

The Annual Report of the Cedar County Soil Conservation Service

A Supplement to The Tipton Conservative and Advertiser • February 16, 1994

MAX Program Stresses Profitability, Not Yields



Jeff Meier, Lowden, participates in new farming programs to learn more about his own farming practices and how to better them.

by Pat Kroemer

As new farming and conservation programs are introduced, many are based on yields. Now there is one that considers profitability.

Jeff Meier, Lowden, entered this new program in 1992 and although he found it a great learning experience, he didn't participate this past year.

Meier participated in the MAX-Farming for Maximum Efficiency - program. It was designed for farmers to keep economic records on their corn and soybean fields and to analyze their expenses.

"There was no cost to get into the MAX program," Meier said. "It was a great learning experience. I got an idea of where I rate in return on my crops."

Meier, who farms east of Clarence in partnership with Bruce Jensen, explained that the program shows a producer where his money goes and its rate of return, compared to other contests which are based only on yield. He said in the MAX program a producer with the highest yield could come in last in profitability because of expenses.

The MAX program was designed to show producers that fewer trips across the field, less chemicals and fertilizers

and good erosion practices could yield a profitable crop. The program showed producers how to compare expenses versus return.

"I was very happy with our results," Meier said. "The program proved even with the cost of custom drilled beans it paid because of fewer trips across the field."

Meier and Jensen no-till about 75% of their soybeans now.

For the MAX program they designated a field and recorded tillage type (no-till), chemicals and fertilizers used and times across the field. Of the 20 acres designated, 2 acres were harvested for the test plot.

"You could enter more than one test plot and use other tillage types if you wanted to compare results," he added. "It took time to fill out all the paper work for the program."

Meier's one concern about the program was that it didn't explain rent values and how they were considered in the final figure.

Results on their test plot showed Meier and Jensen that no-till drill beans are profitable.

In 1993 they entered the Soil Conservation Soybean contest and won with yields just over 50 bushel an acre.

"We used the same practices we learned last year from the MAX program," Meier said. "We implemented what we learned to make farming profitable for us."

Meier first got interested in no-till farming in 1991 when the ASCS cost shared up to 50 acres for first time applicants. In 1992 he drilled beans in April and had very good luck with yields. The wet spring held up drilling beans in 1993, but Meier and Jensen plan to try early drilling again this season.

Meier works at the ASCS office in Tipton and Jensen is parts manager at Davis Implement, Tipton. Since both have full-time jobs off the farm they have found farming practices that work into their limited schedules.

They currently farm 500 acres and plan to plant 260 acres of corn and 220 acres of soybeans in 1994.

Meier also feeds out 100 head of cattle a year and has a small stock cow herd. Jensen raises hogs.

"The MAX program showed where you placed in return per acre, rather than yield per acre," Meier stressed. "It's not yield that counts, it's your return that counts. The purpose of MAX was to show the profitability, rather than the yield."

Trash Gains Respect, Farmers Find Value In Crop Residue

It was called trash for years, but the crop residue cover most farmers now see has gained respect.

Kurt Hoeft, SCS district conservationist, says properly managing crop residue is now the preferred way to grow corn and soybeans. Hoeft says it is a proven method of reducing soil erosion and increasing profits.

"Leaving last year's crop residue on the surface before and during planting operations provides cover for the soil at the most critical time of the year," Hoeft says.

Residue is left on the surface by reducing tillage operations that turn the soil and bury residue. No-till, mulch till and ridge till are conservation tillage methods that keep pieces of crop residue on the soil surface, where they shield

soil particles from rain and wind until plants can produce a protective canopy.

Soil that stays in place in the field reduces water pollution. The residue also improves soil tilth and adds organic matter to the soil as it decomposes.

And, because the farmer makes fewer trips across the field with tillage equipment, there is less soil compaction. The fewer trips also save time, energy and labor.

Hoeft says planning for residue cover begins at harvest. It's important that sample residues are spread evenly over the field by the combine.

Tips to maximize residue protection include: reducing the number of tillage passes, since every pass buries more crop residue; driving slower during tillage operations; and using straight points and sweeps

on chisel plows instead of twisted points. Setting tillage tools to work at shallower levels helps, too.

Hoeft says farmers can estimate residue levels by using a line that has 50 or 100 equally divided marks. Stretch the line diagonally across crop rows, and count the number of marks that have residue under the leading edge when looking from directly above the mark.

Then, walk the entire length of the line. On a 100-mark line, the total number of marks with residue under them is the percent residue cover in that field. If the line has only 50 marks, multiply your count by two. Repeat the procedure 3 to 5 times in a representative area of the field and average the results to make sure you get an accurate percentage.

Farmers Have A Choice Between Grass, Gullies

Almost every farm has at least one—a natural drainageway that tends to erode. But fortunately for farmers, they don't have to accept the scars inflicted by flowing water. They can choose between grass or gullies.

Kurt Hoeft, district conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS), says grassed waterways are an excellent method of correcting gully problems and preventing new gullies from forming in natural drainage areas.

Grassed waterways are created by grading and shaping a natural drainage way to form a smooth,

bowl-shaped channel. This area is seeded to sod-forming grasses.

"Runoff water that flows down the drainage way flows across the grass rather than tearing away soil and forming a larger gully," Hoeft says. "An outlet is often installed at the base of the drainage way to stabilize the water and prevent a gully from forming."

Hoeft explains the grass cover protects the drainage way from gully erosion and acts as a filter, absorbing some of the chemicals and nutrients in runoff water. Hoeft says the vegetation also provides cover for

small birds and animals.

SCS provides assistance to farmers who would like to solve their gully problems. SCS conservationists and technicians help farmers plan conservation systems and also prepare designs and specifications.

Some things SCS will look for include a proper outlet for surface runoff at the bottom of the waterway, the possible need for tile drainage to help establish vegetation in the waterway, and whether other soil conservation measures will be needed to prevent siltation.

Elijah Follows A Tradition Of Conservation Practices

by Pat Kroemer

In the early 1950's Clarence Byers started conservation practices on Thelma Elijah's farm. He ran fence rows across the slope of the fields, so farming had to be done across the slopes, stopping any erosion that was taking place. Young Bill Elijah studied this practice and decided conserving the soil was the correct way to farm.

"Contour farming takes more seeds at planting time," the Clarence farmer said, "but it saves your soil."

Elijah began farming in 1966 and has always used some type of conservation. He no-tills where economically feasible and uses turn strips, buffer zones and crop rotation.

"I've put my government acres where they are to my best advantage," he said.

Turn strips allow Elijah to turn his equipment around and allow water to drain out of the field. Turn strips have previously been set aside acres and subsidized by the government farm program.

"Some producers may choose to turn under their set aside acres this next year and put it back into production since there is no government program as an incentive," Elijah explained. "I'll leave my turn strips in though, to protect my own land."

Elijah rotates his crops by planting corn for 2 to 3 years, depending on the contour of the field. The next year oats are planted and then 2 years of hay.

Elijah, who likes to farm with no-till, confesses to having some fields that are so flat they won't properly drain for no-till.

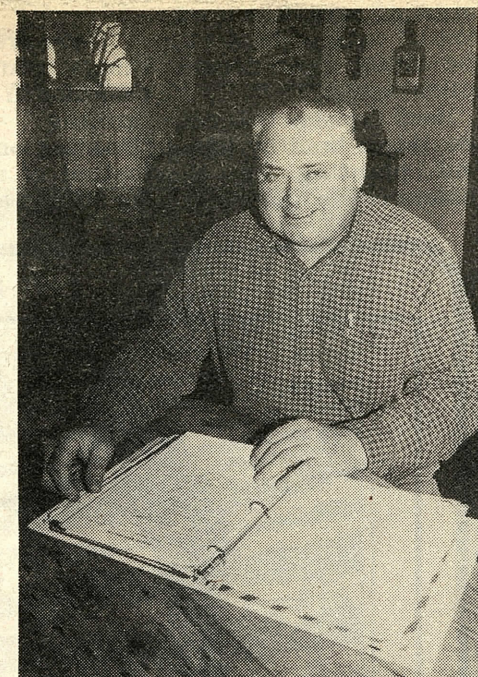
He also raises the seed population rate 10% on no-till fields.

This season Elijah will plant 300 acres of corn, 100 acres of soybeans and 40 acres of oats and hay.

Elijah's conservation plans were done with help from the Soil Conservation Service.

"They asked me to put in some additional waterways and a few more turn strips needed to be added," he said. "I also utilize buffer strips along the creek waterways and watch chemicals I use near the creek."

"The SCS has helped me maintain my soil and has been very helpful with



Clarence farmer Bill Elijah feels conservation of the soil is one of the most important things farmers can do for future generations. Elijah crop farms and feeds out cattle.

farming tips and information," Elijah says.

Detailed maps and complete yearly records show Elijah how his conservation practices have benefited his operation and his land.

He leases some equipment to his son, Larry. They will plant approximately 680 acres of corn this spring.

Elijah buys feeder calves and feeds out 140 to 150 head a year. He utilizes his own crops by feeding silage and corn.

Elijah is in his 7th year as a member of the ASCS county committee board.

"Every year the SCS and ASCS check 5 to 10% of the producers in the county to see if they are in compliance with regulations," Elijah explained. "They always seem to check the directors first to see that we are doing what we are supposed to. They check crop residue and make sure there is enough left on the fields and make suggestions on how to leave more if needed."

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Records Show Crop Residues Save Soil, Boost Profits

Crop-growing methods that help hold the soil in place are also the most profitable for farmers, according to economic records Iowa farmers kept on 585 corn and soybean fields last year.

The records, which came from 70 counties across the state, showed that the more crop residues left on the surface of the soil, the better the farmer's bottom line.

"Mostly, the records show that yields stayed fairly consistent for various types of tillage systems, but profits were better for those who could cut out trips across the field," says Jeff Zimprich of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines.

"Net profits were highest on ridge till and no-till fields, followed by mulch till, reduced till and plowed fields. The fields with heavier crop residues outperformed those with little residue both economically and environmentally," Zimprich adds.

The records were kept as part of the MAX - Farming for Maximum Efficiency - program. The program encourages farmers to keep economic records on corn and soybean fields so they can analyze expenses of different tillage and crop production systems.

Average yields and profits per acre on 340 MAX corn fields were:

TILLAGE TYPE	YIELD	PROFIT OR LOSS
ridge till	112.8 bu	\$22.95
no-till	110.3 bu	\$20.71
mulch till	108.2 bu	\$10.21
reduced till	106.4 bu	\$6.24
plow	110.4 bu	-\$25.90

Average yields and profits per acre on 245 MAX soybean fields in 1993 were:

TILLAGE TYPE	YIELD	PROFIT OR LOSS
no-till	44.3 bu	\$61.47
ridge till	42.5 bu	\$58.17
mulch till	42.4 bu	\$53.30
reduced till	42.7 bu	\$43.98
plow	42.1 bu	\$36.76

The mushrooming trend for Iowa farmers to switch to planting systems which leave more residue on the soil surface made an environmental difference in 1993. Despite rainfalls that totaled 1.6 times the rainfall in 1984, for instance, the estimated 2.4 million acres of severe soil erosion in the state in 1993 compares to 4 million acres of severe erosion in 1984. Primarily to save more topsoil, Black Hawk county

farmer Alan Karkosh recently began to no-till some fields.

"When we make changes in tillage, we want to be sure we're not taking a step backwards in profitability," says Karkosh. That's why Karkosh entered 12 fields in the MAX program.

Karkosh, his father Gary and uncle Jared Owen began no-tilling part of their farmland in 1992, and wanted to compare input costs and yields of different methods. "The MAX shows us where we can improve," Karkosh says.

A 24-page report on the 1993 MAX is available from the local soil and water conservation district and Soil Conservation Service offices. The book was published cooperatively by the Iowa Corn Growers Association, the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board and the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners, with assistance from the Iowa SCS.

Those organizations and the Division of Soil Conservation of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa State University Extension and agribusiness firms helped plan the program.

National sponsors of the 1993 MAX are Successful Farming magazine, the Conservation Technology and Information Center and Ciba.

Contour Farming Slows Erosion, Improves Water

The fastest way to get between two points is to go in a straight line. Unfortunately, for water, that's also the most erosive way.

Soil conservationists know that slowing water as it moves down a slope allows more water to soak into the ground instead of running off and causing erosion. And, one of the best ways to slow the water down is by planting crops along the contour of the land.

"Contour farming can reduce soil erosion by as much as 50% compared to up and down the hill farming," says Kurt Hoeft, district conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Hoeft explains that crop row ridges built by tilling and planting on the contour create hundreds of

small infiltration points. The result is less soil erosion and better water quality.

Sometimes, however, farming on the contour is not enough to get adequate protection against soil erosion. In many cases, Hoeft says, terraces or strip-cropping may be necessary to slow the water flow even more. Grass waterways also may help in areas where runoff is concentrated. Field borders are recommended to replace end rows, which prevents erosion at the outside edges of a field.

"There are a number of things you can do in conjunction with contour farming," Hoeft says. "Planting on the contour instead of up and down the hills is a big first step

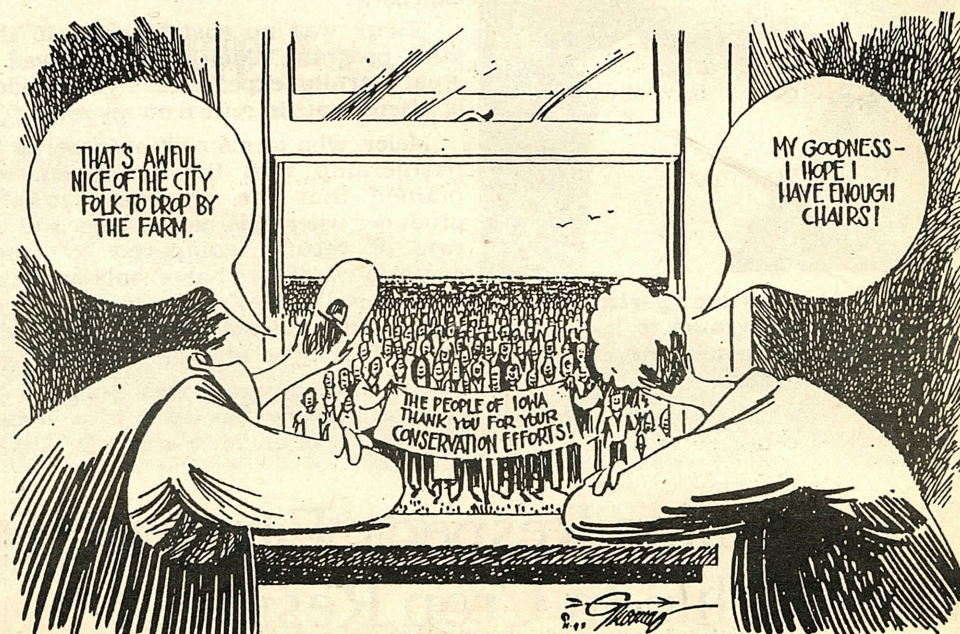
toward reducing erosion."

If you feel the residue amounts in your fields might fall short of your plan goals, ask us for alternative solutions. We can't get that residue back, but we may be able to substitute some alternative practices, such as contouring or buffer strips.

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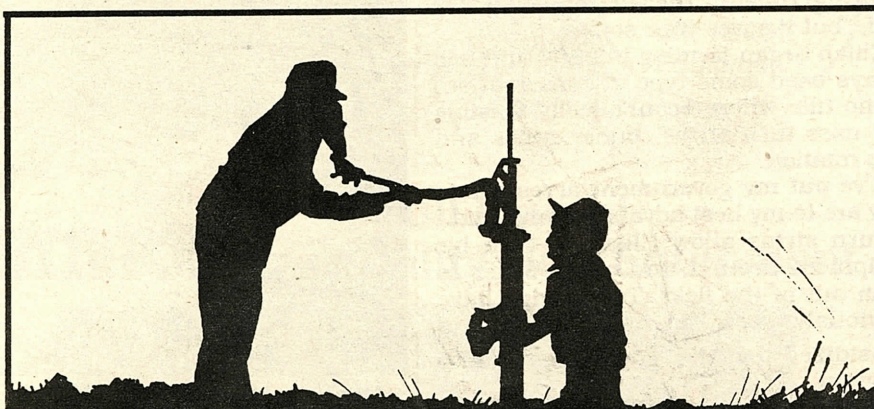


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1993 District Activities

JANUARY

Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners held their organizational meeting Jan. 12, 1993. Election of officers was held: Michael Walter, Chairman; Richard Kreinbring, Vice-Chairman; Jerry Long, Secretary and Melanie Schott, Treasurer. The following Assistant Commissioners were appointed: Steve Leazer, Joel Brown, Richard Zenishek and Millicent Zenishek. The Board reviewed a soil loss complaint and approved FSA plan revisions.

District newsletter was distributed Jan. 15. A staff meeting and ethics training was held in the Tipton Field office Jan. 19. Limestone Bluffs RC&D held a meeting on the 21st.

The District tree sales campaign began. Soil Conservationist Doug Ensminger organized upcoming neighborhood meetings.

Soil Conservationist Clarence Bunch attended training in Minneapolis Jan. 25-29.

Commissioners Mike Walter and Rita Mays and Assistant Commissioner Steve Leazer assisted in the registration booth at the Eastern Iowa Conservation Tillage Show in Cedar Rapids Jan. 27.

Soil Conservation Technician Judy Hagan and Soil Conservation Aid Carmen Fields attended Technician Training in Washington Jan. 28.

FEBRUARY

The District sponsored a Contractors Show in Durant Feb. 1.

Limestone Bluffs RC&D board members met Feb. 4.

The Environmental Education Committee met Feb. 9.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting on the 9th. The board developed priorities for no-till cost-share and reviewed 44 applications; approved FSA plan revisions; and reviewed scholarship applications.

Cooperator Ray Millett hosted a neighborhood meeting on the 10th.

DC Hoeft attended wetland training Feb. 11 in Muscatine.

The District held the Annual Banquet in conjunction with Corn and Soybean Growers Masters Contest annual event. Chairman Mike Walter presented no-till contest and conservation awards.

SC Bunch and Ensminger attended the Soybean Conference Feb. 16.

Cedar SWCD Annual Report was published as a supplement to the Tipton Conservative Feb. 17.

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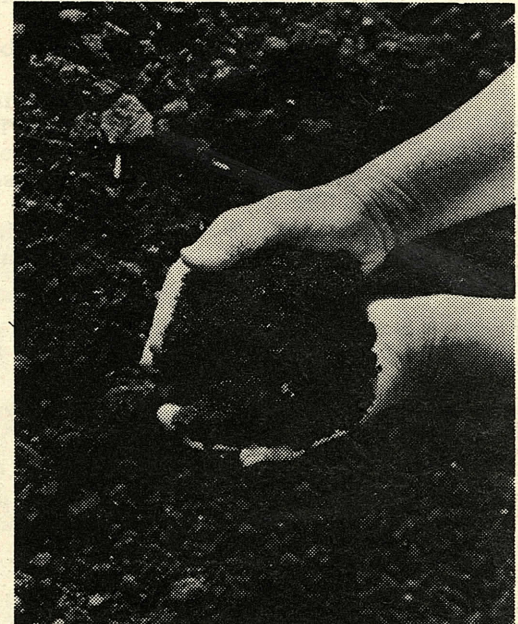
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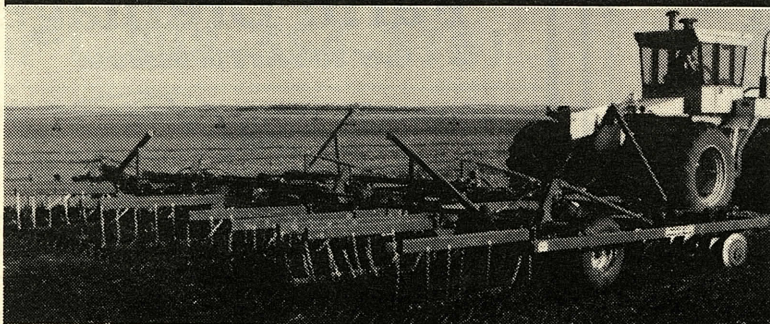
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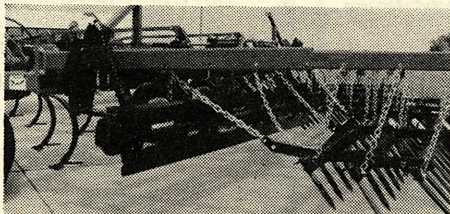


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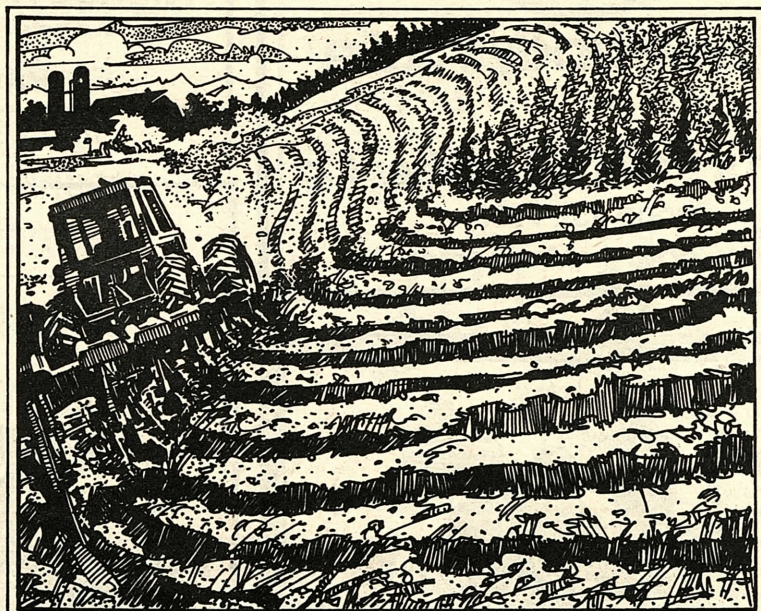
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1993 District Activities

Cont. from page 3

Commissioner Rita Mays attended a Residue Management Seminar in Lowden organized by SC Ensminger and Ed Andrews. Representatives from tillage tool companies were available for questions.

District Secretary Melanie Schott assisted the DeWitt Field Office due to their secretary vacancy Feb. 22.

Cooperator Steve Nash hosted a neighborhood meeting Feb. 23.

District cooperated with ISU Extension Service at the West Branch Crop Clinic on the 23rd. DC Hoeft presented information on FSA and waterways.

Cooperator Walter Hansen hosted a neighborhood meeting Feb. 24 and Marty Fay hosted a meeting on the 25th.

Work began on a local no-till video. SC Ed Andrews from Davenport and Greg Brenneman from ISU worked with George Driscoll from Mechanicsville on the project.

MARCH

District tree sales campaign ended March 1.

Robert Stork hosted a neighborhood meeting on the 2nd.

Area Conservationist Kathy Pielsticker visited Tipton Field office March 4.

Cooperator Don Driscoll hosted a neighborhood meeting on the 5th.

Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association meeting was held March 9. District Commissioners met for their regular meeting. The board reviewed cost-share applications; approved FSA plans; and discussed Cedar County Landfill closing data.

Commissioners Randy Mather and Rita Mays attended Spring Regional meeting March 10 along with

DC Hoeft.

Cooperator Wayne Frederick hosted a neighborhood meeting on the 11th.

Limestone Bluffs RC&D held a tree planting meeting March 12 in Maquoketa.

Cooperator Merlin Gadelmann placed conservation farm displays at Community State Bank in conjunction with Ag Week March 15-19.

DC Hoeft attended a District Conservationists meeting in Washington, Iowa, March 25.

A drill owner's clinic was held in DeWitt on March 29.

Area Resource Soil Scientist Mark LaVan assisted the Tipton Field office on a soil investigation.

Waterway training was held March 30 in Davenport.

Soil Scientist Lonnie Miller assisted Tipton Field office March 31.

DC Hoeft worked with Jim Reel, SCS Water Resources Planning Staff, City of West Branch, Hoover Historical Site Park Board and local landowners on a proposed watershed project.

Melanie Schott painted signs to be placed around the county to highlight waterways, contours and field borders around the county.

APRIL

Cedar SWCD worked with Cedar-Wapsi Pheasants Forever and Cedar County Sportsmans Club by providing free trees to cooperators for wildlife purposes.

Soil Stewardship materials were ordered and distributed to local churches in observance of Soil Stewardship Week April 25 to May 2.

Wetland Training was held in Tipton April 7.

DC Hoeft attended a 5% spot check meeting in

Sigourney.

The District newsletter was published and sent out April 9.

Commissioners regular meeting was held April 13. The board interviewed scholarship applicants and selected Marcia Wendt of Clarence-Lowden and Devon Schott of Tipton for \$200 scholarships. The board approved payment of IASWDC State dues, reviewed cost-share applications and approved FSA plans. Commissioner Rita Mays reported on the Spring Regional Meeting she attended in March.

Environmental Education committee met and held their annual poster contest April 14.

A rotary ditcher demonstration was held April 20.

Area Clerk Darlene Lauder and Resource Conservationist Dean Pettit assisted Tipton Field office April 21.

A rotary ditch demonstration was held near Walcott April 21.

A red oak tree seedling was distributed to each third grade student in participating schools (Tipton, Bennett, Clarence-Lowden, Lincoln and Durant).

MAY

Assistant Commissioners Richard and Millie Zenishek hosted Lincoln students and presented their conservation tillage and no-till equipment and operations.

Cedar SWCD picked up tree seedlings May 6 from Cascade Forestry Service and distributed for District tree sales program at the Margery Schott farm.

District Commissioners met for their regular meeting May 11. Current legislative bills and USDA reorganization information was discussed; FSA plan revi-

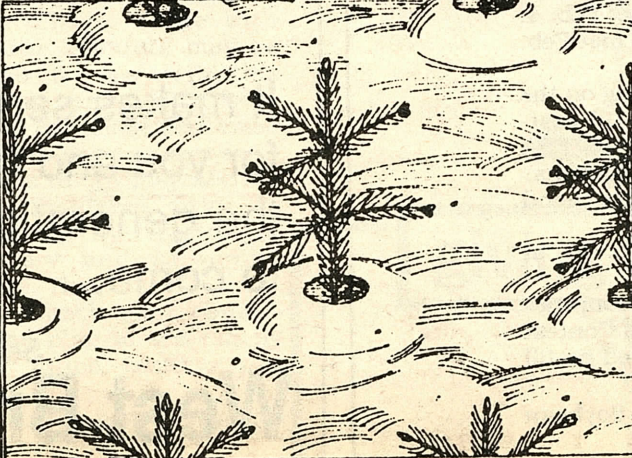
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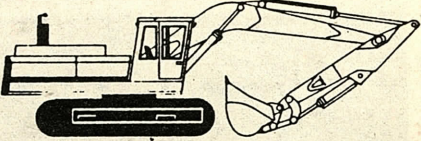
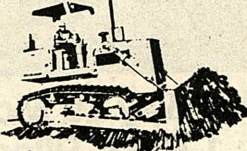
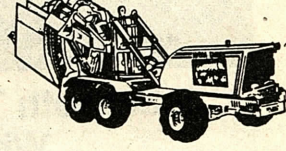
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sions approved; and prepared a resolution regarding cost-share. Commissioner Rita Mays volunteered as MAX coordinator.

DC Hoeft met with ASCS and FmHA Supervisors May 12 for an Emergency Board Meeting. Tipton Field office held a staff meeting May 17.

JUNE

Commissioners met for their regular meeting June 8. The board approved cost-share payments and the Annual Plan of Work was reviewed.

Area Conservationist Kathy Pielsticker visited the Tipton Field office June 10.

Cedar SWCD newsletter was published and sent June 11.

District Forester Steve Swinonos assisted Tipton Field office with tree plantings and organized a Forestry Field Day.

SE Iowa Research Day was held near Crawfordsville June 15.

Area Soil Conservationist David White visited Tipton Field office for 5% spot check June 17.

Hurricane ditcher demonstrations were held in Johnson county June 16 and Scott county on the 23rd.

JULY

Commissioner Randy Mather and cooperators Ken Fawcett and Alan Mather hosted a conservation tour July 1.

Commissioners held their regular meeting July 6 and with the help of pilots Mike Moes and Ed Crock, aerial viewed conservation farms for annual awards in the county. The board discussed the new organic nutrient management waste program and reviewed SCS and SWCD Memorandum of Understanding.

SC Ensminger and District Secretary Melanie Schott attended computer training in Fairfield July 22.

SC Ensminger attended Professional Selling Skills training July 14-16.

AUGUST

DC Hoeft attended an Area Meeting in Sigourney Aug. 5.

An Emergency Disaster Downlink was viewed at the ISU Extension Service on the 9th.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Aug. 10. The board viewed a soil loss complaint site; reviewed and approved the 1m Budget and Spending Plan; approved cost-share payments and FSA plan revisions; set priorities for ONMP; participated in NACD

Farm Bill Survey; and reviewed a current rental survey information provided by Jerry Long.

DC Hoeft and SC Ensminger attended ag waste management training in Iowa City Aug. 25.

Cedar SWCD participated in the Annual Corn & Soybean Growers Field Day near Stanwood Aug. 26.

SEPTEMBER

Limestone Bluffs held a meeting in Anamosa Sept. 8.

DC Hoeft attended an Emergency Conservation Program meeting in Cedar Rapids.

Commissioner Mike Walter and DC Hoeft attended the Fall Regional Meeting and tour near Tama.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Sept. 14. The board reviewed annual conference resolutions; review and signed a Memorandum of Under-

standing between ASCS and SWCD; discussed current Limestone Bluffs RC&D Projects; and selected Kerry Phelps' windbreak for the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award.

Area Resource Soil Scientist Mark LaVan assisted the Tipton Field Office Sept. 22.

The District newsletter was published and sent.

DC Hoeft attended a District Conservationist Meeting Sept. 21-23.

The Farm Progress Show was held near Amana Sept. 28-30.

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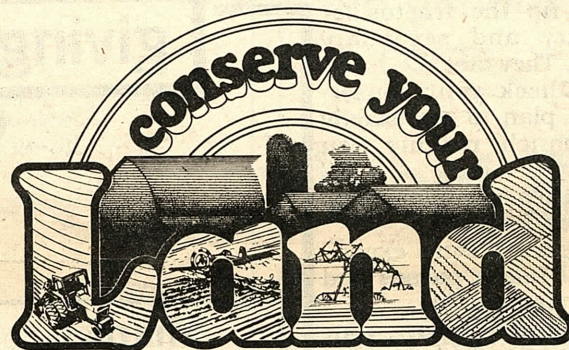
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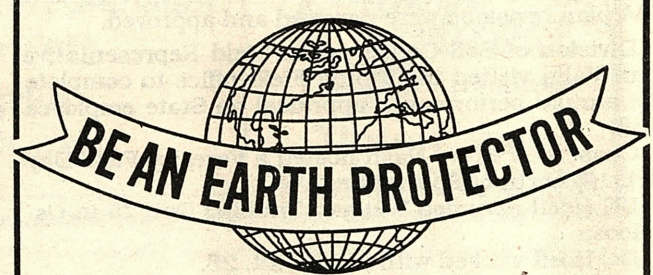
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for future generations.

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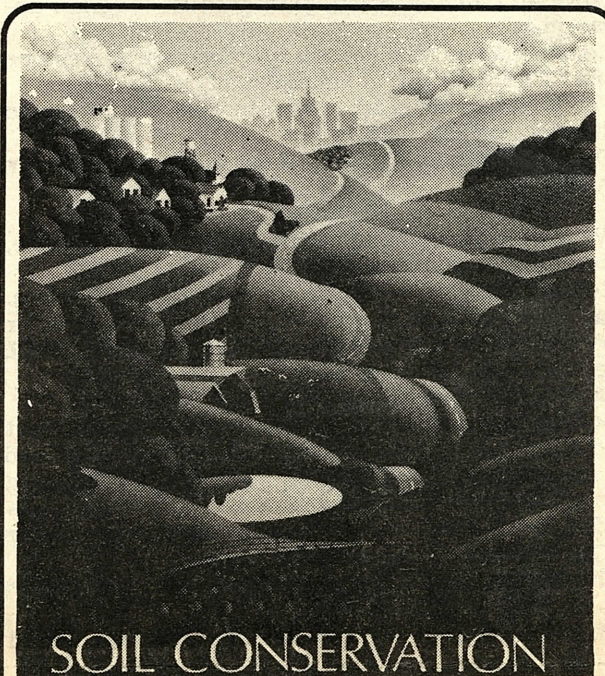
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Stanwood, Iowa



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Lowden



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Conservation is vital if we hope
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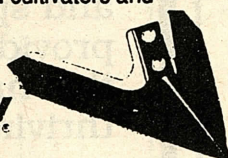
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SIZE	SHANK ANGLE	NUMBER	REG.	NOW
For field cultivators:				
7 inch	47-degrees	N182039	\$4.54	\$3.86
9 inch	47-degrees	N182040	\$4.69	\$3.99

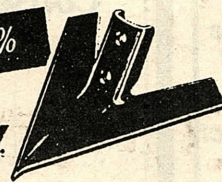
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SIZE	SHANK DEGREES	NUMBER	REG.	NOW
7 inch	43	N130166	\$3.46	\$2.94
9 inch	43	N130167	\$3.60	\$3.06
7 inch	47	N188992	\$3.86	\$3.28
9 inch	47	N188993	\$4.08	\$3.47

**MATCH
PLUS**



Strackbein's, Inc.

Lowden - 944-5393 - See Duane

Tipton - 886-3181 - See Steve



1993 District Activities

Cont. from page 5

OCTOBER

Soil Conservationist Clarence Bunch was promoted and accepted a position in DeWitt.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Oct. 12. The board discussed Emergency Wetland Reserve Program and Emergency Conservation Program funds and projects; cost-share payments were approved and FSA plan revisions were reviewed and approved.

Division of Soil Conservation Field Representative Paul Valin visited the Tipton Field office to complete the annual performance appraisal on State employee staff.

Cooperator Steve Nash hosted a Forestry Field Day Oct. 19, north of Springdale.

DC Hoeft attended Wetland Training Oct. 25 in Os-kaloosa.

DC Hoeft worked with FEMA Oct. 28.

NOVEMBER

Commissioner Rita Mays attended an information meeting as the MAX coordinator Nov. 9.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting on the 9th. The board approved cost-share applications; reviewed the Annual Plan of Work; and reviewed current legislation.

Commissioners met for a special meeting Nov. 16 to approve an Organic Waste Management Program application.

Commissioner Mike Walter attended the Limestone Bluffs RC&D meeting in Maquoketa Nov. 17.

The Eastern Iowa Hay Producers Association board of directors met Nov. 23.

The Emergency Wetland Reserve Program began Nov. 29.

DECEMBER

Wayne Fischer, with the Fish and Wildlife Service, assisted the Tipton Field office Dec. 10.

Commissioners met for their regular meeting Dec. 14 at the extension service office. Extension director Jerry Long demonstrated his new ISU computer ISOIL program to the commissioners.

DC Hoeft attended a sub-area meeting Dec. 15.

Soil Conservationist Ed Andrews from Davenport Field office and Greg Brenneman from ISU completed the no-till video "No-Tilling Corn & Beans" featuring George Driscoll of Mechanicsville. The video was funded by DuPont Corp. and sponsored by Cedar SWCD. The video is available for review.

The District and Extension Service met Dec. 20 to prepare for a windbreak meeting.

The Emergency Wetland Reserve Program ended Dec. 30.

Pre-tillage Check List

by Doug Ensminger
Soil Conservationist

While driving through the county this fall, I acres of cropland. Most of couldn't help but notice a these plans call for high large amount of tillage. I residue systems, leaving am not suggesting tillage up to 50% to 60% residue

was wrong, only that I have some concern for compliance with the Food Security Act.

Cedar county producers have developed conserva-

tion plans on 145,000 acres of cropland. Most of couldn't help but notice a these plans call for high large amount of tillage. I residue systems, leaving am not suggesting tillage up to 50% to 60% residue

1993 Annual Report

IM BUDGET

1993 Allocation	\$1,629.14
Office supplies & expenses	\$1,133.24
Commissioner Expenses	495.90

IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

1993 Allocation	\$38,389.00
Amount Spent	\$15,537.54
Amount Obligated (unspent)	8,408.00
Released to DSC 12/31/93	14,443.46

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT & PROTECTION (REAP)

REAP WATER PROTECTION PRACTICES

1993 Allocation	\$5,220.00
Amount Spent	\$4,670.63
Amount Unspent	549.37

REAP FORESTRY NATIVE GRASS

Amount Spent	\$1,345.00
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1993 NEW COOPERATORS

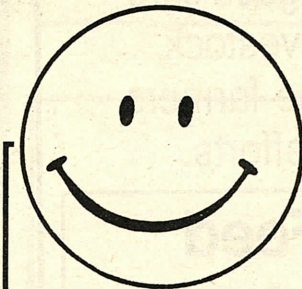
Michael Gesling, Chancy Moore, Philip Urmie, David Urmie, Chuck Urmie, John Caes, Erma Kiser, Lyle & Terri Parry, Darrell Reid, Andrew and Penny Kapinski, Mike Harden, Harold & Naomi Wehde, Walter Wiebke, Dale Reed, Ronald Allmandinger, James Selfridge, Wayne Thede. Waters Family Ltd., Marvin Steinhagen, Marvin Evers, WAG Inc. % Pete Greiner, James Ahrens, Janet Nelson, Gary Bartlett, Richard Reid, Dircks Farms Inc., Robert Gregory, Allan Has-selbusch.

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Kurtis F. Hoeft	District Conservationist
Doug Ensminger	Soil Conservationist
Judy A. Hagan	Soil Conservation Technician
Melanie B. Schott	District Secretary
Carmen A. Fields	Soil Conservation Aid

after tillage. Those high residue amounts may be tough to maintain this coming spring when looking at the tillage performed to date. For this reason, a couple things may need to be considered prior to firing up the tractor for primary and secondary tillage. They are:

- 1) Check your conservation plan to see exactly how much residue you need.
- 2) Learn how to measure crop residue.
- 3) Perform some experimental tillage passes and check your residue.
- 4) Cross-reference your residue after field checking with the amounts in your conservation plan.
- 5) Make necessary adjustments to allow for the residue you need.



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JD 750 grain drills, 15', with grass seed. \$8.50/acre, discounts for early confirmed bookings and volume acres.

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COOPERATING AGENCIES

Jerry Long	ISU Extension Director
Steve Swinonos	District Forester
Tim Thompson	Wildlife Mgt. Biologist
Alan Schmidt	ASCS County Exec. Director
Michael Graham	FmHA County Supervisor
Rick Rouse	County Conservation Board

1993 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Michael Walter	Cass Township
Richard Kreinbring	Springfield Township
Randall Shaull	Red Oak Township
Rita Mays	Farmington Township
Randy Mather	Gower Township

1993 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Millicent Zenishek	Fremont Township
Richard Zenishek	Fremont Township
Steve Leazer	Farmington Township
Joel Brown	Pioneer Township

FISCAL YEAR 1993 SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New District Cooperators	28 no.
Land Users Assisted	1,072 no.
Land Users Applying A Conservation Practice	490 no.
FSA Plans Revised	39,060 ac.
Cropland Erosion Reduced	29,503 ac.
Pasture Protected (CRP)	1,714 ac.
Conservation Tillage	18,801 ac.
Contour Farming	8,997 ac.
Grade Stabilization Structures	10 no.
Windbreaks	6 ac.
Ponds	2 no.
Grassed Waterways	87 ac.
Tons Soil Saved	193,041 tons

102
106
173
900
329
330
410
380
378
412



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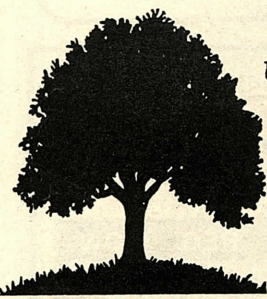
Care for Your Land...

...By using, not abusing our wealth of natural resources. The land should be treated with respect, so that we all may benefit from its rich supply of food, fiber and minerals. As a farmer, you can see to it that what we take from the land is given back... by replenishing and conserving... rotating crops and irrigating... using the land to its fullest, yet leaving time and space for regrowth. As a farmer, you can provide a vital contribution to the future of this nation... by keeping our precious land thriving for generations to come.

The Future Is In YOUR Hands! Practice Farm Conservation And Reap The Rich Rewards!

Cedar Soil Conservation District

**You know us-
We know you
...that's what
really matters.**



*We're not much for
using superlatives-
always someone
out there who
has a better this
or that....but we'd
go nose to nose*

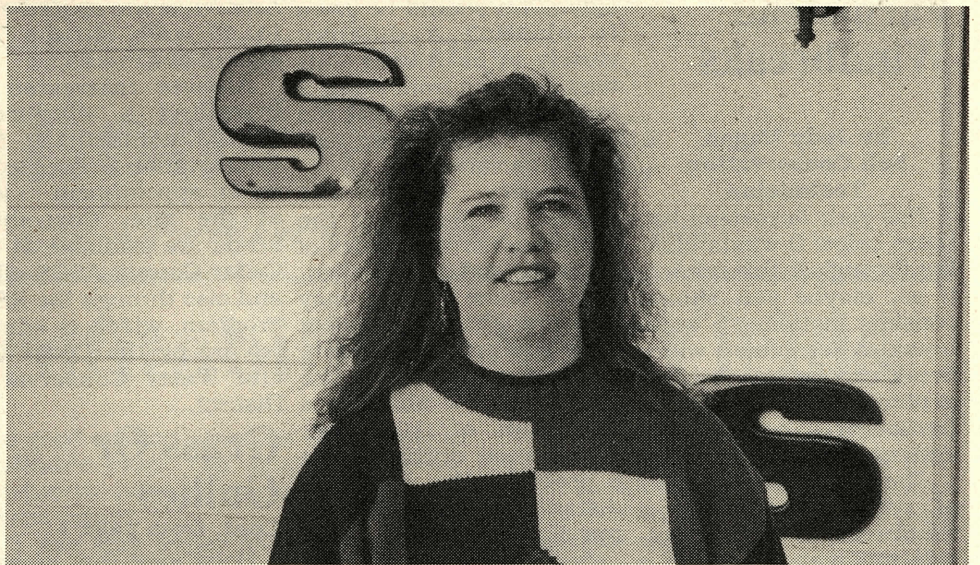
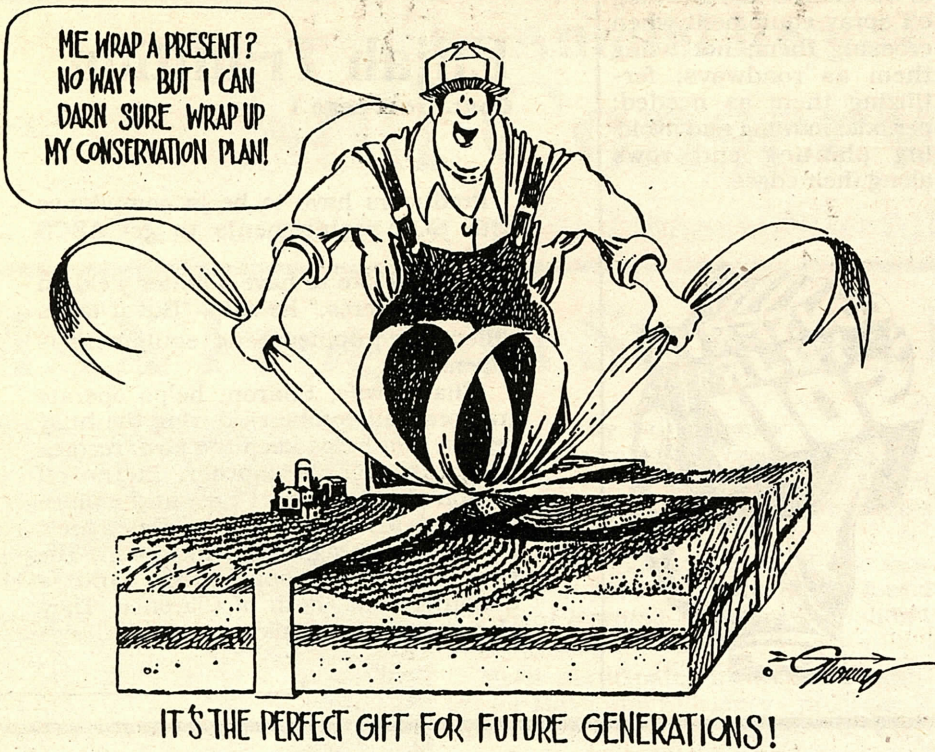
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and community commitment.*



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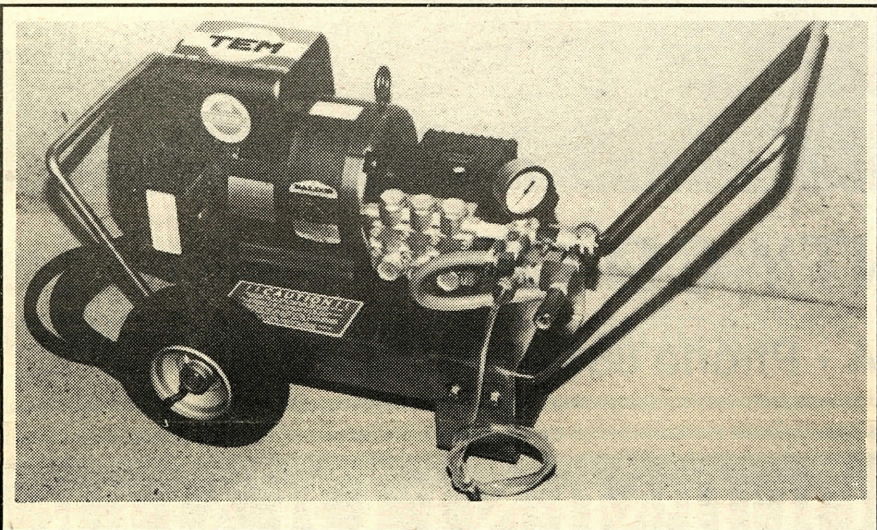
BENNETT INSURANCE AGENCY
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236 Main • Bennett





Melanie Schott, district secretary for the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District, has taken a new job with the Department of Human Services in Davenport. She will be an income maintenance worker. Schott's last day in Tipton was Feb. 4. She had served as district secretary since August 1981.

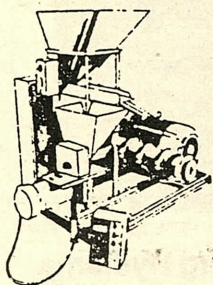
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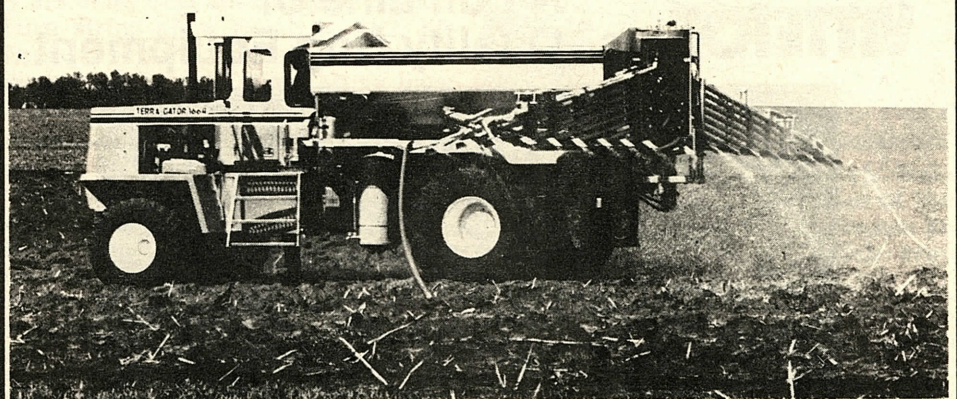


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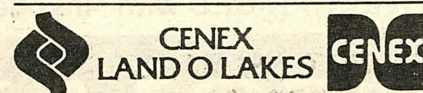
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Farmstead Windbreaks

by Judy Hagan
Soil Conservation
Technician

Has your farmstead had those below 0 winds blowing through it this winter? If so, maybe you should consider installing a windbreak. A farmstead windbreak can be beneficial in protecting a house, a feedlot or a confinement system.

The minimum number of rows needed for a windbreak is 3. The outside row may consist of a row of shrubs or trees. The inside 2 rows can consist of spruce or pines. In choosing the varieties for the inside 2 rows, con-

sideration should be given to planting a different variety in each row. This may help you from losing 2 rows of your windbreak if a disease comes along and attacks a variety.

Primary windbreaks should be placed on the north and/or west sides of areas in need of protection. Where snow drifting may be a problem, the distance from the primary area in need of protection to the windward row shall be a minimum of 100 feet. Where snow drifting is not a problem, the minimum distance to the windward row shall be 60 feet.

Spacings within a row and between rows varies according to the varieties used. Spruce, pine or fir are spaced within a row and between rows at 16'

Arborvitae are spaced at 6' to 8' and shrubs are spaced at 4' to 6'.

Anyone interested in installing a windbreak should contact the Soil Conservation Service to set up an appointment to look at the site. Cost-share funds are available at the Cedar County ASCS office and also through the REAP program, which is administered by the Cedar Soil and Water Conservation District.

Grass Or Gullies

Cont. from page 1

Hoelt says that grassed waterways require only a few "courtesies" to help keep them in good shape. These "courtesies" include: lifting farm implements out

of the ground and shutting off spray equipment when crossing them; not using them as roadways; fertilizing them as needed; periodic mowing and avoiding planting end rows along their edges.



Elijah Tradition

Cont. from page 1

Producers have to be in compliance with SCS requirements to get ASCS payments.

"I would like to have a better yield on my no-till acres," he said. "But it takes different equipment and equipment is expensive."

Elijah's wife, Sharon, helps operate tractors and combines during the busy season and helps keep the farm records on the couple's computer. In the off season she works part-time at the office of Beine and Benz and at DeWayne's Flowers 'n Things, both in Tipton. The couple have a son, Larry and a daughter, Sue, both of Clarence. They also have 4 grandchildren.

No-till Beans & Post-emerge Weed Control Help You Save Soil Our new Tyler Patriot XL Sprayer Can Help You Stay on Schedule!

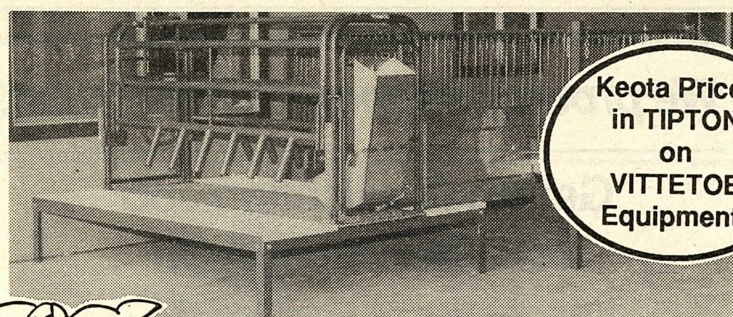


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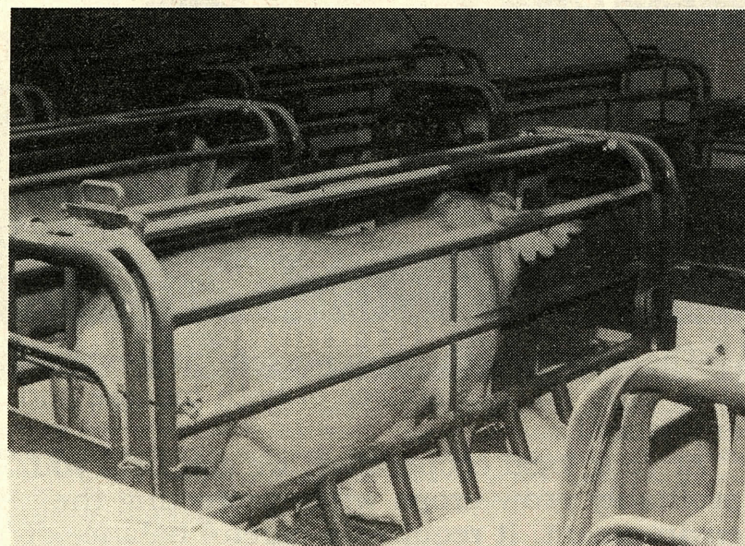
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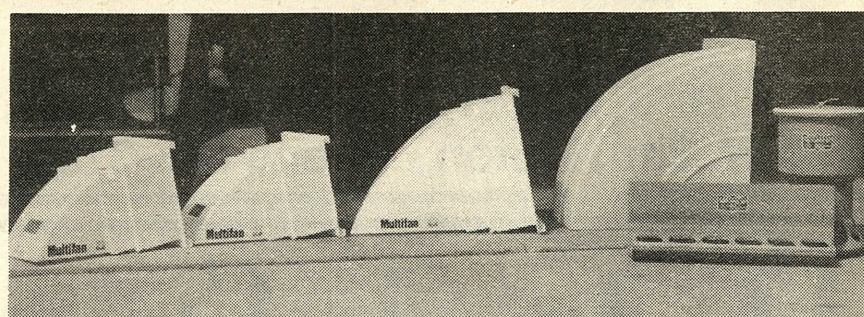


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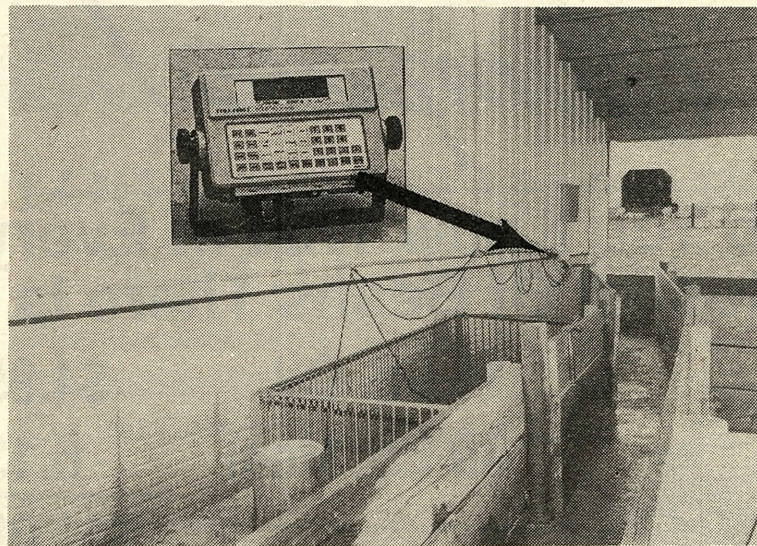


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