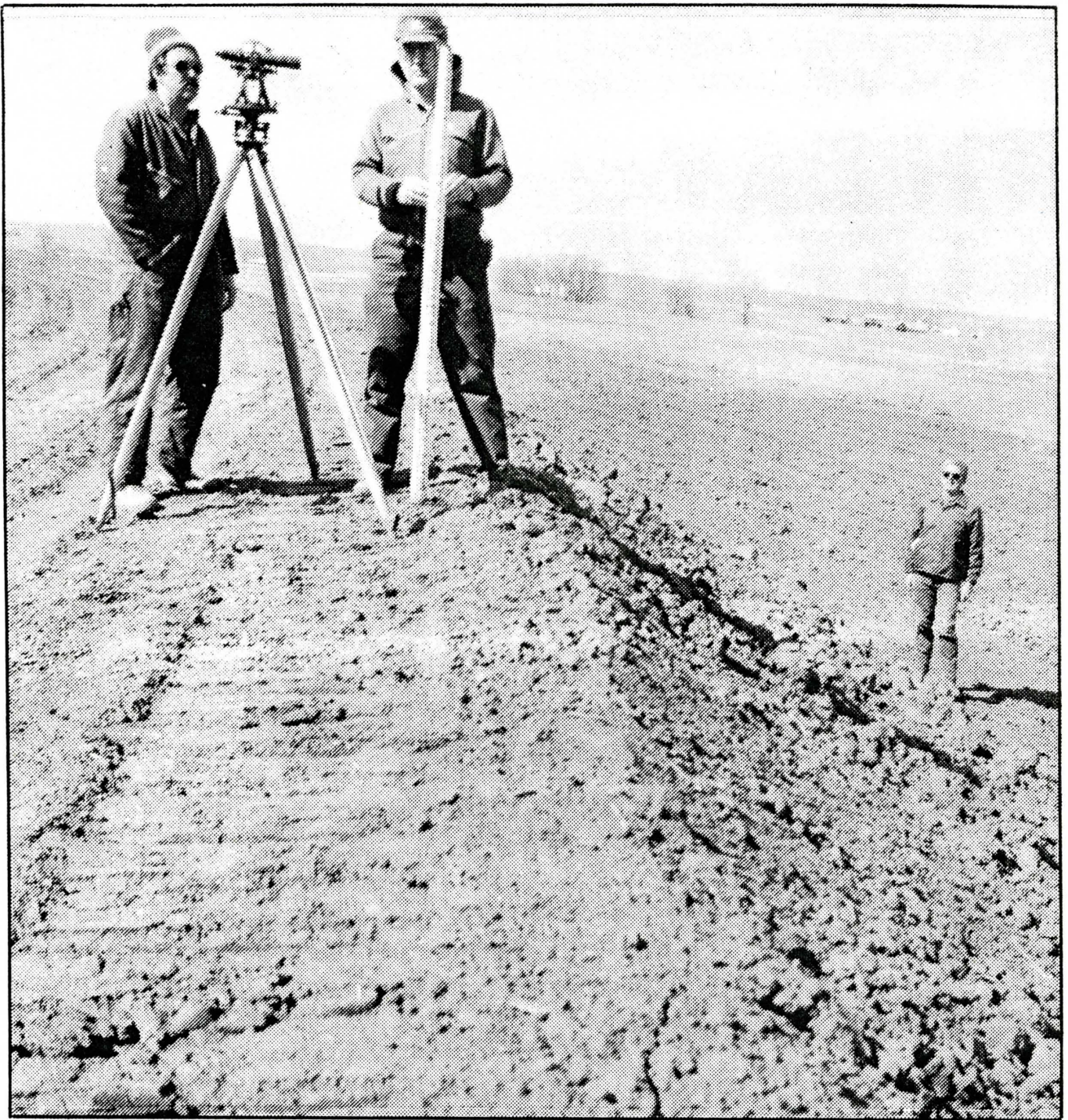




Democrat photo by Bryan Hunt

Terracing saves topsoil

Doug DeRosear of the Lee County Soil Conservation Service and farmer Henry Holtkamp examine a new terrace on Holtkamp's farm, where 2,000 feet of new terracing has been built so far this year. Soil conservationist Henry Tordoff stands on the lower level of the terraced field, which should now lose less than three tons of topsoil per acre per year, compared with 10-15 tons lost in fields without terracing. Lee County farmers have built more

than 200 miles of terraces in the last 10 years, Tordoff said, and some 10,000 acres have been seeded to grass in the last four years as a conservation measure. Nearly all of Lee County's 1,600 farmers now have a conservation plan on file with the SCS, compared with 500 five years ago. The SCS also just granted \$13,000 in state funding to county farmers for windbreaks and other tree plantings.