been worked up with a disc.

Kevin Sand provided three acres for the experiment. Today, a budding forest covers the site (photo at right). The experiment's success helped usher in direct seeding as a major method of reforestation.

John Olds, a consulting forester with One-Stop Forestry in Postville, Ia., hatched the idea with Gary Byer, a district forester with the Iowa DNR. They'd been frustrated with the poor survival of seedlings due to deer depredation and other problems.

"We knew that nature regenerates timber through seed," Olds says today. "So we thought why not try nature's way?"

The experiment looked like a bust the next spring as Olds searched for seedlings in the mat of weeds. But the seed kept germinating

through the summer, and by fall he and Byer counted enough seedlings to give them hope. By the second year, seedlings averaged 3 feet high.

Direct seeding looks ugly the first year or two despite herbicide treatments, Olds admits. But he says that after three or four growing seasons, the high

density of seedlings—thousands per acre—shades out competing weeds and grasses.

Direct seeding has taken off from there.

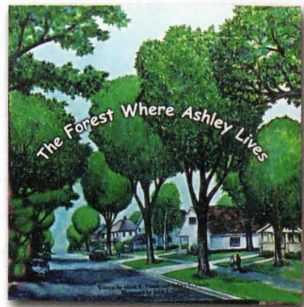
One-Stop Forestry direct-seeded more than 400 acres last fall. In all, it has reforested more than 4,000 acres this way since that bold experiment more than 10 years ago.



Direct seeding after 10 years: from a corn field to a thriving woodland.

The work of an unknown good man is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green.

~ Thomas Carlyle



The Forest Where Ashley Lives

A story told by a 7-year-old wins hearts while teaching about trees

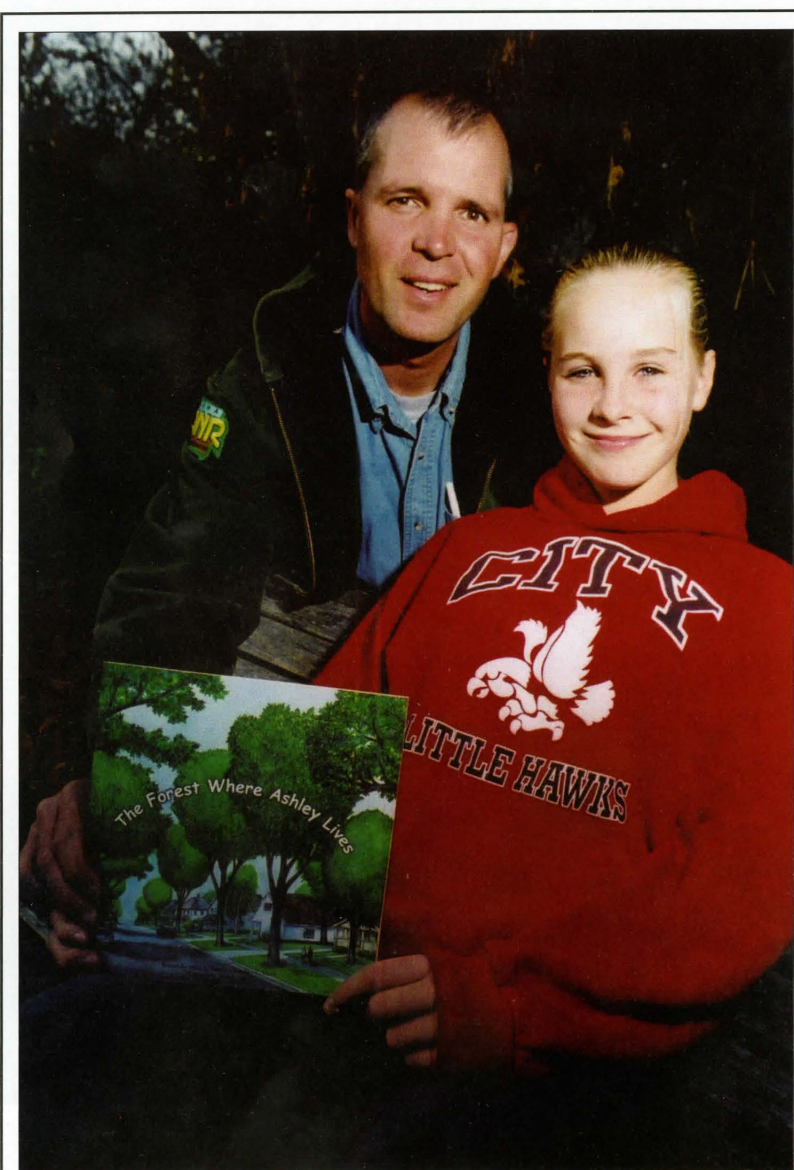
"My dad is a tree person. He's called the 'town forester' because he takes care of the trees in our town forest. Do you have a forest where you live?"

So goes the book, *The Forest Where Ashley Lives*. The thin, richly illustrated volume gives a child's eye view of a little appreciated but important corner of the world of trees—the urban forest.

The book was the brainchild of Ashley's father, Mark Vitosh. At the time, he worked as an extension forester at Iowa State University specializing in urban forestry. "Trees in town might not seem important to most people," Vitosh says, "but when you add them up along with all the other plants and wildlife, they make up an actual forest that provides a bunch of benefits. Yet I had never seen a book about urban forests written for a popular audience."

Vitosh decided to tell the story through Ashley's eyes rather than just saying "trees are good, trees are great." Ashley, then 7, got quite involved in the project. "I'd bring home a new page every night and we'd both go over it and do some editing," Vitosh says. "The process increased her interest in both writing and reading."

Several things have happened since the book came out in 2000. Ashley has turned 13. Her dad is now a DNR district forester in the Iowa City area. The book has become one of the most popular publications ever published by Iowa State University Extension, with some 30,000 copies distributed. And last



Mark and Ashley Vitosh teamed up to produce an appealing book about forestry.

year, the ISU forestry staff produced a companion CD that branches out the message.

Vitosh aimed the book mainly at elementary-school children. The CD brings a wealth of forestry information to older students as well as adults, using the book as a stepping stone.

Ashley herself narrates the book as the pages roll up on the computer screen. Clicking on some of the illustrations takes students deeper into various subjects, such as tree identification and the process of photosynthesis. Another section helps teachers with lesson plans on forestry. They can download more than a dozen publications on related topics. Other links take them to forestry sites on the World Wide Web.

Chris Feeley and John L. Smith, forestry specialists with the ISU Department of Resource Ecology and Management, designed and produced the CD. Smith also illustrated the book.

Feeley goes out to elementary schools in Iowa to teach a short course on community forestry. "That's where we got the idea for the CD," Feeley says. "Teachers wanted something that went beyond the usual textbooks."

The book and CD have been distributed to every public school in Iowa, and orders keep coming in from other states. A teacher in Colorado recently ordered 80 CDs for every desktop computer in her classes.

A Spanish-language version of the CD will be out this spring.

The book has shown up as far away as Russia.

Working through a non-profit group, the city of Clinton, Ia., buys about 500 of the books each year as part of its Arbor Day celebration. Third graders get the book and a small tree.

The book has also figured into the aftermath of 9/11. Members of the Iowa Arborist Association wanted to send tree seedlings to the stricken area, but the city turned them down. So the association sent 200 copies of the book to all of the schools in Lower Manhattan.

The CD works for all ages. Feeley and fellow extension forester Paul Wray take it along when they teach adult short courses.

The CD-book combo sells for \$8, or \$3 and \$5 respectively for the book and CD. They can be ordered from Extension Distribution, 119 Printing and Publications Building, ISU, Ames, Ia., 50011. (515) 294-5247.

Short handed

When Slim and Jim were working for the park service last summer, Slim would dig a hole and Jim would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked furiously all day without rest.

A park ranger came up and said to Slim, "We appreciate your effort, but what's the story? You dig a hole and your partner follows behind and fills it up again."

Slim wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, normally we're a three-man team, but the guy who plants the trees is sick today."

FIELD DAY

NOTES

How grazing hurts

"Grazing doesn't necessarily have to have a bad impact on forests, but it's pretty destructive the way most of our forests are grazed. Cows love to eat species like walnut, ash, and oak. They don't like honey locust, multiflora rose or prickly ash. So grazed forests tend to get more of the grazing-resistant species. Ironwood is a fairly long-lived understory tree that tolerates tremendous shade. It also emits chemicals that prevent other seedlings from coming in. Cattle won't eat ironwood. I can show you forests that haven't been grazed for 50 years but ironwood still dominates the understory."

~ Stan Tate, Iowa DNR district forester, at the Shimek State Forest forestry field day, October 03.

Bring back oak

"Unless we can find a way of re-establishing our oak stands, we're going to lose oak woodlands that have been here for thousands of years. With those woodlands go hundreds of other species, including the many wildlife species that depend on oak for food. Many hundreds of understory plants alone were associated with the open oak woodlands that existed in Iowa in settlement times. If we think about favoring oaks in reforestation and then start introducing understory species, we'll be keeping many of other species alive at the same time. Periodic fires maintained oak woodlands. People are now starting to do prescribed burning in woodlands just as they have been doing with prairies."

~ Connie Mutel, historian and archivist, IIHR - Hydrosience & Engineering, University of Iowa, at the Johnson County forestry field day, October 03

Tips on thinning for stand improvement

As a field-day audience looked on, Gary Beyer fired up a chain saw and made two parallel cuts to double girdle a hickory at the Yellow River State Forest in northeast Iowa.

The Iowa DNR district forester was demonstrating thinning techniques for timber stand improvement.

Here's some of what he told the assembled.

Double-girdling is a useful way to remove a tree that's a desirable species but one that might be poorly formed or otherwise competing with better trees.

Cut at least a half inch through the cambium layer with the chain saw. That kills the top, or crown. But if you make only one cut, the tree might graft over and allow the crown to survive. That's the reason



Gary Beyer explains the finer points of double girdling.

for the second cut, or the double girdle.

The double girdle doesn't kill the roots. That allows the tree to re-sucker from the stump, which is OK if the tree is a desirable species and the new growth isn't going to interfere with crop trees.

If the tree is an undesirable species, you want to kill the roots to prevent re-sprouting. In that case, you can use a small spray bottle to apply Tordon into the cut of a single girdle or double girdle. If you don't use a herbicide, sprouts from the undesirable species will outgrow natural seedlings or the trees you plant.

Instead of a chain saw, some make downward cuts around the trunk with a small hatchet and apply the herbicide into the cuts. A

chain saw is faster, but the flaps formed by the hatchet hold the herbicide better.

For smaller weed trees, you can simply saw them down and apply Tordon to the face of the stump. Rather than a spray bottle, I think it's better to use a small can and paint brush when applying Tordon to cut stumps. This helps avoid runoff.

Never use Tordon to kill a tree of a desirable species. That's because the tree may be connected to trees of the same species through the roots. The herbicide can translocate through the roots and kill your best trees.

Avoid runoff when using Tordon. It leaches readily through the soil. If you're working near a body of water, you should leave a 50-to 75-foot buffer.

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~ Rollie Henkes

Nature does nothing in vain.

- Aristotle



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Louisa County's NRCS - Conservation assistance for private landowners

by CARMEN LAWRENCE
Gazette Staff

Gazette
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With all of the current debate going on about the environment and conservation in the Iowa legislature and federal government, many local, privatized landowners might be wondering what they can do to help maintain our natural resources in Louisa County.

According to Drew DeLang, the District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), there are many organizations within Louisa County and throughout the State of Iowa that can assist private landowners in doing just that. The NRCS is a federal agency established within every county to assist landowners using many different programs and services to enhance, protect and develop natural resources and wildlife habitats.

The NRCS works in partnership with several other agencies such as: the Soil and Water Conservation District, Pheasants Forever, Louisa County Conservation Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, and the Farm Service Agency. In addition to the NRCS, these other

organizations can provide technical help and may offer educational and financial assistance on top of what the USDA offers to establish conservation practices.

Besides the obvious reason of preserving the environment, why else should Louisa County private landowners look into getting involved with the NRCS and these other organizations?

First of all, there are financial and economic incentives to do it. Some programs offer annual payments to the landowners for conservation use, while others offer one-time up-front payments for

long-term easements for conservation use. Most include government funds to share in the costs of installing conservation measures.

Secondly, the NRCS of the USDA helps plan and use conservation practices on private lands. They also provide technical assistance on a day-to-day basis to contribute to the value of the Farm Bill conservation programs.

If you're not eligible to participate in the numerous programs offered, you can still be

continued on page 9

Louisa Soil and Water Commission

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet January 8, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. For more information please contact the office at 514 Isett, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

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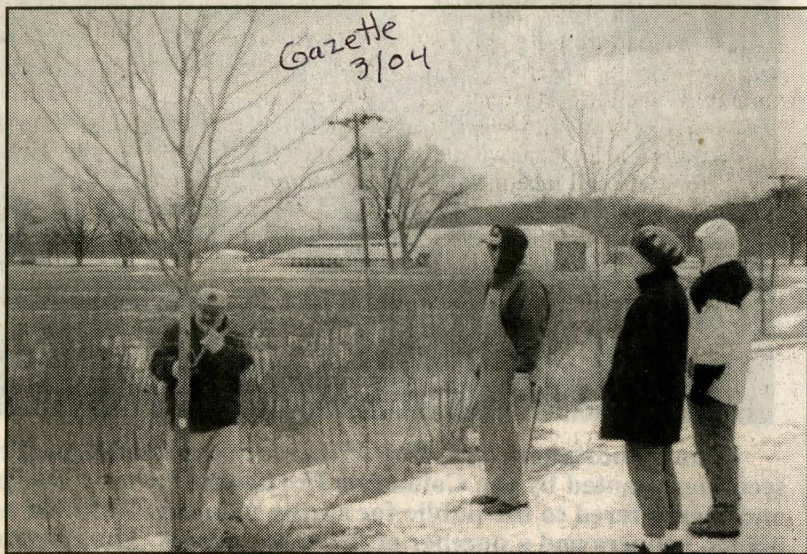
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out and seeing the terrace.
We truly appreciate the time and
~~the~~ effort you put into making
the day a success.

Sincerely,
Montana

Trees Forever and Alliant Energy sponsors tree planting project



Trees Forever of Columbus Junction, in partnership with Alliant Energy is sponsoring our annual tree planting project locally. Order forms can be picked up at these local businesses: C.J. City Hall, Community Bank, LeReyna, C.J. State Bank, Columbus Gazette and Robertson Real Estate. The deadline to return the filled in forms to same businesses will be April 2, 2004. We help fund

half the cost of most trees and they are excellent stock. Planting date will be Saturday, June 5, 2004. Any questions call Roger Hunt 728-2064 or Judy Prior 728-2036.

On Saturday, February 28, 2004 some Trees Forever members held a tree pruning demonstration at the County Fairgrounds and got about 20 young trees pruned in the process.

The Wapello Republican • Thursday, January 22, 2004

For Your Information

EQIP meeting scheduled

WAPELLO – A follow-up meeting on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at the State Bank of Wapello meeting room. Drew DeLang, district conservationist, will review the past year's accomplishments and discuss where the county's priorities should be for next year. EQIP is a cost share program that assists landowners with conservation work needed on their land. Applications for the program can be made at the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office in Wapello. For more information call the NRCS office at 319-523-6411.

1/22/04 Wap Reg.

For Your Information

Louisa Soil & Water meeting Jan. 8

WAPELLO – The Louisa Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 8, at the NRCS Office, 514 Isett. For more information please contact the office or phone 523-6411.