



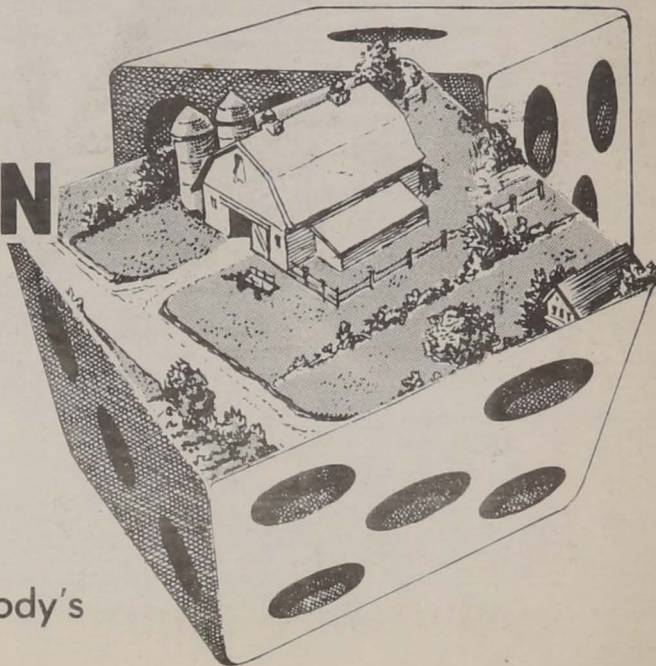
Lend A Helping Hand...Conserve Our Soil

**The 1980 Annual Report
Of The
Tama County Soil Conservation Distict**

**Toledo Chronicle's Annual
Soil Conservation Issue**

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Former ASCS Director Has Long Term Agreement To Build Terraces

Russell Lyon who farms 480 acres along with his son Robert Lyon has been interested in saving soil for a long time.

Bud, as he is known to most people in Tama county, had one of the first terraces built in the county. Bud was also the CS county executive director from which he retired in 1979.

In 1974 he entered into a long-term agreement with the government to build terraces each year for a period of years. Many people have found this approach to conservation to be a good idea. Under the long-term agreement, the conservation needs for the farm are listed and the work is broken down and scheduled over a designated period of years.

Bud started building terraces in 1975 with his long-term agreement and then continued each year until they were completed this year. To date he has completed 31,000 feet of terraces.

In 1975, the broad-base type terrace was built on the farm. With this type of terrace both sides can be farmed.

When we got down the hill where in steeper areas, Bud built the grassed-back slope terraces installed. This type of terrace actually helps make the hill flatter and is only needed on the front side. This year Bud and Robert



Bud Lyon, rural Toledo farmer, discusses the location of his terrace intake with Paul Bruns, SCS. The intake is put next to the terrace and should not interfere with normal farming operations with the narrow-base type terrace.

decided to build narrow-based terraces. This type is seeded down on both sides and neither side is farmed. The

advantages include less costly to build and perhaps easier to farm with large equipment.

Local farmers interested in

terracing could learn more about the three different types by viewing the terraces on the Lyon farm.

Residues Help Control Erosion

It is not uncommon to hear people refer to crop residue as "wastes." However, crop residues are valuable in

controlling erosion, maintaining soil organic matter levels, and returning nutrients to the soils, reports Garren O.

Benson, Iowa State University extension agronomist.

Most of the erosion control benefit of conservation tillage is due to crop residues left on the soil surface, Benson says. Other factors influencing erosion include the crop grown, steepness of slopes in the field, slope length, and rainfall intensity.

District Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 1980

District Cooperators	31	NO.
Sediment & Water Control Basins	12,870	AC.
Terraces	107,550	FT.
Grassed Waterway	104	AC.
Contour Farming	8,294	AC.
Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreak	24	NO.
Structure for Water Conservation Tillage	1	NO.
	7,860	AC.

Budgets

Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	\$999.48
Office Supplies	522.68
Printing	110.00
Prizes for contests	82.07
Rental for meeting hall	60.00
Office expense	104.67
Meeting expense	395.01

2M

State Aide and Clerk Salaries	\$13,762.72
-------------------------------	-------------

3M

79-80 Allocation	\$60,000
25 agreements approved	
16 agreements completed	\$55,582.58

In a corn-soybean cropping sequence, plowing under corn residue and spring disking soybean residue reduces erosion up to 25 per cent, compared with fall plowing both crops. The reduction in soil loss can rise to 40 per cent if fall chiseling or disking replaces the moldboard plow. This assumes that secondary tillage is not excessive. In a no-tillage system, the reduction in soil loss would be in the range of 60-80 per cent, Benson notes.

Although the amount of crop residue on the soil surface is the key to preventing soil erosion, residues also have some conservation value when incorporated into the soil. Erosion is reduced nearly 10 per cent when crop residues are incorporated into the soil rather than removed. One Iowa study indicates about two to three tons of corn residue is needed each year under a conventional tillage system to maintain soil organic matter

levels, Benson says.

Crop rotation is also important, the agronomist notes. A corn-soybean sequence is more erosive than continuous corn, assuming all crops are used for grain. A corn-soybean-corn-oat-meadow rotation will have less than half the erosion potential of a corn-soybean rotation, according to soil conservation specialists.

Crop residues contain nutrients that must be taken into consideration if they are not returned to the soil and recycled in the normal manner. For example, the grain in a corn crop of 120 bushels per acre contain about 100 pounds of nitrogen, 45 pounds of phosphate, and 30 pounds of potash. The non-grain residues would contain about 65 pounds of nitrogen, 20 pounds of phosphate and 120 pounds of

Residue

Please Turn To Page 6B

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Soil Conservation Efforts Recognized At Banquet

The annual Tama SCD awards banquet was held on January 28, 1981 in the King Tower Cafe at Tama. Each year this banquet is held to honor Tama County people that are actively involved in the soil conservation movement; 1981 was no exception with eight different awards given.

Willard Balfour was given the Tama edition of the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award. This is given to recognize an individual for his efforts made in establishing and maintaining a good farmstead windbreak. The Balfour windbreak is located on their farm in Crystal township.

William Podhajsky was honored as the "Freind of Conservation." This is an award given to express appreciation for an individual's support and assistance in promoting conservation in the county. Mr. Podhajsky has been actively involved in the planning of permanent conservation measures on his land, and has served as a fine conservation example for landowners in the area.

Don Moyer and Mrs. Genera Kruse were presented certificates for conservation application program under the Landlord-Tenant division of Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. With Don's assistance, Mrs. Kruse has

terraced her entire farm. This fine example of practical soil conservation has been a stopping place of recent soil conservation tours. Mrs. Kruse could not be present. Don Moyer accepted for her.

Fred Kajer was honored as winning the New Cooperator Division of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Fred recently installed a diversion terrace on his farm that functions well to protect some of his cropland. This award is given to a farmer that recently asked for assistance and will likely do additional work in the future. It's an encouragement for other farmers to follow the Kajer example.

Chelsea farmer Chester Coffman won the Owner-Operator division of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Chester has been actively involved in soil conservation farming for many years now, and has been a leader in his community promoting conservation by example. Last summer, Chester also was presented with the annual soil conservation award from the Farm Bureau.

Brad Blocker, junior at South Tama High School was the winner of the letterhead art contest sponsored by the district. His entry has now been printed as the letterhead for the Tama SCD. Mr. Masters, STC art instructor, was also present to accept a cash contribution to the South Tama Art Department for their involvement in the contest.

Former commissioner Welby Dixon was given a plaque from the Tama SCS as a token of their appreciation for his 12



Dan Bruene, chairman Tama SCD, presents former commissioner Welby Dixon with a plaque to pay tribute to his many years of service as a Tama SCD commissioner. The presentation was made at the annual SCD awards banquet.

years of dedicated service as a soil conservation district commissioner.

Larry Vance, Director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, was present to award Tama SCD clerk, Audrey Wheeler, a certificate of merit for her contributions while doing her job. Mr. Vance

deemed her performance as truly outstanding and pointed out that Tama County was lucky to have such a valuable person.

The presentation of this award perhaps marks the first time a director has bestowed such an honor locally at a soil conservation district function.



Audrey Wheeler, SCD clerk, was presented a certificate of merit by Larry Vance, director of the Iowa Dept. Of Soil Conservation and Dan Bruene, chairman Tama SCD. The award was made at the annual awards banquet and recognized Mrs. Wheeler for her many contributions as clerk for Tama SCD. This award may be the first of its kind presented personally by Mr. Vance.



Mr. and Mrs. Willard Balfour, rural Toledo, were presented the outstanding windbreak award by chairman, Dan Bruene at the annual SCD awards banquet.

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We congratulate Area Farmers on their progress in soil and water conservation.

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Tile Outlet Terraces Gain County Farmer's Approval

Tile outlet terraces will hold soil losses below allowable limits on most sloping land in Tama County. This type of terrace is gaining acceptance by farmers who want to continue intensive row crop farming.

The grassed waterway out-

let terrace has found popularity as more and more herbicides are used in crop production and damage these grass areas.

The tile outlet type terrace has solved this problem and with it comes some favorable improvements in terracing.

Tile outlet terraces are built to control soil losses, to improve farmability, and to allow intensive use of sloping land for row crops.

These are some of the reasons that rural farmer, Paul Manfull is now using terraces in his farming operations. He

switched to terraces because he was having problems maintaining grassed waterways and wanted better erosion control.

Paul has the broad-base type of terrace on his farm. With this type he can farm both sides of the terrace and



Paul Manfull, rural Toledo, discusses terrace construction on his farm with his contractor. Paul had

broadbase terraces built last fall for better water management and soil erosion control.

The Toledo [Iowa] Chronicle Saturday, February 21, 1981—Page 6

still have good erosion control.

Marian and Paul Manfull have three children, Peggy, Patty and Robert.

They farm 500 acres, raise stock cows, and produce both corn and soybeans.

Conservation tillage was tried this fall by the Manfulls for the first time. They feel that switching to less tillage will save both energy and soil.

Paul says he's been farming ever since "he was big enough to walk out of the house." And the reason he's now farming the conservation way is to save soil.

FmHA

Continued From Page 9B

legal, engineering, and other technical services.

The maximum repayment term is 40 years. The interest rate is set periodically based on the cost of borrowing to the Government.

The loan may not exceed the amount needed for improvements and costs connected with the loan or the market value of the security less other debts against it.

The maximum outstanding principal balance for insured soil and water loans is \$200,000 and \$300,000 for guaranteed loans.

Each borrower is expected to refinance the unpaid balance of the loan when able to obtain such refinancing at reasonable rates and terms from other lenders.

Soil and water loan borrow-

ers still meet soil loss tolerance limits. However, most of the land suitable for residue removal is relatively flat, the agronomist notes.

Residue

Continued From Page 3B
potash. Considerable amounts of potash will leach out of the corn stover residue soon after crop maturity and be deposited back in the soil if the residue is not removed, Benson reports. Nitrogen and phosphorus will not leach as rapidly as potash.

A study conducted by several soil scientists indicates that some midwest soils could provide considerable crop residue as a fuel source and

Crop residues do have value, and the "market" is larger than many realize. Leaving greater amounts of crop residue on the soil will cause some adjustments in overall crop management, Benson says. Weed, insect and disease control measures will have to be modified in some cases, and several soil fertility questions still remain. Future research will allow more precise recommendations for conservation tillage systems, according to Benson.

ers are required to maintain their property and pay taxes and property insurance premiums when due.

The county or area committee of FmHA determines the eligibility of applicants. The committee consists of three persons who know local farming and credit conditions. Before a loan is made it must be clear that the applicant will have enough income to make farm operating and family living expenses and to repay the loan and other debts.

The FmHA county supervisor will assist the applicant working out a farm and home plan to determine the soundness of the loan and the applicant's debt-paying ability.

If the applicant operates a farm, the plan will show the best use of land, labor, livestock and equipment. The plan will be a guide to follow operating the farm. It will show the crops and livestock the borrower expects to produce for sale; practices follow in caring for land, crops, and livestock; proposed expenditures for livestock equipment, and for running the farm and home; and the expected income and how it will be used.

These loans help farmers acquire the resources and skills they need to improve their operations, raise the standards of living, increase their incomes, and participate in new enterprises. The assistance in turn stimulates business activity in neighboring towns and, in general, helps farm families and the communities make an important contribution to the strength of the Nation's economy.

Other loans made by FmHA are loans to buy or operate farms. Also loans available in cases of economic and natural emergency. Housing loans can be made to home ownership. Community development loans can be made to install water, sewer systems, and other essential community facilities and for business and industrial development.

The Number Of Conservation Practices Established In Tama County Is On The Increase

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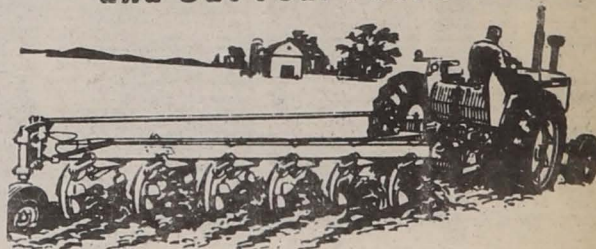
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Forest Mangement Can Reverse Loss Of Iowa's Timbered Land



by Bob Hibbs
District Forester
In the last two decades,

Tama County has lost 10,200 acres of timbered land. This amounts to a loss of \$10 acres per year. Along with the loss of harvestable lumber, there has been a loss of wildlife cover, there has been increased soil erosion, reduction of water quality, and a general decline in the County's aesthetic appearance. Good forest management can reverse this trend.

The first step in good forest management is protection of the timber. Protection may be needed from insects, disease, fire, livestock, chemical drift, or land clearing. Land clearing for corn production has

historically been the prime factor in the loss of Iowa woodlands. In recent years, however, clearing by bulldozers has decreased, since most of the prime agricultural land has already been cleared. Clearing has now taken the form of "pasture improvement." Livestock will trample young seedlings, compact the soil, and destroy the shallow tree-feeder roots. Additionally, they eat the non-thorn species which means that eventually there will be nothing left but thorn trees. Livestock clears land much the same as a bulldozer; it just takes longer.

After the timber is ade-

quately protected, there are many forest management alternatives. Tree planting may be necessary if natural reseedling is inadequate. Thinning many be needed in a young stand. (Thinning is usually undertaken when the trees are fence post to telephone pole size.) Harvest, too, can be considered if the timber is adequately protected and if adequate young seedlings are present. Usually some form of timber stand improvement follows protection. And this usually takes the form of tree species control. Weed trees like boxelder, mulberry, locust, and haw-

allow growing space for more desirable trees. Forest openings can be replanted to black walnut, or if the area has easy access, it could be planted to Christmas trees.

Good forest management cannot compete economically with corn or beans, except perhaps for black walnut and Christmas tree production. But most of Iowa's woodland resource is not found on good corn and bean ground. There are definite benefits in maintaining and managing the timber resource. Iowa has a forest reserve tax law that will reduce taxes on protected timber. The federal farm office (ASCS) has a cost-sharing

program for planting and improving forest trees. There are both local sawmills and nationwide walnut veneer buyers who will utilize the resource. And there are the non-monetary values to be realized—erosion control, wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality control, and aesthetics.

Many landowners are becoming more aware of the leisure time hobbies to be enjoyed in the woodland. Photography of wildflowers, growing and selling ginseng, educational field trips, hunting, camping, cutting firewood for the fireplace, gathering nuts, or just "walking in the woods" are all benefits available in Iowa's timbered lands.

"He who looks for a mule without a fault goes on foot." Spanish Proverb

Conservation Tillage And Weed Control

by Dick Pulse
County Extension Director

Many producers have shown interest in reduced tillage or "no-till" systems during the past year. There seems to be a definite interest in these practices. We suspect that most of these people are thinking about reducing soil erosion, but that reduced time in the field, lower fuel consumption and less fixed machinery cost are also in the minds of these folks.

Two questions always seem to come up when people talk about making the change away from conventional tillage.

The first question deals with application of fertilizers. What happens after a few years if I can't plow down phosphorous and potash, and it all stays on the surface or in the top couple of inches?

The second deals with weed control. Will I have weed problems because I can't incorporate herbicides?

These are both good questions to be asking and I'm not allowed enough space here to answer either one fully. To give a real quick answer, I'll just say that neither of these problems is necessarily a serious one, but some adjustment may be necessary in the way things have usually been done.

In regard to the question on fertilizers it is very important that the change to "no-till" or other reduced tillage not be made on fields with a low phosphorous or potash level! Get a soil test and apply enough fertilizer to bring test levels on a field up to at least medium test level, preferably a medium-high or high level before making the change to the new tillage system. From then on, P and K can be knifed in or surface applied, fall or spring. Results have been good when these steps are taken and if research should ever indicate that special methods of fertilizer application are necessary, we'll certainly let everyone know about it.

The question on weed control can't possibly be answered completely here. We are more dependent on herbicides with reduced tillage systems since we can't wipe out weed seedlings with a final discing or with the field cultivator. Also, we are hoping to eliminate cultivation.

broadleaf weeds, we should have less trouble than with conventional tillage. Why? Because most of these weeds produce seeds which will lie dormant and never germinate and grow unless we plow and bring them up near the surface.

Unfortunately, the annual grasses and the perennial weeds may prefer the reduced tillage systems and actually do a little better. Premerge and post-emerge herbicides do a good job on the annual grasses if used properly. Use the herbicides which will move into the soil with rain water and not the ones which become attached to the soil particles and will not move around a bit. Some of those recommended are Bladex, Atrazine, Lasso, Dual, and Bicep. Parquat isn't necessary unless weeds have started and are present at planting time, in which case it should be used.

Some of the perennial weeds need special treatment since premerge and post-emerge herbicides only slow them down but don't kill them.

Every farmer should get a copy of the "Weed Control Guide for 1981" (p-M-601) revised in January, 1981. We have them and you can get a free copy by stopping in. It contains suggested combinations, rates of application, precautions, and has a section on "no-till" or "reduced tillage" weed control.

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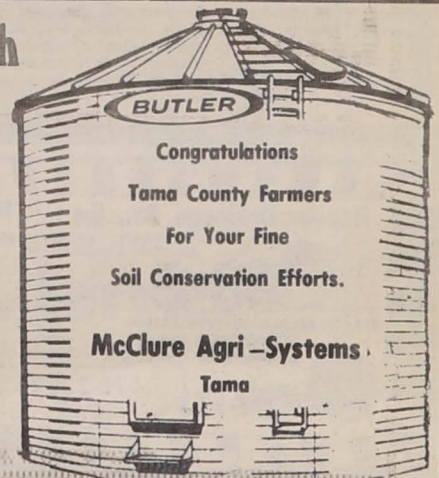


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ASCS Lists 1981 Cost-Share Programs

by Craig Wambold
ASCS CED

The Tama County ASCS Committee has received an allocation of \$67,000 for fiscal year 1981. These are regular ACP (Agricultural Conservation Programs) practices chosen by Raymond Ryan, Norman Draper, and Donald J. Upah (County Committee). Applications must be approved before any work is started, to be eligible for cost-share payment. Since the first of October the County Committee has approved applications for 21 farmers in the amounts as follow: \$27,778 for terrace systems in Carleton, Crystal, Spring Creek, Howard, Richland and Toledo townships; \$1,500 for windbreaks in Buckingham, Carroll, Clark and Lincoln townships; \$7,543 for sod waterway and tile in Buckingham, Carleton, Lincoln and Richland townships; \$400 for wildlife habitat in Clark and Perry townships; and \$1,200 for sediment retention, erosion or water control structures in Carroll township. We suggest that farmers make their applications early as the money is limited.

Barb Hempy is the ACP program assistant in Tama County. She is responsible for taking the applications to the County Committee for approval, referring them to the Soil Conservation Service for technical determination, processing the applications and making payments. Barb and her husband Brian live north of Montour. Brian farms in partnership with his father, Robert Hempy, and brother, Craig. Brian and Barb have two boys, Jason, age 10, and Jared, age 6.

Listed below are practices and cost-share rates available under the regular 1981 ACP fiscal year.

SL1—Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment, 75 per cent cost for seed, lime and fertilizer.

SL2—Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement, 75 per cent cost for seed, lime and fertilizer.

SL3—Stripcropping systems, \$6 per acre.

SL4—Terrace Systems, 60 per cent of cost.

SL5—Diversion, 60 per cent of costs.

SL7—Windbreak Restoration or Establishment, Flat rate.

SL9—Conservation Tillage Systems, \$7.50 minimum tillage/acre, \$10 no till/acre.

SL11—Permanent Vegetative Cover On Critical Areas.

Flat rate.

SL12—Vegetative Row Barriers, 50 per cent of cost.

SL13—Contour Farming, \$6 per acre.

WC1—Water Impoundment Reservoirs, 50 per cent of cost.

WP1—Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structures, 60 per cent of cost.

WP3—Sod waterways, 50 per cent of costs.

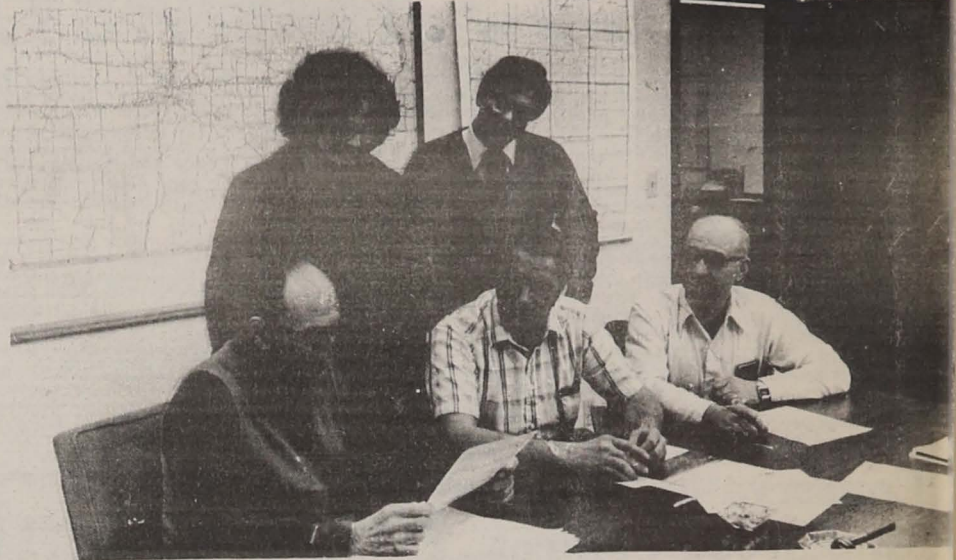
FR1—Forest Tree Plantations, 75 per cent of cost.

FR2—Forest Tree Stand Improvement, 75 per cent of cost.

WL1—Permanent Wildlife Habitat, 75 per cent of cost.

WL2—Shallow Water Areas For Wildlife, 75 per cent of cost.

Please Note: The per cent shown above is the share the government invests in the conservation work. This share is an incentive for the farmer to complete the long term protective work now, rather than in future years.



Seated are the Tama County Committee: Norman Draper, Donald Upah, and chairman Raymond Ryan.

Standing is the ACP specialist Barbara (Mrs. Brian) Hempy and CED Craig Wambold.

Fund Four-Mile Project In 81

Contractors and farmers will be hurrying on new ASCS funded conservation projects in the Four Mile Research Project just like last year. The Four Mile Creek area special project is located in northwest Tama County. It covers part of Lincoln, Grant, Spring Creek and Crystal townships. This 20 square mile area is roughly bounded by the towns of Lincoln, Gladbrook and Dinsdale. The 90 per cent cost-share funding was authorized in December so farm owners or operators can plan on the special program continuing this year.

Raymond Ryan, the ASCS County Committee Chairman said \$150,000 was allocated to the Tama County ASCS to continue the conservation tillage and other work under construction. Also, to get some other soil conservation jobs started. He urged those wanting to do conservation work to apply for the assistance as soon as possible. The farmer-SCS (Soil Conservation Service) Planning could be done early so construction could begin promptly.

The funds for the research study of the runoff and water quality in the watershed is still uncertain due to the role of the Environmental Protection Agency. However, Iowa State University scientists think the data now being recorded is so valuable it would be a real

mistake to not continue what has been started. The Agricultural Engineers at the University plan to continue some of the studies. However, the budget cuts facing the state may force abandonment of all this research. The ASCS Committee has requested a meeting with ISU Research and Engineering Project Head, Howard Johnson to offer help in continuing research.

Local Department of Agriculture committees and staff are pleased with the momentum started in 1979. The conservation work that was started can now be continued with the farmers in the watershed. Since the first funding of the accelerated conservation activity, ASCS has allotted \$730,000 for incentive payments to farm owners or operators interested in applying a practice. By this time, the appearance of the area has improved dramatically. Very noticeable are new grassed waterways, windbreaks, several kinds of ponds and terrace work. The interest shown by area farmer cooperators has been terrific. These farmers usually are put in the situation of sacrificing some cropland use for one year so that the conservation practice can be built. So in addition to paying for part of the work, they are losing some much

needed income producing acreage. We all admire the farmers who install conservation practices. It helps to save our soil, keep our water clean, and save this valuable resource for future generations.

Iowa Soil 2000 Sets Conservation Goals

"Iowa Soil 2000" offers an indication of concerns being expressed by Iowans about the future of the state's soil resources.

The program proposal was

developed by an interim study committee of the 68th General Assembly. It offers a 20-year master plan for reducing soil

Soil 2000
Please Turn To Page 11B

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Underestimate Windbreak As Energy Savings Aids

With rising costs of household heating, much has been said about ways to curb this spiraling expense. One method underestimated by many is the windbreak. A properly planned windbreak can reduce the energy required to heat your home by 15 per cent and also provide excellent habitat for wildlife and protection for livestock.

A windbreak is a permanent part of the farm. Therefore, careful thought and planning should precede the planting of trees. Now's the time for planning since your nursery may have to order the trees you want.

There are several things one should consider when planning a windbreak. Consider slope and drainage of the land as well as building arrangement. Planting the barrier too close to buildings can cause air stagnation in summer and unwanted snow drifts in winter. Planting too far away

provides little protection. A general rule is to locate the windbreak at least 100 to 150 feet and no more than 350 to 400 feet from the area where maximum protection is desired. The most effective zone of protection extends from the windbreak to a distance six to eight times the height of the trees. In this area wind velocity will be reduced up to 25 per cent.

Windbreaks should consist of at least three rows and preferably five rows of trees. A three-row planting should include one row of shrubs to provide ground level protection and two rows of conifers. A five-row windbreak should include a row of shrubs, three rows of conifers and a row of hardwood trees.

Recommended spacing for windbreak trees between rows range from six to 16 feet, depending on species. Spacing within the row should be approximately 10-20 feet for

small broad leaf trees and conifers. Shrubs should be spaced around 4 feet apart.

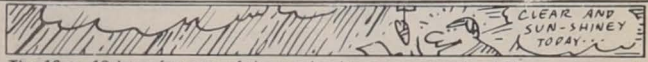
Spring is the best time to plant windbreak trees. Planting should be done as soon as the frost is out of the ground. At this time there is moisture in the soil, the climate is mild and humid, and the trees are dormant.

Cost of a three-row windbreak 600 feet long could range anywhere from 700 to 1,000 dollars. In 15 years this investment would pay for itself many times over.

An excellent example of a well planned and managed windbreak is on the Willard Balfour farm north of Toledo. Mr. Balfour was presented the Izaak Walton windbreak award for his well established windbreak. Included in the windbreak are both conifers and shrubs.



A windbreak located on the Willard Balfour farm north of Toledo. The Balfour windbreak is an excellent example of how a windbreak can protect the farmstead during winter storms.



The 12 to 18 hour forecasts of the weather bureau are considered 85 percent accurate today.

FmHA Provides Assistance

by Byron Witt

FmHA County Supervisor

The Farmers Home Administration makes soil and water loans and provides technical management assistance to owners or operators of farms and ranches for developing, conserving, and making proper use of their land and water resources.

Individual applicants must: 1. have the character, managerial ability, and industry needed to carry out the farm operation. 2. possess the legal capacity to incur the obligations of the loan. 3. be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to finance actual needs. 4. be a citizen of the United States, or legally admitted as a permanent resident of the United States, or on indefinite parole. 5. be the owner or operator of a farm after the loan is made.

Funds may be used to: 1. develop wells and otherwise improve water supply systems for irrigation, home use, and livestock. 2. purchase pumps, sprinkler systems, and other irrigation equipment. 3. ac-

quire a water supply or water right. 4. purchase water stock or membership in an incorporated water user's association. 5. construct and repair ponds and tanks, ditches, and canals for irrigation. 6. dig ditches and install tile to drain farmland. 7. develop ponds and water control structures for the production of fish under controlled conditions. 8. level land. 9. carry out basic land treatment practices, including liming, fertilizing, seeding, sodding and subsoiling. 10. establish approved forestry practices on a farm, such as pest control, thinning, and fire protection. 11. establish permanent pastures and farm forests. 12. meet requirements for agricultural, animal, or poultry waste pollution abatement and control facilities. 13. build dikes, terraces, waterways and other erosion control structures.

In addition, loan funds may be used to pay expenses incidental to obtaining plans and making the loan, such as

FmHA

Please Turn To Page 6B

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District Activities By Month For 1980

January

Commissioners attended Annual Commissioner Short Course at ISU.

Reorganization of officers: J. Harry Scurr, chairman; Welby Dixon, vice-chairman; Audrey Wheeler, secretary-treasurer.

Regular monthly meeting held.

February

The Environmental Education Committee met.

The annual awards banquet was held in Tama to honor local people involved in soil conservation.

The annual meeting to keep contractors abreast of construction and policy changes.

Regular monthly meeting held.

March

Commissioners attend regional commissioners meeting.

The Environmental Education Committee met.

Joe Elise, hired as state aide under emergency start position.

Russell Lyon hired as ISU fieldman for Four Mile Creek research project.

Soil Loss Complaint filed and was reviewed by SCD.

Regular monthly meeting held.

April

Minister Breakfast (Soil Stewardship Week).

Booster Club letters mailed.

Regular monthly meeting held.

May

John Nicholson reported as district conservationist.

Field Day for 400 fifth grade students.

Environmental Education Committee held.

Goke, SCS, Washington D.C., toured Four Mile Creek.

Harry Scurr took Bill Bruene, Keith Glandon of SCS on tour of Four Mile Creek.

Regular monthly meeting held.

June

Task Force Meeting held to develop Long Range Program.

Bus tour of Four Mile Creek Watershed.

Iowa Conservation Award Winners chosen.

Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award chosen.

Regular monthly meeting held.

July

Long Range Program developed.

Annual Report published.

Newsletter sent out.

Otter Creek Watershed nominated for Iowa Till program.

No-till tour on Dave Podhajsky farm.

SCD booth display at fair.

Regular monthly meeting held.

August

Joe Elise hired as permanent state aide.

J. Harry Scurr testified at Jepsen Soil Loss Hearing.

Letterhead contest developed by Education Committee.

Chester Coffman nominated for Farm Bureau Soil Conservation Award.

Union Grove granted watershed money.

Long Range Plan completed.

Soil Loss Complaint filed.

Commissioners attended

ACP development meeting.

Regular monthly meeting held.

September

Welby Dixon nominated as outstanding commissioner.

Commissioners man booth at Farm Progress Show.

SCD receives national acclaim in "Tuesday" Newsletter.

Environmental Education Committee met.

Chris Matkin-Davis, Grinnell College Student, started

an internship program on soil conservation.

Letters sent to teachers concerning environmental workbooks.

Regular monthly meeting held.

October

Otter Creek Watershed approved for Iowa Till Program.

SCS, Washington D.C., toured Four Mile Creek.

Matkin-Davis, Nicholson spoke to Traer Women's Club.

Newsletter sent out.

Regular monthly meeting held.

November

Brad Blocker, STC, won the letterhead contest.

Commissioners attend regional SCD meeting.

Ferd Kvidera elected Ward 4 Director, Iowa-Cedar.

SCD reviewed soil loss complaint.

Regular monthly meeting held.

December

No-till pamphlet for Tama County developed.

Commissioners attend annual ACD Conference.

J. Harry Scurr elected president of IASDC.

Started monthly radio show.

KGRN Grinnell.

Scurr, Wheeler, Nicholson attended meeting on soil

cost-share program.

Regular monthly meeting held.

Chyma Fights To Keep Soil On The Farm

Conservation farmer Lloyd Chyma and his wife Myone farm just south of Tama. Lloyd has been a long time believer in keeping his soil on the farm.

The Chymas farm 450 acres. Crops that are grown include corn and soybeans. And they raise 600-700 head of hogs. Andrew, one of four children, helps with the farming and is currently studying farm operations at Iowa State University. He will likely join his father and make farming his occupation.

When asked why he believed in conservation farming, Lloyd simply states that he wants to "save soil." And he certainly does a good job of

doing just that.

One measure used to combat the problem of erosion is terracing. For the past few years he has had the new seeded backslope or push up terraces built on his farm.

In building these terraces, the soil is pushed up from the bottom. They're different from the old type of terrace that was

pushed down from the top. Building this way will make the hill flatter.

It is estimated that nearly two miles of terraces have been installed on the Chyma farm along with 7,000 feet of tile.

Not plowing is also one measure used on the Chyma farm to conserve soil. He used

a heavy disk or chisel in the spring to till his farm land.

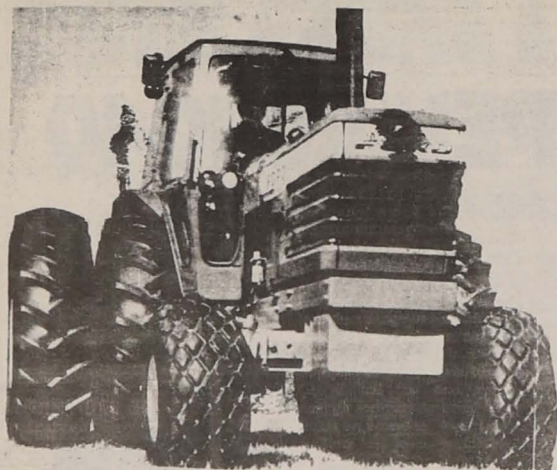
He uses a disk or chisel instead of a plow because it leaves more crop residue on the wind and water protection.

The Chymas are one more example of people who have joined the soil conservation movement in Tama County.



Lloyd Chyma, rural Tama, is all smiles after Paul Bruns, SCS, completed the check out on Lloyd's new terrace system.

Meet the new TW30 tractor from Ford



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Soil Commissioners Comment On Issues



Robert Fontinel

We must save our precious topsoil for future generations. Each and every one of us must do what we can in our own way to help achieve this goal. All of our efforts today will show great benefits tomorrow.



Dan Bruene

One of the few good things that inflation and higher costs have brought us, is an increase in soil conservation. More and more farmers are realizing that it costs less and is more profitable to farm the conservation way. You hear more farmers talking about how little tillage they can use to get the crop in, rather than how much fall plowing they did this year. Hopefully it won't be long, or maybe the time is already here, that the farming community will look upon the farmer that plows, the same way that they looked upon a no-till farmer a few years ago.

If a farmer doesn't think it is profitable to save all the soil he can now, then just wait until he tries to grow good crops on subsoil.



Harry Scurr

The time has come in Iowa for the people of Iowa to become concerned about the loss of prime farmland.

It has been estimated that prime farmland in Iowa is being taken out of production at the rate of one county every 11 years.

The cornbelt states have 81 million acres of prime farmland (by far the most acres of productive prime land in the US).

On the national level, of the three million acres of rural land that was taken out of production, about one million of this was prime farmland. In the US, 800,000 acres of our best farmland has become housing tracts, highways, airports, industrial sites, parking lots, etc. Nearly 200,000 acres are covered by water for manmade lakes and water storage for other uses.

What do we have for potential soil to be converted to row crop production? Most

of the ground that could be brought into production is already in pasture, timber or wildlife habitat, etc.

Control of prime farm ground is important to everyone in the US. How well the future generations will be fed, depends on the land use restraints that will be applied by the concerned citizens of the individual counties of Iowa and the US. I believe the best type of control can be carried out at the local or county level.

acre will be lost, which is acceptable.

I feel that through simple basic conservation practices such as no till farming, contouring, strip cropping and grassed water ways and head

lands, we can reduce our soil losses to an acceptable rate and can actually build up our soil and clean up our streams. Terraces can aid in making our basic practices work all the

better on certain land, but will take more revenue.

The SCS Office will be glad to help anyone on their individual conservation problems.

I feel that we as individuals should really strive for better conservation in the 80s, so that we don't leave our children a land that is completely eroded and air and water that is unfit for wildlife and human habitation.



Franklin Bro

It is a known fact that the way to get the most conservation of the soil for the least amount of money is through no till farming, strip cropping, and contouring. Terraces are fine, but they take a lot of dollars for a small area.

If farmers will follow practices where they will have at least 50 per cent of their residue on top of their soil, there is a good chance that no more than two tons of soil per

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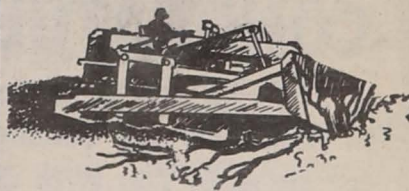
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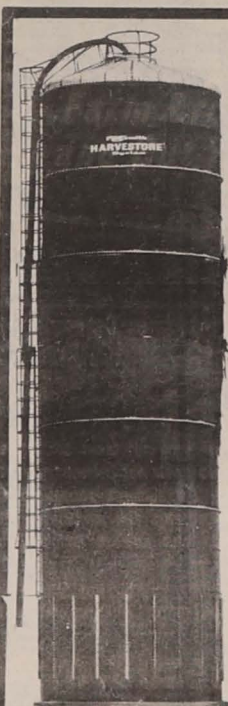
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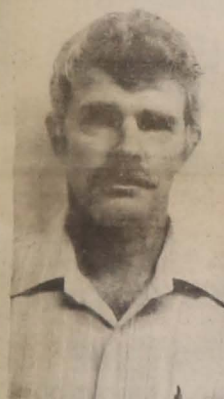
Soil 2000

Continued From Page 8B

erosion to acceptable levels by the year 2000. Five-year goals established as a result of the interim committee's recommendations will seek to provide each farm unit with a conservation folder by 1985, control erosion on the state's most fragile soils, and reduce excessive erosion on all agricultural lands by 40 per cent.

Under the leadership of co-chairman Senator Forrest Schwengels of Fairfield and Representative Wendell Pellett of Atlantic, the interim study committee developed the following policy statement: "Agriculture is the foundation of Iowa's economy. That foundation is currently being undermined by critical excessive erosion of the topsoil in the state. Thus it is in the best interest of both the present and future generations to promptly control soil erosion in Iowa. Moreover, control of nonpoint source pollution (for example, pollution attributable to runoff from large areas rather than to specific points, such as sewage treatment plants) of the state's rivers and lakes can be largely achieved by proper soil conservation techniques."

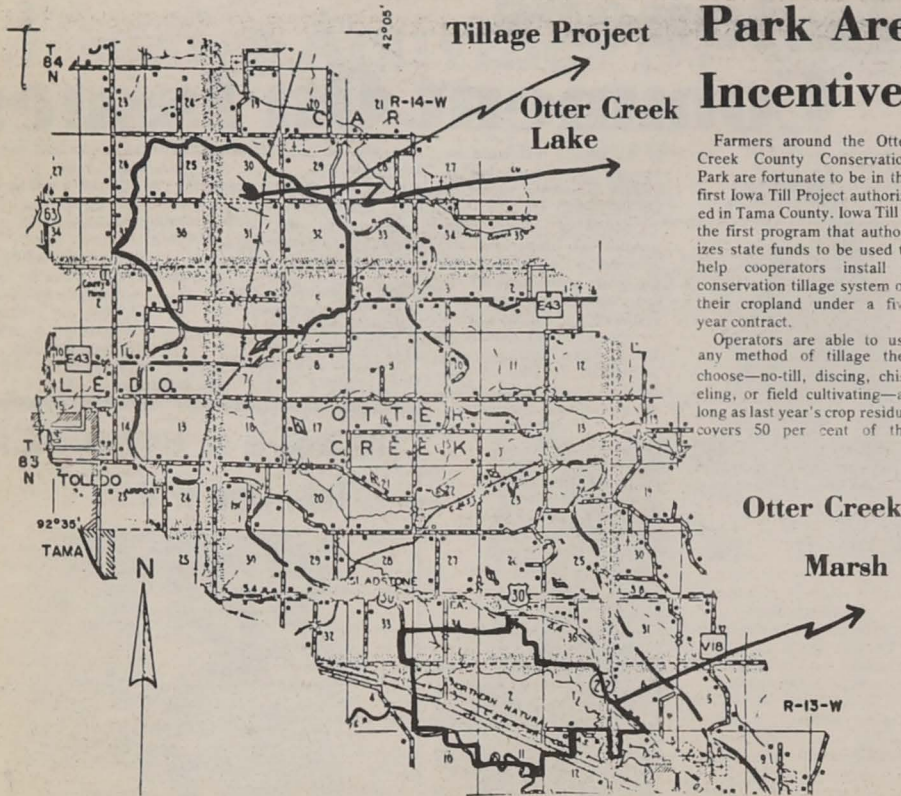
Specific policy goals are to provide better education to build awareness of the need for soil conservation at all levels, provide incentives for good soil management, provide technical assistance, and control soil erosion within the state by the year 2000.



Dave McMillan

We should be alarmed at the rate which our trees and woodlands are disappearing. We see acre upon acre being bulldozed off land that is unfit for row crop farming. Not only is this land steep, but forest soils are by nature more unstable than prairie soils and very subject to erosion.

There are a couple of ways in which we can reverse this trend. The first is by new tree plantings. It is unrealistic to believe that trees will be planted on large acreages in this day and age, but we can certainly encourage planting trees in fencerows, along roads and in odd corners and around buildings. These practices provide wildlife cover and help cut down on wind erosion. A second area we can encourage is the education and aid we can give to the owners of established woodlands. We have a district forester who is more than willing to help with woodland renovation and management. In this era of high-priced lumber and wood burning stoves, it is not hard to see that trees can be a paying proposition with proper management. While it is true that "only God can make a tree," the rest of us can surely help!



Park Area Farmers Get Incentive For Tillage System

Farmers around the Otter Creek County Conservation Park are fortunate to be in the first Iowa Till Project authorized in Tama County. Iowa Till is the first program that authorizes state funds to be used to help cooperators install a conservation tillage system on their cropland under a five year contract.

Operators are able to use any method of tillage they choose—no-till, discing, chiseling, or field cultivating—as long as last year's crop residue covers 50 per cent of the

surface after the new crop is planted in the spring. The incentive payment of \$30 per acre is paid to the cooperator during the first year and will be for a five year period.

This incentive payment could provide enough help to a farmer to buy a modern planter capable of getting good stands in trash and untilled land. Mulch tillage coupled with contouring, another requirement, in most cases cuts soil losses to 25 per cent of the levels measured with conventional tillage. The savings in labor and fuel costs are more bonuses to the conservation minded farmer who trims his field operations.

Previous Federal tillage programs were limited to incentives for the first time trial. Many long-time conservationists are unable to participate in other programs since they had parked their plows years ago.

The benefits should be

noticeable in reduced sediment in the Otter Creek Lake and county road ditches, less fuel burned in heavy tillage operations, and more profits for the cooperator. The area will also provide a concentrated test area where those considering minimum tillage can observe the benefits and start the system best suited for them.



Following a popular trend, homeowners are using gloss paints not only in living and dining areas but to cover the outside of the house. A new scrubbable, dirt-resistant, semi-gloss latex from Pittsburgh Paints literally breathes to accommodate sudden temperature changes without cracking.

Protecting Our Environment

If the day ever comes that we travel around town on a trackless train, it could be because of the success of a pioneering tramline in a garden.

At the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, trams powered by lead-acid batteries give visitors a quiet, fumeless ride that can enhance their enjoyment of the beautiful setting.

The trams are equipped with trailers to carry up to 14 passengers on a 20-minute, narrated tour of the garden. Driven by two two-horsepower electric motors operated by 12 six-volt batteries, the trams can achieve speeds up to 14 miles per hour.

Lead-acid batteries are producing quiet, pollution-free power in an increasing number of personnel carriers, golf carts, industrial lift trucks, delivery vans and trucks.



Mr. and Mrs. Chester Coffman, rural Chelsea, were honored as the outstanding owner-operators by Dan Bruene, chairman, Tama SCD, at the annual awards banquet.

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Survey Shows Tight Money Stumbling Block To Conservation

Seventy-seven per cent of landowners do not install more soil conservation practices because they're short of money.

This is according to Grinnell College student, Chris Matkin-Davis, taken from an opinion study he did this past fall in the Otter Creek Watershed.

Matkin-Davis volunteered to work in the Tama Soil Conservation District as part of an internship program through Grinnell College. He was interested in soil conservation and how government programs were geared to solve its associated problems.

Matkin-Davis selected the Otter Creek Watershed because of the highly visible soil erosion problem and the special efforts government has taken to help.

He goes on to point out that the Otter Creek Watershed drains into both the Otter Creek Lake and the Otter Creek Marsh. Most of the land in the watershed area is rolling and erosion is a major concern. This fact is highlighted by the siltation of both the lake and the marsh.

Since the construction of the lake in 1970, the silt beds have

been cleaned twice. The marsh, built in 1967, has been partially filled in by lost soil. In the 10 year period following its construction, an 80 acre area had become filled by silt to a depth of four and one-half feet.

In response to their highly visible problem, the ASCS developed an Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) special project proposal. It was approved for funding in 1978 and since then has received a total of \$65,000 for soil conservation work in the watershed.

Of those interviewed, 42 per cent felt the government should pay 50 per cent of the cost for soil conservation work. And yet, only 31 per cent of the landowners have taken advantage of the special ACP program.

Part of the problem, according to Matkin-Davis, may result from tenant farmers. The study pointed out that owner-operators are more likely to have less row crop and to participate in soil saving programs.

Another item may be that 62 per cent of landowners felt they had either only a small

erosion problem or none at all. This parallels a similar trend found state-wide and yet, Iowa leads the nation with the highest rates of soil erosion.

What does Matkin-Davis recommend? He feels that government programs should

be geared to work more closely with tenant farmers and absentee landowners. He also felt that local landowners should take advantage of programs which grant financial incentives for soil conservation work.

New Requirements For Land Disturbing Activities

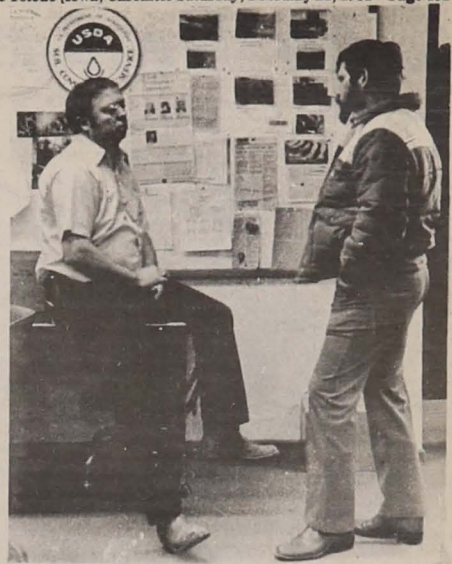
Approval of erosion control plans by the soil conservation district prior to the issuance of building permits for land disturbing activities is a new requirement of Chapter 467A of the Code of Iowa as of January 1, 1981. The new law was enacted by the 68th Iowa General Assembly in 1980.

Land disturbing activities are defined as land changes—clearing, grading, excavating—which may result in soil erosion from wind and water.

Such activity done in conjunction with a project that requires a building permit

must have an approved erosion control plan on file with the district prior to issuance of the permit. Single-family residences or areas of less than 10,000 square feet are not affected by the requirement.

The new regulations can be found on file at the Tama Soil Conservation District office located in the USDA building at Toledo.



Ted Hall, SCS, discusses conservation with a landowner who scheduled an appointment at the office. Many area farmers are scheduling time to stop by the office and talk conservation.

Try New Terraces

A new type of terrace is being tried in Iowa, with an advantage over other terrace types that is particularly appealing to farmers. It's referred to as a narrow base terrace, and its advantage is its comparatively low price tag.

Broadbase terraces require considerable earthwork to make both sides of the terrace farmable," says Douglas Seibel, Soil Conservation Service state engineer.

"Earthwork is less with grass backslope terraces because one side of the terrace is left steep. Narrow base terraces are the least expensive because both sides of the terrace are left steep and seeded to grass," Seibel reports.

He estimated that narrow base terraces cost about 40 per cent less than grass backslope terraces.

"They're cheaper to build than other terrace types," Smith says. "I'll put in more if they continue to work as well as they do now."

Narrow base terraces have other advantages, according to Seibel. Farmers don't have to farm around the terrace



Don Moyer farms land owned by Geneva Kruse in Highland township. Together they were recently honored as the outstanding owner-tenant combination by the Tama SCD. Don and his wife accepted the award at the annual SCD awards banquet.

intake, so equipment size isn't a limiting factor. In addition, there's no worry about farm equipment tipping over, because the terrace isn't farmed.

But there are other considerations, Seibel says. Narrow base terraces aren't easily compacted, so there is a greater chance of rain or livestock damaging the terraces before the seeding is firmly established. The narrower base also may mean more susceptibility to rodent damage.

On the other hand, grass backslope terraces have the advantage of flattening out the land and broadbase terraces don't require any seeded slopes.

"There's a place for all three terrace types," says Seibel. "A farmer must compare construction cost against costs of maintenance and land taken out of production."

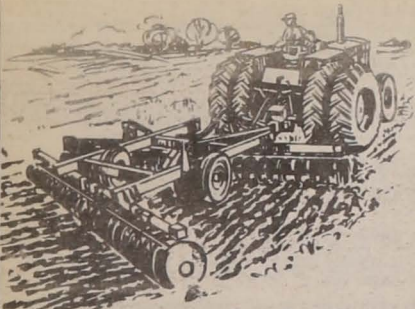
According to Seibel, a grass backslope terrace takes about two rows out of production and a narrow base terrace about four rows.

Equipment size and land slope are other considerations, Seibel notes. SCS suggests terraces not be built on land steeper than eight per cent slope for broadbase, 14 per cent for narrow base, and 18 per cent for grass backslope

design. "Terraces are a proven soil saving practice and a lot more are needed," says SCS state conservationist William Brune. "But what we're really

advocating is a resource management system. Conservation practices need to be selected that best fit each farmer's operation and his land."

CONGRATULATIONS To The Tama County Farmers On Their Soil And Water Conservation



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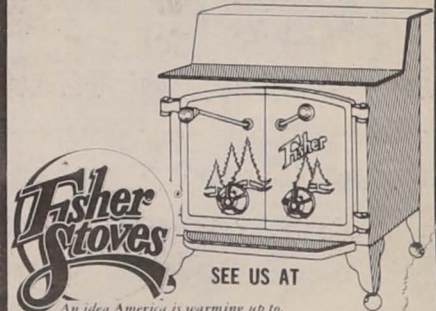


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County Man Heads State Assn.

A concern for retaining the soil for a food and fiber base for generations to come has lead Harry Scurr to a deep involvement in soil conservation. Scurr a southwestern Tama County farmer is this year's president of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

The land in Highland township where he farms already was laid out for contours when he moved there in 1958. He has added tile outlet terraces. Scurr chisel plows and just discs the bean ground. (He also farms land located in Marshall County.)

"I guess I was more or less raised with it (conservation)," Scurr says. "Between myself and my father we have 50 years as commissioners."

Scurr started as an assistant soil district commissioner in the 1960s; his father Clark Scurr was a district soil commissioner for about 25 years in Marshall County.

Last December, Harry was elected president of the state association at its annual conference. Scurr is

serving along with vice-president Russ Guhl, Shell Rock, and immediate past president Charles McLaughlin, Britt.

The prime function of the association is to communicate with legislators (there are three registered lobbyists), the Department of Soil Conservation at the state level, the federal branch of the SCS, the State Soil Conservation Committee and the extension service.

The state committee determines how the money the legislature appropriates is to be spent—what percentage goes to what programs. The local district commissioners then decide the practices the money is spent on within the district.

The district commissioners set the priorities of what the cost share funds will be spent for. Terraces have been the primary practice cost-shared in Tama County, according to Scurr.

Tama County has been fortunate to be the recipient of special cost-share funds for projects. The Four-Mile Creek Project has been funded in 1981. The

problem, Scurr says, is the cut back on the budget for the ISU research.

An earlier special cost-share program in the mid-70s focused on stopping siltation in Union Grove Lake.

The Iowa Till program is also in effect in Tama County, Scurr notes. The program which offers a financial incentive to use conservation tillage methods is being funded in the Otter Creek Park area.

Under the Iowa Till program, 50 per cent of the residue must be left on the ground. The program pays \$30 per acre in one payment; the farmer must maintain the practice for five years.

A lot can be done with minimum tillage to control soil losses until permanent practices can be put on the land, Scurr said, but added financial incentives are needed.

A look at the roadside ditches following the severe February winter storm and its high winds illustrated the seriousness of the erosion problem, Scurr noted. Driving most any road you could see if some type of minimum

tillage was used there was less soil blown than from the fields that were clean plowed.

"One half of Iowa's soil is gone now. If it continues at the same rate, there are estimates that in 14-15 years places in Tama County will be down into the B-profile or subsoil," Scurr stated.

"The soil will still produce but it will take a larger outlay in fertilizer and moisture will be more important."

"We're not getting the work done fast enough to protect the soil," Scurr added. He cited the demand put on the soil with the advent of gasoline, the production of grain for alcohol and food.

there's just not enough money to get the work done, he reflected.

However, Iowa is lucky to have Senator Roger Jepsen as chairman of the conservation agriculture committee, Scurr noted. With his help, it was possible to maintain and increase federal SCS operations budget. This provided funding for additional personnel and watersheds. Iowa gained 62-63 people for technical help in the field where before there had been a hiring freeze—for every 10 that retired or transferred only four could be replaced.

Scurr said we don't realize in central Iowa the seriousness of the loss of prime farm land. In the metro areas, such as Clinton and Des Moines, this is a real problem—prime farmland being covered with concrete, highways.

Loss of the land through siltation was also pointed up in his recent visit to San Francisco for the national convention. With an intensity

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of truck farming located in the valley above San Francisco bay as his plan flew in over the bay, he could see the color of the silt as the rivers flowed into the bay and deposits creating silt bars.

"We have to get a handle on control of soil losses," Scurr said. "We may not have to pay for it but our children and their children will."

One of the biggest measures that concerns the association of commissioners in Iowa is the Soil 2000 bill. Under this enactment of the legislature, soil losses must be down to the five ton limit by the year 2000. Within five years or by 1985, every farm is to have a conservation folder.

Due to funding there has been a hold up in the planning

of procedures, laws and rules. Once the guidelines are set, the district offices will handle the implementation in each county.

Although there is no definite plan, land preservation is another major concern for the association. Referring to the metro areas again, Scurr clarified they did not want to control city growth but wanted to put that growth on the ground where it would do the least damage.

Scurr underlined the importance of preservation pointing to the statistic that at the present time the

COUNTY MAN

Please Turn To Page 15B

Congratulations To Our Area Farmers For Using Good Conservation Practices

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Tama



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Podhajsky, Traer, accept the "Friend of Conservation" award presented by Dan Bruene, chairman Tama SCD. This is an award to an outstanding individual who is actively involved in the Tama Soil conservation movement.



Mr. Masters and Brad Blocker, South Tama High, were honored after Brad won the SCD letterhead contest. Brad was presented a \$150 savings bond and Masters was presented \$25 for the South Tama art department.

America the Beautiful?

SOIL CONSERVATION OR UGLY POLLUTION ?

Will "the purple mountain's majesty" and other American beauties give way to the ugliness of mountains of trash, and the blot of pollution on earth, air and water?

Keeping America beautiful is job that belongs to each of us. A job we should be proud to do, and a job we must do, for our future and our children's future.

Don't pass the buck to somebody else act now! How can you help? By soil conservation and keeping things clean! How can we help? With cash!

We gladly pass some bucks to you to help you practice good soil conservation.

Let's get together . . . to stop pollution. Come is soon.

Tama State Bank



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Four-Mile Creek Landowners Involved

Two Lincoln Township landowners, Alice Costello and Loren Mehaffy are building terraces on their top quality land southwest of Lincoln. The land is gently sloping varying from 0 to 6 per cent and might be judged as not needing any permanent conservation measures by the casual observer.

However, the land is being cash rented and a tenant with a short term lease may not feel too obligated to apply the cultural practices needed to protect the soil. The newly

built terraces will provide a way of cutting the length of the slopes down to a point where some residue on the surface at planting time will keep soil losses to permissible levels.

Both owners feel their new terraces will permanently protect their land from erosion damage and keep the productivity of the soil at its present level. The farms are located in the Four Mile Watershed Research Project monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency and Iowa State University.

Develop Guide For Farming No-Till Way

Grow corn and soybeans the modern way! The "No-Till" way! This according to local people who have been pleased with this new method of farming.

A step by step guide for Tama county farmers starting a "no-till" system to CONSERVE soil and energy, and

reduce time and equipment costs in crop production has been developed. It is available both at the soil conservation and extension offices.

The guide outlines the steps used in no-till farming. It gives suggestions for nitrogen application, planting, insecticide and herbicide application, and cultivation.

The Tama Soil Conservation District and Extension will be conducting a county-wide no-till meeting to be held March 6. Details will be made available at a later date.



Ted Hall, SCS, discusses conservation with Mrs. Alice Costello and her contractor last fall. Mrs. Costello was

one of many that took part in the Four-Mile Creek Research project located near Lincoln.

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Wildlife On The Farm

by Bob Kurt
Wildlife Biologist

The pure enjoyment to be gained from having an abundance of wildlife on the farm is one of the big reasons why many farmers and landowners are setting aside areas for wildlife habitat. Whether it be the rooster pheasant in beautiful spring plumage, the brilliant red cardinal with a background of snow, or the elusive red fox disappearing over a nearby ridge, wildlife are always colorful and enjoyable to have around the farm.

Not as well-known perhaps are the benefits gained by the farmer who encourages wild-

life on his property. In one study a sod and shrub fencerow were compared. It was found that the shrub fencerow contained 14 times as many nesting birds per mile as the sod fencerow, 40 times as many beneficial ladybird beetles as the sod fencerow, and 32 per cent less insects injurious to farm crops than the sod fencerow. This only points out that wildlife plantings can offer very real economic returns to the farmer, and also provide valuable wildlife habitat.

The important thing to remember when planting wildlife areas is to plant a variety of trees, shrubs and grasses.

Conifers (evergreens) that I would recommend for Tama County include Scotch pine, white pine, red pine, jack pine, Norway Spruce, Black Hills Spruce, concolor fir, and red Cedar. These trees not only provide excellent winter cover for wildlife, but also beautify the landscape and reduce wind erosion on farmland.

Deciduous trees for this area include white and green ash, hackberry, hard maple, soft maple, white oak, red oak, bur oak, shellbark hickory, black walnut and Russian olive. These trees are important food and cover for a variety of wildlife species, in addition to providing important forestry and soil and water conservation benefits.

Shrubs are also very important when planning wildlife areas, especially when they are planted adjacent to evergreens and deciduous trees. Shrubs provide good ground cover for wildlife travel lanes and escape cover, and most shrubs also provide an abundance of berries, fruits, and nuts which are an invaluable food supply to wildlife in the fall and winter. Some of the best shrubs for this area include amur honeysuckle, tatarian honeysuckle, crab apple, elderberry, wild plum, nannyberry, ninebark, red-osier dogwood, gray

dogwood, highbush cranberry, hawthorn and lilac.

Grasses are also very important to wildlife for nesting, roosting and feeding areas. Switchgrass is a native, warm-season grass that provides all around nesting cover and winter cover for a variety of wildlife. It grows best during the warm summer months of July and August when common cool-season grasses such as bluegrass are dormant. Leave nesting cover undisturbed wherever possible.

In conclusion, vary the cover as much as possible—the more varied the cover, the more wildlife. If you would like assistance in planning your own wildlife area, please contact me at the USDA building, 203 W. High St., Toledo, Iowa 52342.

COUNTY MAN

Continued From Page 14B

equivalent of one county every 11 years is lost to urban sprawl, highway development and industry.

"It doesn't take much time to figure out at that rate in 100 years the land could be covered over by concrete."

Scurr and his wife Janet, have three children—Kathy, a fourth generation ISU student who is studying elementary education in her junior year (Scurr completed the two year farm operations course at Iowa State and Janet received her degree from ISU) Joe, a senior at SEMCO high school; and Steven, an eighth grader at SEMCO.

Janet has been teaching home economics at SEMCO and in 1978, was the recipient of the state Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Scurr is a former 4-H leader, a Mason, and belongs to the Soil Conservation Society of America. They are also active in the United Church of Christ at Gilman.



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What To Consider When Selecting A Contractor

Contractor Selection

Who should I get to build my terraces? Who's a good reliable tiler? Questions similar to these are asked by area farmers each year. And they should be. No two contractors are exactly alike.

Perhaps the three most important items for consideration include: 1) quality of work, 2) prices charged, and 3) reliability.

Quality of Work

The finished product must meet government specifications when the landowner expects to receive financial aide from government programs. This fact is true regardless of what agency is involved.

There may be some hidden

concerns here that a consumer should be aware of relative to this. For instance, government agencies don't necessarily monitor the construction while in progress to regulate the time spent on the job, the efficiency of the operator, or whether the job is "polished and neat."

Some contractors will only do enough to meet the minimum standards. Others are more conscientious.

When not part of a government program, the quality of work must be strictly worked out between the consumer and the contractor.

Prices Charged

Not all contractors charge for their work in the same manner. Some charge by the

hour. This simply means that if it takes 12 hours to do the job, they'll charge accordingly.

Others will charge by the job. For instance: so much a foot or some other unit of measurement.

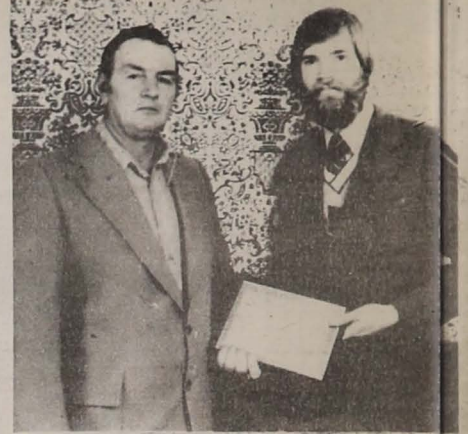
And still others may use a combination of these two methods.

Many contractors will give a landowner a bid or estimate on how much the proposed job will cost. Some will stick to this estimate throughout the construction process. Others may not. An estimate may not always guarantee the final cost of the project. This will depend upon the contractor and the arrangements made.

Reliability

There are at least four considerations that help to determine reliability: 1) construction starts on the date promised, 2) construction is finished according to schedule, 3) once construction is started, full attention is given until finished, and 4) construction is done in the most efficient manner possible and the final product will be of high quality.

With these thoughts in mind, in selecting a contractor it is therefore suggested that consumers: 1) consider quality of work, prices, and reliability, 2) view work previously completed by contractor, 3) talk with past clients of contractor, and 4) shop



Fred Kajer was honored as the outstanding new cooperators at recent SCD awards banquet. The award was presented by chairman Dan Bruene.

around.

Having a signed agreement prior to the start of the project between the landowner and

contractor may also help avoid any unexpected surprise upon completion of the project or either party.

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