

Twenty-Eighth
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Des Moines County, Iowa
Soil Conservation District



1973

“It Was a Very Wet Year”

Burlington Iowa Banks

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DES MOINES COUNTY - FINANCING WISE LAND USE



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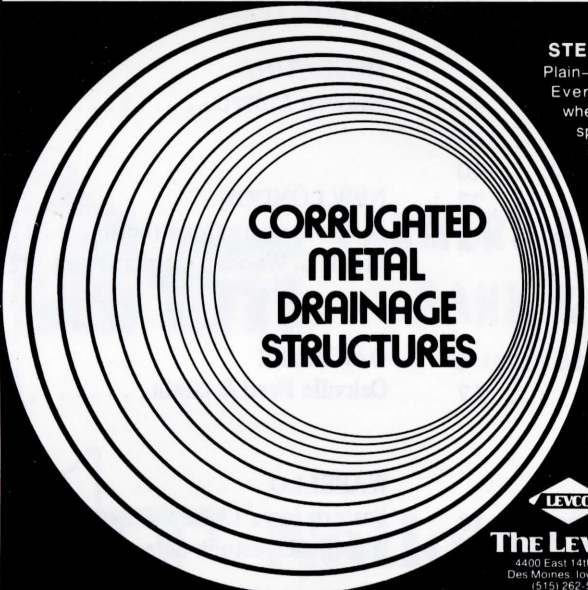
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A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE DISTRICT

CHANGE has been the most descriptive word we could use to portray the work of soil conservation districts. INVOLVEMENT is the best way to describe the program of this district.

This has been the year when Des Moines County soil conservation district has broken out of its cocoon of isolation and branched out into many areas of concern in the community. We have become involved with a wide variety of local governmental units as we have tried to broaden the use of the valuable soil information available through the district.

How does a unit of government use soil resource information? Actually, in much the same way our district cooperators on the farms have used it for years.

A district cooperator is furnished with a soil map, showing an inventory of soil conditions on his land. With the help of our trained technicians he can interpret his soil resource according to the demands of his farm business. The soil inventory is used to develop alternative ways of solving problems of drainage, erosion, fertility, etc. Then, by comparing the alternatives, the farmer develops his conservation plan.

A city or county government needs the same information about soil resources in planning the use of land many years ahead. A soil survey gives us the inventory of conditions, from which our planners can develop alternatives and make interpretations. After comparing alternatives, the city or county can come to a better decision on land use and treatment.

During 1973 fiscal year, we have developed a number of agreements with units of government and the four districts of southeast Iowa have been moving together to make district work more effective.

(continued on page 26)



District Commissioners

William Vierling, Rex Troute, Carl Shumaker, Dwight Stucker, Ray Pilling

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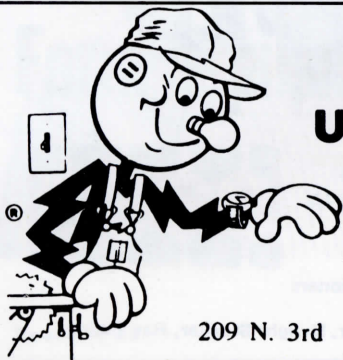
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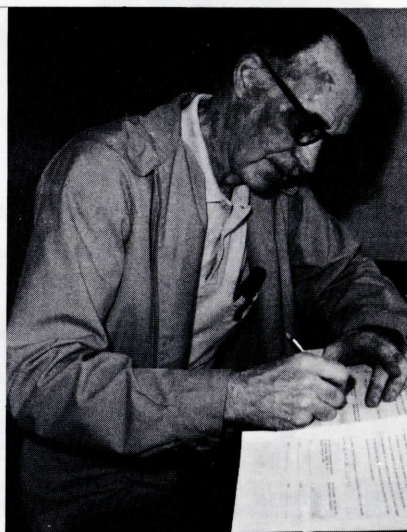
Wilton
Wapello
Lone Tree
DeWitt



MEMOS OF UNDERSTANDING EXPAND DISTRICT WORKLOAD



Lee district chairman Jim Hawkins signs memo of understanding with the Area 16 Regional Planning Commission for the commissioners of Lee, Louisa, Henry and Des Moines Districts.



Regional Planning Commission chairman Jack Waldhoff of Burlington countersigns the memo for the commission. This began a new era of cooperation between the two groups. Hawkins is also a member of the Area 16 planning commission.



City and District Cooperation. A new memorandum of understanding is signed by Mayor Wayne Hogberg of Burlington and chairman Rex Troute, bringing about agreement in planning cooperative action in erosion control. District conservationist Ralph Dewey and John Johnson (city planner) look on.



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PEOPLE AND EVENTS



Chairman Troute greets newly appointed commissioner Ray Pilling with his certificate of office as Ray replaced the late S. S. Barton on the board. Ray represents the second generation of Pillings in this office. His father C. E. "Jack" Pilling helped get this district going nearly thirty years ago.



District chairman Rex Troute kept busy making presentations this year. He congratulates Keith Hemphill a Mediapolis FFA student for his prize winning speech in the district division of the annual conservation speech contest. Keith went on to regional competition in Ottumwa in July.

The district also joined with four other southeast Iowa counties in sponsoring the seventh annual soil judging contest. This year's event was held on the Don Nelson farm north of Danville and was won by the Mediapolis FFA Chapter.



IOWA COST - SHARING BEGINS

Cooperator Joe Beckman of Sperry receives the first cost-share payment of the new State of Iowa program from district clerk Mrs. Dorothy Davis. The district has received \$7000 in cost sharing funds for the fiscal year.



Area Conservationist John Eckes presents the district conservationist a certificate of merit from the soil conservation service, recognizing the sustained high achievement level of the district program.

"FRONT COVER PHOTO"

1973 was a year of flood problems as witnessed by the residents on the "wet" side of the levee. Flooding hazards have brought the district many requests for studies of floodplain damage and conservation needs.

DISTRICT AND SCS STAFF

DES MOINES COUNTY SCD PERSONNEL

Rex H. Troute, Burlington	Chairman
William Vierling, Mediapolis	Commissioner
Dwight Stucker, New London	Commissioner
Carl Shumaker, Danville	Commissioner
Ray Pilling, Mediapolis	Commissioner
Harold Linder, Sperry	District Secretary
Horace Sutton, Burlington	District Treasurer
Mrs. Dorothy Davis	District Clerk

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL

BURLINGTON FIELD OFFICE

Ralph E. Dewey	District Conservationist
Winston Cooper	Soil Conservationist (resigned Dec. 1973)
Oren Champ	Conservation Technician

AREA 6 STAFF

Eldon C. Weber	Area Conservationist
Margaret Dickey	Area Clerk
Jim Seaholm	Area Soil Scientist
Charles Kiepe	Soil Scientist
Tom Brown	Area Engineer
Stan Simmons	Engineer Technician

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS - FISCAL 1973

<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
New Cooperators	No.	50
Basic Conservation Plans	No.	53
Revised Conservation Plans	No.	18
Farms Serviced	No.	450
Farms Applying Practices	No.	341
Group Conservation Jobs	No.	15

APPLICATION OF PRACTICES

Conservation Cropping Systems	Acres	5,885
Contour Farming	Acres	544
Crop Residue Management	Acres	13,507
Diversions	L. F.	4,800
Farm Ponds	No.	26
Erosion Control Dams	No.	21
Waterways	Acres	10
Pasture Planting	Acres	814
Open Drains	L. F.	8,700
Tile Outlet Terraces	L. F.	66,750
Tile Inlet Terrace Pipes	No.	166
Drainage Tile	L. F.	109,983
Tree Planting	Acres	5
Wildlife Habitat Management	Acres	165
Land Adequately Treated	Acres	5,636

1973 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>1-M Budget</u>	<u>2-M Budget</u>
Commissioners Expense	\$375.50	
Office Supplies	142.86	
Prizes for Contests	52.35	
Office Expense	110.58	
Meeting Expense	15.34	
Clerical & Technical Expense		\$5309.63
Travel		48.09
Release to State	<u>3.37</u>	<u>138.28</u>
	\$700.00	\$5496.00

Telephone Calls 671
Office Callers 660

News Items 48
Radio 7 releases

NEW COOPERATORS

July 1, 1972 thru June 30, 1973

Norman Frank
Richard M. Smith
Thomas R. Lee
Dennis Schwerin
IAAP - Tract 22
Ervin Baker
Jean Shutt
Darrell W. Tucker
Ralph L. Stover
Harold Russell
Clair Williams (2)
J. Kenneth Nichols
Robert Parker
Don Lounsbury
Fred Vantiger
Dennis Schnedler
James J. Ewinger (2)
Harold W. Klaus (2)
Melba A. Davilla
Gary A. Warth
Wallace F. Thyne
Leonard F. Miller
Adolph Gerst
Earl Beckman

Long Creek Cemetery Association
Chet Schnicker
James Nealey
Kenneth Groe
Robert O. Jones
James L. Miller
Rev. John W. Vickers
Gary Tucker
H. L. Sutton
Donald B. Nelson
Mrs. Vera Swenson
Floyd Beck
Lester Litton
Dwight Stucker
Louis Bloomberg
DeWitt T. Parrott
Rolland Richardson
Mrs. Emily Lange
Clinton B. Burrell
Robert M. Gray
Ellwood R. Anderson
Robert A. Leffler
James Witte

REVISIONS

July 1, 1972 thru June 30, 1973

William Belknap
Rex Trout
William Vierling
Burdette Hudson

IAAP (11)
Eugene Moore
John Wagenbach
Max Anderson

RESOURCE INVENTORIES FOR GOVERNMENT UNITS

County Conservation Board - Structure Sites
State Conservation Commission - Lake Geode
IAAP - Tile Outlet Terracing
SCD - Woodland Inventory
SCD - Tile Outlet Terracing
County Conservation Board - Franklin Twp. Watershed

BASIC PLANS

July 1, 1972 thru June 30, 1973

John Gingrich
Christ Episcopal Church
Henry Miller
Harold Lingenfelter
Clair Williams (3)
Vine Gehring (2)
Robert Dodds
Ronald Beckman
C. Leon Kuntz
James J. Ewinger
Harold Russell
Tom Nealey
Nealey Bros.
IAAP
John PfiEFF
Melba Davilla
Arthur Andries
Harvey Heiniger (2)
M. E. Hutchcroft
Virgil Massner
Robert Baird
Long Creek Cemetery Assn.
Joseph Walljasper
Earl Orton

James Nealey
Clifford Hinson
Max Andries
Frances Cook
Phyllis Jean Shutt
Carroll Oberman
Wallace Thye
Dwight Stucker
H. P. Nicholson
Ralph Stover
Ervin Baker (2)
Vicki Maddox
Edna Bush
Neal Wolfe (2)
Richard Mapel
Lester Litton
Kenneth Lohman
Roy Schmidt
Gary Tucker
Norman Frank
Emily Lange
Charles Buck
Louis Bloomberg

STAFF PHOTO



DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST, RALPH E. DEWEY
DISTRICT CLERK, MRS. DOROTHY DAVIS
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Here's the crew of ITCC - 1973. The University of Northern Iowa provided instruction by Dave McCalley and Ben Clausen, while the Department of Public Instruction assigned Duane Toomsen to follow up on activities of the teachers and help them use their training.

IOWA TEACHERS CONSERVATION CAMP

After 23 years at the Springbrook Park site, ITCC went afield in 1973. For the first time, the training center was brought to the teachers, and Burlington was chosen for the first effort. Resource people and others of the community joined to create an outstanding session for the more than 30 teachers attending.

For the first time teachers learned of resources in their home areas. They did not have to convert knowledge from another area. As projects they have applied their learning to the development of environmental curriculum and outdoor classrooms around their home schools.

We look for this experience to have a great impact on conservation education in the area. And we wish to thank especially Burlington High School, the Environmental Conservation Education Council, Environmental and Pollution Control Council, City of Burlington Planning Staff and the many other resource people who contributed to the camp's success.

Of equal importance we thank the donors of scholarship money, who made possible the defraying of nearly half the cost of the school.

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The district helped host thirty two teachers at the 1973 Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp. This group is learning about urban environmental problems from Burlington city planner, Fred Stouder.

THE WINNING COMBINATION



The winning combination. Award winners in the three divisions of the 1973 Register & Tribune contest were: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Dockendorff of Danville, owner-operator division; Mr. & Mrs. Bob Dodds of Danville, new cooperator division; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rehmke of West Liberty and Mrs. Keith Thomas of Sperry in the landlord-tenant division.



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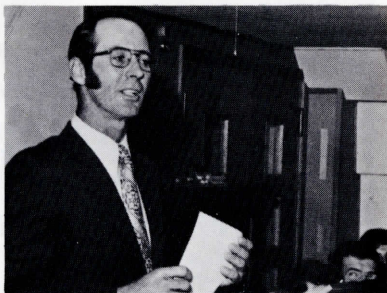
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ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



Master of Ceremonies commissioner Bill Vierling kept the crowd in good humor during the awards banquet, held this year at Mediapolis United Methodist Church.

The annual awards banquet held in November featured William Greiner, executive director of the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. Bill informed the group of plans ahead in conservation and advances toward a state land use policy.



The Methodist Church was invaded by a Presbyterian as pastor Ralph Schenck entertained the banquet crowd with guitar and singing.



Regional award winner Bob Dodds of Danville receives his plaque from chairman Rex Troute for outstanding erosion control work by a new cooperator. Bob's farm was judged best in a 12 county area in this division.

YES, IT WAS A VERY WET YEAR



Technician Oren Champ observes damage to a terrace ridge caused by excessive rains. The terrace is designed to hold two inches of runoff water, but some of our 1973 weather brought four and five inches of runoff to some areas. Though this looks terrible, the repairs are relatively inexpensive. The terrace did protect the slope and waterway from more severe damage.



Now here's how a tile outlet terrace should stand up in wet weather. The temporary storage area behind the fill is well illustrated. The dark, watersoaked area shows how the inlet pipe has been drawing the water down into the tile outlet line. When this storage area is completely full, a well designed tile system will take the water off in 48 hours or less.



1973 was a year of heavy rainfall. Many roadsides and pastures suffered damage like this slippage. When our heavy clay soils filled up with water the weight just pulled them away from the slopes and slid them downhill. Even the grass roots couldn't hold against the rains of '73.

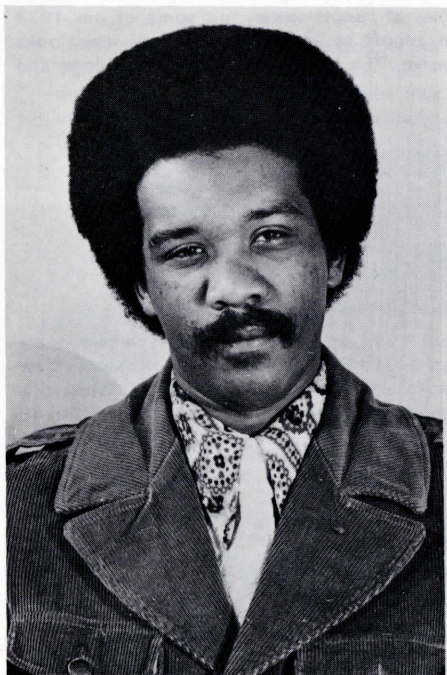
(continued from page 5)

Early in the year Lee, Louisa and Henry Districts joined with us in a memorandum of understanding in which we set up a coordinating board of commissioners from the four districts. This group now acts with the authority of four districts when dealing with Regional Planning Commission and other area wide groups.

We have also entered into memoranda of understanding with the planning commissions, the city of Burlington, town of Danville and Des Moines County Board of Supervisors.

The resource inventories and evaluations reported later in this report are a part of the work done for these groups.

In working with these groups, we are assisting the total population of the county to better land use planning. At the same time we are still doing individual planning with the hundreds of rural land users as we have in the past.



Winston C. Cooper

For two and a half years Winston has been a soil conservationist at the Burlington office, learning the business of conservation planning and erosion control. His career with SCS ended at the completion of 1973 as he moved on to the position of agronomist at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant.

We will miss his lively conversations about the virtues of Arkansas, and we are sure many of our cooperators have become Winston's special clients and will have to learn to put up with the rest of us now. Our best wishes go with Winston in his new position.



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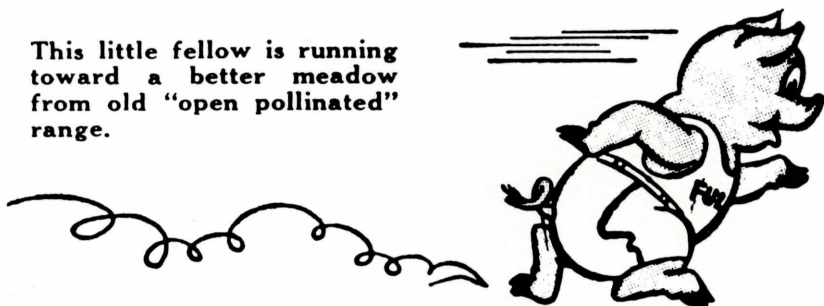


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