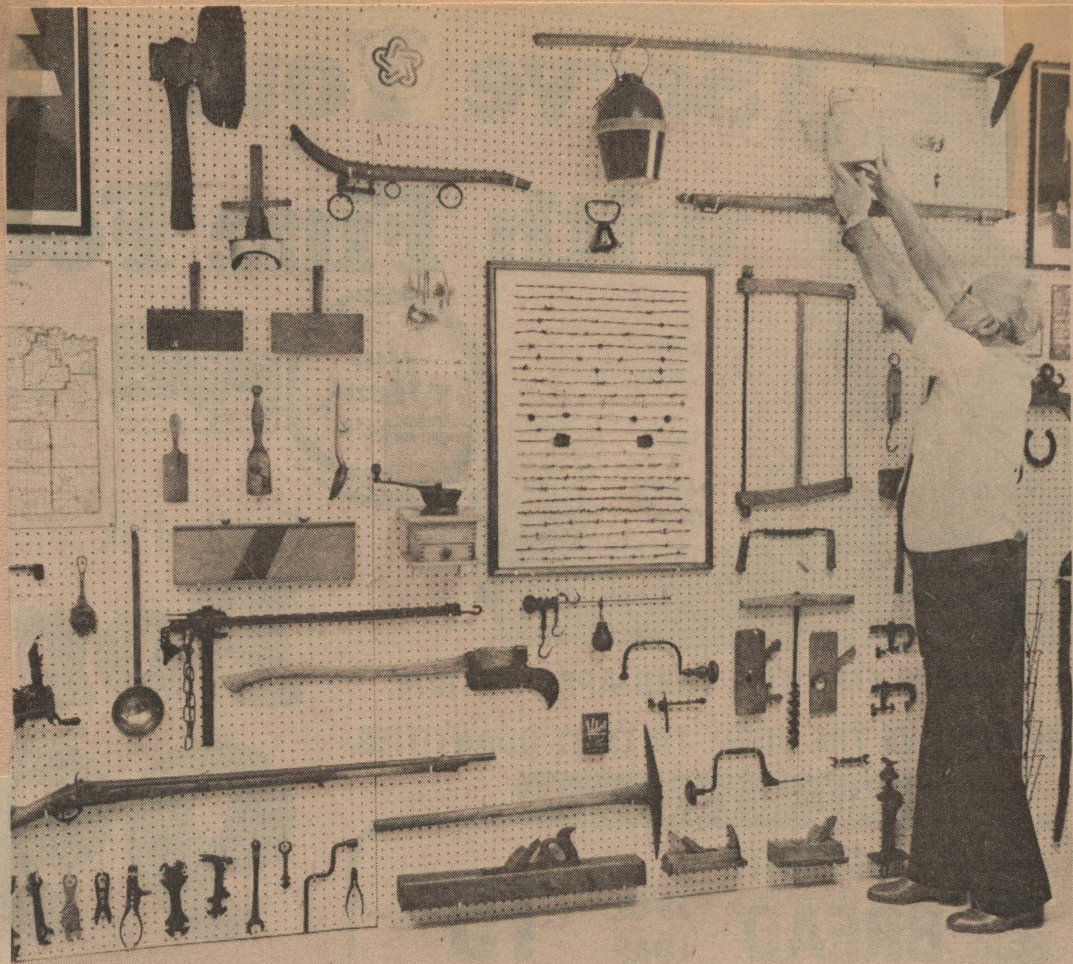


Harold and Mildred Amos

Warren County Soil Conservation Award



Harold and Mildred Amos. Long-time Warren County Farmers who farm 400 acres just west of Indianola.



Kenneth Hatcher, executive director of the Warren County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), arranges a Bicentennial exhibit on a wall in the lobby of the ASCS office located in the USDA Building. The display includes barbed wire samples, antique tools and some housewares. Most of the items were provided by Austin Keeney of Carlisle, chairman of the county ASCS committee. The public is welcome to view the exhibit during office hours Monday through Friday. RHT photo.

LESTER DAVISON INDUCTED INTO IOWA VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME

VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME AWARD

1990



Lester Davison of Indianola is shown with Governor Terry Branstad at a recent awards ceremony at a luncheon held in Des Moines recently. Davison was one of five volunteers awarded the top honor of being inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Farmers may be selected for check of conservation plans

This spring, a random sample of Iowa farmers with highly erodible land will be reviewed to see whether they are following soil conservation plans.

More than 7,500 conservation plans, a 5 percent sample of all plans in the state, are being reviewed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

"We're required to do status reviews of a representative sample of plans each year," said SCS State Conservationist Jeff Vonk.

Field office staff members will visit selected farms to review conservation accomplishments. They'll be checking to see whether conservation practices were applied according to schedule, were installed correctly and are being maintained, Vonk said.

Farmers who are not applying conservation

practices on schedule may become ineligible for USDA program benefits such as price supports, FmHA loans and crop insurance. Both the 1985 and 1990 farm bills established conservation provisions which require farmers with highly erodible land to protect against soil erosion to continue to receive USDA benefits.

Vonk is encouraging farmers to become actively involved if they are selected for a status review. "It's important that a farmer knows what is to be done and what options are available," Vonk says. "We're going to make the calls according to our best professional judgement."

He said farmers can help by keeping good records of conservation practice application. "One instance is when a poor crop yield last year makes it difficult to leave the amount of crop residue called for in the plan this year. If the

farmer is using a tillage system that should leave the amount called for, the crop records that offer evidence of the use of that system will be considered," Vonk says.

Last year, Iowa producers were found to be "actively applying" their plans on more than 99 percent of the tracts checked by SCS.

The number is somewhat misleading, said Dennis Pate, SCS assistant state conservationist, because farmers whose conservation plans were not clear to them were allowed time to clear up the confusion.

"This year, there is no provision for that. There's also more work scheduled for this year than last," he says. "Because of those two factors, it is likely that some farmers will find it more difficult to be actively applying their plans this year."

Soil commissioners to meet

The Warren Soil District Commissioners will meet Wednesday, April 6 at 7 p.m. at the Soil Conservation office, USDA building, east on highway 92, Indianola.

Items on the agenda include cost share and Iowa Soil Conservation

Awards Program.

There will also be a Lake Ahquabi Watershed meeting April 6 at 8 p.m. in the basement of the USDA building for landowners in the Watershed area.

Blanket Stories: Bobcats

Busi

TO SUBSCRIBE: (515) 961-2511

Landowners: Winter ideal time to review compliance plans

Winter is the ideal time for landowners to review conservation compliance plans, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's lead conservation agency.

The NRCS encourages landowners to review their compliance plans for highly erodible land and wetlands now, while making plans for spring planting. "Reviewing compliance plans now will allow landowners to ensure they have practices in place to maintain eligibility for USDA programs," says Leroy Brown, Iowa NRCS state conservationist.

Conservation compliance remains an integral part of the 2002 Farm Bill even though it was implemented in the 1985 Farm Bill. Landowners interested in participating in conservation and commodity programs that were re-authorized or created in the 2002 Farm Bill will be required to follow compliance provisions previously established for highly erodible land and wetlands. "By reviewing compliance plans now landowners will be ready to participate in farm bill programs when funding is received," says Brown.

In order to be eligible for USDA program payments, landowners with highly erodible land are required to maintain a fully applied conservation system, outlined in their conservation plan.

Wetland compliance requires landowners that are considering altering a wet area, by removing trees, tiling and dredging, to receive a wetland determination from the NRCS prior to beginning any work. If a wetland determination

is made on the land, landowners have the option to leave the wetland unchanged, or to request mitigation. Mitigation allows the landowner to alter a wetland as long as equal wetland values are replaced in another location.

Since implementation of the 1985 Farm Bill, NRCS has provided assistance to producers to develop conservation compliance plans on highly erodible land. Ultimately it is the producer's responsibility to implement and maintain conservation systems on highly erodible land.

Local NRCS office staff can provide landowners with information on acceptable conservation practices included in their compliance plans or alternatives necessary to achieve and maintain compliance. Landowners considering changes to their farming operation on highly erodible land or wet areas should contact their local NRCS office. Changes in ownership also may require plan revisions.

Compliance reviews are conducted annually by the NRCS to determine if producers have applied and are maintaining approved conservation systems. Tracts of land are randomly selected for review from a national database of farm program participants. Additional tracts may be reviewed as a result of a report to the NRCS or other USDA agency of possible non-compliance. Producers scheduled for reviews will be notified in the spring and the reviews are typically conducted right after planting.

Brown encourages landowners with questions or concerns about their compliance plans to contact their local NRCS office.

Cut Soil Losses With Conservation Tillage



Why

Conservation tillage, or leaving protective crop residues on the soil surface, can generally cut soil losses in half. The residues cover the land until the growing crop is tall enough to reach across the rows and provide soil cover.

Crop residue left on the soil surface after planting protects the soil from the beating action of falling raindrops. Residue left at or near the surface increases infiltration of water into the soil and slows runoff from the field.

Many farmers in Warren County are already using crop residues to help them save both moisture and soil.

District Conservationist Henry L. Staubus has had numerous requests on moisture conditions and methods of making the limited moisture supply go further. Staubus stresses that leaving crop residues on the surface to mulch the area and reduce evaporation can be very helpful. Limiting both the number of tillage operations over the field and the depth of the tillage can also reduce moisture losses by evaporation.

Advantages

Residue Saves Soil, Moisture

Save soil, moisture—Crop residue cover slows moisture evaporation in dry weather. It reduces soil loss in wet periods.

Save time —Fewer trips over the field mean covering more ground in less time with conservation tillage systems.

Save fuel —Fewer trips also save diesel fuel and gasoline. Some conservation tillage machines take much less power.

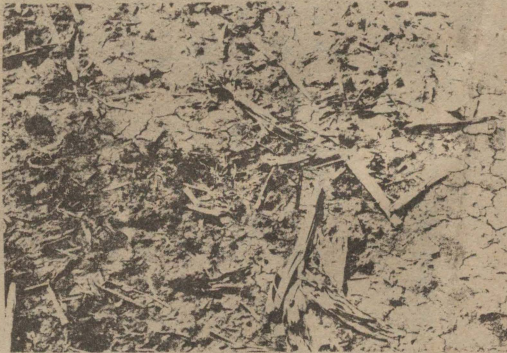


WHAT YOU NEED - For a good job of erosion control for both wind and water, a farmer needs at least 3,000 pounds of residue per acre (above). It cuts soil losses in half, and works better yet with contouring and terracing. More than 50,000 Iowa farmers are using some form of conservation tillage.



No residue

Conventional plowing leaves little or no residue on the soil surface.



1500 pounds per acre

At least this much residue must be left to save soil with conservation tillage.

Plan Ahead

Conservation tillage and conventional equipment are not always compatible. Planting and cultivating equipment may need to be modified.

Fertilizer must be applied as needed, just as with conventional tillage. How to apply and incorporate will vary with the system chosen.

The proper herbicide must be chosen for use with a particular tillage system. Time of applying and method of incorporating may differ from conventional planting where residues are buried. If weed control with herbicides is not certain, be prepared to cultivate with a machine designed to work in crop residue.

Some weather and field conditions may cause insect or disease problems. Special controls may be needed for grassy weeds (insect problems) or during cool, wet weather (disease possibilities).

By increasing the consumption of beef our state could save millions of tons of valuable top soil on Iowa hill ground. One beef cow can save 150 plus tons of valuable top soil each year. For each pound of hamburger consumed you are saving 800 plus pounds of top soil. The beef cow's diet consists of grass and hay. On properly managed grass and hay ground, soil lost is cut to zero. The beef consumers can't be accused of living off the inheritance of our grandchildren's valuable top soil.

**HAROLD
WACHTER
FAMILY**



Henry Staubus



Dr Minoru Amemiya

To Evaluate Various Soil Tillage Methods

Different methods of tilling the soil in preparation for corn and soybean crops will be evaluated at a meeting to be held at the Warren County Extension Office Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as announced by Marvin Smart, county extension director.

Topics that will be discussed during the day will include: (1) An evaluation of the various primary tillage tools being used today with particular reference to crop yields obtained; (2) how soil erosion is affected by the various tillage methods used; (3) control of weeds, insects, and diseases, and fertilizer needs under mulch tillage conditions; and (4) the progress of conservation tillage in Iowa.

Dr Minoru Amemiya, extension conservationist with Iowa State University, and Henry Staubus, district conservationist for Warren County, are the resource specialists who will be providing the latest research data as well as known and observed data about each of the topics.

"Mulch tillage, conservation tillage or minimum tillage is now being used by many leading farmers throughout Warren County with yields that have been comparable with other tillage methods," Smart said.

"Additional dividends as a result of mulch tillage have been reduced erosion, reduced fertilizer and chemical losses, and improved water infiltration," he said.

The meeting is open to all producers, landlords, implement dealers and anyone who might have an interest in the best management of our basic food-producing resource, the soil, Smart stated. There are no charges. Coffee will be served, but lunch is "Dutch Treat."

Farmers chasing conservation goals

Iowa farmers are responding to conservation challenges outlined in the 1985 and 1990 farm bills, according to progress figures of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

The agency's figures show farmers are applying key conservation practices at a rate two to three times historical rates.

"Compare the rates for key conservation practices — terracing, contour farming, grassed waterways and crop residue management — and you see the effort this state's farmers are making," says Jeffrey Vonk, SCS state conservationist.

The SCS is instructed by congress to help farmers plan and carry out soil conservation work. Conservation provisions of the 1985 and 1990 farm bills require farmers to apply conservation measures according to an agreed upon schedule in order to participate in most U.S. Department of Agriculture programs.

"We've compared annual progress figures from 1980 to 1984, just before the 1985 farm bill, with figures from the last three years,"

Vonk says. "The average annual rate of new contour farmed acres grew from a little more than 100,000 acres to 400,000 acres. Grass waterways jumped from 2,500 acres to more than 9,000 acres a year, and terraces were up from about 1,800 miles to more than 2,400 miles a year," he says.

The "new" acreage of corn and soybeans being farmed with crop residue management grew from 417,000 acres in 1980 to 650,000 acres last year. An indication the move farmers are making towards heavier crop residues is the nearly 10-fold increase in no-tail acreage since 1980, from 100,000 acres then to 973,000 acres last year.

"The interest in crop residue management is phenomenal," Vonk says. "It's the key practice, and it will be interesting to see this year's growth. Farmers across the state are doing more than ever before to leave the past year's crop residue on the soil surface to protect it against erosion."

Despite the progress made, a major portion of the conservation work still awaits the state's farmers.

Iowa has nearly 12 million acres of highly erodible land, and the nation's heaviest soil conservation workload.

Farmers were asked to apply needed conservation work according to schedule over a five year period, from 1990 through 1994. Roughly two-thirds of the scheduled work remains to be done.

"Because the work was scheduled throughout the period by most farmers, you won't see a high percentage of completed plans until 1994," Vonk says. "Of course, that means also that there's just an incredible amount of conservation work to be done in the next two years. I'm not sure everyone can appreciate what a challenge it is."

The SCS conducts "status reviews" of about five percent of the highly erodible land tracts in Iowa each year. The reviews have shown a very high percentage of the state's producers are applying soil conservation measures according to their schedule and agency standard for conservation practices.

Plan Farm Survey On Water Quality

Robert Morrison, chairman, has announced that the Warren County Resource Coordinating Committee is preparing to mail a survey seeking farmer advice on soil conservation and water quality.

Currently, the committee is in the process of preparing a plan mandated by the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments to improve water quality in the nation's rivers.

In Iowa and Warren County, Morrison said, this means the control of soil erosion and agricultural runoff, non-point pollution, as well as industrial and municipal waste discharges, point pollution.

The committee hopes to aid in the development of a plan that will do this job, while creating minimum hardships for individuals.

Seventy surveys will be mailed in Warren County, Morrison said. Individuals to whom the surveys will be forwarded are to be selected at random from a list of landowners and operators within the county.

There will be no personal



Robert Morrison

identification of individuals participating, Morrison stressed.

Morrison requests that people who receive the surveys complete and return them. The Warren County Resource

SURVEY

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 1)

Coordinating Committee will use this information to advise the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation throughout the water quality planning process.

A sample survey is shown. Readers may want to complete

it and mail it to the Warren County Soil Conservation District, 1206 E. Second Ave., Indianola, Ia. 50125 by April 11.

Results of both surveys will be summarized and published in the future.

WATER QUALITY FARM SURVEY

1. How much land do you own? acres
2. How much land do you farm? acres
3. Do you feel soil erosion caused by water runoff is a problem on this farm(s)? yes no
.....
4. Do you feel there are water quality problems caused by erosion in your county? yes no
.....
5. Are you satisfied with the quality of the water in your county or drainage area? yes no
.....
6. How much of the land you own or farm has an active conservation plan prepared by the local soil conservation district? acres
7. Does this plan accurately reflect the way you are presently farming this land? yes no
.....
8. Do you follow fertilizer recommendations from soil tests on your farm(s)? yes no
.....
9. How often do you have the soil on your farm(s) tested?
10. If soil conservation practices must be installed to improve water quality what source(s) of funds should be available? (check as many as you like)
Federal funds State funds
Local funds Other
No funds
11. What method would you favor for financial assistance to farmers in applying conservation practices? (check as many as you like)
Cost-share What per cent?
Long term low-interest loans
No assistance
Other
.....
Some form of tax incentive (please list type)
.....
12. Do you favor an acreage set-aside program to allow conservation construction during the summer? yes no
.....
13. If public money is used for installation of soil conservation practices should farm operators be held responsible for all maintenance of these practices? yes no
.....

Field Day

Native prairie grass planting and
terrace construction

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Sponsored by

the Warren County Soil and Water District Commission
and the Warren County Conservation Board.

Schedule

9 a.m. *Seeding of native prairie grasses*

Location: Mike and Becky Wachtel farm, south on highway 65,
turn east on G-76, then four miles to 200th Ave., turn north,
go one mile to intersection of Tyler and 200th.

10:30 a.m. *Tour of established native wild grass prairie*

Location: Harold and Kay Whipple farm, one mile north
of Lacona, 22307 highway S23

12 a.m. *Free lunch. After the lunch terrace
construction demonstration by*

Fargo Construction and Davidson Tiling

Location: Delbert and Ronda Kaldenberg farm
12197 highway G76 (1 1/4 miles east of Medora)

In order to determine
the number of meals

please **RSVP** to one of the following:

**Warren County Soil and
Water Conservation District office**

961-5264

Delbert Kaldenberg

515-971-1773

Harold Whipple

641-534-3039

Rain date November 20.

An equal opportunity employer and provider



Flood waters from Middle River were beginning to recede when this photograph was made early this morning on a county road north of the Joseph Pegram farm 2½ miles east of the Banner Recreation Area. North River was up to the floor of the bridge north of

Prole and roads 3 miles east of Norwalk and south of Greenfield Plaza were under water. South River was reported out of its banks in the Ackworth area. Rainfall for the 24-hour period ending Sunday morning amounted to 3 inches in the Indianola area. RHT photo.

Saving Our Soil . . .

A Guest Editorial

By Governor Robert D. Ray

In this bicentennial year, we can pause and reflect upon our accomplishments in America which are unparalleled by any other nation. Those accomplishments, in great part, have been made because of the initiative and creativity of the hard-working citizens of this country.

There is another important reason for our success--our natural resources. In Iowa, we live, walk, drive, and grow food on one of our nation's most valuable natural resources--the soil.

Take a look at the facts. Agriculture is our leading export industry, with \$22 billion in export sales a year, or 20 per cent of all our exports. Each of our farmers feeds himself and 55 other Americans. As a group, U. S. farmers spent \$75.5 billion last year which goes into our economy for the benefit of all.

These facts are important to us in Iowa, where 95 per cent of our land is in agriculture and where our economy is heavily oriented toward agriculture.

Unfortunately, the unique combination of soil and climate that makes Iowa ideal for crop production also makes our state one with a high potential for soil erosion. We have seen some serious erosion of top quality farmland. Conservation officials report that less than half of our land is properly protected from the menace of soil erosion.

The need for good conservation practices in urban and industrial areas that support our agricultural economy is equally essential. And proper conservation measures will be needed to maintain the quality of life we enjoy for future generations.

We have always recognized the need to conserve and protect valuable soil. Iowa is the only state in the union that provides its own funds for cost sharing with landowners to install conservation practices.

As we observe Soil and Water Conservation Week September 12-18, I would like to join thousands of others in paying tribute to the conservation minded farmers of Iowa, and to those citizens rural and urban alike, who give of their time and effort to make our programs work.

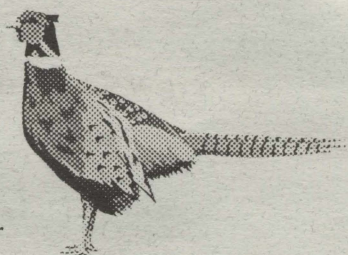
However, we must not dwell on our past accomplishments, but on the task that lies before us. Working together we can increase the productivity of our resource base and at the same time make Iowa an even better place in which to live, work, and play.



Henry Staubus, District Conservationist, explains a project to the 90 people who took the conservation bus tour Monday afternoon, sponsored by the Indianola Chamber of Commerce. In addition to those taking the trip by bus an additional 40 persons took an air tour of

various projects in the county. Both groups enjoyed a bar-b-que at the Indianola airport following the trip. This picture was taken near the Charles Amos farm and was a soil erosion problem caused by a deep road cut. RHT photo.

Help With Habitat



*by David Youngblut,
Operations Coordinator*

As spring approaches, many of us start to plan on some type of wildlife planting. These plantings may range from a few to several thousand trees, native grasses or food plots. In an effort to encourage wildlife plantings the WCCB has several pieces of equipment available for public use at little or no cost:

- Tree planting bars. For plantings of 100 trees or less. A five dollar deposit is required.
- Tree planter. For over 100 trees. A three point hitch on a tractor of at least 25 horsepower is needed. A \$25 deposit is required to use the tree planter.
- Native Grass Drill. For prairie grasses and wildflowers. Requires a 50 horsepower tractor. Cost is \$30 per day with a \$50 deposit.
- Two two row corn planters for establishing wildlife food plots. Call for details.

Also available are plans for a variety of bird houses and feeders which will allow you to attract wildlife to your backyard or fields. The board can also provide you with information on butterfly gardens and other landscaping possibilities for your home.

If you would like to develop habitat around your farm, home or acreage, but aren't sure what to do, the WCCB staff will provide technical assistance at no cost. Call the WCCB office at 961-6169 if we can be of any help.



He's investing in the soil before it's too late

By Danny Rund

Dean VanderLinden of Milo wasn't thinking about winning awards when he began integrating terraces and soil conservation practices into his farm operation back in 1970. But then again, neither was anyone else.

But the conservation measures did pay off for VanderLinden, 64, as he was named as the Region VI conservation award winner by the Iowa Farm Bureau at a Sept. 5 meeting in Des Moines. But still, the awards are almost secondary to VanderLinden, who's helping to preserve the precious Iowa soil for future generations as well.

This is the 11th year of Iowa Farm Bureau awards, presented annually to top soil conservationists in nine separate regions. The awards program was conducted by the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation.

As to why the 47-year VanderLinden, a life-long resident of Warren County, began the conservation practices, he explains, "I just got tired of driving around the countryside after a big rain and seeing all the soil that had washed away, or collected along the fence. Something had to be done, and nobody was doing it."

VanderLinden actually began conservation practices back in 1953 when he had an erosion control pond constructed. The practices dipped for a while and then picked back up in '70. Since then, VanderLinden

estimates he has invested more than \$75,000 in soil conservation practices. Government programs chipped in with almost \$20,000 to bring VanderLinden's protected farmland investment to just short of \$100,000. But according to VanderLinden, it was money well spent.

"It takes more than a lifetime to build just one inch of top soil," he said. "It has to be protected, and I want to do what what's necessary to protect what soil we have now. It (soil) washes away much faster than it can be built."

VanderLinden has three types of terraces on his homestead. The majority are of the broadbase and grassback variety, while he has a few diversion terraces. His terraces protect more than 280 acres of his 480 acres of prime Iowa farmland.

He has installed more than 50,000 feet of tile drains, and uses contour planting on 58 of those acres. He also has two acres of grass waterways, an erosion control pond and two impoundment structures.

"Soil conservation has made our farming operation more efficient," said VanderLinden, who has turned over the majority of his farming operation to his son, Willis, and his wife, Ruth. "We can rotate crops more efficiently now and don't have to really worry about soil erosion."

"There's also a safety factor. Instead of driving into a ditch in the field, you fill it in and eliminate that accident potential."

VanderLinden has 42 intake spouts to maintain the 280 protected acres,

an average of almost seven acres per intake spout.

Despite the amount of money it takes to incorporate soil conservation practices, the VanderLindens have already made plans for still more terraces, with construction to begin sometime this fall.

"We're pretty well complete as far as terraces go," said VanderLinden. "By the time we get these completed this fall, we'll pretty well be protected."

The elder VanderLinden has moved to town, while Willis maintains the homestead southeast of Milo. Willis, a former music teacher at Bancroft St. John, gave up teaching in '79, started farming in '81 and took over the VanderLinden's farming operations in '83. While Willis has included a 1,200-a-year hog operation, father Dean returns to the farm to help with the crops — both planting and harvesting.

But if there's one thing that has hardened VanderLinden's attitude toward soil conservation, it's other farmers. The future of farming, VanderLinden implies, lies with them.

"If we expect the next generation to follow us, we need to start conserving more top soil right now."

"I'm convinced the farmers are out to get off the land all they can get off it, and they're not preserving anything for future generations. If we don't do it now, it'll be too late."

Dean VanderLinden (front kneeling) of Milo won the Region VI Soil Conservation Award, presented annually in nine different regions by the Iowa Farm Bureau. With VanderLinden are grandson Brad, daughter-in-law Ruth VanderLinden and son Willis.

RHT staff photo by Danny Rund

Lake Ahquabi nears finish

The first portion of the Lake Ahquabi renovation to improve lake water quality, and its fishery, is nearing completion, according to a Department of Natural Resources news release.

The first phase consisted of draining the lake, repairing the spillway and outlet structures of the lake, stabilizing shoreline susceptible to erosion and constructing sediment basins and in-lake fish habitat environment. A key component of this portion of the project was to construct the spillway to prevent undesirable fish species, such as carp and shad, from entering the lake. Several thousand feet of eroding shoreline were reshaped and stabilized with rock.

In addition, the road/dam of the pond on the adjacent Hooper Wildlife Area was raised and the outlet structure replaced. As a result, the size of the pond has been increased from about 15 surface acres to nearly 50.

Silt and sediment ponds were constructed on the watershed. The sediment ponds are designed as storage ponds, and will be used when the lake is hydraulically dredged, currently scheduled for next summer. Silt ponds were developed on major drainage areas to help prevent runoff problems. The sediment and silt ponds are nutrient traps, as well as sediment basins, and will help improve the water quality of both Lake Ahquabi and Hooper pond.

Fish habitat was constructed throughout the lower portion of the lake while the lake was drained. Six earth/rock reefs were constructed in the main portion of

the lake, and brush and trees were placed along critical parts of the shoreline. These structures will provide habitat and shelter for fish, and should provide excellent fishing spots. Additional fish habitat construction is planned in the "arms" of the lake, after the lake is hydraulically dredged. This phase of the renovation should be completed during the winter of 1995.

Stocking of sport fish will begin as soon as there is sufficient water in the lake, either this autumn, or next spring. The first species stocked will be bluegill and channel catfish, followed by largemouth bass. These populations will be allowed to develop to ensure that a population base is established in the lake before other fish are stocked.

In addition to the in-lake and watershed construction, angler access and handicap accessibility have been improved. The old one-lane boat ramp in the east arm of the lake has been replaced by a two-lane boat ramp with a center dock. Parking areas adjacent to the boat ramp have been enlarged, with a second lot for overflow parking located north of the park road. A major improvement, and relatively unique development is a handicap-accessible, all-weather fish house. The house, located near the concession stand and beach area, is now nearing completion. Part of the uniqueness of the house is the open "well" in the middle. This allows anglers to fish from inside, as well as outside, during all seasons of the year.



Willis and Ruth VanderLinden, Iowa Soil Conservation Award.

Merritt elected president

RECOGNITION

Continued from Page 1A

and Ardene Downing "have been constant contributors to the Indianola community."

Ardene's efforts have included FISH, Meals on Wheels, IDEAL, committee for a chemical-free graduation, Indianola Pre-School board, Irving School Playground Committee, Simpson Guild, Simpson Alumnae Association, First United Methodist Church and Physician's Recruitment Committee. In 1978 she received the Community Betterment Award from Gov. Robert Ray.

Bob's contributions have included Jaycees, industrial development board, chamber of commerce, Greater Des Moines Home Builders Association, Home Builders Development Council and Warren County 2000.

In 1984 he received the Community Betterment Award from Gov. Terry Branstad. He is a Simpson College Trustee and has served as chairman of the board of trustees of the First United Methodist Church.

Both Bob and Ardene have helped with the Indianola-Simpson Partnership. Bob has served as chairman.

Overton has given "generously of her time, energy and expertise," said McBride. "One of Barbara's most notable contributions is the development of the Irving School



Georgia Voysey, volunteer of the year.

Playground, an area which incorporates many innovative and unique features. Barbara's study, research and leadership of the parent volunteer group provided the impetus to complete what became a family project for many community members."

Overton has done volunteer coaching in many areas, is past chair of the Indianola Recreation Commission, has been on the Indianola Swim Club and baseball board and on the Middle School Site Planning Committee.

Other involvements include the Presbyterian Church and a support group for bereaved parents.

Pam Merritt was elected president of the chamber at the meeting. Her remarks appear in the second section of today's paper.



Robert Morrison, right, of near Martensdale, was presented a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners by Rients Terpstra, association treasurer, at the Ft. Dodge meeting. A Warren County Soil Conservation District Commissioner for the past 22 years, Morrison also was named Outstanding Soil Conservation District commissioner in Iowa and Region 6.



Poster contest

Nathan Naberhaus (right) of Indianola recently received a certificate for placing first in the poster contest sponsored by the Warren Soil and Water Conservation District. Ben Kern (left) of Norwalk, chairman of the conservation district, presented the certificate. Naberhaus is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Naberhaus and is a fourth-grade student at Irving Elementary School.

RHT photo/Thad White



A narrow-based terrace on the Mike Finck farm

Narrow-based terraces: More banks for the bucks

By Danny Rund

If the Soil Conservation Service ever plans to make commercials about terraces that provide all the services of a premium terrace but at half the cost, then narrow-based terraces would be the item.

Farmers faced with unending soil-erosion problems and limited resources now can breathe a sigh of relief. The chief advantage of the narrow-based terraces is their economical savings.

The terraces are sweeping across Iowa and other Midwestern states hampered by year-in and year-out soil erosion problems. Although farmers are beginning to see the economic advantage, Warren County soil conservationist Dick Davitt said narrow-based terraces are nothing new — they just seem like it.

"They've been in use in Iowa for the past five to 10 years, but they're more or less a new concept around Warren County," Davitt said. "I think most farmers stick to tradition with grass-backed terraces or what the other farmers have. But these new terraces will be more accepted with farmers because they're easier to deal with and they're more economical. Why build something for \$1 to \$2 a foot when you can get the same results for 50 cents a foot?"

Dale Faulkner, local district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, noted a few other considerations farmers should keep in mind when choosing terraces.

"With narrow-based terraces, less land is disturbed, and it's easier to farm around because the intake is close to the earth fill," Faulkner said. "It's an option we want to promote, mainly for

economical and agricultural considerations. We want to offer it to the farmers as an alternative."

The average cost per acre for narrow-based terraces is between \$100 and \$150 after cost sharing, compared to \$200 and \$300 for the grass-backed slopes, the more widely accepted alternative.

Mike Finck of rural New Virginia has between 80 and 90 acres protected with narrow-based terraces. In addition, Finck also has 40 acres protected by grass-backed slopes and said there is little difference between the two.

"They both work equally well; it's just that they (narrow-based terraces) cost half as much," Finck said. "Because of the costs, I can now protect twice as much land as I could before with grass-backed terraces. And they work better on steeper ground."

Finck said he finds these narrow-based terraces to be nearly maintenance free. Some land is taken out of production to build them, but Finck said it is not enough to really matter.

Finck said he has lost less than one total acre with the newer terraces.

Another advantage is the less time required to construct narrow-based terraces. Finck said it takes roughly one hour per 100 feet of terrace to put in, barring unfortunate weather obstacles.

The bottom line to narrow-based terraces is, without question, the economic savings. And in today's agriculture society, farmers need to conserve wherever possible, and the pocketbook is the best place to start.

"The way I see it is you get more banks for the bucks," Finck said of narrow-based terraces. "Why throw money away if you don't have to?"

Newcomers to no-till beans happy with crop in unusual year

By Deb Belt

Newcomers to planting soybeans by no-till are satisfied with their crop's progress, despite the summer's unusual weather.

The no-till method allows farmers to plant their crops without any ground tillage in the fall or spring.

Don Rothfus of Carlisle, who farms both in the Carlisle and Indianola areas, tried planting his beans by no-till this year because of the wet spring. He has used no-till off and on for several years to plant corn, too.

The no-till method allowed Rothfus to plant his soybeans in last year's crop stubble without any ground preparation.

"With the wet spring it saved me a lot of time," Rothfus said. "I think I'm going to continue to do it, the more I do it the more I like it."

No-till planting saved Rothfus money because he used less fuel, as well as taking less time to put the

'With the wet spring it saved me a lot of time. I think I'm going to continue to do it, the more I do it the more I like it.'

—Don Rothfus
Carlisle farmer

crop in between rain showers.

Using the no-till method also helps control erosion and meets federal farm program guidelines, Rothfus said.

"No-till soybeans, especially no-till drilled soybeans, offer a good alternative method of reducing erosion," said Dale Faulkner, district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. "Depending on the steepness of slope, contouring may not be required if farmers use no-till systems."

Many conservation compliance plans in the county are based on using contour farming to cut erosion rates, Faulkner said. No-till is an alternative to contouring, especially on irregular topography.

"The Soil Conservation Service would like to see more farmers use no-till because of the erosion control benefits," Faulkner said. "Planting no-till soybeans can reduce erosion rates up to 70 percent versus conventional tillage systems."

Faulkner added that less soil compaction and the ability to plant earlier in a wet spring are other benefits farmers find.

Larry Shivers, who farms 5 miles south of Indianola, also said that the wet spring, which hampered traditional planting methods, prompted him to try no-till.

"It was wet and I could do it

BEANS

Continued on Page 2A

No-till doesn't hurt, say local farmers

BEANS

Continued from Page 1A

without fertilizer so I pulled in and tried it," Shivers said. "I just pulled in and planted. I didn't do anything (to the ground)."

"I don't think it hurts," he added. "In dry years you're saving moisture and in wet years you're saving time."

One drawback to no-till Shivers has found is that he didn't have enough time to cultivate for weeds or spray with a post-emergent her-

bicide. If he uses no-till in the future, he will have to make time for more weed control than this year.

"They're not my cleanest beans," Shivers said. "Everybody likes to have no weeds, but sometimes you have to save money."

While Shivers said his herbicide cost would be higher using no-till, that would be balanced by a need for less equipment and not having to construct terraces to control erosion.

Shivers is studying the best way

to apply fertilizer to corn seeds using the no-till method before he decides whether to try no-till with his corn.

Because he planted corn in the traditional method, he finished planting beans before corn — a first for him.

His beans look good so far and Shivers has entered them in the Iowa Master Growers Contest.

"I'm looking for a pretty normal yield out of this field, which might be pretty good for this year."



Niedermayer speaks at women's meeting

Lisa Niedermayer from the DNR was guest speaker at the Warren County Farm Bureau women's meeting on April 7. Lisa's presentation included a video on conservation and wetlands.

No-till bean tour set for July 20

A tour of no-till soybean plots will be held Monday, July 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Participants should meet at the Warren County Fairgrounds, where travel arrangements will be made.

This tour is sponsored by Gary Sams, DuPont Agricultural Products representative; Warren County Soil Conservation District; Warren County Extension Service and Warren County ASCS.

The plots compare water and soil conservation methods between no-till drilled soybeans and soybeans planted in 30-inch rows. The drill used to plant the no-till soybeans was furnished by Marvin Mahr. The plots that will be visited

are located on the following farms: Steve Piffer, U.S. Highway 65/69 North; Larry Shivers, U.S. Highway 65 east of the Ahquabi corner; and Steve Heaberlin, Iowa Highway 92 West.

John Criswell, ISU agronomist; Gary Sams, DuPont representative; and Dale Faulkner, Warren County SCS, will discuss the plots during the tour.

After the tour, the Warren County Pork producers will serve a meal provided by DuPont. Reservations for meals must be made before July 17 by calling Warren County Soil Conservation at 961-5264 or Warren County Extension Office at 961-6237.

Oats are now exempt

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Reps. Tom Tauke and Jim Leach, both Iowa Republicans, announced Friday that after nearly two months of coaxing, the U.S. Department of Agriculture decided to exempt oats from the cross-compliance requirement used to determine farmers' crop base.

The USDA had invoked cross compliance for oats, sorghum and barley this year for the first time in a decade. Last year the requirement

only covered corn and wheat.

IOWA FARMERS have been confused on the certification of oats when signing up for the 1987 crop year, a Tauke aide said. Press Secretary Randy Bengfort said many farmers didn't realize there had been a separate sign-up deadline for corn and oats. So farmers who had missed that deadline received a zero base for oats, restricting them from planting that crop.

Reminded
Tom Oswald, Area Agronomist with the Soil Conservation Service, will present information comparing production costs and profits with no-till versus conventional tillage systems.

Fertilizer placement with no-till systems will be addressed by Joe Narigon, Extension Crop Specialist.

Dale Faulkner, District Conservationist, will compare erosion rates with no-till drilled soybeans and other tillage systems.

A noon lunch will be provided and producers are asked to R.S.V.P. by calling the Warren County Extension Office, 961-6237.

Posters tell how to measure crop residue

Farmers can learn how to estimate and measure crop residue by looking down at special posters being distributed by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

The posters — life-size replicas of a 3-foot by 4-foot area of a field — show what 30 percent residue coverage looks like and how to use a tape measure to calculate residue coverage.

The unique aspect of these posters, though, is that they are

placed on the floor for viewing, says Darrell Weems, IFBF director of intergovernmental affairs.

“We like to make judgments on residue management by looking across the horizon, but you can’t measure residue by looking across a field. You have to look down at the surface of the soil,” Weems says.

All county Farm Bureaus will be distributing the posters at four locations: the county Farm Bureau office, as well as county Extension,

ASCS and SCS offices. Many county Farm Bureaus will also distribute additional posters to banks, grain elevators and farm equipment dealers. In all, 1,500 posters will be placed by the Iowa Farm Bureau.

Weems says Farm Bureau is supporting this effort because more than 80 percent of Iowa farmers with conservation compliance plans are required to leave crop residues.

When Iowa was selected for an education program on residue management by the Soil Conservation Service, Farm Bureau agreed to assist with the effort by printing and distributing the posters.



DATE

For Immediate Release

NEWS Article

Contact:

NAME, TITLE
PHONE NUMBER

Save Your Leaves

Believe it or not, those leaves covering your lawn can be a valuable resource for your yard and garden. Before you rake up your leaves and send them to the landfill or other disposal facility, consider their value to your yard and garden. In the natural forest, fallen tree leaves serve as mulch to protect the ground and plants throughout the frigid winter and serve as a "nutrient bank." This "bank" stores the nutrients contained in organic matter and slowly makes them available to plants. When it rains, the mulch serves as ground cover that can greatly reduce soil loss due to sheet and rill erosion while protecting our lakes and streams from polluting soil-laden runoff.

We can create these same natural benefits for our gardens, trees and shrubs by recycling leaves from our yards. A layer of leaf-mulch will control weeds and improve soil and plant health, conserve moisture, serve as a weed barrier, and provide a "finished" look to the garden. Of course, other types of commercial mulches will provide these same or similar benefits, but many are expensive and need to be hauled to your yard. Leaves are free and place themselves conveniently right in your yard or your neighbor's.

The challenge of effectively using leaves as garden mulch comes in keeping them in place when it's windy. While watering the leaves or covering them with a tarp is effective, chopping them with a lawnmower or shredder also works well. A lawnmower bagging attachment allows for chopping and collecting all at the same time. The chopped or whole leaves can be placed directly on gardens or around trees or a compost pile for later use. Six-inch mulch depth is recommended, but avoid using walnut leaves and wood, as they are toxic to many plants.

FIRST NAME and LAST NAME, NRCS District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in TOWN says, "Putting leaf based mulch on your garden and shrubs is a very beneficial conservation practice that builds up the soil while protecting our lakes, rivers and streams. Since polluting soil loss can come from any size plot of land, using farm proven conservation practices like mulch for ground cover makes great environmental sense. In addition, using leaves this way can help a gardener get a head start on spring planting; especially the no-till gardener."

DC's LAST NAME promotes no-till gardening as one of many farm-proven conservation practices adapted for use on city size plots of ground.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

For more information on mulching, no-till gardening or other Backyard Conservation practices;
call the NAME County Soil and Water Conservation District at PHONE NUMBER or
1-888-LANDCARE.

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Sodbusters' plow fading away

By DON MUHM

Register Farm Editor

Two-thirds of Iowa's farmland — about 17 million acres — is now farmed without the moldboard plow, the tool that let pioneer farmers split open the tough prairie sod, and which for years has been a universal symbol of food production.

But now, according to Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Robert H. Lounsberry, the plow with the curved steel blade that helped to settle America's West is being discarded by a growing percentage of the state's farmers.

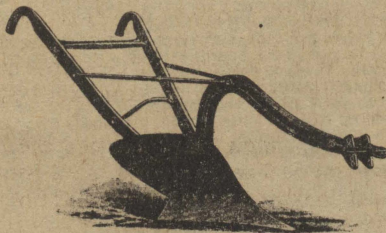
At one time, Lounsberry noted, the neat, straight, black furrows produced by the moldboard plow were considered the trademark of a top-notch farmer. The blade peeled back the soil, allowing the user to completely bury the residue from the previous crop.

The new strategy among more and more farmers, Lounsberry said in a report made Tuesday, is to leave a higher percentage of crop trash and residues at, or near, the surface of the soil to thwart wind erosion, and to better absorb moisture for crop use.

This declining use of the conventional moldboard plow, Lounsberry said, is one of several developments which promise more protection for the state's soil resources from the threat of wind erosion this winter and water-caused soil losses next spring.

Other changes in Iowa that help reduce soil loss are:

- Farmers are spending \$30 million in federal, state and county conservation cost-sharing funds, which are



matched by farmers and used for construction of terraces, grass waterways, earth dams and other conservation techniques.

- Nearly 7,000 Iowa farmers now have conservation plans, covering 2.2 million acres of the more fragile soils in the state, under the

Iowa Soil 2000 Program. This program calls for soil losses to productive land to be contained by the turn of the century.

- The development of special no-till and minimum-tillage planters that enable crops to be planted without significant disturbance to the soil and by leaving plant residues from the previous crop to prevent soil loss when fields are the most vulnerable to water erosion.

Even with such efforts, Lounsberry warned, some winter wind erosion may still occur on unprotected fields.

"Unfortunately, severe wind erosion is often observed on fields next to heavily traveled highways and interstates in Iowa," Lounsberry said.

"Blowing dirt irritates motorists, and may tend to cause them to blame farmers for letting this happen when in reality, farmers do care and are doing something about it. The fact is that the vast majority of Iowa farmers are taking some kind of action to protect their most valuable soil, their topsoil."

Sign-up for terrace work opens

Landowners should plan for 1991 terrace construction projects. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but early signups are encouraged to ensure funding is available.

The Warren Soil District Commissioners give first priority cost share for summer construction projects. Summer projects are encouraged on annual set-aside acres to spread before planting and after harvest workloads for conservation contractors.

Landowners can receive up to 50 percent of the total cost for

tiling, installing intakes and earth-moving. The Conservation District is promoting narrow base-type terraces. These terraces can be built for approximately half the cost of conventional grassed backslope terraces, making it possible to protect twice the amount of land for the same cost.

Landowners planning a terrace project for 1991 may sign up after Jan. 1 at the Soil Conservation District Office, USDA Building, 1206 E. Second Ave., Indianola.

Wetlands designations put on hold

By GEORGE ANTHAN

THE REGISTER'S WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

Washington, D.C. — The Senate has accepted without dissent an amendment by Sen. Charles Grassley to temporarily stop the federal government from making new wetland designations on farmland until the GOP-controlled Congress can tackle the issue in permanent legislation.

The Iowa Republican's measure was tacked onto a bill cutting spending during the current fiscal year, and it prohibits the Agriculture Department from spending federal money to identify new wetlands on cropland.

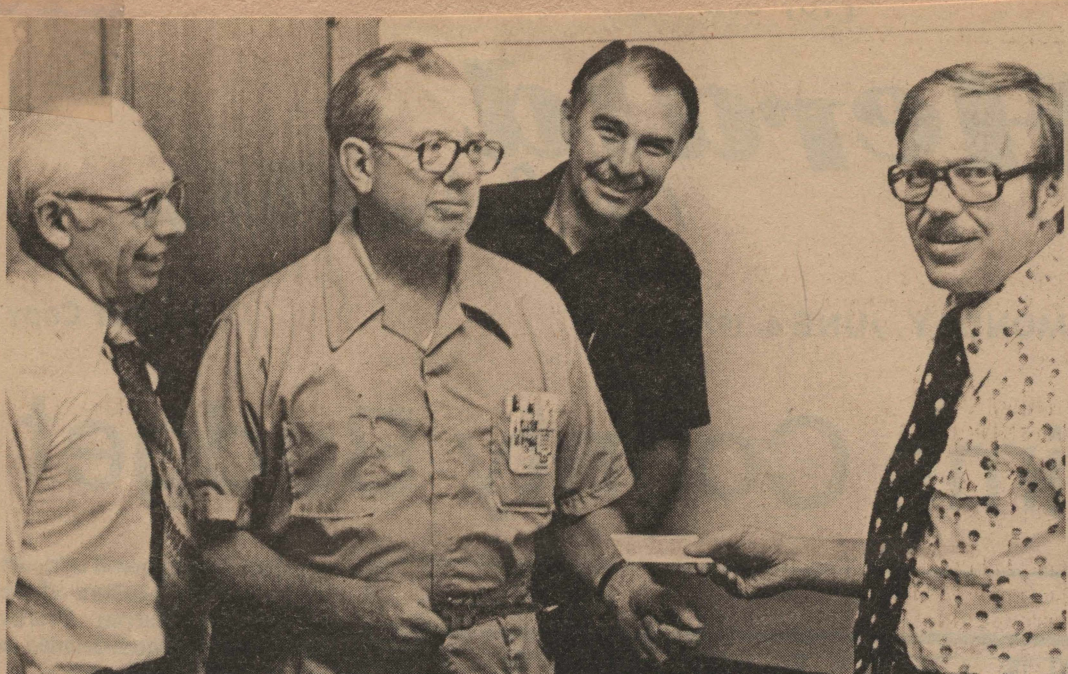
Grassley and other farm-state legislators have promised to seek to permanently restrict wetlands regulatory activities of the USDA, Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Protection Agency through provisions of the 1995 farm bill.

Grassley said the moratorium on wetlands designations was necessary because "it makes no sense to continue spending tax dollars and adding new wetlands to the inventory when regulations on wetlands may be different after passage of the 1995 farm bill."

Most major farm and commodity organizations have complained over the wetlands policies of the four federal agencies. "The process has shut out the farmer," Grassley said. "Bureaucrats are making decisions without consulting farmers."

He said that by stopping new designations, Congress will be able to rationalize the national effort to preserve wetlands and to end "confusion" and "frustration" among landowners over overlapping roles of the four federal agencies.

The funding bill to which Grassley attached the wetlands measure would cut more than \$13 billion from fiscal 1995 spending. A similar House bill would cut \$17 billion. Although the House doesn't include wetlands language, it's believed Grassley's proposal will be supported by House Republicans when differences are worked out in a conference committee.



TO HELP ALLEVIATE world hunger the First United Methodist Church of Indianola has planned a "June Jamboree" for Monday evening, June 20. Dick Kerr, right, sells a ticket to businessman Myron Criswell, as Jim Davies, left, and Maury Goode look on. Those attending will eat either barbecued Iowa pork chops or hot dog depending on the price of the ticket they buy. Entertainment will be furnished by Goode and his Country Boys with Smokey Smith.

RHT photo.

World Hunger Bar-B-Que

To raise funds to alleviate world hunger, a "June Jamboree" is planned by the First United Methodist Church for Monday evening, June 20. The evening will include a barbecued Iowa pork chop or hot dog dinner served from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and entertainment by Maury Goode and Country Boys with Smokey Smith.

The event will be held on the church lawn at Ashland and B St. In case of rain, it will be moved inside the church.

Many churches are expressing a deep concern for the starving people of the world. The United Methodist Church is among them, and this event is an effort to provide an evening of good food and entertainment as well as provide funds for relief of hunger in the world. Much of the money raised will be used to teach people in the hunger plagued parts of the world how to produce food.

Church Office

Members of the planning committee are Mr and Mrs Ted Diehl, Mr and Mrs Allen Goode, Mr and Mrs Charles Laverty, Mr and Mrs Maurice Goode, Mr and Mrs Eugene Smith, Mr and Mrs Marvin Mahr Jr., Mr and Mrs Henry Staubus, and the

Rev. and Mrs Stan Woeste.

Tickets for the dinner, pork chop \$5, or hog dog \$2.50, may be purchased before June 15 at the church office or from those listed above.

Tables and chairs will be provided for the meal, but people are urged to bring your own lawn chairs or blankets if you wish to linger and enjoy the music.