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3rd Graders Receive Trees

All third graders in Cedar County received a green ash tree seedling to be planted in celebration of Arbor Day April 26. The tree project was sponsored by Cedar Soil Conservation District Commissioners. The letter below was received from Tipton Elementary School.

Dear Cedar County SCD Commissioners:

Thank you for the "Arbor Day" trees. My students were pleased to receive the trees and I was too! Our class received an extra so I took it home and planted it. My own children love gardening and thought tree planting was really special.

Your gift to the students was one of those "life learning" opportunities to share. I was excited to participate and teach a mini tree course - with a real tree to plant as a learning reward. Students with older brothers & sisters shared stories about how those trees had grown. It was an exciting project for us all. Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Sally Kruse 3-2

60% Cost-\$hare

Cedar Soil Conservation District Commissioners approved 60% cost-share for summer construction at the May meeting. The 60% cost-share incentive is available for permanent soil & water conservation practices installed during the summer. Project must begin between June 1 and August 15 and be completed by October 1, 1987. Stop by the SCS office for more information and application.

6th Year of Publication

This issue marks the Cedar Soil Conservation District Newsletter's sixth year of publication.

PLEASE take time to acknowledge each & every one of the advertisers; without their cooperation and support for soil conservation the newsletter would not be possible.



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Cedar County Soil & Water Conservation District



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NEWSLETTER

Phone 886-6214

Volume 31
July-August 1987

1987 Iowa Conservation Award Winners Named

The Cedar Soil Conservation District participated in the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program for landusers doing an outstanding job in soil conservation. Farmers are selected from the following divisions: LANDLORD/TENANT, OWNER-OPERATOR, and NEW COOPERATOR categories. The recipients will be honored at our Annual Awards Banquet held in the Spring of 1988.

The overall County winner will be sent on to compete in State judging.

LANDLORD/TENANT

Piney Knoll Farm, Inc., in Fremont Township, by William Davidson and William Davidson II (owner) and D. George and Jean Driscoll (operator) were nominated for the Landlord/Tenant Division and overall county winner. Piney Knoll is made up of 600 acres and is adequately protected from soil loss by using the following conservation practices: no-till and minimum tillage on continuous corn & corn-soybean rotations, crop rows are planted on the contour, and over 6,900 linear feet of terraces have been installed. Windbreaks were installed on both Piney Knoll and Driscoll's own farm in 1987. William Davidson II was a Cedar SCD Commissioner from 1972-1984 and was honored for his dedicated service by receiving the Outstanding Commissioner Award in 1981. George Driscoll was Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Owner-Operator Division County Winner in 1984. The Driscoll's receive assistance from their hired man John Tuthill to aid in their successful farming operation. Congratulations to the Davidsons', Driscolls', and Tuthills' for their outstanding efforts.

OWNER-OPERATOR

Fawcett Farms, Inc., by Ken Fawcett has been nominated as outstanding Owner-Operator. Ken owns and operates 160 acres in Springdale Township and farms another 790 acres belonging to the family corporation. Ken has been a no-tiller since 1978. He no-tills into all his soybean stubble, 100 to 200 acres of corn stalks and into sod. For no-tilling into sod he sprays 2-4D and Roundup in the fall. By spraying in the fall he only needs to use 1/2 rate that is recommended than if he would have sprayed in the spring. Ken farms all his land on the contour and maintains grassed waterways. A pond was built in 1985 on some of his steeper ground to help control gully erosion. Also 28 acres, where erosion potential was the greatest, was put into the Conservation Reserve Program to protect it from erosion for the next 10 years.

Ken's father, Floyd, was one of the first District Commissioners and organized the Cedar Soil Conservation District in 1946.

NEW COOPERATOR

Bev Brown, West Branch, was nominated as the Outstanding New Cooperator. Her main enterprise is cattle and sheep. Bev incorporates pasture management practices which include: rotational grazing, uses fence spurs to prevent up & down cow trails which could cause gully erosion, and annually applies nitrogen and uses flextooth harrow to scatter manure and aerate soil. Crop practices are minimum tillage and crop rotation, participates in ASCS 50/92 program, uses minimum amount of chemicals, and all planting done on the contour. Congratulations Bev, for your special efforts!

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS: Jim Bowie (Center Twp.), Randall Shaull (Red Oak Twp.), Robert Niermeyer (Fairfield Twp.), Steve Driscoll (Cass Twp.), Millicent Zenishek (Fremont Twp.). ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS: Darrell Brown, Richard Kreinbring, Joel Brown and Richard Zenishek. SECRETARY: Ken Muller, Cedar County Extension Director.

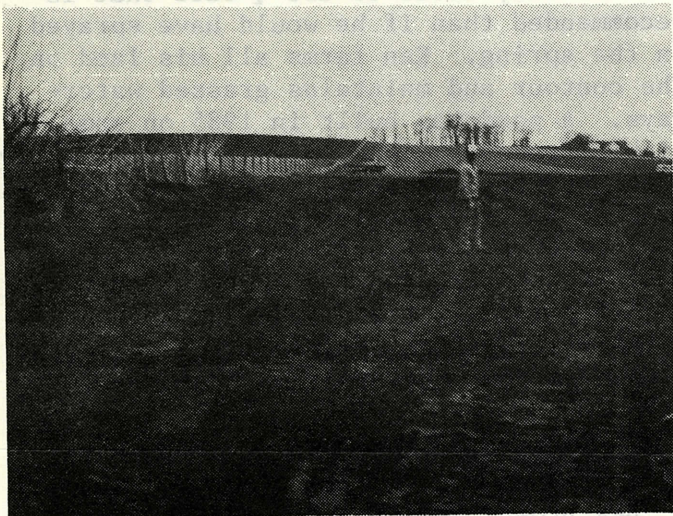
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Kelly Constructs Waterway

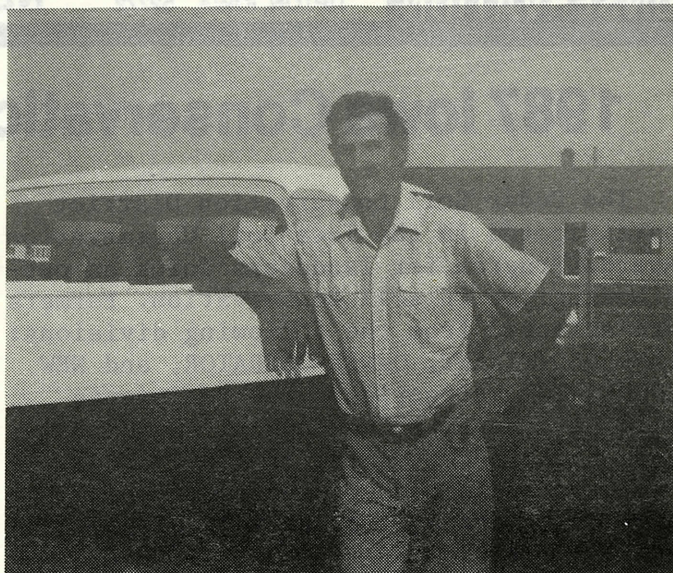
Above is the "before" picture of gully erosion and below depicts the "after" product of a completed waterway constructed by Everett Crees on the Nevin Kelly farm in Section 18 of Farmington Township. A trial seeding of switchgrass and western wheat grass is being used on the waterway.



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Andrews Joins SCS Staff

Edwin C. Andrews, pictured above, recently joined the Cedar County SCS staff as a Soil Conservation Aid.

He will assist landusers with surveys and site layout to install conservation practices. Ed has been working on transferring SCS records to ASCS tract system and will also help in making HEL (highly erodible land) determinations.

Ed is a part-time farmer and auctioneer. He and his wife, Carol, reside in Stanwood and have three daughters: Carmen, Cara and Melinda.

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Stored Grain Insect Control Meeting

July 8, 1987 -- 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Lamp Building - Durant, Iowa

Controlling insects in stored grain will be discussed and demonstrated at the Durant Meeting. A farm will be visited in the afternoon to demonstrate surface insecticide treatment, fumigation, and handling grain for long term storage. Meeting sponsored by Cedar County Extension Service. Contact Ken Muller for more details.

CRP Sign-Up

The 1988 ten-year Conservation Reserve Program sign-up will be held July 20-31, 1987. Eligibility rules are the same as the last sign-up. At time of publication NO BONUS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. Contact the SCS office for eligibility requirements and rules. Further information will be released to local newspapers when received.

Windbreak Renovation

Pictured is Margery & Robert Schott with their windbreak renovation west of Tipton. They added a row of Norway Spruce and a row of Arborvitae to an existing row of Red Cedar trees. The Schott's purchased the trees from Boots Nursery in Anamosa, and participated in the ASCS cost-share program.



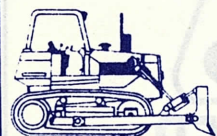
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