

S IOWA SOIL and WATER

Official Publication of the Iowa Association of Soil District Commissioners and the Iowa State Watersheds Association



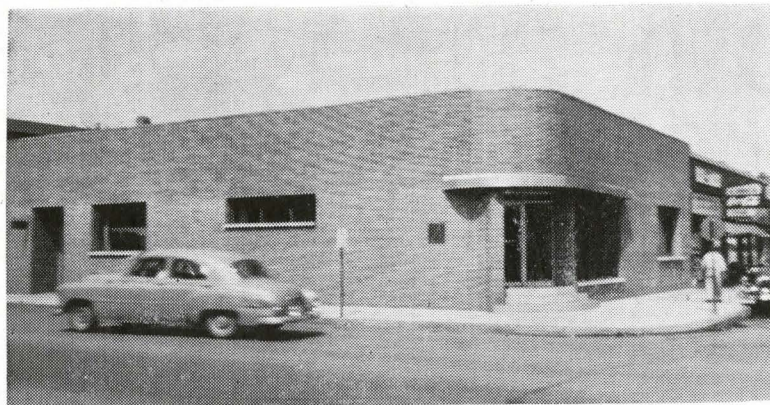
Good Livestock Production Goes Hand in Hand with Soil and Water Conservation

AUGUST
1 9 5 6

**Black Hawk Soil District to Be Host to the
Commissioners Annual Convention Sept. 9-11**

(See Story on Page 3)

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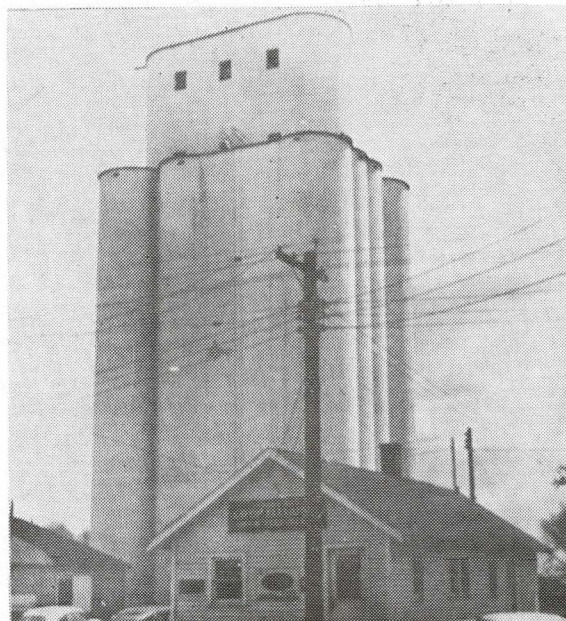
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IOWA SOIL and WATER

Barr Keshlear, President, Iowa State Watershed Association, Shenandoah, Iowa

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Clyde Spry, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

Frank H. Mendell, State SCS Conservationist.

Dr. George M. Browning, Assoc. Director Exp. Station, Iowa State College.

Barr Keshlear, President, Iowa State Watersheds Association.

Hubert Beasley, Managing Editor

BARR KESHLEAR, Publisher

Iowa Soil & Water is published jointly by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Iowa State Watershed Association as information for proper conservation of each acre of agricultural land within its capabilities. The publication supplies information for members of both groups and others interested in soil erosion control and flood prevention.

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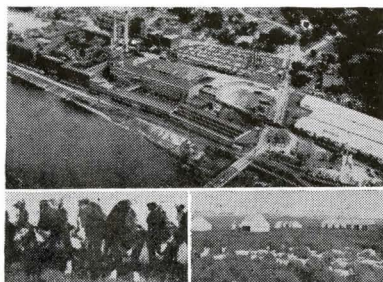
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IOWA SOIL AND WATER

The Cover



The cover picture selected for this month's issue of the Iowa Soil and Water is a montage that tells the story both of Black Hawk County and the state of Iowa—world's greatest agricultural state. The top picture is the Rath Packing Co. at Waterloo, Iowa, which processes a large portion of the beef cattle and market hogs as shown in the two smaller pictures.

Editorial

Conservation Today Leads America Tomorrow

By Henry Waldorf

Each day U. S. farmers have 8,000 more people for breakfast.

Are we managing our soil resources so that this continuing drain on our soil can be met? Are we maintaining the productive capacity of our soil through good land management practices? It can be done.

With the use of good soil and water conservation practices, terraces, strip - cropping, contour farming, grassed waterways, surface and internal drainage, gully control structures, pasture improvement, wildlife area development, woodland development and improvement, and the use of lime, fertilizer, manures, adequate crop rotation, and grasses and legumes incorporated in a conservation farm plan on each farm, we will be able to maintain a permanent agriculture.

The loss of soil has been practically stopped where such a program has been carried out. The drought hazard has been reduced. The productivity and fertility levels and yields have been increased. The value of the land has been increased. The net income of the farm has been increased.

This is a good time to get started on a long time soil and water conservation building and maintenance program. Stop in at our office and talk your problems over with us—we are here to serve you.

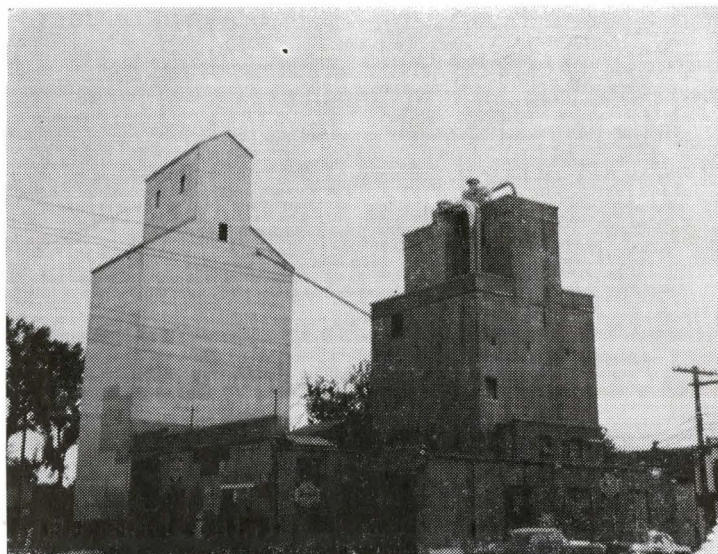
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Recipe for "How to Bring Starvation to the American People"

Too many farmers unconsciously are following it to the destruction of their own livelihood. Here's the recipe word for word:

"Cut one medium-sized farm into irregular pieces.

"Add several successive cash crops to remove the humus.

"Stir the thin layer of topsoil frequently until the soil particles are ready to be carried off

by the next hard rain. Carefully work the land up and down the slope so the furrows will form waterways for rapid disposal of excess water and soil. Keep doing this until the hard pan shows through on the hilltops and slopes.

"Then cut into deep, irregular gullies and leave out in the sun to bake. When done, season with an unpainted house, broken-

down fences, some old worn-out machinery, a rickety barn, a good sprinkling of unpaid bills, with a pinch of despair. Garnish with weeds.

"Serve with a tax sale and move on."

That's the end of the recipe. We think it does a very good job of speaking for itself.

**National Plowing
Match and Field Day
In Jasper County
Sept. 20, 21, 22, 1956
Plan to Attend**

"QUEEN OF THE FURROW"

The "Queen of the Furrow" contest, held in connection with the National Soil Conservation District Field Days and Plowing Matches in Jasper County, Iowa, September 20, 21, and 22, 1956, is being sponsored by Iowa Soil Conservation Districts and the American Fence Company Dealers. Soil conservation districts throughout the state, in cooperation with local American Fence Company dealers, are cooperating in the sponsorship of the local queen contest. Two contestants are eligible from each of the 100 soil districts in the State of Iowa. These contestants will then compete in nine regional contests. The nine winners will then compete for the top prize, or the "Queen of the Furrow" title. The regions referred to are those established by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners. The American Fence Company is providing small jewelry prizes to district winners; 21-jewel wrist watches for regional winners; and an all-expense trip to Chicago plus a wardrobe will be given to the queen. The final selection for the queen will be made at a program scheduled at Newton Saturday, September 15, 1956. The queen will serve as official hostess for the conservation event and will reign over the activities.

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Tenth Annual Conference of Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners to be Held in Waterloo, Iowa September 9, 10, & 11 of September, 1956

WELCOME

TO THE DELEGATES AND THEIR WIVES WHO PLAN TO ATTEND THE TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS TO BE HELD IN WATERLOO, IOWA, ON SEPTEMBER 9 TO 11, INCLUSIVE.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the officers and members of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, I want to extend our sincere greeting to you upon the occasion of your coming visit to our city for your Tenth Annual Conference.

Our Chamber of Commerce has been working closely with your officers and I know that a most interesting and informative Conference has been prepared for you.

In arranging for this year's meeting, we have not forgotten the ladies and I know that they will be pleased with the arrangements which have been made for them.

Looking forward with the greatest pleasure to seeing you on September 9th, I am

Very truly yours,
WATERLOO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
L. A. "Pat" Touchae, Executive Secretary

Annual Conference Program

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1956

Registration 2:00 P. M. Lobby, Hotel Russell Lamson
Coffee Hour 2:00 P. M. to 6:00 P. M. arranged by local District Commissioners and Their Wives
Smorgasbord 6:30 P. M. Black Hawk Room, Hotel Russell Lamson
Welcome Wayne Mark
Introductions Hubert Beasley
Introductions President, IASDC
Introductions Clyde Spry
Social Hour Secretary of Agriculture and Member of the State Soil Conservation Committee
Music Pat Touchae
Secretary, Waterloo Chamber of Commerce
Margaret Dravis

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1956

Registration 8:00 A. M. Lobby, Hotel President
Business Session 8:30 A. M. Gold Room, Hotel President
Presiding Chris H. Jensen
Farmer Member, State Soil Conservation Committee
Invocation Rev. Donald H. Iles
Pastor, First Evangelical United Brethren Church, Cedar Falls
Introduction of Guests Wm. Mitchell
Regional Director, IASDC
General Discussion George Eason, Presiding,
and Fred Cherry
Topics include commissioner elections, number of commissioners, term of office, report of budget expenditures past fiscal year and recommended askings for coming biennium, report on watershed material.
10:30 A. M.
Recess 10:40 A. M.
Presiding Frank Mendell
State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service
Discussion on Soil Bank Program Including Conservation Reserve Representative of State ASC Committee
12.00
Luncheon Gold Room, Hotel President
Presiding Dean Andre
Director of Extension, Iowa State College
Invocation Dr. E. T. Gough
First Methodist Church at New Hartford
Presentation of State Committee Awards Kenneth Wagner
Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee
Address—"Farming Today Sets Tomorrow's Table" John Coverdale
Representative of Rath Packing Company
1:30 P. M.
Business Session Gold Room, Hotel President
Presiding James Foster
Farmer Member, State Soil Conservation Committee
Report on Water Study Committee James Hudson
Secretary, Iowa Study Committee on Water Rights and Drainage Laws
2:00 P. M.
Registration Lobby, Hotel Russell Lamson
2:15 P. M.

IOWA SOIL AND WATER

PROGRAM, CONTINUED

Recess 2:30 P. M.
Report of Association Activities R. Edward Baur, Presiding
Panel made up of IASDC Officers and Directors
5:00 P. M.
Committee Meetings (to be announced) Hotel President
6:30 P. M.
Banquet Black Hawk Room, Hotel Russell Lamson
Presiding Kenneth Wagner
Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee
Invocation Rev. C. D. Sink
Church of the Brethren, Orange Township
Address Marvin McLain
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.
Introduction of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Representative Louis Culver, Regional Director, IASDC
Presentation of Goodyear Awards

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1956

Registration 8:00 A. M. Lobby, Hotel Russell Lamson
7:30 A. M. to 9:00 A. M.
Tour of Rath Packing Company John Coverdale
Representative of Rath Packing Company
9:30 A. M.
Committee Reports and Discussion R. J. Moore, Presiding
Secretary, IASDC
11:00 A. M.
Caucus of Regions and Elections 12:30
Luncheon Gold Room, Hotel President
Presiding Hubert Beasley
President of IASDC
Invocation Rev. Harold Bjornson
First Baptist Church at Waterloo
Presentation of Outstanding Commissioner Awards Ralph Vogel
Farm Service Director, Radio Station KXEL, Waterloo
Address Clare Guess
Program Director
National Association Soil Conservation District Commissioners
Adjourn
Tour to John Deere Tractor Manufacturing Company for those wishing to participate. Details to be announced at the conference.

LADIES' PROGRAM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1956

Board Bus at Hotel Representative, Chamber of Commerce in Charge
10:00 A. M.
Visit Rath Kitchen 10:15 A. M. to 10:45 A. M.
Visit Radio Station KXEL and KWWL-TV 11:00 A. M. to 11:45 A. M.
Arrive at Airport for Luncheon at 12:10 noon.
Finish Luncheon at 1:15 P. M.
1:15 P. M. to 1:45 P. M.
Take Airport Tour 2:00 P. M. to 4:00 P. M.
Tour of Model Homes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1956

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 9:00 A. M. to 11:00 A. M. Gold Room, Hotel President

Commissioners To Tour Rath Packing Plant

Representatives of the Rath Packing Company at Waterloo, Iowa, have made arrangements for soil conservation district commissioners and their friends to tour their plant Tuesday, September 11. The conservation people will be in Waterloo September 9, 10, 11 attending their 10th Annual Conference being held at Hotels Russell Lamson and President. John Coverdale of Rath Packing Company is in charge of arrangements and will also appear as speaker at the Monday noon luncheon at Hotel President.

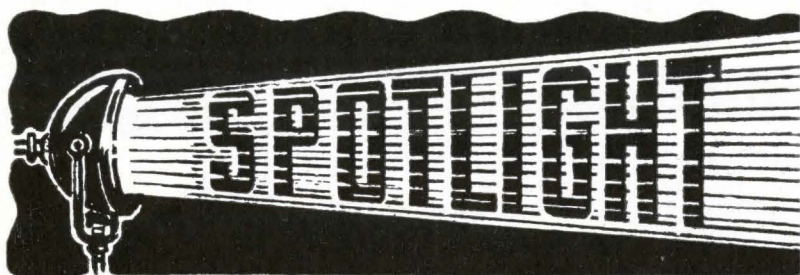
Outstanding Comm. Awards Sponsored By KXEL

Radio Station KXEL of Waterloo, Iowa, is cooperating with the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the State Soil Conservation Committee in the sponsorship of the Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioners Contest for 1956. This contest includes all of the 100 soil districts in Iowa. Each district is entitled to one entry and these will compete in each of the nine regions in the state. The nine regional winners will then compete for the state top award. Suitable plaques and other recognition will be presented to the winners by Radio Station KXEL at the 10th Annual Soil Conservation District Commissioners Conference in Waterloo on September 12. Farm Director, Ralph Vogel is working with representatives of the other two sponsoring groups regarding the contest.

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Meet Iowa Commissioners---

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Black Hawk Commissioners



WAYNE MARK

WAYNE MARK
Chairman of Black Hawk
District Commissioners

The Wayne Mark family live in Union township in the northwest corner of Blackhawk county, the farmstead and original forty acres having belonged to the Mark family for nearly 100 years.

Wayne, Dorothy, and the four sons, Richard, age 16; Jerry, age 13; Thomas, age 10; and Leslie, age 6; farm 200 acres.

Wayne, his father and grandfather, have all been interested in conserving and building up the soil. In 1947, Wayne helped organize in Union township the first group of twenty district co-operators, hereby building a nucleus for the betterment of the community. He served four years as assistant commissioner under E. E. Sage and is currently chairman of the Blackhawk County Commissioners, serving his fourth year on the committee.

On his farm, he uses many soil saving practices: contouring, tiling, waterways, etc. In 1949, he built the first of several parallel terraces. A pooling agreement was worked out with two neighboring farmers in 1953, for waterway drainage for the three farms. Another pooling agreement in 1954, with one farmer resulted in a tile main paralleling one side of the waterway. In 1955, Wayne and the boys constructed an erosion control

(Continued to page 48)



HAROLD G. BAUER

HAROLD BAUER
Commissioner in
Black Hawk Soil District

Mr. Bauer has lived in Blackhawk County all of his life except two years, getting all of his schooling here. He now owns and operates 160 acres and rents 200 acres, two and one-half miles from home. He has had a soil conservation farm plan for about eight years on his own place following a five-year rotation of two years of meadow, two years of corn and one year of oats. This rotation plus a livestock program has helped to win for him the county corn yield contest several different years. This plan has helped develop his waterways and tile layouts until now, all of his land is within the rotation, and his complete plan is being maintained.

Mr. and Mrs. Bauer have a family of three girls and one boy who are in school except the oldest girl who is a Parish worker in Wisconsin.

Mr. Bauer has helped in community activities by serving on his church board, school board, Farm Bureau, and local elevator board.

In 1951, Harold won the state contest for corn yield on contoured land.

"True conservation in Blackhawk county is the wise use of 338,900 acres of farm land."



GERALD BEDARD

GERALD BEDARD
Commissioner in
Black Hawk Soil District

Gerald Bedard owns eighty acres and operates an additional 160 acres in Cedar township and has practiced contouring since 1942. He has a conservation farm plan in complete operation on his farm and is instrumental in getting his landlords to adopt soil and water conservation practices on their farms.

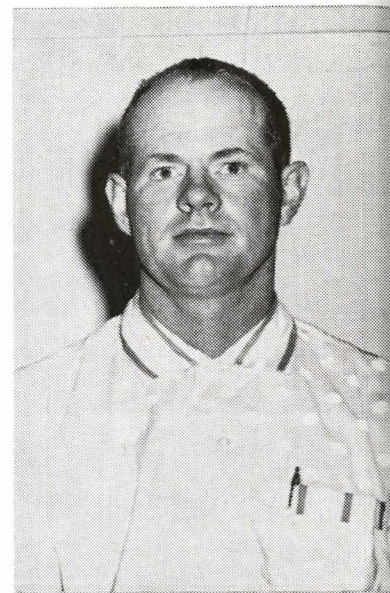
He is a member of the township ASC Committee and is County Farmer's Home Administration committeeman. Being the newest elected commissioner taking office in August, 1955, Mr. Bedard had previously served as an assistant commissioner under J. E. Entz since assistants were authorized.

The major livestock on Mr. Bedard's farm is Hereford cattle and he uses three and five-year rotations on his land.

Mrs. Bedard, the former Miss Pearl Brown, and children, three boys and three girls are all interested in soil conservation. The oldest, Pat, completed one of the top Conservation Workbooks in the county competition.

Mr. Bedard is a member of St. Mary's of Mount Carmel Catholic church at Eagle Grove and has also served on the County Farm Bureau Board.

"Live as though you are going to die tomorrow - Farm as though you are going to farm forever."



JOSEPH ENTZ

JOSEPH ENTZ
Assistant Commissioner in
Black Hawk Soil District

Joe Entz was born at Waterloo, Iowa, May 10, 1920. After graduation from Orange Township School, he attended Upper Iowa University for four years and graduated with a B. S. Degree. Joe had four years of service with the U. S. Marine Corps during World War II, serving in the South Pacific. The rest of his life has been spent farming in Black Hawk County.

Joe, his father, and his brother John are in partnership in farming the father's 430 acre farm. They follow a crop rotation of corn, oats, and two years alfalfa-brome, contour farm all their rolling land, have tile drained where necessary, have established adequate grass waterways, and have fenced the fields on rolling land with contour fences.

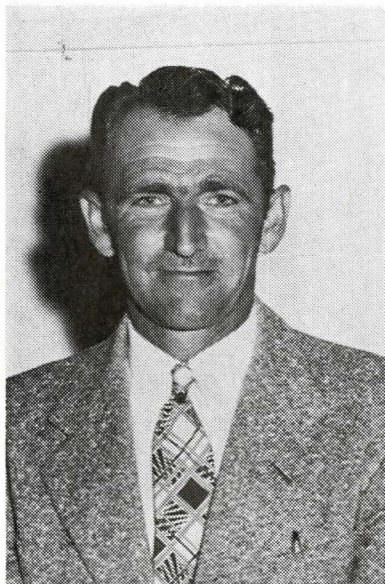
On August 11, 1951, Joe married Patty Hogan. They have two girls, Margaret Ann and Mary Jane.

Joe has been active in 4-H work and in the Young Married Club Association.

His experience as assistant commissioner under Gerald Bedard has been rather short, but he has enjoyed the work and hopes to learn much more about soil conservation in the future.

IOWA SOIL AND WATER

Past and Assistant Commissioners Help Carry On The Heavy Work Load in Black Hawk Soil District



HAROLD HUCK

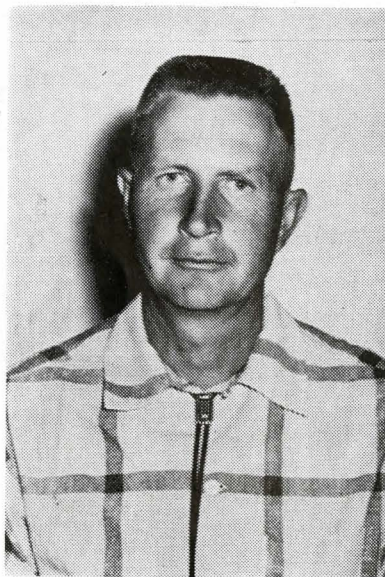
HAROLD HUCK
Assistant Commissioner in
Black Hawk District

Harold Huck, one of the assistant commissioners of Blackhawk County, is serving his fifth year. He has been serving as assistant under Harold Bauer.

Harold set up a soil conservation farm plan in 1949. Most of the practices followed so far are the construction of grass waterways, good drainage and a good rotation. A five-year rotation of corn, corn, oats, and two years of meadow is set up and in gear. Harold farms 180 acres in Spring Creek township. He has a two-acre wildlife area which was developed during the 1950 conservation field day. In 1950, a county conservation field day was held on his farm and two neighboring farms.

Mr. and Mrs. Huck have two daughters and one son.

Harold enjoys working with soil and water conservation and believes every farm should have a good conservation plan in effect on its land.



WENDELL GLASENER

WENDELL GLASENER
Assistant Commissioner in
Black Hawk District

Wendell owns and operates a 160-acre farm in Mount Vernon Township, and has lived all of his life in Black Hawk County. After graduating from high school, Wendell attended Iowa State College for a short time, after which he started farming.

He has a conservation farm plan on his farm. He is in gear on his five-year rotation of corn, corn, oats and two years of meadow. He is working on the completion of a gully control structure, his tile system and some waterways. Wendell and three cooperating neighbors are working together in a group drainage enterprise and pooling agreement to complete the tile main and the waterway which will benefit all parties.

He has been active as a 4-H leader for 10 years and he also serves on the Co-op elevator board in Cedar Falls.

He is the assistant commissioner working with Wayne Mark.

J. E. ENTZ

Ed Entz moved to Black Hawk County from Pennsylvania as a young man. He has lived on his present farm in Cedar township for 40 years. Ed and his family have changed this formerly run-down farm into one of high productivity and one which has an outstanding set of buildings. He has always practiced soil and water conservation. His main farming enterprises are dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs and sheep.

Mr. and Mrs. Entz, the former Leona Odowd, have five children, all of them married. They are Mrs. Paul Boysen, Joe Entz, Mrs. Robert Brindley, John Entz, Mrs. LeRoy Brasch. Also a host of grandchildren.

He was elected as one of the first commissioners of this Soil Conservation District and served in that capacity for ten years.

In 1948 Ed was presented the Skelly Award for superior achievement in soil conservation. In 1950 he was recognized as a Master Farmer of Iowa and in 1955 was awarded the WMT Radio Station Conservation Award for his outstanding work in soil conservation. Ed is a member of the Producers Board, the County Board of Education, the La Porte City Co-op, and the County Farm Bureau. He has served as President of the Black Hawk County Farm Bureau.

When the chips are down and the District needs help, Ed is one man to whom we go for assistance—he hasn't failed us yet.

ERNEST E. SAGE

Mr. Sage was born in Bennington township in 1894, and has lived in the county all his life.

He attended the rural schools in the county and later took a non-collegiate course for two years at Iowa State college. After completing this course, he taught school for three years before he married.

With his brothers, he started farming on his mother's farm. Mr. Sage never farmed without an adequate farm plan and he has lived on his present farm for thirty-three years. His conservation farm plan is in complete operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Sage have two children, Carol and James, and one grandson. James, his son, is about to complete his service in the army and he expects to come home and operate part of the farm.

Ernie has been a club leader, a school board member for twenty years, and is a member of the Session of the Presbyterian church in Waterloo. He is a member of the board of the Farm Bureau, secretary of the County Farm Bureau, a member of the Farmer's Co-operative at Cedar Falls, and is chairman of the board of the Carrington-Clyde experimental farm. He was one of the original commissioners of this District and served for eight years. Ernie has long taken an active part in furthering conservation in the county. He took a very active part in getting the soil conservation demonstration project and the Soil Conservation District established in the county.

The present rotation on his farm is two years of meadow, one year of corn and one year of oats, with his main farm project being hogs along with about 40 to 50 calves a year.

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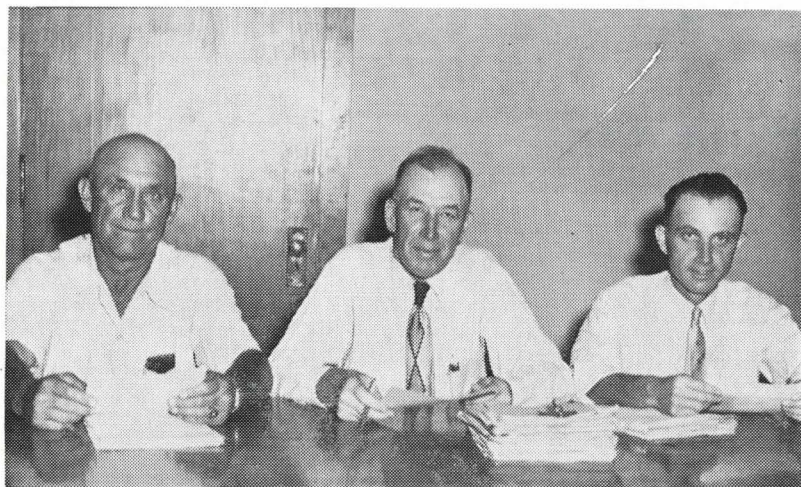
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ASC County Committee



Left to Right: Albert Reiter, Vice-Chairman; Glenn Mastain, Chairman; Paul Morgan, Member.

ASC Gives Aid To Farmers on Soil Practices

By Glenn Mastain, Chairman

The County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee is responsible for administering several programs. The one dealing with soil and water conservation problems is known as the Agricultural Conservation Program and is outlined below.

The County ASC Committee has a meeting each week with their office manager, secretary, and ASC field man. The Soil Conservation Service technician and the County Extension Director are advised at what time and place the meeting will be held and invited to attend-which they do whenever possible. At these meetings different phases of the program are discussed and we try to come up with the right answer for more and better conservation.

It is interesting to see how the ACP part of the program has grown over the years. At one time it was mostly lime, but now there are many requests for assistance in the construction of waterways, gully control structures, woodland practices and drainage practices. This is another step in soil conservation, and the new soil bank program will be yet another step forward.

There is no question in my mind that a lot of these practices would never have been started or completed had it not been for the ACP cost sharing payment.

ACP

This particular program probably takes the cooperation of more agencies than any of the others. For example, in some instances the township committees assist the farmer in signing up for a certain conservation practice. The office personnel will then complete the form and the county ASC committee will then

approve the request. On the permanent type practices, such as tile drainage, grass waterways, gully control structures, drainage ditches, terraces and land leveling, the SCS technicians determine the practicability and need of the practices and inform the County Committee. The County Committee then makes an allocation of Federal Cost Sharing Funds to the farm. After this allocation of funds by the County Committee, the SCS technicians complete the necessary design, lay-out and supervision of construction of the practice. Upon completion of the practice the SCS technicians certify to the County Committee that the practice was or was not carried out to meet ACP specifications. If the practice is certified as meeting the specifications, Federal Cost Sharing Payment is then made by ACP.

For forestry practices the Forest Service representative furnishes the same assistance as do the SCS technicians on the permanent practices. As Black Hawk County does not have a Forest Service representative, the County Extension Director takes over this responsibility.

The maximum allocation to a farm is \$1500.00.

One thing a lot of farmers forget or do not know is that after one project has been completed, they are eligible to ask for assistance on another, but cannot receive cost-sharing totaling more than \$1500.00.

Pooling Agreement

Another way in obtaining Federal Cost-Sharing is the use of the Pooling Agreement. Two or more farmers who have a common problem, such as drainage, may combine their requests for ACP cost-sharing assistance in a Pooling Agreement. One party of this group may be designated as the agent or manager. The same

Office Personnel of ASC



Back Row, Left to Right: Marilyn Schuchhardt, Clerk; Marilyn Costlan, Clerk. Front Row: Mildred Kruger, Clerk; J. J. Kelley, Office Manager; Shirley McLaurey, Clerk.

steps are followed by SCS as in an individual request. The designated manager will receive the cost-sharing check and pro-rate it to the parties involved. An additional step is necessary to complete the pool. After making a preliminary survey the SCS technician reports his findings to the group and if they decide to carry out the project it is necessary that all easements for rights of way and maintenance of the project be completed and a copy given to the SCS before the final survey, lay-out and construction will be made. These easements are for the protection of all parties involved and when filed at the county courthouse become a permanent record for the project. One farm's total allocation of ACP Cost-Sharing in this type of project may be as much as \$10,000.00. The use of a Pooling Agreement can be used to advantage by many groups of farmers in the county to install tile mains, drainage ditches, waterways and structures to overcome a neighborhood problem.

The Farmer's Responsibility

In order to expedite the management of the AC Program, it will be necessary for each participant to ASSUME and CARRY OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES under the program. These responsibilities include the following requirements:

1. A request for assistance from Federal Cost-Sharing funds for any conservation practice must be made BEFORE any work is started on the project or NO payments can be made.
2. Notify the ASC Committee or the Soil Conservation Service at least TWO WEEKS before starting the establishment of a permanent conservation practice (terraces, waterways, drainage ditches, land leveling, tile drains). It is REQUIRED that the Soil Conservation

Service technicians be given sufficient time to survey, design and lay out the practice before work is started.

3. Notify the ASC Committee immediately upon completion of the establishment of a conservation practice by forwarding the applicable Form ACP-245, filled out and signed.
4. A CONTRACTOR'S CERTIFICATE for each permanent practice must be completely filled out, by the CONTRACTOR, and forwarded by the PARTICIPANT at the same time as the Form ACP-245, IMMEDIATELY upon completion of the work. It is REQUIRED that this CERTIFICATE be submitted before the SCS technician will make a check of the practice and make a certification of performance for it.

Upon the receipt of the Form ACP-245 and the receipt of the completed CONTRACTOR'S CERTIFICATE by the ASC office, the Soil Conservation Service will be notified to make a check of the installed practice for certification of performance.

If no certification of performance is made there will be no Federal Cost-Sharing payment made. If the completed practice does not meet or exceed the specifications in the Iowa ACP handbook, there will be no Federal Cost-Sharing payment made.

Borden's Soy Processing Co.

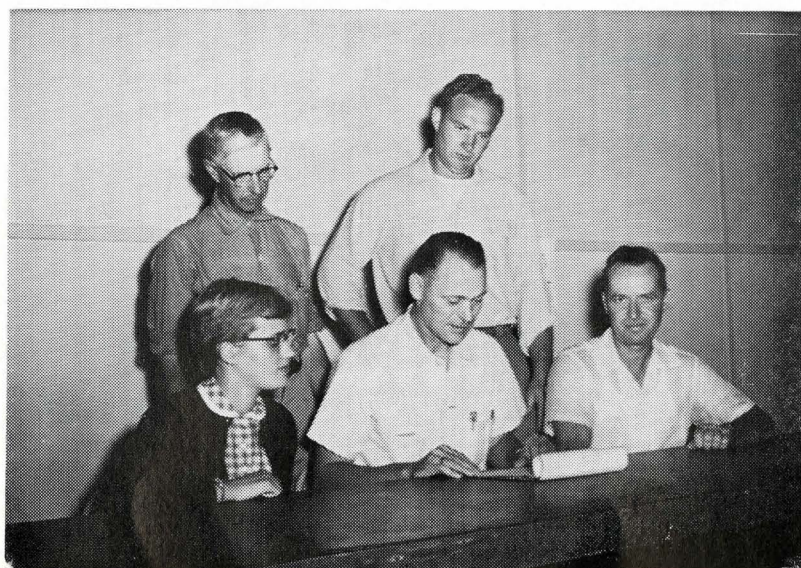
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Waterloo, Iowa

IOWA SOIL AND WATER

Soil Conservation Service and District Personnel Work with Commissioners in "getting the conservation job done" in Black Hawk District



HOW YOUR SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT FUNCTIONS

By Wayne Mark,
Chairman of District Comm.

The Soil Conservation District belongs to the farmers themselves. It is organized for:

1. Conservation of our remaining soil and water resources.
2. Development of our land to meet every increasing demand.
3. Self-government by the farmers of our county.

This District was voted into existence by the local land owners under state enabling legislation. It is managed by local farmers, locally elected for their non-paying jobs. They are on nobody's payroll, and are obligated to no group, state, federal or other outside authority. They are responsible to the farmers of our county. They draw on the support and facilities of everyone who can contribute something to the District progress, the various state, county, federal and private agencies, including business establishments, civic organizations, schools, banks and others.

Some of the agencies with which the Black Hawk County Soil Conservation District cooperates are the United States Soil Conservation Service, the State Soil Conservation Committee, the State Agricultural Extension Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. Each of these agencies has definite responsibilities:

IOWA SOIL AND WATER

The U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE is the TECHNICAL agency of government in the field of soil and water conservation. It is represented locally by the work unit conservationist (Farm Planner), who provides direct ACRE by ACRE technical assistance to the farmer. It makes no cash payments.

The STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE offers assistance to the Commissioners and the Districts, aids in coordinating the programs between districts, and renders financial aid to districts as provided by law.

The STATE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE is the EDUCATIONAL agency of the state government in the field of agriculture and home economics. It is represented locally by the County Extension Director. It does not make cash payments to farmers or provide direct technical assistance in farm conservation planning or application of such plans.

The AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee is the agency of government MAKING PAYMENTS for soil and water conservation practices.

The commissioners meet regularly once each month and at times at special meetings to determine and set up policies and procedures for carrying out the district's functions. Any farmer who cares to is invited to attend these meetings.

The District has no taxing power. Through the State Soil

Conservation Committee the District receives \$500.00 per year of state funds to be used for payment of commissioners' mileage and expenses when on official business, and for payment of office expenses. The Committee also allocates funds on a need basis, to Districts for use in hiring clerical and technical aid personnel.

The past two years the commissioners have carried out a program with the ministers of the churches of the county in the observance of Soil Stewardship Sunday. The cooperation of the many ministers and priests in this program has been very gratifying.

The District sponsors a booth at the National Dairy Cattle Congress each year. The commissioners invite you to stop at the booth when you visit the Congress to talk over your experiences or problems in soil and water conservation.

With the concurrence of the District Commissioners the SCS technicians cooperate with Iowa State Teachers College by furnishing instruction in three different college courses. It is felt that the furnishing of a background in soil and water conservation to these future teachers will result in the spreading of more information in soil and water conservation.

The District co-sponsors, with the sportsmen's organizations of the county, a program involving the completion of Conservation Activities books by the students of the schools participating in this project.

The Black Hawk County Soil Conservation District Office is located on the second floor of the Tribune Press Building, 405 Lafayette, Waterloo, Iowa. This is one block north and one block west of the county courthouse. The phone number is AD 3-0353. You are invited to drop into the office and talk over your conservation problems with the District technicians.

MAKE REQUESTS EARLY

Requests for technical assistance in establishing soil and water conservation practices should be made to the Black Hawk County Soil Conservation District office at least two weeks before the practice is to be started. This advance notification is necessary because of the great number of requests received from the farmers in the county and the small staff of technicians available to give this assistance.

Those farm owners or operators wishing to carry out earth moving or tile drainage work should get in touch with their contractors early so that they may make arrangements to get the work done at the time preferred.

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DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS — TO DATE

Practice	Unit	Amount
Contour Farming	Ac	27,759
Contour Strip-Cropping	Ac	160
Conservation Crop Rotation	Ac	37,499
Pasture Planting	Ac	862
Tree Planting	Ac	35
Fence Row Improvement (Wild Life)	Rds	33,955
Wild Life Area Improvement	Ac	76
Check Dams	No	10
Drainage	Ac	8,137
Open Drainage Ditches	Mi	63
Open Drainage Ditches (Earth Moved)	Cu Yd	440,591
Tile Drains	Rds	2,389,571
Terraces	Mi	38
Waterway	Ac	825
Land Leveling	Ac	43
Field Reorganization	Rds	119,172

"Each soil conservation plan is made to suit the individual farm."

"A farm conservation plan today will maintain your land valuation."

Black Hawk County Extension Personnel



County Extension Staff—Rear Row, from left to right as you look at the picture: Kay Beinke, Office Assistant; Roger Bruene, County Extension Youth Assistant; Betty Eaton, Office Secretary; Front Row: Carol Bennett, County Extension Home Economist; Paul Barger, County Extension Director.

Extension Carries on Educational Program In Conservation

By Paul Barger,
County Extension Director

The County Extension Council is by law the governing body for the entire Extension Program in each Iowa County. Personnel are employed by the Council to direct the program.

The Black Hawk County Council meets monthly to develop and supervise the program of education along all lines. These include 4-H club work, agronomy, livestock, family living, Farm and Home Management, Community Activities, and Public Affairs.

Details of the Extension Program are developed with the assistance of committees who study each major part.

The Agronomy committee develops an educational program of meetings, demonstrations, and information on crops and soils.

This is the program of assistance to the district in soil and water conservation.

Permanent plots are planted which give farmers visual information as to the growing habits of various legumes and grasses.

Each year varieties of oats, soybeans, and grain sorghums are planted as observation plots for farmers to study growth, habits, maturity, and disease resistance.

Corn yield contests are sponsored to determine the best practices of soil and water control to secure maximum yields.

Annual schools are held to keep farmers and leaders posted on the most up to date methods and ideas.

Page 8

Demonstrations are developed with fertilizers, pasture seeding mixtures, and water saving practices in order to assist all farmers to more effectively operate their farms.

SOIL TESTS AND FERTILIZER

1. Farmers increased their use of fertilizer by 100 per cent during the past five years and 1,600 per cent during the past 10 years. This large increase indicates that our farmers are rapidly becoming aware of the significant role that fertilizers can play in increasing crop production and at the same time in lowering production costs.

If fertilizers are to do the job intended, they must be used in accordance with soil and crop needs. In addition, they should be used in a sound soil management program. Only then can maximum returns be realized for the money invested in fertilizer.

2. Suitable crop management practices must also be employed if highest yields are to be obtained. Cultural practices must be fitted to the soil conditions and adapted varieties are essential for continuous satisfactory yields. The importance of weed and insect control varies with the year and soil conditions, but is always a major consideration. Under adequate fertility conditions the stand of field corn is too low on most farms. With high fertility levels, yields of field corn have been increased by more than 50 per cent by increasing stands from two stalks per hill to an equivalent of five stalks per hill. Climatic conditions may alter such results.

3. Using fertilizer is one way of adding capital to the resource of land to either maintain or



County Extension Council, from left to right: Elmer Helm, Black Hawk Township; Mrs. Harry Brown, Mt. Vernon Township; Alfred Schneider, Fox Township; Gene Rodeske, Lester Township; Carl Thierman, Cedar Falls Township; C. L. "Bill" Hoffman, Chairman, East Waterloo Township; Robert Sieglaff, West Waterloo Township; Mrs. Robert Linde, Cedar Township; Lawrence Stocker, Spring Creek Township; Paul Heiple, Poyner Township; Vernon Miller, Orange Township; Absent: Dick Bowers, Lincoln Township.

increase production. How profitable it may be is determined by the cost of the fertilizer and its application as related to the value of the increased production. In deciding the most profitable level of fertilizer application on any crop, two important things must be considered. The first is, that as the rate of fertilizer application per acre is increased beyond a point, each additional unit gives a smaller increase in production. This is called the diminishing rate of return.

If there are no alternative uses of the capital being used as fertilizer, then it would be applied at the level where the cost of the last unit of fertilizer equals the value of the increased production from the last unit.

If there are alternative uses in the farm business of the capital and labor used in applying fertilizer, the level of application will be determined by the returns from the alternative uses. But again the goal should be using fertilizer to the level where the last unit of cost will give a greater return than any other place in the farm business.

How To Determine Fertilizer Needs

4. Soil tests are the most practical method of determining fertilizer needs. Chemical tests are checked against numerous samples taken from areas where field experiments with commercial fertilizers have been conducted by the Agricultural Experiment Station. Information on how to get your soil tested is available in the county extension office. Soil samples may be sent to the Soil Testing Laboratory, Iowa State College, Ames. Tests are made for lime re-

quirement, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

5. You can make a simple field check on fertilizer response by leaving one or more strips without fertilizer. Observe the effects on the growth of the crop at different times during the year.

Field experiments give the most accurate information on the response that may be expected from different fertilizers.

Buy Fertilizer By Grade And Ratio

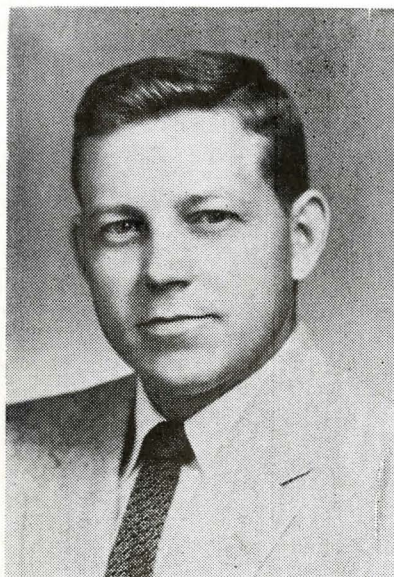
6. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the three plant nutrients commonly sold in commercial fertilizers. All of these elements are present in the soil, but oftentimes the amounts in available form are too small for best plant growth and yield. Each of the three elements has a certain job to do in producing a crop. One cannot substitute for the other. Adding phosphorus will do little for a soil that is too low in nitrogen or potassium. If a soil is low in two elements such as nitrogen and phosphorus, a combination of the two is essential for best results.

In addition to nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, plants require calcium. Calcium added as limestone benefits crops on acid soils. Plants also need magnesium, sulphur, copper, zinc, manganese, iron, boron and molybdenum. According to present information, Iowa soils are adequately supplied with these elements for good crop yields. However, some crops on certain soils need specific elements such as iron and boron. These can best be

(Continued on page 27)

IOWA SOIL AND WATER

F. H. A.



ALBERT L. KIMLER

County Supervisor
Office at Independence
Service Four-County Area:
Blackhawk - Buchanan
Grundy - Linn

F. H. A. Loans Available for Farm Land Practices

By Albert L. Kimler

Soil and Water Conservation loans are available through the Farmers Home Administration to help farmers in this county in the improvement, protection and proper use of farmland.

To be eligible for a soil and water conservation loan an applicant must be a citizen of the United States; a farm owner or operator; be unable to obtain necessary credit on reasonable terms and conditions from private sources. Non-profit organizations, such as incorporated water users' associations, mutual water and drainage companies, irrigation and drainage districts, soil conservation districts, are eligible for a loan when they are unable to obtain credit elsewhere and when they meet certain requirements.

Loan funds may be used to pay the cash costs to carry out approved soil conservation practices, develop irrigation systems, develop farmstead water supply systems, develop drainage systems, and related measures. Loans will be made to carry out only the types of soil and water conservation practices that are in accord with recommendations made by the Soil Conservation Service.

The eligibility of the applicant is determined by the three members of the F. H. A. County Committee, at least two of whom are farmers. Committee members are Jerry Schares, Jesup farmer; Wayne Mark, Cedar Falls farmer.

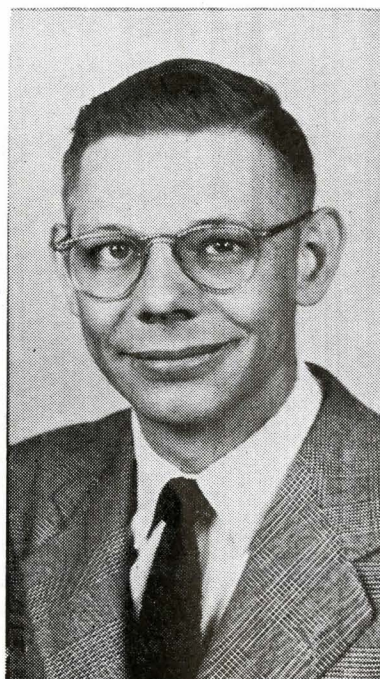
Black Hawk Co. Farm Bureau Ins. Services

LIFE

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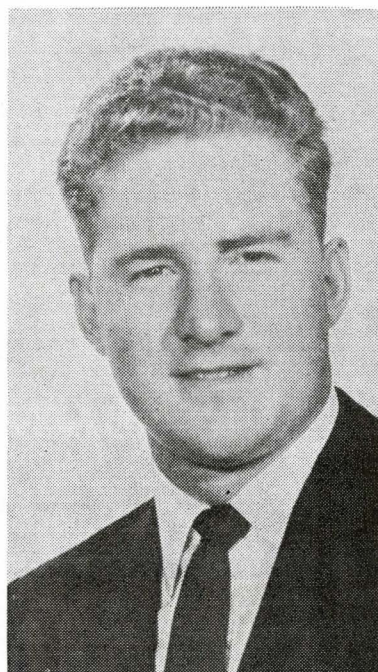
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LE ROY ENGEL, Special Agt.



HUGH J. CROFT, Agency Mgr.

1930 Hawthorn
WATERLOO, IOWA

er; and Gerald Bedard, LaPorte City farmer. The committeeman whose term expired July 1 was Dale DeKoster, local banker.

Loans will be scheduled for repayment within the shortest time consistent with the borrower's ability to repay. In no case will the period on loans to individuals exceed 20 years. Individuals can borrow amounts up to \$25,000, but it is expected that the average loan application will be for less than \$5,000. Interest rate is 4½ per cent.

The security for the loan will be the lien on real estate.

The Farmers Home Administration makes the loan, collects the payments, and services the security. Applications for all loans: Soil and Water Conservation, Production and Subsistence, Farm Ownership, Farm Housing, will be made at the office of the F. H. A. at Independence or in room 317 of the Post Office building in Waterloo the third Monday afternoon of each month.

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Three Rivers Watershed Group Holds Dinner Meeting and Tour of the Watershed



ERNEST MUELLER
Knoxville Farmer and
Chairman of the Three Rivers
Watershed Council

100 Farmers Attend Tour

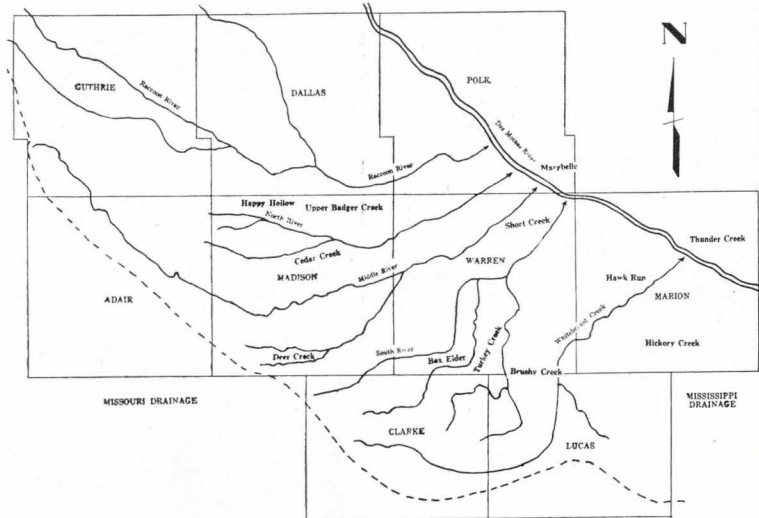
Evidence that the Three Rivers Watershed movement is gaining farmer attention is the well attended tour and dinner meeting held in Van Meter, on July 27. About 100 farmers viewed the

moisture-saving accomplishments during the tour in the Happy Hollow and Badger Creek Watersheds in Madison county. Dr. G. E. Brown, geologist of Iowa City, discussed underground water formation and levels at the evening meeting.

These late afternoon tours and evening meetings have been a quarterly event planned by the Three Rivers Watershed Council. The local people of the particular watershed have usually been hosts to visiting groups. Such tours have been held in Guthrie, Warren, Lucas, Marion and Madison Districts. This late afternoon glimpse of a watershed and what the people are doing about their own problems, the fellowship of a meal together, followed by a good speaker has served to maintain interest and gather enthusiasm for the problems of the Three Rivers area.

Speakers of these meetings have been well known conservationists Frank Mendell, Judge Levis, T Bone McDonald, Louis Culver, George Eason, Wayne Prichard, Clyde Spry, Don Berry, Lester Clapp and Dwight Meyer. Needless to say these men have brought inspiration to the local people to spur their ef-

Map of Three Rivers Watershed In Nine-County Area



forts toward watershed accomplishment.

To assist and encourage local watershed organization a leaflet has just been published by the Three Rivers Council. This brochure shows graphically the land area drained by North, Middle and South Rivers—also parts of South Raccoon and White Breast Creek. The nine counties com-

prising this watershed are Madison, Dallas, Guthrie, Cedar, Polk, Clark, Warren and Lucas.

Because of the fast run-off characteristic of this drainage area, it has been charged with contributing to the flooding of the Des Moines River. The Three Rivers Watershed group has accepted this challenge. Its long-time goal is aimed at complete treatment of the more than two million acres of land drained by the three rivers. When the Council was established just two years ago, only three small watersheds were formed. Today there are a dozen watersheds in the Three Rivers Council—proof that farmers really want to whip the water run-off problem.

Ernest Mueller, Knoxville, is chairman of this ambitious Three Rivers Watershed Council. He represents Marion county which boasts the greatest number of watershed groups. Vice president is Frank Erdman of Adel and John Bishop, vocational agriculture instructor at Winterset, is secretary of the organization.

"It's good horse sense to practice soil conservation."

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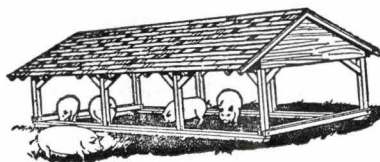
SAVE TIME!

SAVE TROUBLE!

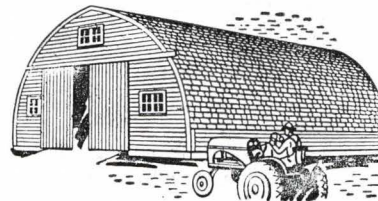
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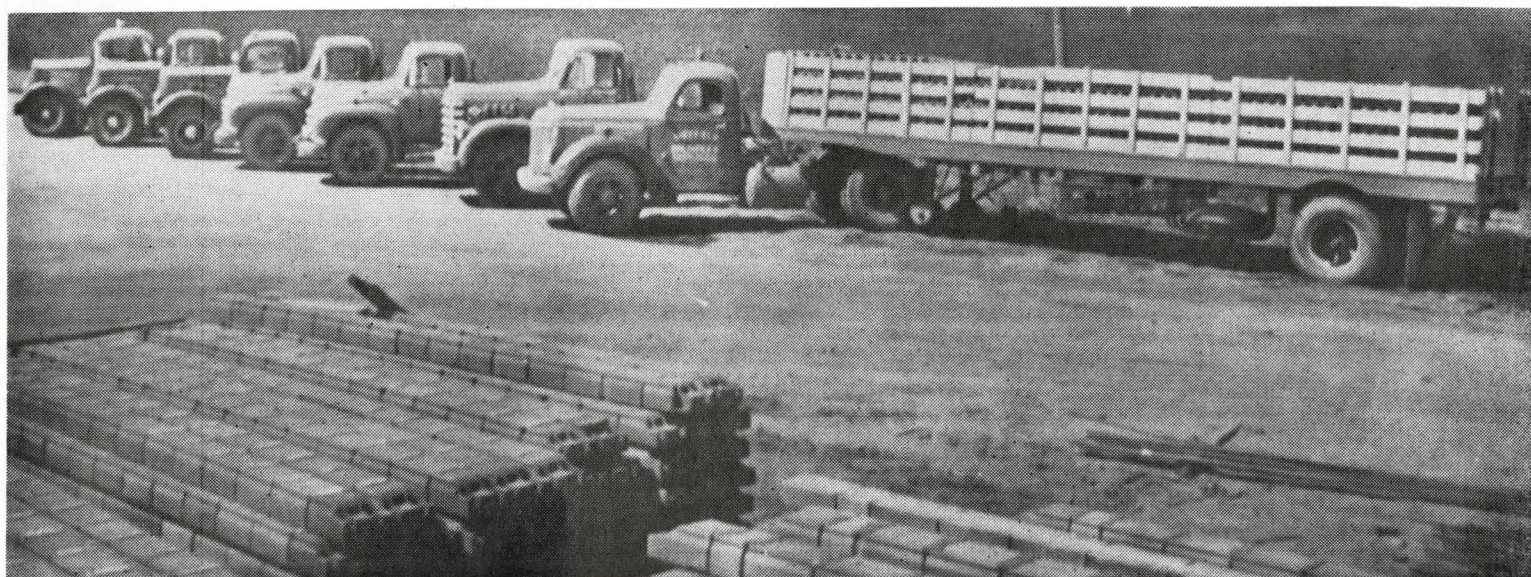
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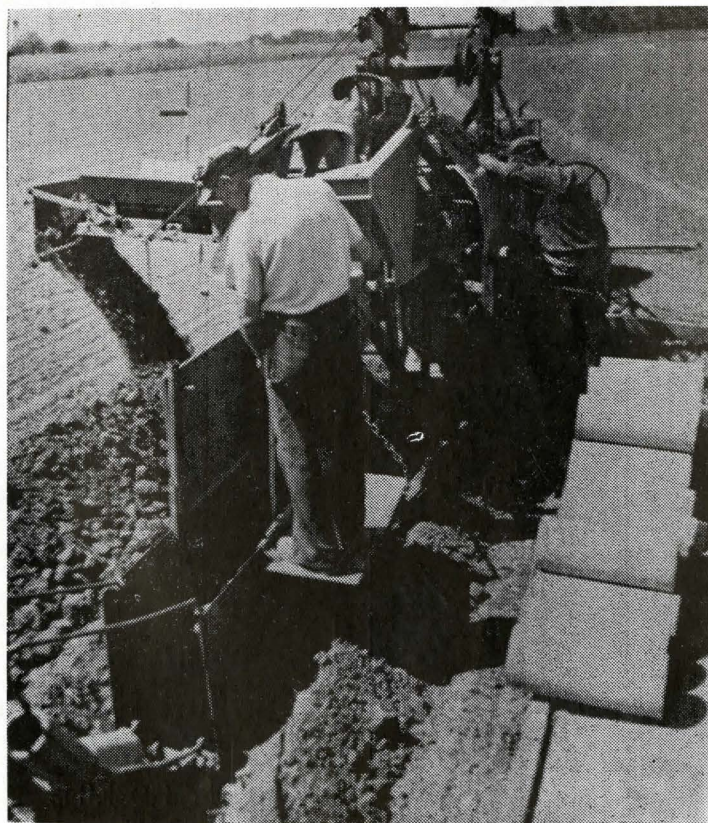
A fleet of heavy-duty trucks, such as are pictured above, owned by us and driven by our own employees, enables us to make quick deliveries.

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Mr. Melvin Skouge, Franklin County's leading drainage contractor, has this to say about Sheffield tile:

"I have used many hundreds of thousands of Sheffield tile with complete satisfaction to land owners. This has influenced me to use Sheffield tile exclusively. I take no chances. I KNOW Sheffield tile is highest quality.

(Signed) Melvin Skouge."



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A SPECIAL SERVICE

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service

For a long time folks have been asking us: "Just what is the SCS and what does it do?" That's the reason we finally decided to prepare this statement; not because we want to appear boastful but because this is your Service. You pay the taxes which support its program and you have a right to know how your money is being used.

In a number of important ways the SCS is different from all other agricultural agencies because it was designed to do a different kind of job. It is the branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture which furnishes soil conservation districts and individual farmers the technical assistance they must have to apply an effective program of soil and water conservation on the land.

No two acres of land are identical as to the slope, kind of soil, and degree of erosion. That's why farmers can't order a farm conservation plan from a catalog. It must be designed to fit that particular piece of land, acre by acre,

whether it's in crops, woods, or range, or used for wildlife.

For this reason the SCS has developed the only program in the entire Government which starts with a scientific analysis of the land. Then it helps the farmer adapt his operations to fit the natural requirements of every acre by giving him on-the-farm assistance.

Soil erosion is a national problem which cannot be solved by any one farmer, community, or state. The SCS program enables all farmers, communities, and states to work together toward its solution.

The SCS program does more than conserve soil and water resources. It increases these resources by boosting productivity of the land. And it pays its own way by increasing farm income.

Sternat and Gable

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What SCS Does For You

Provides highly qualified technical men who work personally on the land with each individual farmer requesting assistance.

The SCS selects its technicians carefully. Most of them were born on farms and are graduates of state agricultural colleges. They work under nonpolitical Civil Service appointments.

The SCS gives them special training in its own training centers.

The SCS keeps its men currently informed on scientific discoveries arising from land and water research conducted by both state and federal agencies. They are also informed on new developments learned from practical field experience.

Produces a coordinated soil conservation program which solves the land and water problems peculiar to each farm, when properly applied.

The complete farm conserva-

tion plan is developed with technical assistance from the SCS but is controlled by the farmer himself.

It is designed for that particular farm.

It is not compulsory.

It boosts farm income.

The farmer pays no special charge for technical assistance.

Cooperates in a program organized and directed by the farmers themselves.

Farmers organize their own soil conservation districts under state laws; not federal laws. They elect their own local supervisors, usually neighboring farmers, to direct district affairs. This insures full local control. The Soil Conservation Service works almost exclusively through districts.

When these districts ask SCS for assistance, full-time technicians are assigned to the district at no extra local cost. Federal funds pay them and furnish their necessary supplies and equipment.

These technicians have no authority whatsoever over the district or the farmers in it. The SCS directs the work of its own men and develops their technical standards. But, it has no power of any sort over the farmers or their soil conservation district.

Works freely in cooperating with all other agencies, federal, state, or local. The SCS also cooperates with private interests, civic organizations, and all other groups having a stake in conservation of our natural resources.

Provides a scientific and successful method of protecting America's land against damage without losing the traditional freedom of our American agriculture.

The SCS provides technical assistance to participants in the ACP, in its program of cost-sharing to farmers for establishing conservation practices, by surveying, designing, laying out, supervising construction, and certifying performance of practices.

"Soil Conservation practices pay through increased yields, reduction of soil and water loss, maintenance of soil fertility and productivity."

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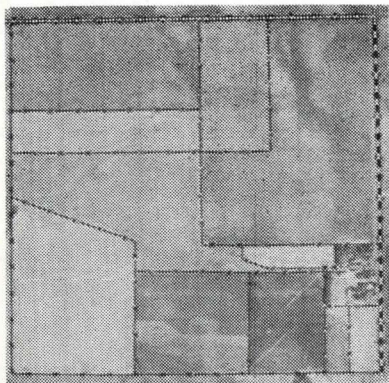
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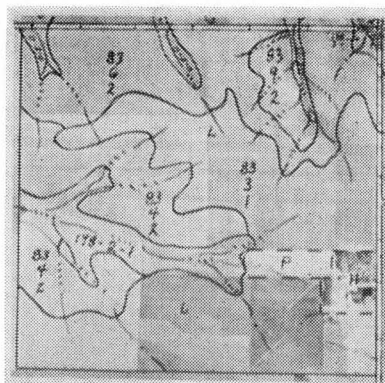
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WATERLOO, IOWA

A FARM PLAN IN USE



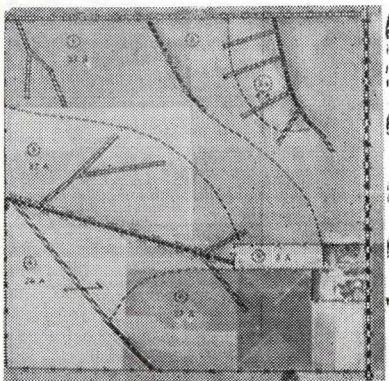
Farm Layout Prior To Plan

1. Poor Field Arrangement
2. Small Fields
3. Inadequate Rotation
4. Poor Waterway
5. Moderate Erosion
6. Need For Drainage



Soil Survey Map

1. Areas of Floyd Soil, #198, have need for tile.
2. Carrington Soil #83, an 4 and 6 per cent elopes and having moderate erosion show need for contouring and terracing.
3. Carrington on 9 per cent slope is a special erosion problem area.



Third Year of Program

1. Tile installed
2. Rotation completely established
3. Farm plan is complete operation

WHAT IS A FARM PLAN?

Above is a series of pictures of the Cecil Jones farm in Cedar Township. It shows the steps through which Cecil went in developing and putting into operation his conservation farm plan.

CONSERVATION FARM PLANNING

A Soil Conservation farm plan is a "guide", systematically developed by the farmer and the Soil Conservationist, which is to be used by the farmer to reach the conservation goal he has determined will meet the needs of his land.

In developing a complete conservation farm plan the plan must be based on the capability and needs of the land, the control of erosion, the conservation of rainfall, the maintenance of productivity and fertility of the land and the enterprise of the farm. The plan records the decisions by

the farmer in attaining his conservation goal and are developed from alternative suggestions by the farm planner. No one dictates to the farmer-it must meet his needs and the needs of his farm.

The technicians of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service accomplish these aims by the development of an ACRE BY ACRE conservation plan, using the following procedure:

1. The Soil Conservationist secures a conservation survey of each farm he is to work on. Using an aerial photograph of the farm he goes over the land with the farmer, acre by acre, and field by field, discussing soil capabilities, the expected volume of water to be handled, the length and degree of slope, the existing type of cover on the land, if any, and the location of woods, streams, etc.
2. They (the farmer and the Soil Conservationist) weigh all these factors, singly and in relation to the others, from the standpoint of soil and water conservation.
3. They decide, after a full consideration of the farmer's economic requirements, the most desirable, productive, sustained use to which each acre can safely be put. In short, they determine the land capability of each acre.
4. The farmer decides on the specific combination of conservation measures (such as terracing, contouring, drainage, grassed waterways, pasture renovation, improved rotation, wildlife areas and

First Year Program

1. Three fields put in gear in rotation
2. Three waterway systems developed
3. Intilled crop laid out on the contour
4. Three field boundaries developed.

woodland improvement) necessary to insure the productivity and erosion control of each acre under the indicated use.

5. They study the probable affect of the indicated land use and land treatment on adjoining acres and on other land and water in the watershed.
6. Now comes the actual application of this conservation plan on the land by the farmer. The Soil Conservation Service technicians assist the farmer by giving him technical help in the establishment of his plan.

A hundred years of farming experience in this area has definitely proved that nothing less than such thorough, acre by acre, use and treatment of the land according to the individual capabilities and needs of each acre will ever stop erosion, maintain productivity and fertility and provide a permanent agriculture.

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HISTORY OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

By Ernest E. Sage
Past Commissioner

The first fifty years of farming in Blackhawk County was a period, when production was emphasized, rather than conservation. Little concern was shown for soil management. The rich, virgin soil was thought to have unlimited fertility and that all the pioneer farmer had to do, to exist, was to use these soil resources.

The lighter sandy soil along the Cedar River was the first to show evidence that a change in methods would have to be made. The first group action in the county was made on this type of soil north of Cedar Falls in 1912. The Blackhawk County Crop Improvement Association, the forerunner of the Farm Bureau, was set up to cooperate with the Extension Service of Iowa State College. These two organizations, with the help of

business men in Cedar Falls, set up an experimental plot with different crops and varying treatments for the purpose of showing how and what crops could be profitably grown on land which had been partly abandoned. The crop, alfalfa, got its start as a result of this program. This plot created much interest and through the cooperation of the Extension Department and the Farm Bureau, an educational program on all phases of soil management was carried on very successfully.

In 1937 an Agricultural Land Use Planning Commission was formed representing all townships and other interested organizations, P. M. A., Sportsmen's Clubs, Extension Department. They studied the problems and made a series of recommendations, which later, were sent to the farmers in the county. The Extension Service made use of

these recommendations as a guide in their educational programs in this county.

Problems created by the drouth in 1934 and 1936 and results of the soil conservation part of AAA caused the interest in soil management to increase so that in 1939, the Farm Bureau Soils Committee set up five co-operative demonstration farms in different parts of the county. The Extension Service and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service joined in these demonstration farms. These farms created much interest so that the U. S. Soil Conservation Service set up a demonstration project north of Waterloo. Soil Conservation Service men worked in the county and complete farm plans were made and put into effect on several farms. World War II stopped this work.

The need for increased production due to the war, the educational program carried out by the Extension Service and the Farm Bureau, the benefits from the soil conservation phase of the PMA, and an increasing sense of responsibility of the individual farmer toward his land were all factors in getting people interested in forming a Soil Conservation District. In the spring of 1945, the Farm Bureau Soils Committee circulated petitions among the landowners and obtained 675 signatures for an election on the formation of a district. The committee also received nominations for district commissioners. Early in May, a hearing was held at the Blackhawk County Court House with Elijah, Jensen and Huntley, members of the State Soils Committee, present. The Farm Bureau Soils Committee had charge of the hearing and were very much gratified to receive support from the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, Sportsmen's Clubs and many interested individuals. The State Committee granted the request for an election, with Earl Elijah of the State Soils Committee in charge. The election was held in July. Two hundred and twenty voted for and twenty-nine against the formation of the district. E. R. Douglas was elected for the six-year term of commissioner, J. E. Entz for the four-year term and a tie between Vaughn Craft and Ernest E. Sage for the two-year-term was decided by the State Committee in favor of Sage.

The charter, making the district a legal part of the State government, was received from the State Committee in July, 1945. At that time Earl Douglas was made chairman, Paul Barger, County Extension Director, Secretary, and the district was in business.

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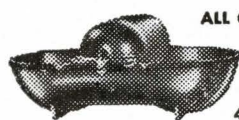
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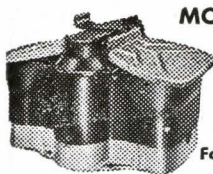
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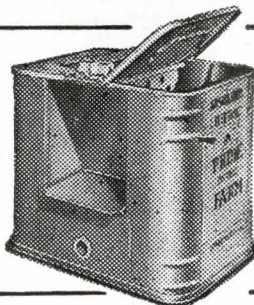


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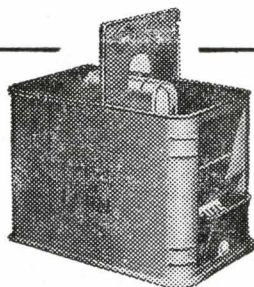
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A LOOK AT EVANSDALE AND ITS FUTURE The Home of Happy People

In 1947 Evansdale was incorporated as a city with a population of 1,473. It now has 7,000 people, living in 1,400 homes,

which the people own.

We have two new brick public schools, two parochial schools and five churches for our Sunday worship, plus a nice Y. M. C. A. Outpost.

We have a full time police force, and a very good fire department.

There are more than 80 retail business houses for you to trade with—all very nice people.

We also have plenty of room for industrial expansion. There is plenty of room for new businesses and they are coming in too.

The Evansdale Kiwanis Club has bought seven acres of land for a public park and is getting it in shape as fast as possible. The picture shows part of the park that is located on what is known as Meyer's Lake. It has picnic tables, water, fireplaces, rest rooms, and playground equipment.

Evansdale is located on Highway 297. In a short time, Highway 20 will be routed through Evansdale.

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CONTOUR FARMING



Farming On The Level

By Ed Entz,
Past Comm.

As I sit here at a family reunion in the state of my birth, Pennsylvania, surrounded by the most beautiful hills and mountains one can find anywhere in the world, my reunion memories go back many years and include among other recollections, the first soil conservation practices I ever saw. As a boy in Pennsylvania, I became familiar with strip-cropping and contour farming, or as a Pennsylvania Dutch—around the hill.

Before too many years passed, I became a young Iowa farmer, having land with rolling hills. Still mindful of the practical Pennsylvania Dutch methods of

farming, I became one of the first farmers in Blackhawk County to have land laid out for contour farming. I have observed that with the use of a good rotation, good land management practices and contouring that my land retains more rainfall water, the topsoil stays in place and the crop yields are higher than the neighboring farms which are not utilizing soil conserving practices.

This is one practice I am sure will do much to conserve our soil and to prevent floods. This method holds the water where it falls and keeps the soil where nature intended it to be.

Soil saving and soil building are Iowa's paramount agricultural problems. Up and downhill farming is a very effective way of taking topsoil off of a farm and depositing it in the delta of the Mississippi River. When corn

is cultivated up and downhill each cultivator shovel makes a little channel to facilitate flow of water off of the field at a faster rate. The faster water moves the more soil it takes along with it. This up and downhill system of cultivation also takes seed, plants, manure, organic matter, and commercial fertilizer off of the farm along with the soil. That's something to remember. Can anyone figure out a faster way to get rid of both water and soil than to cultivate row crops up and downhill? With contour farming or farming on the level, each cultivator shovel makes a little barrier to prevent the flow of water, soil, etc., from the farm. Very shortly each row crop makes a barrier to prevent this loss. It is as simple as that.

Any farm operator may get assistance in setting up contour

farming on his farm from the technicians of the Soil Conservation Service, the Soil Conservation District, or the County Extension Director. They are all ready to assist.

Contour farming saves time, saves cost, saves soil, saves water, saves crop, and produces higher yields. It is sound business judgment to farm on a soil conserving, soil building basis.

Federal Cost-Sharing under the AC Program of your county ASC office is available for this practice.

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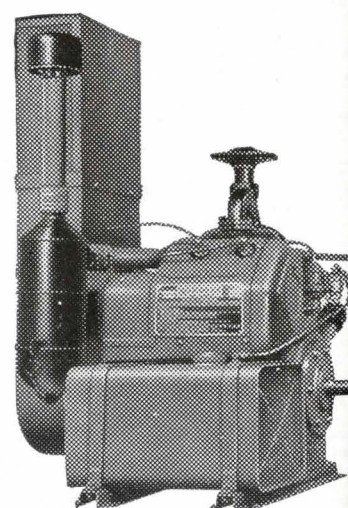
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PASTURE IMPROVEMENT



Pasture Improvement An Important Conservation Practice

By Paul Barger
C. E. D.

More than 50% of the farms of Black Hawk County have areas of permanent grass. These areas, in the main, do not yield as satisfactory a return as they are capable.

Demonstrations outlined by the County Extension Service can show a profit.

1. Pastures can be improved in several ways. For example, mowing to control weeds is a worthwhile improvement practice. This will not greatly increase returns if fertility is limiting or if productive pasture grasses and legumes are not present. Proper grazing management will also do much to improve quality and quantity of pasturage. But to get highest production, renovation is usually required.
2. Essentially, renovation consists of liming and fertilizing, according to soil tests followed by reseeding with suitable pasture legumes after subduing the old soil by cultivation. It usually is not necessary to seed grass with the legume, since Kentucky bluegrass and other palatable grasses already in the sod come back quickly and vigorously.

Soil Test—Lime and fertilizer applications should be based on soil tests. The soil needs to be sampled well in advance of plowing or cultivation, since it

IOWA SOIL AND WATER

takes time to complete the test and make recommendations.

Liming—Most pasture lands require lime for good legume growth. For best results lime should be applied in the late summer or fall ahead of spring seeding. It should be mixed with the soil by disking or other cultivation in time for it to correct soil acidity in the cultivated layer before seeding.

Fertilization—It is almost impossible to establish and maintain pastures unless fertility needs are met. The phosphorus content of soil under most permanent pastures is low. Legumes are particularly responsive to phosphorus.

The usual need is for an application of 200 to 400 pounds per acre of 20 per cent super-phosphate, or its equivalent, in early spring at seeding time. The fertilizer should be worked into the soil. Additional fertilizer will be needed later to keep the pasture productive.

The need for potash varies considerably. It is best determined by soil test. Fertilizers containing small amounts of nitrogen may be desirable in establishing stands on soils that are very low in organic matter.

Subduing the Existing Sod—It is important to do a thorough job of setting back the grass sod. Thin, weak stands of legume are likely to result if the sod is not thoroughly torn up to kill most of the grass.

3. The greatest reduction in grass competition is obtained by fall plowing. The second choice is early spring plowing. This usually can be done before

plow land can be worked.

The plow is usually regarded as the best implement for starting renovation. The field cultivator is the second best. It is especially useful on thin, weak sods and on very steep slopes, or where stones, stumps and roots make plowing difficult.

The disk and spring-tooth harrow also have been used to tear up the sod. A good disk may be used where the sod is weak and thin, but it doesn't work well in heavy sods.

Shallow fall plowing—about four inches deep—is best. Soil and water losses are slight where sloping land is plowed on the contour with the furrows left rough through the winter; grass roots and good soil structure are effective in holding the soil.

Regardless of whether the plow, field cultivator or disk is

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT—

—Continued to page 22

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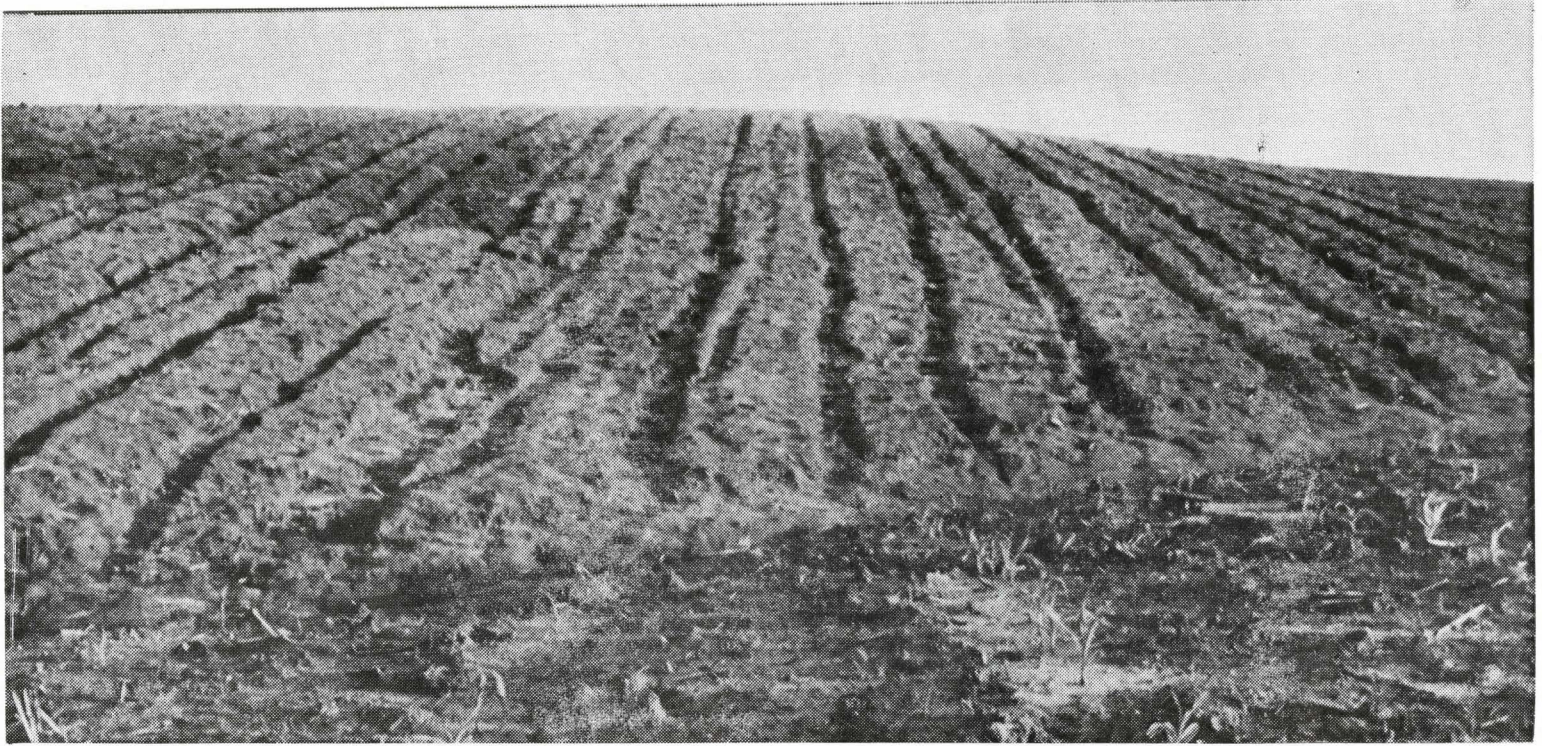
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SOIL EROSION



Erosion Begins On The Farm

By H. W. Waldorf, S. C. S.

Erosion takes place on sloping land whenever water flows over the surface fast enough to move soil particles. All farming practices that speed the downhill course of water naturally hasten the process of soil washing.

The two principal kinds of erosion in this area are sheet erosion, in which a sheet of water removes a thin layer of soil more or less uniformly from an area, and gully erosion, in which water concentrates and cuts deep into the soil.

Though gully erosion may be the more spectacular, it is sheet erosion that well-informed farmers fear most. The gradual removal of soil by sheet erosion of-

ten escapes the eye of the farmer until crop yields decline or gullies develop. Then it is sometimes too late to repair the damage.

One practice that leads to serious sheet erosion is farming up and down hill. Where run-off water is allowed to concentrate gullies are formed. Enlarging and spreading with every heavy rain, these gullies often destroy large areas.

WATER BREAKS ACROSS FARM BOUNDARIES

RUNNING WATER has no respect for fence lines or farm boundaries. Once it starts downhill, water continues to run until it strikes a barrier strong enough to halt the flow or until the ground levels off. Whenever run-off from eroding land is finally slowed down or halted, it leaves a silt deposit.

Water running uncontrolled on one farm is a serious problem.

But by the time it crosses four or five farms, run-off has picked up so much volume and speed that its destructive power is multiplied several times. Holding rain water on the land where it falls is easier and less expensive than taming wild waters downstream.

EROSION DESTROYS PUBLIC PROPERTY

UNCONTROLLED WATER is one of the most destructive forces with which man deals.

Flowing over unprotected slopes, it slices away the productive topsoil. Collected in large amounts and running at high speed, it destroys roadbeds, bottom land, homes, and other property along its course.

Much tax money has been spent for the upkeep of highways and county roads. Far too large a percentage of this money has been needed to repair the damage of uncontrolled water.

Extensive cultivation of farmland has aggravated floods on many small streams. Depletion of forest and grassland has added to the enormous amounts of water that rush down the hillsides overflowing stream banks and causing destruction during the rainy seasons.

SILT REPLACES WATER

DEPOSITS of silt on lowlands along stream channels, or in reservoirs are a signal that erosion has taken place somewhere—possibly many miles away. Silting, which is one of erosion's aftereffects, is almost as serious as the direct gouging of productive farmlands. In time of floods, silt smothers crops and covers fertile bottom lands. It is dumped on highways and city streets. It ruins trout streams and fills up lakes. Lodged behind dams, it cuts short the useful life of many costly reservoirs built for water storage or electric-power production.

WHO PAYS?

THE most serious result of uncontrolled erosion is not the damage to one farmer's land, not the clogging of a single stream, not the filling of an isolated reservoir. It is the total effect of all this damage both on the farmer's family and on the community. Now suppose that erosion is permitted to destroy the productive land in this community, as it has in many others. Naturally, the income of the farmers drops sharply and with that drop comes a similar decline in all

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CROP ROTATIONS



Crop Rotation Increases Products And Conserves Soil

By Joe Entz,
Assistant Comm.

There are many different crop rotations, the most common ones in this area being for a three, four or five-year period. The three-year period rotation usually consists of one year each of corn, oats and meadow. A four-year rotation might consist of corn, corn, oats and one year meadow or corn, oats, and two years of meadow. The five-year rotation is usually corn, corn, oats and two years meadow.

In the past, depending upon our livestock program, we have utilized a three-year rotation or a five-year rotation. Presently, as pictured above, we are using a rotation of corn, oats and two years of alfalfa-brome. We are well satisfied with this rotation and this meadow mixture in maintaining our present livestock program and our soil. Farming our rolling land on the contour and using adequate grass waterways in the drainage-ways enables us to control the soil loss and water runoff very well.

It should be recognized that because of the many different crop rotations and the wide variance of soil resources and problems in the county each farmer must choose a rotation and the necessary supporting practices that will fit his farm and its operation.

With the wide use of grasses in the present rotations, the

trend is to leave them seeded down for more than one year. This allows for more root growth of the grasses which greatly increases the organic matter of the soil when plowed under. Longer meadow gives us some insurance against loss of the meadow crop and gives us a greater tonnage yield.

You can give your farm soil "built-in" protection from erosion, costly run-off of rainfall and topsoil losses by good management practices that increase the soils organic matter supply. And when you boost the organic matter supply, you increase the soils crop producing efficiency. Your rotation is the main practice that will get this job done.

Soil well-stocked with organic matter has good texture and tilth. They have the sponginess necessary to grab and hold large quantities of water. They are well-ventilated. They make efficient use of fertilizer. Such soils provide the most favorable growing conditions for crop roots.

But organic matter is not an inexhaustible resource. Some of it is burned up to help produce every crop you grow. Unless organic matter is replaced, soil structure is damaged. It loses its cushiony, grainy, texture. Soil pores and air and water passages become clogged. The soil is tightly packed. Drainage is poor. Rains can't penetrate the hard crust. Water runs off, carrying with it top soil and plant nutrients. Or it ponds on the surface.

The left-overs from your crops are raw materials for making organic matter. But be sure to re-

turn them to the soil. Don't burn them or haul them off. Put them back in the earth. The more crop residue you return, the more organic matter your soil will have. This will mean more efficient returns on every pound of fertilizer you use. It will mean higher crop yields. And this in turn will provide a bigger supply of "makings" for additional organic matter.

If you combined these steps in the crop rotation featuring "well-fed" deep-rooted legumes and the "regular" return of barnyard manure, you will have an "all-star" soil-building team. Your soil will be well aerated, and drained. It will have good structure and tilth.

Add soil conserving practices, contouring, strip-cropping, terracing, grass waterways, grass headlands, as are needed in combination with your rotation for the further protection of your land from erosion losses of your topsoil and run-off of rainfall and you have the foundation of a permanent agriculture.

"A good rotation is the backbone of a good conservation program."

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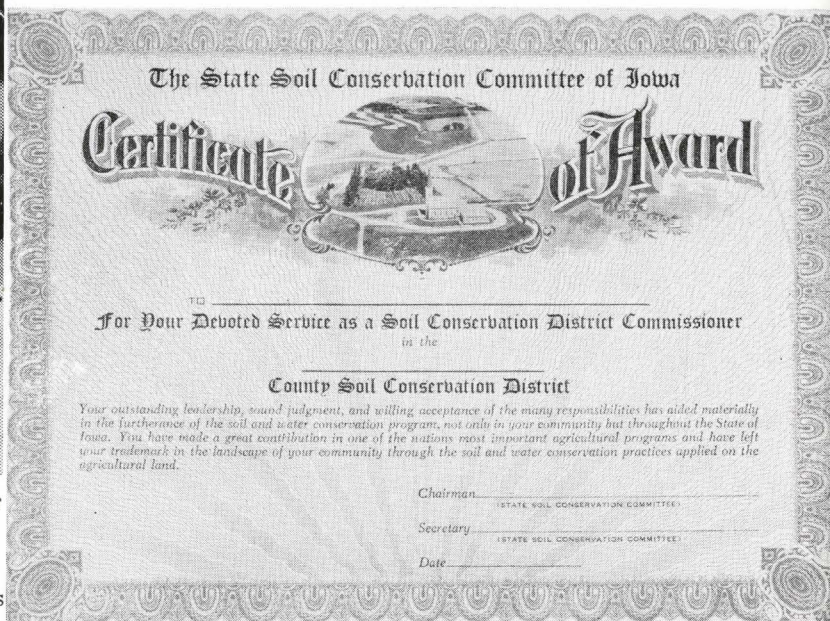
Soil Conservation District Area Picnic on July 15th, 1956 at Hoover Park, West Branch, Iowa. Forty-five were present.

"Erosion is much like crime and reckless spending. We can close our eyes to the fact and pray that everything will turn out all right, OR we can study the problem and take positive, intelligent action to deal with it."

"Soil conservation practices pay."

"Farming the conservation way keeps the soil, water and fertility on the slope."

State Soil Conservation Committee Award To Past Commissioners



The State Soil Conservation Committee of Iowa recently prepared a certificate of award that is to be presented to all past soil conservation district commissioners in the State of Iowa. These certificates are being prepared and mailed out to past commissioners.

Above is a reproduction of this certificate of award and it states in part—"Your outstanding leadership, sound judgment, and willing acceptance of the many responsibilities has aided materially in the furtherance of the soil and water conservation program, not only in your community but throughout the State of Iowa. You have made a great contribution in one of the nation's most important agricultural programs and have left your trademark in the landscape of your community through the soil and water conservation practices applied on the agricultural land."

The Soil Conservation District Commissioners certainly are deserving of this award for their service and the time that they give so freely. The State Soil Conservation Committee feels that a certificate of this nature will convey their appreciation and respect for these district commissioners who have helped make the soil conservation program in Iowa one of the most important agricultural programs today.

Several of the past commissioners have received these awards already. Others will be receiving them as time permits to have them lettered and sent out. Plans are under way in some districts to present these certificates at their annual meetings, plowing matches, commissioners meetings or some other local event that is of interest to soil conservation people.

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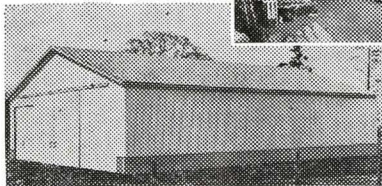
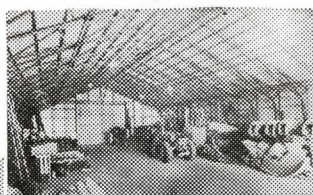
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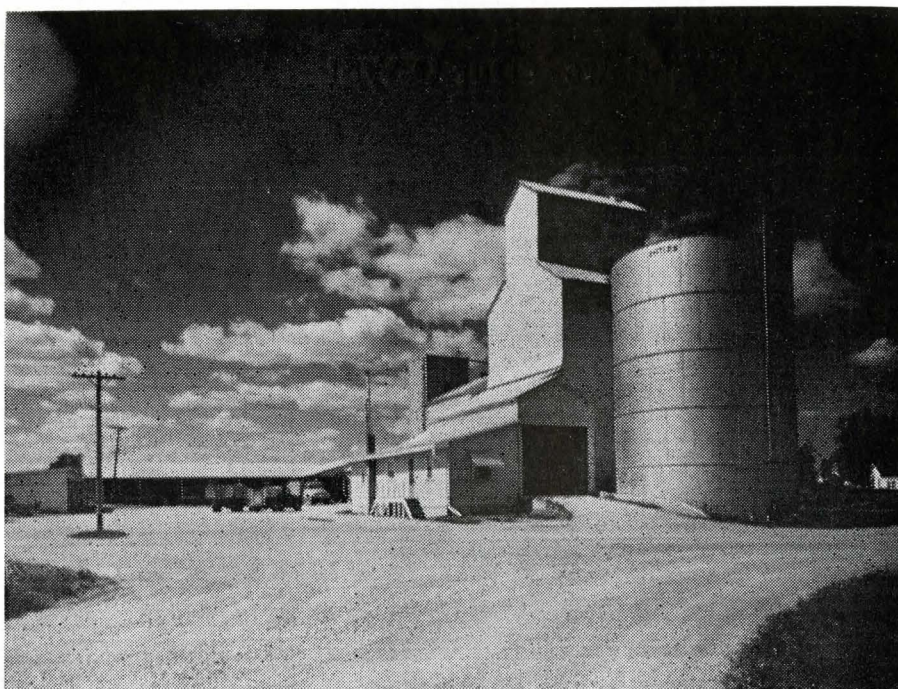
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4-H AND CONSERVATION

By Paul Borger,

C. E. D.

4-H members learn about conservation as a part of their regular 4-H program.

Every third year the regular meetings of local 4-H boys' clubs feature a study of different phases of conservation.

Boys study and report on such items as contouring, grassed waterways, terracing, soil testing, seed testing, and treatment.

Girls study various phases of conservation and prepare reports covering things they have learned.

Special activity training is offered boys where they study such topics as Insect and Rodent Control.

A 4-H land use project is available to older boys who are capable of carrying this program.

1. Members enrolled in this project may include an area of the farm from one field up to the entire farm. It is suggested that for the first year, the project be limited to one field and that the member expand the size as he gains experience. Member is expected to:

a. Analyze situation to determine tillage practices, conservation practices, fertilizer needs, weed control measures, crop to be grown, crop varieties, etc., for the project area (field or farm). It is recommended that the member and his dad work cooperatively. They may seek the help of the county extension director, county extension youth assistant, or others whom they may suggest.

b. Put into use practices recommended for the area.

Thus 4-H members through study and experience are learning many of the fundamentals of real conservation of our natural resources.

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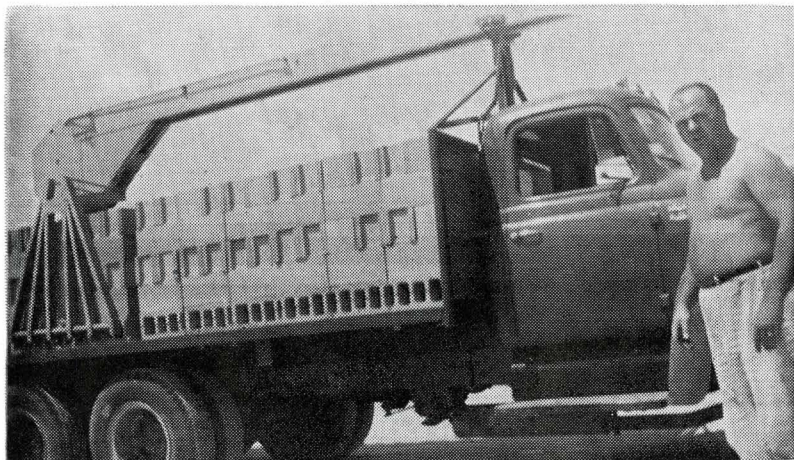
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THREE BLOCKS EAST OF RATH'S

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT—

(Continued from page 17)

used to tear up the sod, good seed bed preparation requires disking, harrowing and rolling in the early spring to make the seedbed smooth and firm.

Poorly drained pasture areas often can be plowed only during the dry part of the summer. On these sites the seedbed can be prepared in the fall, and seedlings can be made on frozen ground in early spring. Freezing and thawing of the soil will cover the seed.

Probably more pasture seedings have failed to give a good stand of legumes because of insufficient seedbed preparation and too much grass competition than from any other cause. A good seedbed resembles that required for corn or alfalfa.

What shall be seeded on the seedbed which has been prepared?

There are many mixtures that can be used. A bulletin listing them can be secured at the County Extension Office.

As a rule legumes should make up the bulk of the mixture as the bluegrass will fill in to make a complete mixture.

Birdsfoot trefoil has proven to be the most valuable legume when it has become established.

Competition with other legumes and grasses must be controlled until the trefoil is established.

4. Many pastures have become unproductive because of poor grazing management. Close continuous grazing in early spring and fall is harmful. Delay grazing in the spring on permanent pastures until the second week of May.

Close continuous grazing when continued over a period of years produces lower animal gains than moderate grazing. At least two to three inches of growth should be available at all times. Pastures that are injured by overgrazing soon become weedy. Soil and water losses increase when vegetative cover is reduced and when soil under thin, weak sod becomes compacted from trampling by grazing animals.

Finally — — — —

5. Establishment of productive pastures is not enough; they must be maintained in productive condition. Proper grazing management, weed and brush control and adequate fertilization are required.

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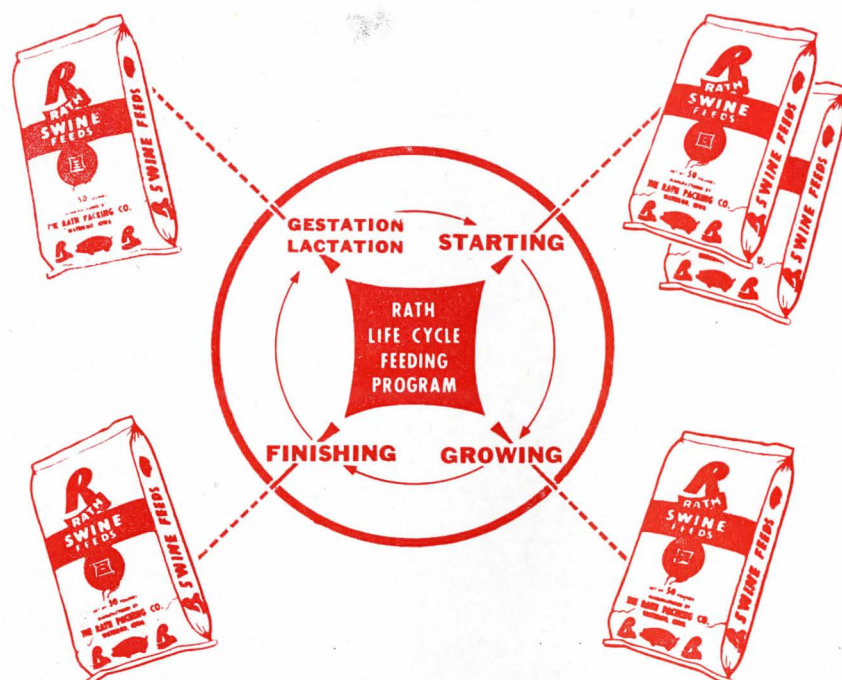
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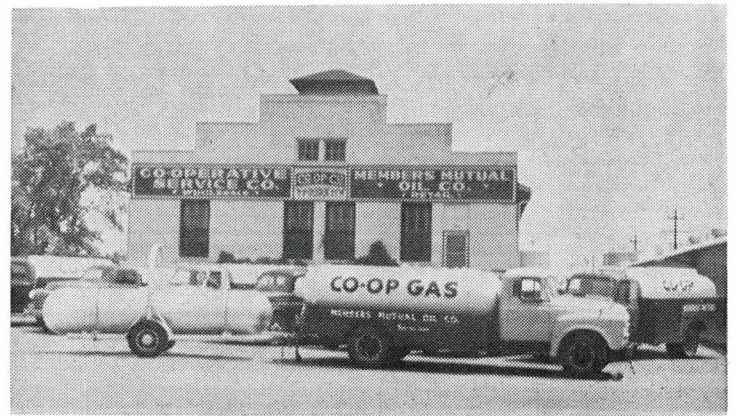
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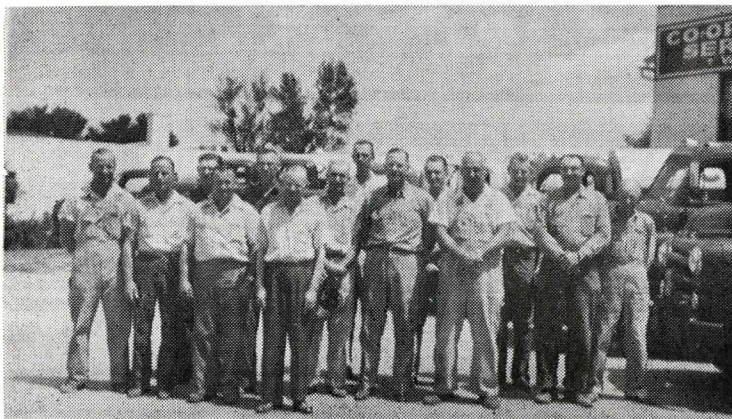
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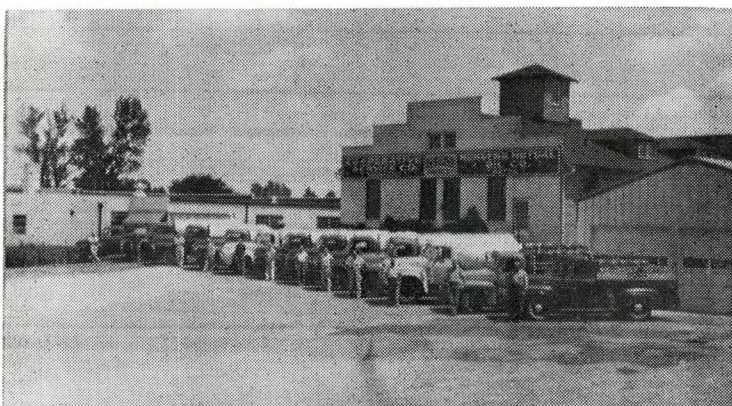
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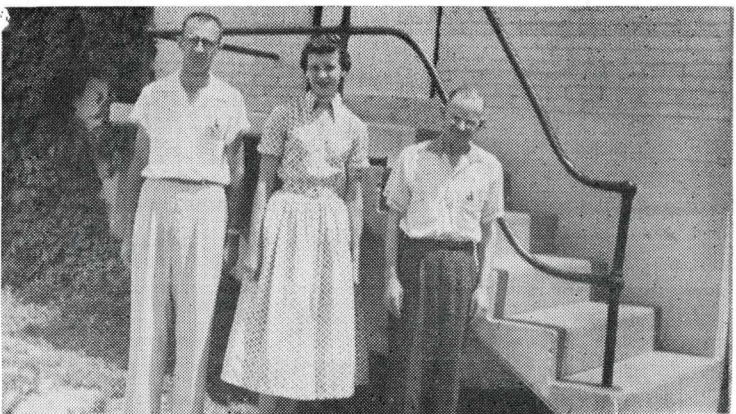
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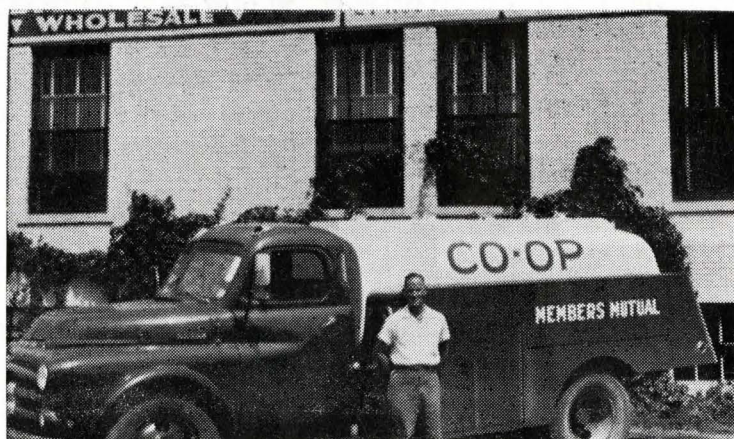
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TOM W. OTTO, Hudson - Phone 41



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EXTENSION—

(Continued from page 8)

added to meet the specific need and should not be added haphazardly.

Choice of Fertilizers

For Different Crops

The kind of crop to be grown will determine in part the need for the kind of fertilizer used. In the consideration of phosphate fertilizers, superphosphate gives good results for all crops on all soils deficient in phosphorus. It is much more readily available for immediate plant use, especially for corn and small grain, than is rock phosphate.

Full information on fertilizers and the use of fertilizer is available at the County Extension Office.

—o—

WEED CONTROL

Weeds have been a problem to man at least as long as history has been written. Many methods have been used to control weeds but the problem continues with us.

1. Chemicals have come into extensive use in weed control. Many are now on the market, and additional ones will appear in increasing numbers. Some chemicals are specific in their action, others are general. Some have been in use for a long time, others have been introduced recently. As selective herbicides come into use in crop production, bigger yields, better harvesting methods and less dockage will prevail.

2. Chemicals are not a substitute for, but should always be used as a supplement to good farming practices. Chemicals should be used when weeds persist after good practices have failed. They should be looked upon as an "ace in the hole" in any program of weed control.

Good, high-quality, certified, clean seed is the foundation stone of any weed control program. Clean cultivation and thorough seedbed preparation have an equally important place in weed control. In addition, any procedure that prevents weeds from going to seed is a good weed control practice. Finally, the use of a smother crop is recommended for certain especially resistant weeds for which there are at present no weed-killing chemicals that can be used on extensive areas.

—o—

"In general, a good rotation must include a crop of legume—grass for each year of intertilled crop, plus the addition of manure, lime and phosphate."

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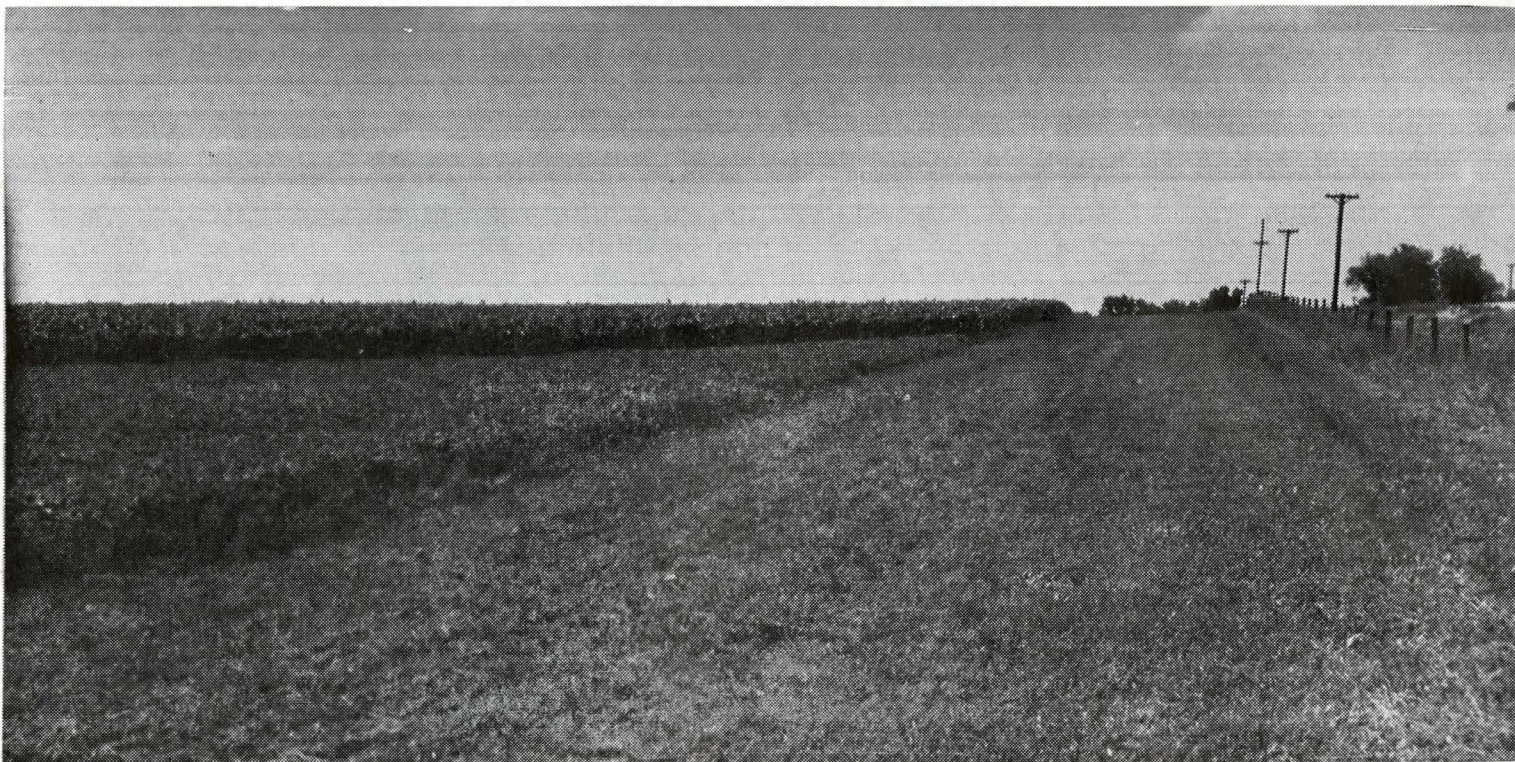
★ **SAND AND
GRAVEL**



PHONE 2803

DUNKERTON, IOWA

GRASS HEADLANDS



GRASS HEADLANDS ON THE WAYNE MARK FARM

Grass Headlands for Contour Farming

By Wayne Mark

This grass headland on our farm in Union township is about

40 feet wide. It is a very easy soil-conserving practice to establish and one which a farmer can do on his own. This practice has a very important place

in a good soil erosion program.

Headlands can be beneficial in many ways. Their use will eliminate the building up of soil along fence rows, will help elim-

inate the weed problem along fence rows as they can be mowed or sprayed for weed control, they may be used as lanes to get to other fields, they may serve as a grass waterway at the ends of fields, they make a very good turn row for farm equipment, with proper management they may serve as a very beneficial area for wildlife, they may be harvested for hay or seed, or they may be pastured.

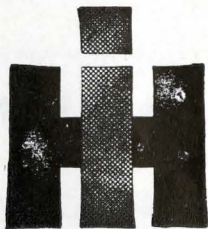
Information received from many farmers indicates that the production on end rows, (which run up and down the slope) of row-cropped fields is only about half of the yield per acre as the rest of the field. From a financial standpoint this is not a very good return from good cropland and it should be expected that the hay or seed crop harvested or the pasture production from this area would provide a greater net return.

Headlands are particularly well adapted for use on land that is contoured, strip-cropped or terraced. Their use for turn-rows in fields with these practices eliminates the problem of contoured rows coming into a field boundary at a diagonal. Also where run-off water may tend to move from the end of the contoured rows into the field boundary, these headlands may act as a good grass waterway.

The S. C. S. technicians of your Soil Conservation District, county extension director and the A. S. C. county committee will furnish you with information for the establishment of grass headlands.

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"WILDLIFE AREAS"



PICTURE OF WILDLIFE AREA ON THE HAROLD HUCK FARM

Wildlife Areas

By H. W. Waldorf
S. C. S.

The above wildlife area on the Harold Huck farm in Spring Creek Township was established in 1950. The Hook-an-liner Sportsmen's Club of Waterloo furnished the planting material and made the plantings. This area was used to demonstrate for a field day held in this county to demonstrate the establishment of soil and water conservation practices.

A good wildlife population on a farm has proved to be very beneficial to the farmer. The better the facilities on a farm for the protection and maintenance of wildlife the greater the population of beneficial wildlife.

Laying aside a definite small area for wildlife is economically sound. Many areas beneficial to

wildlife are to be found on farms having a good soil and water conservation program. Grassed waterways and grassed headlands on these farms provide good nesting areas and escape routes for our wildlife. These areas should not be mowed until after small grain harvest so that the young ground nesting birds will be off the nest. Other areas are being developed by the farmers fencing off parts of their woodland pasture and keeping these areas free of grazing.

An area that is definitely laid aside for wildlife production should be fenced. A row of multiflora rose may be placed inside of this fence or may be used as the fence as a barrier to enemies of our wildlife. Small clump plantings of fruit-producing shrubs and of trees for winter protection should be made. Leave a spot in the area for grasses

which will provide habitat for ground-nesting birds.

Each year the Sportsman Clubs in the county furnish the shrubs for and plant several wildlife areas for cooperating farmers. They would like to hear from those of you who wish to have assistance in establishing such an area.

The Soil Conservation District, SCS Technicians, Extension Director and the Conservation Officer for the county can assist you in purchasing planting material and in helping you establish a wildlife area.

—o—
"Fields are no sooner cleared than washed."

—
"The Nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value."

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EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURE



WILBERT LOEB STANDING IN HIS REINFORCED CONCRETE RISER

Gully Control Structure

By Wendell Glasener,
Assistant Comm.

Wilbert Loeb is standing in the reinforced concrete riser attached to an existing concrete road culvert on his farm in Fox township. This structure is five feet high, four feet wide and eight feet long. It is used to make possible the filling of a seven-foot gully to a level from which a grass waterway is established and maintained. This structure also serves as a good tile outlet. All of the work was done by Wilbert and some of his neighbors. There are quite a few farms in the county which could utilize this type structure for

the above purposes.

With the help of some neighbors we are constructing a concrete block weir notch structure on my farm. This structure will be used to provide an excellent tile outlet, to control a deep gully, and to stabilize the grade of the grass waterway. It will fill a five-foot depth of ditch. The Soil Conservation Service Technicians of the District, on request, completed the necessary work, located and designed structure, furnished the blueprint for construction, and are supervising the construction.

The technical services furnished by the District are available to all farmers. It is requested, by the District, that anyone planning on using this type of structure on his farm, and wanting to use the District services, should contact the District office

at least six weeks before he wishes to start work.

Local contractors may be employed to construct these structures. Be sure and hire one who is reliable, who will construct the structure correctly, and, if the services of the District Technicians are used, who will work with these technicians.

There have been many types of structures constructed over the years. Some were made out of rocks, posts, boards, or what have you. Some of the time the water went where the builder wanted it to go, and has done a good job, but most of the time it cut under or went around the end of the structure. These structures are expensive—why not gain the benefits of a properly designed and installed one?

In many cases in the county a group of farmers may have

need for this type of structure to overcome a common problem. They may request Federal Cost-Sharing from ACP under a Pooling Agreement.

Federal Cost-Sharing may be obtained under the AC Program of the county ASC office for these structures. Requests for Federal Cost-Sharing must be made before any work in the project is started or no payment can be made. The completed job must meet or exceed the specifications set up by ACP or payment will be made.

“Who can say with any certainty that the atomic bomb is a greater threat than erosion to the future of civilization?”

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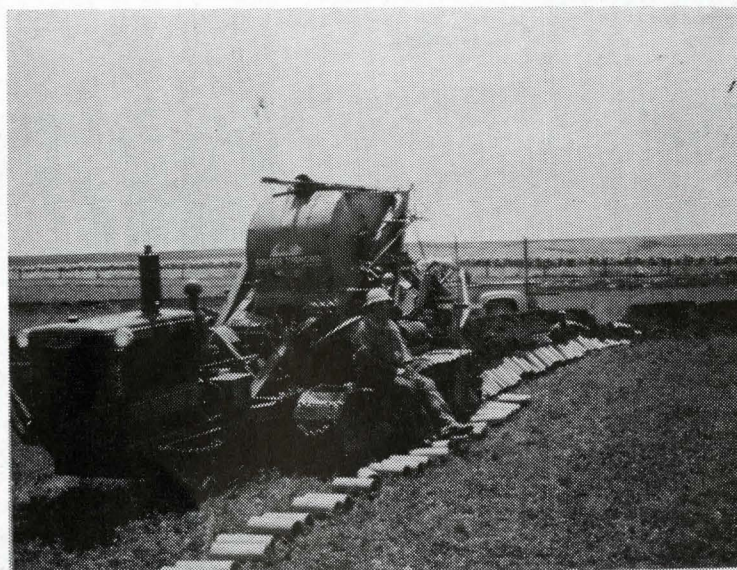
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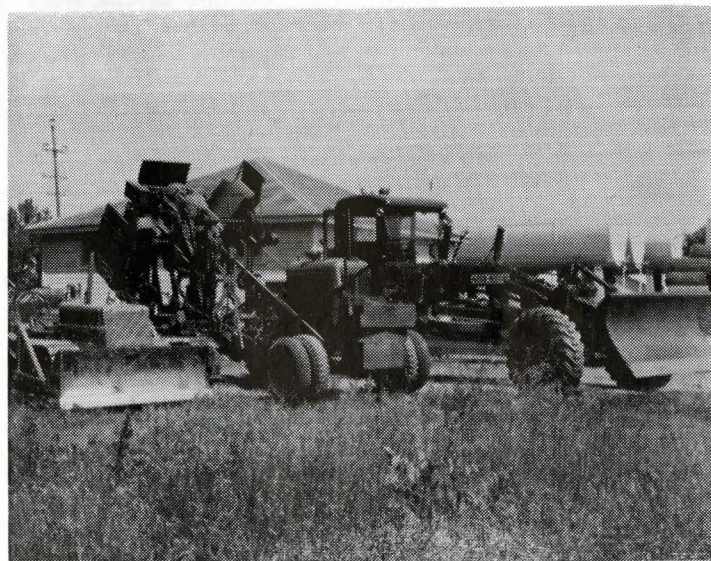
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LAND LEVELING



Land Leveling Practice Used in Black Hawk District

By Gerald Bedard,
Commissioner

Pictured above is Bob McKenna, of Eagle Township, in his cornfield which is on land that was leveled this spring. He is standing on an area that was formerly a five-foot deep ditch. By filling this ditch and adjacent depressional areas he now has a good level field with no pockets to trap surface water.

Land leveling and smoothing is one of the most recently developed drainage practices. The land surface is generally graded to provide a smooth surface with the general land slopes. Depressions are filled by earth moved from high areas or from ditches. Before this can be done, the high and low areas of field are located by a topographic survey and then cut and fill stakes are

placed and marked so that the contractor may make the correct cuts and fills to level the land.

Land grading work is best done by heavy earth-moving equipment such as wheel scrapers, bulldozers and road patrols. The bulldozer is adapted to moving earth efficiently only for short distances whereas the wheel scrapers can be used efficiently for longer hauls. The road patrol may be used many times to do a good job of leveling off the rough work of the other heavy equipment. The finished leveling may also be done with a land leveler, a machine developed for use on irrigated land. It corrects small discrepancies in grade beyond the range of heavy equipment.

A very important point for our farmers to remember when hiring a contractor for this type of work is to hire one who knows how to do this work, is reliable, is efficient, will do work which will meet designed job specifications and has equipment that is

adapted to the particular job. Cost of land leveling varies to such a degree, depending upon the problem to be overcome, that a general statement about it has little value.

Field trials have shown substantial increases in yields on leveled and smoothed land. A saving in cost can also be shown by the more efficient operation of farm implements on level land.

Assistance in surveying, designing, and supervision of the construction for this practice may be obtained through your county Soil Conservation District. Because of the work load of your District Technicians, it is necessary for the farmers to contact the District office and arrange for this service at least two weeks before you wish to start installation of the practice.

This is one of the practices for which Federal Cost-Sharing may be obtained under the AC Program of your County ASC of-

fice. Requests for Federal Cost Sharing must be made before any work on the project is started or no payment can be made. In order to receive Federal Cost Sharing payment, the finished job must meet or exceed the specifications developed by ACF.

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John Deere Sponsors Printed Programs for Annual Convention

The John Deere Manufacturing Company of Waterloo, Iowa, will make printed programs available for all attending the 10th Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners September 9, 10 and 11 at Waterloo. Representatives of the company are working with the planning committee in the development of the program. Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, Hotels Russell Lamson and President, along with other groups are assisting with the arrangements and urge Iowa commissioners and their wives to attend the 10th Annual Conference September 9, 10, 11, 1956.

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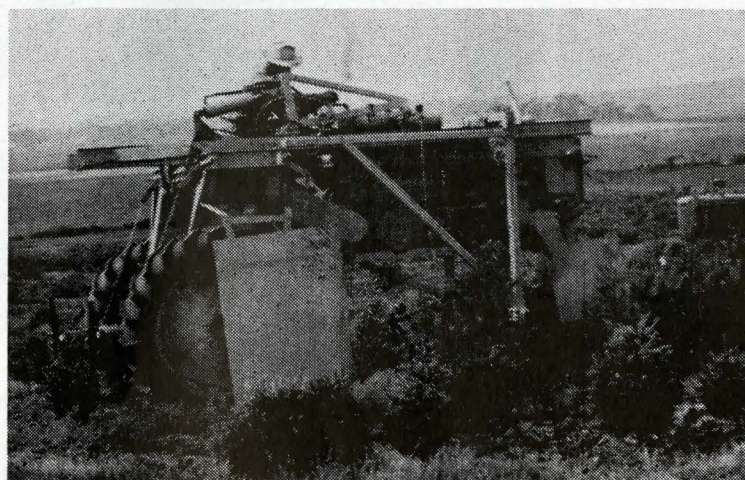
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SURFACE DRAINAGE



Surface Drainage On Flat Land

By George Selk
Conservation Farmer

Surface drainage on my farm has been very successful. My farm is on the flat bottomland in Big Creek Township just Southeast of La Porte City. The land had several pot holes on it that would fill with water from a normal rain and stay there long enough so as to drown the crop or keep me from planting the area.

The pot hole in which I am standing in the above picture was a particularly troublesome one. During the years 1939-1947 no crop was raised in this immediate area. Since the surface

ditch, which runs toward you in the picture, was installed in 1947 I have had a crop here each year. In order to get an outlet for this ditch it was necessary to cross four neighbors' lands. They cooperated in setting up a Group Drainage Enterprise and in constructing the ditch across their land.

It was not only the crops in the pot holes that were destroyed but the water would soak up quite an area around them where the crops would also be destroyed. And what an aggravation to work around them.

Since I made the surface drainage ditches the water does not stand in the pot holes for more than twenty-four hours after a hard rain. In just a few days after a rain I can work right through these areas without get-

ting mired down. This saves the crops, and they yield much more than many times the cost of installing these drains and each year I realize a return from these areas as good as from the rest of my farm.

The Soil Conservation Service Technicians designed and laid out these drains and helped me with the construction of them. I constructed the drains with a whirlwind terracer. This could be done with a plow and disc. If you need help on this kind of a problem, these are the folks to see.

Many farms in this county which lay along the Cedar River, the Wapsie, The Blackhawk, and the Creeks have this problem. There are many potentially productive areas which could be

put into crop production by using surface drainage ditches.

These ditches can be constructed not only with farm equipment, such as I used, but there are local contractors available who are doing this work with heavy earth-moving equipment. Where it is a matter of just cutting and shaping a ditch a bulldozer, carry-all, or road patrol can be used. When the earth is to be carried into the pot hole from the ditch excavation, the tractor with scoop or carry-all will do the most efficient job.

This type of ditch is constructed with a flat grade or very slight grade so that it will not induce erosion in the channel. They are constructed with shallow depths and very wide widths so that they may be farmed the same as the rest of the field. I have observed that if these drains are installed in this manner they may be farmed across with all farm equipment and may be crossed in any direction. These ditches may be maintained with farm equipment.

Many of you have the same problem of obtaining an outlet for your surface drain. You will find, in most instances, that by working with your neighbors in setting up a Group Drainage Enterprise you can overcome this problem. Under a Pooling Agreement with the ACP you can now get Federal Cost-Sharing help in overcoming a mutual problem like this.

—Continued to page 37

IOWA SOIL AND WATER

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SURFACE DRAINAGE—

(Continued from page 36)

If you wish to request, as I did, assistance from the SCS Technicians of the Soil Conservation District, contact them at least three weeks before you wish to do the job.

Under the ACP you may be able to get Federal Cost-Sharing on this practice. Request for Cost-Sharing must be made before any work is started or no payment can be made. The completed job must meet ACP specification or no payment can be made.

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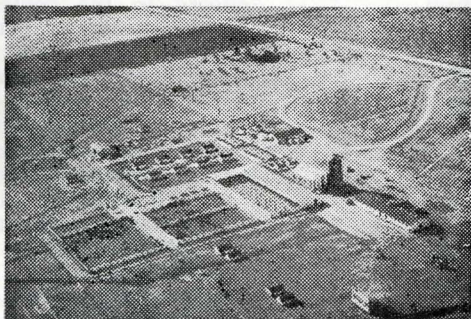
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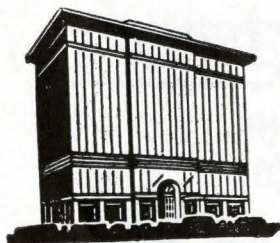
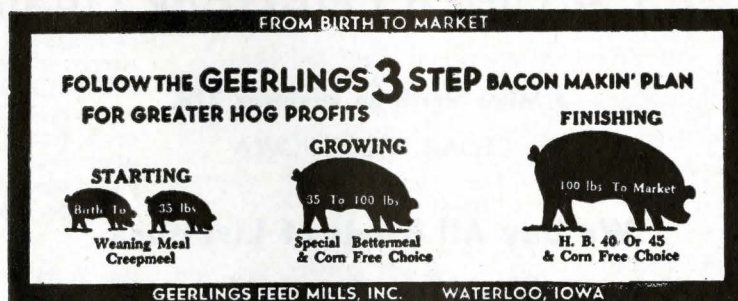
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CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES WORKBOOKS

By Gerald Bedard

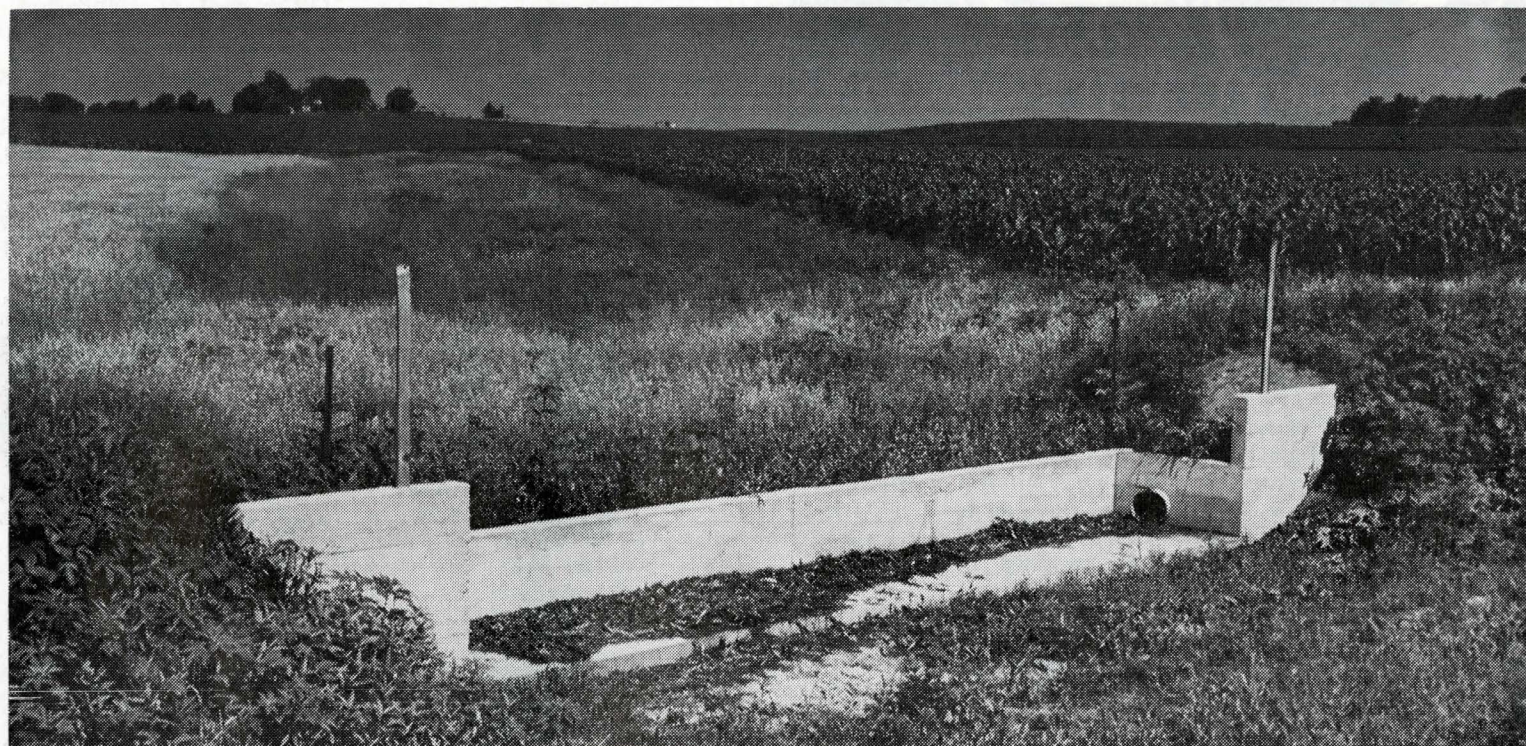
In 1952 in studying ways to spread the ideas of soil and water conservation to more people in the District the commissioners decided to use conservation activity books placed in the schools of the county as an aid in this direction. The books selected are designed for and used in the science classes of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades and have been in use in the Tama, Marshall, and Grundy Soil Conservation Districts with favorable results. These workbooks were made up by Frank Reed, SCS Farm Planner of Tama Soil Conservation District, assisted by Howard Oak, SCS Farm Planner of the Marshall Soil Conservation District.

The next step in this direction was to find means of financing this project. The Waterloo Chapter - Izaak Walton League Hook-an-liners Inc. of Waterloo Hook-an-liners Inc. of Cedar Cedar Falls, Dewar-Dunkerton Sportsmen's Club, United Sportsmen of Waterloo, working through the Coordinated Council of Blackhawk County Sportsmen's Club, came through with the funds to pay the cost of the books and also the expenses of the awards.

All schools in the county, both public and parochial, are given the opportunity to make use of these activities books if they wish.

The books are completed during the school year by the students of the classes participating under the direction of the teacher. The teacher selects the best three books from his or her class or section thereof and forwards these to the Soil Conservation District office. These books are then judged by grade for subject matter by representatives of each sportsmen's club, the Soil Conservation District commissioners, the Conservation Commission, the schools and ministers. The five best books of each grade are selected and a suitable award is given to each of the students who have prepared the outstanding books. All students whose books have been entered in the contest by the teacher receive a certificate of achievement, thus rewarding outstanding effort in the study of conservation. This past year there were 166 entries representing 23 schools with 2,250 pupils participating in the contest. Comments received by the commissioners from teachers, students and parents are most encouraging and the commissioners feel that if a program similar to this can continue to be carried out the people in the county will become informed and interested in the conservation of our natural resources; soil, water, woodland and wildlife.

EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURE



Picture of structure on the Wayne Mark farm.

Toe-Wall Structure Used for Soil Conservation in Black Hawk District

By Wayne Mark,
Commissioner

Many farms in Blackhawk County and other areas of this great nation of ours can use this type of small, reasonably priced structure. These structures properly located, designed and installed, can be a good asset to many farmers.

They may be used to stop gully erosion; to stabilize the grade of a grassed waterway or a drainage ditch; to provide a permanent tile outlet; and to improve the appearance and farmability of the farm.

The one we installed on our farm last year, pictured above, parallels the highway and has a 28-foot-wide opening with a six-foot wing-wall on each side. The structure is at the outlet of a waterway which extends northwest into two neighboring farms and which has a fair size drainage area. Because there was a two-foot overfall at the end of our waterway, we used to have trouble with a ditch cutting back at the outlet and then cutting up the center of the waterway across our field. Now the run-off water drops over a two-foot wall onto a four-foot slab of concrete, thus eliminating this problem.

After having the bulk earth at the structure site removed by a contractor, we did the finish excavation, placed the steel and poured and finished off the con-

crete ourselves. This is another soil conserving practice which a farmer can do himself. We found that by following the blueprint provided us by the technicians of the Soil Conservation District and their suggestions during construction of the structure, we completed a very satisfactory structure.

Some farmers in the county have hired local contractors to build similar structures. If you wish to hire a contractor to do this type of work, it is suggested that you hire one who is reliable, who will build it as located and designed, and who is willing to work under the supervision of the technicians of the Soil Conservation District, if you wish to make this use of the District's services.

Assistance in the surveying, designing, location, supervision of the construction, and the furnishing of blueprints for the installation of this type of structure may be obtained through your County Soil Conservation District. Due to the heavy work load of the District Technicians, it is necessary for the farmer to contact the Soil Conservation District office and arrange for the service at least two weeks before he wishes to start installation of the structure.

Federal Cost Sharing may be obtained under the AC Program of your county ASC office for this structure. Requests for Federal Cost Sharing must be made before any work on the project is started or no payment can be made. The completed job must meet or exceed the specifications set up by ACP or no payment

will be made.

In many cases in the county a group of farmers having need for this type of structure, to overcome a common problem, may request Federal Cost-Sharing from ACP by a Pooling Agreement.

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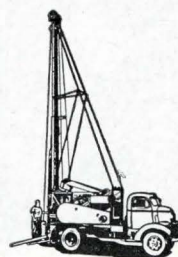
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GREATEST EVER The 44th annual Exposition is going to be the biggest and best. Ever since the gates closed last year, preparations have been underway to make this one of the greatest. More land has been cleared for car parking, buildings have been remodeled, new features added to the programs and additional educational and industrial exhibits acquired.

THE SHOW HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE Every farmer and his family will find interesting attractions to fill their day. Twenty-six major buildings will be filled with the latest innovations in agriculture and the most recent discoveries to lighten and brighten the tasks of the homemaker. A complete youth program is also a part of the show.

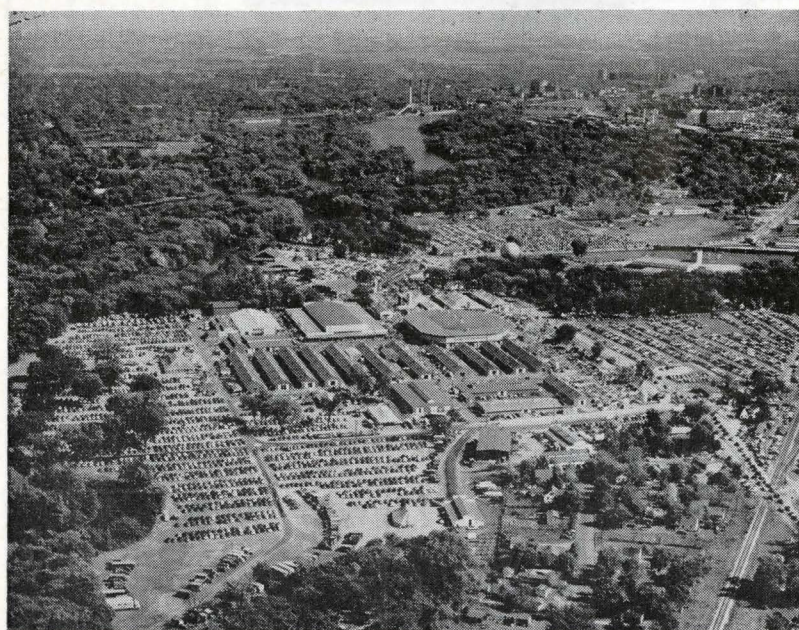
MILLION DOLLAR MILE OF MIRACLES Over 400 manufacturers and exhibitors will take part in the Industrial Exposition that will feature the world's most complete display of modern dairy farm equipment and machinery. All of the full line manufacturers will be here. Whether you need a five plow tractor or a good shovel you'll find it displayed.

ENTERTAINMENT And to top off this year's show of national champions, there will be the beautiful and thrill-packed Hippodrome Program each afternoon and evening—the famous livestock parade of champions, a complete saddle horse show and the finest acts from stage, screen and the former Ringling Brothers Circus.

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FARM MACHINERY EXPOSITION

Thrilling Programs Twice Daily in the Hippodrome



History of Soil & Water Cons.

(Continued from page 14)

ly applied to the U. S. Soil Conservation Service for assistance in the way of trained personnel. The agreement became effective February 4, 1946, and a trained S. C. S. conservationist, John Whelan, took over his duties in the county in the fall of 1946. His aid was Henry Waldorf, the present conservationist. Mr. Waldorf has spent, with the exception of his army duty in World War II, most of his entire working life in this type of work. He is a very effective and active farm planner. Whelan left after three years of service in this county for a District Conservationist position in Illinois. George Forby came as a farm planner for a few months and then was transferred to Dubuque County. Henry Waldorf then took over as farm planner and has been with the district since that time.

The governing body of the district is made up of three commissioners and in this district, also, three assistant commissioners. E. R. Douglas served three years of his six-year term, when he left the state. Joe Steffen completed that term. J. E. Entz completed ten years of service to the district in 1956. Ernest E. Sage was a commissioner for eight years. Harold Bauer, Wayne Mark, Gerald Bedard, with assistant commissioners Wendell Glasener, Harold Huck, and Joe Entz serve as the governing body at the present time.

Besides farm planning, the district has been active in other ways. They have cooperated with the Extension Service, Farm Bureau and A. S. C. for the last eight years in putting on a soil and water conservation short course each winter. Emphasis has been made on subjects pertaining to soil and crops and land management.

Field days proved to be an effective way of demonstrating soil conservation practices. The first was held in August, 1948, on the Earl Brown farm, southwest of Hudson. Waterway construction and seeding, terracing, surface drainage, tiling, and pasture renovation were the practices emphasized. The Hudson Commercial Club cooperated with the District and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in

making a very good demonstration. The 1949 Field Day was on the Roy Wheeler and Lee Rigdon farms, east of Dunkerton. The Dunkerton Commercial Club Farm Bureau, the District, and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service sponsored the program. Surface drainage, terracing, grass waterway construction and tiling were demonstrated. The 1950 Field Day on the Roy Ashley Harold Huck and F. J. Huck farms, northeast of LaPorte City, was sponsored by the Veterans-on-the-Farm Training Class, the Farm Bureau, the Blackhawk County Soil Conservation District and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Tiling, waterway construction, terracing and wildlife restoration areas were demonstrated.

The district for several years has worked with the Coordinating Council of the Sportsmen's Clubs in the county in placing conservation work books in the schools. The schools have shown great interest and many fine work books have been turned in to win prizes given by the council. This program has created a greater interest in the conservation of all our natural resources among the grade students in the schools of the county.

One purpose of the district is to give help to individual farmers on specific soil conservation problems. These problems include erosion control, drainage and terrace engineering, field planning, and the development of a complete soil and water conservation program for each cooperator. The district has 676 active cooperators in such practices. Another function of the district is to give farmers help in making complete farm conservation plans for their individual farms. These plans include the cropping rotations and all other practices needed to maintain and increase the productivity of the farm. Three hundred and fifty such plans have been completed. This is a good record and can only have been made possible by the wholehearted and enthusiastic cooperation of all the farm agencies and the people of this district.

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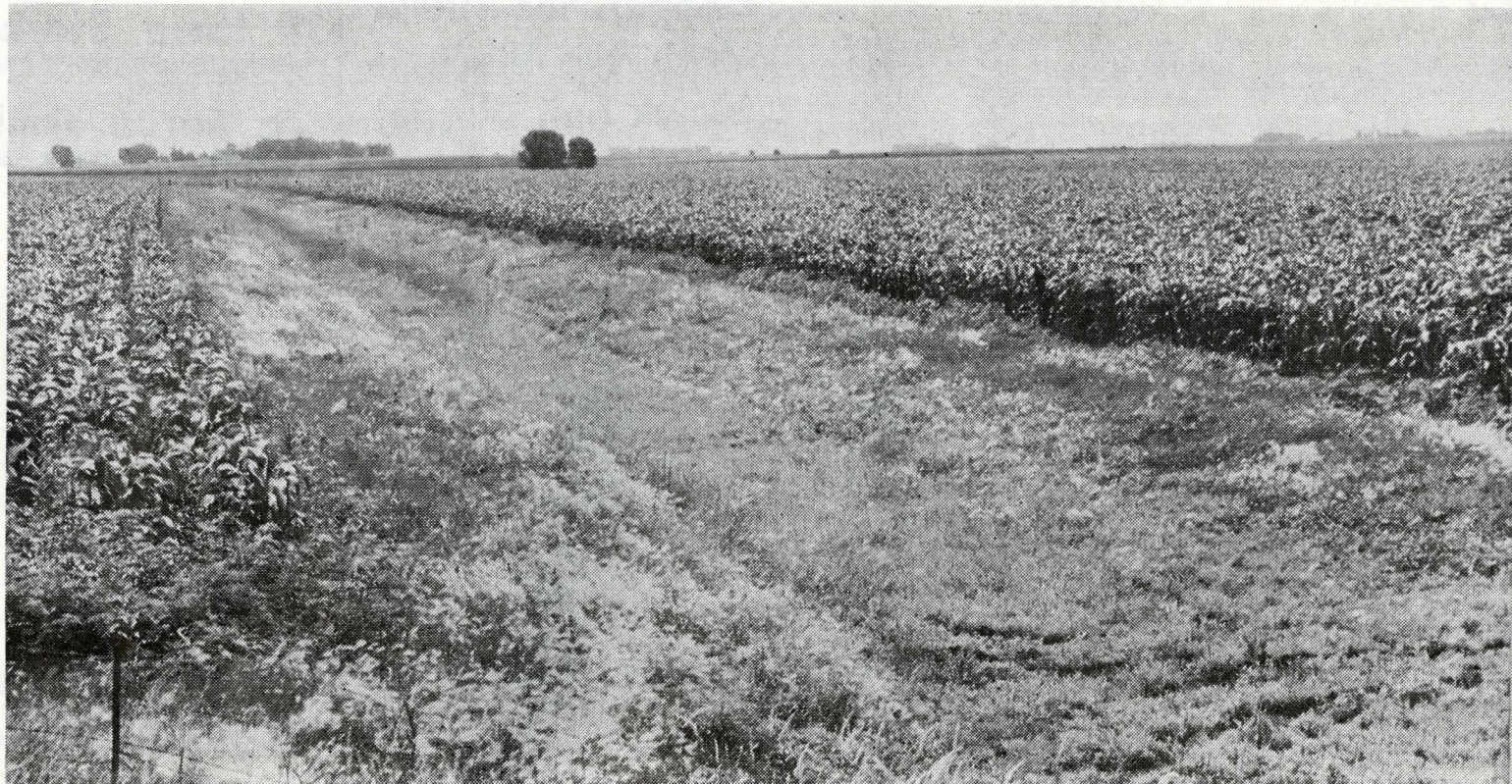
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Open Ditch Drainage A Profitable Conservation Practice



PICTURE OF DRAINAGE DITCH ON THE EVAN SAGE FARM

Open Ditch Drainage

By C. L. Mattingly,
Conservation Farmer

Evan Sage owns and operates a 280-acre farm in Bennington Township, northeast of Waterloo. This picture shows the open drainage ditch Evan had constructed in 1953 to provide an adequate outlet for his tile drainage system. The ditch is four feet deep, has an eight-foot bottom, four to one side slopes, is 40 feet wide at the top and is 1500 feet long. The earth from this ditch was spread in adjoining fields to level them up. It not only serves as an excellent tile outlet ditch but has prevented the frequent floodings of the flat land along side.

In 1954 we constructed an open drain, of the same dimensions and with about the same drainage area as that on Evan Sage's farm, on the Grace Mattingly farm in Black Hawk Township. The former ditch wandered around so much that it was impossible to farm up to it. Now we are able to farm 12 acres of land which was not tillable until we straightened the ditch and used the excavated earth to level the adjacent land. The first year the crop from this 12 acres paid for the ditch and made a profit of \$500.00. Prior to completing this work the same 12 acres only produced a very poor pasture and brought in a cash return of \$50.00 per year. The to-

tal cash return for one year from the 12 acres made a difference of \$950.00 after the ditch was completed. This completes the last project on this farm which is now completely in gear on its conservation farm plan.

This year we were able to extend this open drainage ditch across the farm of E. E. Mattingly, thus completing the ditch. With the exception of a small amount of tile and a small amount of terraces to be put in on this farm we have completed all of the soil and water conservation practices we included in our conservation farm plan. Our rotation is in operation, our grass waterways completed, terraces have been constructed, fields contoured and rearranged, and now the drainage ditch is completed. We believe this program is giving us very good results.

The Soil Conservation Service Technicians of the Soil Conservation District have been a great help to us by assisting us in developing and carrying out our conservation farm plan. Also in surveying, laying out and supervising the installation of the soil and water conservation practices.

I believe the Soil Conservation Service Technicians are a very valuable asset to the farming community. Fellow farmers, let's more of us make use of the cost-free technical service and advise that is available to us through our Black Hawk County Soil Conservation District. At least stop in and get acquainted with

the boys. They are pretty good fellows to know.

Another service which is available to us, and which I used, is the ACP who provide Federal Cost-Sharing funds to us if we make application for them and complete satisfactorily certain soil conservation practices. Terraces, waterways, and open drainage ditches are some of the practices on which assistance may be given.

If you wish the services of the District on open drainage ditches, request them at least three weeks in advance of the time you wish to make the installation.

Requests for Federal Cost-Sharing from ACP must be made before the project is started or no payment can be made. The completed work must meet the specifications of ACP or no payment can be made.

On hiring a contractor to construct your drainage ditch, pick out one who is reliable, works efficiently, guarantees his work to meet the highest standards.

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I believe God created the earth by His divine processes for the benefit of man, not one man, nor one generation, but mankind for all time.

I believe the Almighty gave man an inheritance of the earth, not to be hoarded as a miser guards his treasures, but to be used with wisdom and in the fullest for the perpetual benefit of all men.

I believe all of mankind regardless of race or creed is entitled to a fair and equitable share of the earth's bounty commensurate with their own efforts. But in so believing, I hold the irrevocable conviction that man himself owes earth a debt of respect and fealty.

I believe that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap; that he who manages his fields, pastures, woodlands, and streams with respect and wisdom shall reap the bountiful harvest and so shall his descendants while he who uses them selfishly, thinking only of his own immediate gain, shall bring to grief his land, himself, and his children's children.

Holding these beliefs to be true I dedicate myself to the task of helping my fellow men realize their own personal responsibility in conserving the earth for the generations which follow them. To this end I shall devote my best knowledge in guiding the efforts of those who till the soil so that the land which matures us shall be fruitful without end.

For truly, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, but the responsibility for its stewardship is vested in man.

—C. W. Gee

WOODLAND PRACTICES

By Paul Borger,
C. E. D.

Over 10% of the land area of Black Hawk County is land that is probably better adapted to tree production than to other crops.

This area consists of timber stands along the streams and of sandy soils that do not in most years raise satisfactory crops of grain.

These sandy soils are the basis for tree planting experiments using one or two-year pine transplants.

They are planted as Extension demonstrations using a planter furnished by the Extension Forester from Iowa State College.

These demonstrations have been in existence only a few years and in spite of very dry seasons, some of the plantings are making good progress.

New demonstration areas are planted each year in an attempt to have some of the trees in various parts of the county.

Many of the timbered areas in the county are forgotten acres.

We forget that timber like corn, oats, or soybeans can be a profitable crop.

Trees from many of the areas are cut, but too often not enough thought is given to improving the stand by carefully planned harvesting and replanting.

Here is a summary of management practices that will increase your woodland profits:

1. Increase the livestock-carrying capacity of your farm by improving your open pasture and protecting your woodland from pasturing.
2. Fire destroys timber. Don't let it run wild through your woods.
3. Make an inventory of your woods. Find out what is contains.
4. Select trees for harvest according to their individual condition.
5. Do your own timber harvesting. The wages for labor and the increase in value of the products belong on the farm.
6. Utilize as much of the material as you can on your farm. Sell the surplus and high-quality material if a market

Sportsmen's Club Cooperates 100% With the Black Hawk Soil District

The Sportsmen's Clubs in Black Hawk County are taking quite an active part in the District's conservation program.

Each year the clubs sponsor the attendance, by financing assistance of several teachers of the county at the conservation camp at Springbrook State Park which is conducted by Iowa State Teachers college.

Wildlife areas are planted and materials furnished by the clubs each year in the development of wildlife areas. Farmers wishing to develop a wildlife area should contact the various sportsmen's clubs to make arrangement on including the area in the club's program.

The clubs finance the conservation activities books program in the schools of the county in cooperation with the Soil Conservation District.

—o—
"From little rills—Big gullies grow."

"You can conserve soil without building it, but you can't build soil without conserving it."

"Almost everyone knows this, but it has not occurred to everyone's mind."

Hold the water—where it falls.

exists for it.

7. Investigate the operators in your vicinity. Deal only with the most reputable ones, either when making a sale or having custom sawing done. Have a definite agreement between yourself and the buyer, preferably in writing, which sets forth the terms of the sale. This is to the advantage of both parties.
8. If trees are sold standing, plainly mark trees to be removed. A mark on the stump offers a means of checking on the trees removed by the buyer.

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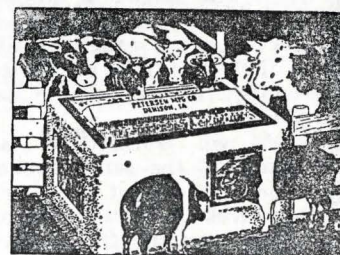
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TERRACES



Why I Believe In Terraces

By John Kerlin,
Conservation Farmer

I believe in terracing because it practically eliminates the loss of topsoil, it increases yields, increases long time profits and the net worth of my farm. Terracing walks the water downhill giving the water a chance to soak in—not race downhill carrying precious topsoil with it.

In this year of drouth conditions, less prices for our product, lower income, we need a means of saving more of the water that falls on our land and all of our topsoil which contains the fertilizer, manure and seed which we put on the land so that we might have a chance of coming out with a profit.

Experimental station results show that contouring intertilled crops reduces soil loss by 50 per cent compared with up and downhill farming. By adding terraces a whopping 95 per cent reduction in soil loss may be achieved. Not only will the topsoil and water be saved by our uses of terraces, the soil productivity and fertility can be built up and maintained when they are used with a good crop rotation. Tests results show that terracing increases crop yields up to 10 per cent while at the same time requiring 10 per cent less power and equipment time than farming up and down the slope. Not a bad dividend.

You can construct terraces using the equipment available on the farm, but be prepared for

the length of time it will take you to do so. Terraces on my farm, which is in Lincoln Township and pictured above, were constructed by a contractor using a road patrol. I believe this is the most satisfactory way to get terraces constructed locally. If you hire this work done get a good reliable, experienced contractor to construct the terrace outlets. Make sure that he will install the terraces as designed and laid out and that he will guarantee his work to be of the highest standard. The terrace system on my farm was constructed so that the terraces are parallel. This eliminated all point rows between terraces. They were built low and broad and can be farmed with all of our farm equipment. They are spaced so that four-row equipment can be used on the terraces and between terraces without having any narrow area left.

The Soil Conservation Service Technicians of the Soil Conservation District designed and laid out this terrace system and gave me assistance during the construction. I recommend that you get in touch with these fellows when you wish work on soil and water conservation practices. They will help you as they have helped me.

We had an inch and one-half of rain in about fifteen minutes in May of this year. The only wash on the terraced fields, which had just been readied for planting corn, was a very small amount just as the water entered the channel from the field area above the terraces. Neighboring fields, some of less slopes, lost tons of soil from the same

rain. The thought of our good topsoil ending up in the Gulf of Mexico is not a pleasant one, but it is a reality for too much of it.

Just take a trip by air where you can look down on your and your neighbors' farms. There is no better way to see a farm and its needs for soil and water conservation practices.

Terraces The Farmers Like

You have a choice of two kinds of terraces, one is high, steep-sloped, short-sloped and difficult to farm, the other is reasonably low, long-sloped, flat-sloped and may be farmed with all equipment used on the farm. Both kinds are designed to reduce soil and water losses.

The terrace recommended in this county by the District, the SCS, the ASC and Extension is the one called the broad-base terrace. Its slopes blend in with the original sloping land so that they seem to become a part of it. The terrace becomes a part of the field itself and nothing is sacrificed because all of the field is farmed with efficiency and ease. Machinery operates over the surfaces the same as any other part of the field. Terrace maintenance is readily taken care of while plowing a field. This system should be so designed that the terraces are parallel, this will eliminate 75 per cent of the point rows encountered in a non-parallel system.

The Soil Conservation District Technicians will assist you by designing and laying out, and supervising the construction of these type terraces if you wish to make use of this service. Contact the District office and ar-

range for this service at least three weeks before you wish to start work. Federal Cost-Sharing may be obtained under the ACP. Requests for Cost-Sharing must be made before any work is started or no payments can be made. The completed job must meet specifications set up by ACP.

“Conserving soil is like wearing shoes—when the design suits and the size fits, each forward step comes easier and easier.”

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WATERLOO, IOWA

Grass Waterways A "must" in Conservation Farming



PICTURE OF GRASS WATERWAY ON THE OLLIE FOULK FARM

Grass Waterways

By Harold Huck,
Assistant Commissioner

The waterway shown above is on the Ollie Foulk farm in Cedar Township. It eliminates a meandering ditch across the farm. The drainage area is quite large. The waterway is 40 feet wide and two and one-half feet deep.

Waterways are one of the most important practices in soil conservation in this county. As terraces and contour rows must be graded toward drainageways, it is necessary that we develop good grassed waterways to carry any run-off water down our slopes and across our bottom lands to eliminate the scouring of the drainage ways. The use of waterways in this manner allows you to get by with one or two drainage ways down the slope instead of as by up and downhill farming, having a water course between rows of intertilled crops.

Many of our farms have small wandering ditches in our water courses and which are uncrossable. On others, the water courses have become silted and higher in the center than on the sides and the water runs down the slope on each side of these grassed strips. These problems can readily be overcome by the construction of an adequate waterway, designed for the drainage area and per cent slope involved.

Waterways should be of proper shape, depth and width, to handle the water run-off from the

watershed they will serve. They should be designed on the basis of acreage of drainage area, lay of the land, and land use in the area contributing to the drainage course. Speed of the water in the waterway is controlled by its depth and width.

A most common mistake a farmer does in building a waterway is making it too shallow. The water slows down in the grass and drops its silt, then the waterway becomes higher than the cultivated areas alongside, resulting in two ditches separated by a strip of grass. A flat bottom or a saucer-shaped waterway of proper depth and width is crossable with all farm equipment and with proper maintenance will do a good job for a long time. The waterway area may be mowed for hay, harvested for seed, or pastured thus making a good return for the area involved. Brome grass is excellent for our waterways as it makes a dense, tough sod and does not slow down the flow of water too much. Reed canary grass is too stiff for upland waterways but is good for gullies or wet sections of waterways or where silt needs to be stopped.

A common practice is to make a scratch furrow on each side of the waterway. This practice forms a small berm and the water cannot properly enter the waterway so it makes a ditch down each side. When plowing the field adjacent to the waterway, do not make a scratch furrow, but keep an uneven end on the plowed land next to the waterway.

When a waterway is construct-

ed too late in the early summer season to establish a good grass cover, broadcast corn at the rate of two bushels per acre. The corn will provide a good cover until you are ready in late August or early September to make a fall grass seeding. It will also provide a good mulch to be incorporated in the soil of the waterway to give protection against erosion.

Wherever there is rainfall, there are conditions under which a surplus of water will pass over the land in the form of run-off. The success of any conservation program depends on the removal of the surplus water without damage to the land. The control of erosion from concentration of run-off is accomplished by the use of grass waterways which are adequately resigned, well-constructed and maintained.

Waterways may be constructed using farm equipment. However, in this county, the construction of many of our waterways requires the movement of large quantities of soil. It then becomes more practical to hire a contractor to do this work.

There are contractors in the county who have equipment that can do an adequate job at reasonable cost. Their bulldozers are adapted to removing rocks and trees in site preparation and to the movement of earth for short distances. Their carry-all can be used efficiently for both the short and longer hauls. Road patrols can do a good job on finishing off work, or on the smaller waterways that do not require a large quantity of earth

to be moved nor for long distances.

On hiring a contractor to do your work get one who knows how to do this work, is reliable, whose operators are efficient, who has equipment that adapted to the particular job, and who will meet designed job specifications.

Assistance in the surveying, designing, and supervision of construction of this practice may be obtained through your county Soil Conservation District. It is necessary for you to contact the District office and arrange for this service at least two weeks before you wish to start installation of the practice. Information concerning the construction and maintenance of grass waterways may be obtained from your Soil Conservation District, the SCS Technicians, the County Extension Director, or the County ASC office.

Federal Cost-Sharing may be obtained under the AC Program. Requests for Cost-Sharing must be made before any work on the project is started or no payment can be made. In order to receive Federal Cost-Sharing payment, the finished job must meet specifications of ACP.

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IOWA SOIL AND WATER

TILE DRAINAGE



Don't Buy Tile-- Buy Drainage

By Harold Bauer,
District Commissioner

Pictured above is installation of a metal pipe crossing a road ditch on the Robert Case farm in Big Creek Township. Bob's tile system was designed and the installation supervised by SCS technicians of the Black Hawk County Soil Conservation District.

There is only one reason YOU ever should install a drainage system. That's to make money.

True, drainage evens out fields, and allows you to work them earlier in the spring. It actually causes the soil to warm up earlier—so crops start growing more quickly. It makes crop roots grow bigger and healthier

and makes yields climb.

No one knows better than you whether or not your land is too wet for the best growth of crops. If flat lands lack natural drainage; if the farm is cut up by running, wet gullies and pot-holes; or if the slopes show side hill seepage, by all means investigate the possibilities of better drainage.

Your farm is becoming so mechanized that you must make every effort to keep the land in a condition that will permit operation of farm machinery at the time most needed.

First, work out a complete plan of the tile drainage system needed for your farm so that all tile will be designed with adequate capacity and the system will give you the maximum drainage return for the minimum cost. You may find that lack of money or shortage of materials and labor make it imprac-

tical to install the whole system at one time. This prior planning will enable you to complete the most needed projects first and costs upon completion of the total drainage system.

When it gets near the season when you plan on tiling, line up a good, reliable tiling contractor. He should be one who will install the drainage system according to the highest standards and guarantee his work. Line him up early so that you can have your work done at the time you choose.

Make sure you have an adequately designed system for your needs. Buy good tile, and check them as they are unloaded on the job. Tiling costs a lot of money and it is false economy to bury but the best tile. Provide yourself with a metal pipe at least fifteen feet long to be used as your tile outlet. The end of the pipe should be covered with a flat sheet of metal hinged to the top, or half-inch reinforcing bars may be driven through the end of the pipe two inches on center. If your tile is going to cross under the waterway or road ditch, provide for enough metal pipe to make these crossings. Where there is any place in the system that tile must be placed at a depth greater than five feet, make sure that your tile will have sufficient strength to carry the heavy backfilling of earth. It is best and generally less expensive to use manufactured T's or Y's for all tile junctions. In Black Hawk County it is recommended that five-inch tile be the minimum size used. Tile systems emptying into an open ditch should have an outfall of at least one foot. All tile mains should be laid at a depth sufficient to permit tile laterals to be laid at a minimum depth of three feet. In this county it has been found that most of the tile should be laid at an approximate depth of four feet. A minimum cover of twenty-seven inches is necessary to remove the hazard of freezing and thawing.

Make a map of your installed tile system. Now, you think you'll always remember just where each line lays, as you look at the dug-up field. But you'll forget it, so map it. Then file a copy of the map where it won't be lost.

Now that your money is buried, don't forget it—check your tile system regularly and make any needed repairs promptly.

Assistance in the surveying, designing, location, supervision of the installation and a map of the installed tile may be obtained from a drainage engineer. If this service is not available to you, you may get this type of assistance through your County Soil Conservation District. The heavy work load of the District necessitates the farmer's contacting the District

Office and arranging for these services at least two weeks before he wishes to start installation.

Federal cost-sharing may be obtained under the ACP program. Requests for federal cost-sharing must be made before any work on the project is started or no payment can be made. The completed job must meet the specifications set up by ACP or no payment will be made.

In many cases in the county a group of farmers having a common need for a tile outlet may request federal cost-sharing from ACP by a Pooling Agreement.

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Attention Farmers and Land Owners

The Black Hawk District Commissioners and the Soil Conservation Service Personnel urge you to thoroughly study this issue of the Soil and Water Magazine. Then place it on the book shelf for future use and references.

FARM THE SOIL CONSERVATION WAY

Since the soil is one of the farmer's main resources, he has become aware in more recent years that his good judgment concerning its care and use pretty well determines whether farming operations are going to be successful or not. The farm family as a unit has a big stake in keeping the soil productive and from washing away. Soil conservation programs have brought to the attention of the public the fact that the soil can be used and saved too. Educational work and soil management begins in the lower grades of our schools through the encouragement and cooperation of soil conservation workers. Students are made aware early in life of the importance of the soil to all our peoples.

The vocational agriculture department at Hudson cooperates in this educational work with younger people by making charts, bulletins and other informational material available to faculty members who wish to include this important unit in their program of work. Films are shown and assistance given to

those teachers who wish to make short field trips to areas where soil and water conserving practices are being carried out in the community. Soil and water conservation work is included in the vocational program of work for both young farmers, enrolled in the course, and in work with the adult farmers who take part in the Adult Evening School program.

On the high school level the work is integrated with the teaching of crop production and farm management. How the soil serves the crop is the first phase of study. From the study comes the problems of relationships the different crops have on the building of soil elements and effects on soil erosion. Activities related to soil studies include the testing of soil elements, field studies of soil and water conserving practices being carried out in the community, contour work on the farms of individuals interested in setting up contoured fields, and visits to the office of the county soil conservation district and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

Some phase of soil and water conservation is included in each year's program of adult education. Technicians of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service are invited in regularly to discuss new practices that are being put to use in the area and to expand on old ones that need more work. Films and slides are shown that apply to the subject.

Teaching material from a number of sources are used in the entire program. Up-to-date bulletins seem to be the best source of materials with magazines and textbooks also used as references. Machinery dealers are contributing greatly in making materials and information available.

Since much of the work in soil and water conservation becomes an economic problem a great deal of the practical work is beyond the ability of most high school students to take an active part beyond the planning stage. Basic understanding is the primary goal in high school work.

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IOWA SOIL AND WATER

Commissioners Furnish Material to Ministers for Use on Soil Stewardship Day

For the second year, the Blackhawk County Soil Conservation District furnished the ministers of the churches of the county reference material which they might use in the observation of Soil Stewardship Sunday.

Times are changing fast. Fewer farmers with modern machinery and technicians produce more food in less time. Now most of the people live in towns and cities. They are less and less conscious of their absolute dependence on the soil as a source of all the things they enjoy, and for life itself. Even some farmers are little concerned about their relation to the future of our natural resources.

It is essential to our existence that both farmer and city dweller realize the importance of conservation. What better help than the church could be enlisted to impress the moral and spiritual significance of this problem. When people understand that conservation is sensible stewardship of God's great natural gifts, it takes on a deeper meaning. When men farm so that soil washes away, the faster, they are committing an economic, a moral and a spiritual wrong. One minister phrased it this way: "When will the people understand that good soil conservation practices are basic for all prosperity? It must be re-emphasized that the earth is the Lord's and we are His trustees. If we hold sacred our task, we will seek better soil conservation methods and strive to hand our land over to our children in better condition than we received it."

Rural Life Sundays and Rogation Days have long been observed by many of our churches. The Soil Stewardship emphasis gives them deeper meaning.

The commissioners are greatly encouraged by the response to this project. They have heard numerous favorable comments from city as well as farm people, which would indicate that many Blackhawk County ministers and priests carried this message in their sermons on Soil Stewardship Sunday. Conservation is everybody's business and in a very special way it is the minister's.

Through the co-operation of the banks of Waterloo, the booklets were furnished to the 129 Blackhawk County churches.

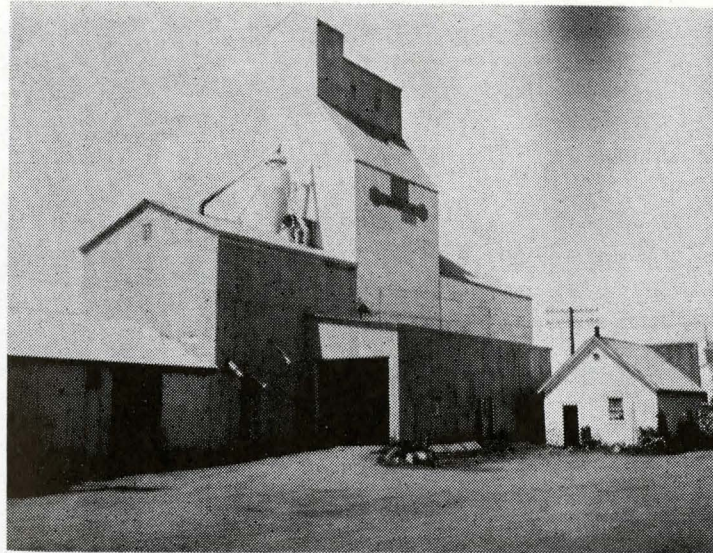
"To make one little yellow grain
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rain

The hoarded riches of the sod -
And God."

"When soil is gone, man must
go."

IOWA SOIL AND WATER

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HUDSON, IOWA

Black Hawk District Host to 1956 Annual Convention

Black Hawk County Soil Conservation District Commissioners welcome commissioners from the 99 other soil districts in Iowa, as well as other soil and water conservation friends, to the 10th Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Waterloo, Iowa, September 9, 10, 11, 1956. District commissioners and office personnel are cooperating with other local organizations in Waterloo in helping to arrange details for the Annual Conference. The Commissioners Annual Conference is sponsored by the State Soil Conservation Committee and the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

WAYNE MARK—

(Continued from page 4)

structure at the end of the above-mentioned waterway.

The entire family takes part in many outside activities, both in the community and the county. They belong to the Evangelical United Brethren church in Cedar Falls where Wayne is now Chief Steward, member of the Church Brotherhood, and secretary of the Sunday School. The children each take an active part in the various Sunday School Units and Mrs. Mark is a member of the Christian Guild, teaches Bible School and serves on the Service Committee of the Ladies Aid.

In the past, Wayne has served terms on the Finchford Consolidated School Board, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee (both in the township and the county), and as a Farm Bureau director. Wayne serves on the board of the Farmer's Home Administration, is active in the Masonic bodies, the I. O. O. F., and currently Mrs. Mark and he are serving as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Equity Chapter, O. E. S., Janesville, Iowa.

The two older boys take part in 4-H; at various times saving had the following projects: Agronomy, Swine, Sheep, Poultry, Beef, Judging, and Demonstrations. Mrs. Mark has been a 4-H Leader, a director of the Cedar Falls Red Cross Chapter, and County-Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Women's Farm Bureau Committee. She is a director of the 4-H County Fair and active in the Republican Women's organization and in the Union Township Women's Farm Bureau and Extension programs.

Truly, the Wayne Mark family is one that loves its farm and its community, and is trying to make both a better place to live.

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