

The Annual Report of the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE TIPTON CONSERVATIVE AND ADVERTISER • FEBRUARY 15, 1995

Kelly's Passion For Conservation Inspires Tree Farm

by Pat Kroemer

Kevin Kelly was so interested in conserving the soil and other natural resources that he started a tree farm. Last year he helped plan over 15 windbreaks in Cedar County.

He said he started the Kelly Tree Farm southwest of Tipton because "The best way to enjoy the passage of time is to plant a tree."

A windbreak of Norway spruce planted in 1905 lines the north and west sides of the farmstead north of Clarence where Kelly grew up. Later a row of Jack pine and Austrian pine was planted east of the spruce stand. In 1975 a honey-suckle, Norway spruce and white pine windbreak was planted on the north side of the farmstead. The first windbreak was planted by Kelly's great-grandfather and for 90 years and 4 generations it has protected the Kelly farmstead.

"I've always enjoyed trees," Kelly said. "I got into the tree business because I saw so many trees planted too close together."

"When you plant a windbreak you plant for the future," he explained. "This past year we had the best weather for our trees. A native tree seedling with a large root system grown in the proper soil and with proper planting is the best way to assure yourself a tree that will last."

Kelly added, "We find out in a dry year what trees won't live, and we find out in a wet year what trees won't live."

When he plans a windbreak, Kelly first visits the site to look for possible livestock drainage and to check the soil. He said there are so many types of soil in Cedar County that a soil test is advised. Then he estimates the number of trees that will be needed for adequate protection.

Next the farmer goes to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for cost sharing information. A windbreak must have 3 rows of trees to receive cost sharing and it usually takes a month to be accepted into the program.

Kelly has learned that there are many varieties of trees that should not be planted in this area. For a windbreak he recommends eastern red cedar, eastern white pine, Norway spruce, American arborvitae, Techny arborvitae and white spruce. He also suggests the trees be from 24 inches to 46 inches tall, depending on the variety.

Although smaller seedlings are less expensive, many do not withstand the weather and the hungry rabbits in the winter. Weed control around each tree is recommended for the first 3 years.

Kelly attends conferences in the area to discuss trees and windbreaks. Some of the best information he receives on windbreaks comes from Nebraska.

"Many windbreaks in the area have been lost due to loss of farmsteads," he said. "Right now I'm working on several windbreaks for this next year."

"Most of the time farmers in their 50s are the ones putting in the windbreak and they wish they had put it in years ago," he explained, "but younger farmers are too busy with other things."

"I always say, a person never regrets putting in a windbreak. They only regret not putting it in sooner."

Kelly's first recommendation for a tree is a red cedar. He is trying to find the oldest cedar in Cedar County. A 450 year old cedar is recorded in Linn County.

"The cedar is a hardy tree that can live for 200 years easy," he said. "I've noticed in southern Cedar County that there are several cedar windbreaks that are 80 to 90 years old."

No matter where you purchase your trees Kelly recommends you get a professional to help you find the safest place to plant. Electrical lines overhead must be avoided as well as lines running underground.

Kelly planted a field windbreak in April, 1994 on the Bert Kelly farm north of Clarence. The Kellys planted the windbreak to prevent soil loss from wind. Windbreaks also conserve soil moisture, prevent herbicide drift, control blowing snow, protect crops, orchards and buildings and provide a wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) now includes land that is not highly erodible if it is planted to trees and left that way for 30 years. The Kellys enrolled 5 acres for their 84 x 260 foot field windbreak. Ninety-eight percent of the 1400 trees planted survived the first year.

In 1992 another 4.4 acres was bid in to continue the field windbreak around the farm. The additional area was 85 x 2,265 feet.

Trees selected for the windbreak were eastern red cedar, white pine, red pine, European larch, red oak, black walnut,



Kevin Kelly stands among 12 year old white spruce trees on his tree farm south of Tipton. He contributed to the growth of conservation practices in Cedar County last year by helping 15 people plan windbreaks.

bur oak, black cherry, white ash, hackberry, Norway spruce and white spruce. A variety of species was planted to minimize disease and insect problems.

"We are required to leave this area in trees for 30 years, which is a short time for a tree to grow," Kevin said. "We expect it to last over 100 years. We hope it will leave a lasting legacy to the area and show other land owners what can be done."

BENEFITS OF A FARMSTEAD WINDBREAK

- Protects people and livestock from harsh, cold winter winds by reducing wind velocities up to 80%.
- Prevents large amounts of snow from drifting around the farmstead by catching it in and directly behind the windbreak.
- Reduces the cost of heating the home and livestock buildings by reducing wind velocity.
- Helps protect the home and all farm

buildings (paint, shingles, siding) from high velocity wind storms that can come year around.

- Reduces the noise from traffic, dust and farm machinery on nearby roads and farm fields.
- Reduces the effects of hot, drying summer winds. Trees act like air conditioners as they transpire and have a cooling effect on the immediate area.
- Provides a better working condition with more productivity for persons inside the windbreak as a result of reduced winter and hot summer winds.
- Has been shown to help block airborne livestock diseases inside the windbreak.
- Helps to attract game birds, song birds, and other wildlife at all times of the year.
- Will help beautify the overall landscape around the farm and make it a better place to work and play which will, in turn, increase the total value of the farm.

1994 District Activities

JANUARY

Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners met for their organizational meeting Jan. 11. Officers elected were Randy Mather, chairman; Michael Walter, vice-chairman; Jerry Long, secretary and Melanie Schott, treasurer. Assistant Commissioners appointed were Steve Leazer, Richard Zenishek, Millicent Zenishek and Joel Brown. Other commissioners on the board include Richard Kreinbring, Rita Mays and Rancall Shaul.

DC Hoeft distributed a rough draft of CRP questionnaires.

Limestone Bluffs RC&D held a meeting in Anamosa Jan. 5.

The Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show was held at the Five Seasons Center in Cedar Rapids Jan. 25 and 26. Commissioners assisted at the registration booth.

Lora Schmidt, WAE in Scott county, assisted the Tipton Field office.

DC Hoeft reported on recent compliance checks in conjunction with ASCS disaster payments and FSA/FACTA plan requirements.

DC Hoeft reported on the availability of JTPA personnel assistance through a flood dislocated worker program.

Jerry Long distributed information on F.A.R.M. Financial Management Program from ISU.

District tree sales campaign began.

FEBRUARY

DC Hoeft reported 5 landusers signed up for cost share through the Organic Nutrient Program.

DC Hoeft distributed preliminary CRP questionnaire results.

Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association held a Forage Seminar on Feb. 4 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Maquoketa.

Cedar County Extension Service and Cedar SWCD sponsored a Windbreak Planning and Maintenance Seminar Feb. 8. Anyone interested in planting a windbreak or in maintenance of an existing windbreak was encouraged to attend.

The District's Annual Report was published in the Tipton Conservative Feb. 16.

The District held its Annual Awards Banquet in conjunction with the Corn & Soybean Awards Banquet held Feb. 19 at St. Mary's Hall in Tipton. Chairman Mather presented no-till and soil conservation awards.

A Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) sign up was held Feb. 28 thru March 11, 1994.

Melanie Schott left to take another position in Dav-

enport. Chairman Randy Mather appointed Randall Shaul as Cedar SWCD Treasurer.

MARCH

The 1994 Spring Regional meeting was held March 8 at Hotel Muscatine in Muscatine. DC Hoeft, Randy Mather, Mike Walter and Richard Kreinbring attended.

DC Hoeft reported on RC&D updates: a forestry seminar was held March 10 at Maquoketa.

Randall Shaul attended the RC&D annual meeting March 15 at Anamosa.

The District tree sales campaign ended March 1. Approximately 1,300 trees were sold.

SCS hired Gary Ballina to work on Ag Waste plans for farmers. He will be working in 8 counties in Eastern Iowa, including Cedar county.

Commissioners reviewed scholarship applications. The District will invite all applicants in for interviews at the next commissioner's meeting.

DC Hoeft reviewed the churches who had requested soil stewardship material.

APRIL

Jeff Zemprich was Acting District Conservationist for Area 6.

Commissioners reviewed scholarship candidates. Commissioners selected Denise Dykstra, Wilton and Randy Hennings, Bennett as winners of \$200 scholarships each to continue their education in environmental or agricultural areas.

Cont. on page 2

1994 District Activities

Cont. from page 1

DC Hoeft attended a computer training meeting at the Fairfield area office April 6.

A Prairie burn school was held April 9 at the Bennett County Conservation Park, with a joint meeting with the county conservation board.

Doug Ensminger, SC, was detailed to Mt. Pleasant beginning April 18.

DC Hoeft attended the Limestone Bluff RC&D meeting at the Tipton couthouse April 19.

Cedar SWCD provided a Norway Spruce tree seedling to all 3rd graders in Cedar county in observance of Arbor Day.

District trees were distributed April 20.

DC Hoeft informed the commissioners that Paul Valin had set up April 20 to interview candidates for the state secretary position.

Doug Ensminger, SC, taught 4th, 5th and 6th graders in Mechanicsville April 20.

DC Hoeft informed the commissioners that Merlin Geadelmann displayed the model farm in Community State Bank in Stanwood for AG Week.

MAY

DC Hoeft reviewed the possibility of a Co-op agreement with SCS.

Lora Schmidt was hired as District Secretary May 6 for a part-time position.

DC Hoeft informed Commissioners that a Green Thumb employee will work in the office. Eloise Manning was hired to start working May 12.

DC Hoeft conducted Spot Checks starting May 17 and Ed Andrews, Soil Conservationist, assisted.

RC&D meeting was scheduled for May 20 in DeWitt.

The District newsletter was printed and distributed. 1994 Soil Conservation Awards were discussed.

JUNE

The Research Farm in Crawfordsville had a SE Field Day June 9.

Brenda Turley, WAE, attended a Tech Guide training in Washington June 13.

Terri Parry, WAE in Johnson county, will be assisting the Tipton Field Office.

JTPA employee Melissa McLeod began summer employment with SWCD June 20.

District Commissioners hired Ed Crock and Mike Moes Jr. to fly them over the county for the soil conservation award nomination sites.

Commissioners had a special meeting June 28 to approve 3 Animal Waste Systems. Kevin Kelly was appointed Assistant Commissioner for the district.

JULY

Paul Miller was Acting District Conservationist for Area 6.

Commissioners discussed the 1995 cost share

amounts and priorities.

Dupont held a No-till Neighbor Field Day July 7 at the Dave Elijah farm.

The County Conservation Review Group invited us to a meeting at the ASCS office July 14.

Limestone Bluffs RC&D held a meeting July 15 in Maquoketa.

Office staff attended a DC/SCS area meeting July 26-28 at Washington.

AUGUST

DC Hoeft reviewed the SCS Memorandum of Understanding between the District and Soil Conservation Service.

DC Hoeft discussed the ACP cost share for livestock watering in pastures with water pipes.

DC Hoeft started as DC Aug. 8 in the Bremer County Field Office at Waverly.

Bruce Van Laere was appointed as Acting District Conservationist from Clinton county to serve until the vacancy has been filled for Cedar county.

Limestone Bluffs RC&D held a meeting in Manchester Aug. 26.

Commissioners reviewed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between ASCS and SWCD.

SEPTEMBER

Acting DC Van Laere gave Commissioners some ideas on how to make priorities with IFIP applications for next year's allocations.

A No-till Field Day for area farmers was held Sept. 6 at Robert Regennitter's farm.

The Annual Cedar County Corn and Soybean Variety Plot Field Day was held Sept. 7 east of Clarence.

Chairman Randy Mather attended the Annual Conference Sept. 8 in Des Moines. Randy talked with Bruce Trautman on the opening of the new DC.

Judy Hagan, SCT, held a waterway field day Sept. 15 at the John Clapp farm south of Mechanicsville.

Commissioners received a thank you letter from Randy Hennings for his scholarship money. He attends Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.

The Commissioners decided to sell the interseeder.

OCTOBER

Bruce Trautman became Area Conservationist Oct. 3.

Lora Schmidt attended a Sub Area meeting Oct. 6 in Davenport with secretaries from Muscatine, DeWitt and Davenport.

Limestone Bluffs RC&D sponsored a meeting Oct. 17 at Maquoketa.

Judy Hagan, SCT, attended Ag Waste Management Oct. 20.

Mark Fehseke started as DC Oct. 31. He was SC in the Iowa City office. Mark had been acting DC in Burlington.

NOVEMBER

Division of Soil Conservation Field Representative Paul Valin visited the Tipton Field office to complete the annual performance appraisal on state employee staff.

Area Conservationist Bruce Trautman visited the Tipton Field office Nov. 1 and 2.

The District newsletter was published, with the District's tree sales included.

Bob and Sandy Harmel donated their commission from the sale to Pheasants Forever. The Commissioners are also donating the sale price to Pheasants Forever.

Jerry Long, extension director, handed out CRP Fact Sheets.

DECEMBER

The Soil Conservation Service has changed its name to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Area Conservationist Bruce Trautman visited the Tipton Field Office Dec. 1.

Office staff attended the Focus group meeting Dec. 7 at Iowa City.

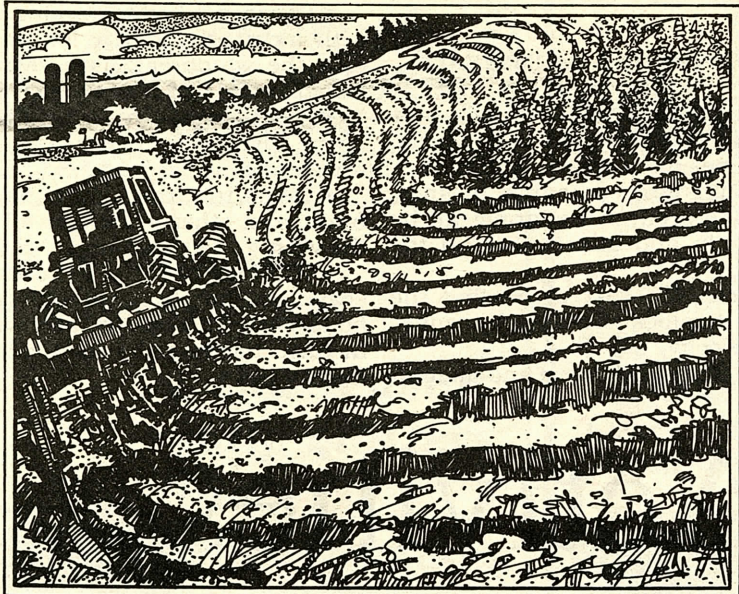
The Cedar County Conservation Farmer Appreciation Open House was held Dec. 9.

Poster Contest information was sent to the local school districts.

The Emergency Wetland Reserve Program ended Dec. 30.

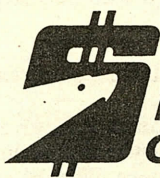


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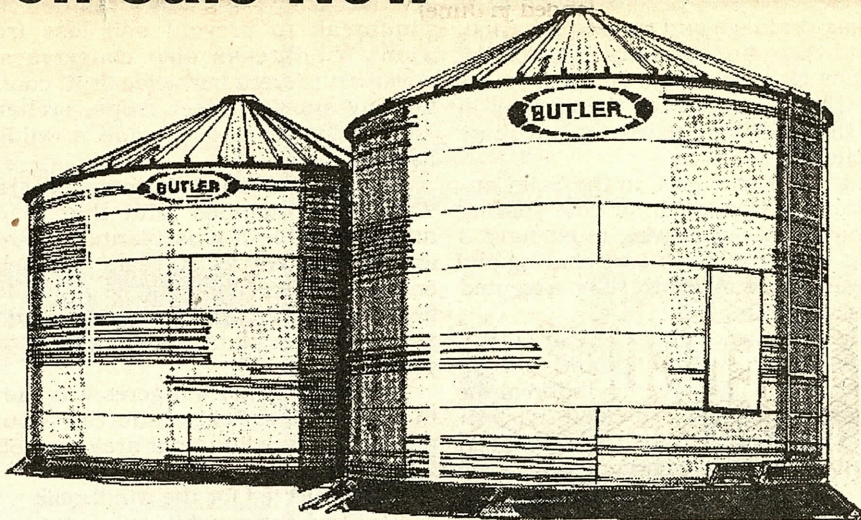
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1994 Annual Report

IM BUDGET

1994 Allocation		\$3000.00
Office supplies & expenses	\$2376.53	
Commissioner Expenses	585.41	
Recalled for DSC	50.00	
Returned to DSC	38.06	

IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

1994 Allocation		\$37,585.00
Amount Spent	\$17,077.93	
Amount Obligated (unspent)	11,878.00	
Released to DSC 12/31/94	5,199.93	

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT & PROTECTION (REAP)

REAP WATER PROTECTION PRACTICES

1994 Allocation		\$22,935.00
Amount Spent	\$18,612.84	
Amount Obligated (unspent)	945.00	
Released to DSC 9/06/94	3377.16	

REAP FORESTRY NATIVE GRASS

1994 Allocation		\$5,586.00
Amount Spent	\$1,323.25	
Released to DSC 9/06/94	4,262.75	

ORGANIC NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1994 Allocation		\$8,640.00
Amount Spent	\$8,493.27	
Released to DSC 6/30/94	146.73	

1994 NEW COOPERATORS

Arnold Arp, Rolland Meixner, Rodney R. Schwitzer, Herman Helmold, Allen Helmold, Thomas Fagan, Sigrund Lynch, Rick Pruess, Donald Smith, James A. Glasson, Bruce W. Lovell, Robert Miller, R. Marty Moylan, Alvin Licht, Keith Conner, Fobian Bros., Dean Wilkerson, Thomas Pruess, Marilyn Bishop, Randy Baker, Ronald Simpson, Fred Horstmann Jr., Gary Stevenson, Wayne Ralfs, Velda Werling, Bob Liska, Raymond Conrad, Ruth Kruckenberg, Puffers Inc., Broadview Acres Inc., Vincent V. Rea, Leonard Hoffman, Larry Kaufmann, Edward Poduska, Thomas Poduska, Murray L. Sorgenfrey, Laverne A. Wood, Jerry Sexton.

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Kurtis F. Hoeft.....	District Conservationist (ended August 8)
Mark Fehseke.....	District Conservationist (began October 31)
Doug Ensminger.....	Soil Conservationist (ended in June)
Judy Hagan.....	Soil Conservation Technician
Melanie B. Schott.....	District Secretary (ended Jan. '94)
Lora Schmidt.....	District Secretary (began in May)
Eloise Manning.....	Green Thumb Inc. (began in May)

Brenda Turley..... Soil Conservation Aid
(began in June)

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Jerry Long..... ISU Extension Director
Steve Swinonos..... District Forester
Tim Thompson..... Wildlife Mgt. Biologist
Alan Schmidt..... ASCS County Exec. Director
Mike Graham..... FmHA County Supervisor
(thru August)
Dustan Svoboda..... FmHA County Supervisor
(from October)
Rick Rouse..... County Conservation Board

1994 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Randy Mather..... Gower Township
Michael Walter..... Cass Township
Richard Kreinbring..... Springfield Township
Randall Shaull..... Red Oak Township
Rita Mays..... Farmington Township

1994 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Millicent Zenishek..... Fremont Township

Tree Seedling Bundles For Sale

The SWCD is offering tree seedlings for sale to rural or town landowners. The proceeds are used in Cedar county to help fund environmental education and conservation activities.

The seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 and are hardy, bareroot stock. Varieties available are American Arborvitae, Scotch Pine, White Pine, Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, Green Ash, Sugar Maple, Red Oak and Walnut. Also offered are 2 packages-Evergreen (12 trees) or shade tree (15 trees).

For more information call the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District at 886-6214. The deadline for ordering is March 1.

Name Conservation Award Winners

The Cedar SWCD participates in the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation

Richard Zenishek..... Fremont Township
Steve Leazer..... Farmington Township
Joel Brown..... Pioneer Township
Kevin Kelly..... Center Township
(began in June)

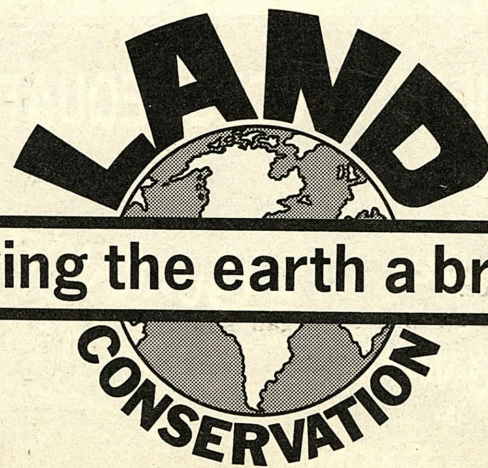
FISCAL YEAR 1994 SOIL CONSERVATION

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New District Cooperators..... 38 no.
Land Users Assisted..... 769 no.
Land Users Reporting A Conservation Practice..... 232 ac.
FSA Plans Revised..... 12,507 ac.
Cropland Erosion Reduced..... 10,195 tons
Conservation Tillage..... 10,194 ac.
Contour Farming..... 2,050 ac.
Windbreaks..... 15 ac.
Ponds..... 4 no.
Grassed Waterways..... 42 ac.
Terraces..... 4,575 ft.
Ag Waste Structure..... 1 no.
Tree Planting..... 33.8 ac.
ECP Applications Completed..... 90

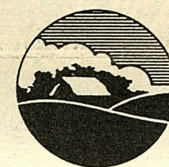
Awards Program each year. The District selects outstanding cooperators for awards in 3 divisions.

The winners will be Bartlett, New Cooperator; honored at the Corn and Rob Grimm and Art Stoll, Soybean Growers Banquet Landlord-Tenant and Jerry Feb. 18. They are Gary Agne, Owner-Operator.



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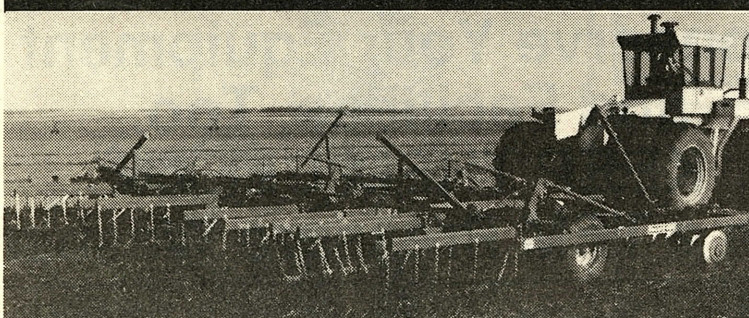
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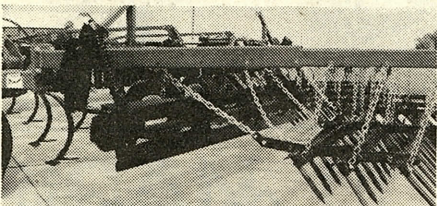


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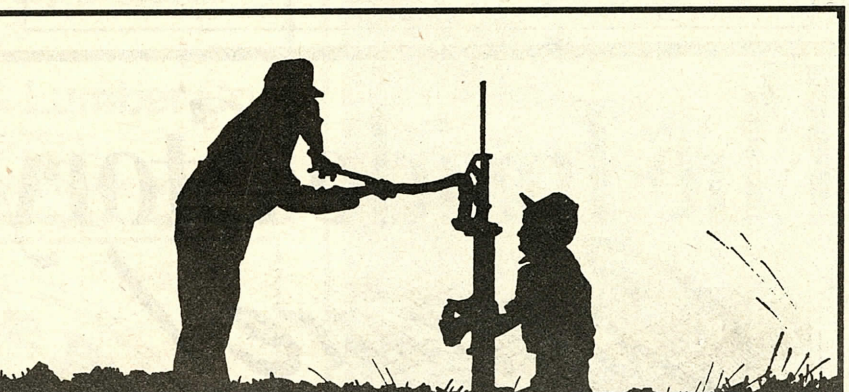
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No-Till's 10 Biggest Lies

1. I'll have to plow every four years to loosen the soil and control weeds.
2. Grandpa says no-till will never work.
3. I've always plowed, but will no-till the entire farm next year.
4. All those herbicides will poison the soil.
5. You'll never get a planter through that stuff.
6. Two of the most beautiful things in the world are peacocks and well tilled fields.
7. No-till is for lazy farmers.
8. With no-till, we've saved so much soil that EPA and SCS will now get off our backs.
9. My banker will lend money for a plow or boat, but never for a no-till planter.
10. They can't make five trips with their ATV sprayer cheaper than I can plow, disk, field cultivate, spray and cultivate.

--Direct from the No-Till Farmer home office in Brookfield, Wis.

Name No-Till Contest Winners

Robert Regennitter and Philip Hermiston had the top yields in the 1994 Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District No-Till contest.

The District sponsors the no-till contest each year. Winners receive \$25 for first place, \$15 for second place and \$10 for third place in the corn and bean

categories. Producers can enter a field in the contest any time throughout the growing season.

Results of 1994 contest are as follows:

Corn Yields - Robert Regennitter, 214.51; Keith Feuerbach, 204.32; Vic Kimberling, 201.07; Greg Thein, 199.99; Philip Hermiston, 192.56; Kevin Hartwig, 188.34; Duane Stonerook, 188.11; Gene McAtee, 185.57.

Soybean Yields - Philip Hermiston, 77.05; George Driscoll, 73.41; Bob Regennitter, 68.54.

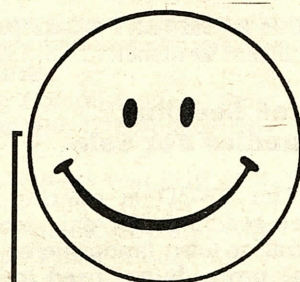
No-Till Cost Share Is Available

Applications for no-till cost share are being taken until the end of March. Cost share rates are \$10 per acre on HEL land and \$6.66 per acre on NHEL

land. A maximum of 50 acres can be cost/shared through the Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District. The Consolidated Farm Service Agency will also accept applications under the same terms. A one-time payment can be paid from each office.

'The Living Waters' Is Poster Theme

"The Living Waters" is the theme for the 1995 Conservation Poster Contest. The theme focuses on the importance of water to all life, emphasizing that good stewardship will insure the future of a clean water supply.



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The fifth annual poster contest is open to students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Winners will be awarded cash prizes and two \$50 savings bonds.

For more information contact the SWCD at 886-6214. All entries must be submitted to the office at 1201 North Avenue, Tipton, by March 31.

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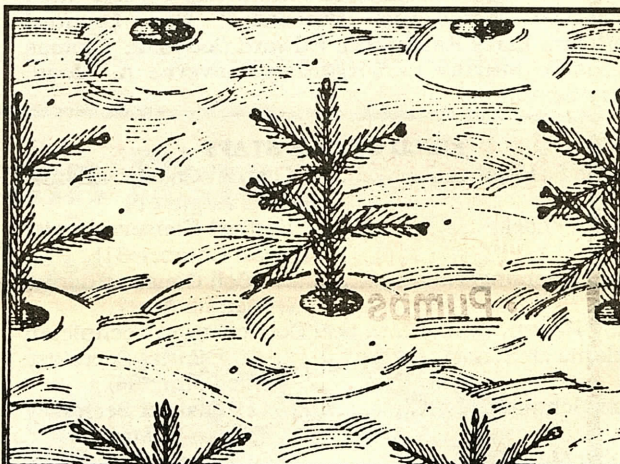
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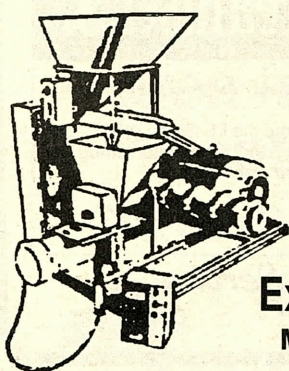


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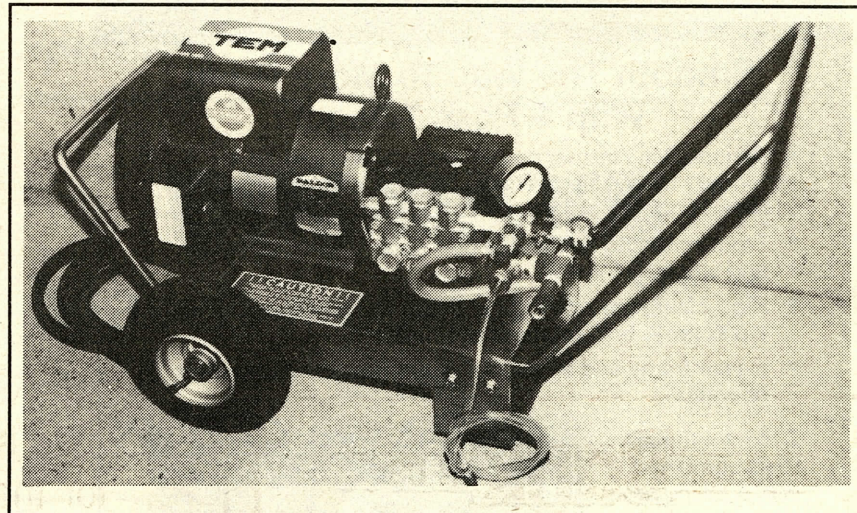
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Pheasants Forever Plans To Give 3,000 Cedar Trees, Shrubs To Landowners

Cedar-Wapsi Pheasants Forever is working to enhance and establish wildlife habitat. The group plans to give away 3,000 cedar trees and shrubs to landowners in 1995. The plantings will be used to improve habitat for local birds and wildlife.

In addition, Pheasants Forever is making money available for producers to plant food plots. Corn or sorghum will be supplied. Producers are eligible for a payment of \$30 per acre (up to 5 acres) for planting food plots on set-aside. A payment of \$15 per acre (up to 3 acres) for planting other areas is also avail-

able. Food plots must be left for 2 years.

Producers can also receive payment for establishing grass wildlife plantings. Payment of \$30 per acre (up to 5 acres) is available for planting cool-season grass, brome alfalfa or switchgrass. Mixed warm-season grasses such as bluestem, indian and switchgrass are eligible for \$50 per acre (up to 5 acres). All plots must be maintained for 5 years.

Pheasants Forever received a \$500 donation from the Cedar County SWCD. A drill was auctioned at Harmel Implement and all proceeds were added to the dona-

tion. The group plans to use the donation toward purchase of a new drill for the establishment of warm-season grasses.

Cedar-Wapsi Pheasants Forever will hold their annual fundraiser dinner at 5:30 p.m. March 25 at Hi-Way Gardens, Stanwood.

There will be a gun raffle, print sale and lots of food.

For more information contact Jeff Meier at 452-3965 or Rick Rouse at 886-6930.

Conference On Farming Research At Ames March 3

An interactive exchange of agricultural knowledge is the focus of the Friday, March 3, conference of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, entitled "Partners & Projects: A farming and research exchange."

The conference runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Scheman Continuing Education Building, Iowa State University, Ames.

A morning keynote session focuses on the farmer/research relationship. Posters, displays, and demonstrations of past and present Leopold

Center projects will offer participants a chance to interact with project investigators.

Concurrent sessions will include farmer/researcher panels from

Leopold Center interdisciplinary research teams dealing with cropping systems, sustainable pest management, grazing systems, manure man-

Cont. on page 8



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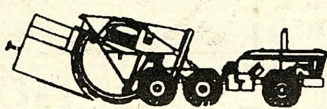
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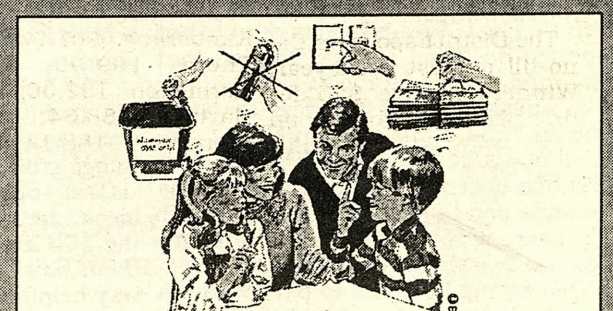
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Haesemeyers' Projects Benefit Wildlife Populations

by Pat Kroemer

Since he received the 1989 Outstanding Windbreak award from the Izaak Walton League, Brooks Haesemeyer, Mechanicsville, has continued to be conscientious about conserving the land and wildlife that live there.

"I wish I had planted more trees because they take so long to grow," he said, "but I just don't enjoy mowing around them."

Since beginning their windbreak in 1975 and continuing the project in 1979 and 1980, Brooks and Nancy, his wife, have noticed more birds and small wildlife living there.

"I got involved with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) when they cost shared my 2 windbreaks," Brooks explained. "I have also worked with the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) office (formerly ASCS)."

In the past 7 years he has established 2 ponds designed to stop erosion that were funded through the SCS and CFSA, re-established a fish hatchery the state built in 1934 and used until 1944, enrolled marginal farm ground in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), built a wetlands pond for ducks and geese with cost share money and has 2 tree plantings and grasslands on CRP acres.

This spring he plans to participate in a reforestation project which will re-establish approximately 5 acres in 4 areas of an old timber. He plans to plant red oak, white oak, walnut and Norway spruce. The seedlings have been recommended by the state and will be purchased from the State Forestry in Ames. Livestock cannot be grazed on land in the Forest Reserve Program.

Brooks said, "I'm interested in the program because I enjoy the trees and wildlife. We also heat with wood so I like to replenish what I use. I have always

been fond of wood.

"I don't want the land to erode. The land I'm working with is classified Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and the CRP suits our conservation plans."

All of Haesemeyer's set aside acres will be planted to corn to feed wildlife. He said turkey, deer and pheasant populations are growing in the area.

"A wild turkey's diet consists of 80% acorns," he said. "I feel a need to do something to help the wildlife. I collect walnuts from people in town who have trees and can't get rid of them at the landfill anymore. I scatter them in my timber for the squirrels to plant. What they don't dig up to eat will someday grow."

He estimates that only 1% of the walnuts he scatters will grow, but he's found some small walnut trees that are now 8 feet tall. Haesemeyer also scatters acorns in his timber for the blue jays to plant.

"Gathering the nuts and then scattering them for the squirrels is a lot of work, but I get enjoyment from seeing things grow," he said.

"I'm open to more conservation ideas," he said. "I have a high regard for the SCS and CFSA staff. Our work with them has been very good and they are very helpful."

Haesemeyer also works with the District Forester to plan tree plantings and with the Wildlife Biologist in stocking his ponds. Both of these people cover several counties.

"I'd like to see more red and white cedar trees planted," he said. "These are trees that are natural to this area and disease resistant."

"Of all my conservation projects I'm most satisfied seeing the wildlife numbers grow," he said.

Haesemeyer supports the Pheasants



These evergreens are a haven for several species of birds and other small wildlife. They line the driveway at the farm home of Brooks and Nancy Haesemeyer of Mechanicsville. The Haesemeyers planned the windbreak to protect their home from the harsh north and west winds.

Forever group and is a member of the Iowa Woodland Association. The monthly newsletter keeps him informed of what others are doing in the state. It also provides information about specific trees and shrubs.

Most of Haesemeyer's conservation

projects have been on one farm which was listed as marginal row crop ground. It is excellent for what he is developing.

Haesemeyer sells real estate and Nancy teaches first grade at Lisbon. They want to leave the land better than they found it for future generations.

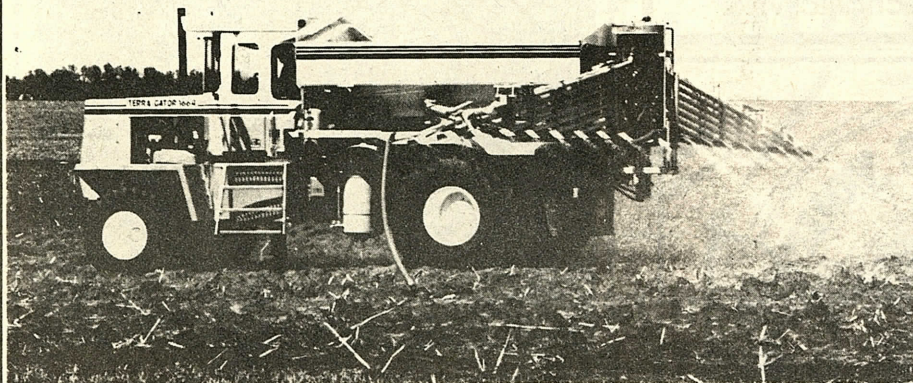
State, County Will Award Scholarships

The Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary and the Cedar SWCD will present scholarships to Iowa high school seniors in 1995.

Three scholarships of scholastic achievement \$600, \$400 and \$300 will and need. be given on the state level. Applications are available The Cedar SWCD will at the SWCD office or call award two \$200 Scholar- 886-6214. The deadline for ships locally. They may be submitting the application used for either college or is March 15. vocational school. Criteria considered will be service, character, leadership.

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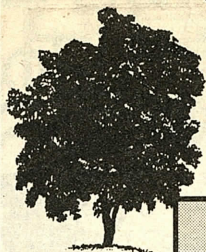


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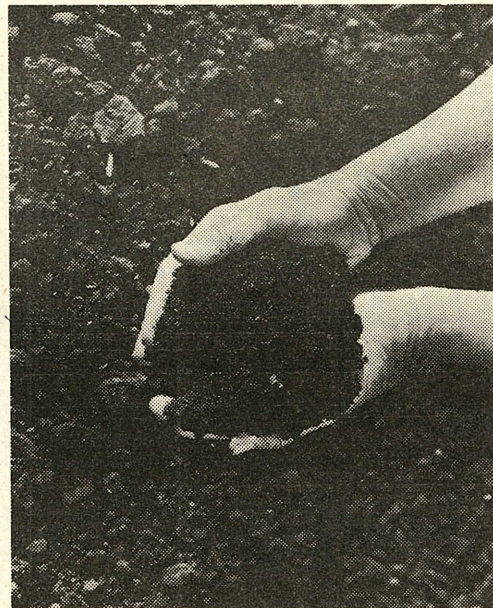
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Grassed Waterways Hit Hardest By 1993 Flood

Progress is being made in repairing damage caused by the great flood of 1993. Farmers in Cedar county have made repairs to damaged cropland using 2 federal programs.

The Emergency Conservation Practice (ECP) program was made available in late 1993 as a cost-share source to repair conservation areas in Cedar county. The Consolidated Farm Service Agency (formerly ASCS) administered the ECP, making \$349,413 available to Cedar county farmers. Applicants had to apply for the program in 1993-94. All construction work must be done by the end of May 1995.

The program was utilized very effectively to address many of the damaged conservation practices. Grassed waterways, terraces, ponds and grade stabilization structures were eligible for ECP. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS) provided survey

and design assistance for repairs.

Farmers found their grassed waterways hardest hit by the flood. As a result, over 5,000 acres of farmland had damaged waterways repaired using ECP. This program was timely for farmers implementing their conservation plans.

Another program used to resolve flood damages was the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP). The Natural Resources Conservation Service made this program available to landowners who were faced with costly repairs of flood damaged land. Cropland qualified for EWRP if the cost of repairing damages exceeded \$837 per acre.

In Cedar County, several bottom ground farms were placed into the EWRP. Nearly 200 acres of cropland will be converted to wetlands and wildlife habitat. The landowners will receive a payment of \$837 per acre.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Soil Conservation Service has changed its name. The new name, Natural Resources Conservation Service, better reflects the services and scope of the agency. The

change was part of the reorganization of USDA initiated by Mike Espy, former Secretary of Agriculture.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will continue to have responsibility for the programs of the former Soil Conservation Service.

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Three Regional Export Meetings

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Dale M. Cochran announced today that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) is sponsoring a series of three regional roundtable meetings in March to assist cattle and genetics producers in pursuing export market opportunities.

"The Cattle Seedstock and Genetics Export Roundtable meetings will give Iowa producers an opportunity to learn of existing and developing marketing opportunities. Our Department's international marketing experts will also provide information on a variety of programs and services that are available to assist cattle and genetics producers in pursuing new marketing opportunities," Cochran said.

The meetings will take place on Monday, March 6, at 1:00 p.m., at the Ida County Extension Office in Ida Grove; Wednesday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m., at the Union County Extension Office in Creston; and Friday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m., at Kirkwood Community College's Amana Hall, in Cedar Rapids.

"Each Cattle Seedstock and Genetics Export Roundtable meeting will include an open discussion to provide producers an opportunity to share their exporting experiences. This exchange of ideas can be extremely valuable in helping new-to-export companies get off to a successful start," the Secretary said. "I encourage producers, genetics and embryo transfer firms to attend one of the sessions," Cochran said.

For more information about the seminars, contact the IDALS Marketing Bureau at 515-242-6238.

Identity-Preserved Marketing Conference

Producers in Iowa are discovering identity-preserved soybean production as a means of receiving premium prices and maintaining profitability. The Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) is gearing up to explore these "Value-Added Opportunities" when it hosts the Identity-Preserved Marketing Conference to be held in Ames Wednesday, March 1, 1995.

"Value-Added Opportunities" is the focus of this new conference, which is designed to inform producers about the possibilities in identity-preserved soybeans and the future of the specialty soybean trade. The conference will be held at the Scheman Center for Continuing Education in Ames from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In the morning, Marlin Edwards, special markets manager, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, will explain the recent growth of a value-added industry. Christopher Kelly, Lindquist and Venum Law Firm, will discuss the opportunities and pitfalls associated with contracting for specialty soybeans. Dale Jackson, vice-president of marketing and development, Continental Grain, will answer the question "What Are The Components Of Identity-Preserved?"

In the afternoon the group will break up for a series of small group workshops on topics such as: production techniques for identity-preserved production, handling, transportation and storage; contracting opportunities; marketing channels for value-added products;

identified export marketing; and organic production methods.

The Identity-Preserved Marketing Conference is sponsored by the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board, the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, and by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Pre-registration fees are \$20 for ISA members and \$25 for non-members, and must be received by Feb. 23.

After Feb. 23, registration fees are \$25 for ISA members and \$30 for non-members. For more information contact

ISA at (515) 223-1423.

The Identity-Preserved Marketing Conference is being coordinated with Iowa State University's "Producing Soybeans for the Soyfood Market," which will be held Thursday, March 2 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Ames.

Registration for the conference is \$100 per person before Feb. 24, and \$125 after Feb. 24. A block of rooms will be available at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center for conference attendees. For more information, please FAX Iowa State University at (515)-292-6261.

Farming Research Conference

Cont. from page 5

agement, socioeconomics, and flood plain and stream management.

Registration fee is \$25 with lunch or \$15 without lunch; after Feb. 24, the fees are raised \$5.00. Registration forms are available from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 126 Soil Tilth Bldg., Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3120; phone (515) 294-3711.

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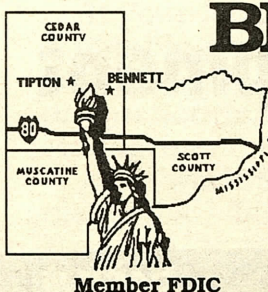
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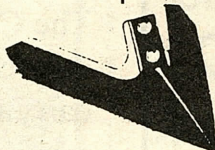
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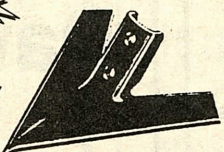
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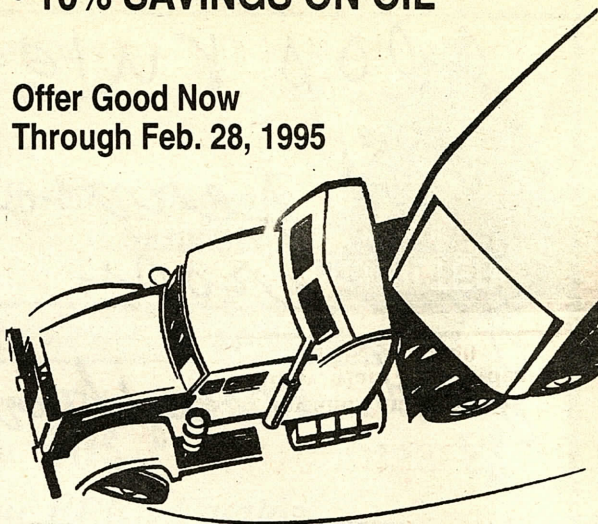
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