

Erosion program checked

In their meeting on Monday, June 20, the Louisa County Soil District Commissioners discussed a wind erosion incentive program, which could have some benefit in Louisa County.

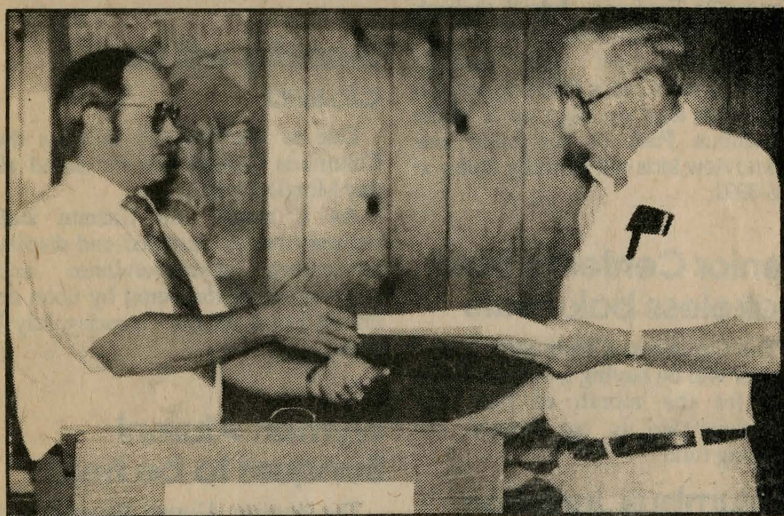
According to SCS official Randy Phelan, the Wind Erosion Control Incentive Program (WECIP) would provide a farmer with \$30 per acre up-front, provided that the farmer use conservation tilling methods and maintains the land in that state for five

years.

Phelan said that the WECIP program—which is only eligible to farmers with land near public roads, to help prevent erosion across them—may have some benefit in some sandier areas of the county, such as Muscatine Island.

Also, the commissioners approved 5,000 acres of conservation compliance plans in the county.

This Week's News



Soil survey unveiled at Wapello meeting

Lee Roudybush (left), a member of the Louisa County District Soil Commissioners, hands the first copy of the newly-completed county soil survey to supervisor E. Elmer Thomas. The survey was formally unveiled at a meeting Friday, June 24 at the Tom-a-hawk Restaurant in Wapello.

The survey, which is a joint project between the county, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), and Iowa State University, has been in the works since 1973. Field work began in 1979, and was completed in 1983.

Representatives from the ASCS and Iowa State University were present at Friday's meeting, as well as county assessor Peggy Brockway. Uses for the survey—which gives detailed soil information on every plot in the county—include:

- Determining what measure of agricultural chemicals (herbicides and pesticides) are most effective for a farmer's particular soil types.
- Finding out what soils are best for certain non-agricultural uses, such as installing a septic tank.
- Finding out approximately how productive a soil can be—an important factor in accurately figuring the taxable value of farmland.

The survey is free to all interested persons, and will be distributed in a series of public meetings on July 6-7.

Meeting locations include the L-M cafeteria (7:30 p.m. on July 6), the Columbus Junction State Bank (1:15 p.m., July 7), the Farm Bureau office in Wapello (7:30 p.m., July 7), the Morning Sun library (1:15 p.m., July 6), and the Oakville Community Building (9:30 a.m., July 7).