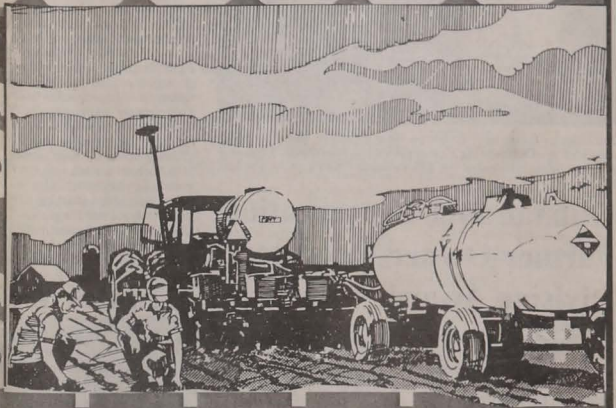
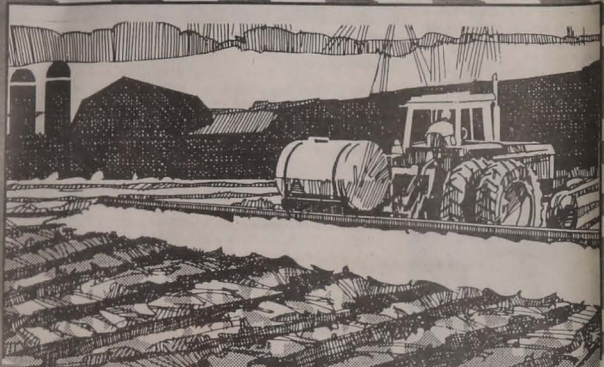


Reap the profits of Good Soil Conservation



February 1995 - The Daily Register, Oelwein, Iowa - Special Section

Published for the Fayette Soil and Water
Conservation District 1994 Annual Report

Daily Register

Soil Conservation Annual Report

'94 Soil Conservation Awards



Don Ungerer farms near Hawkeye. He is shown on the right being presented the Outstanding Conservation Farmer-Owner-Operator Division being presented by Bill Bennett Chairman of Fayette SWCD.

Outstanding Conservation Farmer-Owner-Operator Division Award

By LaVonne Koch
NRCS Technician

Don "Shag" Ungerer was awarded the District Iowa Soil Conservation Owner-Operator Award for the Fayette Co. for 1994. This program is co-sponsored by Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and the Iowa Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Commissioners.

Shag owns and operates 400 acres west of Hawkeye in Bethel township of Fayette County. He has 16 acres in Conservation Reserve Program which has been planted to trees for wildlife habitat. Also, he has several parallel terraces to control soil erosion and to prevent gullies in

his grassed waterways. Shag has been using zone till for his row crop tillage.

The community activities that he has been involved with includes: Farm Bureau Member, Iowa Corn Growers, Iowa Soybean Growers, Fayette County Cattlemen Association, Hawkeye Conservation Club, Past President and Secretary of Hawkeye Co-op, Hawkeye Library Committee, Stewardship Committee at Church, and Member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District recognizes Shag for an outstanding owner-operator who is a good steward of the land.

Woodland owner of the year award

Roger Gamm, of West Union, Iowa, has been selected as the 1994 woodland owner of the year in Fayette County.

In 1987 Roger started practicing woodland management by performing timber stand improvement work. Poor quality trees along with undesirable species were removed in order to provide growing space for high quality trees such as red oak and black walnut. In conjunction with this Roger also began planting pine and hardwood seedlings. Since 1987, he has performed timber stand improvement on 46 acres and has planted 42.8 acres of

trees. Roger also assists others with woodland improvement practices such as tree planting and timber stand improvement.

In 1993, approximately 24 acres of mature timber was harvested which yielded 35,000 board feet of mixed hardwood lumber and veneer.

Roger graduated from the Master Woodland Manager program in 1989, the same year his property was certified as a tree farm. He also serves on the Forest Advisory Committee for Northeast Iowa.

Rogers' sincere interest in woodland management deserves recognition. Congratulations Roger!

Landlord/Tenant Award



John McMillan farms near Elgin. He is the operator of the John Molumby farm north of West Union and the winner of the Landlord-Tenant Division.

John Molumby (landlord) and John McMillan (tenant) have been selected as the regional winners of the landlord/tenant conservation award. This award is in recognition of the tenant operated farm on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

This farm is a "picture" of conservation practices. All of the cropland is protected by contour farming and 10,325 feet of terraces have been constructed on the steeper slopes to insure that soil erosion is kept to a

minimum. Mr. McMillan has established waterways and grassed field borders in all areas that need protecting. John practices reduced tillage and leaves a high percentage of residue on the surface after planting. Furthermore, he has hired a crop consultant to help fine tune his crop management program.

John Molumby and John McMillan have done an outstanding job of implementing a comprehensive conservation program.

Zone tillage works

By Alan Williams

Almost two years ago I watched skeptically as our neighbor planted all of his corn with zone tillage equipment attached to his planter. I remained a skeptic as

planter unit. One coulters runs in the center and one on each side. This effectively tills a 4-6-inch zone into which we plant. We also inject liquid fertilizer behind the two outside coulters.

Playing it safe we planted one-third of our acres into conventional tillage. To make a long story short we saw no difference in yield. That isn't to say that this will work for everyone, but it definitely works in our program.

This year we will plant all of our acres with zone tillage. Of these acres we will be planting into various previous crop residues including corn, soybean and sod that is sprayed with a burndown in the spring. The majority of these acres will be covered with manure from our outside cattle and hog lots. We also irrigate in the spring and fall from lagoon. We use a subsoiler to prevent run-off before irrigation.

I would suggest to anyone thinking of implementing a system like this to visit with people using the system you are interested in. Make sure of what you want before purchasing any equipment as this will make your experience more enjoyable.



the corn emerged and it along with ours struggled through the 1993 growing season. My attitude changed as harvest progressed and I visited with him and realized that his yields were just as good as our conventional tillage program. We decided to make a change.

Last spring we equipped our planter with Rawson Zone Till equipment. We have three 13-inch coulters in front of each

Glovers Creek Watershed project completed



Scenic view of Glover's Creek.

By Alan Crowe

Early in 1989 this watershed received funding from the National Water Quality Special Project. Approximately \$190,000 was allocated for cost-sharing purposes. Response to the special cost-share incentives was so great that over \$181,000 was spent on the construction of terraces and waterways.

Later in 1989, the Glover's Creek project also received funding from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Water Protection Fund, to be used for water quality evaluation studies conducted by the University of Iowa's Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health Department, and for cost-sharing on a variety of water quality improvement practices. Between 1989 and 1994, \$239,000 was used for these purposes.

Farming practices in the watershed have changed dramatically during these past five years. Of the 3,300 acres of cropland in the watershed only about 80 acres was farmed on the contour (when not part of a strip cropping or terrace system) prior to 1989. Since then an additional 169 acres has been farmed on the contour.

Strip cropping and/or contour buffer strips have become quite popular in the watershed. Prior to 1989 approximately 200 acres were protected by this practice. Now there are - 371 acres of cropland farmed with buffer strips and/or strip cropping.

Undoubtedly the biggest change in the Glover's Creek watershed has been the great number of terraces constructed during the past 5 years. Before 1989 there were - 13,000 feet of terraces protecting 91 acres of cropland. During the lifespan of the project 78,931 feet of terraces were built which protect 544 ac.

Contamination of Glover's Creek by livestock waste runoff has been reduced due to the construction of two animal waste storage structures. These facilities not only reduce the amount of feedlot runoff that might otherwise wash into the creek, but also allow for the timely application of manure.

Chemical and fertilizer contamination has also been lessened through implementation of an integrated crop management (ICM) program. ICM is an intensified crop management system that requires more

information and planning than does traditional management. A crop consultant is hired by the producer to provide a monitoring and information service designed to increase the efficiency of the farming operation. A total of 1,488 ac. are presently utilizing ICM.

Mulch tillage - leaving at least 40 percent residue on the surface after planting has been implemented on 472 acres.

The reduction in soil loss due to all of the above mentioned practices has been estimated to be 10,923 tons/acre/year. Although not all of the soil erosion will end up being deposited directly in Glover's Creek, it is estimated that 7,632 t/a/y, less sediment will actually reach the creek.

If the success of the Glover's Creek Watershed Project (which ended June 30, 1994) can be based upon the amount of water quality protection practices which were applied and upon the proportion of people in the watershed that became involved in the project (83%), then indeed the project was a success.

I want to sincerely thank all of you who have helped to protect the water quality of this beautiful trout stream!

The 5 year Glover's Creek watershed project which began in 1989 has been a very successful water quality improvement project. Funding for all practices, with the exception of ICM (integrated crop management), has ended as of June 30, 1994. To show any appreciation to the many people who helped make this project a success, they have been invited to a banquet which will be held Thursday, February 23, 1995, 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in West Union, Iowa. This banquet is sponsored in part by the local contractors, who have played an important role in constructing soil and water quality improvement practices in the Glover's Creek watershed.

Two publications, one titled "Glover's Creek Water Protection Fund Project Final Report," the other, "The Glover's Creek Water Quality Evaluation Project," will be available at the banquet. Following is a brief summary of the Glover's Creek Watershed Project.

The Glover's Creek Watershed Project which began in 1989 has resulted in the application of a tremendous amount of soil and water protection practices.



Outstanding Watershed Achievement Award

Richard Menne is the recipient of the 1994 Watershed Achievement Award for Fayette County. This award is in recognition of significant accomplishment in upland water shed treatment.

He and his wife, Kathy have a very diversified farming operation. In addition to working 332 acres of cropland, they also milk 60 head of cows and maintain 175 sows for a farrow to finish operation, feeding out between 2,000-2,500 hogs each year.

The Mennes' have certainly done much to protect the water quality in the Glover's Creek watershed. In the last 5 years they have constructed over 19,700 feet of terraces on their farm. These terraces have greatly reduced the

amount of soil erosion on the land. In addition, they have constructed a concrete animal waste storage facility which not only decreases the amount of feedlot runoff reaching Glover's Creek, but also eliminates having to spread animal waste on snow covered ground. Richard has enrolled his cropland in an integrated crop management program which should help reduce the amount of chemicals being applied to the watershed.

Richard is very concerned about soil erosion and water quality. He has invested a lot of time and money in applying conservation practices that will help protect the water quality in the Glover's Creek watershed. He is very deserving of the Watershed Achievement Award!

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the American people to conserve natural resources on private lands.

Our name change from the Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service more accurately reflects what we do, helping people conserve all natural resources on private lands. It reflects a streamlined agency that provides quality service more efficiently.

Our name has changed, but some things will not change. NRCS will continue to build on 60 years of experience, our scientific and technical expertise, and our partnerships with conservation districts and others.

Soil Conservation Annual Report

Dairymen, is pasture for you?



Becky Cowell

By Becky Cowell
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

You've heard about it. You've read about it. You may even know someone who is doing it. The question is, why are your cows still stuck in the barn?

Do you like working your fanny to the bone every single day hauling in the feed and hauling out the manure? Do you actually like fixing machinery and fueling equipment? Do you enjoy using

your quiet time to write checks to the feed company, the fuel company, the repair shop, the tire store, the equipment dealer, the bank and the list goes on.

How does it make you feel when your son or daughter asks, "Can we go to the park, the beach, fishing, a movie or just relax in the back yard?" and your answer is "Not today, we have too much work to do," and your child replies, "You always say that," and walks away muttering, "I'm never going to be a farmer."

Putting dairy cows on pasture isn't just for the farmer down the road, in the next county, or in some other state or country. It could be exactly what you need to put some fun back in your life, some extra cash in your pocket and to keep your family farm in the family for the next generation.

Why do some farmers get to wear that ear to ear "graziers' grin" while others just continue to frown and complain about the milk price? No one knows exactly why so many of the folks who have gone back to grazing that grin. Maybe it's the money. Maybe it's the lifestyle. Maybe it's a combination of the two. Or

maybe it's something else. Maybe it's because grassland farmers have come to realize that by moving away from the use of annually-tilled row crops and yearly-applications of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides to the use of managed perennial grasses and legumes, they are once again working in harmony with nature and they, quite simply, feel good about it, and it shows.

For some producers, putting their cows on pasture will not solve all of their problems. In fact, on some farms, putting cows on pasture may very well be more trouble than it is worth. There are some farms that, from a physical perspective, do not lend themselves to using pasture effectively. This is typically the case when the barn is located on one side of a road or other physical barrier and all of the pasture is on the other, or where farms have very wet, very steep, or very poor soil or soil types near the barn and it's a half a mile or more to the nearest good pasture. There are also some farms that have too many cows for the number of acres of available pasture. The idea here is not that you can have too many cows to pasture, but rather too many cows for the feed supply.

There are also some farmers that, despite having farms with nearly ideal physical conditions for effectively using pasture, will never fully commit themselves to implementing the management required to make pasture a profitable option on their farms. These people are the ones that come to meetings and say "I tried that pasture crap and it didn't work." But when you ask them about such things as stocking rates, residency periods, grazing heights or plant species composition, you get a blank look followed by "I don't know, but that pasture don't work."

The truth of the matter is, putting cows on pasture will not work for a lot of producers for a number of different reasons:

"Stay away from pasture if you are chasing herd average. It is common to see farms in the 17,000 to 21,000 pound herd average range that are grazing, but not a larger number that exceed 22,000 pounds per cow."

"Stay away from pasture if your land close to the barn is better suited to mountain climbing, muskrat management, or picking wildflowers. Profitable pasture means using productive land, not waste land."

"Stay away from land if you do not have at least three quarters of an acre of good pasture to allocate per cow per year. One acre per cow is better. Keep in mind, the more productive your soil type and the better your management, the more forage you will produce per acre and the fewer acres it will require."

"Stay away from pasture if you do not have a water supply that is adequate to meet the herd requirements. Fresh high quality water is essential for maintaining production, in particular, during hot weather. Although it is not essential to have water in every paddock, every paddock must have access to water, and the closer, the better."

"Stay away from pasture if you are not willing to walk out in the pasture and look at it. If you do not know how much forage is out there or what it looks like, how do you know what your cows are eating or whether your management is on target? Although we can plan pastures by prescription, the pasture must be managed by observation."

And last, "Stay away from pasture until you have made up your mind to give it your best shot and not just a 'pot shot.' You must first change your mind, then your management and last, give your new management a chance to grow. After all, as the old saying goes, 'Rome wasn't built in a day.'"

So dairymen, what is the answer? Is pasture for you? If you are still not sure, then get out and ask some questions. Farm to farm, there are a lot of questions. But farmer to farmer there are a lot of answers. There are rotational grazing networks going on in most areas, most all summer long. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation office to find out when and on whose farm they are being held. Read all you can. Many good reference books and popular press articles have been written over the past few years.

Because of the increased interest in grazing in northeast Iowa, there are farmer to farmer networks being formed. These networks are designed to bring together dairy livestock producers who have a common interest in using pasture effectively and a willingness to share their experiences with others. For more information on rotational grazing and how to be involved with these networks, contact the Area Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 319-422-6201.

Americorps annual report

The USDA /National Americorps Service is a program to promote national and community services among the citizens of the United States. It is designed to help meet human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs. The idea of Americorps is to put a diverse group of Americans in working situations with communities to provide real service to meet environmental and human needs, while earning education benefits. The program allows participants to explore and exercise their responsibilities, expand opportunities, and to strengthen rural communities.

The USDA is operating the Americorps Program on a full-time basis. Members will be expected to perform 1,812 hours of service during a period of not less than nine months and not more than one year. To be a member of Americorps, you must be a U.S. citizen 17 years of age or older. An associate degree or a four year degree and a sincere desire to perform service are also required.

My main service with Americorps is ag waste utilization and in the area of increasing the number of opportunities for northeast Iowa dairy and beef producers to learn about rotational grazing. I have been coordinating grazing networks to assist producers in developing intensive rotational grazing management systems through

farmer to farmer communication and demonstration.

The continuing decline in farms and cattle numbers, some difficult alfalfa growing years and the continued pressure to reduce costs to remain profitable have increased interest among producers and agribusiness people in practicing rotational grazing. Livestock have long added to the economic viability of rural Iowa farms and communities. Current economic pressures in the agriculture industry push cattle businesses towards larger units in order to be profitable. Intensive rotational grazing systems appear to make smaller acreage farms more financially feasible. A grass based dairy system is lower in start-up investment costs allowing for a farmer to make a transfer of enterprises to the next generation. The trend in the number of young people choosing farming as a career is declining. Rotational grazing is one alternative management approach to help the younger generation get started farming. It protects water and soil resources which is valuable to all of us. Intensive grazing appears to be a production system that can be competitive in the future by maintaining cattle numbers, reducing farm labor, and adding to producer and community wealth. For more information on intensive rotational grazing contact your local Natural Resources Conservation office.

To avoid regulations, livestock producers need to develop responsible grazing management application. Right now, that is three easy steps. No red tape. First, obtain accurate soil test reports of all fields that may receive the nutrients. This is something we do anyway so you may have this step already done. The next step is easy but not necessarily pleasant. Take a manure sample. Oh shift! Yup and try to get representative samples so we have an accurate analysis of the N-P-K nutrients. Next the spreader needs to be calibrated. The amount per load (tons or gallons) has to be determined. The more accurate the better. Then spread at a constant rate. Measure and record the area covered. This turns out to be the rate you are presently using but now you know how much that is.

The last step is recording what, where, when and how much got applied and noting the amount of credit taken from N-P-K. Now the good part. You can actually make money with this plan. Subtracting the credit for animal nutrients from the total called for on the soil test lowers dollars needed in the fertility budget.

The plans have no checkoffs, assessments or taxes. They do not have to be triplicated, submitted or approved. A plan shows you think and care about a better environment. It shows everyone that regulations are not necessary. It is just a matter of keeping written records of your nutrient application for yourself.

Grassed waterways and field borders have been established in recent years on farmlands at rates from 9 to 35 times the traditional rates.

Farmers in more than half Iowa's counties are voluntarily participating in water quality improvement programs. The number of projects is growing.

Between 1982 and 1992, there was a 10 percent increase in the woodland acreage in Iowa. Contour grassed buffer strips and grassed filter strips along streams were virtually non-existent in Iowa five years ago. They are becoming commonplace now.

District Activities July 1993 - June 1994

July 1993

Fayette SWCD received \$2,500.00 for the IM Allocation.

Fayette SWCD received \$34,453.00 for the 3M Allocation.

Supplement to the Project Agreement for Glovers Creek was approved.

Fayette SWCD received \$7,500.00 for the Organic Nutrient Management cost-share program.

Bennett and Muff placed signs along the RAGBRAI route that went through Fayette County showing the different types of conservation practices farmers use.

Bennett and Muff attended the CCRG meeting with ASCS.

August 1993

Louis Christen was chosen as Woodland Owner of the Year.

A pre-planning meeting for the Conservation Education Field Day was held.

September 1993

Fayette SWCD received allocations of \$22,935.00 for REAP Practices and \$5,586.00 for REAP Forestry.

A priority system was set for the Organic Nutrient Management cost-share program.

Monty Kuhn was chosen for Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award.

The Conservation Education Field Day was held at the Richard Jensen farm.

October 1993

Project Agreement to the Glovers Creek Watershed was reviewed.

November 1993

Fayette SWCD sent letters to Congressmen on Reorganizing USDA.

Bennett was interviewed by Vaughn Kittelson regarding the Farming 2000 Expo.

Meera Mahoney was chosen as the 1993 Poster Contest winner for Region 4.

December 1993

Bennett gave a report on the Annual Conference and Farming 2000 Expo.

NACD & IASWCDC Dues were paid.

Average cost increases for conservation practices were reviewed.

January 1994

Organizational commissioner meeting was held.

February 1994

Fayette SWCD submitted a resolution regarding partial payment for cost-share projects.

March 1994

Fayette SWCD received \$500.00 in supplemental funds for the IM budget.

Fayette SWCD received \$26,519.00 in supplemental funds for REAP Forestry/Native Grasses.

A pre-proposal was submitted for Otter Creek 319 funding to the Division of Soil Conservation.

Annual Work Plan was reviewed and distributed.

April 1994

Cooperative Work Agreement was approved.

May 1994

Fayette SWCD received \$350.00 in supplemental funds for the IM budget.

June 1994

Fayette SWCD received \$150.00 in supplemental funds for the IM budget.

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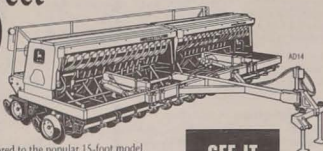


JOHN DEERE

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- Speed your seeding jobs with a new 20-foot 750 No-Till Drill — the machine that's leading the race to no-till beans. Ideal for small grains and grasses, too!
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- Get outstanding opener penetration with unique "active" hydraulics. You can set opener down-pressure in seconds.
- Enjoy improved emergence. The 750 No-Till Drill places seed exactly where depth is gauged.
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Soil Conservation Annual Report

Richard Jensen receives award

Richard Jensen is in his second term as a Fayette SWCD commissioner, and holds the office of secretary. He has also served as the chair for District Fund Raising and the Woodland, Wildlife and Water Delegate. He initiated and has hosted the Fayette County Conservation Education Field Day for third graders. Richard and his son, Craig, farm 900 acres including corn, soybeans, pasture and a 100-acre timber reserve. They have installed terraces, contour rows, stripcropping, waterways, field borders, water and sediment control basins and ponds. They also practice conservation tillage and crop rotation. The Jensens are currently restoring a wetland and working on a timber stand improvement project.

Showing progress in Fayette County

BY Jerry Muff, DC

The conservation compliance provision of the Food & Security Act of 1985 required producers to apply conservation on highly erodible land (HEL) in order to be eligible for most USDA Farm Program benefits. Even though this program has been received with mixed feelings by producers it has definitely been a major force in applying soil and water conservation practices to the land. Using contour farming and contour stripcropping as indicators of progress in Fayette County from 1990 to 1994, contours increased from 2,036 acres in 1990 to 5,908 acres in 1994. This is an increase by a factor of 2.9. Contour stripcropping increased more dramatically from 124 acres in 1990 to 1,888 acres in 1994. This is a 15-fold increase. If these numbers aren't impressive enough, driving highways 56 or 18 north or east of West Union will show many fields that have contours, grassed field borders and contour buffer strips applied, which for the most part wasn't there before 1990. South and west of West Union crops growing in heavy residue conditions are becoming a common sight in the spring. According to a report submitted to the Conservation Tillage Information Center, a road survey completed by the West Union Field Office NRCS staff revealed that no-till and ridge-till planting of corn and soybeans occurred on 16,000 acres in 1990 and 43,500 acres in 1994. This is a 2.7-fold increase.

There are many other direct benefits associated with these accomplishments such as: improved water quality downstream of the treated fields, less sedimentation in ponds, road ditches and river backwaters; and field runoff is not only reduced in quantity but is slowed down which should reduce flooding during or after heavy rainstorms.

It has been a rewarding experience to play a part in what I feel has been the most effective conservation effort made in recent history. The credit goes to you the producers, owners and operators, and land improvement contractors, who have cooperated with us to put this conservation on the land. Regardless of what happens to the farm programs I hope that this cooperation and growth in conservation continues for not only our benefit, but for those generations yet to come.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the American people to conserve natural resources on private lands.

Our name change from the Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service more accurately reflects what we do, helping people conserve all natural resources on private lands. It reflects a streamlined agency that provides quality service more efficiently.

Our name has changed, but some things will not change. NRCS will continue to build on 60 years of experience, our scientific and technical expertise, and our partnerships with conservation districts and others.

A Salute to Iowa's Conservation Farmers

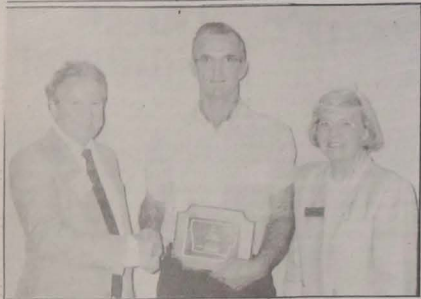
The evidence is clear. Iowa's farmers are making exceptional progress in caring for natural resources, particularly soil and water resources.

The changes are evident as you drive across the state. There are more acres seeded to grass, more crop residues, more trees, more wetlands, more wildlife and wildlife habitat, more water quality improvement practices—more of about every aspect of resource improvement than in past years. Iowa farmers have accepted conservation challenges issued by Congress in the 1985 and 1990 farm bills, and the result is record progress in resource protection. The state's farmers have also embraced new wetland restoration and land protection programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reverse earlier long-term trends of wetlands and woodlands losses.

Consider the Record:

Soil erosion on Iowa cropland was cut 35 percent from 1982 to 1992, according to the National Resources Inventory conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service). The rate of wind and water erosion was cut from 10.8 tons an acre in 1982 to 7 tons an acre in 1992.

Of the state's 25 million acres of cropland, 2.1 million acres of the most severely eroding land was enrolled in the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Land enrolled in the CRP was converted from eroding cropland to non-eroding grasslands and woodlands for a 10-year period. More Iowa farmers enrolled in the CRP than from any other state.



Richard Jensen (middle), of Elgin, was one of eight regional finalists for the 1994 Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner Award presented during the 48th Annual Meeting for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners held in Des Moines. The award is co-sponsored by "Wallace Farmer" and the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners. "Wallace Farmer" Editor Monte Sesker (left) and Association vice-chair Jeanette Winegarden (right) presented the award.

Time to recognize conservation progress



Leroy Brown
BY Leroy Brown,
State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service

The evidence is clear. Iowa's farmers are making exceptional progress in caring for natural resources, particularly soil and water resources.

The changes are evident as you drive across the state. There are more acres seeded to grass, more crop residues, more trees, more wetlands, more wildlife and wildlife habitat, more water quality improvement practices—more of about every aspect of resource improvement than in past years.

Consider the record:

Soil erosion on Iowa cropland was cut 35 percent from 1982 to 1992, according to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) National Resources Inventory. The rate of wind and water erosion was cut from 10.8 tons an acre in 1982 to 7 tons an acre in 1992.

No tilling farming was used on 4.3 million acres of Iowa row crops in 1994. That acreage is 7 times what it was in 1984. More than one in every five acres of corn and soybeans was planted no-till in 1994; additionally, three of every four acres of row crops were planted leaving soil-protecting crop residues on the soil surface.

Of the state's 25 million acres of cropland, 2.1 million acres of the most severely eroding was enrolled in the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program. Land enrolled in the CRP was converted from eroding cropland to non-eroding grasslands and woodlands for a 10-year period. More Iowa farmers enrolled in the CRP than farmers from any other state.

Thousands of Iowa farmers have stopped draining wetlands to farm them, and in fact hundreds of farmers are restoring wetlands instead. More than 5,000 acres of wetlands have been restored in Iowa from 1987 through 1994, and farmers have entered USDA's Wetlands Reserve and Emergency Wetlands Reserve Programs to restore another 25,000 acres.

There were 10 farmers interested for every farmer accepted into the WRP's last sign-up.

Between 1982 and 1992, there was a 10 percent increase in the woodland acreage in Iowa.

Contour buffer strips of grass and grassed filter strips along streams were virtually nonexistent in Iowa five years ago. They are becoming commonplace now.

More than nine of ten farmers are in compliance with USDA's conservation compliance rules, which require farmers to have completed conservation practices to protect highly erodible lands. Farmers were given five years to complete conservation plans on all their highly erodible lands—when it was suggested the deadline be extended because of the floods of 1993, farm leaders asked that the deadlines remain, to keep on schedule.

Grassed waterways and grass and legume field borders have been established in recent years on farmlands at rates from 9 to 35 times the traditional rates.

Farmers in more than half Iowa's counties are voluntarily participating in water quality improvement programs. The number of projects is growing.

Iowa farmers have helped pheasant, deer, wild turkey and other wildlife flourish, by planting food plots as well as wildlife habitat. Iowa farmer attitudes are reflected in a Utah State University study which showed that despite an average annual cost of \$423 in wildlife damages as well as a week's worth of labor, more than half the farmers in the U.S. seek to improve wildlife habitat.

Nitrogen use by Iowa farmers dropped from an average high of 90 pounds an acre in 1985 to an average of 77 pounds an acre in 1993. Since 1985, the average use per year has been 80 pounds an acre, well below the Midwest average.

The effort farmers have made in soil conservation haven't gone unnoticed. A survey last March by Iowa State University showed that 95 percent of farmers interviewed and 76 percent of non-farmers believe farmers are doing much better or better at soil saving than they were 10 years ago.

Many farmers would like to see their conservation accomplishments recognized by the non-farm public. In fact, a statewide program was organized to do just that. Called the "Conservation Farmer Appreciation Program," it asks the non-farm community to help in saying thank you to thousands of Iowa farmers for their conservation work. A Conservation Farmer Appreciation Week was declared by the governor of Iowa for December 5-12, 1994, and many local soil and water conservation districts held appreciation events.

Our state's conservation farmers, and they number in the thousands, have made sincere efforts to improve our resources; they deserve a sincere thank you from the rest of us. I ask any Iowan interested in the long term production capability of our soil and the quality of our water, wildlife and other resources to join me in showing appreciation to the stewards of our great land in Iowa.

Conservation Reserve

Program: Issues and options

BY Dan Burkhardt
Fayette County Extension
Education Director

In October of 1995 the first CRP contracts will expire. It is unlikely that all the acres will be involved in a CRP extension plan. CRP renewals will probably be targeted to CRP areas needed to maintain water quality in adjoining streams and fields with highly erodible, fragile soils. Landowners have several options as the land is released. Resources are available to help landowners make better decisions. ISU Extension has a CRP Resource Manual available for viewing at the Extension Office in Fayette. A series of 14 CRP publications is included in the manual. This series is available at no charge. Titles of the publications are as follows:

1. Life After CRP -- Decisions, Decisions!
2. Lease Alternatives for CRP Land
3. Tillage Options After CRP
4. Livestock Watering Systems for CRP Land
5. Applying Fertilizer and Lime to CRP Land
6. Resource Inventory Guide
7. CRP -- Characteristics and Perceptions
8. Fencing Systems for CRP Land
9. Evaluating Resources and Setting Goals
10. Converting to Pasture or Hay -- Evaluating Current Vegetation
11. Converting CRP Land to Pasture -- Managing Weeds and Fertility
12. Converting to Pasture or Hay -- Repairing, Replanting CRP Land
13. Converting Pasture or Hay - Forage Seeding Mixtures
14. Adams County CRP Research and Demonstration Project

Computer software for CRP Decisions and other information on alternative land uses, tillage, and livestock uses is also included in the manual. Stop in at the Fayette County Extension Office and spend some time browsing through the CRP manual.

SOIL CONSERVATION

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The Valley Cooperative would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the FAYETTE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

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Soil Conservation Annual Report

Soil Conservation made great gains in Fayette County since 1990



Contour strip cropping, buffer strips, waterways and grassed headlands on Robert Shaffer farm near Wadena.



Contour strip crops on Kathryn Hinsbrock property north of West Union in the foreground and Duane Mork's terraces in the background illustrate two different approaches to soil conservation.



Contour buffer strips are common site along highway 56 east of West Union. Russel Medberry Farm.



Buffer strips on Four Strong farms near Wadena.



Field Office Staff. Pictured left to right, William Stanley, Federal Technician; Alan Crowe, State Technician; Jerry Muft, District Conservationist; Lori Kohlmeier, State Secretary; Julie McCready, WAE; LaVonne Koch, Federal Technician.



Practice Farm Conservation

The Fayette County Soil Conservation Commissioners are proud of the District's accomplishments.

This work could not be possible without the work and cooperation of our Earthwork Construction and Drainage Tiling Contractors listed below.



The 1994 Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District are front row left to right, Richard Jensen, William Bennett, and Dawn DeVore. Back row left to right, Paul Nuss, Larry Reiling, and Carl Nus. Not pictured Matt Stewart, new commissioner.

Landowners That Applied a Conservation Practice State Cost Funds and ACP Cost Share Funds

Fayette County



Eden Township Norbert Hackman 380 Morning Star Farms 330 Linus Mihm 600 Cornelius Baunier 412 Dan Schumacher 600	Auburn Township Morning Star Farms 585 Ronald Kuennen 585	Dover Township Duane Mork 600 Harold Spies ICM Melvin Bohr 600 Jeff Hanken 585 Virgil Monroe 585 Ray Steffens 585	Clermont Township Bruce E. Anderson 585 Steve Matt 585 Kelly Wander 585 Randy Schuelle 585
Bethel Township R & J Reinking Farms 380 Jeff Pleggenkuhl 380 Don Treloar 412 Carl Hyman 600 Tom Mitchell 585 Charles Mc Leish 585 Dale Copp 330	Windsor Township Byron Clark 380 Harvey Ungerer 330	Union Township John Meyer 330/600 Paul Spies 330 John McMillian ICM Duane Streif ICM Richard Menne ICM Clarence Cannon 600 Herk Vagts 343 Linda Gjere 342	Pleasant Valley Township Kent Nydegger 600 Medberry Farms, Inc. 585
Banks Township Donald Pagel 380 Ken Baker ONMP	Center Township Eugene Kohlmeier 412 T.J. Woods 600	Westfield Township Mark Howard 585/230 Roger Halverson 585/600	Ilwaco Township Robert Shaffer 600 Marcus Boehm 585 Ron Bodensteiner 330 Howard Farms, Inc. 585 Mike Dinan 585 Lehmann Farms 585
Fremont Township Gary Seegers 380 Darwin Fink 380 Ronald Ward 330 Eugene Sieck 330	Harlan Township Gary Seegers 380 Darwin Fink 380 Ronald Ward 330 Eugene Sieck 330	Smithfield Township Howard Harkin 330	Fairfield Township Jeff Mueller 380 Eugene Franzen 585 Michael Franzen 585 Gray Market, Ltd. 600 Brian Metzger 335 Cunningham Farms 600 Samuel Ridenour 330 Don Handel 585
Oran Township	Jefferson Township	Scott Township	Potomac Township

- * Key
330-Contouring
342-Critical Area
Planting
380-Windbreak
412-Grassed Waterway
585-Contour Buffer
Strips
600-Terraces
ICM-Integrated Crop
Management
ONMP-Organic
Nutrient
Management
Program

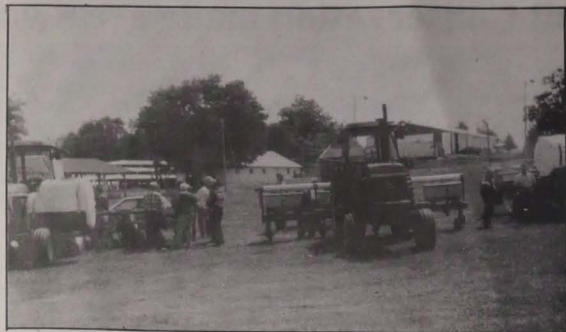


INSURE TOMORROW THROUGH CONSERVATION

Soil Conservation Annual Report



Fayette County Conservill Association sponsored the Northeast Iowa Conservation Implementation Show last August at the fairgrounds. No-till, ridge-till and mulch-tillage equipment were on display provided by local farmer and Implement dealers. Two panel discussions were held at the event made up of experienced local farmers. Over 100 attended this event. Ben Hunsberger was the committee chairperson in charge of the show. (Photos by Fayette County Union)



Northeast Iowa Conservation Implementation Show

The order of the well, the pump and the cup

By Richard Jensen
SWCD Commissioner

It's a surprise to realize that another year has gone, and it is Annual Report time again. I hope the landusers who made use of our services were satisfied and benefited from the technical and financial help they received. Our purpose is to support your efforts in protecting the soil, plants, and animals. We realize that all life is dependent on the land, water, and air. It would be wrong not to protect the total environmental community of which we are also a member. In our efforts to make conservation easier, I hope we have not made it trivial. Please stop in for assistance and recommendations for your farm.

There is another form of erosion I would like to address. Maybe by working together we can limit further loss. No, I'm not referring to the slow gradual erosion caused by nature or solution. I'm concerned about the accelerated loss of farmers from the land. Our national emblem, the bald eagle was saved from extinction because enough conscientious citizens felt it reflected a strong country. Surely we as farmers are as deserving.

Very often these financially strapped farmers practiced conservation as a state of

harmony between man and his use of the land. They felt an ethical obligation to the environment as well as his economic needs. Our society is primarily economic driven. Therefore, it rewards efficiency of production at the environments costs. Fundamentally this means to produce an abundance of food or fiber at the lowest price regardless of the cost.

Farmers have applied many conservation practices to their land, but inadequate returns prevents additional efforts. An economic driven agriculture is based on a self serving attitude that yields the most immediate visible economic gain and is often at odds with the ecology. The net effect is that we have elevated the government to be custodians of both the economy and ecology by way of ownership, control, and regulations and subsidy. We are left with a helter skelter farm management organization in chaos. The intention is proper, but the results fall short of my expectation. It tends to ignore and eventually eliminate the very people it was designed to serve.

Through various theories of survival we are driven by gauges, gadgets, and gimmicks that improve and increase poundage,

tonnage, output, yield, speed, size, comfort, range, and flavor. The only problem is that this theory also causes extermination of farmers. Comparing the price of a postage stamp and a pound of pork makes one wonder about the value efficiency. Can increased production insure our survival? It seems like more actually equates to less. Do we need more information or are we saturated and confused by too much of it? Experts analyze, prognosticate, and forecast but the answer still eludes us. One expert advises farmers to buy and another thinks it is time to sell. Another says profits are down and another says that losses are up. I guess they are all right. About the only advice they seem to agree on is to produce more.

Would the world's entire economic and ecologic health be improved by learning the interdependence of the old well, pump, and cup order; or is that too simplistic? First, the well (our land) must not be fouled. Second, the pump, (the farmer) must not fail so the cup (our production) is full. This interdependence should not be taken for granted. The health and wealth of the world depends on this obligation.

Ken Baker's Waste Storage Pond



Ken Baker

Ken originally was building a new building for 400 finishers and growers. He wanted to build a storage structure or pond to store the waste over the cropping season to better utilize his Animal Waste and to be spread on a more timely manner. There was also a lot of run off coming off of his open lot for his gestating sows, that he wanted to control and better utilize.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly SCS) first made soil borings to see if the soil would be suitable for an Earthen Storage Pond, or if not, would need a concrete structure, which is much more costly. The soils were very suitable for an Earthen Storage Pond.

The storage pond was designed on the down stream side of the open lot for his sows, so that a settling basin could be built to retain the solids from the open lot and then be scraped periodically

into the storage pond. A filter strip was then built on the south side of the pond to filter the liquids going through the settling basin at peak rainfall times.

The waste from the confinement system for his growers and finishers flows through a 12" PVC pipe to the storage pond, and works a pull plug type system.

Ken feels that the system is working well. It will let him spread the animal waste on the fields in a timely manner. Also by taking credit for the nutrients he will be able to save money by cutting back on the amount of commercial fertilizer he applies.

Ken will be improving the water quality of the surface and subsurface water leaving his farm. Application for cost share can be made through Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District or Consolidated Farm Services Agency (formerly the ASCS). Cost sharing funds may be limited with both organizations.

Iowa's Conservation Farmer Appreciation Program



Many Fayette County Conservation farmers and spouses enjoyed coffee and rolls with District staff and commissioners as part of the Conservation Farmer Appreciation Program held at the NRCS office in West Union last December. The farmers also received a commemorative pewter Christmas tree ornament with a certificate.

Many farmers would like to see their conservation accomplishments recognized by the non-farming public. In fact, a statewide program was organized to do just that. Called the "Conservation Farmer Appreciation Program," it asks the non-farm community to help in saying thank you to thousands of Iowa farmers for their conservation work. Our state's conservation farmers, and they number in the thousands, have made sincere efforts to improve our resources; they deserve a sincere thank you.

Thousands of Iowa farmers have stopped draining wetlands to farm them. In fact hundreds of farmers are restoring wetlands instead. More than 5,000 acres of wetlands were restored in Iowa between 1987 and 1994, and landowners have entered USDA's Wetlands Reserve and Emergency Wetlands Reserve Programs to restore another 25,000 acres. There was 10 times more interest in the WRP for wetland restoration than funds available this summer.

Nitrogen used by Iowa farmers dropped from an average of 90 pounds an acre in 1985 to an average of 77 pounds an acre in 1993. Since 1985, the average use per year has been 80 pounds an acre, well below the midwest average.

Iowa farmers have helped pheasant, deer, wild turkey and other wildlife flourish, by planting food plots and wildlife habitat. Iowa farmer attitudes are reflected in a Utah State University study which showed that despite an average annual cost of \$423 in wildlife damages as well as a week's worth of labor, more than half the farmers in the U.S. seek to improve wildlife habitat.

Your help is needed

By William E. Bennett
Chair - Fayette SWCD

The Fayette SWCD will soon be sending you a letter asking you to join in our efforts to protect all the people and resources of Fayette County. We will be asking you to become involved, to become a member of the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Club.

We need your help for many reasons, but I will only mention a few of them. The SWCD does not tax you for their services. The commissioners must raise the funds needed to provide educational programs to the children and adults of the county. Our newsletter, that is used to keep the people up-to-date on the events and rules of conservation, costs us several hundred dollars each year. The

conservation field day for third graders costs the district many dollars, in addition to the donations from the various businesses and individuals. In the past, we have raised the funds needed for this by selling trees, cooking burgers, and other means, now we would ask that you take a more direct part in this by joining the Fayette SWCD Conservation Club.

I know of no other government division that does not allow the elected officials to tax the public for the services provided. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Iowa not only do not tax for their services but also do not pay the commissioners for their time and labor.

With the conservation club, we will be able to provide more information and services to the people of the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District. Your membership fee will be deductible from your income tax. I hope we will be able to count on you to help us provide a better place for everyone in Fayette county to live.

MEMBERSHIP CARD Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation Supporter		Receipt Card Fayette District Soil and Water Conservation Supporter
NAME _____ Address _____ Amount \$ _____		Name _____ Address _____ Amount \$ _____
Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners 422-3868		Return this portion with your donation to: Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District 412 Hwy 150 S# West Union, IA 52175-1508

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Soil Conservation Annual Report



Over 200 Fayette County third grade students attended the conservation field day at Richard Jensen's farm last September. BIG THANKS to Fayette Co. Pork Producers for providing sandwiches for all who attended.



Richard Jensen is entertaining and educating the students of the erosion process.



RC&D Forester John Olds and assistant Tom Brown shown in the woods discussing woodland management and the value of our woodland resources.



NRCS - Area Resource Soil Scientist Bob Voborra discusses the soils and shows students a soil profile.

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GREG FRONING
FARM DRAINAGE - BACKHOE WORK
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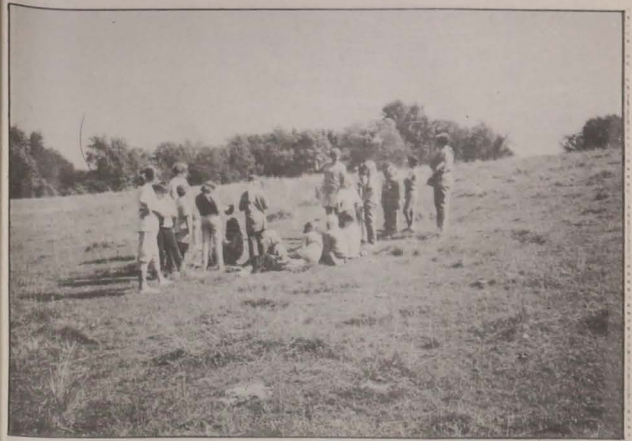
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WAUCOMA 776-4693

Fayette SWCD Conservation Field Day For 3rd Graders - Expanded in 1994



NRCS - Soil Cons. Tech. LaVonne Koch and Julie McCready inform the students of conservation "lines on the land" such as contours.



Fayette County Conservation Naturalist Dawn Devore - illustrates wildlife and the sounds they make.



NRCS - Jerry Muff is shown with students talking about farm ponds and the life within it.

Conservation Accomplishments 1994 Fiscal Year

CODE	PRACTICE	NUMBER	Acres (ac) Feet (ft)
100	Conservation District Cooperators	3	
102	Individuals and Groups Assisted	907	
104	Followup on HEL Plans	479	
106	Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	412	
108	Resource Management System Planned		2,539 ac
170	Tracts/No Highly Erodible Land	102	
171	Tracts/Highly Erodible Land	57	6,020 ac
172	Tracts with Approved Conservation Systems Applied	271	24,563 ac
173	Tracts with an Approved Conservation Compliance Plan	61	22,815 ac
312	Waste Management System	1	
329	Conservation Tillage		15,592 ac
330	Contour Farming		5,924 ac
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	5	
412	Grassed Waterway		365 ac
585	Contour Stripcropping		1,894 ac
600	Terraces		28,084 ft
901	Cropland Acres Treated		25,336 ac
904	Woodland Acres Treated		994 ac
905	Wildlife Land Acres Treated		45 ac
	Conservation Reserve Program 1-12 Sign-Up	523	23,752.96 ac

Soil Conservation Annual Report



Terraces recently constructed East of West Union.

Reduce your soil loss with terraces

By Bill Stanley
SCT/NRCS

How would you like to reduce your soil loss by as much as 65%? Contour terraces can, in some cases, do just that! In fact, in some cases that include gully erosion it could be far greater than 65%.

Contour terraces reduce both the present of slope in the farmed portion of the field and the length of slope between the terraces. The percent of slope, length of the slope, and contouring are all major factors in the universal soil loss equation that is used to determine the soil loss.

After a terrace system is completed almost all of the gully erosion is controlled through the terraced area and on

downhill to a point to where the slope flattens out, and gully erosion is not a problem or is controlled by a grassed waterway.

With contour terraces you can use a more intensive rotation and still stay eligible for the conservation compliance provision of the Food Security Act (FSA).

Terraces will also improve water quality by trapping greater than 90% of the sediment that would otherwise move on downstream.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly SCS) personnel will design, and make cost estimates at no charge to the land owner or tenant. Up to 50% cost share is available through Consolidated Farm

Services Agency (formerly ASCS) or the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District office. Both sources of cost sharing funds may be limited.



More than nine of ten farmers are in compliance with USDA's conservation rules, which require farmers to have completed conservation practices to protect highly erodible lands. Farmers were given five years to implement conservation plans on all their highly erodible lands. When it was suggested the deadline be extended because of the floods of 1993, farm leaders asked that the deadlines remain, to keep on schedule.



Thank you for a job well done

By Fayette Soil and Water District Commissioners
The Fayette Soil and Water District would like to take this time to give a heart felt thank you to Larry Rieling. Larry has been a commissioner for the last six years. He has added much to the district with his ideas, time and labor. He has represented the people of Fayette County well.

In the last six years, he has freely given hundreds of hours of his time and energy to the people of Fayette County without any financial reward or personal glory for himself. We will miss him at our meetings. We thank you, Larry and wish you the best.

Federal Crop Insurance Reform

By James D. Rogers
FmHA/RECD

On October 13, 1994, the President signed H.R. 4217, the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Public Law No. 103-354. This act authorized reorganization of USDA by the Secretary of Agriculture, including consolidation, relocation and closure of field offices.

Major changes will take place with Farmers Home Administration. Several years ago association type loans in FmHA were transferred to a newly created Rural Development Agency. This agency worked closely with FmHA and its personnel have been on a district and state level. The present reorganization has eliminated both FmHA and RDA and transferred the personnel and functions to a Rural Economic and Community Development Agency. The existing agricultural loans, housing loans and community development loans are continued unchanged.

FmHA committees located in each county were eliminated. The Fayette County Committee included Jack Hartman (Chairman), Sumner; and members Harry Reicks of St. Lucas and Dan Rosburg of Arlington. Alan Albrecht of Maynard was the alternate.

Close to September 30, 1995 the agricultural FmHA loans, including both insured and guaranteed loans will be transferred to the Consolidated Farm Service Agency. The individual housing FmHA loans, including both insured and guaranteed loans will be retained in the RECD. The former FmHA employees will be assigned to CFSA and RECD under plans presently being developed to meet the needs of loan making and servicing.

Present employees of the West Union RECD office are: James D. Rogers, County Supervisor; Linea M. Baldwin, Assistant County Supervisor; Charlene J. Nerem, County Program Technician and Jill A. Darnell, County Program Assistant.

USDA changes, better service

By Don Carpenter
Acting County Executive
Director

As you may be aware, our agency has undergone a few changes lately. The nationwide reorganization and streamlining of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will result in better service to Fayette producers. USDA agencies have been realigned and given new names to reflect the services they offer. Most programs of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) are now under the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA). Farm lending programs of the former Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) will be transferred to CFSA in the coming months.

In addition to the reorganization, a new law was passed called the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994. This act combines the old USDA crop insurance program and the disaster assistance programs previously administered by ASCS into one program. For insurable crops, the law virtually

eliminates the possibility of future disaster assistance.

The Federal Crop Insurance Program provides for a new catastrophic Coverage level (CAT) that is available for farmers for a nominal fee of \$50 per insurable crop. This CAT coverage will compensate farmers for crop yield losses greater than 50% at the payment rate of 60% of the expected market price.

Farmers must sign up for at least the catastrophic level of crop insurance coverage by March 15, 1995 to be eligible for USDA programs and benefits such as Acreage Reduction Programs including deficiency payments, commodity price support loans, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and FmHA loans. Producers are encouraged to timely establish actual production history (APH) with the Fayette County APH Office or a private insurance company by certifying to one or more years continuous production history for each crop. Producers should contact their local CFSA Office for more program details.

Soil Conservation service

By Richard Sims
Area Conservationist

USDA reorganization is slowly working its way through Congress and hopefully will be approved before the session adjourns, the process will have to start all over. There are many items in reorganization, if approved, that will provide a better service to you. For example there are several counties where the Soil Conservation Service, County Extension Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices are not co-located. This created unnecessary driving time for our customers.

One of the bright spots for me this year was the signing and approval of The Little Paint Watershed in Allamakee County. This is an excellent example of local, state, and federal people working together for a common goal. Work on the watershed will start in fiscal year 1995. (October 1, 1994 to September 30, 1995.)

The Soil Conservation Service in Iowa has had a 10% reduction in our 1995 budget. This has the potential to seriously affect several offices in Iowa. When a position is vacated it probably will not be filled, (except for the District Conservationist position), and our funds for part time employment has been cut in half. This is equal to five staff years gone for Northeast Iowa.

The 1996 budget forecasters estimate another reduction. The SCS offices will have to determine what workload items will or will not get accomplished because of the staff reductions.

There were three new water quality projects approved in Northeast Iowa this year. They are in Howard, Jackson and Linn counties. These funds are from EPA and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The local SCS office provides the technical advice and application to complete the projects. All projects will be for three years with the potential to be extended. Next year we are working on sites in Allamakee, Winneshiek, Dubuque, and Clayton counties.

We anticipate a very productive year for 1995. SCS is a service oriented agency and we are always willing to listen to your concerns.

Fundamentals of better land and water

Slowing Erosion By Water
Soil erosion from water is slowed in two basic ways--covering the ground and slowing the water's descent off a hillside. Grass, legumes, crop residues from the previous year, trees and shrubs are common forms of ground cover used by farmers to protect the soil. These ground covers are often used in combination with contouring and terracing, which are methods to slow water down as it runs off a hillside.

Slowing Erosion By Wind
As is the case with erosion by water, erosion by wind is cut drastically if the ground is covered with some sort of vegetation. Loose, dry soil that would otherwise blow into the atmosphere is held in place with vegetation. That includes crop rotations, cover crops such as rye or wheat when crops are not growing, and use of past years' crop residues. Wind erosion is also curbed with barriers including farmstead and field windbreaks.

Better Land, Better Water
Most conservation practices that protect the soil from erosion are also very good for improving the quality of water, particularly surface water. Soil held in place prevents excessive sedimentation of water supplies, along with better control of pesticides. Much of the vegetation used for erosion prevention can also serve to filter contaminants from runoff. Restored wetlands serve as filters as well as offering habitat for wildlife, along with other benefits. Iowa farmers are increasingly using conservation measures in combinations to protect all the resources on the farm, in an ecosystem protection approach. They are considering the soil, water, air, plants, and animals on the farm and beyond as they plan to improve resource use for themselves and their neighbors.

1995 TREE SEEDLING & TRANSPLANT SALE

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE: _____ (home) _____ (work)

The Fayette SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District) is once again sponsoring a tree seedling and transplant sale. The trees are hardy, bare root seedlings with healthy root systems from Cascade Forestry Service, Inc. Prices shown are per bundle of 25, except the nut tree, evergreen and shade tree packages. We are also offering individual trees this year. These trees are considered to be jumbo transplants because of their fullness, heavy caliper, and massive root system. Individual trees for sale include: blue spruce, Norway spruce, white spruce, and white pine and are on display at the office. Each tree will be sold for \$5.00 a tree.

The sale is open to anyone interested in planting trees. All orders must be received in our office no later than February 27, 1995. We will notify you in mid-April as to when your order can be picked up. Trees must be paid for when ordered. We do encourage early ordering, as we do sell out of the more popular species.

Species	Cost Per Bundle	Number To Order	Total Cost
American Arborvitae (12-18")	\$40.00	x	x
Black Hills Spruce (12-18")	\$32.00	x	x
Blue Spruce (12-18")	\$32.00	x	x
Honeysuckle (Hawkeye) (18-24" - Aphid resistant)	\$40.00	x	x
Lilac (18-24")	\$40.00	x	x
Norway Spruce (12-18")	\$32.00	x	x
Scotch Pine (12-18")	\$32.00	x	x
White Pine (12-18")	\$32.00	x	x
White Spruce (12-18")	\$32.00	x	x
Cost Per Package	\$50.00	x	x
Native Nut-Tree Package			
3 Butternut, (2-3')			
3 American Hazelnut, (6-12")			
3 Black Walnut, (6-12")			
2 Northern Pecan, (6-12")			
3 American Beechnut, (6-12")			
Evergreen Package	\$45.00	x	x
4 White Pine, (12-18")			
4 White Spruce, (12-18")			
4 Norway Spruce, (12-18")			
Shade Tree Package	\$50.00	x	x
3 Green Ash, (2-3')			
3 Sugar Maple, (2-3')			
3 Red Oak, (2-3')			
3 Pin Oak, (2-3')			
3 Swamp White Oak, (2-3')			
Individual Trees			
Blue Spruce (18-30")	\$5.00	x	x
Norway Spruce (18-30")	\$5.00	x	x
White Spruce (18-30")	\$5.00	x	x
White Pine (18-30")	\$5.00	x	x

Total of Above..... =
Add 5% Sales Tax..... =
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE..... =

Please make checks payable to Fayette SWCD and return with your order to 612 Highway 150 South #1, West Union, IA 52175-1508. Thank you for your order!



CONSERVATION

• CREATES PROFIT DOLLARS •

Soil Conservation Annual Report

Harvesting - The beginning or the end

The spotted owl has become a nationwide symbol against tree harvesting. The well being of the spotted owl isn't the issue, but whether we should harvest trees. I used to think this was a coastal phenomenon, but last summer's fury over harvesting walnut on state land is proof that many people are opposed to tree harvesting in the Midwest.

In a state where harvesting agricultural crops is a way of life, why is timber harvesting so offensive? Some people view timber harvesting as an end to the forest. But is it the end of the forest, or the beginning of a new forest?

It may appear to be the end of the forest because it takes a tree so long to grow? Eighty years is a lifetime to us, but our natural resources have been evolving for millions of years, and 80 years is but a blink of the eye. When compared to other natural resources we harvest such as coal, oil or limestone, trees take a very short time to replenish themselves.

People have told me that trees should be allowed to die and decay, and that harvesting disrupts the natural order of things. Have you ever seen a wildfire or tornado? These are part of the natural order of things, and they are tree harvests. In fact the forest cover we see on the landscape today is a direct result of Nature's harvesting activity. The prairie fires which destroyed the thin barked trees and left the oak with thick insulating bark resulted in our present oak timbers. The Dutch Elm disease which killed millions of elm trees

in the 1960's opened up the forest canopy and converted bottomlands to walnut and ash.

Timber harvesting produces wood products that each of us use every day of our lives. Look around you and try to imagine our world without wood. Where must these necessities come from? If managed properly, our forests will grow products we must have on a continual basis. Following the proper steps prior to and after the harvest will insure a sustainable forest. The harvest has not destroyed the forest, only changed the structure of the forest. There will be fewer large trees and more small trees momentarily. The thousands of seedlings once under the canopy of the larger trees will race for sunlight to determine which trees will fill the voids created by the harvest.

The best way to maintain our forests is to actively manage the forest, not ignore it. The tornadoes that passed through Howard, Winnechick, and Allamakee counties this past summer are a prime example that forests cannot be preserved in their present state. On state land alone, over 3,000 large trees were damaged by the storms. Mother Nature did not ask us if we agree or disagree with timber harvesting. No preparation was made to establish desirable seedlings to replace the older trees. The tornado clouds traveled across northeast Iowa, harvesting older trees that were brittle with age. The floods of 1993 had a similar impact on bottomland forests.

Harvesting is an important tool

to keep our forests in a healthy, vigorous condition. Income generated from timber sales can be reinvested back into the timber to guide the forest cover to species that most meet the landowner's objectives.

Harvesting with the intent of regenerating the forest to trees will result in a healthy forest, less susceptible to damage by storms, insects, and disease.

So, is harvesting the beginning or the end? It is neither, but it is a small point on an ever cycling forest ecosystem. Old trees will be harvested by man or nature and young trees will replace them. This cycle has been going on for hundreds of years. We can harvest the trees as they mature, invest money back into the resource, and help our forest to produce a multitude of benefits. A managed forest will provide high quality trees, better wildlife habitat, improved erosion control, esthetics, and help to purify our air. There is no beginning and end. Forests are a renewable resource. Only to those who can't see the small seedlings struggling for sunlight is there an end.

Gary Beyer, District Forester
Box 4
Charles City, IA 50616
515/228-6611

Good working waterways

By LaVonne Koch
Natural Resource
Conservation Technician

A waterway is an area seeded to grass or permanent vegetative cover where water usually concentrates as it runs off a field. A grassed waterway is an important practice reducing gully erosion.

When is it time to do maintenance to a waterway? The heavy rains in 1991 and following years, have caused serious waterway problems. In doing farm follow-up's, I have found gullies down the sides, gullies cut down the middle, and sediment built up in the center. Unstable waterways was also a problem. When these occur it is time to do maintenance to your waterway.

To minimize gullies forming along the waterway, don't plant end rows parallel to the waterway. It is best to bring the farm equipment into the waterway a couple feet, lift the implement to cross the waterway and continue to contour on the other side of the grassed area. Many times farmers blame waterways for failing when they simply leave grassed areas to narrow to do the job causing gullies to form on both sides. A waterway needs to have capacity to carry the field runoff.

A big problem in grassed waterways is caused by not shutting off the sprayer or drifting chemical, reducing the amount of grass in that area. If farmers hire spraying, they should insist that the operator pay attention to leave grassed

By William E. Bennett
Director, Region Four
IASWCDC

I would like to tell you about some people in your soil and water conservation district. As Region 4 director of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, I have come to know and appreciate these people and the work they do. They are people who are dedicated to a cause. They give freely of their time and resources. They receive no salary for all their time and effort. They do their best to help everyone in your district, but a lot of you do not know their names. They have a major impact on your lifestyle and the quality of your life. They have an effect on your drinking water, your recreation, your income, and many other things in your life. They are working to see that you will have the food to eat, the water to drink, and the air to breathe, so that you and your children may enjoy a long and fruitful life.

I think it is time that each of you, who are enjoying the fruits of their labor, say "thank you" to them for all they have done and will continue to do for you. Who are these people? They are your Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District

Commissioner and I want to thank them for all their efforts to make Fayette County and all of Iowa and the nation a better place to live and raise a family.

I would also like to thank all the farmers and their families, that are working to provide a safe environment for us to live. I would also like to thank them for providing the purest, best, and cheapest food in the world.

At the present time, your district commissioner, through the IASWCDC are working to help you receive better service and provide you with more of the cost share money you need and so it will be available in a manner that is usable for you. They are working to have a full time secretary in every soil and water conservation office. They are working to have all the programs

from your SWCD office be designed to meet the needs of your area, in other words to have more local control over how programs are operated. You can help them in this. By giving your input to them and by contracting your legislators and letting them know that you would like to have program controlled at the local level, not have everything in your operation controlled by the great leaders in Washington, D.C. and Des Moines, Iowa. The Legislators, both state and federal, do not know how you feel about anything if you don't let them know. Almost every legislator is very happy to get constructive suggestions and ideas from you. However, they do not like any more than you do, to be insulated or to only be given negative information.

Fayette SWCD Financial Statement July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994

IM BUDGET

1993-1994 Allocation.....	\$2,500.00
Supplemental.....	1,000.00
Total Allocation.....	3,500.00
Commissioner Expenses.....	1,879.68
Office Supplies and Expenses.....	1,619.81
Returned to State.....	51

IIM BUDGET COST-SHARE PROGRAM

1993-1994 Allocation.....	\$34,453.00
Supplemental.....	15,124.00
Total Allocation.....	49,577.00
Spent.....	24,290.79
Obligated.....	9,401.75
Unobligated.....	\$15,884.46

1992-1993 Allocation.....	\$38,389.00
Supplemental.....	32,002.00
Total Allocation.....	70,391.00
Spent.....	44,228.41
Obligated.....	22,300.75
Unobligated Balance.....	3,860.00
Returned To State.....	\$ 1.84

1991-1992 Allocation.....	\$38,456.00
Supplemental.....	612.00
Total Allocation.....	39,068.00
Spent.....	37,227.98
Unobligated.....	1,435.00
Returned To State.....	\$ 405.02

1990-1991 Allocation.....	\$56,534.00
Supplemental.....	40,298.85
Total Allocation.....	96,832.85
Spent.....	93,831.90
Unobligated.....	780.69
Returned To State.....	\$ 2,220.26

REAP PRACTICES

1994 Allocation.....	\$22,935.00
Spent.....	5,448.75
Unobligated.....	13,323.75
Returned To State.....	\$ 4,162.50

REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES

1994 Allocation.....	\$5,586.00
Supplemental.....	26,519.00
Total Allocation.....	32,105.00
Spent.....	577.50
Obligated.....	856.00
Unobligated.....	30,519.00
Returned To State.....	\$ 152.50

ORGANIC NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1994 Allocation.....	\$64,245.00
Spent.....	\$ 8,640.00

GLOVERS CREEK WATERSHED - 75%

1993 Allocation.....	\$ 8,640.00
Spent.....	22,907.13
Returned To State.....	\$41,337.87

GLOVERS CREEK WATER QUALITY EVALUATION PLAN (U OF I)

1993 Allocation.....	\$28,350.00
Spent.....	\$28,350.00

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance.....	\$2,590.71
Payroll.....	570.90
Federal & FICA.....	149.20
State Withholding.....	8.76
State Unemployment.....	6.36
IPERS.....	41.56
Check Order.....	12.01
Service Charge.....	7.29
Ending Balance.....	\$1,794.63

CFSA 1995 allocations

By Jill Shannon
Conservation Program
Assistant

Fayette County CFSA (formerly ASCS) has received their 1995 allocation for the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). Funding has been cut by fifty percent from last year's allocation so we encourage you to sign up by March 31st for any practice you are interested in. Each application received requesting ACP funds is reviewed by the County Committee and evaluated on the amount of environmental benefit versus the cost to CFSA and then prioritized accordingly.

A new practice titled SP-53, Integrated Crop Management has been added for the 1995 fiscal year. This practice demonstrates the use of an ICM system to reduce pollution of water, land, or air and preserve soil fertility. Apply this practice to cropland on which there is a need to ensure that pesticides, herbicides and nutrients are applied in an efficient and environmentally sound manner while the land is devoted to agricultural production.

Last year CFSA was allocated

\$46,685 of annual ACP funds.

The County Committee paid producers approximately \$11,300 cost share for grassed waterways, \$7,000 roughly for water control structures and an estimated \$5,000 for terraces funded under the annual cost share program. CFSA provided producers with nearly \$13,000 for contour farming, strip cropping and no-till systems. In addition to those practices funds were also distributed to producers who planted trees or improved a stand of trees, seeded land down to a permanent vegetative cover or installed areas for wildlife.

Conservation Reserve Program participants should be aware that during the 1995 calendar year, USDA will consider requests from them to be released from their CRP contracts or to modify their current contracts to reduce the amount of acreage. USDA will also request and consider bids to enroll new acreage in the CRP subject to new 10 year contracts. Only the most environmentally beneficial acres will be selected for new contracts. USDA plans to have regulations in place by the summer of 1995. We will update you as information becomes available to us.

FSWCD has many people and businesses to thank

By Fayette SWCD
Commissioners

The Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners would like to say thank you to a great many people and organizations who made our third annual conservation field day for third graders a success. The Fayette County Pork Producers for cooking and serving delicious food for the students. The North Fayette, Valley, Turkey Valley, West Central, Oelwein, St. Johns Schools for their attending. Tom Trewin of Fredericksburg for the

port-a-pottys. Circle K communications of Charles City for hand held radios. Dick Jensen for his farm and equipment. Kim Dummermuth and Randy Helgerson for their equipment. The Fayette SWCD, the area SCS office, and the RC&D for Northeast Iowa for furnishing staff to do the many jobs that needed done. And last but not least the press of Fayette county for their coverage of this event. We think that each of you help make this a little better place for each of us to live. Thank you.

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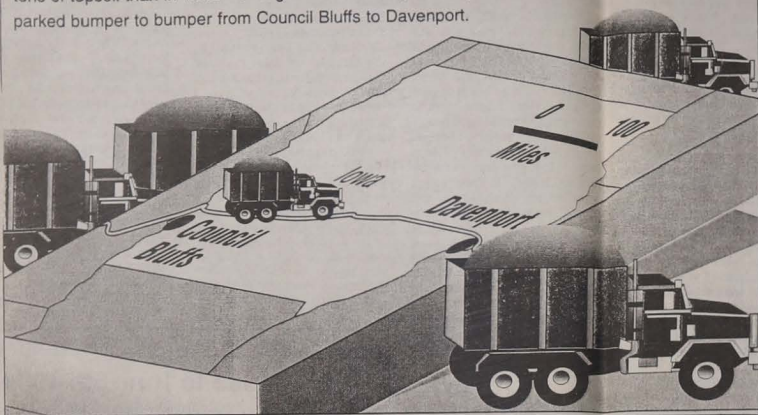
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Soil Conservation Annual Report

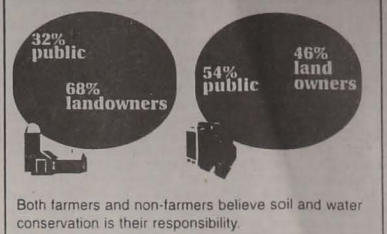
Soil savings pile up

By 1992 Iowa farmers applied conservation practices to save 100 million more tons of topsoil than in 1982—enough to fill a convoy of dumptrucks 105 wide, parked bumper to bumper from Council Bluffs to Davenport.

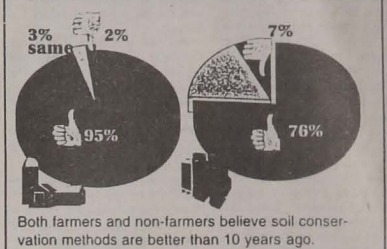


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Conservation responsibility



Soil conservation better



Timber marketing tips

BY: Jerry Muff

Occasionally I hear complaints by folks who've recently sold lumber to buyers. Usually these problem situations occur when the seller has not worked with the DNR District Forester or RC&D Forester in marketing their valuable timber. The following article is ISU Extension Pamphlet 413, Marketing Iowa Timber provides some helpful direction.

Timber Marketing Tips

Fall and winter are active timber marketing periods in the state. A landowner can only receive full value for his timber if well-documented procedures are followed. Probably the most important first step is to obtain the services of a professional to assist you in the management of your woodlands. A District Forester of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is available in your area to provide on-the-ground assistance. Or, you can employ a private consulting forester to secure expanded help with the timber sale; such firms typically charge a percentage of the final timber sale for their services.

Second, with the help of your consultant, determine if a harvest is currently warranted in your timber; if such a harvest is

appropriate, carefully consider the action required to maintain and continue your woodland with the species and quality you desire.

Third, determine what you have to sell; only you as the landowner, working with your District Forester or private consultant, should determine what trees are to be sold. Mark the financially mature trees or carefully identify the boundary of the area to be harvested. Determine the volume and assess the quality of the trees you wish to sell; tally this information by the species to be sold. Remember not to sell trees too soon. Although a 16-inch (diameter at breast height) veneer tree may be marketable, adding six inches in diameter will double the volume of the first 16-foot log, and the unit value may increase by a factor of five or more.

Fourth, determine how you wish to sell the mature trees. If you have a reasonable volume of high quality trees in the area where timber buyers are active, the preferred method is requesting a sealed bid indicating the dollar amount the buyer is willing to pay for the standing trees that have been marked. Send out a "Notice of Timber for Sale" to active timber buyers in the area, and request a sealed bid for the marked sale. Your

professional forestry consultant can provide a list of active buyers operating in your area. The only way that you can establish the value of your standing trees at a particular time is to have interested buyers bid on the timber.

Fifth, enter into a legal contract with the buyer; this contract should carefully specify the agreement between buyer and seller relative to the timber harvest; a sample "Timber Sale Contract" is available as extension pamphlet Pm-413b, which is available from your county extension office or from Forestry Extension at Iowa State. Make sure you, as a landowner, receive payment before harvesting begins.

Finally, periodically inspect the harvesting operation; impress upon the logger your interest in maintaining a healthy, productive woodland. After the harvest is complete, follow the advice of your professional forestry consultant and implement any post-harvest operations needed to secure the type of future forest that you want. Use a part of the proceeds from the timber sale to promote a future quality woodland.

Iowa State University extension pamphlet, Pm-413, "Marketing Iowa Timber," provides useful

information and appropriate guidelines for marketing timber to realize maximum benefits.

Wetlands rules misunderstood, agriculture officials say

DES MOINES - As it resumes plans to identify and designate wetlands on Iowa's agricultural lands, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is asking farmers who have questions to get answers from their local NRCS offices rather than the local rumor mill.

"We know there are plenty of rumors out there. Those rumors can cause some unnecessary anxiety for farmers and other landowners who have only heard about intent or process second-hand," said Leroy Brown, State Conservationist for the NRCS in Des Moines.

Brown said a common rumor is that farmers cannot continue to farm their land as they have in the past because part of their land may be determined to be a wetland. "The truth is, farmers can continue to farm as they did before the wetlands rules came into existence. They just can't improve the drainage to convert a wetland or farmed wetland back

to farmland, without losing government farm benefits," he said.

Farmer attention was drawn to the wetlands issue in December, when the NRCS, formerly the Soil Conservation Service, announced it would resume the process of determining which ag lands in Iowa are wetlands by USDA definitions. The agency had put the determination process on hold more than year ago, when it was apparent there were contradictions among USDA, EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers definitions.

The federal agencies agreed on common definitions, and agreed the NRCS would take the lead in determining wetlands on ag lands. "The confusion and concern on wetlands is understandable," Brown said. "We know there are disagreements with which lands are being called wetlands, too."

But Brown believes the rumors are unnecessarily upsetting farmers. "One of the harmful rumors is that we're determining all the wetlands in the office when we should be walking out on the land for an accurate call," Brown said. "The fact is, by using aerial photographs of five years with rainfall as close to average as possible, other inventories, flooding data, and then visiting a percentage of sites to ground truth that information, we make a much better call. Still, when any landowner appeals a wetland

determination, we will visit the site to see whether any errors or misjudgments were made."

Brown says there is also still a feeling among many farmers that they will be restricted by wetland rules no matter what the call is on wetlands. The vast majority of wetlands have already been converted for crop production to the extent that they no longer meet wetland criteria. "These lands are called prior converted farmland, and there are no restrictions on draining them," Brown said.

While the NRCS is doing the inventory work necessary to determine wetlands now, the first county isn't expected to have determinations made until mid-1995. Other counties could take as long as three years.

"We know we've still got a ways to go in this whole wetlands determination process, and we frankly don't know how many farms will have wetlands or how many farmers will be affected," Brown said. "It is important to us to keep farmers informed, and for them to have the correct information. So we welcome a visit from farmers who want to know more about the wetlands determination process and how they might be affected."

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Manure as a resource, not for waste

According to three statewide surveys, only 50 percent of farmers credit nutrients from manure applied to their row crops. Yet, surveys show 20 percent of Iowa farmers could supply about half of the needed nitrogen from livestock manure. This represents a segment of the farming population that could further reduce the amount of applied commercial fertilizer with farm management education.

Each ton of manure supplies about five pounds of nitrogen, five pounds of phosphorus, and 10 pounds of potassium. (These numbers have been adjusted for field losses.) A spreader traveling at 4.5 miles an hour delivers about 15 tons of manure an acre. For farmers with livestock, manure could supply 75 pounds of potassium. The savings for using natural fertilizer in place of commercial fertilizer is about \$45 per acre.