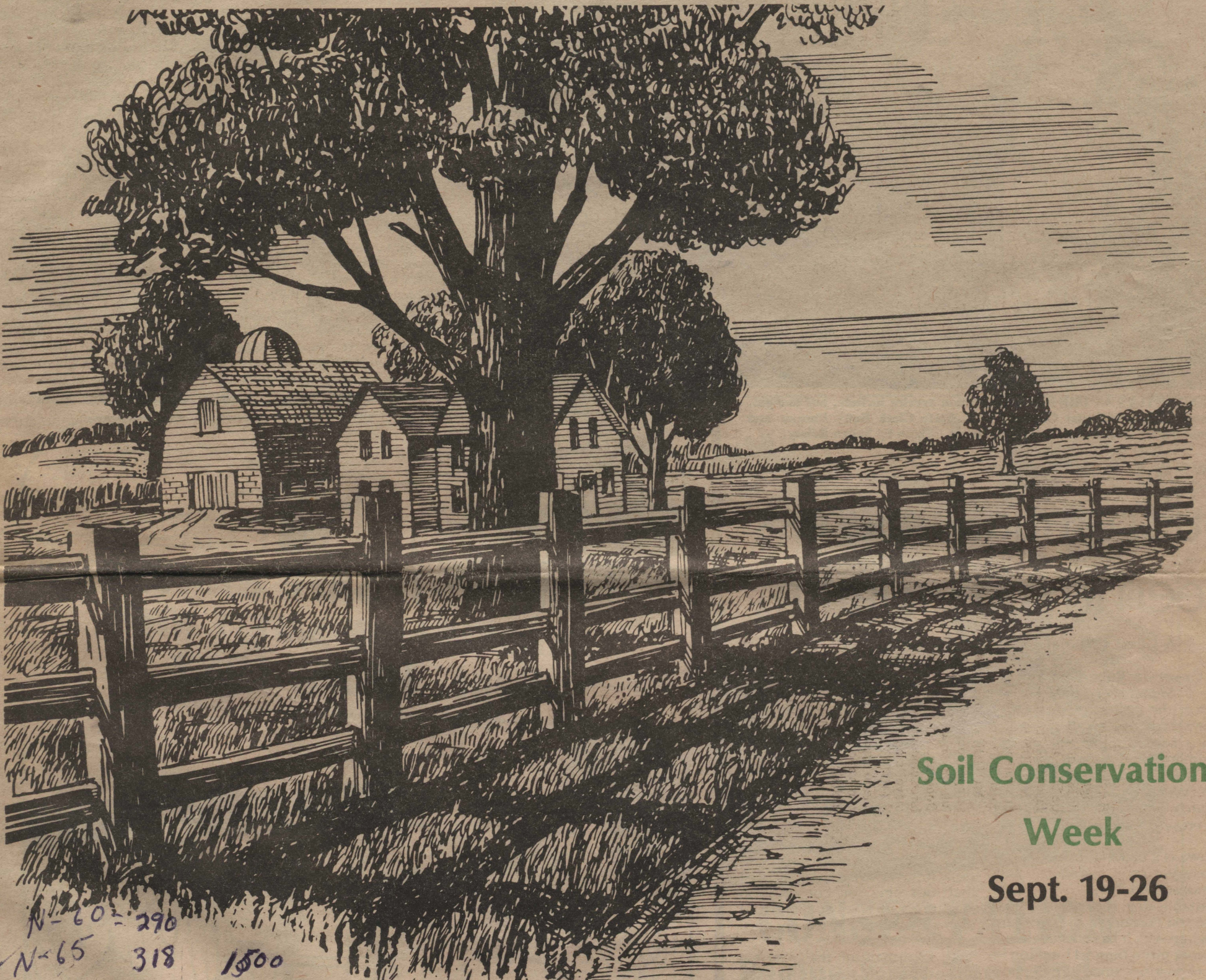


SOIL CONSERVATION

The SPIRIT LAKE [la.] BEACON

Thursday, Sept. 23, 1982

1-C



Soil Conservation
Week

Sept. 19-26

✓ N-60 = 290
✓ N-65 318 1500
N-75+ 350
8-71 = 568
1.78
8-92 = 736 = 412
Protecting what we have today

4-53

... to have something left for tomorrow

ANNUAL REPORT



EMPLOYEES AT THE Soil Conservation Service include, left to right, District Conservationist Clarence Call; State Clerk Betty Farmer and Conservation Technician Dennis Rustman. [Photo by Susan Reiser]

Iowa is a leader. . .

Substantial progress seen in soil program

A Guest Editorial

By

Governor Robert D. Ray
September, 1982

Over the past fourteen years I have served as Governor, I have had a particular interest in and commitment to our environment and especially to soil conservation. We have made substantial progress in our efforts to control soil erosion. We have more to do.

Iowa is a national leader in soil conservation and has demonstrated it by:

- establishing the nation's first state soil conservation cost share program which has effectively put to work more than \$41 million in appropriations since its inception in 1973;
- passing model soil erosion control laws, including the Iowa Soil 2000 program;
- developing public education campaigns on the seriousness of soil erosion;
- inaugurating an innovative private sector soil stewardship program to develop soil conservation policies for agri-business; and
- offering the nation's first state soil conservation loan program.

These soil conservation investments have paid dividends. Over 8 million acres of Iowa's cropland is now protected from excessive soil losses. The number of no-till acres in Iowa has doubled in the last year and promises to grow rapidly in the future. And Iowans are now recognizing soil

erosion as our state's most serious natural resource problem.

Our conservation-minded farmers and soil conservation districts deserve to be saluted for this commendable record. Yet so much remains to be done.

Our heavy spring and summer rains dug deep ditches in Iowa's hillsides, sliced sheets of topsoil from our fields and saturated our streams with silt. This erosion has graphically illustrated our need to keep up the fight against soil erosion. In Iowa, we plan to do just that; our new soil conservation loan program and our land use plan are evidence of our increased commitment.

As chairman of the national Governors' Association Task Force on Soil Conservation, I have and will continue to work to see that the federal commitment to soil conservation is not just rhetoric.

But it must be understood that we cannot rely on government alone. Private sector businesses, individual farm owners and operators, and all levels of government must work together to protect our soil for future generations.

Therefore, as we salute our conservation-conscious farmers and soil conservation district programs during Soil and Water Conservation Week, September 19-26, won't you join me in pledging your support and continued concern to the protection of the soil and water resources of this state. Our future depends on it.

Erosion causes damage

A Guest Editorial

By

Andrew Hoffman, Chairman
Dickinson County
Soil Conservation District

Once again, this year's heavy rains caused extensive damage to Iowa cropland by soil erosion. Across the state, soil losses were severe in county after county.

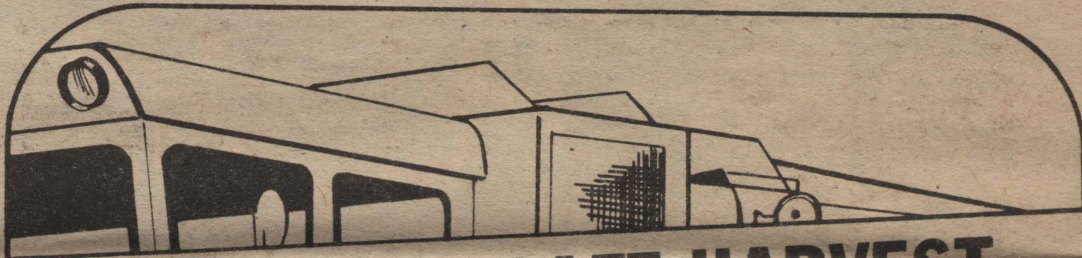
The rains kept coming, and the soil kept moving. This year, maybe more so than other years, those heavy rains pointed out two things. First, unprotected corn and soybean land resulted in very serious soil erosion. Secondly, many fields that were only partially protected also experienced severe soil erosion.

For instance, it was easy to see effects of erosion on fields that had light residue cover -- fields that had been disced or chisel plowed too many times and buried too much residue. Fields that had residue cover but were farmed up

and down hill also showed erosion. So did terraced fields that were clean plowed.

We seem to be getting those 50-year and 100-year frequency rains every couple of years, and our topsoil needs all the protection it can get. On steeper lands in continuous corn and soybeans, in particular, a combination of soil conservation practices is needed. The old standby practices like contouring, terraces, and grassed waterways are needed more than ever. As good as no-till, till planting, and other conservation tillage methods are to control erosion, these "newer" practices are only part of a complete soil protection system.

The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners urge each landowner and renter in the county to analyze their erosion field by field and work toward a complete soil conservation system on the farm.



MAKE IT A SAFE HARVEST NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK Sept. 19-25, 1982



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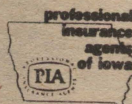
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DISTRICT SOIL COMMISSIONERS include, seated left to right, Chairman Andrew Hoffman, Vice Chairman Ernest Skow, and Commissioner Robert C. Ingwersen. Second row, left to right, Assistant Commissioner Maurice Dougal, Commissioner Orville J. Berg and Secretary Charles Shorey. Absent from the photo was Assistant Commissioner Chris Hoffman. [Photo by Susan Reiser]

Soil District Accomplishments

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fiscal Year July 1, 1981 - June 30, 1982

Conservation District Cooperators (no.) and (ac.)	21 - 3,563
Conservation District Cooperators Canceled (no.) and (ac.)	12 - 2,149
Individuals and Groups Assisted (no.)	260
Technical Services for Land Unit	
Conservation Planning and Application (no.)	433
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices (no.)	101
Conservation Planning Alternatives Provided	282 acres
Conservation Plans Canceled	1,429 acres
Conservation Plans	1,055 acres
Conservation Plans Revised	364 acres
Primary Sample Units Inventoried (no.)	35
Conservation Tillage System	4,933 acres
Contour Farming	160 acres
Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreak	6.9 acres
Field Windbreak	3,860 ft.
Grassed Waterway or Outlet	2.3 acres
Tree Planting	2.5 acres
Subsurface Drain	15,535 ft.
Terraces	14,300 ft.
Water and Sediment Control Basin	650 ft.
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management	84.5 acres
Windbreak Renovation	.5 acres
Cropland Benefited by Application of Conservation Practice	5,024 acres
Pasture and Hayland Benefited by Application of Conservation Practice	44 acres
Wildlife Land Benefited by Application of Conservation Practice	84 acres
Other Land Benefited by Application of Conservation Practice	4 acres
Cropland Adequately Protected	2,831 acres
Pasture and Hayland Adequately Protected	79 acres
Range and Native Pasture Adequately Protected	30 acres
Wildlife Land Adequately Protected	429 acres
Other Land Adequately Protected	4 acres
Cropland Adequately Treated	1,764 acres
Wildlife Land Adequately Treated	429 acres
Other Land Adequately Treated	4 acres

Moldboard plow dies; chiesel plow born

THE EVOLUTION OF TILLAGE

By

Clarence Call,

District Conservationist

Back in the 1950's and 60's in Iowa the only way to handle any crop residue was to plow it under. It would deteriorate faster and the farmer wanted a clean, black, "garden" type of seed bed for the new planting.

We got by with the old plow method fairly well because we had more diversification in crops then. Crop rotations were ordinary. A four year rotation of corn, corn, oats, meadow was common. The field would be in row crop only half the time. There was more livestock around to utilize the meadow and hayland in the rotation. The result was less erosion on the field in spite of the fact that the cornstalks were plowed under in the fall.

In the early 1950's soybeans entered the picture and rowcrops became much more popular. Cash-cropping was in. The rotation began to lean more toward corn and soybeans only. Hay, meadow and small grain acreages began to diminish. But fall plowing of corn and bean fields was still popular.

The old moldboard plow dies hard. The chisel became more and more popular on the bean

ground because it left a rough surface and some residue. The corn stalks were still fall plowed.

Then in the mid 1970's the practice of chiseling and/or disking cornstalks in the fall began to gain favor. A few farmers were beginning to no-till corn in undisturbed bean ground. These practices were not only cutting erosion losses by both wind and water, they were reducing trips over the field. This was a saving of time and expensive fuel.

Now more and more farmers are saving soil, oil and toil by practicing no-till. A few are experimenting with no-till (or till planting) in corn stalks. A few have been practicing either till planting or no-till for years. Those who have stuck with it say there is a definite saving in aforementioned soil, fuel and time. And yields have not suffered.

It is a big change from the old methods, but then big changes are necessary. Expenses must go down as grain prices decline in order to survive. It is also nice to know that soil losses can be reduced by as much as 10 percent over the old moldboard plow "black" seedbed method on sloping land of 4 percent.

Interested? Drop by the SCS office. More details are available.



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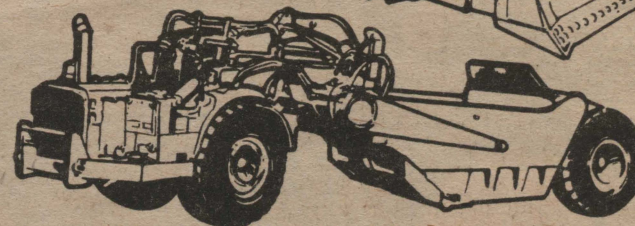
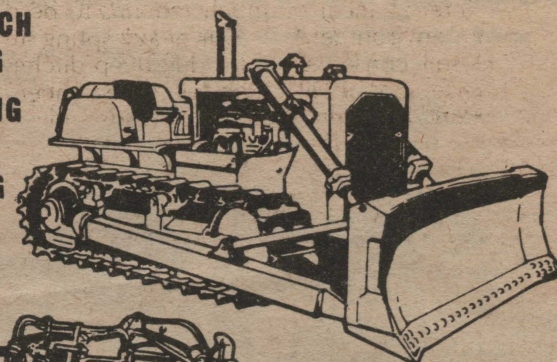
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Doug Dodge...

Parks moldboard plow; uses conservation program



THE DODGE FAMILY includes, left to right, Doug, Lynn, Justin and Jamie. Dodge, 32, grew up in the Terril area. He has been experimenting with the modified conservation tillage program for four years. Read the story for more details. [Photo by Susan Reiser]

A recent Iowa State research report states that the U.S. is losing four billion tons of soil a year to water erosion. This amount of soil would fill a train of freight cars 633,000 miles long - enough to circle the earth 24 times.

Authors Unknown

By Susan Reiser
Editor

A rural Milford farmer, who is concerned about soil conservation and its adverse effects on the land, has parked his moldboard plow and instituted a modified conservation tillage program.

Doug Dodge, 32, has tried to adapt his tillage program to the soil types found on the 420 acres of land he farms throughout the Milford-Terril area. Not only does the modified conservation tillage program save Dodge's time in reducing the number of trips across the field, the program also conserves moisture and reduces dust and wind erosion. Yield comparisons, according to Dodge, also are comparable between the conventional tillage program and the modified conservation program.

Under Dodge's system, the bean fields are planted with no primary tillage. Dodge discs the field twice plants and cultivates before the fall harvest. On the corn ground, Dodge chisel plows in the fall and discs in the spring, incorporating herbicides at this time.

"In addition to conserving moisture and reducing dust and soil erosion, there is a machinery savings also with this system. I don't need a monster tractor to use a chisel plow. My largest tractor has 90 horsepower," Dodge said.

"The chisel plow stirs the soil but leaves a smooth surface with trash on top. We make two to three passes to get the seed bed planted. We're banding dry herbicide and applying with one pass," Dodge said.

Although Dodge has been experimenting with the modified conservation tillage program for four years, he said that most of the disasters of it were eliminated in the first two years.

In the planting equipment line, Dodge uses a modified air planter for beans and a John Deere 7,000 maxi-merge planter with trash whippers for corn.

"I have no fear of conservation tillage in light ground but have some reservations on heavy ground. I would go no-till if I was real positive with the weed control. If I get my weeds completely under control, I have a planter that can be used for no-till. I have made an attempt at it and have had some disaster failures and criticism from my neighbors. I'm comfortable with a chisel plow that I won't go back to the conventional. Nothing pulls harder than a moldboard plow," Dodge said.

In addition to the modified conservation tillage program, Dodge is also involved with the Wind Erosion Control Incentive Program (W.E.C.I.P.).

W.E.C.I.P. is a state cost-sharing program, administered by the Soil Conservation District, using Iowa Department of Transportation funds to protect highways, roads and right-of-ways from blowing soil. Farmers are paid \$30 per acre for a five-year contract to leave 50 percent of the crop residue on the surface after planting.

District Soil Conservationist Clarence Call said that leaving 50 percent after planting isn't too difficult with corn stalks but not so easy to achieve following beans.

In addition to farming, Dodge raised 2,500 hogs a year in a farrow to finish operation and 40 head of beef cattle. Dodge's family includes wife, Lynn, and children, Jamie, 5, and Justin, 3. Craig Holmberg of Terril is a full-time hired assistant.

Dodge grew up in the Terril area and was graduated from Terril High

School in 1968. He received his BS degree in Animal Science in 1972 from Iowa State University. Dodge managed a feedlot in Estherville worked as a market analysis for Cattle Fax and farmed with his father, Don, in a family corporation before purchasing his present farm location and starting in the farming industry on his own.

Dodge is a member of the Terril United Methodist Church, the Dickinson County Farm Bureau, the Young Farmer's Organization and the Dickinson County Cattle and Pork Producer's Associations. Dodge's wife, Lynn, is a home economics teacher in Estherville.

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SHOWN IS DODGE'S 7,000 maxi-merge planting unit with trash whippers attached to the mounting unit. When planting beans, Dodge uses a modified air planter. In addition to the modified conservation tillage

program, Dodge is also involved in W.E.C.I.P., a state cost-sharing program. Read the story for more details. [Photo by Susan Reiser]



SHOWN IS THE AMOUNT of corn residue left in the bean field approximately two weeks before harvest time. The bean fields are planted with no primary tillage. Read

the story for more information about Dodge's system. [Photo by Susan Reiser]

Windbreaks benefit many

Consider the many benefits of windbreaks. They can protect your home and farmstead against wind and blowing snow and soil. At the same time, they reduce energy needs for heating your home. Windbreaks can also reduce weight loss of livestock and provide food and shelter for wildlife. They also add beauty to a farmstead. You'll want to consider all these benefits in choosing trees and shrubs for your windbreak.

You can get help with planning for proper design and spacing of your multiple row windbreak from your Soil Conservation District Conservationist.

When considering a windbreak, keep in mind that it will be a permanent part of the farm landscape, therefore careful thought

and planning should precede the actual planting of trees.

We suggest you plant several varieties in your windbreak rather than all one kind. Don't forget to prune severely at planting time (cut off two-thirds of the top growth). This equalizes root loss that occurs at planting time and assures you of a good stand. Place the rows on the north and west side of the area to be protected.

Trees are nature's outdoor air conditioners. If hot summer winds, raw wintry blasts, wind erosion, or crop damage due to wind are problems to you, windbreaks can help.

Windbreaks help control soil blowing, reduce the drying effects of wind on soil and plants, and help prevent the abrasive action of rapidly moving soil particles on young tender seedlings.

AREA PERSONNEL

Wallis R. Tonsfeldt, Area Conservationist
Lee C. White, Area Engineer
Wayne L. Eberly, Civil Engineer Technician
Judy Rathel, Area Clerk
Margaret L. Walker, Area Clerk

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Andrew Hoffman, Chairman
Ernest H. Skow, Vice Chairman
Charles Shorey, Secretary
Robert C. Ingwersen
Orville J. Berg
Maurice Dougal, Assistant Commissioner
Chris Hoffman, Assistant Commissioner

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Clarence M. Call, District Conservationist
Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician
Betty Farmer, State Clerk

Tips on Conservation agencies

CONFUSED ABOUT CONSERVATION AGENCIES?

Have you ever been confused about which government agency does what in the field of conservation?

Conservation agencies in Iowa often cooperate on joint projects because they have similar goals in conserving natural resources. But through this cooperation some confusion may exist about what each does.

For example, if a farmer wants to build terraces to protect his land, he gets involved with more than one agency. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service gives technical help on where to put terraces and how to build them. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service or the soil conservation district provide cost-sharing funds. Soil conservation district funds come through the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

Other major agencies involved in conservation are the Iowa Conservation Commission and county conservation boards. A brief description of each of these agencies may help you keep them straight.

There are 100 local soil conservation districts in Iowa -- one per county and two in

Pottawattamie County. Each district is governed by five locally elected commissioners who serve without pay. The soil conservation districts set policy for local conservation projects.

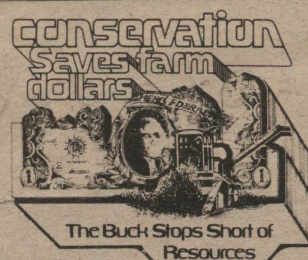
County conservation boards, another local agency, are established at the discretion of each county. The county board of supervisors appoints five persons to oversee the operation of the county conservation program and its staff. County conservation boards are authorized to levy up to one mill of property tax for acquisition, development and management of county parks, museums, wildlife areas and other natural areas.

The Iowa Conservation Commission is the state agency that provides recreation areas, wildlife areas, forests and natural and cultural preserves. The commission also regulates outdoor recreation activities and helps coordinate the county conservation boards.

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, also at the state level, assists soil conservation districts with local resource management programs and allocates state financial incentive program funds. The department also administers the state's mine reclamation

Other programs include loans and price supports, crop disaster relief, rural clean water and production adjustment. ASCS is guided at the county level by locally elected, three-member county committees.

Another USDA agency is the Soil Conservation Service. SCS provides technical assistance to land owners and operators applying soil conservation practices. This agency is responsible for developing soil surveys, monitoring soil and water resources and organizing small watershed and flood prevention programs. SCS personnel work through the soil conservation districts.



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LOCAL CONTACT POINT

ASCS Office, Spirit Lake - 336-3782
Kevin Moss - Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

District activities July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982

The SPIRIT LAKE [Ia.] BEACON
Thursday, Sept. 23, 1982 6-C

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982

July - The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District sponsored LaVon Siemers, a teacher in the Arnolds Park School, to the Iowa Teachers' Conservation Workshop held at the Springbrook Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center from July 5 to 10. The commissioners' annual family picnic was held at Memorial Park in Spirit Lake on July 23.

August - The Dickinson County Conservation Board and the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners sponsored Mike Stallman, a senior in the Spirit Lake High School, to the Youth Leadership Conservation Program held at the Conservation Education Center in Guthrie Center August 3 to 6. Commissioners held a hearing on Land Disturbing Activities Regulation on August 27.

September - Clarence Call, District Conservationist; Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician; Larry Lago, ASCS CED Director; Orville Berg, Assistant Commissioner; and Curt Ingwersen attended the all-day conservation tillage meeting in Jefferson on September 3. Clarence Call and Commissioners Ernest H. Skow, Robert Ingwersen, Charles Shorey and Don Schubert attended Regional Soil Conservation District Commissioners' meeting in Pocahontas on September 15.

October - Dickinson County Outdoor Classroom was held at the Hogsback area on October 5. A dreary rainy day dampened the activities. Classes had to be called off at noon and the students were returned to their schools. However, each class got to attend six of the classes. Teachers and students were bused to the Hogsback area. The Dickinson County Soil Conservation District Commissioners provided milk and donuts to all students and teachers attending. Classes held and their instructors were: Nature Trail - Michelle Conner, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, Ruthven; Erosion and Pollution - Orville Berg, SCD Assistant Commissioner, Spirit Lake; Fertilizers and Chemicals - Clarence Call and Marvin Larson, DC, O'Brien County; Upland Wildlife - Wayne Souer, Wildlife Technician, Ruthven; Agronomy and Conservation Practices - Terri Skadeland, DC, Emmet County; Wild Goose Pens - Doug Harr, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Conservation Commission, Rock Rapids; Forestry - Michael L. Hosbein, Soil Scientist, Osceola County; Soils - Robert J. Vobora and Joseph M. Kristoff, Jr., Soil Scientists, Osceola County; and Dennis Rustman. Winners in the Dickinson County Essay Contest were selected on Monday, October 12. Winners were: senior division - first, Roger Froendt, Milford; second, Tammy Leader, Milford; and third, Rod Langel, Milford - junior division - first, Craig Krummen, Lake Park.

November - 27 applications for the Wind Erosion Control Incen-

tives Program were approved totaling 2083 acres.

December - Commissioners and their wives held their annual Christmas dinner on December 9 at Teeg's.

January - Clarence Call and Commissioner Bob Ingwersen attended Short Course in Ames on January 19 and 20.

February - A windbreak workshop was held at the County Extension Office on February 25.

March - Clarence Call and Commissioners Robert Ingwersen and Andrew Hoffman attended regional commissioners' meeting in Fort Dodge on March 3. Clarence Call was in Des Moines to statewide District Conservationists' meeting March 9 to 11. The Dickinson County Soil Con-

servation District Commissioners assisted in sponsoring the conservation tillage meeting held in Osceola County on March 20.

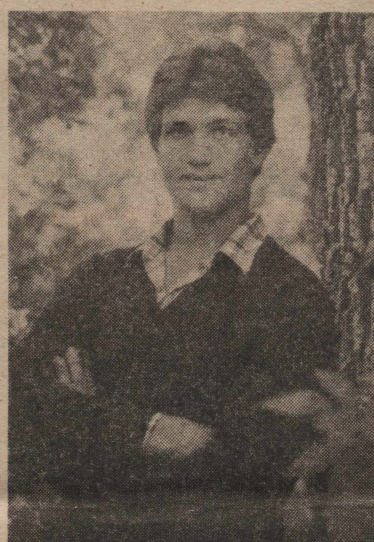
April - Commissioners awarded two \$300 scholarships to Dickinson County students interested in furthering their education in agriculture. Winners chosen were: William Heikens of Lake Park; and Keith VanKleek of Terril. Both students are enrolled at Iowa Lakes Community College.

May - Commissioners concluded another very successful year for tree sales. 14,445 trees and shrubs were sold to 156 customers. Commissioners presented each 6th grader in the county with a green ash tree.

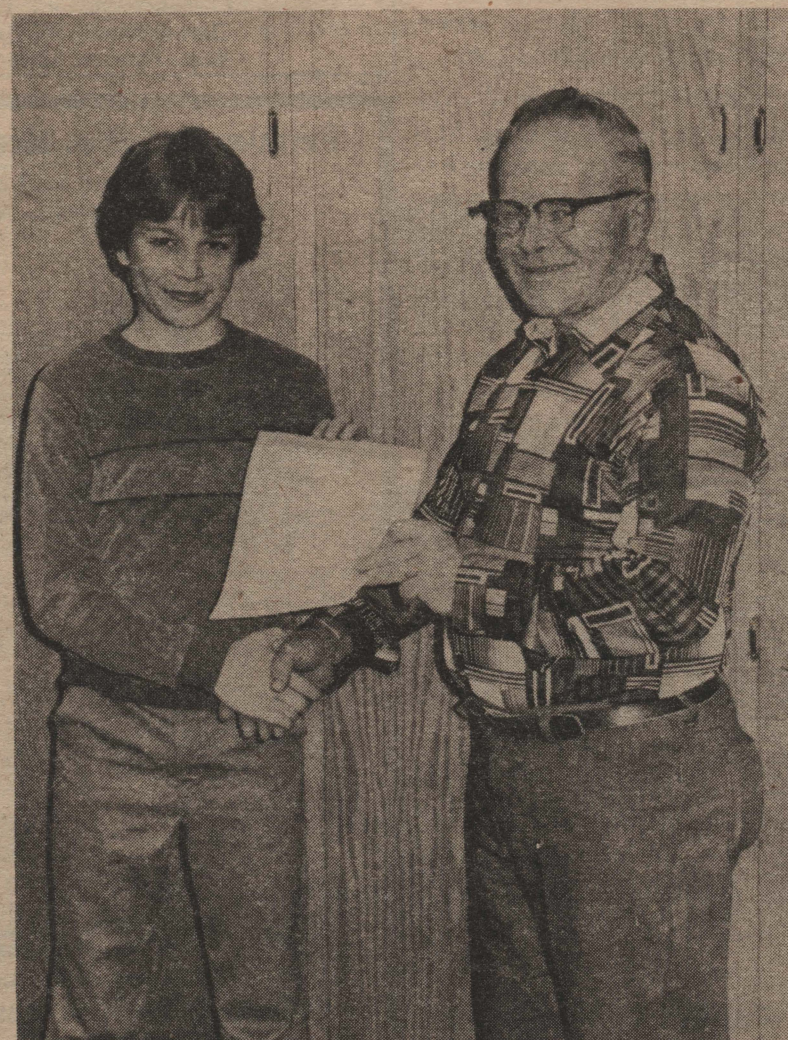
June - 24 WECIP practices and five no-till practices were checked and approved for payment.



KEITH VANKLEEK
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



LANCE HEIKENS
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



CRAIG KRUMMEN, left, of Lake Park, is shown receiving a certificate of merit from Soil Commissioner Andy Hoffman, right. Krummen won first place in the junior division of the essay contest. [Photo by Jay Mohr]

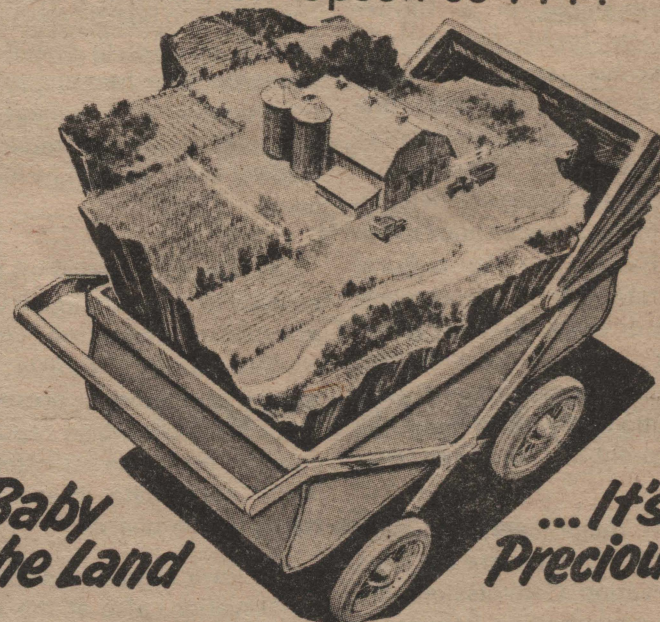


OFFICE EMPLOYEES at the ASCS Office include Cindy Lillenthal, seated, Ruby Caskey and Pat Achenbach, left to right standing. [Photo by Susan Reiser]

Those who own and control the land are stewards of a great national treasure. This treasure is much more valuable than gold, diamonds or oil. The land, unlike other natural resources, can be used again, again, and again if it is cared for.

Authors Unknown

It takes 250-1,000 years to build
an inch of topsoil so



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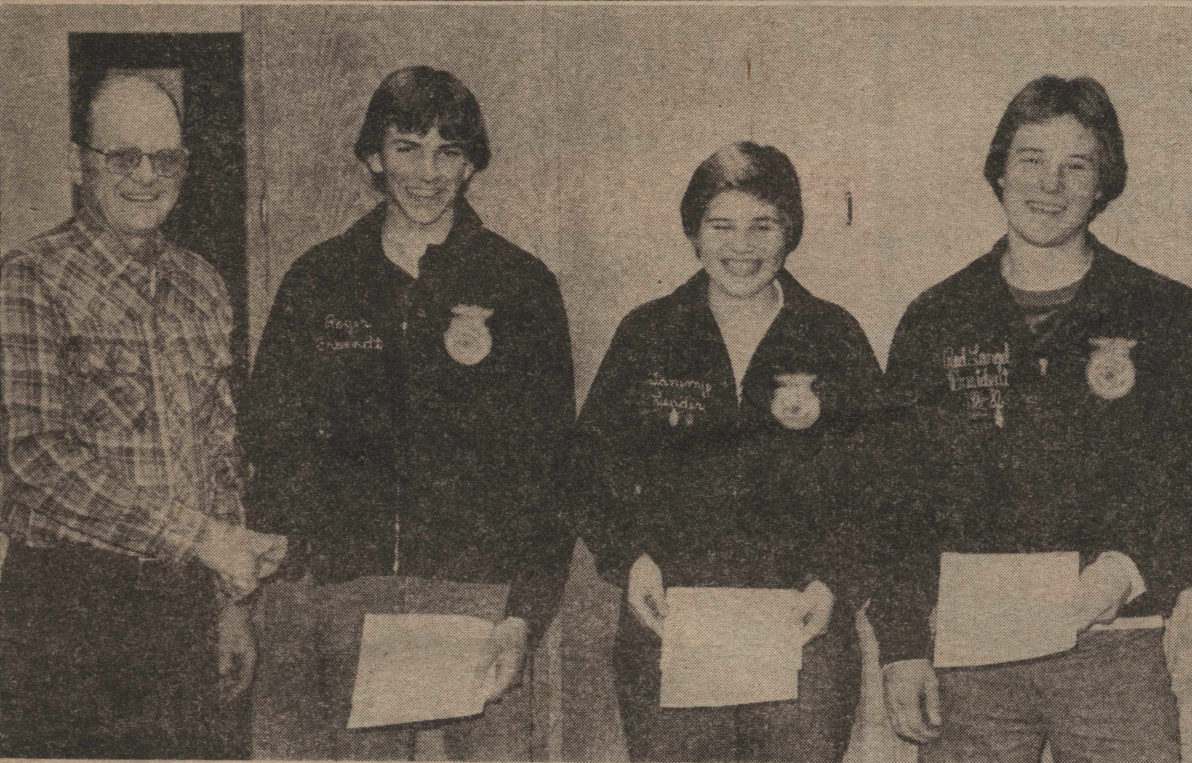
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ESSAY WINNERS. Winners in the essay contest, sponsored by the Soil Conservation Service, included Roger Froendt, Milford, first; Tammy Leader, Milford, second; and Rod Langel, Milford, third. Shown, left to right, are Commissioner Bob Ingwersen, Froendt, Leader and Langel. [Photo by Jay Mohr]

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Fiscal Year 1981 - 1982

District's IM Budget

Receipts

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....	\$ 1,700.00
Additional Allocation.....	71.48
Total Receipts.....	\$ 1,771.48

Disbursements

Commissioners' mileage, meals and hotel while out of town.....	\$ 1,292.17
Office Supplies.....	422.76
Printing.....	56.55
Total Disbursements.....	\$ 1,771.48

District's IIM Budget

Receipts

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....	\$13,195.00
Additional Allocation.....	409.22
Total Receipts.....	\$13,604.22

Disbursements

Clerk's Salary.....	\$11,532.00
Equipment Maintenance.....	38.00
Employer's Contribution to F.I.C.A.....	762.47
Employer's Contribution to I.P.E.R.S.....	663.19
Health Insurance Contribution.....	453.44
Life Insurance Contribution.....	66.00
Disability Insurance Contribution.....	89.12
Total Disbursements.....	\$13,604.22

IIM Budget (State Cost-Share)

Receipts

1980-1981 Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....	\$12,000.00
--	-------------

Disbursements

Total Spent.....	\$11,227.32
Released to State Soil Conservation Committee.....	772.68
Total Disbursements.....	\$12,000.00

Receipts

1981-1982 Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....	\$14,994.00
--	-------------

Disbursements

Total Spent.....	\$ 1,412.87
Total Obligated.....	
Total Unobligated.....	



LARRY LAGO
ASCS DIRECTOR

COOL WEATHER QUIZ

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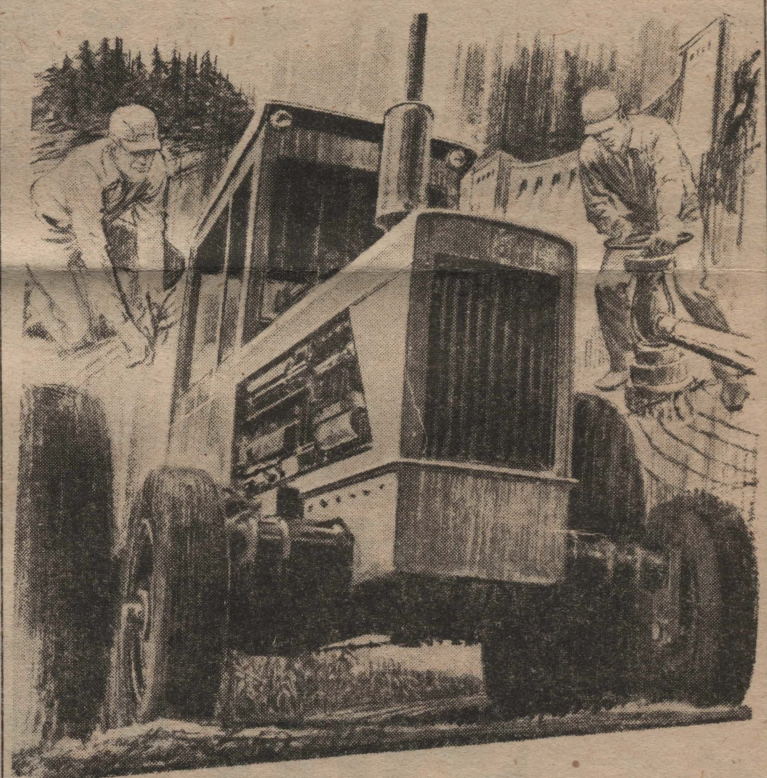
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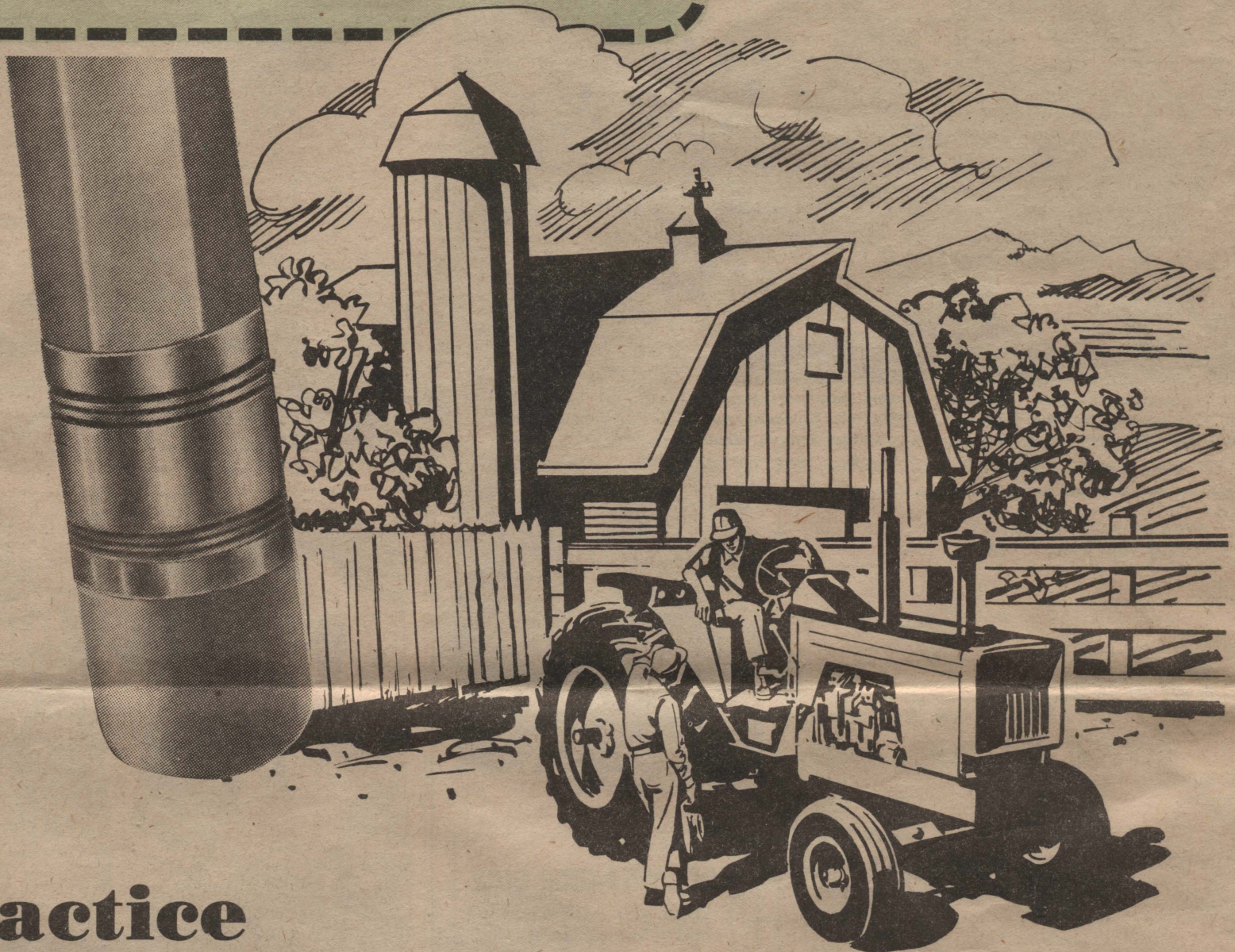
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