

Clarke District
Osceola

SCRAP BOOK



George Buckett 63

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CHRISTMAS TREES: The white Pine tree in the above picture is a good example of the fine quality trees on the Harold Kentner farm.

Christmas trees are just one of the many benefits that results from planting odd areas to trees.

pect to plant approximately 1200 trees per acre. 1200 trees per acre would be obtained by planting the trees with a 6' x 6' spacing. If a large planting is anticipated, arrangements can be made to get the tree planting machine from the District Forester at Chariton.

Time To Make Plans For - *Tree Planting*

This time of the year is a good time to start making plans for planting trees next spring. We recently received the new order blanks and price lists for seedlings from the State Forest Nursery at Ames, Iowa. These trees can be used for establishing or improving existing forests, erosion control, water conservation or for wildlife plantings. But they can not be re-sold with the roots attached such as for transplanting, and they cannot be used for farmstead windbreaks, ornamental plantings or for street trees.

Seedlings from the State Nursery are very low cost, for example 3-0 White Pine or 1-0 Black Walnut seedlings are \$25.00 per thousand. Some of the hardwoods such as Green Ash, Honeysuckle, and Ninebark are \$20.00 per thousand. In addition to the trees and shrubs, the Nursery offers a wildlife packet for \$5.00 that contains 250 plants including 50 evergreens and various other shrubs that are beneficial for wildlife. If you place your order at the Soil Conservation Service office, the orders will be picked up from the Nursery, saving you the cost of shipping.

Planting trees is another conservation measure that will pay substantial benefits in the future. Most farms have odd corners or an eroded hillside that would be suited for trees. An example of this can be seen on the Harold Kentner farm southeast of Osceola. Several years ago, Harold planted trees on a unproductive three acre field and he is now receiving a very good return from the Christmas trees that he harvests each year. At the same time, the field has stopped eroding and is providing excellent protection for wildlife. Harold has continued his planting and now has several other areas in evergreen trees.

Plantings around farm ponds is another good site for trees and shrubs. Silt is trapped before it can enter the pond and the trees will break the wind, preventing wave action from eroding the dam and banks. The high value of walnut wood has encouraged the planting of many areas for walnut production. A few acres of walnuts

may be a sound investment for your children.

To help you decide how many trees to order, you should ex-

SCS Assists Both Rural and Urban Areas

SCS Program In Clarke Co. 25 Years Old

Conservation of soil and water has become standard practice on many Clarke County farms during the past 25 years.

One of the main reasons for this emphasis on soil conservation is the Clarke County Soil Conservation District, which celebrated its 25th anniversary on April 3, of this year.

During this past 25 years, working in cooperation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, (SCS) the conservation district has successfully promoted conservation practices on Clarke County farms.

The District is governed by five commissioners, elected by local people living in the district, who determine and direct the policy of the local SCS office as a school board directs a school district. The commissioners serve without pay with actual expenses such as mileage and meals being reimbursed when on official business.

In 1945, by action of county land owners through a special referendum, three commissioners were elected to manage the affairs of the district — Frank Gonseth, Ralph Wiatt and H. S. Klien.

Upon organization, the District immediately entered into a memoranda of understanding with the Iowa Agricultural Extension Service and the United States Department of Agriculture. The extension service was instrumental in furthering organization of the district, and the memoranda provided for continued cooperation and assistance.

The commissioners adopted a program, which stated the

objectives of the district, and prepared a work plan that set forth the methods of reaching these objectives.

The memorandum with the USDA provided for the assignment of SCS personnel to assist the district in carrying out soil conservation work with land owners and operators in Clarke County.

The first farm planner and work unit conservationist was Lyle Riedinger, who served from the fall of 1945 to the fall of 1953.

The present commissioners are Doyce Miller, Richard Gonseth and Jack Ames, chairman. Assistant commissioners are Lowell Moran, Jerry Kelly, Adrian Fuller, Fred Wood and Milan Welker.

Clarke County has only three commissioners at the present time, because the number of commissioners was raised from three to five just last year. Next spring an election will be held and two more commissioners will be added.

Other commissioners have been V.C. Airy, Howard Mark, Adrian Fuller, Wayne O'Neill, Carl Handrock, Harold Brim, Orvie Hartman and Harold Allen.

The commissioners hold regular meetings to carry out their duties. They develop a yearly plan of operation, set goals and determine priorities. They participate in state conservation contests and publicize the work of the soil conservation district.

The State Soil Conservation Committee, a state agency, is responsible for directing conservation funds appropriated by the State Legislature.

Funds for administration and salaries of state employees are allocated to each district and are administered by the Commissioners.

Locally, the money is used for hiring a full time clerk, Mrs. Arlene Garner, and a conserva-

tion aid, Dale Chidester. Some of the money also goes for office supplies.

Mrs. Garner has been with the office for seven years.

SCS has two full time federal employees assigned to the Clarke County office. They are Keith Ticknor, district conservationist, who joined the staff in August, and T.J. Laing, conservation technician, who came to Clarke County in 1952.

Ticknor's responsibilities include directing the local office activities, writing conservation farm plans with individual farmers, promotion of conservation activities within the community and assisting with practice layout and design during the construction season.

Laing is in charge of technical layout and design of conservation practices in the field and contacting farmers for future construction and conservation planning.

Chidester, the state conservation aid, has been working in Clarke County since 1953. He also works in Decatur County. He is involved in the technical phase of conservation work, working closely with the farmers on detailed engineering surveys and field designs.

Persons desiring technical assistance with their conservation programs should first discuss them at the SCS office. The SCS works closely with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), because many of the farmers asking for help are receiving partial payment for the project from ASCS.

One of the most unusual programs of SCS was its county production line contouring plan. To speed up the laying out of contour lines in 1952 teams of three men worked together in a series of township tours. Following a pre-determined route for greater efficiency, a team would travel from farm to farm laying out the lines. They were

followed by a man on a tractor and plow to mark the lines. The plan was completely without precedent, and was designed to eliminate delays for the farmer when he was ready to begin contour plowing.

To make farmers and land owners more conservation minded, the Clarke County Soil Conservation District has carried on a program of conservation promotion during the past 25 years.

The district has provided the schools with educational information and conservation booklets during the years.

It helps select the winners of the Register and Tribune conservation awards each year.

It sends a local teacher to a three-week session at the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp held at Spring Brook State Park each summer.

Each year the district holds a Soil Conservation Speech Contest for high school students. This year's winner, Brad Waller, went on to win the state contest. He received \$350 in prize money to use toward college.

Many times there has been confusion and misunderstanding about the organization of the Soil Conservation District. People mistake the Soil Conservation District as being a federal agency rather than a local body governed by the local people.

Prior to 1937, soil conservation practices were being carried on by Federal Government agencies and they were mostly demonstrational. It was felt this method of conservation was not doing the job fast enough and was not helping enough farmers.

Also, farmers owned the land and had the final say as to whether these practices were to be applied to the land. From this, it was decided that a unit of State Government should be organized and that it should be

governed by farmers and ranchers that would be elected in a democratic way by the public. A program of soil and water conservation would then be carried out in an area called a district.

In Iowa the State Soil Conservation Committee was established as an agency of the State with its primary function to give advice and consultation to the soil conservation districts. This committee consists of eight members. These members are, the Director of the State Agriculture Extension Service, the State Secretary of Agriculture, the State Conservationist of the Federal SCS, and five members appointed by the governor. The five appointed members must be farmers. The Soil Conservation Committee employs an administration officer and other personnel that are needed to carry out its duties.

Following the establishment of the Soil Conservation Committee on the State level, Soil Conservation Districts were created on a local level. Landowners and operators of any locality were permitted, not forced, to join together legally to form a soil and water conservation district. In Iowa the district boundaries are the same as the county boundaries. Therefore, the Clarke County Soil Conservation District is legally a governmental subdivision of the state.

SCS is now dedicated to the job of working with the total community in improving the quality of our environment.

The Iowa Legislature during the last session recognized that the wise use of resources was of equal concern to all citizens, regardless of their place of residence. Accordingly, cities and towns are now officially included along with the agricultural lands in each Soil Conservation District.

The District commissioners



Photo by Keith Ticknor

T. J. Laing, SCS technician, gives instructions to Clarence Scholl, equipment operator, during the construction of an erosion control dam on the Delmer Bryant farm, east of Osceola.

believe that the environmental issues of today make it doubly important that rural and urban people work together in solving common problems related to resource management.

Therefore, the major emphasis to the Clarke District now and in the coming years will be placed on achieving lasting conservation for the entire community.

County Agents Form New Group

A Rural Development Commission is presently being organized in Clarke County. Members of the commission are

the heads of government, agricultural agencies in Clarke County. They meet monthly to give reports on their agency's works toward rural development. They exchange information, pool their knowledge and cooperate whenever possible in order to execute more effective programs.

Members of the commission are Donald Dingman, Farmers Home Administration; Bruce Berven, County Extension; Keith Ticknor, Soil Conservation Service; and Charles Bacon, ASCS.

In 1883, Jefferson Street was macadamized (surfaced with small stones) from Fillmore to Jackson.

First Jersey milk cow was brought to Clarke County in 1875 by John W. Richards. The cow, a pretty, gentle brute, died about 10 years later, and the family feeling it had lost a friend, buried the Jersey in their own lot and had the grave sodded over.

First sidewalk construction by lot owners in the city of Osceola was required by the council to begin on certain streets nearest the square on or before June 1, 1869.

The first banking institution in Clarke County was started in Osceola by H. C. Sigler in 1868.

Officials Evaluate Whitebreast Watershed

The planned Whitebreast Watershed will affect 57,216 acres in Clarke County. The preliminary investigation of the project has been under way for some time and the watershed board is now awaiting an evaluation of the project by the state Soil Conservation Service.

Authority for the watershed approach to soil and water conservation came with the passage of Public Law 566 in the mid-1950s. This development involves full protection of every acre of land that lies within the confines of a watershed.

Such watersheds are organized locally on a community basis so that a co-operative attack on soil erosion and localized flood problems can be launched. Proposed projects must be approved first by the State Soil Conservation Committee, and are reviewed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Then the U.S. Soil Conservation Service will ask for plan-

ning priorities from the state conservation committee. After a priority has been established, the planning is started and a final plan for the watershed project is drawn up.

When the plan is completed, a review by all interested parties — including local people — is made. Local people must provide land easements and right of way agreements, and obtaining these can be a costly, time-consuming effort.

If a watershed costs less than \$250,000, it can be approved by state SCS officials. If the cost is more than \$250,000, approval must come from Congress.

The cost-share arrangements vary, depending on the nature of the watershed and the structures and soil conservation practices involved. Regular farmland terraces and other common conservation practices are paid for in part through the Agricultural Conservation Program, but farmers and landowners generally pay the bulk

of the costs.

The Whitebreast Watershed Board was organized in the spring of 1963. Prior to this, several meetings had been held concerning the development of an artificial lake and land adjacent to it. This was in the Whitebreast Creek area, south of Woodburn.

Out of these meetings came the concern for the protection from siltation of this proposed project. A meeting was called to explain the watershed protection offered under P.L. 566. About 80 interested people attended this meeting, which was held on March 25, 1963. At this meeting the Whitebreast Watershed Board was formed.

In September 1963, the watershed board decided to make formal application for federal assistance. The watershed application was submitted to the State Soil Conservation Committee in the first week of November, 1963. This was the first such application in Clarke County. The application was co-sponsored by the Clarke County Board of Supervisors and the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Eight organizations signed as supporting the application.

The watershed advisory board of the State Soil Conservation Committee toured the area. During the first week of December, approval of the application was made. The watershed board continued to call meetings to give progress reports and to inform residents of the watershed area on what conservation work was needed.

Under the watershed concept, 75 per cent of the land in a watershed must be fully protected by soil conservation practices before a watershed structure can be approved for construction.

During these first years of the Whitebreast Watershed project, a related project was also being planned. It was the Whitebreast Lake Project, which resulted from the initiative of the Rural Area Development Committee organized in 1962 to study problems of Clarke County. The R.A.D. Committee chairman appointed a committee to study possibilities for recreational development, and the committee suggested this project.

The lake involved the construction of a dam in the southeastern part of the county on Whitebreast Creek. The lake was to have 2,000 acres of water surface with the surrounding land becoming a recreational area. The organizers of the project applied for federal assistance in building the lake and the U.S. Corps of Engineers surveyed the area.

In 1965 the Corps announced

that they could not support the project since the recreational benefits of the lake would exceed the conservational benefits. With this announcement interest in the watershed program dwindled.

In 1968 interest in the Whitebreast Creek Watershed was revived when the State Soil Conservation District approved projects similar to Whitebreast.

Preliminary investigation of

the watershed project began last fall. Prior to this air photos, maps, ownership patterns and other material pertinent to the subject were gathered for use in the investigation.

State engineers have surveyed the area and the state SCS office is now evaluating the floodwater control sites and the cost-benefit ratio of the project.

Providing the preliminary investigation reveals a desirable project proposal, a

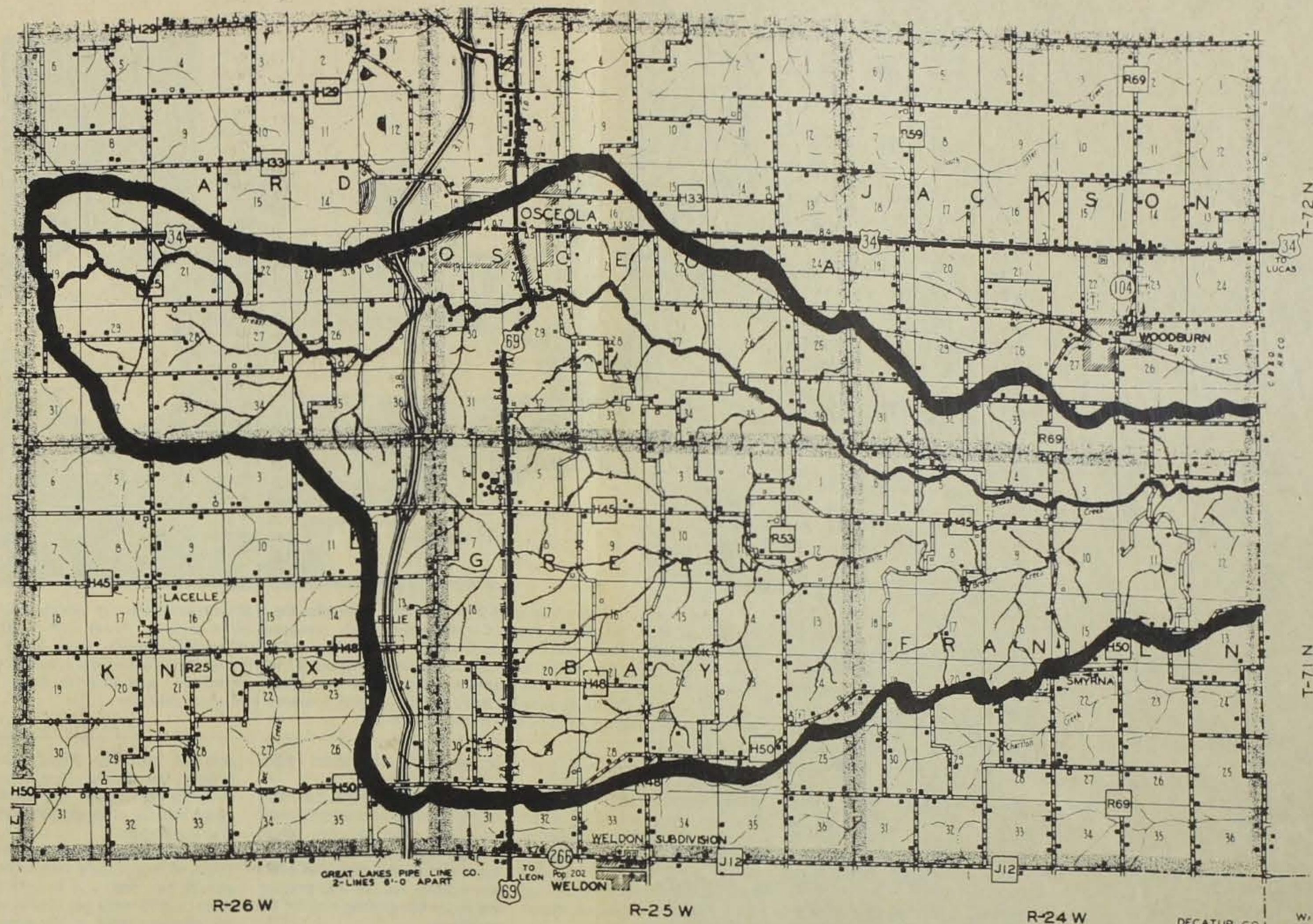
request for planning authorization together with costs is made to the federal soil conservation office.

Following authorization, more detailed studies and surveys for the work plan can be made.

The Whitebreast Watershed Board presently has six members, but hopes to increase the number to 12 in the near future. The members are Kenneth Johnson, chairman; Dick Gon-

seth, secretary; Howard Ruble; Ernest Winter; Don Short; and Louis King.

Watershed projects in Iowa have doubled during the past ten years with 90 applications for such conservation works approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee. In general, the bulk of the watershed development projects in Iowa are located in southern and western areas of the state.



The above map shows the proposed Whitebreast Creek Watershed.

STATISTICAL AGRICULTURAL BAROMETER

Item	1957-59 average	1969	1970—latest data available
Farm output, total	100	121	122 September
Crops	100	121	119 September
Livestock	100	118	122 September
Prices received by farmers	100	114	114 August
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes, wage rates	100	127	133 August
Parity ratio (1910-14=100)	—	74	71 August
Consumer price index, all items	100	128	136 August
Food	100	126	133.5 August
Disposable personal income (\$ bil.)	321.5	631.6	684.0 (?)
Expenditures for food (\$ bil.)	66.3	105.3	113.0 (?)
Share of income spent for food (percent)	20.6	16.7	16.5 (?)
Farm food market basket:			
Retail cost (\$)	983	1,173	1,237 August
Farm value (\$)	388	477	475 August
Farmers' share of retail cost (percent)	39	41	38 August
Realized gross farm income (\$ bil.)	36.5	54.6	56.2 (?)
Production expenses (\$ bil.)	24.9	38.4	40.1 (?)
Realized net farm income (\$ bil.)	11.6	16.2	16.1 (?)
Agricultural exports (\$ bil.)	4.2	6.6	.5 August
Agricultural imports (\$ bil.)	3.9	5.5	.5 August

1. Average quantities per family and single person household bought by wage workers 1960-61 based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.
2. All rates seasonally adjusted second quarter.

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Progress Report

RC & D Speeds Up Projects

Clarke County is part of a seven-county long range program to improve economic opportunities in southern Iowa through various resource conservation and development (RC&D) Projects.

The projects are part of a concept in conservation in which local communities organize to plan for and develop all their resources, natural and human, for the betterment of all.

In RC&D projects all segments of the community—rural, suburban and urban—can work together to solve local problems and improve resource use. Local groups must initiate projects. According to program participants, often the act of taking stock of resources and planning together for their use stimulates people to carry out measures on their own.

The Southern Iowa RC&D Project Area is made up of Adair, Adams, Union, Clarke, Taylor, Ringgold and Decatur counties. Herbert Kayser is coordinator for the area. Members of RC&D committees have been working together to develop a comprehensive improvement plan for the area.

Similar groups are located throughout the United States. They were started after Congress passed the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, which authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture to give technical and financial help to local groups in resource conservation and development projects.

The Southern Iowa RC&D Project sponsors are the Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the County Board of Supervisors of the seven counties in the area.

All persons or organizations in the project area or having interests in the project area are considered members of the RC&D organization.

Six persons from each county in the RC&D area make up a Steering Committee that represents the membership of the county and provides the leadership to carry out the objectives. Each member of the six-man county committees represents his county on the area functional committees devoted to assisting the organized efforts toward solving the problems of the RC&D project.

Clarke County Steering Com-

mittee members are Robert Toland, project affairs; Elva Wolfe, agriculture; Doyce Miller, land and water use; Jack Jeffreys, business and industry; Robert Wuthrich, community facilities; and Melvin Goeldner, recreation and beautification.

Members of the executive board of the steering committee are Jack Jeffreys, chairman; Robert Toland, vice chairman; Doyce Miller, member; and Melvin Goeldner, secretary-treasurer.

The Projects Affairs Committee's concern is with publicity, and dispensing information to the people about the program.

The Agriculture Committee is concerned with agricultural land use in the area, conservation land treatment and development, and the processing and marketing of agricultural products, crops and livestock.

The work of the Land and Water Use Committee includes regional planning and zoning; watershed development; municipal, industrial, water district and recreational water suppliers; soil surveys; and pollution and sediment control.

The Business and Industrial Development Committee devotes its efforts toward industrial expansion, new business, employment, job opportunities and marketing.

The Community Facilities Committee is concerned about health and educational facilities, housing needs, sewer and water facilities, municipal parks and recreation, cultural development and communication and transportation facilities.

The Recreation, Forestry and Beautification Committee will be concerned with the state and county parks, woodland development and utilization, historical sites, community beautification, wildlife habitat and the development of tourism.

The objectives adopted by the sponsors of the Southern Iowa RC&D group give some idea of the wide-range goals of the program.

The objectives are:

1. To accelerate conservation land treatment.
2. To encourage proper land use utilizing improved grass and legume pasture mixtures.
3. To accelerate the develop-

ment of water resources.

4. To make use of the multiple use concept in watershed development, to enlarge the water-based recreational opportunities, municipal, industrial and water district water supplies.

5. To encourage development of recreational facilities and historical and scenic sights.

6. To reduce air and water pollution.

7. Seek uses of, and develop a market or timber resources.

8. Seek industrial expansion.

9. To improve educational, health, transportation, communication, and cultural facilities.

10. To improve sewer and water facilities of towns and farm homes.

11. To improve housing for low and middle income people as well as for the aged.

12. To promote beautification of towns and countryside.

13. To improve or enlarge credit facilities in order to bring about acceleration of conservation and development.

14. To seek other financial assistance in accelerating conservation and development.

15. To create and improve older markets for agricultural products produced in the area.

According to Southern Iowa RC&D leaders, the basic problem of the project area is the need for further development

and full utilization of the land and water resources. The development of the other resources depend on the planned proper land and water care.

In September the Southern Iowa RC&D Executive Board completed a project plan for the area. The plan consisted of various projects for each of the seven counties.

The projects included in the plan were ones which were sponsored by local groups, usually a conservation district, county governing body, town, local or state agency or public development corporation. Other local groups often endorsed the projects.

Project measures proposed in the RC&D plan for Clarke County were: White Breast Creek Watershed, road stabilization structures, pasture land development, logging yards in Osceola, Clarke County water system, low income housing, day care center, county health nurse, city park and recreation area, Clarke County development corporation, low rent housing for senior citizens, ambulance service and Osceola airport expansion and improvement.

The preliminary project plan was sent to each county for review. It was also sent to Governor Robert Ray and other

state agencies. After the final draft was printed in October it was sent to Washington to all federal agencies, congressional committees and to Kenneth Grant, administrator of the Soil Conservation Service, for review.

Grant will make his recommendations on the plan to Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin by January 1. If the Secretary authorizes assistance, the project is ready for operation. Sponsors set priorities and arrange for cooperation of local agencies and groups.

Project measures are carried out through local sponsoring organizations that have authority to do so under state law. Private, state, federal or other funds are used to meet technical and financial needs. Local organizations operate and maintain structures installed with RC&D funds.

To help the project Federal agencies speed up their present programs, technical conservation help, small watershed projects, cost sharing, loans for farm and group work, assistance in farm cooperatives and public land development.



10 Stripcropping Controls Water Runoff



Contour stripcropping is a beautiful sight to see in the country when the crops are in full color. The above strips can be seen on the Harold Bonnett farm three miles north of Osceola in Fremont Township.

Stripcropping is an inexpensive method of controlling water runoff and erosion. Every crop row acts as a small dam to hold water and slow down its runoff. By having alternate strips of row crops and meadow or oats, there is not a long

enough exposed slope where the water can pick up speed. The meadow strips will slow down surface runoff causing it to unload the silt and giving the water time to soak into the soil.

Tests have proven that crop yields are increased with contour farming because more water is available to the crop when it is prevented from running off. Also, the increased soil moisture will allow more efficient use of fertilizers. With the high cost of lime and ferti-

zer, we can not afford to let it wash away and be lost.

Contour stripcropping is flexible so that the strips can be made nearly parallel to prevent an excessive number of point rows. The meadow strips allow easy turning for equipment. Proper land use can be practiced by more intensive cropping on the best strips and using longer rotations on the poorer strips.

Every sloping field has natural draws or waterway channels where water concentrates and runs off the field. When these waterway channels are not protected by grass, they become gullies in a short time. As the gullies grow larger, they often divide the field into patches that cause inconvenience in the farming operation. Also, tremendous amounts of soil are lost that cannot be replaced.

A good grassed waterway, as shown above on the Carl Castor farm 1½ miles southwest of Liberty, allows excess water to move off the field without soil loss. A good grass cover will tie down the soil in the waterway and slow the water down to prevent cutting.

Waterways are constructed with a saucer-shaped (parabolic) bottom that is crossable with equipment. In order for a waterway to function properly, it must be designed with the proper width and depth for the number of acres in the drainage area. It must also have a constant grade or per cent of slope. After construction it is important to get a good grass cover

Grassed Waterways



established. When there is water seepage in the waterway it will be necessary to lay tile lines that will pick up this excess water. It is almost impossible to get an adequate grass cover if the waterway remains wet for an extended period.

Grassed waterways cannot be expected to do the job intended unless proper upland treatment is practiced. Contour farming, stripcropping, mulch tillage and other practices must be used along with the waterway.

Pasture Renovation



Clarke County has a large amount of steep land with thin and easily erosive soil. Crop yields are disappointing in these areas and the soil losses have been disastrous. Proper land use has shown that converting these areas back to permanent pasture will prevent erosion and will return a good profit through livestock production.

John Nervig, on his 280 acre farm 3 miles northeast of Osceola, has been renovating some of his rougher ground. He cleared the brush and trees from the area and plowed where he could, then disked the rest.

Part of the field was seeded with Birdsfoot trefoil and orchardgrass and the remaining part seeded with brome grass and orchardgrass. Seeding was completed during the first part of September. The above picture shows that the seeding has gotten a good start.

Nervig has a large cow-calf operation and feels that his rough ground can be made to return a good profit through grass production. Utilization of a variety of grasses and legumes will enable him to have an adequate grazing system for the entire year.

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Seeded backslope tile outlet terraces are a new concept in soil and water conservation. In the above picture, Merrill McCarty is shown as he inspects one of the intake pipes for the terraces on his farm 3 miles south and 1 mile east of Liberty.

Seeded backslope tile outlet terraces are replacing the old conventional terraces because of the difficulty of farming the old terraces with the large equipment that is now used. These terraces are constructed parallel to each other with a spacing of approximately 200 ft. The front slope is built with a six to one slope so that it can be farmed, but the back slope is on a two to one slope and is left grassed. At the toe of the terrace in the natural water channel (waterway), a perforated riser pipe is installed that is connected to a tile line. The water will collect in the low place at the terrace, enter the riser pipe and is then taken underground through tile to an outlet on down stream. By taking the water underground through tile, there is no need for grassed waterways, making more farmable acres in the field.

Tile Outlet Terraces New Conservation Practice



Photo by Keith Ticknor

The fill for the terraces is hauled in with a scraper or pushed up from the back so that the slope of the hill is flattened rather than made steeper. All silt will settle out at the riser pipe and be kept up on the hill. In time, the field would have a benched effect.

McCarty's primary purpose for constructing the terraces on his farm was to prevent barn lot

drainage from flowing into his pond. They were installed in 1969 and McCarty reports that he is very satisfied with the results.

This type of terrace is best suited to fields that are not real steep but have many small ridges and waterways. They are usually used on land that is intensively cropped; therefore,

they would be on some of the best soil.

Being able to farm long straight rows with large equipment and without having to maintain waterways is making this system very popular. But most important, it almost completely eliminates erosion.

Osceola Sentinel Farm Ponds 12-17-70

Need Care

Caring for a farm pond is much like caring for the home. It takes continual care and maintenance to keep a pond in top condition.

Keith Ticknor, District Conservationist, Osceola, says a pond should be inspected frequently.

Some of the problems to look for are wave action, erosion, livestock damage, rodent damage, debris around the inlet, and undesirable tree growth. Prompt action when any of these hazards are noticed may avoid costly major repair later.

Wave action and other erosion around a pond can usually be controlled by vegetation such as Reed's canary grass if established soon enough. If this type of damage is not repaired quickly, a more expensive remedy such as riprap or rock fill is needed.

Livestock can severely damage the grass. An example of this is the case of Leona Denny and husband, Leota Ewoldsen of Osceola and worth of Hood River, Oregon. Howard and husband, Ellis-Paul of Woodburn; Alene Woodburn and daughters; Wanda of Woodburn, Wayne of Dwight Ewoldsen and wife, Bertha of Woodburn; sons, He is survived by his wife, View Church at Ottawa, Iowa. affiliated with the Pleasant carpenter and farmer. He was of Woodburn and was a retired spent his lifetime as a resident dren were born to this union. He

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HERE: Mrs. Jim Van Gundy is shown as she received catfish for stocking a farm pond north of Osceola. The fish were delivered this fall by

Frank Parauka, biologist for the National Fish Hatchery at Muscatine, Iowa.

Stocking Farm Ponds Is — Good Conservation Measure

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Stocking of farm ponds with fish provided, without charge, by the National Fish Hatchery is a popular program in Clarke County. Last fall 34 farm owners received catfish for their ponds. The Soil Conservation Service is now taking orders for bass and catfish for next spring and summer. All applications must be in our office by April 15 to be included in the current year's stocking schedule.

Some of the stocking policies have been changed this year and will be explained here. In Iowa, ponds must be 0.5 acre in surface area and a minimum of 8' deep before stocking will be allowed. If you are unsure of the size or depth of your pond, our records will many times have this information. Ponds over 5 acres will not be stocked unless state or federal biologists examine the water and give their approval. When approval has been received for stocking a

pond over 10 acres, it will be stocked on a 10 acre basis regardless of size.

Warm-water ponds will not be restocked at intervals of less than five years unless the pond is reclaimed or has undergone a major reconstruction. Also, any pond that is affiliated with a commercial enterprise such as a fish hatchery, fish farming venture or fish-out pond is not eligible to receive fish.

In Iowa, ponds will be stocked with 200 bass per surface acre and 200 catfish per surface acre. Channel catfish will be provided for initial stocking only. If you are planning to stock your pond, we would recommend that you first stock it with catfish and then put the bass in later. For example, a pond built this past year with a surface area of one acre would be stocked with 200 catfish next summer. Then, the following spring 200 bass would be added.

It is important to place your orders now so that if there is an error or the order is returned,

you will have time to resubmit the order.

Conservation practices completed during the past month are as follows: ponds, Wm. Van Loon and Frank Pontier; waterways, Emerson Osgood and tile intake terrace, Charles Propst.



WINDBREAKS: Windbreak trees on the North and West sides of the farmstead provide good protection from the winter winds. The above windbreak on the Powell farm in Liberty Township also makes beautiful back ground for the farm buildings.

Evergreens Best For Windbreak

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

The SCS staff would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Successful year for 1971.

With the cold winter winds blowing out of the northwest we find ourselves seeking protection from the stinging wind. The sharpness of these winds can be greatly reduced by a well placed windbreak. This is the time of year when a windbreak really begins to pay off for the time and expense of establishing it by bringing lower fuel bills and added comfort to the home. Working outside around the barns and lots is made more comfortable and pleasant, and snow is caught in the trees rather than piling up in the farm yard. A close inspection of the windbreak will show that we are not the only ones receiving protection. Many pheasants, quail, songbirds, rabbits and other wildlife depend on the windbreak for survival. Livestock can be kept outside in the lots rather than in the barn and they will require less feed to keep them in condition if they are protected from the cold.

Besides comfort and protection, a windbreak will add beauty to the farm and add to its value. Ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers will grow much better when protected from the winds, and their beauty will stand out against an evergreen background.

A windbreak is not something that can be planned in just a few minutes. The trees that you plant are in most cases, more permanent than the farm buildings. This means careful planning must be done to insure that these trees will not be in the way of future farmstead expansion and development, but yet they must be in a position where they will give maximum protection. Evergreen trees must be placed to insure that they are not subjected to barnyard drainage. These trees will not live where this drainage is present. Where the trees cannot be protected from barnyard drainage by diversions or other methods, hardwood trees will have to be used in place of evergreens.

Evergreen trees are best suited for windbreaks because their low branching makes a more compact barrier, and by holding their needles during the winter they give year round protection. The windbreak must consist of a minimum of three rows, two rows of trees and one row of shrubs. Additional rows of trees will increase the effectiveness of the windbreak and



CONSERVATION MAKES GOOD OBSERVATION

will not be seriously affected by the loss of one or two trees. As a rule, the planting should be planned so that ten feet is left between the trees and fences, and 16 feet between rows of trees and trees in the row. This will leave room for maintenance equipment to operate and will prevent shading out of the lower branches.

Planting should be done in the spring before growth starts and after the frost has gone out. If you plan to plant a windbreak

this spring, you should come in to our office now so that we can help you prepare the plans and you can place your order for trees early. The large demand of windbreak trees has made some species hard to get so it is important to get your order in as soon as possible. ACP cost-sharing has been available in the past for windbreak planting and will probably be the same for 1971. A maximum of \$350 has been allotted for each windbreak project in the past years.

Becker Tells Of Land Fill

All Cities, Towns Must Submit Plans To State

Lee Becker, a member of the State Department of Health, was speaker at the Monday, December 21, meeting of city and county personnel interested in land fill operations in Clarke County. He showed slides to the group which met in the 4-H building.

Becker, a civil engineer graduate of the University of Nebraska, was a member of the State Department of Health's water pollution division for three years.

He informed them that Public Law 1232 states that every town and community must submit a plan to the State Department of Health by October of 1972 with that plan in operation by 1975.

Open burning is already illegal in Iowa and the extension that Osceola has to continue open dump burning expires on January 15, 1971.

Becker cited some counties and communities in Iowa that have already met the land fill requirements.

Another meeting for all city, town and county officials has been set for Thursday, January 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the 4-H building.



Watering Livestock —

Tough In Winter

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Cold weather and snow turns routine farm chores into a difficult task. All jobs become very time consuming and the farmer is pressed just to get all of his livestock fed and watered during the daylight hours. Also, the animals require more care under these conditions than at normal times. Getting water and keeping tanks or other watering places free of ice is one of the jobs that is complicated by cold weather.

In the above picture, Doyce Miller is cleaning a screen protecting an over flow pipe on one of his watering systems below a pond. The water in the tank is not heated, yet Doyce reports that there never is any ice on the tank even when the temperature is far below zero. With this system, a water pipe

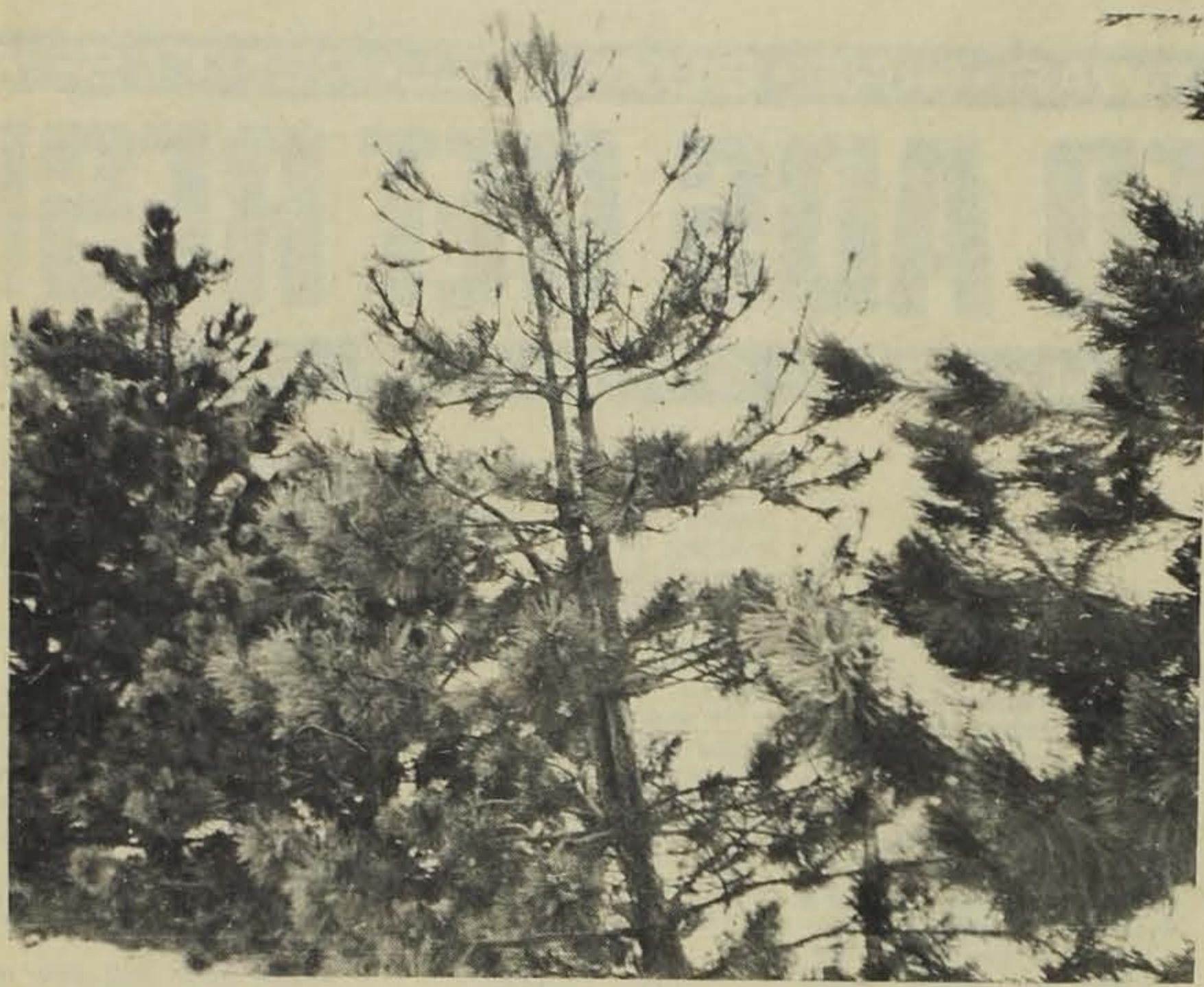
was installed in the pond when it was built. The pipe runs underground from the pond to the tank and enters the tank from the bottom so that the water will come in at the bottom of the tank. An overflow pipe is installed near the top of the tank.

This pipe then is taken underground and outlets in the ditch away from the tank. Fresh water continually flows from the pond into the tank and out the overflow pipe. The water is kept free of ice by the continuous circulation of water from the pond that is above freezing temperature. The overflow pipe takes the excess water away from the tank preventing a buildup of ice around the tank if it was allowed to over flow. The screen is needed over the outlet pipe to keep hay or dirt from entering it and plugging it.

The volume of water lost from the pond by allowing the water

to run continuously is still small compared to the total amount of water in the pond. With this system running all the time, it lowers the water level very little. Doyce feels that it is advantageous to lower the water level in the pond during the winter so that there will be more storage capacity when the snow melts in the spring.

The greatest advantage of the watering system comes from the fact that it is almost maintenance free and there is always an ice free water supply in the field. If the weather conditions prevent Doyce from getting out to the pond, he does not have to worry about having water available. Also, there is no additional investment for heating equipment or the problems associated with keeping the heaters in operation.



AUSTRIAN PINE: This Austrian Pine in a windbreak on the Don Miller farm has been almost completely killed by Needle Blight Disease.

Many Austrian Pine plantings have been seriously damaged by this disease. Early detection of the disease can prevent much of the loss.

Need To Save Trees -

Watch For Needle Blight

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Austrian Pine has been a popular tree for planting in farmstead windbreaks, wildlife plantings, Christmas tree plantings and for ornamental plantings. But in the last few years there has been an increasing amount of Needle Blight Disease appearing in these trees and in some cases many of the trees have been killed. An example of the disease can be seen on the Don Miller farm northeast of Liberty. One tree in the row on the west side of his driveway has been completely killed and several other trees are partly affected.

Needle Blight is a leaf disease caused by the fungus *Dothistroma pini* and is found mainly in Austrian pine. It appears as slightly swollen dark spots or bands on the needles. The part of the needle from the dark band to the tip turns light brown and dies. The affected trees will show sparse foliage because the diseased needles drop off after they die.

Needle Blight can be con-

trolled and trees that are not too seriously affected can be saved by spraying with organic mercury or copper sulfate and hydrated lime (Bordeaux mixture) during the middle of April. A second spray should be applied about three weeks after the first spray.

Because of the threat of Needle Blight disease, consideration should be given to other evergreens before planting. Using two or more species of trees is also a good practice. This will prevent the loss of the entire planting. In a windbreak planted with several rows, each with a different species of tree, the loss of one row from a disease or insect attack would not destroy its effectiveness. Also, in pure stands of trees, a disease or insect can multiply and spread much quicker than in a mixed planting.

If you have noticed a problem in your windbreak or other tree planting you should contact the SCS office and have the trees inspected. Also, the Extension Service and James Bulman, District Forester at Chariton, will be happy to assist you.



A Sign Of The Times -

Abandoned Farms

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Abandoned farm houses are a common sight as we travel through the county. When many of the small land owners reach

retirement age or pass away, the farm is taken by larger farms. Many times the vacated house remains empty because the lack of modern facilities makes it difficult to rent and unattractive to home buyers.

Also, the young people go to the cities to seek employment because of the lack of job opportunities on the farm.

This trend of migration from the farm to the city is shown by

More About—

Abandoned

(Continued From Page 1)

comparing results of the annual farm census. The number of persons living on farms in Clarke County dropped from 3,545 in 1960 to 2,670 in 1970. This is a decline of 875 people or an average of 88 persons per year. As the number of people on the farm went down, the number of farms dropped from 1,211 farms in 1960 to 862 in 1970. But during this ten year period the size of each farm went up an average of 70 acres, making the average size farm in Clarke County 293 acres.

It is important to note that the total land in farms has declined. In 1968, Clarke County had 255,058 acres in farms and in

1970 only 252,797 acres. This drop of 2,261 acres has gone for urban development, industrial sites, roads and many other uses. The American Institute of Planners estimated that over the nation land is being urbanized at the rate of 3,000 per day. If you multiply this by 365 days per year (3,000 x 365 equals 1,095,000) you can see that we are losing a great amount of agricultural land each year forcing us to produce more on fewer and fewer acres. We are not so concerned with running out of land as with running short of land for particular uses. It is important that we take a look at all our land, evaluate it, and plan so that each acre is used for the purpose for which it is best suited.

Clarke County is not the only county losing population. One half of the counties in the

States are losing population even though there is a increase in the total population of the nation. The problem associated with over crowding and centralizing mass people in the cities makes essential that this trend be reversed.

Osceola Sentinel

2-11-71



Wildlife Is Important On Well Managed Farm

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Can you see the approximately one dozen quail in the above picture? I am sure that most of you will see no more than two or three. The important point is that only a small amount of cover left in a fence row or other non farmable area can be very beneficial to wildlife. Wildlife is a necessary part of every farm community. Many of the plants and animals that make up this community are necessary for pollinating plants, planting seeds, conditioning the soil and controlling over population of harmful insects or animals. When the farm community has a low number of harmful wildlife, it has a favorable biologic balance.

The number of wildlife on a well managed farm is much higher than you would expect. In one study of an average 100 acre farm, it was found that there were several million beneficial insects, over 400 beneficial birds and more than 1,000 beneficial small mammals. In addition, there were large numbers of game birds, animals and fish.

If our land is privately owned, the biologic balance is largely up to the farmer. The land use

decisions made by the property owner can cause an abundance or a scarcity of wildlife.

We, as soil conservationists, have the responsibility of helping land operators apply soil and water conservation practices that increase wildlife and help to plan operations so that the biologic balance is maintained. We must include wildlife considerations in all our conservation plans. The land owner has the responsibility of making the right land use decisions and carrying them out. His goal is to make the best possible use of every acre of land to include wildlife. Sportsmen and non-land owners have the responsibility of respecting the farmers property by obtaining permission to hunt or fish, and by following the state game laws.

Farms that have conservation practices applied on them are usually abundant with wildlife. Stripcropping, pond construction, windbreaks, pasture improvement, tree planting, field borders, woodland protection, marsh management, and "odd area" development are some of the practices that aid wildlife. "Odd areas" such as fence corners, rocky spots, borrow pits and abandoned roads may seem unimportant

on an individual farm basis, but when these areas are developed on several farms, they provide thousands of acres of cover for wildlife.

With the population increase and more intensive use of the land, it is becoming more important that everyone accept his responsibility to maintain a biologic balance on our land.

Osceola Tribune 2-16-71

R. C. & D. Elects Executive Board

The Clarke County R.C.&D. Steering Committee meeting was called to order by Jack Jeffreys at 12 noon on Thursday, February 11, at the Soil Conservation Service office. Present were Jack Jeffreys, Melvin Goeldner, Elva Wolfe, and Keith Ticknor.

Purpose of the meeting was to elect members for the Executive Board and to hold election of officers.

Elected to the Executive Board was Jack Jeffreys, Elva Wolfe and Doyce Miller. Officers elected for 1971 were Jack Jeffreys, chairman; Robert Toland, vice-chairman and Melvin Goeldner, secretary-treasurer.

A discussion was held on establishing terms of office for members of the steering committee. Melvin Goeldner and Robert Wuthrich were elected to serve for one year; Robert Toland and Jack Jeffreys for two years, and Doyce Miller and Elva Wolfe will serve for three years.

The next election will be held in 1972 when two members will be elected to three year terms.

To Hold Election For Soil District

MARCH DATE TO BE SLATED FOR ELECTION

Voters In Cities And
Towns Now
Eligible



Doyce Miller



Richard Gonseth



Jack Ames

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The Clarke County Soil Conservation District will hold its regular election for District Commissioners in March, 1971. The Soil Conservation District Law requires the District to hold an election every two years within 60 days before or after April 3, which is the date the District was formed.

This election will be of special interest because three commissioners will be elected instead of only one as it has been customary in the past. This change was brought about in July, 1969, by a revision of the District Law that required each district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five at the next election.

Therefore, two additional commissioners must be elected, and Jack Ames' term expires requiring this vacancy to be filled also. Of the other two present commissioners, Dick Gonseth will have two years left to serve and Doyce Miller will have four years left of his term.

In this election, it is the first time that voters in the cities and towns will be allowed to participate in the election. The amendment to the District Law that brought cities and towns into the district also gave any qualified elector the right to sign nominating petitions, to vote in a commissioners election and to serve as a commissioner. The commissioners urge everyone to take advantage of this right and vote for the candidate of his choice.

In order for a candidate to enter his name on the ballot he must have a nominating petition signed by 25 qualified voters. A candidate cannot submit his name as a candidate in a precinct in which a commissioner already resides. Also, not more than one commissioner can be elected from a voting precinct, but this does not mean that more than one candidate may be nominated from the same precinct.

Women are eligible to enter the election and serve as commissioners along with the men. During the past year there have been at least two women elected as commissioners in Iowa. The districts have welcomed them and feel that women can contribute a great deal to our expanded conservation programs.

In this election, the candidate that receives the highest number of votes will serve a term of six years, the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall serve a four year term and the one receiving the third highest number of votes will serve for two years.

Election of District Commissioners to represent citizens in the operation of the Soil Conservation District is important to everyone. Qualified commissioners must be chosen if conservation work is to be successful.



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Oscola Tribune 2-16-71 R. C. & D. Elects Executive Board

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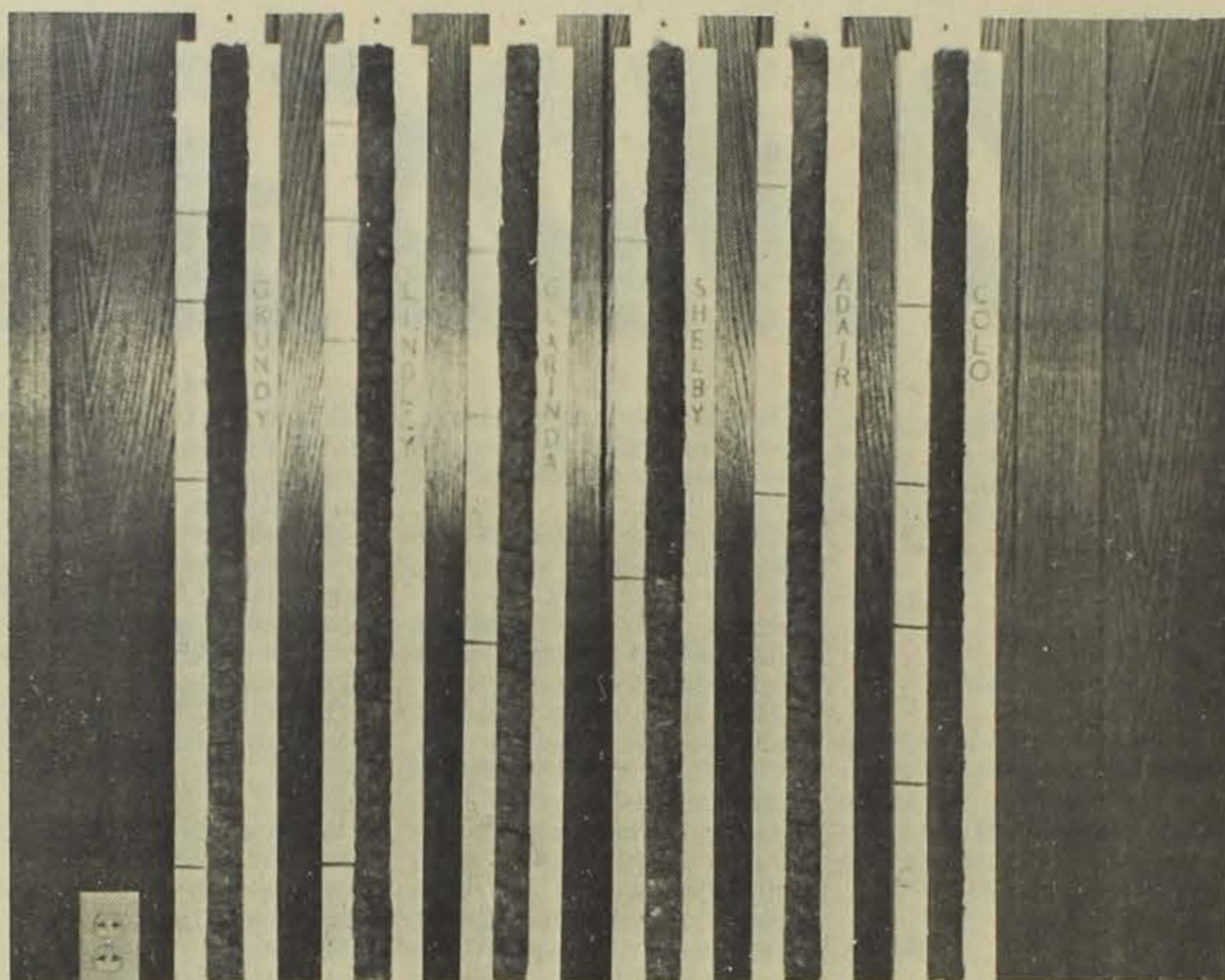
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The next election will be held in 1972 when two members will be elected to three year terms.

Oscala Sentinel

2-18-71



Soil Is Basis For Existence —

Americans Must Save It

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

We are faced with a grave national emergency, that will last many years to come. Our land is being called on for all-out production of food, feed and fiber. This land will suffer from erosion and overcropping unless necessary protection is provided. It is important that we take a hard look at all the land in the country in order to increase our knowledge about its condition and to do what is necessary to protect it.

Where do we start?

The soil is the basis for our existence and almost everything that we have comes from the soil in one form or another. Because of this, we can't afford not to gather as much knowledge as we can about our soils. In this country we have 70,000 or more different kinds of soils, each one varying widely in its use and characteristics.

The above picture shows six different soils found in Clarke County. A close examination shows that these soils are very

different from each other. Each one will respond differently to fertilizer, some are good for grain crops and others are not, drainage may be a problem on some of these soils or erosion may be a limiting factor. Each of these six soils have distinct characteristics that should be considered before making a decision on how they will be used.

When you think of all the different soils in Clarke County or any other county, you find that obtaining a working knowledge of each one becomes too great a job for the layman. When your television breaks down, you call on a man specially trained for doing TV repair. We should think of our soil in the same way and call on soil technicians to identify different soils and to give us their limitations and capabilities.

The Soil Conservation Service has soil scientists working all across the nation to conduct a standard soil survey. This is an acre-by-acre examination of our land. All soils are mapped and identified according to a

standard procedure developed for the entire nation. This inventory of our soils will give us the land facts that are necessary for making sound land use decisions.

The national emergency of providing enough food and living space for all our people plus the other pressures put on our land for industry, airports, roads and other uses has increased the importance of completing the standard soil survey.

Clarke County has not been surveyed. Can we afford to wait any longer?

Explain Conservancy Bill To Watershed Committee

State Representative Marion Siglin discussed the state conservancy bill at the Clarke County Soil and Watershed meeting held Thursday, February 18, at the Soil Conservation building.

The bill is still pending in a house sub-committee and Siglin said that there may be many changes. At the present time, the bill would give the

state the right to "condemn property" if it is found to be a public nuisance. A public nuisance would consist of a person's land draining silt and water onto his neighbor's land.

The word condemn can be misleading in that it does not pertain to the normal useage of the word. Under the bill which is now pending the word condemn would mean that the offender would have to cure the erosion problem, or the State would do it for him if he would refuse.

If the State was forced to take action the offender would be charged with taxes for the work which was done to cure the problem. If the bill should pass the State would pay for a percentage of the work done.

Keith Ticknor, District Conservationist, reminded fellow members of the upcoming meeting for the Longcreek Watershed. This meeting will be held Thursday, February 25, in the Van Wert shcool house. This meeting is open to the public and should be of interest to the farmers in the southwest corner of the county.

Ticknor also noted that Doyce Miller, committee chairman, attended national convention at Chicago Sunday, February 7. Bruce Bervin also attended a meeting on contamination and purification of rural water systems in Creston.

LEGAL NOTICES

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL CONSERVATION
STATE OF IOWA

Notice of Election of Commissioners for the Clarke Soil Conservation District, Encompassing lands lying in the County of Clarke in the State of Iowa:

To all qualified electors residing within the Clarke County Soil Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of March, 1971, between the hours of 12:00 noon, and 8:00 p.m., an election will be held for the election of commissioners for the Clarke County Soil Conservation District.

Polling places for the election are as follows: Osceola High School Vocational Agriculture Department.

Eligible voters residing within the district shall cast their ballots at one of the polling places. Eligible voters who will be absent from the district on the day of election, may apply in person, or in writing, to the County Auditor at Osceola, Iowa, for "Absentee Ballots". Each applicant for an absentee ballot shall state his name and address when application for such ballot is made.

Department of Soil Conservation

By: Fred Cherry
Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee
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Department of Soil Conservation

By: Fred Cherry
Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee
Department of Soil Conservation

s-9-2



MARK: Conservation work does not stop when the snows come. Dale Chidester, left, and T. J. Laing, on the right, are shown as they are surveying a pond site on the Harold Kentner farm SE of Osceola.

Conservation Continues In Winter —

Plan for Summer Season

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

During the winter months conservation work by the SCS technicians continues even though there is no in the field construction. This is the time when plans are made for the summer season and when survey or preparatory information is gathered for conservation practices.

In the last two years the amount of assistance from our area engineers has been steadily reduced. This has placed an additional work load and new responsibilities on our technicians. In the past the district had received assistance from the area engineers on the survey and design of most of the major structures and on conservation practices involving large drainage areas. Now, all the survey and design of these practices is done in the district office. During the last two years T. J. Laing and Dale Chidester have been preparing for these additional responsibilities by attending shortcourses and by doing much personal study.

Few people realize how much work must be done before a contractor actually starts to work on the construction of a large pond or some other structure. First the site must be inspected along with the owner to properly place the structure and to determine if the practice is feasible. At this time a preliminary survey may be conducted to gather information for planning and for giving the owner a rough cost estimate. Then, back in the office, soils maps are studied to determine water run-off and aerial photos are used to measure the drainage areas.

With this information an engineering request is prepared. If the request is approved, then a detailed survey of the site is conducted. This information is then plotted and the design can begin. Detailed plans must be drawn and the structure designed so that it will not fail under unusual conditions and so that it meets specifications. The completed plans are sent to the area office where they are checked and returned to us. At this point

the plans are ready for the contractor, but we still have to go to the field and lay out (stake) the structure before the contractor can begin work. This is a very brief summary of the work that is done, but all of these steps take a great deal of time.

T. J. Laing and Dale Chidester are very busy at this time working on various designs so that they will be ready when the weather breaks in the spring. If you are planning on constructing a conservation practice that will require a survey and detailed plans, we would appreciate your letting us know as soon as possible. If you get your request in early, the plans will be completed and there will be no delay for the contractor.

Six Candidates Seek Dist. Soil Commissioner's Posts



Fred Wood



Merrill McCarty



Ron Henry



Jerry Kelly



Adrian Fuller



Jack Ames

Election of commissioners for the Clarke County Soil Conservation District will be held Thursday, March 18. Polling place for the election will be open at the Osceola High School Vocational Agriculture Building from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Also, for eligible voters who will be unable to vote at the time the polls are open, there will be absentee ballots available at the County Auditor's office in the court house, several days before the election.

Six candidates have been nominated for the office of commissioner and have placed their names on the ballot. They are Jack Ames, Franklin Township; Adrian Fuller, Knox Township; Ronald Henry, Liberty Township; Jerry Kelly, Washington Township; Merrill McCarty, Liberty Township; and Dr. Fred Wood, Osceola Third Ward.

Voters will vote for three candidates at the election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will serve a six year term, the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes will serve a term of four years and the candidate receiving the third highest number of votes will serve for two years.

The number of commissioners is being increased from three to five due to a recent change in the Soil Conservation District Law. Doyce Miller and Richard Gonseth, present commissioners, will remain on the board for four years and two years respectfully. Jack Ames' term expires this year and therefore has placed his name on the ballot for re-election. He is the present chairman of the commissioners.

This is the first time everyone who is eligible to vote in the county, will be able to vote in this election. In the past, only land owners or operators were eligible to vote and to serve as commissioner. At the time that cities and towns were included as a part of the Soil Conservation District, all qualified electors were extended the privilege to participate in the election.

Soil Conservation District Commissioners plan and carry out the conservation and pollution programs for the county.

Oswala Sentinel
3/18/71

Meeting Held At Van Wert —

Discuss Watershed Law

(By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist)

An interest meeting for the development of the Long Creek Watershed was held at the Van Wert school on February 25. Between 50 and 75 men were in attendance from Clarke and Decatur Counties. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the Public Law 566 Watershed program and to select a board of directors that would further study the possibility of developing the program.

George Wilson, Gene Smith, Lowell Moran, Kenneth Sickels, Bob Fuller and Roland Fuller volunteered to represent Clarke County on the board. Charles Gorsline, Randol Cox, Richard Beers and Hubert Duff from Decatur County also volunteered to serve on the board of directors. The board members set their first meeting for Monday, March 8, at the Decatur County SCS office in Leon.

The Small Watershed Act, Public Law 566, was established to assist local organizations plan and carry out projects for flood prevention, agricultural water management, recreation, municipal and industrial water supply, and fish and wildlife development. But probably the most important aspect of this program is for flood control. In Long Creek there are 8,000 or more acres of good farm ground that floods regularly. The land owners in Clarke and Decatur County have been concerned about this for many years and have realized, that as individuals, they cannot solve the problem. By getting together as a group and obtaining assistance through the Soil Conservation Service under PL 566, they will be able to develop a program of land treatment and watershed structures that will keep run-off water on the land and prevent down stream flooding.

The Long Creek Watershed located in southwest Clarke County and Northwest Decatur County, includes all branches of Long Creek, Short Creek and



ATTEND MEETING: The above picture taken in the Van Wert school lunch room, shows several of the 50 to 75 land owners or operators that attended a meeting on the Long Creek Watershed. By grouping together, they will develop a plan to prevent serious flooding in the watershed.

Bee Creek. This encompasses approximately 50,000 acres in Clarke County and approximately 30,000 acres in Decatur County.

Osceola Sentinel 4-8-71

Osceola Sentinel 3-25-71 50213

White Breast Watershed Proposed

12 STRUCTURES TO BE BUILT WITHIN CO.

Meeting Called For March 30 To Give Approval

A Tuesday, March 30, meeting has been called for all citizens of Clarke and Lucas counties who are interested in a White Breast Watershed report. Kenneth Johnson, chairman of the White Breast Watershed Board, stated that the meeting will be held at the 4-H building on the Clarke County Fairgrounds starting at 7:30 p.m.

A preliminary investigation report will be made at this meeting which will consist of giving information concerning 12 proposed structures in Clarke County and three in Lucas County. The area covered in the proposal consists of 57,000 acres in Green Bay and Franklin Townships in Clarke County.

Keith Ticknor, District Soil Conservationist, reported that the proposal is the outcome of work done by district and area engineers to provide flood control, make water available for farm and industrial uses and to create areas for additional recreation projects.

The watershed proposal is one that has been discussed for

seven or eight years. Following studies by engineers, the proposal that will be presented, calls for the earthen structures to be located at approximately the sites shown on the map with the areas that are outlined to include the drainage area.

Ticknor stated that the ponds created by the structures would range in size from six to 12 acres and up to 70 acres. To continue with the project requires approval of the affected owners. No vote need be taken to proceed and it is the hope of the Watershed Board that the approval will be given at the meeting.

"This meeting is especially important to everyone because at this time, a decision has to be made as to whether this is the type of project we want for Clarke County. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$2 million and will have a substantial effect on the future development of our communities," said Johnson.

Cost of the watershed project would be borne by federal funds with the exception of land rights. Farmers on land where ponds were located would have full use of the ponds and retain all land rights.

Members of the County Conservation Board have expressed an interest in cooperating with landowners in developing a park site for use of area residents.

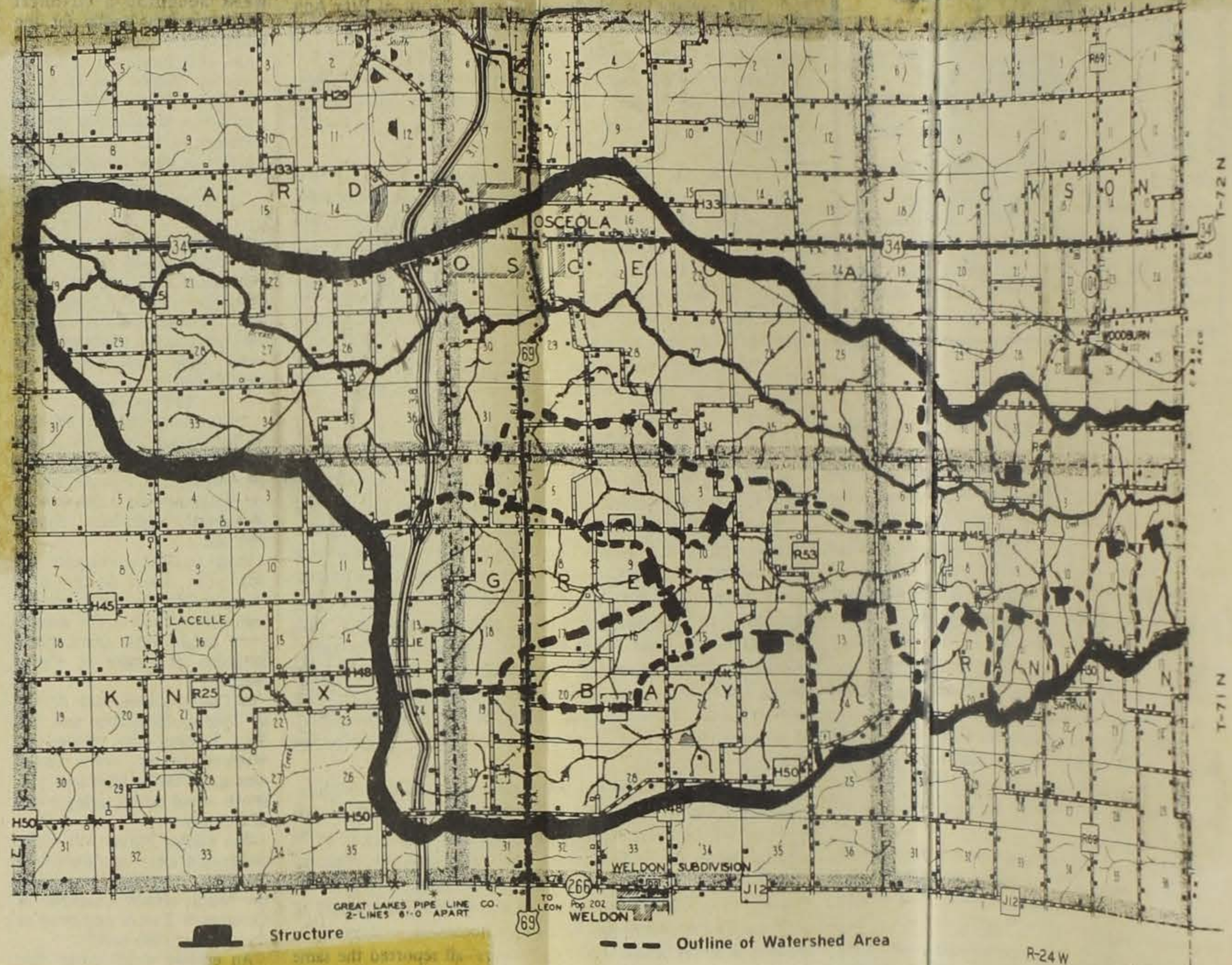
Ticknor stated that a time schedule has not been worked out at this time, but

that following approval by landowners at the March 30 meeting, the next step would be to draw up a work plan and submit it to federal agencies for approval and funding.

"It is doubtful if engineering would be done this year," he said, "if things went according to schedule, it would be possible the entire project could be finished in from five to seven years," said Ticknor.

The watershed is the first proposal of its type to be presented in Clarke County and Board chairman Johnson is hopeful for a large turnout of interested people. The benefit of the watershed proposal can have many side effects to the community and county that will be more evident with the passage of time.

"I'm looking forward to seeing a goodly number of people present for this meeting," he said.



ship, Wayne Swegg, Fremont Township and Ed Weakland, Liberty Township, also have made plans for windbreaks and will be planting them this month.

It is hoped that the care of these trees does not stop after the planting is completed, because it will take much more to have a successful windbreak. Most of the trees that come from the nurseries have been sheared to maintain a compact appearance. In the process of shearing, the top (terminal) leader of the tree is cut off causing the lateral branches to take over to make a new top. When two or more of the lateral branches dominate and grow equally fast, the tree will develop a double top, making it weak and ruining its appearance. Pruning each year will be necessary to prevent this. Usually when the terminal leader has been damaged or destroyed, some of the lateral branches that appear to be competing for the top should be removed to allow only one leader to make a single straight top.

Mulching around the trees, establishing a good grass cover between the trees and frequent mowing will give adequate weed control. Black Hills Spruce and White Spruce will probably need to be sprayed for Red Spider Mites and Pine Needle Seal. Applications of Malathion about the middle of June and then once a month thereafter will prevent any damage from these pests. Sprayers that have had herbicides in them should not be used. Careful fertilizing of the trees after the second or third year of growth will do much to maintain the trees health and to increase their growth rate. Because of the loss of many of our best trees to Dutch Elm Disease, the need for planting trees has never been greater. Besides providing beauty and wind protection, trees are very important for reducing air pollution.

Iowa



WINDBREAK: Gerald Garner is shown as he is planting one of the trees in a windbreak on his farm in Fremont Township. The 4½ foot tall White Pine trees will provide needed protection for the farm buildings in a few years.

Farmers Encouraged To Plant Windbreaks —

REAP Funds Available

Several farmstead windbreaks are being planted this spring as a result of the REAP program offered by the ASCS. Under this program, farmers are encouraged to plant a windbreak and can receive 80 percent of the cost of the trees not to exceed \$2.50 per plant. Gerald Garner just completed planting several large White Pine and Scotch Pine trees on his farm in Fremont Township. Bill Oehlert, Jackson Township, Elmer Nash, Troy Township, Dale Chidester, Franklin Township, Wayne Swegle, Fremont Township and Ed Weaklend, Liberty Township also have made plans for windbreaks and will be planting them this month.

It is hoped that the care of these trees does not stop after the planting is completed, because it will take much more to have a successful windbreak. Most of the trees that come from the nurseries have been sheared to maintain a compact appearance. In the process of shearing, the top (terminal) leader of the trees is cut off causing the lateral branches to take over to make a new top. When two or more of the later branches dominate and grow equally fast, the tree will develop a double top, making it weak and ruining its appearance. Pruning each year will be necessary to prevent this. Usually when the terminal leader has been damaged or destroyed, some of the lateral branches that appear to be competing for the top should be removed to allow only one leader to make a single straight top.

When there is insufficient rainfall, additional watering will be needed to keep the trees growing, especially the first couple of years. During these dry periods, the trees should be thoroughly soaked once a week. Watering more often than this can be as harmful as under-watering.

Weed control cannot be overstressed. The new trees are struggling to get established, and will be seriously hampered by weeds that compete for water and soil nutrients. Mulching around the trees, establishing a good grass cover between the trees and frequent mowing will give adequate weed control.

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 Iowa

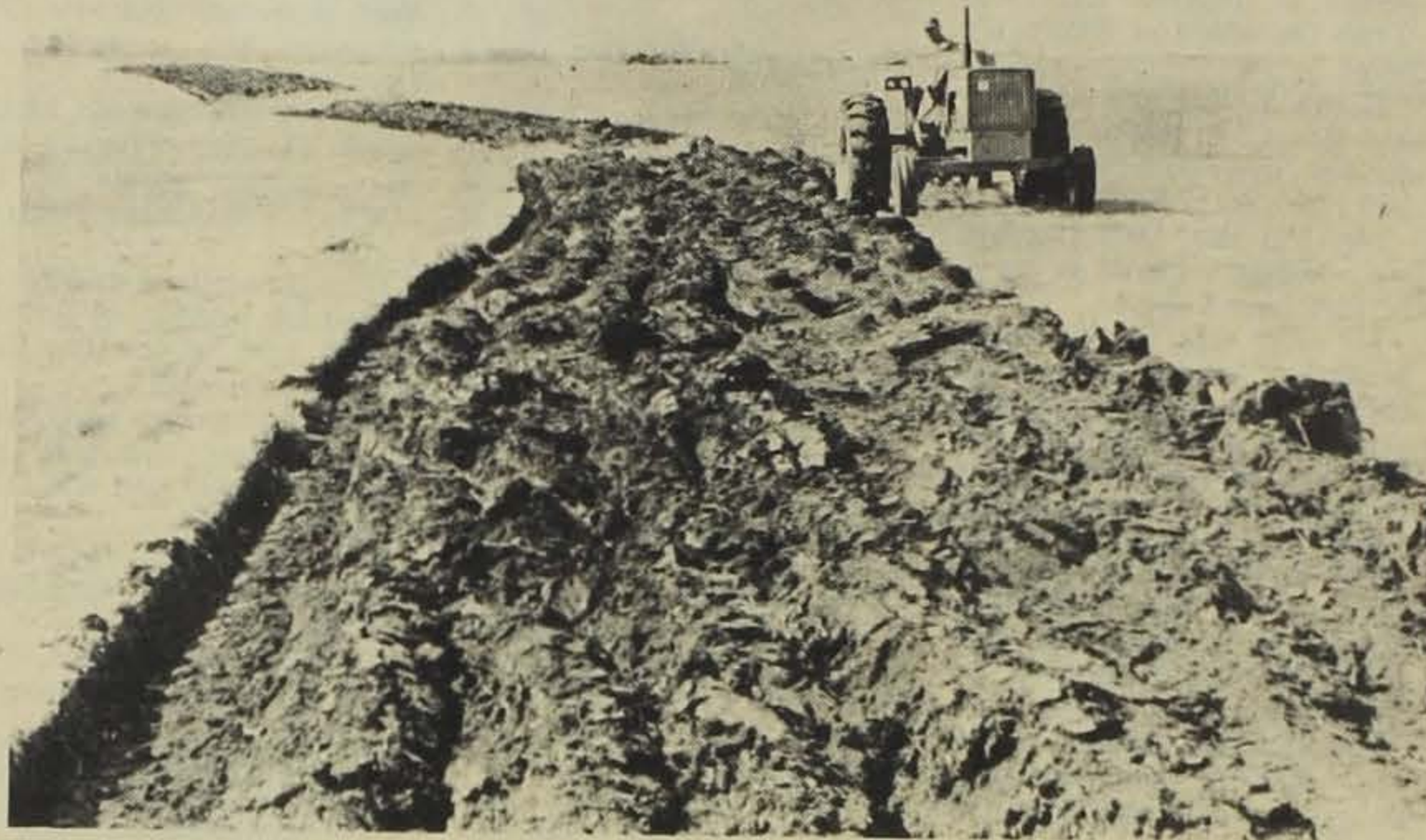
Elect Howard Ruble White Breast Chairman

Howard Ruble was elected Chairman of the White Breast watershed board of directors for the coming year. Kenneth Johnson, past chairman, will assume duties as vice-chairman and Richard Gonseth was elected Secretary-Treasurer. As a result of the approval given to the watershed board by

those attending the public meeting on March 30, a letter was drafted to request authority to proceed with the watershed project. It was requested that consideration be given to building a structure above I-35 to provide an additional water supply for Osceola. Also it was requested that recreation and water supply for rural water system be included in the project.

Bill Oehlert, Charles Rodgers, George Nelson, Don Dale, Hugh Carroll, Doyle Waller, Lloyd Phillips and Bill Danner in Clarke County and Bill Boyd, Jack Obermeir and Harold Lennard in Lucas County were appointed to serve as watershed board members. They will expand the present six member board to 17 members.

Oscola Sentinel
4-15-71



Soil Erosion Nags Farmers —

Stress Contour Farming

(By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist)

Would you allow me to drive on to your farm with a 20 ton truck and haul away a load of the best top soil from each acre of your land for other use? The answer is without a doubt, no. But you may be losing that much soil from each acre on your farm each year due to erosion. Also, the soil lost from erosion is probably going down stream where it will never be used again. This is the time of year when most of our erosion occurs. Studies have shown that 90-95 percent of our erosion on cropland takes place from the time the field is prepared for planting until the crop gets big enough to provide a complete cover and protection over the soil.

The first step in preventing this soil loss is to use contour farming. This the least expensive conservation practice that you can use to protect your soil. It usually involves simply changing the direction in which you drive across the field. Many farmers have stayed away from contour farming because of the difficulty of farming short rows and sharp turns with large equipment. This should no longer be a deciding factor against contouring because we can lay the lines so that they are nearly parallel. In doing this, we may be off of the contour some when going over small ridges or across small waterways, but by being on the contour most of the time you can substantially reduce water runoff and soil loss.

A slight modification of the contouring system will allow you to use stripcropping. Stripcropping alone will cut in half the amount of soil lost from contouring. Stripcropping also gives you the flexibility of intensively cropping the flatter strips on the top of the ridges and leaving the poorer and steeper strips in grass for a longer period of time.

Years ago when many of the fields on farms were laid out, they divided the farm into small square areas without regard to soil types or differences in slopes. In conservation planning now, we look at the different slopes and soil types on the farm and lay it out so that you use the land for which it is best suited. If a productive ridge runs from a cropland field in to a field of permanent pasture, you should consider changing the fence so that you can farm all of the best land on the farm. By shifting your operations you can maintain the same amount of cropland and grassland and at the same time increase production by using the land for which it is best suited.

Why not try contour farming? It won't cost you anything and if you try it you will probably observe increased yields and lower power costs in addition to the savings in soil and water.

Osceola Sentinel 4-1-71

Approve County Watershed Plan

QUESTIONS ON PROGRAM ARE ANSWERED

Give Green Light For Next Step Of Whitebreast Project

Approval was given to the White Breast Watershed proposal Tuesday night, March 30, at a meeting attended by over 100 persons at the 4-H building on the Clarke County Fairgrounds.

Howard Ruble, a member of the White Breast Watershed Board opened the meeting by introducing personnel of the district to the group. A large map showed the 12 proposed structures to be built in Clarke County to provide flood control of the White Breast creeks.

A report of the preliminary investigation was made concerning the 57,000 acres in Green Bay and Franklin townships that will be affected by the proposed watershed plan. Questions concerning the structures and their side effects on the land and water drainage were asked and answered at the meeting.

A request was made by members of the Osceola Water Board to see if it would be feasible to include an additional structure in the plan that could provide additional water for West Lake if it should ever become necessary. This was discussed with technicians and water conservation personnel.

Keith Ticknor, local water and soil conservation technician, stated that following the approval given at the meeting, a letter of request for the project would be sent to federal authorities asking for permission to proceed with the plan.

A time schedule for the project will also be set up as additional work is done.



Construction of conservation practices got a good start the last two weeks due to the dry weather. Paul Sanders is shown as he is building a diversion terrace on the Richard Barr farm in Knox Township.

'Earth Day' Draws Attention To — Need For Conservation

(By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist)

The second annual Earth Day is scheduled for April 22. Because of the wide spread interest and activity during Earth Day in 1970, Senator Nelson of Wisconsin has introduced a resolution that would designate the third week of April each year as "Earth Week". We should not have to wait for Congress to act for us. Earth Day should be a time for each of us to make our own resolution to do our part in protecting our environment and to clean up the mess that we have already made.

We should all ask ourselves, before throwing something out the window as we travel down the road, "how much extra effort is it going to take to put

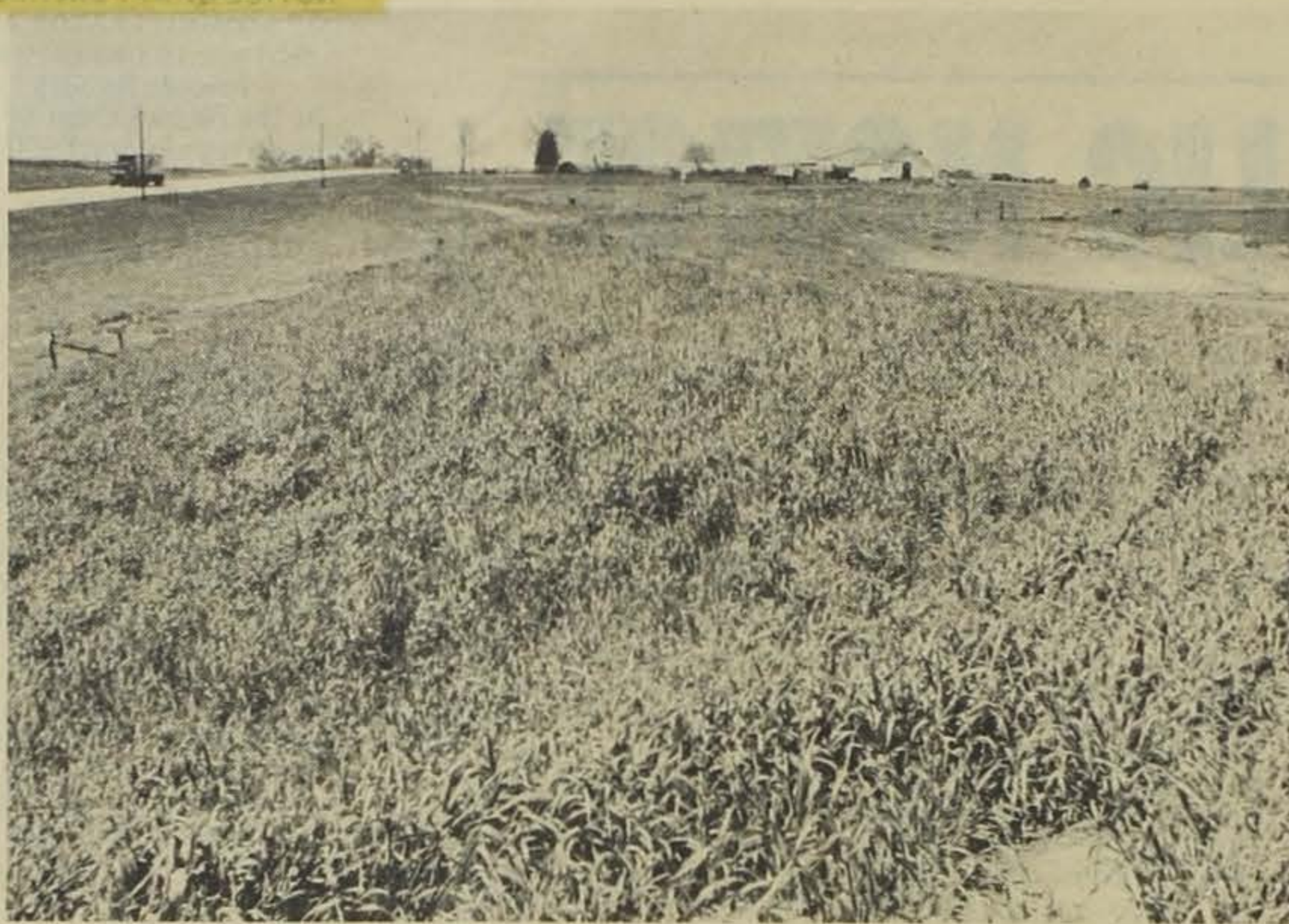
this litter in a trash can?" This little bit of effort could save us many thousands of dollars each year as well as prevent creating an ugly landscape. Beautification of our environment must continue each day and not be limited to just Earth Day.

There are many people in Clarke County and across the state who have realized the need for protecting our environment and have dedicated themselves to doing this job. In order to recognize those individuals for the work that they are doing, the commissioners of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District have been participating in conservation achievement awards contests.

The District has entered the 1971 Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and are accepting nominations now. The program is for the purpose of recognizing outstanding conservation teachers at all grade levels and outstanding conservation farmers.

Last year Leland Dolecheck was selected as a winner in the teacher division and went on to win the regional contest. Merrill McCarty and Robert Upfield were the district winners in the farmer divisions. The District Commissioners would appreciate nominations of either an

outstanding teacher or farmer. District nominations must be in and judging completed by July 1.



A successful seeding is established on the steep back slope of a newly built pond on the Delmer Bryant farm. Seeding of critical areas requires extra care in seed bed preparation, seed selection and fertilization.

Special Treatment Needed In Some Cases —

Seeding May Be Problem

(By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist)

Most farmers are faced with an area on their farm where erosion is a continuing problem and where they are never able to get a good seeding established. These areas could be on the back slope of a pond, road banks, borrow areas, severely eroded hillsides or in many other locations. Areas such as this are described as being critical areas that will require special treatment in order to get them seeded.

Critical area planting is not limited to the use of grasses and many times trees, shrubs, vines or other woody plants may be better suited to stabilizing the problem area.

Preparation of a good seed bed is the first step in critical area planting. This will involve grading to fill small ditches and if possible, four to six inches of topsoil should be placed over the eroded area. In Clarke County where we have till soils it is very important to get some topsoil over the area because the subsoil is unsuited for plant growth. The use of 8-10 tons of manure per acre will supply some of the needed nutrients. Also a straw mulch may be needed to keep seed from blowing and washing away. The mulch will hold moisture as well as helping to create a better

physical condition of the soil.

For small areas or channels, commercial products of synthetic fibers, plastic or paper

and jute nettings can be used to hold soil and seed in place. The State Highway Commission makes wide use of these

products in their seeding program.

For our Shelby, Adair and other Till Soils, I would recommend seeding with 4-6 lbs. alfalfa, 2-3 lbs. Red Clover, 10-12 lbs. Bromegrass and 6-8 lbs. Tall Fescue per acre. Another alternative would be to use 5-6 lbs. Birdsfoot Trefoil and 6-8 lbs. Tall Fescue per acre. With both of these seedings, 3-4 tons of lime per acre and fertilizer at the rate of 50 lbs. N - 100 lbs. P2O5 - 100 lbs. K2O per acre should be applied.

Delmer Bryant has been very successful in seeding in a pond fill on his farm east of Osceola. He seeded last fall after the pond was built with Crownvetch, Bromegrass and Rye grass. Crownvetch is a good substitute for Alfalfa or Birdsfoot Trefoil and is the plant that you see used by the Highway Commission on steep banks along the interstate.

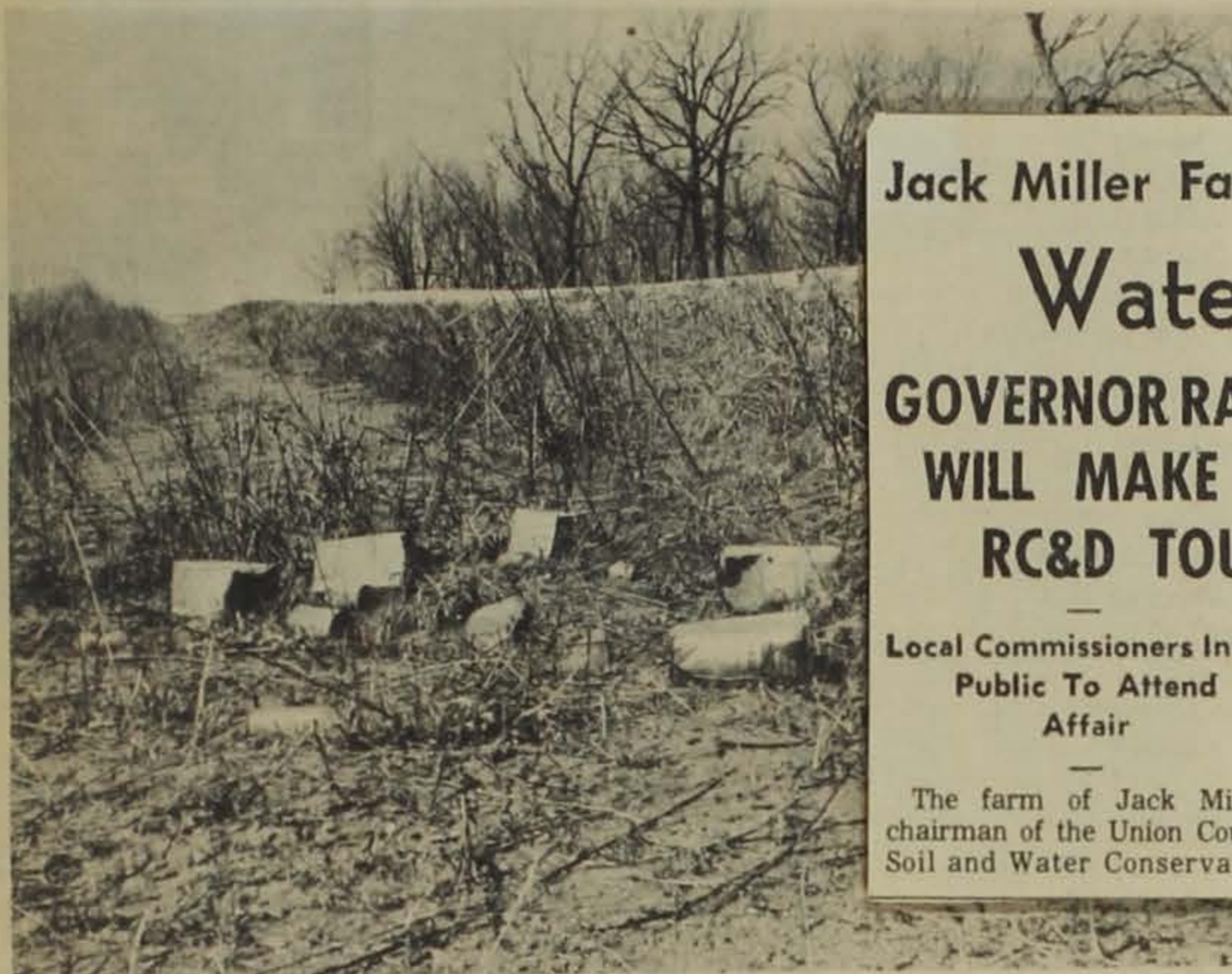
Another area that deserves watching is along the road on the Marvin Fuller farm south of Osceola. This area had been used as a borrow area when the road was reconstructed and severe erosion followed. This spring, Marvin had the area graded and he then seeded, fertilized, limed and covered it

(Continued on Page 9)

with manure. Mrs. Fuller indicated that if they succeed in getting a seeding established, they will eliminate a local landmark commonly known as the Fuller bad lands.

Just getting a seeding started, will not solve the problem. It will be necessary to follow with additional applications of fertilizer and over grazing must be prevented.

Osceola Sentinel
5-13-71



Scenes such as the one pictured above are not uncommon as motorists drive along secondary roads. Pollution and littering of any type is un-

necessary, especially when it is as easy to spend an extra minute and keep areas clean and neat.

Litter Bugs Are Reminded -

Keep Countryside Clean

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist



of trash is the answer to our solid-waste problem. Recycling gets rid of trash that may become litter and at the same time it reduces the use of our non-renewable natural resources. We speak of using a sanitary landfill to dispose of solid wastes, but this can only be a temporary measure until better and more economical recycling processes are developed.

Human values are the basis for environmental salvation. Do we really want to invest the effort, time and money to have a high quality place in which to live?

Jack Miller Farm Included On -

Watershed Tour May 19

GOVERNOR RAY WILL MAKE RC&D TOUR

Local Commissioners Invite
Public To Attend
Affair

The farm of Jack Miller,
chairman of the Union County
Soil and Water Conservation

District, will be one of the farms visited by Iowa Governor Robert Ray and members of the seven-county RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) committee on Wednesday, May 19.

Jack Miller, a farmer living north of Creston, is a former Osceolan and son of Mr. and Mrs. Doyce Miller, well known Clarke County farmers.

Governor Ray will be making a number of personal appearances in connection with Soil Steward-

ship Week and his Governor's Environmental Action Program. One of the visits will be hosted by members of the RC&D steering committee when they plan a noon luncheon in Creston with Governor Ray and members of his staff.

Attending from Clarke County will be Doyce Miller, Melvin Goeldner and Keith Ticknor along with other county representatives who can be present for the luncheon and tour.

Charles Ehm, chairman of the seven-county project, announced that others invited for the tour include State Senators Quentin Anderson and James Briles; State Representatives Perry Christensen and Andrew Varley; Creston Mayor Marvin Taylor; Afton Mayor Howard Nichols and members of the State Soil Conservation Commission.

Following the noon luncheon, a review of the objectives of the RC&D group will be presented along with a progress report. The tour of Three Mile Creek Watershed and Twelve Mile Creek Watershed is expected to take approximately one hour.

Two stops will be made by the group which is expected to number between 60 and 70 persons. The first will be at the Jack Miller farm which features a completed watershed structure and many other installed conservation practices. A beef cow herd is one of the main enterprises on the Miller farm and the land is devoted exclusively to forage production.

The second stop will be at the site of another Three Mile Creek Watershed structure expected to be under construction. The route of travel will continue through the Twelve Mile Creek Watershed including the site of the 633 acre multiple purpose impoundment which will serve

(Continued on Page 12)

as the Creston municipal water supply.

The group will return to Creston at approximately 2 p.m. Keith Ticknor, District Soil Conservation representative, announced that persons interested in attending the tour are welcome to attend.

Oscula Sentinel
5-13-71



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Oscula Sentinel
5-13-71

May 19

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(Continued on Page 12)

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Cooperation is Asked During —

Soil Stewardship Week

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

The world and they that dwell therein

Soil Stewardship Week is being observed across the nation this week, May 16-23. This year's theme, "The World and They That Dwell Therein", refers to each and everyone of us. President Richard Nixon said recently, "The task of cleaning up our environment calls for total involvement by all our citizens. It involves government at every level. It requires the help of every citizen. It presents us with a unique opportunity for every individual to make a special contribution to his community and country."

Soil Stewardship week is for the purpose of giving us the opportunity to see if we are really acting as stewards of the earth in the manner in which our Lord intended. The following poem entitled "Consider the Earth" is worthy of everyone's attention.

It's the mountains and valleys, the forests and flowers;
It's the sky overhead, and summertime showers.

It's the storehouse of waters, the source of our food;

It's the fish and the sheep and the giant redwood.

It's the place of four seasons; it's day after night.

It's an empire of beauty. It is here there is life!

Who but the Lord could give sunshine and soil?

Who but He, gives us oceans and oil?

Think of the atom, the wind and the rain.

Think of His gifts of colors and grain.

What price would you pay for the coo of a dove?

And how would you value a young mother's love?

Where but on Earth are there children and air?

Where but around us, a planet to share?

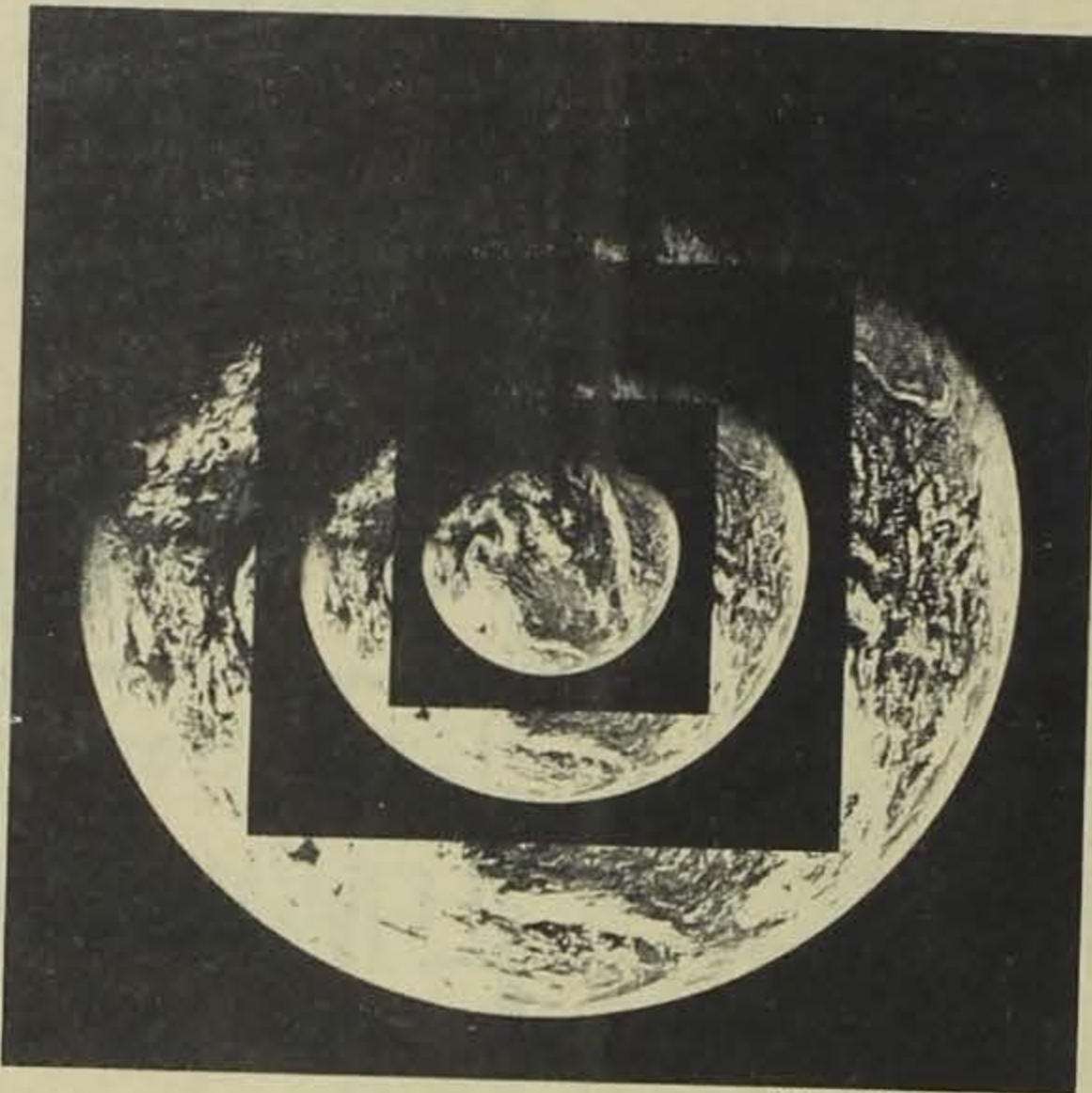
The earth is the Lord's, with riches unmeasured;

The home where we live, a world to be treasured.

We can spoil it, or keep it, as a land full fair,

For we are His stewards; His earth is our care.

Consider the earth. Consider it well.



Official NASA Photograph

Soil Stewardship Week May 16-23, 1971



ON TOUR: Members of Iowa Governor Robert Ray's party toured two farms in the Creston area last Wednesday, May 19, as part of the soil conservation tour in the Midcrest area. The group included a number of Clarke County persons who are members of the RC&D committee. In the

above picture, Jack Miller (in white jacket) visits with two unidentified men, Governor Robert Ray, Charles Ehm, Mrs. Doris Simons, Mrs. Robert Ray, Mrs. Jack Miller, Doris Miller and Maureen Miller. The group visited the Jack Miller farm on their visit.

Osceola Sentinel
6-3-71



GRAZING: Beef cattle are not the only product of good grass land management. Sheep, on the

Jerry Kelly farm northwest of Osceola, are making use of an improved hillside pasture.

For High Producing Pastures —

Plans Should be Made

By Keith Ticknor
District Conservationist

Having high producing pastures that provide plenty of feed throughout the season does not just happen. A good pasture program will require as much time and effort as it does to produce a crop of corn.

Plans should be made for a full season of pasture production. This will mean that two or more plants should be selected and used in the pasture program. Grasses and legumes differ in their growth characteristics making them available for grazing at different times during the season. By taking advantage of these differences you can greatly increase production by grazing when the plant is producing at its best. For instance, bluegrass produces well in the spring when it is cool and wet, by mid-summer when the weather is hot and dry it grows very little. But birds-foot trefoil starts growth late in the spring and will provide abundant feed during mid-summer. Therefore, with just these two different plants you can have good pasture both in the spring and summer.

Several pastures should be provided so that livestock can be moved from one to another. This will help to prevent overgrazing and allow for regrowth. Grazing the plants too short has a serious affect on production and on maintaining the stand. If you take all the leaves off of a corn plant it will not grow. The same thing applies to grasses. You must leave enough of the plant ungrazed so that it can carry on its growth processes.

Fertilization and liming is a big factor in gaining high production in the pastures. Soil tests may be needed to determine the amounts needed for the different soil types. Phosphorus and potassium should be applied every other year and on some soils testing low in phosphorus, P2O5 should be applied every year. High rates of nitrogen should be applied to the grasses every year.

Clipping to control brush and weeds and to take care of uneven grazing will have to be carried out. Also re-establishment or renovation of stands must be planned for.

Those who have completed conservation practices this spring are: Waterways, Lowell Adams, Clinton Mullen, Robert

McCann, Marion Millsap, Lloyd Miller, Gayle Robins, Orval Coffman, George Van Patten, Adm. Glenn Denly and Carl Clement. Ponds, Aubrey Ramsey, Keith Davis, Clarence Wilhelm, Benjamin Kirk, Gerald Watson, Lloyd Bush and Richard Barr. Diversion, Virgil

Pressly, Richard Barr; tile, Beardsley Estate, Newton Watkins, Roger Marts, Urman Chipp. Windbreaks, Dale Chidester, Gerald Garner, Wayne Swegle, William B. Oehlert, Jack Heilman, Donald Ramsey and tree planting, Barry Mateer.

Osuda Sentinel
6-10-71



COSTLY: Erosion is taking its toll again this spring as the result of recent rains. Fortunately this damage can be prevented by application of

conservation measures. Cost-sharing funds are available now from the ASCS to help get the job done.

Farmers Need To —

Correct Erosion Problems

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Can you afford to take the kind of loss that is shown in the above picture? If you could add up in dollars and cents the amount of damage incurred by just this one rain, the figure would be surprising. And then add on an amount to cover the decrease in production from this field. Plus, a value should be placed on the time and cost of replacing the soil that has been lost. The total keeps getting higher and we still have not considered the damage done

downstream. The silt may have piled up in a pond or lake, it may be polluting our rivers, or it may have covered up the new fence you just put in. There is probably no end to the number of items that could be added to this bill, but they all add up having a far reaching affect much greater than it would appear at the first thought.

Seeing erosion like this on your farm or on your neighbor's farm is reason enough to begin taking steps to prevent it from happening again. Walter White, Chairman of the ASCS Committee, pointed out that there is money available now for cost-

sharing on conservation practices and that they are encouraging applications. Cost-sharing is necessary because of the high cost of installing waterways, erosion control structures, ponds, terraces and other permanent practices. Also, this is a small price to pay for preventing the far reaching affects of sediment.

The year is almost half over making it important that you get your application in as soon as you can. If you have questions about whether the project you are considering is eligible for cost-sharing you should stop in at the ASCS office or the Soil Conservation office.



June 20 - 27 Is -

Soil Conservation Week

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Soil and Water Conservation Week is being observed across the nation this week, June 20-27. This is a time when conservationists, farmers and businessmen can look back with pride at the accomplishments they have helped to make in Soil and Water Conservation.

Farmers and Landowners in Iowa have taken a positive approach towards improving the quality of our environment by building farm ponds that have created over 35,000 acres of water within the last few years. Besides providing needed water for livestock and other farm uses, these ponds have been stocked with fish for recreation, plantings have been made for wildlife and many sediment producing gullies have been healed.

Soil Conservation Districts are encouraging the planting of farmstead windbreaks. These are adding beauty to our farms as well as protecting them from cold winter winds. Windbreaks are a popular spot for wildlife during the winter months also. Over 1500 acres of trees are planted each year in Iowa on individual farms for erosion control, beautification, wildlife and other uses.

The terraces built on Iowa farms last year, if laid end to end, would reach from Des

Moines to New Orleans. Fifty-seven thousand miles of terraces have been built to reduce soil losses, protect lakes from siltation and prevent pollutants from getting into our streams.

Application of conservation practices is a major business enterprise in the state. In 1970, 19 million dollars was spent on Iowa farms by approximately 875 contractors working either full or part-time on installation of various practices.

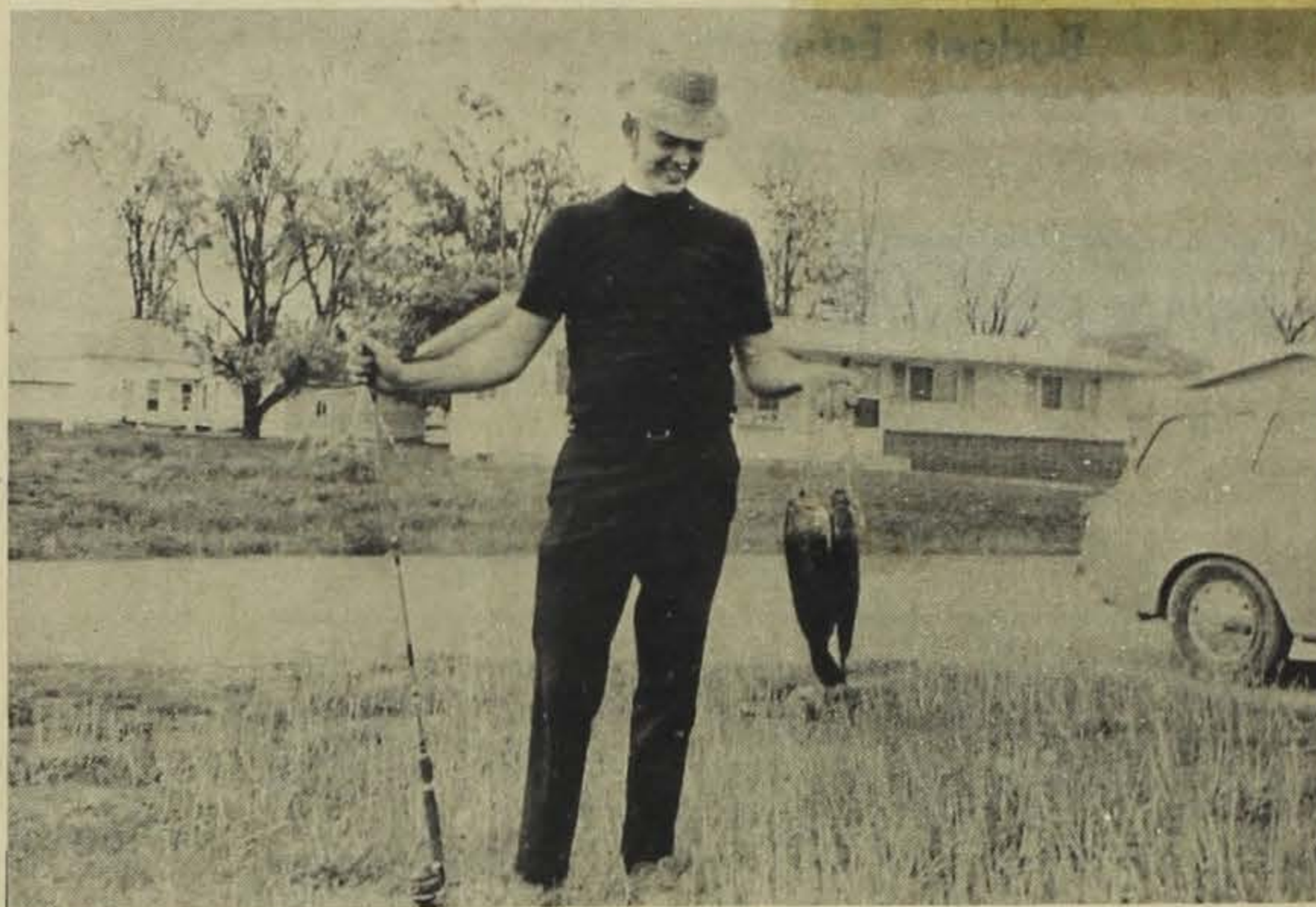
Each year since 1967 the State Legislature has made \$100,000 available to the State Soil Conservation Committee for acceleration of soil surveys. In addition to this, counties have made financial commitments to supplement federal and state assistance for completion of the survey in their county. Soil Conservation Service Soil Scientists cooperating with the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, have established one of the nations most active soil survey programs. Over 28 million acres have been surveyed so far.

Soil Conservation Districts have realized that soil and water problems don't stop at the city limits. In fact they are many times more severe in the city because streets, buildings, parking lots and other paved areas prevent water from soaking into the soil causing greater and faster run-off. Districts now provide assistance in

solving these problems. They are also providing interpretations of soil surveys for city planners, residential and industrial developers and realtors to assist them in selecting suitable sites for development.

Soil and Water conservation involves everyone and is dependent on a total commitment by each individual to do his share of the work. During this week, that has been proclaimed Soil and Water Conservation Week, let's show our appreciation for what has been done, but at the same time commit ourselves towards accelerating conservation activities.

Oscola Sentinel
July 1, 1971



GOOD FISHING? You Bet! Nick Saunders is proudly displaying two 4-5 lb. bass he caught this

spring in a farm pond. Where? Well, Nick is not talking.

Recreation Part Of -

Farm Pond Building

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Most farm ponds are built to provide needed water for livestock and to prevent or stop excessive gully erosion. But recreation has become an important secondary benefit. This spring fishing was excellent in many of the private ponds in the county. Many hours of pleasure and restful enjoyment are spent trying to catch that big one.

With a little imagination and foresight there is unlimited benefits being derived from farm developed, recreation areas. A waste area that was once a raw gully may become a choice building site for new

rural homes after a pond is built. With the addition of shrubs or trees the area will become an excellent wildlife refuge and will provide abundant hunting. Outdoor camping

has increased tremendously in the last few years, making existing camping areas over crowded and new ones much in demand. In addition to the private recreational benefits,

many of these activities can be developed to bring in a profit for the owner.

Most of the farm ponds have been stocked with fish received, at no cost, from the National Fish Hatchery at Muscatine. A new pond should first be stocked with catfish in August and then the following spring bass can be added. All orders for fish should be placed as early as possible at the Soil Conservation Service office.

The fish truck delivered bass last week. Those receiving fish for their ponds were: Elmer Woods, Larry Siefkas, Eddy Saylor, Virgil Powell, Merle McWilliams, Adrian Fuller and Robert Fuller.

Oscula Sentinel - July 15

Name Chuck Jackson Speech Contest Winner

Chuck Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jackson of Murray, was named the winner of the Regional Soil Conservation Speech Contest held in Bedford on Monday, July 12. In winning the award he received \$24 in cash and the opportunity to participate in the state contest.

The contest is open to all junior and senior high school students, grades seven through twelve. All entrants must be from the state of Iowa and must give their speeches in the district that they reside in. Clarke County is presently in the number eight regional conservation district which includes Clarke and Decatur County and all counties in Iowa west to the Missouri River. Ten counties make up the region and there are nine regions in the state.

Keith Ticknor, district soil conservationist, states that Jackson has been active in high school activities and is a member of the high school chorus. He is also a member of the vocational agricultural students.

Ticknor also comments that Jackson was the only person to enter the contest from Clarke County and that he participated in the contest against six other people.

The state contest will be held in Des Moines some time in September according to Ticknor.



Chuck Jackson

Oscula Sentinel - 7/22/71

Plan to Appoint Forester to Area

Man Will Probably Work
Out Of Creston
Office

William Farris, Assistant State Forester, State Conservation Commission informed members of the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Project at the area meeting in Clearfield, Wednesday evening, July 14, that the Conservation Commission approved the placement of a forester in the RC&D area.

He will probably work out of the RC&D office in Creston and will begin his duties by September 1. He will assist in the area of woodland development and marketing and work with several project proposals now pending.

Bob Loudon, Area Soil Conservationist working in the Southern Iowa RC&D area reported on pasture improvement.

Farris also related the need for replacement of timber stands that are destroyed by watersheds and the need for marketing of timber in this area.

Two project proposals were submitted by Union County and they were approved by the Steering Committee.

The Project Steering Committees met individually and discussed project proposals and outlined the proposals to the Executive Committee.

The next meeting will be September 8.

Attending from Clarke County were: Jack Jeffreys, Melvin Goeldner, Doyce Miller, Clayton Scott and Keith Ticknor.



WHO'S NEXT? Keith Ticknor and a member of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Commission distribute fish among Clarke County farmers. Over

2,000 fish were distributed to area farmers according to Ticknor.

Oscula Sentinel - 8-5-71

AUGUST 10, 1971

Osceola Tribune

White Breast Is Given Go Ahead

Word from United States Congressman John Kyl Thursday, August 5, verified that approval had been given for work to proceed on the White Breast Watershed project in Clarke and Lucas counties. Keith Ticknor, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation office in Osceola expressed his satisfaction that the proposal had received the go ahead signal.

The plan as accepted by the federal government calls for the

building of 12 structures in Clarke County and three in Lucas County. The area covered in the project consists of 57,000 acres in Green Bay and Franklin Townships in Clarke County. Size of the ponds and lakes created by the project will vary from less than ten acres to the largest which will be 302 acres and will affect approximately six landowners.

Over \$1,000,000 will be spent in federal funds for the project that is designed for flood control, make water available for farm and industrial uses and to create areas for additional recreation projects.

Richard Gonseth, Chairman of the Conservation Board, voiced his approval of the program.

"Many people have put in a good many hours to bring this program about. They deserve recognition for their time and efforts. The good that can come from this watershed project will be felt for many years to come."

Approval of the project has come about following work by local citizens for the past eight years. The plan as approved is different from the original proposal that consisted of one large dam.

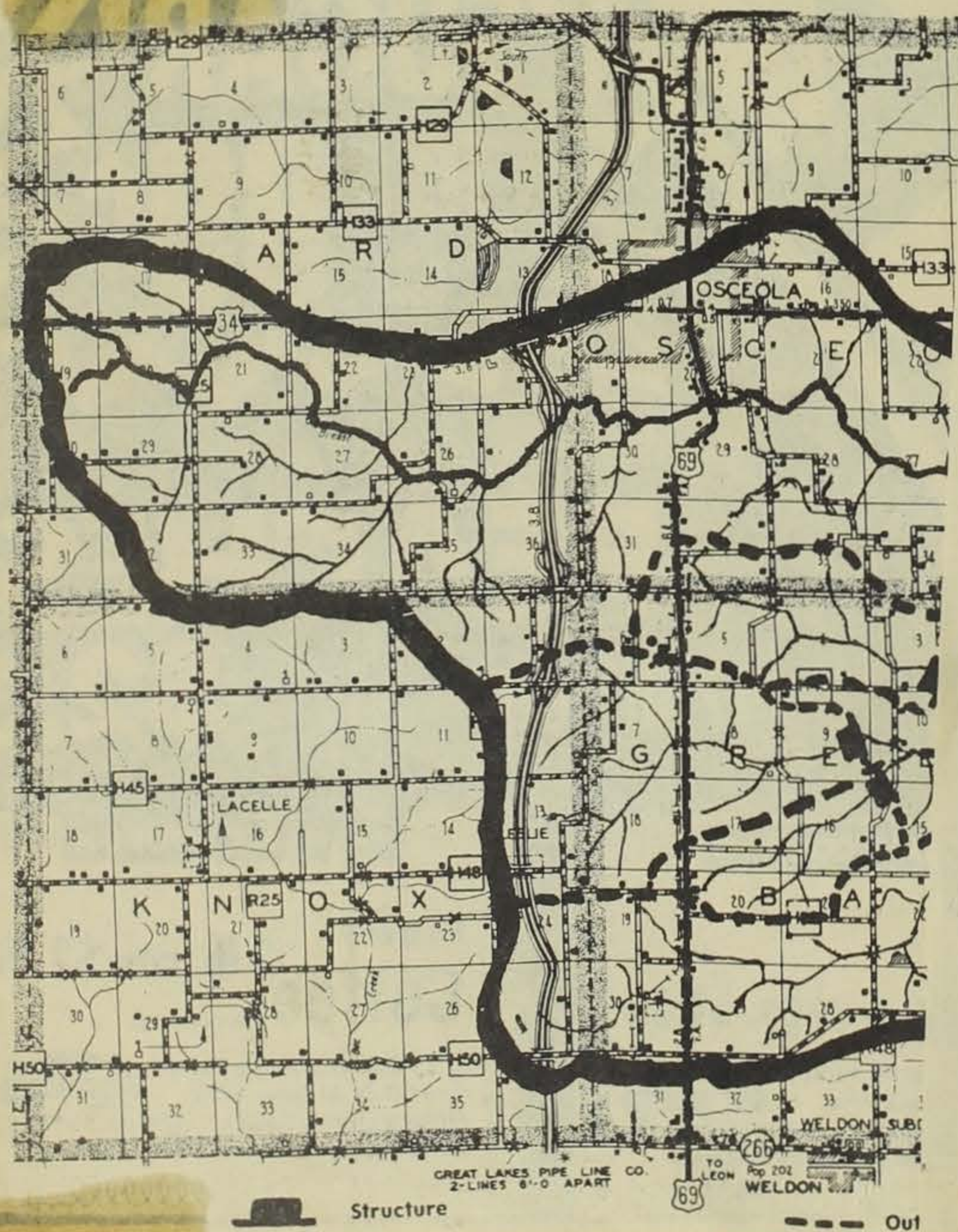
Engineering work will proceed for the project with the actual locating of the structures to be done in the near future. Cost of the watershed project will be borne by federal funds with the exception of land rights. Farmers on land where ponds were located would give an easement for that portion, but would have full use of the ponds and would retain all land rights.

Engineering will proceed this year, but bids will have to be let following final specifications for each structure.

Osceola residents will have an additional source of water supply as a result of the White Breast project. A 100 acre pond will be built west of Interstate 35 that will serve as a backup for West Lake should additional water ever be needed.

Richard Gonseth reported that some easements have been obtained for the dams to be built with contacts being made in the near future for the balance of them.

County residents met March 30 to give approval to the plan as was presented. Planning had been done on the proposal for several years.



ELF

CANNE
POP

12 oz. can

8¢

10¢



EROSION FORCE: The forces of erosion are tremendous if not kept under control. Jerry Kelly, standing in the bottom of the ditch, said

that he has watched this gully develop over a short span of a few years.

Farm Safety Is Continuing Problem

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

A week ago, during Farm Safety Week, I read several news articles on farm safety. One of the statements pointed out that the number of accidental deaths in agriculture is second only to that of the construction industry. This is a tragic record for agriculture. I then asked myself, "why do we have so many accidents?" I think that if you stop and look at the activities of a farmer over the course of a year, you can easily see why the accident rate is so high.

The farmer operates and is in contact with a greater variety of powerful and dangerous equipment during his day to day activities than are most other workers. Many times he is operating this equipment under very severe conditions of weather

accidents could be prevented by using sensible practices and protective devices.

Even though Farm Safety Week has passed, the emphasis on safety must not decline. Consider what would happen to your family and business if you were taken away from them for several months, a year, or completely.

Saylor-Coolley
Paul Clothing
Goldson, Brown — VanWerden
Saylor-Coolley
Rindy's
Dr. Rundle
Saylor-Coolley
Snowdons
Saylor-Coolley
Toney Ford
Fair Board
Twins Shop
Underwood
J. H. Adams
Butterfield Ins.
Elvin Harris
Farm Bureau
Buesch Agency
Clarke Co. Publishing
Clarke Co. St. Bank
Clarke Co. Tire
Coast to Coast
James Gothen

AUGUST 10, 1971

Osceola Tribune

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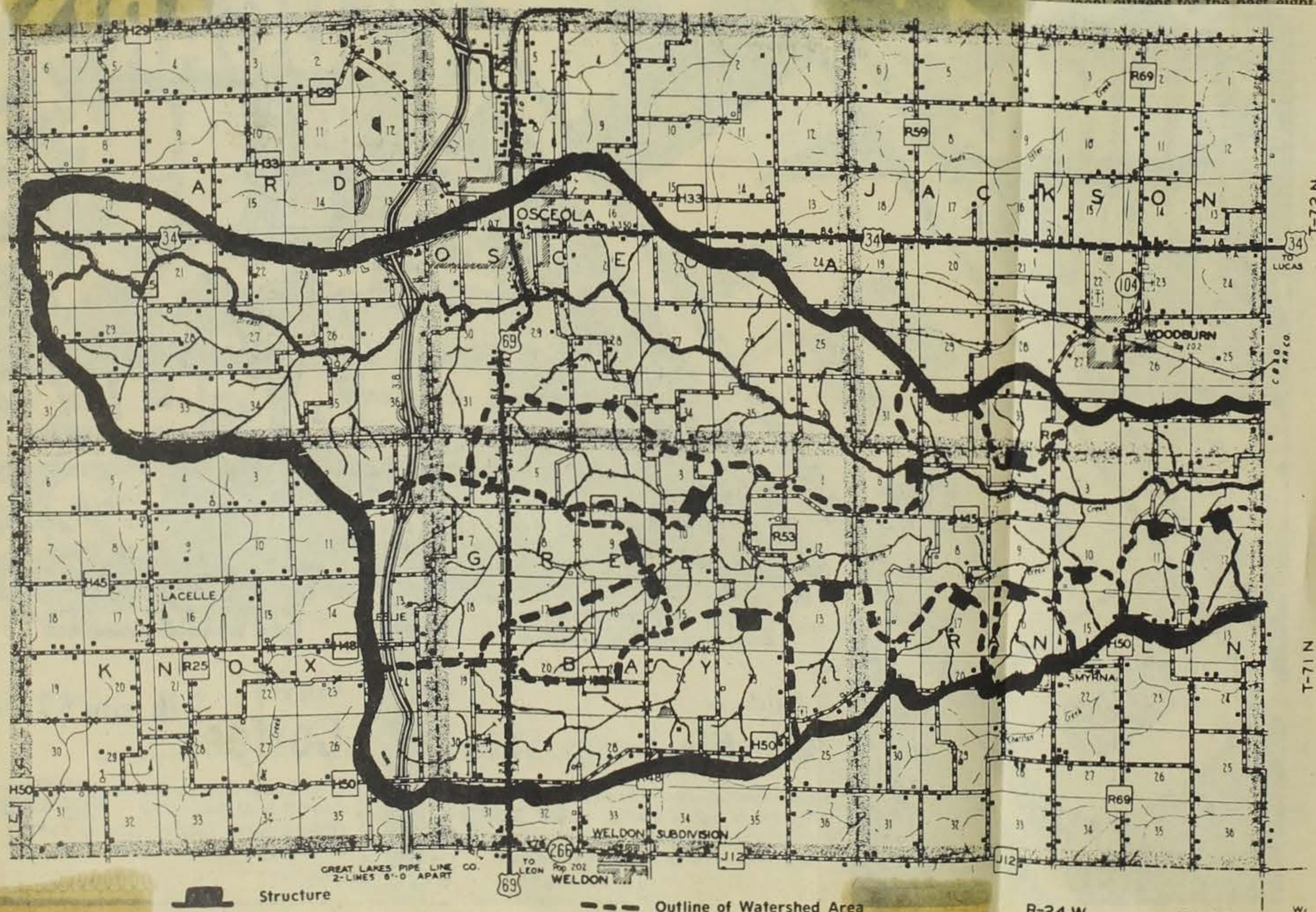
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R-24 W

DECATUR CO.

W



ALGAE (green-scum) and aquatic weeds as shown in the above pond, have been making fishing and other water sports difficult this summer. Some degree of control can be obtained yet this year, but for best results control should start early in the spring.

Scum on Ponds Is County-wide Problem

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

This has been an exceptionally good year for the growth of Algae (green-scum) and other aquatic weeds in farm ponds. The heavy growth has interfered with swimming, boating and fishing in many of the ponds. Also, for those that use their ponds as a water supply may find that the algae and weeds give the water a disagreeable taste and in some cases it has caused problems by plugging the water pipe in the pond. Large amounts of weed growth will inevitably lead to overpopulation of fish and cause them to be stunted.

Some of this excessive growth is the result of water pollution. Farm fertilizers and animal wastes entering the ponds contribute greatly to weed and algae growth. The first step

then in control of these pests is to shut off any source of animal wastes and to use care in fertilizing in the watershed above the pond.

Weeds in the pond can be removed by raking or pulling them out. But if the pond is very big, this can become quite a job. Six domestic ducks per surface acre will normally control free floating duckweed and some other species of weeds. Another way of controlling weeds in a small area is to use sheets of black plastic to shade them out and kill them.

Copper sulphate, called Blue Vitrol, is very effective for controlling algae in the water, but has little effect on the floating weeds. Copper sulphate can be applied by spraying or by putting it in a cloth sack and dragging it through the water. For the use of other chemicals to control floating weeds, you

should pick up Extension bulletin WC-70 "Control of Algae and Other Undesirable Plants in Stock Tanks and Farm Ponds", from the County Extension office. Extra care must be taken if herbicides are used to kill weeds in the water to prevent contamination of the water supply. Also, if weed growth is covering a large per cent of the water surface, you should treat only part of the pond at one time. Too many weeds dying and decaying will create a low-oxygen condition in the water and may cause the death of fish.

It is late in the year now to get good results in weed and algae control but some relief may be obtained. Then next spring treatment should start as soon as you see the first sign of infestation. If you need additional information on this subject, stop in the Soil Conservation Office and we will be glad to help you.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1971

Jackson Wins State Soil Speech Contest



Chuck Jackson

Chuck Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jackson of Murray, was winner of the state Soil and Water Conservation's Speech Contest held Sunday, September 12, at the Hotel Savery in Des Moines. The contest was part of the observation of the Silver Anniversary of the National and State Soil and Water Conservation organizations.

The new state champion replaces Brad Waller of Weldon who was winner last year of the same honor. Keith Ticknor, head of the local conservation office in Osceola, stated that this was the first time he could remember of having a state winner two times in succession from the same district.

Jackson spoke on "How Soil and Water Management Benefits My Community." He was in competition with nine other regional winners from the state. He won the right to represent the district after winning in competition at Bedford June 12.

The new state winner was the recipient of a \$250 scholarship and \$100 in cash.

He is a senior in Murray Community High School where he is active in vocational agriculture activities. He was accompanied to Des Moines by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Applegate, Mr. and Mrs. Max Flaherty, Mr. and Mrs. Doyce Miller and Keith Ticknor.

The three-day conference continues Monday.

Osceola Sentinel - 9-9-71



HOW WELL DOES IT RESIST DROUGHT?: This was one of the questions asked by members of the tour group that visited farms in the Mid-crest area Tuesday, August 31. Part of the group is pictured above on the Doyce Miller farm where they saw different types of grasses grown.

The group saw new seed corn, ewe flock management, different types of haying systems, Murray Gray calves and beef cross cattle. The tour was sponsored by the extension service with state specialists assisting.

Des Moines Register
9-13-71

Youth Wins Conservation Speech Title

Charles Jackson, 17, of Murray, won the Iowa Soil Conservation Speech Contest Sunday in the state finals held in conjunction with the opening of the twenty-fifth annual conference for Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners at Hotel Savery.



CHARLES JACKSON

Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jackson, was one of nine finalists who competed in the state meet and spoke concerning "Soil and water management benefits my community."

The Iowa winner, who received \$350 in cash and a scholarship, was a senior at Murray Community School.

Runnerup was Harry W. Strong, 18, of Fairfield, son of Dr. and Mrs. K. H. Strong. He is a freshman at Drake University, and received \$75.

The third-place winner was James L. Hurd, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hurd of Maynard. Hurd is a senior at West Central Community



JAMES HURD



HARRY STRONG

School at Maynard. He received \$50.

The contest is sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Co. of Grinnell.

The other finalists were David Pecaut, 16, Sioux City; Jim Hjelm, 16, Peterson; Dennis Rachut, 17, Osage; Alan Johnson, 15, Atlantic; Joe Anders, 16, Milo; and Dwight Glenney, 18, Muscatine.

The three-day conservation conference features a luncheon speech today by U.S. Senator Jack Miller (Rep., Iowa) and the presentation of conservation awards tonight.

Osceola Sentinel - 10-21-71



REPRESENTS CLARKE COUNTY: Three Clarke County teachers recently attended the 1971 Fall Workshop for teachers sponsored by the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation. Mrs. Wilma Carson, left, accepts a check from Steve

Roberts of Saylor Cooley Grain. Mrs. Carson, Don Applegate of Murray, and Mrs. Jim Redman of Weldon were reimbursed by Highway Lumber, Saylor-Cooley Grain and the Osceola Sale Barn.

Escala Sentinel
9-23-71



Merrill Dean is applying manure to a recently completed waterway on his farm near Hopeville in Doyle Township. The extra effort of applying

mulch and fertilizer will many times mean the difference between success or failure of a waterway.

Grass Waterways a 'Must' on Most Farms

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Grassed waterways are a conservation practice used by most farmers and one that they are very familiar with. Yet, even though establishing a waterway is a common practice, there are many failures. Waterways are defined as a constructed waterway graded, shaped and established in suitable vegetation. They are to provide for the disposal of excess surface water from terraces, diversions or from natural concentrations without damage by erosion or flooding.

From the Soil Conservation Service standpoint, waterways are not a difficult practice. Designing the waterway so that it has proper depth and width is based on the drainage area, slope of the land, amount of runoff and other factors all requiring a limited amount of survey. If it has a history of being wet then tile will be included in the design. Construction is not difficult. But after

construction, the hard part of waterway development begins and this is when the success or failure of it is determined.

The critical step is in getting a good grass cover established. Weather always seems to be too wet or too dry for new seeding to get started, and many times unfertile, exposed subsoil is left. Because of these factors, extra effort will be needed to get vegetation established.

As a general rule, the seeding rate for most waterways should be double the normal meadow seeding rate. For dry or tiled waterways seeding should be 20-25 lbs. bromegrass per acre and if you think it is needed, 4-5 lbs. timothy, 6-8 lbs. tall fescue or 2-3 lbs. red top per acre may be added. Then for waterways not tiled, seeding should be 10 lbs. bromegrass, 10 lbs. reed canarygrass and 2 lbs. red top per acre. Birdsfoot trefoil at the rate of 5 lbs. per acre may also be added. In cropland where herbicide damage is likely to occur, 4-6 lbs. blackwell switchgrass per acre should be added

to the seeding mixture.

Fertilizer is very necessary for getting the seeding started. P2O5 and K2O at the rate of 60-80-40 lbs. per acre should be applied and this should be increased 50 percent to 100 percent where subsoil is exposed. Then six months after seeding, the waterway should be top-dressed with 30-50 lbs. of nitrogen per acre.

Mulching with straw or other materials cannot be over stressed in its importance for holding the soil until seeding can get started. This is one of the extra efforts needed to prevent a waterway failure. The use of barnyard manure makes both a good fertilizer and mulch.

With the extra effort and care applied, a gully will become a grassed waterway which will return a big savings in eliminating turns in the field and preventing soil loss. It can also be used to produce a productive hay crop.

Escala
Tribune
10-26-71

Ray Announces Farm-City Week

Governor Robert Ray has proclaimed November 19 to 25 as Iowa Farm City week.

Richard Gonseth, chairman of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District, says that Farm-City week provides an excellent opportunity for rural and urban people to get together and plan for community development. Gonseth also says that it serves as a reminder that all people depend on soil and water resources and everyone has a responsibility in saving those resources.

In signing the proclamation Ray urged, "all citizens of Iowa, whether urban or rural to recognize the good quality of Iowa life

Build 'Shanghri La' North of Murray

By Keith A. Ticknor
District Conservationist

Have you ever felt like you would just like to go some place where nobody could find you and spend a day or two in quiet peace? Just get away from it all! Well, many people are doing that these days, and rather than going to Lake Panorama, or some other public place, they are looking for private areas. Clarke County has thousands of acres that are ideally suited for this kind of activity. We have some of the most beautiful land in the state and are within easy driving distance of the major cities such as Des Moines. But probably one of the biggest drawing cards is, that here is a place where you can get away from the masses of people. Public recreation areas are seriously over crowded now and the large private developments stack homes side by side within a few feet of each other so that you have little privacy at best.

An example of what is taking place can be seen on a 57 acre tract of wooded land purchased by Joe VeeHoff of Des Moines. He bought the land, located five miles north of Murray, a little over a year ago. This summer he built a large pond, shown in the above picture, on the land to serve as a water supply, and in addition to using the water for domestic use, he plans to use it for various recreation activities and for a livestock water supply when needed. Joe also constructed an access road to the pond and leveled off an area for a trailer house. The trailer or camper will serve as a temporary headquarters until he can build a permanent cabin or summer home. With some imagination, time and work, Joe will have a very desirable recreation area that he can truly call his own.

Joe VeeHoff is just one of many individuals that are carrying out a plan of this kind. There are many pros and cons as to whether this is good for the county or not. You will have to make your own decision in that respect and only time will tell what effect it will have on us. I can see an immediate economic improvement for the county. But I think that I will see the day when the demand for our pollution free air and our beautiful unspoiled land will be so great that we will have more people coming here than we will want. This is very much in contrast to what we are experiencing now with our declining population. We'll wait and see.



RECREATIONAL FACILITY: Frank Townsend, on the cat, is helping Earl Mateer get a load of rock to the bottom of this new pond for a filter system. T. J. Laing, Soil Conservation Service Technician, is standing on the dam directing traffic.



CONSERVATION WINNER: Earl Mateer was recently named winner of the Goodyear Soil Conservation Award. The award is presented for outstanding conservation practices and cooperation with the district soil commissioners. Mateer

was also named the second place winner of the state competition. Pictured left to right: Richard Gonseth, presenting the award, Mrs. Mateer, Earl Mateer and Merrill McCarty, presenting the award.

Osceola Sentinel
10-28-71

Osceola Sentinel
**Hold Workshop
 For 4 Counties**

**To Discuss Possibilities
 Of Rural Water
 Systems**

Michael G. Warin, Maloy farmer, announced that the Leon Regional Catholic Community is sponsoring a workshop on County Standard Soil Surveys and Rural Water Systems on December 5 from 4 to 8:30 p.m. in Leon. Counties included are Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold and Wayne. Warin is chairman of the workshop committee.

Special invitations have been sent to all religious ministers of the four counties. County supervisors and assessors, state legislators of the area, district soil commissioners, realtors, and selected residents and members of the religious groups are also being invited.

A free dinner meal will be provided with Chuck Jackson, senior high school student at Murray, giving his speech on "How Soil and Water Management Benefits my Community." Jackson was first prize speech winner in the State Soil and Water Conservation's contest on these topics.

Rev. Frank A. Nichols, superintendent of the Creston District of the United Methodist Church in Iowa, in pledging his support to the program says: "... because the rural sector is facing critical economic needs we should be concentrating on this aspect of our Christian responsibility."

Osceola Sentinel 11-4-71



OUTLET DIVERSION: Interest is centered around the activity of installing an intake pipe for a tile outlet diversion on the John Audlehelm farm. Five inch plastic tile is being attached to

the intake pipe. Pictured left to right is Roger Gilbert, Paul Audlehelm, John Audlehelm, T. J. Liang and Frank Townsend, hidden behind John.

Diversion Terraces Used To —

Control Water Flow

By Keith A. Ticknor
 District Conservationist

Diversion terraces are used in a wide variety of situations for controlling the flow of water. Sometimes they move excess water away and other times they are used to bring additional water to a place, such as a pond, where more water is needed. Diversions are commonly used to divert water from hill ground away from productive bottom ground or to divert water away from a gully overfall. Other uses include collecting water from several waterways to reduce the number of waterway structures or to control water so that other conservation practices can be constructed below it. There is almost no limit to the different uses made of diversions, but the greatest limiting factor in their use is being able to find a safe

outlet that will not eventually create a gully.

John Audlehelm has a good well on his farm northwest of Osceola that he depends on for his main water supply. Unfortunately the good water supply is located on the side of a waterway and below his farm lots. The gully below the well kept cutting back towards the well and endangering it. Also, as the number of livestock increased around the buildings, it became necessary to keep this runoff away from the well. A diversion was constructed to pick up the lot drainage and to intercept the drainage in the waterway above the well. A suitable outlet for the diversion was not available and in a few years a gully developed at the end of it. As the gully continued to cut back, it began to destroy the usefulness of the diversion. Another outlet had to be found.

To solve the problem John recently extended the diversion to another small waterway and built an approximately eight foot high fill across it. A perforated intake pipe was installed in the lowest place in the waterway above the fill and 5" plastic tile was attached to the intake and extended down to the main ditch. Water will temporarily impound above the fill until it can drain into the intake and flow out the tile line. This is called a tile-outlet diversion.

John reported that the system was working fine during the heavy rains this past week. We feel that this is the answer to the problem of not having a suitable outlet for a needed diversion.

Clarke Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

FORWARD

We, the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners, submit our 25th Annual Report for 1971 of progress and activities of our soil and water conservation program. We wish to thank all the agencies, cooperators, and the many other groups whose assistance made our District achievements possible.

We wish to salute all the people of the District in town and in the country for working toward our goal.

We can meet the CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE through progress of our watershed construction work, which is the most effective tool we have in combating pollution, floods, erosion, and adding quality to our environment, water supply and general well being of our country.

Our goal is a plentiful supply of pure water for every citizen of Clarke County. It will take the effort and desire of all of us to make this possible.

District Activities

The Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District has made substantial progress in all phases of conservation during the past year. We, the commissioners of the District would like to summarize some of these activities for you so that you may understand how the district is helping everyone in the community by providing a better environment in which to live.

The District Commissioners held 12 regular and three special meetings during the 1971 fiscal year. Jack Ames served as Chairman with Doyce Miller and Richard Gonseth filling the other two commissioners positions. Adrian Fuller, Jerry Kelly, Lowell Moran, Milan Welker and Dr. Fred Wood also served as assistant commissioners.

Because of a change in the Soil Conservation District law the number of commissioners was increased from three to five. Therefore, at the bi-annual election held March 8, three commissioners were elected instead of the usual one. Jerry Kelly was elected for a six year term, Merrill McCarty a four year term and Jack Ames for a two year term. Doyce Miller has four years left on this term and Richard Gonseth as two years left. Following the election, Richard Gonseth was appointed chairman and Adrian Fuller, Lowell Moran, Dr. Fred Wood and Milan Welker were appointed as assistant commissioners.

On August 10, 1970, Keith Ticknor assumed the position of District Conservationist to fill the vacancy left by Clarence Ford.

In September Jack Ames, Doyce Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Garner and Keith Ticknor attended the Annual District Commissioners Conference in Waterloo. Brad Waller, Clarke County Conservation Speech contestant, was declared the state winner. The district also received a 25 year certificate at this meeting.

Mrs. Roberta Stephenson, fifth grade teacher in Osceola, attended the Teachers Fall Conservation Workshop in October at the state 4-H camp near Luther. The Farmers Cooperative Elevator paid Mrs. Stephenson's expenses for the two day workshop.

In October Leland Dolecheck, Vocational Agriculture instructor in the Clarke Community school, was selected as the regional winner in the Outstanding Teacher Awards Program sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune. Mr. Dolecheck and his wife were guests of the commissioners at the annual awards banquet held at Corning in November.

The District purchased and distributed conservation workbooks to the schools for use in the 5th and 6th grade science classes. Many other booklets and pamphlets were made available in the district office for student use when needed.

The district also provided assistance and guidance to the high school social studies class in hosting a pollution symposium for approximately 200 students from an eight county area. The symposium, held in December, featured speakers from varying backgrounds of business, research and politics.

The District Commissioners in cooperation with the County Board of Supervisors held a public meeting in December for the purpose of discussing establishment of a sanitary landfill in the county. A committee consisting of county and city representatives was selected with Bill Lear as chairman. Since the meeting, two sites have been drilled for a possible landfill and other plans are being carried out to develop the landfill.

The commissioners were also instrumental in starting action for the development of a rural water system that is expected to be extended throughout the county in the future.

Richard Gonseth, Doyce Miller and Keith Ticknor attended the two day commissioners short course at Iowa State University in January.

Doyce Miller and his wife attended the National Convention in Chicago of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts held during February.

Marion Siglin attended the February commissioners meeting to discuss the soil conservancy bill and to obtain the commissioners feelings for the bill.

Earl Mateer was selected as the outstanding conservationist in Clarke County for 1970. His name was entered in the Good-year Conservation Awards contest.

Soil Stewardship Week was observed May 16-23. Material furnished by the district was used in church services throughout the county.

Chuck Jackson from the Murray Community school was declared winner of the local soil conservation speech contest. This year's topic was, "Soil and Water Management Benefits My Community".

District Operates With 2 Budgets

The District operates with two budgets provided by the State Soil Conservation Committee from State Appropriations.

1-M BUDGET	
Yearly appropriation - 1970-71	
Balance carried forward	\$500.00
Commissioners Expenses (Mileage, meals)	\$314.25
Office Supplies	49.57
Printing	100.00
Prizes for contests	7.50
Material for Demonstration	15.00
Office expense	14.09
Total expended	\$500.41
Balance	\$0.00

1M-A BUDGET	
Balance carried from Fiscal 1970	
Commissioners mileage	\$13.57

Balance to release \$4.47

The District fund is non appropriated, therefore we must rely on donations from our local cooperators, businessmen and friends to supply this fund.

The District fund is used for paying State and National dues, which amounts to \$250.00, promotional activities such as local awards, contest prizes, conservation booklets for local schools and expenses which cannot be taken from the state budget.

Balance on hand July 1, 1970 was \$135.87, income was \$813.55, expenses were \$605.57, balance on hand June 30, 1971 - \$343.85.

R.C.&D. Activities

The Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) accomplished a major step by being approved for operations. This means that plans for project proposals can be completed and funds expended for carrying out these projects.

Multi-county planning by the RC&D steering committee has broken down county barriers allowing broader objectives and unified planning, benefiting a greater number of people.

The Clarke County Steering Committee consists of Jack Jeffreys, Chairman, Robert Toland, Vice Chairman, Melvin Goeldner, Secretary-Treasurer, Elva Wolfe, Doyce Miller and Clayton Scott. Melvin Goeldner is also Secretary-treasurer of the seven county RC&D Steering Committee.



Eroded hill sides as shown in the above picture can be shaped and seeded to form permanent waterways that can be used for hay or pasture production.



Our pastureland presents the greatest challenge to the farmers of our area, for it is the one thing that is misused the most. However, pastures could be renovated so they could carry their full capacity through the hot summer months, with probably the minimum of expense to the farmer. This is one area of the total conservation picture where there is a great need for work to continue.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

Keith Ticknor ----- District Conservationist
T. J. Laing ----- Conservation Technician

OTHER SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSISTING

Erwin O. Aust, Shenandoah ----- Area Conservationist
Richard W. Birchmier, Shenandoah ----- Civil Engineer
Lawrence L. Dorgan, Creston ----- Civil Engineer
John R. Nixon, Creston ----- Soil Scientist
Louis A. Boeckman, Creston ----- Soil Scientist
Balnche V. Oline, Shenandoah ----- Area Clerk
Margaret C. Haley, Shenandoah ----- Area Clerk

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Richard Gonseth ----- Chairman
Doyce Miller ----- Member
Jack Ames ----- Member
Jerry Kelly ----- Member
Merrill McCarty ----- Member

ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONERS

Adrian Fuller ----- Assistant Commissioner
Milan Welker ----- Assistant Commissioner
Lowell Moran ----- Assistant Commissioner
Fred Wood ----- Assistant Commissioner
Bruce Berven, County Extension Director
Mrs. Arlene Garner, State Employee, District Clerk and Treasurer
Dale L. Chidester, State Employee, Conservation Aid, full time, share with Decatur County



This field, planted up and down the hill with conventional tillage methods, has been seriously damaged by a moderately heavy rain.

District Accomplishments FARM PLANNING AND SERVICING

ACTIVITY	UNIT	FISCAL 1971	TO DATE
District Cooperators	No.	33	835
Landowners or operators assisted	No.	454	
Landowners or operators applying practices	No.	281	553
Conservation plans Prepared	No.	27	
Conservation Plans Revised	No.	4	
Inventories & Evaluations Prepared	No.	6	
Group Plans Prepared	No.	2	
ASCS: ACP & REAP Referrals Serviced	No.	136	
Office Callers	No.	869	
Telephone Calls	No.	733	

CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

Contouring & Stripcropping	Ac.	810
Critical Area Planting	Ac.	243
Multi-Purpose Dam	No.	1
Ponds & Erosion Control Structures	No.	44
Diversion Terraces	Ft.	5560
Farmstead Windbreaks	Ac.	5
Grassed Waterway	Ac.	37
Pipeline	Ft.	6901
Parallel Terraces	Ft.	3090
Drain, Tile	Ft.	22148
Tree Planting	Ac.	65
Land Adequately Treated	Ac.	5199



Personnel of the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation office are, left to right: Dale Chidester, Keith Ticknor, Arlene Garner and T. J. Laing.



Commissioners of the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation office are, left to right: Merrill McCarty, Adrian Fuller, Jerry Kelly, Jack Ames, Doyce Miller, and Lowell Moran.



In contrast to the picture at the left, this field planted across the slope with mulch tillage equipment shows little or no damage after the same rain.



Mulch on top of the ground, along with the rows running across the hill hold water in place to prevent erosion.

Watershed Activities

Positive results are now being realized from the many years of leadership by the commissioners in watershed development. The White Breast Watershed Preliminary Investigation report was presented to the public at a meeting held March 30, 1971. Over 100 people attended the meeting and voiced their desire to continue with the proposed \$2 million dollar project. The watershed boundaries have been expanded to include approximately 7600 acres in Lucas County. The Lucas County District Commissioners, the Lucas County Board of Supervisors and the Clarke County Conservation Board have become additional legal sponsors of the watershed. The board of directors under the leadership of Howard Ruble, have increased their members to 17. Those serving as directors at the present time are Howard Ruble, Chairman, Richard Gonseth, Sec.-Treasurer, Kenneth Johnson, Ernest Winter, Don Short, Louis King, Charles Rodgers, George Nelson, Bill Oehlert, Bill Danner, Don Dale, Hugh Carroll, Doyle Waller, Lloyd Phillips and from Lucas County, Bill Boyd, Jack Obermeier, and Harold Leonard.

The Long Creek Watershed has organized during this year as a result of leadership by both the Clarke and Decatur County District Commissioners. A board of directors volunteered to serve. They are Ken Sickle, Chairman, Richard Beers, Sec.-Treas., George Wilson, Lowell Moran, Bob Fuller, Roland Fuller, Terry Robins, C. I. Jackson, Charles Gorsline, Randol Cox and Hubert Duff. Work is being completed on an application for assistance under the PL 566 watershed program.

We feel that the watershed program is the best program available for rural development by providing flood control, recreation, and city and rural water.

In Appreciation

The Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Soil Conservation Service personnel extend a special thanks to the ASCS, County Extension Service, FHA, Local Service Organizations and all other persons or groups who have assisted us in our conservation efforts. We also wish to thank those who have contributed financially to the District so that our program can be successfully carried out. We realize that the conservation job can not be done by only a few, but is the responsibility of everyone. We will be looking forward to your continued support in the future.



Tue. Dec. 21, 1971

Continue work to Obtain Long creek
Watershed

Osiola Volume
Land Use Map
12-21-71
Is Developed

The Southern Iowa RC&D Agricultural Committee met recently with representatives of the Area Extension Staff and Soil Conservation Service to discuss a Land Use Map for the Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Project area.

The map will show general land use in each of the seven counties (Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor, Union) as to cropland, rotational cropland, pastureland and forest land. Specific problems worked out according to Elmer Frese of Adair County Agricultural Committee, Chairman.

The local Soil Conservation District will assist in preparing the map with technical assistance from John Nixon, Soil Scientist, Soil Conservation Service.

Oscola Sentinel
12-30-71



In a few years the trees in this windbreak planted last spring on the Dale Chidester farm will be protecting the farm buildings from cold northwest winds. A row of honeysuckle is planted

to the left of the large evergreen trees in the middle and a row of smaller evergreen trees were planted on the right of the larger trees to make a three row windbreak.

ASCS Will Share Windbreak Cost —

Aid Is Available

By Keith A. Ticknor,
District Conservationist

Farmstead windbreaks are an inexpensive but very valuable improvement to your farm. They are inexpensive because approximately 80 percent of the cost can be paid by the ASCS through cost-sharing under the REAP program. The REAP program provides 80 percent of the cost of the trees or shrubs planted but no individual plant will be cost-shared more than \$2.50. Also, if fencing is needed to protect the windbreak, 80 percent of the cost of fencing is paid but not to exceed \$3.50 per rod.

Applications are being taken in the ASCS office now for windbreaks. It is important that you sign up as soon as possible so that you will have sufficient time to order the trees and get them planted early.

Last spring seven farmstead windbreaks in the county were planted under this program. Those participating were Bill Oehlert, Elmer Nash, Dale

Chidester, Gerald Garner, Wayne Swegle, Don Ramsey and Jack Heilman. The results have been very good and it is hoped that many more will take advantage of the REAP program to improve their farmsteads this year.

Hardwood trees such as maple, ash, oak, linden and others can be used in the windbreak as well as the evergreen trees. But evergreens are most popular because they will provide the greatest protection during the winter and they maintain their color and beauty throughout the year. The choice of trees and their placement should be carefully studied because they are a permanent object, and in most cases they are more permanent than the farm buildings. The trees must be placed so that they will allow for future farmstead expansion, but yet they must be in a position where they will give the desired protection.

A windbreak must consist of three or more rows. All three rows may be trees or two rows

may be trees and one row shrubs such as honeysuckle. As a general rule, the windbreak should be planned so that 10 feet is left between fences and trees, and 16 feet between the rows of trees and between the trees in the row. Shrubs will be spaced approximately four feet apart in the row. This will allow mowing and other maintenance equipment to operate within the windbreak and will prevent shading out the lower branches of evergreen trees.

For assistance in planning or for obtaining additional information about windbreaks you should come into the Soil Conservation Service office.

GOOD
WISHES
FOR THE
NEW YEAR

\$10,000 Received for *Osceola Sentinel* 819173 **Cost Sharing Projects**

Richard Gonseth, chairman of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District, announced today that an allocation of \$10,000 has been made to the district by the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation for use in cost-sharing with farmers on permanent soil and water conservation practices.

The district is now in a position to accept requests from soil conservation district cooperators for cost-sharing on such conservation practices as erosion control dams, terraces, diversions, critical area planting and grassed waterways. Further information can be obtained at

the soil conservation district office in Osceola.

Gonseth pointed out this is the first time that state moneys have been made available to cost-share on soil conservation practices in Iowa. The Iowa General Assembly stated that not more than 50 percent of the actual cost of installing conservation practices could be paid from these funds. The Clarke County District Commissioners established the policy that they will pay 50 percent of the cost of all conservation practices approved by them for cost-sharing.

Gonseth further pointed out

that practices installed in the cost-share program must adequately control erosion, must be properly planned and installed as a condition to payment under the program. The staff on the Clarke County Soil Conservation District will provide technical assistance to those landowners and operators requesting cost-share funds.

The number of cost-share agreements that can be entered into during the year will be limited. Therefore, those wishing assistance should make their application at the district office as soon as possible.

Make Plans for East Lake Park

Action on the part of the Osceola City Council at their Tuesday, August 7, meeting is the first step toward a continuing improvement program for the East Lake Park.

Dillard Fenley, president of the Osceola Chamber of Commerce, and Keith Ticknor met with City Council members to discuss ways in which the East Lake Park might better serve more people.

The meeting was the result of work by both the Osceola Lions Club and the Clarke County Conservation Board. The City Council agreed to give the Clarke County Conservation Board the 70-acre of land, including the lake area for use as a park.

The action is the end result of a series of meetings and study conducted during the past two years on the part of Conservation Board members. Improvement of existing

facilities plus opening of new areas within the tract is the goal of the board.

Melvin Goeldner, chairman of the Conservation Board, reported that planning has already been done in some areas with funding for the project to come principally from sources already set up for such projects. Matching funds are available from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and some funds may be available from the RC&D organization.

The Osceola Lions Club, Osceola Volunteer Fire Department and Osceola Chamber of Commerce recently donated funds in the amount of \$2,700 towards the purchase of playground equipment to be used in the park.

Yale Moeller, a landscape architect and site planner, was hired to make a preliminary study of the East Lake area and to submit plans and estimated costs for

development of the lake.

His study showed that approximately \$32,000 could be spent over a period of time in a four-phase program.

The first phase of the program would be to establish five picnic sites in the area nearest highway 34 with additional tables, play equipment, plantings of additional trees and shrubs, install guard rails and entrance sign and install rest room facilities. This would be done at a cost of \$6,650.

For the second phase of the project on the west side of the lake, a 20-foot wide road of 700 feet in length would be built to open up the park area to vehicles. A shelter house would be constructed and a boat ramp and docks would be built. Foot trails would be established of approximately 750 feet. Brush clearing and tree grubbing would be necessary within this area. Cost of the second phase would amount of approximately \$8,915.

Third phase of the work would be done on the east side of the lake with a 1,100 foot road built in that area, a shelter house constructed, 1,500 feet of foot trails constructed and tree and shrub plantings made. This part of the program would cost an estimated \$7,550.

The fourth phase would consist of providing an entrance on the north side of the park with 500 feet of road built into that area, the construction of a service building and the construction of a botanical area. This would cost in the neighborhood of \$6,100. The additional money in the proposed \$32,000 budget would be used for miscellaneous items.

Keith Ticknor, district Soil and Water Conservation representative, has taken an interest in the project and stated that additional work would have to be done on the dam. He felt that this could be at a nominal fee if certain changes would be made at the spillway.

Presently, action is needed on the part of the Conservation Board to accept the land and to proceed with requests for funds through the park agencies.

Persons working on the project are hopeful the improvements can be made in time for next summer.

