

Nine Farms Win Sweepstakes Awards

SOIL---

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lished along all permanent field boundaries and these are hand sprayed to control weeds.

Region 2

An 800-acre farm near Peterson is the sweepstakes winner in Region 2 (13 north central Iowa counties). It is owned by Dan Toff, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; managed by Dr. Rodney Kleaveland, Sioux Rapids; and operated by Gladwin Braunschweig of Peterson.

The conservation plan for the farm includes a complete soil survey which makes use of the best land for row crops and steeper land for pasture and wildlife. The 420 acres of cropland are protected by new tile outlet terraces, contour farming, grassed waterways and grassed field borders.

One area of the farm has a complete water management system. Most of the water is held behind terraces for use by crops. Excess water is removed through specially designed valves and carried away in tile. There are two ponds on the farm.

Region 3

The sweepstakes award farm in Region 3 (12 north central counties) is operated by Raymond McDowell of Eldora and owned by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McDowell of Grinnell.

The farm lies within the Lower Pine Lake Watershed and runoff from this land is controlled by over three miles of seeded backslope terraces, 28 water control structures and over 7,000 feet of tile.

The remainder of the farm has 400 feet of terraces and two water control structures. Presently 104 acres of cropland are protected by seeded backslope, bench-type terraces. The McDowells served as hosts of the 1968 Conservation Field Days.

Region 4

Robert G. Hagen, a dairy farmer near Waterville, is the sweepstakes award winner in Region 4 (11 northeast Iowa counties). He owns 124 acres and rents 168 from his father, Gilman Hagen, and 120 acres from his aunt, Mrs. Emma Paulson.

All cropland is farmed on the contour and most of it is strip-cropped or terraced. About three miles of terraces and diversions have replaced some of the strips in recent years.

Hagen was the first in his neighborhood to install terraces with underground outlets. Other practices include sod waterways, contour fencing, considerable pasture renovation and three ponds.

Region 5

The 320-acre farm operate by Michael Richter of Wiotā is the sweepstakes award winner in Region 5 (10 soil conservation districts in west central Iowa).

Richter started conservation work on his farm immediately after he purchased it 24 years ago. Many of the gullies on his farm at that time could not be crossed with farm equipment. These have been reshaped and seeded down and can now be crossed with ease.

About five miles of terraces have been built, and an extensive amount of tiling installed. Water detention ponds and gully control structures have been built to stabilize the waterways and furnish water for livestock. Richter follows minimum tillage practices on part of his corn ground, using only a disk to prepare the seedbed.

Region 6

A father and son operation near Laurel is the sweepstakes winner in Region 6 (10 counties in central Iowa). Tom Laverly, who owns 480 acres of the farm, and Larry Laverty, who owns 80 acres, are the winners. Larry operates and manages the farm.

All of the conservation treatment called for in the conservation farm plan has been completed except for terrace construction, which is 90 per cent completed. Eighty-five acres are farmed on the contour, 320 acres are strip-cropped, and 40 acres of pasture have been renovated.

The farm has two stock ponds, 1.9 miles of terraces and 115 rods of contour fence. Larry constructed part of the terraces by plow method and built them according to Soil Conservation Service specifications.

Region 7

The sweepstakes award winning farm in Region 7 (12 east central counties) is owned and operated by Dean Humphrey of

Deep River. He farms 660 acres in three parcels.

Bottomlands are protected from hillside runoff with diversion terraces. All hillsides are contour strip-cropped and most of the strips are on a rotation of corn, oats and four-year meadow. At the home farm, Humphrey follows a rotation of corn, oats and two years of meadow.

Part of these fields have both terraces and strip-cropping to control soil loss. There are three ponds on the farm.

A waterway, which is about 3,000 feet long and has a concrete erosion control structure at the lower end, has just been completed. There is over a mile of tile along the waterway.

Region 8

Laverne McCarty of Prescott in the sweepstakes winner in the Region 8 (10 southeast Iowa counties). McCarty, who has been a co-operator with the Adams County Soil Conservation District since 1960 and has served as an assistant commissioner, owns and operates a 397-acre farm.

All land on the farm is farmed according to recommendations of the Adams district. He has kept soil loss to a minimum through the use of 172 acres of contour farming, 6.3 miles of terraces, 7.5 acres of grassed waterways, 24 acres of improved pasture, 13,700 feet of tile drainage, three ponds, 415 rods of contour fence — and crop rotations. McCarty has helped many other farmers start conservation practices.

Region 9

Blaine DeHart of Keosauqua is the sweepstakes winner in Region 9 (13 southeast Iowa counties). DeHart started farming in 1953 on a 203-acre farm which was all timber and brushy pasture except for 35 acres.

Today all of the farm, except 25 acres, has been cleared and is devoted to either cropland or improved pasture. Of the 25 acres remaining, 11 acres have been left as a timber reserve.

In 1965, DeHart purchased an additional 213 acres which were badly eroded. He has now applied the following conservation practices on the entire farm: 241 acres of contouring, 7.8 acres of grassed waterways, 3.6 miles of terraces, 1.2 miles of diversion terraces, 1 grade stabilization structure and 33 acres of pasture renovation.



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