

The Tipton Conservative

AND ADVERTISER

Official Paper for Tipton and the County

Cedar County's Better Advertising Medium

Supplement to The Tipton Conservative

Soil Conservation Issue

January 28, 1987

Soil Conservation Edition

Clarence Man Builds New Wildlife Habitat

by Pat Kroemer

Steve Maurer, Clarence, is a real wildlife enthusiast. He purchased a farm northeast of Tipton in 1985 with intentions of building an 8 acre wildlife habitat. During the winter Maurer found out funds were available through the Iowa Conservation Commission for people planting switch grass.

"After reading about the program I called Tim Thompson, a wildlife management biologist from Iowa City," Maurer said. "Thompson drew up a map of the area and suggested where certain varieties of trees could be planted."

In April, Maurer, along with Loren Lilienthal, burned the 8 acres of bluegrass and brush where he planned to build the habitat. He applied Round-Up to the entire area, then disked and culmulated the ground. Four rains

kept Maurer from returning to seed the area.

"After the rains, the ground was so hard," Maurer explained, "we had to broadcast the seed instead of drilling it." After seeding, the ground was culmulated again to incorporate the seeds. Atrazine was sprayed on the area later.

Maurer planted 3 rows of shrubs on the north edge of the switch grass to help protect the wildlife during the winter. Approximately 1,400 trees and shrubs were planted in May.

"I'm hoping that the shrubs will also help keep the snow out of the switch grass and that will help the stand," Maurer said. The shrubs should grow 12 feet high. Maurer planted white pine along a fence line and cedar clumps. The cedar trees were planted close to keep them small to make better ground cover.

"I'm hoping for a 50% survival rate on the trees,"

Maurer explained. He planted amur honeysuckle, chokecherry, white pine, scotch pine, red cedar, Russian olive, tatarian honeysuckle and black walnut, purchased through the state.

"Palmer Holden also planted trees to the north of my farm," said Maurer. "That will be an asset to the habitat area."

"I had always intended, it to be a wildlife habitat, it was a bonus that the ICC paid me \$60 an acre to build it," Maurer said.

Restrictions Maurer has to adhere to are that no livestock can be grazed on the area, it can be clipped no shorter than 8 inches in July and August and Atrazine must be applied to keep the contract.

Maurer, a member of the new Cedar-Wapsi chapter of Pheasants Forever, was assisted by members of that group with the tree planting operation.

Pheasants Forever has



Steve Maurer, Clarence, looks over maps of his 8 acre wildlife habitat, which he built northeast of Tipton. Maurer participated in the Iowa Conservation Commission's switch grass program on 3 acres of the habitat.

helped people with the cost of building a habitat. Their purpose is to put wildlife habitats in place, help with switch grass

plantings and shelter belts, and assist with winter feeding programs for pheasants.

"The Soil Conservation

Service has shown the area to people and have reported a good stand in the switch grass," Maurer said.

New Soil Conservationist In Cedar County

Paul Viner is a busy man.

The soil conservationist has been splitting his time between the Cedar and Muscatine Soil Conservation Service (SCS) offices in Tipton and Muscatine, working on a variety of projects.

The LaCrosse, Wis. native is on a 2 week

rotation between the offices and has been digging into the Iowa 2000 project folders in Cedar county, hoping to have them completed for Springdale township by March.

Each folder contains an aerial photo, soil map and information about SCS services that encourages

farmers to use the SCS to help save soil. About 100 of the folders will go to landowners in Springdale township.

Viner is also spending time working with District Conservationist Kurt Hoelt and Judy Eiselstein, soil conservation technician, helping to complete farm plans.

In Muscatine county, the soil conservationist is completing conservation plans and doing work on sediment control basins and terraces. He has also been checking out a number of contractors in the area doing conservation project work. The conservationist attended the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, receiving his degree in biology and resource management, with a minor in soils, in December 1977.

He started working for the SCS in February 1978 as a soil scientist, doing soil mapping work in Carroll and Greene counties for 2 years.

He moved to the Muscatine SCS office in March 1980 and for the next 5 years he worked on the soil mapping survey, completing it in 1985.

For the next year and a half he worked on soil mapping in Scott county and he began his rotation between Cedar and Muscatine counties in

December 1986.

Viner said one reason he decided to become a soil conservationist was that soil maps for most of the state of Iowa have been completed and the demand for soil scientists is dropping.

He has been very happy with the reception he has received from people in Cedar county and says the area has a large number of conservation minded farmers.

With more changes coming for farmers because of the 1985 farm bill, Viner says SCS offices are being kept very busy.

He points out that one of his jobs as a soil conservationist is to help keep farmers eligible for USDA programs and that means working on conservation plans.

Viner says that government programs will take more and more land out of production and there will be greater rotation of crops. That will help to conserve soil and he says he feels "pretty good" about the direction of the programs.

However, he also says there is a certain amount of uncertainty about the farm bill and proposed changes.

He notes that programs like the Swampbuster, Sodbuster and Conservation Reserve were approved in the 1985 farm

bill Dec. 23, 1985 and positive things are happening.

In 1990 the program requires conservation compliance on all farms that contain over 33% highly erodible land. Those farms must have a conservation plan that meets an allowable loss for erosion.

Although 1990 may seem far away, Viner says the SCS offices are busy trying to complete as many farm plans as possible so that there won't be a flood of work as the 1990 compliance date gets closer.

The SCS also has to deal with the fact that budgets for the service could change in coming months and years, as government cutbacks are made in different areas. If SCS budgets are reduced, Viner says that could hamper conservation plan work, so it is imperative that things move full speed ahead now.

Viner says that with 90% of county farmers going into government

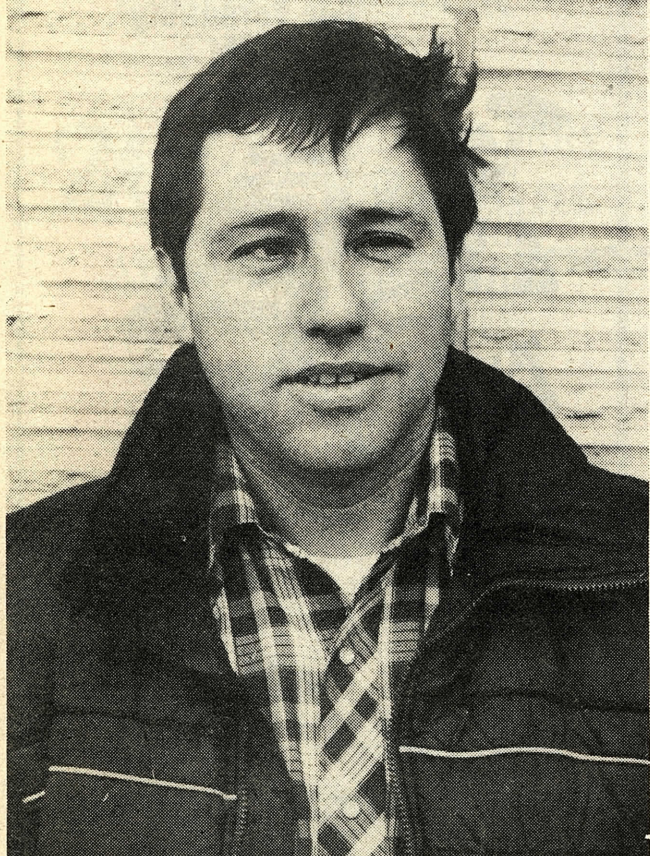
programs, at least 70% will have highly erodible land. He said conservation plans will not be difficult for people who are trying to conserve soil now and he also said the SCS is not trying to make conservation measures expensive for farmers.

He notes that many things can be done that do not cost a lot, such as crop rotation, less tillage and forage production.

"I believe that farming has to go to the conservation ethic," he said. He adds that production has to be cut so that there are fewer bushels of corn and beans to be sold, with prices heading up, instead of down. "It makes sense and it is the way to go," he said.

Viner says his future goal is to become a district conservationist in eastern Iowa after spending another 1 1/2 to 2 years helping out at the Cedar and Muscatine county offices.

The soil conservationist lives in Muscatine with his wife and 2 children.



Paul Viner, Muscatine, is a new soil conservationist working in Cedar and Muscatine counties.

1987 Soil Conservation Issue

Staff: Stuart Clark, Pat Kroemer, Mary Utley, Sally Taylor and Joe Giannini
Production: Joyce Gray, Ellouise Rekemeyer, Jane Ducker and Judy Jurgens

1986 District Activities-Projects

JANUARY

District Commissioners met for their first organizational meeting of the year Jan. 15. Election of officers was held: Robert Niermeyer, chairman; Randall Shaul, vice-chairman; Ken Muller, secretary and Melanie Deerberg, treasurer. Assistant commissioners appointed were Darrell Brown and Richard Kreinbring. Other members of the board include Joel Brown, Jim Bowie and Steve Driscoll. Becky Furnish also attended the meeting and reviewed Soil Stewardship materials with commissioners.

Crop Clinics were held Jan. 8 and 10 in Tipton and West Branch, in cooperation with the extension service.

District Conservationist Kurt Hoeft gave a presentation to Farm Bureau township directors Jan. 8.

Commissioner Joel Brown attended a legislators meeting in Marion Jan. 9 and gave a short presentation.

Jim Troendle, County Conservation Board director, showed a slide-tape set and gave a presentation on wildlife to all 6th grade students in Cedar county.

Iowa 2000 folder meetings were held Jan. 15 and 16 for Red Oak and Iowa townships.

An "Absentee Landowner Program" mailing was sent out Jan. 25.

The Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show was held Jan. 28 and 29. Commissioners Bowie, Driscoll and Niermeyer volunteered to man the booth and registration desk.

A "Soil Management Workshop" was held Jan. 30.

The Cedar Soil Conservation District newsletter was distributed to all landowners and operators in Cedar county.

Annual Report was published as a supplement to the Tipton Conservative Jan. 29.

FEBRUARY

A follow-up meeting for the "Soil Management Workshop" was held Feb. 4.

The No-Till Club Meeting and SCD Annual Poster Contest was held Feb. 5. Four schools participated with over 340 posters. Winning posters were displayed at the courthouse, annual banquet and all schools in the county.

Cedar Soil Conservation District and Corn Growers held their annual banquet Feb. 6. Conservation awards were presented.

The Cedar Soil Conservation District Environmental Education committee met Feb. 19 and started work on the resource book.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Feb. 25.

Soil Conservation Technician Judy Eiselstein organized and held a contractors meeting Feb. 26.

MARCH

Conservation Reserve Program sign up was held March 3 through 14.

The Cedar County No-Till Club met March 6 and invited all first-time no-tillers that were signed up for cost-share to attend their meeting.

District Conservationist Kurt Hoeft gave a presentation to the Lowden Lions Club March 11.

The spring regional meeting was held March 12 at Kirkwood College.

District Conservationist Kurt Hoeft attended a water quality meeting March 17 in Dubuque.

Commissioner Driscoll held a no-till meeting March 21 at his farm.

Commissioner Niermeyer and J. Brown accompanied Robert Schott, Margaret Sadeghpour, Lori Evers, Kathy Evers, Jennifer Dunn, Lynn Dunn

and Ken Dunn (1st & 2nd place poster winners) to present posters to Governor Branstad, Senator Hurley Hall and the attorney general March 25.

Commissioners held their regular meeting March 25 and the annual plan of work was reviewed. Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Districts 1986 dues were paid.

Soil stewardship materials were requested by 11 churches.

The Cedar Soil Conservation District newsletter was sent to all landowners and operators in the county.

APRIL

The district held a contour layout demonstration April 3.

District Clerk Melanie Deerberg picked up trees for the tree sales campaign from a local nursery April 16 and distributed them out of her home April 17 and 18.

District Conservationist Kurt Hoeft and Jim Troendle, executive director of the Cedar County Conservation board assisted with planning and planting of an outdoor classroom project at the Durant school April 17. Students from kindergarten through 12th grade planted over 200 trees and shrubs on school grounds. Durant School Librarian Marilyn Parchert initiated the project and procured school and community support. Local 4-H clubs will complete all needed watering during summer and the REC supplied mulch for trees.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting April 22.

The education committee met April 23 at the Cedar Valley Park. The committee took a hike, viewed the quarry and learned the history of it. The outing was led by Jim Troendle.

Soil stewardship materials were distributed to 11 churches.

Arbor Day was celebrated April 25, as the district provided green ash tree seedlings to all third graders in Cedar county.

MAY

Iowa Conservation Commission plantings were completed by Steve Maurer and Leon Lilienthal.

The regular commissioners meeting was held May 27. The board toured areas nominated for the soil conservation award contest. Commissioners selected the following: Landlord/Tenant Division winner - C. J. Lynch Estate and Steve Scott; Owner/Operator Division winner - Mike Jack; Outstanding Teacher - Francis Abel and Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award winner - Alton Larson. The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts dues were paid. Commissioners reviewed a soil loss complaint site.

Cedar Soil Conservation District newsletter was sent out.

JUNE

Over 1,000 acres were treated for multiflora rose control.

Deb Willis and Kathy Rouse, teachers at Bennett community school, were sponsored at OUTLOOK teachers camp in June.

The regular commissioners meeting was held June 24. A memorandum of understanding between the Cedar Soil Conservation District and the USDA Soil Conservation Service was reviewed. Multiflora rose control bills were certified for payment. Cass and Springdale townships were designated to receive Iowa 2000 Folders in the next year.

District Conservationist Kurt Hoeft sent out another Absentee Landowner Pilot Project mailing.

JULY

Commissioners and staff manned a booth at the

Cedar County Fair July 9 through 12. It included a display board and a computer.

Commissioners attended their regular meeting July 22. The board reviewed the annual plan of work. Commissioner Niermeyer completed nomination forms for the outstanding commissioner award. The District newsletter was distributed.

AUGUST

Delivery of Iowa 2000 Folders in Red Oak and Iowa townships began.

The district commissioners met for their regular meeting Aug. 26. A soil loss complaint site was discussed.

A display board was started by Laura Mortensen showing abused land on one display and land farmed by a conservation plan on another display.

SEPTEMBER

District had a booth at the Annual Corn and Soybean Growers Field Day Sept. 3.

District Cooperator Edwin Decker held a seed corn field day Sept. 10 to evaluate corn hybrids under no-till conditions.

The Cedar Soil Conservation District Environmental Education committee met Sept. 17. Information was gathered for developing the Resource Book and Seasonal Environmental Education Newsletter.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Sept. 23. Multiflora rose control bills were certified for payment. The 1987 annual plan of work was distributed and reviewed.

The Cedar Soil Conservation District newsletter was distributed.

OCTOBER

District Conservationist Kurt Hoeft attended the Big Spring tour in Clayton county.

Commissioners held their regular meeting Oct. 28. The board appointed Millicent Zenishek as assistant commissioner. Commissioners volunteered to be a pilot county for the new division of Soil Conservation commissioner development training. The 1985 Farm Bill was reviewed with commissioners by D. C. Hoeft.

NOVEMBER

The Cedar Soil Conservation District Environmental Education committee met Nov. 19. The resource book was compiled and a rough draft was produced. It was decided by the committee to hold the annual Poster Contest and the theme suggested was "Save Our Wildlife In Cedar County."

Commissioners attended a training session Nov. 21, developed by the Division of Soil Conservation.

Commissioners held their regular meeting Nov. 25. The board allocated funds to publish a resource book.

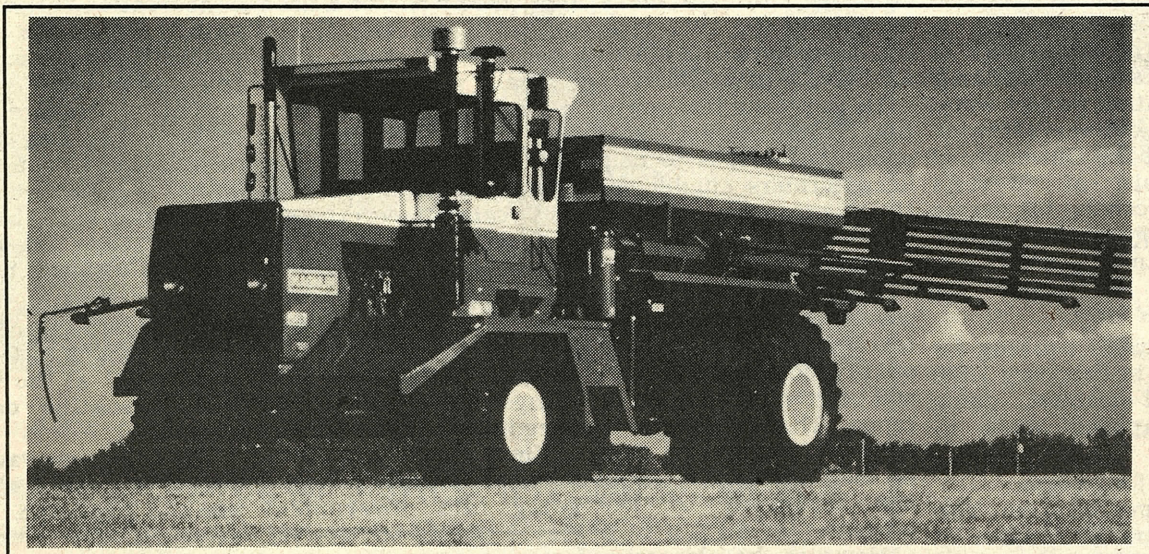
The district newsletter was published and sent out to all landowners and operators in the county.

DECEMBER

Commissioner Robert Niermeyer and Assistant Commissioner Millicent Zenishek attended a Division of Soil Conservation Annual Conference in Des Moines Dec. 1 and 2. Niermeyer gave a presentation on newsletters.

Commissioners attended a regular meeting Dec. 16. A memorandum of understanding between the Cedar Soil Conservation District and Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association was read and approved.

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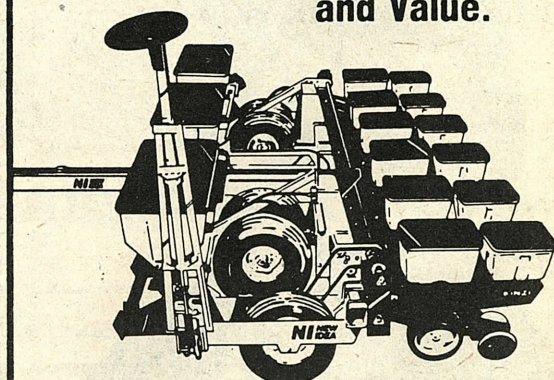
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Durant Students Plant Windbreak

by Pat Kroemer

"I froze one day when a north wind swept through the playground," said Marilyn Parchert, who was supervising children at the Durant Elementary playground. "I had had enough and that's when I got the idea to plant a windbreak on the north side of the playground."

Things began to roll when Parchert joined the Cedar County Conservation Education committee. There she discovered she could purchase inexpensive trees for the project through the state nursery. Her dream became feasible.

After receiving permission from the administration Parchert and Steve Reinert, school principal, toured the grounds making maps of the area and deciding where to plant which trees. Plans called for a windbreak on the north side of the playground, a Nature Center northwest of the football field and a property divider south of

the football field.

Parchert's dream became a reality April 17, 1986 when 200 trees and shrubs were planted on the school grounds at a cost of about \$40. It became a massive project, with Durant students, teachers, Cedar county conservation personnel and area volunteers involved in the planting.

The Senior class dug all the holes and many stayed throughout the day to help. The 8th grade QUEST class mulched the trees in the fall.

"We had enough trees that each pair of students had a tree of their own to plant and water," Parchert explained. "Each year we hope the kindergarten students can plant a few trees and watch them grow as they advance through the school system."

With the help of Bill Trede, tags have been cut and placed on each tree listing the type of tree and the class that planted it.

"This project turned out to be a community

project," Parchert explained. "Shovels were donated by the town and power plant, some farmers got together and donated a water wagon to use and 7 local 4-H clubs took turns watering the young plants over the summer."

Most classes at the Durant school were held outside April 17 as Kurt Hoeft, director of the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service and Jim Troendle, county conservation officer, explained the proper way to plant a tree.

Parchert was overwhelmed by the student involvement and she said school personnel feel there may be less vandalism, since the students had an active role in the project.

In the Nature Corner 20 different seed, nut and berry trees were planted for wildlife food and cover. The hedge on the south side of the football field was planted with choke cherries and Russian olives. The hedge should grow 8 to 10 feet. Pine and walnut trees were planted on the north side of the playground.

The Durant Garden Club donated money to purchase labels for the trees and a high bush cranberry was donated by the Durant Legion Auxiliary.

Hilda Kummerfeldt and Bill Trede volunteered their time and spent the whole day at the school. Ken Rocholz recently placed plastic collars around the trees to protect them.

"I'm very excited about the project," said Parchert. "It became a lot more than I had expected. It was good to see everyone work together for the same thing."



Bill Trede explains how to plant a tree to Marilyn Parchert and 2 kindergarten students.



Marilyn Parchert conducts an outdoor class for 5th graders on how to plant a tree. Hilda Kummerfeldt, right, helped with the tree planting.

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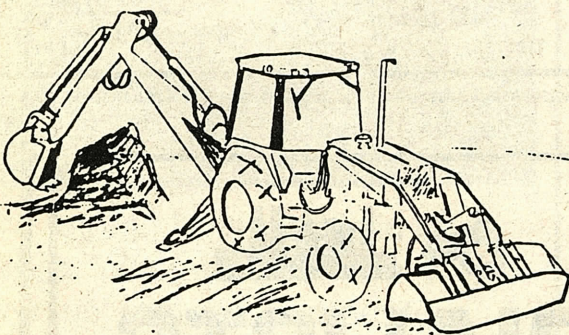
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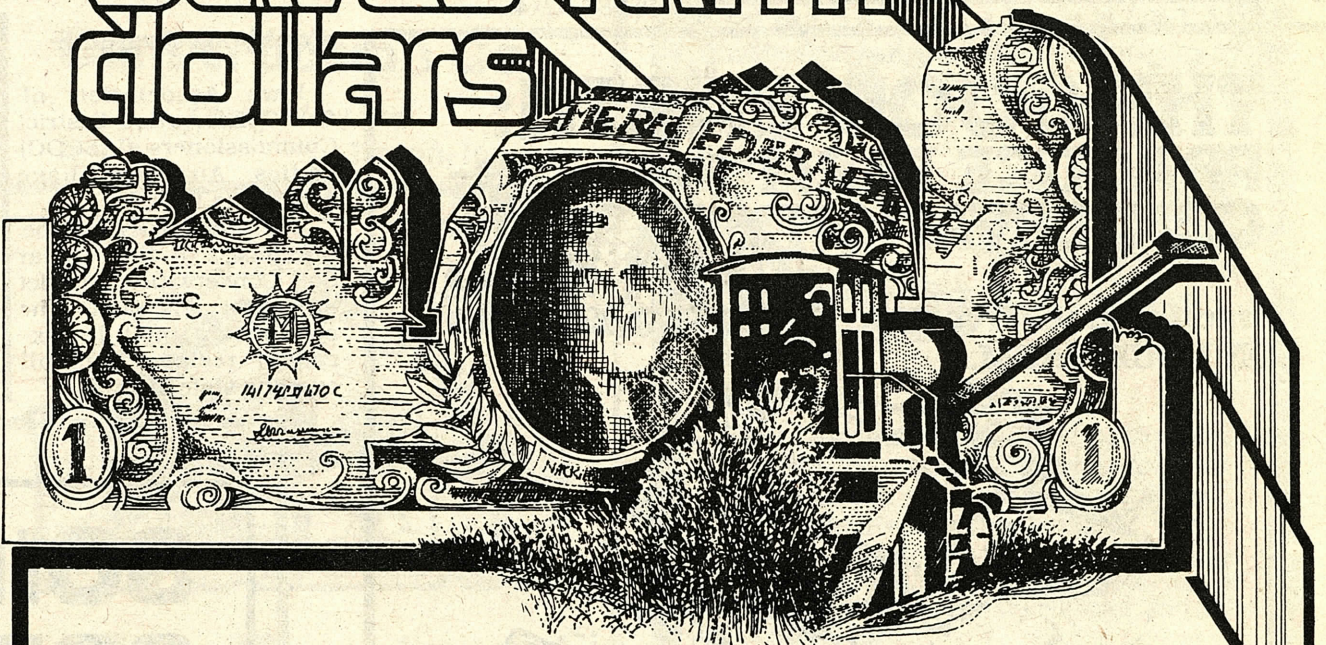
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Annual Report-Conservation Practices

NEW DISTRICT COOPERATORS

Jerry Proesch, Arthur Bailey Trust, Barlow Investments Inc., Gary Benson, Eric Doermann, Larry Alger, Richard Schlueter, Kermit & Gary Roelf, David Horman, James Wilson, Roger DeWulf, John Beecher Jr., Mary Meyer, Edward Compton, Edna Schlapkohl, Beverly Brown, James Barton, Warren Farms by Mrs. Donovan Fox, Wythe Willey, Larry Woods, Eleanor Secrest, Mary K. Young by Doane Farm Management, Richard S. Jensen, Gary Skinner, Howard Coppess, Tom Urmie, Everett Lehrman, Edward Berry, Harold Moeller and Charles King.

1986 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Robert Niermeyer, Chairman.....Fairfield Twp.

Randall Shaull, Vice-Chairman.....Red Oak Twp.
Joel Brown.....Pioneer Twp.
Jim Bowie.....Center Twp.
Steve Driscoll.....Cass Twp.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Darrell Brown.....Center Twp.
Richard Kreinbring.....Springfield Twp.
Millicent Zenishek.....Fremont Twp.

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Kurtis F. Hoeft.....District Conservationist
Paul P. Viner.....Soil Conservationist
Judy Eiselstein.....Soil Conservation Technician
Melanie B. Deerberg..... District Clerk

OTHER AGENCIES

Kenneth D. Muller.....County Extension Director
Steve Swinonos.....District Forester
George Warford.....Asst. District Forester
Bob Middendorf.....Fishery Biologist
Tim Thompson.....Wildlife Management Biologist
Jim Troendle.....Exec. Dir., Co. Conserv. Board
Michael Stenerson.....ASCS Co. Exec. Director
Randall Campbell.....FmHA County Supervisor

EXPENDITURES OF FUNDS PROVIDED Fiscal Year 1986

1-M Budget Allocation \$1,600.00
Commissioner Expenses.....668.53

Cedar SCD Tree Sales

The Cedar S.C.D. is offering bare-root tree seedlings at minimal prices again this year.

Hardwoods include: Black Walnut, Green Ash and White Oak. Evergreens include: White Pine, Red Pine, Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce, Colorado Blue Spruce, Arborvitae and an Evergreen Variety Bundle (5 each of 5 varieties). Shrubs and Nut trees include: Autumn Olive, Common Lilac, Redosier Dogwood, Hazelnut and Native Nut Tree Package.

All seedlings come in bundles of 25 except for the Native Nut Tree Package (includes 15 trees).

Trees are obtained thru a local nursery and are of extremely good quality, but cannot be guaranteed due to minimal prices. Trees must be ordered by March 1. Seedlings will be on hand for distribution in mid-April. For more information or description and price list call 886-6214.

Office Supplies.....66.17
Prizes For Contests.....228.70
Office Expenses.....520.97
1-M Budget Reduction.....62.00
Returned to Div. of Soil Conservation.....53.63

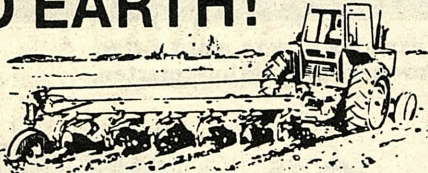
3-M Budget Allocation \$60,191.00

Amount Spent.....10,671.08
Amount Obligated.....1,800.00
Returned to Div. of Soil Conservation.....47,719.92
(December 31, 1986)

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tile Outlet Terraces.....6,881 FT.
Water & Sediment Control Basins.....31 NO.
Conservation Tillage & No-Till.....3,197 AC.
Windbreaks.....9 NO.
Ponds.....2 NO.
Multiflora Rose Control Assistance.....616 AC.
Contouring.....265 AC.
Pasture & Hayland Planting.....171 AC.
Cropland & Other Land Benefited.....4,420 AC.
Individuals & Groups Assisted.....427 NO.
Individuals & Groups Applying.....102 NO.
Conservation Practices
Conservation Planning.....2,811 AC.
Conservation Alternatives Given.....1,081 AC.
New Cooperators, 25 NO.....3,841 AC.
Conservation Folders Delivered.....27,000 AC.

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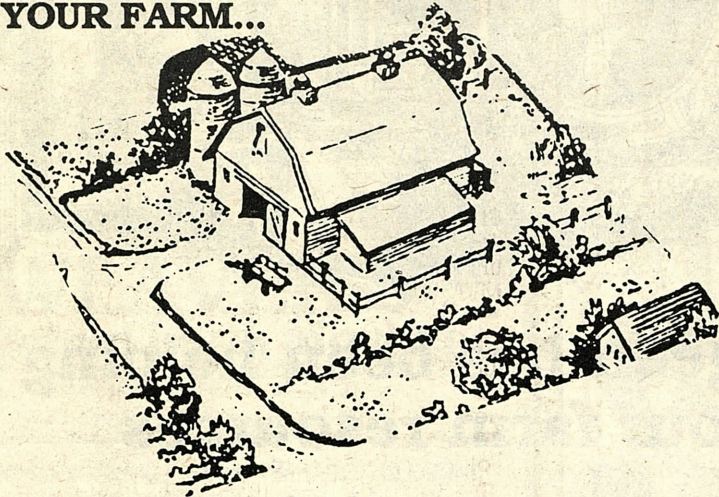
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RED OAK TWP. Alan Haynes, multiflora rose control Gordon Collier, contouring	FAIRFIELD TWP. Merlin Geadelmann, multiflora rose control & no-till Richard DeWulf, contouring Walter Conrad, contouring Donald Schroeder, no-till Jim Ward, no-till Donald Witte, no-till	SPRINGFIELD TWP. Richard Kieppe, no-till Richard Kreinbring, multiflora rose control Melvin Quick, multiflora rose control	INLAND TWP. Edgar Hietzer, multiflora rose control Raymond Dies, multiflora rose control Siegfried Petersen, multiflora rose control Roger Wiese, multiflora rose control David Timmerman, windbreak Leroy Moeller, windbreak Erwin Voss, windbreak
CASS TWP. LaVerne Wood, grassed waterway Mary Meyer, pasture & hayland planting Mike Walter, wildlife habitat management Larry Glick, windbreak	CENTER TWP. Robert Schott, no-till Calvin Moore, multiflora rose control Wayne Nebergall, multiflora rose control & contouring Elmer Belitz, multiflora rose control Phillip Hargrave, multiflora rose control Robert Albaugh, multiflora rose control Donald Rosenow, multiflora rose control Cedar Co. Farm, water & sediment control basins & terraces Leonard Hoffman, no-till Roger DeWulf, no-till	ROCHESTER TWP. Robert Gregory, no-till, windbreak, pasture & hayland planting Ray Schwitter, multiflora rose control Dale Thumma, multiflora rose control Dwayne Drager, multiflora rose control Sharpless Estate, pasture & hayland planting	SUGAR CREEK TWP. Herbert Whitmer, pasture & hayland planting Alva Proctor, no-till Joe Scorpil, no-till Paul Rasmussen, no-till June Reeve, grade stabilization structure & grassed waterway
GOWER TWP. William Wright, multiflora rose control Donald Barnhart, multiflora rose control & woodland fencing Francis Donohoe, multiflora rose control Sally Miller, pond T. Madison Hadley, pasture & hayland planting Richard Anderson, windbreak	IOWA TWP. George Bowie, no-till Donald Rathjen Jr., no-till Robert Clemmens, multiflora rose control Raymond Millett, multiflora rose control Ken Mather, no-till & windbreak Wayne Behrens, windbreak	SPRINGDALE TWP. Clarence Crew, no-till, multiflora rose control, terraces & water & sediment control basins John Beecher Jr., pasture & hayland planting Scattergood School, no-till Floyd Fawcett, pond	FARMINGTON TWP. Elta Weh, windbreak Kenneth Leach, windbreak
LINN TWP.	CLARK TWP.	CLARK TWP.	CLARK TWP.

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Cookbook Available

Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners (IASCDC) Ladies Auxiliary have cookbooks for sale.

The cookbooks can be purchased at the Cedar Soil Conservation District office for \$7 each. The cookbooks include excellent recipes from all over the state of Iowa.

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Program Compliance - Here Are 3 Alternatives

by Judy Hagan Eiselstein
Soil Conservation Technician

With 1990 conservation compliance just around the corner, some people are going to have to consider using some different practices. Three have been described below:

CONTOUR FARMING

Contouring is a way of farming sloping land so that preparing land, planting and cultivating are done on the contour. Contour farming shall be established on the contour with a maximum deviation not to exceed one percent, except for a 100 foot length. The maximum deviation toward a waterway shall not exceed 3%. Where contouring alone is used, grassed waterways shall be established and/or maintained in areas of concentrated water flow. At least one rod wide field borders (headlands) shall be established or maintained. Contouring will reduce soil loss up to 50%.

TERRACING

A terrace is a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope. It is used to 1) reduce slope length 2) reduce erosion, 3) reduce sediment content in runoff water, 4) improve water quality, 5) intercept and conduct surface runoff at a nonerosive velocity to a stable outlet, 6) prevent gully development and 7) improve farmability. Terraces must generally fit the contour of the land. All terrace systems will be installed as part of a resource management system. Terrace systems shall be combined with planned cultural and management practices, including residue management systems and crop rotations, that will adequately reduce soil loss in the interval between terraces to the permissible limits. We basically have 3 types of terraces: broad base, grassed backslope and narrow base. Terraces will reduce soil loss up to 60%.

CONTOUR STRIPCROPPING

Stripcropping is used for growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips or bands on the contour to reduce

water erosion. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or close-growing crop is alternated with a strip of clean-tilled crop or fallow or a strip of grass is alternated with a close-growing crop. Contour strip boundaries should be established on a grade of less than one percent toward drainageways. Where stripcropping is used, grass waterways will be established and maintained.

popular indoor farm equipment show with dealers and farmers from across Iowa and Nebraska in attendance.

The improved agricultural climate in Iowa has helped increase interest in this show. Over 100 manufacturers and distributors will be showcasing their new products and promoting the latest innovative ideas for farming and gardening. Displays by Case International and John Deere will be set up by their participating Iowa dealers.

Programs have also been planned for the ladies. Country crafts demonstrations by The Farmhouse of Grimes will be presented at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day.

The exhibits at the Iowa Power Farming Show will open at 8:30 a.m. They will close at 4 p.m. Feb. 4 and at 3 p.m. Feb. 5.

The show is sponsored by the members of the Iowa-Nebraska Farm Equipment Association. No ticket will be required

January 28, 1987 Soil Conservation Page 5

Minimum field border plantings 15 to 20 feet wide will be established. Contour stripcropping will reduce soil loss up to 70%.

These are a few of the practices to consider when looking at controlling your soil loss. For further information on these or any others contact our office at 1201 North Ave., Tipton.

and the admission is free. You may contact your local dealer for additional information.

Conservation District Interseeder Available

The Cedar Soil Conservation District's interseeder is available to rent again this spring and summer. A fee of \$15 per

day is charged for its use. Improve your pasture with birdsfoot trefoil, crown vetch or alfalfa. If you are interested in renting the interseeder call Melanie at 886-6214 or Jim Bowie at 886-6946.

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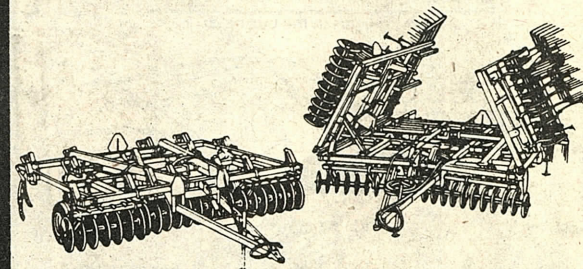
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Wildlife Depends On Area Farmers

by Timothy A. Thompson
Wildlife Biologist
Iowa Department of
Natural Resources

Today can be a very promising time for upland wildlife in Iowa. With almost 90% of Cedar county is crop land, hay and pasture, the abundance of wildlife depends upon the farmer. His management decisions may involve participating

in various federal farm programs. Many of these programs can be directed for the benefit of wildlife.

The most common farm program is the corn acreage set-aside administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). Farmers participating in this program must idle 20% of their corn base. An additional 15% may be set aside in 1987. What most landowners are not aware of is that wildlife food plots may be planted on these set-aside acres.

Food plots may be corn,

grain sorghum, forage sorghum, or a mixture of these grains. No harvesting can be done on these plots. A food plot may be up to 10 acres in size. They cannot be planted adjacent to other row crops. Under ASCS guidelines, the food plot can serve as set-aside for 2 years. Ask about this option when you sign up at the ASCS office. Free seed is available for wildlife food plots by the local Cedar-Wapsi Pheasants Forever chapter.

The same field can qualify as your set-aside acres for a number of years. Therefore, a "permanent" type seeding could save you money and improve wildlife nesting cover. A yearly temporary seeding costs you time and money with each pass across the field. Once a "permanent" seeding is established, you save fuel and labor. You also have fewer weed problems. A mixture of brome-alfalfa-clover is excellent pheasant nesting habitat.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has many possibilities for wildlife habitat. The CRP program provides the landowner with payments for 10 years for taking highly erodible land out of production. He must seed down the land to grasses or trees to protect the soil. A well designed plan can have many benefits for wildlife by using a combination of cool-season grasses and legumes, warm-season

native grasses, and shrub and tree plantings. This program is also administered through the ASCS office.

Many farms have poor, unproductive ground that should be out of production but it doesn't qualify for the previously discussed programs. The ASCS office has limited funds (ACP funds) to cost-share the establishment of native grasses, windbreaks, tree plantations and a variety of permanent wildlife cover. These practices can on these programs, contact all benefit wildlife, even if your ASCS office (886-6061), SCS office (886-6214) or state wildlife biologist (354-8343). It's

A shelterbelt establishment program north of highway 30 offers a 90% cost-share incentive (25% state/65% federal funds). This program calls for shelterbelts of 8 to 14 rows wide and from 100 to 400 foot long. Existing shelterbelts may be incorporated into the plan. Applications are available at the Soil Conservation Service office (SCS). The sign up deadline is early February.

For more information on these programs, contact your ASCS office (886-6061), SCS office (886-6214) or state wildlife biologist (354-8343). It's

your management decision if you want to see more pheasants and other wildlife. So do your part and give wildlife a place to live!

Survey Flags At SCS Office

Survey flags are available through the local Soil Conservation District office for 5¢ each. The flags consist of a 4"x5" plastic fluorescent orange flag on a 30" wire staff.

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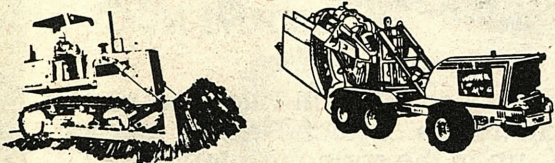
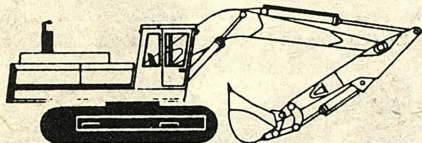
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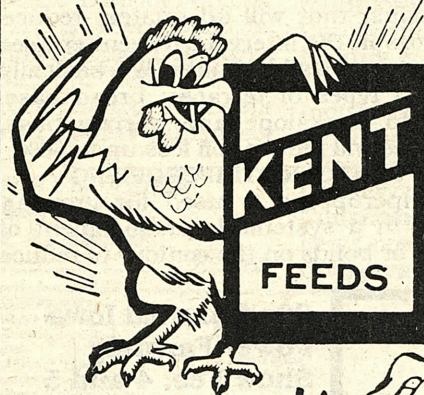
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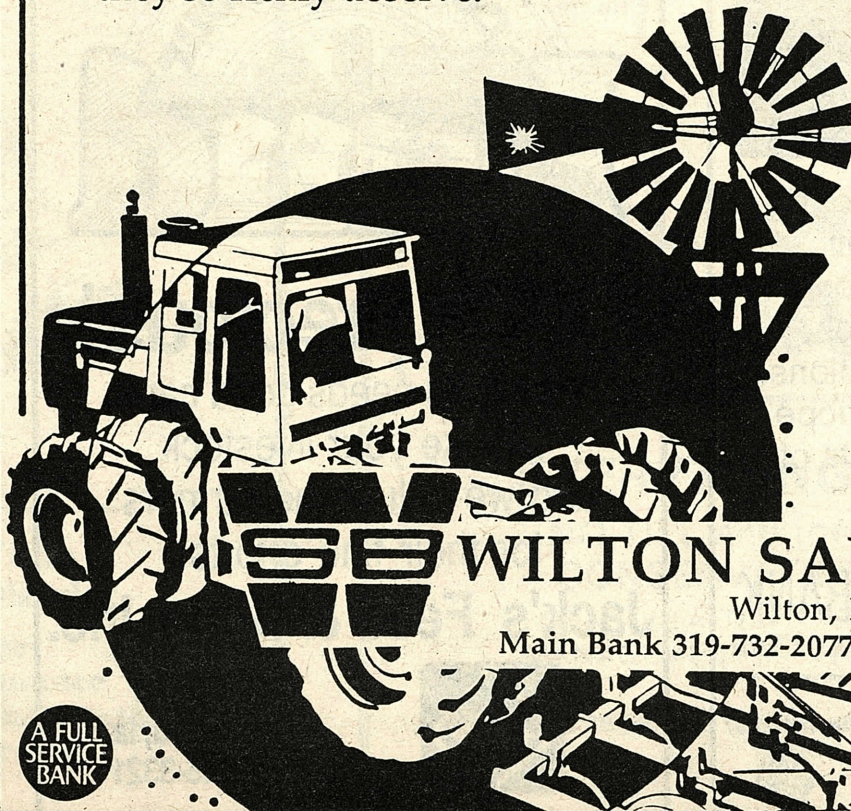
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State Reorganizes Divisions Covering Soil Conservation

The recent re-organization of state government places responsibility for the protection of soil and water resources under the same authority as the responsibility for agricultural production and promotion, according to Elvie Dreeszen, chairperson of the State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC).

"The 1986 Iowa Code recognizes, as conservation-minded farmers have long known, that protection of these resources must be a vital part of the entire agricultural operation," he said.

Under the 1986 bill, the Department of Soil Conservation (DSC) became the division of soil conservation within the new Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALS).

Dreeszen, who farms near Cushing, leads the SSCC in making administrative rules for the division of soil conservation and advising the division on policy matters. The division administers the state cost-share program for soil conservation, supports the 100 soil conservation districts, assists the water

resource district boards (formerly the conservancy district boards) in water management and regulates coal mining in Iowa, among other duties.

"According to the 1986 revision of the Iowa Code," Dreeszen said, "it is the legislature's policy to integrate the conservation of soil and water resources into the production of agricultural commodities to ensure the long-term protection of the soil and water resources of the state of Iowa."

In addition to the division of soil conservation, the new DALS includes a broad range of agricultural activities, from commodity support sections to the state fair, brucellosis testing and the Agricultural Development Authority, among other responsibilities.

IFIP Provides Cost-Share Funds For Conservation

The Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP) now has cost-share funds for summer conservation construction incentives and special watershed projects, according to Bill McGill, resource conservationist for the division of soil conservation.

The division is part of the new Department of

Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and will support expanded and needed soil conservation administer \$6.2 million in work by landowners," cost-share funds this year McGill said. "Summer to Iowa's 100 soil construction incentives conservation districts.

"These new measures

Cont. on page 8

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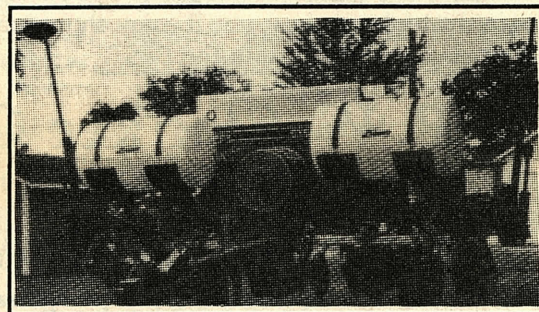
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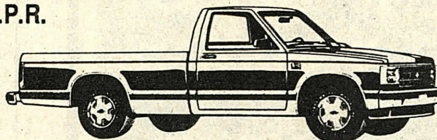
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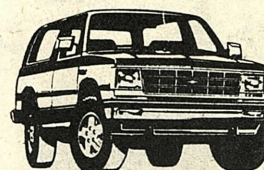
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New Resource Book

The Cedar Soil Conservation District's education committee organized, gathered information and developed an "Environmental Education Resource Book" in 1986. The resource book includes sources of places, people, organizations and civic groups in and around Cedar county and resource material. The book will be published and made available to all interested teachers, civic groups and organizations in Cedar county Feb. 12. For more information call 886-6214.

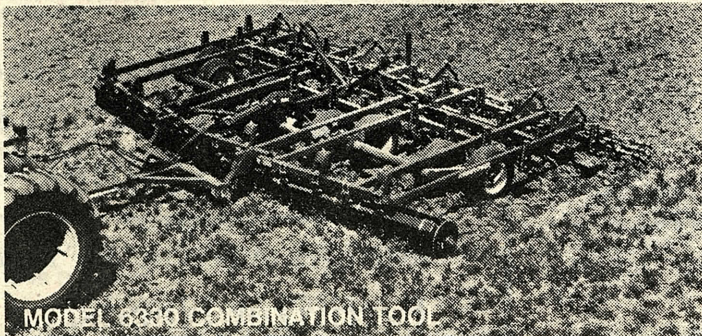
Members on the education committee

are Darrell Brown, assistant commissioner; Ken Muller, extension director; Margaret Sadeghpour, Lincoln; Marilyn Parchert, Durant; Cindy Buck, Clarence-Lowden; Kathy Rouse, Bennett; Kris Anderson and Mary Niemann, Tipton; Linda McHard, West Branch; Kurt Hoeft, district conservationist and Melanie Deerberg, district clerk.

The environmental education resource book was funded by the Cedar County Sportsman's Club and Cedar Soil Conservation District. Donations from organizations or clubs will also be accepted.

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Cont. from page 7

will provide up to 60% of the cost of establishing approved permanent soil and water conservation practices, such as terraces.

Projects must begin after June 1 and before Aug. 15. The funds will be available by summer 1987.

The provisions for special watershed projects will allow up to 60% cost-sharing for projects that include 5 or more contiguous farm units, subwatershed."

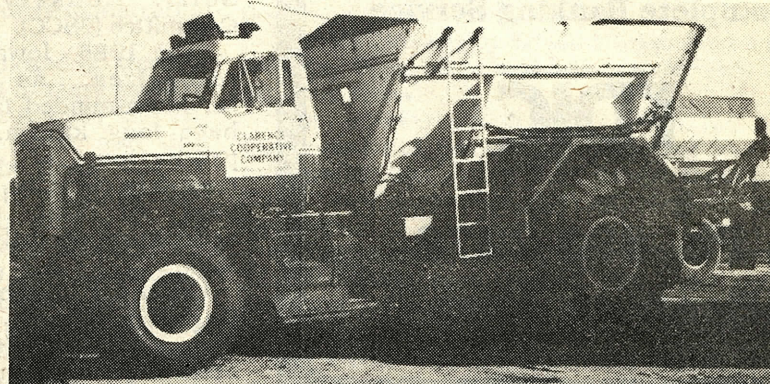
with at least 500 acres of farmland among them, according to McGill.

"The special watershed projects can enable a group of farmers to coordinate the installation of soil conservation practices on the watershed area they share," McGill said, "but to qualify for project approval, these acres must cover 75% of the agricultural land lying within the watershed or subwatershed."

Further provisions require that the owners involved jointly agree to a watershed conservation plan in conjunction with their respective farm unit soil conservation plans.

For more information on state cost-share programs, contact the local soil conservation district office, or the division of soil conservation, Wallace Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

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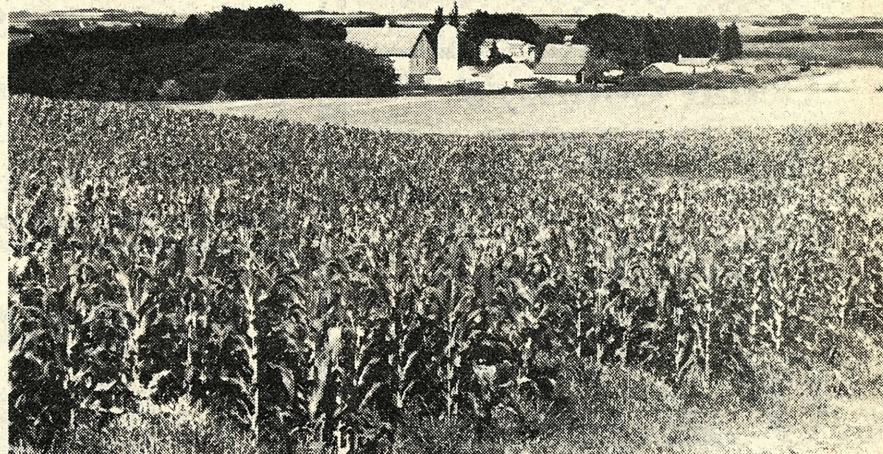
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