

The Annual Report of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District

FOREWORD *Where there is a will, there are lots of ways.*

American agriculture made headlines in 1984. Those headlines almost always read "The Farm Problem". The farm problem was and is, in reality, an accumulation of farm problems.

For purposes of this discussion I would direct your attention toward two of these problems. The first is soil and water conservation. The second, because it bears directly on the first, is farm operating costs.

It seems redundant to repeat that it is important and imperative that soil and water conservation efforts in Iowa and in the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District not only be continued, but that they be substantially increased.

Perhaps this urgency can be underscored if we pause a moment to

take a look afield. There has been worldwide distress and sympathy over the plight of the residents of Ethiopia. Hunger and death from starvation has stalked the people of that country in recent months.

Not so widely known or well understood is the fact that abuses of natural resources, lack of adequate conservation measures if you will, has been one of the major contributing factors to the sorry plight which exists there today.

History is replete with stories of societies once strong and thriving, but eventually decimated by their failure to protect their soil and water through conservation practices.

It has happened before, it can

happen again. It has happened to others, it can happen to us. But, you say, this is history, this concerns others. What about the here and now? What about us.

There is a perception that conservation is a costly process requiring the investment of many dollars. Given this perception there are many who will say, "conservation is indeed needed, but we simply cannot afford it in these kind of times".

Happily the conservation of those natural resources, soil and water, can be accomplished in many ways that demand little or no cost at all to those willing to use them. Some measures do require substantial cash outlays. Many others do not.

One of the more effective, virtually cost-free measures is no-till farming. In fact, given the energy savings involved in this practice no-till not only conserves soil and water, it saves money.

Not widely used in our district, but certainly both useful and available is the cost-free practice of strip-cropping. This is a proven conservation tool that is very effective.

Used by itself or in conjunction with the two preceding practices, one of the oldest conservation practices in the book is still a tried and true performer. Contour farming remains a cornerstone in any conservation program. Happily, it does not cost, it pays.

Erosion had increased in recent years because too many operators have chosen to abandon procedures embraced by many generations of thoughtful, successful farmers. Rotations were considered essential of hill ground farming in this district ever since the first crop was planted. All too often this practice has been abandoned in recent years. There should be a return to this soil saving, soil building practice.

There are others. Grassed headlands, grassed waterways, wildlife plots, tree plantings. These can all be established at no or very little cost to the operator. All add significantly to the conservation effort.

Let there be no question that much has been done in the conservation

effort in this district. Information in this report bears adequate testimony to that fact. However, neither should there be any question that much remains that must be done.

My plea and the plea of all those who embrace the urgent need for continued conservation effort is "do not let the current financial impasse impede this needed effort".

It is perhaps symbolic that the organized soil and water conservation effort in this country was bred and born in the throes of the agriculture disaster of the '30s. Surely we can and will keep this effort moving strongly ahead in this decade of the '80s.

by: C.W. McManamy (Mac)
Assistant Commissioner

Clean Water: What is the answer?

by: Terri Lynn Schuett, 6th Grade District Essay Contest Winner
Tri-Center Elementary

I was fishing one day and a jug washed to shore. It had a tight lid on it. When I unscrewed the lid to look into it, a Genie popped out. He said if I could ask him a question that he couldn't answer in one short sentence, I could have any wish.

Since I had not caught any nice fish because there were not many in the polluted stream, I asked him this question, "Genie, polluted water is causing much trouble, what is the answer?" "Well," he said, and his brow puckered up, his eyes almost went shut, he chewed on his beard and he grunted 'till he got red in the face. Suddenly, he said, "You asked me a question that can't be answered easily, nor in a short way. You get your wish." I said before I would tell my wish I still wanted an answer. He said, "Okay, look on the side of the jug and I'll show you people all over the world polluting and how water pollution can be slowed down."

The Genie took the jug and rubbed it, on the jug appeared a manufacturing plant. The smoke was going up out of pipes. It began to rain and the rain mixed with smoke and it fell into the river as acid rain.

The Genie rubbed the jug again. It showed a recreation park. Some people were playing. Some kids were throwing pop cans in the water. A man had a boat. He was spilling gas into the water.

The Genie rubbed the jug again. It showed oil drillers and haulers. They were drilling by a river and oil was flying into the river. Bird's feathers were stuck together and they were drowning.

Again, the Genie rubbed the jug.

This time it was a food raising picture. When the food raisers would spray chemicals they were not always careful, much of the spray got on the ground and was carried by rain to the underground water table. This polluted drinking water that people, cities and animals drank.

The Genie showed another picture. It was a household. People put trash into a sack and threw it outside in the road ditch.

The Genie then smiled a little bit and said, "There are some ways to clean up our water. Let's look on the other side of the jug." A picture appeared of little boys and girls in school learning that our water was getting polluted and how to do something about it, every day. They learned what things ruined water and how to keep them from getting into water.

The next thing shown was the food raisers knowing how to use just the right amount of the chemicals and how to keep them from getting in water sources.

The thing shown next was the recreation. If people would just pick up the food cans, and many more things instead of throwing the trash into the water, water would be a little cleaner.

Again, he showed oil drillers. The oil drillers were making sure the animals are not too close to the oil well. They were careful not to spill oil.

The Genie then said, "Look into the jug." We saw a household well. The people stopped throwing the trash into the road ditch, and the well water was clean.

Next we saw a manufacturing plant. They had put electric cleaners in the pipes to clean the smoke and acid rain was stopping.

No-cost conservation --everyone's choice

by: Bill Hammett, D.C.

We hope that in the years ahead we look back at 1984 and the winter of 84-85 as not the worst in agriculture's economic history, but as the end of the downward trend and from now on out, things begin to improve.

In the mean time, everyone must look toward ways to cut costs this spring while maintaining cash flow and keeping yields high. In the process of

cutting expenses, the implementation of your conservation plans and the control of erosion and runoff doesn't have to drop out of the picture. As a "theme" for this year's annual report, we have chosen "No-Cost Conservation". We will be discussing conservation practices that not only do not cost you money, they in many cases, actually save dollars while saving soil and moisture. This is a savings for the landowner and the tenant as well.

BUDGET REPORT: 1984 Fiscal Year July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984			
1M Budget (supplies and expense)			
Total Allocation		\$ 2,300.00	
Commissioner's Expense	\$ 756.56		
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$ 1,577.04		
Printing Expenses	\$ 343.10		
Additional Allocation Required		\$ 376.70	- 0 -
3M Budget			
State Cost-Share Funds			
82-83 Allocation		\$ 66,650.00	
Obligated or Spent	\$ 66,185.51		
Released to State	\$ 464.49		- 0 -
83-84 Allocation		\$ 97,959.00	
Obligated or Spent	\$ 97,343.79		
Released to State	\$ 615.21		- 0 -
84-85 Allocation		\$ 120,946.25	
Obligated or Spent	\$ 120,660.67		
Unobligated	\$ 285.58		\$ 285.58
County Cost-Share			
84-85 Allocation		\$ 25,000.00	
Obligated or Spent	\$ 19,924.54		
Unobligated	\$ 3,825.46		
*5% Released to County	\$ 1,250.00		\$ 3,825.46
*Due to economic situations, the District voluntarily turned back 5% of the original allocation to the County.			
No-Interest Loan			
84-85 Allocation *		\$ 10,796.00	
Obligated or Spent	\$ 10,000.00		
Unobligated	\$ 796.00		
Additional Allocation		\$ 8,278.00	
Released to State	\$ 9,074.00		- 0 -

Conservation Accomplishments (FY84)

New Cooperators	(30) 7,472 Ac
Cooperators Assisted	450
Cooperators Applying Conservation Practice	220
Conservation Plans Written	22,105 Ac
New No-Till	7,959 Ac
Contouring	4,155 Ac
Farmstead Windbreaks	3.3 Ac
Switchgrass Planted	237 Ac
Sediment and Water Control Basins	18
Terraces	76 Miles
Ponds	1
Grassed Waterways	6 Ac
Field Borders	9,150 Ft.
Pasture management	474 Ac
Wildlife Habitat Management	481 Ac
Cropland Benefitted by Cons. Practice	16,699 Ac
Pastureland Benefitted by Cons. Practice	629 Ac

Iowa 2000 helps promote minimum soil loss for future

by: Peggy Hay, State Aide

Iowa 2000 is a program in which we are trying to control excessive soil loss. Our goal is to have soil loss levels down to 5 tons per acre per year by the year 2000. By providing soil loss information to landowners and working with them we can accomplish this.

The Iowa 2000 program started last year in our area with the Twin Ponies Watershed area. \$15,000 of state cost-share funding was set aside for this area and we are proud to say, that is where it was used. This year we are setting aside an additional \$7,500 for this area.

The program is underway again this year with a 3400-acre area called the Neola Creek Watershed. So far we've had great response. Fourteen landowners attended the watershed meeting held February 27, in Neola, and only a few landowners remain to be contacted. We've set aside \$15,000 of state cost-share funding for this area. Cost-share applications have been taken and preparation for terrace construction is underway. Money is still available for summer and fall work. Several new farm plans have been started and older plans are being updated at the landowner's request.

Soil loss is something we should all be concerned about. You don't need to live in an Iowa 2000 area to get help, just give us a call or drop in.



Clint Goos
Commissioner, Chairman



John Fischer
Commissioner, Vice Chairman



Charles Angeroth
Commissioner



Gary Thien
Commissioner



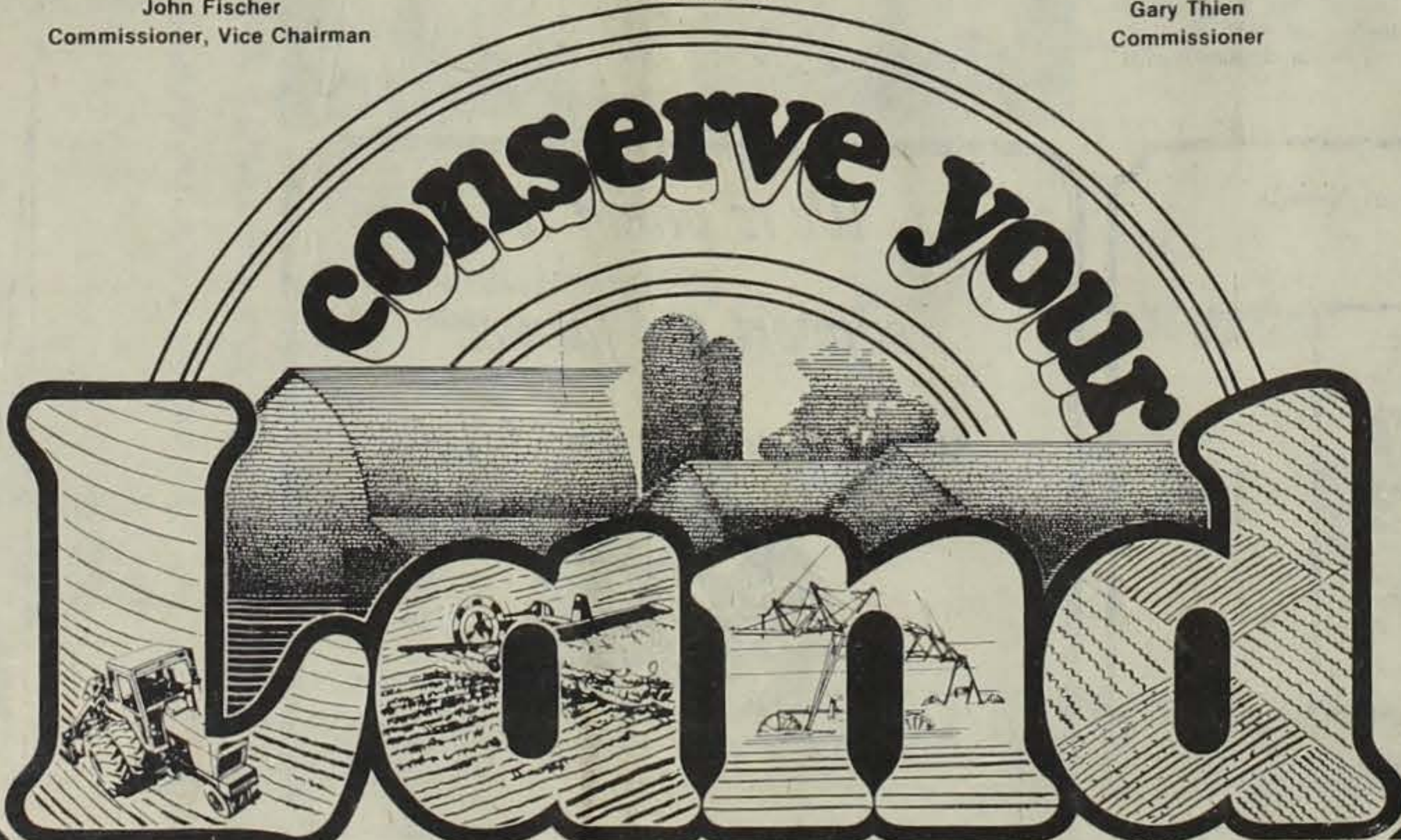
David Storjohann
Commissioner



C.W. McManamy
Assistant Commissioner



Mark Schnepel
Assistant Commissioner





Bill Hammitt
District Conservationist



Ernest Victoria
Soil Conservationist



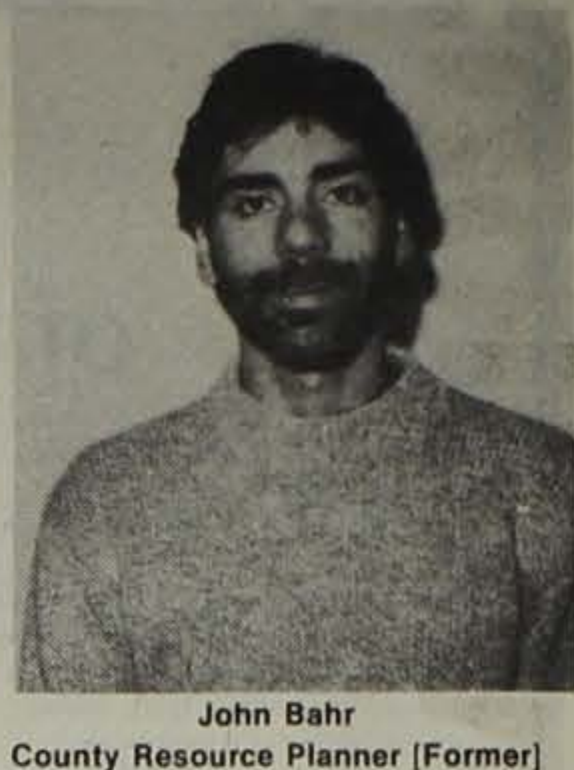
Paul Miller
Soil Conservationist



Calvin Dunblazier
Soil Conservation Technician



Sherry Sandvik
District Clerk



John Bahr
County Resource Planner (Former)

Two new employees join SCS staff

by: Tim Bottoms
County Resource Planner

I have been working since October 15, 1984, as the new County Resource Planner, taking the place of John Bahr. I work with SCS employees in terrace layout, conservation planning and other conservation activities. I have been a life-time resident of this area which has helped me a lot in my job.

I attended school at Treynor Community School where I graduated in May, 1980. From there, I went to Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where I received an Ag Business degree. After finishing at IWCC, I continued my education at Northwest Missouri State University where I received a Bachelor of Technology in Agronomy degree. Since I have started at this position, I have learned a lot and everyone has been very helpful to me. I really enjoy getting out to do conservation plans and talk to farmers.



Tim Bottoms
County Resource Planner

"Hang Tough", says commissioner

by: Charles Angereth
Commissioner

With the farm economy presently in a "no profit" situation, we, as conservation-minded people, must not let down our guard of the on-going struggle to preserve our natural resources, especially our top soil.

I believe the consensus would be that to put conservation practices on the land in today's cost squeeze that would adequately protect our soils, would be more than the pocket book could bear at one time. We must look to less costly methods of conservation recognizing the construction of terraces and waterways must not be abandoned, but go at it as our funds will permit.

The payback period for terraces and waterways is oft times referred to as a slow one, but let me remind you that as surely as this earth is rich in natural resources, there will surely come a day when conservation practices will pay back many fold the original cost, even if it's for future generations.

Those of you who have felt faint of

heart concerning no-till and have not as yet tried it, allow me to encourage you to experiment with some no-till corn acres in 1985, especially on your steeper slopes and perhaps try some solid seeded soybeans, as the rapid canopy resulting from solid seeding will surely protect the soil from rain drop damage more readily than rowed crops and the ease of harvest of drilled beans will please you next fall.

I believe the participation we have of no-tillers in the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District attests to the fact that no-till will work and it is probably the least cost, immediate soil saving endeavor we could undertake, providing we have a planter suited for no-till purposes.

Finally, let me say I am confident there are better economic days ahead for the farm oriented families and if we have maintained a consistent and sound stewardship of land practices during these tough economic times and when (not if) a more healthy economic climate does arrive, we'll have at our command a healthy land ready and able to produce in abundance at a reasonable profit.

Cooperative Student program



Matt Burke
Soil Conservation Aide

Matt Burke, Crescent, a student at Iowa Western Community College, is currently employed by the Soil Conservation Service as a part-time Soil Conservation Aide at Council Bluffs. Matt is employed under the SCS Cooperative Student program where students work part of the academic year for on-the-job experience and also work during vacation periods. Matt will be working again beginning in mid-April assisting with the layout of soil conservation practices.

Summer conservation aide



Dan Moore
Summer Youth Employment

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.
Dan Moore, Underwood, assisted the District in applying soil conservation practices during the summer. Dan, now a senior at Underwood High School, was employed through the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. Thanks Dan for all the help.

by: Peggy Hay, State Aide

Hi, my name is Peggy Hay and I'm one of the new kids on the block. I was hired as a State Aide in May of 1984, and since then, I've met and worked with a few of you and I look forward to meeting those I have not.

I was raised in Mason City and attended the North Iowa Area Community College for 2 years before transferring to Iowa State University. In the fall quarter of 1979, I completed my Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology.

I've worked several seasons in temporary positions for the Iowa Conservation Commission throughout central and western Iowa. I first came to this area in 1979, when my husband, Rick, was employed at Forney Lake, I fell in love with southwestern Iowa and we hoped to get permanent positions in this area.

Well, like anything you want, it took several jobs and too many moves, but in November of 1983, we landed in Oakland where Rick is working for the Soil Conservation Service in the Oakland Field Office (also as a State Aide). Six months later I was



Peggy Hay
State Aide

employed in the Council Bluffs Field Office.

I see a need for conservation of our natural resources and through this job I hope to help educate and work with our youth and elders to promote conservation. Maybe I'll be seeing you soon.

The year of construction:

The Simon Run Watershed contract awarded to Ring Construction this year must have sparked a chain reaction, for February 27, 1985, was the day that two more bid openings occurred.

The first one was for the repair of a grade stabilization structure located in the Indian Creek Watershed, approximately one mile north of Council Bluffs. The second was for two grade stabilization structures; one within the North Pigeon Watershed, nine miles west of Neola, and one located in Harrison County, three miles south of Persia, Iowa.

Apparent low bidder for the repair site in Indian Creek was Cashatt and Sons of Red Oak, with a bid of \$62,148.89. There has been a delay in the awarding of the North Pigeon contract, but should be rectified shortly.

The Small Watershed Program of the Soil Conservation Service funds projects such as these. Before contracts can be let, 75% of the land above each structure must be protected from erosion by terraces to protect the life of the structures. And also, easements must be provided for the sites, pond areas, and access roads. If it weren't for special conservation-minded people, these dams wouldn't and couldn't be built. Without these dams, the continued erosion taking place in the gullies would be mind-bending.

As you can tell, a lot of time, patience, and money of course, goes into the construction of erosion control structures. But, most important is the cooperation that is received from the landowners located in these specific watersheds.

Simon Run contract awarded

November 19, 1984, was the long-awaited date for the bid opening for sites 9-3E, and 9-3W in Simon Run Watershed.

Gerald Ring, Ring Construction of Neola, was officially awarded the contract in January, 1985, with a bid of \$167,107.64.

The two large grade stabilization

and gully control structures are located on the Walter and Thelma Boe property and the Ron and Gary Larson property in Hazel Dell Township.

Gerry Ring began clearing the sites this past winter and will finish construction sometime mid-summer.



Demand continues to grow for conservation plans

January 30, 1985

by: Lyle C. Peterson

Acres of conservation plans have increased steadily in the last four years. This means that more people have used the Soil Conservation Service to determine what is needed to control erosion on their land.

The conservation plan records the present decisions of the landuser and identifies the average amount of erosion that can be expected to occur. If this erosion rate is greater than a level that will sustain production the conservationist will suggest alternatives that reduce the rate to an acceptable level.

In Area 4 during 1984 these decisions and recommendations have been made for 164,237 acres.

Resource management systems show up much more frequently in the new plans. This is another way to say that a complete conservation package is developed. Many of these plans contain grassed waterways, grassed headlands, terraces, reduced tillage operations, windbreaks and sometimes strip-crop rotations. If grazing livestock is part of the farm operation total forage systems are usually discussed along with manure handling methods.

The new plans fit the present day farmer. They will show how much conservation is needed and identify practical methods to accomplish it. Stop in at the Soil Conservation Service office to visit with your local staff about your farm conservation plan.

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No-cost conservation:

No-Till

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.

The old saying "time is money" is especially true the first week of May when your corn should all be planted within a few day's time for optimum yields. The time you save with no-till allows you to begin planting when conventional farmers are plowing, disking or incorporating chemicals. It allows you to finish planting earlier, which can make a big difference in yields at the end of the year.

When you mention no-till many people immediately think of higher herbicide costs. This isn't true in most cases if the herbicides are applied early enough before weeds emerge, eliminating the need for burn-down chemicals.

It's obvious that no-till will save fuel costs because less trips are made over the field, but less trips also mean savings in equipment costs from depreciation, maintenance and repairs. All of your equipment should last longer, except of course for your combine, which will probably wear out faster running through those higher yields.

Grassed headlands

by: Paul Miller, Soil Conservationist

Establishing a strip of vegetation along the edge of a field can be advantageous. The major advantage of headlands is erosion control. Many tons of soil are lost each year from end rows that run up and down the hill. The permanent vegetation slows the water velocity and holds the soil in place. Headlands are also smoother to turn around on. Another advantage is providing shelter for wildlife. The headlands should not be mowed before July 1, to help protect young nesting birds. Headlands have a number of good advantages and do not take alot of land out of production. A strip one rod wide and a half mile long is one acre.

Stripcropping

by: Paul Miller, Soil Conservationist

If you have a need for small grain and meadow crops, but cannot afford terraces, stripcropping divides a field into long narrow strips of row crops, small grain, and meadow. The strips cross the path of runoff water. The dense vegetative cover helps to hold the soil in place and filters out sediment from runoff water. By applying strips, the soil loss in a field may be reduced by 25-50%. Therefore, more top soil is saved until more conservation practices can be implemented or affordable. It is important to have the correct width on each strip. The steeper the ground, the narrower the strip. Most strips in this area will be 60-100 feet wide. For assistance with stripcropping, please contact the District field office.

Rotations

by: Tim Bottoms
County Resource Planner

Today, rotations are a very important part of how farmers use the land for their needs. To many farmers, rotations are a way of farming and for good reasons. Many farmers use rotations to decrease soil loss, disease, insects and maintenance costs. Some good things rotations does is increase organic matter and soil fertility to promote crop production.

However, rotation does take more time to manage and plan, but over the long haul it will be worth it. Even with the rotation of crops other conservation measures may need to be considered, like contouring and terracing to conserve our soils, but in general rotations of small grain and legumes are an excellent no-cost method of erosion control.

Contouring

by: Tim Bottoms
County Resource Planner

Contouring has many advantages to consider, because it doesn't cost anything. It is actually saving farmers money by reducing fuel consumption, cutting soil loss by 50% on gentle slopes and saving time of operating tillage equipment.

Contour stripcropping cuts erosion by another 25%. These advantages may not be enough to protect the soil properly, so other conservation measures may be needed in combination to protect the soil properly, but this is a good start.

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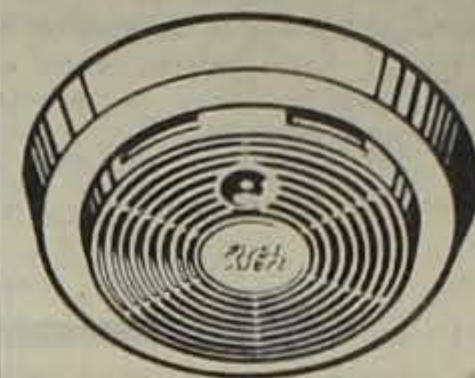
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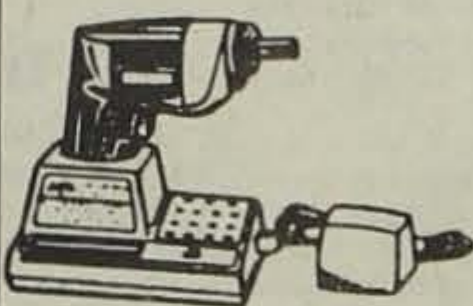
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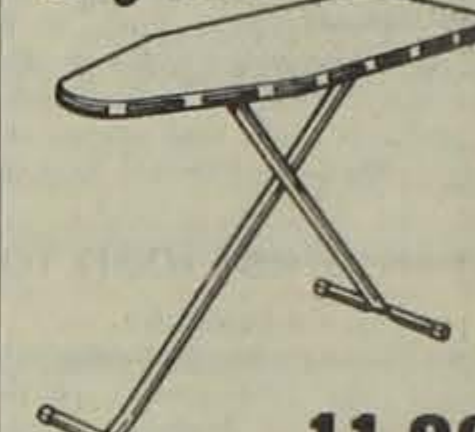
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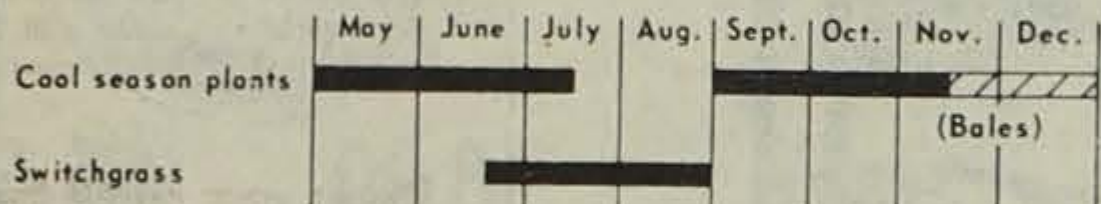
by: Ernest Victoria
Soil Conservationist

For cattlemen that lack an adequate forage supply in mid-summer, a pasture of switchgrass may be the answer. Switchgrass is a tall, warm-season native prairie grass that used to be common in Iowa.

Switchgrass produces most heavily from June through August, growing 3-5 feet tall. Significant improvements in average daily gain and liveweight gain per acre can be obtained by rotating cattle between cool-season (brome grass, bluegrass) and warm-season (switchgrass) pastures. A general guideline is to have about 1/3 to 1/4 of your pasture acres as switchgrass in order to provide season-long grazing.

Several local landowners established switchgrass pastures last year on or about 150 acres. The benefits of switchgrass are a reduction in beef production costs due to increased carrying capacity and animal performance, and also a reduction in forage production cost because the grass is more efficient in its use of soil nutrients, water, and sunlight. Switchgrass can also be used for erosion control purposes. It is widely adapted and has an extensive root system that grows 5 to 11 feet into the ground. Because switchgrass is managed differently than cool-season grasses, it has wildlife benefits as well. It should not be grazed or harvested for hay until mid-June when nesting by pheasants and other birds has been completed.

DISTRIBUTION OF FORAGE FOR GRAZING



County cost-share: preventive maintenance

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.

Calling it "preventive maintenance" the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors last spring approved \$50,000 in cost-sharing funds to be used for terrace construction on land above county roads causing sedimentation problems in the road ditches and culverts. They felt it would be more

cost-effective to install permanent practices to prevent sediment from entering road ditches rather than spend taxpayers funds repeatedly cleaning the same ditches year after year. The funds are supplied at a 50% cost-shared rate to landowners applying at the Soil Conservation District office.

No-interest loan for terraces

by: Cal Dunblazier

Soil Conservation Technician

During the 1983 session of the Seventieth General Assembly, legislation was passed to provide funds for a no-interest loan program. Administered by the Department of Soil Conservation, the money is to be used for construction of permanent soil conservation practices. Eligible landowners can apply for as much as \$10,000. The repayment plan calls for equal annual installments over a ten-year period. One local landowner has taken advantage of this loan to

build terraces on 160 acres of cropland. Alan Christensen, of rural Underwood, was approved in spring of 1984 and began construction of 8,835 feet of bench and broadbase terraces in March, 1984. After harvest another 2,500 feet of terraces were constructed.

Soil losses on the moderately-steep hillsides of Monona soils were reduced from 18 to 6 tons per acre per year. And on the slightly steep Ida soils, losses went from 37 to 10 tons per acre per year as a result of terraces.

Arrowhead RC & D project update:

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.

The Resource Conservation and Development project to protect Arrowhead Lake made great progress during 1984. Over \$50,000 worth of cost-share funds were spent. The following is a list of practices completed:

- 34,850 feet of terraces constructed
- 3 grassed waterways re-shaped and seeded
- 3-acre wildlife area planted and fenced
- 40 acres switchgrass planted (IA Conservation Commission cost-share)
- 1300 feet pasture cross-fence installed
- 2 sediment and water control basins completed
- One grade stabilization structure completed and fenced
- 2 farmstead windbreaks planted (ASCS cost-share)

Landowners who cooperated in completion of these practices in the past year are:

Don Ahart; Fred Ring; Alvin Ring; Robert Petersen Trust; Darrell Peterson, Operator; Vivian Stortenbecker, Don Konz, Operator; Alice Zaretsky, Don Konz, Operator; Angela Brich, Bill Masker, Operator; Erna Burger Trust, Jerome Messerschmidt; Marjorie Rodenburg, Lynn Olsen, Operator.

Conservation: Project Arrowhead

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.

The "Conservation: Project Arrowhead" open house and celebration planned for June 9, was rained out. It was re-scheduled for September, but later re-scheduled again due to unfavorable dry weather and field conditions. The open house has now been scheduled for Saturday, May 4, with more completed practices than last year for public viewing. Wagon tours are planned along with terrace construction, "rainulator" demonstration, water quality testing demonstrations, no-till exhibits, and many commercial exhibits. We hope the weather cooperates this year.



Summer sees three no-till tours

by: Paul Miller, Soil Conservationist

The West Pott. SCD held 3 no-till tours last summer throughout the District. On June 26, 1984, we looked at the no-till on the Joe Constant farm and Bob Hough farm north of Weston. Underwood Feed and Supply provided refreshments after the tour. On the 27th of June, we saw Mike Dea's no-till on the Clinton Erickson farm north of Minden. After the tour, CIBA-GEIGY furnished refreshments. The Treynor area was the setting for

the tour on June 28, 1984. We started at the Roger Trede farm and proceeded to the Robert Goos farm. We ended the tour at the Darrell Danker farm where refreshments were provided by Treynor Feed and Grain. Those on the tours saw a variety of no-till including corn on PIK, beans on PIK, corn on beans, corn on corn and beans on corn. The District thanks the farmers and companies who made all the tours successful.

Contractor meeting is well-attended

by: Cal Dunblazier

Soil Conservation Technician

The annual joint East-West Pottawattamie SCD contractor's meeting was held January 31, 1985 at the Lewis Township Fire Hall in Council Bluffs. In spite of the cold, blustery weather, forty-one contractors and their operators attended the session. After a meal served by the Pott. County Porkettes, Clint Goos, Chairman of the West Pott. SCD, opened the program with welcoming comments. A slide presentation was given by Charles Nearman and Mark Young, representatives of the St. Regis Culvert Company. The county cost-share program and contractor check-out were reviewed by Marty Adkins, District Conservationist, with the East Pott. SCD. Nebraska Machinery provided a safety film titled "Read Em or Weep", concerning the hazards of poor equipment maintenance and human

oversight while operating heavy equipment. Bill Hammitt, District Conservationist from the West Pott. SCD, discussed upcoming construction projects in the Indian Creek, Simon Run, and North Pigeon/Mosquito of Harrison watersheds. He also updated progress and plans for local Resource Conservation and Development areas. Representatives from Northern Natural Gas were also on hand to supply new pipeline location maps and update notification procedures when working in the area of a pipeline. Following a short question and answer period, Mrs. Karla Meyers of the Corps of Engineers, presented an interesting comparison of the Missouri River floods of 1952, and 1984.

A drawing for the hand level, won by Tom Minahan of Neola, ended the program. We all appreciate the chance to get together and share ideas and concerns with the contractors. It helps make soil conservation a team effort.

Nelson Critical Area treatment measure

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.

A large grade stabilization structure planned for the Howard Nelson property in Rockford Township has been funded for construction by the Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development group. The structure which will contain 10,459 cubic yards of earth fill will control an extremely active gully upstream and provide county road benefits below. Spring construction is planned.

No-till club grows

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.

The West Pott. No-Till Club has been very active in conducting informational meetings for its members. Membership has grown by 30 or 40 members this year with over 100 now on the Club's mailing list. The Club has met every week in January and February with speakers discussing fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides, seed, soils, and equipment problems and ideas. Joe Constant, Underwood, was elected this year's chairman.

No-till acres double

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.

West Pott. farmers planted twice as much no-till in 1984 as they did in 1983. Over 13,500 acres was planted in 1984. The bar chart below shows the

encouraging trends. Can we hope for 10% of our cropland to be no-tilled in 1984? (that's 22,500 acres)

No-Till Survey

No-till questionnaires were sent out to over 100 no-till farmers. Of these, 41 were returned to the District and summarized as follows:

Number of No-Tillers	100+
Number of Acres No-Till Planted	13,500
Number Responding to Survey	41
Acres	Yield Ave.
Corn 8,533	129
Beans 1,303	32
Yield vs. Conventional Tillage:	
Better 13	Worse 1
Same 23	
Weed Control vs. Conventional Tillage:	
Better 21	Worse 2
Same 18	
Stand or Plant Population vs. Conventional Tillage:	
Better 12	Worse 4
Same 19	
Did you Cultivate?	Yes 8 No 21 Some 8
Kind of Planter:	
John Deer 25	Kinze 5 Buffalo 1 IH 5 AC 1
Hiniker 1	

No-till yield contest

by: Paul Miller, Soil Conservationist

Last year proved to be another good year for no-till in the West Pott. District. A county no-till yield contest was again sponsored by the West Pott. Commissioners, the No-Till Club, the County Extension Service, and the Rotary Club. Participants in the county contest, which used the Iowa Masters Yield Contest rules, also qualified for the state-wide contest.

West Pott.'s no-till winners were Charles and Darol Jensen of Neola with a yield of 169 bushels per acre in

the no-till corn category. And the soybean winner was Joe Constant of Underwood with a 47 bushel per acre yield. The West Pott. SCD presented the winners with plaques for their achievement. Dave Finken, Shell Chemical Co. representative, also presented the contest winners with awards. The sponsors of the county no-till yield contest would like to thank all who participated in the contest. We look forward to another excellent contest this year.



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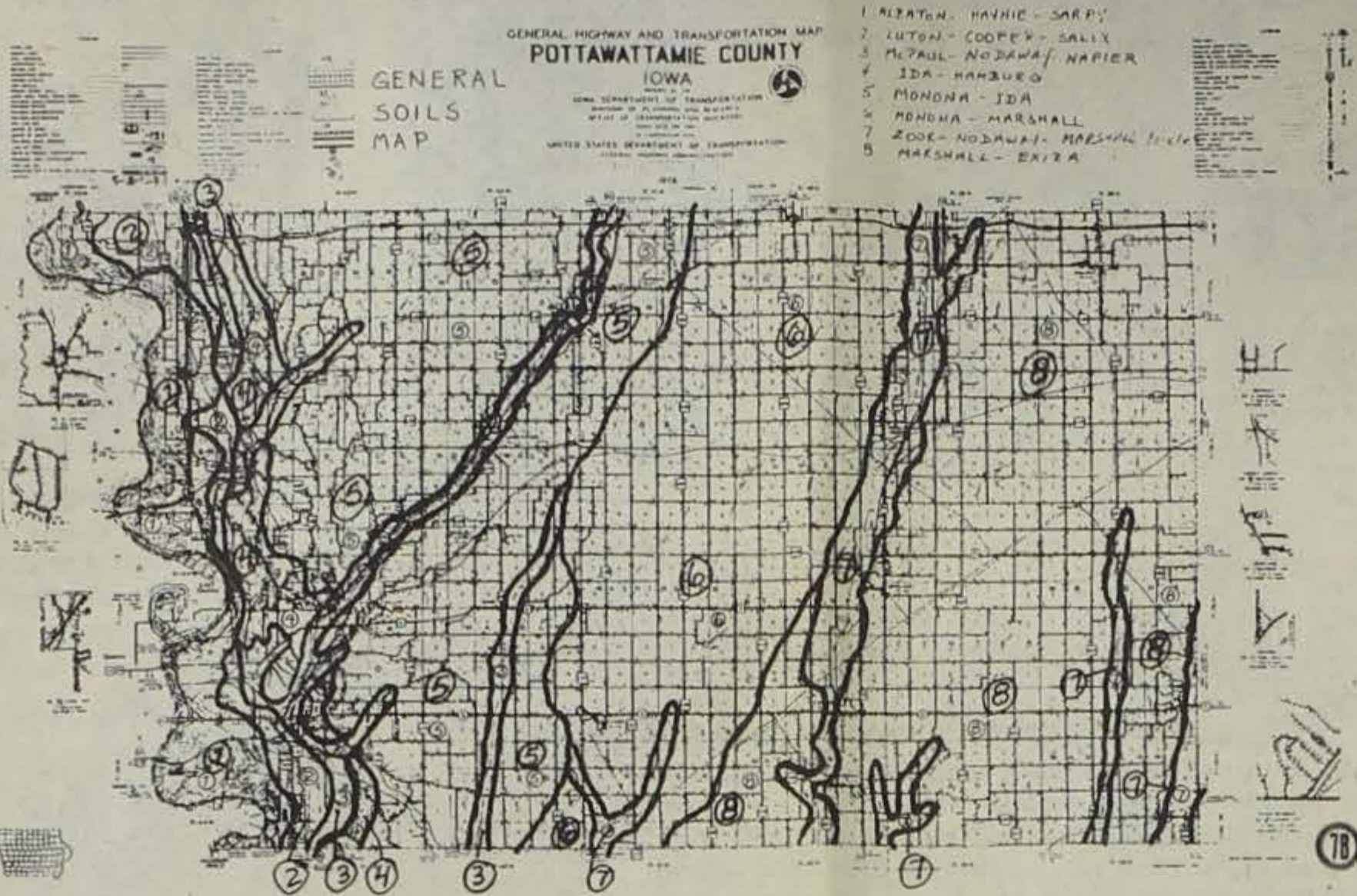
Avoca, Iowa

Pottawattamie County soil survey is nearly finished

by: Cal Dunblazier
Soil Conservation Technician

The Pottawattamie County soil survey is currently on schedule and field work is due to be completed by July 1, 1985. At present, approximately 17,000 acres remain to be mapped in the entire county. According to Charlie Branham, local Soil Scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, 2-10 soil probes may be taken in a forty-acre field in the upland ground. More probes are needed on bottom lands due to the complexity of the soil patterns. Probes are taken up to a depth of 4 feet depending on soil types and characteristics.

Mapping began in Pottawattamie County in 1974, on the Missouri River bottomland. Mapping on the upland ground began in 1978. When mapping is complete this summer, the surveys will then go through a series of final checks to insure accuracy. The survey is due to be printed by August of 1987, and will be available to the public, free of charge, shortly thereafter. Meetings will then be scheduled to distribute and explain the soil survey. Information about soils already mapped is available now at District offices in Council Bluffs, and Oakland. Assisting Mr. Branham with the survey were Craig Busskohl and Jon Hemple, Soil Scientists with the Soil Conservation Service, also.



General Soil Map
Pottawattamie County, Iowa
Soil Legend *

- 1 Albaton-Haynie-Sarpy Association:** Nearly level to very gently sloping, poorly drained, well drained, and excessively drained clayey, silty and sandy soils formed in alluvium on bottomlands.
 - 2 Luton-Cooper-Salix Association:** Nearly level, very poorly drained to moderately well drained clayey and silty soils formed in alluvium on bottomlands.
 - 3 McPaul-Nodaway-Napier Association:** Nearly level to gently sloping, moderately well drained and well drained silty soils formed in alluvium on bottomlands.
 - 4 Ida-Hamburg-Association:** Moderately sloping to very steep, well drained and somewhat excessively drained silty soils formed in loess on uplands.
 - 5 Monona-Ida Association:** Nearly level to very steep, well drained silty soils formed in loess on uplands.
 - 6 Monona-Marshall Association:** Nearly level to moderately steep, well drained silty soils formed in loess on uplands.
 - 7 Zook-Nodaway-Marshall Association:** Nearly level, to moderately sloping, poorly drained, moderately well drained and well drained silty soils formed in alluvium on bottomlands and loess on stream benches.
 - 8 Marshall-Exira Association:** Nearly level to moderately steep, well drained silty soils formed in loess on uplands.
- *Texture given in descriptive heading refers to surface layers only.

District wins national award



The West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District at Council Bluffs, Iowa, was honored for its tree planting and conservation efforts by the National Arbor Day Foundation in ceremonies April 28 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The district was cited for its installation of windbreaks, presenting Arbor Day programs to all first graders in the county's 26 elementary schools, and for conducting an Environmental Field Day for the county's sixth graders. Gary Thien accepted the award on behalf of the district. Pictured with him are Maxine Morrison, a National Arbor Day Foundation trustee and awards ceremony chairman, and John Ohman, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry of the U.S. Forest Service.

by: Ernest Victoria
Soil Conservationist

Over the years, the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District has received a number of awards recognizing its achievements in the protection of our natural resources. In April of 1984, the District was honored to be selected as an award winner by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Foundation sponsors the annual contest for individuals and groups which encourage the wise use, appreciation, and understanding of trees. The District's activities which merited the award include the installation of

farmstead windbreaks, distribution of tree seedlings to school children, and the publication of articles on trees in local newspapers as well as in the District's own newsletter. The District was one of eleven winners nationwide selected in the organizations category.

The award, a large wood plaque, was presented at a banquet held at Nebraska City, Nebraska. Commissioner, Gary Thien, accepted the award on behalf of the District. The evening banquet was followed by a lamplight tour of Arbor Lodge Mansion, which was the home of Arbor Day founder, J. Sterling Morton.

Trees of knowledge help students learn

by: Ernest Victoria
Soil Conservationist

The District's educational programs are directed not only at adults who own or operate farms, but also at students who will be our future land managers. To make students aware of and to appreciate our natural resources, the District provides several activities. One of these involves the presentation of an Arbor Day program. Visits to schools are made by

Soil Conservation personnel, who discuss the value and care of trees. Since much learning is accomplished by doing, each student receives a small tree seedling to take home to plant. This program is offered to all first grade students in the District. In 1984, 21 schools participated with a total of about 900 students. The District appreciates the support of this program by Midwest Walnut Company, Council Bluffs, which provides all the tree seedlings.

Conservation has its awards, too!

by: Peggy Hay, State Aide

This year we once again honored local owners and operators for conservation efforts. A luncheon was given for the winners and their families in February. Certificates and plaques were awarded after a great meal, served by the Pottawattamie County Porkettes, and a short program.

Our New Cooperator Award for 1984, was given to Mr. and Mrs. Otha Mass of Malvern. Otha owns 168 acres in our district and constructed 20,736 feet of narrow-base terraces on his property. These were some of the first narrowbase terraces built in our district.

We also recognized the team work needed in a Landlord-Tenant operation with an award. This award went to the Liddell Brothers; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Liddell, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Liddell, and Mrs. George Liddell and their tenants Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Strohbehn. Their 100-acre farm is located just south of Treynor. The Liddells have several grass backslope terraces and some narrowbase terraces were also constructed on this farm in 1984. Ken is an active member of the No-Till Club and has planted no-till corn and beans on this farm.

Meryle Osborn, also an active member of the No-Till Club, and his wife, Patricia, received the Owner-Operator Award. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn were recognized again with the acceptance of the Sweepstakes Award given to the outstanding award winner of 1984. Their 260-acre farm is located west of Weston and there you will find several types of terraces and no-till plantings. Meryle was one of the first "Pioneers" to plant no-till beans into corn stubble.

In memory of Eldon Ravlin, an award is given to an outstanding cooperator. The 1984 Award was given to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carlson. Jim Carlson, Robert's son, helps with the

farm operation. This year, the Carlsons completed their second Long Term Agreement with the ASCS office. Terraces have been constructed throughout the 440-acre farm which also has a farm pond. Jim is currently having a windbreak designed for his new home.

Every year the Isaac Walton League gives an award to an outstanding windbreak owner. Mr. and Mrs. William Masker had the winning windbreak for 1984. The three row, 11-year old windbreak of Honeysuckle and Austrian Pine protects their farmstead and livestock. You can view this windbreak from Interstate 80 or Highway 83, west of Minden.

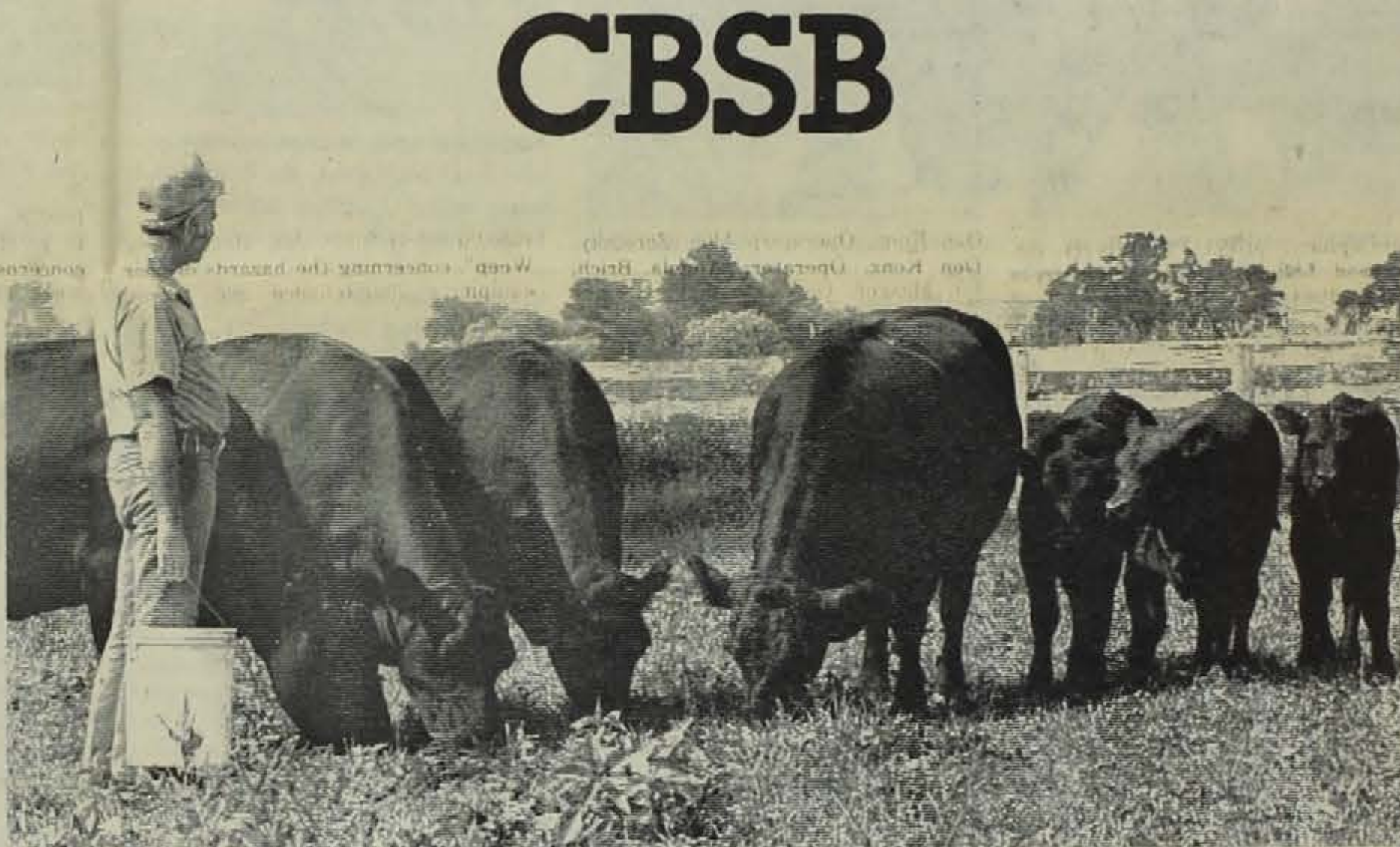
Plaques were given to the no-till yield winners. Charles Jensen and his son Darol, both of Neola, were winners of the corn yield contest with 169.1 bushels per acre. Joe Constant of Underwood, won with 46.66 bushels per acre in the soybean contest.

Seven-year no-till trends

by: Bill Hammitt, D.C.

The Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development group has been conducting conservation tillage comparison plots at Oakland for the past seven years. The seven-year average listed in the table below shows no-till (slot plant) provides yields consistent with all other forms of tillage under continuous corn conditions.

	GOLDEN HILLS TILLAGE PLOTS	
	1984 YIELDS	7-YEAR AVERAGE
TANDEM DISK	133	116.6
SPRING CHISEL	124	115.0
FALL CHISEL	119	115.4
TILL PLANT	105	113.8
SLOT PLANT	113	115.4
NO-TILLAGE PLOW	123	115.6
OVERALL AVERAGE	119.5	116.0



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If there's anyone who knows how to stand on his own two feet, it's today's farmer. He's been doing it for years and we all can learn a good lesson from his determination and stamina.

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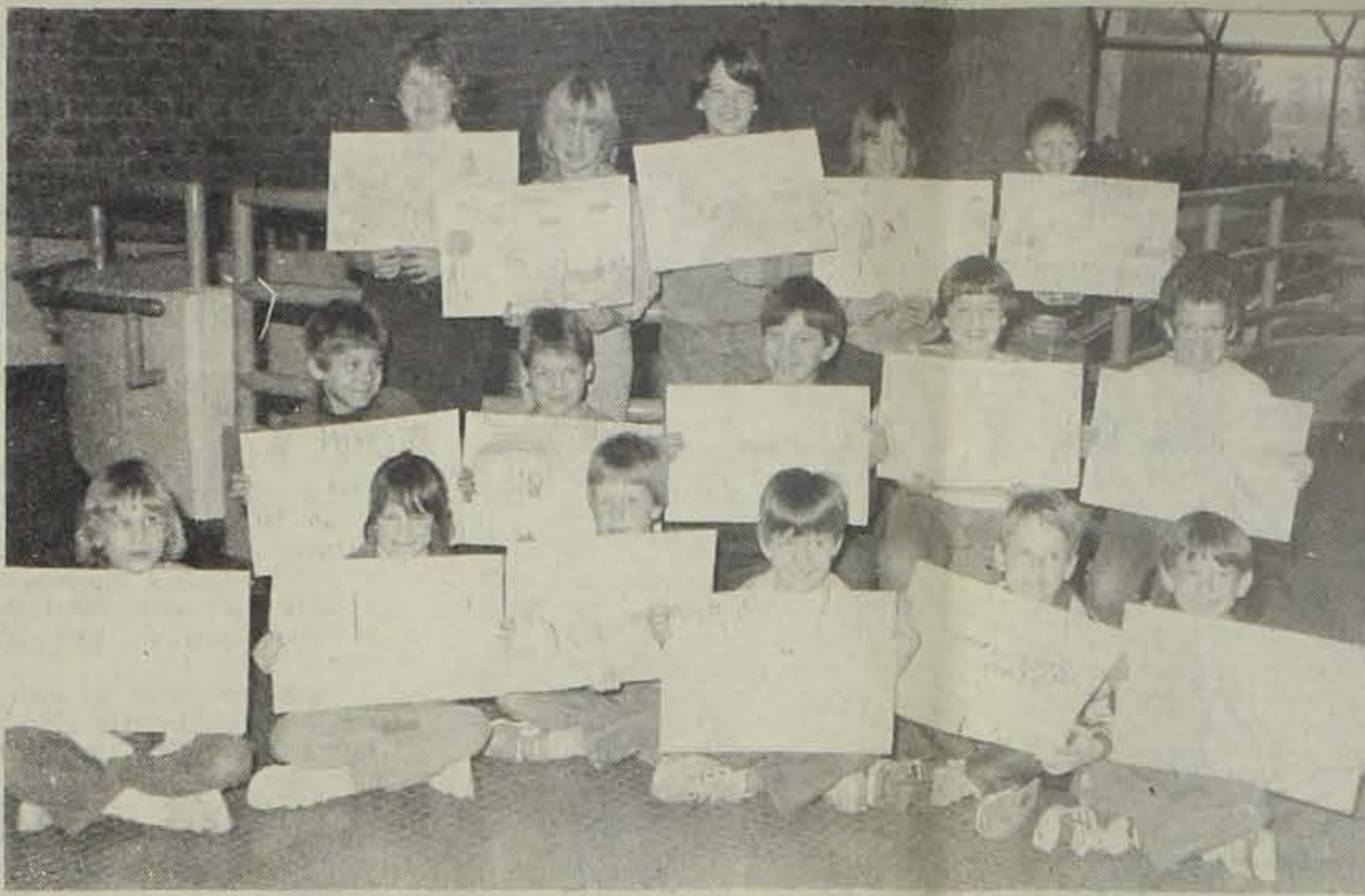
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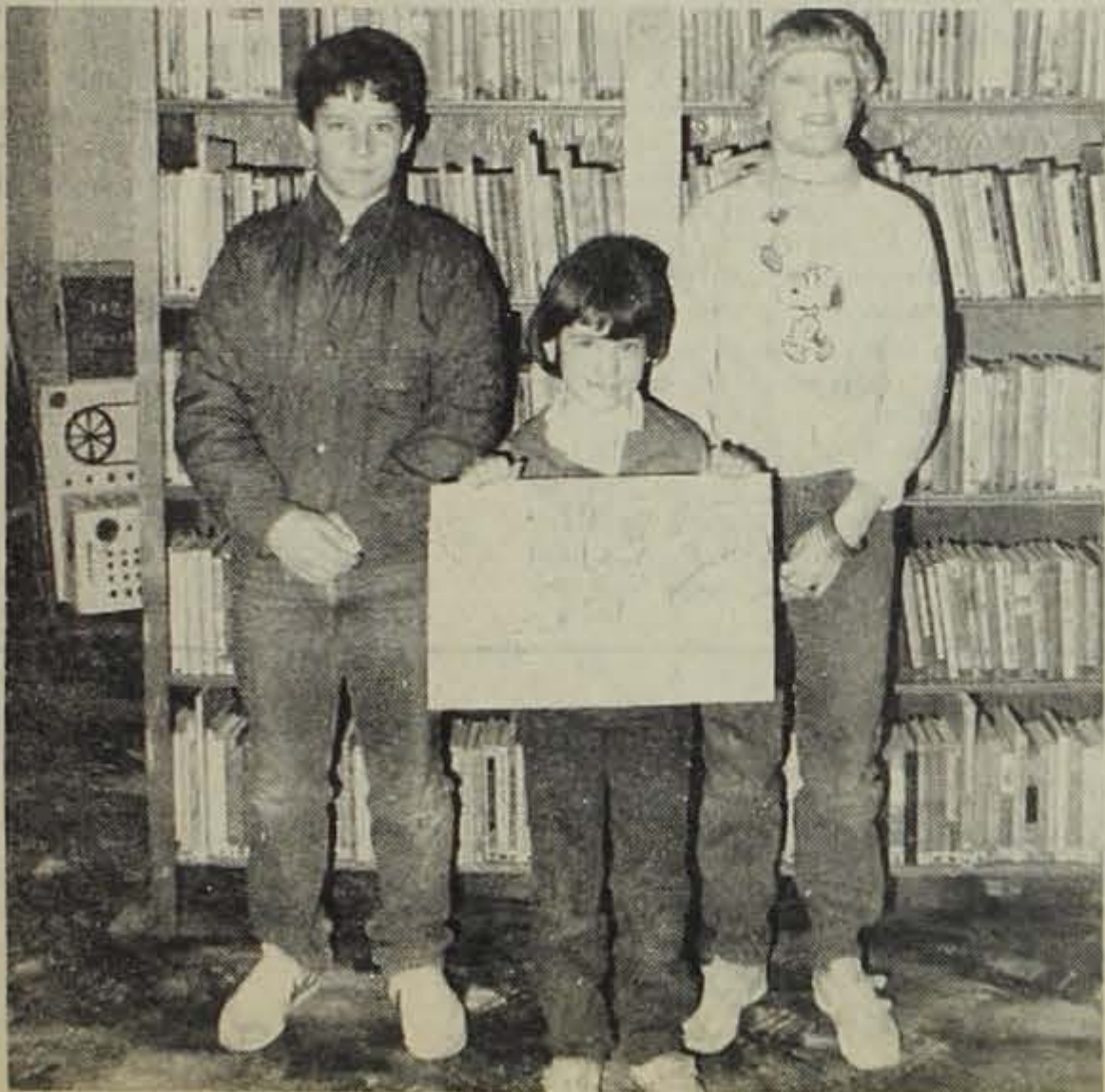
SOIL CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS



Tri-Center winners in the Soil Conservation Service poster contest included [front row, from the left] first graders Jaclyn Thomas, Laurie Thomsen, Richard Troll, Jason O'Neill, Kevin Olson and Brian Mark; [second row] second graders Chad Siebert, Eric Masker, Matt Handbury, Amy Bennett and Brenda Guill; [back row] and third graders Tammy Short, Tonia Pope, Denise Wilson, Michelle Vincent and Lynn Stamp. —Gazette photo



First grade winners at Underwood in the Soil Conservation Poster contest [first row, from the left] were Jami Bach, Kim Brokman, Lindsay Grote, Erica Perry and [not pictured] Krissie Pace. Second grade winners [back row] were Lory Casson, Shawna Carman, Mike Hedegaard, Shannon McManigal and Jamie Scoles. —Gazette photo



Conservation contest winners at St. Joseph's School in Neola included [from the left] Al Ring, sixth grade essay winner; Katherine Fischer, overall poster winner; and Jeanine Masker, fifth grade essay winner. —Gazette photo



Additional conservation contest winners at Tri-Center were [front, from the left] Sean McMahon, 4th grade poster; Terri Schuett, 6th grade and county essay winner; Debbie Schierbrock, fifth grade essay winner; [back row]; Tricia Matthews and Traci Manhart, 4th grade poster winners; Jeremy Dea, 4th grade and county poster winner; and Chris Downing, 4th grade poster winner. Schuett's and Dea's entries will be entered at the State Fair. —Gazette photo



Third grade poster winners at Underwood are [front row, from the left] Seth Grote, Angie Minear, Tanya French, Susie Knott and [not pictured] Robin Burke. Fourth grade winners are [second row] Amy Pitt, Jeff Whannell, Kurt Justesen, Jane Joens and Leah Klandt. Essay winners [standing] were Eric Hjelle in the fifth grade and Tricia Christensen in the sixth. —Gazette photo

Run for Conservation

by: Cal Dunblazier, Soil Conservation Technician

by: Paul Miller, Soil Conservationist

On September 8, 1984, the West Pottawattamie SCD and Golden Hills RC&D sponsored a 10 kilometer (6.2 miles) and 2 mile run at Arrowhead Lake County Park, near Neola, Iowa. The run was held in conjunction with this year's celebration to commemorate 50 years of soil conservation in the United States and 40 years in West Pottawattamie County.

Both races started in the park near the main dam of Arrowhead Lake. The 2 mile course went around the lake inside the park. The 10K participants ran on the county roads which surround the watershed of the lake. The winner of the 10K run was Phillip Stamp of Omaha, with a time of 36 minutes, 4 seconds. The first woman to finish was Marilyn Linkletter of Shenandoah, Iowa, in 55 minutes, 13 seconds.

In the 2 mile run, the first man and woman to finish was Terry Eyberg, Council Bluffs in 12 minutes, 30 seconds and Debbie Mashek, Omaha, in 15 minutes, 19 seconds, respectively. We would like to thank and congratulate all who participated in the runs. Following is a complete list of all the runners:

10K Run
19:29: John Bahr, Iowa City, 40:38.87; Joe Carlson, Council Bluffs, 45:37.68; Dan Woolman, Gretna, Nebraska, 51:38.88.

30-40: Phillip Stamp, Omaha, 36:04.03; Larry Newkirk, Council Bluffs, 42:32.87; Vern Goff, Omaha, 43:11.00; Dennis Shea, Council Bluffs; Tom Shea, Council Bluffs; and John Cockrell, Fremont, Nebraska.

41 & above: Bill Monahan, Omaha, 36:47.78; George Lee, Council Bluffs, 41:38.93; and Paul Maul, Bellevue, Nebraska, 48:35.34.

19-29 Women: Kathy Grimm, Council Bluffs, 62:33.15.

30-40 Women: Anne Jenkins, Council Bluffs, 62:30.07.

41 & Above Women: Marilyn Linkletter, Shenandoah, 55:13.44.

2 Mile Run

Men: Terry Eyberg, Council Bluffs, 12:29.87; Shawn Shea, Council Bluffs; Ryan Shea, Council Bluffs; Ken Glasser, Omaha; Eric Glasser, Omaha; Charles Betts, Omaha; Gary Ratigan, Neola; Robert Woolman, Gretna, Nebraska; Mike Baker, Council Bluffs; Tod Eyberg, Council Bluffs.

Women: Debbie Mashek, Omaha, 15:18.78; Betty Monahan, Omaha; Ann Baker, Council Bluffs.

Average Costs			
Grassed Backslope			
	1984	1983	
Number of Jobs	134	96	
Feet per Job	2,716.65	4,038.24	
Yards per Job	6,023.37	8,606.21	
Yards per foot	2.22	2.15	
Cost per Job	\$2,690.00	\$4,049.04	
Cost per foot	\$.99	\$ 1.03	
Cost per yard	\$.45	\$.47	
Yards moved per hour	135.10	125.71	
Narrowbase			
Total Feet	40,417 Ft.	43,578 Ft.	
Cost per foot	\$.70	\$.70	
Cost per yard	\$.45	\$.51	

What is the Environmental Education Council and what does it do?

by: Tim Bottoms
County Resource Planner

To recap what went on at EEC meetings and programs this past year, this group of people tried to come up with ideas to help students become more aware of the environment around them. To start out the year, we had a poster and essay contest with local schools in the areas. The topic was "Clean Water" with grades K-6 taking part in the contest. The EEC group also has a special interest in a project for Arrowhead Park for their Environmental Field Day to be held May 3, 1985. Its purpose is to give students and adults a chance to visit the park to see what the outdoors is all about.

Educational packets are available through this group for teachers to use in the classroom. Teacher workshops are also available for teachers to

attend to learn more about the environment and share it with their students. Comic books are available for students to receive through SCSA on conservation tillage called "What Now Kerbie", which tells the story of a kernel of corn. Also for Arbor Day, students can plant trees donated by local companies and organizations. This program gives students the chance to start a tree from a seedling and watch it grow year after year.

This has been a very good year and already for next year we have a lot of things planned.

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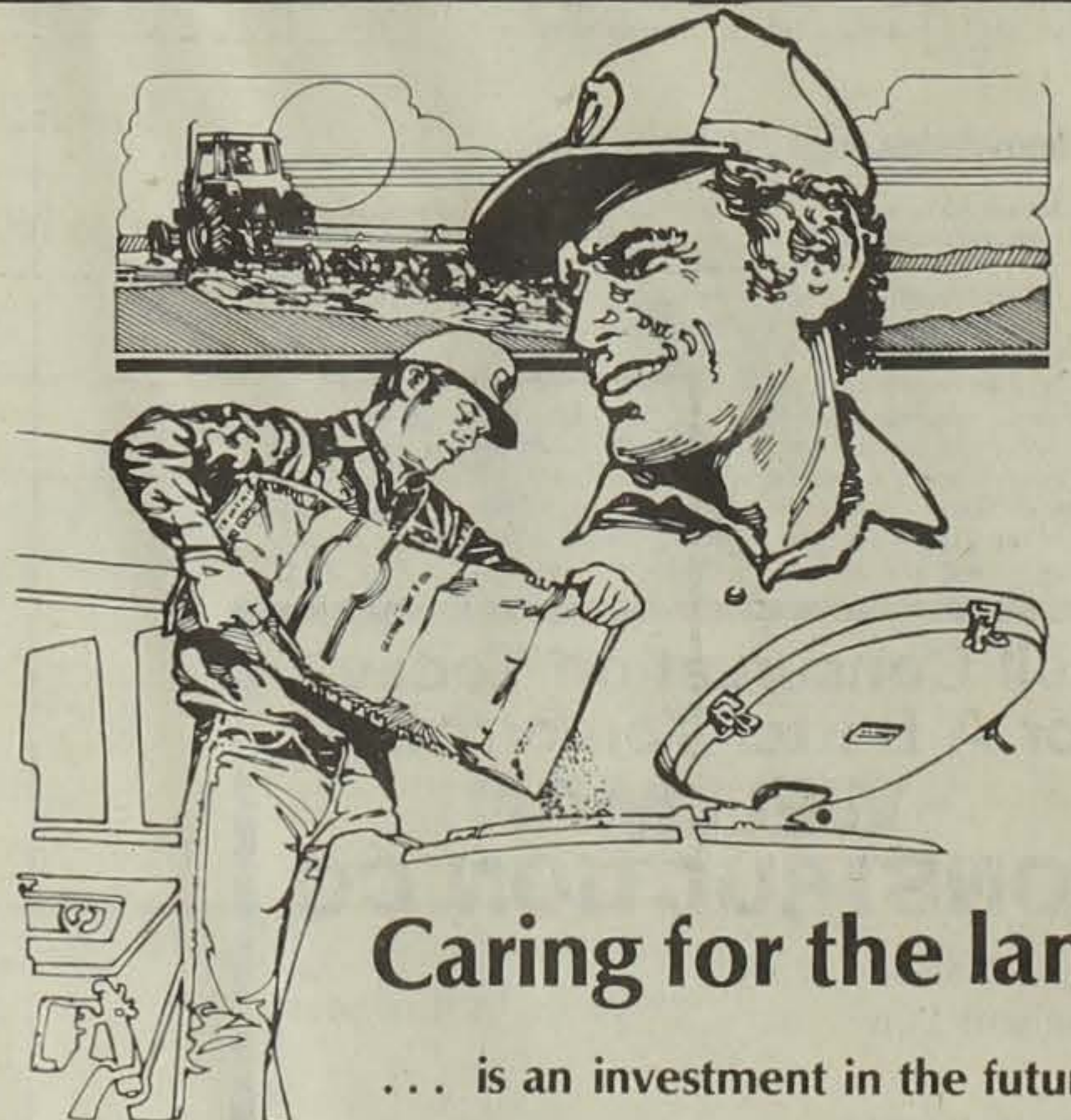
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