

# Soil and Water Conservation Week To Be Observed

## Sound Conservation Work Concerns All Citizens

By William H. Greiner, Director  
State Soil Conservation Committee

Urban citizens can no longer assume that conservation of land and water resources is of interest only to farmers and ranches. Protecting our natural resources concerns everyone and is an important factor in maintaining America's prosperity.

Currently, the American housewife spends less out of her total budget for food than her counterpart in any other country. And Americans enjoy a higher standard of living and a better diet than people of any other country. Much of this is attributed to our productive soil and technological developments in American agricultural and industrial productivity.

The American public expects this trend of low-cost food to continue. Nevertheless, demands on the nation's land and water resources in the next few decades will be staggering.

Experts predict within the next 15 years this country's population will increase from 190 million to about 245 million persons. And by the year 2000, there will be more than 300 million Americans.

At the same time, there will be even less cropland available. Over one million acres of land are diverted to non-agricultural uses each year.

The population explosion and our dwindling land resources raise the question "Can the United States ever balance the 20th century, count on enough natural resources to maintain its high standard of living?"

A recent study by Resources for the Future, Inc., a foundation devoted to the study of resource affairs, answered this question with a qualified "yes." Whether or not the people of

## Two Contests To Encourage Young

A record number of Iowa youth are participating in two statewide conservation contests throughout the nine soil conservation regions.

Regional winners of the Queen of Conservation Contest and the State Soil Conservation Speech Contest will compete for state titles early this fall.

The "queen" contest, co-sponsored by the Farmers Grain Dealers Association of Iowa (Cooperative), Des Moines, and the 100 soil conservation districts, is open to single Iowa farm girls between the ages of 16 and 21. The first place winner receives a \$250 cash award.

The queen will be crowned at the Pioneers' Banquet in Corning on September 9, and will reign over the 1965 State Field Day and Plowing Match near Corning on September 9-10. Last year's queen was Sherry Teachout of Farragut.

"How Soil and Water Conservation Affects My Future" is the topic of speeches presented by junior and senior high school students competing in the state speech contest.

The event, which is designed to familiarize Iowa's youth with the soil and water conservation program, is open to students in the seventh through twelfth grades.

Last year's winner, Gary Rowe of Laurens, now a student at Iowa State University, was awarded a \$250 college scholarship and \$100 in cash for his first-place efforts.

Entry blanks for the queen contest may be obtained at local soil conservation district offices or at member elevators of Farmers Grain Dealers Association.

Entry blanks for the speech contest are available at Soil Conservation district offices. Spellers of the speech contest are the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

## PROCLAMATION Soil Conservation Week

WHEREAS, the development of Iowa Land and water resources through soil and water conservation, flood prevention and wise land use, is essential to maintain agricultural income and protect the economy and tax base of this State; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa and the one hundred soil conservation districts within the State are coordinating and carrying forward a constructive program of soil and water conservation and flood prevention work; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we continue to advance our cooperative efforts in soil and water conservation work, particularly in small watersheds, where opportunities are presented to further this important work;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Harold E. Hughes, Governor of the State of Iowa, in order to call attention to the importance of this work do hereby proclaim the week of June 20 through 27, 1965, as

### SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION WEEK

in Iowa, and respectfully urge organizations and citizens of our State to participate in the programs in order that we may place even greater emphasis on this important work.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 3rd day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred sixty-five.

HAROLD E. HUGHES  
GOVERNOR

Let's Talk...

## Gardening

June is a good month to start new perennials for your 1966 garden. Many perennials are easily grown from seed in a cold frame or a small spot in the garden when the soil can be carefully prepared. A small cold frame is best, however, since the tender plants can easily be protected from full sun, heavy rain, and wind by covering with a single layer of cheese cloth.

Place the rows 4 to 6 inches apart. Sow the seeds thickly enough for a good stand. The

will be thinned later. Keep the soil constantly moist to encourage germination.

After the seedlings have developed a pair of true leaves, transplant to rows in the open garden. Space them 4 to 6 inches apart. Keep the seedlings free of weeds during the summer and fall months, and you should have sturdy plants to transplant next spring. Protect any of the perennials that are somewhat tender by giving them a light covering of straw during the winter.

Blocks of salt still serve as currency in parts of Ethiopia.

## Managed Pasture Will Produce More Feed Through Quality Grazing During Season

Proper management of pastures must be followed to obtain high yields of quality forage throughout the grazing season according to Clarence H. Ford, SCS Work Unit Conservationist.

A balanced pasture program consists of a combination of (1) Permanent, (2) Rotational, and

## July 12 Deadline For ASCS Check

All Cooperators Must Certify Compliance in Osceola Soon

About 600 farmers in Clarke County must still certify their feed-grain acreage at the Clarke County ASCS office before July 12, according to Francis Chamberlain, Chairman of the ASCS committee. About 150 farmers have already completed their compliance certification.

Farmers may certify feed-grain compliance on diverted acres and feed grains by stopping at the county office, although those who have not reported their compliance by July 12 will receive a visit from the township commissioner.

Delayed planting of feed-grain due to adverse weather conditions may have delayed certification of acreage by some producers, Chamberlain said, but no change has been made in the certification deadline.

Chamberlain anticipates that final payment for feed-grain co-operators will be made in August as has been done for the past several years. He points out that weed control measures must be carried out on diverted acres before final payment is complete.

"The Soil Conservation Service program is a model of the kind of partnership that is needed between the private owner and the public," John F. Kennedy.

(3) Supplemental pastures to provide grazing during the pasture season.

After proper liming and fertilization has been carried out in establishing a pasture, it is essential to follow this with regular top-dressing applications.

For most soils in this county top-dressings should be made every two years. Phosphate and potash applications will increase legume growth, while nitrogen stimulates the grasses.

Increased yields can be realized by using rotational and controlled grazing on all types of pastures, with the possible exception of unimproved bluegrass. Yields of forage from alfalfa-grass mixtures can be increased as much as 25 percent by using three or four rotated areas within a field. Increased yields can also be expected from trefoil-grass when rotational grazing is used.

Clipping at the proper stage of weed and forage growth will help eliminate weeds and stimulate uniform regrowth of forage. Iowa pastures need clipping at least twice during the grazing season. The first clipping should be made when early weeds are in bud or blossom and the pas-

ture grasses are beginning to head. A later clipping is needed just before the "ragweed and goldenrod" season. Weeds may also be controlled in grass pastures (no legumes) by using a well planned chemical spray program.

When legume-grass mixtures become unbalanced in species, it is usually best to completely improve the pasture by applying lime and fertilizer according to needs and reseed to the desired species. Experience has shown that when reseeded it pays to prepare a new seedbed rather than use a "shotgun seeding" on the existing pasture. Reseeding can be delayed in legume-grass mixtures after the legume has "gone out" by using nitrogen fertilizer on the grass.

Forage must be utilized by livestock to be of value. Pasture cost and return data indicates that profitable pastures are those which produce high yields of quality forage which in turn is fully utilized by high producing livestock. Proper management practices, including the livestock program, aid in getting optimum production and the most profitable returns from any type of pasture.

## Richard Dove, John Camp To Compete In Local Speech Contest At July 8 Meet

Clarke County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners plan to hold a local speech contest at the regular monthly meeting July 8th.

Two farm boys are feverishly preparing for the contest. They are Richard Dove, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dove, RR1, Osceola, and John Camp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Camp of RR1, Osceola.

Mr. Leland Dolcheck and Darel Adair are the teachers and representative F. F. A. advisors.

## Changes In Soil Classifications Are Summarized

A new Iowa State University publication summarizes recent classification changes of Iowa's major soils.

The publication, "Principal Soils of Iowa," has information for farmers, soil conservationists, land appraisers, real estate personnel, soil scientists and others interested in Iowa soils.

Many changes have taken place in agricultural land use in recent years, says senior author William H. Oschwald. More alternatives are now possible because of increased fertilizer use, wider use of chemicals to control weeds and insects, use of large farm machinery, improved tillage practices and better erosion control methods.

Also, our growing population demands more land for housing, industry, highways, recreation and other non-agricultural uses. Soils vary in their response to technology and in their suitability for various uses, Oschwald states. Thus, we need precise information about soils and their properties. It is important to know, for example, if a soil is suitable for level or graded terraces, irrigation or tile drainage. Or, if a soil is suitable for houses, large industrial buildings or highways.

The publication includes percent of slope, land position, parent material, erosion hazard, natural internal drainage, and water holding capacity of selected soil types in 20 major Iowa soil association areas. Land use, fertility levels and crop production potentials also are given. Maps, tables and diagrams supplement the text.

"Principal Soils of Iowa" can be purchased through your county extension office or from Publications Distribution, Merrill Hall, Iowa State University, Ames.

## Farm Ponds Are More Fun When Safety Is Considered

By Harold Carter  
State Conservation Officer

A well cared for pond can be source of great enjoyment on the farm. They are being used more and more for recreation rather than water supply only.

Picnic areas with tables and barbecues, are showing up on neatly mown grass. Small boats and swimming areas are becoming more common. Swimming tends to pose a new problem.

Will the pond be considered an attractive nuisance? Will the pond owners be liable for accidents or drowning? There seems to be no absolute clear cut answer to such problems. However, that ounce of prevention could be the answer. Even good swimmers should never swim alone.

A post with life preserver attached can mean the difference between life and death. This can be had with little or no expense. A five gallon oil can or any floating device attached to an old clothes line or wire will do the trick.

The fishing aspects of a pond are not to be overlooked. Most ponds are well stocked through State Conservation Commission, County S. C. S. office or from other sources. Some fine bass, bluegill and bullheads are caught from thousands of farm ponds.

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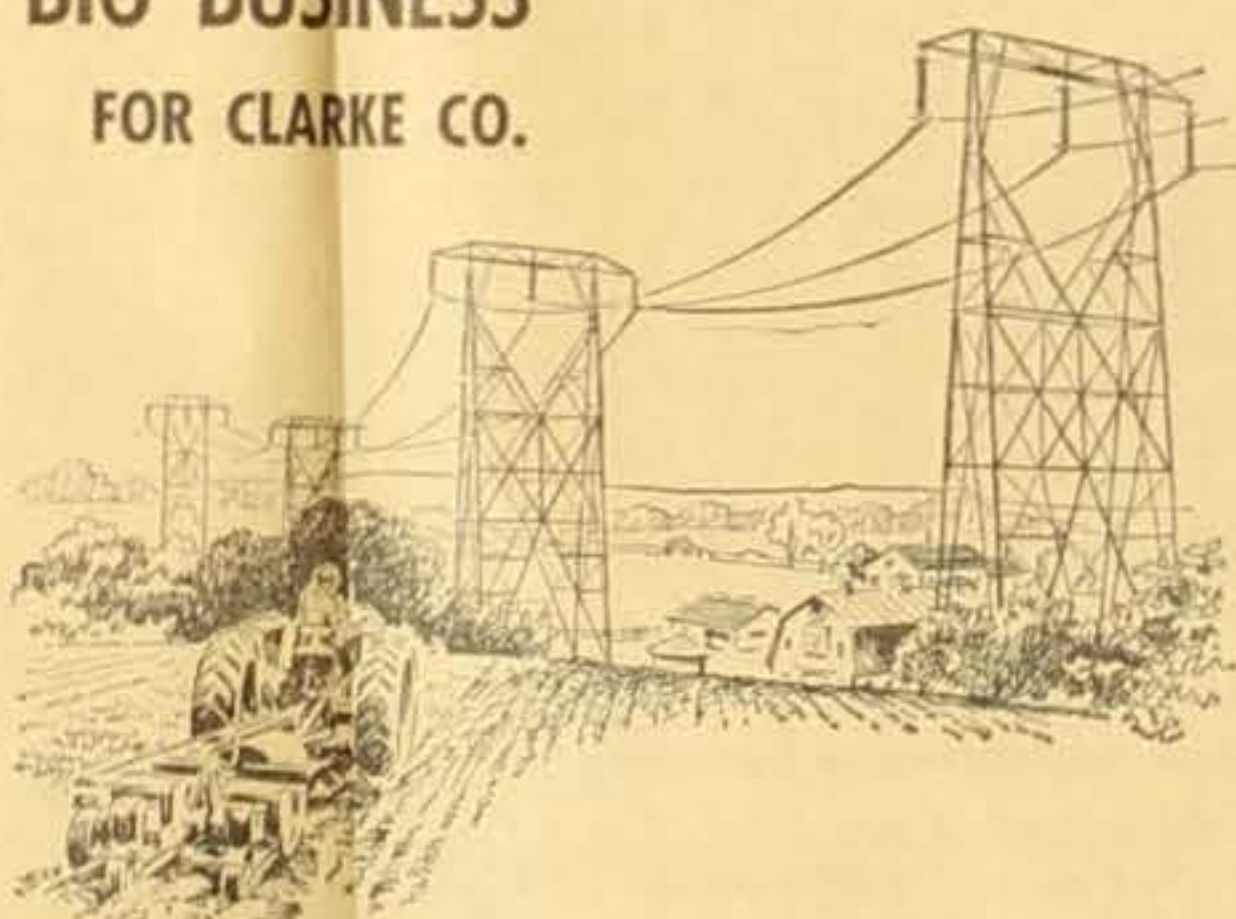
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