

Record Corn Acreage Expected In 1959

A record breaking acreage of corn and other row crops is forecast for Hardin county farms in 1959, according to James Goode, county extension director.

HE SAYS commissioners of the Hardin County Soil Conservation district in a meeting Monday night at Eldora confirmed this forecast. Commissioners are Dean Kelsey, Iowa Falls; Harold Marsh, Union; and Leland Reece, New Providence. The expected increased acreage of corn, together with soybeans, will likely result in the greatest acreage of row crops in Hardin county history.

Row crop acreage is expected to climb by at least 10 per cent; 1957 and 1958 row crop acreages were around 157,000 acres. Thus 1959 row crop acres will approach 172,000 to 175,000 acres.

This increase in row crops creates serious problems of excessive soil and water loss. A recent survey conducted by the county Soil Conservation Service through a special county conservation needs committee shows that much of this added corn acreage in 1959 will be on rolling land. This acreage will be subject to excessive soil and water loss.

Contour planting on fields that slope no more than 3 feet in every 100 can cut soil and water losses about half, and will increase yields in most years. Terraces on long, erodible slopes are another effective and profitable practice where row crops are planted.

ACP cost-sharing is available in 1959 through the ASC office at Iowa Falls for terrace construction, first time contouring and for other permanent conservation practices. Cost-sharing rates may run as high as 70 per cent of actual cost for some practices.

TIME IS SHORT for doing this work before crops are planted, Goode warns. He suggests farmers contact the ASC office at Iowa Falls for cost-sharing assistance and the Soil Conservation Service office at Eldora in the Post Office building for assistance in technical phases of conservation.