

The Annual Report of the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service

A Supplement to The Tipton Conservative and Advertiser • January 24, 1990



The Lindberg farm north of West Branch incorporates a number of conservation practices. Steve and Gilbert Lindberg have several acres of evergreen trees, a pond, terrace, use strip cropping methods and are in the 10 year Conservation Reserve Program. The photo above was taken from a hot air balloon and it looks to the north.

Lindbergs Win CCSCD Owner-Operator Award

Conservation has become a family tradition on the Lindberg farm north of West Branch.

Gilbert Lindberg and his son, Steve, are the winners of the 1989 Cedar county soil conservation district Outstanding Owner - Operator award.

The Lindbergs operate an 80 acre farm in Gower township, but Gilbert credits son Steve with making the decisions on the day to day operation. "I don't get in the way," he says. "I flatter myself and try to have a good attitude toward conservation and love of nature."

The farm is a conservation show-place, with a large evergreen plantation, a pond, terracing and strip cropping. The Lindbergs also participate in the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program.

Farming is actually a "part-time, full-time" occupation for Steve, who also works in the chemistry lab at North Star Steel in Wilton.

In addition to renting the 80-acre farm from his father, he rents his brother's farm in Johnson county.

Gilbert credits the family conservation ethic to an uncle who farmed in Michigan. Growing up in Chicago, he said he was "a city boy. I spent the summers on my uncle's farm in Michigan and got the bug. That's where I picked up my interest in conservation."

Gilbert was a B-17 pilot in World War II and returned to Chicago after the war, but said he was not happy in the city. At the time he was involved in construction and his father was a general contractor.

The family moved to West Branch in 1954 and Gilbert said he "bounced around a little," working as an architectural supervisor at the Hoover library and VA hospital in Iowa City, as well as working with a general contractor.

Steve graduated from West Branch high school in 1974 and received his BA degree in business from the University of Iowa in 1979. He has been employed at North Star Steel for the past 9 years.

Both Lindbergs say they are always looking for ways to promote conservation on the farm.

Gilbert planted 3,500 evergreen trees on 4 acres of land between 15 and 20 years ago, and has nursed them along ever since. He notes that deer, brush, weeds and fire have all conspired to kill some of the trees.

A fire 10 years ago destroyed about half of the evergreens and deer have a special fondness for trees that are 4 to 5 feet tall. "They strip everything from them," Gilbert said.

Steve has added another acre of trees, planting between 300 and 400 seedlings. Both said that planting and maintaining the trees "is a lot of work."

The Lindbergs built a pond on the farm in 1988 and a tile outlet terrace in 1987-88.

Eighteen acres of very steep farmland was placed in the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program and the Lindbergs hope to eventually plant some trees on that land. The highly erodible land has a

terrace at the base to protect the bottom ground.

Approximately 40 acres of the 80 acre farm are in corn, with another 20 in hay and pasture.

Steve Lindberg has received a lot of help on the conservation projects from the soil conservation service in Tipton. They helped design the terrace and pond,

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Steve and Gilbert Lindberg, West Branch, are the 1989 winners of the Cedar county soil conservation district Owner-Operator award.

1989 District Activities

JANUARY

Cedar SWCD Commissioners held their organizational meeting of the year Jan. 3, 1989. Officers elected included: Chairman Robert Niermeyer, Vice-Chairman Randall Shaull, Secretary Ken Muller, and Treasurer Melanie Schott. SWCD Assistant Commissioners appointed included: Richard Zenishek, Jim Bowie, Mike Walter, Joel Brown and Darrell Brown. The Annual Plan of Work was reviewed.

The District newsletter was published and distributed to all landowners and operators of Cedar county on Jan. 4.

SWCD met with the county board of supervisors Jan. 12. District clerk attended computer training Jan. 18.

The Annual Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show was held in Cedar Rapids Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. SWCD assisted with the registration booth. D. George Driscoll was Cedar county guest speaker at the tillage show.

FEBRUARY

Conservation Reserve Program sign-up was held Feb. 6-24. Thirty-five bids on 1,800 acres were accepted into the program.

Extension Service and SWCD held Soil Loss Workshop for landowners Feb. 7. USLE soil loss equation was reviewed.

Cedar SWCD Commissioners met for their regular meeting Feb. 8. Richard Kreinbring took oath of office as a district commissioner. Board reviewed cost-share priorities. Field Representative Ken Bruene attended the meeting.

An Environmental Education Committee meeting was held Feb. 15. The group organized a milk jug recycling project. The Education Committee newsletter was published and distributed.

Cedar County No-Till Club meeting was held Feb. 16. Assistant commissioner assisted district conservationist Hoeft in presenting the program.

MARCH

Cedar SWCD commissioners held their regular meeting March 1.

Annual Corn and Soybean Growers and Cedar SWCD Awards Banquet was held March 4. Commissioner Niermeyer presented conservation and no-till yield contest awards.

District Newsletter was published and distributed to all landowners and operators March 3.

Resource Conservationist Dean Pettit completed a 5% spot check for Cedar county.

Environmental Education Committee judged posters for No-Till Club and SWCD Annual Contest. Over 350 posters were entered from 5 schools.

Commissioner Niermeyer gave presentation to 4-H Club on soil conservation March 27.

APRIL

DC Hoeft presented program on soil conservation to Wilton Cub Scouts April 3.

District newsletter was published and distributed April 3, to all landowners and operators of Cedar county.

A program on 1985 Food Security Act Volunteers was given to Durant Women's Club by DC Hoeft.

District Cooperative employee Wayne Frederick gave a presentation on soil conservation to a local 4-H club April 5.

Soil Conservationist Edwin Andrews gave a program on the 1985 Food Security Act to the Bennett FFA April 6.

DC Hoeft gave a presentation to Lions Club April 11 on FSA volunteers.

Cedar SWCD held their regular meeting April 12. The board approved no-till incentive applications and reviewed their Annual Plan of Work.

DC Hoeft attended SCSA Executive Meeting on April 21 as the Southeast Area Representative.

Commissioner Zenishek assisted the Farm Bureau Women by putting the model farm display in the Bennett Bank for National Ag Week.

Brooks Haesemeyer, rural Mechanicsville, agreed to assist the SCS office as a volunteer.

Cedar SWCD provided 230 green ash tree seedlings and distributed to all third grade students in Cedar county in celebration of Arbor Day.

Pheasants Forever assisted District in distributing 1,700 trees and shrubs for wildlife areas.

SWCD provided Soil Stewardship materials for 15 local churches for Soil Stewardship Week April 30 - May 7.

SC Andrews conducted church service in conjunction with Soil Stewardship Week April 30.

MAY

Cedar SWCD held its regular meeting May 3. FSA workload analysis reviewed.

Environmental Education Committee newsletter published and distributed.

Cedar SWCD interseeder was made available to several land users.

Pheasants Forever supplied \$1,200 to landowners to plant switchgrass on Conservation Reserve areas.

Commissioner Kreinbring placed a sign in no-till

field to increase awareness of minimum tillage methods.

The District newsletter was published and distributed to all landowners and operators May 30.

JUNE

Extension Service held a Pond and Wildlife meeting at the Fawcett farm June 5.

Cedar SWCD held its regular meeting June 7. Commissioners viewed award nomination sites by airplane with assistance of pilots Ed Crock and Mike Moes. The board nominated Gilbert and Steve Lindberg for Owner-Operator Division and overall county winner; and Bill Woods and Pat Kistler as Landlord/Tenant Division award winner. SWCD reviewed memorandum of understanding with ASCS CED Al Schmidt. DC Hoeft reviewed memorandum of understanding between SCS and SWCD. Multiflora rose control bills were certified and submitted to the county for 50% cost-share payment. Projected budget for fiscal year was reviewed and approved. Board discussed a long-range plan.

Extension Service held a Well Plugging meeting on Rolland Bockwoldt farm June 8.

District clerk attended computer training June 20.

JULY

Cedar SWCD held regular meeting on July 5. The Annual Plan of Work was reviewed.

Commissioners Zenishek and Shaull attended the ASCS ACP meeting July 13, to discuss cost-share policies.

Employees received Water Quality Training July 19.

District newsletter was published and distributed July 28 to all landowners and operators of Cedar county.

AUGUST

Cedar SWCD Commissioners met for their regular meeting Aug. 2.

Fifty-two landowners submitted bids on 2,399 acres for the Conservation Reserve Program, for the sign-up ending Aug. 4.

Gustavo Grobocopatel, assistant professor from Argentina, visited Cedar county from Aug. 7-9 to talk with farmers on conservation tillage techniques on ridge-till, no-till and cultivators.

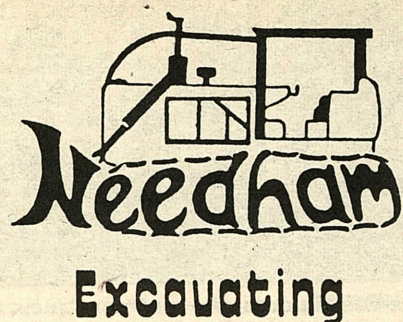
District clerk attended computer training Aug. 9.

A Practical Farmers Tour was held at Steve Leazer and Mark Mays farms Aug. 22.

SEPTEMBER

Cedar SWCD held an exhibit at the Annual Corn and Soybean Growers Field Day Sept. 6.

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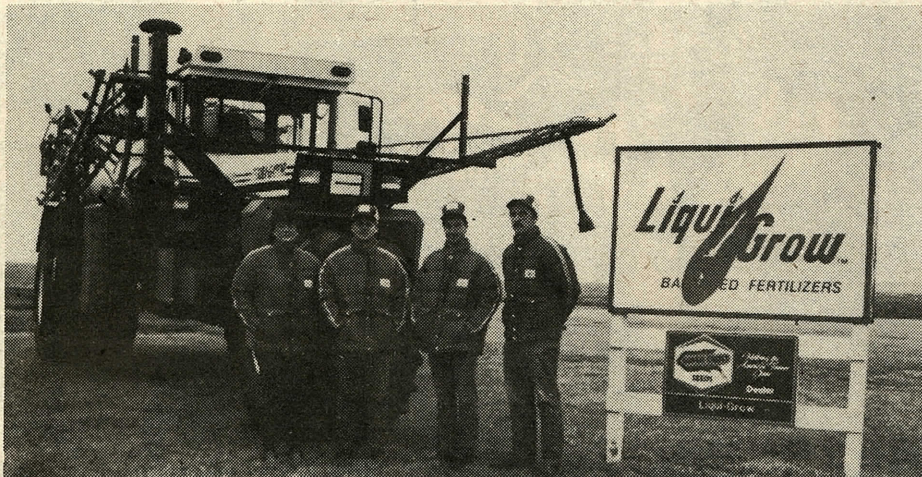
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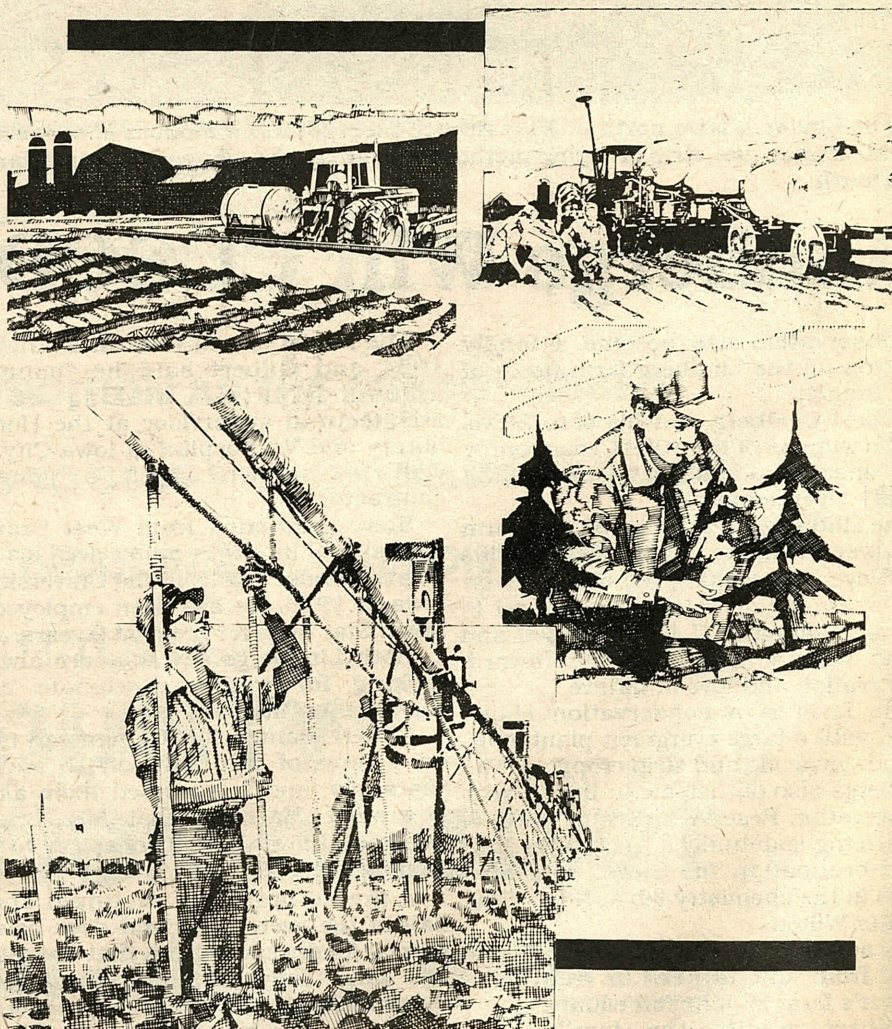


Left to right: Sandy Schroeder, Phil Benore, Rob Litwiller and Rich Edler.



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Activities

Commissioners Robert Niermeyer, Millie and Richard Zenishek, and SC Ed Andrews attended the Fall Regional Meeting at Amana. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Lindberg also attended and received recognition as the Regional Winner for Owner-Operator Division of Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Awards.

Soil and Water Conservation Week was celebrated Sept. 11-15. Cedar SWCD distributed 1,700 place mats to local restaurants for public awareness of the District program.

The District Clerk attended computer training Sept. 12.

The regular meeting for Cedar SWCD was held Sept. 13. The Annual Plan of Work was reviewed and the REAP program was discussed.

Environmental Education Committee newsletter was published and distributed.

Assistant Commissioner Mike Walter and Clarence Beyer viewed windbreak sites for the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award. They nominated Brooks Haesemeyer's windbreak for the award.

Cedar SWCD held a Soil Judging Contest Sept. 28. Two schools participated.

OCTOBER

Cedar SWCD held its regular Commissioners

Conservation Tillage Show Jan. 30-31

Doors open at 10 a.m. Jan. 30 and close at 9:30 p.m. The show continues on Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The 11th Annual Eastern Iowa Conservation exhibition for many area Tillage show will be held farmers interested in seeing the latest conservation equipment and technology.

Meeting Oct. 10. The Annual plan of Work was reviewed.

The District newsletter was published and distributed to all landowners and operators of Cedar County Oct. 10.

Cedar SWCD sponsored its annual No-Till Corn and Soybean Yield Contest.

The District worked with land users Jim Roehlf and Terry Kroemer on aerial seeding rye cover crops on soybean residue.

NOVEMBER

Cedar SWCD held its regular Commissioners Meeting Nov. 8.

The Environmental Education Committee Meeting was held Nov. 14.

The Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association held a Hay Expo in Maquoketa Nov. 16.

DECEMBER

Cedar SWCD held its regular Commissioners Meeting Dec. 6. The board discussed where to distribute the supply of "How To" videos received on conservation for easiest access to the public.

Cedar SWCD District newsletter was published with insert of 1990 tree sales campaign.

How-To Videos Available Now

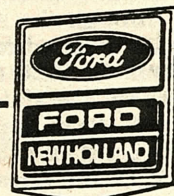
A videotape featuring tips to help Cedar county farmers do much of the soil conservation work needed to keep them eligible for USDA program benefits is available from a number of loan points within the county.

The 8-segment videotape, "Conservation On Your Own," shows farmers how to measure and manage crop residue, how to lay out contour lines and use field borders, how to lay out contour buffer strips, points to consider in contour stripcropping, how to lay out wind strips, how to use grass to control small gullies, how to plant and maintain field windbreaks, and how to keep terraces working.

Each of the segments

discusses points to consider before beginning, tools needed, how the practice works, and "how-to" details. The information is told to farmers from a farmer's perspective. It is intended to help farmers carry out basic soil conservation practices. All of the segments, none of which will be longer than 10 minutes, are packaged on one VHS tape. The tape was produced by the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the National Association of

Cont. on page 4



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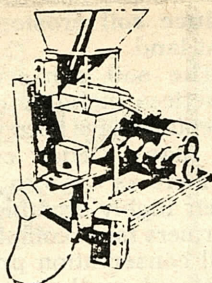
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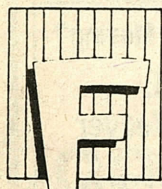


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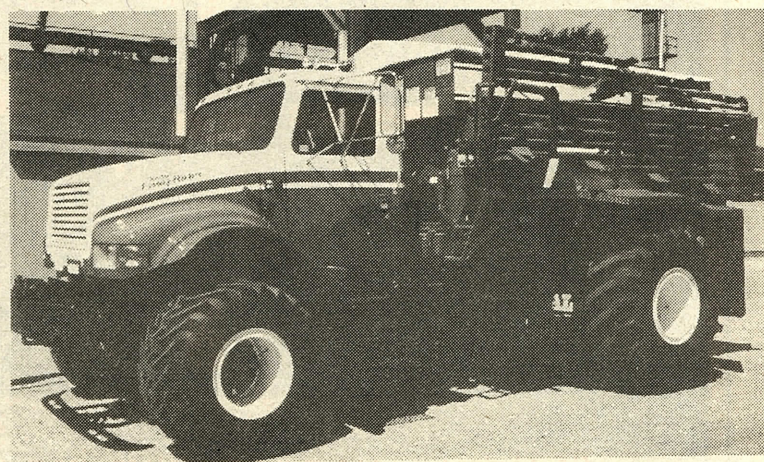
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Haesemeyer Conserves Land And Wildlife

by Pat Kroemer

Since purchasing property in Pioneer township 2 years ago, Brooks Haesemeyer, Stanwood, has become very conscientious about conserving the land and the wildlife that live there.

Haesemeyer has worked closely with the offices of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Agricultural Service-Conservation Service (ASCS) conserving property that he feels was only marginal for row crops and to establish forest area and ponds for wildlife.

In the past 2 years Haesemeyer has built 2 ponds which were designed and funded through the ASCS and SCS. In each case the pond replaced a ravine or deep ditch. In 1989 he reestablished a fish hatchery the state built in 1934 and used until 1944. Water in Clear Creek feeds the pond and then travels back to the creek. Before Haesemeyer redesigned the pond it had been dry for several years. Special flood gates have been installed so the pond can be filled or completely drained if needed. The hatchery had become known as the Mechanicsville Pond and was used by the state as a holding pond.

Surrounding Haesemeyer's ponds are Conservation Reserve Program acres (CRP) and/or Forest Reserve acres which control runoff into the ponds by eliminating row crops and grazing in this area.

The 2 ponds designed by SCS encompass 1/2 acre and 8 acres.

In the CRP program land of minimal use is taken out of row crop production for 10 years. To get out of the program a landowner must pay a stiff fine.

In the Forest Reserve program there is a minimum number of trees that must be growing per acre and there is no grazing allowed.

"I'm concerned about the wildlife in the area," Haesemeyer said. "I want a forest which will populate itself and that doesn't happen if cattle are tramping through it."

This spring Haesemeyer plans to plant trees on some of his CRP acres. The types of trees to be planted were recommended by the state and will be purchased from the State Forestry in Ames. From 540 to 680 trees will be planted per acre.

"The Forest Reserve program is designed to help people reestablish forests again because so many have been taken down and cleared for farm ground," he added. "I'm in the program because I enjoy the trees and wildlife. We also heat with wood, so I feel we need to replenish what we use."

In 1989 Brooks and Nancy Haesemeyer received the Outstanding Windbreak award from the Izaak Walton League. The windbreak near their home in Fremont township was started in 1975. The SCS helped fund the windbreak project in 1979 on the west side of the home and in 1980 on the north side.

"We designed the windbreak to control the northwest winds we were receiving," he said. "The windbreak really works now that the trees have grown taller and thicker."

"I'm always open to more conservation ideas," he added. "Our work with the ASCS and the SCS has been excellent, they've been very helpful."

To show his concern for the environment and his gratefulness to SCS he volunteers some of his time to help with surveying. Haesemeyer knows there are times the SCS is short of help and since they have been such a help to him in the last 2 years he feels he can help them.

Haesemeyer strongly believes that God Muller, Cedar county nitrate test will be dis-

agriculturist director. Dr. Jim Fawcett, extension area crop production specialist, will conduct a soil fertility management workshop at 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Cedar county extension office.

Soil test results from soil samples should be brought to the meeting, Muller said. Interpretation of soil test reports and fertilizing for optimum yields will be discussed based on new soil testing laboratory standards. Yield goals, maintenance rates, adjusting fertilizer for manure applications and legumes, soil pH versus buffer pH, research which fertilizer recommendations are based upon, and results from the new I.S.U. soil

How-To Videos
Cont. from page 3

Conservation Districts. The videotapes are available for loan at the Soil Conservation Service and ISU Extension offices. Other possible loan points will be fertilizer and chemical suppliers, and the county Voc-ag instructors.

"We hope farmers in this county will take advantage of the tapes and written materials to do as much of their own soil conservation as they can," says Robert Niermeyer, Chairman of the Cedar S.W.C.D.

Farmers with highly erodible cropland who want to remain eligible for USDA commodity programs already have prepared conservation plans that outline how they will reduce soil erosion from that land. The soil conservation practices included on the videotape have been chosen by many Cedar county farmers as ways to protect their highly erodible land. Farmers must complete the soil conservation practices outlined in their conservation plans by Jan. 1, 1995, to stay eligible for USDA program benefits.



Brooks Haesemeyer stands near the windbreak he and his wife Nancy planted north of their home in Fremont township. The Haesemeyers received the Outstanding Windbreak award from the Izaak Walton League in 1989.

gave man the responsibility to be the caretaker of natural resources and that we will reap what we sow.

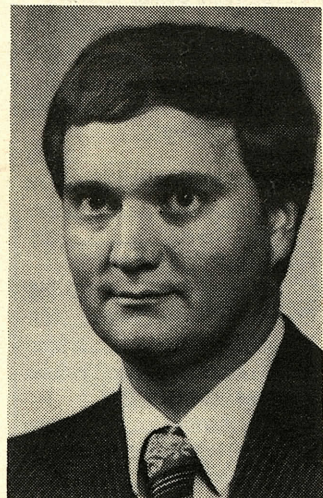
"The land I am developing was only marginal row crop ground, but is excellent for what I want to develop it into," he added.

Haesemeyer sells real estate and his

wife Nancy, when not teaching first grade at Lisbon, works next to her husband in all stages of the planning, designing and final work on conservation projects.

This is land both Haesemeyers want to leave better than they found it for future generations.

Niermeyer says, have enough technical specialists to help all many SCS offices do not conservation work.



Soil Testing Workshop
Jan. 25

Many farmers can increase their profits by fine-tuning their fertilizer application, says Kenneth

research which fertilizer recommendations are based upon, and results from the new I.S.U. soil

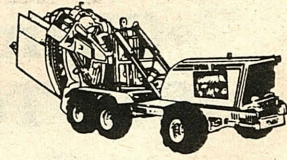
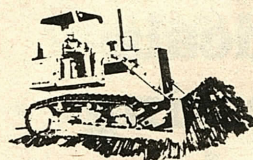
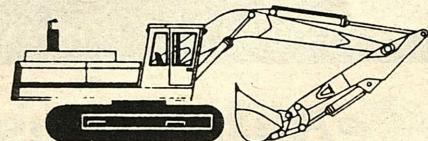
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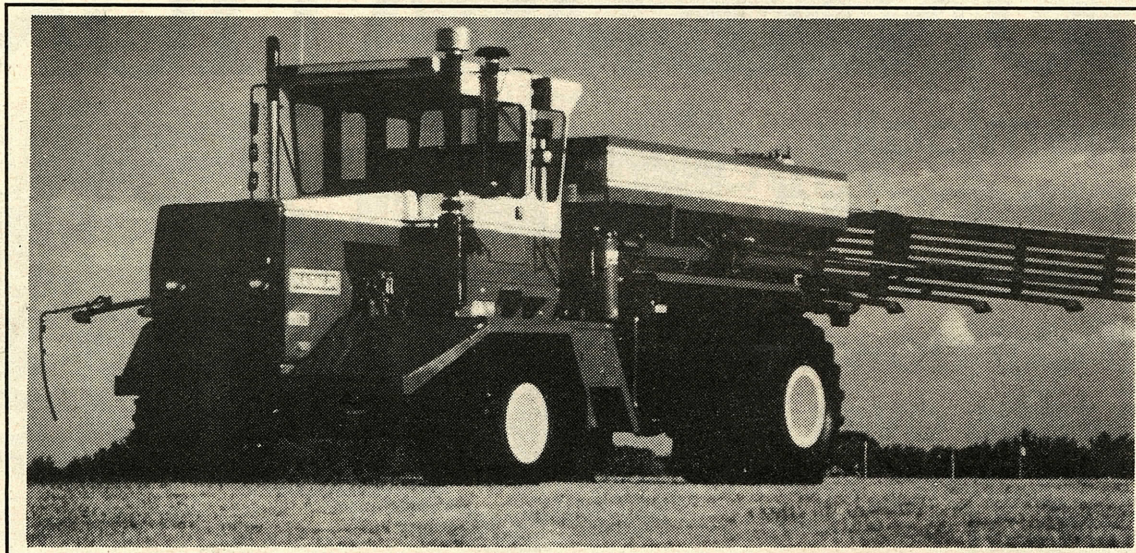
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Former Lowden Man Researches Riparian Corridors

by Pat Kroemer

Perhaps he is a little ahead of his time, but Louis Licht feels a deep need to help maintain and restore our natural resources for future generations.

Licht grew up north of Lowden helping his father on the family farm. He remembers pitching manure and the other hard tasks it takes to run a farm, and he wants to make things a little better for the farmer and the soil, water and air they use.

Licht has been researching a new Best Management Practice for farming Iowa's riparian corridors for the past 2 years. These are the strips of land along creeks and rivers. Poplar trees have been planted in buffer strips along these creeks to produce both a productive crop and a more stable riparian zone ecosystem.

New planting techniques have also been developed which allow the poplar root system to grow deep enough to intercept the superficial water table and to become dense enough to uptake most available nitrates before they leach into the stream.

Through his research Licht wants to create a riparian zone that produces a sustainable crop yield, while reducing the mass of non-point source nitrates and soils entering surface waters from modern farming practices.

Soil, manure and production chemicals leave the cropped land and pass to the surface water where they contaminate the downstream drinking water supply. Pollutants may originate through different farming practices, but all contaminants entering the water system pass through the riparian zone. This makes the riparian zone an ideal place to stop pollutants from entering the water supply.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as of 1988 supports the use of grass buffer strips to stop farm-derived pollutants from entering surface water. As an alternate to grasses, poplar trees can be planted in the riparian zone.

The basic idea is that roots can play a key role in removing nitrates from surface water and near-surface ground water. Research has shown that tree roots can be grown to intersect the near-

surface water table.

In research plantings poplar trees have been planted one foot apart in 40 foot rows. The poplar has demonstrated the ability to grow in this denser population. As a productive crop the poplars will be harvested on a biennial or triennial schedule. The trees will be chopped off and new growth will sprout from the stump. This makes bio-mass harvesting possible, while maintaining a vigorous, deep perennial root system for nutrient uptake with little time taken for plant regrowth.

Licht has had a quarter acre demonstration plot at the Amana Colonies Farms for 2 years where he measures how the trees' physiological traits affect its potential to reconstruct riparian ecosystems grown on Iowa's agricultural land.

Currently there are 3 objectives to this research:

1) Develop a technique for growing deep root systems from poplar cuttings at one and 5-foot depths.

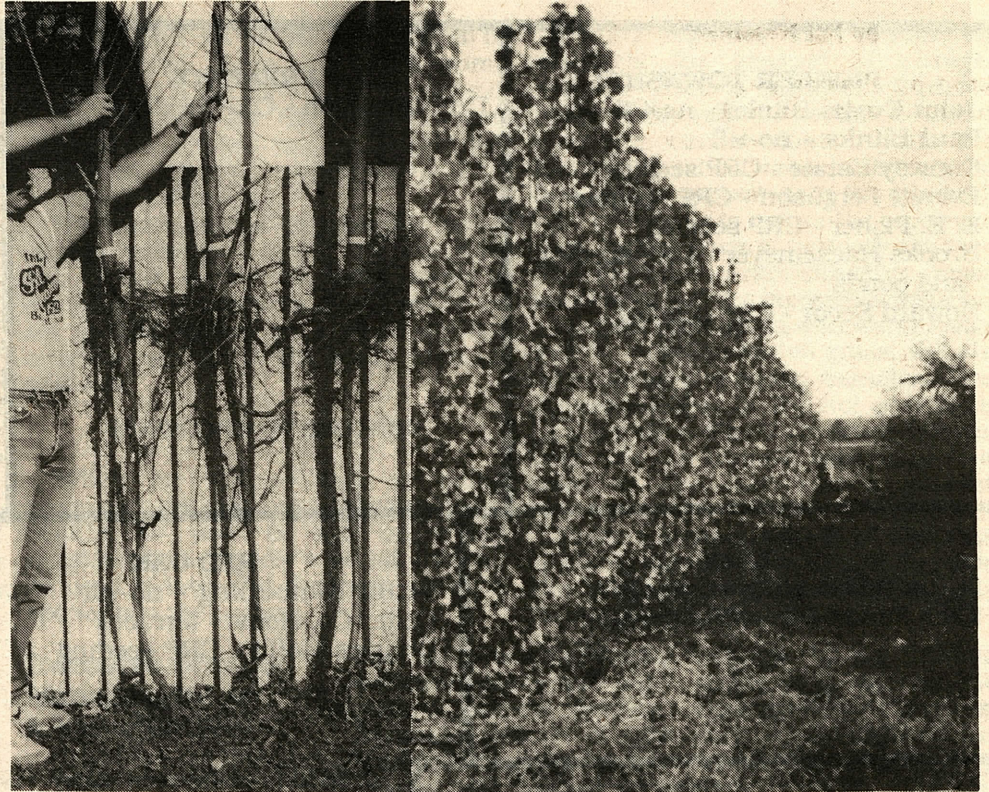
2) Monitor and measure a short-rotation, intensive culture biomass crop grown in buffer strips between creeks and adjacent cropped fields.

3) Monitor the dispersion and concentration of nitrates at selected depths in the buffer strips soil profile.

Next year Licht is proposing to establish a full watershed riparian corridor to remove non-point nutrients and soil particles from drainage water, and to remove non-point fertilizers and pesticides from tile line discharges to surface water supplies.

Research is being conducted on the biomass materials harvested from the trees. Several ways of utilizing this material as a productive crop include using it as an alternative fuel, as pulp or as an alternative livestock food.

Licht feels that when more farmers begin growing poplars as a crop on buffer zones unlimited new businesses could emerge. He also feels there will be more interest in the biomass as a fuel since Iowa doesn't have fossil fuels and he believes trees could be used instead. The biomass materials can be burned to heat farrowing houses, corn dryers and homes. In the future he sees farmers growing energy on their own farms and



Research poplars are dug up periodically to monitor the root system being developed. At right Jerry Kruckenberg, Clarence, tills the 17 month old poplar buffer strip at the Amana Colonies farm.

using it there.

"I want to find a way to reduce chemicals in the ground, yet keep the techniques economical and profitable for the farmer," Licht said.

Jerry Kruckenberg, Clarence, has been working closely with Licht on his research and has planted a poplar buffer along a creek on his farm.

It is a long range goal to plant the trees one foot apart in 40 foot rows, planting 3 rows each year until there are 9 rows. In the 4th year harvesting is begun with 1/3 of the trees cut each year. The trees appear to grow fast enough so that the same tree could be harvested every 3rd year.

Side benefits of this research include wildlife habitat, reduction of land in row crops, product diversity and water quality improvements.

The research has been funded through

the ISU Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. It involves scientists and engineers from both the University of Iowa and Iowa State University.

Licht is a 1968 graduate of Lowden high school. He received his bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Iowa State and his masters degree in agricultural engineering from Oregon State. He was selected to go on an exchange to the Soviet Union in 1977. He was named in 1979 to the Renewable Fuels Task Force and taught design at Oregon State.

Licht will receive his Ph.D. in environmental engineering from the University of Iowa in May. He hopes to continue working for the University in research. His wife, Sue is the 8th licensed female architect in Iowa. The couple have 2 children, Alexandra, 5 and Rusty, 4. Licht is the son of Robert and Theo Licht, Lowden.

Tobasco Sauce is named for the state of Tobasco in southeastern Mexico.



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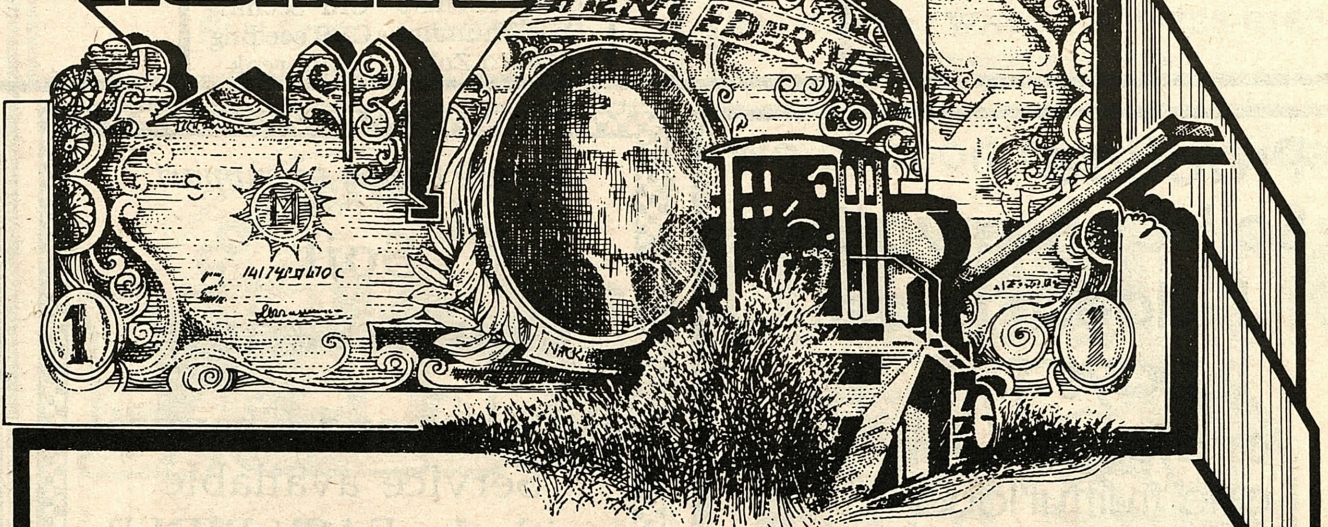
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Grazing For Maximum Profit

by Edwin C. Andrews
Soil Conservationist

Most things we can do on the farm today have changed greatly over the years, but there is one exception. Pasture management remains relatively unchanged today from what it was 40 years ago. In many cases it is the most neglected crop on the farm.

We have gone from using no fertilizer on pastures to using quite high amounts at times, back to using limited amounts again. Fertilizer cost increases have been the main reason for the decreased use, though there have been other reasons as well. Like any other crop, taking a soil test before fertilizing is a good idea.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING

The most efficient use of pasture is to have a rotational grazing system. This

allows livestock to intensively graze one area while other areas are growing back. A pasture can be divided into any number of segments for rotating depending on the number of acres and livestock involved and how readily the pasture lends itself to easy fencing.

The most common and apparently the most efficient is to have divisions. This would mean that the livestock would be on a particular segment for one week and off for five weeks. Some tests have shown that stocking rates may be increased by as much as 300% with a well managed rotational grazing system. Animals cannot selective graze with this system and a much higher percent of the forage grown is utilized. Care must be taken, however, to leave enough leaf area on the plants after the livestock are removed to sustain photosynthesis for fast regrowth.

Along with all of the advantages of this system there are also some drawbacks. Weed control can be more of a problem because the grass is eaten down short, leaving less competition for the weeds. Clipping may be advisable to keep the weeds down.

The availability of an adequate water supply becomes a major concern with this system. If only one water supply is available, the pastures may need to be set up like spokes on a wheel so that animals can get to the water from all pastures.

SELECTION OF GRASSES

When an old pasture is being renovated, the selection of the species of plants to use is an important consideration. Usually a no till drill can be used to interseed the more desirable species into the pasture.

Adding legumes can reduce significantly the amount of nitrogen fertilizer that is needed. Birdsfoot Trefoil works well in a pasture because it does not cause bloat. Alfalfa will normally produce more nutrients per acre, but the percentage in the mix needs to be kept lower to reduce the problem of bloat. Brome grass is normally the main grass in a pasture mix with other grasses mixed in to suit the producer's wishes.

Seeding some areas with warm season grasses, such as switch grass, will also help increase carrying capacity. These grasses do best in the hot part of the summer when others are going dormant. They will not tolerate being grazed as short as the cool season grasses, however.

Pasture management is as important as managing any other crop on the farm. The better the management, the better the chance for a good return.

Conservation 1990

by Judy Hagan
Soil Conservation
Technician

With the 1990 deadline of getting your conservation plan written now past, it is time to be looking ahead at applying that plan. Some plans may be what you were already doing, but others may include changes in tillage, contouring, waterways and field borders. Some of these changes may not have to be made until 1994, but some must be changed in 1990.

It's time to sit down and review your plan to make sure that if you did list something to be applied in 1990 that you will be doing it this year or that you come in and get it changed.

Some of the first plans written before the change in the rules can now be revised to reflect the new rules. Early plans written before June 1988 were written down to a "T," but under the new rules an alternative system can be used. This can make a big difference in some plans. Anyone interested in

getting a practice such as contour or stripcropping planned should contact our office to coordinate a time.

Also, we are offering use of a new videotape put out by SCS on "How to Conserve on Your Own." It is a "how to" videotape that will help you do your own soil conservation. With the number of people in the county that will be switching to new practices and limited personnel in our office some people may

look at doing some things on their own. Use of this tape is free and can be reserved by calling our office.

These next few years will be busy years with implementation of your plans and we are here to help you as much as possible. We will be trying to serve all requests on a timely basis and hope you will be patient with us if we are unable to get to you immediately.

The Economics Of Conservation Compliance

Farmers with highly erodible land must implement Soil Conservation Service-approved conservation plans to remain eligible for government benefits. This conservation compliance is part of the 1985 Food Security Act.

The compliance includes all government farm programs, such as deficiency payments, CCC loans, Farmers Home Administration benefits, federal

Cont. on page 8

Intensive Grazing Management Is A Valuable Tool

Since land prices started on the upswing, some producers are looking for grazing alternatives. While some of these producers are turning to drylot and feeding either hay or silage, quite a few producers are turning to intensive grazing management as an option.

Intensive grazing is a program where pastures are turned into numerous smaller pastures or "paddocks." The usual proce-

dures involve a permanent perimeter fence and temporary internal fencing. Perimeter fences can be traditional woven wire topped with barbed wire, new style high tensile wire or permanent electric fence. The latter 2 methods are considerably less expensive while still providing an adequate barrier. Internal fences are usually electrified and are moveable to allow flexibility to the system.

The program takes ad-

vantage of an animal's ability to graze - no mechanical harvest is necessary. A standard recommendation is to turn approximately 30,000 pounds of livestock per acre into a paddock at a time. This would be about 25 cows, 50-60 calves, 200 ewes or 400 lambs per acre. The whole point of the system is to turn the animals into optimum condition pasture for a short amount of time and

Cont. on page 8

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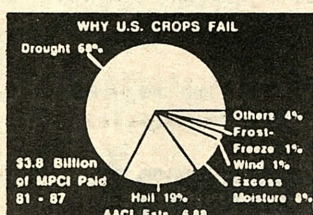


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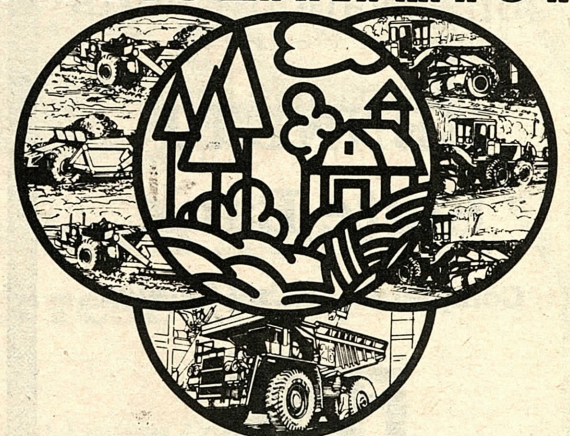
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Compliance

crop insurance and disaster payments, says Michael Duffy, Iowa State University Extension Service farm management economist.

Duffy says SCS has notified all farmers with highly erodible fields, and the notified farmers must submit farming plans for the land to the SCS for approval. The conservation plans must be fully implemented by 1995.

Duffy says 3 general groups are concerned with the economics of conservation compliance. "Society as a whole, farmers who have not submitted a plan, and farmers who must begin implementing a submitted plan all have big interests in conservation compliance."

"Erosion is costly to everyone in society," he says. "Soils moving from field to stream carry pesticides and fertilizers into water. And our tax dollars are used to keep roadway ditches cleared and to keep our drinking water clean."

Duffy urges farmers to evaluate all their options, regardless of their political opinions. "Many farmers view the conservation compliance provision as an intrusion. Yet, others feel the provision was long overdue. Regardless, conservation compliance is the law," Duffy says.

Farmers considering dropping out of the feed grain program should note that failure to implement an approved conservation plan affects more than consistency deficiency payments. Failure to comply results in ineligibility for disaster payments and federal crop insurance, he says.

A partial budgeting approach or a whole farm plan will help farmers evaluate the economic consequences of their alternatives. The partial budget approach is used if the option requires minor farming changes. A whole farm analysis should be used if the conservation option requires major farming changes.

"Each situation is different," Duffy notes. "Since each farm plan can include several alternatives, it isn't possible to say which analysis technique is best. The local Extension office can provide help in evaluating options."

Duffy says regardless of the approach used, several important questions should be answered:

- What will the plan do to labor usage on the farm?
- How does the farm plan match with the resources and goals of the farm family?
- Does the farmer possess the skills necessary to and to keep our drinking water clean?
- What happens to the risk of the farming operation?

Duffy says realistic financial goals are a very important consideration for an economic evaluation of a conservation compliance plan.

"No one knows the future with certainty, so it is not possible to know exactly what price to use," he says.

The important thing to remember is: Be consistent. When comparing alternatives, consistency is paramount importance. Duffy says farmers who have already submitted plans need to anticipate

Cont. from page 7

Crop Residue Important

by Kurt Hoeft
District Conservationist

Conservation tillage was a popular option for most farmers when they were developing their Soil Conservation Plans. To meet the requirements of the 1985 Food Security Act, 126,700 acres out of 141,400 acres of highly erodible land will be required to have a conservation tillage system applied by 1994.

This tillage system will require at a minimum of at least 30% residue cover on the surface after planting. Many plans will have residue covers as high as 50% or even no-till. With no-till, there is no tillage of the soil prior to planting. The more residue on the soil surface, the better the erosion control.

Before you can make any changes in your tillage system, you need to know the residue cover you have after planting now. I encourage all farmers to learn how to measure the amount of residue cover left on their fields after planting.

HOW TO MEASURE RESIDUE?

Residue cover can be measured in less than 30 minutes with a 50-foot measuring tape. The method is called the line transit method.

1) Stretch the tape diagonally across the rows of crop.

2) Count the number of marks (at each 6 inches) that have crop residue under the mark when sighting from directly above. It is important that the same side of the tape is used to insure accuracy.

3) Walk the entire length of the tape. The total number of marks with the residue under them is the percent cover for the field. (i.e., if 30 marks are counted, the percent residue cover is 30%).

4) Repeat this procedure at least 3 times in different areas of the field. The average finding is your representative measurement of the field.

If you are not satisfied with the amounts of residue cover, you will want to make some changes in your tillage operations next year. Two easy ways to keep more residue on top of the soil is to replace the twisted shanks on your chisel plow with straight points or reduce the number of tillage trips in the spring. Either of these could increase residue amounts by 15-20%.

The Soil Conservation Service in Tipton will be available to help you measure the amount of residue on the soil surface this coming spring.

Intensive Grazing

Cont. from page 7

then move them to another paddock. This minimizes compaction and increases utilization of the forages.

Animals are always consuming the best quality forage so gains are better for the entire season. The ground and

plants rest 20-40 days in between grazing so plants are healthier and more productive. Stocking rates can frequently be doubled so you can increase herd size or decrease pasture needed. The system does require increased man-

agement. Producers can not just turn out the animals and forget them.

The system shows increased production per acre with little added cost. If we talk about efficient utilization of all plant material, intensive graz-

ing management is definitely a valuable tool for producers to consider.

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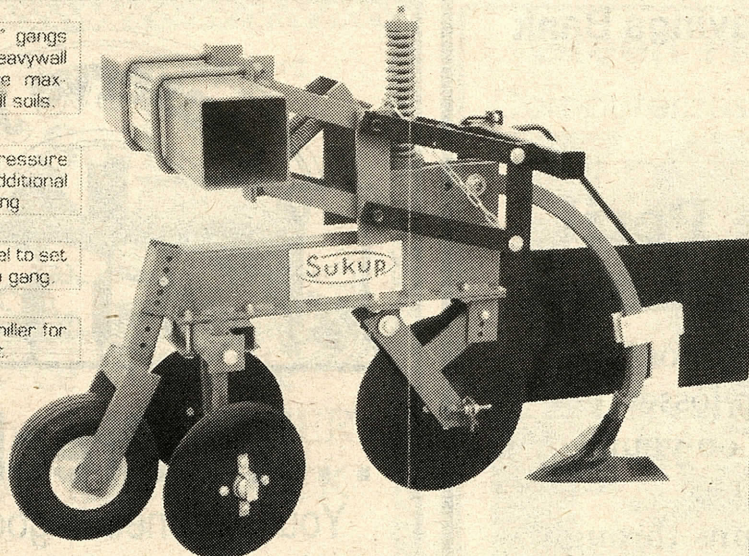
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Drought Kills 50 To 100 Evergreens At Lindbergs

Cont. from page 1

with cost sharing funds provided. "That made a big difference with our expenses," Steve said.

"This keeps me real busy," he said. "It's a lot of extra work with another job, but I think conservation pays off. It's worth it to me."

Steve has no livestock on the farm, but would like to purchase some cows "some day." His father used to have a beef cow herd.

The only major problem the Lindbergs have experienced recently has been the drought, which has killed between 50 and 100 of the evergreens.

Gilbert said the trees got extra moisture from the creek on the property for awhile, but it went dry last year for

the first time since they moved there. "Now we haul water and that's quite a chore."

As a result of the drought, the Lindbergs were unable to supply their church with a Christmas tree for the first time in a decade.

The conservation program on the Lindberg farm has also had one other benefit - an increase in wildlife. There are more deer (who cause some damage) and Steve has placed about 30 bluebird houses in the neighborhood and on his brother's farm.

Gilbert and Betty Lindberg are the parents of 5 children. Two daughters live in Colorado and another on a farm near Springdale. Both Steve and his brother work at North Star Steel.

Summer 4-H Assistant Sought

Applications are being taken through Feb. 26 for a 4-H summer assistant position with the Cedar county extension service.

The summer assistant duties will entail planning, teaching, supervising and evaluating youth activities

such as camps, workshops and judging events; working with county fair; and doing miscellaneous work in the extension office.

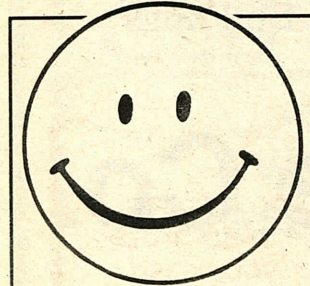
Anyone who has completed at least one year of college or beyond high school training may apply.

Employment will be for 200 hours, as needed,

between June 1 and Aug. 15. Wages will be \$4 per hour.

Application forms and other details can be obtained from the Cedar county extension office.

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105,180 Farms In Iowa

Early data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture shows that the state had 105,180 farms, 82,631 of which had annual product sales of \$10,000 or more. Land in farms totaled 31,638,130 acres, 95% of them in farms with \$10,000 or more in sales, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau reported.

The census showed that the state's farmers and ranchers sold \$9 billion in agricultural products and that farms with \$10,000 or more in sales averaged \$106,945 per farm.

Other findings: \$3.7 billion or 41% of total agricultural sales were for crops, while \$5.3 billion or 59% came from the sale of livestock, poultry and their products.

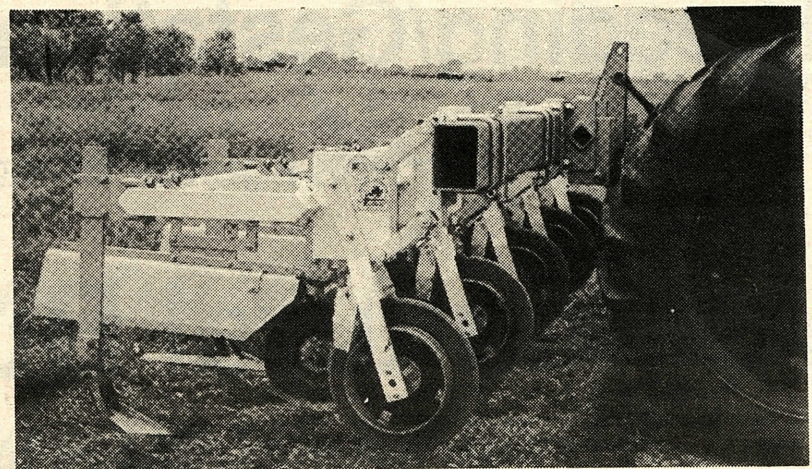
The agriculture census obtains information on all identified farm and ranch

operations in the United States. The census bureau defines a farm as any place where \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. Sampling is used to collect data for selected items and to account for nonresponding farm operations.

Reports for individual counties may be obtained by writing the Public Information Office, Bureau of the census, Washington, DC 20233, or by calling (301)763-4040. The printed reports also are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Data on computer tapes and diskettes is available from the Census Bureau; call (301)763-4100.

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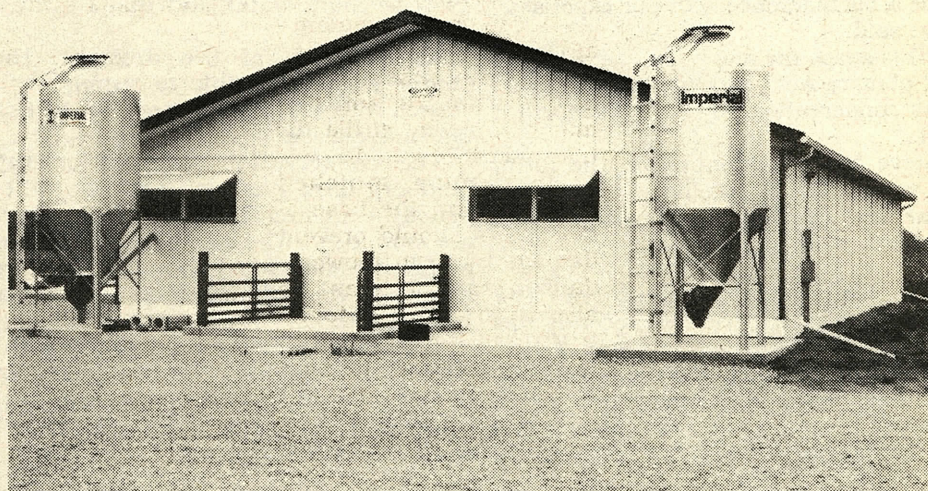
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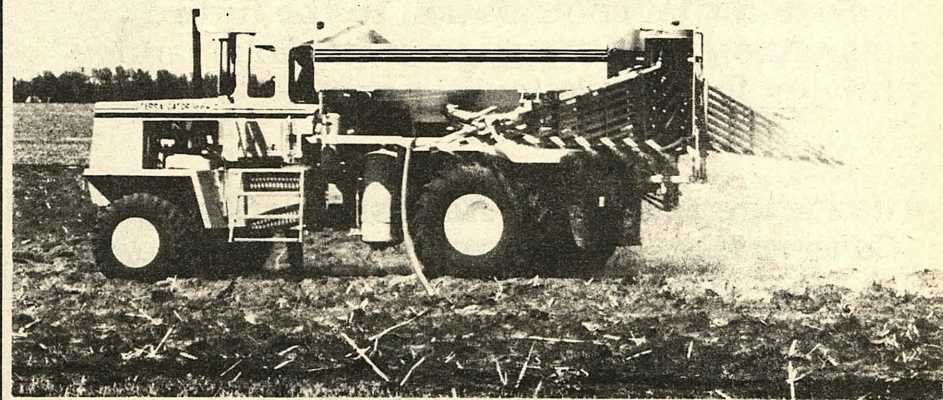
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New Trees, Shrubs Need Special Care

Depending on size, newly planted trees and shrubs may take several years to become established in a new location, according to Ken Muller, Cedar county extension director.

"Insects and diseases occasionally pose problems to woody ornamentals during this establishment period," Richard Jaaron, Iowa State University extension horticulturist, said. "However, people are often the greatest threat to young trees and shrubs."

Jaaron said people usually neglect several practices when caring for a new plant. These include lack of watering or over-watering, misusing lawn mowers and nylon cord trimmers, or using the wrong material or technique to support large plants.

It is necessary to water newly planted trees and shrubs because they have a relatively small root system. Jaaron said plants need to be watered every 7 to 10 days during the first growing season, especially during periods of little rainfall. Thoroughly soak the soil to a depth of 12 to 18 inches. Large transplanted trees may need watering individually for 2 to 3 years.

Jaaron said proper watering is essential because plants may die if under-watered or overwatered. Overwatering occurs when plants are watered too frequently. For example, watering every other day saturates the soil and forces much of the air out of the soil. This may kill plant roots.

"Lawn mowers and nylon cord trimmers are potential weapons when used carelessly around trees and shrubs," Jaaron said. "Young, thin barked trees are prone to injury. Bumping a young tree with a lawn mower will bruise and often tear away a section of bark."

Jaaron said these damaged areas are disease entry points. Repeated collisions near the soil line may completely girdle the tree and cause it to die.

Maintaining mulched areas around the base of the plants should prevent damage by lawn mowers, Jaaron said. If grass is allowed to grow next to the trunk, cut it with a pair of hand clippers so the base of the tree or plant is not damaged by the lawn mower. "Do not use a nylon cord trimmer next to the trunk," he warns.

Nylon cord trimmers are commonly called weed eaters. Used carelessly around small trees and shrubs, they become tree eaters, Jaaron said. The nylon cord beating against the trunk of a young tree will strip bits of bark away, and may cause it to die.

Another problem is staking newly planted trees incorrectly. If staking is necessary to hold a tree upright, do not use thin materials such as fishing line, twine or bailing wire because these materials will cut into the bark. Materials looped around the trunk should be broad, smooth and flexible, such as polyethylene tape or wire inserted through a short section of old garden hose.

Tree supports should year should be adequate

hold the tree firmly, but allow some trunk movement. Regularly inspect as polyethylene tape or wire inserted through a short section of old garden supports as soon as the tree can stand by itself. One year should be adequate

1989 Annual Conservation Report

1M BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 1989

1988-89 Allocation	\$1,506.49
Commissioner Expenses	\$576.67
Office Supplies	95.71
Office Expenses	834.11

3M BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 1989

1988-89 Allocation	\$46,231.00
Amount Spent	\$21,097.30
Amount Obligated	5,250.00
Released To DSC 12/31/89	19,883.70

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Randall Shaul, Vice-Chairman	Red Oak Twp.
Millicent Zenishek	Fremont Twp.
Steve Driscoll	Cass Twp.
Richard Kreinbring	Springfield Twp.

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Joel Brown	Pioneer Twp.
Darrell Brown	Center Twp.
Richard Zenishek	Fremont Twp.
Jim Bowie	Center Twp.

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Edwin C. Andrews	Soil Conservationist
Judy A. Hagan	Soil Conservation Technician
Melanie B. Schott	District Clerk
Wayne D. Frederick	Farm Planner
Donna L. Schroeder	Soil Conservation Aid
Denise N. Wagner (part-time)	Soil Conservation Aid
James R. Gaul (part-time)	Soil Conservation Aid
Brooks Haesemeyer	Volunteer

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Steve Swinonos	District Forester
Bob Middendorf	Fishery Biologist
Timothy Thomsen	Wildlife Management Biologist
Al Schmidt	ASCS County Exec. Director
Ben Espenscheid	FmHA County Supervisor

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Kathy Beck	Clarence-Lowden
Cindy Buck	Clarence-Lowden
Margaret Sadeghpour	Lincoln
Erika Larsen	Tipton
Craig Esbeck	Tipton
Jim Troendle	Cedar County Cons. Board
Kim Sass	Cedar County Cons. Board
Carol Axberg	Cedar County Cons. Board
Elaine Behrens	Durant
Joan Morehead	Durant
Kathy Rouse	Bennett
Francis Abel	West Branch

Soil Conservation District Accomplishments

Land Users Assisted	1,039 no.
Land Users Applying a Conservation Practice	189 no.
Food Security Act Plans Developed	76,444 ac.
Food Security Act Plans Revised	6,032 ac.
Cropland Benefited From Application Conservation Practice	6,630 ac.
Wildlife Land Improved	5,789 ac.
Countour Farming	975 ac.
Grade Stabilization Structures	3 no.
Stripcropping Systems	7 ac.
Terraces	22,600 ft.
Conservation Tillage Systems	3,960 ac.
Windbreaks	10 ac.



The world's largest island is Greenland. It's 840,000 square miles.

CLASSIFIEDS
GET RESULTS

NEW
from JOHN DEERE

724/714 Conservation Tillage Team.

ONE PASS PER SPRING, ONE PASS PER FALL

- New 724 Mulch Finisher creates perfect seedbeds and incorporates chemicals in a single pass. Big fuel savings. 12 ft. 8 in. to 30 ft. working widths
- New 714 Mulch Tiller makes one-pass work of heavy residue, in 6 ft. 3 in. to 21 ft. 3 in. swaths
- Things to see: single-point hydraulic depth control... all-new 8-degree disk angle feature on 724... 714 hydraulic coulters gang adjustment from tractor seat... and more!

See them today

724 from
\$9,350

714 from
\$5,795

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Lowden • 944-5393

Tom Schwarz - 944-5219 Wayne Deerberg - 886-6108

THE **FUERST** ←-L-E-X-I-B-L-E
TINE

HARROW/CART

Improve your herbicide performance!

- Eliminate a pass over your fields
- Won't plug up even on trashy fields
- Requires little additional power
- Levels and prepares ideal seedbed
- All for a minimum investment
- Harrow/Cart moves quickly from field to field. 16 to 42 foot widths

Wheatland Repair Center

Wheatland - Ph. 374-1508

Conserve Your Equipment and Facilities, Too

KEEP THEM CLEAN

with a TEM Pressure Washer!

Tipton Electric Motors

107 W. 2nd, Tipton

Ph. 886-3134

CEDAR COUNTY FARM FOR SALE

**[TOP HALF WASHED AWAY — SOME CAN BE
SEEN AT THE SAND BAR SOUTH OF ROCHESTER
THE GOODY WENT ON TO THE GULF OF MEXICO.]
ALL FIELDS SUITABLE TO WASH**

This Farm has been handled on a Corn, Corn, Corn, Corn, rotation.
7 Missouri bridges make all fields accessible [by Pack Mule].
17 Medium-to-large Gullies - doing fine - Will be larger by time of sale.
1 Empty House, doors and windows missing, lean-to, 2 rooms and a path.
1 Leaning Barn to be moved on account of lack of storage for manure.
77 Bales of Mixed Grasses, mostly Tickle Grass.
72 Bales of Rag Weed, Sour Dock, Cocklebur Hay. [No Rain]
4 Mineral Deficient Cows. They are gentle, used to being tailed up in the winter.
Guaranteed to have rickets and no calves.
2 Springing Heifers - Would spring over the barn to be fed.
1 ¼ Mile of Fence with plenty of baling wire for repairs.
1 Sow and 2 Pigs; would eat anything.
17 Hens, used to roosting in trees.
Other articles too worthless to mention.

**Reason for selling : Owner going to work for a
CONSERVATION FARMER who has taken care of his soil.**

**WILL YOUR FARM EVER BE IN THE SAME CONDITION AS THE ONE DESCRIBED
ABOVE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS DESTRUCTIVE WASTE
OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCE . . . THE SOIL?**

— JOIN HANDS WITH YOUR —
**CEDAR COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CONSERVATION DOES NOT COST . . . IT PAYS!**

**The Tipton Conservative
AND ADVERTISER**