

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Highlites By Hirt

By Emmett Hirt
Fieldman

This is soil conservation week. The Soil Conservation Service is nearly 30 years old having been organized April 27, 1935. The act declared soil and water conservation on farm, grazing, and forest lands of the nation to be a permanent policy of Congress.

The first district in Iowa was organized in 1940 and the last was organized in 1952. A total of 100 districts are now organized.

The Soil Conservation Service is important to all people in the United States. Much or all of our food production is dependent upon holding the rich soil we have where nature placed it, and more and more water is being used per person each year. In some cases water levels in the soil are being seriously depleted.

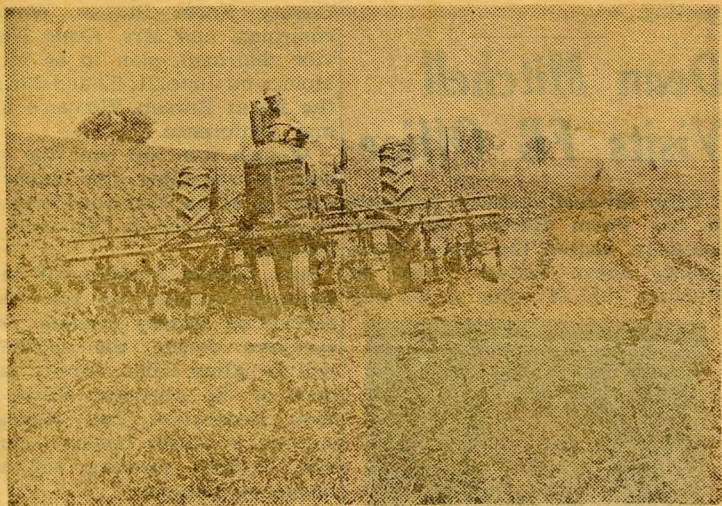
A good soil conservation program of contouring and terracing on each farm will hold 2' to 4 additional inches of rainfall as well as the top soil which is normally lost. This can be and often is the difference of a crop or a failure.

The Farm Bureau Young Member committee has an interesting program outlined for the coming year.

Couples wanting to make the farm-city exchange are needed.

This would mean opening your home for a weekend to some city couple and your returning the weekend visit in the city at a later date.

Name Soil Conservation Winners For 1964



Pictured above is Gerald Modlin of Eldora, cultivating a terraced and contoured field.



Harry Lawless, Jackson township farmer, is shown above observing soil conservation practices on his farm.

The week of June 14 to 21, set aside as Soil Conservation week, calls special attention to award winners in the annual Soil Conservation Achievement awards in Hardin county.

Selected as winner of the 1964 awards in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in soil and water conservation are Gerald Modlin and Harry Lawless, both of Eldora.

Modlin, who operates a 260 acre farm 5 miles southeast of Eldora, became a cooperator with the Hardin Soil Conservation District in 1959.

Gerald started in the spring of 1959 by building 3,300 feet of terraces with a tractor and plow. Additional parallel terraces have been constructed 3 times with a total of 15,000 feet now on the land.

Additional conservation measures installed on the Modlin farm include 120 acres of contouring and 4,000 feet of grassed waterways. A diversion terrace has been constructed and field boundaries established on the contour.

Modlin is ably assisted with his farming operation by his wife Sarah, sons Dennis and Dick and daughter Joyce. Gerald has been active in community work. He is currently president of the Hardin County Farm Bureau. In addition, he has served as county vice president 3 years and county secretary 6 years.

Lawless has been active in the Hardin SCD since 1953. The district now in its 19th year of operation, has cooperators numbering 332.

Lawless, who operates 160 acres in Jackson township 7 miles northwest of Eldora, has installed numerous conservation practices. Included are 40 acres of contour stripcropping, tile drainage, grassed waterways and tree planting. Lawless operates an additional 90

Governor Designates June 14-21
As Soil Conservation Week In Iowa

Governor Harold E. Hughes signed a proclamation designating the week of June 14-21 as Soil and Water Conservation week in Iowa.

In signing the proclamation, Governor Hughes noted that "the development of Iowa land and water resources through soil and water conservation, flood prevention, and wise land use, is essential to maintain agricultural income and protect the economy and

tax base of the State."

He expressed the desire that the people of Iowa recognize the important work being conducted in each of the state's 100 soil conservation districts. "It is of the utmost importance that we continue to advance our cooperative efforts in soil and water conservation work, particularly in small watersheds, where opportunities are offered to further this all important work," he said.

SCS DISTRICT OBSERVING
SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK

The observance of Soil and Water Conservation week in Hardin county from June 14-21 coincides with special recognition being given in the 100 soil conservation districts in Iowa.

Iowa was completely organized into conservation districts in 1952. Each district is a sub-division of the State government and is governed by farmer elected commissioners.

Commissioners in the Hardin SCD are Dean Kelsey, Iowa Falls, chairman; Paul Primus, Steamboat Rock and Dale Petty, Eldora. Ted Cutler of New Providence, Homer Calkins of Iowa Falls and Kermit Whitehead of New Providence serve as assistant commissioners.

The United States Department of Agriculture provides assistance to the District through the Soil Conservation Service. Cal Moore, work unit conservationist, and Dean Miller, conservation technician, are assigned by the SCS to the local district. Eileen Miller is employed as district secretary and clerk. Mike Brogden is employed as state aid.