

Soil Conservation Commissioners



LAVERN WEILBRENNER

LaVern and Verna Weilbrenner and their daughters - Kellie, Kimberly, Karla and Susan - own 320 acres in Grove Township, rent 175 acres and farms with his father, Elmer. He usually has 200 acres of crops in corn, soybeans and small grain and the balance in pasture and hay. He has a 100 beef cow/calf operation and feeds out the calves.

Verna teaches 3rd grade at the Pulaski elementary school. LaVern is a member of the Cattlemen's Association, President of Appanoose-Davis Mutual Insurance Board, chairman of Davis County's Land Preservation and Use Commission and one of the soil district commissioners. The family is active in the Barker United Methodist Church where LaVern serves as superintendent of the Sunday School.



WAYNE BIRCHMIER

Wayne and Sherry Birchmier live on a farm northeast of Bloomfield with their two children - Kurt and Brett. They own a 350 acre farm and rent an additional 500 acres, raising 175 acres corn, 300 acres soybeans, 40 acres oats, 100 acres hay and no till 40 acres. They farrow 500 hogs and finish them and also have a cow-calf herd with 50 head of cows and feed out their calves.

Wayne serves as an Assistant Commissioner for the Davis Co. Soil Conservation District and also represents the district on the County RC&D Council and on the Davis County Land Preservation and Use Commission. Wayne serves as a director for the Federal Land Bank and his wife, Sherry, is on the Davis County Extension Council.



ILES HEADY

Iles and Margie Heady live on a farm north of Bloomfield in Lick Creek Township. They have two married daughters and two granddaughters. Iles is retired from active farming and has a partnership with Glen Wyatt. The farm consists of 560 acres with about 140 acres of row crops and balance is in improved pasture and alfalfa brome hay. They try to rotate from row crops to hay to pasture each six years. All of the farm has a conservation plan with 160 acres contoured strip cropped and balance is on contour with terraces - both tile outlet and gradient. There are also six erosion control structures plus three livestock ponds.

Glen and Iles have 130 head of Angus cows; feed out most of the calves. Some of the heifers are kept back each year to add to the cow herd.

Iles served 16 years as a district soil commissioner and is presently serving as an assistant commissioner. He was named an outstanding commissioner in 1974 and received an award for this; received the Region 9 Soil Conservation Award in 1962 for his owner-operator farm; and was given a special award and recognition by radio station WMT as an outstanding conservation farmer. The Headys are active members of the Dunnville Baptist Church.



ROBERT BOATMAN

Robert and Martha Boatman live in Bloomfield and have two daughters and three grandchildren. They own and operate a farm in Fox River Township consisting of 385 acres. 240 acres were purchased in 1934 and land from Gladys Strunk and Gus Bogert farms have been added. The farm is devoted to Angus Cattle, at present consisting of 100 cows and 20 heifers and maintains registered cows, breeding for about half registered calves and half cross bred calves.

Most of the farm is devoted to grass and hay, with approximately 40 acres of row crops and all crops are fed back on the farm. 160 acres of hay ground, consists of timothy, trefoil, brome, red clover, orchard grass. Average about 400 large round bales of hay and use balance for pasture in fall.

Our objective in last 25 years has been to put in all conservation practices possible and improve the total farm - pasture land, timber, bottom land and fences. There are four erosion control structures built to control erosion and as water supply. 14,200 ft. of terraces and 2750 ft. of diversion terraces have been built. Bottomground consisting of 40 acres with tiling installed 7 years ago of 3600 feet.

Bob is Chairman of the Davis County Soil District and has served as a commissioner since 1974.



PHIL MELVIN

Phil and Linda Melvin own 450 acres and rent 650 acres in Wyacondah Township. The Melvins are proud that their farm is a Century farm with part of the farm having been in the Melvin family for over 100 years. They have two erosion control structures and three ponds. Most of their farm is in grass and hayland and he crops 400 to 500 acres of row crop yearly. He has no-tilled corn for the past three years with good results. They keep approximately 60 head of cows and run 50 to 60 head of yearlings on grass each year.

They have four children. Teresa is a radiation therapist in Dallas, Texas; Rob is engaged in farming nearby his parents farm and works together with his father in the farming operation. Rob's wife, Pam, is a third year nursing student at Northeast Missouri State University. Tammy lives in Des Moines and is a student at Salvador Beauty College. Joe, age 13, is still in school and living at home.

Phil is a district soil commissioner, a member of the Davis Co. Farm Bureau, the Davis County Cattlemen's Association and the Iowa Corn Grower's Association. The Melvins are active members of the Bloomfield Christian Church.



DON CHICKERING

Don and Kay Chickering have seven children - five who are married and living and working in Davis and Wapello Counties. They have ten grandchildren and have two daughters at home, Danelle and Danette, who are students at Bible Baptist Christian School in Ottumwa.

They live on a farm in Lick Creek Township two miles west and north of Floris. He owns 600 acres and rents 300 acres. He raises 250 acres soybeans, 250 acres corn 80 acres hay and has improved his pastures. He has a 60 cow/calf herd and usually feeds out the calves.

Don is a soil district commissioner, serves on the county Conservation Board, Cattlemen's Association Board, Davis County Fair Board. He and Kay are very active in the Floris Baptist church with Don serving on the board and Kay serves as a counselor each summer at the Southeast Iowa Regular Baptist Camp at Lake Darling. She enjoys garden work, sewing and reading.

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One hundred years ago, on the average, Iowa's topsoil was 14 to 18 inches thick. Today, it's only six to eight inches thick!



DON HERTEEN

Don and Diane Herteen live on a farm 3 miles west of West Grove in West Grove Twp. with their two daughters - Jessica and Valerie. He operates 1430 acres of land with 600 acres in corn and soybeans. The balance is in improved pasture and hayland.

He runs a 200 head cow herd, putting the yearlings on grass and feeding the yearlings out.

Don has served as a commissioner for the Davis County Soil Conservation District since his election to that office in 1978. He represents the district on the county RC&D council and on the Pathfinder RC&D Executive Council.



TIM HOOPER

Tim and Susan Hooper live on a farm 12 miles northeast of Bloomfield in Union Township with their two children - Tony and Becky. They own 170 acres, rent 670 acres plus custom farm 180. The farm operation consists of 400 acres of row crop with most of the acres planted with a minimum or no till system. In 1982, approximately 200 acres of soybeans were planted no till. The Hoopers finish 200 head of feeder pigs a year and have a herd of 23 beef cows.

Tim serves as chairman of the Davis County RC&D Council and is a representative on the Pathfinder RC&D Executive Council for our district. He serves the district as assistant commissioner. Susan is the Davis County Extension Home Economist and the Hooper family is active in the Bloomfield Christian Church.

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