

The Bloomfield Democrat

Thursday, March 31, 1977, Bloomfield, Iowa



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as GOLD
care for
it...*

1977
Spring Farm Edition

Soil Conservation Report
Section B

District staff

DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

C.I. Heady	Chairman
Robert Boatman	Vice-Chairman
LaVern Weilbrenner	Secretary
Phillip Melvin	Treasurer
Lionel Herteen	Member

OFFICE STAFF

Verle Arnold	District Conservationist
Eugene Francis	Conservation Technician (Retired June 1976)
Roger Fry	Conservation Aide
David White	Conservation Technician (Part time)
David Krsnak	Student Trainee (Summer 1976)
Christine Botts	Clerk

ASSISTED BY

William H. Greiner	Director Dept. of Soil Conservation
Leon Foderberg	Resource Conservationist-Dept. of Soil Conservation
Eldon Weber	Area SCS Conservationist
Suzette Betts	SCS Area Clerk
Tom Brown	SCS Civil Engineer
Jim Seaholm	SCS Soil Scientist
Stan Simmons	SCS Cons. Engineer Technician

New State funds Cooperators help local practices

(1976 Fiscal Year)

Marcia Adamm & Shirley Brey
Michael Barnhart
Frank Baumhaven
Thomas Bear
Bloomfield Development Corporation
James Botts
Cornelius Cook
Robert Coulter
Wilfred Garon
John Ginerich Jr.
Mike Glosser
Hubert Gooden
Hazel Harper
Elmer Hopkins
Gary Knapp
Max Leyda
Carl Liles
Bill & James Marlow
Gerald McDaniel
Jerry Miller
Larry Miller
Jerry Northup
Robert Gene Price
Juan F. Rios Sr.
Clair D. Rodgers
Clair D. Rodgers
Richard Rubelman
Otis Ryals
Roger Shockley
Harold Smart
Ronald Sprouse
Charles Swaim Jr.
Ronald Dean Thomas
Everett Wheaton
Roger Wuthrich
William Wuthrich
Fred Zeitler

The Department of Soil Conservation, State of Iowa—working with funds provided by the legislators of Iowa—provide cost-sharing payments through our local soil conservation district, for permanent soil conservation measures only. This program helps the landowner bear the cost of keeping the valuable topsoil in place. No funds are provided for drainage, livestock facilities or other practices which may not save soil. Cost-sharing of 50 per cent is available with the funds administered by the local district commissioners. Two public lakes within our district—Lake Wapello and Lake Fisher—have been designated for special funds to use for permanent soil conservation practices needed within these watersheds. If you have a farm in either watershed, contact the local district for further information on receiving this cost-sharing help as well as helping the lakes.

+++
About 45 per cent of all milk produced in Iowa is utilized to make cheese.
+++

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Annual Report Of The Davis County Soil Conservation District

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Bloomfield
Jasper Petefish
664-3874
Mobile 664-1229

Bloomfield
Ron Schooley
722-3376
Mobile 664-1210

Financial reports

REVOLVING FUND TREASURER'S REPORT (Calendar Year 1976)

Balance on hand January 1, 1976	\$1,128.64
INCOME	
State Comptroller (Reimbursement)	\$722.00
U.S. Treasurer (Watershed Contract)	353,125.10
Contributions from Cooperators	359.00
Flags	12.00
EXPENSES	
Office Expense	233.90
State SCD dues	100.00
National SCD dues	150.00
Soil Stewardship Materials	29.35
Commissioner's Expenses	41.20
Watershed Contract expense	353,125.10
Office Supplies	362.02
Contest Awards	78.79
Balance on hand December 31, 1976	\$1,226.38

I-M BUDGET

(July 1, 1975-June 30, 1976)

ALLOCATION	\$1,470.00
Commissioners Expenses	\$735.72
Office Supplies	200.13
Prizes for Contests	23.24
Office Expense	510.87
Balance returned to	
Dept. of Soil Conservation	\$ 0.04

II-M BUDGET

(July 1, 1975-June 30, 1976)

ALLOCATION	\$19,336.04
Salaries	\$16,692.04
District Share FICA	426.93
District Share IPERS	679.75
District Share Health Ins.	504.00
District Share Life Ins.	72.00
District Share Disability Ins.	63.28
Travel Expense	103.17
Equipment Expense	129.01
Balance on hand end of fiscal year	0.00

III-BUDGET

Total Allocation (1973-74)	\$14,300.00
21 practices applied	\$13,929.86
1 terrace to complete	370.14
Balance unobligated	0

III-BUDGET

Total Allocation (1974-75)	\$14,194.66
Set aside for four LTA's	\$4,651.11
12 practices applied	8,930.59
1 terrace to complete	612.96
+2 structures from special funds	\$1,850.00
Balance unobligated	0

III-BUDGET

Total Allocation (1975-76)	\$17,250.00
Set aside for two LTA's	\$2,500.00
13 practices applied	14,750.00
+2 structures from special funds	\$1,464.66
Balance unobligated	0

III-BUDGET

Total Allocation (1976-77)	\$46,000.00
15 practices completed	\$18,074.36
16 practices to complete	25,625.00
Balance unobligated (December 31, 1976)	2,300.64

+The Department of Soil Conservation sets aside funds to be used in designated lake areas of Iowa. The four structures built in our district were located in the Lake Wapello drainage area with these special funds. The Commissioners wish to express their appreciation to the Legislators of Iowa for providing these budget funds to operate the district and to provide 50 per cent cost-sharing for needed soil conservation practices within the district.

+++

U.S. cash receipts from farming in 1975 totaled \$89.56 billion. U.S. farm production expenses amounted to \$75.48 billion. Total net farm income in 1975 was \$25.26 billion.

+++

The per capita income of the farm population in 1975 was 89.6 per cent of the nonfarm population—in 1974 it was 92.7 per cent, in 1973 109.3 per cent and in 1972 83.4 per cent.

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Basic plans

(1976 Fiscal Year)

Don Adams
Martin Bassett
Frank Baumhaven
Bloomfield Development Corporation
David Burns
E.L. Canney
Olin Chandler
Allen Dewes
Floyd Downing
George Gingerich
W.R. Gravett
Harold Hamre
Gary Knapp
Roger Knapp
J.H. Lake
Larry Lapel
Ronnie McCarty
Hollis McGrew
Robert Miller
Jerry Padgett
Howard Rupe
Scott Brothers
Roger Schockley
Harold Smart
Ronald Sprouse
Charles Swaim Jr.
Glenn Wilkinson
William Wuthrich
Lloyd Yoder
Fred Zeitler

+++

Agriculture is the nation's biggest industry. Its assets total about \$580 billion, an amount equal to three-fifths of the capital assets of all manufacturing corporations.

Citizens must be involved in 208

In 1972, Congress passed the amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Public Law 92-500). Under Section 208 of P.L. 92-500, the amendment contains a provision which does not allow citizen involvement but requires it. The requirements contained in the law cannot be met by simply allowing the public to comment on plans after the plans have been developed; the citizen involvement must take place during the planning process, in fact it must be an integral part of the planning process.

Our local participation in this planning process was started this past year by first inviting many of you to our local County Resource Coordinating Committee meeting. At this meeting, you elected Iles Heady, chairman and Alice Hunter, secretary of the local committee. Also, Russell Hopkins was chosen to serve on the Southern Iowa Conservancy District Advisory Committee and Kenneth Hopkins represents Davis County in the Des Moines Conservancy District.

The state is divided into 6 Basin Advisory Committees (B.A.C.) representing the 6 river basin regions. The Department of Environmental

Quality (DEQ) is the agency responsible for establishing each B.A.C. There are 20 members of this committee, 10 representing Conservancy District Advisory Committee (C.D.A.C.) and 10 representing local units of government or other area planning agencies. Russell Hopkins, local member of the Board of Supervisors, represents us on the B.A.C. and the C.D.A.C. committees.

Over the next two years, meetings will be held to establish standards for the statewide 208 Water Quality Management Planning Process continuously using research studies, public input, consultation with experts, and other sources to come up with a fine plan.

Our local County Resource Coordinating Committee recently printed a survey in the local Davis County Republican newspaper asking local ideas on water quality problems as they affect farming in Davis County. It is hoped that careful thought will be given in answering this survey request as a contribution from the public in helping to secure the final statewide Water Quality Management Plan that will serve the best interests of the entire state.

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664-3430 (Plant)

664-2238

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1977 District activities reviewed

JANUARY

The County RC&D Council organization meeting was held. Phil Melvin served as chairman of the council. The Dept. of Soil Conservation approved Lake Fisher watershed as a special lake project area. This makes available cost-sharing with state funds for approved conservation practices within the watershed.

FEBRUARY

Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Weibrenner attended the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting held in Honolulu, Hawaii. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Corp. of Engineers, Rock Island District, and the local commissioners was completed and signed.

MARCH

The Pathfinder RC&D final application was approved by the Steering Committee and delivered to Governor Robert Ray for his approval and signature on March 19, 1976. The 1975 SCD report was prepared and included in the spring farm edition of the local Bloomfield Democrat. Because our Revolving Fund is no longer funded by a rock quarry lease, the commissioners sent letters to cooperators of the district, requesting contributions. These contributions have been a help in the district program for this year.

APRIL

Kim Rupe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Rupe, spent six weeks doing office training in our office during April and May as a part of her schooling. Watershed construction resumed late in the month of April on the final contract.

MAY

Heavy rains late in April caused much damage to terraces throughout the county. Emergency federal funds were made available in May to repair terraces established with federal funds. An extreme amount of erosion and loss of topsoil is evident in the county following the heavy rains.

JUNE

Dave Krsnak, a student trainee from Centerville, worked from June until the last of August in our office, before returning to college for his junior year.

Eugene Francis, Conservation Technician for 22 years in our district, retired June 20. A retirement party in his honor was held June 24, 1976 with SCS co-workers, friends and relatives in attendance. A plaque was presented to Gene from the commissioners to show their appreciation for his dedicated service.

JULY

The Pathfinder RC&D application was accepted in Washington, D.C. in July. Memorandums of Understanding between our district commissioners and the two Iowa Conservancy Districts of which our district is a part (Des Moines Conservancy District and Southern Iowa Conservancy District) were approved and signed. The organization meeting of a local Resource Coordinating Com-

mittee was held July 21. C.I. Heady was named chairman and Alice Hunter, secretary for the group. This group will be helping to formulate local input into the planning needed for the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which became law in 1972. The 3-M State Budget funds for the 1977 fiscal year was received (\$23,000) for use in state cost-sharing for approved district practices.

AUGUST

Requests for state cost-sharing totaled more than our allocation and request was made for additional funds. An additional \$23,000 was allocated to the district for a total of \$46,000 for this fiscal year. Phil Melvin reported the county RC&D Council agreed to submit 3 proposals for consideration to the Pathfinder RC&D Council as listed:

a. Request Federal Crop Insurance program for Davis Co.

b. Request help on Fox River drainage area of Davis Co.

c. Town of Floris request for help with drainage problem.

The dirt work in Big Wyacondah Watershed completed and inspected August 3, 1976. This leaves only the seeding and fencing to be done.

SEPTEMBER

Dedication ceremonies held September 10, 1976 for the Big Wyacondah Watershed at Site 26 with special brochure printed for the occasion. Construction work in this watershed was begun in 1963 and completed in fall of 1976.

The annual inspection of completed watershed structures was completed by the sponsors September 13.

OCTOBER

The district Soil Conservation Speech Contest was held in connection with our regular commissioner meeting. There were

two contestants—Tracy Harl and Jiro Komaki. Tracy Harl was declared winner and won the Region 9 contest in November. He represented this region in the State Contest at Des Moines on November 29. (His speech is printed elsewhere in this report.) The Soil Conservation Society of America was sponsor of a new awards program for Pasture Management. Roe Tharp was entered by Verle Arnold and named the state winner. He received a plaque at the society's meeting October 8, 1976.

NOVEMBER

LaVern Weibrenner was re-elected to another term at the November General Election. This was the first time commissioners have been elected in the general election. His new term begins January 2, 1977. David White of Keosauqua started working Nov. 20 half-time as a conservation technician in

our district and half-time with the Wapello SCD. Ideal fall weather made the construction season a long, busy one with not enough time to complete all practices requested before winter shutdown because of freezing weather.

DECEMBER

Robert Boatman was named Iowa's Watershed Man of the Year and presented with the state award at the annual conference held in Des Moines November 30. Boatman reported the final payment of the watershed contract is delayed because of a claim against the contractor. Several of the easements obtained from landowners were not needed in the watershed construction after several sites were deleted. The proper method of returning these easements was discussed, with decision to ask for procedure from the state office.

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Watershed is completed

The application for this watershed was submitted to state officials March 6, 1957 following several meetings of farmers within the watershed. The approval of the workplan and $\frac{1}{4}$ -mill levy for maintenance were finalized in the spring of 1963. Construction was begun in 1963 with the letting of the first of 12 construction contracts. Completed in this 36,275 acre watershed area were 45 erosion control structures containing more than 281 acres of water total; 16.2 acres structural waterways and 24.4 acres of wildlife area plantings.

Dedication ceremonies for the completed watershed was held September 10 at the watershed site 26 located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the Harold Cruikshank residence on land now owned by Illini Land and Cattle Company. Pictured is a few of the people who attended this dedication and also shown is the pool of water at Site 26.

Because of his work with this watershed completion, Robert Boatman (local commissioner and contracting officer for the final watershed contract) was honored at the state association meeting of soil commissioners as Watershed-Man-of-the-Year for the state of Iowa. He is here pictured with William Greiner, Director of the Department of Soil Conservation, following the program where he received the award shown.



Watershed dedication



Robert Boatman is honored

U.S. farmers in 1975 spent \$81.8 billion for production goods and services. The biggest outlay was for feed (\$12.3 billion)—15.1 per cent of total expenditures. Seeds and plants, fertilizer, lime and soil conditioners and agricultural chemicals cost producers \$11.4 billion (13.9 per cent of the total).

Revised plans

REVISED PLANS (1976 Fiscal Year)

Keith Amstutz
Ralph Baker Estate
Henry Burgher
Florence Erhardt
Jackie Fleming
William Gibson
Gerritt Heemsberger
Paul Hopkins
R.D. Horn
R.C. Johnston
Leland Jones
Clyde Knapp
F.H. Lauder
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20 years in soil conservation work

By D. EUGENE FRANCIS

It has been rewarding and a real pleasure to have worked for the Davis Co. Soil Conservation District these twenty some years. I have had some of the nicest people in the state, area and this county to work with. I have been concerned about the conservation of our soil for many years and will always be concerned.

I want to tell you some things I believe and some of the things I think about. I believe that in the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth, and after six days He rested and He looked at His creation and said that it was good. I believe He planted a garden and called it the Garden of Eden. He needed a steward and a caretaker for this garden so He created man—and He stood back and looked at His creation I think He said that it was good. He put man in this garden as a steward, but man needed help, so He created women. I think He might have looked at this latest creation and wondered a bit about his latest creation, because man has been in trouble ever since.

I like to think that God created another Garden—and I think He called this the garden of Iowa. I think when He created this garden He used the finest and best soil He could get His hands on. I believe he put the local commissioners—Robert Boatman, Iles Heady, LaVern Weilbrenner, Lionel Herteen and LaVern Weilbrenner—in this garden to be stewards of the Davis SCD of Iowa. I think He put me in this garden as a technician to work with these men on the soils of our district. I don't believe I had a calling and I didn't have a vision as one far-

mer I heard this story about—
—“It was about the middle of July, the corn was about knee high and the weeds not quite as high, and he was sitting under the shade tree he looked to the north and had a vision. Three letters appeared in the sky—GPC. Being a religious man he reasoned that it must mean GO PREACH CHRIST, so he put on his Sunday best and went out and preached for a few days but he just didn't have it so he came home really dejected. He again was sitting under the shade tree and looked to the north at his corn field and he decided GPC meant GO PLOW CORN.” I have had the pleasure to work with all of the commissioners and former commissioners on their farms. I can remember the BEFORE picture on many of the farms of Davis County and now I can see the AFTER picture and I feel proud of the good job many farmers are doing here. There is still much to be done in our local area, as well as throughout the state.

There are other things I wanted to say, but just couldn't get the words together, but recently we received the Christian News in our mail and Herb Kohl had written an article under the heading—Thoughts while Waiting for the Lights to Change—so I quit thinking and decided to quote Herb's article: “Want to hear about a rape case?”

“It's more brutal than the Manson murders—more devastating in the long run than all the earthquakes of the world. I am talking about the blind lust for land that is driving greedy men to ravage our countryside.

“We usually think of farmers as ‘lovers of the soil’ and I

believe that this is still true for many. But the decline in the number of family farms; the trend toward larger farms and larger machinery; the arrogant disregard for soil conservation and the insatiable craze for increased production; —the ‘lover of the soil’ tends to become the plunderer and despoiler of the soil. These are simply other words for RAPE.

“As Americans we take great pride in our right to private ownership. We act as if holding deed to a property grants us the right to do with it whatever we choose. Legally we can, in most cases, but morally we cannot.

When it takes thousands of years to produce a few inches of topsoil that can be blown or washed away in minutes by irresponsible cultivation, that becomes everyone's problem, a crime against the future. No one has the right to do that.

“The Earth is the Lords—said the psalmist. How slow we are to learn that eternal truth! Christian stewards do not commit rape.”—Herb Kohl

There has been a lot of soil conservation practices applied on the land within our district, but there is still a lot of land needing to apply practices which will help to provide the

good soil for our future generations. With the leadership of our five local commissioners and the technical staff of the Soil Conservation Service, we can all work together to accomplish the goal of good stewardship of the soil.

+++

U.S. farmland was valued at \$460 billion at the start of 1977, up almost \$40 billion from a year earlier. Total debt on farm real estate beginning 1977 was at about \$57 billion, up 11 per cent from early 1976.

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Tips for planting in trash

Planting in "trash" will likely take a little getting used to, if you're a farmer who's used to the clean plowed fields before planting. But low soil moisture levels this year and soil conservation advantages might make the effort worthwhile for you this year, soil conservationists say.

"Yields with conservation tillage systems, or planting in

crop residues, are comparable and sometimes better than conventional systems," says John Maddy, agronomist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. "There are also fuel savings with fewer trips across a field."

"You have to take some extra care in converting to a reduced tillage system," says Verle Arnold, SCS district conservationist. "It's a different

way of farming, and trying something different is usually tougher. But the farmers in this area who have tried conservation tillage, and stuck with it, are happy they did."

There are special planters designed to work in crop residues. The till planter moves residues from the row area to between the rows, and makes a seedbed for the seed in one operation. The no-till or slot planter does essentially the same thing, without disturbing as much soil.

If you're using your regular planter, you can have trouble if you don't break the stalks up before planting.

"You could chop or disc stalks lightly before planting. It helps to put rolling coulters or modified furrow openers ahead of the planter shoe, too," says Maddy. Most machinery dealers have this equipment.

"The important thing is to get a good soil-seed contact," Arnold says. "You'll want to check the seeds often to see that they're placed just deep enough in the soil and have firm contact."

Arnold emphasizes that some farmers have given up on conservation tillage because they tried to use their old planter in residues without allowing for handling stalks. He urged them to visit with farmers who are using the method successfully.



Astounding increase in limited tilling

The increase in conservation tillage acreage (leaving crop residues on the soil surface during planting) in Iowa has been astounding. According to Soil Conservation Service figures, the practice has grown from very few acres in 1967 to more than 7 million acres 10 years later. That's very good.

But there's a problem with those figures. That is, on about a third of those acres, less than 1,000 pounds of crop residue was left on the surface at planting time. Reduced tillage, to be sure, but not leaving enough residue on the soil to do

an effective erosion control job, SCS people say.

It takes 3,500 pounds of residue per acre to generally cut water erosion in half. One trip across a corn field with a disc buries half the residue, by rule of thumb. So if a farmer were to start with 7-8000 pounds per acre, which is normal, with one discing he can be down to 3,500 pounds an acre of protection.

We have the machines to leave protective residues on the soil surface. The problem no longer seems to be to get farmers to use them; it's a problem of keeping them from over-using them.

We agree with conservation officials who urge use of no-till or till planters, and limited use of chisel plows, discs and rotary equipment. Our soil is important, and this system is an important way to save it.

+++

The average per acre value of U.S. farm real estate in November 1976 was \$445—compared to \$380 in November 1975.

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Ministers spearhead soil stewardship

Local ministers are shown at their regular Ministerial Association group meeting. Each year the district commissioners provide soil stewardship materials for the churches of Davis County. The available materials are shown to the ministers at their regular meeting and ordered for the various churches, as requested by the ministers. At Soil Stewardship Sunday each May, special emphasis is placed on

stewardship of the land and special bulletins are used to emphasize the need for good stewardship of the land. The commissioners appreciate the continued interest shown through the years by our local ministers. Iowa has been blessed with some of the best soil in the world and the best land use needs to be done so that our future generations can be producing bountiful crops, as we have been able to do.



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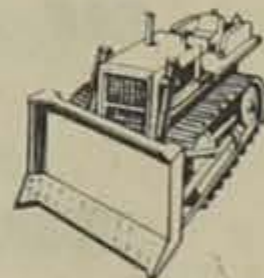
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Lifeline to continued prosperity

By TRACY HARL
(Tracy used this speech in the local soil conservation speech contest and, as winner, used it to win the Region 9 Speech Contest and represent southeast Iowa in the State contest at Des Moines, Iowa November 29, 1976.)

Soil Conservation—Lifeline to Continued Prosperity. As I pondered on this topic, the first thing I thought of was the importance of our individual values in life and how they can be used to create a better world

for everyone. This poem says it all.

"It's the freedom to write, to speak and to pray;
To think as we choose; to work and to play.

It's the nation we've built, with laws that are just

It's the faith that sustains us. "In God we trust".

It's the spirit and pride we share in our name;

It's our love for the land our forefather's claimed.

It's the cities and farms from New York to L.A.;

It's the homes where we live the American way.

It's our memories of great men; great women, too

It's our search for tomorrows' where dreams can come true.

It's the power we muster when goals have been set,

By acting together to meet each new test.

It's the pursuit of new knowledge to build an alliance

Of the values we cherish with the outreach of science.

It's the fields and the mines, the forests and waters

But greatest of all—Our sons and our daughters.

Consider our strength
Consider it well.

Yes, consider it well. We—involved in Agriculture know upon what foundation all these great strengths are based—The most valuable natural resource of the United States—OUR RICH PRODUCTIVE SOIL.

But what has been happening to this rich farm land this winter and early spring? It's been moving, clouds of topsoil, whipped by wind gusts of up to 50 mph are filling the skies with Iowa's greatest resource; piling up behind snow fences and filling ditches.

William J. Brune, U.S. Soil Conservationist, said "We haven't seen anything yet" adding that the potential for wind erosion in this state is the worst since the drought of the mid 50's. Near ideal harvest conditions last year contributed greatly to this dilemma.

1. A high percentage of farmers had time for fall plowing.
2. Thousands of acres of crop residue are now being gathered

in stacks of huge bales for cattle roughage, leaving practically bare fields.

3. Little or no snow cover—wind has direct access to the dry fields.

4. Winter drought—normally Iowa gets about one foot of snow in January. The soil isn't frozen because there is no moisture to freeze.

5. In our haste and greed to achieve all-out production, farmers have been cutting corners on land management—cutting the wood lots, pushing out that brushy fence row, plowing up that steep "old back 40".

Water erosion is most evident to the eye—The washing of our topsoil into our streams and the carving of gullies through our fields and hillsides.

Rain falling on an acre of barren, sloping land can wash away as much as 60 truckloads of soil in a year. Did you know an acre of Iowa soil is bombarded with a force of 16 tons of TNT each year? Just from the force of tiny raindrops.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "When the soil is gone - man must go and the process does not take long". Since colonial times, an area larger than the state of Nebraska has been destroyed through erosion—more than 50 million acres of farm land. Or stop and consider erosion from this angle. Clarion-Webster soil makes up 1/5 of Iowa's soil—some of the most productive in the world. On this relatively flat land of 3 per cent, 300 foot slope, that is fall plowed and farmed up and down hill in continuous row crop—the average soil loss is 13 tons per acre per year. Thirteen tons is 230 bu. of soil loss or 1/12 inch per year. In just 60 years, that's 5 inches of topsoil gone forever. It's hard to imagine the figures for rough SE Iowa land. It's a mistaken no-

tion that we can rebuild topsoil to replace what we lose. The shocking fact is—It takes nature 250 to 1000 years to replace an inch of topsoil.

Some of the most highly recommended soil stewardship practices include:

1. Installing parallel, grassbackslope terraces on the contour at 130 ft. spacings.

2. Using conservation tillage—leaving 3000-4000 pounds of crop residue on top of the ground—cuts losses at least in half.

3. Keep rolling land seeded with closely growing plants.

4. Contour plowing and planting.

5. Grass waterways and drainage areas and planting trees.

6. Crop rotation.

7. Proper fertilization programs.

Good soil conservation practices are expensive and if we are to remain the agriculture food basket of the world—farmers are going to need the understanding and support of every American, if each family farm is to maintain the growing power of his acres for future generations.

Planned and proper land use will become a way of life for everyone in the near future, if not through our own initiative and foresight, it will come through legislation. This is a time for all persons to ponder the earth's riches and our use of them.

It's the nation we've built with laws that are just

It's the faith that sustains us "In God we Trust".

Consider our strength - consider it well.

It's the pursuit of new knowledge to build an alliance

Of the values we cherish with the outreach of science.

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It's the fields and the mines, the forests and waters—

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LIZ REIGNS—

Elizabeth I became Queen of England Nov. 17, 1558, upon the death of her sister, Mary I.

Progress report

Period from June 1, 1975 to September 30, 1976

PRACTICE	UNIT APPLIED	TOTAL
Terraces, Gradient	L.F.	9700
Terraces, Parallel	L.F.	92055
Diversions	L.F.	20215
Tile	L.F.	67025
Drainage Ditches	L.F.	31570
Contour Farming (New)	Acres	80
Brush Clearing	Acres	847
Pasture Planting	Acres	2895
Structures	Number	58
Ponds	Number	18
Critical Area Seeding	Acres	68
Cropland to Grassland	Acres	771
Grass Waterways	Acres	51
New Cooperators	Number	48
Conservation Plans	Number	30
Revised Conservation Plans	Number	15
Group Plans	Number	16
Farms Applying One or More Practice	Number	257
Office Callers	Number	1510
Telephone Calls	Number	1195

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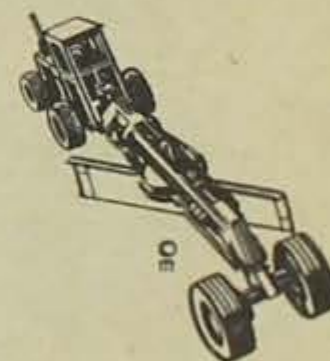
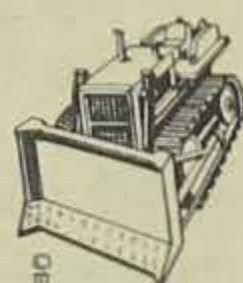
Terraces

Contact

Homer Rysdam

Route 9

Bloomfield



Getting more out of your soil

By LYNN BETTS
(Information specialist with
Soil Conservation Service)

Searching for ways to get more out of your land? If you are, first thing to do is get to know your soils better, says Wilson Moon, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

"Putting what you already know about your land together with the information available from a soil survey gives you a combination that's hard to beat," says Moon.

The soil survey contains a complete set of soil maps and a description of each kind of soil in a county. It can help you compare crop yields on

different soils, decide which land is best suited for row crops, and deal with soil problems.

Trained soil scientists gather the soils information by walking over the land, examining the soils with the use of a probe and running various tests. Soil surveys are made county by county by SCS in cooperation with the Iowa Agricultural Experimental Station. They are usually paid for with county, state and federal monies.

Twenty-one counties have published soil surveys according to SCS state soil scientist Lacy Harmon. Another 26 have been

completed but not published as yet, and another 17 are in progress. Surveys will begin in 16 to 20 more counties within the next 4 to 6 years. At the rate of 4 counties a year, all counties in Iowa should have modern soil surveys completed by 1986. Davis County is scheduled to start their soil survey in 1980, with completion in 4 years time.

Harmon says there are about 325 different soil types in Iowa.

For example, Estherville Sandy Loam is shallow to sand and gravel, and has low available water capacity. Because of this limitation, crops suffer from lack of enough moisture in most years. It doesn't respond as

well to fertilizer as Clarion, a deep soil with potential for high crop yields.

Clyde and Webster soils are not well drained. The soil survey tells us that they puddle when wet, have a high water table, and should be tile drained if used for cropland. It also says they are low in available potassium and phosphorus in the subsoil. Response to fertilizer is good.

Even in pastures, soil information is basic to good management. First, the survey indicates whether the soil would be well suited for pasture. Then, when you decide to use pasture, the soil survey will be a good guide for selecting the best plants and choosing kinds and

amounts of fertilizer.

Soils information is valuable in making many decisions for conservation measures. For example, in northern Iowa, certain soils with a high water table are good for dugout ponds. Others, like Gara, Lindley, and Shelby in southern Iowa, are more suitable for reservoir type ponds. Wadena and Estherville soils, on the other hand, are poorly suited for dams because they are underlain by sand and gravel and may allow water to seep away.

"A primary purpose of a soil survey is to obtain information so that the land can be used according to its capabilities," says Harmon.

High this year—

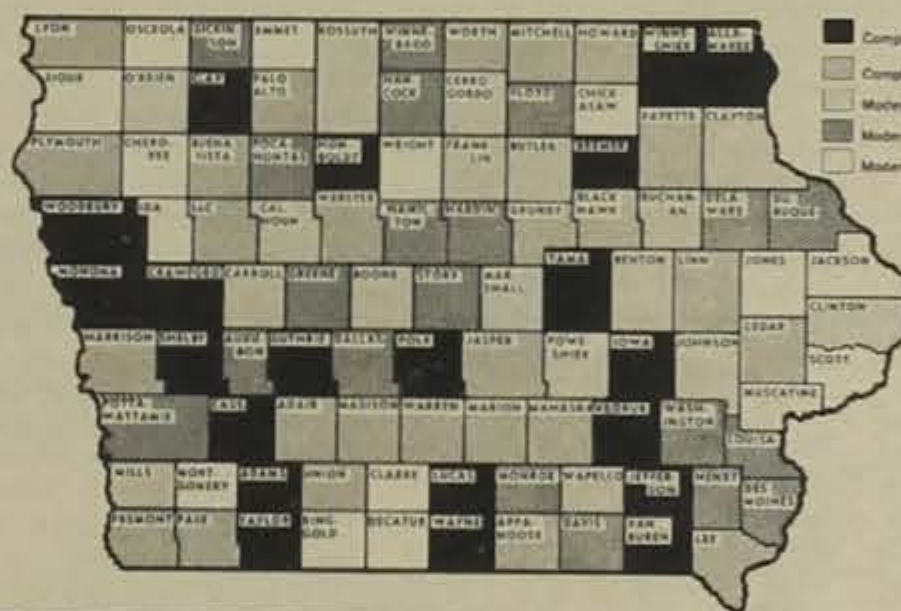
Erosion potential

1974 progress report
(Fiscal Calendar)

PRACTICE	UNIT APPLIED 1974
Terraces, Gradient	L.F. 5,425
Terraces, Parallel	L.F. 36,325
Contour Farming (New)	Acres 158
Brush Clearing	Acres 386
Pasture Planting	Acres 2,461
Ponds	Number 6
Structures	Number 9
Tile	L.F. 22,610
Diversions	L.F. 9,075
Drainage Ditches	L.F. 12,805
Critical Area Seeding	Acres 110
Fish Pond Stocking	Number 5
Cropland to Grassland	Acres 973
Grass Waterways	Acres 29
New Cooperators	Number 50
Conservation Plans	Number 36
Revised Conservation Plans	Number 20
Group Plans	Number 3
Resource Inventories	Number 3
Farms Applying One or More Practice	Number 219
Office Callers	Number 945
Office Telephone Calls	Number 856

+++++
Proper soil and water conservation practices prevent flooding, erosion, and stream pollution—provide productive soils, plentiful water and clean recreation areas. Every living breathing thing depends on fertile soil and clean water. Good soil and water depend on all Rural and Urban citizens.

+++++
I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO DEFEND FROM WASTE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF MY COUNTRY—ITS SOIL AND MINERALS, ITS FORESTS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE.



Status of
soil surveys

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How to control algae

Algae are microscopic plants which grow in bodies of water. They furnish food for fish and other water animals in large bodies of water. In water reservoirs used for human consumption algae may often give water a disagreeable taste. In stock tanks algae may clog pipes and drains, and in small ponds they may become so numerous that they interfere with fishing and recreational activities. Control measures vary with the area being treated.

Farm Pond Control

There is no easy solution to controlling algae in farm ponds. Five control measures are mentioned below.

1. Construct the pond as deep as possible. Most algae grow only in sunlight so more water will become infested when the pond is shallow. Deep water may also discourage the growth of other plants which root at the bottom but whose leaves reach the surface.

2. Build the pond as large as possible. This allows more wave action to carry free-floating algae to shore. Heavy concentrations can be raked out by hand.

3. Have abruptly sloping sides (at least three feet deep within 10 feet of shore). This may be more treacherous for livestock and humans but is essential if cattail, sedges, bulrushes, and willows are to be prevented.

4. Compute water holding capacity of the pond and install a permanent marking device which measures capacity. Pond gallonage is most easily established when the pond is being built. The permanent marker will provide an accurate way to

figure chemical dosage so that no over-or under-dosing will occur.

5. Begin treatment at the very first appearance of algae. Dissolve the correct amount of copper sulfate in lukewarm water to give a solution containing 1/2-1 part per million of copper sulfate and apply by sprayer from shore or from a boat as evenly as possible. Don't leave copper sulfate in contact with galvanized metal or tin for any length of time because of chemical reaction. Flush tanks immediately after use. Another method of treatment is to put copper sulfate in a small, fine mesh cloth sack and drag it behind a boat. A third method is to tie the fine, mesh cloth sack or sacks to inflated tire tubes or to plants and allow them to float around at will until the chemical is dissolved.

Treatment should be started in early spring at the first sign of infestation. Natural decomposition of the chemicals is inevitable in farm ponds, so retreatments need to be made.

Stock Tank Control

Algae inhabit stock tanks in the familiar form of scum or green scum. To treat this, first clean the tank. Use an old stiff broom or brush and a weak solution of lye. Lye is caustic to human skin so use face masks, goggles and gloves, and rubber boots to protect yourself. A strong solution of home made laundry soap, detergent, or commercial laundry soap such as Blue Ba-rel or Fels Naptha will produce almost equal results with greater safety. Scrub the entire inside

of the tank thoroughly and flush repeatedly until the water comes off clean. It is essential, that the tank be thoroughly clean before actual chemical treatment.

After the tank is cleaned, it should be treated with a 1/2 part per million solution of copper sulfate (blue vitrol). This strength will usually control algae and is safer for fish and livestock. The concentration may be increased if more control is necessary but do not go over 1 part per million as the maximum dosage. Water in stock tanks is constantly changing, so watch them closely and repeat the treatment at the first sign of algae reappearance. For small amounts of copper sulfate have a druggist weigh it. Several small packets may be weighed, labeled and stored to be used in the future. Stocking tanks with fish such as carp and bullheads which eat small amounts of algae may provide additional control. Algae do not grow well in the dark so covering unused portions of the tank will help control it.

For additional information on this topic stop by the Davis County Extension Office at 106 North Dodge Street in Bloomfield and pick up a bulletin, WC-70.

Need protection for Iowa soils

DES MOINES—It hasn't been an easy year for Iowa's farmers. Most were bombarded by frequent and heavy rains in the spring; many were hit again by drought later in the summer.

Over 4.5 million acres of corn and soybean land, or about one-fifth of the state's rowcrop, suffered severe erosion. Over one-half million acres were knocked out of production early this year by erosion and flooding.

"These figures tell us how important weather conditions can be for production," points out Wilson Moon, state conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. "They also tell us we have a tremendous soil and water conservation job ahead of us in Iowa."

Moon's comments came as he prepared to observe Soil and Water Conservation Week Sept. 8-15 along with other Iowans interested in using the state's soil, water and other natural resources wisely.

"More than 100,000 landowners and operators have signed agreements with their local Soil Conservation District to cooperate in stopping erosion and other resource problems," Moon said.

"There were many who reduced erosion significantly during the spring rains because they left cornstalks and other crop residues on top of the ground. This type of conservation tillage also helped them in the drought, by holding more moisture in the ground," he added.

Progress has been rapid in conservation (minimum) tillage in Iowa. More than a fourth of Iowa's cropland is now planted with some type of reduced tillage that leaves crop residue on the soil surface for protection against erosion.

Farmers who planned for full season grazing programs on steep land were also shielded from both drought and erosion problems. Ponds, terraces, waterways and other conservation practices helped too.

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Mother Nature is fighting for survival. Her main antagonists—pollution, litter and waste—thrive on thoughtlessness and neglect. These enemies are endangering beautiful countrysides, clean waters and fresh air...Let's put a stop to it RIGHT NOW! Each and every one of us has his work cut out for him to KEEP

America the rich and beautiful country that it is. We can start by following good conservation practices on our farms...not plowing up hillsides...installing conservation structures...stopping littering...stopping wasting the elements...planting a tree...it's not too late to CARE!

We Believe in Conserving the Good Earth

Bloomfield Newspapers

Davis County Republican

The Bloomfield Democrat

ACP program announced

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced a 1975 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) designed to encourage the application of enduring soil and water conservation practices on the nation's farms. It will be

funded at the \$190 million level authorized by Congress. This amount includes funds to fully finance the long-term agreements signed under the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program, currently projected at about \$33,750,000.

Forestry incentives available

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a 1975 Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) aimed at improving the nation's timber production by stimulating better forest management practices on the vast acreage of small private timber ownership tracts. The program will tentatively be funded at the \$25 million level authorized by Congress.

In its second year of operation, FIP will again be available in most states in specifically designated counties with high resource potential for increased timber production. Both annual and long-term agreements will be offered to eligible owners of non-industrial private forest land.

Federal cost-sharing under these agreements will range from 50 to 75 per cent of the cost of carrying out tree planting and timber stand improvement practices. All FIP Agreements must be based on Forest Management Plans developed by the local Forester in cooperation with the landowner.

FIP will be administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service through its farmer-elected committee system. The Forest Service, in conjunction with State and District Foresters, will provide technical assistance in developing Forest Management Plans and Servicing Practices.

DIRT CHEAP

Dirt cheap. If you're referring to soil, consider this: Water covers about seven-tenths of the earth's surface. A small part of the remaining three-tenths of the earth's surface has enough productive soil to support billions of people, plants, and animals. It takes a thousand years to create fertile soil. Plan the future use of your land as if your life depended on it. **It does.** Ask the USDA Soil Conservation Service personnel for help in planning your land use.

+++++

"The day is gone, if it ever existed, when the fact that an individual holds a deed to a piece of land gives him the moral right to destroy it through stupid, short-sighted farming practices."

—Chester C. Davis

+++++

It has been said that there are three kinds of people—those who make things happen; those who let things happen; those who wonder what happened.

system. The Soil Conservation Service will provide planning and technical assistance on servicing of practices and long-term agreements. Contracts involving woodlands also will get technical aid from the Forest Service. The Extension Service will assist with educational support. All three agencies provide program development and policy overview assistance through county, state and national program development groups.

Local Soil Conservation Districts also provide important support through assistance with long-term agreements and program development.

Details of specific practices, all designed to protect soil, water and woodland resources on a permanent basis, will be announced later.

Don't
destroy
woods

Davis County's remaining woodland is mostly on low grade land. It is lucky we have such a vegetative type to cover steep slopes, flood plains and rough ground. It cannot produce 500 bushels of corn per acre, but it provides wildlife habitat, esthetics, forest products, protects surrounding fields from high velocity surface winds and provides sanctuary for insect eating birds.

Why destroy this for the remote possibility it might produce enough grain or forage to pay for the destructive effort? This is wasting one resource to destroy another resource.

Also Leopold put it succinctly: "The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, 'what good is it?' If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good whether we understand it or not."

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The 1975 program will offer both annual and long-term conservation agreements with farmers. It will share with farmers from 50 to 75 per cent of the cost of carrying out approved soil, water and woodland conservation practices. Under long-term agreements, costsharing will be scheduled over a period of from 3 to 10 years. The agreements will be based on conservation farm plans approved by local Soil Conservation Districts.

The program will be administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service through its farmer-elected committee

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