

The Annual Report of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District

Annual banquet at Underwood honors conservation award winners

by Donnell Pauly
District Cooperative
Agreement Employee

The District Commissions sponsored the 1987 Awards Banquet. It was held March 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Underwood Community Hall. There were over 200 people in attendance. Among those were Jim Bogges, Agricultural Representative for Congressman James Ross Lightfoot; Marliss DeJong, Representative for Senator Charles Grassley, and many other District dignitaries.

The banquet was opened by Charles Angerth, Chairman for the District Commissioners, giving the invocation. HyVee catered the meal for which donations were accepted at the door. Winners of the District-Sponsored Poster Contest were presented their certificates by Bill Hammitt, District Conservationist. This year's topic was "Return of the Great Plains Wildlife".

Along with five winners from each class in Tri-Center and Underwood Elementary Schools and three winners from each class in St. Joseph Elementary School of Neola, there was one overall winner from each school. The three overall winners received trophies and were Scott Konz from St. Joseph 5th grade; Dana Bennett, representing Tri-Center 3rd grade; and Lindsey Grote of Underwood, 4th grade.

Cathie Fife from WOW Radio was the guest speaker. Everyone enjoyed her stories and she reminded the children to remember the little pleasures while growing up. She also told everyone to remember that they are special because they're Iowans.

District employee Donnell Pauly gave a slide presentation that showed the conservation award winning farms, conservation practices, and told a little about them and their families.

Poster contest winners included the following students:

Underwood kindergarten: Aaron Witthauer, Greg Andersen, Brian

Sealock, Aaron Leich and Keith Clausen*. (*denotes class winner)

First grade: Brenna Larsen, Elizabeth Tiarks, Timmy Farrell, Morgan Leaders(*), Rebecca Zeilinger.

Second grade: Jake Driver(*), James Blackburn, Holly Clark, Kathie Trede, Adam Wittauer.

Third grade: Brad Scoles(*), Jolene Minear, Nathan Watson, Andy Bardsley, Ryan Smith.

Fourth grade: Lindsey Grote (*), Nicole Murray, Jonathan Newton, Jeff Isenhour, Loree Clausen.

Fifth grade: Jill Block, Lisa Schafer, Danny Masker(*), Paul Whitson, John Schmielau.

Tri-Center: First grade: Jodi Schunning, Danny Olsen, Aaron Peterson, Travis Coyle (*), Christal King.

Second grade: Jennifer Witt, Caroline Holstein, Tammy Potter, Jacob Montgomery (*), Mike Meyerring.

Third grade: Joshua Zacharias, Kimberly Dea, Dana Bennett(*), Kyle Jensen, David Killpack.

Fourth grade: Jessie McDermott, Joci Thomas, Kitt Carper, Jason O'Neill, Sarah Ord(*).

Fifth grade: Janet Zimmerman, Laura King, Amy Bennett(*), Brad Carlson, Brenda Guill.

Sixth grade: Keith Davis(*), Tara Plambeck, Sean Minahan, David Wilson, Jody Marsh.

St. Joseph, first grade: Jon Schaben(*), Katherine Ward, Anne Fischer.

Second grade: Jarrod McDonald(*), Ellen Masker, Cheryl Brich.

Third grade: Scott Fuchser, David Reineke, Adam Ring(*).

Fourth grade: John Wulff, Katherine Fischer, Celia Brich(*).

Fifth grade: Scott Konz(*), Amber Davis, Mike Reineke.

Sixth grade: Chris Eckrich, Laura Brich(*), Erin Fuchser.

In July, The District Commissioners chose the conservation award winners for 1987. The Owner-Operator Division winner was Moran Beef, Inc., of Honey Creek. The family business is owned

and operated by Joe Moran and sons.

The winners of the Landowner-Tenant Award were Walter and Arthur Young of Council Bluffs and operator Jim Nusser. In the division of New Cooperator, Lyle Rodenburg of Council Bluffs took the award for the most conservation practices installed during the first year as a District Cooperator. His operator is Dennis Kenealy.

William Pogge, Jr., of Neola, had the farm with the most complete conservation system, so he won the Eldon Ravlin Memorial Conservation Award. The Farm Manager/Landowner-Tenant Award was presented to Mike Kenealy, Manager of Council Bluffs Savings Bank, Charles Ward, the farm owner, and Rex Grote, and Harley and Owen Darrington, the operators.

This year the Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award went to Merlyn Bintz of Neola. Unfortunately, after the windbreak was chosen it was destroyed by a tornado, and is no longer in use. Mr. Bintz has plans to re-establish it, though, in the near future.

Commissioners Dan McGinn and David Storchmann presented certificates to the Conservation Award Winners.

The No-Till Yield Contest winners were given their plaques by Commissioner, Mark Schnepel. Door prizes that were donated by many generous local merchants were given out periodically throughout the evening and the Neola Gazette was on hand to take pictures of all the award winners.

Charles Angerth closed the banquet by telling everyone to look forward to the future and to respect the children, for they would soon be shaping their future. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we are all looking forward to next year's banquet.



Among those honored with conservation awards were (front row, from the left) Gary Larson, Harley Darrington, Owen Darrington, Charles Ward, Rex Grote, (back) Gary Geise, William Pogge and Mrs. Pogge, Mrs. Lyle Rodenburg and Lyle Rodenburg, Jim Nusser, Walter Young and Craig Moran [see accompanying article for complete listing of winners].—Gazette photo



St. Joseph's School students who were present at the banquet to accept their awards included (front row, from the left) Adam Ring, Ellen Masker, Anne Fischer, John Schaben, (back row) Celia Brich, Laura Brich, Scott Konz, Chris Eckrich and Jarrod McDonald.—Gazette photo



Underwood students on hand at the banquet to accept awards were (front row, from the left) Greg Anderson, Brenna Larsen, Timmy Farrell, Rebecca Zeilinger, (second row) Aaron Witthauer, Keith Clausen, Kathie Trede, Danny Masker, Paul Whitson,

Jeff Isenhour, (third row) Brian Smith, (fourth row) Lindsay Grote, Holly Clark, Elizabeth Tiarks, Morgan Leaders, Lisa Schafer, Amy Bardsley, (back) Adam Witthauer, Loree Clausen, Jolene Minear, Jill Block and Nathan Watson.—Gazette photo

Field borders required on highly erodible land

by Doug Vernon
Soil Conservation Technician

A field border is a strip of perennial vegetation established at the edge of a cropped or woodland field. In compliance with the 1985 Food Security Act, it is a requirement to establish field borders on all highly erodible fields as determined by the SCS. The use of field borders help to benefit the farmer, the soil, and wildlife. They control erosion, protect field edges used as turnrows, provide a wildlife habitat, and improve the looks of an otherwise dull field.

Cropland field borders can be established by new seeding or by meadow strips left when the field is

plowed, and must be a minimum of 1 rod wide. New seeding should consist of a mixture of native perennial grasses with similar growth habitat and similar season use. These may also be planted with or without legumes. Mowing the borders must be delayed until after July 1.

Woodland field borders may be established by the use of herbaceous plants and shrubs, and should border along woodland edges. Unwanted trees should be removed by cutting or the application of an appropriate herbicide. These strips should be protected from livestock by fencing or other means of protection to allow for natural re-vegetation.

Switchgrass seed available

by Bill Hammitt
District Conservationist

The West Pottawattamie District is selling switchgrass seed at a reduced price through the Pottawattamie County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. The seed is available to anyone who is interested in promoting wildlife habitat on their farm. This can also be used on CRP acres and can be cost-share by ASCS. The price of the seed is \$9.85 per pound which is \$2.3 per pound less than retail. Orders will be taken at the District office.

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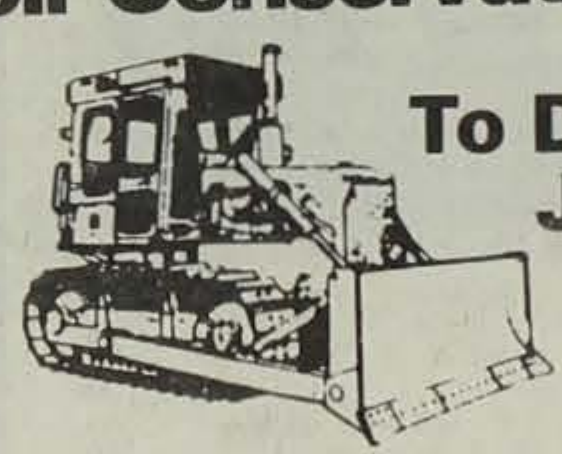
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- ★ 4 Dump Trucks

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Neola, Iowa
485-2416

More award winners



Tri-Center students on hand to accpet their poster awards included (front row, from the left) Jessie McDermott, Jodi Schuning, Danny Olsen, Travis Coyle, Christal King, [second row] Kitt Carper, David Killpack, Sarah Ord, Kyle Jensen, Aaron Peterson, Jason O'Neill, [third row] Keith Davis, Laura King, Dana Bennett, Kimberly Dea, Jennifer Witt, Sean Minahan, Tara Plambeck, [back] Jody Marsh, Amy Bennett, Brenda Guill, Janet Zimmerman, Brad Carlson and David Wilson.—Gazette photo

"Swampbuster" provisions protect wetlands

by Roger Baker
County Resource Planner

Part of the provisions under the Food Security Act of 1985 regard the conversion of wetlands. Criteria for land to be considered wetland are as follows: 1) Hydric soils - soils that, when left undrained, support hydrophytic vegetation; 2) Hydrophytic vegetation - water-loving plants. The list of hydric soils and wetland plants used as the basis for wetlands is available at the Soil Conservation Service.

The following rules apply to wetlands in regard to commodity crops for compliance with the FSA of 1985: no artificial drainage (tiling or ditching), no farming of abandoned creekbeds after straightening a channel, and no clearing of trees on wetlands for commodity crop production.

You may drain wetlands under the following criteria and remain in compliance: you may finish conversion of a wetland if the conversion was started prior to December 23, 1985; you may drain a wetland as long as no commodity crop will be grown on that area; you may clear trees from a wetland as long as no commodity crop will be grown on that area; and if the area becomes wet under artificial circumstances (ponds, roads, irrigation system leakage) it may be drained. A wetland may be farmed if it becomes dry under natural circumstances.

FY87 CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEW COOPERATORS	(79) - 17,402 Acres
LANDOWNERS ASSISTED	475
LANDOWNERS COMPLETING A PRACTICE	249
CONSERVATION PLANS WRITTEN AND DELIVERED	11,894 Acres
ALL TYPES OF CONSERVATION TILLAGE	21,634 Acres
TERRACES	164 Miles - 867,217 Feet
WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS	15
WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT	160 Acres
CROPLAND BENEFITTED BY PRACTICES	16,954 Acres
PASTURELAND BENEFITTED BY PRACTICES	588 Acres
GRASSED WATERWAYS	2 Acres

No-interest loans for terraces

by Bill Hammitt
District Conservationist

No-interest loans for terrace construction are available throughout the West Pottawattamie District. These loans are based on a pay-back of ten annual installments with a maximum limit of \$10,000 per landowner.

Although there is no cost-sharing involved with these funds, they are still a good idea in financing your conservation work. Your local bank must agree to participate with you in handling the initial applications and the annual installments. For more information stop by the office.



Also on hand to accept awards were (from the left) James Blackburn, Underwood; Joshua Zacharias, Tri-Center; and Brian Sealock, Underwood.—Gazette photo

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AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Mrs. Meneray has had most of this furniture, glassware, lamps, etc. most of her adult life. It is all in extra good condition. Lots of unusual items — you don't find everyday. Plan to attend.

Lunch on Grounds

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Meet the staff . . .



The office staff includes (front row, from the left) Sherry Sandvik, Donnell Pauly, (back) James Russmann, Doug Vernon, Roger Baker, Dale DuVal, Myron Daringer and Bill Hammitt.

OFFICE STAFF

Soil Conservation Service

BILL HAMMITT, DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST
DALE DUVAL, SOIL CONSERVATIONIST
MYRON DARINGER, SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN
JAMES RUSSMANN, SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN - WAE
DOUG VERNON, SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN - WAE

West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District

SHERRY SANDVIK, DISTRICT CLERK and SECRETARY/TREASURER
DONNELL PAULY, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT EMPLOYEE

Pottawattamie County

ROGER BAKER, COUNTY RESOURCE PLANNER

OTHER SUPPORTIVE AREA PERSONNEL

Steve Stover, Area Conservationist
Bonnie Weller, Area Clerk
Gayle Rea, Clerk-Typist
Lyle Petersen, Area Resource Conservationist
Norm Koester, Civil Engineer
Jeff Godwin, Civil Engineer
Reid Osler, Civil Engineer Technician
Marion Plumb, Civil Engineer Technician
Benny Floyd, Civil Engineer Technician
Larry Hammitt, Civil Engineer Technician
Charlie Branham, Area Resource Soil Scientist
Benny Clark, Soil Scientist
Krista Lorenze, Computer Specialist

Allan Pratt, District Forester, Red Oak
Carl Priebe, Wildlife Biologist, Sidney

Norman Tradel, CED, West Pottawattamie ASCS
Carroll Olsen, Director, County Extension Service
Mark Versch, Director, County Conservation Board

Meet the commissioners



Current commissioners include (front row, from the left) David Storjohann, Mark Schnepel, Charles Angeroth, (back) Clint Goos, Dan McGinn and (not pictured) Mike Kenealy, Assistant Commissioner.

Switchgrass offers many benefits

by Dale DuVal
Soil Conservationist

There are four major native warm-season grasses in Iowa. They are Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Little Bluestem, and Big Bluestem. Switchgrass is the most popular of these four grass species.

Switchgrass provides excellent food and cover for wildlife. This is due to its stiff stems and upright growth habit. The root system of switchgrass is an excellent soil stabilizer. With these qualities, switchgrass can make excellent field borders and windbreakers.

The planting rate for switchgrass has been lowered to 5 lbs of PLS/acre and the seeding should be done April 1 - June 1. For early weed control atrazine is labeled for use during establishment of switchgrass. Switchgrass can also benefit from a burn off every three or four years. These burn offs help control woody species and cool-season grasses that might invade the native grass stand.

In the past, special interest groups such as "Pheasants Forever" have paid an incentive to landowners for planting fields to switchgrass.

Environmental Education Council fosters field day activities

by Bill Hammitt
District Conservationist

The West Pottawattamie Environmental Education Council involves teachers and students from Tri-Center, St. Joseph, and Underwood schools. Several activities are conducted each year to promote conservation education with the young people.

An Environmental Field Day was conducted in May at Arrowhead Park for 6th grade students. About 120

students attended the all-day event on May 8. A commemorative tree was planted at the start of the day. Students participated in several learning activities throughout the Park. Topics covered included native plants, soils, wildlife, archery, origami, and an obstacle course.

Instructors for the classes included personnel from the schools, SCS, County Conservation Board and Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Wildlife food plots introduced

by Dale DuVal
Soil Conservationist

Wildlife food plots were introduced into the CRP to create food supplements for wildlife. Specification for these plots will consider size, erosion control, maintenance, food plants, planting amounts, and planting dates. Plot size must not be more than 25% of any field or 10% of total CRP acres on a farm. Erosion control will be

based on the percent slope, with soil loss not to exceed the tolerable "T" level. Cultivation will be allowed to control weeds. Herbicides harmful to adjacent seedings will not be allowed. Plots that are discontinued or rotated must be reseeded and fertilized to SCS standards. A list of food plants, rates, and planting dates is available, along with other details, at the SCS office.

COMMISSIONERS

CHARLES ANGEROTH	CHAIRMAN
MARK SCHNEPEL	VICE CHAIRMAN
CLINT GOOS	COMMISSIONER
DAVID STORJOHANN	COMMISSIONER
DAN MCGINN	COMMISSIONER
MIKE KENEALY	ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

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Westpott 73XA

No Till

1986 Pottawattamie Co. IOWA MASTERS

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BPA 73XA

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BUDGET REPORT, CALENDAR YEAR 1987

By Sherry Sandvik
District Clerk

DISTRICT REVOLVING FUND (checking account)

BALANCE, January 1, 1987 \$ 173.32

RECEIPTS

Watershed & RCSD Contracts	\$53,380.68
SCS Contract Tax Reimbursement	864.94
Office Supplies Reimbursement	1,113.81
Contributions	2,760.00
Transfers from Savings	2,325.00
Miscellaneous	1,639.83

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$62,109.46

EXPENDITURES

Watershed Contracts	\$46,202.50
SCS Contract Tax Reimbursements	864.94
RCSD Contracts	5,178.30
Environmental Education & Awards	291.55
Meetings and Banquets	1,068.53
Office Supplies & Printing Expenses	769.54
Association Dues	625.00
Postage	700.81
Transfers to Savings	3,100.00
Miscellaneous	983.39
Recording Exemptions & Admin. Orders	195.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$61,659.41

BALANCE, December 31, 1987 \$ 383.37

DISTRICT IM FUND (Commissioners and Office Supplies Expenses Reimbursement) Fiscal Year 1987 (July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987)

BALANCE, July 1, 1986 \$ 1,800.00
Additions Funds 316.50

Commissioner & Assistant Commissioner Reimb. \$ 742.78
Office Supplies & Printing Reimbursement 1,373.77

BALANCE, June 30, 1987 \$ - 0 -

DISTRICT SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCE, January 1, 1987 \$ 199.80

Receipts	\$ 3,100.00
Expenditures	2,326.04
Interest Earned	93.02

BALANCE, December 31, 1987 \$ 1,066.78

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT EMPLOYEE FUNDS

BALANCE (checking account) 2/87 \$ 200.00

Receipts	\$ 7,500.00
Expenditures for Payroll	7,121.72

BALANCE, March 3, 1988 \$ 378.28

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Deposits	\$ 5,600.00
Interest	20.10
Transfers to Checking	2,100.00

BALANCE, March 3, 1988 \$ 3,520.10

No-till tour held in June

by Bill Hammitt
District Conservationist

A tour of no-till soybean fields was held at the Bob Soloth farm in June. Several fields of no-till soybeans were viewed by the crowd. These included beans planted with a no-till drill in 10 inch rows, 30 inch rows planted with a

John Deere planter and 15 inch double-row beans planted with the same planter. These were all no-tilled into undisturbed corn stalks and treated with post-emerge herbicides. After the tour a barbecue was sponsored by BASF herbicide company.

On the "sodbusters" rule

by Dale DuVal
Soil Conservationist

According to the Food Security Act of 1985, if land not planted to an agricultural commodity crop between 1981-1985 is 1/2 highly erodible and the field is broken up, the field falls under the sodbuster rule. This sodbuster field must have a plan developed and implemented before an agricultural

commodity crop is grown on it.

There is an alfalfa exemption to the sodbuster rule. The field must be at least 75% alfalfa prior to plowing. The producer must have a conservation plan developed and implemented by the first crop planted after June 1, 1988. The plan needs to state that the field is part of a long term crop rotation.

Conservation compliance

by Bill Hammitt
District Conservationist

One of the provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act requires landowners develop a conservation plan on their farm by 1990 if it is determined by SCS that they have highly erodible land on their farm. Landowners will be receiving a determination in the mail telling them if they have highly erodible land. Their next step would be to contact the SCS office to get their name on the list for a conservation plan. The SCS staff will be making an all-out effort to get everyone's plan, who requests one, completed by 1990.

Arbor Day observed

by Dale DuVal
Soil Conservationist

Each year we try to visit the first grade students in the District and try to help students understand the importance of trees. Our annual Arbor Day Program for first grade students was held April 24, 1987. The program consisted of a 20-30 minute presentation about the history of Arbor Day and the value of trees. Each student then received a tree seedling to take home and plant.

Alternatives to terraces

by Roger Baker
County Resource Planner

Under FSA of 1985, soil loss levels must be down to the alternative soil loss level by 1995. One way to achieve this is by using terraces. However, this isn't the only option and may not be practical in all situations. Other options are crop rotations, strip cropping, and grassed waterways.

Through crop rotations, a row crop

is combined with a meadow (short or long term) to keep the soil loss down without terraces. With strip cropping, a field is divided in contour strips alternating a row crop and a meadow down the hillside. Grassed waterways work well to maintain a crossable drainage course where it may be impractical to terrace or when the terraces won't be installed for several years.

County cost-share still available

by Roger Baker
County Resource Planner

Throughout the County, some of the tax dollars are available as cost-share for terracing where road ditches are silting in due to erosion off fields. The benefits from this are two-fold. It helps keep topsoil on farm ground,

thus maintaining productivity, and it helps reduce costly clearing of road ditches.

There are still County cost-share funds available. If you feel you and the County could benefit from terracing, stop in see if you could be eligible for these funds.

Conservation Reserve sign-up proceeds

by James Russmann
Soil Conservation Technician

In the most recent C.R.P. sign-up, February 1 through February 19, there were six bids that were accepted. The bids accepted totaled 133 acres which is the smallest sign-up so far.

Total C.R.P. acres for the West Pottawattamie District now comes to

4,720.3 acres which includes the last sign-up.

The next sign-up is to be from July 18 through August 5. Anyone interested in bidding highly erodible acres into the C.R.P. are asked to contact their local ASCS office for more information.

Contractors meet at workshop

by Myron Daringer
Soil Conservation Technician

On February 2, 1988, West Pottawattamie County held their annual contractor's workshop. Forty-eight people attended the meeting which was held in the conference room of the Federal Building.

Door prizes were provided by area equipment dealers, merchants, and the West Pottawattamie SWCD. HyVee

catered the meal and Caterpillar Tractor provided a film that involved the construction of the Alaskan Pipeline. An AT&T representative spoke about the fiber optic cable. He handed out maps to show the cable route running through Pottawattamie County.

Other topics discussed were Conservation Compliance, Review of 1987, and Outlook for 1988.

No-till yield winners honored



Gary Geise (left) received a plaque from Bill Daters of BASF as winner of the No-till Soybean Yield Contest with 48.66 bushels per acre.



Gary Larson (left) received a plaque from Larry Barrman of American Cyanamid as the winner of the No-till Corn Yield Contest with 196.55 bushels per acre.

by Bill Hammitt
District Conservationist

No-till is one form of conservation tillage. No-till farming will not completely stop soil erosion, but can reduce it to under what's allowable for most soils. No-till can also save fuel, time, and moisture. But first, you have

to convince yourself it will work. Talk to others who have been successful with no-till farming.

This year's No-Till Yield Contest winners were Gary Larson, No-Till Corn with 196.55 bu/ac; and Gary Geise, No-Till Soybeans with 48.46 bu/ac. The Contest is sponsored by

the West Pottawattamie SWCD, Extension service, and the Rotary Club. Iowa Master Growers Contest rules were followed, so entries in the county contest were also eligible for the state-wide competition sponsored by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association.

Terraces need by 1995

by Myron Daringer
Soil Conservation Technician

The Food Security Act of 1985 states that all highly erodible land must have conservation practices implemented on it before January 1, 1995. One conservation practice is terracing. The goal of West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District is to Terrace 2992 miles by 1995. That's an average of 427 miles a year. The cost of constructing these terraces will approximately be \$2,030,000. Half of this amount would be paid by landowners.

More about terraces

West Pottawattamie County saw extensive terrace construction during 1987. A total of 164 miles of terraces were constructed. That's 54% more than 1986. This year alone the narrowbase terrace accounted for 60% of terraces built. Other terraces built in 1987 were grass backslope (50 miles), and broadbase (10 miles). Approximately \$800,000 were spent constructing terraces. Of that amount, approximately half was paid by landowners.

No-till Club continues

by Bill Hammitt
District Conservationist

The West Pott No-Till Club was again very active this past winter. They held meetings every Tuesday night in January and February at Club 64. Meals for the meeting were sponsored by various ag chemical and fertilizer representatives. The turnout at the meetings was very good ranging from 50 to 75 people every week. The Club still has a few "No-Till" belt buckles for sale for \$6 each.

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