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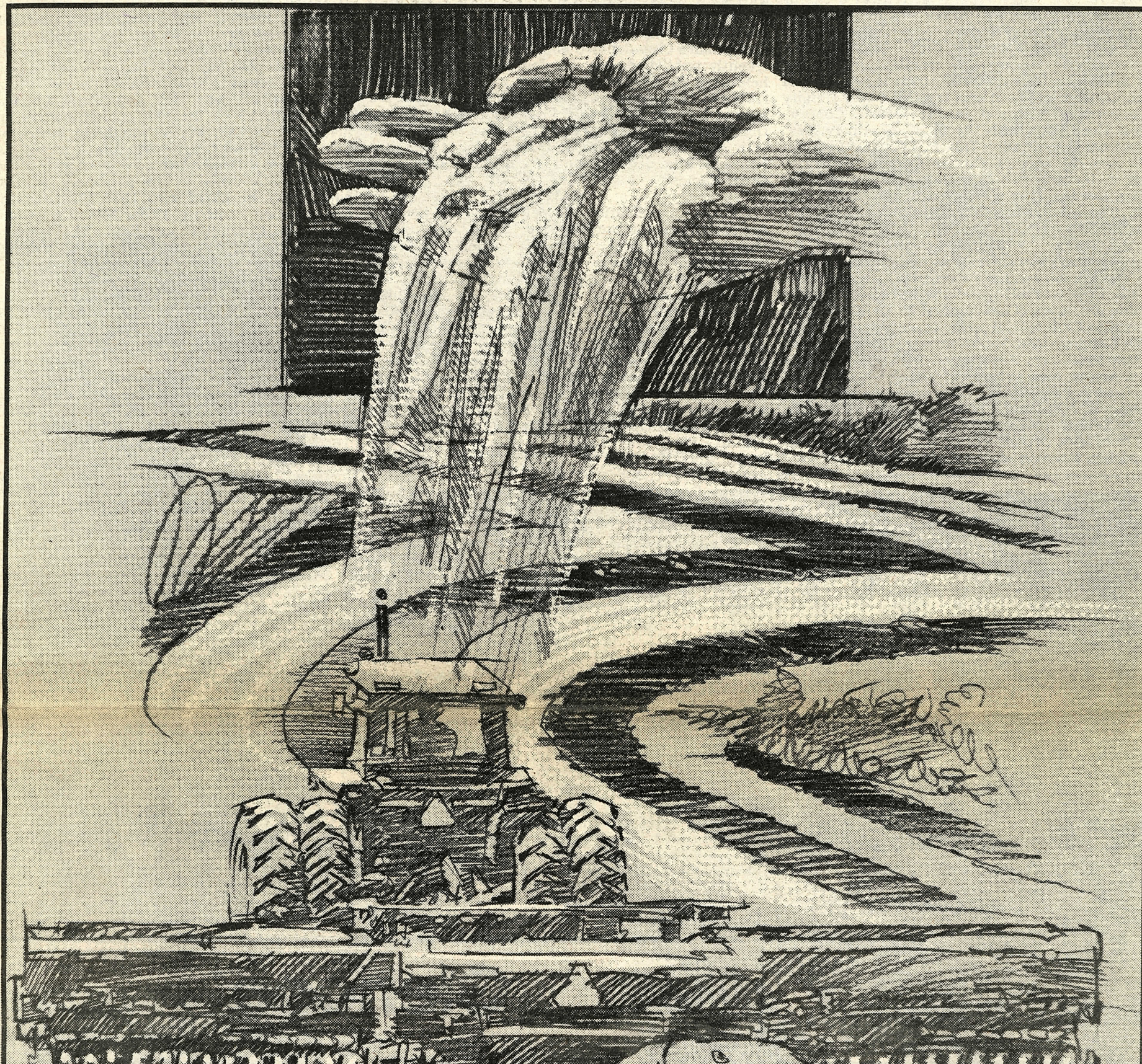
Official Paper for Tipton and the County

Cedar County's Better Advertising Medium

Supplement to The Tipton Conservative

Soil Conservation Edition

January 27, 1968



CONSERVATION PAYS

The Annual Report
of the
Cedar County
Soil Conservation Service



1987 District Activities And Projects

JANUARY

Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners met for their organizational meeting Jan. 5. Millicent Zenishek and Robert Niermeyer took the oath of office. Election was held for officers: Jim Bowie, chairman; Randall Shaull, vice-chairman; Ken Muller, secretary and Melanie Schott, treasurer. Commissioners met with County Engineer Bill Conner, after meeting to work on critical areas of ditch cleaning list program - to use soil for permanent conservation practices. Annual Crop Clinics held in Durant, Jan. 6 and West Branch, Jan. 9. Three dimensional farm displays were completed by Jim and Laura Mortensen. Annual Plan of Work and Plan of Operations were reviewed and revised. Cedar County Soil Conservation club met Jan. 15. District Conservationist Hoeft met with the board of supervisors. Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show held in Cedar Rapids Jan. 27 and 28. Commissioners Zenisheks worked at the show's registration booth and Terry Kroemer, Lowden, gave a presentation on his farming system. The annual report was published and distributed Jan. 28.

FEBRUARY

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Feb. 3. USDA information meetings were held Feb. 9 and 10 with ASCS, SCS, FmHA and the extension service informing producers of new programs. The Cedar Soil Conservation Club annual poster contest was held Feb. 12 with Congressman Tauke in attendance. Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association Forage Show held Feb. 19. Annual Awards banquet held Feb. 28. Conservation Reserve Program sign up held during February, accepting 92 bids on 7,609 acres. District Clerk Melanie Schott received Employee of the Month Award from Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation.

MARCH

Regular commissioners meeting held March 24. Board certified multiflora rose control bills. Soil stewardship materials were reviewed. Annual plan of work reviewed. Commissioners Randall Shaull and Millicent Zenishek met with board of supervisors.

APRIL

Area Resource Conservationist Dean Pettit assisted with switchgrass stand evaluations April 7. All third graders in Cedar county received green ash tree seedlings during week of Arbor Day. Cedar County Sportsman's Club donated \$50 towards resource book recently published. Regular commissioners' meeting held April 22. District newsletter printing bids were reviewed. Education Committee met April 22 for annual outing, this year held at Rochester cemetery. Don Stout, Cedar county historian, advised the group with tour and wildflowers. Commissioner Millicent Zenishek attended water quality meeting April 23 in Cedar Rapids.

MAY

District Conservationist Hoeft gave Food Security Act presentation at breakfast meeting to Lowden Lions club May 12. Thirteen churches participated in Soil Stewardship Week May 24-31, with litany, inserts and youth and adult supplements distributed. Regular commissioners' meeting was held May 26 and multiflora rose control bills were reviewed and certified. Sixty percent cost-share for summer construction was approved. Commissioner Robert Niermeyer was nominated for Ken Wagner Commissioner award. Iowa Conservation Awards were discussed and commissioners toured farms and the following nominations were voted on for each division: New Cooperator - Bev Brown; Owner-Operator - Fawcett Farms; Landlord/Tenant - Piney Knoll Farm & D. George Driscoll, with Piney Knoll Farm & D. George Driscoll receiving outstanding cooperator award winner for Cedar county. District held Hay Field Day demonstration May 28 at Jim Gaul farm.

JUNE

Six soil monoliths for each vocational-agriculture class in Cedar county were made by Soil Conservationist, Paul Viner. Tillage twilight tour was held June 11 at the Cedar County Care Facility farm. Regular commissioners' meeting was held June 23. The district was named the Grand Winner of Goodyear Award. Chairman Jim Bowie was nominated to go to Arizona as district representative to receive award. Duane Dotson was nominated for Cedar County Wildlife Conservation Farmer of The Year Award. Letters were sent to certified public accountants and local attorneys informing them of "inheritance tax alternative." Jose Canales, Kirkwood exchange student from El Salvador, spent a day with SCS office personnel surveying a structure and terrace project.

JULY

1988 Conservation Reserve Program sign up held July 19-31. Regular commissioners' meeting held July 28. Memorandums of understanding were reviewed. Cedar SWCD received copy machine from the board of supervisors. Annual plan of work was reviewed.

AUGUST

District Conservationist Hoeft gave Food Security Act presentation Aug. 18 at Commissioner Steve

Driscoll's variety plot field day. Regular commissioners' meeting held Aug. 15, with the 1985 Food Security Act discussed.

SEPTEMBER

District Conservationist Hoeft attended the County Corn and Soybean Growers Field Day Sept. 2. Fall regional meeting held Sept. 3. Commissioners Millicent and Richard Zenishek and Steve Driscoll attended. District Conservationist Hoeft attended ASCS ACP meeting Sept. 10 on priority system of cost-share funds. Area Resource Conservationist, Dean Pettit, reviewed Conservation Reserve Program and switchgrass plantings Sept. 11. Cedar SWCD placemats were distributed to local restaurants and civic groups in conjunction with Soil and Water Conservation Week Sept. 13-19. Regular commissioners meeting held Sept. 22. Don Walters windbreak was nominated for Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award. District entered into a cooperative agreement with USDA-SCS for additional funds to hire personnel for assistance with heavy workload with 1985 Food Security Act Conservation Planning. Cedar SWCD Environmental Education Committee met Sept. 23. Bi-annual soil judging contest held Sept. 29 at Don Rathjen farm south of Tipton. West Branch, Lincoln and Tipton schools participated.

OCTOBER

Regular commissioners meeting was held Oct. 27. 1988 annual plan of work was distributed and reviewed. Multiflora rose control bills were reviewed and certified.

NOVEMBER

Cedar County Soil Conservation club met Nov. 12. District Conservationist Hoeft gave a presentation at the Farm Bureau township committee meeting Nov. 16. Regular commissioners meeting held Nov. 17. Cedar SWCD Environmental Education committee met Nov. 18 and compiled Resource Packets to be used by students, teachers, adults and civic organizations. Commissioners Richard and Millicent Zenishek attended a water quality meeting Nov. 21 at Big Springs Basin in Elkader.

DECEMBER

Commissioners Millicent and Richard Zenishek attended the annual conference in Des Moines Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The regular commissioners' meeting was held Dec. 22. Chairman Jim Bowie discussed his trip to Arizona for the Goodyear Award. The Zenisheks reviewed the Big Springs Basin Water Quality Project Tour and annual conference they attended.

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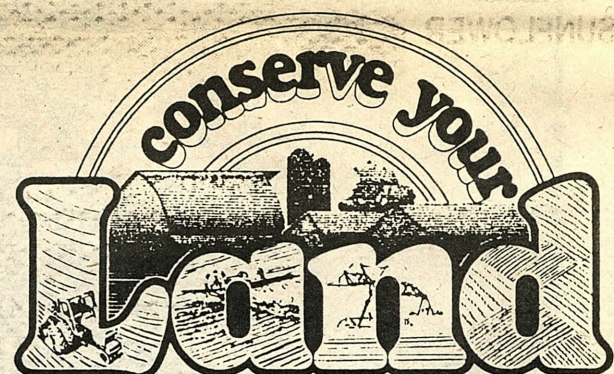
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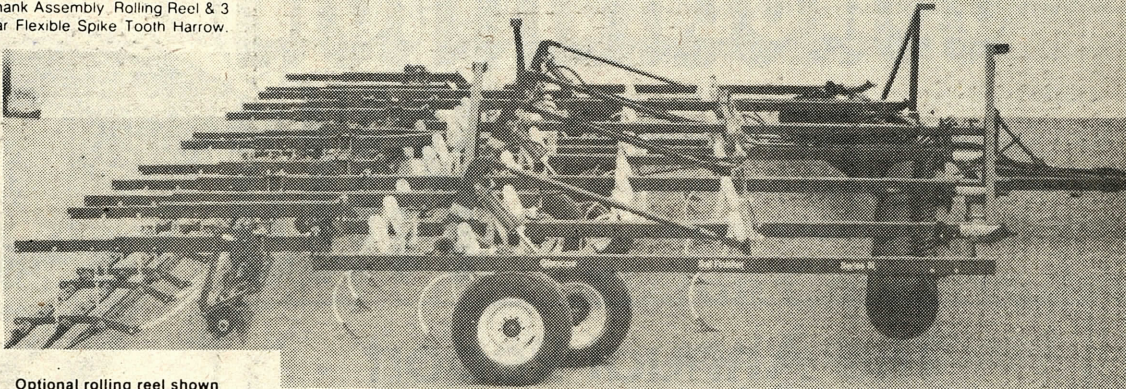


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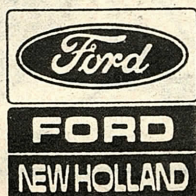
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Cain Places 171 Acres In Conservation Reserve

Jane Cain calls the 10 year Conservation Reserve Program "a Godsend."

The rural Tipton landowner has 171.6 acres in the 10 year reserve and another 61 acres in the timber reserve. The rest of her 433 acres consist of timber and pasture.

"This program saved my farm for me," Cain said. "With grain prices down, people couldn't pay the kind of rent I was getting before. Also, when you rent for cash, you don't always have people who worry about the gullies and erosion."

"I was tickled to death with this program," Cain said.

She has been enrolled in the conservation reserve since June 12, 1986 and is guaranteed government payments through 1995.

Cain has worked with the ASCS for many years, but she feels the conservation reserve program is the best thing so far for everyone involved.

Last year she planted 3,715 trees on her property, including a large number of hardwood trees along the road leading to the landfill.

She is perhaps best known in Cedar county as the owner of the landfill property, which is leased from her by the county. (The landfill is scheduled to close in several months, but the lease on the land will be extended by the county

for at least one more year for \$3,000).

The trees for the Cain planting project came from the state nursery.

Cain qualified 61 acres for the timber reserve program under rules that require she have at least 200 trees on each acre. The program allows her to own the ground tax free.

Working with Judy Hagan at the Soil Conservation Service, Cain says she has set up a reserve program that will enable her to pay off her farm, which will eventually go to her 4 sons.

The conservation acres have all been fertilized and seeded with oats, timothy and orchard grass.

Cain says she lives sparsely and believes the program will rejuvenate her hilly land, while providing her with a decent income.

She is also enthusiastic about the positive environmental aspects of the program. She will no longer need to have large amounts of chemicals put on her cropland and she expects the amount of wildlife on the land to increase in coming years.

"I was really blessed with this program," she said. "I want to leave this land to my boys and this will pay for the rest of it. It's been a wonderful deal, even better than renting it out."

Hagan said the program has been

ideal for the Cain property, which she described as highly erodible land. She said the program will help save a lot of soil on the farm and provides Cain with a "guaranteed renter for 10 years."

"This is very pretty land," Cain said

last week. "There are rock formations, a spring and lots of deer."

This year she hopes to plant about 800 more trees and shrubs on the farm. She says it is the right thing to do today.



The rolling land on the Jane Cain farm is highly erodible, but 171 acres of it will be protected for 10 years under the Conservation Reserve Program. The Cain farm is located near Cedar Valley, about 6 miles southwest of Tipton.



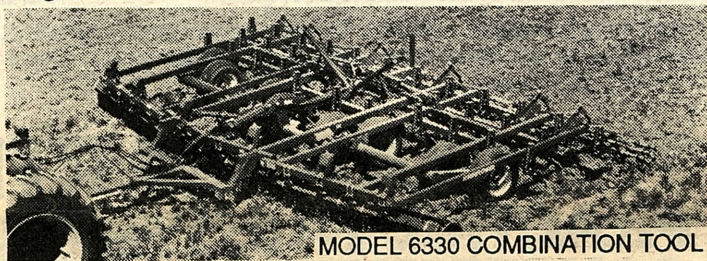
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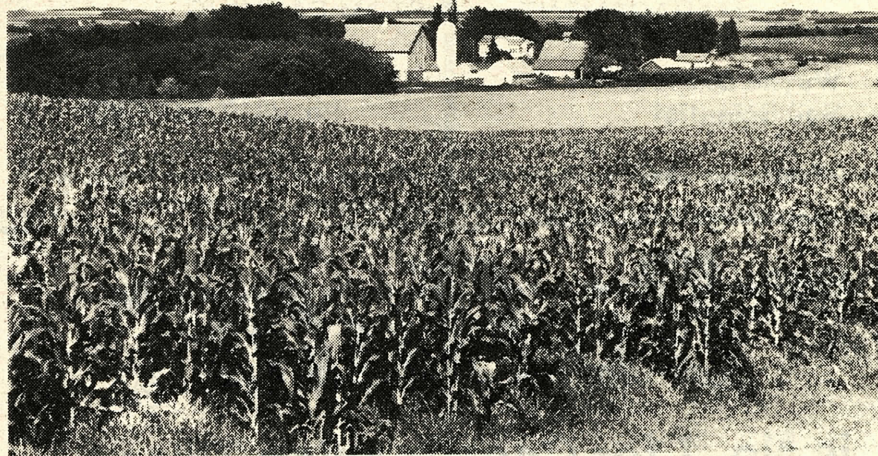
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Andrews: Most Farmers Want To Save Soil

Ed Andrews remembers 10 or 15 years ago when farmers were being warned that they should take better care of their land or have the government force them to do it.

Well, today he says he isn't surprised that the government did step in and force conservation compliance for those participating in farm programs.

Andrews, who has been a soil conservationist with the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service since March, says that "generally everybody is interested in saving the environment, but they don't all agree about how to do it."

He says many environmental groups have put more and more pressure on

Congress to do something about erosion and those groups continue to grow in power.

Andrews is originally from Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota. He worked for the extension service for 5 years, from 1962 to 1967, and then moved to eastern South Dakota where he managed a ranch for 3 years.

After that, he farmed in Iowa until he and a partner developed a plastic tube used for storing hay.

He describes the invention, which was widely reported about in the early 80's, as a good idea that came about at the wrong time, just when the farm economy was going into a depression.

The Bale Store where Andrews worked in Olin originally had a lot of orders, but those tapered off as the farm economy sank.

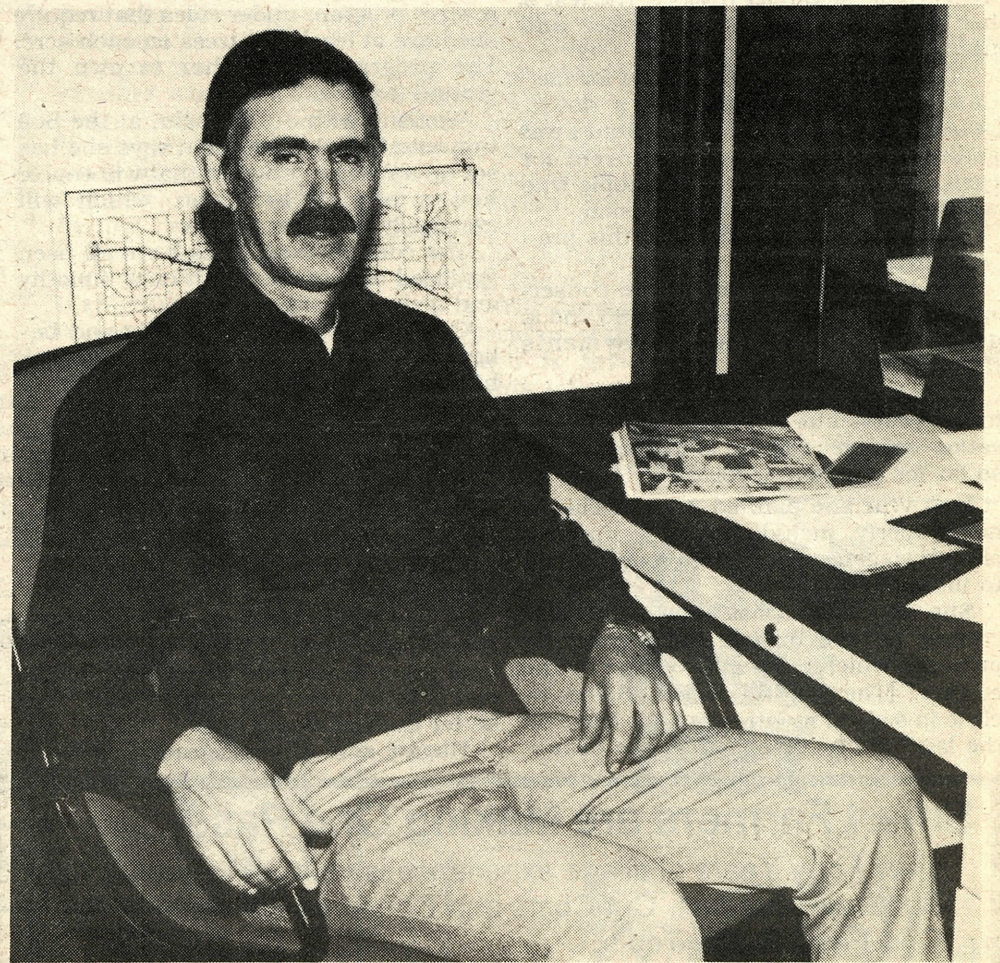
Andrews still farms in the Olin area and says he has used conservation practices, such as no-till, contouring and strip cropping, for the past 10 years.

Now that he is working for the SCS, he is very involved in making sure Cedar county farms will meet the Conservation Compliance Plan deadline of Jan. 1, 1990 for highly erodible land.

"I enjoy working with farmers and hopefully helping them," Andrews said.

He says that 90% of all farmers have been using some type of conservation methods on their farms and those that haven't "probably will forego all government programs."

Andrews says most people don't want to see their soil going into ditches and then into rivers, but instead want to see the land preserved for themselves, their children and their grandchildren.



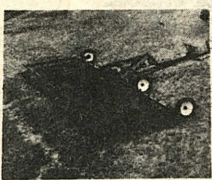
Ed Andrews has been with the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service since March 1987. He has been busy working on conservation compliance plans for Cedar county farmers.



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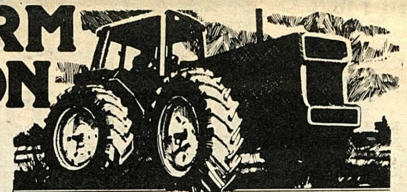
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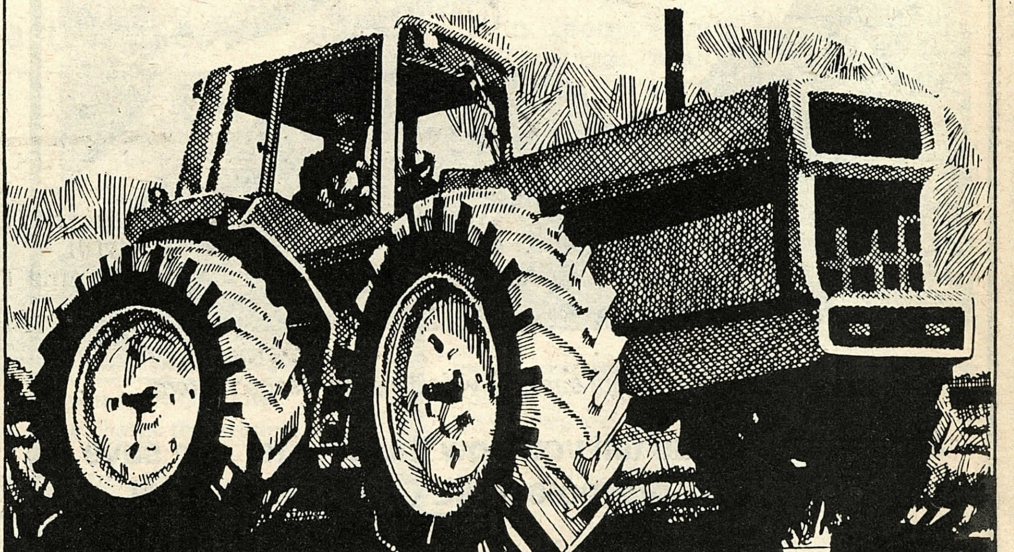
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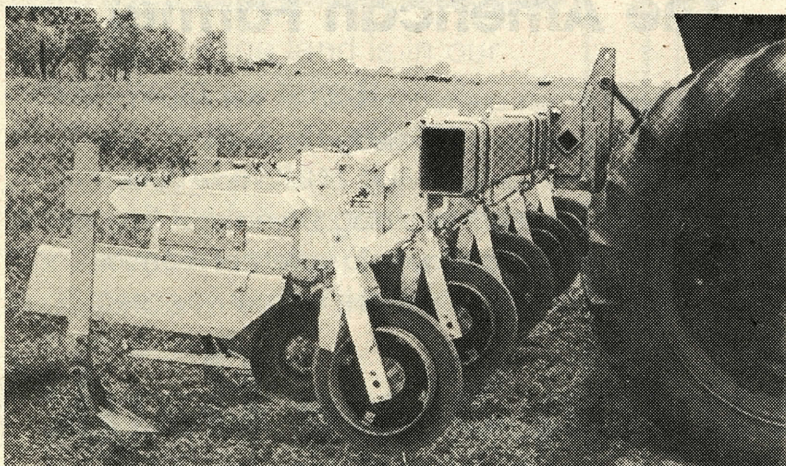
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Annual Report - Conservation Practices

NEW COOPERATORS

Robert, John and Dan Broulik, Dean Kraft, Metropolitan Life %Farmers National, Jeanette Kennedy, Lawrence Wright, Myrl Edler, Estate of Esther Nebergall by Betty Anderson, Jim Brus, Duffe Brothers, George Snyder, Delmar Giebelstein, Hensen Family Farm Partnership by Jolene Whyte, Rudolph Hornacek, Elmer C. Deatsch, Hawkeye Bank & Trust of Des Moines, Janet S. Allbee.

1987 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Jim Bowie, Chairman.....Center Township
Randall Shaul, Vice-Chairman.....Red Oak Township
Robert Niermeyer.....Fairfield Township
Millicent Zenishek.....Fremont Township
Steve Driscoll.....Cass Township

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Darrell Brown.....Center Township
Joel Brown.....Pioneer Township
Richard Kreinbring.....Springfield Township
Richard Zenishek.....Fremont Township

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Kurtis F. Hoeft.....District Conservationist
Edwin C. Andrews.....Soil Conservationist
Paul P. Viner.....Soil Conservationist
(from 01/87 -09/87)
Judy A. Hagan.....Soil Conservation Technician
Wayne D. Frederick.....Farm Planner
Melanie B. Schott.....District Clerk

OTHER AGENCIES

Kenneth Muller.....County Extension Director
Steve Swinonos.....District Forester

Bob Middendorf.....Fishery Biologist
Tim Thompson.....Wildlife Management Biologist
Jim Troendle.....Cedar Co. Cons. Brd. Exec. Dir.
Betty Morris.....ASCS Acting Co. Exec. Director
Randall Campbell.....FmHA Supervisor

EXPENDITURES OF FUNDS PROVIDED

Fiscal Year 1987	
1-M Budget Allocation	\$1,570.00
Commissioner Expenses	\$849.06
Office Supplies	\$25.62
Office Expenses	\$600.37
1-M Budget Reduction	\$94.95
Returned to DSC	-0-
3-M Budget Allocation	\$44,212.00
Amount Spent	\$10,200.47
Amount Obligated	\$7,475.00
Returned to DSC (12/31/87)	\$26,536.53

SOIL CONSERVATION

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tile Outlet Terraces.....	6,273 FT.
Water & Sediment Control Basins.....	11 NO.
Conservation Tillage and No-Till.....	3,538 AC.
Windbreaks.....	7 NO.
Ponds.....	1 NO.
Multiflora Rose Control Assistance.....	575 AC.
Contouring.....	349 AC.
Pasture & Hayland Planting.....	4,665 AC.
Cropland & Other Land Benefited.....	9,964 AC.

Individuals & Groups Assisted.....	480 NO.
Individuals & Groups Applying Conservation Practices.....	176 NO.
Conservation Planning.....	9,079 AC.
Conservation Alternatives Given.....	2,808 AC.

**Grassed Waterways,
Headlands For 1990**

**by Judy A. Hagan
Soil Conservation
Technician**

In thinking about what you will need to do for cross compliance in 1990 you will have to consider where you will be needing to have grassed waterways, field borders and headlands. Conservation planning for 1990 requires 30 foot field borders be left on all highly erodible fields. These will take the place of

what is normally put in end rows on highly erodible land. Grassed waterways will be needed on areas of highly erodible ground where water runs to a depressional area and runs off. Headlands will be established to use as turn strips where rows are now running up and down a hill.

If you have any questions on planning for 1990 and wish to have your name added to the list for planning, please contact our office.

**LEARN
CPR,
PLEASE.**

PIONEER TOWNSHIP Gorman Robinson - water & sediment control basins	FREMONT TOWNSHIP William Williams - no-till Richard Showalter - no-till & contouring William M. Hoy - no-till Piney Knoll - windbreak D. George Driscoll - windbreak Edwin Davidson - no-till	DAYTON TOWNSHIP York & Jaynes Trust - no-till & windbreak Merlin Hulse - waste storage structure Arnold Freeman - no-till Ed Decker - no-till Robinson Brothers - no-till Doug Cashman - no-till Robert Levsen - no-till Orville Hormann - no-till	MASSILLON TOWNSHIP Vince Moore - grade stabilization structure Janet Allbee - grassed waterway
LINN TOWNSHIP Forrest Moffit - no-till Milford Pruess - no-till R, J & D Broulik - terraces & water & sediment control basins Norman Kotz - no-till George Snyder - no-till	RED OAK TOWNSHIP Wallace Ford - no-till Cornell College - no-till Jensen/Hargrave Farm - water & sediment control basin	FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP Walter Conrad - no-till Robert Schroeder - no-till Arnold Miller - no-till Delmar Giebelstein - no-till	SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP Perry Schroeder - no-till Donald Walter - no-till Warren Rixe - windbreak Jerry Proesch - pond Donovan Fox - no-till
CASS TOWNSHIP Carl Agne - no-till Raymond Rouse - no-till Merle Gronewold - water & sediment control basin	CENTER TOWNSHIP Wayne Ahrens - no-till Cedar Co. Home Farm - terraces & no-till Don Armstrong Jr. - no-till Jim Pelzer - windbreak Robert Schott - windbreak		INLAND TOWNSHIP Midwest Land & Cattle - no-till Robert K. Wilkins Sr. - no-till Hensen Family Farm Partnership - no-till Jim Brus - no-till
GOWER TOWNSHIP USDA FmHA - no-till John Cahill - contouring	ROCHESTER TOWNSHIP Albert Strefling - no-till Dennis Treimer - no-till Gaylord Mickle - no-till Herbert Townsend - no-till Duffe Brothers - no-till June Reeve - waste management structure	SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP Orren Kiser - no-till Trinity Church - no-till Herman Baker - grassed waterway George G. Ltd. - terraces	FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP Raie Reeve Trust - water & sediment control basins
SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP Glenn Pedersen - waterway	IOWA TOWNSHIP Belle Hinkhouse - contouring & no-till C. J. Lynch Estate - no-till		

Expect Many Benefits From Food Security Act

by Kurtis Hoeft
District Conservationist

Cedar county can expect a number of benefits as the major conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985--the 1985 farm bill--are put into effect.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

The Conservation Reserve Program, under which producers may retire up to 75,000 acres of highly erodible and highly eroding cropland, promises a large number of benefits:

--Soil erosion reduction on site and less sedimentation off site. Reducing soil erosion on site saves money for the producer by ensuring sustained productivity. Off site benefits include reducing the costs of cleaning up rivers and streams and road ditches clogged by sediment, herbicides and fertilizers from agricultural land. This improves water quality.

--Crop surplus reduction, and thus reduction in the cost of commodity programs.

--A guaranteed income for 10 years on acres entered into the program.

--Increased wildlife habitat as a result of trees and grass planted under the program.

--An opportunity for added income for landowners and operators through the leasing of land for hunting, fishing or

other recreational purposes.

SODBUSTER PROVISION

The sodbuster provision benefits communities by encouraging farmers to either keep fragile lands in grass or immediately start applying necessary conservation measures to control erosion. It benefits everyone by maintaining long-term productivity and cutting down on the costs of dealing with the effects of erosion on site and off site. Sodbuster applies on fields that were not used for crop production from 1981-1985.

SWAMPBUSTER PROVISION

Wetlands preserved, rather than converted to crop production, will benefit everyone by:

--Serving as important habitat for waterfowl, fish and other wildlife. Wetlands provide critical food, nesting and breeding areas.

--Recharging groundwater. Water which flows into wetland areas can percolate through the wetland to replenish groundwater supplies.

--Improving water quality. Wetland vegetation traps and takes up nutrients, sediment, toxic chemicals and other pollutants from agricultural, urban and other runoff.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

The conservation compliance provi-

sion benefits producers and their communities by helping ensure the sustained productivity of highly erodible croplands now being cropped. To continue to be eligible for USDA benefits, farmers producing on such land must have developed and begun actively applying a conservation plan on that land by Jan.

1, 1990 and have a conservation system completely in use by Jan. 1, 1995. This will help protect the land for future generations.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For more information about conservation compliance, contact the Soil Conservation Service.



Pictured above is the Cedar Soil & Water Conservation District Environmental Education Committee at their annual outing. They toured the Rochester Cemetery and viewed wildflowers with the assistance of Don Stout, Cedar county historian. Members of the Education committee include Marilyn Parchert, Durant school; Margaret Sadeghpour, Lincoln school; Cindy Buck, Clarence-Lowden school; Kathy Rouse, Bennett school; Craig Esbeck, Tipton school; Ruth Detweiler, Hoover Elementary-West Branch; Jim Troendle, executive director Cedar County Conservation board; Ken Muller, Cedar county extension director; Kurt Hoeft, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service; Darrell Brown, Cedar SWCD assistant commissioner and Melanie Schott, Cedar SWCD clerk.

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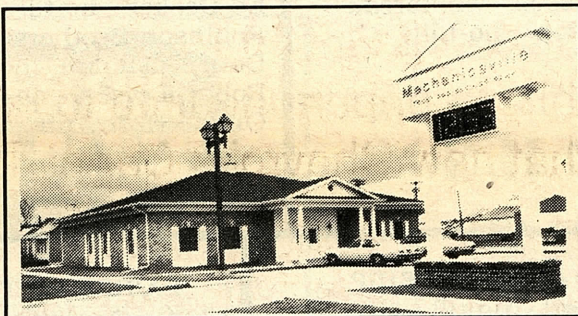
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Cedar Soil Conservation District

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1987 Conservation Reserve Participants In Cedar County

Fred Beranek Estate
Roland Fox
M. J. House
James Madsen
Mary Meyer
Puffers, Inc.
Waters Brothers
Larry Woods
Edward Berry
Ron Braet
Fred & Joan Crew
Willard Eiler
Alice Hart Ferguson
Gower Farms
Lloyd Hein
Almar Farms
Edward Kleppe
Vernon Lamp
LuJen Farms Inc.
Jamie McAndrews
Margaret Mitzner
Vince Moore
Jerry O'Rourke
R&S Irrevocable Trust
Rale Reeve Trust
Larry Rummells
Clarence Crew
Dale Slach
Robert Stuhr
Harold Timm
Everett Von Muenster
Robert Whitlatch
Mary Drake
Dale Johnston
Scattergood School
Jane Cain
Robert Gregory
Ray Isabel Estate
Elmer Maxson
Henry C. Meyer
John Sharpless Est.
Herbert Whitmer
Ralph Zousel
Cecil Bowie
Roger Conner
Darrell Dallege
A. Emrich Estate
Charles Frymoyer
Hazel Hammon
Dennis & Wayne Hodgden
Alan Hoffman
Dan Kohl
Edwin Lett
Hubert F. Lynch
Kenneth & James Madsen
Kenneth Moore
Levi Mullnix
Bonnie Pauls
Rathjen Farm
Kenneth Regennitter

Robert Schott
Shadyrest Acres Ltd.
Donald Stout
Albert Swart
Dennis Treimer
Marc Weaver
Robert Wood
Eugene Edinger
Merle Masonholder
Melvin Thumma
David Ferguson
Hillhurst Farms
Robert Lehman
Roxann McNutt
Jerry Proesch
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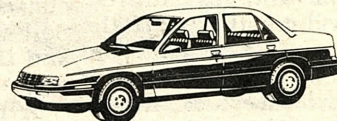
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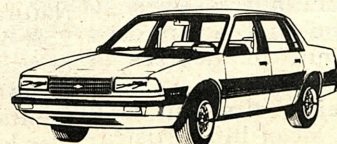
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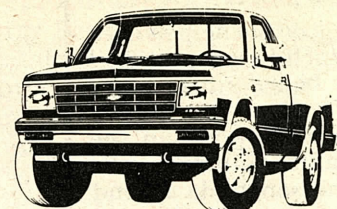
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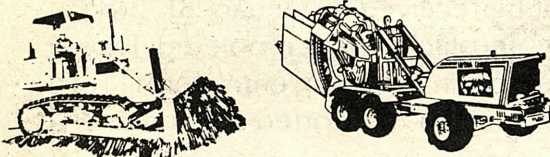
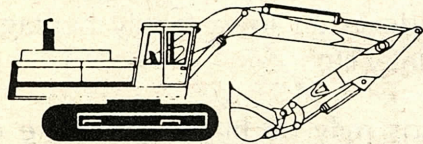
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Farmers Can Help Provide Food, Habitat For Wildlife In Winter

by Timothy A. Thompson
Wildlife Biologist

It's wintertime in Iowa. The wind is whipping snow around into large drifts. The temperature is well below zero. And you can bet that hen pheasant isn't thinking about nesting cover or where she'll raise her brood. During an Iowa winter, all she wants is food and cover.

The farmer has an opportunity to provide both habitat and food for wildlife. And the farmer can also receive added benefit. Let's look at a concept as simple as a shelterbelt. After all, every Iowa farm should have one. A good shelterbelt will make your life more comfortable. You can save up to 36% on your heating bill, plus your house will be more comfortable and less drafty. You will greatly reduce the time and expense you spend on snow removal. If you have livestock, it just makes good sense to have a good shelterbelt. Without wind protection, livestock may actually lose weight as wind-chill factors drop to minus 50 degrees or more.

Shelterbelts can also end a lot of little frustrations. Snow won't blow into your buildings. Your livestock will stay drier and warmer. Snow won't drift over your fences allowing cattle to roam. And with less snow, your lots will be less muddy in the spring. In summer, shelterbelts add beauty to your farmstead and increase property values.

If a good shelterbelt does that much for you, think of all the benefits it provides wildlife. During a severe Iowa winter, you can see pheasants, squirrels, rabbits and songbirds around large, solid windbreaks. You don't see them in the open country because they just cannot survive there without good winter cover.

Many farmsteads have a couple rows of evergreens and a row of shrubs. That just isn't adequate in Iowa.

For guaranteed protection, your shelterbelt should contain a minimum of 8 rows of trees and shrubs, with one or more rows being evergreens. That sounds like a lot of trees, but it takes a lot to stop an Iowa blizzard.

How much is it going to cost to establish a shelterbelt or to improve your existing one? Of course it takes some land. But the benefits of a good shelterbelt should provide you a better profit than an equivalent area of corn or beans would. Trees and planting for a typical shelterbelt cost from \$200 to \$2,000. Private nurseries can supply a large variety of trees and shrubs. Trees and shrubs that directly benefit wildlife can also be purchased through the Cedar Soil Conservation District and the State Forest Nursery.

A number of agencies and private groups are willing to help you get started. The Department of Natural Resources will pay 25% of the cost if you plant at least 8 rows and meet certain other requirements. The ASCS office also has cost-share assistance, but in no case will the total cost-share be allowed to go over 90%. The local Cedar-Wapsi Pheasants Forever chapter has a tree planter available and may provide some labor on larger projects. Both the Soil Conservation Service and the DNR will provide technical assistance in designing a shelterbelt.

With all the waste grain in Iowa, what good are food plots? Anyone who has left a few acres of corn standing over winter can tell you -- they really attract the wildlife. Food plots provide quick wildlife cover until more permanent cover such as a shelterbelt can mature. A food plot of standing corn may be the one thing that allows local wildlife to survive the worst storm of the winter.

Food plots of corn and sorghum can also make life easier for wildlife. Pheasants can survive a couple weeks without food. But a well-fed pheasant will be healthier and better able to survive diseases and predators. Smaller wildlife like quail and songbirds need food more often. A severe ice storm can make all waste grain

unavailable, but they will be able to pick at grain in standing food plots.

Food plots can be planted with little cost to the farmer. In the past, the ASCS office has allowed food plots up to 10 acres to be planted on set-aside. Your Pheasants Forever chapter will provide free corn and sorghum for planting food plots. Food plots can also be placed on CRP land for both new and old contracts. No harvest is allowed on these food plots. They may be left for 2 years as your set-aside acres or on CRP ground.

The state DNR will pay for food plots left standing on your agricultural ground. These food plots can be harvested after March 15. Any farmer in Cedar county may be eligible to sign up for this program between Jan. 1 and April 15. Priority will

be given to applicants in phrey, president of Cedar-areas with the most potential to help local pheasant populations. Wapsi Pheasants Forever, (886-6991). Remember, your farm may provide everything that pheasants and other wildlife need, except one. That one thing is a place to survive the worst blizzard of the winter. If you can't get them through that blizzard, nothing else matters.

For information on these programs contact Kurt Hoeft, SCS district conservationist, (886-6214), Tim Thompson, DNR wildlife biologist (354-8343), or Roy Hum-

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County Still Has 63,000 Acres To Allot

Cedar county will have about 63,000 acres left to fill in its allotment of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) when bidding opens Feb. 1.

In August enough bids were received in Cedar county to put the county at 9,000 acres in the CRP program. County ASCS officials report that the verification procedure eliminated 250 acres which weren't the right type of highly erosive soil or ownership in the eligibility period could not be established.

Bids to put highly erosive land in the 10-year CRP program will be accepted between Feb. 1 and Feb. 19.

Kurt Hoeft, SCS district conservationist, said Cedar county soils "are just too productive" and sign up for remaining acres will be light. "We will get a small increase" over 9,000 acres, he said, but well below the 72,000 acre allotment without additional government bonus plans.

During the first 5 sign up periods, 1,444,000 acres have entered the long term land retirement program in Iowa.

Producers interested in the CRP should contact the local county ASCS office to have a determination made on their land for both cropping and erosion

eligibility. The CRP contract extends 10 years, with the annual rental payments disbursed after Oct. 1 of each year.

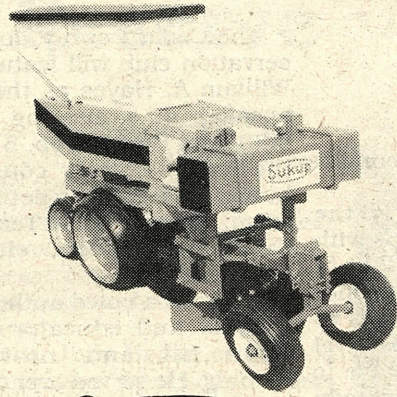
Maximum acceptable rental rates are determined by pools. These pools have boundaries which were established after considering such factors as land types, crop rental values, rainfall, land values, production capabilities, and climatic conditions.

ASCS also advised that farmers must become aware of the conservation provisions of the farm bill if they wish to continue participation in government programs.

The CRP is one of the options that should be considered by the farmer for compliance with the Sodbuster, Swampbuster and Conservation Compliance provisions of the farm bill, they added.

The CRP is designed to reduce erosion, curb surplus crop production, improve water quality, increase timber production, reduce sedimentation in streams, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, ASCS contends. Highly erodible land is taken out of crop production for a 10 year period. The producer bids for an annual rental payment payable each year of the CRP contract.

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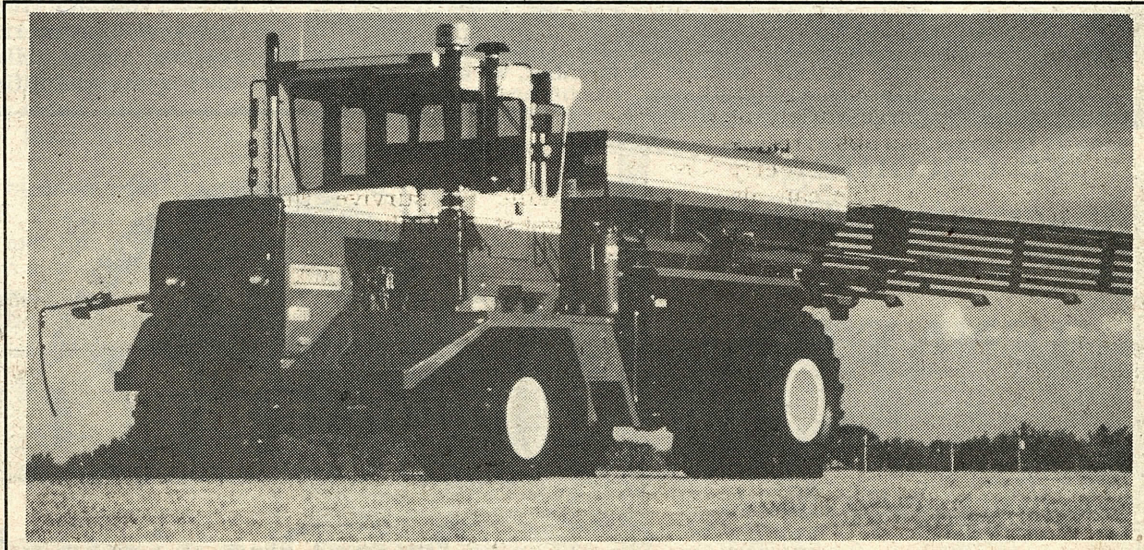
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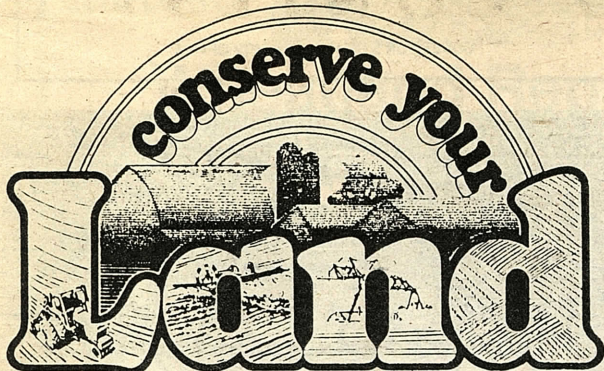
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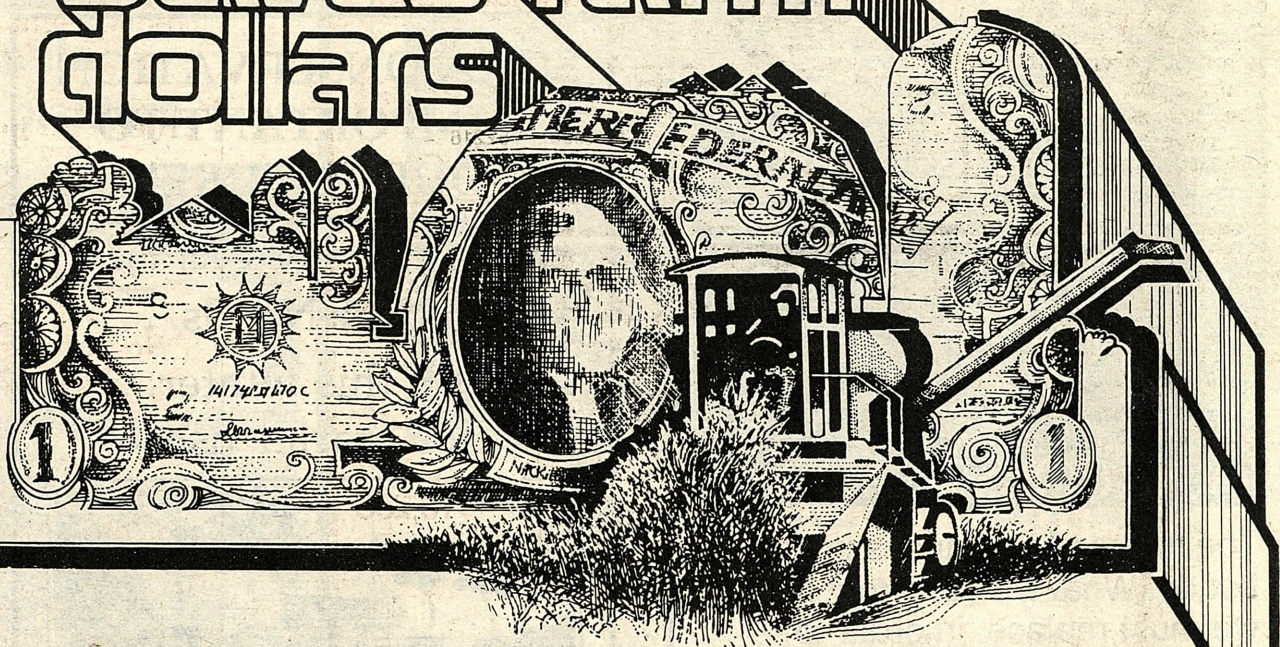
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HEL Must Have Plan Prepared By 1990

by Edwin C. Andrews
Soil Conservationist

The year 1990 may seem like a long time away, but it will be here sooner than we think. That's the time when all highly erodible land (HEL) that is being cropped has to have a Conservation Plan developed for it. Any field that has more than 1/3 HEL (5% slope or steeper) is required by the 1985 Food Security Act to have a Conservation Plan to be eligible for any USDA programs. The Plan must be developed by Jan. 1, 1990 and will be fully implemented by Jan. 1, 1995.

The Conservation Plan is a record of decisions made by the operator as to how he is going to farm the land in future years. There are a number of alternatives available to choose from in writing a plan. These include crop rotations with hay, no-till or minimum till, and contouring. Other options might include

strip cropping or terraces, or combinations of several alternatives.

We would stress that this is the producer's plan, which he develops with SCS assistance. The alternatives that fit into his operation the best are the ones that are put into the plan. The goal is to reduce soil erosion to an acceptable level and still allow the operator to be able to farm HEL fields. Most people are already using conservation farming methods and will most likely need to make only a few changes. Those who are raising soybeans up and down the hills and moldboard plowing may have a little farther to go to be in compliance.

We urge anyone who thinks they may have HEL fields to stop at the SCS office and request their name be added to the list for plans. If you get on the list early we will probably have more time to work with you than if you wait until the last minute. Remember, we are here to help.

Conservation Club

The Cedar County Conservation club will feature William A. Hayes as their speaker at a meeting at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 5 in the Cedar county courthouse basement meeting room, according to Terry Kroemer, Lowden, club president.

Hayes is a noted author, speaker and educator in ridge till and no-till farming. He served over 31 years with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, as district conservationist at 2 locations in Ohio, SCS state agronomist for Michigan and Pennsylvania and as the regional agronomist for the 13 north-eastern states. For the last 13 years of his SCS career, he served as regional agronomist for the 12 mid-western states. His primary responsibilities for

the last 18 years of his SCS career included responsibilities in promoting and educating farmers in conservation tillage, the wind erosion equation and the universal soil loss equation.

Along with his book, "Minimum Tillage Farming," he has also authored many papers and conducted numerous training sessions on these subjects. He is a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

Anyone interested in learning about Ridge Till and No-Till farming and the application of the 1985 Farm Bill is invited to attend this informational seminar.

The meeting is open to all interested and refresh-

ments will be served. It is co-sponsored by the Cedar County Extension service, Soil Conservation service and Davis Equipment.

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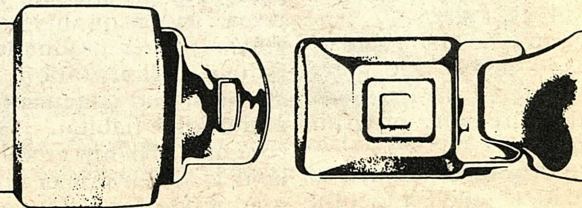
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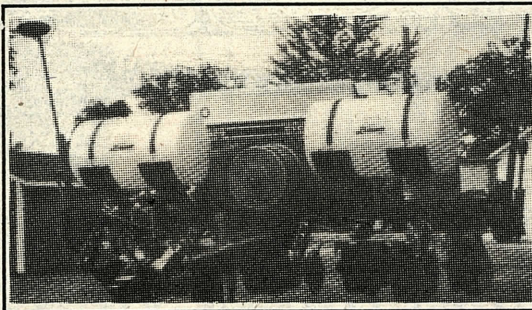


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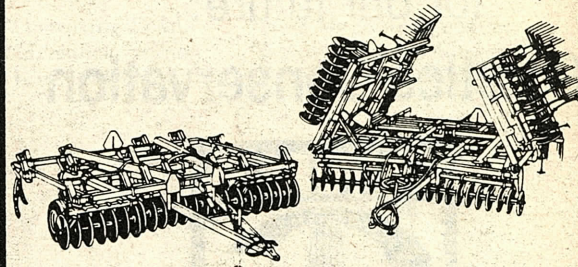
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Lincoln Students Study Soil Conservation

Sixth grade students in the Lincoln school district had a chance to see some conservation equipment first hand at the Richard and Millie Zenishek farm north of Mechanicsville earlier this month.

The students have been studying soil conservation and made the trip to the Zenishek farm on a mild winter day.

At the farm they watched a slide show which demonstrated how the farmland was prepared for planting, using soil conserving techniques, and how the harvest was

completed. Slides were also shown of the Big Spring area in northeast Iowa.

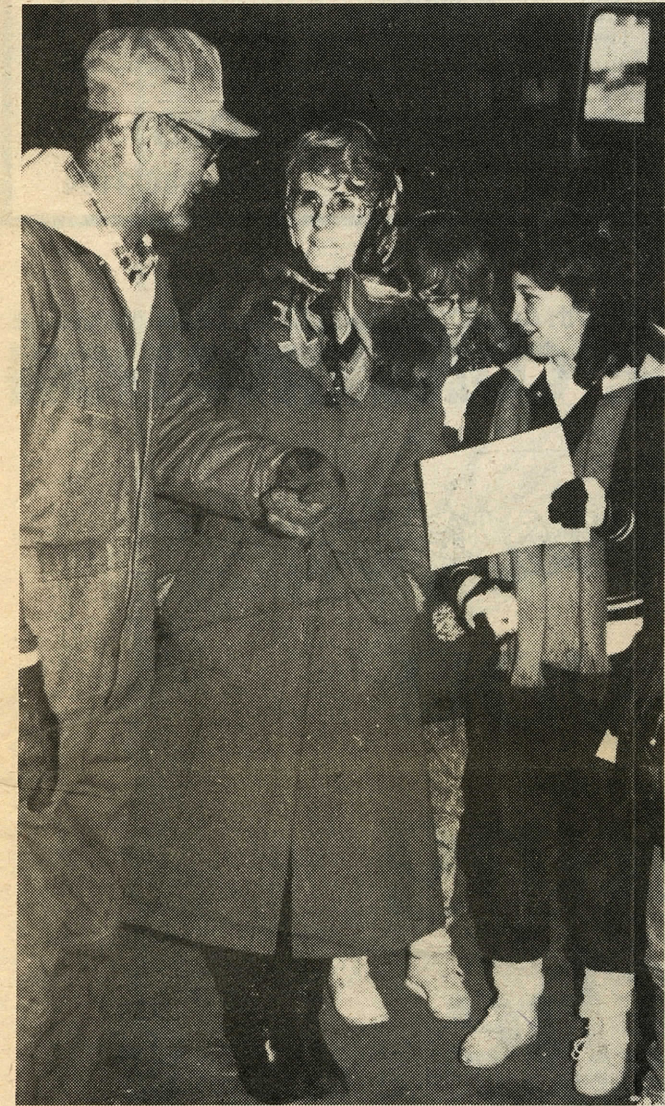
Students of Margaret Sadeghpour were also shown some of the farm equipment and asked questions about the farm operation.

Millie Zenishek is a Cedar county soil conservation commissioner and Richard Zenishek is an assistant commissioner.

The Zenisheks are strong supporters of soil conservation and Richard Zenishek said he would be unable to farm all of his land himself if he did not use reduced tillage methods.



Some field trips to the farm have been taken during some severe weather, but the temperatures were mild Jan. 15 when the Lincoln students visited the farm.



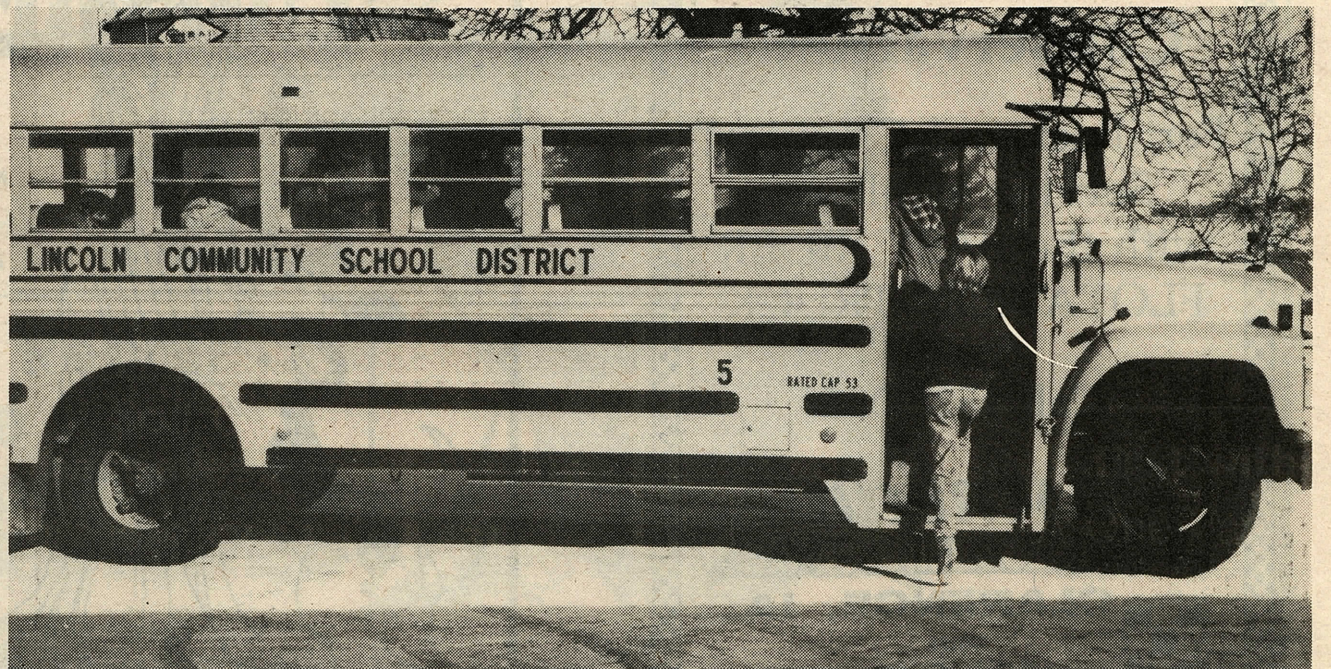
Richard Zenishek and Margaret Sadeghpour talk about soil conservation and how it is used on the rural Mechanicsville farm.



Richard Zenishek told the students about the different pieces of equipment used in planting and harvesting his corn and soybean acres.



Lincoln students received popcorn balls from Millie Zenishek at the end of their field trip to the farm Jan. 15.



It was back to school for the Lincoln students at the end of the field trip. The visits to the farm provide the children with a firsthand look at the farm operation.

When Going No-Till, Keep It Simple

by Wayne D. Frederick

No-Till Farmer & Farm Planner

As we move toward soil loss compliance as required by the 1985 Farm Bill we keep hearing "No-Till" as an alternative. What is this "No-Till" and why is it so great? We can reduce soil loss often to 1/3 or 1/4 that of a chisel or disk system. It is also possible to no-till without spending a lot for new machinery. Most of the newer planters will plant no-till without much modification.

One prime criteria when going no-till is to keep it simple. Don't get all shook about the fine details. The corn will grow and probably yield in spite of what you do to it, not because of what you do.

Try to start on bean stubble going to corn. This is probably the simplest and most fool-proof. Take time to read the planter manual and visit the neighbor that has no-tilled. Adjust the planter carefully, plant a bit and check to see that you are still okay. Take it a little slow and easy for best results. It doesn't hurt to think once in a while either. Remember, you are combining a lot of things in one trip. Parting the trash,

putting some starter fertilizer under soil cover, making a slot to drop the corn in, cover it, sprinkle the insecticide and that's it. Very simple, but very critical.

Watch for cutworms and stalkborers if you have patches of old foxtail residue or have spread some strawy manure. Spot spraying of the affected areas generally corrects the problem.

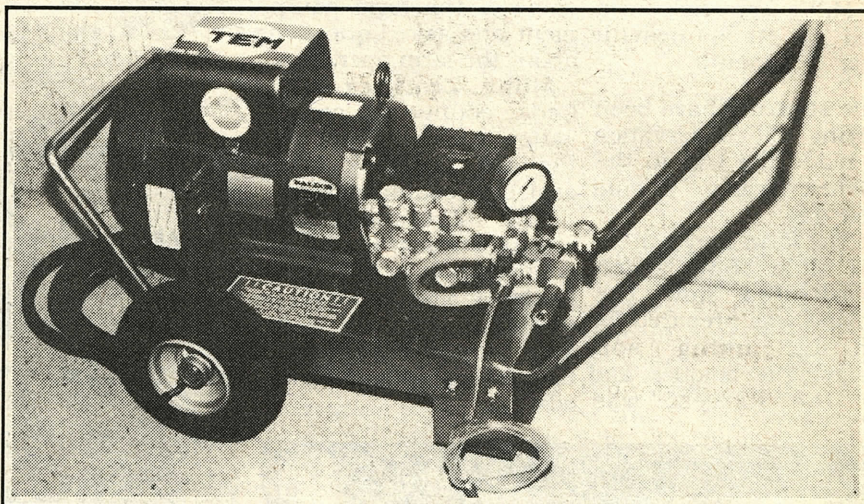
If you need to cultivate to break a crust, build a little ridge on the contour to catch water or for weed control you may be able to use the old cultivator. Do a little "wrench modification" to remove some of the extra shanks to help trash flow. (It is okay to call it trash instead of plant residue if you like). It may not do a good job, so you may want to look into a new high residue or no-till cultivator. If you have the money there are some 81 no-till planters on the market, at least 40 drills and probably as many versions of no-till cultivators.

So chin up, eyes ahead and give no-till a real try. For many of us it will be the coming thing. For others it won't. For some it is already a way of life.

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