

Soil



Governor commends conservation farmers for efforts

By Governor Terry Branstad

In Iowa, agriculture means an abundance of crops ripe for harvest — 26 million acres or almost three-fourths of our state is planted yearly to row crops.

Our massive production of agriculture commodities is sustained by our soil resources. Combined with suitable climate and agricultural management, our rich topsoil makes Iowa a major source of food production for this country and the world. Moreover, three-fourths of all jobs can be traced to

2000 folders to each landowner in the state. These folders will alert landowners to their soil conservation needs, suggest steps they can take to reduce their own erosion losses, and explain incentive and assistance programs available for the design and installation of conservation systems.

To further accelerate land treatment and to meet demand stimulated by Iowa Soil 2000, funding for the state's cost-sharing program for soil conservation was increased in 1983 from \$5.6 million to

otherwise be able to finance needed conservation practices.

The record of participation by landowners in these programs during the past year is indicative of the agricultural community's commitment to protecting this all-important natural resource. While much still needs to be done, and we are far from finished, landowners' investment in soil conservation this past year is proof of their faith in the future.

I am also pleased to report that Iowa's farmers and landowners are

"We are at a critical juncture in stemming the tide against soil erosion."

agriculture. Thus, it makes sense for Iowans, both on and off the farm, to recognize and share an interest in the important responsibility we have to protect our soil resources.

The riches of our soil are so great that they are seemingly limitless. However, the abundance of our food production could dramatically diminish in the next 20 years if steps are not taken to deal with serious soil erosion problems. I am pleased to say that in Iowa, we are 'considering the soil.'

In this 1984 "State Year of the Soil," it seems appropriate to recap some of our successes. In 1980, the Iowa General Assembly enacted legislation known as the "Iowa Soil 2000 Program." Iowa's 100 soil conservation districts have begun the process of delivering Iowa Soil

\$8.3 million. Funding for the current fiscal year was authorized at a level of \$8.6 million this past spring. These monies are used for cost-sharing with landowners who put an equal amount of their own dollars for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices. These practices—terraces, grass waterways, grade stabilization structures, and others—have off-site benefits of controlling run-off and siltation as well as their on-site purpose of holding soil in place to preserve its productivity.

During this past year, we were also able to make the first no-interest loan as part of a program initiated just a year ago. Used for the same types of permanent soil conservation practices as cost-share funds, this program offers an alternative approach for low net worth farmers who might not

rapidly adopting new reduced-tillage techniques that can substantially reduce erosion losses without additional capitol investments.

Iowa's conservation farmers are to be commended for their pioneering efforts to protect our soil resource base and for their willingness to do conservation work even during times when economic conditions are somewhat less than favorable. The support of the non-farm community for soil conservation programs and efforts is also key to continued success in the war we wage against soil erosion.

We are at a critical juncture in stemming the tide against soil erosion. We need to heighten awareness of the importance of our soil resource and the fact that there are limits to our ability to produce year after year without adequate protection and conservation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Fiscal Year 1983-1984

District's IM Budget

Receipts

Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....\$ 2,300.00

Disbursements

Commissioners' mileage, meals and hotel while out of town.....\$ 1,222.58
Office supplies and expense.....\$ 536.31
Printing.....\$ 31.95
Released To State Soil Conservation Committee.....\$ 398.16
Total Disbursements.....\$ 2,300.00

IIIM Budget (State Cost-Share)

Receipts

1982-1983 Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....\$ 17,668.00

Disbursements

Total Spent.....\$ 15,309.88
Released to State Soil Conservation Committee.....\$ 2,358.12
Total Disbursements.....\$ 17,668.00

Receipts

1983-1984 Allocation from State Soil Conservation Committee.....\$ 25,479.00

Disbursements

Total spent.....\$ 15,199.03
Total obligated.....\$ 7,526.75
Total unobligated.....\$ 2,753.22
Total.....\$ 25,479.00



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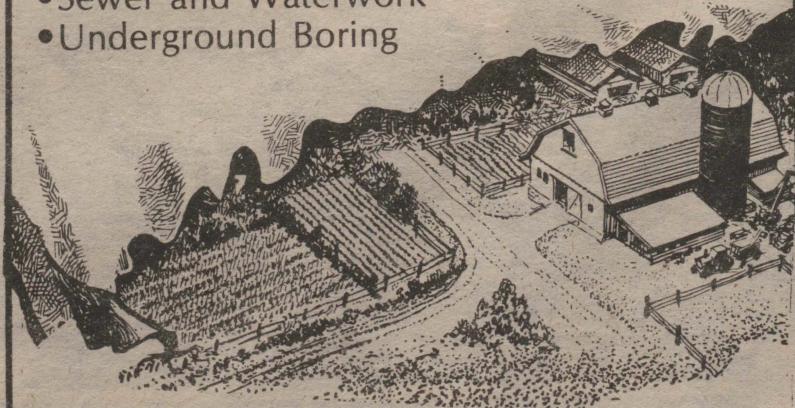
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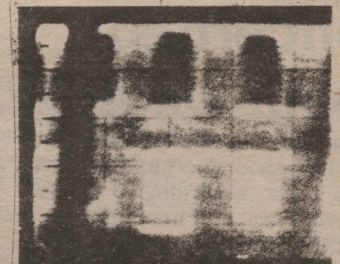
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The infra-red photograph (thermography) shown below traces heat escaping from the front windows of a home on a typical winter early evening at 30°. Heat is shown in light areas. Dark spots represent cold or no heat loss. As you can see, lower windows with aluminum storm windows register substantial heat loss. The upper windows equipped with MAGNETITE windows shown very low heat loss.



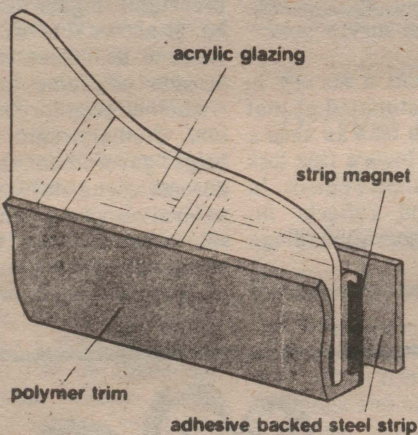
(Dark object above is a telephone pole in front of the house. Light across top and sides show heat escaping from eaves and other uninsulated areas.)

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Today the majority of farms in Iowa are specialized

By Clarence Call
District Conservationist

When I started to work for the Soil Conservation Service back in 1956, I thought our mission of treating every acre according to its needs could possibly be accomplished by 1986. In 30 years our work could be done. Now, in 1984, I wonder if it will be done by 2084.

We have some old USDA bulletins in the files that were published in 1934. At that time, SCS was advocating the building of terraces with a moldboard plow. They also talked about crop rotations, contour farming, waterways and structures to control gully erosion. The farmers in Iowa in 1934 were practicing soil conservation as a matter of course. It was a natural thing to do with crop rotations. All farms had livestock and grew corn, oats and hay crops. The only row crop grown was corn.

Now the diversified farming methods are gone. Most farms in Iowa are specialized. They grow

only two crops — corn and soybeans as a cash crop. The only rotation we have is corn and soybeans — both highly erosive in early spring and summer. Keeping soil erosion under control now is much more difficult than it was 50 years ago.

Present soil erosion control

methods may employ more than one practice. A farm may need terraces and conservation tillage in order to hold soil losses to an acceptable level. On the flat land, conservation tillage is probably enough to check both wind and water erosion.

Yes, we do have a long way to go.

There is much more land under cultivation now than 50 years ago. Much of it is marginal land and is planted to row crops. The job of conserving our greatest natural resource, the soil, is much larger today than it was in 1934. Our greatest need is to educate those

who are using the soil. Conserving the soil should come as natural to a farmer as servicing the pick-up.

We have done much to protect our natural resources, but we still have much to do. If you need help, please call on your local Soil Conservation Service office.

Iowa soil is in double erosion trouble

Iowa soil is in double trouble, according to the latest inventory of natural resources that estimates average yearly losses due to erosion.

The 1982 Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) shows the average water-caused soil erosion in Iowa is 9.4 tons an acre each year. This is nearly double the 5 tons that conservationists say is tolerable and is more than double the national average of 4.4 tons an acre a year.

"To make matters worse, the 9.4 tons per acre of annual average soil loss only includes losses from sheet and rill erosion," Mike Nethery, state conservationist, USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS), said. "When you include wind erosion, we have an average loss of 12 tons per acre per year on our cropland."

Nethery said Iowa's NRI average

soil loss figures are based on information gathered by the USDA SCS from 6,000 primary sample units and nearly 20,000 specific points.

"We don't measure average yearly soil loss with rulers or anything like that," he said. "We look at the conditions, soils and cropping patterns in selected Iowa locations. From these data, we predict Iowa's erosion rates using a soil loss formula called the universal soil loss equation."

In the 1982 survey, the USDA SCS found that about 26 million acres were in rowcrop in Iowa. At 9.4 tons per acre, Iowa cropland lost about 248 million tons of soil that year.

"There also is the misconception that we measure our soil loss each

year," Nethery said. "Our estimates are for the erosion we expect for an average year, based on the conditions we find in the survey year."

The USDA also did a survey in 1977. The soil loss estimated at that time in Iowa was 9.9 tons an acre a year. Nethery says Iowa's 1982 loss represents some improvement in erosion control and reflects increases in use of conservation tillage in the state.

"But for the most part, there

wasn't much change from 1977 to 1982," he said. "And the 1982 figure is certainly higher than we want it to be. It shows that we have a lot of work to do before we get our soil erosion problems under control."

Another inventory is scheduled for 1987. Nethery said the inventory helps government agencies keep abreast of the status of the nation's natural resources. It also helps them set priorities for targeting soil conservation funds and plan future conservation programs.

Concerned about water

Iowa farmers are beginning to get concerned about the quality of the state's water, according to the fall 1983 Iowa Farm and Rural Life poll.

Of 2,011 Iowa farmers randomly sampled in the poll, 47 percent felt water quality was a problem in Iowa. Thirty percent said their community had a severe or moderate water quality problem, and 20 percent felt they had a water quality problem on their farm.

In general, respondents viewed the problem as being much worse the farther it was from home, Paul Lasley, Iowa State University Extension sociologist, said. But further analysis of survey responses showed that farmers' perceptions of water quality problems vary across the state.

For example, almost one-third of the farmers in the Creston and Ottumwa Extension areas felt they had a moderate or severe problem on their farms. Areas in north and eastern Iowa tended to report less water quality problems.



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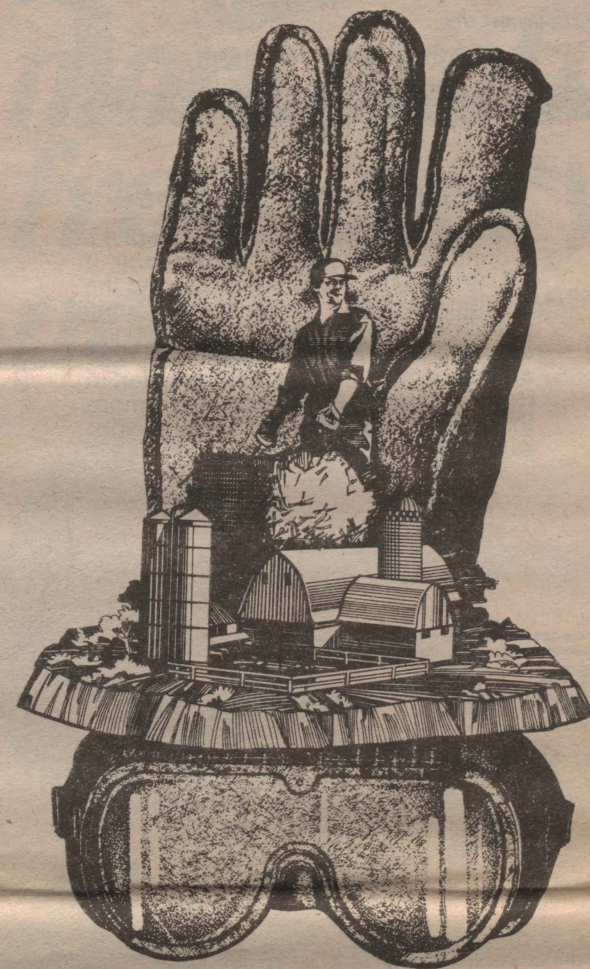
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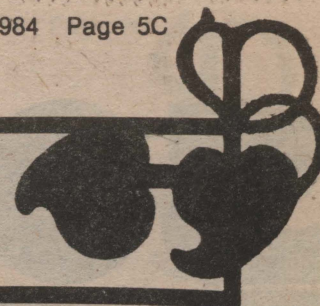
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OFFICE PERSONNEL at the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Service Office includes, left to right, Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician; Betty Farmer, State Clerk, and Clarence Call, District Conservationist. (Photo by Susan Reiser)

Dedicated to Hoffman's memory

(Editor's note: It only seems befitting that this 1984 Soil Conservation section should be dedicated to the memory of Commissioner Andrew Hoffman, who died unexpectedly Sept. 5 at the Dickinson County Memorial



HOFFMAN

Hospital following a heart attack.

Hoffman, 55, had been a Soil Conservation District Commissioner for 21 years and was well known throughout the county and the upper midwest for his purebred Holstein breeding business. He was awarded the Distinguished Dairyman award by the Cedar Rapids Gazette five years ago, received the 4-H alumni award for his 20 years of service as a 4-H leader and was inducted into the Iowa Holstein Hall of Fame this past summer.

Hoffman's family consists of his wife, Lorene, and two children, Chris, 26 and Robin, 20.

Hoffman farmed about 400 acres of land and was involved in a 28-head

Holstein dairy operation with 65 or 70 head of heifers, bulls and heifer calves.

Hoffman was born and spent his childhood at Fostoria. The family moved to the Lake Park vicinity when Hoffman was 13.

Commissioner Hoffman will be missed not only by his family, friends and neighbors but by his fellow Soil Conservation Commissioners, Holstein breeders and those persons who had the good fortune of meeting him.

The September issue of The Dairymen's Digest includes a story about Hoffman's success and love for the Holstein business, his life and family history.)



SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS include, front, left to right, Assistant Commissioner Chris Hoffman, Chairman Robert C. Ingwersen, and Commissioner Charles Shorey. Back row, left to right, Vice Chairman Orville Berg,

Assistant Commissioner Maurice Dougal, Commissioner Ernest H. Skow, and the late Andrew Hoffman. Ingwersen was recently named a Regional District Commissioner. (Photo by Susan Reiser)

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Wallis R. Tonsfeldt, Area Conservationist
Dick Hall, Area Engineer
John Vogel, Resource Conservationist
Margaret L. Walker, Area Clerk
Judy Rathel, Area Clerk

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Clarence M. Call, District Conservationist
Dennis Rustman, Conservation Technician
Betty Farmer, State Clerk

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Orville J. Berg, Vice Chairman
Charles Shorey
Ernest H. Skow
Andrew H. Hoffman (deceased)
Chris Hoffman, Assistant Commissioner and Secretary
Maurice Dougal, Assistant Commissioner



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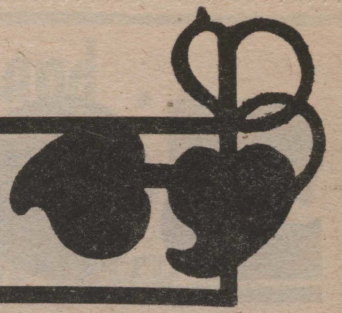
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RUSSEL AND BEV STAHLY

Pioneer in ridge tilling reveals

By Susan Reiser
Editor

Ridge tilling won't make a good farmer out of you or make a poor farmer out of you but it could save you some money.

Just ask Russel Stahly, of rural Lake Park. This 33-year farmer decided last fall that he would try ridge tilling.

A Pioneer in the Lake Park area with this idea, Stahly purchased a

ridge till cultivator from Schierholt Implement, in Lake Park, changed the units on his 7100 John Deere planter and eliminated his plow and field cultivator.

"I've only been at it one year but there are advantages to ridge tilling. I've cut my chemical costs in half. I'm banding now and I used to broadcast. The ridges warm up faster and are just as warm as plowed ground. I had real good

germination this year. I was planting in ideal conditions," Stahly said.

As far as neighborhood talk about his new way of farming, Stahly said he has found that his neighbors are more curious about the ridge till farming method than they are about joking.

Last fall, Stahly built the ridges. After planting, he cultivated the field once, sprayed, and will combine in the near future. With no discing or plowing plans with the ridge till system, Stahly said he won't have any field work later this fall or real early in the spring of 1985 and will find time for a trip to Florida or more golfing, which he has found more time for with the implementation of this system.

In addition to the equipment, Stahly also had to change the duals on his combine to allow for his 30 inch ridged rows. He said farmers who chop silage would have to update their wagons to fit the ridged rows.

"I learned a lot. I had to change my equipment so I didn't drive on the ridge and learned how to adjust the shields for the ridges. I've only been at it a year but I've learned a lot," Stahly said.

The ridges are like a miniature terrace. Statistics from the Soil Conservation Service indicate that crops planted with the ridge till method have comparable yields as to the conventional method of far-



WITH THE RIDGE TILL system, modifications in equipment were needed on Stahly's planter, as shown. Unit changes were made on his 7100 John Deere planter and cultivator. (Photo by Susan Reiser)



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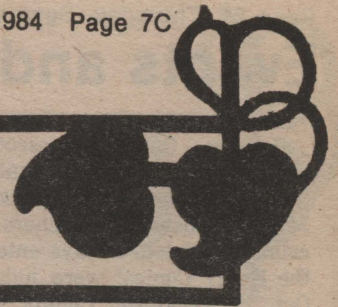
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ming.

"One could make more money because they haven't got as much invested. Weeds are less of a problem. I have the cleanest beans this year as I have ever had," Stahly added.

The implementation of the ridge tilling system is just one of many soil conservation practices Stahly employs.

In 1980, Stahly won the Marc Cox Conservation award, sponsored by the Sioux City Journal and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce, for the implementation of terraces on his west farm. The two farms which Stahly farms, totalling 400 acres, also have over a mile long waterway.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Stoltenberg, owners of the farms Stahly rents, were honored this year with the 1984 Marc Cox Conservation award for their optimistic viewpoint on the use of the ridge till system on their farmground.

"More progressive farmers are getting into the ridge till system. There is enough evidence out that ridge tilling is a way of farming," said District Soil Conservationist Clarence Call.

Much of the information Stahly had received about ridge tilling

came from meetings of the Southwest Minnesota Ridgetillers Association, of which both Stahly and son, Mike, are members.

Stahly started farming in 1951 on a farm near Harris. He moved to his present farm location, just north of

Lake Park, in 1954.

Stahly plans to continue with the ridge till system, seeding the side hills to brome as another conservation measure and build miniature ridges on the headlands this fall.



STAHLY AND District Conservationist Clarence Call inspect one of Stahly's bean fields that implemented the ridge till system this planting season. (Photo by Susan Reiser)

Loss of soil may be unnoticed

What farmers can't see can hurt them when it comes to soil erosion.

Heavy rains in Iowa this past spring caused some of the worst soil erosion ever in the state, and most of this erosion was quite visible. USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) officials estimated about 4 million acres lost 20 tons or more soil per acre.

Quite often, however, the average loss of soil can go unnoticed. Sheet erosion, for example, removes such a thin layer in one year that it's hard for farmers to see its loss and add up its progressive disappearance, according to Mike Nethery, state conservationist for SCS.

He points out that the average annual loss of soil in Iowa is 9.4 tons per acre. Those in charge of the land, primarily farmers, need to try to visualize this average yearly soil loss, he said. "If they can't visualize it, they won't understand why soil conservation practices are so important."

One way to conceptualize the average yearly soil loss is to spread the lost 9.4 tons over an entire acre. Spread evenly, the cumulative soil loss would be about one-sixteenth of an inch deep.

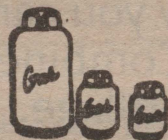
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Events and happenings of the past year

Oct. 1, 1983-Sept. 30, 1984

October - Outdoor Classroom for all 6th graders in the county was held Oct. 13 at the Hogsback area. 240 6th graders and teachers in the county attended. Essays entered in the Essay Contest were judged on Oct. 13. Dickinson County Mutual Insurance Company was co-sponsor for this contest.

November - Commissioners decided to plan on 20,000 acres for the Iowa Soil 2000 program the first year.

December - Commissioners Bob Ingwersen, Orville Berg, Betty Farmer and Clarence Call attended Iowa Soil 2000 meeting in Pocahontas on Dec. 13. Clarence Call spoke on conservation tillage at two meetings in Lake Park in December. Commissioners' Christmas dinner was held on Dec. 7.

January - Kickoff meeting for distribution of soil survey report was held on Jan. 6. Clarence Call attended conservation tillage meeting in Primghar on Jan. 24.

February - Tillage meeting was held at Vern and Coila's on Feb. 6. Clarence Call attended news media workshop in Cherokee on Feb. 7. Charles Shorey, Chris Hoffman and Clarence Call attended tillage meeting in Sheldon on Feb. 23.

March - Clarence Call attended workshop in Des Moines on Feb. 28 and 29 and March 1. Chas. Shorey, Chris Hoffman and Clarence Call attended regional meeting in Pocahontas on March 8. Clarence Call and Dennis Rustman attended contractors' meeting in Clay County on March 14. Clarence Call, Orville Berg, Maurice Dougal and district winners, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Heikens and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Herbert, attended the Marc Cox Annual Awards Banquet in Sioux City on March 15.

April - Rodney Nelsen of Milford and Don Dingel of Lake Park were the two 1984 scholarship winners. \$10 was presented to each. Brenda Smidt of Milford was selected to attend the Youth Leadership Conservation Program Camp at the State 4-H Center in Madrid in June. The Dickinson County Conservation

Board is co-sponsoring Brenda to this camp. Commissioners carried out another successful tree program during the month of April. 3,725 shrubs, 4,275 deciduous trees and 680 evergreens were sold to 95 customers this year. A green ash tree was given to each 6th grader in the county. The commissioners helped to defray the expenses of four teachers to the "Outlook" camp held this summer.

May - Clarence Call attended District Conservationists' camp held at the Presbyterian Camp on West Lake Okoboji the first three days in May.

June - Orville Berg, Mr. and Mrs.

Bob Ingwersen, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Dougal and Betty Farmer attended tour conducted by the Department of Soil Conservation in Emmet and Palo Alto Counties on June 8.

July - Betty Farmer attended clerks' state meeting held in Ames July 10 to 12. Commissioners' annual picnic was held on July 24. Dennis Rustman attended advanced technicians' camp on July 30 and 31 and Aug. 1 and 2.

September - Commissioners mourn the sudden death of commissioner Andy Hoffman. Andy had been a commissioner for 21 years.

Soil Conservation District Accomplishments

Fiscal Year October 1, 1983 - September 30, 1984

Conservation District Cooperators	(no. and ac.)	9 - 1,947
Conservation District Cooperators Canceled	(no. and ac.)	3 - 800
Individuals and Groups Assisted	(no.)	184
Individuals and Groups Applying Practices	(no.)	56
Resource Management System Planned	(ac.)	2,005
Resource Management System Planned Canceled	(ac.)	558
Conservation Planning Alternatives Provided	(ac.)	637
Conservation Tillage System	(ac.)	3,840
Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreak	(ac.)	3
Field Windbreak	(ft.)	800
Grassed Waterway or Outlet	(ac.)	12.2
Structure for Water Control	(no.)	2
Terrace	(ft.)	8,750
Subsurface Drain	(ft.)	5,720
Underground Outlet	(ft.)	9,779
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management	(ac.)	10.5
Windbreak Renovation	(ac.)	4.5
Cropland (erosion reduction)	(ac.)	4,427



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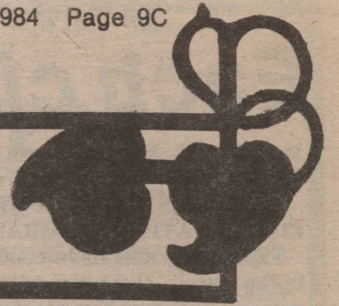


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Jackson, MN Spirit Lake, IA

soil



Trees are important resource of country

By Betty Farmer
District Clerk

Trees always will be one of the important natural resources of our country. Trees have values beyond reckoning in holding the soil. In addition, the beauty of trees is everyone's to enjoy. Man's dependence on trees, directly and indirectly, goes back to those distant times when the human species was first making its mark. From the human point of view, trees are a multipurpose natural resource without equal.

A windbreak, as we generally think of it in Iowa, is a narrow belt of trees planted to give the farmstead protection against winter winds. Much of Iowa's land is relatively level to gently rolling. There is little native timber except along rivers and streams. This combination permits northwesterly winter winds to make a clean sweep across the land. Something is needed to break their force.

Most of us want greater comfort for our farm homes. No amount of other improvements will replace a windbreak for protection from winter winds. A windbreak will make the home more comfortable. Fuel requirements can be cut by as much as a third.

A windbreak means a good deal, too, when working outdoors around the barns and lots. Livestock can be kept in condition on less feed when protected from the cold. A good

windbreak permits you to keep livestock in lots when you ordinarily would have to keep them inside.

stop at the Soil Conservation Office in Spirit Lake.

"A windbreak will prove its worth after every snowstorm."

A windbreak will prove its worth after every snowstorm. It will keep the snow from banking around buildings and blocking the farm lot.

A good windbreak adds to the beauty of your farm. It makes farming more pleasant. Useful birds are attracted where trees are provided for nesting and protection.

In summer, hot, dry winds burn crops, decrease yields, increase water losses during irrigation, and dry out soils. In winter, cold winds make life difficult for people and livestock. Snow drifts into ravines and road ditches, depriving fields of needed moisture and blocking transportation and communication systems.

Windbreaks reduce wind velocity and soil erosion. They modify air and soil temperatures. Early spring is best for planting. The trees are dormant at that time. For assistance in planning your farm windbreak,

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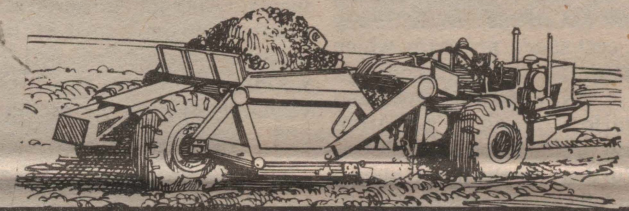


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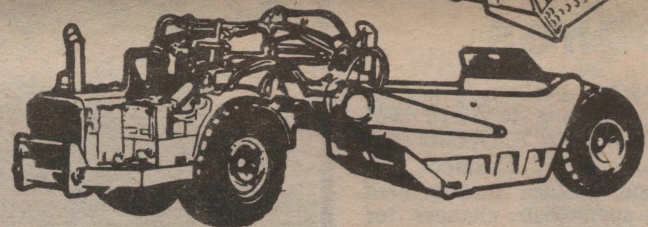
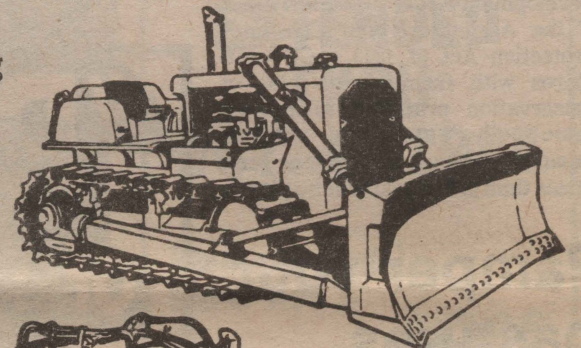
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Each citizen has responsibility to look beyond

By Larry D. Lago
County ASCS Executive Director
WHAT IS AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM?

Farm programs have contributed to the growth and prosperity of the national economy for nearly half a century--since passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933.

In a succession of agricultural acts, Congress has modified farm programs to match changing needs. But the fundamental aims of these programs have remained the same--a productive agriculture, an abundant food and fiber supply at reasonable prices, a fair return to farmers on their financial in-

on coordinating ACP cost-sharing with the most critical conservation needs of each county.

ACP is available in all agricultural counties. Farmers are eligible for cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost of conservation and pollution abatement measures to be carried out on agricultural lands. Practices for which cost-sharing is available are those developed by the farmer-elected county committee in consultation with the county program development group with the approval of the State ACS committee and secretary.

Practices may be approved by the county ASC committee only after assurance that cost-sharing will be for carrying out enduring soil and water conservation and pollution measures that farmers would not perform without this assistance.

ACP is administered by the ASCS with technical and educational functions provided by SCS, FS, SEA-ES and other agencies. Farmer-elected county committees manage program activity at the county level. State ASC committees supervise state programs and provide overall direction and guidance for efforts in planning and coordinating the program impact on soil, water, woodland conservation and environmental pollution problems.

Private investments by farmers in the cost of carrying out practices equals or exceeds federal input. The incentive provided by the federal cost-share stimulates private investment and brings practice accomplishments that would not otherwise result.

ACP maintains and improves

basic soil, water, woodland, and wildlife resources and helps assure a continuing adequate supply of food, fiber and time for America's future. (In emergencies caused by flood, drought, hurricane, earthquake, and other natural disaster, Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funds are also available for restoring damaged farmland.)

All Americans must become aware of the economic, social, political and ecological interdependence between urban and rural areas. Each citizen has a responsibility to look beyond their own interests and recognize that no single individual and no generation is self-sufficient. Each individual must understand we have a common commitment and be willing to share the challenge of being good stewards of the land and water.

CONSIDER OUR COMMITMENT
What beauty abounds here on God's green Earth!

And who can begin to measure its worth?!

What price a sunset, a blossom-filled spring;

A moonlit lake, a butterfly wing?

God gave us all these and so much more;

There are beautiful harvests, too much to store.

All this He meant for us here to treasure.

How fortunate we are, enriched beyond measure!

But there is the danger that we might forget

That for all this beauty we do owe a debt.

For, as He gave to us His world to share,

He also committed it to our care.

When God made the Earth, before

it He stood.

He looked His work over and said "It is good."

Do you wonder sometimes what God has to say

When He looks down upon His world today?

Man's obsessions have upset nature's balance.

Today costly mistakes are taxing our talents.

We mustn't forget Earth's not ours alone;

That we're only mortal and soon will be gone.

We each have a duty to God our Creator

To protect Earth's resources for those to come later.

Yes, it's time our commitment went even deeper,

If we are to be our brother's keeper.

Consider our commitment; consider it well.



ASCS Report

Larry Lago

vestment and labor, and the conservation and improvement of America's farms.

Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) is a federally assisted cost-share program which emphasizes the identification and solution of soil, water and woodland conservation and pollution abatement problems on agricultural lands. Further emphasis is placed on completion of enduring conservation practices to solve these problems to protect and improve the nation's food and fiber producing resources.

ACP is authorized by the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, the Rural Development Act of 1972 and Title X of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. ACP cost-shares with farmers the cost of conservation practices to protect basic soil, water and wildlife resources. However, greater emphasis than in the past will be placed

Pamper your pastures

A pampered pasture is a good pasture, according to Steve Barnhart, Iowa State University Extension agronomist. Farmers who spare good pasture management practices spoil their chances for minimum soil erosion and maximum forage productivity.

Barnhart offers the following good management tips to help farmers pamper their pastures:

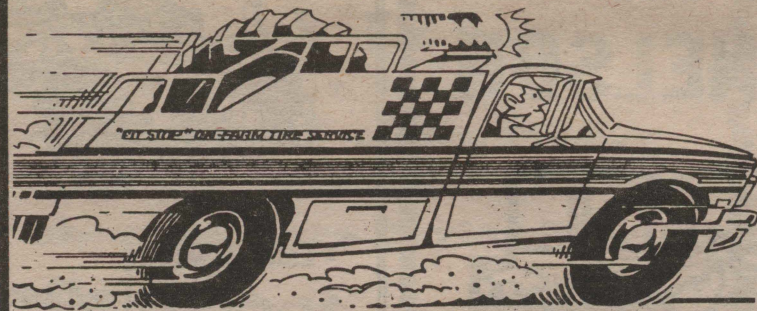
—Fertilize in early spring to increase pasture productivity and vigor.

—Delay grazing until pasture grasses have begun to grow rapidly and have at least 3 to 5 inches of spring growth.

—Maintain thick stands with adequate weed control and summer fertilization as needed.

—Practice rotational grazing throughout the season to allow adequate time for regrowth.

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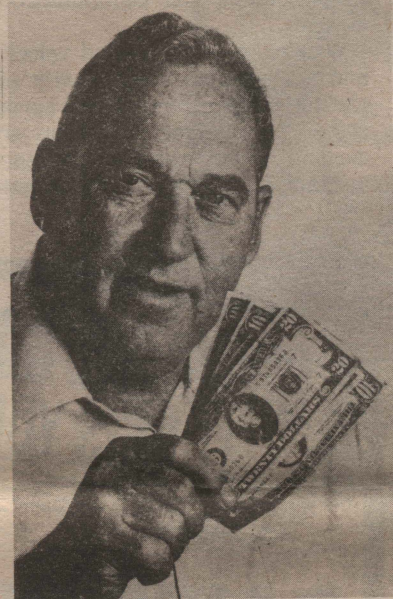
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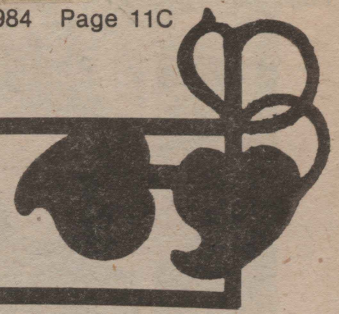
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ASCS assistants named

ASCS PROGRAM ASSISTANTS include, left to right, Donna Treharne, Cindy Ellenthal, Ruby Caskey and Pat Achenbach. (Photo by Susan Reiser)

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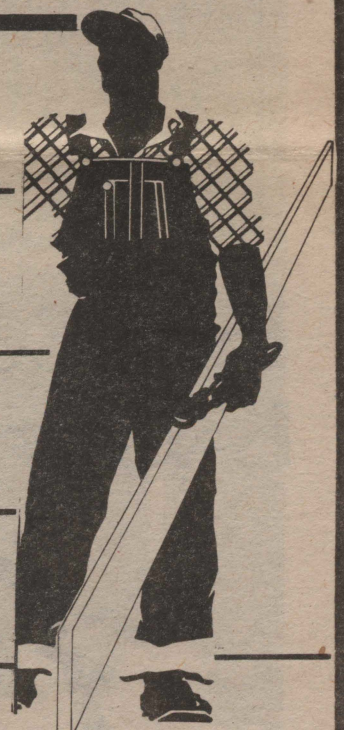
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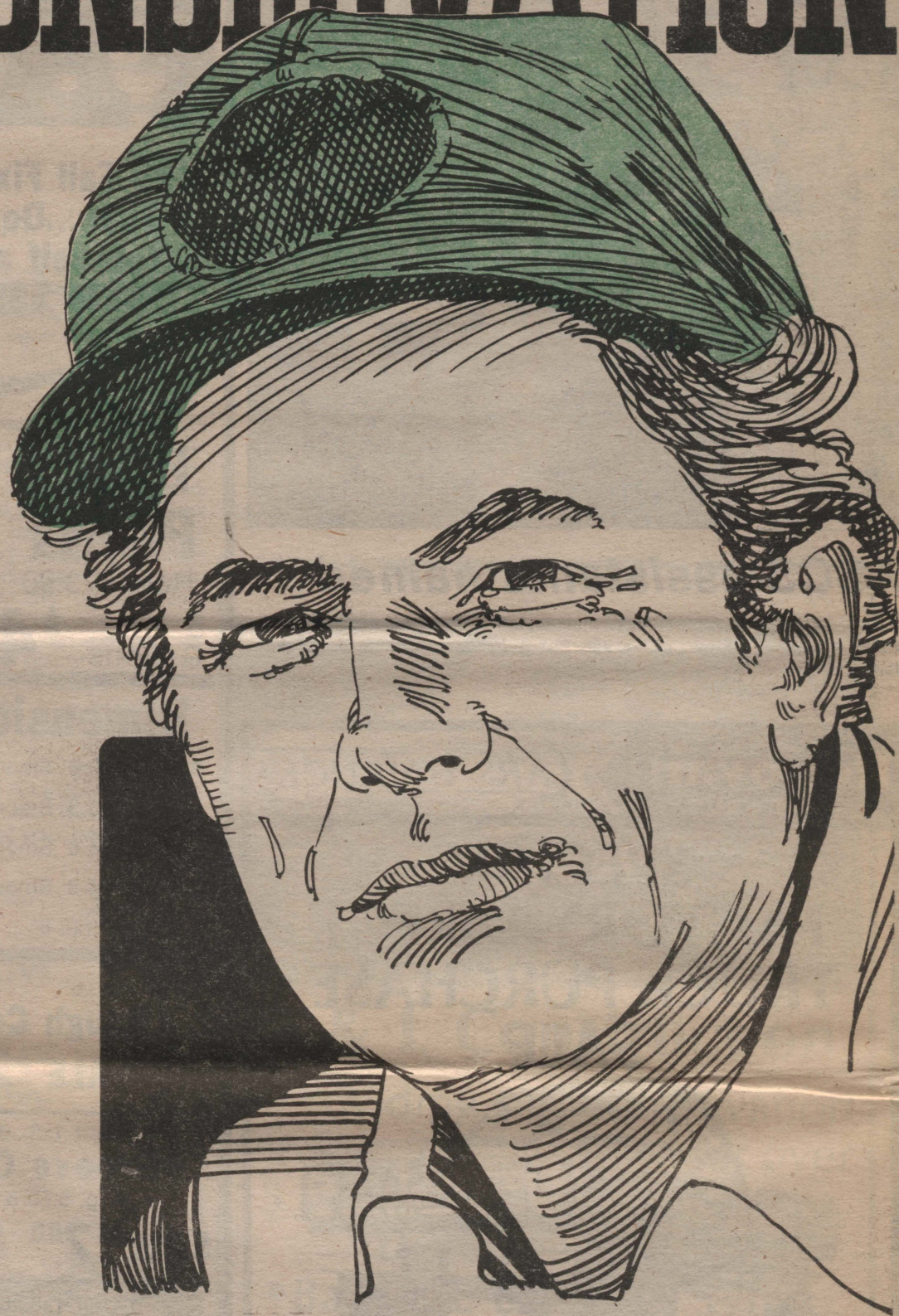
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enable us to reap
the rich rewards of
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Is Everyone's Job.**



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