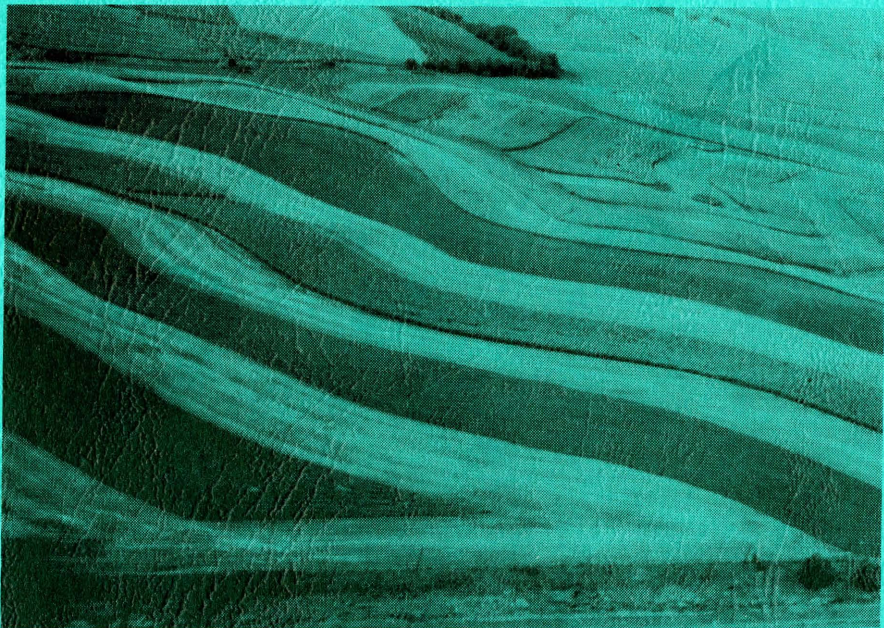


**POWESHIEK COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
39TH ANNUAL REPORT
1987 FISCAL YEAR**



These are the contractors, tilers and business firms that have contributed toward the publishing of this report. The Commissioners of the Poweshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District thank you for your support of soil and water conservation.

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COVER PHOTO:

Stripcropping located on MANATT'S Farm in Warren Township.



COMMISSIONERS: L TO R: Ronald Clayton, Vice-Chairman; H.W. Mathes, Chairman; Curtis Ferneau, Treasurer and Miles Clayton, Commissioner. Absent: Commissioner Doug Brown, and Assistant Commissioners Brian Huinker and Keith Johnson.



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4. County Extension Service
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15. Banks
16. Public schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. FmHA
21. Professional & Business personnel
22. Izaak Walton League
23. Construction equipment companies and suppliers



THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT PERSONNEL (L to R)

FRONT ROW: Carol Brown, Clerk; Jeanette Sebetka, Conservation Aide; Connie Mathes, W.A.E.; BACK ROW: Curtis Fopma, Soil Conservation Technician; Dave Kudej, District Conservationist and Rick Swanson, Soil Conservation Technician.

ASSISTED BY

Lyle Asell	Area Conservationist
Dean L. Pettit	Area Resource Conservationist
Thomas J. O'Connor	Area Resource Soil Scientist
John A. Lucassen	Soil Scientist (Party Leader)
Susan M. Long	Civil Engineer
Douglas D. Morningstar	Civil Engineer
Kent O. Rice	Civil Engineer
Raymond L. Dake	Civil Engineering Technician
Ronald P. Wilson	Civil Engineering Technician
David R. Kennedy	Civil Engineering Technician
Gene A. Renken	District Conservationist
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4. **WILDLIFE AREAS** - we provide assistance for creating, maintaining, or enhancing habitat for all types of wildlife.

So, whatever your need is, from terraces to creating an area for the little critters, stop by and see the folks at the SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE in Malcom.

By Curtis D. Ferneau
Conservation Technician.

SERVICE OF LAND IN 1986 AND 1987

The Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Ministerial Associations of the county held an outdoor worship service to emphasize stewardship of soil and water.

The "Ecumenical Service of the Land" was conducted June 15, 1986 and June 21, 1987 at the ROSS MINTLE farm. The farm is located six miles east of Grinnell on U.S. Highway 6 and four miles north on U.S. Highway 63 on the east side of the road.

Ministers of various denominations, along with the district commissioners, lead the service. After the service, persons had the opportunity to see various conservation practices on the Mintle farm. The event was open to the general public.



ROSS MINTLE among his wildlife area, consisting of Austrian Pine, Scotch Pine and Colorado Spruce.

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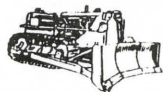
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AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Poweshiek County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers the federal farm programs in the county.

All provisions of the various programs are carried out by regular and temporary employed personnel who administer the program policies established by the farmer-elected committee.

Processing of Price Support Loans, Grain Storage Program, Feed Grain Program, Conservation Reserve Program and providing information and funds for farmers participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) are some of the programs for which ASCS has responsibility. The office phone number is (515) 528-4115.

The Poweshiek County ASC Committee consists of Warren Dee, Chairperson, Delmar Ford, Vice-Chairperson and Donald Sarver, regular member.



Left to Right: Mary D. Donohoe, Viola Armstrong and Eileen Schmitz

Members of the Grinnell Women's Club received the Governor's Volunteer Award at a ceremony held in Cedar Rapids on May 15, 1987. They did approximately 60 hours of volunteer work for the Poweshiek Soil & Water Conservation District.

ROBERT WEMER WINS REGIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD



REGIONAL CONSERVATION WINNER. Robert Wemer, who operates the 240 acre Wemer Farms located about six miles northeast of Montezuma, is the 1987 district and regional soil conservation award winner. He received certificates and plaques of recognition in September from the Soil Conservation Service and the Farm Bureau.

Bob was first chosen by the Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District for recognition, and their judges nominated Wemer Farms for the regional judging. Region 7 covers a nine county area ranging from here toward the Mississippi River.

Several of the conservation practices employed by Wemer are represented in the background of the photo of Bob above. The farm has 40,000 feet of tile drains, five acres of terraces, 5.3 acres of grassed waterways, and seeded headlands on all fields. Near the Wemer home is a functional and attractive water impoundment structure.

Wemer first used no-till planting in 1980 and he now uses no-till on 144 acres of cropland along with planting on the contour on 55 acres. In addition, another 40 acres is strip-cropped in what local conservation officials describe as a model conservation farm.

Bob has been farming since 1978. He is an Iowa State University graduate, with a master's degree in agricultural engineering. He has had a continuing interest in personal education. Some of his other "extra-curricular" interests include running for exercise on a regular basis; photography; and a computer which he actively uses in maintaining swine herd and financial records and for letter writing.

Bob said most of his farming labor is spent on his farrow-to-finish hog operation. He currently produces and sells about 1,000 head a year.

The awards program through which Wemer was recognized is conducted by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the division of soil conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The Farm Bureau provides awards for the program.

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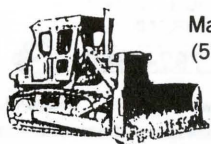
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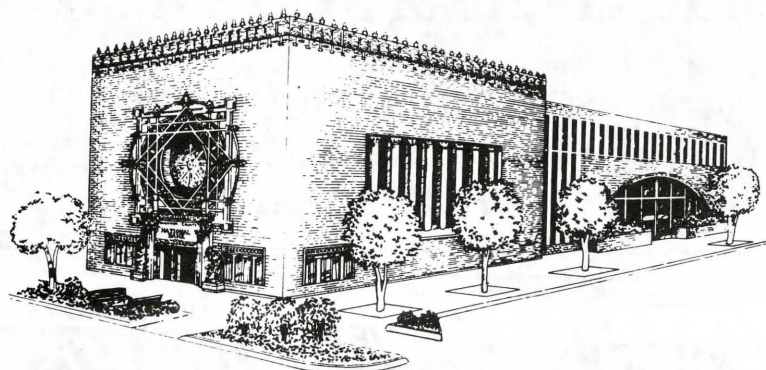
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MR. AND MRS. DONALD McKEE are pictured above with their neat, attractive farmstead in the background. The McKee farm has been named one of nine Iowa regional soil conservation award winners for 1986. The McKee farm is located about three miles east and one mile north of Montezuma. County soil conservation officials who nominated the McKee farm said, "The 437 acre farm is now a good example of wise land use and erosion control treatment." McKee plants crops on the contour on 95 acres and utilizes conservation tillage on 235 acres of cropland. He has established 6.3 acres of grassed waterways and installed terraces on 35 acres. Don has installed 24,000 feet of tile drains and a sediment control pond which the tiled areas empty into. The McKees farm with their daughter and son-in-law, the Bob Thomasons. Don and Norma bought this farm in 1973 and built their home on it in 1977. The McKees are to receive recognition as county winners at the annual Poweshiek County Farm Bureau meeting in Montezuma Wednesday, Sept. 10. The Region Seven award is to be presented to them Sept. 17 at the Ironmen Inn in Iowa City. The award program is conducted by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the soil conservation division of the Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. This is the 12th year that the Iowa Farm Bureau has presented the regional conservation awards.



LEO SCHOTT with switchgrass pasture.

1988 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DISTRICT

We would like to express our appreciation to the contributors who have made donations to our program:

Harvey C. Horn

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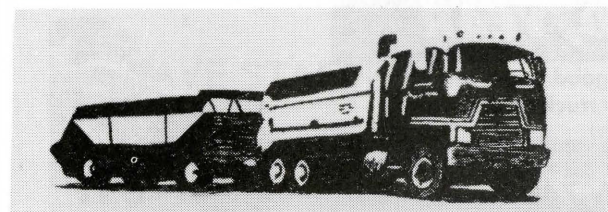
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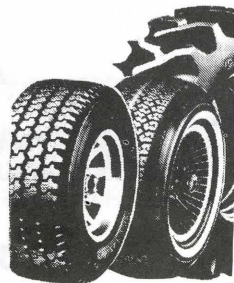
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WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS

The recent sub-zero temperatures with blowing and drifting snow along with it reminded many people that local wildlife populations need our help. A little known and little used practice that may be used on idled acres is a practice we refer to as Wildlife Food Plots. These food plots are for the sole purposes of providing winter food and cover for wildlife.

ACR (set-aside) acres -

Current ASCS regulations allow a farmer to have a total of 10 acres of Wildlife Food Plot on annual set-aside ground. We recommend a minimum of 3 acres when the plot is located next to good winter cover such as trees or brush. These plots can consist of corn, sorghum or forage sorghum. Food Plots cannot be grazed by livestock until March 22, 1989.

CRP acres -

Wildlife Food Plots are also permissible in 1988 under the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Again, we recommend that corn food plots be at least 3 acres in size, and they cannot exceed 5 acres per field under the CRP program. Food plots must not cover more than 25% of a CRP field or be more than 10% of total CRP acres. Food Plots should be placed on the least erosive areas of each field. The plots can be located on the same area in subsequent years as long as tolerable "T" soil loss limits are not exceeded during any year. Corn and sorghum food plots may be left 2 years without reseeding.

Food plots can be very important in helping local wildlife populations survive these cold, snowy Iowa winters. If you have any further questions about establishing wildlife Food Plots on ACR, CRP or regular agricultural ground, contact your local ASCS or SCS office, or call me at 515-484-3752.

Bob Kurtt,
Wildlife Biologist
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources

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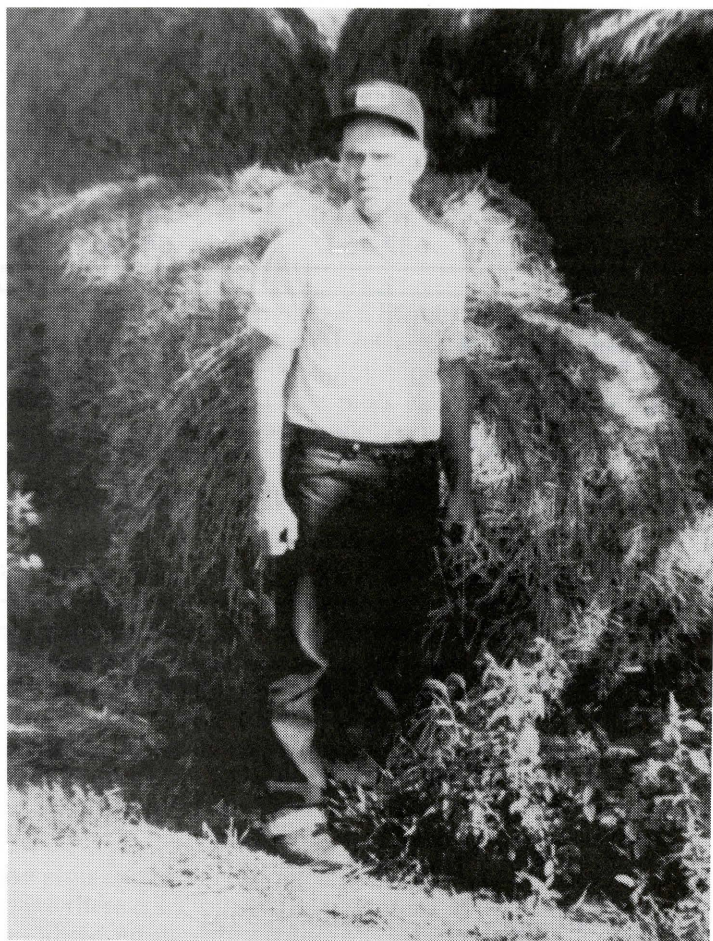
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RECEIVES CONSERVATION AWARD



DAVID BASTIAN, Victor, was awarded Region 7 Soil Conservation Award on September 4, 1985 at the Amana Barn Restaurant. Bastian is the operator of a 156 acre farm, owned by MRS. ARNOLD BASTIAN, located southwest of Victor. They use conservation tillage on 110 acres of cropland and contour planting on 37 acres. The Bastians also have 15 acres of land protected by terraces, 15,000 feet of tile drain, plus 4.5 acres of grassed waterways.

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They fall into such categories as paper, packaging, paperboard items, lumber and plywood products, pressed boards, bark products, wood sugars, wood flour and resins used in plastics, chemical-based cellulose used in films and plastics, spent pulping liquids used in pharmaceuticals and other compounds, and turpentine and tall oil used in products ranging from soap to carbon paper.

Take the yield of one cord of wood, for example. One cord is a pile of wood 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 8 ft. — about 80 cubic feet of solid wood. One cord yields 460,000 personal checks, or 100,000 IRS 1040 forms, or 4,000 one gallon milk cartons, or 4.4 million postage stamps, or 942 one-pound books, 30 Boston rockers, or 7.5 million toothpicks, or 12 dining room tables. Building an average 1,800 square-foot home uses 10,000 board feet of lumber — equivalent to 20 cords.

Twenty percent of a cord might be bark. Bark, wastewood, and pulp- ing liquors provide more than half of the U.S. forest product industry's energy needs. Bark is also a source of many chemicals and is used for mulches and soil conditioners.

The Great American forest is really a vast storehouse of essential materials that are renewable forever. At the same time, our forests provide protection for soil and watersheds, wildlife habitats, and recreational opportunities for hunters, hikers, skiers and others.

For forestry assistance and information, contact your District Forester, Box 681, Marshalltown, 50158.

Bob Hibbs,
District Forester
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PH: (515) 752-3352

Get Conservation Plan Now To Keep USDA Benefits

Many people still don't realize it, but the 1985 Farm Bill tied USDA programs to soil conservation in a way that will affect most Poweshiek County farmers.

The 1985 Farm Bill put into action what many conservation farmers had been saying for years. That is, government programs should not encourage soil erosion.

What the bill says is this: anyone who plants crops on highly erodible land needs to have a conservation plan by 1990, if he wants to remain eligible for most USDA program benefits. It also says anyone who breaks highly erodible land out of sod or trees to plant crops could be ineligible right now unless he has an approved soil conservation plan. Farming wetlands can also make a farmer ineligible for USDA programs and benefits.

Another part of the bill says that a farmer must have soil losses on highly erodible land under control by 1995. So, the farmer with an approved conservation plan that is nearing completion is in good shape to continue to qualify for such USDA programs as price supports, disaster payments, crop insurance, storage payments and loans.

The bill gives a farmer until 1990 to develop a conservation plan, and until 1995 to get the conservation work done. A farmer should not put off the development of a plan until 1989. The plan doesn't cost anything, and by starting now, he'll be in the front of the line for help.

Any farmer with sloping land should remember the 1990 and 1995 dates. Farmers in Poweshiek County should contact the Poweshiek Soil Conservation District office in Malcom now to begin developing a conservation plan to avoid a last minute rush. Old conservation plans are not adequate.

by David W. Kudej
District Conservationist



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1. The sloping ends of cropfields to replace end row that would otherwise run up-and-down hill.
2. Along cropland areas adjacent to woodlands that are the most unproductive due to shading or moisture competition.
3. Between croplands and drainage ditches, streams, steep draws or gullies.
4. In access roads, along pipe lines or power lines, especially through woodlands.

EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY STATE OF IOWA 1987 - 1988 FISCAL YEAR

1-M BUDGET	\$2,000.00
Commissioner's mileage, meals, motel	\$263.16
Office Supplies	\$199.92
Total Expended	\$463.08
Ending Balance	\$1,536.92
3-M BUDGET (State Cost-share Funds)	\$44,511.00
Total Expended	\$26,594.37
Obligated	\$12,033.00
Ending Balance	\$5,883.63



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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The Commissioners conducted eleven regular and two special meetings during the year.

Commissioners attended the Short Course in January, the Spring and Fall Regional meetings and the Annual Conference in November.

A joint Contractor Meeting with Jasper County was held on February 3rd. Approximately 80 people attended. Commissioners assisted the District.

The District sponsored a booth at the Montezuma Ag Day, on January 30. Approximately 350 attended during the day.

Richard Swanson began work with the Soil Conservation Service as WAE help. He is now a full time Conservation Technician.

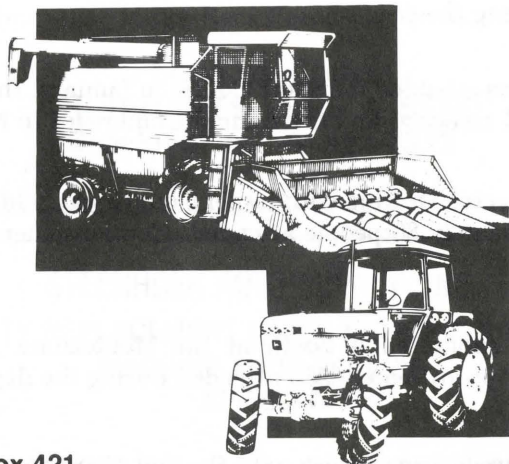
Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners sponsored a booth at the Malcom Business Expo on March 10. Approximately 400 people were at the Expo and had an opportunity to visit with the district staff.

An Ecumenical Church Service of the land was held at the Ross Mintle farm on June 21. Mintle talked about soil conservation and explained some of the many structural and management practices on the farm. Approximately 3,500 church program inserts were delivered to 27 churches in the county for Soil Stewardship Week.

The Commissioners met with the County Supervisors in June to tour various construction sites around the county.

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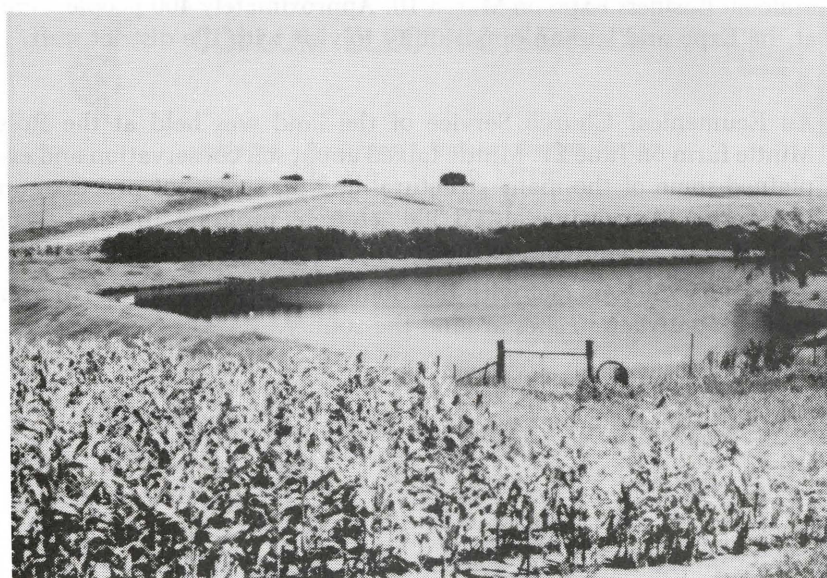
WALLY MATHES
623-5981

JOE STEELE
644-5149

FERNEAU SEED
528-4315

ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY FOR 10-1-86 to 9-30-87

	No.	Unit of Measure
Individuals and Groups Assisted	570	
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	333	
Conservation Plans	39	23,118 Ac.
Conservation Tillage System		2,357 Ac.
Contour Farming		1,411 Ac.
Diversion		2,550 Ft.
Grade Stabilization Structure	6	
Contour Stripcropping		190 Ac.
Terrace		26,310 Ft.
Water and Sediment Control Basin	52	
Cropland Benefitted by Application of Conservation Practice		24,804 Ac.
Conservation Planning Alternatives Provided		1,590 Ac.



A pond located on the ROBERT WEMER farm.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, makes loans to farmers, families of low and moderate income and rural communities. These applicants must be unable to get credit from conventional sources in order to get assistance. This general purpose credit service contributes in a variety of ways to the vitality and expansion of the rural economy. It provides financial assistance for the development of essential public services and the growth of rural communities. The programs that would be most commonly used in Poweshiek County are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERSHIP LOANS:

PURPOSE: To buy, build, improve or relocate homes for farm service buildings; to buy building sites; to refinance certain debts.

FOR: Low to moderate income families who will occupy homes in rural areas.

RENTAL AND COOPERATIVE HOUSING LOANS:

PURPOSE: To build, buy, improve or repair rental or cooperatively owned houses or apartments for independent living by senior citizens and low to moderate income families.

FOR: Nonprofit corporations, cooperatives, municipal bodies, individuals, partnerships and corporations.

TERMS: 33 years repayment.

REPAIR AND REHABILITATION HOUSING LOANS:

PURPOSE: To make minor repairs for safety or to remove health hazards.

FOR: Very low income owner-occupants who cannot qualify for housing loans.

TERMS: 1% interest rate on 10 yr. loan.

FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS:

PURPOSE: To buy land; refinance debts; construct, repair or improve buildings; improve farmland; develop water facilities and establish farm-based business enterprises to supplement farming income.

FOR: Qualified persons who will get a substantial share of their income from farming.

TERMS: 40 years repayment.

FARM OPERATING LOANS:

PURPOSE: To buy livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fertilizer, birds or supplies for farm and home operations; refinance debts or pay interest on them; pay depreciation on equipment; make minor real estate improvements; improve forest lands; establish non-farm enterprises to supplement farm income.

FOR: Eligible operators of not larger-than-family farms.

TERMS: 7 years repayment.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION LOANS:

PURPOSE: To finance land and water development measures, forestation, drainage of farm land, irrigation, pasture improvement and related land and water use adjustments.

FOR: An eligible owner, tenant, leaseholder, partnership or corporation.

TERMS: 40 years repayment.

GUARANTEE FARM OWNERSHIP AND OPERATING LOANS:

PURPOSE: To allow bank to continue with a customer during periods of economic stress. To provide credit or refinance debt for farm purchases, farm improvement, breeding livestock, machinery and operating.

FOR: Eligible persons operating farms not larger than family size.

TERMS: Up to 40 years on real estate and 7 years on operating. Interest rate is current lenders rate.

SUMMARY

Individuals interested in obtaining information about loan programs can meet with the FmHA representative on Tuesdays between 9:30 A.M. and noon in the Malcom ASCS office. The Toledo FmHA office covers Tama and Poweshiek counties. Inquiries also can be made to the Toledo office on Mondays between 8:00 A.M. and noon.

Andrew Jones, Supervisor



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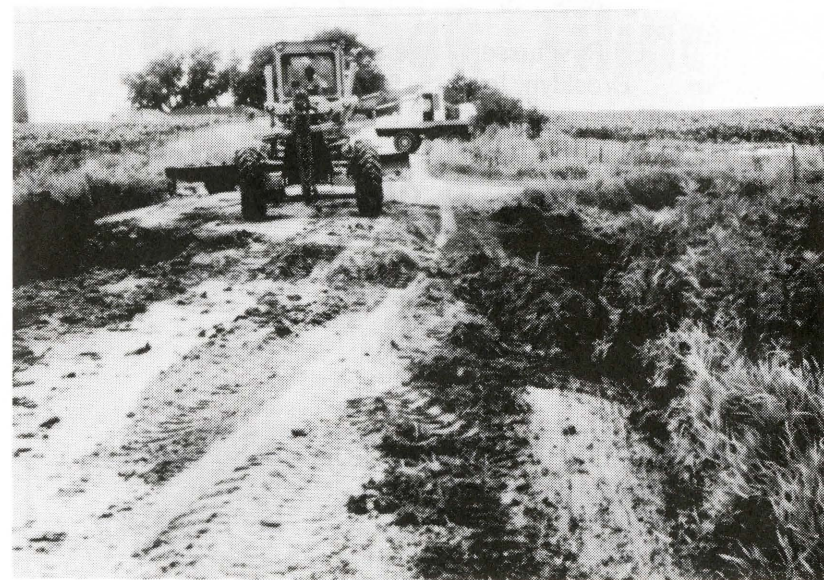
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Brooklyn, Iowa

Ph. 522-9227

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... Service to Members

... Group Health Program Through Blue Cross - Blue Shield

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE Family of Financial Planning Services

AGENTS

Helen Clausen - Grinnell

Kent Brown - Brooklyn

Kenny Smith - Montezuma

Ed Rasmussen - Agency Manager

Brooklyn, Iowa (515) 522-9225

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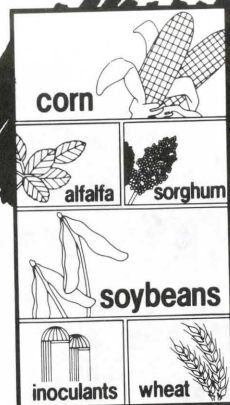
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LOW COST SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Implementing good conservation on your farm does not need to cost you an arm and a leg. There are many practices that will cost you little and bring you great returns in soil conservation. Let's take a look at a few of these:

CONTOURING This is a practice that for the most part costs you nothing. You may have a few more point rows to contend with, but consider this in return. With Tama soils on "C" slopes (5 - 9%), this one single practice will reduce your soil loss by approximately 50%!!

CONTOUR STRIPCROPPING This is a practice where you plant intermittent strips of row crop and meadow on the contour. This practice can reduce soil loss on Tama "C" slopes by up to 66% and the strips can be used for hay, oats, set-aside or CRP (Conservation Reserve Program).

RESIDUE MANAGEMENT This is a practice that includes things from no-till planting to chisel plowing cornstalks. The primary goal of this practice is to maintain a mulch or residue cover on the ground at planting.

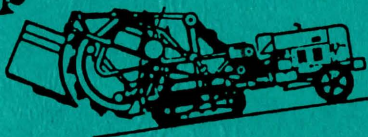
Now, let's look again at our Tama "C" slope fields. Let's say that you have a rotation of corn-soybeans. If you would no-till your corn into soybean stubble, this would leave approximately 50% residue cover. If you would disc your cornstalks twice before you plant your soybeans, this would leave approximately 30% residue cover. Your soil loss on 7% slopes would be 10 Tons/Ac/Yr . . . but Tama soils have a tolerance, or "T" of 5 Tons/Ac/Yr. So now all we have to do is contour the field and your soil loss is 5 Tons/Ac/Yr. With this system, you have saved your valuable top soil, are now eligible for USDA program benefits and not spent a lot of money to do so.

We at the SCS would encourage you to consider these practices in your farming operations.

by Richard Swanson
Conservation Technician

WHEN TWO ACES

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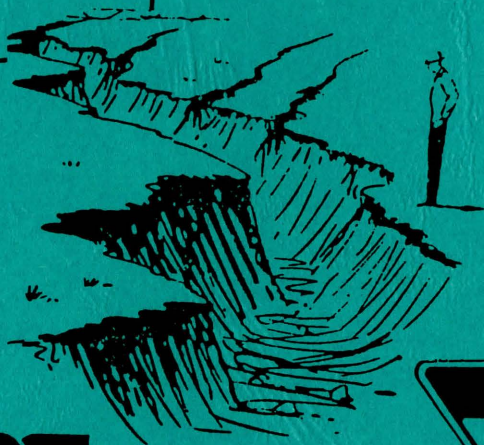
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