



John Botts, conservation aid for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District, checks the growth of a pine tree planted on the Stanley Pfeiffer farm in Wayne township. Six acres of the 738-acre Pfeiffer farm were put into tree plantings this spring. A high percentage of the farm was already in woodland.

Leftover rolls toasted with a topping of cheese go well with soups and salads.

517 COOPERATORS IN MONROE SOIL DISTRICT

Monroe county farmers and landowners have made major strides in soil and water conservation through cooperative action—as participants in the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

Commissioners Pat Carbin, Alton Wilcox and Bob McGinnis issued the district's thirteenth annual report at the close of 1956 activities.

At the start of the current year the Monroe setup had 517 registered cooperators, with basic conservation plans established on 365 farms.

Here's what the report shows in conservation accomplishments for 1956, and for the lifetime of the district:

	1956	Total to Date
Contour Acres	1,093	24,193
Strip Cropping, Acres	180	730
Pasture Planting, Acres	18	52
Tree Plantings, Acres	6	72
Woodland Improvement, Acres	890	890
Natural Reforestation, Acres	51	137
Improved Fish Ponds	11	205
Drop-Inlet Structures	15	19
Ponds	116	761
Closed Drains (linear feet)	2,529	74,516
Open Drains (miles)	.98	14.20
Diversion Terraces (miles)	4.26	45.66
Standard Terraces (miles)	10.49	98.24
Waterway Development (acres)	10.49	213.73
Land Leveling (acres)	4.00	4.00
Soil Survey (acres)	6,340	148,605

Pilot Watersheds Making Progress, Mendell Says

BY FRANK H. MENDELL
State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service

Pilot watersheds authorized in 1953 in Iowa were Honey Creek in

the Lucas County Soil Conservation District, Mule Creek in the Mills County Soil Conservation District, Upper Plymouth in the Plymouth County Soil Conservation District, and Nassau in the Sioux County Soil Conservation District.

These were four of 62 pilot watersheds established in the United States by authority of Congress.

Honey Creek and Mule Creek are about 8,000 acres each in size, and the Upper Plymouth and Nassau are 8,700 and 5,480 acres respectively in size. When these projects were authorized, it was contemplated that needed land treatment and flood prevention structures would be installed in a 5-year period.

The first step in the development of these projects was the preparation of a work plan that set forth the land treatment measures needed and to be applied by the farmers, and the flood prevention structures needed in addition to the land treatment measures.

Farmers in the Mule Creek area have applied 173 miles of the estimated 280 miles of terraces needed in the watershed, and have made excellent progress in making needed adjustments in crop rotations and land use and in establishing waterways, ponds, and other land treatment measures. All flood prevention structures have been installed.

The installation of planned structures in the Honey Creek watershed will be completed early this year. Land treatment measures including terraces, waterways, ponds, tree planting and seedlings have progressed rapidly since the project was approved in 1953.

One of the largest units in the district is the 572-acre farm operated by Paul Wignall in Pleasant and Mantua townships. Part of it is pictured in the aerial map at right. Wignall's district cooperator's plan was established in 1950 and he has been consistent in maintaining good land use

practices and adding to them each year. The crop areas above the letters "H" and "A" are contoured. The vari-colored area in the center panel, extending upward from the numbers 6-195, represents strip cropping.

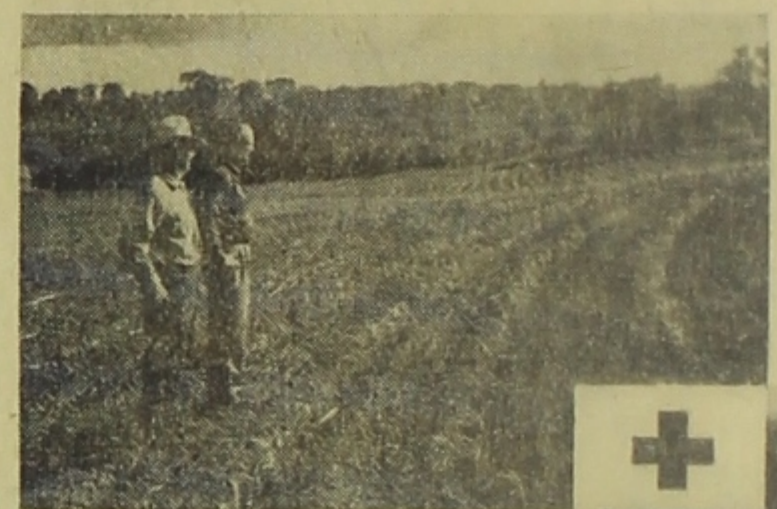
Photos of conservation practices on the farms of other district cooperators will be found in this section of the Soil Conservation Week edition of The Union-Republican.



John Botts, left, and Samuel Phipps inspect pines on Monroe county's largest tree farm, owned by Chester Strait. Since 1951 more than 20,000 trees have been planted on the 360-acre farm.



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ANOTHER ELLISON POND IN MONROE COUNTY



Pictured above are two Ellison caterpillars completing the building of a farm pond for Miss Edna Gray, Bluff Creek township. The building of this pond required the moving of 3900 cubic yards of dirt.

Pond Building Terrace Building Grubbing
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An erosion control structure completed this month on John Spencer's dairy farm just south of Albia will stabilize gullies that were cutting into cropland and toward farm buildings.



The light-colored areas in this photo show natural grassed waterways on the 240-acre Harold Gardner farm in Bluff Creek township. The waterways serve as terrace outlets—about half of Gardner's cropland is terraced.

use pattern on that farm will control erosion within permissible limits.

The addition of applicable data from research carried on in other states, plus the use of modern electronic computers, has strengthened the importance and reliability of this procedure. Meetings at Purdue University during 1956, attended by representatives from nine midwestern states, including the Agricultural Research Service, experiment station, Soil Conservation Service, and Extension Service personnel brought about further refinements in this procedure and broadened its area of application.

Agricultural research relating to soil and water conservation is carried on at eight other locations, including the central experiment station at Ames. Work goes on continually to develop new higher-yielding and better-adapted crop varieties. Yield responses of different crops on different soils to various nutrient elements both singly and in combination are under intensive and continued study. Comprehensive rotation experiments are designed to determine the combination of cropping systems and treatments which give most efficient production.

Farm Field Trials

In these rotation experiments, fertility, crop breeding, soil classification and soil physics research are brought together so that their interaction can be analyzed and evaluated.

Much of this work is later expanded to a field trial basis on farms of cooperators throughout Iowa. These field trial results are closely coordinated with the work of the soil testing laboratory so that soil test recommendations made for lime and fertilizer elements at different production levels are based on the results of many realistic field experiments. The accomplishments in the area of fertility research and the work of the soil testing laboratory undoubtedly rank among the finest services ever offered to Iowa farmers in their efforts to improve and maintain high productive capacity in their soils.

Unique Premiums For Stamp Savers

HARTFORD, Conn. (UP) — New use for saving stamps—to establish savings accounts.

The plan has been put in effect for Hartford shoppers, who, for one book of Triple-S blue stamps, plus \$3, can start a savings account of \$6 at any branch of the Society for Savings Bank.

John R. Bissell, president of the Super Saver Plan, Inc., who worked out the copyrighted plan, said the negotiations are underway with other banks to make this sort of premium available in other parts of the country.

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Busy Maidens Select Demonstration Team

The Busy Maidens girls club selected Marilyn Turner as chairman for its demonstration team entrant at a meeting Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Rouse.

During the meeting the secretary and treasurer gave reports, plans were discussed for the program to be given at the Farm Bureau meeting, and Elaine Free and Becky Whitlock reported on their experiences at the Albia.

Martha Rouse and Becky Whitlock gave a demonstration of refreshing Summer Drinks. After the meeting, refreshments were served.

ALBIA UNION-REPUBLICAN
Albia, Iowa (Monroe County)
Thursday, June 20, 1957

Franklin Farmers Schedule Swim

By Richard Perry

The Franklin Farmers boys' club met at the home of Gary Adams June 17. A swimming party was slated for June 25. Members present at the meeting included: Orville McLeod, Richard Perry, Dick and Tony Saveden and Dean Ammons. James McLeod was a visitor.

Each year Americans read approximately 18,500,000 newspapers, 4,500,000 magazines and 450,000,000 books. We pay five billion visits to the movies annually.

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College Researchers Studying Economic Limits of Erosion Control for Farmer

In the field of economics there is an intensive study being made at Iowa State College on how far a farmer can and should go with regard to erosion control measures with different levels of funds available, according to Charles Ballantyne, extension soil conservationist.

Some types of erosion control practices represent long-range investments, and the returns from this type of investment are spread over a long period of years. Such practices might be terraces or erosion control structures. From this study it is hoped that guides can be established for the use of farmers in timing their investments of this type when capital is limited.

For some seven or eight years there has also been a continuing study at the college on the obstacles to the acceptance of erosion control practices and how to overcome them. The study is designed to ferret out the reasons why farmers do not adopt soil conservation systems of farming more rapidly. This helps agencies such as Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service in dealing with these problems in the field. This study is being conducted in several western Iowa counties in the Ida-Monona soil area.

Another Iowa State College study is under way to bring about a physical and economical analysis of watersheds as related to soil and water conservation. The department of agricultural engineering, the department of agronomy and the department of agricultural economics at the college will cooperatively carry on this investigation wherein watershed development will be scrutinized and evaluated step by step. The study is concerned not only with the gathering of physical data concerning erosion, siltation, water yield and crop yields on a watershed basis but also the planning and application of sound practices and land management to provide the most desirable use of resources, both public and private, at the watershed level.

Iowa has also participated in a national summary of soil and water losses from watersheds. This data is just becoming available at the present time. Iowa data included in this summary come from seven watersheds in Page county (five of which are on the Soil Conservation Experimental Farm) and Ralston Creek near Iowa City.

Egg Penalty

MARION, Ill. (UP) — Six Marion teen-agers vow they will let the Easter bunny take care of egg hunts from now on. Police made the boys buy, dye and hide 60 dozen eggs after the teen-agers jumped the gun on an egg hunt sponsored by a civic club.



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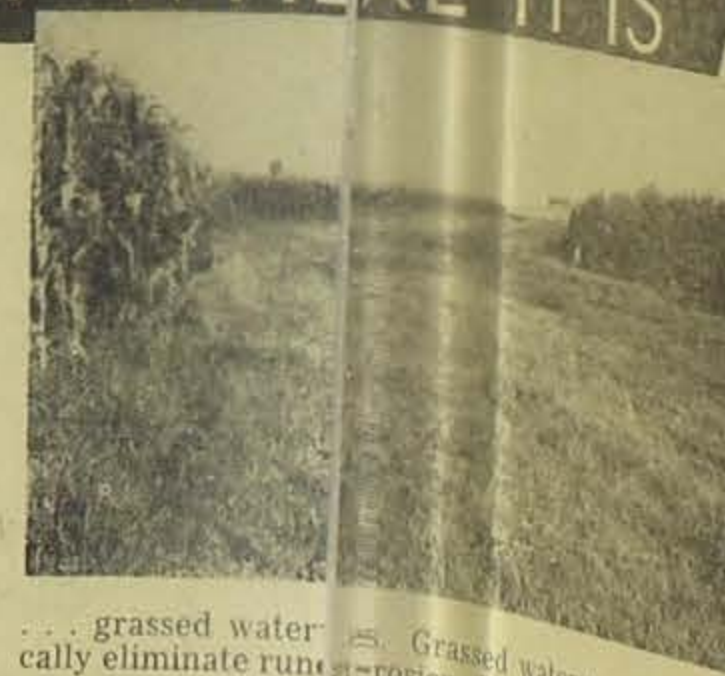
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