

The Scribbler's

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drawing tablet

August 18, 1983 - Febr. 9, 1995



Begin Earthwork on Holding Basin, And Draining of West Lake Reservoir

Earthwork has started on a holding basin to hold some of the water from the West Lake reservoir as part of the dam raising project.

Dr. Fred Wood, chairman of the Osceola Water Board, reported that with the construction of a temporary dam on property located immediately

north of the West Lake dam, water impounded in the reservoir will be siphoned into the holding basin for use by city residents while the present dam is being raised 12 feet in height.

The project is designed to increase the capacity of West Lake reservoir and requires the storage of existing water while the work is being done to rebuild the spillway and raise the dam.

The holding basin will be composed of several quarry pits that already contain water plus the addition of a temporary dam to create a holding basis for water that will permit a 200-day supply of water to be stored.

Dr. Wood explained that the water in the holding basin will be pumped back to the treatment plant and thence back to the water towers for city use. Residents should have no interruption of service and it is anticipated that pumping from the lowered West Lake can be continued after a berm is constructed below the water line.

Need for additional capacity in the West Lake reservoir became evident in 1977 when

southern Iowa went for a long period of time without rain and the reservoir dropped to levels that caused concern for residents. The reservoir was designed to hold enough water for an 18-month period if filled to capacity. In 1977, the combination of dry weather and larger consumption caused members of the Water Board to purchase irrigation pipe and to pump additional water from quarry pits for a short period of time.

Plans were started at that time to enlarge the reservoir so that water users would not be faced with a shortage in the future. The water treatment plant had been designed to handle increased loads when it was completed in 1956.

By raising the dam 12 feet in height, capacity of the reservoir will be increased between three and four times. It is estimated that the initial construction work will take between two and three weeks and water in the holding basin can then be pumped back into West Lake.

Construction of the new spillway is planned for this fall and completion of the project is scheduled for next spring.



DRAIN LAKE: One of two pipes is shown siphoning water from West Lake Reservoir down to the holding basin below. If all goes as planned, West Lake should be dry by next week and work

can begin on enlarging the dam. The project is of more concern this year, with little rain and hot temperatures reminding citizens of the value of water.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
August 18, 1983



WEST DAM PROJECT: In a photo taken August 11, results of some earthwork are evident prior to raising the dam 12 feet in height. A temporary dam, depicted by two lines, is shown in the upper right hand corner of the photo. The area outlined by dots is the holding basin that will result for water siphoned from the

West Lake. A 200-day supply will be held in the basin while the area just to the south of the dam is being worked on and then be pumped back into West Lake. Present plans call for the entire project to be completed by the summer of 1984.



SHORELINE: The receding waters in West Lake give the appearance of a beach—almost. Siphoning of the water in the West Lake reservoir proceeded last week in preparation for making the dam higher. As the water level

dropped, the shore line at the west end of the lake became visible. Duck blinds in the background were clearly visible with the drop of the lake.

*Oswala Sentinel - Tribune
September 8, 1983*

Panoramic View Sh

Editorially Speaking—

Policy Needed To Control Soil Erosion

As world population increases, the demand for an adequate food supply for the increasing number of people becomes more evident. This problem is overlooked in many instances because the United States has produced more feed grains than they can consume and sell.

And along with this tremendous amount of production on the part of the American farmer, problems have mounted along with the surplus that has been stored and in some instances, given away.

A problem that is not given the proper amount of attention in many instances is that of what this tremendous amount of production has done to deplete the soils in the United States. And the fact that if we continue to abuse our soils through lack of attention to soil and water management, we will not be able to support our own population with food, much less the peoples of the other countries.

An article in the **Des Moines Register** on Tuesday, August 30, by Walter Goeppinger of Boone, founding chairman and first president of the National Corn Growers Association, addresses the problem that faces not only farmers, but all Americans.

Goeppinger states in part that while many people feel that expansion of our export markets will solve the farmer's problems, the real solution is to come from maintaining our ability to produce crops—and this means that measures must be taken immediately to conserve our soil.

Goeppinger's solution is in part, "What is needed is an implementation, as soon as possible, of a national law that... cent set-aside of all corn, soybean, wheat, cotton, barley, rye, oats, rice, grain sorghum and all other field-crop acreage—in other words, all cropland soil that is worked with machinery from year to year, other than orchards.

These set-aside acres should be required to be seeded down for a period of three years to legumes, such as alfalfa and/or clover, along with grasses, such as brome or orchard grass, using oats as a nurse crop which would be clipped the first year. No pasturing or hay-making would be allowed. At the end of three years, the land should then be released for cropping and a different 20 percent of the farm similarly seeded down for a three-year period—all this to continue as a mandatory permanent program. Thus, in 15 years, all of the cropland in the United States would have had effective rest and rebuilding. At the end of 15 years, the first 20 percent that had been seeded down would again be rested.

Thus far, the soil-conservation legislation and funding of this nation have failed to control soil erosion because it has always been a voluntary matter for the farmers. The economic incentives have not been provided to participate in continuous application of conservation principles. The "fence-to-fence, free-market-oriented policy" has turned into economic disaster for the farmer and soil-loss tragedy for the nation. A 20-percent cut in our crop acreage would still produce more than enough for the domestic needs of the United States and leave ample quantities of grain for export. Foreign cash customers should be given first place at our export-buying window and credit customers could come after them in buying any that is left.

This new long-range program that should be put into law in 1984 and become effective on 1985 crops must meet the important requirements of protecting both farmers' income and... some previously fertile regions in the southern and eastern U.S. have lost all their top soil, and now the land will only grow trees. Conserving our soil for farmers to farm will keep them on the land if income is adequate."

est Lake

Panoramic View Shows Work Underway at West Lake



BEGIN ENLARGING DAM: Earthwork begins on enlarging the West Lake Reservoir as heavy equipment moved into the area this week. A small holding basin dam can be seen being built, as all of

the water from West Lake was not drained. The Osceola Water Board asks that area residents try and conserve water during this period of time while construction of the new dam is underway.

The Iowa State Fisheries, helping with the project, reported that they plan to kill the remainder of fish in West Lake and then to restock when the reservoir project is complete. Many area

residents have visited the dam, watching the progress of the work.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
September 15, 1983*



NATURE VISIT: Sixth graders from Clarke Community, Weldon and Murray Community Schools visited Goeldner's Patch last week to study nature. Hikes along with group informational talks were held with John Klein

of the Clarke Soil Conservation Board, Mike McGhee of the Iowa Fish Conservation Service, Keith Edwards of the Soil Conservation Service and others.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
September 29, 1983*

County Sixth Graders Enjoy Field Trip

On Thursday, September 22, Clarke County school sixth graders had a chance to spend the school day in the great outdoors. It was the annual Sixth Grade Conservation Fieldtrip that was organized by the Clarke County Conservation Board. Students got to listen to the Wildlife Biologist, Fisheries Biologist, Soil Conservationist, and County Conservation Director explain different aspects of their natural environment. In addition, they heard from knowledgeable volunteers, who gave talks on Iowa flora and fauna, the settlement of Iowa and Clarke County, and the very early fur trappers and hunters that preceded settlement. By the end of the day, the students knew some specifics of plant and animal life here, and also mankind's role in the changes of the natural system. This trip was held at "The Patch", a

private nature center just south of Osceola. Exhibitors for the day were: Melvin and Alverda Goeldner, Gary and Vicky Kimes, Mike McGhee, Beth Brown, Keith Edwards, Floyd Hall, Bill Paynter, Dorothy Baringer, John Klein, and Melvin Moe. Approximately 140 students attended the fieldtrip.

On Monday, September 26

Weldon and Murray Third Graders had their fall fieldtrip to the Redfern Timber Reserve. The third graders were given lessons on tree identification, bird banding, sensory awareness, pioneer skills, poison ivy identification, and basics of soil conservation. Exhibitors for this trip were: Betty Webb, Dorothy Baringer, Laura Smith, Shirley Woods, Melvin Goeldner, John Klein, Bill Paynter, and Beth Brown. Plans are now made for the Osceola Third Graders to have their Redfern Timber fieldtrip on Wednesday, September 28. The third grade classes have a follow-up fieldtrip to "The Patch" in the spring.



SLOPES OF SAHARA DESERT: Not quite. The earth work that is being done to construct the dam at West Lake reservoir is a major undertaking and is probably the major earth

moving project undertaken in Clarke County. Nine pieces of equipment are shown at work as the dam is raised to increase the capacity of the reservoir.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
October 6, 1983*

RC&ds to Join State League

Five Resource Conservation and Development Areas in Iowa took formal action September 23 to band together to form a League of Iowa RC&D's. The newly created body will seek associate member status with the Iowa Association of Soil district Commissioners which provides a strong voice for conservation related activities.

RC&D is a rural development program initiated and run by local people and is administered by the USDA/Soil Conservation Service. Each RC&D Area is headed by an Executive Council which includes representatives of County Boards of Supervisors and Soil District Commissioners as well as other community leaders. Local activities include a wide range of community and industrial development projects, erosion control on public lands and other natural resource projects that benefit the public.

Elected to serve as representatives to the new league were Ollie Kaldenbert, Albia, Chariton Valley RC&D; Don Johnson, Fairfield, Pathfinders RC&D; B.M. Baier, Atlantic, Golden Hills RC&D; Adrian Fuller, Osceola, Southern Iowa RC&D; and Bob Burchett, Montrose, RC&D.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
October 13, 1983*

Restocking of West Lake Is Underway

Restocking of fish at West Lake Osceola is well underway. According to fish biologist, Mike McGhee of the Iowa Conservation Commission, channel catfish, bluegill and fathead minnows were stocked in the lake several weeks ago. Total fish stocking numbers and sizes to date are: 20,000 channel catfish two inches long; 100,000 bluegill one inch long; and approximately 10 bushels of fathead minnows one to two inches long. Future stockings of largemouth bass, tiger musky and crappie will take place.

Once established, bluegill, bass and crappie populations will maintain themselves by natural reproduction. Annual stockings of channel catfish and tiger musky will be required to maintain these populations. Minnows were initially stocked to provide additional forage for the bass and these minnows will eventually disappear from the lake as the bass population develops. The Clarke County Fishing Club is also discussing a plan to annually stock walleye in the lake.

The fishery at West Lake Osceola will take about three years to develop and provide catchable size fish for the anglers. McGhee stated that a 14 inch length limit on bass and a 30 inch length limit on tiger musky will be established. The Conservation Commission is also exploring the possibilities of building a concrete boat ramp and gravel parking lot at the lake.

Other area lakes have been stocked with fish this fall. East Lake Osceola and the Q-Pond each received 1000 channel catfish seven to 11 inches long from the cage catfish program and fish stockings from the Rathbun Fish Hatchery. Additionally, 150 white amur (grass carp) were stocked into Q-Pond to continue to provide aquatic vegetation control.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 17, 1983*

Forestry Meet Scheduled for Landowners

Landowners wanting shade, windbreaks, wildlife habitat, erosion control, Christmas trees and saw lumber are invited to a special meeting Tuesday night, November 29. Purpose of the meeting will be to assist the landowners of the county with their upcoming spring forestry plans.

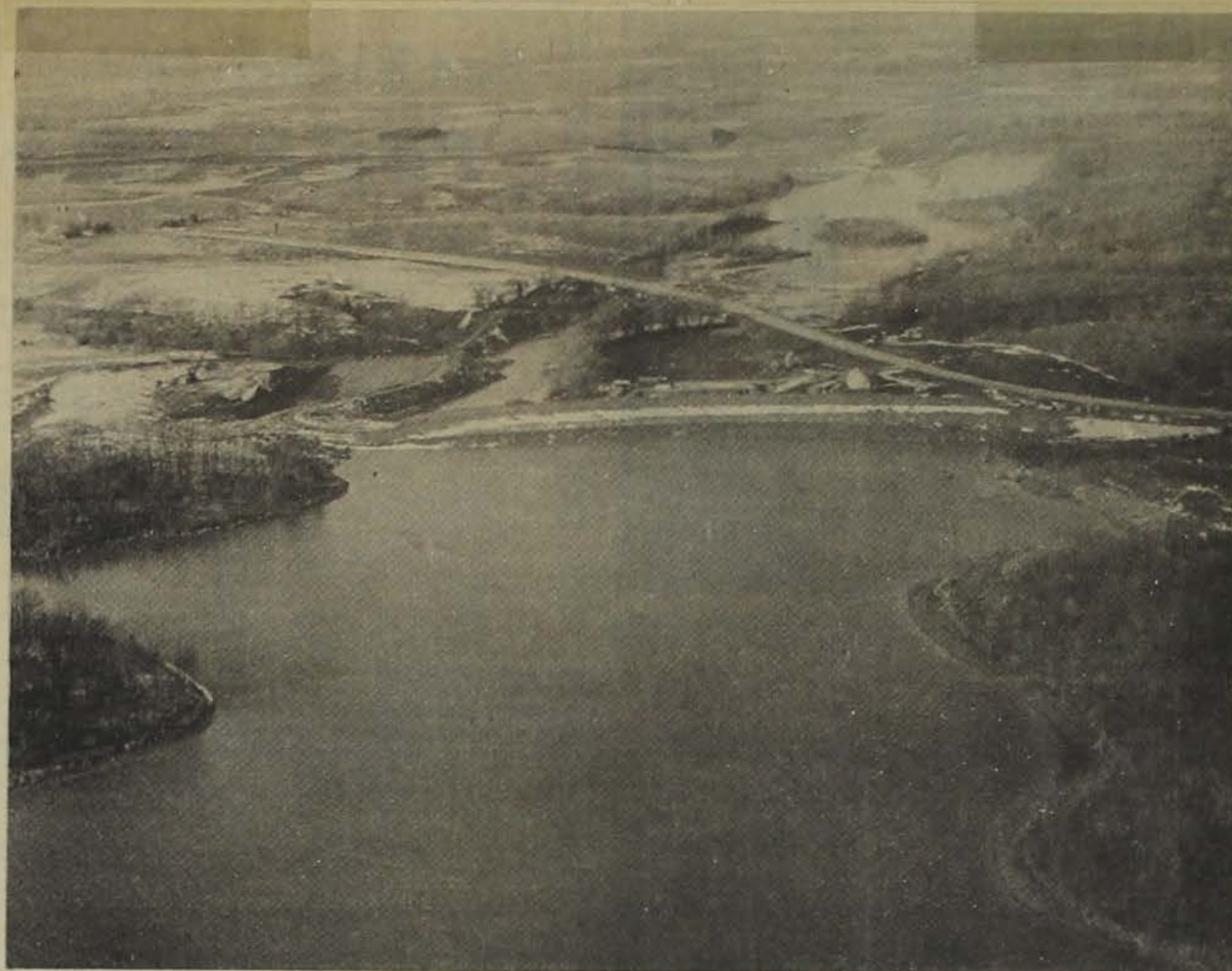
The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the north room of the 4-H Building on the Clarke County fairgrounds. District Forester Randy Goerndt and Clarke County Conservation Director John Klein will conduct the meeting. Topics will include recommended species, population density, weed control, planting methods and harvest objectives. A slide show will be presented and pamphlets handed out.

Current private nursery seedling catalogs will be available for comparative shopping and the newly released Iowa State Nursery Seedling Application will also be available. Due to limited supply of certain stock from the state nursery, these applications should be completed and returned as soon as possible.

There are 24 tree and shrub species listed on the state nursery list this year, and two others, that due to a short supply were not listed but are still available until that supply runs out. The two unlisted tree species are hybrid poplar at \$6.90 per hundred trees and chokecherry at \$6.40 per hundred. Of the listed stock, these are available at \$6.90 per hundred: white pine, scotch pine, red pine, ponderosa pine, jack pine, red cedar, black walnut, and new this year is norway spruce. At \$6.40 per hundred are these species: green ash, white ash, shagbark hickory, silver maple, red oak, bur oak, white oak, mixed oak, russian olive, autumn olive, tartarian honeysuckle, amur honeysuckle, ninebark, re-dosier dogwood, gray dogwood and new this year is shellbark hickory.

There is a 500 tree minimum for new orders directly from the state forest nursery. This minimum does not apply to people who have previously ordered trees and are now just ordering replacements. For those people in Clarke County that wish to order less than 500 trees, but have never ordered before, they may combine their order with the Clarke County Conservation Board order.

Equipment to help plant the trees will be made available at no charge next spring by the Clarke County Conservation Board. The Osceola Big Chief Chapter of the Future Farmers of America is currently constructing a new tree seedling planter for public use next spring.



RESERVOIR FILLS: In a picture taken from the air Friday, November 25, the West Lake reservoir appears above. Recent rains have brought the level of the reservoir up to the level it was prior to being drained for dam construction. Final plans call for

the water level to raise an additional 12 feet with the new spillway to be constructed to the left of the present spillway. Capacity of the reservoir will be between three and four times the amount of water previously held.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 1, 1983

Soil Erosion Survey Centers On West Lake Reservoir

On average, about 44,900 tons of sediment with associated pesticides and nutrients enter West Lake annually. West Lake is the only source of water for the City of Osceola and approximately 100 rural users. Sediment reduces the reservoir storage capacity and results in additional water treatment costs, due to increased back-flushing of water filters and the use of additional amounts of sediment settling chemicals. In order to limit sedimentation in West Lake, land use planners and other authorities will use soil maps and soil data to identify sources of sediment and to develop plans for controlling upstream erosion.

The Clarke County Soil Survey will provide recent soil information necessary for conservation planning efforts. A primary purpose of the soil survey is to inform different land users about soil-related hazards and limitations. Poor land use decisions often lead to expensive correction measures, and sometimes to the loss of

property and life. Homebuyers and developers can use the soil survey to avoid buying or building on sites with soil hazards. Also local land use planners can identify suitable areas for housing, business, industry, municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and on site septic systems.

For most people, buying a home is the biggest investment decision they have made or will make again. Few can afford to make costly mistakes; so it is important that they are well informed about what they are getting into. Unsuspected soil hazards can cause major damage to a home in years to come. Wherever the homesite is in Clarke County, the soil survey will show the extent and severity of any related soil hazard.

Flooding potential, seasonally high water table, and high shrink-swell potential are three homesite related soil hazards. After a heavy rain, even a small creek or stream can overflow with destructive force. When buying or building a home, make sure that it is not in a floodprone area. Many areas of Clarke County have a seasonally high water table. As the water table rises during the wet spring months, the basement may become flooded.

High water tables can also cause a septic tank absorption field to fail; effluent may rise to the surface and then runoff to a lower elevation—possibly into the basement or the neighbors' basement. These soils will be identified.

Clay-type soils are also extensive in Clarke County. These soils shrink and swell greatly, with seasonal changes in moisture content. The foundation of a house may shift and settle unevenly if it is built on certain clay soil types.

Also severe cracks may develop in the walls, plaster, and foundation.

The soil survey will also help developers and builders to evaluate areas before construction. They will be able to estimate the capacity of soils to bear loads and anticipate and required changes in design. They will locate in advance sources of sand and gravel, topsoil, and fill material. They will know soils with adverse properties, such as flood hazard, high water table, seasonal wetness, corrosive, and high shrink-swell potential. They will also identify areas that require surface and subsurface water control.

The planning of recreation areas in Clarke County should be based on the suitability of soils.

Give Report on Use Of County 'Haybuster'

The Clarke County No-Till Drill Committee released figures for the Haybuster 1206 No-Till Drill. In 1982 a total of 38 landusers planted 875 acres. Of this total, 209 acres of pasture and 82 acres of hayland were improved by no-till interseeding.

Sixty-three acres of hayland were no-till planted and 91 acres of warm-season grass pastures were established. Fifty acres of wheat and oats were seeded for grain and 66 acres of wheat and rye were fall seeded as cover crops, chopped for feed, and subsequently no-till planted to corn or soybeans in the stubble. No-till soybeans accounted for 314 acres.

1983 usage totaled 522 acres by 21 landusers. Sixty-six acres of pasture and hay were improved by no-till interseeding legumes into existing sod

grassland. Seventy-four acres of cropland were converted to hayland. One hundred fifty-one acres of winter wheat and rye were established as winter cover crops. Double crop no-till soybeans accounted for 11 acres of the 196 acres of narrow row drilled no-till soybeans. Another new use included 35 acres of sudan grasses for summer annual forage.

Past chairman Fred Redfern stated that the committee is pleased with the response of 59 local conservationists applying nearly 1,400 acres of no-till in the initial two seasons.

Keith Edwards, Clarke County District Conservationist, estimates that over 12,000 tons of soil have been saved and over 1,000 acres have adequate conservation treatment since the Clarke County group organized and offered the drill for soil conservation, wildlife and production en-

hancement.

Alan Teel, Clarke County Extension Director, gave a brief agronomic evaluation. Our experience the past two years would allow us to make the following observations concerning the use of the Haybuster interseeder.

1. The performance of the interseeder has been excellent. Even under less than ideal conditions, seed placement was desirable. The greatest variance was due to operator

judgment. It was observed that a tractor with better than an average hydraulic system was necessary to lift the machine. We did not find it necessary to use a large tractor to pull the machine.

2. The soil erosion control capability of this machine has been adequately demonstrated. There does not seem to be any erosion down the seed furrow even when used up and down gentle slopes.

3. Although the management of interseeded acres does not apply directly to the interseeder, it does affect the success or failure of the interseeder program.

A. For soybeans seeded with the interseeder, the single most important item was adequate weed control. Because of the 6" row spacing, post-emerge chemicals were not recommended except as an emergency rescue.

B. For pastures and hay areas, these areas are of particular concern for successful seedings.

1) Proper site preparation, ie, weed control, lime (PH), fertilizer, selection of species to be seeded.

2) Management of the interseeded plants after emergence and until they are fully established (at least one

have been that the interseeder does a very adequate job of placing seeds in the soil at the desired depth. It would seem that proper management practices before seeding and after emergence will be the key to a totally successful interseeder program.

Information on scheduling use and rental can be obtained from the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 5, 1984

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
December 29, 1983

Schedule Two Youth Sessions

The County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts, and Cooperative Extension Service will co-sponsor the Youth Leadership Conservation Program this summer. The statewide program is developed for high school stu-

Nomination Papers Filed For Five County Offices

County residents may take out nomination papers for Clarke County offices that are up for election this year, according to Clarke County Auditor Emil Rinderspacher.

County offices up for election in the primaries Tuesday, June 5, will be the County Auditor, County Sheriff, Clerk of Court, County Supervisor for the Second District and County Supervisor for the Third District.

Nomination papers have

been taken out by incumbent Emil Rinderspacher, running on the Republican ticket for County Auditor; incumbent Francis Winship, running on the Democratic ticket for Clerk of Court; incumbent John Stearns, running on the Democratic ticket for Sheriff; incumbent Leonard Siefkas, running on the Democratic ticket for County Supervisor District Three; and Ed Robins running for County Supervisor District Two on the Democratic ticket.

County Supervisor District Two includes: Fremont, Washington, Osceola and Knox Townships as well as Osceola Ward One.

County Supervisor District Three includes: Madison, Troy, Ward and Doyle Townships as well as Osceola Middle Ward.

County Soil Conservation and Hospital Trustee positions are also up for election, however, no nomination papers have been taken out as yet.

Primary elections are scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, in the Clarke County courthouse with winners of the two parties running against each other in the general election, slated for Tuesday, November 6, 1984.

Filing date for turning in nomination papers is Wednesday, April 11.

Set No-Till Show, Feb. 4

Farmers attending the Southern Iowa No-Till Show will have a chance to use computers to determine the soil loss that is occurring on their farm. They will also be able to see what effect changing their tillage systems will have on their net profit. They can play the Soil Loss Game to see if they can beat the computer.

These are three of the different computer programs that will be available for farmer use at the No-Till Show to be held on Saturday, February 4 at Southwestern Community College in Creston. The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and the speaking program will begin at 9:45.

There will be 25 commercial and educational exhibits that can be viewed in the morning, over the noon hour, and after the afternoon speaking program concludes at 3 p.m. There is no charge for attending this meeting and lunch tickets will be available at the registration desk.

Speakers during the day will discuss weed control and scouting for no-till farming, use of the no-till drill for establishing pastures and other crops, a farmer panel discussing sprayer operation, and four different farmers discussing their no-till operations.

Farmers interested in determining the soil loss on their own farm should bring a soil map or farm plan or have a good idea of the soil types and slopes on their farm.

Sponsors of the show are the Southern Iowa No-Till Committee made up of farmers from Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor, and Union Counties, and USDA personnel and Southwestern Community College.

Schedule No-Till Show In Creston Saturday

The third annual Southern Iowa No-Till Show will be held Saturday, February 4 at Southwestern Community College in Creston. The all-day event will begin with the speaking program at 9:45 a.m.

A large number of farmer speakers will make presentations at the show. Ray Powell, Creston area farmer and farm consultant, will discuss a "No-Till Survey in Adair County"; Jerry Hall, Decatur County farmer, will talk about pasture renovation with cool season grasses; Kelly Tobin, Taylor County farmer, and Dr. George Gates, Blue-stem Seed Company, will discuss no-till establishment of warm season grasses.

"Cheap and Effective Ways to Reduce Soil Loss on Your Land" is the topic to be addressed by farmer speakers

Warren Johnston, Adair County; Ron Weller, Taylor County; and Roger Schnoor, Ringgold County. Farmers Craig Harris, Page County, and Bob Cerven and Deane McCunn, Montgomery County, will tell about their experiences with spraying and spray equipment. Richard Thompson, Boone County farmer, will discuss till planted soybeans without herbicides.

Keith Edwards, Clarke County SCS District Conservationist, will tell about their no-till drill lease program. Stan Murdock, Creston Area Extension Crop Specialist, will discuss basic weed control and then Murdock and Mike White, Lavery Sprayers of Indianola, will tell about their scouting programs. Pete Brantner, Adams County farmer, will share his experience with a scouting service.

There will be more than 30 commercial and educational displays including computer programs, that can be viewed beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing throughout the day. A limited number of lunch tickets will be available at the registration desk.

The show is sponsored by the Southern Iowa No-Till Committee, USDA personnel and Southwestern Community College.

Schedule Two Youth Sessions

The County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts, and Cooperative Extension Service will co-sponsor the Youth Leadership Conservation Program this summer. The statewide program is developed for high school students who are interested in conservation. Two sessions will be offered: June 25-28, which will be held at the State 4-H Center near Madrid and August 6-9, to be held at the Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center.

A maximum of 50 students will be allowed to attend each session. Cost of the four day and three night program is \$55.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 12, 1984

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 9, 1984

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 2, 1984

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 26, 1984

Loan Program Deadline Set

Clarke Soil Conservation District is now taking applications until March 10, 1984, for no-interest loans for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices.

Landowners can borrow up to \$10,000.00 at no interest for up to a ten-year period. Loan funds received may not be used in combination with any other public cost-sharing or incentive program for soil and water conservation practices.

To be eligible, a landowner must have a net worth less than \$300,000.00, to be able to secure the loan, and be capable of repaying the loan in equal annual installments.

Legislation passed in the 1983 Session of the 70th Iowa General Assembly authorized the program and provided \$1 million for this year and next.

Clarke Soil Conservation District has \$7,197.00 allocated to the Revolving No-Interest Loan Program.

Application forms and procedures are available at the local county soil conservation district office.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 16, 1984

Crop Clinic Set For Febr. 22

Carry-over, fertilizer value from 1983, weed and insect control on '83 PIK acres and the aflatoxin problem will be major topics of discussion at the Crop Clinic to be held Wednesday, February 22 when Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Robert Lounsberry will be the featured speaker at noon. He will speak about a very high concern to all farmers, "our soil" and how to keep it at home.

The meeting will be held at the Osceola Eagles. A lunch will be served and tickets are available at the Clarke County Extension and Soil Conservation offices. Tickets need to be purchased before February 17.

Program presenters will be Randy Killorn, extension soil scientist, who will discuss soil fertility; Stanley Murdock, area extension agronomist, who will discuss weed control, especially pre-plant application, herbicide carry-over and problems on PIK acres; Keith Edwards, district conservationist, who will discuss some low cost erosion control practices; Dave Foster, extension entomologist, who will discuss insect control.

There will be commercial exhibits by local ag chemical and fertilizer dealers. The program starts at 10:30 a.m. but the doors will open at 10:00 a.m.

This program is sponsored by the Clarke County Extension Service and the Clarke County Soil Conservation Service.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 16, 1984

Final Tree Orders Needed

The Clarke County Conservation Board will send in a supplemental tree seedling order Friday, February 17. Those wishing tree seedlings from the state forest nursery in Ames may be included in the order.

The state requires individuals to have a minimum of 500 trees in their order. Many people wish to plant trees, but not that many. So the Conservation Board works as a grouping agent to lump small orders together, and also provides free transportation for the seedlings from Ames. Fifty tree seedlings per species is the Board's minimum order. A new state nursery in Fort Madison will provide much greater supply of seedlings than has been available in the past.

For a complete list of tree seedlings available, pick up a tree seedling list at the Courthouse, Soil Conservation, or Extension Offices. Then formulate your order and call John Klein at the Clarke County Conservation Board office on Friday morning, February 17.

The trees will be delivered to Osceola in April, and may be picked up at East Lake County Park, one mile east of Osceola.

The Conservation Board does not plan to place any more orders this season, so if you want tree seedlings, order now.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 16, 1984

Apply for no-interest conservation loans

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Farm Bureau Spokesman
February 18, 1984

CLARKE COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Regular Monthly Meeting

To Be Held At The
High School Vo-ag Room On
Thursday Night, March 8th

All Members Urged To Attend!

TOPIC:

Forage Management - by Alan Teel and Keith Edwards.

--ALSO FEATURING--

Clarke County Feeder Calves
At Humeston Livestock Auction On
Thursday, March 1st

The Advertiser
February 28, 1984

FOR SALE

A.C. 4 row No-Till
Planter, insecticide.
\$250.00

Call: 342-2917
Soil Conservation
Office
Osceola, Iowa

The Advertiser
February 20, 1984

Student Essay

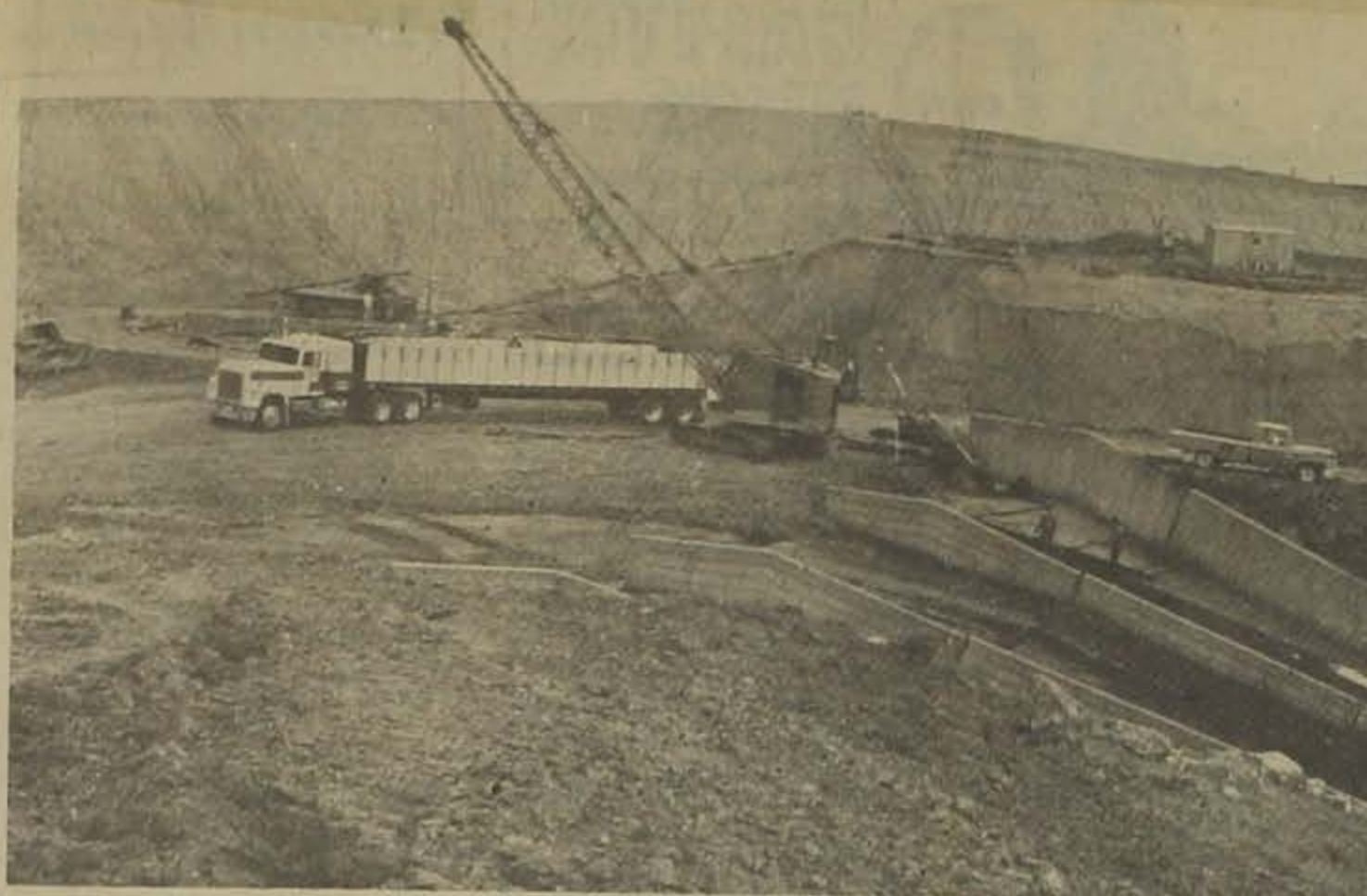
Contest Open

"Trees—A Neglected Resource" is the theme of an essay contest open to Clarke County students grades six to 12. The essay must be 500 words or less. The contest is divided into two divisions. The Junior Division for six through eight grades, and the Senior Division for nine through 12th grade. On the local level, the contest is sponsored by Fred Diehl Insurance Center and the Clarke County Soil Conservation District. Deadline for entry is April 15.

Local entries will be judged and division winners announced. A \$25 U.S. Savings Bond will be awarded to the winners of each division by Fred Diehl Insurance. Local winners will then go on to the regional competition and possibly on to state contest for cash prizes.

For complete details on the essay contest, interested students should contact local high school English department or the Soil Conservation District office in Osceola.

The Soil Conservation District expressed their thanks to Ann and Fred Diehl for their participation in this conservation education program.



SPILLWAY CONSTRUCTION: Work crews begin work on the new West Lake spillway with

warmer temperatures in sight. The spillway is the final step in completion of the new dam.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 17, 1984*

*The Advertiser
February 13, 1984*

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
March 29, 1984*

CROP CLINIC

CROP PRODUCTION AFTER PIK AND DROUGHT

Eagles Club -- Osceola, Iowa

February 22, 1984

DOORS OPEN 10:00 A.M.

PROGRAM

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10:30 - 11:15 | FERTILIZER - Randy Killorn, Extension Agronomist
Carry over from drought
Following PIK
Broadcast vs. dribble, band or strip
New I.S.U. recommendations |
| 11:15 - 12:00 | WEED CONTROL - Stanley Murdock, Extension Agronomist
PIK acres
Early pre-plant
Herbicide carry-over
Post-emerge |
| 12:00 - 12:45 | LUNCH & VIEW EXHIBITS |
| 12:45 - 1:15 | "YEAR OF THE SOIL" - Robert Lounsberry, Secretary of Agriculture |
| 1:15 - 1:45 | LOW COST EROSION CONTROL - Keith Edwards, District Conservationist
Strip Cropping
Rotation
Contouring |
| 1:45 - 2:30 | INSECT CONTROL - Dave Foster, Extension Entomologist
Rotating rootworm chemicals
Scouting for cutworms
Stalk borer & PIK acres
Armyworm problems |
| 2:30 - 3:15 | DISEASE CONTROL - Robery Nyvall, Extension Plant Pathologist
Phytophthora in soybeans
Aflatoxin - 1983 problem - 1984??? |

SPONSORED BY

Clarke County Extension Service
And Clarke County Soil Conservation District

LUNCH TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

The Extension Office or Soil Conservation Office

PRICE: \$4.50

Tickets Must Be Purchased By February 17th.

Big Chief Chapter Busy —

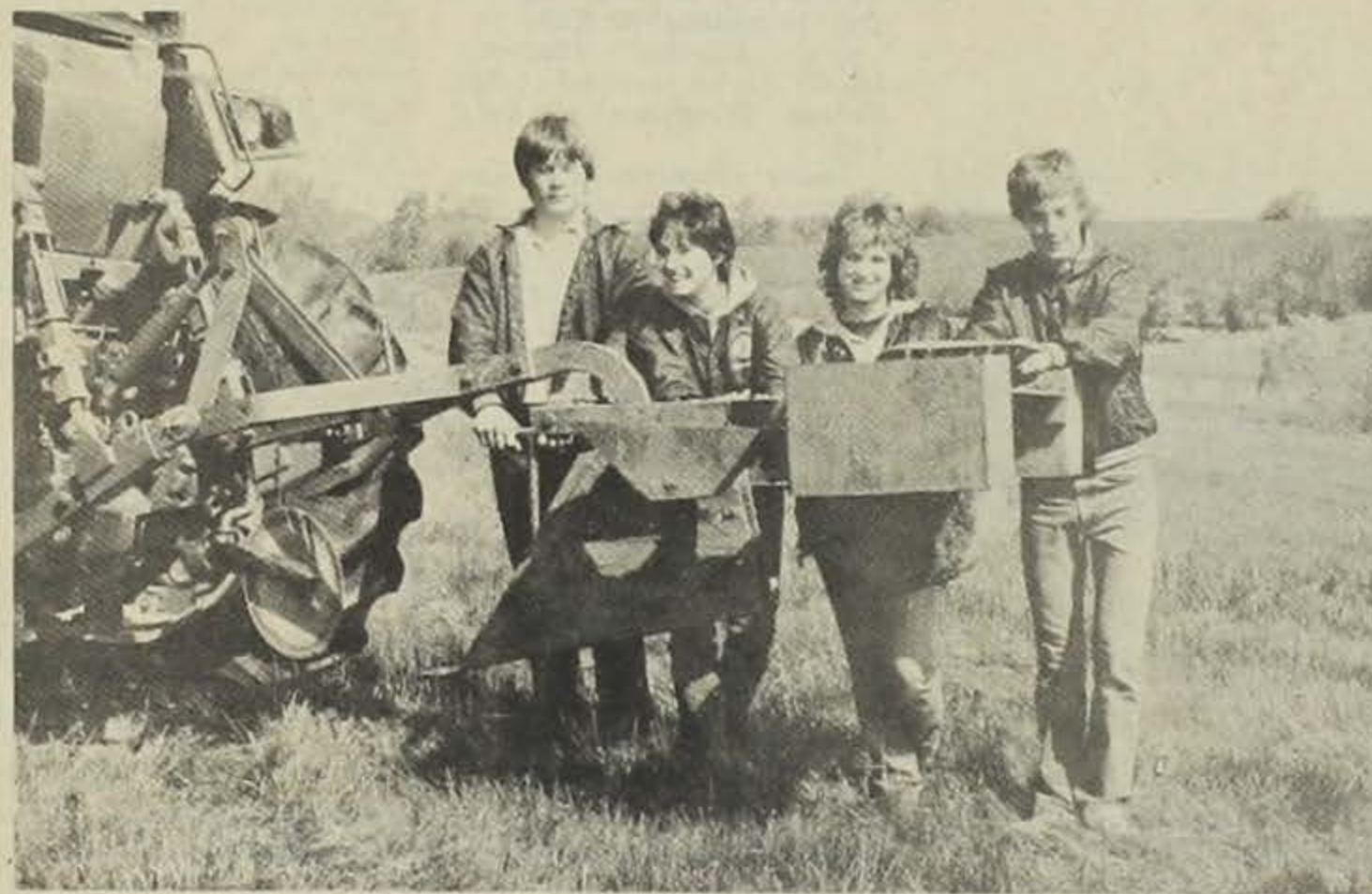
Build, Use Tree Planter

Thanks to the efforts of the Osceola Big Chief Chapter of the Future Farmers of America, Clarke County now has a tree planter with a trailer for all citizens to use and the school has a forest plantation of 2,200 trees.

This began last summer when the FFA and the Clarke County Conservation Board jointly made application for project funds from the Iowa Youth Corp program funded by the state. This program provides funding for worthy projects with the stipulation that the youth do the volunteer labor. This F.F.A. project was awarded \$2,500 in grant money to construct the planter and trailer and to purchase seedling trees for the school's outdoor classroom. Building the planter and trailer was a F.F.A. project throughout the winter months. The trees were ordered in December from the State Forest Nursery for spring delivery.

By April, the planter was ready. The school's tree order was late, so private landowners around the county were the forest to use the planter. When the school's 2,200 trees were delivered, the Sophomore biology classes then provided the manpower to plant the trees just north of the new football field area. Doug Dougherty, Doug Short, Sandy Pollard, Michelle Christensen, Jim Reasoner, Tim McKnight, and Steve Duvall provided much of the volunteer work in the planting.

Leland Dolecheck, F.F.A. Advisor, along with the F.F.A. Officers provided the leadership to see this project completed. Dave Johannes,



VOLUNTEERS: These four students at CCHS assisted in the tree planting. Shown with the planter that was constructed are Doug Short,

Michelle Christensen, Sandy Pollard and Doug Dougherty.

High School Science Teacher, planned and coordinated the tree planting part of the project. Barrett International of Osceola provided free use of a tractor for the tree planting at school. Alan Teel, Keith Edwards, Ron White, John Klein, Dale Chidester, and Dean Frantz provided adult supervision and labor in the tree planting.

The tree planter pulls behind a category 1 or 2 three-point tractor. It is available for free use by all Clarke County citizens. Interested parties should contact John Klein at

the Conservation Board office for scheduling.

Young men and women that did the work on this project can be proud of their effort and of the upcoming trees that the planter will provide across Clarke County.

In other tree news, for Arbor Day, April 27, the eighth grade science classes in Clarke Junior High, and their teacher, Carmen Moore, planted 20 shade trees and two lilac hedge rows on the Junior High School grounds. Students were also given two seedling trees to take home and plant. Murray eighth

grade students got seedlings the day before.

The Conservation Board provided the trees for these Arbor Day activities.

Conservation

Cost-sharing

Is Available

Local Soil Conservation Districts are accepting applications for 50% cost-share funding to install permanent soil and water conservation practices. Clarke, Decatur and Union Soil Conservation Districts will each receive \$36,301.00 July 1 for summer construction projects. If requests exceed this funding level supplemental funds will be sought to cover fall construction requests.

Priority for cost-sharing benefits are given to practices with long term effectiveness which require significant capital investment by the landowner or operator. Present approved practices for cropland include contour terraces and sediment and water control basins. In pasture areas, gully control structures, diversion terraces and grassed waterways are priority practices.

Any landowner can file an application with the local Soil Conservation District office

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
June 21, 1984

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 24, 1984

40% of Clarke County

Soil Survey Complete

Out of 99 counties in the State of Iowa, 78 counties have completed soil surveys. Twenty counties have modern soil surveys scheduled to start this year. One county is publishing a soil survey. One county has a soil survey in progress at the present time. Clarke County is one of them.

This is equivalent to about 40 percent of the county. Scheduled completion date is summer of 1987.

The soil scientists walk over the land and observe the landscape features, steepness, length and shape of slopes, the size of the streams and general pattern of drainage and the kind of native plants or crops. Using a hand probe, they dig into the soil and examine the vertical sequence of layers or horizons called soil profiles. They study the characteristics of the soil, such as color, texture, and structure. They also study the characteristics of the soil, such as color, texture, and structure.

range of soil particles which allows space for air and water movement, porosity, consistency, presence or absence of pebbles or gravels, acidity or alkalinity. After examining and studying the characteristics, soil scientists identify the soil by comparing it with others in the nearby counties or even with other states.

scale 1:158,400
1 mile = 1.6 kilometers
and show roads, buildings, trees, field boundaries, drainage ways and other details that help in drawing soil boundaries accurately. During the course of the survey, soil scientists collect many samples and study the characteristics in detail and also send samples to Iowa State University, Ames, for analyses for confirmation of soil identification.

The scientists classify and name the soils according to procedures of the National Bureau of Soil Survey. The names of the soils are of a type that is easy to remember and understand. The names of the soils are of a type that is easy to remember and understand.

of West Garfield Street, Truro, Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Martha O'Neill. The work was hard for a day and a night.

Card of Thanks

s-30*

Larry and Martha O'Neill

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

s-30,2

Janelle Hunsicker,
Board Secretary

Bids will be taken on each of the above items separately. The board of Directors reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

anniversary. For all the beautiful cards and gifts, thank you to our family, Dianna and Doug Robins, Kathy and Pat Flaherty, Rachel and Amy, Kenny and Doug O'Neill and to Mom and Dad O'Neill for making it such an enjoyable afternoon. Thanks, Deloris, Marilyn, Helen and Waunita for taking care of the kitchen. Marilyn and Leota our gifts, and Peggy, Bertina, Aunt Millie and Aunt Alma for serving at the reception table. It truly was an enjoyable afternoon. God bless you and thanks.

SCICAP Inc. will be accepting bids from suppliers of weatherization materials. These materials must meet federal standards as specified in the Federal Register 10CFR PART 440, published on January 27, 1984. Materials to be purchased will include solid core doors, window sash,

NOTICE OF PROBATE

OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CLARKE COUNTY

IN THE ESTATE OF MAX HARLAN, DECEASED.

To all persons interested in the estate of Max Harlan, Deceased who died on or about July 9, 1984:

You are hereby notified that on the 16th day of July, 1984, the last will and testament of Max Harlan, deceased, bearing date July 9, 1984, was admitted to probate in the Iowa District Court for Clarke County.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court this 16th day of July, 1984.

Max Harlan, deceased, bearing date July 9, 1984.

Deceased who died on or about July 9, 1984.

You are hereby notified that on the 16th day of July, 1984, the last will and testament of Max Harlan, deceased, bearing date July 9, 1984, was admitted to probate in the Iowa District Court for Clarke County.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court this 16th day of July, 1984.

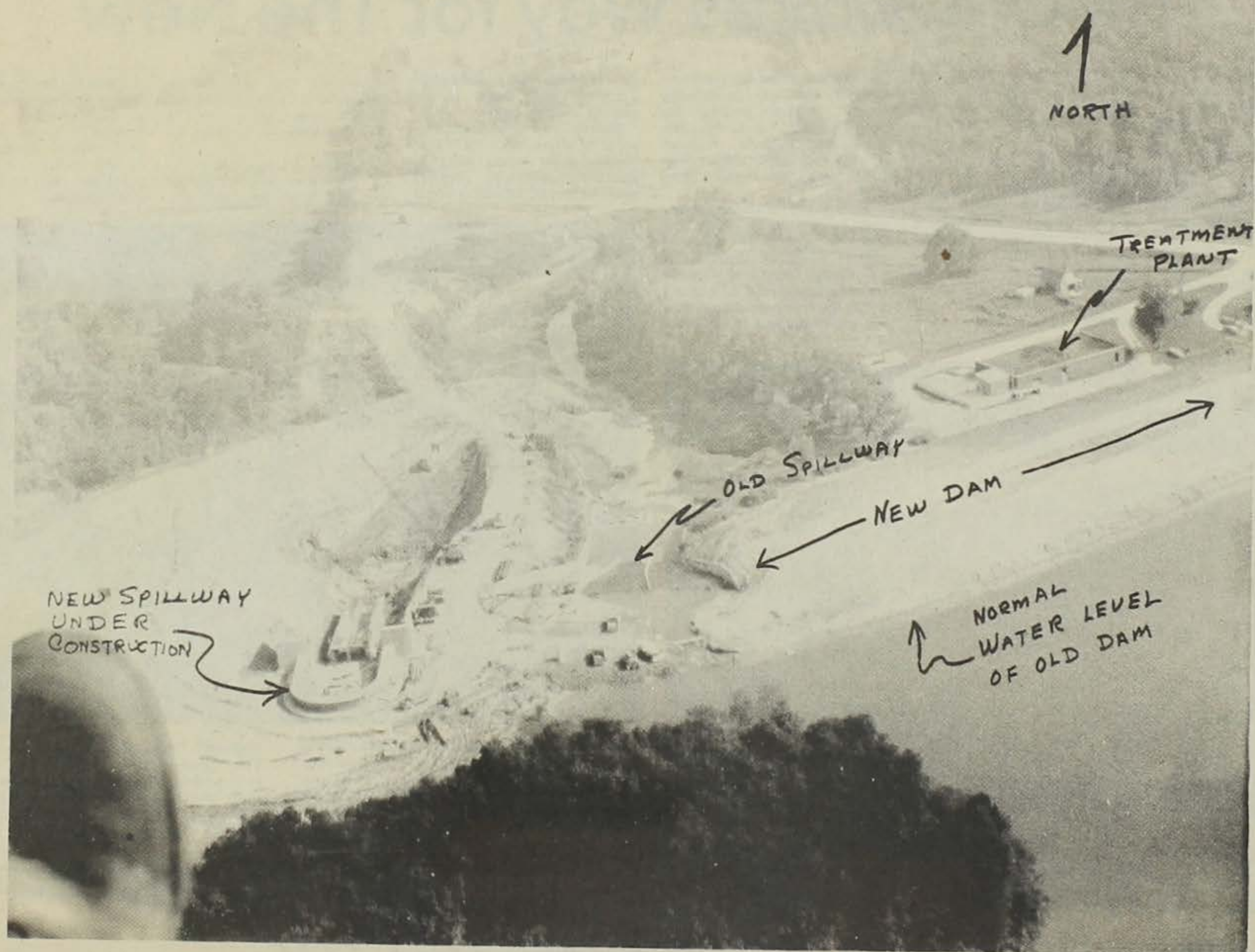
Max Harlan, deceased, bearing date July 9, 1984.

Deceased who died on or about July 9, 1984.

Docket No. P-762

s-29,2

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 26, 1984



Osceola
Sentinel-
Tribune
July 12, 1984

FROM THE AIR: Construction work on West Lake dam and spillway continues. Good weather recently has permitted crews to work at full speed on pouring concrete for the new spillway at Osceola's reservoir located at West Lake two miles northwest of the city. Time schedules call for the dam and spillway to be completed this year which will

approximately quadruple the storage capacity of the reservoir. Construction of a new bridge near the old Leland Shaw farm must be completed before the water level can be raised. The object in the lower lefthand corner of the photo is the shoe of the photographer who took the picture from a paraplane.

To Fill One Vacancy on Soil Conservation Board

The term of one Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioner expires this year. Successor will be elected at the general election November 6. The term of John Klein, Franklin Township, will expire at noon on January 2, 1985.

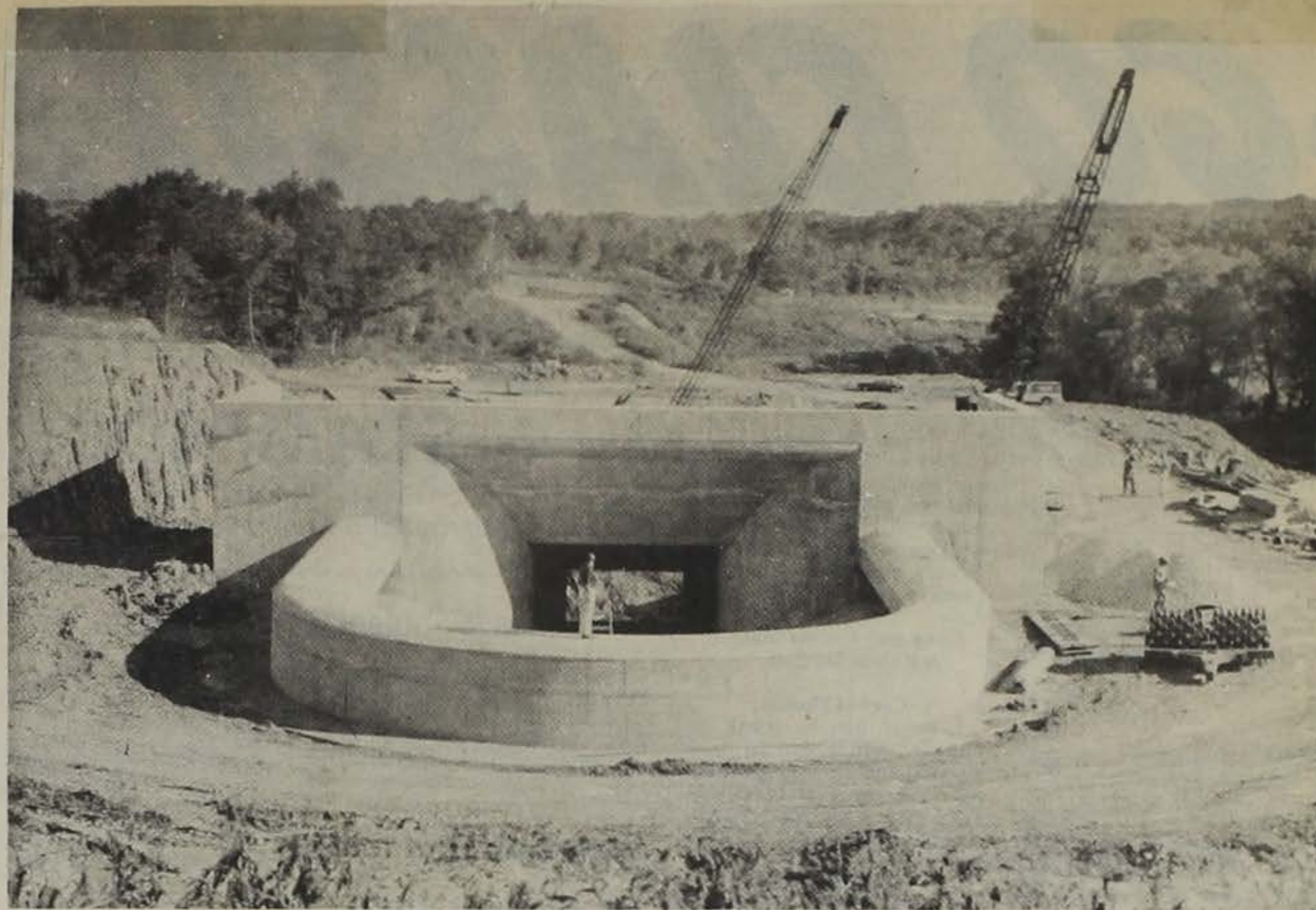
The individual elected to fill this vacancy will serve a six year term. Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Clarke County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township.

Incumbent commissioners are Richard Carson of Jackson Township, Adrian Fuller of Osceola Township, Edwin G. Ratashak, Jr. of Ward Township and E. John Camp of Fremont Township. Therefore, residents in these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from County Auditor Emil Rinderspacher.

The petitions signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County courthouse no later than 5 p.m., September 12, 1984.

Soil conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola.



WORK CONTINUES: Work on the spillway of the West Lake dam project nears completion. Dr. Fred DeHaan can be seen

standing on the horseshoe shaped spillway that leads to the large opening that will carry overflow water away from the lake.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
August 30, 1984*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
September 6, 1984*

Hay Association Plans Organizational Meeting

The Southern Iowa Greenhills Hay Association will hold its first membership meeting, Wednesday evening, October 17 at 8 p.m. with the public invited. The meeting will be

*Oscola Sentinel - Tribune
October 11, 1984*

held in the Harvest Room at the Farmers Co-op at Creston.

Purpose of the meeting is to present the by-laws of the newly formed association, solicit membership, and to elect the Board of Directors. Several hay producers from the seven county MIDCREST-RC&D area have met through the summer to draft the by-laws.

The concept of the hay association is to increase the sales of hay and straw as a cash crop through strategic advertising, to increase the quality of hay, and to encourage soil and water conservation.

The Southern Iowa Greenhills Hay Association will establish a uniform listing of hay and straw and advertise the product on behalf of the producer. The listing will contain information on the type, volume, and quality of the hay or straw. The member will be responsible for negotiating the price, conditions, transportation and arrangements for all listed hay or straw sales.

The hay association will have two classes of membership: regular and affiliate members. Regular members will be any producer growing hay or straw. Affiliate members will be other individuals or organizations that have an interest in the purpose of the association. Regular members are entitled to vote whereas affiliate members are not. The association will be operated by an eight member board of directors, of which four will be officers of the association.

Soil Losses

Soil loss to erosion may total a whopping 25.4 billion tons a year on a worldwide basis. Described as a "quiet crisis" in a study by the Worldwatch Institute, the authors of the report, Lester Brown and Edward Wolf, claim the world is beginning to mine its soils.

The authors point out that unlike earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or other natural disasters, loss of topsoil does not receive massive media attention. Instead it gradually unfolds.

The reports shows that for each inch of topsoil lost in the United State Corn Belt, average yields are reduced by six percent. Improved farming practices and an eightfold increase in world fertilizer use since 1950 have masked much of the world's topsoil loss, reports the Worldwatch study.

The United States is exporting its topsoil in an attempt to reduce trade deficits, claims Brown. Other members of the world's food producing

community are also suffering massive topsoil losses, he says.

Brown suggests that the costs of reducing erosion are often greater than shortrun gains. He says it may make sense for society to invest in soil conservation even when it is not profitable for the individual farmer.

The report does indicate that although no nation's soil is secured, there are signs of progress. Iowa farmers are reducing their use of the moldboard plow and are using more minimum and no-till practices.

Until now soil erosion has been a local problem. However, in today's integrated global economy, food is a global commodity.

Continued loss of topsoil may be someday result in acute food shortages. When, and if this happens, we will no longer be faced with just the degradation of the soil. The stakes will have risen to life itself.

— Mike Harris

*Oscola Sentinel - Tribune
October 25, 1984*

Order Nursery

Stock Now

"People that plan to plant tree seedlings next spring should be ordering that nursery stock now," said John Klein, Clarke County Conservation Director.

To help people in planning what and where to plant, the Clarke County Conservation Board will hold its annual Tree Seedling Meeting on Wednesday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the small room of the 4-H Building on the Clarke County fairgrounds.

Randy Goerndt, District Forester; Alan Teel, Extension agent; John Klein, County Conservationist and Keith Edwards, District Soil Conservationist will answer questions on windbreaks, selection of tree species, walnut log production, fuelwood or Christmas tree plantations, tree planting methods, weed control, soil selection and erosion control.

Ordering lists from the State Forest Nursery and a number of private nurseries will be available to secure planting stock. Seedling stock typically sells out early, so orders should be placed as soon as possible.

For large plantings, and for windbreaks, weed control preparation is best this time of year. Details on what can be done now and what must be done in the spring will be covered. For specific information on a particular problem, bring measurements of the planting site to the meeting. For windbreak plantings, bring the measurements of the planting site and the distance from the planting site to the buildings being protected.

Hay Ass'n Sets

Nov. 29 Meet

The newly formed Southern Iowa Green Hills Hay Association will sponsor a meeting on growing high quality alfalfa hay Thursday, November 29 at 1 p.m. in the Harvest Room at the Creston Farmers Co-op building. This meeting is for both the public and association members.

Paul Meyer of West Point, Nebraska will discuss growing and packaging alfalfa for the national market. Meyer produces 2500 to 3000 tons of alfalfa hay annually with 95 percent of it marketed outside of Nebraska. He is an active member of the National Hay Association and will discuss it, too.

In addition, the association hopes to provide a speaker on the fertilization of alfalfa. The program is free. Refreshments will be served.

Annual Tree Meeting

Slated for Clarke County

The annual tree seedling planning and ordering meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 28 at the small room of the 4-H building on the fairgrounds in Osceola.

This meeting will provide information on selection of tree seedling species and sizes and costs to meet a landowner's particular needs. Windbreaks, erosion control, firewood, lumber, Christmas trees and wildlife habitat will be addressed at the meeting. Randy Goerndt, District Forester; John Klein, County Conserva-

tion Director; Alan Teel, Extension Director, and Keith Edwards, Soil Conservationist will be present to answer questions.

The meeting will be informal and after an introductory program on seedling propagation and windbreak planning, the meeting will be open to questions and answers on specific situations. Refreshments will be served.

The meeting is held in the fall because this is the time of year to order seedling stock for spring delivery, both from private suppliers and the State Forest Nursery in Ames.

Applications for the state trees are now available, and will be at the meeting. The species selection is very similar to previous years. A total of 27 different species are being offered. All conifers and black walnut species sell for \$7.60

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Set No-Till

Show Febr. 2

The 4th Annual Southern Iowa No-Till Show will be held on Saturday, February 2, according to Kirk O'Riley, show chairman. The show will be an all-day meeting held at Southwestern Community College in Creston.

Speakers will address the topics of fertilizer sources and placement and application equipment, weed control and the economics of no-till farming.

There will also be commercial exhibits and educational displays relating to management practices, products and equipment.

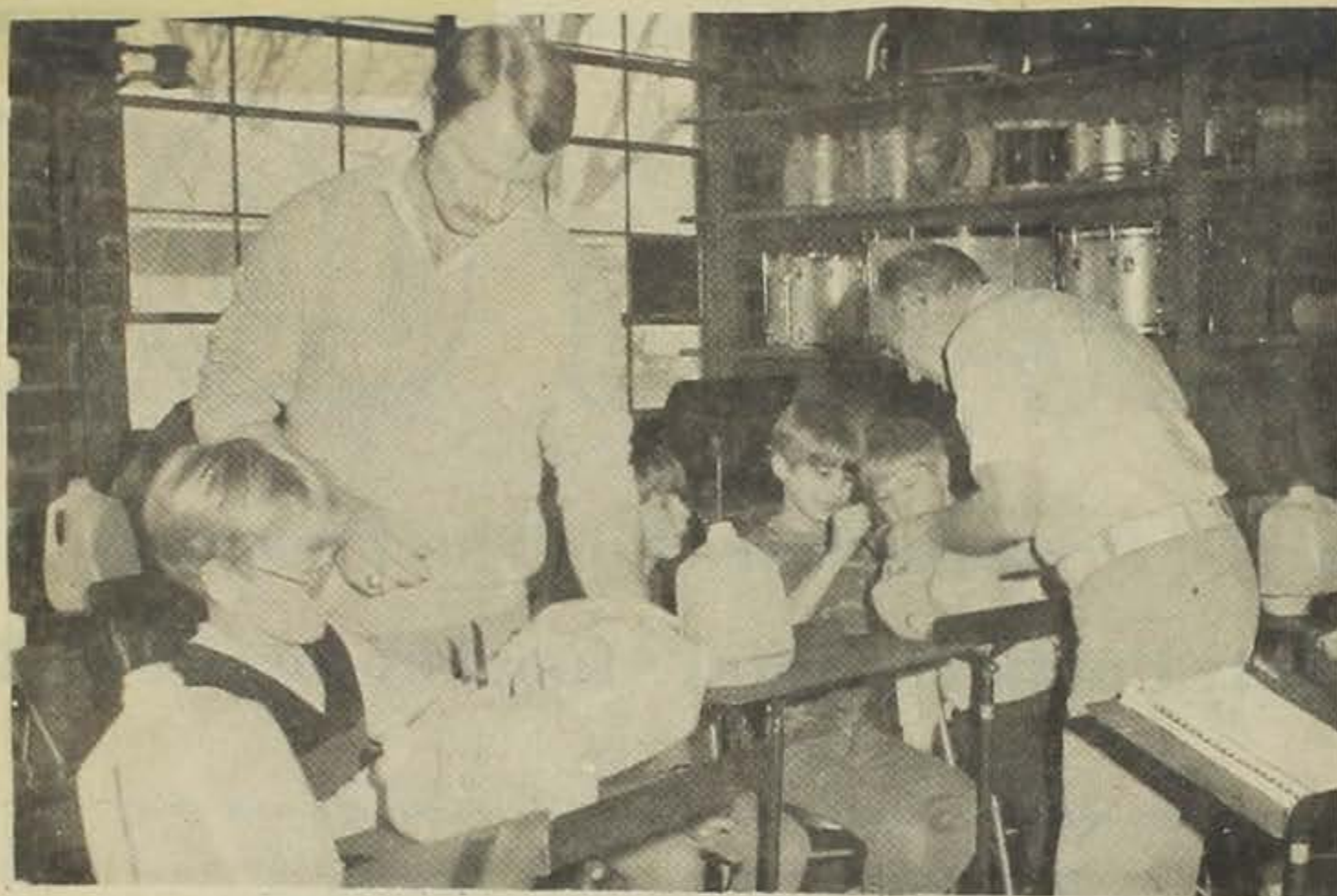
The show is sponsored by the Southern Iowa No-Till Committee, USDA agencies and Southwestern Community College.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
November 22, 1984

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 27, 1984

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
November 15, 1984

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
November 22, 1984



MAKE BIRDHOUSES: Members of Mike Rowe's North Elementary class are pictured making bird houses with assistance from instructors Mike Rowe and Adrian Fuller. The

project is an annual event with the assistance of Conservation Director John Klein and the Clarke County Conservation Board.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 27, 1984*

*The Advertiser
January 29, 1985*

No-till show slated Feb. 4

The third annual southern Iowa no-till show will be held Feb. 4 at Southwestern Community College in Creston.

Soil erosion and costs of production continue to be serious problems for farmers and no-till is a method that can be used to help farmers reduce soil erosion and the fuel and time involved in producing row crops.

The show is aimed at helping farmers better understand and use a no-till conservation farming system.

*Farm Bureau Spokesman
1/28/85*

SOUTHERN IOWA NO-TILL SHOW

Feb. 2, 1985 - 9:45 A.M.
at Southwestern Community
College, Creston, Iowa.

Keynote Speaker — Don Muhm

Topics to Be Discussed:

Fertilizer Source and Placement
Nutri-blast 2000
Dual Placement of NP and K
Soil loss comparison for no-till in Soybean Stubble
Low Cost No-till
Weed Control (favorite No-till Recipes)
Economics

Slides and Tapes - Continuous Showing

No-till farming
Sprayer system for No-till
Invisible Erosion
50 years of Soil Conservation

**Lunch Tickets can be purchased
at ASCS Offices**



CONTEST WINNERS: Clarke County Soil Conservation Officer John Klein presents Ramona Houck of Van Wert with a \$50 savings bond for first place honors in the junior division of the 1985 District Soil Conservation Essay

Contest. Fred Diehl [far right] presents senior division winner, Terry Edgington with a \$50 savings bond donated by the Fred Diehl Insurance Agency. The two winning essays will be entered in the regional contest.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 28, 1985

Edgington, Houck Win Local Soil Essay Contest

The Clarke County Soil Conservation District has released the names of the winners of the 1985 District Soil Conservation Essay Contest.

Terry Edgington, a 10th grade student at Clarke High School, won the Senior Division of the contest. Terry will receive a \$50 Savings Bond donated by the Fred Diehl Insurance Agency of Osceola.

Ramona Houck of Van Wert, an eighth grade student at Clarke Junior High won the Junior Division. She will also receive a \$50 Savings Bond

from the Soil Conservation District.

The theme of this year's contest was "Clean Water — What is the Answer". Fourteen essays were entered from both Clarke and Murray Schools. A three judge panel independently scored the essays on both content and form, and selected the winners.

Second place honors went to Tim Heckman in the Senior Division, and Scott Crandell in the Junior Division.

The two winning essays will be entered in the county Regional Contest. If successful there, the essays will enter State competition.

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, which the Fred Diehl Insurance Agency is a local member, sponsors the regional and state contests.

Congratulations to Terry and Ramona for their excellent work in researching and preparing their essays.



PLANT TREES: Members of the Clarke Community seventh and ninth grade classes work with Soil Conservationist Keith Edwards in planting trees for the celebration of Arbor Day, Friday, April

26. The weather has been excellent the past few weeks for planting and the classes planted some 800 new trees in the ground behind the junior/senior high school complex.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
April 25, 1985

Set Soil Stewardship Week for May 12-19

The Clarke Soil Conservation District will join the nationwide observance of Soil Stewardship Week during the week of May 12-19, Richard Carson, district chairman, announced.

"Tomorrow Together" is the theme of the 1985 observance. As the 1985 booklet for the observance points out, human survival depends on other living things: the grasses and grain, fishes and birds, wild and domestic animals.

In 1985, the soil conservation movement in America marks its 50th anniversary. During

the Dust Bowl era of the '30s, conservation districts, local units of government, were founded to take soil conservation information and techniques out to farmers and ranchers. Today conservation districts also work with urban and suburban citizens and are involved in work to clean up the nation's waters.

Since 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts has sponsored Soil Stewardship Week, in cooperation with the nearly 3,000 conservation districts, as one way to emphasize the importance of good stewardship of our basic soil and water resources.

Materials especially designed to carry the 1985 theme are being distributed through local conservation districts to clergymen participating in the observance. Information for the 1985 observance of Soil Stewardship Week is available from the Soil Conservation office at 820A N. Main, Street, Osceola.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 9, 1985

Editorially Speaking—

Soil Stewardship Week

This is Soil Stewardship Week, observed nationally throughout the United States.

And the purpose of the week is to draw attention to the need for everyone to conserve the soil and water resources of our country. The very real need is becoming more critical with each passing year as the most valuable asset we have is being depleted so rapidly.

Many acres of prime land have been under cultivation for 100 years or less in the midwest and for less than 200 years on the eastern seaboard. During this period of time we have seen the topsoil of the United States being used and abused as if it were endless.

The productivity of the United States farmer has been phenomenal and the amount of crops produced have been the envy of the world. This was done in most instances without practicing soil and water conservation. What was the need? America's resources were limitless — supposedly.

Today we know better. We are losing our ability to produce food each year as soil is blown and drained away through improper use of the land. Much of this loss has been offset by the fertilizers we use and the improved strains of grains produced and used.

The fact remains — we must recognize the fact that there is a limit to the topsoil we have and that when it is gone, even the best fertilizers cannot make up the difference. It is a fact that not only farmers must be cognizant of, but all Americans.

A recent story concerning A. C. Benton, land baron and banking entrepreneur in the midwest, told of his purchase of a farm that had many soil conservation structures on it — placed there over a period of years by the owner who recognized the need for such measures. The first thing the new owner, A. C. Benton, did, was to have bulldozers knock down all terraces and holding structures. His explanation was that a farm needed to produce and that it couldn't be productive with hinderances such as terraces, etc.

The fact that there are other generations to follow us apparently didn't enter into his calculations. And the need to get every bit out of a piece of ground, regardless of the consequences, shows glaring shortsightedness.

So in spite of the A. C. Bentons of the world, we need to recognize the need for more soil and water conservation, not less — for today and for future generations.



PRESENTS AWARD: Governor Terry Branstad [right] presents an Outstanding Individual Award to Steve Ernst for his work with the

Substance Abuse program in Clarke County. Pictured with him is Dallas Minchin of the Drug Abuse Advisory Council.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
June 13, 1985

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 16, 1985

Seek Applicants for Conservation Practice

"Don't forget to take care of your soil," warns Keith Edwards, Clarke County Soil Conservationist. "Soil is one of the raw materials that runs the farm factory. Soil conservation is as important to growing healthy crops as veterinary medicine is to producing profitable livestock."

"I know many farmers think they can't afford soil conservation right now," says Edwards, "but soil erosion is unforgiving. The reservoir of nutrients and soil moisture holding capacity of topsoil lost to erosion will reduce future profits."

"Even with lower land prices farmers still have a lot of money invested in their soil resource. Farmers who maintain their soil through application of soil conserving practices are really protecting that investment," comments Edwards.

Monies are available to area farmers to help with the cost of the most expensive conserva-

tion practices, such as terraces, water and sediment control basins, gully control structures, and grassed waterways. Iowa Financial Incentive Payments may be made to cost-share up to 50% of the cost of installing permanent conservation practices.

"Due to the depressed economy in southern Iowa counties, we have more money available at the present time than applications," reports Edwards. "Farmers need to identify their critical erosion areas and apply for assistance through the Clarke Soil Conservation District office at 820A North Main Street by August 1."

"In my 10 years working with soil conservation I've never seen this much opportunity to get help with needed conserving practices," says Edwards, "and when you consider the tax treatment of soil conserving expenses it may only end up costing a farmer about 25% of the entire project cost."

Soil Mapping of Clarke County Continues

Asghar Chowdhery, Soil Scientist, party leader, reported that mapping of soils in Clarke County is about two-thirds completed.

When the Soil Survey for an area is complete, a report is published that includes the soil maps (scale of 4 inches to the mile), names and descriptions of the soils shown on the maps and statement about the suitability of the soils for various purposes. "We hope to complete the field work in Clarke County by July, 1987. It will take another two years or more to finish checking, editing of soil survey report at various levels—Ames, Des Moines, Lincoln, Nebraska (Midwestern Technical Center) and then to Washington for final publication," Chowdhery said.

Soil information is useful to all people, directly or indirectly. Its importance to farmers, ranchers and foresters has long been recognized, and now city dwellers are beginning to realize how much influence it has on their homelife and their businesses. Some of the frequent users of soil information besides farming are land appraisers, realtors, builders, engineers, city planners, foresters, bankers and insurance companies.

Land appraisers have found that soil surveys provide excellent information on which to base land values. In many counties tax assessors have revised the tax base after a soil survey for the entire county has been made. Here in Iowa, counties share the cost of the mapping in order to speed up the work. With the help of soil survey information, the earning power of a tract of land or farms can be estimated through a system of corn suitability ratings. Since the corn is the main crop, it was decided that corn production would be used as a basis for determining a value for each tract of land or farms. Scientists from the Iowa State Experiment Station and the U.S. Department of Agriculture helped develop corn suitability ratings based on past yields of the different soils.

Efficient farmers have often complained that tax assessors are unfair to them, since their well kept, improved farms are given higher valuation than run-down farms. Using a soil survey to help appraise land avoids such complaints. Since the appraisal is based on the soil rather than on the outward

appearance of the farms. Such appraisals have proved popular with farmers. One assessor reported only one complaint after a new assessment was made based on the soil survey. Five years previously more than 1,500 complaints were filed.

Residential developers use soil information to determine what kinds of soils can be used for fills beneath foundations, for subgrades of roadways, for foundations of structures.

Developers can benefit greatly by studying soil maps and locating the soils that suit their purpose. Septic tank effluent does not filter through some soils that have a large proportion of clay. Unstable soils slip, making house foundations and walls crack. Some soils are subject to frequent floodings. Some soils are subject to rare flooding, that is once in every 25 to 50 years of a severely damaging flood. Realtors and homebuilders can all profit greatly by the knowledge of soils ahead of time.

Engineers use soil surveys in judging sites for buildings, highways, airports, dams and conservation structures. For example, an engineer would not want to use a sandy soil or sandy substratum to build a pond or dam. Soil surveys also tell engineers if a soil is able to support trucks or cars moving across an open field. This information is essential for both wartime emergencies and peacetime construction jobs.

If an engineer needs sand, gravel or limestone, the survey tells him where he can probably find it.

Foresters use soil survey information to find out what trees grow best on a particular kind of soil and what kind of conservation and other practices are needed to overcome limitations, if any.

Soils directly affect the kind and amount of vegetation that is available to wildlife as food and cover. If the soils have the potential, wildlife habitat can be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation or by maintaining the existing plant cover.

A property of soil shrink and swell potential depends on the amount and kind of clay in the soil.

Shrinking and swelling of some soils can cause damage to building foundations, basement walls, roads and other structures unless special designs are used. A high shrink-

swell potential indicates that special design and added expense may be required.

Within recent years planning agencies have come to need soil information that is vital to their job. Fairfax County, Virginia is an example. So great has been the demand for soil information for a wide range of uses, including location of roads, septic tanks, shopping centers, foundations for large buildings, and underground utilities, that the county supervisors appropriated money to help complete the soil survey started by the Soil Conservation Service and the Virginia State Agricultural Experiment Station and they hired a soil scientist themselves. The soil scientist and county health officer ran percolation tests on more than 100 soil sites in the county. Today, the soil must be suitable, or septic tanks cannot be approved. Some soils corrode pipes. Oil and gas companies are now using soil information to prevent corrosion or cut down corrosion by treatment of pipes.

Soil information helps canneries and other food processors locate their plants. Are the nearby soils suitable for growing sweet corn, peas, strawberries, tomatoes, beans, etc.? Soil surveys provide the answers to these questions.

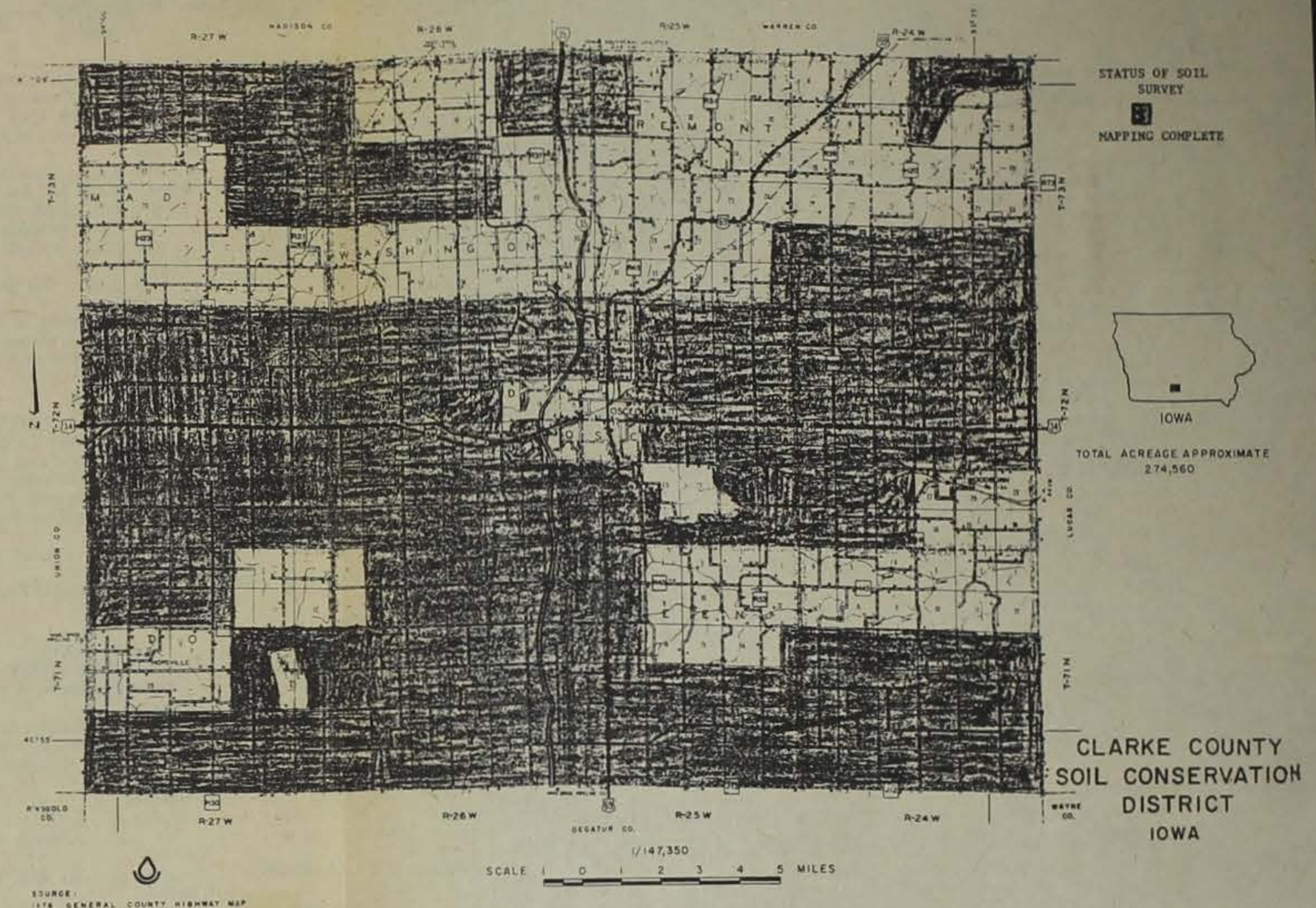
Investors, banks, insurance companies and building and loan companies find soil surveys helpful in determining the soundness of proposed investments in land.

Even manufacturers of earth moving equipment need soil information for the design of certain types of machinery.

Sanitarians use soil surveys to help locate and develop suitable soil areas for the disposal of liquid and solid wastes. Soil survey interpretations show the soil limitations for septic tank sewage absorption fields. Soil surveys are helpful in locating and developing sanitary landfill sites for the disposal of solid wastes.

It cannot be assumed that just any piece of land can be used for most of the recreation activities, that is not so. Areas that are on flood plains limit their use for camps and recreation buildings, but such soils are suitable for hiking, nature study or other less intensive uses.

High water tables impose severe limitations on use of soils for campsites, roads and playgrounds.



Droughtiness makes it difficult to grow grasses. The shrinking and swelling of soils with high clay content may damage floors and foundations of recreation buildings.

Steep slopes limit the use of soils for playgrounds, campsites, buildings, etc. If bedrock is at shallow depth, it is difficult to level soil for playgrounds and campsites.

Stones, gravel and rocks impose moderate to severe limitations on use of soils for campsites, playgrounds, trails and other uses that require heavy foot traffic.

"We are flagging out some of the problems (limitations) of the soils for such uses. The user (investor) should seek the advice of an expert in the field or have on site investigations of the site before investing a lot of money," he said.

Oceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 11, 1985

DON'T TILL THIS FALL

SAVE Nutrients
SAVE Organic Matter
SAVE Fuel
SAVE Machinery Repairs
SAVE Time
SAVE Money •

DON'T TILL AT ALL

Try No-Till In '86
"No-Tillers Are
Gaining Ground"

Sponsored By Southern Iowa No-Till
Committee & Your Local Soil
Conservation District

The Advertiser
October 8 & 15, 1985

Tree Seedlings Meeting To Assist Area Farmers

The Clarke County Conservation Board will host a meeting Tuesday, November 26 to provide landowners with assistance in ordering tree seedlings. Special emphasis will be placed on ordering seedlings from the State Tree Nursery, although private tree nurseries will be mentioned also, and order forms will be available from many.

The meeting will be held Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the small room of the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds in Osceola. Randy Goerndt, District Forester; John Klein, County Conservation Director; Keith Edwards, District Soil Conservationist and Alan Teel, Extension Director, will provide the program.

Information to be covered includes: what to plant, where to plant, windbreak planning, where to order trees, how to use a tree planter, the economics of Christmas Tree production, firewood plantations, and lumber production, including walnut plantations.

Order forms from the State Forest Nursery in Ames are now available. Copies can be picked up at the south entrance to the courthouse in Osceola, or any Soil Conservation Service office, or from County Conservation Board offices. They will also be available at the Tuesday meeting.

Frequently, many of the most desired species will sell out by early December. So now is

the time to plan for next year's planting and now is the time to order trees for next spring delivery.

This year's state nursery order form is similar to previous years. Five pine species are offered. Walnut and eight other tree species, along with 12 types of shrubs are also available. Pines and walnut sell for \$8.60 per hundred trees. All others sell for \$8 per hundred. While this is a modest increase over 1985 prices, the Iowa Conservation Commission has notified county conservation boards to expect a large increase in price for tree orders taken next fall. The state is under pressure to increase their prices in order to fully pay for the tree program, and also to insure that they do not undercut the prices of private tree seedling nurseries.

Anyone with questions about the planting of tree seedlings should attend Tuesday's meeting, or contact the District Forester in Creston or the County Conservation Board office.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 21, 1985

Clarke County Board of Supervisors Proceedings

November 12, 1985

Osceola, Iowa

The Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Iowa met pursuant to law, the rules of said Board and to adjournment. Members present: Chairman, Leonard Siefkas, Terry Robins and Floyd E. Mason.

The Board acted on the following resolutions since their October meeting:

RESOLUTION

Moved by Floyd E. Mason and seconded by Terry Robins to refund to Gary D. Sparks (Washington Township) the amount of \$114.00 on over-payment of taxes paid on building on leased land for taxes payable in 1984-85. Also to refund to Gary and Joyce McDowell (Knox Township) the amount of \$633.53 on taxes paid on an outbuilding that burned, for taxes payable 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85.

Vote was: "Ayes": Leonard Siefkas, Terry Robins and Floyd E. Mason. "Nays": None.

Signed this 14th day of October, 1985.

Attest: Emil L. Rinderspacher Chairman: Leonard Siefkas
(Clarke County Auditor) (Board of Supervisors)

RESOLUTION

Moved by Floyd E. Mason and seconded by Terry Robins to approve the Constitution and By-Laws of the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Vote was: "Ayes": Leonard Siefkas, Terry Robins and Floyd E. Mason. "Nays": None.

Signed this 16th day of October, 1985.

Attest: Emil L. Rinderspacher Chairman: Leonard Siefkas
(Clarke County Auditor) (Board of Supervisors)

RESOLUTION

The Clarke County Board of Supervisors met Monday, October 21, 1985. Moved by Terry Robins that the meeting go into closed session. Seconded by Floyd E. Mason. Motion carried.

The Board met in closed session at 9:00 A.M. on October 21, 1985. Jim Connell, County Engineer, discussed his retirement plans and tendered his resignation as of December 31, 1986. Moved by Floyd E. Mason to adjourn the closed session and reopen in open session. Seconded by Terry Robins. Motion carried.

Moved by Floyd E. Mason to accept the resignation of Jim Connell, Clarke County Engineer, effective December 31, 1986. Seconded by Terry Robins. Vote was: "Ayes": Leonard Siefkas, Terry Robins and Floyd E. Mason. "Nays": None.

Signed this 21st day of October, 1985.

Attest: Emil L. Rinderspacher Chairman: Leonard Siefkas
(Clarke County Auditor) (Board of Supervisors)

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 14, 1985

Select Klein as Speaker at SC

Clarke County Conservation Board Director John Klein has been selected to be a speaker for Soil Conservation District Commissioners at their upcoming 41st Annual Short Course on the Iowa State University campus January 22.

Klein serves now as an Assistant Commissioner and Chairman of the Clarke Soil Conservation District's Education Committee. He will present a presentation on Conservation Education in Soil Conservation Districts and he will outline some of the conservation education programs that have been successful in Clarke County.

Klein has served as the Conservation Board's Director for the past seven years, and is a 1975 I.S.U. graduate in Fisheries and Wildlife biology.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 9, 1986*



Doyce V. Miller

Doyce V. Miller, son of Charles and Nellie Miller, was born at Menlo, in Guthrie County, Iowa on August 23, 1905 and passed away at the Clarke County Hospital in Osceola, Iowa on January 12, 1986 at the age of 80 years, four months and 19 days.

He received his education in the Menlo schools and the early years of his life were spent on the wheat farms in the Dakotas and Nebraska.

On August 1, 1929, he was married to Doris Heldt at Shenandoah and three children were born to this union.

"Dutch" as he was known to his friends, moved with his wife, Doris to his present farm in Clarke County in 1944 from Memphis, Nebraska. Since that time, he has operated the farm as a farmer and a purebred Angus cattleman.

"Dutch" spent his entire lifetime serving in areas for the betterment of the community. He was a soil conservation commissioner, both District and State offices for the past 25 years. He served in leadership positions in 4-H for the past 25 years - active in Farm Bureau work for the past 15 years - a member of the Board of Directors at Clarke County State Bank for 25 years - served on the local election board for 39 years - received the Iowa Master Farmer Award and Skelly Agricultural Achievement Award - was President of the R.C. & D. Rural Water Board and organized the First Rural Water District in Clarke County. He was affiliated with the First Christian Church in Osceola, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Doris in 1972 and four brothers.

He leaves to cherish his memory: son, Lyle Miller and wife, Shirley of Osceola; son, Jack Miller of Creston; daughter, Lorna LeRoy and husband, Glenn of Madison, Kansas; six grandchildren; four great grandchildren; two sisters, Lena Earls of Florida and Ruth Miller of Washington, D.C., as well as other relatives and a host of friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 15, 1986 at Kale Funeral Home in Osceola, Iowa. Rev. Neville Clayton of Osceola officiated at the service. Burial was in the Maple Hill Cemetery at Osceola.

-Tribune

SOUTHERN IOWA NO-TILL SHOW

WHEN: Saturday, February 1, 1986

WHERE: Southwest Community College

WHAT TIME: 8:00 - 9:00, View Commercial Exhibits

9:00 - 2:30: Program - major topics or discussion: Soil compaction, fertilizer placement, economics, farmer panel.

SAVING OUR SOIL IS IMPORTANT

— PLAN TO ATTEND —

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
The Advertiser
January 28, 1986*

Hear Plan to Implement Conservation Program

Implementation of an environmental awareness program in the Clarke Schools was one of the first order of business at the Monday night, January 27 meeting of the Clarke Community School Board. The regular meeting was held in the lunchroom of the East Elementary building with all Board members present.

Clarke County Conservation Board Director John Klein met with Board members to describe the present program as it exists in the school system on a volunteer basis. A great deal of attention has been brought to conservation projects within the county and he has worked closely with both Clarke and Murray schools.

Klein presented a program that would further draw attention to all phases of conservation and proposed a program that would involve a part-time conservationist to work with instructors. His program called for an overall expenditure of \$7,000 with funding to come from a \$2,000 Soil Conservation Board and Interseeder Management Committee grant; \$2,500 from the Conservation Board and the final \$2,500 to come from the Clarke and Murray school districts with \$2,000 from Clarke and \$500 from Murray.

Discussion was held concerning possible funding with Superintendent Robert Siddens stating that perhaps the money might be available from AEA. No action was taken on the proposal until further information comes from AEA if such money can be used for the project.

In other action the Board approved minutes from the previous meeting and the special meeting held in the high school media session Friday, January 17.

Minutes of the January 17 session show that School Attorney John Lloyd reported on the outcome of the lawsuit initiated by the Board of Education on Board Policy 500.1. Attorney Lloyd stated

the judge found the policy ambiguous and it should be construed as being against the School District. Therefore the Board was ordered to tender a three-year contract effective July 1, 1985 to Robert Siddens.

Attorney Lloyd recommended filing an appeal in the hopes that the Board stood a good chance of having the decision reversed.

Following a closed session the Board voted unanimously to have Attorney Lloyd to file an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Superintendent Siddens reported the budget hearing has been set for Monday, February 24. He stated that it has been reported to him from county officials that there will be approximately \$10 million less property valuation in Clarke County for the coming year and that as such, there will probably be a zero percent growth for the year in school funding. At the present time he felt there

might be a \$148,000 short fall and a possibility of staff reductions.

East Elementary School Principal Bill Young presented two options to the Board concerning an anticipated increase enrollment at elementary level and the manner in which the increases might be handled.

The first option called for all sixth grade students living within the boundaries of the district to attend classes at the North Elementary building. Rationale for the proposal was based on the fact that the cost of one teacher could be reduced; the existing classroom at the Weldon attendance center would then become available for art and music; and that the special education load for the principal at Weldon would have more time for supervision. The cost consideration would be favorable for the District.

The second option would call for all fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students living within the Clarke School District to

Crop Clinic Scheduled Febr. 25 in Clarke County

Reducing crop cost inputs without lowering potential crop yields, will be the theme for this year's crop clinic, Tuesday, February 25 at the 4-H Building in Osceola, according to Alan Teel, Clarke County Extension Director. "Everyone is concerned about the cost of getting in a crop and we are going to share some ways to keep those costs at a minimum," says Teel.

The program will be presented by state and area agronomy specialists. Dave Foster, I.S.U. Extension entomologist, will discuss the use of integrated pest management to reduce costs and increase yields. Weed control specialist, George Czapar, will talk about how to best spend limited weed control dollars, reducing rates and substituting of herbicides, banding vs. broadcasting, and how many weeds are too many.

Soil specialist, Reggie Voss, will discuss how to best use limited fertilizer dollars, are soil tests worth the money, and the importance of fertilizer placement. Stan Murdock, area agronomist, will discuss low or no cost management practices that can reduce crop costs, rotation effects, and alternative crops.

The 1986 Farm Program will be discussed by ASCS director Bart Griffith, and Dennis Thomas, area Extension management specialist, will discuss some of the economic implications of the 1986 Farm Program. Keith Edwards, of the Soil Conservation Service, and District Forester, Randy Goerndt, will discuss some soil saving applications for conservation reserve program acres.

Commercial exhibits by local ag chemical and fertilizer dealers will be available and lunch will be provided. The program starts at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 25.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 20, 1986

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
January 30, 1986

No-Till Payments to

Be Made Locally

Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds are available through the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office for no-till planting. Consideration for approvals will be up to 40 acres per applicant and the payment rate will be \$10 per acre.

Interested parties should stop by the local Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola, for information on eligibility. Applications received by March 10 will be considered at the March commissioners meeting.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 27, 1986

Conservation Questions to Be Answered at Meet

Farmers considering the new Conservation Reserve Program can receive information about program details at a meeting to be held March 11 at 1:30 p.m., at the 4-H Building in Osceola. Bart Griffith, ASCS county executive director, and Keith Edwards, SCS district conservationist, will present details of the program and answer questions.

The CRP is part of the 1985 farm bill, and is designed to eventually remove up to 40 to 45 million acres of the nation's highly erodible land from cultivation for a decade or more. In Iowa, about 6.6 million acres are eligible for the program.

Besides helping control soil erosion, program goals include helping adjust production of some agricultural commodities currently in surplus, helping improve water quality and providing better habitat for fish and wildlife.

Under the program, farmers with eligible acreage can sign a contract with USDA to with-

draw such land from production for 10 years and put it into perennial grass, wildlife plantings, windbreaks or trees. To be considered for the program, farmers submit "bids" to local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices to establish the annual payment for which they would be willing to idle acreage under the program.

The CRP provides for ASCS cost-share assistance in establishing the permanent conservation practices. This cost-share assistance is in addition to the annual contract payment.

Signup for the 1986 crop year will be March 6 to 14 at local ASCS offices. During this period, farmers will submit bids for participation in the program beginning this year. Following the signup period, ASCS officials will determine if a bid is accepted. Farmers with successful bids will receive that amount per acre each year after October 1 as payment, similar to rent. Participants should be aware that payment may be a combination of cash or commodity certificates.

Iowa State University Extension agronomist Steve Barnhart said most officials expect wide interest in the details and provisions of the CRP. ASCS acreage contract goals are lower for the 1986 crop year than for 1987, given that farmers will have less than two months to evaluate the program for 1986. Signup for the 1987 crop year is expected sometime this summer.

"Overall, the worksheet is designed to establish a minimum bid needed to offset the net loss of income from removing the CRP acres from production," Edwards said. "The worksheet also points out several other considerations that may affect the actual bid a farmer submits."

Ag Department Accepts Bids —

To Take Land from Production

The United States Department of Agriculture accepted bids from Clarke County land owners and operators for the Conservation Reserve Program for 1986 covering 814 acres. An additional 44 bids were rejected because they were above the \$65 cut-off level. The total of 57 bids represented 4,132 acres of eligible land.

Pegged by former Secretary of Agriculture, John Block, as the most significant part of the Food Security Act of 1985, the program is intended to be a cost-effective erosion reduction program with multiple secondary benefits including wildlife enhancement, improved water quality and increased commodity prices.

The current state of the farm economy calls for a production adjustment program to decrease supply and thereby increase the prices received by farmers. At the same time, highly erodible cropland is being farmed, thereby contributing to the nation's soil erosion. The Conservation Reserve Program is a way to achieve erosion control on cropland over the long term while immediately helping to

stabilize farm income and the overall farm economy.

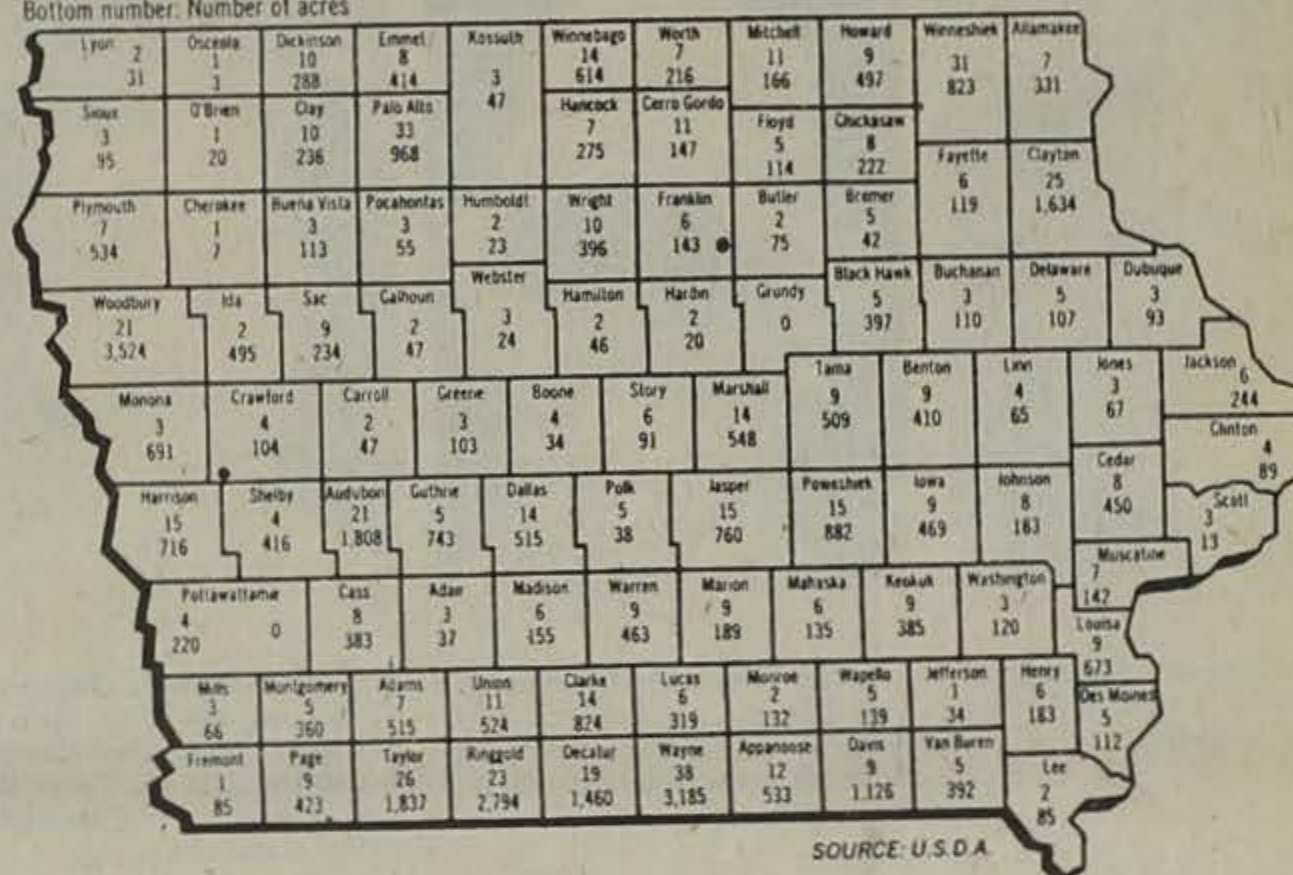
Successful bidders for 1986 will be compensated with an annual rental payment, equal

to their bid, each fall for ten consecutive years. Land that was successfully bid in will receive an established cover which must be maintained for

The local ASCS office will cost share the vegetative establishment at a 50% rate of total cost.

Conservation reserve bids tentatively accepted

Top number: Number of farms
Bottom number: Number of acres



SOURCE: U.S.D.A.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
March 6, 1986

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
April 3, 1986

Hay Ass'n Tells Year's Plans

The Southern Iowa Green Hills Hay Association (SIGHHA) announced the results of their "Bale Survey" taken at their annual meeting on March 11. One thousand five hundred one tons of hay were sold through March 11 at an average price of \$60.40 per ton (that's about 100 semi-loads!).

The Hay Association was organized some 14 months ago and has just kicked off their 1986 membership drive. With the sponsorship of the Southern Iowa Ag Boosters, a second membership in the National Hay Association will be given to a 1986 SIGHHA member who agrees to go to the 1986 National Hay Association Annual Meeting in Florida. The purpose of his going will be to promote Southern Iowa Green Hills Hay Association's members hay. Steve Wood, New Market, won the first National Hay Association membership at the SIGHHA annual meeting.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 10, 1986*

Lions, Conservationists Plan Family Canoe Outings

The Osceola Lions Club, in conjunction with the Clarke Soil Conservation District, is planning a series of canoe outings for families this spring. These outings will be educational in pointing out the beauty of our local rivers, and the problems caused by soil erosion. In addition, the trips are designed to provide traditional recreation for families to interact together.

"We feel that in some families, particularly those with both parents working, there is just not enough time for the family member to have fun together. So we want to provide an activity for family participation. We hope to make the trips fun, and educational, and something unusual that the

children in the family can think back on and see as a family working as a team," said Dave Gorsline, Osceola Lions Club President.

Canoeing was selected because it requires mutual cooperation between family members to succeed. Paddlers who don't work together, don't get very far. But once cooperation and communication lines are in place, the canoeing team can tackle the obstacles and situations that arise on the river. At the end of the trip, the families can share memories and laughs, and take pride in themselves as a working team.

These outings are designed for families, so at least one parent, and up to two children can go as a team. There are no age limits. A liability release must be signed by everyone. Eight canoes are planned for each trip, with a maximum of three people in each canoe.

Further details and sign-up information will be released soon.

Canoe Outings Are Planned

The dates have been decided for the first two of five family canoeing outings planned by the Osceola Lions Club and the Clarke County Soil Conservation Education Committee.

Saturday, April 19, and Saturday, April 26 will be the first two trips. Canoeists will meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Osceola Courthouse parking lot and car pool to the river. Plans are to be back in Osceola around 6 p.m.

These trips are free. The trips will probably be on Grand River, but the condition of the water level may cause a change of rivers at trip time. Eight canoes with life jackets and paddles will be provided.

These trips are designed for family interaction. So it is open primarily to parents with their children. One or both parents may go, but no more than two children can go with each parent.

There is no age limit, but the sponsors discourage bringing children under school age. All canoeists must sign a liability waiver for themselves and their children.

In addition to family interaction, the trips will build family bonds by providing adventure type activities that will be memorable to both youth and parents. The trips are also designed to point out the problems of soil erosion and poor farming practices on our water resources.

To go on either of these two trips, advance registration is required. Reservations are first come - first served.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 17, 1986*

Offer Outings to Conservationists

A conservation program for high school students will be held July 14 to 17, at the Iowa 4-H Camping Center near Madrid. The Youth Leadership Conservation Program is a state-wide program sponsored by the County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts, and Cooperative Extension Service. Learning about Iowa's natural resources, land-use decisions, and conservation careers are all a part of the program. Students will be actively involved in outdoor sessions about forestry, wildlife, soils, water, and leadership.

College scholarships will be awarded based on leadership skills and the results of a written test given at the end of the program.

A maximum of 50 students will be allowed to attend at a cost of \$55 each. High school students interested in attending the Youth Conservation Leadership Program should contact one of the following county offices by May 1 to obtain further information: John Klein of the County Conservation Board; Keith Edwards of the Soil Conservation District; or Alan Teel of the Cooperative Extension office.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 17, 1986*

Mapping Soils in Clarke County —

To Be Completed this Year

Asghar Chowdhery, Soil Scientist, reported that mapping of soils in Clarke County is about three-fourths complete. Weather permitting, field work will be completed by December 31, 1986. Xerox copies of the completed areas of individual farms can be obtained from the Soil Conservation Service district office.

These soil maps show different soil types, called mapping units. These mapping units are identified by symbol. For example: 364B - 364 signifies Grundy soils and letter B shows steepness of slope which is gently sloping. So 364B means gently sloping Grundy soils. Another example: 24E2 - 24 signifies Shelby soils, E denotes 14 to 18 percent slopes (moderately steep) and two denotes moderately eroded.

These mapping units are separated from each other on the basis of important landscape and soil profile characteristics. Landscape is the lay of the land and soil profile is vertical exposure of the soil with all the layers (horizons) from surface downward. There are three major layers in the soil profile ie., the surface layer (A horizon), subsoil soil (B horizon) and parent material (C horizon).

Technicians study the important characteristics (properties) of each layer or horizon which are important to plant growth and other uses of soils. The main characteristics (properties) studied of each layer (horizon) are:

1. Color: The color of the surface layer generally relate to the amount of organic matter. The color of the subsoil is an indicator of the air and water relationships in the soils. Well drained and moderately well drained soils have yellowish brown or brown mixed with streaks of grayish brown colors. Poorly drained soils have dark gray, olive gray or bluish gray colors in their subsoil.

2. Texture: The proportions of sand, silt and clay particles in soil determine its texture. Texture is an important characteristic be-

cause it will determine water intake rates, water storage in the soil, the ease of tilling the soil, the amount of aeration (vital to root growth) and will influence soil fertility.

For example: Sandy soils are easily tilled, have plenty of aeration for good root growth, water passes through rapidly and takes nutrients with it and also subject to droughtiness. High clay soils have very small particles that fit tightly together, having little open pore space, which means there is a little room for air and water to move into the soils. This makes high clay soils, difficult to till and difficult to drain.

3. Structure: It is the aggregation of primary soil particles (ie, sand, silt and clay) into compound particles (clusters of particles) which are separated from adjoining aggregates by surfaces of weakness. Structure is important because it determines the amount of pore space between aggregates and how easily plant roots and moisture can penetrate the soil and affects other aspects of soil behavior under crop management systems.

4. Consistence: Consistency is tendency of soil to crumble or stick together. Consistency indicates how difficult it is to keep the soil open and porous under cultivation.

5. Reaction: Soil reaction is an indication of the acidity or alkalinity of the soil and is measured in pH units. At pH 7, the soil reaction is neutral; from pH 7 to 0, the soil is increasingly acidic; from pH 7 to 14, the soil is increasingly more alkaline. Soil pH is a very useful indicator of base status, degree of weathering, amount of leaching, availability of some nutrients, and toxicity to various plants. Soil reaction is important in selecting crops and other plants, in evaluating soil amendments (liming) for stabilization and fertility.

Landscape features such as landscape position ie, upland drainageways, terraces and bottomlands and slope and

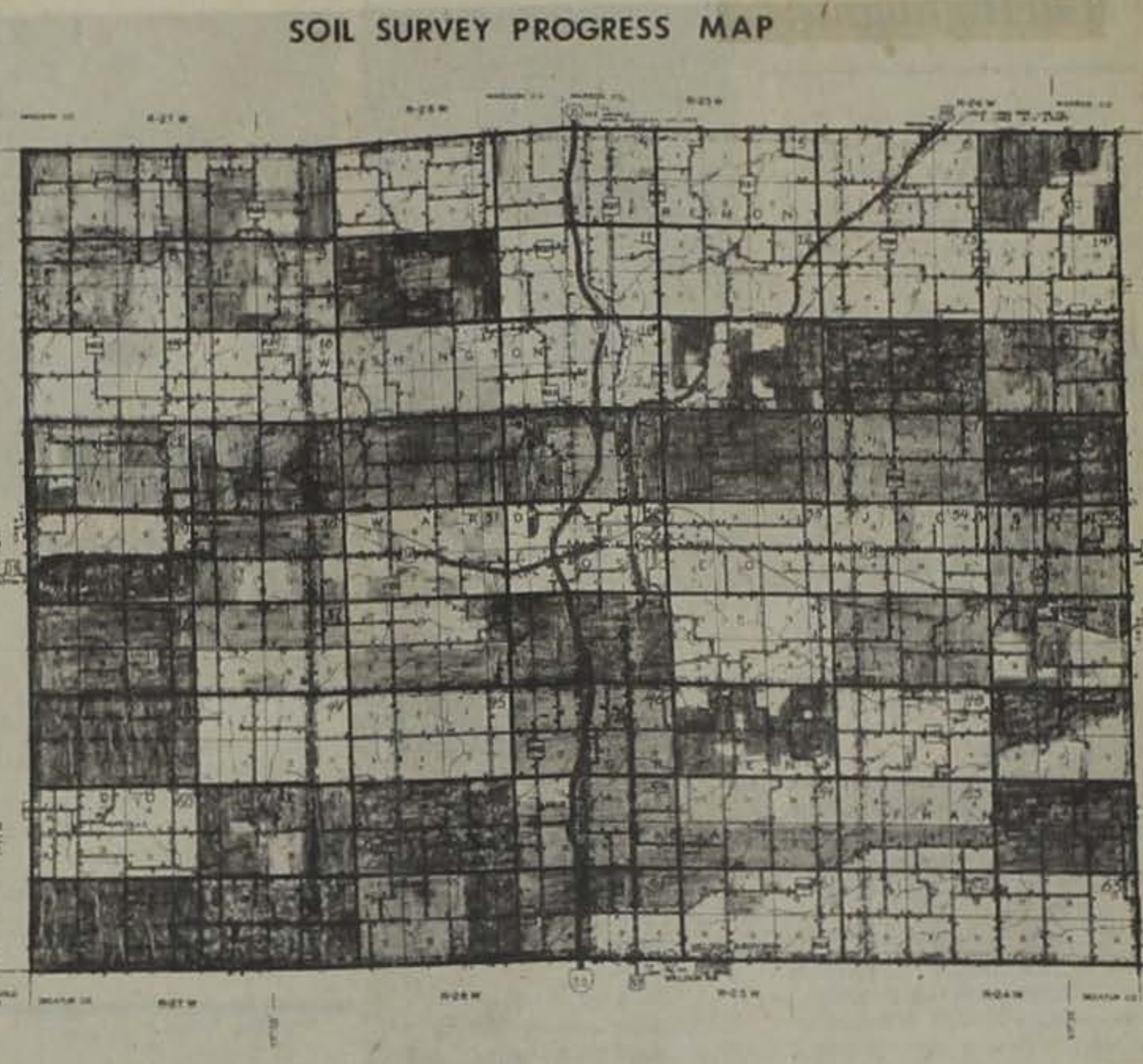
degrees of erosions are important characteristics for separating mapping units.

6. Slope: Steepness of slope is measured on a percentage scale and is classified into slope groups. The percentage scale tells how many feet the elevation rises or falls per 100 feet of slope length. There are seven slope groups: A) 0 to 2 percent - Nearly level; B) 2 to 5 percent - Gently sloping; C) 5 to 9 percent - Moderately sloping; D) 9 to 14 percent - Strongly sloping; E) 14 to 18 percent - Moderately steep; 4) 18 to 25 percent - Steep; G) greater than 25 percent - Very steep.

Slopes may be gentle or steep, short or long and smooth or variable. All of these characteristics influence soil development, runoff, erosion and land use but only steepness is used as mapping unit differentiating criteria.

7. Soil erosion: Soil erosion is the wearing away of the land surface or detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice or gravity.

When people use land, they usually disturb the vegetative cover and thereby increases the rate of erosion on sloping lands. This induced erosion, properly named as accelerated erosion, is what most people mean when they speak of erosion. Accelerated erosion is detrimental because it removes the black surface soil and plant nutrients much faster than the soil formation processes replenishes them. The detrimental effects of accelerated erosion are classified into erosion phases on the basis of how severely they restrict the use of the land. These classes are: (a) un-eroded or slightly eroded — land that has about same use potential and management needs as it had when the settlers first began cultivating the land. Surface layer is seven to 12 inches thick; (b) moderately eroded — land with use potential somewhat impaired by erosion. The same



use potentials are still available, but the intensity needs to be reduced (few years of row crops); (c) severely eroded — land with use potential significantly reduced by erosion so that some choices are eliminated, as for example, land that was formerly suited to row crops, is now best suited to close growing crops or sod-based crops. The surface layer is mostly subsoil material which is high in clay, difficult to till and has low fertility and poor tilth.

Farm production depends largely on fitting soil management practices to the soil properties as accurately as possible.

A soil survey can help you determine how intensively you can use soil without damage. It also helps in determining what conservation measures are needed to control erosion and to maintain or to increase the productivity of your farm.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
April 17, 1986

Area Outdoorsmen Enjoy Scenic Grand River Canoe Trip

Eighty-three year old Eldon Allen enjoyed it. Two year old Jamiel Shields was fascinated. Seventeen people of ages between two and 83 also had a day of adventure and fun last Saturday on the water.

These 19 people participated in the first of five canoe trips that are planned for this summer. This trip was on the Grand River in southeast Union County.

Water levels ranged from 18 inches to four feet in the river. A good current kept the canoes moving well.

There were two portages around log jams during the three and one-half hour trip. Also a number of tight places for the canoes to squeeze through. Just before the end of the trip, a fallen log hung

above the river just at neck level for the canoeists. They all "limboed" backward to slide under.

The second river canoe trip will also be on the Grand River, and it will put in where this trip ended. This second trip will be this Saturday, and will leave Union County, cross the tip of Ringgold County, and end in Decatur County at the "Caseyville Bridge" north of Westerville.

Like the first trip, this trip will also be free to families. It is sponsored by the Osceola Lions Club and the Clarke Soil Conservation District Education Committee. Sign-ups for the eight available canoes are full. However, if anyone wants to join in the trip, and has their

own canoe, they are welcome to come along. The group will leave Osceola at 12:30 on Saturday and car pool to the river.

The 19 people that attended the first Grand River trip last Saturday were Eldon Allen; Ronny Shields; John and Holly Klein; Richard, Sandi, Mark and Kathy Mandell; Steve, Carmen, Robin, Luke and Amber Moore; Mike, Sondra, Josh, Caleb and Jamiel Shields; and Mary Ann Shields.

There are eight canoes available for these trips, with a maximum of up to 24 people. Although two year old Jamiel went on this last trip, youngsters below school age are not recommended.

Slate Second Sign-up for For Conservation Program

A second sign-up and bidding period will be held for USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. Applicants may bid to enter the program for either 1986 or 1987. Bids may be submitted at the Clarke County ASCS office between May 5-16.

Procedure will be similar to the March sign-up period; producers will submit bids on the amount of money they will accept to retire highly erodible cropland to grass or trees for ten years. A 50 percent cost share payment is offered to successful bidders to establish conservation cover on offered land.

Landowners entering the 1986 program must comply from the time the ASC county

committee signs the contract in order to receive the first payment in October 1986.

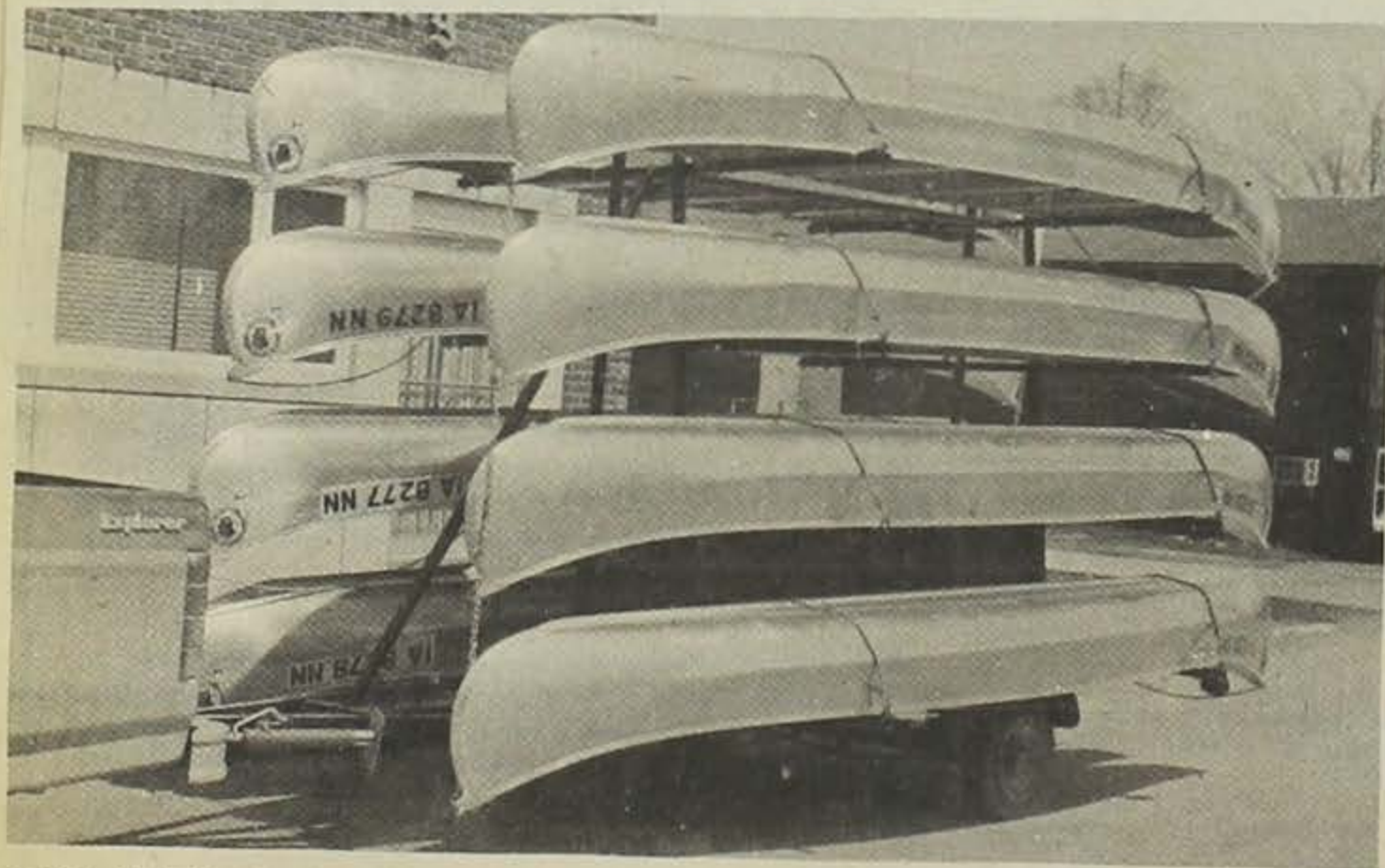
If landowners choose to enter the 1987 program, the contract becomes effective the later of October 1, or the date the 1986 crop is harvested. The first annual rental payment would be made in October 1987.

New landowners, since January 1, 1985, will be required to appeal to the County ASC Committee to prove they did not purchase land solely for the purpose of placing land in the Conservation Reserve Program.

The Clarke County Soil Conservation Service will make a determination of eligibility based on land classification and erosion factors.

Interested parties may check with local USDA agency offices for more details; ASCS for contract rules; SCS for erosion rates; and Extension for bidding rationale.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 1, 1986*



LOOK AT 'EM: County Conservationist John Klein brought the canoes to the Sentinel-Tribune office the other day for a picture and to

whet the appetites of those who would like to take a canoe trip. Those interested should contact John for the upcoming canoe ride.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
April 24, 1986*

Canoeists Find Meaning Of Term 'Portageing'

Logs, logs and more logs were the obstacles on last Saturday's Lions Club Grand River Canoe Trip. Sunken-logs, overhanging logs and total river blocking logs kept the trip exciting because the family canoeists never knew what to expect around the next bend.

Most logs wouldn't block the entire river and the nine canoes that went on this trip could glide around or over. Twice the canoeists had to literally go through the branches of fallen trees. Some logs were barely under the water and the canoes had to slide over. On two occasions, the 22 people on this trip had to portage around entire logjams.

But there were no complaints. The logs were a beautiful part of this winding scenic stream, and if they provided a natural obstacle course, then they were to be enjoyed as well.

While there were occasional deep spots on the river, the

average depth was around two feet. The water had dropped almost a foot since the first canoe trip Saturday, April 19.

The oldest canoeist was again 83-year old Eldon Allen who shared a canoe with his grandson, Adam Coppock, age 11. The 20 other people were Gene and Jaime Cook, Mike, Cathy and Allison Wignall, Ben and Barbra Bussman, Bud and Scotty Hook, Willow Ross, Richard, Sandi, Mark and Cathy Mandell, John, Holly and Hans Klein, and finally, Norma, Toshia and Tonya Baker.

This was the second of five planned river canoe trips sponsored by the Osceola Lions Club and the Education Committee of the Clarke Soil Conservation District. Canoe rentals for these trips are provided through a grant to develop family interaction and outdoor education. Dates for future trips will be announced soon.

Three-Day Canoe Trip, Campout Is Scheduled

The third in the series of canoe trips this spring will be a campout as well. This trip will be Friday through Sunday, May 16, 17 and 18. The group will travel to Iowa's most scenic river, the Upper Iowa River in Winneshiek County near Decorah. This river is the only Iowa river on the National Scenic Waterway list. High cliffs and bluffs tower over this river and provide excellent scenery.

Because of the travel time involved, the participants on this trip will leave Friday late afternoon, May 16. Plans are to camp both Friday and Saturday nights near Bluffton on the river. Saturday the canoeists will travel upstream to Kendallville and canoe back to Bluffton, eating lunch along

the way. This trip will take about six hours. After camping Saturday night, canoeists may take a short canoe trip in the morning, or may take a short sight-seeing tour of some of the northeast Iowa sights.

This trip is sponsored by the Osceola Lions Club and the Clarke County Soil Conservation Education Committee. It is designed to create positive family interaction and teach adults and children about their environment. Travel will be by car pooling of participants. Food costs and camping expenses will be shared by the group.

Anyone interested in joining in on this trip should contact John Klein at the Clarke County Conservation Board office as soon as possible. Space is limited and reservations are required. There is no age limit, but youngsters under school age are generally not long term canoeists.

In case of threatening rain that weekend, the trip will be rescheduled for a later date.

Canoeists Ready for NE Iowa Camping Trip

Canoes are ready and the camping gear is coming out. Final plans for camping and canoeing in northeast Iowa are being made this week. On Friday evening, Osceola area residents will travel to the small town of Bluffton on the Upper Iowa River in Winneshiek County. As the name implies, Bluffton is adjacent to

the river and across from high river bluffs.

This trip is the third of five family canoeing trips. These trips are sponsored by the Osceola Lions Club and the Clarke Soil Conservation District Education Committee.

While the other trips will be on local rivers, this weekend, Iowa's most scenic river was selected. Because of the travel time, the group will go up Friday evening and return Sunday afternoon. The families will camp out Friday and Saturday nights.

Partial funding for this and the other four trips comes from a state grant titled "How to Paddle your Children". The grant is to encourage family participation and provide quality outdoor education experiences.

Anyone interested in going on this trip should contact John Klein at the Clarke County Conservation Board office for last minute sign-up.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 1, 1986*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 8, 1986*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 15, 1986*

Canoe Outing Is Delayed

Miserable rainy weather forced the Upper Iowa River Canoe Outing that was planned for last weekend to be delayed one week. Now the group of 25 Clarke Area people plan to leave this Friday at 6 p.m. from the courthouse parking lot in Osceola.

The group will make the trip to northeast Iowa Friday night and camp out both Friday and Saturday. Members of the group will car pool to save on travel expenses. Plans are to canoe from Kendallville to Bluffton on Saturday. Further canoeing on Sunday will be up to the group.

This trip is designed for families and building family experiences. It is the third of five trips being sponsored by the Osceola Lions Club and the Clarke Soil Conservation District Education Committee. Partial funding for the trips comes from a grant entitled "How to Paddle Your Children". Besides building family bonds, the trips provide a good learning experience about soil erosion and farming practices.

"The Upper Iowa River will provide a good example for comparisons in erosion, soil formation, and farming with our local Grand River. The Upper Iowa has much more rock in the river, including the rock bluffs. There are also cold water trout streams flowing directly into the river. I think it will be an excellent environmental education experience," said John Klein.

Upper Iowa Canoeists Enjoy Weekend Trip

All reports back from the 15 people who went on the Upper Iowa River Canoe Trip this past weekend said it was great. There were eight adults and seven youth on the trip. The water was clear with a rock bottom.

"No mud, just rocks, and fast water" was how seven year old Joshua Shields described it. Limestone bluffs towered in vertical cliffs over the river. Some of these bluffs left standing chimney like columns that stood hundreds of feet tall. So besides canoeing, the youngsters enjoyed rock climbing and swimming in the cold water.

Mike Shields and John Klein crawled over 50 feet back into the bluff along the narrow rock crack. In that space, the cave changed angle twice, so it was pitch black. They had a flashlight that was low on batteries. "The cave went on, but the flashlight and my nerves were giving out. I didn't want to get stuck in there. We found many animal bones, and I didn't want to corner a big coon with me blocking his exit. Next time maybe we will go further because we were certainly not at the end," said John Klein.

Another feature of the trip was crossing a 185 foot suspension bridge that hung 30 feet



CANOE TRIP: This picture shows part of the group canoeing on Grand River Monday, April 19. The picture was taken at Paul and Helen Selsor's farm at a spot known as Reynold's Ford. Deloris Moran snapped the picture.

above the river. The group camped Friday and Saturday nights and returned Sunday. They toured Fort Atkinson State Preserve on the way home.

The trip was sponsored by the Osceola Lions Club and the Education Committee of the Clarke Soil Conservation District. It was the third of five river canoe trips planned for this summer.

Oldest on this trip was 83 year old Eldon Allen of Osceola. The youngest was five year old Caleb Shields of Grand River. The others were: Gene and Jamie Cook, Matt Jackson, Brion Wolfe, John Neeley and Jennifer Arndt, all of Osceola. Also in the group were Mike, Joshua, and Mary Ann Shields of Grand River, Arin and Jerry McBroom of Weldon, and John and Holly Klein of Woodburn.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 22, 1986

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 29, 1986



INSPECT HAY: Lynn George, a member of the Southern Iowa Greenhills Hay Association, inspects his hay crop with Clarke County

Extension Director Alan Teel. Both are promoting hay in the county as a way to farm the ground profitably.

Local Hay Association to Attend First State Hay Exposition, July 2

The first statewide exposition devoted to hay and forage production and marketing will be held Wednesday, July 2, near the town of Alleman in central Iowa. The one-day event is co-sponsored by the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council, Iowa State University Extension Service and Wallace Farmer magazine.

The Hay Expo is an excellent opportunity for those interested in hay, pasture or forages to see everything from seeds and seeding techniques to the finished bale in one location. Commercial exhibits will feature the latest equipment in harvesting and feeding,

alfalfa and grass seeds, pesticides, preservatives and other products. Educational exhibits include a program by ISU extension and research forage specialists.

ISU agronomists will talk about various aspects of hay production and management to produce top yields of high quality forage. ISU entomologists and plant pathologists will talk about trouble shooting and control of pest and disease problems. An ISU ruminant nutritionist will discuss forage sampling, testing and feeding and will answer questions from farmers. ISU's alternative crops research effort will also be discussed and available to view as part of the tour of the field plots.

Representatives of Iowa's six regional Hay Producer/Marketing Associations will be on hand to answer questions and provide practical information based on their experience in making hay and forage a more profitable crop. For example, one hay association will give several demonstrations during the day showing how they visually "grade" or evaluate their members' hay, and explain the importance of quality from a marketing standpoint. Hay association people will also share ideas on how they solve transportation problems, how they decide how much their hay is worth, as well as cutting management and use of preservatives and drying agents.

The Soil Conservation Service will have an expert to answer questions about warm and cool season pasture grass

management, and the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation will have useful information on using forages for soil conservation purposes. A hay marketing specialist from the Iowa Department of Agriculture will explain that agency's programs available to help farmers do a better job of marketing hay. How hay prices are gathered and reported in Iowa will also be explained.

Expo hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the morning hours open for visiting the booths and displays and for listening to speakers. Starting at 1:00 p.m., field demonstrations will highlight the afternoon, including mower-conditioners, tedders, rakes, balers, and chopping outlage.

Food and drink will be available. The event will be held rain or shine. If it rains, plans have been made to move exhibits and equipment indoors. The Hay Expo will be held on the Holland, Twedt, and Stall farms at Alleman, Iowa, which is halfway between Ames and Des Moines. The site is located just east of Alleman along NE 142nd Avenue. You can turn east from US 69 at Alleman, or turn west from I-35 onto NE 142nd Avenue.

Clarke County is a member of the Southern Iowa Greenhills Hay Association with board members—Chuck Busse, Lynn George, Larry Fitzpatrick, Richard Barr, Edith Brown, Jack Callison, John Camp, Bob Cooley, Victoria Denman, Ernie Hoeck, Darrell Mateer and Tom Samuelson.

Second Sign-up Adds Acres To Program

Clarke County farmers have volunteered 3348 additional acres of highly erodible farmland for entry into USDA's new Conservation Reserve Program. The first sign-up period was conducted March 3 through 14, during which 814 acres were pledged.

The program commits farmers to stop growing crops on such acreage and plant it to grass or trees through 10 year contracts with the USDA.

Thirty farmers have submitted bids stating the rental payment they would accept to convert highly erodible cropland to permanent vegetative cover. Thirteen additional bids were rejected, being above the \$70 per acre accepted level.

Participants also will receive 50 percent of eligible costs of establishing grass or trees on the acreage placed in the reserve.

Funding by the Food Security Act of 1985, gives farmers an incentive to participate early in the five year bid period. Only the first two years expenditures were approved, (1986-1987). Remaining years (1988 through 1990), are dependent on new appropriations or Commodity Credit Corporation surplus funds.

Annual rental payments will not be affected by any federal budget cuts, nor will it be adjusted for cost-of-living changes. The Secretary of Agriculture by discretion, may make rental payments each fall by cash or PIK Certificates.

Those desiring further information should contact Clarke County ASCS, D. Bart Griffith.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
June 5, 1986

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
June 26, 1986

Savage Storm Lashes Clarke County

Clarke Countians, barely keeping their heads above water, suffered another deluge late Sunday night and early Monday morning. This one, however, was accompanied by hail and tornado-force winds in some areas of the county.

The result was downed power lines, uprooted trees, damaged buildings and farm fields that looked as though a mulcher had gone through. County streams again flooded adjacent lowlands as super-saturated soil simply could not absorb any more moisture.

As often is the case in summer storms in Iowa, this one devastated some areas, touched others only moderately and skipped some altogether. The city of Osceola fell into the middle category with some tree damage, minor building damage, and electrical service interruptions reported.

A mile-wide swath in the south part of the county, however, was bombarded by two-inch hailstones that scythed corn from tall-standing tassled specimens to six-inch high stubble. Motor vehicles suffered pounding by the hail that dented exteriors and smashed out windshields and windows. Homes also reported windows smashed out by hail and siding dented.

Iowa Southern Utilities manager Robert Toland said that repair crews from Leon and Creston assisted the Osceola crew all night Sunday and during Monday. Hardest hit in the ISU service area was a section seven miles west of Osceola where three poles were downed and two more completely snapped off. Falling tree limbs and trees hit lines in the Murray area and interrupted service there. But all service to ISU customers was restored by 5:15 a.m. Monday, Toland said.

Richard Cline, line superintendent for Clarke Electric Co-op, said REC crews also worked throughout the night Sunday with five members of the Humeston crew helping out. Cline said a total of 10 poles was lost by storm action. Repair crews worked in the Murray area, north of Weldon and west of Leroy and by 3 p.m. Monday had service restored to most co-op members.

Although power interruptions inconvenienced home-owners, the storm's effect on Clarke



AFTERMATH: This Clarke County cornfield, which Sunday held promise of a bountiful harvest, looked this way Monday afternoon, following the

destructive storm which reduced the field to mere stubble.

See map of storm path on page 6.

County farmers was catastrophic in some instances. Alan Teel, Clarke County Extension director, said the storm left the most extensive damage in its wake of

any storm in the 12 years he has lived in the county. Worst aspect was the wide area covered.

Farmers hit by the hail and wind did not lose just a part of

cropped area, but lost a major part and in some instances the total crop. Teel estimated that 25 percent of the county's cropland was affected by the storm with a

significant percentage of crops totally destroyed.

The storm followed a path roughly northwest to southeast, through Murray, southwest of Osceola and on toward Weldon and Leroy. Teel drove over affected areas Monday and said the worst hit was an area six miles south and one and one-half miles east of Osceola where cornfields were literally leveled; stalks that had been more than waist high are now no more than three to four inch stubs.

Homes in this area reported smashed windows, missing shingles, dented siding, with glass and leaves imbedded in interior walls, ceilings and car-

peting. Many outbuildings in the storm path suffered varying amounts of damage.

But as costly as the physical damage wreaked by the storm was, even more important to area farmers is the financial loss they will almost certainly suffer. Teel said that crop damage estimates will probably total \$8.5 millions. Teel said some operators, already buffeted by effects of the farm crisis, may find it impossible to overcome the loss of crops so badly needed to shore up finances.

Some indication of the widespread damage of the storm comes from Duane Yount of Yount Wallpaper and Paint in Osceola, who said that he replaced approximately 50 windows on the north sides of homes and buildings in an area south and west of Osceola to Lacelle Road. Yount worked till late Monday evening, then moved into the Murray area on Tuesday. He reported that some houses had leaves, chewed up by hail and blown by wind, plastered against their sides; houses with older wood siding, he said, appeared riddled by hail pock marks.

Among Osceola firms victimized by the storm were McDonalds, where extensive sign damage was reported, and radio KJJC, which was knocked off the air for eight hours.

But with all the widespread damage, there were no personal injury reports, for which county residents can be thankful.

Some Difference

What a difference a year makes!

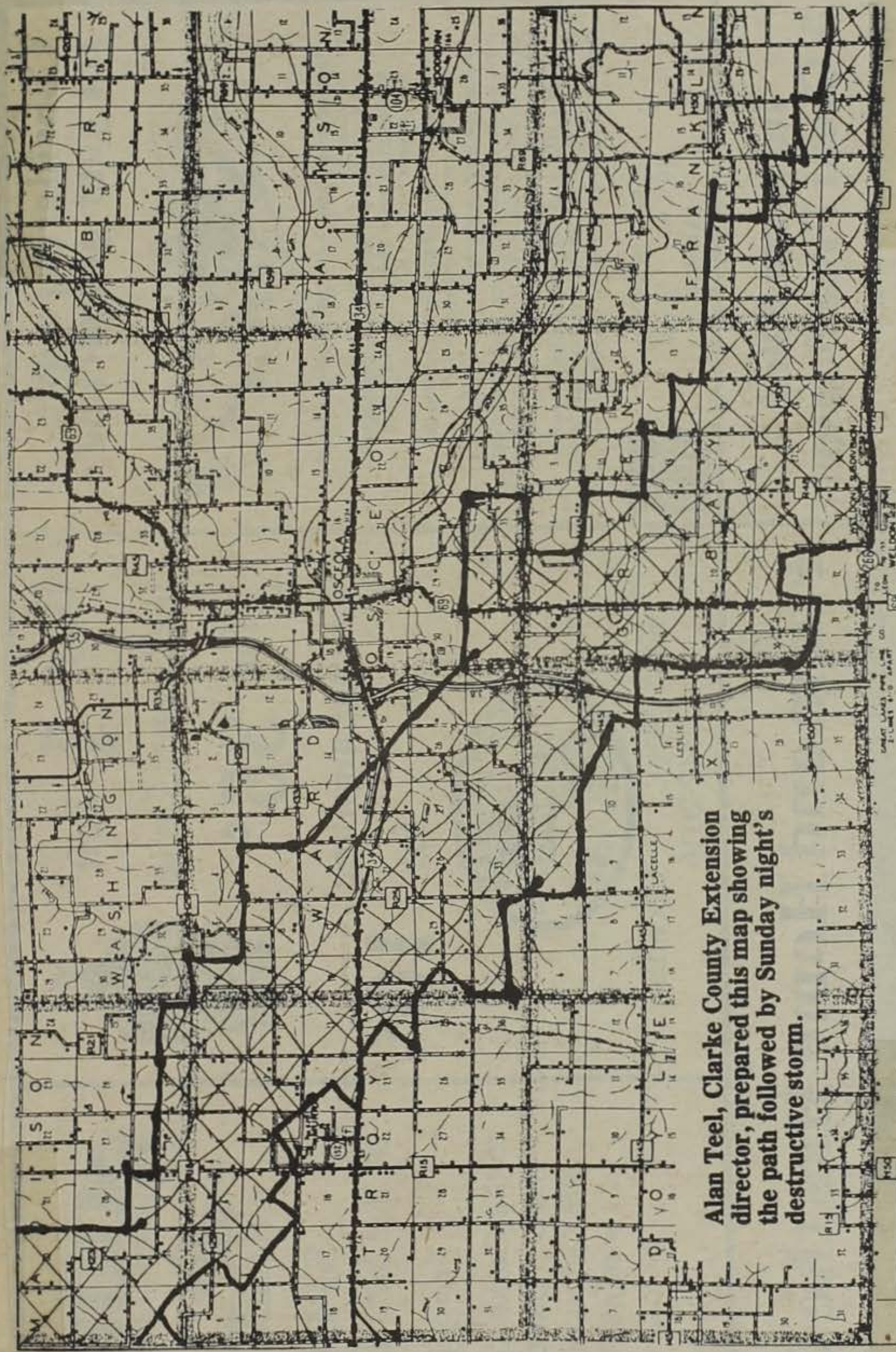
Last July most Clarke Countians were praying for rain.

This year they are praying the rains stop.

During the first two weeks of July nearly nine inches of rain have fallen at the Sentinel's unofficial weather station—8.8. That's almost a fourth of the normal precipitation for the entire year.

Compare that 8.8 with the 2.5 inches recorded during the first two weeks of July last year and it's easy to see why farmers cannot get into the fields and why the landscape is brilliant green.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 17, 1986*



Alan Teel, Clarke County Extension director, prepared this map showing the path followed by Sunday night's destructive storm.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 17, 1986*

Soil Survey in Clarke County Now Underway

The Clarke County Soil Survey Comprehensive Field Review is now in progress, August 11 through 14. Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning were spent in the field. The remaining time has been scheduled in the Soil Survey office, reviewing the legend, manuscript, and other areas related to the Soil Survey. Representatives of USDA and other cooperating agencies are attending this review.

Soils Correlator, Dick Base represents the SCS Midwestern National Technical Center located in Lincoln, Nebraska. Assistant State Soil Scientist, Doug Oelmann represents the Iowa SCS State Office; Professor of Agronomy, Dr. Tom Fenton represents Iowa State University; Area Conservationist, Erwin Aust represents the SCS Area Office at Shenandoah; District Conservationist, Keith Edwards represents the SCS Osceola Field Office; Extension Director Alan Teel represents the Clarke County Extension Service; and Soil Scientists, Asghar Chowdhery and Steve Ernst represent the Clarke County Soil Survey. land management and productivity, recreational development, engineering properties and classifications, soil and water features, sanitary facilities, building site development, construction materials, and surface water management.

The Soil Survey is more than 90 percent complete; soil mapping is expected to be finished by the end of September. Each soil type has been described and interpreted for its use and management, and a first draft of the manuscript has been compiled. The Advance Report of the Clarke County Soil Survey should be available for public use by the spring of 1987; and the final publication is expected in two or three years.

Copies of the Advance Report will be available at the SCS

The office staff at these locations will provide assistance in using this preliminary report, to anyone who requests it. This report will contain detailed soil mapping of the entire county and interpretations of each soil type for various uses. It will also contain a general soil map and a brief description of each soil association, a soils legend, the acreage and extent of each soil type and the identification of prime farmland.

Each soil type has been rated for a variety of land uses; these ratings are based on the limitations and restrictive features of each soil type. Soils are rated for the following uses: wood-

It is expected that farmers and those who work with farmers; foresters, game managers, and sportsmen; engineers and builders; land use planners and other government agents; local merchants and industrial planners; and future land users will find these soil interpretations a valuable tool for making land use decisions.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
August 14, 1986*

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
August 21, 1986*

To Elect Two District Soil Commissioners

The terms of two Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners expire in 1986. Successors will be elected at the general election to be held November 4, 1986. Terms of Richard Carson, Jackson Township, and E. John Camp, Fremont Township, will expire. Individuals elected to fill these vacancies will serve a six year term commencing January 2, 1987.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil conservation district, which is all of Clarke County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commis-

sioner may be a resident of any one township.

Incumbent commissioners are Adrian T. Fuller, Osceola Township; Edwin G. Ratashak, Jr., Ward Township; and Terry L. Boles, Doyle Township; therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from County Auditor Emil Rinderspacher.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County courthouse no later than 5 p.m. September 10.

Soil Conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county. Those desiring further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner may contact the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola.

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Two Seats Open For SCD Post

The terms of two Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners expire this year. Individuals interested in seeking the office of soil conservation district commissioner are reminded to pick up nomination petitions from the County Auditor. These petitions must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County courthouse no later than 5 p.m. September 10.

For further information pertaining to the responsibilities of a commissioner, interested parties should contact the Clarke County Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
September 4, 1986*

Plan Two Canoe Outings For Area Sportsmen

Two canoe outings are being planned in the near future that are open to the public to enjoy.

On Wednesday, September 17, a canoeing safety and beginning instruction class will be held at East Lake County Park, one mile east of Osceola on Highway 34. The class will begin at 6:30 p.m. Everyone will have a chance to discuss

safe and proper handling of a canoe, and they will get a chance to try canoeing on East Lake.

After sunset, canoeing films and shared experiences will be held indoors. The evening of canoeing is free and open to all ages. This program is provided by the Conservation Awareness Project in Clarke County. All residents of Clarke and surrounding counties are encouraged to attend.

The second canoe outing is a scenic fall canoe trip to the Upper Iowa River on October 10 through 12. Plans are to leave Osceola after work on Friday, October 10, and car pool to Kendallville in extreme northeast Iowa near Decorah. The group will camp Friday and Saturday nights there. Saturday is canoe day with most of the day spent floating the scenic river. The Upper Iowa is the state's most scenic stream with tall towering limestone bluffs, native pine trees, natural caves and springs and beautiful timber. Sunday will be sightseeing day in that area. The group will see a natural ice cave, cold springs flowing out of rock walls and a state trout hatchery. The group will return home Sunday afternoon.

This trip is sponsored by the Osceola Lions Club and the Clarke Soil Conservation District Education Committee.

Sign-up is required in advance to reserve a spot on this trip and entire families are encouraged to go. Interested parties may contact John Klein for more information.

Both of these canoe outings will provide recreation and experience to the outdoors people in these last remaining days of nice weather.

Canoe Trip Announced

The sixth and final canoe trip of the season will be leaving Clarke County this weekend.

Nine canoes holding 28 adults and youth will travel to the Upper Iowa River to camp at Kendallville after work Friday night.

After a brisk October night, the group will canoe Saturday on the most scenic river in the state.

Besides canoeing, the group plans to go caving, rock climbing and touring springs that pour directly out of rock walls.

This trip is the sixth public canoe outing to be held this year. The trips have been organized by the Osceola Lions Club and the education committee of the Clarke Soil Conservation District. Canoes come from the Clarke County Conservation Board. Program funding comes from a grant from the state to conduct family interaction activities. This project was titled "How to Paddle Your Children" and was designed to help build family bonds by providing mutual outdoor adventures. A secondary benefit is the environmental education the participants receive, particularly in soil erosion and water quality.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
October 9, 1986*

Set Canoe Date Sun.

Last weekend's rain forced cancellation of the Upper Iowa Canoe Outing that was planned by area residents.

To compensate for that trip, sponsors have planned a one afternoon canoe outing this Sunday, October 19. This trip will be on Grand River in Decatur County. Specifically, the trip will go from Shewmaker County Park, just southeast of the town of Grand River, down to Highway 2.

Sing-ups are being taken for interested canoeists. Osceola residents will meet and leave from the courthouse parking lot at 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Others will meet at Shewmaker Park at 1 p.m.

There is no cost for the trip and families are especially encouraged to attend. Canoes, life jackets and paddles are provided. The trip is sponsored by the Osceola Lions Club and the Clarke Soil Conservation Education Committee. Eight canoes are provided by the Clarke County Conservation Board that can hold up to 24 people. The canoes will be reserved on a first come-first served basis.

"These canoe trips serve many purposes and we hope to have a good response from the public," said John Klein, Chairman of the Education Committee.

Sign up for the canoe trip by calling the Clarke County Conservation Board office.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
October 16, 1986*

Four Year Project Ends —

Soil Survey Completed

A four-year project to inventory the 274,496 acres of land in Clarke County will be completed Tuesday, November 4 at 10 a.m. with a "last acre ceremony" to be held at East Lake Park.

This project was started in 1976 with the signing of a letter of intent by the Clarke County Board of Supervisors. The county's investment has been

\$68,000. This money covered approximately one-third of the cost of the field work. The state and federal government each contributed approximately one-third of the cost of the field work.

The mapping started in August of 1982 and was completed in October of 1986. Soil scientists who did the mapping were Asghar Chowdhery, party leader, and Stephen Ernest. Some 33 soil series were identified with 95 soil mapping units identified.

The completed soil survey of Clarke County has the potential for a large number of agricultural and non-agricultural uses, reports Keith Edwards, district soil conservationist. The farmer can use the soil survey to obtain specific information for planning crop production systems. For example, the soil survey report is useful for planning herbicide application rates, tillage systems and soil testing programs.

For each soil type in the soil inventory, information is presented for the range of organic matter, range of soil pH, the presence of absence of lime, the amount of sand, silt and

clay, and the available water holding capacity. The availability of phosphorus and potassium also is given. Also, farmers can use the soil survey to plan and develop a soil and water conservation plan.

Engineers, land developers, realtors and home builders can find answers to the limitations and potentials of the soil, Edwards said. The soil survey report rates each soil type for road fill and highway location, for foundation suitability, for sources of topsoil, sand and gravel, for septic tank disposal fields, and for sewage lagoons. Other information presented in the soil survey which is important for non-agricultural uses includes depth to water table, natural internal drainage of the soil and potential of the soil to being flooded.

Other groups which use the soil survey report include land appraisers, banks and land credit agencies, oil and gas companies, public officials and planning groups.

Local assistance in using the soil survey information is provided by the Soil Conservation District and the Clarke County Extension Service.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
October 30, 1986*

No-Till Show February 7

Features Wayne Fredricks

The Sixth Annual Southern Iowa No-Till Show is scheduled for February 7 at Southwestern Community College in Creston.

This well attended, all-day event is presented by the Southern Iowa No-Till Com-

mittee, a group of farmers from Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor and Union Counties. Soil Conservation and Extension staff assist in planning and conducting the meeting.

Farmer experience is the theme of this year's show. Two well known farmers, Wayne Fredricks of West Branch and Francis Howard of Zearing, will discuss their experiences over the last several years with no-till farming. A farmer panel of local no-tillers will briefly discuss and answer questions about their operations.

Also on the program will be Bruce Erickson, Southwest Iowa Agronomist for Pioneer Seed Company. Bruce will present and discuss the results of Pioneer's Salesman Tillage Project. This involves 20 comparisons in Southwest Iowa and over 300 throughout the rest of the corn belt.

Commercial exhibits and displays will be available for viewing and discussion with company representatives. The doors will be open at 8 a.m. Saturday morning, February 7 and the program begins at 9:30 a.m.

Accept Aps

For Cost Share

Soil Funding

The Clarke County Soil Conservation District is accepting applications until January 27 for 50 percent cost-share funding to install permanent soil and water conservation practices for spring construction. Present approved practices for cropland include contour terraces and sediment and water control basins. In pasture areas, gully control structures, diversion terraces and grassed waterways are priority practices.

Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds are also available for no-till planting. Consideration is given to 40 acres per applicant. The payment rate will be \$10/per acre.

Applications for summer construction on set-asides and fall construction can be made at any time. Land owners can file with the local Soil Conservation District office, 820A N. Main Street, Osceola.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
Jan. 22, 1987*

Seedling Trees May Be

Ordered from State Nursery

Tree seedling order forms from the State Forest Nursery are now available. The Clarke County Conservation Board will again consolidate small orders for persons wanting to plant less than 500 trees.

Anyone can order trees directly from the State Forest Nursery. But their initial order must be at least 500 tree seedlings. Any year after their initial order, they can order replacement stock with less than 500 trees, but they must order in units of 100.

The Clarke County Conservation Board will help those people who have never ordered from the State Nursery before but don't want to start with 500 trees. The Board will take orders in units of 50, instead of 100, and will put all small orders into one big order.

"We encourage people to order directly from the State Nursery for both initial and replacement stock. But there

are many people with specialized needs that we can help by lumping their orders together. We know that even the smallest plantings are beneficial to wildlife, particularly for non-game birds, and we want to encourage everyone to be involved in habitat improvement," said John Klein, Director of the Conservation Board.

Tree order applications are available at the Extension office, Soil Conservation District office or Conservation Board shop at East Lake park. Klein urges anyone who is considering planting trees seedlings next spring to pick up an application and call him for more information. They also have numerous catalogs from private nurseries that offer species of trees that the State Nursery does not carry.

Klein encourages everyone to plan now and order early to get earliest delivery and best planting next spring.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 20, 1986*

Sod Buster

Meet Feb. 2

Farmers who intend to break out or plant a row crop on ground that is presently in sod should attend the sod buster meeting on Monday, February 2 at 1:30 p.m. at the 4-H Building in Osceola.

The sod buster provision is only one part of the "Highly Erodable" land use law enacted in December of 1985. However, the sod buster provision becomes effective in the 1987 crop year. The sod buster portion of the law would make producers who "sod bust" ineligible for any government program. This is not to say that sod ground cannot be cropped; however, in order to do so, the producer must follow an "ap-

the soil to erode at a rate greater than allowed by the law.

Farmers are encouraged to attend the sod buster meeting on Monday, February 2 at 1:30 p.m. at the 4-H Building in Osceola.

No-Till Show Is

Slated February 7

The sixth Southern Iowa No-Till Show will be held Saturday, February 7 at Southwestern Community College in Creston, beginning at 9:15 a.m. Topics to be covered include "Economics of No-Till", "Results of Pioneer Hi-Bred's Tillage Plots", and "Creative no-Till". This will be followed by a panel discussion by several area no-till farmers.

A limited number of lunch tickets will be available at the door. Interested parties should contact the extension office for more information.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 5, 1987*

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 15, 1987*

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Conservation Program Set

A conservation program for held July 13 through 16, 1987, at the Conservation Education Center near Guthrie Center. Students will be actively involved in outdoor sessions about forestry, wildlife, soils, water and leadership.

Top students in the program will divide \$1000 in college scholarships donated by Pioneer Hi-Bred International and three conservation organizations.

The Youth Leadership Conservation Program is a state-wide program sponsored by the County Conservation Boards, Soil Conservation Districts, and Cooperative Extension Service. The cost is \$55 for each student. High school students interested in attending the Youth Conservation Leadership Program should contact John Klein for further information.

Dist. Receives Money for Conservation

The Clarke Soil Conservation District has received Iowa Financial Incentives Program supplemental allocation from the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Landowners may apply at the Clarke Soil Conservation District office, 820A North Main Street, Osceola, for either permanent soil and water conservation or annual management practices.

The program will pay \$10 per acre for no-till planting, \$6 for contouring and \$15 for contour strip cropping. Fifty percent cost-sharing is available on waterways, terraces and other permanent erosion control structures.

Over 16,000 Acres In CRP Program

Farmers who signed up for 1987 CRP program should plan to attend a meeting Tuesday, March 24, at the 4-H Building in Osceola.

Purpose of the meeting is to expedite the paper work that must be completed before the contract and associated benefits can be effected. Producers have received a tentative acceptance of their bid; however, they must complete the process of filing the paper forms and signing the contract. This process can be completed at the Tuesday meeting.

Conservation Reserve Program bids tentatively accepted total 166 bids encompassing 16,578 acres and totaling approximately \$1,077,570.

Shortage of Brome Plagues Farmers

Like other counties in Iowa, Clarke County is experiencing a shortage in brome grass and brome grass seed as a result of the idling of approximately 15,000 acres of farmland.

According to Alan Teel, Clarke County extension director, approximately 15,000 of an estimated 35,000 acres of corn and soybeans were idled in Clarke County during the fourth sign-up period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

An unusually high demand for brome grass seed due to the CRP sign-up and bad weather conditions led to the shortage of brome grass and seed, according to Teel.

"It's hard to pin it down to just two factors," said Teel. "But, there is a shortfall of brome grass and seed across the area."

Brome grass, according to Teel, is a perennial grass which grows during the cooler months of the year such as April, May, June, September and October, and forms a sod over the ground.

However, the shortage of brome grass and seed is not a severe crisis, according to Teel.

"It's not a monumental problem," said Teel. "It's not one we can't overcome. There are other alternatives to brome grass."

Teel said timothy, orchard, fescue and bluegrasses could be used in place of brome grass. However, these grasses are not as great an alternative as brome grass.

"Timothy is not as vigorous a grass as brome," said Teel. "Orchard is a clump-type grass that doesn't form a sod. Fescue has a fungus that affects the livestock."

Another solution to the brome grass shortage might be a mixture of brome and other grasses, according to Teel.

"If we accept a mixture made up of 25 percent brome and another grass, this gives us a mixture that is acceptable," said Teel.

Another side effect of the large CRP sign-up is the increase in the number of soil samples sent to Iowa State University in Ames to be analyzed.

Teel said the number of soil samples sent to Iowa State has doubled, resulting in a delay in the return of the soil samples to the farmers.

The CRP program, according to Teel, allows for a farmer to make an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture whereby the farmer would only plant seeded-down crops which form a sod for a 10-year period.

The results of this procedure are a drop in the production of corn and soybean crops and a reduction of soil erosion, according to Teel.

The 15,000 acres idled in the fourth sign-up period exceeds by 10,000 the number of total acres idled during the first three CRP sign-up periods in March, May and August of 1986, according to Bart Griffith, Clarke County executive director of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

Griffith attributes the increase in sign-ups to a bonus offered by the federal government in which farmers would receive an extra \$2 per bushel, based on established yield for the acres of reduced corn base.

The next CRP program sign-up is scheduled for July 20, according to Griffith, and there will be more sign-ups until the United States reaches its goal

of idling 30 million acres. Despite the loss of brome grass, one benefit of the idling of crops is the money the federal government returns to the farmers in Clarke County and surrounding communities, according to Teel.

The average amount farmers in Clarke County and surrounding areas are receiving for the idling of crops is \$70 per acre, according to Teel.

As a result, Clarke County and other areas could receive an estimated \$1.5 million from the CRP program for the 15,000 acres idled during the fourth sign-up period, according to Teel.

"The government could be pumping-in a million bucks into this county for 10 years," said Teel. "There is the potential for a lot of dollars to be brought into this county by the CRP program."

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 19, 1987*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 26, 1987*

Soil Bus Tour Is Offered

An awareness of Soil and Water Stewardship Week is being promoted by the Clarke County Soil and Conservation office and by Kathy Becker, Grand River, who is in charge of coordinating activities in Area 14.

Ministers of area churches have been contacted to draw attention to National Soil and Water Stewardship Week and a local event is planned to promote additional awareness.

A bus tour for interested parties is scheduled for Thursday, May 21 when a tour is planned to the Adrian Fuller farm in Knox Township. Good soil and water practices have been applied to the Fuller farm over a 30 year period. These will be shown and discussed by Keith Edwards, head of the local Soil and Water District office, who will serve as guide.

The bus will leave from the Soil Conservation office located on North Main Street at 8:30 a.m. and will return before noon following the tour. The bus will be able to handle about 40 passengers for the tour.

*Osceola - Sentinel Tribune
May 14, 1987*

Card of Thanks
Thank you from Clarke County Conservation District for taking part in our conservation tour of conservation awareness last week, put on in conjunction with Soil Steward week.

Adrian Fuller
Commissioner

*Osceola
June*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
April 9, 1987*

June

Invite Area Farmers to No-Till Show Febr. 6

No-till farmers, SCS and ASCS specialists, an agronomist, and a well known western Iowa farmer will be featured at the seventh annual Southern Iowa No-Till Show. The all-day show will be held at Southwestern Community College in Creston Saturday, February 6.

Three area farmers will discuss their no-till operations. They are Ernest Burke, Creston; Don Dalton, Bedford; and Ben Kern, Norwalk. These farmers all have many years of no-till experience.

Tracy Cameron, Agronomist for Crestland Coop, will discuss management practices for weed control in no-till.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 4, 1988*

Larry Beeler, Resource Conservationist for SCS and Stan Shrock, Program Specialist for ASCS will discuss the provisions of the 1985 Farm Program and explain how no-till may be used to help keep farmers eligible for program benefits.

Varel Bailly, Anita farmer and Chairman of the Board, National Corn Growers Association, will wrap up the show with comments on farmer compliance with farm program requirements and how no-till can be the key for keeping farmers eligible.

Commercial companies will have displays and exhibits, with the doors opening at 8 a.m. and the program beginning at 9:15.

This program is sponsored by the Southern Iowa No-Till Committee, representatives of SCS and ISU Extension Service and Southwestern Community College.

To Elect Two SWCC Commissioners Nov. 8

The terms of two Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners expire this year. Successors will be elected at the general election November 8, 1988. Terms of Adrian T. Fuller, Osceola Township and Edwin G. Rata-shak, Jr., Ward Township, will expire. Individuals elected to fill

*Osceola
Sentinel-Tribune
August 8, 1988*

these vacancies will serve a six year term commencing January 3, 1989.

Any qualified elector residing in the soil and water conservation district, which is all of Clarke County including cities and towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township.

Incumbent commissioners are Richard Carson, Jackson Township, JoAnn Sickels, Knox Township and Terry L. Boles, Doyle Township; therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office of soil and water conservation district commissioner must file nomination petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated. Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor.

These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County Court House no later than 5 p.m. September 14.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county.

Seek Petitions For District Commissioners

Terms of two Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners expire this year. Individuals interested in seeking the office of soil and water conservation district commissioner are reminded to pick up nomination petitions from the County Auditor. These petitions must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County Court House no later than 5 p.m. September 14.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
September 1, 1988*



EROSION CONTROL: Lloyd Querrey, owner of land in Section 21 of Ward Township, 2 1/2 miles west of Osceola, looks over the erosion control dam project under way on his property. Andrew Brothers installed a principle spillway

using six inch smooth steel pipe and anti-seep collars. The dozer is bringing backfill material for placement around pipe. The purposes of the project were erosion control, livestock water, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation.



FULLER HONORED: Adrian Fuller, left, of Osceola was presented a plaque by Richard Carson for his 32 years service to the Soil and Water District. Carson is currently chairman of the district. Fuller finished his term recently and chose to not

seek re-election. The plaque was presented at the annual dinner meeting and program of the Chamber of Commerce and Development Corporation held at the Osceola Eagles, Tuesday, January 31.

Conservation Week —

Edwards Tells of Projects

Farmers have always been encouraged to practice good conservation methods, but the 1985 Farm Bill was "historical legislation" that imposed some monetary penalties for non-compliance, according to Keith Edwards, district conservationist with the Clarke County Soil Conservation District.

The conservation compliance provision of the Food Security Act of 1985 discourages the production of crops on highly erodible cropland where the land is not carefully protected from erosion. Farmers who produce crops on such fields without an approved conservation system could lose eligibility for certain USDA program benefits.

Some of these "entitlement" programs farmers could lose are: price and income supports, crop insurance, Farmer's Home Administration loans, Commodity Credit Corporation storage payments, farm storage facility loans, Conservation Reserve Program annual payments and other programs under which USDA makes commodity-related payments.

Special emphasis was given conservation last week as the nation observed "Soil and Water Conservation Week."

Edwards said approximately 87 percent of Clarke County farmers take part in government programs. Of the 13 percent who don't, he said many of them are also complying with measures to "save the land."

Edwards said some of them say they "never got anything from the government," but they do support conservation.

An important step in complying is development of a conservation plan for highly erodible fields.

Edwards said about 50 percent of area farmers have completed their Conservation Plan. The plans are due by January 1, 1990. The plan must be fully operational by January 1 of 1995.

Edwards said his office has added employees to help with this project.

things we can be doing is protecting our soil and water resources—not just for us, but for all Americans who will follow us," said John Klein of the Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District.

"We have a heritage we want to take care of. Millions of acres are being conserved wisely by farmers and ranchers right now. We'd like to recognize their efforts, and invite others to join in because there's still much to do."

The effort to increase knowledge about conservation is especially important right now, Klein said. "Under the 1985 Farm Bill, farmers and ranchers need to develop a conservation plan by the end of next year to stay eligible for USDA benefits. This campaign is one important way we will try to get that message across."

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
September 29, 1988*

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 2, 1989*

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Some farmers have expressed concern that they would have to complete expensive projects on their land in order to be in compliance, but Edwards said there are some less expensive measures to take, such as contour farming.

"Research shows contouring is 50 percent effective in reducing soil loss," he added.

When farmers go to the Soil District office to make their conservation plan they can get some outstanding information on their land. There are aerial maps that give almost all the base data known about the land, Edwards said. All of this information has been provided through tax money.

Clarke County Soil and Water District Commissioners are: Terry Boles, Doyle Township; Richard Carson, Jackson; Adrian Fuller, Osceola Township; Ed Ratashak, Jr., Ward Township and JoAnne Smith, Knox Township.

Ratashak and Fuller are not seeking re-election. Mark Gibson and Luella Pontier have filed for election.

Public Service Campaign

A new national public service campaign on soil and water conservation is now under way in Clarke County. The year long "We Owe It To Our Children" campaign will emphasize con-

things we can be doing is protecting our soil and water resources—not just for us, but for all Americans who will follow us," said John Klein of the Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District.

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Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
September 29, 1988

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 2, 1989

Some Rain Helps, But —

Water Hauling Is Tedious Project

The .5 of rain that fell in Clarke County Saturday helped the top soil moisture a little, but it had little effect on the dry wells and ponds in the area.

Alan Teel, extension director, said it would take six to eight inches of rain to make a "real change," especially for well water. And the moisture that comes had better be in the form of rain, as snow contains little water.

"It would take 10 inches of snow to equal an inch of water," Teel said. Snowfall does little to help soil or wells, however, because it tends to fall on frozen ground it does help the streams and ponds when it melts and runs off. "It just takes so much," Teel said.

Many people in this area are continuing to haul water for their ponds and wells. "They've been hauling water all winter and it's continuing to get worse," Teel said.

In Osceola alone some 120,000 gallons of water are being sold each week to the many pick-ups lined up at the water tower in downtown Osceola. Dean Torreson, city administrator, said water sales have doubled over last year.

The city of Osceola uses ap-

proximately 800,000 gallons a day, not counting the extra water being sold. Torreson said there isn't any great danger of

running out of water at this time.

He said when the dam was raised at West Lake a few years

ago an engineer claimed that there would be adequate water for at least four years with no

[Continued on back page]



HAULS WATER: Jack Harrell of rural Osceola was busy filling a water tank Monday, January 30 at the water tower in Osceola. Harrell, owner of an acreage six

miles north and east of Osceola, said he has been hauling water since last spring when his well went dry. He hauls three loads a week.

rainfall. However, Torreson said it is possible with a couple of more dry years there could be some "serious problems."

"Another chore" is how Don Wagner, manager of Humeston Livestock Auction, Inc., described how farmers are taking it in their stride as they haul water each day.

He said the thing that has probably made it tolerable so far is the mild winter.

Wagner said there aren't a lot of cattle being sold because of water hauling, only an isolated case or two.

He explained that some people are selling hogs rather than haul water as the prices are "soft" right now. However, cattle farmers aren't in a hurry to liquidate their herds, considering the calf market is very good.

Wagner said he heard of a farmer near Murray who has been hauling water for 200 cows and 200 calves since August.

Wagner said just about every other pick-up around now seems to have a water tank attached.

"I've talked to people who have lived here all their lives and they say they can only recall once before when it was so dry," Wagner said.

While hauling water is a chore for the farmers, Teel said the period from February 1 through June 1 is going to be crucial for adequate rainfall.

"If it doesn't rain we're going to see some people have to do extra planting, going to crops that tolerate a lot of drought," Teel added.

Ideally the area should have six to eight inches of moisture by June 1 in order to get the sub-soil recharged. If that doesn't happen, then the growing season will need rain every two to three weeks or crops will have stress, Teel said.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 2, 1989*

Osceola Water Towers Half Full, Half Empty?

Are the water towers in Osceola "half full or half empty?" The answer appears to be in how one understands the hydraulics of the system, according to Dean Torreson, city administrator.

Currently the new 300,000 gallon water tower east of town, financed largely through federal and state grant monies, is filling 18 feet out of a possible 30 feet.

Torreson said the 500,000 gallon tower at the Industrial Park doesn't fill all the way either, making it to 11 feet out of a possible 30.

The downtown 300,000 gallon tank fills all the way because it fills first and a control shuts off the pumps at the plant when it is full. The downtown tower doesn't have the demand

that the Industrial Park tower has, with the Jimmy Dean Meat Company using 40 percent of all the city's water.

All three water towers in Osceola are at the same elevation.

Once the downtown tower has filled to capacity and the main pump shuts off, likewise the other two towers also shut down.

The new water tower east of town also doesn't have a chance to completely fill before the pump is shut off by a control mechanism at the downtown tower.

The east tower is fed through an eight inch pipe that runs to East Lake, with that emptying into a 10 inch pipe at the lake. The eight inch pipe restricts the flow and there is

not enough flow to fill the east tower before the downtown tower shuts off the system.

"When the system shuts off, things start to equalize. We're always playing catch up," Torreson said.

He said there is no problem with any of the towers, as it is not necessary that the East tower be full. He said there is more than adequate water at the level it is currently filling to serve Woodburn, all the eastern city customers, and even the new Campbell's Soup Company that plans to locate near the new water tower.

The city currently collects around \$9,000 each year from the city of Woodburn for water.

Torreson said if there weren't any water users from

[Continued on back page]

the system in two or three days, all the towers would be full.

Torreson said the city definitely didn't construct "too big a tower" as far as the East water tower. He said costs for towers get marginally less in price as they increase in size. Should another water user locate near the Campbell's Soup Company, Torreson said it is possible some "looping" of line or automatic restriction valves around town would have to be completed.

"All three towers are the same elevation. A smaller tank must be at the same elevation, but would fill only to the same level," Torreson added.

The waterline and tower east of Osceola cost \$630,000, however the cost to the city was \$130,000, with the remainder coming from grant monies. The grants were received by the city based largely on the soup company locating here.

Torreson said officials of the soup company are still planning to build in Osceola, "probably in the next two or three years."

Urge Farmers to Submit Plans for Conservation

Keith Edwards, the Clarke County Soil Conservation Service, reminded farmers that they have less than a year to get a conservation plan approved for their highly erodible acreage. Farmers must have such plans approved by the end of 1989 to remain eligible for USDA program benefits.

Most farmers participating in USDA crop programs already have obtained USDA approval for their conservation plans. SCS estimates that about 800,000 plans are needed nationwide.

Some farmers are holding off because they are afraid the rules for erosion reduction were too rigid, but that's a misconception. The final rule provides for flexibility in reaching acceptable erosion reductions based on local conditions and standards in field office technical guides.

Under provisions of the

Food Security Act of 1985, anyone who farms highly erodible land must develop a conservation plan for the land and have it approved by December 31, 1989, by their local soil conservation district in order to remain eligible for USDA farm program benefits.

Those benefits include price and income supports, crop insurance, Farmers Home Administration loans, Commodity Credit Corporation storage payments, farm storage facility loans, Conservation Reserve Program annual payments, and other programs under which USDA makes commodity-related payments.

Producers who do not get their plan approved in time will forfeit USDA program benefits on more than just their highly erodible acres. Loss of eligibility applies to all of the land that a person farms, not just to erodible acres.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 16, 1989

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 9, 1989

Need 'Lots of Catching Up' To Replace Lost Moisture

"We've got lots of catching up to do," said Keith Edwards, district conservationist with the Clarke County Soil Service, when talking about needed moisture in this area.

While the sub soil moisture is not at the zero capacity, it is

definitely lower than normal, Edwards said.

The extremely dry fall season, along with lack of any real moisture in the winter months, have made for some very dry soil conditions, as well as empty ponds and wells in the area.

Edwards said it is possible the area could "catch up" with some heavy rains during April and May, with basically two types of rains needed. He said slow, long periods of rain are needed in order to give water time to percolate through the

soil. For the empty creeks and ponds "run-off" type producing rains are needed, such as comes with thunderstorms in a fairly quick period of time.

Wells take a long time to fill, as the rainfall has to percolate through the depth of the soil. "Under pretty normal conditions, they won't respond completely for two years. Of course, it depends on the type of well," Edwards said.

Ideally, Edwards said, April and May would produce some "nice soaking rains." Then in late May, when hopefully there is crop cover, the heavier thunderstorms could come to help fill the ponds and wells.

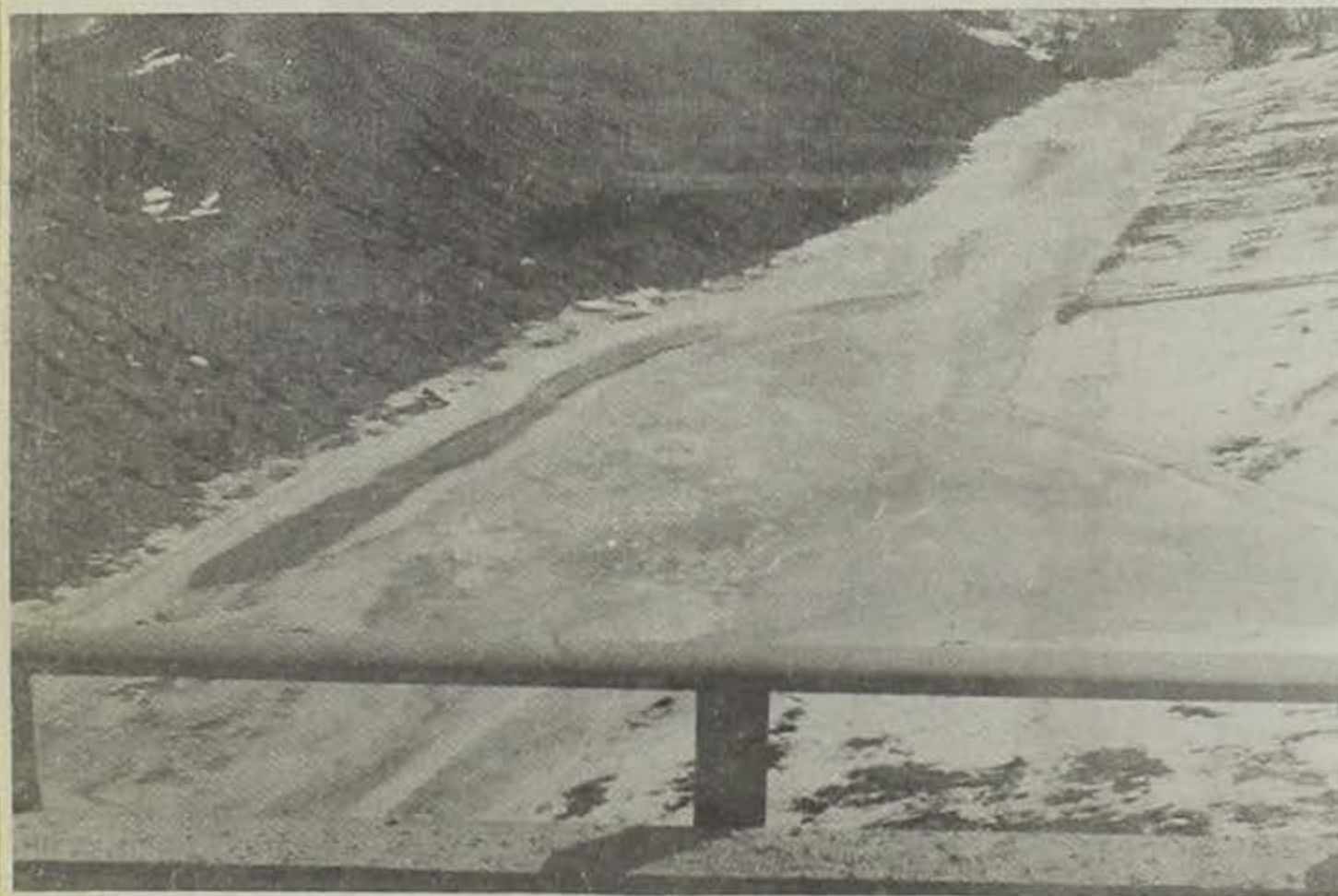
Even if this spring and summer are "normal," which Edwards says is the best to be hoped for, he sees lots of people still having problems as far as hauling water and crop success.

Edwards predicted that if the coming planting season is anything like last summer, conditions will be at least four times worse.

"We lived off our reserves last year. The ponds were full, the creeks were running and the groundwater was in good shape," he said.

He said farmers should be watching the weather closely to consider adjusting crop planting levels this spring.

Edwards said "normal" weather has been predicted, at least for the next month. "That's the best we can hope for," he added.



SNOWCOVER MELTS: This picture of Whitebreast Creek taken south of Osceola shows water running again following an entire winter in which the creek was completely dry. The limited amount of snow received during February will not keep

the flow for long without additional rains. County bridge and road crews were able to work through January on repair of bridges and waterways. Underbrush was cleared on both sides of the bridge in this picture.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 9, 1989*

CRP signup underway

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the ninth sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for the period of July 17 through August 4, 1989. The previous eight sign-ups have resulted in 31,500 acres designated for CRP in Clarke County, according to Keith Edwards, district conservationist.

The Conservation Reserve Program pays landowners rent every year for ten years to idle highly erodible cropland, filter strips along streams, floodplain

areas subject to scour erosion, and certain wetland and farmed wetlands that meet cropland criteria as identified by ASCS. Landowners replace crops with perennial legumes, grass, trees, shrubs, or a mix of these.

The 30.5 plus million acres contracted under the CRP now exceeds the 28.7 million acres that was in the 1960 Soil Bank program, making CRP the largest long-term cropland retirement program in U.S. history.

The contracts pay Clarke County farmers more than \$2 million annually, have reduced topsoil erosion by 1/2 million tons annually, and provide improved water quality and wildlife habitat.

Landowners will be asked to submit sealed bids during this sign-up period. These bids must state their per acre price for idling the land. The USDA then decides where to set the limits for bids.

Prior to submitting a bid, the landowner must contact his local SCS. The SCS will determine whether land is eligible for CRP based on all USDA criteria.

Edwards said that this sign-up presents an opportunity for landowners to bid wetland and floodplain areas that were not eligible prior to the last sign-up. The Food Security Act of 1985 requires the designation of farmed wetlands and wetlands for preservation and protection. These wetlands, if they were cropped during the period 1981-1985, may be eligible for CRP.

Edwards says this sign-up period and the next, tentatively scheduled for February of 1990, may be the last opportunity for entering land into CRP. The original five year period for CRP ends Dec. 31, 1990.

*Oscola
Sentinel-Tribune
7/30/89*

*Oscola Sentinel-Tribune
January 25, 1990*



BIRD FEEDER CONSTRUCTION: Beth Brown, conservation awareness program director, along with community helpers and members of the Clarke County Conservation Board, assist fifth-graders at North Elementary in

construction of bird feeders Friday. Students were given a supply of suet and sunflower seeds to begin their bird-feeding stations.

Soil video available

A videotape to help Clarke County farmers do much of the soil conservation work needed to keep them eligible for USDA program benefits is available.

The videotapes are available for loan at 16 different places in the county. The people and businesses who have agreed to help loan the tapes are LuElla Pontier, Rick Oshel, JoAnn Sickels, Terry Boles, Richard Carson, SCS, ASCS, FmHA, Clarke County Extension Service, Osceola Public Library, Clarke County Farm Bureau, Circle D Ag, American State Bank, Osceola Farm and Home,

Hy-Vee and Clarke County State Bank.

The Osceola Public Library and SCS will provide a viewing station for anyone who does not have a VCR.

"The tapes include basic information for anyone interested in taking better care of the land, but they will be especially useful for farmers who want to stay eligible for USDA program benefits," Keith Edwards, Clarke County Soil Conservation Service district conservationist says.

*Osceola - Sentinel - Tribune
February 1, 1990*



DONATES SOIL SURVEY: Dale Chidester of the SCS presented the recently-published soil survey of Clarke

County to the Osceola Public Library. Shown is Librarian Joyce Turner and Chidester.

To distribute soil surveys at meetings

The Iowa State Extension Service will hold three soil survey distribution meetings Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27 to discuss the recently published soil survey of Clarke County and discuss uses of the report.

The survey contains maps and tables showing the location of different types of soils throughout the county, crop suitability, drainage characteristics and other information about the soils in the county.

Alan Teel, Extension agriculturist/county director, said the survey is a valuable tool not only for farmers but for engineers and builders.

Experts will at the Murray Community Center at 10 a.m. Monday, and at the Woodburn Legion Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Two meetings will be held at the 4-H building at the Osceola fairgrounds Tuesday at 1:30 and 7 p.m.

Copies of the survey will be distributed to those in attendance. A copy has also been donated to the Osceola Public Library.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 22, 1990*

Forestry funding for area landowners

Clarke County landowners may qualify for special cost-share assistance involving forest establishment, re-forestation and woodland improvement according to provisions in the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act.

Cost-share assistance will be available for tree planting, timber stand improvement practices, site preparation for natural regenerations of logged or grazed woodlands, rescue treatments (rodent, deer control and re-planting), and fencing to protect tree plantings and woodlands from damaging grazing.

Basic cost-share levels and practices are listed below:

•TREE PLANTING

—Cost-shared at 75 percent of actual cost for establishment.

—Maximum payment: \$365 per acre.

—Minimum sign-up: three acres.

•TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT PRACTICES

—Cost-shared at 75 percent.

—Maximum payment of \$75 per acre (includes thinning, pruning and seedling release).

—Minimum sign-up: five acres.

•SITE PREPARATION FOR NATURAL REGENERATION (of logged or grazed woodlands)

—Cost-shared at 75 percent.

—Maximum payment: ranges from \$75 to \$120 per acre.

—Minimum sign-up: three acres.

•RESCUE TREATMENTS

—Cost-shared at 75 percent.

—Maximum payment: \$15 per acre, rodent control; \$24 per acre, deer control; re-planting in failed planting, \$365 per acre; establishing vegetative cover for weed control, \$60 per acre.

—Minimum sign-up (each practice) three years (tree planting must be from three to 30 years old and in need of improvement).

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
May 3, 1990*

Lake study to begin in Clarke County

Potential sites for a new multi-purpose lake in Clarke County will be studied in detail as part of a massive federally funded study of Red Rock Reservoir and three of its tributaries: White Breast Creek, South River and Middle River.

The study, which will take approximately two years, is an effort by the Soil Conservation Service to stem the flow of sediment into Red Rock.

Experts say that currently the reservoir is filling with sediment at a more rapid pace than anticipated, with a large portion of the sediment coming from the three tributaries.

Several sites along White Breast Creek will be studied taking into account the county's future needs for flood control, erosion control, recreation and water for municipal, industrial and rural areas.

Osceola and portions of rural Clarke County are presently served by West Lake,

a 360 acre reservoir. Officials said the lake should meet local water needs for at least 20 years. The Red Rock survey may provide the planning basis to start work on a new lake that should meet local water needs until the middle of the next century.

Osceola City Administrator Dean Torreson said the city would like the SCS to look into the possibility of a multi-purpose recreational lake which would include boating, camping and swimming as well as fishing.

Another possibility is that the water could be pumped between the proposed lake and West Lake to serve the water needs of the community.

In order to qualify for SCS funding a water shed must produce a positive cost/benefit ratio after the study is completed. Local funding would also be needed to complete such a project as well as other state and federal monies.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
June 14, 1990*

To elect two district soil commissioners

The terms of two Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners will expire this year, it was announced today.

The term currently being served by Terry Boles of Doyle Township will expire Jan. 1. His successor will serve a six-year term beginning Jan. 2, 1991.

Rick Oshel's term will expire Nov. 6, with the person to fill this position to serve a four-year term, beginning after the Nov. 6 election. Oshel is presently serving Green Bay Township.

Any qualified person residing in the soil and water conservation district is eligible for the office. Prospective candidates must file nomination petitions, available at the Clarke County Auditor's office.

Commissioners will be elected during the general election in November.

For more information contact the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 342-2917.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
July 19, 1990

Nominations due Aug. 29 for soil, water conservation

Nomination petitions must be filed with the Clarke County Auditor no later than Aug. 29 for those interested in becoming county soil and water conservation commissioners.

For more information, contact the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 820 A. N. Main St., Osceola.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
August 9, 1990

Unused REAP funds available for Clarke farmers

The Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District has over \$11,000 unused REAP funds available for Clarke County landowners, the local office has announced.

Any agricultural landowner in Clarke County can receive up to 75 percent cost-share for a number of tree, grasses and conservation cover projects, including fencing.

Interested persons may contact the Soil Conservation Service in Osceola.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
September 27, 1990

Ask farmers to leave



The new organization strives to provide leadership training along with personal enrichment opportunities through community service activities. Any interested in membership information may contact McElvogue.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 1, 1990

Soil Conservation commission seeks public input Nov. 13

The Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will ask for public input at a meeting Nov. 13.

The commission seeks help in preparing its long range plan which will identify and prioritize soil and water conservation needs, and formulate goals for the district.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the 4-H building at the Clarke County Fairgrounds. Contact the Soil Conservation Service for more information.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 8, 1990

Red Rock Council seeks candidates

The Red Rock Resources Council, a non-profit group that has been organized to protect soil and water resources in the 6,500 square mile uncontrolled watershed below Saylorville Lake, is seeking volunteers to fill two vacancies on its Board of Governors.

The board is comprised of representatives from 10 counties draining into Lake Red Rock. Richard Carson of Woodburn is a member of the board.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 8, 1990

New farm bill triggers 'Swampbuster' prevention

The signing of the 1990 farm bill changed the trigger on "swampbuster" violations, and conservation agencies say it's now even more important for landowners to check with them before wet areas are drained or altered.

"Before November 28, 1990, landowners receiving USDA benefits could drain a wetland as long as they didn't plant a commodity crop on it. That isn't true anymore," says Jeffrey Vonk, State Conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Iowa.

"Now, the act of draining, filling, dredging or otherwise altering a wetland is the trigger for a swampbuster violation."

The swampbuster provisions of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills are aimed at discouraging the conversion of wetlands for agricultural purposes. A swampbuster violation can jeopardize eligibility for USDA benefits.

The SCS is in the process of

identifying wetlands across the state. "We've located wet areas or potential wetlands. Our local offices will be sending maps out to landowners this spring. We'll be asking landowners to get back to us with their drainage records," Vonk says.

"We don't want to see more wetlands drained, but we also don't want to interfere with production on lands that were previously drained."

The SCS estimates as many as 240,000 wet areas have been located. Many of those areas were drained prior to the swampbuster provision, however, and will not be considered wetlands if landowners can show adequate prior drainage.

Vonk adds that swampbuster has to do with draining or altering wetlands. "Wetland areas can still be farmed if they aren't altered. We want to be clear on that," Vonk says.

1990 farm bill satellite conference is January 11

The 1990 farm bill will be the subject of a satellite conference originating from the WOI-TV studios at Iowa State University on Jan. 11 and carried live at the Clarke county Extension Office, 117-1/2 South Main, Osceola.

The in-depth program is designed to be of interest to practicing

attorneys, lenders, farm managers, farmers, and individuals in agribusiness, as well as personnel from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) and Extension.

There will be a two-hour long presentation session followed by an hour-long answer session during which participants can telephone their questions.

The registration fee for the conference is \$30, which includes a book containing a copy of the bill from the Congressional Record, and outline of the presentation and a conference committee report. The fee without a copy of the materials is \$10. Registration deadline is Jan. 9.

For further registration and downlink information, contact the Clarke County Extension Office.

Conservation funds still available

The Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District has funds available from two sources to assist landowners in applying conservation practices.

Terraces, ponds, and other structural practices can receive up to 50 percent cost-share assistance under the Iowa Financial Incentives Program (I.F.I.P.).

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (R.E.A.P.) fund provides up to 75 percent cost-

sharing for tree planting, windbreaks, native grass planting, and fencing to protect existing woodlands.

Funds from both sources are limited and landowners should apply as soon as possible.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
January 17, 1991*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 27, 1990*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 27, 1990*

Ask farmers to leave residues on top of soil

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 1, 1990

Soil conservationists are urging Clarke County farmers to leave corn and soybean residues on the surface of the soil.

This is an excellent time to begin the conservation tillage program that's in most Food Security Act conservation plans," says District Conservationist Keith Edwards of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Edwards says most conservation compliance plans call for use of crop residues to combat soil erosion. "These plans will list a specified percentage of the ground to be covered with residues after planting in the spring," Edwards says, "and often will list a tillage system that would be expected to leave the assigned amount."

Clarke County farmers could lose U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits if they don't follow their conservation compliance plans. "One thing some farmers don't understand is that they don't have to use a specified system of reduced tillage. If they can demonstrate that their tillage system leaves the required residue, usually 30 percent or greater, that's the bottom line," Edwards says.

Alan Teel, Clarke County Extension Service Agriculturist, says soybean fields are most vulnerable to soil erosion if they're tilled after harvest this fall. "That soybean crops has already loosened the soil. Any kind of fall tillage will encourage erosion. The other consideration is that the evidence points to no economic advantage to fall tillage of soybean ground," Teel says.

Teel says adequate corn residues can be left on the soil surface, even with tillage, if the crop yield is high, and a properly equipped and adjusted high residue machine is used.

We're suggesting to farmers that now is the time to do some experimenting with residue levels," Teel says. "Measure your residues after planting, find out what level of residues your tillage systems leave, and adapt as you need to for the requirements of conservation compliance."

Clarke County landowners who agreed to implement conservation plans to stay eligible for most U.S. Department of Agriculture programs are being advised by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to review those plans in detail.

"We know in some cases there is confusion about what was written in the plans," said Edwards. "We also know many of the plans were written within a short time frame and that farmers were asked to make decisions that they may want to change."

"The plans were never written to be in concrete," Edwards says. "We expect to revise many plans."

However, unless plans are revised farmers are expected to adhere to the implementation schedule they agreed to.

Soil video available

A videotape to help Clarke County farmers do much of the soil conservation work needed to keep them eligible for USDA program benefits is available.

The videotapes are available for loan at 16 different places in the county. The people and businesses who have agreed to help loan the tapes are LuElla Pontier, Rick Oshel, JoAnn Sickels, Terry Boles, Richard Carson, SCS, ASCS, FmHA, Clarke County Extension Service, Osceola Public Library, Clarke County Farm Bureau, Circle D Ag, American State Bank, Osceola Farm and Home, and Hy-Vee.

The Osceola Public Library and SCS will provide a viewing station for anyone who does not have a VCR.

"The tapes include basic information for anyone interested in taking better care of the land, but they will be especially useful for farmers who want to stay eligible for USDA program benefits," Keith Edwards, Clarke County Soil Conservation Service district conservationist says.

*Osceola-Sentinel
Tribune -
May 23, 1991*



WINNER: Hans Klein of Woodburn was the winner in the Clarke Soil and Water Conservation poster and received a cash award.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 23, 1991*



ON THE MOVE: Offices of three federal agencies recently moved to a newly constructed building behind McDonald's on Highway 34. While the agencies are all open for business, an open house isn't planned until they're all settled in a few months from now.

Oscola Sentinel-Tribune
Nov. 14, 1991

Plan dry hydrant meetings Tuesday

Two informational meetings concerning installation of dry hydrants in rural areas will be conducted Tuesday, Dec. 10 in Creston.

The sessions will be at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Crestland Co-op under sponsorship of the Creston Fire Department and the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation & Development Area.

Dry hydrants are non-pressurized pipe systems permanently installed in lakes and ponds to provide water, if needed, for fire trucks.

The meetings are open to the public.

Oscola Sentinel-Tribune
Dec. 5, 1991

Funds available for planting roadside flowers

Southern Iowa counties and communities have until Dec. 31 to file applications for Living Roadway Trust Funds.

Dennis Hilger, coordinator of the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development area, Creston, said \$45,000 remains in the Trust with top priority given to applications for purchasing native wildflower and grass seeds.

The Trust, established by the Iowa legislature in 1988, can be used to finance planting roadside vegetation, purchasing equipment, conducting roadside vegetation inventories and starting community gateway projects.

To be eligible, counties and towns must have an integrated roadside vegetative management plan adopted by the board of supervisors.

Counties and communities wishing to apply may contact the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation & Development office in Creston, 782-7058.

The area is comprised of seven area counties including Clarke, represented by Jo Ann Sickels and Decatur County, represented by Rebecca Lane.

Oscola Sentinel-Tribune
Dec. 5, 1991

Clarke soil, water conservation officers attend training

Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners recently attended a state-wide training conference, Creative Thinking in Breaking the Time and Money Barriers. Commissioners attending the conference at the Clarke County Extension Office were: Donald Bennink, Terry L. Boles, Richard Carson, LuElla Pontier, and JoAnn Sickels.

The conference was presented by Iowa State University Extension; Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Soil Conservation Service and the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners. The conference was presented in Ames and linked by satellite to county extension offices across the state.

"A lack of time and a lack of money were identified as the two biggest problems facing district commissioners across the state. This program was designed to help our local commissioners

find new ways to address local concerns despite those barriers," said Carson, chairman, Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
December 12, 1991*

Outline plan to clean water of contaminants

DuPont joins coalition making an effort to eliminate Atrazine from Osceola water supply

BY JOHN EBERLINE

One possible solution to the problem of contaminants in Osceola's drinking water is to eliminate the source of contaminants.

That plan of attack was presented to community leaders in a meeting in Osceola Thursday afternoon and to 50 of the 75 operators in West Lake Watershed at a meeting in Murray Thursday evening.

Problems with Osceola's drinking water are traced to the use of Atrazine and Bladex by agricultural operators in the West Lake watershed.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has indicated that consuming drinking water for a lifetime containing less than 3.0 parts per billion should not result in any adverse health effects. That is the government way of saying if you drink a lifetime of water with Atrazine levels above 3.0 parts per billion, you run the risk of suffering adverse health effects.

Beginning in May, 1987 Osceola's drinking water has tested above the health advisory level on numerous occasions. The first time (May, 1987) the level was 5.2, but then it dropped to 1.3 in Oct., 1987 and stayed below until June, 1990 when it jumped back to 15 PPB.

Tests in 1991 showed levels of 3.0 in April, 4.9 in June, 6.7 in July, 7.3 in August, 6.2 in September and 4.9 in October.

As a result of high levels of Atrazine and Bladex, the Department of Natural Resources has put Osceola on a three year schedule to bring its treatment facility to a level that Atrazine levels go below and stay below the health advisory level.

Which early estimates say could cost in the area of \$5 million.

Officials conducting the Osceola meeting Thursday included Alan Teel, Clarke County Extension agent, Ed Zahnow and Gary Sams of DuPont and Kevin Bishop of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District.

DuPont officials are in Osceola on their own and, Arthur Miller,

"DuPont feels some responsibility for the problem and we have a corporate policy . . . to clean up the water."

ARTHUR MILLER
Public affairs consultant

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
Febr. 6, 1992*

Senior Public Affairs Consultant said his firm is here because, "We are supporting the elimination of Atrazine from the Westlake watershed."

"We are in Osceola because, first, situations like the Osceola problem are starting to appear in other agricultural watersheds."

"DuPont feels some responsibility for the problem and we have a corporate policy related to stewardship that tells us to clean up the water."

"Third, it is a great learning experience. We will know how to deal with water problems in the future."

DuPont has been testing the water and sending representation to Osceola at its own expense.

As a result of studies, and meeting of a coalition of people from DuPont, the extension service, city water officials, commercial dealers and soil district representatives, an action plan was created.

In a nutshell it calls for elimination of Atrazine.

The West Lake Action Plan is to:

1. Voluntarily eliminate the use Atrazine and reduce the use of Bladex.
2. Introduce alternative herbicide programs which are environmentally compatible in terms of water quality. Avoid switching to herbicides that may cause contamination again in a few years.

3. Continue to implement and encourage conservation tillage and soil saving practices. Such as no-till, contouring and strip-cropping.
4. Continue to monitor (test) for pesticide contamination.
5. Continue to communicate progress to local and state authorities.

It was explained at both meetings that Atrazine can be elimi-

lowered to safe levels but cost is the factor.

Different levels of Atrazine exist. The least expensive are the ones that are least safe. The higher priced herbicides, with Atrazine ingredients are higher.

The cost of using herbicides ranges from \$25 per acre, for the

least safe, to \$45 per acre for the safer herbicide.

Also discussed were ideas to help operators in the watershed to afford the cost of the more expensive herbicide.

Ideas were discussed ranging from using money aimed at putting \$5 million of equipment into the water treatment plant for a subsidy for farmers, to lenders allowing lower interest rates on operating loans to farmers for herbicide.

Atrazine levels are currently voluntary.

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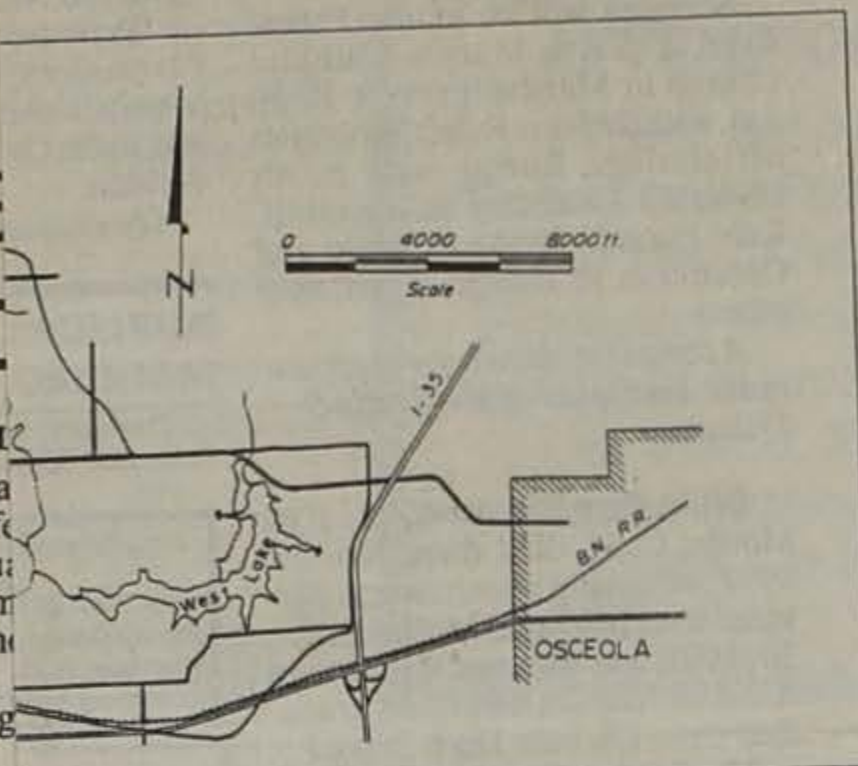
BY JOHN EBERLE

It may have started over a cup of coffee. The West Lake Water Quality Planning Project has become a national attention for numerous federal agencies, state and local government in cleaning up drinking water.

Officially the West Lake Water Quality Planning Project is a joint effort between the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to improve water quality in West Lake.

What all that really means is, the West Lake Water Quality Planning Project, better known as "the project" is a unique method of encouraging farmers to change their methods of farming.

There are 6,300 acres in the West Lake Watershed. About 3,000 acres were used for continuous row



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MORE ON WEST LAKE WATERSHED

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Other methods include contouring and terracing.

Do no-till and contouring work? "The average soil loss was 9.7 tons per acre, per year before the project," Bishop said. "That's a bunch of soil. Last year, for the people coming into the project, the loss was three tons per acre per year."

If you remember that example of ten dimes equaling the loss of top soil in the watershed, you can remove the top seven now and that is the amount of dirt lost annually per acre for land in the project.

"Our goal is to have at least 2,000 acres involved in the project before we're done," Bishop added.

Bishop explained the project is funded for five years and producers are paid to enter their land into the program.

"Farmers are businessmen," Teel said. "They've made a living out there for 30 years. What we're asking them to do is change their practices. We're asking them to stop using the cheapest and most effective herbicide."

"In order for this to work it has to remain profitable," Teel noted. "What we're doing isn't any different than someone going to Robinson's and telling them, they can't use their adding machine anymore, but they're supposed to use this type of machine which they have never used and may not be as efficient."

"It has to remain profitable for the farmers," Teel said.

Producers sign up for five years and are paid up front to put land into the project. They are bound to the project, by contract, for five years. If they discontinue the practices required, they are forced to pay the money back.

"Producers change their prac-

tices in this project," Teel said. "Especially if you go to no-till. The first year or two the producer expects some problems. By year three their patience gets a little thin. We figure if we get a guy to stay in this program five years, it is the best chance we have of getting him to use this practice permanently."

Bishop noted the project is unique and has the attention of a lot of people.

"This is a pilot project," Bishop said. "It has never been done before. Agencies have never come together to do something like this before. We've had four visits from officials out of Washington, D.C. and we constantly have state people reviewing this project. There are a lot of proposals, in a lot of places, for a project similar to ours."

Teel added, "The thing to stress here is, it is a volunteer project. The EPA could come in here tomorrow, if they wanted to, and tell farmers that herbicides are restricted. The chemical levels at West Lake have already tested high enough, long enough, the EPA could do that."

"The words water quality and regulation are synonymous, but

there is no regulation," Teel said. "Kevin doesn't go out there with a regulation in his back pocket saying we have to do this. We have producers wanting, voluntarily, without regulation, to improve water quality."

"I think it is remarkable they didn't run us off with a gun," Teel noted. "I don't think people realize the effort West Lake Watershed producers are putting into this project."

The bottom line could be, according to both Teel and Bishop, is a savings in dollars at the water treatment plant.

"The project was designed to stop sediment going to West Lake, but if we keep the soil in the fields, we keep the chemical in the fields," Bishop said.

la Sentinel - Tribune
February 13, 1992

Unique plan to clean up Osceola water source gets lots of federal, state attention

BY JOHN EBERLINE

It may have started as a dream over a cup of coffee, but the West Lake Water Quality Planning Project has become the center of attention for numerous state and federal agencies, and a key element in cleaning up Osceola's drinking water.

Officially the West Lake Water Quality Planning Project is a joint effort between the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to improve water quality in West Lake.

What all that really means is, the West Lake Water Quality Planning Project, better known as "the project" is a unique method of encouraging farmers to change their methods of farming.

There are 6,300 acres in the West Lake Watershed. About 3,000 acres were used for continuous row

crop farming prior to the development of the project.

Prior to the project beginning, the annual soil loss in the watershed was 9.7 tons per acre per year. If you cannot get a grasp on how much topsoil 9.7 tons per acre per year is, imagine ten dimes stacked on top of one another. Those ten dimes measure the same as 9.7 tons of topsoil spread across an acre of land.

So how did this project begin?

"It started as a dream," Clarke County Extension Agent Alan Teel said. "Keith Edwards and I dreamed it up over a cup of coffee when we were talking about sediment problems."

The dream started in 1978. When Iowa initiated the REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) funds through lottery monies, Teel and Edwards decided to write a plan and apply.

The original project was designed to work primarily on siltation problems at West Lake.

"We got started talking about this during a real dry year. The

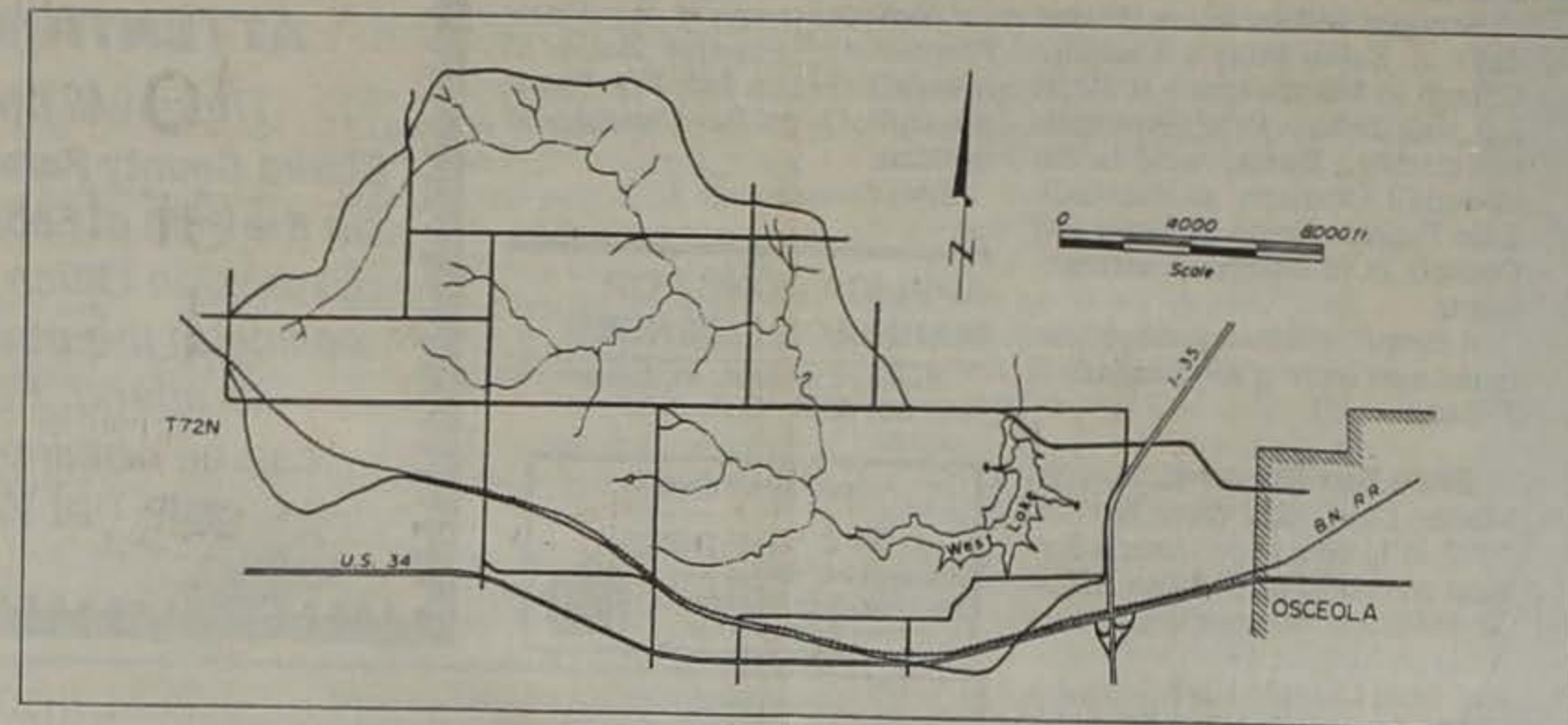
lake was down and there were a lot of problems at the lake. The basic reason for loss of water was siltation and that sparked this project," Teel said.

"In 1987 we hit a year, like last year, when we had a lot of rain and a lot of run off," Teel noted. "Then chemicals came into the picture. This project is basically designed to keep top soil from leaving the fields and ending up in West Lake, but it can also, as a side benefit, decrease the herbicides going into West Lake."

When the project received REAP funds, Kevin Bishop was hired to head up the program in Nov. 1990. Bishop's first meeting with watershed farmers came in Jan. 1991.

And what has happened since has amazed state and federal officials and even Teel.

"We thought if we had 500 acres sign up the first year it would be a smashing success," Teel said. "The farmers accepted this thing very, very well, which is evident in the sign-up. We thought it would be



West Lake Watershed Involves the cooperation of farmers to reduce chemical run-off into city water supply.

three or four years before we got to the 65 percent sign-up level."

The first year 949 acres of watershed acreage was committed to the project and another 300 acres came in on a volunteer basis.

To sign up, producers had to agree to go to a different method of farming from row crop. The most common, and the one Bishop encourages is no-till. It means just what it says. The field is not tilled, which is a drastic change from normal Iowa farming methods.

Washington, D.C. Itly have state people project. There are a ls, in a lot of places, imilar to ours."

"The thing to stress a volunteer project. ld come in here to- y wanted to, and tell herbicides are re- chemical levels at e already tested high enough, the EPA

s water quality and e synonymous, but

Bishop said.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 13, 1992*

Look at more reservoirs to prepare for Clarke's future

Osceola will add 2,000 people by year 2030; look for new lake sites to supplement West Lake

BY JOHN EBERLINE

While most attention the past few months has been focused on contaminants in Osceola's drinking water, plans for development of a new reservoir to supplement storage at West Lake have been developed.

City officials and its water board know they must solve contaminant problems in the water, namely lowering Atrazine and Bladex levels, and they know they must have chemical levels back to safe drinking levels within a given time frame demanded by the Department of Natural Resources.

But that has not slowed planning of future water needs and sometime in the next ten years, plans call for construction of a new reservoir, not to replace West Lake, but to supplement it.

The reservoir will be built at a yet undetermined site, but six sites have been tabbed as likely locations.

Three potential sites are located in the Whitebreast Watershed and three in the Squaw Creek Watershed.

Why, when the city is likely facing millions of dollars of work and in equipment to get chemical levels down to safe dosages, is consideration being given to new water storage facilities?

Because a study shows the present water system will not be able to keep up with demand into the year 2030.

Keith Edwards, former District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Osceola, now heads the Red Rock Resource Council in Indianola and explains how things started.

Edwards said in March, 1988 the Soil Conservation Service was requested by the soil and water conservation district commissioners from six districts to identify and present information concerning water and related land resource

problems in the drainage area of Lake Red Rock.

A study of the Lake Red Rock Basin, which includes Clarke County, was initiated to provide a concentrated investigation of the uncontrolled drainage area upstream of Red Rock Dam and reservoir. Particular concerns investigated included flood damage, soil erosion, lack of water supply, inferior water quality, and sedimentation problems. Lack of adequate water supplies are primarily a result of uniformly poor quality aquifers, which leaves most of Southern Iowa, including Clarke County, dependent upon surface reservoirs.

West Lake, Osceola's storage reservoir, was built in the 1930s and has a withdrawal capacity of 1,513 acre-feet, which means the reservoir has a storage capacity of about two and a half years of demand.

A preliminary engineering report by Howard R. Green Company, consulting engineers for Osceola, showed the currently 306 acre West Lake will not adequately meet Osceola's water needs past the year 2030.

Population predictions show a growth for Osceola of 2,000 people, plus any added industry will put more strain on the current water supply and storage system.

Edwards said Osceola requested the Soil Conservation Service, Water Resources Planning Staff investigate surface water impoundments for future water for the municipality.

"We approached the study, first from a water storage need," Edwards said. "We asked what the needs would be in 20-to-30 years, what the population will be and if

current water systems could be expanded to meet needs in the future."

The answers said Osceola's water system would need supplemental help from of an additional reservoir.

Three sites were selected in the White Breast Creek Watershed. One is located two miles southwest of Osceola, while the other two are approximately five miles southeast of Osceola.

Three sites on Squaw Creek are located west of Interstate 35 about seven miles northwest of Osceola.

The Squaw Creek sites have been tabbed as likely favored spots for the reservoir because the drainage of the 12,000 acre watershed is primarily timber and pasture, while White Breast Watershed is 80 percent row crop.

Plans call for an earth dam to be

constructed at which ever site is selected.

No decisions have been made on when or where to locate the dam and reservoir, but the study gives the city the option of making a decision before demand out strides supply.

*Osceola Sentinel-Liberal
February 20, 1992*



CORNERSTONE CEREMONY: Masons, from Iowa's Grand Lodge, Osceola and Woodburn lodges, conducted a cornerstone laying ceremony Friday at a new office building in Osceola's

industrial park that houses three federal agricultural offices and a private accounting firm. The building was built by Randy Short Construction Co. of Osceola.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 30, 1992*

Teel accepts West Lake Project job

Decisions have not been made yet on job description details for the Clarke County Extension agent yet, but the good news is Alan Teel is back in the local office 100 per cent of the time.

Teel accepted a position April 1 with the West Lake Water Quality Project, the pilot program he helped create that has goals of eliminating silt and water contamination at West Lake.

Teel's work load will consist of 35 percent time on the watershed project and 65 percent on extension work.

"I'll be coordinating the crop management portion of the project," Teel said. "We'll be taking a look at a number of areas in crop production. For example we'll be working with farmers and looking at fertility. One of the things we'll be doing is taking soil samples. We'll work with the farmers on fertility needs of the soil. We'll be doing the same with weed control and insect control and other areas. The idea is to cut production costs without cutting productivity."

*Osceola
Sentinel-Tribune
April 30, 1992*

Watershed group plans field day on no-till

The "how-to's" and "how-not-to's" of no-till and reduced tillage crop production will be the topic of a field day to be held Friday, June 12.

The field day will be sponsored as part of the West Lake Watershed Project and will begin at 10 a.m. one quarter of a mile north of Jack Nish's house---approximately 1 1/2 miles west and 1/2 mile north of the Osceola water treatment plant.

Topics to be discussed and observed are no-till and reduced tillage practices, residue measurement, and control of troublesome weeds.

Resource people will be producers, ag-chem dealers, and Extension and Soil Conservation Service personnel.

NO-TILL FARMING: Jack Nish (kneeling) talks about no-till farming procedures he and others in the West Lake watershed have adapted which has reduced the flow of silt. Nish, John Webb (right), Marlow 'Bub' Peterson (second from left) are members of the West Lake

Water Quality Planning Project steering committee. Steve Reynolds is a farmer from south of Osceola who is changing to no-till procedures. Atrazine used on crops in the West Lake watershed was reduced to eight gallons this year.

Change on watershed farms helps quality of Osceola water

West Lake project off to fast start in reducing chemical levels

BY JOHN EBERLINE

If silt levels and chemicals continue to plague Osceola's water supply at its source, West Lake, statistics show it is going to be very difficult to point a finger of blame at producers in the watershed.

And therein lies a success story that has caught attention of government officials from Des Moines to Washington, D.C.

It is a well known fact that chemical content at West Lake has exceeded levels the government consider as hazardous, but it is a lesser known fact that much has been done to solve the problem and it has been done through the

cooperation of farmers in the watershed.

Two years ago the West Lake Water Quality Planning Project was started. Its goal was to change the methods farmers used in their fields to save soil, thus reduce silt flowing to West Lake.

The program was designed as a soil saving project. The attention to chemical problems came after the program was initiated.

How has it worked?

Statistics show the levels of Atrazine and Bladex, the two biggest herbicide culprits, have been reduced significantly. Test conducted at the lake show Atrazine levels at 2.4 (May) and 2.5 (June) P.P.B. The level considered hazardous is 3.0 parts per billion. Bladex levels were 4.0 in both May and June. The hazardous level for Bladex is 10.0 P.P.B.

Even more amazing is how well the project has worked towards the goal for which it was originally designed.

In 1990, 11.83 tons of top soil per acre flowed to West Lake from 3,743 acres producers worked in the West Lake Project. In 1992 that level dropped to 7.70 tons of top soil per acre.

The reason? New farming practices encouraged by the West Lake Water Quality Planning Project and the main new practice is no-till farming.

When Kevin Bishop was hired to head the project the goal was to get 2,500 acres signed up and working within five years. Just two years after the project started, over 1,700 acres, or two-thirds the original goal, have signed on.

Alan Teel, county extension agent who now works a portion of

his time on the project, said, "This is not an easy thing to do. It is a different way of doing things. It is more complicated than just buying a new planter to go to the no-till system. You adapt to the weather. You adapt to soil conditions. Timing becomes the key factor."

John Webb, a member of the project's steering committee, was familiar with no-till practices. "I had some hill land I didn't want to plow and I got interested in it about ten years ago."

Webb added, "I started no-till on the project because of soil loss. When I leave, I want to leave the soil in better shape than I found it."

Jack Nish, also a member of the steering committee, said, "In the corn I'm satisfied with no-till. I'm not satisfied with it yet in the beans, because of weeds."

"This is everyone's problem, not just the farmer. I didn't start no-till just because of the water conditions. SCS pushed no-till, but the

chemical problem out. My corn cost me \$31 an acre for weed kill this year. Last year it costs \$17.50 an acre."

Nish is talking about 84 acres of corn and the cost difference going from conventional row crop farming to no-till and post application Extrazine, is \$1,134.

Post application Extrazine is a chemical that is put on weeds when they start to grow, rather than put into the soil when land is tilled.

Bishop says the no-till effort is being watched, not only in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., but by other producers in Clarke County.

"There are 15 or 20 producers who have grasped the concept of what we're doing out here. Some have gone to no-till and others are thinking about it," Bishop said.

One such producer is Steve Reynolds, who lives south of Osceola and not in the project.

Reynolds said, "I'm not in the project, but I'm using Accent (a post application herbicide) next year. I don't like Atrazine. And I don't like depending on rainfall. Accent doesn't need rainfall to activate. Also, I read somewhere a day or two after you spray Accent, it is gone."

Soil loss can be prevented by no-till farming practices, as the project has proven, but what about chemicals in the water?

Teel said, "The southern two tiers of counties in Iowa have a

higher percentage of water coming from surface sources than wells. Most water systems to the south and east of us have quit using their systems and gone to rural water from Rathbun. The problem wasn't so much chemical as their lakes were silting in.

"New water projects, like the Three Mile Lake west of Murray, start working on silting and chemical problems before they fill the lake. Most try to get no-till and other systems started ahead of development of the lake."

"Our problem is treatable. When you get into wells for water sources you have a problem. You don't know how much is in the well or where it is coming from. It is hard to find a source of contamination because of filtering through the soil. I think surface systems are easier to work with."

Bishop added, "To make it simple. Nearly everything south of Interstate 80 is having problems. Siltation problems or chemical problems. Just all kinds of problems."

Producers in the West Lake project used 442 gallons of Atrazine for weed control in 1991.

In 1992, that figure dropped to an amazing eight gallons.

If the West Lake project is being watched so closely by government

officials, will restrictions on Atrazine be avoided or are restrictions on their way?

Teel said, "We already have some restriction on the use in some areas. I think that was a first step. My opinion is, if you have a problem that even smells of carcinogens and cancer, use will be restricted."

Nish added, "Atrazine use is down already. If farmers don't cut down, they probably will put a limit on us."

Reynolds said, "I think they will restrict it. Public opinion dictates and when the public sees it in their food and water, it will probably be restricted."

Teel noted, "There is a provision in the 1990 farm bill requiring people to record amounts of product they buy and use. We know

product makes it to a restrictive use label, that will be the triggering factor. In the next five years you'll see a lot of restrictions put on that type of material."

Nish added, "People need to realize it is everybody's problem, not just our problem."

Bishop added, "The problem is not unique to just West Lake and with cooperation elsewhere, like we've had from the producers in the West Lake watershed, a lot can be done towards solving it."

"When I leave, I want to leave the soil in better shape than I found it."

—John Webb
Clarke County farmer

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
June 11, 1992

Atrazine level at West Lake is high again. Or is it?

Chemical levels at West Lake have been lower in 1992 than in 1991 and Atrazine levels were below federal hazardous levels until June.

And the June reading has officials who are working with Osceola's water scratching their heads.

Readings of Atrazine were below dangerous levels in May (2.5 PPB) and April (2.4 PPB) and barely above the 3.0 designated danger level in March at 3.8 PPB.

What has officials involved in the project scratching their heads is the fact Atrazine levels rose at all. There was very little rain in May to cause runoff and Atrazine usage in the West Lake Watershed was been cut dramatically.

For over a year DePont has also been testing water at West Lake and their readings have matched the test labs readings, until the last test.

DuPont's testing showed Atrazine levels below 3.0 PPB.

ATRAZINE LEVELS (Parts per billion)

Month	1991	1992
June	4.9	5.6
May	3.0	2.5
April	4.7	2.4
March	6.0	3.8
February	6.0	4.5
January	8.4	4.3

Will elect two Clarke soil commissioners

Terms of two Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners expire this year.

Successors will be elected at the general election. They will serve six year terms beginning January 1993.

Any qualified elector residing in Clarke County, including towns, is eligible for the office of commissioner, except that no more than one commissioner may be a resident of any one township.

Incumbent commissioners are Donald Bennink, Green Bay Township; Terry L. Boles, Doyle Township; and LuElla Pontier, Ward Township. Therefore, residents of these townships would not be eligible for office at this time.

Prospective candidates seeking the office must file nomination

petitions in the same manner as for other elective positions at the general election, except that no political party is designated.

Nomination petitions can be obtained from the County Auditor. These petitions, signed by 25 eligible electors, must be filed with the County Auditor at the Clarke County Court House no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 26.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county.

For further information about the responsibilities of a commissioner, contact the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 709 Fumas Drive, Suite 3, Osceola.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 9, 1992

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 2, 1992

Reports flow in on crop damage

BY RANDY BROWN

County, state and federal officials are still working at the bottom line in assessing damage caused by flash floods in the Clarke County area earlier this month.

One of five counties originally named in a disaster proclamation issued by Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, local officials say damage in Clarke County was significant, but could have been much worse.

The eight counties now included in the disaster proclamation include: Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Monroe, Ringgold, Union and Wayne counties.

"We didn't have the dramatic things like Chariton and Corydon had," said Bart Griffith, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county executive director. "We didn't have trains floating off their tracks, and we weren't flooded-in on four sides."

Still, Griffith said, damage to Clarke County crops and agricultural structures was "tremendous." He estimated 5,000 acres of agricultural land was affected by the flooding, with 80 percent of the crops in that area lost or damaged. The flood plain centered on the White Breast Creek area; most damage occurred in the southern half of the county.

"Beans are just gone," said Griffith. "Corn is a maybe — if it starts smelling in a week, we'll know it's gotten down into the husk."

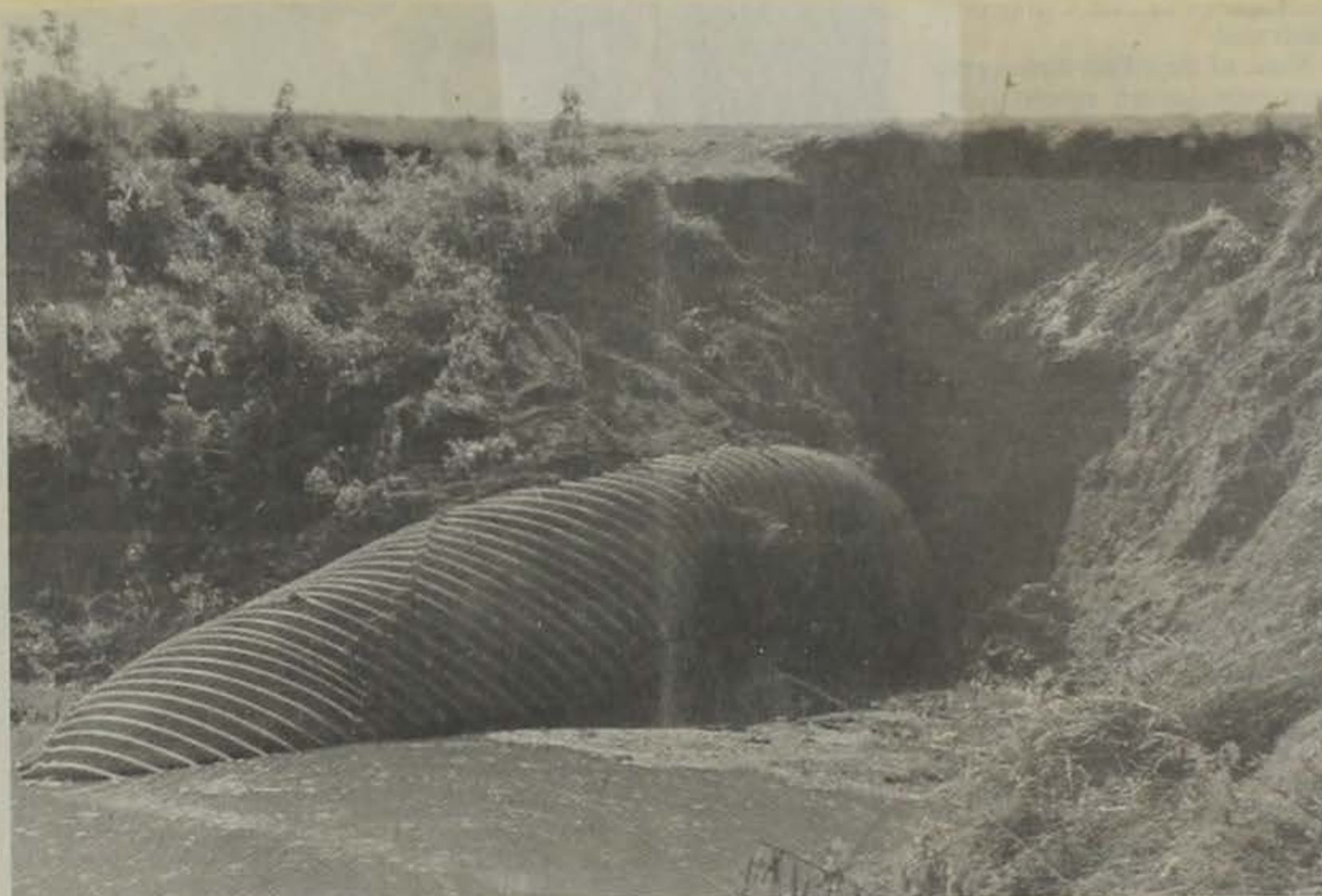
County Extension Director Alan Teel said Clarke County as a whole usually splits out at 40 percent soybeans and 60 percent corn, although whether those percentages apply to the flood plain area is unclear.

Teel will be

Integrated Crop Management Coordinator for the region October 1. Farmers should watch their fields for signs of stalk rot and mold in coming weeks, Teel said. "The corn would have had to have been really green and tight to keep the water out," he said.

The 1992 harvest, already weeks behind schedule, has been pushed by the flooding even further back on the calendar. "The problem is getting in at the crops," Teel said. "We're just not going to have good

CONTINUED FRONT, SECTION B



BENT LIKE A PIPECLEANER: Flood waters bent and twisted a 10-foot culvert under the county-line road east of Weldon. County officials have yet to determine whether repairs to the pipe will be paid for by Clarke or Decatur county. The outlet end (see picture at left) appeared undamaged.

MORE ON CROP

FROM FRONT, SECTION A

drying weather. Some may have to wait until after frost to harvest."

Looking for some silver lining to the Clarke County cloudburst, Teel said soil erosion was minimized both by the season and by farmers themselves.

"If we had to get 16 inches of rain, it was one of the better times to get it in terms of erosion. We were pretty much at maximum foliage," Teel said. "First, it stopped or broke the force of the raindrops hitting the ground. Then, we had a lot of material to slow the force of the water running."

Farmers who implemented soil-saving techniques also limited potential damage to their fields, Teel said.

"Those farmers that did contouring and put strips in, it's going to be a lot better for them," he said. "Those methods work, even under severe conditions — though not quite as well."

Teel said farmers will have to

extent of their erosion problems. "I've got a feeling that farmers are going to find ditches where they haven't before," he said. "It's going to be dirty, and there's going to be a lot of debris in those fields."

Hayfields were not affected by

the flooding, Teel said, unless alfalfa had been cut and left to dry. "If there were cut hay laying out, that'd be the third cutting and that's gone. The plant itself should have survived," Teel said. "If the water had stayed for a week, it'd be different."

Griffith said baled hay either floated downstream or was destroyed. "We didn't think they'd float, but some did," he said. "Others got soaked and sank, and are unusable."

There have been no reports of lost livestock resulting from the flooding, Griffith said.

"I don't know of any livestock that have been lost, but there's a few guys out there that haven't quite found all theirs yet," Teel said. "Some cattle got back in the timber."

Ron White of the Osceola Veterinary Clinic said while he was not aware of any cattle deaths caused by drowning in flood waters, lightning strikes during the storms did cause over 10 animal injuries and deaths in the area.

be at increased risk for disease because of the floods. "To have any problems with disease, you need standing water," he said. "Standing water for us means maybe a month or more."

Structural damage caused by the

flood is difficult to get a handle on, Griffith said. "It's hard to evaluate something until you can see it," he said. Griffith is attempting to collect damage reports on structures such as terraces, ponds and wells.

The ASCS office continues to collect reports of crop, cattle and structure damage at 342-2162. Griffith said people should report specific numbers of acres or animals affected, or specifications of structures damaged by the flooding.

Storm Damage

Osceola Sentinel -
Tribune

9/24/92

9/24/92
(cont.)

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(Cont.)



IN OVER HIS HEAD: Clarke County Supervisor Steve Smith inspects a washed-out bridge during another flood damage assessment

tour. "I've put about 320 miles on my truck since the floods," he said. Forty-seven bridges were damaged in last week's floods. See Section B.

Crews are awash in repair effort on county's bridges and roads

BY RANDY BROWN

Clarke County crews are working overtime to get Clarke County back on the road again.

Assistant Clarke County Engineer Richard McKnight said crews have worked extended hours and weekends in an attempt to repair as quickly as possible roads and bridges damaged in this month's flooding.

McKnight said 25 to 30 miles of county road were damaged by the water, "200 to 500 feet stretches at a time." A total 47 bridges were damaged by the flooding, he said. Six bridges, five public and one a private drive maintained by the county, were washed away completely.

County Supervisor Steve Smith said, "We've really got to hand it to [County Executive Secretary] Harold Saddoris, the county engineer, and all our secondary road crews. They really stayed on top of it."

McKnight said crews had already reopened six bridges as of Tuesday. "With any luck, and if the weather bears with us, we could get all the bridges repaired by winter," he said, "but that's optimistic."

Clarke bus drivers were issued maps of the county with damaged areas marked.

After bus routes, crews worked to establish access to residences isolated by flood damage. "They may have to take the long way

been marked, McKnight said, drivers shouldn't take a chance that someone has moved a barricade — or that the barricade isn't there for a reason.

"Some people decide the barricades would be something neat to have and walk off with them," he said. "Then, they later decide they aren't so neat and we find them in a ditch somewhere."

Also, while roads and bridges may be repaired, McKnight said, settling may cause unexpected drop-offs in the driving surface. Any such condition may be reported to the county engineer's office at 342-2716.

Repair estimates for the county are not yet available. McKnight said, though he predicts the final Clarke County total at approximately \$1.5 million. "It costs \$1,500 a foot to put in a bridge, and we're talking bridges of up to 50 or 60 feet," he said.

"Plus, it cost \$4,500 a mile to rock road, maybe up to \$8,000 if there's extensive work."

While private contractors may eventually be used in repairs, Clarke County will continue to do most of the work in the short-term, McKnight said. Applications for part-time labor were taken up until close-of-business Wednesday, September 23.

Supervisor Smith said the county usually gives preference to local contractors, when possible.

Clarke County crews weren't the only ones out looking at damages following the flood. A Des Moines bridge contractor volunteered his services in estimating repair costs and needs. "In some cases, he indi-

"... We could get all the bridges repaired by winter — but that's optimistic."

—Richard McKnight
Assistant Clarke County engineer

Damage to the bridges varied, McKnight said, from erosion at one or both ends, causing gaps from four to 40 feet wide and two to 20 feet deep.

School bus routes were repaired first, McKnight said, to cut down on travel time and tax dollars spent on fuel. Before school bus service resumed the day after the floods,

around for awhile," McKnight said, "but they can get out."

McKnight said Clarke County residents should continue to drive carefully on secondary roads. "Instead of the usual 50 mph speed limit, it might be wiser to do it at 35 or 45 — especially at night," he said.

While all dangerous places have

cated more damage than what we could see on the surface," McKnight said, "and he made some suggestions on how we could speed up repair."

Also, a damage assessment team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency visited Clarke County Wednesday.

McKnight urged Clarke County residents to be patient with road conditions in coming months, noting that resources routinely used in day-to-day road repair will be taxed by efforts following the flood.

"One of the worst things about this is that people are going to forget this, and wonder why we don't have everything fixed up again in a couple of weeks or months," McKnight said.

Victims work to reverse flood's effect

Police officer and wife help neighbor escape during storm

BY FRANK MORLAN

Four Osceola families are trying to put their lives back together today after their homes were ravaged by flood waters of South Breast Creek.

The task will not be easy.

For the Larry and Rhonda Hamilton family it will mean literally starting over after their house was damaged beyond repair.

For Dorothy Lewis it means recuperating from flood waters 19 inches deep in her home on the south edge of Osceola.

For Lewis it is a particularly discouraging task. Her house was also damaged by floods in 1981.

She doesn't want to move. Who would guess that the two worst floods in a century would happen within years of each other?

"What's a person to do?" she asked as she shrugged her shoulders and looked at the carpets and furniture drying on the lawn.

She and her husband moved to the acreage in 1975. He died three years ago.

While property damage was extensive, no one was hurt or drowned.

It could have easily happened. Hamilton, an Osceola police officer got off duty at 11:30. At midnight the family decided they had to evacuate.

The Hamiltons have four children: James 11, Joseph 8, Joshua 6, and Jerrica 2.

Hamilton, after making sure his family was secure, went to the Lewis home.

"She didn't want to leave," he recalls. "Now we're glad she did."

Lewis drove her car to higher ground. By the time she and Hamilton left she was pushing water with her headlights.

"I was behind her in a four-wheel drive. I could have pushed her if the car stalled," he said.

She went to the home of her son,

Dale, and his wife, Brenda in Osceola. Another son, Richard, and his wife, Denise, came from Runnells to aid the family members in the clean up.

"They've all been wonderful," she said.

"This week has been something else," she said

looking back at the storm which dumped up to 16 inches of rain in the White Breast Creek watershed.

Officially, Osceola received 12.34 inches of rain since Sept. 14, 1992.

Hamiltons stayed with a friend, Mary Britt, until they could move a travel trailer to their homestead. They will probably attempt to replace their mobile home. "We like the location," Rhonda Hamilton said.

The Hamilton's home was pushed off its foundation. All wood in the structure buckled. "The floor is like a roller coaster," Rhonda said.

Furniture fell apart at the same time drawers swelled shut.

Rhonda Hamilton attempted to save as much clothing as possible. "I washed for three straight days," she said.

The families have no insurance coverage for flood damage.

"She didn't want
to leave.
Now we're glad
she did."

— Larry Hamilton
Police officer, flood victim



DAMAGED HOME: Belongings of Dorothy Lewis of Osceola were pulled from her water-logged house. Some articles will be saved she said. Others, like a new water heater that had not been hooked up, were lost. The Lewis home is located on highway 69 on the south edge of town.

9/24/92
(con't.)

9/24/92
(con't.)

He loses crops, she loses house, they feel lucky

Couple takes on inches of water during Clarke floods

This has not been a good year for Jeanene Laib and Mary Geis.

When a wind and hail storm smashed through the New Virginia area this summer his farm was directly in the path.

The crops were lost.

This week he and Laib are assessing the damage caused when her house had more than eight inches of water soaked the carpet and flooring.

It could have been worse.

Elsie and Terry Morris, next door neighbors, but lower and closer to the White Breast Creek on the south edge of Osceola, had more than four feet of water go

through their home.

"It started coming in about 3 o'clock. By 4 it was starting to go back down," Geis said.

He was trying to dry out the house Friday.

Laib, his fiancée, was at her job at the Area Education Agency. She has worked for the AEA for 19 years.

The water came within an inch of contacting the house's electrical wiring.

For now it is a matter of getting the house dried.

After looking at the Morris house, Geis was able to say "We were lucky."

Couple weathers plant closing only to lose everything to flood

Elsie and Terry Morris sat in a truck on Highway 69 and watched as more than four feet of rampaging water flowed through their house on the south edge of Osceola.

The Department of Transportation truck provided a shelter for the Osceola family while keeping motorists from driving into the flood waters.

The couple lost everything except a few clothes.

"I worked at Jimmy Dean. Now this," said Elsie Morris.

"This year has been like one, two, three strikes and you're out,"

"We had just bought some new

appliances. We had just paid off the washer and dryer," she said.

Nothing, except a few clothes was saved. Water flowed over the kitchen stove. A microwave oven was full of water. Furnace and water heater were ruined. Furniture, including some antiques were badly damaged.

Her husband is employed at Highway Lumber. A company truck, along with Morris' car and pickup were destroyed by the floods.

He was hurt when he tried to move the car. Flood waters jammed the door against his leg.

The couple were probably the first in the flooded area to realize there were going to be problems. It was still daylight Monday when I saw the water coming," she recalls.

Nothing escaped the damages. The couple's well was contaminated.

She and her husband moved to a dog kennel in the back yard. It was on higher ground. The water kept climbing. They found safety in the

DOT truck where they spent the night.

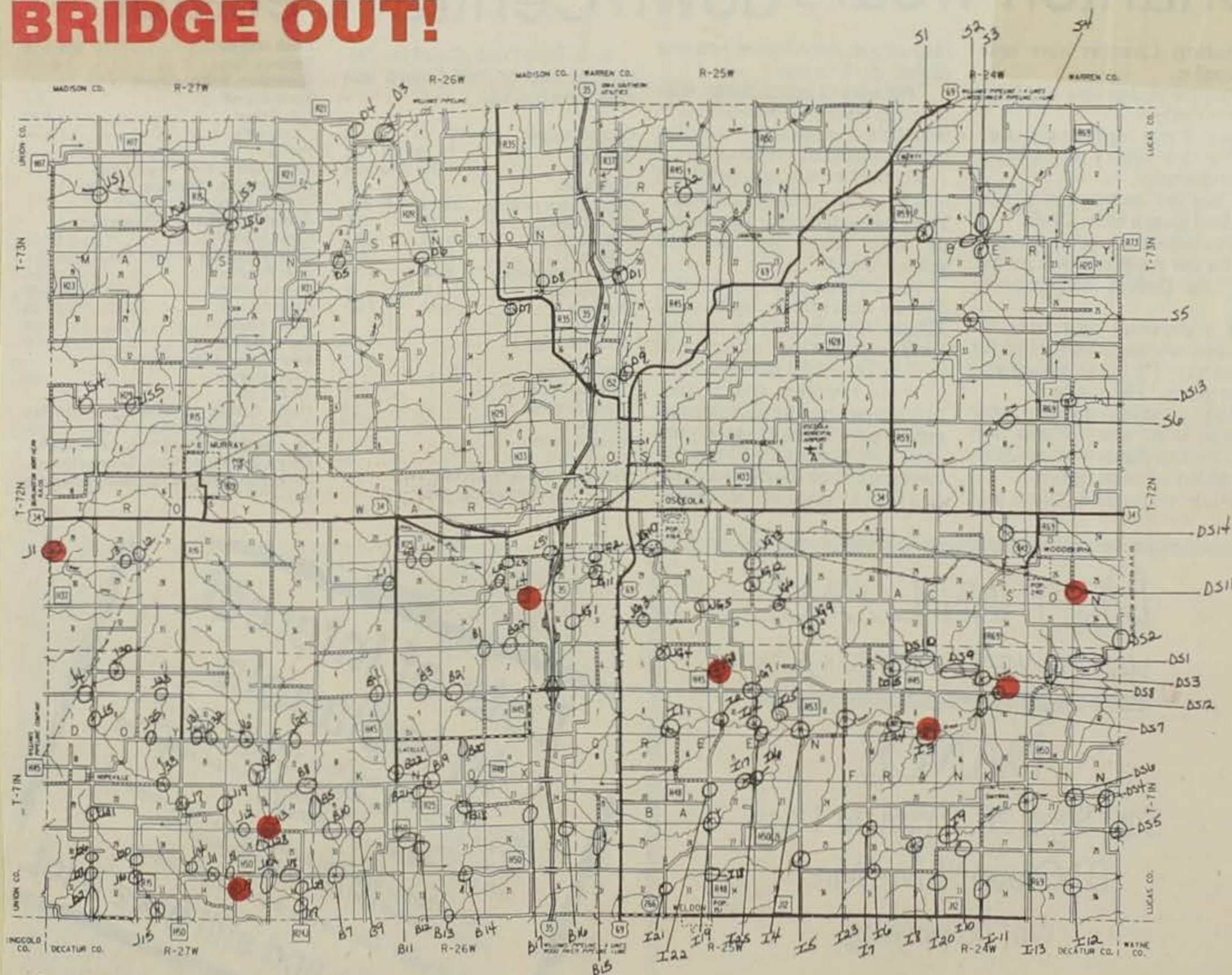
They have temporarily moved into an apartment above Dr. Harris' dental office. Their daughter, Sherry Watson, and three grandchildren live in Osceola.

"We'll have to move back. We don't have any other choice. We'll still have to make payments even if we moved. And now I haven't got a job," she said.

9/24/92
(con't.)

BRIDGE OUT!

9/24/92
(con't.)



Clarke County road crews continue to work overtime to repair bus routes and access roads to isolated homes and farms. Forty-seven bridges were damaged during the floods, with six bridges washed away entirely. On the

map above, missing bridges are marked in red. Sites J-1 and DS-11 are I-beam bridges that are missing decking. Site L-4 is a private driveway that is maintained by the county.

9/24/92
(con't.)



Raging water

Crews were busy repairing the Burlington Northern railroad tracks at Lucas this week. Last week's floods pushed railroad cars off the track. They can be seen behind the repair crews of Iowa Southern Utilities.

The damaged line forced Amtrak to be rerouted. The tracks did provide a type of levy however, saving Lucas from another ten feet of water coming into town.

The flood water also closed highway 34 near Lucas.

White Breast Creek overflowed at Osceola closing highway 69 on the south edge of town (at left).

9/24/92
(con't.)

USDA announces more '90-'92 disaster relief

An additional \$775 million in emergency funds for agricultural disasters was recently released by the federal government, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials announced.

The funds may be applied to crops losses incurred from 1990 to 1992, and is in addition to \$995 million in disaster assistance for 1990-91 crops announced last January.

Application period for disaster claims for fall-seeded program crops planted in 1991 and harvested in 1992 will begin Sept. 8 and end Oct. 2, 1992. Application period for producers of other 1992 crops and for producers with 1990 and 1991 crops will begin Oct. 13, 1992 and end Feb. 12, 1993.

"Producers will be eligible to apply for assistance for 1990, 1991 or 1992 losses," said Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan. "However, if producers received assistance for any of those years, they may not receive further assistance for that crop year. Producers who receive payments for fall-seeded program crops will only be eligible for assistance for 1992 crop losses."

Producers with crop insurance must have losses greater than 35 percent to be eligible for the relief. Those without insurance must have losses greater than 40 percent.

Producers interested in applying for relief should contact their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.



DAMAGE SURVEY: State Rep. Jack Beaman and Clarke County Supervisor Steve Smith survey the outlet of a 10-foot culvert damaged by flood waters. While the pipe appeared to be unscathed from this end, the inlet (see picture at right) presented another story.

Governor requests over \$3.6 million for damage

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad announced he will ask for more than \$3.6 million in federal aid to help South Central Iowa recover from damage caused by floods last month.

The aid would be targeted toward public structures such as bridges and roads. Crops, homes and businesses would be covered under other relief programs.

Branstad has said he will request aid from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for farmers' lost and damaged crops. If such aid was provided, farmers who lost crops — as well as agribusiness owners — could seek low-interest federal loans through the Farmers Home Administration.

Other business and home owners may qualify for low-interest loans and grants offered by the state Department of Economic Development.

State Disaster Services director Ellen Gordon predicted a final damage total may be more than \$5 million.

The Red Cross assistance center set up in the Osceola Senior Center has closed up shop, organization officials announced. Red Cross support is still available either by contacting the Des Moines office, or the Clarke County Sheriff's office. During its two-week operation, the Red Cross gathered data on 51 damaged homes.

A flood of money

Iowa Gov. Terry Brandstad announced he will ask for \$3.6 million in federal disaster aid following the flash floods that ravaged South Central Iowa in September. The money would be used to fix bridges, roads and other public structures.

Here's how the funds would break down by county:

Adams	\$252,000
CLARKE	\$620,000
Decatur	\$1.16 million
Lucas	\$202,000
Madison	\$63,500
Monroe	\$74,000
Ringgold	\$117,000
Union	\$432,000
Wayne	\$751,000
TOTAL	\$3,671,500

The \$3.6 million is the first estimate of damage caused by flooding, and includes only damage to public structures. State disaster services officials estimate the final damages will total more than \$5 million.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
Oct. 1, 1992

Interagency forum scheduled

A forum to identify environmental issues and problems unique to this area has been scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Clarke Electric Cooperative meeting room.

The forum is being sponsored by the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners.

The public is urged to attend. This idea-sharing session is a first step in attaining the ultimate objective: securing a future of quality production and an increase in the valued resources of Clarke County said Lisa Cooper, district soil conservationist.

Areas that the Conservation District can have an impact include soil and water resources, recreational and wildlife resources, land management practices and the overall quality of life in southern Iowa.

County plans road project

Board learns some highway assistance won't be available

BY RANDY BROWN

The Clarke County Board of Supervisors moved this week toward the possible condemnation of some properties along the Neely road, Project No. L-22E, in southeastern Osceola Township.

Plans call for the existing road to be expanded from 40-foot to 80-foot of right-of-way, and from 16 feet of driving surface to 22 feet, by spring 1993.

"The purpose of this project is to make this road safe for travel," said County Assistant Engineer Richard McKnight. "It'll definitely solve the problem for school buses."

The county will buy permanent easements on the properties at 2.5 times the assessed value of the property, McKnight said.

McKnight said property owners along the project have been contacted regarding the project, which will double the width of the road. He said most of the property owners are willing to go along with the project, without condemnation procedures.

Property owners include: Craig and Terri Barcus, Gary and Frances Swanson, John and Pauline Neely, Harold Fitzpatrick, Mary L. Cummings and Maxine Page.

County Attorney Gary Kimes said the condemnation process would mirror procedures used during the Star Line project. The chief district judge will appoint a commission of five members to consider the condemnation, he said.

McKnight said some property owners wanted money up-front for replacement of their existing fences, and whether or not they intend to replace the fences.

"We do not consider the fee we're paying as damages to take out a fence," said McKnight. "We consider it a fee to assist with putting it back in."

The county will pay from \$9 to \$11 a rod for fence replacement. "That's about \$1.50 less than it'd cost to put in new," McKnight said. Materials from old fence could be reused, he said.

Supervisor Dennis Cheney said, "Eleven dollars will still put it back in if you use some discretion."

McKnight said the project will ultimately help property owners in the area. "They're going to get the fence rows cleaned out, but they're also going to get a good road," he said.

"That's going to help property values."

FLOOD DAMAGE

Assistant County Engineer Richard McKnight told the board a dollar figure for damage to county roads and bridges caused by September flooding should be available by early November.

While disaster assistance will help with some projects, other assistance from the federal highway administration will not be available for secondary roads, McKnight said. County officials had hoped the damage caused by the September floods would total more than \$500,000 to meet guidelines for such assistance.

McKnight said damage to such areas in Clarke County will be approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000.

SEPTIC LINES

The board also considered a dispute regarding septic line and tank placements between Barb Green and Jeff Webster. Both parties contacted the state Department of Natural Resources, board assistant Harold Saddoris said, and were referred to the county.

The board moved to contract with the Warren County sanitarian to investigate the claims made by

The contractor on Green's septic project said he had stopped work until a determination could be made as to whether the project could be completed under code.

Supervisor Steve Smith said, "I've had a couple of contractors tell me they won't go into a county that isn't zoned and build just because of situations like this."

The Clarke County Board of Health is currently investigating whether or not to recommend the creation of a sanitarian position in Clarke County.

Clarke County farmers working for better water

As the month of October is celebrated as National Clean Water Month, farmers across the state are voluntarily changing the way they farm to reduce pollution and improve water quality, according to Lisa Cooper, District Conservationist in the Soil and Conservation Service in Clarke County.

On Oct. 18, 1972, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments known as the Clean Water Act. In honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, President George Bush and Congress proclaimed October 1992 as Clean Water Month and 1992 as the Year of Clean Water.

"West Lake Water Quality Protection Project is one of 50 water quality projects across the state that are working to protect, restore and enhance Iowa's lakes, streams, rivers and reservoirs," says Cooper.

"Farmers are using less chemicals, testing their soils, reducing fertilizer use without reducing yields and keeping field-to-field records all in the name of better

water on their farms downstream. The West Lake Project is a cooperative effort between several federal, state and local agencies which provide both technical and financial assistance and Clarke County farmers who volunteer their time, land and resources," she adds.

Some of the agencies involved include: Soil Conservation Service; Iowa State University Extension; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; Division of Soil Conservation; and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune

October 22, 1992

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
October 8, 1992

la Sentinel - Tribune
ember 5, 1992

Q-Pond dam could put bite on city for \$82,000

Dam failure imminent: city must rehabilitate or eliminate

BY RANDY BROWN

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will require the city of Osceola to drain Q-Pond because of an imminent dam failure caused by flood damage in September, city officials said.

City Administrator Dick Blecker recommended to the council that the city begin to breach the dam as early as today, Nov. 5, to comply with a DNR letter dated Oct. 26, requiring such action within 10 days.

The city will then have 20 days to determine whether it plans to rehabilitate or remove the dam.

The Clarke County Soil Conservation Service is currently conducting core sample tests on the site for repair estimates. Blecker said he will file for an extension with the DNR to allow time for those estimates.

"We're really not too sure of what this is going to cost us," Blecker said.

Q-Pond, deeded to the city in the 1950s, was originally created by the CB&Q Railroad as a reservoir for servicing steam locomotives at the Osceola stop. An unused 8-inch steel water main still runs from the lake, in the city's northwest quadrant, to the Osceola railway depot.

From the 1950s, community volunteers tended Q-Pond until the area became an official city park in the late 1970s.

Floods overtopped the Q-Pond



A BIG BITE: September floods washed out large portions of the backside of the Q-Pond dam. The dam, damaged in 1987, was repaired at the time with materials the state now considers unsuitable.

dam Sept. 15, washing out up to 12 feet of material from the downstream face of the embankment. According to a DNR field inspection report, the water exposed a significant amount of material unsuitable for dam construction, such as wood, shingles and plastic debris. The report noted that much of this material was apparently used to fill a washout in 1987.

"This material probably came from the city's attempt to flatten the downstream embankment face with whatever material was available," wrote Dave Allen, an inspector for the DNR's flood plains section.

A separate survey by Federal Emergency Management Agency inspectors found the core of the dam to be acceptable, Blecker said.

While the DNR says failure is imminent, Blecker said, its condition does not pose a threat to either nearby residences or Interstate-35.

The council was aware of potential need to bring the dam up to current state standards before the September floods, he said.

"It's not pure earth. There's a lot of flotsam and jetsam. It's sand, it's gravel, it's plastic, it's concrete, and it's held in the past," Blecker said. "But what worked in the past may not be sufficient — as we found out with Grade Lake."

In 1990, the DNR required the city plan to bring the Grade Lake dam, south of Highway 34 and within the Osceola city limits, up to state standards. In 1991, a group of private citizens pledged more than \$100,000 toward the rehabilitation of the lake and dam, with the city donating \$30,000.

When bids on the Grade Lake project came back over original estimates, council members opted to delay letting bids. The council plans to re-let bids in late winter.

With the twin demands of Grade

Lake and a municipal budget already stretched to the limit, Blecker expressed concern about the city's ability to pay for rehabilitating the Q-Pond dam.

"It's a useful community resource right now," he said. "The decision we need to make is, what kind of price do we want to put on that?"

That price could be high.

PAYING THE PRICE

Assuming federal and state disaster aid would apply toward an estimated \$150,000 of emergency repairs, Blecker said, the city's potential share of the costs to bring the dam up to pre-flood conditions would be approximately \$22,500, or 15 percent of the repairs.

Assuming the Q-Pond project would cost slightly more than the rehabilitation of the Grade Lake site, Blecker estimated the potential matching funds, Blecker said. "At even 50-percent — most communities would jump at that."

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
November 5, 1992*

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While Blecker cautioned his figures are based more on guesswork than on-the-ground engineering estimates, he said his numbers point to a potential cost of \$20 per city resident to rehabilitate the dam.

And that's his best-case scenario. "Point is, this is not some mythical \$82,000 that's sitting out there. It's something the people of Osceola will have to pay for," he said. "We don't have that kind of money lying around."

Osceola could fund the dam project by raising a levy, using a special assessment allowable under current state-mandated tax freeze, or by private donation, Blecker said.

City Parks and Recreation Superintendent Joe Grossman said whatever the price, residents should consider rehabilitating the Q-Pond dam. "Even \$80,000 is a drop in the bucket when it comes to park development," he said.

"I'd hate for people to paint this doom-and-gloom picture about Q-Pond," Grossman said. "People raised the money privately for Grade Lake, and now we have a park that's been in existence for over 10 years in need of repair."

"There's no good time to fix a dam, but at least we have an opportunity for some matching funds right now," he said.

WETLANDS OPTION

If the city decides not to rehabilitate the Q-Pond dam, Blecker said, options on use of the land are limited. The area has little if any commercial value, he said, since the lake is spring-fed, and could never be drained completely.

The Delaware Street lift station also feeds into Q-Pond when under heavy storm water loads, although that will change after the cross-town sewer project is completed in 1995.

One possibility would be to allow the lake to revert to a wetland. Wetlands are shallow, intermittent water areas such as marshes, and are often protected by state and federal statute.

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"It serves more purpose for the public as a park," he said. "Wetlands are usually developed outside city limits. It'd become a nature area, primarily for bird watching — probably no fishing."

A black and white photograph showing a wide, open field in the foreground, possibly covered in low-lying vegetation or grass. In the background, a dense line of bare, leafless trees stands against a pale, overcast sky. The image has a grainy, historical quality.

1/4 NE 1/4 Section 20, Osceola
 Township, Stamps: \$6.40.
 Lynn Hooser to Rodney E. Dohm and
 E. Dohm, warranty deed to lot 1,
 West Osceola Addition, Stamps:
 \$6.40.
 Howard L. Paul and Janet R.
 to Howard L. Paul and Janet R.
 warranty deed to parcel of E 1/2 NW
 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 20, Osceola
 Township, Stamps: \$6.40.
 L. Haskell, warranty deed to W 10
 Acres NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section
 25, Stamps: \$76.
 Mary Russell and Isabelle M.
 to Marvin A. Rychnovsky and Janice
 Rychnovsky, warranty deed to lot 3,
 Donald's Addition, Osceola and
 SW 1/4 NW 1/4 of Section 17,
 Township, Stamps: \$100.
 F. Williams to Georgeann Steele,
 deed to E 62 1/2 feet N 60 feet of
 block 18 Osceola, Stamps:
 \$6.40.
 L. Haskell and Cere D. Hackley
 to E. Schinzel and Debra M.
 Hackley, warranty deed to lots 6 and 7 Plat
 1, Addition to Osceola
 Township, Stamps: \$6.40.

THOMAS G. MCINNIS and Frances F.

1990

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 12, 1992

DNR salvages fish from lake as dam is cut

Bass, other fish transported to East Lake by biologists

BY RANDY BROWN

In an effort to salvage some of the fish population from Osceola's Q-Pond, Iowa Department of Natural Resources workers are stunning fish with electricity, and transporting them to East Lake Park, just east of the city limits.

Last week, after judging the structure to be an immediate safety hazard, the Iowa DNR ordered the city of Osceola to breach the Q-Pond dam, which had been partially washed-out by floods last September. City officials continue to investigate the possibility of repairing the dam using federal and state assistance.

The dam was cut Monday, and county engineering workers assisting the city tried to control the draining over a period of days.

"They're going to try to control the rate of the drop," said Mike McGhee, a regional DNR fisheries biologist based in Mount Ayr.

"What we find is that they fight the current as much as possible, until the water gets down to about 10 to 20 percent of what it was. Then they really start coming out."

That gave McGhee a few days to transport fish.

His first trip landed more than 75 bass, as well as crappie, bluegill — even some perch.

"The system is so old that there's a little bit of everything in there,"

McGhee said.

"Everybody else helps you out when it comes to stocking fish," he said. "We've had some people tell us they stocked some walleye, but just because something is stocked doesn't mean it's going to take."

The DNR has stocked Q-Pond annually for at least 7 years, McGhee said, with bass, grass carp and channel catfish. Catfish and carp were not sampled at first during the electro-fishing effort, McGhee said, but are expected to show as water levels decrease.

McGhee predicted grass carp numbers would be small — the DNR hasn't stocked carp in Q-Pond for years — but that individual fish could be quite large.

"Grass carp can get from 20 to 45 pounds," he said. "It's kind of like wrestling a hog. They're just physically so strong, handling them is really hard."

McGhee plans to transport fish as long as he can access the lake with his boat. Toward the end of the week, he said, the DNR will open the lake to "promiscuous fishing," allowing fishing by any method other than electrical, physical or chemical shock.

"What you find on these salvage type things, however, is that it's often more work for a person to go out there in the mud and get fish than what it's worth," he said.

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1992

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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1992

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MORE ON Q POND

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

tial cost of the project at \$140,000, bringing the total potential bill to more than \$160,000. State funds might match up to 50 percent of the project, bringing the city's total potential bill to approximately \$82,000.

Blecker noted, however, that disaster services have not obligated themselves to help fund the project.

"The DNR is really trying to help us, because they know we can

may either bring it to the Sentinel-Tribune office or call 342-2131

• Research Club Luncheon, program by Gayne Adamson, Patch.

• Persons interested in forming a writing club meet 7 p.m. at Quilt

• Sarah Rebekah Lodge No. 57, 7:30 p.m.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
November 5, 1992

Group approaches county on flood control possibilities

Whitebreast Creek could be target of project to control floods, soil erosion — if people in four counties will maintain system

BY RANDY BROWN

The floods of September aren't water under the bridge, Keith Edwards told the Clarke County Board of Supervisors. In fact, they may have helped point the direction for a new flood control and soil conservation project in the Whitebreast Creek watershed.

Keith Edwards, representing the Red Rock Resources Council, Inc., told the Clarke County Board of Supervisors that flood waters showed a potential need for continued efforts to control flooding along the waterway — possibly with an extensive network of small dams in Clarke and Lucas counties.

"If we use flood control techniques in the upper two-thirds [of the watershed], we could eliminate flooding," Edwards said. "We'll

still have problems, but they won't be flooding."

The council's mission is to maintain and improve Red Rock Lake near Knoxville, and watersheds into that lake. The council is currently canvassing supervisors and soil commissioners in a four-county area regarding the possibility of a flood management plan in the Whitebreast Creek watershed. The group plans to hold public meetings in January or February 1993.

Soil Conservation Service District Coordinator Lisa Cooper and Clarke County area soil commissioners also attended the meeting with the Clarke supervisors.

Earlier Whitebreast studies and flood control efforts, started in the 1960s, have run their course, Edwards said, leaving the council open to public input on what should be done to answer current needs. "This could be an accelerated plan with the increased interest caused by the recent floods," he said.

"I don't think we'd be where we are if it weren't for the floods," Edwards said. "Of course, we're not sure we need to wait for the statistics, or if the public wants to wait for statistics before starting to do something."

A Whitebreast project wouldn't eliminate all problems at Red Rock Lake, which suffers from siltation and other pollution problems, Edwards said. Much of the flow into the lake is uncontrolled. In the Clarke County area, Squaw Creek and Middle River, which also flooded during the September floods, flow into Red Rock. In central Iowa, tests have detected anti-freeze and motor oil pollution from the Polk County area.

"Anything that doesn't flow through Saylorville is what we've defined as an uncontrolled drain-

"This could be an accelerated plan with the increased interest caused by the recent floods."

— Keith Edwards

Red Rock Resources Council

Currently, the Red Rock Resources Council is seeking public opinion regarding the potential support for a Whitebreast Creek project. Edwards said such a project would benefit the Clarke County area by mitigating floods and conserving soil through a series of small dams and other structures.

"Most of the flood management systems in Iowa consist of large dams, but we can't be building these big, large projects when they're just not popular," Edwards said.

The federal government will pay for 100 percent of flood control construction, Edwards said. Local entities can also contribute funding to such construction for the purpose of "buying" extra service, such as creating increased water capacity or recreational resources. Cost-sharing might also be available for those projects.

Edwards said he contacted the Clarke board because counties would bear the responsibility for operating and maintaining, if not funding, watershed projects. Other Red Rock Resource Council representatives have talked with supervisors in Lucas, Warren and Marion counties. Edwards urged the Clarke board to consider supporting future efforts to improve

"The Iowa Code says supervisors are to protect and preserve the rights, privileges and property of the county or of its residents ...," Edwards said. "Obviously, the Whitebreast Creek interrupted some of those things when it flooded Sept. 14."

"The idea is that you take the peaks out. I can't say that we'd never have out-of-banks flow again," he said. "This wouldn't be a flood elimination plan, this would be a flood control plan."

Edwards said county seats such as Osceola, Chariton and Knoxville should also have an interest in a Whitebreast project, as a potential means to increase water quality and availability.

"Chariton's a lot like Osceola," Edwards said. "There's no mandate for 'we need more water tomorrow,' but if there's going to be industrial growth, there's got to be water."

"Some industries would require a very high quality of water. And from a public health standpoint, it makes sense, too."

While surveying opinion in the region, the resource council is continuing two studies in the Whitebreast Creek area. One study seeks to map the watershed by erosion characteristics, while the other seeks to update the current flood model for the creek.

"We knew we had a lot of areas that were farmed, as well as a lot of wooded areas," Edwards said. "What we didn't know is how much of these areas are mixtures of the two. Now, we can rank which are the more erosive and which are the least erosive sub-watersheds."

Edwards said whatever the studies' results, local residents will have to decide whether a project is justified, and whether such a project would be targeted toward flood control or soil conservation, or a balance between the two.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
November 26, 1992

Winter no relief for farmers

Corn harvest delayed 2 to 3 weeks — maybe even months!

BY RANDY BROWN

Farmers in the Clarke County region aren't dreaming of a white anything.

Continued precipitation has

further hampered area farmers' efforts to harvest this year's corn crop, said Alan Teel, an Osceola-based ISU Extension Service field specialist in integrated crop management. He estimated up to 80 percent of this year's area corn harvest is still stuck out in the fields.

"There are just a lot of fields that haven't had a combine in them," he said. "Tremendous numbers of fields just haven't been touched."

Statewide, however, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Dale Cochran estimated 80 percent of the corn crop has been harvested.

"The corn harvest still is only 80 percent complete, which is up from 74 percent a week ago, but far behind the normal 99 percent," Cochran said. "What little harvesting activity occurred last week primarily took place in northwestern Iowa, where only a trace of precipitation was reported."

HEAVY MACHINERY TOO HEAVY FOR SOIL

Bart Griffith, Clarke County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service executive director, said fields are too saturated with moisture to allow heavy machinery to work.

"We're just at a standoff," he said. "You wouldn't want to put a combine or a piece of heavy equipment in the fields right now. Temperatures of 45 degrees for two days or so, followed by a freeze, would do a world of good."

Griffith said farmers could damage slopes by trying to use a combine before the ground is either dry or frozen.

"On a lot of those slopes, there are minimum-till agreements," he said. "If you cut the ground up

badly with a combine tire, you could lose your residue rating. This weather really works against you twice."

A WORST-CASE YEAR'S WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Southern Iowa's soil situation isn't necessarily because of September's floods.

In its latest weekly crop and weather report, the Iowa Depart-

"... we could see corn in the fields in January or February ..."

— Alan Teel
ISU Extension Service

ment of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's (IDALS) Statistics Bureau said topsoil moisture is excessive in 81 percent of the state, which is contributing to harvest delays. Sixty-two percent of Iowa has adequate subsoil moisture and 28 percent of the state has surplus subsoil moisture reserves.

Still, southern Iowa seems to have had more than its share of storms and snow.

Teel noted that snow from before Thanksgiving had yet to melt off stalks. "Even if they could get out there, the snow'd just bog up the combines," he said.

Cochran said, "Farmers will have to wait until the snow melts off the stalks because the wet snow will plug the sieves of combines

and cause the corn to ride over onto the ground."

Snow insulates the ground, preventing the soil from drying out. Melting further moistens the soil, so what's needed is sun, above-freezing temperatures and wind to eliminate the snow on both the corn and the ground, followed by a constant freeze.

"This has really been a worst-case year," Teel said. "We had an early frost, a crazy growing season, first drought and then flood, cloudy weather — you name it."

"Even if the snow melted and the ground froze tomorrow, my guess is that we'd be 2 to 3 weeks away from harvest," he said.

So what's the worst worst-case now possible?

"With continued ground cover, we could see corn in the fields in January or February," Teel said. "A mild winter would just be a killer."

ELEVATOR STORAGE: UPS & DOWNS

Cochran said that statewide, 21 percent of the unharvested corn is suffering from moderate lodging, while one percent has suffered heavy lodging. The remaining 78 percent has no damage or very light lodging," the secretary said.

"The snowstorm turned out to be a help to some elevator operators because it enabled them to dry and ship grain to make more storage room available for farmers. Some of the piles of corn that had built up around the state are starting to disappear," Cochran said. "Sixty percent of the state now has adequate grain storage space, which is an improvement from 53 percent last week."

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 3, 1992

Whitebreast Creek Watershed meetings planned for this month

A series of meetings for landowners in the proposed Whitebreast Creek Watershed will be held next week.

Officials from the Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines will discuss the small watershed program and its potential to alleviate future flooding problems.

The public is invited to discuss aspects of the proposed plan that could include public water sup-

plies, recreational opportunities, and other benefits including flood control.

The schedule:

Jan. 19, 1:30 p.m. Woodburn Community Building; 7 p.m. Lucas Community Building. Jan. 20, 1:30 p.m. Lacona Co-op; 7 p.m., Melcher-Dallas High School.

For more information contact the Osceola Soil Conservation Service office.

Soil Conservation needs volunteers

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Osceola needs volunteers.

Lisa Cooper, district conservationist in Osceola, said the hours are flexible and most of the work would be in the office or in the home.

She said volunteering would be a way to get job experience and help the environment.

SCS helps farmers in the county apply soil conserving practices. They also help landowners improve water quality and work with students to teach resource conservation.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 14, 1993

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 14, 1993

Agency leaders convene to chart bold vision for future of Clarke County

BY TAD JOHNSON

A farmer walks across his field to survey the damage left by the drops of rain that turned into a raging river. The damage has been done. There is nothing he can do to save his crop.

There is nothing to do, but plan for the future.

"A lot of things can get people motivated to do something. Sometimes it is something tragic like the floods," said Mary Foley, a community development specialist, referring to the floods that ripped through the southern Iowa last September.

Foley was the ring leader at an inter-agency forum among Clarke County environmental resource groups Jan. 21. It was the second meeting of the group.

"The first meeting reminded me of a kindergarten class who got through the Dick and Jane book and wanted to get on to something else right away," said Don Reasoner of the Clarke Electric Co-op, Inc.

The agencies came together to plan for the future and prepare for events such as floods, and the havoc they create for area farmers, wetlands and wildlife.

"We need to get into visioning and planning," said Foley. "[Each branch of Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area Inc.] is doing a vision meeting to give us an idea what direction we should be taking, where we should be, what should we be focusing on, where do we think Clarke County is going."

or mitigate disasters such as the September floods was the main thrust of the meeting. One project mentioned was the proposed flood control project along the Whitebreast Creek watershed.

"We all recall the rains in September," said Lisa Cooper, Clarke soil district conservationist. "The recent damage and the work that went into railroads, public lands and private lands. There is interest in the Whitebreast project in Warren and Marion Counties."

"The board of supervisors are going out to get a feel for the public reaction," said Cooper. "Farmers have been real willing to help. We

have projected about 250-300 small farm pond dams will be built. The soil conservation service will cover 100 percent of the cost for installation. All the farmer has to pay for is the equipment — the pipe."

YOUTH MOVEMENT

Those attending the meeting also discussed county needs for including youth in addressing environmental, recreational and agricultural development.

"Youth are excited about the future," said Michele Maguire Beck, county extension education director. "There has been some need assessment for recycling and they have expressed the need for a clean environment."

The agencies realize the need for investing in the future. They believe that their long range goals should be made with the goals of young people in mind.

"Young people should have some input into this," said Reasoner. "We need to get something out there so we can have their input."

"I know that Jon Pedersen, [vocational agriculture instructor at Clarke Community school], is interested in building a greenhouse to get the kids down in the grade schools thinking about farming and agriculture," said Anita Foland of the Clarke County conservation board.

"We have been doing composting and some farming at East Elementary," said Beth Brown of Osceola.

OTHER CONCERNS

Agency representatives brainstormed on concerns for the future. Five major categories were reduced from a pool of fifteen. In future meetings, the inter-agency group will address:

- Water supply and quality.
- A balance between agricultural and non-agricultural jobs.
- Education.
- Recreation.
- Sustainable and non-polluting agriculture.

The group's next meeting, planned for next month, will address both issues and implementation of solutions.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
January 28, 1993

Farmers' atrazine reduction in West Lake watershed featured in national news publication

The reduction in atrazine in Osceola's drinking water was featured in the recent edition of *EPA News Notes*, published in Washington, D.C.

The article, distributed nationally, advised readers to contact Alan Teel of the Extension Service in Osceola or Lisa Cooper, district conservationist in Osceola, for more information.

The article, reprinted with permission, follows:

"During 1991 and early 1992, atrazine levels in drinking water from West Lake in Osceola, Iowa, exceeded EPA's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 3 parts per billion. For the 1992 cropping season, farmers in the lake's 6,340-acre watershed dramatically reduced their atrazine use from an estimated 440 gallons in 1990 to only eight gallons in 1992, reported Alan Teel, Extension Service field specialist in integrated crop management. This reduction appears to have significantly reduced the atrazine levels in water treated for drinking.

"The atrazine problem is one of several being addressed by an ongoing project to implement agricultural BMPs to protect the lake. The 325-acre West Lake is the source of drinking water for the cities of Osceola and Woodburn and for about 500 rural water users. The lake's water quality is impacted by runoff from its agricultural watershed. Sediment, nutrients, and pesticides are major concerns.

"Eleven of 13 water samples taken from West Lake by Osceola Municipal Water Department and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources between June 1990 and April 1992 exceeded EPA's MCL for atrazine. In contrast, following the drastic reduction in atrazine use in the watershed, only one of the samples

collected has exceeded the MCL. However, monitoring over a longer period will be necessary to determine if atrazine levels remain this low.

"To protect the lake, a comprehensive nonpoint pollution control project emphasizes education, information and voluntary adoption of BMPs by farmers. The project also offers financial incentives for implementing BMPs, such as residue management and other soil conservation practices on the land, according to Lisa Cooper, SCS district conservationist in Osceola. The project has already cut soil loss on cropland from an estimated 11.8 tons per acre in 1990 to 7.7 tons per acre in 1992. The project is receiving EPA section 319 funds as well as state funds, according to Julie Elfving, NPS coordinator, EPA Region VII.

"To address the atrazine problem, farmers in the watershed, a farmer advisory board, the Osceola water board, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District, local agricultural chemical dealers, and chemical companies held several meetings. The group reached a consensus to greatly reduce the use of atrazine and cyanazine in the watershed for the 1992 cropping season. More than 90 percent of the watershed's farmers voluntarily agreed to reduce or eliminate use of these products in 1992.

"Teel said that he is doubtful that farmers will continue to restrict their use of atrazine to 1992 levels in the future. Unfortunately, economics are forcing Osceola's farmers to again consider using atrazine. Participating farmers said that using alternative herbicides increased costs about \$10 an acre, while corn prices fell to \$1.85 a bushel."

Whitebreast watershed meetings rescheduled

Two meetings for landowners and the public in the proposed Whitebreast Creek Watershed have been rescheduled.

The meetings will be held Feb. 23, 1:30 p.m., at the Lacona Co-op and 7:30 p.m. at the Melcher-Dallas High School.

These meetings were originally scheduled in January but were canceled due to an ice storm.

Officials from the Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines will discuss the small watershed program. The public is invited to discuss the potential for controlling flooding, developing public water supplies and recreational opportunities as well as other aspects of the small watershed program.

For more information contact the Osceola Soil Conservation Service office.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 18, 1993

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
February 4, 1993

Residue management session scheduled at Southwestern

Area farmers and land owners are invited to attend Residue Management for the Future on March 2, at 9 a.m. in the Instructional Building, Southwestern Community College, Creston.

Exhibits by 22 vendors, plus an educational program, will highlight the day.

Program topics will include conservation tillage and no-till, herbicide placement, residue management, soybean row spacing, no-till as a control and life after CRP.

The day will end with a panel of area farmers from five counties telling their experiences in residue management.

Those wishing more information should contact your local SCS office, Extension office, or the Southwestern Community College at 1 (800) 247-4023. Pre-registration by Feb. 26 is necessary.

Conservation group offers scholarships

Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Auxiliary will be awarding three college scholarships to Iowa high school seniors.

Three scholarships will be given in the amounts of \$500, \$300, and \$200. Criteria considered will be service, character, leadership, scholastic achievement, and need.

The Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will select one application for the county to be submitted to the regional level of competition.

Applications are available from the guidance counselors in the Clarke Community School and Murray Schools and at the local Soil and Water Conservation District office at 709 Furnas Drive, Suite 3, Osceola.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
Febr. 25, 1993

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
March 4, 1993

Clarke farmers, weather decreased herbicide levels in 1992 area water supplies

Many factors helped mitigate contamination, according to ISU field specialist Alan Teel

BY RANDY BROWN

Clarke County corn producers can take some of the credit for reducing Bladex and atrazine levels found in the Osceola city water system from 1991 to 1992, said Iowa State University Extension Field Specialist Alan Teel.

Some credit, but not all.

"We've done a lot of things out there that reduced run-off, that slowed the water down and allowed the water to percolate into the ground," Teel said. "The more we move water through the soil profile, the less will eventually find its way into the lake."

In 1991, the city of Osceola was cited by environmental protection officials for cyanazine contamination up to 16 parts-per-billion in the city's finished water supply. Cyanazine is a major component in the herbicide marketed as Bladex, Teel said.

By federal mandate, maximum contamination level is 10 parts-per-billion. In 1992, however, cyanazine contamination ranged from 9 parts-per-billion to only 1 part-per-billion.

Steady rainfall patterns in 1992 helped mitigate any sudden swings in contamination levels, Teel said. By the time flash floods hit the Clarke County region in September 1992, he speculated, both Bladex and atrazine had been broken down sufficiently by environmental factors.

"In 1992, what we had was a big spike in rainfall right after we had put that material down," Teel said. "And we had put a lot of that material down."

Bladex and atrazine do break down, given:

- Ingestion by the weeds the chemicals are designed to kill.
- Bacterial activity.
- Exposure to air, sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- Heavy rains immediately fol-

lowing May application of herbicides can carry more chemical downstream than into the soil, Teel said. Once in the watershed, Bladex and atrazine can move into the West Lake reservoir, then into the city water supply.

The bottom of a lake is a perfect place to store the chemicals, Teel said. Without sunlight, bacterial activity, oxygen and extreme temperatures, the chemicals that silt the bottom of West Lake never

"I'm not saying we're going to get plumb away from herbicides ..."

break down.

The watershed project is facing three challenges:

- Reduce the amount of herbicide in area water through limiting use of the products or improved soil conservation techniques.
- Reduce the amount of herbicide currently stored in the West Lake reservoir.
- Mitigate the costs of implementing new soil conservation and herbicide application practices incurred by area corn producers.

Fourteen Clarke County corn producers are participating in a five-year project investigating methods of reducing herbicide run-off. There are 44 landowners in the watershed.

Teel said many of the participating farmers just stopped using Bladex and atrazine, opting for less-stable, more expensive post-emergent herbicides.

"A lot of the producers out there just stopped using the product. They consciously made the deci-

sion to do that," Teel said. "What the guys did out there was admirable, but it was also expensive."

"A good number of them have experienced an increase in cost, because they did not use the cheapest product available," he said. "That's really hurt us in this area, in a year when prices so low."

Teel said participating farmers get no compensation for working to improve their area's water quality, other than goodwill.

"We need all the goodwill we can get, because right now, that's about all they're going to get," he said.

Still, an ounce of prevention is worth ten times that in environmental regulation. Teel said federal and state agencies have the authority to prohibit use of given herbicides within specific regions.

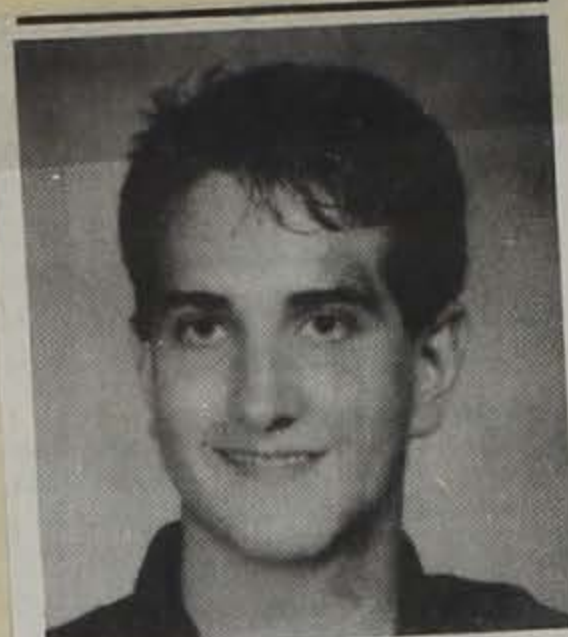
By experimenting with different herbicide application rates, and using soil conservation methods to retain run-off in the fields rather than the water supply, Teel hopes the project will eventually determine the optimum level of Bladex and atrazine use for the watershed.

Said Teel, "The question is: how much herbicide can we use out there under good crop management practice and not have it show up in the lake?"

"We need to look at how weeds grow, and what we can do to get around them. We've used herbicides because they were quick, cheap, easy and effective," Teel said. "I'm not saying we're going to get plumb away from herbicides, but we can't have bad water, either."

One solution might be for farmers to use Bladex and atrazine on only a core percentage of their crops, using other herbicides on their remaining lands.

"If you've got to go in and rescue something," he said, "at least you don't have to rescue the whole farm."



Joel Fry

Fry's application advanced to regional competition

The application of Nelson Joel Fry has been selected by the Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners to advance to regional competition.

Joel, a senior at Clarke Community High School, is the son of Nelson and Sharon Fry, Osceola.

One application will be selected from the region to advance to statewide competition.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 29, 1993*

Clarke ag-operators under fire as water continues to delay planting

Farmers try to stay flexible while facing some tough decisions

BY RANDY BROWN

South-central Iowa farmers are stuck in the mud, unable to plant, uncertain of whether they should change plans or hold fast under the deluge that has brought more than triple the weekly average rainfall this season.

Still, there is one silver lining to the current weather, said Alan Teel, integrated crop management specialist for the Iowa State University Extension Service. "If we could ever get the crop in and roots down, we'd have enough to keep us going a long ways," he said.

No matter how much moisture farmers start with, however, soil quality in the Clarke County region will still require some mid-season rains to be optimal. "It's hard to say right now, but we will need some rain in July or August," Teel said.

The trick will be to get the crops in before that.

Numbers released this week by Iowa Agricultural Statistics indicate that only seven percent of Iowa's expected 12.6 million acres have been planted this year, compared to more than 80 percent planted at this time last year. Five-year average is 65 percent.

The Clarke County region may be less than the state average. "Everybody's working spots, but there are that many spots to be worked," Teel said. "We're pretty much sitting at zero."

The window of opportunity for planting is normally quite wide,



Area fields and feedlots have been saturated by rainfall three times the weekly average.

Teel said. The challenge farmers currently face is to maintain as much flexibility in scheduling as possible. In a normal year, for example, farmers would have already had a chance to put down pre-planting herbicide to help control weeds during the first half of the growing season.

"We have the ability to get crops

planted in 5 to 10 days across the state," Teel said. "It's just all the other activity that goes along with it."

"What we're going to be seeing is the workload has become extremely compressed," he said. "We're going to be trying to control weeds and plant seeds at the same time."

CHALLENGES & CHOICES

Debates between no-till and tillage farmers over who's in a better position may be a wash, Teel said. "In a year like this, there are advantages to both sides," he said. No-till fields stay cooler longer, and dry out slower. On the other hand, no-till farmers require fewer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Farmers face continued rainfall

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

passes to prepare fields, and crop residue may allow farmers to enter their fields with machinery slightly sooner.

"We hesitate to say that," said Teel, "because we don't want no-tillers out there too quickly."

Facing continued planting delays, Teel said farmers may have to choose between planting shorter-term corn hybrids or switching fields over to soybeans. Farmers could make the decision to plant short-term hybrids as late as May 25, Teel said, and to change to soybeans as late as June 1.

If many farmers opt for short-term seed, Teel said, seed availability will also become a factor. "The question then is going to be, how much seed is going to be available?" he said. "For the kind of acreage we are seeing across the state, I don't expect that there would be enough for everybody."

Farmers opting to switch over to soybeans would also need to locate seed. "That would be the biggest chore," Teel said. "Some of them will have some concern about herbicides that they ran last

year, but with the amount of water we've pushed through the soil profile, I don't think that would be a problem."

CATTLE OPERATIONS AFFECTED BY RAINS

Clarke cattle producers are also affected by the record rainfall, with muddy feedlots running potential weight-gain off cattle and increasing disease factors in the field.

Operator Sam Halvorsen said that even moving cattle out to pasture was a chore this year. "We had to drive them out from the road," he said. "We couldn't get them in there by truck."

As with corn and beans, sowing oats for feed has also been delayed. Producer Mike Patterson said he usually puts oats in during early winter warm spells. With the wet weather this winter and spring, however, he predicted whatever oats he finally sows will be hayed out.

With only 20 percent of his operation in row crop, Patterson said his situation may be better than those of other operators. Still, he's

concerned.

"I can't remember a time when we didn't have something done in this fields by this point," Patterson said. "I haven't touched a field since last fall."

FLASH FLOODS STILL AFFECTING FARMERS

The effects of recent weather cannot be separated from last September's flash floods, which both washed away and silted-in crops, as well as preventing harvest of other fields until late winter and early spring. Unable to get out to condition and repair those fields damaged last year, Teel said, some Clarke area farmers may sacrifice another growing season on low-lying ground.

"I don't think they knew what they were going to do with them until they got there, and they haven't been able to get there," he said. "They'd be hard just to work with in a dry year. In a wet year, they'd be about impossible."

Teel estimated that about five percent of Clarke County fields might be so affected. "Even though it's not major for the county as a whole, it's major for the operators," he said, estimating some farmers might have as much as 40 percent of their fields silted-in.

Most of those fields damaged by silt were in soybeans last year.

ABOUT THE WEATHER

In coming weeks, the ideal weather situation for farmers would be approximately 10 days of temperatures warmer than 70 degrees Fahrenheit, Teel said, with dry winds out of southwestern climates around 10 to 15 mph.

Teel noted that the south-central Iowa usually receives annual precipitation of approximately 33 inches. "It's how the moisture is spread out over the year that makes or breaks us," he said.

Given the amount of precipitation early this year, then, farmers could see a situation similar to last year, Teel said.

"It was down into May when got down into the fields," he said. "Then, in June, we were talking about drought."

Decola Sentinel - Tribune
May 13, 1993



TOUR WATERSHED: The schedule of World Pork Expo in Des Moines last week included a tour of West Lake and its watershed. The watershed has been in the national spotlight because of the success in reducing farm chemicals going into the Osceola water system. Julie Elfving, of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Kansas City, said the Clarke County experience was especially pleasing to EPA because it

involved the cooperation of several agencies and farmers. The group toured the Osceola water treatment plant and the Jack Nish farm. During a noon day pause at Q-Pond Park Alan Teel of the Extension Service (left) visits with Chris A. Novak, director of environmental services and policy education for the National Pork Producers Council.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
June 17, 1993*

Offer tour of White Breast watershed

A bus tour of persons interested in the White Breast Creek watershed is scheduled July 13.

The tour will feature water supply and flood control improvements near Chariton, wetland improvements, watershed structures near Blakesburg and other watershed treatment alternatives.

The event is arranged by Red Rock Resources Council, Inc., Indianola. Keith Edwards of Osceola is coordinator.

White Breast Creek drains 275,200 acres in Clarke, Lucas, Warren, and Marion counties and is part of the uncontrolled drainage area upstream of Red Rock dam.

Red Rock Resources Council, Inc. works with federal, state and local agencies to solve problems of sedimentation, erosion, impaired water quality, and flooding.

Flooding is a major problem along White Breast. Preliminary investigation show about 16,500 acres are damaged annually at a cost of \$1.5 million. The watershed had extensive damage from flooding in September 1992.

For further information contact the Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District office in Osceola, Clarke County Board of Supervisors, or Lisa Cooper, District Conservationist.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
July 8, 1993*

Rains force Clarke onto disaster list

stad adds wa counties

Bill L. Henderson of Habbok, driving a 1982 GMC truck, turned a corner too tight at Jefferson and Main and hit a stop sign causing an estimated \$450 damage.

July 6

A two-vehicle accident near the intersection of Highway 34 and Jimmy Dean Road injured two people. Marica R. Pontier and Arthur R. Pontier, Rt. 2, sustained bruises and abrasions when the 1989 Plymouth Van they were in collided with a 1985 Buick driven by Susan Kay Eivins, Rt. 4, Winterset. Clarke County Hospital for treatment. The Winterset car had an estimated \$2,500. The mishap is still under investigation and damages to the Pontier car have not been determined.

Clarke County, usually an exporter of hay, will need roughage emergencies in dealing with flood waters that are threatening Iowa from border to border.

As soon as information is available on the disaster process it will be released, she said.

Clarke was named a disaster area last September when rains totaled over 16 inches in 24 hours devastated southern Iowa.

RELEASE SOME ACRES

The Clarke County ASCS office Tuesday afternoon received notice that ACR (set-aside) and CUPAY acres have been released for haying and grazing.

While these are positive steps, it is the hope of the Clarke ASCS county committee that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will release Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for grazing and haying.

Clarke County, usually an exporter of hay, will need roughage

to sustain its important beef herds this winter.

Farmers interested in using some of the released acres must contact the Clarke ASCS office to complete 1993 certification and sign the register before haying or grazing these acres.

WET HOMES

Many homes are experiencing water in basements. Rental wet vacuums have a waiting list and dehumidifiers have been hot sellers.

No let up is in sight. Wednesday morning brought more heavy rains to Clarke County.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 8, 1993*

Clarke hard hit but we're still fortunate

Just a week after Clarke County was declared a disaster area residents were counting themselves fortunate after seeing rampaging water roar through wide sections of Des Moines and its suburbs.

Clarke's destroyed crops and damaged road system are indeed in the disaster category but no homes have been flooded and water and electrical services have been maintained.

That's not the case in Des Moines. Clarke countians, many with friends and relatives in the capital city area, were glued to their television sets Sunday watching the destruction.

Des Moines residents rushed to Clarke County Sunday morning. Some to escape the worst flood in the state's history, some to buy supplies (see separate story), some to use showers and laundry facilities of relatives.

Meanwhile Clarke countians have been going to Des Moines to help with sandbagging efforts there.

ROADS DAMAGED

Travel in the rural areas of Clarke County has not been easy.

County Engineer Rich McKnight told the Clarke Board of Supervisors that approaches to over 20 bridges were washed away last week.

Two major culverts, one a five-foot culvert in Ward Township north of Lacelle, were washed out by flood waters.

The culverts were less than a year old. They had been built after last September's disastrous floods.

McKnight said road shoulders have been damaged in dozens of areas and he asked motorists to use caution.

"We're doing our best. Everything is so wet, even the rock," he said.

County officials have not heard details of federal aid that may be coming to help with repair costs.

In the meantime repairs are being made as fast as possible and with detailed costs being kept in hopes that the county and its farmers will receive some assistance.

The supervisors and engineer

expressed concern that officials know if there are special medical concerns of residents.

They'll make sure these bridges get the first attention so residents can receive medicine or nursing care.

If you are in such a condition, or know a person who is, McKnight asked that his office be notified. The engineer will in turn share the information with the sheriff's office.

He says the county road crews try to do this also in the winter when snows may isolate farm homes where medical help is needed.

Some farmers have developed their own methods of coping with the soggy transportation system.

One, for example, has a vehicle on each side of a washed out bridge, with a plank for walking across the stream.

VOLUNTEERS

McKnight said the county can use the help if anyone has the time to volunteer to help with road and bridge repair.

"We have the work. We'll find something for everyone who can help," he said.

Another problem facing road repairs is lack of dry clay. He also told the supervisors that Martin Marietta's quarry has been hit by high water and not all sizes of materials are available until things dry out.

Des Moines Tribune
1993

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CRP ground released for hay, grazing

Cost will be about \$35 an acre, too steep for many farmers

The federal government has released 39,000 Conservation Reserve Program acres in Clarke County for emergency haying and grazing, the Clarke County ASCS has announced.

Clarke County farmers and ranchers, desperate for forage for the county's cattle herds, will be allowed to harvest one-cutting of hay off CRP acres in Clarke County. Decatur County CRP acres were released last week.

The CRP ground can be owned by farmers who harvest the hay or farmers may rent CRP ground from neighbors, Bart Griffith, county executive director of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service in Osceola, explained.

Fifty percent of the annual rental payment will be deducted for acres actually harvested.

COST TOO HIGH

Observers say 50 percent, so far a state-wide rate, will be too high for many Clarke County ranchers.

The 50 percent rate translates to an average costs of about \$35 an acre in Clarke County.

Agricultural and business leaders are urging people to contact Washington in an effort to get the

50 percent rate reduced. Last year, when Clarke County was also ravished by floods, CRP ground was released for about \$20 an acre.

Steve Smith, Clarke County Supervisor, said a fear of government leaders is that the county's famed cattle herds will be sold off because of lack of roughage.

"Some of these herds are a lifetime investment," Smith said. "You just can't sell off one year and get back in the next. We could lose a vital part of our ag economy if something isn't done."

The Clarke County ASCS Committee was one of the first in Iowa to appeal for release of CRP acres for haying or grazing. The state ASCS committee passed the Clarke request on to Washington without its recommendation.

Other restrictions of the government in releasing the CRP ground include:

- All requests must be made at the County ASCS office before the harvest begins.

- Twenty-five percent of the total CRP contract must be left unharvested.

- Grazing will be according to an SCS approved plan.

Flood damage to roads: \$130,000

Clarke County's road system has sustained an estimated \$130,000 damage from the unmerciful rains that have drowned Iowa this year.

The county has already paid out \$50,000 and the \$130,000 estimate does not include losses still hidden by floodwaters.

Hopefully the county will receive help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Clarke County Engineer Rich McKnight and his office manager, Cindy West, met with FEMA officials Monday concerning the application process.

Road crews continue repairing washed out approaches as high creeks and streams regularly sweep across the valleys of Clarke County.

Most serious damage has occurred to "Race Track Bridge" in Knox township. A tree smashed into the structure, knocking pilings loose. Exact amount of damage can't be determined until waters recede. Damage could be in the thousands of dollars.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
July 29, 1993

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
July 29, 1993

Good news for flood aid

Dates extended for O/92, price change for CRP usage

Clarke County farmers, among the hardest hit by wet weather this spring, received a big helping hand from Washington, D.C. with announcement of an extension in the O/92 program and a reduction in cost of harvesting hay or grazing CRP acres.

Farmers will have until Aug. 31 to decide whether to harvest their crops or destroy them and take advantage of the O/92 price support program.

Declaring the land as O/92 makes a producer eligible to receive guaranteed deficiency payments on up to 92 percent of a farm's maximum payment acreage.

The usual deadline for deciding to join O/92 is in the spring but the adverse weather that struck the Midwest this planting season caused the need for adjustment.

Bart Griffith, county executive director of the Clarke County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said the extension to Aug. 31 will provide ASCS offices additional time to fully inform farmers of their options.

In other helpful news, the United States Department of Agriculture announced a reduction from 50 percent to 25 percent in the 1994 annual rental payment for acres hayed or grazed on CRP acres.

There are approximately 39,000 CRP acres in Clarke County and with a shortage of forage for the county's cow-calf herds, the CRP land could be a tool in providing feed.

Neither haying nor grazing can be done after Sept. 30 under existing rules.

Congressman James Ross

Lightfoot (R-Iowa) announced this week that he is asking the Department of Agriculture to permit livestock producers be allowed to take more than one cut of hay and they be allowed to hay or graze on this acreage into the winter months.

Rep. Lightfoot said he had sought the CRP buyback percentage be lowered to 20 percent or lower. "Certainly however, a reduction to 25 percent was a big help," he said.

The Iowa State ASCS Office reminds farmers of program changes recently announced by the ASCS. In addition to the ones mentioned above, they are:

- Deadline for entering the Farmer Owned Reserve (FOR) has been extended to Aug. 31. Shelled corn currently under a nonrecourse loan is eligible for the program.

- Iowa farmers with 1992 wheat, oat, or feed grain loans that mature in June, July, or August, have been given the opportunity to extend such loans to Sept. 30.

- Emergency funds are available for restoring damaged farmland and conservation measures.

- Farmers suffering a severe loss of livestock feed should contact the ASCS office. Assistance may be available to purchase the feed needed for livestock.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
August 19, 1993



Hay arrives from New York

A truck load of hay from New York was divided among four area farmers Aug. 14 at the ASCS office in Osceola. It is the first of five trucks and 115 tons of hay contracted for arrival in Clarke County. Area farmers Robert and Marilyn Snell, Kirk and Lynn Hauge, Dale and Madeline Lofring and Virgil and Joan Stanley divided the truckload of hay. When the ASCS office in New York heard of flooding problems in Clarke County, they decided to ship the hay remembering help New York received once from the Clarke County ASCS. Sixty area farmers applied to receive hay from the ASCS. Contractor Gary Sweeney of Central Tractor in Des Moines and semi-driver Gary Fajak of Pittsburg, Pa., at right, discuss the long haul from the east coast to Iowa. According to the New York office, the truck was loaded by prison inmates.

SENTINEL-TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY FRANK MORLAN



*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
August 19, 1993*

Methodist hospital honors Beth Brown

The following, written by Nancy O'Brien, appeared in the Iowa Methodist Medical Center's publication Scope. It is reprinted with permission.

Kittens and puppies are frequent visitors to Iowa Methodist Medical Center (IMMC) and now, thanks to Beth Brown of Osceola, birds are coming to cheer and educate patients and staff.

Brown, a wildlife rehabilitator, rehabilitates injured and/or orphaned birds. Her specialty is raptors, or birds of prey. She has been bringing her feathered friends to the hospital for almost three years and is a regular part of programming in rehabilitation.

This year, the recreation therapy department nominated Brown for the Iowa Parks and Recreation Outstanding Lay Person Award. This award promotes recreation, leisure and conservation and seemed a perfect way to honor Brown for volunteering her services and dedicating her life to helping birds. She was commended and presented with the plaque.

"I'm humbled," said Brown. "Many people are doing great work...the thanks from contemporaries keeps us going..."

Brown is one of 25 licensed wildlife rehabilitators in Iowa. In order to work with birds, both state and federal licenses are required. Brown apprenticed under Gladys Black, a premier ornithologist and RN. During this time she learned how to give shots, mend

broken bones, and care for injured birds. While much of the care she can do herself, she works closely with local veterinarians.

Brown's main interest is in healing, rehabilitating birds and sending them back to their natural environments. She also teaches others about animals and their habitats. Birds who cannot function safely again in the wild due to their injuries or imprinting become her educational partners. Educational birds are used as "teachers" to introduce the public to the species, increase awareness, dispel preconceived ideas and promote better understanding about the birds. A Barred Owl, Barn owl, Screech owl and a Kestrel accompanied her during their last visit. The arrived in pet taxis and on leashes, ready and willing to do their work. The entourage has made about 20 visits to IMMC alone.

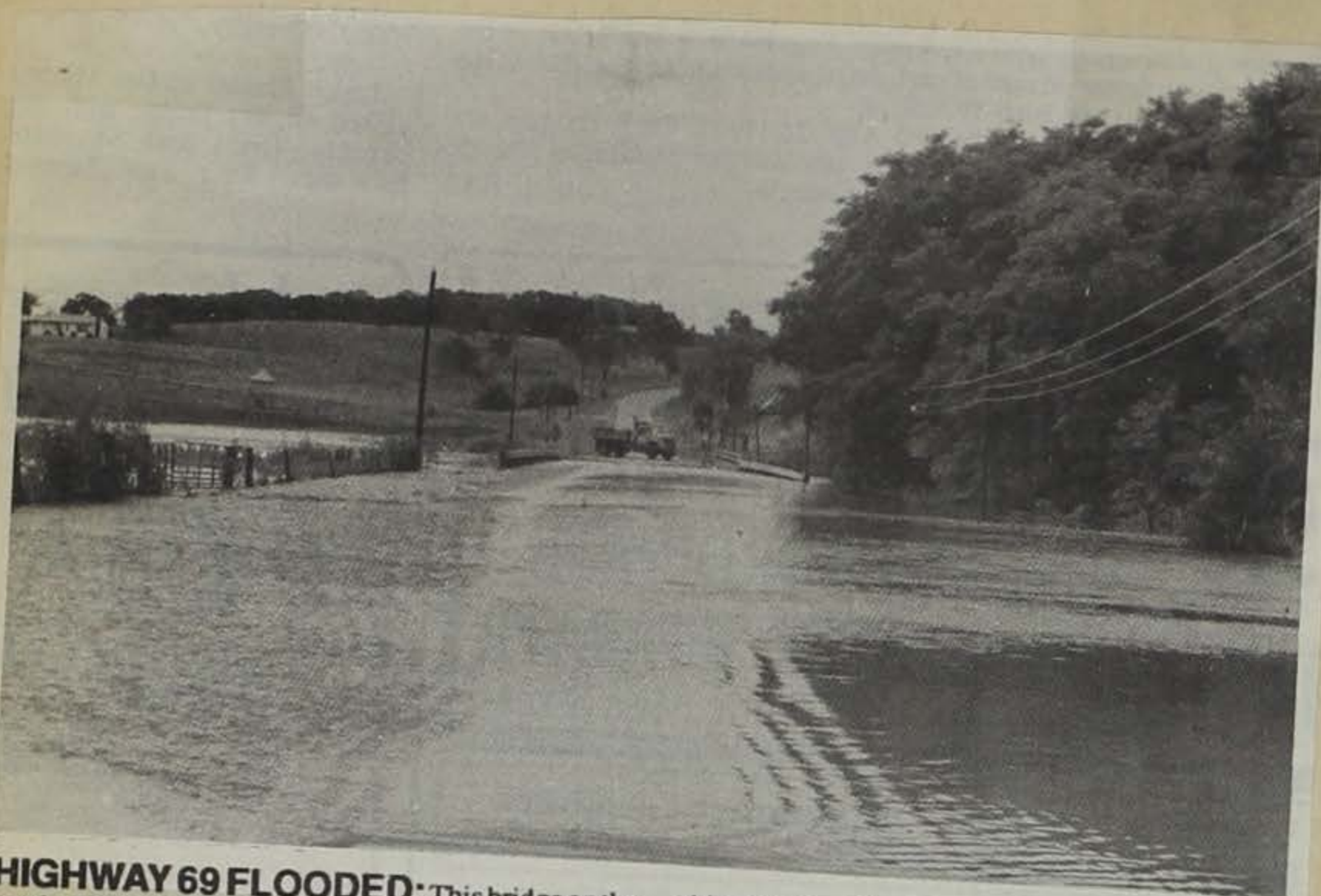
Last year Brown housed 68 birds. More than half of those birds were released or placed with educators. She works alone, with the exception of help from a very understanding husband, and does all her work as a volunteer. All wildlife rehabilitators in Iowa are volunteers, even at the wildlife care clinic in Ames.

Brown says everyone can help her cause by supporting rehabilitation and research in Iowa, supporting the Iowa Natural Heritage, nature conservancy and the Iowa Conservation Board.



Beth Brown

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
August 19, 1993*



HIGHWAY 69 FLOODED: This bridge on the south side of Osceola, over Whitebreast Creek on Highway 69 was one of several flooded or damaged after 5.35 inches of rain fell Wednesday evening, Aug. 18. Bridges over Squaw Creek in Washington Town-

ship and Bee Creek in Knox Township are closed and other roads and bridges are being repaired, according to Cindy West, Clarke County engineer office manager. Murray received an unofficial report of seven inches of rain that evening.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
August 26, 1993*

SCS to purchase flooded croplands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program began recently to give landowners the option of converting qualifying flooded cropland to wetlands.

Land damaged by floods in 1993 are eligible if the cost of reclaiming the cropland or repairing levees is more than the easement value of the land, the land was used for crop production at least once in the last five years and can be restored to a wetland.

Easement values for Clarke County are \$388 per acre, district conservationist Lisa Cooper said.

"We think some farmers hit by this year's flooding will find this a good option to trying to restore and farm wet, flood-prone land," said Jeff Vonk, state conservationist for SCS. "They can save the expense of restoring cropland in flood plains and the environment will benefit."

Farmers need to visit their local field office to sign up.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
December 9, 1993*

New York donated hay termed a 'morale booster'

BY FRANK MORLAN

Four railroad cars of hay, raised by New York farmers and loaded by inmates of a prison, arrived in Osceola to boost the spirits and hopes of Clarke County farmers battling more than a year of floods and adverse weather conditions.

The railroad cars, loaded during the week in which most Americans paused for Thanksgiving to count their blessing, are the first of eleven scheduled to arrive in Osceola in the next few weeks.

The donation, valued at an estimated \$24,000, is being sent to Iowa to repay Clarke County farmers who, a few years ago, sent hay to New York when the East Coast suffered from drought. Clarke County at the time was green and had bountiful amounts of hay.

The roadway shipment of hay from New York "went really well" said Bart Griffith, executive director of the Clarke County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service who worked tirelessly with his ASCS counterpart in New York state to arrange the shipment of hay.

Earlier this fall a semitrailer load of hay was sent from New York and group of young farmers from Indiana also sent a semitrailer load of hay to Osceola.

Arrangements for the railroad shipment weren't easy. Several railroads were involved including Burlington Northern and Conrail. There was red tape. But, despite problems, the hay, raised by Ellicottville,

New York area farmers, arrived in Osceola and is appreciated.

"It's not going to save someone from going under, but every little bit helps," said Don Byerly, who with his wife and partner, Kathryn, operates a medium-size farm nine miles south of Truro.

This year the Byerlys had only one cutting of poor quality hay, did not plant any soybeans, and saw what corn they managed to raise cut for silage.

"It's been pretty tough," Kathryn Byerly said.

Normal culling of their cattle herd "will be deeper" this winter, Don Byerly said. "And it's going to get worse before the winter is over," he said.

The New York hay was given to dozens of different size Clarke County farming operations ranging from Sharon Becker's sheep flock to the Jim and Shelly Oswalds' 1,000 head cattle operation.

"It's a symbolic gesture, but it's one that is appreciated," said Oswald, who finds his operation short not only of hay but also of corn.

Oswald has bought hay for \$110 a ton from South Dakota and is looking at buying \$3-a-bushel corn from the local elevator.

He remembers when Clarke farmers sent hay to New York.

"This is their way of repaying us for something we

"It's a symbolic gesture, but it's one that is appreciated"

JIM OSWALD
Clarke County Farmer

CONTINUE ON BACK PAGE



Four railroad cars of hay arrived in Osceola from New York farmers.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
December 9, 1993

Clarke's conservationist

Flood of knowledge helps Lisa Cooper conserve soil

BY LAURA TIGGES

Lisa Cooper, district conservationist, learned first hand how to handle a flood disaster when she started at the Soil Conservation Service in Osceola in December of 1991.

"Once the flood was over, once the creeks went back in their bank, it was soon forgotten," Cooper said. "So SCS and other agencies immediately went out to collect economic information on erosion damages and housing damages for a true assessment of how southern Iowa was affected by the floods."

FLOOD CONTROL

Some projects have come about from the last two years of flooding.

A flood control plan is being developed for 80,000 acres in Clarke County along Whitebreast Creek, Cooper said.

The plan consists of a series of small flood control dams throughout Clarke, Lucas, Warren and Marion counties all the way to Red Rock to help control the high peak flows on the creek.

Another project that came about is the Emergency Watershed Program authorized by congress and administered locally by county supervisors and other local officials in Iowa and other flood-damaged states.

Clarke County was recently awarded \$60,000 for road and bridge repair work. SCS works closely with the board of supervisors and the county engineer on the project.

"Clarke wasn't hit as hard by this year's rains as some of our adjacent counties," the conservationist said. "Last year hit us harder than this year did."

The disaster this year was that farmers were unable to plant their crops and the crops that were planted were drowned out by excessive rains. Two years ago it was more of an upland erosion.

"Had it been 10 or even five years ago the erosion would have been triple what it was in 1992 and 1993," she said. "Primarily there is more no-till land because of the work farmers

have done to apply conservation plans."

Cooper and six other staff members at SCS help farmers apply conservation practices to the land, such as terraces, ponds, water and sediment control basins, no-till farming and crop residue farming.

VOLUNTARY TO REGULATORY TRANSITION

In 1985 the Food Security Act went into effect, changing SCS from a voluntary to a regulatory agency.

Under the act, every farmer with highly erodible land is required to have a conservation plan to bring soil losses down to acceptable limits. Nearly 80 percent of this county is highly erodible land.

The transition added a huge work load to the job, Cooper said. In this county, 1,400 conservation plans had to be developed in a short period of time, requiring SCS to see that components of those plans were installed to SCS standards.

"We've had extreme difficulties the last two years with what the weather has done to the producer's ability to get the practices applied and also his financial ability to pay for the installation of the practices," she said. "Clarke County is blessed with producers that have a real sense of stewardship when it comes to conservation."

ROLE OF SCS CHANGING

Cooper said the role of SCS and conservationists is changing.

Because of the transition from voluntary to regulatory conservation practices, SCS deals with a larger customer base. Many farmers have been practicing conservation all of their lives, but now they must prove it.

She has seen a decrease in the political power of agricultural concerns due to the decreased farming population.

Traditionally, SCS worked with farmer clients, but as the number of farmers have de-

creased, the SCS works more with city officials, local businesses and the Clarke County Development Corporation.

Erosion on construction sites and applying sediment control structures in the industrial park are current issues they are facing.

SCS is also delving more into urban resource concerns.

"Urban growth hasn't affected Clarke to a great deal, but there are areas that lose thousands of acres of prime farm land to developers," Cooper said. "SCS is becoming active in working with developers to protect the resources."

INTERESTS

Cooper developed an interest in conservation while growing up on a farm near Randolph.

"My father and grandfather were very conservation minded. I think that's true of most farmers because they want to protect what was handed to them so they might preserve it for who might be following in their steps."

She and her husband Jim Cooper, Resource Conservation and Development coordinator in Centerville, and their children Brandon, Dustin and Evin farm near Russell. They have 120 acres of hay and pasture land, 10 sheep and 8 horses.

Finishing their new house has been their big project this past year.

ENJOYS WORK

Cooper is one of six female conservationists out of 99 in the state.

"I've never had negative feelings about being a woman in a traditionally male-occupied field. You're seeing more women in extension and ag-oriented fields. Ten years ago it was something new, now it's a way of life."

Cooper, who was a soil conservationist in Page County for two years and Mills County for two years, said she enjoys the staff and clients she works with in Clarke County.

"We have very responsible, very conscientious producers in Clarke County who want to do things right and have been for a long time."



Lisa Cooper, SCS district conservationist

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
December 9, 1993*



MARKET FOR PEST: There may be a viable economic market for pesky redcedar trees which thrive in southern Iowa. The trees grow everywhere from ditches to choking valuable pasture land. See story.

Redcedar marketing meeting planned

A meeting with landowners and wood industry representatives interested in the Cedar Phase II project, the harvesting and marketing of Iowa eastern redcedar, will be held Jan. 20 in Creston.

The meeting at the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. office at 10 a.m. is a follow-up to a statewide meeting.

Steve Campbell, the procurement manager for the Arkansas Division of George C. Brown Cedar Company, will speak about the company's potential for using Iowa's eastern redcedar resource and how landowners and sawmill operators can work with the company.

The Cedar Phase I project, funded by a \$50,000 grant, concluded that 39,000 acres of the trees are available in a 15 county area in Iowa.

A \$54,000 grant was provided for Cedar Phase II to establish markets for the trees.

Campbell is looking for 200,000 to 800,000 board feet of redcedar and a log yard site in Iowa for the industry which manufactures cedar closet linings.

Campbell and Carol Jones, director of the Cedar Phase II project, will be among those touring eastern redcedar sites throughout southern Iowa. They will assess the timber stands and attempt to link interested Iowa landowners with sawmill operators.

"Marketing research into the uses of redcedar oils and woods has indicated the market for redcedar wood will be steadily increasing both domestically and internationally over the next several years," Jones said.

"This growing market opens up a rare opportunity for Iowa landowners and wood industry businesses to meet and visit with major redcedar manufacturers," she added.

The public is invited to attend the meeting.

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
January 13, 1994*

*Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
March 3, 1994*

Conservation Poster Contest

— GRADES 5 & 6 —

Topic:
Soil and Water Conservation

CONTEST AWARDS

Local Winners

GRADE 5 — \$20, \$15, \$10 for 1ST, 2ND, 3RD places
GRADE 6 — \$20, \$15, \$10 for 1ST, 2ND, 3RD places
OVERALL WINNER — \$50 U.S. Savings Bond
and advancement to Regional Competition
(9 regions in Iowa)

Regional Winners

\$35 for regional winner and advancement
to State Competition

State Winners

\$50 for state winner and advancement
to National Competition

The posters should be regular poster paper, minimum size 14" x 22", maximum size 22" x 28". Students may create their posters using paint, magic marker, pencil, cut and paste, crayon, or whatever they choose.

Deadline: Entries must be delivered to the Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District office by March 15, 1994.

Poster will be displayed locally, and winning entries will be displayed at the Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners in September 1994. State winners will be submitted to the National Competition, with national awards to be presented at the National Convention in 1995.

IOWA Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners



THIS FIRE WAS ON PURPOSE

Clarke County volunteer fire departments conducted a controlled burn Saturday morning on the 38-acre Coyote Canyon natural resource area northwest of Osceola. The wildlife area, funded by hunting permit stamps and maintained by the Clarke County Conservation Board, is burned every three years as a natural renewal process, said conservationist Anita Foland. Hunting is permitted in the area.

*Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
April 7, 1994*

\$12 million offered for watershed

BY LAURA TIGGES

The Clarke County Supervisors have signed an application requesting planning assistance for the four-county Whitebreast Creek Watershed project.

The supervisors and the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners submitted the application to State Conservationist Jeff Vonk of the Soil Conservation Service and Jim Gulliford of the Iowa Division of Soil Conservation.

The Whitebreast Creek Watershed encompasses 241,300 acres equivalent to 377 square miles in Clarke, Lucas, Warren and Marion Counties.

SCS conducted a study over several years, which determined the economic and environmental needs and feasibility of the project.

This area covers upland and floodplain acres from the creek's headwaters, five miles west of Interstate 35 near Osceola, to the lower end of the watershed, about seven miles south of Lake Red Rock.

The purpose of the project is to prevent floodwater damages to crops, pastures, agricultural facilities, roads, railroad tracks, homes, businesses and to prevent the loss of recreation at Lake Red Rock.

Major floods have occurred in the area in 1947, 1962, 1981, 1982, 1990, 1992 and 1993.

According to the report compiled by the SCS, average annual floodwater damages to cropland and pasture land is \$905,000 and to farm roads, bridges, fences and

other agricultural facilities is \$543,000.

The project includes the installation of 200 dams to control runoff from 92,500 acres.

"The SCS is prepared to build dams 5-40 acres in size, given the topography of the area and the drainage needed," District Conservationist Lisa Cooper said.

No specific structure sites have been identified yet.

The total installation cost is estimated at \$12,216,700 to be paid 100 percent by the SCS, minus the \$1,925,400 estimated value of the land farmers agree to donate for easements on their property.

The cities of Osceola and Chariton are discussing the possibility of installing a dam for water supply, similar to what was done at the Twelve-Mile Reservoir.

"They could work together to find a common site," Cooper said.

If large impoundments are installed for purposes other than flood control, local groups will have to pay for it, she added.

No local funds will be used for the project, but the board of supervisors may choose to levy taxes for the operation and maintenance of the dams.

In 15-20 years, minor maintenance such as adding rip-rap or removing trees could be required, Cooper explained.

At this time, SCS is developing plans, identifying sites and handling other administrative tasks. Dam construction will begin in 3-5 years and could take up to 15 years to complete.



POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Clarke students and winners in the Soil and Water Conservation stewardship poster contest were, front row, left to right, Jennifer Reynolds and Nichole Reynolds. Back row, Erin Nennig, Eddie Lundquist and Colton Cummings.

SENTINEL-TRIBUNE PHOTO BY TAD JOHNSON

*Oscoda Sentinel-Tribune
April 28, 1994*



POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Murray students and winners in the Soil and Water Conservation stewardship poster contest were, front row, left to right, Heather Dunfee, Tara Halls and Stefanie Cowden. Back row, Sarah McBurney, Ben Warner and Michelle Garner.

SENTINEL-TRIBUNE PHOTO BY TAD JOHNSON

Cooper to new position

Lisa Cooper, Clarke District Soil Conservationist, has resigned that position to accept a post as coordinator for the Heartland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) agency based in Indianola.

Cooper, who lives near Russell, will work with six counties: Madison, Dallas, Warren, Polk, Jasper and Marion. She starts her new job Monday. A replacement for the Osceola office has not been named.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 12, 1994



BIRDHOUSES

Murray Campfire Kids recently built bluebird nesting houses under the supervision of Clarke County Conservationist Anita Foland and Beth Brown of Osceola. The boxes were placed on the Harold Schrodt farm. Left to right are, Kendrick Renken, Foland, Cale Johnson, LeAnn Renken, Brown, Kimberly Akers and Ashley Ross. Not pictured are, leaders, Tammy Fulkerson and Donna Johnson.

Osceola Sentinel-Tribune
May 12, 1994

Water quality, soil conservation unite

West Lake water quality project continues in it's third year in Clarke County

BY LAURA TIGGES

The West Lake Water Quality Planning Project continues in its third year in Clarke County.

Area farmers along with Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and DuPont Agricultural Products are working together to reduce siltation and chemical levels in West Lake.

Built in 1934, the lake supplies drinking water to Osceola, Woodburn and many rural Clarke County residents.

Recently, Jack Nish, a farmer in the West Lake watershed, was recognized for his contributions to the management of water quality in West Lake.

Nish played the lead role in collecting weather data in the watershed for the past three years. As part of the recognition Nish received, DuPont presented him with a new weather monitoring station.

"Jack's spirit of cooperation and support has been recognized by all those involved in this effort. It symbolizes the contributions of all the farmers in the watershed who have changed their crop and land

management practices to help address the water quality issue," said Tom Koranek, local DuPont field agronomist.

THE RESULTS

Since the West Lake watershed management program began in 1991, a number of successes have been achieved including

- Major reductions in soil erosion. No-till was used on 80 percent of the corn acres in 1993, compared to 20 percent in 1991. No-till was also used on 80 percent of the soybean acres in 1993, compared to 100 percent conventional tillage used in 1991.

- Contour no-till practices reduced soil loss by 61 percent.

- Contour buffer strips reduced soil loss by 55 percent.

- Use of terraces reduced soil loss by 76 percent.

- The level of atrazine and Bladex fell below the Maximum Contaminate Level by 1992.

For land contracted in the program, the average soil loss was 9.7 tons per acre a year before the project. Since the project, the loss has been three tons per acre per year.

Looking at the water shed as a whole, soil loss went from 20.4 to

6.2 tons per acre.

"Through all these efforts, valuable information has been gained to help farmers operate profitably and implement new practices which help reduce runoff of soil, nutrients, and crop protection products," Koranek said. All the farmers in the watershed have contributed to this effort."

A charcoal filtering system was installed at the West Lake water plant to help control the chemical level.

West Lake is at a safe level, but the water is monitored regularly so if the chemical level is high, more charcoal is added to filter the chemicals out of the water.

Nish monitors rainfall in the watershed, to explain why chemical levels may have peaked at certain times. Also farmers alert SCS when they apply atrazine and Bladex so more charcoal is added.

"Rainfall works hand in hand with runoff and difference in water quality," Vicki Flaherty, West Lake Project Coordinator, said. "In the spring the levels are higher when farmers are putting crops in and with heavy rain, there's more runoff."

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Flaherty said the project started to control the high siltation problem, then DuPont got involved when the levels of Bladex and atrazine were high.

DuPont's role in the project was to conduct studies and advise farmers on herbicides and pesticides for the best management practices in the watershed.

The West Lake project is one of three water quality projects in the Midwest in which DuPont is involved to establish a data base.

The program is completely voluntary, but the farmers received a one-time payment for the number of acres put under contract for five years.

The payments are designed to help pay for converting to no-till farm equipment.

Twelve farmers have contracted 3,000 acres in the watershed project and conservation practices are used on an additional 1,100 acres not in contracts.

By joining the project, farmers are educated and trained about best management practices so they can continue to protect the lake after the project ends.

"This is not a narrow focus. If you want a permanent change, they have to understand what they're doing as well," Alan Teel, field coordinator of integrated crop management for the Extension, said.

SOIL SAMPLING

SCS and the Extension provide scouting and soil sampling for the participating farmers.

Becky Harris, integrated crop management consultant for the Extension, checks the land under contract for insects and weed growth to assist farmers with the best management practices for profitability of the land.

With the information gathered, farmers can spot spray fields rather than spray the entire field to reduce the amount of chemicals used.

Harris also takes soil samples for the Extension which are then tested for nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, nutrients needed for crops, but are potentially unhealthy in water.

CHANGING FARM PRACTICES

"It's been a sacrifice for the farmers," Flaherty said. "With the weather and obstacles they've had to overcome, we're happy with the changes that have been made."

K.C. Kilkenny, one of the 12 farmers participating in the project, has 320 acres contracted in the

water shed.

The two biggest changes he has made is switching to no-till and contour planting.

The main benefits he said, are keeping soil and herbicides out of the lake. As a farmer, another benefit he has experienced is an increased number of earthworms in the soil.

"The advantage is you get the earthworms to do the tillage for you," he said.

Not including last year's flooded crops, his farm yields have stayed about the same using the conservation practices.

Kilkenny said he is committed to continuing the conservation practices after the project is over because he has changed his machinery and the conservation practices are working well.

Contrary to what many farmers believe, the no-till and conservation farming has not been more expensive.

"Herbicide costs are up, but I'm not sure I don't make up for it in saved fuel and reduced hours spent in the field," Kilkenny said.

Less hours spent in the field means slower depreciation of tractors, costing \$85,000 to \$150,000, which is another savings, he added.

Kilkenny said there is no doubt more farmers will be adopting these farm practices, in light of the new farm bill.

No-till bean drilling has exploded. What was once used by only one or two farmers in the county is now practiced by 15-20 farmers.

The biggest sacrifice a farmer makes he said is in the change of attitude.

"It's kind of scary to change the ways you've been doing things for 15 years," he said.

Teel said the types of weeds they deal with change and they have to adapt to planting in a no-tilled field bed. In addition, some leave buffer strips when they used to plant.

"Some say that's not too bad, but try drinking a cup of coffee with the other hand for two weeks and see how it feels," Teel said. "This is not just the pleasure of coffee, but the way he's making a living and feeding his family."

Both farmers in the watershed and consumers of the water have a stake in this project, Teel said. The water consumers have had to pay a price as well.

Over the entire life span of West Lake, the dam was raised three times at the cost to consumers due to siltation filling the lake.

The lake can't be raised again without broadening the base and



FARMER'S EFFORTS APPRECIATED: Jack Nish received a weather monitoring station from Tom Koranek, DuPont field agronomist, for collecting weather data in the water shed.

silt can't be dug out, Teel said. "No one wanted to invest in a soil conservation program until this came along," Teel said. "Something should have been done after the dam was raised the first time."

CONSERVATION PRACTICES CONTINUE

Not all farmers in the watershed have chosen to join the project, but Teel hopes that the farmers who use conservation practices in the

watershed, show it can be done profitably so others will adopt those practices.

Teel anticipates continued monitoring of West Lake's water quality after the 5-year project is concluded.

"Water quality is a big issue right now," he said. "My feeling is all water sheds will be monitored for a long time to come, but I don't know how. It's an important issue and it's not going away."



Becky Harris, Alan Teel and K.C. Kilkenny

Commissioner election slated

Two Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will be elected Nov. 8 during the general election.

Any elector in the district is eligible for the six-year term commencing Jan. 3, 1995, but no more than one commissioner can reside in one township.

Incumbent commissioners are Terry L. Boles of Grand River, Doyle Township; Dale Chidester of Weldon, Franklin Township and JoAnn Sickels of Weldon, Knox Township.

Prospective candidates seeking to fill the offices previously held

by Donald Bennink of Osceola, Green Bay Township and LuElla Pontier of Osceola, Ward Township, must file nomination petitions available at the auditor's office. The petitions, requiring 25 signatures, must be filed by 5 p.m. on Aug. 31.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and guide the overall soil and water conservation program in the county.

For more information on the position, contact Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Office at 342-2917.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 14, 1994



Curtis Donohue

Tama man named head of soil service

Curtis Donohue, previously of Toledo, recently filled the district conservationist position at Soil Conservation Service that was vacated by Lisa Cooper.

Donohue was a soil conservationist at the Toledo field office in Tama County for 5½ years and soil conservation technician at the Knoxville field office in Marion County for 2 years. He received a bachelor of science degree in water resource management from the University of Iowa.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
July 21, 1994

Soil, water commissioners terms expire

The terms of two Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners expire this year.

Individuals interested in seeking the office of soil and water conservation district commissioner can pick up nomination petitions from the County Auditor.

These petitions must be filed by 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 31.

For information contact the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
August 18, 1994

Cost share program available for manure handling structures

Pork producers are encouraged to take advantage of a program to help share the cost of installing manure handling and storage facilities.

The new program, called the Organic Nutrient Management Fund, is being administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

It was initially adopted by the Iowa Legislature and signed by the Governor in 1993. It is designed to provide incentives for the benefit of the environment.

Interested producers should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation office, or call the department of agriculture at 515-281-5321.

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
October 20, 1994

Town and country relations workday organized

BY LAURA TIGGES

A Town and Country Relations Workday has been organized in Clarke County to improve relationships among the two groups.

A Town and Country Relations Committee was organized by an inter-governmental relations group in the county.

Steve Smith, member of the committee, said the workday is a revival of the farmer-businessmen dinners that were annual events that ended about 30 years ago.

But instead of just meeting for a meal, receiving awards and listening to speakers, this program goes further.

Participants go to work with another person for a day to see what their typical work day is like.

"In my age group, almost everyone had farm roots, but the next generation does not have farm roots to know what it's like on a farm," Smith said. "A lot of rural people don't know the challenges business people face. The program shows the needs and concerns of both sides."

Participants were paired up ran-

domly last winter at a chili supper. In February, the group will meet at a dinner tentatively scheduled with the Soil Conservation Service awards banquet. At the banquet, members of the group will share their experiences working on a farm or spending a day at an office or business in town.

Dennis Page, manager of Hardee's, said the program is an excellent idea that should be continued next year. He will go to work with Richard Barr and will have Condon Clark go to work with him at Hardee's.

"It's a good learning experience to see what someone else does. It might surprise someone to see an area they're not familiar with," Page said.

Enid Kendall, another participant, spent a day on the David Curnes farm. She enjoyed the day, having been raised on a farm, and learned how farming has progressed and become more technical over the years.

Kendall went to the Curnes' farm this fall on a chilly, rainy morning. "Weather doesn't stop a farmer,"

Kendall said. "I lived on a farm for many years and we didn't eliminate the chores because the weather was undesirable."

She went with David Curnes' son Kelly Curnes to feed cattle in timber-pastures. By the time all the cattle were fed, it had stopped raining. David's wife, Connie Curnes, prepared an early lunch so they could go out to the field.

While the meal was being prepared, Kendall saw the office equipped with a computer to store farm records and to receive daily weather reports from the National Weather Bureau.

After lunch, she rode in a combine to watch the corn being harvested. One of the highlights was seeing deer come out of a field.

"In my mind, I was comparing the harvesting of corn in previous years. Horse drawn wagons, farmers hand-picking the corn ear-by-ear and row-by-row. Then tractors pulling two-row pickers," Kendall said.

"I saw how large the machinery is and how they can farm more ground more efficiently," she added.

"I was especially impressed with the Curnes's. They are really up-to date."

Terry Cummings will be spending a day with Kendall at the recorder's office in the courthouse. She plans to show him her daily responsibilities as well as those of Treasurer-elect Kim Reynolds and Auditor Anita Chandler.

Kendall said it is important to see how others work.

"It's important for us to interact with each other. They say, 'If I ran the office, I'd do this and that' and we think the same thing about farming," she explained. "We need more cooperation."

Farmer Mike Patterson is slated to attend work with Kevin Klemesrud at American State Bank. Murray Schools Superintendent Lynn Padellford was selected to visit the Patterson farm.

"In my opinion, spending one day with someone won't give much insight into their jobs but gives you an opportunity to meet someone and learn their views," Patterson said.

Clarke County farmers honored for conservation

In a first-of-its-kind effort, more than 175 Clarke County farmers will be recognized for their soil and water conservation accomplishments.

An open house has been organized by the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and the Osceola Field Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The open house will be held Dec. 7 from 2-4 p.m. at the USDA building at 709 Fumas Drive.

The open house is being held in association with the governor's proclamation of Conservation Farmer Appreciation Week, in an effort to recognize the conservation efforts of farmers in Clarke County.

Selected farmers will receive an invitation to the open house; a thank you letter from Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa); several environmental, conservation and sporting groups and the program sponsors. Community leaders have also been invited to the event.

Iowa conservation farmers have accepted the conservation practices issued by Congress in the 1985 and 1990 farm bill. The result is record-progress in resource protection. Soil erosion on cropland has been cut by 35 percent since 1982, according to the National Resource Inventory. No till farming was used on 4.3 million acres of Iowa row crops in 1994, seven times more than in 1984.

Many other conservation practices such as grassed waterways, contour farming, stripcropping and grassed field borders are now visible on the landscape.

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FARMERS RECOGNIZED

District Conservationist Curt Donahue of the Clarke County Natural Resource Conservation Service, center, talks to Clarke County farmers who were honored at an open house recently for their conservation practices.

SENTINEL-TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LAURA TIGGES

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Effects of grazing on water quality studied

BY LAURA TIGGES

Do cattle walking in pasture streams effect the quality of our drinking water?

That question is being answered by a study administered by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in a 16-county area in South Central Iowa.

Becky Harris, soil conservationist and project coordinator, said the four-year Southern Iowa grazing/water quality project was developed to determine the impact of cattle grazing along warm water stream banks to water quality.

The Clean Water Act of 1977 drew attention to the need to identify non-point sources of pollution in Iowa's water supply, Harris said.

Non-point sources are those that can't be seen directly going in the water. Sedimentation from fields and pastures in streams that drain to a water source is one example.

To conduct the study, three to six demonstration sites will be set up in

pastures in the region. So far, three farmers in Clarke, Marion and Union Counties have been contacted and show interest in the project.

The pastures used as demonstration sites have to meet Department of Natural Resources criteria and have a stream running through the land, Harris said.

At the demonstration sites, cattle's access to streams will be limited through a pasture management system such as rotational grazing. An alternative water source will be used such as a pond or water pumped from the stream.

At the same time, the farmer will be able to maintain or improve profitability through alternative management practices.

There are two major components to the study.

The first is a water monitoring and evaluation program to determine the impacts of grazing, if any, on the physical, chemical and biological characteristics along the stream

banks. Second, a forage and herd management program will be developed to assist the farmer.

Northern Iowa grazing/water quality projects have indicated that grazing along riparian areas, or stream banks, does have a negative impact on water quality in warm water streams.

Some of the problems related to grazing riparian areas are erosion, organic enrichment and decrease of wildlife habitat, Harris said.

"However, research has also shown that by applying suitable management practices to pastures, many of the undesirable conditions can be minimized," she said.

Funds are available to the farmer to assist with materials needed to carry out management practices which control where the cattle graze. These materials include fencing, ponds, seeding, and watering systems such as pumps and hydrants.

A cow-calf study was conducted by the University of Missouri that

showed profitability was increased by using alternative water sources, Harris said.

Some cattle drank from a stream where the cows were allowed to walk in the stream, which stirs up the sediment. Other calves drank clean water and their weaning weight increased by 50 pounds per calf.

"That could really increase the farmer's profitability," Harris said.

Harris, who also works on the Lucas County Lakes Water Quality Project, said the project will not cut off total access to streams, but limit access to see if it reduces erosion and gives farmers economical benefits.

"Our goal is not to regulate farmers, but to study limitations to see if they have any economical or environmental impacts," Harris said.

"I think there is going to be more focus on water quality. It's just beginning now and we're here to help farmers prepare for it."



Becky Harris

Workshops will be conducted

A two-part, "hands-on" grant search/grant writing workshop will be conducted by Southern Iowa Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. (RC&D), Jan. 28 and Feb. 25 at Southwestern Community College in Creston.

The workshops will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

The first workshop will show how to conduct a grant search, approach a prospective funder, and

"win" the interviewing process. Participants will be divided into groups and will be asked to select a sample community project.

The second workshop will include how to get community support, prepare a budget, and write a proposal.

Instructors will be Dennis Hilger and Lana Pals of the RC & D.

For more information and fees call the RC & D, 515-782-7058.

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January 5, 1995*

Same services offered locally by reorganized USDA agencies

The reorganization of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies will not have much effect on farmers in Clarke County, a local official said.

The reorganization is expected to result in better service and save taxpayers \$3.6 billion nationwide over the next five years.

USDA agencies have been renamed to reflect the services they offer.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) is now the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA). Farm lending programs of the former Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) will be transferred to CFSA in the coming months.

Soil Conservation Service has been renamed Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS).

Bart Griffith, director of Clarke County's CFSA, said local farmers will not experience any change in operation because ASCS, FmHA and SCS were under one roof before.

A lot of the reorganization taking place across the nation does not apply to programs offered in Iowa, he said.

NEW CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM

In addition to the reorganization, a new law was passed called the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994.

This act combines the old USDA crop insurance program with the disaster assistance programs previously administered by ASCS.

This law will better serve those effected by losses due to disasters like the floods of 1993. The same services will be offered in the same building now, but under different names.

No one is losing jobs at the Clarke County offices, Griffith said. Most of the reduction in workforce is from those taking early retirement, but no one in Clarke County was eligible.

According to this law, farmers must sign up for at least the catastrophic level of crop insurance coverage to be eligible for USDA programs and benefits such as Acreage Reduction Programs including deficiency payments, commodity price support loans, Conservation Reserve Program payments and FmHA loans.

Any crop accounting for 10 percent or more of a producer's farm income must be insured.

"This is a risk management policy similar to those written by independent insurance agencies," Griffith said. "Independent agencies can offer a higher buy-up policy as in the past."

Applications due for conservation cost share aid

The Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District is currently accepting applications for cost share assistance for soil conservation work.

Eligible practices include no-till planting, contouring and contour strip-cropping, windbreaks, grade stabilization structures, grass waterways, pasture and hayland plantings, terraces and water and sediment basins.

Please contact the district office at 709 Fumas Drive, Osceola.

Applications will be accepted all year, but those prior to Jan. 27 will have a better chance for approval.

REAP cost-share applications available

The Clarke Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for cost-share assistance through the Iowa Division of Soil Conservation Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act Program.

Some of the practices eligible in Clarke County are strip cropping, critical area planting, field borders, filter strips, pasture and hayland planting and farmstead windbreaks. Cost-share rates are maximum of 75 percent.

Practices eligible only inside the Whitebreast Creek Watershed west of Interstate 35 are grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, terraces, water and sediment control basins, diversions, and animal waste management systems. These practices are available

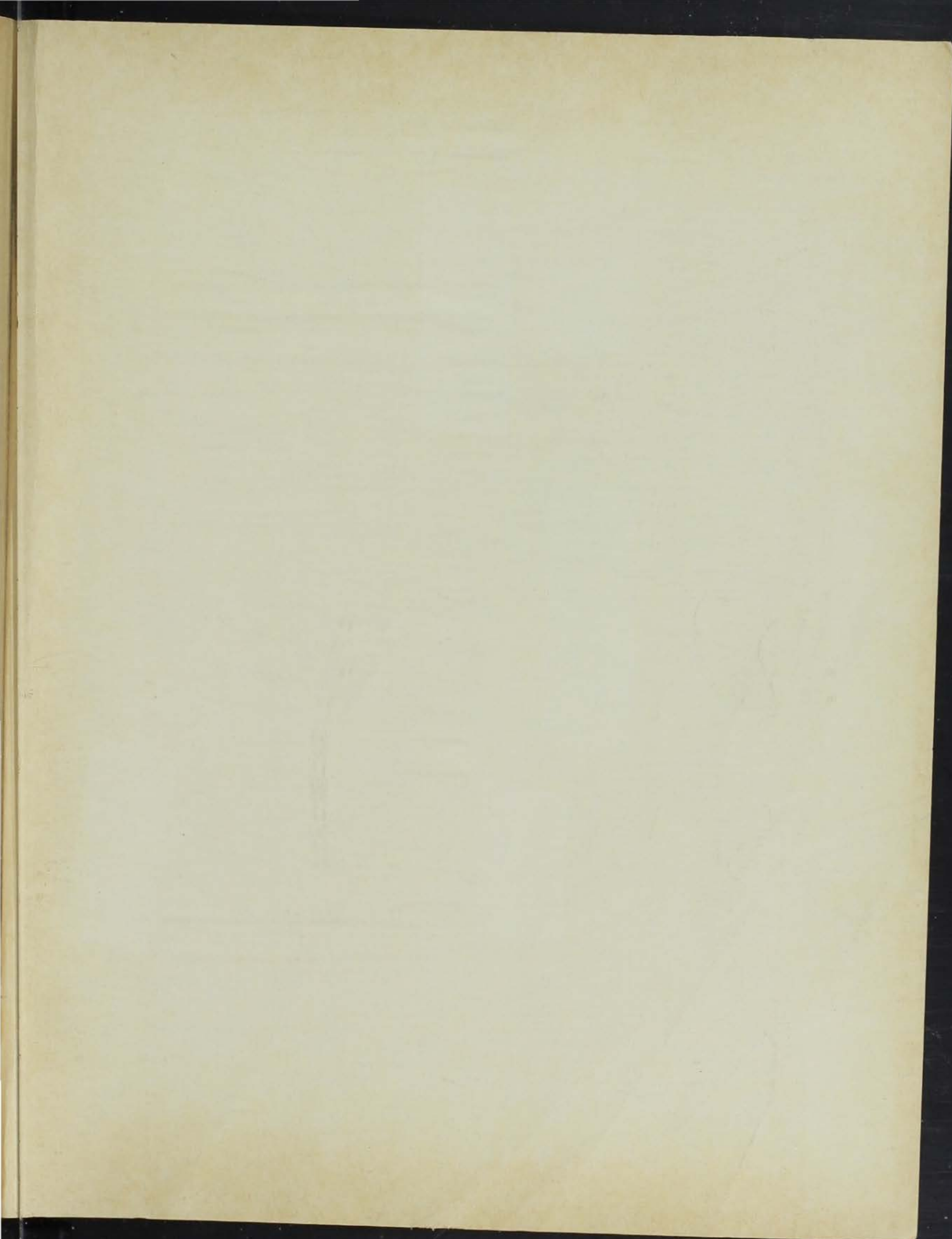
at a maximum cost-share rate of 50 percent.

The district can request additional funds from the Division of Soil Conservation for applications made before March 7. To apply stop by the district office at 709 Fumas Drive, Osceola or call 515-342-2917.

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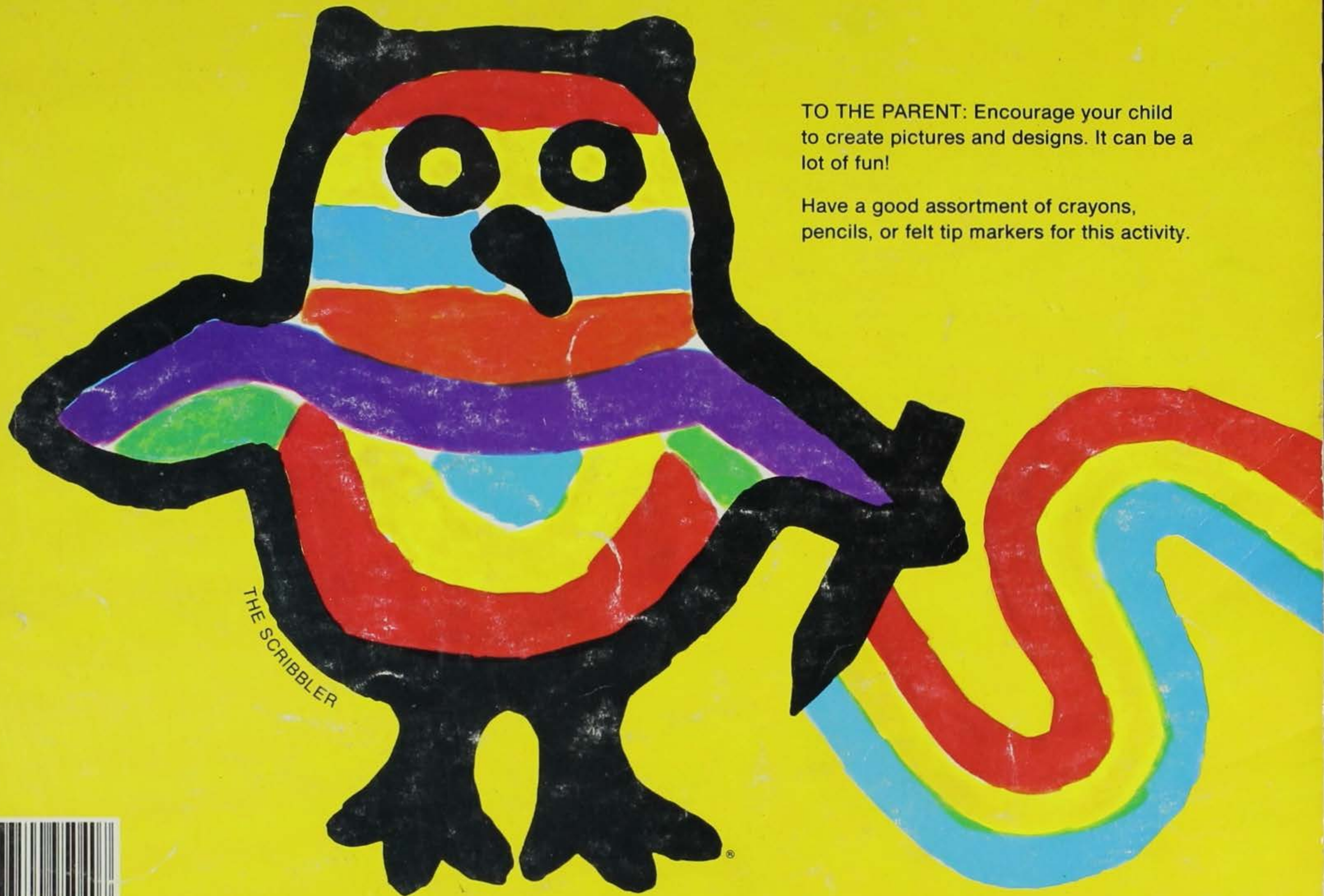
Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
January 26, 1995

Osceola Sentinel - Tribune
February 9, 1995



TO THE PARENT: Encourage your child to create pictures and designs. It can be a lot of fun!

Have a good assortment of crayons, pencils, or felt tip markers for this activity.



THE SCRIBBLER

