United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
721 South 5th Street
Manchester, Iowa 52057

NEWS RELEASE

September 29, 1983

Fall or Spring Tillage?

By Norman Brus, Soil Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service

That time of year is here again when farmers are thinking about getting a head start on next spring's tillage chores by starting this fall. This year, there is additional potential for fall tillage due to the "Payment in Kind" program and early harvest. The PIK program was designed mainly to divert crop acreages out of production to reduce grain surpluses. A second goal of the program is to conserve soil by adequately protecting the soil from the erosive forces of nature. Whether this second goal is attained still remains to be seen. If Delaware County farmers perform fall tillage on a large portion of their property, soil losses could be as great or greater than what it is in other years.

Soil losses are predicted with the use of the "Universal Soil Loss Equation". This formula takes into account six factors. They are: the amount of rainfall, the physical properties of the soil, slope length and steepness, cropping system and tillage, and any other conservation practices which may be in use (contour, stripcropping, etc.). The equation does not determine soil losses for a particular storm or year, rather, the equation predicts average losses over a period of time.

Delaware County is dominated by two soil classes. The eastern part of the county is dominated by hills of Fayette and Downs loess soils. These soils are very susceptible to erosion and need special attention if they are to remain productive in the future. These soil types along with topography create the potential for soil losses of 60 tons per acre if a moldboard plow is used, or 50 tons per acre if a fall disk-chisel system is used for primary

tillage. By avoiding tillage until spring, soil losses could be cut in half if a good cover of residue still remains at planting time. By planting next year's crop using no-till, soil losses can be cut to 20% of the losses listed above.

The western portion of Delaware county is dominated by Kenyon, Clyde, and Floyd soils. These soils generally do not have as steep of slopes as the Downs or Fayette soils, but they are usually longer. Fall tillage in this area can result in soil losses of fifteen tons per acre or more. A good spring conservation tillage system or a no-till system could reduce soil losses to approximately seven and three tons per acre respectively.

The soils in Delaware County have allowable soil losses of about five tons per acre per year. This rate is equal to the rate at which nature produces soil. Some areas will need changes in addition to tillage to reduce soil losses to this replaceable level. These measures may be as simple as crop rotation, contour planting, or strip cropping. In some areas, a more permanent practice such as terracing may be the best alternative. There will be farm to farm differences in which practices are feasible or needed to conserve our topsoil. Generally a change to a good conservation tillage system or a no-till system can be an important first step.

There are other important benefits from delaying tillage until next spring. Due to the unusually dry summer, some hay or pasture fields have not produced as well as normal and have been overgrazed. The affects of this summer may show up next spring in reduced stands and poor seedling vigor. Delaying tillage of sod fields until next spring would allow the farmer to decide which field will yield better by inspection of the young stand rather than

taking the risk of unknowingly tilling the field that will produce more forage.

Another disadvantage of fall tillage is also related to the dry summer. Standing vegetation can trap snow this winter to help restore subsoil moisture. This possibility is practically eliminated with the use of fall tillage.

If you have any questions involving your soil conservation efforts, stop in at the Soil Conservation Service office at 721 South 5th Street in MAnchester and visit with us or give us a call at 927-4590. You've already paid for our services through your taxes, so stop in and get your money's worth.

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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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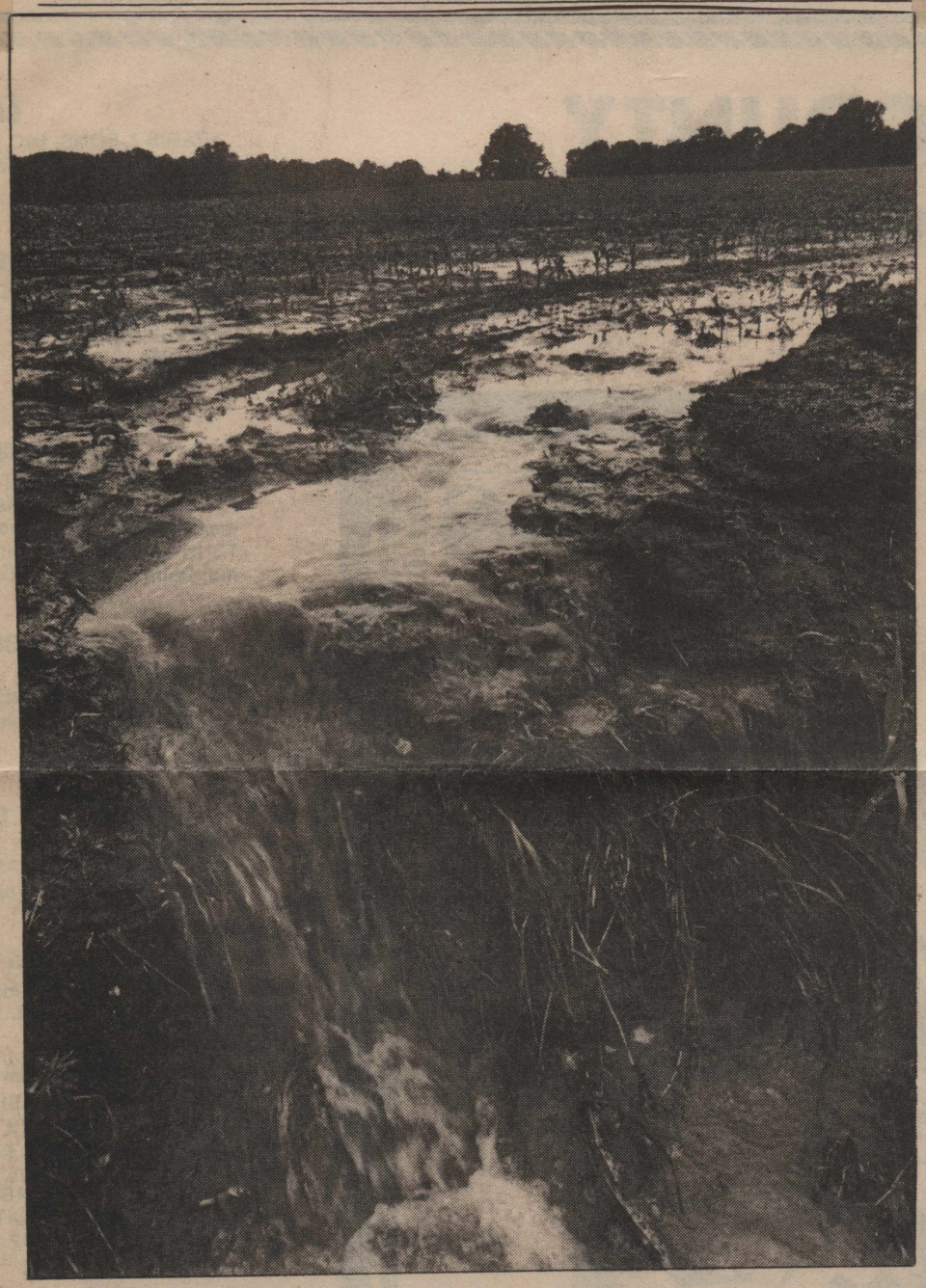
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Saving your soil

FOLLOWING A BRIEF STORM, the fine soils on this Iowa farm easily wash off the unprotected corn field, dumping unwanted sediment and farm chemicals into nearby streams and roadways. Nationally, some 2.8 billion tons of soil erode from cropland each year, creating a most serious long-term resource problem. The soils in Delaware county have allowable soil losses of about five tons per year, according to Norman Brus, soil conservationist with the Soil Conservation service. However, soil losses here average 15 to 60 tons per acre per year.

Fall or spring tillage?

(Editor's note: The following article was written by Norman Brus, soil conservationist for the Soil Conservation service of Manchester.)

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Soil classes

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These soil types, along with topography, create the potential for soil losses of 60 tons per acre if a moldboard plow is used, or 50 tons per acre if a fall disk-chisel system is used for primary tillage. By avoiding tillage until spring, soil losses could be cut in half if a good cover of residue still remains at planting time. By planting next year's crop using no-till, soil losses can be cut to 20 percent of the losses listed above.

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Conservation measures

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"You've already paid for our services through your taxes, so stop in and get your money's worth," says Norman Brus, soil conservationist.

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Soil And Water Conservation Edition

July 28, 1983

Published by Leader Publications Hopkinton, Iowa



The Soil Conservation Service Staff at the office in Manchester. The office is located at 721 south fifth Street.
(L-R front) Marilyn Beaudine, District Clerk; Norman Brus, Soil Conservationist. Back L-R: Ray Wycoff, Soil Conservationist; Chris Funke, Student Trainee; Larry Beeler, District Conservationist and Mark Biggs, Soil Conservationist.



Area farmers survey the no-til operations on the John Kruse farm, near Colesburg, June 30. The filed day was sponsored by the Soil Conservation Service, alonf with the County Extension Service.

Specialist explains soil loss in Iowa

It is often said that Iowa has lost half its topsoil due to erosion. There is some truth to this, but erosion is not the only factor that contributes to soil loss.

Topsoil is lost by water erosion, wind erosion and oxidation of organic matter. Each of these occurs naturally, explains Gerald Miller, Iowa State University extension agronomist. However, most forms of Iowa agriculture increase the rate of soil loss.

Soils on steep slopes that have been cropped with minimum conservation practices have lost 40 to 80 percent of their topsoil from water erosion, Miller estimates. The specialist defines soil erosion as the detachment and movement of mineral particles and organic material by water and wind.

Water erosion occurs on sloping land when raindrops detach soil particles by striking exposed or incompletely vegetated soil. These detached particles move downslope in runoff that occurs when rainfall exceeds the soil's capacity to absorb it. Networks of small channels or rills form when runoff concentrates in small natural depressions or in marks left by farm implements. Rilling increases rapidly as small channels are widened and opened by flowing water. Continued rill erosion results in large channels that cut through the topsoil into the subsoil. The greatest amount of erosion by water occurs on sloping lands that have no plant residue cover or growing vegetation, according to Miller.

"The steeper the slope, the greater the potential for soil erosion," he says. Velocity of runoff increases as percent slope rises, increasing the ability of runoff to detach and move soil particles. "When the percent slope is doubled, potential erosion increases two and one-half times," the specialist adds.

Longer slopes also have greater potential for erosion by water. "In general, if the slope length is doubled, potential erosion increases one and one-half times," according to Miller.

Soil erosion by wind occurs when the force of wind blowing over unprotected soil is great enough to detach soil particles. These detached particles are blown against other soil particles and the erosion process accelerates.

Miller says level and nearly level soils exposed to long open spaces to the west and northwest have the greatest poten-

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Agricultural Stablization and Conservation Service

The 1983 Agricultural Conservation Program practices, which were developed by the Delaware County ASC Committee, Soil Conservation Service and the District Forester are listed below. The county allocation is $120,100.00. There are sign up deadlines on Windbreaks and No Till Farming practices. You must sign an application and receive a tentative approval from the ASC Committee before you start the work.

They are listed below by in the following order: Code, 1983 ACP Practices, Cost-Share Rate and Lifespan:

SL1--Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment, 50%, 5 years.
SL2 -- Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement, 50%, 5 years.
SL3-- Stripcropping, $4.00 per A., 5 years.
SL 4 -- Terrace Systems, 75%, 10 years; Terrace Systems on marginal land, 25%, 10 years.
SL 5 -- Diversions, 75%, 10 years.
SL 7 -- Windbreak Restoration or Establishment, 60%, 10 years. (March 31, sign up deadline), $9.00 per tree, $.75 per shrub.
SL11 -- Permanent Vegetative Cover on Critical Areas, 75%, 5 years.
SL13 -- Contour Farming, $4.00 per A., 3 years.
SL15 -- No-Till Farming (March 31, sign up deadline), 25.0 A. maximum.
WC 1 -- Water Impoundment Reservoirs, 60%, 10 years.
WP 1 -- Sediment Retention, Erosion Control Struct., 75%, 10 years.
WP 2 -- Stream Protection, 75%, 10 years.
WP 3 -- Sod Waterways, 60%, 10 years.
WP 4 -- Animal Wast Control Facilities, 30%, 10 years.
FR 1 -- Forest Treet Plantations, 75%, 10 years.
FR 2 -- Forest Tree Stand Improvement, 75%, 10 years.
WL 1 -- Permanent Wildlife Habitat, 75%, 5 years.
WL 2 -- Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife, 75%, 10 years.

Practices must be maintained for this period of time, beginning the calendar year after establishment of installation.

Pooling Agreements are available, and are encouraged.

The total cost-share payment a person can receive under the ACP program, on all farms, shall not exceed $3500 per fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30).

Currently, Delaware County has approximately $30,000 remaining to be obligated for 1983 conservation practices. In the past couple of years, there has been a large increase in cost-share payment approvals for No-Till, Windbreaks and Terrace Systems.

Recently, there has been support from Congress to have mandatory soil-saving farm plans to be completed by SCS (Soil Conservation Service) before any farmer could receive government payments. This would include Agricultural Conservation Program payments, Price Support Loans and FmHA loans.

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During the 1930's the nation's attention was focused on soil conservation as dust clouds blew into the eastern United States. Even though conditions aren't as bad as the **Dust Bowl** years, we have a long way to go to reach the needed level of soil conservation effectiveness.

Soil erosion is one of the major concerns of today's agriculture for both the farmer and non-farm citizen. Sediment is a major pollutant of our water resource. This misplaced soil fills up road ditches, clogs drainage channels, covers up growing crops and reduces soil productivity. Soil erosion sediment also is a carrier of nitrogen, phosphorus and chemicals.

The cost of soil erosion is difficult to estimate precisely. Nevertheless, the cost is real, sizable on a short term basis, and can be enormous in the long run.

Soil, like many other resources, is valuable if kept in a useable location, but is unsightly and a serious problem when removed from crop production areas. The cost of losing an inch of soil from one acre can be measured by adding the loss incurred in crop production to the damage it causes after it leaves the farm. This value is variable depending on the depth and location of the soil resource and the potential for pollution or damage downstream (off the site).

It is generally considered that an inch of soil lost from deep deposits of topsoil, such as the deep loess (wind-blown soil) regions of Iowa, has less value than an inch of soil from other areas. An inch of soil lost from areas of shallow topsoil overlying rock usually has the highest value and is labeled as a fragile resource. All soils have limited depths and eventually some reduction in production will be noticed if erosion continues unchecked.

Soil erosion can reduce crop production by two major effects. One effect removes valuable nutrients and thus reduces the fertility of the soil. The use of fertilizers, mainly nitrogen, has masked this effect for the last 30 years or so. However, the energy shortage may make this effect more pronounced.

The other effect of soil erosion is long-term in nature and affects the soil's ability to absorb and store water. Typically, as soil erosion occurs, both the absorbing and moisture holding capacities are reduced. Like the fertility effect, this loss has been masked to some extent by planting dates, crop varie-

Con't On Page 6

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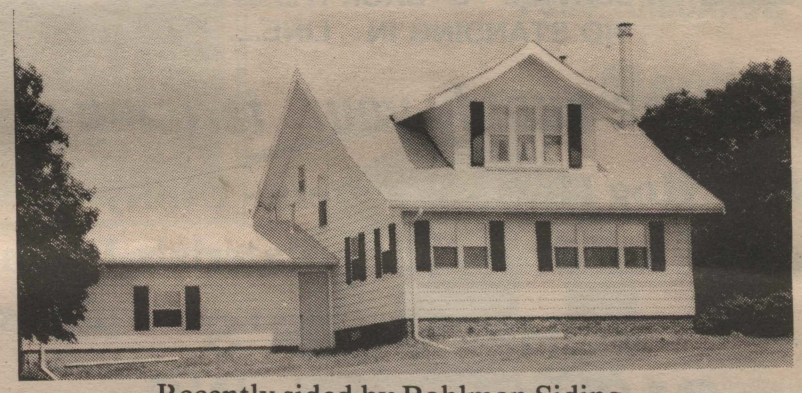
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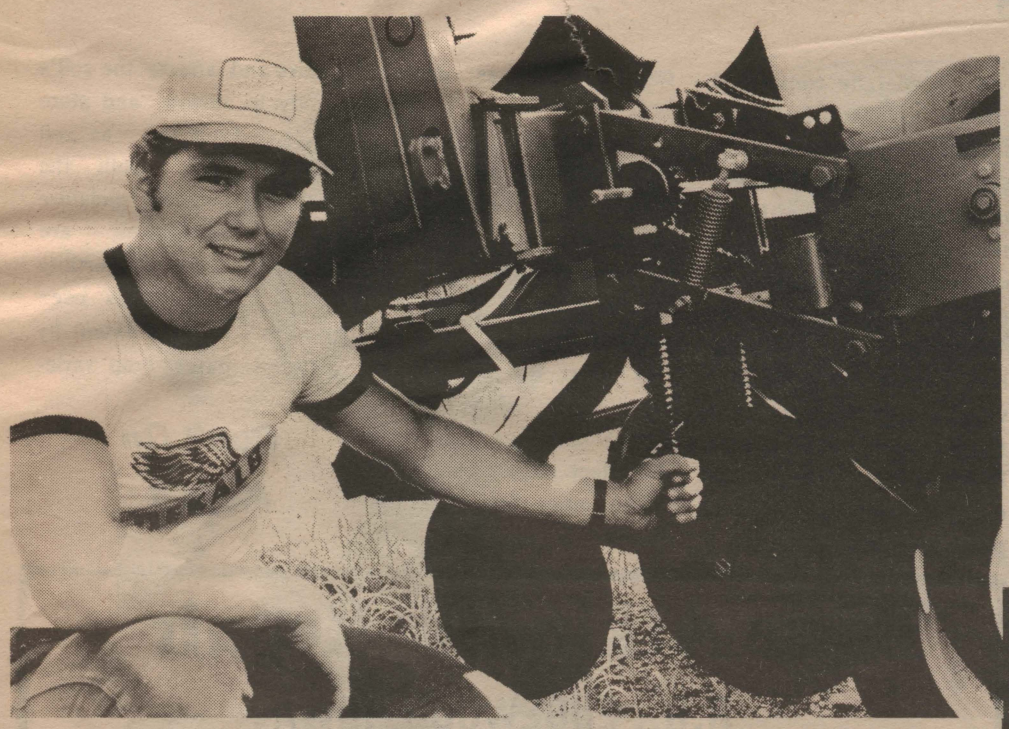
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John Preussner, Dundee farmer, shows Soil Conservation officials the special coulters on his no-til planter.

The Preussners have been using no-till farming since 1981. They started no-till by planting corn in soybean stubble in 1981. The following year they tried corn planted into corn stalks. John says he is satisfied with the yields he has gotten using no-till.

If there is a yield reduction with no-till the saving in fuel, time, and labor offset the yield reduction. With no-till, trips across the field aren't needed which greatly reduces the fuel bill.

By eliminating these tillage operations the farmer can reduce his machinery expense along with saving time.

The soil value of no-till is another reason the Preussners started using no-till. By leaving the crop residue on the surface it decreases water runoff and soil erosion.

John suggests several items to make your first attempt at no-till work.

Plant as close as possible to the row ridges of last years crop. Generally, the soil is warmer and drier than any other part of the row.

Select hybrids with strong seedling vigor and disease resistance.

The herbicide sprayer is important for weed control. Make sure the sprayer is calibrated properly so the right amounts of herbicides are applied. The sprayer needs to be set up to get uniform coverage.

The planter is important to cut through the crop residue, place the seed at the proper depth, and cover the seed.

John adds, "When you think about no-till it's simple, all you need to do is combine the right hybrid with a good planter and sprayer.

New Soil Conservation Educational Book

An educational book on soil conservation has been published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The 46-page book includes 24 teaching activities, with subjects such as soil ecology, managing soil resources, and urban soil conservation practices.

"The book is one we've needed for a long time," says William Brune, State Conservationist for SCS in Iowa. Called Conserving Soil, the book was designed for use by science and social studies teachers in grades 6 through 9.

"The book has a 16-page teacher's guide for background information, as well as 4 overhead transparencies and 24 spirit masters, so it's ready-made for teacher use," says Brune. The book was written and illustrated by an educational consulting firm with SCS guidance.

"Because of the printing costs involved, there aren't enough books for every teacher in Iowa," Brune says. "But there are enough for a few copies in each school system, and SCS field offices and soil conservation districts are now distributing them.

Teachers or others interested in obtaining a copy of the book should contact their local Soil Conservation Service office. There is an office in every county.

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Government involved in soil conservation

Guest editorial
By Robert Ray
Former governor

Over the past 14 years I served as governor, I had a particular interest in and commitment to our environment and especially to soil conservation. We have made substantial progress in our efforts to control soil erosion. We have more to do.

Iowa is a national leader in soil conservation and has demonstrated it by:

•establishing the nation's first state soil conservation cost share program which has effectively put to work more than $41 million in appropriations since its inception in 1973;

•passing model soil erosion control laws, including the Iowa Soil 2000 program;

•developing public education campaigns on the seriousness of soil erosion;

•inaugurating an innovative private sector soil stewardship program to develop soil conservation policies for agribusiness; and

•offering the nation's first state soil conservation loan program.

These soil conservation investments have paid dividends. Over eight million acres of Iowa's cropland is now protected from excessive soil losses. The number of no-till acres in Iowa has doubled in the last year and promises to grow rapidly in the future. And Iowans are now recognizing soil erosion as our state's most serious natural resource problem.

Our conservation-minded farmers and soil conservation districts deserve to be saluted for this commendable record. Yet so much remains to be done.

Our heavy spring and summer rains dug deep ditches in Iowa's hillsides, sliced sheets of topsoil from our fields and saturated our streams with silt. This erosion has graphically illustrated our need to keep up the fight against soil erosion. In Iowa, we plan to do just that; the new soil conservation loan program and the land use plan are evidence of the state's increased commitment.

As chairman of the National Governor's Association Task Force on Soil Conservation, I had to work to see that the federal commitment to soil conservation is not just rhetoric.

But it must be understood that we cannot rely on government alone. Private sector businesses, individual farm owners and operators, and all levels of government must work together to protect our soil for future generations.

By Conserving Now

We Can Keep

America Beautiful!!!

Heritage

BY HAZEL STIMSON

Out of the effete, settled East, my Granddad came
This wilderness of trees and prairie land to tame.
Angry, frustrated by hard, fruitless years of toil,
He settled here on Iowa's rich prairie soil.

Where the river narrowed by the limestone bluff,
He hired other angry settlers from Ole Kentuck,
And he built a dam to power a water wheel,
To saw the trees into lumber, he built a mill.

His log cabin served for his home and church and school,
He used a hick'ry stick to teach the Golden Rule,
Arithmetic, spelling, surveying, debating,
Singing school, spelling bees, hunting, fishing.

My Father was born on the edge of the prairie,
He felled the trees and rolled the rocks and boulders out,
And with his faithful team, he broke the virgin soils,
Guided the breaking plow for many weary miles.

Proudly, he sent his children to the section school,
Rejoiced as they learned to read and write and cipher.
Self-taught, he, a scholar now, even subscribed to
A French newspaper, 'cause he never went to school.

In turn, I farmed the land for 40 years to build
A huge red barn, each year with hay and grain was filled.
With tractor and car and changes, I learned to cope,
Each year planting and reaping with bigger, wider scope.

My son buried all the piles of rocks, bulldozing,
Shrubbery, surveying, seeding waterways,
Insecticides, weed sprays, four-row tillage units,
Milking parlor, high school training is scarcely enough.

My Grandson studied science before he was 10,
Now for his country he flies a huge transport jet.
And as he flies, he dreams of home and his return,
To what needs doing on Iowa's prairie land.

Sadly musing, the big red barn is out of date,
And he plans for a big self-feeding gate,
For the 100 dairy cows he plans to keep,
With self-feeding silos, a fullsome life to reap.

Could he but see, would Granddad still travel afar?
Would he wish to go to the moon or a far-off star?
Or move again to another pioneer state?
But he could never call his sons and grandsons effete.

Planting stock selling out

Bob Hibbs, District Forester for this area, was informed by Jerry Grebasch, nursery forester, that planting stock for the 1983 season is rapidly selling out.

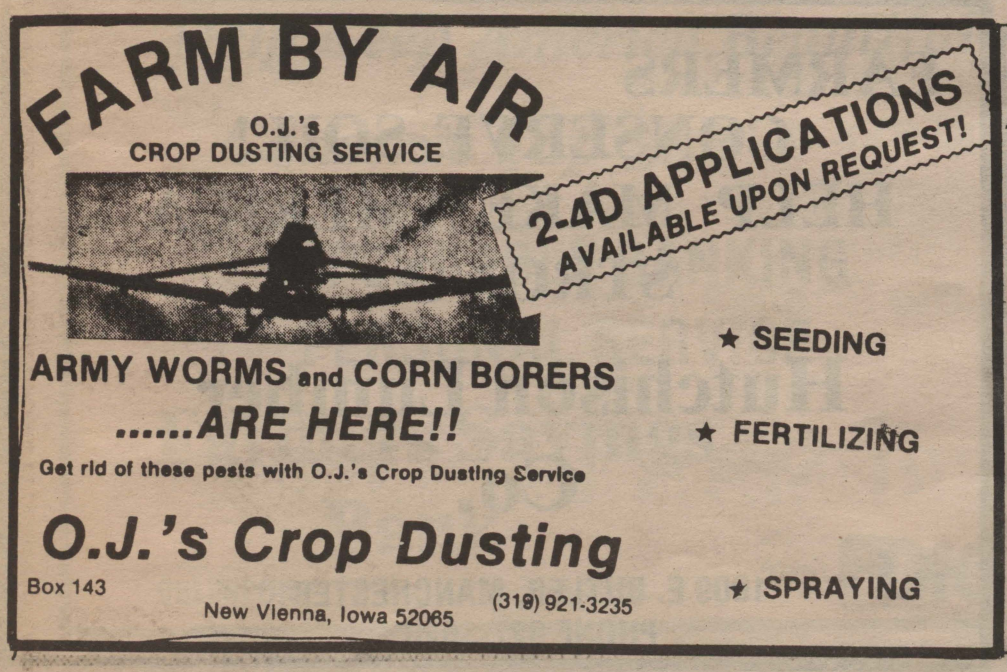
The conifers are no longer available. Hardwoods such as black walnut, green ash, shagbark hickory, red oak, burr oak, and white oak are still in good supply. These trees are preferred for the production of firewood, energy plantations, and wildlife food crops. Energy plantations are especially important now and in the future. Five to 10 acres of trees are needed to keep the average homeowner in a supply of fuelwood.

Many of the wildlife shrubs are available for habitat improvement or to establish new areas. Information is available from your local conservation commission wildlife biologist. More wildlife habitat is always needed in Iowa.

Don't delay, contact Bob Hibbs now for more information. His phone number is 515-752-3352 or write to Box 681, Marshalltown, IA, 50158.

CONSERVE NOW







You must control uplands!

CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

What conservation practice can all farmers apply to their land, reducing their soil erosion by one-half and cost them absolutely nothing?

This method of conservation has been in existence from the vineyards of Cypress 5,000 years ago to the present cornfields of Dogpatch. From mountain roads to cow paths, this practice is used by us all.

I cannot count the times I have been called to look at a waterway and found the same problem.....siltation. Either the waterway has been silted full and is channeling down along side creating ditches, or else the outlet has an overfall because the fence line has been silted full. I have had engineers look at these sites and they come up with the same answers. The drainage area is in a state of shock.

Can you imagine what a ton of soil looks like? Can you imagine what five tons of soil looks like? Believe it or not, five tons of top soil eroding off each acre per year (80 acres x 5 equals 400 tons per year) is acceptable on most soils. Nine or 10 tons per acre per year is the average in Iowa. Many farmers think they're above average. Don't fool yourself because you're not.

Every erosion problem reverts back to the upland treatment. To control what happens downstream, you must control the uplands.

Contouring, which restricts water velocity, is the first answer. With each corn or bean row diverting the water towards a grassed waterway at slow velocities, the water is disposed of in a safe manner.

My pet peeve, end rows, should also be replaced by grass or hay. Not only is it a pain to turn around on bumpy end rows full of ditches, but hay is an excellent cash crop. Just try to buy some for less than $2.50 per bale in March.

How do I continue my same crop pattern on the contour? This can be very confusing when all the rows are chiseled and no pattern remains. I have my father to thank for showing me the importance of the buffer strip. This is usually a strip of grass, three or more feet in width, following the contour and sometimes separating two farming patterns. The buffer strip not only helps by providing a place to start field operations, but also acts as a level terrace by catching most of the silt that does cross your crop rows.

Contouring, when combined with buffer strips, grassed waterways, and grassed headlands is the most economical and logical soil conservation practice that I can recommend.

It sounds like I have just put half of your farm in grass or hay, doesn't it? I challenge you to find out how little it really is compared to the service you'll be giving to not only your fellow man but your own conscience as well.

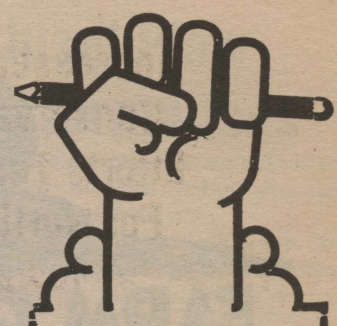
Conservation Pays

Con't from Page 3

ties and the use of irrigation equipment.

Any figures estimated for the value of an inch of topsoil must be accepted with caution because of the many possible variation for each location and whether figures are based on short-term or long-term production calculations. There is, however, plenty of data and evidence that the cost of soil erosion through nutrient losses, loss in production, and offsite damages is good reason for action.

To stress the point of looking ahead, there is an old saying that if you place a frog in boiling water, he will react quickly enough to jump before he is seriously hurt. But if you place him in warm water and slowly heat it, he will be cooked before he decides to jump. We should ask ourselves, "After which inch of soil lost are we going to decide to jump with action to conserve our land resource?"



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Increased Soil Conservation Efforts Targeted For Northeast Iowa

Delaware County is one of 10 northeast Iowa counties that will receive a boost in soil conservation efforts. The county : part of the Northeast Iowa Target Area and the designation means both more personnel and cost-share funds for erosion control programs.

The target area will receive an additional $400,000 from the USDA Soil Conservation Service, primarily for hiring more SCS personnel. The USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is also allocating $563,800 in cos share funds to the area.

"There will be 20 new employees in the ten-county area this year," says Larry Beeler, District Conservationist for the SCS.

Brian L. Reimer, Executive Director of the Delaware County ASCS says the county's share of the $563,800 cost shariung will be $56,300. That's in addition to the regular ACP cost sharing funds of $56,300 that we are allotted earlier in the year" he adds.

The ten counties included in the Northeast Iowa Target Area are Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Linn, Jones, Jackson and Clinton. "This area was targeted because of shallow soils and high erosion rates," says Beeler. About two-thirds of the 4.3 million acres in the area is in cropland, and soil losses of 15 to 20 tons an acre a year are not uncommon. More than 1.5 million acres of land in the target area has soil losses about 3 to 5 tons an acre a year, considered unacceptable by the soil conservationists.

"The purpose of designating our county as one of those in a target area is to get erosion control more quickly," says Beeler. We'll be concentrating on giving farmers technical and cost sharing assistance in developing soil conservation systems for their land. Conservation tillage, terraces, strip cropping, contour farming, crop rotations-- we'll be doing more to explain how all these practices fit together. We should be able to assist more farmers on a one-to-one basis," Beeler says.

The Northeast Iowa Target Area is the second to be named in Iowa. A 16 county area in Western Iowa was first two years ago. That area is receiving $901,000 from SCS and $905,000 from ASCS in target area funds this year.

For more information, contact Larry Beeler, District Conservationist at 721 South 5th Street, Manchester, Iowa 52057. Phone 927-4590.

Soil Conservation

July 1, 1983

The Delaware Soil Conservation District has received approximately $38,000 from the State of Iowa, according to Larry Knipper, Chairman.

The funds, available immediately are earmarked for cost sharing with Delaware County farmers in the installation of permanent soil conservation practices.

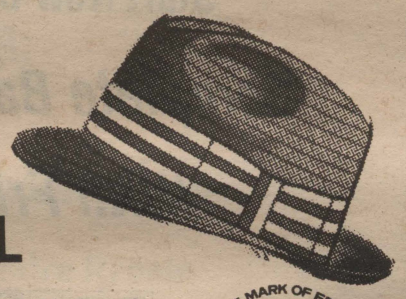
Eligible practices include terraces and gully control structures.

"Farmers must be cooperators with the soil conservation district and fill out an application before funds can be approved," stated Knipper, "Once approved they may receive up to 50% of the estimated cost or actual cost, which ever is less."

Farmers interested in the program should contact the Soil Conservation Service office in Manchester for further information.

Larry Knipper
Chairman

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Terraces For Soil Conservation

By Mark Biggs, Soil Conservationist

Terraces are one of the oldest soil conservation practices known. They have been in use for many centuries in parts of the world, such as the Mid-East. Typically, they have been used to bring steep, marginal land into production and prevent gully development. However, their most important use in Iowa is to prevent sheet and rill erosion of cropland. The inherent effectivelness of terraces is due to their reducing slope length. As rain falls and begins to runoff long slopes, more water can accumlate, increasing the erosion velocity and force of the runoff water. Terraces break the slope up into segments, stopping the water at the terrace ridge, preventing that accumulation. Generally speaking, terraces reduce erosion 60-80 percent. Terraces are particularly needed on slopes steeper than 8%, where contouring becomes ineffective on slopes longer than 120 feet, since the water breaks over the rows.

The following example illustrates the effectiveness of terraces: a field with 14% slope and 300 foot sloper length, Fayette soil, being rotated to 2 years corn, oats, and 2 years hay, using a chisel or disk tillage system (20% surface residue), has a soil loss rate of about 20 ton/acre/year. Contour terraces will reduce this erosion to 5 ton/acre/year, the tolerable level.

There are 3 types of terraces, differing according to whether the front and backslope are farmed (see diagram). The narrow base terrace is the cheapest, since the least amount of dirt is moved. The grassed backslope terrace has a farmable front slope. The broadbase terrace is farmed over the entire ridge, but may be three times as expensive as the narrow base and cannot be used on steep land because the backslope becomes too steep to farm.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of terraces? The advantages are: 1) erosion control 2) the soil that does erode is trapped by the terrace ridge and is not lost 3) streams and lakes are not filled in and polluted by sediment and attached fertilizers chemicals, etc. 4) the land is made leveler and more farmable both by the way terraces are constructed and also by the natural filling in of the low areas over time. The principal objection to terraces has been that they must be farmed on the contour, as opposed to straight row farming. However, modern tile outlet terraces are much more farmable than older type graded terraces, since they are laid out parallel and grassed waterways are eliminated. Terraces are built from subsoil, after the topsoil is stockpiled, to present the loss of topsoil during construction.

If your farm is in the more rolling portions of the county where the Downs and Fayette soils predominate, you probably need terraces, along with conservation tillage and crop rotations to control erosion.

Even if your land is not steep, you may need terraces depending on your rotation and tillage system. Contact us at 927-4590 if you would like information about terraces for your farm. Terraces may be one of the practices you need in your plan of conservation measures.

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A Conservation Plan For Your Farm

By Mark Biggs, Soil Conservationist

The Soil Conservation Service has identified Delaware County as a critical erosion area. Much of the sloping cropland has already lost half of its originally topsoil in the past 120 years of farming. Crop productivity has remained relatively high due mainly to the increased use of fertilizers. Our erosion rates must be reduced, or soil productivity will be permanently damaged.

Your local Soil Conservation District offers free technical assistance in helping farmers plan a resource management system that will reduce their erosion to tolerable levels. SCS works directly with the farmer, on the farm, to develop the conservation plan. The purpose of the plan is to control erosion while meeting the farmer's objectives. Obviously, grain farmers and dairy farmers will have different objectives as far as crop roations are concerned. The plan is formulated to meet those objectives using an appropriate combination of practices such as conservation tillage, contouring, terracing, etc.

Why does SCS encourage conservation planning? The conservation plan will help the farmer make the right decisions as to what practices should be installed on a particular field. The plan is a blueprint for installing conservation practices on your farm, field by field. The plan will include your present soil erosion rates, as well as the rates expected with various alternative systems listed in the plan.

You can develop a plan for your farm by calling the Soil Conservation Service office at 927-4590 in Manchester and requesting a farm visit. Our services are free of charge and there is absolutely no obligation.

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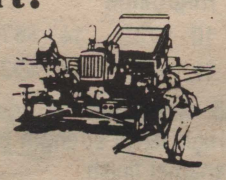
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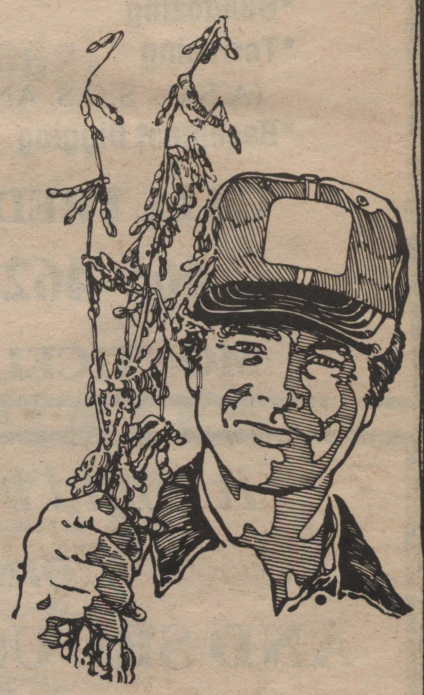
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District Activities

January 1982-December 1982

January

--Larry Knipper was elected chairman and Marvin Calonder was elected vice-chairman. Miss-Ma-Wap-Ce Resource Board Representative is Paul Gienapp, Jr. with Knipper as an alternative. Dave Eibey is to be representative of the Eastern Iowa Tillage Show. Assistant Commissioners of Gib Hoffman, Pam Ledanbach, and Orville Schmitz were appointed.

--Region 4 placed first in the Senior and Junior Division of the Essay Contest. Winners were Lori and Lanette Engelken of Maquoketa Valley Schools.

--Reviewed Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Soil Conservation and the Soil Conservation Service.

--Award for Andrew Lesche from the Izaak Walton League to be presented by Schmock and Schmitz.

February

--Eastern Iowa Tillage show attended by Knipper, Eibey, Calonder, Wycoff and Beeler.

--Adopt guidelines on No-Till.

--No-Till meeting set for the 19th at Extension, attended by Beeler and Calonder.

--Approved guidelines for Delaware County Iowa Cost Share Funds.

March

--Iowa 2000 material was discussed and comments were made by Glenn Burrows, Regional Director. Comments by Commissioners were sent to the State Committee.

--Commissioners Handbook was reviewed and discussed.

--Beeler and Knipper attended the Regional Commissioners' Meeting in Oelwein on the 2nd.

--Wycoff and Eibey attended the Eastern Iowa Tillage Meeting on the 8th.

April

--Eibey, Calonder and Beeler and 65 people from the community attended the No-Till meeting on the 13th.

--Robert Lahr will be given an award for his cooperation with no-till, etc.

--Decision was made to sell flags.

--Kelly Carty was selected to attend the Youth Leadership Program.

--Soil Survey is about 3/4 done.

May

--Agricultural Land Conversion Survey filled out and sent in.

June

--Two no-till tours were held with about 30 farmers attending each.

--Beeler attended SCSA meeting in Waterloo.

--Paul Gienapp retired as SCD Commissioner and Steve DeShaw of Hopkinton accepted the appointment to replace Paul.

--Conservation Review Group at the ASCS office held on the 18th.

July

--An Awards Banquet was held with the following awards presented: Herb Prideg for 14 years of service to the District, Paul Gienapp for 24 year of service to the District, Izaak Walton Windbreak Award was presented to Andrew Loesche, Conservation Tillage Award was presented to Robert Lahr.

--Commissioners decided to have an Essay Contest with the topic "How Soil and Water Conservation Affects our Future"..

August

--Cartoon Booklets about soil conservation were distributed to area schools.

--Commissioners' Handbooks were distributed.

--Dave Eibey attended the Eastern Iowa Tillage Meeting in Marion.

September

--JoAnn Grundmeyer of Masonville, a Starmont student, won first place in the Essay Contest. Lynae Engelken of Earlville, a Maquoketa Valley student won second place. Duane Sill of the John Sill Insurance Agency presented the awards.

--Calonder, Beeler, and Biggs attended the Regional Commissioners' meeting in Oelwein.

--Calonder attended the Land Use Meeting.

--Mark Biggs joined the staff as a soil conservationist.

October

--Forest Field Day was conducted by ISU Extension.

--Mark Biggs, new soil conservationist for Delaware County, was briefed on the principles and purposes of conservation planning.

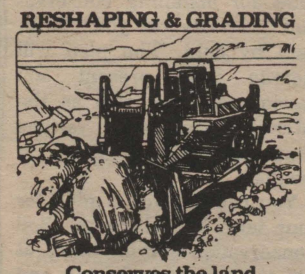
December

--Hoffman and Schmitz were reappointed as assistant commissioners.

--Dave Eibey attended an Eastern Iowa Tillage Show meeting.

--Francis Oberreuter was chosen to receive the Izaak Walton Windbreak Award.

--Eibey and Beeler attended the 1983 Farm Progress Show Meeting.



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Conservation Budget

JULY 1, 1982 TO JUNE 30, 1983

IM BUDGET

Original Allocation	$1,175.00
Commissioner Expenses	$686.49
Office Supplies and Expenses	174.99
Total Spent	861.48
Remaining Balance	$313.52

IIIM BUDGET

Original Allocation	$26,503.00
Obligated Funds to Date	$7,068.75
Balance	$19,434.25
Unused balances returned to funds	4,110.75
Remaining Balance	$23,545.00

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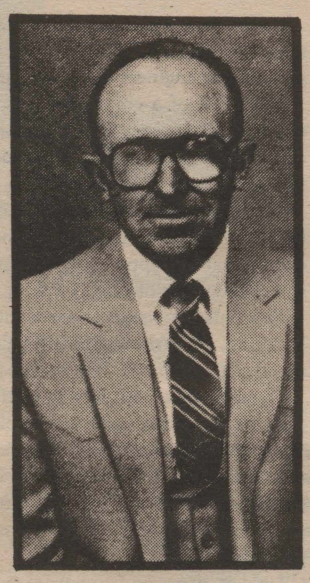
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Misguided by myths



BY GLENN BURROWS

How often have we been misguided by someone who didn't really know the facts but freely gave information that wasn't factual? Just a myth that we so often believe in, sometimes for years, before the magic of time dispells the theory. If you will digress with me back in history to the time of Christopher Columbus, a large percent of those people believed that the world was flat. It couldn't be round as Columbus stated because those on the underside of the earth would fall off. But Columbus didn't buy that myth and so discovered the new world. The first mechanical corn pickers, pulled by horses, were scoffed at. Machines could never replace a man and a corn hook!! Combines to harvest small grain in the field wouldn't work, the sieves wouldn't be level on the hillsides. They would waste a lot of grain. The threshing machine had to be set level to insure that no grain would be wasted.

Soil conservation today is hampered by unfounded myths passed on from one generation to another. Information honestly believed, but without factual foundation. Surveys taken among farm people indicate that soil erosion is considered a serious problem. "I don't have soil erosion on my farm, however, my neighbor is losing a lot of soil." Even though the two farms may be identical in farming methods and pitch of slope. An often used myth is, "I no longer use the moldboard plow. I am conservation farming with my chisel plow." Chiseling your land two or three times up and down a hill is not conservation. You could be actually losing more soil than plowing. Acquiring conservation equipment such as chisels, soil savers, no-till planters, etc. does not save land. Using it as a part of a conservation system will preserve the soil.

Other myths are "It is evident that farmers just don't care about conserving our soil." I believe that those that don't care are surely in the minority. They live only for their own self interests, forgetting their love of the land or their love for their fellow man, living with one goal in mine, "What's in it for me?"

Sometimes we hear "I would adopt conservation practices but I just don't have the money." It all depends on your priorities. Is the preservation of land more important than some short term investment? Let us dispel the myths and rumors such as "The soil has to be plowed deep, a chisel won't work." "I haven't time to farm around the hill." "I have to chisel up and down the hill so water can get away. It gets too wet." How about more tile and grass waterways?

Another often used myth is, "No-till planting won't work for me." In the Buchanan County no-till corn yield contest a yield of 187.43 No. 2 dry corn was attained. This does indicate it will work with less time, less cost, less soil loss, less investment in machinery, and more profit. Search out the facts, destroy the myths, believe "I can" and you will.

The myths and imaginative ideas that sometimes fill our minds must be replaced by research evidence. The individual innovators who are leaders in soil conservation are very good resources for proven facts. Let us all forge a partnership in 1983 with our natural resources to consciously commit our thinking and acting to become good stewards. The economic problems of the farmers have been building for decades and will not quickly change. Economically we cannot afford to abandon our environment. In time we will recover and be much wiser for the experience but will have lost if we lose the productive food base of our land.



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Sheltering Our Soil

By Norman Brus, Soil Conservationist

The countryside in Delaware County is dotted with building sites just like all the counties in Iowa and surrounding states. Most of these farmsteads have several of the same distinguished features: a house for the protection of the family residing there, livestock facilities to protect various animals from the sun or the winter winds, and maybe a machine shed to shelter farm implements from the winter snow and the summer rains. One type of shelter that is not commonly seen, but is increasing in popularity, is a roof of residue cover on our soil.

If our machinery and livestock receive shelter to help remain in a healthy condition, why shouldn't our soil receive the same courtesy. In recent years, many farmers have realized that our soil needs the same attention and protection if it is going to remain productive. These farmers are switching from conventional tillage with the plow and disk to no-till, where the new crop is planted directly into last year's residue with a minimum of soil disturbance. This is proving to be a very effective means of reducing soil losses due to erosion.

Iowa receives 50% of its annual rainfall and 90% of its water erosion between April 1 and July 1. This is the time of year when our conventually tilled fields have the least residue protection on the surface, therefore this is the most erosive time of the year. Rain causes erosion two ways. First, the rain falls and dislodges soil particles when they hit the soil surface. Second the water that flows over the surface carries these particles downhill, exposing subsoils that may be less fertile than the original topsoil. This soil that is being eroded away contains the fertility which mother nature placed there and also the fertility which the farmer pays for every spring when he applies his nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Farmers are realizing that they can't afford to pay for nutrients that will never be used by their crops and are switching to no-till to reduce this loss.

Crop residue is a very effective means of controlling soil erosion. With the soil surface covered with a layer of residue, raindrops fall on crop material and then are gently dropped to the soil surface. This gentle flow of water to the soil surface does not have as much force to dislodge soil particles. Once water reaches the surfaces, the residue slows down the speedof water as it travels downhill into our watercourses. No-tilling into a soil that has 70% of its surface covered by residue can reduce erosion to less than one-fourth of the erosion of spring plowing in corn or meadow fields. Soil movement can be reduced by 60% by no-tilling into soybean fields rather than spring plowing and by 55% if no-till is used rather than by residue.

Brian Oberreuter of Ryan is experimenting with his first year of no-till. So far, Brian is happy with what he sees in his soybeans planted into corn stubble and soybean residue. Participation in the PIK program has kept Oberreuter from trying no-till into corn residue but he plans on no-tilling most of this year's idled acres when he plants next spring. Brian felt that the no-till seedbed was just as good as conventional tilled seedbeds, in fact, he felt that the no till areas may have been less compact than other areas. Weeds are the biggest issue when you talk to Oberreuter about no till. This spring he had his herbicides custom applied using about 25 gallons of fluid as the carrier. He plans to use 35 to 40 gallons of fluid per acre next year to elimnate his weed control problem. Weeds are not unique to the no till though. Brian thinks there are places where the weed pressure may be greater where he had disked before planting.

This may be because tillage brings a new supply of viable weed seed to the surface where it is able to germinate. Oberreuter is happy with his experiences with no till so far. If yields are satisfactory and htey look like they will be, no till will probably become a common practice on the Oberreuter farm.

John Turnis of rural Manchester is experiencing his second year of no till. Turnis plants soybeans into corn residue and corn into soybean residue. Turnis is happy with the yield that he received from his soybeans last fall, but thinks his corn could have been a little better. But then the corn didn't get planted too early last year either, admits Turnis. This year the no till corn was planted early and looks better. If the summer and fall remain favorable for crop production, John feels his no till will be a success.

No till has advantages other than reducing erosion. Economics is an advantage and maybe tied with erosion reduction in importance since a farmer must make a profit to survive. Less tillage means less money spent on fuel, fewer repairs of tillage equipment and fewer man hours required to plant an acre. Fewer man hours per acre spent on a tractor during planting season allows an operator to spend more time overseeing his livestock operation or farming more acres. Each has the oppotential to add dollars to the net profit.

For the beginning farmer, no till means he will have a lower equipment inventory and cost since tillage equipment is not needed. His limited finances may be more wisely spent in other areas of the operation. Or if he simply decides not to use the money he would normally invest in tillage equipment, he can save the interest charge associated with those dollars. For some beginning farmers, the hours of time saved by using no till means that they can hold a job down in town to help with the financing until they are on their feet financially.

It is becoming apparent that no till is a means to save soil while reaping a reward of greater profit. Farmers are realizing that erosion control now will benefit them in the future. Many farmers in Delaware County are turning to no till as their first step in soil conservation so that they will have soil to farm tomorrow.

Let's Conserve Our Topsoil

Adjust Chisel Plow For Best Performances

Chisel plows pull easier and leave more residue on the soil surface than moldboard plows, according to Erdal Ozkan, extension agricultural engineer at Iowa State University, Ames.

The draft of a chisel plow in most soils is less than half that of a moldboard plow per foot of width when both are working at the same depth. If improperly adjusted, however, a chisel plow may not give this advantage.

Minimum draft on a chisel plow is when the lift angle is 20 degrees between the face of the tool and horizontal. Operating a chisel plow so deeply that the upper curved part of the shanks presses down on the soil can increase draft.

Draft also increases as speed increases. High speed operation causes breaking, pulverizing and riding of the soil. The engineer suggests a speed of five mph for best results in most soil conditions.

Operating a chisel plow at uniform depth is essential and relatively easy with a small, mounted implement,. Keeping a wide chisel plow with folding sections level is not as easy. Check the machine frequenly tos ee that all sections are level, Ozkan says, and make sure that hydraulic cylinders, which control operating depth, are working properly. Be sure all tires are equal size and inflated to the same pressure.

Uneven pressure from front to rear shanks may be a problem if a chisel plow is not level. If this happens with a mounted hisel plow, extend the tractor top link to increase penetration of rear shanks; shorten the top link to increase depth of the front row of shanks. With a drawn chisel plow, raise the tongue in relation to the drawbar to increase the depth of rear shanks; lower the tongue for more penetration in front.

A chisel plow may move side to side or swing to one side in hard soil. This may be caused by the machine not being level, uneven penetration, operating too deep, soil too hard for sweeps or the shanks not equally disturbed.

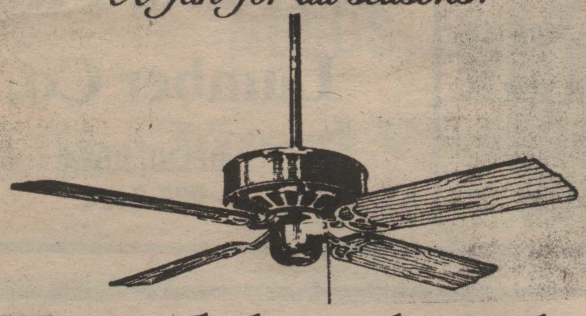
Poor shank arrangement may cause plugging when a chisel plow is operated on ground covered with residue. Shanks should be staggered with maximum space between them.

Improper installation of twisted shovels is another cause of plugging. Half of the shovels should be right hand and half should be left hand. On chisel swith three rows of shovels, the entire front row should turn the soil the same direction, the middle row should turn the opposite way and the rear row should be split so the shovels turn the soil toward the center of the plow.

Ozkan said most new conservation tillage chisel plows work well in spite of heavy residue because they usually have a gang of straight disk blades or coulters in front of the chisel shanks. This design usually eliminates the need for chopping or disking the residue before chiseling.

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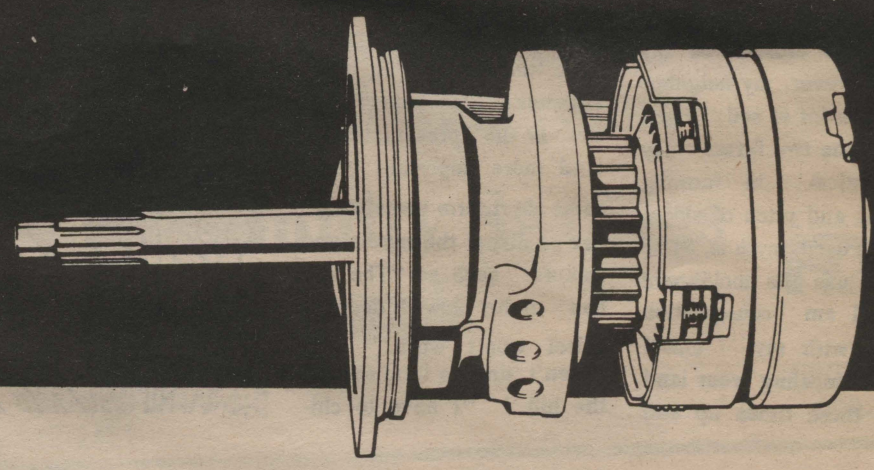
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Soil Erosion and Your Farm

By Larry Beeler, District Conservationist

Soil erosion occurs on your farm in two ways. Gully erosion is the most noticeable and easiest to see. The other type of erosion is sheet erosion.

Sheet erosion is the movement of topsoil in thin layers over a large area. Because sheet erosion occurs in thin layers it is difficult to see.

There are many areas in Delaware County where sheet erosion can be seen. In the spring of the year on tilled fields you can see light colored areas on the sides of hills. These light colored areas are where soil erosion has removed the dark, fertile topsoil. As the topsoil becomes thinner or removed, the lighter, less fertile subsoil is mixed on the surface. The subsoil that is now on the surface effects soil productivity.

Generally, the subsoil is lower in fertility. When the organic matter is removed with the topsoil, the soil nutrients are also removed. The organic matter is important to crop production because most of the micronutrients needed are supplied by organic matter. If erosion continues the cost of production will increase because of higher fertilizer bills.

The subsoil can be higher in clay which requires more energy to farm. The water holding ability of the subsoil is lower, which can put the crop under moisture stress during dry times. The removal of topsoil and soil nutrients leaving subsoil, reduces the productivity of your farm.

To maintain your farm's productivity for future generations soil erosion needs to be controlled.

Area Conservationists Named For Eastern Iowa

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has selected two area conservationists to head up the agency's work in eastern Iowa.

Lyle Asell of Chariton will direct agency programs over 17 southeastern Iowa counties, and Earl Cosby of Muscatine will handle 15 counties in northeast Iowa. Both assignments are effective July 25.

Asell, 39, replaces Eldon Weber, who took an SCS job in Des Moines as assistant state conservationist earlier this month. His office will be in Fairfield. A native of Red Oak, Asell has worked with the SCS since 1966, with positions at Newton, Red Oak, Chariton, Des Moines, and Creston. He earned a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology in 1966. He is currently the Resource, Conservation and Development coordinator for SCS at Creston.

Cosby, 35, fills a vacancy in northeast Iowa created March 16 when Harold Boehmer died of a heart attack. The office is being moved from Mason City to West Union. Cosby is a native of Enid, Mississippi and earned a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education from Alcorn A & M College at Lorman, Mississippi in 1970. He began work with SCS in Iowa in 1968 at Burlington and has held SCS positions in Ottumwa, Fairfield and Iowa City. He has been the SCS District Conservationist at Muscatine since 1974.

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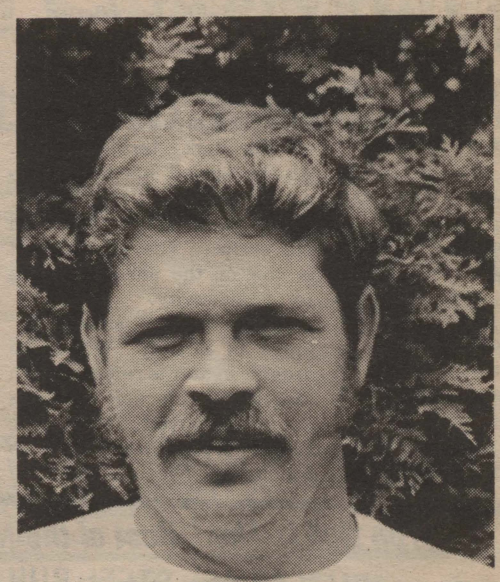
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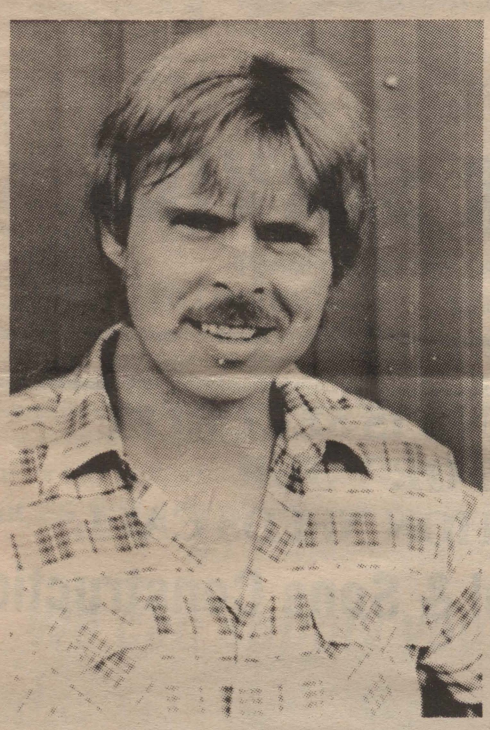
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Commissioner Honey Creek Township



Fred Wessels, Greeley, uses contour strip cropping to control erosion and soil loss.

Con't From Page 1

tial for wind erosion. "The total erosion in Iowa caused by wind is small compared with erosion caused by water," he adds.

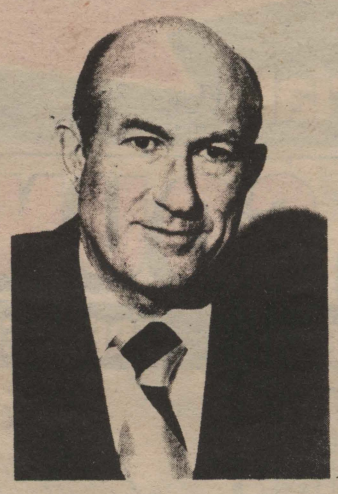
Oxidation of topsoil decreases organic matter of all Iowa soils, according to the agronomist. Tillage exposes the soil to increased amounts of oxygen and also increases the extent of the wetting and drying of the soil. These processes accelerate the rate of organic matter loss in the form of carbon dioxide. Oxidation of organic matter is a major cause of soil depletion on level or nearly level soils. Soils that have been continuously cropped contain only about half as much organic matter as similar soils maintained under native vegetation, Miller says.



No-til corn growing on the Marc Hermann farm, RR Manchester, Iowa.

Conservation system approach helps solveerosion

By William J. Brune,
State Conservationist
USDA SCS



William J. Brune

It is seldom true that a single soil conservation practice will solve the erosion problems on a farm.

After a rainstorm, corn and soybean fields with no conservation protection show the most erosion. But in most cases, fields with only partial protection have visible signs of erosion, too. The more the rains come, the more apparent it is that the fields with adequate protection are those protected by a combination of soil conservation practices.

Consider conservation tillage, the practice of leaving the past year's crop residues on the soil surface. Conservation tillage, particularly no-till farming, offers perhaps the best hope for controlling soil erosion on corn and soybean land.

No-till farming--leaving all the previous year's crop residues on the soil surface--reduces soil losses by as much as 90 percent. But it has limits. If no-till planting is done up and down hill, seeds or young plants could wash out. On long, steep slopes, especially those protected only with soybean residues, sheet and rill erosion will be excessive. A crop rotation which allows more hay or small grains may be needed on long, steep slopes with no-till to control erosion. In addition, there is still a good deal of water runoff from a no-till field, and the concentrations of water runoff cause small gullies to form during heavy rains. Some method to take runoff water safely from a field is also needed--a system of grassed waterways or tile outlet terraces may be part of the complete resource conservation system.

Terracing is an excellent water management practice. But again, on long, steep slopes, sheet and rill erosion between terraces is a problem, especially on land farmed in continuous rowcrop. Some kind of conservation tillage is needed as part of the complete system.

In cases where forages are used on the farm, stripcropping or crop rotations may be selected as part of the system rather than--or in addition to--terraces. If the topography isn't well-suited to terraces, a farmer may include some water and sediment control basins in the system to make farming operations more convenient.

An important component often left out of cropland conservation systems is a grassed headland or turn strip. A terrace or contour system with conservation tillage controls sheet and rill erosion on most of the field, but erosion can be serious at the edge of the field, where end rows are planted up and down hill. Grass or legumes in place of row crops in these areas would control erosion.

Because so many variables are involved--farming operations, cost of conservation practices, soil types, slope length and steepness--the system which fits one farm will probably not fit another. Similarly, a system that works in one field may not fit an adjoining field.

A farm-by-farm and field-by-field analysis is the best approach to planning a complete resource management system for the farm.

Delaware Conservation Accomplishments

October 1, 1981 to September 30, 1982

	Number	Acres
New Cooperators	18	3291
Conservation Plans	----	2100
Farms Serviced	250	
Farms Applying one or more practices	90	
Conservation Tillage (No-Till)	----	1100
Cropland Terraces	23,000 Ft.	
Erosion Control Structures	4	
Windbreaks	15	
Land Benefited	----	1400
Land Adequately Protected	----	400

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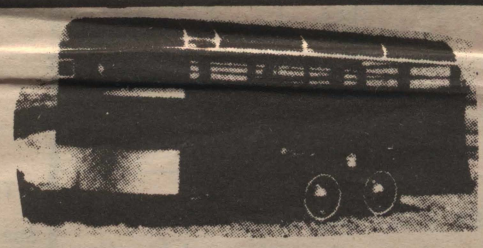
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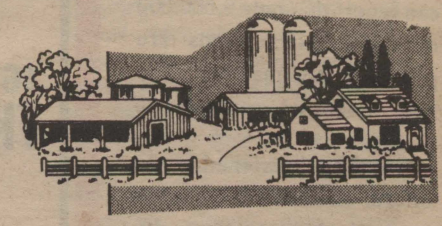
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Our Continuing Challenge

BY JAMES B. GULLIFORD,
DIRECTOR IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOIL CONSERVATION

Through the history of agriculture in our country, modern technology has performed miracles in the field of agriculture. Grain yield increases from hybrids, fertilizer, and disease and insect control have produced bin-busting crops and correspondingly low commodity prices. Meat and milk production increases have resulted from breeding and feeding technology. Efficiency improvements from agricultural mechanization have enabled farmers to increase production and farm more acres without assistance. However, the impact of this technology has masked a serious problem... a resulting decline in the productivity of our soils to wind and water erosion.

Iowa continues to lead the nation in total soil erosion. Erosion occurs on nearly two-thirds of our 26,000,000 acres of cropland. At an average rate of 9.9 tons per acre per year, we lose 262,000,000 tons of soil yearly, and the soil losses are topsoil....the most fertile part.

Although our annual rate of soil conservation accomplishments in acres of grassed waterways, miles of terraces, and tillage reduction continues to increase, and even knowing that well under 50 percent of our row-cropped land was moldboard plowed last year, we can report that only 9,000,000 of our row-crop lands are protected adequately. The task before us continues to be great.

Yet, I am heartened by the efforts and initiative I see in our soil conservation districts. Innovative methods of providing an awareness of erosion problems and soil conservation alternatives are being developed. Through district programs, conservation tillage is being tried by many landowners and no-till use continues to increase.

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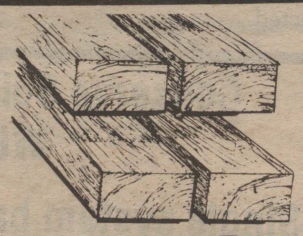
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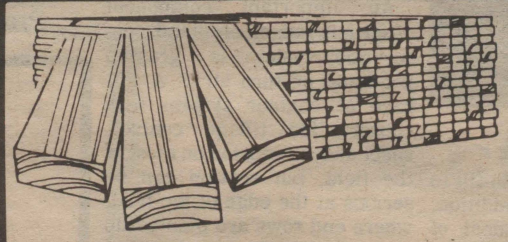
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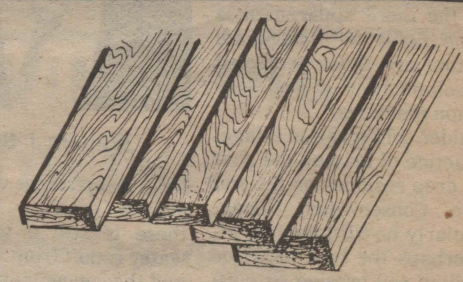
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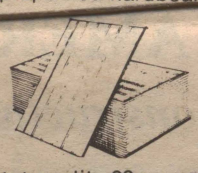
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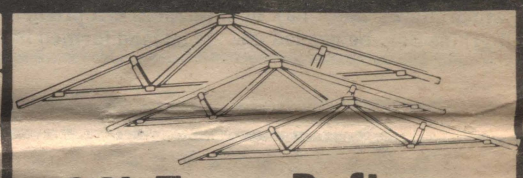
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1x12	2.88	3.84	4.79	5.76	6.72	7.69

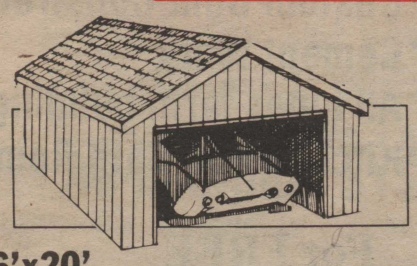
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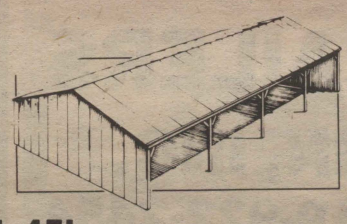


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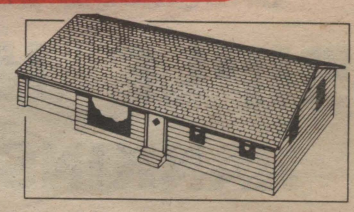
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U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service NEWS

Contact: Mike Nethery
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

SCS offers loan processing help to FmHA

In response to farmer demand for credit this spring and the backlog of loan applications of the Farmers Home Administration, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service has offered help from its employees.

Late last week, SCS Chief Peter Myers and FmHA Acting Associate Administrator Dwight Calhoun signed an agreement authorizing SCS assistance.

"In response to the need of farmers for credit this spring and the demand for services from FmHA, I have agreed to assist FmHA by making SCS field personnel available to them to help service loan applications," Myers said in a bulletin to all SCS state conservationists. Myers said that SCS will cooperate to the maximum extent possible in helping farmers get necessary credit this spring.

To Manchester Press 3/11/85

Applicants for all Department programs will be given equal consideration without regard to race, age, color, sex, or national origin.

SCS

State FmHA Director Robert Pim and SCS State Conservationist Mike Nethery met ~~on Monday~~ recently to discuss the role SCS might play in helping process loan applications to help reduce backlogs.

"The soil conservation districts across the state and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service have already offered clerical help," Nethery said, "so we might expect soil conservationists to help with some other tasks." Nethery says the help needed will vary by office, and adds that the FmHA will use SCS personnel for jobs they can do without time-consuming training.

"Although our people aren't trained for making loans and that kind of thing, there may be some areas where we can help. We know there's a severe credit crunch here in Iowa, and want to do what we can to help," Nethery says.

Both agencies anticipate the help will be needed most this month, before the spring field work for soil conservation practices begins.

March 4, 1985

Manchester Press
March 13, 1985

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SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press
Where published Manchester
Date of issue March 13, 1985
Sent by Larry Beeler
S. C. D. Delaware
Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column	☐
Story (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

MAR 26 REC'D

☆ GPO : 1981 O - 726-664

Organize New Till county association

"The best seedbed to be found is with no working of the ground. "Park your plows because they won't be needed any more," it was phrased by Ernie Behn, nationally known ridge tiller from Boone who addressed a first Delaware County New Till association conservation tillage program.

Approximately 120 Delaware county farm people were on hand for the event. The new conservation tillage group was born on Feb. 12 at an organization meeting.

The first initiative of the group was to provide a program for promotion and education on conservation tillage. Through the help of the major chemical companies serving Delaware county, who funded a meal with the program, Behn was invited to be guest speaker.

The interest in the program was high with approximately 35 people paying memberships to the new organization which said the benefit of membership will be: (1. Sharing of ideas, problems, and solutions encountered in no till or conservation tillage; (2. Promotion and educational programs that members feel a need for; (3. Working to provide equipment for first time users of no till; (4. Being on the mailing list for a no till newsletter which will deal with timely problems encountered with items such as weed and insect pests.

Anyone interested in being a member may contact the Delaware County Extension Service or the Soil Conservation Service, both in Manchester. People can also contact an association board member, Ken Jasper, Al Boge, Steve Dolan, Dennis Willenborg or Dick Jurgens. Annual dues include a New Till Association of Delaware County cap and being on the mailing list for programs, tours and other activities.

★★★

Nationally known tiller to speak at conservation tillage meeting

Ernie Behn, nationally known ridge riller from Boone, will be the featured speaker at the Delaware County New-Till association program Thursday at St. Mary's school hall in Manchester.

A meal will be served at 7 p.m.; reservations must be made by calling the Delaware County Extension service, 927-4201, or the Soil Conservation service, 927-4590. The meal is provided by the chemical companies serving Delaware county.

The featured speaker will start at 8 p.m., with a question and answer time following his presentation. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and will have an opportunity to join the New-Till association.

The purpose of this group is to educate and promote the use of conservation tillage in Delaware county and especially to provide a means for exchange of ideas and experiences in using no-till. The current goal of the group includes organizing equipment for first time no-tillers to use.

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Democrat-Radio

Where published Manchester

Date of issue April 1, 1985

Sent by Larry Beeler

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

Story written by the local news office.

APR 3 RECD

- ☐ Weekly column
- ☐ Story (SCS)
- ☐ (Other)
- ☐ Feature (SCS)
- ☐ (Other)
- ☐ Editorial
- ☐ Advertisement
- ☐ Cons. picture



New county board

A DELAWARE COUNTY NEW TILL new board of directors is featured with Ernie Behn who addressed the association's first conservation proram last Thursday at St. Mary's school hall in Manchester. At the event are (from left): Al Boge, Dennis Willenborg, Behn, Ken Jasper, Dick Jurgens and Steve Dolan. (photo by Extension Service)

Manchester Democrat-Radio - April 1, 1985

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
721 South 5th Street
Manchester, Iowa 52057
927-4590

NEWS RELEASE

February 28, 1985

NO-TILL INCENTIVE PAYMENT FOR FARMERS By Norman Brus, Soil Conservationist

Delaware County producers interested in no-till planting corn and soybeans should be aware of the no-till incentive program available to them.

The no-till incentive payment is available from the Delaware County ASCS office. Payment of ten dollars an acre is available for up to twenty-five acres per year. The program is designed to offset some of the costs that may be incurred while experimenting with no-till.

No-till planting of crops is one of the best soil conservation practices. When planting corn into corn stubble or meadow sod, the no-till method reduces erosion by up to 90% compared to conventional tillage. An 80% savings of soil is seen when comparing the two methods for planting soybeans into corn stubble.

The crop residue on the soil surface reduces soil loss. Residue is a shield which protects soil from the forces of rain. Residue also slows water flow as it leaves fields resulting in more infiltration and less erosion. No-till is the most conserving method to plant crops because of the large amount of residue left on the surface.

First time no-tillers should start with a small area. Start on a field that has good drainage, good fertility, and good weed control in previous years. No-till is a new experience and you want to increase your chances of success as much as possible. After you've gained some confidence and experience you can move into other fields.

Nutrient uptake of crops planted no-till is similar to conventional planted crops. After several years of no-till on the same field, P and K will become more concentrated in the surface three inches. This zone tends to be moister under no-till conditions though, so nutrient uptake does not seem to be affected.

If you would like to give no-till a try, but don't feel your planter is capable of no-till, the following people have equipment available for use. Equipment dealers not listed here may also have equipment available.

Steve Dolan Manchester 927-5607	Cigrand Bros. Cascade 852-3203	Schmitt Imp. Holy Cross 870-2665	Bert Glaser Dyersville 875-2308

Hintz Service Monticello 465-4122	Gerald Leonard Ryan Home - 932-2973 Work - 927-2923

Some of the people listed above furnish tractor, planter, and operator. Others furnish only the planter. Also some of these people have no-till cultivators available for use.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 3/6/85.

Brian Nixon, News Editor
Iowa Agri-News
910 Twenty-Third Avenue
Coralville, Iowa 52241

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton,
Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood,
Iowa 52042

Farm Bureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057 3/1/85

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Delaware County Leader

Where published Hopkinton

Date of issue March 14, 1985

Sent by Norman Brus

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

- Weekly column ☐
- Story (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Feature (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Editorial ☐
- Advertisement ☐
- Cons. picture ☐

MAR 26 RECD

☆ GPO : 1981 O - 726-664

No-Till Incentive Payment For Farmers

By Norman Brus, Soil Conservationist

Delaware County producers interested in no-till planting corn and soybeans should be aware of the no-till incentive program available to them.

The no-till incentive payment is available from the Delaware County ASCS office. Payment of ten dollars an acre is available for up to 25 acres per year. The program is designed to offset some of the costs that may be incurred while experimenting with no-till.

No-till planting of crops is one of the best soil conservaton praeties. When planting corn into corn stubble or meadow sod, the no till method reduces erosion by up to 90% compared to conventional tillage. An 80% savings of soil is seen when comparing the two methods for planting soybeans into corn stubble.

The cropr esidue on the soil surface reduces soil loss. Residue is a shile which protects soil from the forces of rain. Residue also slow slows water flow as it leaves fields resulting in more dinfiltration and less erosion. No till is the most conserving method to plant crops because of the large amount of residue left on the surface.

First time no tillers should start with a small area. Start on a field that has good rainage, good fertility and good weed control in previous years. No till is a new experience and you want to incresse increase your chances of success as much as possible. After you've gained some confidence and experience you can move into other fields.

Nutrient uptake of crops planted no till is similar to conventional planted crops. Afte several years of no till oin the same field, P an dK will become m ore concentrated inthe surface three inches. This zone tends to be smoister under no till conditions though, so nutrient uptake does not seem to be affected.

If you would like to give no till a try, but don't feel tyour planter is capable of no till, the following people have equipment available for use

Equipment dealers not listed here may also have equipment available

Steve Dolan, Manchester, 927-5607; Cigrand Bros., Cascade, 852-3203; Schmitt Imp., Holy Cross, 870-2665; Bert Glaser, Dyersville, 875-2308; Hintz Service, Monticello, 465-4122; and Gerald Leonard, Ryan, 932-2973 or 927-2923

Some of the people listed above furnish tractor, planter and operator. Others furnish only the planter. Also some of these people have no-till cultivators available for use.

No-till incentive payment plan available to farmers

Delaware County producers interested in no-till planting corn and soybeans should be aware of the no-till incentive program available to them, according to Norm Brus, local soil conservationist.

The no-till incentive payment is available from the Delaware County ASCS office. Payment of $10 an acre is available for up to 25 acres per year. The program is designed to offset some of the costs that may be incurred while experimenting with no-till.

Brus said no-till planting of crops is one of the best soil conservation practices. When planting corn into corn stubble or meadow sod, the no-till method reduces erosion by up to 90 percent compared to conventional tillage. He said an 80 percent savings of soil is seen when comparing the two methods for planting soybeans into corn stubble.

"The crop residue on the soil surface reduces soil loss. Residue is a shield which protects soil from the forces of rain. Residue also slows water flow as it leaves fields resulting in more infiltration and less erosion. No-till is the most conserving method to plant crops because of the large amount of residue left on the surface," Brus continued.

First time no-tillers should start with a small area. "Start on a field that has good drainage, good fertility, and good weed control in previous years. No-till is a new experience and you want to increase your chances of success as much as possible. After you've gained some confidence and experience you can move into other fields," Brus added.

Nutrient uptake of crops planted no-till is similar to conventional planted crops. He said after several years of no-till on the same field, P and K will become more concentrated in the surface three inches. This zone tends to be moister under no-till conditions though, so nutrient uptake does not seem to be affected.

"If you would like to give no-till a try, but don't feel your planter is capable of no-till, the following people have equipment available for use," said Brus who noted that equipment dealers not listed below may also have equipment available:

Steve Dolan, Manchester; Cigrand Bros., Cascade; Schmitt Implement, Holy Cross; Bert Glaser, Dyersville; Hintz Service, Monticello, and Gerald Leonard, Ryan.

Brus said some of the people furnish tractor, planter and operators. Others furnish only the planter. Also some have no-till cultivators available for use.

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Democrat-Radio

Where published Manchester

Date of issue March 4, 1985

Sent by Norm Brus

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

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- Weekly column ☐
- Story (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Feature (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Editorial ☐
- Advertisement ☐
- Cons. picture ☐

MAR 11 REC'D

☆ GPO : 1981 O - 726-664

o, Manchester, Iowa, Monday, March 4, 1985



No-till planting in county

A NO-TILL INCENTIVE PROGRAM is being offered to Delaware county farmers interested in planting corn and soybeans in a no-till method. The program is designed to offset some of the costs that may be incurred while experimenting with no-till. Payment is available at the Delaware County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office in Manchester. (Press & D-R photo)

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE "NEWS" February 13, 1985

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PASTURE COST-SHARING FOR FARMERS By Larry Beeler, District Conservationist

Delaware County cattlemen interested in improving the quality and quantity of their pastures should be aware of the pasture cost-share programs available to them.

Pasture renovation and establishment cost-share incentives are available from the Delaware County ASCS office. Cost-share is authorized for seed, not to exceed 16 pounds per acre and fertilizer, if required by an Iowa State University soil test. Fertilizer cost-share is limited to 80 pounds per acre of phosphate and potash and 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen with a grass seeding. The practice is to be maintained a minimum of five years after establishment year.

The establishment of legumes and grasses into an existing bluegrass pasture has several advantages.

The renovation of pasture will improve the stand and growth of the pasture. The improved growth will increase the amounts of forage available and lengthen the grazing season, resulting in better rates of gain in a cattle herd.

A legume in the pasture seeding will provide nitrogen from the grasses and reduce the need for nitrogen fertilization.

Pasture renovation and establishment is a very effective soil conservation practice. The improved pasture stand provides a blanket of protection against soil erosion. Establishing pasture on steep, eroding cropland areas is a cost-effective method for conserving soil.

Farmers interested in the pasture renovation and establishment program should contact the Delaware County ASCS office in Manchester.

One other cost-share program available is the switchgrass cost-share program from the Iowa Conservation Commission. The program is beneficial to both cattlement and wildlife.

Switchgrass is a tall warm season grass which is an excellent forage producer during hot summer months when cool season grasses are dormant.

A good stand of switchgrass may take a year or more to establish, but when properly managed it will last indefinately.

To get the greatest benefit from a switchgrass pasture it needs to be used with a rotational grazing system.

Wildlife studies have shown switchgrass pastures are readily accepted as nesting cover by pheasants and songbirds. Most importantly, correctly managed switchgrass should be free from disturbance from cattle and hay harvest until after most nesting is complete.

Cost-sharing for establishment of switchgrass is a maximum of $60 per acre, with an additional $15 cost-shared the second year for herbicide, fertilizer and application. The application deadline is March 22. Farmers interested in the program may contact the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service office in Manchester for information on the switchgrass program.

If further information is needed for this article please contact:

Larry Beeler, District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
721 South 5th Street
Manchester, Iowa 52057
1-319-927-4590

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 2-21-85.

Brian Nixon, News Editor
Iowa Agri-News
910 Twenty-Third Avenue
Coralville, Iowa 52241

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton,
Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood,
Iowa 52042

Farm Bureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

Pasture cost-sharing programs for farmers

Cattlemen interested in improving the quality and quantity of their pastures should be aware of the pasture cost-share programs available to them, it was announced by Larry Beeler, district conservationist with the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service.

Pasture renovation and establishment cost-share incentives are available from the local ASCS office. Cost-share is authorized for seed, not to exceed 16 pounds per acre and fertilizer, if required by an Iowa State university soil test. Fertilizer cost-share is limited to 80 pounds per acre of phosphate and potash and 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen with a grass seeding. The practice is to be maintained a minimum of five years after establishment year.

The establishment of legumes and grasses into an existing bluegrass pasture has several advantages, according to Beeler who said the renovation of pasture will improve the stand and growth of the pasture. The improved growth will increase the amounts of forage available and lengthen the grazing season, resulting in better rates of gain in a cattle herd.

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"Pasture renovation and establishment is a very effective soil conservation practice. The improved pasture stand provides a blanket of protection against soil erosion. Eatablishing pasture on steep, eroding cropland areas is a cost-effective method for conserving soil," added Beeler.

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Page 2 - Sharing

SCS-IPA-74
3-8-85

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Democrat-Radio

Where published Manchester

Date of issue Feb. 25, 1985

Sent by Larry Beeler

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column	☐
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(Other)	☑
Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

MAR 6 REC'D

DL$

Sharing--

and wildlife.

Switchgrass is a tall warm season grass which is an excellent forage producer during hot summer months when cool season grasses are dormant.

Beeler said a good stand of switchgrass may take a year of more to establish, but when properly managed it will last indefinitely. "To get the greatest benefit from a switchgrass pasture it needs to be used with a rotational grazing system," he said.

Wildlife studies have shown switchgrass pastures are readily accepted as nesting cover by pheasants and songbirds, Beeler pointed out while noting, "Most importantly, correctly managed switchgrass should be free from disturbance from cattle and hay harvest until after most nesting is complete."

Cost-sharing for establishment of switchgrass is a maximum of $60 per acre, with an additional $15 cost-shared the second year for herbicide, fertilizer and application. The application deadline is March 22. Farmers interested in the program may also contact the local Soil Conservation Service office for information on the switchgrass program.

"NEWS RELEASE" November 5, 1985

PLANNING FOR SOIL CONSERVATION

BY Norman Brus, Soil Conservationist
Delaware Soil Conservation Service

Fall is an excellent time to start a soil conservation program. If management or reduced tillage practices are going to be implemented, planning needs to start this fall. If structural practices are to be constructed, soil conditions are usually ideal in the fall.

No-till planting corn and soybeans is a very effective way to reduce soil erosion. Under a good no-till system, soil losses in a continuous corn rotation can be reduced by 90% compared to soil losses that could be expected under conventional tillage. For corn following meadow, corn following soybeans, and soybeans following corn, soil losses can be reduced by 92%, 60%, and 83% respectively compared to conventional tillage methods.

Preparation for no-till needs to start this fall. An area needs to be selected and remain untilled. During the winter, herbicides, insecticides, and hybrid decisions need to be made. Some time should be spent talking to farmers with no-till experience, attending informational meetings, and reading articles pertaining to no-till. By the time planting season arrives, all that should remain to be completed is the planting.

Fall is also an excellent time to implement contour farming or contour stripcropping practices. These two conservation practices are cost-free to implement and can cut soil losses in half.

Fall is an ideal time for terrace construction. Properly constructed terraces can reduce soil erosion by 85% compared to current soil erosion rates. Terraces reduce the distance that water can flow over the soil surface. Water is then removed by using an intake and tile. In this way, excess water is removed without causing soil erosion.

Delaware County has excellent programs to help farmers implement soil conservation practices. An incentive payment of ten dollars per acre is available to farmers who want to implement no-till planting. This will help offset any cost which may be incurred.

If you want to implement contour stripcropping, a fifteen dollar per acre incentive payment is available. A four dollar per acre incentive payment is available for implementing contour farming.

A 75% cost-share program is available for terrace construction. Cost-share covers earthwork, intakes, and drainage tile. With this program, a small investment will go a long way in conserving soil with terraces.

If you have an area that needs treatment to reduce soil erosion, now is the time to start planning. For help in planning and implementing soil conservation practices, contact the Soil Conservation Service at 721 South 5th Street in Manchester or call 927-4590. Our services are free and without obligation.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 11/05/85.

Brian Nixon, News Editor
Iowa Agri-News
910 Twenty-Third Avenue
Coralville, Iowa 52241

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton,
Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood,
Iowa 52042

Farm Bureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
721 South 5th Street
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Contact: Larry Beeler, District Conservationist

Phone: 927-4590

Soil Conservation Benefits Wildlife

Did you know that most of the soil conservation practices Delaware County farmers use are also beneficial to wildlife? Practices that benefit wildlife are discussed in the new U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service publication "Going Wild With Soil and Water Conservation".

It points out that a single practice helps, but the best approach is a conservation system that meets a landowner's needs, conserves soil and at the same time meets the needs of wildlife. It also recommends many plants that are beneficial to wildlife.

SCS District Conservationist, Larry Beeler, can help landowners plan a conservation system and determine the quality of wildlife habitat on their land. SCS conservationists offer management assistance to save soil and increase or improve the habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife can benefit from conservation practices like reduced tillage, cover and green manure crops, stripcropping, grassed waterways, narrowbase and grass backslope terraces, windbreaks, and grassed headlands. Wet or steep ground that is unfarmable can also be managed for wildlife.

Farming methods affect wildlife habitat in many ways, says Beeler. Growing the same crop year after year reduces the diversity of plant cover and the variety of wildlife. Fall plowing buries grain and other residues that can provide food or cover for wildlife.

On the other hand, conservation tillage leaves crop residue on the surface and lowers the chances of destroying nests in the field. The residue may provide food for birds, deer, and other small mammals as well as providing some cover.

No-till is the most effective in reducing erosion and providing wildlife food and cover says the conservationist. All crop residue is left on the surface, and that support a greater number and diversity of nesting birds than clean-tilled fields.

Cover and green manure crops, strips of small grain in stripcropping, grassed waterways, terraces, grassed headlands and windbreaks all provide food and cover. In addition, they attract wildlife for food such as deer, pheasant, songbirds, and quail.

To control gully erosion landowners can build a pond. It can serve as a source of livestock water and can provide food, water and cover for ducks, waterfowl and other wildlife.

Landowners can choose plants of more than one species for pastures to increase the length of the grazing season and improve forage quality. A well managed pasture provides more food and cover for ground-nesting birds as well as improving forage for livestock. Overgrazing a pasture reduces the benefits to livestock and wildlife.

For more information on conservation practices that benefit wildlife contact the Delaware County office of USDA's Soil Conservation Service. They can also give you a copy of "Going Wild With Soil and Water Conservation". Ask for Program Aid Number 1363.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 5/20/85.

Brian Nixon, News Editor
Iowa Agri-News
910 Twenty-Third Avenue
Coralville, Iowa 52241

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton,
Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood,
Iowa 52042

Farm Bureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

MAY 10 1985

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

May 3, 1985

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA260-5-25

SUBJECT: INF - PUBLICATION

Purpose. Transmit news release

Expiration Date. September 30, 1985

Attached is a fill-in-the-blanks news release for the new SCS publication "Going Wild with Soil and Water Conservation". This publication was sent to all offices previously. District Conservationists should adapt the news release as you see fit, and give it to your local media.

Michael C. Schendel, Acting
J. Michael Nethery
State Conservationist

Attachment

Marilyn,
Complete + mail to Newspaper.

A
F

The Soil Conservation Service is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture

☆ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1983—420-939/1578

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: (DC's Name) Larry Beeler

Phone: 927-4590

Soil Conservation Benefits Wildlife

Did you know that most of the soil conservation practices (County Name) Delaware County farmers use are also beneficial to wildlife? Practices that benefit wildlife are discussed in the new U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service publication "Going Wild With Soil and Water Conservation."

It points out that a single practice helps, but the best approach is a conservation system that meets a landowner's needs, conserves soil and at the same time meets the needs of wildlife. It also recommends many plants that are beneficial to wildlife.

SCS District Conservationist (DC Name Larry Beeler) can help landowners plan a conservation system and determine the quality of wildlife habitat on their land. SCS conservationists offer management assistance to save soil and increase or improve the habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife can benefit from conservation practices like reduced tillage, cover and green manure crops, stripcropping, grassed waterways, narrowbase and grass backslope terraces, windbreaks, and grassed headlands. Wet or steep ground that is unfarmable can also be managed for wildlife.

-more-

Farming methods affect wildlife habitat in many ways, says Beeler (DC Last Name). Growing the same crop year after year reduces the diversity of plant cover and the variety of wildlife. Fall plowing buries grain and other residues that can provide food or cover for wildlife.

On the other hand, conservation tillage leaves crop residue on the surface and lowers the chances of destroying nests in the field. The residue may provide food for birds, deer, and other small mammals as well as providing some cover.

No-till is the most effective in reducing erosion and providing wildlife food and cover says the conservationist. All crop residue is left on the surface, and that supports a greater number and diversity of nesting birds than clean-tilled fields.

Cover and green manure crops, strips of small grain in stripcropping, grassed waterways, terraces, grassed headlands and windbreaks all provide food and cover. In addition, they attract wildlife for food such as deer, pheasant, songbirds, and quail.

To control gully erosion landowners can build a pond. It can serve as a source of livestock water and can provide food, water and cover for ducks, waterfowl and other wildlife.

-more-

Landowners can choose plants of more than one species for pastures to increase the length of the grazing season and improve forage quality. A well managed pasture provides more food and cover for ground-nesting birds as well as improving forage for livestock. Overgrazing a pasture reduces the benefits to livestock and wildlife.

For more information on conservation practices that benefit wildlife contact the Delaware (County Name) County office of USDA's Soil Conservation Service. They can also give you a copy of "Going Wild With Soil and Water Conservation." Ask for Program Aid Number 1363.

#

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MAY 30 1985

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press

Where published Manchester

Date of issue May 22, 1985

Sent by Larry Beeler

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

- Weekly column ☐
- Story (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Feature (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Editorial ☐
- Advertisement ☐
- Cons. picture ☐

☆ GPO : 1981 O - 726-664

Nationally known tiller to speak at conservation tillage meeting

Ernie Behn, nationally known ridge riller from Boone, will be the featured speaker at the Delaware County New-Till association program Thursday at St. Mary's school hall in Manchester.

A meal will be served at 7 p.m.; reservations must be made by calling the Delaware County Extension service, 927-4201, or the Soil Conservation service, 927-4590. The meal is provided by the chemical companies serving Delaware county.

The featured speaker will start at 8 p.m., with a question and answer time following his presentation. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and will have an opportunity to join the New-Till association.

The purpose of this group is to educate and promote the use of conservation tillage in Delaware county and especially to provide a means for exchange of ideas and experiences in using no-till. The current goal of the group includes organizing equipment for first time no-tillers to use.



United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

MAR 1 1985

February 27, 1985

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA260-5-15

SUBJECT: INF - WILDLIFE WEEK

Purpose. Transmit Press Release

Expiration Date. September 30, 1985

The attached press release announces the 1985 National Wildlife Week. SCS had a good deal of input into this year's educational packet.

Each SCS District Conservationist should fill in the blanks on the release, and add any local activity. Then, the release should be re-typed and sent to local radio and newspapers.

This is a good event to tie into. Please get the release to media by March 11 to allow its use just before or during National Wildlife Week.

J. Michael Nethery
State Conservationist

Attachment

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F

The Soil Conservation Service is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture

☆ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1983—420-939/1578

National Wildlife Week March 17-23, Features Soil

For Immediate Release

This year, National Wildlife Week holds special significance for Iowans. Being celebrated March 17-23, the week features soil and its importance.

"In Iowa, I think we have a special understanding of what the soil means to us," says Jim Murphy, president of the Iowa Wildlife Federation. "We're happy to see this year's national theme of 'Soil - We Can't Grow Without It'."

Murphy says the Iowa Wildlife Federation (IWF) is distributing 15,000 educational packets to Iowa schools. The packets include background information on soils, a glossary, a 16-picture poster, learning activities for all grade levels, and an educator's guide.

The IWF is also sponsoring a poster contest on the importance of soil. National Wildlife Week, sponsored by the NWF and state affiliates, began in 1938 by proclamation of President Franklin Roosevelt. "Since that time, we've intended for it to be an occasion for more public education on important natural resource concerns," says Murphy. "This year's theme is especially appropriate because it coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) by President Roosevelt," says Murphy.

SCS helped develop the educational materials for this year's packet, and is helping tie National Wildlife Week to soil conservation educational efforts.

"We know landowners make the decisions on the land that affect wildlife habitat and wildlife," says Larry Beeler, District Conservationist for SCS in Delaware County. "Soil conservation and wildlife go hand in hand. A good soil conservationist is usually a promoter and provider for wildlife, too. We see the tie of the two in our daily work, and we're delighted the wildlife federation has chosen to feature soils this year."

The 1985 wildlife week is co-chaired by television personality Eddie Albert and "Rowlf the Dog," the piano-playing member of the Muppet Family. Both are featured in radio and television announcements that bring attention to the soil. Albert has a history of public service in environmental and soil conservation campaigns.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 3/6/85.

Brian Nixon, News Editor
Iowa Agri-News
910 Twenty-Third Avenue
Coralville, Iowa 52241

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton,
Iowa 52237

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Iowa 52042

Farm Bureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
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Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
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Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Delaware County Leader

Where published Hopkinton

Date of issue March 14, 1985

Sent by Larry Beeler

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

- Weekly column ☐
- Story (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Feature (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Editorial ☐
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MAR 26 REC'D

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CONTOUR AND CONTOUR STRIPCROPPING - LOW COST SOIL CONSERVATION

By Norman Brus, Soil Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service

Contour farming and contour stripcropping are two very effective and low cost soil conservation measures. Both have the capability to reduce soil loss by 50% simply by farming around the hill rather than up and down the slopes.

Contour farming is planting around a hill so that the row is level. Contour stripcropping has the same row pattern but the field is divided into strips of equal width. These strips are then planted so that strips of meadow or small grain are alternated with strips of rowcrop.

These two low cost methods of soil conservation are most effective on slope grades of 3 to 8%. As slope increases above 8%, the contour row's capacity to store runoff water decreases.

Effectiveness of contouring or contour stripcropping is also influenced by slope length. When rainfall exceeds infiltration and surface detention, runoff occurs. Accumulation of runoff increases as the length of the slope gets longer, therefore these two methods will protect a field from soil erosion on only a specified distance from the top of a hill. For example, contouring on an 8% slope will protect only the top 200 feet of the hill.

Since contour stripcropping incorporates meadow into the system as alternate strips, it is more effective than contouring alone. With contour stripcropping, eroded soil from cultivated strips is filtered out as runoff is slowed within the first several feet of an adjacent sod strip.

Grassed waterways are needed in depressions if there is the potential for gully erosion. If end rows would require up and down hill planting, it is suggested that end rows be replaced by grassed headlands.

As an incentive to encourage Delaware County farmers to impliment contour or contour stripcrop farming, an incentive payment is offered through the ACP program. The payment rate is $15 per acre for contour stripcropping and $4 per acre for contour farming. These practices do not require new equipment, just a change of row pattern, therefore they are cost free to impliment.

If you have any questions about contouring, contour stripcropping, or any other soil conservation practice, contact your local Soil Conservation Service office at 721 South 5th Street in Manchester, Iowa. Our services are free and without obligation.

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Federal farm subsidies tied to conservation

Farmers who want to stay eligible for most federal farm programs will have to control soil erosion on their highly erodible land.

This provision of the Food Security Act of 1985, this year's farm bill, is not clearly understood yet by farmers, say officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"Soil Conservation has been a voluntary thing in the past. This is the first time that price supports, disaster payments, loans, crop insurance and other USDA programs will be dependent on a farmer taking care of his land. We have a big job ahead of us in making sure farmers understand what's involved," says Mike Nethery, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa.

Some of the provisions are in effect now, and others are keyed to 1990 and 1995. Under the "sodbuster" provision, farmers who apply for next year's farm programs must certify that they have not broken out highly erodible land in order to produce agricultural commodities since December 23, 1985, unless they followed a locally approved conservation plan. Sodbuster applies to lands where farmers did not produce a crop from 1981 through 1985.

Under the "swampbuster" rules, they must certify that they have not drained or converted wetlands since that date in order to produce crops.

"The sodbuster and swampbuster regulations are in effect now, so there are many questions on them. But many, many more farmers are going to be affected by the conservation compliance provision," Nethery says. "That provision applies to anyone who is farming highly erodible land. It says that anyone farming highly erodible land has until January 1, 1990 to develop and begin to apply a conservation plan, and until January 1, 1995, to have it fully in effect."

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SCS estimates that more than 8 million acres of Iowa cropland are in the highly erodible category. Only Texas (13.9 million acres), Kansas (10.6 million acres), and Montana (9.5 million acres) have more highly erodible land. In Iowa, highly erodible land generally is that land with a slope steepness of 8 percent or higher, but some more gently sloping land with long slopes is also considered highly erodible, according to Nethery.

"In Iowa, with highly erodible land spread across the state, the compliance provision is going to mean a big workload increase for the next 10 years," Nethery says. "Many of the conservation plans written in the past need to be updated or entirely redone," he says.

The conservation plans will require the landowner to reduce soil erosion to "tolerable" levels in most cases. The tolerable levels in Iowa, often referred to as "T", are generally from 3 to 5 tons of soil loss per acre per year, depending on soil type.

USDA has issued interim rules on the conservation provisions. The rules were published in the June 27 Federal Register, and were effective on that date. There is a public comment period on the rules that extends until August 26.

The rules were needed, SCS Chief Wilson Scaling says, because until now, the government has in effect encouraged increased soil erosion and loss of wetlands by promoting maximum production through USDA farm subsidies.

"Many farmers have come to depend on these price supports and other USDA programs. Some have even come to regard the privilege of participating in them as an absolute right. But isn't it fair to ask a certain level of conservation performance in return for that privilege?" Scaling says.

SCS and other USDA agencies are encouraging farmers to bid highly erodible land into the Conservation Reserve, another program established by the 1985 farm bill. In that program, landowners are paid annual rental fees by USDA for converting highly erodible cropland to grassland or trees. USDA is conducting another signup for the 1987 program at local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices from August 4-15.

"We're still working with interim rules, but we want to do the best we can to be sure farmers understand what's being required for conservation compliance," Nethery says. "We know this is coming, and the last thing we want is 50,000 farmers on our doorstep in 1989, asking for a conservation plan so they can remain eligible for other USDA programs."

United States Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

Larry Beeler, District Conservationist
721 South 5th Street
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE

August 7, 1986

FEDERAL FARM SUBSIDIES TIED TO SOIL CONSERVATION

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☆U.S. Government Printing Office: 1983—420-839/1578

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153 1st Avenue E.
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Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

SEP 5 1986

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service NEWS

Contact: Mike Nethery
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

To Media

Iowa farmers to idle more land

For immediate release

The August signup for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve will idle another 215,993 acres in Iowa for the next ten years.

USDA announced this week that it accepted bids from 2,928 Iowa farmers at an average bid of $77.44 per acre. The Conservation Reserve pays farmers annual rental fees for planting highly erodible cropland to grass or trees.

Iowa ranks seventh in the country in the number of acres accepted in the August bidding. Texas had the most acres accepted, with 827,991, followed by Colorado, 508,320; Kansas, 386,330; Minnesota, 368,112; Oklahoma, 293,271; and Montana, 219,801.

After three bidding periods this year, 358,553 acres have been entered into the program in Iowa. Nationally, the figure is nearly 9 million acres.

"The amount of land accepted has grown with each signup," says Mike Nethery, State Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. In the first signup earlier this year, only 40,951 acres were accepted in Iowa. The second period netted an additional 101,609 acres.

"I think farmers understand the price USDA is willing to pay to idle the land, and I also think more are becoming aware of the conservation rules USDA is going to use to allow farmers to remain eligible for most USDA programs in the future," Nethery says.

- more -

Applicants for all Department programs will be given equal consideration without regard to race, age, color, sex, or national origin.

SCS

"The farmer who puts his steep land into the reserve is looking down the road to 1990 and 1995, when he'll have to have his land in a conservation plan and have the land protected. It's a good move, because this steep land could be expensive to treat for conservation and continue to crop," Nethery says.

With the three signups, 5,248 Iowa farmers have entered 358,553 acres into the reserve at a cost of $26,783,168 per year.

"Our goal for the first year of the program was 476,600 acres, so we fell short a little. But we still think we can get our longer term goal of more than 4 million acres in Iowa if the program continues," Nethery says.

USDA is expected to announce another signup for the reserve later this year. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation Service administer the program.

- end -

September 4, 1986

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 9-12-86.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIVE GRASSES COST-SHARING AVAILABLE

By Larry Beeler, District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service

Farmers may apply for cost-sharing to establish native warm season grass areas. The cost-share program is available through the Iowa Conservation Commission and is expanded from previous years to include switchgrass, big bluestem, and indiangrass.

Warm season grasses are beneficial to both cattlemen and wildlife. These grasses are beneficial to cattlemen because they are an excellent forage producer during the hot summer months when cool season grasses, such as bluegrass, are dormant. The increased forage of warm season grasses increase the number of cattle that can be grazed in a pasture and lengthen the grazing season.

Pheasants and other wildlife have readily accepted warm season pastures for nesting and winter cover areas. Properly managed warm season grasses are free from cattle grazing and hay harvest, which allows the pheasants to complete nesting undisturbed. Regrowth of the warm season grasses after harvest provide excellent winter cover for pheasants.

An additional benefit is that warm season grasses are resistant to atrazine which makes weed control easier during establishment.

Cost-sharing for the establishment of warm season grasses is a maximum of $60 per acre, with an additional $15 per acre the second year for herbicide, fertilizer and application costs. Application deadline is March 21, 1986.

Landowners interested in finding out more information about warm season grasses or applying for cost-share program should contact the Delaware Soil Conservation Service office in Manchester.

For information about this article contact: Larry Beeler, District Conservationist
721 South 5th Street
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Phone No. 927-4590

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 1/23/86.

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SCS NEWS RELEASE March 20, 1986

File copy

NO-TILL - Start Planning Now

By Norman Brus, Soil Conservationist
Delaware Soil Conservation Service

No-till planting will reduce soil losses by 80 to 90% compared to conventional planting methods. This makes no-till one of the most efficient soil conservation practices available.

This spring will be an excellent time to try no-till. Very little tillage was completed due to poor fall weather. Trying no-till on at least a few acres will reduce some of the workload this spring.

Try no-till on only a few acres the first year. Pay close attention to field selection. Choose a field with medium to high fertility levels, good drainage, and low weed pressure. No-till does not perform miracles, if conventional planting systems did not produce good crops in the field, neither will no-till.

Enter into your no-till system with a positive mental attitude. No-till will work, but it will take a year or two to gain the confidence and knowledge necessary to be successful at no-till. To help gain confidence, talk to neighbors with no-till experience. They will be able to give you some helpful advice.

To encourage farmers to try no-till, the ASCS office has a ten dollar per acre incentive payment available to farmers. Sign-up and approval must be completed before planting starts.

If you feel your planter is not suited to no-till, but would like to give no-till a try, a list of no-till planters is available in the Delaware Soil Conservation Service office (SCS) or the County Extension Office.
If you have any questions about no-till or any other soil conservation practice, contact the Soil Conservation Service at 721 South 5th Street in Manchester or call 927-4590. Our services are free and without obligation.

Can you use more than 1 picture.

ASCS says, 'Give no-till a try'

No-till planting will reduce soil losses by 80 to 90 percent compared to coventional planting methods, according to Norman Brus, soil conservationist, with the Delaware Soil Conservation Service who, said this makes no-till one of the most efficient soil conservation practices available.

Brus noted, this spring will be an excellent time to try no-till. Very little tillage was completed due to poor fall weather. Trying no-till on at least a few acres will reduce some of the workload this spring.

"Try no-till on only a few acres the first year. Pay close attention to field selection. Choose a field with medium to high fertility levels, good drainage, and low weed pressure. No-till does not perform miracles, if conventional planting sytems did not produce good crops in the field, neither will no-till," Brus continued.

"Enter into your no-till system with a positive mental attitude. No-till will work, but it will take a year or two to gain the confidence and knowledge necessary to be successful at no-till. To help gain confidence, talk to neighbors with no-till experience. They will be able to give you some helpful advice," Brus explained.

To encourage farmers to try no-till, The ASCS office has a $10 per acre incentive payment available to farmers. Sign-up and approval must be completed before planting starts.

For farmers who feel their planter is not suited to no-till, but would like to give no-till a try, a list of no-till planters is available in the Delaware Soil Conservation Service office (SCS) or the county extension office. Anyone with questions about no-till or any other soil conservation practice, may contact the Soil Conservation Service at 721 S. Fifth street in Manchester, phone 927-4590. The services are free and without obligation.

*** *** ***



No-till method

SOIL LOSSES in a continuous corn rotation can be reduced by 85 to 90 percent if no-till is used instead of conservation tillage or moldboard plowing, states Norm Brus of the local Soil Conservation Service office. The photo above shows corn no-tilled into corn stubble in a Delaware county field. (photo by SCS office)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service NEWS

March 20, 1986

Contact: Mike Nethery
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

USDA cautions against converting steep grassland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Farmers planning to plant corn or soybeans this spring on highly erodible grassland or woodland may want to reconsider, USDA officials say. They also caution farmers who plan to drain wetlands for crop production.

The reason: the 1985 Farm Bill included "sodbuster" and "Swampbuster" provisions that could make a farmer ineligible for other USDA benefits for 1986 and future years if he converts wetlands or highly erodible grassland or woodland to cropland.

"The sodbuster and swampbuster provisions of the Farm Bill went into effect last December 23, when the President signed the bill into law as the Food Security Act of 1985," says Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa.

"There hasn't been much publicity about the details of how the provisions will be administered because USDA has been struggling to get feed grain, conservation reserve, and other programs running," Nethery says.

"They just haven't been able to get the rules in place. But the law is there, and anyone who converts highly erodible land or wetlands to cropland after December 23, 1985, could be subject to forfeiting USDA program benefits for 1986 and beyond," he adds.

However, if the highly erodible land is farmed under a soil conservation plan and soil losses are adequately controlled, the farmer would be eligible for other USDA programs.

Nethery says detailed USDA rules and regulations on the provisions should be published in mid-May. "Since we don't know the rules, such as the exact definition of highly erodible land, we can't give specific information to a farmer on what would make him ineligible for benefits under the law," he says.

- over -

"But farmers need to know the law is in effect, and that they cannot expect to get USDA benefits if they carelessly break out established vegetative cover such as pastures, grassland, shrubs or trees for corn, soybeans, or other annual crops," Nethery says.

He encourages farmers who are considering converting steep land or wetlands from grass to rowcrops to contact their local Soil Conservation Service office.

MAR
~~FEB~~ 14 1986

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service NEWS

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Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

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SCS

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This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 3/20/86.

~~Brian Nixon, News Editor~~
Iowa Agri-News
910 Twenty-Third Avenue
Coralville, Iowa 52241

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton,
Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood,
Iowa 52042

Farm Bureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

Delaware County
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MANCHESTER, IOWA 52057
OUR SOIL ★ OUR STRENGTH
PHONE 319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE

July 10, 1987

5th Sign-Up for Ten Year
Conservation Reserve Program

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District announces that the 5th sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program will be held from July 20 through July 31st.

Landowners with highly erodible cropland can submit a per acre bid to setaside these highly erodible fields for ten years. Marvin Calonder, Chairman of the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, stated, "the average bids accepted for the county have been approximately $83.00 per acre. After four sign-up periods, 118 Delaware County landowners have idled over 7,000 acres through the CRP."

Keith Krause, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, added, "Land enrolled in the CRP is to be seeded down for 10 years to a permanent cover such as grass-legume, native grasses or a planting of trees. And there is 50% cost share for the establishment of the permanent cover. The USDA also has announced that the Bonus Payment as of this time will not be available for the 5th CRP sign-up."

For additional information or to check and see if your land is eligible Krause recommends contacting the ASCS or SCS offices at 909 W. Main in Manchester as soon as possible.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 1-9-87.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

THE MANCHESTER PRESS

OUR ONE-HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH YEAR

Official Paper of Delaware County, Iowa
Official Paper of City of Manchester, Iowa

Edition for Machester Area, 1 Section
14 Pages, 1 Supplement
Elsewhere in U.S.A., 14 Pages

Manchester, Delaware County, Iowa, Wednesday, July 15, 1987 No. 5957

Announce another signup for conservation reserve program

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District reminds farmers that the fifth sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program will be held from July 20 through 31.

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Dyersville Commercial
Wednesday, August 19, 1987

District conservationist sees lot of work to reduce soil erosion

by Mark Smidt

Soil conservation is more important than ever due to changing land uses, and it's an investment in a farmer's future that can't be ignored, according to Keith Krause, new Soil Conservation Service district conservationist in Delaware County.

The increasing number of acres devoted to row crops, such as corn and soybeans, makes more ground subject to erosion, said Krause, who has been with the Delaware County SCS office about three months.



Krause

SCS, an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, provides landowners with assistance to prevent soil erosion. It is often confused with another USDA agency, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or ASCS. For the most part, ASCS administers the annual farm programs.

In addition to more acres of corn and beans, there are fewer acres of pastureland and woodland, said Krause, who has been with the SCS eight years, having served the past three years in Waverly as district conservationist.

Several figures show Delaware County has a ways to go to control soil erosion. The average soil loss in the county is 20 tons per acre per year, while the maximum allowable figure is 5 tons. And about 100 years ago, there were 16 inches of topsoil in the county, while today it probably averages 7-8 inches, he said.

Maintaining that topsoil needs to be an important priority, he said.

"A farmer doesn't drive his tractor for three or four years without changing his oil. The soil is just as important of a component of the farming operation, and it needs to be maintained," he said.

Most Iowans realize how important it is to conserve one of the state's most basic resources, Krause said, but other factors don't always make that easy.

"Unfortunately, economics play a role that prevents some from doing all they would like to do," he said.

Like his SCS counterparts across the nation, a new federal soil conservation program keeps him busy.

The 1985 Food Security Act requires landowners to control erosion on highly erodable land to qualify for federal funds in the future. By 1990, such landowners will have to have a conservation plan made, and the plan will have to be implemented by 1995.

> ***"A farmer doesn't drive his tractor for three or four years without changing his oil. The soil is just as important of a component of the farming operation, and it needs to be maintained."***
> ***— Keith Krause, conservationist***

And it won't be a select few who will be affected by the law. Some 45 percent of Delaware County's landowners have property that falls under the regulations.

In the last 18 months, the Delaware County office has enrolled more than 7,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a 10-year set-aside program that meets the Food Security Act's regulations. Krause said the CRP meets a two-fold goal: to reduce surpluses and to control soil erosion.

Krause said the CRP, in essence, rents out land to the government for 10 years. The land must be seeded with permanent grass or tree cover. And if it is to be put back in production after 10 years, it must then be farmed under an approved conservation plan.

Krause said landowners can sign up now to have conservation plans drawn, but work on the plans will not begin until later in the fall or winter.

One reason SCS offices are so busy is that they are still maintaining their traditional programs of assistance for controlling soil erosion. SCS provides technical assistance in planning how best to control erosion based on the farmer's individual operation. If the farmer is set up for a no-till operation, that is incorporated in the erosion control design; if the farmer has a cattle operation, strip cropping with hay or oats may be employed.

Law has soil conservation impact in Iowa

The 1985 Food Security Act (Farm Bill) could have a significant impact on soil erosion in Iowa. Under the law, farmers must get an approved conservation plan and protect highly erodible soils or lose their eligibility for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs.

"This is the first time a farm bill has addressed conservation programs along with other USDA programs," said Mike Nethery, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). "There is an incentive to use the programs and make the two work together."

"This farm bill is very ambitious," Nethery said. "Essentially, it calls for conservation work that hasn't been accomplished in 50 years to be done in fewer than 10 years. But the potential good it can do for future crop production, water quality, wildlife and sediment damage reduction is tremendous."

Nethery estimates the Soil Conservation Service will be writing an average of 600 to 700 conservation plans in each county before January of 1990.

"About half our cropland is highly erodible and most farmers are likely to have at least some highly erodible land," Nethery said. "More than 90 percent of the state's farmers are involved in farm programs, so that means we'll be dealing with soil erosion problems with more farmers than ever before."

That means a great opportunity for soil conservation progress in the state, Nethery said. He said the farm bill has already produced benefits.

One part of the bill, the Conservation Reserve, has already retired about a million acres of Iowa cropland for at least 10 years.

"The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) protects the highly erodible land and supplies the farmer with an income," he said. "The land that is planted to grasses for the 10-year contract also benefits our wildlife by supplying wildlife habitat. In some cases trees are planted and that helps replenish our forest areas that have disappeared over the years.

"Iowa ranks fifth in the country for participation in CRP and has the potential to have four times as much acreage in the reserve as is currently enrolled," Nethery said.

Local SCS offices have a list of highly erodible soils. There are many different ways those soils can be protected, Nethery said.

"Reducing the amount of tillage, going to a different tillage system, stripcropping, contouring or terracing, or changing the crop rotation are all options," Nethery said.

He added that the soil conservation work outlined in the plan is carried out over several years.

Two new SCS staff members for county

Two new staff members have joined the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service.

Keith Krause began work in June as the county's new District Conservationist. He



Keith Krause

replaces past District Conservationist Larry Beeler who transferred to Shenandoah.

Krause has been with the Soil Conservation Service for the past eight years. He moved here from Waverly where he has been District Conservationist for three years. Prior to that time he was located at Ida Grove in western Iowa.

A native of Viroqua, Wis., Krause earned a degree in wildlife management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He and his wife Valerie, have one daughter, 4, and a son, 2.

Richard Belden has also joined the SCS staff as a soil conservationist.

Richard, his wife Wanda and family have lived in Manchester for the past 20 years. During this time, Belden was employed as a sales representative for Rockford Brick and Tile, Universal Plastics Inc., and most recently Advanced Drainage Systems Inc., covering a ten county territory in East Central Iowa.

Prior to moving to Manchester, Belden worked for the



Richard Belden

Soil Conservation Service in Audubon and Scott counties, after graduating from Iowa State university.

Krause and Belden are both looking forward to meeting and working with the people in Delaware county. They invite people to stop in the Soil Conservation Service office at 909 West Main in Manchester to get acquainted.

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Dyersville, Iowa 52040 8-3-87

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042 8-4-87

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057 8-3-87

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057 8-3-87

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076 8-4-87

Iowa's oldest plans used for future

Something Old is New

The Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners (IASWCDC) is looking at some of Iowa's oldest plants for Iowa's future.

In cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa State University Extension Service, the IASWCDC is looking at native grass and legume plants to solve troublesome conservation problems.

According to Glenn Burrows, President of the IASWCDC, native grasses have a significant role to play in an ecology-minded state as they require no herbicides or pesticides for controls. Burrows went on to say that the IASWCDC has formed the Aster Corporation to assist the local Soil Conservation Districts in obtaining and providing a consistent, high quality supply of native grass and legume seeds.

Norm Kading, also on the Board of IASWCDC said that the formation of a group with the specific interest in native plants is essential if Iowa is to make progress in this new area of crop diversification. Kading said these plants have been around a long time yet they've been overlooked in their importance since the time of the first pioneers. "We're going to correct that. We plan to see just what role each of these plants has in Iowa's future."

Further emphasis was placed on the importance of the project by Larry Beeler, District Commissioner from Madison County. Beeler took note of a recent article in the Des Moines Register that the Department of Natural Resources was looking at these plants as a way to improve ecology and to maintain the public right-of-ways.

The Aster Corporation, formed by the IASWCDC will handle all varieties of native seed. They are cooperating with Grassroots Enterprises, Inc., located in Centerville, which was formed to handle the processing of the harvested seed.

John Sellers, Chairman of Grassroots Enterprises, Inc., notes that the timing of this is very appropriate for Iowa as the state has thousands of acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). "Iowa needs to lead the nation in achieving maximum soil erosion control and wildlife benefits from the CRP acres. This is a step in that direction."

The IASWCDC recognizes the value that Larry Wilson, Administrator of the Department of Natural Resources has placed on the establishment of native grass and legumes for wildlife cover, for years prior to CRP. That effort has not gone unnoticed in its value for a more balanced effort. The IASWCDC doesn't wish to duplicate that effort, but to enhance it by providing a high quality, consistent and reasonably priced seed supply.

Secretary of Agriculture Dale Cochran has emphasized within his department the importance of crop diversification in Iowa. Selection of these crops is very important. The efficiency of the native grasses and their adaptability to the Iowa climate is unsurpassed, fitting into a well-planned diversification program.

For further information on the native grass and legume program being developed, contact Andrea Jilovec, Executive Director of the IASWCDC, at 515-266-2189.

Business-Agriculture

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press
Where published Manchester, IA.
Date of issue 9-6-88
Sent by Keith Krause
S. C. D. Delaware
Stationed at manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column	☐
Story (SCS)	☑
(Other)	☐
Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

Conservation featured at Ag Expo Sept. 7-10

The 1988 World Ag Expo, to be held in the Amana Colonies Sept. 7-10, won't be without conservation activity.

Conservation tillage field demonstrations, a hill of five slopes, the size of a football field, a conservation farmer booth, a soil conservation play, and several exhibits will be part of the four-day show.

"There will be several conservation activities that could be of interest to people," says Keith Krause, District Conservationist for the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service.

They include:

– No-till and ridge till planting demonstrations will be coordinated through various machinery companies. The demonstrations will show companies operating their machinery side-by-side. Ridge-building equipment and drills are incuded. Demonstrations are each afternoon.

– A "Hill of Slopes," with each of five slopes being 100 feet long, has been built near the Ag Expo Welcome Center. The hill will enable visitors to view 2%, 5%, 9%, 14% and 20% slopes side by side. "This is a chance for farmers to get a better idea of how steep their land is for conservation purposes," Krause says. The hill was built by the Southeast Iowa District of the Land Improvement Contractors of America.

– More than 40 experienced conservation tillage farmers will take turns appearing at a question and answer booth in the soil conservation display in the All-Iowa Ag Tent. The booth will be manned continually.

– On Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of the Expo, a soil conservation plan called, "Planting in the Dust" will be presented in the Expo's Welcome Center. To be shown at 2 p.m., the half-hour drama is one farm woman's story of her connection to the land and the satisfaction of farming it right. Sponsors of the play are Gutwein Seeds, Pioneer HiBred, Land Improvement Contractors of America, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

– The soil conservation booth in the All-Iowa Ag Tent will be manned with SCS personnel to answer conservation questions, including those on the conservation provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act. A representative of the Division of Soil Conservation of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will answer questions on state conservation programs. Soil district commissioners of Iowa and the Soil and Water Conservation Society will also work in the booth. Conservation tillage models and an interesting 3-dimensional view of a raindrop splash will be included in the exhibit.

Krause noted that while the Ag Expo includes the World Plowing Matches, show organizers have been adamant that the Expo is also a soil conservation event.

The Manchester Democrat-Radio

Official Paper of Delaware County, Iowa
Official Paper of City of Manchester, Iowa

OUR FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR

Edition For Manchester Area, 2 Sections
26 Pages
Elsewhere in U.S.A., 10 Pages

Manchester, Delaware County, Iowa, Monday, February 15, 1988 No. 2887

'88 farm program topic for meeting

The details of the 1988 farm program, the conservation compliance and economics of the '88 farm program will be the topic of discussion at the program set for Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The program is co-sponsored by the ASCS, SCS and Extension Service and will be held at the Community Center in Manchester.

The program is open to the public and is designed to answer questions farm producers may have on the programs they are involved in.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, IA 52057
319-927-4590

September 1, 1988

FOR IMMEDIATELY RELEASE

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107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

United States Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

AUG 26 1988

August 23, 1988

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA260-8-11

SUBJECT: INF - AG EXPO RELEASE

Purpose. Get field office use of release.

Expiration Date. September 30, 1988

The attached news release is a good summary of the soil conservation activities at the 1988 World Ag Expo.

We urge District Conservationists to localize the release as needed and release to weekly papers, and to use the information in any radio programs it may fit.

J. Michael Nethery
State Conservationist

Attachment

Sent Article 9-1-88 KK/mcB

A
F

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service NEWS

Contact: Mike Nethery
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines. Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

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For Immediate Release

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SCS

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August 24, 1988

U.S Department of Agriculture
Soil Consservation Service News

Contact: Keith Krause
District Conservationist
S.C.S.
909 West Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

Summer CRP Sign-up - July 18 - August 5
For Immediate Release

The Conservation Reserve Program was started December 23, 1985 as a part of the Food Security Act. It encourages farmers to plant permanent vegatative cover of grass, legumes or trees instead of crops on highly erodible ground.Under this program, producers receive yearly rental payments for a 10 year period. The landowner submits a bid to the ASCS office, based on what he believes is a fair rent for taking the land out of production. Bids will be accepted upon the present rental rates per acre offered. " $90.00 has been the highest bid accepted for the bid pool which we are in for this county," states Keith Krause, District Conservationist for Delaware County SCS. Krause adds "There are about 130,000 acres in Delaware County that would be eligible for CRP. Up to this date, there presently are about 8,000 acres enrolled."

Eligible land fits into two catagories - highly erodible land and filter strips. For a field to be considered highly erodible, it must have at least two-thirds of the field determined by the Soil Conservation Service as highly erodible. Krause commented, "Alot of people are under the assuption they have to bid in the whole farm for CRP. This is not the case. Most of the 130 some bids accepted have enrolled highly erodible fields or parts of fields as long as its three or more acres."

"Filter strips, a new edition to CRP, are receiving alot of attention," states Krause. Filter strips are cropland that runs adjacent to a perennial or seasonal stream. The strips may vary between 66 - 99 feet in width. This land must also be seeded down to a permanant vegetative cover. Krause states, "Filter strips are used to control sediment and chemical run-off to our streams, control streambank erosion, to provide wildlife habitat, to turn on as a turn strip instead of end rows and most of all, to benefit water quality."

All land submitted for CRP must be cropped. Cropland is defined as having been planted to an agriculture commodity or "set-aside" at least two of the crop years from 1981 through 1985.

Once a bid is accepted and the field is considered eligible, a land owner then has the obilgation to keep this land permanently seeded down. Up to 50 percent of cost share is available for this land to be permanently seeded down. This would include permanent grasses and legumes, trees, permanent wildlife habitats, field wind breaks and shallow water areas for wildlife. Krause says, "The CRP has provided some excellent wildlife habitat. We currently have 350 acres of land seeded to native prairie grasses, 70 acres of tree planting, with the remainder being seeded to a grass-legume combination such as bromegrass and alfalfa. Food plots have become very popular with about 30 acres established this year in CRP."

Summer sign-up for the 1988 and 1989 crop years begins July 18, 1988 and continues through August 5, 1988. For further information contact the SCS office, 909 West Main in Manchester.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 7-12-88.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

EDGEWOOD REMINDER

VOLUME 14 | EDGEWOOD, IOWA | NUMBER 9 | JULY 20, 1988

Sent to A.D.
8-10-88

Summer CRP Sign-up

The Conservation Reserve Program was started December 23, 1985 as a part of the Food Security Act. It encourages farmers to plant permanent vegatative cover of grass, legumes or trees instead of crops on highly erodible ground. Under this program, producers receive yearly rental payments for a 10 year period. The landowner submits a bid to the ASCS office, based on what he believes is a fair rent for taking the land out of production. Bids will be accepted upon the present rental rates per acre offered. "$90.00 has been the highest bid accepted for the bid pool which we are in for this county," states Keith Krause, District Conservationist for Delaware County SCS. Krause adds "There are about 130,000 acres in Delaware County that would be eligible for CRP. Up to this date, there presently are about 8,000 acres enrolled."

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The Manchester Press

Manchester, Delaware County, Iowa Tuesday, July 19, 1988 No. 6011

Conservation Reserve signup through Aug. 5

The summer signup for the 1988 and 1989 crop years for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began this week and will continue through Aug. 5.

Organized on Dec. 23, 1985, as part of the Food Security Act, the program encourages farmers to plant permanent vegetative cover of grass, legumes or trees instead of crops on highly erodible ground.

Under the program, producers receive yearly rental payments for a 10-year period. The landowner submits a bid to the ASCS office, based on what he believes is a fair rent for taking the land out of production. Bids will be accepted upon the present rental rates per acre offered. "$90 has been the highest bid accepted for the bid pool which we are in for this county," states Keith Krause, district conservationist for the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service. Krause adds, "There are about 130,000 acres in Delaware County that would be eligible for CRP. Up to this date, there presently are about 8,000 acres enrolled."

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For further information, farmers may contact the SCS Office, 909 W. Main Street in Manchester

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Where published Manchester
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S. C. D. Delaware
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, IA 52057
319-927-4590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 10, 1988

CRP SIGN-UP EXTENDED

The seventh sign-up for the ten-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been extended through August 31, 1988. The sign-up began July 18 and was scheduled to end August 5.

"The sign-up period was extened to give producers more time to consider the effects of the drought," reports Keith Krause, District Conservationist for the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service.

Krause also added that cropland which has been hayed in counties approved for drought relief is now eligible for entry into the 1988 CRP during the seventh sign-up, if the land meets all other program requirements. Land that has been designated as Acreage Conservation Reserve and Conservation Use for the 1988 program year is not eligible for entry into the 1988 CRP.

We have had a lot of interest again for this sign-up. During the last sign-up bids were accepted up to $90.00 per acre. This has generated some new interest says Krause, many people now feel that it may be worth bidding in for ten years with the increased rental rate. Others feel that the CRP is a good way to protect some of their highly erodible land and at the same time stay in compliance for the other government programs.

Grassed filter strips along permanent streams have also received some interest for the ten-year program. These areas do not have to be highly erodible says Krause as long as they are benefiting water quality.

Krause encourages any landowners with questions on the CRP or to see if they have land which will qualify to contact the Soil Conservation Service office at 909 W. Main in Manchester or call 927-4590 as soon as possible so all determinations can be made before August 31.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 8-10-88.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

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Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

8th signup, more changes for Conservation Reserve

The eighth sign-up period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is being held Feb. 6-24 announced Keith Krause, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Delaware County.

"Landowners once again will have the opportunity to enroll highly erodible land and filter strip areas along streams or ditches," said Krause, "But now certain cropped wetlands and erosion-scoured floodplains will also be eligible."

For wetland criteria, eligible fields must be determined by the Soil Conservation Service to include wetlands or farmed wetlands. Those wetlands or farmed wetlands must occupy one-third of the field; be in a pothole region with a wetland density of one wetland per six acres; or be in a six to nine acre field with a wetland of any size.

Intent of the scour erosion provision is to protect land along a stream that is scoured by floodwaters on a regular basis. A field is eligible if the land between the scoured area and the stream makes up at least a third of the entire field. If a field with scour erosion is less than nine acres in size the entire field is eligible.

"The SCS office will also use the soil survey to determine whether flooding is expected to occur at least once every 10 years on these areas," Krause said. To be eligible for scour erosion, one-third of the field must have suffered damage from flood waters.

In addition all fields must meet USDA's cropping requirements. A field must have been planted to an annual agricultural commodity crop for two of the five years from 1981 through 1985 to be eligible.

"Once the wetland or floodplain areas are enrolled for CRP the next step will be re-establishment to their native vegetation. In many cases this will require establishment of native grasses on wetland areas and tree planting on the floodplains," explained Krause. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) will provide up to 50 percent cost-share assistance to CRP participants for the establishment of acceptable cover.

Krause said, "Last summer's CRP sign-up was the second highest enrollment for Delaware County since the program began in 1986. This brings the total to about 10,000 acres of CRP ground for the county. Statewide over 1.6 million acres are in CRP. And with over 28 million acres enrolled nationally the program is right on target for the goal of idling 45 million acres of highly erodible land."

"During the last two sign-up periods bids up to $90 per acre per year were accepted. And many people feel this is an attractive rental payment for the ten year period," added Krause. Some landowners are also using CRP as an alternative to their conservation plan for highly erodible land. They have enrolled some of the steeper and more fragile soil types for CRP in order to gain some farming flexibility on their better soils.

Krause said he is expecting another big sign-up and encourages anyone interested in the CRP program to contact the SCS office at 909 W. Main Street in Manchester as soon as possible.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Contact: Keith Krause, District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
Phone 319-927-4590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 20, 1988

COST-SHARING AVAILABLE FOR FARM WINDBREAKS

A good farmstead windbreak can reduce energy requirements by 30 percent, according to Keith Krause, District Conservationist at the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service office.

In addition to energy savings, Krause cites several other advantages to a windbreak.

"A windbreak consisting of one row of shrubs and two rows of evergreen trees will make a good snow fence," Krause says. "It will catch the snow and dirt and prevent it from drifting into the farmstead."

A windbreak can also provide livestock and buildings with year around protection from wind, and Krause says that in many cases, a farmstead windbreak is the only winter cover available for pheasants and other wildlife.

A windbreak will also landscape and improve the appearance of the farmstead.

"If you are interested in starting a new windbreak or renovating an old one, you can receive technical assistance free of charge by contacting the SCS office," Krause says. "We can recommend which shrub and tree varities are best suited for soil types, determine the number of trees needed and how far apart they should be planted and provide information on care of the windbreak after planting."

A 60 percent cost sharing arrangement is available from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for establishing farm windbreaks.

For more information, contact the SCS office at 909 W. Main, Manchester, or call 927-4590.

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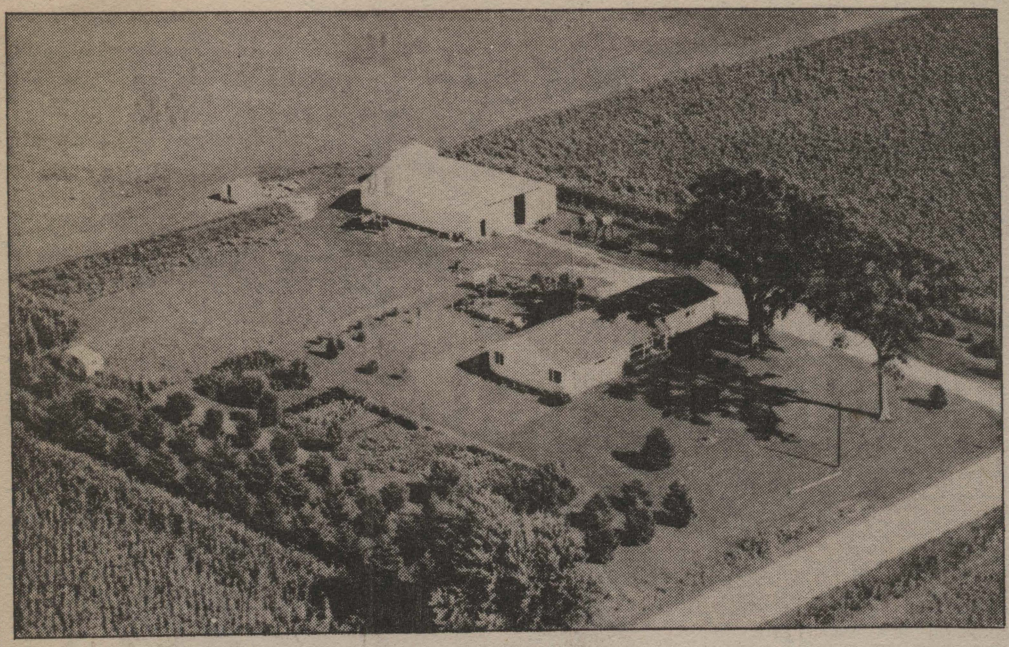
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A farmstead windbreak, like this one of Rodney Baumgartner's of rural Dundee, will provide year around protection for the buildings, livestock, and wildlife.



Many advantages

WINDBREAKS such as this one on the farm of Rodney Baumgartner of rural Dundee, can provide year-round protection for the farmstead and wildlife.

*** ***

Cost-sharing available for farm windbreaks

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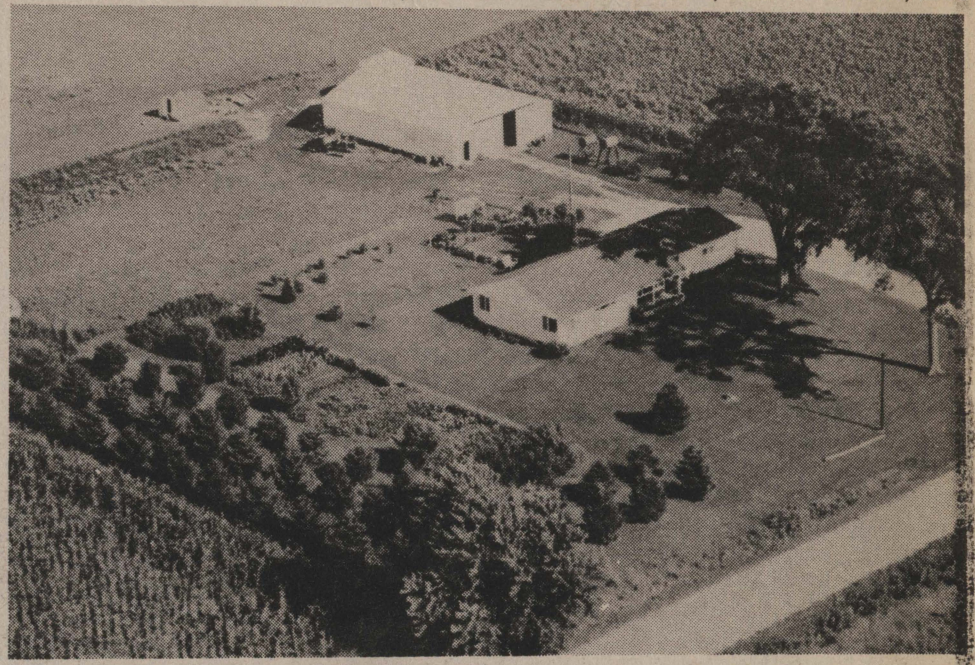
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Deadline Aug. 31 for Conservation Reserve

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Philip R. Todd
RR 1 Box 44
Greeley, Ia. 52050

EDGEWOOD REMINDER

VOLUME 14 | EDGEWOOD, IOWA | NUMBER 13 | AUGUST 17, 1988

CRP Sign-Up

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Donated corn

DELAWARE COUNTY PHEASANTS FOREVER president, Kevin Lamphier (left), accepts another trailer load of donated corn seed from Joe and Mike McGrane of rural Manchester. Mike is the president of the Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter and is using this donation as a part of his wildlife management/conservation project.

Free seed for habitat plots from Pheasants Forever

Each spring the Pheasants Forever chapter distributes free seed to Delaware county farmers interested in establishing a wildlife habitat food plot.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP, both the ten-year and annual programs) allow farmers to plant wildlife food plots on part of their CRP acres. Food plots are patches of corn, forage sorghum or grain sorghum which are left unharvested throughout the winter.

Food plots provide food and cover for many wildlife species during severe winters, as well as inviting pheasants to winter and nest on the land the following spring.

Last year approximately 30 food plots were established in Delaware county, thanks to the efforts of the Delaware County Pheasants Forever and the local Soil Conservation Service. Hopefully, this year more farmers will take advantage of the free seed and the opportunity to help local wildlife populations.

Landowners interested in food plots should contact their local Soil Conservation Service for details.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service NEWS

Contact: Mike Nethery
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

Keith Krause
District Conservationist
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909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

New Options for USDA Conservation Reserve Program
For Immediate Release

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has added the option of filter strips for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup that ~~begins next week~~ began Feb. 1st.

Filter strips -- land adjacent and parallel to streams and other bodies of water at least five acres in size -- will be eligible for USDA's 10-year land retirement program. Unlike all other land enrolled in the CRP, filter strip land will not have to be highly erodible to be eligible. However, the land must be able to reduce sedimentation of the water body, and must have been planted to an agricultural commodity crop for two years from 1981 to 1985.

"Filter strips can be from 66 to 99 feet wide, and extend along a stream or a lake shore," says SCS state conservationist Mike Nethery of Des Moines. "When a farmer puts this land in grass or trees and shrubs, that ground cover can act as a filter that keeps sediment and some pesticides from reaching the water. That's the idea of a filter strip."

USDA also made a change in eligibility for CRP land planted with trees. A CRP field that is planted with trees need be only one-third highly erodible instead of the two-thirds required for other plantings. Further, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service now can share the cost of two weed and insect control operations on land planted to trees, in addition to sharing planting expenses.

- more -

Applicants for all Department programs will be given equal consideration without regard to race, age, color, sex, or national origin.

SCS

The Conservation Reserve Program pays landowners rent every year for ten years to idle highly erodible cropland and filter strip land. Landowners replace row crops with perennial legumes, grass, trees, shrubs, or a mix of these.

In the sixth CRP signup, which goes from February 1 through February 19, landowners will once again offer sealed bids that state their per acre price for idling the land. USDA then decides where to set the limits for bids.

"We're beginning to do some conservation planning with landowners now," Nethery says, "and some are seeing the value of the CRP. They're seeing that they may have to make some major changes for USDA's conservation compliance rules. The CRP is a way to stop erosion on very steep land, remain eligible for USDA programs, and get paid for doing it."

Nethery is urging farmers to think about the returns they're now getting on their steep land, and the costs associated with protecting it to stay eligible for USDA programs in the future.

"You've probably got higher production costs, or lower returns, on this highly erodible land. Then you've got to figure out how you'll reduce erosion on it. The CRP is a very sensible option," he says.

The Soil Conservation Service determines whether land qualifies for CRP from an erosion standpoint. Contact a local ASCS office to bid highly erodible land into the Conservation Reserve.

- end -

January 26, 1988

ISU study shows erosion affects soil productivity at different rates in Iowa

By Dale Johnson

Iowa may want to reevaluate its soil loss limits based on data which shows that erosion affects productivity greater in some soils than others, an Iowa State University agronomist said last week.

Dr. Thomas Fenton told soil district commissioners that the productivity of some soils is decreasing faster than other soils with the same horizon, or thickness, and the same "T value."

He said that Iowa may want to establish different T values for different soils. T values are designed to reflect the maximum soil erosion that will permit a high level of crop productivity to be maintained economically and indefinitely, Fenton explained at the commissioner's 43rd annual short course in Ames.

Iowa's T values, or soil loss limits, generally range from 2-5 tons per acre per year.

Yield trends

Fenton reached his conclusion based on yield trends seen in preliminary data collected through a joint study with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

The study began in 1983 on 275 sites in 10 counties. Fenton is establishing 2-3 70 x 70 foot plots on each site to gather yield data on soils with slight, moderate and severe erosion.

Fenton reported on the first two years of the study comparing productivity between loess soils at 262 sites with till-derived soils, such as Kenyon and Clarion, at 176 sites. He also compared the impact of adding nitrogen fertilizer.

Nitrogen rates

He said that only on severely-eroded loess soils do reduced nitrogen rates become a limiting yield factor. But with till-derived soils, a substantial yield reduction is seen with severe erosion even though high rates of nitrogen may be applied.

Yet, both soils may have the same erosion rate and the same thickness (greater than 40 inches to bedrock), but their productivity is not the same, Fenton said.

"If the trend in the 1983-85 data continues, it would suggest to me that when we have greater than 40 inches to loess and till-derived that probably we should not be looking at the same T value if T is used only for productivity," Fenton said.

"Till soils (productivity) are declining at a much more rapid rate than loess soils," he said.

Students to learn about conservation

Thor to head farm board

Eric Thor, associate administrator of the Farmers Home Administration, has been named president and chief executive officer of the Farm Credit System Assistance Board, USDA and the treasury announced last week.

Thor's appointment was approved last week during the first meeting of the new board's directors.

The board was created by Congress in December as part of a new law to aid the troubled Farm Credit System.

Delaware County
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
~~XXSOUTH STXXX~~ 909 W. Main
MANCHESTER, IOWA 52057
PHONE 319-927-4590

OUR SOIL ★ OUR STRENGTH

NEWS RELEASE June 2, 1988

NEW SWCD COMMISSIONER FOR DELAWARE COUNTY

Marvin Calonder, Chairman of the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District has announced the appointment of Arnold Lueken of R.R. 1, Colesburg as the new member to the District Commissioners. The appointment of Lueken fills the vacancy of commissioner Richard Jurgens of Hopkinton.

Arnold and his wife, Bernice, farm with their son Steve approximately one mile south of Colesburg. Their 1000 acre operation consists of a combination of cropland, hayland, and pastureland. Arnold says, with our 100 head stock cow herd we are able to utilize the pastureland and keep our rougher ground seeded down for hay and oats. Lueken's have installed about 2 miles of terraces on their continuous corn ground. Arnold and Steve both agree that the terraces along with their conservation tillage system has greatly reduced their erosion problems. And switching to a 6 row 30" planter has made the terraces even easier to farm adds Arnold.

Arnold says he has always been interested in conservation and he is looking forward to serving the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Soil and Water Conservation District consists of five locally elected commissioners from around the county. It is their responsibility to establish policies, manage programs and administer cost share dollars for conservation programs within Delaware County. The Soil Conservation Service programs are also coordinated with the goals and objectives of the SWCD. Chairman, Calonder explained that it will be nice to have a representative on the SWCD board from the northeast section of the county and he is enthused to be working with Arnold.

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Date of issue Feb. 22, 1988

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S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column	☐
Story (SCS)	☑
(Other)	☐
Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

New employee at SCS office

Connie Reichenauer began employment Feb. 1 as a soil conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). She will be working with landowners making highly erodible land determinations and



Connie Reichenauer

conservation planning for the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation district.

She was previously employed with the Linn County ASCS office. She is an ag education graduate of Iowa State university.

She and her husband, Mark, live near Central City with their children, Sara, 2, and Joseph, 1.

Keith Krause, district conservationist, said, "We're glad to have her here. She should be good help meeting the work load requirements."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Contact: Keith Krause, District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 20, 1988

TWO NEW SWCD STAFF MEMBERS FOR THE COUNTY

District Conservationist, Keith Krause, has announced the addition of two new staff members to the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Ken Klein began work on November 13 of 1987 as a District Program Assistant for the SWCD. Klein graduated from Iowa State University in May of 1987 with a B. S. Degree in Agricultural business. Ken is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Klein of rural Manchester.

Elizabeth Beswick-Todd began duty on December 8, 1987 as a Soil Conservation Aid. Todd graduated from the University of Dubuque, with an Associate of Arts Degree in Business and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration and Marketing. Before coming to the Delaware County SWCD, Todd was employed by the Clayton County Dairy Herd Improvement Association. Beth and her husband, Phil, are also engaged in farming with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Beswick near Greeley.

With the added workload of the Food Security Act (FSA) Krause said he is happy to have Klein and Todd as part of the staff. Their primary duties will be working on the highly erodible land (HEL) determinations on over 1300 Delaware County farms which have enrolled in the farm programs. Both employees will also be assisting with the field work projects of contouring, contour strip cropping, windbreaks, and terrace layout.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 1-22-88.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

1-20-88

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

LEADER IN PORK

Delaware COUNTY

Carol Brockmeyer, Page Editor
Box 326, Manchester, IA 52057 319-927-3815

2 new SWCD members for county

District conservationist, Keith Krause, has announced the addition of two new staff members to the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation district.

Ken Klein began work on Nov. 13, 1987, as a district program assistant for the SWCD. Klein graduated from Iowa State University in May of 1987 with a BS degree in agricultural business.

Ken is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Klein of rural Manchester.

Elizabeth Beswick-Todd began duty on Dec. 8, 1987, as a soil conservation aid. Todd graduated from the University of Dubuque, with an associate of arts degree in business and bachelor of arts degree in business administration and marketing.



Klein.



Todd

Before coming to the Delaware County SWCD, Todd was employed by the Clayton County Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

Beth and her husband, Phil, are also engaged in farming with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Beswick, near Greeley. With the added workload of the Food Security Act (FSA), Krause said he is happy to have Klein and Todd as part of the staff. Their primary duties will be working on the highly erodible land (HEL) determinations on over 1,300 Delaware county farms which have enrolled in the farm programs.

Both employees will also be assisting with the field work projects of contouring, contour strip cropping, windbreaks and terrace layout.

Conservation employees

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Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman
Jan. 30, 1988

Funds sought for

Iowa Agriculture Secretary Dale Cochran last week unveiled a list of legislative priorities in the current session of the Legislature.

High on his list of askings is $865,000 in new money to kick off a strong export push.

The money includes $415,000 to establish agriculutral trade experts in each of Iowa's foreign trade offices and $450,000 to establish an International Trade Bureau within the agriculture department to serve as support for the three foreign agricultural trade specialists.

At a news conference at the International Trade Center in Des Moines, Cochran said he was presenting the list of priorities largely because they had been ignored by Gov. Terry Branstad.

Included in Cochran's other 1988 legislative priorities are:

•$100,000 to expand the women's, infants and children's coupon plan. The coupons would be used to purchase fresh produce from farmers markets in several Iowa communities.

•$149,790 to increase the

Soil loss limits to be flexible

Local officials will be given the latitude to set erosion standards on highly erodible cropland already in production, under rules expected to be announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

However, stricter national standards that limit erosion to 1 to 5 tons per acre annually will apply under the final rules which will soon be issued.

Farm Bureau supported allowing Soil Conservation Service (SCS) personnel to have flexibility in setting erosion standards. This flexibility is provided for infield office technical guides as opposed to relying on strict erosion standards.

Last September, the USDA published final rules for the sodbuster laws, but delayed action on the question of acceptable soil erosion for more public comment.

Interim rules gave local officials the power to set erosion levels.

Under the 1985 Farm Bill, a farmer who plows land deemed highly erodible must give a conservation plan to the local SCS showing how he plans to control soil erosion.

Failure to submit a plan by 1990 could prevent the farmer from getting federal farm program price supports.

The conservation plans must be implemented by 1995.

An SCS spokesman last week said that for about 70 percent of the U.S., the erosion standard is 5 tons per acre annually.

He said the national levels will be flexible, adding, "We're not going to tell a man he's out of business" if his land erodes only slightly more than allowed.

"No one will be asked to do more than use no-till continuous corn. They'll need to get the soil loss down to this equivalent," says Mark Berkland, state resource conservationist, SCS.

"In most cases, the loss limits won't be much above 5 tons per acre," he said.

Berkland says there are a lot of farmers in Iowa who could not afford to bring erosion down to the 5-ton per acre level. These are primarily farmers with erodible soils on 9-14 percent slopes.

Aster Corporation Comes To Delaware County



Landowner Richard Sutton (left) of rural Manchester and Soil Conservationist Richard Belden examine a two year old stand of switchgrass on CRP land.

Switchgrass, one of three native warm season grasses, is now available through the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District Office. Marvin Calonder, chairman of the Delaware County District Commissioners, said "The district's supplier will be the Aster Corporation of Centerville." "This corporation was formed by the Iowa Assocation of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners to assist local districts in providing a supply of native grasses," explained Calonder.

Big bluestem and indiangrass are the other two native grasses, but are not as popular as switchgrass in Delaware County.

"Switchgrass has its greatest growth from June through August, while bromegrass, a cool season grass, has its greatest growth during the spring and fall months," states Keith Krause, District Conservationist for Delaware County. "With this growth characteristics, switchgrass has great potential to provide summer pasture," indicated Krause. Krause further explained that switchgrass should be seeded alone due to its different growth pattern as compared to the cool season grasses.

"In a pasture situation, it is important not to overgrass switchgrass. Start grazing switchgrass after it has reached a height of 12 to 16 inches (usually mid June)," states Richard Belden, Soil Conservationst for Delaware County. Belden further explained that grazing should be stopped when plants are within 8 to 12 inches of the ground. The plant should be rested prior to a killing frost to allow a food reserve buildup. "This will help to produce vigorous plant growth the following spring," concluded Belden.

Switchgrass is adapted to a wide range of soils. It does best on a well-drained fertile soil, but can also withstand a droughty soil.

"Proper seeding practices are very important in obtaining a good stand. Best results for seeding is with a drill in a shallow firmly packed seedbed," states Krause. Apply fertilizer according to soil tests. Krause stressed, "do not apply nitrogen at seeding time because it will stimulate weed growth and effect the establishment of the stand."

To insure optimum production after stand establishment, fertilize according to soil tests. "Warm season grasses respond to fertilizer the same as cool season grasses," Belden stated. "However, nitrogen should not be applied until the middle to the last of May. "Earlier application of nitrogen will stimulate the growth of cool season grasses and weeds," stated Belden. Phosphorus and potassium can be applied the same as for cool season grasses. Periodic controlled burning can also be used to manage a native grass stand.

"Switchgrass can also be seeded on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). With its growth characteristics it provides excellent cover for erosion, weed control, and wildlife habitat," stated Krause.

Calonder said, "The district will be available to help you meet your switchgrass needs." To place your order, contact the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 909 W. Main, Manchester.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Contact: Richard Belden, Soil Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
909 W. Main
Manchester, IA 52057
Phone - 319-927-4590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 3, 1988

ASTER CORPORATION COMES TO DELAWARE COUNTY

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*2-10-88

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* Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
* 153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

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* 107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076



Grass cover

LANDOWNER RICHARD SUTTON and Soil Conservationist Richard Belden examine two-year-old Switchgrass seeding for cover of CRP land.

***

Native grass seed available for county

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BUCK CREEK

Rita Bees 926-2518

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Conley and Tina Ellis, Anamosa, were Jan. 31 callers of Mrs. Marie Conley and Wilbur.

Mrs. Marie Conley called on Leonard Kray at University hospitals in Iowa City on Jan. 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hucker Sr. were recent callers of Mrs. Marie Conley and Wilbur.

SCS-IPA-74
3-81

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

Farm news

Switchgrass, native grass establishment program March 22

The intent of the Conservation Reserve Program is to remove highly erodible land from crop production and protect it with permanent vegetative cover. Switchgrass and other native grass species are considered excellent choices for vegetative cover on these acres. Most Iowa farm producers are not familiar with the seeding practices to establish and maintain a native grass stand.

CRP participants interested in learning more about establishment practices are encouraged to attend the program set for Tuesday, March 22, at 1:30 p.m. at the Farm Bureau meeting room in Manchester. Jim Ranum, Area Resource Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service will present information on the best management procedures on soil preparation, seeding, and maintenance of a stand of native grasses. The program is co-sponsored by the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service and the Delaware County Extension Service. The program should be of interest to anyone in the CRP program and is open to the public.

Place your switchgrass order

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Pictured are Richard Sutton (left) and Richard Belden checking a field of switchgrass.

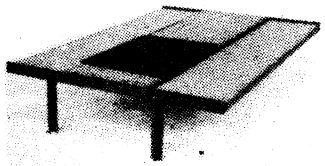
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"This will help to produce

Continued on Page 23

SOWJOY

THREE PIECE RAISED CENTER FLOOR



USDA to promote trees on some CRP acres

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that the rules for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are being broadened to promote tree planting on areas adjacent to streams, lakes and estuaries.

The USDA says farmers enrolling highly erodible land will be able to consider "filter strips" as part of the land they are enrolling. The filter strips must be cropland areas 66 to 99 feet wide with a permanent cover. The areas will be eligible even if they are not highly erodible.

The change will allow farmers to use the CRP as an option to control nonpoint source pollution, including sedimentation.

Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng said the areas designated as filter strips must be adjacent and parallel to streams having perennial flow, seasonal streams (except gullies and sod waterways) or other water bodies of a permanent nature with water areas of not less than 5 surface acres.

New incentives for planting trees on designated areas include a doubling of the normal soil loss tolerance for the land and lowering the highly erodible criteria from two-thirds to one-third of the field.

The rules are effective for the next sign-up period in the CRP, which runs from Feb. 1-19. Offers for the CRP may be submitted for either 1988 or 1989.

Business/Agriculture

Wetland deadline September 19

Iowa farmers who began a drainage or tile project in a wetland before Dec. 23, 1985, may be able to finish the drainage work without losing U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits.

"Swampbuster" provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act restrict the conversion of wetlands to farmland, but if the work was begun before the act, the landowner can continue the work," says Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for the USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

"The key is to file a request for "commenced" determination with your local ASCS office," Nethery says. "But the deadline for filing such a request is Sept. 19, so landowners should get to the ASCS office now with their evidence that work was commenced."

Documentation that drainage work was begun on the project before Dec. 23, 1985, can include: signed contracts, cancelled checks for supplies already purchased, etc.

Any landowner who wants to resume a drainage project begun before Dec. 23, 1985 should contact SCS to find out if the land is classified as a wetland. If it is, file the request for a commenced determination with ASCS before Sept. 19, Nethery advises.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
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- (Other) ☐
- Editorial ☐
- Advertisement ☐
- Cons. picture ☐



County Comments

by Chuck Kolbet
Extension
Agriculturist

I'd like to encourage every farmer to attend the drought meeting scheduled for Thursday night, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Maquoketa Valley School Auditorium in Delhi.

Topics include nitrates, fertilizer and chemical carryover for the 1989 crops, feeding drought damaged forage and grain, moisture conservation, cash flow for 1989, land rent and prices, and feeding options for early forage in 1989. Lastly, any questions you may have will be discussed.

Feed, fertilizer and chemical dealers, lenders, ASCS and SCS, and FmHA are encouraged to attend. Brian Reimer of the ASCS Office will be present and is willing to give a short update, but details are still coming for the drought program. Our area specialists will be available to discuss the above topics. Interest is high and this should prove to be an excellent program for the producers of Delaware County.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

News Release September 13, 1989

Feature Article for Soil & Water Conservation Week

Delaware County Soil Conservation Award

The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman, Marvin Calonder announced the selection of Wahl Farms Ltd. as the 1989 Soil and Water Conservation Award winner for Delaware County.

The Wahl farm is located in southeastern Delaware County on the Delaware-Jones County line approximately five miles southeast of Hopkinton. Wahl Farms Ltd is a family owned operation operated by Eric Wahl. Other members include Eric's wife Janine, his parents Robert & Ruth Wahl, along with other family members and their spouses.

The Wahl's presently own and operate 570 acres, with the majority of the cropland in the three to five percent slope range. The major soil types consist of Aredale, Dinsdale, Muscatine, and Tama on slopes ranging from two to nine percent.

Calonder stated "Eric's grandfather, Ernest Wahl, signed a conservation plan with the Soil Conservation District in 1946. He started with contour farming as a major practice in his system." In 1973 Eric started farming and later purchased additional land. "Contouring the land we operate has not been a problem," says Eric, "I grew up [redacted] with contours and it just seems like the way to farm."

Since his grandfather, times has changed and Eric is now running a corn-corn-bean rotation. His tillage consists of spring plowing the first year corn stalks, disking the second year corn stalks to maintain 40-50% residue for drilled soybeans, and no-tilling corn into the 170 acres of soybean stubble.

District Conservationist, Keith Krause for the Soil Conservation Service, reported, "Since 1976 over 23,000 feet of broadbase tile outlet terraces have been installed on the Wahl farm." When asked why they terrace Tama and Dinsdale soil types Eric's response was, "We have some pretty good soil types and we would like to keep them that way. Although the slopes are not very steep we do have some long (400-500 ft.) slope lengths. The terraces also give me a little more flexibility with my tillage operations. With a C-C-B rotation the terraces help to control erosion. I would also like to keep the rain we get on the field and not just sitting on the bottoms."

Grassed waterways and field borders are also an important part of Wahl's system. "The waterways are very well maintained," says Krause. "By keeping a 40-50 foot width Eric is able to use them for hay, turn strips, and travel lanes."

In 1976 Eric planted over nine acres of trees on the steepest ground and enrolled this area into the forest reserve. It now provides an excellent wildlife area.

Eric also leaves approximately nine acres of Nordness-Rock-Outcrop areas in permanent grass. He says, "We never mow these areas. The

grass is left for the wildlife." In 1987 33 acres were enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program and seeded to a mixture of five different native grasses. This was installed on 7-9% slopes. Eric said CRP seemed better than what these soils could produce and it was a chance to give them a rest and at the same time provide some cover for wildlife.

Wahls also have a farrow to finish hog operation consisting of 80-90 head of sows, and finishes out 1,200 head of hogs per year. The pit under the confinement building allows Eric to store the manure until it can be spread in the spring just before frost is out to avoid compaction and wheel traffic. Each field is soil sampled annually and fertilized according to his yield goal.

The farmsteads where both Robert and Eric live are kept very neat and attractive. Each place has a farmstead windbreak to protect the buildings.

Calonder added, "Wahl Farms Ltd. is very deserving for the Conservation Award because of their dedication to maintaining sound conservation ethics throughout three generations.

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

Dec. 5, 1989

Conservation plan needed by 1990

Beginning Jan. 1, 1990, producers must have an approved conservation plan before planting an annually tilled agricultural commodity on highly erodible land to be eligible for USDA benefits. Robert H. Furleigh, State Executive Director for the Iowa State ASCS Office, said the plans are required by the Food Security Act of 1985. ASCS benefits include wheat and feed grain payments, commodity loans, CRP annual payments, storage payments and wool incentive payments. Other USDA benefits include eligibility for crop insurance and FmHA loans. According to Furleigh, producers should contact their local Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Office to arrange to have a plan developed and approved no later than Dec. 31, 1989.

Producers with a plan on December 31, 1989, have until Jan. 1, 1995, to fully implement the plan. Plans developed after December 31, 1989, require the producer to fully apply the required conservation measures to the highly erodible land immediately, before any program benefits can be earned. As a result, producers who may not intend to participate in any 1990 programs should still contact SCS, as program participation in future years is dependent upon having an approved conservation plan.

Additional details may be obtained by visiting the local SCS office.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE November 22, 1989

CONTACT: Keith Krause, District Conservationist
SCS, 909 W. Main, Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

TIME RUNNING OUT FOR CONSERVATION PLANS

The first major deadline for conservation compliance will be here in less than 30 days. "If you are farming highly erodible land (HEL) and have not yet developed or signed your conservation plan you should contact the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) office right away," urges Keith Krause, District Conservationist for the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service.

The 1985 Farm Bill has focused new attention on soil conservation in agriculture. The 1985 Food Security Act also links soil conservation with USDA program benefits. To stay eligible for USDA farm programs such as crop insurance, CRP, FmHA loans, and commodity price support programs farmers must have a soil conservation plan filed with the SCS office by December 31 of this year.

Krause reports, "The farmers in Delaware County have done an excellent job of getting their conservation plans completed. There were over 126,000 acres of HEL needing conservation plans and 119,000 acres (95%) have been completed as of this date."

Landowners that meet the deadline of filing a conservation plan by December 31 will be eligible for USDA programs and also have until the end of 1994 to implement the conservation plan to their farm. If a landowner waits until after December 31, 1989 to develop a conservation plan they no longer have the five year implementation period. A late plan must be implemented within one year to retain USDA program eligibility. Krause stresses this point to the landowners who presently do not participate in USDA programs. Over the next five years a landowner or operator may decide to take advantage of a USDA program and by getting a plan now they would be insuring their eligibility for future programs.

Many of the landowners are finding out the conservation plans are not as bad as they thought or heard. "We work with a lot of farmers that are already in compliance with their presenting farming system and it has just been a matter of recording their system in the plan for their signature," says Krause. "Some operators have came to our office thinking they were going to have to build terraces to stay in compliance. But when they left with their conservation plan they found out there were options other than terraces to controlling soil erosion. As a matter of fact, our workload has really accelerated with requests for assistance from landowners already implementing their plans," says Krause.

Another surprising point to many landowners is that the plans are flexible to their farming operation. A conservation plan that is developed now can be revised or changed to reflect changes within the

farming operation. So long as the soil resource is still protected. This gives landowners the opportunity to stay productive while at the same time protecting the soil and water resources.

Because time is growing short Krause urges the remaining landowners with HEL who have not yet developed a conservation plan to call the SCS office **NOW**! It is the landowner and operators responsibility to have their plan completed and signed before the December 31st deadline. They can call the SCS office at 927-4590 to set up an appointment or to see if a plan is needed.

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

Dyersville Commercial
Wednesday, January 18, 1989

Editorials

Conservation programs progress

If you talk with travelers who have visited the Holy Land, one of the points they will invariably make is how the Israelis have turned desert into fruitful land.

Without debating the merits of Israel vs. Palestine, let's give credit to the Israelis for their efforts that let them grow diverse crops on land that wasn't of much value — at least economically. The religious and historical aspects are other stories.

So what, you may ask.

The so what is that tillers of the land in America's heartland have one of the most desirable areas to grow crops, both in terms of soil and growing season, and haven't had to wrest cropland from desert . Or to look at it another way, do you know that the bulk of the Soviet Union's prime croplands are in a latitude at and north of Minneapolis-St. Paul? Imagine the challenge of growing corn in an area that's similar to the Canadian border.

Yet over the years a lot of folks in our heartland have thought of topsoil as an inexhaustible resource. That just isn't so.

That's why we were heartened by the report in the Commercial last week that those whose land stewardship includes highly erodible areas are moving along to meet timetables set out by the 1985 Food Security Act.

Delaware County, so its district conservationist reported, has about 50 percent of its highly erodible crop land covered by required plans. Greg Martin, Dubuque County district conservationist, reported that nearly 70 percent of county acres required to do so has a plan to cover them. In fact, Martin thinks the county may have all acres in question under an approved program this summer.

All of that is encouraging. Yes, the federal government offered a carrot-and-stick approach to the problem, but if it gets the job done to preserve the nation's land, that has to be a big plus.

It's a lot better to keep topsoil here than have it wind up in the delta of the Mississippi River and in the Gulf of Mexico.

We applaud efforts at soil and water conservation; it's not a sissy game at all. It's an endeavor to protect one of America's greatest resources.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE

February 1, 1989

MORE CHANGES FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM - Feb. 6-24

The eighth sign-up period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be held February 6-24 announces Keith Krause, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Delaware County.

"Landowners once again will have the opportunity to enroll highly erodible land and filter strip areas along streams or ditches" says Krause, "but now certain cropped wetlands and erosion-scoured floodplains will also be eligible."

For wetland criteria, eligible fields must be determined by the Soil Conservation Service to include wetlands or farmed wetlands. Those wetlands or farmed wetlands must occupy one-third of the field; be in a pothole region with a wetland density of one wetland per six acres; or be in a six to nine acre field with a wetland of any size.

Intent of the scour erosion provision is to protect land along a stream that is scoured by floodwaters on a regular basis. A field is eligible if the land between the scoured area and the stream makes up at least a third of the entire field. If a field with scour erosion is less than nine acres in size the entire field is eligible.

"The SCS office will also use the soil survey to determine whether flooding is expected to occur at least once every 10 years on these areas," Krause says. To be eligible for scour erosion, one-third of the field must have suffered damage from flood waters.

In addition all fields must meet USDA's cropping requirements. A field must have been planted to a annual agricultural commodity crop for two of the five years from 1981 through 1985 to be eligible.

"Once the wetland or floodplain areas are enrolled for CRP the next step will be re-establishment to their native vegetation. In many cases this will require establishment of native grasses on wetland areas and tree planting on the floodplains," explains Krause. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) will provide up to 50 percent cost-share assistance to CRP participants for the establishment of acceptable cover.

Krause said, "Last summer's CRP sign-up was the second highest enrollment for Delaware County since the program began in 1986. This brings the total to about 10,000 acres of CRP ground for the county. Statewide over 1.6 million acres are in CRP. And with over 28 million acres enrolled nationally the program is right on target for the goal of idling 45 million acres of highly erodible land."

"During the last two sign-up periods bids up to $90.00/Ac./Yr. were accepted. And many people feel this is an attractive rental payment for the ten year period," adds Krause. Some landowners are also using CRP as an alternative to their conservation plan for highly erodible land. They have enrolled some of the steeper and more fragile soil types for CRP in order to gain some farming flexibility on their better soils.

Krause says he is expecting another big sign-up and encourages anyone interested in the CRP program to contact the SCS office at 909 W. Main in Manchester as soon as possible.

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

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 2-2-89.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

2-1-89

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE

June 12, 1989

CONTACT: Keith Krause, District Conservationist
SCS, 909 W. Main, Manchester, IA 52057
319-927-4590

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

The Nineth Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up has been announced by Keith Krause, District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. The bidding period will be from July 17 to August 4, 1989.

Krause explains there are five ways in which a piece of ground can be eligible for CRP. If two-thirds of a field is highly erodible, it would qualify. For the landowner interested in planting trees, then only one-third of a field needs to be highly erodible to be eligible. There are also non-highly erodible areas which may be eligible. Filter strips, 66 to 99 feet wide, are eligible along perennial streams, seasonal streams or lakes. Two other eligiblity criteria were introduced during the last sign-up. Fields having land subject to scour erosion from out of bank flow or flooding at least once every ten years may qualify. Also, farmed wetlands can now be enrolled into the CRP. In order for fields to be considered, they must have been planted to a crop two years during the period 1981-1985.

During the July 17 to August 4 period, landowners with eligible fields may place a CRP bid at the ASCS office. All fields accepted for CRP must be seeded to permanent grass or legume cover, or planted to trees. Krause noted that there is 50% cost share on new seeding establishment for CRP.

Delaware County has accepted bids up to $90 per acre during the last three CRP sign-ups. In the sign-up held in February there were approximately 2,000 acres bid for CRP. Delaware County has a total of 10,897 acres enrolled. Krause added that "Due to the dry soil conditions recently, a CRP payment may be a good farming option for landowners with critical soil types."

Any landowner interested in CRP can contact the Soil Conservation Service at 909 West Main in Manchester to determine if they have land eligible.

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

with picture

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 6-13-89.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

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153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

Signup now through Aug. 4

9th Conservation Reserve program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the ninth sign-up for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for the period of July 17 through Aug. 4. The previous eight sign-ups have resulted in 10,897 acres designated for CRP in Delaware County.

The Conservation Reserve Program pays landowners rent every year for ten years to idle highly erodible cropland, filter strips along streams, floodplain areas subject to scour erosion, and certain wetland and farmed wetlands that meet cropland criteria as identified by ASCS. Landowners replace crops with perennial legumes, grass, trees, shrubs, or a mix of these.

Landowners will be asked to submit sealed bids during the sign-up period. These bids must state their per acre price for idling the land. The USDA then decides where to set the limits for bids.

Prior to submitting a bid, the landowner must contact his local SCS. The SCS will determine whether land is eligible for CRP based on all USDA criteria.

District Conservationist Keith Krause of Manchester, said that this sign-up presents an opportunity for landowners to bid wetland and floodplain areas that were not eligible prior to the last sign-up. The Food Security Act of 1985 requires the designation of farmed wetlands and wetlands for preservation and protection. These wetlands, if they were cropped during the period 1981-1985, may be eligible for CRP.

Krause said this sign-up period and the next, tentatively scheduled for February 1990 may be the last opportunity for entering land into CRP. The original five year period for CRP ends Dec. 31, 1990 and there are no sign-up periods scheduled after February of 1990.

Statewide, the eight previous CRP sign-ups have resulted in about 1.8 million acres being accepted into CRP. The conversion of those crop acres to grass and trees prevents about 33 million tons of topsoil erosion each year in Iowa. Nationally, the 30 million acres of land enrolled in CRP is preventing 600 million tons of soil erosion per year.

Anyone wishing further information may call Krause at the Delaware County Soil Conservation Office, 927-4590.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press

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Date of issue July 18, 1989

Sent by Keith Krause

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester, IA

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Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

9th CRP SIGNUP - JULY 17

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the ninth sign-up for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for the period of July 17 through August 4, 1989. The previous eight sign-ups have resulted in 10,897 acres designated for CRP in Delaware County.

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Landowners will be asked to submit sealed bids during the sign-up period. These bids must state their per acre price for idling the land. The USDA then decides where to set the limits for bids.

Prior to submitting a bid, the landowner must contact his local SCS. The SCS will determine whether land is eligible for CRP based on all USDA criteria.

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CONSERVATION RESERVE SIGNUP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the ninth sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program to be during the period of July 17, through August 4, 1989. Authorization for CRP sign-ups expires in December of 1990. Only one more sign-up is authorized after this ninth sign-up. "If you have land that may be eligible but have not had a determination completed, you are urged to do so before time runs out," says Krause of the Soil Conservation Service.

The Conservation Reserve Program pays landowners rent every year for ten years to idle highly erodible cropland, filter strips along streams, flood plain areas subject to scour erosion and certain wetland and farmed wetlands that meet cropland criteria as identified by ASCS. Scour erosion and wetland areas were new with the eighth sign-up. Intent of the scour erosion provision is to protect land along a stream that is scoured by floodwaters on a regular basis. Wetland areas were included to protect certain farmed wetlands that are useful to wildlife and important for water quality. These areas would be seeded with perennial legumes, grass, trees, shrubs, or existing natural vegetation.

For further information on the Conservation Reserve Program, contact the Delaware County Soil Conservation office in Manchester.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 7-12-89.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

8th signup, more changes for Conservation Reserve

The eighth sign-up period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is being held Feb. 6-24 announced Keith Krause, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Delaware County.

"Landowners once again will have the opportunity to enroll highly erodible land and filter strip areas along streams or ditches," said Krause, "But now certain cropped wetlands and erosion-scoured floodplains will also be eligible."

For wetland criteria, eligible fields must be determined by the Soil Conservation Service to include wetlands or farmed wetlands. Those wetlands or farmed wetlands must occupy one-third of the field; be in a pothole region with a wetland density of one wetland per six acres; or be in a six to nine acre field with a wetland of any size.

Intent of the scour erosion provision is to protect land along a stream that is scoured by floodwaters on a regular basis. A field is eligible if the land between the scoured area and the stream makes up at least a third of the entire field. If a field with scour erosion is less than nine acres in size the entire field is eligible.

"The SCS office will also use the soil survey to determine whether flooding is expected to occur at least once every 10 years on these areas," Krause said. To be eligible for scour erosion, one-third of the field must have suffered damage from flood waters.

In addition all fields must meet USDA's cropping requirements. A field must have been planted to an annual agricultural commodity crop for two of the five years from 1981 through 1985 to be eligible.

"Once the wetland or floodplain areas are enrolled for CRP the next step will be re-establishment to their native vegetation. In many cases this will require establishment of native grasses on wetland areas and tree planting on the floodplains," explained Krause. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) will provide up to 50 percent cost-share assistance to CRP participants for the establishment of acceptable cover.

Krause said, "Last summer's CRP sign-up was the second highest enrollment for Delaware County since the program began in 1986. This brings the total to about 10,000 acres of CRP ground for the county. Statewide over 1.6 million acres are in CRP. And with over 28 million acres enrolled nationally the program is right on target for the goal of idling 45 million acres of highly erodible land."

"During the last two sign-up periods bids up to $90 per acre per year were accepted. And many people feel this is an attractive rental payment for the ten year period," added Krause. Some landowners are also using CRP as an alternative to their conservation plan for highly erodible land. They have enrolled some of the steeper and more fragile soil types for CRP in order to gain some farming flexibility on their better soils.

Krause said he is expecting another big sign-up and encourages anyone interested in the CRP program to contact the SCS office at 909 W. Main Street in Manchester as soon as possible.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press

Where published Manchester

Date of issue 2-7-89

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S. C. D. Delaware

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- (Other) ☐
- Feature (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Editorial ☐
- Advertisement ☐
- Cons. picture ☐

Offer conservation cost-share program

The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District is taking applications for cost share assistance for permanent conservation practices, it was announced by Marvin Calonder, chairman.

The money is received from allocation made by the Iowa State Legislature. The district places highest priority on tile outlet terraces on erosive cropland. Other practices include water and sediment control basins, erosion control structures, and contour stripcropping.

The cost-share rate for summer constructed practices will be raised to 60 percent from the usual 50 percent cost share rate. Practices must be constructed between June 1 and August 15, for 60 percent cost share, as long as funds are available.

District Conservationist Keith Krause stated that landowners need to begin looking toward the future as the conservation compliance program enter into the scene.

Producers enrolled in any federal farm program need to be following a conservation plan by 1990 on highly erodible fields to remain eligible for federal benefits. The plan must be fully implemented by December 31, 1994.

Krause went on to say that where terraces are practical, they offer the producer much more flexibility in terms of crop rotation and tillage. Cost share dollars will probably be very difficult to obtain in the next few years because of increased demand as the conservation plans are implemented.

Anyone interested in receiving cost share, may stop at the Soil Conservation Service office at 909 W. Main in Manchester, or phone 927-4590, to assist with determining practice needs and to help complete the applications.

SCS-74 Rev. 1-58

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press

Where published Manchester, Iowa

Date of issue October 31, 1989

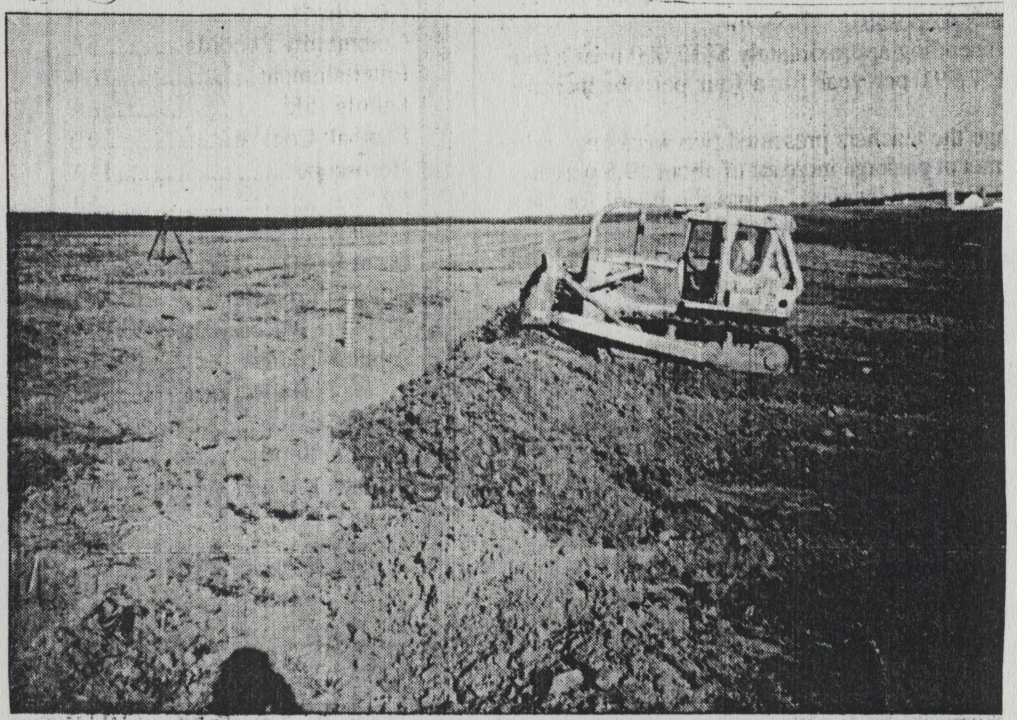
Sent by Beth Todd, Tech.

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column	☐
Story (SCS)	☒
(Other)	☐
Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☒



Conservation practice

PARALLEL TILE INTAKE TERRACES are shown being installed in Delaware County where water is stored and removed through an underground tile system, eliminating the need for grass waterways in many ~~areas. The Delaware County Soil Conservation is taking applications for cost~~ sharing for conservation practices. (Manchester Press photo)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE October 25, 1989

CONTACT: Keith Krause, District Conservationist
SCS, 909 W. Main, Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

CONSERVATION COST-SHARE AVAILABLE

The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District is taking applications for cost share assistance for permanent conservation practices announces Marvin Calonder, Chairman.

This money is received from allocation made by the Iowa State Legislature. The district places highest priority on tile outlet terraces on erosive cropland. Other practices include water and sediment control basins, erosion control structures, and contour stripcropping.

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If you are interested in receiving cost share, please stop in at the Soil Conservation Service office located at 909 W. Main in Manchester or phone 927-4590, to assist with determining practice needs and to help complete the applications.

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

Parallel tile intake terraces being installed,in Delaware County. Water is stored and removed through an underground tile system eliminating the need for grass waterways in many areas.

NOTE: When finished with the picture please return it to:

Soil Conservation Service
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Thank you, Marilyn

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 10-25-89.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076



Vegetative cover

TREES ARE ONE FORM OF VEGETATIVE COVER on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres (See story on Page 8B). Planting trees helps prevent soil erosion as well as enhance wildlife habitat, according to the Delaware county Soil Conservation Service. (Manchester Press photo)

CRP sign-up

A 9th annual Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up has been announced by Keith Krause, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. The bidding period will be from July 17 to Aug. 4.

Krause explains there are five ways in which a piece of ground can be eligible for CRP. If two-thirds of a field is highly erodible, it would qualify. For the landowner interested in planting trees, then only one-third of a field needs to be highly erodible to be eligible. There are also non-highly erodible areas which may be eligible. Filter strips, 66 to 99 feet wide, are eligible along perennial streams, seasonal streams or lakes. Two other eligibility criteria were introduced during the last sign-up. Fields having land subject to scour erosion from out of bank flow or flooding at least once every ten years may qualify.

Also, farmed wetlands can now be enrolled into the CRP. In order for fields to be considered, they must have been planted to a crop two years during the period 1981-1985.

During the sign-up period, landowners with eligible fields may place a CRP bid at the ASCS office. All fields accepted for CRP must be seeded to permanent grass or legume cover, or planted to trees. Krause noted that there is 50 percent cost share on new seeding establishment for CRP.

Delaware County has accepted bids up to $90 per acre during the last three CRP sign-ups. In the sign-up held in February, there were approximately 2,000 acres bid for CRP. Delaware County has a total of 10,897 acres enrolled. Krause added that "Due to the dry soil conditions recently, a CRP payment may be a good farming option for landowners with critical soil types."

Any landowner intrested in CRP can contact the Soil Conservation Service at 909 W. Main, Manchester, to determine if they have land eligible.

SCS-74 Rev. 1-58

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press

Where published Manchester, IA

Date of issue June 20, 1989

Sent by Keith Krause

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester, IA

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Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

12/15/87

'How-To' videos to help farmers

A videotape featuring tips to help farmers do much of the soil conservation work needed to keep them eligible for USDA programs has been produced by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The eight-segment videotape, "Conservation On Your Own," will show farmers how to measure and manage crop residues, how to lay out contour lines and use field borders, how to lay out contour buffer strips, how to lay out wind strips, how to use grass to control small gullies, how to plant and maintain field windbreaks, and how to keep terraces working. It will also outline points to consider in contour stripcropping.

Each of the segments will offer details such as what to consider before beginning, tools needed, how the practice works, and "how to" details. The information is presented from a farmer's perspective.

All of the segments are packaged on a one-hour VHS tape. The video segments were produced in cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The videotapes will be available by mid-December. In Iowa the videotapes will be available for loan from local Soil Conservation Service offices, agribusinesses, and agricultural organizations. The tape also may be purchased from the National Association of Conservation Districts.

"Watch for local announcements on where you can borrow the tape," said SCS State Conservationist Mike Nethery. "Each county will get 30 copies, so it should be easily accessible for any farmer," he adds. Local soil and water conservation districts are arranging loan out programs.

The Soil Conservation Service expects that the tapes will help farmers carry out soil conservation plans. Farmers with highly erodible cropland who want to remain eligible for USDA commodity programs already have conservation plans that outline how they will reduce soil erosion on that land.

The soil conservation practices featured on the videotape have been included in the conservation plans of thousands of farmers as ways to protect their highly erodible land. Farmers must apply the soil conservation practices according to the schedule outlined in their conservation plans, and have all work completed by January 1, 1995, to stay eligible for USDA program benefits.

"We're trying to be sure farmers know about these practices because they should be applying conservation as it was scheduled in their plan," Nethery said. "There's a misconception that all the conservation work can be done at the last minute, and that's not the case."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE May 31, 1989

For more information, contact:
Keith Krause, District Conservationist

New SCS Employees

District Conservationist, Keith Krause, for the Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District announced the addition of two new staff members to assist with soil and water conservation programs in the county.

Beth Beswick-Todd has been promoted to the soil conservation technician position in the Manchester Field Office. Beswick-Todd started in December of 1987 with the SCS on a part-time basis before assuming the technician position in January of 1989. Her new responsibilities will include working with landowners of Delaware County in the application of conservation practices such as contour stripcropping, windbreaks, terraces, contour farming, grassed waterways, and erosion control structures. She will also be assisting landowners in making conservation plans and the implementation of their plans.

Beth Beswick-Todd is a graduate of West Delaware High School and the University of Dubuque. She is also engaged in farming with her husband, Philip near Greeley. "I have really enjoyed working with the farmers of Delaware County and I am looking forward to assisting them with their future conservation needs," says Beswick-Todd.

Shelley Zumbach of R. R. Masonville has also been assisting the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District as a part time soil conservation aid.

Zumbach is a graduate of Maquoketa Valley High School and Kirkwood Community College. "I especially enjoy working on the computer system," says Zumbach. Along with entering conservation plans and other field office information on the computer her other duties involve assisting with the application of conservation practices and conservation planning for landowners of the county.

Zumbach farms with her husband, Dan, and their daughter, Chelsea, approximately six miles south of Masonville.

Krause added that both Beswick-Todd and Zumbach has caught on fast and have been very beneficial to assisting the landowners of Delaware County with their conservation needs.

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

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 6-6-89.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
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115 E. Delaware
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109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057 6-2-89.

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press

Where published Manchester, Iowa

Date of issue June 6, 1989

Sent by Keith Krause

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester, Iowa

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- (Other) ☐
- Feature (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Editorial ☐
- Advertisement ☐
- Cons. picture ☐

Perpetual Motion

Business, industry, professional news

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Beth Beswick-Todd

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Shelley Zumbach of rural Masonville has also been assisting the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District as a part-time soil conservation aid.



Shelley Zumbach

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. MAIN
MANCHESTER, IOWA 52057
319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE

January 13, 1989

Northeast Iowa River Basin Study Done

The USDA Soil Conservation Service has recently released an informative report on the depletion of soils on farms in the Northeast Iowa River Basin, according to Keith Krause, District Conservationist with the Delaware County Soil Conservation Service. The N.E. Iowa River Basin contains 54 million acres with 73% being used for cropland. The area is predominantly rural with non-specialized grain and livestock farms. Sixty-one different soil types were represented in the study area. The purpose of this study was to indicate how excessive erosion of these 61 soil types affects farm income over the next 25 years.

According to the study, increased fuel and fertilizer consumption and decreased productivity directly affects farm income. Many times farmers don't see the effects of reduced production due to soil erosion because improved technology and production input have compensated for this loss.

As noted in the study, the trend of agriculture land use is toward more intense farming. Soil conserving meadow crops are being replaced by row crop rotations. Krause says, "Row crop acreage increased nearly 34% from 1962 to 1972 and 33% from 1972-1982. The result is increased soil erosion and depletion of natural soil productivity."

"Sheet and rill erosion by water is the most significant erosion problem due to a gradual removal of productive topsoil to the generally less productive subsoil. Many soils in the N.E. Iowa River Basin such as the Nordness and Dubuque, were formed with a shallow layer of topsoil. Sizeable acreages of these soils have already been depleted to the point they can't economically be used for row crop production. Soils with deeper topsoils and more favorable subsoils have been kept productive by the increased usage of fertilizer," adds Krause.

Data in the survey indicates that the cost of depletion, or reduction in income is cumulative and generally nonreversible. As erosion rates continue to exceed tolerable levels, the top layers of the soil profile will erode away. The reduced income is related to these changes in the soil profile.

RESULTS

Survey results indicate that approximately 53% of cropland or 2.1 million acres are eroding at a greater rate than it can replenish itself. As a result of this depletion additional fertilizer will cost an estimated $4.3 million by the year 2010. The application of these fertilizers will not maintain yields at present levels. Yields go down with depletion even though fertilizer applications increase.

As the topsoil is eroded away, the subsoil becomes a part of the seedbed. For many soils the subsoil is more compact, difficult to till, and requires more power. According to Krause, the increase in power requirement will then be reflected in greater fuel cost per acre. Continued excessive erosion will result in a need for an additional 405,000 gallons of fuel in the year 2010 at an estimated cost of $437,400 for the year 2010 only. When you total the accumulated increasing annual usage and costs from present to the year 2010, you can fully recognize the total energy wastes and the accumulation of costs.

While the overall ability to produce continues to increase due to improving technology, the potential to produce has decreased significantly due to soil resource depletion.

Soil depletion costs average $13/acre as soils change from slight to moderate erosion and $27/acre as they change from moderate to severe erosion when you add reduced yields, increased fertilizer needs, and increased fuel comsumption.

With research providing alternatives the final course of action is now left to individual producers.

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

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 1-20-89.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

Soil erosion, conservation plans for farmers

The plan—
Farmers to develop plan

by Carol Ludovissy

Many of the crop land farmers in Dubuque and Delaware counties are ready for the enactment of the 1985 Food Security Act in 1990.

Under this bill farmers with highly erodible fields must develop a conservation plan controlling the amount of soil loss by Jan. 1, 1990; however, farmers have until Jan. 1, 1995, to implement plans. Those who do not fulfill the guidelines face losing USDA benefits that include federal crop insurance, Farmer's Home Administration loans or assistance and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service programs, which encompasses set-aside payments, loan payments, price supports and farm loans. Also those who wait and decide to develop a plan after Jan. 1, 1990, have only one year to implement ideas. (If a farmer devises a plan in 1993, he has until 1994 to implement the plan.)

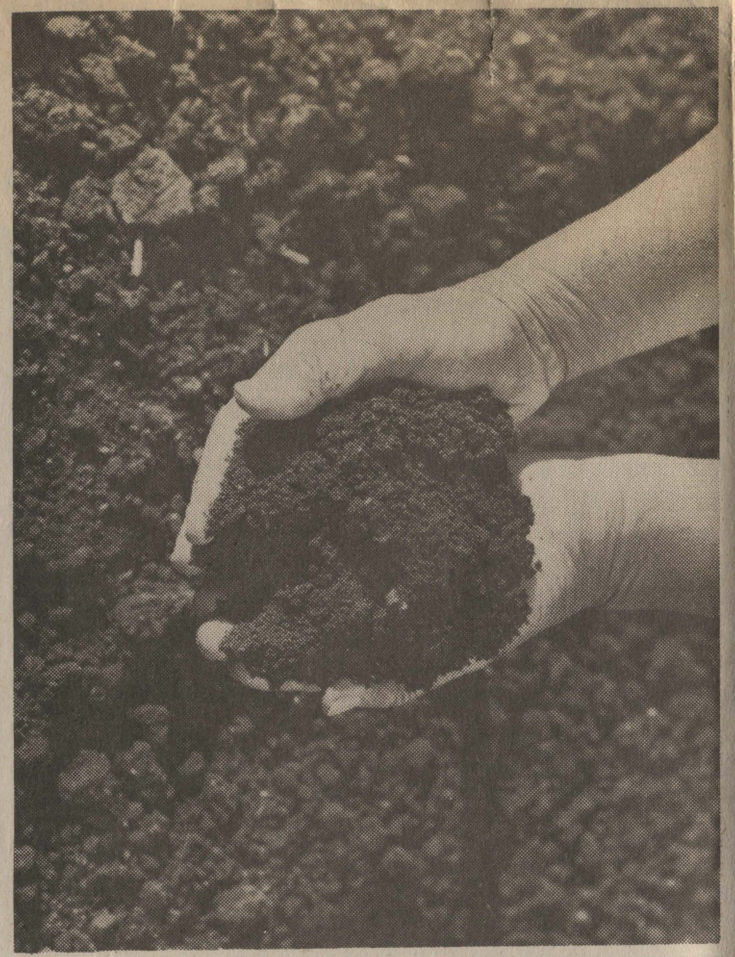
In Delaware County about 50 percent of the 125,000 to 130,000 acres of highly erodible crop land is outlined with a plan to fulfill the 1990 guidelines, according to Keith Krause, Delaware County district conservationist.

Greg Martin, Dubuque County district conservationist, said that in Dubuque County "about 100,000 acres (65-68 percent) have been completed. We have another 40,000 to 50,000 acres of land to do yet. We're hoping to be done by this summer."

He also said that in Dubuque County about 63 percent — 160,000 acres — of the cropland was classified as highly erodible. (In all, there are about 255,000 acres of crop land in this county.) Martin said that he estimates that about 145,000 acres of crop land will comply to the measures when 1990 comes. "Maybe 15 percent (15,000 to 20,000 acres) may choose not to participate," he said.

Farmers have the choice on whether to apply to the standards evolving from the FSA. Also, while Krause and Martin have helped the farmers plan a program, it is up to the farmer to decide the approach to take.

Krause said that while many farmers have devised plans, some may have some concerns, questions or misconceptions about the bill. He explains that the plan developed by the farmer "can be changed; it's not set in stone." For instance, in 1996 if the farmer decides to devise a new measure for soil conservation—he can do so as long as the soil loss remains under control. There are several measures that can be done to control soil erosion: contouring, contour strip cropping, crop rotation, grass



waterways and terraces. A farmer may choose any combination of the options.

"The act is so confusing because of the number of options that can be done," Martin said.

Martin and Krause both point out that the measures taken do not need to be costly.

"Contour strip cropping (planting rotating strips of crops, such as hay, oats and corn) doesn't cost anything," Krause said.

Other methods, such as terracing, can add some expense. "It depends on the system adopted," Krause said. "It's hard to estimate the average cost, because each operation is so different." But farmers have not been balking at the measures: "Farmers have been very cooperative," Krause said.

In Dubuque County, "Farmers have been reacting pretty favorable," Martin said. "They're learning what they have to do is very minimal. They don't need a big outlay of cash to comply."

The problem—
Study shows soil erosion

by Jean Lubben

Concerns for soil erosion were the reason for a study on the Northeast Iowa River Basin provided by the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Roger Koster of the Clayton County Extension office said that soil erosion has been a problem for as long as farming has existed in this area, and conditions have deteriorated somewhat since then. The study, which covers a 25-year period from 1985 to 2010, shows how extensive soil erosion will be in the future if nothing is done now.

(The following information is from the study by the USDA Soil Conservation Service)

The results of the study show that about 2.1 million acres, or about 53 percent, of the cropland is eroding in excess of the tolerable level. The impact on crop production caused by erosion is projected to be about $16.5 million and equivalent to 5.6 million bushels of corn at the end of the 25-year evaluation period. For example, the depletion of a particular soil to the next erosion phase can decrease corn yields from three to ten bushels per acre, which can be an annual loss of $9 to $29 per acre.

The impact on fertilizer costs at the end of 25 years shows that the 759,870 acres that will change erosion phase will require, 17.6 million pounds of additional nitrogen, 0.4 million pounds of additional phosphate and 3.5 million pounds of potash with an estimated cost of $4.3 million by the year 2010. Yields go down with depletion even though fertilizer applications increase.

In summary, the study indicates that there is moderate to severe erosion in the entire study area. The eroded soils will never fully recover to their uneroded condition under present cropping conditions and erosion rates.

Koster said that there are things farmers can do that will prevent some of the erosion. He suggested a soil and water conservation plan on a farm, looking at the soil on the property, looking at needs and looking at a cropping program. It could be a combination of practices that may be of some help in lowering soil erosion. He said that some of the studies were done on average soils. Soil erosion can vary from area to area depending on the soil.

BT
RB
KK

Jan. 13, 1989
153 First Ave. E.
P.O. Box 128
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Keith Krause
Soil Conservation Service
909 West Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Dear Keith:

Enclosed is a copy of the article I spoke with you about on soil conservation. I appreciate your time and consideration in help with this. Again, I would appreciate any comments or changes you have concerning the article. I look forward to speaking with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Carol Ludovissy

Carol Ludovissy
News editor
Dyersville Commercial

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-297-4590

NEWS RELEASE

The Tenth Annual Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show is set for January 31 and February 1 at Cedar Rapids' Five Seasons Center.

Hailed as the "Midwest's Best", the show features sixty exhibits and eight hours of program concerning soil and water conservation on the farm.

Cooper Evans, Former U.S. Congressman and Grundy County farmer will give the opening address entitled, "Agriculture and Conservation Policy in the Bush Administration".

"This year's show is tailored to farmers who are making decisions on their soil and water conservation plans,"
says Keith Krause, District Conservationist for Delaware County Soil Conservation Service.

Seven farmers from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin will tell about their many years experience with their successful conservation systems.

Dick and Sharon Thompson of Boone will discuss their operation which uses no agricultural chemicals but gives excellent financial return with low input.

Sustainable agriculture systems will be the topic of Dixon Hubbard, a national leader with the Extension Service.

Jon Kinzebaw, founder of Kinze Manufacturing at Williamsburg will talk about "Equipment Innovations for the 1990's".

Other program topics include no-till and ridge-till, water quality, soil compaction, herbicide carryover, wildlife benefits and economic management strategy.

"Machinery and equipment showing the latest technology relating to conservation tillage will again be featured at the show," says Krause.

The Deutz-Allis Company will exhibit their new 12 row planter for the first time at this year's Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show.

To reduce input in crop production, no-till drills for soybeans are becoming more widely accepted. This year's show will feature five brands of no-till drills.

Sprayers, ag chemicals and a variety of other exhibits involving conservation tillage will be featured.

Doors are open at the Five Seasons Center from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 31 and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 1.

Two hour program sessions are scheduled for both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.

Krause said this year's show will be the best ever in it's ten year running. For more information you can contact the Soil Conservation Service office at 909 W. Main in Manchester, or call 927-4590.

This publication was mailed to the following newspapers on 1-12-89.

Delaware County Leader
Hopkinton, Iowa 52237

Dyersville Commercial
153 1st Avenue E.
Dyersville, Iowa 52040

Edgewood Reminder
Edgewood, Iowa 52042

FarmBureau Spokesman
Farm Bureau Office
115 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Manchester Press
109 E. Delaware
Manchester, Iowa 52057

Press-Journal Office
107 W. Mission
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
1701 Second Avenue
Vinton, IA 52349
472-2161

JAN 9 1989

January 6, 1989

Mr. Keith Krause
909 W. Main
Manchester, IA 52057

Dear Mr. Krause:

Enclosed is a news release for the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show. Please forward this information to your local newspapers and/or radio stations. If you have a farmer from your district speaking at the show, you may want to have your newspaper do an article on that person.

Thank you for your assistance.

JMB

James M. Brown
District Conservationist

jMB:rrs
Enclosure

Distribute to All news media

KK

12-19

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EEO statement.

Business-Agriculture

SCS-IPA-74
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper The Manchester Press

Where published Manchester, Iowa

Date of issue January 17, 1989

Sent by Keith Krause

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column	☐
Story (SCS)	☒
(Other)	☐
Feature (SCS)	☐
(Other)	☐
Editorial	☐
Advertisement	☐
Cons. picture	☐

10th Tillage Show at Five Seasons Center

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JAN 27 1989

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service NEWS

Contact: Mike Nethery
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

Prepared and sent on 2-1-89

Wetlands Eligible for CRP

For the first time, some cropped wetlands will be eligible for enrollment into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 10-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

USDA's eighth signup period for the program will be February 6-24.

"Criteria for entering highly erodible land and filter strips in CRP will be the same as the first seven signups," says Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Iowa. "But now certain cropped wetlands and erosion-scoured floodplains are also eligible."

For wetland criteria, eligible fields must first be determined by SCS to include wetlands or farmed wetlands. Those wetlands or farmed wetlands must occupy one-third of the field; be in a pothole region with a wetland density of one wetland per six acres; or be in a six-to-nine acre field with a wetland of any size.

Intent of the scour erosion provision is to protect land along a stream that is scoured by floodwaters on a regular basis. A field is eligible if the land between the scoured area and the stream makes up at least a third of the entire field. If a field with scour erosion is less than nine acres in size, the entire field is eligible.

Applicants for all Department programs will be given equal consideration without regard to race, age, color, sex, or national origin

SCS

"The SCS office will use a soil survey to determine the other requirement. That is, whether flooding is expected to occur at least once every 10 years," Nethery says.

To be eligible for the scour erosion criteria, one-third of the field must have suffered damage from water that has flooded over it. Also, the USDA soil survey will be used to indicate whether the flooding is expected to occur at least once every 10 years.

In addition, all fields must meet USDA's cropping requirements. A field must have been planted to an annual agricultural commodity crop for two of the five years from 1981 through 1985 to be eligible.

"The new criteria will give an economic option to landowners who want to return farmed wetlands to their natural state," Nethery says. The SCS estimates there are more than 4 million acres of farmed wetlands eligible for CRP.

"We expect reduced flooding, increased wildlife habitat, a water filter effect, and other benefits from entering wetlands in CRP," Nethery says.

Iowa landowners enrolled about 1.6 million acres in CRP in the seven signups conducted since 1986. Nationally, more than 28 million acres have been enrolled.

Croplands enrolled in CRP are planted to trees or grass. "We'd like to see more trees planted, both on highly erodible lands and along floodplains," Nethery says.

The USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers the CRP signup. ASCS will provide up

to 50 percent cost-share assistance to CRP participants for the establishment of acceptable cover.

The Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with ASCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will make scour erosion and wetland area eligibility determinations. SCS will also help farmers and other landowners prepare and implement a conservation plan for the CRP enrolled land.

Landowners submit bids to USDA to receive annual payments for idling land in the CRP program. More information is available from local ASCS or SCS offices.



SCS technician

RAY WYCOFF (left), accepts an appreciation plaque from Marvin Calonder, chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation Service, for his 22 years as a conservation technician serving Delaware County. Wycoff recently retired after assisting landowners in the application of conservation practices.

SCS–74 Rev. 1–58

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Manchester Press

Where published Manchester

Date of issue February 7, 1989

Sent by Keith Krause

S. C. D. Delaware

Stationed at Manchester

CLASSIFICATION:

- Weekly column ☐
- Story (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Feature (SCS) ☐
- (Other) ☐
- Editorial ☐
- Advertisement ☐
- Cons. picture ☐

*** ***

Wycoff retires at SCS

Ray Wycoff, soil conservation technician, retired from the Soil Conservation Service last Dec. 31.

Wycoff began his career in April 1962 as a state aid in LeMars. In the spring of 1963 he became SCS technician in Sioux City. On June 19, 1966, Ray, his wife, Marilyn, and their three children moved to Manchester where Ray assumed the duties as SCS technician for Delaware County.

"Ray has provided over 22 years of conservation service for the people of Delaware County," said Keith Krause, district conservationist. The only other person to provide more years of soil conservation service is former District Conservationist George Carlson.

Over the years Wycoff provided assistance to landowners in the application of conservation practices such as contouring, terraces, drainage, grassed waterways, contour strip cropping, farm ponds, erosion control structures, crop rotations, farmstead windbreaks, conservation tillage, tree planting, and wildlife habitat.

Krause added, "Ray assisted landowners in applying conservation practices that were not only good for the land but also good for the landowner. His years of dedication are and will be very much appreciated for years to come."

A small retirement party was held Jan. 28 in Dyersville in appreciation for Ray Wycoff's contribution as soil conservation technician to Delaware County.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
909 W. Main
Manchester, Iowa 52057
319-927-4590

NEWS RELEASE

February 1, 1989

WYCOFF RETIRES FROM SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Soil Conservation Technician, Ray Wycoff, retired from the Soil Conservation Service on December 31, 1988.

Wycoff began his career in April of 1962 as a State Aid in LeMars. In the spring of 1963 he became SCS technician in Sioux City. On June 19, 1966, Ray, his wife-Marilyn, and their three children moved to Manchester where Ray assumed the duties as SCS technician for Delaware County.

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