

August 15, 1963

Winners Picked In Conservation

The county's outstanding farm conservationists have been selected in the annual Soil Conservation Achievement contest.

Plaques, given by the Bloomfield Newspapers to county winners, will go to the following:

Raymond Howard in Division I (for owner-operator).

Don Walley operator, and **Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Christy**, landlords, in Division II (landlord-tenant).

Marion Roberts in Division III (new cooperator with the local Soil Conservation Service district).

Awards will be presented at the Soil Conservation District banquet and meeting here in November. In the meantime the three farms will advance to multi-county regional competition, where awards are given by the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Judges for the local contest

were **Verle Arnold**, local work unit conservationist with the SCS, and **Harold Baughman** and **Sam Botts, Jr.**, soil district commissioners.

Here is information on each of the winners:

The **Raymond Howard** farm, 532 acres located 2 miles north of Belknap, is primarily a livestock operation, currently including 110 beef cows and 120 head of calves and steers. The conservation program includes 4 of a mile of terracing, half a mile of diversion, five ponds, two erosion control structures, 2½ miles of grass waterways and 86 acres of contoured row crops.

The outstanding feature of the program is the renovation of 220 acres of pasture, involving the clearing of brush and the application of lime and fertilizer. The pasture was reseeded to Birdsfoot trefoil and orchard grass.

Howard has been a district cooperator for five years.

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The farm operated by **Don Walley**, and owned by the **E. V. Christys** of Ottumwa, is 260 acres in size and located 8 miles southeast of Bloomfield. The diversified grain and livestock farm includes 53 acres of crops planted on the contour, over 2 miles of terracing, 2 miles of grassed waterways half mile of diversion, two livestock ponds, two erosion control structures, and 20 acres of pasture renovation.

Twelve acres of bottomland were graded to facilitate drainage and cropping, according to the SCS.

The farm operation also includes 36 litters of hogs a year, 25 beef cows and 15 ewes.

The farm has been in conservation program as a district cooperator for seven years.

Marion Roberts, a new cooperator, has 100 acres located 3 miles south of Stiles. His farming set-up includes a mile of grassed waterways, half mile of diversion, some terracing, contour row crops, and a cow herd he plans to expand to 18 cows to utilize increased forage available because of pasture renovation. He has cleared 20 acres of brush for pasture, limed it, and will seed it this fall to an improved pasture mixture. Roberts also has some hogs and sheep.