

Farmers ¹¹⁻¹⁹⁻⁷⁰ get soil awards

Four Davis County farmers and a teacher were presented awards Wednesday night at the annual Davis County Soil Conservation District Banquet.

Gerald Forsythe received his awards for being winner of the Davis County Soil Conservation District Contest and the regional sweepstakes winner in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement program.

Also receiving an award was Mrs. Isabel Boatman for being Davis County Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Three other Davis County farmers were presented special certificates from the district. They were Ray Tharp, Darrell McClure and Lester Lough.

C. I. Heady, who is retiring from the district commissioners also received a plaque from fellow commissioners.

Three commissioners were elected to the district's new five member board. The commissioners elected Wednesday were Laverne Weilbrenner, Phil Melvin and Lionel Herteen.

Forsythe and Mrs. Boatman

were presented plaques by the Bloomfield Newspapers. Mr. and Mrs. Forsythe were also presented a watch, a barometer and plaques by Jim McQuire of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, one of the sponsors of the Iowa Conservation Awards program.

The Forsythes farm 600 acres west of Drakesville and have a Grade A dairy operation. They are currently milking 85 cows and have approximately 260 head of dairy stock and 75 head of sheep.

Forsythe has about 40 acres of cropland on the contour, five acres of grassed waterways, 1.6 miles of terraces, 0.5 miles of diversions, six farm ponds, one erosion control structure, 1,000 feet of open drainage ditch, and 190 acres of renovated pasture.

Mrs. Boatman is a fifth grade teacher at the West Bloomfield Elementary Center. She has special conservation projects each year for her students including field trips, class projects and guest speakers.

Lough has a 240 acre grain and livestock farm with about half of the farm in rotation cropland and the balance in permanent pasture. All farming operations are done on the contour.

He has constructed 3,300 feet of diversion terraces, three farm ponds, one erosion control structure, shaped two acres of grass waterways, renovated 75 acres of pasture, built 10,000 feet of terraces and 300 feet of open drainage ditch.

McClure has a 212 acre grain and livestock operation with 50 per cent of it in cropland and the rest in pasture. Most of the cropland is contour strip-cropped

and the balance is farmed on the contour when plowed.

He has constructed 1,000 feet of diversion terrace, two farm ponds, 6.5 acres of grass waterways and renovated 80 acres of pasture.

Ray Tharp has an 895 acre beef cow-calf operation with most of the farm in hay and pasture. Most of his pasture has been renovated and seeded to an improved pasture mixture.

He has constructed seven farm ponds, 13 acres of grass waterways and has 2,650 feet of tile.

It was announced at the banquet that work on the Carter Creek Watershed is progressing and that recently the Iowa Highway Commission has agreed to participate in the cost of constructing a large structure southwest of Bloomfield.

Relocated Highway 63 will be constructed on the top of the dam of the structure, which will be the largest body of water in Davis County and will be developed for recreation purposes.

Don Johnson of Fairfield spoke at the meeting, pinch-hitting for Ervin Koos, who could not make it because of farm work.

Johnson, a member of the Iowa Soil Conservation Committee, spoke on the changes in the soil conservation program in Iowa.

He said it is likely that a compulsory soil conservation law will be passed in the future.

He also said the ACP program is in jeopardy in Washington and urged local residents to write their Congressman concerning this program.