

Kaiser works to be a savior of the land

Garrison farmer's conservation practices earn him Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Awards in '95

By DAN ADIX
Times Staff Writer

GARRISON — Glenn Kaiser plans on leaving his farmland in better condition when he retires than when he bought it over thirty years ago.

It's not that the soil was in terrible shape when he bought it, but Kaiser feels that it is important to take care of and improve what you own when you can.

His soil conservation philosophy is what has earned him the Benton County and Region 7 Soil and Water Conservation Awards for 1995. Kaiser received his Region 7 award at a special ceremony this spring at the Longbranch Restaurant in Cedar Rapids. He received his local award at a program last fall.

KAISER FARMS 480 acres of land south of Garrison on rich soil that continues to produce high yields of both corn and soybeans. Much of the credit for good yields belongs to Kaiser because of his farming methods.

Since taking over the family farm in 1961 from his parents, Louis and Viola Kaiser, Glenn has used contour planting on 303 acres of his land and has adopted minimal till practices to help cut down on the soil erosion.

By contour planting, Kaiser plants his fields running level with the hills rather than up and down.

"You can save a lot of soil and keep it up on the hills by contour planting. Otherwise it would flow right down to the bottom of the hill when it rains," Kaiser explained.

Also with minimal till, Kaiser leaves some crop stubble in the fields to keep the winds from blowing the top soil away when crops are out during the late fall, winter and early spring months. Then, prior to row planting in the spring, he uses a heavy disk to get rid of the leftover crop residue.

IN THE 70s, Kaiser also improved his fields by installing a tremendous amount of tiling. The tiling helps move excessive rainwater toward the waterways so that it can escape.

"God put this land here and it is up to the people to make sure it stays here."

— Glenn Kaiser

"We added some more tiling in the 90s and repaired some of the old clay tiles that had broken down so that we would have good water control," Kaiser said.

Having good water control in the fields is very important to keep the soil in place, according to Kaiser. However, tiling doesn't solve all of the problems. Kaiser, who has 3.5 acres of grassed waterways, says that producers also need to keep waterways in good condition. To do this waterways occasionally

CONSERVATION

Continued on page 9



Award winner

Photo by Dan Adix

Glenn Kaiser of rural Garrison won the local and Region 7 Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Awards for 1995. He earned the awards for outstanding efforts in using soil and water conservation practices that protect the environment on his farm. Kaiser farms 480 acres of land south of Garrison and plants mostly a mixture of corn and soybeans. He uses minimal till and contour planting methods for his fieldwork.

USED MACHINERY

TRACTORS

1987 JD 4650, MFWD, P.S.
18-4-42 duals\$47,500
1978 JD 4440 Quad., 18-4-38
Duals\$24,500
1976 JD 4630, cab, 18-4-38
Duals, Sr., 200 hrs on com-
plete O.H.\$17,500
1986 JD 4650, 2 wheel, 18-4-
42 duals, P.S., weights
.....\$43,500

USED PLANTERS

JD 7000 8WI & monitor, with
dry fertilizer\$8,000
JD 7000 8-30 I & monitor,
liquid fertilizer\$7,500
JD 7000 4-W I & monitor
.....\$3,750
JD 7100, 12-30, I & monitor..
.....\$10,500
JD 7200 6-30, dry fert., I and
200 monitor\$14,500



SINDT IMPLEMENT

Phone 319-442-3249 - Keystone
1-800-568-4461



Water escape

Photo by Dan Adlx

Kaiser said it is important to keep grass along the waterways mowed down so that water can get into them and flow away instead of running beside them especially with the wet spring we've had so far. Kaiser reshaped and reseeded his waterways in 1993.

Conservation

Continued from page 8

need to be reshaped and the grasses need to be reseeded.

"You have to keep the waterways unplugged and the grasses mowed so water can get into them instead of running beside them. If you don't, you're going to be eroding more of the field away," Kaiser stressed.

Installing terraces can also help reduce

the amount of soil erosion. Kaiser has 13.8 acres of terraces or nearly two miles throughout his fields.

"We put our terraces in between 1991-1992 and plan to put some more in after this year. Terraces really help stop the

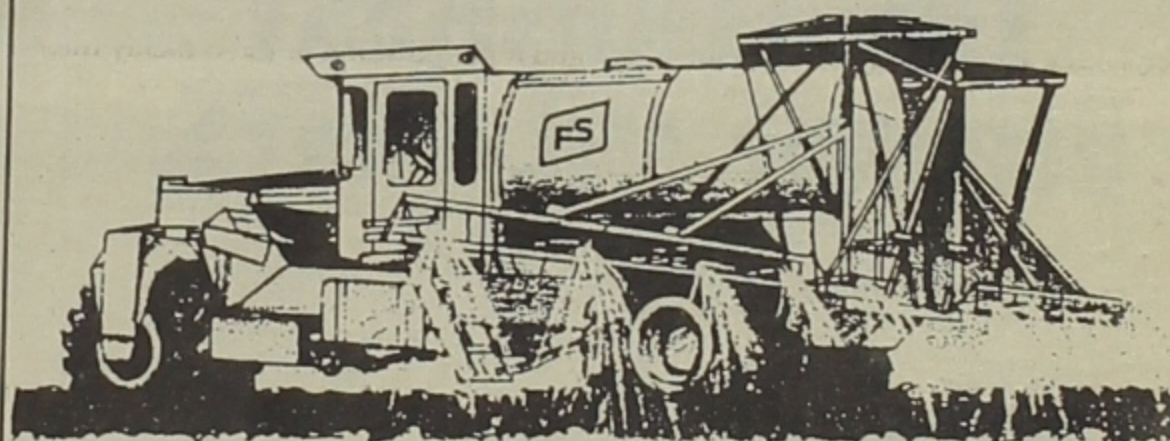
CONSERVATION

Continued on page 10

CALL IN THE PROFESSIONALS

Chemical application doesn't allow room for error. We understand the importance of proper chemical selection and mixing, equipment calibration, and accurate application. And our

Professional Custom Applicators have the training and experience to do the job right. Leave your chemical application to the professionals at FS. Call today.



FARM SERVICES, INC.

• Atkins • Garrison • La Porte City
• Van Horne • Vinton • Millersburg



THE NATURAL RESOURCE
PEOPLE • PRODUCTS • SERVICE • SOLUTIONS

A Farm Bureau Affiliate



Photo by Dan Adlx

Contour of the land

Glenn Kaiser uses contour planting on 303 acres on his fields and put in 13.8 acres of terraces between 1991-92. These conservation practices have helped reduce his soil erosion to a "T" level on his farm with most of his slope ranging between 2-4%.

Conservation.

Continued from page 9

water on long slopes," Kaiser commented.

CURRENTLY, KAISER has 2-4% slope on a majority of his land. His biggest slope is 6% on a small section of land.

"Having the slope down to 2-4% is pretty good. For the most part, the soil erosion is very minimal," Kaiser said.

Kaiser feels that it is his duty to hold the erosion down to a minimum and do what he can to keep it in good condition so that the land will continue to produce quality yields.

"God put this land here and it is up to the people to make sure it stays here," Kaiser said.

After all, if the topsoil erodes away, what are farmers going to plant their crops in, Kaiser questions.

"If the future generations want to eat good food, we are going to need quality soil. That's why I've always felt it was important to conserve the soil. I grew up on this farm and I want to leave the land better than when I bought it," Kaiser said.

WE'VE PASSED THE TOUGHEST ENGINE OIL TESTS.

Conoco HD Fleet Supreme™ Engine Oil provides premium protection for heavy duty diesel engines. And we've got the test results to prove it. Industry recognized engine tests such as API CG-4 GM 6.2L and Mack EO/L, T-6 and T-8 confirm HD Fleet Supreme effectively reduces piston deposits and oil consumption. It controls soot buildup, and provides superior oxidation control and detergency. The result is cleaner pistons and rings, and improved viscosity. For longer engine life, better performance and cleaner running



- Tractor • Implement Repair
- Painting • Welding

KIRK, INC.
Five Miles South Of Vinton • 319-472-3921

- Sandblasting
- Starter & Alternator Repair
- Hydraulic Hoses Made While You Wait

GOODYEAR

"PIT STOP"
ON-FARM TIRE SERVICE