

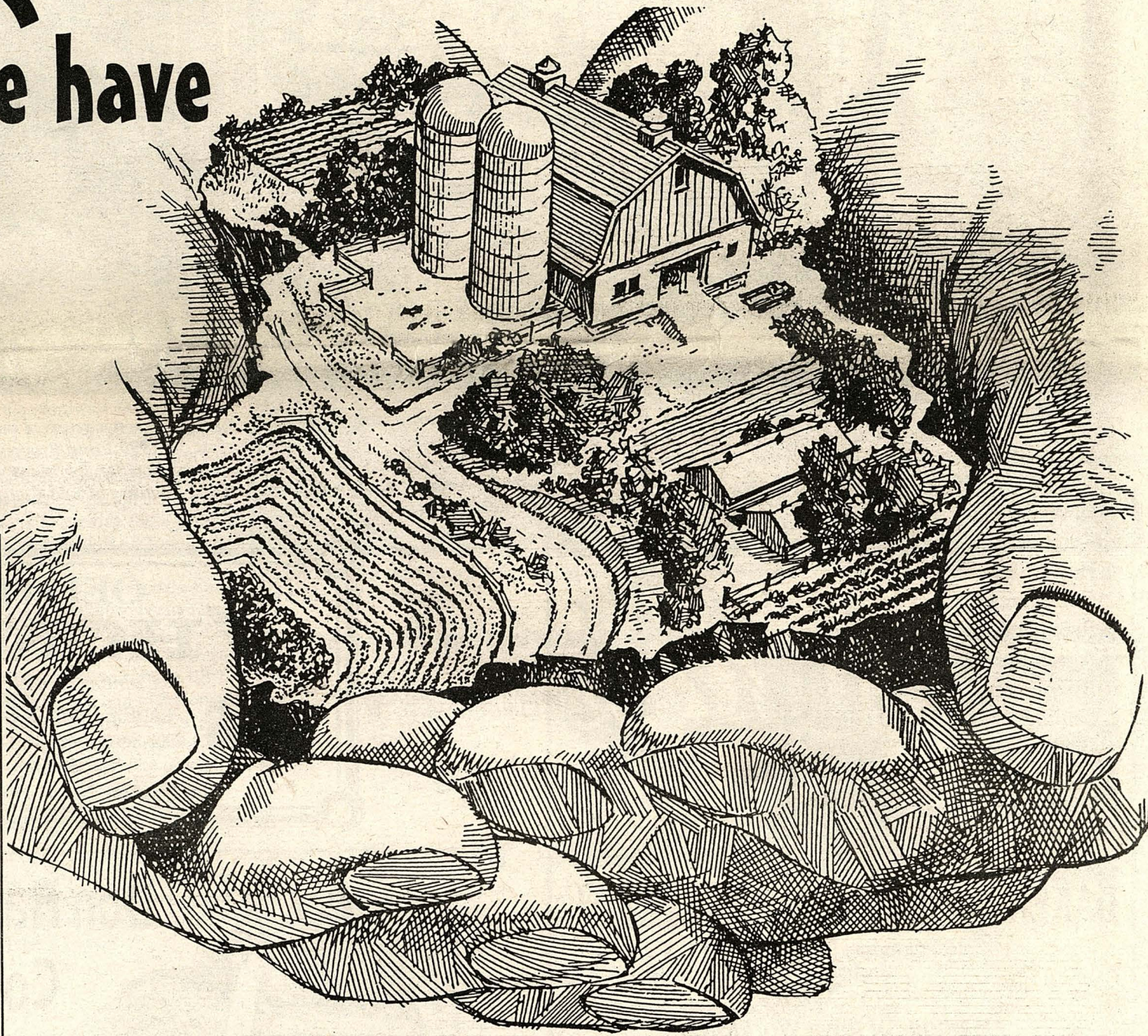
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Fayette SWCD Annual Report

Holding On to what we have



In a year
characterized by
long dry spells and
short bursts of
furious flooding,
holding on to our
natural resources
has been an
on-going struggle.

In this issue you'll find page after page of information about how the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District helps its patrons conserve the area's natural resources for those who will lead us in this new millennium.

Published by Newspapers of Fayette Co., Inc.

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2000

Kenneth, Doris Wagner are 'Century Conservation Farm Family'



The Ken and Doris Wagner family was selected to represent Fayette County as one of Iowa's conservation farm families of the century.

The Wagners were one of 78 farm families from across Iowa honored at the 1999 Farm Progress Show in the Amana Colonies Sept. 29, 1999. They were officially recognized in a brief ceremony at the show. They were nominated by the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District for their efforts to protect the water, air and land that will produce our food into the next millennium.

Each conservation family received a limited-edition wildlife print by well-known artist Larry Anderson, and jackets and certificates signed by Gov. Tom Vilsack and other state conservation leaders.

This recognition of Iowa's Conservation farmers caps the year-long Conservation Milestones at the Millennium Campaign that honors the conservation work of Iowa's private landowners and the local, state and federal conservation agencies and organizations which help them.

Fayette County farmers Kenneth and Doris Wagner received their Century Conservation farm family award at the 1999 Farm Progress Show. Also pictured is Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Leroy Brown (center) and IDALS-Division of Soil Conservation official Ken Tow.

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 - Hog Bldgs.
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 - Residential
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 - Dozer work

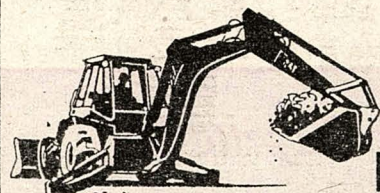


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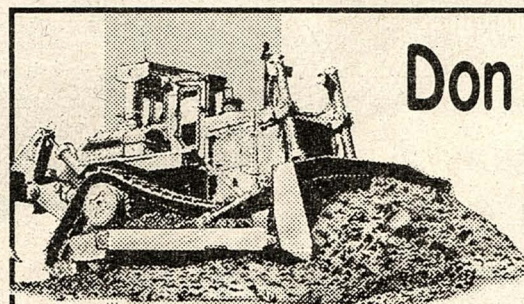
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Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner Bill Bennett, the 1999 Woodland Owner winner, stands among the timber at his rural Elgin farm.

Bennett named 1999 woodland owner of year

The Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District has named rural Elgin resident and SWCD commissioner Bill Bennett as its 1999 woodland owner of the year.

Bennett owns 196 acres of woodland on his farm on Dove Road. He entered his written management plan in 1987 and revised it in 1993 and again in 1998.

The improvements he has made to his woodland include releasing 14 acres of crop tree release in 1993 and removing 59 acres of cull trees in 1994. Also in 1994, he thinned five acres of shagbark hickory to increase seed production and clear-cut five acres to increase cover and browse for deer, turkey and grouse.

He allows mushroom, deer and turkey hunting in his woodlands by permission. The timber is not grazed and needs no fencing.

His tree planting efforts include interplanting five acres of timber with red oak and walnut in 1994 and direct seeding 22 acres with walnut, oak, maple and ash. He planned to direct seed 30 more acres under the CRP program as of March 1999.

Bennett made three harvest cuttings of his woodland. In 1987, he cut 45 acres of mixed hardwoods yielding 53 MBF. He clear-cut 14 acres and selectively cut 31 acres. He harvested another 59 acres of hardwoods in 1994, 10 acres clear-cut and

49 acres selectively harvested. In 1998, he shelterwood cut 10 acres of red oak.

In addition to being a SWCD commissioner, he serves as a member of the State Committee of Soil Conservation Districts. He also was recently selected as the forestry representative for the National Soil Conservation Districts.

He also serves on the Northeast Iowa RC&D and is an active member of the Northeast Iowa Forestry Advisory Committee. The committee provides direction to the foresters in northeast Iowa and was responsible for promoting a bill in the Iowa Legislature to provide more people and cost-share dollars for forestry in Iowa.

In 1995, Bennett hosted the Fayette County Forestry Field Day. About 75 people attended an all-day tour of Bill's timber projects. His land was certified as a Tree Farm in 1997.

"Bill is involved in many organizations that can influence forestry in Iowa," said District Forester Gary Beyer, who submitted the nomination papers. "He is respected for his knowledge on forestry issues and strongly promotes the proper management of the woodland resource."

"Because of Bill's influence throughout the state, he has more impact on forestry than any one individual that I know."



Bill Bennett points to a spot within his woodland area on his rural-Elgin farm while giving a tour of the area which earned him honors with the Fayette County SWCD.



The Bill Bennett farm near Elgin has 196 acres of woodland which Bennett has made improvements three times and harvested three times.

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Ensign Hollow II Watershed project completes first-year activities

Northeast Iowa is home to several cold water trout streams. The habitat that supports the trout fishery is unique, and the system is fragile and can be affected by sediment and nutrient loading. Since spring-fed cold water streams both receive from and contribute to our groundwater supply, the condition of these streams can provide an overall indication of the health of our available groundwater. Presently, there are only a few streams in Iowa that support natural reproduction of trout.

The Ensign Hollow II Watershed project is an effort to improve and protect the water quality of the upper reaches of Hewett Creek, and its tributary, Ensign Creek. The project area includes approximately 5,950 acres in southeastern Fayette County and southwestern Clayton County. During the term of the project, landowners and farm operators in the watershed will have the opportunity to implement a wide range of conservation practices with expanded cost share assistance. The project is an attempt to demonstrate how people can voluntarily work together to create water quality improvements.

The project is the result of a proposal submitted by the Fayette and Clayton Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and builds upon work completed on the Ensign Creek portion of the watershed (708 acres) in 1994. As a result of the earlier project, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources noted a significant increase in the fish holding capacity of

the stream. It is hoped that similar benefits will become evident on Hewett Creek as a result of the new effort.

Several conservation practices have been identified for funding. Terraces, water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, and contour buffer strips have been included in the project to reduce the amount of sediment entering the streams. Timber stand improvement and tree planting incentives are included for the forested portion of the watershed, which makes up nearly 1,700 acres of the project area.

Landowners with livestock can take advantage of incentives for pasture management and fencing, and can receive cost share for the construction of animal manure storage structures. Crop producers in the project management planning, and new tools for refinement of nitrogen use.

Eroding streambanks are a highly visible source of the sediment that enters streams. Streambank stabilization projects typically involve combinations of bank shaping, lunkers (wooden structures that provide protection for trout), rock riprap, and grass seeding, which can also be cost shared through the project.

The Ensign Hollow II Watershed project has been active since March of 1999, and initial interest among landowners and farm operators has been good. During the fall, four water and sediment control basins were constructed, and seven producers completed first-year nutrient management activities on over 1,200

acres of cropland. The timber stand improvement incentives have been especially popular, following a severe windstorm that damaged trees in the project area in 1998. Preliminary designs have also been completed for two grade stabilization structures (ponds), five water and sediment control basins, 1900 feet of terraces, and one animal waste management system. Other projects include conversion of 73 acres of existing pasture and cropland to a rotational grazing system, and stabilization of 290 feet of eroding streambank. Due to landowner interest, grassed waterways may also be added to the list of eligible practices for cost share.

The initial structures completed in the watershed provide visible evidence of the efforts of project landowners to protect the streams. The value of these efforts was highlighted during a trout population estimate conducted on the Ensign Hollow streams in November by IDNR-Fisheries staff. During the assessment, evidence of natural reproduction of rainbow trout was documented in Ensign Creek. This makes Ensign Creek one of only four streams in Iowa that support natural reproduction of rainbow trout.

Future efforts for the project will continue to focus on practices that reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to the streams. For more information, contact Project Coordinator Eric Palas at the NRCS office in Elkader (319) 245-1048

FINANCIAL STATEMENT JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

IM BUDGET

Allocation	\$ 3,000.00
Supplemental	1,380.00
Total Allocation	4,380.00
Commissioner Expenses	2,043.16
Office Supplies and Expenses	2,336.84

IIIM BUDGET COST-SHARE PROGRAM

1998-1999 Allocation	\$ 37,842.00
Spent	14,827.93
Obligated	10,778.00
Unobligated	\$ 12,236.07

1997-1998 Allocation	\$ 37,616.00
Spent	13,409.66
Obligated	13,264.01
Unobligated	\$ 10,942.33

1996-1997 Allocation	\$ 37,616.00
Supplemental	21,092.00
Total Allocation	58,708.00
Spent	42,627.35
Obligated	13,575.25
Returned to State	\$ 2,505.40

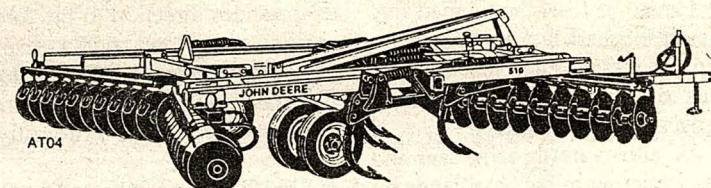
REAP PRACTICES

1999 Allocation	\$ 29,840.00
Obligated	27,277.50
Unobligated	\$ 2,562.50

REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES

1999 Allocation	\$ 13,089.50
Obligated	12,997.50
Unobligated	\$ 92.00

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GOOD DEALS...AND A GOOD DEAL MORE

Jeff Moellers is \$800 scholarship winner

Jeffrey Moellers, rural Arlington, is Fayette County's CDI Auxiliary's \$800 scholarship winner. Moellers also received a \$500 SWCD scholarship from the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Moellers resides on a farm in Fayette County, and has worked all the many tasks on his family's farm. Most of his time has been spent with the breeding operation of a 500-sow unit. He has also worked for a farm building contractor.

Moellers has been active in FFA at his school, with outdoor projects in his community including landscaping at the school and storm clean-up of the fairgrounds. He participated in the Adopt-A-Highway project as well.

Moellers will attend Iowa State University to further his career in agriculture.

He is the son of Jeff and Anna Marie Moellers, and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Moellers, West Union, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wagner, Castalia.

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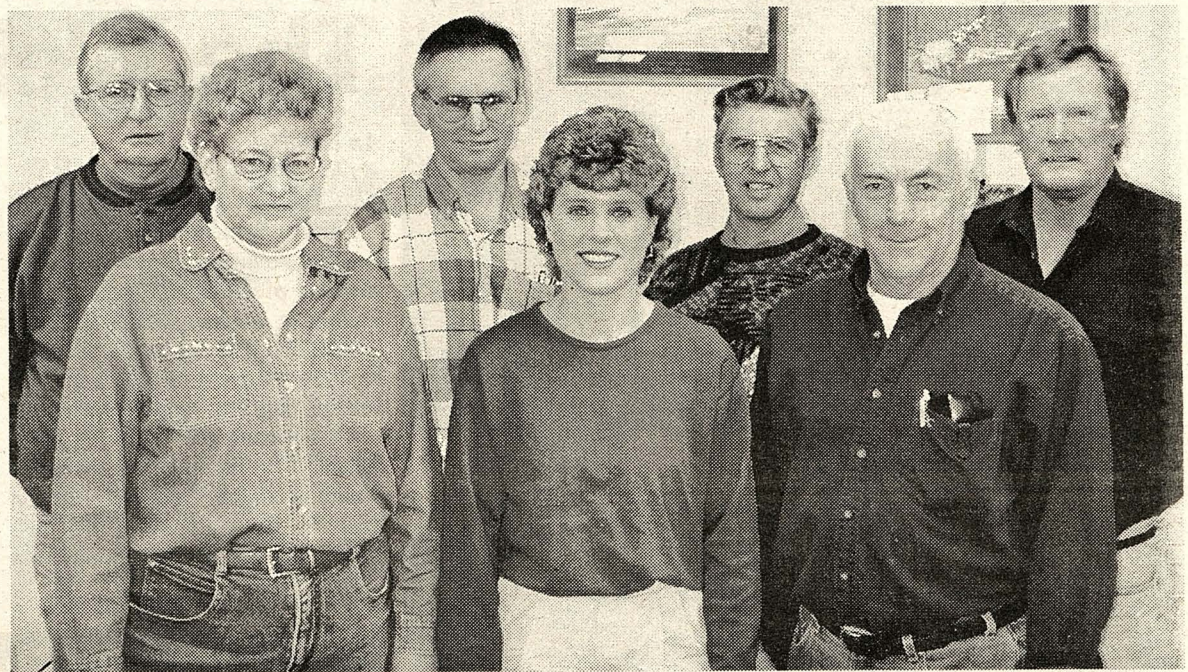
Postville, IA 319-864-7515

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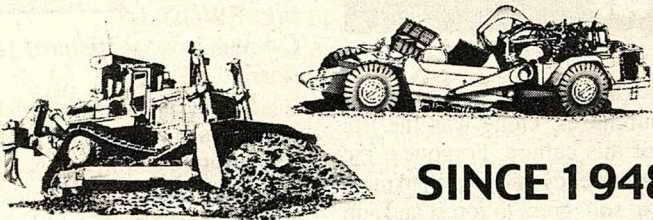
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West Union, IA 52175

Issue No. 4



The office staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service field office in West Union include (front) LaVonne Koch, Lori Kohlmeier, Don Durscher, (back) Dan Schmitt, Jerry Muff, Joe Wingert and Alan Crowe.

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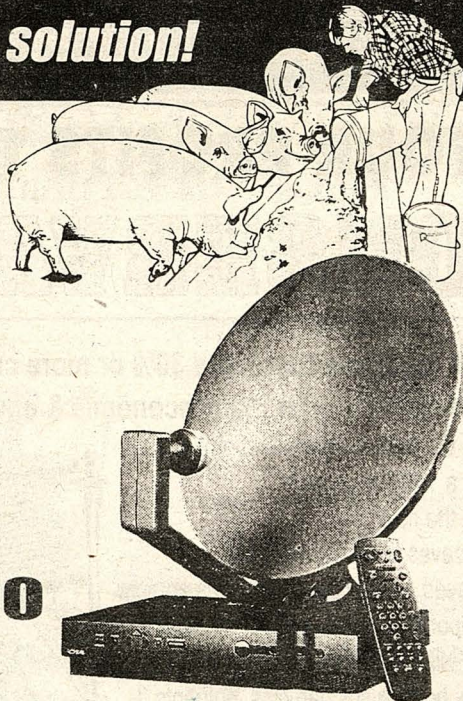
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Local water conservation program set

Those interested in water conservation efforts are encouraged to attend Watershed Works, a program to build leadership and facilitation skills for effective local involvement in watershed planning.

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Trees Forever, are sponsoring the program.

"Farmers are agriculture's front line when it comes to conservation efforts," said Rick Robinson, director of environmental affairs for the Iowa Farm Bureau. "Agriculture is facing a serious regulatory challenge with respect to water quality. It is imperative that farmers become actively involved in watershed protection efforts."

Watershed Works consists of two sessions: Getting Started and Keep it Going. Session one will include an overview of the locally-led planning process, working on a watershed basis and building an effective planning team. Session two includes more in-depth training on the leadership and facilitation skills.

The seminar is open to all those interested in watershed resources. To make your reservations, call Carla

Rickels from Trees Forever at 1-800-369-1269 or register on the Internet at www.ifbf.org. Program cost is \$10 per person for each session.

The IFBF, NRCS and Trees Forever support locally-led initiatives to conserve and develop Iowa's natural resources.

The following is the schedule for the Watershed Works sessions:

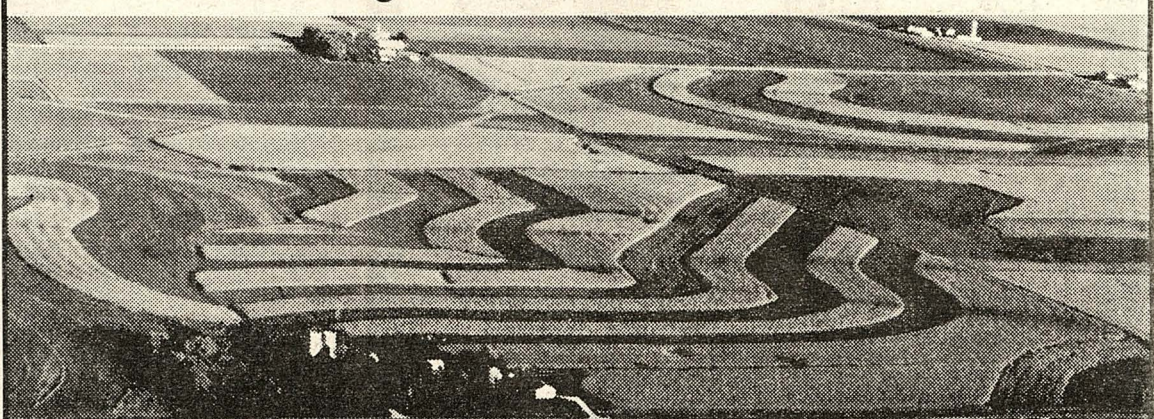
Session one: Feb. 23 — Bill's Pizza and Smokehouse, Independence, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; March 21 — Pizza Hut Party Room, Washington, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Session two: June 28 — Bill's Pizza and Smokehouse, Independence, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; July 19 — Pizza Hut Party Room, Washington, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NOTICE

The District prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, and family or marital status.

Maynard Savings Bank salutes farmers for Outstanding Soil Conservation Efforts!



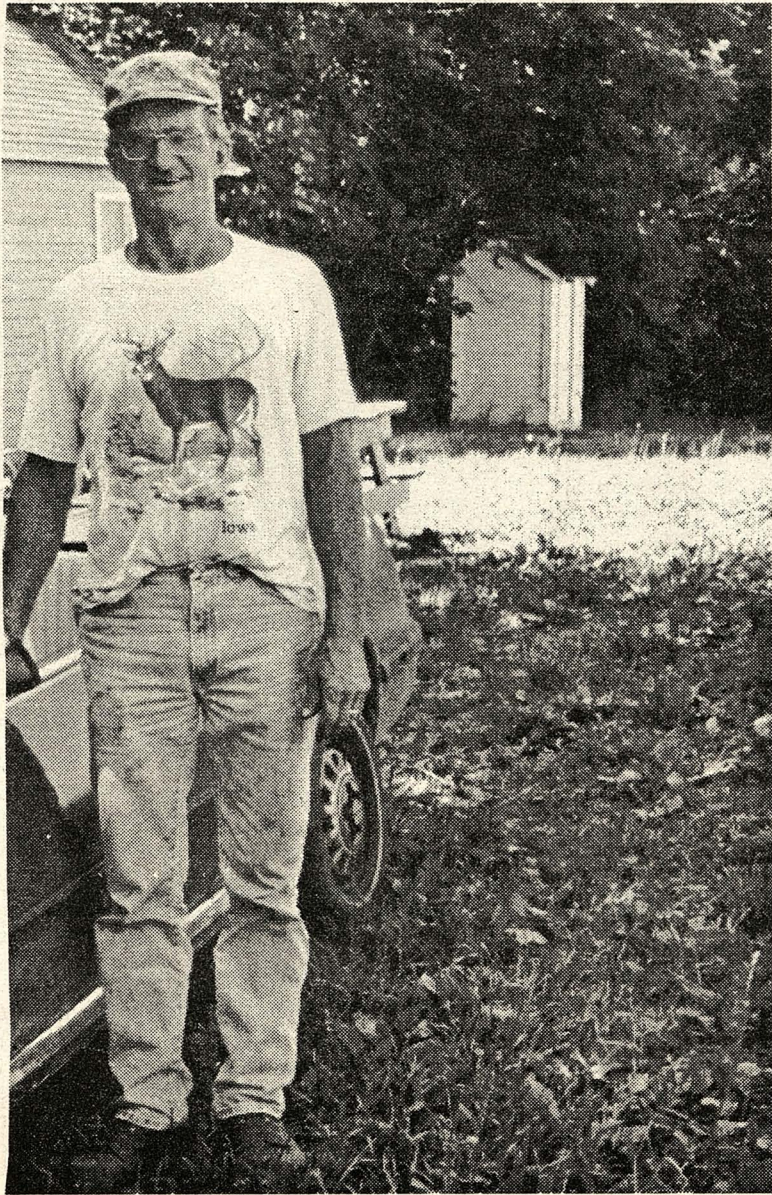
This aerial view of field contouring strips show the conservation efforts of area farmers Jon Steege, Paul Hoeger & Herb Hoeger.



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Fayette County SWCD Commissioner Dick Jensen put his farm between Elgin and West Union to the test this summer as he allowed drivers to traverse the conservation areas of his fields. (Echo file photo by Eric VanSickle)

The Web of Life

An editorial
By Richard Jensen,
SWCD commissioner

For a subject worked and re-worked countless times in novels, motion pictures and television, American Indians remain the least understood and the most misunderstood Americans of us all. American Indians defy any single description.

They were and are far too individualistic to classify. They shared no common language and few common customs. But collectively their history is our history and should be a

part of our shared and treasured heritage. Yet even their heroes are largely unknown to us today except perhaps for such figures as Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce and the slaughter at Wounded Knee, Saukagawis the Shoshone who guided the Lewis and Clark expedition. Chief Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse the Sioux warriors at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

This list of misunderstood Americans could go on and on, but few care enough to learn of their contributions, views, beliefs or philosophies. At best our modern imitation would be body piercing to accommodate rings etc., decorating self with tattoos and various hairstyles. The purpose and meaning of these acts has not fully been explained.

My hope is simply to make

aware to you that these Americans sustained themselves for thousands of years in a "natural world." Feast or famine, cold or hot, wet or dry, friend or foe. No other element than nature affected their needs or wants. Survival meant having a spiritual and emotional relationship with nature. All these needs such as food, water and shelter came from the earth and were deeply appreciated. In fact the earth was worshipped for its generosity.

This land was eventually taken from them by various means and

Editorial

methods through government treaties and purchases. Gone was the life style of this culture. Forgotten, the interdependency of the earth to man, water to soil, grass to forest and sun to life. An affection for natural resources, that allowed life to flourish, was quickly rejected for an economic exploitation.

Everywhere you look today our environment begs for better care. Our soil, water and forests are in need of respect and repair. Our basic obligation to have a natural affection for the earth was lost over 150 years ago when the first Americans were eliminated and forgotten.

Possibly these two following items will be more motivating than my own impression. These reflect the same warning but from two different generations of men.

Dick Jensen is Region 4's outstanding commissioner

As a Fayette SWCD commissioner the past 12 years, Richard Jensen, rural Elgin, has devoted a great deal of his time to promoting soil conservation, and particularly in educating children.

He is this year's Region 4 Outstanding SWCD Commissioner.



Richard Jensen

Besides attending national meetings, Jensen has focused his efforts on educating children about the importance of conservation and the importance of nature. The past six years he has hosted the Fayette SWCD conservation field days on his farm. The three-day event draws about 500 third graders from eight school districts each year. Students have the opportunity to gain on-site knowledge of such subjects as soils, contour farming, bees, woodlands, wildlife, erosion, ponds and recycling.

Richard and his wife, Dorothy, implement conservation practices on their farm, including contour farming, contour buffer strips, terraces and CRP.

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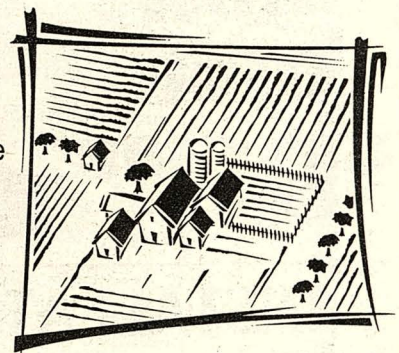
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Consider our Commitment

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And who can being to measure its worth?
What price a sunset, a blossom-filled spring;
A moonlit lake, a butterfly wing?

God gave all and so much more;
These are beautiful harvests, too much to store.
All this He meant for us here to treasure.
How fortunate we are, enriched beyond measure!

But there is the danger that we might forget
That for all this beauty we do owe a debt.
For, as He gave to us His world to share,
He also committed it to our care.

When God made the Earth, before it He stood.
He looked His work over and said, "it is good."
Do you wonder sometimes what God has to say
When He looks down upon His world today?

Man's obsessions have upset nature's balance.
Today costly mistakes are taxing our talent.
We mustn't forget Earth's not ours alone;
That we're only mortal and soon will be gone.

We each have a duty to God our Creator
To protect Earth's resources for those who come later.
Yes, its time our commitment went even deeper,
If we are to be our brother's keeper.

Consider our commitment; consider it well.

from the 1984 Soil Stewardship Brochure

"Conservation district officials need to recognize that they are in charge of a local unit of government. A district is not a voluntary association, a social organization, or a committee for a government program. A district is a subdivision of state government just like a county, town, township, or school district. And you are local government officials.

"If a district is to function effectively as a local government, it must have the respect of its citizens. They need to know what the district is doing, believe in the merits of its work and respects governing officials. This, in turn, requires that district officials take their responsibilities seriously, and that they should expect the public to take them seriously. Only in this way can we move ahead with the job."

*John S. Wilder, "Key Issues Ahead"
1971 NACD Convention, Chicago, Ill.*

Forestry expansion planned at Ralph Houg farm

By SWCD Commissioner
Richard Jensen

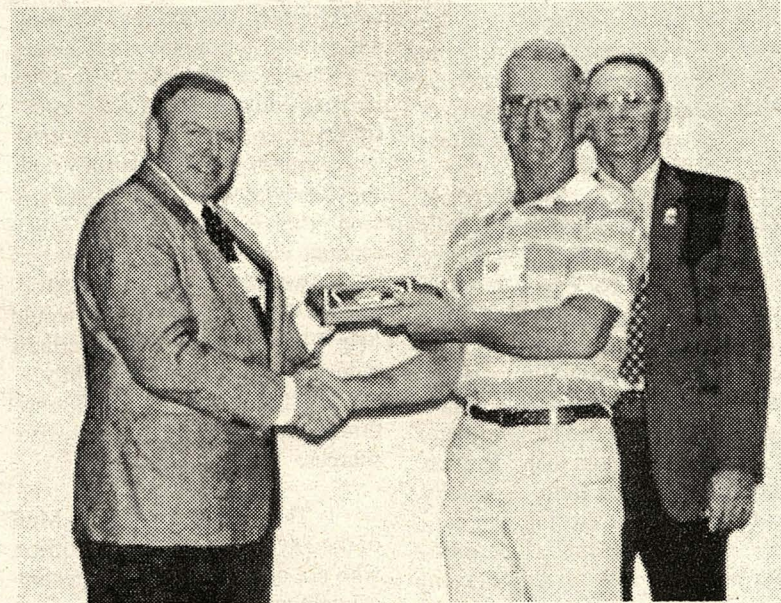
Our district is excited about following Ralph Houg's directions in maintaining and enhancing the property he willed us.

We are starting a forestry expansion project and upgrading the present forests by planting and tree release. We will be experimenting at five different sites which will enable us to use various tree planting practices. On some sites we will use tubes to protect the seedlings while on other sites we will plant into a naturally protected site and also do seed planting.

In some areas the vegetation that is growing is of very low value and will be controlled to give seedlings a better opportunity to grow. Within the present timber we will do a tree release program which means undesirable trees will be sacrificed for the benefit of others.

At other sites, seedlings will be hand planted at selected sites within thin stands of trees. With this approach we will learn which practice works the best.

We have already done some fall seeding of native grasses and are committed to doing some every year. As with our tree planting program, various methods and species will be used so that knowledge can be gained and shared with all interested residents.



Richard Jensen is pictured accepting a plaque given to him upon being named Outstanding SWCD Commissioner. Also pictured, at right, is SWCD Commissioner Bill Bennett.

A wetland restoration project will also be undertaken this year. Nearly five acres will be covered by shallow water and planted to normal wetland vegetation. This effort will provide a totally new environment for flora and fauna.

We look forward to this accomplishment as a wetland such as this is so beneficial to water quality and various wildlife species.

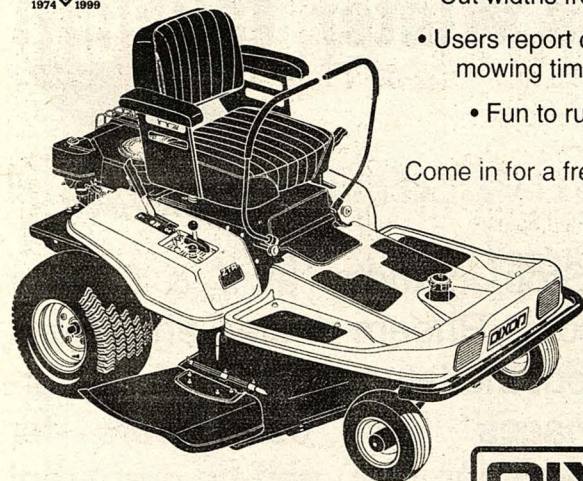
Not only are we thankful to

Ralph for his generosity but to the Farm Bureau, Hawkeye Conservation Club and our supporters who help us financially. We are committed to maintaining and preserving this property as an example of Ralph's affection for the natural world. Our mission is to instill their spirit into all that we possibly can.

We also fulfill our obligation by paying property taxes.

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Bassetts see conservation programs as worthwhile

By Robert Bassett

In the southeast quarter of Section 11, Putnam Township, Fayette County, there is a small farm belonging to Robert and Bonnie Bassett which is approximately five miles down from the headwaters of the north fork of the Maquoketa River, and 10 miles from the Forestville Lake at Backbone Park where thousands of tons of sediment were removed to again make the lake somewhat viable.

This is a place which Bob and Bonnie remember fondly from their youth. So far as the farm where they live, they moved back there and built a small home near a man-made lake in 1983, but have owned the property, where his great-grandfather came in 1867, since 1947 when Bonnie and Bob began farming there.

They recognized that what was happening to their farm, especially with stream bank erosion had contributed to the Forestville Lake problem. Scientists were saying that more than five tons per acre being flushed down our rivers. So in 1997 after the CRP program was extended to include buffer zones along the waterways, the Bassetts decided to enroll the area which had been used for pasture for more than 140 years along with adjoining land which often flooded.

The Bassetts feel the benefits of the CRP are worthwhile, primarily in the reduction of soil erosion, water quality, but also in the establishment of wildlife habitat. The sign up in 1997 included 13 acres of pasture land and 8 acres of crop land. At the time of the sign up the land was

to be within a strip 150 feet each side of a river or major waterway.

To obtain the objectives of the program, they (a) chose to seed most of the eight acres of cropland to switch grass, but to leave the sod, which consisted of blue grass, sedges and Reeds Canary grass and to plant the trees into them to reduce the possibility of erosion, (b) to seek assistance and do erosion control where the river was causing the greater erosion problems and (c) to develop a planting plan for the trees and hedges which would not be overly restrictive of the river's flow, but would help filter pollutants, and perhaps reduce the rate of run off slightly.

The Bassetts then sought assistance from the following five sources:

1. They contacted Gerald Muff of the Fayette County NRCS office, who not only gave them the technical help needed but also was instrumental in helping them file and gain a WHIP grant which would cover part of the stream bank erosion control cost.

2. They contacted the Trees Forever office for assistance, as they were the impetus for the Iowa Buffer Initiative, and their representative for the area, Carole Teator. As the result of this contact, the Bassetts made applications to be one of the Trees Forever sites for 1998, and were selected, an honor which not only gave them technical help but some financial assistance.

3. They next contacted the DNR and were given assistance in planning and completing the streambank erosion control work by Bill Kalishek and Mark Winn of the fisheries division.

4. They contacted Sid Mumford, the forester for Cascade Forestry Service and developed a tree planting program.

5. They contacted Jon Steege at the Fayette County Conservation Office who had the seed, the know-how and the equipment to plant the native grasses.

The project was completed as follows:

- a. Spring 1997 — The switch grass was planted by Steege using a drill which had been purchased with aid from Pheasants Forever.

- b. April 1999 — More than 400 feet of streambank was stabilized using field stones.

- c. May 1999 — Some 2,900 trees and bushes were planted and a strip



Bonnie and Robert Bassett worked on a headwaters project along the Maquoketa River over the last three years. It was a project the couple feels was worthwhile.

some four feet wide was sprayed with herbicide on the new plants by Cascade Forestry Service. This included about 1,000 swamp white oak and 1,000 green ash, plus burr oak, pin oak, river birch, white spruce, bald cypress, cottonwood and high bush cranberry, and service berry which were used for hedges. While most were machine-planted, two students, Dustin and Jesse Bond of the Starmont FFA, came to assist in planting the last of the trees.

Before the trees were planted, an eight-inch rain fell on the approximately 4,000-acre watershed above the Bassett property on May 16 when the land was most vulnerable to erosion, causing excessive flooding. This was a real test for the work which had been done, but both the switch grass and stream bank work came through it very well.

It, however, did cause some difficulty in planting the trees and be-

cause of the nitrates and phosphate, etc., which the flood brought into their lake, there was an algae problem all summer. The trees were planted eight feet apart in rows 10 feet apart and then the grass in between was mowed as needed all summer.

As Bob reflects on what happened in 1999, it seems apparent that those who have land on the Maquoketa, as well as other rivers, will be subject to severe flooding as fields, culverts and waterways get larger unless conservation practices are implemented such as no-till, terracing, filter strips and contouring.

We have in northeast Iowa some of the world's best soil and will need to be vigilant in our efforts to keep it for the short time we are here so that it will be available for those who follow us.

The Bassetts appreciated those who helped in establishing the program which they implemented and would encourage those who are making decisions for their property to also consider how it may be impacting others. We all need to be conservationists and good neighbors.

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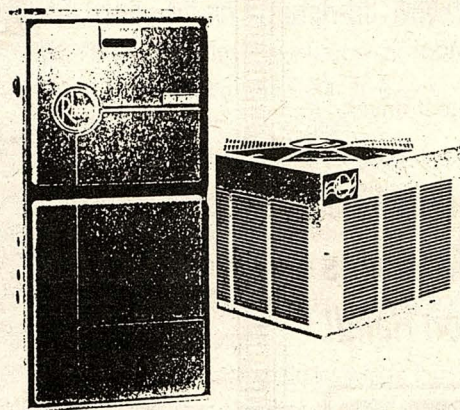
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Tri-State Grazing Conference is March 15

The first annual Tri-State Grazing Conference is March 15 at the Dubuque Midway Hotel from 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The program is sponsored by graziers, NRCS and the Extension services of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois in cooperation with the ISU Leopold Center for Sustainable Ag.

The conference will focus on, "What's New in Forages," and "My Favorite Forages," with Larry Tranel, ISU Extension field specialist and a panel of producers: Al Glen, Russ Thompson, Dave Lubben and Scott Weinberg. Afternoon dairy breakouts will include, "Starting from Scratch - Making it Grazing" with Russ Thompson, Wisconsin dairy producer; "Dairy Grazing Benchmarks," with Larry Tranel, ISU Extension; and "Feeding Dairy Cows on High Qual-

ity Pasture," with Dr. Dave Combs, UW-Madison dairy scientist. After-

noon livestock breakouts will include, "Tools in the Hayshed," by Dave Lubben, Iowa beef producer; "UW Lancaster Grazing Trials," by Dave Wachter, Grant County Dairy/Livestock Agent; and "What I Wish Somebody Would Have Told Me" by Scott Weinberg, Iowa beef, sheep and dairy heifer producer. The program will adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

The Midway Hotel is located on U.S. Hwy. 20 (3100 Dodge Street) in Dubuque. Please pre-register by March 13 with Dubuque County Extension at 14742 Hwy. 20 West, Dubuque, Ia. 52003 or call 319-583-6496 for a registration form. Cost is \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door, which includes lunch and materials.

Karen Ott joins NRCS to protect Volga watershed

The Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District and partners have a new project going on, The Volga River Watershed Protection Development Grant.

I've been hired as the coordinator of this project and my name is Karen Ott. I'm a recent graduate of Upper Iowa Univ. and have been living in Fayette County for four years. I had been working with the DNR as a seasonal employee for three years at the Volga River State Recreation Area. One of the main things I am going to try to do is to initiate action to protect and improve the Volga River and its watershed. Stop up and see me at the NRCS office any time if you have any ideas or questions.

Submitted by Karen Ott

Soil Conservation... February, 2000

Page 9

Matt & Diana Stewart receive Iowa Award

Matt and Diana Stewart, rural Oelwein, have received the 1999 Iowa Forage and Grassland Council Livestock/Forage Producer award. They were presented the honor Nov. 22 at the council's annual meeting at Pella.

The Stewarts have been involved in the dairy and forage/livestock production business for 20 years. They currently milk 80 head of Holsteins with 200 replacement heifers.

Matt and Diana have 280 acres in forage production. They utilize a wide variety of grasses and legumes - from alfalfa to native grasses in their intensive grazing system. Each year

1/2 of the acres are interseeded to ensure a healthy and vigorous crop.

The Stewarts are working to improve the genetics of the herd by using Normandy breeding. They own the flushing rights to one of the top Normandy cows in France and will be introducing this line into their herd. They also have one of the top bulls from Skagville Farms to improve the grazing traits of their Holsteins.

In an effort to help educate others about the benefits of rotational grazing, the Stewarts have hosted a grazing seminar and five field days.

Raise corn without erosion

By Jim Ranum, Grassland Conservationist

Researchers have been looking for a living ground cover for erosion control on erosive land used for row crops. Plants such as crown vetch, rye or annual grasses have been tried with limited success. The problem has been getting a consistent stand that could be compressed enough to produce a corn crop and still recover enough to provide adequate ground cover for erosion control. There is a new plant now available which meets the requirements. The plant is known as kura clover.

Kura clover is a strong perennial clover introduced from Caucasian Russia and Asia Minor. Once established this winter hardy plant has been successfully used as a living cover at the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Research Center. Dr. Ken Albrecht, Professor Department of Agronomy with the UW-Madison has three years of plot work where competitive corn yield have been obtained.

In 1999, 1000 pounds of forage was harvested in late April prior to the burn down for corn production.

The plots are broadcast sprayed with Round-up and then band sprayed in 12-14 inch strips over the row. By late summer the kura clover has spread across the band strip providing complete ground cover. With this system corn can be produced every three years (possibly every other year) and the kura clover will not need to be reseeded. When not in corn the kura can be hayed or grazed. An added bonus to this system is the clover provides nitrogen and only 40-60 additional nitrogen needs to be applied for a full yield.

A demonstration project is planned for next year on the Dan Byrnes farm east of Waukon, sponsored by the Allamakee County SWCD and the Sustainable Ag REsearch and Education (SARE) program. The kura clover stand has been established and corn will be planted next spring. Field days will be held after corn emergence and again in late summer. If you have marginal ground being used for row crop production and would like a sustainable system that will greatly reduce soil erosion plan on attending. Watch the paper and newsletters for field day notification.

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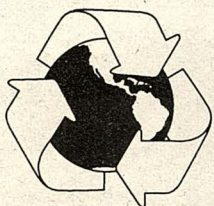
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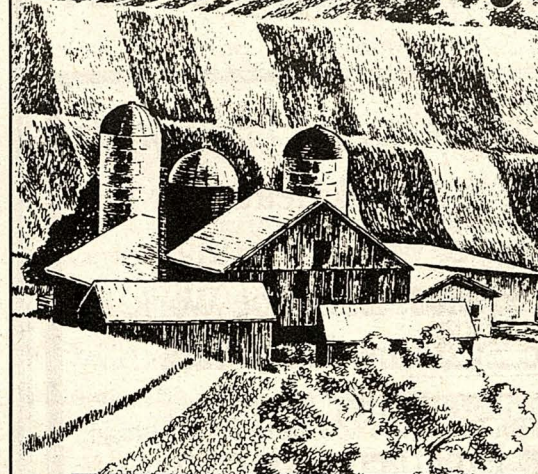
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Local landowner utilizes EWP program

By Alan Crowe
State Technician

Stan Yearous has lived his entire life on land adjacent to the Volga River east of Wadena. He's seen many amazing and beautiful sights living along the river, but he had never seen anything like the flooding that ravaged his land last May. What was once very productive cropland is now an unfarmable wasteland.

Yearous applied for financial assistance to try and reclaim his cropland, but because the damage was so severe, it wasn't economically feasible to do so. In fact, Stan said the county removed about 6,000 dump trucks full of sand, gravel and rock, but you wouldn't know it by looking.

As it turned out, the EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection) program was the best alternative available to him. Through this program, Stan entered his land into a lifetime floodplain easement. This land was appraised at the pre-flood value and he will receive a lump-sum payment based on the appraisal.

Yearous maintains ownership of the land but he can't receive economic gains from the approximately 150 acres of cropland and approximately 40 acres of timberland cov-

ered by his easement.

I asked Stan if this area was prone to frequent flooding. He said the floods of 1991 and 1993 caused some damage, but he felt that over the past 40 years, flood conditions worsened.

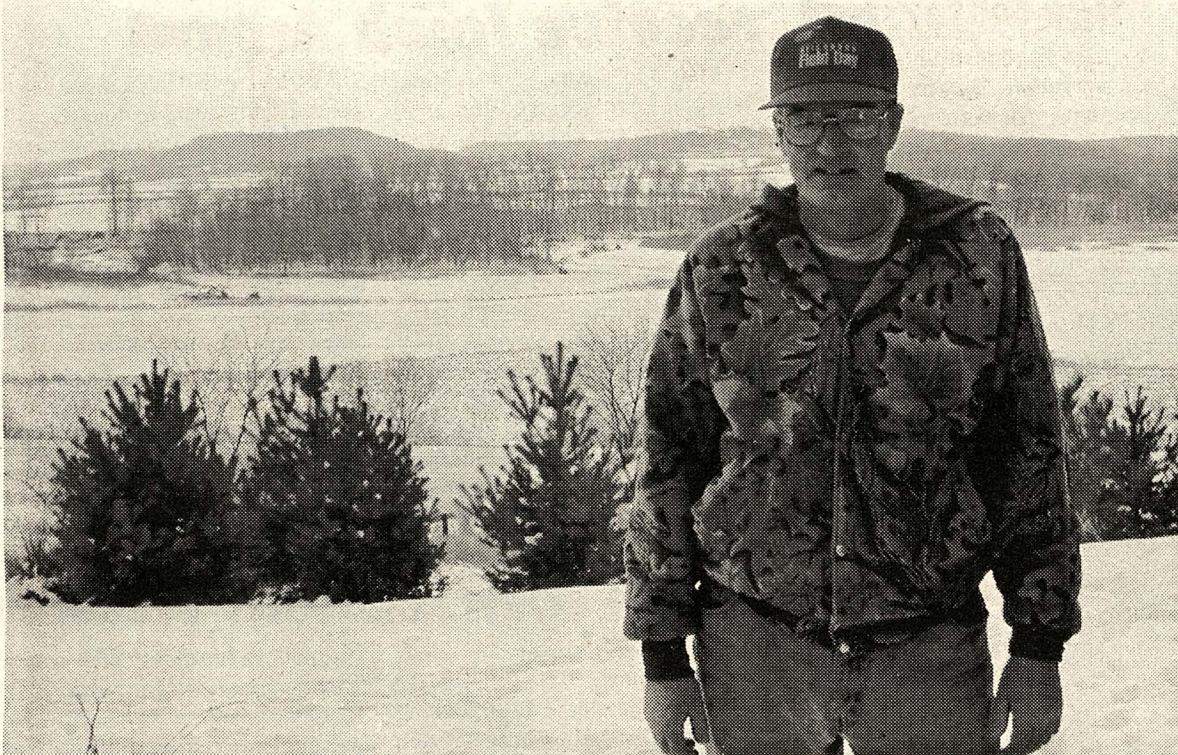
"Back in the '50s when we got heavy rains, it would take five or six days before the river reached its crest," he said. "Nowadays, it's just a matter of hours."

Stan attributes this to a combination of factors. One being the tremendous amount of tiling that has been done in the past four decades. Another being the trend toward increased row crop production and decreased forage production. And thirdly, the destruction of natural wetlands.

Nowadays, he said, the water flows across the watershed much faster than it used to, which often times disastrous results. Stan can certainly verify that.

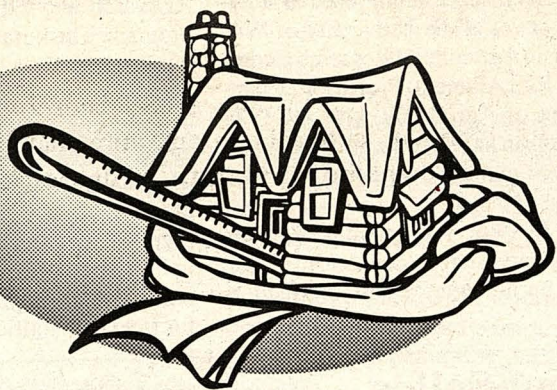
Although Yearous was deeply saddened by the loss of his cropland, he feels fortunate the EWP program exists.

"It should be great for wildlife," he said. "I look forward to seeing the ecological succession that will take place."



Stan Yearous is pictured at a point which overlooks his farmland in the Volga River valley. The rural Wadena farmer suffered considerable damage from the May 1999 flood, and the land is now part of the Emergency Watershed Program.

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Wadena-area farmer Stan Yearous shows an example of the damage caused by the flooding of the Volga River in May 1999. Although much of the damage is covered by the snow now, the flood water washed a wide hole in that area and uprooted several trees.



East of Wadena, County Extension Director Dan Burkhart shows the depth of a newly formed gully.

July 1998

- Fayette SWCD received \$37,842.00 (98-99) for the 3M Fund.
- IM Budget & Spending Plan was approved.

August 1998

- Fayette SWCD received \$7,026.00 for 1999 REAP Practices Program.
- Fayette SWCD received \$1,811.00 for 1999 REAP Forestry Program.
- \$3,000.00 was approved for the 1999 IM Budget Fund.

September 1998

- 7th Annual Conservation Education Field Day was held for 535 Fayette County Third Grade students at the Dick Jensen farm.

October 1998

- Fayette SWCD received \$800.00 in supplemental IM Funds.
- There was a discussion on the land from the Ralph Houg property that was willed to SWCD (the costs of surveys, deed, title, etc.).

November 1998

- Fayette SWCD received \$1,506.00 in supplemental funds.
- Approved signing the Pheasants Forever/SWCD Habitat Agreement to receive a grant of \$1,250.00.
- Fayette County was chosen as a testing site for the Iowa Carbon Storage Project.

December 1998

- Lori Kohlmeyer, State Secretary, received the December Employee of the Month Award.
- Fall Regional meeting was held in Postville in November.
- New commissioner training will be held at the Spring Regional.
- Scholarship Award information was sent to schools.
- Poster Contest information was sent to schools.

January 1999

- Organizational commissioner meeting and the appointment of Assistant Commissioners was held.
- The Fayette County Board of Supervisors approved Funds for "leverage" of the WAE program \$2,000 of \$2,000.00.
- A questionnaire will be published in the 1998 SWCD Annual Report to receive the public's input to determine the Annual Plan of Work.
- Fayette County held their Annual Tree/Wildflower Sales Program.

February 1999

- The Ensign Hollow Watershed Project agreement with IDALS and Clayton and Fayette counties.
- Nomination of S. Jon Grimes as the owner/operator and Richard Jensen as the outstanding soil and water conservation district commissioner was approved.
- 1999 NACD Annual Meeting was held January 31-February 4 in San Diego, CA.
- The SWCD Annual Report was published.

March 1999

- Reviewed an update on income for trees, wildflowers and supporter club.
- The SWCD scholarship award will be raised from \$100.00 to \$500.00 beginning in 1999.
- Soil Stewardship materials have arrived and will be distributed to area churches in mid-April.
- The SWCD Awards Banquet was held on March 16, 1999.

April 1999

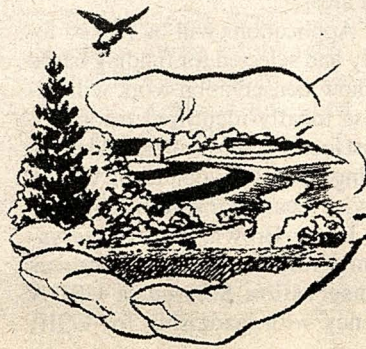
- Jeffrey Moellers, Arlington was chosen as the SWCD first place winner in the Auxiliary Scholarship program. His application will be sent to the Regional Director for State competition.
- Signs will be purchased to show various conservation practices in Fayette County.

May 1999

- Received \$200.00 supplemental IM Funding.
- Jeffrey Moellers (Fayette County SWCD winner) was selected as the state scholarship winner through the CDI Auxiliary Scholarship Program. He will receive an \$800.00 scholarship.
- A \$300.00 donation will be given to the Fayette County Pork Producers for 1998 & 1999.
- CRP continuous sign up enrollment showed Fayette County ranking 8th in the state.
- ISU has started a local community water quality group to ensure that we are together on the approach in the watershed.
- Fayette County was declared a flood disaster area due to 80% of the county receiving flood damage from the 5-10 inches of rain received.

June 1999

- Fayette SWCD received an additional \$380.00 IM Funds for 1999.
- Matt Stewart's resignation as commissioner was approved by Jim Gulliford, and Joe Wingert was appointed to fill the term.
- Commissioner Jensen and his wife, Dorothy are entering a float in the Elgin and West Union parades.
- Bennett and Wingert reported on the NACD conference



What is NACD?

By William E. Bennett

It came to me that many of you reading this report of the activities of the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District may not know what the NACD is, because even many commissioners do not know.

NACD is the national organization of the local conservation districts. NACD was formed by the state conservation associations to do things that they could not do by themselves. The local conservation districts had found that they were able to accomplish more by working together with other districts by forming state associations. NACD is a bottom up organization that works on the principal that local people best know how to solve local problems.

NACD policy starts as a resolution from a local district, such as the Fayette SWCD, it is then advanced to the state level, where, if there is enough support it goes on to the national level. Resolutions that have a national impact, that are supported by a majority vote in committee and then again by the board of directors become policy of NACD.

This is the process in which both state and district policy is developed. The Fayette SWCD, CDI and NACD all are driven by the needs of local people and resources. All services of SWCD's, CDI and NACD are given without discrimination on any basis.



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Four counties share in \$98,000 EQIP funds

In pasturing with the three neighboring counties, Fayette was approved for two special projects involving forestry and grazing.

In 1997, conservation groups from Fayette, Clayton, Allamakee and Winneshiek worked together to obtain cost share incentive funds through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for the two programs. The forestry program provides up to 75% cost share for practices such as timber stand improvement, tree planting, and fencing for livestock exclusion. In recent years, funding levels have been substantially less than the demand. This year \$98,000 are available for the four county area.

Management intensive grazing is another cost share incentive program. This program encourages intensive rotational grazing where pastures are divided into small units or paddocks. Livestock are then loved or rotated often to increase efficiency of the forage.

Up to 75% cost share is available for fencing, watering systems, seeding and fertilizer, and pasture management.

Funding level for 2000 is \$16,000 for the four county area. Contact the NRCS or FSA office for more information. Sign-up is Mar. 13 - Mar. 31.



\$3.3 million approved for EQIP

By Leroy Brown
State conservationist

Beginning Jan. 18, \$3.3 million in conservation cost-share funds will be available through USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to Iowa landowners interested in improving land, water and other natural resources.

\$1 million in EQIP funds are designated for statewide priority resource concerns, including soil erosion, water quality, manure management and grasslands, and will be available in the statewide sign-up through March 3.

Applications will be taken at USDA Service Centers. Applications will be ranked and selected for funding based on how well planned conservation work will address statewide resource concerns at the most reasonable cost to USDA.

The remaining \$2.3 million of Iowa's EQIP funds are designated for 46 geographical priority areas across the state. Local work groups, which consist of conservation agencies and organizations, will hold signups for producers that live within the respective areas.

Applications will be ranked locally and selected for funding based on how conservation work will address locally-identified priorities. Most local signups will be held in the spring. Contact your local USDA Service Center for specific dates.

Leroy Brown, state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a USDA agency with leadership for EQIP,



Leroy Brown

encourages landowners to apply at their local USDA Service Center soon.

"Landowner participation in EQIP has been high in Iowa since the program began in 1997," Brown said. "We anticipate high interest again this year, and EQIP funds for statewide resource concerns will go quickly."

Producers who are not accepted in the 2000 EQIP signup are encouraged to inquire about other cost-share options.

"EQIP is just one of the many tools available to help landowners protect and improve natural resources," Brown said. "The staff at local USDA Service Centers can discuss other local, state and federal conservation programs."

Under EQIP, USDA provides technical assistance, up to 75 percent cost-share on certain structural prac-

tices, and incentive payments to producers who enter 5-10 year contracts based on conservation plans. There is a \$10,000 per year limit, with a total limit of \$50,000.

EQIP practices include but are not limited to: grassed waterways, manure management facilities, terracing, pest management, ag drainage wellhead protection and pasture management. Other practices include tree planting, windbreaks, stripcropping, conservation tillage, wildlife habitat management and wetlands restoration, enhancement or creation.

For more information or to apply for EQIP, contact your local USDA Service Center.

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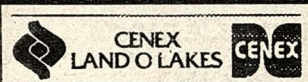
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N.E. Iowa Dairy Foundation to be Iowa's first Center of Excellence

by Dan Burkhardt,
Fayette County Extension

Governor Tom Vilsack has bestowed the title of Iowa's First Center of Excellence for Value-Added Agriculture on the Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation. The Northeast Iowa Community-Based Dairy Foundation is made up of citizens who care about northeast Iowa and the dairy industry. This grassroots foundation is collaborating with Iowa State University (ISU) -- colleges of agriculture and veterinary medicine, experiment station, and extension -- and Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) to develop a strategic plan for the region's long-term success. The partnership is working on a community-based dairy initiative to create a dairy education and applied research laboratory that will benefit the entire northeast region.

The dairy industry represents a significant component of Iowa agriculture, with the sale of milk, cull cows, and calves contributing more than \$561 million to the state's economy. Raw milk sales alone account for a dairy cash flow of \$1.4 million for Iowa. Dairy is more labor intensive than other agricultural enterprises, providing productive work for 10,000 Iowans on farms and 3,600 in hauling and processing plants. The total annual economic contribution of dairy to the Iowa economy, including the value of labor, support services, and materials, is in excess of \$1.5 billion.

Dairy serves as the primary economic force in the northeast portion of the state. Seventy-two percent of Iowa's dairy cattle are

owned by nearly 3,000 family farm businesses in the 15 counties of the northeast Iowa extension area. The dairy industry and the supporting infrastructure have had a significant positive economic impact on the people, agriculture, and communities of the region.

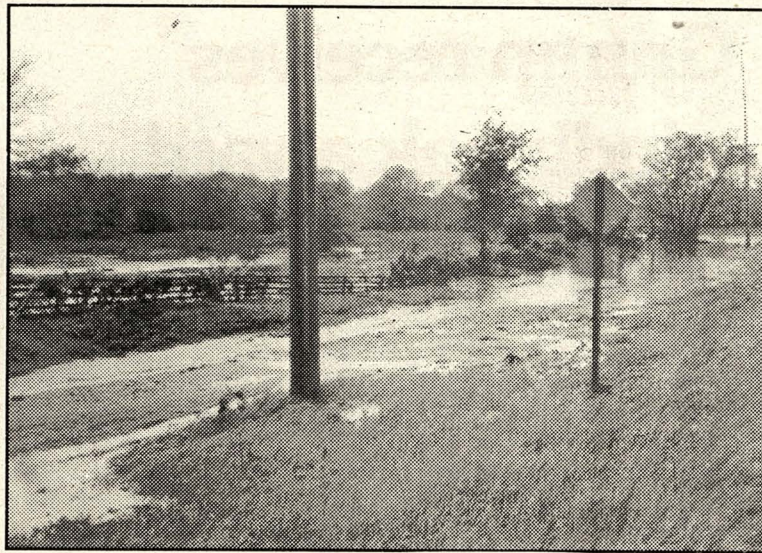
The dairy industry, like most other agricultural industries, is undergoing a major transition. Farm operator retirements, a free marketing pricing system, regional competition, new technologies, and increased family living demands are challenging the way producers operate. Needs assessments conducted by ISU Extension confirm a growing concern over the industry's future direction. Dairy families want to know how to make profitable and competitive changes in the farm business for long-term success and maintain an acceptable quality of life.

The dairy enterprise is highly technical and management intensive, but applied research and demonstrations of new technologies in the dairy industry do not exist in northeast Iowa. Both new and veteran producers need results from such activities to evaluate and implement modern production and marketing systems. In addition, the service sector of the industry has a significant need for hands-on technical training to meet current demands and remain competitive in the market place.

The community-based dairy initiative will focus on issues affecting family dairy farms, dairy processing, community development, and the environment. The dairy education and applied re-

search laboratory will enable the ISU partners to expand education programs, strengthen extension programs and enhance student recruitment. The laboratory will help ISU and NICC develop training programs for the next generation of dairy industry entrepreneurs.

Governor Vilsack, ISU, and NICC have committed over a million dollars toward this project. The Dairy Foundation goal is to raise \$500,000 from 17 northeast Iowa counties to support the effort. Dairy producers and businesses can support the project at several different levels. Annual membership is \$25 and lifetime membership is \$250. Other donation levels are: buy a calf - \$150; buy a heifer - \$500; buy a cow - \$1400; buy an acre - \$2500. Checks can be sent to the Dairy Foundation, P.O. Box 400, Calmar, IA 52132. Persons wanting more information can call Dan Burkhardt, Fayette County Extension Education Director, at 425-3331.



This area north of Maynard, along the Volga River, was severely damaged.



NEAR ELGIN - this field lies along Otter Creek. Most of the topsoil now gone, shows markings of the chisel plow.

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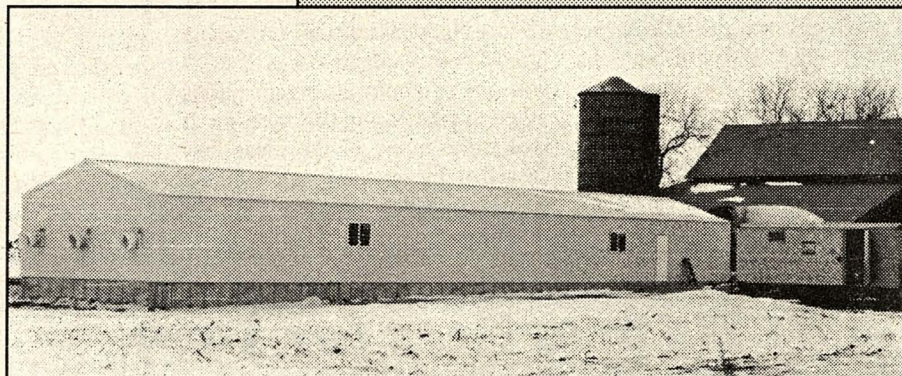
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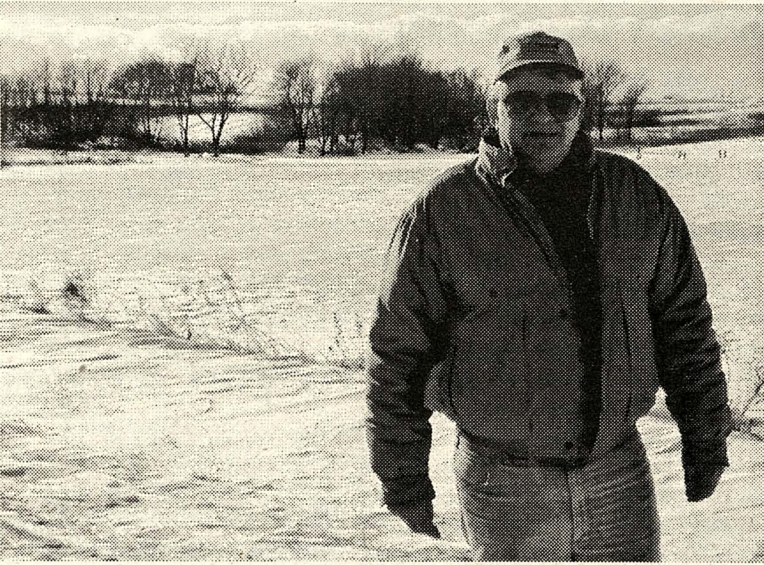
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S. Jon Grimes stands near the pond in one of his fields off Iowa Highway 56 near West Union. In the background are some of the trees he planted near the pond and in the distance are terraces to help control erosion. Grimes' conservation efforts earned him the Owner-Operator Award for 1999.

Grimes gets owner-operator of year nod

Rural West Union farmer S. Jon Grimes' conservation efforts earned him the SWCD Owner-Operator of the Year award.

Grimes owns and operates 335 acres and rents another 75 acres from a neighbor near Iowa Highway 56. He bought the farm in 1980 as a Century Farm from his father. The farm has been in the family for 130 years. Grimes' great-grandfather farmed the area before Grimes' father bought it.

"Dad established contour strips in the 1950s, alternating between hay, oats and corn," Grimes said. "In the late 1960s, he had the first terraces built in a couple of unprotected fields."

Grimes said the program served the farm well until his family's dairying efforts discontinued in the 1980s. The rotation was changed to a more intensive corn-on-corn rotation. Contour buffer strips and field borders were added in the 1990s to comply with the conservation plans established for the farm.

When another farm came out of the conservation reserve program, Grimes established a conservation plan for the area. He set up grass contour buffer strips, field borders and grass waterways throughout the farm. He also tied in three existing terraces to the plan.

After completing the farm pond in 1996, Grimes decided to change the contour buffers into terraces to better protect the pond from siltation while maintaining the grass strips around the pond itself. The top two terraces were built in fall 1997 and the lower terrace was built in fall 1998.

"(The terraces) saved a consid-

erable amount of siltation damage to the pond during the heavy spring rains of 1999," Grimes said. "The rains were too heavy for the holding capacity of the terraces and some damage was done by water going over the top of the terraces."

He said the pond did take in mud from the terrace intake lines and rose 2 1/2 feet. However, the pond did not rise high enough to go over the emergency spillway. No damage was done to the area.

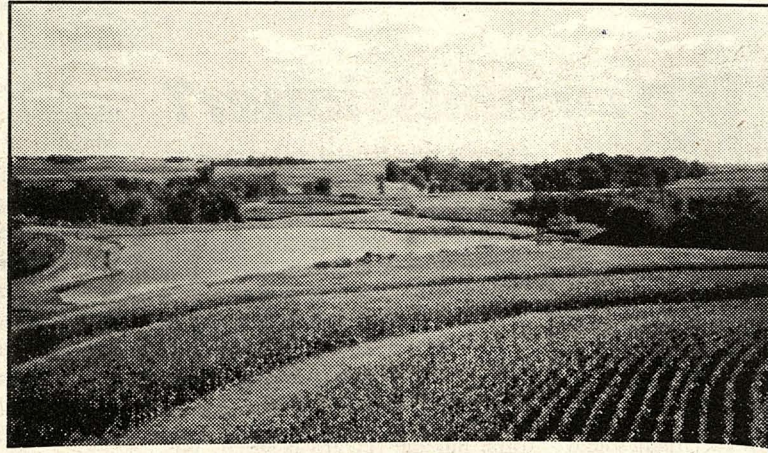
"I guess it was a good test, but we don't need heavy rains like that," he said. "Overall damage wasn't severe but there was some erosion spread out over all the farms."

Grimes takes pride in his farm and conservation work. Lately, he has been shifting to a corn-bean rotation and has practiced no-till. He noticed the no-till created little or no extra erosion on his land.

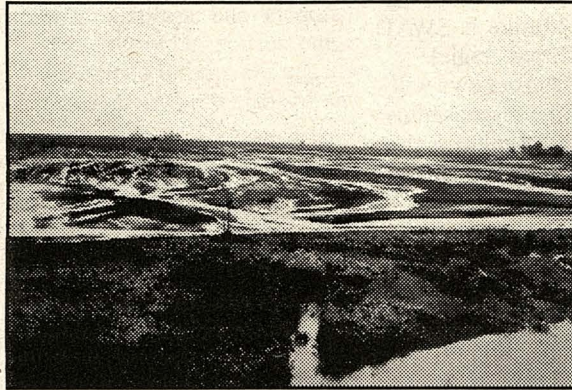
"I had trouble with no-tilling corn into corn, but no-tilling into a corn-bean rotation is very easy and gives good results while reducing costs and keeping yields up," he said.

The biggest drawback Grimes sees in field borders and contour buffer strips is the non-income producing land if hay is not an option on those areas and they can't be included in the CRP. He has entered the strips into the CRP to get the benefits of controlling soil erosion and for wildlife habitat.

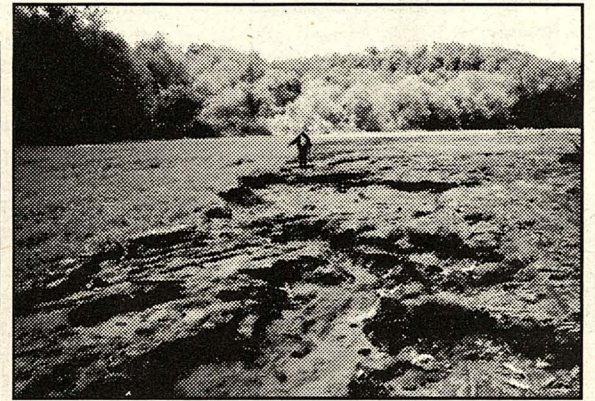
"Farming margins are too tight for the farmer to stand these costs," he said. "On the other side of the coin, these practices and structures over the years should make up for their costs by saving the soil, thus, hopefully, making for higher production."



The pond on the S. Jon Grimes farm, with filter strip next to the pond and contour buffer strips above.



The May 16 storm took its toll on Fayette County soil. Unprotected field recently made ready to plant, were most vulnerable.



A vegetative filter strip, recently enrolled in the CRP was effective in protecting the soil. However, the water's force was still too much for the adjacent cropland. This site is on the Otter Creek near Elgin.

Financial assistance sought for ECP waterways

By Alan Crowe
State Technician

Due to last May's heavy rains, a great number of producers in Fayette County applied for financial assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program.

Of the hundreds of requests made, many were for repairing waterways. Almost every waterway in the southern part of the county suffered some sort of damage, typically cutting along the edges in the upper reaches and heavy silt and sand deposits in the lower reaches.

Although the rains were abnormally heavy, it did make one thing very obvious — heavy amounts of soil and erosion can occur on NHEL land. It was

a real eye opener for many producers who thought waterways, or any other type of conservation practice, were not needed in the "flat" country.

The NRCS field office provided waterway design information based upon the size of the drainage area of the waterway. A drainage area of 10 acres or less called for a parabolic shape of 20 feet wide by one foot deep. A 10- to 30-acre drainage area has a 35-by-1.3-foot design and a 30- to 50-acre design is 50 by 1.3 feet.

Normally NRCS would NOT encourage any waterway construction be done after September because of the slim chance of getting any seeding established to protect the bare ground. However, because of

the tremendous number of waterways needing shaping and the mild fall weather, we informed producers that if they chose to shape their waterways late last fall, they would need to mulch the areas as best they could and seed down this spring.

Those who did not get their shaping done need to request a time extension from the FSA office. This will give the producer until June 15 to complete the project.

Remember, don't plant crops in or around your waterways so that construction can be accomplished without damaging your crops.

One last note — all ECP waterways must be maintained for at least 10 years after the calendar year of installation.

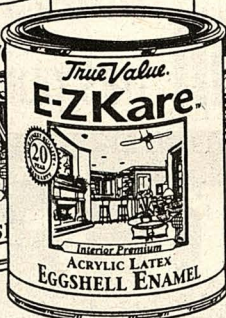


Dan Burkhardt showing a newly formed wetland left by the scouring action of the Volga River just east of Wadena.

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What is a commissioner?

By Richard Jensen
SWCD Commissioner

A commissioner is an elected person who has a desire to encourage, promote, assist, support and enable land users to protect and improve the environment.

We are a five-member committee that provides cost share and technical assistance to achieve these worthwhile efforts. This might sound simple, but it is not all that trivial. Each request for assistance is varied and requires specific measures for a remedy.

Some practices such as contouring, strip cropping, waterways, buffer strips and no-till will be ample application to solve erosion losses. At other times terracing, CRP and rotation will be required. We have access to NRCS technicians, soil scientists and engineers to design and evaluate more complex situations.

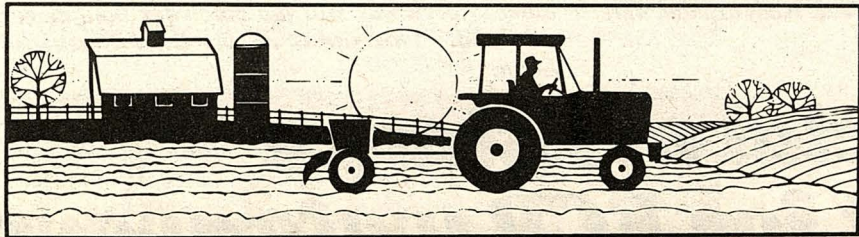
Regardless of the nature of the problem we have a wide range of practices that will be beneficial in reducing erosion and run off water.

Occasionally federal and state budget restraints and counterproductive regulations hamper our success, but generally we can benefit your land with long-term conservation plans. Bring in your soil loss concerns and find out how willing we are to be of service.

You commissioner receives no financial compensation for his efforts, but the reward is great. We know that man's very existence still depends on the productivities and quality of our soil and water. Without stewardship of SWAT (soil, water, air, trees) our future is SWAT (short, woeful, afflicted, tragic).

The outcome is in our own willingness to accept the responsibility of stewardship. Our committee is also influential in guiding legislation that applies to agriculture policies. We encourage those bills that are favorable for improving the environment.

I invite you to come into our office and learn more about what a commissioner is and how we may serve you.



What is a conservationist?

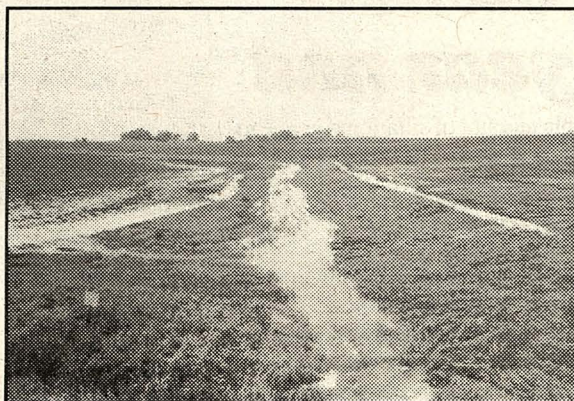
By William E. Bennett

A conservationist is one who uses resources in a manner in which it will benefit present and future generations. One who realizes that all things are interdependent, that what ever you do to one thing will affect other things. A conservationist is a person who is always trying to achieve balance; he/she invests in and uses resources today so that future generations will have a future. A conservationist is a person who truly cares about all resources.

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sioners are conservationists. They work with all our resources, soil, water, air, human, animal, mental, financial, mechanical, electronic, vegetative, and any other resources you can think of, to provide a better life for all who reside on this earth. They do not believe in stealing from the future to provide for today nor to steal from today to provide for the needs of tomorrow.

The district commissioners believe that local needs are best met if local people decide on those needs and work to achieve these needs. They ask for your help in deciding what the needs are and how to best meet these needs.



This grassed waterway providing protection, but not large enough to carry all the runoff from the storm.

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Phosphorus a detriment to water quality

By John Rodecap

Phosphorus (P) is an essential nutrient for the growth of plants, including algae in water. As the amount of P increases, the production of algae increases, affecting the aesthetics, fish populations, recreations and drinking water of lakes and streams.

Algae, which eventually dies and consumes oxygen (O₂) during decomposition, decreases the dissolved O₂ in water. Fish and aquatic life are displaced from some water when the dissolved oxygen gets too low.

The concentration of P associated with algae growth is very low, 0.01 to 0.03 parts per million (ppm). The exact number for regulatory purposes is currently being debated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Algae problems develop in standing water at P concentrations lower than those in flowing water. The current goal is 0.05 ppm for flowing water at the point where it enters a lake and 0.025 for standing water in a lake.

State legislature-funded and Iowa State University-led monitor-

ing of the Maquoketa River Headwaters before it enters Backbone Lake has the following average P concentrations: 1999 spring snowmelt, 0.154 ppm; base flow (April-June, significant field tile drainage), 0.09 ppm. Peak flow (April-June), 0.156 ppm.

In recent years there has been a change to more intensive agricultural production, especially animal production. This change has resulted in a buildup of soil P levels rarely encountered in the past. As a result there is increased potential for P losses and risk to surface water.

When absorption sites for P in the soil become saturated, P is potentially more available for runoff and leaching losses. Surface waters receive P dissolved in runoff water, attached to eroded soil particles and contained in tile drainage.

Rainfall affects the soil surface mixing zone (the top two-inch layer). There is a positive relationship between soil test P levels and concentrations of dissolved P in runoff water. Eroded sediment tends to have

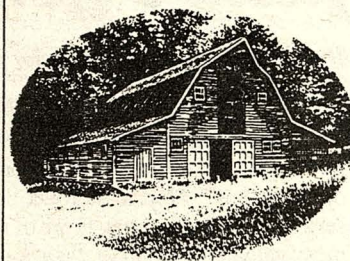
a higher P concentration than the soil from which it eroded. Potential losses into surface waters can be reduced with appropriate tillage and soil conservation practices.

The relationship between soil P and loss of P in runoff and erosion is an environmental concern when very high P soil test levels are maintained. Data from Iowa State University obtained from a corn-soybean rotation show that it may take a decade or more to reduce a very high soil test P to an optimum soil test range. The economic returns are negative for maintaining very high soil test values.

Much of the P in corn grain is in the form of phytic acid, which is not available to swine and chickens. Most grain P is excreted in manure. Phytase enzymes, added to swine rations, increase the availability of P in corn grain and reduce the amount of P excreted.

Practices that affect P concentrations include the rate, method and

Some Things Stand The Test Of Time...



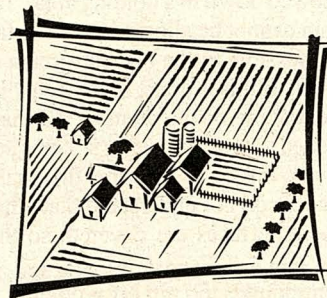
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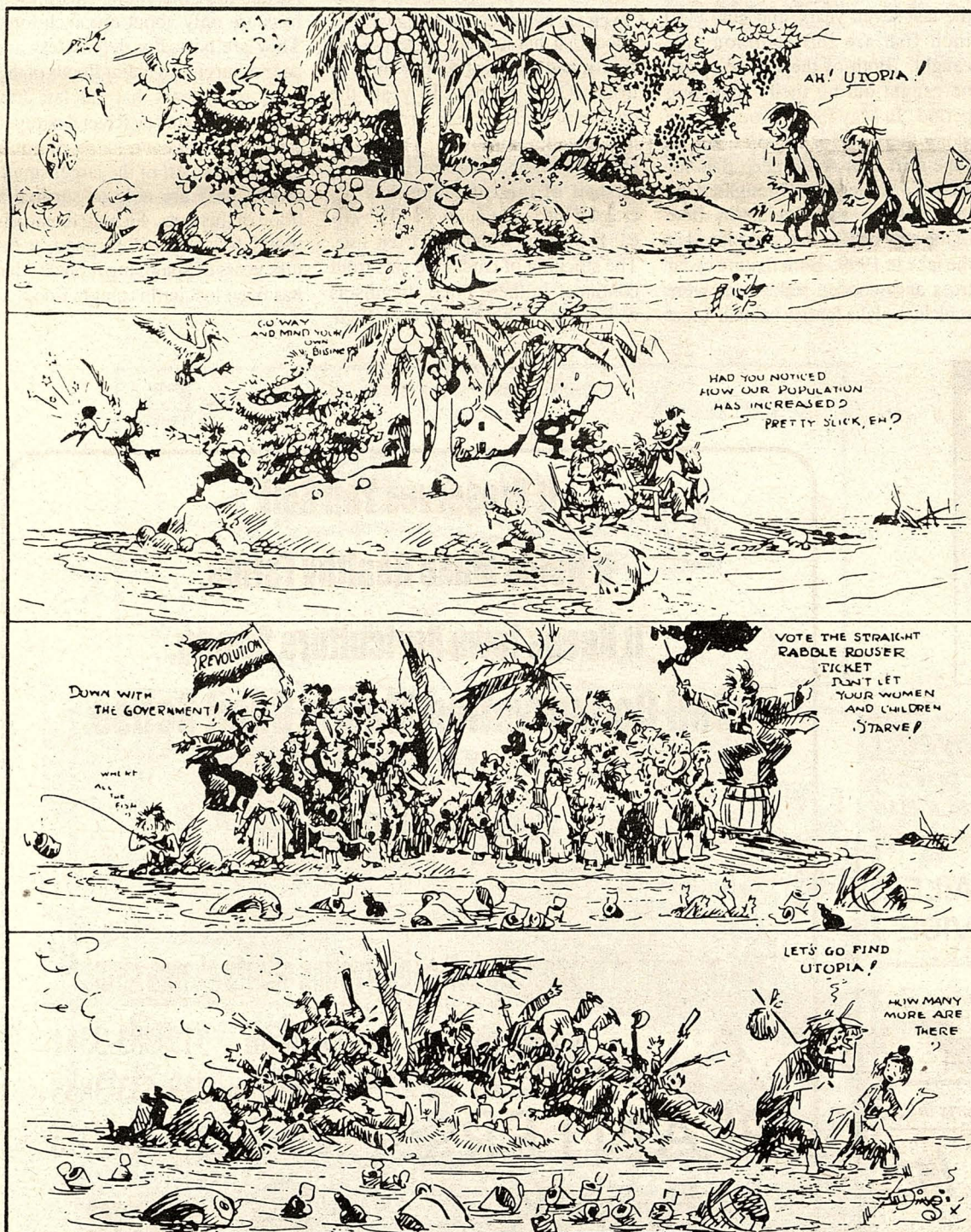
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By "Ding" Darling

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Soil conservation improves the land for future generations

By Bill Bennett, SWCD director

1999 Northeast Iowa sets record for exports

These headlines sound like 1999 was a year we should all be proud of, doesn't it? Northeast Iowa did set a record for exporting more of its most valuable resources than ever before. The problem was it was our soil and water. It was a joint effort of all the urban and rural residents of northeast Iowa. Oh, as usual some of us did more than others in this effort and you very easily see it.

It really showed who was trying to maintain our resources and those that did not seem to care if they robbed all the future generations of an opportunity to live in a productive area. When visiting with a man who was trying to keep this a place for future generations to live, he said he thanked God for his neighbor that had done more soil and water conservation practices. In the areas that were below that neighbor, the ditches were only half as deep as another who had done less.

1999 showed that soil and water conservation practices did not stop all erosion and flooding, but it did make a significant difference. Most farmers that farmed land that is considered highly erodible used practices that lower the erosion. Unfortunately, many who were farming land considered to be non-highly erodible did not use these

practices and you could certainly see the difference. The good thing about all of this is that many who saw the difference in the damage to the land they operate are now asking for help from the conservation district to make use of effective conservation practices.

We need to get our urban neighbors, especially those that plan streets, highways, parking lots, and roofed areas, to understand that the rain that falls on those areas needs to be dispersed into the soil or at least slowed down in a holding area. The rain cannot be allowed to run as fast as possible to the nearest stream or river. If this is done, it will help prevent some of the damage that happened to property along streams and rivers this year. It seems that many people do not understand that when these surfaces are covered, so that the rain cannot soak into the soil, it compounds the run off problems.

The cost to repair damages was in the millions of dollars and that does not include the billions of dollars lost when our best soil became a problem for those that live down stream from us. We must all consider the tremendous cost of not using conservation practices and protect our natural resources. Our natural resources need to be respected and used wisely.

From the DNR Fisheries Biologist -

Good soil conservation positively impacts fishing

By Bill Kalishek

Successful soil conservation measures have a profound impact on the water quality of lakes and streams. Any long time angler knows that the cleaner the water in their favorite fishing hole, the higher number of fish that can live in that section of water. What is the current quality of Fayette County "fishing holes"? Well, let's take a look at each one of them and find out.

Volga Lake will be 20 years old in 2000. Originally constructed in 1980, the bottom of the lake was lined with clay in order to prevent leakage through the fractured limestone originally very slow. As the lake began to age, the fish growth increased and now appears to be at normal levels.

Bluegill and crappie are the two main panfish that can be found in Volga lake. Bluegill in the 7-8 inch size are commonly caught by anglers, and fish up to 9 inches are present. The crappie have grown in the last seven years, and now 8-10 inch fish are the common size caught. Both of these species can be caught during their spawning period. In May fish the rock rip-rap along the dam for crappies, and in June drift over 4-8 ft deep flats for spawning bluegills. Throughout the rest of the year try fishing on some of the new habitat that was placed in the lake in 1999. Both mature cedar trees and wooden stake beds were sunk in the lake for fish habitat. Most

of these were placed near shore for access from bank anglers. Two large piles of trees were sunk in 16 to 20 feet of water and hold fish throughout the year. Largemouth bass and channel catfish can also be caught in these areas. New lake maps are available that have these habitat locations marked.

Volga Lake's water is generally very clear. It is not unusual to be able to see the lake bottom even in as much as 18ft of water. Some siltation is occurring in the upper ends of each of the three arms of the lake, but the main lake has not been impaired. Increased cost shares may be available in the future to implement soil conservation practices in the watershed of Volga Lake.

Grannis Creek is probably the highest quality coldwater stream in Fayette County. In 1998 we documented for the first time the natural spawning of brown trout in this stream. **Glovers Creek** and **Otter Creek** are two streams that have very good fish habitat but have not recently had successful spawning of trout. Over the past 30 years the quality of each of these streams has undoubtedly improved. The use of soil conservation measures in the watershed of these streams has increased the water quality and physical habitat in which the trout live. The stocking of catchable size trout continues in these three streams as well as in **Mink Creek** and **Bear**

Creek in Fayette County.

The last two prime fishing holes in Fayette County are the two largest rivers: the **Turkey River** and the **Volga River**. The most sought after fish in these two rivers has to be the smallmouth bass. This fish populates these rivers completely through natural spawning. Smallmouth bass eggs are usually deposited in May over gravel bottom sections of the stream. By July the bass eggs have hatched and the young fish are about one inch in length.

In 1999 the month of May and July were not very kind to the smallmouth bass. Major flooding on the Volga River occurred in May, and the Turkey River had high water floods in both May and July. Floods that occur in May have the potential to destroy smallmouth bass eggs that are still in the nests. Usually even more destructive are the midsummer floods that occur in July or August. At this time the young smallmouth bass are only about one inch long. They are basically defenseless and cannot survive in major floods of this type. It appears that this late July flood on the Turkey River destroyed most of this year's hatch of smallmouth bass. All of the larger smallmouth bass are able to survive a flood of this type. Fishing for smallmouth bass will still be good, as future years of spawning replace what has been lost in this single flood.

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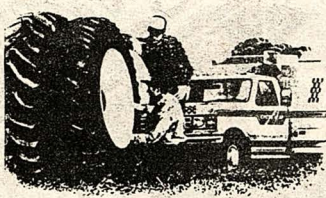
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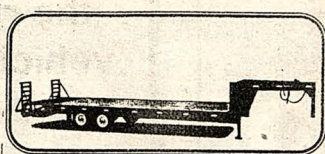
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Annual report from Conservation Districts of Iowa

Soil Conservation... February, 2000

Page 19 **Forestry grad to
aid landowners
with timber
management**

By William (Bill) E. Bennett, President - CDI

Early in January, resolutions brought forward by Iowa SWCD's that were passed by at least a 60% margin, in voting at the state level and were of national interest were taken to Chicago, Ill. for the support of the north central region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin) of NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts). Then in late January and early February they were taken on to the national NACD meeting in San Diego, Calif. At the hearings in California all the resolutions from Iowa were turned down.

In mid-January CDI co-hosted a luncheon for state legislators

In mid-January CDI co-hosted a luncheon for state legislators in the state capitol building. CDI and the State Soil Conservation Committee, each gave a short presentation on the conservation needs across the state and urged state legislators to consider these needs as they did their work. We had a good turn out of legislators and the Iowa Watershed Program is one result from this effort.

In March spring regionals were held in all nine of the regions in Iowa. These meetings

provide training to commissioners. Commissioners were able to choose to learn more about their duties and responsibilities or more about Backyard Conservation.

March also saw CDI officers in Washington, D.C. delivering to all the Iowa congressional delegation what the conservation needs were in each of the one hundred SWCD's in Iowa and information on how federal dollars were being used in Iowa to protect our natural resources.

The regional Iowa Environment contests were held across the state in late March and early April. The state contest was held at Springbrook State Park April 26. A team from Linn-Mar schools won first place and later in the year went to California to compete in the National Environment against teams from all across the USA and Canada.

From June until late fall CDI participated in meetings with the Iowa Corn Growers, Iowa Soybean Growers, Iowa Cattlemen, Iowa DNR, Iowa Dept. of Ag. and Land Stewardship, Iowa Farm Bureau and others concerning water quality and TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Loads) of water bodies. These commodity groups decided to become proactive in protecting our resources and will be advising their members on how they can become better stewards of our natural resources.

Cedar Rapids was the site of the north central NACD regional



Bill Bennett

meeting in July. CDI was the host and had spent several months planning and making arrangements. One of the tours of conservation practices that many went on was to the Amana Colonies.

The first part of August found the CDI board of directors and the SSCC members touring conservation practices in southwest Iowa. The tour was to acquaint people with the special problems of the area. The things looked at ranged from flood and soil loss problems to confinement hog buildings and other livestock issues.

Early September was the annual meeting of CDI. Resolutions brought forward by SWCD's were discussed and voted on.

Training was held for commissioners and the election of president and vice president was held. Bill Bennett of the Fayette SWCD was elected president and Bernie Bolton of the East Pottawattamie SWCD was elected vice president.

In October work was started in helping to develop a budget package for the Iowa Division of Soil Conservation and this process continued to the end of the year. The process will continue through the 2000 legislative session.

Fall regions were held early in December. These meetings provide information and training on how to work with elected officials and urban sprawl. CDI was represented at the National Private Lands Conservation Summit at ISU and at Governor Vilsack's conservation budget hearing in Council Bluffs.

Aron Flickinger, a forestry graduate from Iowa State University, will be assisting landowners with their new tree plantings, timber management, and cost share programs. He will work out of Gary's Beyer's office and can be contacted there as needed at (515) 228-6611.

Flickinger has been with the DNR for three years since graduating from ISU. He has worked at the State Forestry Nursery growing seedlings later offered through SWCDs for sale. Flickinger was in charge of the watering and fertilizing of the seedlings during the growing season. In the fall and spring he coordinated the shipping of 4 million seedlings in a period of 6 to 8 weeks.

As a result of the increased demand for forestry services in Northeast Iowa, four other foresters in addition to Flickinger were hired to keep up with the workload.

The forestry positions came about as a result of legislation sponsored by Sen. Kitty Rehberg, Rep. Roger Thomas and the Northeast Iowa Forestry Advisory Committee. In an effort to meet the demands of landowners from the area in a more timely manner the positions were created. The funding for the positions comes from the increased prices of state nursery seedlings.

Flickinger says, "I look forward to meeting the public to address their forestry questions in the near future."



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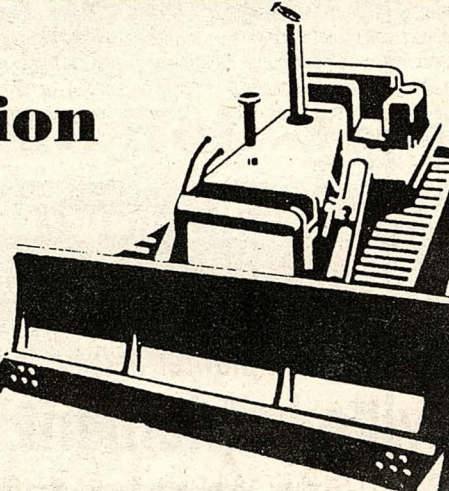
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SWCD Supporter Club

donations listed for 1999

Page 20

Soil Conservation... February, 2000

We would like to thank the following people who so generously donated to the 1999 Soil & Water Conservation District Supporter Club. We do appreciate your support.

1999 Soil & Water Supporters: Ralph W. Adams, Doline Allbee, Mary Batterson, Ken Butters, Martha Chapman, Curtis Chensvold, Robert Cowles, Patrick Duffy, Robert Finch, Mike Finnegan, Vincent Gaskill, Ralph Gilmer, Chuck Gray, Galen Griffin, W.A. Grundmeyer, Theodore Hageman, Evelyn Halverson, Daryl Humphrey, Jim Ingels, William Kauten, Lois Kelly, Steve Kennon, Arlin Knief, Kenneth Kohls, Garland Knight, Leonard Knipper, Carol Langerman, Edie Langerman, Herman Lenz, Art Matt, Dorothy Medberry, MHRM Inc., Marilyn Mihall, Miller Family Farm, Jason Moellers, Ralph Moellers, Mark Moser, W. Harry Haffziger, Robert Numedahl Don Oelrich, Joyce Oldfather, Herman Peterman, Darwin Peterson, Harold Popenhagen, James Rasmussen, Rausch Family Inc., LaVerne Ries, Alfred Schlatter, Roger Schmelzer, R.J. Scott, Robert Scott, Marilyn Seedorff, Iola Stannard, Philip Stohr, Robert Stone, Richard Stubenrauch, Berniece Walsh, Vera Winter,

J.R. Wynthein, Stephen Zupke.

1999 Soil & Water Savers: John R. Adams, Alan Albrecht, Don Alcorn, Marjorie Alenstien, Arlington Co-op, Mark Arthur, Shirley Bagenstos, David Baier, Charles Baumler, Ferne Bennett, Kilian Bodenstener, Clayton Bonjour, Bostrom's Super Valu, Boyer Tree Farm, Gary Brownell, John Bruhler, Veryl Burghardt, Citizens Savings Bank, Lulu Cowles, Thomas Davis, D & J Pumping, Don Durscher, Doug Egeland Tiling, Darwin Fink, Four Strong Ltd, Sheldon Fox, Eugene Franzen, Darlene Granger, Brian Harper, Tom Hayes, George Hackman, Lois Heick, Harold Heins, Suzanne Henn, Gladys Henry, Helen Halstead, Dale Halverson, Roger Halverson, Ruth Hansen, Paul Hoeger, Bill Hogan, Jim Hurley, Warren Iliff, Marvin Ingels, Greg James, Keith James, Lorraine Jeckel, Brad Johnson, Balz Kamm, Elsie Kittleson, Harris Kjos, Samuel Koehler, E.B. Kunkle, Keith Lansing, L & H Ranch, Jean Leech, Mark Lemke, Meta Lueder, D.P. McAllister, John McFadden, Marian McIntosh, Edith Mann, Karen Martin, James Moeller, Jim Moss, Leo Mulford, Merrill Nerem, Stanley Ney, Ron

O'Kones, Robert Olsen, David Palas, Harry Pape, Clarence Pleggenkuhle, Donald Pliester, Eldon Polk, Matthew Porter, Steven Rau, Dean Rueber, Ruth Rummel, Jon Saboe, Henry Schmitt, Jacob Schneider, Francis Schnor, Paul Schuchmann, Ron Seedorff, James Smith, Patricia Smith Cecil Snively, Kenneth Springer, T.J. Stecklein, Nick Steinlage, Eleanor Swent, Donald Vagts, Keith Valesh, Roberta Warner, Eugene Wenger, Westgate Elevator, Tom Weston, Dan Winter Jr., George Woodard, John Woods.

1999 Soil & Water Stewards: Jon Andersen, C.M. Barker, Robert Bassett, Edna Beermann, Roger Beermann, Ron Beermann, William Bennett, Patricia Bergman, Robert Bertch, LuAnn Berthel-Munns, C.M. Bowling Farms, Brehme Construction, Catherine Britt, Don Bunn, Gary Burger, Burrack Farm Inc., Mabel Burrack, Bob Campbell, Clarke Campbell, Darryl Cannon, Sidney Crowe, Tom Claassen, Jerry Cole, Gerald Cook, Ron Corbin, Bruce Crandall, Jim Cue, Darlene Cummings Trst., Dave Drilling, Leslie Duckett, Dan Fagle, Fauser Oil Co. Inc., 1st National Bank-West Union, Richard Ford,

David Gamm, Brad Geerdes, Glass Farms Inc., Granger Construction, William Gregory, Green Farms, Grimm Farms Inc., Gross Low Farm, Norbert Hackman, Jim Halstead, Matt Hamlett, Ruth Hansen, Harrison Farm, Hawkeye Co-op, Bert Henderson, Mike Holtz, Hurdal Inc., Rosemary Hyman, Ken Iliff, Kyle Jacobsen, Philip S. James, Melvin Janssen, Max Jennings, Robert Kalb, Barry Kamm, Lynn Kelck, Alice Koempel, Ben Kremenak, Dan Kuennen, Kunkle-Barry Farms, Brian Lantzky, Leslie Lauer & Sons, Gerald Lynch, Robert Margroff, Don Martins, Clarion Mathys, Gary Maurer, Maynard Co-op, Maynard Savings Bank, Kenneth F. Meyer, Rodney Morse, Donald Mueller, Tom Murphy, Myron Nagle, Millard Nelson Jr., Carol Nus, Paul Nuss, Will Ogle, Doug Pagel, Volney Palmer Est., Patterson Bros LLC, Carl Pohlrad, David

Rausch, Don Rausch, Karel Rawson, RD&D-Postville, Robert Reeder, Loras Reicks, Rehorst Farm Acct., John Riley, Helen Roberts, Florence Robinson, Stephen Rourke, Rush Farm Acct., June Sanders, Irene Scheit, Chris Schlatter, Neil Schwake, Vernon Shaw, Gordon Shepard, Eugene Sieck, Hans Siemers, Allan Sloan, Noel Smith, State Bank of Lawler, Kevin Steffens, Floyd Stensland, Szabo Construction Inc., Warren Trotter, Everett Vagts, Vagts Sawmill, Valley Co-op, Robert Wilbur, Joe Wingert, Roger Winter, Jim Zuck.

Assessor's office to handle slough tax exemption

The Fayette County Assessor's office is in the process of taking over the slough bill tax exemption program. The Fayette SWCD will only be taking applications until April 1 of this year. Applications for the year 2001 will need to be made at the Assessor's office in the Fayette County Courthouse, West Union.

Landowners have until April 1 to submit their annual applications for the slough bill, a property tax exempt program for land designated as wildlife habitat. This is primarily for open prairies and wetlands that provide no economic return. Therefore, cropping, haying, or grazing is not allowed on land in the slough bill program. Woodland, if not being grazed, is eligible and can be signed up at the County Assessor's office.

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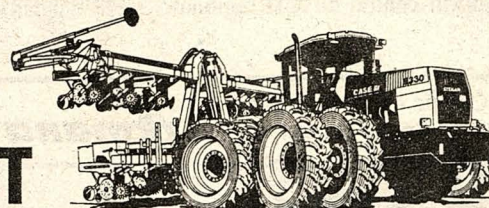


Front: Brian Knoke, Kent Nelson and Craig DeBerg.
Back: Richard Witt and Kevin Brooks

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Fayette SWCD Commissioners

Commissioners for the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District include (front) Dick Jensen, John Grafenberg, Karen Ott (district employee), (back) Deb Dessel, Paul Nuss and Bill Bennett.

SWCD scholarship applications sought

The Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District annually sponsors a scholarship to be awarded to any Fayette County High School Senior. The scholarship is presented to a high school senior to be used in their first year of education on the college level while pursuing programs of study in any field of agriculture or natural resources. (These areas of study are very broad and open and can involve business, education, etc. with emphasis on agriculture, conservation, and natural resources.)

This scholarship is awarded to a male or female student who shows Leadership Qualities (service, character, self-motivation), Scholastic Achievement and Need.

The district scholarship is \$500. Each district winner's application is then sent on to the Regional District where there is a possibility of receiving an additional \$100. Regional winners are then sent to the state level with three more scholarships being awarded in the amounts of \$800, \$400, and \$200.

Students interested in applying for this scholarship should contact their High School Guidance Counselor for an application. Scholarship applications must be in the Fayette County Soil and Water District office by March 1, 2000.

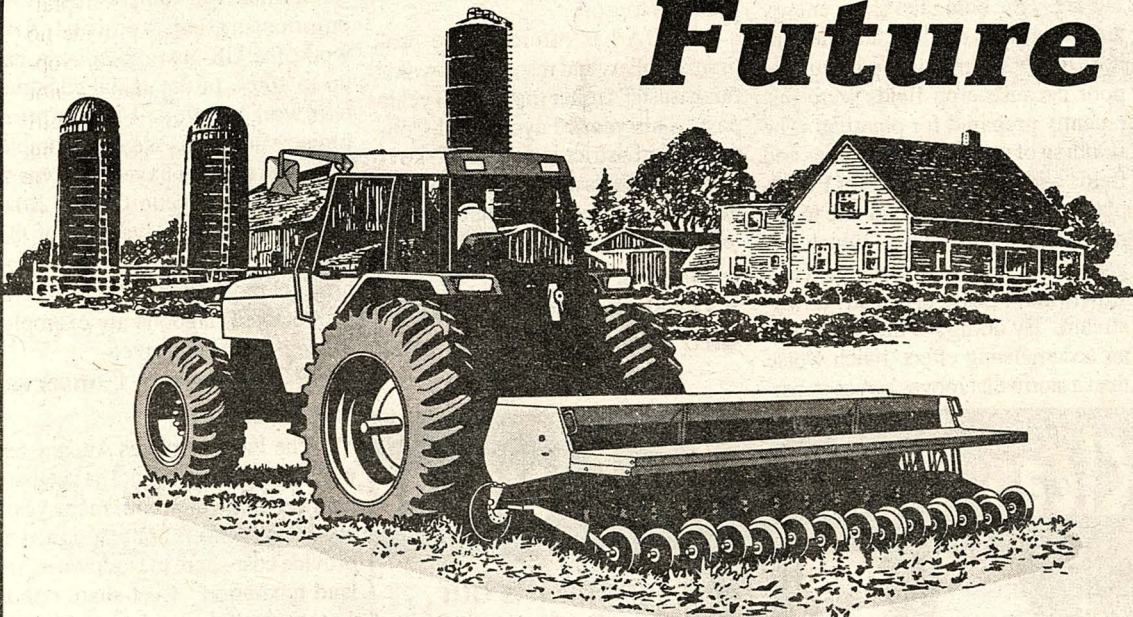
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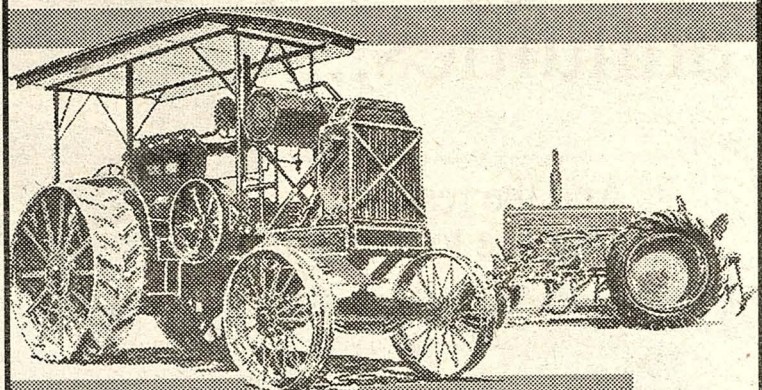
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May 16 storm brings devastation to Fayette County



The photo above illustrates an example of the damage to topsoil, in a field in Westfield township bordering the Volga River. Crevices at least a foot deep remained after the existing dike broke, the field flooded and later the river eventually receded.

Many county residents will to soon forget the date of May 16, 1999. Within a short period of time, the range of precipitation received was from three to ten inches within Fayette County. Roughly four of the five bottom tiers of townships or 80% of the county was severely affected. The nature of the storm was especially aggravating due to a few factors. One being the sheer energy and amount of rainfall plus the timing of the storm was particularly poor because crop fields were just recently prepared for planting. The flooding of several communities and fields within the Volga River Floodplain was also intensified due to the movement of the storm, which began west of the river's watershed and slowly moved east, or directly downstream. By doing so, the runoff has an accumulating effect, much worse than a storm that moves across or per-

pendicular to a river's watershed or basin.

By now, everyone has a story of their own or has heard numerous stories by others about the effects of the storm. Losses were phenomenal; to homes, and various personal goods, too numerous to mention, but one of the most significant losses this county experienced was the loss of precious topsoil.

USDA has offered more programs, dollars and resources towards this disaster's relief than any in years past. This year's Fayette Soil Conservation District is devoted to covering the effects the storm had on our natural resources and the disaster relief programs made available to landowners.

EWP-Emergency Watershed Program (2 programs)
Floodplain Easements

This relatively new program is administered by the NRCS. It is designed to take flood prone fields out of production and put under permanent vegetative cover forever. Agricultural land, which has been severely damaged by floodwaters, is eligible for enrollment. Landowners work with NRCs to complete a ranking procedure for their project, which will determine approval outcome. If tentatively approved, the landowner will receive the pre-flood value of the land from the government for a permanent easement. In general, the easement restricts agricultural use of the land and does not allow the landowner to receive any further disaster assistance for the land enrolled. The USDA pays for all associated costs of putting this land under perpetual easement.

Fayette Co. was very fortunate to have 17 of 21 applications approved. Thirteen of the 17 original applications are still active, covering approximately one thousand acres. Most Fayette Co. applications are located along the Volga River east of Wadena, and on the Brush Creek floodplain south of Wadena.

Units of Government

This program is administered by the NRCS. It provides up to 75% cost-share to units of government for projects which, due to recent flood damage has caused a situation, which presents a threat to human life. For approved projects where the unit of government can complete their own engineering and administrative work, the US government can pay up to 100% of the actual construction work. Fayette Co. has seven projects in various stages of completion. The cities of Fayette, Maynard, Wadena and Fayette County Road Dept. have taken advantage of this program. Levee repair, riprap projects protecting bridges and water treatment lagoons are examples of the projects approved.

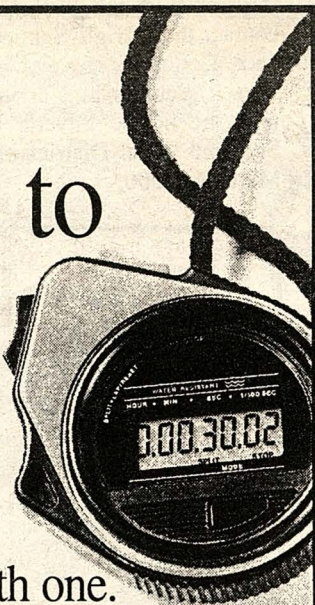
ECP-Emergency Conservation Program

The Farm Services Agency administers this program. The program has been in existence for many years and is still a useful one designed to provide cost-share to landowners for land reparation. Cost-share rate is up to 64% of the total cost. Eligible practices include land smoothing and shaping, debris removal, and repair of conservation practices, such as terraces, waterways and grade stabilization structures.

Applicants must have substantial damage to be eligible for cost-share assistance. The minimum amount expended that can be turned in to the FSA office is \$1600.

Due to widespread application and popularity of this program it has become a major workload for both FSA and NRCS employees. Fayette County has received approximately \$1.2 million for cost-share assistance. To date, at least 1200 applications have been made for this program.

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Recycling Center adds employee to staff

By Jodi Jeanes,
Recycling Coordinator

The Fayette County Recycling Center has made a few changes in the last year. We have added a new employee, Ivan "Jim" Stanek, from Oelwein. Jim joins the production crew out on the recycling floor. The production crew is made up of Kenny Meyer, Brian Schroeder, and Jim Stanek. The production crew's main responsibilities are to unload the recycling bins, distribute the recycling material to the proper location, process the recycling material, and help supervise the part-time employees that help sort the plastic materials by number.

The Fayette County Recycling Center has had a profitable first six months due to the increase in price of corrugated cardboard. The past two years, the price of recyclable mate-

rials has been low. The commodities have been in excess, therefore keeping the price for recyclable materials down. The increase in corrugated cardboard went into effect around July, 1999, making a substantial increase of about \$40 per ton. It has remained there for six months even through the brokers felt the price would fall during the holiday season.

The Fayette County Recycling Center would like to take this time to thank everyone who participates in our recycling efforts. We appreciate your help in reducing the amount of waste going to the Fayette County Landfill. We would like to point out that during the holiday season we realize that the bins are overflowing. This is due to the fact that the recycling center is not open for five full days of the holiday weeks. We try very hard to make sure that

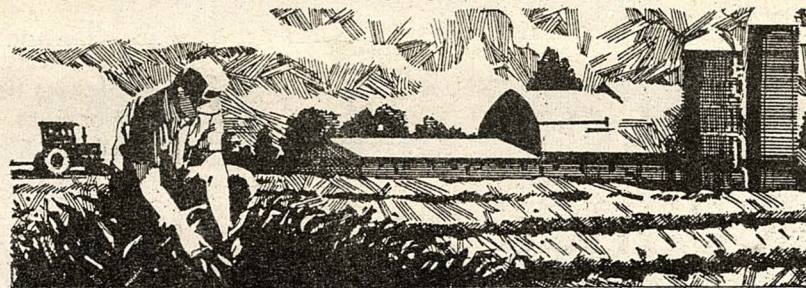
there are empty bins before the recycling center closes over the holidays, but we also are aware that if we are off work, so is the public and that everyone has a little bit more time to recycle. We would like to ask the public to please make sure that you do not place recyclable material outside the bins. This is littering. This also disturbs the business of where the recycling bins are located. We only ask that if the first bin you pull up to is full, please try to find another bin that has more room, or please hang on to the recycling material until after the holiday season and the recycling center is open and the bins are being pulled.

We would like to thank everyone for their efforts in reducing the amount of waste going to the landfill. Keep recycling!!!! If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Fayette County Recycling Center at (319) 422-3712.

Category Description	7/1/98-6/30/99
INFLOWS	
Deposit	39,646.17
Interest Inc	451.98
TOTAL INFLOWS	40,098.15
OUTFLOWS	
Awards Banquet	305.00
Commissioner	2,688.21
Donation	300.00
Dues	1,300.00
Field Day	734.50
Grazing	2,375.00
Miscellaneous	123.25
Office Supplies	474.28
Payroll	10,145.58
PF Employee	3,000.00
Postage	1,034.77
Sales Tax	223.14
Scholarship	100.00
Service Charge	15.30
Soil Stewardship	1,094.15
Tax:	
Federal FICA	1,965.86
IPERS	1,175.39
State	316.15
State Unemployment	150.49
TOTAL Tax	3,607.89
Trees	8,429.26
Workmans Comp Ins.	3.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	35,953.33
OVERALL TOTAL	4,144.82

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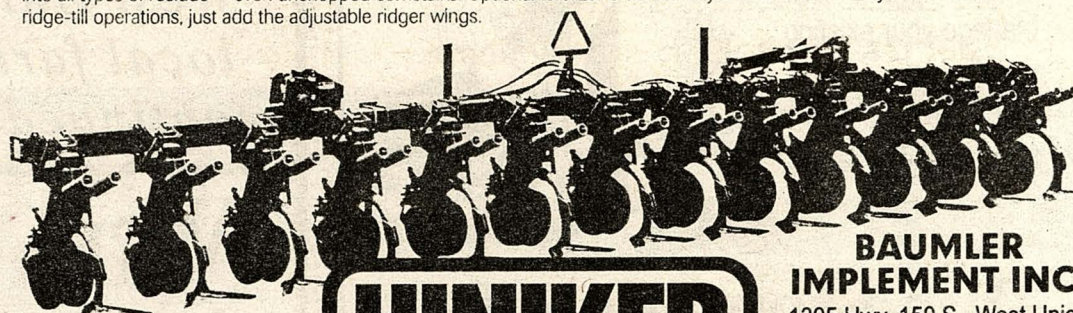
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ACCURATE DEPTH CONTROL. Dual gauge wheels, with mud-shedding rubber tires, oscillate to even out bumps. Coulters are spring-loaded to help cut through residue in soft ground, prevent "jacking" in hard ground.

SEED, FERTILIZE OR BUILD RIDGES. Add a Hiniker 5800 Seeder to the 6000 and solid-seed soybeans and small grains into all types of residue — even unchopped cornstalks. Optional fertilizer brackets let you side-dress while you cultivate. And for ridge-till operations, just add the adjustable ridger wings.



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NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE: _____

Trees are hardy, bare root seedlings with healthy root systems from Cascade Forestry Service, Inc. Trees are sold only by the bundle (25 trees), except for the nut, shade, evergreen, wildlife shrub packages, and individual trees. These three packages and individual trees are sold as specified as below. There is no guarantee on stock sold at these prices.

The sale is open to anyone. There are no guidelines as to who can purchase the trees and where the trees are to be planted. **Cut off date for orders will be March 8, 2000. No orders will be accepted after this date.** We will notify you in mid-April when your order can be picked up. Supplies are limited so order early.

PLEASE NOTE: Check must accompany your order, payable to Fayette SWCD.

Species	Price Per Bundle	Number of Bundles	Total Cost
American Arborvitae (12-18")	\$45.00	x _____	= _____
Black Hills Spruce (12-18")	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
Black Walnut (2-3')	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
Blue Spruce (12-18")	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
Cranberry Highbush (5-12")	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
Lilac Villosa (18-24")	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
Norway Spruce (12-18")	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
Red Oak (2-3')	\$45.00	x _____	= _____
Red Osier Dogwood (10-18")	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
Scotch Pine (6-18")	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
White Pine (12-18")	\$35.00	x _____	= _____
Evergreen Pkg. Includes:	\$40.00	x _____	= _____
4 White Pine 18-24"; 4 Blue Spruce 18-24"; 4 Norway Spruce 18-24"			
Nut Tree Pkg. Includes:	\$40.00	x _____	= _____
3 Butternut 18-24"; 3 Hazelnut 12-18"			
3 Walnut 2-3'; 3 Northern Pecan 6-12"			
3 American Chestnut 18-24"			
Shade Tree Pkg. Includes:	\$40.00	x _____	= _____
3 Green Ash 2-3'; 3 Sugar Maple 2-3'			
3 Red Oak 2-3'; 3 Bur Oak 2-3'			
3 Swamp White Oak 2-3'			
Wildlife Shrub Pkg. Includes:	\$40.00	x _____	= _____
3 American Cranberry 5-12"			
3 Hazelnut 6-18"; 3 Crabapple 2-3'			
3 Silky Dogwood 18-24"			
3 Nanking Cherry 8-22"			
Individual Trees	Price Per Tree	Number of Trees	Total Cost
American Arborvitae (2-3')	\$ 8.00	x _____	= _____
Blue Spruce (2-3')	\$ 8.00	x _____	= _____
Norway Spruce (2-3')	\$ 8.00	x _____	= _____
White Pine (3-4')	\$ 8.00	x _____	= _____
Total of Above			_____
Add 6% Sales Tax			_____
Total Payment Due			_____



Wildflower Sale



Iowa wildflowers invite bees, songbirds, and butterflies to our garden and make excellent garden and landscaping plants. By planting native plants, you can help preserve unique species, create wildlife habitat, and enjoy a self-sufficient garden.

A habitat can be as small or as large as your area and imagination allows. Start by using native plants in existing beds, borders, ditches, or create a small "prairie plot" of Iowa wildflowers and grasses in your yard.

Each garden package contains 15 - 2 1/2" potted plants. Orders will be accepted until April 1, 2000 and plants will be available for pickup at our office in early June. We will notify you later of the exact pickup date.

The garden packages have been put together for sunny sites with average soil moisture. *Heights listed are for mature plants.

Note: The greenhouse reserves the right to substitute stock in case of plant failure.

Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden

\$35 each

3 Columbine	2' tall*
3 Butterfly Milkweed	2' tall*
2 Wild Bergamot	4' tall*
2 Stiff Goldenrod	4' tall*
3 Black-eyed Susan	3' tall*
2 smooth Blue Aster	2' tall*

Scarlet/yellow in spring
 Orange color in early summer
 Lavender color in summer
 Golden color in fall
 Yellow color in summer
 Blue color in fall

Iowa Prairie Garden

\$35 each

3 Yellow Coneflower	4' tall*
2 Pale Purple Coneflower	3' tall*
3 Purple Prairie Clover	2' tall*
3 Ohio Spiderwort	2' tall*
2 Wild White Indigo	2' tall*
2 Sky Blue Aster	3' tall*

Yellow color in summer
 Lavender color in summer
 Purple color in early summer
 Purple color in late spring
 White color in early summer
 Blue color in fall

Item	Number to Order	Total
Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden	@ \$35 each x _____	= \$ _____
Iowa Prairie Garden	@ \$35 each x _____	= \$ _____
Total of Above Columns		\$ _____
Add 6% Tax		\$ _____
Total Amount Due		\$ _____

Please make checks payable to Fayette SWCD and return with your order to Fayette SWCD, 120 N Industrial Pkwy #2, West Union, IA 52175-1612. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (319) 422-3868 Ext. 3.

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