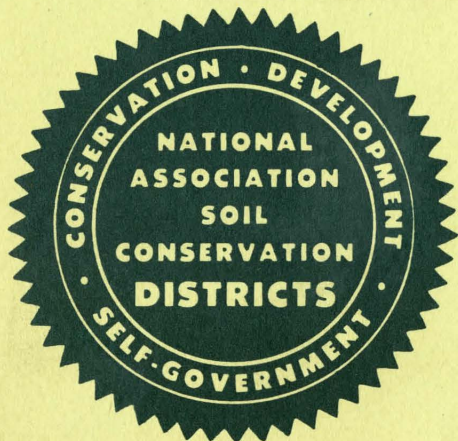


THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

LOUISA COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Affiliate Member

1953



Walter Davis, Jr.
PRESIDENT

Conservation • Development • Self-Government

The National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

LOUISA COUNTY

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Affiliate Member

1964



Marion S. Monk Jr.

PRESIDENT

Conservation • Development • Self-Government

Native Grasses & Conservation

In the aftermath of last years' drought, one area that producers may have overlooked is mortality of grass stands in permanent pastures. An option for producers to consider when re-establishing pasture seedings would be the introduction of a warm season grass.

Warm season grasses include some of the following: Switchgrass, Bluestem and Indiangrass. These perennial grasses are excellent forage and are winter hardy and drought resistant. Most of these grasses reach their full growing potential during the hot, dry months of July and August. They vary from 12-14% crude protein and range from 55-65% total digestable nutrients. When mixed with cool season grasses, they provide good full season grazing in most pastures.

Warm season grasses have many other conservation uses. Switchgrass provides an excellent seeding for waterways, terrace backslopes and earthen dams. It is unaffected by most surface applied herbicides.

Native grasses also provide excellent wildlife habitat. They stand up well under winter snows and provide food for deer and cover for pheasants and other game birds.

If you are interested in establishing native grasses, the Louisa County Conservation Board will hold a seminar on management practices. The meeting will be Monday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Building in Wapello. Interested persons should try to attend this meeting. *by Todd M.*

Republican

Native grasses and conservation

by Todd Meyer,
Soil Conservationist

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If you are interested in establishing native grasses, the Louisa Co. Conservation Board will hold a seminar on management practices. The meeting will be Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Building in Wapello. If you are interested, please try to attend this meeting.

3-17-89

Gazette

New trees and shrubs guide assists planting decisions

It's spring again, and time to start planting new trees and shrubs — but which ones? Because there are so many varieties available, this can be a very confusing task.

The Conservation Trees and Shrubs Pocket ID Guide can help. This full-color guide contains 186 pages of photographs and information on 56 trees and 30 shrubs. It includes tips on growth patterns, adaptability to soils, wildlife benefits and conservation uses. It also measures just 3.5" x 5", so it fits easily into a pocket or glove compartment for quick reference.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service developed the guide, and many of the trees and shrubs featured in it have been tested and released as part of the agency's plant materials program. They include hardwoods such as ash, locust, maple and oak, and conifers such as fir, pine, cedar and spruce. The shrubs are recommended primarily for windbreaks and beautification.

Those considering planting trees or shrubs should also consider their personal preferences and the appearance of the tree. This pictorial guide will be useful for those purposes as well.

For more information on the Conservation Trees and Shrubs Pocket ID Guide, or to see a copy of the book, contact the Soil Conservation Service Office at 514 Isett, Wapello, phone 523-6411. The Louisa SWCD has copies available for \$10.00.

Mailed
1-22-86

NEWS RELEASE - JANUARY, 1986 BY STEVE YADDOF, DISTRICT
CONSERVATIONIST, WAPELLO, IOWA

ESTIMATING SOIL LOSS FROM CROPLAND IS ONLY ONE OF THE JOBS OF THE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, ACCORDING TO STEVE YADDOF, DISTRICT
CONSERVATIONIST.

THE SERVICE'S OBJECTIVE IS TO HELP FARMERS WITH CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT AND EROSION CONTROL PRACTICES THAT WILL BRING THE SOIL
LOSS DOWN TO LIMITS WHICH ALLOW THE LAND TO REMAIN PRODUCTIVE.

MANY LOUISA COUNTY FIELDS ARE STILL LOSING TOO MUCH SOIL TO
MAINTAIN A CONSTANT LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY OVER A LONG PERIOD OF
TIME. MANY FARMS ARE LOSING 10 OR MORE TONS OF SOIL PER ACRE
ANNUALLY, WHICH IS EXCESSIVE.

IF THESE EROSION RATES CONTINUE, EVENTUALLY NOTHING WILL BE LEFT
BUT THE SUBSOIL AND THIS LAND (SUBSOIL) USUALLY MUST BE CONVERTED
TO PASTURE OR TREES. EVEN THEN, IT IS NOT VERY PRODUCTIVE.

SOIL EROSION IS ALWAYS MORE DAMAGING THAN WE REALIZE BECAUSE
EROSION IS JUST THE FIRST STEP IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
DEGRADATION.

EVERY FARMER KNOWS THAT IT TAKES MORE POWER AND MORE FERTILIZER
TO TRY TO MAINTAIN PRODUCTION ON AN ERODED SOIL. THE INEVITABLE
RESULT OF EROSION IS LOWER YIELDS, HIGHER PRODUCTION COSTS AND
HIGHER PRICES IN THE MARKET PLACE.

WHEN WE SEE SEDIMENT ON STREETS AND IN BOTTOMLANDS, MUDDY WATER
IN STREAMS OR DUST IN THE AIR, WE ARE SEEING HOW EROSION HURTS ALL
OF US NO MATTER WHERE WE LIVE OR WORK.

NEWS RELEASE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
FEBRUARY 21, 1986

Green Manure Crops

To get the most benefit from annual "set-aside" acres, plan to incorporate a green manure crop. Benefits of a good seeding include a "rotation effect" which will give a 5-10% increase in corn the following year as compared to corn after corn.

Incorporating a green manure crop will contribute organic matter to the soil which will increase the biological activity. This will in turn improve infiltration, aeration, and tilth. In addition a legume will add 50 to 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre. This is a savings of up to 25.00.

Other advantages include the erosion control benefit of good ground cover on sloping fields. Soil losses will be reduced by more than 75%.

The crop disease and insect cycles are also broken up. If long term legumes are seeded, there is the additional option of carrying the meadow over for more than one year if desired for other uses. Lime and livestock manure can be applied easily during the crop season.

Suggested seeding rates are:

- Alfalfa - 8-12 lb/Ac
- Red Clover - 8-10
- Sweet Clover - 8-10
- Alsike Clover - 4-5
- Legume Mixes - 10-12

Be sure to use proper inoculation.

Green manure crops should be left until cropping season the next spring for best erosion control. This will also provide winter cover for wildlife.

NEWS RELEASE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
JULY 17, 1986

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced interim rules today to implement sections of the 1985 Farm Bill designed to remove inconsistencies between soil conservation goals and traditional farm commodity program benefits.

Effective immediately, producers who fail to meet the interim rules will not be eligible for commodity price support and other program payments, disaster payments, crop insurance under the Farm Crop Insurance Act, FmHA loans, farm storage facility loans and other farm program benefits.

USDA'S action is designed to reduce soil loss due to wind and water erosion; protect the nation's long-term capability to produce food and fiber; reduce sedimentation and improve water quality; assist in preserving the nation's wetlands; and lessen the incentives to produce agricultural commodities on highly erodible farmland.

With regard to highly erodible land, farmers will have a grace period to implement a conservation plan on land that was cultivated in any of the years 1981-1985. Many will be able to develop and apply a conservation plan that will allow them to plant highly erodible land to grasses or trees either on their own or in conjunction with the Conservation Reserve Program.

Before January 1, 1990, or, until two years after USDA'S Soil Conservation Service prepares soil maps for a particular area, producers will not lose eligibility under the highly erodible land conservation provisions for farm program benefits as the result of production of an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land that was:

(a) cultivated to produce any of the 1981 through 1985 crops of an agricultural commodity; or (b) set-aside, diverted or otherwise not cultivated under a program administered by the secretary of agriculture for any such crops to reduce production of an agricultural commodity.

These exceptions allow affected persons to continue the production of agricultural commodities on highly erodible land through Jan. 1, 1990 (or until two years after the Soil Conservation Service maps the land) without having to actively apply a conservation plan to retain program eligibility.

The provisions of the Food Security Acts of 1985 which today's interim rule implements are commonly referred to as conservation-compliance, sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. Sodbuster provisions apply to any highly erodible land cultivated for crop production since Dec. 23, 1985. Swampbuster provisions apply to the conversion of wetlands after Dec. 23, 1985, for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities.

However, farmers who cultivated highly erodible land or converted wetlands after Dec. 23, 1985, and planted a crop before the date the interim rule is published will remain eligible for USDA program benefits for the 1986 crop year. To retain eligibility for subsequent crop years, however, the farmer must apply an approved conservation system on the highly erodible land. With regard to wetlands converted after Dec. 23, 1985, the farmer cannot, except under limited circumstances, produce agricultural commodities on such lands after the date of publication of the interim rule and retain eligibility for farm program benefits.

Additional details of the interim rule will be published in the June 27 Federal Register. The interim rule will provide for a 60 day comment period. The public may comment on the interim rule by writing the Director, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, ASCS-USDA, Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013.

There are an estimated 345 million acres of highly erodible agricultural land in the United States, of which 118 million acres are existing cropland and 5 million acres are wetlands with a medium-to-high potential for conversion to agricultural use.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Wapello Republican
 Where published Wapello
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 (Other) ☐
 Feature (SCS) ☐
 (Other) ☐
 Editorial ☐
 Advertisement ☐
 Conservation ☐

Non-compliance could mean no benefits

Interim rules went into effect on June 27 for the sodbuster, swampbuster, and conservation compliance provisions of the new U.S. farm bill, the food security act of 1986. As of that date producers who fail to meet the interim rule requirements are ineligible for most federal farm program benefits, including commodity price supports, disaster payments, federal crop insurance, and storage facility loans.

But in certain cases the interim rules provide a grace period for compliance. Farmers who cultivated highly erodible land in any year from 1981 through 1985 have until January 1, 1990, or two years after the Conservation Service prepares soil maps for the acreage involved, to apply an approved conservation plan to that acreage and remain eligible for federal farm programs. In the interim those farms may continue to cultivate

the land in questions.

Also, farmers who cultivated highly erodible land or converted wetlands after December 23, 1985, and planted a crop before the interim rules went into effect, remain eligible for 1986 farm program benefits. But to remain eligible in following years, those farmers must apply an approved conservation plan on the highly erodible land. In the case of wetlands converted after December 23, 1985, production of any agricultural commodity on those lands after June 27 will result in the farmer losing his program eligibility.

USDA has allowed the public 60 days following June 27 to comment on the interim rules. Comments should be directed to: Director, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, ASCA, Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. Details of the interim rules appear in the June 27 issue of the Federal Register.

11/26/92
Wap.
Rep.
Trend toward future of agriculture?

No-till farming acreage nearly triples in state of Iowa

Iowa farmers nearly tripled their use of no-till farming this year, and now lead the nation in total acreage of crop residue management.

The increase in no-fill from 972,800 acres in 1991 to 2,755,900 acres this year, is the largest acreage increase of any state, according to data released from a crop residue management survey by the Conservation Technology Information Center.

More than 15 million acres of corn and soybeans were grown in Iowa this year with at least 15 percent of the ground covered with last year's crop residues.

"That's two out of every three acres being farmed with crop residues," says Jeff Vonk, State Conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. "It's about a million acres more than last year, and the residue levels are higher, too. It's good news for soil conservation," he says.

Iowa farmers are second in the nation in acres of conservation tillage, defined as all types of crop residue management that leave at least 30 percent of the ground covered after planting. The Iowa figure for conservation tillage in 1992 is 9,714,000 acres—a 33 percent increase from last year. Illinois farmers lead the nation in that category with 11.2 million acres.

"There was an explosion in no-till use this year," Vonk says. "It's three times what it was last year, four times what it was two years ago, and eight times what it was 10 years ago."

In no-till planting, the soil is not disturbed from harvest to planting, except for nutrient injection. Seed is planted or drilled in a narrow seedbed or slot. The method leaves most of the previous year's plant residues on the soil surface.

we're happy to see it," says Iowa SCS Agronomist Bob Dayton. "In Washington, Keokuk and Marion Counties, more than a third of the acreage was no-till. There's a significant change going on in the way farmers are planting their crops," he adds.

That change is a visible one, according to SCS Crop Residue Management Specialist Jeff Zimprich. "As I drove across the state last spring after planting, I saw field after field with high levels of residue. I knew that it would be a banner year," Zimprich says.

Zimprich gives last fall's weather some credit for the increase, but says the use of crop residue goes beyond that. "Early snow and wet weather contrib-

uted to the fact that over much of the state, only about a fourth of the ground was tilled after harvest. So we started last spring with a lot of residue," Zimprich says.

"Beyond that, though, there's a recognition that less tillage and more residue can translate to more profit. Agribusiness was solidly behind efforts to help farmers use high residue levels this year. Having that help and encouragement makes a big difference," Zimprich says.

Soil Conservation requirements set by USDA have also had an effect. More than three-fourths of the farmers with conservation compliance plans include crop residue management as a soil saving measure.

Nationally, conservation tillage was used on about 55.8 million acres of corn and soybeans. No-till increased from 15.5 million acres to more than 22 million acres.

While their acreages are not as high, farmers from eastern states such as Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee used no-till on 40 percent of their corn this year, according to the survey.

"We've seen more concentrations of no-till in the East in the past, but it's moving to the Midwest, and because of the acreages involved, that's where we'll see the most activity in the future," predicts Dan McCain of the Conservation Technology Information Center in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Roughly one out of every eight acres of Iowa's corn and soybeans were planted with no-till in 1992.

"We had expected a healthy increase in no-till this year, and



OUR TREASURED TREES

SOIL & WATER
STEWARDSHIP
WEEK

April 26 - May 3, 1992



Planting in the Dust

About the Actress

Jody Hovland holds an MFA degree in acting from the University of Iowa and is currently managing director of Riverside Theatre, a professional company in Iowa City. She has appeared at the Kennedy Center, with theatres in North Dakota and Missouri, as well as with Iowa Summer Repertory and Karamu House Performing Arts Theatre in Cleveland. Jody is also touring in the one-woman show, "First Lady Lou," a play about the life of Lou Henry Hoover. Jody teaches with the Iowa Arts Council and at Cornell College.

Jody was born and raised in the farming community of Ada, Minnesota. Her rural background brings an added touch of commitment and concern to the role of Annie and "Planting in the Dust."

About the Playwright

Nancy Paddock is a Minnesota poet, playwright and author whose concern for the land and the people of the land is evidenced in her writing. "Planting in the Dust" draws extensively on her oral history projects with rural people. Nancy has served as Writer-in-the-schools and Poet-in-residence in various Minnesota communities. She and her husband Joe are co-authors of "Soil and Survival," published in 1986 by Sierra Club Books.

Local Sponsors

Louisa County Historical Society
Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District
Louisa County Conservation Board
Louisa County Farm Bureau
Louisa County Farm Bureau Women
River Forks FFA
Louisa-Muscatine FFA
Wapello FFA

The Land Stewardship Project

"Planting in the Dust" is produced by the Land Stewardship Project, a nonprofit organization working to foster an ethic of stewardship toward our nation's farmlands. Its hope is that each farmer and landowner will strive to leave the land in a better condition than it was received. Other resources from Land Stewardship Project include:

Touring Cultural Programs:

"A Song for the Earth" -- an environmental puppet show
"Music of the Land" -- an environmental slide/song program

Publications:

The Land Stewardship Letter -- quarterly newsletter on sustainable agriculture
The Land Stewardship Update -- quarterly newsletter on farm policy issues

Books:

Soil and Survival by Nancy & Joe Paddock and Carol Bly
Excellence in Agriculture -- interviews with farm families who are stewards of the land
Reshaping the Bottom Line -- practical ideas that make farming more economically and environmentally sound

Videos: "Planting in the Dust"
"Excellence in Agriculture"

Plus: Booklets and videos on sustainable farming practices

For more information, call or write:
Land Stewardship Project
14758 Ostlund Trail North
Marine, MN 55407
(612)433-2770



OUR TREASURED TREES

SOIL & WATER
STEWARDSHIP
WEEK

April 26 — May 3, 1992



7-2-87

Wapello
Republican

Phelan assumes SCS District Conservationist position

Randy Phelan is the District Conservationist in the Wapello Soil and Water Conservation District replacing Steve Yaddof. Yaddof was selected as RC&D Coordinator with the Soil Conservation Service in Rhode Island.

Phelan came from Esterville, where he served the Emmet Soil and Water Conservation District as their District Conservationist. Phelan was a soil conservationist for three years in Bedford (Taylor County). He also worked as a conservation technician for four years in his home county of Plymouth. He was born and raised on a farm near LeMars; his parents still operate this farm.

Phelan decided to move at this time so that he could inform the farmers of the requirements of the 1985 Farm Bill, rather than inherit a county later that had no system set up to deal with the farm bill policy.

"I will promote sound

resource conservation projects," said Phelan. "Some people feel that the Government owes them cost-share funds. To receive cost share funds is not a right, it is a privilege," Phelan said. He adds, "Your conservation project must meet Soil Conservation Service specifications or the project will not be recommended for cost share. Waterways and erosion control structures must have the upland drainage adequately treated before cost share will be approved. Terrace projects must start at the top of the hill and be designed on the contour to reduce soil losses to tolerable levels.

Phelan will continue to promote the ten year Conservation Reserve program (CRP). During the first year of

sign-up, Phelan enrolled 10,600 acres in the CRP in Emmet County. Phelan said, "The Conservation Reserve Program is an excellent program to take your highly erodible land immediately out of production while maintaining your eligibility for USDA program benefits. The Conservation Reserve Program offers \$85 per acre annual payment to retire highly erodible land and gives you time to develop a conservation plan that would otherwise be required in 1990."

Phelan recommends that everyone contact their SCS office to see if their land is eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program. The next sign up for the reserve program is July 20-July 31.

Plan ahead for a windbreak this spring

Now is the time of year to start planning your farmstead windbreak. According to Lee Roudybush of the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District, "fall is the perfect time to plan and do site preparation so you can plant trees right away in the spring."

If you need assistance in planning a windbreak, the Soil Conservation Service can help you. "We can suggest location, types of trees as well as how many trees and shrubs it will take," says Shawn Dettmann, District Conservatiuonist. The Soil Con-

servation Service has videos on planting a windbreak that you can check out for free.

The District will once again have trees available for sale this year. "We have expanded our varieties and added shrubs," explained Roudybush. The District has started taking orders for trees to be planted this spring. "The proceeds from the sale of the trees go to fund our education program," said Roudybush.

If you would like more information on planning a windbreak or ordering trees contact the Soil Conservation Service at (319) 523-6411.

Way Rep. 9-12-91

"Planting in the Dust"

Museum to host performance

"Planting in the Dust", a critically-acclaimed one woman/one act drama will be presented at the Louisa County Heritage Museum in Wapello, Iowa on Sunday, May 30 at 2:00 p.m. This half-hour, one-act drama focuses on a young farm woman as she struggles with her deeply-rooted feelings for her family's land and farming problems today.

The play, written by Nancy Paddock, has been hailed one of the finest presentations on land ethics currently touring the nation. Its poignant message of hope has been enthusiastically received by thousands nationwide. Experts in the field, audience members and theater critics agree, the play is evocative, informative and entertaining.

"Planting in the Dust" approaches conservation issues through the eyes of Annie, who has returned to the land her great-grandparents homesteaded. She looks out at the cloud of dust billowing up from her neighbor's tractor and experiences a deep sense of loss. It is not just dust to her, it is land that has been in her family since pioneer days. She recounts the history of the land — plowed by her great-grandfather, protected by her grandparents and farmed fence row to fence row by her own mother and father. All around her land has become a commodity — fertility is mined for profit, farmers lose their land and communities



Actress Jody Hovland will present "Planting in the Dust" Sunday afternoon at the Heritage Museum.

crumble.

Annie's commitment to restore her farm has brought her into close communion with the land. She firmly believes, "The land belongs to itself, if anything we belong to it ... we borrow our

The Land Stewardship Project, which developed the play, is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering a national ethic toward our soil and water resources. The play is being sponsored locally by the Louisa

County Soil and Water Conservation District, Louisa County Conservation Board, Louisa County Historical Society, Louisa County Farm Bureau, Louisa County Farm Bureau Women, River Forks FFA, Wapello FFA and L-M FFA.

The performance is open to the public and is free of charge. A free-will offering will be accepted at the door. For more information contact the conservation board at 523-8381.

Planting in the Dust

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 p.m.
Louisa County Heritage Museum
Wapello, Iowa

***A one act play about a woman's
connection with the land***



This one woman/one act drama focuses on a young farm woman as she struggles with her deeply-rooted feelings for her family's land and farming problems today. Jody Hovland, who performed in "First Lady Lou" at the Heritage Museum two years ago, will play the part of Annie.

Local sponsors:

Louisa County Historical Society
Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District
Louisa County Conservation Board
Louisa County Farm Bureau
Louisa County Farm Bureau Women
River Forks FFA
L-M FFA
Wapello FFA

Produced by:

Land Stewardship Project
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

This program is open to the public and free of charge.

A free-will offering will be accepted at the door

For more information, contact the Louisa County Conservation Board at 523-8381

Preliminary results of well testing

Tests show many Muscatine Island area wells are contaminated

8/20/92
Wap. Rep

Primary results of a recent water quality survey have shown 40% of wells tested on Muscatine Island are supplying contaminated water.

The survey is being conducted by the Geode Resource Conservation and Development to determine the quality of water

supplied on Muscatine Island.

Muscatine County residents may have their wells tested free at any time by arranging an appointment with the Muscatine Board of Health at 263-0482.

Louisa County residents of the Muscatine Island area will be offered free well tests for a lim-

ited time.

Louisa County residents of Muscatine Island may make appointments to have their wells tested, or receive more information on the survey, by calling the Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District at 523-6411.

Rain hurts yields

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Too much water in the Midwest will cut corn production this crop year by 650 million bushels and soybeans by 70 million bu., the USDA projects.

In a report Monday, the department's World Agricultural Outlook Board said corn production should be 7.85 billion bu., compared with 8.5 billion bu. projected last month and a record 9.5 billion bu. in 1992.

Part of the decrease from 1992 is due to reduced plantings under government programs. The board projected prices to increase 15 cents/bu., causing them to range from \$2 to \$2.40.

The board said soybean production should reach 1.98 billion

bu., a 70-million-bu. drop from last month's estimate of 2.05 billion bu. The 1992 production was estimated at 2.2 billion bu.

Soybeans should range \$5.75 to \$7/bu., compared with a \$5.50 average for this last crop year.

The board cautioned projections are tentative and based on analysis of existing information using the probable effect of the weather. More-reliable information based on actual surveys of the affected areas will be available Aug. 11.

In another indication of the weather's effect on corn and soybeans, the department reported the soybean crop 95 percent planted, compared with a 98 percent average. ■

4-27-89

Rain welcomed by area farmers

Lightning caused some damage to Louisa County businesses and residences last Saturday night, and some minor wind damage was reported, but the downpour had area farmers feeling in much better spirits.

Rainfall totals in Louisa County fell mostly in the two to three inch range, with Wapello weather observer Mike Hodges recording 2.39 inches of rainfall over the weekend.

The 2.39 inches of rain was the most recorded in Wapello at one time since August 26 of 1987, when 2.68 inches fell.

Wapello has now recorded a near-normal 3.44 inches in April, although a significant deficit remains from 1988 and the first three months of 1989.

Wapello Rep.

RC&D to host follow up seminars on Shiitake mushrooms

It is no secret that Iowans and rural folks from neighboring states have been reluctant to shift away from producing huge surpluses of unprofitable crops. Change is difficult, yet inevitable, and in the case of the farm economy, it is urgently needed.

Shiitake mushrooms, a gourmet Japanese variety which can be successfully grown in the midwest is a case in point. Consumption is rapidly increasing in population centers across America. Production requires little investment, little labor, and the main material needed is widely available -

small hardwood logs, especially oak.

This season, to provide further technical assistance to first-time growers, and to let others in on the promise of Shiitake, additional training will be provided. Geode Wonderland RC&D, the rural development arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has scheduled 5 expanded seminars.

Each seminar will begin at 7:00 p.m. To defray speaker travel expenses, the cost at the door will be \$5.00. A discounted registration fee of \$2.00 will be

charged to those persons who purchased "plugs" from us last year.

The schedule of seminars is as follows:

Tuesday, Feb. 18 - Kilpeck Community Friends Church in Louisa County, near Louisa Generating Plant on Muscatine Island. Intersection Great River Road (X61) and county highway G44X.

Wednesday, Feb. 19 - Little Theatre in Building 400, Agri-Sports Complex, Southeastern Community College, West Burlington, Iowa.

*Wapello
Republican
2-13-86*

REAP Committee meets in Wapello, grant applications reviewed

The Louisa County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee met Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Louisa County Heritage Center in Wapello, and reviewed several prospective grant applications for state funding.

Among the grant proposals are a multi-use recreation and water quality control project from the City of Wapello; a recreation and pond project proposed by the City of Oakville; a proposed land acquisition and development project for the Cairo Woods

Wildlife Area, submitted by the Louisa County Conservation Board; and a proposed natural areas inventory of the county, requested by the conservation board.

After reviewing the proposals, the committee agreed they

all met with its preliminary five-year plan objectives and recommended they be supported by state reviewers.

The projects will now be forwarded to Des Moines, where they will compete with other proposals for funding.

Wapello's proposal requests funding assistance to aid in modifying its sewer lagoon plant and developing a new park. Included in the proposal is the construction of two wetlands which would assist in treating the city's wastewater.

There are currently around 70 marsh treatment sites around the country, but none are in Iowa. The project would improve wildlife habitat, along with enhancing water quality.

Wapello's proposal would also include a park development, which would include a shelter, playground equipment, latrines and trail system.

Oakville proposed the dredging of a wetland for improved fishing and other park development. The proposal would provide additional recreational use for a portion of the park where use is down. A shelter and other improvements would also be constructed.

The proposed development of Cairo Woods would improve both wildlife habitat and recreation use by people. Among the proposals are fencing, native grass planting, pond reconstruction and trail development. In addition, the proposal calls for a small acquisition to provide a site for picnic and camping facilities.

The county purchased Cairo Woods with wildlife habitat stamp money, which prevents the county from developing any of the original area for those uses. However, if the county could

acquire a small piece of land, it would be able to develop a small area for building additional picnic and camping facilities. The majority party has announced this afternoon. The bill was signed into law by Governor Branstad this afternoon. The bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 28 to 21 and we will know the full impact of this bill.

SCS offers to purchase easements on qualifying flooded croplands in county

A 30-day sign-up for the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program (EWRP) will begin November 1, according to Jeff Vonk, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Iowa. Administered by the SCS through the Emergency Watershed Protection program, EWRP was established to give landowners the option of converting qualifying cropland damaged by the 1993 floods to wetlands. Iowa is one of the eight states eligible for EWRP.

Farmers should visit their local field office to sign up, says Shawn Dettman, District Conservationist in Louisa County.

Eligible land entered into the program will permanently be restored to wetlands, says Shawn. SCS will purchase easements to the land and pay all wetland restoration costs.

"We think some farmers hit by this year's flooding will find this a good option to trying to restore and farm wet, flood-prone land," says Vonk. "They can save the expense of restoring cropland in flood plains, and the environment will also benefit. Wetlands will help control flood waters, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat for migratory birds."

To be eligible for the program, land must meet the basic criteria:

- must have been covered with flood waters in 1993;
- the cost of reclaiming cropland and/or repairing levees is more than the easement value of the land;
- can be restored to a wetland;
- must have been used for crop production at least once during the last five years.

Land easement values were set on a regional basis by the SCS by working with other agencies, commodity and environmental groups as well as farm managers and appraisers. Easement values range from \$388 to \$962 per acre.

Easement values for Louisa County are \$683 per acre, says Shawn

Land is officially accepted into the program after the landowner records an easement. The landowner will then receive 75 percent of the easement payment. When wetland restoration is complete SCS will pay the landowner the remaining 25 percent, says Vonk.

"Farmers with land in river bottoms damaged by flood waters should stop by their local SCS office for more detailed in-

formation if they are interested in receiving payment for permanently retiring the land from production," says Vonk. "Costs to reclaim flood damaged lands are often greatly underestimated. To determine eligibility SCS will be working with landowners to identify all reclamation costs including restoring fertility and restoring the flooded fields to pre-flood conditions."

SCS office expands hours

The Soil Conservation Service Office in Wapello is announcing expanded office hours by staying open Mondays until 9:00 p.m.

"Louisa County has a significant number of farmers who work off the farm. To better serve the farmers we felt being open one evening a week would make the office more accessible," said Shawn Dettmann, district conservationist.

According to Dettmann, Louisa county is the only county in the state authorized to offer this kind of service. If Louisa county farmers take advantage of this it may be offered in more counties across the state.

The new office hours are:

Monday, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

If you have questions about your farm plan, pasture management, wetland or windbreak, you're invited to stop in and visit with us. As always all programs and services are free and offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

SCS plans to follow appointment schedule for consultations this year

Wap. Rep
10/8/92

The Soil Conservation Service in Louisa County will be setting appointments for follow-up on conservation plans again this year. "We will be sending out appointment cards to neighborhoods this fall and winter," says Shawn Dettman of the Soil Conservation Service. Follow-up is a service provided to farmers to help them stay eligible for USDA benefits. "We will be asking farmers to take about one or two hours out of their busy schedules to meet with us," says Dettman. It's best if the producer can be there when we do follow-up, but it's not required for them to be present.

It is extremely important for farmers to be on schedule with the conservation plans if they want to remain eligible for USDA programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, feed grain programs, and FMHA loans.

"If you can't make the appointment time and date we set, but want to be present, let us know and we will change it to

accommodate you," says Dettmann.

About two thirds of the highly erodible farmland in Louisa

County have practices that need to be applied to be considered in compliance and eligible to participate in the farm programs.

11/10/92

SCS to ask for drainage records on wet acres

Louisa County landowner and operators who have wet areas on their land and have been involved with USDA programs since 1986 received an important letter from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

The letter asked for cropping information and drainage records on wet areas the SCS has identified from aerial photographs and soils information.

"We're in the process of making determinations on which of these areas are wetlands, and what type of wetlands they are," says Shawn Dettmann, District Conservationist for the SCS. "We need information from the landowner or cooperator so we can make the most accurate determination."

Drainage records that document prior drainage of an area will have a big impact on what the area is called and whether any further drainage work can be done without a violation of USDA's "swampbuster" provision.

The swampbuster provision of the 1985 and 1990 farm bills was designed to discourage further drainage of wetlands for agricultural production.

"We don't want anyone to lose USDA benefits by modifying a wetland," says Dettmann. "Our whole effort over the next few months is intended to let landowners know where they stand on these wet areas — to come to an understanding of just how the swampbuster rules affect them on their land."

Louisa County landowner received a letter, aerial photographs with potential wet areas outlined, and a worksheet. The SCS is asking for those people who received the worksheet to complete it and return it to the SCS office.

"We're asking farmers to provide all the records and supporting information they have," says Dettmann. Records indicating whether areas were drained before or after 1985, or if they have been cropped or in a USDA set aside program since then are needed. Details, dates, and locations of tile systems will also be requested.

Five percent of the drainage documentation sheets will be spot-checked by SCS to verify that the field situation has been accurately reported.

All information gathered from local landowners will be combined with data from soil types and maps. The SCS district conservationist will then determine which areas are wetlands, what type of wetland they are, and what role swampbuster may have on any further altering or draining of the area.

If the owner or operator can show SCS the wet areas have been totally drained before 1985, and a "prior converted cropland

(PC)" designation is given to the site, it may be drained and farmed or altered as needed without swampbuster penalties.

On the other hand, if there is no record of previous drainage or the drainage work was inadequate, there are restrictions on further drainage of the area, but current farming practices and maintenance of the existing system may continue on these farmed wetlands," Dettmann says.

I encourage landowners to contact their local SCS office to go over their information and get any questions answered," said Dettmann.

Dettmann says it's very easy for incorrect rumors to get started. "We want to be sure we understand all the drainage history and that landowners and operators understand the process," Dettmann says.

For more information contact the SCS office in Wapello at 523-6411.

New SCS video available

According to Shawn Dettmann, District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service a new How to Video is available to check out. The "Better Land... Better Water" video includes segments on plugging abandoned wells, soil testing for nitrates, planting a tree, planting a windbreak, getting grasses growing and how to use filter strips.

Iowa State University Extension Service also has a new video

available for farmers to use. Protecting Our Water Quality has segments on Sprayer Calibration, Manure Storage and Soil sampling.

The Better Land... Better Water, The Conservation on Your Own and the Protecting Water Quality are available to check out free of charge," said Dettmann. You can pick up a tape at Louisa County Soil Conservation Office in Wapello. For more information call S.C.S. at 523-6411.

6/27/91
Wap. Rep.

Shiitakes mushroom into conservation incentive

DANVILLE, Ill. (AP) — One of the most popular delicacies in Japan is popping out of 700 neatly stacked logs in a secluded Vermilion County research site and scientists believe there is wealth beyond money in shiitake mushrooms.

The large, expensive mushrooms could be a key to reducing soil erosion, improving forest management and creating wildlife habitat, while also making money for people who grow them, scientists say.

"We're in this for the environmental aspects," said Kenneth Konsis, the Kennekuk Cove Park forester who teaches how to produce shiitakes, pronounced she-tok-e. "The mushrooms are a financial incentive to get land-

owners to do this."

Scientists say adding trees to crop land can help reduce erosion by keeping valuable soil from washing away and cutting smaller logs from trees can improve existing forests. In either case, wildlife should benefit, they say.

Shiitake production also could help the U.S. economy, since this nation now imports about \$100 million worth of the mushrooms from Japan each year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that domestic growers have a \$2 million annual market now, and it eventually could be 10 times that much.

"We're growing higher quality mushrooms than they are in Japan," said Konsis. "They are buying our best mushrooms and

shipping them back to Japan."

Shiitake mushrooms have been grown commercially in the United States for less than 10 years, said Christopher Burnett of the Illinois Natural History Survey. Last year, nearly 3 million pounds were produced.

The Vermilion County research project, developed two years ago by Burnett, a wildlife ecologist, is designed to identify the best shiitake varieties and the best type of logs for Illinois production.

It also serves as a workshop for people who want to learn how to raise shiitake mushrooms.

"My son and I are interested in things like that — almost a garden type project," said Larry Larimore of Urbana, who took the class last winter. "We don't ex-

pect to be big mushroom growers."

But Larimore said his son is a truck farmer and the shiitake harvest from their 100 logs will allow him to diversify his produce sales at farmers' markets and retail stores.

Konsis said the process begins with the cutting or purchase of logs about three feet long and four inches in diameter — preferably oak.

Up to 90 holes are drilled in each log. Sawdust containing the mushroom spawn is injected, and the holes are covered with wax.

The logs are stacked for about a year. They occasionally are rotated, and sometimes soaked in a small lagoon to encourage the

emergence of "a big flush of mushrooms" on the wood, said Konsis.

The brownish shiitake caps can be large enough to fill the palm of a man's hand, and they have sold for \$1 an ounce in local supermarkets, he said.

The shiitake is meatier, chewier and more flavorful than the button mushrooms found in most stores, Burnett said.

The logs in the research project, with blotches of paint to identify each variety of shiitake, stand on end against a rail, creating the appearance of a low, rustic fence.

"We had mushrooms crop out just before Christmas," said Konsis. "But, it is so weather-dependent that it is hard to pre-

dict anything."

Generally, mushrooms thrive when the temperature is more than 40 degrees and it isn't too dry.

Burnett estimates that it will cost \$1 plus labor to get a log ready for production, and that it will yield from three to nine pounds of shiitake mushrooms over five or six years. The grower should be able to sell them for about \$6 a pound, he said.

"My strategy to convince people to do things to create (wildlife) habitat is to convince them woodlands have some economic value," said Burnett, who hopes similar demonstrations will be done in other parts of Illinois. "It's not difficult to do and the market is growing."

Burlington Hawkeye
5-88

Signatures needed

As required by National Food Security Act (FSA) of 1985, nearly all of the highly erodible acres of Louisa County have a conservation plan developed. However, not all of these plans have been signed by the landowner and/or operator.

If an FSA conservation plan has been developed but not signed by December 31, 1989, a landowner and/or operator will not be eligible to participate in USDA programs in 1990. In order to regain eligibility, all conservation practices required by the plan must be applied before planting a commodity crop.

This also applies to operators who have developed FSA conservation plans for land that they rent and do not own. These plans are not valid until they have been signed by both the owner and operator.

REMEMBER — AN FSA CONSERVATION PLAN IS NOT VALID UNTIL IT HAS BEEN SIGNED.

If you have any questions, please contact the office of the Soil Conservation Service, 514 Isett, Wapello, Ia., 523-6411.

12-7-89 Wap. Rep.

12-7-89

Wap. Republican

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Col. GazetteWhere published Col. Jet IADate of issue 4-2-87Sent by Olin JenningsS. C. D. LouisaStationed at Wapello

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Dist. CHAIRMAN -
He thought
people should
know -

Six cities chosen for water meeting

Six cities have been chosen as sites for public meetings on groundwater protection, according to Maurice Dougal, chairman of the Iowa League of Water Resource Districts:

Iowa's six water resource districts are sponsoring the meetings to provide citizens with an opportunity to express their ideas on groundwater issues and protection measures currently being debated by the legislature. Everyone concerned about the future of Iowa's water supply is encouraged to attend a meeting in their area.

The meetings are scheduled for April 4 and April 11, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Groundwater experts and legislators will be in attendance to address public concerns about Iowa's water supply. The meeting includes this Saturday, April 4, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Oskaloosa in the dining room at William Penn College; and Saturday, April 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Cedar Rapids in the west dining room at Kirkwood College.

The Iowa League of Water Resource Districts is made up of members of Iowa's six water resource district boards and other interested individuals.

The league was formed in 1985 to promote improved water management in the state of Iowa, and to provide an educational forum, such as these groundwater meetings to facilitate information sharing on water issues.

Anyone interested in joining the League should contact Bill Gasper, 930 Tressa Street, Dubuque, Iowa 52001 at (319)583-4849.



Think "Conservation's New Frontier" during Soil & Water Stewardship Week

A m e s , I o w a — "Conservation's New Frontiers" is the theme for Soil and Water Stewardship Week to be observed May 4-11 in Iowa and throughout the nation.

The week is an annual observance to emphasize society's

responsibility to protect, conserve and use wisely soil, water and related natural resources, according to Min Amemiya, Iowa State University Extension agronomist. He said the thrust of this year's observance focuses on revival of the pioneer spirit to explore new frontiers.

"Most of the physical barriers of past frontiers have been conquered. Today's new frontiers for conservation are the barriers of knowledge leading to development and use of better and more efficient ways of utilizing our natural resources," Amemiya said. "We must devise ways of solving natural resource problems that are commensurate with our changing times," he added.

For the past 32 years, Iowa's 100 soil conservation districts, part of more than 3,000 such districts across the nation, have

provided local leadership for the observance of providing materials to the clergy, lay leaders, and civic and educational organizations to encourage citizen participation in this annual recognition of resource stewardship.

"We face the continuing challenge of making wiser decisions concerning the use of our land and water resources," Amemiya said. "The luxury of having unlimited soil and water resources to be used indiscriminately no longer exists."

"There is no time like the

present to get involved in soil and water conservation programs so that "Conservation's New Frontiers" may be overcome," concluded Amemiya.

Planning and applying conservation measures are facilitated by technical and financial assistance from federal and state agencies working with the landowners through soil conservation districts. Those having concerns or needing assistance or further information should contact their local soil conservation district office.

☒ VOTE FOR

Glen Schlutz

Republican Candidate for

Louisa County Supervisor

- 12 years experience as mayor of Grandview
- Your support appreciated on June 3

Paid For By Glen Schlutz



The longest professional football run from scrimmage was accomplished on January 3, 1983 when Tony Dorsett of the Dallas Cowboys ran 99 yards to score a touchdown.

Soil and water conservation district scholarship available

2-17-94
Wap. Rep.

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a scholarship available to Louisa County high school seniors who will be continuing their education at the college level. The recipient of the \$250 local award will also be entered into competition for scholarships at the state level in the amounts of \$600, \$400 and \$300.

Applications are available through high school guidance counselors and are due in the Louisa County SWCD office by March 18. The local scholarship is made possible through the SWCD's environmental educa-

tion program which is funded by tree sales to the public.

For more information contact Janet Williams at 523-6411 or Julie Ohde at 523-8381.

10/28/93

Soil and Water District plans to annual tree sale

The Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District is taking orders for trees. The trees average 18 inches in height and will arrive in early April. Profits from the sales will help fund conservation education in Louisa County.

This year the trees available include red oak, black walnut, arborvitae, Austrian pine, Colorado blue spruce, and eastern white pine. Shrubs available are the common purple lilac, Nank-

ing cherry, and rodosier dogwood.

If you are interested in a variety not on our list, give us a call we will try to obtain them for you if they are available from our nurseries.

Minimum order is 10 of a variety for \$10. Tree shelters are also for sale. All orders will be picked up at the Louisa County SCS office in Wapello. For more information or to order, call 523-6411.

Soil and Water District to hold public meeting on 5 year plan

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District will hold a public meeting on the 5 year Resource Conservation Plan that is in the preparation stage for the county on Monday, November 19, at 7 p.m. in the State Bank of Wapello Community Room.

The purpose of the meeting is

to identify problems and solutions regarding soil, water, and mineral resources along with land management practices.

The public will be asked to participate in the process of establishing objectives and goals as part of a Soil and Water Resources Conservation Plan.

w Rec

11/15/90

SOIL COMMISSION TO MEET

The Louisa County Soil and
Water Commission will meet at
5 p.m., Monday, November 19,
in the office in Wapello.

W. Rep

11/18/90

Soil Conservation Service expanded hours continue

The Soil Conservation Service Office in Wapello wants to remind everyone that the office is open on Monday evenings until 9:00 p.m. The expanded office hours remain in effect for your convenience.

"Louisa County has a significant number of farmers who work off the farm. To better serve the farmers we felt being open one evening a week would make the office more accessible." said

Shawn Dettmann, District Conservationist.

According to Dettmann, Louisa county is the only county in the state authorized to offer this kind of service. If Louisa county farmers take advantage of this we may see it offered in more counties across the state.

The new office hours are:

Monday 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Tuesday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00

p.m.

Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

If you have questions about your farm plan, pasture management, wetland or windbreak why not stop in and visit with us. As always all programs and services are free and offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Soil Conservation Service
Wapello, Iowa

mailed
April 28

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TILLAGE INFO CENTER

Finding the latest information on conservation tillage in one place is not only possible, it's easy. The source is the Conservation Tillage Information Center (CTIC) in Fort Wayne, IN.

This clearinghouse of information was established as a special project of the National Association of Conservation Districts. It provides up-to-date information to farmers, private agribusiness firms, the 3,000 soil and water conservation districts, Federal agencies, and other special interest groups.

The CTIC monthly newsletter tells about new publications, recent equipment introduction, research findings, and audio visuals available on conservation tillage. A calendar of events nationwide is also included.

Among services and products provided by CTIC are:

National Survey, Conservation Tillage Practices--1984 (hard copy, magnetic tape, floppy discs)--National, Regional, State, and County.

Computerized Resource Specialists Referral Service

Steps for Implementing a Conservation Tillage Demonstration Project

Fundamentals of No-Till Farming (book)

Computerized Abstract Library of Conservation Tillage Publications

"Have You Considered Conservation Tillage?" (book)

Directory of Conservation Tillage Pamphlets and Brochures

Directory of Conservation Tillage Clubs and Associations

Directory of Conservation Tillage Audio-Visual Materials

*Conservation Tillage: Local Action and Views (1984 Attitude
Survey)*

*For information on how to get conservation tillage information,
contact the CTIC at Executive Park, 2010 Inwood Drive, Fort Wayne,
IN 46815.*

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 8, 1986

Iowa farmers lead the nation in acres of cropland planted with soil-saving conservation tillage methods, according to a national survey of tillage practices.

The survey shows more than 12 million acres of Iowa land were planted with conservation tillage in 1985. The figure is for all crops including corn, soybeans, small grains and forage crops, and represents a 20 percent increase from 1984 and 1983.

"We know there's been a steady increase in the use of conservation tillage by Iowa farmers, and we're happy to see they have the distinction of being number one," says Mike Nethery, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The SCS works with the Extension Service, ASCS and soil conservation districts to make the survey annually with the National Conservation Tillage Information Center in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Conservation tillage is defined as any method of tillage that leaves at least 30 percent of the ground covered by the previous year's crop residue after the new crop is planted.

"Conservation tillage can save time, fuel, labor, and soil," Nethery says. "We expect the trend to reduced tillage will increase-- especially the no-till and ridge-till methods, because they offer the most potential for savings."

No-till corn and soybean acreage in Iowa has increased by more than 30 percent each of the last three years. In 1985, there were 822,000 acres of no-till, eight times the acreage in 1980.

More than a quarter of a million acres are now ridge-tilled, a practice growing in popularity in north-central Iowa because planting on a ridge reduces wetness and other problems. The 277,000 acres of ridge-till in 1985 was a 22 percent increase from 1984.

Mulch tillage, a practice where discs, chisels or other tillage implements disturb the entire soil surface in preparation for planting, showed an increase of 2.2 million acres from 1984. The mulch tillage method accounts for the bulk of conservation tillage acreage in Iowa, with 10.9 million acres in 1985. Most of those acres (9.9 million acres) was on corn and soybean land. There was an 18 percent increase in mulch-till acreage on corn and beans from 1984.

"Nearly half of Iowa's corn and soybean acreage is now being planted with methods that help save topsoil," SCS Agronomist Bob Dayton says.

"The survey shows that each year, more farmers are reducing the amount of tillage on their cropland. The crop residue they leave on the surface protects the soil from erosion, and the cover offers some wildlife benefits, too," he says.

"There are many benefits to conservation tillage," Dayton says, "and while the pace of adoption has been fast, there is still plenty of room to expand its use in Iowa."

The tillage survey shows eight other Midwest states followed Iowa in 1985 total acreage of conservation tillage. The states and acres are Kansas, 11.2 million; Illinois, 7.7 million; Nebraska, 6.5 million; Indiana, 5.2 million; South Dakota, 4.9 million; North Dakota, 4.5 million; Missouri, 4.4 million; and Minnesota, 4.4 million.

The state of Delaware leads the nation in percentage of crops planted with conservation tillage, with 77 percent. Iowa ranks seventh in that category.

Iowa ranks sixth in acreage of no-till. Illinois leads the nation in no-till acreage with 1,462,000 acres, followed by Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Missouri.

Nebraska has the most land in ridge tillage, with nearly half a million acres. Other leaders in ridge tillage are Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
AUGUST 26, 1986

WAPELLO, IOWA

USDA SETS INTERIM RULES ON SODBUSTING, SWAMPBUSTING

Interim rules went into effect on June 27 for the sodbuster, swampbuster, and conservation compliance provisions of the new U.S. farm bill, the food security act of 1986. As of that date producers who fail to meet the interim rule requirements are ineligible for most federal farm program benefits, including commodity price supports, disaster payments, federal crop insurance, and storage facility loans.

But in certain cases the interim rules provide a grace period for compliance. Farmers who cultivated highly erodible land in any year from 1981 through 1985 have until January 1, 1990, or two years after the Conservation Service prepares soil maps for the acreage involved, to apply an approved conservation plan to that acreage and remain eligible for federal farm programs. In the interim those farmers may continue to cultivate the land in questions.

Also, farmers who cultivated highly erodible land or converted wetlands after December 23, 1985, and planted a crop before the interim rules went into effect, remain eligible for 1986 farm program benefits. But to remain eligible in following year, those farmers must apply an approved conservation plan on the highly erodible land. In the case of wetlands converted after December 23, 1985, production of any agricultural commodity on those lands after June 27 will result in the farmer losing his program eligibility.

USDA has allowed the public 60 days following June 27 to comment on the interim rules. Comments should be directed to: Director, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, ASCS, USDA, Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. Details of the interim rules appear in the June 27 issue of the Federal Register.

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Wapello, Iowa
July 20, 1987

NEWS RELEASE

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SCHEDULED

THERE WILL BE A MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE TEN YEAR CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM AT THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL BANK IN COLUMBUS JUNCTION, MONDAY JULY 27TH, 1987 AT 8:00 P.M.

THIS MEETING WILL EXPLAIN THE SEEDING REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT OF THE CONSERVAITON RESERVE PROGRAM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE CRP PROGRAM THIS MEETING WILL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

YOU WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE LAND ELIGIBLE FOR THE CONSERVATION RESERVE AND SHOULD CHECK ON YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CRP IF YOU LIVE IN THE FOLLOWING TOWNSHIPS: UNION, COLUMBUS CITY, MARSHALL, MORNING SUN, EAST ELM GROVE AND WAPELLO.

THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CAN MAINTAIN YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR ASCS PROGRAMS BY PLACING YOUR HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND IN THE CRP. THIS CRP SIGN UP ENDS FRIDAY JULY 31ST.

To - WAPELLO Rep.
Col. G. G. G. G.

LOUISA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WAPELLO, IOWA
JUNE 17, 1987

NEWS RELEASE

The Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District wishes to inform the public of a Conservation Compliance Field Day to be held Wednesday, June 24th and Thursday June 25th at Edgington, Illinois.

The objective of the field days is to demonstrate farming with conservation compliance. The field day will include demonstrations of conservation practices, no-till plots, herbicide plots, wildlife and forestry practices, and noon speakers on the requirements to maintain eligibility for USDA programs.

If you are interested in farming beyond 1990 with conservation compliance, attend the field day. For more information on the program contact the Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District.

3 pages

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
WAPELLO, IOWA
MARCH 17, 1986

FARMERS PLANNING TO PLANT CORN OR SOYBEANS THIS SPRING ON HIGHLY ERODIBLE GRASSLAND OR WOODLAND MAY WANT TO RECONSIDER, USDA OFFICIALS SAY. THEY ALSO CAUTION FARMERS WHO PLAN TO DRAIN WETLANDS FOR CROP PRODUCTION.

THE REASON: THE 1985 FARM BILL INCLUDED "SODBUSTER" AND "SWAMPBUSTER" PROVISIONS THAT COULD MAKE A FARMER INELIGIBLE FOR OTHER USDA BENEFITS FOR 1986 AND FUTURE YEARS IF HE CONVERTS WETLANDS OR HIGHLY ERODIBLE GRASSLAND OR WOODLAND TO CROPLAND.

"THE SODBUSTER AND SWAMPBUSTER PROVISIONS OF THE FARM BILL WENT INTO EFFECT LAST DECEMBER 23, WHEN THE PRESIDENT SIGNED THE BILL INTO LAW AS THE FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985," SAY MIKE NETHERY, STATE CONSERVATIONIST FOR THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE IN IOWA.

"THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH PUBLICITY ABOUT THE DETAILS OF HOW THE PROVISIONS WILL BE ADMINISTERED BECAUSE USDA HAS BEEN STRUGGLING TO GET FEED GRAIN, CONSERVATION RESERVE, AND OTHER PROGRAMS RUNNING," NETHERY SAYS.

"THEY JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THE RULES IN PLACE. BUT THE LAW IS THERE, AND ANYONE WHO CONVERTS HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND OR WETLANDS TO CROPLAND AFTER DECEMBER 23, 1985, COULD BE SUBJECT TO FORFEITING USDA PROGRAM BENEFITS FOR 1986 AND BEYOND," HE ADDS.

HOWEVER, IF THE HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND IS FARMED UNDER A SOIL CONSERVATION PLAN AND SOIL LOSSES ARE ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED, THE FARMER WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR OTHER USDA PROGRAMS.

NETHERY SAYS DETAILED USDA RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE PROVISIONS SHOULD BE PUBLISHED BY MID-MAY. "SINCE WE DON'T KNOW THE RULES, SUCH AS THE EXACT DEFINITION OF HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND, WE CAN'T GIVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO A FARMER ON WHAT WOULD MAKE HIM INELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE LAW", HE SAYS.

"BUT FARMERS NEED TO KNOW THE LAW IS IN EFFECT, AND THAT THEY CANNOT EXPECT TO GET USDA BENEFITS IF THEY CARELESSLY BREAK OUT ESTABLISHED VEGETATIVE COVER SUCH AS PASTURES, GRASSLAND, SHRUBS, OR TREES FOR CORN, SOYBEANS, OR OTHER ANNUAL CROPS," NETHERY SAYS.

HE ENCOURAGES FARMERS WHO ARE CONSIDERING CONVERTING STEEP LAND OR WETLANDS FROM GRASS TO ROWCROPS TO CONTACT THEIR LOCAL SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE.

Soil Conservation Service

Wapello, Iowa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE QUIET REVOLUTION

A revolution is going on in America's farmland. Fortunately for all of us, it is a quiet revolution. That revolution is the switch to conservation tillage.

Conservation tillage is a farming practice that allows farmers the alternative of planting their crops in fields that have not been plowed. It makes use of crop residue or other forms of land cover to reduce erosion and saves moisture for crops being grown.

According to the definition by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, conservation tillage is any crop planting system where 30 percent or more of crop residue remains on the surface after planting. Many tillage forms and options are available to farmers.

The use of conservation tillage saves farmers time, money, and fuel; and can reduce erosion by up to 90 percent. In many parts of the country, conservation tillage in one form or another is a household word, but in some areas it is just getting started. In some areas conservation tillage has been used for over two decades. It is rapidly gaining converts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts that by the year 2000, more than 80 percent of America's farmers will be using some form of conservation tillage.

According to an article in the May-June 1985 issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, farmers in the Corn Belt and the Lake States lead the nation with conservation tillage. In fact, 42 percent of America's farmers using conservation tillage are in the Corn Belt, 16 percent in the Lake States, 15 percent in the Northern plains, and 8 percent in the Appalachian region. Surprisingly, only 1% in the Delta.

Based on findings of the USDA's Farm Production Expenditure Survey (FPES), about one-fifth of the nation's farmers have adopted conservation tillage. This practice is used primarily to grow corn, soybeans, and small grain. Of America's crops grown under conservation tillage, 50 percent of the average were corn, and 35 percent soybeans. Researchers are studying the use of conservation tillage on many other crops including potatoes, peanuts, cotton, even tomatoes, and other truck crops.

Soil and water conservation is the prime reason farmers adopt conservation tillage, but cost and time savings were equally important. In addition, the adoption of conservation tillage in 1983 was mostly done without the aid of any governmental cost-sharing.

Systems range from the top of conservation practices, no-till, to various forms of minimum or reduced tillage. The type of conservation tillage used depends largely upon knowledge of local technology and customs, soils, weed control, and needs of individual farms. The bottom line for most farmers to know is that conservation

system suitable for their type of operation is available. Farmers can learn more about conservation tillage from several sources, including contacting the USDA's Soil Conservation Service or the local office of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Many land grant colleges offer farmers an opportunity to view conservation tillage systems at field days, field trials, and other outreach activities. In recent years, farm magazines have been inundated with articles about the pros and cons of conservation tillage. Agribusinesses such as equipment and chemical dealers also have materials available.

Many farmers have learned a great deal about conservation tillage by asking neighbors who have made it work on their farms. Many organizations sponsor tours, demonstrations, and field trials, including local soil and water conservation districts.

A big help to growers interested in seeking information is the Conservation Tillage Information Center (CTIC) located in Fort Wayne, IN. CTIC is a joint project of the National Association of Conservation Districts, agribusinesses, governmental agencies, private organizations, and individual farmers. The Center provides newsletters, information materials, and resource references.

In the May 1985 issue of "No-Till Farmer", Editor Frank Lessiter commented that the most limiting factor holding back more wide spreading adoption of conservation tillage is simply an attitude problem. Regardless of the current financial environment in

agriculture, once people are fully sold on the benefits of conservation tillage, especially no-till, they will change and adopt the system.

Yes, American agriculture has undergone many revolutions, but many experts agree that conservation tillage is the most rapidly spreading practice since the adoption of hybrid seed corn. Conservation tillage may be quiet revolution throughout America, but is growing, and it is here to stay.

Soil Conservation Service
Wapello, Iowa

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Mailed
5-6-84*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A CONSERVATION TILLAGE SYSTEM FOR YOU

Adaptable ... flexible ... customized ... no matter what they call conservation tillage, there is a system for you. With different systems available, you are not required to use just one general practice to keep 30 percent of the soil surface covered with residue after planting. That's what conservation tillage is all about ... keeping the ground covered with crop residue.

When looking at practices available, consider how serious is erosion affecting your soils productivity, which system fits into your conservation plan, and what local equipment is available and being used, suggests District Conservationist, Steve Vaddof, of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

Then look at the pros and cons of the systems available: no-till, ridge-till, strip-till, mulch-till, or other minimum tillage practices.

No-till: With no-till, the soil is left undisturbed. Seeds are planted in a narrow seedbed about one to three inches wide. Weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides.

Ridge-till: With ridge-till, the soil is left undisturbed. Crops are planted on ridges usually four to six inches higher than the row middles. A combination of herbicides and cultivation is used for weed control. Cultivation is also used to rebuild the ridges.

Strip-till: With strip-till, the soil is left undisturbed. About a third of the soil surface is tilled at planting time. The seedbed is made in the row by a roto-tiller, in-row chisel, or row cleaner. Weeds are controlled with herbicides and some cultivation.

Mulch-till: With the mulch-till method of conservation tillage, the total soil surface is disturbed by tillage before planting. Such tillage tools as chisels, field cultivators, discs, or sweeps are used. Weed control is with herbicides and some cultivation.

Others: Generally, conservation tillage includes any tillage and planting system where 30 percent or more of the soil is covered by crop residue after planting. The form of conservation tillage used depends on the site, local conditions, and grower's needs.

To help you get started, see what your neighbors are using with success. Perhaps they leased machinery, or modified an old planter. Talk to them about what works best for them. For technical assistance, contact the USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

News release

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WHAT'S THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SODBUSTER AND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE?

In addition to cropping history, the primary difference between the sodbuster and conservation compliance is the effective date for each. Sodbuster applies to any land not used for crop production any time between December 31, 1980, and December 23, 1985 (the date the Food Security Act went into effect). However, farmers who broke out land after that date but planted an agricultural commodity crop before June 27, 1986 (the date that USDA published rules on this provision), will remain eligible for USDA programs for that crop during the 1986 crop year. To retain eligibility for subsequent crop years, however, farmers must use a locally approved conservation system.

Conservation compliance is applicable to highly erodible cropland that was being farmed any year 1981 through 1985. There is a grace period on implementing this provision, however, because of the hardships it would impose on farmers who have already established a cropping history. It would also be an impossible single-season workload for SCS field staffs and local conservation districts to help farmers plan and apply the measures that will be needed for compliance with a conservation plan. Therefore, farmers have until January 1, 1990, to develop and be actively applying a conservation plan, and until January 1, 1995, to have it fully in effect.

Where a soil survey of the land is not available, farmers have until 2 years after the soil survey is completed to be actively applying their conservation plans.

News release

WHAT IS THE WETLAND CONSERVATION PROVISION OF THE 1985 FOOD
SECURITY ACT?

The wetland conservation provision, commonly referred to as "swampbuster," is designed to prevent the needless conversion of wetlands to cropland. Some have estimated that less than half of the wetlands that existed when America was first settled still exist.

Wetlands are some of American's most diverse and productive lands for fish and wildlife. They help control floods by temporarily storing water during storms. They trap pollutants. They help recharge aquifers. And they provide recreational opportunities.

Farmers who began the conversion of wetlands before December 23, 1985, are exempt from the swampbuster provision. Farmers who drained wetlands since that date and planted a crop on them before June 27, 1986, retain their eligibility for covered USDA programs for the 1986 crop year only. To retain eligibility on the rest of their farm for subsequent years, farmers must stop producing agricultural commodities on the converted wetland area.

Conversions of artificially created wetlands, including wetlands created by irrigation, are also exempt. Farming wetlands that become dry through natural conditions such as drought - prairie potholes, for example - is allowed under certain conditions, as determined by the Soil Conservation Service.

Soil Conservation Service
Louisa County
News Release

September 23, 1986

*File
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to Wapello
Republican
Ch. Gazette*

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

The Conservation Compliance provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill denies most USDA Farm Program benefits to farmers who farm highly erodible land unless the land is being farmed in accordance with a conservation plan approved by the local conservation district.

The Act allows a grace period for those who are not using a conservation plan. They have until January 1, 1990 to develop and begin actively applying a plan. They have until January 1, 1995 to have the plan fully in effect.

The provisions will have no effect on farmers who are using up-to-date conservation plans. If they are farming highly erodible land with a conservation plan, they need to check with the Soil Conservation Service office to find out if it meets Conservation Compliance provisions.

On-site field visits will be needed on land classified as potentially highly erodible to determine if it is highly erodible. Actual steepness of slope and length of slope will affect final determinations. If the land is not highly erodible, a conservation plan will not be required to continue receiving farm program benefits.

Soil Conservation plan revisions

Approximately 52,000 acres of highly erodible land (HEL) in Louisa County had a conservation plan developed to meet requirements of the 1985 Food Security Act.

It has been two years or more since most of these plans were written. Many things have changed in the last two years. Has your conservation plan changed to stay in line with your changes in management practices? "A lot of people had their plans written and have not looked at them since," says District conservationist, Shawn Dettmann.

So get your Conservation Plan out. Take a look at it and give us call if you have any questions. For more information or to schedule an appointment call (319) 523-6411.

Wap. Rep 9-16-91

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

NEWS

Contact: Mike Nethery
693 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515-284-4260

11-5-87

Co. Papers

Conservation Tillage Use Holds Steady in 1987
For Immediate Release

The percentage of corn and soybeans planted in Iowa with conservation tillage methods this year was slightly higher than in 1986, a survey by the Conservation Technology Information Center shows.

Total acres of conservation tillage were significantly lower this year than in 1986, however, because fewer acres were planted to corn and soybeans overall.

"The survey shows 50% percent of the corn and soybeans planted in 1987 were with conservation tillage methods, compared to 49% in 1986," says Mike Nethery, State Conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Iowa. Local SCS, Extension Service, and other USDA offices gathered data for the survey.

"The survey shows a drop of a million acres of conservation tilled corn and 24,388 acres of conservation tilled beans, but total corn acreage dropped 2.4 million acres and bean acres dropped by 300,000 acres," Nethery says.

"What it really means is that we're holding steady on the use of conservation tillage in Iowa."

One significant difference was the use of no-till to plant soybeans. The acreage planted increased from 110,565 acres in 1986 to 131,418 acres in 1987, despite the drop in total soybean acreage.

- more -



The conservation tillage methods include no-till, ridge till, strip till and mulch till. All acreages reported as conservation tillage had at least 30 percent of the ground covered with the previous year's residue.

The tables below show the comparisons between 1986 and 1987 for the different tillage practices.

	<u>1986 Acres</u>	<u>% of Acres Planted</u>	<u>1987 Acres</u>	<u>% of Acres Planted</u>
Corn - No-till	702,617	5.4	581,920	5.5
Ridge till	154,959	1.2	132,524	1.3
Strip till	--	--	21,977	0.2
Mulch till	<u>4.9 mil.</u>	<u>38.3</u>	<u>4.0 mil.</u>	<u>38.3</u>
Cons. Tillage Total	5.8 mil.	44.9	4.8 mil.	45.3
Corn Acreage Total	12.8 mil.		10.4 mil.	
Soybeans No-till	110,664	1.2	131,418	1.6
Ridge till	110,565	1.2	95,586	1.1
Strip till	--	--	59,138	0.7
Mulch till	<u>4.5 mil.</u>	<u>52.3</u>	<u>4.3 mil.</u>	<u>52.3</u>
Cons. Tillage Total	4.7 mil.	54.7	4.7 mil.	55.7
Soybean Acreage Total	8.6 mil.		8.3 mil.	

"The decrease in total acres planted," says Nethery, "can be attributed to the large sign-ups for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and strong participation in the set-a-side program. That means those acres are now being protected by grass. Couple that with the use of conservation tillage and we have progress in soil conservation."

John Pingry, Agronomist with SCS in Iowa, says the Food Security Act (1985 Farm Bill) and economic conditions will cause a continuing increase in percentage of conservation tillage.

The 1985 Farm Bill requires farmers to control soil losses on highly erodible land by 1995 in order to remain eligible for most other USDA programs.

Pingry and other soil conservationists are advising farmers to begin their 1988 conservation tillage plans by not tilling any fields after harvest this fall.

- end -

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Soil conservation week set

Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Week will be observed September 14-20, according to Min Amemiya, Iowa State University Extension agronomist. The week has been observed annually for more than 40 years to focus attention on the conservation of Iowa's two most valuable resources—soil and water, he said.

"Soil conservation and water quality are issues vital to all Iowans," Amemiya said. "By using land according to its capabilities, and by making use of available soil and water conservation technology, Iowans will be able to permanently maintain a prosperous agriculture, and consequently contribute to the solution of water quality programs."

The primary focus of soil and water conservation programs in the past has been on maintaining and increasing the productivity of Iowa's soil resources. This year increasing emphasis is being given to the off-farm effects of soil erosion on surface

and ground water quality, according to Amemiya.

Surface runoff and deep percolation from agricultural land can carry sediment, plant nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants into lakes and streams to impair the quality of these waters for domestic, industrial, municipal, recreational, and other uses, he added.

Technical and financial help for implementing soil and water conservation measures are available, Amemiya said. Interested landowners and operators can obtain information by contacting their local soil conservation district, county extension office or the US Soil Conservation Service.

"Soil and water conservation benefits everyone," Amemiya said. He urges all Iowans to participate in soil and water conservation programs and to offer support to those who are responsible for conducting programs.

By DAN LOOKER

Register Agribusiness Writer

Wilson Scaling, chief of the nation's Soil Conservation Service, got an earful Tuesday from angry conservation groups and farmers in Des Moines. Along with Iowa's governor and secretary of agriculture, they urged the agency not to weaken soil conservation rules.

Last month, after learning that the SCS had eased rules on soil erosion, state conservation officials and farmers complained to the U.S. Department of Agriculture that they had been ignored. In late April, the SCS rescinded all "conservation compliance" rules and said it would seek public opinion on the rules by holding meetings in every Iowa county.

"It is not in the best interest of Iowans, and future generations of Iowans, to change the conservation compliance standard," Gov. Terry Branstad said in a statement read at a meeting with Scaling on Tuesday. "We need the level of erosion control that the current standard provides. Similarly, we do not need the county meetings you have proposed. In all likelihood, they would only be divisive and confrontational."

Leaders of Agriculture

For more than two hours, Scaling met with leaders of Iowa's agricultural establishment — directors of commodity groups, bureaucrats who run federal farm programs, legislators, and farmers elected to run state and federal conservation programs — ostensibly to plan for county meetings in June.

Instead, it turned into a review of SCS administration of the rules, which have already been weakened several times. The conservation compliance portion of the 1985 Farm Act required farmers to have a plan for lowering soil erosion by the beginning of this year, or face losing crop subsidies, crop insurance and other benefits available from the USDA. Farmers must finish putting their plans into effect by 1995.

One farmer, John Miller of Cedar Falls, asked Scaling to resign.

"You have demonstrated to the public and Congress that the SCS can't be trusted to implement the law," Miller said.

If the SCS, a USDA agency, can't enforce the rules, farmers may eventually be regulated by a less sympathetic Environmental Protection Agency, said Miller, who belongs to soybean and corn commodity groups and serves on the state soil conservation committee and the board of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Miller said he was speaking for himself, not any group.

Political Process

Duane Sand of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation said the recent SCS move is "really telling farmers

to invest in the political process instead of investing in soil conservation."

The change in rules came after an SCS official met with farmers at a meeting in Scott County in March.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Dale Cochran urged Scaling to stick with regulations as they stood before that March meeting and not to hold more county meetings.

"I believe your action has effectively undermined the credibility of Iowa (conservation) districts and the state and federal employees who serve them," Cochran said.

Larry Wilson, head of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said sediment from farmland is the biggest cause of stream pollution in Iowa. SCS consideration of weaker rules runs counter to trends in state government to encourage conservation, he said.

Merlin Plagge, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, favored holding a few meetings around the state to work with farmers who haven't been able to come up with conservation plans acceptable to the agency.

Most Farm Bureau members seem to support the existing conservation rules and don't want them relaxed, Plagge said. The Farm Bureau has opposed efforts to extend the deadline for complying with the rules. "The bottom line is, let's get the job done," Plagge said.

Supports Meetings

Wapello farmer Jack Parsons, past president of the National Corn Growers Association, was one of the few who supported holding more meetings on the conservation rules.

"The state of Iowa does require us to have stricter compliance than bordering states," he said.

Soil Conservation Service rules may be obsolete for modern farming methods, he said.

At the end of the meeting, Scaling said he didn't know if the agency will go ahead with its plans for local meetings on soil conservation rules.

"I want to hear what people have to say, the rank and file people," he said.

Scaling said his own mail suggests that farmers are more divided over the conservation rules than the nearly unanimous support shown at Tuesday's meeting.

J. Michael Neher, state conservationist for the SCS, said he still plans to hold some meetings on the rules, unless Scaling calls them off.

State Rep. David Osterberg, D-Mount Vernon, head of the House Agriculture Committee, expressed doubt that the SCS will ultimately reinstate rules in effect before March. "We may have just had our meeting," he said.

SOIL COMPACTION SEMINAR FEBRUARY 20

A Soil Compaction seminar has been scheduled for February 20 at the Kilpec Community Friends Church. The meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. The church is located near the Louisa Generating Station.

District Soil Conservationist Steve Yaddof says the presentations will be made by representatives of the Soil Conservation Service and commercial companies (Mel Brown, SCS; Ken Washburn, Twin State Engineering; and Robert Hines, Armstrong Tire Company).

A panel discussion will follow the presentations. Panel members will include John Brus, Morning Sun, Mark McCulley, Oakville, Ralph Schnoeblen, Riverside and Gene Vincent, Extension Service.

*Wopello
Republican
2/23-86*

Soil erosion rules to get another look

Imposition of weakened standards is criticized

By **GEORGE ANTHAN**
and **DAN LOOKER**

Register Staff Writers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Soil Conservation Service announced Friday it has rescinded all soil protection rules that Iowa farmers must follow, and new regulations will be developed following public meetings in each county.

Roy M. Gray, director of strategic planning for the SCS, said the agency's officials in Des Moines have been instructed to "start the process again and be sure everybody has an input into the decision process."

The SCS, an agency of the Agriculture Department, has encountered controversy in Iowa over development of soil protection plans that farmers must follow to continue receiving federal farm program benefits.

Scott County Complaints

It was disclosed recently that SCS officials here had overruled the agency's Iowa-based representatives and weakened soil conservation rules following complaints from some Scott County farmers.

The farmers told Washington officials during two meetings in Scott County that the rules issued by the Des Moines office would have caused economic losses.

The Washington-imposed rules would have allowed soil losses of up to 40 tons an acre annually on some land.

Those regulations and the process by which they were handed down were criticized by James B. Gulliford, director of the state division of soil conservation, an agency of the Iowa Department of Agriculture.

Gulliford said last week that the SCS had "weakened" soil protection plans approved earlier by federal and state officials in Des Moines and by local conservation representatives. "That whole process was bypassed and a unilateral decision was made," he said.

Without Local Input

On Friday, Gulliford said the latest SCS decision also was made without consulting state and local officials.

"While I'm pleased that they have rescinded the decision, I think we still have a long ways to go to establish a sound relationship between state and federal agencies with respect to soil conservation," he said.

Gray, the SCS official, said Friday

SOIL

Please turn to Page 4A

Soil erosion rules to be tailored locally

SOIL

Continued from Page One

that his agency is going to start over in developing soil conservation regulations for Iowa.

He said SCS officials in Des Moines and throughout the state will seek the views of state government, of county and district farmer committees and conservation groups, of environmental, farm and commodity organizations and of "John Doe on the street."

Gray added, "Maybe not all will be happy with an open public process, but it ultimately is the best. That way, nobody can say their views were not considered. It should have been a more open process in Iowa to begin with."

He said state officials will have a chance to express their opinion, and commissioners of local soil and water conservation districts will testify at hearings planned for every district in the state. Each county in Iowa is a district, with the exception of Pottawattamie County, which is split into two districts.

ASCS Officials to Testify

Gray said county committees of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the federal agency that runs farm price-support programs, will be asked to testify, as

will farm commodity groups.

He noted that if farmers "say they don't want to do anything" to reduce the level of erosion on their land, "we cannot allow that."

He said there must be compliance with the 1985 law that requires all farmers who participated in federal farm programs to have in place an SCS-approved plan for reducing erosion.

The SCS decision followed more than a week of lobbying and strong reaction to the weaker soil erosion standards by some of the farmers who are elected to serve as district commissioners.

John Schultz, an Allamakee County commissioner, said his district decided Monday to send letters to President Bush and the Iowa congressional delegation opposing the weaker soil conservation rules. Only two or three farmers in his county had been unable to comply with the rules, he said.

"If we want to continue to eat as well as we have in this country, we'd better be concerned about saving our soil," he said.

Further Relaxation

The controversy boiled over several years ago after SCS officials in Iowa, along with state conservation personnel, initially backed a proposal to require that erosion be held to the

so-called "T" level, a rate no more than the soil's ability to replenish itself.

National SCS officials weakened that standard, and Gulliford said the most recent action, ordered in March by SCS officials here, was yet another relaxation of the standard.

The Scott County farmers told Washington officials during two meetings there in March that the state SCS office was insisting they stop tilling land planted each year to corn. The farmers contended the tilling restriction would cut corn yields by up to 40 bushels an acre.

Soil saving progress in Iowa

Iowa farmers are responding to conservation challenges outlined in the 1985 and 1990 farm bills, according to progress figures of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

The agency's figures show farmers are applying key conservation practices at a rate two to three times historical rates.

"Compare the rates for key conservation practices — terracing, contour farming, grassed waterways and crop residue management — and you see the effort this state's farmers are making," says Jeffrey Vonk, SCS state conservationist.

The Soil Conservation Service is instructed by Congress to help farmers plan and carry out soil conservation work.

Conservation provisions of the 1985 and 1990 farm bills require farmers to apply conservation measures according to an agreed upon schedule in order to participate in most U. S. Department of Agriculture programs.

"We've compared annual progress figures from 1980 to 1984, just before the 1985 farm bill, with figures from the last three years," Vonk says. "The average annual rate of new contour farmed acres grew from a little more than 100,000 acres to 400,000 acres. Grass waterways jumped from 2,500 acres to more than 9,000 acres a year, and ter-

aces were up from about 1,800 miles to more than 2,400 miles a year," he says.

The "new" acreage of corn and soybeans being farmed with crop residue management grew from 417,000 acres in 1980 to 650,000 acres last year. An indication the move farmers are making towards heavier crop residues is the nearly 10-fold increase in no-till acreage since 1980, from 100,000 acres then to 973,000 acres last year.

"The interest in crop residue management is phenomenal," Vonk says. "It's a key practice, and it will be interesting to see this year's growth. Farmers across the state are doing more than ever before to leave the past year's crop residues on the soil surface to protect it against erosion."

Despite the progress made, a major portion of the conservation work still awaits the state's farmers. Iowa has nearly 12 million acres of highly erodible land, and the nation's heaviest soil conservation workload.

Farmers were asked to apply needed conservation work according to schedule over a five year period, from 1990 through 1994. Roughly two-thirds of the scheduled work remains to be done in Iowa.

"Because the work was scheduled throughout the period by most farmers, you won't see a high percentage of completed plans until 1994," Vonk says. "Of course, that means also that there's just an incredible amount of conservation work to be done in the next two years. I'm not sure everyone can appreciate what a challenge it is."

The Soil Conservation Service conducts "status reviews" of

about 5 percent of the highly erodible land tracts in Iowa each year. The reviews have shown a very high percentage of the

state's producers are applying soil conservation measures according to their schedule and agency standards for conservation practices.

Corn Growers called to action on Ethanol issue

W. Des Moines, IA - The Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA) is circulating petitions among grain elevators and farm co-ops requesting immediate action to prevent ethanol discrimination in the reformulated gasoline section of the Clean Air Act amendments.

"All farmers are encouraged to sign the ICGA's petition the next time they visit their local elevator," said Evan Stadlman, executive director of the ICGA. "We need to show the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Bush Administration that agriculture is unified in their commitment to see that ethanol receives its rightful position in clean air markets." Stadlman indicated the ICGA will deliver the petitions to President Bush and the EPA prior to the June 15 deadline for comments established by the EPA.

The petition calls for the U.S. government to provide for a domestic, competitive clean fuel market that includes ethanol — not a petroleum-based product mandate. Corn growers believe America should decrease both foreign oil imports and air pollution through the use of ethanol.

Allied businesses have also been asked to consider circulating petitions among their customers and employees. "If ethanol usage in the reformulated gasoline market is drastically limited, the impact will be felt by the entire agricultural community," said Stadlman.

All of Iowa has something to lose in the EPA/ethanol issue. Limiting ethanol's role in the Clean Air Act amendments will not only reduce ethanol demand and cut the amount of corn needed for ethanol production, but it will also reduce the general profitability of farming. Those losses will, in turn, affect numerous Iowa businesses.

Corn growers want the best interest of ethanol represented in Washington due to the sizable corn market at risk. If ethanol captured just 20 percent of the reformulated gasoline market by 2005, it would create a new market for 600 million bushels of corn for processing into ethanol.

Petitions can be obtained by contacting the Iowa Corn Growers Association at 306 West Towers, 1200 35th Street, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265.

again. In mentioning their excellent service let us not forget their custom processing service. Bring your cows or hogs, or call Brooks Meat Plant and they'll custom cut it for your freezer. All these reasons is why it is so easy for us to give our highest praise to them in our Review, you will too.

Soil survey information available from SCS

Consider the soil first, whether you're planning to build a home, construct a road or building, plant a crop, garden shrubs or trees...you may save some money and headaches.

All soils are different. They have personality and individuality just as people do, says District Soil Conservationist Steve Yaddof. Some soils are deep and fertile, others are shallow or sandy or bedrock.

Some soils are sandy, some are clayey. Some shrink when dry and swell when wet. Some are acid, others are alkaline. All of these are important when considering the soil for different uses.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS), assisting the Louisa County Soil Conservation District, has information about most soils in Louisa County, including descriptions of their structure, texture and other

physical characteristics.

Interpretive information such as percolation (seeping) rates, natural fertility, drainage, ponding, flooding, runoff, depth to bedrock, seasonal high water tables, bearing strength and shrink-swell potential is also available.

Detailed soil maps, in book form, won't be available until 1987. A soil map might be called a blueprint of the land. It can be interpreted to show the best areas for cropland, pastureland, rangeland and wildlife habitat, as well as the more suitable areas for homes, shopping centers, schools, parks, factories and highways.



Cabbage is rich in vitamin C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
222 NORTH 2ND STREET
WAPELLO, IOWA
OCTOBER 15, 1987

STAY ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Louisa County has 82,085 acres of hydric (wet) soils. All of these soils have the potential to be a wetland. If you drain these areas you will be swampbusting and will lose your USDA benefits.

Hydric soils and wetland vegetation both must be present to be classified as a wetland. If the site vegetation is altered before the SCS views the site, a similar site location with existing vegetation will be used as a guide to determine if the site was a wetland.

If a wetland is tilled and a crop is harvested from that area, swampbusting occurs and all ASCS commodity programs become ineligible to the producer. To prevent this from happening a completed AD 1026 with the ASCS must be made. NO wetland determination will be made without a AD 1026 signed. A field visit will then be completed prior to the tiler. This will protect your eligibility for USDA programs. To be on the safe side, check with your Soil Conservation office first.

Students see no-till farm

Cole's Gazette
10-4-90

September 12 Jason Thomann, Kerry Baker, Clint Graf, Andy Abbott, and Mr. Barnes went to a no-till farm at Lexington, Illinois. The farm is sponsored by the BASF Chemical Company.

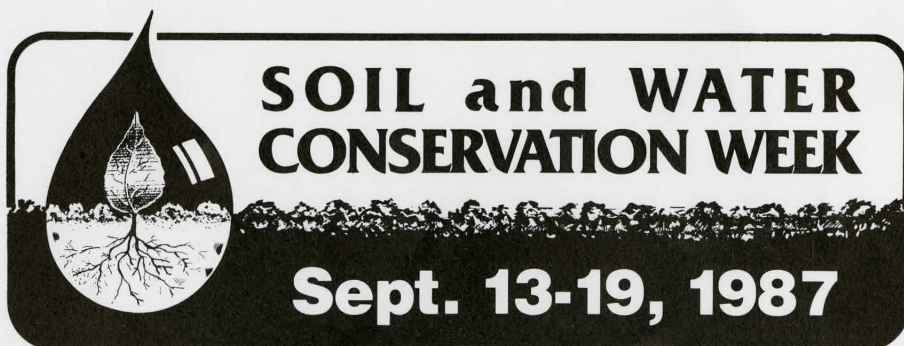
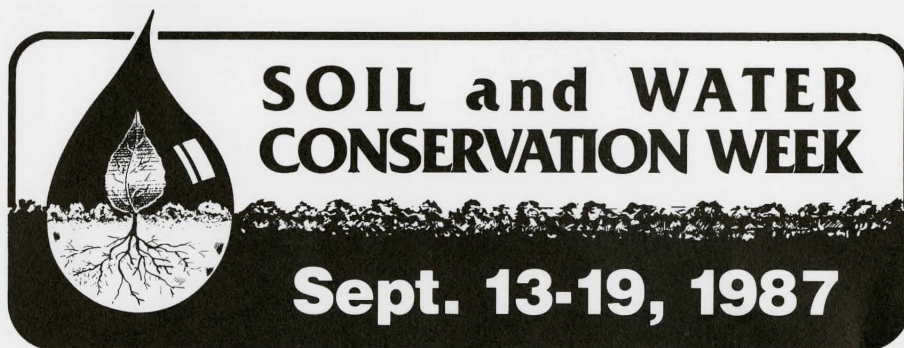
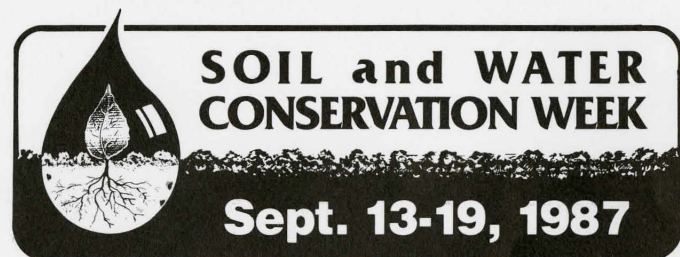
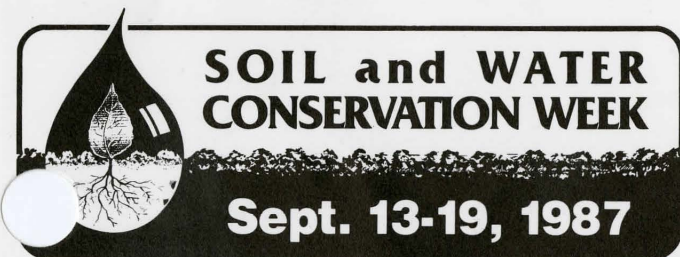
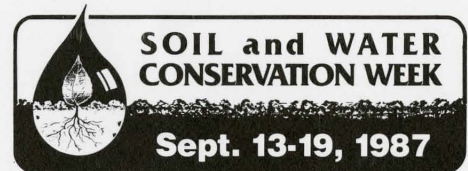
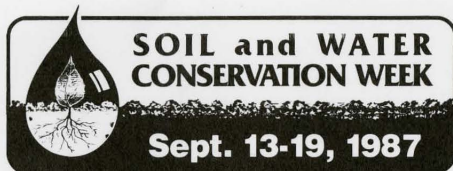
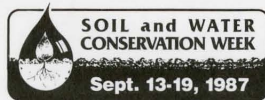
They drove around looking at all the fields that Jim Konsela owns. Although Jim couldn't be there, his hired hands were there, and they explained about the farm. No-till farming requires less field work and much less equipment.

One worker showed the earthworms they use to make holes in the ground. They serve two purposes: The water drains more easily through the tunnels, and the roots of the corn, beans, or other crops can grow in these more readily. There are red and

grey worms which make tunnels horizontally; night crawlers are the other type of worms—they make vertical tunnels.

The other explained all the equipment they use and how they use it. They had drills, planters, chisels, and applicators.

Many positive aspects of no-till farming include the fact that the soil doesn't erode as readily because the soil is not loose from being tilled. The dead plant matter helps slow down the water and hold the dirt in place. Planting on a contour also slows down the water. Wind erosion is virtually eliminated. Wildlife populations increase because of more cover, while the grain lost is left on the surface for the animals to eat.



Take soil out of politics

The Bush administration's perverse contribution to Earth Day 1990 is its theory that the environment must take a back seat to economic considerations. That's the approach the administration has taken to clean-air legislation. It's the approach taken toward global warming. It was the approach taken toward soil conservation until an uproar from conservation officers in Iowa last week forced a reconsideration.

The latter dispute has its roots in the 1985 farm bill, which said farmers receiving crop subsidies must have Soil Conservation Service approved plans to curb erosion. Two years ago the SCS weakened soil-loss standards over the objections of soil conservationists from Iowa and other states.

This year, the SCS threatened to do so again. And it did so with little regard for the credibility of SCS officials in Iowa, and with no attention to Iowa's official goal of reducing soil erosion by the year 2000 to the "T" level, the level at which the soil is able to replenish itself.

The change was ordered not after an orderly series of hearings involving producers and soil conservation officials, but rather, after the SCS director of strategic planning, Roy M. Gray, met with a group of farmers in Scott County last month, and later with Farm Bureau representatives in Washington, D.C.

Rather than rely on an appeals process allowing farmers in special situations to operate under re-

laxed standards, Gray chose to change the standards altogether. Rather than cut the soil loss rate on Iowa's steep slopes from 100 tons a year to 20 tons, as was planned by state conservation personnel, Gray ordered revisions to double the allowable loss.

How could an agency with such a proud history of conservation achievements be reduced to playing a game with Iowa's most precious resource? The answer, in part, lies in the politicizing of the SCS which took place during the Reagan administration. Since 1981 the agency has been headed by a political appointee rather than a career conservationist. That means in addition to playing farm economics against the environment, politics are being played against the environment.

Late last week the SCS, under pressure, backed down by announcing that the change would be rescinded and new rules would be developed after hearings are conducted in each of Iowa's 99 counties. That will duplicate much of the work that's been done in planning conservation compliance rules for Iowa, but it at least gives conservation officials and conservation-minded farmers the opportunity to reverse the short-sighted course taken in Washington.

The change not only must be reversed, but the SCS returned to its tradition of having a dedicated conservationist at its helm. If the president won't do that, Congress will have to do the job for him.

Teams to help farmers with conservation

AMES, Iowa — Farmers do not have to go it alone in their race to meet federal standards in reducing soil erosion. In an effort to help farmers adopt soil conservation practices, a group of state agencies and major farm organizations is leading a move to create voluntary citizen's support and advisory teams.

The purpose of the county conservation implementation teams is to spur action on the conservation plans required by the 1985 federal farm bill, and help farmers meet the Dec. 1994 deadline for compliance, according to Jerry DeWitt, associate director of Iowa State University Extension Service. The idea for the teams was announced at a Dec. 4 satellite uplink conference transmitted to 85 locations across Iowa.

"It's a real challenge for all of us involved in agriculture to come into full compliance by the end of 1994," DeWitt said. "By working together, compliance will be a lot easier."

The federal government requires Iowa farmers to greatly expand the amount of conservation practices in place to protect the 12 million acres of Iowa cropland classified as highly erodible, nearly one-half of the state's cropland.

"We have a lot of work ahead in the next four years," said Jeff Vonk, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

Iowa farmers must convert 6 million more acres to conservation tillage and increase contoured land from 200,000 to 860,000 acres. In addition, they must construct an average of 5,400 miles of terraces and 80,000 acres of grass waterways each year through 1994 to meet conservation compliance.

Along with ISU Extension and the SCS, the groups supporting the teams — and who were represented at the satellite uplink — include the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Association of Soil and Water District Commissioners, Iowa Soybean Growers

Association and Iowa Corn Growers Association.

"Farmers want to save soil," said Lisle Cook, president of the Iowa Corn Growers Association. "We want our soil to continue to be there to grow those good crops. We are enthused about the team idea."

Under the proposed structure, the teams would consist of a cross section of 15 to 20 individuals in each county who would meet at least quarterly. Among the groups the backers would like represented are farmers, farm organizations, agriculture businesses, lending agencies, local elected officials, media, environmental groups and soil and water district commissioners.

The teams would be totally voluntary, according to the organizers. "When we envisioned what these teams would look like, we came up with a broad mission or concept," DeWitt said. "The success will depend on what the individuals in the communities want to do and their commitment."

The organizers expect the teams to assist farmers in becoming aware of the information and resources they need to adopt required conservation practices and to meet compliance requirements.

Although no formal funding is available for the teams, both ISU Extension and SCS have agreed to provide some support, while encouraging teams to

pursue local funding and partnerships.

DeWitt said ISU would assist the teams by supplying access to extension's satellite system, computer network and meeting facilities. SCS's Vonk said his agency will distribute background data on conservation practices and help present educational programs and develop printed materials. Both DeWitt and Vonk prefer that the local teams are headed by persons not employed by their agencies.

Those interested in participating in a team should contact their county extension office. Counties are encouraged to have their teams in place by Feb. 1, 1991, DeWitt said.

Iowa corn Growers unveil ethanol-powered Pontiac

W. DES MOINES, IA — A 1990 Pontiac 6000, modified to run on a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gasoline, will be on the road spreading the message of the Iowa Corn Promotion board (ICPB). "The E85 car will help inform the public on the viability of ethanol as an alternative fuel," said Bob Boeding, ICPB market development chairman, who farms in Chicasaw County.

The Pontiac 6000 has been equipped with a patented Webster-Heise Valview which vaporizes the fuel mechanically. The General Motors computer has been reprogrammed to "sense" the high oxygen content of ethanol and adjust to the ethanol/gasoline ratio. The complete conversion cost \$1,000.

Less than a dozen vehicles in the country utilize this technology, which was developed by Air Fuel Engineering of Phoenix, Arizona. The ICPB's E85 car will be part of a national demonstration and research project to bridge the technology gap between 10 percent ethanol blends

and higher levels of ethanol usage.

This type of vehicle is similar to those being put into California fleets to curb air pollution and work towards achieving compliance with air quality standards.

"With the situation changing daily in the Persian Gulf, a strategic energy policy incorporating all logical options is more imperative than ever," said Boeding. "The data collected during the ICPB's E85 vehicle demonstration project will help determine the feasibility of ethanol as an alternative fuel for the future."

"If a car with standard factory equipment can undergo two modifications to run on 85 percent ethanol blends, this certainly exemplifies the capability of today's vehicles to operate on a 10 percent ethanol blend," said Boeding. "This project will serve as an example to fleet operators that an alternative to gasoline-powered vehicles exists to improve air quality and reduce dependence on oil imports."

The demand for corn-derived ethanol will receive a boost in cities governed by new Clean Air legislation. Boeding estimates an additional 280 million bushels of corn could be required in the next three years to clean up the country's most polluted metropolitan areas.

The E85 vehicle demonstration is funded by the Iowa corn checkoff, which works to increase corn demand through research, market development and education efforts.

KECK MEMORIAL LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	2:00 - 8:00
Tuesday	9:00 - 1:00
Wednesday	2:00 - 8:00
Thursday	9:00 - 1:00
Friday	2:00 - 5:00
Saturday	9:00 - 12 noon

Wap. Rep. 1-10-91

Tenth Annual Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage show

The Tenth Annual Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show is set for January 31 and February 1 at Cedar Rapids Five Seasons Center.

Hailed as the "Midwest's Best," the show features sixty exhibits and eight hours of program concerning soil and water conservation on the farm.

Cooper Evans, former U.S. Congressman and Grundy County farmer, will give the opening address entitled "Agriculture and Conservation Policy in the Bush Administration."

"This year's show is tailored to farmers who are making decisions on their soil and water conservation plans," says Greg Brenneman, chairman of the steering committee.

Seven farmers from Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin will tell about their many years experience with their successful conservation systems.

Dick and Sharon Thompson of Boone will discuss their operation which uses no agricultural chemicals but gives excellent financial return with low input.

Sustainable agriculture sys-

tems will be the topic of Dixon Hubbard, a national leader with the Extension Service.

Jon Kinzebaw, founder of Kinze Manufacturing at Williamsburg, will talk about "Equipment Innovations for the 1900s."

Other program topics include no-till and ridge-till, water quality, soil compaction, herbicide carryover, wildlife benefits and economic management strategy.

Machinery and equipment showing the latest technology relating to conservation tillage will again be featured at the show.

The Deutz-Allis Company will exhibit their new 12 row planter for the first time at this year's Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show.

To reduce input in crop production, no-till drills for soybeans are becoming more widely accepted. This year's show will feature five brands of no-till drills.

Sprayers, ag chemicals and a variety of other exhibits involving conservation tillage will be featured.

Doors are open at the Five Seasons Center from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 31 and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 1.

Two hour program sessions are scheduled for both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.

Brenneman said this year's show will be the best ever in its ten year running.

Thank You!

Thanks for helping out at
The compost /recycling display.
We appreciate you buying the
comic books and Janet's help
on Saturday.

**Thank you for your support of our
25th Anniversary Celebration –
we couldn't have done it without you!**

The Louisa County Conservation Board

And
THANK YOU
C

Dear SCS.

Thank you for your support of
me and the FFA. With your help
we were able to better ourselves
and give the Wipello FFA recognition

Thank you
Will Murphy

Dear Soil conservation service,
Thank you for sponsoring our
Soil Judging team medals. It means
a lot to me and my chapter for
supporting us.

Sam
Willson

Dear,

SCS office,

Thank you for sponsoring the
Soil judging team medals for us.
I really appreciate your show
of support. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Gae Bonner

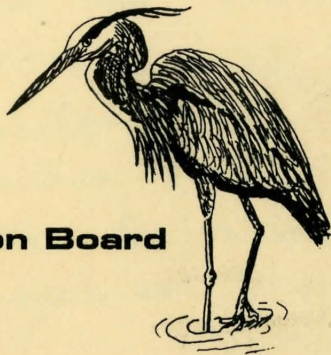
Dear SCS,

Thank you for sponsoring the
Soil Judging Teams medals. I appreciate
you supporting the FFA. I'm wearing
the medal on my jacket. Thank
You Again!

Sincerely
Justin
Horn

I. cor
a.

Louisa County Conservation Board



Detra Dettmann-Easler
Program Specialist
Louisa County Conservation Board
P.O. Box 261
Wapello, Iowa 52653
(319) 523-8381

Dear SWCD Commissioners,

Thanks so much for your
donations of prizes for the
Senior Olympics, and for the
pencils for our Summer rec
craft. With your support the
Senior Olympics was a
bigger success, and Summer
Rec was more creative.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Detra Dettmann-Easler

REUSE BEFORE RECYCLE

Thank
You

With sincere thanks
and appreciation !!

Thanks for sponsoring the contest
& plaques. Eddyville FFA

The FLOOD of '93



Complete coverage

■ USDA lowers corn, soybean production estimate unusually early

■ What's behind Iowa's relentless thunderstorms

■ Terrace, waterway damage relatively limited

■ Nation's top ag policy influencers roll up sleeves, pant legs, on trips to state

■ Hotlines open for farmers seeking hay, damage information

IFT photo by Ron De Christopher

This soggy Southeast Iowa farm just south of Riverside in Washington County was flooded by the rain-swollen English River last week just off U.S. Highway 218. Raging rivers and dark clouds here and elsewhere around the state made for an ominous atmosphere in the normally serene countryside.

Greatest natural disaster Iowa has weathered

By Mike Williams
and Ron DeChristopher

Iowa Farmer Today

Next to the rain, the most prevalent characteristic of Iowa this summer has been the flood of politicians sloshing around submerged fields and cities to view the

destruction. On Tuesday, President Clinton declared the entire state a disaster area. A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) spokesman said the statewide decree could be a first for the nation.

On Wednesday, Clinton and USDA Secretary Mike Espy returned to Iowa for a look at the devastation in the Des Moines area.

Gov. Terry Branstad termed the state's condition "our worst natural

disaster ever in terms of cost."

And through it all, Iowa farmers keep getting just what they need least — more rain.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture's latest crop report showed an average of 4.07 inches of rain fell across the state during the week ending at 7 a.m. July 12, setting a new record.

More than 2 million acres of corn and soybeans Iowa farmers planned on

harvesting this fall will produce little or no crop. This includes more than 700,000 soybean acres and 375,000 corn acres that were never planted, along with 375,000 acres of corn and almost 500,000 acres of soybeans that have drowned during the past three weeks.

Hundreds of thousands of additional acres could be lost as a result of flooding along the Mississippi River and

See page 13: Flood ♦ ♦ ♦

Third Iowa No-Till Conference slated

West Des Moines, Iowa—The Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) will hold the 1993 Iowa No-Till Conference from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 16, 1993, in Stephens Auditorium at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Registration will open at 7:30 a.m.

In addition to agency industry experts, nine farmers with more than 70 years of no-till experience collectively, will present the latest procedures and innovations in converting to or refining current no-till systems. More than 2,100 soybean producers attended last year's conference. As an addition to this year's conference, no-till equipment and products will be displayed at an expanded trade show, which will begin at 7:30 a.m. and remain open during and after the conference.

The conference is sponsored by BASF Corporation, Monsanto Agricultural Products Company, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., and the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board (ISPB) in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service and ISU Extension Service. Pre-registration fees are \$15 for ISA members and \$20 for non-ISA members. The pre-registration deadline Feb. 10, 1993.

Registration brochures may be obtained from conference speakers, SCS, and ISU Extension

offices, many grain dealers and ISA. Call ISA at 515/223-1423 for further information.

National Ridge Till Conference Feb. 8-9

Ridge till experts from across the nation will share their knowledge at the Seventh Annual National Ridge Till Conference, February 8 and 9, 1993 at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre located at 72nd and Grover, Omaha, Nebraska.

The National Ridge Till Conference (NRTC) is open to all individuals interested in ridge till farming—from practicing ridge till farmers and those considering a switch to ridge till to those desiring to learn more about this economical alternative method of farming. Ridge till is one of the most rapidly growing and profitable farming systems in America today. Be sure to make plans now to attend.

For advertising
rates call

522-4631

Tillage show to be held

The seventh annual eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show will be held January 28 and 29 at the Five Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids.

Maurice Dingman, bishop of the Des Moines diocese of the Catholic Church, will be one of the keynote speakers along with Jon Kinsenzaw, president of Kinze Manufacturing and Larry Beeler, president of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District.

Sixty-three exhibits at the show will feature a newly invented tractor for ridge-till farming, coulters for deep fertilizer placement, and guiding systems for planting on ridges.

The new "Black Machine" attaches to planters and allows planting 30 inch rows or puts planting units in tandem and plants 15 inch rows.

One exhibitor will show a new cultivator and claims to be able to cultivate at speeds up to 12 miles per hour.

Other exhibits will include no-till drills sprayers and new herbicides for conservation tillage.

Eleven farmers will explain their successful tillage systems and tell how they are able to reduce costs of growing corn, soybeans and wheat.

Floyd Cornelius of Maquoketa has ten years experience growing winter wheat. He will share his knowledge of growing this alternative crop which provides better soil protection than corn or soybeans.

Growing soybeans using no-till methods is relatively new for most farmers. Three eastern Iowa farmers will relate their experiences with no-till soybeans. They include: Lyman Lanpher, Jones County; Tim Lehman, Johnson County; and Rob Stout, Washington County.

Other speakers and exhibitors will provide information on how to successfully use conservation tillage to maximize profits and save soil too.

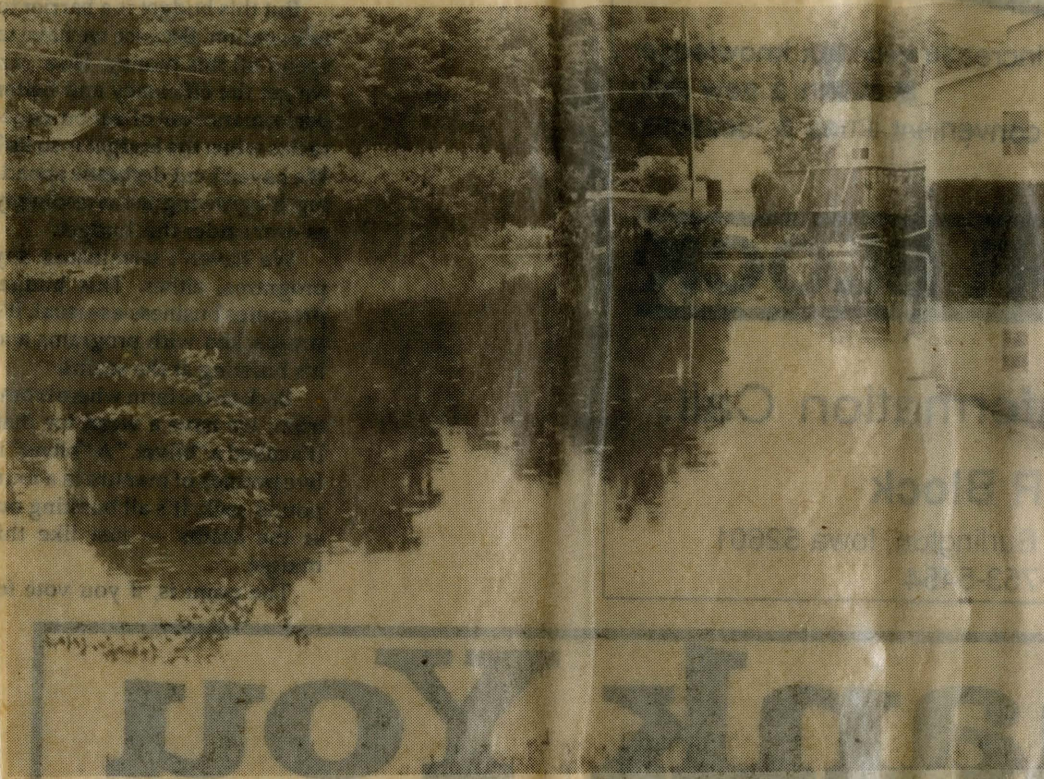
Music from the Independence and West Branch Swing Choirs will be featured during the lunch hour each day. New slide sets on soil compaction and no-till soybeans will precede the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning program sessions.

Doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, and Wednesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The show is sponsored by soil conservation districts and USDA agencies from nine counties in Eastern Iowa.

Streets, basements flooded

Torrential rains visit again



Almost four-and-a-half inches of rain fell on Wapello early Monday morning, causing yards, streets and basements to become lakes. This view of standing water in the Summy Addition was a sight common throughout town.

Mother Nature served up a spectacular display of lightning Sunday night, but accompanying the fireworks was a very-much-unwanted four plus inches of rain.

Heavy rains all spring and summer have dealt Louisa Countians a double blow. The first came in the form of floods and damaged or destroyed property, and the second in the form of a water table that has been so high that water has been forced into homes that have never experienced water problems before.

In Wapello and Oakville (and, for that matter, the rest of the county as well) basements have been flooded and homes that are split level and are not built into the ground deeply have also been hit.

The water has no place to go. One Oakville resident noted that "I don't have a yard anymore—everything's under water".

The Wapello/Oakville areas seemed to have been hit the hardest in Sunday's rains. Weather observer Mike Hodges, Wapello, recorded 4.23 inches of rain Sunday night. Unofficial reports in the Oakville area ranged from 4-6 inches.

The Lake Odessa, Columbus Junction and Morning Sun areas all received heavy rain, but totals were less—in the 2-3.5 inch range.

Hodges has recorded 11.54 inches of rain this far in August (through Tuesday, August 17). Normal rainfall for the entire month of August is 3.86 inches.

The extremely heavy rainfall in the first half of August comes on the heels of two near-record months of rain.

In June, 9.72 inches of rain fell in Wapello, followed by 10.05 inches in July. Those totals, coupled with the rainfall in the first two weeks of August, means that 31.31 inches of rain has fallen in Wapello since June 1 (34.91 inches is the normal total for a complete year).

Rainfall for 1993, through August 17, totals 45.4 inches.

Tour to Agronomic Development Center

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a bus tour to the Agronomic Development Center in Lexington, Illinois, on September 11.

The Center is known for ex-

tensive research on plots that have been in 14 consecutive years of no-till using a corn-soybean rotation.

The latest in no-till concepts are examined and discussed including herbicides and the importance of earthworms. Many have reported this information from the Center is the most comprehensive data ever offered in this area.

Persons interested in attending this tour should contact the SCS Office in Wapello ASAP as reservations will be filled on a first come first served basis.

There is no cost to attend this tour and a noon meal will be provided.

To sign up or obtain more information on the tour contact the SCS Office, 514 Isett, Wapello, phone 523-6411.

Thursday, August 4, 1988

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The Wap

City-County official new

Two openings on Louisa County Soil and Water board

The terms of two Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners, Olin Jennings of Columbus Jct., Columbus City Township, and Tom Utter of Columbus Jct., Concord Township, will expire at noon on Jan. 3, 1989. Successors will be elected at the general election on November 8, 1988.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil & water conservation district, which is all of Louisa County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township. Incumbent commissioners are Martin Hoeg, Wapello, Wapello Township; Leland Roudybush of Muscatine, Port Louisa Township; and Ramon Reutinger of Morning Sun, Marshall Township; therefore, residents of these townships

will not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Louisa County Courthouse no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 14, 1988.

Individuals elected in November 1988 will serve a term of six years commencing January 3, 1989. Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further in-

formation pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Louisa County Soil Conservation District Office, 222 North 2nd, Wapello, IA, or call phone 523-6411.

TREE SALES

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is now taking orders for tree stock.

Profits from the sale of these trees will help fund conservation education in the county.

This year, trees available include red oak, black walnut, naking cherry, purple lilac, dedosier dogwood, Colorado spruce, Austrian pine, and East Anglia scotch pine.

Trees average 8-24 inches and will arrive in early April.

Minimum orders are ten of one varity for \$10.

For more information, or to order, contact the Louisa County Soil Conservation Office at 523-6411.

Wap. Rep.

11/5/92 Wap. Rep.
TREE SALES

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is now taking orders for young trees and tree shelters. Profits from these sales will fund conservation education in Louisa County.

This year, the trees available include Arborvitae, Austrian Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern White Pine, Black Walnut, Red Oak, Nanking Cherry, Purple Lilac, and Redosier Dogwood.

Tree average 8-18 inches in height and will arrive in early April.

The Tubex tree shelters range in lengths from 2 to 5 feet and are sold in multiples of 4.

Minimum orders are 10 of one variety for \$10. For more information, or to order, contact the Louisa County Soil Conservation Service at 523-6411.

Tree sales continue

Louisa Soil and Water Conservation District will take tree seedling orders through February for the spring planting season. Varieties available are aborvitae, Austrian pine, Colorado blue spruce, eastern white pine, black walnut and red oak. Shrubs available are nanking cherry, common purple lilac and rodosier dogwood. Bare-root seedlings and shrubs are \$1 each. Seedlings are sold in bundles of 10.

To place an order while supplies are still available, stop by the SCS office, 514 Isett, Wapello, or call 523-6411. Customers must pay for trees when they order them. Delivery will be in April of 1994. You will pick up your trees at the SCS office.

FB S po Kes. 1/94

TREES FOR SPRING

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is taking orders for trees. The trees average 24 inches in height and will arrive in early April. Profits from the sales will help fund conservation education in Louisa County.

This year the trees available include red oak, black walnut, Nanking cherry, purple lilac, redosier dogwood, Colorado blue spruce, Austrian pine, East Anglia Scotch pine and eastern white pine.

Minimum order is 10 of one for variety for \$10. Tree shelters are also for sale. All orders will be picked up at the Louisa County SCS office in Wapello. For more information, or to order, call 523-5411. 6411

Wap. Rep. 1-92

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Wapello Republic
Where published Wapello
Date of issue 6-19-86
Sent by Steve Yaddos
S. C. D. Louisa
Stationed at Wapello

CLASSIFICATION:

Weekly column ☐
Story (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☐
Feature (SCS) ☐
(Other) ☐
Editorial ☐
Advertisement ☐
Cons. picture ☐

Turner receives Governor's Volunteer Recognition award



Tammy L. Turner received the Governor's Volunteer Recognition Award on May 30. The award was presented by Gov. Terry Branstad and the Director of the Department of Soil Conservation, James B. Gulliford. Tammy received the award for her volunteer work at the Soil Conservation Service in Louisa County, where, she served 638 hours.

USDA seeks public comment on soil conservation survey

The public is invited to comment on proposed changes in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Conservation Programs until June 4, 1988, according to Mike Nethery, head of USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) programs in Iowa.

"Changes in the National Conservation Program are being proposed which USDA officials feel are needed to reduce erosion levels on highly erodible land, to help keep contaminants out of surface and subsurface water, and to address other land and water resource conditions and trends," Nethery said.

"Public participation and cooperation are needed before a final program can be formulated. Comments from farmers, and others with an interest in agriculture or the environment, are a cornerstone of conservation program development," he added.

Nethery said that the National Conservation Program, resulting from this process, will guide USDA conservation policy and programs through 1997.

USDA made the proposals at the direction of the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act (RCA) of 1977, which requires the Secretary of Agriculture to identify conservation needs through periodic appraisals of soil, water and related resources on nonfederal land.

The second major RCA appraisal was reviewed by the public in 1987. It

states that the productive capacity of much U.S. agricultural land is not being maintained.

The report states that:

- About 1.5 million acres of land are being removed from agricultural production each year.
- Nearly half (41 percent, or 173 million acres) of cropland is eroding too fast to maintain long-term productivity.
- More than half of nonfederal rangeland (61 percent, or 250 million acres) is in less-than-good condition, and nine percent of the nation's pastureland is eroding excessively.
- Contamination of surface and subsurface water is a serious and pervasive national problem.

The appraisal reports moderate to severe pollution from sources such as urban runoff, mine drainage and agricultural lands in two-thirds of the states.

Nethery stated that the updated program proposes to mount a major attack on soil erosion on the nation's agricultural land, and contamination of surface and subsurface water.

Interested persons can review details of the USDA conservation program proposals in any SCS or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office.

Written comments or suggestions on the proposals must be returned to any local SCS office or mailed by June 4 to National Conservation Program, SCS, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Wapello Republican

4-28-88

News Release
Soil Conservation Service
July 14, 1986

USDA ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION RESERVE SIGNUP

A THIRD SIGNUP PERIOD HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM. THE DATES ARE AUGUST 4 - 15, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE RICHARD E. LYNCH.

THE SIGNUP, FOR THE 1987 CONSERVATION RESERVE, WILL BE AT AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE COUNTY OFFICES. SIGNUPS WERE HELD EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR BOTH THE 1986 AND 1987 PROGRAMS. BUT USDA IS ENCOURAGING STILL MORE FARMERS TO VOLUNTARILY ENTER INTO THE PROGRAM.

THE CONSERVATION RESERVE IS A USDA PROGRAM THAT ASKS LANDOWNERS TO "BID IN" THEIR HIGHLY ERODIBLE CROPLAND, AND RECEIVE ANNUAL RENTAL PAYMENTS FOR 10 YEARS FOR CONVERTING THE CROPLAND TO GRASS OR TREES.

"WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE RESPONSE FROM FARMERS DURING THE EARLIER SIGNUPS," SAID LYNCH. "NOW THAT PRODUCERS ARE AWARE OF THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985, SUCH AS Sodbuster AND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE, WE EXPECT EVEN MORE INTEREST BY PRODUCERS IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM."

PRODUCERS WISHING TO PUT LAND INTO THE PROGRAM ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COST-SHARE PAYMENTS OF UP TO 50 PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH A COVER CROP.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF RENTAL PAYMENTS FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR MAY NOT EXCEED \$50,000, OR ITS EQUIVALENT IF IN-KIND PAYMENTS ARE MADE.

LYNG SAID PRODUCERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO HARVEST THEIR 1986 CROP BEFORE THE CONTRACT BECOMES EFFECTIVE, IF NECESSARY.

LAND THAT IS DESIGNATED MAY NOT BE GRAZED AFTER THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION APPROVES THE CONTRACT.

IN THE TWO EARLIER SIGNUPS, ABOUT 142,000 ACRES OF HIGHLY ERODIBLE CROPLAND IN IOWA WAS ENTERED INTO THE PROGRAM.

Video available for farmers; directed at conservation program guidelines

A videotape featuring tips to help farmers do much of the soil conservation work needed to keep them eligible for USDA programs has been produced by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The eight-segment videotape, "Conservation On Your Own," will show farmers how to measure and manage crop residues, how to layout contour buffer strips, how to lay out wind strips, how to use grass to control small gullies, how to plant and maintain field windbreaks, and how to keep terraces working. It will also outline points to consider in contour stripcropping.

Each of the segments will offer details such as what to consider before beginning, tools needed, how to practice works, and "how to" details. The information is presented from a farmer's prospective.

All of the segments are packaged on a one-hour VHS tape. The video segments were produced in cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts.

In Iowa the videotapes will be available for loan from the local Soil Conservation Service offices, agribusinesses and agricultural organizations. The tape also may be purchased from the National Association of Conservation Districts. The Soil Conservation Service Office at 514 Isett, Wapello, has the tape available for loan.

The Soil Conservation Service expects that the tapes will help farmers carry out soil conservation plans. Farmers

with highly erodible cropland who want to remain eligible for USDA commodity programs already have conservation plans that outline how they will reduce soil erosion on that land.

The soil conservation practices featured on the videotape have been included in the conservation plans of thousands of farmers as ways to protect their highly erodible land. Farmers must apply the soil conservation practices according to the schedule outlined in their conservation plans, and have all work completed by Jan. 1, 1995, to stay eligible for USDA program benefits.

"We're trying to be sure farmers know about these practices because they should be applying conservation as it was scheduled in their plan," Nethery says. "There's a misconception that all the conservation work can be done at the last minute, and that's not the case."

Volunteers are needed for conservation help

April 29-May 6 is Soil Stewardship Week. This week marks a time to reflect on the role that soil, our most important resource, plays in our daily lives.

It's a time to make commitments about the wise use and management of soil to prevent excessive erosion from "washing" away the future of those to come.

Here in Louisa County, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is working to protect soil, water and related resources.

The daily activities of the SCS are centered on soil and water conservation concerns.

Because of increased workloads, the SCS is in need of concerned groups or individuals who would like to volunteer their services toward soil and water conservation.

The Volunteers program with SCS is designed to provide a variety of available assignments to satisfy a wide range of volunteer interests and objectives.

Locally, the SCS has a need for assistance in office operations, computer data entry, field survey and layout of conservation practices, educational activities, photography, and much more.

Groups or individuals interested in contributing to the work and goals of the SCS may contact the Wapello office for additional information. The office is located at 524 Isett (in the old Jack and Jill building). The phone number is 523-6411.

Weg Rep

5-3-90

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Name of paper Wapello RepublicanWhere published WapelloDate of issue 7-2-87Sent by Randy PhelanS. C. D. Louisa CountyStationed at Wapello

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Volunteers needed for conservation program

Volunteers are needed to assist with the soil and water conservation program, according to Randy Phelan, District Conservationist in the Louisa County Conservation Office. "With the increased demand for conservation technical assistance, office help provided by volunteers would relieve soil conservation employees to spend more time assisting farmers in the field," Phelan said.

Soil Conservation District should contact: Randy Phelan, 222 North 2nd, Wapello, 523-6411.

Mike Nethery, Soil Conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Des Moines, says, "With the heavy demand for SCS technical assistance, it is essential to make maximum use of volunteers. Volunteers will get satisfaction out of joining a team dedicated to serving our soil and keeping our waters pure and clean."

Volunteers who would be interested in applying for a position in the Louisa County

Volunteers sought for SCS programs

by Tammy Plecker

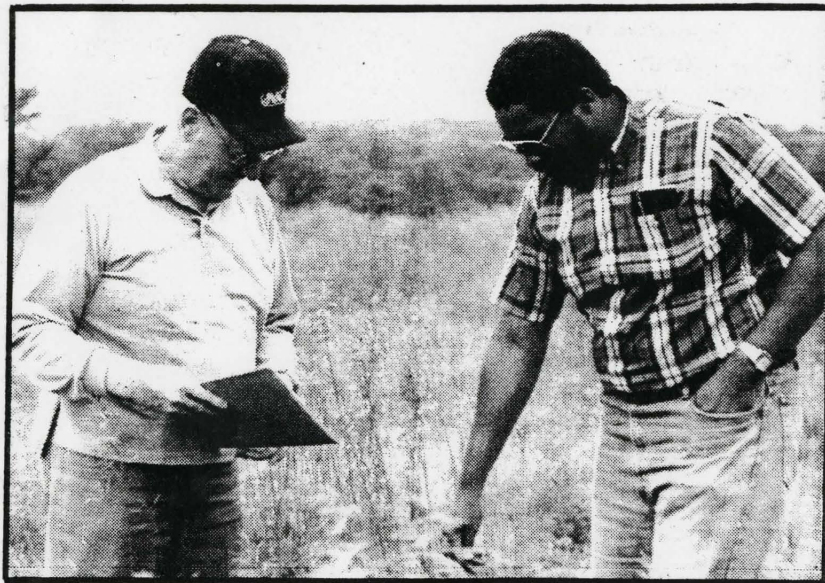
District Conservationist Wendell Jones has been searching for volunteers for the last few months to help with Louisa County Soil Conservation Service (SCS) tasks throughout the county.

The SCS is working to protect soil, water and related resources through education and technical assistance on soil and water conservation concerns to county residents.

One such volunteer is Leslie "Joe" Everett, a retired Louisa County resident who has lived here for the past 40 years. Everett currently donates an average of 15 to 20 hours per week, working with CRP acres. He oversees weed control, ground cover for erosion control, and switchgrass planting which is relatively new to this area.

Everett enjoys working with farmers, as he spent many years working in a factory and feels as though he has "lost touch" with many old acquaintances. "I get to go out and visit with farmers, see old friends and make new ones."

Everett also led an educational



Volunteer Joe Everett and Wendell Jones examine some CRP acres north of Columbus Junction. (Gazette photo by Tammy Plecker)

session during Earth Day observances and says he is available for similar programs in schools.

The volunteers program with SCS

provides a variety of job assignments to satisfy a wide range of interests. There is a need for workers in office operations, computer data entry, field

survey and layout of conservation practices, educational activities, photography, and many other areas.

Jones says, "This work can be educational and fun. If you would like to volunteer, give us a call. We can find a job for you." He also notes that most jobs are seasonal, and volunteers may not be busy year-round.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome, from teenagers through senior citizens. However, Jones says that teens must be at least age 15.

In recent years, new government regulations have meant an increased workload on the department, but no new staff positions have been added. So, concerned individuals or groups who would like to volunteer their services to conservation are being sought. The job of conserving America's renewable natural resources cannot be done by government alone. The collective talents and energies of county residents are not only needed, but necessary.

Persons wishing to volunteer should call 523-6411, or stop at the SCS Office, 514 Isett, Wapello.

August 1993

Wallaces Farmer®

Flood of 1993
Coverage begins on page 6

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Broad range of disaster assistance available

BY JOHN OTTE, ECONOMICS EDITOR

President Clinton unveiled a \$2.48 billion flood relief program July 13. The package he sent to Congress requests:

- \$600 million for Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) disaster payments to farmers. Proposed rules are similar to crop loss assistance provisions for 1990, 1991 and 1992 crop losses administered through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Farmers would be eligible for assistance on losses exceeding 35 or 40 percent of normal production, depending on whether or not they had crop insurance. Base payments on losses exceeding these thresholds would be 65 percent of the target price for program participants and 65 percent of the CCC loan rate for nonparticipants. Assistance would be reduced to 50.04 percent of these calculated levels due to budget constraints. That's the same factor which applied to disaster assistance for 1990 and 1991 crop losses.

The Clinton plan would make another \$300 million available to CCC on a contingency basis for crop losses.

- \$550 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster-relief fund for repairing public facilities, housing and other assistance. The plan calls for another \$250 million on a contingency basis.

- \$20 million for USDA's emergency conservation program to help farmers clean up and restore flood damaged farm land.

- \$25 million under USDA's emergency watershed program for watershed and flood-prevention operations, including levees and dikes to protect lives and property.

- Other amounts for the Federal Highway Administration to repair roads and bridges, and for Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans to businesses, home owners and renters.

Aid for disaster declared counties.

President Clinton's disaster relief package will supplement disaster assistance already in place in counties he previously declared disaster areas. That covers all 99 Iowa counties. Aid is substantial



Rick Sesker, Story County, Iowa, surveys flooding damage to crops.

and far reaching.

"FEMA and all USDA agencies are working together to keep each other informed on assistance which is available," says Darrell Book, Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), Des Moines, Iowa.

"Farmers and others should contact their local Ag Service Center, or call the FEMA disaster hotline (1-800-462-9029)," recommends Book. "Describe your situation. Staff on hand will do their level best to steer you the right direction for help with your problem."

FmHA can provide:

- Loans for physical losses such as flooded out crops or buildings. Loans are based on actual cost to repair or replace the buildings or conservation structure.

- Production loss loans. When actual losses are known, families may request assistance for dollars lost due to low yields.

- Loan terms may vary from one year to 30 years, possibly longer, depending on type of security available. Interest on all FmHA disaster loans is 4.5 percent.

FEMA can find help with:

- Disaster housing assistance for individuals or families whose residence has been made uninhabitable by the disaster.

- Individual and family grants to victims to meet serious needs or

expenses not covered by other disaster programs or insurance.

- Home and personal property disaster loans through SBA to repair or replace disaster damaged real or personal property.

- Emergency assistance such as food, clothing, shelter and medical assistance.

- Disaster unemployment assistance. This program includes self-employed persons, farm workers and farmers not covered under regular unemployment insurance programs.

- Business disaster loans through SBA to repair or replace destroyed or damaged business facilities, inventory and equipment.

FEMA can also help you track down assistance with income tax issues, insurance information, legal services, crisis counseling, finding lost Social Security checks and help dealing with financial institutions.

Aid to rural communities.

USDA's Rural Development Administration (RDA) may provide loans or grants to help rebuild water system and waste treatment facilities in small communities.

RDA programs are administered through FmHA. If your community needs such assistance, urge your community leaders to contact RDA at the state FmHA office (515) 284-4152.

major facilities before World War II. The fairgrounds have been sadly neglected for many years due to lack of funds. "Besides structural repairs, and electrical and plumbing upgrading can't be ignored longer," points out the Swift.

Repair the fair



America's classic state fair is stronger than ever. But many buildings and facilities at the 107-year-old Iowa State Fairgrounds continue to crumble.

BY ROD SWOBODA

Over 800,000 people flock to the Iowa State Fair each year—the most famous agricultural extravaganza in the country. But even as this proud Iowa tradition continues its popularity, its home, the 400-acre fairgrounds in Des Moines, is seriously deteriorating due to long-delayed structural repairs.

The State Fair Board started a fund raising effort several years ago. But the amount gathered so far is still way short of being able to correct the critical damage which time, weather and lack of maintenance funds have caused during the past 10 decades.

From rooftops to water mains, the buildings, and the electrical, water and sewer systems, are in sad shape. "Appropriations by the state legislature for capital improvements—the only tax money we have ever received—completely dried up during 1991 and 1992," says Kathie Swift, public relations director for

the Iowa State Fair. "At the same time our 139-year-old fair is drawing record crowds."

The Livestock Show Pavilion was repaired a couple years ago with an emergency appropriation. The legislature was forced to come up with the money because termites were eating up the interior of the dome-shaped structure where generations of Iowans have shown prized livestock since 1902.

The total repair bill for the fairgrounds now adds up to a whopping \$30 million. The fair board recently hired an executive director, John Putney of Des Moines, to steer a major public-private fund-raising program. Cooper Evans, former congressman and farmer from Grundy Center, Iowa, chairs the Blue Ribbon Foundation's "Treasure Our Fair" campaign.

Last year, Pioneer Hi-Bred International became the first major

contributor with a pledge of \$500,000 if the fair board is able to raise \$6 million by the end of 1994. In March, 1993, the John Deere Foundation pledged \$500,000 over the next three years. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company has promised \$10,000 over a five-year period. The Marion County Fair Association, operator of Knoxville Raceway, also pledged \$50,000 over five years.

"We need to raise \$30 million," says Putney. The long-term goal is to do it over 10 years. Short-term goal is to raise \$6 million by the end of 1994 to meet the most critical repair needs.

The fair board is using a three-pronged approach. The Blue Ribbon Foundation helps businesses and organizations arrange private tax-deductible donations. These are the "big bucks" contributions they're going after. Smaller contributions, which are also tax deductible, are being raised by Fan Fair, a support

Fields of streams

Fields of dreams turned into a nightmare in rain-ravaged Iowa. Even the non-flooded crops are in serious danger due to 1993's cool, wet weather.

BY ROD SWOBODA

If the first killing frost comes earlier than normal this fall, it would spell disaster for late-planted, slow-growing corn and soybean crops west of the Mississippi River.

"A lot of the corn that isn't drowned out is way behind in maturity and many fields of soybeans are stunted," says Don Schneckloth, who farms near Eldridge, Iowa. He pointed that out to President Bill Clinton when the nation's chief executive met with water-weary farmers in Scott County last month.

"I had more corn closer to 5 inches tall on July 4 this year than I had 15 inches tall," adds Darryl Breem, who farms in Franklin County, Iowa. "As for soybeans, they're shorter than usual because of late planting, soggy fields and lack of sunshine. The saying is 'rain makes grain.' But too much makes a disaster. That's what this flood of 1993 is — the greatest natural disaster in the history of Iowa."

The magic number in Iowa is now "60 days," notes Breem. If you add 60 days, plus or minus five days, to the date when corn first shows silks, you can get a good idea when a field will reach physiological maturity. So, by knowing your silking dates, you can project when your fields will be safe from frost.

The average date for first killing frost depends on where you are in Iowa. "In northern Iowa there are a few areas where the first killing frost usually hits around the end of

September," says Garren Benson, Iowa State University extension agronomist. "But for much of the northern one-third of the state, the first killing frost normally hits during the first week of October."

The average freeze date for localized areas in the corner of northwest Iowa and in the corner of northeast Iowa occurs by Sept. 30. In much of the northern third to northern half of Iowa, it's Oct. 1 to 5. As you move south, into the middle of Iowa, the first killing frost hits most fields Oct. 5 to 10, on the average. In southern Iowa, it's Oct. 10 to 15.

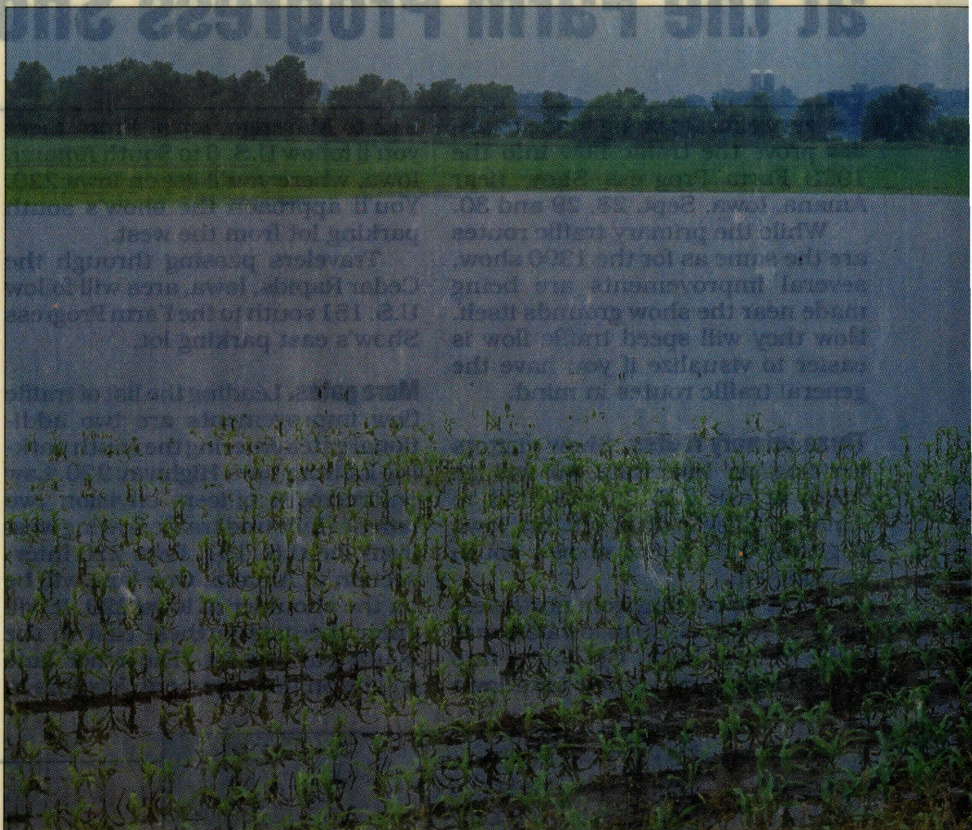
For those dates, Benson is referring to a 32-degree frost, as reported in towns and cities. If you use a 28-degree frost, the dates would be about 10 days later. True, a 32-degree frost may not be hard enough to kill corn out in the country. But when a 32-degree frost is reported at official weather stations in towns and cities, the temperature actually tends to be a few degrees colder in the countryside, especially in low-lying areas.

Be careful how you interpret the "60-day" thumb rule. Some farmers think if they reach that frost date

after the 60-day period, their field will be unaffected. But frost is just part of the picture. "Yield reductions for late-silking corn will occur whether or not the field gets frosted," notes Benson. "It's just that if you get hit by frost early, before the 60 days is up, the problem is compounded."

In other words, if corn silks Aug. 10 to 15, it'll have a yield reduction compared to corn that silks July 20 to 25. Around July 20 to 25 is when you'd like to see silks emerge on corn, explains Benson. In an average year, half of the Iowa corn crop is silked by July 20 to 25. Begin looking for silks soon after tassels appear. Corn pollinates within a day or two after you first see silks on a plant. When about 75 percent of the plants in a field show silks, that's the silking date.

If corn silks later on, such as in August, it yields less because you're trying to fill kernels during the latter part of the growing season. "There will be yield reductions on this late-silking corn," says Benson. "Exactly how much and from what level we don't know, because it'll depend on many things. But if you planted part of a field so that it silks July 20



Water level at Lake Odessa may create problems for hunters

Lake Odessa has been dropping steadily because of a large break in the levee caused by the summer flood. The levee hole connects Lake Odessa directly to the Mississippi River, so there is no control on the lake level. It will raise or drop in conjunction with the Mississippi River.

It has now become difficult to motor through many areas of Odessa and at the current rate of

drop there will not be enough water to boat most popular hunting areas by the duck and goose opening on October 23. Anyone with boats tied along Odessa shorelines should also be aware of receding waters so their boats don't become stranded on high ground. River and lake levels are expected to continue this drop unless upstream watersheds of the Missis-

sippi River get significant rainfall.

In addition, the Toolesboro Access Road is expected to remain closed throughout the fall. It also sustained damages during the summer flood, and until the levee is repaired, any road repairs would be washed out by the first raise of the Iowa River. Levee and road repairs are not expected until next summer.

Water problems at school

By Dave Jennings

Monday morning's 4" rainfall left the basement of Morning Sun school in bad shape. According to Supt. Doug Graber, 4-5 feet of water found its way into the basement area.

The school board learned at Monday's meeting that the water went into the former wrestling room and also damaged to boiler and water heater.

This is the second time this year that water has flooded into the Morning Sun school basement.

The standing water was attributed to backup from the new tile for the drain the city of Morning Sun put in the June of 1993.

The board decided to purchase a new sump pump and check valve for the field tile. The board will investigate where to purchase the items and the dol-

lar amount.

In other business, the board:

- approved lunch program purchases not to exceed \$1,200 for any updated equipment deemed necessary by the school cooks.

- approved school handbook changes from last year noted.

- Graber reported that the front steps project was completed. Also, the school mini-bus repairs were finished.

- gave Graber the authority to look into the possibility of trading in a computer used by the school secretary for possibly a Macintosh. This will make it faster and more efficient to get tasks completed.

- appointed Bob Schmidtberger to be the representative for the District Board Convention on Sept. 20 at Mediapolis High School at 7:00p.m.

- announced that the next meeting will be Sept. 21 at 7:30p.m.

School board elections will be held Sept. 14. The seats of Ed Wilson and Roger Samuels will be up for election. Neither person has taken out papers. Charlotte Gibson and Teresa Sharer have taken out papers for the seats, which are 3-year terms.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Will we need less cropland in 2000 AD?

Much less cropland could be needed to provide food in the year 2030 than is needed now, according to projections released recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture officials.

The projections are in a draft version of the Department's second appraisal of the Nation's soil and water resources. The appraisal, conducted under the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act (RCA) of 1977, covers only nonfederal rural land. The first appraisal was conducted in 1980.

The Department of Agriculture is seeking public comments until September 11 on the latest appraisal of the nation's soil, water, and related natural resources. A review copy of the appraisal is available at local offices of the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Other projections included in the appraisal document include:

for the next 50 years, nearly 1.5 million acres of agricultural land will be converted annually to non-agricultural use;

-within 15 years, advances in biotechnology and information

technology will revolutionize plant and animal production. This will enable yields for feedgrains, wheat and soybeans to double and livestock production to increase 60-70 percent;

-irrigated cropland could drop from 50 million acres in 1982 to 30 million acres in 2030;

-water usage would decrease as the irrigated acres decrease and as irrigation efficiency increases;

-economic factors could make conservation tillage nearly universal by 2030, significantly reducing erosion;

-assuming that much use of conservation tillage, total soil erosion on cropland in major crops would decline from 1.8 billion tons in 1990 to less than 800 million tons in 2030.

The projections are included as part of the natural resource appraisal to comply with federal law directing the Department of Agriculture to analyze resource capability and limitations for meeting projected demands.

The results show agricultural resources are more than adequate to meet needs well into the next century.

WECIP deadline October 15th

Louisa County has received approval to administer the Wind Erosion Control Incentive Program (WECIP).

The WECIP program is funded by road tax money through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The objective of the program is to protect public roads, right-of-ways, and vehicles by eliminating soil erosion by wind. Therefore only acres located 40 rods from a public road are eligible for the WECIP program.

Conservation practices offered for financial incentives include conservation tillage,

grass strip, and field windbreak practices. Payment rates are \$30.00 per acre for a one-time payment on a 5 year conservation tillage practice, \$500 per acre for a 20 year grass strip contract, and \$1000 per acre for the 20 year field windbreak contract.

The conservation tillage practice allows any tillage that leaves 50 percent residue after planting. The following are tillage operations that would leave 50 percent residue on the soil surface after planting: Planting into bean stubble must be no-tilled. Mulch tilled corn stalks may be disked once and

field cultivated or chiseled with straight shanks once and field cultivated. Ridge-till would also provide 50 percent residue cover.

The WECIP program is available to those participants with farmland acres 40 rods from a public road that have not practiced conservation tillage in the past.

A \$30 per acre up front payment will be paid the first year after planting after residue is measured.

Participants should contact the Soil Conservation Service by October 15th if interested in this program.

April 10, 1986

'Weed used to help farmers, now a 'pesty' problem

What in the past was called the living fence row in Iowa is now called a major problem in Louisa County and one-half of all Iowa counties.

This living fence row better known as multiflora rose (MFR), is taking over in Iowa. This weed is growing and spreading in the pastures and woodland areas of Iowa.

In addition, over 1 million acres in Iowa are unproductive because of MFR.

MFR was first introduced by government agencies in the 1930's and was used as a conservation and wildlife habitat and living fence row.

In southeast Iowa, Louisa County is right in the heart of the primary infested region.

MFR is an Asiatic plant that has been used in the United States as an ornamental. It was used by rose growers as a rootstock on which to bud other ornamental varieties of roses.

The plant grows in an almost umbrella-like shape, has a maximum height of 10 feet and almost the same width. It spreads from its sides which grow four to six feet or more, which droop and hang almost to the ground.

Drooping shoots which touch exposed ground may root and grow. Thus beginning a chain reaction of growth.

This weed when fully grown will keep livestock in, can be used in windbreaks, as a soil protecting cover and is a good habitat for wildlife.

Although multiflora rose was initially started to help farmers, it has now become a pest.

A "Kill The Rose" campaign was started in Iowa in 1980 when farmers from Des Moines County grouped together and asked the county supervisors to destroy the MFR growing in their county.

The supervisors turned to the Geode Wonderland RC & D Area to help develop a cooperative plan which would include participation from landowner's organizations, private industry, and county, state and federal government agencies.

Surveys were taken in 1982 of a 12 county area, resulting in nine out of 10 farmers stating the rose



This fence row of multiflora rose on the Charles Hoag farm northwest of Columbus Junction is coming under control after two years of treatment.

was a problem and was getting worse.

During the next two years a special task force guided the development of a pilot program.

Landowners were encouraged to learn about the seriousness of the MFR problem through demonstration plots, tours and educational meetings.

Since then the effort to control MFR has been statewide.

In 1984 Louisa County held their first organizational meeting of the MFR steering committee. That committee received informational packets from DOW Chemical to help educate landowners on MFR. These packets were also made available to the landowners.

Demonstration plots were held by the Louisa County Extension Office in Wapello for farmers and landowners to attend.

The Louisa County Board of Supervisors allocated \$5,000 that year towards the removal of MFR and \$10,000 for the following year.

A letter was sent by the committee to Congressman Jim Leach showing interest in the "Kill The Rose" program and also to the state requesting funding to help rid the area of MFR.

Share-cost funding was secured and a farmer sign-up was held.

The program now in 1986 is a voluntary control program until 1987 for landowners to work together with their neighbors to try and rid the area of MFR.

After 1987 the counties will be asked to destroy the weeds through authority of the county weed commissioner.

Louisa County Multiflora Rose Steering Committee Chairman Dean Gipple confirmed that enough funding is available to applicants until June 1986.

Gipple advised that farmers should check with weed commissioner Howard Gieselman for approved herbicides. Cost-sharing will be provided for approved herbicides only.

Louisa County's cost-share program has up to 70 percent of the cost of chemicals and application paid by Louisa County and the state of Iowa. The county will pay 45 percent and the state 25 percent.

"In the 1930's the federal government pushed MFR and made the plants available to landowners," said Bob Barnes, vocational instructor at

Columbus Community School and member of the Louisa County MFR steering committee.

"50 years later we've got the problem," Barnes said. "Not as many farmers are running livestock which helped control the younger plants by trampling them into the ground."

One farmer in Louisa County who has been combatting the problem is Charles Hoag of Columbus Junction.

Hoag has been treating MFR on his farm for the last three years.

"I first planted it in the middle 1950's," said Hoag. "I built a pond and had terraces near it and used the MFR as a fence row near the pond, and for wildlife cover."

Hoag said he never thought about the birds carrying the seeds they had eaten and scattering new plants through the pastures.

"The last two years the problem seems to have gotten worse," Hoag said. "The biggest percent of growth seems to be where the birds roost."

Hoag used an approved chemical for removal of MFR, on the fence row for two years and also in the areas the birds roosted in.

"Some new growth," Hoag said, "came back in the fence row but I've been spot treating it. Last year there were 150-200 plants scattered in the pasture by the pond that I spot treated also. And now there are just a few I missed, so I'll spot treat them."

Hoag stressed that 100 percent participation is needed to get rid of MFR. The only problem he said is the timbers that nobody takes the time to treat. Cattle he said keep it down only as long as the plants are small but after they get larger the cattle will leave it alone. And they'll grow and spread.

Hoag said he felt MFR will always be a problem for the farmers and the landowners.

Louisa County farmers are urged to sign up at the Soil Conservation Service Office in Wapello soon for the limited funds.

Wetland Photo Exhibit

Wap Rep
9-19-91

Wapello community residents will have a unique opportunity to view the state's wetland heritage through the eyes of two of Iowa's outstanding photographers, Carl Kurtz and Cathy Meddin, at the Keck Memorial Library from October 2 to 10.

The photo exhibit **Iowa's Wetland Heritage** will be on display in Wapello through the month of October. The entire exhibit will be on display at the library until October 10. Portions will then be distributed to the State Bank of Wapello, Iowa National Bank, the Louisa County SCS office, and the Louisa County Conser-

vation Board.

All photos in the exhibit depict Iowa's rapidly disappearing wetlands, natural wonders that provide wildlife habitat and are a natural water filter. The glimpses of these two talented photographers provided highlights of Iowa's wetlands through their eyes.

This exhibit was developed by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of Iowa's natural resources. The local showing is being sponsored by the Briggs Civic Center Board.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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 Cons. picture ☐

Wetland provision explained

The wetland conservation provision, commonly referred to as "swampbuster," is designed to prevent the needless conversion of wetlands to cropland. Some have estimated that less than half of the wetlands that existed when America was first settled still exist.

Wetlands are some of America's most diverse and productive lands for fish and wildlife. They help control floods by temporarily storing water during storms. They trap pollutants. They help recharge aquifers. And they provide recreational opportunities.

Farmers who began the conversion of wetlands before December 23, 1985, are exempt from

the swampbuster provision. Farmers who drained wetlands since that date and planted a crop on them before June 27, 1986, retain their eligibility for covered USDA programs for the 1986 crop year only. To retain eligibility on the rest of their farm for subsequent years, farmers must stop producing agricultural commodities on the converted wetland area.

Conversions of artificially created wetlands, including wetlands created by irrigation, are also exempt. Farming wetlands that become dry through natural conditions such as drought-prairie potholes, for example, is allowed under certain conditions, as determined by the Soil Conservation Service.

Windbreak cost-share available

Windbreaks are a useful part of a conservation system. Windbreaks can protect crops and livestock from strong winds, and may keep drifting snow out of feedlots. A windbreak is also useful in energy savings for protected homes. They also provide habitat for wildlife and songbirds.

Windbreaks usually consist of six rows of trees and shrubs that vary in size and species.

The local ASCS office may have 75% cost-share on farmstead and feedlot windbreaks. The local SCS office has a program called WECIP (Wind Erosion Control Incentive Program).

This program helps to protect local roadways from sediment damage and saves the county many dollars in road ditch cleanup costs.

WECIP pays \$1,000 per acre for the establishment of a field windbreak along a local road. The next signup for WECIP will be in August.

If you are interested in either of these windbreak programs, contact your local SCS office.

Col. Gazette

2-2-89

Windbreaks

useful part of conservation system

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Various types of cost-share are available for windbreak establishment. The local ASCS office may have 75% cost-share on farmstead and feedlot windbreaks. The local SCS office has a program called WECIP (Wind Erosion Control Incentive Program). This program helps to protect local roadways from sediment damage and saves the county many dollars in road ditch cleanup costs. WECIP pays \$1,000 per acre for the establishment of a field windbreak along a local road. The next signup for WECIP will be in August.

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Todd Meyer, Soil Conservationist

2-2-89

Wapello

Republican

2-24-94
Wap. Rep.

Windbreaks can lower your utility bills

Would you like lower utility bills? Would you like to improve the weight gains of your livestock? Would you like more wildlife around your farmstead? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," the USDA Soil Conservation Service advises you to plant a farmstead or feedlot windbreak.

Shawn Dettmann, SCS District Conservationist, says windbreaks reduce wind erosion, conserve energy, reduce heating bills and beautify a farmstead. They also serve as a sound barrier and provide food and cover for wildlife. And, livestock gain more weight when windbreaks protect them from winter winds and snow.

Windbreaks consist of several

rows of coniferous trees or a combination of coniferous and deciduous trees that are planted, usually on the north and west sides, of a farmstead or feedlot. One or two rows of shrubs are also often planted.

Dettmann says established windbreaks slow wind on the downwind side of the windbreak a distance of 10 times the height of the trees. The tree rows also act like a snow fence, trapping snow within the windbreak.

"And, of course there are the other benefits we get from trees, too," Bettmann says. "Trees provide oxygen, reduce air pollution and provide beneficial shade in the summer. They really provide something for everyone."

Winterkill could be serious problem in ponds, lakes in dry Southeast Iowa

(LAKE DARLING) — The lingering effects of the 1988 drought could be felt this winter yet, in many small streams and farm ponds throughout southeast Iowa. Lack of moisture in one of the driest years on record has reduced water levels throughout the state. That evidence shows up across southeastern counties, where many shallow ponds have been reduced to muddy depressions. Even deeper ponds have seen water levels recede by several feet. That could mean problems for fish populations. "A lot of ponds are going to be in real trouble," says Steve Waters of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "Those ponds should have at least eight feet of water going into winter." Water says lower levels will significantly increase the chance of winterkill."

In a "normal" winter many ponds would be deep enough for fish to withstand thick ice covers on the surface. This winter's lowest water volumes, though, will mean less water..and less oxygen..when that winter freeze comes. "The best we can hope for is a mild winter, and a wet winter," according to Waters.

There are several things a landowner can do with a pond, depending on its value as a fishing spot and family recreation area. If feasible, Waters suggests keeping the pond's surface cleared of snow. "If sunlight can get through the ice, fish survival chances are improved." Heavy snow on ice will block sunlight and the photosynthesis process which provides oxygen to fish. Waters suggests aeration as another possibility. He recommends

commercial blubbers, if possible, pointing out wind aerators are not effective during periods of bitter cold temperatures and low winds.

Silt removal from dry and exposed segments of the pond bed could help avoid future low water level problems. If a pond does fall victim to winterkill, Waters suggests contacting the DNR. "Our fisheries biologists could advise them what to do next. If it is a significant fish kill, we would recommend renovation. The DNR does provide free pond stocking (bluegill, bass, catfish) and management assistance if a pond meets basic requirements. Pond owners can contact any DNR personnel, or their county SCS office for more information.

Multiflora rose still a problem

Multiflora Rose continues to be a serious problem on many farms in Louisa county according to Dean Gipple, chairman of the county Multiflora Rose steering committee.

He urges farmers to continue participating in the Kill the Rose campaign for control and eradication of this pest. The campaign started in 1984.

"There are cost share funds available on a first come-first serve basis," said Gipple.

He urges individuals to go to the SCS Office and sign up for 1986. A total of \$7,440 state and county cost share funds were paid to 30 individuals in 1984. A total of 39 individuals received \$6,188 in cost share funds for 1985.

The herbicides recommended by extension weed control specialists for chemical control according to Gaylord Elliott, county extension

director, are Banvel plus 2, 4-D, 2, 4-D LV Ester, Roundup, Crossbow, Spike 20P, Tordon 10K pellets, Esteron BK and Krenite.

Time of application is very important, and he urges individuals to stop at the county extension office in Wapello and pick up or phone for the weed control publication, Multiflora Rose. Method of application, cultural control and precautions for chemical control are listed in this publication.

Gipple said the other members of the steering committee from Columbus Junction are Olin Jennings, Mike Braun, Tom Utter, Richard Utter, Frank Jamison, Bob Barnes, Vo. Ag. From Wapello are Martin Hoeg, Leonard Elliott and Howard Gieselman, county weed commissioner, Lee Roudybush, Muscatine and Steve Yaddof, District Soil Conservationist.

4-3-86

Farmers may be fined for erosion

EROSION

Continued from Page One

County, however, Mellema said.

"The problem is, no neighbor's going to squeal on another neighbor," Mellema said. "There really hasn't been a complaining party up until this time. Now the county can be the complaining party."

Wind erosion was severe in some areas of Lyon County during the drought, Martin said.

During spring in 1988 and 1989, Lyon County workers had to dig out tons of topsoil from ditches along county roads.

"The main problem was fall plowing and all the dryness we had in the past few years," Martin said. "With this law on the books, maybe it will keep more of that from happening again."

Although erosion problems this spring were lessened because of better rainfall, some Lyon County farmers reacted to the law even before its passage, Martin said.

"I believe it will definitely have an effect on reducing the amount of tillage," Martin said. "I know of some farmers who reduced their tillage already because they knew this (ordinance) was in the works."

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