



PASTORAL SETTING — A farm pond surrounded by pasture makes a pas-

toral setting on the Lyle Miller farm in section 29, Greene township. The

Millers have reseeded their pastures and built two ponds in addition to a

third that was on the farm when they purchased it.

Millers Construct Tiling And Terracing

By Alan Sieve

Extensive tiling, terracing, contour farming and conservation tillage have made Dan and Lyle Miller, Greene Township, winners of the Iowa county Soil Conservation District commissioner's soil conservation awards contest, in the owner-operator division.

The Millers started their soil conservation efforts through the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1961, after purchasing their rolling to hilly farm in section 29, Greene township, where Lyle now lives.

Tiling was their first project, noted Dan Miller, telling they had a lot of washing problems and wet spots in fields when they first purchased the farm. Information from the SCS office, Williamsburg, noted the Millers had installed thousands of feet of tile. Asked if he could estimate the tile footage closer, Dan Miller couldn't, but said it was "a tremendous lot."

The Millers purchased the 360 acre farm in four parcels in 1960, 1966, 1973 and 1974 and have completed conservation work nearly every year. Dan noted they began by hauling in about a semi-truck load of dirt per year, at first just filling in the ravines. "It was a ravine, don't think it wasn't," commented Dan.

Starting in the late 1960s, they have built roughly 25,000 feet of terracing, covering nearly 210 acres. Last fall, they terraced a 22 acre field, said Lyle. They plan to terrace another 80 acres in the future.

They also practice conservation tillage, having given up the moldboard plow in 1975. For the past few years, they've used an offset disk, followed by a chisel plow. Last year, they bought a new piece of equipment, a Soil Saver, which combines the offset disk and the chisel, saving them one trip over the field. Fields are disked-chiseled in the fall rather than the spring because the soil has a lot of clay and will be more workable then in the spring.

Their yields have stayed the same with conservation tillage as with plowing, they said. Dan added, "It was kind of hard to believe, the first field we did." Lyle noted the corn yield is around 130 bushels per acre.

The ground not terraced is all contour farmed, including Dan's farm in section 36, Greene. Lyle added short rows are not a big problem. "They're laid out good," he said.

In total, the Millers farm 630 acres: 400 of which is in row crops, 360 corn and 40 beans. The remainder is split between alfalfa and pasture.

The Millers also have a farrow to finish hog operation, producing around 2,500 crossbred hogs per year, between the two farms. They use a crossbred boar and save their own gilts. They also have a stock herd of 90 Angus-Hereford crossbred cattle from which they feed out the calves.

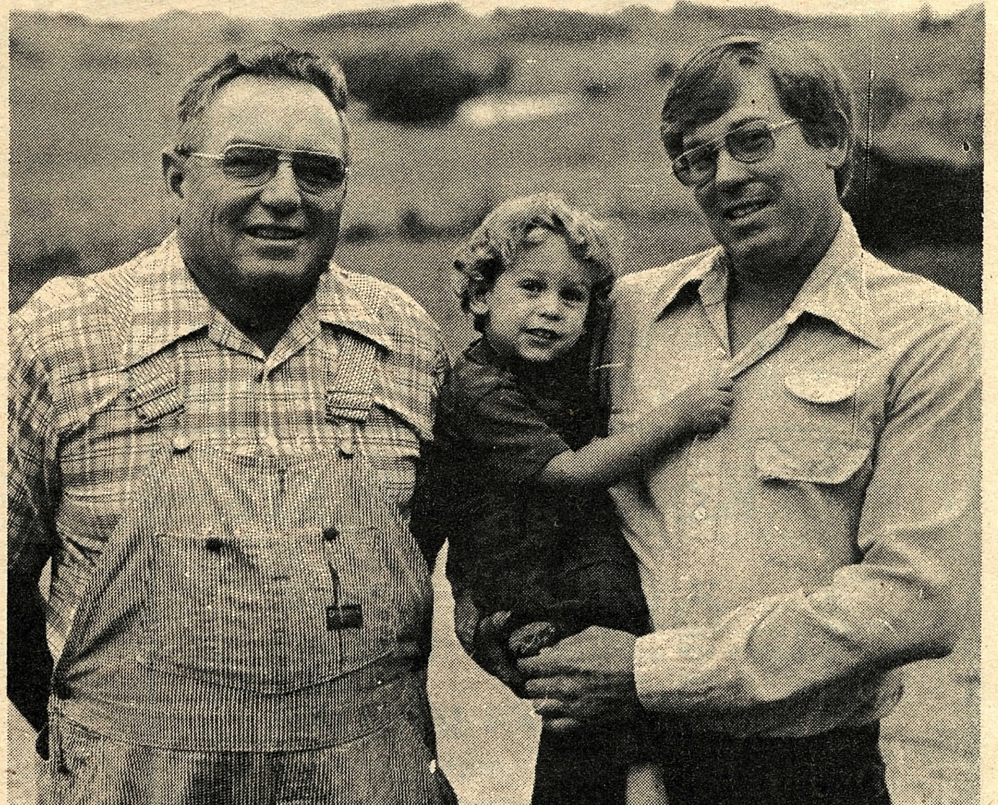
Other conservation projects were to build two additional ponds for watering cattle and reseed pastures. They have three ponds, one of which had been built by the previous owner, also through the SCS program.

Another project they have undertaken is to build a windbreak in 1978 for farmstead protection. It's made up of a row of honeysuckle on the back side with two rows of Scotch pine and some blue spruce. Trees are spaced 15 feet apart in each row, and are offset with trees in the second row filling the space left by the first.

The windbreak is also a long term project. They noted it will take ten years before they can really realize its benefit.

There was a financial incentive in their conservation, Dan noted, as the SCS program provided 50 percent funding.

However, their commitment goes beyond that. Dan noted their main reason for conservation was to preserve the soil they had for the next generation, and Lyle agreed. "It's awful hard to build a farm if it keeps washing off."



THREE GENERATIONS — Dan and Lyle Miller, Greene township, are winners in the Iowa County Soil Conservation district commissioners' soil conservation awards contest, in the owner-operator division. The Millers

have installed extensive tiling and terracing on the 360 acre farm where Lyle lives. Asked why they are committed to soil conservation, Dan noted it was for the next generation, such as Lyle's son, Leslie, 3, held by his father.

Close Out On All 1981 Model Trailers

6x16 Pull Types Start At \$1995⁰⁰
Beat the 1982 prices!
Limited Time Offer.

Pull-Types
Goosenecks
Flatbeds
Utility
Big Bale

-Dealer For-
*Hancock
*Keifer
*Triggs
*Hampton
-Financing Available-

WE TAKE TRADE-INS AND DO ALL SERVICE WORK.
-Complete Hookups-

USED TRAILERS

*6x16 Gooseneck *6x20 Gooseneck

Peterson Trailer Sales

Luzerne

Ph. 319-444-3507

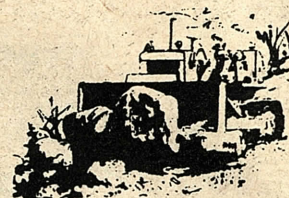


ROY L. YODER & SON Soil Conservation Contractors

*Bulldozers

*Motor Grader

*Elevating
Motor Scrapers

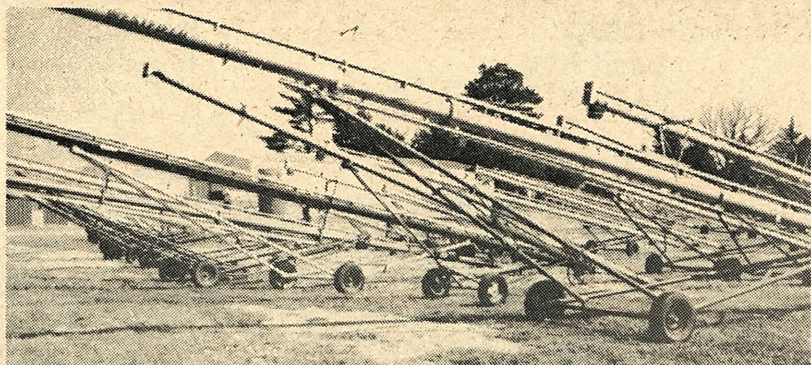


-CONTACT-

Daniel Keith Yoder

Phone 646-6784
RFD 2 Wellman, Iowa

●Augers ●Augers ●Augers



Portable Grain Augers

- Over 30 in stock ●Priced to sell
- All sizes available
- We take trade ins—

Koyker Augers

**9³/₄% Simple
Interest**
25% down payment
3 years maximum

We carry Koyker & Westfield Augers.

Used Grain Equipment

Dryers:

Farm Fans AB 8	210 BPH
Behlen KA 170	155 BPH
Dri-All A-8	348 BPH
Meyer Morton 350	240 BPH
Grain Chief 450	210 BPH
Behlen 500	290 BPH
Behlen 380	265 BPH
John Deere 500	290 BPH
Behlen 700	530 BPH

Augers:

Fetrel 6" x 28' w/3 h.p. motor
Viking 8" x 51" PTO
Westfield 7" x 31' less motor
Snowco 8" x 62' PTO

Call us on our toll-free number
1 - 800 - 452 - 1025

Boyd's Grain Equipment, Inc.

Hwy. 218

North Liberty

1 - 800 - 452 - 1025
Ph. 319 - 626 - 6506



COOPERATED ON POND — When the V 38 road south of interstate 80 in Lincoln township was graded in preparation for future paving, Iowa county supervisors, in cooperation with the county Soil Conservation Service, planned for this pond, located adjacent to the road and

on the Orville Bloethe farm. Use of a pond made possible a much smaller, less expensive culvert under the road than would have been necessary otherwise. Dirt from the pond was used in construction of the road. The pine at the left, along with those for a windbreak, have

been established along the 500 crown vetch plants. The pond and another on the farm along with the trees that have been planted are only part of the total conservation effort that earned the landlord-tenant award for the Bloethes and Wilbur and Dennis Shine this year.

Team Effort Makes The Difference

Winners of the Iowa County Soil Conservation district landlord-tenant division award this year are the Orville Bloethe family and Wilbur and Dennis Shine, Victor.

The Shines farm the Bloethes' 125 acre farm in Lincoln township, south of Victor, as part of their 900-plus acre farming operation.

Bloethe and his wife, Loanna, were elated about the award. "It was about the nicest thing that had ever happened to us. It indicated that we had been working in the right direction," he explained.

"Both of us grew up on the farm, and we recognize the great potential of the Iowa soil. If it is taken care of, it will take care of you. I recall as I returned from Australia, having spent considerable time during the war in the interior of Australia, the closer I came to Iowa, the nicer the country, and east central Iowa was the best place I had seen since I left the red sand of Mt. Isa, Australia, about half way around the world."

Bloethe, a Victor attorney, said they have what he terms an almost unique team doing the conservation work at the farm. It was headed by Harry Bryant, county soil conservationist at the SCS. "His planning was excellent and we followed, in all cases, his ideas and suggestions," Bloethe continued.

"The operators, Wilbur and Dennis Shine, were not only cooperative and helpful, they were enthusiastic and offered suggestions. They removed all interior fences, so now there is one

field of the entire farm allowing the contouring and the dry ponds to work at their best.

"Not to be overlooked was the fact that the Iowa county board of supervisors designated this road (the V road) as one to be worked cooperatively between the county engineer and the Soil Conservation Service. As a result, one dry pond and one wet pond allow all water to flow underground and by means of a small tube without the necessity of an expensive structure. Loanna and myself, listening to Harry, Wilbur and Dennis Shine, and then doing something about it, completed the team.

"Bill Dietrich did excellent work with his dozer as did Milo Heck with the tiling machine," Bloethe added.

The Bloethes also planted a windbreak with trees purchased from George Hinrichs. Mrs. Bloethe watered the 25 Scotch and red pine trees throughout the summer. They were 10 to 12 feet tall at the time they were planted. She also nursed the 500 crownvetch plants they had planted through the spring.

"We started with basically a good (Please turn to page 16B)

ARE PART OF THE TEAM — Dennis and Wilbur Shine, Victor, are winners along with the Orville Bloethe family in the landlord-tenant division of the Iowa County Soil Conservation district this year. The Shines, a father-son combination who have worked together since 1975, farm the land owned by the Bloethes.





CUSTOM COMBINING

**Mr. Farmer, we have the equipment to
do the job right!**

Wagons

gravity and Kinze carts

Combines

tr - 85 New Hollands

**Call 662-2987
For Booking**

Trucks

For long or short hauls

Ed Folkmann & Son

Conroy

Ph. 662-2987

Forages Require Management

Grass and hay meadow on sloping land require proper management to gain full conservation benefits, according to Steve Barnhart, Iowa State University Extension agronomist.

Forage benefits are related to the adequacy of plant cover. Barnhart said there are two characteristics of plant cover to consider when evaluating pasture or meadow crops for soil erosion control—canopy cover and ground cover.

Canopy cover provides protection from falling raindrops. Plant canopies soften the impact of raindrops. This reduces soil particle dislodgement.

Barnhart said canopy cover can be visualized by imagining a bird's-eye view of the vegetation covering and the exposed soil. A pasture or meadow with 25 percent canopy cover may lose twice as much soil from erosion each year as one with 75 percent cover.

In the spring, pasture and forage land generally has enough canopy cover. In the summer, overgrazed pastures and recently cut hay meadows have little canopy cover. Soil erosion from poorly managed forage lands during summer thunderstorms may be high.

Ground cover is more important in periods when canopy cover is poor. Ground cover is the living and decaying plant material in and on the soil

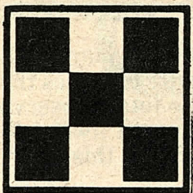
surface. It slows erosion of dislodged soil particles and aids water seepage into the soil, as well as softening rain-drop impact.

An overgrazed grass pasture with only 50 percent ground cover potentially can lose 15 times more soil during a summer storm than a well-managed pasture with 90 percent ground cover.

Grasses generally have more living and decaying plant parts on the soil surface than do broadleaf plants, Barnhart said. Erosion losses from a good grass pasture are much less than from a weedy pasture with sparse grass growth. Waterways, buffer strips and terrace backslopes maintained in grass sod take advantage of the water-runoff slowing characteristics of good ground cover.

Proper fertilization, liming and weed control are necessary to keep dense, productive stands with good canopy cover. The goal of maintaining a full canopy cover during most of the growing season can be achieved by paying close attention to grazing and cutting management. Establishing thick stands of desirable grasses and legumes is a good beginning for achieving adequate ground cover.

"Production and management of good pasture and forage stands plays an important role in integrated soil and water conservation efforts," Barnhart said.



Cattle Feeders

**Have you tried
PURINA PRE-CONDITIONING
RECEIVING CHOW?**

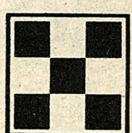
Here's one who did:

- Stuart Blyth's Record -

Number of calves (mixed)	185
Starting weight (11-2-80)	541.54 lbs. avg.
Ending weight (11-24-80)	626.49 lbs. avg.
Days on test	22
Average daily gain	3.86 lbs.
Total feed	52804#
Feed conversion	4.99
Cost per lb. of grain	.29¢

**With results like this, you can't
afford not to use it. . .Pre-Conditioning
Receiving Chow doesn't cost. . .it pays!**

**See the men at Chipman Feed & Grain
about it soon!**



Purina...
planning tomorrow with research today.

CHIPMAN FEED & GRAIN

Ph. 668-1912

Williamsburg

Jerry Allison Uses No-Till To Reduce Erosion

By Keith Allison

The yearly average soil loss from unprotected sloping land is taking its toll.

Soil Conservation service officers estimate that on the average, 13 tons of topsoil an acre is being lost each year on sloping land. That's also an inch of topsoil every 12 years. We now have generally six to eight inches of topsoil left from an original 12 to 14 inches on these sloping soils, or in the 100 or so years of cultivation, half the topsoil is gone.

Another way to look at it, is if that topsoil was put into bushel baskets, one would find that 230 bushels of topsoil is lost every year on unprotected sloping land. A bushel of soil weighs 90-110 pounds.

That means that more than two bushels of topsoil for every bushel of corn produced on unprotected sloping land is lost.

There are many different conservation practices which one can use. One of the is called "no-till."

One of the area farmers using this Jerry Allison, who farms near North English is one of the area farmers using this type of planting practices.

With no-till, the farmer is not only saving soil, he is also saving time and money. Instead of going across a field six or seven times before planting, one goes on the field once.

"It takes time for persons to change their old habits and accept new technological advances in farming," Allison said, commenting on eventual changeover to total no-till planting.

The Allisons farm approximately 400 acres southwest of North English, and for the past four years they have been experimenting with the no-till method.

"Starting with a few acres several years ago, I plan on planting half no-till and half regular planting very soon, but there are still some things to learn before we go 100 percent."

"One of the major reasons I started practicing this new method was because I can't afford to have anymore of the soil washing away," Allison said. "Also, using terraces on this hilly area south of the house would have been very expensive."

"One of the first things you learn, mainly through experimenting, is you need good weed control before the corn stand will be very good. Naturally, this takes extra weed chemicals sometimes, and you also need help from mother nature for rain at the proper time, so the chemicals will soak into the ground."

"It's a tougher job to plant corn in no-till ground, because you must decide on the proper depth to plant the seed. Last year the ground stayed cold longer, because of lack of snow cover. What this meant to me was, the seed took longer to germinate, because it was planted too deep."

"Last year, however, we had an excellent year. One of the things we

learned was to plant our corn quicker and use a thicker seeding of corn.

"Also, when you plant, the ground needs to be dryer than for regular planting. It doesn't take any longer for the corn to come up, but the first six weeks after planting, the seed won't grow quite as fast as regular corn. About the time regular corn is waist high, no-till corn will have caught up in growth."

In comparing yields, Allison said, "Because of the colder ground conditions we had a better stand in our plowed areas," he said. "A year ago when the ground conditions were warmer the no-till area yielded better than the regular fields."

"You must use a different type of planter using the no-till method of planting. One that cuts through the corn stalks, clods, trash, etc. "Personally, I use a John Deere Max-Emerge planter, which has heavy duty fluted coulters in front of the planter shoes. I also add extra barrels full of water, so it will penetrate the harder ground areas."

"There aren't that many manufacturers that produce planters especially designed for no-tillage planting. The majority of conservation planters are modified versions of conventional planters."

An Iowa State University Extension agricultural engineer said, "Generally planters that will give better results have narrow coulters, double disk openers, independent depth control between the units and angled press wheels with the weight concentrated on the lip of the furrow."

The effectiveness of soil erosion control is affected by the area of soil surface covered by crop residue rather than the weight of residue. Increasing soil cover by 15 percent reduces erosion by 50 percent.

Conventional tillage methods invert the soil and bury crop residue leaving little or no residue on the surface. Conservation tillage requires fewer field preparation methods, and in turn saves the farmer time, fuel and money.

"Because I don't have to plow, disk or do any other field preparation before planting, I can use a smaller tractor than would be needed for pulling equipment up and down the hills," Allison commented.

Looking ahead to next year he continued, "I think we'll plow up the ground after three years of no-till planting and run a corn shredder over the field this fall."

"No-till has a bright future in Iowa because it provides an excellent soil protection on slopes, and the moisture-holding ability of residue on no-till crops is an advantage in the dry years we've been experiencing lately," Allison added.

On his farm Allison also raises crossbred Hampshire and Yorkshire hogs, in addition to 4-H lambs and calves his children raise. "I farrow about 80 sows a year," he commented.

He and his wife, Kay have two daughters, Nancy and Debbie; and a son Denny at home. A daughter, Susan Lundberg lives in Cedar Falls.

"We need added government assistance in this new field," Allison stated. "Farmers receive \$10 an acre for one year, with a maximum of 40 acres planted."

According to soil conservation officials, new planter loan programs are being conducted across the state as

those involved in no-till promotion have made planters available in 45 Iowa counties.

Across the state about 650 farmers took advantage of the planter loan programs in 1981, planting an average of 30 acres each.

Interested Iowa farmers are asked to contact their local soil conservation district or county extension service office to see if a program will be offered in the county in 1982.



NO-TILL PLANTING — Jerry Allison, who farms approximately 400 acres of ground southwest of North English, has been practicing no-till corn planting for four years. What was once a hay field, this 100 acres is

now planted in corn using a conservation type planter that cuts through the stalks and clods. Allison hopes to plant half of his ground by using no-till in the future.

Bumper Crop Is Part Of Picture

By Eldon Olsen

Management Specialist

The crop this year is expected to be a bumper one about equal to 1979.

Until last year corn production in the United States has broken the previous year's record every year since 1974. Annual carryover increased each year until by Oct. 1, 1980, it exceeded 1.7 billion bushels. This is about two and one-half months usage.

Several other factors contribute to the downward trend in prices. On the domestic scene, reduced hog feeding in the United States because of the low profitability ratio and recent reduced cattle on feed because of the lush pas-

ture situation has cut corn feeding in the past year nearly 350,000,000 bushels. The outlook is for further reduction in hogs in 1981 and '82.

Foreign demand has been dampened in recent months by large supplies of the southern hemisphere bumper feed grain crop. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar has made our corn relatively more expensive to nations such as Japan. Japan is by far our largest customer.

Russia's new role in grain buying, although substantial, is much less dramatic and less price stimulating.

The high interest rates have drained most of the open speculators off the

futures market, so that the best rumors create little more than a rumble. Most of our large customers, both at home and abroad, have been moving cautiously, buying only as needed, hoping to match their buying with the low of the market.

What can turn the market around? It will take some dramatic action to do the job. An accumulation of several factors perhaps, such as: reopening of the reserve at a loan rate equal to, or higher than, the current corn price; lowering of the interest rates to turn the bulls back into the commodity market again; and a \$.10 rise in corn prices during this normally price

depressing season.

In the long run, a general break in the strengthening in the economy will increase employment and thus increase demand for red meat, encouraging expansion of hogs and cattle feeding. This may come slowly.

If demand should increase, there's currently a surplus supply of box cars and barges sufficient to move the bumper harvest to meet that demand. Once the psychology of the low market is turned around, there may be a strengthening into December or January and we may see \$3 corn yet before next summer is over.



DISCUSSES FARM PLAN — Greg Misbach, Marengo, talks to two women on the Iowa county soil conservation tour this summer about no-till operation he practices. Misbach chairs the soil conservation service board of commissioners for Iowa county. Other area farmers hosted vis-

itors on the tour with area extension personnel, which included Greg Brenneman, Cedar Rapids, area soil, water and waste management specialist, and Lowell McKean, Iowa County Extension director, speaking.



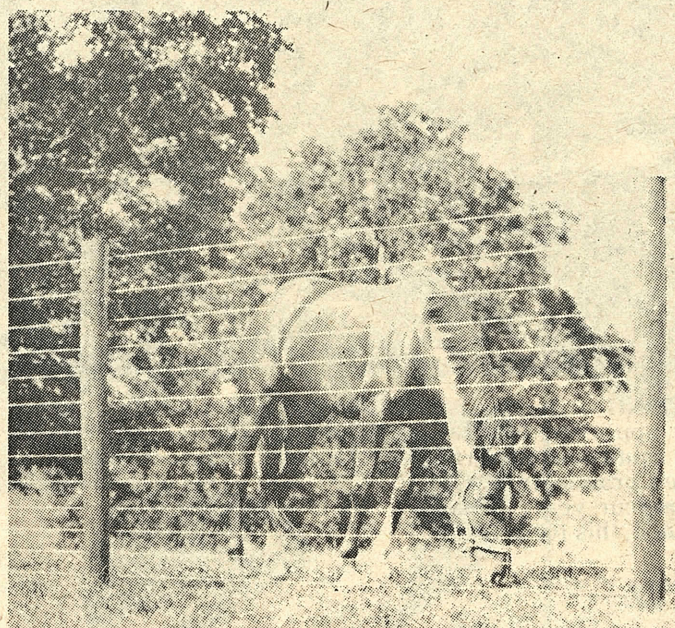
EXAMINE ROOT CONDITION — One of the stops on the county conservation tour this summer was on the Greg Misbach farm. Misbach, chairman of the soil conservation service board for Iowa county, right, listens while John Creswell, Cedar

Rapids, area extension service comments on progress of his crop. In the center is Larry McCallister, North English, who also had farmers stop on his farm earlier that date.

High-Tensile Fence System: The first major fencing innovation in 100 years.

Not since the introduction of barbed wire in 1874 has there been a fencing method with the features of the KOPPERS HTF™ SYSTEM. . .

- Reduced Hide Damage
- Easy Installation
- Low Maintenance
- Strong & Long-Lasting
- Economical



High-tensile smooth wire fencing has been used effectively on progressive ranches in Australia and New Zealand. Now the Koppers HTF System is available here.

A & B FENCING

Ph. Allan Husband, 655-7741
or Bud Montross, 655-7973
INSTALLATION AVAILABLE
Millersburg

YOU CAN COUNT ON US



We are equipped to do any and all of your livestock hauling.

WIEBOLD TRUCKING

Conroy

Phone 662-2405