

POWESHIEK COUNTY



SOIL CONSERVATION

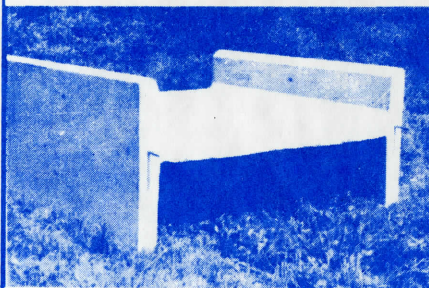
DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

1975

Phone 528-2065

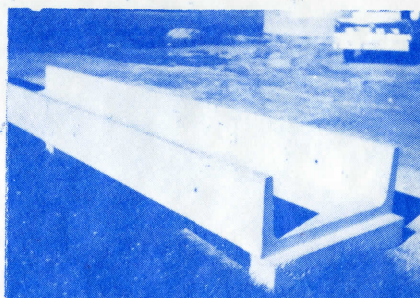
Malcom, Iowa

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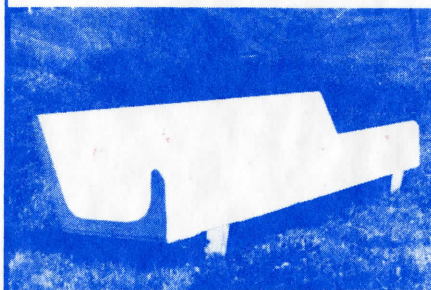


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Groups Who Assist the District

1. Soil Conservation Service
2. State Soil Conservation Committee
3. County A S C S (RECP Program)
4. County Extension Service
5. State Conservation Commission
6. Federal Fish & Wildlife Service
7. State & National Assn. of District Commissioners
8. Grinnell Kiwanis Club
9. Newspapers
10. Radio & TV Stations
11. County Board of Supervisors
12. Contractors
13. Vocational Agriculture
14. 4-H Clubs
15. Boy Scouts
16. Public Schools
17. County Farm Bureau
18. County Grange
19. County Conservation Board
20. F H A
21. Professional & Business personnel
22. Izaak Walton League
23. N F O



SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE—[L to R]: Virgil Edwards, District Conservationist, Carol McCain, Clerk, and Robert McLain, Conservation Technician.



COMMISSIONERS—Seated: [L to R] Lauren Wright, Mrs. Keith [Gloria] Brannian, former Commissioner, and Mrs. Robert [Helen] Renaud. Standing: [L to R] Charles Fenner, Chairman, Miles Clayton, Carl Boget, and Ken Christiansen, Assistant Commissioner.

District Commissioners wish to extend a special thanks to the Area personnel for their assistance which includes: A. Keith Glandon, Area Conservationist; Marvin Parmer, Civil Engineer; Francis W. Vos, Civil Engineer Technician; Wilma D. Kimball, Area Clerk.

District Conservationist Highlights

Conservationist's have always felt that nature's method of controlling erosion was to protect the land by using vegetation such as grass and trees. But people had to eat, and our population grew. Crop rotation was not as demanding, as food was needed to help feed this mass of people.

With the present emphasis on producing more, farmers were "plowing up the back yard". Farmers are increasing crop acres and intensively cropping land that should never have been put to crops in the first place. This has increased the potential for soil erosion.

Each spring, we go through a period when our land is exposed from 8 to 10 weeks, when plants are too small to protect the soil from erosion. During this period, it is possible to lose more soil in one season than we would lose in 5 years with a grass crop.

In this county, we are striving to get some of this land back to permanent grass. 1975 was a progressive year for our District. Our terrace program increased from 10,000 feet built in 1974 to 40,000 feet built in 1975.

Terracing is a proven conservation practice which will reduce soil erosion. However, terracing alone with continuous row crop farming is not totally effective unless used with conservation tillage. We are very pleased to see many of our farmers here in Poweshiek County switching to conservation tillage. This is vital if we are to keep soil erosion at a minimum. We are pleased to see our people seeking to understand this new method of conservation tillage.

We define conservation tillage as a system of reduced or combined tillage operations where a certain amount of crop residue remains on the surface. The mulch provides temporary protection for the soil from planting time until the crop matures enough to cover the ground surface. This temporary cover can reduce soil loss caused by heavy rainfall at least 90 percent over conventional tillage. To estimate the amount of residue from crop yields, consider for each pound of corn produced, there is one pound of residue. (100 bushel of corn equals 5,600 pounds of residue). Soybean residue usually ranges from 1,500 to 2,500 pounds per acre.

Conservation tillage machines such as the fluted coulter no-till planter, side winder, buffalo till planter, chisel planter and the rotary strip till planter are machines which are on the market today.

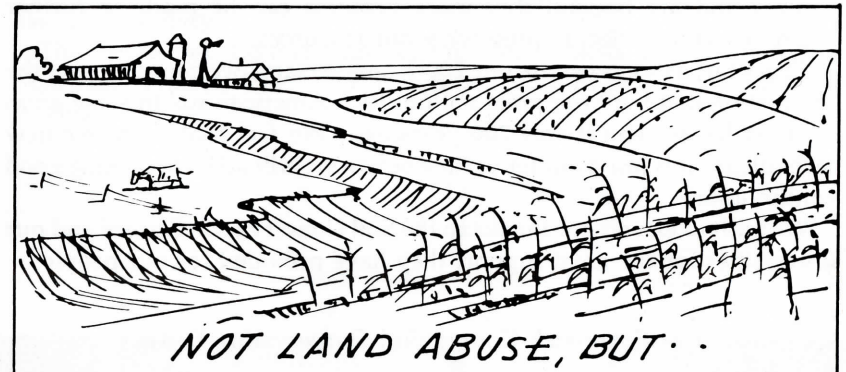
In 1975, we held a conservation tillage tour. We will also have another tour this summer. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about conservation tillage is welcome to join us. The date will be announced later in the summer.

In 1975, we were fortunate to get sign up's for 2 long term conservation agreements. At this time we now have 3 contracts. There will be no contracts offered in 1976 due to a shortage of funds. We are sure there will be more contracts when more funds are available. These funds are administered through the ASCS office.

We all prosper through conservation-minded farming. The entire community prospers through conservation-minded landusers.

Virgil B. Edwards,
District Conservationist

CORRECTION



Areas Of Concentration

As we are called upon to continue all-out food production in the years to come, it is well to remember how much we owe to the productivity of our soil and the need to conserve it for future production. Of all the natural resources this nation has to be proud of, our soil is the most unique and most valuable. By using good practices, it will not be depleted, which is not true of our other natural resources. In the future, our agriculture may be called on to replace other sources of energy.

We believe the Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District has a place in the scheme of things to provide a better life for the people of this County, and contribute to the betterment of society in general. We appreciate the fine cooperation we are receiving from the people of this County and are hopeful that more progress can be made to further improve our situation in preserving our resources.

This year, as we celebrate our 200th anniversary, we cannot forget the foundation that built our great nation. Rich American soil in some areas is better today than it was 200 years ago. We feel that with our new technology, it is just a matter of time before we will all be practicing good conservation.

We wish to extend our thanks to the Soil Conservation Service and our universities for the great support they have provided for our people.

Poweshiek County Soil Conservation District

Charles Fenner, Chairman
Miles Clayton, Commissioner
Lauren Wright, Commissioner
Carl Boget, Commissioner
Mrs. Robert (Helen) Renaud, Commissioner
Kenneth Christiansen, Asst. Commissioner

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farm as if you were going to live forever.**

Agricultural Stabilization And Conservation Service

The Poweshiek County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) administers the farm programs in the county.

All provisions of the various programs are carried out by regularly employed personnel who administer the program policies established by the elected committeemen.

Processing of Price Support Loans, administering the Feed Grain program, providing loans for on-farm storage and dryers, and providing information and funds for farmers participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) are some of the programs for which ASCS has responsibility.

The Poweshiek County ASC Committee consists of Melvin Kasal, chairman, Warren Dee, Vice Chairman, and Evan Johnson, regular member.



ASCS PERSONNEL—[L to R] Frances Schlesselman, Administrative and ACP, Gordon Braley, County Executive Director, and Roger Johannes, Production Adjustment and Price Support.

Conservation Award Winners



Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Haworth are shown with their children, Ron 12; Rick 10; Ramona 8; and Randall 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Haworth and family have been named winners of the 1975 Soil Conservation Achievement Award in Poweshiek County.

The Haworths were chosen tops in the Division I (owner and operator) category. They own and operate a 160-acre farm located in Section 26 of East Jackson Township, three miles northeast of Barnes City. They also tenant-farm another 580 acres.

Along with grain farming, the Haworths have a modern hog-confinement operation which turns out 2,200 head annually. Haworth also finds time to raise and feed out 45-50 head of beef cattle each year.

They have established better than 8,000 feet of tile-outlet seeded backslope terraces, and plan to build more. More than 11,000 feet of tile has been installed with the hog-confinement operation. It allows Bob to practice organic farming at home. All animal wastes go back to the farmland. A honey wagon is used to distribute the organic matter on the land.

Approximately 80 percent of Haworth's crop is cultivated by minimum tillage. He uses a chisel plow on most of the crop, and an attached unit allows him to plow-plant in one operation with chemical weed-control practiced.

Haworth serves as an elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Montezuma, and Mrs. Haworth serves as a Sunday school teacher. They are active in the Young Married Couple organization and participate in all church activities. Haworth also serves on the Poweshiek County Pork Producers Board and participates in other community activities.

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- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
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| 2. Shirley Dale | 22. Walter Beck |
| 3. Richard Hudnut | 23. Marvin Beck |
| 4. Richard Wells | 24. Brown Acres LTD. |
| 5. Harvey Horn | 25. Richard E. Ryan |
| 6. George Morrison | 26. Eldon Van Wyk |
| 7. Richard Bailey | 27. Wes Van Wyk |
| 8. C. E. Long | 28. Harold T. Casstevens |
| 9. Earl DeBruyn | 29. Kuntz & Sons |
| 10. Warren Johnson | 30. Wallace Roth |
| 11. Bill Cooper | 31. Lee Emmert |
| 12. R. W. Richardson | 32. Russell Hultman |
| 13. David Dolmage | 33. Robert N. Downer |
| 14. Dean Dolmage | 34. Lang Farms, Inc. |
| 15. Ron Brown | 35. Ronald Baker |
| 16. John W. Wallis | 36. Emil E. Behounek |
| 17. Clarence Dusterhoft | 37. Darrel Heetland |
| 18. Gary Goreham | 38. Duane Arment |
| 19. Stephen R. Cranston | 39. Paul Van Roekel |
| 20. Charles Heishman | 40. Monte L. Root |

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----- TOTAL HARDWARE -----

Rusty Clayton

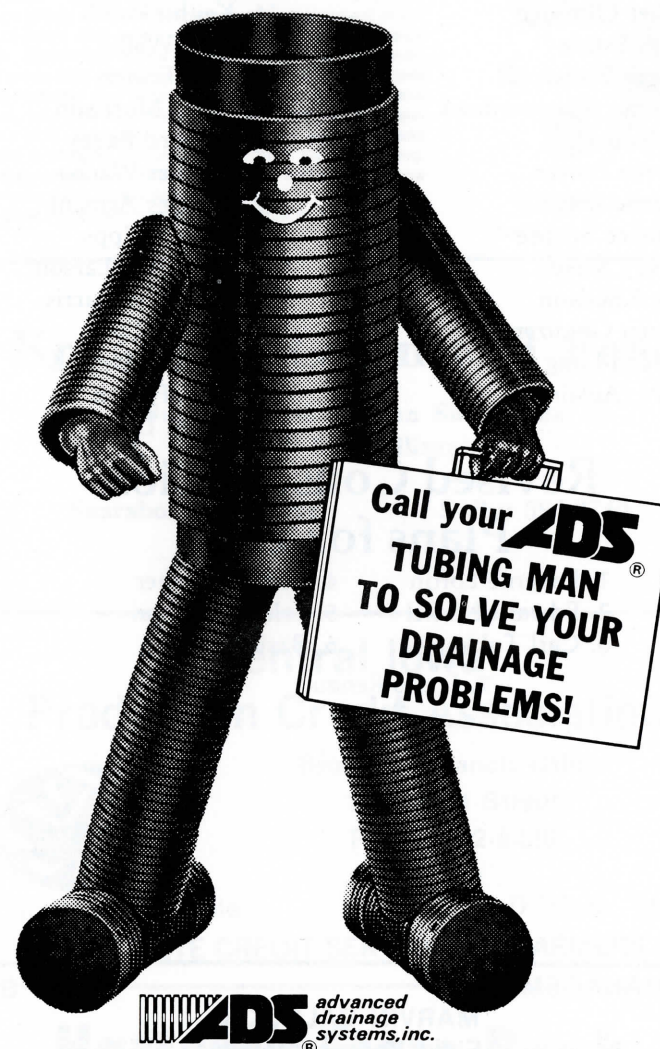
118 W. Front

Brooklyn

Friends of the Soil Honor Roll

- 1949 - Lauren Wright
- 1950 - Albert Plesek
- 1952 - Myron and Richard Sears
- 1953 - George Norden, A. L. Leydens, Elmer Dunnick, Kenneth L. Dieterich
- 1954 - Wayne Reams, Harry Edelen, Arnold Bastian
- 1955 - Lewis Schultz, Earl Fowler, Robert McWilliams, Dean McWilliams
- 1956 - Gerrit Septer, Jean Cavell, Miles Clayton, Raymond Vogt
- 1957 - Arthur Blome, Janet Wilkins, Calvin Korn, Paul DeJong
- 1958 - Lawrence Wallis, Forrest Read, Keith Davis, Gilbert Phipps
- 1959 - Alvin and Don Schuldt, Louis Newkirk, Paul Hudnutt
- 1960 - Waldo and Harold McLennan, Benedict Peterson, Milferd Neuhaus, Elmer Urfer
- 1961 - James Van Arkel, Mrs. Harold Evans, Vern Brooke, George Morrison
- 1962 - David Anthony*, Louis Newkirk, Edward Henry, Philip C. Eichhorn
- 1963 - Ed Lowe*, Roger Sampson*, Byron Goldthwaite, Marvin Montgomery, George Hauser
- 1964 - Melvin Price*, Julia Vogt, Wesley Meyer, Lauren Wright
- 1965 - Arlo Taylor, Henry Rolffs, Elizabeth Revyuk Estate, Frank and Madeleine Herbrandt
- 1966 - Eugene Merck, Philip Lamb*, Charles De Pauw*, Arnout Dunnick
- 1967 - Marion Palmer, E. L. York Estate, Earl Heishman, Charles Fenner
- 1968 - Ralph Phillips, Richard Seeland*, Charles Fenner*, Donald Brau
- 1969 - Patricia Waterbury, Leonard Thys, Sylvan VeVerka, Raymond Cadden
- 1970 - Clarence Van Wyk*, C. R. McLain, Howard Johnson, Raymond Gregory, John Thompson
- 1971 - Richard Widmer, George Morrison
- 1972 - Robert Renaud, Dorothy and Royce Renaud, Arnout Dunnick
- 1973 - Farrell Siehl
- 1974 - Ross Mintle
- 1975 - Robert Haworth

*Region VII Sweepstakes Winners also.



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Andy Conn
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Basic Conservation Plans for 1975

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. J. M. Campbell | 15. Tracy Lidtka |
| 2. Walter Oltrogge | 16. Keith Howell |
| 3. Meigs Estate | 17. John Wallis |
| 4. George Brown (2) | 18. Lulu Edelen |
| 5. Norman Sleuwenhoek | 19. C. R. Morrison |
| 6. Edwin Beggs | 20. Richard Bailey |
| 7. Warren Bower | 21. Charles Wacha |
| 8. Laverne Loftin | 22. Charles Arment |
| 9. Clarence Scobee | 23. Larry Phipps |
| 10. Harvey Mikel | 24. Raymond Larson |
| 11. Jesse Knudson | 25. Madeline Harris |
| 12. Kaaren Goldizen | 26. Shirley Dale |
| 13. Clifford Long (2) | 27. Robert Mitchell |
| 14. C. W. Austin | 28. John Pfitsch |
| | 29. M. B. Davis |

Revised Conservation Plans for 1975

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Laverne Loftin | 4. Charles Lusher |
| 2. Edward Nikkel | 5. Leland Grattan |
| 3. Carl Tokle | 6. Basil Hicks |
| 7. James Renaud | |

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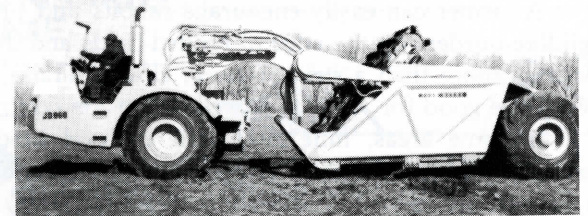
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Improving the Farm for Wildlife

Creating better conditions for wildlife does not mean doing a lot of extra or peculiar things that will make your farm look different from your neighbors' land across the fence. Actually, encouraging wildlife isn't all that difficult.

For example, contour stripcropping with alternate crops of corn, oats, and hay is very good for wildlife production. Cultivated fields such as corn and beans provide places for young birds to dust, sun, and dry out from heavy dew or rain. Hay fields seeded with brome and alfalfa provide the best nesting cover money can buy.



A farmer can easily encourage rabbits and pheasants by planting wildlife borders on the edge of eroded fields and ditches. This could be nothing more than a strip of sweet clover, alfalfa, or brome grass. All would be good for wildlife as well as erosion control.

In some areas, mile after mile of level blocked crop fields are extremely hard on wildlife. There is little waste land and very few places a farmer can afford to devote to wildlife. Here, fences, ditches and waterways have high potential. Wildlife plantings along fencerows and ditches could provide a lot of needed winter cover.

Pastures are normally not good for wildlife but under some conditions this can be corrected. Fencing out a small area is one of the most beneficial practices that can be done. Once fenced, a corner or a ditch will provide excellent wildlife cover with little or no maintenance. Protection from grazing is the key.

Fencerows, ditchbanks, roadsides, gullies, gravel pits, ponds and other odd areas all have potential for being developed into wildlife areas. Most of these practices require little money or effort. There is cost-sharing available on practices such as tree planting, or establishing food plots.

For more information about tree and shrub planting or other practices to benefit wildlife, contact me at the USDA building, 203 W. High St., Toledo 52342. Or contact your Soil Conservation Service office and they will forward your request to me.

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BOB KURT
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Protect Your Timber

By Bob Hibbs,
District Forester

"Iowa Forest Facts", distributed by the Forestry Section of the Iowa Conservation Commission, credits Poweshiek County with 17,000 acres of forest land (5% of the total County area). State of Iowa totals for all counties show 2.6 million acres of forest land, or 7.3% of all Iowa land area. This date was obtained as a result of U.S. Forest Service inventory in 1954.

In 1975, preliminary data was released from survey work concluded in 1974. The new survey shows a 55% decrease in Poweshiek County forest land in the last twenty years. Acreage totals have decreased from 17,000 acres to slightly over 7,600 acres, or a loss of 380 timbered acres per year. From 2.6 million acres two decades ago, Iowa has declined in woodland resource to only 1.4 million acres, a decrease of 46%.

What is the reason for such a decrease? Are commercial loggers that destructive? Have we lost trees to fire, insects, and disease? The answer is not surprising to anyone familiar with Iowa's number one industry, food production.

Iowa timberland has been cleared for crop production since the early 19th century. At the time of settlement, Iowa had between five and seven million acres of woodland. Clearing land was a part of the pioneer ethic, and remains so even today. Increased grain prices allow and encourage more intensive use of the most marginal land. Yes, trees such as elm have been lost to disease. Insects and fire have not been problems, but could be at anytime. Loggers are a problem only in that they may make land-clearing more profitable. We're it not for loggers, cleared trees would be piled and burned, wasting the renewable wood resource.

Cropland clearing is by no means the only threat to timber, and may not be the largest threat. Only 266 acres of Poweshiek County forest land is in the Forest Reserve (protected from grazing). I have estimated that 80% of all Iowa woodlands are pastured. This practice by itself constitutes clearing of the land. No tree can withstand year after year of soil compaction, erosion, root destruction, and bark damage. Sooner or later, all pastured trees will die of livestock destruction. Older timber being grazed cannot adequately reseed itself, since livestock will trample and eat young seedlings (except the thorny weed species).

If you own a timber tract and are concerned about the loss of a natural resource, consider the advantages of maintaining the area. You'll be providing wildlife habitat. You can profitably harvest trees occasionally; you can reduce your taxes to about fifty cents per acre, while still realizing the increase in land value. You can enjoy the aesthetic benefits, and be proud that you are preserving a part of the Iowa heritage. Additionally, there are Federal funds available through your local ASCS office for fencing and improving your timber stand. Take a good, hard look before you clear land; the cost of clearing may cost more than the purchase price of open ground.

BOB HIBBS
District Forester
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Conservation Speech Winners



Darrel Brothersen of Brooklyn was the winner of this year's speech contest sponsored by the Poweshiek Soil Conservation District. Katie Morrissey [left] won second place, and Meryll Walker won third place. Both girls are from Montezuma. This year's topic was "Land Use Planning—Insurance for Mankind."

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Expenditure of Funds Provided by State of Iowa 1974-1975 Fiscal Year

1-M BUDGET

	<u>\$1,300.00</u>
Commissioners mileage, meals, hotel	895.86
Office Supplies	48.77
Printing	62.20
Prizes for Contests	12.00
Rental for Meeting Halls	9.00
Office Expense	258.82
Meeting Expense	12.98
	<u>\$1,299.63</u>
Balance	<u>.37</u>

2-M BUDGET

	<u>\$10,199.00</u>
Gross Earnings (Clerk & Technicians)	5,741.47
State Retirement	170.09
Federal	335.88
Health	141.00
Clerk's Travel	131.42
Equipment	342.43
Life Insurance	27.00
	<u>\$6,889.29</u>
Balance	<u>\$3,309.71</u>

3-M BUDGET [State Cost-Share Funds]

	<u>\$23,400.00</u>
Amount approved and disbursed for conservation practices	15,852.57
Amount approved pending completion	3,497.50
Balance	<u>\$4,049.93</u>



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Accomplishment Summary for 1975

	No.	Unit Of Measure
New District Cooperators	40	6,731 Ac.
Basic Conservation Plans	29	4,944 Ac.
Revised Conservation Plans	7	1,599 Ac.
Group Plans Prepared	3	
Strip Cropping		108 Ac.
Grassed Waterway		15.3 Ac.
Ponds Built	1	
Terraces		39,425 L. Ft.
Diversions		2,500 L. Ft.
Grade Stabilization	12	
Water Control Structure (for tile outlet terrace)	23	
Tile Drains		226,242 L. Ft.
Tree Planting		17.5 Ac.
Pasture and Hayland Planting		21 Ac.
Critical Area Planting		16.7 Ac.

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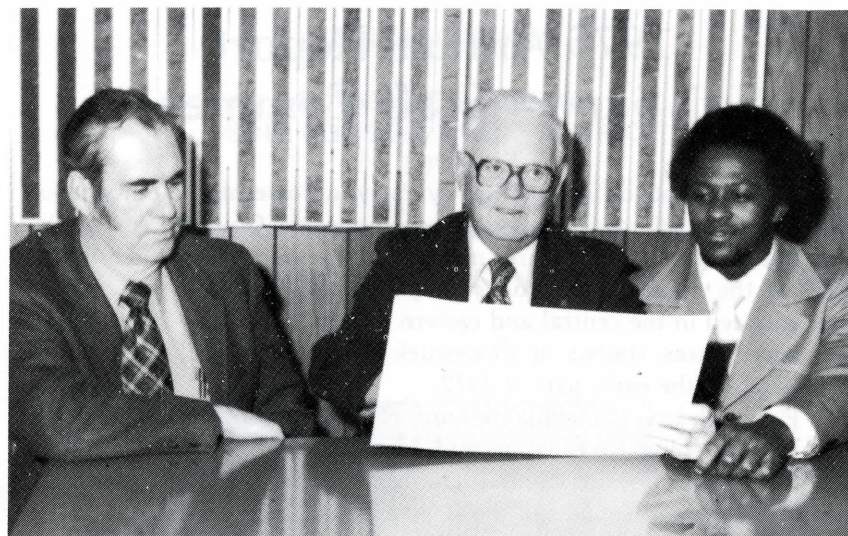
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SOIL SCIENTISTS—[L to R]: Elmer Harvey, Lorne Nestrud, Party Chief, and James Hart.

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Brooklyn, Iowa

1975 Annual Report

Soil Survey Staff Comments

Soil Scientists of the Soil Survey Party in Poweshiek County report that they have soil mapped sixty (60) percent of the County, representing 224, 490 acres. The general area mapped covers the western and northern part of the county. The soil survey activities for this year will be concentrated in the central and eastern part of the county. The present soil survey was started in Poweshiek County in 1973, and will be completed in the early part of 1977.

Field soil surveys include the work of walking across the land, and at intervals stopping to examine and identify the soils, and plot their boundaries on maps (aerial photographs). The main features to identify are the soil type, steepness of the slope and the degree of erosion. Other features are also shown, such as streams, roads, houses, rock outcrops, severe erosion, and other prominent features on the landscape.

A soil survey is an inventory of the soil resources in a given area. The soil survey provides detailed information concerning the location and characteristics of each kind of soil within the county. Soils are classified and named as plants and animals are. In nature, a kind of soil can be thought of as having unique properties, as does each kind of flower, tree or animal. And like flowers and trees, each kind of soil has a name and characteristic all their own. To date, Soil Scientists have identified 131 kinds of soil in Poweshiek County.

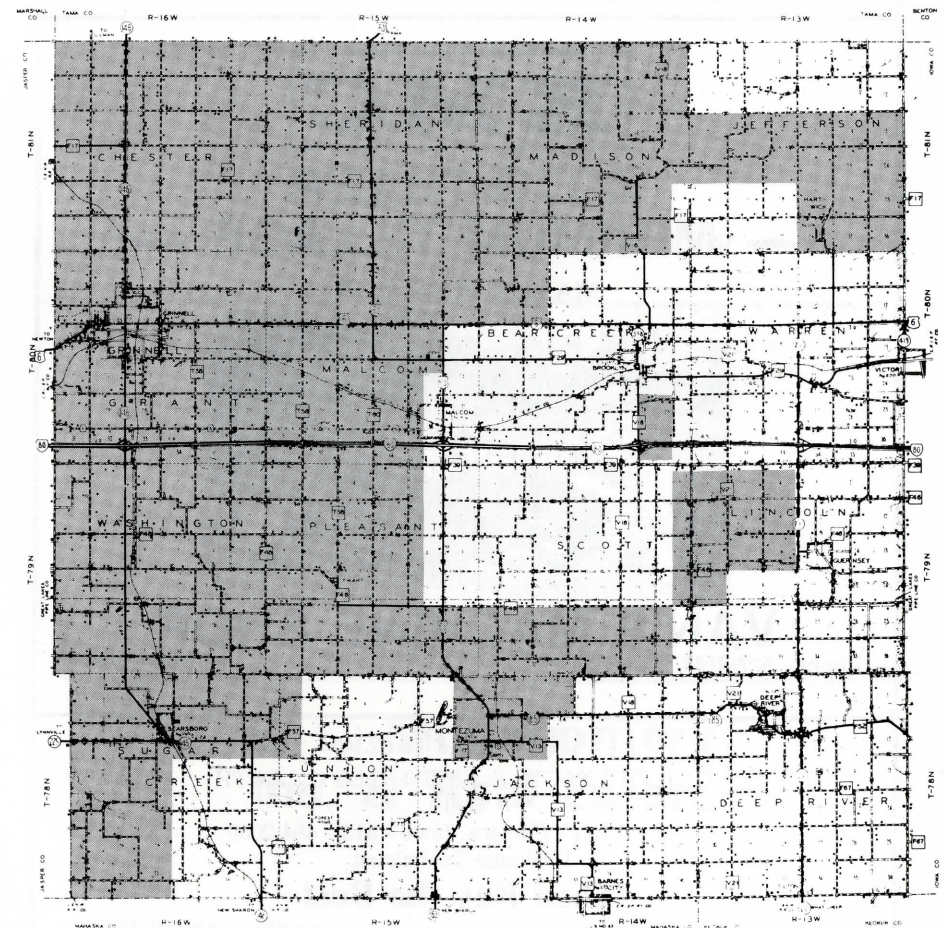
Soil surveys are made for everyone to use—farmers, homeowners, builders, developers, appraisers, sanitarians, planners, engineers and wildlife management.

The soil survey party in Poweshiek County consists of Lorne Nestrud, Party Leader, assisted by Elmer Harvey and James Hart.

by Elmer Harvey

SOIL SURVEY IN POWESHIEK COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT IOWA

Area soil surveyed as of December, 1975



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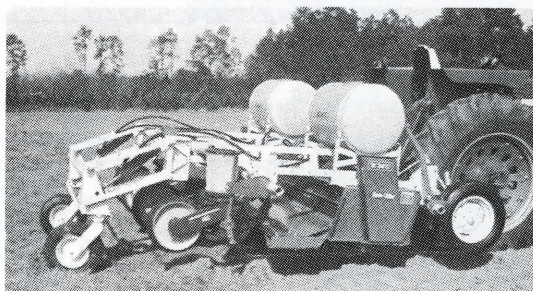
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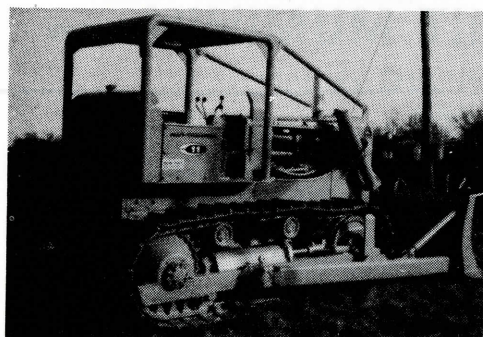
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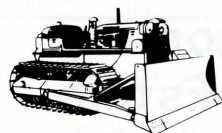


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Farmers Home Administration

Farmers Home Administration, as agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, makes loans to farmers, families of low and moderate income and rural communities. This general purpose credit service contributes in a variety of ways to the vitality and expansion of the rural economy. It provides financial assistance for the development of essential public services and the growth of rural communities. The programs that would be most commonly used in Poweshiek County are as follows:

Individual Homeownership Loans:

Purpose: To buy, build, improve or relocate homes or farm service buildings; to buy building sites; to refinance certain debts.

For: Low to moderate income families who will occupy homes in rural areas. Rental and Cooperative Housing Loans:

Purpose: To build, buy, improve or repair rental or cooperatively owned houses or apartments for independent living by senior citizens and low to moderate income families.

For: Nonprofit corporations, cooperatives, municipal bodies, individuals, partnerships and corporations.

Repair and Rehabilitation Housing Loans:

Purpose: To make minor repairs for safety or to remove health hazards.

For: Very low income owner-occupants who cannot qualify for housing loans but do have repayment capability.

Conditional Commitments to Builders:

Purpose: To encourage quantity building in rural areas.

For: Public agencies or nonprofit corporations.

Farm Ownership Loans:

Purpose: To buy land; refinance debts; construct, repair or improve buildings; improve farmland; develop water facilities and establish farm-based business enterprises to supplement farming income.

For: Qualified persons who will get a substantial share of their income from farming.

Farm Operating Loans:

Purpose: To buy livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fertilizer, birds or supplies for farm and home operations; refinance debts or pay interest on them; pay depreciation on equipment; make minor real estate improvements; improve forest lands; establish non-farm enterprises to supplement farm income.

For: Eligible operators of not larger-than-family farms.

Farm Emergency Loans:

Purpose: For operating or living expenses and to replace livestock and equipment needed to restore normal operations after severe loss from natural disaster. Repairs to homes, essential farm buildings and related facilities are included.

For: Eligible farmers, ranchers and oyster planters.

Soil and Water Conservation Loans:

Purpose: To finance land and water development measures, forestation, drainage of farm land, irrigation, pasture improvement and related land and water use adjustments.

For: An eligible owner, tenant, leaseholder, partnership or corporation.

Byron Witt
Supervisor



Farmers Home Administration Personnel:

Left to right: Janice Reinig and Karlene Foreman, Clerks Nick Leuschen & Byron Witt, Supervisor.

District Highlights for 1975

January

Commissioners and District Conservationist attend Annual Short Course, Ames. Commissioners and District Conservationist attend Land Use Policy meeting at the Malcom office. The guest speaker was Charles Wengert, County Extension Director.

February

Annual contractors meeting.

March

Region 7 Commissioners Meeting at Colony Village, Commissioners and District Conservationist attended.

April

ASCS Staff and Committeemen met with SCD office. County Conservation Speech Contest, Malcom SCD office.

May

Art Poster Contest in local schools. Soil Stewardship Week. Teachers Workshop at Diamond Lake.

June

Conservation Achievement Award tour to select award farm. Robert Haworth winner of award, Division 1, Poweshiek County.

July

Regional Speech Contest at Amana Colony, Daryl Brotherson was the Poweshiek County entrant. A picnic was held at Rock Creek Lake for District personnel, commissioners and their wives and families.

August

Soil Conservation District staff conducted a 6-farm tour demonstrating different farming operations to members of the Chamber of Commerce.

September

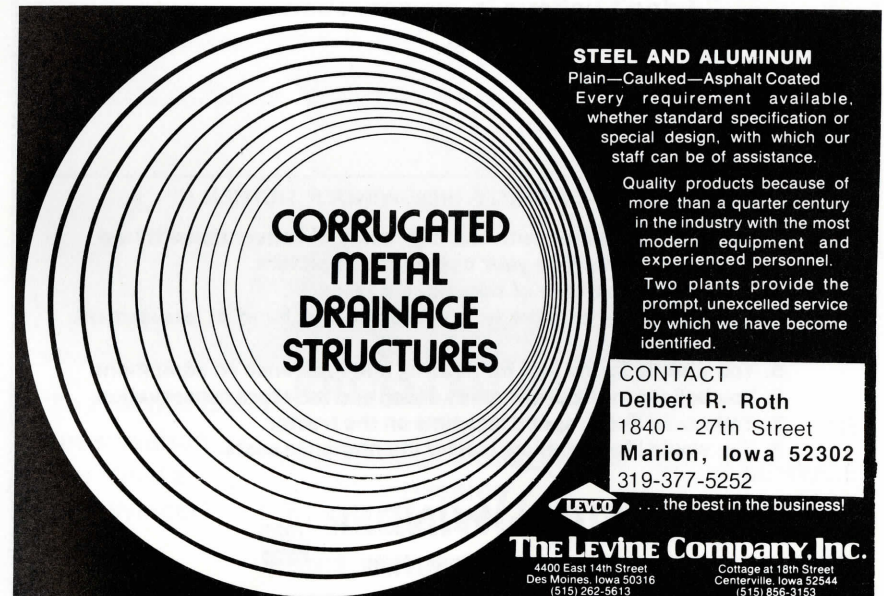
Commissioners, District Conservationist, and Clerk attend Commissioners Conference in Des Moines. Kiwanis Award Luncheon for Robert Haworth. Soil Conservation Week.

December

Area meeting in Newton, District Conservationist and Technician attended.

Soil Conservation District and families attend Christmas party at Carnforth Inn.

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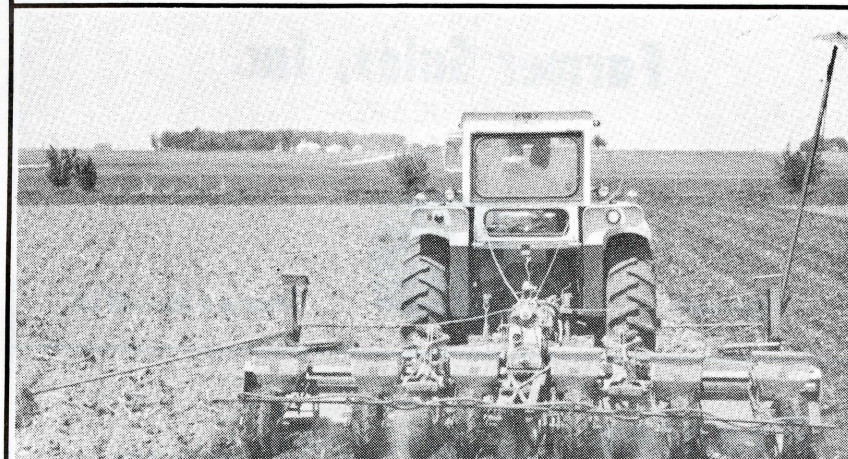
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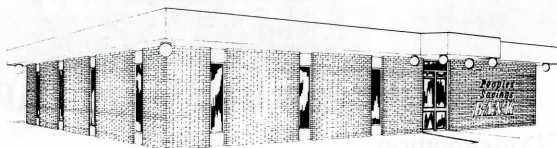
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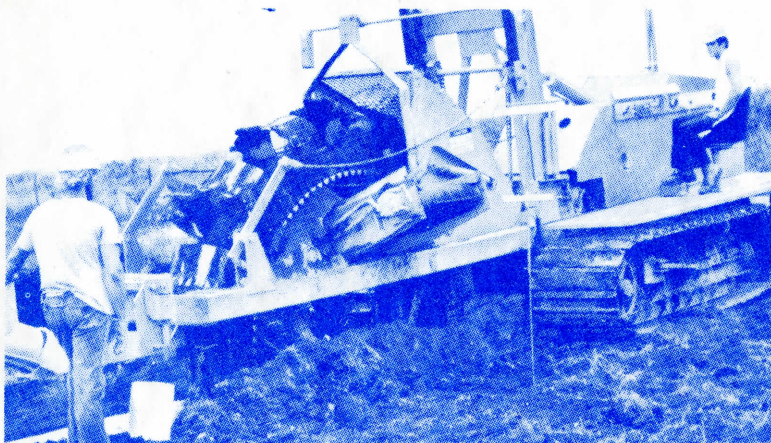
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