

TAMA COUNTY TODAY

Countywide
News of
Interest

Thursday,
January 20, 2000

For the DYSART REPORTER, TAMA NEWS-HERALD, TRAER STAR-CLIPPER

Thanks for all of your conservation efforts!

The Tama Soil & Water Conservation District commissioners would like to thank everyone for supporting conservation practices in the past year.

We see many opportunities for the producers in Tama County in the next millennium. There is a district need for buffers, including filter strips and other high residue practices to ensure that our streams and groundwater supplies remain clean.

The district offers several conservation programs and we are applying for additional cost share programs and requesting supplementary funds each year to assist producers in achieving their conservation goals.

We would like to hear your concerns, comments, and what you feel should become priorities. Please feel free to visit the office and present your ideas and thoughts on what we need to focus on for conserving natural resources in the county.

Controlling wind erosion and water erosion is everyone's concern. The action a landowner takes on his own land can affect the water quality all the way to the ocean.

The district has an Annual Plan of Work which deals with long-range goals and prioritizes certain areas of the county. This plan is available at the office.

Thank you once again for your conservation efforts.

Conserving Soil & Water in Tama County 1999 Annual Report of the Tama County Soil & Water Conservation District

The New 2000's Are Here...
and check out these New 99's at Clearance Prices!!

2000 Pontiac Firebird T-Top, Chrome Wheels, Loaded.	2000 Pontiac Grand Prix GT 4 Dr. Black, Loaded with Equipment	2000 Chevy Cab & Chassis 1 Ton BUILD IT TO FIT YOUR NEEDS!	2000 Pontiac Bonneville SSEi Super Charged, Sunroof, Chrome Wheels, Immediate Delivery!	2000 G. M. Vans - Chevy, Pontiac, & Olds Excellent Selection
2000 Chevy Silverado 10 In Stock WE'RE DEALIN'	2000 Olds Bravada Red Pearl, Sun Roof	Financing on most GM Vehicles as low as 2.9% APR*	2000 Olds Alero Two To Choose From	2000 Chevy Malibu LS Sun Roof & Leather
1999 Olds Bravada Black, Sunroof List \$32,900.00 Disc. & Rebate \$ 5,121.56 Now* \$27,678.44	1999 Pontiac Sunfire GT Coupe Black List \$18,281.00 Disc. & Rebate \$ 2,709.52 Now* \$15,571.48	1999 Pontiac Sunfire GT Red List \$18,515.00 Disc. & Rebate \$ 2,839.44 Now* \$15,675.56	1999 Pontiac Grand Prix Black List \$22,900.00 Disc. & Rebate \$ 3,074.75 Now* \$19,825.25	1999 Olds Intrigue 4 Door, White List \$24,250.00 Disc. & Rebate \$ 4,028.02 Now* \$20,221.98

*All Rebates To Dealer, Plus Tax, Title, License & Doc. Fee, In Lieu Of Rebate, GMAC Low Rate Financing Is Available, All Trades Accepted AT A.C.V.

1999 Chevy Blazer LS 4x4 14,000 miles Wa \$22,995 Now \$22,995	1999 Dodge Quad Cab 4x4 SLT Equipment Wa \$23,995 Now \$24,995	1999 Ford F-150 4x4 Quad Cab What a Buy Wa \$22,995 Now \$24,995	1999 Cadillac Sedan DeVille What a Buy Wa \$31,995 Now \$32,995	1999 Chevy Express Van 17 cu. ft. passenger, loaded with extra Wa \$18,995 Now \$18,995	1998 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4 Dr. 4x4 White, Saddle Leather, Super Nice Wa \$14,995 Now \$13,995	1998 Buick Century Custom White, Factory Warranty Wa \$13,995 Now \$13,995	1998 Olds Intrigue 4 Door, White Wa \$14,995 Now \$13,995	1998 Buick Century Custom Green, Factory Warranty Wa \$14,995 Now \$13,995
1998 Mercury Grand Marquis Red, Factory Warranty Wa \$13,995 Now \$15,995	1998 Chevy S-10 Ext. Cab 4x4 Automatic, Loaded Wa \$18,995 Now \$18,995	1998 Chevy Malibu LS V-6, One owner, Sharp! Wa \$13,995 Now \$14,995	1998 Buick LeSabre Custom 4 Door White, 25,000 miles, NOICE Wa \$15,995 Now \$15,995	1997 Pontiac Bonneville SLE Pkg. Leather, CD, Lohr sound, Super Nice Wa \$18,995 Now \$18,995	1997 Plymouth Grande Voyager SE 4 Door, Loaded, 17,000 miles, one owner Wa \$18,995 Now \$18,995	1997 Olds Aurora Black, Chrome Wheels, Heated Seats, Wa \$19,995 Now \$18,995	1997 Buick Riviera Sunroof, Supercharged, Sharp Wa \$19,995 Now \$18,995	1997 Pontiac Firebird Formula 4 speed, T-Top Wa \$17,995 Now \$16,995
1997 Buick LeSabre Limited Loaded with Extras plus Leather, One Owner, 80,000 Miles \$12,995	1997 Dodge Laramie SLT Short Bed 4x4 Red, loaded with extras, Sharp \$20,995	1996 Chevrolet Astro Extended Van Black and Silver, Loaded with Extras, 27,000 Miles \$13,995	1996 Olds Bravada White, Black Leather, Local one owner, sharp \$18,995	1996 Chevy Lumina LS 4 Dr. White, Loaded, Local 1 owner \$9,695	1996 Pontiac Bonneville SLE Leather, 37,000 miles \$14,995	1996 Ford Thunderbird Silver, Loaded, One owner \$11,995	1996 Toyota Camry LE 4 Dr. Only 41,000 Miles, Loaded with Extras, Sharp Now \$12,995	1996 GMC Sonoma SLS Ext. Cab V-6, Auto, Air, Tilt, Cruise, Dk. Green, Sharp Now \$11,995
1995 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4 41,000 One Owner Miles, Extra Clean, Loaded Now \$17,695	1995 Chevy Camaro Sport Coupe Full Power, Factory Air, Super Sharp, Only 30,000 Miles \$10,995	1995 Ford Mustang Cobra 3 speed, 41,000 miles \$14,995	1995 Ford Concorde Dark Red, Loaded with extras \$9,995	1995 Chevy Blazer LT 4x4 Black, One owner \$17,995	1995 Ford Windstar Van Red Metallic, Loaded With Extras, Power Right, One Owner \$11,295	1995 Pontiac Transport SLE Real Green, All the Extras, Locally Owned, 20,000 Miles \$11,995	1994 Buick Park Avenue White with Blue leather, nice \$13,995	1994 Olds 88 4 Door, Dk. red, Load with extras \$7,995
1993 Geo Metro 3 Cyl., 3 Speed, Excellent Economy Line Now \$1,995	1993 Buick Park Ave. Dk. Blue, Gray Leather, Loaded With Extras, Proud To Sell \$8,995	1993 Ford Taurus Green, 41,000 miles \$5,695	1993 Olds Cierra 4 Door, Red, V-6, 71,000 miles \$5,995	1993 Ford Explorer 2 Dr., 4x4, 3 speed, Loaded with Extras \$6,995	1991 Olds Cutlass Supreme International 4 Dr. Loaded, Only 66,000 Miles \$6,995	1991 Dodge Grand Caravan Loaded With All the Extras, Super Nice \$4,995	1990 Chevy Blazer 4x4 Full Size Loaded, Super Nice, Wa \$10,995 \$10,995	1989 Chevy Blazer K-S Red & White, 4x4, Sharp \$9,995

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SALES DEPARTMENT HOURS:
Monday & Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tues. Wed. & Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
SERVICE DEPARTMENT HOURS:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon



FARM NEWS



grass roots

From A to Z

periods need to be so prolonged. While it has not happened this season, there have been plenty of years when the country has been frozen and crusted over, and we

The grain markets, like my road, have gotten quiet. Buyers, sellers, and all interested spectators are sitting around waiting for somebody to drop a shoe. Sales are apt to increase as we approach tax time, but the major factor in the present market is South American weather. We farmers can never separate ourselves from the weather report, even if it concerns an area thousands of miles away, in another hemisphere! Those folks are in the process of spraying, cultivating, and wandering about with thumbs hooked in bib-overalls, attempting to commune with crop and nature, just like we do. If they get too wet, or too dry, we will notice it in our markets.

The new livestock census figures are out, and they are not surprising; 7% of American farms raise 70% of all the pigs. In fact,

The IAFC is an independent and privately managed investment corporation, set up to aid, promote, and help finance businesses that add to the value of products raised in Iowa. In theo-

Speaking of politicians, our Iowa caucuses are soon to be upon us. Just how important these caucuses are to the national process of electing a president has long been debated. John McCain obviously doesn't give them a whole lot of weight, and neither do a passel of Iowans, who stay home in droves. I suspect that most early hopefuls view advertising and exposure as important, no matter where they get it, and since Iowa's relatively low cost of living gives them more bang for the buck, they honor us with their presence. Iowa doesn't have a very good track record for picking winners, and Mr. McCain knows that

In closing, and touching on a item that most Americans couldn't care less about, but which catches the eye of most farmers...weeds. It is being reported that one six-foot tall

Five million seeds per plant is not good news. Those waterhemp escapes in my cornfield, and along the edges of a couple of my bean patches, could be a bane for two or three yet unborn generations. How's that for bearing the sins of the fathers?

Opening grain prices Jan. 14: at Central Counties Co-op, Traer were beans \$4.41 and corn \$1.82; at Tama Benton Co-op in Dysart, beans \$4.46, corn \$1.78; and at Werner Grain and Feed, Tama, beans \$4.42 and corn \$1.75.

Feb. 18 deadline for reporting soybean acres

Public Law 106-78, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, provides authority to pay \$475 million to producers who planted 1999 crop of flaxseed, sunflowers, safflower, soybeans, rapeseed, mustard seed, canola, or crambe.

"The 1999 Oilseeds Program (OP) payments will be based on the higher of the 1997 or 1998 planted acreage of each specific oilseed, or, for new producers, the 1999 crop planted acreage of each specific oilseed," stated Bob Soukup, State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency.

Only 1997, 1998, and 1999 oilseed acreage reports that have been filed by Feb. 18, 2000 will be accepted for the purpose of determining acreage for the Oilseed Program. Acreage reports of oilseeds may be accepted from producers who planted eligible oilseeds in 1999 but did not report all their acreage of those oilseeds in 1997, 1998, or 1999. Producers reporting acres not previously reported must provide acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the oilseed acreage, such as seed purchase and sales of the crop.

Contact your local FSA
Office for further details.

Review alternatives before choosing your seed

Many Iowa-grown crops will be affected by labeling requirements, such as those currently in effect in the European Union and those that go into effect next year in Korea and Japan (see sidebar). Genetically modified organisms (GMO) grain refers to crops grown from biotechnology-enhanced seed, grain which has agronomically desirable traits such as herbicide and insect resistance.

"Producers should check with their usual markets to see if there are any restrictions on GMO grain sales, or if any are expected before the 2000 marketing year," said Charles Hurburgh, ISU grain quality specialist. "This will be particularly important in forward contracting agreements; producers are advised to read the contract terms carefully. Then carefully assess the risk of potential restrictions in the markets you normally supply. This assessment will be individual to each producer because of the varied markets across the state."

Special marketing programs for non-GMO crops may expand

"If you are considering participation in a special marketing program for non-GMO crops, recognize that purity of grain begins with purity of seed. Ask your seed suppliers for certification of non-GMO purity on the lots you receive," advised Hur-

burgh. "With some buyers, notably the European Union, discussing 1 percent as a tolerance level for GMO seeds in designated non-GMO shipments, even a small amount of initial mixing at the seed level can effectively use up all the tolerance before any handling operations occur."

Use lot numbers to record where seed is planted.

For situations in which GMO crops clearly fit the economic and agronomic aspects of the farm business, there probably will be a significant market for the product, without price discounts, but this is not known for certain. Where non-GMO crops fit into the farming operation, there is negligible risk of price discounts and an unknown chance that some markets may offer a price premium, Wisner said.

"If you order non-GMO seeds this winter and decide later to shift to GMO varieties, you likely will have no trouble doing so," Wisner advised. "But it may be very hard to make the shift if your initial order is GMO and you decide to shift it later to non-GMO varieties."

* Expect to carefully clean planting equipment between GMO and non-GMO fields.

* Know where you will plant your crop. Second-year crop (without rotation) can present difficulties because of volunteer plants from the previous year -- a potential problem if the previous year's crop was GMO, Hurburgh said. Rotation allows control by herbicide or manual weeding.

* Be aware of the possibility of separate testing of other grains (e.g. corn in soybean samples) for GMO status as well as being counted in the usual way as foreign material. This could apply to soybeans in corn samples as well.

* Isolate non-GMO cornfields as far away as possible from other GMO cornfields. There are varying opinions about distance of pollen drift; the seed industry uses 1,000 ft. as minimum isolation distance.

"You may want to check with your neighbors to find out what kind of seed they will be planting," advised Ginder. For example, many organic producers try to coordinate with neighbors to minimize pollen drift problems," he said.

IN DECEMBER THE IOWA LOTTERY PAID A TOTAL OF \$7,397,919 IN PRIZES...

Do you know any of these winners?

(These Winners are
From December Alone!)

Lotto Games

	Amount	Winner	Retailer	Location
Powerball	\$100,000	C.S. Erickson	Quik Trip	Eastgate
Powerball	5,000	Larry Davidson	Super Market	Dea Monies
Powerball	5,000	Michael Winton	Price Smart	Concord Bluffs
Powerball	5,000	Mark Levy	Westland Market	Concord Bluffs
Powerball	5,000	Jeanne Wilson	Farmers Store Inc.	Kelowna
Powerball	5,000	Barry Elimen	Prix Corporation	Old Rapids
Powerball	5,000	Robert Knight	Quik Trip	Dea Monies
Powerball	5,000	Michael Maier	East End Mini Max	Seau City
Powerball	5,000	Ray Wolf	L & H Ranch Co.	Laurens
Pick 3	\$5,000	Shandra Pich	Quik Trip	Irish City
Pick 3	1,500	Thore Southphong	Top Gun Food Store	Seau City
Pick 3	1,000	Kendra Baker	Quake Country Store	Dea Monies
Pick 3	800	Lowell Bauman	GI-N Co.	Dea Monies
Pick 3	800	Tracye Owens	Hy-Vee No. 5	Dea Monies
Pick 3	800	Thomas Back	Kum & Go	Dea Monies
Pick 3	600	Robert Plubrick	Sam's Market	West Union
Cash 4 Life	\$25,000	Gerald Bus	Price Mart	West Union

Prize total includes all online (lotto) and instant (scratch) games. Names shown are winners of \$600 and over claimed at Iowa Lottery offices.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-800-BETS OFF. You must be at least 21 years old to purchase lottery tickets.

Search Games									
	Amount	Winner	Retailer	Location	Amount	Winner	Retailer	Location	
Holiday Magic	\$12,000	Warren Trussell	Kwik Star	Cedar Falls	Lucky Eye	\$2,000	Terry Sergent	Teaco Food Mart	Quarry Indemnity
Holiday Magic	\$12,000	Darlene Brooks	Hy-Vee	Valerius	Lucky Eye	\$2,000	Brian Griffith		
Holiday Magic	\$12,000	Reedie Brown	C Mart	Valerius					
Holiday Magic	\$12,000	Diana Morow	Eastgate Amco	Olmes	Spring Fever	\$700	Kenneth Burgess	Jerry's & Good Food Mart	Diagon
Double Double	2,000	Anne Spatz	Hy-Vee No. 3	Camden	Soft To Win	\$1,000	John Hotz	Kum's Super	Spring Lake
Double Double	2,000	Peggy Schatz	FIS Fast Stop	Ames	3 Wishes	1,000	Vern Long	Porter Convenience 66	Clinton
Double Double	2,000	Harmen Kennedy	Hy-Vee	Delmar	3 Wishes	1,000	William Long	Marshalltown	Dee Moore's
Double Double	2,000	Gwen Kutzura	Pet-N-Provisions	Delmar	3 Wishes	1,000	Daniel Good		
League Night	\$900	Mary Darr	The Cedars	Milton	Jumping Jack Cash	\$1,000	Alta Nelson	Kiddie Station Store	Fort Dodge
The Year 2000	2,000	Paul Miller	Riggo's	Muscatine					
The Year 2000	2,000	Clement Simon	3 Spot Mart	Dubuque					
The Year 2000	2,000	Kurtis Dahl	Kum's & Go	Delmar					
On A Roll	\$100	Barney Stoll	Q Shop Inc	Muscatine					
On A Roll	\$100	Harold Hinn	Gi-N-Go	Dubuque					
On A Roll	\$100	Dorothy Kuylen	Amerson Drug Store	Muscatine					
On A Roll	\$100	James Burton	Hy-Vee	Dawson					
On A Roll	\$100	Emma Groat	Albertson Inc	Delmar					
Iowa Road Trip	\$1,000	Gary Eschenberger	Rock 'N' Store	Jesse Falls	Hot Diggity Dollars	\$700	Cheryl Roderberg	Deck Shop	Manion
Iowa Road Trip	1,000	Michael Himes	Edgewood Handman	Cedar Rapids					
Iowa Road Trip	1,000	John Grissom	Edgewood Handman	Beaconsfield	Casino's Card Stud	\$1,000	T Anderson	Manito	Cedar Rapids City
Iowa Road Trip	1,000	Todd Bennett	Kwik Shop Inc	Davenport	Casino's Card Stud	1,000	William Earl		
Scratch Off	\$200	Timmie Meador	Pronto Market	Manchester					
Scratch Off	\$200	Rita Burger	Hy-Vee	Centerville					
Scratch Off	\$200	Rob Kuber	Country Store	Centerville	Magic 8 Ball	\$100	Lorrie White	Shelby Station Store	Veterans
					Magic 8 Ball	\$100	Sharon Benzecze	Holly Station Store	
Mystery Pattern Bings	\$25,000	Ronald Carlson	Express Lane Gas & Food	Clinton					
Mystery Pattern Bings	2,500	Ann McDowell	Fuel Mart 730	Charlton					
Mystery Pattern Bings	2,500	Wayne Harmons		Early					
Lucky Eye	\$200	Daryl Hansen	Vista Stores	Eagle Grove	Hot Heaven	700	Henry Kay	Amco Food Shop	Kearka
					Hot Heaven	700	Marlene Daugherty	Hy-Vee No. 1	Waukon
					Hot Heaven	700	Emily Hays	Hy-Vee No. 2	South City
					Hot Heaven	700	Lorrie Byrnes	Hy-Vee's Express	Clinton

Soil and Water Conservation



Service Center Staff

Staff members who work at the Service Center in Toledo include, from left: Roger Platt, soil conservation technician; Chester Worden, soil conservation technician; Linda Sells, WAE; Nancy Havran, district secretary; Craig Hempy, CRP technician; Trisha Olson, district employee; Jim Allen, district conservationist. Absent when the photo was taken were Cheryl Pansegaur, 319 Project Coordinator, and Julie Falcon, soil conservationist.

Otter Creek Lake Watershed improving water at Otter Creek

The Otter Creek Lake Watershed is starting its second year of its three-year project life. The project's main goal is to improve the water quality of Otter Creek Lake.

The Otter Creek Lake Watershed totals 1,040 acres. The land use within the watershed is 510 acres of cropland, 13 acres of woodland, 50 acres of pasture and hayland, 175 acres of CRP, 60 acres of water, and 200 acres of park.

During the first year of the project 2.7 acres of waterway and one gabion chute were built. There were 15,000 feet of grassed buffer strips laid out in acres coming out of CRP. There

were also 6.6 acres of waterway, 98.8 acres of cropland, and 9.1 acres of grassed filter strips entered into the CRP program.

There are two structures and two terraces to be built this fall. Inter-agency cooperation has helped secure a grant for water quality testing. This was accomplished by working with Iowa State University Extension, Tama County Sanitarian, and the Tama County Conservation Board. Water testing was offered to landowners in the watershed. Nitrate samples were drawn from four different locations starting at the bottom of the spillway at Otter Creek Lake and three other locations within two

stream miles of that point. This was done by Bob Etzel, County Conservation Board Director. All in all it was a very successful year.

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of your local
newspaper!**



From out of the past.....

By Marie K. Vileta

Seldom-told stories of Iowa Governors

On Dec. 3, 1846, Ansel Briggs was inaugurated as the first Governor of the state of Iowa. Early in his term, he was busy in his office when an unkempt Sac Indian appeared in the doorway surveying Briggs silently.

On the shoulders of this man was a huge bundle of dark fur. As the governor glanced at his visitor from head to toe, he noted that the man's clothing was almost in shreds. The fringe which had once been luxuriant now hung in uneven lengths and his breeches were well-worn and dirty.

The appearance of such a visitor was indeed an unusual occurrence! Briggs was unsure of how to approach him or how to speak. Surely there was a purpose to his visit. Although the governor invited the Indian to enter the room, the visitor declined and he remained in the entrance, standing first on one moccasined foot and then on the other. Very bluntly, the Indian finally asked, "You Governor?"

Briggs replied that he was the governor of the state of Iowa and that Iowa was no longer known as a Territory. He was not sure his visitor would comprehend.

In agreement, the Indian nodded. "I know. Man at Garrison told me. I come from Big Muddy. I am Half-Moon."

It surprised Briggs that this Sac Indian had come from the Missouri River and was paying him a visit. Then in halting words, the Indian explained that

he had wanted to hunt buffalo in his old hunting grounds. The governor was amazed; there had been hardly any buffalo in Iowa for some time.

Finally, the visitor related a dream he had of seeing a buffalo in Iowa and how he had then come upon a lone animal on his journey. With his bow and arrow, he had killed it and had come bearing its hide as a gift for the governor of Iowa. Half-Moon dropped the fur and was gone!

Stephen Hempstead was the second governor of the state of Iowa and succeeded Ansel Briggs following the latter's four years in office. He was a friend of the Negro and was very much against allowing any slavery in Iowa. He was in favor of immigration of settlers from foreign countries but he wanted no white man to own black men. Hempstead was trustworthy and was greatly admired as an honest man. He delighted in telling a story in order to put across a point.

Among his friends were some who did own slaves but he would hardly debate the slave problem and declared no nation should allow slavery. Whenever he was forced to voice his convictions and his resentment was aroused, he managed to keep his humor. Among his favorite stories was one he referred to as a "means of stilling the storm."

While visiting a friend in Ohio

who was a slave owner, Hempstead had overheard a wise comment from a little black boy. The Governor and his friend were surveying a cotton field when a rainstorm developed. Seeking shelter in a nearby slaves' cabin, the Iowan was interested in the woman and her children who were at a window watching the raging storm. The little girl looked up at her mother and asked, "Mammy, can God really still the storm?"

The Negro mammy replied, "Yes, of course God can still the storm."

At that, the little black boy looked up, "Then why don't he do it before it gets such a big start?"

Governor Hempstead often used this story to point out the wisdom of preventing the storm of slavery in the state before it had an opportunity to "get a good start." He believed in making slavery illegal before it became a menace.

Tama County Pheasants Forever will be planting over 31,000 trees and shrubs this spring as part of our conservation efforts



Need a project for your service group?

We Need You!
Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, FFA, Camp Fire and your parents!

Call Todd Karr, President

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Ivy Sievers 515-484-3333 to coordinate

Education Committee carried out several activities in 1999

by Cathy Wieck

The Tama County SWCD Commissioners and Assistant Commissioner, comprising the education committee, carried out a number of activities in 1999.

The first project of the year was the conservation grocery sack activity for grades 3-5 in the county. The local grocery stores provided large paper grocery sacks which each child decorated to carry out the national conservation theme, "In the Children's Hands." A monetary prize was given to the student in each grade at each participating school whose sack best illustrated the theme. Then an overall winner was chosen. Nicole Fowler, a Dysart-Geneseo third grader was awarded an airplane ride donated by Jim Pippert. The decorated sacks were then returned to the grocery store where they were used to carry groceries during Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

Conservation activity booklets carrying out the theme "In the Children's Hands" were distributed to the county's elementary schools for each third and fourth grader. Stewardship materials were also provided for each church which requested them.

The annual scholarship competition was held and a \$250 scholarship was presented to Daniel Svoboda during Awards Night at North Tama High School.

The District again provided a tree for each sixth grader in the county's schools. Four hundred bur oak trees were distributed to

the students for planting at their own farms or yards.

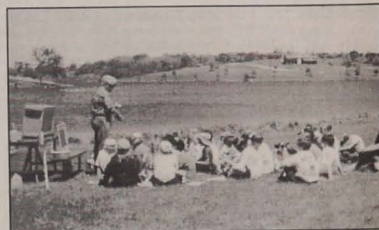
The Tama County educational committee, along with Hawkeye County environmental instructor Terri Rogers, coordinated and staffed the Northeast Iowa Regional Envirothon at Hawkeye Community College at Waterloo in March. During this competition, 11 five-member teams competed for the opportunity to represent their high school in the Iowa Envirothon competition in April. The winning Iowa team from Lin-Mar High School participated in the national Envirothon in California.

The Commissioners would like to encourage all the high schools in Tama County to participate in this worthwhile and challenging activity. The Tama County Commissioners provided financial support for the Envirothon program, and one member of the educational committee

also serves on the Iowa Envirothon Task Force.

In May, the annual Outdoor Classroom Day for the fifth graders was held at Otter Creek with about 350 students participating. The classes included: Soils by Jim Allen, assisted by Aaron Musselman and Trisha Olson; Nature Walk by Bob Etzel; Fishing and Boating Safety by Bob Mullen; Wildlife Conservation by Rick Trine; Woodland Plants by Mel Bro; Forestry by Gene Frye; Chemicals in the Environment by Chester Worden; and Fish Biology by Lake MacBride Fishery biologists. Each participant received an orange drink and a conservation pencil. An Outdoor Day essay contest was held and the outstanding essays were published in the local papers.

The education committee of the SWCD plans to continue each of these activities in 2000.



Outdoor classroom

Chester Worden talked to the county's fifth grade students about chemicals in the environment, at Otter Creek Park.



Star Cooking

By Marilyn Chizek

Oatmeal recipes to "warm you heart and soul"

January is Oatmeal Month. Oatmeal can be enjoyed at any time of the day. Eat it to start your day with new vitality or any time you need that little extra burst of energy.

Not only is oatmeal good for you but it tastes good too. It helps lower cholesterol levels and having it in your diet helps to make you a more healthy person.

Try these recipes when you feel the need to be energized.

Oatmeal Waffles
1 1/2 C. quick-cooking oats
1 1/2 C. whole wheat flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
2 C. buttermilk
2 eggs
2 T. butter or margarine, melted

peanut butter and/or applesauce, optional

In a bowl, combine the first five ingredients. In another bowl, combine buttermilk, eggs and butter; stir into the dry ingredients until smooth. Bake in a preheated waffle iron according to manufacturer's directions until golden brown. Serve with peanut butter and/or applesauce, if desired. Yield: 6-8 waffles.

Oatmeal Dinner Rolls
1 C. oatmeal
2 C. boiling water

3 T. margarine
2/3 C. brown sugar
1 T. sugar
1 1/2 tsp. salt
2 pkg. yeast
1/3 C. lukewarm water
5 C. flour
Cook oatmeal, water and margarine until of normal breakfast food consistency. Cool to lukewarm. Dissolve yeast in the lukewarm water and add the sugars and salt. Combine this with the oatmeal mixture. Knead in the flour. Knead for 5 minutes. Form into dinner rolls and let rise until double. Bake 20 to 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Easy Oven Meatballs

1 lb. ground beef
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 C. chopped onion
1 egg
1/2 tsp. salt
1 C. oatmeal
Sauce:
1/2 C. brown sugar
1 can tomato soup
3 T. lemon juice
Form into balls size of walnuts. Pour sauce over meatballs. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Oatmeal Cookies (sugarless)

1 C. flour
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. allspice
1 C. quick oats
1 C. raisins
1 C. unsweetened apple juice
1/2 C. oil
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 C. nuts, chopped

Combine dry ingredients. Add apple juice, oil, eggs and vanilla; mix well. Add oats, raisins and nuts. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on pan.

We hope you have fun Star-Cooking and eating!

If you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers, please submit it to Marilyn Chizek, in care of the *Dysart Reporter*, *Tama News-Herald*, or *Traer Star-Clipper*. We look forward to hearing from you.

We Salute Tama County Farmers For Their Conservation Practices!



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We Salute the

Tama County Soil & Water

Conservation District and

the conservation efforts of the landowners in Tama County

Poweshiek Water Association

Brooklyn Office - 515-522-7416
Tama Treatment Plant - 515-484-3234

Soil and Water Conservation

Maintaining CRP property

by Chester Worden,
NRCS
Conservation Technician
Many of you have renewed

old contracts or seeded new contracts and have seeded legumes, native grasses and shrubs/trees for the first time. These prac-

tices will need different maintenance than the old CRP of only brome grass. Our goal is to make the legumes last as long as possible and to get the native grasses started as soon as possible.

Remember that native grasses are warm season crops and do not germinate or start regrowth until mid-June. Native grasses also start from seed very slowly and you should not worry about them if you do not see much of them until the fall of the second year or the beginning of the third year. We do not recommend burning your native grasses until the third year and then mainly when you have a poor stand.

Legumes

Where you have interseeded legumes into an established grass you should mow the grass when the legume is a few inches tall to prevent the grass from smothering out the new legumes.

After the legumes are established, we recommend mowing every other year. Not mowing one year may let the legumes reseed themselves; and mowing one year may help with weed control and keeping the grass from smothering the legumes.

Mowing in early May (before nesting season) and letting the legumes reseed themselves in late summer would work also.

New seedlings of legumes (alfalfa, clover or native flowers etc.) with native grasses should be mowed the first two years once or twice a year to 8-10" high to give the new native grass seedlings sunlight and a better chance to grow.

Some legume stands are real thick the second year and should definitely be mowed so they don't smother out the small native grass seedlings.

Trees/Shrubs

Good planting techniques and good grass control about 30" around plants are very important with trees and shrubs the first two or three years. If you do this they should start well and then be able to take care of themselves.

Chemicals should be used on trees per manufacturer's recommendations, but shrubs do not tolerate chemicals as well, so mowing is important with shrubs. Both shrubs and trees should be planted in black soil where former grass is killed either with chemicals, (Roundup) or tilled.

Fabric has been used successfully when it is staked down about 3 ft. around a plant. Broadleaves do not smother out trees/shrubs very often, but heavy stands of grass can kill small plants.

Weed Control

Remember that good weed control is important on all CRP practices and it is your responsibility to do this, especially with noxious weeds.

During the first two years of a contract you can mow or spray at any time without asking permission from FSA.

Starting the third year you will need to ask for permission at the FSA office to control weeds during the nesting season, May 15 to Aug. 1.

Before or after the nesting season you may mow or spray as needed without asking for permission.

A "CRP Maintenance Guide" is available at the NRCS office and individual burning plans are given upon request.

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Friend of Conservation

Melody Bro, left, is the Soil and Water Conservation District's Friend of Conservation Award recipient. Mark and Melody farm a large number of acres and stay busy with numerous chores. They have utilized many conservation practices, including a pond just north of the house. They have four children, and the family is involved in archery and won many awards. Melody and Mark are state licensed to rehabilitate young and injured animals and release them back into the wild.



Rural Backyard Award

Ray and Yvette Berner earned the Rural Backyard Conservation Award at their rural Traer home, on 17 acres. They have participated in prairie preservation for several years, and were instrumental in the development of the Wilson Preserve near Traer. They have photographed birds since the 1970s and have observed 140 species of birds on their acreage. Their hobbies include refurbishing antique radios and bird watching.

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Wilsons win two awards for conservation

Dennis and Jean Wilson, shown at right and with daughters Mindy, Trisha and Heather, above, were selected to receive two awards this year. They were chosen as the District's Overall Winner and will also receive the award for the Owner-Operator Division.

Dennis and Jean farm together but during the winter, Jean works at Pied Piper Day care. They have a cow/calf herd in addition to the farmland.

Their girls are active in the operation. Hobbies include horseback riding and enjoying nature.

Another hobby that Dennis enjoys is restoring old tractors.



Buffers = common sense

by Craig Hempy

Buffers, or permanent strips of vegetation, protect soil and water, provide wildlife habitat, and make economic sense. They have become increasingly popular since introduced in 1997 through a program called continuous CRP. As of September of 1999 Iowa has an average of 1,595 acres per county for a total of 158,000 acres. Tama County leads the state with a total enrollment of 8,206 acres on 1,139 contracts.

Cropland is eligible if it was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in two of the last five years. The land does not have to be highly erodible. Marginal pasture suitable for use as a riparian tree buffer is also eligible. This includes land

along streams, rivers, and any permanent bodies of water.

Signup is not competitive as with the general CRP and enrollment is open all year. Rates are determined by soil type and, with a 20% bonus for some practices, can be as high as \$180 per acre. Continuous CRP contracts last 10-15 years depending on the approved practice and includes 50% cost-share payments to develop the practice.

Some of the more popular practices in Tama County are:

Contour Buffer Strips—These are strips of perennial vegetation up to 30 feet wide with cultivated crop strips farmed on the contour. The primary purpose is to reduce erosion, thereby minimizing the movement of sediment, nutri-

ents, and pesticides. They provide excellent places for nesting and wildlife cover. Field Borders are included as a part of this practice.

Grass Filter Strips—Strips of grass up to 99 feet wide along streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands used to intercept pollutants from both ground and surface water. Also protects streambanks and shorelines from erosion. This practice is especially attractive in areas subject to flooding with potential crop loss.

Riparian Forest Buffer—These are similar in purpose to a grass filter strip but because of the deeper root system does an even better job of removing contaminants from the soil. These can have an average maximum width of 150 feet. It can also be managed to provide a valuable timber commodity for the future. As an example, maple at today's prices can be worth in excess of \$500 per acre.

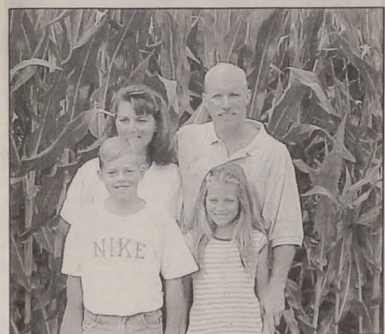
Windbreak/Shelterbelt—Single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs used to protect farmsteads and livestock from strong winds and snow. They also reduce wind erosion across open fields and help to beautify the landscape.

Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife—Can be developed in wetter or flood prone areas of a field. Must be on hydric soil and can be up to 5 acres in size. Designed to hold around 1.5 feet of water on 30% of the area. They do a good job of removing contaminants from runoff and provide excellent wildlife and aquatic habitat.

Grassed Waterways—This can be a natural or constructed channel planted to permanent vegetation. Located in an area where runoff concentrates, its purpose is to slow the release of water to a non-erosive level. Are currently eligible only on non-HEL land or land coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program.

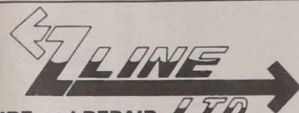
To apply for Continuous CRP visit the Farm Service Agency in Toledo to sign an application. An NRCS technician will review the application to determine prices, acres, and the cost for establishing the practice. This information will be returned to the applicant and if acceptable, a contract will be drawn up by FSA.

Cost involved in establishing any of the practices are minimized with the 50% cost-share along with private funds such as Pheasants Forever.



Landlord-Tenant Award

David and Frances Bacon are the award recipients for the District Landlord-Tenant Division. They farm 1,150 acres using a variety of conservation practices. No-till is the preferred system for their crops, as it helps keep the equipment and fuel costs down. Other practices used include terraces, buffer strips and waterways. David and Frances enjoy camping and boating with their two children, Sean (12) and Corv (9).



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Soil and Water Conservation

Tama County SWCD Financial Report July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999

Revolving Fund Expenses		
Awards Banquet	\$973.00	
IDAALS	\$25.00	
Commissioners expense	\$432.20	
Subscription	\$32.00	
Midwestern Culvert	\$188.60	
Buffer Initiative	\$2,000.00	
Contractors Meeting	\$118.61	
Iowa Watershed dues	\$30.00	
Arbor Day trees	\$92.00	
Office supplies/printing	\$348.09	
CDI & NACD Dues	\$1,300.00	
NACD - Stewardship materials and calendars	\$478.45	
Postage	\$1,034.72	
Cascade Nursery - trees	\$5,448.40	
Contest awards	\$80.00	
Seed	\$80.00	
District Employee fund	\$1,000.00	
State Tax	\$415.00	
Fabric	\$80.00	
Contribution to Envirothon	\$25.00	
Outdoor classroom	\$152.64	
Income		
Tree sales	\$8,360.00	
Fabric	\$312.50	
Pier rental	\$502.00	
Pheasants Forever	\$1,000.00	
State Treasurer	\$3,150.85	
Seed sales	\$4,117.90	
Contributions	\$3,478.25	
Interest	\$168.89	
Ending Balance	\$8,453.78	
IM Account Beginning Balance		\$4,000.00
Expenses		
Postage	\$1,037.47	
CDI dues	\$300.00	
Commissioner expense	\$1,045.70	
NACD	\$828.45	
Office supplies	\$377.14	
IIM Budget		
Cost Share Funds 96-97		
Original Allocation	\$94,857.30	
Spent to date	\$94,541.30	
Recalled	\$316.00	
Balance, 6-30-99	0	
Cost Share Funds 97-98		
Original Allocation	\$122,387.42	
Spent to date	\$118,564.42	
Balance, 6-30-99	\$3,823.00	
Cost Share Funds 98-99		
Original Allocation	\$105,603.00	
Spent to date	\$102,677.69	
Balance, 6-30-99	\$2,925.31	
Reap Practice Funds 99		
Original Allocation	\$7,026.00	
Spent to date	\$7,036.00	
Balance, 6-30-99	0	
REAP Forestry/Native Grasses		
Original Allocation	\$1,811.00	
Spent to date	\$1,733.59	
Recalled	\$77.41	
Balance, 6-30-99	0	

Land Stewardship is promoting ecosystems

What is the Land Stewardship Program (LSP)?

The LSP is a fee-based program dedicated to the restoration of the native ecosystems and the creation of new ones; promoting sound restoration and management based upon a total ecosystem approach.

The Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Land Stewardship Program is a private, non-profit organization sponsored by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and operated locally by volunteer community leaders.

Why restore ecosystems?

- Conservation education.
- Reduced costs.
- Habitat restoration and protection.

- Beautification.
- Improved water quality.
- Reduced soil erosion.
- Improved air quality.

What does the LSP do?

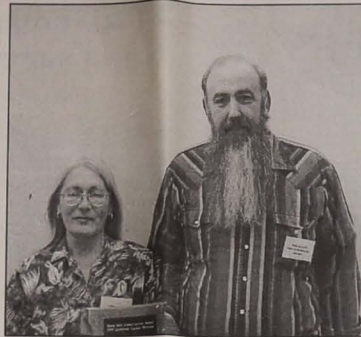
They provide consulting services for specialty designs for prairies woodlands, savannas and wetlands; native plant inventories, wetland mitigation; burn plan development; seeding and erosion control specification; restoration plan development; workshops geared toward professionals and enthusiasts.

They also provide installation contracting for seeding, drilling and broadcasting; seedling plantings; site preparation.

Stewardship services are provided for prescribed burns; mowing and selective herbicide applications.

If you have questions or if you

would like to make an appointment for a consultation, call Christine Taliga, Land Stewardship Program Restorationist at (319) 668-8110.



New Windbreak

Ron and Linda Kajer are this year's winners for a New Windbreak. They started their windbreak in 1997 and have added to it every year. They have planted a large variety of trees and flowers on their 163 acres and have created a pond with an island for wildlife and they will use it for recreation. They have a small pond in front of their house stocked with goldfish. Native prairie flowers and plants that surround the pond add to its attraction. They have a daughter and two sons. Ron works at Meskwaki Casino and Linda takes care of hundreds of plants and trees, a job in itself.



Conservation Tillage Award

Steve and Janice Lavige are the recipients of the Conservation Tillage Award. Steve is a grain farmer and has been no-till farming since 1985. Steve and Janice do the harvest and planting of 560 acres of corn and soybeans. They have three sons and five grandchildren. Steve's hobbies include woodworking and having fun with his grandchildren.

Conservation Awards given at Banquet

The annual Conservation Awards Banquet was held on Nov. 17 at the Otter Creek Lake Park Nature Center.

The banquet is held yearly to honor the conservation awards winners that have been chosen by the Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District.

There were approximately 150 people in attendance. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Rich Tyler from West Branch. His presentation was about an octagonal barn that he has restored and the history of that barn's owner.

The District's Commissioners

presented the awards to the award recipients. A picture and brief description of the award winners is included in this annual report.

The Soil and Water Conservation District would like to congratulate each award winner and thank them for their conservation efforts.

Classified ads bring results - buy, sell or trade in your local newspaper.

Shallow water areas provide wildlife habitat

by Jim Allen,
District Conservationist,
Tama County NRCS

Shallow water management for wildlife is managing agricultural lands and moist soil areas for wildlife habitat.

They provide open water areas on agricultural fields and moist soil areas to facilitate waterfowl habitat. They also provide habitat for reptiles and amphibians, which serve as important prey species for herons, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

Shallow water areas are beneficial in establishing and enhancing wildlife habitat. Water provides numerous benefits for the landowner with additional recreational activities and esthetic values.

Environmental benefits include protecting the soil, air and water, and demonstrate a commitment to land stewardship.

Continuous CRP eligibility rules require that these areas of shallow water are cropland. They are planted to permanent vegetation of shrubs, trees, native flowers and grasses. They must be on hydric soil- soils wet in nature.

Standing water should be on 30% of the area at least 50% of

the time. To insure that water is available for wildlife, the shallow water area should be excavated to a depth of 6-18 inches.

We recommend switch grass on non-water areas, but a cool season grass mixture can be used. Disking or burning should be done every 2-3 years to control the invasion of undesirable tree species.

The CRP contract length is 10 years with an annual payment that can range from \$130 to \$150 per acre. Contracts can be up to 5 acres in size.

A plan of operation and maintenance should include monitoring and management of the site as well as guidelines for structural components.

Since May 1998, when the first contract for Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife was established, over 1,600 acres have been offered by landowners in the county.

For starting your own shallow water for wildlife area, contact your local Tama County Natural Resource Conservation Service at 515-484-2702, or Farm Service Agency at 515-484-2701. These offices are located at 203 W. High St. in Toledo.



Buffer Initiative Award

Sam Mattingly is the Buffer Initiative Award recipient. This operation consists of 500 acres of pasture, 200 acres of hay ground, 1,800 acres of corn and 1,400 acres of beans. They also feed cattle and sheep. Joe, the Mattinglys' son, and Adam, their grandson, are both involved in this farm. Mr. Mattingly has been using buffers for the past few years and realizes the benefits of them.

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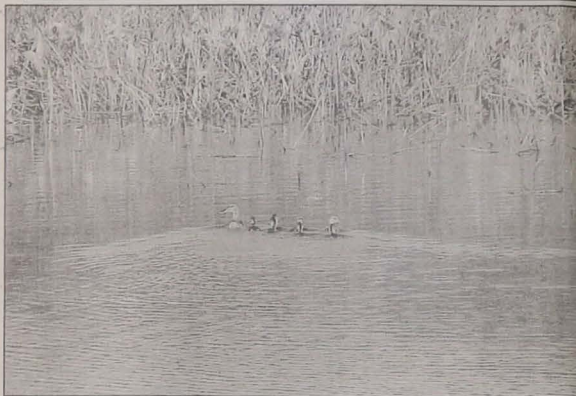


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Soil and Water Conservation



Enjoying wetlands

Wildlife and humans can all enjoy the benefits of well established wetlands in Tama County.

Wetlands benefit landowners, wildlife and the environment

by Jim Allen,
District Conservationist
Tama County NRCS

Trying to farm flood-prone areas can be expensive, frustrating and time consuming. The best economic choice may be to use your floodplain as nature designed it—as a wetland.

The Wetlands Reserve Program generates farm income by offering financial incentives for the restoration of wetlands. Landowners can lease the wetlands to hunters for additional income, and manage wooded areas for longer term timber production.

Wetlands provide an abundance of benefits for the environment and to the landowner. They can generate farm income, improve water quality, filter sediment, reduce soil erosion, supply water and prevent floods, provide wildlife habitat, and provide recreational opportunities. They also restore native vegetation to the wetlands.

The Wetlands Reserve program offers incentives for restoring Iowa's wetlands. This program offers appraised agricultural value for wetlands that have been previously drained and converted to agricultural use. Landowners retain control of the land, retain ownership of the land and have all rights for recreational uses.

Wetland restorations provide a filtration system by removing chemicals from surface waters. They filter and collect sediment from runoff water, by reducing

sedimentation in water bodies. They provide moisture needed for plant growth. They may also provide an additional alternative to animal waste and sewage treatments.

By slowing the surface water flow, wetlands reduce soil erosion along floodplains. They are reservoirs for rainwater from peak water flow during and after storms. They recharge underground water supplies as they release water slowly into the ground.

They provide excellent wildlife habitat for nesting, breeding and feeding. Wetlands support 190 species of amphibians, one third of all native bird species, and over 5,000 plant species. They can provide winter cover for many upland wildlife species. Recreational activities for wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing are also provided.

Three options to protect, restore and enhance wetlands are:

- **Permanent easements** pay up to 100% reimbursement for restoration costs and legal costs to establish the easement. The landowner receives one-time payment for permanent easement.

- **Thirty-year easements** pay 75% of restoration costs and 75% of what would be paid for permanent easement. Legal costs associated with the easement are paid up to 100%.

- **Restoration cost-share agreements** are a 10-year con-

tract to restore wetlands and associated upland habitat. USDA pays 75% of the cost of restoration. No permanent easement is placed on the property and there is no easement or other land incentive payment.

Join the practice of conservation by putting your wet area into wetland enhancements or reserves. Call your local Tama County Natural Resources Conservation Service at 515-484-2702, or the Farm Service Agency at 515-484-2701.



Landlord-Tenant Award

Neil and Suzie Rowe were chosen for a Landlord-Tenant Award. They have owned their farm since 1972, and own a business making bins and selling pump doctors. They have terraces and practice no-till farming. They have one son, Steve, and five grandchildren. They enjoy travel and snow skiing.

RC&D projects can benefit our communities

What is the Iowa Valley RC&D?

Resource Conservation & Development is a unique program that helps people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that help improve their area's economy, environment and quality of life.

Local RC&D Councils provide a way for people to plan and implement projects that will make their communities better places to live.

Making it happen!

RC&D is based on the idea that local people know what their communities need and can create solutions that will really work. Groups of local volunteers establish RC&D Councils, which represent sponsoring organizations within a multi-county region. RC&D Council directors volunteer their time to address important issues in their communities, and to build a better life for themselves and others.

The strength of the RC&D Program is in local people working together to solve their own problems. The development of local leadership and community pride is a key part of RC&D projects and success.

How does the RC&D work?

Iowa's RC&D Councils receive staffing and financial support from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which provides a Coordinator to work with each Council in the state. RC&D Coordinators work closely with Coun-

cils to identify problems, establish goals and objectives, build strategies and implement plans.

Although RC&D Councils receive assistance from NRCS and many other partnering agencies and organizations, priorities and policies are always set by local people.

Benefits

RC&D projects may create new jobs in agriculture, forestry, tourism and other industries. Projects may focus on natural resource issues, or may work to improve community development, economic growth or quality of life in Iowa communities. All are designed to make communities more viable and productive, and better places to live.

The Iowa Valley RC&D consists of Tama, Iowa, Benton, Poweshiek and Johnson counties. The Tama County Board of Supervisors and the Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) are sponsors of the Iowa Valley RC&D.

RC&D Directors from the Tama County SWCD include Dennis Wieben and Don Menken. RC&D Directors from the Tama County Board of Supervisors include Jim Ledvina and Larry Frese.

If you have any questions or project possibilities for the Iowa Valley RC&D, please contact one of the above RC&D Directors or call the Iowa Valley RC&D office at (319) 668-8110.



NICOLE FOWLER

Nicole Fowler won grocery sack contest

The first project of the year for the Tama County Conservation Education committee was the conservation grocery sack activity for grades 3-5 in the county.

The local grocery stores provided large paper grocery sacks which each child decorated to carry out the national conservation theme, "In the Children's Hands."

A monetary prize was given to the student in each grade at each participating school whose sack best illustrated the theme. Then an overall winner was chosen, Nicole Fowler, a Dysart-Geneseo third grader was awarded an airplane ride donated by Jim Pippert. The decorated sacks were then returned to the grocery store where they were used to carry groceries during Soil and Water Stewardship Week.



Urban Backyard Award

Roger and Diane Schnebly, Dysart, are the Urban Backyard Conservation Award winners. They are interested in backyard conservation and indicate this by the beautiful landscaping they have done in their yard. The Schneblys, both Master Gardeners, are now retired and enjoy their free time gardening and traveling. The Schneblys also find their grandchildren quite enjoyable.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To our Tama County Farmers on their conservation practices!

Iowa leads the nation in soil conservation, and Tama County ranks in the top 10 counties in Iowa. Iowa was the first state to provide financial assistance for soil conservation and Tama County also provides funds. We urge our farm friends to keep up the good work – the future of the soil is in your hands!

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Soil and Water Conservation



Established Windbreak Award

Richard and Betty Crawford live between Dysart and Traer along Highway 8. They won the Established Windbreak Award from the Izaak Walton League, for the windbreak they established on their 400 acre farm. A tornado took out 94 pine trees in 1958, and left the farm with few trees. Also, a pig got loose and did some \$1,000 damage to their acreage, all within the past few years. They decided to spruce up the farm by adding cottonwoods, green ash, concolor spruce and arborvitae. Richard loves to fish, golf and does some woodworking. Betty likes to bake pies, sew, garden, hand paint woodworking projects, and make stained glass.

Trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses on sale through office

Trees & Shrubs
The Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District is again conducting a tree and shrub sale.

The trees and shrubs are being sold in bundles of 25. This is the third year for this sale campaign. The trees and shrubs are ordered from Cascade Nursery and can be ordered through the office at 203 W. High St., Toledo.

The deadline for ordering trees is March 1, 2000. If you would

like to have an order blank mailed to you, please contact the office at 515-484-2702 and either request one be mailed or you can order directly in the office.

The trees will be delivered sometime in mid-April and you will be notified as to where and when they may be picked up.

Wildflowers & Grasses
This year for the first time the District is also selling flowers and grasses. The flowers and

grasses are Iowa grown and can be ordered in a six pack. There are several varieties available.

Iowa wildflowers invite bees, songbirds, butterflies and other "critters" to our gardens. Prairie wildflowers and grasses make excellent garden and landscaping plants. By planting Iowa natives plants, you can help preserve these unique species, create wildlife habitat, and enjoy a self-sufficient garden.

Because native prairie plants are perfectly suited to grow in Iowa, they are low maintenance, minimizing the need for pesticides, fertilizer, and watering, thus benefiting the environment.

Recent reports indicate the decline in the populations of songbirds, butterflies, and pollinators, and some game birds which is due to habitat destruction. While it is important to provide winter feeders for these creatures, it is even more critical to create native habitat which will greatly increase these populations by providing self-perpetuating, undisturbed nesting areas, natural food sources and winter shelters.

A habitat can be as small or as large as your area and imagination allows. Start by using native plants in your existing beds, borders, ditches or create a small "prairie plot" of Iowa wildflowers and grasses in your yard.

These plants will arrive late May to early June.

Tama County received funds from Iowa to promote projects

The Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District annually receives funds from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to help protect Tama County's soil and water.

The funds the district receives are allotted to eligible district cooperators to pay a portion of approved soil and water conservation practices.

The majority of this annual allocation of IFIP (Iowa Financial Incentives Program) funds are used to promote the following conservation practices:

- Terraces (50% of cost up to \$5,000);
- Water and sediment basins (50% of cost up to \$5,000);
- Grassed waterway (50% of cost up to \$1,500);
- Grade stabilization structures (50% of cost up to \$1,500).

Other conservation practices that fall under the IFIP (State cost-share or the REAP (Resources Enhancement and Protection) programs include:

Cost Share Projects completed in FY 1999

Grassed waterway	49	80.2ac
Terraces	5	7,250 ft.
Water & sediment basins	3	
Grade stabilization structures	10	
Grade stabilization ponds	5	
Windbreaks (farmstead)	6	
Conservation cover		16 ac.
Tree planting		15 ac.
Waste Management systems	1	

- Farmstead windbreak;
- Critical area planting;
- Tree planting;
- Conservation cover;
- Field windbreaks;
- Pasture and hayland planting;
- Animal waste management systems;
- Timber stand improvement.

In Fiscal Year 1999, the district received \$105,603 in IFIP

funds. Of this amount, \$103,721 was spent or obligated. The remaining \$1,881 is awaiting approval. The District Commissioners and the NRCS office staff make every effort to spend or obligate all funds received each year.

Also in Fiscal Year 1999, close to \$9,500 was received and cost-shared under the REAP program.



Class on plants

Melody Bro involved the county's fifth grade students in her class on plants. The annual outdoor classroom takes place at Tama County's Otter Creek Park.

Annual Awards banquet Nov. 17

The annual Conservation Awards Banquet was held on Nov. 17 at the Otter Creek Lake Park Nature Center.

The banquet is held yearly to honor the conservation awards winners that have been chosen by the Tama County Soil and Water Conservation District.

There were approximately 150 people in attendance. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Rich Tyler from West Branch. His presentation was about an octagonal barn that he has restored and the history of that barn's owner.

The District's Commissioners presented the awards to the award recipients. A picture and brief description of the award

winners is included in this annual report.

The Soil and Water Conservation District would like to congratulate each award winner and thank them for their conservation efforts.

Everyone has a stake in the conservation of our soil and water.



New Cooperator Award

Keith and Shelly Smith are the District's New Cooperator Award recipients. They have a windbreak behind their house and a riparian buffer and filter strip along the stream close by. They have filter strips and also do some no-till farming. Hobbies include volleyball, golf, and camping with Keisha and Tia.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To our Tama County Farmers on their conservation practices!

Iowa leads the nation in soil conservation, and Tama County ranks in the top 10 counties in Iowa. Iowa was the first state to provide financial assistance for soil conservation and Tama County also provides funds. We urge our farm friends to keep up the good work - the future of the soil is in your hands!

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Soil and Water Conservation



Wildlife presentation

Rick Trine had lots of hands waving during his wildlife presentation at the county's fifth grade Outdoor Classroom in the month of May.



No-till beans

These soybeans were planted in Tama County using a no-till method, saving moisture and stress.

Soil and water conservation practices benefit generations to come

Soybean program for farmers

Tama County FSA has received information concerning the oilseed program that was established by Congress last fall.

A producer's payment will be based on the higher of the 1997 or 1998 planted acreage of each specific oilseed crop, or for new producers, the 1999 crop planted acreage of each oilseed crop. Producers who have not filed crop reports for those years will need to file those reports by Feb. 18, 2000. Most producers have filed crop reports in those years.

"This is all the information we have," said Eugene Long, county executive director. Please contact FSA at 515 484-2701.

Insurance loss

Tama County FSA has received the computer downloads for producers receiving 1999 crop insurance loss payments. Producers who received an insurance loss payment should come to the office to file for the program payment. Producers without crop insurance will need to prove their production.

Contact Tama County FSA for further information, 515 484-2701.

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