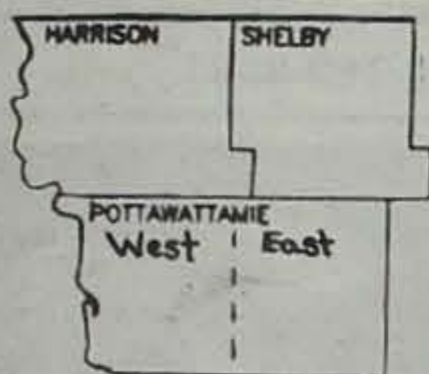
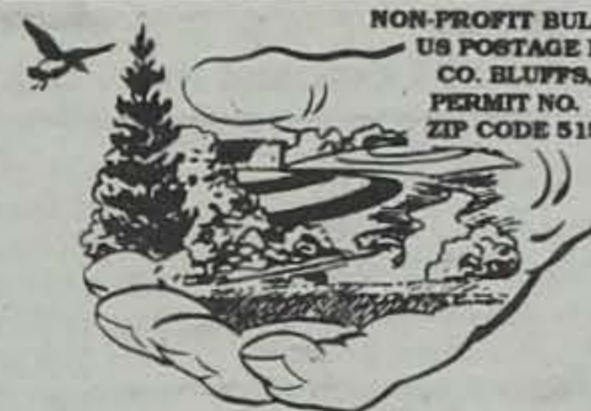




Volume 2
Issue 2

Quad-District Conservation Newsletter



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Summer
1997

Research Farm the "hub" of the wheel" for many projects

Lou Waite NRCS/AIS

The Armstrong Research Farm near Lewis is but one of the many projects of the Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development.

The Wallace Foundation was established in 1989 to "improve the standard of living and quality of life for the people of southwest Iowa." The goal was for this to be done by accelerating agricultural research, education, technology transfer and rural development. Today the foundation membership numbers over 2,000 people, drawn from the nineteen counties of southwest Iowa.

From its inception, the Wallace Foundation has helped develop and implement rural development programs designed to build economically and environmentally sound farms. It has encouraged farmers to strengthen existing enterprises and establish new ones.

Projects have included developing new models for livestock production and encouraging crop production strategies which focus on adding value to agricultural commodities. In other areas, the foundation has encouraged producers to diversify farming systems in a manner consistent with local soil conditions, topography and weather patterns. It is also a partner in a post-secondary education program that teaches new technology.

So how does the foundation gain all the knowledge imparted to landusers and livestock producers, one might ask. And in answer, one might say the foundation "practices what it preaches . . . and teaches. An outstanding example of that is

the Armstrong Research Farm.

The 400-acre farm in Pottawattamie County actually serves as the hub of many foundation projects. Much of the land is leased to Iowa State University's Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, which uses it for a variety of research activities.

In addition, row-crop and forage management studies at the farm focus on strip cropping, insecticide and herbicide trials, planting dates and populations, and weed management.

Similar studies are carried out at the foundation's Neely-Kinyon Research Farm, a satellite of the larger Armstrong site. There, in Adair County, researchers have been working to show how alternative varieties of soybeans can be grown and marketed, and how dairy heifers might be part of a rotational grazing system.

The most recent acquisition of the foundation has been the research farm formerly operated by the Walnut Grove Feed Company west of Atlantic in Cass County. Plans are underway to establish a learning center and a new swine technology program, to be conducted collaboratively with Iowa Western College in Council Bluffs. Expected to be completed this fall, the education center will provide classrooms for credit and non-credit courses. It will include facilities for two-way audio-visual communications on the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). The center will also offer graduate level education courses for residents of southwest Iowa.

The specific swine management classes will be conducted on the



Armstrong Research Farm personnel includes, left to right, Dennis Kent, Bernie Havlovic, Kim Jipson, Brian Buzzell, Andy Hitz, Bob Burcham

Swine Research and Demonstration Farm, an 185-sow modern farrow-to-finish operation. This farm was given to the Wallace Foundation by Cargill.

Dennis Kent

Dennis Kent, Livestock Supervisor for Swine Research, stated that results of a survey among swine producers in the 19 counties brought out some major concerns. In addressing those, the main emphasis of the research will be experimenting with three types of gestation systems:

- 1) Crated gestation system (in place)
- 2) Hoop buildings (domed), group housing with 30 per group, deep bedded with corn stalks, etc.
- 3) Group housing, no bedding.

Kent said that some of the sows will be farrowed out in normal farrowing crates, while others will be in free-stall farrowing pens.

All the pigs will go to a nursery, with progress records kept at every stage of their development. Cooperating producers will be given the opportunity to purchase the pigs and keep them at their own facilities. They too will be required to keep records and follow certain requirements.

"We will be looking for people with two types of swine facilities," Kent noted, "to take 150 to 300 pigs and continue in the program. Our goal is to produce 300 pigs every two weeks from the swine farm site."

At the time of the interview, the farm site was being remodeled and new equipment installed. A waste storage system will be constructed, and water quality well monitored. "We have a permit from DNR," Kent said, "and are following all guidelines, rules, regulations, etc. Actually, we are doing more than is required, since we are very conscious of environmental impacts."

Gilts (the breed to be decided) will be purchased in the fall, once the facility is ready for their occupancy. Further articles will appear, as the program escalates.

Dennis Kent has been at the research farm since 1993. He grew up on a farm in south central Iowa, and received a degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University. Primarily, he managed hog farms in North Carolina, Kansas, Missouri and for Auburn University in Alabama.

He and his wife Nancy live on a farm near Atlantic. She is supervisor of Oakland Foods. Their son, Daniel, is five. The Kents are

members of Cass County Pork Producers, and both have served as officers of that organization. They attend the Methodist Church in Atlantic.

Dennis said that when he has the time he likes to play "pasture pool", explaining with a grin that he "doesn't play well enough to call it golf."

Further articles about Armstrong Farm and other Wallace Foundation projects/farms will pertain to the cattle operation, cropping systems and the learning center.

Bernie Havlovic

Bernard (Bernie) Havlovic, Armstrong Research Farm Operations Manager, was raised on a farm near Brainard, in Butler County Nebraska and came to Iowa while in elementary school. While working on his brother's farm, he became even more familiar with

Continued on Page 2



During Field Days held at the research farm on June 12, Doug Karlen, ISU Soil Scientist, is shown demonstrating soil permeability.
C. Acker photo



Greg Mathis, new DC
(See story on page 3)

Research Farm

Continued from Page 1

"what it takes" to follow that occupation. He attended Iowa State University, receiving a degree in Farm Operations, then spent a two-year hitch in the U. S. Army.

He accepted a position as an Agronomy Technician for ISU, and later became superintendent of a research farm near Kanawha. He was instrumental in establishing a research farm near Crawfordsville and remained there until Iowa State asked him to initiate the Armstrong project four years ago.

At the onset, Bernie said he was involved with laying out the farm into different areas for different types research. Determining soil types with assistance from ISU and NRCS, he tried to best allocate specific parts of the farm for specific purposes, according to terrain, soil type and various other factors.

Conducting fertility tests and consulting yield statistics of the basically Marshall soils of the region, Bernie designated which tracts would be used for cropping and tillage systems, forages, horticultural research, livestock production, etc.

The first year focused on pasture renovations, utilizing the ISOIL maps. Forty acres was divided into 8 paddocks, then into 16, with high tensile wire on the outer perimeter and portable inner fencing. Water is

carried in plastic pipes above ground from a dam site pond, with some upper areas utilizing well water. In the gateways, however, the pipe is buried. The paddocks were frost seeded with a combination of legumes (alfalfa, trefoil, red clover) into existing fescue/bluegrass.

"Once the farm was established and laid out," Bernie recalled, "an advisory committee was formed. Our responsibility was to try to match field specifications at the university level and devise plans which would suit the local producers. An example would be specialty soybeans, organically grown and sold to Japan for tofu, a food product which is in great demand in that country."

"Then there is manure treatment and plots where manure is applied to cropland. We need to look at manure as a resource and utilize it in the proper manner. That is where research comes in."

"One area in future planning is the effect of animal compaction -- animals grazing on corn stalks, for example -- and what effect it has on the next year's crop. It is a problem? This study will be done and analyzed."

"With land coming out of CRP, we will have to determine how to correct fertility and PH when interseeding legumes without tillage. We will have windbreak demonstrations -- renovating one and planting a new one at the swine

farm. Wells are monitored for pesticides and reports go to DNR, which checks them monthly. These are just a few of the plans being carried out or to be implemented in the future."

Bernie said that more and more networking is being done with other agencies, such as NRCS which helped with strip-intercropping studies and low-cost waterway erosion control structures utilizing cattle panels.

The farm has had many visitors and various tour groups, including FFA chapters, high school vo-ag classes, members of the Extension Council, NRCS commissioners and many others.

A model is being developed where farmers of the area may benefit from the results of the research being carried out. "The center is addressing issues of rural development and education; it is not just focused on agricultural research," Bernie pointed out. "The center will give the producers the opportunity to continue their education and keep up with progress. Their children will have fiber optics to make this possible as well."

"With completion of the new learning center, we will enter into the next phase -- interaction with extension specialists staffed at the site. This will open up new possibilities as to research. Specialists will be more 'hands-on' involved with day to day experiments at the farm and on the various sites."

"This should produce better research as well as make the field specialists more expert at disseminating information and relaying or presenting it to the producers. The whole farm will become a classroom, with better facilities and a wider spectrum to



These Water Festival participants appear to be enjoying one of the activities of the day. See story on Page 11.

present to the general public and producers.

Then after reflecting for a moment, Bernie said, "It's always exciting to see something developed which benefits the land as well as those who take care of it. I'm privileged to be a part of it."

Bernie and his wife Maureen have three children: Matthew, a medic with the army in Korea; Sara, who graduated this year from Griswold high school and Andrew, a seventh grade student.

Maureen, an avid and proficient gardener, volunteers her assistance with the horticultural areas on the farm. Bernie is a member of the American Legion. The family attends Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Griswold.

Bernie admitted there is little time for recreation or hobbies, but they enjoy traveling whenever they can.

Field Day

by Michelle Zimmerman

The East Pottawattamie Soil &

Water conservation District sponsored one of the demonstration sites at the Armstrong Research Farm Field Day on Thursday, June 12.

Darrell Stamp, SWCD Chairman, commented, "A five foot deep trench was dug so the public could observe the different soil horizons, earthwork activity and soil structure."

Dr. Douglas Karlin from the National Soil Tilth Laboratory in Ames was present to explain points on compaction and permeability. From the soil pit, Dr. Karlin created a learning environment. Discussion featured guidelines for good soil health, and included a question and answer period involving observers.

Marlyn Von Wiehe, Vice Chairman of East Pott. SWCD, said he felt that the soil pit showed a growing need for future farming techniques. He commented, "Good soil health is an important component for successful farming and it is also important to see what is happening under the soil surface."

The Field Day events began at 3:30 p.m. with hayrack tours of crop projects such as soybeans and narrow row corn, with sidelights including weed management, manure application rates, soil pits, no-till alfalfa established into CRP, etc.

Following the evening meal served by the Cass County Pork Producers, a livestock tour was held. It also featured information on fiber, feedlot mound treatment, economics of feedlot structures, pasture finishing of steers, hoop structures for hogs, etc.

Special presentations were by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, ISU Extension, Research Farm and NRCS personnel.

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The environment could use

Von Weihe clones

by Michelle Zimmerman
Resource Planner

Imagine yourself as a tourist in Paris, France, admiring all the impressionist art. East Pottawattamie commissioner, Marlyn Von Weihe and his wife Darlene were in Paris visiting their youngest son, Mark, earlier this year. Mark is an electrical engineer who does software integration for a consulting firm. His job had made him a world-traveler.

Dan, the Von Weihe's oldest son, is a technology consultant and salesman dealing with law firms in western United States.

Marlyn and Darlene have been married for 32 years. Darlene is the Guidance Counselor for Riverside North and South Elementary Schools.

Marlyn has been a commissioner for four years. He feels that water quality will be the underlying concern for many of our future conservation programs. Soil erosion in Pottawattamie County will still remain our main thrust but still need to work on abandoned wells as it relates more directly to water quality.

He says through educating everyone -- rural and urban -- knowledge is required to understand that EVERYTHING affects water quality. Educating the public on conservation techniques and practices is also a goal Marlyn sees the district working towards next year. Another goal he would like to see the district fulfill is getting nonconventional projects done with Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) funds.

The laws that are associated with cost-share funds, on conservation practices need to be more "farmer friendly". The construction costs need to be equivalent to the value of the land it is protecting. For example, when trying to stabilize a creek bank or tiling out a wet spot, is it cost-effective?



Marlyn and Darlene Von Weihe

When asked about the future of terracing and no-tilling in East Pottawattamie, Marlyn responded with "Some farms have been completely terraced; some farms never will be terraced, and there are farms which still need to be terraced." He commented that no-tilling will continue, but the biggest concern is the weed pressure.

Marlyn farrows and sells feeder pigs. He farms 1600 acres with his brother, Doug. They no-till both corn and soybeans. They plant their corn in 30-inch rows and drill the soybeans.

Some other organizations with which he is affiliated are the building committee for the Carson United Methodist Church; Grist Mill (an active participant in the theater, raising funds for the new roof and also remodeling); and he is vice president of the Southwest Iowa Farm Business Records Association.

Marlyn is on the following committees for the district: Annual Banquet; Newsletter; Trees; Soil and Water Stewardship Week; Scholarship; Computer Information/Technology; No-till; EQIP core group. He has spoken to the legislators regarding Hungry

Canyons.

His hobbies include fishing and hunting. He enjoys all wildlife, especially ducks. He also likes remodeling and woodworking.

As I mentioned at the beginning of the article, son Mark is a world traveler. I believe he inherits that from his father, because Marlyn and Darlene are planning a trip to Alaska in the near future.

I have enjoyed working with Marlyn and admire his dedication to promote soil and water stewardship.

The environment needs more people like Marlyn Von Weihe.



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Mathis promoted to District Conservationist

Greg Mathis, formerly serving as Soil Conservationist at the Oakland NRCS field office, was promoted to District Conservationist in March of this year. Mathis accepted the position following the resignation and departure of Stan Buman, former D.C.

Greg, a native of Shenandoah, attended Iowa State University, then entered Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) in 1974. He was stationed with VISTA in Miami, Florida, where he supervised the purchase of fruits and vegetables for a food cooperative which provided supplies to low-income families.

In 1989, he accepted the position of County Resource Planner in Council Bluffs. During his tenure there, he qualified as a USDA Soil Conservationist. He later transferred to the East Pottawattamie NRCS field office in Oakland.

The Mathis family moved to Council Bluffs in November, 1996. Greg said, "I've enjoyed becoming and 'Iowegian' again, after 13 years as a Nebraskan."

Greg and his wife Francoise have three children. Their eldest son is a sophomore at ISU, pursuing a degree in engineering. The second son will be a junior this fall at Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs and their daughter will be an eighth grader at Kern

Junior High School there.

Francoise is Supervisor of Counselors for the Nebraska Job Service in Omaha. She is also in charge of Special Projects.

Greg commented, "I keep busy with my work and activities with my family. I am proud that our son is pledged to my old fraternity at ISU. My second son is 'hooked' on fishing, and has my 'help' when available. And our daughter keep us busy attending soccer games and band concerts."

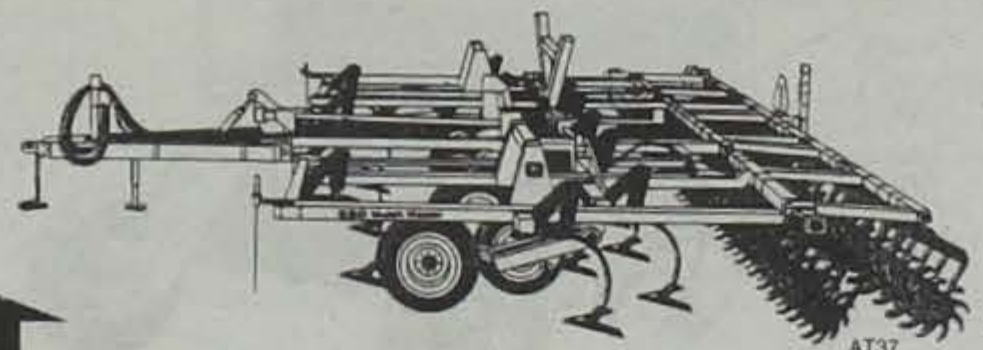
"We usually travel in the summer, visiting my wife's relatives who are scattered all around the country. This year, however, they are all coming to Council Bluffs for a reunion."

Greg noted that as the new District Conservationist, one of his goals for East Pottawattamie is to increase opportunities for farmer/producers to learn about soil tilth.

"I hope to provide them the means to better understand compaction, permeability and general soil health, to perhaps enable them to become better decision-makers," he said.

"I certainly have enjoyed working with everyone in the district in the past, and look forward to continuing serving them to the best of my ability."

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Warren Chambers has "never lived very far from Highway 6"

"I hope someone keeps this going. I'd like to think what I have done will be carried on".

... Warren Chambers

by Lou Waite

Warren Chambers is a third generation farmer who has followed the tradition of his forefathers. While still actively involved in a farm operation with three sons and other family members, he described his current duties as being more managerial.

Of the 1050 acres involved in the family venture, 950 are planted in a corn-bean rotation, and the remainder is hayland. Included are 20 acres newly seeded to alfalfa this spring.

All of the farms have terracing completed with the exception of 100 acres recently purchased by son Ward. Warren wryly described terracing as a "necessary evil", while admitting he does appreciate the benefits provided by the structures.

He recalled that his uncle built some of the first terraces in the county over 50 years ago. They were laid out by Richard Bullard of the Council Bluffs SCS office (now NRCS), and constructed with a 2-16 moldboard plow. "Can you believe that", Warren asked, "and that they served their purpose for many years?"

Warren and his wife, Geraldine, lived on a number of farms, including that of his uncle. In 1973

they moved to their present location in Hardin Township.

"I've never lived very far from Highway 6," Warren said with a chuckle, then noted that the current quarter-mile has been the greatest distance. "If I'm in a field of any of the farms and can't see Highway 6, I know I am lost!" he quipped.

The three sons all live on nearby farms, while also pursuing professional careers. Ward, the eldest is a cardiologist, as is the youngest, James. Steven, the middle sibling, is manager of an insurance agency for the Treynor bank.

Greg Mathis, District Conservationist at the Oakland field office, commented that this is a classic example of farmers who with today's economy must earn

additional income. Warren agreed with the concept in general, but said his sons live on farms simply because they prefer that kind of lifestyle.

Ward, for example, also has a large livestock operation, with one of Warren's nephews employed at that site. In fact, other than part-time help during planting or harvesting, all labor is a shared family effort.

Greg commended the Chambers for their dedication to conservation,



Greg Mathis and Warren Chambers

then asked "In regard to compliance, has there ever been any resentment toward being told what to do?"

Warren laughed, then replied, "Well, everyone complains about it to some degree. But I have always felt that if you are going to take money from the government, then it has the right to tell you what you have to do to get it. No one makes you sign up for the program, but I know more and more are dropping out so they can do as they please."

Greg good-naturedly reminded Warren of his first call at the farm. "Warren wasn't very enthusiastic about my suggestions," Greg said, "especially about no-till."

With a grin and shake of his head, Warren said, "I had a million things on my mind that day. But I have always felt a good conventional farmer is also a good no-tiller. You shouldn't have to be told how to do it. I am not anti-no-till... I feel higher residue is the way to go... but I am anti-chemical. Too many

chemicals are being used today. Too many young farmers are not using the little extra time it takes to properly protect themselves. That's why we have so many instances of younger farmers and others who handle chemicals being afflicted with cancer. That's my opinion, of course, but statistics will bear me out."

When asked to predict the future, Warren said he felt his grandchildren's generation would probably have a strictly corn-bean cropping system, no livestock, and use a lot of chemicals. He recalled reading an item which advocated 30" corn rows, or even 20". "They want to grow more on less land," he said. He noted that no one "walks" beans any more, and a lot of young farmers have monitors to take advantage of the Global Positioning System (GPS). "Computers are impacting farming operations as well as every other area," he

confirmed.

But after musing for a moment, he continued. "This is a Century Farm. My dad grew up just down the road, and all of us brothers and sisters except one live within three or four miles of each other."

"I hope some one (of his own descendants) keeps this going. They would be the fourth generation, and I'd like to see it kept in the family. I'd like to think that what I have tried to do will be carried on and even improved upon."

In addition to sons and their wives the Chambers have 11 grandchildren who have all been "exposed" to the family operation at some time or another.

Warren is a member of the Amber Masonic Lodge at Quick, the only rural lodge in the state of Iowa. Geraldine, a retired educator, is a member of Eastern Star, and a longtime volunteer at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs. They attend Mt. Hope rural Methodist Church, and have served on various church boards and as Sunday School teachers.

Mathis' final comment was: "As with most producers, there are more conservation practices which can be applied to the (Chambers) land. But Warren is a commendable example of the people who have made changes both in their operation and in their attitude, however reluctantly."

Residue levels

by Greg Mathis, DC

Did you measure the residue levels in the fields this year? Did you record it in your conservation plan file? Those figures can be used when or if you happen to be chosen for a status review. Your measurements are just as reliable as those of an NRCS employee. Just make sure to write them down with a date.

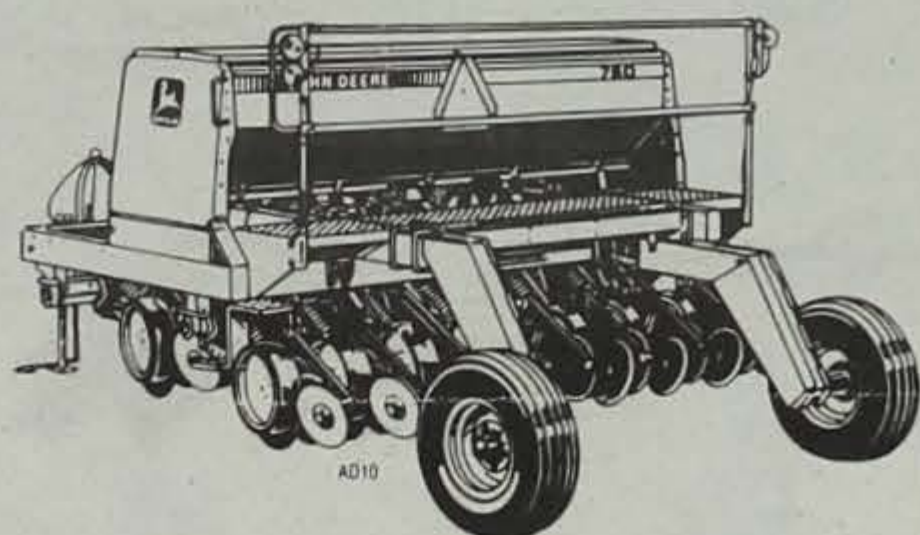
Residue levels are a big factor in the soil loss calculations. Higher residue levels calculate out to less erosion levels. That's what compliance is all about!

But taking that aside, higher residue levels have some common-sense benefits, too. Residue will, of course, break the impact of a falling raindrop before it hits bare soil. This prevents the first stage of water erosion. Residue absorbs moisture, as well as stopping or slowing down those little trickles of water, preventing them from collecting into a cutting rill.

Residue shelters the ground from a hot, overheating sun. It makes it difficult for weeds to grow. During a hard, damaging downpour, residue can collect in low spots and act as micro rip-rap, causing fast-moving water to slow down.

Residue eventually breaks down to become organic matter and plant food material in the topsoil. It does not need to be under the surface of the soil to decompose. The elements needed for decomposition are in the top inch of soil.

Residue levels should be considered when deciding your tillage operation or whether or not you should no-till at all.



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\$4.85 billion EQIP dollars allocated to 8 priority areas

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has replaced all federal conservation cost-share programs. County USDA centers will no longer receive a once-a-year allocation.

EQIP is a voluntary cost-share conservation program designed to encourage and support conservation of natural resources on private lands. It provides producers with technical assistance, cost-share payments, incentive payments and education/information.

A key element to EQIP is that priorities have been established and producer applications will be ranked. This includes how well the conservation work they plan to do will solve resource priority problems at least cost to USDA.

The 1997 funds are divided between eight priority area pools of money and a "statewide concerns" pool of funds. Applications compete among other applications from within each priority pool.

Iowa has been allocated a total of \$4.85 million, which will be redistributed to eight priority areas and one area with three statewide resource concerns. Pottawattamie and Shelby counties are located in priority area 7; Harrison county is in priority areas 6 and 7. Area 7 includes parts of 21 counties in southwest Iowa, while area 6 encompasses parts of northwest Iowa counties. Of the total amount, \$662,000 will be allocated to these areas.

The period for application began on May 19, 1997, and continues through August 20, or until all funds are allocated. EQIP applicants will be signing a 5 or 10 year contract, based on approved conservation plans. Each priority area has its own ranking system.

For example, after May 20, applicants at any of the NRCS/FSA offices will sign a CCC1200. An NRCS technician will then consult with the applicant at his or her farm and determine needs and concerns which are evident. NRCS will develop a ranking for the farm, based on practices to be applied by the applicant, and the amount of incentive payments.

By the 20th of each month, NRCS will forward the applications to a conservationist designated by the state office to serve each priority area. Producer applications will be ranked along with other applications in the priority area, not just within the county from which the application came. A point system is used, based on the preliminary plan and worksheet. If the contract is accepted, the producer will be expected to properly install and maintain the conservation practices approved in the plan within the time frame indicated.

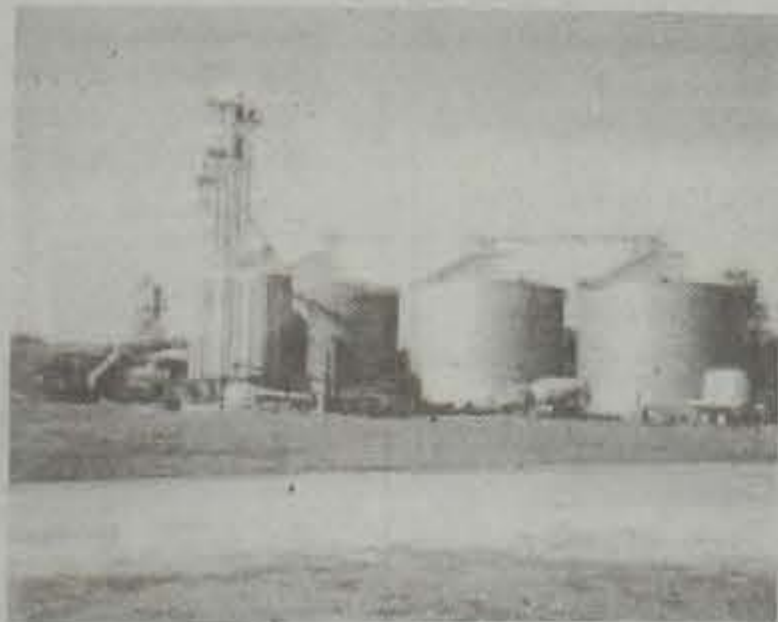
NRCS offices and each applicant will subsequently be notified as to which applications were selected to receive incentive payments. Payments are made to the producer when the conservation practices specified in the contract are satisfactorily established. One of the approved practices must be installed during the first 12 months of the contract.

Those not chosen will be given the opportunity to review and revise their application if they wish to carry out that option. The application, whether or not it is revised, will be re-evaluated with any new applications received during the next month. Evaluations will take place the 20th of each month through August 20, or until funds are depleted.



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Following are details of the priority areas 6 and 7:

Area 6 - Northwest Iowa

Primary Concerns:

- Soil Resources
 - Soil erosion by water
- Water Resources
 - Agrichemical leaching or runoff
 - Animal waste disposal

Secondary Concerns:

- Soil Resources
 - Build-up of phosphorus levels
- Water Resources
 - Accelerated sedimentation/deposition
 - Streambank and shoreline erosion/degradation
- Grazing Lands
 - Soil erosion
 - Invasion of brush
 - Invasion of noxious weeds
 - Loss of plant diversity
 - Loss of riparian vegetation
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat
 - Loss or fragmentation of native habitats

Area 7 - Western Iowa

Primary Concerns:

- Soil Resources
 - Soil erosion by water
 - Gully erosion
- Water Resources
 - Agrichemical leaching and runoff

Secondary Concerns:

- Water Resources
 - Accelerated sedimentation/deposition
 - Streambank and shoreline erosion/degradation
 - Animal waste disposal
 - Flooding
- Grazing Lands
 - Soil erosion
 - Invasion of noxious weeds
 - Invasion of brush
 - Loss of plant diversity
 - Loss of riparian vegetation
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat
 - Loss of forest or grass cover
 - Loss or fragmentation of native habitats
 - Loss of riparian areas
 - Sedimentation eutrophication of stream, river or lake

1997 EQIP funds will be focused on controlling soil erosion, improving water quality, improving grazing lands and developing better animal waste and nutrient management systems.

Practices will include, but are not limited to, grassed waterways, filter strips, manure management facilities, capping abandoned wells, terracing, integrated pest management, ag drainage wellhead protection and pasture management.

Other practices include tree planting, windbreaks, stripcropping, conservation tillage, wildlife habitat management and wetlands restoration, enhancement or creation.

Producers are encouraged to stop at their county FSA or NRCS office to make application, and/or for further information.



by Michelle Zimmerman

Let's take a few minutes to envision what is in your backyard. Do you see trees or shrubs, grass, maybe squirrels, a few birds, and how about any butterflies? How are all of these inter-related? **These are connected by ecosystems.**

Ecosystems are the interacting systems of a biological community and its non-living environment, and they also vary in size. Some examples include plants, animals and people. Ecosystems are made up of components including water, sunlight, minerals and consumers (plants and animals). Each ecosystem is affected by adjoining areas. What would the world be like without these ecosystems?

What is stewardship? Stewardship is preserving the natural resources which are found in the world. Stewards are caretakers and/or managers of the natural resources. "Backyard Stewardship" was the theme of the 1997 Soil and Water Stewardship Week, which was observed April 27 through May 4.

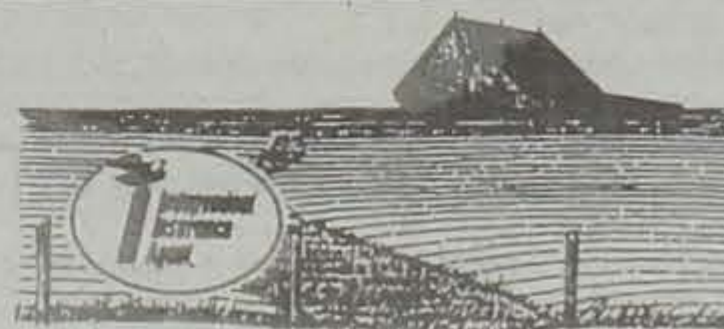
What can each of us do in our own backyard, schoolyard or neighborhood to practice and promote positive stewardship? Planting trees and/or shrubs sowing wildflowers and native grasses, building birdhouses and having bird baths available, mulching bare soil, composting, terracing the garden, installing drip irrigation, applying the correct amount of fertilizer and building a small pond for the benefit of wildlife.

In my capacity as East Pottawattamie County Resource Planner, I visited multiple classrooms and promoted Soil and Water Conservation Week with a small presentation and activity books.

Remember, each one of us needs to reward ourselves by making the world a better place.

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The plow changed history, but no longer has respect

by Lou Waite

A prominent conservationist once said, "The public has to set the needs and priorities. Then we can all work together to come up with solutions to soil conservation problems."

But the biggest problem facing those early proponents of conservation was the fact that one person's priority is another person's unconcern. That hasn't changed.

According to Don Muhm who wrote an early history of the movement, it was the plow which had a lot to do with drawing public attention to the new soil and water conservation concern. In a way, Don said, that had never been done before.

In retrospect, however, without the plow the concern would not have existed in the first place. Neither would agriculture, as we know it today. Actually, the "art" of plowing was once something of pride. "Oldtimers" in the area may remember when hordes of thousands flocked to the state and national plowing matches, to see who would become the "champion plowman."

Politicians hoping for the farm vote and agricultural company reps, touting their products, provided an added attraction. Thousands of rural people and others came to the plowing matches, with the whole event taking on a carnival-like atmosphere.

Extra color was added by the selection of a "Queen of the Furrow", usually an attractive farm lass chosen from among the district and regional winners of the contest. The "Queen" presented the ribbons and trophies at ag events, and planted a chaste kiss on the cheeks of the winners. It was heady stuff!

Later these lasses were known as "Queens of Conservation", which just doesn't have the same "ring" to it! But the title was changed because that concept was becoming more popular.

But back to the plow -- which is probably the most fitting symbol of farming or agriculture. No implement designed by man has been more enduring. But who invented it?

Crude plows were used in ancient Egypt when the pyramids were new. Greek and Roman writers made reference to the plow, plowing, and tilling of the soil.

In the most famous book ever written, old testament scribes mentioned the plow, which was really little more than a forked stick pulled through the soil by man himself. Later, it was pulled by draft animals or slaves, but still was a crude and inefficient tool.

In the early 1600's, Dutch farmers and other Europeans devised the moldboard type of wooden plow, usually drawn by oxen. History notes that this was the birth and/or breakthrough of what was to become the farm revolution. This was also the time when food production became a viable source.

Centuries later, it was here in the heart of America that technological improvements set the stage for the time when a food-short nation was to become inundated by a mountain of food and grain.

That achievement came about because in mid-America, pioneers had to cope with the tough, dense root masses of prairie sod. A new type of implement was developed, one which would peel back the prairie sod and reveal the fertile soil underneath.

That breakthrough was the introduction of the steel plow, the one single farm tool which can be credited with starting the food revolution. The steel moldboard plow designed by Deere, Oliver and others has lost popularity today, but for many years, it was the primary means of tilling the soil.

The plowing matches of yesteryear, wherein the goal was to have the most uniform, straight furrow, good clean plowing cover and neat field ends (turn areas) changed throughout. Contour plowing was added after World War II, and the contest continued to grow in concept and scope. It became one of the most popular ag events of the year. Terrace building was later added, and conservation field days were combined with the event.

But as conservation tillage came into the new age, it was harder and harder to convince presidential candidates of the advantages of appearing in a cornfield. TV was busy covering other scenes, and farm lasses found the Queen of Conservation title to be no big deal. It was time for a good thing to end.

Farm shows are still popular in the area, with sophisticated, computerized mega-machines and every sort of modern technology displayed. There are no Queens of the Furrow, no political speeches are allowed, and the rare plowing demonstrations feature a chisel plow pulled by the latest-in-technology tractors. Terrace building is still done, with huge "Cats" roaring and rumbling as they shove the soil into shape.

Somehow, the magic is gone. There are no crowds of onlookers moving through the field, cheering on the contestants. No friendly rivalry or gentle joshing amidst the throng. No acclaim for a simple, basic accomplishment by individuals who take pride in what they do.

The era ended with little or no fanfare. There are only a few mourners -- oldtimers with pleasant memories of those bygone days. They will soon all be gone themselves.

And then there will be no one who remembers.



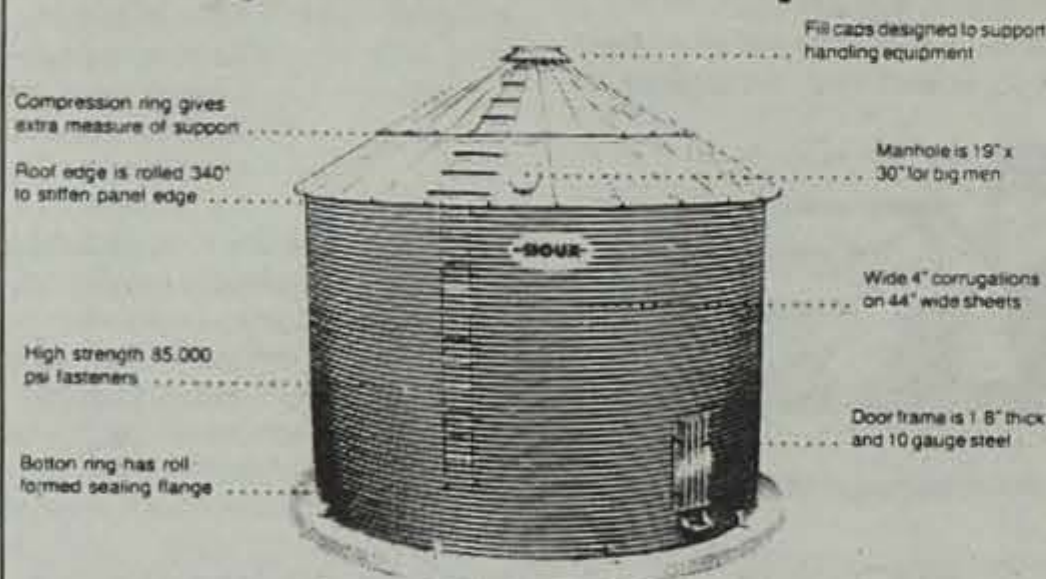
President Harry Truman spoke at the National Plowing Match and Soil Conservation Field Day, Dexter, 1948.



President Eisenhower spoke at a similar event at Colfax, 1956.

Story at left

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Remember when?

by The Oldtimer

... every farm had cows which were milked morning and night, come he- or high water?

... the milk went into the hand-cranked DeLaval or McCormack-Deering separators (and what a pain they were to wash)?

... Mom was in charge of the chicken flock, and the kids gathered the eggs?

... the egg and cream check would pay for a week's groceries with a little left over for rare luxuries?

... water was bucketed from the hydrant outside the back door and heated on the old cookstove, then poured into a round, galvanized washtub for the Saturday night baths?

... neighbors formed crews which went from farm to farm, helping everyone with threshing, silo-filling, harvesting, etc.

... the "hired man" was paid \$30 per month, plus a cow to milk, a few chickens to lay eggs, and a hog or beef to butcher twice a year?

... kids walked or rode ponies to country school, where the teacher taught all eight grades, also serving as janitor, nurse and surrogate parent?

... horsepower was the four-footed kind, harnessed and collared and hitched to the plow?

... "conservation" was not a topic discussed in the coffeeshops, and terracing a newfangled bunch of nonsense?

... corn was so cheap it was burned for fuel?

... no one raised soybeans?

... there were fields of wild hay, groves of walnut and hazelnut trees, wild plums, raspberries, blackberries, and tiny, sweet strawberries?

... almost every hill farm had a deep gully or two, used as dumpsites, even by city folk who drove out to add their share?

... the only fertilizer was forked into a manure spreader from the cowbarn or chickenhouse and hauled out to be unloaded on the fields.

... Farmers were respected?

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Hein's major focus is on pasture management

"Be aware that the most money is made in the inventory changes in the herd."

... Ken Hein

by Lou Waite, AIS

Kenneth Hein of rural Dunlap, has been operating the family Century Farm since 1973. In addition to the 195 acres belonging to his mother, Dorothy, he also farms 185 acres of which he is owner.

All the land, except 55 acres of pasture and a field of alfalfa, is used for a corn/bean rotation. Necessary terracing and other conservation measures have been carried out, following a tradition begun by Kenneth's late father, Ralph.

Kenneth's focus however, is on establishing an efficient and effective pasture management system. While the system was set up through assistance from Shawn Shouse of ISU Extension, and Gayland Hall of NRCS, Kenneth has done extensive research on his own. He has a large library of textbooks pertaining to all phases of pasture management/rotational grazing, and subscribes to a number of magazines exclusive to the subject.

One magazine he said "every cattleman should read" is *The Stockman's Grass Farmer*, published in Jackson Mississippi, but covering the entire country. Kenneth each year attends a seminar sponsored by the *Acres U.S.A.* which has been held in Kansas City until this year when it will convene in St. Louis. Kenneth also highly recommends Andre Voisin's book, *Grass Productivity*, which he proclaimed the "best he has ever read."

"Actually, John Tarnish, an organic truck farmer from Carroll, first got me interested in this," Kenneth recalled. "Since then, I have read everything I could find, and traveled all over the midwest, viewing similar operations. It has been very helpful to learn of other people's experiences, their research results, and what they have learned first hand."

Other information was gained "first-hand" by visiting a large

cattle/sheep ranch in Tasmania, Australia, and sites in New Zealand. "It was very impressive, to say the least," Kenneth emphasized. "My room-mate on the tour was a farmer from Wisconsin, who raises peppermint and spearmint organically. He has chickens and sells the eggs, but he also grows corn and soybeans. I think we learned a lot from each other as well as from the trip."

Kenneth said that when he was serving with the Air Force in Viet Nam, he went to Australia for "R & R" (rest and recreation). "I stayed on a cattle ranch during R&R," he said, "and had always wanted to return. I would like to go again, someday."

"Kenny", as he is labeled by friends and family, usually maintains an average herd of 35 cows and calves. This year, however, he has 47 cows, most of which have had calves, and the rest due to produce offspring soon. Thus far, only four calves have not survived.

then added with a grin, "They eat too much!"

The cows and calves are ear-tagged, and records such as the calving date, birth weight, rate of gain, etc. are kept. When "worked" in the fall (vaccinated, medicated, etc.) they are weighed by veterinarians. With that information, Kenny then can determine the "adjusted 205-day weight", considered by the

said was an "excellent stand". "I think this was due to the fact that the cows were in the paddocks when the ground was moist, so they actually tramped the seed right into the ground!", Kenny said with a chuckle.

"I tried seeding fescue into one paddock, but the cows find it less palatable. They like it in the early spring when it is tender, but won't eat it later." He said he has noticed more and more growth of Black Medico Clover, a native prairie legume which the cattle will eat.

Basin terraces usually hold enough water to supply the herd, but well water is available. A pumpjack, utilizing gasoline engines, carries the water through plastic piping laid above ground. One engine pumps the water into a storage tank, and another engine powers a transfer pump which flows it up a hill to where it is needed.

"I need an electrically powered cylinder pump," Kenny said, "and may change to that in the future. Cows should only have to walk 600 feet to water, and mine have to walk about 1200 feet, if they are on the far side of the pasture. I want to add to the pipeline system, and may have to change the location of the reservoir. The 3500 gallon reservoir was formerly a molasses tank which I got from Co-op, but it works well. It is steel, so no light gets into it, and thus no algae forms as it would in a plastic tank."

Fencing is of barbed wire, and the poly-wire cross-fencing is charged with a solar fencer. The cattle are rotated every five days to a week, depending on the size of the paddock and the number of cattle.

"I have found that after five days, allowing the cattle to continue grazing reduces the growth rate of the grass. It is not how intensive the grazing which is the prime factor, but allowing the pasture to rest," Kenny stated. "Last year, I rented another pasture and put up hay on my own. That way I will have the hay for supplemental feeding if I need it."

Kenny said future plans are to make the needed changes in the water system, subdivide the larger paddock and interseed more alfalfa. He is seeding canary grass, which

will grow in standing water, in the basins of the terraces, so that when the water is gone, the cattle will have the grass to eat. He will also carry out plans to change the breed of the cows to one with a smaller frame.

"If I were asked for advice, however, the first thing I would say is 'read the Voisin book, subscribe to the Grass Farmer magazine, and attend every event having to do with pasture management that you possibly can.'"

Then he added, "Be aware that most money is made in the inventory changes in the herd. Sell the cows when the price is high, retain heifers when the price is low, and begin building the herd back. Then sell again when the price is high."

"A \$1,000 cow at the top can be replaced by a \$300 heifer at the bottom. You can't make a \$700 profit any other way. And the years when you have insufficient cows, due to whatever reason, buy stockers at the low prices. There's no way to compete with that logic!"

Kenneth attended Iowa State, prior to his service with the Air Force, and attended courses at Central Missouri State College during his period with the military. After his discharge, he attended winter quarter farm operation courses at ISU.

With all this plethora of information, Kenny still modestly claims that he is "no expert".

"I'm still learning," he said, "and there is much I want to do. I don't think you can ever have too much knowledge, whatever your field of interest."

Gayland Hall of NRCS commented, "Working with Kenny has been a learning experience for me in seeing the results of the applications he has carried out. The research he has done and the knowledge he has gained through practical experience is certainly commendable. It is an excellent example of what is meant by efficient pasture management."

What's up in soil conservation



Kenneth Hein maintains an average herd of 35 cows and calves. This year, however, he had 47 cows, one of which is shown on the far side of the herd bull.



"Are you my Mamma?"

The cows are a Simmental cross, bred to a Charolais bull. Various breeds of bulls have been used in the past, usually a "three-way cross." But Kenny said he plans to initiate a change, seeking to reduce the frame of the animals. "Simmentals are too big," he said,

industry as the average weaning date. Adjustments depend upon the age of the cow -- the younger cows get a larger adjustment to weight, the medium-age get zero, and the older cows get a small adjustment.

The calves are usually weaned in September-October (or August, depending upon pasture conditions) and shipped to preconditioned sale barns in Denison, Dunlap and Moorhead. Last year the calves weighed over 800 pounds when sold in January and February.

Record-keeping also determines which cows to sell and which calves should be retained as placement heifers, Kenneth noted.

Kenneth's father practiced rotational grazing for many years, and his son has continued and expanded it for the past 20 years. The 55 acres of pasture was divided into 9 paddocks in 1996, and the largest will be subdivided this year.

Alfalfa was frost-seeded into established brome and orchard grass, resulting in what Kenny

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Overgrown, untamed timber no asset

Timber -- is it a wasteland or a valuable crop? Should it be managed, or just let go? Will some management now yield benefits or value in later years?

This article tells how a Harrison County landowner improved an overgrown, untamed timber, with my assistance and incentive funding through the REAP program.



by Brent Olson
District/Area Forester

Robert Romeo had 44 acres of timber in Sections 25 and 36 of St. John's Township which he wanted to improve for wildlife and future timber production of quality stems. His overall objective was to properly manage the tract in order to achieve a combination of benefits. These included wildlife habitat improvement, wood production, watershed protection, species diversity and recreation.

The timber contained typical western Iowa tree species, including Burr Oak, Black Walnut, Hackberry, Red Elm, American Elm, Mulberry, Kentucky Coffee and Locust. Also present were a lot of thorny species, such as prickly ash and raspberry. The latter growth was due to past abuse of the timber by cattle overgrazing, which happened prior to Romeo's ownership. Since then, the area had not been grazed for a number of years, allowing the invasion of the thorny species.

Existing were numerous pockets of good quality, pole-sized walnut, although they needed some attention. Bob and I walked the timber, allowing me to get an idea of what he wanted to accomplish. We discussed some of the possibilities for reaching his

objective goals for the property. It was decided that in order to do that, we would need to implement a Crop Tree Release System (CTRS) practice. This thinning practice would help achieve an improved wildlife habitat and the best possible wood production.

Crop Tree Release Management System focuses on selecting and releasing trees that will yield multiple landowner benefits. It can also be used to accomplish a single objective, however. This versatile system can be applied to both commercially operable and pre-commercial stands. It was carefully designed and researched to help landowners achieve stewardship goals for their land.

Trees are chosen which best meet those requirements. This often forces some "tough" decisions in deciding which trees to girdle. Girdling is a process which takes place after crop trees are marked and requires a "hack and frill" approach using a hatchet. A chemical is then sprayed into the cuts around the stem of the tree, to kill it. A half-inch-deep chain saw cut can also be made around the tree, then the chemical applied. Which method is used depends upon the size and type of tree involved. The resulting dead, standing trees will make excellent wildlife dens for birds, small mammals, etc.

In Romeo's case, once the criteria was developed for selection of the crop trees, the practice of crown-touching release was applied, to free those trees from competing ones. The landowner, being a very busy individual, decided to have a contractor complete this task. The contractor and I worked closely together, to make certain the procedures were properly carried out. Once released, the crop trees will respond with accelerated growth and seed production. These benefits will help achieve Romeo's objectives.

While you can improve the health, quality and overall vigor of a tree stand by removing the poor quality species, it is important to balance this practice with wildlife and recreational objectives.

Many of the existing walnut and oak trees in the Romeo timber are approaching harvest size. There are, however, many pole-sized walnuts and oaks coming up in the mid-range, which need to be released.

Some areas which have only poor quality species can be underplanted with high-quality trees.

Pruning (removal of the lower branches on quality potential timber stems) can be done on the larger diameter walnuts and oaks, but most of the branches are too large for corrective pruning. The

Scholarship winner

by Konda Slagle, Sec.

The Harrison Soil and Water Conservation District selected Michelle Lynn Lemke of Dow City as candidate for the annual IASWCD Auxiliary scholarship.

Each year the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Commissioner's Auxiliary awards scholarships to three high school seniors chosen from applicants across the state. The scholarships are to be used toward obtaining a college degree in any field having to do with agriculture or natural resources.

Candidates are considered for their outstanding scholastic achievements, leadership abilities, community involvement and financial need. Winners at the district level advance to regional competition, and state recipients are selected from the regional winners.

Michelle is the daughter of Larry and Marge Lemke. Her father is pastor of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Dow City, and her mother is a member of the staff at Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison.

Michelle lists her hobbies as swimming, music, reading, sports and working with computers. She collects post cards and two-dollar

bills. She has been very involved in many school activities having to do with music, sports, speech, drama and the Foreign Language Club. She has been equally active in church and community affairs, and as a hospital volunteer. She has worked as a waitress and lifeguard.

She noted in her application: "My special interest is horses, but I have never been able to have one since we have always lived in town." Perhaps her future plans will include fulfilling that longtime wish.

Paul de Neui, science teacher at Boyer Valley School in Dunlap where Michelle has been a student, said: "In every course of mine she has taken during the last five years, she has made a very positive contribution. She possesses a special quality which makes her admired as a student and a person. She has a very strong work ethic, coupled with an extreme amount of dedication and devotion. Whatever goals she has set for herself there is no doubt in my mind that she will maximize all of her abilities in attaining them."

Michelle plans to attend Simpson College, where she will study environmental engineering.

trees with smaller diameter boles can be pruned more successfully.

We did not find much of anything of quality to be considered for regeneration, so as to provide wildlife habitat or timber production in the future. CTRS will, however, improve the regeneration and increase yields of acorns, walnuts, etc., in this woodland and make it a very diverse and healthy forest area.

No cattle will graze the timber. Cattle cause many problems and benefit very little from grazing in timbered areas.

Bob and I also discussed doing some underplanting of Black Walnut, Red Oak and Burr Oak seedlings in open areas of the

timber. Very little regeneration was anticipated for those spots.

Managing trees for wildlife and timber production, as well as the aesthetic impact, improved watershed protection and other benefits, is like growing corn and beans with longer rotations.

Romeo applied for and was approved to receive REAP cost-share funds to carry out his Timber Stand Improvement project (TSI).

75 percent REAP cost-share funds will again be available in August of this year. These funds are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested may make application at any Natural Resources Conservation Service office.



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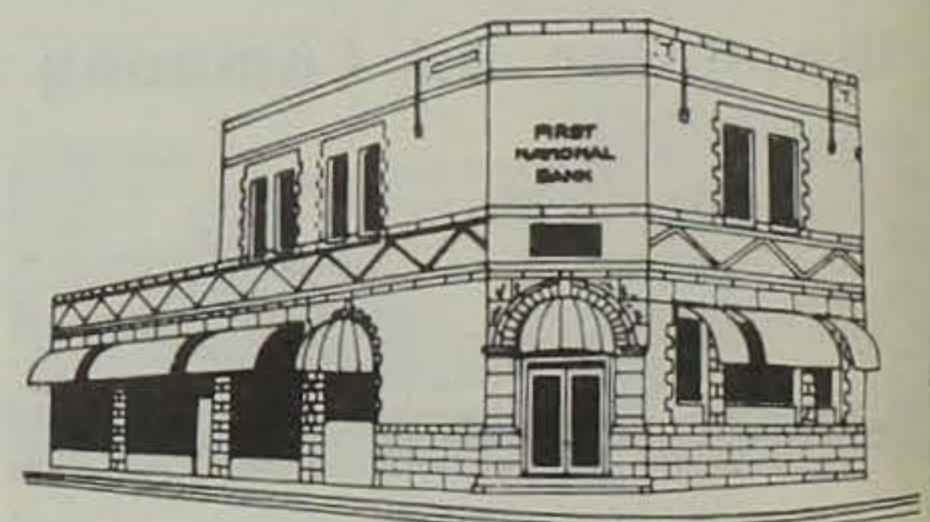
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Dust Bowl of the 30's may have spawned conservation movement

In the beginning . . .

Don Muhm, in his book *Iowa Soil Conservation - 1939-1979* noted that credit for the start of the soil conservation movement can be placed on many things and on many people. Some would credit the beginning of the conservation movement to the period that spawned the dust bowl days of the early 1930's. Hot, moistureless winds swelled on the drought-choked plains and whirled dust into mile high clouds which began to blot out the sun. Reports were that fine, red dust from Oklahoma rode the winds across the eastern half of the United States and left a fine, gritty, disturbing film on the white steps of the nation's capitol in Washington D.C.

It was the "dust bowl" - a graphic, unsettling illustration of how soil can erode and force people off the land - which perhaps was the spark that ignited the conservation movement. Muhm commented, "Perhaps it was . . . perhaps it wasn't!"

It is agreed, however, that one man, an early leader who eventually became a giant of soil conservation, was almost solely responsible for starting the movement which has since been a part of rural life in every Iowa county. That man was Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a North Carolinian who was the first chief of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. For three decades he sounded the alarm and warned of what was happening to the nation's valuable soil resources.

The real thrust to do something about the situation, however, came from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1937. In a letter sent to all state governors, FDR said, in part, "A nation which destroys its soil, destroys itself". This thought was often echoed by Henry A. Wallace, Iowa native and Roosevelt's Secretary of Agriculture. The rest, as they say, is history.

From the outset of federal involvement in soil and water conservation, however, national leaders recognized that something was missing; more - and more

formal - local involvement and support. The 1935 law that created the Soil Conservation Service foresaw this need and authorized the new agency "to cooperate and enter into agreements with, or to furnish financial or other aid to; any agency, governmental or otherwise."

Using this authority, USDA officials drafted a Standard State Soil Conservation Districts law, which Roosevelt included in his letter to the governors in 1937. The president urged the states to pass laws based on this model, stating that "to supplement the federal programs, and safeguard their results, state legislation is needed." In this new twist on federalism, USDA could sign a memorandum of understanding directly with the local conservation districts thus created. Later that year, the North Carolina State Conservation Committee was formed as the nation's first, in Bennett's home county.

In fewer than 100 years of farming, one-third of Iowa's topsoil had been lost. That was the main message in a report to Iowa Governor Wilson in 1939. It sparked the Iowa legislature to pass the soil conservation districts bill which led to the first meeting of the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee on November 30, 1939.

The movement spread rapidly, and within a few years, more than half of the nation had been organized into districts. The first Iowa district was in Marion County in 1940. Today districts cover nearly all of the nation's privately owned land. In the beginning, they were known only as soil conservation districts, but in the 1970's, they became soil & water conservation districts.



The first Harrison District Commissioners were Harry Acrea, Louis Culver and Joe Wear, shown in the above photo. These men and others like them were very instrumental in giving the soil conservation movement its initial impetus.

Harrison District

The Harrison County Soil Conservation District was organized in 1942, with authorization received by decree from the office of the Secretary of the State of Iowa on January 27. The original application was made by the first commissioners: Harry Acrea of Logan, Louis P. Culver of Dunlap and J. C. Wear of Persia.

Culver served the district a total of 40 years. He was a member of the Iowa Legislature, and for many years a member of the Natural Resources Council, the Western Iowa Experimental Farm and in numerous other capacities. He was instrumental in organizing Harmony Watershed.

Harmony Watershed near Logan was the first in Iowa to be approved under Public Law 566 (PL566) and the first constructed in the state. The Honorable Herschel Loveless,

Governor of Iowa, was present at the dedication ceremonies on June 12, 1958.

Present commissioners are Babetta Lucke of Persia, Chm; Zane McBride (26 years) of Logan, Linda Herman of Pisgah, Everette Wohlers of Missouri Valley and Anita Mether of Logan.

Assistant Commissioners include Dwight Mills of Dunlap, (formerly commissioner for 24 years); David Christensen of Pisgah; Bill Hammitt of Portsmouth, Doyle Knadle of Mondamin (formerly commissioner for 24 years) and Lou Waite of Woodbine (former commissioner).

East Pottawattamie District

East Pottawattamie SWCD was organized in 1942, with Frank F. McArthur of Oakland chairman of

the first board of commissioners. Others were Lester Coons of Carson and W. W. Weise of Avoca.

Other long-term commissioners have been Cliff Stille of Macedonia, commissioner from 1968 through 1987, and associate from 1988 until the present, and Ervin J. J. Koos of Shelby, commissioner from 1959 through 1983, and associate from 1984 until 1995.

Koos was active in leadership roles at state, regional and national levels. He held several offices in the Iowa Association of District Commissioners, including state presidency, and was north central regional NACD director for many years. Locally, Koos helped with the organization of the Macedonia Watershed, Bee-Jay Watershed and Treynor Research Watershed. He was state chairman of the land preservation committee for Iowa, and was named an Iowa Master Farmer. He received many honors in recognition of conservation work.

Present commissioners include Russ Brandes, James Twp; Bernie Bolton, Belknap Twp.; Darrell Stamp, Lincoln Twp.; Marlyn Von Weihe, Carson Twp. and Terry Gleaves, Center Twp.

West Pottawattamie District

Organized in 1944, West Pottawattamie SWCD was first guided by commissioners Glen Craft, McClelland; Ernest Harms, Underwood, and Don Anderson, Honey Creek.

Harms was described as "the father" of the conservation movement in the county, with some of the first meetings held at

Continued on Page 18

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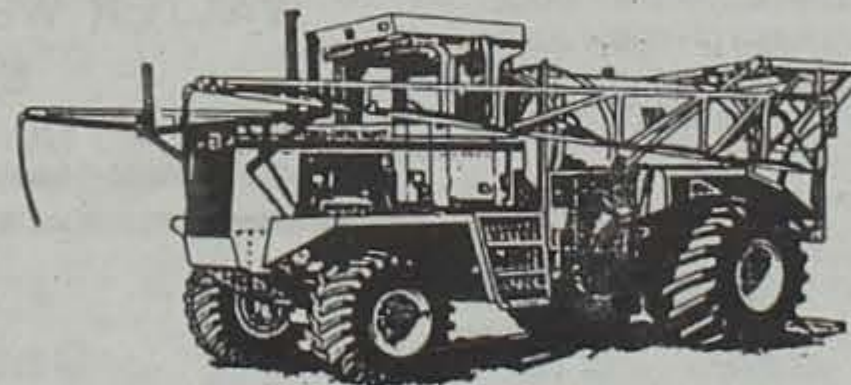


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Deitchler says farming used to be more simple; less interesting



Larry Kramer and Robert (Bob) Deitchler

Third in a series of articles concerning the USDA-ARS Deep Loess Research Station near Treynor

by Lou Waite, AIS

Robert (Bob) Deitchler of Silver City is operator of two field-size watersheds, W-1 and W-2, which are part of the above-named research station. The study fields are located on lands purchased and leased by the Committee for Agricultural Development (CAD), a corporation associated with Iowa State University.

Bob came to the farm in 1960 and operated it prior to Agricultural Research Service activities which began in 1964.

From 1964 through 1995 both watersheds were planted to continuous corn, implementing a conventional tillage system. But last year the farming systems were changed and the crops planted using a no-till system for the first time. Watershed 1 is in corn/beans only, half in corn and half in soybeans each year. Watershed 2 is in a 6-year rotation of contour strip cropping. The two systems will now be compared, plus variables which relate to soil and water quality.

Larry Kramer, ARS engineer and Station Supervisor, noted that the research was historically concerned with rainfall, runoff and soil loss. "We are still observing those factors," he said, "but the quality of the ground water and water in the root zone as well. We are also observing soil quality, characteristics of organic matter, structure, micro organisms, and nutrient balance under a rotational cropping system."

Bob farms as a tenant for CAD on a 50-50 cash basis, and he and Larry confer frequently, discussing "ways and means, results and procedures."

A rotation of corn and soybeans is being used now on W-1. W-2 is in a corn, soybean, corn, alfalfa, alfalfa, alfalfa rotation, which incorporates 30 acres of alfalfa. On the whole farm, Bob no-till planted 60 acres of soybeans, and about 70 acres of corn.

"Weed pressure has been the worst problem of the transition,"

Bob said. "We used a post-emerge and post-plant treatment, and Dual with Basagran for a pre-emerge. Dual was used on both the corn and beans, but the post-broadleaf control in the beans last year was Manifest."

A complete no-till planting system was used this year, with the ground undisturbed by disking, etc. Round Up was applied as a burn-down, followed with Dual applied post-plant. Bob uses Basagran on corn, and Basagran and/or Pursuit for broadleaf weed control in beans. He explained that Basagran is an "old fashioned" herbicide, used because it is effective on corn and beans, but does not adversely affect alfalfa in adjoining field strips.

Larry affirmed that "Basagran has been the best choice for us, but it may not be available in the future, so a change may have to be made in that area."

Larry went on to state that in 1996, it was discovered there was an extreme need for lime in the soil, due to the years of continuous corn. Lime was applied in anticipation of the need, then the alfalfa sowed. "It didn't do too well, so we added more lime," he

recalled. "We had a thin stand, resulting from the low pH level. We learned that in order to make the changes we did, we should have started the previous year in bringing the soil to the proper pH level. This year, however, we see a big improvement, and the first cutting of alfalfa resulted in a 1 3/4 ton per acre yield."

A bit ruefully, the men also recalled that last year's 3rd cutting was "more foxtail than alfalfa", but that too has improved. They said that alfalfa is new to the research, so they are learning how to manage it. Every year of the rotation, a new strip of alfalfa will be drilled in corn stalk residue. This year, part of the strip was interseeded with brome grass, and the rest is solely alfalfa. This will allow the research team to compare the yields of the two plantings. After three years, the alfalfa strip will rotate back to a corn crop. It is planned to use Round Up after the last cutting of hay to kill the alfalfa and brome.

"The dead residue will cover the ground all winter," Bob said, "then corn will be no-tilled into the residue in the spring." Larry emphasized, "We also haven't done this as a research project before, so it will be another learning

experience."

Bob commented that he has always liked to apply Nitrogen (N) before planting, but this year on the W-2 corn strips, N will be side-dressed at a rate of 64 lbs. per acre, as determined by late spring soil testing. On W-1 corn, N will be side-dressed at a 120 lb. per acre rate. "Our goal is to have the crops in 105-foot wide contour strips, carrying out the 6 year rotation of c/b/c/a/a/a," Bob said. We are trying to achieve a better soil quality along the way, as well as keeping tabs on the economy and changes in farm operation. We want to achieve something which preserves soil and water quality and is also profitable."

Larry said, "We are monitoring Dual and Nitrate levels below the root zone in the fields by extracting soil and water samples. "We are measuring the same things in both fields -- one of which will always be corn/beans only, and the other the 6-year rotation which includes a hay crop. This way we have a direct year-to-year comparison from adjoining fields of the aspects Bob mentioned."

Bob laughed and commented,

"You know, it used to be simple when it was just continuous corn, but now it's a lot more complicated." Then he added, with another grin, "But you have to say it is also more interesting."

Bob and his wife, Barbara, have been married for 40 years. They have three sons, David of Lincoln, John of Treynor and James of Omaha. Three grandchildren are their "pride and joy", Michael and Matthew who are twins, and Mitchell.

Barbara is employed at the Treynor school, working with the hot lunch program. The family attends St. John's Lutheran Church in Mineola.

Bob admitted that while time does not permit too many hobbies, he does enjoy "restoring and playing with" old tractors. He has ten of these, including a 1925 John Deere, a 1925 Oil Pull (Rumley) and a 1929 John Deere. His "playthings" have been among the antique machinery displays at various events in southwest Iowa.



A "rain simulator", shown above, applies 2 1/2 inches of moisture per hour to prepared plots at the research farm. Runoff and soil-loss collection devices allow for water measurement and sampling. The results are then compared to field measurements of runoff from natural rainfall.

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Shown are some of the 1500 students and others taking part in the Water Festival

Water activities for 5th graders a big success

by Angie Mann, Iowa AWWA Coordinator

Giant bubbles, Iowa fish, Environmental Bingo, talking water molecules, water races. These are just a few of the activities in which more than 1500 Iowa fifth graders participated on May 13 at the 1997 Iowa Children's Water Festival at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny.

The event was co-sponsored by the Iowa Section of the American Water Works Association, Des Moines Area Community College and the Des Moines Water Works.

Fifth graders representing 33 schools from across the state converged on the DMACC campus and spent the day learning about Iowa's most important natural resource - water. Each class participated in three interactive classroom sessions, visited an exhibit hall, played Environmental Bingo or "Dripital Pursuit". They watched an environmental play "Water Works" and sang along with music entitled "A Sip of Song".

Presenters, exhibitors and performers represented a broad range of Iowa private companies, state agencies, county conservation boards, natural resource conservation districts and state universities. Also, the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Kansas City provided an exhibit and two classroom presentations, and a man from Plainfield, Illinois brought a small, working model of a water tower.

Lt. Governor Joy Corning attended the festival and viewed

several of the displays and activities. There were also radio interviews and newspaper photos taken, and articles about the festival printed.

Since the festival, many positive comments have been received about the success of the event and the importance of providing an avenue for children to learn about the environment. This success could not have been possible without the more than 200 festival volunteers. These consisted of local high school students, water utility staff, retired teachers, retired DMACC employees and DNR staff members.

Michelle Zimmerman, East Pottawattamie County Resource Planner, and Julia Gubbels, who holds the same position in West Pottawattamie, were presenters at the festival.

Michelle's demonstration, during which the students participated, was "Building Your Own H2Oshed. The topic interpreted by Julia was "The Percolator."

Arbor Day shows love for trees

by Julia Gubbels

Arbor Day is a special day to show our love for trees. Trees give us beauty, shade, fruit, nuts, wood, wildlife cover, protection from wind, and produce oxygen to help us breathe. They also hold soil in its place to prevent erosion.

West Pottawattamie SWCD and Midwest Walnut Company work together annually to present the Arbor Day program. This year, approximately 1100 first grade students from fifteen schools received a Colorado Blue Spruce tree, provided by Midwest Walnut.

In addition to receiving the trees, a 20-minute program featured the history of Arbor Day, the importance of trees and instructions on their planting and care.

The programs were conducted with the assistance of the local FFA chapters, Master Gardeners from West Pott ISU Extension Service and County Resource Planners of East and West Pottawattamie SWCDs.

March increase for cost-share

The cost-share rate at the West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District has been \$.45 per cubic yard. At the March meeting, the district commissioners voted to raise the rate to \$.50 per cubic yard. The rate was increased based on a cost-analysis done for the previous year's terrace work.

The rate of 50-cents per cubic yard was effective immediately following the meeting. Fall carryovers where construction is already started (dirt was pushed) will stay at the old rate.

Anyone having questions may contact the office at 712-328-2489, or stop at the office for further information.



Cody Bahrke, Donnie Smith (back) Erik Pedersen, Alisha Renaud (back)

Poster contest featured "Backyard Stewardship"

by Julia Gubbels

Area students in Kindergarten through seventh grade participated in the 1997 Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest. The schools taking part were Lewis Central Middle School, Tri-Center Elementary and Underwood Elementary. The posters featured the theme "Backyard Stewardship", which emphasized what each of us can do in our own backyard, schoolyard or neighborhood to practice and promote positive stewardship.

Along with the County Naturalist, I as West Pottawattamie SWCD County Resource Planner went to each of the schools and presented a program relating to the poster theme. This is done to give the teachers ideas which can possibly be incorporated into the student's studies. It also gives the students ideas for their poster content.

First through third place winners were selected from each grade at the three participating schools.

Approximately 60 students and their families were invited to attend the Poster Ceremony, sponsored by the conservation district. The ceremony was held March 3 at UMBA Hall in Underwood. The posters were on display at the site. Following the awards ceremony, cake and punch were served.

The four students whose posters were selected to advance to regional competition were also recognized. They were:

Division I, grades K & 1, Cody Bahrke, Kindergarten, Tri-Center.

Division II (grades 2 & 3), Erik Pedersen, 3rd grade, Underwood.

Division III, grades 4-6, Donnie Smith, 6th grade, Tri Center.

Division IV, grades 7-9, Alisha Renaud, 7th grade, Lewis Central Middle School.

The West Pottawattamie SWCD would like to thank those who participated in the annual poster contest. Congratulations to the students with the winning posters which promoted stewardship.

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Wins scholarship

by Julia Gubbels

Each year the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners (IASWDCD) Auxiliary sponsors a scholarship awards program. Three scholarships are given at the state level to seniors, to be used to further their education at the college level while pursuing programs of study in any field of agriculture or natural resources.

Criteria for the scholarship includes leadership, scholastic achievement and need. Each district submits a candidate for the scholarship to the Regional Director, and they submit one application for the selection of state monetary awards.

The West Pottawattamie SWCD selected applicant Kevin Dea to represent the district at the regional level.

Kevin is the son of John (Mike) and Sally Dea of rural Minden. He graduated in May from Tri-Center schools and plans to major in Agricultural Engineering at Iowa State University.

Kevin has also been involved in



Kevin Dea

church and community activities, including community beautification projects for Student Council, volunteering at church sales, and umpiring Little League baseball games. In addition, he enjoys playing golf and working on his dad's and neighboring farms.

West Pottawattamie SWCD would like to congratulate Kevin and wish him the best in future endeavors.

Cost-share for summer terraces

West Pottawattamie local option sales tax funds can be used for summer construction of terraces. This tax money will be used to guarantee cost-share if producers arrange to have land available for summer construction.

The time frame for summer construction is between June 1 and September 15. These are the dates between which the contractor has to begin earthwork. Those individuals interested are required to sign an application in the SWCD office.

A spokesman for the West Pottawattamie Soil and Water District Commissioners said, "We hope that the guarantee of up to \$40,000 cost-share allotted for summer construction will help producers decide to set land aside in oats or other short-term crops. This will provide the contractors a place to work during the summer months."

Further information may be obtained by calling 712-328-2489.



A thought for the earth

If the earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it.

People would walk around it, marveling at its big pools of water and its little pools of water, and at the water flowing between the pools.

People would marvel at the bumps on it and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas.

The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball and the creatures in the water.

The people would declare it as sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect the greatest wonder known.

And, the people would come to know beauty, and wonder how it could be.

People would love it and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, would be nothing without it . . .

. . . if the earth were only a few feet in diameter.

Master corn-bean grower's contest

The Agriculture Committee of the Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 1997 Master Corn and Soybean Yield Contest for West Pottawattamie County.

The Master Contests are coordinated by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association and conducted by the Chamber's Agriculture Committee to promote the use of good seed, encourage the development of new techniques and to promote the use of good cultural

practices in crop production for the betterment of Iowa agriculture.

Anyone growing corn or soybeans is eligible to enter the contest under divisions including conventional tillage, conservation tillage, no-till and contour farming.

Contact John Dalton at Agri-Land Insurance, 712-325-0011 (1-800-247-0646); or Rick Killion at Mercantile Bank of Council Bluffs, 712-323-7521 to sign up and receive contest information.

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Mark Schnepel, Silver Creek Township — Commissioner
John M. Dea, Minden Township — Chairman ('96)
Dan McGinn, Garner Township — Commissioner
Clint Goos, Keg Creek Township — Commissioner

Robert F. Young, Lewis Township — Assistant Commissioner
Robert Jensen, Neola Township — Assistant Commissioner

NRCS PERSONNEL

Lyle Peterson — District Conservationist
Tom Bottoms — Soil Conservation Tech
Lois Crawford — Soil Conservation Tech
Ray Frana — WAE

COUNTY PERSONNEL

Julia Gubbels — Resource Planner

WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT - (Assigned)

Mary Ann Hood — Senior Aide

NO-INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM

Allocation 4/23/96 — \$ 16,837.00
Supplemental Allocations — 20,500.00
Terraces Completed — \$ 13,954.00
Unobligated balance on hand
January 30, 1997 — \$ 2,883.00

The West Pottawattamie Soil & Water Conservation District thanks the Department of Soil Conservation and the Iowa Legislature for making these funds available. We always attempt to use the money most effectively, and hope you agree we have done so again this year.

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FUND

Balance as of January 1, 1996 — \$ 19,259.16
1996 Quarterly Payments — \$ 99,207.43

Total expended for practices — \$33,807.20

Balance as of January 30, 1997 — \$ 3,529.30

We would like to thank the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors for their far-sighted support of soil conservation. The dollars they have invested in soil conservation these past years will pay off in benefits to county improvements and in protecting the productivity of our soils.



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FINANCIAL REPORT

1M BUDGET

Allocation, July 1, 96 - June 30, '97 — \$ 2,500.00
Supplemental Allocation October 18, 1996 — 500.00
Supplemental Allocation May 10, 1997 — 355.00
Commissioners' Travel — \$ 1,107.93
Office Supplies, Expenses, Dues — 1,437.55

Total expended as of 1-30-97 — \$ 2,545.48

Balance on hand January 30, 1997 — \$ 809.52

3M BUDGET 96-97

Allocation 7-01-96 — \$ 41,035.00
Supplemental Allocations — 76,371.00
Total expended for terraces — \$ 74,326.13

Unobligated balance on hand
January 30, 1997 — \$ 43,079.87

3M BUDGET 95-96

Allocation 7-01-95 — \$ 40,760.00
Supplemental Allocations — 20,000.00
Total expended for terraces — \$ 57,650.71

Unobligated balance on hand
January 30, 1997 — \$ 3,109.29

REAP PRACTICES '96

Allocation 9-01-95 — \$ 11,538.00
Total expended for practices — \$ 9,928.18

Total recalled by state — 1,609.82
Unobligated balance on hand
January 30, 1997 — \$ 0.00

REAP FORESTRY/ NATIVE GRASSES '96

Allocation 9-01-95 — \$ 2,693.00
Supplemental Allocations — 5,000.00

Total expended for practices — \$ 7,693.00
Unobligated balance on hand
January 30, 1997 — \$ 0.00



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Why keep crop residue records?

by Jeff Darling, SCT

If you are trying to do a better job of erosion control by using crop residues, it is important to know what amounts of residue your tillage system is leaving. Measuring crop residue is the first step, but it's also important to keep written records.

Records-keeping helps you measure your own progress, and also helps you in showing others what you are doing to control erosion. Your records could be important in showing progress toward conservation compliance or water quality goals, for instance.

Good records will support intent to control erosion with residues in the event that weather or poor crop yields cause reduced residue levels.

You could measure and record residue levels after each field operation to test those operations. Or, simply record the percent of ground covered after planting. In both cases, crop residue levels are an important part of your record-keeping system.

It is important that you know the effect that each tillage operation has on residue levels.

How to measure crop residue

Use any line that is equally divided into 100 parts. Fifty foot cable transect lines are available for this purpose. A 50-foot tape measure using the 6-inch and foot marks also works well.

Stretch the line diagonally across the crop rows. Walk back along the line, looking for residue underneath the marks. Count the number of marks that have residue under the leading edge when sighting from directly above the mark.

It's important to use the same point on each mark for accuracy. Don't count residue smaller than 1/8 inch in diameter.

Walk the entire length of the line. The total number of marks with residue under them is the



Buffer strips on the Boettger farm are lush and green

Native grass buffer strips benefit the land and also wild creatures

by Bill Hammitt
Conservation Technician Aide

Contour grass buffer strips have become a common erosion control practice on the Shelby County landscape the past few years. A unique example of this practice can be found just north of Highway 44, west of Harlan, in Section 16 of Lincoln Township.

Located on the Estelle Boettger farm, these buffer strips are seeded to native grasses such as big bluestem and switchgrass.

While most buffer strips are

percent cover for the field. If your line has only 50 marks, multiply by 2. Repeat the procedure at least 3 times in different areas of the fields and average the findings.

For purposes of crop residue values for soil conservation systems, the residue cover is measured after each planting.

A Crop Residue Management Kit is available for use or sale at the Soil Conservation office. The kit contains a line for counting ground cover, a crop residue management guide, a video tape about measuring and managing crop residue and a field-by-field record book. The kit sells for \$13.50.

seeded to brome grass or alfalfa, these native grasses provide the same erosion control, plus additional wildlife benefits.

Native grasses, such as big bluestem, were part of the original tall-grass prairie found in Iowa before the homesteaders came. This grass can grow as tall as 6 to 8 feet on fertile soils. It stands well over the winter, providing excellent winter cover for wildlife and good spring nesting cover.

Bill Boettger, operator of the farm who seeded the grasses, said:

"The border strips are an excellent place for the pheasants to hang out, but also attract predators such as coyotes looking for an easy meal."

He said all concerned were well satisfied with the erosion control benefits of the native grass strips, although they "took longer to become established than brome or alfalfa."

Boettger noted that even deer had been seen to "hang out" in the strips during the winter.

Summer tree tips

After trees have been planted, there are a few things which can be done to insure that they will thrive this summer.

1) Sometimes what isn't done to newly transplanted stock is just as important as what is done. Bare root stock should not be fertilized at planting time. The roots are very fragile and susceptible to burning.

2) Spring planted stock can be fertilized in the fall of the first year or the next spring with the proper fertilizer for the species.

3) If a ditch area is not left around the tree to collect water when planted, build one and remove the sod to prevent competition for water and nutrients.

4) Tree mats or mulch such as wood chips, grass clippings, straw or even several layers of newspapers can be used to hold moisture in the ground and prevent weed pressure.

5) Tree shelters can really help get new plantings off to a quick start and will also act as protection against animal browsings and windburn.

6) A good idea any time, but for certain the first two years, is to make sure the plants get one inch of water every ten days. In the late fall, increase to soaking the ground every week until the ground freezes.

Frederiksen's "farewell" as District Conservationist

Dear friends:

I have been fortunate to have been associated with the Shelby County Soil & Water Conservation District for the past three years. During this time, I have worked with a large number of people who volunteer many hours making Shelby County a great place to live and work.

I will miss all of you as I accept my new position as Golden Hills Resource Conservationist and Development Coordinator at Oakland.

Shelby County has tremendous potential as local people work to protect and enhance the resources here. I am impressed by the number of people volunteering their time towards the community. The board of supervisors, watershed board directors, county committee, conservation district commissioners, city councils, mayors, contractors, farmers, teachers and many others donate their time to make Shelby County a better place.

Let me say thank you and wish you continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

Shirley Frederiksen

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Native Minnesotan now manages Shelby county roadsides

"My immediate goal is to turn this roadside program into one of the top in the state!"

... Bret Grundmeier

by Lou Waite, AIS

In January of last year, Bret Grundmeier came to Shelby County to fill a position for a department newly initiated in the county, that of Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management. It follows therefore that Bret's title is "Roadside Manager".

Formerly employed by the Forest Service in the Black Hills of South Dakota, Bret is a graduate of South Dakota State College in Brookings. He received a degree in Park Management, a course which stressed agriculture and biology.

An IRVM brochure states its objective: "Using current management practices to establish and maintain a safe, stable, low maintenance roadside that is attractive and healthy for humans and wildlife. Iowa's roadsides border an extensive network of federal, state and county paved and gravel roads. Averaging about six acres of roadside per mile of road, we have a potential resource base of almost 600,000 acres of roadside across Iowa."

Impressive statistics, but the next question would be, just what does a roadside manager do?

"I work closely with the secondary road engineers and shop foremen," Bret informed. "When they regrade roads or clean ditches, it is my job to reclaim the disturbed site. This is done by planting warm season prairie species -- grasses, forbs, wildflowers, etc. This is the same type of vegetation that was growing in Iowa when the first European settlers arrived. Since it is native to the area, it thrives without losing vigor and dying back in a few years."

Special equipment is required to achieve all this, and usually several laborers are hired to operate the seeding drills, tractors, broadcast seeders, sprayers, etc.

"In the past, not enough attention was given to selective spraying and desirable species were being killed," Bret said. "But now we spot spray, and the crew is

trained to identify desirable species, and spray only what is not wanted. Using herbicides is an important part of the IRVM program. Plants requiring control are identified and specific herbicides used during the plant's most vulnerable growing time. That is part of the 'management' I dictate."

Bret explained that there is an underground "battle of the root systems" for nutrients and water in the soil between weeds and desirable species. For example, Canada thistle can out-compete smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass for water and nutrients. But because of their very extensive root system, native grasses, such as big bluestem, can out-compete weeds from ever getting established.

"The ultimate benefit of managing native grasses, therefore, is that pesticide use and mowing costs decrease and wildlife habitat value of roadsides improves," Bret informed.

Since IRVM is new to the county, a permanent headquarters and storage area has not been established. Tentative plans are to locate a new building somewhere in the county. One possibility is the Nishna Bend Recreation Area on the Nishnabotna River one-half mile southeast of Corley. This popular tourist attraction features a tall grass prairie, a short grass prairie and native wildflowers. But Bret said no definite decision for headquarters location has been made.

A part of his management domain are the county cemeteries. "They are the only thing left in the state with original native prairie," he noted, "which has never been turned by a plow. They are managed in cooperation with the various cemetery boards, who allow us to harvest some of the seed to be planted in other locations. Seed is expensive. It is hard to get a good stand and to have the proper equipment to harvest it. Much of this must be done by hand, although there are 'flail vacuums' which can be used."



Bret Grundmeier, shown at the Nishna Bend Recreation Area near Corley, does not like to be "office-bound"

Bret said that a seed stripper purchased last year was used to harvest seed throughout the county. The seed was then used to establish plantings in other parts of the county at a substantial savings.

Funding is the same as that of the secondary road department through the county board of supervisor's budget allowances. Some funds are received from the Living Roadway trust funds allocated by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). Grants are set up specifically for road departments such as the one he manages, Bret pointed out. But they can be used to obtain seed, seeding equipment, etc. which alleviates county budget expense.

An interesting sidelight to Bret's occupation is that he attended the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy during the winter, and is a "bona fide" conservation officer. As such, he is responsible for supervising the Elk Horn Creek Park, but has the right to "arrest and detain" violators anywhere in the state.

Bret's home turf is actually Hinckley in northern Minnesota. His wife, Cheryl, whom he met at college, is a native of St. Paul. Cheryl is a dental assistant in

Harlan.

Bret admits to being an "avid" fisherman, and enjoys bow-hunting. He also enjoys intramural basketball, baseball and softball as a member of local teams.

It is obvious that he also enjoys his job and is dedicated to achieving goals set for himself and the county.

"I try to work with the farmers and landowners," he said. "What I do borders their land, so if we can work together, it benefits me, and hopefully them as well. I can help plan burnings, and in establishing buffer strips and headlands, etc. It's nice when they agree to put these into native grasses and forbs. They thrive much better than brome, are drought resistant and better for wildlife and erosion control."

"I enjoy being outside, doing 'hands-on' work myself, rather than being office-bound," Bret admitted with a grin. "And I also like talking to the landowners and maybe convincing them to consider my ideas."

"My immediate goals are to turn this roadside program into one of the top in the state! It's getting there, but we have a long way to go."

Then after pausing in reflection for a moment, Bret said, flashing his warm smile, "Someday, I hope to be a park manager."

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Brothers share farm operation; agree on conservation viewpoint

by Lou Waite, AIS

"We are going to have to make a living on this farm for the next thirty or forty years," said Wayne Peterson of rural Harlan, with a chuckle. Then on a more serious note he added, "We must keep it as productive as we can, not only for our benefit, but for our kids as well."

His brother Carl nodded in agreement, and added, "It's only good sense to look ahead and do what we must to be more prosperous down the road."

The brothers agreed that they practice conservation for those reasons, not because they were compelled to do so by the Food Security Act (FSA) of 1985.

Wayne and Carl, fourth generation farmers working together in partnership, said they were "born into farming." They admitted they were fortunate to have a dad and an uncle who gave them the opportunity to begin farming right out of high school. Since then, they have invested all their profits back into the land, and now their operation encompasses 1900 acres owned, cash rented, or share cropped. Included is the family farm, still owned by their mother, Mae.

All but 40 acres of the land is highly erodible, so over 15 miles of terraces have been completed on the various tracts. Last year they

planted 900 acres of corn and 700 acres of soybeans in the fields protected by the extensive terrace system. They also no-tilled 300 acres of corn into bean stubble, and 60 acres of beans into standing corn stalks.

"Some of the landlords question no-till," Wayne said, "and we respect their opinions. But more and more of them are becoming convinced once they see how well it works. We like to think we helped convince them that no-tilling is the wave of the future."

The Petersons stated that they felt most of their generation has realized the benefits of using good conservation measures in their farming operations, and thereby developing a positive attitude which influences those more wary of change.

"Actually, we are working toward using a corn-bean rotation on 3/4 of the land, with terraces," Wayne said, "and with our terracing basically completed, we are in compliance with our FSA plan and nearing our goal."

The brothers have taken advantage of state and federal cost-share, and have a ten-year, no-interest loan. But they also have spent funds "out-of-pocket" to further their progress.

Wayne and Carl both expressed their appreciation for the assistance received from the staff at the Natural



Wayne and Carl Peterson value the truth of the conservation concept . . . "it pays!"

Resources Conservation office.

The brothers are also committed to a farrow-to-finish hog operation, raising around 2,000 head each year, and they have a herd of 80 cows and calves. The calves are finished and sold, except for a few heifers retained "once in a while" for breeding purposes. They buy their herd bulls, rather than raising them.

The Petersons have four permanent pastures of 10 or 12 acres each, rotating the grazing among these. Each year, they also have about 50 acres from which they harvest one cutting of hay, then pasture it for the rest of the season. This area is established in a different location periodically. One-half of the grain raised is used for feed, except some soybeans which are marketed.

Wayne, his wife Lori and their

children, Stacie and Jason, are active in community and school affairs. They attend Bethlehem Lutheran Church in nearby Jacksonville, where Lori has taught Sunday School and is serving as church secretary.

Carl is also actively involved in local interests and attends the same church.

Both brothers are members of the Farm Bureau, the Shelby County Cattle Producers and Shelby County Pork Producers. Carl is past-president of the latter.

In a combined statement, with both Wayne and Carl contributing their thoughts, the Petersons said, "You always need to keep conservation in mind. We would do it even if it was not mandated. We have seen the changes brought about

by good conservation usage, and we want to keep open-minded for the future. Because of all the advancements in equipment and the mechanical and technological changes which have come about, conservation has come easier, and will continue to be made easier as time goes on.

"It has proved itself, and will continue to do so, in our opinion," they concluded.

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1 lb. ground beef
1 1/2 c chopped onion
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1 1/2 c milk
3/4 c Bisquick
3 eggs

Brown hamburger and onion; drain. Mix milk, eggs and Bisquick, mix well. Add cheese, then hamburger and onion mixture. Pour in greased pie pan. Bake 30 min. at 400 deg. When done, let set 5 min. Cut and serve.



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Upper Mosquito Creek 40th anniversary tour



This structure has been controlling the flow of Mosquito Creek for 26 years. Many more of its kind are needed, but funding is difficult to obtain.

Note: While not intending disrespect for a serious event, this article is written more as a personal observation. A straight-forward account appeared in newspapers earlier. My sincere thanks to David Ohlinger, "assistant photographer". Lou Waite

Mick Leinen, Bob Grote and Jack (Buzz) Wendt, as well as the remainder of the Upper Mosquito Creek Watershed Board of Directors, could rest easily. The long-anticipated and anxiously awaited 40th anniversary watershed tour was over and had been declared a decided success.

The weather on Friday, June 13, was beautiful, and everything went as planned, from beginning to end. How often does that happen? And on Friday the 13th??

Early arrivals at St. Mary's Parish Center in Portsmouth were treated to coffee or tea, huge cinnamon rolls and cookies. The refreshments were by courtesy of area banks. (Can you picture all those bankers, clad in ruffled aprons, baking cookies early that morning!)

The large room was soon filled with chatter, as old acquaintances and new caught up on "what's happening." Many discussions concerned the dry weather, with

reminiscences of droughts of the past.

Babetta Lucke, Chairman of the Harrison County Commissioners, and I conversed with State Representative Donna Hammitt-Barry. Donna has always been very supportive of ag and conservation activities. In the legislature, she has "slugged it out toe-to-toe" for our cause many times. But it is difficult for me to treat Donna with the deference she deserves because I have known her since she was in diapers! (She is very gracious about this, however.)

Mick, board chairman, gavelled the meeting to order at 9 a.m., welcomed those present, and introduced an impressive list of VIP's. I won't try to list them, for I surely would omit someone, and these people have long memories. How else do you think they survive in politics or at high-level administrative positions?

The legislators were lauded for their support of agriculture and conservation in general; the watershed programs and the Hungry Canyons Alliance in particular. Some of them responded with brief remarks, expressing their interest and concern. Their sincerity was pretty apparent. At least they had the proper information and terminology. (Good secretaries, maybe?)

First of other VIP's who had an active part in the agenda was Gregg Hadish, NRCS GIS Specialist. In his customary precise and well-documented manner, Gregg presented slides and background commentary on "stream stabilization efforts." Gregg is moving on to a new position, as is Marty Braster. Both have been with Golden Hills RC&D and a tremendous asset to the area. We commend their gain, but mourn our loss.

Jim Gulliford, Director of the Iowa Division of Soil Conservation, keynoted the importance of watersheds in conservation and gave five reasons why the concept is so vital. Babetta and I were most impressed by these:

"Concentrate on doing a better job of public information -- tell the story to the people who don't know about it; use an 'Ernie Aust' approach by looking for resources available to solve problems, and find ways to make them work the most efficiently at the local level."

I have a lot of admiration and respect for Jim, not only as a professional, but as an individual. And I can remember when his now graying hair was brown! (At least you still have hair, Jim!)

Lyle Asell, Assistant State Conservationist, gave an overview of NRCS plans for future watershed treatments, funding, etc. "The public needs to know", he affirmed. His main message was that where funding is concerned, nothing is certain, so keep the wheel squeaking!

I used the opportunity to corner Jeff Zimprich, Area Conservationist, about a publicity idea of mine. Jeff always looks a bit uneasy when he sees me

approaching. He knows I am going to ask for something, I presume, if only to pick his brain. (It's like getting free advice from your doctor when he is off-duty). Jeff is another dynamic young man who has been rattling a few cages since he came to the area. (With good results, I hasten to add.)

The audience was attentive and appeared to be interested. ... at least no one took a nap. Questions were asked and answered. The busses (Southwest Iowa Transit) arrived and were boarded for the tour. Babetta and I were the only women on bus 2. (And they say women gabble like a bunch of geese! HA! These geese all had bass voices!)

Ed Seidel, Acting DC at Harlan, was the commentator on our bus, giving information and explanations concerning what we saw from the windows. We stopped at several of the sites, where a more detailed account of what, why, when, how, etc. was given.

At the last, we walked across a field of narrow-row soybeans to reach the creek. Babetta and I tried to fit our feet into the narrow space without destroying too much of the bean crop. We finally decided on a sideways gait which probably made us resemble a couple of waddling ducks. Enroute, we noticed the men, striding smashingly along.

Maybe they knew more about bean mortality rates than we!?

We viewed five structures, some recently completed, some which have been serving for a number of years. We were impressed by the last one, which was installed 26 years ago (see photo). The banks of Mosquito Creek in that vicinity are grass-covered and not sloughing away. The channel there is narrower. Obviously, the structure has served its purpose, and also obviously many more of its kind are needed. As Shakespeare said, "therein lies the rub", for money is also needed.

Babetta and I both had the same thought: If structures such as this could have been built where they were needed long years ago, at yesterday's costs, millions of dollars would not have had to be spent today. And even at vast sums, it is too little, too late. I suppose someone would say that is typical female logic. If so, then we need a few more females in this racket!

Some VIP in Washington, the tale goes, said that watersheds are not "environmentally friendly", and therefore PL566 and the like need not be funded.

Don't tell Grote, Leinen, Wendt or their peers that! You might not want to hear their reply (#%\$@&*%)!

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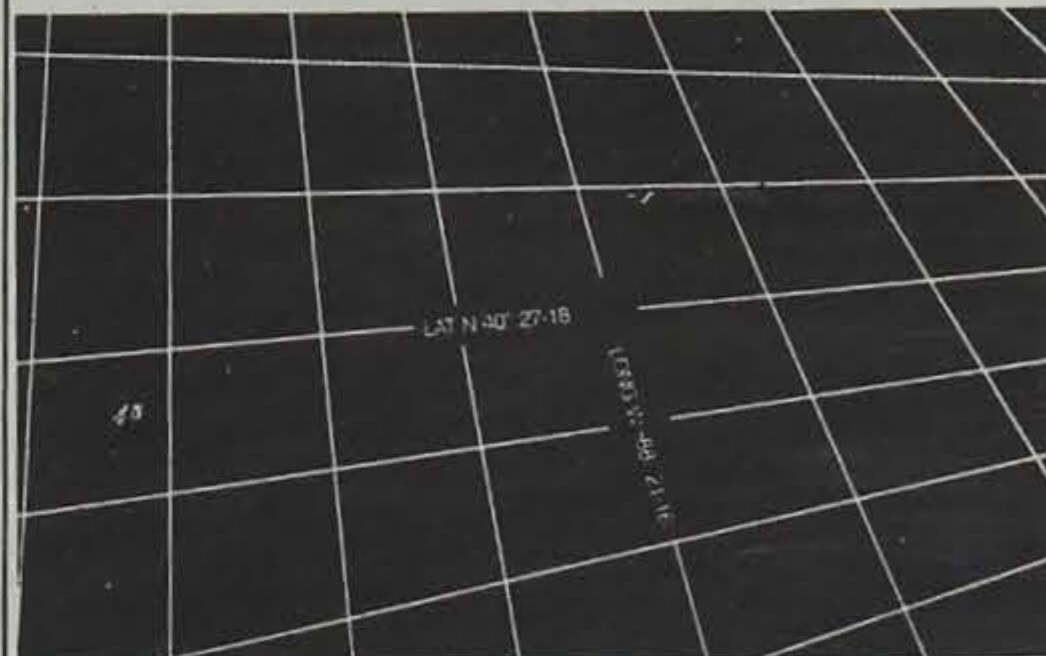
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A tribute to the late LeRoy Kadel

Greg Mathis, District Conservationist, recognized LeRoy Kadel as a man who saw educating the young as one of his main missions in life. "LeRoy believed that the outdoors was an excellent place to teach children about wildlife, as well as learning about our environment," Mathis said. "He was always willing to assist with an environmental field day for students, or be involved in some other teaching opportunity. He is missed by all who knew him."

Kadel, Director of the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, died very suddenly on April 10 at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs.

He was laid to rest on April 12 in the Minden cemetery, not far from the family farm where he had been raised, and where he and his wife Lynn had lived since 1970. He was not allotted his four score years and ten. He died at 53.

He had farmed with his father until the past year, had formerly been a railroad transportation clerk, then owned a building business and was experienced in the construction field. He had accepted the position with the Conservation Board in 1993.

B. J. Balm, Daily Nonpareil writer, described Kadel as "a great communicator and a man of vision; a forceful man when needed and one not afraid to share his opinions". He was known as a "hands-on administrator", Balm said, who could be found on weekends working with the rangers in the

parks or visiting with campers and fishermen.

Lynn Ford, a Conservation Board member and personal friend, said Kadel did not limit his scope of interest to the county park system, although he was instrumental in bringing about many improvements therein. Under his direction, the park system was enhanced by the employment of a full-time and also part-time naturalist. His efforts also led to the expansion of the Hitchcock Nature area north of Crescent. River conservation was important to him, as well as recreation.

"He was a 'doer' and not held back by what appeared to be restraints," Ford said. "The word 'can't' was not in his vocabulary. He worked tirelessly, often at personal sacrifice. He negated the practice of 'because that's the way we have always done it' with new and innovative ideas. He always searched for a better way."

Cindy Thompson, Conservation Board Secretary, said: "LeRoy never stopped thinking about how he could improve our parks and what people would enjoy using. One of his many visions was to build a gazebo by the lake at Arrowhead Park. As a tribute to LeRoy, the gazebo will be built during the summer by Conservation Board staff and volunteers."

"The Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation is also in the process of completing a hand-crafted 'giving tree', which will be on display at the Hitchcock Nature Area Lodge. This lasting memorial will also be dedicated in LeRoy's

memory."

It was noted that anyone wishing to join the memorial effort could do so by sending their contribution to the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation, 223 South 6th Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51501. The donation is tax-deductible.

Mark Shoemaker, ranger at Long's Landing, met Kadel as a park intern in 1992. "Under his guidance, interns did more than just mow the grass and pick up sticks," Shoemaker recalled. "We learned how to build buildings, dig ditches and protect the environment."

Arrowhead Park Officer Dave Fischer added, "He not only told us what was expected of us, but he would work right beside us and show us how to do it correctly."

Both men agreed that Kadel made certain the skills interns acquired could be passed on to others. Sometimes the summer internships helped young people decide which career they wished to pursue.

Kadel was president of the Missouri River Preservation Authority, had served as president of the Iowa County Conservation Board (ICCB) for District IV, was a member of the Back to the River Steering Committee and had represented the County Conservation Directors Association at ICCB conventions. He was also a member of the Pottawattamie County Safety Committee, the Emergency Task Force and Conservation Board. He was lay leader at the Minden United Congregational Church and had served in a number of church offices.

His wife of 33 years and two daughters, Kathy Fox of Colorado Springs and Suzanne Kadel of Council Bluffs survive him, as well as his parents, a granddaughter, other relatives and many friends.

In the eulogy written by Ford he said, "Those of us who knew him and called him friend have been blessed, and will miss him deeply. Those who didn't know him will share his vision each time they walk in a county park or along the Missouri River. They will especially share his vision as they

Size up your summer!



by Kevin Gee, SCT

Are you finding it difficult to get a contractor to build terraces in the spring or fall? Have the wet springs made it difficult to get terraces built before crops need to be planted? Do you have any CRP, hay, oat or wheat fields which will go back to row crops in 1998? If your answer to any or all of these questions is "yes", then the summer cost-share program may be for you.

During the June 1 - August 15 period, our summer cost-share season is available with the same 7500-ft. maximum per applicant. Tile cost-share continues with 50% of the cost reimbursed for intakes, couplings, outlets and 300-feet of actual tile line/intakes installed. The tile cost-share will not always cover all of the necessary distance, but will offer assistance.

Many of the lower terraces are going into the heavier clay soil types with hard pan areas that are not going to properly drain the channels without tile.

If there are changes you would like to see in the tile cost-share program or any other areas, contact one or several of the commissioners as they plan the 1998 programs.

Other projects which are available in the summer months include the creek cutback, stabilization or livestock crossing projects. This is the second year for this program which is being funded from the county local option sales tax monies.

Many producers have unique problems which continue to worsen over time, and this program can be a great financial tool to remedy

enjoy the Hitchcock Nature Area and the Loess Hills."

Surely one could ask for no greater memorial.

many of those situations.

A producer may sign up for both a terrace and creek project, as first priority in a given year.

In the beginning . . . Continued from Page 9

his farm home. One contribution he made was the use of brome grass in conservation. He traveled widely to purchase seed and bring it to the district.

Anderson played a key role in formation of West Pott SCD, the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners and the National Association of Conservation Districts. He was area vice president of the national organization for several years.

Others who have in the past served the district "honorably and well" are Harvey Moss, Derold Blois, Floyd Fischer, C. W. McNamamy, David Storjohann,

John Fischer, Charles Angerth, Gary Thien, Mike Keneally, Gary Geise and Don Bladt, who is currently on the Shelby county board.

Present commissioners are Mark Schnepel, Silver Creek Twp.; Mike Dea, Minden Twp.; Robert Young, Lewis Twp.; Don McGinn, Lake Twp.; Robert M. Jensen, Assistant; Neola Twp. and Clint Goos, Associate, Silver Creek Twp.

Shelby District

The Shelby County Soil Conservation District was organized in 1942, with J. R. McKeown and Mike Schechinger, both of Harlan, and Julius Lensch of Walnut serving as its first commissioners.

Lensch's service totaled 37 years. He actively promoted conservation and helped promote the Brome-Alfalfa Club, the National Plowing Match, and the Mill-Picayune Watershed. He was honored with an outstanding commissioner award in 1979.

Present commissioners are Donald Bladt of Shelby Twp.; Wayne Krohn of Fairview Twp.; Hans J. Nielsen of Westphalia Twp.; Richard Wooster of Jefferson Twp. and Ed Lapke of Grove Twp.

Assistant commissioners are Barry Deuel, Cyrus Monson, Joe Reischl, Wayne Hansen and Micky Leinen.

Over the past 60 years, conservation districts, state conservation agencies and NRCS have forged what is widely recognized as a unique and effective partnership. Technical services are provided to land users, as well as financial assistance and broad-based educational programs for natural resources conservation and management.

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The Devil's Darning Needle

by Chris Williams
Naturalist

One of my favorite summer activities while growing up in Iowa was . . . and still is . . . fishing. I would never claim to be an expert fisherman and can remember many long, hot summer days with endless periods of boredom when no fish were biting. During many of those quiet times, a person notices many tranquil and otherwise unnoticed aspects of nature. One of these aspects I have found most interesting during these quiet times was the fearless Dragonfly.

It visited the tip of my pole and occasionally my bobber. Unconcerned with my presence, it knew that it could swiftly dart away at any moment. Four large, clear wings that move independently of each other, enabled it to move in any direction, including backwards and hovering. It's huge, beady eyes stared in all directions in search of food. It's narrow body, tapered to a point, earned it the unusual name of the "Devil's Darning Needle". It's body reflected beautiful metallic colors of red, blue, green and yellow in spectacular combinations. It's legs are designed to grasp any small, flying insect within their reach.

A magical insect of summer, it is hard to imagine a world without dragonflies. They have been on earth for over 300 million years, with over 450 species in North America. During a dragonfly's youthful ages, it lives under water as an aquatic insect or Nymph. During this time, lasting several years, a dragonfly creeps along the bottom of lakes and rivers. A predator of surprise/ambush, it attacks aquatic mosquito larvae as it does in it's adult stage, flying over and around water.

A beneficial insect to man, dragonflies represent a part of nature's endless beauty and a unique form of life. Be sure to notice all the beauty in nature this summer, no matter how large or small. It's what makes our planet so special.



Winning Envirothon team (story on page 20)

The Earlham High School Envirothon team captured top honors at the second annual Iowa Envirothon held April 28 at Springbrook Park. Team members, back row, left to right: Ben Yetter, Matt Herring, Joe Herring and Justin Brown. Front row: Chris Adkins, Tyler Price and Craig Nelson. Adkins and Nelson served as advisors. The team will go to national competition in August.

Field Day held

by Michelle Zimmerman

Botna Bend Park was a classroom on a beautiful spring day in mid-May. Sixth grade students from AvoHa and 5th grade students from Riverside participated in a Conservation Education Field Day, held May 10.

The event was sponsored by the East Pottawattamie SWCD. Presentations were made by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and East and West Pottawattamie NRCS staff personnel.

Topics included "Building Your Own Watershed", water quality and hazard waste treatment, a surveying/participation demonstration, identification of different fish found in rivers, streams, ponds and lakes in Iowa, a model farm demonstration of conservation practices, tree comparisons and planting of seedlings, and discussions of conservation wildlife.

The field day is an annual event, designed to increase student's awareness of the environment.

Trees for Threes

Third graders from AvoHa, Shelby-Tenent, Riverside North Elementary and Walnut Schools received a Red Oak 2 to 3-foot seedling. Michelle Zimmerman distributed the seedlings on April 16 and 17.

Characteristics of the trees and planting instructions were discussed with the students. The Red Oak will grow to approximately 60 to 80-feet tall and have a 50-foot spread.

Trees for Threes has become an annual event for the third graders in the district. This is made possible by the following sponsors:

American Interstate Bank, Donald Hogzett, Oakland State

Adam Stamp is Scholarship winner

The 1997 East Pottawattamie SWCD scholarship winner is Adam Stamp of Walnut. The scholarship will be used to further the award winner's education at the college level.

Criteria considered for the award includes community service, character, leadership, an interest in conservation and scholastic achievement. A selection committee views the applications submitted, with interest in an agricultural career a prerequisite.

Some of Adam's extra-curricular activities revolved around basketball, football, Student Council, Yearbook Staff and FFA.

Bank, Milton L. Hanson and Hummel Insurance.

Those wishing to participate in next year's event may contact the

East Pottawattamie SWCD for more information.

He is also active in church affairs. His hobbies include basketball and FFA projects.

He plans to attend Iowa State University in Ames, to pursue a major in agriculture. Adams says he chose the agricultural field because he enjoys farming, even though it is not the most glamorous. "I am proud to help feed the world", he stated.

The district extends congratulations!

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GOOD DEALS...AND A GOOD DEAL MORE

Now is the time to address ongoing problems

by Clair Acker
State Tech

During the last year we have been looking at the problem of cutbacks (overfalls) and stream degradation to see if we might be able to find an effective and economical way to treat those areas.

After conducting a number of surveys, checking damaged areas, calculating water volume, velocity of runoff and topography, certain facts have become quite apparent. For one, an economic solution which also will assure effective treatment will not be an easily attainable goal.

We are continuing to view certain types of structures in other areas of the country, attempting to see if they can be adapted to serve East Pottawattamie needs. The district commissioners have also increased the cost-share total amount for an approved structure from \$4,000 to \$7,000. This should allow the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to share the cost of most structures at the 50 percent level.

Most of the sites on which we are presently working require the services of the Area Engineering Office, and the staff there has

been very responsive to our needs. But even then, the time frame is quite extensive.

Anyone who has an area which they feel should receive attention for this problem is asked to contact the SWCD/NRCS office. We would be happy to come look at the area and make suggestions as to what might be done to alleviate the situation.

Keep in mind, however, that the area engineering staff is very busy with watershed projects during the summer months.

E Pott Bird's Eye View

by Michelle Zimmerman

Have you seen Pottawattamie County from the air?

On Tuesday, June 17, Arlyn Danker, Supervisor, and State Rep. Dick Weidman were guests of the SWCD Commissioners on a flight to observe conservation practices from the air.

Viewed were the Jeff Krueger farm, streambank structures on Walnut Creek, the Armstrong Research Farm, Indian Creek and Farm Creek Watersheds (1998 proposed EQIP sites), the Marilyn



"Let's see now . . . what does this gizmo measure?"

Envirothon II a "huge success"

by Michelle Zimmerman

The second Iowa Envirothon was held Monday, April 28, under sunny skies, at Springbrook State Park. Fourteen of the expected sixteen teams competed for the chance to represent Iowa at national competition.

The competition was close this year. Last year's winning team from Waverly-Shell Rock was the

Von Weihe farm, several livestock operations and waste management lagoons, dry fire hydrants and areas where future construction is planned, implementing Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) funds.

Others accompanying Kenneth Martin, plane owner and pilot, were SWCD Commissioner Von Weihe, Assistant Commissioner Krueger, District Conservationist Greg Mathis and SC Technician Clair Acker.

Special thanks was given to Martin for providing a "bird's eye view" of the county.

team to beat. Not only had they won last year, but they had the highest score in any of the regional competitions.

With the sun shining brightly and the temperature at least 30 degrees warmer than last year, the morning flew by. The teams moved from site to site, answering questions, taking water samples, measuring trees and identifying animals.

For the oral presentation problem, the students had been given a complex problem involving a watershed. The concerns for the watershed included a hog lot, sedimentation of a lake and changes in the population of various fish species. Each of the five-member teams had to present their recommendation for addressing the problems in the watershed to a panel of judges. Judges included commissioners, educators and environmental specialists.

Following lunch, all of the teams rotated through the testing stations again to discuss the

Favorite Recipes of NRCS personnel

Cherry Squares

1 cup butter or margarine
1 3/4 cup sugar
4 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
3 cups sifted flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1 or 2 cans cherry pie filling

Topping

2 tbsp. hot water
1 Cup powdered sugar

Cream butter and sugar, then add eggs. Add vanilla and beat until fluffy. Sift flour, baking powder and salt; add to first mixture and mix well. Put 2/3 of mixture in a greased 10x15 pan. Top with cherry pie filling. Dot remaining dough over the filling. Bake at 350 deg. until batter is set and cake is done. Drizzle with topping while still warm.

Joann Schulte
Shelby

answers. Meanwhile, the graders and testing committee were compiling the results of all the exams.

It was extremely close competition, but in the end, Earlham High School was declared the winner. Second place went to Team 2 from Terril High School. Waverly-Shell Rock and Western Christian were tied for third place, based on the total score. But Waverly-Shell Rock was accorded third place based on the tie-breaker category of aquatics.

Winner of each of the individual categories were: Aquatics, West Central; Forestry, Earlham and Waverly-Shell Rock; Soils, Western Christian; Wildlife, Earlham and Presentation, Winterset.

We were pleased to have received financial assistance from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., DuPont Ag Chemical, Seneca Ag Products, Iowa Pork Producers, ISU Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the State Division of Soil Conservation. Representatives from Pioneer, Seneca and Jim Gulliford of DSC were at the site to assist with presentation of awards.

Earlham will compete against over thirty teams from across the United States and Canada at the National Envirothon August 5 through 10. Canon U.S.A. is sponsor of the national competition and will award cash prizes and Canon products to the winners.

We had tremendous support from all the volunteers. Thank you to all who helped at the district, regional and state level.

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Famous Quotes in Agriculture:

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the corn field"

. . . Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Treat the land well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children."

. . . African Proverb

"The land must be conserved with care since it is intended to be fruitful for generation upon generation. You who live in the heartland of America have been entrusted with some of the earth's best land: the soil so rich in minerals, the climate so favorable for producing bountiful crops, with fresh water and unpolluted air available all around you. You are stewards of some of the most important resources God has given to the world. Therefore, conserve the land well, so that your children's children and generations after them will inherit an even richer land than was entrusted to you. But also remember what the heart of your vocation is. While it is true here that farming today provides an economic livelihood for the farmer, still it will always be more than an enterprise of profitmaking. In farming, you cooperate with the Creator in the very sustenance of life on earth."

. . . Pope John Paul II
Des Moines, Iowa
October 4, 1979

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