

Eroded soil lost forever

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This Week And Enjoy
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'Traction Torque'
The rear tire that helps get the
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'Triple Rib R/S'
An all-around favorite for
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NO TRADE
NEEDED

- Three enduring tread patterns
- Triple-tempered nylon cord body construction
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Designed for handling
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and 4 Tire Rotation

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Includes front-end alignment, tire rotation, and a safety check. No extra charge for a second vehicle. Cash or credit.

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TECHNICIAN — Jerome "Bud" Siebrecht of Clermont is a conservation technician with the NCS office in West Union. He is shown at work on a map of the county.

Getting into tillage ...

by J. R. Siebrecht
Conservation Technician
N.C.S. I & R.C.

Nowadays everyone is getting into something, be it tennis, jogging, handball, politics or PTA. Back a few years, or rather a lot of years, when I was in high school, it wasn't what you were into, it was what you were up to.

What I am up to is giving you some facts and figures on conservation tillage. Now, I will be the first to admit that I don't enjoy writing talking, listening to or reading about facts and figures. I think anyone who subjects his fellowman to this mental abuse is a bore and has a sure cure for insomnia. However, the facts and figures I will be writing about should keep you awake for they are vital facts to a very serious and undervalued county, state and national problem. This problem being the loss of our topsoil. I am going to keep this article short and on the country level.

One hundred years ago in Fayette County there were 14-16 inches of topsoil. Now we have only six to eight inches remaining. That's okay, you say. I only plow eight inches deep anyway, no worry, I have plenty of soil. Listen to this, a fact: on unprotected and sloping land you lose two bushels of soil for every bushel of corn that you produce.

Now that figures out to be one inch of topsoil per acre over a 12 year period. Now remember, I said we had only 6 to 8 inches of topsoil remaining. Here is another fact, at our present rate of soil loss, we will be out of topsoil in the next 25 years.

Now remember one fifth of all the corn grown in the nation, Fayette County is a corn and soybean which are raised in erosion.

Not so, you say, much of Fayette County is flat and has very little sloping land and therefore very little soil loss and erosion. We have very heavy soil loss in the flatter part of the county as well as the more rolling part in the North and Eastern part of the county. This is due mainly to conventional fall plowing and erosion from the field. Think the wind doesn't blow your soil? What do you think makes the snow back in the winter and the sky so hazy in the spring? It is your 15,000 to 16,000 per acre land on the move.

Only 36 percent of the eroded soil in the county is adequately treated. Now you ask, what does adequately treated mean? This means that the annual soil loss is three to five tons per acre or less. To say this is an acceptable rate we can live with.

On your sloping land, terracing is the answer to keeping the soil loss to an acceptable level. The average cost of terracing in the county is \$1.77 per foot. In the hills this figure to be about \$200 per acre, plus your drainage and needed tile. Now this may sound like a lot to spend on already expensive land but once you lose an inch of topsoil it is gone forever. You will have to wait 100 years for nature to make the soil back. Until we can get the needed terracing on the land the best way to slow this soil loss is the use of contouring and conservation tillage. Conservation tillage will cut the soil loss by one-half when you leave 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of crop residue per acre on the soil surface. A corn crop of 25 bushels per acre will yield 1,000 pounds of residue per acre. Here is a list of tillage tools and what they will do:

EQUIPMENT
Chisel plow (straight shanks) 20
Field cultivator (with sweeps) 30
Tandem disk 30
Rotary tillage (3 inches deep) 50

(Continued on page 4)



FROM CAREFUL PLANNING

As you know, operating a farm involves lots of hard work, business knowledge and careful planning. If your plans include modernization, new equipment, expansion, new or old crop land, long term financing can help you make the necessary changes you need to increase profits! Stop by:

FDIC State Bank of Fayette
425-3395



DIRT DRIFTS — Towering banks of snow in this Fayette County ditch emphasize the amount of topsoil lost over the winter months, as cold winds blow the soil to the ditches, where it stands out in sharp contrast to the white of the snow. (Photo by Ken Schmidt)

Buchanan County Soil commissioners meet

The Buchanan County Soil Conservation District Commissioners met recently with Ralph Krenner and Bill Mitchell, representatives of the Iowa Cedar and N.E. Iowa Conservation Districts, who were present to inform the commissioners of progress with the 36 planting. The deadline is drawing nearer when all streams, lakes and rivers are to be cleaned up and made swimmable and fishable. The deadline for this is 1981.

The non-point pollution of the streams coming from urban and rural runoff into the streams will have to be stopped, or deep lakes to start conservation practices to stop it. At that time, mandatory controls could be implemented to see that the runoff is stopped. This would concern each farm, construction site, city drainage systems, etc., that has run-off and soil erosion that is polluting the waters of the United States.

Plans were also made for the general public to be informed of the benefits of different types of tillage methods and how they may be adapted to their farming operations.

The open meetings were discussed and commissioners decided the district has been

The district will be sending out a cooperative letter this year. The letter is sent every two years to

cooperators for a donation to help with the different activities, such as the scholarships, 4-H camps, dues to national and state organizations, prizes for contests etc. that the district sponsors.

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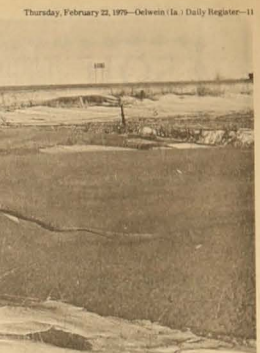
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TECHNICIAN — Jerome "Bud" Siebrecht of Clermont is a conservation technician with the USGS office in West Union. He is shown at work on a map of the county.

Getting into tillage ...

By J. K. Siebrecht
Conservation Technician
USGS, U.S.D.C.
Nowadays everyone is getting into something, be it tennis, jogging, handball, politics or PTA. Back a few years, or rather a lot of years, when I was in high school, it wasn't what you were into, it was what you were up to? What I am up to is giving you some facts and figures on conservation tillage.

Now, I will be the first to admit that I don't enjoy writing talking, listening to or reading about facts and figures. I think anyone who subjects his fellowman to this mental abuse is a bore and has a sure cure for insomnia. However, the facts and figures I will be writing about should keep you awake for they are vital facts to a very serious and underrated county, state and national problem. This problem being the loss of our topsoil. I am going to keep this article short and on the country level.

One hundred years ago in Fayette County there were 14-16 inches of topsoil. Now we have only six to eight inches remaining. That's okay, you say. I only plow eight inches deep anyway, no worry, I have plenty of soil. Listen to this, a fact, on unprotected and sloping land you lose two bushels of soil for every bushel of corn that you produce.

Now that figures out to be one inch of lost topsoil per acre over a 12 year period. Now remember, I said we had only six to eight inches of topsoil remaining. Here is another fact, at our present rate of soil loss, we will be out of topsoil in the next 20 years.

Now, let's look at the corn grown in the nation. Fayette County produces one-fifth of all the corn grown in the nation. Fayette County has 100,000 acres of corn and soybeans which are planted in the same way. This means that Fayette County is losing 100,000 acres of topsoil every 12 years. This is a staggering loss and therefore very little soil loss and erosion. We have very heavy soil loss in the flatter part of the county as well as the more rolling part in the North and Eastern part of the county. This is the main reason for the loss of topsoil and erosion from the wind. Think the wind doesn't blow your soil? What do you think makes the snow black in the winter and the sky so hazy in the spring? It is your \$1,300 to \$1,600 per acre land on the move.

Only 36 percent of the eroded soil in the county is adequately treated. Now you ask, what does adequately treated mean? This means that the annual soil loss is three to five tons per acre or less. So, in fact, this is an acceptable rate we can live with.

On your sloping land, terracing is the answer to keeping the soil loss to an acceptable level. The average cost of terracing in the county is \$1.77 per foot. In the hills this figure to be about \$200 per acre, plus your drainage and needed tile. Now this may sound like a lot to spend on already expensive land but once you lose an inch of topsoil it is gone forever. You will have to wait 100 years for nature to replace it back. Until we can get the needed terraces on the land the best way to slow this soil loss is the use of contouring and conservation tillage. Conservation tillage will cut the soil loss by one-half when you leave 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of crop residue per acre on the soil surface. A corn crop of 120 bushels per acre will yield 1,000 pounds of residue per acre. Here is a list of tillage tools and what they will do:

EQUIPMENT	PERCENT RESIDUE BURIED
Chisel plow (straight shanks)	30
Field cultivator (with sweeps)	30
Tandem disk	30
Rotary tillage (3 inches deep)	50

(Continued on page 4)

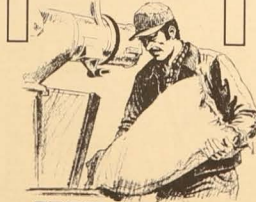
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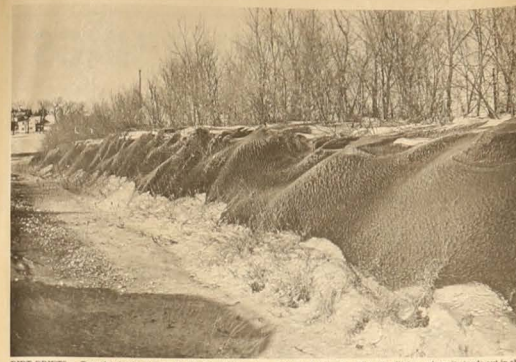
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DIRT DRIFTS — Towering banks of snow in this Fayette County ditch emphasize the amount of topsoil lost over the winter months, as cold winds blow the soil to the ditch, where it stands out in sharp contrast to the white of the snow. (Photo by Ken Schmidt)

Buchanan County Soil commissioners meet

The Buchanan County Soil Conservation District Commissioners met recently with Ralph Krenner and Bill Mitchell, representatives of the Iowa Cedar and N.E. Iowa Conservation Districts, who were present to inform the commissioners of progress with the 36 planning. The deadline is drawing nearer when all streams, lakes and rivers are to be cleaned up and made swimmable and fishable. The deadline for this is 1981.

The non-point pollution of the streams coming from urban and rural runoff into the streams will have to be stopped, or steps taken to start conservation practices to stop it. At that time, mandatory controls could be implemented to see that the runoff is stopped. This would concern each farm, construction site, city drainage systems, etc., that has run-off and soil erosion that is polluting the waters of the United States.

cooperators for a donation to help with the different activities, such as the scholarship, 4-H camps, dues to national and state organizations, prizes for contests etc. that the district sponsors.

The open meetings law was discussed and commissioners decided the district has been approved for the following people: Patrick Bevan, Byron and Liberty townships, Gary Huns, Sumner and Homer townships, Phil Dams, Redfish Township, Dorcas Hobbs, Newton township, Donald and Wilmer Main, Sumner, Westburg and Liberty townships, Robert Gatter, Jefferson township, and Glen Peck, Fremont township.

The district will be sending out a corporate letter this year. The letter is sent every two years to



BLACK SNOW — Fall plowing helps erode topsoil, on this area in Fayette County shows. Winter winds carry the black topsoil to the ditches, covering snow banks with a layer of black. (Photo by Ken Schmidt)

giving by the guidelines of the law.

A memo of understanding was signed with ASCS. Initial agreements were approved for the following people: Patrick Bevan, Byron and Liberty townships, Gary Huns, Sumner and Homer townships, Phil Dams, Redfish Township, Dorcas Hobbs, Newton township, Donald and Wilmer Main, Sumner, Westburg and Liberty townships, Robert Gatter, Jefferson township, and Glen Peck, Fremont township.

COMMISSIONER — James Horvack, new district commissioner has been farming in Southfield Township for 11 years. He and his brother, Tim, are engaged in a cattle and hog feeding operation southwest of Arlington. They are members of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. James and his wife, Sharon, have two children, Kirk, 12, and Amy, 11. They are members of St. John Lutheran Church, Arlington. Mrs. Horvack is a substitute teacher at St. James Elementary School.



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Cooks . . .

(Continued from page 1)

trained by livestock. The soil erodes when trees are cut and develop into hollow cavities at the base of the tree as it matures. One walnut tree last year sold for \$20.00. The timber buyers said they would have paid twice as much for the timber had not been grazed. Many of the old valuable but logs were below at the base, making the logs more valuable for cattle than wood.

The Iowa Timber Reserve Law provides a tax incentive for landowners who protect their timber from grazing. The law sets the value of land that qualifies for timber reserve at \$14.80 per acre. The actual bid that the landowners pay normally ranges from an even \$0 cents per acre depending on the millage rate. This is a savings in taxes to the landowner of approximately \$0 per acre. Most timberland do not have \$1 per acre of grazing value. It takes 5 to 6 acres of timber to equal one acre of improved pasture. Land that has a minimum of 200 trees per acre at least 2 acres in size, and is not grazed will qualify for timber reserve. The county assessor is responsible for certifying land as reserve. Interested landowners should contact their county assessor for certification.

Timber is a crop that produces not only wood products, but many non-monetary benefits. These include wildlife habitat, erosion control, water and air purification, recreation, and aesthetics. Just like any other crop timber has to be managed to realize the full potential of its monetary and non-monetary benefits. I'd be happy to assist landowners in managing their woodland. I feel that many of us are overlooking a renewable resource that will not only benefit you, but also future generations.

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Enda Family — Bob Bertram of West Union, assistant county supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration office, goes over

paperwork with a family from Elgin. The family includes Mike and Cindy Gibbs and their children, Shawn, 3, and Chris, 1 1/2.

Grain dust may be sold for feed

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska officials of a grain elevator firm are experimenting with a plan to sell grain dust as feed to livestock.

Bob Fry, chief engineer for Fur-Mac's, said his firm had had success selling the (fine) grain powder that can cause the explosions and previously sold it as a feed supplement.

But Fry said he was not sure if it was safe to use as a feed supplement. The Environmental Protection Agency said recently that dust and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said it couldn't float around in the air.

As a result, the dust has been developed to filter it out, according to Dr. Robert Schoff, professor of grain science and industry at Kansas State University.

"We used to just blow it into the air," he said. "It was no problem, since the dust was in the country and the dust is biodegradable."

Fry said the dust is not really digestible as feed but whole grain and has a high protein content.

"We feel that it is actually a better product (than whole grain)," he said.

Though a million pounds of grain yields only about 25 bushels of dust, the Fur-Mac Co. elevators nationwide collected about 12 million pounds of grain dust last year, Fry said.

For smaller elevator operations, handling equipment and transportation costs are usually too high to warrant the investment, said Robert Anderson, executive vice president of the Nebraska Grain Dealers and Feed Dealers Association.

But if the elevator is near a feedlot, the operation could be economically sound, he noted.



Farm officials — Officials in charge of the Farmers Home Administration in this area include, left to right, M.F. Vansickel of New Hampton, district office supervisor, and Jim Rogers of West Union, district office supervisor.

Charles City given 30 days to correct waste

CHARLES CITY (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency has given Charles City 30 days to act on problems caused by waste entering the city's sewer treatment system.

The city has been operating with both sanitary and the EPA to find a solution to the current problem. The city and the laborers have submitted plans for the total separation of their treatment systems. These plans have been awaiting review by the EPA for several months.

Thursday, February 22, 1979—Oelwein (la.) Daily Register—3

Major agreement for marketing soybeans

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The American Soybean Association has signed a major marketing agreement with a major marketing cooperative in Brazil.

The agreement was signed in Porto Alegre, Brazil, one of several stops on an ASA marketing development mission in Latin America. The association was scheduled to return to the United States Monday.

"Under the agreement we signed with Fecotrig, a large farmer cooperative, we will assist in Brazil's efforts to increase their domestic use of soybeans," said Nick Rosen, chairman of the ASA board of directors.

The agreement with Brazil, the world's second largest producer of soybeans, is designed to improve the U.S. soybean export picture through reduced competition. It will keep Brazilian soybeans of the world market by developing that country's swine and poultry industries.

We will provide the technical and practical information for the soybean industry, explaining how they can use soybeans to increase protein consumption in Brazil.

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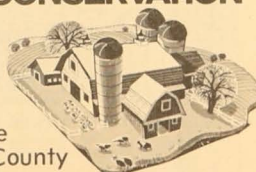
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Working to eliminate county's sanitary problems

by Louis Frykman
Fayette County Sanitation
On Sept. 15, 1978, a set of rules and regulations were put into effect by the Fayette County Board of Health to help eliminate sanitary problems in the county.

These problems stem from septic tank waste being dumped in ditches, drain tile, streams, etc., improperly placed and installed wells, abandoned wells, rat harborage, manure and the dumping of garbage into ditches. The rules and regulations will be administered by Louis Frykman, the new County Sanitarian.

The rules and regulations, based on the State Department of Health regulations, set up criteria for installing on-site sewage disposal systems and water wells to prevent contamination of the surface water and ground water. Permits are required for the installation of both of these systems to insure that the regulations are followed.

The regulations base the type and size of sewage disposal system and the distance the water well can be from this system upon the characteristics of the soil that they will be installed in.

The characteristics of the soil that are looked for are the type of soil, the depth of the soil and the thickness of the soil layers. When a person first applies for a permit these characteristics are looked for in the "Advance Report of the Soil Survey of Fayette County, Iowa" along with the "Flood Potential" of the depth of the water.

table from the ground surface and the permeability of the soil. If all this information appears suitable for the sewage system, in particular, then an on-site evaluation test is required. The permeation test measures the permeability of the soil, which is the capacity of the soil to transmit a fluid. A certain amount of water is forced as it seeps from a hole into the ground. This rate of flow has limits on it. If the rate is too fast the soil won't be able to purify the waste water before it enters the ground water, thus polluting it. And if the rate is too slow the water won't flow and will come to the surface creating a health hazard.

Before a well is drilled, the topography of the land is looked out to find the slope and highest point. The well is to be located either on the highest point of the land or up slope from areas of contamination. The regulations list the minimum distances that the well shall be from possible sources of contamination.

A well can contaminate the aquifer that it is getting water from if it isn't installed properly. It can be contaminated by the surface water or water from another aquifer to flow down and mix with the fresh water aquifer leading to possible contamination. This problem can be eliminated by forcing a cement mixture down around the casing, this is called "grouting" the well.

Another direct route for surface water or for the free migration of water between different aquifers is the many abandoned wells found around the county. Most of these are shallow wells but they create a direct path through the top 20-30 feet of soil which is the most important natural filtration of the water. All these wells should be properly plugged from the bottom up with a material recommended by the Iowa Geologic Survey.

Another means for the spread of germs is by rodents, particularly the rat. The rat can transmit the germs to man by direct contact, touching or being bitten, or indirect contact, contamination of food by rat droppings.

The rat flea is known to be a vector of the plague and this can be transmitted to man by the flea itself or by being bitten by an infected rat. Therefore it is of paramount importance to prevent the proliferation of the rat. This is done by the elimination of rat harborage in the county.

Rat harborage means any condition which provides shelter or protection for rats, thus favoring their multiplication and continued existence. The proper disposal of garbage thus eliminating a source of food and harborage for rats. Proper disposal being incineration, live burning, ordinary burial or taking it to a sanitary landfill, not dumping it into a ditch.

Nuisances are a group of miscellaneous items that may be the sources of disease spread, the cause of mechanical and chemical injury to the public or merely creators of nuisance which may disturb the emotional and mental equilibrium of those affected and they need a certain amount of public health attention. The Board of Health has the power and authority to have them removed by the Fayette County Board of Health effect all or portions of the rules and regulations please contact Louis Frykman, Room 107, Fayette County Courthouse, West Union, Iowa 52255 or call 422-7744.

Examples of nuisances are: all noxious weeds, dense smoke, noxious fumes, public exposure of persons having a contagious disease, unnecessary noise and annoying vibrations and installations of flies, fleas and roaches. This is just a small list of things that can be considered nuisances and death with by the Board of Health.

The rules and regulations that were passed by the Fayette County Board of Health effect all or portions of the rules and regulations please contact Louis Frykman, Room 107, Fayette County Courthouse, West Union, Iowa 52255 or call 422-7744.

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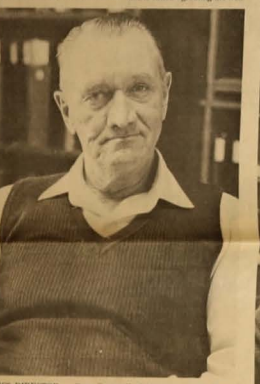
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ASCS DIRECTOR — Gene Brownell of Maynard is the county executive director of the Fayette County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office in Fayette.



P.A. CLERK — Mrs. John Riles of Fayette is the ASCS administrative and P.A. clerk at the Fayette County.



SPILLWAY — This reinforced concrete drop spillway structure was constructed on the Helen Hick farm in Bethel township to stabilize the lower end of a grassed waterway and to provide a better outlet for tile drains.



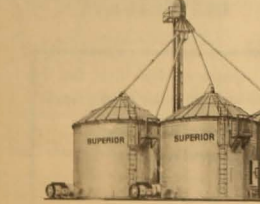
DRAINAGE — Cooperation of Charles Langreck and Donald Winter of Dover township resulted in the installation of a mutual drainage outlet.



the lower end of a grassed waterway and to provide a better outlet for tile drains.

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by Gary Beyer
District Forester
Charles City
Fayette County has 30,000 acres of timberland. The majority is rough land, designed and meant to produce timber products. The area is blessed with good quality northern hardwoods, and has tremendous potential for timber management. The disturbing fact is that many landowners are neglecting this valuable resource. The greatest abuse of wood-



FORESTER — Gary Beyer, District Forester, Charles City.

in Iowa is grazing by livestock. Grazing timber is like letting cattle run in standing corn. The effects are the same: the crop is destroyed. Trees are "matted" in the sense that they all reach an age when they will die. Livestock browse and trample young seedlings, eliminating the replacements for the mature trees. The long term effect is clearing of the woods. The "brush" in ungrazed timber is actually thousands of young trees awaiting a harvest or natural occurrence to provide them with sunlight so that they can mature. The cycle can be sustained forever with proper management. The presence of natural regeneration is essential to insure that desirable species will dominate the future stand. Cattle eat all the trees, except berry species, such as prickly ash, hawthorne, and gooseberry. These underbrush are free to overrun the timber with the absence of young trees that would normally shade them out. Livestock compact the soil and reduce oxygen and moisture uptake by the tree roots. The trees are weakened and more susceptible to damage by drought, insects, and disease. This compaction also increases erosion. Compared to an ungrazed timber, lightly grazed woodland has up to 8 times the erosion, and heavily grazed timber up to 46 times the erosion. The root collars of trees are



(Continued on page 12)

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Sheet Erosion Losing topsoil bit by bit through sheet erosion isn't noticeable at first. But, just because your land isn't scarred with gullies doesn't mean you aren't losing a thin sheet of topsoil with every rain. Stop this soil thief! Plant on the contour, make use of crop residues, and leave your row crop seedbeds cloudy.	Low Fertility Make sure low fertility doesn't cut your profits. High-fertility builds dense cover crops to reduce run-off during heavy rains, too. Have your soil tested and fertilize accordingly. Plan a long range fertility program centered around your yield goals, crop rotation system, and soil tests.	Wind Erosion Act now to stop wind erosion. Crop residues and a cloudy seedbed can drastically cut wind erosion on your land. For permanent protection, take steps to install windbreaks and plan for strategically placed cover crops. Ask your local office about ACP payments to help defray costs.	Water Loss Here are some management tips you can use to keep the rain on your land. Leave rough tilled surfaces where possible. Leave crop residues on the surface and incorporate mulches where possible. Finally, a program of contour farming and cover crops will insure that you hold the rain on your land for high crop yields.
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WIND AND WATER can cause erosion so severe that it causes ditches to fill with sediment.



WASHED — With poor conservation practices, heavy rains can cause the equal to "wash" away, covering young crop plants in low areas and leaving the hills barren.



DISTRICT CLERK — Petie Bauer of Hawkeye is the district clerk with the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

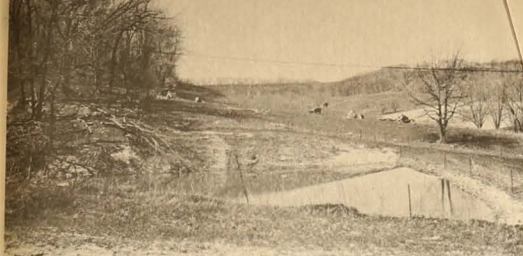
More grain being stored in bins

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — There's a spreading trend among farmers to store grain on their farms in the hope that the price will rise. It's a gamble for the farmers but it's been a sure thing for the Butler Manufacturing Co., which makes and sells pre-fabricated storage buildings.

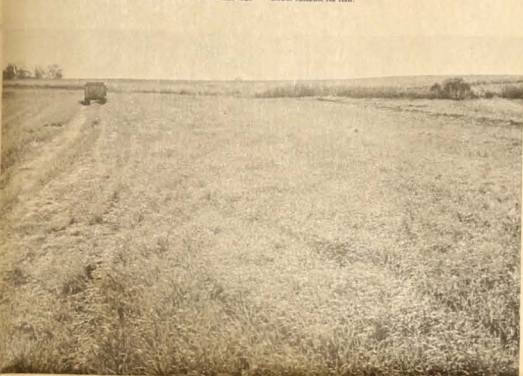
It's called orderly marketing — a relatively new idea that is fast replacing the traditional market tree. Instead of lines of trucks making through towns across America's Midwest to report wheat, corn, sorghum or soybeans in towering stacks, many of those vehicles haul crops to on-farm grain bins.

The bins enable farmers to wait until the price is right to sell their harvest. And the farmers don't have to worry as much about limited space in the large elevators that service many farms.

The trend has meant record sales for Kansas City-based Butler Manufacturing and the company's 700 dealers across America. Butler is the largest



EROSION DAM — Bob Hock of Hylis township built this erosion dam to stabilize a large gully. It will also control runoff that was flowing near his barnyard. The permanent pool of water is spring fed and is suitable for fish.



WATERWAY — Dorothy Christopherson completed this grassed waterway on her farm in Reethel township. The was installed on each side to provide adequate subsurface drainage.

More conservation

(Continued from page 1)

certify items that are of such nature when the landowner can tell if requirements and specifications have been met.

For much work, technicians provided through the Soil Conservation District would be used. An installation report would be prepared for the landowner to give to his contractor. The contractor would check the construction against the stakes. That checklist recorded by the contractor on an installation report would be used by everyone involved with the project. And the time saved by the technician could be used to design and stake out more construction.

For each project the landowner should know what services are needed and who will provide them. He can then plan to select contractors, suppliers, or consultants needed to provide the services including check-out.

The Winnebago Soil Conservation District is using check-out by others. Other districts within northeast Iowa are taking steps to advise landowners and contractors of the needs and

According to preliminary figures by the Agriculture Department, retail prices of choice-grade beef averaged a record of more than \$2.00 a pound in January, an increase of 6.6 percent from less than \$1.94 a pound in December.

Compared to a year ago, when they averaged less than \$1.60 a pound, the January average was up 25.1 percent. The all-out USDA average is derived from surveys of supermarkets and other market sources.

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Soil tilth important to yield

Soil tilth results from the interaction among biological, chemical, and physical components of the soil along with man-made and natural forces applied to the soil. Although these interactions are imperfectly understood, some of the effects of soil deterioration have been observed and reported. Soil tilth deterioration is a major factor in the following problems:

- Some crop yield increases are leveling off in spite of substantial advances in crop production technology.
- Soil erosion is increasing and some soil conservation practices are proving to be unacceptable.
- Pollution of streams, ponds, and lakes from agricultural runoff is increasing.
- Soil organic matter is decreasing.

— Tillage and planting are becoming more difficult and require more power and energy.

— Controlling erosion and establishing plants on non-agricultural lands has become a serious problem.

Crop Yields
The exact relationship of tilth to crop yields is not known. However, it is known that soils with poor tilth are less productive and more difficult to work. In western Europe and the eastern United States, where intensive cultivation has been carried on for a long time, yield increases are leveling off because of soil tilth deterioration.

There is evidence of soil tilth deterioration in the Midwest, where intensive cultivation has been carried on only slightly more than 100 years. In spite of this, crop yields have continued to increase because of advances in crop production technology. Continued intensive cropping practices may cause permanent damage to soils, and it may not be possible for advances in crop production technology to compensate indefinitely for soil tilth deterioration.

There is a great need for a better understanding of the long-term effects of current practices of intensive cropping on soil tilth and crop yields.



4-H AIDE — Norma Kerr of Postville is the 4-H aide for Fayette County, working out of the Fayette County Extension Service office at Fayette.



SECRETARY — Helen Welch of Fayette serves as secretary of the Fayette County Extension Service office in Fayette.



ECONOMIST — Patti Dillon of Fort Valley is the Fayette County Extension home economist and 4-H club of the county extension office in Fayette.

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WINDBREAK — Charles Bahr Jr. of Hawkeye planted this windbreak for protection of his farmstead. Two rows of arbutus and one row of honeysuckle provide excellent cover for wildlife. This

planting was selected Fayette County winner in the 1978 Iowa Walnut League Windbreak Contest.



COUNTY COMMITTEE — Members of the ASCS county committee are, left in right, Herb Ash of Elgin, Randolph Holman of Elgin and Lee Lynch of Wausau. Lynch is chairman of the committee.

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Soil till and water

Although the exact relationships of soil till and water movement have not been determined, some information is available.

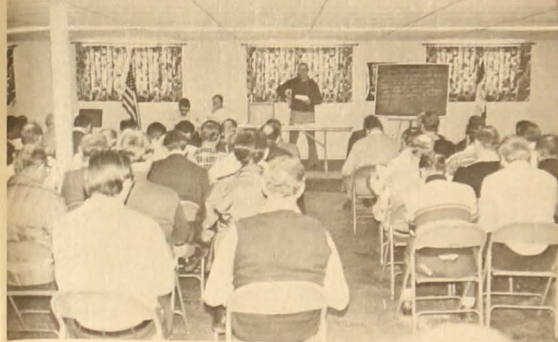
Soils in poor till are easily dispersed and then compacted by the forces of raindrops and machinery operations. Surface crusting and impervious layers are formed reducing infiltration rate and water storage capacity. Less water is available for plant growth and more water runs off the land.

The increased surface runoff not only increases the danger of flooding but also increases sediment deposition downstream. Siltation of streams, ponds, and lakes is recognized as

one of the most serious agriculturally related pollution hazards.

Pesticides and plant nutrients also can be transported in the water and soil particles that move from the land. These materials pollute water supplies and can trigger undesirable algae growth and eutrophication.

Increasing public concern about water pollution and environmental quality adds a new sense of urgency to the need for new technology to maintain and improve soil till. Basic soil till information is needed for the development of best management practices required in Section 319 PL 96-510 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.



MEETING — 1979 Agricultural Conservation Program meeting at the Farm Bureau building, Fayette. Sixty ASCS township committeemen attended to help decide county priorities for conservation practices. The meeting was conducted by Gene Brownell, County

ASCs Executive Director. Also attending were Gary Beyer, District Forester; Dan Burkhardt, Extension Director and Lyle Jackson, District Conservationist.



DIRECTOR — Dan Burkhardt of West Union is the director of the Fayette County Extension Service. He works out of the extension service office in West Union.



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ASCS CLERK — Margaret Aday of Fayette is a clerk with the ASCS office in Fayette.